

CITY OF KINGSVILLE PARKS MASTER PLAN



KINGSVILLE, TEXAS
MARCH 2017





KINGSVILLE PARKS MASTER PLAN

A GUIDE FOR THE FUTURE OF KINGSVILLE'S PARK SYSTEM

**Adopted by the Kingsville City Commission on:
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The City is grateful for the contributions from all who participated in the Parks Master plan process.

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE





1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

THE CITY OF KINGSVILLE HAS TASKED ITSELF WITH DEVELOPING A PLAN TO GUIDE THE FUTURE OF THE CITY'S PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM. THIS CHAPTER SETS UP THE BEGINNING PHASES OF THE PLANNING PROCESS BY PROVIDING THE COMMUNITY CONTEXT FOR THE PLANNING AREA. IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE ACTIVELY USED AND REFERENCED BY CITY STAFF AS WELL AS APPOINTED AND ELECTED OFFICIALS AS A MEANS TO INFORM THE DECISIONS MAKING PROCESS REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT AND OVERSIGHT OF THE PARKS SYSTEM.

RELEVANCE OF A PUBLIC PARK SYSTEM

The benefits gained from a quality parks and recreation system may not be as apparent as those received through the delivery of other municipal services such as water, sewer, police, fire, and streets. Provision of a ball field, a trail, a playground, or a swimming pool may not be viewed as 'essential' by all to ensuring daily public safety and welfare. Nonetheless, parks and other communal open spaces play an important role in the creation of a community that is a vibrant and desirable place to live.

Parks and other civic spaces are the public's primary destinations for exercise, play, fellowship, and other leisure activities. The ability to participate in these activities are telling to how people view the quality of their community park system. The City of Kingsville Parks Master Plan has been prepared in recognition of these attributes, and to provide the following six (6) essential public benefits.

1. PARKS IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING



For many, life has become an overwhelming sedentary routine where exercise needs are met through an intentional action as opposed to the byproduct of everyday activity. This condition requires a built environment that allows for and encourages people to be active.

Parks and open spaces provide the opportunities for both active and passive recreation. Active recreation includes organized sports and activities that require specific spaces for recreation or play. Passive recreation activities may include hiking, biking, kayaking, and wildlife viewing - opportunities which promote interaction with nature and have a smaller imprint on the natural environment.

Recreational opportunities benefits a person's physical and mental health. Exercise is a key component to physical health, while mental health is affected by social opportunities and the restorative effects of interaction with nature.

2. PARKS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED



Parks are places to socialize, engage other members of the community, and meet someone new. Some may talk with another parent as their children use a nearby play structure. Others may find common interests with other pet owners during the interactions afforded at a dog park. These social interactions help build a safe, connected, and friendly community.

Parks also provide an opportunity for community service. A neighborhood group can volunteer to maintain a specific park through an Adopt-A-Park program. Residents can become instructors for programs or coaches for athletic leagues. Special events and festivals hosted in local parks are great ways to get to know neighbors and local businesses.

3. PARKS PROVIDE A SAFE HAVEN TO YOUTH



Parks and recreation programs - specifically those targeted towards teens and youth - can have a positive social impact. They provide a supervised and safe environment. Organized sports - as well as unstructured activities such as skateboarding - increase interaction with peers, provide opportunities to be mentored by positive role models, and help develop life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and decision making.

4. PARKS INCREASE TOURISM



People will visit a community because of local attractions. This includes parks with desirable facilities or unique features. Festivals, concerts, sports tournaments, and special events typically take place in community owned public spaces. Even museums, observatories, and sometimes libraries, can be located within or adjacent to a park to increase community offerings in a central location. Kingsville and the surrounding area is already a destination for outdoor activities such as birding, hunting, and fishing. Attracting more visitors to Kingsville and capitalizing on those already existing is a way to increase local revenues.

5. PARKS CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMY



Parks improve local economies by increasing residential property values through what is known as the Proximate Principle. This concept recognizes that people will pay more for a home when it is close to a park or green space. The higher the home values, the more public revenue from property tax rolls.

The Proximate Principle extends beyond residential property. The relationship between private business and parks has a positive impact through an increased in demand for services. Hotels and restaurants that overlook a park, lake, or garden see increased customer satisfaction versus those without similar views. Entrepreneurs look to take advantage of proximity to trails, water bodies, and other park facilities to offer services such as rentals, repairs, and retail. These relationships often lead to positive experiences and reviews and in turn generate more business and tax revenue for the community.

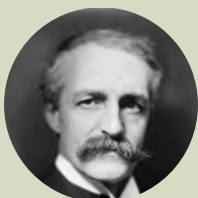
6. PARKS PROMOTE CONSERVATION



Parks, open spaces, and conservation lands remind us of our roles and responsibilities as stewards to the land. Proper practices and approaches to storm water runoff reduce flooding, prioritize clean water, and promote wise use of resources.

The use of native plantings and reclamation approaches have the potential to provide mutually beneficial relationships of lower maintenance costs and opportunities for passive recreation. This approach is geared to providing wildlife viewing opportunities along walking or biking trails.

Finally, the identification or set aside of park land and open space is complimentary to the build out of a city. Understanding where future park land or open space should be located can encourage new development to occur in a manner that promotes other city goals and interests, such as protecting environmentally sensitive areas or buffering undesirable land uses.



“Conservation means the wise use of the earth and its resources for the lasting good of men.”

~ Gifford Pinchot

MASTER PLAN PARAMETERS

A master planning process for a community parks and recreation system must include parameters that guide the plan's process and structure. This section defines the purpose of the Parks Master Plan, identifies the geographic scope of the plan, outlines the steps that are taken during the planning process, and provides a time frame for the implementation of the Parks Master Plan.

PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN

This is the first parks master plan solely led by the City of Kingsville. The City is currently in a transition, not only in terms of park system management, but also in terms of development trends associated with growth. The recent consolidation of City and County-owned park property under municipal oversight will allow for Kingsville to be more responsive to citizen preferences and anticipated recreational needs.

The park planning process is a means of assessment that is vital for parks and recreation departments. Parks systems are developed to meet the recreational and leisure needs of the citizens of the local community. The Parks Master Plan is the organizational element that provides path to accomplish that purpose. Guided by public input, the Parks Master Plan:

- Evaluates trends occurring in the parks and recreation realm both locally and nationally and assesses how those trends could benefit Kingsville.
- Examines the existing and future land uses of Kingsville to integrate additions to the parks system into the community fabric.
- Guides city staff in the development of facilities and the acquisition of property to meet current and future park land and open space needs.
- Prioritizes system recommendations so that projects or initiatives are implemented which address perceived property, facility, and recreational programming deficiencies.

The Parks Master Plan is the culmination of a City-led park planning effort. The document guides Kingsville's elected and appointed officials and City staff in meeting the recreational needs of the City over the next 10 years. The Parks Master Plan has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines for local park master plans, which is established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Adherence to these guidelines and filing with the TPWD assists the City in qualifying for available state-administered grant opportunities.

MASTER PLANNING COMPONENTS

The Parks Master Plan is organized to align with the steps of the planning process (**Figure 1.1**). In addition to this introductory chapter, the plan includes the following chapters:

- **Kingsville Park System.** This chapter identifies the existing City parks and recreation system conditions and provides the framework for system organization. Additionally this chapter provides insight into the public participation process.
- **Needs Assessment.** This chapter incorporates a series of assessment methods that are used to inform plan recommendations and implementation strategies.
- **Plan Recommendations.** This chapter identifies planning benchmarks for park land acquisition, new park facilities, improvements to existing parks, trail development, general open space/preservation ambitions, and considerations for special park land. The chapter also identifies policy, regulation, and programming pursuits for the parks system.
- **Implementation Program.** This chapter outlines funding strategies, parks administration/organization, capital improvements, plan implementation responsibilities, and plan administration roles.

FIGURE 1.1 : PLANNING PROCESS



Note: The City of Kingsville's park master planning process adhered to a six-step process.

Since the City of Kingsville is the primary entity charged with implementing this plan, the Parks Master Plan focuses meeting parks and open space needs within the City or in its surrounding planning area, the extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The plan area size is approximately 13.9 square miles for the city limits and 42.1 square miles for the ETJ, this value excludes the property of the Kingsville NAS (**Figure 1.2**).

JURISDICTION AND PLANNING AREA

The City of Kingsville entered into a relationship with Kleberg County in October 2014 to maintain and operate all park facilities located within the municipal limits for a period of 20 years. In this relationship the County maintains ownership of its park properties within the municipal limits, but has ceded operations and management to the City with the support of an annual payment. Kingsville has also assumed responsibility for the golf course and other property at L. E. Ramey Park. (L.E. Ramey Park is a land gifted to the County by the U.S. government which at one time was part of the Kingsville Naval Air Station (NAS)). This relationship has left the City of Kingsville with the primary role of providing new recreational facilities, maintaining existing parks, and acquiring new property as it deems appropriate.

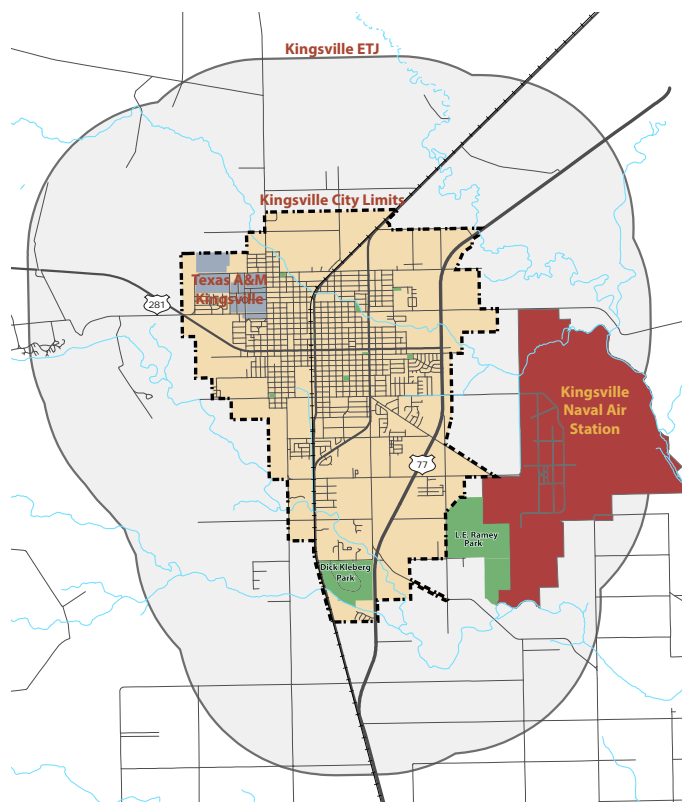
The Parks Master Plan boundary includes the City of Kingsville and its surrounding two (2) mile extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Other recreation providers found in this plan area include the University of Texas A&M - Kingsville (TAMUK), Kingsville ISD, Santa Gertrudis ISD, Bishop CISD, Ricardo ISD, and Rivera ISD.

PLAN TIME-FRAME

The Parks Master Plan is the City of Kingsville's blueprint for developing a consolidated municipal parks and recreation system. This plan provides direction for municipal park system development over the next 10 years (2017-2027) - including a corresponding short-term work program of projects, actions, and initiatives. Since this planning effort is the foundation for subsequent plans the Parks Master Plan considers City park and recreation needs over a greater period of time.

Local planning requirements issued by the TPWD recommend that park plans should be completely updated no less than every 10-years, but also during interim periods if major development or demographic changes occur which significantly alter the recreation needs of the community. Recommended methods for interim plan review and modification are contained in **Chapter 5, Implementation Program**.

FIGURE 1.2 : KINGSVILLE PLANNING JURISDICTION



RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The City of Kingsville and Kleberg County conducted a joint planning effort for the entire county park system starting in 2006, this effort included both City and County owned parks located within Kingsville. The result was the Comprehensive Master Plan for Development, Operation and Maintenance of Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Open Space 2007-2017, which was adopted to May of 2007. This document included guidance and recommendations for both County and City parks.

Major accomplishments during the intervening period include:

- Baseball field renovation (single field) (Kleberg Park)
- New football/soccer field (Kleberg Park)
- New kayak launch
- City/County parks maintenance agreement
- Brookshire Pool bath house improvements
- Parks and recreation bond (\$2.25 million) for park development and improvements
- Designated splash pad and skate park funding

KINGSVILLE PARK SYSTEM GOALS

Kingsville's park system goals and objectives are the basis of this plan's recommendations for the development of park land and execution of recreation programming. They also provide key explanations and purposes so that recommendations and implementation strategies have the support which public officials can confidently allocate community resources for the accomplishment of planning objectives.

The goals of the Parks Master Plan reflect public input collected through survey methods and refined by community stakeholder groups, City staff, and appointed officials. While this is Kingsville's first city-led parks master plan, the following goals are also informed by the City's comprehensive plan (the 2008 Kingsville Master Plan) and 2007 Kleberg County - City of Kingsville parks plan.

The Parks Master Plan's six (6) goals and twenty-seven (27) objectives are found on the following page.



Dick Kleberg Park was operated by Kleberg County until the City of Kingsville assumed operation in 2014.



KINGSVILLE PARK SYSTEM GOALS

GOAL 1: MAINTAIN KINGSVILLE PARK PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES IN AN EXCEPTIONAL CONDITION AND APPEARANCE.

- OBJECTIVE 1.1:** Develop a maintenance plan and best practices to address park system upkeep and appearance.
- OBJECTIVE 1.2:** Identify elements within the Kingsville park system that disproportionately contribute to maintenance demand verses the level of citizen importance. Identify measures to reduce their impact on maintenance time and budget.
- OBJECTIVE 1.3:** Develop a universal standard for park materials, furnishings, and accessory facilities to increase the efficiency of park system maintenance and generate visual consistency.
- OBJECTIVE 1.4:** Emphasize new park design that promotes durability, wise use of water, and low maintenance landscaping.
- OBJECTIVE 1.5:** Establish a schedule for major park facility renovations which dedicates resources across varying park classifications, i.e., neighborhood parks, community parks (Dick Kleberg), special use parks (golf course, nature preserves, etc.), and linear parks/trails.
- OBJECTIVE 1.6:** Develop a park lighting plan that evaluates and then prioritizes areas for lighting improvements.

GOAL 2: PROVIDE FOR A BALANCED DISTRIBUTION OF CITY PARK PROPERTIES AND FACILITIES TO ENSURE CITIZEN ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

- OBJECTIVE 2.1:** Use park service standards identified in this plan as a means to inform capital expenditures for facility additions or enhancements within existing park properties.
- OBJECTIVE 2.2:** Establish funding mechanisms for the incremental addition of park land to match population growth. Base the funding method on level of service and proximity recommendations contained in this plan.
- OBJECTIVE 2.3:** Target park land additions within growth areas identified in the comprehensive plan.
- OBJECTIVE 2.4:** Create a system of linear parks incorporating multi-use trails with a focus on projects that provide the most access to residents per mile of trail.
- OBJECTIVE 2.5:** Distribute park land and recreational facilities in a manner that increases accessibility to existing and future community residents.
- OBJECTIVE 2.6:** Establish partnerships with other organizations that can provide facility space as a means to offer indoor recreation opportunities.
- OBJECTIVE 2.7:** Identify areas that are appropriate for natural resource conservation and passive recreation opportunities.

GOAL 3: INCREASE THE VALUE OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS TO SURROUNDING RESIDENTS.

- OBJECTIVE 3.1:** Provide a balance in neighborhood park facility offerings that span the needs of community residents.
- OBJECTIVE 3.2:** Develop programming guidelines for facility placement within parks, emphasizing quality in park offerings over quantity.
- OBJECTIVE 3.3:** Identify and improve or develop spaces that can be used for neighborhood-scale gatherings and performances.

GOAL 4: DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF LINEAR PARKS, AND BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAILS, TO CONNECT KINGSVILLE'S NEIGHBORHOODS TO PUBLIC PARKS AND OTHER DESTINATIONS.

- OBJECTIVE 4.1:** Utilize drainage channels and natural creek corridors to establish a strong framework for a linear park and multi-use trail system.
- OBJECTIVE 4.2:** Identify roadway and utility corridors that would be best suited for multi-use trails and where maintenance partnerships may be established.
- OBJECTIVE 4.3:** Establish an annual benchmark for multi-use trail additions for build-out of a linear park and multi-use trail system.
- OBJECTIVE 4.4:** Adopt trail standards for the construction of both paved and unpaved multi-use trails.

GOAL 5: PROVIDE A DIVERSE OFFERING OF RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNITY EVENTS TO INCREASE RESIDENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE.

- OBJECTIVE 5.1:** Strengthen ties with existing recreational providers and organizations to provide youth and adult athletic programming.
- OBJECTIVE 5.2:** Expand aquatic facility offerings, starting with the implementation of splash/spray pads at neighborhood parks.
- OBJECTIVE 5.3:** Partner with other community entities, non-profit organizations, and private businesses to generate support/sponsorship of events and activities.
- OBJECTIVE 5.4:** Develop a signature downtown park space to host a variety of community events and activities.

GOAL 6: SUPPORT THE KINGSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM THROUGH A MIX OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING METHODS, SOURCES, AND PARTNERSHIPS.

- OBJECTIVE 6.1:** Actively pursue opportunities where public money can be leveraged with private sector or fee-based financing to maximize resources and generate more engaged community stakeholders.
- OBJECTIVE 6.2:** Apply for grants and other funding sources that can be leveraged to develop capital projects.
- OBJECTIVE 6.3:** Adopt a user fee schedule that reflects the maintenance costs of park facilities.
- OBJECTIVE 6.4:** Coordinate with other public entities such as foundations, area school districts, and Texas A&M University - Kingsville to leverage mutually beneficial relationships for the provision of parks facilities and recreational offerings.

KINGSVILLE CHARACTERISTICS

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Kingsville is an inland coastal community located along U.S. Highway 77 - roughly 45 miles southwest of Corpus Christi (**Figure 1.3: Regional Context**). Although not located within Corpus Christi's (urbanized) metropolitan area, Kingsville is part of the Corpus Christi Consolidated Statistical Area.

This trade area designation means that Kingsville residents are likely to travel to Corpus Christi for services needs not met in the city of Kingsville.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The defining element of Kingsville is its historical and namesake relationship to the famous King Ranch. The development of a railroad to Brownsville spurred the matriarch Henrietta King to designate a large tract of land for the town's inception. The City was formally incorporated in 1911 through the adoption of a charter for a commission form of city government.

The city served the needs of the surrounding farms and ranches in its early years. The exploration and development of oil and gas contributed to city economic and population growth. The additions of a public college, a naval air station, and a chemical production operation contributed to sustained population growth that peaked at 28,711 in 1970. The city remains the predominant population center and destination location of Kleberg County.

This background information is important for defining the role the municipal park system plays for Kingsville - as well as the greater region. The city is still defined by its agrarian relationships and character and will likely continue to provide recreation and social opportunities for the greater area.

FIGURE 1.3 : REGIONAL CONTEXT

Kingsville is located in close proximity to the Corpus Christi metropolitan area and the Gulf of Mexico. Bordered by lightly populated ranch land to the south and west, Kingsville serves as a gateway to the Lower Rio Grande Valley two (2) hours to the south.





Harrel's Kingsville Pharmacy in Historic Downtown Kingsville is a remnant of the City's early past, serving the community through much of the City's existence.

DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

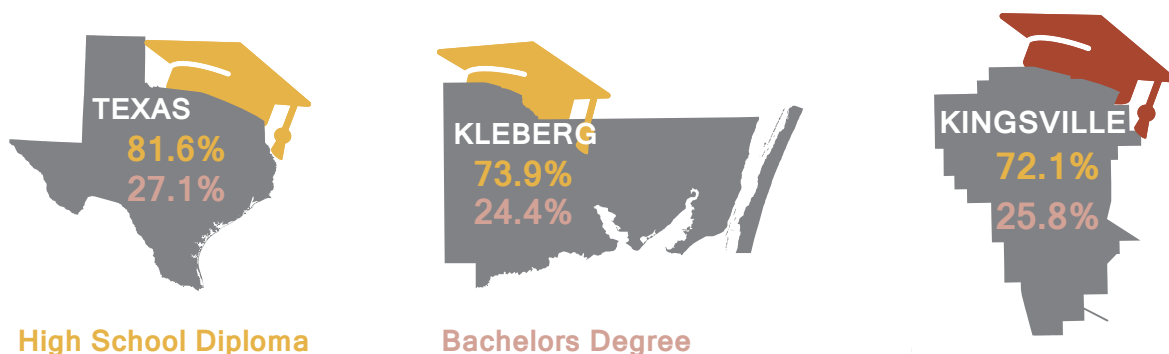
A brief overview of Kingsville demographic statistics is presented on pages 9 through 11. The information is used to provide context to the characteristics of the local community.

The current population of the City of Kingsville represents approximately 80 percent of Kleberg County. Population trends have been relatively flat since 1960, seeing modest cycles of both population growth and decline. The future of Kingsville is anticipated to include a more consistent rate of population growth bolstered by younger age groups, as evident in **Figure 1.6: Population by Age**, (page 10). The primary take away from this demographic snapshot is that the population of Kingsville is younger and of limited financial means. The combination of these two (2) themes suggests that a majority of residents are largely confined to the geographic limits of the City to fill their recreational needs. This conclusion increases the importance of the role the City of Kingsville plays in meeting these needs.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Kingsville and Kleberg County have a lower high school graduation rate than that of the State of Texas, however the percent of adults with a bachelors degrees are similar between the State, County, and City.

FIGURE 1.4 : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



Source: American Community Survey, 2014, 5 Year Estimate.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Kingsville’s median household income is comparable to that of Kleberg County, but much below that of Texas.

FIGURE 1.5 : MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

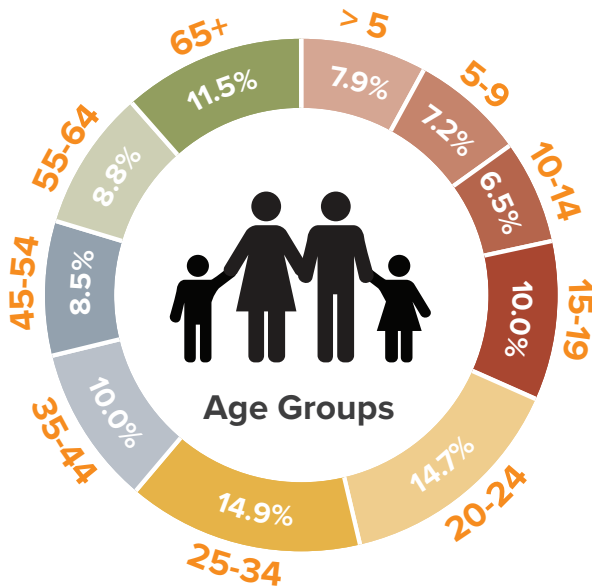


Source: American Community Survey, 2014, 5 Year Estimate.

POPULATION BY AGE

Kingsville’s largest population group is of young adults between the ages of 25-34. As a whole the community of Kingsville is very young with just over 60 percent of the population under the age of 35. The median age of City of Kingsville Residents is 26.7 years, significantly lower than the overall Texas median age of 33.9.

FIGURE 1.6 : POPULATION BY AGE

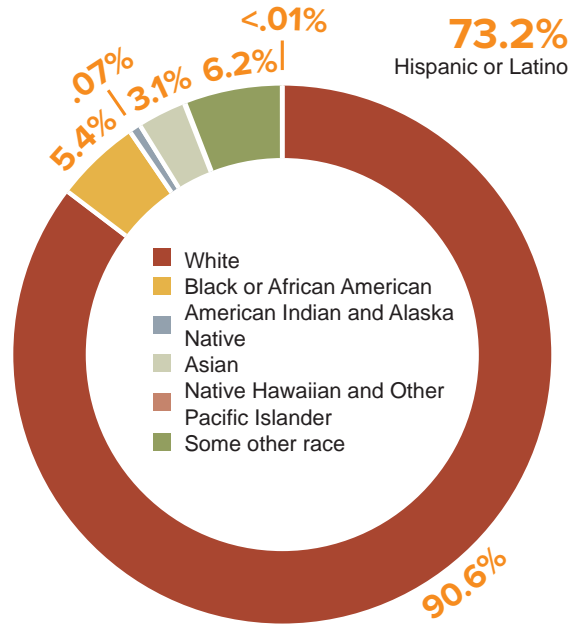


Source: American Community Survey, 2014, 5 Year Estimate.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Kingsville’s community is predominately white and Hispanic or Latino by ethnicity. Kingsville has a multicultural character with portions of the community being African American and Asian.

FIGURE 1.7 : RACE AND ETHNICITY



Source: American Community Survey, 2014, 5 Year Estimate.

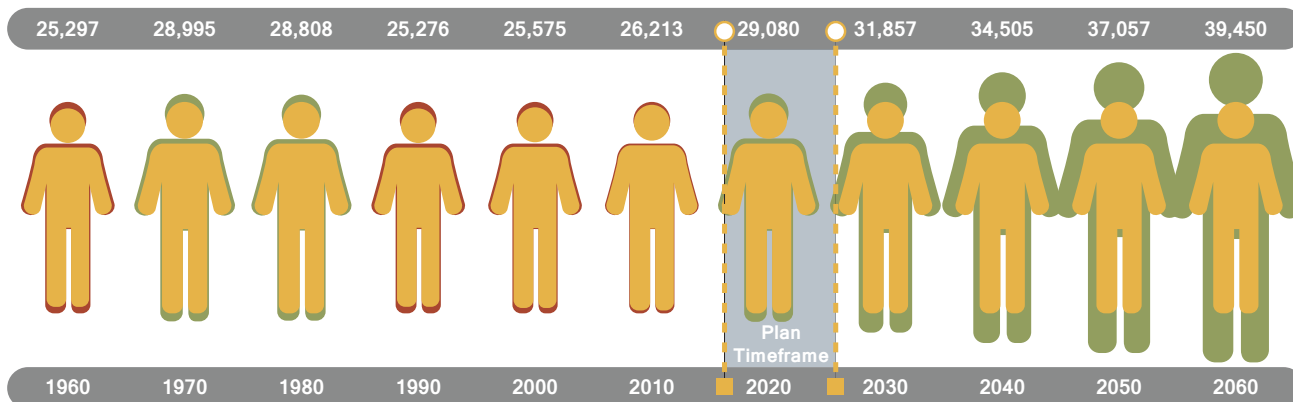
POPULATION GROWTH

FIGURE 1.8 : POPULATION GROWTH

2015 Population Estimate: 26,951



Population growth in the City of Kingsville has been relatively flat since the 1960's. However, a growth in the population would appear to be in the City's future. Kingsville's youthful population supports this assertion. As a result, the Parks Master Plan will need to take into account the needs and demands of younger generations. These growth projections match those found in the City's 2008 Master Plan.



Source: 2016 Regional Water Plan - Population Predictions for 2020-2070, Texas Water Development Board. Population Estimate: 2015 Texas Demographic Center.

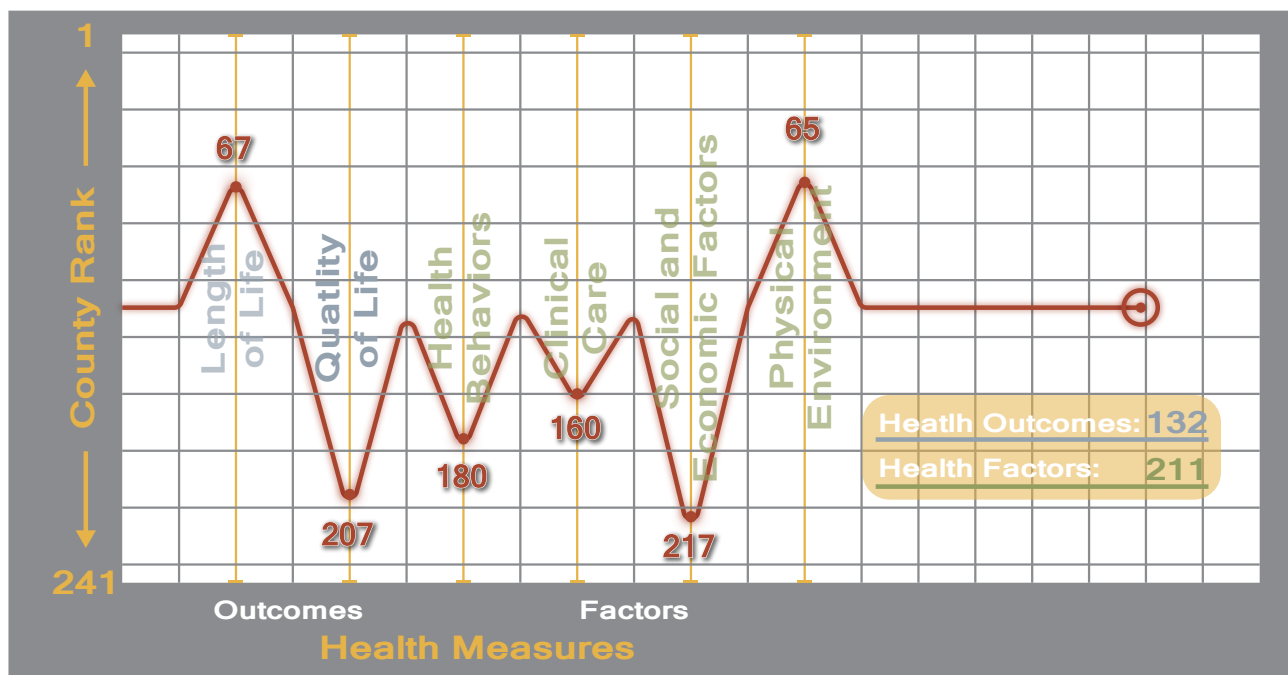
HEALTH MEASURES

A useful tool in understanding the overall health of the community are the County Health Rankings developed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Public Health Institute, which are found in **Figure 1.9: County Health Rankings, Kleberg County**. These annual rankings are an examination of health outcomes which include: length and quality of life; and health factors which include: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment.

Kleberg County's 2016 health outcomes find performance strong in length of life, while performing poorly in quality of life. The county's health factors rankings identifies the physical environment performing well and social economic factors falling near the bottom of the rankings.

FIGURE 1.9 : COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS, KLEBERG COUNTY

Source: County Health Ranking and Roadmaps, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2016..



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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.

2007 COUNTY-CITY 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

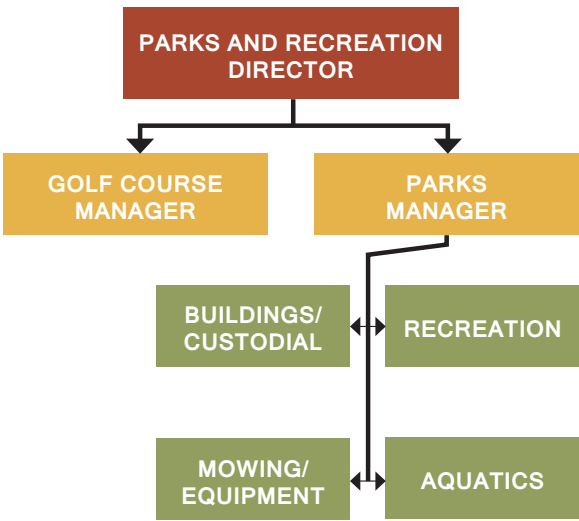
Since 2014, the City of Kingsville has assumed the role of overseeing and maintaining all park properties within its municipal planning area. The City inherited the de-facto organizational structure previously utilized by Kleberg County. That administrative structure has seen some changes - most significantly 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 and recreation director reports directly to the city manager. **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.

FIGURE 2.4: KINGSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



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 citizens’ 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 of recreational facilities.

TAMUK

The Texas A & M University - Kingsville (TAMUK) campus provides recreation facilities and programming for university students and staff. The City parks and recreation department has partnered with 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

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
AgriLife Extension Kleberg Kenedy County	Education	Youth	Various	Various	Spring-Summer

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 in 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 21, 2016 and was attended by 49 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 found in Chapter 4.

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 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 ten (10) acres in size.

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



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 also 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.



Photo courtesy of Play for All, www.playitsafeparkgrounds.com

ACCESSIBILITY

The initial development of park properties in the Kingsville parks system, occurred before the passing of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The ADA requirements paved the way for increased consideration and inclusion of accessibility standards in the design of the built environment. Park design has implemented accessibility principles into design for almost 30 years. Though these principles have become common place, it is still important for the City to be vigilant in the implementation of accessible park and facility design. Manufacturers of play equipment integrate a variety of accessible and inclusive play principles into their products and the City will have the opportunity to capitalize on this in future additions to all park properties.

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.

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 ten (10) acres to over fifty (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.

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



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 twenty-five (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.

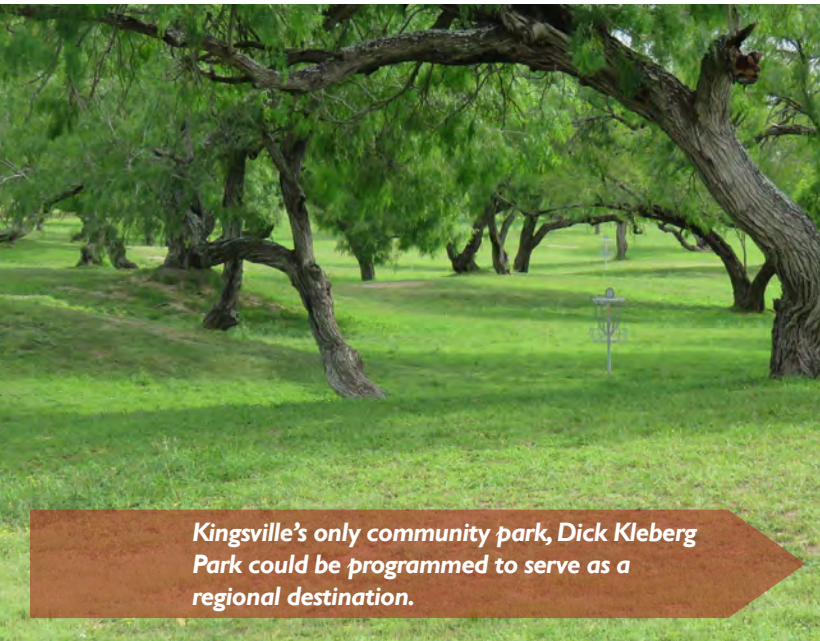
REGIONAL SPACE

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

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





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

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 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.

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.

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 be 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.

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



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.

“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.

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.



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.

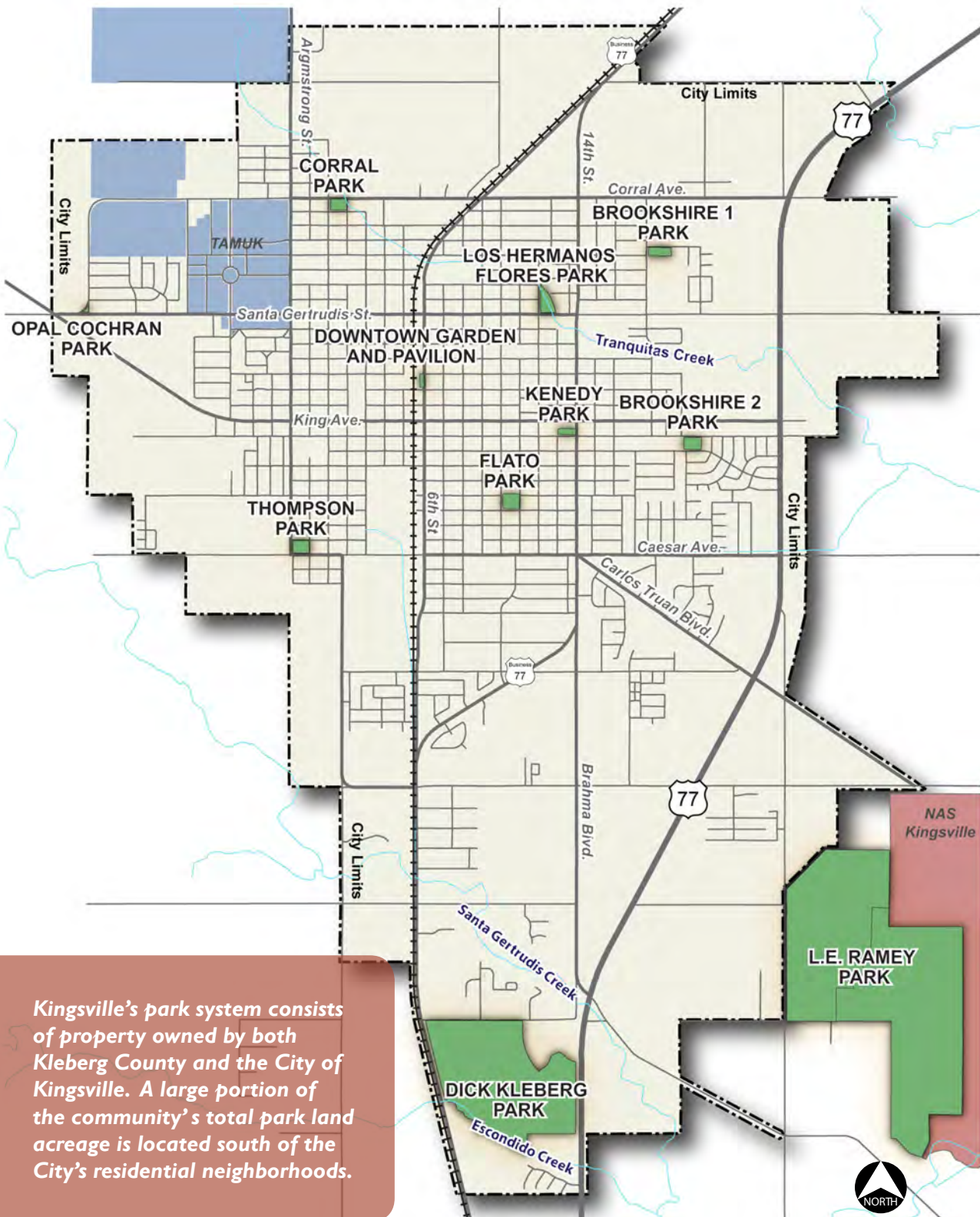
FIGURE 2.7: KINGSVILLE, EXISTING PARK PROPERTIES BY TYPE

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.

