

BORGER PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

ADOPTED • JANUARY 5, 2021



CITY OF

BORGER
— TEX★S —

WHERE OPPORTUNITY BOOMS



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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INTRODUCTION



Parks, trails, and recreation amenities are an essential part of a city and important to everyday community life. They provide an opportunity and place for gathering, relaxation, exercise, and play. Parks and recreation amenities contribute to the health of Borger residents, provide social and educational activities for all ages, and preserve and enhance the quality of the natural environment. A quality parks, trails, and recreation system that responds to the needs and values of residents contributes to the community’s livability and quality of life while also attracting visitors to the community and contributing to local economic development.

Map 1, “I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright.” – Henry David Thoreau

Much like streets and sidewalks, water and wastewater connections, drainage facilities, police and fire equipment, and other municipal facilities and services, parks, trails, and recreation spaces are an integral part of Borger’s municipal infrastructure. They warrant an equal level of attention and commitment of resources to adequately acquire, construct, operate, and maintain.

MASTER PLAN PURPOSES

The purpose of the Borger Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan is to determine the community’s current and future needs for improving its parks, trails, and recreation system and to provide for adequate areas and facilities to meet both the short and long-term needs of the community. The Master Plan is a guide for policy and decision-making related to the availability, location, type, scale, and quality of park and recreation opportunities to meet the needs of Borger residents and visitors. The plan considers the needs and priorities based on the current and projected population and development within Borger.

Purposes for development of the system-level Master Plan for a community’s parks, trails, and recreation areas and facilities include:

- Determine current (2020) and future (2040) needs for improving the existing parks, trails, and recreation system;
- Involve community leaders, residents, and other stakeholders in setting priorities for the parks and recreation system and to identify the preferred types, location, and designs of parks and recreation facilities;
- Provide an up-to-date reference document with useful information on local recreation assets for decision makers, advisory boards, recreation enthusiasts, visitors, and all residents;
- Set strategic direction regarding necessary improvements to parks and recreation facilities to respond to issues and gaps identified through a needs assessment, and to frame policies and standards for eliminating existing deficiencies and seizing on opportunities;
- Generate a prioritized action agenda to guide efforts for acquiring, designing, developing, upgrading and maintaining sites and components within the parks and recreation system, in both near-term and long-term timeframes;
- Provide the basis for pursuing grants and other external funding opportunities and for generating community support for local funding options; and
- Align this plan with the City’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan, thereby linking this plan to broader objectives for enhancing livability, promoting economic development and tourism, preserving local natural, historic and cultural assets, and improving community image and appearance.

SETTING AND CONTEXT

The City of Borger is the largest city in Hutchinson County with an estimated population of 13,376 per the 2014-2018 American Community Survey (the U.S. Census Bureau completes these surveys between the official Census every 10 years). According to the 2010 Census, the official population of Borger was 13,251 at that time.

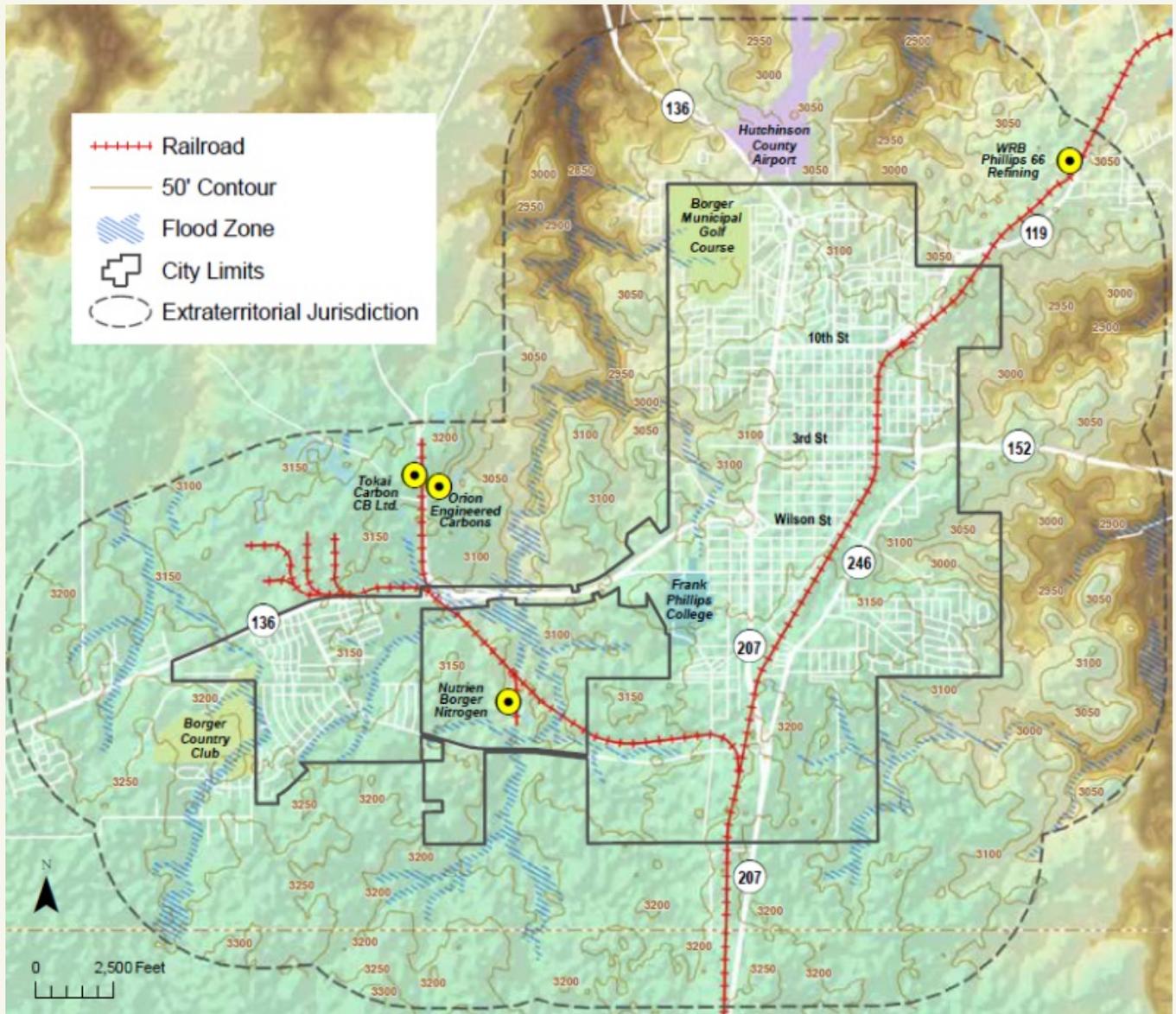
Borger is located in northwestern Texas in an area referred to as the “Panhandle.” As shown on **Map 1, Regional Location and Context**, Borger is approximately 45 miles northeast of Amarillo, and east of Lake Meredith, at the convergence of several state routes (highways 136, 207, and 152). Borger is also accessible via the Hutchinson County Airport and via Amarillo International Airport. The current city limit boundaries encompass a total area of approximately 12 square miles.

Borger lies 3,077 feet above sea level in a region commonly referred to as the “High Plains.” Borger is located in a very interesting geological area of Texas where the high plateau gives way to steeper slopes and varied terrain carved by the nearby Canadian River. While this creates scenic views, it also limits the viability of developing new homes in various areas, and City officials and residents have expressed concern about their community being “land-locked” to new development. The need for expanded and new parks, trails, and recreational facilities is also impacted by housing growth. **Map 2, Borger ETJ**, depicts Borger’s city limits and the areas that comprise the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) which is the main service area for Borger’s parks, trails, and recreation system. This map also illustrates physical factors in and around Borger that affect where and the type of facilities that the City may develop in the future, including topography, areas subject to flooding, railroads and major highway corridors, an airport, and large industrial facilities.

MAP 1, REGIONAL LOCATION AND CONTEXT



MAP 2, BORGER ETJ



CLIMATE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) identifies 10 natural regions or “ecoregions” across the massive Lone Star State. As a result, Texas has widely varying climates and landscapes. The state is situated at the convergence of eastern and western U.S. habitats and of southern subtropical habitats with northern temperate ones. Annual rainfall can range from eight inches in the deserts of far west Texas to 56 inches per year in the swamps of east Texas. Borger is within the Rolling Plains ecoregion in northern Texas.

The climate of Borger has the following key characteristics:

- Average high temperature 92.8 degrees Fahrenheit (July);
- Average low temperature 25.3 degrees Fahrenheit (January);

- Average annual rainfall 23.1 inches; and
- Average annual snowfall 21.1 inches.

Source: https://www.weather-us.com/en/texas-usa/borger-climate#daylight_sunshine

THE ROLLING PLAINS REGION TPWD DESCRIPTION

"Several Texas rivers begin in the gently rolling hills and broad flats of the Rolling Plains. These rivers and their numerous tributaries are responsible for the rolling character of the land. The rivers have cut canyons that shelter some plants and animals typical of the Rocky Mountains. Average annual rainfall is 20 to 28 inches, with peaks in May and September. A summer dry period with high temperatures and high evaporation rates is typical. Soils vary from coarse sands along out wash terraces adjacent to streams, to tight clays and shales. Soil reaction is neutral to slightly alkaline. Elevations vary from 800 to 3,000 feet above sea level. The original prairie grasslands included tall and mid- grasses such as bluestems and gramas. Buffalo grass and other shortgrasses have increased under heavy, uncontrolled grazing. Mesquite is a common invader on all soils. Much of the Rolling Plains today can be described as a mesquite-shortgrass savannah. Stream floodplains are dominated by various hardwood species, and juniper is common on steep slopes along rivers. Steep slopes, cliffs, and canyons occurring just below the edge of the High Plains Caprock comprise the Escarpment Breaks area of the Rolling Plains. The Breaks are an ecotone or transition zone between the High Plains grasslands and the mesquite savannah of the Rolling Plains. Crop and livestock production are the major agricultural industries in this region."



Source: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/hunter-education/online-course/wildlife-conservation/texas-ecoregions>

DEMOGRAPHICS

This section provides selected highlights of local demographics in Borger and the area immediately surrounding the city limits in the Borger ETJ area. More detailed community profiles and other data resources are available from the U.S. Census - American Community Survey 2014-2018 and other official resources. Demographics from the ETJ are included in these highlights as ETJ residents will often utilize Borger parks, trails, and recreational facilities and attend Borger Independent School District (BISD) schools.



POPULATION OF BORGER AND BORGER ETJ

Borger experienced an initial and dramatic increase in population. The first official Census population estimate was 6,532 in 1930. However, it is believed that more than 45,000 people were in the area looking to make their fortunes shortly after the discovery of oil. Based on Census data, there was significant growth in the decades following the City's creation, growing from 0 in 1920 to 20,911 by 1960. Since then the population has declined to 13,376 in 2018. While Borger's population has declined since its peak in the 1960s, the population has stabilized between 13,200 and 13,500 since 2000. An additional 962 persons live in the Borger ETJ area.

MEDIAN AGE

The residents of Borger had a median age of 36.9 years and the combined city and ETJ had a median age of 37.2 years in 2018. This was younger than the U.S. median age of 38.5 years and higher than the State of Texas median age of 35 years.

The Census Bureau also provides the following 2018 age-related indicators for communities:

- 28.5 old-age dependency ratio, which is based on the population age 65 and over (16.5 percent) relative to the adult population between ages 18 to 64. The Texas ratio is 21.3.
- 40.1 child dependency ratio, which is based on the population under age 18 (27.6 percent) relative to the adult population between ages 18 to 64. The Texas ratio is 40.7.
- 72.6 age dependency ratio in Borger, which is based on the combined senior and youth populations relative to the adult population between ages 18 to 64. The Texas ratio is 62.0.

The age dependency ratio estimates that there were 72.6 dependents (those not between the ages of 18- 64) for every 100 non-dependents. This was above the State of Texas (62.0) and U.S. (52.7) ratios as observed in 2018.

INCOME

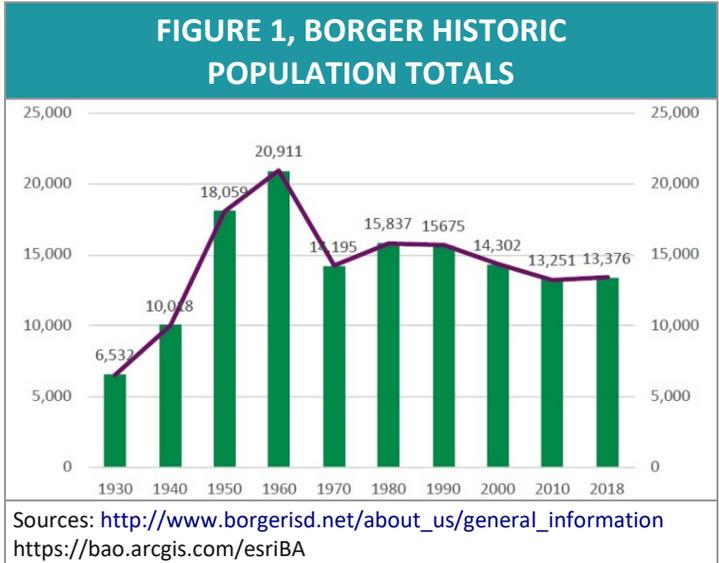
The median income in 2018 for the combined City of Borger and the surrounding ETJ is \$46,712. This is lower than the median income for the State of Texas \$59,767 and \$60,548 in the U.S.

POVERTY LEVEL

The percent of Borger and ETJ households (19.1 percent) that were at or below the poverty level in 2018 was higher than the State of Texas (14.3 percent) and U.S. (13.4 percent).

Sources: <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO>

2014-2018 American Community Survey



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

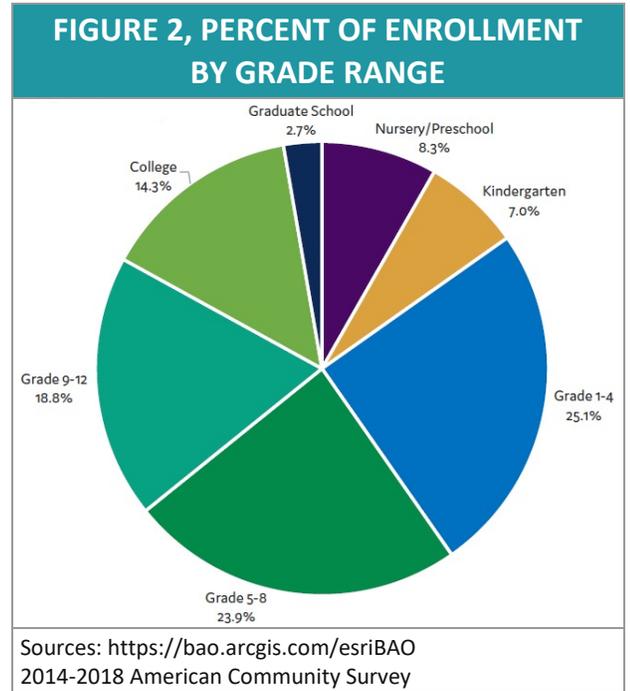
An estimated 15.8 percent of the combined Borger and ETJ residents over the age of 25 had completed a bachelor’s degree program or higher in 2018. This put Borger on par with Hutchinson County (16.1 percent) but below the State of Texas (29.4 percent).

Sources: http://www.borgerisd.net/about_us/general_information

<https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBA>

2,800 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN BISD

BISD had approximately 2,800 students enrolled during the 2018-2019 school year and another approximately 1,500 were enrolled at Frank Phillips College. The majority of Borger citizens that were enrolled in school were elementary through high school students at 67.8 percent of the total student population. Another 15.3 percent were made up of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students for a total of 83.1 percent of all individuals enrolled in the education spectrum. **Figure 2, Percent of Enrollment by Grade Range**, provides a more detailed breakdown.

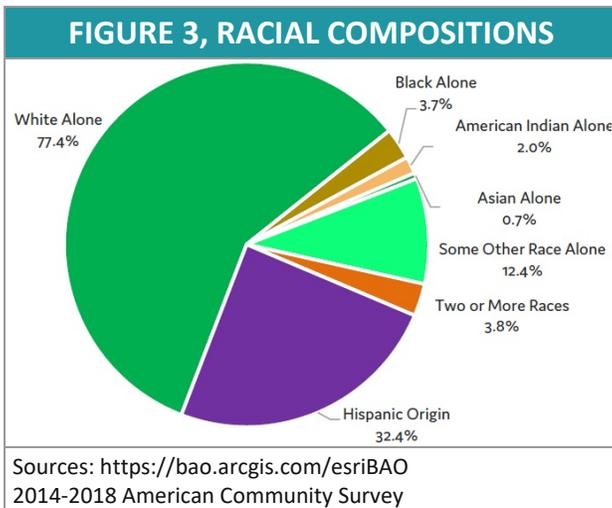


ETHNICITY

The share of Hispanic were of Texas at illustrates the Borger ETJ.

LOCAL

The a variety of residents and



COMPOSITION

Borger and Borger ETJ residents that identified as 32.4 percent in 2018, which was below the State 38.9 percent. **Figure 3, Racial Compositions**, broader racial composition of Borger and the

FACILITIES AND ATTRACTIONS

community of Borger and surrounding area offers leisure amenities and attractions for both visitors, including:

- Hutchison County Historical Museum;

- Johnson Park Youth Center Complex;
 - Outdoor Pool;
 - Disc Golf Course;
 - Nature Trail;
 - Rock Climbing Wall;
 - Dog Park (2020);
 - Skate Park;
 - Horseshoe Facility;
- Cofield Community Center;
- Aluminum Dome Facility;
- Huber Community Building;



- Lake Meredith Recreation Area;
- Alibates Flint Quarry National Monument;
- Ringers Club;
- Borger Country Club and Borger Municipal Golf Courses;
- Adobe Walls Site; and
- Canadian River Basin

CITY ROLE IN PROVISION OF PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

ENSURING AN “ACCEPTABLE PLAN” FOR GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to meeting local needs in Borger, this Master Plan is organized, has the appropriate content, and reflects the leadership, community, and stakeholder input necessary for it to be reviewed and deemed an “acceptable plan” by the TPWD. TPWD has assisted hundreds of communities across Texas with their outdoor recreation needs since 1965 through its grant assistance programs, which enable the local acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities.

TPWD does not require applicants to have a jurisdiction- wide master plan to be eligible for its grant programs. However, an applicant may gain additional points in the TPWD scoring system when the proposed project advances priorities identified in a locally-adopted master plan that is found acceptable by TPWD. The added points are valuable given a highly competitive grant process.

Among the elements of an acceptable plan itemized in the Master Plan Guidelines promulgated by TPWD are:

- Proof of adoption by the local governing body;
- Planning for the City’s entire corporate limits and ETJ;
- At least a 10-year plan outlook, with plan updates occurring every five years at most; and
- Specified plan content contained in this Master Plan (e.g., introductory items and background, **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**, documentation of the plan development process and public input, up-to-date inventory of recreation areas and



The role of Texas cities in the provision of parks, trails, and recreational facilities varies considerably from centralized control and management to almost no city involvement. Borger is one such city that provides parks, trails, and recreation facilities. Borger’s facilities are operated and maintained by the Public Works Department with specific day-to-day operations managed by the Parks Division and Recreation Division.

facilities, **CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS** for the same, needs assessment, and prioritization of needs and plan **IMPLEMENTATION** details).

SOURCE: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/>.

This plan is a community-wide effort that encourages the development of specific park, trail, and recreation initiatives to target the needs of its citizens. Local initiatives can involve City/community partnerships and cooperation. Within the framework of the plan, the City, community-based sports leagues, recreation associations, civic organizations, and the general public are encouraged to evaluate needs and share resources so that a coordinated system of programs and facilities can be planned, designed, constructed, and maintained. As needs and opportunities are discovered by these entities in the future, initiatives can be incorporated into the City’s planning and budgeting processes.

This plan is designed in a manner that adheres to the guidelines of the TPWD, Grants-in-Aid Division, for the preparation of this Master Plan.

AREA ECONOMY

Highlights on the area economy are available from overviews prepared by the Borger Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) and Borger Chamber of Commerce, including:

- A workforce of approximately 100,000 active and available employees covering the radius of Borger, Dumas, Amarillo, and Pampa, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics;
- 15.2 percent of local jobs are in the manufacturing industries, and the local talent pool is especially groomed for heavy industrial manufacturing, petrochemical, plastics, composite materials, machinery manufacturing, power and communication line and related structures construction, retail trade, and data centers;
- Recent international company expansions showcase the advantages Borger has for international companies;
- Proximity to other global companies and the sharing of infrastructure and resources (rail, talent, and adequate connection of utilities and natural resources);
- Central location between East and West Coasts;
- No state income tax;
- The Golden Plains Community Hospital and related business have created a regional healthcare hub/industry cluster in Hutchinson County;
- Borger High School boasts a 96.6 percent graduation rate with many students moving on to specific industry-related job training opportunities at Frank Phillips College;
- BEDC has acquired the land and installed utilities for the Borger Business Park on the south side of Fairlanes Blvd.;
- Numerous small businesses that include a variety of dining, entertainment, and shopping destinations; and
- Job growth has been driven by the City of Borger's continued purchase of future water rights.

LARGEST EMPLOYERS

Borger and the surrounding ETJ area are home to several large employers with international footprints, including:

- Phillips 66 - 700 employees;
- BISD - 513 employees;
- Chevron Phillips Chemical Company - 246 employees;
- Frank Phillips College - 272 employees (includes part-time positions);
- Walmart - 242 employees;
- Golden Plains Community Hospital - 207 employees;
- City of Borger - 170 employees;
- United Supermarkets - 134 employees;
- Tokai Carbon CB, Limited - 126 employees;
- Conner Industries - 110 employees;
- Solvay Specialty Polymers - 109 employees;
- Nutrien Limited - 103 employees;
- SERCO - 75 employees;
- Northwest Insulation Company - 70 employees; and
- Orion Engineered Carbons, Inc. - 62 employees.

sources: <https://borgeredc.com/>

<https://borgerchamber.org/>

American Community Survey 2014-2018



POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Population projections are an important component of any long-range planning process. They help determine and quantify the demands that will be placed on public facilities and services based on the potential pace and scale of the community’s physical growth. These projections serve as a guide to help determine future demand in Borger for existing parks, trails, and recreation amenities and for potential development of new facilities. Projections reflect local, regional, national, and international trends and offer a basis to prepare for the future. However, forecasting population changes can be challenging, particularly for the long term, because it is often difficult to account for all circumstances that may arise. Therefore, it will be important for the City to monitor population and economic growth continually to account for both short- and longer-term shifts that can influence development activity and trends in the community and larger region.

ALTERNATIVE GROWTH SCENARIOS

Demographers caution that population projections become trickier as the geographic area gets smaller, making city- level population the most difficult to forecast. This is because local population change is strongly influenced by less predictable factors such as housing prices, availability of vacant land to develop, and annexation of additional territory, which may already have existing residents and results in an instant increase in the citywide total.

Given this context, the chart below provides a comparison of several potential scenarios for future population changes in Borger. The projections build on the latest population estimate from ESRI of 13,376 for 2018 and identify potential population levels in five-year increments out to 2040. These projections serve as a guide to help determine future demand in Borger for parks, trails, and recreation amenities. However, the growth scenarios below do not include the population living in the Borger ETJ area, since historical records for the ETJ are not available.

As illustrated by the Midpoint Projection line in **Figure 4, Scenarios Chart**, the midpoint of a potential future population range to assume for the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan – between the lower County Step-Down projection and the higher Steady Growth Rate projection – would put Borger’s population at approximately 13,248 in 2020; 13,257 in 2030; and 13,193 in 2040. This equates to 183 fewer residents from 2018. This slight decrease implies that demand for park facilities will also remain relatively stable for the next five to 10 years. However, any potential new residential development will result in an increase in population and facility demand.

FIGURE 4, SCENARIOS CHART



MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

The remainder of the Master Plan includes the following sections:

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section lays out the overarching goals and related objectives that establish the framework for the Master Plan. The goals and objectives will provide ongoing guidance for decision-making as the plan is implemented in the years ahead.

CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS

This section considers general concepts for parks, trails, and recreation facilities design and identifies local standards that provide a foundation for this plan, along with the goals and objectives in the previous section. These concepts and standards were then considered in conducting the needs assessment later in the plan and when determining near-term action priorities for implementing this plan.

AREA AND FACILITY INVENTORY

This section documents the current availability of parks, trails, and recreation assets through an inventory of existing site locations, size, and site-specific features and improvements. The inventory information is an essential input to the needs assessment which focuses on the need for new, expanded, or upgraded sites and facilities based, in part, on the condition and adequacy of existing system assets.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION

This section provides an updated assessment of current and future needs in Borger related to parks, trails, recreation areas, and related facilities. This assessment is an essential input to the next step of defining specific potential projects and improvements to address the identified needs, as well as for prioritizing candidate projects to arrive at a near-term action agenda for implementation of the Master Plan.



PRIORITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

This final section lays out an action agenda for expanding, improving, and enhancing the City’s system of parks and recreation facilities.

APPENDICES

There are three appendices located at the end of this plan. These appendices document and highlight how:

- The sections of this plan align with the TPWD's acceptable plan criteria;
- The various leadership, stakeholder, and community engagement activities that were completed in support of this Master Plan process; and
- The score sheet used to perform park condition assessments.

These activities occurred from May to September 2020, after which a final proposed plan was the subject of a City Council public hearing on January 5, 2021, and then considered by Council for adoption as an official master plan of the City (adopted on January 5, 2021).

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Goals and objectives provide guidance for the development and implementation of the Borger Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan. The needs and desires expressed by the community are reflected in what this plan is expected to accomplish. By providing direction for decision makers, goals and objectives assist the Public Works Department, Parks and Recreation Divisions, Administration Department, and City Council to make the necessary decisions directly related to the parks, trails, and recreation system. These goals and objectives are established for the area-wide jurisdiction; for Borger, this includes the city limits and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), as required by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other potential sources of funding.

GOALS

Goals are statements of the needs and priorities of the citizens. In developing goals, the community and other stakeholders with diverse backgrounds and interests are provided the opportunity to collectively agree on common directions to achieve a desirable parks, trails, and recreation system. Establishing goals enhances awareness as to the interests of the population and encourages communication and consensus for a unified approach to implementation.

