



Bay City Parks Master Plan 5 Year Update

2022

Adopted September 27, 2022



RESOLUTION 2022-R- 014

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAY CITY, MATAGORDA COUNTY, TEXAS, APPROVING A PARK MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, Halff Associates, Inc. has been contracted to work with the elected and appointed officials, staff, citizen and interested groups to develop a Master Park Plan for the Bay City Park and Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, public meetings, citizen surveys, workshops and other public strategies were used to gather information to be used to develop the Plan; and

WHEREAS, a Master Parks Plan is useful to a community to help guide future development, construction, and park priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Bay City Park and Recreation Advisory Board was instrumental in the scope and development of the Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAY CITY, MATAGORDA COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT:

The Bay City Park & Recreation Master Plan 2022 (Exhibit ' A") is accepted and approved.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 27th day of September 2022 by a vote of the City Council of the City of Bay City, Texas.


Robert K. Nelson, Mayor



Attest:

Jeanna Thompson, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Thomas A. Gwosdz, City Attorney

Bay City Parks Master Plan 5 Year Update 2022

Adopted
September 27, 2022



Acknowledgments

The Bay City Parks Master Plan was developed by the City of Bay City with the technical assistance and design help of Halff Associates, Inc. A special thanks goes to the many residents, landowners, and community leaders for their insight and support throughout the duration of this study. The following individuals are recognized for their significant contributions to the preparation of the 2017 Parks Master Plan.

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Chapter 1: Introduction & Context



Importance of Parks and Recreation Planning

Located in southeast Texas, the City of Bay City has a widely distributed network of parks and open spaces. As the community has grown over the years, the City has striven to create and preserve a variety of well-designed, well-loved parks and recreational opportunities for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. The community benefits from local access to nature, passive and active recreation, and community interaction which provides mental and physical health benefits, encourages community relationships, and improves the sense of pride residents have for their City. This Parks Master Plan Update for Bay City will guide park and recreational development over the coming years to ensure the system is meeting the community's needs. In order to do this, the Plan first identifies the wants and needs of residents, City staff, and elected and appointed officials. It then paints a picture of the community's desired direction for the City and identifies clear goals and actions for staff to implement in order to move the City towards a positive future of which the community can be proud.

Parks, recreation, and open space play a significant role in establishing a quality of life for residents and visitors in any city. A great parks and recreation system will provide a healthier environment, improve the well-being of adults and children, and remind residents of the beauty and fun in their community (see *Benefits of Parks and Recreation* sidebar on next page). The creation and adoption of a parks master plan ultimately helps the City control its future. Through the master planning process, the characteristics and factors shaping the community are identified and analyzed. By taking a step back from the day-to-day decision-making, the City can assess the community's preferences for the future. This will ensure that current and future residents of the City are provided with a high quality-of-life with opportunities tailored to their wants and needs. A parks master plan helps to build consensus and commitment between elected and appointed officials, City staff, and the residents, and provides the City with a list of prioritized implementation actions to be phased in over time, as funding becomes available.

Purpose of the Parks Master Plan 5-Year Update

This Parks Master Plan 5-Year Update serves a variety of purposes. The primary functions are to analyze the current state of the City's parks, recreation, and open spaces; identify needs and deficiencies in the system; and determine a series of goals, recommendations, and priorities for improving the system. Above and beyond these primary functions, this Plan will also:

- Identify the opinions and needs of the residents and park system users.
- Analyze the potential for growth of the City over the next 10 years and identify associated facility needs in terms of types, locations, and priorities.
- Identify opportunities and recommend alternatives to enhance the parks system.
- Analyze the distribution of existing parkland and determine how the City can best manage its resources.
- Provide clearly prioritized recommendations so that the community's greatest deficiencies are addressed as quickly as possible.
- Guide City staff and leaders in determining how and where parks funding should be allocated over the next five to 10 years.

By identifying and recognizing the community's needs and desires, and providing realistic, prioritized implementation actions, this Plan will help guide Bay City towards a sustainable, positive future as a great place to live, work, play, and visit.

Benefits of Parks and Recreation

Individual and Community Benefits

- Helps ensure an overall higher quality of life
- Provides refuges of safety for at-risk youth, which can in turn help reduce juvenile delinquency
- Provides opportunities for people of all ages to be physically active, socially engaged, and cognitively stimulated

Economic Benefits

- Increases property value of homes in close proximity to parks
- Can help attract new businesses to the community by improving the standard of living

Environmental Benefits

- Protects and preserves vital green spaces and critical wildlife habitat
- Educates visitors regarding the appropriate use of natural areas as recreational areas
- Contributes to clean air and water

Personal Health Benefits

- Access to parks and nature increases the frequency of exercise and improves psychological and social health
- Play is critical for child development
- Staying active can help reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity, depression, and other health problems



Planning Process & Timeline

In January 2022, Bay City commissioned Halff Associates, Inc. to undertake a 5-Year Update to the adopted 2017 Parks Master Plan, also prepared by Halff. The planning process involved a series of steps that allowed for the development of a successful document which outlined the vision, goals, and strategy for the future of parks, recreation, and open space in the City (see Figure 1.1, *Planning Process*). These steps included evaluating and understanding the existing conditions and developing appropriate goals for the parks and recreation system; identifying local resources and opportunities; analyzing parkland, facility, and recreational needs based on population growth and community input; developing recommendations and priorities; and identifying potential implementation strategies.

Through a series of meetings held throughout the planning process, the community provided valuable input regarding their opinions, wants, and needs for the City’s parks and recreation system. Public engagement included meetings with City staff, residents, and stakeholders, and a public survey and open house. Detailed documentation of the public input process, including meeting notices and minutes, sign-in sheets, and the public survey can be found in Appendix A, *Supplemental Information*.

Figure 1.1, Planning Process



Planning Area

The Parks Master Plan analyzes the park, recreation, and open space needs for the residents within Bay City’s municipal limits and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The City limits of Bay City include approximately 9.3 square miles, while the ETJ adds 29.8 square miles. The Parks Master Plan planning area is illustrated on Map 1.1, *Planning Area*.

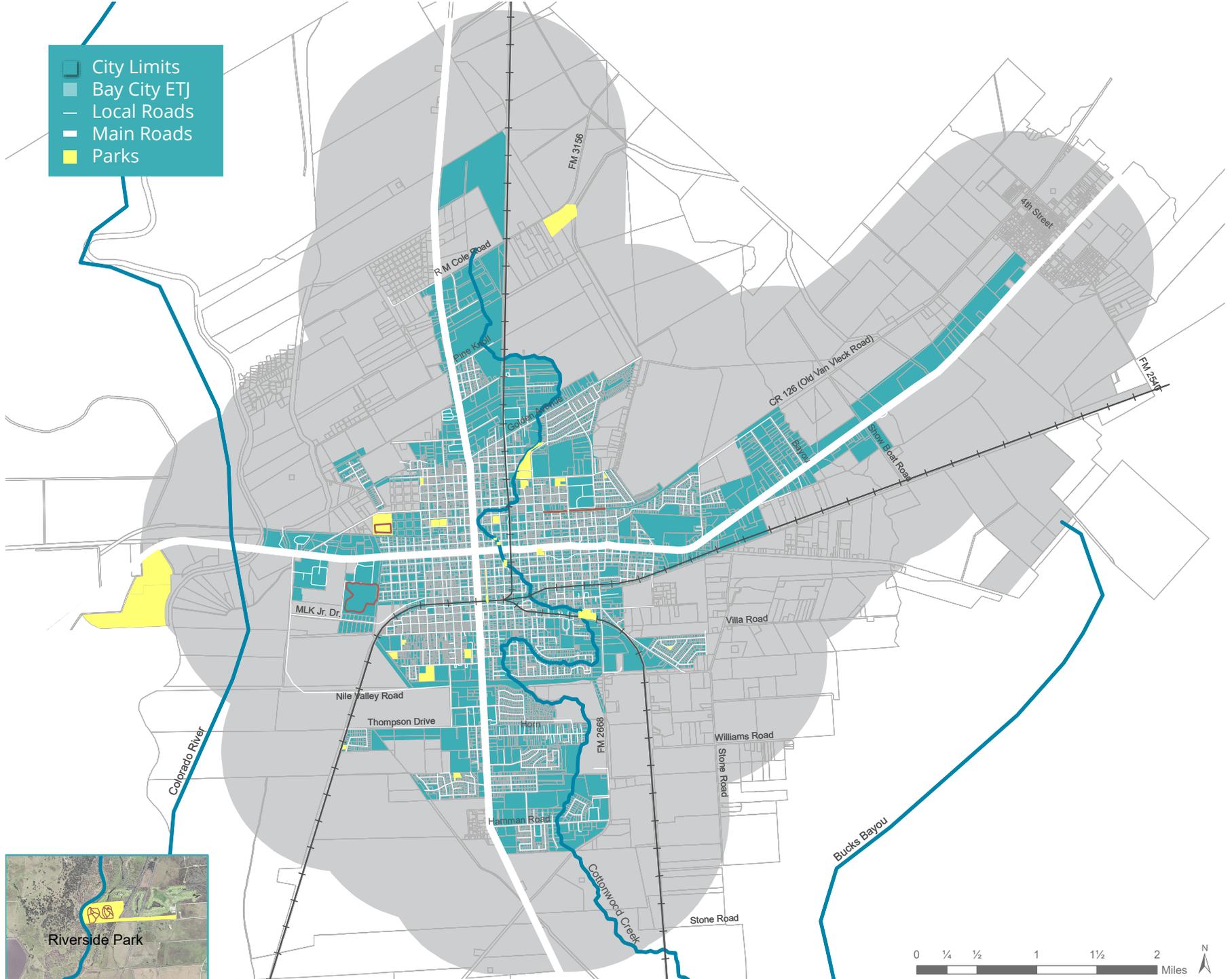
The City of Bay City is the primary governmental entity charged with providing recreational facilities for its citizens. Therefore, the implementation of this Plan will be led by the City. Regardless, everyone in Bay City has a vested interest in ensuring the parks system in the City thrives and adapts as the Bay City population grows and changes. Interested Plan implementation partners include:

- Other governmental entities, including Matagorda County, Bay City Independent School District (BCISD), Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Parks Service (NPS), and other advisory group entities.
- The business community in Bay City, including property owners, developers, commercial entities, corporate neighbors (TenarisBayCity, Oxea Corporation, LyondellBasell, South Texas Project Electric Generating Station (STP)), and others.
- All citizens of Bay City, regardless of the area they live in, nearby residents of Matagorda County that may use Bay City parks or recreational services, and tourists at LeTulle and Riverside Parks.

Plan Time Frame

This 5-year update to the 2017 10-Year Plan is formulated to address the time frame from 2022 to 2027. Many of the recommendations of this Plan are valid for a period of up to 5 years, but should be evaluated periodically. Local planning requirements issued by the TPWD recommend that the Plan be updated after a five-year period, or before any major developments occur that significantly alter the parks and recreation needs of the community.

Map 1.1, Planning Area



Key Accomplishments since 2017

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

- DreamScape Playground - accessible for all playground at Le Tulle Park
- Added three pickleball courts at Community Park
- Sand volleyball court renovation at Mary Withers Park
- Added ten additional picnic shelters to the parks system
- Added first splash pad to parks system. Located in Amistad Park
- Le Tulle park restoration (new furnishings, playground, restrooms, pond fountain, pavilion)
- Riverside Park has been fully reclaimed from the damage of Hurricane Harvey, also repainted all pavilions and Ranger Station
- New playgrounds added to Le Tulle and Bay Ridge parks
- Building remodel and new restroom added at Hardeman Park
- Exterior of USO building was repainted in 2021 and roof replacement was completed in 2020
- Two shade canopies added to the skatepark at Hardeman Park, Henderson Park and The Barkway
- Re-painted Train Depot; sand blasted and re-painted caboose.
- Re-painted all pavilions - Le Tulle (3); Amistad; Liberty Gazebo; Duncan; Hilliard and Valiant Pool Buildings and Teen Center

OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

- Established a business plan to prepare for the riverside park redevelopment master plan
- Ongoing negotiations with school district to take over control of the Valiant Park and pool
- City adopted *CivicRec* reservation software to allow on-line access
- Developed successful basketball partnership program
- City website is updated with complete and accurate information about the park system
- Removed six parks from the system (Bay Ridge Park (Block 1, Block 4 East, Block 5), Recycling Park, two parks in McDonald Meadows)
- Developed an emergency preparedness and management plan

Chapter 2: Understanding the Community

2

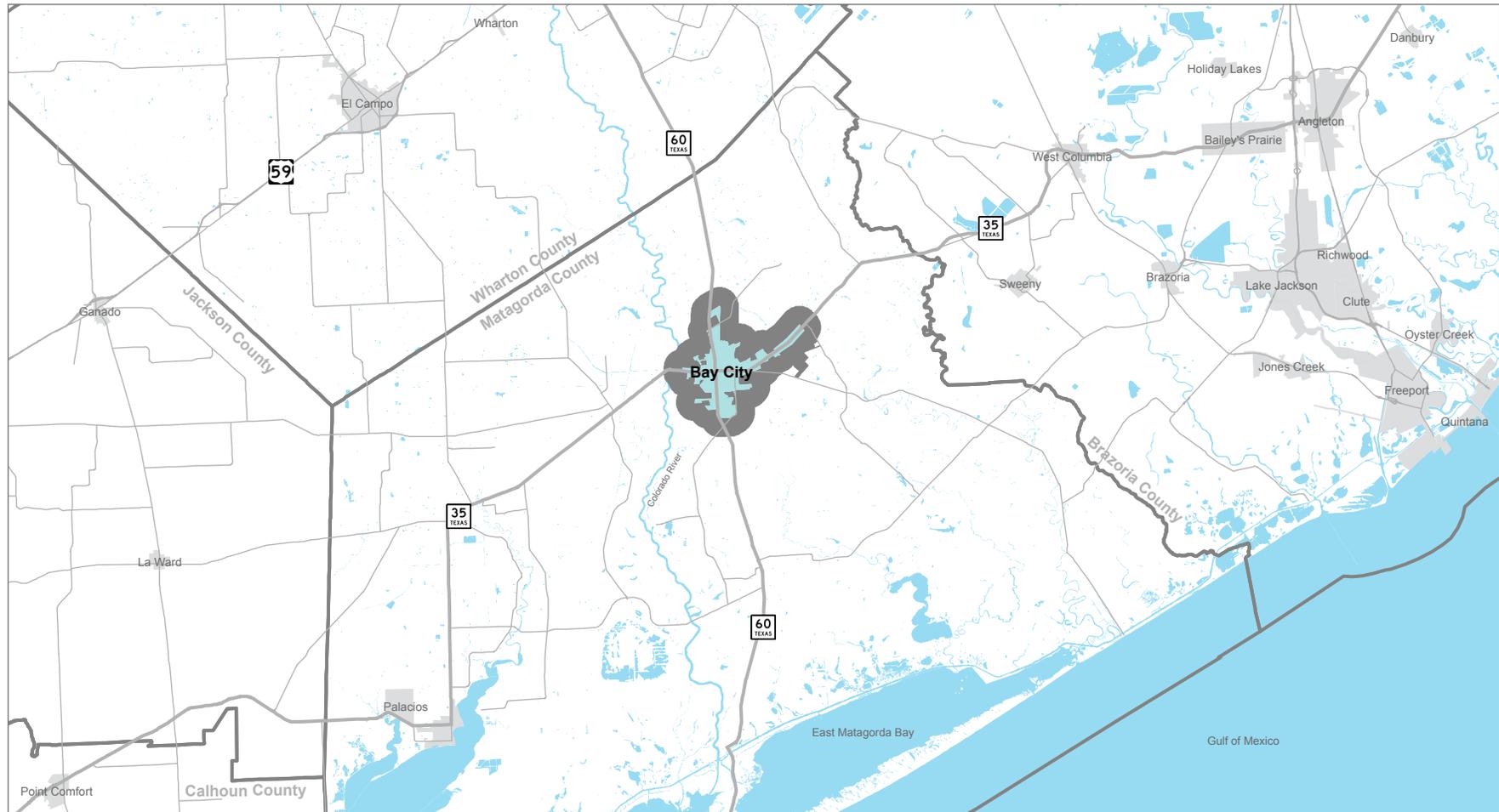


Regional Context

Bay City, the county seat of Matagorda County, is located in a humid, subtropical area in southeast Texas. The City encompasses 9.3 square miles in the north central portion of the county and the City's ETJ includes an additional 29.8 square miles. The City lies just east of the Colorado River at the junction of State Highways 35 and 60. Located 80 miles southwest of Houston, and 70 miles east of Victoria, Bay City is situated 30 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico (see Map 2.1, *Regional Context*).

In a region characterized by history, lush green vegetation, and nearby access to the coast, residents and visitors to this region enjoy family-friendly activities, the great outdoors, and access to nature.

Map 2.1, Regional Context



Historical Context

Bay City has been the county seat of Matagorda County since 1894. The City was named for its location in the Bay Prairie, between the productive bottomlands of the Colorado River and Caney Creek. The City began as one square mile which was surveyed, subdivided into lots, and sold for development.

By 1901 numerous buildings had been constructed and businesses began to develop. Early businesses in town included the post office, saloons, convenience stores, grocers, blacksmith, barbers, drugstores, lumberyards, cotton gins, and a rice mill. That same year, the Cane Belt Railroad reached Bay City. This was the first of three rail lines to serve the town. The MoPac Depot (now a Parks and Recreation Department resource) was built in 1905. By 1914, Bay City was a thriving community located at the center of the largest rice-producing area in the nation.

Bay City continued to develop in the coming decades and by 1930 the population had risen to 4,000 residents. Named after local rice grower Victor L. LeTulle, Bay City's first park, LeTulle Park, was donated to the City in 1934. By 1940 the population reached nearly 9,500 people. During that same year Hilliard Pool became the first public pool in Bay City.

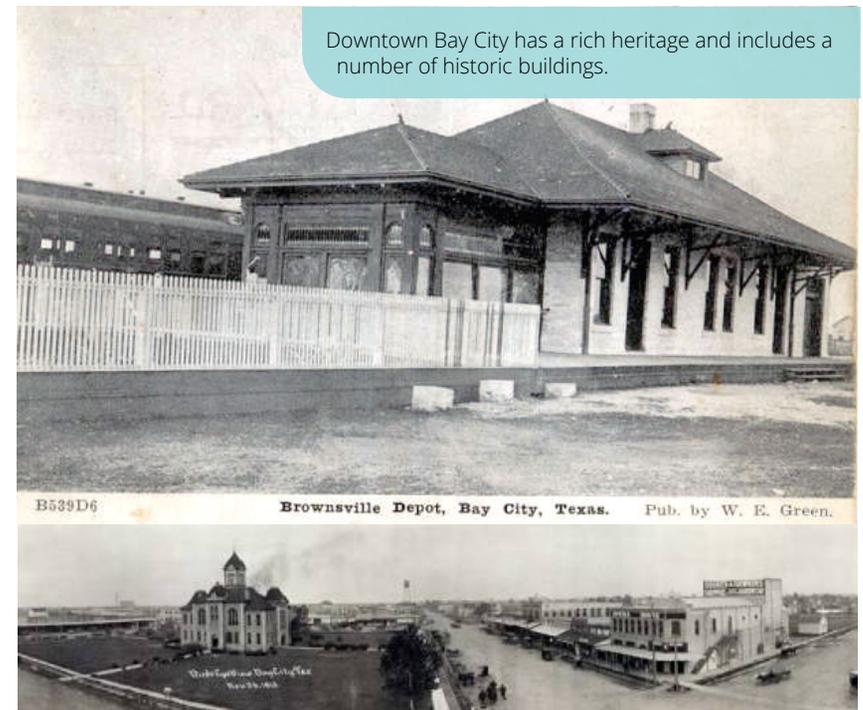
Notable new developments during the 1950s and 1960s were a new public library, a United States Army Reserve building, an airport, barge canal linking to the Gulf, and the onset of a population boom.¹

In 1960, the Celanese Chemical Company built a petrochemical plant in the City which soon became the City's largest employer. The following decades brought even greater population as more large-scale employers entered the county. The population drastically increased to almost 20,000 residents between 1960 and 1990. During this time, the City limits were expanded and an additional 12 new parks and recreation facilities were developed or enhanced. Between 1990 and 2010, the City experienced a population decline to 17,500 people.