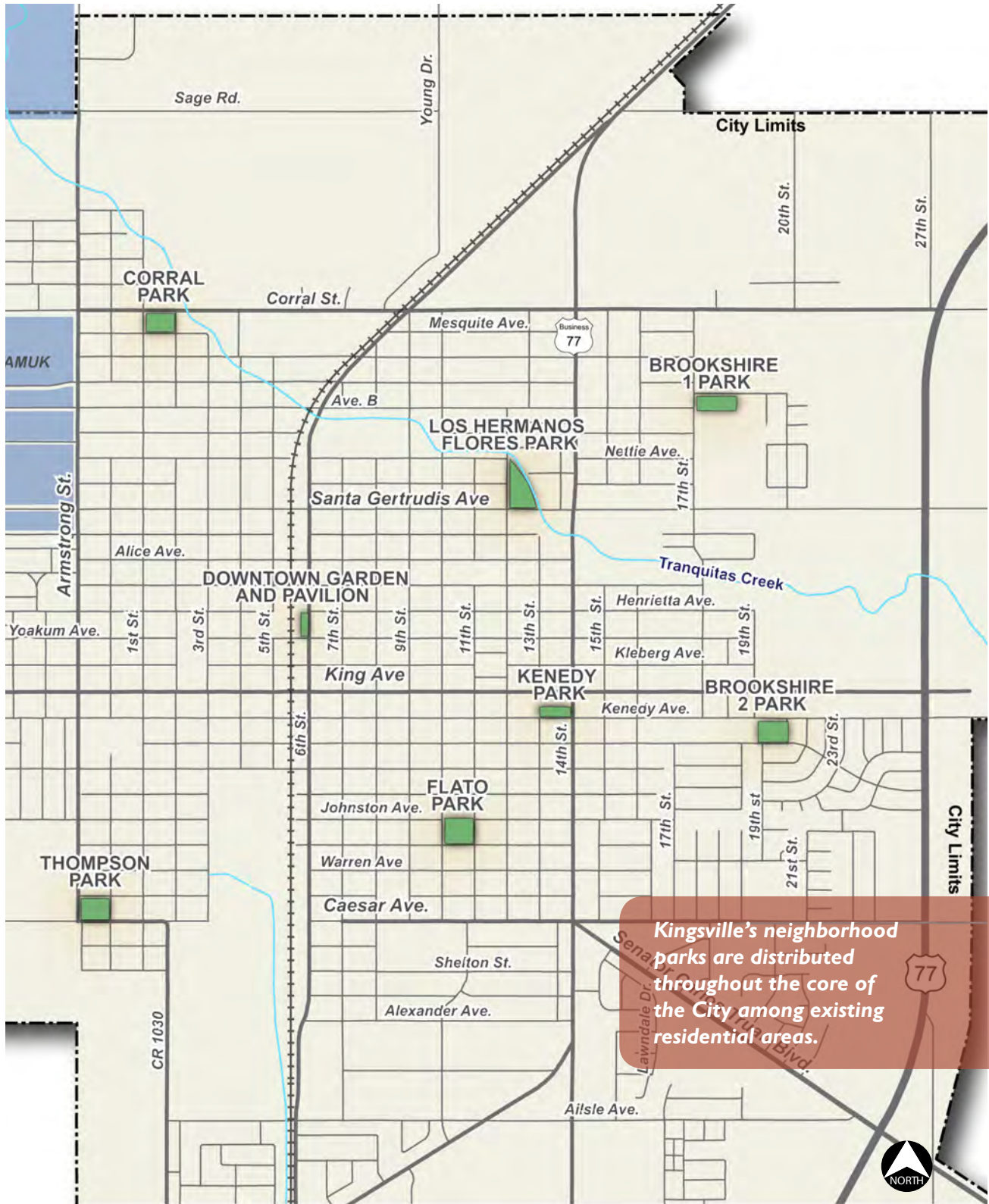
Map 2.1, Kingsville Park Properties



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



Map Not to Scale.

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
Youth Baseball fields (3 with press boxes), 1	4
Adult baseball fields (both with press boxes)	2
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 a sizable amount of surplus land to Kleberg County on March 16, 1973, for recreational use, which is now the 432 acre property.

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

THE GOLF COURSE AT L.E. RAMEY PARK

The Golf Course at L.E. Ramey Park was built on a portion of the land acquired by Dr. Ramey. With the help of his hired architect and PGA golfer, Tommy Aycok, 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 Street 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.. 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
Barbecue grill	1
Pool and bath house	1
Playground area	1

CORRAL 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 Avenue 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 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 Street and Kenedy Avenue 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 longer in operation.

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.

FIGURE 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 Street and Caesar Avenue. 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 is a 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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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 PARAMETERS

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 (6.0 percent), which includes the golf course. 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**.



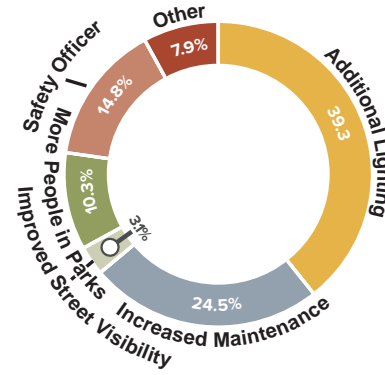
Stakeholder meetings, which occurred early in the planning process, revealed themes that guided the needs assessment analysis.

Top Five Recreation Activities

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

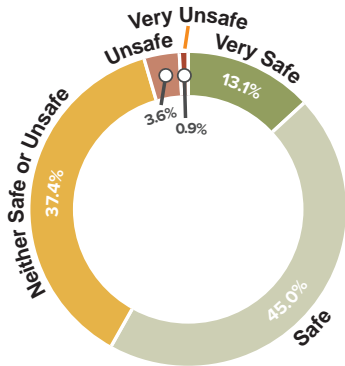
Kingsville Parks Master Plan on-line survey (2016).

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.

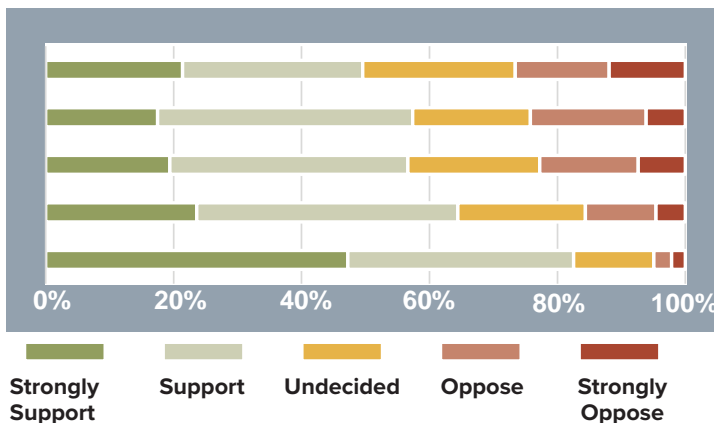
What would make you feel safer in Kingsville parks?

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:

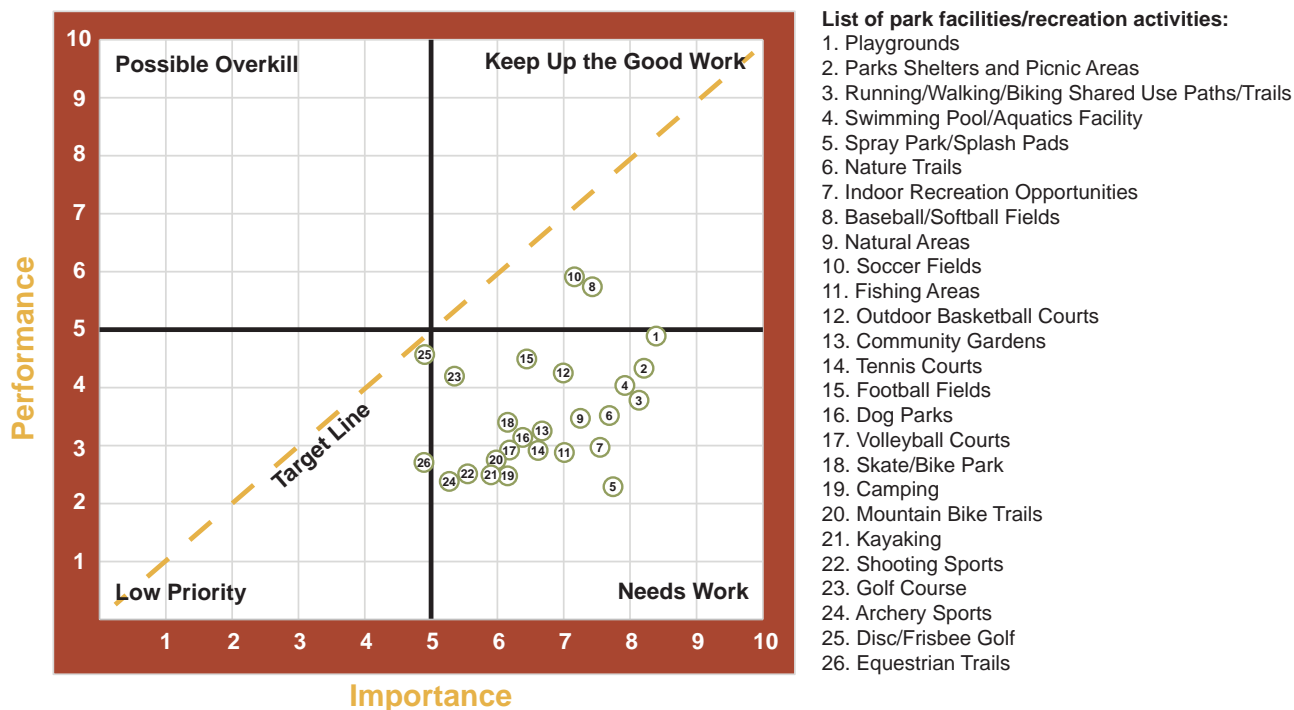
- Keep up the good work category identifies park facilities/recreation activities where the City's ability to provide the park facility/ recreation activities closely matches the strong community desire.
- Needs work category highlights where the City is under-performing in providing a park facility/recreation 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.

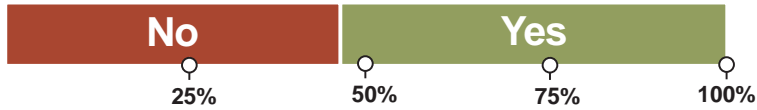
Park facilities/recreation activities as listed below in accordance with their importance identified by survey respondents. A majority of the items listed are found in the "Needs Work" quadrant, reflecting previously identified statements by stakeholders about the need to improve the existing park system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

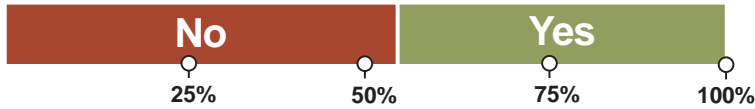
Performance versus Importance Assessment



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).

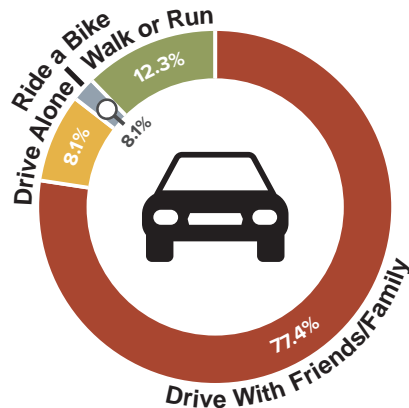
If you are going to go to a Kingsville park, you are most likely to....

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.

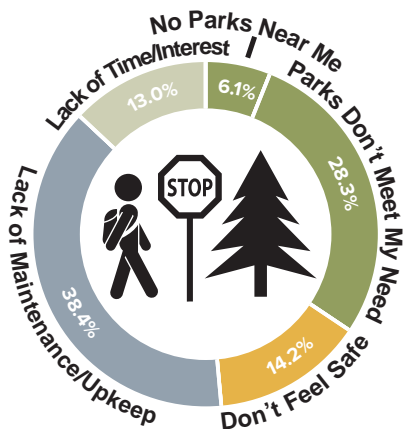
While a majority of survey respondents occasionally leave the Kingsville community to address some of their recreational needs, a large percentage of respondents either choose not to or are unable. In addition, more than half of the community is likely to rely on the City to meet at least some of their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

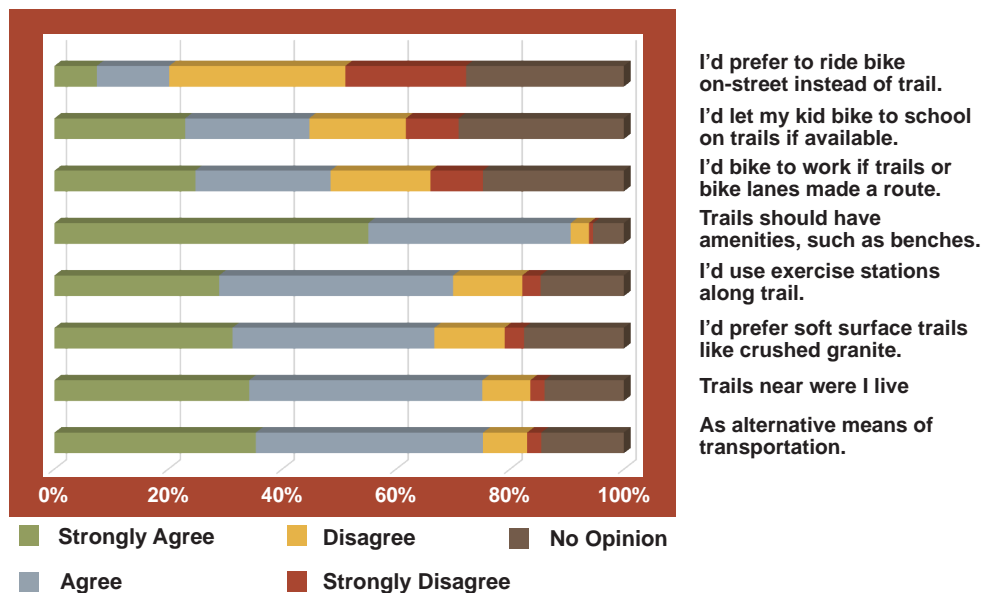
What is keeping you from using Kingsville parks and recreation facilities more?

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.

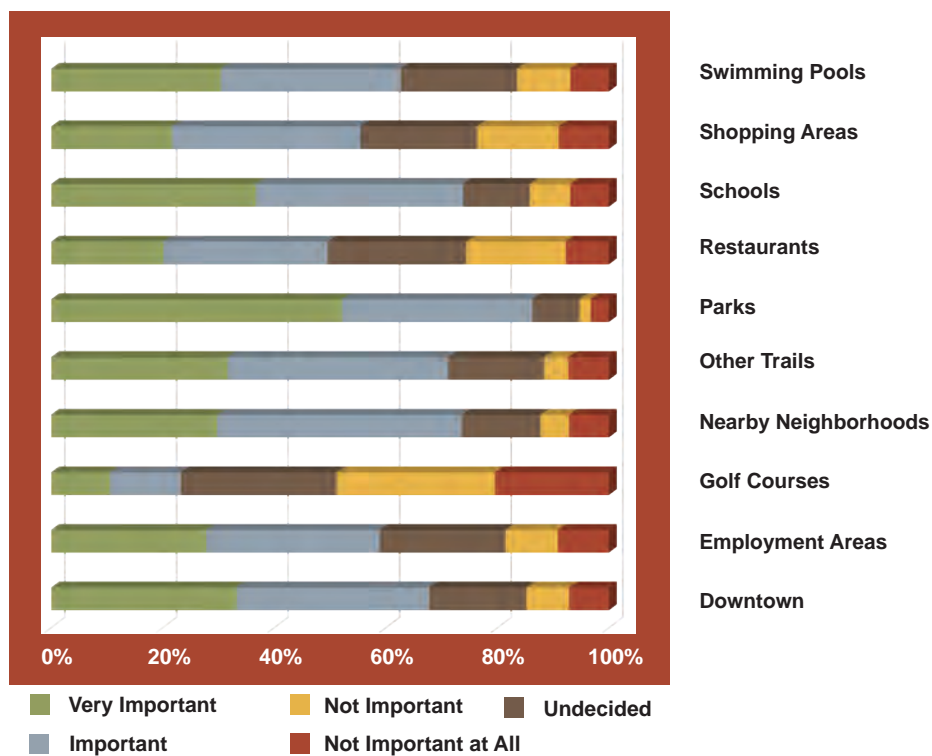
Survey Responses to statements About Trails and Bicycling



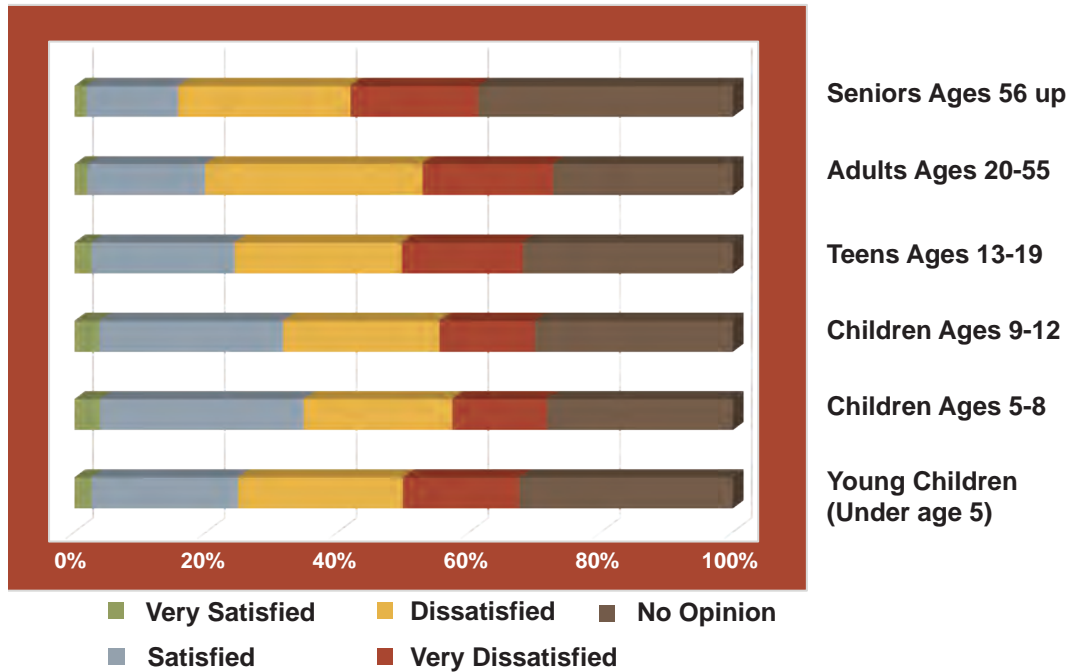
How important are the connections to community locations.

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...



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.

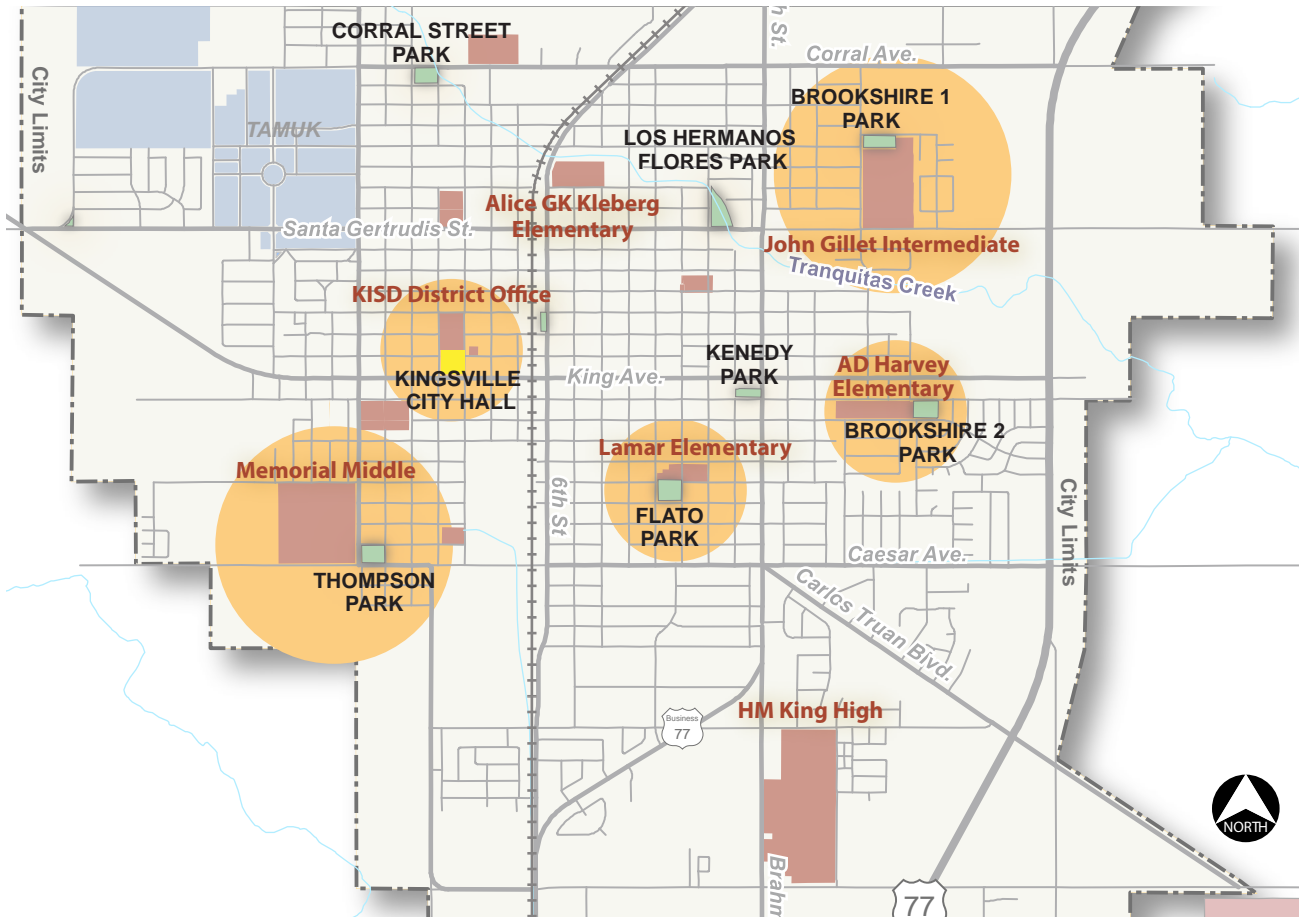
RESOURCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

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 3.1, School District Properties and Park System Relationship** and are discussed in more detail on pages 45 and 46.

FIGURE 3.1: 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).

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 school's 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 a 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.

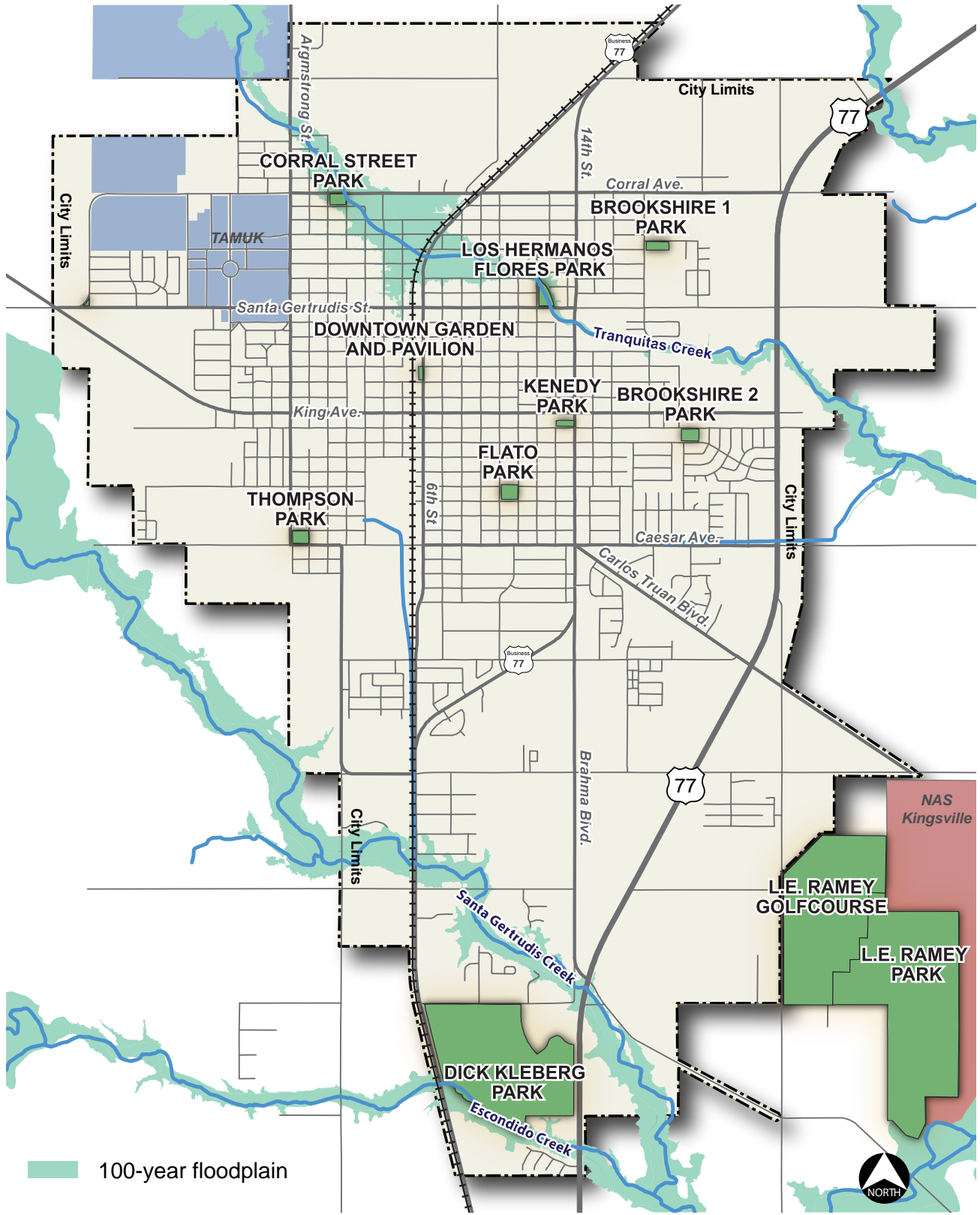
Santa Gertrudis Creek

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 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 reservoir. The creek 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 Escondido Creek lends itself to a looping trail as a compliment to the current offerings in the park.

Map 3.1, Creeks, Floodplains, and Drainage Corridors



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 at L. E. Ramey Park will continue to be the signature element of the L.E. Ramey property. 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 next to rail lines.

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 3.2: City of Kingsville, Recommended Level of Service**. These level of service standards are based on a review of the 2008 Kingsville Master Plan, and have been adjusted where needed based on the current level of importance.

FIGURE 3.2: 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 established through private development or special circumstance.
REGIONAL SPACE	
Regional	No target established
SPECIAL USE	
Linear Park	Trail access within 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 3.3: 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 3.2**. 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 3.3 is a guide only, and does not relieve the City of ensuring even park land distribution throughout the Kingsville service area in the future.**

FIGURE 3.3 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 its rural and agricultural 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.

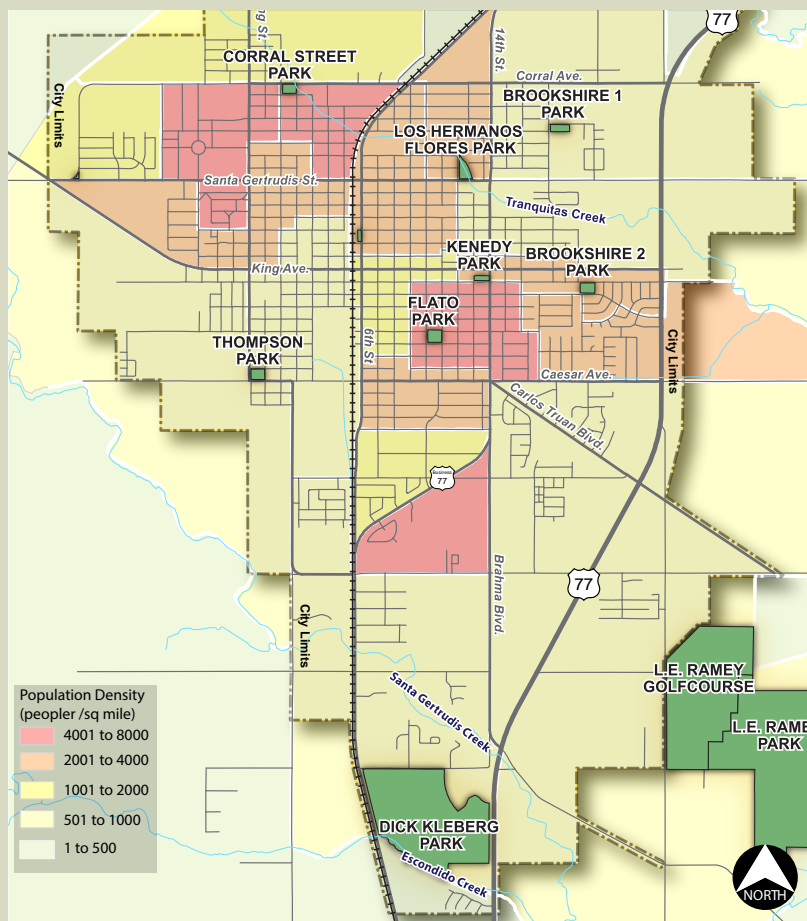
Kingsville's population increase will require the development of new neighborhood and community parks over time. Even so, the City's growth is not expected to be exponential like many other Texas communities. Since addressing growth pressures is not an urgent issue an incremental solution, such as a 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 Parks 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 Parks 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 fifteen (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).

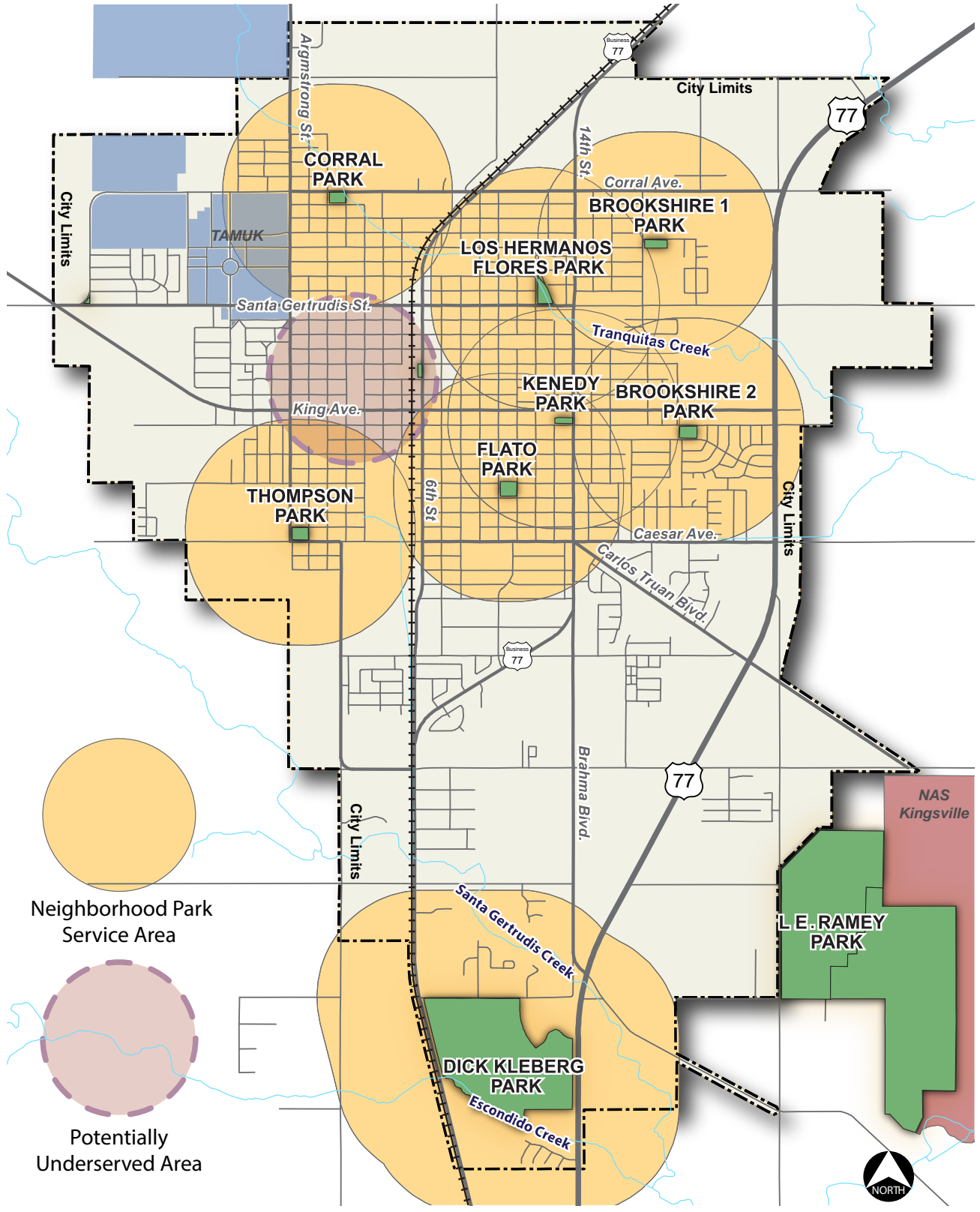
Accessibility to neighborhood parks is as important as acreage goals. Typically, neighborhood parks are in a central location for the residents they serve, and as such should be accessible to all users. The preferred service area for a neighborhood park from any neighborhood in Kingsville is one-half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

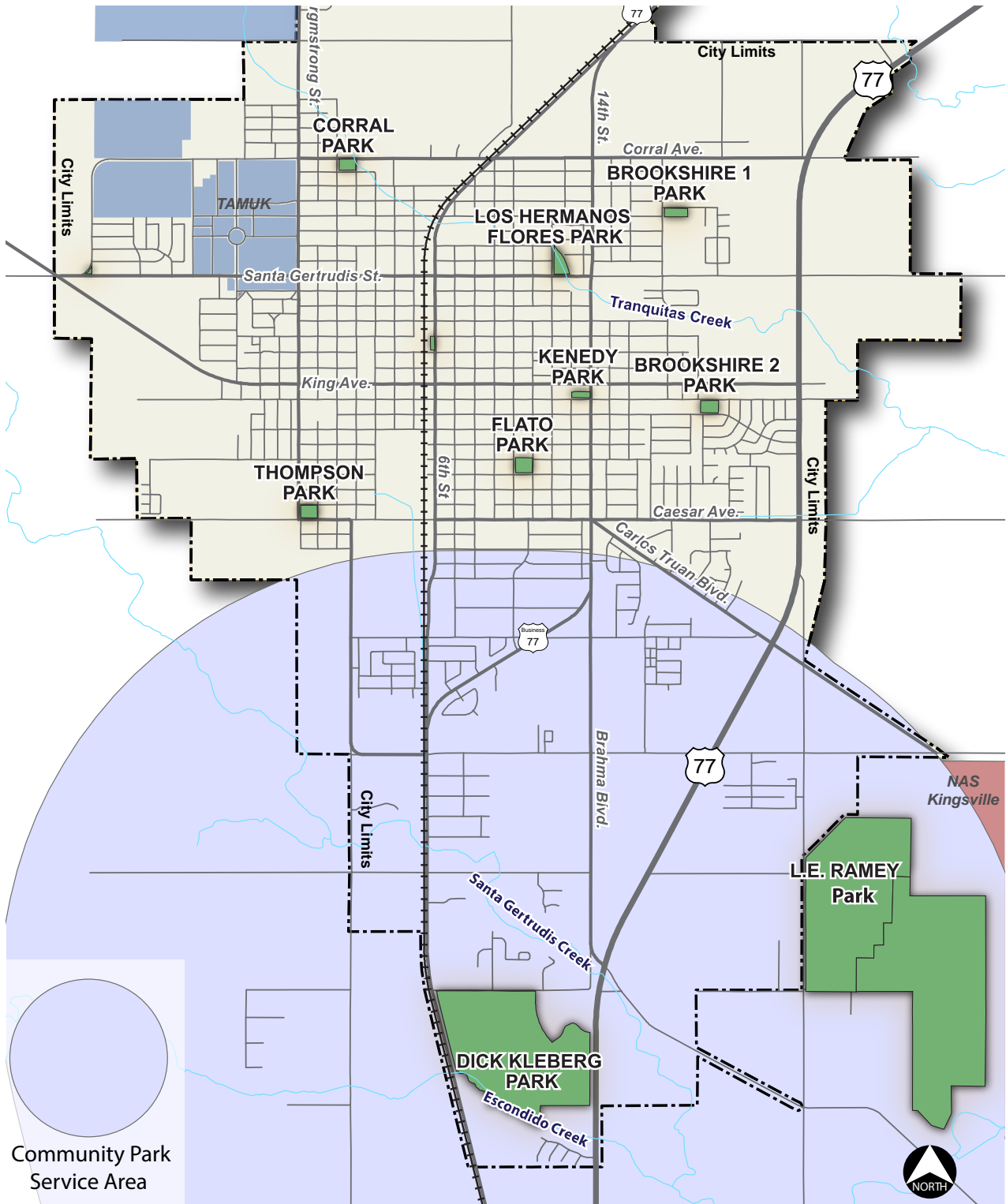
- Neighborhood park land must be principally reserved for recreational use. Drainage basins or utility easements should not be used to fulfill neighborhood park requirements.
- Neighborhood parks should be located outside of the floodplain. Flood prone areas should only overlap small percentages of neighborhood 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.
- New neighborhood parks should be larger in size to address the deficit of neighborhood park LOS acreage. As an example, a new neighborhood park would need to be a minimum of five (5) acres to properly accommodate one athletic field.
- New neighborhood park development in accordance with the Neighborhood Park Development Principles, identified in chapter 4 on page 68.

