

The City of Allen Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

MASTER PLAN

2021-2031



PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

City of Allen
2021-2031



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Mayor & City Council

Ken Fulk - Mayor
Daren Meis - Councilmember, Place No. 1
Carl Clemencich - Councilmember, Place No. 2
Dave Cornette - Councilmember, Place No. 3
Chris Schulmeister - Mayor Pro Tem, Place No. 4
Dave Shafer - Councilmember, Place No. 5
Ben Trahan - Councilmember, Place No. 6

City Administration

Eric Ellwanger - City Manager
Eric Strong - Deputy City Manager
Tim Dentler - Assistant City Manager
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Parks and Recreation Board Members:

Karen Simpson, Place No. 1
Geoben Johnson III, Place No. 2 - Chair
Terrance Thomas, Place No. 3
Nat Dreyer, Place No. 4
Phillip Brewer, Place No. 5
John Holley, Place No. 6 - Vice Chair
Luke Hollingsworth, Place No. 7 - Secretary
Carl Clemencich - City Council Liaison

Allen Community Development Corporation

Shahmeen Khan, Place No. 1 - Secretary
Matthew Foster, Place No. 2
Antoinette Vincent, Place No. 3 - Vice President
Ron Alexander, Place No. 4
Stacy Gonzales, Place No. 5
Tommy Baril, Place No. 6 - President
Chris Schulmeister, Place No. 7

Parks and Recreation Department Staff

Kate Meacham - Director
Brian Bristow - Director of Park Development
Kyle Benedict - Assistant Director
Teresa Thomason - Assistant Director
Matt McComb - Park Planning & Development Manager
Robert Townsend - Business Services Manager, Project Manager
Travis Cunniff - Recreation Services Manager

**Special thanks to the residents of Allen for their participation
and input during the planning process!**

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Chapter 1



Executive Summary

Overview

The City of Allen Parks and Open Space Master Plan 2021 – 2031 includes nine major sections. These sections include an introduction, inventory of the existing parks and recreation system, public input findings, parks and recreation goals and objectives, an internal analysis of the National

Recreation and Park Association Three Pillars, a needs assessment of the existing and future parks system, a park maintenance assessment, a playground replacement and implementation schedule and funding mechanisms.

Throughout the planning and community engagement process of this plan, the city was directly impacted by the Corona Virus (COVID-19). The global pandemic reached the United States in early 2020 and caused national shutdowns for all industries.

The pandemic's impacts on the City of Allen's Parks and Recreation Department included the parks master plan process, impairing summer programs and facility offerings, reassigning staff roles and implementing a hiring freeze. The planning process for the Parks and Open Space Master Plan experienced delays while city staff and consultants adjusted to working at home and learning how to follow the Texas Open Meeting Act while moving daily office work to a virtual platform. In addition, many new and different forms of recreation were discovered during this time. The City took the opportunity to step back and readdress different areas of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan to ensure the Parks Department and City can provide positive impacts for the residents of Allen. The delay of this plan during the pandemic will ultimately provide a better future for the residents of Allen.

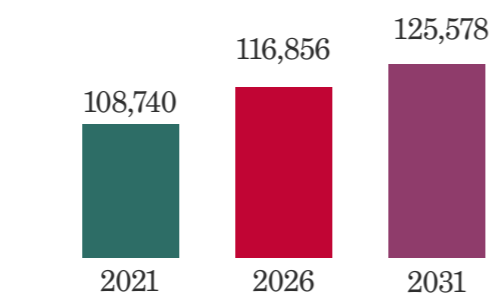
2 Introduction

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN:

- To present community-wide goals, objectives and needs regarding the existing and future park system based on citizen input.
- To serve as an informational guide related to parks, recreation, open spaces and park maintenance to help direct current and future City Councils, City Staff and the Parks and Recreation Department in making present and future decisions.
- To provide feasible and implementable recommendations regarding the existing and future parks and open space system, and their maintenance.

MISSION: “We create meaningful LIFE experiences in Allen.”

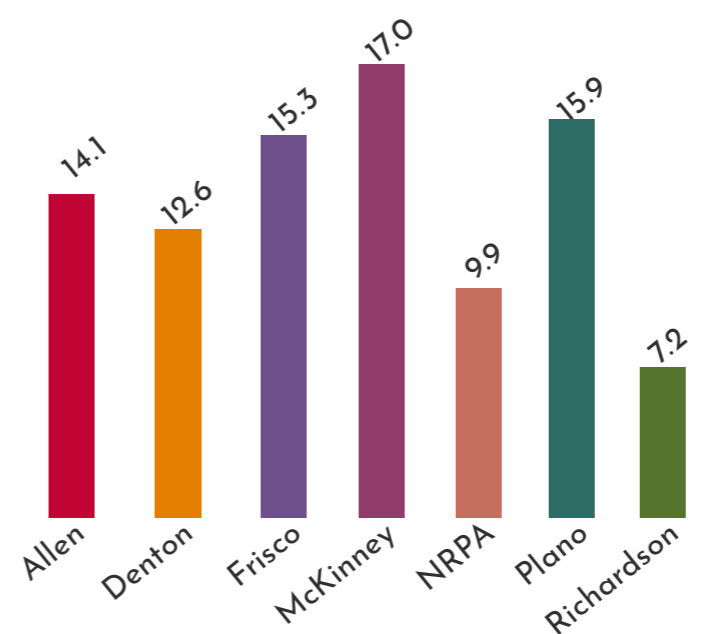
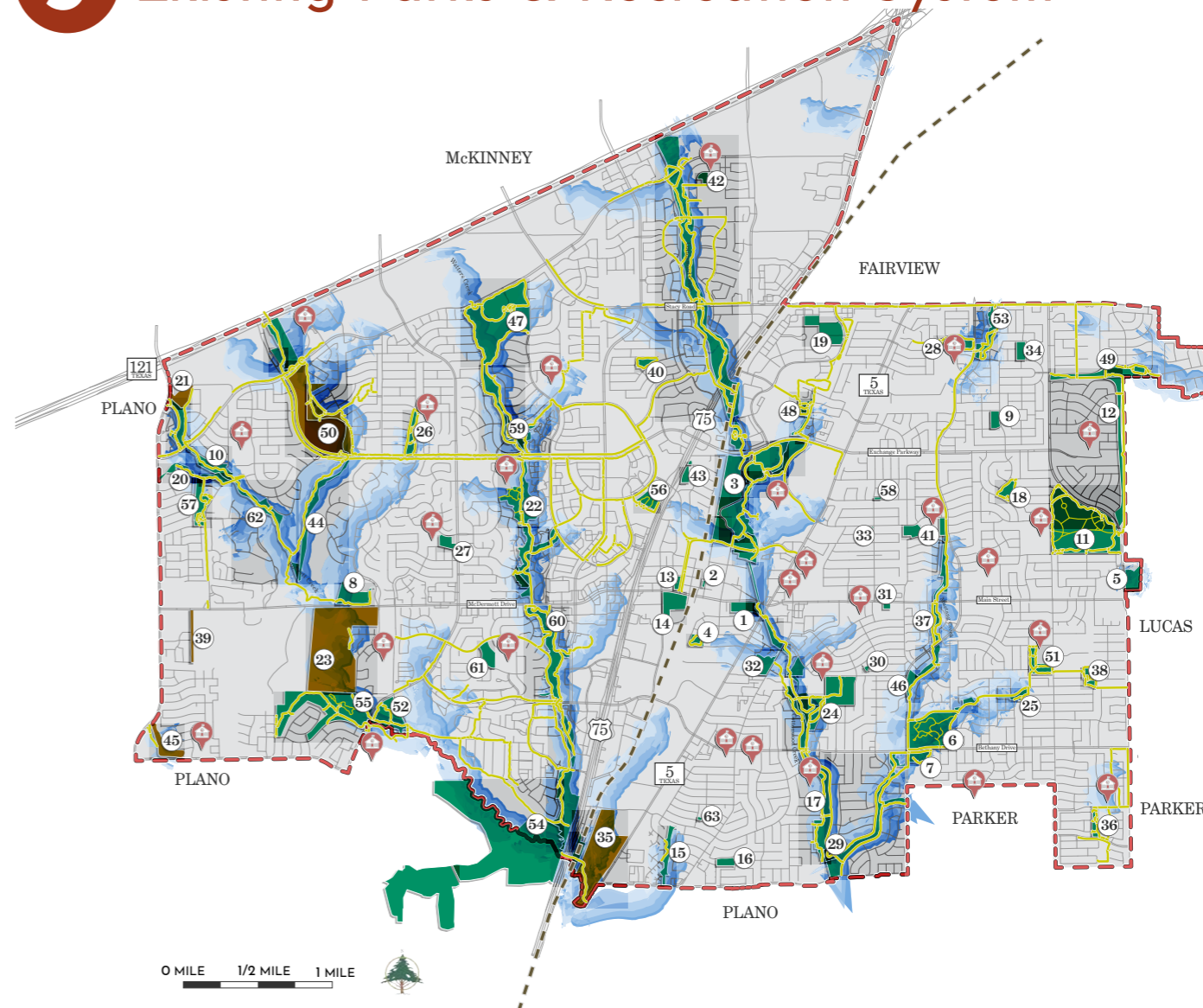
VISION: “Inspiring Your Best LIFE.”



POPULATION ESTIMATES

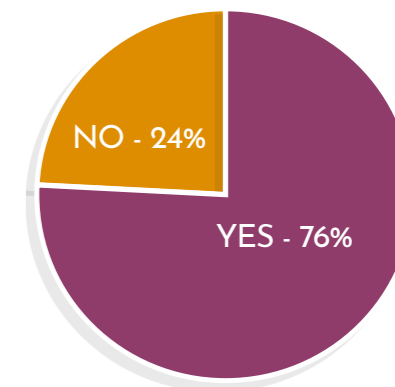
*All statistics and information are referenced from: The City of Allen Planning Department & City of Allen EDC. 1.45% yearly growth

3 Existing Parks & Recreation System



Benchmark Cities - Level of Service
(acres per 1,000 residents)

Residents Within a 10-minute Walk to a Park



4 Community Input

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PARK SYSTEM

- High quality park system & quality of life within Allen
- Pro-active in the development of new parks, facilities & trails
- Artificial turf fields have been great for players, maintenance staff & ASA scheduling
- Great leadership within City Council, City Staff & the Parks and Recreation Department
- Allen Independent School District & local art groups both have a good working relationship with the City

COMMUNITY NEEDS IN THE PARK SYSTEM

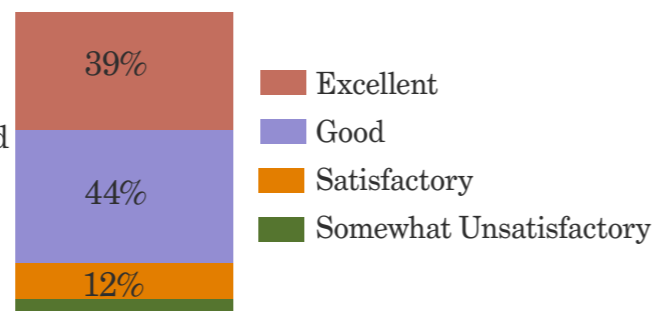
- Shade is needed at playgrounds, additional turf fields are wanted & diverse fields types are desired
- Trail connectivity is lacking in various areas & trail improvement needs to move at a faster pace
- Trail & field lighting is desired
- Inclusiveness is needed throughout the entire community
- General maintenance is needed throughout the park system
- Budgets for maintenance and construction are stretched thin
- Storage for city maintenance equipment is lacking and dispersed in multiple locations around the City

CITIZEN SURVEY

The citizen survey distributed to the residents of Allen was completed by National Service Research (NSR). The purpose of the citizen survey was to hear residents' comments, recommendations and feedback about the current and future park system. A total of **1,460 survey responses** were received.

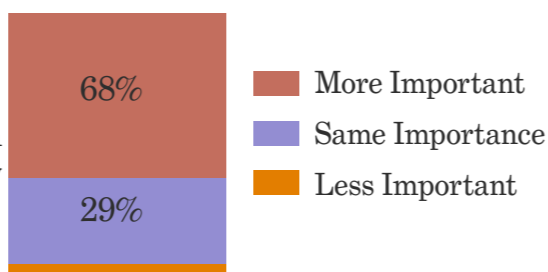
Quality of Parks & Recreation Opportunities

A majority (83%) rated the quality of parks and recreation opportunities as excellent or good.



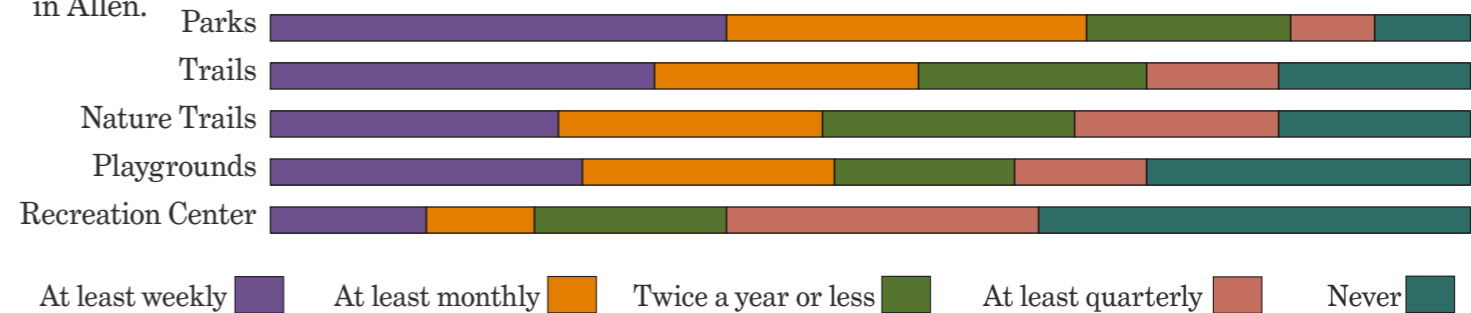
Role of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Nearly 70% of respondents feel parks, recreation and open spaces in Allen are **more important** today compared to 10 years ago.



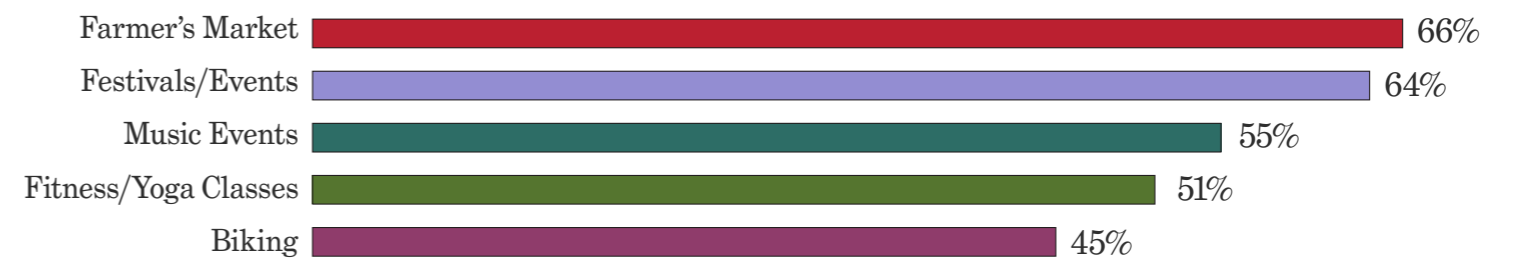
Frequency of Use of Facilities

Parks, trails, nature trails, playgrounds and the recreation center are the most frequently used facilities in Allen.



Recreation Program Interest

The top 5 of the 24 programs of interest are presented in the chart. There is a high interest in many recreational programs or events, as opposed to facilities or amenities.



Most Needed Facilities in the City of Allen

The priority rankings are a calculation of the respondents' priority rankings of 4 being the highest to 1 being the lowest priority.

Priority Rank	Facility	4 - Very Important	3	2	1 - Not Important	No Opinion
1	Add shade to playgrounds for children at neighborhood parks	50%	21%	14%	6%	9%
2	Complete the Rowlett Creek Trail from Plano to McKinney	34%	19%	17%	10%	20%
3	Upgrade undersized and/or damaged trails	37%	30%	19%	5%	9%
4	Acquire land for additional park areas	33%	24%	21%	12%	9%
5	Have special events in parks	30%	31%	24%	6%	9%
6	Improve and enhance the maintenance of park facilities	25%	33%	25%	9%	8%
7	Design and construct one dog	19%	16%	18%	24%	23%

5 Parks & Recreation Goals & Objectives

PARKS & RECREATION GOAL: To ensure the provision of a balanced park system that is accessible to all residents, meets the recreational needs of the citizens of Allen and helps to create a unique community character.

OPEN SPACE GOAL: To identify, protect and conserve quality natural open spaces for unstructured recreational activities, inherent aesthetic value and protection of valuable ecosystems.

MAINTENANCE GOAL: To ensure a high quality, safe and aesthetically pleasing park system through continued maintenance, upkeep and strategic planning.

6 NRPA Three Pillars

To encourage cities across the nation to promote healthy lifestyles, conserve natural resources and provide safe accessibility for all citizens, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed the Three Pillars: Health & Wellness, Conservation and Social Equity.

The benefits of parks are important within the community and it is imperative that all residents, regardless of social status, race, income, etc. have access to outdoor public spaces, an opportunity for healthy and active lifestyles and enjoy the natural open spaces.



Health & Wellness



Conservation



Social Equity

7 Future Parks & Recreation System

OVERALL PARKS SYSTEM NEEDS

- Additional properties should be acquired to ensure the City has adequate parkland as the population continues to grow.
- Aging parks and facilities should be upgraded and renovated to keep Allen's park system up to local standards and safe for all users.
- Construction of dog park.
- Existing play structures that have surpassed their life-cycle should be replaced as the City continues to update and renovate existing parks.
- Existing City-owned properties should be developed as parks and/or trail corridors.
- An additional indoor recreation center is needed in the northwest region of the City (Stephen G. Terrell Recreation Center).
- Continue the high level of maintenance at existing and future parks for safety, accessibility and the aesthetically pleasing environment provided for the citizens.
- Additional trails should be constructed to make meaningful links for connectivity within and throughout the community.
- Additional sports practice fields and game fields are needed throughout the City.
- Support facilities, such as shade structures and parking lots are needed within existing and new developments.
- Consider implementing unique forms of recreation such as water courses and mountain bike trails.
- Continue preservation of high quality, natural areas should be preserved as natural open space such as mature wooded areas along creeks and their tributaries.

PARK SYSTEM PRIORITIES

1. Shaded Recreation Spaces
2. Multi-Purpose Trails
3. Dog Park
4. Indoor Recreational Spaces
5. Spraygrounds / Splash Pads
6. Sports Practice Fields (Multi-Use)
7. Natural Areas
8. Community Gardens / Botanical Gardens
9. Playgrounds
10. Adventure Facilities: Mountain Bike Trails, Ziplines, Watercraft Courses, etc.

8 Maintenance Standards

- ✓ **ATHLETIC FIELDS & PARKS:** Through the review of data and workshops with staff, it has been determined that the Site and Facility Divisions have best practice maintenance standards with task, frequency and season of year in which work is performed in parks.
- ✓ **GREENBELTS (TRAILS):** The Horticulture/Forestry and Facility Divisions have formal maintenance standards in place to manage and maintain recreation corridors.
- ✓ **URBAN FORESTRY:** The Horticulture/Forestry Division has a formalized Urban Forest Maintenance Management Plan in place that utilizes best practice maintenance standards to maintain Allen's Urban Forest.

COST OF SERVICES

The following provides a cost of service analysis based on the recommended FY 2022 adopted budget for the Park Maintenance Divisions.

- 108,740 = Population of the City of Allen
- 27.1 = Number of square miles of the City of Allen
- 4,011 = Number of people per square mile in the City of Allen
- 1,827.75 = Total Acreage of the park system
 - 1,527.78 = Acreage of the park system actively managed and maintained
- \$6,688,639 = Annual funding allocated for park maintenance
 - \$4,378.24 cost per acre (actively managed and maintained acres)
- Level 2 Maintenance Standard = \$7,500 per acre

NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT COSTS

- Athletic Fields Focused Community Parks:
 - \$3,000 - \$7,000 per synthetic turf multi-purpose field;
 - \$12,000 - \$18,000 per natural turf rectangular field;
 - \$18,000 - \$25,000 per diamond field;
 - \$5,000 general acreage (not including athletic fields).
- General Community Parks: \$10,000 - \$12,000 per acre
- Neighborhood Parks: \$12,000 - \$18,000 per acre
- Open Space: \$300 - \$600 per actively managed acre
- Pocket Parks: \$18,000 - \$25,000 per acre
- Ornamental Areas: \$.05-\$.10 per square foot
- Regional Parks: Costs varies dependent upon amenities
- Special Use Parks: Costs varies dependent upon amenities
- Greenbelts/Linear Parks/Trails: \$5-\$5,500 per acre

STAFFING LEVEL STANDARDS

- Neighborhood Parks: 250-300 annual labor hours per acre maintained at a level 2 standard.
- Community Parks: 200-250 annual labor hours per acre maintained at a level 2 standard.
- Regional Parks: 150-200 annual labor hours per acre maintained at a level 2 standard.
- Athletic Fields: 1 FTE for every 4-6 athletic fields maintained at a level 2 standard.
- Special Use Parks: Varies based on amenities within the park

9 Implementation Schedule

The following Implementation Schedule presents action items that are based on the needs, recommendations and priorities found in this plan. The following Implementation Schedule is intended to be a flexible guide for development of parks and facilities over the next ten years. The purpose of this Implementation Schedule is to provide a framework to assist with future park and community development planning in the City. The City should evaluate and change the

order of implementation if necessary and/or take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities that may arise that are not identified in this schedule as long as it fits the goals and objectives of this plan. An estimated project cost has been provided for each project to help the City budget accordingly for the future. When reviewing this document and budgeting into the future, it is important to note that land acquisition, design and engineering are not included in the estimated cost.

Underway	
Project	Projected Cost
Allen Station Playground Replacement	\$880,000
Bethany Lakes Loop Trail	\$435,824
Bethany Lakes Park Adaptive / Inclusive Improvements	\$220,501
CUTX Event Center Retractable Seating - East End	\$1,001,788
Dog Park	\$1,500,000
DRN Slide Replacement	\$852,274
Erosion Study	\$190,000
Ford Park Master Plan	\$132,000
Heritage Village Pavilion, Barn & Improvements	\$2,205,059
Molsen Farm Master Plan	\$117,500
Molsen Farm Trail Head	\$404,690
Park/Playground Shade Program FY22	\$330,000
Rolling Hills Park Expansion	\$1,779,910
Rowlett Trail Construction - Ridgeview to Exchange (seg A)	Included in STRC project
Stephen G. Terrell Recreation Center & Community Park	\$55,539,363
TCWC Improvements (Pond Aerators, Split Rail Fencing & Gates, Range Turf Mat Replacement)	\$225,000
Trail Marker Program	\$100,000



Tier I	
Project	Projected Cost
ADA Transition Plan (anticipated start in FY23)	\$132,000
ADA Transition Plan - Outcomes and Annual Upgrades	TBD
Celebration Park - Kidmania Playground Replacement (anticipated start in FY25)	\$4,584,195
CUTX Event Center Dasher System & Glass Replacement (anticipated start in FY24)	\$1,039,500
Eugene McDermott Park Trail (seg C-1 & C-2) (anticipated start in FY25)	\$3,600,000
Ford Park Redevelopment	TBD
Molsen Farm Development	TBD
Multi-purpose Sport Court Needs Assessment Study (anticipated start in FY25)	\$72,765
Playground Replacements Tier I-A {see schedule} (anticipated start in FY23)	\$360,561
Playground Replacements Tier I-B {see schedule} (anticipated start in FY24)	\$623,700
Playground Replacements Tier I-C {see schedule} (anticipated start in FY25)	\$363,825
Playground Shade Tier I-A {see schedule} (anticipated start in FY23)	\$79,200
Playground Shade Tier I-B {see schedule} (anticipated start in FY24)	\$69,300
Rowlett Trail Construct - South Section (seg C-4* & C-5*) (anticipated start in FY23)	\$4,620,000
Security Camera Study (anticipated start in FY23)	\$132,000
Land Acquisition	TBD

Tier III (anticipated start in seven to ten years)	
Project	Projected Cost
Allen Community Ice Rink Expansion	
Allen Trail Segments	
Bolin Park Redevelopment	
Bolin Soccer Improvements	
Celebration Park Great Lawn Lighting	
Celebration Pass Trail - Main St south (seg I)	
Cottonwood Trail (seg G)	
CUTX Event Center Food & Beverage Renovations	
Environmental Education Center	
Ford Pool - Splash Pad Addition	
Mustang Trail Improvements	
Playground Replacements Tier III-A {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier III-B {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier III-C {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier III-D {see schedule}	
Ridgeview / 75 Overpass Trail / Landscaping	
Steam Locomotive Shed & Site Amenities	
Land Acquisition	

Tier II (anticipated start in four to six years)	
Project	Projected Cost
Allen Station Softball Infield Replacement	\$3,361,743
Cottonwood Bend Park Redevelopment	TBD
Custer Meadows Park Renovation	\$673,877
Eugene McDermott Park Trailhead	\$3,208,937
JFRC Expansion/Redevelopment/Modernization	TBD
Playground Replacements Tier II-A {see schedule}	\$1,222,452
Playground Replacements Tier II-B {see schedule}	\$1,283,575
Playground Replacements Tier II-C {see schedule}	\$2,021,630
Playground Shade Tier II-A {see schedule}	\$152,807
Playground Shade Tier II-C {see schedule}	\$84,235
Spirit Park Phase II	\$9,055,218
Spirit Park Turf Replacement	\$4,211,729
Suncreek Park Redevelopment	TBD
TEVC Rink Renovation	\$1,042,904
Land Acquisition	TBD



Tier IV (unscheduled priority projects)	
Project	Projected Cost
Aerator Lighting Installations	
Allen Dr Fly-over / Landscape & Art	
Allen Station Baseball Improvements	
Bethany Ridge Phase II	
Celebration Park Improvements	
Cottonwood Trail Redevelopment (seg H & +)	
Cottonwood Trail Redevelopment (seg H-2*)	
CUTX Event Center Renovation	
CUTX Event Center Retractable Seating - Bowl	
DRN Aquatic Improvements	
Eugene McDermott Park	
Lost Creek Park Redevelopment	
Old Custer Linear Park	
Playground Replacements Tier IV-A {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier IV-B {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier IV-C {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier IV-D {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier IV-E {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier IV-F {see schedule}	
Rails to Trails (seg J, K, L, & M)	
Russell Branch Trail (seg C-3)	
TCWC Back 9 Restroom	
TCWC Clubhouse Remodel	
TCWC Greens, Bunkers, Cart path renovations	
TCWC Turn Snack Bar Remodel	
Twin Creeks GC Trail Reconstruction (seg B & additional)	
Underpass Trail Lighting	
Watters Branch Trail Construction (seg F-2*)	
Watters Branch Trail Expansion (seg D, E, & F)	
Land Acquisition	

Tier V (unscheduled)	
Project	Projected Cost
Adventure Park	
Allen Station Phase III	
Amphitheater Master Plan	
Celebration Park Signage	
Cemetery Renovation	
Downtown Park	
Exterior Digital Signs	
Fox Hollow Recreation Area Improvements	
Holiday Decorations	
Mobile Video Trailer	
Outdoor Fitness Stations	
Park Signage	
Recreation Hall Demolition	
TCWC Driving Range Improvements	
Tennis Center	
Trash Can Replacement Program	
Land Acquisition	
**Notes:	
Costs include contingency and are projected for inflation at an initial rate of 10% and 5% annually thereafter.	
Projects may move from tier to tier depending on future circumstances.	
Reference Parks and Recreation Department Ten Year Plan for project costs yet to be determined or not list.	



PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE

The City of Allen has continually replaced and enhanced playgrounds as the systems continue to age and become outdated. It is imperative the City continues to focus on playground replacements throughout the community to update and enhance parks as well as keep them current and safe. Playground development costs can change depending on the brand, existing site conditions, safety surfacing material and whether or not shade structures are provided. Each playground design and installation is unique to each park, therefore the City will decide during the

design phase if they want to designate funding specifically for shade structures or dedicate all the budgeted funds for recreational amenities. Most playgrounds range from \$40.00 per square foot to \$90.00 per square foot. A total of \$60.00 per square foot was used to project the estimated cost of playground upgrades, with an additional \$20.00 per square foot for shade (\$80.00 total). These prices are based on 2020 dollars. The playgrounds current square footage was used to develop the new cost.

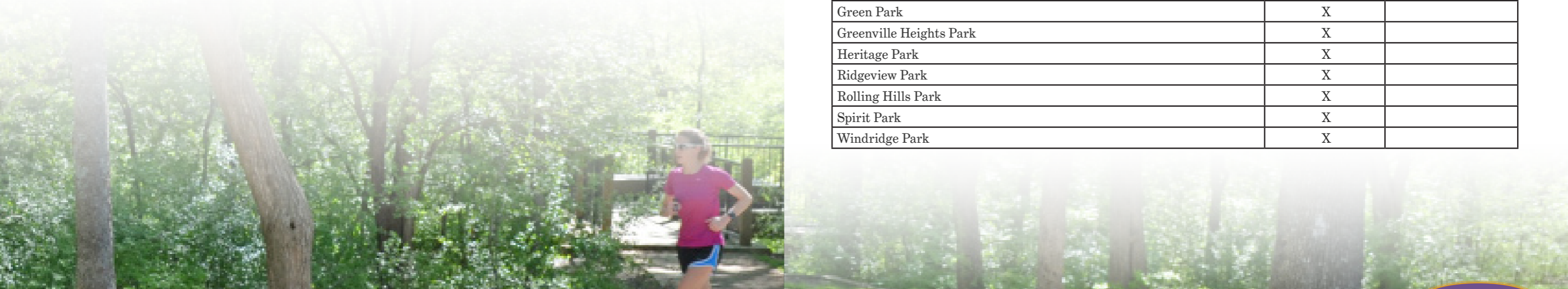
Underway		
Project	Replacement	Shade
Allen Station Park	X	
Bethany Lakes Park Adaptive / Inclusive Improvements	X	
Dayspring Nature Preserve		X
Orchards Park		X
Rolling Hills Park	X	
Spirit Park		X

Tier I (anticipated start in one to three years)		
Project	Replacement	Shade
Celebration Park - KidMania	X	X
Country Meadows Park	X	
Ford Park	X	X
Green Park		X
Lost Creek Park	X	X
Reed Park	X	

Tier II (anticipated start in four to six years)		
Project	Replacement	Shade
Bethany Lakes Park	X	
Bradford Crossing Park	X	X
Bridgewater Crossing Linear Park	X	X
Cottonwood Bend Park	X	X
Custer Meadows Park	X	X
Quail Run Park	X	X
Stacy Ridge Park	X	
Story Park	X	
Suncreek Park	X	X

Tier III (anticipated start in seven to ten years)		
Project	Replacement	Shade
Allenwood Park	X	
Hillside Play Area	X	
Morgan Crossing Park	X	
Orchards Park	X	
Spring Meadow Park	X	
Twin Creeks Park	X	
Walden Park	X	
Waterford Park	X	
Watters Crossing Park	X	

Tier IV (unscheduled priority projects)		
Project	Replacement	Shade
Bethany Ridge Park	X	
Dayspring Nature Preserve	X	
Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium Play Structure	X	
Ford Pool Play Structure	X	
Glendover Park	X	
Green Park	X	
Greenville Heights Park	X	
Heritage Park	X	
Ridgeview Park	X	
Rolling Hills Park	X	
Spirit Park	X	
Windridge Park	X	



Chapter 2



Introduction

Purpose of the Plan

The City of Allen's Parks and Recreation Department strives to enhance the quality of life for its citizens by providing parks, trails and recreational programming opportunities. To continually design, develop and renovate parks and recreational amenities within Allen, the City Council, Parks and Recreation Board and City Staff are committed to providing the resources necessary to better the community and encourage more active lifestyles. The Parks and Recreation Department is successful in

providing recreational opportunities to the residents because of the hard working staff, and partnerships with both public and private entities. For this plan to remain relevant, it should be periodically amended and revised throughout the ten year implementation period. Typically, plans should be internally reviewed and updated yearly. In addition, it is highly recommended that this plan is updated at least every five years to reflect the current needs of the community.



This plan is meant to serve all areas and residents within the city limits of Allen. The intent of this plan is to continue to enhance the quality of life for all the residents in Allen through parks and

recreation and healthy lifestyles. A more detailed analysis of potential projects, scopes of work, costs and timelines are provided through the year 2031. The objectives of this plan include:

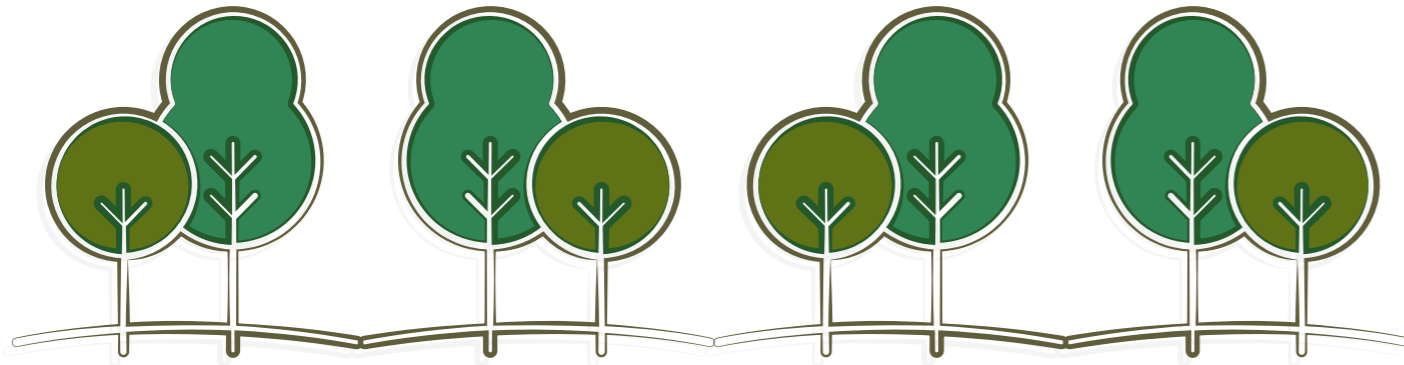
- ✓ *To present community-wide goals, objectives and needs regarding the existing and future park system based on citizen input.*
- ✓ *To serve as an informational guide related to parks, recreation, open spaces and park maintenance to help direct current and future City Councils, City Staff and the Parks and Recreation Department on present and future decisions.*
- ✓ *To provide feasible and implementable recommendations regarding the existing and future parks and open space system.*



Mission & Vision

MISSION

"We create meaningful LIFE experiences in Allen."



VISION

"Inspiring Your Best LIFE."



Planning Process

The planning process for the City of Allen's Parks and Open Space Master Plan began in 2019 when the City of Allen decided to develop a new plan to better suit the changing needs of the community. The Parks and Recreation Department, representing a cross section of the community, along with several key City Staff, were selected to guide the development of the parks master plan for future park and recreation opportunities. The Parks and Recreation Department and City Staff were involved in each major step of the planning process and provided the local insight needed to produce a successful document to assist in guiding local decision-makers through 2031.

The City of Allen contracted with National Service Research (NSR) to build and conduct an online survey for the residents of Allen. The online survey was continually promoted using multiple online social media platforms and contacting local schools. An important aspect of the planning process was to conduct a demand and needs assessment which involved citizen input. The purpose of the needs assessment study was to provide a foundation for the Parks Master Plan which will provide guidance based upon citizen needs and priorities. The survey was posted on the City of Allen's website and

various social media sites. The online survey was launched on November 6, 2019 and closed January 31, 2020. A total of 1,460 surveys were completed and submitted to the City. The survey is statistically valid with a plus or minus 2.6% margin of error and a 95% confidence level. In addition to gathering public input through the survey, the City conducted 13 different focus group meetings to better understand the true needs of the City of Allen's parks, recreation and open space system.

Based on the citizen survey results, focus group input, the Parks and Recreation Department, City Staff, existing inventory, available resources and professional opinion, potential future and existing park projects were envisioned. In addition to potential park projects, this master plan focuses on the importance and need for maintenance as the park system continues to grow and develop. A large portion of the input gathered from City Staff was dedicated to better understand how to continually and more efficiently maintain the parks at a high level.

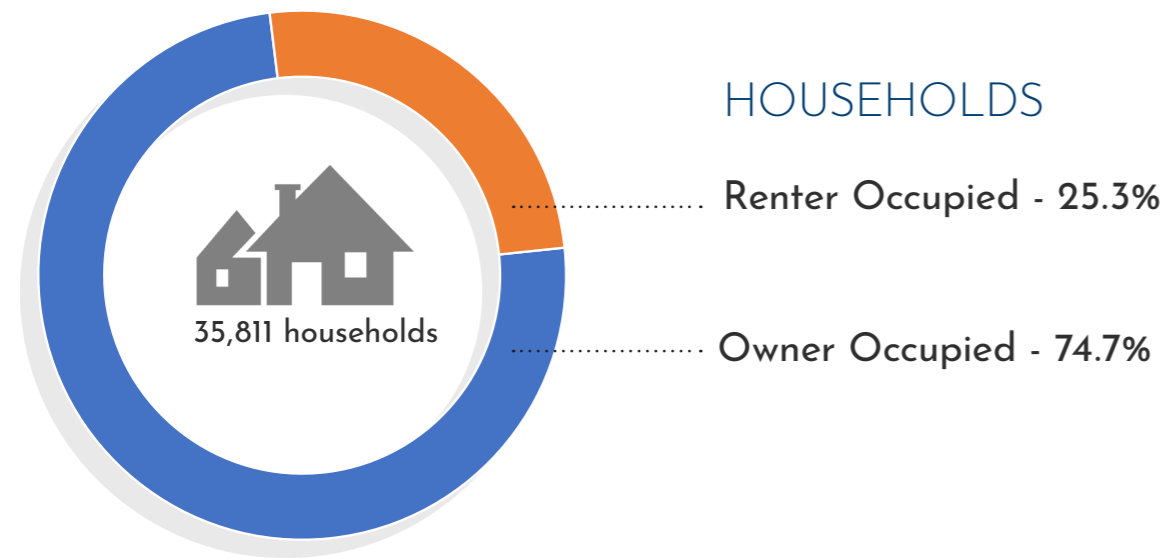
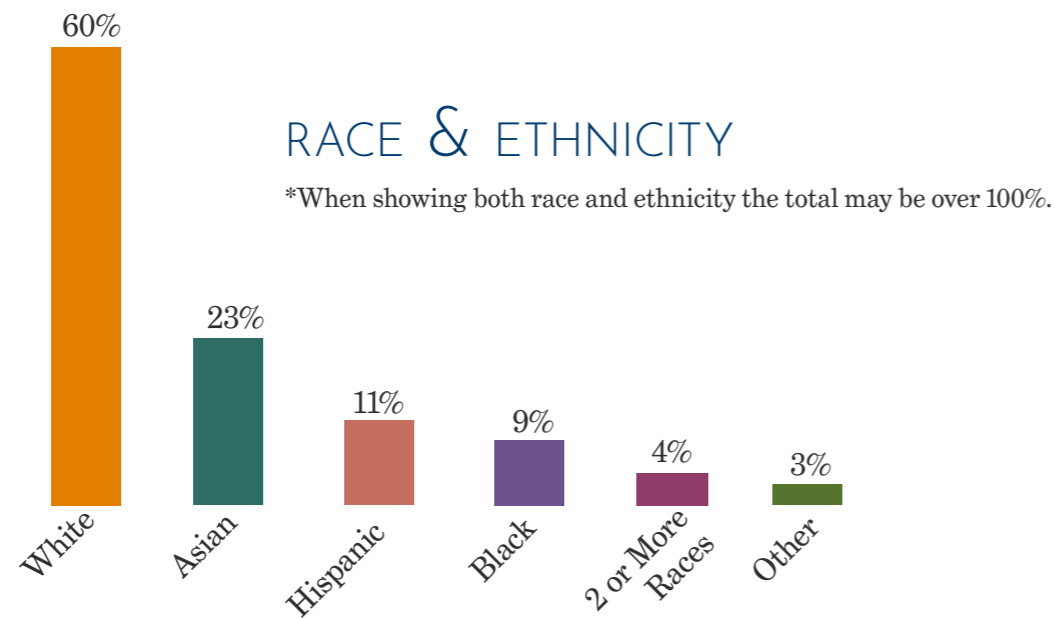
This master plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Department and at a City Council Workshop to verify that the City of Allen Parks and Open Space Master Plan 2021 truly reflects the community's needs and priorities.

OVERVIEW OF CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

- 1,460 citizens participated in the statistically valid survey that was distributed by National Service Research to gain beneficial feedback from the local residents regarding the parks, recreation and open space system in Allen.
- 13 focus group meetings and one public input meetings were held to gain insight into the desires of the community regarding the future of the park system.
- A Level of Service Analysis was developed to compare existing park acres to the current population.



Community Profile



According to the City of Allen Planning Department, the population of Allen in 2021 is 108,740. The City is experiencing a yearly growth rate of 1.45%. Allen is growing faster than the DFW Metro Area and the State of Texas, 0.83% and 1.23%, respectively. Collin County is growing faster than Allen, with a 3.79% growth rate.

By 2031, the anticipated population in Allen will be 125,578. The Allen EDC attributes the success of Allen to the spirit of the community who come together to build a better place for their family. The City of Allen can be described in three words: young, diverse and professional.

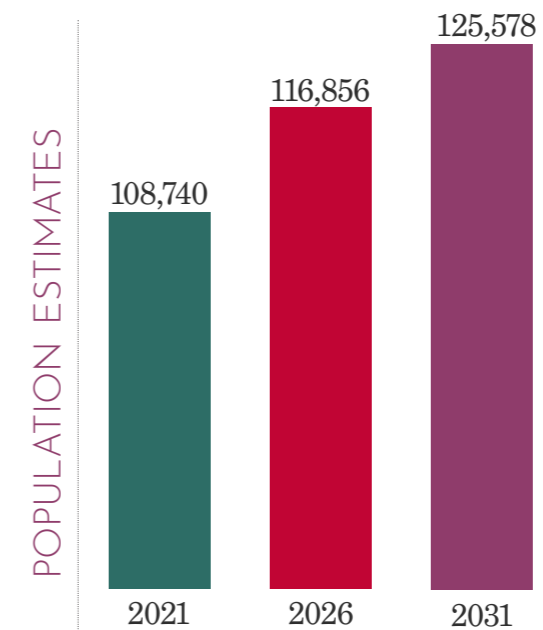
HOUSEHOLD FINANCES

\$347,376

Median Home Price

\$115,349

Median Household Income



*All statistics and information are referenced from: The City of Allen Planning Department & City of Allen EDC. 1.45% yearly growth

Community Profile

The City of Allen is:

- Located in north central Texas in Collin County
- Approximately 24 miles northeast of Dallas, 56 miles northeast of Fort Worth and 260 miles north of Houston
- Neighbored by Plano, Fairview, McKinney, Parker, Frisco and Lucas
- A total of 27.11 square miles
- Accessed by US Highway 75 and State Highway 121

The City of Allen's climate and average rainfall do not pose significant barriers to outdoor activities because the weather is generally mild and any extreme changes are short in duration.



Temperatures range from a mean minimum in January of 34 degrees Fahrenheit to a mean maximum in July of 96 degrees Fahrenheit.



The average first freeze is mid-November and the average last freeze is mid-March



The average rainfall is 40.4 inches per year



The basic soil type is black clay, although much of the northeast section of Allen is occupied by shallow limestone.