PLAN PRINCIPLES

Goals are based on a series of planning principles to ensure a balance between the interest of the public and private sectors, indoor and outdoor opportunities, facilities, open space, and the management of all these services. These principles include:

- All people should have equal access to recreational areas, activities, services, and facilities regardless of personal interest, age, gender, income, cultural background, housing environment, or disability;
- Public parks and recreational programming should promote public gatherings and community interaction, including college students, visitors, and seasonal workers during their time in Borger;
- Public recreation should be highly coordinated with other public institutions and private entities to encourage cooperation and avoid duplication;
- Public recreation should incorporate public services such as education, health and fitness, local transportation, cultural amenities and public art, and other leisure activities and should include affordable and family-oriented activities;
- Facilities should be well planned and coordinated to ensure adequate adaptability to future needs and requirements, including consideration of the maintenance implications of each new or renovated facility;
- The availability of financial resources should be considered in all phases of planning, acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of spaces and facilities;
- Public participation is critical to the ongoing success and effectiveness of the parks and recreation system in responding to user needs and interests and should, therefore, be included in all stages of the process;
- The process should offer continuous opportunities for incremental evaluation and review;
- Other existing plans that affect the area should be integrated into the final recommendations and ultimately in implementation;
- There should be established procedures for acquiring land for future parks, trails, and recreation areas and facilities, including through partnership opportunities with other public agencies and private entities as appropriate;
- The design of spaces and facilities should encourage the most efficient utilization of land, water, and energy resources and consider the needs, desires, and opinions of the intended users; and
- The design of overall sites and specific features should utilize themes, motifs, and elements that reflect Borger's history, local environment, and physical context, consistent with community branding and beautification objectives.

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PILLARS

As part of the 2018 Annual Report, City leaders identified the following five Strategic Pillars:

- Community Involvement;
- Entertainment Events;
- Housing;
- Industry Diversification; and
- Infrastructure.

Many of the desired outcomes stated in these pillars are tied to prioritizing a high quality of life for Borger residents through the creation of events, sports facilities, and partnerships with local government and non-profit entities. These priorities are also reflected in and tied to the goals and objectives of this Master Plan.



A comprehensive and integrated parks and recreation system that is well maintained, takes advantage of the area's natural resources, accommodates existing and future recreational needs of residents and visitors, and protects and enhances the natural environment will result as the goals and objectives are addressed and applied.

OBJECTIVES

Objectives are strategies or actions to attain the community's desires envisioned by the statement of goals. They are a means for achieving the goals. Objectives answer the question of "how" the goals are achieved. They are generally long term and will take time to accomplish. Actual projects that are the outcomes of the objectives will be implemented when the City can afford to proceed.

BORGER PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following are the goals and objectives developed for this Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan. They are based on sound planning principles and the results of various community and stakeholder engagement activities:

Goal 1: A safe, updated, and inviting parks, trails, and recreation system that meets the needs of residents and visitors.

Objective 6.1: Improve off-site accessibility to each park by developing a sidewalk improvement program to repair, replace, or install new sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb cuts, remove barriers, and address steep slopes immediately surrounding parks, schools, and other community facilities.

Objective 6.2: Work to improve on-site accessibility for persons with physical disabilities, elderly, and people with strollers, among others, so that one can travel from off-site (i.e., neighborhoods) or the parking lot and into and through the park to each amenity.

Objective 6.3: Ensure that Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant handicapped accessible ramps, play structures, and equipment are incorporated into Borger's parks, trails, and recreational areas.

Objective 6.4: Develop a priority parks, trails, and recreation areas project list and integrate into a formalized capital improvements planning process recommended in the recently adopted City of Borger Comprehensive Plan.



Goal 2: A pedestrian and bicycle network of sidewalks, trails and bikeways which connects residential areas to parks, schools, workplaces, shopping, major open spaces and other destinations while providing alternative routes for circulation and access.

Objective 6.1: Continue to monitor opportunities to acquire and develop greenbelt corridors, bicycle and pedestrian trails and routes, and linear parks that can provide a safe secure connection between homes and parks, recreation areas, facilities, schools, Frank Phillips College, local businesses, Downtown, and other activity centers.

Objective 6.2: Incorporate historic or plant/habitat identification markers into nature trails and at community parks to promote Borger's interesting history and to highlight firewise plant species.

Objective 6.3: Ensure that all public trails offer segments that are ADA compliant for access and enjoyment by disabled residents and visitors.

Goal 3: A right-sized and efficient park system that reduces costly maintenance burdens.

Objective 6.1: Examine the potential to consolidate parks spaces, particularly within areas that are currently over-served by small and/or underutilized parks to focus resources at higher use parks. Borger currently has 11 parks classified as mini-parks (less than one acre in size). The high number of small parks stretches maintenance resources and may limit funding for regular upgrades and replacement of park equipment at other park sites. Other parks lack any formal equipment or programming.

Objective 6.2: Encourage community gardens and local food production to promote healthy food consumption, particularly the conversion of small mini-parks that may be underutilized.

Objective 6.3: Plant low maintenance firewise and xeriscape plant materials in low activity parks to reduce maintenance costs.

Objective 6.4: Add unique equipment, features, and facilities that are not currently present in Borger to underutilized parks to increase visitation and utilization of existing parkland and assets.

Objective 6.5: Evaluate/study the feasibility of creating a new or re-purposing existing facilities into a multiple sporting events complex.

- Goal 4:** An inclusive parks, trails, and recreation system that provides opportunities for individuals, including youth, families, and seniors to participate in cultural, recreational, and educational activities that foster health and wellness and strengthen the body and mind.
- Objective 6.1:** Evaluate additional passive recreational enhancements for particular demographics that may not be engaged in organized, team-oriented, active recreational programming, including young people not involved in team sports, adults, and elderly citizens.
 - Objective 6.2:** Continue to solicit involvement of organizations, businesses, and individuals for the new Make Borger Beautiful Adopt-a-Spot program.
 - Objective 6.3:** Create an Adopt-a-Park program to support park clean-up and improvements, as well as encouraging community groups and local artists to sponsor or paint art in and around parks, as identified in the Make Borger Beautiful 2019 Strategic Plan.
- Goal 5:** Parks, trails, and recreation amenities and resources that are promoted and appreciated for their contribution to Borger's economic development and overall community appeal.
- Objective 6.1:** Promote Borger as a regional destination for parks and recreation to attract tourists and businesses.
 - Objective 6.2:** Increase communication about potential partnerships and opportunities for involvement in parks, trails and recreation system improvements.
 - Objective 6.3:** Develop more opportunities to incorporate park, trail, and recreation amenities into the downtown area to enhance Downtown Borger such as bike lanes, wider sidewalks, interactive play areas/features for kids, and public entertainment venues as recommended in the Downtown Borger Revitalization Plan.
- Goal 6:** Use of cooperative agreements and coordinated efforts with other governmental jurisdictions, school district, Frank Phillips College, and private sector entities to advance the goals and priorities of this Master Plan.
- Objective 6.1:** Continue to build on mutually beneficial relationships with BISD, Hutchinson County, Frank Phillips College, and other appropriate public, private and non-profit entities, including for joint acquisition of land or development, operation, and maintenance of buildings and facilities as appropriate.
 - Objective 6.2:** Seek public-private partnerships to fund development and ongoing operation and maintenance of major facilities.
 - Objective 6.3:** Utilize Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) #1 to assist with the funding of new public park, trail, and recreation amenities and enhancements within the TIRZ when feasible.

CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS



This Master Plan section considers general concepts and standards for park and recreation facility design and frames localized standards along with the [GOALS AND OBJECTIVES](#) from the previous section. These concepts and standards were then considered in conducting the needs assessment and when determining near-term action priorities for implementing this plan. While planning standards are ultimately derived locally and based on residents' stated desires, they take into account statewide and [NATIONAL METRICS](#) and guidelines as applicable to Borger including research and national trends accumulated by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) among other resources. Customization of standards reflects demographic, economic, physical, environmental, and other local factors that may vary from conditions elsewhere, as well as local values and preferences as captured through the community and leadership input obtained during this planning process.

NATIONAL METRICS

The NRPA conducts an annual survey of park facility providers and summarizes the findings in its annual NRPA Agency Performance Review. General metrics reported in this document provide a comparison point for the evaluation of existing parks and future needs described in the Inventory and **NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION** sections of this plan. The numbers summarized below are the most relevant to Borger and are specific to cities with a population of 20,000 or less.

The following three metrics describe general community-wide levels of service for park and trail space as observed by the NRPA in its annual survey.



ACRES OF PARKLAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS - 12.0 (MEDIAN VALUE)



NUMBER OF RESIDENTS SERVED BY ONE PARK - 1,300 (MEDIAN VALUE)



MILES OF TRAIL MANAGED - 11.0 (MEDIAN VALUE)

Table 1, Median Population per Facility Type, displays the median number metric of people served by specific park facility types, as reported by the NRPA's annual survey. The two right columns estimate the quantity of each facility type that may satisfy the needs for a community with a population of 20,000, and a community with a population of 13,376 (the estimated population of Borger in 2018). The later Inventory section of this plan details how many of each facility type listed below (and those not listed) existed in Borger at the time the inventory was performed.



TABLE 1, MEDIAN POPULATION PER FACILITY TYPE

FACILITY TYPE	MEDIAN POPULATION PER FACILITY 20,000 AND UNDER	ESTIMATED FACILITIES NEEDED BASED ON POPULATION OF 20,000	ESTIMATED FACILITIES NEEDED BASED ON POPULATION OF 13,376 (BORGER 2018 ESTIMATE)
Playgrounds	2,523	8	5
Basketball courts	4,090	5	3
Outdoor tennis courts	2,922	7	5
Baseball field - youth	3,396	6	4
Baseball field - adult	7,804	3	2
Softball field - youth	5,691	4	2
Softball field - adult	5,072	4	3
Multi-purpose field	4,683	4	3
Dog park	10,000	2	1
Outdoor swimming pool	8,023	2	2
Tot-lots	6,998	3	2
Community gardens	7,914	3	2
Multi-use courts	7,866	3	2
Soccer field - youth	3,294	6	4
Soccer field - adult	7,665	3	2
Skate park	10,118	2	1
Football field	7,500	3	2
Recreation centers	31,141	1	0
Community centers	28,939	1	0
Performance amphitheater	62,475	0	0
Nature centers	109,796	0	0
Stadiums	66,972	0	0
Indoor ice rink	53,000	0	0
Teen center	64,000	0	0

A WORD ON NRPA RESOURCES IN 2020

The NRPA has moved away from specific park area and facilities standards, for the reasons described in the November 2019 Parks & Recreation Magazine article, "NRPA Park Metrics Replaces NRPA Areas and Facilities Standards," and summarized below:

"Standards' is a word we hear often at NRPA. More specifically, park and recreation professionals ask us about the 'NRPA Standards' nearly once a week, and it also came up at the membership booth at this year's conference. This is impressive because the NRPA Areas and Facilities Standards has not been updated in more than two decades and will never again be updated."

"The reason for this is simple: There is not a single set of standards for parks and recreation that could possibly encompass the uniqueness found in every community across the country. Communities vary greatly by size, needs and desires; so too should their park and recreation agencies' offerings. To think an agency in Alaska, one in Kansas, and one in south Florida should hold themselves to the same standards is unrealistic, impractical, and potentially detrimental." – Melissa May, Senior Research Manager



Instead of using data collected to generate "standards", the NRPA has moved towards "Park Metrics" based on annual survey data and summarized in Table 1, Median Population per Facility Type. However, these metrics are no longer intended to serve as standards, but as useful comparisons while incorporating a local community's unique circumstances to establish guidelines that are meaningful to residents and visitors.

Parks Classification System

The development of standards for parks and recreation areas is dependent upon local population characteristics. For example, a community with a substantial portion of its population in younger age groups will require standards much different from a community with a more mature population. Young adults and youth require facilities for active recreation whereas mature adults are generally more interested in leisure activities and passive recreation. Well-designed park, trail, and recreation systems should account for the needs of all users including children and mature adults. The standards adopted should also reflect the uniqueness of the population and represent the parks users' interests and desires. A variety of sizes and types of parks and recreation facilities are recommended to satisfy diverse individual interests, ensure adequate and equal opportunity, and to encourage use by all population groups. The classifications of parks to accomplish this in Borger are detail in **Table 2, Park Classification Details:**

TABLE 2, PARK CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

MINI/POCKET PARKS		
<p>Specialized facilities that address unique, limited or isolated recreational or public space needs (and/or the needs of a specific population group). Often found in higher-density areas or in conjunction with unique attractions/developments.</p>	<p>SERVICE AREA Close proximity to existing residences or new developments.</p> <p>DESIRABLE SIZE Less than one acre.</p>	<p>EXAMPLE FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sitting areas/benches; • Landscaping; • Pedestrian-level lighting; • Bicycle racks; • Educational signage/kiosks; • Performance stage/area; • Public art; • Water fountain; and • Community gardens.
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS		
<p>Small parks that serve neighborhood residents within walking distance, with facilities for both active use (e.g., playgrounds, sports) and passive use (e.g., walking, picnicking, open space).</p>	<p>SERVICE AREA Primarily serve neighborhood residents within 1/4 to 1/2 mile.</p> <p>DESIRABLE SIZE One acre to five acres minimum (varies based on nearby population and density, property availability, method and timing of acquisition, and intended use).</p>	<p>EXAMPLE FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centrally located within a residential neighborhood for convenient and safe access; • Evenly distributed across a city (one-mile separation ideally); • Sometimes joint school/city facilities (similar scale); • Active and passive facilities suitable to the neighborhood served; and • Facilities and activities to promote healthy living.
COMMUNITY PARKS		

TABLE 2, PARK CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

<p>Larger parks that still serve nearby residents but also draw others from elsewhere in the community for a wider range of facilities and activities.</p>	<p>SERVICE AREA Primarily serve residents within one to two miles, but available to all residents.</p> <p>DESIRABLE SIZE Five to 25 acres minimum.</p>	<p>EXAMPLE FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located for visibility and convenient access by residents nearby and from farther distances (often near an arterial street); • Evenly distributed across city (two-mile separation ideally); • Large-scale athletic fields and court complexes for active recreation and sports leagues (plus swimming pools, walking/jogging paths, exercise stations, open play areas, playgrounds); • Lighting for evening use; • Outdoor spaces and other facilities such as community centers for passive recreation and leisure activities (picnic areas, bird watching, strolling); • Nature features; • Restrooms; and • Adequate on- and off-street parking.
<p>REGIONAL FACILITIES</p>		

TABLE 2, PARK CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

<p>Facilities designed to accommodate large numbers of visitors from across the city and the broader region, especially to provide access to natural amenities for fishing, boating, camping, nature observation, and conservation activities, etc.</p>	<p>SERVICE AREA Citywide and surrounding region. DESIRABLE SIZE Typically 100 plus acres minimum, but varies by size of community and regional population.</p>	<p>EXAMPLE FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located for visibility and convenient access by many visitors (often near a highway and/or major arterial street); • Often acquired and designed to preserve special natural or cultural resource areas (and, therefore, often buffered from nearby urban development); • Specific features and facilities vary widely based on location and region served, but typically include a wide range for active and passive recreation, including unique activities (e.g., motocross riding facility); and • May include facilities for hosting regional special events (fairs, concerts, exhibitions).
<p>SPECIAL USE FACILITIES</p>		
<p>Facilities that serve the entire community or broader area for specialized recreational or leisure activities (e.g., performance, arts, and music venues).</p>	<p>SERVICE AREA Available to all persons (may draw visitation from long distances depending on nature and scale). DESIRABLE SIZE Varies by type.</p>	<p>EXAMPLE FEATURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor or outdoor; • Cultural/educational facilities; • Unique additions to a traditional parks and recreation system (e.g., civic center, amphitheater, water park, museum, arboretum, professional sports stadium or amateur tournament complex); and • Typically emphasize one or two specific uses (e.g., golf) versus a mix of active and passive facilities.
<p>LINEAR PARKS</p>		

TABLE 2, PARK CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

		EXAMPLE FEATURES
Facilities for passive or active recreational use that often serve as a linkage or connection between two or more parks and recreation areas, neighborhoods, schools, and other community activity areas.	<p>SERVICE AREA Available to all persons (may draw visitation from long distances depending on nature and scale).</p> <p>DESIRABLE SIZE Length varies. Six to 10 feet wide depending on features and number of travel lanes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenway corridors; • Along creeks, canyons, or other rights-of-way; • Nature trails; • Shared use with streets and alleys; and • Historical walks/self-guided tours.

SITE EVALUATION CRITERIA

An assortment of factors influence the suitable location of parks, trails, and recreation areas. Among them are the surrounding land use characteristics, potential physical development constraints and barriers, ongoing maintenance needs, size, and anticipated ongoing use of the amenity. Input from the community should be a primary determinant in the design and/or reevaluation of park facilities. Particularly for neighborhood parks, the feedback of adjacent property owners is important to ensure the park is compatible with the neighborhood and will not create problems associated with excessive noise, light, and other environmental impacts.

An important factor in reviewing the adequacy of a parks, trails, and recreation system is the existence of physical barriers. Barriers such as arterial (primary) roadways and other streets may impede the safety and convenience of walking or riding a bike to a nearby park. Physical obstructions must, therefore, be carefully considered in locating park facilities.

The general site selection evaluation and principal considerations include the following factors:

SOILS

- Depending on the nature of the potential park/ recreation use, topsoil on the site should be suitable for turf grasses and trees; and
- The site should be conducive to minimal or cost- effective measures to minimize soil erosion during construction and designed to avoid erosion upon completion (e.g., through storm water best management practices, retaining walls or other physical measures where necessary, etc.).

LOCATION AND ACCESS

- All sites should be readily accessible to their envisioned users and convenient for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists, with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible ramps, crosswalks, and sidewalks leading to the park, as appropriate;
- Sites should generally be accessible from collector (secondary) streets rather than arterial (primary) roadways, except for high-intensity facilities with likely significant vehicular trip generation such as a sports complex;
- Sites should be away from designated truck routes;
- Parks should be located adjacent to trails and greenways, and vice versa, to provide linkages to neighborhoods and other areas of the community;
- Land of historic or cultural significance may be attractive for parks or trail development as a conservation tool; and
- Joint use of sites for public recreation and school- related recreational and sports uses is highly desirable to maximize the public benefit and to be efficient in the expenditure of public resources.

TOPOGRAPHY

- The site should have an appropriate land surface configuration (relief) to accommodate its intended uses such as sports fields, open play areas or hike/bike trails;
- Some topographic variety is desirable to create visual interest and to offer additional opportunities for more intensive recreational uses such as mountain biking and fitness hiking and running;
- The site should have sufficient slope to allow for adequate storm water drainage from sports fields and other developed areas;
- Sites with low areas that retain water or with undevelopable floodplain or wetland areas may still be attractive for passive recreation uses (e.g., bird watching, nature hikes, picnics, etc.); and
- Desirable views into and away from the site should be preserved and protected.

VEGETATION

- The site should have natural vegetation or be conducive for planted vegetation that will include hardy, low-maintenance species, including xeriscaping approaches that will minimize required irrigation and maintenance in the context of the local climate;
- Significant individual specimens and unique wildlife habitats are desirable;
- Depending on the nature of the potential park/ recreation use, the site should be conducive for irrigation systems for intensively used areas (e.g., sports fields) and landscaped areas that will require more frequent watering; and
- The site should feature mature natural vegetation or appropriate conditions for plantings that will provide necessary shade, especially in proximity to areas envisioned for sports fields and courts, picnic areas, playgrounds, walking paths/trails, passive areas, etc.

LOCAL STANDARDS

Table 3, Local Standards and Their Potential Implications provides statements that reflect local values and preferences for parks and recreation facilities. The second column itemizes siting and design considerations and potential improvements that might be pursued based on these local standards.

TABLE 3, LOCAL STANDARDS AND THEIR POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

LOCAL STANDARD	POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR SITING, DESIGN, AND IMPROVEMENTS
<p>Provide a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities and facilities that will serve all residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System components (e.g., parks, trails/trailheads, sports facilities, etc.) distributed geographically across the community; • Diversity of park and facility types and designs; • Wide-ranging recreational programming for all age groups; • Reduction of overlapping facilities/equipment in parks where service areas overlap; • Age-appropriate designs and features for different age levels of children, adult, and senior populations; • Trail linkages from adjacent neighborhoods, local streets and cul-de-sacs, and across physical barriers such as busy streets, creeks, etc.; • Loop trails and other trail/sidewalk cross-connections; • “Outdoor classroom” areas and other environmental education and stewardship elements and programming; • Potential co-location and joint use arrangements with school campuses, utility corridors and easements, railroad corridors; and • Wayfinding signage.
<p>Offer facilities and activities for special interest groups (e.g., trail users, sports associations, nature enthusiasts, etc.).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport-specific facilities (e.g., baseball, soccer, softball); • Stretching and exercise stations/equipment, mileage markers on trails; • Trailheads; • Trail widths, surfacing, single- and shared-use designs; • Shaded turf areas/benches for relaxation and meditation; • Extended and new nature trails; • Family-oriented improvements and programming; • Covered pavilions for group gatherings; • Gardens for passive enjoyment and hands-on activities (e.g., community gardens, garden clubs, 4-H programming, etc.); • Dog parks; • Off-road bike trails; • Informational kiosks that highlight native plants or historical sites; • Events catered to children, seniors, and adults at indoor community centers; • Interpretive/educational signage; and • Coordination of road/bridge/underpass improvements with trail continuity and long-distance running/biking considerations.
<p>Modernize old parks by replacing unsafe, obsolete, and damaged equipment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall zone size, design, and materials; • Other injury prevention considerations and features; • Naturalistic playground designs; and • Creative and sensory learning playground designs.

TABLE 3, LOCAL STANDARDS AND THEIR POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

LOCAL STANDARD	POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR SITING, DESIGN, AND IMPROVEMENTS
<p>Provide improved general population and handicapped accessibility to all park, trail, and recreation facilities, both new and existing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage regarding accessibility levels at park and trail access points; • Accessible design of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Athletic field viewing/seating areas; - Concessions areas; - Dog park entries; - Drinking fountains; - Indoor recreation facilities; - Picnic tables and grills; - Parking areas; - Playscapes; - Restrooms; - Sidewalks and loop trails within parks; - Splash pads and other water recreation; - Sports courts; and - Trail segments and sidewalks for park ingress/egress.
<p>Modify underutilized parks with new facility types and programming that are not prevalent in Borger with naturalized low-maintenance open spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age-appropriate facilities, improvements and programming/activities; • Potential co-location and joint use arrangements with youth/teen centers; • Device charging kiosks; • Community gardens and other hands-on activities; • Evening programming/activities; • Arts and creativity elements and programming; • Incorporate local interests that may also attract visitors from outside the area such as off-road bike trails or motocross courses; • Low maintenance xeriscaped naturalized areas; and • Community involvement in all stages of design, programming, operation and maintenance, including employment and volunteer opportunities.
<p>Evaluate low-use parks with overlapping service areas, a limited number of features, and existing stormwater drainage conveyance to determine if they should become completely naturalized passive greenspace.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low maintenance xeriscaped naturalized areas; • Potential for walking paths along creek beds or natural plantings; • Utilize plantings that thrive along drainage areas; and • Remove concrete stormwater conveyance ditches.

TABLE 3, LOCAL STANDARDS AND THEIR POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

LOCAL STANDARD	POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR SITING, DESIGN, AND IMPROVEMENTS
<p>Improve neighborhood parks to where they are inviting, hospitable and safe venues for outdoor recreation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural or installed shade features; • Landscaping; • Design principles to promote visibility and security of park users; • Restrooms; • Drinking fountains; • Lighting; • Fencing where needed around certain activity areas (e.g., playgrounds, spray stations, basketball courts, etc.); • Sidewalks and crosswalks in park vicinities; • New or updated grills/cooking facilities; • Bike racks; • Emergency call boxes; and • Emergency vehicle access.

NEW CONCEPTS FOR BORGER (COMMUNITY GARDEN EXAMPLE)



Various areas of Borger have multiple mini, neighborhood, and community parks within close proximity to one another. While abundant park space is welcome, this can also lead to increased maintenance costs, overlapping services, and a proliferation of specific equipment/facility types. Recognizing these factors, this Plan is proposing the incorporation of facility types that create new features, reduce redundancy, and lower upkeep requirements.

This conceptual plan illustrates this idea through the use of a community garden.

This sketch demonstrates how new community garden plots are placed in neighborhood park for residents to grow produce and flowers while out of date or non-ADA compliant playground equipment is removed. Not only does this amenity provide a new community asset, nearby residents may assist with maintenance to help reduce funding for these facilities.

AREA AND FACILITY INVENTORY



This Master Plan section documents the current availability of parks, trails, and recreation assets for the enjoyment of Borger residents and visitors through an inventory of existing site locations, sizes, and site-specific features and improvements. The inventory focuses primarily on City-owned and maintained sites and facilities as the foundation of a community parks, trails, and recreation system. This section also includes an additional summary of non-profit and private recreational opportunities in the area, especially those associated with the Borger Independent School District (BISD) campuses, Frank Phillips College, and regional/aquatic activities at Lake Meredith. Inventory information is an essential input to the next Master Plan section **NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION**. This future section focuses on the need for expanded, upgraded, and re-envisioned facilities based, in part, on the condition, adequacy, and abundance of the existing system assets.

PUBLIC PARKS INVENTORY

OVERALL PARK INVENTORY

The City of Borger operates and maintains 29 park facilities spread throughout the city in 28 separate locations. The system has a combined acreage of 187.7, not including the 120-acre Borger Municipal Golf Course. The mini/pocket and neighborhood park classifications make up the majority (23) of all parks with a size range of 0.0 to 3.7 acres. Based on the size and/or type of amenities offered, the remaining sites fit into the community, special use, or linear park classifications as described in the [CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS](#) section.

Borger's parks, trails, and recreation system contains numerous similar-sized parks throughout the city. Summaries of all the parks have been separated into the following tables - organized by park classification to help identify overlapping or missing amenities specific to each park type:

- **Table 5, Mini/Pocket Park Inventory and Features;**
- **Table 6, Neighborhood Park Inventory and Features; and**
- **Table 7, Community, Special Use, and Linear Park Inventory and Features.**

Included in these tables are each park's assets, size (acres), and general location.