Map 3.2, Neighborhood Park Service Area



Map Not to Scale.

Map 3.3, Community Park Service Area



Map Not to Scale.

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 the 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 Parks Master Plan. The absence of a 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 a 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.

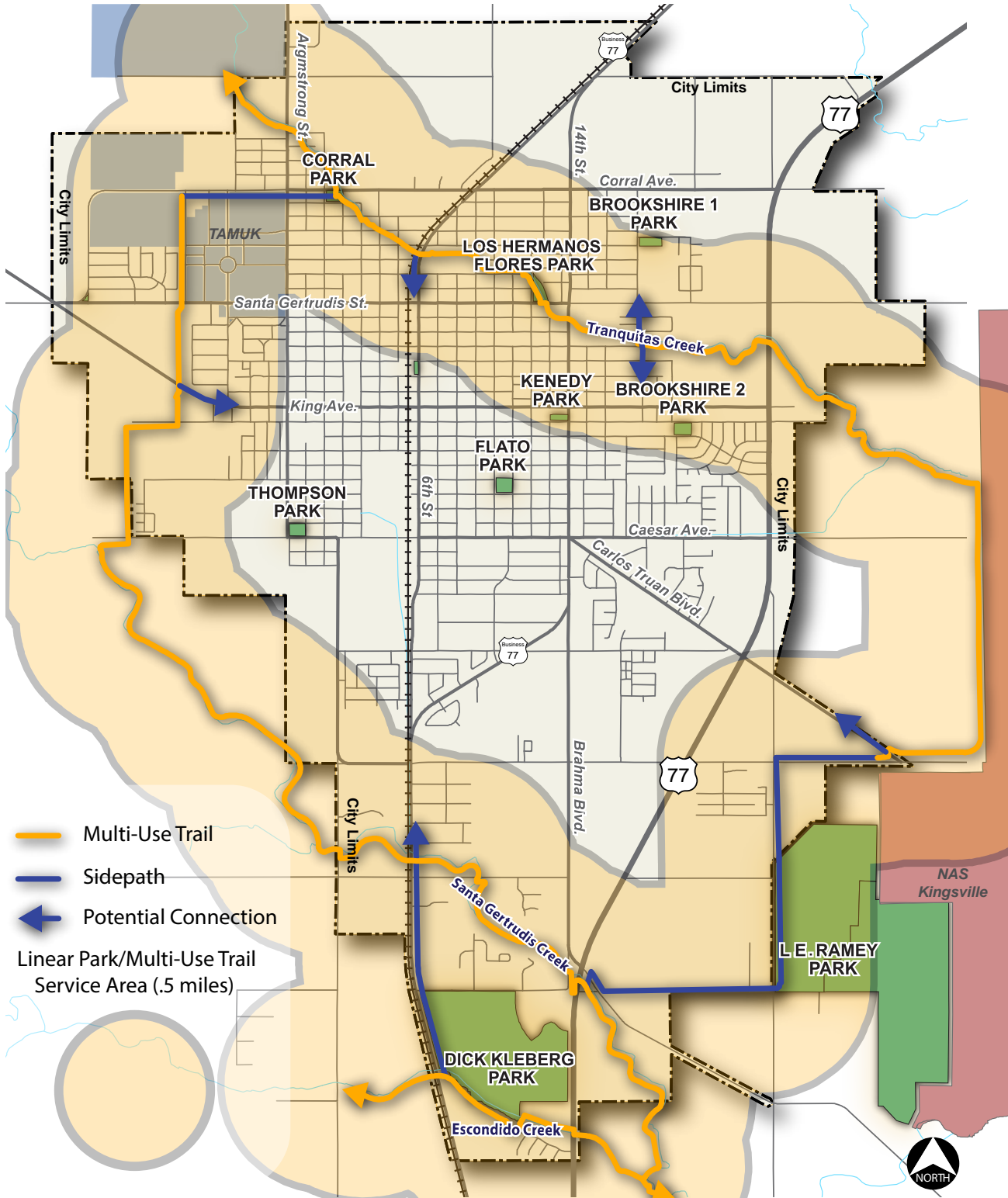
LINEAR PARKS

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 encompasses 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 consider 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 Parks Master Plan. The absence of 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 on 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 3.4: 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 the 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 3.4 represents 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 3.4: 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	10	1 per 3,000	Medium	Softball and youth baseball fields can be 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	Current courts in disrepair	1 per 10,000	Low	While there is not strong support for tennis courts, this is a very common recreation offering.
Basketball Courts	6	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/ Aquatics Facility	1	1 per 15,000	High	Brookshire pool requires continual maintenance and may require further renovation to meet long-term swimming needs. This needs will likely include a swim area specifically for young children.
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 is important to draw some initial conclusions 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 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 the city center.
- 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 ordinance 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 provides a keystone center city park space in an undeserved area.

CHAPTER 4 PARK SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS





4. PARK SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER 4 LISTS A SERIES OF PARK LAND, FACILITY, AND PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KINGSVILLE PARK SYSTEM. ACTIONS LISTED IN THIS CHAPTER ARE DESIGNED TO MEET COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL NEEDS IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE PUBLIC INPUT AND PARK SYSTEM ANALYSIS PRESENTED IN PREVIOUS CHAPTERS. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE INTENDED TO BE IMPLEMENTED OVER THE NEXT FIVE (5) TO 10 YEARS, BUT SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS EXCLUSIVE. THE CITY MAY ENGAGE IN ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES THAT COMPLIMENT AND SUPPORT PARKS MASTER PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.

RECOMMENDATION PARAMETERS

The Park Master Plan's park system recommendations are organized according to the seven (7) categories described in **Figure 4.1: Kingsville Park System Recommendation Categories**, and are discussed in detail on pages 63 through 78.

FIGURE 4.1: KINGSVILLE PARK SYSTEM RECOMMENDATION CATEGORIES

Category	Considerations
I. Park Land Assembly	Property acquisition scenarios and partnerships to increase park system acreage.
II. Park Facilities	Essential improvements to existing park properties and facilities (Excludes Dick Kleberg Park).
III. Community Connectivity	Utilization of linear corridors to create a community-wide trails system that increases accessibility to public park land and other destinations.
IV. Natural Areas	Methods to preserve natural resources, and to incorporate open space into the existing City park system.
V. Park Planning, Design, and Maintenance	Guidelines and priorities for park land acquisition, design, and maintenance.
VI. Recreation Programming	Steps to increase the organized recreational opportunities available to Kingsville residents.
VII. Regulatory Tools	Ordinances and regulations that will help ensure the long term viability of the Kingsville park system.
VIII. Dick Kleberg Park	Improvements and renovations to Dick Kleberg Park.

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.

The park system categories introduced in **Figure 4.1** exclude specific recommendations for the Dick Kleberg Park property. Separate recommendations have been prepared for Dick Kleberg Park based on a conceptual site plan developed for the site (see pages 79 through 87).

The City of Kingsville will be responsible for implementing the recommendations set forth in this chapter. The City’s Parks and Recreation Department will be the primary Park Master Plan administrator, while other municipal departments, boards, commissions, and especially the City Commission, will play important roles in contributing to the implementation of the plan. **Chapter 5, Implementation** defines the guidelines for accomplishing the Master Plan’s recommendations.

The recommendations presented in this chapter are conceptual and are not accompanied by specific cost estimates. Costs for capital projects that relate to these recommendations are found in **Figure 5.?, Kingsville Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Priorities** (page ??).

I. PARK LAND ASSEMBLY



Per the acreage goals established in **Figure 3.1: City of Kingsville, Recommended Level of Service** (page 50), the City of Kingsville has a deficit for neighborhood parks, but exceeds the level of service for community park land. Nonetheless, the City’s neighborhood parks are equitably distributed to provide good geographic coverage of the city, while the service area of community parks only covers the southern part of Kingsville. The City also lacks a city-wide trail system (a park type garnering a high level of public support).

The land acquisition recommendations in this section focus on maintaining and addressing short falls in the service area coverage of the park system. Although the City must consider direct park land acquisition to meet long-term community needs, it must also re-evaluate partnerships with the KISD to help address existing park land deficits.

Park land assembly recommendations include the following:

FIGURE 4.2: PARK LAND ASSEMBLY

Action	Recommendation	Plan Goal # (page 7)	Public Benefits (described on pages 2 & 3)
I.1	Improve neighborhood park levels of service through public partnerships.	2, 3	
I.2	Develop the lawn next to City Hall into a civic “green.”	2, 5	
I.3	Partner with KISD to improve field space south of Memorial Middle School.	2, 3	
I.4	Partner with KISD to formalize a relationship for field space at John Gillett Intermediate School for Brookshire 1 Park.	2, 3	
I.5	Partner with KISD to Increase the parking capacity at Brookshire 2 Park/ Brookshire Pool.	-	
I.6	Develop a plan to add linear parks to the municipal park system.	4	
I.7	Assemble land for a community park in north Kingsville.	2	

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.

ACTION I.1, Improve neighborhood park levels of service through public partnerships.

In order to address neighborhood park land acreage deficits, it is important to establish a park land acquisition policy which leverages partnerships for the use of existing public lands. Relationships with KISD should be formalized so that recreation offerings located on school property can be counted as public park land through liberal joint use arrangements and increased hours of public access. This should include clearly identified responsibilities and time frames for any partnerships. It is also important to formalize the partnerships with the school districts so that projects on School District property can be eligible for TPWD grants.

ACTION I.2, Develop the lawn next to City Hall into a civic “green.”

The 2.2 acre parcel of land north of City Hall is positioned to be a premiere center-city civic space. This property is located on the western edge of downtown and in a gap in the City's neighborhood parks service areas (see **Map 3.2**, page 53). According to original City plats, this parcel was originally intended to be reserved as part of a larger open space called Chamberlain Park. A formal civic space on this tract would mitigate current neighborhood park service area deficits and provide a center city gathering area.

A proposed Kingsville City Green would compliment the City's recent downtown master planning efforts, and support the development of a new center city civic activity center (in conjunction with the new City Hall). Full development of the green (see facing page) would include reprogramming of the space, and require the demolition of an existing gymnasium.

ACTION I.3, Partner with KISD to improve field space south of Memorial Middle School.

The City currently lacks field space in its neighborhood parks for either formalized or informal sports recreation. Working with KISD to add the field areas south of Memorial Middle School, which is next to Thompson Park, would add needed space for impromptu recreation and practice areas for organized sports outside of Dick Kleberg Park (and closer to Kingsville existing population centers). Additional field space may also mitigate the loss of informal practice areas, should the Kingsville City Green be developed in full (see Action 1.2).

ACTION I.4, Partner with KISD to formalize a relationship for field space at John Gillett Intermediate School for Brookshire 1 Park.

There is an opportunity to improve the current conditions and offerings of Brookshire 1 Park by partnering with KISD. Brookshire 1 Park is not very large in size at 2.6 acres, but its proximity to John Gillett Intermediate School could allow for additional programming within and beyond its current boundaries. The neighboring school property could then be used for field space for impromptu recreation and practice areas for organized sports. As with Action 1.3, the dispersal of some community field space - at least for practice activities - increases community accessibility and allows Dick Kleberg Park fields to be reserved for game-day activities.

ACTION I.5, Partner with KISD to increase the parking capacity at Brookshire 2 Park/Brookshire Pool.

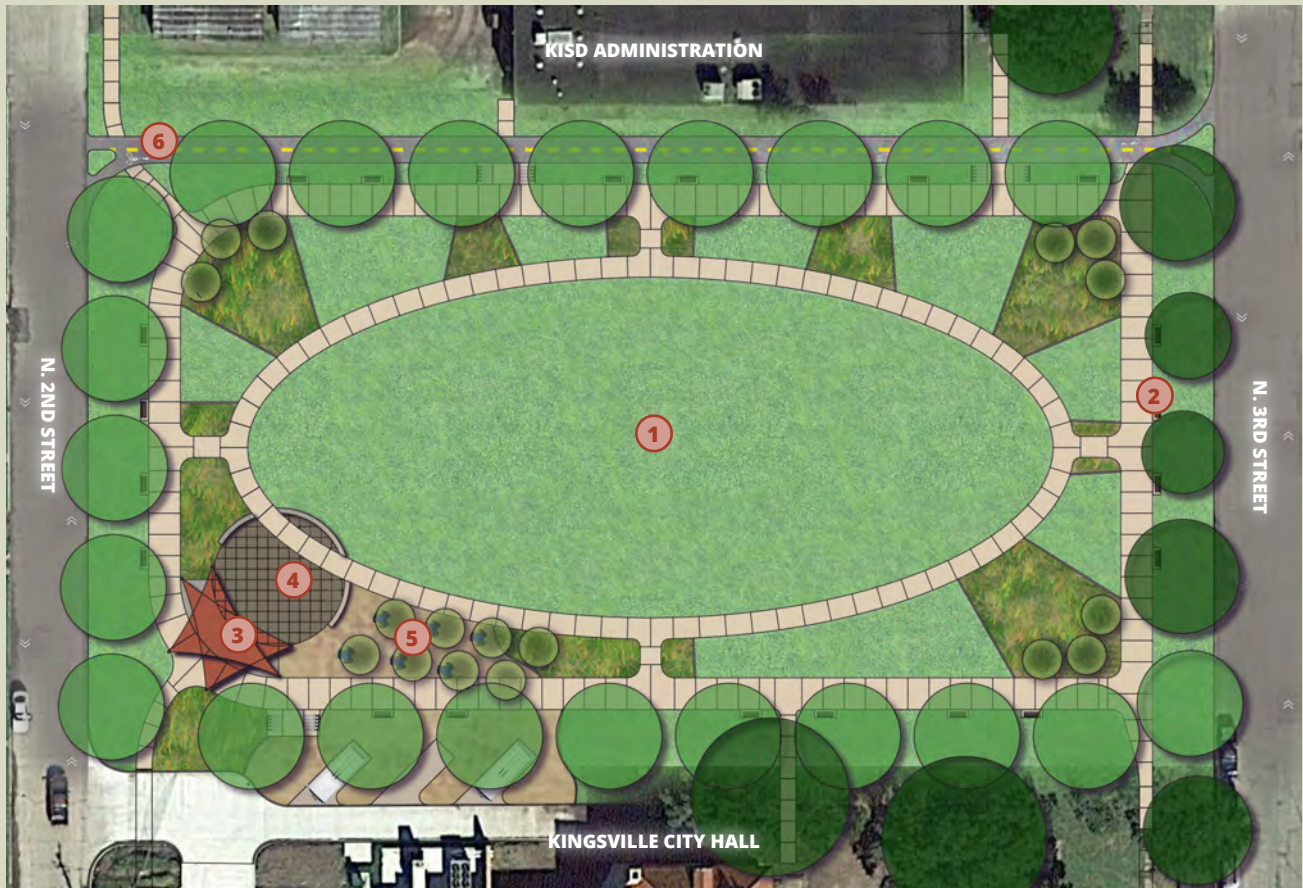
A.D. Harvey Elementary School is located adjacent to the Brookshire 2 Park, which is home to the Brookshire Pool. The school's parking currently abuts the park property on the west boundary. If there are future additions to the park relocating the park's parking in concert with the school's parking would allow for an opportunity for shared parking with the KISD facility. This relationship would provide more conveniently located parking for both the school and the park. Concurrently, basic streetscape enhancements, such as curb extensions and pavement markings would allow for the creation of defined on-street parking spaces to augment (or replace some) off-street parking needs.

ACTION I.6, Develop a plan to add linear parks to the municipal park system.

Utilize modified land development ordinance tools (see **Figure 4.4**, page 70) to acquire and preserve creek corridors allowing for riparian areas to maintain or reclaim their natural state. These areas should be targeted for passive recreation activities, such as trails. High priority corridors include Tranquitas Creek and Santa Gertrudis Creek. The implementation of the linear park and trail system will likely exceed the 10 year time frame of this plan. The implementation of trails along creek corridors identified on **Map 3.4, Linear Park/Multi-use Trail Service Areas** (page 56) will require working with private land owners to acquire land or access rights.

ACTION I.7, Assemble land for a community park in north Kingsville.

Although a new community park is not a priority based on current acreage totals, the City should take steps to acquire land for the long-term addition of a community park in north Kingsville. Community park land assembly will meet a current deficit in service area coverage, and provide space for system growth as the local population increases and Dick Kleberg Park is built-out.



The Kingsville City Green is conceived to meet two (2) specific park system needs that were identified in Chapter 3, Needs Assessment:

- **Neighborhood Park Level of Service.** A review of neighborhood park levels of service suggests a coverage gap in the neighborhoods located between downtown and TAMUK. Although unsanctioned recreational activity is allowed on the proposed city green site, it is not currently officially reserved for park land.
- **Civic Space.** Downtown civic space is limited to the Downtown Garden and Pavilion, streetscapes, and lawns around the Kleberg County Courthouse and City Hall. There is no center city civic space of adequate size to host large community events. Further, there is no downtown civic space with the structure and formality to serve as a nucleus for center city gatherings and reinvestment.

Advantages to the development of a “city green” in this specific location are discussed in Action 1.2 (page 64). Key elements of the Kingsville City Green include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Central Green. Open turf area (0.7 acres) for unstructured play and community gatherings. ② Outer Promenade. Formal walking path with seating. Frames the space and is of sufficient width for fair and festival booths. ③ Band Stand. Stage with canopy or roof structure. Absent walls for unobstructed lines of sight into and out of the green. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ④ Splash Pad. Signature element to meet a locally significant facility need, and to draw visitors during non-event times. ⑤ Outdoor Patio. Utilitarian area for picnicking or event logistics outside of the formal space. May be enhanced by infrastructure to support food trucks or vendors. ⑥ Bicycle Route. Bicycle-specific facility as envisioned by the City’s downtown master planning efforts. Outside of formal space to preserve the passive use of the promenade. |
|--|---|

Establishment of a civic green on this tract would be consistent with historic City plats that identify the parcel as part of a larger community open space known as Chamberlain Park. Cost estimates related to Kingsville City Green are found in **Figure 5.2: Kingsville Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Priorities** (page 95).

II. PARK FACILITIES

Public and stakeholder input identified the improvement of existing park facilities as paramount to adding more offerings to the park system. This community preference is acknowledged and addressed in many of the recommendations found in this chapter. This plan’s recommendations are being developed under the assumption that the overall condition of the park system will be improved within the preliminary stages of Parks Master Plan implementation. Regardless, the new park facility recommendations recognize existing funding commitments and some long-term additions to the park system. **This section excludes recommendations for Dick Kleberg Park. For related recommendations, see pages 86 and 87.**

Park facilities recommendations include the following:

FIGURE 4.3: PARK FACILITIES

Action	Recommendation	Plan Goal # (page 7)	Public Benefits (described on pages 2 & 3)
II.1	Construct a skate park at Brookshire 2 Park.	2, 3	
II.2	Construct wading pool for children at Brookshire 2 Park.	2, 3	
II.3	Prepare and implement a concept design for Los Hermanos Flores Park.	2, 3	
II.4	Add a splash pad to Los Hermanos Flores Park.	2, 3	
II.5	Add a signature element (pump track) to Brookshire I Park.	2, 3	
II.6	Develop a signature trail head at Corral Park for Tranquitas Creek	4	
II.7	Construct a signature covered basketball court facility at Thompson Park.	2, 3	
II.8	Allocate money for the rehabilitation of the L. E. Ramey Park trap and skeet range.	5, 6	
II.9	Develop the remaining property at L. E. Ramey Park in a manner that responsibly utilizes available Parks and Recreation Department resources.	1	

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.

ACTION II.1, Construct a skate park at Brookshire 2 Park.

The City of Kingsville has set aside money for the design and construction of a skate park. This park should be located at Brookshire 2 Park. The park is centrally located, readily accessible to the community, has parking, and is large enough to accommodate the planned 5,000 sq. ft. facility.

ACTION II.2, Construct a wading pool for children at Brookshire 2 Park.

The addition of a wading pool specifically for children at Brookshire 2 Park will help expand the aquatic offerings of the Kingsville Parks system. The existing pool facilities at Brookshire 2 Park lends itself to logistical benefits for a new aquatic addition. A wading pool would allow the facility to better serve young children in having a distinct area for them to play separate of teens. The addition of a wading pool at Brookshire 2 Park should be done in conjunction with Action V.5, (page 75) - develop an aquatic facilities plan to distribute water recreation activities throughout the City.

ACTION II.3, Prepare and implement a concept design for Los Hermanos Flores Park.

The Parks Master Plan includes a conceptual site design for the redevelopment of Los Hermanos Park according to recommended neighborhood park design principles. This park redesign (pages 68 and 69) is intended to serve as a template for changes to system-wide park development and maintenance practices. Formalize the design plans and redevelop Los Hermanos Flores Park consistent with the conceptual design plan included in this chapter, and applicable capital projects identified in **Figure 5.2: Kingsville Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Priorities** (page 95).

ACTION II.4, Add a splash pad to Los Hermanos Flores Park.

Los Hermanos Flores Park is located off the proposed Tranquitas Creek trail corridor and would be accessible to area residents making it an ideal location for a splash pad facility. It is important to distribute aquatics facilities throughout a municipal park system for community accessibility, and increase rates of utilization at park properties. Inclusion of a splash pad in Los Hermanos Flores Park would not conflict with aquatics facilities at other locations. Neighborhood park splash pads can be small in scale while a similar spray ground facility at Dick Kleberg Park would be substantially larger to provide service on a community scale.

ACTION II.5, Add a signature element (pump track) to Brookshire I Park.

Public and stakeholder group input suggested that addressing the recreation offerings for teenagers is a local priority. Similar to a skate park, a signature element like a pump track for BMX bicycles would increase recreational offerings for this age group. Additionally, a pump track would increase the diversity of recreational offerings in the Kingsville park system. Consistent with Parks Master Plan recommendations related to skate parks and splash pads, the development of a pump track in Brookshire I Park would be more centrally located and accessible - better serving its target user group - and could increase park utilization.

ACTION II.6, Develop signature trail head at Corral Park for Tranquitas Creek Trail.

In concert with the addition of a multi-use trail on the Tranquitas Creek corridor (see Action III.4, page 70), and the implementation of the Los Hermanos Flores Park conceptual design plan, a corresponding signature trail head should be developed at Corral Park. This trail head will help orient users, and should promote the overall vision of the Kingsville trail system.

ACTION II.7, Construct a signature covered basketball court facility at Thompson Park.

A covered basketball court facility would help extend the recreational opportunities for basketball by reducing direct exposure to the summer sun. Thompson Park would be an ideal location for such a facility as its ample street parking can handle an increase in visitors. Efforts should be made to minimize the impact on the park's tree canopy.



A covered basketball court can accommodate outdoor recreation opportunities in a variety of weather conditions.

ACTION II.8, Allocate money for the rehabilitation of the L. E. Ramey Trap and Skeet Range.

The L. E. Ramey Trap and Skeet Range is an existing park system facility that is underutilized. There is a large number of sportsman in the region and providing a functioning trap and skeet facility would be a positive addition for local residents and visitors to the community. In order to ensure the wise use of city resources it is best to execute Action VI.4 (page 76) - creating a task force who's focus is to re-open the L. E. Ramey Trap and Skeet Range - in concert with this initiative.

ACTION II.9, Develop remaining property at L. E. Ramey Park in a manner that responsibly utilizes available Parks and Recreation Department resources.

The undeveloped park land at L. E. Ramey Park is quite substantial and any future development of the unprogrammed space for active recreation would be costly. Single-track trails for mountain bikes would be a relatively low-cost way to introduce new recreational opportunities into the park system.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK DESIGN



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

The redesign and reprogramming of Kingsville's neighborhood parks will be important to improving the community perception of the municipal park system. Dick Kleberg Park was overwhelmingly identified by survey respondents as the most popular park in the park system. Some of this can be explained by the under performance of neighborhood parks in meeting the needs of the community. The following guiding principles were applied in the development of a design concept for Los Hermanos Flores Park (facing page). These same principles can be applied to other existing and future neighborhood parks to better meet the needs and desires of area residents through consistent maintenance and design.

Simplify maintenance demands.

Improving the maintenance of the Kingsville parks will go a long way in improving the perceptions of the park system. While this can be accomplished by simply adding more staff, this solution may not necessarily be the best use of the City's limited resources. Park design can help reduce maintenance demands through thoroughly planned additions and layout of park facilities. This will include reducing areas requiring routine mowing and edging.

Reduce clutter.

Many City neighborhood parks include facilities and play areas that make the space feel crowded. This is caused by not removing obsolete facilities, and the ad-hoc additions of new facilities and play equipment. Neighborhood parks in the Kingsville park system are relatively small and over-programmed. Moving forward, it is important to change the apparent philosophy that *more facilities in the park make it a more desirable space*. This mis-perception can be addressed through the clustering of recreational facilities and park structures in order to leave larger areas of unprogrammed open space.

Provide recreation lawn space.

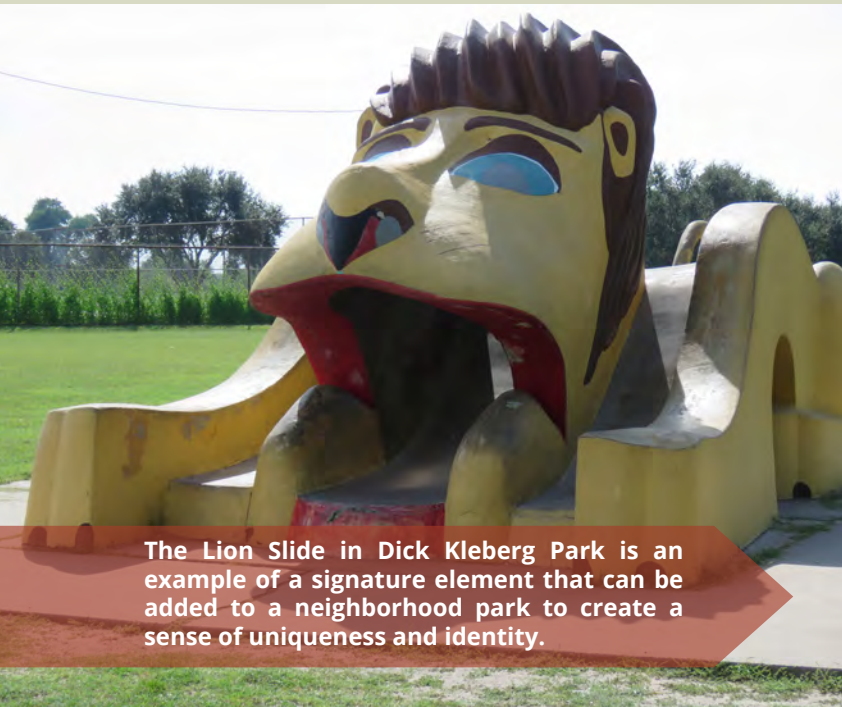
Establishing designated lawns to support unprogrammed play space for recreational sports and leisure time can be just as important as any park facility. Clearly defining the location of these lawns and play fields can reduce maintenance demands. Not all park area must be maintained with manicured play surfaces. Defining these lawns spaces for natural growth will assist in establishing low maintenance zones.

Add signature elements.

In order to improve the sense of importance and add a degree of uniqueness a signature element should be established in each neighborhood park. These signature elements can vary from park to park and consist of a special use space or a grouping of facilities that make it a destination in the community. This approach is intended to provide each neighborhood park with a sense of identity that will help make residents proud of their local neighborhood park. (This principle is the basis for many of the recommendations listed in **Figure 4.3**, [page 66].)

Increase shade opportunities.

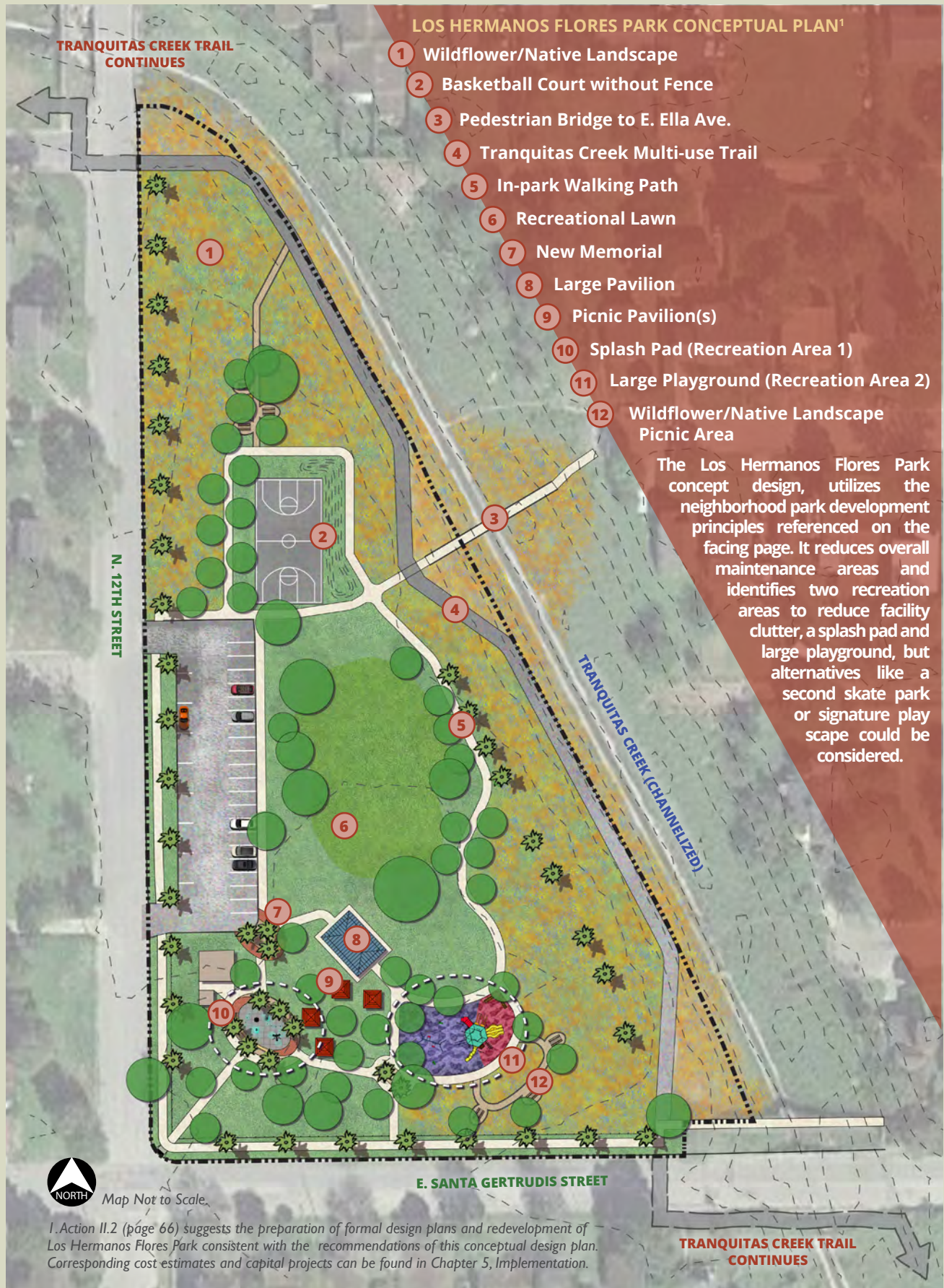
Public input made it clear that shade is a valuable commodity for Kingsville parks. As such, neighborhood parks should focus on protecting and enhancing tree canopy as well as providing for additional shade elements for new park facilities.



The Lion Slide in Dick Kleberg Park is an example of a signature element that can be added to a neighborhood park to create a sense of uniqueness and identity.



LOS HERMANOS FLORES PARK¹



III. COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY

Public input in the Parks Master Plan suggests a substantial community-wide interest in walking, running, and biking - interests which are consistently popular throughout many Texas cities and towns. To facilitate these activities, communities are developing interconnected multi-use trail networks, and other bicycle and pedestrian facilities along suitable corridors. Such amenities serve a dual recreation and transportation purpose.

Community connectivity recommendations in Kingsville include the following:

FIGURE 4.4: COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY

Action	Recommendation	Plan Goal # (page 7)	Public Benefits (described on pages 2 & 3)
III.1	Amend land development ordinances to incorporate provisions for the development of multi-use trails and sidepaths.	4, 6	
III.2	Adopt design standards for multi-use trails.	1	
III.3	Amend land development ordinances to require connection between single-family and multi-family to the existing and proposed trail system.	4, 6	
III.4	Construct multi-use trails along key corridors.	4	
III.5	Construct sidepaths along key thoroughfares.	4	

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.

ACTION III.1, Amend land development ordinances to incorporate provisions for the development of multi-use trails and sidepaths.

Amendments to Kingsville’s land development ordinances (i.e. subdivision regulations, zoning, etc.) should define multi-use trails and sidepaths. Ordinance amendments should require a developer to dedicate multi-use trail easements – and possibly trail segments - where the development tract contains a multi-use trail corridor identified by the City. Amendments should define when sidepaths may be required by the City within public street rights-of-way to promote trail connections where other corridors are unavailable. Code amendments would allow sidepaths to replace sidewalks where consistent with this plan or other policy documents.

ACTION III.2, Adopt design standards for multi-use trails.

Prepare design standards for multi-use trails including options for: surfacing, width, vertical and horizontal clearances, cross-slope, and amenity placement.

ACTION III.3, Amend land development ordinances to require connection between single-family and multi-family to the existing and proposed trail system.

Amendments to Chapter 15, Article 4, Subdivisions, will allow the City to require walkway connections between new development and multi-use trail networks. Connectivity ordinances may also provide for bicycle and pedestrian linkages to other destinations such as parks, schools, shopping, neighborhoods, etc.

ACTION III.4, Construct multi-use trails along key corridors.

Construct multi-use trails along the Tranquitas Creek with initial phases focusing on the stretch between Corral Park to Los Hermanos Flores Park. Tranquitas Creek is an important corridor as the City begins the recognition of linear park opportunities and the development of a city-wide trail system. Other corridors to be considered are identified in **Map 3.4, Linear Park/Multi-use Trail Service Areas** (page 56).

ACTION III.5, Construct sidepaths along key thoroughfares.

Potential trail development within Kingsville’s drainage and irrigation corridors will provide bicycle and pedestrian linkages to limited areas of the City - often along indirect routes that are bisected by major streets. The off-street multi-use trail system must be supported by on-street bicycle and pedestrian sidepaths. Some suitable sidepath corridors are identified on **Map 3.4, Linear Park/Multi-use Trail Service Areas** (page 56).

MULTI-USE TRAILS

Multi-use trails are intended to be used by both bicyclists and pedestrians. In some areas, multi-use trails are also referred to as shared-use paths; but regardless, such facilities are commonly referred to by the layperson simply as “trails.” Multi-use trails occupy corridors that are completely separated from streets, such as water ways, utility rights-of-ways, greenbelt corridors, or areas within parks.

Considerations:

- Appropriate for corridors along bodies of water, irrigation canals, drainage canals, utility right-of-ways, and existing or abandoned rail lines.
- Develop stronger linkages for pedestrians and bicyclists between park facilities and/or key destinations.
- Depending on the context, variations to the construction of a multi-use trails are appropriate. Facility variables include presence of curb edge and surface material choice such as: decomposed granite, asphalt, or concrete.