¹"History of Bay City." Bay City, Texas, <<http://www.cityofbaycity.org/departments/main-street/bay-city-history>>

To this day, multiple historic dwellings and buildings are still standing throughout Bay City's downtown and surrounding areas. Recent parks and recreation development has included the construction of the Southern Pacific Trail, the Barkway dog park, and the addition of a disc golf course in LeTulle Park.

Over the years, a number of challenges, such as multiple floods, fires, and general aging of infrastructure, in addition to the increased size and distribution of parkland, have increased the general maintenance requirements of the City parks and recreation resources.



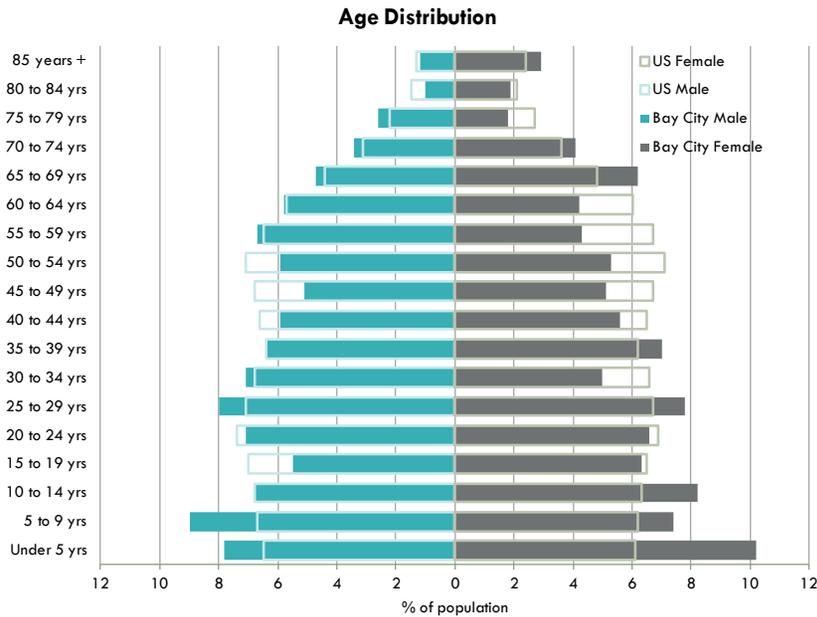
Demographic Profile of Bay City

Age Distribution

Understanding age distribution in a community helps determine its overall recreation needs, even as its residents age. Identifying the age-appropriate recreational opportunities needed in Bay City allows the City to allocate resources towards amenities and programs that can best serve the community. In comparison to the population of the United States, Bay City has a significantly greater percentage of children (especially boys) under nine years of age (see Figure 2.1, *Population by Age and Gender* and Figure 2.2, *Population by Age*). The City also has a greater number of residents aged 34 and lower.

Analysis of the highly diversified age ranges found in Bay City illustrates the need to provide multigenerational parks and recreation which can adapt as the age of the population shifts.

Figure 2.1, Population by Age and Gender



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Age and Sex, Table S0101

Figure 2.2, Population by Age

Age Range	Texas	Matagorda County	Bay City
Under 5 years	6.8%	7.1%	9.1%
5 to 9 years	6.9%	6.8%	8.2%
10 to 14 years	7.5%	7.7%	7.5%
15 to 19 years	7.2%	6.5%	5.9%
20 to 24 years	6.8%	6.3%	6.9%
25 to 34 years	7.4%	6.2%	7.9%
30 to 34 years	7.2%	5.7%	6.0%
35 to 39 years	7.1%	5.3%	6.7%
40 to 44 years	6.6%	5.8%	5.7%
45 to 49 years	6.4%	5.5%	5.1%
50 to 54 years	5.9%	6.7%	5.6%
55 to 59 years	5.8%	6.5%	5.5%
60 to 64 years	5.5%	7.4%	5.0%
65 to 69 years	4.4%	5.6%	5.4%
70 to 74 years	3.4%	3.8%	3.8%
75 to 79 years	2.3%	2.9%	2.2%
80 to 84 years	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%
85 years and over	1.4%	2.4%	2.1%
Median Age	35.1	38.2	34.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Age and Sex, Table S0101

Race and Ethnicity

Bay City's population by race and ethnicity is illustrated in Figure 2.3, *Race and Ethnicity*. Similar to the state and County, Bay City's population is predominantly white, though at a slightly lower percentage than that of Matagorda County overall. Those of Hispanic or Latino descent make up 51.8 percent of the City's population. This is slightly higher, but still comparable, to both the state and County.

Figure 2.3, Race and Ethnicity

Race & Ethnicity	Texas	Matagorda County	Bay City
White	73.4%	68.4%	60.6%
Black or African American	12.3%	10.4%	14.3%
American Indian & Alaska Native	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%
Asian	5.0%	1.9%	0.8%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%
Other	5.9%	16.8%	21.5%
Two or More Races	2.9%	1.8%	2.3%
Hispanic or Latino Descent	39.7%	42.5%	51.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates

Educational Attainment

As set out in Figure 2.4, *Educational Attainment Comparison*, Bay City has a comparable percentage of high school graduates to Matagorda County, however, both are somewhat lower than that of the state. Similarly, attainment of a bachelors degree or higher education in Bay City and the County also falls behind the attainment percentage for the state. When considering the higher percentage of 20 to 34 year olds previously illustrated in Figure 2.1, *Population by Age and Gender*, the low percentage of higher education attainment found in Bay City may be a reflection of recently graduated young adults leaving the City for jobs elsewhere.

Figure 2.4, Educational Attainment Comparison

Educational Attainment	Texas	Matagorda County	Bay City
High School or Higher	84.6%	80.6%	74.9%
Bachelors Degree or Higher	30.8%	17.4%	17.4%

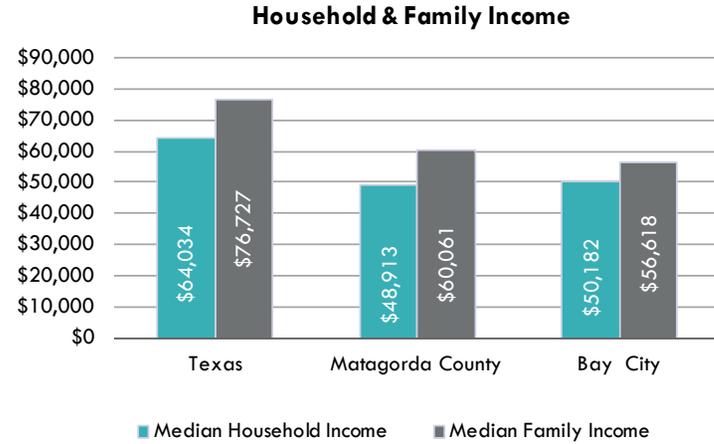
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, Table S1501: Educational Attainment

Household & Family Income

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, household income includes income from the householder and all other people (whether or not they are related) who are 15 years or older living in the same housing unit. Family income includes income from two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption who are residing together.

Understanding a community's income distribution assists in planning for recreational amenities and programs, including determining the demand for free or fee-based recreation. As seen in Figure 2.5, *Income Comparison*, both Bay City and Matagorda County have lower family and household incomes than that of the state.

Figure 2.5, Income Comparison



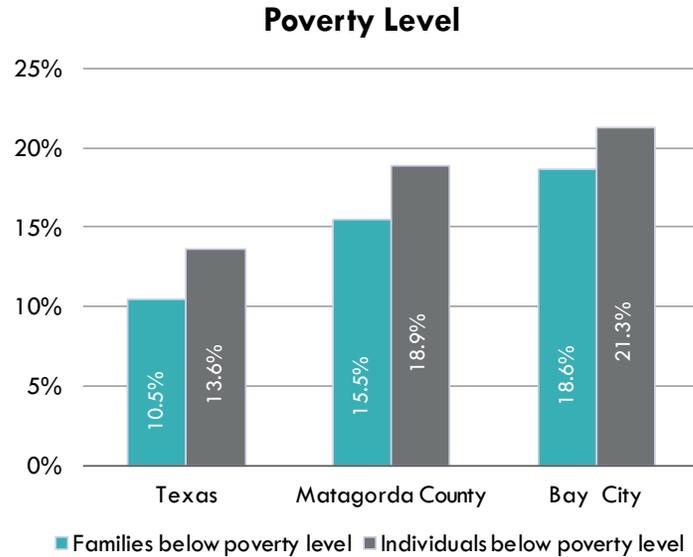
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, Table DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics

Poverty Level Comparison

The percentage of both families and individuals in Bay City whose income fell below the poverty level during 2015 is notably higher than the rest of Matagorda County, and significantly higher than the state (see Figure 2.6, *Poverty Level Comparison*). Over one-quarter of Bay City's population of individuals experienced poverty during that time frame.

As the City evaluates options for recreational programming, it will be important to consider providing low-cost and free options to allow equal participation among community members.

Figure 2.6, Poverty Level Comparison



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 5-Year American Community Survey, DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics

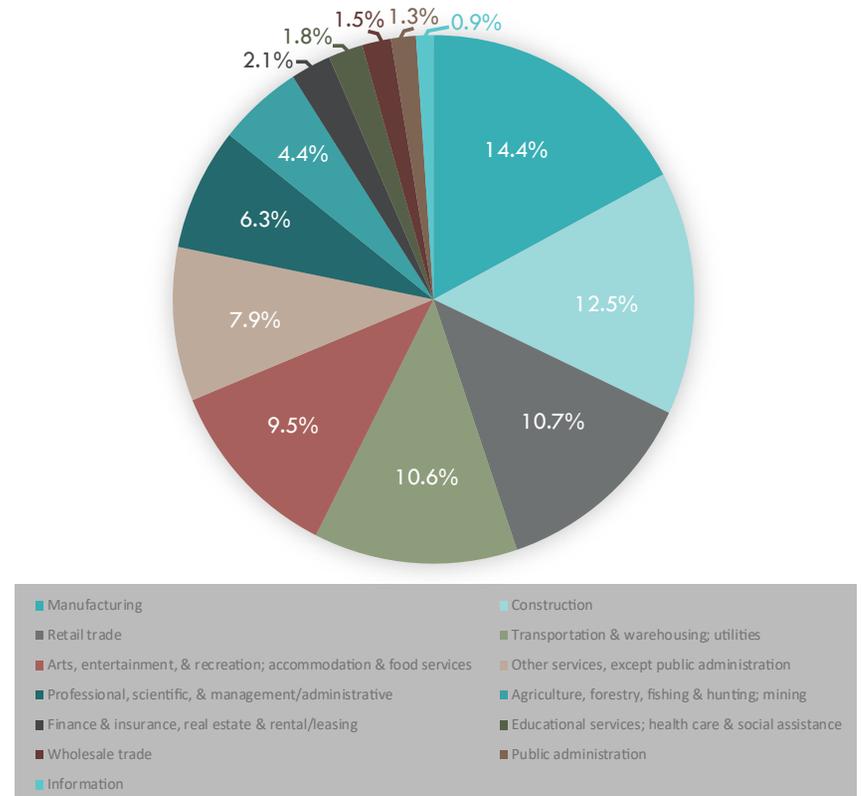
Employment by Industry

Understanding the employment of a community helps paint the picture of how residents spend a large majority of their time. Knowing this information can assist the City in providing appropriate recreation types that reflect how the community might like to use their park system and programming during work hours or their free time. In Bay City, educational services, healthcare, and social assistance represent the largest percentage of Bay City residents (see Figure 2.7, *Local Industries*). In response, adding educational and health and wellness elements into parks and programming might enhance their overall benefit to the community.

Other large industries in Bay City include construction and transport, warehousing, and utilities. Bay City is home to Tenaris Bay City and STP. These are two very large companies which employ significant numbers of temporary workers. Tenaris Bay City is a state-of-the-art seamless pipe mill. The mill employs 600 people. STP is a local nuclear power facility and is one of the newest and largest in the country. In order to clean the facility, STP brings in temporary workers for multiple weeks at a time, twice a year.

The City is in a unique position where it needs to recognize the needs of the permanent and temporary populations, and determine an appropriate approach to parks and recreation for the entirety of the population.

Figure 2.7, Local Industries



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 5-Year American Community Survey, DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics

Growth Context

Historical & Projected Population Growth

As previously mentioned, Bay City is a temporary home to a number of transient construction and other workers. As the City plans for enhancement and development of the parks and recreation system, it is important to recognize the impact this population can have on the City. Though these individuals are not accounted for in the Census data, they can have a significant impact on the community, through the use of hotels, restaurants, services, and parks and recreation, and must be considered in the planning process.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Bay City has seen a slight decline since 2000 (see Figure 2.8, *Historical and Projected Future Population Growth*). While the City's ETJ can accommodate growth, population projections illustrate that growth will be slow and steady over the time frame of this Plan. The decline in population from 2000 to 2010 has influenced the Texas Water Development Board's projections into 2020 and 2030. However, while growth is likely to remain slow and steady, economic activity happening in Bay City could alter the population projections.

Figure 2.8, Historical and Projected Future Population Growth

YEAR	CITY OF BAY CITY (PERSONS)	PERCENT CHANGE	CITY PERCENT OF COUNTY POPULATION	MATAGORDA COUNTY (PERSONS)	PERCENT CHANGE
1980	17,837		47.15%	37,828	
1990	18,264	2%	49.46%	36,928	-2%
2000	18,667	2%	49.18%	37,957	3%
2010	17,614	-6%	47.99%	36,702	-3%
2015	17,499	-1%	47.81%	36,598	0%
2020	18,061	3%	47.99%	36,774	1%
2030	19,786	10%	47.99%	41,226	12%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates; Texas Water Development Board, 2020 and 2030 projections (per the Vision Bay City 2040 plan).

Previous Planning Efforts

Vision Bay City 2040

The Bay City comprehensive plan, Vision Bay City 2040, was developed in 2014. The plan used extensive public input to develop a vision for the future of Bay City. As part of the plan, parks and recreation opportunities were analyzed and a series of recommendations were presented.

The plan recognized two primary challenges within the parks and recreation system: adequate facilities and maintenance. Recommendations presented in the Vision Bay City 2040 plan were intended to address these issues and the input received from the public throughout the planning process. These recommendations included:

- Develop a Parks Commission and Friends of the Parks Organization.
- Partner with the ISD to make facilities available for public recreation.
- Prioritize needed improvements at existing parks.
- Identify additional funding sources for park improvements and programs.
- Initiate new recreation programs for youth and adults.
- Develop sidewalk and trail connectivity throughout town.
- Develop a sports complex.
- Develop a community recreation center.
- Develop a park at SH 35 and the Colorado River.

At the time that Vision Bay City 2040 was developed, the City had been dedicating additional attention to the improvement of the parks system. The plan's recommendations were proposed to build on this developing momentum. As a follow up, this Parks Master Plan is intended to continue that momentum and further define recommendations for the parks and recreation system to determine how parks and recreation can further the community's vision for the next 10 years and beyond.

As stated in Vision Bay City 2040, "investing in the park system should be viewed as an investment in Bay City as a whole." This Parks Master Plan will be used to guide that investment.

Bay City North Downtown Plan

In May 2013, the Bay City North Downtown Plan was developed for the 40-acre, 12-block site north of Downtown Bay City. The four-phased plan is intended to complement the commercial and civic activity of Downtown by providing a high quality, mixed-use housing district with parks and trail connectivity. The combination of City-owned property and vacant or unused property and parking lots within the area of focus presents numerous opportunities for future development. Cottonwood Creek runs through the study area and provides a key focal point for park and open space features in the area. Key features of this small-area plan include a park plaza, amphitheater and splash pad, a multi-use trail, creekside path, neighborhood park, and gateway and streetscape elements. As trail connectivity and parkland distribution are evaluated and planned for in this Parks Master Plan, the North Downtown Plan will be incorporated into the analysis and recommendations.



North Downtown Plan by Kendig Keast Collaborative

Public Engagement for the 5-Year Update

One of the most important aspects of any planning process is to engage the general public and ensure the plan reflects and addresses their wants, needs, and concerns. This Parks Master Plan is intended to guide City investments in parks and recreation to ultimately best serve the community. A series of public engagement strategies were used throughout this planning process to gain an understanding of the wants, needs, and priorities of the community.

Parks Advisory Committee (PAC)

A Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) was the primary oversight body for the master planning effort. As the City's appointed advisory body, the PAC was consulted often throughout the planning process. They reviewed draft documents, assisted in advertising the planning process, and provided direction on the plan vision, goals and recommendations.

Stakeholder Meetings

A series of stakeholder meetings were held at the onset of the public engagement process. Information collected during these meetings helped shape the community survey and open house questions and generated ideas that could be incorporated later as recommendations. Four stakeholder meetings were conducted with stakeholders being divided into groups by their area of expertise. The stakeholder groups included:

- City Manager
- City Department Heads
- Parks and Recreation Department Staff
- Parks Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Community Stakeholders (Athletic Organizations, County Officials)

Focus Group Meeting

A focus group meeting and workshop was held in April 2022 with City officials and the PAC. The meeting offered an opportunity for user groups that have a high level of interaction with the City to determine key themes regarding City parks, recreation, and service delivery.

Public Survey

One online survey was administered during the master planning process. This survey gauged the public on their opinions about the overall parks system in Bay City, Duncan Park, and Riverside Park. A total of around 200 community members responded to this survey. Feedback received was critical when conducting the demand-based assessment of the parks system.

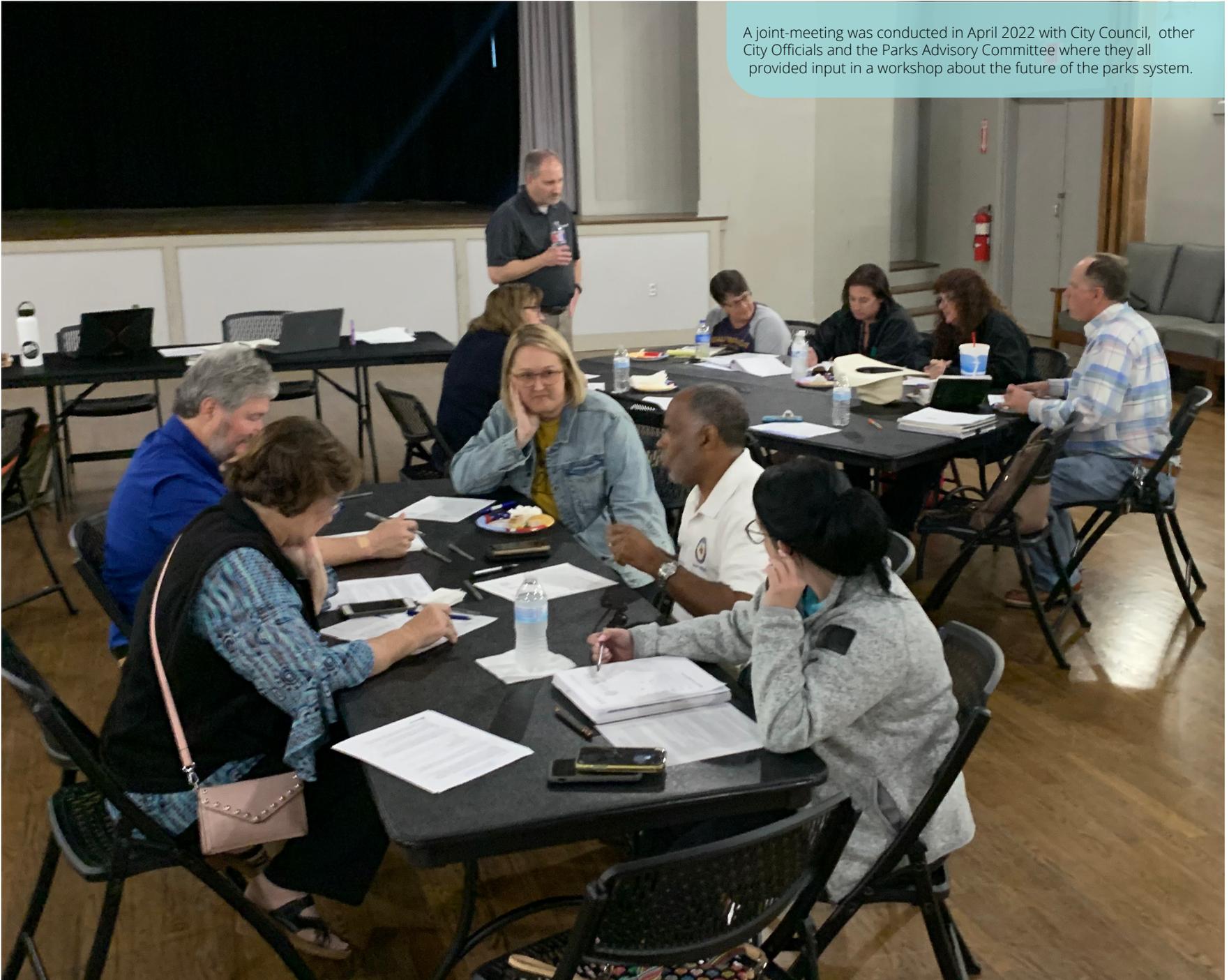
Easter Egg Hunt

In April 2022, Halff participated in the annual Easter Egg Hunt organized by the PARD staff. Roughly 2,000 people attended the event to enjoy Le Tulle Park. The event included food trucks, craft tables, yard games, and a series of easter egg hunts for various youth age groups. The Halff Associates team prepared an informational booth to inform community members attending the event about the master plan update and to pass out flyers for the public survey.