Accolades

Since the development of the 2010 - 2020 Parks & Open Space Master Plan, the City has continually developed and enhanced its Park System. Below is a list of some of the many awards the City has achieved over the past decade:

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

- 2012**
 - Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) North Region: Communications Award & Excellence in Programming (Recreation Program) Award.
 - Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute: TOMA Award.
- 2013**
 - National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA): Gold Medal Award finalist for the first time.
 - TRAPS North Region: Excellence in Programming Award & Part Time Employee of the Year Award.
- 2014**
 - Graphic Design USA (GDUSA): Adobe Muse Site of the Day & In-House Design award.
 - International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA): Best Event Website (Bronze) & Best Festival/Event Mobile App.
 - Texas Festivals & Events Association (TFEA): Best Event Website (Bronze) & Best Festival/Event Mobile App (Bronze).
 - NRPA: Gold Medal Award finalist the second year in a row.
 - TRAPS North Region: Horizons Award & Communications Award & Excellence in Programming Award.
 - TRAPS State: Media Excellence for Rec X Video Series & Outstanding Service Individual.
 - Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute: TOMA Award.
- 2015**
 - IFEA: Recognition for Best Event Website, Best Miscellaneous Multimedia & Best Festival/Event Mobile App (Silver).
 - HOW Magazine: In-House Design Award (Merit).
 - NRPA: Gold Medal Award finalist for the third-consecutive year.
- 2016**
 - NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.
 - TFEA: Best Event Website (Silver), Best Festival/Event Mobile app, Best Miscellaneous Multimedia & Best Miscellaneous Printed Materials.
 - IFEA: Best Event Website, Best Miscellaneous Multimedia, Best Single Newspaper Display Ad, Best Vendor/Supplier, Best Festival/Event Mobile App (Bronze), Best Ad Series (Silver) & Best Partner Sponsor.
 - TRAPS North Region: Excellence in Programming.
 - Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute: TOMA Award.

- 2017**
 - TRAPS State: Jerry D. Garrett Memorial Young Professional Award.
 - Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute: TOMA Award.
 - IFEA: Best New Promotion Activity Award (Gold).
 - TRAPS North Region: Horizons Award.
- 2018**
 - Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute: TOMA Award.
 - Pioneer Athletics: Fields of Excellence Award.
 - TRAPS North Region: Recreation Professional of the Year Award.
- 2019**
 - TRAPS State: Lone Star Programming Achievement - Class II
- 2020**
 - NTAA (North Texas Aquatic Association): Virtual Program/ Special Event of the Year
 - TRAPS North Region
 - Advocate of the Year
 - Part-Time Employee of the Year
 - Excellence in Programming (Senior Program)
- 2021**
 - TRAPS State:
 - Promotional & Marketing Excellence – Class II
 - Lone Star Recreation Programming Achievement – Class II
 - Organizational/Volunteer Service Award

CITY AWARDS

- 2017**
 - #2 Best Place to Live in America (Money, 2017)
- 2018**
 - #2 Best Place to Launch a Career (Money, 2018)
 - Best Suburb in Texas (CNBC, 2018)
- 2019**
 - #2 Safest City in Texas (Safehome, 2019)
- 2020**
 - “A+” Overall Grade (Niche, 2020)
 - 50 Safest Cities in Texas (Safewise, 2020)

Influences of COVID-19

During the community input and planning process of the City of Allen's Parks and Open Space Master Plan, the corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic occurred. COVID-19, a global pandemic, reached the United States in January 2020 and caused a national shutdown in March 2020. The effects of COVID-19 spread through all industries, causing adverse financial, health, employment, education and government impacts.

The pandemic's impacts on the City of Allen's Parks and Recreation Department included the parks master plan process, impairing summer programs and facility offerings, reassigning staff roles and implementing a hiring freeze.

The planning process for the Parks and Open Space Master Plan experienced delays while city staff and consultants adjusted to working at home and learning how to follow the Texas Open Meeting Act while moving daily office work to a virtual platform. Public input and meetings were delayed and eventually occurred online and virtually to adhere to the CDC social distancing guidelines. Some city staff were reassigned within the Parks and Recreation Department while select community facilities were temporarily closed. During the summer months of 2020, seasonal staff were not hired.

The Essential Need for Parks: Findings from the National Recreation and Park Association Park Pulse Survey

83% of adults find exercising at local parks, trails and open spaces essential to maintaining their mental and physical health during the COVID-19 pandemic.



59% of NRPA survey respondents say it is very or extremely essential to exercise in parks and green spaces to relieve stress and remain healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.



60% of U.S. residents - more than 190 million people - visited a park, trail, public open space or other recreation facility at least once during the first three months of the pandemic. Over half of U.S. residents maintained or increased their usage during those same months.



47% increase in the number of visits to parks in Collin County, according to Google's COVID-19 community mobility report in September 2020 with the baseline data beginning in July 2020.



COVID-19: SOCIAL DISTANCING IN PUBLIC PARKS AND TRAILS

- Do not use parks or trails if you are exhibiting symptoms.
- Be prepared for limited access to public restrooms or water fountains.
- Share the trail and warn other trail users of your presence and as you pass.
- Observe CDC's minimum recommended social distancing of 6' from other persons at all times.
- Follow CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to visiting parks or trails.

NRPA National Recreation and Park Association
Because everyone deserves a great park

Statistics cited from NRPA Park Pulse: The Essential Need for Parks, April 9, 2020: <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/park-pulse/the-essential-need-for-parks/> and Google COVID-19 Community Mobility Report https://www.gstatic.com/covid19/mobility/2020-09-04_US_Texas_Mobility_Report_en.pdf

Chapter 3



Existing Parks & Recreation System

Park & Property Types

The park and property classifications have been developed by the City of Allen Parks and Recreation Staff. These definitions are based on the City of Allen's 1986 "Linear Greenbelt Park Study", industry norms, and NRPA standards and will be used to improve consensus throughout the Parks and Recreation Department and to relate local data to NRPA's Park Metrics benchmarking system. The City of Allen parks system is separated into 13 major categories. Each park category serves a unique purpose. The City of Allen Park Classification and Inventory is as follows:

POCKET PARKS

- Smallest Park Classification
- Serves a specific and/or localized recreational need (half mile service area)
- Typical Characteristics:
 - Size: Less than 1 acre
 - Limited recreational use
- Amenities (may include but not limited to):
 - BBQ Grills
 - Benches
 - Bike Racks
 - Dog Waste Stations
 - Drinking Fountains
 - Irrigation (complete)
 - Interpretive exhibits
 - Landscaping
 - Lighting
 - Picnic Areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Public Art
 - Trash Cans
- Does not include preserves and natural areas



ORNAMENTAL AREAS

- Location whose specific purpose is to provide scenic beauty
- No specific service area
- Typical Characteristics:
 - Size: Less than 1.5 acres
 - Visual enjoyment only
- Amenities (may include but not limited to):
 - Benches
 - Irrigation (complete)
 - Interpretive exhibits
 - Landscaping
 - Lighting
 - Public Art
 - Trash Cans
- Does not include preserves and natural areas
- Does not include Non-Park Sites



MINI NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- Smaller but fully functional version of a neighborhood park
- Serves as the recreational and social focus of only the immediately surrounding residences (half mile radius service area)
- Typical Characteristics:
 - Size: 1 to 3 acres
 - Limited recreational use
- Amenities (may include but not limited to):
 - BBQ Grills
 - Benches
 - Bike Racks
 - Dog Waste Stations
 - Drinking Fountains
 - Interpretive exhibits
 - Irrigation (complete)
 - Landscaping
 - Lighting
 - Open Lawn Areas
 - Pavilions
 - Picnic Areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Public Art
 - Shade Structures
 - Trash Cans
- Does not include preserves and natural areas



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- Basic unit of the park system
- Serves as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood in which it is located (one mile radius service area)
- Typical Characteristics:
 - Size: 3 to 25 acres
 - Multiple recreational uses including both active and passive
- Amenities (may include but not limited to):
 - BBQ Grills
 - Benches
 - Bike Racks
 - Dog Waste Stations
 - Drinking Fountains
 - Hike/Bike Trails
 - Interpretive exhibits
 - Irrigation (complete)
 - Landscaping
 - Lighting
 - Open Lawn Areas
 - Pavilions
 - Picnic Areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Public Art
 - Shade Structures



- Sports Courts
 - Basketball
 - Inline Hockey
 - Tennis
 - Multi-use
- Sports Fields
 - Baseball
 - Cricket
 - Football
 - Lacrosse
 - Rugby
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Multi-use
 - Trash Cans
- Does not include preserves and natural areas
- Does not include Non-Park Sites

COMMUNITY PARKS

- Larger in size and serving a broader purpose than neighborhood parks
- Serves the recreational needs of several neighborhoods and large sections of the community (one to three mile radius service area)
- Typical Characteristics:
 - Size: 25 to 75 acres
 - Multiple recreational uses including both active and passive
- Amenities (may include but not limited to):
 - BBQ Grills
 - Benches
 - Bike Racks
 - Concessions
 - Decks/Overlooks
 - Dog Waste Stations
 - Drinking Fountains
 - Hike/Bike Trails
 - Indoor Facilities
 - Interpretive exhibits
 - Irrigation (complete)
 - Landscaping
 - Lighting
 - Open Lawn Areas
 - Parking
 - Pavilions
- Picnic Areas
- Playgrounds
- Public Art
- Restrooms
- Shade Structures
- Sports Courts
 - Basketball
 - Inline Hockey
 - Tennis
 - Multi-use
- Sports Fields
 - Baseball
 - Cricket
 - Football
 - Lacrosse
 - Rugby
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Multi-use
- Spraygrounds
- Swimming Pools
- Trailheads
- Trash Cans
- May include preserves and natural areas



REGIONAL PARKS

- Largest park classification
- Serves populations beyond the city limits
- Typical Characteristics:
 - Size: Larger than 75 acres
 - Multiple recreational uses including both active and passive
- Amenities (may include but not limited to):
 - Aquatic Features
 - BBQ Grills
 - Benches
 - Bike Racks
 - Campgrounds
 - Concessions
 - Decks/Overlooks
 - Dog Waste Stations
 - Drinking Fountains
 - Extreme Sports
 - Golf Courses
 - Hike/Bike Trails
 - Indoor Facilities
 - Interpretive exhibits
 - Irrigation
 - Landscaping
 - Lighting
 - Open Lawn Areas
 - Parking
 - Pavilions
- Picnic Areas
- Playgrounds
- Public Art
- Restrooms
- Shade Structures
- Sports Courts
 - Basketball
 - Inline Hockey
 - Tennis
 - Multi-use
- Sports Fields
 - Baseball
 - Cricket
 - Football
 - Lacrosse
 - Rugby
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Multi-use
- Spraygrounds
- Swimming Pools
- Trailheads
- Trash Cans
- Water Parks
- May include preserves and natural areas



SPECIAL USE AREAS

- Property designated to serve a specific purpose(s) depending on the function that satisfies a particular need or use for entire community.
- Serve entire city and beyond
- Most likely use is the location of an indoor or outdoor facility, but other uses may exist.



LINEAR PARKS

- Long attenuated properties with connecting trail networks that serve as linkages between the various components of the park system as well as other community facilities such as schools, libraries, and commercial areas. Typically shares many of the properties of Greenbelts but allows for more active recreational uses.
- Serve entire city and beyond
- Typical Characteristics:
 - Size: Varies
 - Multiple recreational uses including both active and passive
- Amenities (may include but not limited to):
 - BBQ Grills
 - Benches
 - Bike Racks
 - Decks/Overlooks
 - Dog Waste Stations
 - Drinking Fountains
 - Hike/Bike Trails
 - Irrigation
 - Interpretive exhibits
 - Landscaping
 - Open Lawn Areas
 - Parking
 - Pavilions
 - Picnic Areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Shade Structures
 - Trailheads
 - Trash Cans
- May include preserves and natural areas



GREENBELTS

- Natural resource corridors preserved to protect sensitive geologic and/or ecologic systems and to provide flood protection by restricting development in the floodplain
- Serve entire city and beyond
- Typical Characteristics:
 - Size: Varies
 - Primarily passive recreational uses with limited active uses
- Amenities (may include but not limited to):
 - Benches
 - Bike Racks
 - Decks/Overlooks
 - Dog Waste Stations
 - Drinking Fountains
 - Hike/Bike Trails
 - Interpretive Exhibits
 - Parking
 - Trailheads
 - Trash Cans
- May include natural areas as well as preservation and/or conservation zones



RECREATIONAL EASEMENTS

- Property is privately owned, owned by another entity, or jointly owned.
- Public use for recreational purposes is secured through the grant of an easement or other type of joint use agreement.
- The site may or may not have City installed infrastructure (most typically hike/bike trails but not limited as such).
- Public use is typically but not restricted to passive recreation.



NATURAL AREAS

- Property set aside for conservation or preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/ buffering depending on the level of protection necessitated. Little to no development occurs within the property.
- Serve entire city and beyond
- Shares the characteristics of a greenbelt, but may or may not be associated with:
 - Natural Resource Corridors
 - Sensitive Geologic and/or Ecologic Systems
 - Flood Protection



OPEN SPACE

- Developed
 - Property not falling within another classification which has limited programmed use.
 - No specific service area.
 - Development typically limited to trails and trailheads.
 - Uses can be primitive, passive, and active
- Undeveloped
 - Open space whose final developmental state is intended to be free or primarily free of improvements.
 - May include preservation and/or conservation zones
 - Example: Forested area left in a natural state that may have an improved trail and/or trailhead.
 - Does not include reserve park land.



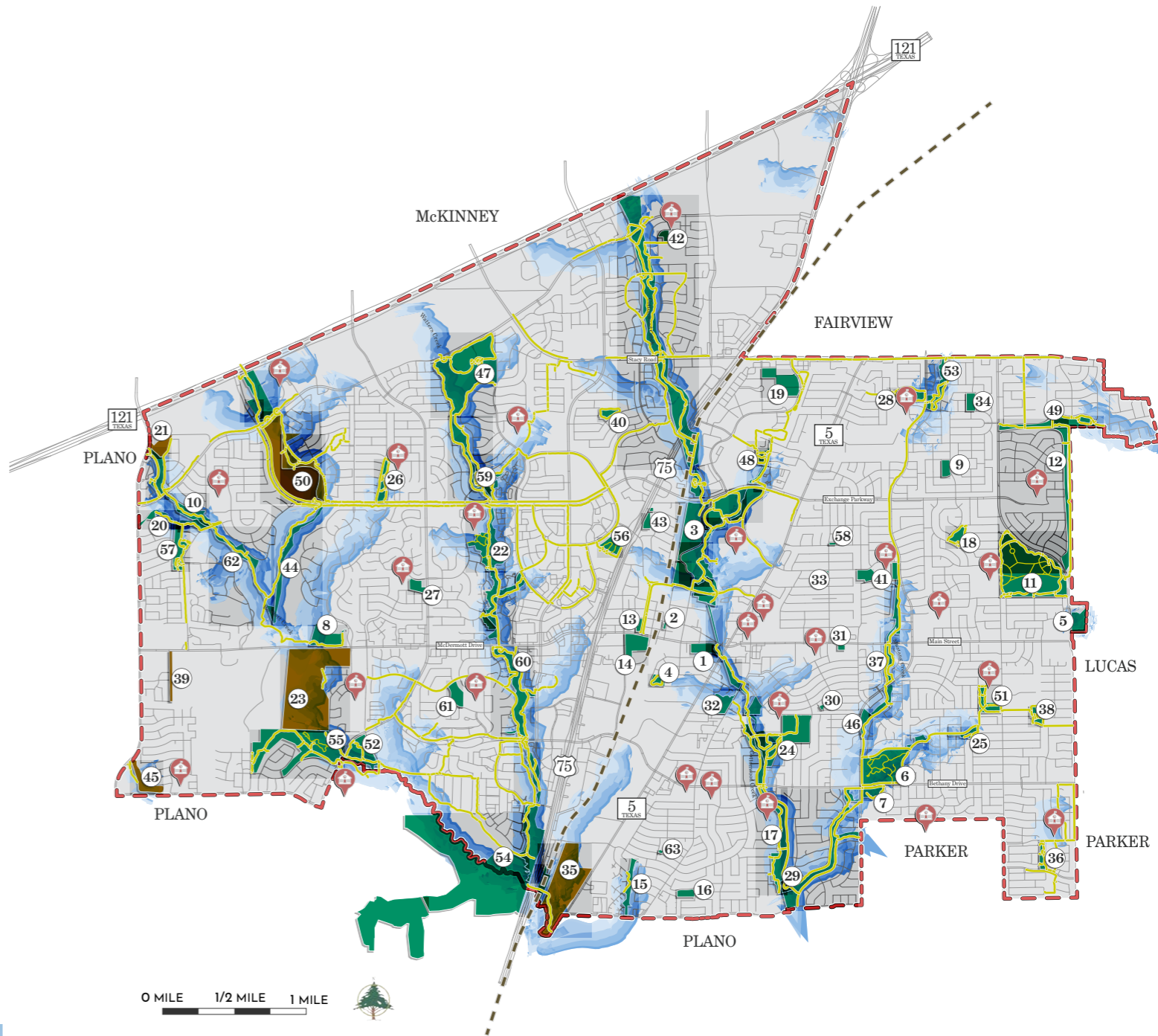
RESERVE LAND

- Property that has been acquired by the city for future recreational, preservational, or conservational use but has yet to be developed.
- Property may be wholly owned by the City or may be held in trust.



Existing Parks Map

- 1. Allen Cemetery
- 2. Allen Heritage Center
- 3. Allen Station Park
 - Allen Heritage Village
 - Allen Historic Dam
 - Allen Senior Recreation Center
 - Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium
 - Hydrous Wake Park*
 - The Edge at Allen Station
 - The Edge Visitor Center
- 4. Allenwood Park
- 5. Auburn Springs
- 6. Bethany Lakes Park
 - Amenities Building
 - Joe Farmer Recreation Center
 - Lakeside Club House
- 7. Bethany Ridge Park
- 8. Bolin Park
- 9. Bradford Crossing Park
- 10. Bridgewater Crossing Recreation Area
- 11. Celebration Park
- 12. Celebration Pass Greenbelt
- 13. Central Business District Special Use Area
- 14. Civic Plaza
- 15. Collin Square Greenbelt
- 16. Cottonwood Bend Park
- 17. Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt
- 18. Country Meadows Park
- 19. Credit Union of Texas Event Center
 - Allen Community Ice Rink
 - Allen Event Center
- 20. Custer Meadows Park
- 21. Custer/Ridgeview Property
- 22. Dayspring Nature Preserve
- 23. Eugene McDermott Park
- 24. Ford Park
- 25. Fox Hollow Recreation Area
- 26. Glendover Park
- 27. Green Park
- 28. Greenville Heights Park
- 29. Heritage Park
- 30. Hillside Play Area
- 31. Hillside Wellness Park
- 32. Jupiter Park
- 33. Liberty Garden
- 34. Lost Creek Park
- 35. Molsen Farm
- 36. Morgan Crossing Park
- 37. Mustang Creek Greenbelt
- 38. Orchards Park
- 39. Parkhurst
- 40. Quail Run Park
- 41. Reed Park
- 42. Ridgeview Crossing Park
- 43. Rolling Hills Park
- 44. Rowlett Creek Greenbelt
- 45. Russell Creek Greenbelt
- 46. Shadow Lakes Park
- 47. Spirit Park
- 48. Spring Meadow Park
- 49. Stacy Ridge Park
- 50. Stephen G. Terrell Community Park
- 51. Story Park
- 52. Suncreek Park
- 53. The Bluffs at Lost Creek
- 54. The Courses at Watters Creek
- 55. The Woods
- 56. Twin Creeks Civic Space
- 57. Twin Creeks Park
- 58. Walden Park
- 59. Waterford Park
- 60. Watters Branch Greenbelt
- 61. Watters Crossing Park
- 62. West Rowlett Creek Greenbelt
- 63. Windridge Park



- CITY LIMITS
- STREETS
- RAILROAD TRACKS
- EXISTING TRAILS
- PROPOSED TRAILS
- # PARK LABEL
- DEVELOPED PARKS
- UNDEVELOPED PARKS
- 🏠 SCHOOLS
- FLOODPLAIN



Existing Parks Inventory

	Name	Total Acres	Developed Acres	Classification
1	Allen Cemetery	7.3	7.3	Special Use Area
2	Allen Heritage Center	.8	.8	Special Use Area
3	Allen Station Park	129.73	129.73	Regional Park
4	Allenwood Park	4.24	4.24	Neighborhood Park
5	Auburn Springs	9.46	9.46	Open Space
6	Bethany Lakes Park	48.85	48.85	Community Park
7	Bethany Ridge Park	7.32	7.32	Neighborhood Park
8	Bolin Park	16.43	16.43	Special Use Area
9	Bradford Crossing Park	4.42	4.42	Neighborhood Park
10	Bridgewater Crossing Recreation Area	12.55	12.55	Linear Park
11	Celebration Park	98.62	98.62	Regional Park
12	Celebration Pass Greenbelt	7.65	7.65	Greenbelt
13	Central Business District Special Use Area	2.56	2.56	Special Use Area
14	Civic Plaza	2.4	2.4	Ornamental Area
15	Collin Square Greenbelt	8.82	8.82	Greenbelt
16	Cottonwood Bend Park	4.2	4.2	Neighborhood Park
17	Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt	154.62	154.62	Greenbelt
18	Country Meadows Park	7.91	7.91	Neighborhood Park
19	Credit Union of Texas Event Center	15.31	15.31	Special Use Area
20	Custer Meadows Park	7.82	7.82	Linear Park
21	Custer/Ridgeview Property	9.18	0.0	Reserve Land
22	Dayspring Nature Preserve	32.13	32.13	Linear Park
23	Eugene McDermott Park	112.25	0.0	Reserve Land
24	Ford Park	50.63	50.63	Community Park
25	Fox Hollow Recreation Area	6.45	6.45	Linear Park
26	Glendover Park	10.37	10.37	Neighborhood Park
27	Green Park	5.26	5.26	Neighborhood Park
28	Greenville Heights Park	12.85	12.85	Linear Park
29	Heritage Park	49.57	49.57	Linear Park
30	Hillside Play Area	.58	.58	Pocket Park
31	Hillside Wellness Park	1.3	1.3	Special Use Area
32	Jupiter Park	8.74	8.74	Special Use Area
33	Liberty Garden	0.14	0.14	Ornamental Area
34	Lost Creek Park	5.47	5.47	Neighborhood Park

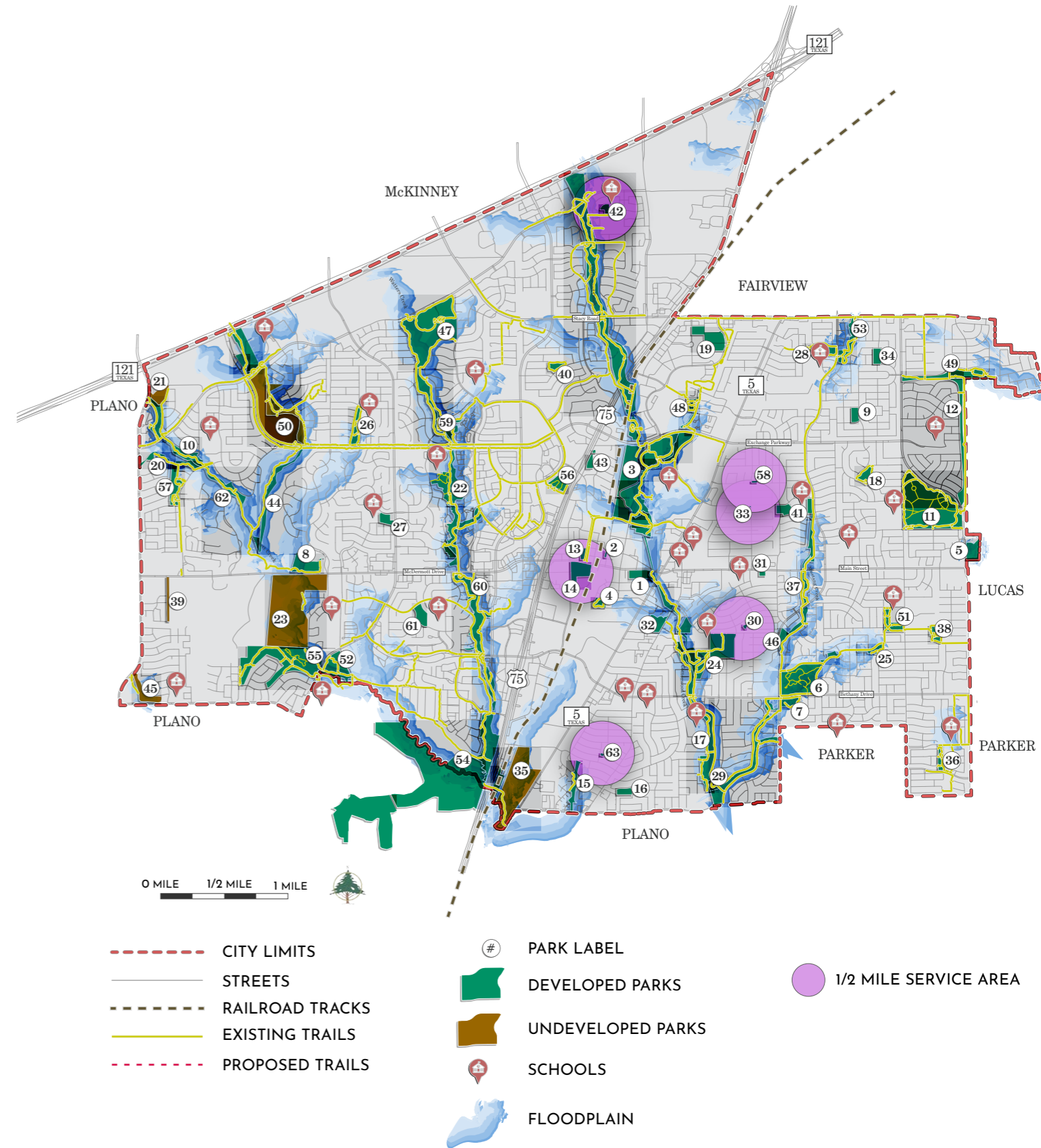
	Name	Total Acres	Developed Acres	Classification
35	Molsen Farm	77.43	0.0	Reserve Land
36	Morgan Crossing Park	5.29	5.29	Neighborhood Park
37	Mustang Creek Greenbelt	8.43	8.43	Greenbelt
38	Orchards Park	5.69	5.69	Neighborhood Park
39	Parkhurst	1.39	0.0	Open Space
40	Quail Run Park	5.55	5.55	Neighborhood Park
41	Reed Park	10.33	10.33	Neighborhood Park
42	Ridgeview Crossing Park	2.53	2.53	Mini Neighborhood Park
43	Rolling Hills Park	3.67	3.67	Neighborhood Park
44	Rowlett Creek Greenbelt	31.53	31.53	Greenbelt
45	Russell Creek Greenbelt	3.9	3.9	Greenbelt
46	Shadow Lakes Park	20.21	20.21	Linear Park
47	Spirit Park	76.38	64.56	Regional Park
48	Spring Meadow Park	9.62	9.62	Neighborhood Park
49	Stacy Ridge Park	15.38	15.38	Neighborhood Park
50	Stephen G. Terrell Community Park	87.9	0.0	Community Park
51	Story Park	11.15	11.15	Neighborhood Park
52	Suncreek Park	21.03	21.03	Neighborhood Park
53	The Bluffs at Lost Creek	14.28	14.28	Linear Park
54	The Courses at Watters Creek	263.54	263.54	Special Use Area
55	The Woods	71.13	71.13	Natural Area
56	Twin Creeks Civic Space	7.22	7.22	Neighborhood Park
57	Twin Creeks Park	15.65	15.65	Neighborhood Park
58	Walden Park	.53	.53	Mini Neighborhood Park
59	Waterford Park	23.28	23.28	Linear Park
60	Watters Branch Greenbelt	129.12	129.12	Greenbelt
61	Watters Crossing Park	8.51	8.51	Neighborhood Park
62	West Rowlett Creek Greenbelt	18.85	18.85	Greenbelt
63	Windridge Park	.46	.46	Pocket Park
	Bethany Drive Trail	2.96	2.96	Recreational Easement
	Exchange Parkway Trail	5.99	5.99	Recreational Easement
	Ridgeview Trail	7.6	7.6	Recreational Easement
	Stacy Road Trail	5.29	5.29	Recreational Easement
	TOTAL	1,827.75	1,527.78	

Ornamental, Pocket & Mini Neighborhood Parks Map

1/2 MILE RADIUS SERVICE AREAS



- 14. Civic Plaza
- 30. Hillside Play Area
- 33. Liberty Garden
- 42. Ridgeview Crossing Park
- 58. Walden Park
- 63. Windridge Park

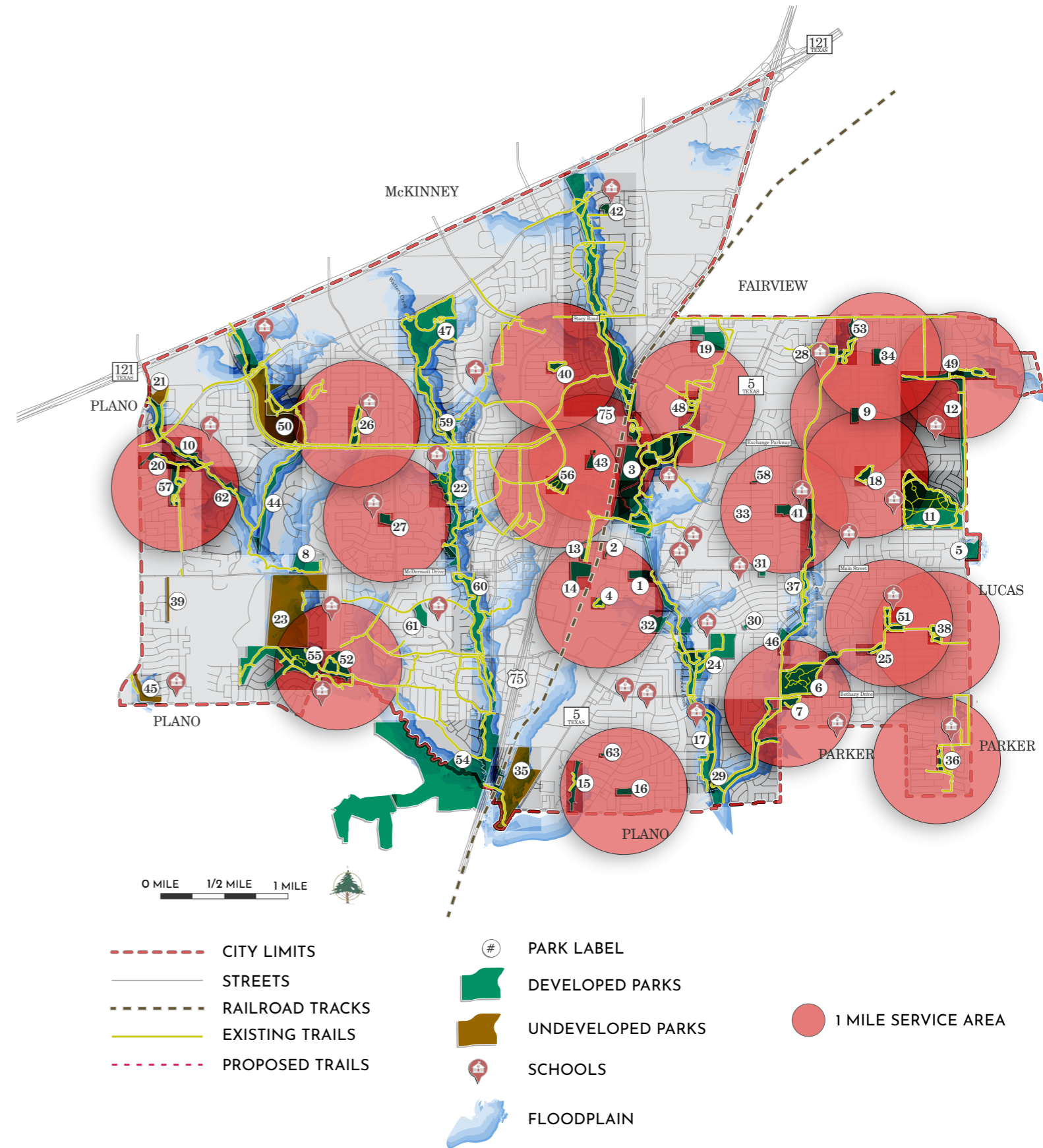


Neighborhood Parks Map

1 MILE RADIUS SERVICE AREAS



- 4. Allenwood Park
- 7. Bethany Ridge Park
- 9. Bradford Crossing Park
- 16. Cottonwood Bend Park
- 18. Country Meadows Park
- 26. Glendover Park
- 27. Green Park
- 34. Lost Creek Park
- 36. Morgan Crossing Park
- 38. Orchards Park
- 40. Quail Run Park
- 41. Reed Park
- 43. Rolling Hills Park
- 48. Spring Meadow Park
- 49. Stacy Ridge Park
- 51. Story Park
- 52. Suncreek Park
- 55. Twin Creeks Civic Space
- 57. Twin Creeks Park



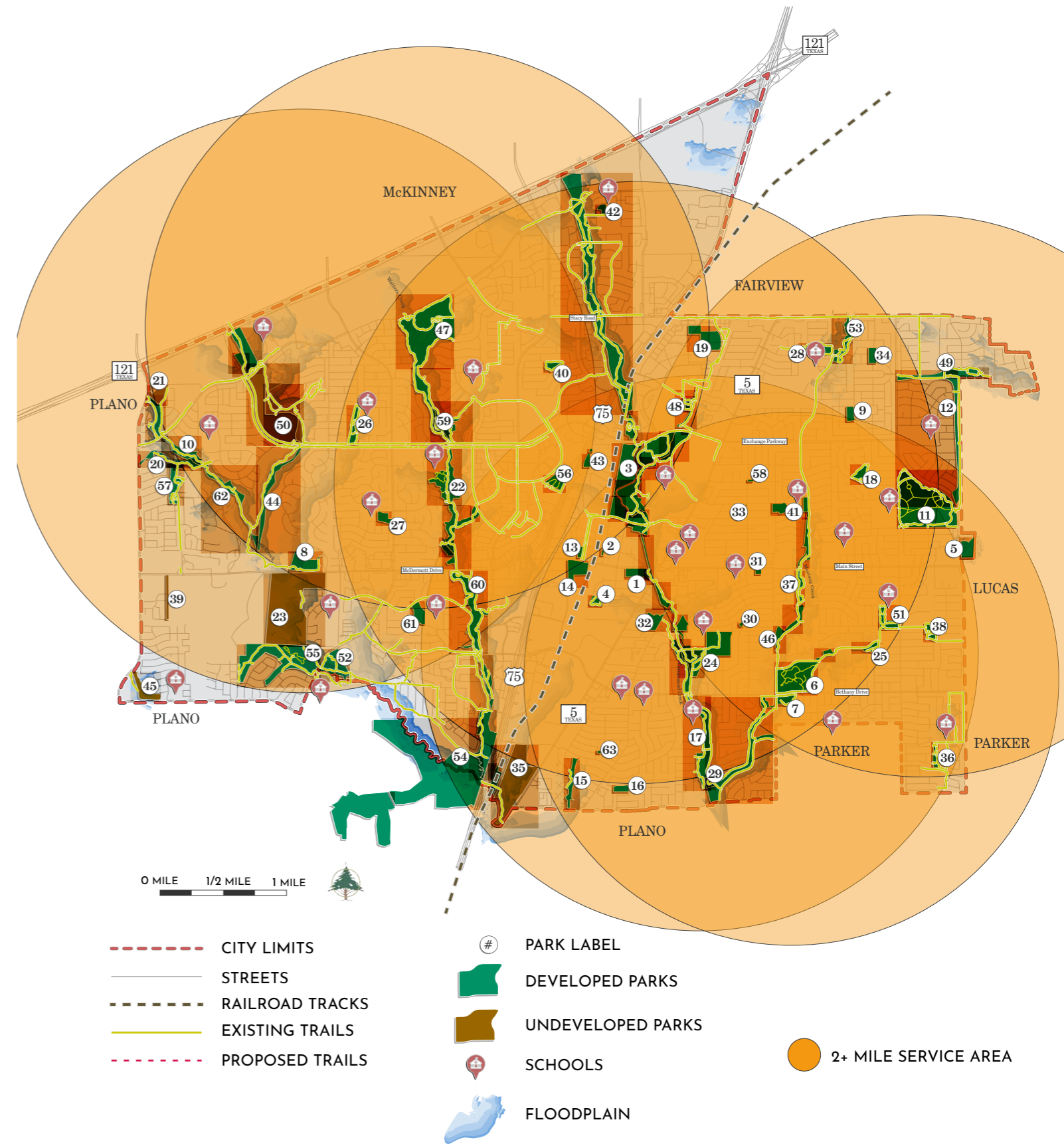
Community & Regional Parks Map

2 MILE RADIUS SERVICE AREAS

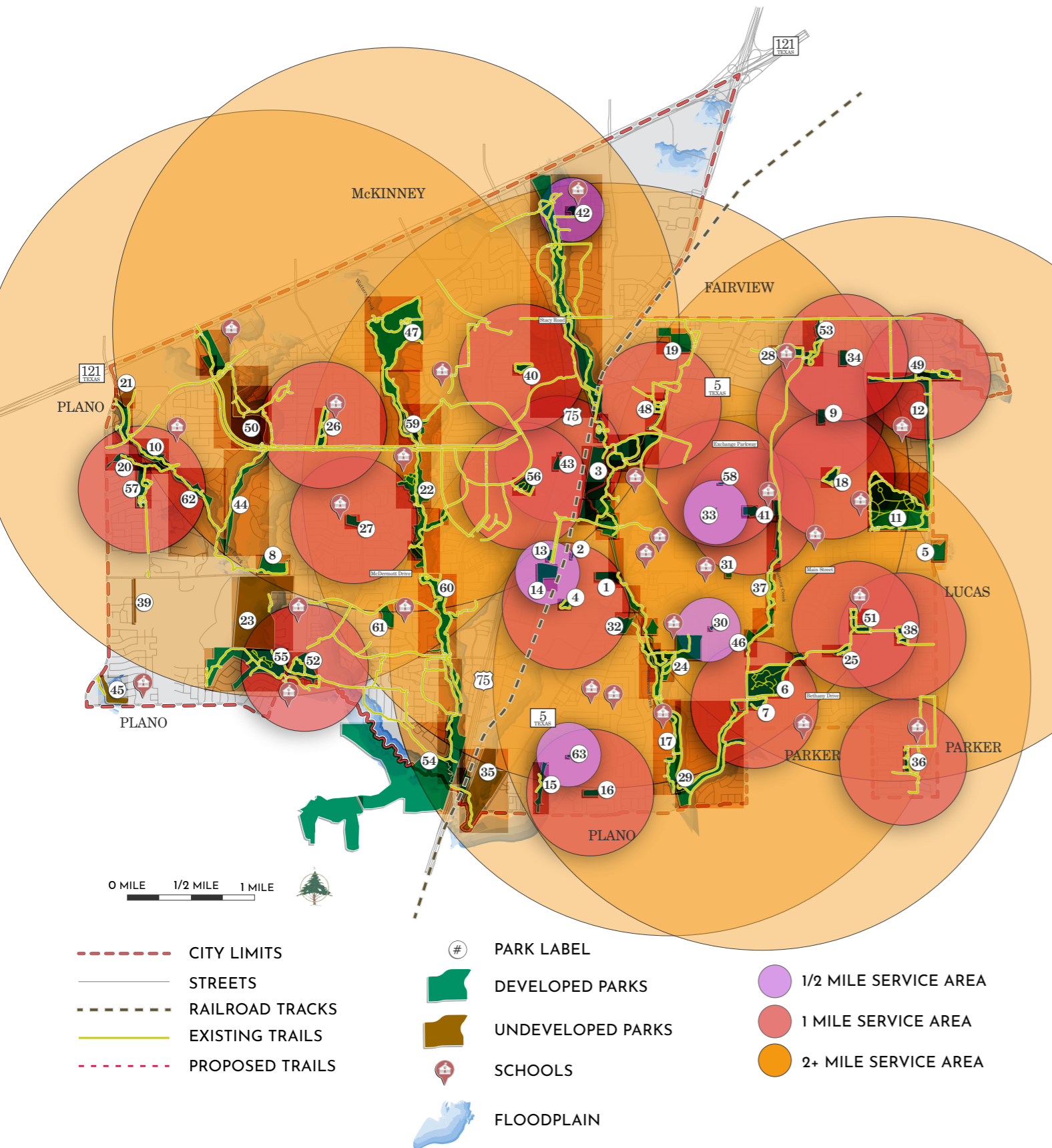


- 3. Allen Station Park
- 6. Bethany Lakes Park
- 11. Celebration Park
- 24. Ford Park
- 47. Spirit Park
- 50. Stephen G. Terrell Community Park

**Greenbelts, Linear Parks, Natural Areas & Special Use Areas also have +/- 2 mile services areas.*



Overall City Wide Parks Map





Allen Cemetery

SPECIAL USE AREA
320 E McDermott Drive

Total Acres - 7.3
Developed Acres - 7.3



Allen Heritage Center

SPECIAL USE AREA
100 E Main Street

Total Acres - 0.8
Developed Acres - 0.8



SITE AMENITIES

- Historical Significance
- Open Space

SITE AMENITIES

- Cultural Significance
- Drinking Fountains
- Kitchen
- Restrooms
- Vintage Train Exhibit



Allen Station Park

REGIONAL PARK
301 E Exchange Parkway

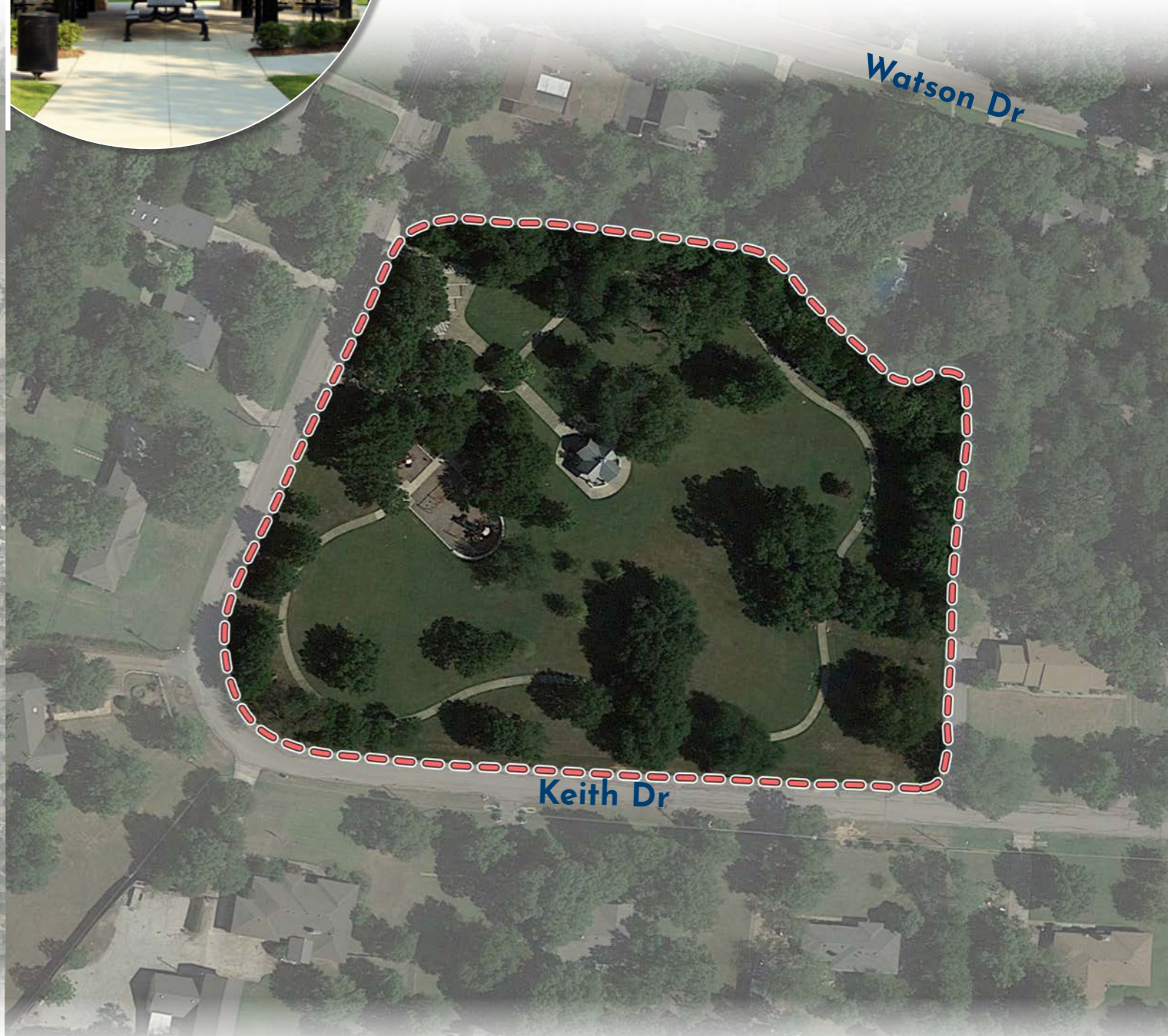
Total Acres - 129.73
Developed Acres - 129.73