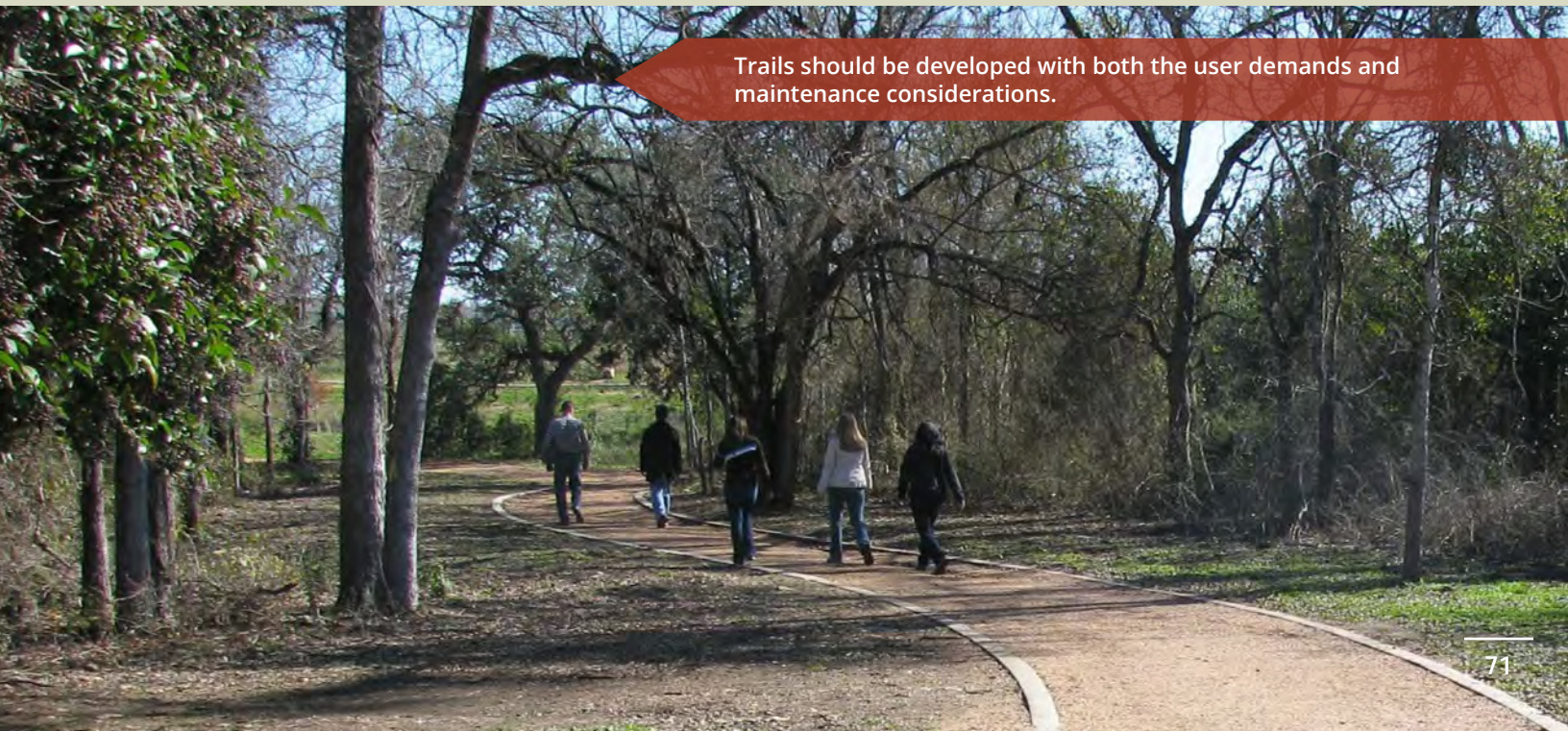
Benefits:

- Highest levels of comfort and safety for bicyclist and pedestrians.
- Encourages a wide variety of users.
- Attractive for both recreational riders and bicycle commuters.

Design Notes:

Shared use trails should be developed with the following additional parameters in mind:

- **Corridor width.** Corridor easement or right-of-way width should be at least 20 feet to allow for at least 5 feet of clearance between adjacent features and the trail. The edge of the trail should be at least 2 feet away from adjacent landscaping.
- **Path width.** Since multi-use trails are intended to be used as two-way facilities, a minimum width of 10 feet is recommended - although 12 feet is preferred.
- **Lateral clearance.** Trails should be placed a minimum of 5 feet from adjacent obstructions. A minimum shoulder or clear area of 2 feet is required.
- **Vertical clearance.** At least 10 feet of height to obstructions is preferred. In limited conditions, a minimum distance of 8 feet may be considered, but the obstruction should be marked to be seen at night.
- **Grade.** Trail gradients should generally not exceed 5 percent; however, where the gradient must exceed 5 percent for limited distances, AASHTO and ADA guidelines should be followed.
- **Pavement type.** Concrete is preferred for its long term durability, and a well designed and built trail may last for decades. However, runners and many bicycle riders prefer the smoother ride and slightly higher level of “give” of asphalt or crushed granite.
- **Curvature.** Curves in the trail should be gentle and should follow minimums established for the design speed. Guidance for the design of horizontal and vertical curves provided by AASHTO should be followed.









Trails should be developed with both the user demands and maintenance considerations.

IV. NATURAL AREAS

The City has the opportunity to diversify its park system character by ensuring that the City’s valuable natural resources are protected. Conservation practices should focus on protecting areas of environmental significance, while introducing complimentary recreation opportunities. In order to accomplish this it is important for City to have a long term vision of integrating new park properties and changes to existing park land that promote the area’s natural aesthetic qualities.

Natural areas and viewshed protection recommendations include the following:

FIGURE 4.5: NATURAL AREAS

Action	Recommendation	Plan Goal # (page 7)	Public Benefits (described on pages 2&3)
IV.1	Identify areas within the existing Kingsville parks system for natural resource preservation.	1, 3	 
IV.2	Prepare and implement a prairie or woodland restoration plan for one (1) or more of Kingsville’s park properties.	1	 
IV.3	Incorporate tools in the City’s land development ordinances which encourage natural resource preservation.	1	
IV.4	Acquire parcels for the assembly of interconnected greenways.	4	

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.

ACTION IV.1 Identify areas within the existing Kingsville parks system for natural resource preservation.

Select a municipal park property where all or a portion of the site may be restored to natural grassland or woodland for purposes of creating habitat diversity and passive recreation opportunities. Possible sites include portions of Dick Kleberg Park and L.E. Ramey Park. Conduct public outreach to solicit community support for the programming of the selected site.

ACTION IV.2 Prepare and implement a prairie or woodland restoration plan for one (1) or more of Kingsville’s park properties.

Prepare a prairie or woodland restoration plan for selected park property(ies) - including a schedule or plan implementation and program of passive (and accessory) recreational amenities. (See Action IV.1)

ACTION IV.3, Incorporate tools in the City’s land development ordinances which encourage natural resource preservation.

Prepare and propose development incentives (including density bonuses, transfer of development rights, and preservation credits) in exchange for the preservation of nature preserve land. Prepare clear definitions and parameters for lands that may qualify as nature preserves.

ACTION IV.4, Acquire parcels for the assembly of interconnected greenways.

Utilize modified land development ordinance tools to acquire and preserve greenway lands within riparian areas in an undisturbed natural state, or allow for natural reclamation to create a network of passive open spaces. As applicable, leverage funding sources that support watershed preservation or water conservation. Focus efforts on Tranquitas Creek, and other perennial and intermittent streams and channels.



“Nature is always lovely, invincible, glad, whatever is done and suffered by her creatures. All scars she heals whether in rocks or water or sky or hearts.”

~ John Muir

PROCESS FOR NATIVE PRAIRIE RESTORATION

With increasing frequency, Texas communities are engaging in habitat restoration by casually or directly converting previously “unprogrammed” land into nature preserves. Nature preserve, or “designated natural areas” are now becoming integral components of municipal park systems.

Casual restoration of park land into small areas of natural vegetation or wildlife habitat simply refers to allowing the land to remain fallow. As the land repairs itself, non-native invasive grasses, shrubs, and trees, mix with native species.

Prairie restoration that promotes the regeneration of native plant species requires careful planning and execution. Managed prairie restoration activities must adhere to the following six (6) parameters:

- 1. Public Support.** The general public must be educated about the long-term community benefits of native restoration including: soil stabilization, water quality, wildlife benefits, and aesthetic benefits. Absent such public engagement, sites undergoing restoration may be perceived as unkempt - especially during early stages. Public interest may also be enhanced by incorporating means for public access to the site.
- 2. Research.** Understand the site history - including prior land management activities. Consider climate conditions; and most importantly, test the soil to understand the types of plants that will flourish on the site.
- 3. Site Planning and Project Preparation.** Define current natural amenities on the site, and understand the type and distribution of invasive species. Prepare a site plan that identifies preferred grasses, forbs (broadleaf flowering plants/wildflowers), and legumes. Determine a plant establishment strategy including: planting method, seed/acre ratio, planting schedule, and annual maintenance schedule.
- 4. Site Preparation.** Selection of existing plants to remain, removal techniques for removing invasive species, and soil conditioning.
- 5. Establishment.** First year will include a mix of seed and bare roots, with live roots in the second year only in limited areas where needed. Mowing will be limited to once during the growing season, while a spring burn will be beneficial every few years.
- 6. Maintenance.** Although watering and fertilizing needs will decrease significantly after the first annual growing season, targeted weeding will be necessary, and periodic grazing will aid long-term regeneration (as will scheduled mowing and burns).









A 70 percent national decline in grassland bird populations is due to the reduction of native prairie habitat.

V. PARK PLANNING, DESIGN, AND MAINTENANCE

Throughout the public participation component of the planning process residents and park users voiced their desire for attractive, high-quality, user-friendly parks, and recreation facilities. The public input process identified gaps in maintenance as one of the most important, if not the biggest issue, affecting the Kingsville park system. These recommendations focus on developing a framework for providing and maintaining needed facilities.

Park planning, design, and maintenance recommendations include the following:

FIGURE 4.5: PARK PLANNING, DESIGN, AND MAINTENANCE

Action	Recommendation	Plan Goal # (page 7)	Public Benefits (described on page 2 & 3)
V.1	Develop a park management plan for maintenance.	1	 
V.2	Establish standards for maintaining natural and riparian areas.	1	
V.3	Promote parks to be accessible for people of all abilities and ages.	2	  
V.4	Compile and maintain a park system inventory.	1	
V.5	Develop an aquatic facilities plan to distribute water recreation activities throughout the City.	2	  
V.6	Remove fences around basketball courts in parks.	1	
V.7	Develop a park system lighting program including standards for trails.	1	 
V.8	To help with maintenance needs, evaluate the removal of Kenedy Park from the municipal park system.	1	
V.9	Develop unified way-finding and park signage to help promote a sense of place.	1	

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.

ACTION V.1, Develop a park management plan for maintenance.

Establishing a parks management plan for maintenance is necessary to address current park system maintenance deficiencies identified during Parks Master Plan public input. This plan should include defining best practices for routine tasks, a nutrient management plan, mowing guidelines, an integrated pest management plan, landscaping and tree pruning guidelines, yearly facility assessments, and standards for park facility upkeep (trails, ball fields, playgrounds, etc.). An annual budget should be established for a park maintenance and replacement program which prioritizes essential improvements. A comprehensive list of facilities needing repair should be incorporated into an annual budget.

ACTION V.2, Establish standards for maintaining natural and riparian areas.

The current parks system has a few areas that are natural or riparian in character. It is important to ensure that these areas, as well as future natural areas or riparian zones preserve their aesthetic qualities. A specific set of maintenance standards should be identified and implemented.

ACTION V.3, Promote parks to be accessible for people of all abilities and ages.

New park facilities and renovations should meet accessibility requirements as well as ensuring that playgrounds and other park facilities will include a variety of sensory engagement offerings. This focus will assist the park system by creating inclusive recreation opportunities for all Kingsville residents.

ACTION V.4, Compile and maintain a park system asset inventory.

A survey and inventory of all park assets should be conducted for the entire park system. This survey should describe the individual recreational and accessory facilities for each park property, and describe their current conditions. This inventory should include measures of play areas, areas mowed, counts of picnic facilities (BBQ pits, tables, etc.), miles of trail, etc. This inventory will assist in maintenance practices and act as a measuring element for park system improvements overtime.

ACTION V.5, Develop an aquatic facilities plan to distribute water recreation activities throughout the City.

Survey respondents identified aquatics-related recreation opportunities as an important park system component. Aquatics facilities can be costly to implement as they vary in type and scale. A community waterpark may be appropriate for Dick Kleberg Park or another future community park, while splash pads differing sizes suffice in neighborhood parks. Following installation of the aquatics facilities recommended in this Parks Master Plan, evaluate the need for additional pools, spray grounds, splash pads, etc., and incorporate any additions into a City capital improvements program.

ACTION V.6, Remove fences around basketball courts in parks.

The fences around the basketball courts at many of the Kingsville parks were likely installed to improve the playing experience by eliminating the need to chase down a ball after an errant shot or pass. However, the current condition of these fences lends to the current lack of aesthetic appeal in the parks. In circumstances where a fence is not located near a roadway, strategic removal of fencing surrounding all or some of the court is highly recommended.

ACTION V.7, Develop a park system lighting program including standards for trails.

Parks Master Plan on-line survey results suggest that perceptions on safety within Kingsville parks is high. Nonetheless, lighting was identified as an element that could be added or strategically placed to increase the sense of safety in parks. A capital program should be established which identifies preferred lighting types and locations throughout the park system.

ACTION V.8, To help with maintenance needs, evaluate the removal of Kenedy Park from the municipal park system.

Kenedy Park is a property that could be removed from the Kingsville park system without significantly affecting park coverage or acreage. At 1.4 acres, the park is limited in supporting significant recreation facilities and lacks qualities that contribute to a sense of uniqueness. This likely explains why it received the lowest favorability rating of neighborhood parks in the on-line survey. Removal of Kenedy Park from the municipal parks system provides opportunity for the development of new commercial and/or residential property.

ACTION V.9, Develop unified way finding and park signage to help promote a sense of place.





Implementing signage that is a unified across the park system is important to promoting a positive identity for a parks system. Some municipal parks currently share similar park identification signage, but it is not a uniform application across all parks. Establish a uniform standard for park identification signage and apply the preferred brand to wayfinding signage used within the parks or along the trail system.

VI. RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Kingsville Parks and Recreation Department sponsors a number of recreation programs and educational opportunities on an intermittent basis. Public input received during the Park Master Plan development process suggests a desire to increase the amount and regularity of recreational programming options for residents - especially area youth of all adolescent age categories. With Kingsville’s limited resources it will be important to work with community partners to help address these programming related needs. Additional community engagement to identify specific recreational programming preferences will be necessary to ensure that municipal program investments best match latent community demand.

Recreation programming recommendations include the following:

FIGURE 4.7: RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Action	Recommendation	Plan Goal # (page 7)	Public Benefits (described on page 2 & 3)
VI.1	Work with area youth sports organizations to be more responsive to their needs.	5	
VI.2	Develop partnerships with KISD to provide facilities for youth recreation.	5	
VI.3	Work with the City Tourism and Heritage Department to develop and promote events.	5	
VI.4	Create an L. E. Ramey Trap and Skeet Range task force to advise on facility development, operations, and maintenance.	5	

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.

ACTION VI.1, Work with area youth sports organizations to be more responsive to their needs.

Coordinate with area recreation organizations to establish long term contracts for park facility use. This will help improve the predictability of annual athletic activities. Improved communication about the expectations for facility conditions and the resources required to maintain those facility conditions will contribute to more informed expectations by users.

ACTION VI.2, Develop partnerships with KISD to provide facilities for youth recreation.

Strengthen the relationship between the KISD, the City’s Parks & Recreation Department, and area recreation organizations to be more responsive to community needs. Building upon the partnerships for joint use and maintenance of field space between the Parks and Recreation Department and KISD, improved scheduling for practice space can help relieve pressures for Dick Kleberg Park meeting all game and practice field needs.

ACTION VI.3, Work with the City Tourism and Heritage Department to develop and promote events.

The Parks and Recreation Department should leverage the cross department relationships afforded by being a part of the City administration. These relationships will help provide an opportunity to expand the community event offerings without placing all the administrative burdens upon the Parks and Recreation Department staff. This form of collaboration can expand the support for improvements to parks system facilities.

ACTION VI.4, Create an L. E. Ramey Trap and Skeet Range task force to advise on facility development, operations, and maintenance.

Re-opening the trap and skeet range at L. E. Ramey park was identified both by stakeholder groups and on-line survey respondents as an initiative the City should pursue (see also Action II.8, page 66). In order to accomplish this it will be important to examine all avenues for operation and maintenance of the facility. A public-private partnership will likely be a mechanism that will help accomplish this task. Creating a task force of engaged community shooting enthusiasts will contribute to a transparent and successful process.













VII. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARK DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

The City of Kingsville’s long term ability to provide a sufficient amount of public recreation space to current and future residents will require the active engagement of the local development community. Through the use of park land dedication ordinances, Texas communities have deferred much of the cost of acquiring new or expanded park lands to the development interests that create the need – through the construction of neighborhoods, apartment complexes, and other types of residential and non-residential development. As with water, sewer, storm drainage, and roads, the use of these ordinances is an acknowledgment of the essential role that park land and open space plays in community development.

Cities have the opportunity to establish practices that will help a community park system be more financially sound by adopting fee mechanisms to fund the acquisition of new park land or cover the cost of facility use requests. Currently, the City of Kingsville does not have a mechanism in which new residential development, either single-family subdivision or multi-family development dedicate funds to the City for the acquisition of public park land.

Public and private park development tools recommendations include the following:

FIGURE 4.8: REGULATORY TOOLS

Action	Recommendation	Plan Goal # (page 7)	Public Benefits (described on page 2 & 3)
VII.1	Clearly define minimum requirements for recreation areas and amenities in multi-family developments.	6	 
VII.2	Develop minimum standards for private recreation space in single-family residential developments.	6	 
VII.3	Incorporate minimum requirements for public gathering space in non-residential developments and mixed-use developments.	6	  
VII.4	Develop a park land dedication ordinance.	2, 6	 
VII.5	Develop a park land development fee ordinance.	2, 6	 
VII.6	Create a fee schedule for park facility reservation and utilization.	1	

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.

ACTION VII.1, Clearly define minimum requirements for recreation areas and amenities in multi-family developments.

Amend Chapter 15, Article 6, Zoning, of the City of Kingsville Code of Ordinances, to require that multi-family development open space requirements incorporate a series of facility options that can be included in designated recreation areas, and design standards addressing minimum area and dimensions, land suitability, and access. Provisions can require linkages to a city-wide multi-use trail network.

ACTION VII.2, Develop minimum standards for private recreation space in single-family residential developments.

Amend Chapter 15, Article 6, Zoning, of the City of Kingsville Code of Ordinances, to require a minimum amount and distribution of privately-owned and maintained recreation land and facilities in new subdivisions. As with recreation areas in multifamily developments (Action VII.1), private parks in subdivisions would be subject to design standards addressing minimum area and dimensions, land suitability, distribution, and access. Private park provisions would be in addition to any public park land dedication requirements adopted by the City, and serve the accessibility needs typically provided by mini parks in the park classification hierarchy.

ACTION VII.3, Incorporate minimum requirements for public gathering space in non-residential developments and mixed-use developments.

Amend Chapter 15, Article 6, Zoning, of the City of Kingsville Code of Ordinances, to incorporate the designation and development of public gathering areas in retail, office, other commercial, and mixed-use areas that exceed a certain size. Include minimum design provisions, such as landscaping, site furnishings, surfacing, and other amenities.

ACTION VII.4, Develop a park land dedication ordinance.

Amend Chapter 15, Article 3, Subdivisions, of the City of Kingsville Code of Ordinances to require a contribution for the addition of park land in accordance with the demand impact on the park system by the new development. A park land dedication ordinance is a mechanism that is responsive to market conditions. As more people move to the City there will be more land dedicated or more money made available for the acquisition of land for the development of parks. It is important when developing an ordinance that it follows the following framework:

- Method of calculating a parkland dedication requirement demonstrating it is proportionate to the need created by a new development;
- Adherence to the nexus principle (park fees are to be used for parks only);
- Time limitation for expending fees in lieu; and
- Scope and range of the ordinance.

ACTION VII.5, Develop a park land development fee ordinance.

Similar to Action VII.4, amend Chapter 15, Article 3, Subdivisions, to require a fee for the construction of new facilities within the Kingsville park system. Park land dedication fees provide a source of additional funds that may assist in the construction of park facilities at a future date (but within a prescribed time frame).

ACTION VII.6, Create fee schedule for park facility reservation and utilization.

On-line public survey results identified strong support for a fee-for-use and reservation of park facilities by organizations or individuals. As a means to increase the funds available for park maintenance, the municipal fees schedule should be designed to ensure that uses which are more consumptive, contribute more to the execution of maintenance activities related to that use. Park fees should be evaluated on an annual basis to improve the City's cost recovery ratio for operations and maintenance related to specific activities and events.



The utilization of park land development tools can be used to provide for a variety of recreation spaces. This may include practice space for youth sports which can be programmed into future neighborhood parks.



Dick Kleberg Park is the signature park in the Kingsville park system. As the City's principal community park, Dick Kleberg Park contains multiple sports fields, a reservoir, and other valuable community facilities. As part of Master Plan effort, a conceptual master plan was prepared for Dick Kleberg Park guide redevelopment activities to better serve the needs of the community. The Dick Kleberg Park conceptual development plan is intended to:

- Help guide current improvements;
- Identify potential enhancements that can expand and improve usage of the park; and
- Create a longer term vision for the park so that recommended improvements work towards community preferred outcomes.

The Dick Kleberg Park conceptual development plan supplements the system-wide recommendations identified in the previous sections of this chapter. The conceptual development planning process included the following activities:

- **On-line Public Survey.** The survey solicited community preferences for park activities and facilities.
- **Design Workshop.** Held on September 22, 2016, the workshop included City staff and members of the PAC, and resulted in ideas for park facilities and layout.
- **J.K. Northway Workshop.** During the first week of February 2017 city officials, city staff, community stakeholders, and representatives from local organizations were engaged about the future of the J.K. Northway Exposition Center. This input was used to inform the park design on potential relationships between the exposition center and the park.
- **PAC Meetings.** An illustrative conceptual plan of the park was presented to city staff and PAC for review at a March 6, 2017 meeting.

DESIGNING DICK KLEBERG PARK

Kingsville is part of the coastal prairie, which is home to many birds and mammals as well as beautiful prairie grasses, wildflowers, and coastal wetlands. There are more than 500 birds including migratory birds, quail and other game birds, large and small mammals including white-tail deer, ocelots, and spotted skunk, reptiles like the horned lizard, and fish and wetland animals including Guadalupe bass and blue crab. These local wildlife provide opportunities for wildlife viewing, fishing, and hunting that draw people from all over the world.

In keeping with the local heritage of large acre ranches, this park covers a large area and includes diverse uses for all ages and abilities from active sports fields, to nature viewing, and vast areas of grassland. The conceptual design for Dick Kleberg Park is to incorporate these various activities throughout the park with a specialty use for different sections. Shade trees added along the trail system create the green fingers into the park and provide wildlife corridors that extend beyond the park boundaries. In addition to providing wildlife viewing opportunities, these woodland corridors provided much needed shade to all activity areas, create boundaries separating different use zones, and provide an aesthetic background for events.

Overall park design themes are derived from the local ranch heritage including: cattle drives, rodeos, and association with the iconic King Ranch. Elements that carry out these themes are signage, fencing, play equipment, pavilions and structures.

DICK KLEBERG PARK PROGRAMING



As depicted above, natural areas (or “green fingers”), park boundaries and road treatments define three (3) distinct activity zones within Dick Kleberg Park. These zones include: **1) Sports Fields**; **2) Community Gathering and Festival Area**; and, **3) Amenity and Picnic Area**.

SPORTS FIELDS



The northern portion of Dick Kleberg Park is principally reserved for organized sports, but includes a trail system surrounded by trees to define activity spaces. Key features include:

- 1 Boundary marker
- 2 Primary outer loop multi-use trail (2.29 miles of 7.2 total miles)
- 3 Secondary entry with sign
- 4 Improved edge along Escondido Road (Fence near road to discourage parking, existing drainage-way, 8' wide trail)
- 5 Football field with stands and 1 practice field for football or soccer with concession/restroom building
- 6 5 - Full size soccer fields and 1 full size field with stands
- 7 Secondary gated entry with ticket booth
- 8 Fencing along road to protect pedestrians and direct parking
- 9 Primary trail, 8' wide, with added shade trees
- 10 Batting cage
- 11 Concession/restroom building
- 12 Bleachers with shade structures or added shade trees
- 13 Play trail with 5 play areas surrounded by picnic tables and access to primary trail & surrounding sports fields
- 14 Restroom/concession building
- 15 Existing youth softball fields with upgraded concession/restroom building and shaded bleachers.
- 16 Play trail w/ 3 play areas surrounded by picnic tables and access to primary trail and surrounding baseball fields
- 17 Youth Baseball Complex (4 fields, concession/restroom building, 2 batting cages, pavilion, covered bleachers)

COMMUNITY GATHERING AND FESTIVAL AREA



The community gathering and festival area provides Kingsville with an outdoor venue for large events or gatherings. Sidewalks that surround a formal event lawn define the space and create a barrier that may also support temporary fencing to control access. Events may be held in conjunction with J.K. Northway Exposition Center activities such as ranching heritage festivals or fairs because of location and proximity to large parking areas. Key features include:

- 18 Pedestrian access to expo center
- 19 Expo center primary visitor's entrance
- 20 Primary entrance with monument signs
- 21 Saddle horn sculpture plaza with surrounding shaded picnic.
New tree grove connects on site tree groves to encourage wildlife habitat and viewing throughout the park
- 22 Lariat event area (1,400 sf pavilion with restroom, plaza stage with special paving typical to park theme and in-ground water jets, fire pit, trailhead, 11 acre event lawn)
- 23 Ticket booth / gate
- 24 Existing disc golf course
- 25 Existing adult softball complex with renovated building and added shade structures and/or trees
- 26 Pavilion, 300 sf, with special paving typical to park theme
- 27 Trail access to existing jet allows for better interaction with a prominent park feature

AMENITY AND PICNIC AREA



The amenity and picnic area provide the community with a place for peaceful retreat. Key features include:

- 28 Primary entrance with monument signs
- 29 Renovated barbecue pavilions with perimeter fence
- 30 Pedestrian crossing with special paving
- 31 Exercise station along trail
- 32 Sensory garden and trail
- 33 Renovated building and entry tree grove and formal lawn with enhanced walled patio
- 34 Overlook with seat wall, interpretive sign, and special paving typical to park theme
- 35 Renovated multi-use court
- 36 Covered basketball court and pavilion
- 37 Family play area (splash pad, age separated play areas, shaded picnic area, trailhead)
- 38 Dog park with separated fenced areas, drinking fountain, waste stations, added shade trees
- 39 Planted berm to buffer dog park and maintenance area
- 40 Stone beach edge for access to water's edge
- 41 Existing maintenance yard
- 42 Boardwalk over drainage way
- 43 Reinforced drainage way for access to water's edge
- 44 Renovated picnic shelters
- 45 Boardwalk with leaning rails for wildlife viewing
- 46 Improved habitat at water's edge
- 47 Existing dam

WAY-FINDING IN DICK KLEBERG PARK



Dick Kleberg Park’s role in attracting visitors from across the region dictates the importance of clearly communicating a park identity. Its sheer size and collocation with the J.K. Northway Exposition Center contribute to the need to clearly distinguish the park boundaries with signage and a common edge treatment. Developing a design vernacular for way-finding signage will promote a sense of place that is unique to the park.

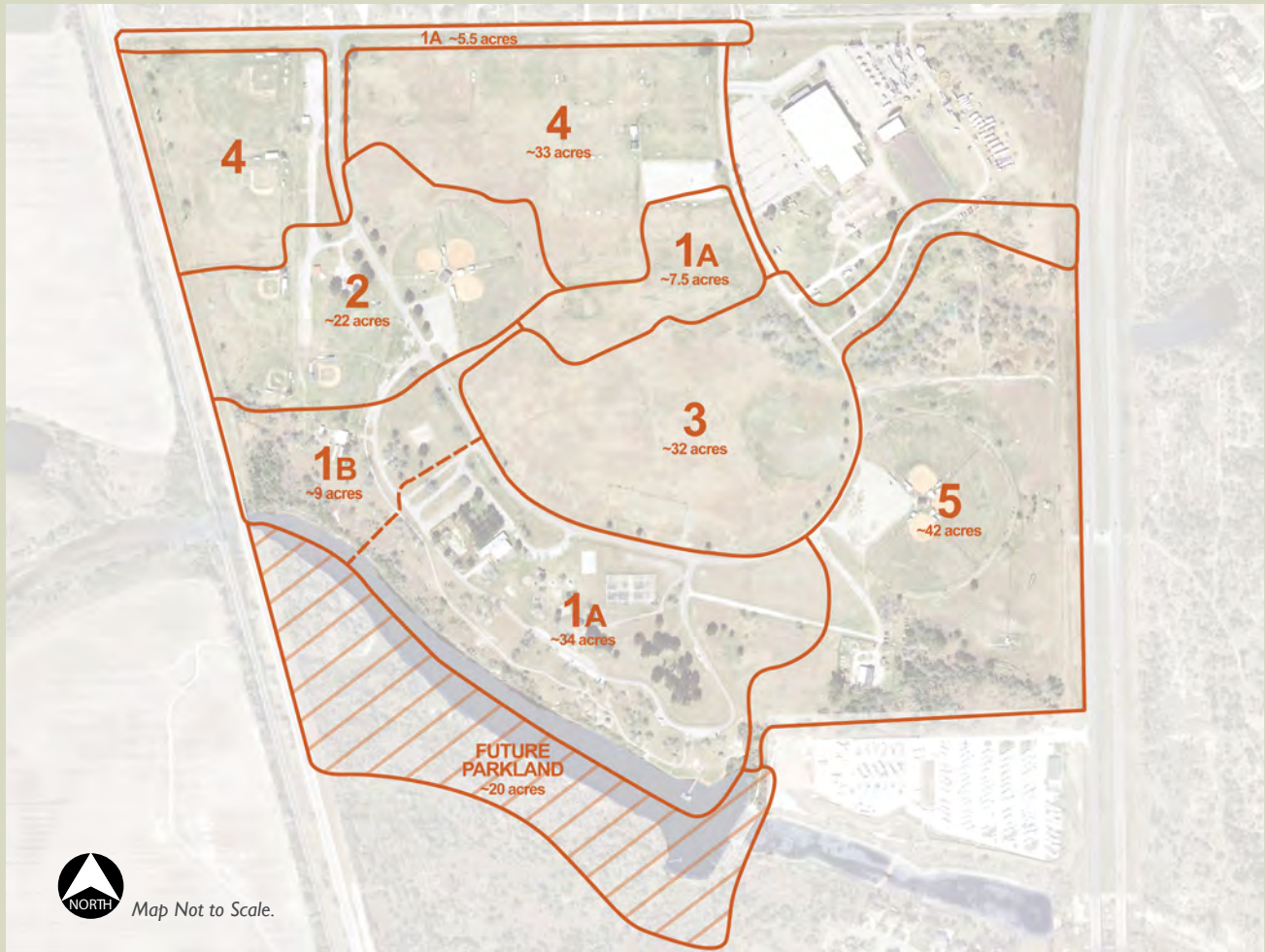
ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARY FOR DICK KLEBERG PARK



Currently Dick Kleberg Park has a permeable boundary that detracts from the park’s formality. Vehicles will park along the right-of-way on Escondido Road (or even encroach into play spaces), negatively impacting the drainage infrastructure and damaging ground cover. To improve this park boundary and make the park more accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists, a multi-use path and fencing is proposed to provide a defined park boundary and to discourage ad-hoc parking. This multi-use trail may connect to a city-wide trail system (see page 56). Roadside treatments within the park should also employ similar park boundary treatments.



DICK KLEBERG PARK PHASING PLAN



It is recommended that the additions and renovations to Dick Kleberg Park be completed incrementally. Phased development will allow the City assume projects of reasonable scale, and will allow for the gradual integration of increased (or modified) maintenance demands for these park improvements. Proposed trails are not “phase-dependent,” and may be constructed throughout all project phases to ensure interconnectivity. Key elements of each phase include:

Phase 1A

- Park boundary identification along Escondido Road.
- Plant trees to link Escondido Creek edge habitat with park interior, improve creek edge and habitat, and extend boardwalk.
- Expanded soccer parking lot.
- Combine and improve play area with adjacent restroom, picnic, covered basketball court/pavilion, splash pad; and, improve existing community building.
- New 1.5 acre dog park with restroom and parking.

Phase 1B

- New park entrance on South 6th Street.
- Renovate barbecue pavilions and picnic area.
- Acquire/preserve future parkland on south bank of Escondido Creek.

Phase 2

- Improvements and construction of youth softball and baseball facilities including parking.

Phase 3

- Lariat event area including pavilion, landscape improvements, plaza with in-ground fountain and fire pit, and trail.
- Directional signage based on park-wide plan.
- New entrance from Highway 77 (assumes completion of frontage road) including gatehouse on loop road.

Phase 4

- Improved soccer fields including championship field and concession/restroom building.
- Football and baseball field improvements including concession/restroom buildings and parking.
- Directional signage based on park-wide plan.

Phase 5

- Improved adult softball fields and parking.

VIII. DICK KLEBERG PARK

The Dick Kleberg Park conceptual plan identifies an extensive list of recommended park improvements and facility additions. The plan also recommends the acquisition of the south bank of Escondido Creek to preserve the integrity of the natural environment currently present at the park. The size and scope of park improvements will require an incremental approach for implementation. The actions below align with the proposed park phasing plan identified on page 85. The phasing approach focuses on improving specific areas of the park as opposed to adding facilities evenly throughout the park. This will allow for the vision of each space to be fully realized, giving the park tangible exhibits of transformation.

Dick Kleberg Park recommendations include the following:

FIGURE 4.9: RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Action	Recommendation	Plan Goal # (page 7)	Public Benefits (described on page 2 & 3)
VIII.1	Formalize park boundary along Escondido Road, including the addition of a multi-use trail.	1, 4	
VIII.2	Redevelop and add facilities to the amenity and picnic area north of Escondido Creek.	1	
VIII.3	Construct the Saddle Horn Plaza and parking addition next to soccer complex.	5	
VIII.4	Develop new west entrance from 6th Street and preserve/acquire south bank of Escondido Creek.	1, 4	
VIII.5	Renovate and reconstruct youth softball and youth baseball fields.	1	
VIII.6	Develop new east entrance from Highway 77 frontage road as well as Lariat Event Space into a community gathering/festival area.	1, 5, 6	
VIII.7	Renovate and reconstruct baseball field, football field, and soccer field facilities.	1	
VIII.8	Renovate adult softball fields.	1	

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.

ACTION VIII.1, Formalize park boundary along Escondido Road, including the addition of a multi-use trail.

Formalizing the park boundary along Escondido Road will improve the park’s relationship with adjacent single-family residences. Currently, during events or sporting contests, visitors to the site will park vehicles along the side the road or on the grass right-of-way. Enhancements include fencing, “No Parking” signs, way-finding signs, and a park monument sign. A multi-use trail will extend from 6th Street (US 77 Business) to the entry near the J.K. Northway Exposition Center providing access to an internal trail network.

ACTION VIII.2, Redevelop and add facilities to the amenity and picnic area north of Escondido Creek.

The area on the north shore of Dick Kleberg Park is where many miscellaneous park amenities are located. Existing playground equipment, a basketball court, pavilions, and other facilities currently exist in various conditions of functionality. This action calls for the renovation, relocation, and addition of facilities to improve the overall park experience. To extend the seasonal draw into the summer months, a splash pad and a covered basketball court have been recommended. It is also recommended that the shoreline be improved for park visitors and habitat restoration. A formal dog park would be included as an added element. The conceptual plan suggests adjustments to parking locations and volumes to serve other recommended facilities.

ACTION VIII.3, Construct the Saddle Horn Plaza and parking addition next to soccer complex.

The expected renovation of the J.K. Northway Exposition Center should be complimented by improvements to Dick Kleberg Park. An expanded and renovated parking lot near the soccer complex will help meet the needs of the soccer enthusiasts, and provide for overflow parking for events held at the exposition center. A new plaza space will accommodate picnic and shade needs in the vicinity of the soccer complex. Building upon the connection to the exposition center and the regional ranch heritage, its recommend to refer to this space as the Saddle Horn Plaza. This space would include shaded picnic areas and sculpture exhibits to help define the space.

ACTION VIII.4, Develop new west entrance from 6th Street and preserve/acquire south bank of Escondido Creek.

The conceptual plan envisions a west primary entrance off of 6th Street (US 77 Business) with a prominent monument sign. The new entrance would compliment the opportunity to remodel the existing barbecue pavilions, and would divert traffic from Escondido Road. Additionally, at this point it would be important to acquire the south bank of Escondido Creek. The acquisition of this parcel is intended to preserve the current integrity of the natural environment that surrounds Dick Kleberg Park Escondido Creek. The south bank property would be connected by a multi-use trail that travels across the 6th Street bridge and continuing along the south bank before crossing back to the north bank via the dam. A large portion of the south bank of Escondido Creek is within the 100-year floodplain - limiting the development potential of the property. Preserving this space would provide a dedicated amenity for any future development occurring to the south.

ACTION VIII.5, Renovate and reconstruct youth softball and youth baseball fields.

The current youth softball and youth baseball fields while functional, are in need of renovation. The conceptual plan calls for reorienting three (3) of the four (4) existing baseball fields to improve the function of the complex. Parking, concession, restroom, seating, and shade structures would be added to increase the user experience. Multi-use trails would connect these facilities to the surrounding park spaces.

ACTION VIII.6, Develop new east entrance from Highway 77 frontage road as well as Lariat Event Space into a community gathering/festival area.

The planned future reconstruction for Highway 77 will include a frontage road. The addition of this frontage road will provide an opportunity to develop a new primary east entrance. This entrance would provide access to both the J.K. Northway Exposition Center and Dick Kleberg Park. A large community gathering and festival area would help strengthen the park's relationship to the exposition center. This space would be referred to at the Lariat Event Space - again paying homage to the region's ranch heritage. This event space would be flanked by two (2) pavilions, intended for hosting events, concerts, and other large gatherings.

ACTION VIII.7, Renovate and reconstruct baseball field, football field, and soccer field facilities.

The conceptual plan calls for the relocation and addition of a baseball field bringing the total number of full size fields up to three (3). The existing football field would be reoriented north to south and a second field would be added. It is intended that these football fields could serve as soccer fields as well, providing a championship field atmosphere with permanent bleachers. At this time, renovations to the existing soccer fields would be recommended on an as needed basis. All of these fields would be complimented with additional parking, concession, and restroom facilities.

ACTION VIII.8, Renovate adult softball fields.