Children and families taking pictures with the Easter Bunny at the 2022 Easter Egg Hunt.

A joint-meeting was conducted in April 2022 with City Council, other City Officials and the Parks Advisory Committee where they all provided input in a workshop about the future of the parks system.



Plan Vision and Goals

Bay City's vision for their parks and recreation system represents the community's collective aspiration for the future and provides the framework for the goals and objectives of this Plan. A vision statement serves as a decision-making tool to be used by elected and appointed officials, to guide City staff priorities, and to help build community consensus to ensure that everyone is cohesively working together towards a common future. The vision statement presented in the Parks Master Plan was derived from input received during early public engagement.

As previously mentioned, key public engagement findings are incorporated into the demand-based assessment portion of Chapter 3, *Inventory & Needs*.



Parks and recreation in Bay City is meant to serve the needs of residents of all ages.

Bay City Parks and Recreation Vision Statement

“By the year 2030, Bay City will provide its residents with a safe, well-maintained, well-connected, centralized parks system. An enhanced Bay City parks and recreation system will provide spaces for social interaction, pursuit of healthy living, recreational and educational opportunities for people of all ages, and improve quality of life for the community. With a diversity of recreational opportunities including passive and active recreation, accessible amenities, preserved access to nature, and multigenerational programming, Bay City’s parks and recreation system will provide options for all residents, foster economic development, and be a focal point of community pride.”

To implement this vision statement, the following mission statement guides daily decision making of the Parks and Recreation Department:

“In partnership with our citizens, the Parks and Recreation Department provides park and recreation programs, facilities, and services which respond to changing needs within our communities.

We strive to protect and preserve a park system that promotes quality recreational, cultural and outdoor experiences for the community and enriches the quality of life for present and future generations in a safe and secure environment.”

Park Master Plan Goals

Goals for a plan such as this create the foundation for guiding future decisions and development, as well as guiding the recommendations presented in this Plan. Goals are an important part of the planning process in that they provide the underlying philosophical framework for the decisions that the City will make when evaluating the need for park and recreation improvements. The goals in the Plan reflect the desires of the citizens, City staff, and elected and appointed officials. The goals below will be further refined into a detailed series of objectives and action recommendations in Chapter 4, *Plan Recommendations*.

- **Goal 1:** Renovate, develop, and construct diversified park and recreation facilities based on the changing needs of the community.
- **Goal 2:** Provide a diversified, multigenerational offering of recreational programs, events, facilities, and amenities to serve residents and attract regional users and visitors.
- **Goal 3:** Increase connectivity and accessibility in the parks system.
- **Goal 4:** Provide a consolidated parks system which preserves the City's unique physical and natural assets.
- **Goal 5:** Enhance the function, safety, and appearance of City parkland through the provision of sufficient resources.
- **Goal 6:** Maintain, improve, and enhance existing park and recreation facilities in Bay City.
- **Goal 7:** Explore funding and partnering opportunities to further leverage parks and recreation facility enhancements and program offerings.

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Chapter 3: Inventory & Needs

3



Introduction

In order to determine how to plan for the future of the Bay City parks and recreation system, it is necessary to understand its existing condition. This in turn helps to identify where the current system is meeting expectations; and alternatively, where it is falling short.

Bay City has a network of 33 parks and recreation facilities distributed throughout the City, its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), and beyond. These parks offer approximately 348 acres of parkland with a variety of recreational opportunities.

Through an analysis of the current inventory and condition of facilities, and a comparison of that data with local level-of-service ratios, the opinions voiced by the community, and the local resources available, this Parks Master Plan will develop a clear picture of what is currently lacking and where opportunities exist in the parks system.

Park Classifications

Different parks types serve different purposes, areas, and intended users. Understanding this helps to identify gaps and overlap in the overall system and whether or not existing facilities are addressing the current park, recreation, and open space needs of the City. This Plan follows national and state guidelines that identify three broad categories of parks.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are located within a one to two-hour driving time radius of the area they serve. Parks within this category include metropolitan parks, county parks, and state parks.

Local “Close to Home” Parks

Local parks are typically located within the community they serve. Subset park types within this category include pocket parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks.

Special Use Areas

These areas may be local or regional and can be defined as areas that are unique in some way due to their physical features or the types of facilities offered. Parks in this category include linear parks, special use parks, and land conservancies.

Regional Parks



Description: With the intentions of serving the entire city and beyond, a regional park often becomes the premier park in that area due to its broad range of facilities and activities. These parks often include regionally significant natural resources.

Site Characteristics: These parks are frequently planned to accommodate large numbers of visitors for events such as fairs, festivals, and exhibitions. Regional parks should be located near highways or major arterials to provide easy access from different parts of the city.

Service Area: Up to 50 mile radius, depending on site features.

Typical Size: Depending on the purpose and character of the site, regional parks can vary in size from less than 10 acres to several thousand acres.

Community Parks

Description: Community parks provide a variety of recreational activities which may include athletic fields and courts, swimming pools, hike and bike trails, or exercise stations. These parks may also provide a venue for community festivals and, therefore, must have sufficient parking for participants, spectators, and other park users.



Site Characteristics: These parks should be located near a major thoroughfare to provide easy access from different parts of the city. Vegetative buffering may be required to minimize the impact of light and sound pollution on adjacent residential areas.

Service Area: Primarily serves a one to two-mile radius, but available for persons throughout the community.

Typical Size: These parks should be large enough to accommodate a variety of facilities while leaving sufficient space for unstructured recreation, natural areas, and possible expansion. This can vary the size from 10 acres to over 50 acres.

Neighborhood Parks



Local example: Duncan Park

Description: These parks provide both active and passive recreational opportunities within walking distance of residential neighborhoods, thus creating accessible family-friendly destinations. Amenities may include athletic fields, courts, playground equipment, walking trails, park benches, etc.

Site Characteristics: Evenly distributed throughout the city, these parks are centrally located in various neighborhoods, providing safe and easy pedestrian access for nearby residents.

Service Area: Serves a one-quarter to one-half-mile radius.

Typical Size: Existing physical conditions and availability of land can determine the size of neighborhood parks. Ideally these parks range from three to 10 acres, however, sizes can vary.

Pocket Parks

Description: Pocket parks provide passive recreational opportunities to a concentrated population within an immediate proximity. For example, a playground near a multi-family housing complex or a small lot that has been developed to include sidewalks and benches.

Site Characteristics: Located within a close proximity to medium/high density residential areas.

Service Area: Immediate neighborhoods.

Typical Size: Typically range from one-quarter acre to one acre in size.



Local example: Liberty Park

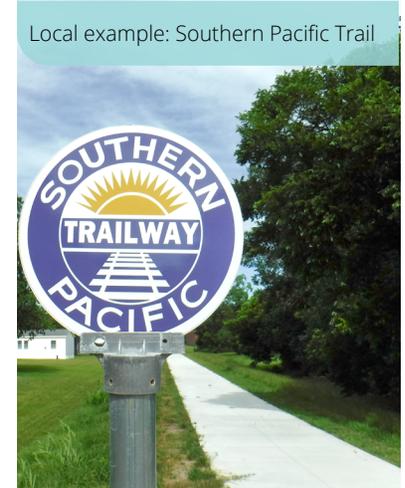
Linear Parks

Description: Developed for bicycling, hiking, walking, and jogging, linear parks are commonly used as a link between two or more park and recreation areas.

Site Characteristics: Typically follows a linear man-made or natural feature such as a stream, creek, abandoned rail line, or road.

Service Area: Variable.

Typical Size: These parks/trails vary in size depending on existing site constraints and proximity to other parks.



Local example: Southern Pacific Trail

Special Use Parks & Facilities

Description: These parks and facilities are used for specialized or single-purpose recreational activities such as a golf course, skate park, aquatic facility, historic site, tennis complex, or nature center.

Site Characteristics: Varies according to the overall functionality of the site - often operated by a private enterprise.

Service Area: Variable.

Typical Size: Having no minimum, these parks vary in size according to their specific functions.



Local example: Caboose

Bay City Park Inventory

In order to plan for a parks and recreation system that addresses the needs and desires of Bay City residents, it is important to gain an understanding of the existing park and recreation facilities. Developing an understanding of current facilities, their condition, and potential opportunities, helps to identify what amenities may be lacking and are thus needed to meet current and future demands. This analysis helps determine whether or not the public is being well served with recreational opportunities. The need for new or improved recreational facilities can be determined by comparing the information gathered from the various methods of public engagement with the existing park inventory.

Bay City currently offers approximately 344 acres of regional, community, neighborhood, pocket, and special use parks (see Map 3.1, *Existing Parks*). Parks are distributed throughout the community, with the least amount of parkland in the southeast quadrant of the City.

The City's regional parks encompass approximately 126 acres and include Le Tulle Park and Riverside Park. These two parks are located west of the City limits along the Colorado River and are predominately used for passive recreation purposes. The City's community parks encompass approximately 73 acres and include Community Park, Frahms Field, Girls Softball Fields, Hardeman Park, Little League Fields, and the Sports Complex. These six parks offer a combination of recreational opportunities, including baseball, softball, football, soccer, tennis, and a skate park. Bay City offers a number of neighborhood parks scattered throughout the City encompassing approximately 15 acres. These 10 parks are intended to serve nearby residential neighborhoods providing open space and active recreation. The City also offers three pocket parks that provide minimal amenities within the neighborhoods they serve. There is currently one designated City-owned trail located in the old Southern Pacific railroad corridor. This small segment of trail provides an opportunity for expansion and connectivity. Additionally, Bay City has seven special use parks and facilities. These include the Caboose and Train Depot, two public pools, a dog park, a country club, Gusman Park, and the USO building.



Map 3.1, Existing Parks

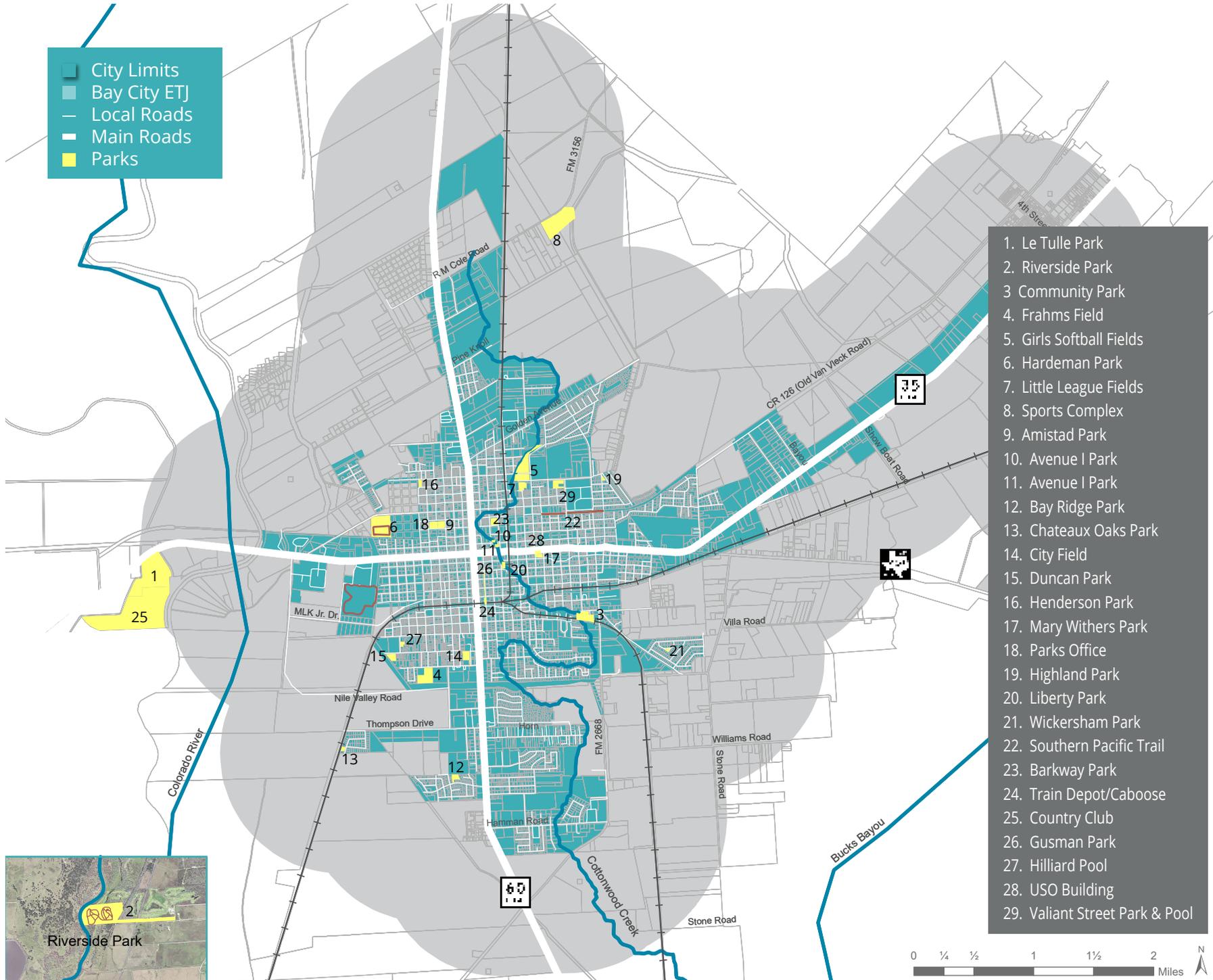


Figure 3.1, Bay City Park Inventory

	Park Name	Address	Acreage	Active Facilities											Water Recreation				Passive Recreation				Misc.										
				Baseball Field	Softball Field	Standalone Backstop	Soccer/Cricket Field	Football Field	Multipurpose Practice Field	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Concession Stand	Skate Park	Disc Golf Course	Walking/Biking Trail (miles)	Fishing Pier	Canoe/Kayak Launch	Boat Ramp	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Dog Park	Playground	Horseshoe Pits	Table/Picnic Table (X)	BBQ Grill (X)	Picnic Shelter/Pavilion	Restrooms (X)	Parking (X)				
Regional Parks																																	
1	Le Tulle Park	1135 S Hwy 35	44.2												1		1										1		x	x	4	x	x
2	Riverside Park	7330 Highway 2668	103.6													1.0		1	1								1		x	x	2	x	x
Community Parks																																	
3	Community Park	2900 Rugeley St.	6.4	1						1	3																				x	x	
4	Frahms Field	1000 Whitson St.	8.2				10							1																	x	x	
5	Girls Softball Fields	Ave. M and Grace St.	8.4		3								1																1	x	x		
6	Hardeman Park	600 12th St.	17.9					1						1	0.4												x	x	1	x	x		
7	Little League Fields	1220 Avenue M	6.7	3										1																x	x		
8	Sports Complex	2414 FM 3156	24.9		3						3															1				x	x		
Neighborhood Parks																																	
9	Amistad Park	1708 Ave. C	2.1			2					1														1	1		x	x	1	x	x	
10	Avenue I Park (north)	1900 Ave. H	0.3																														
11	Avenue I Park (south)	2000 Ave. I	0.6																														
12	Bay Ridge Park	1301 Bay Ridge Blvd.	1.7																						1								
13	Chateaux Oaks Park	301/307 La Bradford Dr.	0.7								1																	x					
14	City Field	3212/3220 Ave. E	2.8				1																								x	x	
15	Duncan Park	612 Duncan St.	2.2										1													1	1	x	x	1	x	x	
														Active Facilities				Water Recreation				Passive Recreation				Misc.							

Figure 3.1, Bay City Park Inventory (cont.)

Park Name	Address	Acreeage	Baseball Field	Softball Field	Standalone Backstop	Soccer/Cricket Field	Football Field	Multipurpose Practice Field	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Concession Stand	Skate Park	Disc Golf Course	Walking/Biking Trail (miles)	Fishing Pier	Canoe/Kayak Launch	Boat Ramp	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Dog Park	Playground	Horseshoe Pits	Table/Picnic Table (X)	BBQ Grill (X)	Picnic Shelter/Pavilion	Restrooms (X)	Parking (X)	
Neighborhood Parks																													
16	Henderson Park	1205/1219 Moore	1.0						1																	2		x	
17	Mary Withers Park	2611 6th St.	0.8							2	1													x				x	
18	National Guard/ Parks Office	1209 10th St.	2.6																										
Pocket Parks																													
19	Highland Park	1302 Highland Dr.	0.4																			1		x					
20	Liberty Park	2004 6th St.	1.0																					x				x	
21	Wickersham Park	Esplanade	0.4																										
Linear Parks/Trails																													
22	Southern Pacific Trail	11th street from Nichols to Cottonwood	5.9												0.5														
Special Use Parks & Facilities																													
23	Barkway	1701 Avenue H	2.1																		1			x		2		x	
24	Caboose and Train Depot	Gusman Avenue	0.7																								x	x	
25	Country Club	Le Tulle Park	92.4																								x	x	
26	Gusman Park	Gusman Avenue Esplanade	0.8																										
27	Hilliard Pool	3020 Le Tulle	0.8																1					x		2	x	x	
28	USO Building	2105 Avenue M	1.1																								x	x	
29	Valiant Park and Pool	2624 16th Street	3.1																1								x	x	
Total			343.8	4	6	2	11	1	0	7	5	2	4	1	1	1.9	1	1	1	2	1	1	7	1	11	5	17	16	19

Park Profiles

Bay City's parks and recreation network currently includes two regional parks, six community parks, 14 neighborhood parks, three pocket parks, one linear park, and seven special use parks and facilities. With this large number of parks, maintenance requirements have become a challenge. This is a common theme as evaluating the park system showed evident wear-and-tear and vandalism. Many residents are concerned with the current conditions and sometimes feel unsafe in City parks. This then discourages some people from fully using the parks system. If an effort is shown to improve the park system, public support will grow and residents may begin to take an active role in helping to keep the parks clean.

The following pages provide a detailed profile for each City-owned park and recreation asset. These profiles help determine priorities within the park system and give a thorough understanding of issues and opportunities at each park. Each profile contains the following information:

- Size;
- Park type;
- Surrounding uses;
- Accessibility; and
- Description of existing conditions and potential opportunities.