Allenwood Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
603 Keith Drive

Total Acres - 4.24
Developed Acres - 4.24



SITE AMENITIES

- Baseball Fields
- Benches
- BMX Track
- Cultural Significance
- Drinking Fountains
- Grills
- Hike and Bike Trails
- Historical Significance
- Horse Shoe Pits
- Inline Hockey Rinks
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Skate Park
- Softball Fields

SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Drinking Fountains
- Grills
- Open Space
- Parking (Limited)
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Pavilion
- Trail



Auburn Springs

OPEN SPACE

Estates Parkway & Angel Parkway

Total Acres - 9.46
Developed Acres - 9.46

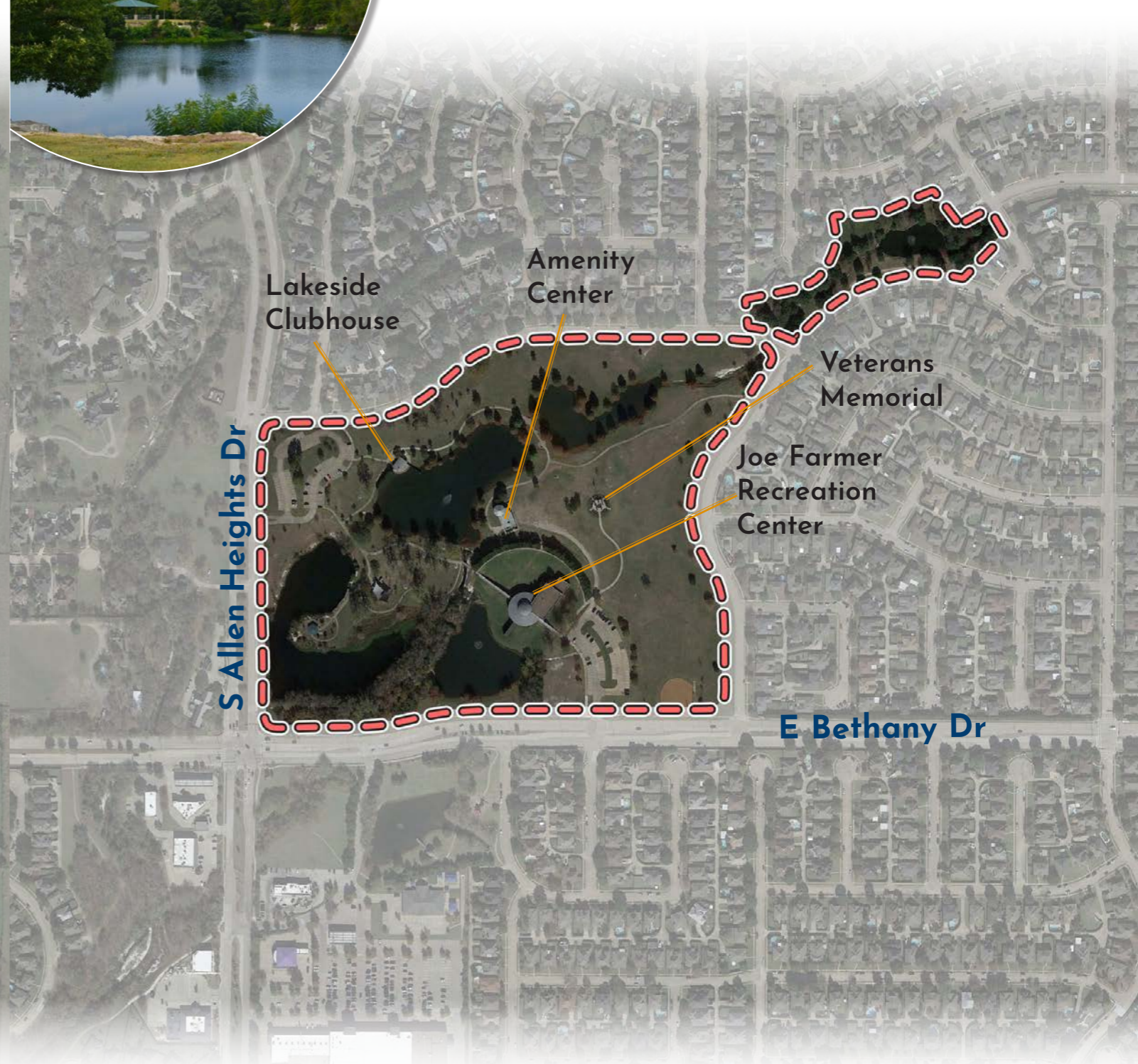


Bethany Lakes Park

COMMUNITY PARK

745 S Allen Heights Drive

Total Acres - 48.85
Developed Acres - 48.85



SITE AMENITIES

- Open Space
- Pond

SITE AMENITIES

- Amphitheater
- Baseball Field
- Benches
- Cultural Significance
- Disc Golf
- Drinking Fountains
- Fishing Pier
- Hike and Bike Trails
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Ponds
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Restrooms



Bethany Ridge Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

1218 E Bethany Drive

Total Acres - 7.32
Developed Acres - 7.32



Bolin Park

SPECIAL USE AREA

1510 W McDermott Drive

Total Acres - 16.43
Developed Acres - 16.43



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Fishing Pier
- Grills
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Pond
- Rental Space/Pavilion

SITE AMENITIES

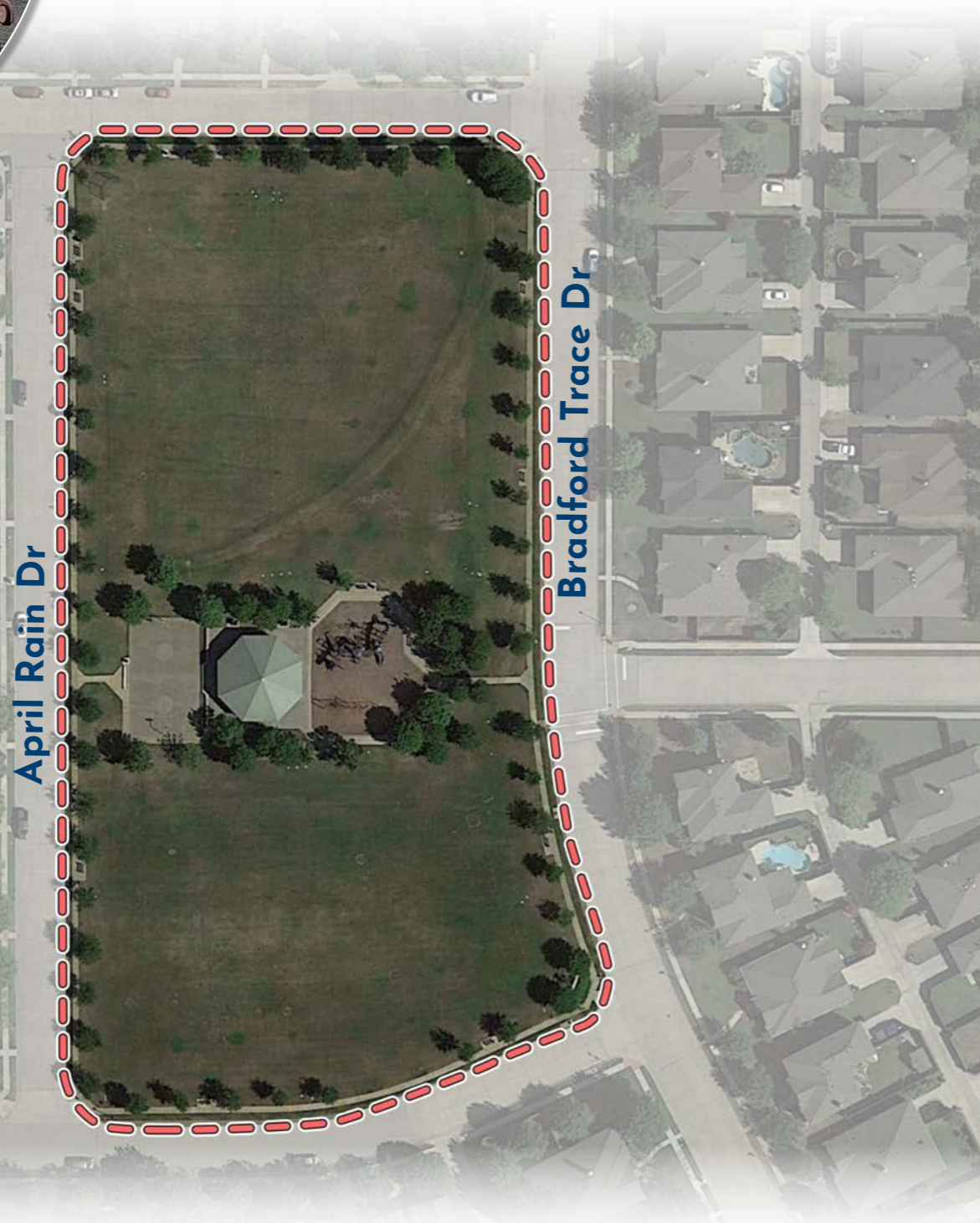
- Baseball Fields
- Concessions
- Drinking Fountains
- Hike and Bike Trails
- Soccer Fields
- Restrooms



Bradford Crossing Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
1405 Bradford Trace Drive

Total Acres - 4.42
Developed Acres - 4.42



Bridgewater Crossing Recreation Area

LINEAR PARK
1919 Deercreek Drive

Total Acres - 12.55
Developed Acres - 12.55



SITE AMENITIES

- Baseball Backstop
- Benches
- Grills
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Sports Court

SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Grills
- Hike and Bike Trails
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion



Celebration Park

REGIONAL PARK
701 Angel Parkway

Total Acres - 98.62
Developed Acres - 98.62

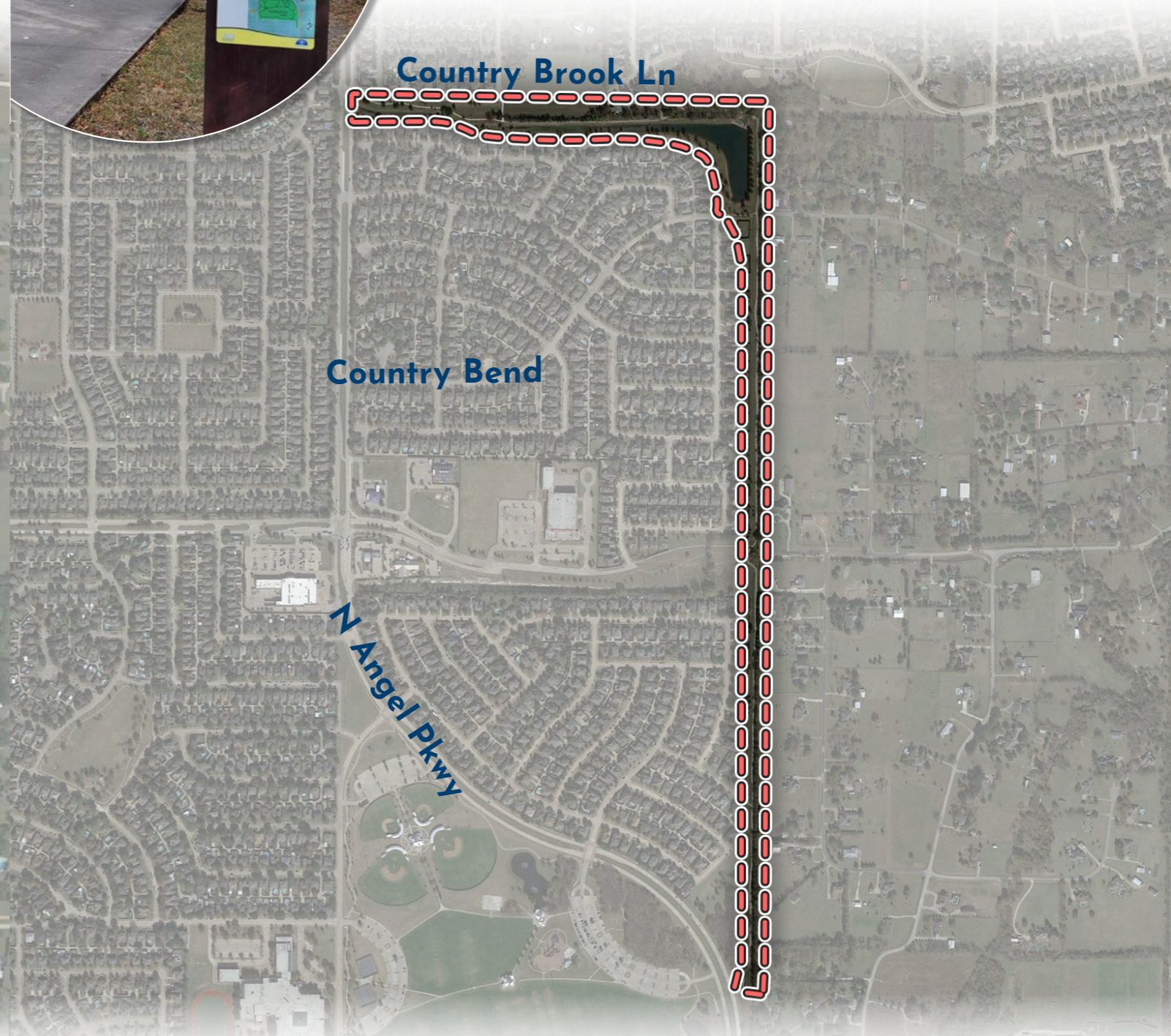
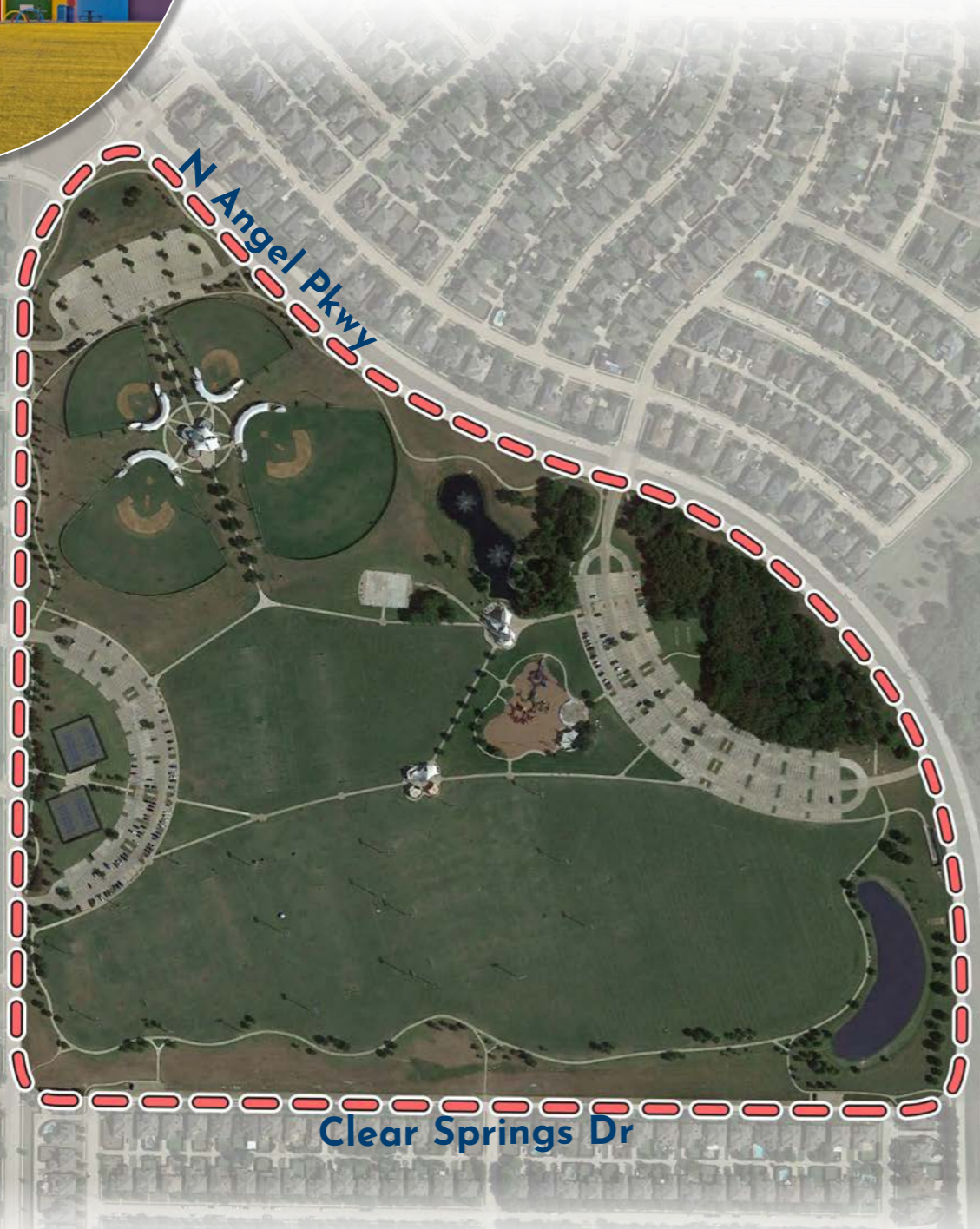


Celebration Pass Greenbelt

GREENBELT

From Celebration Park to Country Brook Lane

Total Acres - 7.65
Developed Acres - 7.65



SITE AMENITIES

- Baseball Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Benches
- Concessions
- Drinking Fountains
- Grills
- Hike and Bike Trails
- Horse Shoe Pits
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Ponds
- Rental Space/
- Pavilion
- Restrooms
- Soccer Fields
- Sprayground
- Tennis/Pickleball Courts

SITE AMENITIES

- Hike and Bike Trail



Central Business District Special Use Area

SPECIAL USE AREA
105 S Anna Drive

Total Acres - 2.56
Developed Acres - 2.56



SITE AMENITIES

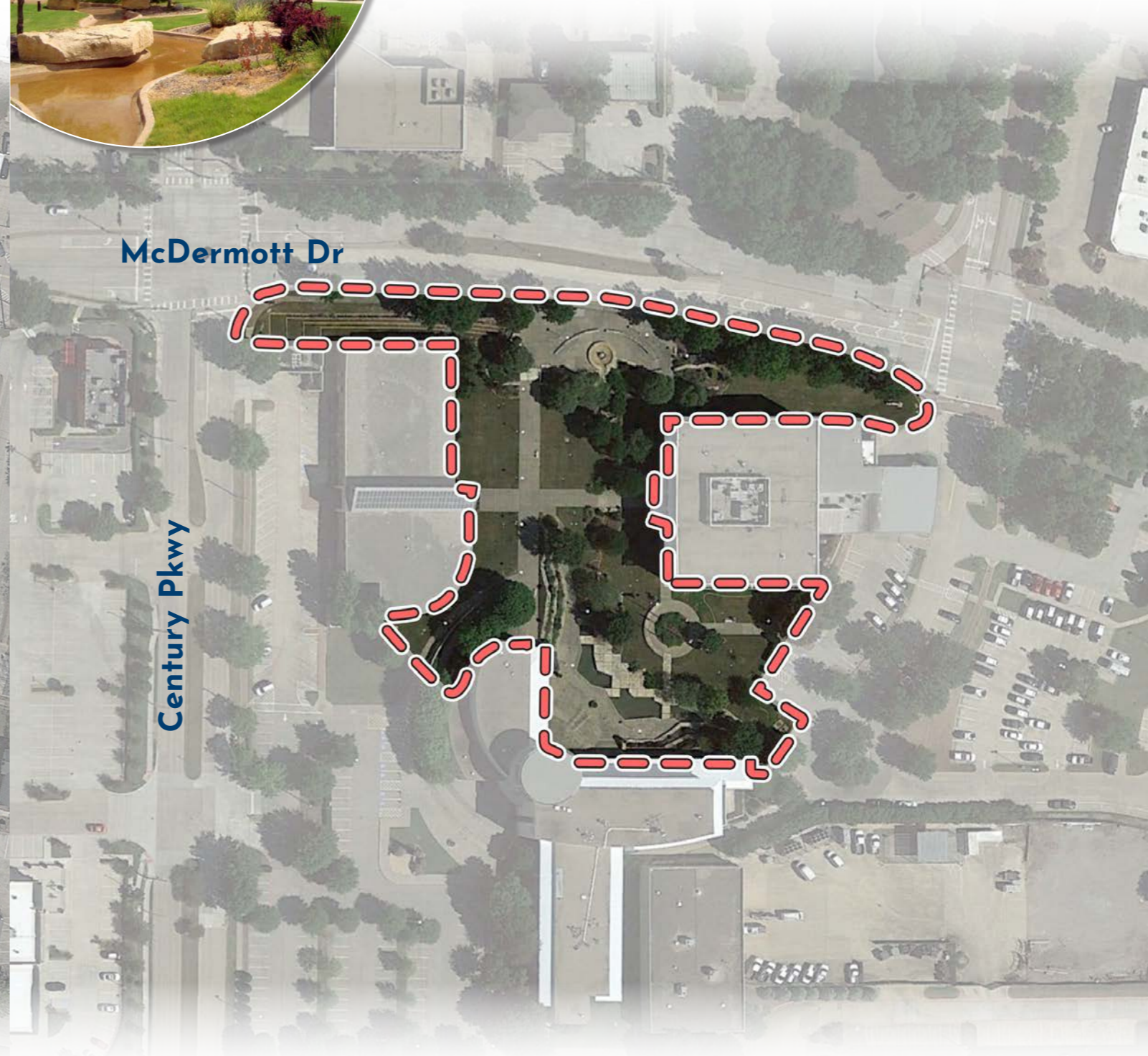
- City-Owned Buildings
- Parking



Civic Plaza

ORNAMENTAL AREA
301 Century Parkway

Total Acres - 2.4
Developed Acres - 2.4



SITE AMENITIES

- City Municipal Campus
- Fountain, Water Features
- Ornamental Landscaping
- Sculpture



Collin Square Greenbelt

GREENBELT
1401 Collin Drive

Total Acres - 8.82
Developed Acres - 8.82



SITE AMENITIES

- Open Space



Cottonwood Bend Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
630 Meadowbrook Street

Total Acres - 4.2
Developed Acres - 4.2



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground



Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt

GREENBELT

From Chaparral Road to Ridgeview Drive

Total Acres - 154.62
Developed Acres - 154.62



SITE AMENITIES

- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space



Country Meadows Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

1511 Home Park Drive

Total Acres - 7.91
Developed Acres - 7.91



SITE AMENITIES

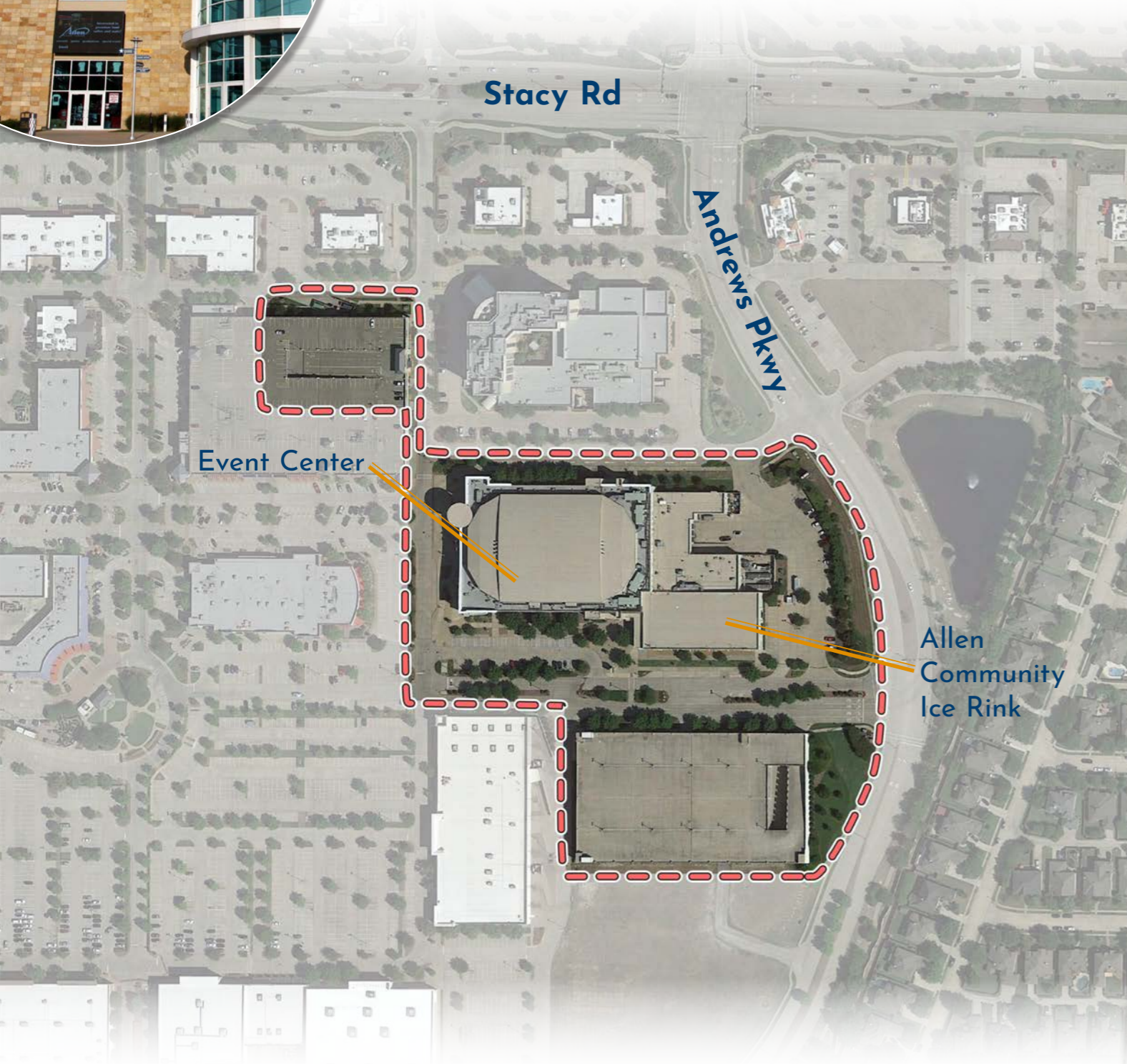
- Benches
- Drinking Fountains
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion



Credit Union of Texas Event Center

SPECIAL USE AREA
200 E Stacy Road

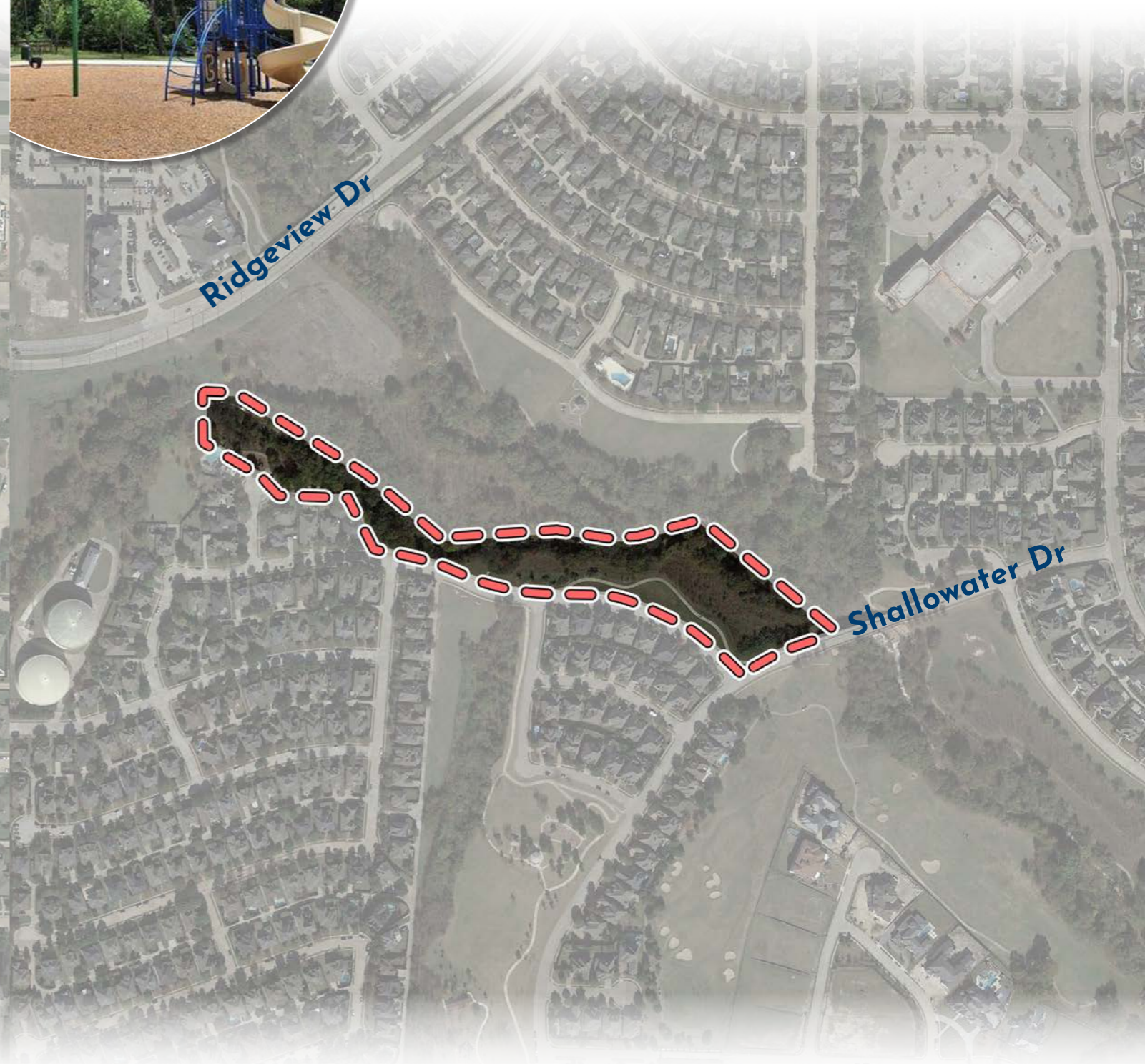
Total Acres - 15.31
Developed Acres - 15.31



Custer Meadows Park

LINEAR PARK
2002 Glenmere Drive

Total Acres - 7.82
Developed Acres - 7.82



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Drinking Fountains
- Parking Garage
- Rental Space
- Restrooms

SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Hike and Bike Trails
- Open Space
- Playground



Custer/Ridgeview Property

RESERVE LAND

Between Custer Road and Field Drive

Total Acres - 9.18
Developed Acres - 0.0



SITE AMENITIES

- Undeveloped

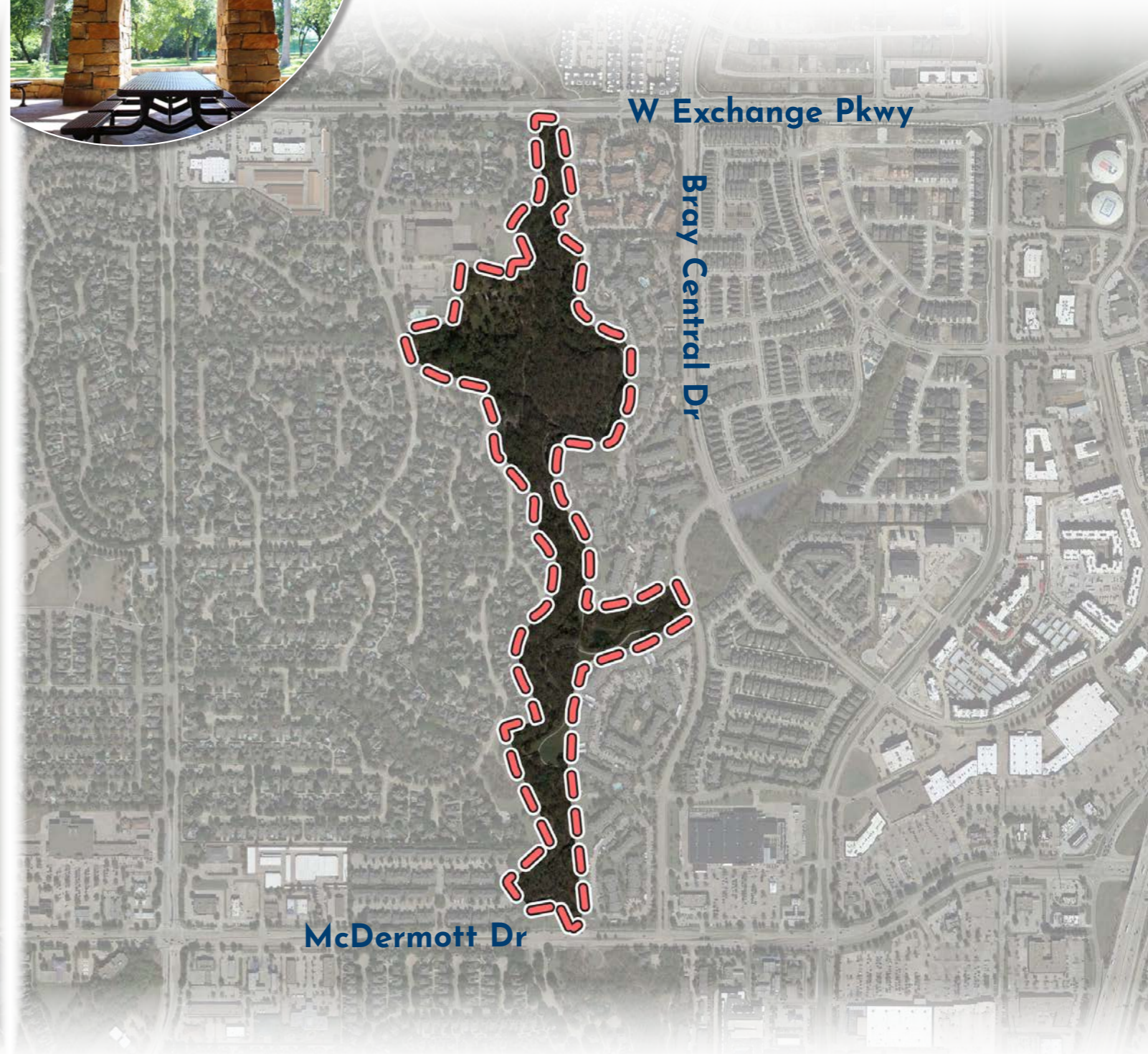


Dayspring Nature Preserve

LINEAR PARK

622 Rainforest Lane

Total Acres - 32.13
Developed Acres - 32.13



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Grills
- Hike and Bike Trails
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Nature Trail



Eugene McDermott Park

RESERVE LAND

FM 2170/W McDermott Drive

Total Acres - 112.25
Developed Acres - 0.0



Ford Park

COMMUNITY PARK

700 Park Place Drive

Total Acres - 50.63
Developed Acres - 50.63



SITE AMENITIES

- Conservation Easement
- Trailhead
- Undeveloped

SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Concessions
- Drinking Fountains
- Football Fields
- Hike and Bike Trails
- Lacrosse
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playgrounds
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Restrooms
- Soccer Fields
- Softball Fields
- Sports Court
- Tennis/Pickleball Courts



Fox Hollow Recreation Area

LINEAR PARK
1460 Pine Bluff Drive

Total Acres - 6.45
Developed Acres - 6.45



Glendover Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
1290 Scottsman Drive

Total Acres - 10.37
Developed Acres - 10.37



SITE AMENITIES

- Open Space
- Hike and Bike Trail

SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Fishing Pier
- Hike and Bike Trails
- Open Spaces
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Pond
- Rental Space/Pavilion



Green Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
1305 Comanche Drive

Total Acres - 5.26
Developed Acres - 5.26



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Grills
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Spaces
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion



Greenville Heights Park

LINEAR PARK
1310 Shelbom Drive

Total Acres - 12.85
Developed Acres - 12.85



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Spaces
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Ponds





Heritage Park

LINEAR PARK
1230 South Aylesbury Drive

Total Acres - 49.57
Developed Acres - 49.57



Hillside Play Area

POCKET PARK
711 Rolling Ridge Drive

Total Acres - 0.58
Developed Acres - 0.58



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Drinking Fountains
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Spaces
- Pavilion
- Playground

SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Drinking Fountains
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion



Hillside Wellness Park

SPECIAL USE AREA

904 East Main Street

Total Acres - 1.3
Developed Acres - 1.3



E Main St

S Fountain Gate Dr

Blue Sky
Indoor Soccer
(Privately Operated)

SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Fitness Stations
- Multi-Use Trail
- Pavilion
- Picnic Tables



Jupiter Park

SPECIAL USE AREA

510 South Jupiter Road

Total Acres - 8.74
Developed Acres - 8.74



S Jupiter Rd

Virum Rd

SITE AMENITIES

- Field Lighting
- Future Dog Park (FY 2023)
- Parking





Liberty Garden

ORNAMENTAL AREA
430 Roaring Springs Drive

Total Acres - 0.14
Developed Acres - 0.14



SITE AMENITIES

- Ceremonial Flags
- Cultural Significance
- Landscaping



Lost Creek Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
1525 Charleston Drive

Total Acres - 5.47
Developed Acres - 5.47



SITE AMENITIES

- Baseball Backstop
- Benches
- Grills
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Sports Court





Molsen Farm

RESERVE LAND

Between S Central Expressway & S Greenville Avenue

Total Acres - 77.43
Developed Acres - 0.0



SITE AMENITIES

- Tree Farm
- Undeveloped



Morgan Crossing Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

1719 Chaparral Road

Total Acres - 5.29
Developed Acres - 5.29



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Grills
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion



Mustang Creek Greenbelt

GREENBELT

From E Main Street to Timbercreek Drive

Total Acres - 8.43
Developed Acres - 8.43



Orchards Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

1705 Lake Travis Drive

Total Acres - 5.69
Developed Acres - 5.69



SITE AMENITIES

- Hike and Bike Trail

SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion



Parkhurst

OPEN SPACE

Parkhurst Lane & W McDermott Drive

Total Acres - 1.39
Developed Acres - 0.0



W McDermott Dr

Parkhurst Ln

SITE AMENITIES

- Undeveloped



Quail Run Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

902 Pelican Drive

Total Acres - 5.55
Developed Acres - 5.55



Falcon Dr

Pelican Dr

SITE AMENITIES

- Baseball Backstop
- Benches
- Drinking Fountains
- Grills
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Sports Court



Reed Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
1200 & 1250 Rivercrest Blvd

Total Acres - 10.33
Developed Acres - 10.33



Ridgeview Crossing Park

MINI NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
909 New Castle Drive

Total Acres - 2.53
Developed Acres - 2.53



SITE AMENITIES

- Baseball Field
- Benches
- Drinking Fountains
- Lacrosse
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Tennis/Pickleball Court

SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Drinking Fountain
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion



Ridgeview Trail

RECREATIONAL EASEMENT

W Exchange Parkway & Ridgeview Drive

Total Acres - 7.6
Developed Acres - 7.6



SITE AMENITIES

- Hike and Bike Trail



Rolling Hills Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

222 Glenwick Place

Total Acres - 3.67
Developed Acres - 3.67



SITE AMENITIES

- Picnic Tables
- Playground





Rowlett Creek Greenbelt

GREENBELT

From S Central Expressway to Sam Rayburn Tollway

Total Acres - 31.53
Developed Acres - 31.53



SITE AMENITIES

- Hike and Bike Trail



Russell Creek Greenbelt

GREENBELT

From Hedgcoxe Road to S Custer Road

Total Acres - 3.9
Developed Acres - 3.9



SITE AMENITIES

- Hike and Bike Trail



Shadow Lakes Park

LINEAR PARK

Allen Heights Drive & Park Place

Total Acres - 20.21
Developed Acres - 20.21

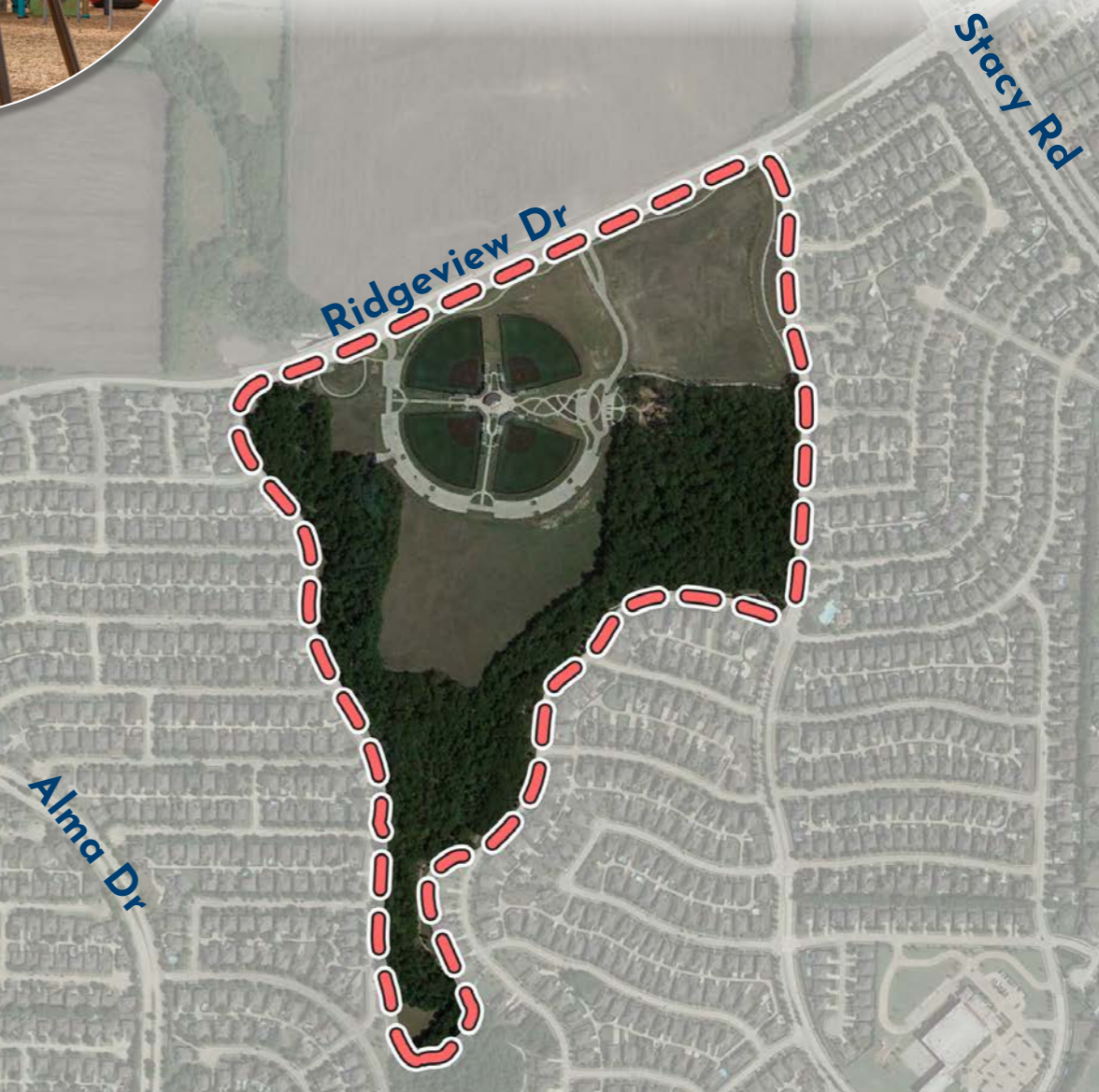


Spirit Park

REGIONAL PARK

1151 Ridgeview Drive

Total Acres - 76.38
Developed Acres - 64.56



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Rental Space/Pavilion

SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Cricket Field
- Drinking Fountains
- Fitness Stations
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Public Art
- Restrooms
- Softball Fields



Spring Meadow Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
1405 Summerplace Drive