The existing adult softball fields are some of the newest facilities to the park, but even these facilities are in need of some repairs. The renovations would include improvements to the fields, buildings, and additional landscaping.

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CHAPTER 5 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM





5. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

CHAPTER 5, PROVIDES AN IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED IN PREVIOUS CHAPTERS. THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM PREPARED FOR THE KINGSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM PRIORITIZES RECOMMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS AND CORRESPONDING CAPITAL PROJECTS TO FACILITATE SYSTEM-WIDE DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM PARAMETERS

In order to efficiently implement Master Plan recommendations, this chapter identifies an implementation program which: **A)** Prioritizes the plan’s proposed actions and initiatives; **B)** Provides funding strategy recommendations; **C)** Identifies potential partnering opportunities; and, **D)** Suggests general park system operations and maintenance guidelines. The chapter also outlines methods to administer the Master Plan - including details about plan updates so that the document continues to accurately represent the City’s parks and recreation needs over the next several years. The Master Plan’s implementation program is intended to guide City staff, and the City of Kingsville’s elected and appointed officials, for the next five (5) to ten (10) year period, and should be revisited and updated on a regular basis.

The implementation program described within this chapter includes three (3) major components: **A)** An Action Plan; **B)** System-wide Capital Priorities; and **C)** Capital Priorities for Dick Kleberg Park. The Action Plan is designed to prioritize all general policy, programming, regulatory, operational, and capital actions and initiatives that were previously described in **Chapter 4**. The Action Plan addresses capital actions and initiatives only in general terms, and does not address anticipated project costs. The supplementary Capital Priorities lists identify estimated cost ranges associated with capital projects including: park land acquisition, new facilities, or the major renovation of existing facilities.

The Action Plan and Capital Priorities lists are represented by the following figures:

- **Figure 5.1: Kingsville Parks and Recreation Action Plan (page 89).**
- **Figure 5.2: Kingsville Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Priorities (page 93).**
- **Figure 5.3: Dick Kleberg Park Capital Improvement Priorities (page 94).**

PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION

The actions and projects identified in **Figures 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3** were prioritized based on public input, PAC and City staff input, and the needs assessment found in **Chapter 3**. The criteria used to prioritize the park facility needs of Kingsville include:

- Level of need based on citizen input (on-line survey results, stakeholder interviews, open house meeting, etc.)
- Level of need based on per capita park land, distribution, and general accessibility.
- Assessment of existing park facility inventory in the City.

ACTION PLAN

The Kingsville Parks and Recreation Master Plan's Action Plan is presented in **Figure 5.1**. The actions and initiatives identified within the figure are described in more detail in **Chapter 4**. These actions and initiatives exhibit a high degree of consistency with all three (3) criteria referenced in the previous subsection, and should receive the highest level of attention by the City over the next ten (10) years. All recommendations are divided into two (2) categories, based on the level of need and estimated ease of implementation:

- Short-Term Priorities. To be initiated or completed within the next five (5) years.
- Long-Term Priorities. To be initiated within the next six (6) to ten (10) years, or as opportunities occur.

Note that the level of prioritization illustrated in the Action Plan is intended as a decision-making guide rather than a mandate. Any item listed in **Figure 5.1** may be initiated sooner than recommended if unique circumstances or opportunities arise.

FIGURE 5.1: KINGSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION ACTION PLAN

Action		Time Frame (Priority)		
		Short-term (Year 1-5)	Long Term (Year 6-10)	Ongoing
I. PARK LAND ASSEMBLY				
I.1	Improve neighborhood park levels of service through public partnerships.	✓		✓
I.2	Develop the lawn next to City Hall into a civic "green"	✓		
I.3	Partner with KISD to improve field space south of Memorial Middle School.	✓		
I.4	Partner with KISD to formalize a relationship for field space at John Gillett Intermediate School for Brookshire 1 Park.		✓	
I.5	Partner with KISD to increase the parking capacity at Brookshire 2 Park/ Brookshire Pool.		✓	
I.6	Develop a plan to add linear parks to the municipal park system.	✓		

I. Actions listed in numerical order. Priority is non-sequential.



*"Do what you can, with what you have,
where you are."*

~ Theodore Roosevelt

FIGURE 5.1: KINGSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION ACTION PLAN

Action		Time Frame (Priority)		
		Short-term (Year 1-5)	Long Term (Year 6-10)	Ongoing
I.7	Assemble land for a community park in north Kingsville.		✓	
II. PARK FACILITIES				
II.1	Construct a skate park at Brookshire 2 Park.	✓		
II.2	Construct wading pool for children at Brookshire 2 Park.	✓		
II.3	Prepare and implement a concept design for Los Hermanos Flores Park.	✓		
II.4	Add a splash pad to Los Hermanos Flores Park.	✓		
II.5	Add a signature element (pump track) to Brookshire I Park.		✓	
II.6	Develop a signature trail head at Corral Park for Tranquitas Creek	✓		
II.7	Construct a signature covered basketball court facility at Thompson Park.		✓	
II.8	Allocate money for the rehabilitation of the L. E. Ramey Park trap and skeet range.		✓	
II.9	Develop the remaining property at L. E. Ramey Park in a manner that responsibly utilizes available Parks and Recreation Department resources.		✓	
III. COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY				
III.1	Amend land development ordinances to incorporate provisions for the development of multi-use trails and sidepaths.	✓		
III.2	Adopt design standards for multi-use trails.	✓		
III.3	Amend land development ordinances to require connection between single-family and multi-family to the existing and proposed trail system.	✓		
III.4	Construct multi-use trails along key corridors.			✓
III.5	Construct sidepaths along key thoroughfares.			✓
IV. NATURAL AREAS				
IV.1	Identify areas within the existing Kingsville parks system for natural resource preservation.	✓		
IV.2	Prepare and implement a prairie or woodland restoration plan for one (1) or more of Kingsville's park properties.		✓	
IV.3	Incorporate tools in the City's land development ordinances which encourage natural resource preservation.	✓		
IV.4	Acquire parcels for the assembly of interconnected greenways.			✓










I. Actions listed in numerical order. Priority is non-sequential.

FIGURE 5.1: KINGSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION ACTION PLAN

Action		Time Frame (Priority)		
		Short-term (Year 1-5)	Long Term (Year 6-10)	Ongoing
V. PARK PLANNING, DESIGN, AND MAINTENANCE				
V.1	Develop a park management plan for maintenance.			✓
V.2	Establish standards for maintaining natural and riparian areas.	✓		
V.3	Promote parks to be accessible for people of all abilities and ages.			✓
V.4	Compile and maintain a park system inventory.			✓
V.5	Develop an aquatic facilities plan to distribute water recreation activities throughout the City.	✓		
V.6	Remove fences around basketball courts in parks.	✓		
V.7	Develop a park system lighting program including standards for trails.			✓
V.8	To help with maintenance needs, evaluate the removal of Kenedy Park from the municipal park system.	✓		
V.9	Develop a unified way-finding and park signage to help promote a sense of place.			✓
VI. RECREATION PROGRAMMING				
VI.1	Work with area youth sports organizations to be more responsive to their needs.	✓		
VI.2	Develop partnerships with KISD to provide facilities for youth recreation.			✓
VI.3	Work with the City Tourism and Heritage Department to develop and promote events.			✓
VI.4	Create an L. E. Ramey Trap and Skeet Range task force to advise on facility development, operations, and maintenance.			✓
VII. REGULATORY TOOLS				
VII.1	Clearly define minimum requirements for recreation areas and amenities in multi-family developments.	✓		
VII.2	Develop minimum standards for private recreation space in single-family residential developments.	✓		
VII.3	Incorporate minimum requirements for public gathering space in non-residential developments and mixed-use developments.	✓		
VII.4	Develop a park land dedication ordinance.	✓		
VII.5	Develop a park land development fee ordinance.	✓		

1. Actions listed in numerical order. Priority is non-sequential.

FIGURE 5.1: KINGSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION ACTION PLAN

Action		Time Frame (Priority)		
		Short-term (Year 1-5)	Long Term (Year 6-10)	Ongoing
VII.6	Create a fee schedule for park facility reservation and utilization.			
VIII. DICK KLEBERG PARK				
VIII.1	Formalize park boundary along Escondido Road, including the addition of a multi-use trail.			
VIII.2	Redevelop and add facilities to the amenity and picnic area north of Escondido Creek.			
VIII.3	Construct Saddle Horn Plaza and parking addition next to soccer complex.			
VIII.4	Develop new west entrance from 6th Street and preserve/acquire south bank of Dick Kleberg Escondido Creek.			
VIII.5	Renovate and reconstruct youth softball and youth baseball fields.			
VIII.6	Develop new east entrance from Highway 77 frontage road as well as Lariat Event Space into a community gathering/festival area.			
VIII.7	Renovate and reconstruct baseball field, football field, and soccer field facilities.			
VIII.8	Renovate adult softball fields			

1. Actions listed in numerical order. Priority is non-sequential.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMMING

The Kingsville Parks and Recreation Master Plan's Capital Priorities list identifies potential development projects that support the implementation of many park system recommendations listed and described in **Chapter 4**. These recommended capital projects are listed in **Figure 5.2: Kingsville Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Priorities**; and, are grouped according to park land acquisition, major facility development, and multi-use trail network development. The Capital Priorities list herein does not include recommendations regarding small capital needs at individual park sites, or operational projects such as maintenance or equipment needs. **Figure 5.2 does not include capital projects related to Dick Kleberg Park** (see instead **Figure 5.3**, page 94).

The Capital Priorities list provided in **Figure 5.2**, is not a supplement to, or replacement of, any formal capital improvements plan (CIP) adopted by City Council as part of the City's annual budget process (although some listed projects may already be incorporated into Kingsville's CIP). Further, this project list should not affect the operational budget of the City's Parks and Recreation Department, or any other City entity engaged in recreational programming. The projects identified in **Figure 5.2** should however, be strongly considered for inclusion in Kingsville's future capital improvements plans as funds become available.

The priority ranking included in **Figure 5.2** was developed based on input from the PAC solicited via a voting exercise designed to evaluate the level of support for the action items found in **Figure 5.1**. PAC prioritization preferences were subsequently used to determine the importance of each project. (classified as "high," "medium," or "low" for each respective project). The priority rankings were vetted by city staff.

FIGURE 5.2: KINGSVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES¹

Priority	Project	Cost	Action (pg. #)	Time Frame (Priority)		Notes
				Short-term (Year 1-5)	Long Term (Year 6-10)	
ACQUISITION/NEW PARKS						
High	Kingsville City Green	\$ 685,000	I.2, pg. 64	✓		Park development should occur in conjunction with field space development at other locations.
High	Memorial Middle School/Thompson Park	\$365,000	I.3 pg. 64	✓		Development costs only. Improvements include: irrigation, parking, landscaping etc., but not land acquisition.
Low	John Gillette Brookshire I Park	\$130,000	I.4 pg. 64		✓	Development costs only. Improvements include: irrigation, parking, landscaping etc., but not land acquisition.
Low	Community Park, North Kingsville, Land acquisition only	\$50,000 to \$200,000	I.6 pg. 64		✓	Assumes minimum 15 acre land acquisition.
PARK FACILITIES						
High	Brookshire 2 Park Skate Park	\$ 275,000	II.1 pg. 66	✓		Cost is for the design and build out of the skate park facility only.
High	Brookshire 2 Park Wading Pool	\$ 75,000	II.2 pg. 66	✓		Cost may vary depending on final programmed elements.
Medium	Los Hermanos Flores Park Improvements	\$ 855,000	II.3 & II.4 pg. 67	✓		If phased, timing of completion could last longer than 5 years.
Medium	Trailhead at Corral Park	\$ 20,000	II.6 pg. 67	✓		Trailhead at Corral Park to coincide with Tranquitas Creek Corridor Trail development (Action III.4).
Medium	Thompson Park Covered Basketball Court	\$ 85,000	II.7 pg. 67		✓	Cost estimate is for a pavilion covering one large basketball court facility.
Medium	L.E. Ramey Park Trap and Skeet Facilities Upgrades	\$ 70,000	II.8 pg. 67		✓	For existing skeet and trap houses only.
Medium	Second Neighborhood Park Update	\$385,000	VI, V.3, & V.4 pg. 74-75		✓	Cost will vary based on the extent of signature elements included.
Low	Brookshire I Park Pump Track	\$ 25,000	II.5 pg. 67		✓	Limits to the pump track should be clearly established and buffered with landscaping.
Low	L.E. Single Track Mountain Bike Trails	\$ 65,000	II.9 pg. 67		✓	Trail should be developed to limit construction impact on natural areas.
MULTI-USE TRAILS						
High	Tranquitas Creek Corridor Trail	\$ 1,260,000	III.4 pg. 70	✓		This trail may be constructed in phases, first phase should connect Corral Park to Los Hermanos Flores Park.
Medium	Second Trail Segment (2 miles)	\$ 1,030,000	III.4 pg. 70		✓	The location of the second trail segment should be vetted by the public to ensure support.

1. Excludes Dick Kleberg Park. Costs shown are at a pre-design level, and will vary as more detailed design occurs. Priority numbers and time frames are for planning guidance only, and not all items may be implemented in the sequence or time frame suggested. Costs ranges relating to land costs are general estimates intended to establish allowances, and will vary. Detailed appraisals should be conducted to determine specific land costs prior to acquisition. Grants and donations may reduce the cost of each item. All costs are shown in 2017 dollars.

DICK KLEBERG PARK ACTION PLAN AND CAPITAL PRIORITIES

Capital improvement programming was separately developed for Dick Kleberg Park due to the scale of recommended improvements. Dick Kleberg Park is an important community asset providing significant recreation opportunities not found in the other City parks. Separating the list of projects for Dick Kleberg Park from the rest of the park system is intended to allow improvements to this single park property to be programmed concurrently with other system-wide needs. The goal is for improvements to the overall park system and Dick Kleberg Park to occur incrementally together over the time frame of this plan.

Similar to the projects identified in **Figure 5.2**, the capital priorities list for Dick Kleberg Park found in **Figure 5.3, Dick Kleberg Park Capital Improvement Priorities**, are intended to be included in future capital improvement plans. The capital improvement projects identified within the figure are described in more detail in **Chapter 4** (pages 86 and 87). Project prioritization generally corresponds with the phasing proposed on page 85 of the Dick Kleberg Park concept plan. The timing of construction for the development of shared-use trail/paths throughout the park however is a consideration that does not strictly adhere to the phasing of park development. The purpose of this deviation allows for these trail and path improvements to promote interconnectivity throughout the park regardless of the timing for other park renovations and upgrades. Nonetheless, these trails and paths are included in the cost estimate for each applicable park development phase.

FIGURE 5.3: DICK KLEBERG PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES¹

Priority	Project	Cost	Action (pg. #)	Time Frame (Priority)		Notes
				Short-term (Year 1-5)	Long Term (Year 6-10)	
High	Phase 1A, Escondido Rd Improvements	\$ 935,000	VIII.1 pg. 86	✓		Includes entry monuments and 10' shared use path.
High	Phase 1A, Amenity and Picnic Area Redevelopment and Facility Additions	\$ 6,615,000	VIII.2 pg. 86	✓		Includes splash pad, play area, picnic shelters, dog park, etc. May include south bank land acquisition (cost not included).
High	Phase 1A, Expanded Soccer/ Expo Parking and Saddle Horn Plaza	\$ 2,333,000	VIII.3 pg. 87	✓		Implemented in conjunction with renovations to the J.K. Northway Exposition Center.
High	Phase 1B, 6th Street Entry	\$ 1,650,000	VIII.4 pg. 87	✓		May include south bank land acquisition (cost not included).
Medium	Phase 2, Youth Softball/ Baseball Field Renovations/ Reconstruction	\$ 7,270,000	VIII.5 pg. 87		✓	Softball fields will undergo renovations, while youth baseball fields will be relocated and reconstructed.
Medium	Phase 3, Hwy 77 Frontage Entry and Lariat Event Space Gathering/Festival Area	\$ 4,380,000	VIII.6 pg. 87		✓	To occur following or in conjunction with the corresponding frontage road additions to Hwy 77.
Low	Phase 4, Baseball, Football, Soccer Field Renovations/ Reconstruction	\$ 6,110,000	VIII.7 pg. 87		✓	Soccer fields will undergo renovations, while baseball and football fields will be relocated and reconstructed.
Low	Phase 5, Adult Softball Renovations	\$ 1,310,000	VIII.8 pg. 87		✓	Maintenance upgrades and improvements to this facility could extend the timing for the renovation of the adult softball fields.

¹ Costs shown are at a pre-design level, and will vary as more detailed design occurs. Priority numbers and time frames are or planning guidance only, and not all items may be implemented in the sequence for time frame suggested. Costs ranges relating to land costs are general estimates intended to establish allowances, and will vary. Detailed appraisals should be conducted to determine specific land costs prior to acquisition. Grants and donations may reduce the cost of each item. All costs are shown in 2017 dollars.

PARK FACILITIES/RECREATION PROGRAMMING PRIORITIZATION

The prioritization of park facilities/recreation programming is based on public survey results, open house feedback, City staff direction, and input from public officials. The park facilities/recreation programming prioritization ranks the individual components that make up the park system. The purpose of this exercise is to highlight priority recreation, facility, and other park amenities offerings in need of system-wide improvements.

The utility of this prioritization is that it provides the City the flexibility to be opportunistic with the development and build out of its parks within or outside the framework of the specific park projects and project phases identified in **Figures 5.2** and **5.3**. The prioritization ranking information is found in **Figure 5.4: Park Facilities/Recreation Programming Prioritization**.

FIGURE 5.4: PARK FACILITIES/RECREATION PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION

Priority Rank	Park Facilities/Recreation Programming
1	Shaded playgrounds
2	Park shelters and picnic areas
3	Shared use paths/trails
4	Covered multipurpose facility (for recreation and gatherings)
5	Improved athletic facilities
6	Spray pads/slash pads
7	Dog Parks
8	Skate Parks
9	Fishing areas
10	Natural areas

FUNDING SOURCES AND STRATEGIES

Investment in Kingsville's park system will require the employment of various funding strategies to meet the facility and program needs identified in the Master Plan. While small improvements to existing parks can often be accomplished utilizing local funds, other park, open space, and large facility projects may be eligible for federal or state funding assistance.

This section provides brief descriptions of a few key (and common) funding implementation assistance opportunities. A comprehensive list of park and recreation funding opportunities is found in **Appendix B**.

CITY GENERATED FUNDING SOURCES

General fund expenditures (i.e., non-capital expenditures) are primarily used for improvements or repairs to existing parks and facilities. Typical general fund expenditures are for smaller repair and replacement efforts.

MUNICIPAL BONDS

Debt financing through the issuance of municipal bonds is the most common way to fund park and open space projects. This type of funding is a strategy wherein a city issues a bond, receives an immediate cash payment to finance projects, and must repay the bond with interest over a set period of time ranging from a few years to several decades. General obligation bonds – the most common form of municipal bond – are the primary bond type for park and open space projects.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING/PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

These related tools allow a development district to divert a portion of its property taxes to fund infrastructure improvements within its area. This can include plazas, pocket parks, linear parks, and other types of facilities.

ELECTRIC UTILITY PARTNERSHIPS

This type of partnership can be established for the purpose of providing and enhancing linear parks and trails along utility easements. This partnership typically does not involve monetary contributions. However, through use agreements and/or easements, it makes land for trail corridors accessible at little or no cost to the community.

PARK DEDICATION AND IMPROVEMENT FEES

For many cities, this funding received from developers is a very helpful revenue source for park land acquisition and/or development. The requirement for such a fee needs to be written into the City's municipal code through the inclusion of a park land dedication and development ordinance.

Although municipal park land dedication and development ordinances allow the City to require park land dedication, a municipality may opt to accept a cash amount in lieu of the conveyance of land. The goal is for the city to have the option to purchase land of an equal amount that was to be conveyed, elsewhere in the city.

UTILITY BILL CONTRIBUTIONS

In many cities, residents are allowed to electively add a small amount to their utility collection bills to fund park improvements. As an example, the City of Colleyville has a Voluntary Park Fund, which allows citizens to donate \$2.00 per month contribution through their water utility bills. This results in approximately \$150,000 per year, which is used to fund park improvements throughout their community.

KEY GRANT FUNDING SOURCES

Grants can provide a significant source of additional funding for parks, but should not be considered as the primary source for park construction.

- **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.** Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) is the primary source for parks grants in Texas - including funding for recreational trails. Up to \$500,000 for new parks and trail facilities with a 50 percent match. Grant applications that stress joint funding and support from two (2) or more local entities may have a greater chance of contending for the TRPA grants. These grants are highly competitive, and in recent years there have been far fewer grants available or awarded due to state budget restrictions. When the grants are available, the deadlines to submit applications vary by grant type and range from February 1st for some to October 1st for most categories.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).** This National Park Service fund is divided into two (2) funding categories: state grants and federal acquisition. The state grants are distributed to all 50 states, DC, and other territories based on factors such as population. State grant funds can be used for park development and for acquisition of park land or easements.

Trail projects are an excellent opportunity to pursue joint financing as they can provide both recreation and transportation benefits. Leveraging city funds with a wider range of state and federal funding sources.



- **Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.** This program provides monetary support for transportation activities designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic and environmental aspects of the transportation system. Typically, funds can be used for trails and streetscape related projects. Funding is on a cost reimbursement basis, and projects selected are eligible for reimbursement of up to 80 percent of allowable costs. This funding program is not available on a yearly basis, but intermittently only, often in two (2) to five (5) year periods. These funds, while difficult to work with, are becoming more responsible to real world costs, and should be seriously considered since they remain one of the few sources of outside funds.
- **Foundation and Company Grants.** Can assist in direct funding for projects, while others exist to help citizen efforts get established with small seed funds or technical and publicity assistance.

PARK ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE

Over the next few years the parks department will be developing clarity on for it administrative, operational, and maintenance requirements. The efficient use of man power will be instrumental in making the types of improvements to the quality of the parks residents are expecting. The provision of adequate staffing requirements for maintenance and operation must be considered as each facility is developed or the facility should not be built.

As the park system grows, additional resources should be provided to the Parks and Recreation Department. This includes new mowing and transport equipment, as well as park maintenance and operations staff, or comparable contracts to outside vendors for the provision of such services. Over the next 10 years, if and when new facilities are added, park maintenance and operations resources should grow at the same rate.

SUSTAINABILITY APPROACH TO MAINTENANCE

Stewardship of the community's natural resources and recreation amenities is a key responsibility for the Parks and Recreation and this includes the conscientious management for the expenditure of tax dollars. According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), "Good stewardship requires management practices that protect and enhance the recreational, environmental, social and cultural values of public lands and natural and cultural resources in a manner that is cost-effective and sustainable for future generations."

Kingsville's role in the conservation of natural and recreation resources, while implementing "sustainability" in its approach to resource management, not only contributes to the health and welfare of its residents, but also reduces operations and maintenance costs, particularly for mowing and irrigation.

To provide the highest level of park and recreation facilities and amenities, while maintaining these facilities in the most cost-effective manner, it is recommended that the City implement a sustainability based approach to park development and maintenance. This approach can include:

- Follow the Neighborhood Park Development Principles (page 68) as a standard organizational approach when conducting park renovations. Park renovations will likely be done in phases, so creating a development plan will be essential to limiting negative impacts of the ad-hoc additions that clutter park property.
- Planting more trees in parks in mass plantings to create more shade, bird habitat, rainfall absorption and summer cooling effect. Reduce reliance on mesquite trees as a primary park system tree. This approach will encourage the "greening" of parks, while limiting the amount of long-term maintenance required to achieve attractive facilities.
- Planting native grasses and wild flowers in peripheral areas of parks and in park sites that are planned as natural or habitat areas. These areas will only need to be mowed once or twice per year, and rarely fertilized, reducing maintenance costs.
- Provide beds of native and drought tolerant ornamental shrubs and perennial plants for color in "high-impact" areas such as park entrances. These beds can be mulched with recycled "green waste" such as chipped branches and dead trees, and lawn clippings to help the soil retain moisture and reduce irrigation demand.
- Only irrigating those areas that are designated as "high intensity use" areas, such as playground and adjacent picnic areas and designated sports fields. This approach will conserve water and reduce costs by discouraging turf growth except in priority locations.

PLAN ADMINISTRATION

The City of Kingsville is the primary implementing authority of the Master Plan. Nonetheless, a coordinated effort on part of the City and community leaders, such as citizens, elected and appointed officials, and outside agencies, is essential to the successful implementation of plan recommendations. In addition to necessary inter-departmental coordination, the City should partner with all local, state, and federal entities that can be of assistance in diversifying and improving Kingsville park system now and in the future. At a minimum, this partnering stakeholders include:

- Kingsville elected and appointed officials;
- City Administration and staff;
- Kleberg County;
- Texas Department of Transportation;
- Kingsville Independent School District (KISD);
- Adult and youth athletic leagues;
- Area land and business owners and the development community;
- Interested community volunteers and stakeholders; and
- Other affected agencies and entities.

PLAN REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

A review and update of the Master Plan should be conducted on an annual basis, or when significant changes occur. These updates may be published in a short report format and attached to this Master Plan for easy use. Four (4) key focus areas subject to periodic review may include:

- **Facility Inventory.** An inventory of new or updated City-owned facilities should be recorded. This inventory should also mention any significant changes or improvements to the City's park land, changes in partnerships with other public entities, or major private facilities that could influence recreation in Kingsville.
- **Public Involvement.** This Master Plan reflects the attitudes expressed by Kingsville's current residents. Over time however, attitudes and interests may vary as the City changes. Periodic surveys are recommended to provide an ongoing account of citizen attitudes, and to provide additional direction from the public on issues that may arise. In order to make an accurate comparison of the changes in attitudes, it is recommended that future surveys include similar questions to those included in this Master Plan.
- **Facility Use and Program Participation.** Facility use is a key factor in determining the need for additional facilities. Likewise, measures of program participation will assist Kingsville in determining how to adjust its recreational program and event offerings over time to best meet latent community demand. The City should compile "recreation and facility annual activity reports" and use the results to modify Master Plan recommendations as needed.
- **Implementation Program.** As items from the Action Plan and Capital Priorities lists (**Figures 5.1 through 5.3**) are implemented, updates should be made to each to maintain an up-to-date work program for City staff, and elected and appointed officials.

A long-term vision for the City, which includes a 10-year strategy of prioritized implementation actions, was established through a robust public engagement process. If implemented, the City will achieve its envisioned future. Implementation by priority ensures that the City is responding incrementally to the community's needs and desires. This, however, does not mean that this plan will serve every need and desire of the community for the entirety of the next 10 years. On the contrary, it is designed to specify guidance for implementation actions prioritized in the near- and mid-term future. In this regard, the following recommendations are intended to keep this plan current and up to date:

- **Annual Progress Report and Update.** Prior to the start of the annual budget process, City staff should prepare and present an annual progress report on the status of the actions identified in the Implementation Action Plan. In addition, they should work with elected and appointed officials to determine which recommendations should move up in prioritization.
- **Five-Year Update.** While not required by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to remain eligible for grant funding, undertaking an official plan update every five years helps the City to remain competitive in a very competitive grant process as TPWD places a higher point value (during grant funding evaluation) on submittals that demonstrate a plan update has been done within the past five years. Plan updates can be published in short report format and attached to this Parks, Recreation, and Open Master Plan for easy use.

CITY COMMISSION

Although the City staff will be responsible for the oversight of this Master Plan, it is not the organization responsible for establishing municipal park and recreation policy. Parks Master Plan administration and implementation decisions must reflect the ongoing direction of the City Commission and advisory boards. This section affirms the roles of key City boards and commissions in ensuring that the Master Plan - including future amendments and implementation actions - remains the principal guide influencing City park system development. The City Commission will be instrumental in perusing and establishing terms for any partnerships with the local school district or private entities. As this plan calls for the utilization of these partnerships to help meet the community's recreation needs, keeping them City Commission continually engaged in plan implementation is a foundation to the overall plan success.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

The purposes and duties of the Kingsville Planning and Zoning Commission are established in city charter and city code. Included in the Commission's powers is the review and oversight of a city comprehensive plan. Continual coordination between the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Commission to ensure that any future comprehensive planning efforts related to park, recreation, and open space are consistent with the Parks Master Plan.

The Planning and Zoning Commission's role in administering the City's subdivision regulations and zoning ordinance also requires that it coordinate closely with the City Commission and City staff when recommending the adoption of, or amendments to, municipal park land dedication ordinance, and other related provisions of the City's various land development ordinances.

POLICIES & ORDINANCES

In addition to capital projects, municipal land use and development ordinances are an important tool for acquiring park land, trail corridors, and recreational amenities (both public and private). **Chapter 4** recommends adoption of park land dedication requirements and general land development regulations to better implement the Master Plan recommendations. In addition to these specific actions, continual monitoring of municipal ordinances will ensure that they remain relevant in meeting community park and recreation goals over the long term as development and redevelopment occurs.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

The City of Kingsville does not have a Parks and Recreation Board to monitor and advise City administration and City Commission on the planning, administration, and operations of the City's park system. Kingsville's current organizational size and park system demands at this time does not currently require the additional level of oversight that a qualified parks and recreation board could provide municipal authorities. Still, Kingsville should consider the possible appointment of a parks and recreation board in the future however (even within the planning horizon of this Master Plan), if park system assets and administration capacities grow to a point that further community representation in system management is necessary.



A Parks and Recreation Board may provide valuable park system oversight in the future.

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APPENDIX: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS



APPENDIX A, SURVEY RESULTS

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Are you male or female?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	32.8%	193
Female	67.2%	395
<i>answered question</i>		588
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

What is your approximate age?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
12 years old or younger	0.0%	0
13-18 years old	0.7%	4
19-34 years old	30.5%	179
35-44 years old	28.4%	167
45-54 years old	19.1%	112
55-64 years old	14.0%	82
65 years old or older	7.3%	43
<i>answered question</i>		587
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Are you a resident of the City of Kingsville?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	83.7%	492
No, but live in Kleberg County	11.7%	69
No, live outside Kleberg County	4.6%	27
<i>answered question</i>		588
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

If you are a resident of the City of Kingsville, in which area do you live (based on Map A above)?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Area A (Texas A&M - Kingsville and surrounding)	23.6%	137
Area B (Downtown and northeast neighborhoods)	22.0%	128
Area C (South of Caesar Ave)	40.4%	235
Not applicable. I am not a resident of Kingsville.	13.9%	81
<i>answered question</i>		581
<i>skipped question</i>		9

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Do you have any children under the age of 19 living in your home? Check all that apply. Leave blank if you do not live in Kingsville Plan Area.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No children	41.9%	238
Children under age 4	23.1%	131
Children ages 5-8	25.4%	144
Children ages 9-12	23.6%	134
Children ages 13-19	21.8%	124
<i>answered question</i>		568
<i>skipped question</i>		22

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Are you a full-time college student

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	8.4%	49
No	91.6%	533
<i>answered question</i>		582
<i>skipped question</i>		8

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Do you or your spouse work at Kingsville Naval Air Station

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	7.1%	42
No	92.9%	546
<i>answered question</i>		588
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

If you're going to go to a Kingville park, you are most likely to...

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
drive to park with friends/family.	77.4%	429
drive there alone.	8.1%	45
ride a bicycle.	2.2%	12
walk/run.	12.3%	68
<i>answered question</i>		554
<i>skipped question</i>		36

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

How safe do you feel while in Kingsville parks?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very Safe	13.1%	73
Safe	45.0%	250
Not Particularly Safe or Unsafe	37.4%	208
Unsafe	3.6%	20
Very Unsafe	0.9%	5
<i>answered question</i>		556
<i>skipped question</i>		34

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

What would make you feel safer in Kingsville parks?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Additional lighting	39.3%	213
Increased maintenance	24.5%	133
Improved visibility from street	3.1%	17
A larger amount of people in park	10.3%	56
A safety officer	14.8%	80
Other (please specify)	7.9%	43
<i>answered question</i>		542
<i>skipped question</i>		48

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with current athletic or other recreational programming provided in Kingsville for people in the following age groups?

Answer Options	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No Opinion	Response Count
Young children (under age 5)	13	112	126	89	163	503
Children, ages 5-8	20	159	116	74	145	514
Children, ages 9-12	19	141	120	73	152	505
Teens, ages 13-19	13	107	125	91	157	493
Adults, ages 20-55	10	89	164	99	136	498
Seniors over the age of 55	9	69	129	96	191	494
<i>answered question</i>						547
<i>skipped question</i>						43

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Moving forward, which age group do you feel has the greatest need for athletic or other recreational programming? Rank your answers from one (1) to six (6), with one (1) having the greatest need.

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Response Count
Young children (under age 5)	63	41	54	86	59	74	377
Children, ages 5-8	67	78	90	84	62	17	398
Children, ages 9-12	92	104	77	55	32	32	392
Teens, ages 13-19	125	69	81	62	30	42	409
Adults, ages 20-55	44	61	50	60	120	47	382
Seniors over the age of 55	60	34	35	33	67	158	387
<i>answered question</i>							538
<i>skipped question</i>							52

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Using the list below, choose you and your family's top five favorite recreation activities? Choose one choice per column.

Answer Options	1st Choice	2nd choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice	Rating Average	Response Count
Archery	1	7	2	3	14	3.81	27
Art / crafts classes	13	13	7	18	9	2.95	60
Band	6	1	5	3	3	2.78	18
Baseball	28	14	13	10	5	2.29	70
Basketball	12	16	10	8	9	2.75	55
Bicycling	19	17	22	12	16	2.87	86
BMX biking	1	3	0	3	1	3.00	8
Cheerleading	1	1	4	1	1	3.00	8
Dance / yoga	9	13	13	4	6	2.67	45
Disc golf / Frisbee golf	8	4	4	3	3	2.50	22
Exercising at a private gym	11	9	12	5	7	2.73	44
Fishing	32	29	21	20	23	2.78	125
Flag / tackle football	8	4	3	4	2	2.43	21
Going to festivals or special events	30	39	37	35	29	2.96	170
Going to a dog park	12	13	8	18	18	3.25	69
Golfing	11	8	8	4	5	2.56	36
Group exercise / fitness classes	2	8	12	9	14	3.56	45
Gymnastics	3	1	2	3	4	3.31	13
Horseback riding	3	4	4	4	4	3.11	19
Pickleball	0	0	2	0	0	3.00	2
Picnicking	5	13	13	17	20	3.50	68
Playing in a youth athletic league	7	8	17	9	6	2.98	47
Playing in an adult athletic league	3	6	5	9	4	3.19	27
Playing on playgrounds	40	30	17	18	18	2.54	123
Running / jogging	17	21	19	23	13	2.94	93
Shooting Sports (Trap, Skeet, Rifle/Pistol Range, etc)	19	13	14	12	15	2.88	73
Skateboarding	5	8	6	8	6	3.06	33
Soccer	18	15	15	14	9	2.73	71
Softball	25	7	9	8	6	2.33	55
Swimming competitively	8	4	3	4	3	2.55	22
Swimming for leisure / fitness	26	24	40	29	21	2.96	140
Tennis	2	5	6	7	9	3.55	29
Viewing nature / wildlife	11	14	23	22	26	3.40	96
Volleyball	3	5	6	5	3	3.00	22
Walking / hiking on trails	33	41	35	34	35	2.98	178
Walking your dog	12	11	12	19	27	3.47	81
Working out / lifting weights	4	5	5	17	11	3.62	42
I/we do not recreate	6	0	0	0	1	1.57	7
Other (please specify)							17
	<i>answered question</i>						458
	<i>skipped question</i>						132

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Please rank the importance of the following park facilities: (1 Unimportant - 10 Extremely Important)

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Rating Average	Response Count
Golf Course	89	21	28	26	37	25	21	25	17	75	5.23	364
Soccer Fields	26	15	17	13	48	31	30	36	45	115	7.02	376
Football Fields	28	16	22	22	56	34	36	34	22	82	6.36	352
Baseball Fields	29	10	8	12	40	23	32	45	41	136	7.37	376
Disc/Frisbee Golf	63	27	25	28	59	30	32	32	13	28	4.91	337
Outdoor Basketball Courts	23	14	13	16	48	28	43	48	43	89	6.92	365
Tennis Courts	28	12	14	21	57	32	38	43	31	70	6.49	346
Volleyball Courts	25	15	19	21	67	37	38	38	22	58	6.18	340
Skate/Bike Park	36	21	29	21	45	26	40	38	22	74	6.11	352
Playgrounds	31	9	9	4	12	12	31	25	40	226	8.17	399
Dog Parks	37	9	29	21	47	25	31	48	24	82	6.37	353
Parks Shelters and Picnic Areas	18	13	9	17	13	17	29	39	34	190	7.99	379
Community Gardens	32	16	19	15	46	25	29	43	29	88	6.58	342
Nature Trails	29	5	10	14	21	24	28	42	43	147	7.61	363
Equestrian Trails	71	25	28	23	44	23	17	26	23	40	4.97	320
Mountain Bike Trails	46	18	24	22	42	25	33	23	27	72	5.96	332
Running/Walking/Biking Shared Use Paths/Trails	26	7	10	12	18	13	21	46	49	179	7.96	381
Camping	56	14	15	16	49	21	34	44	25	68	6.02	342
Fishing Areas	38	15	10	13	29	21	32	43	35	114	6.98	350
Kayaking	53	16	14	13	43	28	25	44	28	60	5.97	328
Natural Areas	28	13	17	11	30	19	27	36	41	117	7.17	339
Shooting Sports	67	21	22	15	42	24	26	30	23	64	5.56	334
Archery Sports	70	26	20	18	44	25	30	29	19	46	5.19	327
Swimming Pool	29	11	13	15	23	19	21	29	39	190	7.74	369
Spray Park/Splash Pads	32	19	13	12	20	17	18	35	31	181	7.55	378
Indoor Recreation Opportunities	37	9	10	15	21	21	38	32	46	146	7.39	375
	<i>answered question</i>											455
	<i>skipped question</i>											135

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Please rank the city's performance in providing the following park facilities: (1 Poor - 10 Superior)

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Rating Average	Response Count
Golf Course	97	22	40	28	75	22	23	23	6	20	4.15	356
Soccer Fields	37	23	18	24	62	35	40	57	28	45	5.94	369
Football Fields	74	20	35	30	74	27	30	31	13	14	4.56	348
Baseball Fields	50	15	32	22	64	27	37	46	34	44	5.71	371
Disc/Frisbee Golf	75	17	30	34	53	19	21	30	16	21	4.60	316
Outdoor Basketball Courts	75	33	36	42	59	32	22	27	11	10	4.24	347
Tennis Courts	128	34	44	30	46	16	15	10	5	6	3.19	334
Volleyball Courts	115	32	42	39	39	17	18	12	6	9	3.42	329
Skate/Bike Park	154	31	35	20	40	8	13	9	10	9	3.02	329
Playgrounds	59	27	39	37	60	31	45	30	21	22	4.93	371
Dog Parks	131	32	43	26	54	12	14	4	8	11	3.23	335
Parks Shelters and Picnic Areas	75	40	35	35	46	30	37	23	15	15	4.38	351
Community Gardens	132	42	31	26	34	24	13	11	7	10	3.24	330
Nature Trails	111	41	42	23	52	26	12	19	5	9	3.52	340
Equestrian Trails	163	28	22	19	31	12	6	5	6	9	2.70	301
Mountain Bike Trails	168	32	27	14	31	12	7	7	7	8	2.70	313
Running/Walking/Biking Shared Use Paths/Trails	105	37	34	34	54	22	18	24	12	11	3.86	351
Camping	173	34	23	20	30	11	7	8	3	7	2.58	316
Fishing Areas	154	40	30	30	28	14	10	6	12	7	2.91	331
Kayaking	175	35	22	22	28	7	4	8	8	8	2.60	317
Natural Areas	114	31	40	26	43	20	13	14	8	12	3.52	321
Shooting Sports	190	27	26	11	22	14	5	4	8	10	2.52	317
Archery Sports	190	31	23	14	24	5	7	5	7	8	2.42	314
Swimming Pool	106	35	40	30	53	23	29	13	10	22	3.98	361
Spray Park/Splash Pads	226	29	20	10	19	5	3	2	5	18	2.29	337
Indoor Recreation Opportunities	157	34	26	27	31	13	9	10	5	16	3.02	328
											<i>answered question</i>	431
											<i>skipped question</i>	159

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Regarding your answers to questions #13, #14, and #15, what athletic or other recreational programs (i.e. art,

Answer Options	Response Count
	230
<i>answered question</i>	230
<i>skipped question</i>	360

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

In the past five years, do you feel that the quality of parks and recreation in Kingsville has improved, stayed the same, or declined?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Improved	20.1%	90
Stayed the same	41.3%	185
Declined	38.6%	173
<i>answered question</i>		448
<i>skipped question</i>		142

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

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

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No parks are located near me.	8.4%	37
The parks and recreation facilities don't meet my	38.3%	169
Lack of adequate security/do not feel safe.	20.0%	88
Lack of maintenance/upkeep.	57.8%	255
Lack of time or interest.	16.3%	72
<i>answered question</i>		441
<i>skipped question</i>		149

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

In the past year, how often have you or your family participated in or utilized the following?