1. Le Tulle Park

Size: 44.2 acres

Park Type: Regional

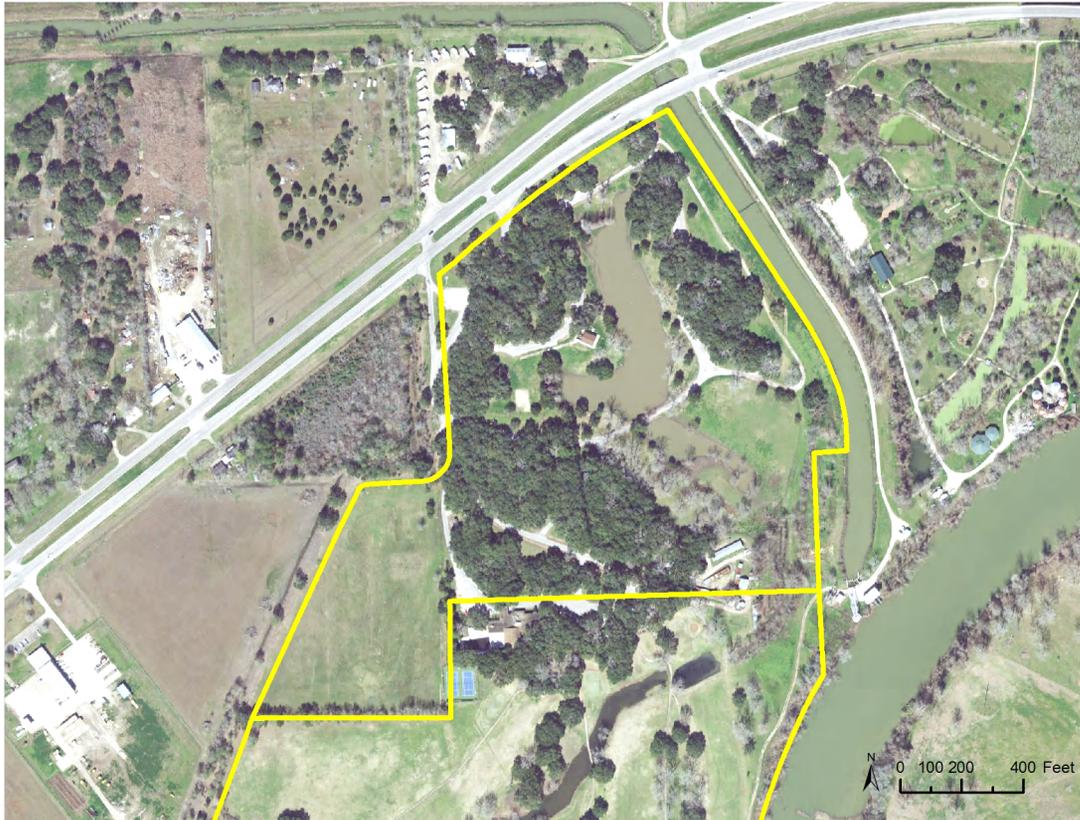
Surrounding Land Uses: Situated on the western outskirts of City's ETJ, Le Tulle Park is nestled between Highway 35 and a segment of the Colorado River. The Bay City Country Club is located directly south and the Matagorda County Birding Nature Center is northeast of the park.

Accessibility: There are two vehicular access points off Highway 35, but without sidewalks, pedestrian access to the park is nonexistent.

Existing Conditions: Donated to Bay City in 1934, Le Tulle Park was the first public park in the Bay City parks system. Park amenities include numerous legacy oak trees, a lake with fishing access and a fountain, newly updated picnic pavilions and play structures, updated outdoor bathrooms, and a disc golf course.

With the size of the park and its natural features, Le Tulle Park is host to annual events such as "Freedom Fireworks" (an Independence Day event), "Bark in the Park," and an Easter Egg Hunt. The disc golf course also serves as overflow parking for these events. As evidence through public survey results, Le Tulle Park is the community's favorite park.

Issues with the park include vehicular conflicts with the Country Club patrons, trash and debris throughout the park. With the existing impressive natural features and some improvements and further enhancements, Le Tulle Park has potential to be a truly remarkable regional park. Opportunities to improve this unique park include adding a trail system that leads to and through the park, a canoe/kayak launch, a zip-line or challenge course, additional picnic pavilions, a pedestrian bridge to the Birding Nature Center, and security lighting, among other things.



2. Riverside Park

Size: 103.6 acres

Park Type: Regional

Surrounding Land Uses: Located significantly south of the limits of the City's ETJ, Riverside Park is surrounded by the Rio Colorado Golf Course to the east and the Colorado River to the west. The remaining surrounding areas are undeveloped land.

Accessibility: Park access is limited to a single vehicular entrance along FM 2668. A land bridge on Riverside Rd. provides access to the park.

Existing Conditions: Purchased in 1993, Riverside Park is the second regional park in Bay City. The Park is primarily used as a camp site for tents and recreational vehicles. Amenities in the park include hiking trails, outdoor restrooms, picnic tables, barbecue pits, playgrounds, and a boat launch. A Ranger Station is located along the entry drive.

The park provides access to nature for locals and visitors alike. Wildlife found in the park has included alligators, bobcats, deer, and more. Riverside Park also hosts the annual Smoke-Off barbecue competition. Riverside Park is unique in that it generates revenue through day pass and overnight fees. To date, approximately 80 percent of the park's revenue comes from out-of-town users.

Existing challenges and issues in the park include the stability of the entry drive and lack of security. There is a need for additional staff in the park to allow the ranger and administrative staff to adequately complete their tasks.

Opportunities for improvements to the park could include another boat launch and a kayak or canoe launch, a challenge course, additional trails, and an archery range, among others.



3. Community Park

Size: 6.4 acres

Park Type: Community

Surrounding Land Uses: This park is surrounded on all sides by a residential neighborhood with a rail yard and tracks to the south. Cottonwood Creek bisects the park in the western half of the park.

Accessibility: Access is limited to one entrance road off of Rugeley Street. There are no sidewalks leading to the park.

Existing Conditions: The singular baseball field in the park is used as a practice field and recently the tennis courts were converted into a basketball court and three pickleball courts. The bleachers, shade covers, and the dug outs are in poor shape, while the score board and field lights do not function. Other park issues include pot holes in the parking lot, trash left behind by Bay City Recovery, and vehicles and boats illegally parked on site.

A City-owned building on the site is leased to Bay City Recovery. This presents concerns due to the potential for illicit activities.

Opportunities for improvement to the site include creating a shaded picnic area near the courts; resurfacing the parking lot; providing new ADA compliant covered bleachers, concession stand/press box, and scoreboard; restoring the park lighting; and rehabilitating the ball field and fence; among others.



4. Frahms Field

Size: 8.2 acres

Park Type: Community

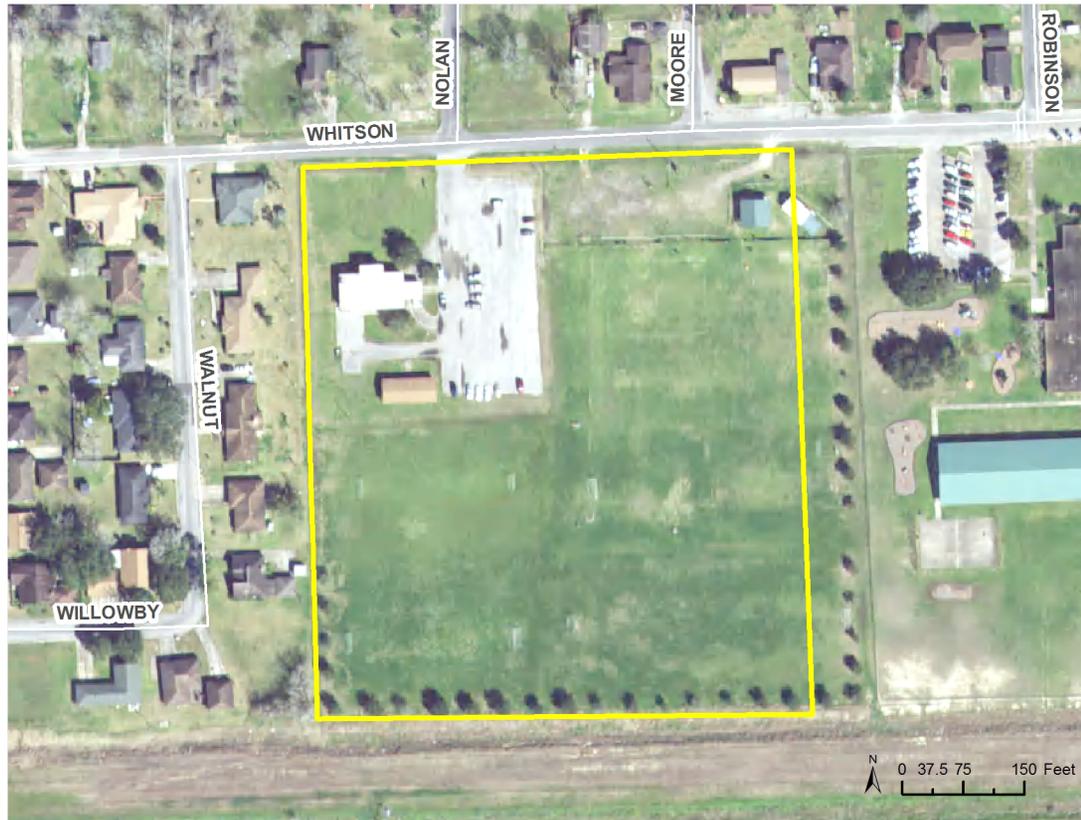
Surrounding Land Uses: Linnie Roberts Elementary School to the east has moved locations and the buildings have since become vacant. Also adjacent to the field are residential areas and the Economic Action Committee of the Gulf Coast that form the western and northern borders, and the land south of the site remains undeveloped.

Accessibility: An unimproved grassy area serves as the parking lot for the park. Pedestrian access to the park is limited as there are no sidewalks leading to the park.

Existing Conditions: Built by the Frahm family and the Bay City Youth Soccer Club, Frahms Field consists of ten soccer playing and practice fields. The Bay City Youth Soccer Club building sits at the northeast

corner of the park while the play fields comprise the rest of the site. Other park facilities include restrooms and an equipment storage shed. The soccer association maintains the land but all utilities and facility maintenance is the responsibility of the City Parks and Recreation Department. As of this year the City is looking to move the Bay City Youth Soccer Club to Hardeman Park in order to eventually sell this property.

Opportunities to improve the park include field lights for nighttime play and covered bleachers.



5. Girls Softball Fields

Size: 8.4 acres

Park Type: Community

Surrounding Land Uses: Surrounding land uses include a new residential development where the old Intermediate School used to be, the Little League Fields, existing residential homes, and the Bay City Municipal Services Building (just southwest of the park). Cottonwood Creek runs along the western border of the park.

Accessibility: The site is easily accessible by automobile, but has very minimal parking. There is a concern for adequate parking for softball when the new housing development reaches completion. A sidewalk begins at Cottonwood Creek to the west and runs along the south edge of the fields, connecting to sidewalks along Avenue M.

Existing Conditions: Maintained by the Bay City Girls Softball Association, the fields are comprised of three fully playable softball

fields. All fields include a pair of dug outs, field lighting, score boards, a broadcast booth, and bleachers. The Mark Ebel Pavilion lies adjacent to the main ball field and contains concessions with wooden picnic tables for seating and eating. Recent renovations include a new dumpster enclosure with planned improvements to include electrical and lighting upgrades. Current issues with the park include insufficient vehicular parking, lack of security lighting, and weathered wooden bleacher seats and picnic table tops.

Improvement opportunities could include additional parking, new scoreboards, field signage, new lighting, windscreens, safety mesh on the infields, and providing uniformity among the building and structure styles.



6. Hardeman Park

Size: 17.9 acres

Park Type: Community

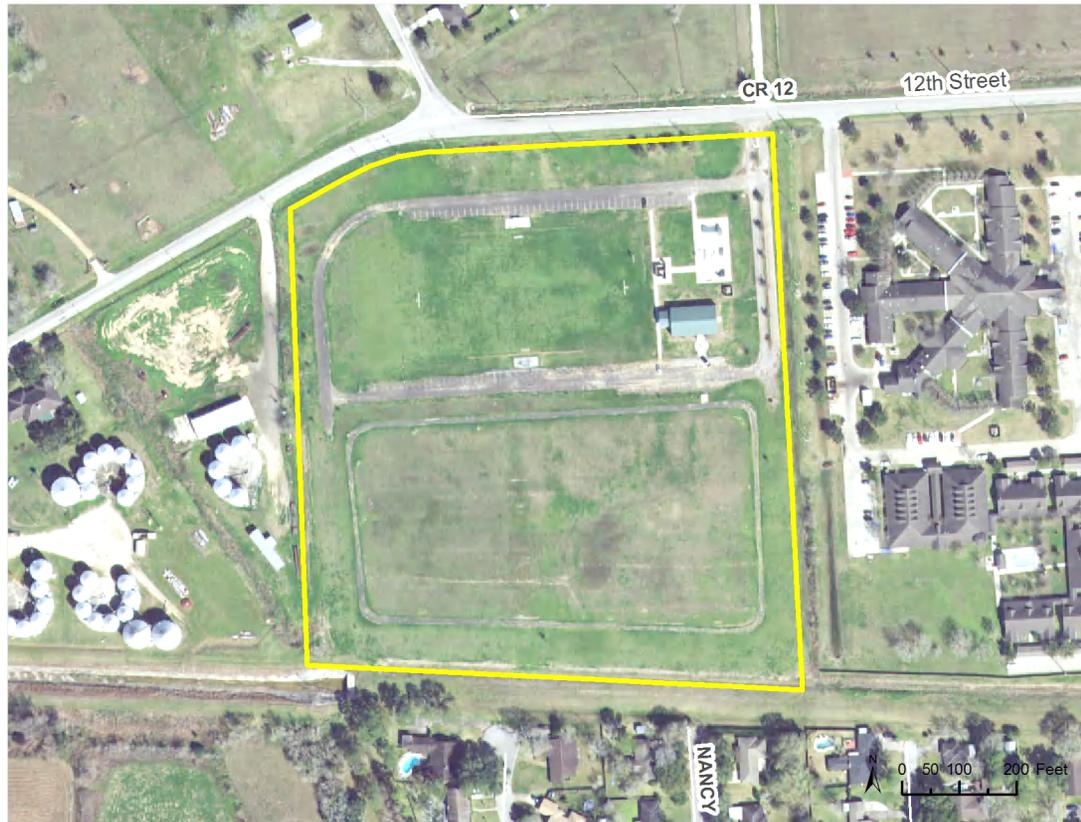
Surrounding Land Uses: The site lies between industrial land uses to the west, a retirement community to the east, and a residential neighborhood to the south. The land to the north of the park is largely undeveloped land with a small pocket of residential homes. The Southern Pacific Trailway right of way is directly south of the property.

Accessibility: Vehicular access to the site is provided from 12th Street and no sidewalks are provided along the street. A canal on the southern edge of the property creates a disconnect with the residential neighborhood.

Existing Conditions: Donated to Bay City by the Hardeman family, Hardeman Park contains the Bay City Lions Club Teen Center (available for youth activities) and Skate Park. Both the Center and Skate Park were built by The Lions Club. Other park elements include a football field, a small concession stand, two shade canopies around the skatepark, an internal walking trail and a track. Site issues consist of mowing difficulties near the roadside ditch. There are also large open areas that have ruts and mud pits.

Potential opportunities for improvements to the park include redesigning the skate park, diversifying amenities (e.g., splash pad, playground, soccer field) on site to increase the park's draw, and landscape enhancements, among others.

The City has recently completed renovations to the building and a new restroom has been installed



7. Little League Fields

Size: 6.7 acres

Park Type: Community

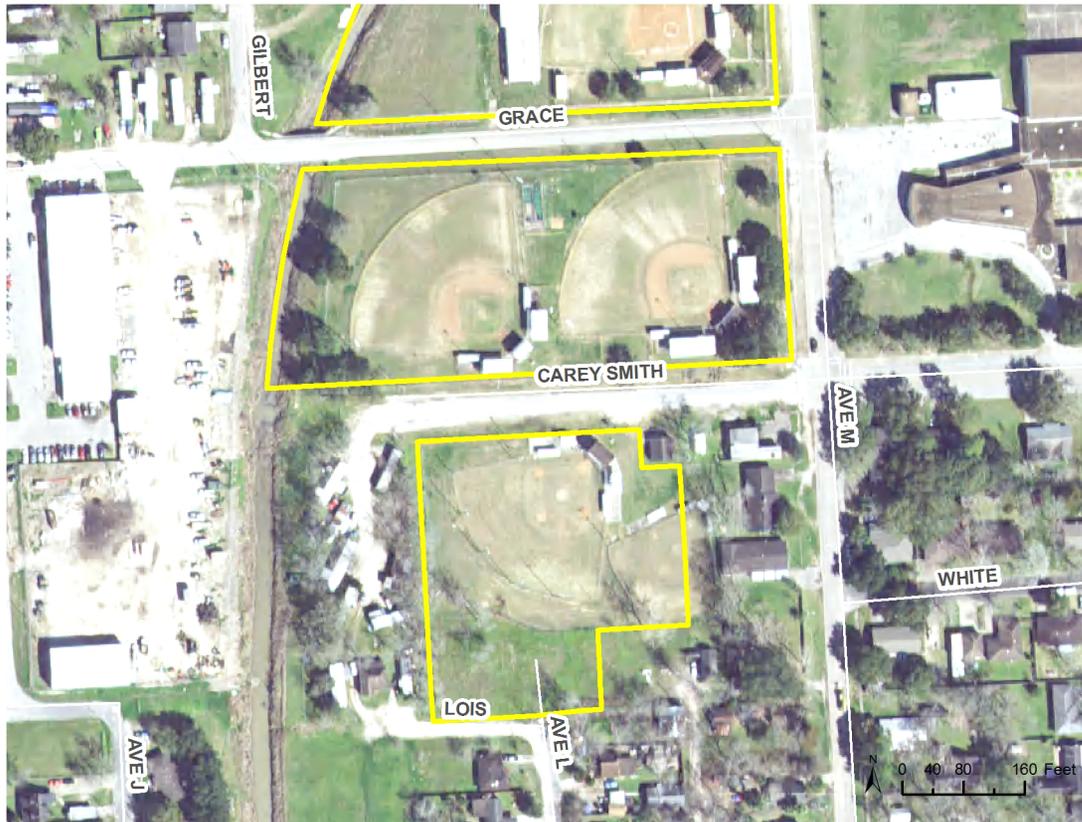
Surrounding Land Uses: A municipal building sits on the west side of Cottonwood Creek which defines the western edge of the park. Additional surrounding uses include an intermediate school, residential neighborhoods, and the Girls Softball Fields.

Accessibility: Sitting at the corner of Grace St. and Avenue M, the site is easily accessible by automobile, but lacks sufficient parking. A sidewalk on the east side of the property runs north and south providing a connection with the residential development.

Existing Conditions: The Little League Fields include three fully playable baseball fields, with associated items such as dug outs, field lighting, score boards, a broadcast booth, and bleachers. There is also a pitcher's practice cage for two and large estate Live Oak trees

surrounding the site. Recent renovations include a new dumpster enclosure, all buildings were repainted in 2021, with planned improvements to include additional lighting. A major issue is lack of vehicular parking.

Potential improvements to the park are the same as those for the Girls Softball Fields including improved parking, field signage, windscreens and infield safety mesh, new scoreboards, and providing uniformity among the building and structure styles.



8. Sports Complex

Size: 24.9 acres

Park Type: Community

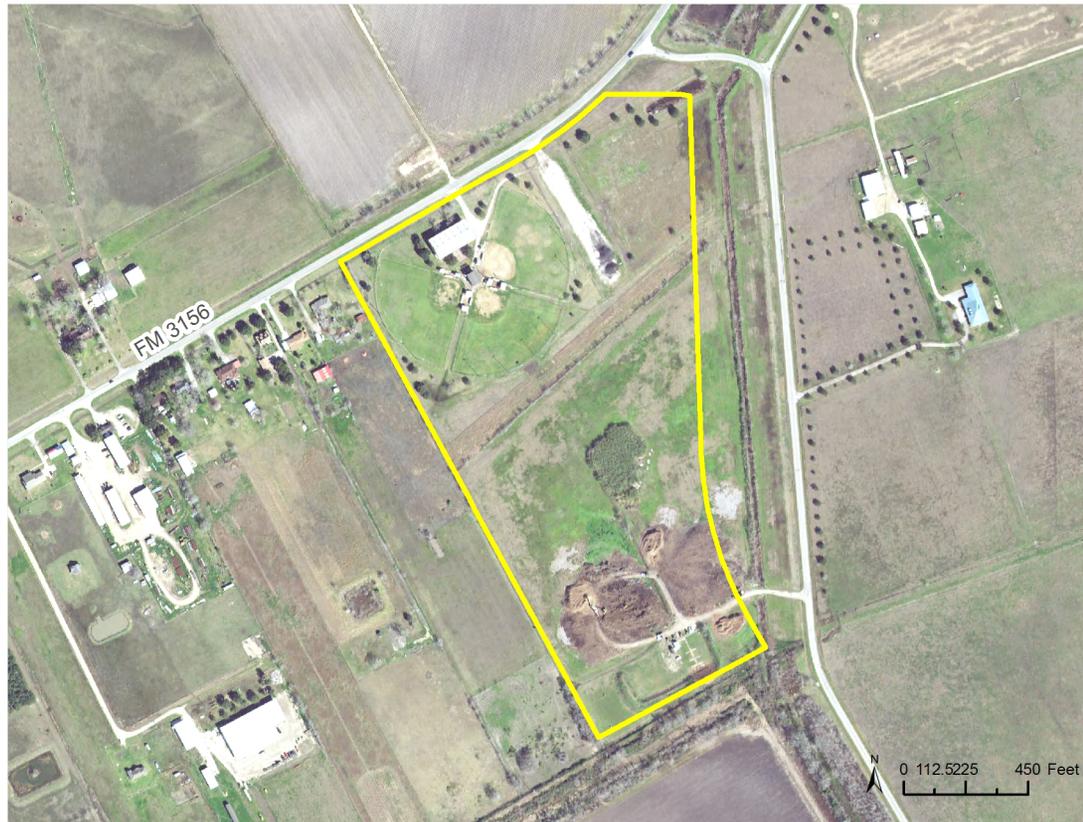
Surrounding Land Uses: There are a small number of residential lots to the west of the complex. The Bay City brush site and Police Department Gun Range are located south of the site. The rest of the surrounding land remains undeveloped.