Total Acres - 9.62
Developed Acres - 9.62



SITE AMENITIES

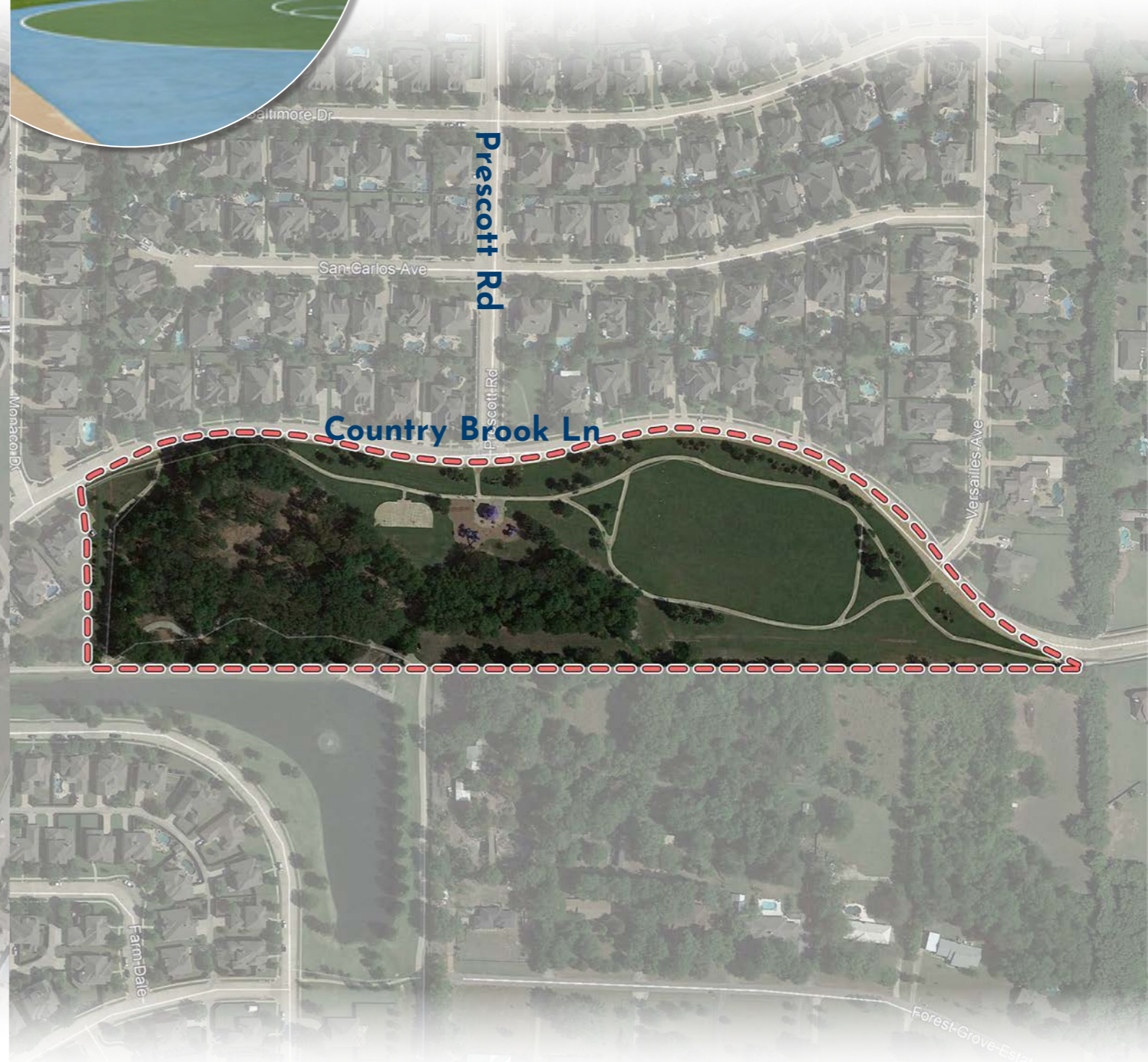
- Benches
- Drinking Fountain
- Grills
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Sports Court



Stacy Ridge Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
1900 Country Brook Lane

Total Acres - 15.38
Developed Acres - 15.38



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Drinking Fountains
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Sports Court

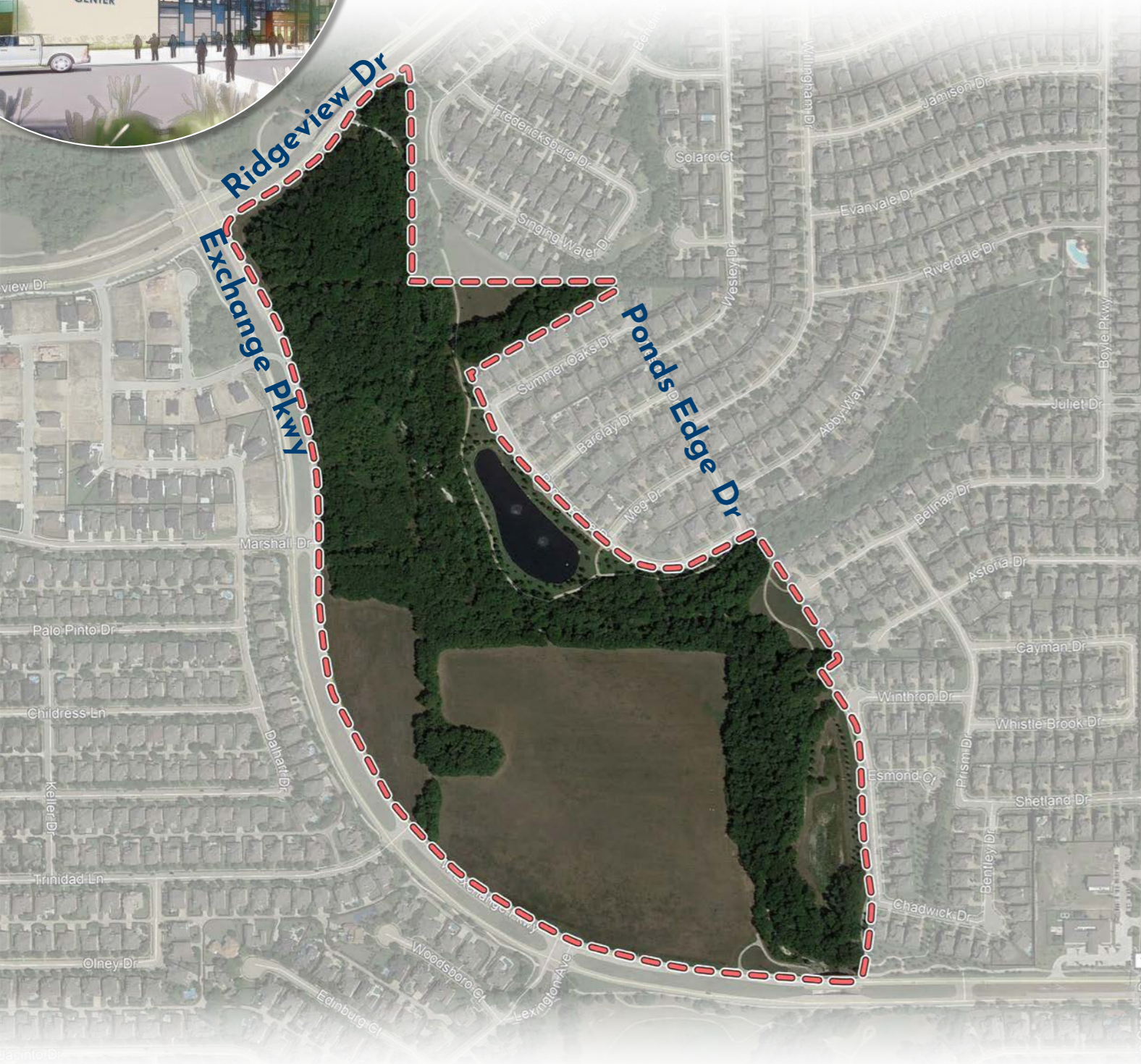


Stephen G. Terrell Community Park

COMMUNITY PARK

W. Exchange Pkwy

Total Acres - 87.9
Developed Acres - 0.0



SITE AMENITIES

- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space
- Pond
- Recreation Center (Under Construction)



Story Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

1540 Edelweiss Drive

Total Acres - 11.15
Developed Acres - 11.15



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Drinking Fountain
- Grills
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Sports Court





Sun Creek Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
601 Alma Drive

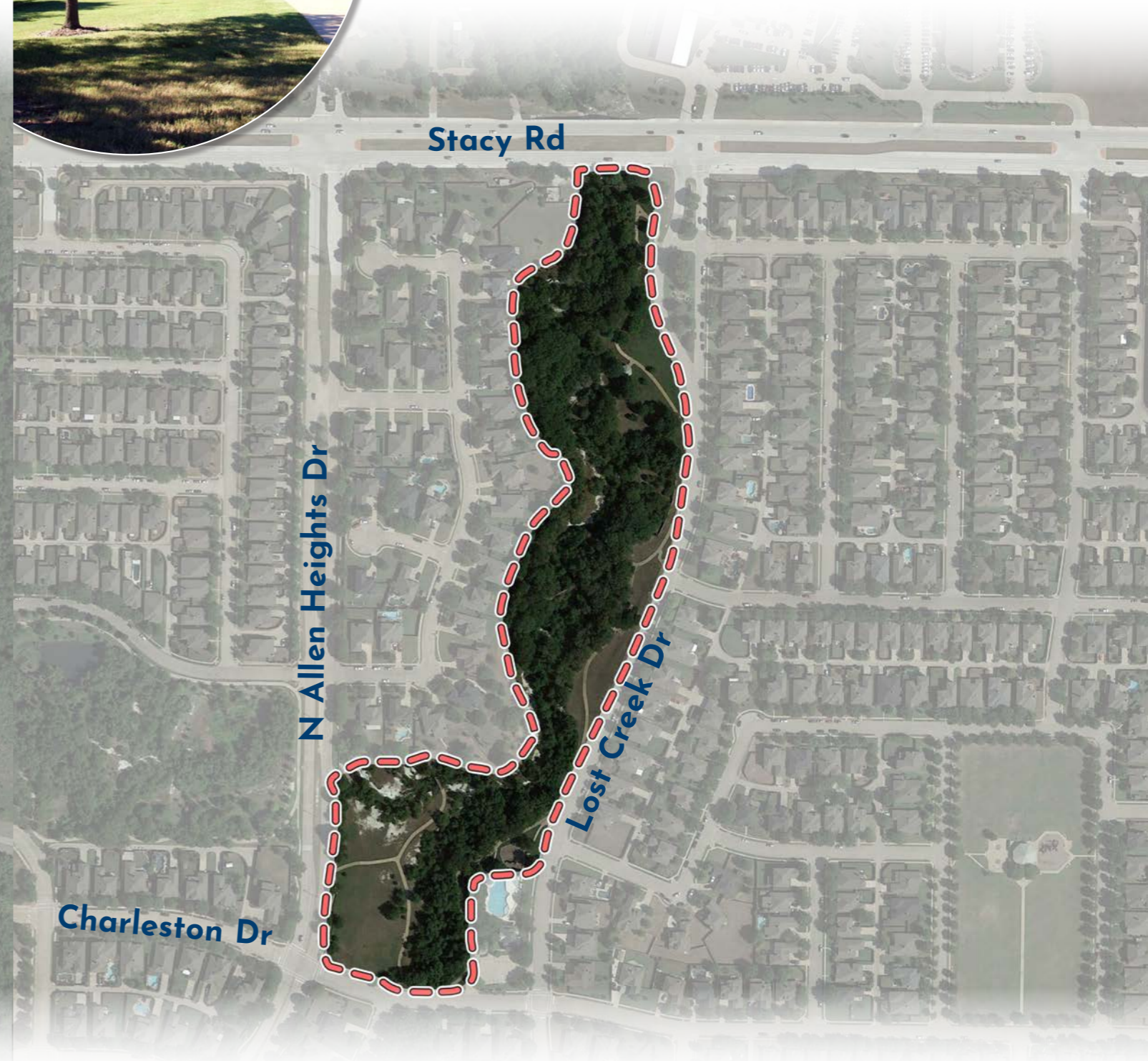
Total Acres - 21.03
Developed Acres - 21.03



The Bluffs at Lost Creek

LINEAR PARK
1608 Allen Heights Drive

Total Acres - 14.28
Developed Acres - 14.28



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Cricket Field
- Open Space
- Parking
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Wetland Overlook

SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion





The Courses at Watters Creek

SPECIAL USE AREA

7201 Chase Oaks Blvd

Total Acres - 263.54
Developed Acres - 263.54



SITE AMENITIES

- Clubhouse
- Driving Range
- Golf (33 Holes)
- Open Space
- Putting Green
- Rental Space/Pavilion



The Woods

NATURAL AREA

1424 Rollins Drive

Total Acres - 71.13
Developed Acres - 71.13



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Environmental Significance
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space



Twin Creeks Civic Space

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
1002 Raintree Circle

Total Acres - 7.22
Developed Acres - 7.22



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Multi-Use Trail
- Ponds
- Seating Area



Twin Creeks Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
803 Shallowater Drive

Total Acres - 15.65
Developed Acres - 15.65



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Grills
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion





Walden Park

MINI NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

711 Rolling Ridge Drive

Total Acres - 0.53
Developed Acres - 0.53



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Sports Court



Waterford Park

LINEAR PARK

1225 Hueco Drive

Total Acres - 23.28
Developed Acres - 23.28



SITE AMENITIES

- Arbor/Garden
- Benches
- Hike and Bike Trail
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground



Watters Branch Greenbelt

GREENBELT

Total Acres - 129.12
Developed Acres - 129.12



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Hike and Bike Trail



Watters Crossing Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

1201 Bel Air Drive

Total Acres - 8.51
Developed Acres - 8.51



SITE AMENITIES

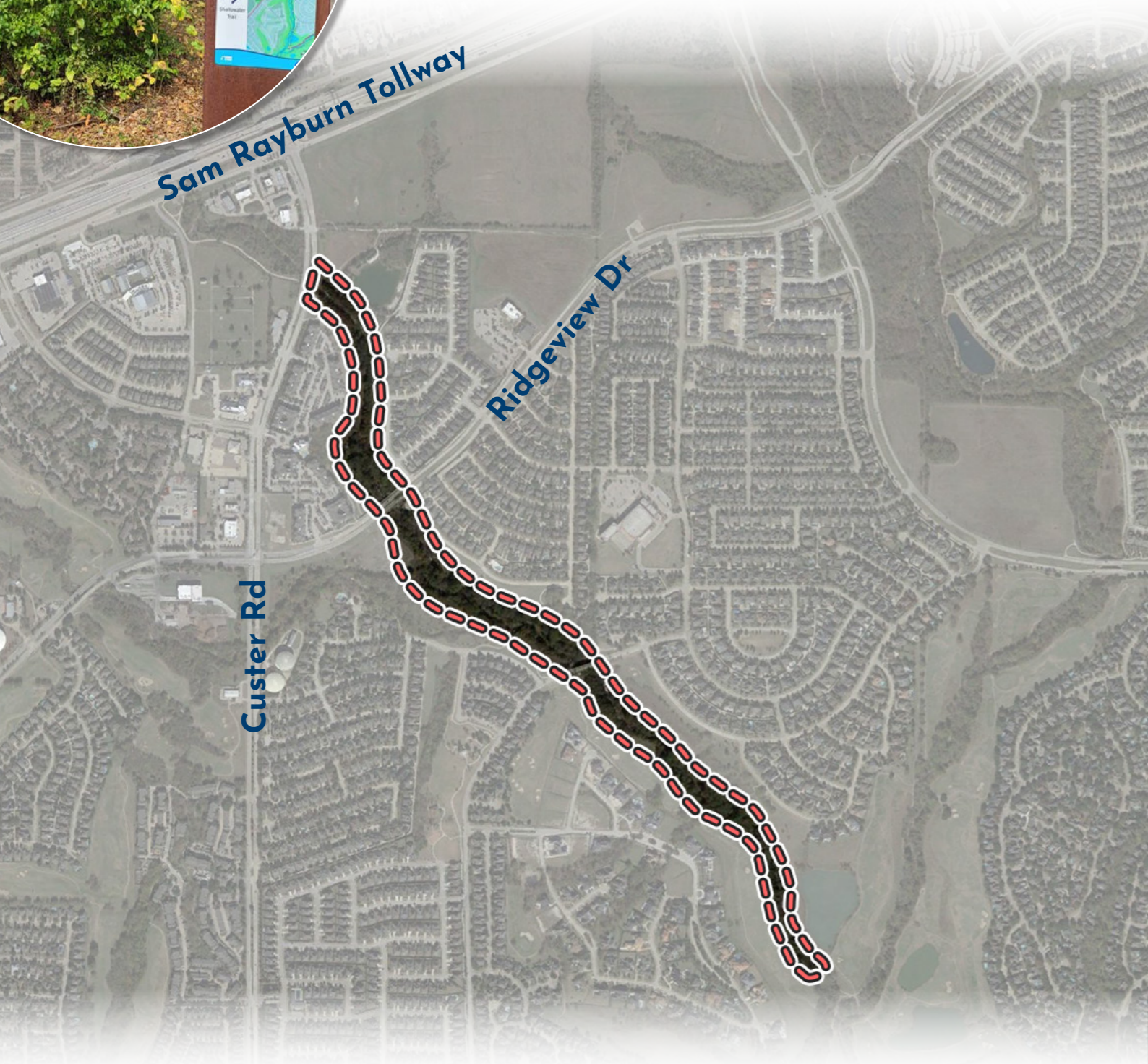
- Baseball Backstop
- Benches
- Drinking Fountain
- Grills
- Open Space
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Rental Space/Pavilion
- Sand Volleyball Court



West Rowlett Creek Greenbelt

GREENBELT

Total Acres - 18.85
Developed Acres - 18.85



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Hike and Bike Trail

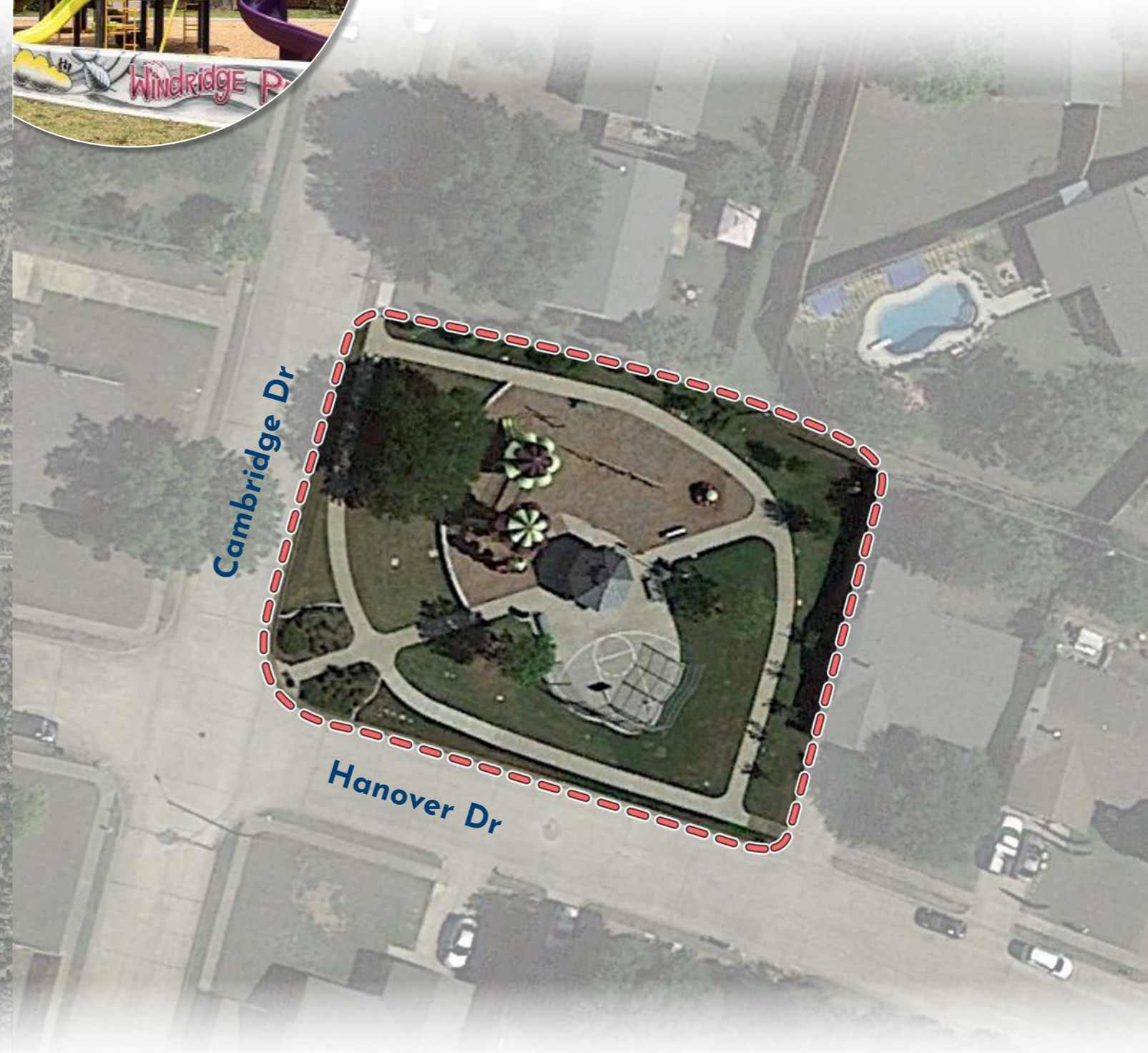


Windridge Park

POCKET PARK

1015 Cambridge Drive

Total Acres - 0.46
Developed Acres - 0.46



SITE AMENITIES

- Benches
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Public Art
- Sports Court

Level of Service

Level of Service (LOS) is a measurement of usable park acres per 1,000 residents within the corporate city limits. The purpose for the LOS information is for the city officials and residents of Allen to better understand the importance of the park system within the City. The LOS helps support essential decisions by government officials regarding parks, trails, open space and recreational facilities in the

future. Although the NRPA Metric is 9.9 acres per 1,000 residents, this is not always feasible for each community. Each city will determine their own balance between a high quantity of parks and high quality parks. It is important to determine a recommended LOS that best suits Allen based on future population projections, available land and high-quality parks.



RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF SERVICE

12.0 acres per 1,000 Residents

ALLEN'S EXISTING LEVEL OF SERVICE

14.1 acres per 1,000 residents

Total Developed Acres: 1,527.78 acres

Total Population: 108,740

ALLEN'S EXISTING TOTAL PARKLAND

16.9 acres per 1,000 residents

Total Park Acres: 1,827.75

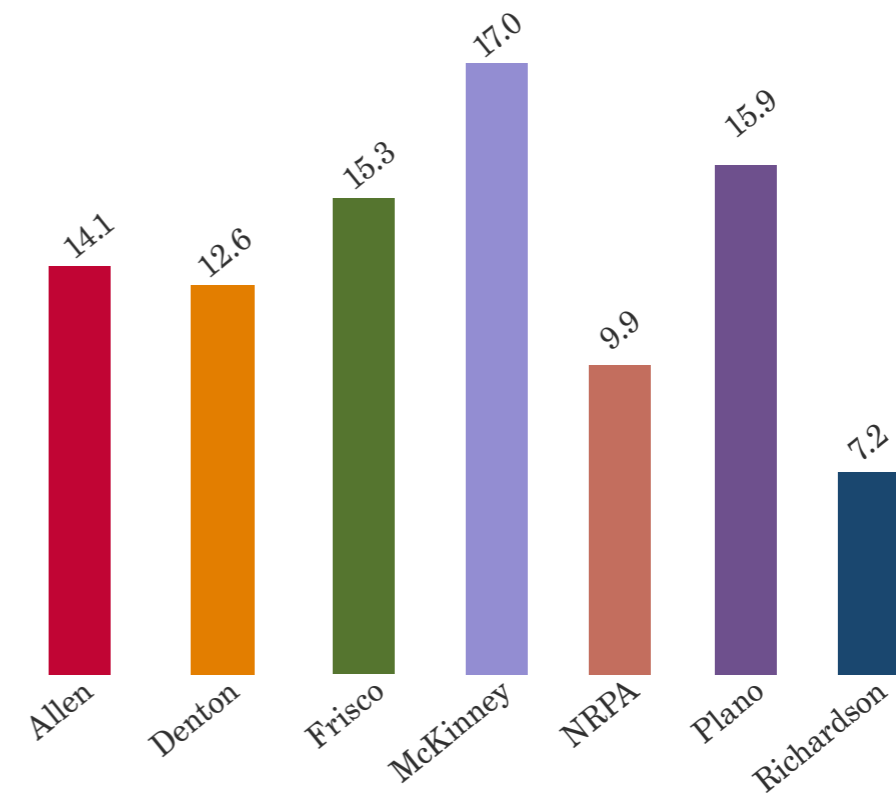
Total Population: 108,740

The City of Allen's current LOS is 14.1 acres per 1,000 residents, which is average when compared to the benchmark communities. It is important to note that undeveloped and unusable parkland, private recreational facilities and public school spaces are not reflected in the LOS calculation. Only city-owned and city-maintained parkland

are included in the LOS calculation. By 2031, it is recommended for the City of Allen to have a LOS of 12.0 acres per 1,000 residents. The City is currently above this recommendation. To maintain a high LOS the City will need to continue developing parkland and maintain existing parks.

The City of Allen was compared to surrounding communities and the NRPA Metric of 9.9 acres per 1,000 residents.

Benchmark communities were chosen based on current population, local demographics, income and similar Parks and Recreation Departments.



BENCHMARK CITIES - LEVEL OF SERVICE

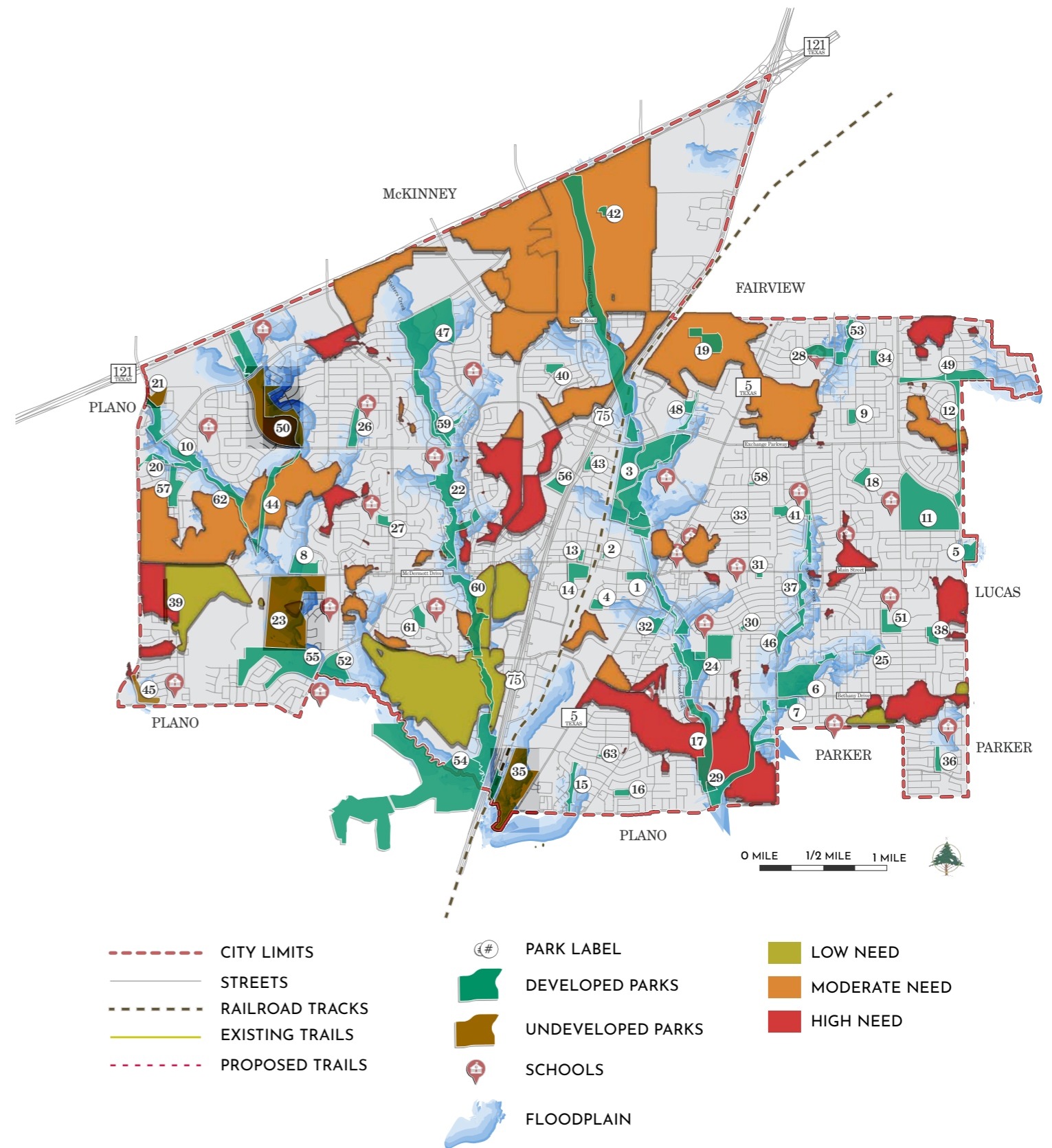
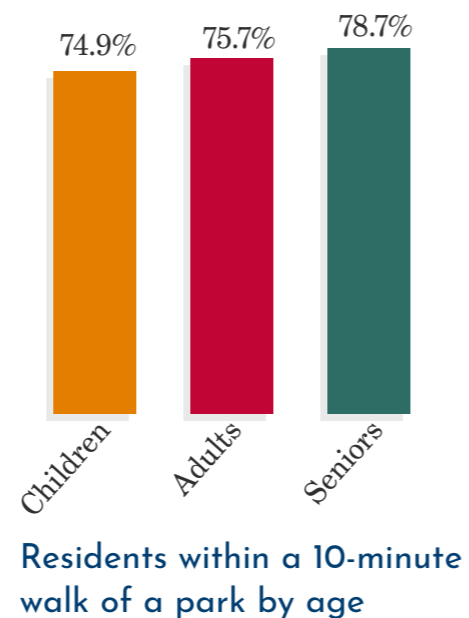
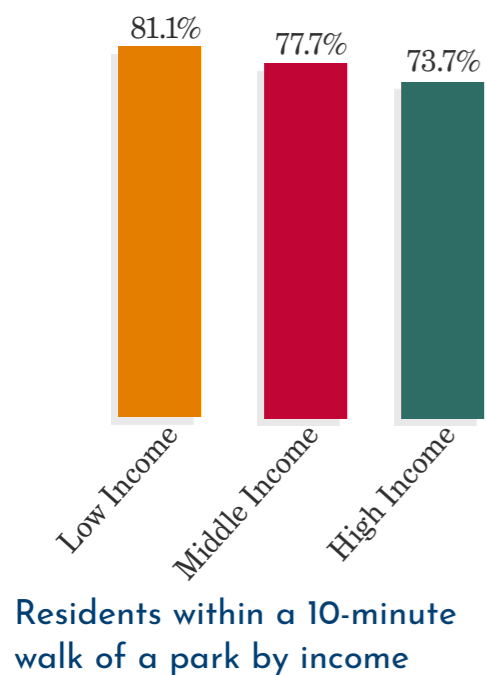
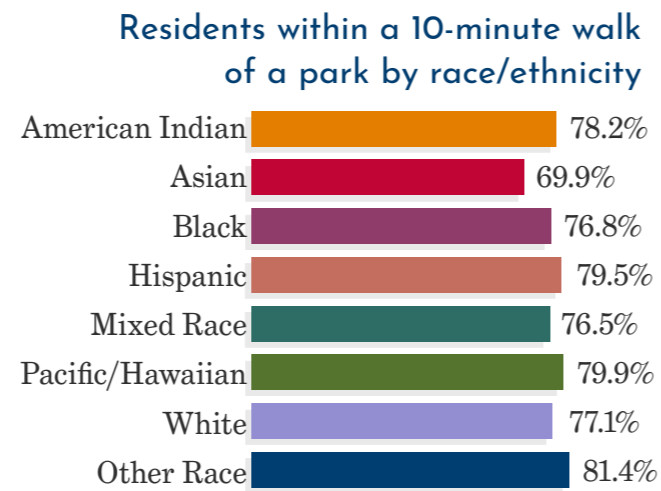
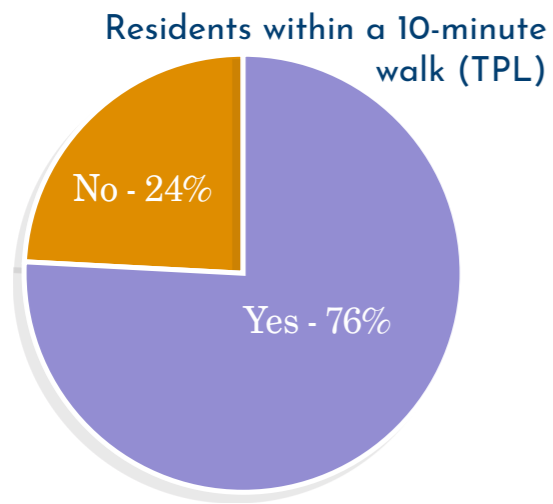
(Acres per 1,000 residents)

10-Minute Walk Campaign

Source: The Trust for Public Land (TPL)

76% of Allen Residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park.

The national average is 55% of residents.



71% of the City of Allen Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey respondents said they could reasonably walk to a park.

Chapter 4



Community Input

Focus Group Findings

To better understand the needs of the citizens and invested groups within the community, Focus Group Meetings were held throughout the City of Allen. A total of twenty meetings were conducted over a three day period to discuss the Allen Parks System. It was important to meet

with the groups below to understand the ins-and-outs of the existing parks system and what the priorities should be in the future. A summary of the highlights and community needs are provided on the next page.

FOCUS GROUP MEETING PARTICIPANTS & GROUPS

- Parks & Recreation Department Directors & Assistant Directors
 - Site Maintenance Staff
 - Facility Maintenance Staff
 - Horticulture & Forestry Staff
 - Recreation Staff
- Community Development Corporation
 - Parks & Recreation Board
 - Allen Sports Association Board
 - Allen Independent School District
 - Planning & Development Staff
- Allen Performing Arts Center
 - Keep Allen Beautiful Board
 - Allen Arts Alliance
 - Allen Parks Foundation
 - Allen Planning & Engineering Staff
 - Communication Services & IT Staff
 - Allen Police & Fire Departments
 - Allen Special Events Staff
 - Allen Marketing Staff
 - Allen Convention & Visitors Bureau



The participation of the above groups ensured diverse input throughout the City of Allen in the development of the master plan. The meetings and their input will help assist future improvements that will enrich the quality of life in the City of Allen.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PARK SYSTEM

- High quality park system
- Large sense of Quality of Life within the City
- Proactive in the development of new parks & facilities
- Great trail system that reaches majority of the community
- Spirit Park is a huge success
- Artificial turf fields have been great for players, maintenance staff & ASA scheduling
- Technology is up to date throughout the department
- Great leadership within the Parks and Recreation Department, City Council, and City Staff
- Allen Independent School District and City have a good working relationship
- Local art groups have a successful partnership with the City
- Native plantings throughout community to conserve water & reduce maintenance



COMMUNITY NEEDS IN THE PARK SYSTEM

- Continued high maintenance throughout the park system
- Budgets for maintenance and construction are stretched thin
- Additional diverse athletic fields are needed
- Shade is needed at playgrounds
- Trail connectivity is lacking in various areas
- Trail system improvement needs to move at a faster pace
- Inclusiveness is needed throughout the entire community
- Storage for city equipment is lacking and dispersed in multiple locations around the City
- Artificial turf fields are desired
- Trail & field lighting is desired

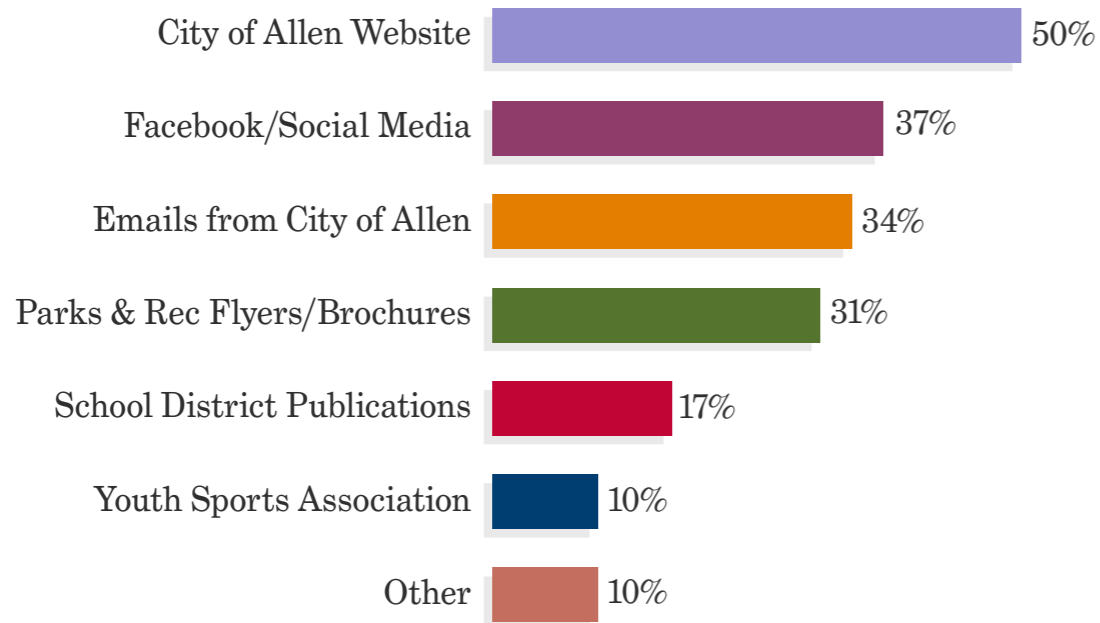
Citizen Survey Findings

The comprehensive citizen survey distributed to the residents of Allen was completed by the National Service Research (NSR) as part of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The purpose of the citizen survey was to hear residents' comments, recommendations and feedback about the current and future park system. This survey is used to supplement the needs assessment and provide a citizen-driven process for the Parks

Master Plan. NSR worked closely with MHS Planning & Design and the City of Allen staff throughout the research process. The survey was posted on the City of Allen's website and various other social media outlets. The online survey opened on November 6, 2019 and closed January 31, 2020. A total of 1,460 survey responses were received. The margin of error of this sample size at a 95% confidence level is plus or minus 2.6%.

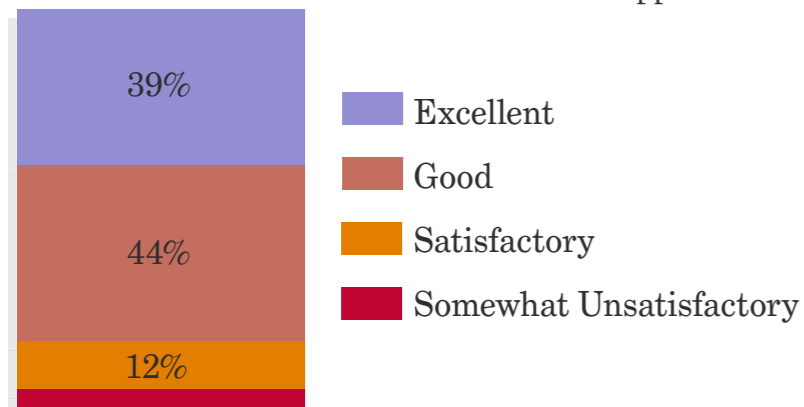
AWARENESS OF PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES, AND PROGRAMS

Half of the survey respondents find out about parks and recreation opportunities through the City of Allen website and 37% through Facebook/social media. The primary "Other" answers were; internet/google search/google maps, NextDoor, word of mouth and driving around.



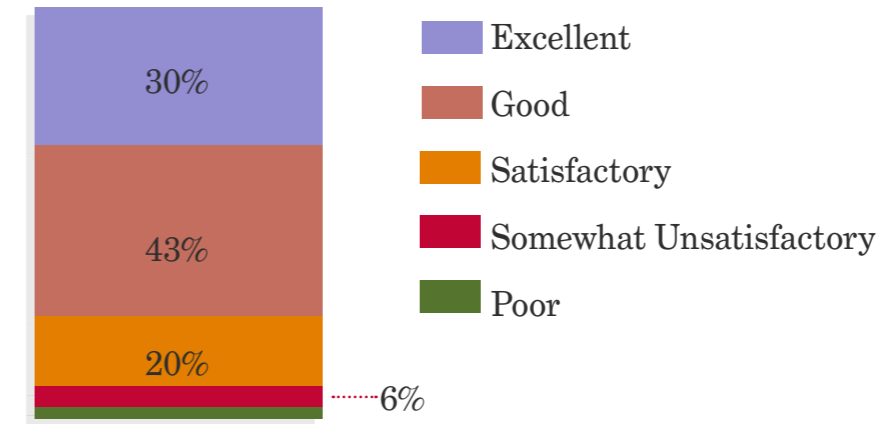
QUALITY OF PARKS & RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

A majority (83%) rated the quality of parks and recreation opportunities as excellent or good.



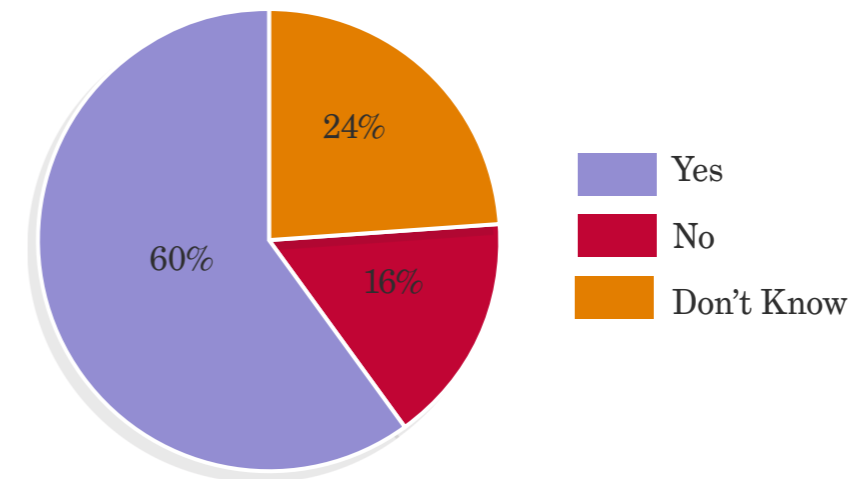
QUANTITY OF PARKS & RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

A majority (73%) rated the quantity of parks and recreation opportunities as excellent or good. While 20% reported the quantity is satisfactory.



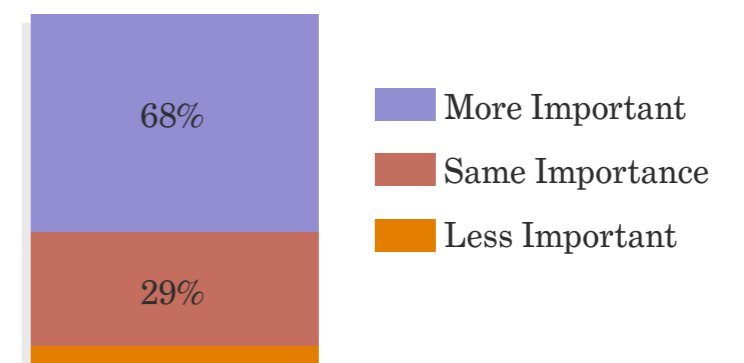
JOE FARMER RECREATION CENTER

More than half (60%) of respondents feel that Joe Farmer Recreation Center should be expanded and/or renovated. One-fourth did not know whether it should be renovated or expanded.