Answer Options	Daily	At Least Weekly	Few Times Per Month	Few Times Per Year	Very Rarely or Never	Response Count
Participated in a youth athletic league	25	67	54	66	222	434
Attended a Kingsville Parks and Recreation	3	15	40	140	235	433
Participated in an adult athletic league	6	12	16	38	361	433
Participated in any class or program offered by	5	5	15	79	326	430
Participated in activities for seniors	2	5	4	15	399	425
Rode a bicycle for fitness or to get somewhere in the	10	29	74	74	240	427
Used a private gym or fitness center	72	81	62	60	158	433
Utilized a City facility for a meeting	4	10	19	89	303	425
Visited a City park or park facility	25	81	129	137	59	431
Visited a City park pavilion	5	39	84	142	156	426
Visited a City playground	7	59	103	142	117	428
Visited a City swimming pool	9	21	22	85	284	421
Visited a school park in the evenings, on the	9	42	67	82	226	426
Walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City	50	101	94	63	121	429
<i>answered question</i>						440
<i>skipped question</i>						150

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Do you go outside of the City of Kingsville to participate in recreational activities, sports, or fitness programs?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	55.7%	245
No	44.3%	195
<i>answered question</i>		440
<i>skipped question</i>		150

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

If yes to question #18 above, to what city do you primarily travel for recreational activities?

Answer Options	Response Count	
	210	
<i>answered question</i>		210
<i>skipped question</i>		380

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

If yes to question #18 above, what recreational activity or sport do you primarily participate in outside of Kingsville?

Answer Options	Response Count	
	200	
<i>answered question</i>		200
<i>skipped question</i>		390

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Are the majority of your recreational needs met at a privately owned or maintained facility of property?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	45.1%	185
No	54.9%	225
<i>answered question</i>		410
<i>skipped question</i>		180

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

If yes to question #21 above, what recreational activity or sport do you participate in at the privately owned or

Answer Options	Response Count
	140
<i>answered question</i>	140
<i>skipped question</i>	450

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

The following questions are related to a trail system or linear parks used to connect destinations, as opposed to looping trails within a park. Please check the box that best describes how strongly you agree or disagree with the following trail-related

Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion	Response Count
I would like to see trails developed as an alternative	142	160	31	10	58	401
I would like to see trails near where I live.	138	165	34	10	56	403
I prefer soft surface crushed granite trails over	127	144	50	14	71	406
I would use exercise stations if placed along trails.	117	166	49	13	59	404
Amenities along trails in Kingsville such as benches,	225	145	13	3	22	408
I would use my bicycle to get to work if trails or bike	100	96	71	37	100	404
I would allow my children to use their bicycle to get to	92	87	68	37	116	400
I prefer riding my bicycle on streets and roads instead	30	51	124	85	111	401
<i>answered question</i>						409
<i>skipped question</i>						181

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

If additional trails were constructed in Kingsville, how important would connections to the following locations be?

Answer Options	Very Important	Important	Undecided	Not Important	Not Important at All	Response Count
Downtown	130	135	68	30	28	391
Employment areas	106	119	86	36	35	382
Golf courses	41	49	108	110	79	387
Nearby neighborhoods	116	171	55	20	28	390
Other trails	122	152	66	17	28	385
Parks	206	135	33	8	13	395
Restaurants	78	114	96	69	30	387
Schools	142	143	46	28	27	386
Shopping areas	84	131	81	57	35	388
Swimming pool	118	125	81	37	27	388
Other (please specify)						20
<i>answered question</i>						401
<i>skipped question</i>						189

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Considering the options in Map B above, what is your favorite City-owned and maintained park in Kingsville?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Corral Street Park	4.2%	16
Brookshire Park #1	0.8%	3
Brookshire Park #2	2.9%	11
Los Hermanos Flores Park	3.4%	13
Thompson Park	1.8%	7
Kenedy Park	0.3%	1
Flato Pak	3.7%	14
Dick Kleberg Park	76.9%	293
L.E. Ramey Park/Golfcourse	6.0%	23
<i>answered question</i>		381
<i>skipped question</i>		209

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

What do you like about the park you chose in question #27?

Answer Options	Response Count
	345
<i>answered question</i>	345
<i>skipped question</i>	245

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

What do you NOT like about the park you chose in question #27, or what would you change to make them better?

Answer Options	Response Count
	335
<i>answered question</i>	335
<i>skipped question</i>	255

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

Do you or someone in your family participate in an athletic association in the City of Kingsville?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	29.0%	114
No	71.0%	279
<i>answered question</i>		393
<i>skipped question</i>		197

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

If yes to question #28, in which one(s) do you participate?

Answer Options	Response Count
	108
<i>answered question</i>	108
<i>skipped question</i>	482

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

To meet the needs of its growing population, the Parks and Recreation Department may require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the City considering the following financing strategies to increase the amount of funding available for

Answer Options	Strongly Support	Support	Undecided	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Response Count
Increase the Department's annual budget.	189	135	49	12	10	395
Increase fees for those who utilize specialized or	95	156	80	44	19	394
Increase fees for those who participate in recreation	76	144	78	63	32	393
Increase rental fees for park facilities.	73	154	72	67	28	394
Tax increase to fund bond issuance.	90	108	93	53	49	393
	<i>answered question</i>					397
	<i>skipped question</i>					193

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? The City of Kingsville SHOULD design and build park facilities that are...

Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion	Response Count
visually appealing and of high quality.	268	113	8	0	7	396
designed to maximize shade opportunities.	256	114	11	0	13	394
designed and constructed of durable and long-lasting	294	94	4	0	4	396
designed and constructed using water-efficient and	273	103	7	3	10	396
designed and constructed using water-efficient	257	117	8	1	14	397
designed and constructed using energy-efficient	250	123	5	2	15	395
designed and constructed using low impact	214	128	14	1	36	393
designed and constructed with an emphasis on low	218	127	22	5	19	391
designed for flexibility of use.	235	140	6	0	10	391
	<i>answered question</i>					398
	<i>skipped question</i>					192

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey

From which of the following sources do you get information about recreation activities in Kingsville? Check all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
City website	28.7%	111
School brochures/flyers	29.2%	113
Word of mouth	59.4%	230
Parks/Recreation Office	14.7%	57
Recreation brochures	10.6%	41
Community Impact	10.6%	41
Social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.)	67.4%	261
Signs	31.8%	123
Other (please specify)		37
	<i>answered question</i>	387
	<i>skipped question</i>	203

Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Survey	
Thank you for participating in the Kingsville Parks & Recreation Master Plan public survey. If you would like to	
Answer Options	Response Count
	123
<i>answered question</i>	123
<i>skipped question</i>	467

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APPENDIX B, FUNDING LIST

Appendix B, Parks and Recreation Funding Sources, includes a comprehensive list of federal, state, and privately-funded grant programs which support local park system or recreational program development. These funding sources may be structured to support direct investment into municipal parks and recreation systems, or to allow for the indirect development of park and recreation opportunities to support other principal grant objectives. For instance, federal and state grants focused on residential development or redevelopment may also allow for the inclusion of recreational amenities as part of an eligible project. Similarly, transportation funding sources may support multi-use trail and sidepath development.

The parameters of the funding sources referenced in this appendix are always changing. Be sure to contact administering agencies/organizations directly to receive the most up-to-date grant program information.

FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

Corporation For National and Community Service

AMERICORPS

AmeriCorps seeks to strengthen communities through projects that address education, public safety, the environment, and other unmet human needs. AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities.

Amount: Vary, may be awarded as fixed amount or cost reimbursement

Deadline: January 18, 2017

Website: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities/2017/ameri-corps-state-and-national-grants-fy-2017>

Department of Agriculture — Agricultural Marketing Service

FARMERS MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM

The purpose of the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) is to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets by developing, improving, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to, or assisting in the development, improvement, and expansion of, domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agri-tourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.

Website: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp>

Amount: Varies

Deadline: 2016 grants closed; 2017 grants pending

Contact:

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 4534-South Building
Washington, DC 20250-0269

E-mail: USDAFMPPQuestions@ams.usda.gov

Phone: 202-720-0933

Fax: 202-690-4152

Grants Management Specialists:

Earlene Henderson-Samuels, Earlene.Henderson-Samuels@ams.usda.gov
Theresa (Teri) Davis, Theresa.Davis@ams.usda.gov
Camia (Mia) Lane, Camia.Lane@ams.usda.gov
Christy Wipperfurth, Christy.Wipperfurth@ams.usda.gov

Department of Agriculture — Food Nutrition Service

CHILD NUTRITION-TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION GRANT

The 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law 114-113 December 18, 2015, authorized funding to be used for grants to States for the purpose of developing or improving current automated information systems used to operate and manage the Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs). The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has approximately \$4.4 million available in fiscal year (FY) 2017 to be used for grants under this funding. This Request for Applications (RFA) invites State agencies that administer the CNPs to apply for grant funding to implement innovative technology solutions that will improve program accountability, data accuracy, program performance measurement, and the capacity to identify and target error-prone areas (locations or program functions) within and across the CNPs at the State and Local Educational Agency (LEA) or Sponsor Organization (SO) levels. The Child Nutrition Technology Innovation Grant (CN TIG) funds will be available on a competitive basis to State agencies administering the CNPs (i.e., National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program). FNS is offering two types of CN TIGs: Planning Grants and Implementation Grants. States may apply for either a Planning Grant or an Implementation Grant, as described within this RFA, but not both under this 2017 RFA solicitation.

Website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/child-nutrition-technology-innovation-grant-cn-tig>

Amount: \$100,000 to \$2 million

Deadline: January 25, 2017

Contact: Carla Garcia, Grant Officer: Carla.garcia@fns.usda.gov

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers funds for meals and snacks for children in low-income areas during after-school and summer hours. Through the Child and Adult Care Food Program, USDA administers Afterschool Snacks, a program that offers reimbursement for snacks to after-school care program providers. For eligibility, the after-school programs must offer educational or enrichment activities in an organized, structured, and supervised environment after school, on weekends or holidays during the school year. The organization will be reimbursed at the highest level, currently 55 cents a snack per child per day. For more information, please visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/child-and-adult-care-food-program>.

National website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-contacts>

Texas Office:

Administered by Texas Department of Agriculture
1700 N. Congress Ave., 11th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

Phone: 877-839-6325

Website: <http://www.squaremeals.org>

FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT

The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. On an annual basis, USDA awards up to \$5 million in competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs.

The Program offers three types of grants: Planning awards range from \$20,000 - \$45,000; implementation and support service awards range from \$65,000 - \$100,000; training awards range from \$15,000 - \$50,000. Matching funds of 25% are required for all four grant types.

Website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program>

Amount: \$15,000 to \$100,000; Total program funding estimated to be \$5 million.

Deadline: December 8, 2016

Contact: farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Summer Food Service Program is a federally-funded, state-administered program that provides free meals to children throughout the summer months when school is not in session. Approved sponsors, including school districts, park agencies, nonprofit organizations, and camps, organize the program and provide the meals to a group of children (18 or under) at a central site(s). Children can receive either one or two reimbursable meals each day. For more information on the program, go to: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program>.

Contact the state administering agency: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/sfsp-contacts>

Texas Office:

Administered by Texas Department of Agriculture
1700 N. Congress Ave., 11th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

Phone: 877-839-6325

Website: <http://www.squaremeals.org>

Department of Agriculture — National Institute of Food and Agriculture

COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS (CFP) COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

The primary goals of the CFP are to: Meet the food needs of low-income individuals through food distribution, community outreach to assist in participation in Federally assisted nutrition programs, or improving access to food as part of a comprehensive service; Increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for the food needs of the communities; Promote comprehensive responses to local food access, farm, and nutrition issues; and Meet specific state, local or neighborhood food and agricultural needs including needs relating to: Equipment necessary for the efficient operation of a project; Planning for long-term solutions; or The creation of innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and low-income consumers. This grant requires 100% matching.

Examples of CFP Projects include, but are not limited to, community gardens with market stands, value chain projects, food hubs, farmers' markets, farm-to-institutions projects, and marketing & consumer cooperatives. All projects must involve low-income participants.

Examples of PPs include, but are not limited to, community food assessments' coordination of collaboration development plan, GIS analysis, food sovereignty study, and farm-to-institution exploration. All projects must involve low-income participants

Website: <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/community-food-projects-cfp-competitive-grants-program>

Amount: Total program funding: \$8.64 million; Maximum award of \$125,000 for Community Food Projects and \$35,000 for Planning Projects

Deadline: November 30, 2016

Contact: Jana Clary Loveless, National Program Leader,

Email: jclary@nifa.usda.gov

Location: 2322 Waterfront Centre

Phone Number: (202) 720-3891

Fax Number: (202) 401-4888

BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (BFRDP)

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program provides grants to organizations for education, mentoring, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers or ranchers. According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service's most recent Ag Census data, the number of young people entering farming continues to decline, but the number of new farmers and ranchers over the age of 35 rises, as does the number of smaller farms and ranches nationwide. Ensuring there will be a "new generation" of beginning farmers and ranchers—regardless of age or production choice—is especially important to the continuation of agricultural production in the United States.

In accordance with the authorizing legislation, priority will be given to partnerships and collaborations led by or including nongovernmental, community-based organizations and school-based agricultural educational organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach. At least 5 percent of the funds will support programs and services that address the needs of limited resource beginning farmers or ranchers; socially disadvantaged beginning farmers or ranchers; and farm workers desiring to become farmers or ranchers. At least 5 percent of the funds will support programs and services that address the needs of veteran farmers and ranchers. The term "farmer" is used in the broadest sense and should be interpreted to include traditional agricultural farmers, ranchers, and tree farmers. As far as possible, geographical diversity will also be ensured.

A 25% match is required.

Website: <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/beginning-farmer-and-rancher-development-program-bfrdp>

Amount: Maximum of \$200,000 for 3-year program; estimated total program funding: \$17.7 million

Deadline: December 8, 2016

Contact: Jill Auburn, National Program Leader, Division of Agricultural Systems

Email: jauburn@nifa.usda.gov

Location: 3430 Waterfront Centre

Phone Number: (202) 720-2635

Fax Number: (202) 401-1782

Department of Agriculture — Natural Resources Conservation Service

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

Eligible program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices, or activities like conservation planning, that address natural resource concerns on their land. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are implemented. Contracts can last up to ten years.

National website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=stelprdb1242633>

Texas website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/eqip/>

Texas Office:

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, TX 76501-7602

Phone: (254) 742-9800

Fax: (254) 742-9819

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

Phone: (254) 742-9881

Email: Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

Phone: (254) 742-9525

Email: Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS (CIG)

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) are competitive grants that stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on agricultural lands. CIG uses Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or nongovernmental organizations, American Indian Tribes, or individuals. Producers involved in CIG funded projects must be EQIP eligible.

Through CIG, NRCS partners with public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adopt promising technologies. These new technologies and approaches address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resources concerns. CIG benefits agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations.

States can also award project that benefit a limited geographical area. Participating states will announce their funding availability for CIG competitions through their state NRCS offices.

National website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/>

Texas website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/cig/>

Amount: Total program funding averages \$20 million per year.

Contact:

National Office:

Program Contact: nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov

Phone: (202) 720-1895

Melleny Cotton, CIG Program Analyst

Phone: (202) 720-7412
Email: Melleny.cotton@wdc.usda.gov

Texas Office:

Texas State Office
 101 S Main St.
 Temple, TX 76501-7602
Phone: (254) 742-9800
Fax: (254) 742-9819
Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs
Phone: (254) 742-9881
Email: Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager
Phone: (254) 742-9525
Email: Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

RCPP combines the authorities of four former conservation programs – the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the Great Lakes Basin Program. Assistance is delivered in accordance with the rules of EQIP, CSP, ACEP and HFRP; and in certain areas the Watershed Operations and Flood Prevention Program.

Funding for RCPP is allocated to projects in three different categories:

- Critical Conservation Areas receive 35% of the funding. These are projects in eight geographic areas chosen by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Nationwide and multistate projects receive 40 percent of funding.
- Projects in a single state receive 25 percent of funding.

Texas Office:

Texas State Office
 101 S Main St.
 Temple, TX 76501-7602
Phone: (254) 742-9800
Fax: (254) 742-9819
Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs
Phone: (254) 742-9881
Email: Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager
Phone: (254) 742-9525
Email: Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

AIR QUALITY INITIATIVE

The NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Air Quality Initiative provides financial assistance to implement conservation practices that address air resource issues for designated locations throughout the nation. Agricultural atmospheric related concerns include greenhouse gas emissions, ozone precursors, volatile organic compounds, airborne particulate matter, and some odor-related volatile compounds. For more information about agricultural air quality concerns, see the Air Quality topic.

Deadline: NRCS accepts applications for assistance on continuous basis, but states may establish application periods.

Texas office:

Texas State Office
101 S Main St.
Temple, TX 76501-7602
Phone: (254) 742-9800
Fax: (254) 742-9819

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers assistance to land owners who are already implementing conservation practices to enhance those practices. For example, if you have been practicing prescribed grazing, CSP would give you options to enhance that practice with activities such as grazing management to improve plants for wildlife, or grazing management to reduce soil compaction, or grazing management to improve riparian function, just to name a few.

With enrollment in CSP, the local NRCS conservation planner will have a one-on-one consultation with the property owner(s) to evaluate your current management system and the natural resources on your land. The NRCS conservation planner will present a variety of CSP enhancement alternatives for implementation on the land, based on existing conservation practices. CSP offers annual incentive payments for installing these enhancement practices.

National website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/>

Texas website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/csp/>

Award: varies based on implementation of conservation practices

Deadline: Applications are accepted throughout the year. Specific deadlines are set for ranking and funding opportunities. The next application deadline for funding consideration is February 3, 2017.

Texas office:

Texas State Office
101 S Main St.
Temple, TX 76501-7602
Phone: (254) 742-9800
Fax: (254) 742-9819

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Contact:

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs
(254) 742-9881
Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager
(254) 742-9525
Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

CONSERVATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The purpose of the program is to assist land—users, communities, units of state and local government, and other federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. The purpose of the conservation systems are to reduce erosion, improve soil and water quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, improve pasture and range condition, reduce upstream flooding, and improve woodlands. The program is also used as a means to collect, analyze, interpret, display, and disseminate information about the condition and trends of the Nation’s soil and other natural resources so that people can make good decisions about resource use and about public policies for resource conservation. Information collected through the program is used to develop effective science-based technologies for natural resource assessment, management, and conservation.

For more information about the Conservation Technical Assistance program go to: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/cta/>

Technical assistance is provided at the state level by State Conservationists. Contact information for each State Conservationists is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Texas office:

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, TX 76501-7602

Phone: (254) 742-9800

Fax: (254) 742-9819

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. EWP is an emergency recovery program. All projects undertaken, with the exception of the purchase of floodplain easements, must have a project sponsor.

NRCS may bear up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures. The remaining 25 percent must come from local sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind services. Funding is subject to Congressional approval.

City and county governments, flood and water control districts, and soil and water conservation districts are the most common sponsors of EWP projects. Activities include providing financial and technical assistance to:

- remove debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges,
- reshape and protect eroded banks,
- correct damaged drainage facilities,
- establish cover on critically eroding lands,
- repair levees and structures, and
- repair conservation practices.

NRCS may purchase EWP easements “in lieu of recovery” on any floodplain lands that have been impaired within the last 12 months or that have a history of repeated flooding (i.e., flooded at least two times during the past 10 years). If it is more cost effective, EWP-Floodplain Easement (FPE) can be used as an alternative to EWP. See the comparison of EWP and EWP-FPE.

National website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/>

Texas website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/ewp/>

Award: state-administered. Texas received over \$21 million in FY2016 to restore conditions from heavy rains and flooding in 2015.

National contact:

National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Manager

Phone: 202-690-0793

Texas contact:

Claude Ross, State Easement Program Manager

claude.ross@tx.usda.gov

Phone: 254-742-9822

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS (WFPO) PROGRAM

The Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program provides technical and financial assistance to States, local governments and Tribes (project sponsors) to plan and implement authorized watershed project plans for the purpose of:

- watershed protection
- flood mitigation
- water quality improvements
- soil erosion reduction
- rural, municipal and industrial water supply
- irrigation
- water management
- sediment control
- fish and wildlife enhancement
- hydropower

Under the Watershed Program NRCS cooperates with States and local agencies to carry out works of improvement for soil conservation and for other purposes including flood prevention; conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water; and conservation and proper utilization of land.

National website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wfpo/>

Texas website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Contact:

Kevin Farmer

Phone: 202-720-3413

kevin.farmer@wdc.usda.gov

WATERSHED SURVEYS AND PLANNING (WSP)

The purpose of the program is to assist Federal, State, and local agencies and tribal governments to protect watersheds from damage caused by erosion, floodwater, and sediment and to conserve and develop water and land resources. Resource concerns addressed by the program include water quality, opportunities for water conservation, wetland and water storage capacity, agricultural drought problems, rural development, municipal and industrial water needs, upstream flood damages, and water needs for fish, wildlife, and forest-based industries.

Types of surveys and plans include watershed plans, river basin surveys and studies, flood hazard analyses, and flood plain management assistance. The focus of these plans is to identify solutions that use land treatment and nonstructural measures to solve resource problems.

No funding has been authorized since 2008.

National website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wsp/>

Texas website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Watershed Rehabilitation Program helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their 50-year design lives. This rehabilitation addresses critical public health and safety concerns. Since 1948, NRCS has assisted local sponsors in constructing more than 11,900 dams.

National website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wr/>

Texas website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The RC&D Program was established in the Agriculture Act of 1962, with responsibility for the administration of the program placed within the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Successive Farm Bills have provided for the further development of the program, including deepening the partnership between RC&D Councils and the NRCS.

RC&D Councils are 501(C)3 non-for-profit corporations. They are not governmental entities, so the typical policies and constraints of local, state, and federal government programs do not limit the types of issues they address or the means they use. Within their respective areas (typically covering 5-8 counties), RC&D Councils have a high degree of independence to carry out activities that will achieve their most important goals. RC&D Council volunteers are leaders and community stakeholders involved in multiple roles in local government, school boards, churches, and other civic activities. At RC&D Council meetings, they draw from their professional expertise and community connections to determine the needs of their RC&D Council areas, address those needs, and make their communities better places to live, work, and play. Nationwide, over 25,000 volunteers serve on local RC&D Councils.

Collaborators and financial supporters of the RC&D Council include: Ensave, International Code Council, USDA-National Resource Conservation Service, USDA-Forest Service, US Department of Homeland Security, and US Government Grant.

National Association of RC&D Areas: <http://narcadc.org/rcd-program.html>

Texas Association of RC&D Programs: <http://www.texasrcd.org/>

Department of Agriculture — Rural Development

COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOAN & GRANT PROGRAM

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings.

Eligible areas include rural cities, villages, townships, or towns with no more than 20,000 residents. Funding types include low-interest loans, grants, or a combination of the two. Grants are awarded on a need-basis, based on community size and median household income. Grant assistance share of total eligible project costs is limited depending on community size and median household income.

Website: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/tx>

Contact:

Texas USDA Rural Development State Office
101 South Main Street, Suite 102
Temple, TX 76501
Phone: 254-742-9700
Fax: (844) 496-8123

RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE GRANTS

This program provides funding to help non-profit housing and community development organizations support housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

Funds may be used to improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

Eligible areas include rural cities, villages, townships, or towns with no more than 20,000 residents. Funding types include low-interest loans, grants, or a combination of the two. Grants are awarded on a need-basis, based on community size and median household income. Grant assistance share of total eligible project costs is limited depending on community size and median household income.

100% matching is required.

Website: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/tx>

Amount: Minimum grant award is \$50,000; maximum grant award is \$250,000

Deadline: Applications are accepted year round.

Contact:

Texas USDA Rural Development State Office

101 South Main Street, Suite 102

Temple, TX 76501

Phone: 254-742-9700

Fax: (844) 496-8123

Department of Agriculture — US Forest Service

COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAM

The Community Forest Program (CFP) protects forests that are important for people and the places they call home. Community forests provide many benefits such as places to recreate and enjoy nature; they protect habitat, water quality and other environmental benefits, and they can provide economic benefits through timber resources. Community Forests have also long been sites for environmental and cultural education.

50% match is required.

Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/loa/cfp.shtml>

Amount: Proposed Administration funding for community forest project is \$2 million for fiscal year 2017. Individual grant applications may not exceed \$400,000.

Deadline: January 13, 2017

Contact: http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/library/cfp_regional_contact.pdf

Southern Regional Office:

Mike Murphy

U.S. Forest Service

1720 Peachtree Rd., NW

Suite 700B North

Atlanta, GA 30309

Phone: 404-347-5214

Fax: 404-347-2776

mwmurphy@fs.fed.us

communityforest@fs.fed.us

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM, COUNCIL & 10-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Urban and Community Forestry program assists state forestry agencies, local and tribal governments, and private sector entities improve natural resource management of trees and forests in urban areas and community settings. The program encourages and facilitates the active involvement of volunteers in the management and protection of their community's natural resources. The program also analyzes, develops, disseminates, and demonstrates scientific information about protecting, managing, and maintaining community forest resources. States are encouraged to offer competitive grants that involve partnerships with local governments, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector for the purpose of establishing effective community forestry programs. Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf>

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) is a Congressionally designated advisory council to the Secretary of Agriculture on urban forestry and related issues. The 1990 Farm Bill created NUCFAC to bring together the wide variety of voices raised about a common concern: the present health and future preservation of America's urban forests. NUCFAC was founded to synthesize the full spectrum of views into a consistent vision, as a foundation for practical policy on urban forestry and related natural resources.

Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/nucfac>

The Ten Year Urban Forestry Action Plan developed by and for the urban forestry community. The plan's purpose is to expand awareness of the benefits that our urban forests, including green infrastructure, provide to communities throughout the nation, and increase investments in these urban forest resources for the benefit of current and future generations. The plan provides specific goals, actions, and recommendations for improving the status of urban and community forestry for the United States and its territories. The plan also identifies research needs, messaging and communications needs, and innovative funding and collaborative opportunities for urban forestry initiatives. Notably, this plan also serves as a framework for funding and recommendation priorities developed by the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) for the U.S. Forest Service's National Urban and Community Forestry program and National Challenge Cost Share Grants. The urban forestry community, including the Forest Service and other applicable Federal agencies, are to use the Action Plan as a guide to implement and expand urban and community forestry for the next ten years.

Website: <http://urbanforestplan.org/>

Contact:

Nancy Stremple, Urban Forestry Program Specialist

Phone: 202-309-9873

nstremple@fs.fed.us

Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration

PLANNING PROGRAM AND LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Through its Planning and Local Technical Assistance programs, EDA assists eligible recipients in developing economic development plans and studies designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. The Planning program helps support organizations, including District Organizations, Indian Tribes, and other eligible recipients, with Short Term and State Planning investments designed to guide the eventual creation and retention of high-quality jobs, particularly for the unemployed and underemployed in the Nation's most economically distressed regions. As part of this program, EDA supports Partnership Planning investments to facilitate the development, implementation, revision, or replacement of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs), which articulate and prioritize the strategic economic goals of recipients' respective regions. The Local Technical Assistance program strengthens the capacity of local or State organizations, institutions of higher education, and other eligible recipients to undertake and promote effective economic development programs through projects such as feasibility studies and impact analyses.

Website: <https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

Award: up to \$300,000

Deadline: Continuing basis

Contact:

EDA Headquarters
 U.S. Department of Commerce
 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
 Suite 71014
 Washington, DC 20230

Main Line: 202-482-2000

Texas Office:

Austin Regional Office
 903 San Jacinto
 Suite 206
 Austin, Texas 78701

Regional Director:

Jorge Ayala
 Phone: 512-381-8150
 Fax: 512-499-0478
 jayala@eda.gov

PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

EDA solicits applications from applicants in rural and urban areas to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works and EAA programs. Grants and cooperative agreements made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities.

Website: <https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

Award: up to \$300,000

Deadline: Continuing basis

Contact:

EDA Headquarters
 U.S. Department of Commerce
 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
 Suite 71014
 Washington, DC 20230

Main Line: 202-482-2000

Texas Office:

Austin Regional Office
 903 San Jacinto
 Suite 206
 Austin, Texas 78701

Regional Director:

Jorge Ayala
Phone: 512-381-8150
Fax: 512-499-0478
 jayala@eda.gov

Department of Health and Human Services — Administration for Children and Families

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is a division of the Department of Health & Human Services that aims to promote the economic and social well-being of children, families, individuals and communities with leadership and resources for compassionate, effective delivery of human services.

Announcements for funding opportunities can be found at: <https://ami.grantsolutions.gov/>

NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) brings together four of the nation's leading research funders — the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) — to address the problem of childhood obesity in America. These leading national organizations: work in tandem to manage projects and reach common goals; coordinate funding to make the most of available resources; and share insights and expertise to strengthen research. NCCOR focuses on efforts that have the potential to benefit children, teens, and their families, and the communities in which they live.

NCCOR publishes the funding opportunities from the partners to fund a range of project types. Visit the following website for more information on the opportunities: <http://nccor.org/news/funding-opportunities/>

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) made available \$5.2 billion to States, Territories, and Tribes in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. CCDF is authorized by the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act and Section 418 of the Social Security Act. CCDF assists low-income families in obtaining child care so they can work or attend training/education. The program also improves the quality of child care, and promotes coordination among early childhood development and afterschool programs.

Initiatives of the CCDF include:

- Strengthening Family Child Care, a special initiative to strengthen family child care (FCC). The purpose of this initiative is to promote pathways and progressions to build the supply and stability of high quality FCC providers.
- Early Learning Initiative, which includes projects and grants that bring child care and early learning partners together at federal, state, and local levels for greater collaboration and more effective services throughout the country.
- Let's Move! Child Care promotes children's health by encouraging and supporting physical activity and healthier nutrition practices in early care and education settings.
- Emergency Preparedness, which addresses emergency preparation and response as it relates to the children in the event of a major disaster or emergency.

Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/child-care-and-development-fund>

Contact:

CCDF Grantee State and Territory Contacts

Texas Workforce Policy and Program Assistance
Workforce Development Division
Texas Workforce Commission
Room 440-T
101 East 15th Street
Austin, TX 78778

Phone: 512-463-6022

Website: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/childcare/ccinfo.html>

OCC Regional Program Managers, Region VI

Gwendolyn Jones
 OCC/ACF/HHS
 Suite 914
 1301 Young Street
 Dallas, TX 75202
Phone: (214) 767-3849
Fax: (214) 767-8890
E-mail: gwendolyn.jones@acf.hhs.gov

HEAD START PROGRAM

The Office of Head Start (OHS) promotes the school readiness of young children from low-income families through local programs. Head Start and Early Head Start programs support the mental, social, and emotional development of children from birth to age 5.

Head Start grants are awarded directly to public or private non-profit organizations, including community-based and faith-based organizations, or for-profit agencies within a community that wish to compete for funds. The same categories of organizations are eligible to apply for Early Head Start, except that applicants need not be from the community they will be serving. Funding opportunities: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs/funding>

Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs>

Contact:Texas Head Start Collaboration Office

Alferma Giles, Director
Phone: 713-500-3835
Fax: 713-500-3820
Email: alferma.crawford@uth.tmc.edu

Texas Head Start Collaboration Office
 Tracy Jones, Program Coordinator
Phone: 713-500-3832
Fax: 713-500-3820
Email: tracy.a.jones@uth.tmc.edu

Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office The Children's Learning Institute
 University of Texas Houston
 7000 Fannin, Suite 1920
 Houston, TX 77030

Website: <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/thssco>

CCDF Grantee State and Territory Contacts

Texas Workforce Policy and Program Assistance
 Workforce Development Division
 Texas Workforce Commission
 Room 440-T
 101 East 15th Street
 Austin, TX 78778
Phone: 512-463-6022

Website: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/childcare/ccinfo.html>

OCC Regional Program Managers, Region VI

Gwendolyn Jones
 OCC/ACF/HHS
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 Dallas, TX 75202
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Fax: (214) 767-8890
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COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

The Office of Community Services (OCS) partners with states, communities and agencies to reduce the causes of poverty, increase opportunity and economic security of individuals and families and revitalize communities. The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities.

Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/csbg>

Administered in Texas by: Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs: www.tdhca.state.tx.us

Contact:

Tim Irvine, Executive Director
 Department of Housing and Community Affairs
 Texas Dept. of Housing & Community Affairs
 221 East 11th, PO Box 13941
 Austin, Texas 78711-3941
Phone: 512- 475-3897
Fax: 512-475-4624
Email: tim.irvine@tdhca.state.tx.us

Rita Gonzales-Garza, Project Manager for Planning and Contracts
 Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
 221 East 11th, PO Box 13941
 Austin, Texas 78711-3941
Phone: (512) 475-3905
Fax: (512) 475-3539
Email: rita.garza@tdhca.state.tx.us

Federal Staff by Region- Region VI
Program Specialist: Isaac Davis
Phone: (202) 401-5335
Email: Isaac.Davis@acf.hhs.gov

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Community Economic Development (CED) is a federal grant program funding Community Development Corporations that address the economic needs of low-income individuals and families through the creation of sustainable business development and employment opportunities.

CED awards funds to private, non-profit organizations that are community development corporations (CDCs), including faith-based organizations, and Tribal and Alaskan Native organizations. CDCs must be governed by a three-party board of directors that includes residents of the community served, and local business and civic leaders. CDCs must have as their principle purpose planning, developing or managing low-income housing or community development projects.

CED programs also provide technical and financial assistance for economic development activities.

Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ced>

Contact:

Community Economic Development Program
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 Administration for Children and Families
 Office of Community Services
 370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
 Washington, DC 20447
Phone: (202) 401-5663
Email: CED@acf.hhs.gov

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANTS

Social Services Block Grants (SSBG) enables each state or territory to meet the needs of its residents through locally relevant social services. SSBGs support programs that allow communities to achieve or maintain economic self-sufficiency to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency on social services. Each state administers the program locally, determining which services to provide and who is eligible to receive these services.

Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ssbg>

Contact:

Region VI

Program Specialist: Edwin Patout

Phone: (202) 401-4838

Email: Edwin.Patout@acf.hhs.gov

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The activities of the Community Planning and Development Program build stronger and more resilient communities through an ongoing process of identifying and addressing needs, assets, and priority investments. Community development activities may support infrastructure, economic development projects, installation of public facilities, community centers, housing rehabilitation, public services, clearance/acquisition, microenterprise assistance, code enforcement, homeowner assistance and many other identified needs. Federal support for community development encourages systematic and sustained action by State, and local governments. The Office of Block Grant Assistance administers funds, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), allocated to State and local governments to address locally identified community development needs through the following programs (only showing those applicable in Texas):

- CDBG Entitlement Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.
- CDBG State Program allows States to award grants to smaller units of general local government that develop and preserve decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create and retain jobs.
- CDBG Program Colonias Set-Aside requires the border states of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas to set aside a percentage of their annual State CDBG allocations for use in the Colonia to help meet the needs of the Colonias residents in relationship to the need for potable water, adequate sewer systems, or decent, safe and sanitary housing.
- Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program is the loan guarantee provision of the CDBG Program and provides communities with a source of financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and large-scale physical development projects.
- CDBG Disaster Recovery Program provides flexible grants to help cities, counties, and States recover from Presidentially declared disasters, especially in low-income areas, subject to availability of supplemental appropriations.
- The Neighborhood Stabilization Program provides grants to communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment to purchase and redevelop foreclosed and abandoned homes and residential properties.
- Brownfields Economic Development Initiative provides grants to assist cities with the redevelopment of abandoned, idled and underused industrial and commercial facilities where expansion and redevelopment is burdened by real or potential environmental contamination.

Each fiscal year (FY), HUD publishes a General Section that contains requirements for all of HUD's competitive grant programs. To be considered for funding, applications must meet all applicable requirements of the General Section and the requirements in the Program NOFA.

Website: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail/nofa2017/gensec

To identify funding opportunities through HUD, visit the following website: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail

Award: Varies

Deadline: Varies

Contact:

HOPE VI REVITALIZATION GRANTS

The specific elements of public housing transformation that have proven key to HOPE VI include: Changing the physical shape of public housing; establishing positive incentives for resident self-sufficiency and comprehensive services that empower residents; lessening concentrations of poverty by placing public housing in non-poverty neighborhoods and promoting mixed-income communities; and forging partnerships with other agencies, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private businesses to leverage support and resources. Only public housing authorities are eligible to apply for these funds, but park and recreation agencies can contract to develop recreation facilities at public housing sites and to provide community and supportive service programs for residents, including those relocated as a result of revitalization efforts. For more information, go to: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/hope6

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM

The HBCU Program helps HBCUs expand their role and effectiveness in helping their communities with neighborhood revitalization, housing, and economic development. HUD views HBCUs as key partners in rebuilding America's neighborhoods, and annually invites HBCUs to compete for funds to assist in revitalization efforts. This program awards grants to historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to address community development needs in their localities.

Website: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/programdescription/hbcu>

To identify funding opportunities through HUD, visit the following website: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail

Award: Closed

Deadline: Closed

Contact:

Houston Regional Office:

Sandra H. Warren
Director, CPD
1301 Fannin Street
Suite 2200
Houston, TX 77002
Phone: 713-718-3279
Email: Sandra.H.Warren@hud.gov

Fort Worth Regional Office:

Shirley J. Henley
Director, CPD
801 Cherry Street
Unit #45 - Suite 2500
Ft. Worth, TX 76102
Phone: 817-978-5951
Email: Shirley.J.Henley@hud.gov

San Antonio Regional Office:

Elva F. Garcia
Director, CPD
Hipolito Garcia Federal Building
615 E. Houston Street
Suite 347
San Antonio, TX 78205
Phone: 210-475-6866
Email: Elva.Garcia@hud.gov

Department of the Interior — Fish and Wildlife Service

AQUATIC RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Aquatic Resource Education Program helps people understand, enjoy and conserve the aquatic natural resources of the nation. States have the option of using up to 15 percent of their annual Sport Fish Restoration apportionment for aquatic resource education programs and outreach and communications projects. The Sport Fish Restoration Program, created in 1950, provides funding for fish management, conservation, restoration, aquatic education, and boating access. The program is funded by a 10 percent Federal excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits and a 3 percent tax on electronic fishing motors and sonar fish finders; duties on imported fishing tackle, pleasure boats and yachts; and a portion of the Federal fuel tax receipts from motorboats and small gasoline engines. The funds are apportioned annually to the states and territories by the Department of the Interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Apportionments are determined for each state by land area and number of fishing license owners. All funds are disseminated through State Fish and Wildlife Departments.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/grantprograms/AquaticEd/AE.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Kelly Oliver-Amy

Phone: 505-248-7457

Email: Kelly_oliver-amy@fws.gov

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

BOATING ACCESS PROGRAM

The Boating Access (BA) Program provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas fish and wildlife agencies for projects that provide access to America's waterways by developing new access facilities or renovation and/or improvement of existing facilities.

Today more than 16.8 million boats use U.S. waterways. A large percentage of these are operated by anglers and recreational boaters.

The Boating Access Program is part of the Sport Fish Restoration Program. Spending for the BA is authorized in the Sport Fish Restoration Act.

The Sport Fish Restoration Act mandates each state, the District of Columbia and insular area to allocate at least 15 percent of their annual Sport Fish Restoration apportionment to boating access projects. The allocation is averaged over a five year period for each U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service region.

The funds apportioned annually are derived from excise taxes on fishing equipment, motorboat and small engine fuels, import duties, and interest collected in the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. These funds are apportioned to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas based on a formula which includes land area, number of paid license holders, minimums and maximums.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/BoatAccess/BA.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Buddy Fazio

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Website: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG) provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas to construct, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities with features for transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or more in length, and to produce and distribute information and educational materials about the program. The BIG Program includes two funding tiers, Tier One (non-competitive) and Tier Two (nationally competitive). Under Tier One each state, the D.C. and insular area may receive funding for eligible projects up to \$200,000 annually. Tier Two funds are made available

through a nationally competitive process. Tier Two proposals received are reviewed, evaluated and ranked by a national panel with the final decision for funding made by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The ranking criteria, eligible projects and regulations are listed in 50 CFR 86.

Funds for the BIG Program are provided annually from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. The amount provided is 4% of the funds (split between the BIG and CVA programs) in the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund after deducting amounts for WSFR administration, the Multistate Conservation Grant Program, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and fisheries commissions.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/BIG/BIG.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

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Email: Buddy_Fazio@fws.gov

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

CLEAN VESSEL ACT GRANT PROGRAM

The Clean Vessel Act Grant Program (CVA) provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of pump-out stations and waste reception facilities for recreational boaters and also for educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper disposal of their sewage.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/CVA/CVA.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Buddy Fazio

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Email: Buddy_Fazio@fws.gov

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) provides federal grant funds derived from federal offshore lease revenues to oil producing states for conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas including wetlands; mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources; planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with these objectives; implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan; and mitigation of the impact of outer Continental Shelf activities through funding of onshore infrastructure projects and public service needs.

Statewide CIAP plans that include proposed projects have been prepared by the affected states: Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The federally approved CIAP plans have also been coordinated through a public review process.

Federal grant funds must be used to directly benefit an authorized use to conserve, restore, enhance, and protect renewable natural resources. Non-federal matching funds are not required for approved grant projects associated with this federal grant program.

National website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/CIAP/CIAP.htm>

State website: <http://www.glo.texas.gov/coast/grant-projects/ciap/index.html>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Susan MacMullin

Phone: 505-248-7476

Email: Susan_MacMullin@fws.gov

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Hunter Education Program provides grant funds to the states and insular areas fish and wildlife agencies for projects to provide instruction in firearm operations and safety, wildlife management, nature conservation, ethics, game laws, outdoor survival and wilderness first aid. Funds may also be used for the development and operations of archery and shooting range facilities.

The goal is to teach students to be safe, responsible, conservation-minded hunters. Most States require completion of a hunter education course prior to purchasing a hunting license.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/HunterEd/HE.htm>

Contact: <http://www.glo.texas.gov/coast/grant-projects/ciap/index.html>

Southwest Regional Office

Andrew Ortiz

Phone: 505-248-7459

Email: Andrew_Ortiz@fws.gov

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NON-TRIBAL PORTION) - OVERVIEW

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) provides federal grant funds to grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas to protect and restore habitats on private lands, to benefit Federally listed, proposed or candidate species or other species determined to be at-risk.

Grant funds must be used to establish or supplement State landowner incentive programs to benefit species identified in the State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (State Wildlife Action Plan) or classified as Special Concern by the State, or Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species or other species determined to be at-risk. These grant funds may also be used to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for habitat protection and restoration. More info...

The LIP Program includes two funding tiers, Tier One (non-competitive) and Tier Two (nationally competitive). Under Tier One each state may receive funding for eligible projects up to \$200,000 annually and the District of Columbia and insular areas up to \$75,000 annually. If there is adequate funding in the appropriation, WSFR will rank Tier Two grants and award grants through a national competition. The competition will be announced separately.

Website: https://www.fws.gov/southwest/federal_assistance/ri.html#contactfedaid

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Susan MacMullin

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Email: Susan_MacMullin@fws.gov

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM - OVERVIEW

The MSCGP provides funding for wildlife and sport fish restoration projects identified as priority projects by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). These high priority projects address problems affecting states on a regional or national basis. Project types that are generally selected for funding are: biological research/training, species population status, outreach, data collection regarding hunter/angler participation, hunter/aquatic education, economic value of fishing/hunting, and regional or multistate habitat needs assessments.

The AFWA and the Division of Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) work together to manage the MSCGP. The AFWA administers the grant application process, providing oversight, coordination, and guidance for the MSCGP while the WSFR awards and manages the grants.

Website: https://www.fws.gov/southwest/federal_assistance/ri.html#contactfedaid

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

500 Gold SW, Suite 8514, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

NATIONAL COASTAL WETLANDS GRANT PROGRAM

The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants Program is authorized by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to grant funds to coastal states to carry out coastal wetlands conservation projects. Participants in the program include state, county, and municipal governments as well as non-government partners.

Funds for the Coastal Wetlands Grant Program are provided annually from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) receives 18.5 percent of the funds in the Trust Fund after deducting amounts for WSFR administration, the Multistate Conservation Grant Program, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and fisheries commissions.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/CW/CW.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Susan MacMullin

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Email: Susan_MacMullin@fws.gov

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Act, approved by Congress on August 9, 1950, provides funding for fish management, conservation, and restoration. The program is funded by a 10 percent Federal excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits and a 3 percent tax on electronic fishing motors and sonar fish finders. The funds are apportioned annually to the states and territories (except Puerto Rico) by the Department of the interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Apportionments are determined for each state by land area and number of fishing license owners. All funds are disseminated through State Fish and Wildlife Departments.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/SFR/SFR.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

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Website: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

STATE WILDLIFE GRANT PROGRAM

The State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program provides Federal grant funds to State fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished.

Grant funds may be used to address a variety of conservation needs--such as research, fish and wildlife surveys, species restoration, habitat management, and monitoring—that are identified within a State's Wildlife Action Plan. These funds may also be used to update, revise, or modify a State's Plan.

Congress appropriates funds for the State Wildlife Grant Program on an annual basis. Funds are apportioned to States, commonwealths, and U.S. territories based on a formula that considers each State's population and total geographical area.

Grant funds are disbursed to States for approved grants at a maximum federal share of 75% for planning grants and 65% for Plan implementation grants. Congress also allocates a portion of appropriated funds to a competitive SWG subprogram. State Wildlife Grant funds administered by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program provide a unique source of funding, helping States to focus on targeted species in a proactive fashion, to help identify and reverse species population declines before restoration becomes more difficult and costly.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Vanessa Martinez

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Email: Vanessa_Martinez@fws.gov

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM

Approved by Congress on September 2, 1937, the Act provides funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management research and the distribution of information produced by the projects. Congress amended the Act on October 23, 1970, to include funding for hunter training programs and the development, operation and maintenance of public target ranges. Funds are derived from an 11 percent Federal excise tax on handguns. Funds are also collected from a 12.4 percent tax on archery equipment. A certain amount of funds (section 4) must be used on hunter education before additional funds {section 10) can be attained. The section 10 funds can be used for additional hunter education programs or for wildlife restoration. These funds are apportioned each year to the states and territories (except Puerto Rico) by the Department of the Interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Apportionments are determined for each state by land area and number of hunting license owners.

Website: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/WR/WR.htm>

Contact: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

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Email: Nicole_Jimenez@fws.gov

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

Department of the Interior — National Park Service

CHALLENGE COST SHARE PROGRAM

The Challenge Cost Share Program supports local projects that promote conservation and recreation, environmental stewardship, education, and engaging youth in the outdoors. Local project partners work with National Park Service (NPS) staff to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Applications are submitted by NPS staff in collaboration with project partners. This partnership challenge rewards those proposals that highlight long lasting benefits while developing new partnerships.

The program requires equal matching share. Cash, goods, or services from non-federal sources can be considered as a cost share. The maximum Challenge Cost Share project support is \$25,000. If selected

our national partner, Outdoor Foundation, forms an agreement and provides project funds directly to the local partner. Applications are submitted by NPS staff in collaboration with project partners.

Website: <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/ccsp/>

Award: up to \$25,000 (FY2017)

Deadline: July 1, 2016 (FY2017)

Contact:

National office:

National Coordinator

Stephan Nofield

Email: Stephan_nofield@nps.gov

Southeast Region:

John Barrett

National Park Service

100 Alabama Street, SW

Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: 404-507-5689

Fax: 404-562-3282

Email: nps_flpsouth@nps.gov

FEDERAL LANDS TO PARKS

The Federal Lands-to-Parks (FLP) enables states and local governments to establish park and recreation areas and adapt historic buildings for public uses. Through FLP, state and local agencies may acquire land and facilities once used for federal purposes at no cost to meet park and recreation needs.

Amount: N/A. Program based on existing inventory of federal lands and transferring it to state or local governments for park and recreation use.

Annual Deadline: As land becomes available, 25 days from the “notice of availability”

Information about the program is available at: <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/flp/index.htm>

Contacts: https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/flp/flp_contact.html

National office:

Wendy Ormont

State and Local Programs Division

National Park Service

1201 I Street, NW

Mail Stop 2225

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202-354-6915

Fax: 202-371-5179

Email: nps_flpnational@nps.gov

Southeast Region:

John Barrett

National Park Service

100 Alabama Street, SW

Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: 404-507-5689

Fax: 404-562-3282

Email: nps_flpsouth@nps.gov

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was enacted in 1964 (Public Law 88-578) to “create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities.” LWCF provides funding for: (1) land acquisition for federal land managing agencies; and (2) matching grants to state and local governments for planning (states only), acquisition and development of park and recreation areas and resource based facilities. Specifics for federal land acquisition projects are determined each fiscal year by Congress and the Administration. Of the amounts appropriated in any given fiscal year for each State and Territory is determined based on a formula set in the LWCF Act, and is subsequently approved by the Secretary of the Interior. The grantee assumes all operation and maintenance costs in perpetuity. In Texas, the LWCF allocation funds a number of grant programs available to local communities, including

Amount: In 2016, Texas was allocated a total of \$5,415,887. All state and local grants require at least a 50 percent match by the non-federal partner.

Annual Deadline: Varies depending on state grant program.

Information about the program is available at: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/stateside.htm>

Contacts: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/contact-list.htm>

RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE

The RTCA program offers local groups staff assistance and consultations for locally-led conservation projects. Projects may include developing trails and greenways or protecting rivers and open space. Regional RTCA offices provide application information and assistance.

Amount: Funding or grants not offered.

Annual Deadline: June 30

Information about the program is available at: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

Contact: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/contactus.htm>

National Office:

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program
1201 Eye Street NW Washington, DC 20005

Texas Office:

RTCA, National Park Service
1901 E. Ben White Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78741
Phone: (512) 744-1940

Marta de la Garza Newkirk
Email: marta_newkirk_de_la_garza@nps.gov
Phone: (512) 784-3134

Erich Melville
Email: erich_melville@nps.gov
Phone: (512) 688-0652

Justin Bates
Email: justin_bates@nps.gov
Phone: (512) 878-7463

Intermountain Region:

Alan Ragins
Phone: 303-969-2855
Email: alan_ragins@nps.gov

URBAN PARKS & RECREATION RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program was authorized in November 1978 by Public Law 95625, providing direct federal matching assistance to cities and urban counties for rehabilitation of existing recreation facilities. The law encourages systematic local planning and commitment to continuing operation and maintenance of recreation programs, sites, and facilities. Project proposals are submitted to the appropriate National Park Service Regional Office by eligible local units of government (selected cities and urban counties). Grants are awarded on a nationally competitive basis with regional offices having the primary responsibility for monitoring progress and post-completion requirements.

Amount: Currently unfunded.

Information about the program: <https://www.nps.gov/uparr/>

Contact: <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/uprr/contact.html>

National Office:

National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Org-2225
Washington, D.C. 20240

Phone: 202-354-6900

Website: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1600/index.htm>

Midwest Region:

National Park Service
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

Phone: 402-661-1540

Department of Transportation

TIGER DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Since 2009, Congress has dedicated nearly \$4.6 billion for seven rounds of TIGER to fund projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a region or a metropolitan area. The eligibility requirements of TIGER allow project sponsors at the State and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs.

Website: <https://www.transportation.gov/tiger>

Deadline: 2016 grant deadlines have passed.

Contact:

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Email: TIGERgrants@dot.gov

Phone: 202-366-0301

Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) was signed into law in December 2015, authorizing \$305 billion over fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for highway, highway and motor vehicle safety, public transportation, motor carrier safety, hazardous materials safety, rail, and research, technology, and statistics programs. Funds are apportioned to states to administer programs or further allocate funds.

ACCELERATED INNOVATION DEPLOYMENT (AID) DEMONSTRATION GRANT

The AID Demonstration program is one initiative under the multi-faceted Technology and Innovation Deployment Program (TIDP) approach providing funding and other resources to offset the risk of trying an innovation. The AID Demonstration program provides funding as an incentive for eligible entities to accelerate the implementation and adoption of innovation in highway transportation. The FAST Act authorized funding for the continuation of these programs and opportunities. Entities eligible to apply (Applicants) are State DOTs, Federal Land Management Agencies, and tribal governments. Metropolitan planning organizations and local governments may apply through the State DOT as a sub-recipient.

Website: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/grants>

Amount: \$50,000 to \$1 million; Estimated Total Program Funding: \$50 million

Deadline: Sep 30, 2020; Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis.

Contact:

Mr. Thomas Harman, Director
Center for Accelerating Innovation, Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590
Phone: (202) 366-6377

Ewa Flom, Program Coordinator, AID Demonstration
Phone: (202) 366-2169
Email: Ewa.Flom@dot.gov

CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality improvement program (CMAQ) is to realign the focus of transportation planning toward a more inclusive, environmentally sensitive, and multi-modal approach. The CMAQ program provides funding for programs and projects in air quality non-attainment and maintenance for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), and small particulate matter (PM-10), which reduces transportation related emissions. Grants are provided through a reimbursement process that varies state by state. Funds may be used for either the construction of bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways, or non-construction projects (such as maps, brochures, and public service announcements) related to safe bicycle use. In general, however, a sponsor would submit expenses to the state department of transportation, which would then reimburse at 80 percent of the project cost. The CMAQ Program was reauthorized for 2016 through 2020 through the FAST Act.

Amount: FAST Act provides for \$2.3 M to \$2.5 M in CMAQ funding each year from 2016 through 2020. It is estimated the State of Texas will receive an average of \$853 million in CMAQ funds annually.

Applications and information about CMAQ grants are available at: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

The Recreational Trails Program, was reauthorized by the FAST Act, provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail users. Eligible project categories as defined in the act are: maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails; development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages; purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment; construction of new recreational trails (with restrictions on new trails on Federal land); acquisition of easements or property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors; state administrative costs related to program administration (up to 7

percent of a state's funds); and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as these objectives relate to the use of recreational trails (up to 5 percent of a state's funds). Each state has its own procedures and timelines to solicit, select, and fund Recreational Trails projects.

In Texas, the Recreational Trails program is administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Amount: \$200,000 Requires 80/20 match

Deadline: February 1, 2017

Program website: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/

Website: <http://www.americantrails.org/ee/index.php/nationalrecreationtrails>

Texas website: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/recreational-trails-grants>

Contact: For more information about project funding contact your State Trail Administrator. For a list of administrators go to: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/rtpstate.cfm

National Office:

FHWA
Christopher Douwes
Community Planner
Recreational Trails Program
Transportation Alternatives
Federal Highway Administration
FHWA HEPH-10 Rm E74-474
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington DC 20590-0001
Phone: 202-366-5013

Texas Office:

Trey Cooksey, State Parks Trails Coordinator
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept
4200 Smith School Road
Austin TX 78744-3291
Phone: 512-389-8743
Fax: 512-389-8242
Email: trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Program is a Federal-Aid program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Program was created by Section 1404 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users Act (SAFETEA-LU). The SRTS Program was funded at \$1.162 billion for Federal fiscal years (FY) 2005-2012 and is administered by State Departments of Transportation (DOTs).

The SRTS Program received dedicated funding through 2012. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) authorized the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which replaced the funding from pre-MAP-21 programs including the Transportation Enhancement Activities, Recreational Trails Program, and Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). MAP-21 did not provide specific funding for SRTS, but SRTS projects are eligible for TAP funds and for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. Under Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), the TAP program was rolled into the Surface Transportation Program.

Safe Routes to School initiatives may be eligible under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program or Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside.

Website: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/safe_routes_to_school/

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The FAST Act converted the Surface Transportation Program to a block grant program that folds in the Transportation Alternative Program. The program provides funding to states and localities for projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects, including intercity bus terminals.

Amount: The FAST Act provides for an estimated average of \$4.796 million allocated to Texas for the STBG Program funding each year from 2016 through 2020

Website: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/stbgfs.cfm>

Contact: <https://www.transportation.gov/fastact/>

National Office:

Office of the Under Secretary for Policy
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States
Phone: 202-366-4540

Texas Office: Administered by TXDOT

Online form: <http://www.txdot.gov/contact-us/form.html>

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES, STBG SET-ASIDE

The FAST Act amended the Surface Transportation Program to include a set aside for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, which is replacing the MAP-21 Transportation Alternative Program. Similar to its predecessors, the Transportation Alternative Program and Transportation Enhancement Activities, the STBG Program, or TA Set-Aside, authorizes funding for The TA Set-Aside authorizes funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity; recreational trail projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways.

Amount: In Texas, The FAST Act provides for an estimated average of \$386 million set-aside from the STBG Program funding each year from 2016 through 2020

Website: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/transportationalternativesfs.cfm>

Contact: <https://www.transportation.gov/fastact/>

National Office:

Office of the Under Secretary for Policy
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States
Phone: 202-366-4540

Texas Office: Administered by TXDOT

Online form: <http://www.txdot.gov/contact-us/form.html>

Department of Transportation – Coast Guard

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY

The RBS grant program provides funding to assist states with program administration, law enforcement and search and rescue capability, boater education, vessel numbering and titling systems, aids to navigation, and public boating access sites. Allowable uses of the RBS Program funds include a wide spectrum of activities that fall into six broad categories – program administration, law enforcement and search and rescue capability, boater education, vessel numbering and titling systems, aids to navigation, and public boating access sites. States with approved boating safety programs that meet the participation requirements are eligible.

Information about the program is available at: <http://www.uscgboating.org/grants/index.php>

Amount: In 2016, Texas received approximately \$3.8 million in state grant funding

Contact: <http://www.uscgboating.org/php-contact-form/contactC.php>

Commandant (CG-BSX-2)
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
2703 Martin Luther King, JR Ave SE
Stop 7501
Washington, DC 20593-7501
Phone: 202.372.1062

Environmental Protection Agency

Every year, EPA awards over \$4 billion in funding for grants and other assistance agreements. From small non-profit organizations to large state governments, EPA works to help many visionary organizations achieve their environmental goals. With countless success stories over the years, EPA grants remain a chief tool in the advancement of human health and the environment.

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/specific-epa-grant-programs>

AIR GRANTS & FUNDING

EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) announces competitive funding announcements for projects and programs relating to air quality, transportation, climate change, indoor air and other related topics.

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/air-grants-and-funding>

Contact:

National Office:
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Grants and Debarment
Mail Code: 3901
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460
Email: GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov
Phone: (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:
Environmental Protection
Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Phone: (214) 665-2200 or (800) 887-6063

BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANTS

Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, tribes, and nonprofits to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites. Under Brownfields Assessment Grants, EPA is seeking proposals for Assessment Grants only, to provide funds to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning (including cleanup planning) and community involvement related to brownfield sites.

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/fy17-guidelines-brownfields-assessment-grants>

Award: varies \$200,000 to \$600,000, cost sharing not required, but encouraged

Deadline: December 20, 2016

Contact:

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Grants and Debarment

Mail Code: 3901

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,

N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

Email: GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov

Phone: (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Environmental Protection

Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200

1445 Ross Avenue

Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Phone: (214) 665-2200 or (800) 887-6063

BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANTS

EPA's Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, tribes, and nonprofits to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites. Under the Brownfields Cleanup Grants, EPA is seeking proposals for Cleanup Grants only to provide funds to carry out cleanup activities at a specific brownfield site owned by the applicant.

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/fy17-guidelines-brownfields-cleanup-grants>

Award: varies \$200,000; 20% cost share required.

Deadline: December 20, 2016

Contact:

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Grants and Debarment

Mail Code: 3901

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,

N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

Email: GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov

Phone: (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Environmental Protection

Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200

1445 Ross Avenue

Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Phone: (214) 665-2200 or (800) 887-6063

BROWNFIELDS AREA-WIDE PLANNING GRANT

EPA's Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, tribes, and nonprofits to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites. Under the Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant, the EPA solicits proposals from eligible entities to conduct research and/or technical assistance activities that culminate in an area-wide plan for brownfields assessment, cleanup and

subsequent reuse. Grant-funded activities must be directed to one or more catalyst, high priority brownfield site(s) located within a specific project area, such as a neighborhood, downtown, business or arts district, a local commercial or industrial corridor, a community waterfront, one or more city blocks, etc. Each recipient that receives a grant under this funding opportunity must develop an area-wide plan for the brownfield(s) within the project area, and include in that plan specific implementation strategies for assessing, cleaning up and reusing the brownfield(s) and related project area revitalization strategies.

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/fy2017-brownfields-area-wide-planning-grant>

Award: varies \$200,000; cost sharing not required, but encouraged.

Deadline: FY2017 grant deadline has passed.

Contact:

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Grants and Debarment
Mail Code: 3901
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460
Email: GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov
Phone: (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Environmental Protection
Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Phone: (214) 665-2200 or (800) 887-6063

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAM

The EPA Environmental grant program supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to make informed and responsible decisions that affect environmental quality. The program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. Each year, EPA's Office of Environmental Education releases a solicitation notice in the Federal Register that provides instructions for obtaining a grant. Educational agencies at the state, local and tribal level, state environmental agencies, college and universities, not-for-profit organizations, and noncommercial educational broadcasting entities are eligible to apply. Individuals are not eligible to apply. Although government agencies cannot apply directly, they are encouraged to work with other entities on developing and implementing environmental education programs.

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>

Award: closed

Deadline: closed

Contact:

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Grants and Debarment
Mail Code: 3901
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460
Email: GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov
Phone: (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Bonnie King
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Email: king.bonita@epa.gov
Phone: (214) 665-2200

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANTS

With these grants, the EPA aims to provide financial assistance to grassroots community—based groups to support projects to design, demonstrate or disseminate practices, methods or techniques related to environmental justice. Specifically, EPA will grant funding assistance to be used for: environmental justice education and awareness programs; environmental Justice Programs (for example, river monitoring and pollution prevention programs); technical assistance in gathering and interpreting existing environmental justice data; and technical assistance to access available public information. Community-based grassroots organizations, other incorporated nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Tribal Governments are eligible. Applications are usually due at the beginning of March each year. Awardees are notified in August of each year.

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

Award: closed

Deadline: closed

Contact:

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Grants and Debarment
Mail Code: 3901
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460
Email: GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov
Phone: (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Israel Anderson
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Email: anderson.israel@epa.gov
Phone: 214-665-3138

MULTIPURPOSE GRANTS TO STATES AND TRIBES

For states and territories, this funding is available to support implementation of air and state-led climate activities and other state-defined high priority activities. Funding is also available to tribes that have obtained authorization to develop water quality standards.

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/multipurpose-grants-states-and-tribes>

Award: closed

Deadline: closed

Contact:

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Grants and Debarment
Mail Code: 3901
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460
Email: GAD_OGDWEB@epa.gov
Phone: (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Environmental Protection
Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Phone: (214) 665-2200 or (800) 887-6063

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT (TAG) PROGRAM

This EPA program seeks to provide financial assistance to States, Local agencies, and Indian Tribes for chemical accident prevention activities that relate to the Risk Management Program under the Clean Air Act Section 112(r). Additionally, through this program the EPA provides financial assistance to Tribes for chemical emergency planning, and community right-to-know programs, which are established to prevent or eliminate unreasonable risk to the health and environment of communities within the State. Eligible applicants include States, Local agencies in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, US. Virgin Island, Northern Mariana Islands, and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes. Recipients must match 25 percent of the grant funds (including in-kind services).

Website: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program>

Award: up to \$50,000, 20% match required

Deadline: closed

Contact: Region 6 Office:

Janetta Coats, Regional TAG Coordinator

1445 Ross Avenue

Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Phone: (214) 665-7308

Email: coats.janetta@epa.gov

STATE FUNDING SOURCES

Texas Parks and Wildlife

BOAT SEWAGE PUMPOUT GRANTS

Federal funds through the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 allow private marinas and local governments to receive grants to install boat sewage pumpout stations in Texas. Pumpout Grants can constitute up to 75% of all approved project costs. These grants provide funds for the construction and/or renovation, operation and maintenance of pumpout and portable toilet dump stations.

Website: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/boat-sewage-pumpout>

Award: Competitive

Deadline: Continuous

Contact:

Trey Cooksey, State Parks Trails Coordinator

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept

4200 Smith School Road

Austin TX 78744-3291

Phone: 512-389-8743

Fax: 512-389-8242

Email: trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us

BOATING ACCESS GRANT

The Boating Access Grant Program provides 75% matching fund grant assistance to construct new, or renovate existing, public boat ramps that provide public access to public waters for recreational boating. The State Boating Access Program receives funding from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. Funds for the federal program are derived from the federal gasoline tax generated by sales of gasoline for recreational motorboats and a federal excise tax on the sales of fishing tackle and trolling motors. Fifteen percent of the state's annual apportionment from this federal program must be used to provide public recreational boating access.

Website: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/boating-access>

Award: \$500,000

Deadline: October 1, 2016

Contact:

Trey Cooksey, State Parks Trails Coordinator

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept

4200 Smith School Road

Austin TX 78744-3291

Phone: 512-389-8743

Fax: 512-389-8242

Email: trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR OUTREACH PROGRAM (CO-OP) GRANT

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) grant provides funding to local governments and non-profit organizations for programming that introduces under-served populations to environmental and conservation programs as well as TPWD mission oriented outdoor activities.

Grants are available to tax-exempt organizations and local governments introducing non-traditional constituents to TPWD related outdoor recreation, conservation and environmental education programs. The success of this program lies in the partnerships created between TPWD and grass-roots organizations who have already established a relationship with these identified targeted audiences; females, physically/mentally challenged, ethnic minorities, low income and youth.

CO-OP provides grants to tax-exempt organizations ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000. This is a reimbursement grant program. Recipients must purchase eligible items and submit proper documentation before being reimbursed. Eligible organizations can apply to use these funds for programming expenses such as equipment, leasing transportation, staff, liability insurance, food, program materials, etc.

Website: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/community-outdoor-outreach-program-co-op-grants>

Award: \$50,000

Deadline: February 1, 2017

Contact:

Cappy Smith, Program Manager

Phone: (512) 389-8254

Email: cappy.smith@tpwd.texas.gov

LOCAL PARKS GRANT

The Local Park Grant Program consists of 5 individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.

The Local Park Grant Program consists of 5 individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. Once funded, all grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.

Eligible applicants include political subdivisions of the State of Texas legally responsible for providing public recreation services to their citizens. This includes cities, counties, river authorities, municipal utility districts, and other special districts.

Website: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/about-local-parks-grants>

Award: Varies

Deadline: October 1, 2016

Contact:

Dana Lagarde, Program Manager

Phone: (512) 389-8175

Email: dana.lagarde@tpwd.texas.gov

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

TPWD administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This federally funded program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles. The grants can be up to 80% of project cost with a maximum of \$200,000 for non-motorized trail grants and currently there is not a maximum amount for motorized trail grants (call 512-538-4427 for motorized trail grant funding availability). Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects such as the construction of new recreational trails, to improve existing trails, to develop trailheads or trailside facilities, and to acquire trail corridors.

Website: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/recreational-trails-grants>

Award: \$200,000

Deadline: February 1, 2017

Contact:

Trey Cooksey, State Parks Trails Coordinator

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept

4200 Smith School Road

Austin TX 78744-3291

Phone: 512-389-8743

Fax: 512-389-8242

Email: trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us

Texas Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Division

SPECIAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The Texas Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Division administers 12 federal child and special nutrition programs for the State of Texas. TDA supports providers of nutrition assistance by helping ensure accountability and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars to nourish Texans in need. These nutrition programs exemplify "eating right" for Texans of every age and background and help them build a bridge to success. Everyone plays a role in teaching children the 3E's of Healthy Living - Education, Exercise and Eating Right.

Financial grants from organizations may help advance nutrition efforts in our schools and communities. On this page you will find descriptions of specific grants with upcoming deadlines, as well as a list of organizations that make grants on an ongoing basis to support local nutrition, fitness, health, education, and community initiatives.

Program Website: <http://www.squaremeals.org/Programs.aspx>

Grant opportunities: <http://www.squaremeals.org/FandNResources/FundingGrants.aspx>

Contact:

Texas Department of Agriculture

Mail: P.O. Box 12847

Austin, Texas 78711-2847

Physical: 1700 North Congress Avenue, 10th Floor

Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: (877) TEX MEAL (839-6325)

Fax: (888) 203-6593

Email: squaremeals@texasagriculture.gov

Texas Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS (CIG)

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) are competitive grants that stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on agricultural lands. CIG uses Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or nongovernmental organizations, American Indian Tribes, or individuals. Producers involved in CIG funded projects must be EQIP eligible.

Through CIG, NRCS partners with public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adopt promising technologies. These new technologies and approaches address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resources concerns. CIG benefits agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations.

States can also award project that benefit a limited geographical area. Participating states will announce their funding availability for CIG competitions through their state NRCS offices.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/cig/>

Amount: Total program funding averages \$20 million per year.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers assistance to land owners who are already implementing conservation practices to enhance those practices. For example, if you have been practicing prescribed grazing, CSP would give you options to enhance that practice with activities such as grazing management to improve plants for wildlife, or grazing management to reduce soil compaction, or grazing management to improve riparian function, just to name a few.

With enrollment in CSP, the local NRCS conservation planner will have a one-on-one consultation with the property owner(s) to evaluate your current management system and the natural resources on your land. The NRCS conservation planner will present a variety of CSP enhancement alternatives for implementation on the land, based on existing conservation practices. CSP offers annual incentive payments for installing these enhancement practices.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/csp/>

Award: varies based on implementation of conservation practices

Deadline: Applications are accepted throughout the year. Specific deadlines are set for ranking and funding opportunities. The next application deadline for funding consideration is February 3, 2017.

Texas Office:

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, TX 76501-7602

Phone: (254) 742-9800

Fax: (254) 742-9819

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

Phone: (254) 742-9881

Email: Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

Phone: (254) 742-9525

Email: Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. EWP is an emergency recovery program. All projects undertaken, with the exception of the purchase of floodplain easements, must have a project sponsor.

NRCS may bear up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures. The remaining 25 percent must come from local sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind services. Funding is subject to Congressional approval.

City and county governments, flood and water control districts, and soil and water conservation districts are the most common sponsors of EWP projects. Activities include providing financial and technical assistance to:

- remove debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges,
- reshape and protect eroded banks,
- correct damaged drainage facilities,
- establish cover on critically eroding lands,
- repair levees and structures, and
- repair conservation practices.

NRCS may purchase EWP easements "in lieu of recovery" on any floodplain lands that have been impaired within the last 12 months or that have a history of repeated flooding (i.e., flooded at least two times during the past 10 years). If it is more cost effective, EWP-Floodplain Easement (FPE) can be used as an alternative to EWP. See the comparison of EWP and EWP-FPE.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/ewp/>

Award: state-administered. Texas received over \$21 million in FY2016 to restore conditions from heavy rains and flooding in 2015.

Contact:

National office:

National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Manager
Phone: 202-690-0793

Texas office:

Claude Ross, State Easement Program Manager
Email: claudio.ross@tx.usda.gov
Phone: 254-742-9822

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

Eligible program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices, or activities like conservation planning, that address natural resource concerns on their land. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are implemented. Contracts can last up to ten years.

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/eqip/>

Texas Office:

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, TX 76501-7602

Phone: (254) 742-9800

Fax: (254) 742-9819

Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

Phone: (254) 742-9881

Email: Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

Phone: (254) 742-9525

Email: Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

PRIVATE FUNDING SOURCES

ADVOCACY ADVANCE, RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

Advocacy Advance is a dynamic partnership of the Alliance for Biking & Walking and the League of American Bicyclists to boost local and state bicycle and pedestrian advocacy efforts. With support from SRAM Cycling Fund, the Every Body Walk Collaborative, REI, and New Belgium Brewing, Advocacy Advance provides targeted trainings, reports, grants and assistance to equip advocates with the specific tools they need to increase biking and walking in their communities.