Accessibility: There are no trails or sidewalks leading to the site as the complex is located outside of the City limits. Vehicular access is limited to FM3156 and Skelly Road. A gravel parking lot is located between the baseball and the soccer fields.

Existing Conditions: The site consists of three baseball fields, practice soccer fields, an open air pavilion with basketball hoops, and a small playground. Standard baseball accessory features include press boxes, lighting, and team dug outs. The park also hosts the City's,

Junk and Disorderly event. In 2022 the park is slated to have newly installed pavilion lighting and basketball backboards. Current issues with the sports fields include uneven and rough playing surfaces (Field 3 is in the worst shape). The grass within the open field has numerous ruts in it from people driving their vehicles through it. The parking lot is also rutted as it is not permanently paved. Lighting in the parking lot and softball fields does not work consistently. Additional site issues are the aged press boxes, bathrooms, bleachers, and fences. The pavilion is heavily used but the roof has leaks during and after rainfall. Since the site is isolated from the City, crime is a concern. There have been issues with vehicle break-ins and theft in the past.

Opportunities for improvements to the park include athletic field and spectator facility upgrades and replacements, resurfacing the parking lot, providing equipment storage, repairing the pavilion roof, resurfacing basketball courts into pickleball courts, providing natural barriers between the park and the road to discourage off-road vehicles, and potentially repurposing the softball fields, and updating the playground.



9. Amistad Park

Size: 2.1 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: The site is surrounded by a residential neighborhood. The office and workshop of the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) are directly west of the site.

Accessibility: Streets border all sides of the park, making it easily accessible by vehicles. There is minimal parking on site and a lack of sidewalks limit pedestrian access.

Existing Conditions: Amistad Park contains amenities that can make this park a successful one, such as barbecue pits, basketball courts, an open air pavilion, a play structure, and covered public restrooms. Many of the park amenities are in good condition. Recent additions include the completed splash pad, parking improvements, pavilion and restrooms painted, backstops removed, added cornhole, GAGA ball and a micro-library. Site issues include large pools of water

within the open grassy areas after heavy rainfall. Other issues include undesirable uses and the need for security lighting.

Being located directly adjacent to the PARC site, there is potential to develop Amistad Park into a larger neighborhood park incorporating both properties. Potential amenities that could be developed on the site include enhanced picnic areas, community gardens, multipurpose playing fields, an interior loop trail, age appropriate play areas, parks plazas with game tables, and a butterfly garden.



10. Avenue I Park (north)

Size: 0.3 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: Cottonwood Creek bisects the site and there are commercial uses surrounding the park.

Accessibility: Located at the northwest corner of Avenue H and 8th Street, the park is accessible by vehicles, but there is minimal parking and a lack of sidewalks around the park.

Existing Conditions: As an undeveloped tract, Avenue I Park (north) contains a large creek (Cottonwood Creek) in the center surrounded by large canopy trees. The remainder of the site is covered in grass with utility poles lining 8th Street to the south.

Largely unused, Avenue I Park (north) would benefit from the addition of park amenities in the form of picnic tables, benches, a gazebo, drinking fountains, a walking trail along Cottonwood Creek, and barbecue grills. Its proximity to heavily traveled roads and lack of on-site parking may make this park difficult to develop.



11. Avenue I Park (south)

Size: 0.6 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: The site is bisected by Cottonwood Creek and surrounded by commercial uses.

Accessibility: Located at the southwest corner of Avenue I and 8th Street, the site has the same accessibility and parking challenges as Avenue I Park (north).

Existing Conditions: Avenue I Park (south) is located directly across 8th Street from Avenue I Park (north). This park shares that same opportunities and constraints as Avenue I Park (north). Park amenities, such as trail access along Cottonwood Creek, would improve the usability of the site.



12. Bay Ridge Park

Size: 1.7 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: Residential homes occupy the west, east, and south sides of the park. There is undeveloped land and an apartment complex to the north.

Accessibility: There are no sidewalks in the area and the park has one access point off Bay Ridge Blvd. The street is, however, wide enough to allow for on-street parking on both sides.

Existing Conditions: Entrance into the park is a narrow path between two residential homes. A park sign sits at the park entrance with Crape Myrtles lining the entrance and larger canopy trees scattered about the rest of the park site. Park equipment includes a newly installed play structure with picnic tables.

Opportunities include, constructing a walk path from the entrance of the park to the playground, and the City could potentially coordinate with adjacent neighbors to help with the required site maintenance and surveillance.



13. Chateaux Oaks Park

Size: 0.7 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: The park is surrounded by a residential neighborhood and a rail line.

Accessibility: The site is accessible by residents within an immediate proximity. There are no sidewalks leading to the site and no areas dedicated for parking.

Existing Conditions: Previously slated to be sold, Chateaux Oaks Park was retained within the City's park system at the insistence of the neighboring residents. An agreement is currently in place for the residents to maintain the park. However, this is an issue for concern as the maintenance practices and schedule are not controlled by the PARD. Park features include a heavily used basketball court with large stands of canopy trees surrounding it. A small barbecue pit sits to the west of the basketball court.

Opportunities for improvements to this park include the installation of a picnic pavilion and associated amenities. A new playground is scheduled for 2024.



14. City Field

Size: 2.8 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: Single family residential homes, a night club named "The Club," and the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church surround the park.

Accessibility: There are no sidewalks or trails in the area, restricting park access to primarily vehicles.

Existing Conditions: A park that was originally intended for baseball, City Field is now used as a soccer field. Current park elements include bleachers, soccer goals, and a new bathroom. As the interest has shifted towards soccer play, all baseball related elements have been removed. The turfed areas are in need of leveling in order to allow for safer soccer play. Lighting remains an issue despite repeated repair attempts which have proven ineffective. The unpaved parking

lot has ruts in it, thus making it difficult to properly park vehicles. The primary issues with City field is the prevalence of trash, crime, and undesirable uses.

Opportunities to improve this park include conversion of the baseball field to a soccer field, resurfacing the parking lot, installation of security lighting, enhanced field lighting and a greater law enforcement presence.



15. Duncan Park

Size: 2.2 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: Surrounding land uses include undeveloped land, a child development center, and residences.

Accessibility: There are no sidewalks in this area, making access to the site primarily vehicular in nature.

Existing Conditions: This park is the most used neighborhood park in Bay City. Duncan Park contains a large open air pavilion with picnic tables where patrons congregate to play dominoes. Other site amenities include a children's play structure, two overhead structures that provide shade for a barbecue pit and swing set, a basketball court, a volleyball court, a horseshoe pit, cornhole game area, and various picnic tables and benches constructed of recycled plastic. A newly constructed and fully enclosed restroom lies east of

the parking lot. The primary issue with the park is people riding ATVs within the park open space. Residents have requested additional picnic amenities and square game tables.

Opportunities to improve this park include adding landscape enhancements, and a natural barrier to discourage ATV use in the park. Other improvements could include resurfacing the basketball court, and rehabilitating the horseshoe pit, among others.

This plan update also included Duncan Park with it's own master plan that created a greater vision for the parks potential in the future. A park concept rendering, list of upgrades, and construction cost estimations are listed in Chapter 4 and Appendix C.



16. Henderson Park

Size: 1.0 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: This park is surrounded by residential areas and undeveloped land.

Accessibility: The park is located in close proximity to residences, but safe pedestrian access can be difficult as there are no sidewalks leading to the site.

Existing Conditions: Also known as North End Park, Henderson Park was the site of one of the original schools in Bay City. In 1995, the park was officially named in honor of Mr. Frank Henderson, who became the first black councilman of Bay City. A monument with a plaque is on site to commemorate this occasion. Existing park features include a swing set and two basketball courts. Large stands of Live Oak trees are situated at the park's perimeter and scattered

within the site. This site presents a number of challenges including the basketball courts have a cracked and unlevel playing surface. The City has received complaints about homeless people loitering in the park thus the City had to remove the restroom and meeting hall. Recent additions include the installment of two shade canopies and plans for a new playground can be expected in 2023.

Elements to consider for improvements could include an interior loop trail with educational signage about the site's history, a playground, basketball court, security lighting, designated parking areas, and an increased law enforcement presence. It will be essential to improve and diversify usage of this park in order to discourage illicit activities and loitering. These illicit activities did decrease after the removal of the restroom and meeting hall buildings.



17. Mary Withers Park

Size: 0.8 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: The USO Building and The American Legion Post #11 are directly to the north of the park. The remaining surrounding uses are largely residential.

Accessibility: Sidewalks line three sides of this park, but there are no crosswalks provide safe crossing locations from adjacent blocks. The parking lot to the west of the park provides sufficient space for vehicles.

Existing Conditions: This park neighbors the historic USO Building. Park amenities include two lighted tennis courts, a newly rebuilt sand volleyball court with lighting, picnic tables, and trash receptacles. A park sign sits at the southwest corner of Southwest Avenue and 6th Street. Although the park sees frequent use by patrons, there

are undesirable elements that prevent the park from sustaining its family-friendly atmosphere. Issues with the site include loose trash, vandalism, alcohol consumption, and overnight sleeping on the tennis courts. Within the last few year the tennis courts were resurfaced and sand was added to the volleyball court.

Opportunities for improvements in the park include the addition of security lighting and the possibility of striping the existing tennis courts for two additional pickleball use.



18. National Guard/Parks Office

Size: 2.6 acres

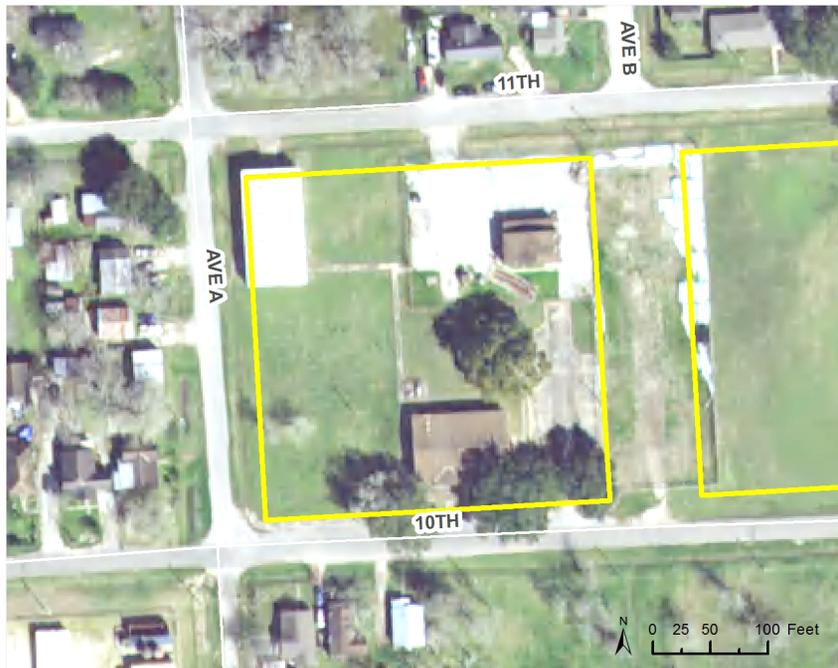
Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: This site is located in a residential neighborhood and Amistad Park is located directly to the east.

Accessibility: A sidewalk extends along the southern edge of the site providing pedestrian access and a parking lot to the east provides sufficient vehicular access.

Existing Conditions: The Bay City Parks and Recreation Department is housed in the previously empty National Guard Building. The buildings located to the north of the Parks Office are used as the PARD warehouse and workshop. Recently the maintenance yard reconfigured for a new splash pad, all park buildings were repainted, and a new roof is scheduled for the Administration Building in 2022. Site issues include standing water in the parking lot after rain events.

Opportunities for improvements to the site include development of a consolidated, high-quality neighborhood park using both this and the Amistad Park property. See the Amistad Park profile for further description.



19. Highland Park

Size: 0.4 acres

Park Type: Pocket

Surrounding Land Uses: Residential uses surround all sides of the park.

Accessibility: There are no designated parking areas or sidewalks leading to the site. Access is limited to residents within the immediate proximity.

Existing Conditions: This park has a recycled plastic play structure and a small handicap accessible picnic table. Highland Park is a favorite park among the residents and may act as a model for future neighborhood and pocket parks. Current site issues are a broken park sign, lack of a designated parking area, limited lawn maintenance, and trash within the park.

Opportunities for improvement include additional site furnishings such as, benches, a small pavilion and drinking fountains. Neighborhood residents have expressed their willingness to purchase some of the park items, such as picnic tables and benches.



20. Liberty Park

Size: 1.0 acres

Park Type: Pocket

Surrounding Land Uses: Industrial uses surround the park on all sides. The Cottonwood Creek runs through the park and City Hall is located one block to the west.

Accessibility: Limited pedestrian access and on-street parking makes it difficult to access the site.

Existing Conditions: Established in the 1960's, Liberty Park is one of the oldest parks in the City. With a gazebo that dates back to 1907 and new picnic tables, Liberty Park also bridges the gap between the old and new. The historic gazebo is a popular location for wedding photos and ceremonies and was repainted in 2021. The park is surrounded by industrial uses, but access to Cottonwood Creek creates a small sense of nature. A split rail fence was added around the park boundaries to help with buffering the park.

Opportunities for improvement to the park include a vegetative screen along the existing chain link fence, sidewalks along the park frontage, and future trail connectivity along the Cottonwood Creek. Additional improvements to the southern half of the park are slated to occur as part of an improved City Hall complex master plan.



21. Wickersham Park

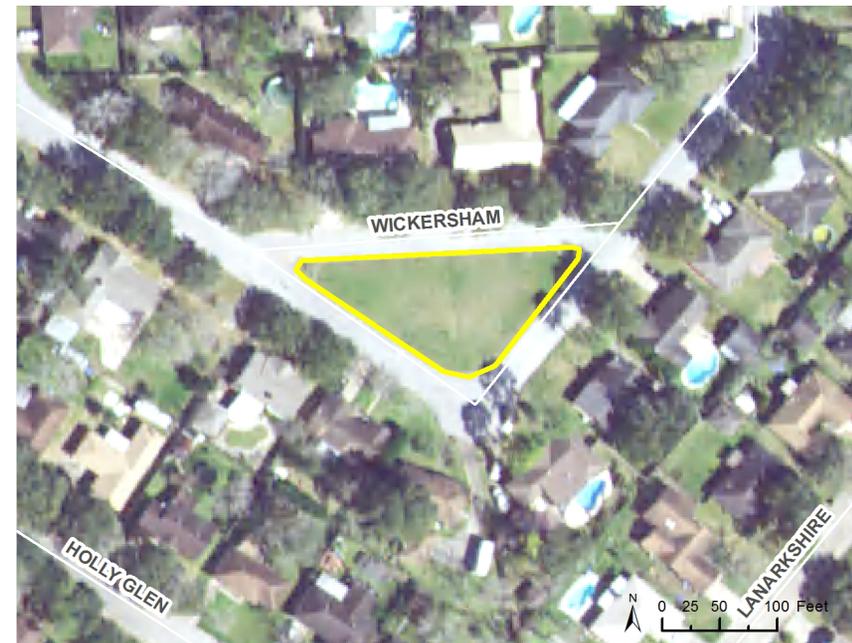
Size: 0.4 acres

Park Type: Pocket

Surrounding Land Uses: Surrounded by residential uses on all sides.

Accessibility: There are no crosswalks or sidewalks leading to the park, making accessibility difficult and unsafe.

Existing Conditions: This is a triangular shaped park located within a median at the heart of a residential neighborhood. The park includes benches, an open play field, and a few Crape Myrtle trees. Issues with the site include the need for mowing. Opportunities for improvements to the park include removal of the Crape Myrtles and replacing them with canopy trees and/or a shrub hedgerow. Site amenities such as new benches and a walking path would attract patrons to the park. Safe access to the park is the primary concern as the park as it is surrounded on all sides by Wickersham Drive. Also a new playground is scheduled to be built in 2023.



22. Southern Pacific Trail

Size: 5.9 acres, 0.5 miles

Park Type: Linear

Surrounding Land Uses: The trail runs adjacent to residential areas, and Bay City Junior High School.

Accessibility: There are multiple trail access points at intersections of various crossroads.

Existing Conditions: The 10-foot wide trail sits at the center a residential neighborhood with the paved portion extending from Mary Avenue to Cottonwood Avenue. The trail was built with asphalt from Mary Avenue to Sycamore Avenue and concrete from Sycamore Avenue to Cottonwood Avenue. The trail is also surrounded by drainage ditches on both sides. Issues with the trail include the asphalt breaking apart, overgrown grass covering the asphalt, and trash accumulation. Safety is a concern as there are no traffic calming devices or walkway indicators at the street crossings.

Opportunities for improving the trail include the extension of trail with grant funding, and providing shade, benches, trashcans, safety lights with call boxes, and restroom facilities. The City can also continue to extend the trail along the old railway corridor.



23. Barkway

Size: 2.1 acres

Park Type: Special Use

Surrounding Land Uses: Surrounding land uses include residences and the Bay City Recycling Center.

Accessibility: There is no sidewalk access or designated parking areas on site.

Existing Conditions: Formerly a composting site, Barkway is a heavily used dog park that is new to the community. Chain link fences separate large and small dog agility courses with a community canine drinking station located in between. All of the canine play equipment are constructed with re-purposed materials such as wooden bollards, loose timber pieces, and unused storm sewer pipes. A picnic bench is situated on site for the dog owners but proper shade is not provided for them or their pets. Recently two shade structures and a water feature for dogs were added to the park.

Opportunities for improvement include a dedicated parking lot, evening lighting and a improved lawn maintenance. Ultimately, the City will need to determine a way to allow lawn areas to rest for periods of time in order to maintain the long-term health of the landscape.



24. Caboose and Train Depot

Size: 0.7 acres

Park Type: Special Use

Surrounding Land Uses: The site of the Train Depot and Caboose is surrounded by residential uses and a rail line located directly south of the Train Depot.

Accessibility: There is sufficient vehicular access and parking, however, pedestrian access is limited to one sidewalk that is in poor condition.

Existing Conditions: Associated with Gusman Park to the north, the Train Depot and Caboose are both historical features at the intersection of Avenue G and 2nd Street. Built in 1905 and in use until 1984, the historic Train Depot is currently used as a meeting room. Recent renovations to the Train Depot occurred in the 1990's and in 2010. Primarily used as a tourist attraction, the potential use for the caboose may be as an item for public rentals. The site's issues are parallel with that of Gusman Park as it is hard to mow due to the tall curbing and animal waste is often found around the Caboose and Train Depot. The park has undergone several improvements in recent years, including new furnishings installed in 2019 and then repainted in 2021, also the exterior of the park was restored.



25. Country Club

Size: 92.4 acres

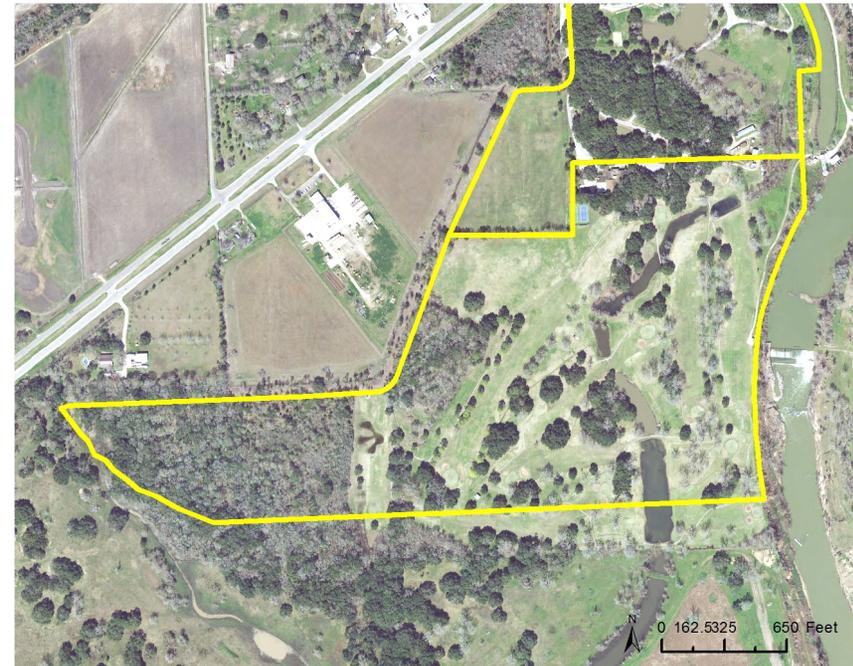
Park Type: Special Use

Surrounding Land Uses: Primarily surrounded by undeveloped land, an industrial site, Le Tulle Park, and the Colorado River.