ROLE OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

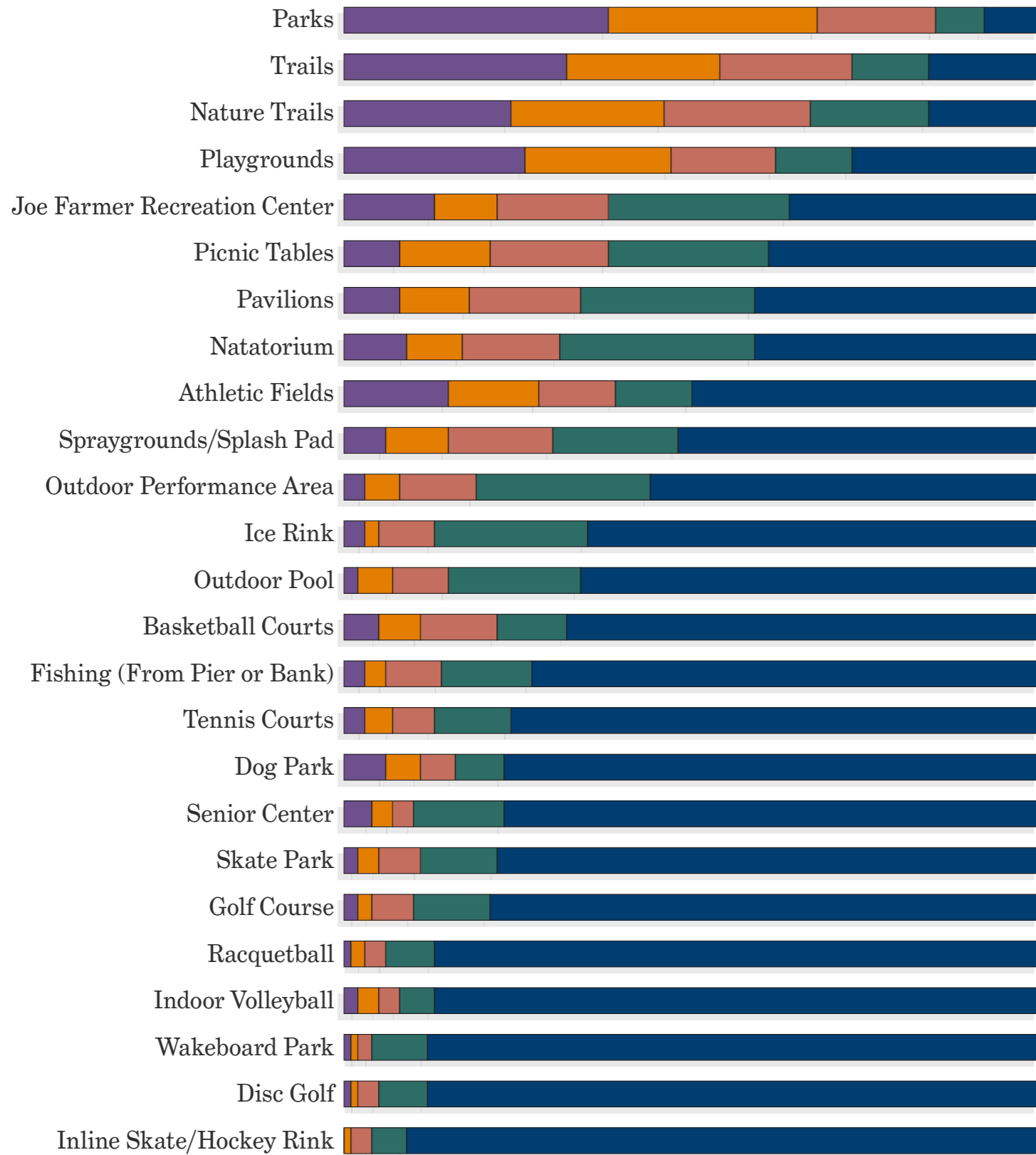
Nearly 70% of respondents feel parks, recreation and open spaces in Allen are more important today compared to 10 years ago.



Citizen Survey Findings

FREQUENCY OF USE OF FACILITIES

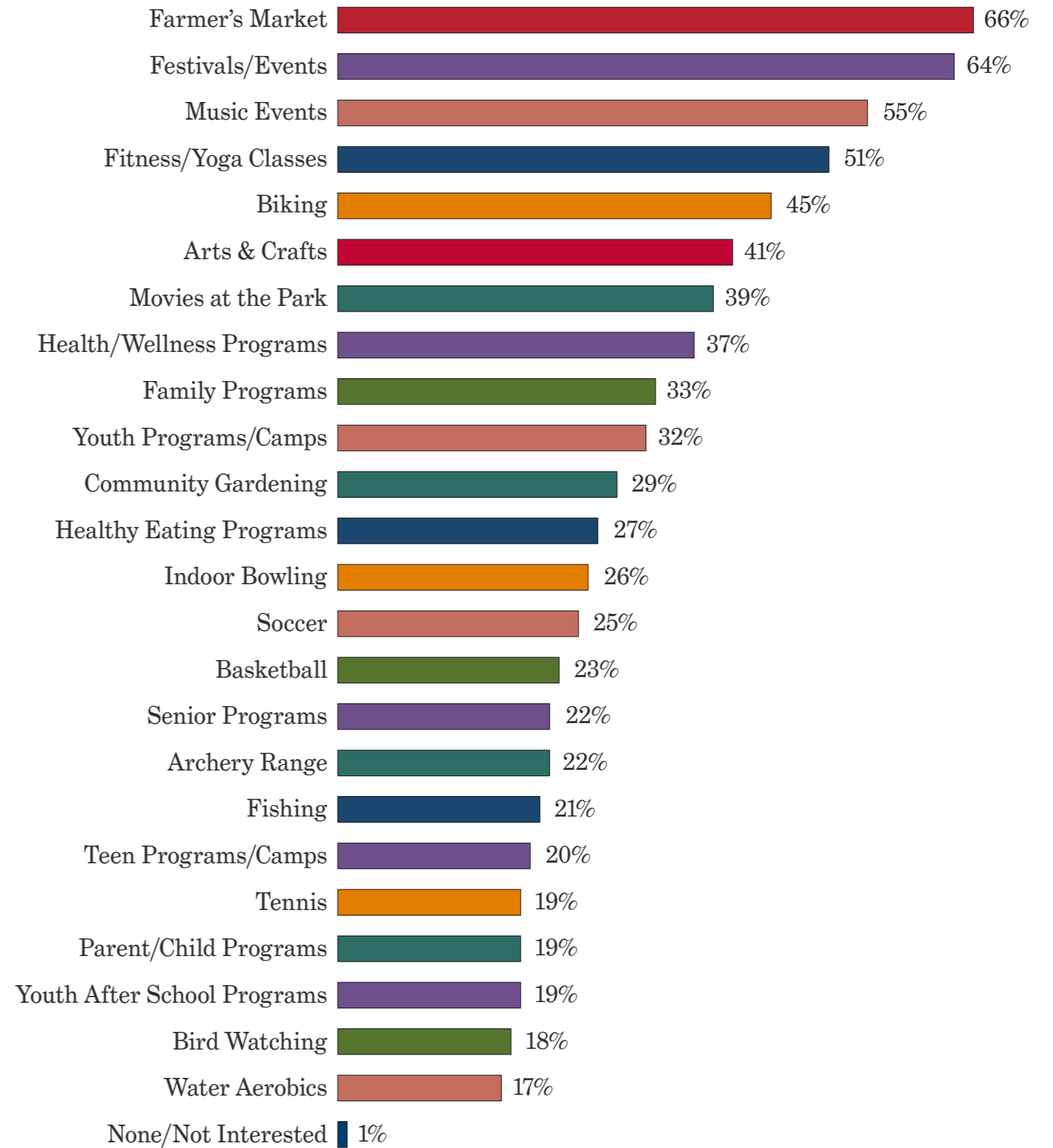
Parks, trails, nature trails, playgrounds, and the recreation center are the most frequently used facilities in Allen.



At least weekly (purple) At least monthly (orange) Twice a year or less (red) At least quarterly (green) Never (dark blue)

RECREATION PROGRAM INTEREST

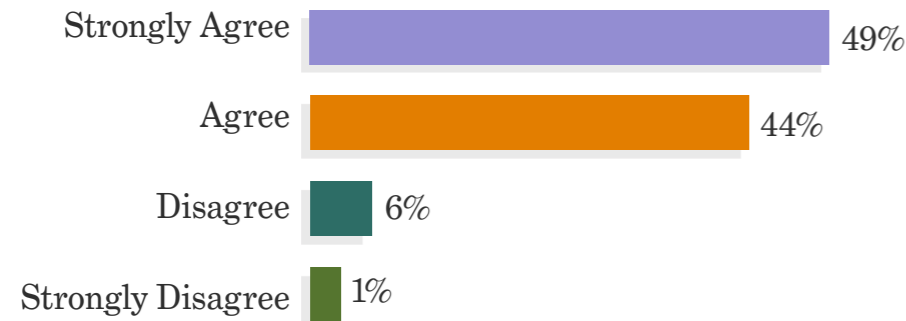
The top 24 programs of interest are presented in the chart. There is high interest in many recreational programs or events, as opposed to facilities or amenities.



Citizen Survey Findings

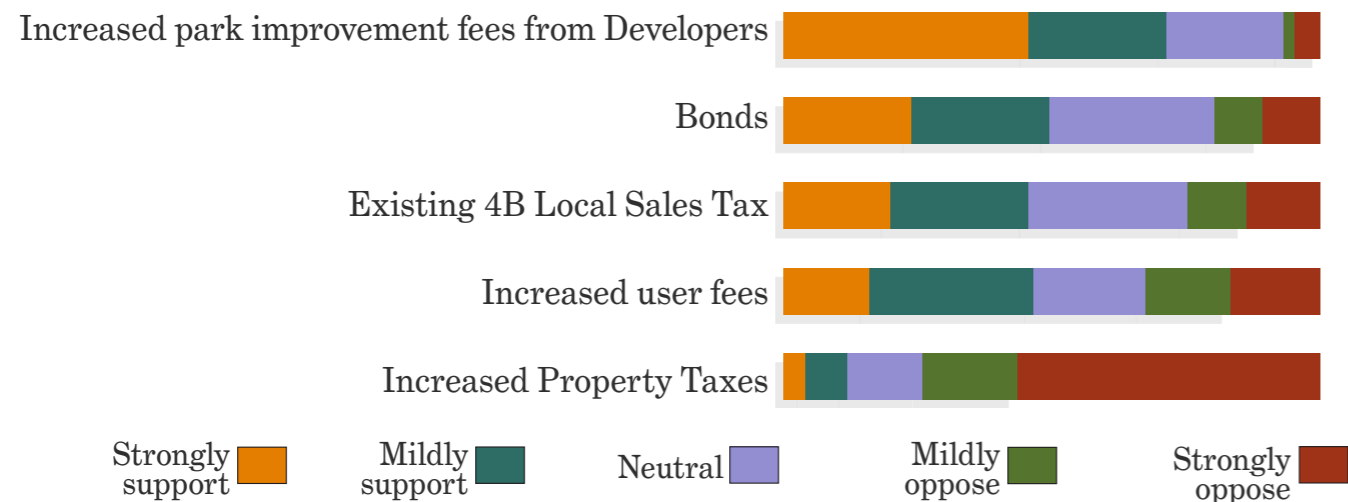
PARKS AND RECREATION - COST TO TAXPAYERS

93% of respondents feel parks and recreation facilities in Allen are well worth the cost to taxpayers.



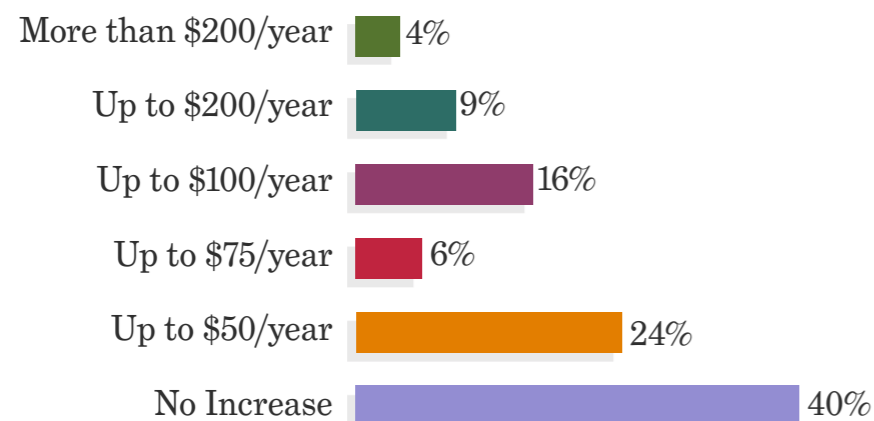
FUNDING OPTION SUPPORT

Respondents reported strong and mild support for increased park improvement fees from developers (72%), bonds (50%), existing 4B local sales tax (46%) and increased user fees (47%). 73% mildly or strongly oppose increased property taxes.



WILLING TO PAY ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX TO FUND PARKS

Although the majority of the survey respondents do not support increased property taxes as the primary funding option for parks, 60% of all respondents expressed the willingness to pay some increase in property taxes to assist funding park improvement priorities.



MOST NEEDED FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF ALLEN

The priority rankings are a calculation of the respondents' priority rankings of 4 being the highest to 1 being the lowest priority. The priority rank lists, in rank order, the respondents' first,

second, third and fourth most important facilities or amenities. These rankings will provide guidance for the Master Plan priorities ranked by City Staff and the consultant's expertise.

Priority Rank	Facility	4-Very Important	3	2	1-Not Important	No Opinion
1	Add shade to playgrounds for children at neighborhood parks	50%	21%	14%	6%	9%
2	Complete the Rowlett Creek Trail from Plano to McKinney	34%	19%	17%	10%	20%
3	Upgrade undersized and/or damaged trails	37%	30%	19%	5%	9%
4	Acquire land for additional park areas	33%	24%	21%	12%	9%
5	Have special events in parks	30%	31%	24%	6%	9%
6	Improve and enhance the maintenance of park facilities	25%	33%	25%	9%	8%
7	Design and construct two or more smaller dog parks around town*	19%	16%	18%	24%	23%
8	Have trails connect to and throughout the central business district	31%	23%	22%	11%	13%
9	Construct sprayground/water splash pads	22%	22%	23%	18%	15%
10	Have a community garden	17%	20%	29%	19%	15%
11	Design and construct a single large dog park*	16%	9%	21%	28%	25%
12	Increase the amount of open space along existing creek corridors	27%	25%	22%	13%	13%
13	Have additional practice fields	15%	15%	26%	24%	20%
14	Have additional multipurpose sports fields	15%	16%	25%	25%	19%
15	Have one or more city parks in the Central Business District	22%	21%	27%	14%	16%

*The survey asked citizens to provide feedback regarding the need for multiple smaller dog parks throughout the city or one large dog park location. (See page 165)

Chapter 5



Parks & Recreation System Goals & Objectives

Goals & Objectives

In 2015, the City of Allen updated the 2010 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. Over the past 10 years, the City has continually updated and modified their Goals and Objectives as necessary and has remained successful with the original concept to acquire parkland, develop new parks, update existing parks, and maintain the park system at a high level. The demands of the citizens have not changed over the previous ten years, therefore the City should continue to develop and

enhance parks that support the Department's vision that will continually enhance the quality of life within Allen. The following Goals and Objectives, based on input from Allen residents, City Staff and the consultants' professional opinion, provide direction for future community decision makers regarding parks, open spaces and the maintenance of public areas within the city limits of Allen.



Parks and Recreation Goal

To ensure the provision of a balanced park system that is accessible to all residents, meets the recreational needs of the citizens of Allen and helps to create a unique community character.

Parks and Recreation Objectives

- To provide new, different and unique recreational opportunities for all regardless of age or ability.
- To renovate, rehabilitate and upgrade existing parks and recreation buildings in Allen.
- To develop and provide public parks throughout the City that ensure all residents are within a reasonable 10-minute walk to a park.
- To continue to forge partnerships with public and private organizations for the development and operation of recreational facilities and programs.
- To continue to construct trail segments throughout the community that ultimately create an extensive and complete trail system.
- To continue to develop the trail system to connect with neighboring cities.
- To be proactive in redeveloping existing properties to include new and different recreational features and buildings.

Open Space Goal

To identify, protect and conserve quality natural open spaces for unstructured recreational activities, inherent aesthetic value and protection of valuable ecosystems.

Open Space Objectives

- To continually research the viability of developing trail systems along creeks, floodways, and utility easements that will link public and private recreational facilities, neighborhoods, school campuses and neighboring communities.
- To be proactive in the acquisition and protection of unique and community enhancing natural open spaces throughout the City of Allen.
- To limit development in natural open spaces to minimize adverse effects on valuable ecosystems.
- To address natural open space needs when developing active recreational facilities to provide citizens with well-balanced recreational experiences that include both active and passive opportunities.



Maintenance Goal

To ensure a high quality, safe and aesthetically pleasing park system through continued maintenance, upkeep and strategic planning.

Maintenance Objectives

- To continue maintaining the existing park system at a high level and increase maintenance capabilities as new facilities are developed.
- To continue to forge partnerships with public and private organizations for the maintenance of recreational facilities.

Chapter 6



**National
Recreation & Parks
Association Three
Pillars**

NRPA 3 Pillars

The benefits of parks, trails and open spaces span much further than just a fun outdoor adventure. Many residents within the City of Allen participate in some form of recreation; whether it be walking to or in a park, having a picnic, playing a pick-up game of basketball or just enjoying a nap in the outdoors.

To encourage cities across the nation to promote healthy lifestyles, conserve natural resources and provide safe accessibility for all citizens, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed the Three Pillars: Health & Wellness, Conservation and Social Equity.

The benefits of parks are important within the community and it is imperative that all residents, regardless of social status, race, income, etc. have access to outdoor public spaces, an opportunity for healthy and active lifestyles and enjoy the natural open spaces.



HEALTH & WELLNESS



CONSERVATION



SOCIAL EQUITY



Health & Wellness

The first initiative in the NRPA's "Three Pillars" is Health & Wellness. It can be summarized as "Leading the nation to improved health and wellness through parks and recreation." In more detail, the NRPA describes it as:

"Local park and recreation agencies provide crucial health and wellness opportunities for all populations in communities across the country. As America continues to face serious health issues, including rising rates of chronic disease, an increased prevalence of sedentary lifestyles and poor nutrition habits, parks and recreation offer an affordable and accessible solution. NRPA works with local park and recreation agencies to provide tools, resources and technical assistance to improve access to healthy foods and increase opportunities for people to be physically active in their communities. Our areas of focus include ensuring that all people have safe access to quality park and recreation facilities and programming; promoting healthy eating and physical activity standards; expanding access to evidence-based health prevention programs; connecting parks and the health community, and supporting programs and policies that eliminate health disparities."



There are three specific NRPA initiatives targeted at increasing **Health & Wellness**:



NATIONAL STANDARDS

- According to the Trust for Public Land, the national average for the 10-Minute Walk campaign is that 55% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. The national median of land that is city property and is also used for parks and recreation is 15%.
- Healthy Eating Physical Activity (HEPA) standards.
- Dedicate facilities, activities and programming for older adults.

LOCAL STANDARDS

Within the City of Allen, 76% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, which is impressive considering only 5% of all land within Allen is used for parks and recreation. The City is able to provide ample recreational opportunities and connect many residents to parks via the extensive trail network.*

The City of Allen's Parks and Recreation Department contributes to the Health & Wellness efforts by partnering with the community, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, the Allen Independent School District, Allen Community Outreach, and Keep Allen Beautiful. This partnership has helped launch many youth-focused initiatives such as Motivate to Move,

Bike Rodeo, Walk to School Day, Bike to School Day, Earth Fest, Eagle Run and Walk with a Doc. Allen Parks and Recreation also contributes to the NRPA Healthy Aging in Parks initiative through its Senior Center's diverse programming. Hillside Wellness Park opened in 2013, which is Allen's first outdoor facility specifically tailored towards adult exercise and recreation and is accessible to all.

LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide more shade amenities at parks, recreation and trail facilities to increase participant use and time spent outside.
- Identify key barriers to physical and financial access which may limit Allen residents abilities to participate in and enjoy the full park and recreation system.
- Identify a meal sponsor program for summer camps to provide healthy snacks and meals to youth participants.
- Provide nutrition education opportunities through local partnerships or community gardening.
- Promote physical activity through organized play in recreational leagues, open gyms, community events, etc.
- Initiate a Community Integrated Health Strategy which provides a streamlined referral system from healthcare providers to park and recreation programs tailored to Healthy Aging Programs.
- Offer more Healthy Aging Programs such as Walking With Ease, Active Living Every Day and Fit & Strong!

*Statistics cited from the Trust for Public Land Park Serve report: <https://www.tpl.org/city/allen-texas>



Conservation

The second initiative in the NRPA's "Our Three Pillars" is Conservation. It can be summarized as :

"Protecting open space, connecting people to nature, and engaging communities in conservation practices." In more detail, the NRPA describes it as: "Local park and recreation agencies play a vital role in the protection of our environment through green infrastructure, conservation of public lands, providing wildlife habitat and more. In addition to helping connect people to nature, local parks are essential in creating environmental stewards who will advocate for and protect our most precious public resources – our land, water, trees, open spaces and wildlife. NRPA works with local park and recreation agencies to provide tools, resources and technical assistance to better connect communities to nature and enhance sustainability through conservation practices within parks. Our areas of focus include promoting sustainable practices including green infrastructure and other strategies that address the effects of climate change, preserving wildlife, growing the next generation of environmental stewards, and supporting programs and policies that encourage a commitment to conservation."

There are four NRPA initiatives focused on **Conservation**:



NATIONAL STANDARDS

- NRPA published a report about sustainability practices within cities across the United States. The report published findings from surveys collected from over 400 parks and recreation agencies. The top five ways these agencies are taking action against climate change are through:
 - 77% Offer transportation alternatives to decrease their carbon footprint
 - 70% Protect watersheds by adopting natural resource management practices
 - 53% Improve air quality by increasing tree canopy
 - 52% Educate the public on sustainability actions
 - 51% Reduce storm water runoff and flooding through green infrastructure
- The seven widely cited sustainability activities implemented by park and recreation agencies include:
 - Providing opportunities for healthy activity in nature
 - Protecting and managing wildlife and wildlife habitats
 - Managing Natural Lands
 - Reducing landfill waste
 - Following environmentally friendly building practices
 - Fostering public engagement and education
 - Implementing green infrastructure practices

LOCAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2002 - 2021: Earned the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA designation.
- 2011 & 2016: Earned a solid waste implementation grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to initiate recycling in Credit Union of Texas Event Center, Allen Station Park, Celebration Park, Spirit Park and Ford Pool
- 2012: \$35,685 grant from TCEQ to initiate recycling at Credit Union of Texas Event Center
- 2013: \$5,000 Lowes/Keep America Beautiful grant for the purchase/installation of a greenhouse
- 2014: \$1.3 million from local sales tax revenue to fund artificial turf installation, with significant impact on reducing water consumption & carbon emissions from mowing
- Annually: The department's largest event, the Market Street Allen USA Celebration at Celebration Park is on the verge of becoming one of the largest zero waste events in the state

The Parks and Recreation Department, in addition to its day-to-day work and planning, is involved in other conservancy initiatives such as the urban forestry program, migratory bird mitigation, water conservation, and Keep Allen Beautiful.

The Urban Forestry initiative, within the Allen Parks and Recreation Department, includes public care, maintenance and growth of trees, greenbelts, shrubs, ground cover, flowers, perennials, and wildflowers. Additional urban forestry efforts include a variety of educational initiatives, an annual Arbor Day Celebration, and being designated as a Tree City USA. The Arbor

Day event occurs in late October and encourages tree planting and care. Some of the City's activities include the dedication and planting of an official Arbor Day tree, additional tree plantings, and educational arts and crafts. The City of Allen has been designated as a Tree City USA every year since 2002. The National Arbor Day Foundation requires the City to meet four basic standards which include establishing a Tree Board, implementing a community tree ordinance and forestry program with an operating budget, hosting an annual observance of Arbor Day, and having an Arbor Day proclamation by the City Council. The City has fulfilled these requirements

LOCAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONT.)

by having the Parks and Recreation Board also serve as the official Tree Board and establishing the Community Tree Ordinance in 2001 as Section 7.06, Tree Preservation, Allen Land Development Code.

The migratory bird initiative includes action steps to prevent large migratory birds from nesting in unwanted locations. The Department sustained 2 devastating nesting seasons in 2013 and 2014 when large nesting sites appeared in residential areas and two parks resulting in extensive environmental damage and thousands of dollars in clean-up costs being incurred. The Federal Migratory Bird Act prohibits the interference with or the harassing of migratory birds once egg laying has begun; therefore, the best way to avoid the residential and environmental impacts is to prevent the birds from establishing their nests. The Parks and Recreation Department now annually takes proactive measures to limit these birds from establishing rookeries.

The Parks and Recreation Department collaborates with the Water Conservation Division of the Community Services Department to encourage smart water use. The Water Conservation Division further focuses on educational programs and events, provides the H2Ome Improvement Rebate Program and oversight of the City's Water Conservation and Resource Management Plan.

Keep Allen Beautiful is a non-profit organization which develops and fosters programs to create a cleaner, healthier, and more attractive city, while also educating and involving Allen residents to preserve the natural environment and improve the community's appearance. The Keep Allen Beautiful (KAB) Board hosts numerous programs, provides educational opportunities, and offers multiple outreach initiatives. The seven-member board is appointed by the City Council and supported by the City Staff of the Solid Waste Division, and work as community volunteers who participate in activities, special events, and education programs throughout the year.

Keep Allen Beautiful goals include:

- Increase public awareness through educational programs, including beautification projects and city-wide cleanup events.
- Decrease illegal dumping and support the prosecution of offenders.
- Improve our solid waste management through reducing, reusing, recycling, and rebuying.
- Sponsor environmental projects.

LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Review, and refine an Environmental Sustainability Document
- Increase the accessibility to and the opportunities for alternative transportation options such as walking and biking
- Seek to plant additional native and regionally appropriate species, while also initiating water conservation practices
- Increase plantings of various pollinator-friendly flowers that bloom from spring through fall to expand pollinator habitats
- Increase locations of special recycling bins and collection in addition to regular trash cans
- Strive for environmentally-friendly building practices, the construction of green and sustainable infrastructure and the use of resource-efficient construction processes and materials
- Increase the construction of green infrastructure such as bioswales, rain gardens, permeable surfaces and rainwater storage throughout City-owned land and facilities
- Complete high priority multi-use trails such as Rowlett Creek Trail and Downtown trails

Social Equity

The third initiative in the NRPA's "Our Three Pillars" is Social Equity. It can be summarized as :

"Ensuring all people have access to the benefits of local parks and recreation."
In more detail, the NRPA describes it as: "True to the very philosophy of public parks and recreation is the idea that all people – no matter the color of their skin, age, income level or ability – have access to programs, facilities, places and spaces that make their lives and communities great. Parks and recreation truly build communities – communities for all. NRPA works with local park and recreation agencies to provide tools, resources, and technical assistance to ensure all people have access and are meaningfully involved in the development and use of park and recreation programs and spaces. Our areas of focus include ensuring all people have safe access to quality park and recreation facilities and programming, expanding access to meal programs for children, investing in park improvement projects for communities that need it most, and supporting programs and policies that protect our most vulnerable communities from environmental and health hazards."



There are three NRPA initiatives focused on **Social Equity**:



NATIONAL STANDARDS

- NRPA published a report about Parks for Inclusion to have a greater understanding on how agencies across the country ensure that all residents of their communities can enjoy parks and recreation. Below are the percentages of Parks and Recreation Departments which offer programming and activities for specific user groups in their communities:
 - 74% provide programming for individuals with disabilities
 - 71% provide programs for members of multicultural/racial/ethnic communities
 - 62% provide programmings for individuals with cognitive disabilities
 - 30% provide programs for members of the LGBTQ communities
 - 27% provide programming for members of refugee/immigrant communities
- According to the NRPA, only 2 in 5 park and recreation agencies have a formal inclusion policy that ensures all members of a community can access and enjoy all that parks and recreation has to offer. Below are the NRPA Implementation Guidelines for Diversity Inclusion:
 1. Program Objectives Include People with Disabilities
 2. Involvement of People with Disabilities in Development, Implementation and Evaluation
 3. Program Accessibility for Individuals with Social, Behavioral, and/or Physical Disabilities
 4. Accommodations for Participants with Disabilities
 5. Outreach and Communication to People with Disabilities
 6. Cost Considerations and Feasibility to Promote Inclusion Accommodations
 7. Affordability for All Participants
 8. Process Evaluation and Feedback
 9. Outcomes Evaluation

LOCAL STANDARDS

The City of Allen and the Parks and Recreation Department are committed to inclusive, city-wide recreational opportunities. The City and Department offers multiple special programs and adaptations, in addition to financial assistance to help cover costs of programs, classes, new parks and memberships. They have also brought outreach programs directly to under-served communities in the City. The Parks and Recreation Department offers a program which is dedicated to residents with disabilities or special needs.

The Allen SNAP (Special Needs and Adapted Programs) offers multiple programs and classes for people with disabilities; it creates time for dedicated skill development, social interaction and a fulfilling experience all within a safe and supportive environment. Two examples of the programs include monthly dances and adapted aquatics. The programs are offered in facilities that feature equal access with handicap-designated parking, wheelchair accessibility, automatic front doors and ramp access.

LOCAL STANDARDS (CONT.)

Another equitable initiative is the Citizen Assistance for Recreational Experiences (C.A.R.E.) program. The mission of this program is to provide financial support to qualified Allen residents to promote recreational opportunities, increase citizen involvement, build a strong sense of community and increase social and physical well-being. Financial assistance is available for most recreational programs, classes and memberships offered at Joe Farmer Recreation Center (JFRC), Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium (DRN), The Edge Visitor Center & Skate Park (TE), Allen Senior Recreation Center (ASRC),

Allen Community Ice Rink (ACIR) and Allen Parks and Recreation Athletic Programs. The program does not include league fees, some classes and a few programs. There are two outreach programs offered in under-served communities through the Allen Parks and Recreation Department. The first began in 2013 when free swimming lessons were offered in local area apartment pools to protect young families from drowning deaths. The other outreach program is the Allen Senior Center's award winning reading literacy initiative called "Read to Reed".

LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for improving and building on prior initiatives for the Social Equity pillar are influenced by Allen citizen survey data, City Staff, NRPA recommendations and the consultant's professional opinion.

- Create and adopt a formal parks and recreation Inclusion Policy
- Continue Operating a mobile parks and recreation program that travels to various parks and special events to provide equitable programming
- Seek to engage multicultural, racial or ethnic community members by recognizing and celebrating their heritage and holidays, being aware of culturally-sensitive program hours and policies and provide opportunities for civic engagement and social connections
- Seek out additional programming which can be adapted for participants with disabilities
- Partner with local organizations that support under-represented populations or under-served communities
- Ensure all community voices are heard, acknowledged and addressed
- Strive to develop and maintain high quality park and recreational facilities in under-served communities



CAPRA Accreditation

The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) exists through NRPA, and the Commission's standards for national accreditation provide an authoritative assessment tool for park and recreation agencies. According to the NRPA website, through compliance with the standards of excellence, CAPRA accreditation assures the elected and appointed officials, staff, and the public that the Department has been independently evaluated against established benchmarks is delivering a high level of quality services.

The Parks and Recreation Department moved through a three-phase process to become CAPRA accredited: the development of the Department's self-assessment report; an on-site visitation of CAPRA Visitors; and the Commission's review and decision. Following an agencies initial accreditation, the standards. After a 5-year period, the agency will submit for reaccreditation and follow the same 3 phase approach as the initial accreditation process.

Initial accreditation is achieved by successfully meeting all 36 Fundamental Standards and 106 (90%) of the remaining 118 Non-Fundamental Standards. For reaccreditation, the agency must meet all 36 Fundamental Standards and 108 (95%) of the remaining 118 Non-Fundamental Standards.

When the City of Allen's Parks and Recreation Department was initially accredited in 2019, it became just 1 of 191 agencies accredited within the United States. The Department is scheduled for the reaccreditation process in summer 2024.

LEVEL
OF
SERVICE
STANDARDS

NEEDS
ASSESSMENT

AGENCY
GOALS
AND
OBJECTIVES

RECREATION
AND
LEISURE
TRENDS
ANALYSIS

COMMUNITY
INVENTORY



10.3.1 LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

The Level of Service (LOS) Analysis determines how far residents must travel to reach parks and recreation resources, and how much space is in the system per capita. The LOS standards provide a metric that allows for city staff to monitor how the residents utilize the parks and trails daily. The City of Allen wants to create an environment in which all

citizens live within a 10-minute walk to a park. The recommended LOS standard for the City of Allen is to have 12.0 acres of park per 1,000 residents. This standard exceeds the NRPA Metric of having 9.9 acres of park per 1,000 residents.

The Level of Service results can be found in Chapter 3 page 124, while a summary of the results can be seen below:

- The City currently exceeds the recommended level at 14.1 acres of usable park per 1,000 residents.
- The City of Allen currently exceeds the recommended LOS, and it is important for the City to continue developing and maintain existing parks.
- A total of 76% of residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park which exceeds the national average of 55% of residents.
- The acquisition of additional park land is necessary as the population continues to grow to maintain the high LOS.

Benchmark cities were established to see how the City of Allen compares to cities of similar population, demographics, income, and Parks and Recreation Departments. The following cities and organizations were designated as benchmark cities: Denton, Frisco, McKinney, NRPA, Plano, and Richardson. The LOS for Allen is on average with the other benchmark cities and a graph of the LOS can be found on Chapter 3 page 125.

The findings from the LOS standards allows the City of Allen to determine where new parks and trails should be located. The City is able to see where the residents are located who are not within a 10-minute walk and should utilize that information to determine if a park can be developed in that area. The City of Allen should do the following to ensure the City establish facilities and service priorities:

- Establish community engagement to determine areas of improvement along with recreational amenities desired.
- Utilize GIS applications to determine areas that have lower levels of service.
- Use program memberships to see what facilities and services residents are using to determine what will be needed in the future.
- Keep a log of City properties and amenities that are rented out and utilized for the community to analyze the demand for specific uses.

10.4 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The City of Allen partnered with National Service Research to collect information on what the needs of the community currently are as well as what the needs will be in the future. A survey was posted on the City of Allen's website as well as various social media sites for two and a half months which resulted in 1,460 survey responses. The responses have been agglomerated and can be found in Chapter 4 page 132. The survey responses allow the City to better understand the current and

future needs of the residents. This enables for the improvements of existing facilities and the creation of new facilities that will improve the quality of life for all residents. These improvements will help create and foster a city the residents are proud to live in. The needs assessment will be evaluated and updated as needed with a minimum of every five years.

The frequency of use survey question provided findings on how frequently the residents used public facilities:

- Parks are the most frequently used facility with 68% of respondents stating they visit a park at least once a month.
- The top five most frequently used facilities are parks, trails, nature trails, playgrounds, and the Joe Farmer Recreation Center.
- The eight most frequently used facilities were utilized at least twice annually by at least 50% of the respondents.

The City of Allen additionally looked at what facilities the residents would like to have available to them. The Recreation Program Interest survey was compiled and sorted into 25 categories with their results below:

- The four most requested programs and facilities were a farmer's market, festivals and events, music events, and fitness and yoga classes. These four programs were requested by over 50% of all respondents.
- The programs where residents could be active were highly requested and included fitness and yoga classes, biking trails, indoor bowling, soccer fields, basketball courts, archery ranges, and tennis courts. Fitness and yoga classes as well as biking trails were requested by approximately 20% more than the next sporting facility.
- Only one percent (1%) of all respondents stated they were not interested in new or additional programs.



1.4.1 AGENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In 2015 the City of Allen updated their Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan and have updated their Goals and Objectives accordingly. There are three categories of goals and objectives: Parks and Recreation, Open Space, and Maintenance. Detailed descriptions of the goals can be found on Chapter 5 page 140. The City plans to utilize

dashboards to track these goals and objectives. With dashboards, the City will be able to use GIS data to see things such as where areas are that have a walking distance greater than 10 minutes to the nearest park, and where trail systems are located. These dashboards will be updated annually.

The parks and recreation goal is to ensure the provision of a balanced park that is accessible to all residents which meets the needs of the citizens and helps create a unique community. Some objectives for this goal include:

- To renovate, rehabilitate and upgrade existing parks and recreation buildings in Allen.
- To develop and provide public parks throughout the City that ensure all residents are within a reasonable 10-minute walk to a park.
- To continue to construct trail segments throughout the community that ultimately create an extensive and complete trail system.

The open space goal is to identify, protect, and conserve quality natural open spaces for unstructured recreational activities, inherent aesthetic value, and protection of valuable ecosystems. Some objectives for this goal include:

- To continually research the viability of developing trail systems along creeks, floodways, and utility easements that will link public and private recreational facilities, neighborhoods, school campuses and neighboring communities.
- To be proactive in the acquisition and protection of unique and community enhancing natural open spaces throughout the City of Allen.

The maintenance goal is to ensure a high quality, safe and aesthetically pleasing park system through continued maintenance, upkeep, and strategic planning. Some objectives for this goal include:

- To continue maintaining the existing park system at a high level and increase maintenance capabilities as new facilities are developed.
- To continue to forge partnership with public and private organizations for the maintenance of recreational facilities.

10.5.1 RECREATION AND LEISURE TRENDS ANALYSIS

The City of Allen has conducted citizen surveys and public input meetings for several decades to ensure the needs and desires of the residents are being met. The city updates the Parks Master Plan every five years based on TPWD's recommendations and performs a new survey at that time to compare previous needs to future needs. The table below

compares the top ten facility priorities from the 2011, 2015 and 2021 Master Plans. The priorities are developed utilizing citizen survey results, input from public groups as well as focus groups, staff recommendations and professional opinion.

Rank	2021 Ranking	2015 Ranking	2011 Ranking
1	Shaded Recreation Spaces	Nature Trails	Trails
2	Multi-Purpose Trails	Indoor Recreational Centers	Sports Practice Fields
3	Dog Park	Multi-Use Paved Trails	Nature Areas
4	Indoor Recreational Spaces	Shade at Playgrounds & Other Areas	Shade at Playgrounds & Other Facilities
5	Spraygrounds / Splashpads	Botanical / Flower Gardens	Adult Softball Fields
6	Sports Practice Fields (Multi-Use)	Nature Areas	Botanical Flower Gardens
7	Natural Areas	Swimming Pools	Football Fields
8	Community Gardens / Botanical Gardens	Off-Road Bike Trails	Indoor Recreation Center
9	Playgrounds	Spraygrounds / Water Play Parks	Outdoor Swimming Facility
10	Adventure Facilities	Sports Practice Fields	Soccer Fields



10.5.1 RECREATION AND LEISURE TRENDS ANALYSIS (CONT.)

The results of the Recreation and Leisure Trend Analysis allow the City to see if the goals of the Parks Department supports the needs of the community. If there are needs of the community that are not supported by the Parks and Recreation Department Goals and Objectives, the City should adopt new goals and objectives to better suit the community. It is important to note that over the years, surveys are continually revised and updated to meet current terminology, trends, and standards. Some of the verbiage varies over the years but many of the categories have been accounted for. With the verbiage changing over time, the survey can result to show some of the data is not applicable.

The Parks and Recreation goal of having parks accessible to all residents will address the following needs of the community:

- Providing shade to playgrounds for children at neighborhood parks.
- Having special events in the parks for the residents.
- Constructing spraygrounds/water splashpads at parks.
- Increasing the number of sports practice fields.
- Increasing the number of multi-purpose sports fields.

The Open Space goal of conserving natural open space will address the following needs of the community:

- Completing and updating trails.
- Acquiring land for additional park area.
- Having trails that connect through the CBD.
- Having a community garden.
- Developing one large single dog park.
- Increasing the amount of open space along existing creek corridors.

The maintenance goal of having safe parks will address the following needs of the community:

- Providing shade to playgrounds for children at neighborhood parks.
- Improving and enhancing the maintenance of parks facilities.



10.5.2 COMMUNITY INVENTORY (CONT.)

ISD Properties	Swimming Pool	Pavilions	Tennis courts	Basketball court	Multipurpose Field	Playground
Anderson Elementary	0	1	0	1	1	1
Beverly Elementary (Plano ISD)	0	0	0	0	0	2
Bolin Elementary	0	1	0	1	1	1
Boon Elementary	0	1	0	1	1	1
Boyd Elementary	0	1	0	1	1	1
Chandler Elementary	0	1	0	1	1	1
Cheatham Elementary	0	1	0	1	1	1
Evans Elementary	0	1	0	1	2	1
Green Elementary	0	1	0	1	1	1
Kerr Elementary	0	1	0	1	1	1
Lindsey Elementary (in the City of McKinney)	0	1	0	1	1	1
Marion Elementary	0	1	0	1	1	2
Norton Elementary	0	1	0	1	1	1
Olsen Elementary	0	1	0	1	1	1
Preston Elementray	0	1	0	1	1	1
Reed Elementary	0	1	1	1	1	1
Rountree Elementary	0	1	0	1	1	1
Story Elementary	0	0	0	1	1	1
Vaughan Elementry	0	1	0	1	3	2
Total	0	17	1	18	21	22

HOA Properties	Swimming Pool	Pavilions	Tennis courts	Basketball court	Multipurpose Field	Playground
Abbey Hill Park	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allen Estates	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allen North	0	0	0	0	0	0
Angel Field West	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ansley Meadow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arbor Lakes	1	0	0	1	0	1
Auburn Springs	2	0	0	0	0	0
Avondale	0	0	0	0	0	1
Beacon Hill	2	2	0	0	0	0
Bellegrove Allen	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethany Mews	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brookhollow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brookside Estates	1	0	0	0	0	1
Collin Square	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cottonwood Creek Gardens	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cottonwood Creek Master	1	1	0	0	0	0
Cottonwood Creek Villas	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cottonwood Crossing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Country Brook Estates	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crossing at Waterford	1	1	0	0	0	1
Cumberland Crossing	1	0	0	0	0	1
Custer Meadows	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cypress Meadows	1	1	0	0	1	1
Estates of Twin Creeks (1 and 2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fall Creek (both 1 and 2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glendover Gardens	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glendover Park	2	1	0	0	1	2
Hamilton Hills East	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton Hills West	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landings at Kittyhawk	1	1	0	0	0	1
Legends at Twin Creeks	1	1	2	0	0	0
Lexington Estates	0	1	0	0	0	0
Lost Creek Ranch	1	1	0	0	1	2



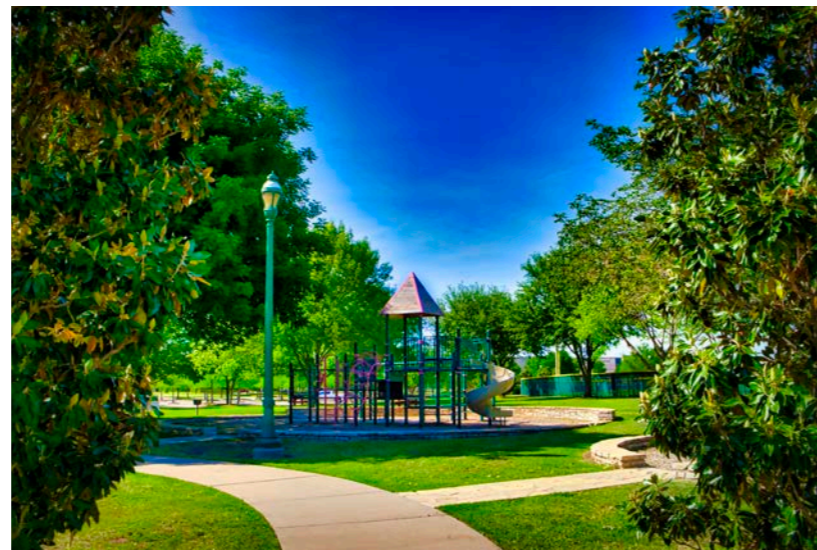
10.5.2 COMMUNITY INVENTORY (CONT.)

	Swimming Pool	Pavilions	Tennis courts	Basketball court	Multipurpose Field	Playground
Malone Meadows	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery Farm	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery Meadow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery Ridge	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morgan Crossing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morningside	1	1	0	0	0	0
North Bethany Lake Estates	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parkside Phase 4 (Fox Hollow)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Parkside Village	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quail Run	1	0	0	0	0	0
Raintree Estates	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reid Farms	1	1	0	0	0	1
Rivercrest Park	0	0	0	0	1	0
Round Rock	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saddleridge	1	1	0	0	0	1
Shaddock Park	0	3	0	0	0	0
Silhouette	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spring Meadow	0	1	0	1	1	0
Stacey Estates	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stacey Ridge Estates	1	0	0	0	0	0
StarCreek	2	1	2	0	0	1
Steeplechase	0	0	0	0	1	0
Summerfield	1	2	0	0	0	0
Ten Oaks Community	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Park at Montgomery Farms	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Parks at Waterford	1	1	0	0	0	1
The Preserve at Twin Creeks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Twin Creeks	3	2	2	0	1	1
Village at Twin Creek	1	1	0	0	0	1

	Swimming Pool	Pavilions	Tennis courts	Basketball court	Multipurpose Field	Playground
Villages of Maxwell Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0
Villas at Cottonwood	1	1	0	0	0	0
Villas at Twin Creeks	1	0	0	0	0	0
Villas of Suncreek	1	0	0	0	0	0
Waterford Trails	0	0	0	0	0	0
Watters Crossing	2	0	0	0	0	0
Windgate Manor	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland Park	0	2	0	0	1	2
Total	35	27	6	2	9	21



Chapter 7



Future Parks & Recreation System

System Needs

The Needs Analysis is based on the compilation of many different forms of input: focus group meetings, citizen engagement, a statistically valid survey, the Allen Parks and Recreation Department, the Allen Community Development Corporation, City Staff, NRPA Metrics and professional opinion. Detailed in the next few pages are several high elevation Needs that have been identified by the above groups and the citizen survey.