Rapid Response Grants help state and local organizations take advantage of unexpected opportunities to win, increase, or preserve funding for biking and walking. Applications are not currently being accepted for Rapid Response Grants.

BIG Idea Grants are available to organizations that are pushing forward on some of the most important areas of bicycling and walking advocacy in the areas of equity; safety / Vision Zero; health / walking; and innovative local or state funding campaigns. "Big Idea" Grants are intended to help with unforeseen opportunities, short-term campaigns or to push campaigns into the end zone to win funding for biking and walking infrastructure and programs.

Website: <http://www.advocacyadvance.org/grants>

***Note:** Web and social media activity has been silent since 2014/2015.

AEGON TRANSAMERICA FOUNDATION

Aegon Transamerica Foundation grant dollars go to non-profit organizations in the following categories:

- Arts & Culture: Programs that foster creativity in the areas of music and the performing arts, including venues for artistic expression.
- Civic & Community: Programs that strive to promote community development, encourage civic leadership, and enhance work and business opportunities.
- Education & Literacy: Programs with a mission to provide knowledge and to expand individuals' capabilities, especially in the areas of financial literacy.
- Health & Welfare: Programs committed to improving the condition of the human body through nutrition, housing for the homeless, disease prevention and more.
- United Way: In addition to leading an annual campaign, employees' contributions are matched by at least 50%.

Grant requests are considered if they relate to the Aegon Transamerica Foundation's key focus areas and mission, and are designated for a community where there is a significant company and employee presence. In Texas, Transamerica is located in Plano, Texas.

Website: <https://www.transamerica.com/individual/about-us/who-we-are/aegon-transamerica-foundation/>

Award: varies

Timeframe: Applications for Foundation grants are reviewed upon receipt by local committee representatives. The timing of responses will vary by location.

Contact:

Gregory Tucker

Email: greg.tucker@transamerica.com

Margaret Sherry,

Email: margaret.sherry@transamerica.com

2700 West Plano Parkway

Plano, TX 75075

Phone: (972) 881-6000

AETNA FOUNDATION, GOLOCAL: CULTIVATING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Aetna Foundation is dedicated to improving health in local communities and large populations alike. How do we make it happen? Through community-based programs, dynamic partnerships and proven models that can help people accelerate progress everywhere. Through its GoLocal: Cultivating Healthier Communities program, Aetna Foundation supports local non-profit groups that advance healthy eating and active living in their communities.

Website: <https://www.aetna-foundation.org/grants-partnerships/grants.html>

Timeframe: In 2016, grant RFPs closed on April 15, 2016. Information for the 2017 cycle is not available.

ALLEN FOUNDATION

Grants are limited under the terms of the foundation's charter to projects that primarily benefit programs for human nutrition in the areas of health, education, training, and research. Preferences are given to proposals that train children and young adults to improve their health and development so they can form good nutritional habits at an early age. Proposals will need to contain a nutritional focus.

Website: <https://www.allenfoundation.org/commoninfo/aboutus.asp>

Award: varies

Timeframe: Rolling. Deadline is December 31st. Applications received after this date will be considered for the following year.

ALLSTATE FOUNDATION

The Allstate Foundation supports organizations dedicated to addressing two issues: Domestic Violence and Youth Empowerment. Applications for grants are by invitation only.

Website: https://www.allstatefoundation.org/foundation_overview.html

Contact: grants@allstate.com

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY, SHADE STRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

The AAD Shade Structure Grant Program awards grants of up to \$8,000 to public schools and non-profit organizations for installing permanent shade structures for outdoor locations that are not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds, pools or recreation spaces. In addition to the grant, the AAD also provides a permanent sign for display near the shade structure.

Website: <https://www.aad.org/ssp/>

Award: Up to \$8,000

Timeframe: The application process runs from September through November, with winners announced in February. The 2016 deadline is November 28, 2016.

Contact: ShadeStructure@aad.org

BANK OF AMERICA FOUNDATION

Bank of America Foundation helps improve communities by addressing issues fundamental to economic health and sustainability. We address needs related to workforce development and education, community development, and basic needs.

Website: <http://about.bankofamerica.com/en-us/global-impact/charitable-foundation-funding.html>

Amount: Varies

Timeframe: The Foundation issues RFPs at various points throughout the year: Check funding opportunities on website

Contact: Foundation@bankofamerica.com

BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION GRAND CHALLENGES

The Grand Challenges family of initiatives fosters innovation to solve key health and development problems. See below for Grand Challenges grant opportunities with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as sole or contributing funder. Grant opportunities have defined issues or activities to address.

Website: <http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/about>

Opportunities: <http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenges>

Contact: grandchallenges@gatesfoundation.org

BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF TEXAS HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY FAMILIES INITIATIVE

Healthy Kids, Healthy Families (HKHF) began in 2011 as a three-year initiative designed to improve the health and wellness of at least one million children through community investments. We extended the program, making HKHF part of our ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of the children and families across Texas. To date, we've helped nearly three million children.

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas Healthy Kids, Healthy Families initiative invests and partners with nonprofit organizations that offer sustainable, measurable programs. The programs must address health and wellness in the following areas:

- Nutrition
- Physical activity
- Disease prevention and management
- Supporting safe environments

In addition to aligning with one or more of our four areas of focus, the following criteria are required for review of all grant proposals:

- The organization must hold a 501(c)(3) tax status
- The grant must primarily target individuals in Texas

- The program must be measurable and demonstrate how the goals will be met as defined in the grant proposal

Website: <http://www.bcbstx.com/company-info/community-involvement/healthy-kids-healthy-families>

Award: up to \$250,000

Timeframe: Grant applications accepted from March 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017

Contact: healthykidshealthyfamilies@hcsc.net

BNSF RAILWAY FOUNDATION

The Foundation is dedicated to supporting the communities they serve and in which their employees live, work, and volunteer. Generally, the foundation will consider grant requests that clearly fall within one or more of the following categories:

- Civic services including organizations which are concerned with the environment, as well as local community issues such as crime prevention, parks and recreation, diversity and community development.
- Cultural organizations that include performing, visual, and fine arts, museums and other related activities that offer opportunities for underserved children to experience cultural learning events, or preserve their cultural heritage.
- Educational institutions, both public and private, primarily at the college level. Grants of an exceptional nature may be made to vocational and non-college schools. Preferably, contributions will be directed toward the improvement of the quality of education. Ordinarily, grants will not be made to finance the expansion of a student body or the payment of scholarships (BNSF's scholarship programs, as well as the Employee Matching Gift Program, are governed by separate policies.)
- Health and Human Service organizations such as YMCA/YWCA, programs that address chemical dependency treatment and prevention, spouse and child abuse, women's and children's aid and transitional shelters. This category also includes hospitals and medical programs.
- Youth organizations such as Boys & Girls Clubs, Camp Fire, Scouts, Junior Achievement and similar groups.
- Federated organizations such as United Way and American Red Cross.
- A federally recognized tribal government, listed in the Federal Register by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Website: <http://www.bnsffoundation.org/>

Timeframe: Applications accepted continuously

Contact:

Manager BNSF Railway Foundation
BNSF Railway Foundation
2500 Lou Menk Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76131-2830
BNSFFoundation@bnsf.com

BUILD-A-BEAR FOUNDATION GRANT

The Build-A-Bear Foundation mission is to add a little more to life by providing opportunities for children of all ages to better their communities and share their heart with others.

Website: <http://www.buildabear.com/shopping/workshop/Charitable%20Donations/3100023/10500018>

Timeframe: The 2016 application period is closed.

CHRISTOPHER AND DANA REEVE FOUNDATION, QUALITY OF LIFE GRANT

The Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants Program awards grants to nonprofit organizations that serve the disability community. Grants are awarded to organizations that address the needs of people living with paralysis caused by spinal cord and other injuries, diseases or birth conditions, including (but not limited to) stroke, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Website: <https://www.christopherreeve.org/get-support/grants-for-non-profits/program-overview>

Award: Up to \$25,000

Timeframe: There are two application cycles each year. In 2016, the first cycle opened January 11 and closed February 16; the second cycle opened July 1 and closed August 15. Applications will open again in January 2017.

Contact:

Email: QoL@christopherreeve.org

Phone: 1-800-539-7309

CVS CAREMARK COMMUNITY GRANT

These grants provide funds to aid health-focused nonprofit organizations in their mission. Organizations must be invited to participate in the grant process, and are required to provide services in at least one of the following areas:

- Access to health care for underserved populations
- Chronic disease management programs
- Tobacco cessation and prevention services

Application for a Community Grant is by invitation only. For information about other giving programs, please contact the Community Relations team.

Contact:

Jennifer Leigh

Email: Jennifer.Leigh@cvshealth.com

Phone: 401-770-2935

DAVID & LUCILE PACKARD FOUNDATION

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation has worked with partners around the world to improve the lives of children, families, and communities, and to restore and protect the planet. Applicable programs funded by the Packard Foundation include:

- The Conservation and Science Program invests in action and ideas that conserve and restore ecosystems while enhancing human well-being.
- The Children, Families, and Communities Program strives to ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Website: <https://www.packard.org/what-we-fund/>

Award: varies

Timeframe:

Contact: Online form - <https://www.packard.org/contact-us/>

343 Second Street

Los Altos, CA 94022 USA

Phone: +1 (650) 948-7658

ESPING FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT

The Esping Family Foundation exists to help people and institutions of Dallas, Texas, specifically Dallas County to help themselves and future generations. Under the terms of its charter, the Foundation can distribute grants only to qualified public entities or 501(c)(3) charities serving the people of Texas. Grants are made in four categories:

- Education
- Human Services
- Health
- Arts and Culture

Website: <http://www.espingfamilyfoundation.org/grant-guidelines/>

Award:

Timeframe: There are two grant cycles each year:

-Spring Grant Cycle: You begin the grant application process by completing a Letter of Inquiry(LOI) which is due on or before February 15 each Spring. You will be notified on or before March 1st if you have been selected to proceed to the second phase of the grant process. Grant requests are due April 1st.

-Fall Grant Cycle: You begin the grant application process by completing a Letter of Inquiry(LOI)) which is due on or before July 15 each Summer. You will hear on or before September 1st if you have been selected to proceed to the second phase of the grant process. Grant requests are due October 1st.

Contact:

Heather Esping, President
Esping Family Foundation
2828 Routh St., Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75201

Phone: 214.849.9808

Fax: 214.849.9807

Email: hesping@espingfamilyfoundation.org

Jenny Kirtland, Vice-President

Email: jkirtland@espingfamilyfoundation.org

FINISH LINE YOUTH FOUNDATION

The Youth Foundation is a philanthropic outlet for Finish Line to make a difference in the lives of youth in the communities it serves. Through the years, the Youth Foundation has fine-tuned its mission and grown its philanthropic presence including its grant giving capacity.

To date, the Youth Foundation has awarded more than \$14.5 million in funding to support youth and Special Olympics athletes across the country. The generosity of our customers who donate online and in-store is what enables Finish Line to continually make an impact in the communities where our employees live, work and play.

FL Youth Foundation offers grants in three categories:

- Programmatic Grant: Up to \$5,000 to fund opportunities for kids to participate in community-based youth athletic programs and camps that emphasize active lifestyles, especially programs that serve disadvantaged and special needs kids.
- Legacy Grant: \$10,000 to \$75,000 to fund new facilities improvements and/or renovations to existing buildings, grounds, and property.
- Founder's Grant: \$5,000 to \$25,000 to fund emergency needs that would somehow be keeping the organization from providing current services, such as natural disasters or other unforeseen fiscal circumstances.

Website: <http://www.finishline.com/store/corporate/youthFoundation.jsp>

Award: varies

Timeframe: There are four grant submission cycles through the year, accepted and reviewed on a quarterly basis.

FUEL UP TO PLAY 60

Fuel Up to Play 60 is an in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by National Dairy Council and NFL, in collaboration with the USDA, to help encourage today's youth to lead healthier lives.

Up to \$4,000 per year is available to qualified K-12 schools enrolled in Fuel Up to Play 60 to jumpstart healthy changes.

Website: <https://www.fueluptoplay60.com/>

Award: Up to \$4,000

Timeframe: November 2, 2016

Contact: Online contact form - <https://www.fueluptoplay60.com/about/contact-us>

GENERAL MILLS FOUNDATION GRANTS

General Mills Foundation philanthropy focuses on:

- Increasing community food security worldwide.
- Advancing the sustainability of agriculture.
- Protecting the natural resources upon which food and people depend.

GM partners with employees to strengthen our hometown communities worldwide through volunteerism and grant-making addressing local community needs.

Website: <https://www.generalmills.com/en/Responsibility/general-mills-foundation/grants>

GO! GRANT

GO! Grants are \$1,000 to \$5,000 grants to elementary schools to spark and sustain physical activity programs that take place before, during or after the school day. The funds may be used for equipment, facilities, professional development for adults and programs that increase students' physical activity to the recommended 60 minutes or more per day. Grants are available in all states and the District of Columbia.

PHIT America GO! Grants have been awarded to almost 300 schools getting children 5-12 years old physically active and healthier. GO! Grants help get children active for the first time or increase their physical activity & fitness level. Leading brands like Nike, adidas, Brooks, ETS, Life Fitness, Wilson, Mizuno, the USTA and many more are investing in the GO! Grants programs.

GO! Grant programs are implemented by three-year partner, KIDS in the GAME, which excels in managing programs which get more kids off the couch and physically active. This program is the ideal way to fight the 'Inactivity Pandemic' which is creating health issues for our children.

Website: <https://www.kidsinthegame.org/go-grant-school-activity-grants/>

Amount: \$1,000 to \$5,000

Timeframe: 2016-2017 deadline has ended

Contact:

875 SE 3rd Street

Suite #240, Bend, OR 97702

Phone: 541-508-3966

Fax: 541-639-3645

Email: info@kidsinthegame.org

HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION, COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT

Grants up to \$5,000 are available to IRS-registered 501c designated organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their community. Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services.

The primary goal is to provide grants and volunteer opportunities to support the renovation, refurbishment, retrofitting, accessibility modifications, and/or weatherization of existing homes, centers, schools and other similar facilities.

Website: <https://corporate.homedepot.com/grants/community-impact-grants>

Amount: up to \$5,000

Timeframe: Rolling deadline. Will receive decision 6 weeks after submission. Last day to submit applications in 2016 is December 31, 2016.

Contact: small_grants@homedepot.com

HOUSTON ENDOWMENT

Houston Endowment works to help create a vibrant community where all people have the opportunity to thrive.

Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones established Houston Endowment in 1937 to improve life for the people of greater Houston. Since its creation the Foundation has focused on our community's most compelling needs.

Today, the Foundation's mission encompasses two overarching and interconnected areas:

- Enhancing the vibrancy of greater Houston
- Advancing equity of opportunity for the people who live here

Houston Endowment invests in sound organizations, proven programs and innovative approaches that align with our mission and vision. Houston Endowment accepts applications from eligible organizations through five programs: Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Health and Human Services.

Houston Endowment makes six general types of investments. Most commonly, applications to the Foundation are for General Operating Support or toward Project Support for a specific project or onetime event. Houston Endowment also considers grants toward Capital Improvement, Building Capacity, Public Policy and Engagement, and Research. Applying organizations will need to select the application that fits the type of grant they seek.

Website: <http://www.houstonendowment.org/GrantGuidelines/Overview.aspx>

Award: varies

Timeframe: Houston Endowment accepts applications throughout the year and has no designated deadlines for the submission of requests.

Contact:

Houston Endowment
600 Travis, Suite 6400
Houston, TX 77002-3000
Phone: 713-238-8100
Fax: 713-238-8101
Email: info@houstonendowment.org

KERR FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Kerr Foundation, Inc. supports 501(c)3 organizations, programs and institutions that provide new or enhanced opportunities in the areas of education, health, cultural development and community service. Preference is given to Oklahoma organizations and institutions, although they recognize that such located outside the state and region can also have a beneficial impact on the economic, social and cultural growth and development of Oklahoma. Grant requests are limited to the following states: Oklahoma, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, and Texas.

Website: <http://www.thekerrfoundation.org/guidelines.php>

Award: varies

Timeframe: Friday, January 13, 2017 - Grant Applications Due for consideration at the March 2017 trustee meeting

Contact:

The Kerr Foundation, Inc.
12501 North May Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
Phone: (405) 749.7991
Fax: (405) 749.2877

LOCKHEED MARTIN COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Lockheed Martin is committed to a program of philanthropy that supports the Corporation's strategic business goals and invests in the quality of life in the communities where Lockheed Martin employees work and live.

In general, philanthropic contributions to national initiatives and organizations are made from corporate headquarters and contributions to local programs are made by Lockheed Martin sites close to the program.

Website: <http://www.lockheedmartin.com/us/who-we-are/community/philanthropy.html>

Amount: varies

Timeframe: Applications are accepted year-round. Evaluations are typically performed quarterly. Some grant applications may not be able to be considered until the next year's budget cycle, particularly those received in the second half of the year.

Contact: Community Relations - community.relations@lmco.com

L.L. BEAN COMMUNITY CHARITABLE GIVING

The L.L. Bean Community Charitable Giving program focuses giving on national and local outdoor conservation and recreation organizations. L.L.Bean has given more than \$14 million to local, state, regional and national conservation organizations in the last ten years. Grants are made only to qualified, federal tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations.

Grants are made in these four categories:

Conservation and Outdoor Recreation: Primary activities include the maintenance and protection of our natural resources; efforts to engage more young people in activities that are relevant to our product line, such as camping, hiking, cycling, canoeing, kayaking, fly fishing, hunting, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing; and programs that have proximity to L.L.Bean Retail Stores. Some of our recipients include the National Park Foundation, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, The Student Conservation Association, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Audubon, Trout Unlimited and National Wild Turkey Federation. For a more comprehensive list, [click here](#).

Health and Human Services: L.L.Bean has donated over \$6 million to health and human service organizations in the past ten years, primarily through the United Way in communities where we have a physical presence. These donations reflect our confidence in the United Way allocation process and our belief in supporting the physical and emotional well-being of our employees, their families and our neighbors. Because of our significant leadership gifts in this area, we are not accepting requests from health and human service organizations at this time.

Education (*only available in Maine): L.L.Bean has contributed over \$4 million to statewide initiatives in Maine such as Junior Achievement and Jobs for Maine's Graduates, as well as local education partnerships. Our support is limited to the following Maine school systems: Freeport, Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick and Bangor. We do not fund education initiatives outside of Maine.

Culture and the Arts (*only available in Maine): We support organizations that enrich the cultural development of our local Maine communities, including the Portland Museum of Art, Maine State Music Theatre and the American Folk Festival in Bangor. We only offer support to arts organizations in Freeport, Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick and Bangor, Maine.

Website: http://www.llbean.com/customerService/aboutLLBean/charitable_giving.html

Amount: varies

Timeframe: Ongoing.

Contact: donationrequest@llbean.com

LOWE'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS GRANT

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation funds nonprofit organizations and public agencies that support our charitable goals. The foundation's primary philanthropic focus centers on K-12 public education and community improvement. Within these areas, Lowe's Foundation is committed to supporting projects that have the greatest impact on our communities and align with their core business.

Lowe's Community Partners grant program helps build better communities by providing monetary assistance to nonprofit organizations and municipalities looking for support of high-need projects such as: building renovations/upgrades, grounds improvements, technology upgrades as well as safety improvements.

Website: https://www.lowes.com/cd_Corporate+Citizenship_674540029_

Website: <https://newsroom.lowes.com/serving-communities/>

Grant applications: <https://newsroom.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/>

Amount: \$2,000 to \$100,000

Timeframe: There are two grant application cycles a year:

Spring Cycle: March 19, 2017 – May 11, 2017

Fall Cycle: July 2, 2017 – August 24, 2017

Contact:

Community Relations

Phone: 704-758-2917

Email: Community@Lowes.com

LOWE'S SMALL GRANTS

The small grants program is an outlet for organizations seeking smaller-scale assistance for non-educational focused projects. These grants range from \$100 to \$2,000. Small grant project requests must also fit within the Giving Guidelines. These requests are received on a rolling basis, with no specific cycle dates.

Website: <https://newsroom.lowes.com/serving-communities/>

Grant applications: <https://newsroom.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/>

Amount: \$100 to \$2,000, distributed as a Lowe's gift card.

Timeframe: Continuous

Contact:

Community Relations

Phone: 704-758-2917

Email: Community@Lowes.com

LOWE'S TOOLBOX FOR EDUCATION GRANT

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation funds nonprofit organizations and public agencies that support our charitable goals. The foundation's primary philanthropic focus centers on K-12 public education and community improvement. Within these areas, Lowe's Foundation is committed to supporting projects that have the greatest impact on our communities and align with their core business.

The Lowe's Toolbox for Education program is designed to help build better schools and communities by offering schools the opportunity to apply for a grant between \$2,000 and \$5,000. Playground projects are eligible under the grant program. Schools can use funding to build a new playground or refurbish old equipment. The Toolbox for Education program also allows for schools to pad the ground with wood chips or rubber matting to make playgrounds safe. In addition, schools may use funding to enhance a playground with handicapped—accessible configurations and build pathways for wheelchair accessibility.

Website: <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/index.html>; <https://newsroom.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/>

Amount: \$2,000 to \$5,000

Timeframe: There are two grant application cycles a year:

Spring Cycle: December 18, 2016 – February 9, 2017

Fall Cycle: August 6, 2017 – September 28, 2017

Contact:

Community Relations

Phone: 704-758-2917

Email: Community@Lowe.com

Email: info@toolboxforeducation.com

MATTEL CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

The Mattel Children's Foundation focuses its strategic grant making on one major objective: Improving the lives of children in need. The Mattel Children's Foundation has developed partnerships with exemplary nonprofit partners that demonstrate this ideal through both compassionate outreach to children and strong financial accountability.

The foundation is driven by the belief that play is essential for all children because it is fundamental to development and learning but millions of children lack access to play. Currently, the foundation is dedicated to supporting nonprofit organizations around the world that make a meaningful difference in the lives of children, and with an emphasis on programs that support or enhance the opportunity for children to play.

Not accepting unsolicited applications at this time.

Website: <http://philanthropy.mattel.com/focus#time>

METLIFE FOUNDATION

MetLife Foundation has committed \$200 million over five years to help low-income individuals and families get access to safe and affordable financial products and services. MetLife Foundation works in both developing and developed economies to expand and improve financial services. We fund approaches that help low- and moderate-income people:

- improve basic cash flow management
- prepare for life's inevitable challenges
- take advantage of opportunities
- achieve their short- and long- term goals

In addition, MetLife sponsors initiatives in other philanthropic areas, expanding beyond the financial health of communities to support for medical research, arts and cultural institutions, disaster relief, and civic initiatives.

Website: https://www.metlife.com/about/corporate-responsibility/metlife-foundation/index.html?WT.ac=GN_about_corporate-responsibility_metlife-foundation

Contact: metlifefoundation@metlife.com

CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION

The Mott Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that are working to strengthen our hometown of Flint and communities around world. The foundation seeks to fulfill its mission of supporting efforts that promote a just, equitable, and sustainable society through these four programs:

Civil Society: efforts to increase civic engagement, encourage charitable giving and help communities make positive change.

Education: efforts to expand learning opportunities and supports for children, particularly those from low- and moderate-income communities.

Environment: programs around the world that protect communities and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

Flint Area: efforts to help our hometown of Flint solve problems, create opportunities and build a vibrant future for the community and its residents.

Funding for unsolicited requests is very limited. Interested entities wanting to submit an idea for funding should first complete a letter of inquiry (LOI) form. Your LOI will help our program staff determine the relevance of proposed project and offer advice on whether to submit a full proposal.

Website: <https://www.mott.org/>

Contact:

Office of Proposal Entry
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Mott Foundation Building
503 S. Saginaw Street, Suite 1200
Flint, MI 48502-1851
U.S.A.

MUSCLE MILK RECOVERY GRANT

The MUSCLE MILK® team awards grants to revitalize high school athletic departments around the country that demonstrate a financial need. The Muscle Milk Recovery Grant™ program helps athletic programs solve immediate needs like purchasing new uniforms, replacing broken equipment or restoring facilities in disrepair.

CytoSport, Inc. (“Sponsor”) believes strongly that sports and exercise are essential to the health, well-being and happiness of children and adults of all ages. As a result, we want to give back to our audience by providing grant money to worthy school or community programs that have a specific need for resources to improve athletic opportunities for kids and young adults. To facilitate this goal, we developed the Muscle Milk® Brand Recovery Grant Program (“Grant Program”), which will provide a series of grants to deserving programs at least four times a year, and maybe more. Each grant will represent a self-contained giveaway with an entry period as defined below.

Website: <http://www.musclemlkrecoverygrant.com/>

Award: varies

Timeframe: Ongoing. In 2016, three grant periods, ending on (i) September 15, 2016; (ii) October 31, 2016; and (iii) December 31, 2016.

Contact: Mail:

1340 Treat Blvd. Suite 350
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
Phone: 1-888-298-6629

NATIONAL SWIMMING POOL FOUNDATION GRANTS

The National Swimming Pool Foundation® is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to encourage healthier living by increasing aquatic activity through education and research. The National Swimming Pool Foundation has established the NSPF Fellowship Program to encourage and support graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who focus research in two areas associated with aquatic venues that are treated to maintain a sanitary condition (e.g. swimming pools, spas/hot tubs, therapy pools, water parks, etc.):

- Research to reduce the risk to people associated with - but not limited to - physical facility design, exposure to chemical or pathogenic contaminants, air quality, drowning, or entrapment, etc.
- Research to investigate and document the positive health consequences of aquatic activities against maladies such as - but not limited to - high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, cancer, aging, physical therapy, arthritis, etc.

Website: <https://www.nspf.org/NSPF-Scholarship-Program-and-Research-Fellowship-Grants>

Award: minimum of \$1,000 and \$2,000

Timeframe: Scholarships are awarded for the fall semester of each year. In order to be considered for the fall 2017 semester, the complete application package must be received by the National Swimming Pool Foundation no later than June 1, 2017.

Contact:

NSPF Fellowship Program
National Swimming Pool Foundation
4775 Granby Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80919-3131
Email: Service@nspf.org

NATURE WORKS EVERYWHERE GRANT

The Nature Works Everywhere program is administered by The Nature Conservancy, a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Nature Works Everywhere gives teachers, students and families everything they need to start exploring and understanding nature around the globe alongside Nature Conservancy scientists. The program offers a grant opportunity to schools across the U.S. to build, amend or revitalize school garden projects with the core principal that gardens model nature on a relatable scale. By combining project-based learning curriculum with a school garden space, students learn conservation-mindedness.

In 2016, the Nature Works Everywhere grant broadened its support for all kinds of projects that involve students in developing a nature-based, green infrastructure solution to an environmental challenge in their community. Whether addressing issues surrounding access to healthy food, air quality, heat island effect, climate change or storm water collection, youth will be empowered as social innovators to model solutions in their school communities through project design and implementation. To accomplish this, the Nature Works Everywhere grant will support projects that implement green infrastructure to address local environmental challenges.

Website: <https://www.natureworkseverywhere.org/home/>

Timeframe: 2016-2017 deadline has ended.

Contact: natureworks@tnc.org

PEOPLE FOR BIKES COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride. Please review the following information carefully before submitting a grant application. Proposals that are incomplete or do not fall within our funding priority areas will not be considered. Visit our Grants Awarded database for examples of funded projects.

PeopleForBikes accepts grant applications from non-profit organizations with a focus on bicycling, active transportation, or community development, from city or county agencies or departments, and from state or federal agencies working locally. PeopleForBikes only funds projects in the United States. Requests must support a specific project or program; we do not grant funds for general operating costs.

PeopleForBikes focuses most grant funds on bicycle infrastructure projects and will also fund some advocacy projects.

Website: <http://www.peopleforbikes.org/pages/community-grants>

Award: Up to \$10,000

Timeframe: PeopleForBikes generally holds 1-2 open grant cycles every year. The 2016 grant cycles have closed.

Contact:

Zoe Kircos, Director of Grants and Partnerships

Phone: 303-449-4893 x106

Email: zoe@peopleforbikes.org

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) funds program and policy initiatives in four areas which are each critical to health equity—enabling everyone in our nation to live a healthier life:

- Health Systems: Catalyzing fundamental changes in health and health care systems to achieve measurably better outcomes for all.
- Healthy Kids, Healthy Weight: Enabling all children to attain their optimal physical, social and emotional well-being, including growing up at a healthy weight.
- Healthy Communities: Creating the conditions that allow communities and their residents to reach their greatest health potential.
- Health Leadership: Engaging a diverse array of leaders in all sectors with the vision, experience, and drive to help build a Culture of Health.
- Specific grant programs are developed by RWJF program staff, in consultation with leading experts in our fields of interest, and with guidance and final approval from our board of trustees.

In many cases, a competitive call for proposals (CFP) is issued that defines the challenges to address, activities RWJF will support to achieve desired outcomes, and eligibility criteria. In addition, funding is also provided through open calls for ideas and different types of challenges and prize competitions.

Website: <http://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants.html>

Funding opportunities: <http://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants/funding-opportunities.html>

Award: varies

Timeframe: ongoing

Contact:

Office of Proposal Management

Email: mail@rwjf.org

Phone: 877-843-7953

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION, EVIDENCE FOR ACTION

Evidence for Action (E4A), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, funds research that expands the evidence base needed to build a Culture of Health. Our mission is to support rigorously designed quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research that yields convincing findings regarding the population health, well-being, and equity impacts of specific policies, programs and partnerships. We are especially interested in research examining the health impacts of programmatic or policy interventions that address factors outside the domain of health care services or public health practice.

Website: <http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2015/evidence-for-action-investigator-initiated-research-to-build-a-culture-of-health.html>

Program website: <http://www.evidenceforaction.org/>

Award: varies. E4A was allocated \$6.6 million in grant funding to award through July 2017.

Timeframe: Rolling basis.

Contact:

Erin Hagan, MBA, PhD, deputy director

Email: evidenceforaction@ucsf.edu

Phone: 415-502-3490

ROTARY, DISTRICT GRANTS

District grants fund small-scale, short-term activities that address needs of a community of a qualified Rotary district. Each district chooses which activities it will fund with these grants. You can use district grants to fund a variety of district and club projects and activities, including:

- Humanitarian projects, including service travel and disaster recovery efforts
- Scholarships for any level, length of time, location, or area of study
- Youth programs, including Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA),

Rotaract, and Interact

-Vocational training teams, which are groups of professionals who travel abroad either to teach local professionals about their field or to learn more about it themselves

Website: <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/apply-grants/district-grants>

SAUCONY RUN FOR GOOD FOUNDATION

The Saucony Run For Good Foundation donates funds to causes aimed at keeping kids healthy and offers grants to reduce the childhood obesity epidemic. Grants are open to community nonprofit organizations that initiate and support running programs for kids.

Website: <http://www.saucony.com/en/runforgood/>

Award: up to \$10,000

Timeframe: Grants are issued twice per year, once in February and once in August. The deadline to apply for those grants are 12/15 and 6/15.

Contact:

191 Spring Street

Mail Drop 318S

Lexington, MA 02420-9191

Email: runforgood@saucony.com

SHANE'S INSPIRATION

Shane's Inspiration is a non-profit organization committed to the creation of inclusive, sensory rich, developmentally appropriate, fun, safe, and challenging playgrounds where children of all abilities can play together at their highest level of ability. Shane's Inspiration offers assistance for the installation of inclusionary playgrounds.

Website: <http://shanesinspiration.org/build/>

Award:

Timeframe: ongoing

Contact:

Brad Thornton,

Phone: 818-988-5676

Email: brad@shanesinspiration.org

USA SWIMMING MAKE A SPLASH GRANT

One of the guiding principles of Make a Splash is to spread the word and mission of the USA Swimming Foundation to every community in the nation. In order to reach the widest audience possible, Make a Splash will partner with learn to swim providers across the country that are willing to promote water safety education to their communities and or provide scholarships for children to participate in their swim lesson programs.

The USA Swimming Foundation awards grants on an annual basis to Make a Splash Local Partners who provide services to young people who, otherwise, would not have the opportunity to participate in water safety instructional programs and/or swimming lessons.

Website: <http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=2092&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>

Award: Up to \$4,000

Timeframe: November 2, 2016

Contact:

Shweta Shreyarathi
Email: sshreyarathi@usaswimming.org
Phone: 719-866-3546

VOYA UNSUNG HEROES

Each year, 100 educators are selected to receive \$2,000 to help fund their innovative class projects. Three of those are chosen to receive the top awards of an additional \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000. The program is administered by Scholarship America, the nation's largest designer and manager of scholarship, tuition assistance and other education support programs for corporations, foundations, associations and individuals.

Applicants to the Voya Unsung Heroes Awards Program must be:

- Employed by an accredited K-12 public or private school located in the United States.
- Full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff with effective and innovative projects that improve student learning.

Website: <https://www.scholarsapply.org/unsungheroes/>

Award: \$2,000 and opportunity to receive "top awards" of an additional \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000

Timeframe: application must be submitted on or before April 30, 2017.

Contact:

Email: unsungheroes@scholarshipamerica.org
Phone: 1-507-931-1682

WALMART COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Through the Community Grant Program, store associates are proud to support the needs of their communities by providing grants to local organizations. Funds must benefit the facility's service area: potential grantees should be nonprofit organizations with programs that benefit communities within the service area of the Walmart store, Sam's Club or Logistics facility from which they are requesting funds.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have identified four core areas of giving: Hunger Relief & Healthy Eating, Sustainability, Women's Economic Empowerment and Opportunity. To ensure that your application has the best chance of being funded, the proposed use of the grant should fit within one of these areas of giving.

Website: <http://giving.walmart.com/walmart-foundation/community-grant-program>

Award: \$250 to \$2,500

Timeframe: The 2016 grant cycle begins Feb. 1, 2016 and the application deadline is Dec. 31, 2016.

WALMART STATE GIVING PROGRAM

The State Giving Program invests in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. The Walmart Foundation has a State Advisory Council in each state, made up of Walmart associates representing local communities. Each Council helps identify local needs within its state, reviews all eligible grant applications and makes funding recommendations to the Walmart Foundation. Councils base recommendations on alignment with Foundation focus areas, state or community needs and program eligibility criteria.

Website: http://corporate.walmart.com/_foundation_/apply-for-grants/state-giving-program

Award: \$25,000 to \$200,000

Timeframe: All states have two application cycles annually. The State Giving Program application is currently closed. The application will reopen early 2017.

WALMART NATIONAL GIVING PROGRAM

The National Giving Program supports organizations working across one or more states to address social issues strongly aligned with our focus areas. This program often provide funds to organizations that have local affiliates around the country, and the majority of grants from this program include re-grants to implement programs in local communities.

Website: <http://giving.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/national-giving>

Award: \$250,000 and above

WELLS FARGO, COMMUNITY GIVING

Wells Fargo and the Wells Fargo Foundation provide monetary support, expertise, and volunteers to national and local nonprofit organizations and causes that align with our business priorities, values, business expertise, and geographies. Wells Fargo works with a wide range of nonprofits and community organizations to stabilize and strengthen low-to-moderate income neighborhoods, as well as address global social, economic, and environmental challenges. Wells Fargo focuses giving in the following areas:

- **Community Development:** programs that help provide affordable housing for low and moderate income individuals; promote economic development by financing small businesses or small farms; provide job training for low and moderate income individuals Provide financial education and promote economic empowerment; help to revitalize low and moderate income communities
- **Education:** Programs that promote academic achievement for low- and moderate-income students with a priority emphasis on K-12; provide training for teachers and administrators working with low- and moderate-income students; encourage school partnerships with parents and guardians, the local community, and the business community.
- **Human Services:** social and human service organizations whose work chiefly benefits low- and moderate-income individuals.
- **Arts and Culture:** Projects and requests that work to enhance community diversity through access to cultural experiences for low- and moderate-income individuals, availability of a broad array of artistic opportunities and venues that reflect the community's diversity, and educational programs.
- **Civic Engagement:** projects that enhance a community's quality of life through projects involving public policy, community beautification, civic leadership, citizen education, and cultural diversity.
- **Environment:** including natural resources conservation, environmental education, and support the transition to a sustainable environment.

Website: <https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/corporate-responsibility/texas-grant-guidelines/>

Amount: Varies

Timeframe: Ongoing.

Contact: Each region in Texas manages its own application process and accordingly has its own contact.

WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY FOUNDATION

The Weyerhaeuser Company is deeply connected to the communities where we operate and have a long history of doing our part to help them thrive. Through the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation, awards are made to programs in the communities where the company operates. The majority of their funding focuses on affordable housing and shelter, education and youth development, environmental stewardship, and human services, civic, and cultural growth.

Website: <http://www.weyerhaeuser.com/sustainability/communities/community-investment/giving-fund/>

Timeframe: The 2016 grant cycle has closed. Information on the 2017 grant cycle will be available January 2017

Contact: Anne.Leyva@weyerhaeuser.com

RESOURCES

GRANTS.GOV

The Grants.gov program management office was established in 2002 and is managed by the Department of Health and Human Services. Grants.gov is an E-Government initiative operating under the governance of the Office of Management and Budget.

Grants.gov is a resource for those seeking grants through federal funding opportunities. The site makes it simple to find grants based on Keyword searches, Categories, Agencies, or Eligibilities.

Website: www.grants.gov

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA)

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) provides a full listing of all Federal programs available to State and local governments (including the District of Columbia); federally-recognized Indian tribal governments; Territories (and possessions) of the United States; domestic public, quasi- public, and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions; specialized groups; and individuals.

Website: <https://www.cfda.gov/?s=program&mode=list&tab=list>



 HALFF

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