Accessibility: The vehicular entrance is through Le Tulle Park's entrance off Highway 35. There is no pedestrian access to the site.

Existing Conditions: Located at the southern end of Le Tulle Park, the Bay City Country Club consists of a clubhouse, golf course, golf pro shop, a swimming pool, and tennis courts. The Country Club has an 80-year lease from Bay City for use of the land. Site issues are primarily seen through the vehicular conflicts between the park and Country Club patrons. Disregard for vehicle directional signs and high speed traveling through the park to reach the Country Club are traffic concerns from the park users and Country Club patrons.

The City has concerns whether the Country Club will remain viable in the near future due to economic reasons.



26. Gusman Park

Size: 0.8 acres

Park Type: Special Use

Surrounding Land Uses: There is a combination of residential and industrial uses surrounding all sides of the park.

Accessibility: Sidewalks run parallel along the length of the park, but there is no designated area for a crosswalk or parking for vehicles.

Existing Conditions: Comprised of four sections, Gusman Park is a linear park that extends along a Bay City Historic Neighborhood. An obelisk shaped monument was erected on the north end of Avenue G between 4th and 5th Street in honor of former Mayor R.C. Gusman, the park's namesake. In 1988, the train Caboose was relocated to the south end of the Avenue next to the Train Depot. Tall street curbs are an issue for mowing access onto the park. Site issues include areas where deposits of animal waste are left behind from stray animals or negligent pet owners.

Opportunities to improve this park include enhanced landscaping which would remove some mowing requirements.



27. Hilliard Pool

Size: 0.8 acres

Park Type: Special Use

Surrounding Land Uses: The site is surrounded by a child development center and residential homes.

Accessibility: There is one vehicular access road (Le Tulle Avenue), but without any sidewalks in this area, pedestrian access is limited.

Existing Conditions: Originally built in 1940 with funds raised by the Hilliard School, Hilliard Pool accommodates about 70 patrons daily. The large pool has depths of three to 12 feet and includes a small baby pool, the City constructed two shade canopies to help with the amount of shade available at the pool. Although the pool was re-plastered as recently as 2012, there are signs of leakage. Other issues range from an undersized pool equipment room, inadequate chemical storage facilities, and challenges with lifeguards. There is an undeveloped area on the property that may provide potential for additional amenities.

Opportunities to improve this pool include addressing the above listed issues, providing a splash/play area, and improved furnishings.



28. USO Building

Size: 1.1 acres

Park Type: Special Use

Surrounding Land Uses: The USO Building is surrounded by a residential neighborhood, businesses along 7th Street, and Mary Withers Park.

Accessibility: There are sidewalks on all four sides of the site, but no crosswalks. The site is easily accessible by vehicle and has ample parking in the rear. 7th Street (Hwy 35) is a major thoroughfare within the City.

Existing Conditions: The USO Building is a historic building located in the center of Bay City. Previous upgrades include an auditorium and renovations of the lobby, kitchen, dining room, library, restrooms, the main lobby, a stage, and stage curtains. Also in 2021 the exterior of the building was repainted and the roof was replaced. The issue of ceiling mold was fixed by newly installed ceiling tiles and fans. Existing issues include maintenance difficulties with new construction finishes, and the non-renovated stage and storage rooms. Additional issues include the lack of interior signs, interior painting, exterior lighting. Non-commercial grade carpeting and molded window frames also need to be replaced.



Recreation & Events

Bay City offers a variety of recreational programs and events that provide year-round activities for residents of all ages. Although the majority of the programs are offered by third-party providers, many of these programs take place at City parks or facilities. The City also has a joint-use agreement with the school district for the 16th Street pool.

Third-party associations provide organized athletics throughout the year for children and youth, such as baseball/softball, basketball, football, soccer, and swimming (see Figure 3.2, *Recreation Programming*, on the following page). The City also offers organized recreation year-round for adults including pickleball, co-ed softball, men's only softball, and volleyball. However, it is apparent from public input that many residents are unaware of the programming that is provided and do not know where to access this information. When survey respondents were asked which age group they felt had the greatest need for recreational programming moving forward, the greatest amount of respondents indicated teens and children, or those ages 19 and under. When asked how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with the current program offerings, programming for adults and seniors received the least amount of satisfaction. Notably, some residents expressed a desire to get involved in the planning and execution of recreational programs.

Generally, the residents of Bay City have voiced a desire for more recreational opportunities. While people may have an interest in getting out and being more active, their lack of program awareness and the quality of facilities in the City may drive them to seek recreational opportunities outside of Bay City. The public indicated stakeholder meetings that they travel outside of the City to participate in recreational activities. These activities include golf, swimming, soccer, softball, baseball, basketball, fishing, hiking, camping, gymnastics, and other indoor activities. Providing more opportunities in Bay City will encourage residents to use the City's parks system and help to attract more visitors.

The City, along with third party associations, also offer festivals and events throughout the year (see Figure 3.3, *Festivals/Events*, on page 54). Some of these events include Camofest, Hometown Christmas, Easter Egg Hunts, Rotary Summer Concert, Rice Festival, Freedom Fireworks, and the Matagorda County Rodeo. Nearly all of the festivals and events offered are available to all age groups.



Egg Hunts in the Park



Camofest



Sparks in the Park

Figure 3.2, Recreation Programming

Program	Gender	Age Group	Season	Host
Youth				
AquaCats Swim Team	M/F	6-18	Summer	City
Baseball	M/F	5-12	Spring	City
Little Dribblers Basketball League	M/F	5-12	Spring	BCISD
Boy Scouts	M	11-17	Year-round	BSA
Boys & Girls Club	M/F	6-14	Year-round	United Way
Cub Scouts Pack 4545	M	7-10	Year-round	BSA
Football	M/F	5-16	Fall/Winter	BCISD
Girl Scouts	F	11-17	Year-round	GSUSA
Matagorda County 4-H	M/F	5-18	Year-round	4-H
Soccer Club	M/F	U5-U10	Spring	City
Softball	F	8-14	Spring	City
Adult				
Pickleball	M/F	18 & up	Spring/Summer/Fall	City
Co-ed Softball	M/F	18 & up	Spring/Summer/Fall	City
Co-ed Volleyball	M/F	18 & up	Summer/Fall/Spring	City
Men's Softball	M	18 & up	Spring/Summer/Fall	City

Figure 3.2, Recreation Programming (cont.)

Program	Gender	Age Group	Season	Host
Open Gym/Volleyball practice	M/F	18 & up	Year-round	City
Classes/Series				
Art	M/F	All		Art league
Misc. Training/Lessons				
Swimming Lessons	M/F	All	Summer	City
Lifeguard Class	M/F	16 & up	April/May	City
Camps				
Basketball and Volleyball Camps	M/F	12 - 18	Summer	BCISD
Senior Programs				
EAC	M/F	50 +	Year-round	EAC
Senior-cize	M/F	50 +	Year-round	City
Water Aerobics	M/F	50 +	June-August	City



Figure 3.3, Festivals/Events

Program	Gender	Age Group	Season	Host
Riverside Smoke-Off	M/F	All	March	City
Baby It's Cold Out	M/F	Adult	January	City
Camofest	M/F	All	Winter	Main Street
Hometown Christmas	M/F	All	December	City
Christmas Parade	M/F	All	December	City
Egg Hunts in the Park	M/F	All	March/April	City
Full Moon Food Truck Festival	M/F	All	Summer	Nature Center
1/2 K "Fun Runs"	M/F	All	January	City
Touch A Truck	M/F	All	September	City
Market Days	M/F	All	3rd Saturday of each month	Chamber
Matagorda County Rodeo	M/F	All	Spring	County
Movies in the Park	M/F	All	May, August, October, December	City
Rice Festival/Bull Blast/Parade	M/F	All	Fall	Lion's Club

Figure 3.3, Festivals/Events (cont.)

Program	Gender	Age Group	Season	Host
Rotary Summer Concert	M/F	All	Summer	Rotary
Seafood Festival	M/F	All	Spring & Fall	Matagorda
Freedom Fireworks	M/F	All	July	City
Texas Paddlers' Rally on the River	M/F	All	April	City
Theater	M/F	All	Year-round	CAST
Zombie 2k	M/F	13 & up	February	City



Bay City Park and Recreation Department

The Bay City PARD currently includes 13 full time staff and 23 seasonal staff. Full time staff include a Director, Supervisor, Manager, Park Secretary, Lead Park Specialist, five Park Specialists, Park Ranger, Assistant Park Ranger, and an Aquatic/Recreation Specialist. Seasonal staff include four Head Guards and 16 Lifeguards. One Seasonal staff member in Riverside Park, and one additional seasonal parks staff member.

The Bay City PARD is currently responsible for the maintenance of over 348 acres of parkland. The parkland acreage is significantly spread out across the City, ETJ, and beyond, thus decreasing maintenance efficiency. Additionally, the City has acquired a number of parkland acres through developer dedication. Some of this parkland is essentially inaccessible and likely unusable for recreation purposes.

Over the years, the PARD's maintenance responsibility has expanded to include lands that do not fall easily under other departments' responsibilities. As such, the PARD is now responsible for maintaining water wells and water towers. They also maintain the lands in and around downtown, City Hall, the Police Department, the Fire Department, Economic Development Corporation, Economic Action Committee, the rent house, hair salon, several other miscellaneous properties, and an esplanade that is not owned by the City. With all of this additional land that the PARD is responsible for maintaining, they are unable to spend the time and resources needed to adequately maintain the parks system. This is evident throughout the City and the need for improved park maintenance has been strongly voiced by the community and City staff alike.

Considering the resource demands on the PARD, additional staffing needs have been identified. This includes one additional Riverside Park Ranger, and one additional recreation coordinator.

While the City does have agreements with the Bay City ISD and local athletic leagues for the maintenance and operation of some parks and facilities throughout the community, the agreements may not be adequately addressing the maintenance requirements at each site. Review of the agreements will be needed for all existing and new recreational partners for a new permitting system.





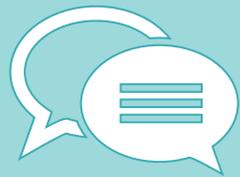
Needs Assessment

A needs assessment is the most critical component of the parks planning process. It includes a comprehensive analysis of the existing parks and recreation system in Bay City and compares it to the needs of today and the future. It evaluates the demand, diversity, distribution, and quality of parks and recreation to identify deficiencies within the existing system. This, in turn, helps to guide development of recommendations to address the identified needs.

It is important to recognize that the criteria and standards set forth in this section primarily serve to establish a baseline for facilities and to help the City see whether it is providing an adequate number and distribution of facilities. These levels of service can, and should, be adjusted periodically to meet changing conditions in the City.

This Plan uses a variety of different techniques to evaluate Bay City's current and future park and recreation needs. Three different techniques are included in the needs assessment analysis. These techniques follow general methodologies accepted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for local park master plans. The three techniques are described in Figure 3.4, *Assessment Methods*, below.

Figure 3.4, Assessment Methods



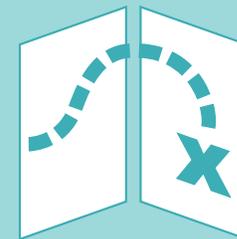
Demand-Based Assessment

The demand-based assessment uses citizen input on the types of activities they would like to engage in to determine which facilities and programs are most in demand.



Resource-Based Assessment

The resource-based assessment is based on the usefulness of available physical and natural resources to provide recreation opportunities. For example, Le Tulle and Riverside Parks provide residents with various opportunities to access nature.



Access-Based Assessment

The access-based assessment analyzes the current quantity and location of parkland and facilities to determine if the needs of the population are being met. This technique uses locally developed level-of-service ratios of facilities to population (typically expressed as quantity of acreage or facilities to every 1,000 residents) to determine what is available for residents today and project future needs as the population grows.

While each assessment method is important in its own regard, it does not represent the entire picture. This assessment, and the recommendations resulting from it, use findings from all three methods to determine what types of park and recreation facilities and programs are needed in Bay City.

Decades ago, a series of national guidelines and standards for the provision of parks and recreation were developed based on nationwide demographic trends rather than local desires. In recognition that one size does not fit all, the national guidelines now serve as a starting point for park planning. After analyzing the existing conditions of the parks system and gaining an understanding of the community, the standards are specifically tailored to meet local conditions.

Demand-Based Assessment

During the planning process, it is essential to identify public demand for park facilities and/or programming. Derived directly from public input, a preliminary evaluation is done to determine the types of parks and recreation opportunities that may be considered valuable assets in Bay City. The demand-based assessment is based on preferences expressed by the community during stakeholder meetings, key person interviews, a public survey, and a public open house. Highlights from the different engagement strategies are described below. Highlights are presented as they were voiced by the public during each engagement method, even though the opinions may differ between different engagement components (e.g., public survey responses may differ from public open house results).

Stakeholder Meetings & Key Person Interviews

A series of stakeholder meetings and key person interviews were conducted at the onset of the planning process. With 40 attendees, the meetings and interviews helped to identify a variety of desires and concerns in the community. Some of the key themes which were continually brought up both during these meetings and throughout the remainder of the planning process are listed in the adjacent sidebar.



Stakeholder meetings included varying interested parties from throughout the community.

Kick-off Meeting Highlights

Wants:

- Recreation center/aquatic complex
- Trails, connectivity
- Lighted athletic fields
- More aquatic options (splash pads in all quadrants of the city)
- Better wayfinding/signage
- More “things to do,” additional programming
- System-wide park upgrades
- More attractive parks
- Competitive facilities that the residents can be proud of
- Better and more partnerships (e.g., school district, Convention & Visitors Bureau, athletic leagues, business community)

Issues/Needs:

- Infrastructure (e.g., paved roads, pools, pavilions, playgrounds, parking)
- Greater park maintenance
- Challenges with vandalism and crime
- Budget constraints
- Parkland dedication challenges
- Communication with the public
- Marketing the park system more efficiently

Public Survey Highlights

A public survey was conducted from March to February 2022. The survey was offered online through multiple outlets the City had to offer, including social media, the city website, utility bills, and flyer distributions. Halff also attended the Easter Egg Hunt at La Tulle Park to hand out information regarding the survey and talk with the public about the master plan update. The focus of the survey was to assess opinions of Bay City today, and gain an understanding of the desires of residents for the future growth of the parks system. The 21-question survey included a variety of topics such as the overall quality of the park system, satisfaction with City facilities and amenities, trails, the public’s recreation interests, park components and elements, funding allocation and priority issues. Highlights from the public survey can be found on the following pages.

A total of 196 responses were received.

Figure 3.5, What is your approximate age?

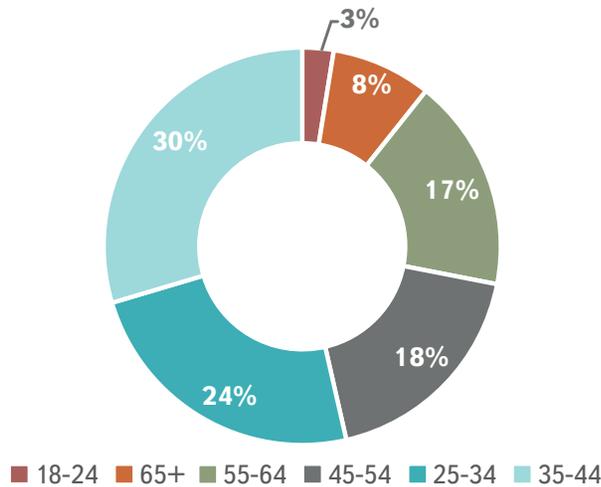


Figure 3.6, Do you have any children under the age of 19 living in your home?

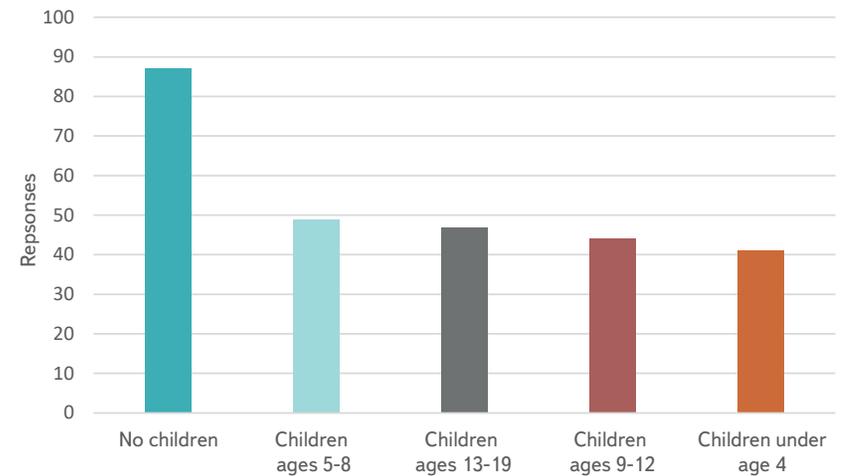


Figure 3.7, In the past five years, do you feel that the quality of parks and recreation in Bay City has improved, stayed the same, or declined?

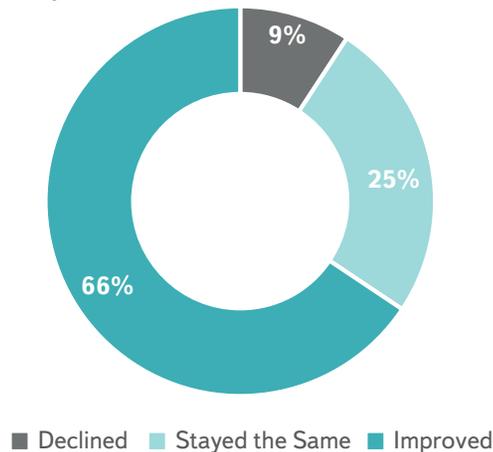


Figure 3.8, How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the quality, appearance, and maintenance of the following parks and recreation elements in the City of Bay City?

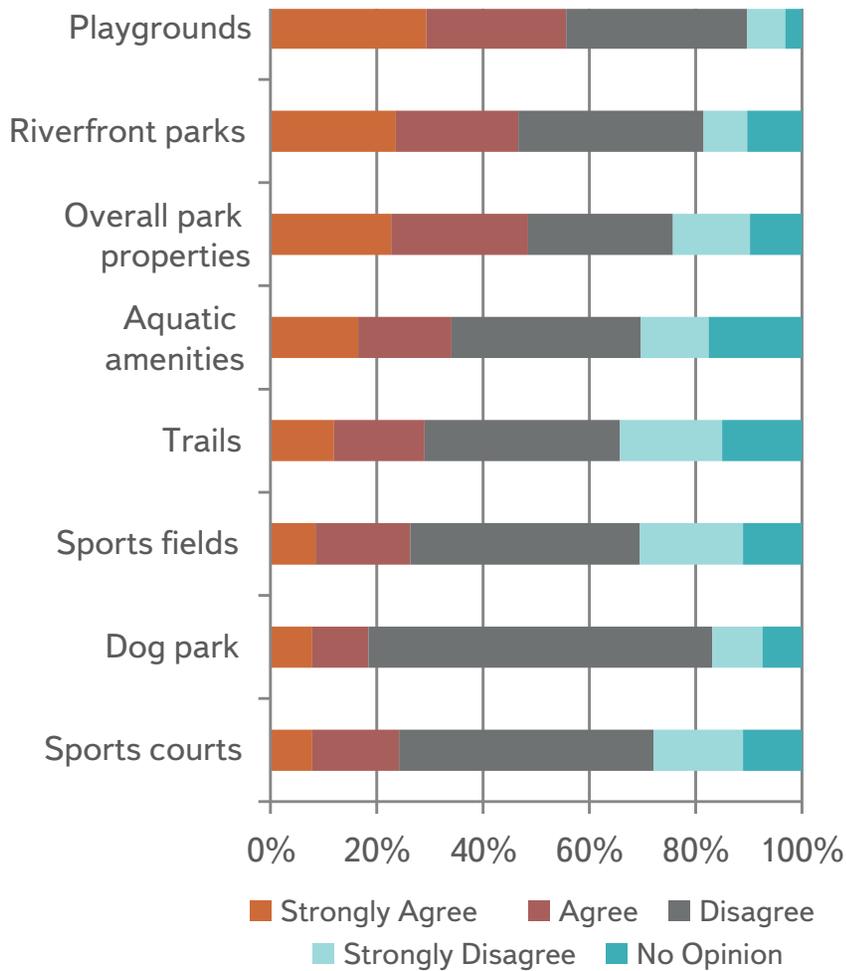


Figure 3.9, In the past year, how often have you or your family participated in or used the following?