Table 8, Total Parks Inventory Summary, later in this section, provides an aggregate number of outdoor amenities and facilities for all Borger park sites.

PARK CLASSIFICATION

Table 4, Park Classifications groups Borger's parks into identified park classifications as stated in the [CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS](#) section. The table also highlights how many of each type comprises the entire park system.

PARK LOCATION

Map 3, Park Location Map, shows the location and geographic distribution of all park sites in the city. The park identification numbers correspond with those displayed in **Table 4, Park Classifications**.

TABLE 4, PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

PARK NAME	MAP NUMBER
MINI/POCKET PARKS (11 TOTAL)	
Center City Park	18
Crawford Park (Museum)	17
Little Keeler Park (Playground)	25
Country Club Park (Bagwell Street)	2
East Coronado Park	8
Nelson-Johnson Park	10
South Coronado Park	15
West Gateway Park	11
Santa Fe Park	24
West Coronado Park	7
North Gateway Park	5
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS (12 TOTAL)	
Eastside Park	21
Keith-Elmore Park	9
Gateway Circle Park	12
South Hughes Park	13
Fritz Thompson Park	20
Grace Meredith Park (N. Circle)	3
Rock Creek Park	16
Cofield Park	14
North Hughes Park (Skittles Park)	6
Bunavista Park	1
Yucca Park	23
Keeler Kiwanis Park	26
COMMUNITY PARKS (2 TOTAL)	
Huber Park	22
Johnson Sports Complex	19
SPECIAL USE PARKS (3 TOTAL)	
Huber Ball Park	27
Veta Soccer Park	4
Agnes Howe Park	28
LINEAR PARK (1 TOTAL)	
Nature Trail (Johnson Sports Complex)	19

TABLE 5, MINI/POCKET PARK INVENTORY AND FEATURES

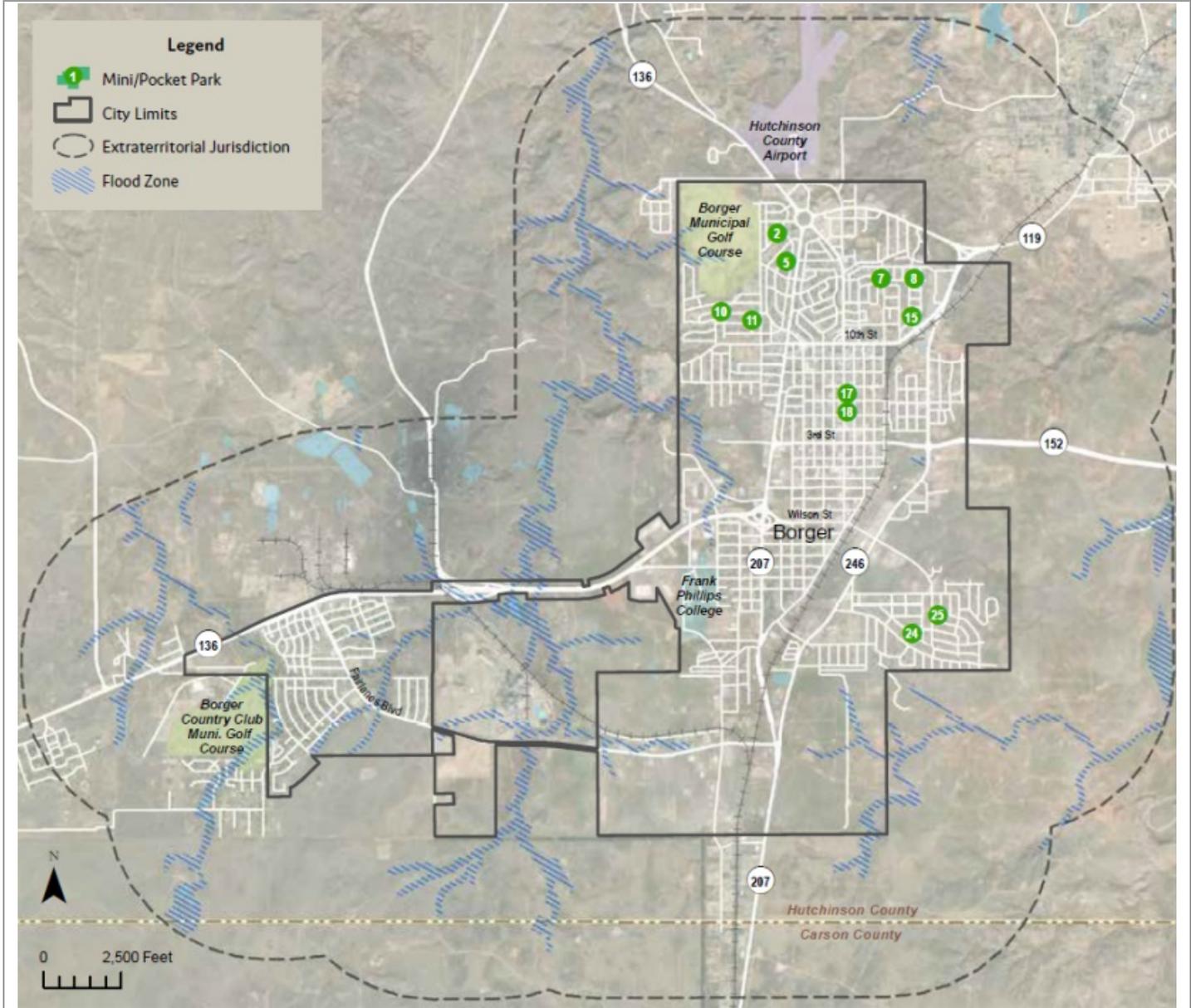
PARK NAMES	CENTER CITY PARK	CRAWFORD PARK (MUSEUM)	LITTLE KEELER PARK (PLAYGROUND)	COUNTRY CLUB PARK (BAGWELL STREET)	EAST CORONADO PARK	NELSON-JOHNSON PARK
MAP NUMBER	18	17	25	2	8	10
Bike rack						
Parking						
On-/off-street				On		
Paved				Yes		
Striped				No		
Amenities						
Bench	5	1		1	1	
Drinking fountain						
Lighting	Yes		Yes			
Restroom						
Sidewalks (internal)	Yes	Yes				
Trash receptacle	1	1				
Pergola seating	2					
Picnic table			1	1		
Grill						
Playground/playscape			1	3	3	5
Open play/multi-purpose field			1		1	1
Sports Courts						
Basketball					1 Goal	
Monument/plaque/exhibit	1	3			1	1
Public art/statue		1				
Acres	0.07	0.13	0.24	0.39	0.47	0.47
Location	500 Block of Main Street	Main Street next to City Hall	Garrett Street (west of Brown Street)	Latimer and Bagwell Streets	Turner and Yows Streets	Nelson and Johnson Streets
PARK NAMES	SOUTH CORONADO PARK	WEST GATEWAY PARK	SANTA FE PARK	WEST CORONADO PARK	NORTH GATEWAY PARK	
MAP NUMBER	15	11	24	7	5	
Bike rack						
Parking						
On-/off-street						
Paved						

TABLE 5, MINI/POCKET PARK INVENTORY AND FEATURES

Striped						
Amenities						
Bench			2		3	
Drinking fountain						
Lighting						
Restroom						
Sidewalks (internal)		Bridge over drainage swale				
Trash receptacle			1	1	1	
Pergola seating						
Picnic table		1		1	1	
Grill		1		1	1	
Playground/playscape	3	3	6	2	2	
Open play/multi-purpose field	1	1	1	1		
Sports Courts						
Basketball						
Monument/plaque/exhibit	1		2			
Public art/statue						
Acres	0.58	0.79	0.87	0.89	0.90	
Location	Baker and Turner Streets	Elmore Street	Santa Fe and Abilene Streets	Finger and Yows Streets	Between Boyd and Hazelwood Streets	

MINI/POCKET PARK LOCATIONS AND EXAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS

MAP 4, MINI/POCKET PARK LOCATIONS



MINI/POCKET PARK LOCATIONS AND EXAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



Typical play equipment observed at mini/pocket parks.



Unique seating and walking paths in Center City Park.



Parks with barrier curbs, no crosswalks, onsite paths, or access ramps.



Open play/multi-purpose fields in need of partial or full replacement/reconditioning.



Older play equipment in parks.



Stormwater utility channels that reduce onsite accessibility and overall park usability.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks in Borger are 1.01 to 3.70 acres in size and found in most residential neighborhoods. Sites typically feature a more diverse set of amenities such as gazebos/covered seating areas, sports courts, larger open play/multi-purpose fields, exercise stations, and community buildings. The location of each park is shown on **Map 5, Neighborhood Park Locations** and corresponds with the numbers displayed in **Table 6, Neighborhood Park Inventory and Features**.

TABLE 6, NEIGHBORHOOD PARK INVENTORY AND FEATURES						
PARK NAMES	EASTSIDE PARK	KEITH-ELMORE PARK	GATEWAY CIRCLE PARK	SOUTH HUGHES PARK	FRITZ THOMPSON PARK	GRACE MEREDITH PARK (N. CIRCLE)
MAP NUMBER	21	9	12	13	20	3
Access Drive						
Bike rack						
Parking						
On-/off-street				On		
Paved				Yes		
Striped				No		
Amenities						
Bench			2	1		
Drinking fountain						
Lighting			Yes			
Restroom				1		
Sidewalks (internal)						Partial
Trash receptacle	1	1	1	1	1	
Assembly/event space						
Gazebo						
Community building						
Pavilion						
Picnic table		1	1			
Grill		1	1			
Playground/playscape	5	3	2	6		
Athletic fields						
Baseball						
Softball						
Exercise equipment/station						
Open play/multi-purpose field	1	1	1	1	1	
Sport courts						

TABLE 6, NEIGHBORHOOD PARK INVENTORY AND FEATURES

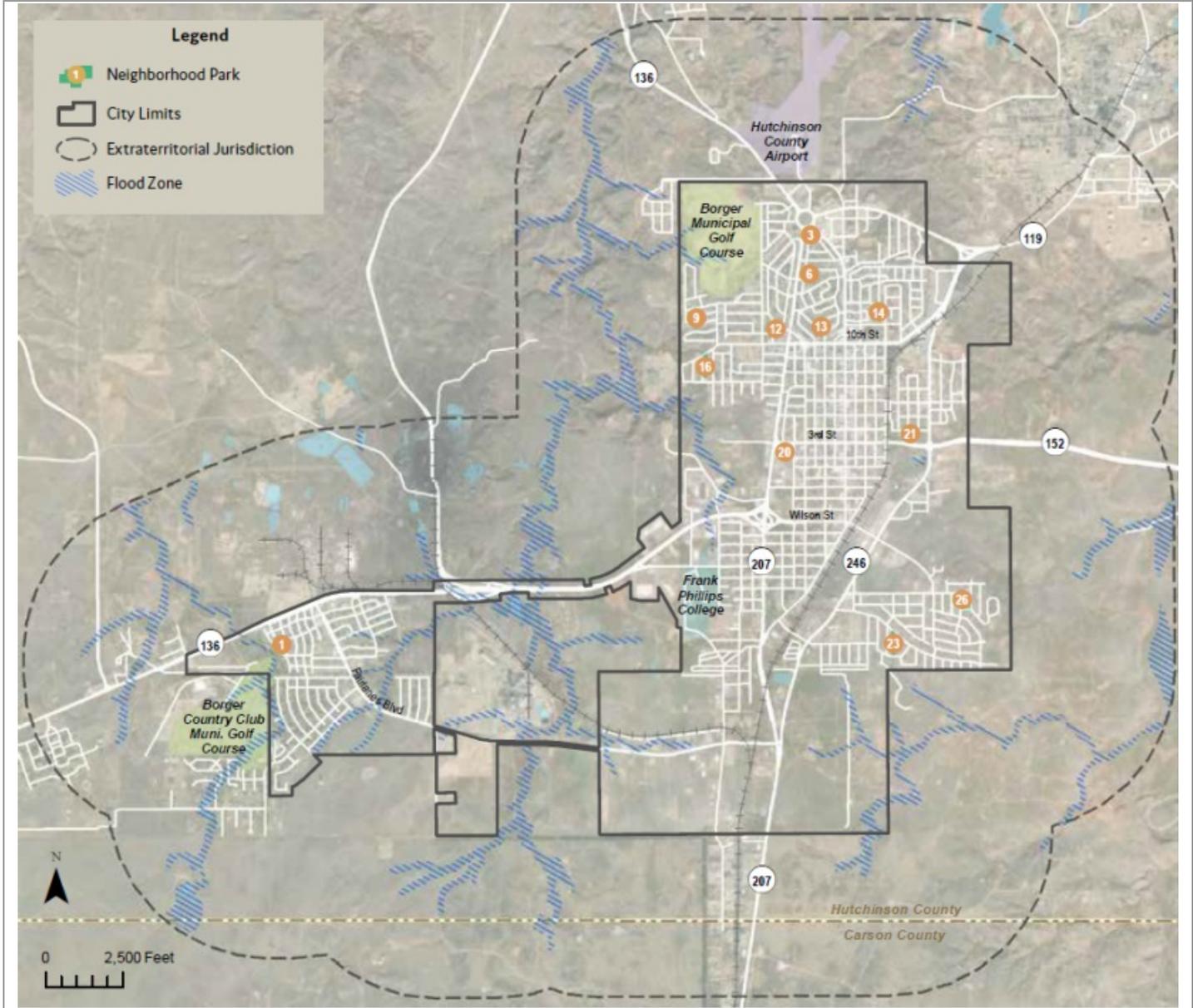
Basketball						
Skatepark						
Tennis						
Volleyball						
Walking/jogging/nature hike path			Perimeter trail	Perimeter trail		
Monument/plaque/exhibit	1				1	2 (History exhibits)
Public art/statue						
Acres	1.01	1.13	1.31	1.77	1.97	2.02
Location	East 4th Street	Keith and Elmore Streets	Boyd and Cooley Streets	Valley and Andress Streets	Bryan Street	1499 North Main Street (North Circle)
PARK NAMES	ROCK CREEK PARK	COFIELD PARK	NORTH HUGHES PARK (SKITTLES PARK)	BUNAVISTA PARK	YUCCA PARK	KEELER KIWANIS PARK
MAP NUMBER	16	14	6	1	23	26
Access drive		Yes (partial)				
Bike rack						
Parking						
On-/off-street		Off	On			
Paved		Yes	Yes			
Striped		Yes	No			
Amenities						
Bench		6	5	2	1	1
Drinking fountain						
Lighting	Partial	Partial	Yes	Yes		
Restroom		2	1			
Sidewalks (internal)		Yes			Partial stairs	
Trash receptacle		4	3	2		2
Assembly/event space		1				
Gazebo		1				
Community building		1				
Pavilion		1				
Picnic table	1	7	2	2		2
Grill		3	2			2
Playground/playscape	3	4	8	3	3	3

TABLE 6, NEIGHBORHOOD PARK INVENTORY AND FEATURES

Athletic fields						
Baseball	1 Backstop		1 Backstop			1 Backstop
Softball						
Football						
Exercise equipment/station			9			
Open play/multi-purpose field	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sport courts						
Basketball		2 Goals	2 Goals	1 Goal		2 Goals
Skatepark						
Tennis						
Volleyball						
Walking/jogging/nature hike path			Perimeter trail			Perimeter trail
Monument/plaque/exhibit						
Public art/statue						
Acres	2.21	2.22	2.26	2.47	2.80	3.70
Location	Canady and Deason Streets	Brain and 11th Streets	Coble and Stephens Streets	Butadieno and Caprock Streets	Evergreen Street	Gardner and McCarthy Streets

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK LOCATIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

MAP 5, NEIGHBORHOOD PARK LOCATIONS



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK LOCATIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Neighborhood parks provide a greater array of equipment, amenities, and features.



Multiple neighborhood parks have perimeter walking trails in need of repair.



Larger open play/multi-purpose field located in a neighborhood park and surrounded by post and steel wire fence.



New shaded seating/pavilion area at Cofield Park.



Park with steep slopes and no Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions.



Neighborhood park with shade trees.

COMMUNITY, SPECIAL USE, AND LINEAR PARKS

Community, special use, and linear parks vary the most in terms of amenities and features offered and range from 3.37 acres to 117.37 acres.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Borger has two large parks in this community park category. Huber Park serves many traditional open space needs and incorporates additional assets, such as Recreational Vehicle (RV) campground, bird rescue, monument areas, horseshoe pits, and splash pad.

Johnson Sports Complex is home to several unique recreation assets (e.g., skatepark, dog park, nature trail, youth center, outdoor pool, disc golf course, and indoor sports courts). This complex, through partnerships with several private/non-profit entities, is co-located with BISD and Frank Phillips College sports facilities, horseshoe pits (part of the Texas Horseshoe Pitchers Association's "Ringers Club"), and the Sheriff's Posse rodeo stadium.

SPECIAL USE PARKS

Sports facilities are the defining characteristic of the special use parks within the city. Two of these parks (Agnes Howe and Huber Ball Park) are used primarily for baseball/softball and football-related activities and are home field for little league and high-school teams. Veta Soccer Park primarily functions as a facility for league sports.

LINEAR PARKS

The nature trail found within the Johnson Sports Complex property is the only linear park (paved or non-paved) within Borger. This non-paved trail traverses over interesting and varying terrain and provides access to several of the park's disc golf holes.

Map 6, Community, Special Use, and Linear Park Locations, indicates the location of each park and corresponds with the numbers displayed in **Table 7, Community, Special Use, and Linear Park Inventory and Features**.

TABLE 7, COMMUNITY, SPECIAL USE, AND LINEAR PARK INVENTORY AND FEATURES						
	COMMUNITY PARKS		SPECIAL USE PARKS			LINEAR PARKS
PARK NAME	HUBER PARK	JOHNSON SPORTS COMPLEX	VETA SOCCER PARK	HUBER BALL PARK	AGNES HOWE PARK	JOHNSON NATURE TRAIL
MAP NUMBER	22	19	4	27	28	19
Access drive	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Via Johnson Sports Complex
Bike rack						
Parking						
On-/off-street	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	
Paved	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Striped	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Amenities						

TABLE 7, COMMUNITY, SPECIAL USE, AND LINEAR PARK INVENTORY AND FEATURES

COMMUNITY PARKS		SPECIAL USE PARKS			LINEAR PARKS	
PARK NAME	HUBER PARK	JOHNSON SPORTS COMPLEX	VETA SOCCER PARK	HUBER BALL PARK	AGNES HOWE PARK	JOHNSON NATURE TRAIL
MAP NUMBER	22	19	4	27	28	19
Bench	17	Seating by pool and in recreation center	Bleachers *	Bleachers *	2 Benches and bleachers*	5
Drinking fountain	2	*			3	
Lighting	Yes	Yes (partial)		Yes	Yes	
Restroom	*	*		*	*	
Sidewalks (internal)	Yes	Partial		Yes	Partial (not to all fields)	
Trash receptacle	9	*	*	*	*	
Assembly/event space	Yes	Yes				
Concession building	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Gazebo/covered seating	1				1	
Community building	1	1				
Pavilion	1	Yes by pool				
Picnic table	15	7			3	1
Grill	2					
Playground/playscape	4				2	
Athletic fields						
Baseball				1	3 (2 T-ball)	
Batting cage				1 (Location)		
Soccer		4 Goals	6 Goals			
Softball		2			2	
Football					1	
Disc golf course		18 Holes				
Dog park		1				
Exercise equipment/station						
Horseshoe pit	3	12 at Ringers club				
Open play/multi-purpose field	1					
Sport courts						

TABLE 7, COMMUNITY, SPECIAL USE, AND LINEAR PARK INVENTORY AND FEATURES

COMMUNITY PARKS		SPECIAL USE PARKS			LINEAR PARKS	
PARK NAME	HUBER PARK	JOHNSON SPORTS COMPLEX	VETA SOCCER PARK	HUBER BALL PARK	AGNES HOWE PARK	JOHNSON NATURE TRAIL
MAP NUMBER	22	19	4	27	28	19
Basketball	4 Goals					
Skatepark		1				
Tennis						
Volleyball	1					
Water features						
Swimming pool		Outdoor				
Water slide		4				
Diving board		1				
Splash pad	1					
Walking/jogging/nature hike path		(See linear parks)				Nature trail (not paved)
Monument/plaque/exhibit	5				2	
Public art/statue	4 (Dumpsters)					
Bird rescue center	1					
RV parking area	10 Sites with utility hookups					
Acres	15.33	117.27	3.37	5.85	15.19	
Location	Main and Pine Streets	Bulldog Boulevard	Veta Street	Main and Franklin Streets	Huber Avenue	
*Not able to determine exact number.						

COMMUNITY, SPECIAL USE, AND LINEAR PARK LOCATIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Community parks have the most diverse mix of features, opens spaces, play equipment, and sports fields/courts.



Bird rescue located at Huber Park.



RV campground in Huber Park.



Outdoor swimming pool with water slides, diving board, seating, and free swim areas.



Special use sport specific park facilities (Huber Ball Park).



Nature trail linear park.

TOTAL PARKS FACILITY INVENTORY OBSERVATIONS

Table 8, Total Parks Inventory Summary, provides an aggregate count of amenities and features inventoried at all Borger parks. The information in this table indicates which feature types are prevalent throughout the parks, trails, and recreation system. It also helps identify amenities that may be lacking, assisting with establishing needs detailed in the future **NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION** section.

This inventory illustrates that Borger's parks, trails, and recreation system contains numerous assets to the community including:

- Typical park amenities and specific unique assets to provide a mix of recreational opportunities to all residents;
- Many of the parks have overlapping features (playground/playscapes, benches, grills, picnic tables, and open play/multi-purpose fields);
- Unique offerings such as splash pads, exercise equipment, gazebos/covered pavilion seating, nature/walking trails, drinking fountains, etc. are only located in one or two facilities;
- Many or all of the parks are missing the following items:
 - Bike racks;
 - Drinking fountains;
 - Shaded play areas (two parks recently had trees planted);
 - ADA park accessibility; and
 - Internal sidewalks.

TABLE 8, TOTAL PARKS INVENTORY SUMMARY	
FACILITY TYPE	ALL PARK FACILITIES
Access drive	6
Bike rack	0
Parking	
On-/off-street	9
Paved	9
Striped	5
Amenities	
Bench	55 counted, *-Huber Ball Park, Veta Soccer Park, Johnson Sports Complex, and Agnes Howe Park
Drinking fountain	5
Lighting	11 (Parks with at least partial lighting provided)
Restroom	7 parks sites have restrooms, *-Huber Ball Park not able to determine a specific number
Sidewalks (internal)	10 (does not include partial or limited length sidewalks)
Trash receptacle	30 counted, *-Huber Ball Park, Veta Soccer Park, Johnson Sports Complex, and Agnes Howe Park
Assembly/event space	3
Concession building	4
Pergola seating	2

TABLE 8, TOTAL PARKS INVENTORY SUMMARY

FACILITY TYPE	ALL PARK FACILITIES
Gazebo/covered seating	3
Community building	3
Pavilion	3
Picnic table	47
Grill	14
Playground/playscape	74
Athletic fields	
Baseball	7
Batting cage	1
Soccer	10 Goals
Softball	4
Football	1
Disc golf course	18 Holes
Dog park	1
Exercise equipment/station	9
Horseshoe pit	15 (Includes 12 private at Johnson Sports Complex)
Open play/multi-purpose field	19
Sport courts	
Basketball	12 Goals
Skatepark	1
Tennis	0
Volleyball	1
Water features	
Swimming pool	1
Water slide	4
Diving board	1
Splash pad	1
Walking/jogging/nature hike path	5
Monument/plaque/exhibit	19
Public art/statue	5
Bird rescue center	1
RV campground	10 individual camping sites
Total acres of all parks	**187.71

* Not able to determine exact number.

** Does not include Borger Municipal Golf Course

ASSESSMENT OF PARK CONDITIONS

The condition of the existing parks, trails, recreation facilities, buildings, equipment, and improvements are a helpful gauge towards the perceived quality of a city's overall system. The appearance and maintenance of the park system contribute to the community's image and the perception of its livability. Therefore, Borger should strive to maintain its facilities in good condition and provide diligent care of its grounds and improvements.

A condition assessment of the system's assets was performed concurrently with the existing facility inventory. The scoring categories were as follows:

- Turf;
- Plantings, trees, landscape beds, and natural areas;
- Parking;
- Sidewalks, trails, and pathways;
- Basketball courts and equipment;
- Park accessibility;
- Park amenities;
- Buildings, shelters, and pavilions;
- Playing fields and equipment;
- Signage;
- Fencing; and
- Lighting.

Table 9, Park Condition Assessment, displays the condition and composite scores for each park. **APPENDIX C** includes the template park condition assessment score sheet utilized for all sites and facilities. The conditions assessment findings are summarized below.

OVERALL CONDITIONS

Each facility or improvement category received a score ranging from zero to four, with zero representing the improvements that were in the best condition. A ranking of four is for those buildings, facilities, or features in very poor condition that warrant replacement, rehabilitation, or reconstruction. The scores of one, two, and three represent varying levels of condition. Where applicable, there is an indication of improvements that do not exist in specific parks. The landscape beds and natural area categories were assigned a score of 0.0 if the site possessed these features and 1.0 if these amenities were not present.

The composite score indicates the park's overall condition and, in turn, provides a means to compare the state of each park relative to others in the entire system. This information is valuable to determine city-wide priorities, and more specifically, to help decide what improvements/maintenance each park needs and where repair or replacement is required. This conditions assessment, along with other criteria, may also help determine which parks can be retrofitted or re-purposed to provide new types of amenities or naturalized low-maintenance alternatives.

Overall, the weighted scores for Borger parks ranged from 0.46 (Johnson Sports Complex) to 2.55 (Rock Creek Park).

TURF

Turf in City-owned parks is in reasonably good condition with 11 out of the 28 park sites (not including the Johnson Nature Trail) receiving a 1.0 condition or better. Huber Park received the highest rating of 0.0. The majority of remaining parks were assessed at 2.0 or 3.0, indicating that all or parts of the turf areas need reconditioning or maintenance. Crawford and Center City Parks are designed to fit into a downtown environment and do not have traditional turf areas. Rock Creek and Eastside Parks were assigned a 4.0 due to large areas of patchy turf cover with exposed soil.