NEW PARK NEEDS

The City of Allen has continually grown, developed and improved over the past ten years and is nearing build-out. As the population continues to increase, additional properties should be acquired to ensure adequate parkland is available for the residents of Allen. Citizen input indicates a strong desire for additional and unique parks in the City of Allen; however, new developments should focus on City-owned parkland. The City owns several different properties that need to be developed, specifically Molsen Farm, the Eugene McDermott Park, and the Custer Ridgeview property; the City should focus on the development of these and other existing properties. If desirable land is donated or can be purchased at a reasonable price, the City should pursue the opportunity with the understanding that the development of the land should fit the Goals and Objectives laid out in this plan. Throughout the

citizen surveys, there were repeated comments regarding the disparity of park locations. The residents are concerned that the majority of Allen parks are located on the east side of town. Citizens are excited about the growth opportunity for more parks to be developed in the western part of Allen. In addition to new parks being developed in the western part of town, the citizens voiced interest in a dog park and adventure play. The survey asked citizens to provide feedback regarding the need for multiple smaller dog parks throughout the city or one large dog park location. Although multiple locations ranked slightly higher on the survey results, it was determined that a centrally located medium sized dog park would best meet the needs at the current time. This was determined by focus group meeting input, existing city owned properties, city staff, and professional opinion.



"I think the parks system is excellent. It's one of the highlights of living in Allen." - Allen Resident



EXISTING PARK NEEDS

The City of Allen has continually and successfully focused on acquiring and developing new parks and trails over the past twenty years, as a result it is imperative the City begin to focus on the renovation and upgrades of existing parks. Over the past ten to twenty years, many neighborhoods have aged and the demographics are changing. As the City nears build-out, it is essential to upgrade neighborhood parks to fit the current demographics and needs of the specific neighborhoods. Citizens have voiced a need for updated play equipment, trimming of tree branches, improved sidewalks and more shade throughout the entire park system. Neighborhoods have different characteristics and needs, therefore, some neighborhood parks and

mini-neighborhood parks should be re-developed to meet those unique demands. In addition to specific park projects, the City should continue to periodically evaluate playgrounds including: structure replacement, maintenance, and compliance with the current safety guidelines established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Parks, recreation facilities and individual recreational elements are to be evaluated in terms of accessibility and, if needed, upgraded to the newest accessibility standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) through the development and implementation of a comprehensive departmental ADA Transition Plan.

System Needs

ATHLETIC FACILITIES NEEDS

Organized athletics within the City of Allen have different and sport specific recreational needs compared to the general public. In addition to conducting a focus group meeting with the Allen Sports Association Board (ASA), a playing field carrying capacity analysis was developed for each sport to better understand the specific field and court needs.

The focus group meetings addressed the needs of each sport division within ASA regarding the number of fields and courts desired, field lighting, practice spaces, etc. The general consensus is to continue installing artificial turf fields in lieu of natural grass turf, add additional field lighting at Celebration Park and increase field availability for practices. The carrying capacity analysis compares the number of fields for each sport to the number of teams to ensure each sport has enough space to play recreational and competitive games

throughout each season. The following tables and descriptions provide information that will assist the City in determining needs to enhance the recreational opportunities for youth and adult athletics. Youth sports has been and will be an integral part of the Allen Parks and Recreation Department. The changing demographics and aging population of the residents will directly influence youth sports as the median age in the City of Allen is increasing two years of age every three to five years, and the population growth rate has begun to decrease as the City nears build out. Taking these factors into consideration along with the professional experience of the consultant, the projected growth rate of youth sports is not as strong as indicated in previous master plans.

The data used for the Athletic Facilities Needs is based on 2019 statistics due to the canceled 2020 season and the dramatic loss of participation in the 2021 season because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.



YOUTH BASEBALL

The youth baseball league in Allen has grown significantly over the previous years; however, it is projected to grow at a slower rate in the upcoming years. With different age groups playing on different sized fields, the City of Allen currently offers eleven fields in the following configurations:

- 4 - 200' fields at Allen Station Park (Natural Turf)
- 2 - 225' fields at Celebration Park (Natural Turf)
- 2 - 250' fields at Bolin Park (Natural Turf)
- 1 - 300' fields at Allen Station Park (Natural Turf)
- 1 - 300' fields at Celebration Park (Natural Turf)
- 1 - 325' field at Celebration Park (Natural Turf)

Youth baseball games are typically played on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; this leaves Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays available for rainout days and field recovery. Typically each team plays two or three games a week and three games can be played per field per night. For this analysis, one game field for each 16 teams is applied as the targeted standard. The City of Allen has a deficit of smaller fields, 55'/150' (04U - 06U), which could be played on

larger fields with movable outfield fencing. This could cause scheduling issues if all fields are being used simultaneously for regular season games or tournaments. There is also a need for 65'/225' fields (09U - 10U) and 70'/250' fields (11U - 12U) for the middle age groups which have experienced the largest increase in participation over the previous five years. The following table represents the playing field capacity of the youth baseball fields based on the number of teams in Allen.



Age Groups	Number of Existing Game Fields 2019	Numbers of Teams 2019	Number of Required Game Fields 2019	Number of Teams 2025*	Number of Game Fields 2025*
04U-6U	0	52	4	57	4
07U-8U	4	53	4	58	4
09U-10U	2	71	5	78	5
11U-12U	2	42	3	46	3
13U	3	4	1	5	1
Total	11	222	17	244	17

*The estimated number of teams in 2025 is based on 1.45% population growth per year.

System Needs

YOUTH SOFTBALL

The youth softball program in Allen has experienced increased popularity over the past several years. In 2018, a total of 96 teams participated and in 2019 there were 103 teams that played. The City of Allen has four - 200' artificial turf fields available at Allen Station Park. Typically, games are played five nights a week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. The playing field capacity should ideally be one field for every 12 teams. Using the 12 team standard, the City of Allen currently has a deficit of five youth

softball fields, this is not taking into account the projected growth of the sport. It is recommended that the City of Allen explore the possibility of building more youth softball fields. Another option to meet the demand of youth softball is to increase the number of games played per night per field. Currently, Allen Sports Association (ASA) reports that one or two games are played per field per weeknight. It is a possibility for ASA to increase the number of games to two or three games per field per night.

Softball Leagues	Number of Existing Game Fields 2019	Numbers of Teams 2019	Number of Required Game Fields 2019	Number of Teams 2025*	Number of Game Fields 2025*
Youth Softball	4	103	9	113	9
Total	4	103	9	113	9

*The estimated number of teams in 2025 is based on 1.45% population growth per year.

YOUTH SOCCER

Youth soccer currently plays their games at Celebration Park which has 22 fields, all various sizes. The City of Allen, in total, has 24 fields when calculating in the two fields at Bolin Park. Soccer games are played on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and each team plays one or two games per week. Ideally the carrying capacity of a soccer field is 12 teams per week, which includes six games on Saturday. Youth participation in soccer

has been steadily declining over the previous years and the general count of soccer fields in Allen is sufficient for the participation demand. There is a need for larger fields to host older participant games, which can also be converted into lacrosse fields or multi purpose athletic fields. The following table represents the current and future needs of youth soccer based on providing one game field for each 12 teams in an age group.

Age Groups	Number of Existing Game Fields 2019	Numbers of Teams 2019	Number of Required Game Fields 2019	Number of Teams 2025*	Number of Game Fields 2025*
04u-8u	13	125	11	137	12
09u-10u	5	47	4	52	5
11u-12u	2	21	2	23	2
13u-19u	2	33	3	36	3
Total	22	226	20	248	22

*The estimated number of teams in 2025 is based on 1.45% population growth per year.



YOUTH FOOTBALL

Youth football is increasing in popularity and is projected to continue growing. The youth football league plays at the AISD and Lovejoy ISD fields. The City, Allen Sports Association and the local ISDs are currently partnering together to provide practice and game fields for youth football. The City does not currently own any dedicated rectangular fields for youth football; and because of the successful partnerships, does not intend to provide any in the future. The City

is accommodating youth football with capacity on other rectangular fields at Ford Park, Reed Park, and shared access at Curtis Middle School if needed. Taking into account the projected growth of youth football, the City should continue to monitor youth football's participation levels and encourage ASA to host football games on more weeknights or consider additional rectangular fields in the future if deemed necessary.

System Needs

YOUTH LACROSSE

The youth lacrosse program has both fall and spring seasons. The lacrosse league plays at Celebration Park and other sites on Saturdays and Sundays. Currently, a total of 3 teams with 48 participants play on 110'x60' fields. A lacrosse

field can support 12 teams per week, which includes 3 games per Saturday. The following table represents the current and future needs of the youth lacrosse program based on the number of teams per field.

Field Size	Number of Existing Game Fields 2019	Numbers of Teams 2019	Number of Required Game Fields 2019	Number of Teams 2025*	Number of Game Fields 2025*
110x60	2	3	1	4	1
Total	2	3	1	4	1

*The estimated number of teams in 2025 is based on 1.45% population growth per year.

YOUTH INLINE HOCKEY

The youth hockey league occurs during the spring from February to April. The inline hockey league plays at The Edge Outdoor Rinks located in Allen Station Park on Saturdays and Tuesdays. Currently, a total of 7 teams with 64 participants play on the two rinks provided. An outdoor

inline rink can support 16 teams per week. The number of outdoor rinks is sufficient to meet the current and future demand. The following table represents the current and future needs of inline hockey.

Field Size	Number of Existing Rinks 2019	Numbers of Teams 2019	Number of Required Rinks 2019	Number of Teams 2025*	Number of Rinks 2025*
Rink	2	7	1	8	1
Total	2	7	1	8	1

*The estimated number of teams in 2025 is based on 1.45% population growth per year.

YOUTH TRACK

The youth track program consists of individuals from 5 to 18 years old. The meets occur on Saturdays, but practices are generally Monday through Thursday for Summer track and Tuesdays and Thursdays for Spring track. In 2019, there were 270 participants for summer track. The practices and meets are held at Allen

High School. The City does not have its own track for youth participants. Instead, the City has a strong partnership with Allen ISD which provides a track for practices and meets. This partnership allows the City to meet the demands for summer and spring track activities.

YOUTH BASKETBALL & VOLLEYBALL

Youth basketball and volleyball have experienced consistent participation during the previous years. Both sports play in the same facilities, so the playing capacity is determined by separating basketball and volleyball team numbers and then combining the number of courts needed for both sports. In 2018 and 2019, a total of 249 and 237 basketball teams participated, respectively. For volleyball, in 2018 and 2019, 61 teams and 57

teams, respectively, played in the spring and fall. Currently, all basketball and volleyball games are not held on city-owned property. Instead, these sports play in Allen ISD gyms and at The Sports Cabana at Craig Ranch. The opening of the Stephen G. Terrell Recreation Center (scheduled for 2023) will substantially increase the opportunities for the Parks and Recreation Department to host ASA basketball and volleyball activities.

ADULT SOFTBALL

Adult softball has steadily increased over the past several years in Allen and is anticipated to continue to grow along with the population. In 2019, a total of 3,240 participants on 385 teams (approximately 190 teams playing double headers each night) played co-rec softball. Games are played on four artificial turf fields located at Spirit Park. Currently, adult softball is played Monday – Friday and six games are played per field per night. The ideal playing capacity recommended for Allen Adult Softball is one field for 24 teams. This ratio will help the league accommodate rainouts and provide a small amount of flexibility

in scheduling. The Spirit Park fields are currently scheduled at 80% capacity and the projected growth of adult softball is 1.45% per year. Although the sport continues to gain in popularity and more participants are expected to play, it is not necessary to construct additional fields at this time. The reasons for this are that the existing fields are artificial and do not require rest between games, several games per night can be played per field, adult sports scheduling is flexible and games can be played on lighted fields late into the evening, and the cost associated with building additional adult fields.



System Needs

TRAILS NEEDS

The City of Allen has successfully planned and constructed trails over the past several years. The focus has continually been to make meaningful connections to provide longer and more accessible routes. It is important for the City to continue evaluating the existing trail routes and conditions to ensure purposeful and safe routes. The trail system should focus on connecting

schools, parks, residential and commercial areas throughout the community. According to the citizen survey, 67.2% and 72.7% of Allen residents use nature trails and trails at least quarterly, respectively. It is important to realize the popularity and demand of these recreational and alternative transportation byways.

The City of Allen recently completed the 2019 Trails and Bikeways Master Plan which should be continually reviewed and implemented. The key needs from the Trails and Bikeways Plan are:



Beautification enhancements chosen by residents:
Trailheads, Wayfinding & Kiosks, Lighting

Residents most frequent request:
Fill trail gaps for on-street facilities

Increase the number of safe street crossings in the trail system

It is also important that the City focus on the value of trails within linear greenbelts and how they provide an increase in safe access to natural areas within and surrounding Allen. It is apparent that more transportation trails, trail

connections and multi-purpose trail loops are needed in the City of Allen. In addition, multi-purpose trails and soft-surfaced trails are needed in and throughout individual parks for walking, jogging and other forms of exercise.

"The main reason I choose to live in Allen, versus other cities in Collin County, are the walking/biking trails. Having trails to run and bike on are central to my lifestyle and I appreciate that Allen already offers a great trail system, and I'll always support adding more!" - Allen Resident

NATURAL OPEN SPACE NEEDS

The City of Allen is nearing build-out. The City has successfully acquired large areas of natural open space over the past twenty years. As the City and surrounding areas continue to grow and develop, it is imperative the City continue to acquire reasonably and fairly priced land to preserve areas that have natural resources.

Natural open spaces should not only be preserved, but should be available for primitive, passive and active recreational opportunities. The existing city-owned property, Molsen Farm is a large 77 acre plot of land along Rowlett Creek. The Molsen Farm Master Plan proposed the development of some smaller areas while preserving the most valuable natural open spaces found on the site.

The Stephen G. Terrell Community Park, formerly known as the Estevie Property, will be opened in 2023. A new recreation center is being constructed on the site but a fair amount of property is located in the floodplain. This acreage needs to remain natural and preserved as areas continue to develop in northwest Allen. In addition, primitive and passive recreational opportunities should be considered in the natural areas surrounding the new facility.

Cottonwood Creek, Rowlett Creek, West Rowlett Creek, Watters Branch and their tributaries are all key natural water resources in Allen and need to be preserved.

System Needs

INDOOR RECREATION CENTER NEEDS

Joe Farmer Recreation Center is located in southeast Allen at Bethany Lakes Park. The Center and the Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium has been the backbone of indoor recreational opportunities in the City of Allen for the past two decades. Although the recreation center provides many opportunities, it is relatively small and is not centrally located for easy access by all residents throughout the city. There is a need to reevaluate the existing facility's operational functionality as to whether it can continue to meet the needs of residents on the east side of town and determine whether the best course of action to meet those needs would be to reconstruct, expand, or renovate the facility.

For years, many citizens have requested an indoor recreation center on the west side of town. This

request will be fulfilled with the 2023 scheduled opening of the Stephen G. Terrell Recreation Center. The addition of the new center will satisfy many needs of the residents as it will be much larger than Joe Farmer Recreation Center with more recreational amenities and opportunities. It is important to note that citizens desire more than just recreational opportunities in modern day recreation centers. Many citizens want more social gathering spaces such as coffee shops, reading areas, cooking facilities, etc. The addition of the Stephen G. Terrell Center is intended to satisfy the indoor recreational needs for the majority of the residents on the west side of Allen.

"Allen parks are valued and respected, and are a big part of our family time." - Allen Resident

GENERAL COMMUNITY NEEDS

Over the past decade, the demand for support facilities within the parks system has continued to grow. Support facilities are park amenities that are not directly recreationally-based but provide a community need at local parks. These types of amenities include shade, restrooms and parking lots. The perceived need of these support facilities is not necessarily unique to the City of Allen since many communities across the nation, and especially in the southern states desire more shade within the parks. As the park system continues to develop and evolve, it is imperative to incorporate shade into the existing park system at playgrounds, along trails and seating areas for children, adults and senior citizens.

Restroom facilities have become some of the most needed amenities in parks over the past several years. Restrooms are needed in community parks. With regard to the great need for restrooms, specific elements should be considered when choosing park locations; such as the frequency or level of use by park patrons, the proximity to utility services, and the amount of available space at the park.

In the past several years, the City has had success in implementing art into the parks; City Staff should continue art installations throughout the park and trail system. Public art in parks can serve many purposes such as: creative signs, climbing and play elements, artistic bridges, etc.



The City of Allen needs to continue to follow the "Public Art Master Plan" developed in 2005. The mission of the Public Art Program is to:

- Foster the commissioning, acquisition, presentation and preservation of permanent and temporary public art.
- Engage the public with the collection.
- Acts as a steward of the City's public art collection.

Additional attention to public art in the design and remodeling of parks in Allen can contribute significantly to the attainment of this mission, as long as maintenance of the art is considered in all situations.

The vision of the Public Art Program is to ensure that Public art in Allen will contribute to Allen's identity as a unique and welcoming community, activate community gathering spaces, and bring character and creativity to everyday places. This vision builds upon three central ideas:

Identity:

Public art can be a tool that is used to help Allen stand out among its neighbors. A few, well-known great works of art can become important community icons and express the spirit and energy of the community.

Great public spaces:

Public art can be a component of what makes Allen's gathering places special and unique destinations.

Quality of design:

Public art can add to the texture of everyday places, making them special and giving them a distinctive character.

System Needs

MAINTENANCE NEEDS

The City of Allen has consistently and successfully focused on maintaining the existing park system at a very high level. The high standards of maintenance are not only appreciated by the residents, but they are also expected. The City is committed to providing the highest of standards for the residents and it shows because of the large support and use of the park system by local residents and visitors from all regions of the DFW Metroplex.

It is imperative the City continue to maintain the parks at a high level as the park system continues to grow and as older parks evolve. The level of maintenance is not only important for the safety of visitors and vitality of the parks, but for the aesthetically pleasing atmosphere the existing park system offers.

Sustainability in design has become more important and relevant over the past several years and future parks should be designed and constructed with reduced maintenance in mind. This can be achieved by the use of native plants and materials and by increasing the amount of natural areas in future parks. The addition of sports facilities and the new recreation center will create a need for additional staff to keep the level of maintenance at its current level.

The Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute (SWPRTI), SWPRTI Park Planning and Maintenance Academy, Texas Recreation and Parks Society, NRPA, and other local training opportunities provide annual training for design and maintenance disciplines. The intended result is greater communication and practical collaboration between the two areas of the parks and recreation profession. Allen Parks and Recreation Department should continue to provide such training for its staff.

A complete Maintenance Plan, developed by PROS Consulting can be found in Appendix A.

"We love Allen being dedicated to parks, the community, recycling, and trees!" - Allen Resident

CITY OF ALLEN'S PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT KEY NEEDS:

The Needs within the Community have been developed based on focus group meetings, citizen input, City Staff comments and professional opinion. It is important to review and consider the true needs of the community to ensure the recommendations in this plan reflect the needs of the residents.

- Aging parks and facilities should be upgraded and renovated to keep Allen's park system up to local standards and safe for all users. This includes ensuring all public parks and facilities are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and local building codes, etc. as specific parks are redeveloped.
- Construction and maintenance of dog park.
- Establish a play structure monitoring program to evaluate remaining useful life with the purpose of scheduling and budgeting the replacement of structures that have reached the end of their expected life cycle.
- Existing undeveloped City-owned properties should be developed as parks and/or trail corridors.
- Complete construction of the Stephen G. Terrell Recreation Center.
- Continue the high level of maintenance at existing and future parks for safety, accessibility and the aesthetically pleasing environment provided for the citizens.
- Additional trails should be constructed to make meaningful links for connectivity.
- Athletic fields should be programmed to provide for multiple uses including games and practices and should also be monitored for future use.
- Support facilities, such as shade structures and parking lots, are needed within existing and new developments.
- Consider implementing unique forms of recreation such as water courses and mountain bike trails.
- High quality natural areas should be preserved (i.e. natural open space, mature wooded areas along creeks and their tributaries, etc).



System Priorities

The City of Allen has successfully and continually acquired, developed, renovated and maintained its park system. As the City continues to grow, and nears build-out, it is important to focus on the maintenance and renovation of existing facilities. In addition, it is imperative to pursue property acquisitions to ensure sufficient parkland is available to all residents in the future.

The System Priorities in the list below are based on citizen input, focus group meetings, Parks and Recreation Department recommendations, City Staff comments and professional consultant's opinion. It is important to note that the following list is intended to be a guide for development and redevelopment of existing and future parks and amenities over the next ten years.

- 1 Shaded Recreational Spaces
- 2 Multi-Purpose Trails
- 3 Dog Park
- 4 Indoor Recreational Spaces
- 5 Spraygrounds / Splash Pads
- 6 Sports Practice Fields (Multi-Use)
- 7 Natural Areas
- 8 Community Gardens / Botanical Gardens
- 9 Playgrounds
- 10 **Adventure Facilities:** Mountain Bike Trails, Ziplines, Watercraft Courses, etc.

*"My number one priority for Allen is to complete and connect all trails so members of the community can get to any shopping area, restaurant, or recreation facility by bike."
- Allen Resident*



System Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on citizen input, focus group meetings, discussions with City Staff and the consultants' professional opinion. Influenced by the needs analysis and list of priorities, it is suggested that these recommendations be implemented over the next five to ten years.

NEW PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop the Molsen Farm Property

- Follow the recommendations of the 2022 Molsen Farm Master Plan currently under development

- Complete construction of Stephen G. Terrell Community Park (Formerly the Estevie Property - anticipated completion 2023)

- Initiate master plan, design and develop Allen Adventure Park

Possible amenities for consideration include:

- Ropes course(s) throughout the park
- Off-road bike trails with bike amenities
- Human-sized maze
- Outdoor seating areas
- Boardwalk
- Paddle sport launches

- Design and construct one large dog park for all of Allen at Jupiter Park (anticipated completion 2023)

- Increase the number of parks and park acreage on the west side of Allen

- Add more amenities to existing parks to enhance the user comfort and experience

- Provide shade structures and trees in priority areas: playgrounds, bench stations, picnic tables and other high-use facilities
- Additional benches should be placed along all trails and under existing shade trees
- Increase the amount of water fountains or water bottle refill stations at trailheads
- Transition to providing and installing trash receptacles with lids that still adhere to ADA standards



System Recommendations

EXISTING PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete Phase II of Spirit Park

- Multi-use lighted athletic fields (NE corner of park)
- Additional lighted parking
- Additional trails and trail improvements
- Batting cages
- Small satellite maintenance facility
- Creek Overlook
- Additional landscaping and irrigation
- Park entrance enhancements
- Way-finding and interpretive signage
- Group pavilion and picnic shelters

- Complete and Initiate Ford Park Redevelopment Master Plan

- Update park amenities
- Consider the installation of a sprayground at Ford Pool to enhance and expand water recreation opportunities
- Increase number of pavilions
- Plant additional shade trees and enhance landscaping
- Correct drainage issues
- Construct perimeter loop trail
- Reconstruct/reconfigure park amenities/athletic fields for optimal utilization

- Update & Improve Allen Station Park

- Update the existing playgrounds (anticipated completion in 2022)
- Provide and install new designated play spaces (anticipated completion in 2022)
- Consider the possibility of designing and installing a large splash pad/sprayground (anticipated completion in 2022)
- Evaluate the final phasing of ASP
- Include additional amenities such as pavilions, parking and trail connectivity

- Prioritize increasing the amount of shade throughout the park system including playgrounds and seating areas, pools and splash pads, along trails and in athletic complexes in a phased manner

- Evaluate the need to provide additional, smaller splash pads to neighborhood parks throughout Allen

- Upgrade older playgrounds by focusing on creative and innovative play structures which bring new challenges to the park users

- The top five playground replacement priorities are proposed in: Allen Station Park (anticipated completion in 2022), Rolling Hills Park (anticipated completion in 2022), Cottonwood Bend Park, Custer Meadows, and Reed Park West.

- Add more amenities to existing parks to enhance the user comfort and experience

- Shade structures in priority areas such as playgrounds, benches, picnic tables, trailheads and athletic fields
- Additional benches should be placed along all trails and under shaded areas
- Increase the amount of water fountains or water bottle refill stations at trailheads
- Plant trees for environmental benefits, provision of shade and aesthetics purposes

- Complete the renovation and development of the Allen Heritage Village (anticipated completion in 2023)

- Continue to evaluate and plan for Heritage Village Programming and Staff support needs



System Recommendations

ATHLETIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Youth and adult athletic facilities are unique recreational amenities within communities due to the fact that they are organized groups utilizing city-owned and AISD-owned fields and courts. Although there is currently a high demand and need for additional game fields in the

City, it is not the top-rated recommendation for implementation. Due to the average median age increasing over time, the City being near build-out, the availability of land, and the development costs associated with athletic fields, the City should consider the items below:

- Construct multi-purpose artificial turf practice/game fields to allow all sports teams more opportunities to practice and/or play throughout the week.
- Partner with ASA and schedule more game days per week where field carrying capacity will allow to maximize the field use.
- Convert additional existing fields to artificial turf to minimize the amount of rain-outs and field recovery days, and increase tournament use.
- Construct pickleball courts or consider adapting existing tennis courts to accommodate pickleball players until the Stephen G. Terrell Recreation Center and its indoor courts are constructed

- In addition, it is recommend that the City and Allen Sports Association partner together to:

- Provide and install artificial turf fields when appropriate to increase the amount of usable days on each field throughout the year, and increase tournament use
- Develop a plan to fund and re-turf the existing artificial turf fields when they are at the end of their life cycle

TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue reviewing and implementing projects from the 2019 Trails & Bikeways Master Plan

- Consider Adopting and publicizing a Trail User Ethics and Etiquette Policy



NATURAL OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to acquire and preserve valuable natural open spaces
- Develop wooded areas with natural play features with minimal impact on the surrounding areas in a limited and selective manner
- Continue to acquire aesthetically pleasing natural areas along Cottonwood Creek, Rowlett Creek, West Rowlett Creek, Watters Branch Creek and their tributaries as the real estate market and funding allows

INDOOR RECREATION CENTER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reevaluate Joe Farmer Recreation Center's facility's operational functionality as to whether it can continue to meet the increasing citizen demand on the amenities brought about by the dramatic growth of Allen since the facility was built in 1996.

- Complete the construction of the Stephen G. Terrell Recreation Center and Community Park to meet the new level of service in the community.

- Consider the design and development of an Indoor Nature Center
 - Evaluate and plan for Nature Center Programming and Staff support needs

System Recommendations

GENERAL COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS

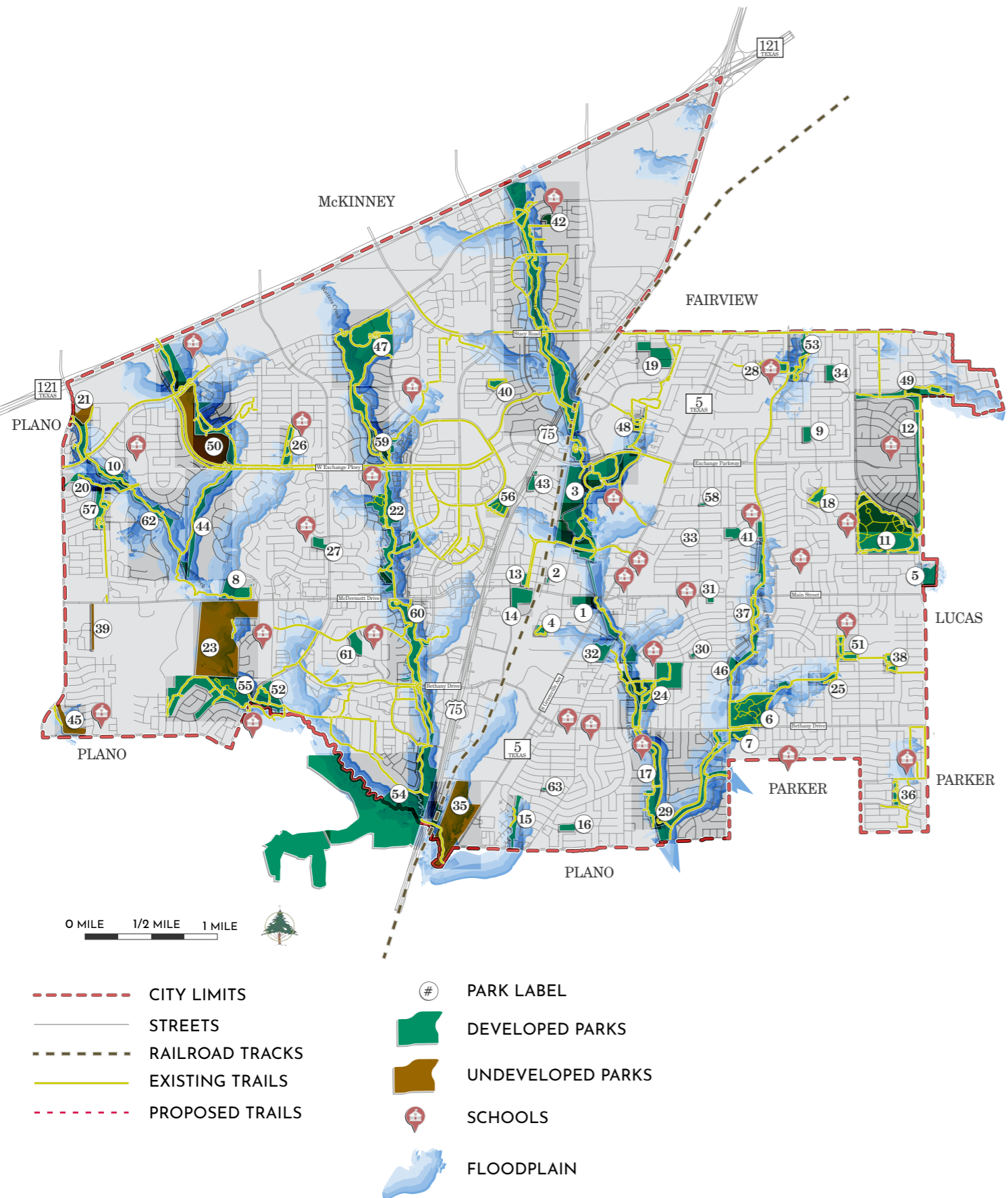
- Provide mountain biking facilities and trails in one or two select areas in Allen that connect to larger networks
- Improve the BMX track at the Edge at Allen Station

MAINTENANCE (SEE CHAPTER 8 FOR MORE DETAIL)

- Proactively address tree branches that extend over trails and are in the vertical clearance zone
- Consider using garbage cans with lids or covers throughout the park system
- Repair cracked concrete trails
- Continue to manage erosion along trails and creeks
- Address the trails that are low lying, do not drain well, and have residual mud/debris accumulation
- Continue to maintain athletic fields at a high level of quality and performance
 - Monitor the quality of existing artificial turf facilities and plan for turf replacement as necessary.
 - Continue to monitor the grass fields for weeds and continue to fertilize and irrigate as necessary to ensure top quality.



Future Parks Map



UNDEVELOPED PARKS

- 21. Custer/Ridgeview Property
- 23. Eugene McDermott Park
- 35. Molsen Farm
- 39. Parkhurst
- 45. Russell Creek Greenbelt
- 50. Stephen G. Terrell Community Park

Chapter 8



Maintenance Standards

Park Maintenance Assessment

The City of Allen consulted with PROS Consulting to review maintenance practices within the Parks and Recreation Department. This chapter is an overview of key findings, current practices, costs of services and recommendations. The complete assessment with all findings and recommendations can be found in Appendix A.

Parks and amenities that are clean and functioning efficiently are a critical element to delivering high quality programs and services. The Allen Parks and Recreation Department actively maintains 1527.78 acres of parks, grounds and special use areas as well as 78.69 miles of hike and bike trails in the City.

There are 3 recommended levels of maintenance within the City of Allen. Below is a definition of each level:

MAINTENANCE MODE/LEVEL 1

Maintenance Mode/Level 1 (Mode/Level 1) applies to parks or sites that require the greatest level of maintenance standard in the system. These parks or sites are often revenue producing facilities where the quality and level of maintenance has a direct impact on the park facility's ability to maximize revenue generation.

MAINTENANCE MODE/LEVEL 2

Maintenance Mode/Level 2 (Mode/Level 2) applies to parks or sites that require a moderate level of effort and maintenance standards in the system. These include developed parks with amenities that are heavily used and the other community and neighborhood parks, and special-use facilities.

MAINTENANCE MODE/LEVEL 3

Maintenance Mode/Level 3 (Mode/Level 3) applies to parks or sites that require a nominal level of effort and maintenance standards in the system. These generally include undeveloped/passive parks with minimal amenities.



Key Findings

LINES OF SERVICE

The core lines of service (functions) performed by the Parks Maintenance Divisions are numerous. The lines of service are as follows:

Parks, Facilities, & Grounds Lines of Services	
Athletic Field - Game Preparation	Natural Resource / Open Space Management
Athletic Field Maintenance (Diamond and Multi-Purpose Fields)	Park Structure Maintenance
Responding to citizen inquiries	Park Permit / Special Event Facilitation
Special Event Support	Playground Maintenance
Dog Park Maintenance	Public Facility Grounds Maintenance
Equipment Maintenance	Repair/Graffiti/Vandalism Abatement
Facility Maintenance	Restroom Custodial Services
Maintenance of Furniture, Fixtures, Systems (benches, lighting, trash cans, etc.)	Snow and Ice Removal
Integrated Pest Management	Sport Court Maintenance (Basketball, Tennis, Sand Volleyball Courts)
Irrigation system operation and maintenance	Storm Clean-up
Aquatic feature management	Trail Maintenance
Landscape Beautification (Medians)	Turf Management
	Court appointed community service management
Maintenance Yard Management	

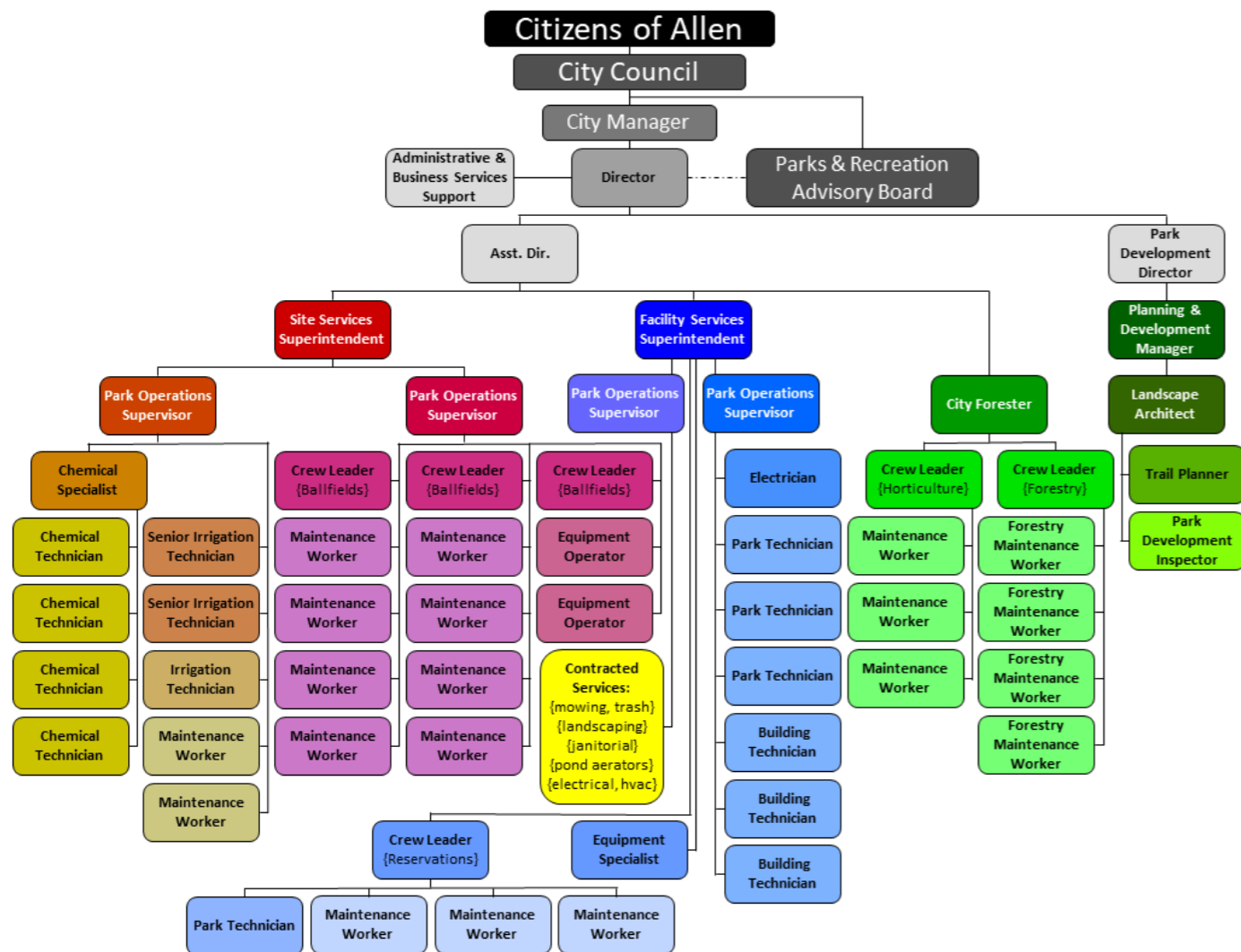
Urban Forestry Lines of Service	
Responding to citizen inquiries	Traffic Safety Management
Special Event Support	Trail Clearing
Education	Tree Inspections and Protection
Equipment Maintenance	Tree Planting
Integrated Pest Management	Tree Pruning and Maintenance
Storm Clean-up	Tree Removal
	Volunteer Management

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS & DEVELOPMENT OF WORK PLANS

- ✓ **Athletic Fields & Parks:** Through the review of data and workshops with staff, it has been determined that the Site and Facility Divisions have best practice maintenance standards with task, frequency and season of year in which work is performed in parks.
- ✓ **Greenbelts (Trails):** The Horticulture/Forestry and Facility Divisions have formal maintenance standards in place to manage and maintain recreation corridors.
- ✓ **Urban Forestry:** The Horticulture/Forestry Division has a formalized Urban Forest Maintenance Management Plan in place that utilizes best practice maintenance standards to maintain Allen's Urban Forest.

STAFFING

The following is the organizational chart for the Park Maintenance Divisions:



STAFFING CONT.

- The Site and Facility Divisions are comprised of 42 full-time employees that directly provide parks, grounds and athletic field maintenance services in the city's parks.
- The Horticulture/Forestry Division has 10 full-time employees dedicated to managing the city's urban forest and landscapes.
- The Facility Division, as noted, has staffing to manage the third party contracts that provide the following ongoing maintenance functions within the park system:
 - Non-athletic/specialty turf mowing
 - Trash and Janitorial/Custodial Services
 - Landscape Beautification
 - HVAC Maintenance and Repair
 - Pond and aquatic aerator Maintenance

- A review of these contracts by the consulting team indicate scopes of work that are in-line with best practice maintenance standards.

- The Park Maintenance Divisions do not have a full time dedicated crew to managing the 78.69 miles of hike and bike trails in the City.

- The Park Maintenance Divisions do not have dedicated resources for open space/natural area management.



WORK ORDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Park Maintenance Divisions utilize a work order management system that identifies maintenance work orders, however, it does not appear that the work order management system is utilized to track cost of service, labor hours expended by park classification, or life cycle replacement schedules of the assets within the park system. The Department has begun exploring a life cycle replacement schedule during the development of this plan.

EQUIPMENT & RESOURCES

Staff currently has the necessary equipment and/or resources to perform tasks, however, there is a significant concern that resources are not consistently available to replace aging equipment. The inability to “life cycle replace” equipment can significantly impact the efficiency in which the parks system is maintained and create inconsistencies in managing to the maintenance standards that have been created to ensure safe, high quality experiences for residents.

THIRD PARTY PARTNERSHIPS / CONTRACTING OF SERVICES

Given the fluctuations that can occur in the local economy, it is recommended that the Park Maintenance Divisions continue to periodically evaluate the capacity and cost of service in the private sector as well as partnership and volunteer opportunities with the community. Currently, the Site and Facility Divisions do track unit activity costs and analyzes the unit cost to perform work internally against the unit cost to perform work by a third-party vendor or volunteer group. A key consideration that the division should weigh is the impact of contracting out services against the resulting permanent loss of labor hours that are necessary to nimbly and effectively manage the high expectations of the community and the multitude of services requested.

COST OF SERVICES

The following provides a cost of service analysis based on the FY 2022 adopted budget for the Park Maintenance Divisions.

- 108,740 = Population of the City of Allen
- 27.1 = Number of square miles of the City of Allen
- 4,011 = Number of people per square mile in the City of Allen
- 1,827.75 = Total Acreage of the park system
 - 1,527.78 = Acreage of the park system actively managed and maintained
- \$6,688,639 = Annual funding allocated for park maintenance
 - \$4,378.24 cost per acre (actively managed and maintained acres)
- Level 2 Maintenance Standard = \$7,500 per acre*
 - Although the Parks Division is under funded, they are exceptionally effective and efficient in delivering high quality park experiences with the resources allocated for parks maintenance.

*Best Practice Cost per Developed Park Acre as defined by the National Recreation and Parks Association 2021 Agency Performance Review and the numerous cost of service projects that PROS Consulting has performed across Texas in the last 25 years.



Park Maintenance Key Recommendations

UTILIZE THE WORK ORDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A work order system should be used not just to capture work completed but also to track lifecycle maintenance requirements that are tied to weekly and monthly work orders. This will help the staff to stay ahead of preventative maintenance and limit equipment breakdowns. Further, utilizing the system will provide staff the necessary “actual cost” data for work being performed.

EMERGING FUNCTIONS

As the park system evolves and expands, the Park Maintenance Divisions do not currently have the capacity to manage the following emerging functions of work. Consideration should be given to adding staff and/or expanding contract services to meet the labor demands of these emerging functions.

EMERGING FUNCTION	EXPLANATION
Trail Maintenance	City is aggressively pursuing the expansion of its trail system
Open Space/Natural Resource Management	The City currently has 198.9 acres of reserve lands that are not being actively managed

*Excludes Terrell Park (currently under construction) and undeveloped portions of Spirit Park



COST AVOIDANCE

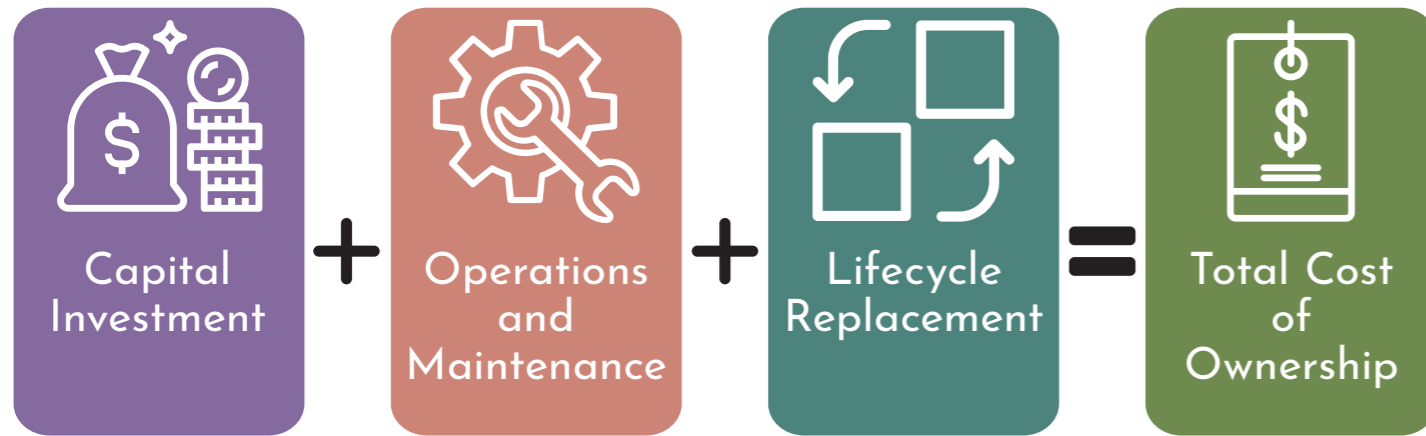
Maintenance operations dollars are typically spent in divisions that do not have direct revenue sources that can offset expenditures. There are opportunities, however, to reduce expenditures through the following strategies.