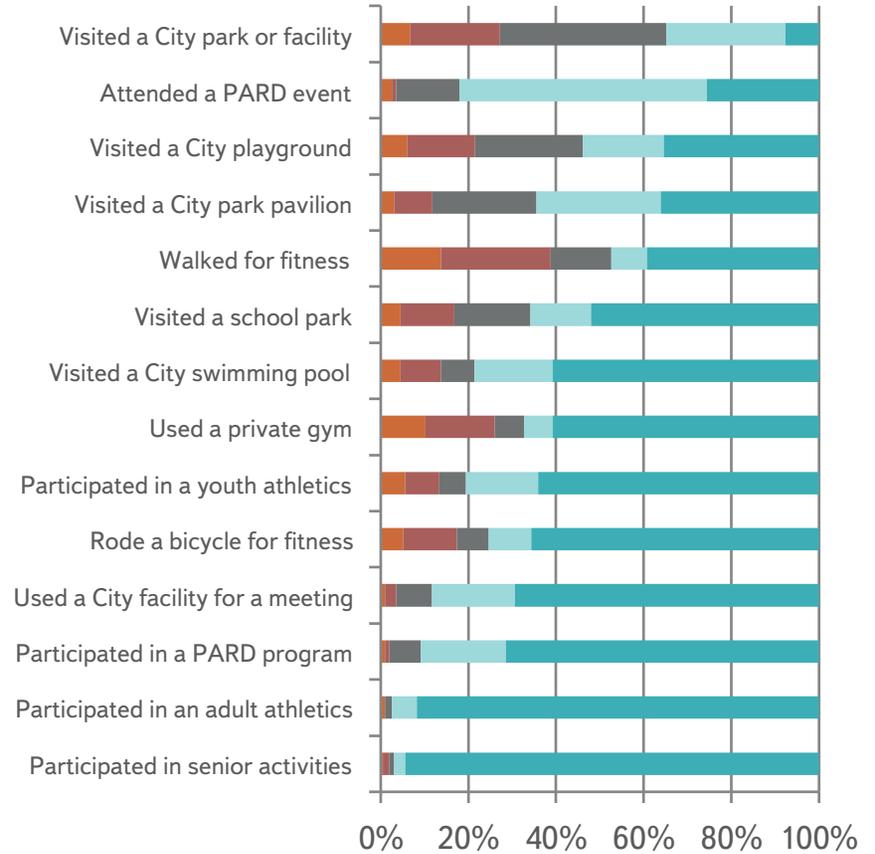


Figure 3.10, Check the box that best describes how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.



Figure 3.11, How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with current athletic or other recreational programming provided in Bay City for people in the following age groups?

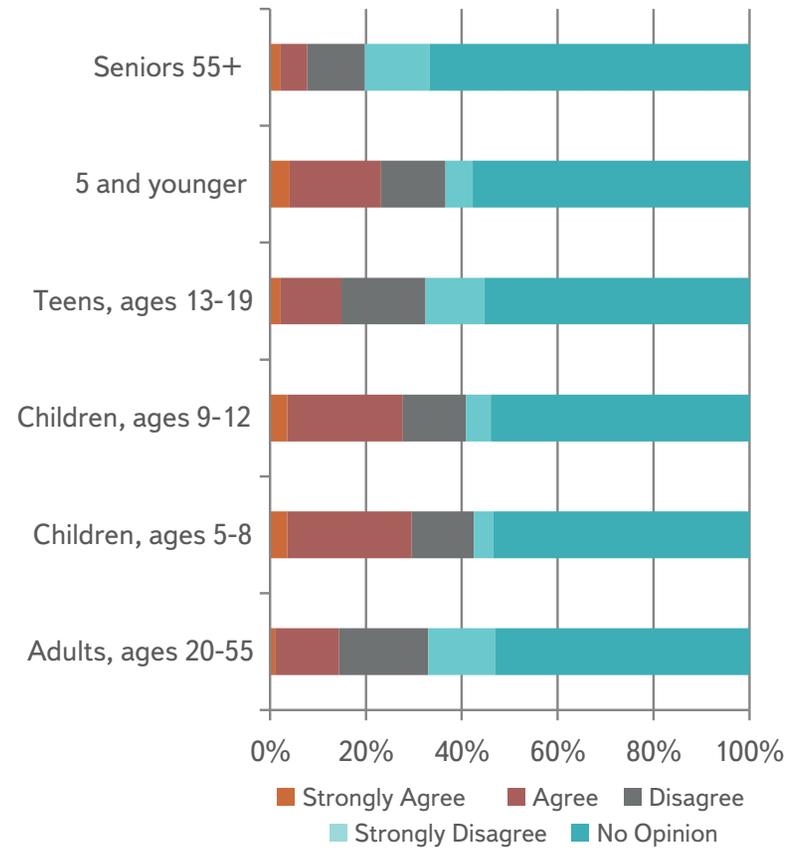


Figure 3.12, Choose you or your family’s top five favorite recreation activities.

Top 12 Answer Choices	Responses
Fishing	74
Going to festivals or special events	73
Walking / hiking on trails	65
Camping	61
Playing on playgrounds	59
Water park (facility with splash pad, swimming pool, etc.)	54
Swimming – Leisure / fitness	44
Viewing nature / wildlife / birding	33
Art / crafts classes	31
Biking, Canoeing/Kayaking*	25
Boating, Golfing, Picknicking*	24
Soccer	23

*Categories with a tie in survey responses

Figure 3.13, Choose you or your family’s top five favorite recreational programs that could be offered by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Top 12 Answer Choices	Responses
Public special events (concerts, festivals, etc.)	71
Art classes (pottery, painting, music, etc.)	54
Community flea markets	48
Outdoor movies in the park	47
After school activities/ out-of-school camps	46
Concerts	45
Fourth of July firework show	44
Christmas celebrations	42
Fishing programs	40
River Activities	35
Adult education programs (language, tech, etc.)	32
BBQ cook-offs, Family Oriented Classes*	31
Swimming lessons	30

*Categories with a tie in survey responses

Figure 3.14, Most important park elements when thinking about how to make Bay City parks more activated?

Top 10 Answer Choices	Responses
Shade	122
Lighting for early morning and evening use	111
Picnic tables	99
Trails, walking loops around the park	99
Trails, greenway system connections	89
Picnic pavilions for group events	88
Seating and socialization areas	75
Sport courts (e.g., basketball courts)	65
Sport fields (e.g., multipurpose open space fields)	64
Splash pads	61

Figure 3.15, How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following trail related statements, in regards to the trail system or linear parks used to connect destinations, as opposed to looping trails within a park.

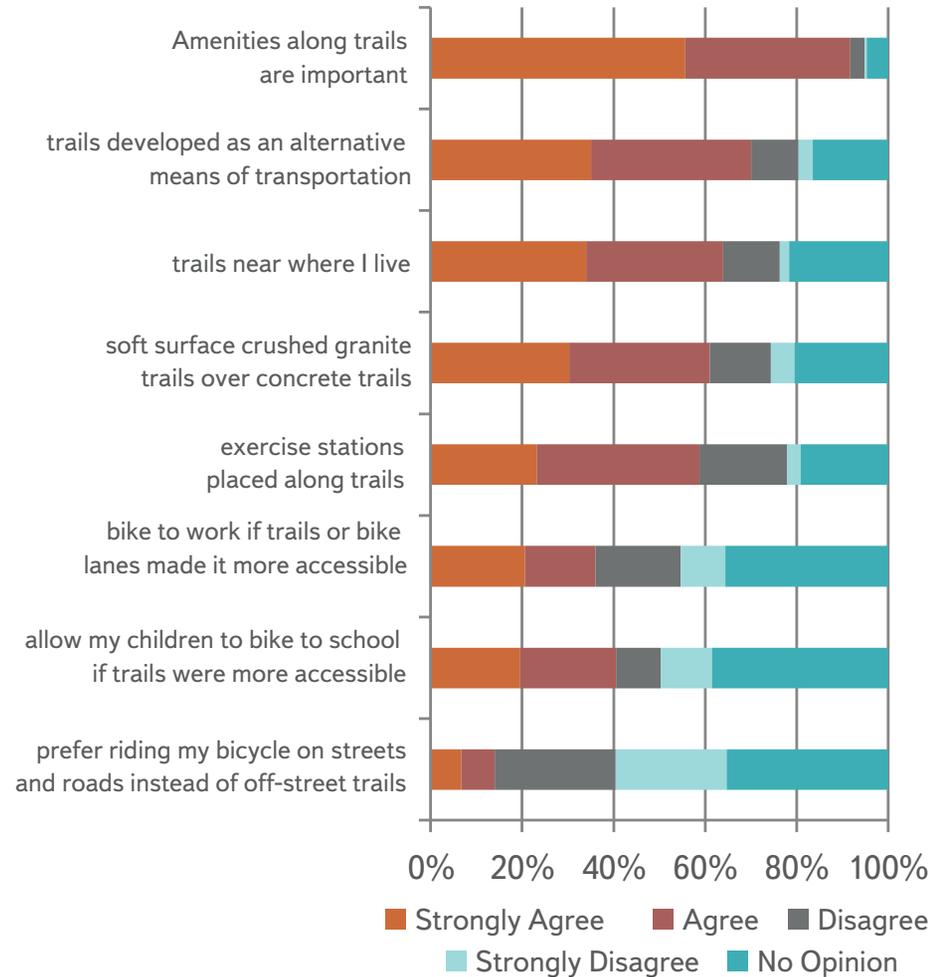


Figure 3.16, If additional trails were constructed in Bay City, how important would connections to the following locations be?

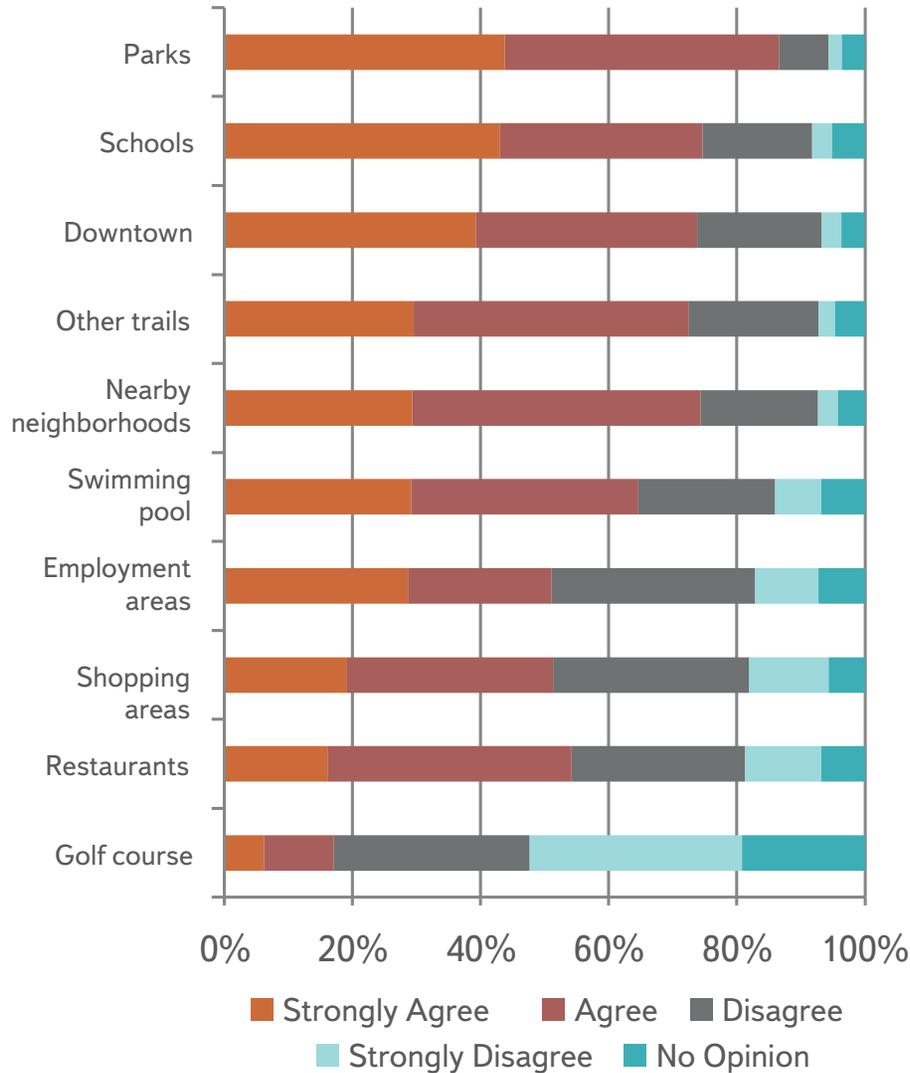


Figure 3.17, What components do you think make for an excellent neighborhood community park?

Top 12 Answer Choices	Responses
Lighting (Security, pathway, sports fields)	141
Shade	105
Picnic facilities	60
Natural areas	48
Separated play areas for different age groups	46
Internal loop trail	35
Improved bicycle and pedestrian access	35
Open play areas	30
Trail connections to pedestrian routes outside of parks	24
Gardens	21
Sport courts	15
Athletic fields	14

Figure 3.18, To meet the needs of its population, the Parks and Recreation Department may require additional funding. How strongly would you support or oppose the City considering the following financing strategies to increase the amount of funding available for parks and recreation facilities and programs?

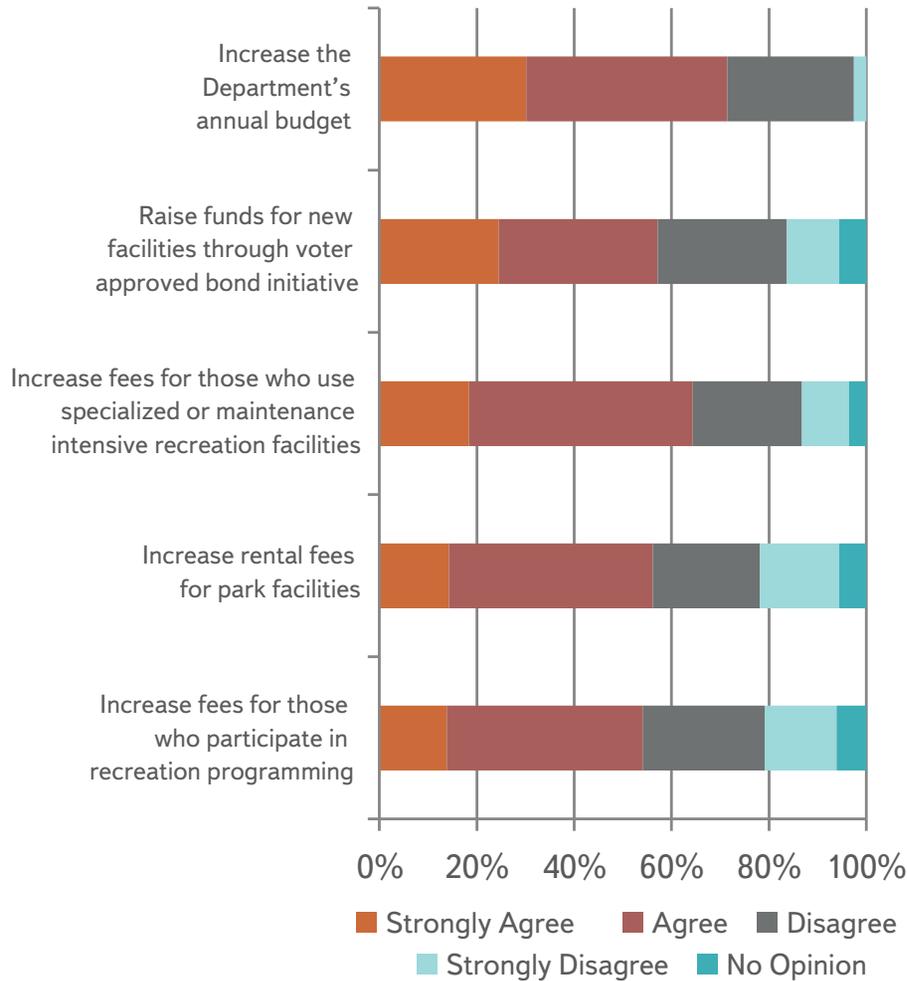


Figure 3.19, If you had \$100 to allocate to the following, how would you divide it?

Areas to allocate funds	Average Dollars Allocated*
New recreation center	\$34
Restrooms in parks	\$27
Playgrounds	\$25
Passive areas (picnicking, shade structures, benches)	\$25
Extension of trail system	\$23
Sports fields	\$23
New parkland	\$18
Sidewalks connecting to parks	\$16
Planting trees in parks	\$13
Greenbelts	\$7

*Average dollars allocated from all survey responses

Resource-Based Assessment

The resource-based assessment identifies key physical features within Bay City and its ETJ that may provide potential recreational opportunities. These areas may include both man-made features, such as railroad corridors and utility rights-of-way, and natural features, such as creeks and drainage corridors. These areas can be used to either support active recreational pursuits or create areas for passive enjoyment, such as greenways.

Bay City is also known as the “Gateway to the Great Outdoors.” As such, there are a few key features within the City and its ETJ that may be further adapted for recreational use or open space preservation.

- The **Colorado River** is an 862-mile river running from Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico. The river provides opportunities for water-based recreation such as fishing and kayaking. With two City parks (Le Tulle and Riverside Parks) sitting adjacent or nearly adjacent to the river, there may be opportunities to further enhance access to this natural amenity.
- **Cottonwood Creek** is a smaller waterway which runs through the center of Bay City. While the creek is not currently developed for recreational purposes, it and its floodplain could potentially be preserved and enhanced to provide passive recreation, access to nature, and trail connectivity throughout the community. The City has already begun to preserve some areas adjacent to the creek as parkland (i.e., both Avenue I parks, Community Park, Girls Softball Fields, Little League Fields, Recycling Park, and Liberty Park).

- **Le Tulle Park** is a developed park which provides opportunities for passive recreation, access to natural beauty, and shaded spaces to relax. Cited by many as their favorite City park, further development of this park could have a positive impact on many residents.
- **Riverside Parks** is the City’s second regional park and includes large areas of preserved natural land. Through further enhancement, this park can provide even greater amenities amidst the preserved natural areas.
- The **Southern Pacific Railroad Corridor** runs in a east-west direction through the City. The rails are no longer in operation, and thus the corridor provides an excellent opportunity for trail connectivity. The City has already begun to take advantage of this opportunity through development of the Southern Pacific Trail. Expansion of this trail corridor would help to improve connectivity throughout the City.
- The **Matagorda County Birding Nature Center** is an example of a non-City owned natural resource. The Center is situated adjacent to Le Tulle Park and the Colorado River. Its location provides an excellent opportunity for improved access to nature for Le Tulle visitors. Coordination with the County to provide a pedestrian connection between the two areas would further enhance the draw to both sites.



Access-Based Assessment

The access-based assessment analyzes existing parkland and facilities to determine if the quantity and distribution of park facilities and acreage is meeting the needs of residents today and in the future. Three types of access-based level of service determinations are made as described below.

Level of Service - Park Acreage

The park acreage level of service analysis defines the quantity of parkland acreage in the City, expressed as a ratio of acreage to population. It analyzes whether there is sufficient acreage to serve the population today and in the future.

Level of Service - Access to Parkland

The access to parkland analysis examines the location and distribution of parkland throughout Bay City to determine how easy it is for residents to access parkland, and determines where parkland may be needed to meet the City's target level of service.