PLANTINGS, TREES, LANDSCAPE BEDS, AND NATURAL AREAS

In general, the trees planted in Borger's parks are in good condition and provide ambiance and a sense of place. While most sites have a small number of trees, many are located near park perimeters and offer little shade near heavily used play areas. During this inventory, new tree plantings were observed at Little Keeler and North Hughes Parks next to existing play equipment. Nelson- Johnson Park had no trees within the park's boundary.

Crawford Park, Center City Park, Huber Park, and the Johnson Sport Complex contain shrubs, perennials, and ground cover plantings used as accents around buildings, monuments, and structures. Crawford and Center City Parks are the only sites where these features play a significant role in defining the space.

PARKING

The majority (19 out of 28 sites) do not provide on- or off-street parking. However, for mini/pocket and **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS** located within residential areas, the lack of parking is often intentional to encourage residents to walk/bike to these spaces. Country Club, North Hughes, and South Hughes Parks have small on- street parking areas, all requiring limited maintenance.

The larger community and special use facilities all have off-street striped and paved parking lots, except Veta Soccer Park, which does not have striped parking. These facilities are in moderate to good condition receiving a 2.0 or lower.

SIDEWALKS, TRAILS, AND PATHWAYS

Generally, Borger's parks are lacking internal sidewalks and/or trails. Four out of the 23 mini/pocket and **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS** have a perimeter walking path (scoring 2.0 or 3.0 and need maintenance). Crawford and Center City Parks have internal sidewalks while the rest of these parks have no perimeter trails or internal sidewalks.

Except for the access drive, Veta Soccer Park does not have internal walking paths. Agnes Howe has paved sidewalks to six out of the seven playing fields while the southernmost baseball diamond does not have a paved connecting walkway. The Johnson Sports Complex provides access to the building and playing fields via Bulldog Avenue, and has sidewalks around the Johnson Youth Center Complex. However, there is no provision of internal walkways or trails between the various facilities throughout the site. All existing paths are in good condition and assessed at 1.0. Huber Park has well maintained internal and perimeter sidewalks that provide access to all the facility's amenities and was assigned the condition of 1.0.

BASKETBALL COURTS AND EQUIPMENT

East Coronado and Bunavista Parks have half-court basketball facilities (one goal each). Both courts require maintenance.

North Hughes Park, Cofield Park, and Keller Kiwanis Park each have one full court with two goals. Huber Park has two full courts with four goals. The North Hughes Park, Keeler Kiwanis Park, and Huber Park courts are in good condition, Cofield Park's court is in fair condition. The fences surrounding the basketball courts at Huber and North Hughes Parks are in good condition.

PARK ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility is a noted deficiency for all Borger's parks. Facilities lack onsite accessible pathways, ramps to enter the park, ramps for steep slopes, bridges over drainage structures, crosswalks, or visible pedestrian connections. In many cases, high curbs, fences, or metal barriers without access points surround the perimeter of park sites.

Only Crawford Park, Center City Park, Huber Park, Huber Ball Park, and Agnes Howe Park provide full or partial accessible areas, ramps, and sidewalks.



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND PARK AMENITIES

The amenities (benches, tables, play equipment, grills, etc.) offered at each park vary from a single piece of equipment to the vast array found at Huber Park. Play equipment and amenities throughout Borger's parks are in good condition. However, many of the mini/pocket and **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS** received a 2.0 or higher due to their amenities' outdated nature as many showed signs of deterioration, such as rust and chipped paint.

BUILDINGS, SHELTERS, AND PAVILIONS

Most Borger parks do not have any buildings. Cofield Park is the only mini/pocket or neighborhood park that has two structures (the Cofield Community Center and gazebo shaded pavilion). The special use parks and community parks have multiple buildings, including concession stands, community buildings, and maintenance buildings. All of these facilities are in good condition.

PLAYING FIELDS AND EQUIPMENT

This category has a mix of conditions. The playing fields and equipment at Huber Park (volleyball court and horseshoe pits) and special use parks of Veta Soccer Park, Huber Ball Park, Agnes Howe Park, and Johnson Sports Complex all had a condition of 1.0. However, the playing fields at North Hughes Park, Rock Creek Park, and Keller Kiwanis Park had lower conditions (2.0, 3.0, and 2.0, respectively).

SIGNAGE

The Johnson Youth Center Complex (named monument sign) and Grace Meredith Park ("Welcome to Borger" sign) are the only two with substantial signage. Signage at the remaining sites fit into two categories:

1. Nine of the parks have no signage; and
2. The remaining 19 have one wood sign displaying the park's name.

All signs are in good condition.

FENCING

Veta Soccer and South Hughes Parks are the only facilities with chain link perimeter fencing. Both fences are in good condition. Several mini/pocket and **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS** utilize a post and steel wire fence type. The fences of this type at Rock Creek Park and Nelson-Johnson Park were assessed at 3.0 and require maintenance. A metal pipe barrier separates Bunavista and Eastside Parks from abutting roads and both inhibit access.

LIGHTING

Out of Borger's 28 parks, 17 do not have lights. The rest have a mixture of standard and decorative lighting poles/fixtures. Large lighted towers provide illumination to the sports fields at Huber Ball Park, Agnes Howe Park, and the Johnson Sports Complex, while Veta Soccer Park is the only special use park that is not lighted. Of the parks that incorporate lighting fixtures, most received a score of 2.0 or higher. The only exception is Little Keeler Park that received a 3.0.

TABLE 9, PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT

CONDITION CRITERIA	BUNAVISTA PARK	COUNTRY CLUB PARK (BAGWELL STREET)	GRACE MEREDITH PARK (N. CIRCLE)	VETA SOCCER PARK	NORTH GATEWAY PARK	NORTH HUGHES PARK (SKITTLES PARK)
Turf	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0
Plantings and trees	1.0	2.0	1.0	--	2.0	1.0

TABLE 9, PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Landscaped beds	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Natural areas	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Parking	--	2.0	--	2.0	--	3.0
Sidewalks, trails, and pathways*	--	--	2.0	--	--	2.0
Basketball courts	2.0	--	--	--	--	1.0
Park accessibility	4.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	2.0
Playground equipment	1.0	2.0	--	--	2.0	1.0
Park amenities (benches, grills, picnic tables, etc.)	1.0	2.0	--	1.0	2.0	1.0
Buildings, shelters, and pavilions	--	--	--	1.0	--	--
Playing fields and equipment	--	--	--	1.0	--	2.0
Signage	2.0	--	0.0	3.0	2.0	1.0
Fencing	--	--	--	1.0	--	--
Lighting	1.0	--	--	--	--	0.0
Composite score	1.36	1.75	1.43	1.5	1.88	1.31
CONDITION CRITERIA	WEST CORONADO PARK	EAST CORONADO PARK	KEITH-ELMORE PARK	NELSON-JOHNSON PARK	WEST GATEWAY PARK	GATEWAY CIRCLE PARK
Turf	2.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Plantings and trees	2.0	2.0	2.0	--	2.0	2.0
Landscaped beds	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Natural areas	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Parking	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sidewalks, trails, and pathways*	--	--	--	--	2.0	3.0
Basketball courts	--	3.0	--	--	--	--
Park accessibility	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.0
Playground equipment	2.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	2.0
Park amenities (benches, grills, picnic tables, etc.)	2.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	2.0
Buildings, shelters, and pavilions	--	--	--	--	--	--

TABLE 9, PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Playing fields and equipment	--	--	--	--	--	--
Signage	2.0	--	--	--	--	2.0
Fencing	--	--	--	3.0	--	--
Lighting	--	--	--	--	--	2.0
Composite score	1.88	2.25	1.43	2.00	2.43	2.1
CONDITION CRITERIA	SOUTH HUGHES PARK	COFIELD PARK	SOUTH CORONADO PARK	ROCK CREEK PARK	CRAWFORD PARK (MUSEUM)	CENTER CITY PARK
Turf	2.0	1.0	3.0	4.0	--	--
Plantings and trees	2.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	0.0
Landscaped beds	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Natural areas	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Parking	2.0	1.0	--	--	--	--
Sidewalks, trails, and pathways*	3.0	2.0	--	--	1.0	0.0
Basketball courts	--	3.0	--	--	--	--
Park accessibility	4.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
Playground equipment	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	--	--
Park amenities (benches, grills, picnic tables, etc.)	1.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0
Buildings, shelters, and pavilions	--	1.0	--	--	--	--
Playing fields and equipment	--	--	--	3.0	--	--
Signage	--	1.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	--
Fencing	2.0	--	--	3.0	--	0.0
Lighting	--	1.0	--	2.0	--	0.0
Composite score	2.00	1.31	2.13	2.55	0.86	0.13
CONDITION CRITERIA	JOHNSON SPORTS COMPLEX	FRITZ THOMPSON PARK	HUBER PARK	YUCCA PARK	SANTA FE PARK	LITTLE KELLER PARK (PLAYGROUND)
Turf	1.0	2.0	0.0	1.0	2.0	3.0
Plantings and trees	1.0	3.0	0.0	1.0	3.0	2.0
Landscaped beds	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Natural areas	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0
Parking	0.0	--	1.0	--	--	--

TABLE 9, PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Sidewalks, trails, and pathways*	--	--	1.0	2.0	--	--
Basketball courts	--	--	1.0	--	--	--
Park accessibility	2.0	4.0	1.0	3.0	4.0	4.0
Playground equipment	--	--	0.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Park amenities (benches, grills, picnic tables, etc.)	0.0	--	1.0	2.0	2.0	3.0
Buildings, shelters, and pavilions	0.0	--	1.0	--	--	--
Playing fields and equipment	1.0	--	1.0	--	--	--
Signage	0.0	--	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0
Fencing	1.0	--	1.0	--	--	--
Lighting	0.0	--	0.0	--	--	3.0
Composite score	0.46	2.20	0.71	1.22	2.13	2.38
CONDITION CRITERIA	KELLER KIWANIS PARK	HUBER BALL PARK	AGNES HOWE PARK	EASTSIDE PARK		
Turf	2.0	1.0	1.0	4.0		
Plantings and trees	2.0	1.0	2.0	3.0		
Landscaped beds	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0		
Natural areas	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0		
Parking	--	1.0	1.0	--		
Sidewalks, trails, and pathways*	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.0		
Basketball courts	2.0	--	--	--		
Park accessibility	3.0	1.0	2.0	4.0		
Playground equipment	2.0	--	1.0	2.0		
Park amenities (benches, grills, picnic tables, etc.)	1.0	--	1.0	--		
Buildings, shelters, and pavilions	--	1.0	1.0	--		
Playing fields and equipment	3.0	1.0	1.0	--		
Signage	--	1.0	2.0	2.0		
Fencing	--	1.0	1.0	2.0		

TABLE 9, PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Lighting	--	1.0	1.0	--		
Composite score	1.80	1.00	1.21	2.44		
<p>-- Indicates park did not have this facility or feature type and this condition criteria was excluded from the final composite score. *Includes limited use sidewalks.</p>						

ADDITIONAL CITY-OWNED FACILITIES

In addition to the outdoor park amenities described in the previous pages, the City owns and maintains other assets that offer unique recreation opportunities.

BORGER MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

Borger owns the 120-acre Borger Municipal Golf Course located west of Sterling Street. The facility features:

- 18 manicured golf holes;
- Clubhouse;
- Driving range;
- Onsite golf pro; and
- Golf carts to rent.

YOUTH AND ADULT ACTIVITIES

The City of Borger maintains a website portal to help residents and visitors find activities and reserve spaces for events: <https://secure.rec1.com/TX/borger-tx/catalog>.

JOHNSON YOUTH CENTER COMPLEX

Integrated into the Johnson Sports Complex is the Johnson Youth Center Complex. Located on Bulldog Avenue, this City-owned and operated facility is open from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Additional activities are available as part of regularly scheduled programming or by appointment. The facility is home to several amenities and offers the following services:

- Access to the outdoor swimming pool;
- Concessions sales;
- Youth center room;
- Gymnasium that is convertible into multiple basketball and volleyball courts;
- Indoor rock climbing wall; and
- Disc golf pro shop.

AERIAL VIEW OF BORGER MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE (LOOKING NORTHWEST)



ALUMINUM DOME

Constructed in 1957 by Hutchinson County, the dome is now the oldest remaining Kaiser Aluminum Dome in the nation. Over the decades, this facility hosted expos, fish fry events, and livestock shows.

Hutchinson County transferred ownership of the dome to the City of Borger in 2018, and the City is now examining plans to reinvigorate this historic asset into a renovated and expanded event center that complements the features of the Johnson Sports Complex.

While still in the early evaluation phase, the City has worked with architecture and engineering consultant Parkhill to develop conceptual drawings and estimated pricing for this project. The preliminary design includes:

- Dome renovations;
- Central annex addition; and
- Multi-purpose event space.

CONCEPTUAL ALUMINUM DOME RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PLAN FEATURES

Aluminum Dome Renovation

Proposed updates to the existing dome include:

- Overhaul of the electrical, lighting, and heating systems;
- New air conditioning system;
- New insulation and noise-canceling panels;
- Demolition and replacement of existing restrooms; and
- Replacement of existing floors.



Central Annex Addition

A central annex will be added east of the Dome and contain:

- New central entry point;
- Lobby;
- Office;
- Bathrooms;
- Catering kitchen; and
- Two small meeting rooms.



Multi-Purpose Event Space

The addition of a new multi-purpose event space to accommodate:

- Up to 750 people in a banquet setting; and
- Divisible into three smaller meeting/event spaces.



OTHER COMMUNITY ASSETS

For purposes of this Master Plan, it is important to document other area recreation assets that are available to residents and visitors. These resources are also considered when evaluating where the City may focus its energies and resources when seeking to upgrade City-owned assets. Recreation options are available through non-profit organizations and private commercial operations.

NON-PROFIT FACILITIES

BISD FACILITIES

A frequent partnership in the provision of recreation and sports activities is between local governments and the area school district. The City and BISD already utilize this type of relationship for sports teams, such as the co-location of baseball and softball facilities at Huber and Agnes Howe Parks. The Johnson Sports Complex hosts many little league and BISD teams and provides access to the football stadium/outdoor track complex and parking lot. There are six BISD school campuses located within the City of Borger:

- Borger High School - 600 W. 1st Street;
- Borger Middle School - 1321 S. Florida Street;
- Borger Intermediate School - 1321 S. Florida Street;
- Gateway Elementary - 401 Tristram Street;
- Paul Belton Elementary - 800 N. McGee Street; and
- Crockett Elementary - 400 Kaye Street.

In addition to the football and baseball facilities co-located in off-site facilities, Borger High School has the following on-site sports venues:

- Eight tennis courts, and
- Soccer field facility.

The campus that encompasses Borger Middle School, Borger Intermediate School, Gateway Elementary, and Crockett Elementary has these shared amenities:

- Outdoor play area with multiple playscapes; and
- Outdoor track with multi-purpose sports field.

FRANK PHILLIPS COLLEGE

The approximate 68-acre Frank Phillips College campus, located at 1301 W. Roosevelt Street, offers students a variety of passive open space and on-campus activities. The Borger Community Activity Center (BCAC) contains a gymnasium, workout facility, two outdoor tennis courts, and an indoor pool. The BCAC facility is available to Borger community members and is host to the Texas Panhandle Youth and Community Choir and the Borger Community Theater, Inc.

BORGER HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD



PAUL BELTON ELEMENTARY



HUTCHINSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE

The Sheriff's Posse, established in 1954, owns a fully operational rodeo arena north of the Johnson Community Sports Complex at the end of Bulldog Boulevard. Along with practice activities, the Posse hosts these three annual events:

- Annual rodeo;
- Summer days mini-rodeos; and
- Charity Easter egg hunt.

REGIONAL RECREATION

Lake Meredith National Recreational Area. Located approximately 15 miles west of Borger, the lake has 100 miles of shoreline and provides opportunities for:

- Scuba diving;
- Boating;
- Fishing; and
- Sailing.

PRIVATE FACILITIES

- Borger Country Club. Golf course with 18 holes that opened in 1955 and includes a clubhouse with an outdoor swimming pool and four tennis courts. (599 Broadmoor Street)
- Morley Theatre. Historical theater building with five movie screens, arcade, private party rooms, and lounge. (701 N. Main Street)
- Wildcatter's Bowling Alley. Bowling lanes, restaurant, and sports bar. (1501 S. Main Street)





NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION



The previous section of this plan focused on existing sites and amenities present in Borger's parks, trails, and recreation system. This Needs Assessment and Prioritization section provides an updated assessment of current and future needs related to parks, trails, recreation areas, and related facilities. This assessment is an essential input to the next step of defining specific potential projects and improvements to address the identified needs, as well as for prioritizing candidate projects based on factors such as cost/benefit, complexity, availability of partners, and potential infusions of grant dollars or other external funding.

Needs assessment in this plan combines two approaches. The first compares the number of facilities observed in the [AREA AND FACILITY INVENTORY](#) section with [NATIONAL METRICS](#) — published by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) — and localized standards found in the [CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS](#) section. Secondly, this section examines community interest and demand for specific facility types taken from community input during this Master Plan process. Combining these two assessment methods creates a resource-based approach to determine the potential kinds of amenities that should be added or re-purposed to enhance the overall system, create new recreation choices, and avoid unnecessary duplication.



DETERMINING NEED

Relying on current and projected population estimates, this Master Plan will be used by City officials and staff to identify general, yet targeted areas for future property dedications, park site redevelopment/re-purposing, and potential partnerships to provide the greatest benefits to Borger's residents. The creation of enhanced economic development activity may also result from the repositioning of individual park sites.

Ensuring equitable opportunity and access to parks, trails, and recreation facilities is comprised of several different components covered in this section.

QUANTITY OF LAND AREA

Needs assessment begins with the consideration of metrics for park acreage relative to population. This is followed by a review of the geographic coverage of park service areas given where various classifications of parks are currently located across the community. While general standards are useful, it is important to establish standards that are based upon unique local considerations, such as participation trends, user characteristics, demographics, climate, natural environment, and other considerations.

POPULATION CONSIDERATIONS

As noted in the [INTRODUCTION](#) section of this plan, Borger's population in 2018 was estimated at 13,376 and 14,338 when including the estimated 962 people who lived in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) area.

Population estimates stated in this plan indicate that Borger's population will remain stable with the midpoint projection predicting 13,158 residents in 2040. The highest population estimate — from the Texas Water Development Board — indicates a potential population of 14,332 residents by 2040. The ETJ is not a defined geographic statistical area; therefore, there is no access to historical population data, and this analysis is not able to include estimates for this part of the service area.

TABLE 10, NRPA PARK METRIC COMPARISONS		
METRIC	ACRES OF PARKLAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS	NUMBER OF RESIDENTS SERVED BY ONE PARK
NRPA surveyed median for cities with a population under 20,000	12.0	1,300
Existing conditions based on a population of 13,376 (Borger 2018 estimate)	14.0	478
Existing conditions based on a population of 14,338 (Borger and ETJ combined 2018 estimate)	13.1	512
Estimate based on a population of 14,332 (2040 Texas Water Development Board population estimate)	13.1	512
Sources: https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/ParkMetrics/ and KKC		

Table 10, NRPA Park Metric Comparisons examines two NRPA metrics as stated in their 2020 Agency Performance Review metrics summary for cities with a population under 20,000. The two key metrics included are the number of park acres per 1,000 residents and number of residents served per individual park. These baseline figures are then compared to the current number of parks in Borger as of 2020 utilizing the 2018 population estimates for the city limits, the ETJ, and the highest future population estimate (Texas Water Development Board). These comparisons provide an indication of the future need for more or less parkland and/or number of parks.

PARK ACRES PER 1,000 PEOPLE

Quantity of land area metrics are typically expressed in terms of acres of land dedicated for parks and recreational use per unit of population. NRPA's median metric for cities with a population under 20,000 is 12.0 acres per 1,000 residents. In 2018, Borger had 14.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents or 13.1 including the ETJ residents. This number is projected to stay near 13.1 with a potential population increase to 14,332 in 2040.

NUMBER OF RESIDENTS SERVED PER PARK

A second NRPA metric that provides a useful comparison is the number of residents served by one park. The NRPA median number of residents served per park was 1,300. Borger's park system served 478 residents per park in 2018 or 512 including the ETJ. The 2040 forecast population of 14,332 is also estimated at 512 residents per park.

QUANTITY OF PARKLAND NEEDS

Comparison of Borger's acres of parkland per 1,000 residents to the NRPA metric illustrates that City-owned parks provide slightly more acres of park per 1,000 residents, at 12.0 for Borger than the median of similar sized cities at 14.0. Projections stated in this plan indicate that this metric will stay close to the observed median through 2040.

Examining the number of residents per individual park shows that Borger was below the national metric of 1,300 at 478 for the city limits and 512 when including the ETJ. Population projections show this lower observed number of people per individual park site continuing through 2040. This observation suggests that Borger has — and will continue to have — more parks per resident than similar sized communities in the United States. Since the acres of parkland is slightly above the median comparison, it is expected that the number of residents per park would also be near the median metric. However, the residents per park are significantly below the median. The high number of small acreage parks likely accounts for this difference in park service levels found in Borger's parks system.

This metrics comparison indicates that Borger can continue to provide the same level of service for area residents and future populations by maintaining a similar amount of total park area that exists in 2020. Given the low ratio of residents to parks, the City may also choose to examine on which parks, trails, or recreation facilities it should focus its limited financial resources, while considering other parks for the provision of nontraditional amenities.



Into the future as today, Borger's own public park offerings will continue to be supplemented by the presence of non-profit resources such as the Borger Independent School District (BISD) and Frank Phillips College campuses and private recreational facilities which local residents are able to enjoy.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Along with the parkland acreage and parks per resident considerations, a geographic evaluation is also essential to determine how well the existing and future park system will serve the community's residents.

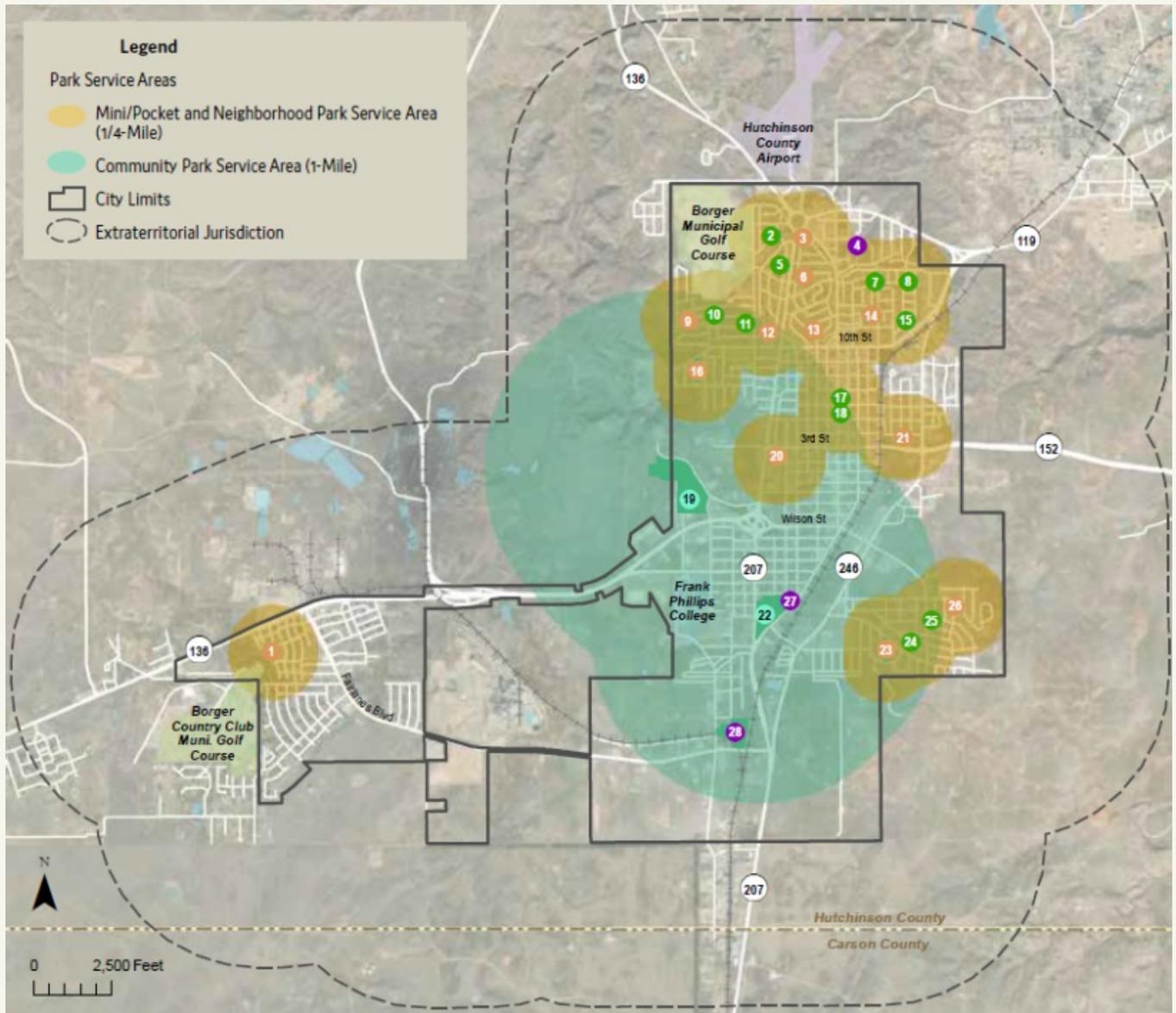
Park sites should be distributed across a city's jurisdiction and located strategically so they are conveniently accessible to all populated areas. While a city may have plenty of land from an acreage standpoint, a service area evaluation illustrates whether there is sufficient geographic coverage and where new or enlarged parks are needed to address any under-served areas.

PARK SERVICE AREAS

The service area evaluation involves drawing a service area buffer around each mini/pocket, neighborhood, and community park site. Displayed on **Map 7, Park Service Areas by Park Type**, are the geographic service areas of the current City-owned parks.

Mini/pocket and **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS** serve very similar functions in Borger; therefore, a primary service area of 1/4-mile was assigned to all 23 parks within these two categories. This was done to help identify potential geographic service area gaps for parks with similar functions. In the local context, these parks have more targeted locations to serve particular residential developments and other population concentrations. However, they should still have a relatively even distribution across the community to ensure that all residents can enjoy basic park amenities in fairly close proximity to their homes.