- ✓ **Adopt-a-Trail Programs:** These are typically small-grant programs that fund new construction, repair or renovation, maps, trail brochures, and facilities (bike racks, picnic areas, birding equipment, etc.), as well as providing maintenance support. These programs are similar to the popular “adopt-a-mile” highway programs most states utilize. Adopt-a-trail programs can also take the form of cash contributions in the range of \$12,000 to \$16,000 per mile to cover operational costs.
- ✓ **Adopt-a-Park Programs:** These are small-grant programs that fund new construction and provide maintenance support. Adopt-A-Park programs can also take the form of cash contributions in the range of \$1,000 to \$5,000 per acre to cover operational costs.
- ✓ **Operational Partnerships:** Partnerships are operational funding sources formed from two separate agencies, such as two government entities, a non-profit and a public agency, or a private business and a public agency. Two partners jointly share risk, operational costs, responsibilities, and asset management based on the strengths of each partner.



Annual Park Operation & Maintenance Funding

It is critically important to view the financial sustainability of the Parks and Recreation System through the concept of “Total Cost of Ownership” as shown in the graphic below.



Based on the analysis noted previously, the Park Maintenance Divisions will need to closely monitor resources to ensure that the assets of the park system reach the anticipated lifecycles. It is recommended that the Park Maintenance Divisions funding grows to accommodate new park development in the future.

As the system grows, the following guidelines, as defined by the National Recreation and Parks Association 2021 Agency Performance Review, should be utilized to identify annual operational funding required to maintain additional park acreage:

- Athletic Fields Focused Community Parks:
 - \$3,000 - \$7,000 per synthetic turf multi-purpose field;
 - \$12,000 - \$18,000 per natural turf rectangular field;
 - \$18,000 - \$25,000 per diamond field;
 - \$5,000 general acreage (not including athletic fields).
- General Community Parks: \$10,000 - \$12,000 per acre
- Neighborhood Parks: \$12,000 - \$18,000 per acre
- Open Space: \$300 - \$600 per actively managed acre
- Pocket Parks: \$18,000 - \$25,000 per acre
- Ornamental Areas: \$.05-\$.10 per square foot
- Regional Parks: Costs varies dependent upon amenities
- Special Use Parks: Costs varies dependent upon amenities
- Greenbelts/Linear Parks/Trails: \$5-\$5,500 per acre

**Please note, maintenance costs typically increase 2-3% annually.*

STAFFING LEVEL STANDARDS

The City of Allen does not currently have best practice park maintenance staffing level standards in place. It is recommended that the Parks Division utilize the following labor hour standards as developed by PROS Consulting as it continues to reorganize and expand the department as needed to provide safe and clean parks that provide high quality experiences.

- Neighborhood Parks: 250-300 annual labor hours per acre maintained at a level 2 standard.
- Community Parks: 200-250 annual labor hours per acre maintained at a level 2 standard.
- Regional Parks: 150-200 annual labor hours per acre maintained at a level 2 standard.
- Athletic Fields: 1 FTE for every 4-6 athletic fields maintained at a level 2 standard.
- Special Use Parks: Varies based on amenities within the park



Chapter 9



Implementation Schedule

Implementation Schedule

The following Implementation Schedule presents action items that are based on the needs, recommendations and priorities found in this plan. The following Implementation Schedule is intended to be a flexible guide for development of parks and facilities over the next ten years. The City should evaluate and change the order of implementation if necessary and/or take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities that may arise that are not identified in this schedule as long as it fits the goals and objectives of this plan. The purpose of this Implementation Schedule is to provide a framework to assist with future park and community development planning in

the City. An estimated project cost has been provided for each project to help the City budget accordingly for the future. There are various types of Local, State and Federal funding sources available to develop new parks and renovate existing parks in Allen. Although not every funding source will be available for every project, it is important to note that more than one funding source may be used per project depending on the scope and size of the project. A list and description of funding sources can be found on page 226 of this plan. When reviewing this document and budgeting into the future, it is important to note that land acquisition, design and engineering are not included in the estimated cost.

Underway	
Project	Projected Cost
Allen Station Playground Replacement	\$880,000
Bethany Lakes Loop Trail	\$435,824
Bethany Lakes Park Adaptive / Inclusive Improvements	\$220,501
CUTX Event Center Retractable Seating - East End	\$1,001,788
Dog Park	\$1,500,000
DRN Slide Replacement	\$852,274
Erosion Study	\$190,000
Ford Park Master Plan	\$132,000
Heritage Village Pavilion, Barn & Improvements	\$2,205,059
Molsen Farm Master Plan	\$117,500
Molsen Farm Trail Head	\$404,690
Park/Playground Shade Program FY22	\$330,000
Rolling Hills Park Expansion	\$1,779,910
Rowlett Trail Construction - Ridgeview to Exchange (seg A)	Included in STRC project
Stephen G. Terrell Recreation Center & Community Park	\$55,539,363
TCWC Improvements (Pond Aerators, Split Rail Fencing & Gates, Range Turf Mat Replacement)	\$225,000
Trail Marker Program	\$100,000

Tier I	
Project	Projected Cost
ADA Transition Plan (anticipated start in FY23)	\$132,000
ADA Transition Plan - Outcomes and Annual Upgrades	TBD
Celebration Park - Kidmania Playground Replacement (anticipated start in FY25)	\$4,584,195
CUTX Event Center Dasher System & Glass Replacement (anticipated start in FY24)	\$1,039,500
Eugene McDermott Park Trail (seg C-1 & C-2) (anticipated start in FY25)	\$3,600,000
Ford Park Redevelopment	TBD
Molsen Farm Development	TBD
Multi-purpose Sport Court Needs Assessment Study (anticipated start in FY25)	\$72,765
Playground Replacements Tier I-A {see schedule} (anticipated start in FY23)	\$360,561
Playground Replacements Tier I-B {see schedule} (anticipated start in FY24)	\$623,700
Playground Replacements Tier I-C {see schedule} (anticipated start in FY25)	\$363,825
Playground Shade Tier I-A {see schedule} (anticipated start in FY23)	\$79,200
Playground Shade Tier I-B {see schedule} (anticipated start in FY24)	\$69,300
Rowlett Trail Construct - South Section (seg C-4* & C-5*) (anticipated start in FY23)	\$4,620,000
Security Camera Study (anticipated start in FY23)	\$132,000
Land Acquisition	TBD

Tier II (anticipated start in four to six years)	
Project	Projected Cost
Allen Station Softball Infield Replacement	\$3,361,743
Cottonwood Bend Park Redevelopment	TBD
Custer Meadows Park Renovation	\$673,877
Eugene McDermott Park Trailhead	\$3,208,937
JFRC Expansion/Redevelopment/Modernization	TBD
Playground Replacements Tier II-A {see schedule}	\$1,222,452
Playground Replacements Tier II-B {see schedule}	\$1,283,575
Playground Replacements Tier II-C {see schedule}	\$2,021,630
Playground Shade Tier II-A {see schedule}	\$152,807
Playground Shade Tier II-C {see schedule}	\$84,235
Spirit Park Phase II	\$9,055,218
Spirit Park Turf Replacement	\$4,211,729
Suncreek Park Redevelopment	TBD
TEVC Rink Renovation	\$1,042,904
Land Acquisition	TBD

Tier III (anticipated start in seven to ten years)	
Project	Projected Cost
Allen Community Ice Rink Expansion	
Allen Trail Segments	
Bolin Park Redevelopment	
Bolin Soccer Improvements	
Celebration Park Great Lawn Lighting	
Celebration Pass Trail - Main St south (seg I)	
Cottonwood Trail (seg G)	
CUTX Event Center Food & Beverage Renovations	
Environmental Education Center	
Ford Pool - Splash Pad Addition	
Mustang Trail Improvements	
Playground Replacements Tier III-A {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier III-B {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier III-C {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier III-D {see schedule}	
Ridgeview / 75 Overpass Trail / Landscaping	
Steam Locomotive Shed & Site Amenities	
Land Acquisition	

Tier IV (unscheduled priority projects)	
Project	Projected Cost
Aerator Lighting Installations	
Allen Dr Fly-over / Landscape & Art	
Allen Station Baseball Improvements	
Bethany Ridge Phase II	
Celebration Park Improvements	
Cottonwood Trail Redevelopment (seg H & +)	
Cottonwood Trail Redevelopment (seg H-2*)	
CUTX Event Center Renovation	
CUTX Event Center Retractable Seating - Bowl	
DRN Aquatic Improvements	
Eugene McDermott Park	
Lost Creek Park Redevelopment	
Old Custer Linear Park	
Playground Replacements Tier IV-A {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier IV-B {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier IV-C {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier IV-D {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier IV-E {see schedule}	
Playground Replacements Tier IV-F {see schedule}	
Rails to Trails (seg J, K, L, & M)	
Russell Branch Trail (seg C-3)	
TCWC Back 9 Restroom	
TCWC Clubhouse Remodel	
TCWC Greens, Bunkers, Cart path renovations	
TCWC Turn Snack Bar Remodel	
Twin Creeks GC Trail Reconstruction (seg B & additional)	
Underpass Trail Lighting	
Watters Branch Trail Construction (seg F-2*)	
Watters Branch Trail Expansion (seg D, E, & F)	
Land Acquisition	

Tier V (unscheduled)	
Project	Projected Cost
Adventure Park	
Allen Station Phase III	
Amphitheater Master Plan	
Celebration Park Signage	
Cemetery Renovation	
Downtown Park	
Exterior Digital Signs	
Fox Hollow Recreation Area Improvements	
Holiday Decorations	
Mobile Video Trailer	
Outdoor Fitness Stations	
Park Signage	
Recreation Hall Demolition	
TCWC Driving Range Improvements	
Tennis Center	
Trash Can Replacement Program	
Land Acquisition	

****Notes:**
 Costs include contingency and are projected for inflation at an initial rate of 10% and 5% annually thereafter.
 Projects may move from tier to tier depending on future circumstances.
 Reference Parks and Recreation Department Ten Year Plan for project costs yet to be determined or not list.



PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE

The City of Allen has continually replaced and enhanced playgrounds as the systems continue to age and become outdated. It is imperative the City continues to focus on playground replacements throughout the community to update and enhance parks as well as keep them current and safe. Playground development costs can change depending on the brand, existing site conditions, safety surfacing material and whether or not shade structures are provided. Each playground design and installation is unique to each park, therefore the City will decide during the

design phase if they want to designate funding specifically for shade structures or dedicate all the budgeted funds for recreational amenities. Most playgrounds range from \$40.00 per square foot to \$90.00 per square foot. A total of \$60.00 per square foot was used to project the estimated cost of playground upgrades, with an additional \$20.00 per square foot for shade (\$80.00 total). These prices are based on 2020 dollars. The playgrounds current square footage was used to develop the new cost.

Underway		
Project	Replacement	Shade
Allen Station Park	X	
Bethany Lakes Park Adaptive / Inclusive Improvements	X	
Dayspring Nature Preserve		X
Orchards Park		X
Rolling Hills Park	X	
Spirit Park		X

Tier I (anticipated start in one to three years)		
Project	Replacement	Shade
Celebration Park - KidMania	X	X
Country Meadows Park	X	
Ford Park	X	X
Green Park		X
Lost Creek Park	X	X
Reed Park	X	

Tier II (anticipated start in four to six years)		
Project	Replacement	Shade
Bethany Lakes Park	X	
Bradford Crossing Park	X	X
Bridgewater Crossing Linear Park	X	X
Cottonwood Bend Park	X	X
Custer Meadows Park	X	X
Quail Run Park	X	X
Stacy Ridge Park	X	
Story Park	X	
Suncreek Park	X	X

Tier III (anticipated start in seven to ten years)		
Project	Replacement	Shade
Allenwood Park	X	
Hillside Play Area	X	
Morgan Crossing Park	X	
Orchards Park	X	
Spring Meadow Park	X	
Twin Creeks Park	X	
Walden Park	X	
Waterford Park	X	
Watters Crossing Park	X	

Tier IV (unscheduled priority projects)		
Project	Replacement	Shade
Bethany Ridge Park	X	
Dayspring Nature Preserve	X	
Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium Play Structure	X	
Ford Pool Play Structure	X	
Glendover Park	X	
Green Park	X	
Greenville Heights Park	X	
Heritage Park	X	
Ridgeview Park	X	
Rolling Hills Park	X	
Spirit Park	X	
Windridge Park	X	



Chapter 10



Funding Mechanisms

Funding Sources

The City of Allen has a variety of different funding opportunities available that can assist with the funding of the proposed projects in this plan. Funding sources typically fall within two different categories: Locally Generated Funds & Community Partnerships, and State & Federal Funding.

LOCALLY GENERATED FUNDS & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

GENERAL FUND

These funds are typically used for smaller projects such as repairs and replacements at existing park facilities.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

These bonds are issued by the city following an election in which the voters authorize their issuance for specific stated purposes, as well as the necessary tax increases to support them. These bonds pledge the property or ad valorem taxing power of the city.

CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION

These certificates have basically the same effect as general obligation bonds except they do not require an election to authorize them. An election can be petitioned by five percent of the registered voters of the city. These certificates are issued on the authorization of the City Council. Repayment is based on the property taxing power of the city, utility system revenues, or a combination of the two.

PARK FEE ORDINANCE

These fees are typically imposed on developers when they bring new development projects into the community. The fees are typically used to ensure that as more development comes to the City, more park land is developed or improved. Each jurisdiction has their own specific ordinance, but typically the city can require the developer to provide land for a park, cash in lieu of the required land or park development fees.

TREE MITIGATION FUNDS

These funds are fees that are imposed on developers when they remove trees in excess of what is allowed by development or tree preservation ordinances. The acquired funds are typically used for tree plantings in city-owned open space and park properties.

USER FEES

This method of financing requires the eventual users to pay a fee for the use of a specific park or facility. User fees can be established to pay for debt service, maintenance, and or operation of the park system.

PRIVATE OR CORPORATE DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS

Donations and/or sponsorships from foundations, corporations, and/or private individuals are often used to acquire/develop parks and operate programs. The city should constantly identify and pursue opportunities to receive such funding. One avenue for receiving donations is through the use of the Texas Parks & Recreation Foundation. This foundation has been developed to help all communities in the State of Texas to maximize the benefits of donations of land, property, and money.

ALLEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (AEDC)

The Allen EDC is in charge of facilitating expansions and relocations of new and existing businesses which can bring in additional tax revenue, local spending and job opportunities. They have multiple incentives to offer qualified businesses and they are awarded on a case-by-case basis according to the type of industry, capital investment, annual payroll and number of jobs created. The EDC can also be used as a resource to access state and national incentive programs.

ALLEN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ACDC)

The Allen CDC administers the proceeds from the tax for land, buildings, equipment and improvements that are suitable for athletics, entertainment, tourism, parks, trails, public spaces and other projects that promote new or expanded business opportunities and improve residents' quality of life. The funds provided by the ACDC can be used towards land acquisition, building and construction, equipment, facilities, targeted infrastructure and improvements. The specific facilities that can use the funds include public parks, sports and athletic facilities, tourism and entertainment facilities and convention facilities; parking and transportation facilities; related street, water and sewer facilities; equipment; and maintenance and operating costs associated with projects.

HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX GRANT

The Texas Tax Code authorizes the City of Allen to impose a local hotel occupancy tax which may be used to fund certain projects or programs which promote and enhance tourism and the convention and hotel industry. This fund is available to qualifying nonprofits or government entities within Allen as a Hotel Occupancy Tax Grant.



Funding Sources

STATE & FEDERAL FUNDING

COLLIN COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE PROJECT FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This is a reimbursement program where the applicant must have matching funds. These funds are primarily used for proposed projects that have goals which are similar to and support or advance the mission of the Collin County Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan.

NCTCOG TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE CALL FOR PROJECTS

These funds are intended for eligible projects such as on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, shared-use paths, and related pedestrian and bicycle safety countermeasures. The North Central Texas Council of Governments looks for projects that align with those identified in their Mobility 2045 plan.

TPWD OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANTS

These grants are intended for communities with a population of less than 500,000 and can be used for the acquisition of parkland, park development or for the renovation of existing parks and open spaces. This grant is a 50% matching grant with a ceiling of \$750,000.

TPWD INDOOR RECREATION GRANTS

These grants are intended for communities with a population of less than 500,000 and can be used for the construction of recreation centers, local community centers, nature centers and other applicable indoor facilities. This grant is a 50% matching grant with a ceiling of \$1.5 million.

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR OUTREACH PROGRAM (CO-OP)

These grants are primarily used to assist non-profits and local governments for recreational programming geared toward under served populations. The intent of the funds are to introduce the importance of environmental education and conservation and provide TPWD mission oriented outdoor recreational activities. This grant is a TPWD Sponsored grant with a minimum funding requirement of \$5,000 and a ceiling of \$50,000.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANTS

These grants are intended for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects; including new trail construction, existing trail improvements, acquisition of trail corridors, trailheads and/or amenities. This grant is federally funded by the Federal Highway Administration and administered by TPWD. This grant is 80 / 20 grant with up to 80% of the project being funded through TPWD with a ceiling of \$300,000 for non-motorized trails and no ceiling for motorized trails.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (HUD)

These funds are federally funded and distributed by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to cities with populations greater than 50,000. The aim of the grant is to address the housing and community development needs in low-income communities through three national objectives: benefiting low-to-moderate income persons, eliminating or preventing slum or blight and meeting an urgent need.

TXDOT SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS-INFRASTRUCTURE (SRTS) PROGRAM

Administered by state departments of transportation, this is a federal grant; there is no local matching needed for these funds. The purpose of the SRTS program is to encourage safe bicycling and walking among schoolchildren. These proposals can be located anywhere in the state, regardless of population size. The SRTS projects must be planned to be within public right of way within 2 miles of a public, charter, or private school serving K-8th grade students. The types of projects typically funded include bicycle infrastructure improvements, shared use paths, sidewalk improvements and infrastructure-related projects to improve safety for non-motorized transportation.

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) GRANTS

These Federal grant funds are administered through TPWD through the Texas Recreation Park Account. Note: If a City applies for an Outdoor Grant, Small Community Grant or Indoor Recreation Grant, TPWD may choose to fund a successful project directly through LWCF with no additional or separate application.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS) PROGRAMS

These funds are primarily used for parks and recreational opportunities and consist of LWCF & Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act (UPARR) dollars. The United States Congress appropriates funds to each State.



Chapter 11



Appendices

Appendix A - Maintenance Analysis & Recommendations
PROS Consulting

Appendix B - NRPA Parallels

Appendix C - Citizen Survey Information

Appendix A

Maintenance Analysis & Recommendations - PROS Consulting

PARKS MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT

Parks and amenities that are clean and functioning efficiently are a critical element to delivering high quality programs and services. The Allen Parks and Recreation Department actively maintains the following acres of parks, grounds and special use areas as well as 78.69 miles of hike and bike trails.

Park Classification	Total Acres	Developed	Undeveloped
Community Parks	187.4	99.5	87.9
Greenbelts	370.5	370.5	0.0
Linear Park	179.1	179.1	0.0
Mini-Neighborhood Parks	2.5	2.5	0.0
Natural Areas	71.1	71.1	0.0
Neighborhood Parks	168.8	168.8	0.0
Open Space	10.9	9.5	1.4
Pocket/Ornamental Areas	3.7	3.7	0.0
Regional Park	304.7	292.9	11.8
Reserve Lands	198.9	0.0	198.9
Special Use Areas	316.0	316.0	0.0
Recreational Easements	14.2	14.2	0.0
Total	1,827.7	1,527.7	300.0

KEY FINDINGS

LINES OF SERVICE

The core lines of service (functions) performed by the Park Maintenance Divisions are numerous. The lines of service are as follows:

Parks and Grounds Maintenance

Parks, Facilities, and Grounds Maintenance Lines of Service	Scheduled Maintenance or As Needed
Athletic Field - Game Preparation	Scheduled
Athletic Field Maintenance (Diamond and Multi-Purpose Fields)	Scheduled
Responding to Citizen Inquiries	As Needed
Special Event Support	Scheduled
Dog Park Maintenance	Scheduled
Equipment Maintenance	Scheduled
Facility Maintenance	Scheduled
Maintenance of Furniture, Fixtures, Systems (benches, lighting, trash cans, etc.)	Scheduled
Integrated Pest Management	Scheduled
Irrigation System Operation & Maintenance	Scheduled
Aquatic Feature Management	Scheduled
Landscape Beautification	Scheduled
Maintenance Yard Management	Scheduled
Natural Resource/Open Space Management	Scheduled
Park Structure Maintenance	Scheduled
Park Permit/Special Event Facilitation	Scheduled
Playground Maintenance	Scheduled
Public Facility Grounds Maintenance	Scheduled
Repair/Graffiti/Vandalism Abatement	As Needed
Restroom Custodial Services	Scheduled
Snow and Ice Removal	As Needed
Sport Courts Maintenance (Basketball, Tennis, Sand Volleyball Courts)	Scheduled
Storm Clean-up	As Needed
Trails Maintenance	Scheduled
Turf Management	Scheduled
Court Appointed Community Service Management	Scheduled

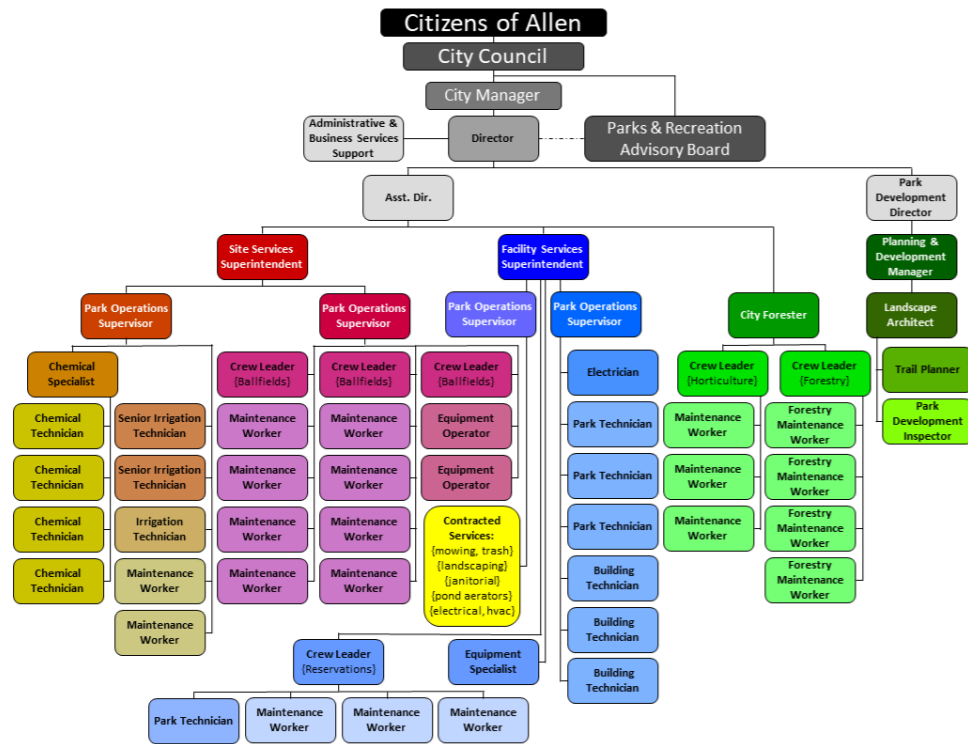
Urban Forestry

Urban Forestry Lines of Service	Scheduled Maintenance or As Needed
Responding to Citizen Inquires	As Needed
Special Event Support	Scheduled
Education	Scheduled
Equipment Maintenance	Scheduled
Integrated Pest Management	Scheduled
Storm Clean-up	As Needed
Traffic Safety Management	Scheduled
Trail Clearing	Scheduled
Tree Inspections and Protection	Scheduled
Tree Planting	Scheduled
Tree Pruning and Maintenance	Scheduled
Tree Removal	As Needed
Volunteer Management	Scheduled



STAFFING:

- The following is the organizational chart for the Parks Divisions:



- The Site & Facilities Divisions are comprised of 42 full-time employees that directly provide parks, grounds and athletic field maintenance services in the City's Parks.
- The Horticulture/Forestry Division has 10 full-time employees dedicated to managing the City's Urban Forest.
- The Facilities Division, as noted, does have staff to manage the third party contracts that provide the following ongoing maintenance functions within the park system:
 - Non-athletic/specialty turf mowing
 - Trash and Janitorial/Custodial Services
 - Landscape Beautification
 - HVAC Maintenance and Repair
 - Pond and Aquatic Aerator Maintenance
- A review of these contracts by the consulting team indicates scopes of work that are in-line with best practice maintenance standards.
- The Park Maintenance Divisions do actively manage the 78.69 miles of hike and bike trails in the City; however, they do not have a dedicated crew to do so.
- The Park Maintenance Divisions do not have dedicated resources for open space/natural area management.
- The Park Maintenance Divisions work with Department Administration to manage volunteers.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS AND DEVELOPMENT OF WORK PLANS

- Athletic Fields and Parks:** Through the review of data and workshops with staff, it has been determined that the Park Maintenance Divisions do have best practice maintenance standards with task, frequency and season of year in which work is performed in parks.
 - The execution of the maintenance standards for Athletic Fields and Parks has resulted in excellent condition ratings and high quality experiences for Allen residents.*

- Greenbelts (Trails):** The Horticulture/Forestry and Facilities Divisions have formal maintenance standards in place to manage and maintain recreation corridors.
 - Lack of dedicated staff for maintaining the trail system has resulted in the following issues that need to be addressed:*
 - Inability to proactively maintain the tree canopy adjacent to trails.
 - Inability to clean trails after storms resulting in silt, mud and debris in low-lying areas.
 - In ability to address erosion issues in coordination with the Engineering Department.
- Urban Forestry and Horticulture:** The Horticulture/Forestry Division does have a formalized Urban Forest Maintenance Management Plan in place that utilizes best practice maintenance standards to maintain Allen's urban forest, ornamental areas and cemetery.

WORK ORDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Park Maintenance Divisions utilize a work order management system that identifies maintenance work orders; however, it does not appear that the work order management system is utilized to track cost of service, labor hours expended by park classification.

EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES

Staff currently has the necessary equipment and/or resources to perform tasks; however, there is a significant concern that resources are not consistently available to replace aging equipment. The inability to "lifecycle replace" equipment can significantly impact the efficiency in which the parks system is maintained and create inconsistencies in managing to the maintenance standards that have been created to ensure safe, high quality experiences for residents.

THIRD PARTY PARTNERSHIPS/CONTRACTING OF SERVICES

Given the fluctuations that can occur in the local economy, it is recommended that the Park Maintenance Divisions continue to periodically evaluate the capacity and cost of service in the private sector as well as partnership and volunteer opportunities with the community. Currently, the Site & Facility Divisions do track unit activity costs and analyzes the unit cost to perform work internally against the unit cost to perform work by a third-party vendor or volunteer group. A key consideration that the divisions should weigh is the impact of contracting out services against the resulting permanent loss of labor hours that are necessary to nimbly and effectively manage the high expectations of the community and the multitude of services requested.

ASSET MANAGEMENT/LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT

The Park Maintenance Divisions are currently developing policy, procedures and processes around creating an asset management/lifecycle replacement schedule for Allen's Parks and Recreation System.

COST OF SERVICES

The following provides a cost of service analysis based on the recommended FY 2022 adopted budget for the Park Maintenance Divisions.

- 108,740 = Population of the City of Allen
- 27.1 = Number of square miles of the City of Allen
- 4,013 = Number of people per square mile in the City of Allen
- 1,827.75 = Total Acreage of the park system
 - 1,527.78 = Developed acreage of the park system that is actively managed and maintained
- \$6,688,639 = Annual funding allocated for park maintenance
 - \$4,378.24 cost per acre (actively managed and maintained acres)
 - Best Practice Cost per Developed Park Acre as defined by the National Recreation and Parks Association 2021 Agency Performance Review and the numerous cost of service projects that PROS Consulting has performed across Texas in the last 25 years.
 - Level 2 Maintenance Standard = \$7,500 per acre

PARKS MAINTENANCE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

UTILIZE THE WORK ORDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A work order system should be used to track lifecycle maintenance requirements that are tied to weekly and monthly work orders. This will help the staff to stay ahead of preventative maintenance and limit breakdowns. Further, utilizing the system will provide staff the necessary “actual cost” data for work being performed. The typical components of a work order management system are as follows:

- Schedule Work Activities
 - Detailed framework for asset management by incorporating GIS into the asset repository. Allows for grouping of assets by location, type, age, or other key parameters. These groupings can then be used to create maintenance activities such as preventive work, reactive work, tests, or inspections.
- Mapping Tools
 - ArcGIS maps are an integral part of the work management process. This allows for the creation of map visualizations of database queries including open work orders, service requests, or work orders of a specific type and assignment. These tools empower both management and staff to interact with asset data.
- Data Mobility
 - A variety of tools to help maintenance staff access and update valuable information while in the field.

- Asset Management
 - Track work performed on any asset at any given time throughout its lifecycle. Users can easily search for active work orders and view them dynamically on the GIS map. Track overdue work orders and monitor work associated with a specific task, contractor, or project.
- Track Unproductive Time
 - A key component of creating an efficient parks maintenance operation is to minimize unproductive time, such as travel time between parks.
 - If travel time on average exceeds the maximum threshold of 2.2 hours for every 8 hour day, it is advisable that the Department evaluate the following to reduce travel time:
 - Development of crews based on geographic sector of the community.
 - Development of satellite maintenance yards.

EMERGING FUNCTIONS

As the park system evolves and expands, the park maintenance divisions do not currently have the capacity to manage the following emerging functions of work.

EMERGING FUNCTION	EXPLANATION
Trail Maintenance	City is aggressively pursuing the expansion of its trail system
Open Space/Natural Resource Management	The City currently has 198.9 acres of reserve lands that is not being actively managed.

Consideration should be given to adding staff and/or expanding contract services to meet the labor demands of these emerging functions.

STAFFING LEVEL STANDARDS

The City of Allen does not currently have best practice park maintenance staffing level standards in place. It is recommended that the park maintenance divisions utilize the following labor hour standards as developed by PROS Consulting as it continues to reorganize and expand the department as needed to provide safe and clean parks that provide high quality experiences.

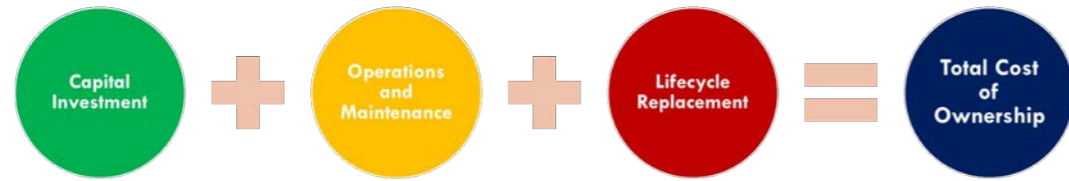
- **Neighborhood Parks:** 250-300 annual labor hours per acre maintained at a level 2 standard.
- **Community Parks:** 200-250 annual labor hours per acre maintained at a level 2 standard.
- **Regional Parks:** 150-200 annual labor hours per acre maintained at a level 2 standard.
- **Athletic Fields:** 1 FTE for every 4-6 athletic fields maintained at a level 2 standard.
- **Special Use Parks:** Varies based on amenities within the park

Managing and maintaining a park system using labor hours per acre as a guide allows management to achieve the right balance between work performed in-house and work performed by third party contractors.



Annual Park Operation and Maintenance Funding

It is critically important to view the financial sustainability of the Parks and Recreation System through the concept of “Total Cost of Ownership” as shown in the graphic below.



Based on the analysis noted previously, the Park Maintenance Divisions will need to closely monitor resources to ensure that the assets of the park system reach the anticipated lifecycles. It is recommended that in order to assist in meeting lifecycle expectations that the Park Maintenance Divisions’ funding grow to accommodate new park development in the future.

As the system grows, the following guidelines, as defined by the National Recreation and Parks Association 2021 Agency Performance Review and the numerous cost of service projects that PROS Consulting has performed across Texas in the last 26 years, should be utilized to identify annual operational funding required to maintain additional park acreage:

- Athletic Field Focused Community Parks:
 - \$3,000 - \$7,000 per synthetic turf multi-purpose field;
 - \$12,000 - \$18,000 per natural turf rectangular field;
 - \$18,000 - \$25,000 per diamond field;
 - \$5,000 general acreage (not including athletic fields).
- General Community Parks: \$10,000 - \$12,000 per acre
- Neighborhood Parks: \$12,000 - \$18,000 per acre
- Open Space: \$300 - \$600 per actively managed acre
- Pocket Parks: \$18,000 - \$25,000 per acre
- Ornamental Areas: \$.05-\$.10 per square foot
- Regional Parks: Costs varies dependent upon amenities
- Special Use Parks: Costs varies dependent upon amenities
- Greenbelts/Linear Parks/Trails: \$5,000-\$5,500 per acre

*Please note, maintenance costs typically increase 2-3% annually.

COST AVOIDANCE

Maintenance funds are typically spent in divisions that do not have direct revenue sources that can offset expenditures. There are opportunities, however, to reduce expenditures through the following strategies.

- **Adopt-a-Trail Programs:** These are typically small-grant programs that fund new construction, repair or renovation, maps, trail brochures, and/or facilities (bike racks,

picnic areas, birding equipment, etc.), as well as providing maintenance support. These programs are similar to the popular “adopt-a-mile” highway programs most states utilize. Adopt-a-trail programs can also take the form of cash contributions in the range of \$12,000 to \$16,000 per mile to cover operational costs.

- **Adopt-a-Park Programs:** These are small-grant programs that fund new construction and/or provide maintenance support. Adopt-A-Park programs can also take the form of cash contributions in the range of \$1,000 to \$5,000 per acre to cover operational costs.
- **Operational Partnerships:** Partnerships are operational funding sources formed from two separate agencies, such as two government entities, a non-profit and a public agency, or a private business and a public agency. Two partners jointly share risk, operational costs, responsibilities, and asset management based on the strengths of each partner.

Appendix B

NRPA Parallels

To improve consensus throughout the Parks and Recreation Department and during the NRPA Park Metric evaluation and comparison, the City of Allen has identified the parallels between the City's parks system and NRPA's definitions.

TOTAL PARKS & TOTAL PARK ACRES

- Include:
 - Regional Parks
 - Community Parks
 - Neighborhood Parks
 - Mini-Neighborhood Parks
 - Ornamental Areas
 - Pocket Parks
 - Greenbelts
 - Linear Parks
 - Special Use Areas
 - Natural Areas
 - Open Space
 - Reserve Land
- Does not include Non-Park Sites



NON-PARK SITES & NON-PARK SITE ACRES

- Include:
 - Medians
 - Non-PARD Facilities:
 - Animal Shelter
 - Library
 - Central Business District
 - Fire Stations
 - Water Towers
 - Pump Stations
 - Lift Stations
 - Service Centers
 - Training Facilities
 - Rights-of-ways
 - Easements



OPEN SPACE - DEVELOPED

- Include:
 - Greenbelts
 - Linear Parks
 - Open Space

OPEN SPACE - UNDEVELOPED

- Include:
 - Natural Areas
 - Reserve Land – Greenbelts
 - Reserve Land – Linear Parks
 - Reserve Land – Natural

Benchmarking Parallels

The park and property classifications have been developed by the City of Allen Parks and Recreation Staff. These definitions are based on the NRPA standards and will be used to improve consensus throughout the Parks and Recreation Department and during the NRPA Park Metric evaluation and comparison. The City of Allen parks system is separated into 13 major categories. Each park category serves a unique purpose. The City of Allen Park Classification and Inventory is as follows:

PARK CLASSIFICATION CATEGORIES

- Include:
 - Regional Parks
 - Community Parks
 - Neighborhood Parks
 - Mini-Neighborhood Parks
 - Ornamental Areas
 - Pocket Parks
 - Greenbelts
 - Linear Parks
 - Special Use Areas
 - Natural Areas
 - Open Space
 - Recreational Easements
 - Reserve Land

TOTAL ACRES OWNED OR MANAGED BY SYSTEM

- All properties and all sites

TOTAL DEVELOPED ACRES

- Regional Parks
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mini-Neighborhood Parks
- Ornamental Areas
- Pocket Parks
- Linear Parks
- Special Use Areas
- Natural Areas

TOTAL UNDEVELOPED ACRES

- Greenbelts
- Reserved Land

TOTAL DEVELOPED OPEN SPACE ACRES

- Greenbelts
- Linear Parks
- Open Space

TOTAL UNDEVELOPED OPEN SPACE ACRES

- Natural Areas
- Reserve Land – Greenbelts
- Reserve Land – Linear Parks
- Reserve Land – Natural Areas
- Reserve Land – Open Space



Facility Types

The Facility Types have been developed by the City of Allen Parks and Recreation Staff. These definitions are based on the NRPA standards and will be used to improve consensus throughout the Parks and Recreation Department and during the NRPA Park Metric evaluation and comparison. The City of Allen parks system is separated into two categories. Each facility category serves a unique purpose. The City of Allen Facility Types are as follows:

INDOOR FACILITIES

- Size: No specific size
- Serve as location for hosting both programmed and unscheduled recreational opportunities and/or special events
- Facilities may include but are not limited to:
 - Arenas
 - Arts and Crafts Spaces
 - Community Centers (Meeting)
 - Convention Centers
 - Fitness Centers
 - Historic/Cultural Structures
 - Ice Rinks
 - Indoor Aquatic Centers
 - Museums (display spaces)
 - Recreation Centers
 - Senior Centers
 - Theaters
 - Youth Centers
 - Concessions



OUTDOOR FACILITIES

- Size: No specific size
- Serve as location for hosting both programmed and unscheduled recreational opportunities and/or special events
- Facilities may include but are not limited to:
 - Amphitheaters
 - Athletic Complexes (Game fields)
 - Cemetery
 - Extreme Sports Venues
 - Group Pavilions
 - Historic Sites
 - Nature Trails
 - Outdoor Aquatic Centers
 - Swimming Pools
 - Spraygrounds / Splashpads
 - Public Art Installation
 - Signature Playgrounds



Use Classifications

The Use Classifications have been developed by the City of Allen Parks and Recreation Staff. These definitions are based on the NRPA standards and will be used to improve consensus throughout the Parks and Recreation Department and during the NRPA Park Metric evaluation and comparison. The City of Allen parks system is separated into six categories. Even through each use serves a unique purpose, some properties may have more than a single use. The City of Allen Use Classifications are as follows:

PASSIVE RECREATION

- Includes but is not limited to the following activities:
 - Environmental Education
 - Fishing
 - Habitat Management
 - Hiking
 - Horseback Riding
 - Interpretation
 - Nature Study
 - Picnicking
 - Reading
 - Strolling
 - Viewing
 - Art Exhibits
 - Cultural Exhibits
 - Gardens
 - Historical Exhibits
 - Landscapes
 - Nature
 - Vistas
 - Walking



ACTIVE RECREATION

- Includes but is not limited to the following activities:
 - Biking
 - Concerts
 - Court Sports
 - Basketball
 - Inline Hockey
 - Tennis
 - Exercising
 - Festivals
 - Field Sports
 - Baseball
 - Cricket
 - Football
 - Lacrosse
 - Rugby
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Golf
 - Radio controlled recreational device operation
 - Swimming
 - Water Play



PRESERVATION

- Fragile or sensitive; protect site, allow only limited use. May be used for scientific or educational purposes.

CONSERVATION

- Moderate constraints; These areas can accept limited development in the form of passive outdoor recreation. Emphasis on protection of ecological elements and processes should be stressed.

DEVELOPMENT/UNDEVELOPED

- A property shall be considered developed once the first phase of planned improvements have been completed.
- Undeveloped property shall be classified as “Reserve Land” and further sub-classified using the “Park Property Type” categories (i.e. “Reserve Land – Neighborhood Park”, “Reserve Land – Linear Park”).

PARK SITES / NON-PARK SITES

- A property shall be considered a non-park site if it is managed and / or maintained by the PARD but does not have a recreational, preservational, or conservational purpose.
- Examples include but are not limited to:
 - Fire Stations
 - Libraries
 - Medians (lacking public art)
 - Police Stations
 - Pump Stations
 - Rights-of-way
 - Service Centers
 - Training Facilities
 - Water Towers

Historical / Cultural Designations

CULTURAL RESOURCE

Cultural resources are human works, be they an object or a place, within the framework of social or artistic pursuits or events that are determined to be valuable due to their association with Allen culture.

HERITAGE RESOURCE

Heritage resources are those resource created by activities from the past, either human or natural, that remain to inform present and future societies of that past.

HERITAGE SITE

Heritage sites are land areas upon which human events occurred in the past; those events being of value in informing the Allen community and visitors about that past. A Heritage Site may or may not be the setting of a remnant architectural example.

HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic resources are those cultural or heritage resources created by activities from the past, either human and natural, that remain to inform present and future societies of that past and are designated “historic” by an authoritative agency in historic resource preservation (e.g., The Allen Water Station, identified in the National Register of Historic Places, by the United States Department of the Interior).

HISTORIC STRUCTURE

Historic Structure is defined in the Allen Land Development Code Article V, Sec. 5.01.3. – Definitions as follows:

Historic structure means any structure that is:

- a. Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
- b. Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
- c. Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of Interior; or
- d. Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
 - i. By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior; or
 - ii. Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.



Appendix C

Citizen Survey Information

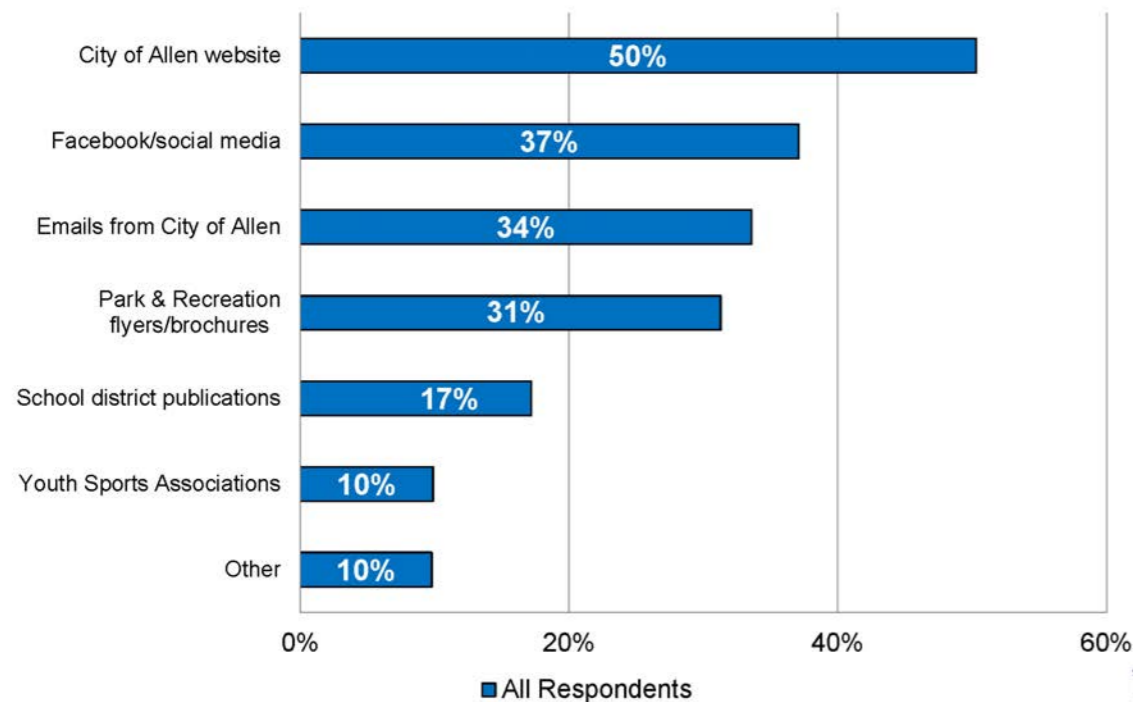
Survey Objectives & Methodology

- **National Service Research (NSR)** completed a comprehensive research study for the City of Allen, Texas as part of the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan. An important aspect of the Master Plan was to conduct a demand and needs assessment which involved citizen input. The purpose of the needs assessment study was to provide a foundation for the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan that will provide guidance based upon citizen needs and priorities. NSR worked closely with MHS Planning & Design and the City of Allen staff throughout the research process.
- In order to complete this study effort, National Service Research designed and conducted an online survey for Allen residents to complete. The survey was posted on the City of Allen website and various social media sites. The online survey was launched November 6, 2019. The survey closed January 31, 2020.
- A total of 1,460 survey responses were received. The margin of error of this sample size at a 95% confidence level is plus or minus 2.6%.
- The City has a population 103,765 within approximately 29,150 households. Median household income is \$107,602.
- The City has 1,188 acres of park land and 60 parks.