MAP 7, PARK SERVICE AREAS BY PARK TYPE



The two community parks were assigned a larger 1-mile primary service area. In areas where populations are more dispersed, a well-located community park also helps fulfill the neighborhood park function.

The special use parks (Agnus Howe Park, Huber Ball Park, Veta Soccer Park, and Johnson Nature Trail) provide specialized amenities to the entire community and are not assigned primary service areas.

PARK SERVICE AREA EVALUATION FINDINGS

As the community developed, the focus was on creating mini/pocket and neighborhood parks to accommodate residential development. Larger community and special use parks were also constructed to provide specific amenities and services, such as outdoor pools and sports fields, for the entirety of Borger. The following insights were gained through the service area evaluation for City-owned parks:

- Community parks, with their one-mile service areas (shown in green), serve a large geographic portion of Borger and are the primary parks for the neighborhoods south of Wilson Street;
- Taken together, the one-mile service areas of the two community parks encompass most of the existing neighborhoods from 10th Street south to the areas planned for future residential development along Highway 207;
- Significant coverage exists for all residential neighborhoods from the combination of the 1/4-mile mini/pocket and neighborhood park and 1-mile community park service areas. The lone exception is the residential area surrounding Bunavista Park, which is the only City facility west of Fairlanes Boulevard;
- Certain locations in the city have overlapping service areas of multiple mini/pocket and neighborhood parks. The residential areas north of 10th Street and east of
- S. Florida Street have significant overlapping park service areas;
- Neighborhoods around Frank Phillips College (and the entire community) benefit from the Borger Community Activity Center facility;
- BISD campuses provide additional playgrounds and open fields to the neighborhoods east of Highway 246 and around Paul Belton Elementary School; and
- The residential area near Bunavista Park has the least amount of park service area coverage. Only one neighborhood park serves all the residential development west of Fairlanes Boulevard.



Future annexation activity by the City and/or significant residential development beyond current population projections will require a reconsideration of the existing service area coverages to plan for appropriate geographic adjustments.

QUANTITY OF FACILITIES

Having enough land area to meet the needs of residents is a crucial part of recreation planning. Developing this acreage with the right mix of facilities and amenities is equally critical. **Table 11, Existing Park Facility and NRPA Metrics Comparison** displays the median number metric of people served by specific park facility types, as reported by the NRPA. This table converts these median population metrics into an estimated median number of facilities needed based on the estimated 2018 Borger and ETJ populations to compare the expected metric of each amenity type to the actual number of amenities in Borger. The final column shows how many of these facility types exist in Borger as of this Master Plan's inventory as detailed in the [AREA AND FACILITY INVENTORY](#) section.

QUANTITY OF FACILITY OBSERVATIONS

Borger has provided a diverse array of amenities spread throughout the majority of City-owned parks. The following observations were noted when comparing the existing facilities to the NRPA metrics:

- Over the years, Borger has developed many of its mini/ pocket and neighborhood parks with overlapping or similar amenities (e.g., playgrounds, multi-purpose fields, and basketball courts);
- The City has provided unique amenities at community parks not often observed in similar sized cities. (e.g., youth/teen center, recreation center, community center, dog park, disc golf course, and skate park);
- Borger has provided multiple sports fields for youth activities and is above these observed NRPA median metrics (baseball, softball, and soccer fields);
- The NRPA does not report metrics for certain amenities; however, the park inventory observed that many mini/pocket and neighborhoods parks contained an abundance of benches, grills, and picnic tables;
- Sporting fields geared towards adults are under these NRPA metrics; and
- Notable features missing in many parks are bike racks, ADA accessible walking paths, drinking fountains, shaded areas near play equipment, tot lots, and community gardens.



When considering additions, new equipment/features, or potential park re-purposing, City officials and staff should consider the diverse needs of constituents and provide unique amenities throughout the parks, trails, and recreation system.

TABLE 11, EXISTING PARK FACILITY AND NRPA METRICS COMPARISON

FACILITY TYPE	NRPA MEDIAN POPULATION IN CITIES <20,000 POPULATION	ESTIMATED MEDIAN FACILITIES NEEDED BASED ON POPULATION OF 13,376 (BORGER 2018 ESTIMATE)	ESTIMATED MEDIAN FACILITIES NEEDED BASED ON POPULATION OF 14,338 (BORGER AND ETJ 2018 ESTIMATE)	NUMBER OF BORGER FACILITIES AS OF AUGUST 2020
Playgrounds	2,523	5	6	21*
Basketball courts	4,090	3	4	6
Outdoor tennis courts	2,922	5	5	0
Baseball field - youth	3,396	4	4	7
Baseball field - adult	7,804	2	2	0
Softball field - youth	5,691	2	3	4
Softball field - adult	5,072	3	3	0
Multi-purpose field	4,683	3	3	19
Dog park	10,000	1	1	1
Outdoor swimming pool	8,023	2	2	1
Tot-lots	6,998	2	2	0
Community gardens	7,914	2	2	0
Multi-use courts	7,866	2	2	1
Soccer field - youth	3,294	4	4	5
Soccer field - adult	7,665	2	2	0
Skate park	10,118	1	1	1
Football field	7,500	2	2	1
Recreation centers	31,141	0	0	1
Community centers	28,939	0	0	1
Performance amphitheater	62,475	0	0	0
Nature centers	109,796	0	0	0
Stadiums	66,972	0	0	0
Teen center	64,000	0	0	1

*Indicates the number of parks with playground equipment and not individual pieces of playground equipment.

COMMUNITY INPUT INTO NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This element of the needs assessment phase incorporates the perspectives and opinions of Borger residents who are users of local parks, trails, and other recreational facilities and programming. Even if not frequent users, due to age or other factors, some citizens generally value this aspect of municipal services and have certain expectations for what types and levels of parks and recreation services should be available to residents and visitors.

NEEDS AND WANTS

The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines a "need" as "a lack of something requisite, desirable, or useful." Meanwhile, a "want" is defined as a "wish or to demand the presence of."

Clearly, there is some overlap between these definitions, but the "must have" aspect of a need is one way to distinguish from the "wish list" nature of a want.

A principal responsibility of local government is to promote public health, safety, and welfare. To the extent that park sites, trails, and recreational facilities are maintained in good condition, then examples of public safety issues that may arise include when a piece of playground equipment needs repair/replacement, when a perimeter trail needs resurfacing to prevent any hazards to trail users, or when the amount of light fixtures is increased to alleviate a security concern at a particular public location.

IMPORTANCE OF PARKS DURING COVID-19



A brief published by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in 2020 contained this information regarding the increase of park and trail use during the COVID-19 pandemic:

"The Rails to Trails Conservancy reported an average weekly increase of 91 percent in trail use during the weeks between mid-March and the beginning of June 2020 (including an average weekly increase of 180 percent during each of the four weeks between mid-March and mid-April). Similarly, a March 2020 Google report on U.S. cell phone location data found a dramatic increase in state and local park activity in several states across the country."

This brief also recommends that local leaders consider these concepts based on the impacts to park use since the outbreak:

- Residents are finding renewed value in parks and trails;
- Renewed interest can help identify opportunities to redevelop amenities to address increased social distancing;

PUBLIC HEALTH

With regard to public health, a core function of local parks and recreation systems is to promote physical fitness, enable residents of all ages to play and enjoy leisure time outdoors, and provide opportunities for both youth and adults to participate in sports and other "active" recreational pursuits. Access to public parks and preserved natural areas within cities has a mental health component as well, especially in providing "passive" recreation options as a pause from hectic lives, busy streets, and other characteristics of an urban environment. The COVID-19 outbreak has amplified the importance of parks providing community-wide public health (see sidebar **Importance of Parks During COVID-19**).

- Update greenspace design standards to ensure compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards;
- Realign social programming to consider social distancing requirements; and
- Use greenspaces and connecting trails as a means to increase tourism and business development activities.

Public welfare is a broader concept that builds on health and safety to include the general livability and attractiveness of a community. Local parks, trails, and sports facilities can also contribute to the economic success of a city, as "quality of life" elements function as a driver of tourism and visitation, including the spending and revenues that come with hosting local events and tournaments.

GAUGING PUBLIC SENTIMENT

Throughout this Master Plan process, the public was engaged through a variety of mechanisms including:

- Online survey available from June 1 to June 30, 2020;
- Listening sessions with the Make Borger Beautiful Committee and City staff (August 2020);
- [VIRTUAL TOWN HALL](#) meeting via Facebook (September 2020); and
- In-person listening session with stakeholders (September 2020).

[APPENDIX A](#) to this plan contains meeting notes and all public survey responses.

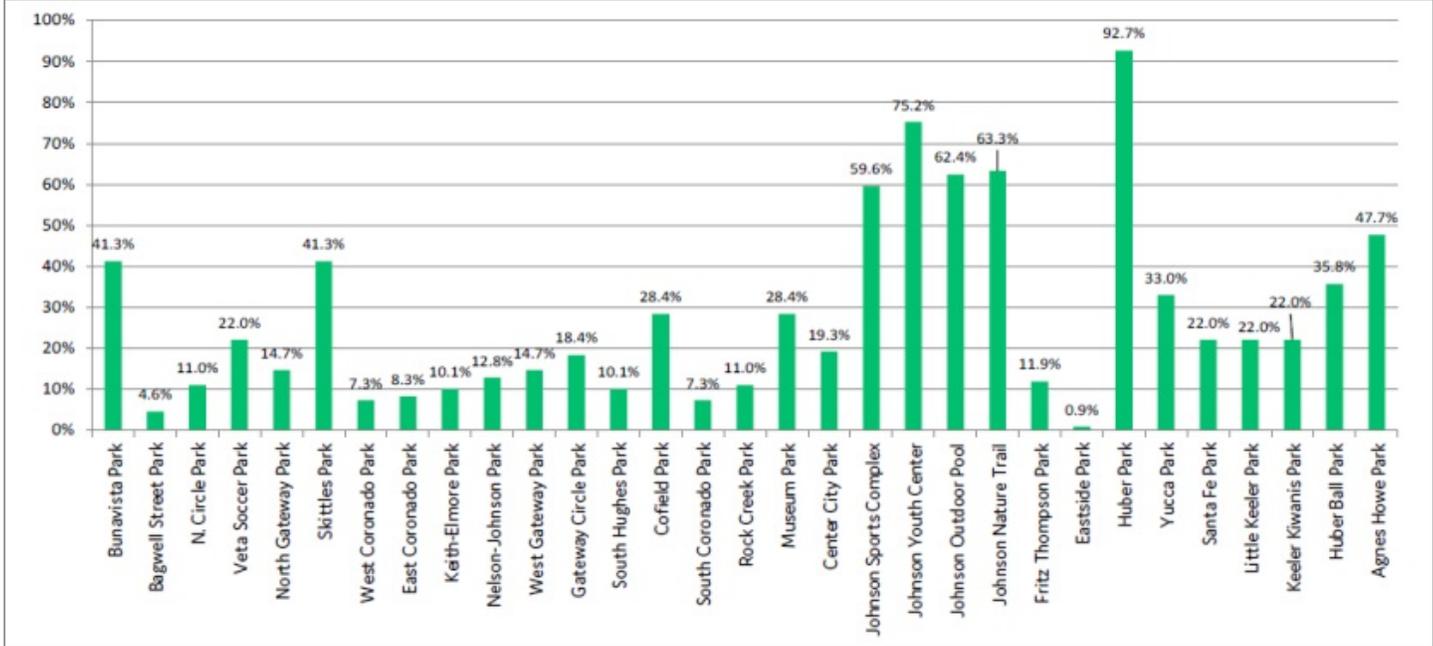
ONLINE SURVEY

An online survey was posted and promoted by the City through social media and its website to supplement the in-person listening sessions. The survey was publicly available from June 1 to June 30, 2020, and completed by 112 respondents. Key findings from the survey are summarized under the heading **SELECT ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS**. The results included in this plan section are those most relevant to the establishment of resource needs for Borger's parks, trails, and recreation system. [APPENDIX A](#) contains the complete results.

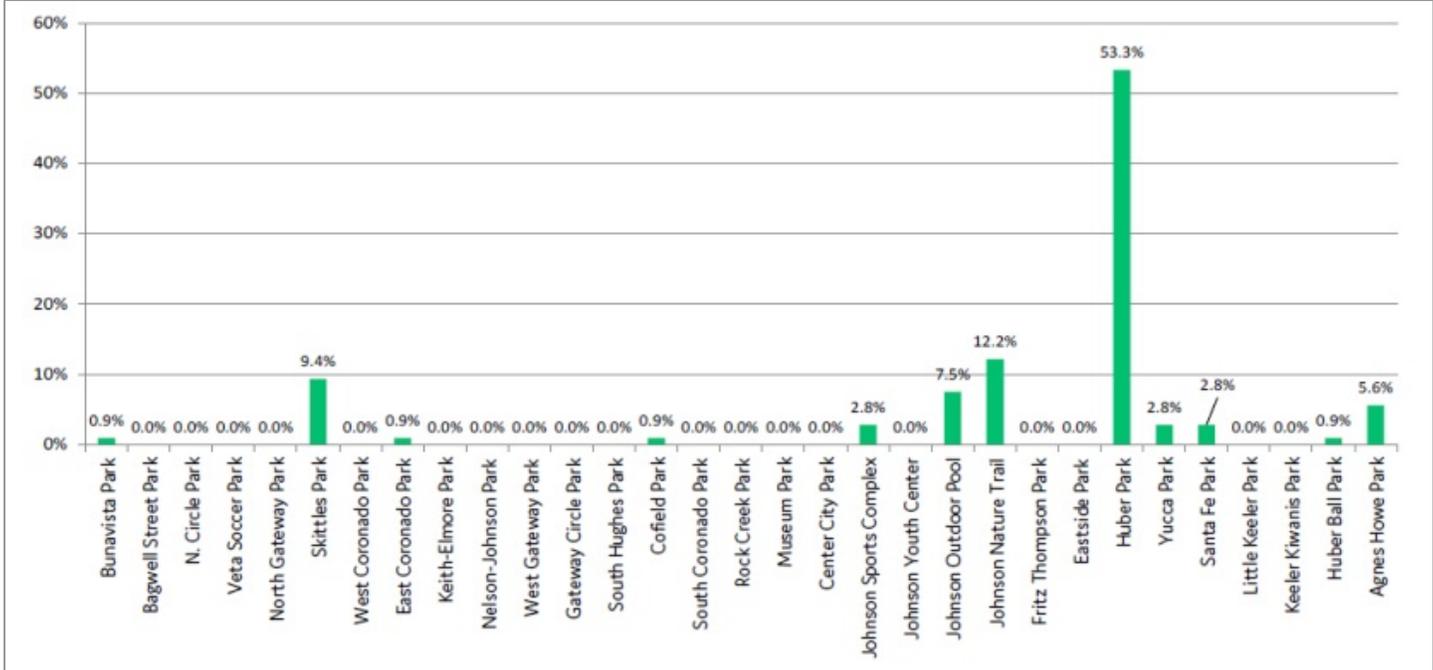
SELECT ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents were asked which park facilities they had visited in the past. The majority of parks in Borger were visited at least once, with the smaller mini/pocket parks visited by less of the respondents than larger neighborhood and community parks. The survey then asked, "Which facility is your favorite to visit?" This question provided more insight relative to whether someone had visited a park once. Respondents overwhelmingly favored the larger parks and/or parks that offer more amenities such as the Johnson Sports Complex facilities, Huber Park, and North Hughes (Skittles) Park.

Question: Which facilities have you visited before?



Question: Which facility is your favorite to visit?



Question: I would use City parks, trails, or recreation facilities more often if...

When respondents were asked which features or amenities they would like to see in order to use parks more frequently, the following responses were the five most often given (in no particular order):

- Better maintenance;

- More trails/walking paths;
- Updated equipment;
- Enhanced safety; and
- More lighting.



The word cloud above creates a visual illustration of the most frequently used terms in response to this question. The words shown with a larger font and a maroon color are the most commonly stated.

Question: When traveling or visiting other communities, have you seen any special park/trail features or recreation amenities that you wish could be in Borger?

Online survey participants most frequently stated that they would like to see more of the following five features incorporated into Borger's park, trails, and recreation system (in no particular order):

- Trails (nature, walking, and biking);
- Inclusion of water features/ ponds;
- Shaded areas for passive recreation; and
- Enhanced/larger pool or splash pad areas.

water bike playground Bike trails Ponds kids Borger outdoor
 Better dog parks parks disc golf courses **Yes** area
 nice love trails splash pad Water park course needs
 equipment

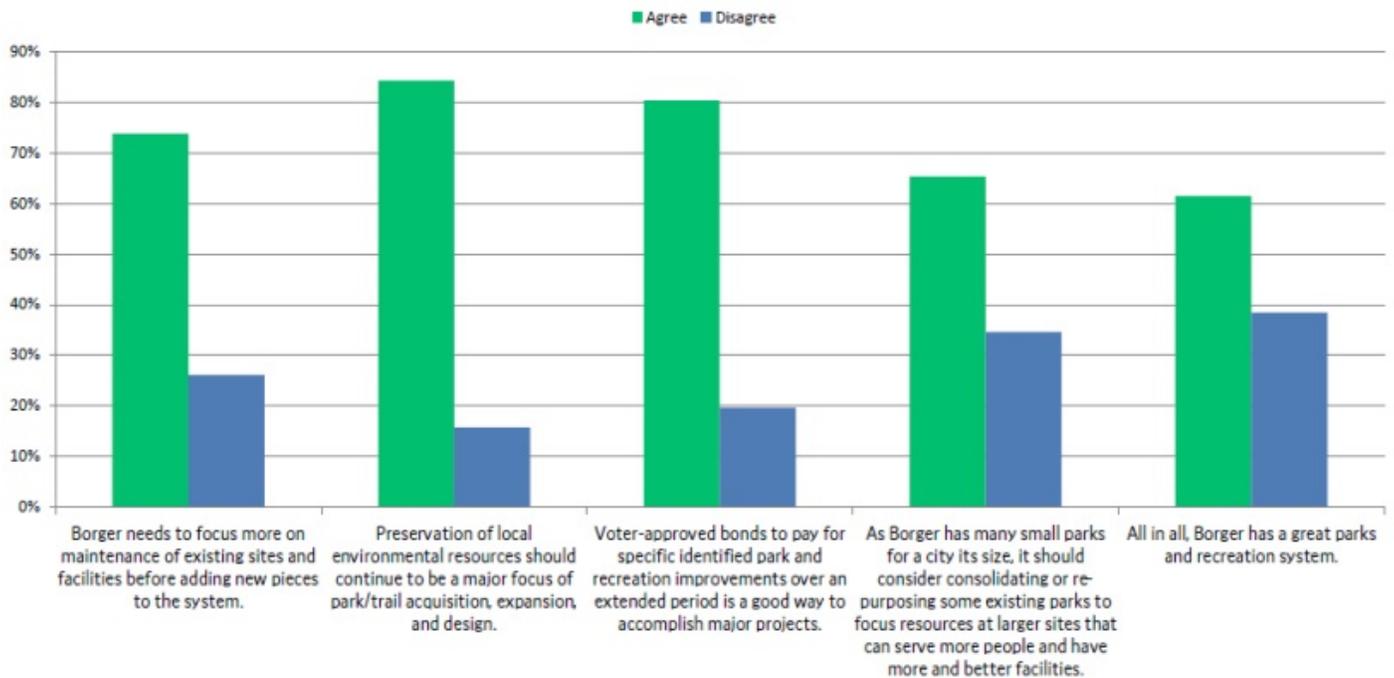


The word cloud above creates a visual illustration of the most frequently used terms in response to this question. The words shown with a larger font and a maroon color are the most commonly stated. As displayed in this word cloud, the most frequently used word was "yes" to answer this question. Yes was often used in combination with other additional features already mentioned and counted as a separate word. However, some responses only contained the word yes, implying that there are features in other communities that respondents would like to see in Borger. However, they did not specifically state the type of desired feature or facility.

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

1. Borger needs to focus more on maintenance of existing sites and facilities before adding new pieces to the system.
2. Preservation of local environmental resources should continue to be a major focus of park/trail acquisition, expansion, and design.
3. Voter-approved bonds to pay for specific identified park and recreation improvements over an extended period is a good way to accomplish major projects.
4. As Borger has many small parks for a city its size, it should consider consolidating or re-purposing some existing parks to focus resources at larger sites that can serve more people and have more and better facilities.
5. All in all, Borger has a great parks and recreation system.

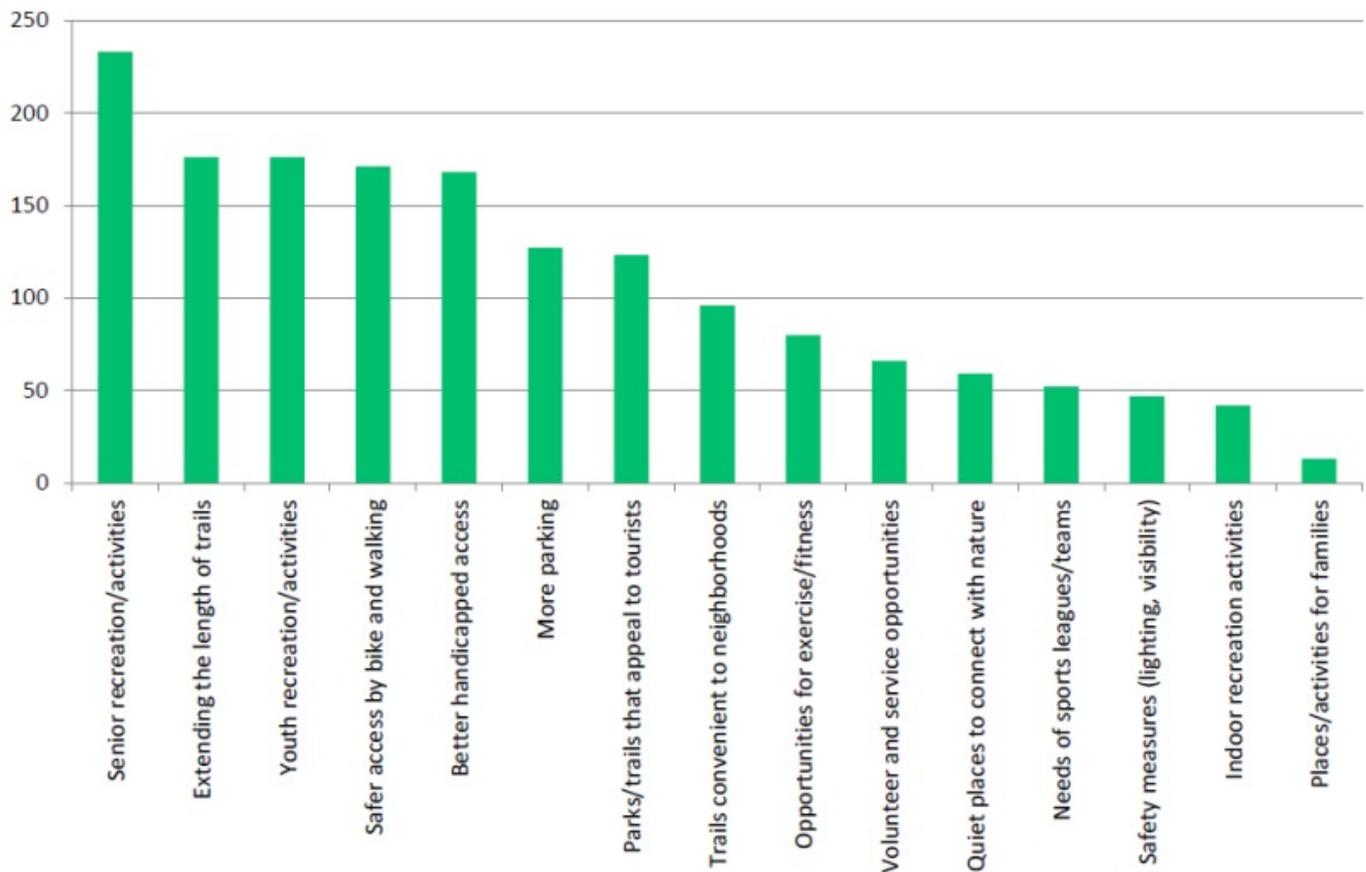
Survey participants generally agreed with all five statements. Statement two received the highest percentage of agreement at 84 percent. The lowest agreement was statement five at 62 percent. Most respondents agreed with statements one (74 percent) and four (65 percent), which both involve focusing on improving existing resources and potential re-purposing of existing park sites. Survey takers also generally agreed with statement three (80 percent) to potentially utilize voter approved bonds to finance specific park improvements.



Ranking: Please rank your top five priorities from the following items (with one as the highest priority and five as the lowest priority):

Participants were asked to rank their highest priorities for Borger's parks from the categories shown on the chart below. All responses were refactored to assign more weight to responses that received a one than responses that received a five. The resulting top five priorities are listed below, with the total score for each shown in parentheses "()":

1. Senior recreation/activities (223);
2. Extending the length of trails (tie-176);
3. Youth recreation/activities (tie-176);
4. Safer access by bike and walking (171); and
5. Better handicapped access (168).



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY

This public involvement summary captures various requests and ideas from Borger residents about features needed to enhance the City’s parks, trails, and recreation system, along with compilations of other desires and expectations for the future. Some of this input would translate to the City providing more of the same services that it already does (e.g., replacing outdated equipment, youth/teen activities programming), less of other things (e.g., re-purposing of parks that are less used than in the past), and some entirely new things (e.g., adding ponds and water features somewhere within the park system). Below is a combined and wide-ranging list of needs and wants identified through community input, recognizing that the distinction between a “need” and a “want” varies from person to person depending on their background, affiliations and interests:

- Activities at the park for older children;
- Americans with Disabilities Act accessible splash pads and play equipment;
- Amphitheater next to park;
- Baseball backstops;
- Bathroom facilities;
- Batting cages;
- Bigger swimming pool with more slides;
- Bike friendly trails/bike lanes;
- Carousel;
- Classes for kids, anything from art to fencing;
- Clean running water;
- Cleaned and maintained better;
- Cleaner restrooms;
- Community center for large group meetings/gatherings;
- Community wide events;
- Dog parks with pools, off-leash areas, and toys;
- Drinking fountains;
- Easier access via bikes;
- Enhanced splash pads;
- Facilities catered to young kids;
- Fishing ponds;
- Fountains;
- Hiking trails (bird watching and nature trail by Weatherly Lake);
- Horseshoe pits;
- Horse trails around the city;
- Improved comfortable walking environment;
- Inclusive playgrounds incorporating plants and statues;
- Increased activities for adults;
- Increased patrols, monitoring, and security;
- Increased wayfinding signage;
- Indoor activities;
- Indoor water park/water aerobics;
- Larger swimming area and a place to float on tubes;

EXAMPLES OF "DESIRABLE" PARK FEATURES STATED BY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPANTS

FISHING/WILDLIFE POND



OFF-ROAD MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL



ARTIFICIAL POND AND STREAM



- Lighted parks;
- Longer open hours;
- Maintained facilities and lawn care;
- Meditation/relaxation spaces;
- Misting/cooling stations for hot days;
- Motocross course;
- Nature trails;
- New equipment and play structures;
- Off-road mountain bike trail;
- Options for older kids;
- Outdoor basketball goals;
- Outdoor putt putt golf;
- Outdoor workout areas;
- Parking;
- Passive open spaces/relaxation areas;
- Perimeter sidewalks for walking while my kids play;
- Pickle ball courts;
- Plenty of shaded and non-shaded seating;
- Pond or small lake features;
- Restrooms;
- Rubber play surfaces for playground equipment;
- Running water or river;
- Safer walking trails (less steep slopes, manicured/paved paths, etc.);
- Safety and security upgrades (lighting, monitoring, and manicured trails/walking paths);
- Shaded areas;
- Toddler and family friendly features;
- Trail system that connect parks, and are for the use of walkers, runners, bicycles and wheelchairs;
- Trees;
- Updated equipment;
- User friendly map of all facilities and trails;
- Water park improvements (lazy river, more slides, etc.);
- Workout equipment;
- Youth sports complex; and
- Zip line course.

TRAIL NETWORK NEEDS

Metrics for municipal park facilities are more prevalent than for public trails. The NRPA does report that the median number of trails managed in 2019 for cities with a population of less than 20,000 was 11.0. Borger currently has one unpaved nature trail with an undetermined length.

More trails was consistently stated as a top need by participants in the online survey, listening sessions, and focus group meetings.

Trails can put another form of recreational asset within reach of populations that may not have a park nearby. Trails are most accessible for convenient and frequent use when they are within 1/4 to 1/2 mile of neighborhoods (and other population concentrations), and depending on their route and design, can serve a linear park function for those in close proximity.

Along with the universal need to improve accessibility to trails and other recreational sites for disabled persons, the compilation of needs includes the following items specifically related to trails:

- Trailhead locations (parking, restrooms, drinking fountains, etc.);
- Trail continuity/extensions;
- Trail enhancements (e.g., mileage markers, benches, interpretive/educational signage, stretching/exercise stations, etc.);
- Trail loop(s);
- Trails designed for multi-use (wide enough for both hikers and bikers); and
- Trails left in a more natural state.

POTENTIAL TRAIL NETWORK

Trails and/or bike paths were mentioned more frequently than any other facility or feature during all public engagement efforts. Participants' desire to have increased biking/walking options is understandable when considering that there is only one formalized trail inside the city.

Considering the area's terrain and that Borger's neighborhoods are already constructed, adding trails throughout the community has challenges to overcome. Given these challenges, this plan includes two high-level trail concepts to guide Borger towards creating an integrated trail system and provide direction for future trail plans.

Map 8, North Trail Diagram, highlights one potential concept that utilizes existing parks, City-owned property, and old right-of-way to create a recreational trail. This proposed trail also starts the process of connecting residents in the neighborhoods north of 10th Street to existing park sites and larger green space areas west of Cedar Street (Highway 207).

Map 9, Conceptual Trail Network, illustrates a potential trail network that connects Borger areas of interest. The depicted network shown as blue-dotted lines is based on connecting important areas in the city, such as park facilities, government buildings, Borger Independent School District (BISD) and Frank Phillips College campuses, and Downtown Borger. This diagram focuses on connecting assets and utilizes publicly owned-properties/rights-of-way. This diagram may be achieved through a combination of separated trails and potential on-street shared bike lanes. However, before implementation of all or part of this network, the City will need to undertake engineering feasibility studies (particularly for segments near Texas Department of Transportation rights-of-way) to determine the potential for constructing this or an alternative network.

In order to provide a near-term option for increasing the miles of trails in Borger, and to create a potential starting point for an integrated city-wide trail network, this plan also depicts potential paths/trails in the Johnson Sports Complex property. "Bulldog Loop" is shown generally with an orange dotted-line on **Map 9, Conceptual Trail Network**, and illustrated in more detail on **Map 10, Bulldog Loop Diagram**.

MAP 8, NORTH TRAIL DIAGRAM



ON-STREET BIKE LANES

Given Borger's topographic constraints and built environment, creating a complete trail network throughout the City will likely involve shared roads with designated bike lanes. There are multiple shared bike lane designs. Choosing the best design for Borger should minimally consider these design elements:

- Right-of-way width needs to have room to include bike lanes;
- Separation of the bike lanes from vehicle traffic;
- Try to locate bike lanes on low volume roads whenever practical;
- Physical separation or visual cues to increase bike rider safety; and
- Bike lanes through intersections require careful planning.

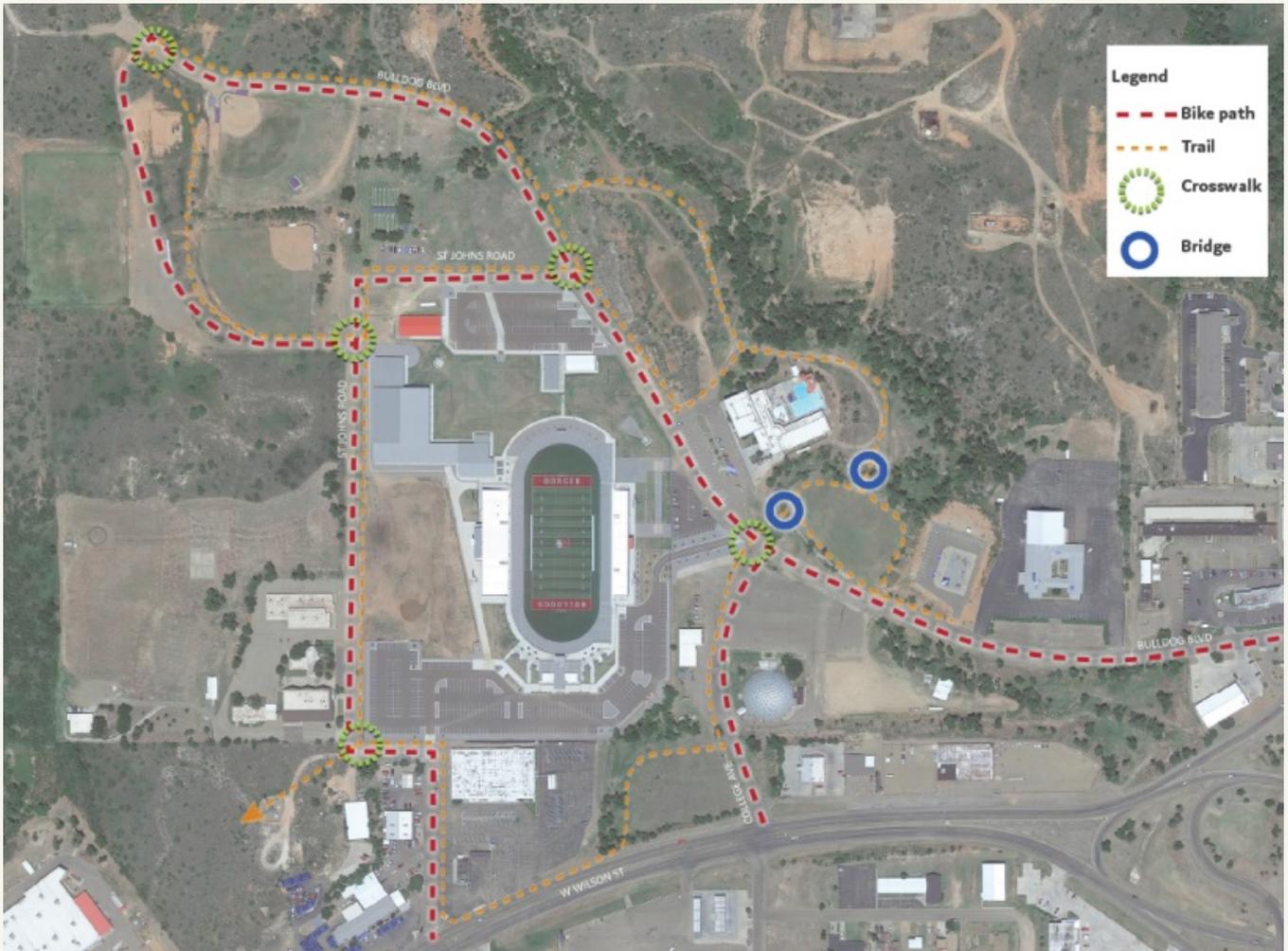
ON-STREET BIKE LANE EXAMPLES



MAP 10, BULLDOG LOOP DIAGRAM

The potential Bulldog Loop, depicted below, showcases how a trail network may start by utilizing an existing site. This proposed hike/bike path may:

- Provide needed trail miles for recreational walking and bike riding activities;
- Connect the numerous features and amenities of the Johnson Sports Complex;
- Create several loops of varying distances; and
- Identify a starting point for a larger city-wide trail network.



Source: Bulldog Loop Diagram provided by Parkhill.

IMPLEMENTATION



This final Master Plan section lays out a list of priorities for improving, enhancing, and diversifying the City's system of parks, trails, and recreation facilities. This list takes from all the previous sections of this plan that considered the local characteristics and context of Borger, its demographic trends and population growth outlook, local goals and concepts to assist with the provision of local parks, trails, and recreation offerings, the current inventory of facilities, and the needs identified for the system based on both planning analysis and public input.

Implementation is the most essential step of the planning process. Therefore, this plan is a "working" document and should be continuously reviewed and periodically updated to ensure decisions continue to meet the changing community needs. Great care should be taken to ensure that the recommendations are viable and consistent with the Boomtown 2040 Comprehensive Plan, land development regulations, and capital budget.

IMPORTANCE OF THIS PLAN

This plan enables the City to continue providing quality parks and open space amenities to its constituents at a sustainable level of service within the City's budget resources.



IMPLEMENTATION SUCCESS FACTORS

Several key factors will be integral to the successful implementation of this Master Plan, including the dedication of the City's leadership, continued public involvement, integration of this plan's priorities into other capital projects, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

DEDICATION OF THE CITY'S LEADERSHIP

Members of the City Council, City staff, and the community must assume ownership of the plan in order for successful short- and long-term priority implementation to become reality. Of particular importance is an annual review process to update and amend the plan, as warranted, and to keep the capital budget and/or items in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) current. The City's capital programming should be regularly updated to reflect new improvements and needs for all parks and recreation facilities.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The City solicited the community's input and guidance during the preparation of this plan to establish the prioritization of facility and programming needs. This input should continue by way of regular listening sessions, continued online surveys, social media updates/questions, social media polls to help determine which improvements are favorable, and regular meetings with volunteer groups, such as the Make Borger Beautiful Committee, parents of school-age children, and representatives of the Borger Independent School District (BISD).

DEDICATION, ACCEPTANCE, AND COMMITMENT

Several of the City's departments have roles in implementing this Master Plan. This may include, among others:

- The Public Works Department (park maintenance, programming, provision of external sidewalks, and crosswalks leading into parks);
- Utility Department (water, sewer, and stormwater);
- Finance Department (funding for projects and matches required for potential grant funding);
- City Administration (direction for priorities and leadership);
- Coordination with volunteer groups, such as the Make Borger Beautiful Committee to spearhead new initiatives (dumpster art programs and adopt a park); and
- Borger Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) and Borger Chamber of Commerce (promoting and hosting events and activities).

Interdepartmental coordination and communication is essential between these City departments to ensure ongoing success and implementation of this plan.

COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

Collaboration with local and regional partners is becoming increasingly important given fiscal constraints and considering each organization's shared missions and objectives. This plan advises the City to actively promote strong partnerships through intergovernmental and/or cooperative agreements for the provision of public/semi-public open space, park facilities, and recreation programs.

EVALUATION

As with any plan, it must be kept up-to-date on a regular basis. Although this plan considers community needs over the next 10 to 20 years, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) recommends a five-year plan. Therefore, City staff should update this plan in 2025. During the interim, staff and the City Council should annually review and periodically amend this plan to reflect changes in funding availability and the community's changing needs and attitudes. Annual reviews will ensure that the recommended actions are viable, realistic, and reconciled with the capital and operating budgets. These reviews will also help Borger officials gauge the plan's progress in meeting its vision, goals, and objectives.

ROLE OF THE CITY AND FUTURE PARTNERSHIPS



The City's role will be to increase its commitment of financial and human resources concurrent with the changing dynamics of the parks and recreation system. In other words, the addition of new or re-purposed amenities and programming may also warrant additional staffing, equipment, and operating budget to manage and maintain increased resources effectively.

There will undoubtedly be challenges in implementing this plan, including escalating maintenance costs, potential land assembly, permission to use right-of-way controlled by other governmental entities, increased fees commensurate with rising costs, and many other challenges. One way to lessen these challenges will be to form partnerships with other providers, agencies, and governments.

The TPWD will likely continue to be a funding source and technical assistance provider through its competitive grant programs. It is advisable to make maximum use of these financial assistance programs to leverage funding, thereby allowing more significant projects. A list of [FUNDING SOURCES](#) and programs is discussed later in this section.

This plan recommends that the City partner with other agencies, jurisdictions, and potentially for-profit entities. Working with partners will enable the City to build on past successes and lessons

learned by working with others involved in parks and recreation, leveraging opportunities and achieving efficiencies, and ultimately achieving a multi-faceted park, trails, and recreation system. Opportunities for partnerships include:

- Non-profit and volunteer organizations;
- Panhandle Regional Planning Commission;
- Frank Phillips College;
- BISD;
- BEDC;
- TIRZ#1 Board; and
- Private sector entities and local employers.

The City is not limited to partnering with the entities listed above. The opportunity to build partnerships should be an ongoing process that continues throughout the five-year Master Plan period and beyond.

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

This section details improvement priorities identified for Borger's parks, trails, and recreation system. These priorities were determined, in part, by the inventory and existing conditions presented in the Area Facility and Inventory and **NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION** sections, the Boomtown 2040 Comprehensive Plan, additional public engagement activities, an online survey, and guidance from the Make Borger Beautiful Committee, City staff, and the City Council.

LINKING PRIORITIES TO EXISTING CONDITIONS AND NEEDS/WANTS

The previous two plan sections examined the quantities of park/open space, facilities, amenities, and the needs of those who utilize the park system. Key findings to consider are:

- Borger's parks system has an ample quantity of dedicated open space to serve its 2018 population and projected population through 2040;
- Facilities with overlapping services are often located within close proximity;
- Amenities provided in individual parks consist of similar features (playground equipment, benches, picnic tables, and grills);
- Mini/pocket and **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS** serve similar functions with little differentiation between features offered (except for N. Hughes Park); and
- Public input activities highlight a desire for more varied activities and assets.

Given these findings, the improvement priorities of this Master Plan focus on existing parks. Public engagement activities highlight that many parks are not visited frequently. Therefore, the following priorities focus on adding necessary upgrades and new features to potentially re-purpose and diversify the amenities provided at specific park sites. This will also help focus the City's limited resources at parks that serve the most considerable portion of Borger's population.

PRIMARY IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

The following list reflects the City's most important priorities towards creating a city-wide set of unique recreation amenities. As this plan matures, each of these projects may be further divided into individual projects within their requisite priorities. Priorities are not listed in a specific order of accomplishment. The City may decide to take on one or several priorities simultaneously in the coming years based on budget availability, staffing resources, and other timing considerations.

Given their impact on multiple park sites, organizations, and/or approval entities, each priority stated below may take several years and budget cycles to complete. Certain priorities call for the renovation or re-purposing of multiple park sites into completely new amenities for Borger's residents and visitors, while others call for creating new assets that link key locations within the city limits. Specific parts of each priority may require repeating — numerous times — before considering the overall priority complete. To assist with these ongoing efforts, **Table 12, Project Priority Implementation Steps** (later in this section), details action steps to further guide the City towards the completion of each priority.

PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION PRIORITIES

1. Add accessible external sidewalk connections, crosswalks, and internal sidewalks to all mini/pocket and neighborhood parks.
2. Re-purpose existing parks to provide a greater variety of amenities and increase utilization of current park sites.
Priority 2.1. Evaluate the following parks for potential re-purposing based on overlapping features, service areas, and/or condition of the park's assets:
 - Country Club Park;

- East Coronado Park;
- Eastside Park;
- Fritz Thompson Park;
- Gateway Circle Park;
- Grace Meredith Park;
- Little Keeler Park;
- Nelson-Johnson Park;
- North Gateway Park;
- Rock Creek Park;
- Santa Fe Park;
- South Coronado Park; and
- West Gateway Park.

Priority 2.2. Identify, from these parks, which sites are potentially appropriate to lease to private companies to provide non-traditional recreation offerings, such as motocross course, zipline course, putt putt golf, etc.

3. Create a network of hiking, biking, and walking trails to provide recreational activities and link City-owned parks, BISD campuses, Frank Phillips College, and residential neighborhoods.

Priority 3.1. Design/engineer and construct the Bulldog Loop. Parkhill has identified the following two cost estimates for the construction of the proposed paths shown on the Bulldog Loop diagram (depicted in the **NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION** section). The two options vary based on the included amenities and extra features provided:

- **Option A**, two-mile trail (\$5.5-\$6 million):
 - > Eight-foot wide concrete trail;
 - > Lighting;
 - > Re-vegetation;
 - > Two pedestrian bridges;
 - > Trees;
 - > Irrigation; and
 - > Bicycle lane pavement markings and signage.
- **Option B**, two-mile trail (\$3.5-\$4 million) with no lighting, landscape features, or irrigation:
 - > Eight-foot wide concrete trail;
 - > Re-vegetation;
 - > Two pedestrian bridges; and
 - > Bicycle lane pavement markings and signage.

Priority 3.2. Prepare a more comprehensive trail and bike path master plan based on the Conceptual Trail Network and North Trail Diagram identified in this plan.

4. Add new and diverse activity programming for residents and visitors of all ages.

5. Evaluate parks not identified to be re-purposed and determine which features/amenities should be replaced or added. Based on the items identified in the **AREA AND FACILITY INVENTORY** and **NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION** sections, the City should focus on these parks:

- Agnes Howe Park;

- Bunavista Park;
- Center City Park;
- Cofield Park;
- Crawford Park;
- Huber Park;
- Huber Ball Park;
- Johnson Sports Complex;
- Keith Elmore Park;
- Keeler Kiwanis Park;
- North Hughes Park (Skittles);
- South Hughes Park;
- West Coronado;
- Veta Soccer Park; and
- Yucca Park.

These parks were identified as they are located in under- served areas, comprised of large areas with room for new amenities/features, offer unique community features, or have already received significant investment.

6. Develop an ongoing CIP line item to plan for adding the following amenities to City-owned parks:
- Bike racks;
 - Drinking fountains;
 - Increased or new lighting;
 - Repair and upgrade existing perimeter walking paths at Keeler Kiwanis, South Hughes, and Gateway Circle Parks;
 - Security features (e.g., cameras, increased patrols, and removing visibility obstructions); and
 - Shade trees/structures.

Public engagement participants frequently cited the items listed above or they were noted as missing in all City-owned facilities. The City should create a systematic method of adding these features to numerous parks.

OTHER POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Priorities 2 and 5 consider the reevaluation of existing park sites to deliver a mix of high- and low-cost amenities.

The **NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION** section of this plan included a more extended "needs and wants" list. While most are ambitious "big ticket" items, there is a mix of more basic low-cost amenities not currently offered that should be considered for inclusion in the parks, trails, and recreation system. The ultimate aim is to create a system of facilities that provide the greatest variety of amenities to residential neighborhoods and the entire city.

ADDING TRADITIONAL AMENITIES

Parks identified in Priority 5 are essential for serving the residents and visitors of Borger with a mix of evenly distributed amenities while avoiding unnecessary duplication. Traditional park items to add that will promote continued use and new interest are:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant equipment;
- Dog parks;
- Enhanced/new splash pads;
- Longer open hours;
- Off-road mountain bike trails;
- Passive open spaces/relaxation areas;
- Pickleball courts;
- Reconstructed perimeter walking paths;
- Rubber play surfaces for playground equipment;
- Safety/security upgrades;
- Shaded areas and new tree plantings;
- User-friendly map of facilities; and
- Workout equipment.

UNIQUE AND HIGH-COST AMENITIES

Certain unique "needs" will remain for longer-term consideration after more immediate priorities are satisfied through the list of top priorities above. Or, they might be considered after some change in circumstances (e.g., emergence of a willing and eager financier or business partner identified through Priority 2.2) that causes a reassessment of priorities through a later Master Plan update. Example items that fit this description include:

- Artificial turf for league and practice fields to reduce wear and tear and maintenance on grass fields;
- Carousel;
- Expanded pools, lazy river, etc.;
- Fishing ponds;
- Motocross track;
- Putt-putt golf course;
- Water features (e.g., fountains, man-made rivers, etc.);
- Youth sports complex; and
- Zipline course.

STAKEHOLDER PARTNERS/ ADVOCATES

This plan's public participation efforts revealed stakeholder groups that formally or informally assist with park maintenance and the provision of new assets. Examples include disc golf enthusiasts, little league associated clubs, and the Make Borger Beautiful Committee.



Sustaining the diverse range of amenities offered in Borger is only possible through the efforts of dedicated volunteers. The City should continue to identify and provide support (both in permitting and potentially financial) to continue these altruistic activities. Recent examples include:

- Dog park clean up assistance;
- Disc golf course maintenance and expanded amenities;
- Organized park clean ups; and
- Potential off-road mountain bike course.

TABLE 12, PROJECT PRIORITY IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

This table lists more detailed action steps and serves as an itemized checklist and conceptual framework to assist staff with achieving this Master Plan's top priorities. Specific action steps are meant to be repeated multiple times. For example, steps 2.1.B - 2.1.F are necessary for each re-purposed park to ultimately achieve the completion of Priority 2. The timeframe column shows an anticipated timeline with "year 1" representing the first year the City decides to pursue that priority. The table includes a cost level column to assist staff and the City Council with determining which priority to undertake in the coming budget years. The cost column indicates a relative cost based on potential staff time and capital/construction costs to complete the corresponding action step. (\$ represents a relatively low cost up to \$\$\$, which represents a significant expenditure.)

TABLE 12, PROJECT PRIORITY IMPLEMENTATION STEPS			
IMPLEMENTATION STEP NUMBER	IMPLEMENTATION STEP DESCRIPTION	TIME-FRAME	COST LEVEL
Priority 1. Add accessible external sidewalk connections, crosswalks, and internal sidewalks to all mini/pocket and neighborhood parks.			
1.A	Create a line item(s) in the City's CIP to fund external and internal sidewalk and ramp access improvements.	Year 1	\$
1.B	Identify park(s) each budget year to install accessibility improvements based on frequency of use, existing sidewalks, and unique park considerations such as steep slopes.	Ongoing	\$
1.C	Design and install accessibility upgrades.	Years 2-5	\$\$
Priority 2. Re-purpose existing parks to provide a greater variety of amenities and increase utilization of current park sites.			
Priority 2.1. Evaluate identified parks for potential re-purposing based on overlapping features, service areas, and/or condition of the park's assets:			
2.1.A	Determine which parks are eligible for re-purposing.	Year 1	\$
2.1.B	Conduct social media polling offering a choice of new facility features for each park (e.g., community garden, naturalized planting, relaxation gardens, etc.), and solicit community input regarding final site designs.	Year 1	\$
2.1.C	Add identified park re-purposing project to the CIP and determine which parks are ready for re-purposing over the five-year CIP timeframe.	Ongoing	\$

TABLE 12, PROJECT PRIORITY IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

IMPLEMENTATION STEP NUMBER	IMPLEMENTATION STEP DESCRIPTION	TIME-FRAME	COST LEVEL
2.1.D	Develop a plan to remove existing equipment and install new features determined in action step 2.1.B.	Years 1-5	\$
2.1.E	Identify grants and deadlines to assist with financing.	Years 2-5	\$
2.1.F	Install new features on park sites.	Years 2-5	Varies
Priority 2.2. Identify sites that are potentially appropriate to lease to private companies to provide non-traditional recreation offerings.			
2.2.A	Determine which existing park sites are best for offering non-traditional activities based on surrounding neighborhood vacancy, park site size, proximity to other attractions, etc.	Year 1	\$
2.2.B	Examine the list of activities/amenities listed under the heading "Other Potential Improvements" to determine if City staff should actively solicit interest from entrepreneurs/businesses.	Years 1-2	\$
2.2.C	Once a potential partner is identified, work with them and legal counsel to develop a lease agreement and site plan.	Ongoing	\$
Priority 3. Create a network of hiking, biking, and walking trails to provide recreational activities and link City-owned parks, BISD campuses, Frank Phillips College, and residential neighborhoods.			
Priority 3.1. Design/engineer and construct the Bulldog Loop.			
3.1.A	Determine if Option A or Option B is preferable for residents and visitors.	Year 1	\$
3.1.B	Hire a design firm with bike planning expertise to develop engineering plans and final cost estimates.	Year 1-2	\$\$
3.1.C	Pursue grant opportunities to assist with funding the construction of the plan.	Year 2+	\$
3.1.D	Consider bond issues to fund portions of the project.	Year 2+	\$\$\$
3.1.E	Construct Bulldog Loop.	Year 3-5	\$\$\$
Priority 3.2. Prepare a more comprehensive trail and bike path master plan based on the Conceptual Trail Network and North Trail Diagram identified in this plan.			
3.2.A	Hire a qualified firm to examine the suggested trail network or alternatives in greater detail to develop a trails master plan.	Year 1-2	\$\$
Priority 4. Add new and diverse activity programming for residents and visitors of all ages.			
4.A	Conduct an in-depth survey to determine which activities/programs meet residents' wants.	Year 1	\$
4.B	Work with parks and recreation staff to offer enhanced programming based on these results.	Year 1+	Varies

TABLE 12, PROJECT PRIORITY IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

IMPLEMENTATION STEP NUMBER	IMPLEMENTATION STEP DESCRIPTION	TIME-FRAME	COST LEVEL
Priority 5. Evaluate parks that will not be re-purposed to determine which features/amenities should be replaced or added.			
5.A	Determine which amenities (identified in the NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION section) to add at existing park sites, such as splash pads, a second dog park, permanent bathrooms, new sports practice fields, or artificial turf to reduce long-term maintenance costs.	Year 1	\$
5.B	Add these items to the five-year CIP to designate the amenity to be added, the park in which it will be located, and the year for expected construction.	Ongoing	\$
5.C	Pursue grant opportunities related to the identified park improvements.	Ongoing	\$
5.D	Design and construct the identified park amenities.	Ongoing	\$\$\$
Priority 6. Develop an ongoing CIP line item to plan for adding amenities to City-owned parks.			
6.A	Add a line item in the CIP to add improvements to one or multiple sites each budget year.	Ongoing	\$\$
6.B	Pursue grant opportunities related to the identified park improvements.	Ongoing	\$

FUNDING SOURCES

This final portion of the plan highlights funding sources, besides the City's financing tools and revenue streams, that may be relevant to implementing this Master Plan. The following list highlights the most pertinent with additional opportunities.