Awareness of Parks, Recreation Facilities and Programs

Q. How do you find out about parks, recreation facilities and recreation programs in Allen? N=1,460

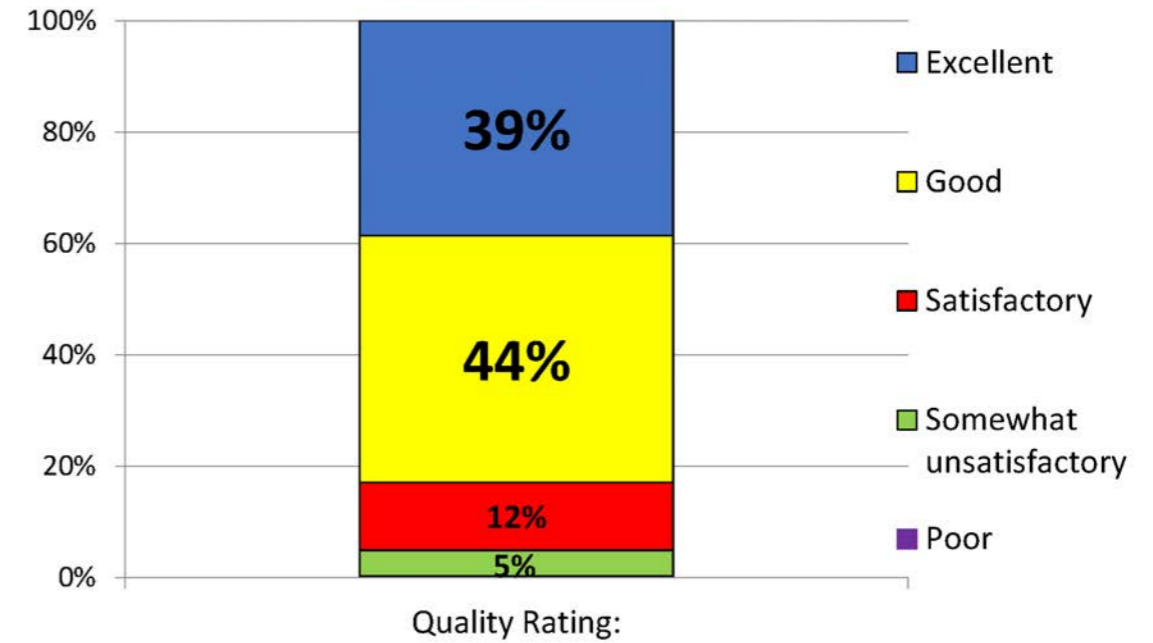
Half of respondents find out about parks and recreation opportunities through the City of Allen website and 37% through Facebook/social media. The primary other answers were; internet/google search/google maps, NextDoor, word of mouth and driving around.



Quality of Park and Recreation Opportunities

Q. How would you rate the quality of parks and recreational opportunities in the City of Allen? N=1,396

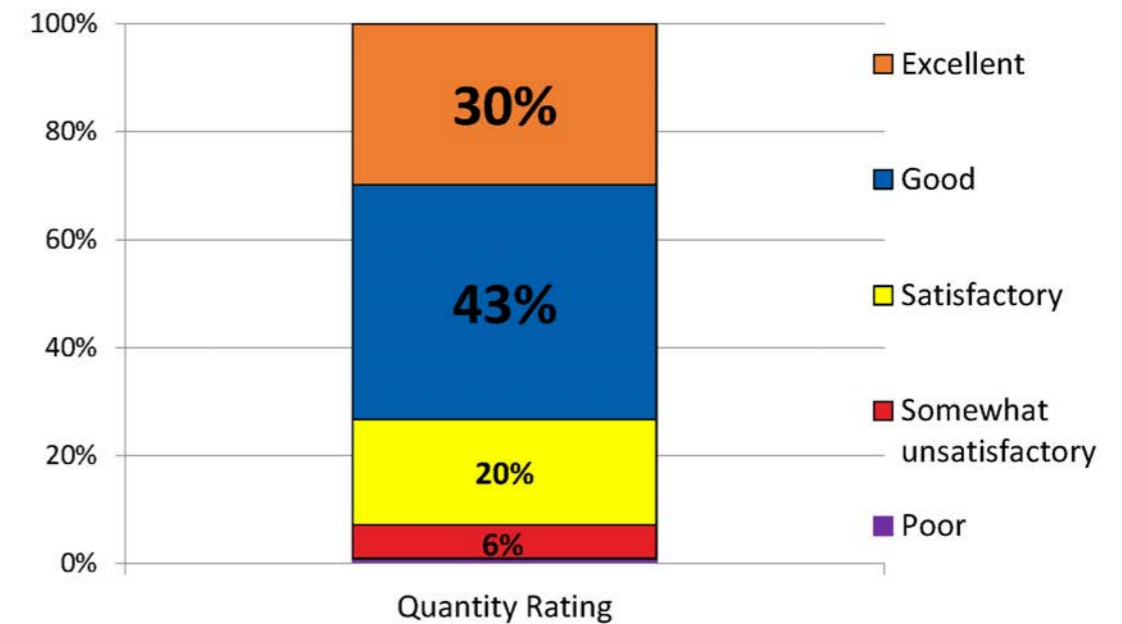
A majority (83%) rated the quality of parks and recreation opportunities as excellent or good.



Quantity of Park and Recreation Opportunities

Q. How would you rate the quantity of parks and recreational opportunities in the City of Allen? N=1,354

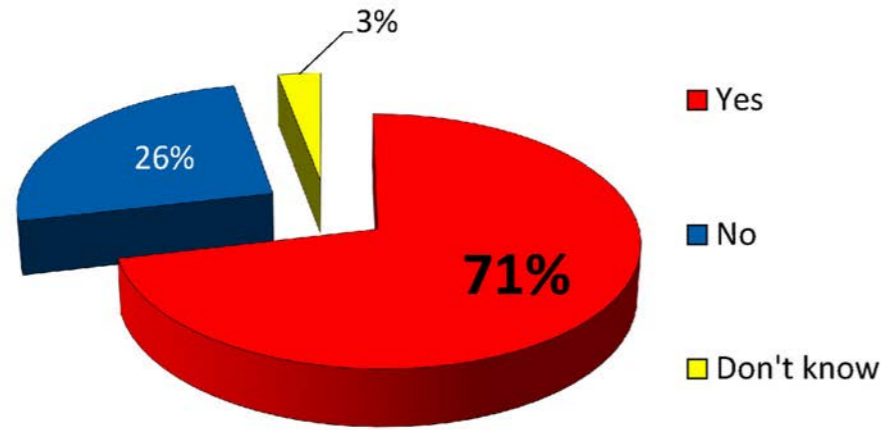
A majority (83%) rated the quantity of parks and recreation opportunities as excellent or good. 20% reported the quantity is satisfactory.



10 Minute Walk to a Park

Q. Can you walk to a City of Allen park within 10 minutes from your home? N=1,316

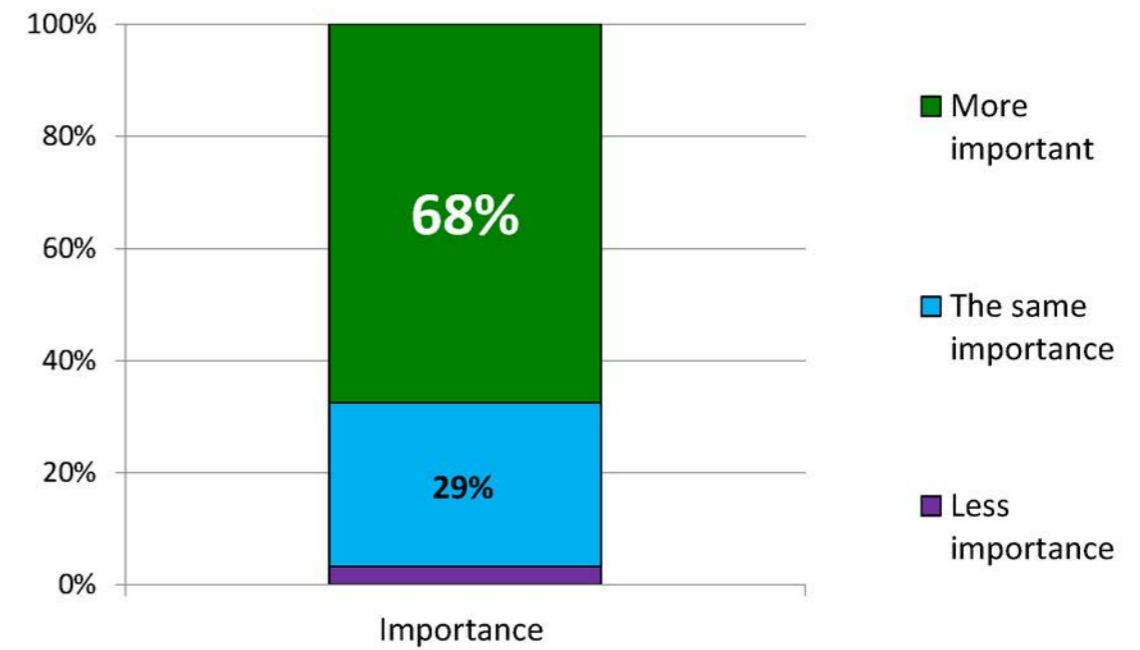
Almost three-fourths of respondents reported they could walk to a City of Allen park within 10 minutes from their home.



Role of Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Q. The role of parks, recreation and open space in Allen today, as compared to 10 years ago is more important, the same importance, or less important to you and your household members? N=1,316

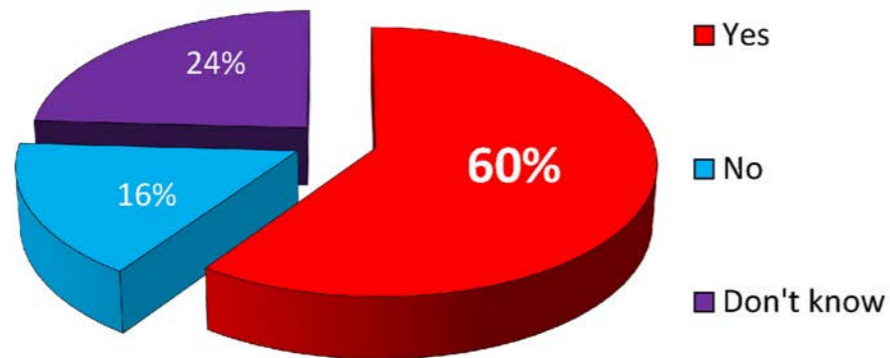
Almost 70% of respondents feel parks, recreation and open space in Allen is more important today compared to 10 years ago.



Joe Farmer Recreation Center

Q. Joe Farmer Recreation Center (1201 E. Bethany Drive) was built in 1995. Do you think it should be expanded/renovated to better meet the needs of our larger population? N=1,316

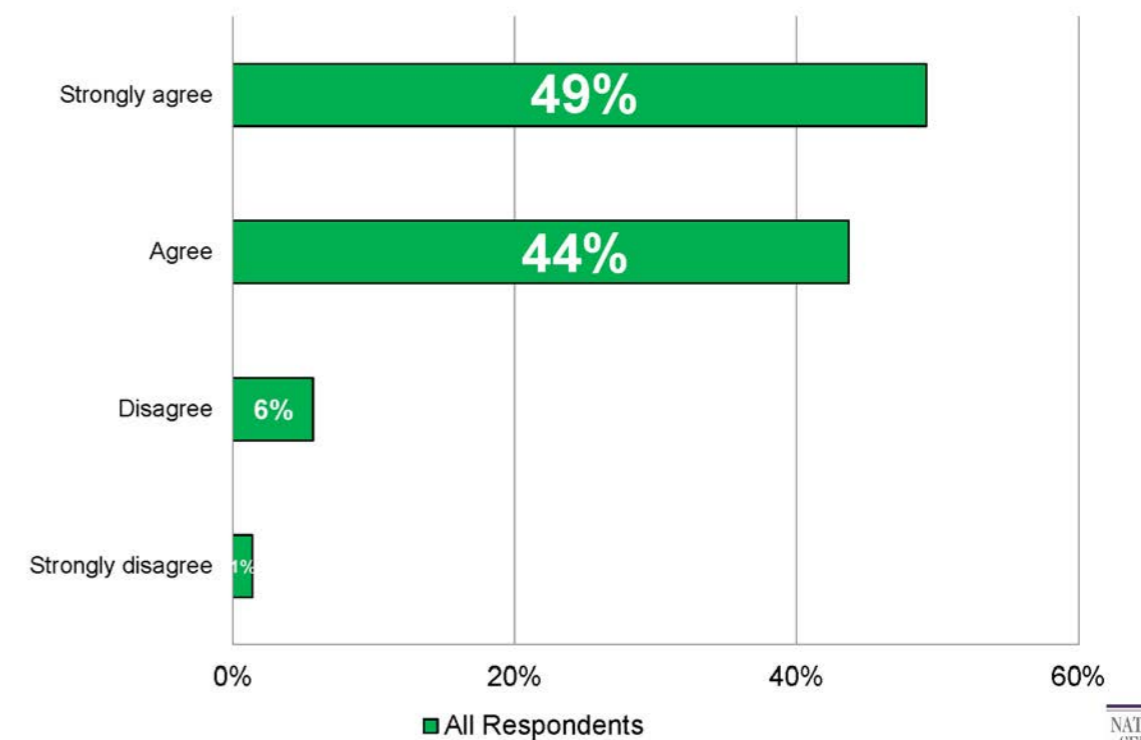
More than half (60%) of respondents feel the recreation center should be expanded/renovated. One-fourth did not know whether it should be renovated or expanded.



Parks and Recreation – Cost to Taxpayers

Q. Parks and recreation facilities in Allen are well worth the cost to taxpayers? N=1,316

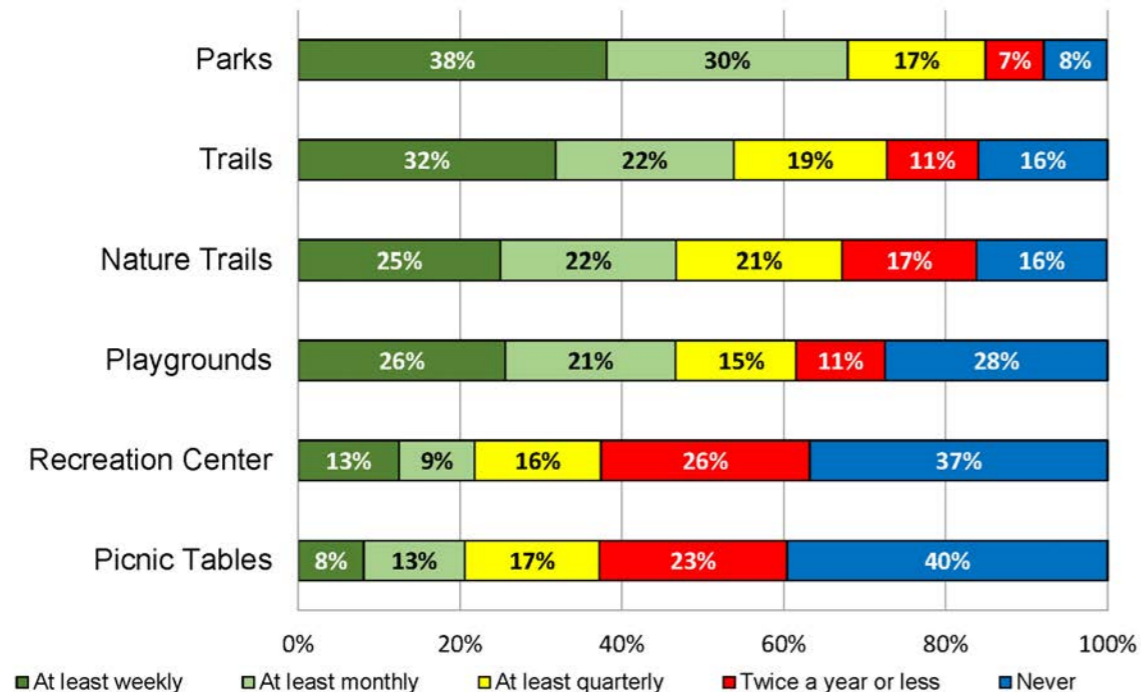
93% of respondents feel parks and recreation facilities in Allen are well worth the cost to taxpayers.



Frequency of Use of Facilities

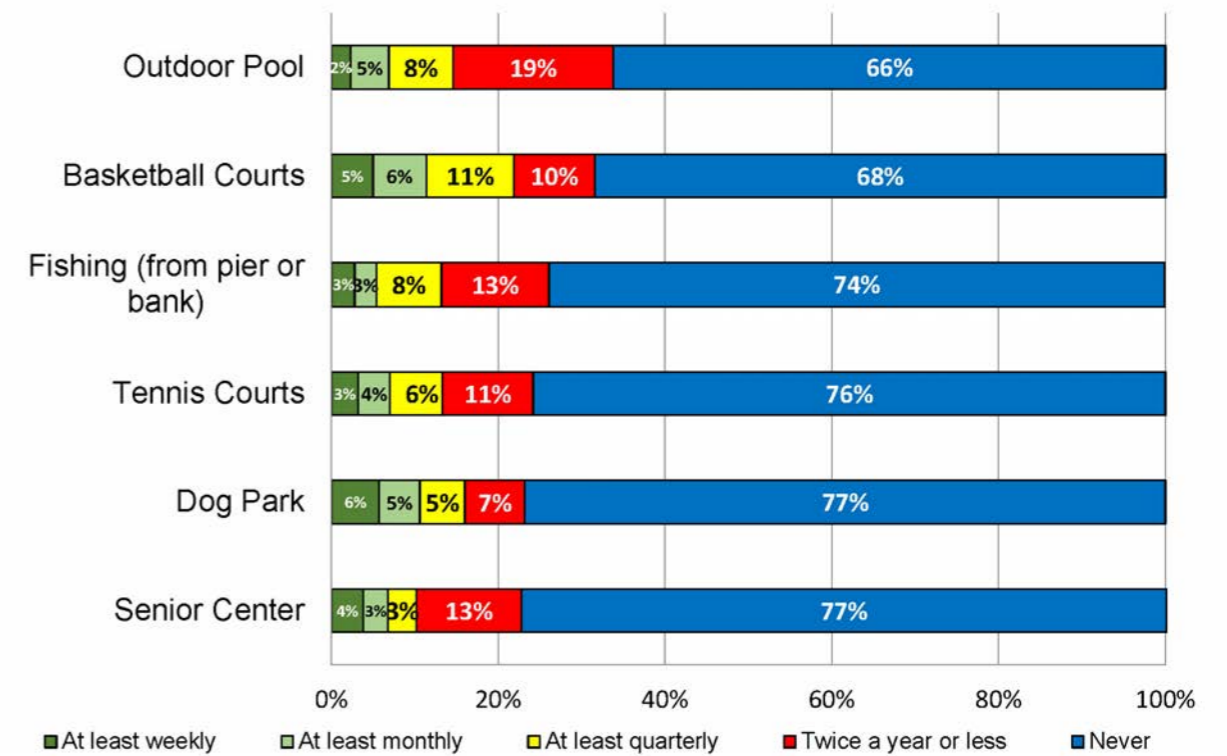
Q. Within the past year, how often have you or someone from your household visited or used these facilities in City of Allen? N=1,214

Parks, trails, nature trails, playgrounds, and the recreation center are the most frequently used facilities in Allen.



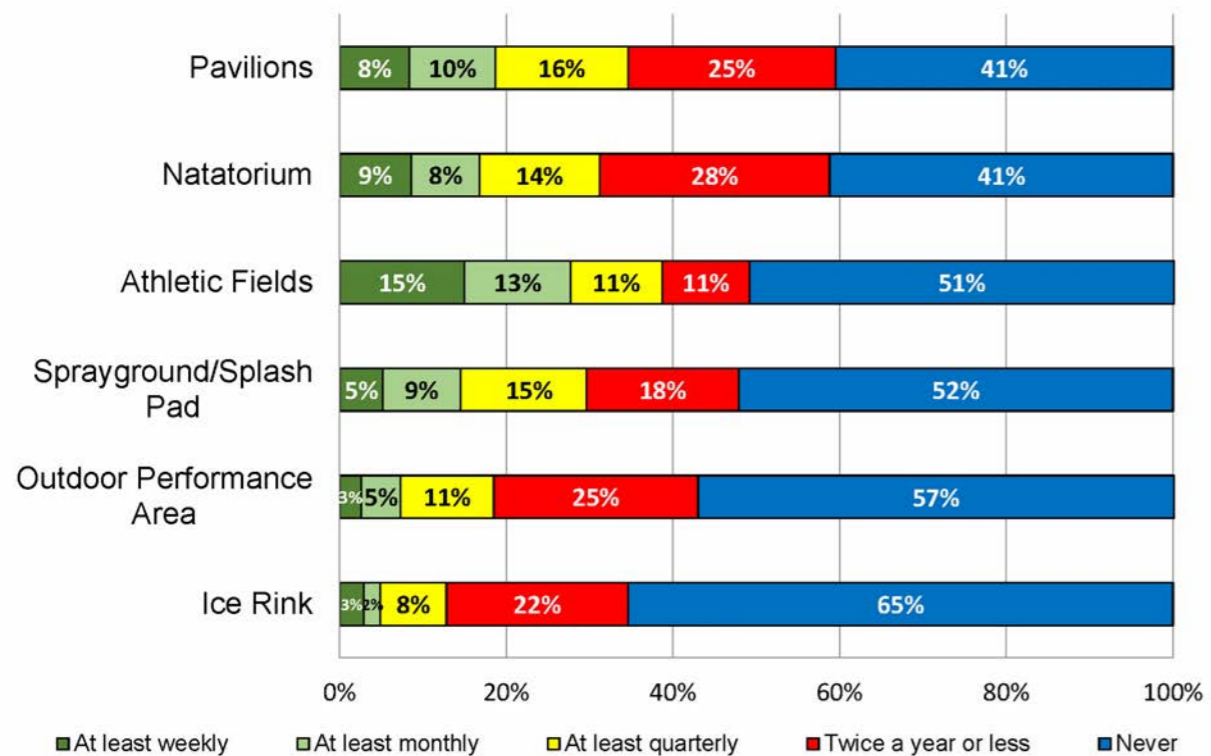
Frequency of Use of Facilities - Continued

Q. Within the past year, how often have you or someone from your household visited or used these facilities in City of Allen? N=1,214



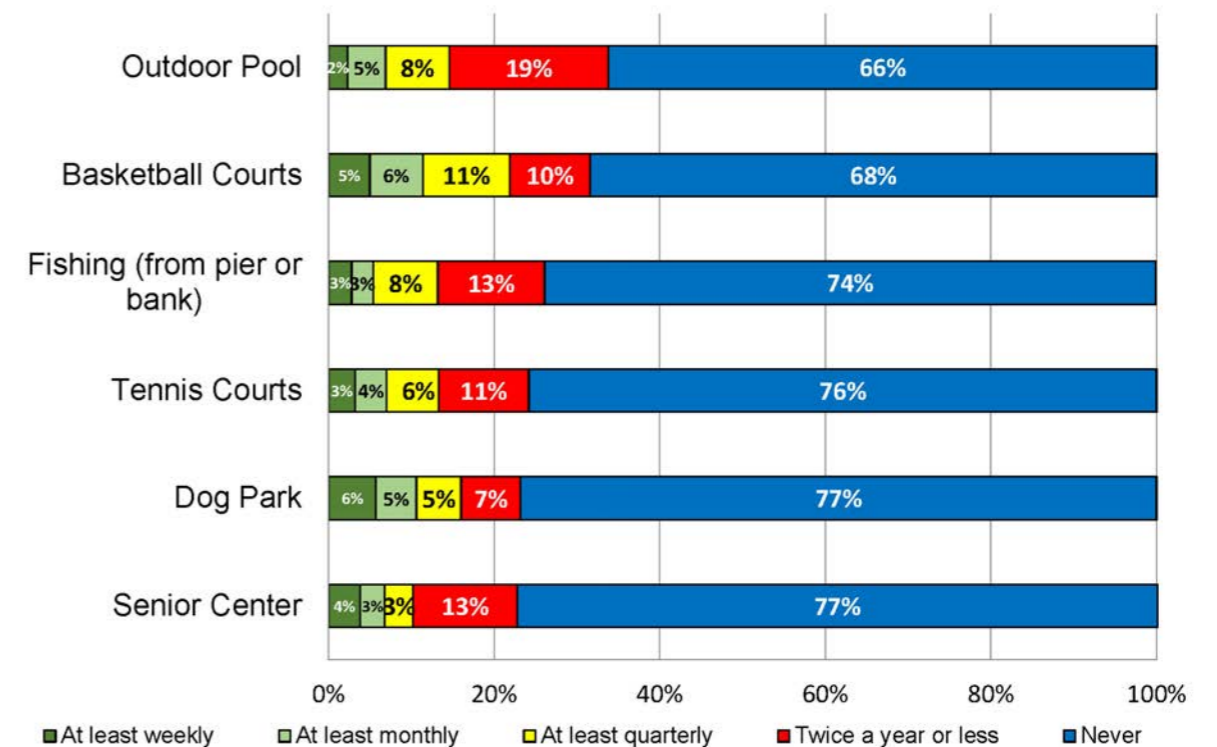
Frequency of Use of Facilities - Continued

Q. Within the past year, how often have you or someone from your household visited or used these facilities in City of Allen? N=1,214



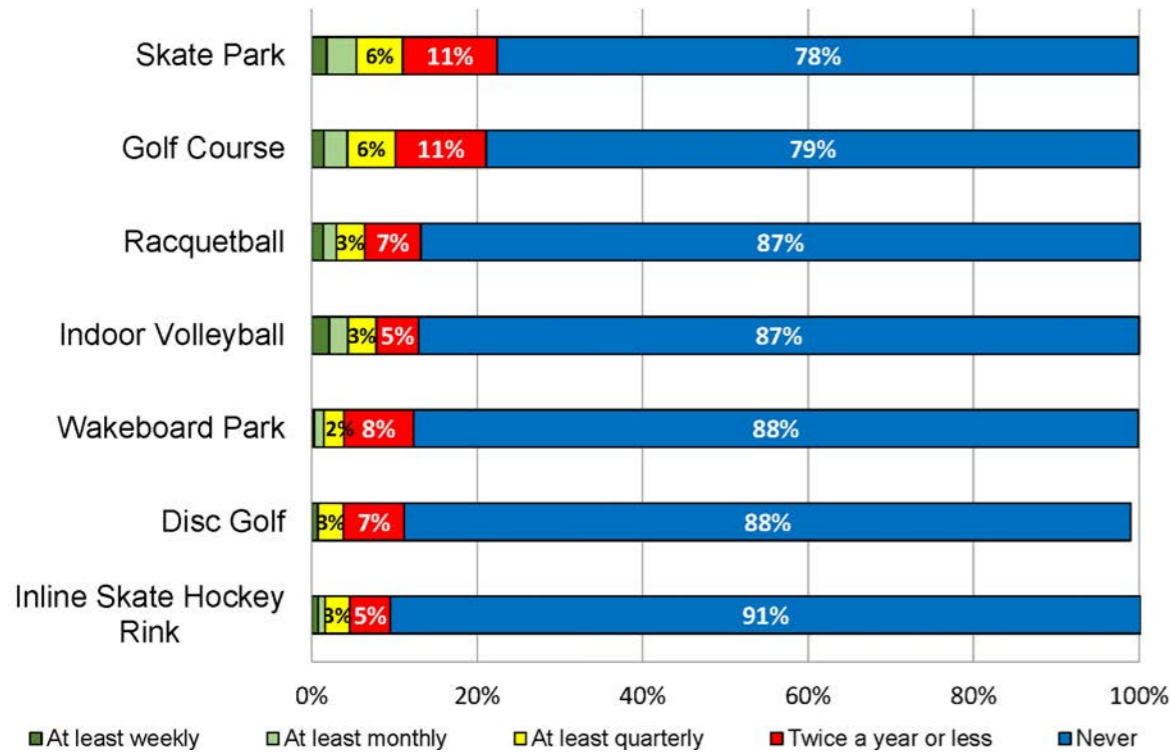
Frequency of Use of Facilities - Continued

Q. Within the past year, how often have you or someone from your household visited or used these facilities in City of Allen? N=1,214



Frequency of Use of Facilities - Continued

Q. Within the past year, how often have you or someone from your household visited or used these facilities in City of Allen? N=1,214



Recreation Program Interest

Q. Which of these would you or your household members (of any age) be most interested in participating? N=1,187

The chart below lists additional programs of interest from the survey respondents.

Programs of Interest	%
Golf lessons	17%
Indoor soccer	16%
Ping pong	16%
Adult sports leagues	16%
Off-road biking	15%
Geocaching	15%
Baseball	14%
Swim meets	14%
Sand volleyball	11%

Programs of Interest	%
Softball	11%
Disc golf	10%
Flag football	10%
Indoor badminton	9%
Pickle ball	8%
Parkour	5%
BMX cycling	5%
Inline hockey	3%
Other	12%

Frequency of Use of Facilities – Used Twice a Year or More

Q. Within the past year, how often have you or someone from your household visited or used these facilities in City of Allen? N=1,214

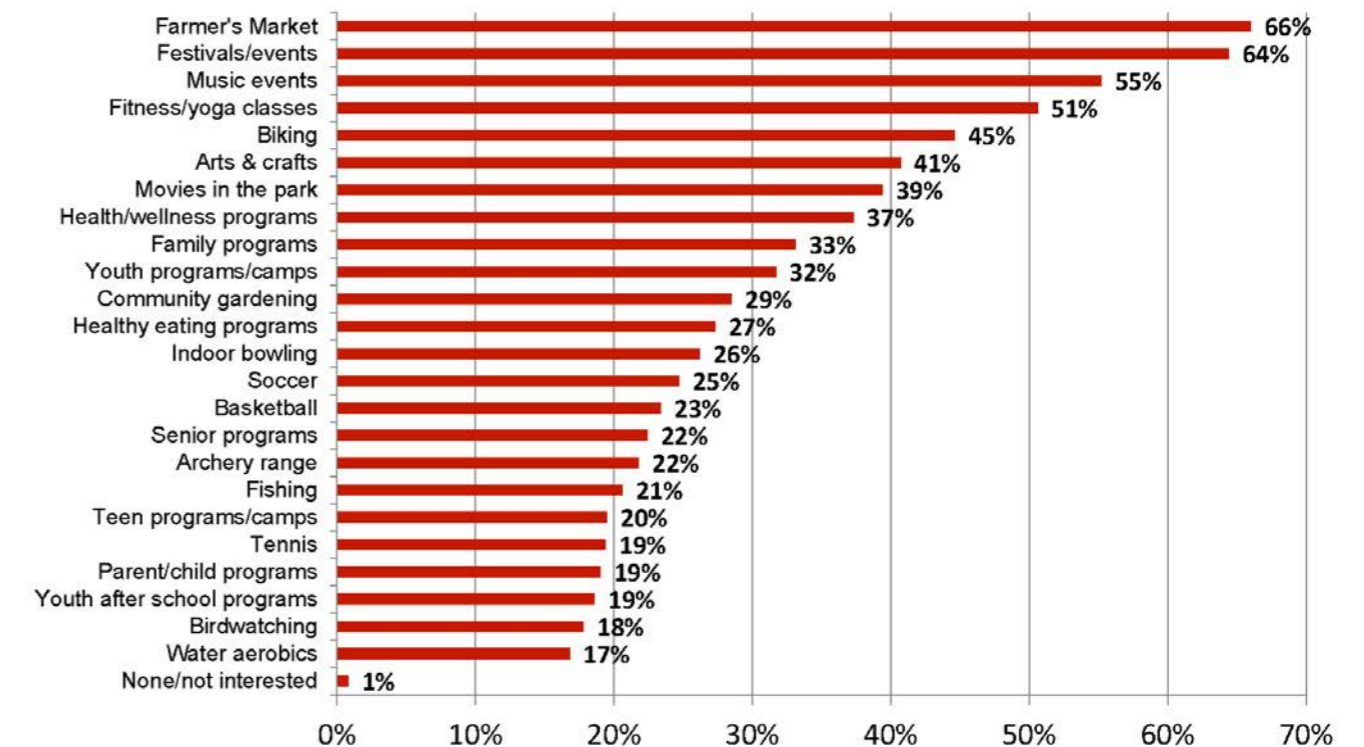
Facility	Used Twice a Year or More
Parks	92%
Trails	84%
Nature Trails	84%
Playgrounds	72%
Recreation Center	63%
Picnic Tables	60%
Pavilions	59%
Natatorium	59%
Athletic Fields	49%
Sprayground	48%
Outdoor Performance Area	43%
Ice Rink	35%
Outdoor Pool	34%

Facility	Used Twice a Year or More
Basketball Courts	32%
Fishing (from pier or bank)	26%
Tennis Courts	24%
Dog Park	23%
Senior Center	23%
Skate Park	22%
Golf Course	21%
Racquetball	13%
Indoor Volleyball	13%
Wakeboard Park	12%
Disc Golf	12%
Inline Skate Hockey Rink	9%

Recreation Program Interest

Q. Which of these would you or your household members (of any age) be most interested in participating? N=1,187

The top 24 programs of interest are presented in the chart. There is high interest in many recreation programs or events.



Most Needed Facilities in City of Allen

Q. The Allen Parks and Recreation Department is establishing priorities to direct future departmental actions. How important is it for Allen to... N=1,120

- The mean score is a calculation of the 4, 3, 2, 1 scores excluding the no opinion responses.
- The priority rank lists, in rank order, the respondents' first, second and third most important facilities or amenities.
- These rankings will provide guidance for the Master Plan priorities.

Facility	4- Very Important	3	2	1- Not Important	No Opinion	Mean Score	PRIORITY RANK
Add shade to playgrounds for children at neighborhood parks	50%	21%	14%	6%	9%	3.27	1
Complete the Rowlett Creek Trail from Plano to McKinney	34	19	17	10	20	2.96	2
Upgrade undersized and/or damaged trails	37	30	19	5	9	3.08	3
Acquire land for additional park areas	33	25	21	12	9	2.86	4
Have special events in parks	30	31	24	6	9	2.92	5
Improve and enhance the maintenance of park facilities	25	33	25	9	8	2.80	6
Design and construct two or more smaller dog parks around town	19	16	18	24	23	2.39	7

Most Needed Facilities in City of Allen - Continued

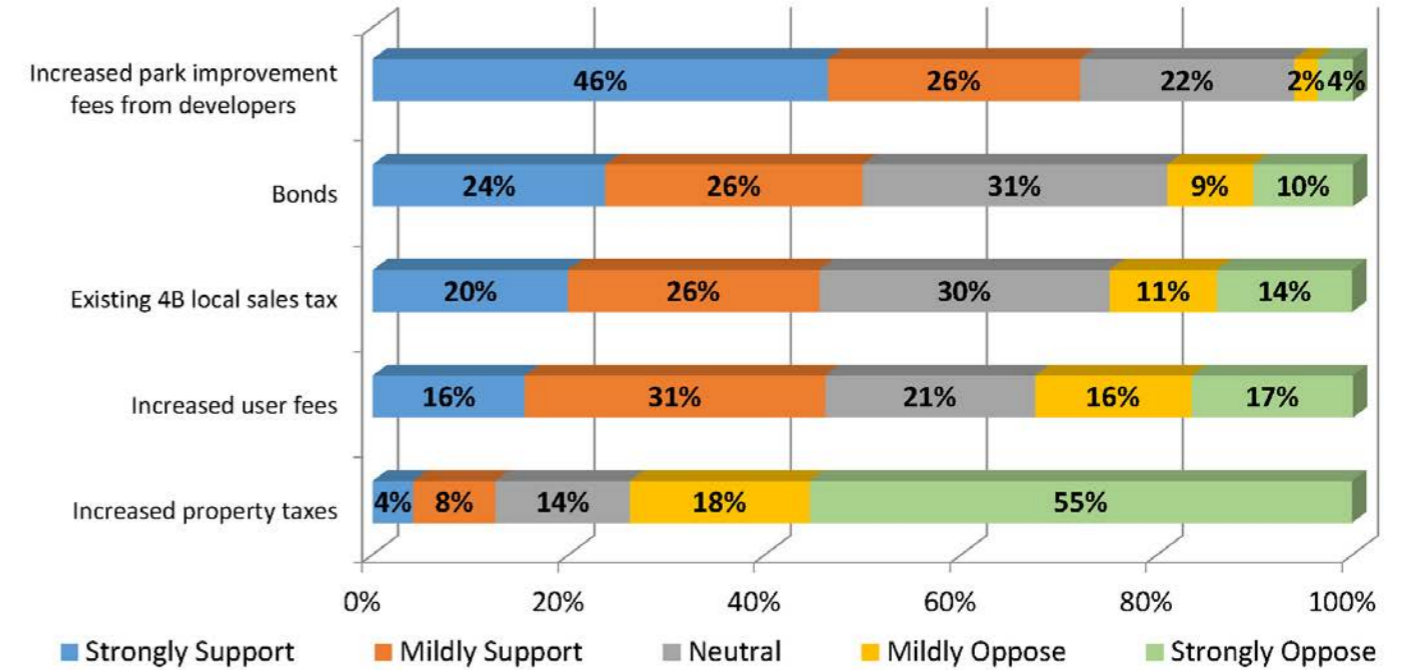
Q. The Allen Parks and Recreation Department is establishing priorities to direct future departmental actions. How important is it for Allen to... N=1,120

Facility	4- Very Important	3	2	1- Not Important	No Opinion	Mean Score	PRIORITY RANK
Have trails connect to and through our Central Business District	31%	23%	22%	11%	13%	2.84	8
Construct spray ground/water splash pads	22	22	23	18	15	2.55	9
Have a community garden	17	20	29	19	15	2.40	10
Design and construct a single large dog park	16	9	21	28	25	2.19	11
Increase the amount of open space along existing creek corridors	27	25	22	13	13	2.76	12
Have additional practice fields	15	15	26	24	20	2.24	13
Have additional multipurpose sports fields	15	16	25	25	19	2.26	14
Have one or more city parks in the Central Business District	22	21	27	14	16	2.62	15

Funding Option Support

Q. How strongly do you support these options to fund new parks and facilities and/or additions to existing parks and facilities? N=1,043

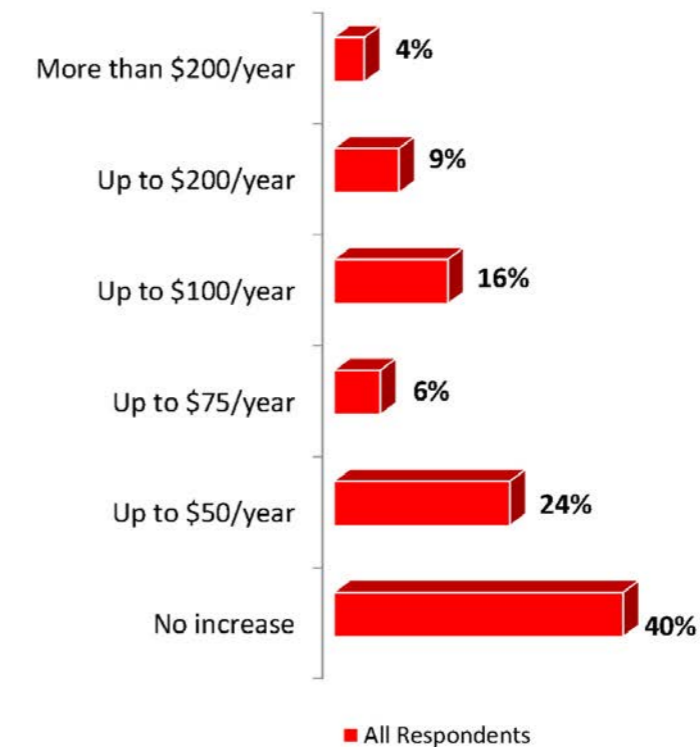
Respondents reported strong and mild support for increased park improvement fees from developers (72%), bonds (50%), existing 4B local sales tax (46%) and increased user fees (47%). 73% mildly or strongly oppose increased property taxes.



Additional Property Taxes Willing to Pay

Q. How much more per year in additional property taxes would you be willing to pay in order to fund the improvement priorities you have suggested in this survey? N=1,043

60% of all respondents are willing to pay some increase in property taxes to fund park improvement priorities.



Additional Comments

Q. Additional information or comments you would like to share to bring to the Park and Recreation Department's attention N=369

A total of 369 respondents provided additional comments. A few comments and common themes are listed below.

- **Dog Park**
 - A dog park should include a splash pad for the dogs. Also the trail along the creek is wonderful. The playgrounds and exercise equipment along the trail is such a benefit. The builders should be required to develop the parks as they build next to trails.
 - Build a dog park
 - Build a dog park to replace the one that was taken out of the Village at Allen should be the highest and fastest priority for the City.
 - The City of Allen needs a dog park for their residents without raising property taxes.
 - I think a dog park, parks, and more trails in the CBD would be a great way to bring business downtown.
 - I would love to see a dog park with a running track.

- **Pool/Recreation Center**
 - Build a rec center on Exchange
 - A new swimming pool on the west side of town and indoor tennis courts.
 - I would like an outdoor pool and exercise facilities in the same location.
 - A new recreation center on the west side of Allen would allow more kids to be able to bike/walk to a center.

- **Trails**
 - Connect the trails and create a dog park.
 - Connecting the trails and making them accessible will be great for Allen residents' health and well being.
 - Please complete Phase II of Spirit Park. Love the Master Plan for additional trails.
 - Concrete is hard on the knees/joints. Popular running trails are on soft surfaces which we don't offer.

- **Positive**
 - I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback. We love Allen and plan to be here for a long time.
 - Keep up the good work! Thanks!
 - Thank you for making Allen a great place to live.

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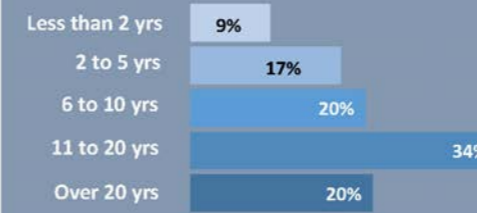
Respondent Demographics



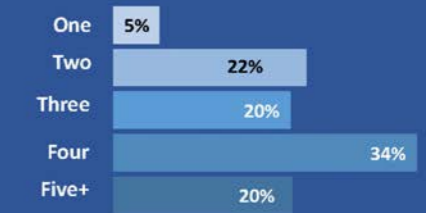
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Respondent Demographics

Length Lived in City of Allen



Household Size – Mean Household Size 3.56



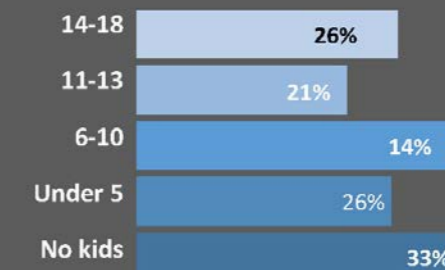
Respondent Age – Mean 48.3 years of age



93% of respondents own their home and 7% rent.

Respondent Demographics

Age Groups of Children in the Household



Responses will add to more than 100% due to multiple responses allowed

NATIONAL SERVICE



National Service Research

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National Service Research (NSR), founded in 1989, is a full-service market research consulting firm and conducts market studies for the public and private sector. NSR conducts various types of consumer and business research including focus groups and surveys nationwide. NSR's owner and founder, Andrea Thomas, over thirty-five years of professional market research experience.

2020 City of Allen Needs Assessment Survey Conducted by: National Service Research February 2020

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THE CITY OF ALLEN PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2021-2031



The City of Allen Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

MASTER PLAN

2021-2031