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING PROGRAMS

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) 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.

Of the amounts appropriated in any given fiscal year for the state grants program, 40 percent is divided equally between states and 60 percent is allocated to the states by a

LWCF PERMANENTLY FUNDED

On August 4, 2020, the "Great American Outdoors Act" was signed into law. The LWCF is now permanently and fully funded at \$900 million a year, something that many legislators, community leaders, and conservation groups have been fighting for since the program's creation in 1964. With this announcement, local cities will be able to rest assured that potential funding opportunities continue to be available for the foreseeable future.



population/need-based formula. All state and local grants require at least a 50 percent match by the non-federal partner. The grantee assumes all operation and maintenance costs in perpetuity.

For more program information, go to:

- http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/fed_state.html

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

The TPWD oversees the Recreation Grants program in Texas as detailed in the sidebar **Next Local Parks Grants Round in Fall 2021**. Their major grant programs, among others, are also summarized in **Table 13, Available Funding Sources**.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RIVER, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE

The River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (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.

For a list of regional and state office contacts, go to:

- http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/contactus/cu_offices.html

For more program information, go to:

- <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca>

Details about applying for Community Assistance in Conservation and Outdoor Recreation is at:

- <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm>

NEXT LOCAL PARKS GRANTS ROUND IN FALL 2021

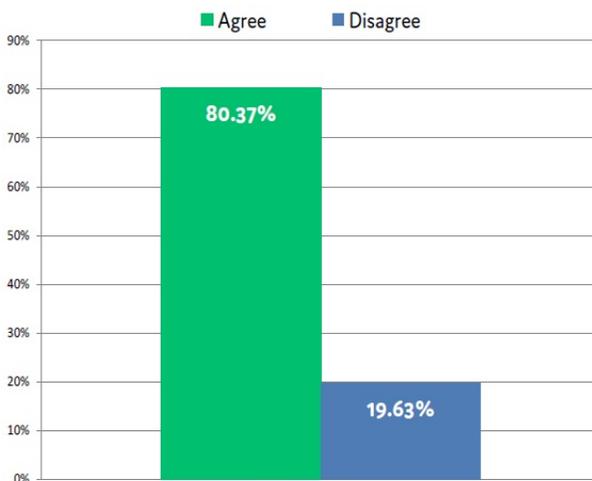
While this Master Plan was heading toward final adoption, the TPWD was advertising the next annual application round for its Local Parks Grants Program. This program is highly popular with - and very competitive among - cities and other local units of government statewide that provide public recreation services (e.g., counties, river authorities, municipal utility districts, and other special districts).

The five sub-programs provide 50 percent 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. Program funding comes from a portion of the state sales tax on sporting goods, supplemented by federal offshore gas royalties through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Borger is eligible for these programs as they are designated for political subdivisions of the State of Texas legally responsible for providing public recreation services to their citizens. The application process is handled entirely online (search for “Texas Rec Grants Online”). TPWD evaluates submitted applications using its Priority Scoring System, and funding recommendations are presented to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission for final grant award decisions. All related program information and contacts for assistance are available at:

<http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/#outdoor>



CITY BOND FINANCING OPTION



The City may choose to self fund certain projects and this plan provides general insight regarding the public opinion of potentially issuing bonds to provide park amenities. The **NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION** section includes highlights from the responses to an online public survey. One statement specifically asked about potential public support for the consideration of bond elections for financing parks, trails, and recreation projects. Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the following statement:

"Voter-approved bonds to pay for specific identified park and recreation improvements over an extended period is a good way to accomplish major projects?"

TABLE 13, AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas (less than 20,000 pop.).

Offered By	U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
Eligible Entities	Public bodies, community-based nonprofits, federally recognized tribes
Total Program Funding	Dependent on funding requests
Max-Min Award per Project	Dependent on population and median income in project area
Match	15% – 75%, depending on population and median household income
Application Due Date	Rolling

STATE PROGRAMS

LOCAL PARK GRANT PROGRAM: SMALL COMMUNITY (ELIGIBLE POPULATION 2010 CENSUS 20,000 OR LESS)

Assists eligible entities from communities with a population of 20,000 or less with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout Texas.

Offered By	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Eligible Entities	Local governments, river authorities, municipal utility districts (MUDs), other special districts
Total Program Funding	\$750,000
Max-Min Award per Project	\$75,000 maximum award
Match	50%
Application Due Date	November

LOCAL PARK GRANT PROGRAM: NON-URBAN INDOOR/OUTDOOR RECREATION (ELIGIBLE POPULATION 2010 CENSUS 500,000 OR LESS)

Assists eligible entities from non-urban communities with a population of 500,000 or less with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout Texas.

Offered By	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Eligible Entities	Local governments, river authorities, municipal utility districts (MUDs), other special districts
Total Program Funding	\$2,000,000
Max-Min Award per Project	\$750,000 maximum award
Match	50%
Application Due Date	November

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR OUTREACH PROGRAM (CO-OP)

Provides reimbursement grants for programming that introduces under-served populations to environmental and conservation programs. Eligible expenses can include equipment, leasing transportation, staff, liability insurance, food, and program materials.

Offered By	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Eligible Entities	Non-traditional constituents to TPWD related outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental education programs; local governments; tax exempt organizations

TABLE 13, AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Total Program Funding	\$1,500,000
Max-Min Award per Project	\$50,000 maximum award
Match	N/A
Application Due Date	November

RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUND

Provides funding for constructing and improving both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects, developing trailheads and trailside facilities, and acquiring trail corridors. Funding is provided on a cost reimbursement basis.

Offered By	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Eligible Entities	Local governments, river authorities, municipal utility districts (MUDs), other special districts, federal land managers, nonprofits
Total Program Funding	\$3,900,000
Max-Min Award per Project	\$200,000 maximum for non-motorized trails and \$400,000 maximum for motorized trails
Match	Reimbursement grants up to 80%
Application Due Date	February each year

CONSERVATION GRANT FUNDING (BIRDING)

Provides conservation funding for nature tourism and avian habitat restoration, enhancement, and acquisition projects.

Offered By	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Great Texas Birding Classic
Eligible Entities	Local, state, and federal governments, nonprofits, tribes, community groups
Total Program Funding	Dependent on team registration fees and corporate sponsorship dollars each year
Max-Min Award per Project	\$1,000 – \$20,000
Match	Not required, but encouraged
Application Due Date	May each year

PRIVATE PROGRAMS

KABOOM! GRANTS PROGRAM

Promotes development of outdoor playgrounds.

Offered By	Kaboom!
Eligible Entities	City and county governments, schools, child-serving nonprofits
Total Program Funding	N/A
Max-Min Award per Project	Varies per program
Match	Varies per program
Application Due Date	Varies per program

SHADE STRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

Funds the installation of permanent shade structures to cover outdoor areas not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds, pools or recreation spaces.

Offered By	American Academy of Dermatology
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TABLE 13, AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Eligible Entities	Public schools, nonprofits
Total Program Funding	N/A
Max-Min Award per Project	\$8,000 maximum award
Match	None
Application Due Date	Rolling

SKATEPARK GRANTS

Promotes building new, high quality, public skateparks in low-income areas throughout the United States.

Offered By	Skatepark Project
Eligible Entities	State and local agencies, nonprofits
Total Program Funding	N/A
Max-Min Award per Project	\$1,000 – \$25,000
Match	None
Application Due Date	January and June each year

APPENDIX A - TPWD COMPLIANCE MATRIX

The following matrix compares the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) acceptable park plan criteria with the contents in this Borger Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan.

TPWD PLAN CONTENTS	BORGER PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN CONTENTS
Introduction Plan Development Process	INTRODUCTION
Goals and Objectives	GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Area and Facility Concepts and Standards	CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS
Existing Conditions Inventory of Areas and Facilities	AREA AND FACILITY INVENTORY
Needs Assessment and Identification	NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION
Plan Implementation and Prioritization of Needs	IMPLEMENTATION
Supplemental Information	APPENDIX A - TPWD COMPLIANCE MATRIX APPENDIX B - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY APPENDIX C - PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

APPENDIX B - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY

This appendix section documents and provides highlights from the various leadership, stakeholder, and community engagement activities that were completed in support of this Master Plan process. These activities occurred from June 2020 through September 2020, after which a final proposed plan was the subject of a City Council public hearing in January and then considered by Council for adoption as an official master plan of the City (adopted on January 5, 2021).

ONLINE SURVEY

An online survey, hosted on the Survey Monkey platform, was available to all members of the public from June 1 to June 30, 2020. The survey consisted of 11 questions and received 112 individual responses with a completion rate of 96 percent. The questions asked and their results are as follows:

QUESTION 1 – WHICH CITY PARKS OR RECREATION FACILITIES HAVE YOU VISITED BEFORE? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)							
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES		ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Bunavista Park	41.28%	45	Rock Creek Park	11.01%	12		
Country Club Park (Bagwell Street)	4.59%	5	Museum Park	28.44%	31		
N. Circle Park	11.01%	12	Center City Park	19.27%	21		
Veta Soccer Park	22.02%	24	Johnson Sports Complex	59.63%	65		
North Gateway Park	14.68%	16	Johnson Youth Center	75.23%	82		
Skittles Park	41.28%	45	Johnson Outdoor Pool	62.39%	68		
West Coronado Park	7.34%	8	Johnson Nature Trail	63.30%	69		
East Coronado Park	8.26%	9	Fritz Thompson Park	11.93%	13		
Keith-Elmore Park	10.09%	11	Eastside Park	0.90%	1		
Nelson-Johnson Park	12.84%	14	Huber Park	92.66%	101		
West Gateway Park	14.68%	16	Yucca Park	33.03%	36		
Gateway Circle Park	18.35%	20	Santa Fe Park	22.02%	24		
South Hughes Park	10.09%	11	Little Keeler Park	22.02%	24		
Cofield Park	28.44%	31	Keeler Kiwanis Park	22.02%	24		
South Coronado Park	7.34%	8	Huber Ball Park	35.78%	39		
			Agnes Howe Park	47.71%	52		

QUESTION 2 – WHICH FACILITY IS YOUR FAVORITE TO VISIT?		
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bunavista Park	0.93%	1
Country Club Park (Bagwell Street)	0.00%	0
N. Circle Park	0.00%	0
Veta Soccer Park	0.00%	0
North Gateway Park	0.00%	0
Skittles Park	9.35%	10

QUESTION 2 – WHICH FACILITY IS YOUR FAVORITE TO VISIT?

West Coronado Park	0.00%	0
East Coronado Park	0.93%	1
Keith-Elmore Park	0.00%	0
Nelson-Johnson Park	0.00%	0
West Gateway Park	0.00%	0
Gateway Circle Park	0.00%	0
South Hughes Park	0.00%	0
Cofield Park	0.93%	1
South Coronado Park	0.00%	0
Rock Creek Park	0.00%	0
Museum Park	0.00%	0
Center City Park	0.00%	0
Johnson Sports Complex	2.80%	3
Johnson Youth Center	0.00%	0
Johnson Outdoor Pool	7.48%	8
Johnson Nature Trail	12.15%	13
Fritz Thompson Park	0.00%	0
Eastside Park	0.00%	0
Huber Park	53.27%	57
Yucca Park	2.80%	3
Santa Fe Park	2.80%	3
Little Keeler Park	0.00%	0
Keeler Kiwanis Park	0.00%	0
Huber Ball Park	0.93%	1
Agnes Howe Park	5.61%	6

PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS YOUR FAVORITE FACILITY:

Lots of space.	It's the hometown baseball field it brings nothing but joy to everyone!
Big, open, birds, playground.	Fun.
I like to walk there.	It is the most centrally located.
It's peaceful.	Trees, water, and especially those opportunities to see wildlife in its natural habitat. Much closer and more convenient than traveling to Lake Meredith.
Because it feels like it's not in Borger.	Because it is not full of dog feces, drug dealers, used condoms, and drug needles like the other parks.
It's the biggest.	Swimming.

QUESTION 2 – WHICH FACILITY IS YOUR FAVORITE TO VISIT?

It has the most attractions: splash pad, birds, walking track, and playground. It also gets the most maintenance. I wish all the parks got taken care of this way, considering we pay park fees for parks in our neighborhood.	It's bigger and there are more things to do. Splash pad, gazebo, etc., and the grass is in better shape than most.
Big, central location, and lots of choices in one spot.	Updated.
Baseball and softball is great for our youth.	We like the trails.
Closest to home.	It's very big and it has birds.
Disc golf.	My kids love it. It's cleaner.
Disc golf course is great.	I grew up around that neighborhood.
Disc golf is growing rapidly, because we have a solid community of disc golfers.	I love taking hikes in nature and I love walking along the water. The wildflowers are beautiful when they're in bloom too.
Has something for almost everyone.	This park has the most options for my family of five to enjoy.
It has plenty of open space for holding team practices. The play ground is updated.	It is a beautiful setting for baseball, with a very unique history!
Before the COVID-19, we would live here with the amount of sports that were available for when I was coaching.	Because I attend for disc golf which is my family's favorite.
The community building.	Shade and small kid friendly.
Great play structures.	It is right behind our house and I like to take my granddaughters to swing.
Lots of kids sports activities.	My kids of all ages are able to play with ease. Also my daughter with dwarfism is able to play without me worrying if she will hurt herself.
Nice, well kept.	We just discovered this!
Fun to walk the trail.	Granddaughter likes the swings, slides, and water park.
Offers the most room and facilities.	Best available play equipment, long walking trail, most trees, cleaner park.
Sidewalks and benches for walking.	Walking path.
Well put together.	It's close to home.
Shade and walking.	For the disc golf course.
Because my daughter plays softball.	I love playing disc golf.
It is the cleanest and most maintained.	Walking myself and dog.
Dog park nearby.	I like to walk there. I walk at Skittles too.
Nicest park with the most things to do for the family.	Amazing.
When it is hot, my kids like the pool.	Lots of stuff for kids and easy accessibility.
Good location and very well kept up.	Walking trail.
Swimming!	Size, lots of shade, parking.
Easy walking trails, well maintained.	This park is directly across the street from my house.

QUESTION 2 – WHICH FACILITY IS YOUR FAVORITE TO VISIT?

Swings, birds, volleyball, large area to play, walk, water area when it's open.	Close to home, well maintained.
It's beautiful and relaxing and makes you feel like you're escaping or somewhere bigger than Borger.	Close to home.
In a decent location.	

QUESTION 3 – DO YOU EVER GO TO SCHOOL CAMPUSES FOR RECREATION?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	51.38% 56
No	48.62% 53

IF YOU ANSWERED YES, WHICH FACILITY DO YOU GO TO MOST FREQUENTLY?

Borger Middle School (BMS).	Middle school track although i would love to run on my own high school track.
BMS.	Crockett/Gateway.
BMS track to run.	BMS.
Paul Belton and Gateway.	BMS track.
BMS.	Gateway.
Borger Intermediate School (BIS)/BMS for walking the track and playing at Gateway/Crockett playground.	Crockett/Gateway.
BMS.	BMS/elementary schools.
Crockett/BMS.	Gateway.
Borger disc golf course.	High school football field.
Crockett.	Gateway/Crockett.
Gateway/Crockett	Paul Belton.
Gateway/Crockett/BIS campus facilities.	Track at middle school.
Gateway/Crockett.	Borger High School baseball field.
Gateway and BMS track.	Gateway/Crockett.
BMS track to walk.	Gateway playground and the middle school track.
BMS.	Take granddaughter to middle school park.
Gateway.	Crockett and Gateway.
Crockett/Gateway.	Middle school playgrounds.
High School.	I thought you can't go there.
BMS.	Frank Phillips College and BMS.
Elementary school.	BMS track.
BIS playground. My daughter loves the new equipment.	Gateway/Crockett.
BIS off Evergreen.	BMS track.
Crockett/Gateway schools.	BMS track to run.
Frank Phillips College.	Crockett/Gateway.

QUESTION 3 – DO YOU EVER GO TO SCHOOL CAMPUSES FOR RECREATION?

BIS and BMS.

QUESTION 4 – WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU USE SCHOOL FACILITIES FOR?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Use playground equipment with kids	37.23%	35
Walk or jog	39.36%	37
Use sports courts/fields (e.g., basketball, tennis, baseball)	10.64%	10
Use open fields for other activities	12.77%	12
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)		
Soccer.	Don't use them.	
Also to walk.	Playground, track for walking.	
Running, playing, riding scooters, and playing ball.	N/A.	
Disc golf.	I don't use school facilities.	
N/A.	All of the above.	
Not use.	We've done all of the top three: used playground, walked/jogged, and used the tennis courts.	
Walk.	Please add some pickleball courts.	
None.	None.	
N/A.	Run.	

QUESTION 5 – PLEASE RANK YOUR TOP FIVE PRIORITIES FROM THE FOLLOWING ITEMS (WITH 1 AS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY AND 5 AS THE LOWEST PRIORITY):

RESPONSE RANKINGS																
PRIORITY	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
Safer access by bike and walking	25.58%	22	6.98%	6	8.14%	7	8.14%	7	8.14%	7	12.79%	11	2.33%	2	5.81%	5
Quiet places to connect with nature	8.89%	8	20.00%	18	8.89%	8	14.44%	13	6.67%	6	4.44%	4	12.22%	11	4.44%	4
Needs of sports leagues/teams	8.99%	8	15.73%	14	17.98%	16	11.24%	10	7.87%	7	6.74%	6	4.49%	4	3.37%	3
More parking	0.00%	0	4.65%	4	6.98%	6	11.63%	10	13.95%	12	5.81%	5	5.81%	5	12.79%	11
Youth recreation/activities	27.17%	25	11.96%	11	14.13%	13	8.70%	8	9.78%	9	5.43%	5	5.43%	5	4.35%	4
Opportunities for exercise/fitness	7.95%	7	11.36%	10	7.95%	7	7.95%	7	19.32%	17	13.64%	12	10.23%	9	3.41%	3
Safety measures (lighting, visibility)	6.59%	6	10.99%	10	6.59%	6	10.99%	10	16.48%	15	8.79%	8	14.29%	13	6.59%	6

QUESTION 5 – PLEASE RANK YOUR TOP FIVE PRIORITIES FROM THE FOLLOWING ITEMS (WITH 1 AS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY AND 5 AS THE LOWEST PRIORITY):

Trails convenient to neighborhoods	6.45%	6	4.30%	4	10.75%	10	5.38%	5	10.75%	10	5.38%	5	11.83%	11	17.20%	16
Better handicapped access	0.00%	0	2.53%	2	1.27%	1	1.27%	1	0.00%	0	3.80%	3	3.80%	3	15.19%	12
Senior recreation/activities	4.76%	4	1.19%	1	4.76%	4	2.38%	2	2.38%	2	2.38%	2	5.95%	5	2.38%	2
Indoor recreation activities	0.00%	0	4.55%	4	9.09%	8	5.68%	5	2.27%	2	7.95%	7	3.41%	3	2.27%	2
Extending the length of trails	2.15%	2	5.38%	5	5.38%	5	5.38%	5	4.30%	4	3.23%	3	3.23%	3	1.08%	1
Places/activities for families	15.31%	15	12.24%	12	8.16%	8	11.22%	11	7.14%	7	4.08%	4	4.08%	4	3.06%	3
Parks/trails that appeal to tourists	4.26%	4	5.32%	5	7.45%	7	6.38%	6	7.45%	7	3.19%	3	1.06%	1	6.38%	6
Volunteer and service opportunities	4.60%	4	1.15%	1	3.45%	3	8.05%	7	0.00%	0	3.45%	3	2.30%	2	2.30%	2

RESPONSE RANKINGS (CONTINUED)

PRIORITY	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total Score								
Safer access by bike and walking	2.33%	2	9.30%	8	2.33%	2	1.16%	1	3.49%	3	1.16%	1	2.33%	2	86	10.73
Quiet places to connect with nature	1.11%	1	1.11%	1	5.56%	5	3.33%	3	0.00%	0	4.44%	4	4.44%	4	90	10.34
Needs of sports leagues/teams	1.12%	1	5.62%	5	3.37%	3	2.25%	2	3.37%	3	2.25%	2	5.62%	5	89	10.33
More parking	9.30%	8	4.65%	4	2.33%	2	6.98%	6	2.33%	2	5.81%	5	6.98%	6	86	8.20
Youth recreation/activities	3.26%	3	0.00%	0	2.17%	2	0.00%	0	3.26%	3	2.17%	2	2.17%	2	92	11.59
Opportunities for exercise/fitness	10.23%	9	3.41%	3	1.14%	1	1.14%	1	1.14%	1	1.14%	1	0.00%	0	88	10.53
Safety measures (lighting, visibility)	6.59%	6	2.20%	2	2.20%	2	3.30%	3	2.20%	2	2.20%	2	0.00%	0	91	10.15
Trails convenient to neighborhoods	8.60%	8	6.45%	6	4.30%	4	4.30%	4	2.15%	2	1.08%	1	1.08%	1	93	9.25
Better handicapped access	21.52%	17	22.78%	18	7.59%	6	8.86%	7	2.53%	2	3.80%	3	5.06%	4	79	6.42
Senior recreation/activities	10.71%	9	22.62%	19	13.10%	11	11.90%	10	9.52%	8	4.76%	4	1.19%	1	84	6.64
Indoor recreation activities	4.55%	4	6.82%	6	25.00%	22	19.32%	17	4.55%	4	2.27%	2	2.27%	2	88	6.99

QUESTION 5 – PLEASE RANK YOUR TOP FIVE PRIORITIES FROM THE FOLLOWING ITEMS (WITH 1 AS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY AND 5 AS THE LOWEST PRIORITY):

Extending the length of trails	4.30%	4	4.30%	4	6.45%	6	22.58%	21	20.43%	19	8.60%	8	3.23%	3	93	6.19
Places/activities for families	2.04%	2	1.02%	1	4.08%	4	4.08%	4	15.31%	15	6.12%	6	2.04%	2	98	9.40
Parks/trails that appeal to tourists	2.13%	2	0.00%	0	5.32%	5	2.13%	2	10.64%	10	31.91%	30	6.38%	6	94	6.38
Volunteer and service opportunities	4.60%	4	1.15%	1	3.45%	3	0.00%	0	6.90%	6	9.20%	8	49.43%	43	87	4.45

QUESTION 6 – PLEASE SELECT WHETHER YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH OF THESE STATEMENTS:

STATEMENT	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
Borger needs to focus more on maintenance of existing sites and facilities before adding new pieces to the system.	73.83%	26.17%	107
Preservation of local environmental resources should continue to be a major focus of park/trail acquisition, expansion, and design.	84.26%	15.74%	108
Voter-approved bonds to pay for specific identified park and recreation improvements over an extended period is a good way to accomplish major projects.	80.37%	19.63%	107
As Borger has many small parks for a city its size, it should consider consolidating or re-purposing some existing parks to focus resources at larger sites that can serve more people and have more and better facilities.	65.38%	34.62%	104
All in all, Borger has a great parks and recreation system.	61.54%	38.46%	104

QUESTION 7 - I WOULD USE CITY PARKS, TRAILS, OR RECREATION FACILITIES MORE OFTEN IF:

RESPONSES:

Basketball court closer to home.	They were safer after dark.
More trails.	There was a user friendly map of safe walkways, places to ride my bike, or park and walk options.
Better parking.	Neighborhood parks had sidewalks for walking while my kids played. That also had lighting for the evenings.
They need to be updated it seems you are doing that. We also need walking and bike trails.	They were more accessible and better maintained.

QUESTION 7 - I WOULD USE CITY PARKS, TRAILS, OR RECREATION FACILITIES MORE OFTEN IF:

RESPONSES:

They were better maintained and had more lighting, parking, and activities.	If the bathroom facilities were up-kept everyday.
They were cleaner.	It was safer and better taken care of.
My local small park in older neighborhood was maintained better.	Updated and maintained.
They were more up to date and had better equipment. Easier to take young children to due to equipment not being made for younger kids.	They were better maintained.
They were mowed more often.	Trails were improved, marked, and expanded taking advantage to locate trails along scenic areas to enjoy the natural beauty.
They were better maintained and lighted.	They were maintained, policed, and safer to take my children to.
We don't have a trail system. Our parks (Agnes Howe) are dilapidated and antiquated. A new youth sports facility needs to be built plain and simple.	The grass was better kept and trash picked-up. People leave places a mess, unfortunately.
There were more trails.	More equipment closer to our house.
I had time.	Update and add basketball courts. Huber park's needs updates. Add one across from Yucca Park!!
Disc golf was more up-kept.	Trails were longer, playground equipment more secure i.e., the swings with missing bolts.
The disc golf course was improved or another added.	They were easier to get to by bike and had cooler playground sets.
Disc golf had concrete tee pads.	Huber park needs a pond. Nature trail needs safer easy to walk on trails.
They had disc golf baskets.	There were more trails to explore and better playground equipment at some parks.
I had more free time.	They didn't close so early.
They were updated. For example batting cages.	There was more shade and the playgrounds were more enticing.
They were well maintained and clean.	If some had more options for my older kids to include my whole family in the outings.
Some parks need to be maintained.	There were more things for adults to do.
They were maintained and up to date. The City seems to only contribute to Huber Park on Cedar St., the rest are junk!	They were equipped with baseball backstops and basketball courts.
The bathroom facilities were available and larger play equipment for kids.	They would empty trash cans along the walking trail and disc golf course, bridges across creeks that have washed away, and concrete pads for disc golf.

QUESTION 7 - I WOULD USE CITY PARKS, TRAILS, OR RECREATION FACILITIES MORE OFTEN IF:

RESPONSES:

A lot of the smaller parks like Bunavista if it was cleaner and updated.	Closer.
Yes.	They were toddler and family friendly.
They were updated and expanded.	They were cleaned and maintained better.
I use them a lot already.	They were updated and user friendly.
Bathrooms.	I knew about them.
If I felt safer, I would walk at Huber Park.	Yes.
They were better kept.	Better taken care of.
Trail lighting at nature trail/disc golf course lighting.	They were better taken care of, trash taken out, mowed, etc.
They had better equipment and play structures.	There were better facilities for my young kids.
Time.	My bikes hadn't burnt up.
More parks had walking trails.	They made a hiking/bird trail by Weatherly Lake. We have a lake in town but don't know about it.
They were more appealing.	They were closer to home.
Open all hours.	The trail was safer, the nature trail is dangerous except for the young, too easy to slip on rocks.
When they were kept clean and safe.	Better equipment and amenities.
More nature trails with open space.	Replace the gravel/sand with the squishy type pad that Crockett/Gateway Park has it would be safer that way. No wood chips.
They were nicer.	Love Pampa trails that connect parks. Need pickleball courts.
Maps and info on the parks were made more accessible.	I didn't work.
Community wide events were held there i.e., "Trade Days."	The areas were patrolled more.
There were more attractions at the various parks.	Parks are great and my family utilizes all aspects.
They were better and less trashy (nature trail) broken bottles, beer cans, and fast food trash.	You got rid of Annadon.
They were clean and better taken care of. Found a pair of rusty scissors at the Huber Park sand box and haven't been back since.	The park by my house is really nice but the activity in the parking lot at Huber Park is dangerous and I do not feel safe in the evening with the reckless driving and drug dealers every evening.
There were more activities.	The grass was watered and green.
Improved trail systems for safe walking and exercise.	I had more time.

QUESTION 8 – WHEN TRAVELING OR VISITING OTHER COMMUNITIES, HAVE YOU SEEN ANY SPECIAL PARK/TRAIL FEATURES OR RECREATION AMENITIES THAT YOU WISH COULD BE IN BORGER?

RESPONSES:

No.	Yes.
River or water run through.	Not that I can think of.
No.	Better shading.
Bike trails and walking trails. Old run down things turned into art instead of just junk.	Yes, dog parks with pools and toys.
Bike lanes, workout equipment.	A few mountains would be nice... a body of water or improved water at trails would do though.
Yes.	No.
Better/cleaner restrooms, more splash pads, and handicap playgrounds.	Tulsa outdoor play area.
Yes, a nicer splash pad with a play ground right beside it. Plenty of shaded and non-shaded seating.	A pond or small lake, a carousel, more places for families to gather (like the gazebo). If you have ever been to the park in Elk City, Oklahoma, take note of it. It's awesome.
N/A	No.
Absolutely. Borger is the only town in the state of Texas that does not have a decent youth sports complex. This is partially the reason that Borger does not have an influx of new residents.	Yes.
Water park (lazy river, slides, etc.). We need a sports complex for our kids!	A zipline.
No.	Elk City, Oklahoma has a carousel and pond we love.
More disc golf variety.	Super fun splash pad.
Yes, several disc golf courses set up in all decent size parks. Huber park could fit a nice nine-hole course.	No.
I have visited many parks outside of Borger, and a lot of them have helped out the disc golf community in getting better tee pads up and signage throughout the courses. The Johnson Park disc golf course is a great course. They just need better tee pads and signage. I think the city should benefit and help out the disc golf community in Borger. It is a growing sport and all ages are able to play.	Yes, we've seen ponds or lakes with ducks. We've seen beautiful all-inclusive playgrounds incorporating plants and statues. Also, a nicer splash pad would be nice. I would also LOVE a more extensive offering of recreational classes for kids, anything from art to fencing.
Loved Bed Rock City, in Arizona	I would love it if Borger had a park similar to the Discovery Center in Amarillo.
Again updated equipment.	A community/activity center indoor water park with water aerobics.
Just nice well maintained facilities and lawn care so people will respect it and take care of it.	The fishing ponds located in Pampa and Childress are amazing! It would be awesome if Borger could construct something along those lines.

QUESTION 8 – WHEN TRAVELING OR VISITING OTHER COMMUNITIES, HAVE YOU SEEN ANY SPECIAL PARK/TRAIL FEATURES OR RECREATION AMENITIES THAT YOU WISH COULD BE IN BORGER?

RESPONSES:

Ponds with wildlife.	Restrooms and the trashcans need to be emptied more often or more placed.
Yes, outdoor putt-putt golf, better basketball courts, and a new baseball/softball facility.	Throw horseshoes.
Yes.	Yes.
Yes.	A playground that has a splash pad and had equipment for kids that are handicapped.
More indoor options.	Maybe activities at the park for older children.
Outdoor basketball goals.	Would like a larger swimming area and a place to float on tubes.
A nice youth sports complex, with updated facilities and a playground would be beneficial for several reasons, in my opinion.	Special needs park equipment.
Separate mountain bike trail?	Hiking trails.
Not really.	No.
No.	No we have the best disc golf course in the Texas Panhandle just needs to be better taken care of.
Bike trails.	More disc golf courses, with concrete tee pads.
Nice features.	Bike friendly trails.
Water parks with activities for kids to do.	Bike and horse trails around the city.
More softball/baseball fields. Better sports fields in general.	A community center for meetings and gatherings that can accommodate more than 50 guests.
Dog parks.	Yes.
No.	Outdoor workout area.
Better dog parks.	Lighted. Paved. Trees. Pickleball courts.
Better trails, better equipment for children, and shaded rest areas.	Amphitheater next to a park.
Amphitheater/walking trail and a small fishing pond with swimming area/beach.	Instead of sand, rubber mulch at Huber and other parks.
Nice off-leash dog park areas can be really nice and fun.	Water park.
A water park similar to Stinnett's.	Bigger swimming pool with more slides.
Maintained trail system that connects parks, and are for the use of walkers, runners, bicycles, and wheelchairs.	Better security, drinking fountains.
Fountains that work. Ours used to and don't anymore, or misting/cooling station for hot days.	Yes.
Ponds at the larger parks with accessible trails.	Handicapped and regular playgrounds combined.

QUESTION 9 – DO YOU LIVE WITHIN THE CITY OF BORGER?		
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES
Yes	90.74%	98
No	9.26%	10
If you answered no, where do you live?		15
IF YOU ANSWERED NO, WHERE DO YOU LIVE?		
Keeper Heights	Outside of Borger	
E. Ninth Street, Pearson	Fritch	
In Lakeview	Fritch	
Gruver	Gregg Trails Estate	
Stinnett	Meadowlark Hill	
Isom	Stinnett	
Fritch	Hemlock St.	
Stinnett		

QUESTION 10 – HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN OR NEAR BORGER?		
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES
Less than 1 year	2.78%	3
1-5 years	12.96%	14
6-10 years	10.19%	11
11-20 years	20.37%	22
Greater than 20 years	53.70%	58

QUESTION 11 – WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST REPRESENTS YOUR AGE RANGE?		
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES
Under 18	1.87%	2
18-24	2.80%	3
25-34	28.97%	31
35-44	27.10%	29
45-54	10.28%	11
55-64	19.63%	21
65+	9.35%	10

MASTER PLAN STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING 1

A group of stakeholders met on July 29, 2020. Along with several City staff and consultant team members, there were 11 attendees in total including members of the Make Borger Beautiful Committee.

The meeting's initial orientation portion involved a review of all efforts to date; specifically, an online survey and ongoing inventory of all existing City-owned park sites. Kendig Keast Collaborative (KKC) also explained how this Master Plan process was designed to meet the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) acceptable plan criteria.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FROM THE PLAN?

KKC presented the purpose of the plan, recent trends, and results from the completed online survey. The group was asked for their thoughts regarding Borger's existing parks, trails, and recreation system. The following items were cited as "high-level" considerations:

- How to plan park spaces for the near- and long-term recreational needs of the community.
- Focus on existing facilities.
- Where to accommodate for additional dog parks and sports leagues.
- Install additional splash pads at smaller neighborhood parks.
- Address the importance of maintaining and updating the City's pool. Examine the feasibility between maintaining the existing pool and adding new splash pad installations at other park locations.
- Consider the costs of maintaining and updating the current municipal pool which was built in the 1950s. Piping and pumps are still original some of which are leaking and in need of maintenance.
- Plan for additional trails within the city that effectively connect other green spaces and places of interest.
- Implement and organize additional programs for kids and senior citizens. One popular new program is parent's night out.
- Find creative ways to provide the highest level of service to residents working within tight monetary budgets.
- The group stated that Huber Park was the most popular facility to visit in the City.
- Increase efficiency in providing an up-to-date inventory of park resources and, at the same time, improve scheduling to best allocate recreational resources such as park spaces for baseball games, etc. Currently there are many conflicting schedules and territorial disputes over the use of park space.
- Implement a software program managed by the City, as a first step, to streamline how park spaces are utilized by the community.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ADDED TO BORGER'S PARK SYSTEM?

- Yucca Park sits in a drainage culvert with many existing constraints. How do you add parking and improve access?
- Keeler is easy to make accessible.
- Prioritize existing parks based on making them ADA accessible.
- Bunavista Park is a good candidate for improvements given the low number of parks in this neighborhood.
- How to raise funds to improve connectivity and make desired park improvements? Possibly pursue transportation user fees to improve city sidewalks as a start, and look at bond elections later.

- Many parks in Borger are in close proximity to each other based on how the surrounding neighborhoods were developed and not on the most development ready parcels. Some parks are situated in infrastructure areas such as drainage channels.
- East and West Coronado Parks are underutilized.
- Rock Creek Park suffers from a lack of nearby housing. There is no consensus on who the park is serving.
- There are four parks which are the most popular with residents, Huber Park, the Johnson Sports Complex, the new dog park next to the Johnson Park Youth Center, and Keeler Kiwanis Park.
- Due to limited budgets and increased use by the community, the City is forced to find cheap solutions to keep parks well maintained.
- Lake Meredith is very popular since it currently has more water than other reservoirs in the area, and people from around the region are coming to use it. The facility has hosted various fishing tournaments in the past.
- The golf courses and tournament facilities in Borger are not as nice as they could be.

WHAT AMENITIES ARE MISSING FROM BORGER'S PARK SYSTEM?

- Community gardens and reserving spots for plantings/naturalized areas.
- Replicate successful programs into parks such as the Dumpster Art Program, in conjunction with a storefront beautification program. The City should promote the arts as a first step to bring a sense of vibrancy to underutilized areas.
- Looped trails.
- Visual cues such as wayfinding signs.
- More informal green spaces and naturalized areas.
- Incorporation of more water features.
- Plant more trees through a City planting program.
- Developing Weatherly Lake as a green space.
- How to make existing green spaces more active and allow alcohol use for social game events, such as horseshoe tossing.
- Youth sports programs and opportunities are frequent requests to City staff.
- Better utilize facilities to attract visitors and revenue to the City via special events.

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES?

- Indoor recreation activities (3).
- Parks and trails that appeal to tourists (2).
- Better utilize Borger's surrounding topography and landscape as an asset, especially along the nature trail adjacent to Johnson Park.
- Need to determine if people will travel to Borger to utilize area assets.
- All parks need more parking.
- Examine opportunities to collaborate with a corporate-sponsored community garden program through Nutrien.

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

A virtual town hall meeting was held on September 16, 2020, and hosted via the Facebook Live streaming service.

The initial orientation portion of the meeting involved an introduction of the Master Plan process, the efforts to date, a summary of the online survey results, and a recap of the [AREA AND FACILITY INVENTORY](#). Live town hall viewers were able to submit comments, questions, and concerns through the commenting feature provided by the Facebook Live service. The video was later posted to the City's Facebook page for residents and visitors to view and post additional comments after the live portion of the event concluded.

The following summary of interactions indicates the level of viewership the virtual town hall received:

VIDEO PERFORMANCE	NUMBER OF INTERACTIONS
Total viewers (unique 3-second video views)	573
Active viewers (1-minute plus video views)	122
Likes	13
Love	1
Shares	2

THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS/QUESTIONS WERE SUBMITTED DURING AND AFTER THE EVENT:

- More lights around Borger parks.
- Yes, we would like to see more sidewalks and crosswalks into park facilities.
- Add electrical outlets on all parks, water hookups for maintenance, and water fountains.
- Add parks to areas without adequate park space.
- We have no park for kids on Maple Street, unless they cross a state highway.
- Thank you for the updates at Keeler Heights parks! Next, work on the grass to get rid of all the weeds and stickers?
- What could be done to stop the ridiculous noise from the people that hang out at Huber Park every evening, maybe put in lights in the south parking lot. So that they will not be tempted to hang out there. They have no respect for the residents in this neighborhood.
- Any possibility of corporate investment, like Agrium did in the past, in these projects?
- Like the idea to make each park as unique as possible.
- I know it can be expensive, but what about a playground for special needs kids. (Like Medipark in Amarillo)
- Like how Johnson Park has changed in the last ten years. Could bike trails be added around the Johnson Park area? Perhaps a second splash pad somewhere else in town?
- Updates and upgrades to the Huber Park Baseball Stadium would be nice.

MASTER PLAN STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING 2

A second stakeholder group meeting was held on September 16, 2020, consisting of members from the first stakeholder meeting and sports-related interest groups. The meeting was also open to any members of the public that wanted to participate. Along with several City staff and consultant team members, there were 10 attendees.

The meeting began with a recap of the process to date, including new activities since meeting 1, such as surveying all existing City-owned park sites.

KKC recapped the plan's purpose, first stakeholder meeting, inventory results, and [VIRTUAL TOWN HALL](#).

MASTER PLAN FINDINGS SO FAR:

The focus group was asked for their feedback regarding the following findings:

- There are many existing park spaces with overlapping equipment. The analysis revealed that removing parks was not advisable. However, re-purposing and adding unique features to existing parks may make sense and provide a larger array of amenities. What types of activities are appropriate for re-purposed parks?
 - Add more practice field space.
 - Consider Community gardens.
 - Add a greater variety of amenities.
 - Examine the installation artificial turf on football playing and practice fields to reduce long-term maintenance costs.
- Which parks should be considered for re-purposing?
 - Rock Creek Park;
 - Fritz Thompson Park;
 - East Coronado Park;
 - Gateway Circle Park;
 - South Coronado Park;
 - Little Keeler Park;
 - Johnson Park;
 - West Gateway Park; and
 - Eastside Park.
- Which parks should remain as traditional park space?
 - Huber Park;
 - Huber Ball Park;
 - Johnson Sports Complex (all indoor and outdoor portions);
 - Bunavista Park;
 - North Hughes Park;
 - Eastside Park (is the only park in that part of Borger);
 - Keeler Kiwanis Park;
 - Yucca Park;
 - Crawford Park;
 - Center City Park;
 - Agnes Howe Park; and
 - Cofield Park.
- Relatively few crosswalks were observed connecting to parks, are these important to add?
 - Safety issues exist especially at certain parks. Gateway Circle Park was singled out as one located at the intersection of three busy roads that would benefit from marked pedestrian crossings.

- Members of the audience pointed out that many streets abutting park sites also have no sidewalks, this will need to be addressed as well.
- Participants discussed the concept of adding formal trails throughout the city to connect important sites, such as schools, parks, etc. The attendees agreed that this made sense.
 - The "Bulldog Loop" trail to link the various amenities in the Johnson Sports Complex was discussed. There was a general agreement that this conceptual loop could be good first step.
 - A few attendees stated that they would like to see more trails to connect items outside of the Johnson Sports Complex, such as the connection to Borger High School that was previously discussed.
- It was noted during the inventory that none of the public park sites have bike racks.
 - Attendees stated that there used to be more bike racks, but they have been removed over time.
 - Area children still ride their bikes to parks and usually leave them by the edge of the park.

WHAT HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED YET TONIGHT OR IN THE STATED INITIAL FINDINGS?

- The City has invested in an online scheduling system to reserve sports fields. Sports leagues would benefit from utilizing this service to avoid confusion and help reduce scheduling conflicts.
- Certain groups take "ownership" of various City-owned sports fields by providing clean-up or adding items such as warm-up mounds; however, their expectation becomes that others should not be allowed to use that facility. There would be more available resources without this mentality.
- The group agreed that the City has done a good job working with specific sports enthusiasts such as disc golf fans. The City has worked with these groups to give private citizens the ability to add or update features in park facilities. They would like to see more of these efforts. A recent proposal for a private group to construct an off-road mountain bike trail facility on City-owned property was cited as a good example.
- More water fountains in public parks.

APPENDIX C - PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

As part of this Master Plan a park condition assessment was completed for all 28 individual City-owned park sites. The following pages consist of an example of the score sheet used to complete each park assessment. Table 14, Park Condition Assessment Summary, following the example score sheet, shows the score assigned for each park and is itemized by individual condition assessment category and includes the calculated composite scores. (Records of all evaluations are on file with the City of Borger.)

Park Name:

Score:

Date:

Recreation Amenities

Playground Equipment

- 0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained
 - 1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed
 - 2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement
 - 3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement
 - 4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement
- ___ No playground equipment exists

Comments:

Basketball Courts

- 0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained
 - 1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed
 - 2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement
 - 3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement
 - 4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement
- ___ No nets/playing surfaces exist

Tennis Courts

- 0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained
 - 1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed
 - 2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement
 - 3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement
 - 4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement
- ___ No courts, fencing and nets exist

Comments:

Playing Fields and Equipment

- 0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained
 - 1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed
 - 2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement
 - 3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement
 - 4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement
- ___ No playing fields

Comments:

Park Sidewalks and Trails

- 0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained
- 1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed

Comments:

Site Amenities

Park Amenities (Benches, Grills, Sheltered/Unsheltered Picnic Tables, Play Equipment)

- 0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained
- 1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed
- 2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement
- 3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement
- 4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement

Comments:

Lighting

- 0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained
 - 1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed
 - 2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement
 - 3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement
 - 4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement
- ___ No lighting exists

Comments:

Signage

- 0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained
- 1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed
- 2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement
- 3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement

- 2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement
 - 3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement
 - 4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement
- ___ No sidewalks/trails/paths exist

Comments:

Fencing

- 0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained
 - 1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed
 - 2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement
 - 3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement
 - 4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement
- ___ No fencing

Comments:

Park Accessibility

- 0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained
- 1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed
- 2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement
- 3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement
- 4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement

Comments:

Parking Areas

- 0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained



4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement

___ No signage

Comments:

Buildings, Shelters, Pavilions

0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained

1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed

2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement

3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement

4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement

___ No buildings or shelters

Comments:

Vegetation

Turf

0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained

1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed

2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement

3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement

4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement

Comments:

Plantings and Trees

0 Great condition, all equipment and amenities are new and well maintained

1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed

2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement

1 Good condition, equipment is generally in good repair with some minor improvements needed

2 Moderate condition, equipment and amenities require routine maintenance or replacement

3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement

4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement

___ No off-street parking available

Comments:

Landscaped Beds

0 Yes

1 No

Comments on condition if present:

Natural Areas

0 Yes

1 No

Provide description of type (wetland, forest, riparian area, etc.) and any condition observations (e.g., presence of invasive species):



- 3 Poor condition, equipment and amenities require replacement
- 4 Very poor condition, equipment and amenities are unfit for use and require replacement
- ___ Limited or no vegetation exists

Comments:

**TABLE 14, PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT SUMMARY
(THE INFORMATION DISPLAYED IN THIS TABLE IS ALSO CONTAINED IN THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION SECTION)**

CONDITION CRITERIA	BUNAVISTA PARK	COUNTRY CLUB PARK (BAGWELL STREET)	GRACE MEREDITH PARK (N. CIRCLE)	VETA SOCCER PARK	NORTH GATEWAY PARK	NORTH HUGHES PARK (SKITTLES PARK)
Turf	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0
Plantings and trees	1.0	2.0	1.0	--	2.0	1.0
Landscaped beds	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Natural areas	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Parking	--	2.0	--	2.0	--	3.0
Sidewalks, trails, and pathways	--	--	2.0	--	--	2.0
Basketball courts	2.0	--	--	--	--	1.0
Park accessibility	4.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	2.0
Playground equipment	1.0	2.0	--	--	2.0	1.0
Park amenities (benches, grills, picnic tables, etc.)	1.0	2.0	--	1.0	2.0	1.0
Buildings, shelters, and pavilions	--	--	--	1.0	--	--
Playing fields and equipment	--	--	--	1.0	--	2.0
Signage	2.0	--	0.0	3.0	2.0	1.0
Fencing	--	--	--	1.0	--	--
Lighting	1.0	--	--	--	--	0.0
Composite score	1.36	1.75	1.43	1.5	1.88	1.31
CONDITION CRITERIA	WEST CORONADO PARK	EAST CORONADO PARK	KEITH-ELMORE PARK	NELSON-JOHNSON PARK	WEST GATEWAY PARK	GATEWAY CIRCLE PARK
Turf	2.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	3.0

**TABLE 14, PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT SUMMARY
(THE INFORMATION DISPLAYED IN THIS TABLE IS ALSO CONTAINED IN THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION SECTION)**

Plantings and trees	2.0	2.0	2.0	--	2.0	2.0
Landscaped beds	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Natural areas	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Parking	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sidewalks, trails, and pathways	--	--	--	--	2.0	3.0
Basketball courts	--	3.0	--	--	--	--
Park accessibility	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.0
Playground equipment	2.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	2.0
Park amenities (benches, grills, picnic tables, etc.)	2.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	2.0
Buildings, shelters, and pavilions	--	--	--	--	--	--
Playing fields and equipment	--	--	--	--	--	--
Signage	2.0	--	--	--	--	2.0
Fencing	--	--	--	3.0	--	--
Lighting	--	--	--	--	--	2.0
Composite score	1.88	2.25	1.43	2.00	2.43	2.1
CONDITION CRITERIA	SOUTH HUGHES PARK	COFIELD PARK	SOUTH CORONADO PARK	ROCK CREEK PARK	CRAWFORD PARK (MUSEUM)	CENTER CITY PARK
Turf	2.0	1.0	3.0	4.0	--	--
Plantings and trees	2.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	0.0
Landscaped beds	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Natural areas	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Parking	2.0	1.0	--	--	--	--
Sidewalks, trails, and pathways	3.0	2.0	--	--	1.0	0.0
Basketball courts	--	3.0	--	--	--	--
Park accessibility	4.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
Playground equipment	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	--	--

**TABLE 14, PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT SUMMARY
(THE INFORMATION DISPLAYED IN THIS TABLE IS ALSO CONTAINED IN THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION SECTION)**

Park amenities (benches, grills, picnic tables, etc.)	1.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0
Buildings, shelters, and pavilions	--	1.0	--	--	--	--
Playing fields and equipment	--	--	--	3.0	--	--
Signage	--	1.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	--
Fencing	2.0	--	--	3.0	--	0.0
Lighting	--	1.0	--	2.0	--	0.0
Composite score	2.00	1.31	2.13	2.55	0.86	0.13
CONDITION CRITERIA	JOHNSON SPORTS COMPLEX	FRITZ THOMPSON PARK	HUBER PARK	YUCCA PARK	SANTA FE PARK	LITTLE KELLER PARK (PLAYGROUND)
Turf	1.0	2.0	0.0	1.0	2.0	3.0
Plantings and trees	1.0	3.0	0.0	1.0	3.0	2.0
Landscaped beds	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Natural areas	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0
Parking	0.0	--	1.0	--	--	--
Sidewalks, trails, and pathways	--	--	1.0	2.0	--	--
Basketball courts	--	--	1.0	--	--	--
Park accessibility	2.0	4.0	1.0	3.0	4.0	4.0
Playground equipment	--	--	0.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Park amenities (benches, grills, picnic tables, etc.)	0.0	--	1.0	2.0	2.0	3.0
Buildings, shelters, and pavilions	0.0	--	1.0	--	--	--
Playing fields and equipment	1.0	--	1.0	--	--	--
Signage	0.0	--	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0
Fencing	1.0	--	1.0	--	--	--
Lighting	0.0	--	0.0	--	--	3.0
Composite score	0.46	2.20	0.71	1.22	2.13	2.38

**TABLE 14, PARK CONDITION ASSESSMENT SUMMARY
(THE INFORMATION DISPLAYED IN THIS TABLE IS ALSO CONTAINED IN THE NEEDS
ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION SECTION)**

CONDITION CRITERIA	KELLER KIWANIS PARK	HUBER BALL PARK	AGNES HOWE PARK	EASTSIDE PARK		
Turf	2.0	1.0	1.0	4.0		
Plantings and trees	2.0	1.0	2.0	3.0		
Landscaped beds	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0		
Natural areas	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0		
Parking	--	1.0	1.0	--		
Sidewalks, trails, and pathways	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.0		
Basketball courts	2.0	--	--	--		
Park accessibility	3.0	1.0	2.0	4.0		
Playground equipment	2.0	--	1.0	2.0		
Park amenities (benches, grills, picnic tables, etc.)	1.0	--	1.0	--		
Buildings, shelters, and pavilions	--	1.0	1.0	--		
Playing fields and equipment	3.0	1.0	1.0	--		
Signage	--	1.0	2.0	2.0		
Fencing	--	1.0	1.0	2.0		
Lighting	--	1.0	1.0	--		
Composite score	1.80	1.00	1.21	2.44		

-- Indicates park did not have this facility or feature type and this condition criteria was excluded from the final composite score.