Level of Service - Park Facilities

The facility level of service analysis defines the number of facilities recommended to serve each particular recreation need. Facility standards are usually expressed as a ratio of units of one particular facility per population size (e.g., one basketball court per 3,000 people).

Parkland Acreage

The purpose of acreage levels of service for parks and recreational areas is to ensure that sufficient area is allocated for all the outdoor recreation needs of a community. They allow a city to plan ahead so that parkland can be targeted and acquired (if deemed necessary) before it is otherwise developed. To help determine an appropriate level of service for Bay City, unique "target" levels were developed and incorporated into this Plan. These targets were established to provide the level of service that Bay City believes is the most responsive to the amount of use and the interest of its citizens.

The City's population is projected to increase slowly over the coming years. Based on the City's challenges with maintaining its current level of parkland, "target" levels were developed to respond to current and future needs, while striving to address the maintenance workload.

There are currently a total of approximately 344 acres of parkland in Bay City (see Figure 3.1, *Bay City Park Inventory*). Based on this, the City's current parkland level of service is 18.9 acres per 1,000 residents. Moving forward to 2030 and considering the projected population growth, if no additional parkland is acquired, the City's parkland level of service will reduce to 16.6 acres per 1,000 people.

Current and recommended levels of service for Bay City parkland are displayed in Figure 3.19, *Parkland Level of Service in Bay City*. Based on analysis of the community and existing parkland, recommended target levels of service have been developed for pocket, neighborhood, community, and regional parks. When each park type is reviewed individually, the City currently has adequate parkland acreage for all types of parks except for pocket parks. By the year 2030, a neighborhood parkland deficit would develop and the pocket park deficit would grow.

The current level of service for the park system is 18.9 acres per 1,000 people.

Figure 3.20, Parkland Level of Service in Bay City

Park Classification	Existing Level of Service (LOS)		Recommended LOS (2020)			Recommended LOS (2030)	
	Existing Acreage (2020)	Current LOS (based on 18,061 population)	Recommended Target LOS (2017 - 2030)	Recommended Acreage (2020)	Surplus / Deficit Acreage (2020)	Recommended Acreage (2030)	Surplus / Deficit Acreage (2030)
Pocket Parks	1.8	0.1 Ac./1,000 Residents	0.25 Ac./1,000 Residents	4.5	2.7 Ac. Deficit	4.9	3.1 Ac. Deficit
Neighborhood Parks	14.8	0.8 Ac./1,000 Residents	1.0 Ac./1,000 Residents	18.1	3.3 Ac. Deficit	19.8	5.0 Ac. Deficit
Community Parks	72.5	4.0 Ac./1,000 Residents	3.5 Ac./1,000 Residents	63.2	9.3 Ac. Surplus	69.3	3.2 Ac. Surplus
Overall Cumulative Target Acreage (Pocket, Neighborhood, and Community Parks)	89.1 (cumulative total)	4.9 Ac./1,000 Residents	4.75 Ac./1,000 Residents	85.8	7.6 Ac. Surplus	94.0	0.6 Ac. Deficit
Regional Parks	147.80	8.2 Ac./1,000 Residents	6.0 Ac./1,000 Residents	108.4	39.4 Ac. Surplus	118.7	29.1 Ac. Surplus
Linear Parks	5.9	0.3 Ac./1,000 Residents	Varies	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Special Use Parks	100.2	5.5 Ac./1,000 Residents	Varies	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

An overall *cumulative* target level of service (4.75 acres per 1,000 people) for pocket, neighborhood, and community parks, representing the total of their separate targets, is also listed in Figure 3.20. The City's regional parks are situated outside the City limits and are thus not included in the overall target acreage. When considering all of the City's existing parkland, it becomes clear that the City has a sufficient amount of parkland to meet the community's needs today and a marginal increase in parkland may be needed by 2030.

However, a number of parks remain undeveloped. Rather than seek out large areas of additional parkland in the future, the City would be better served by ensuring that the parkland it has is developed and maintained at a high quality, and that parkland is adequately distributed throughout the City.

If properly developed with trail facilities to facilitate bicycle and pedestrian travel, linear parks can greatly contribute to citywide connectivity to parks, schools, and other key destinations. No specific target level of service applies to linear parks other than that they should be large enough to adequately accommodate the resources they contain and their distribution should ideally allow for walking or biking access by all residents.

Special use parks are areas that are designated for a special purpose. Since they vary by size, type, and from city to city, there are no specific recommended levels of service.



Other parkland like this in Riverside Park are also undeveloped. A large piece of land, like pictured below, are great opportunities for the City to create new gathering places for events.



Access to Parkland

In addition to overall acreage, the location of parks is equally as important. While the City owns over 348 acres of parkland, not all residents have access to these parks. Different types of parks and recreation amenities serve different functions and consequently have different service areas. As such, neighborhood, community, and regional parks will be analyzed separately on the following pages.

Neighborhood Park Accessibility

Neighborhood parks are typically centrally located within a neighborhood or central to several smaller neighborhoods which they are meant to serve. Due to their close-to-home location, neighborhood parks are frequently accessed by foot. Neighborhood parks should be accessible to residents within a one-quarter-mile (ideal) or one-half-mile (standard) radius. These distances correlate to reasonable walking distances for all ages. These parks should be generally located away from major arterial streets and should be accessible without requiring residents to cross major roadways. As such, service areas shown on Map 3.2, *Neighborhood Park Service Areas*, for these parks do not extend beyond the City's arterial roadways (Highway 60 and Highway 35).

Additionally, if developed with neighborhood level amenities (e.g., playground, picnic amenities), community parks can serve the function of neighborhood parks for nearby residents. Consequently, the City's community parks are also illustrated with a one-quarter-mile and one-half-mile service area on Map 3.2, *Neighborhood Park Service Areas*.

Current and Future Need Areas

As illustrated on Map 3.2, *Neighborhood Park Service Areas*, there are many areas within Bay City that are not currently served by neighborhood parks. A majority of these unserved areas are east of Highway 60 and south of Highway 35. Through the individual park analysis process, it was evident that access to the existing neighborhood parks needs to be improved. Many parks currently lack sidewalks and crosswalks which would provide a safe and direct connection to the park.

Despite the results of the parkland acreage analysis, the locational analysis illustrates that there is inadequate distribution of neighborhood parkland throughout certain areas of the City. While the area east of Highway 60 and south of Highway 35 lacks adequate neighborhood parkland, areas west of Highway 60 (e.g., the Bay Ridge neighborhood) are more saturated with parkland, some of which is not truly accessible or usable. If some of the existing undeveloped parkland throughout the City were to be developed, inaccessible parkland sold, and additional parkland acquired and developed in the southeast and northeast quadrants of the City, the neighborhood park need areas would diminish substantially. Potential parkland could include both neighborhood and community parkland, which may serve as neighborhood parks for the residents in the area.



Chateau Oaks Park is one of the neighborhood parks located in the southwest quadrant of the City.

Community Park Accessibility

Community parks are large parks which serve several neighborhoods or a portion of a city. Community parks are intended to serve users who may walk or drive to the park within a one-mile service area.

Current and Future Need Areas

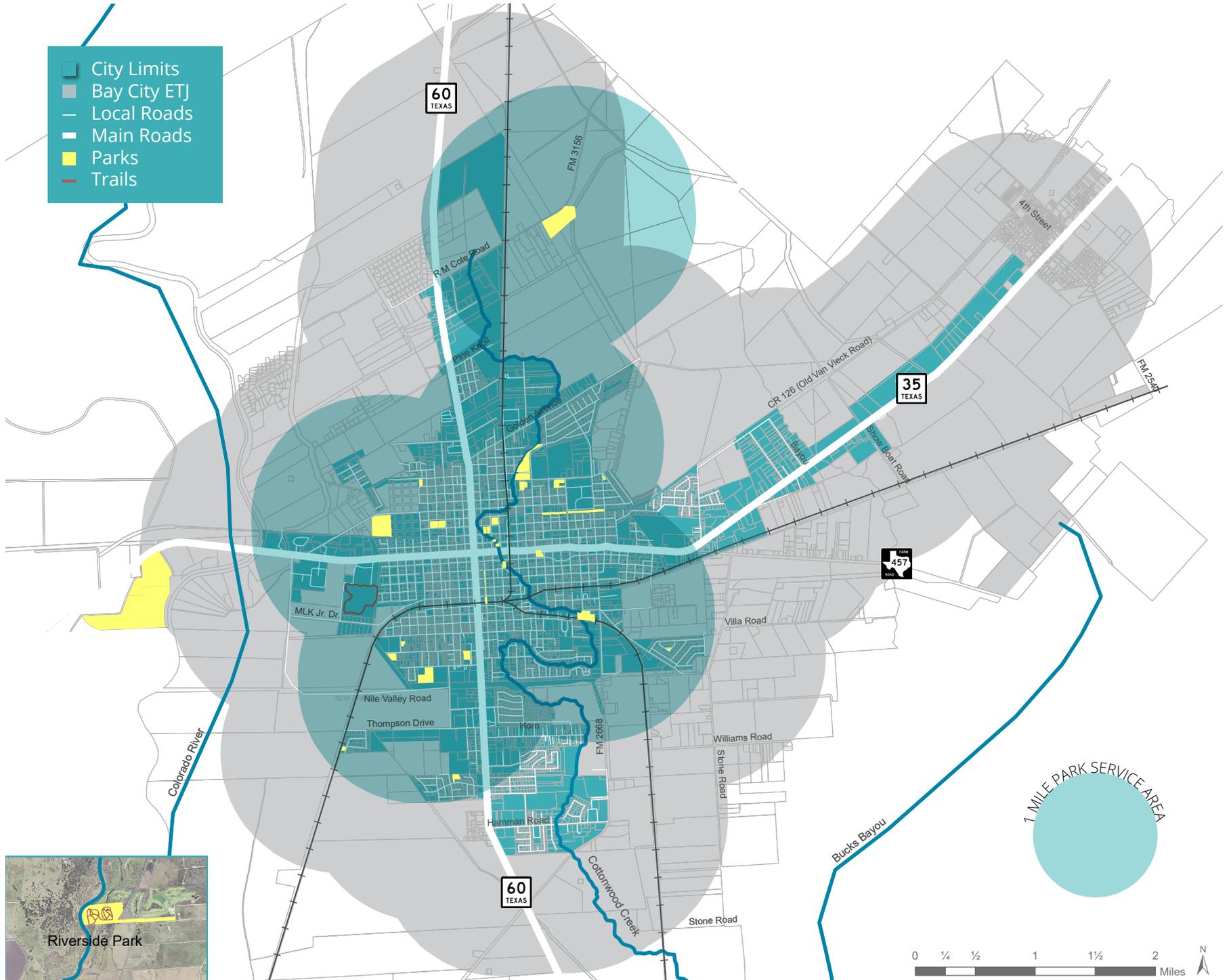
Due to the larger service area of community parks, a majority of Bay City residents are adequately served. However, as illustrated on Map 3.3, *Community Park Service Areas*, the eastern and southern extents of the City lie outside of the current service area.

Community parks are an important part of the city which they serve. They provide a variety of recreational activities with the potential to host tournaments and events that can attract people from areas outside of Bay City. Baseball, softball, soccer, football, and tennis programs are all examples of community park-based programs that have the opportunity to host tournaments. However, most of the existing park facilities are in poor condition and in need of improvements. This, in turn, makes them insufficient to support such events. The addition of another park to the southeast corner of the City that includes a combination of amenities may be essential in developing a network of parks that adequately serves all residents of Bay City while also attracting visitors from other areas.

Hardeman Park is located in the northwest quadrant of the City and contains the Bay City Lions Club Teen Center.



Map 3.3, Community Park Service Areas



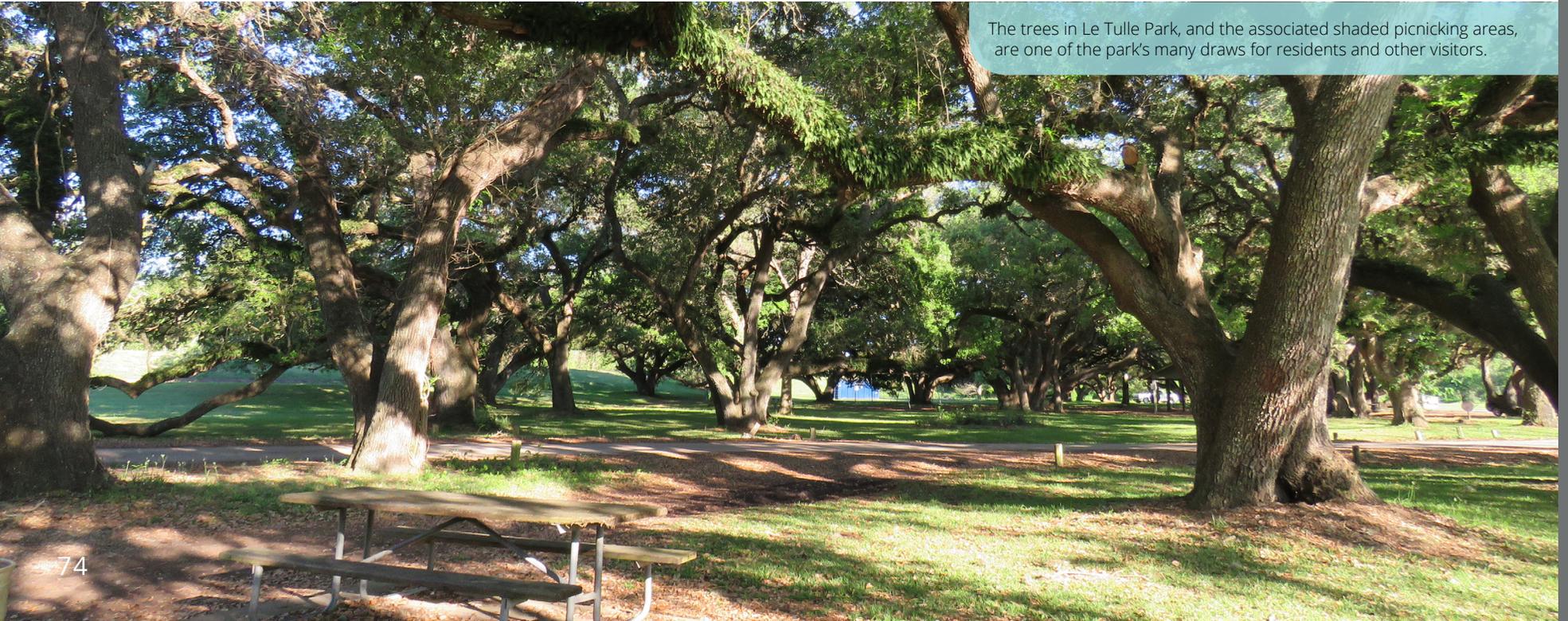
Regional Park Accessibility

Regional parks are generally intended to serve an entire city and surrounding region. Similar to community parks, regional parks act as locations for larger community events, tournaments, or activities. Taking into account their large size, variety of amenities, and access challenges due to location beyond the City limits, Bay City's regional parks have a service area of five miles.

Current and Future Need Areas

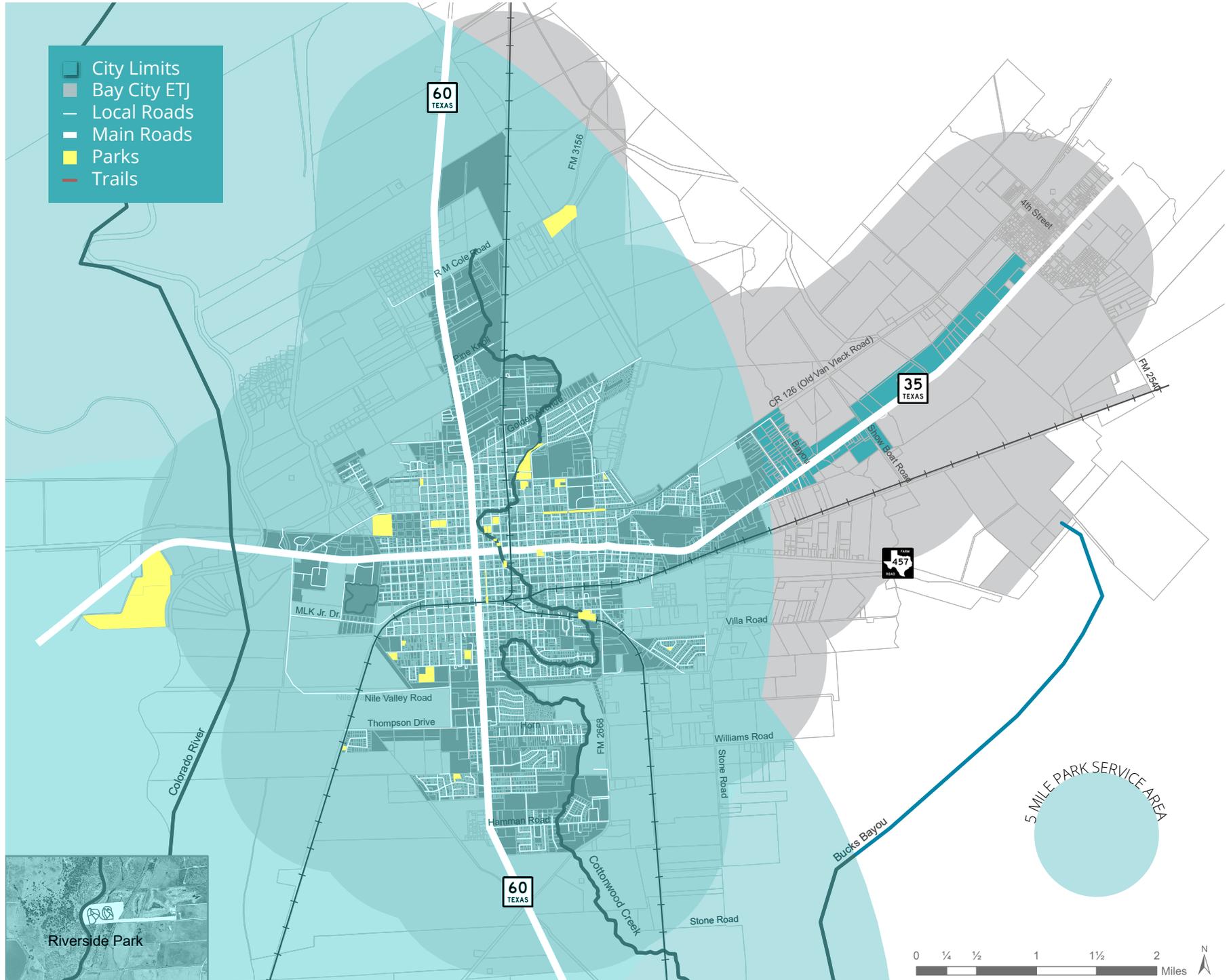
Bay City has two regional parks located beyond the City limits; Le Tulle Park and Riverside Park. As shown on Map 3.4, *Regional Park Service Areas*, these two parks are adequately serving over half of the City. With over 67 percent of survey respondents choosing these parks as their favorite park, it is clearly evident that these parks are greatly valued by the community. However, while these parks are highly valued, they are not easily accessible to residents, and especially those without access to a vehicle.

Like community parks, regional parks have the potential to attract visitors from other areas outside of Bay City. In fact, the majority of Riverside Park revenue and extended use is from non-residents. According to public input, residents have stated that these parks have become run down and need safety improvements. With improved amenities, entry signage, and bicycle and pedestrian access, these parks could more conveniently serve a greater portion of the Bay City community.



The trees in Le Tulle Park, and the associated shaded picnicking areas, are one of the park's many draws for residents and other visitors.

Map 3.4, Regional Park Service Areas



Trail Accessibility

Trails create multigenerational recreation opportunities, promote health, improve the overall quality of life, and provide non-vehicular transportation alternatives. Having close access to trails has become important for communities all over the country as people are gaining more interest in pursuing a healthier lifestyle. As facilities intended for pedestrian and bicycle access, walking trails have a service area of one-quarter-mile to one-half-mile.

Current and Future Need Areas

As illustrated on Map 3.5, *Trail Service Areas*, it is evident that walking trails are sparse within the City and a vast majority of residents do not have access to these trails. With trail access limited to small areas in the City, and Riverside Park (beyond the City limits), it is essential that key segments are identified and provided to create greater connectivity.

There are two trails on the west side of Highway 60; the first is behind Bay City High School and the second is located in Hardeman Park. These two trails are closed loop trails and are only used and accessed within their designated site. These trails provide a path to walk or bike around, but do not create a connection outside of that site. The

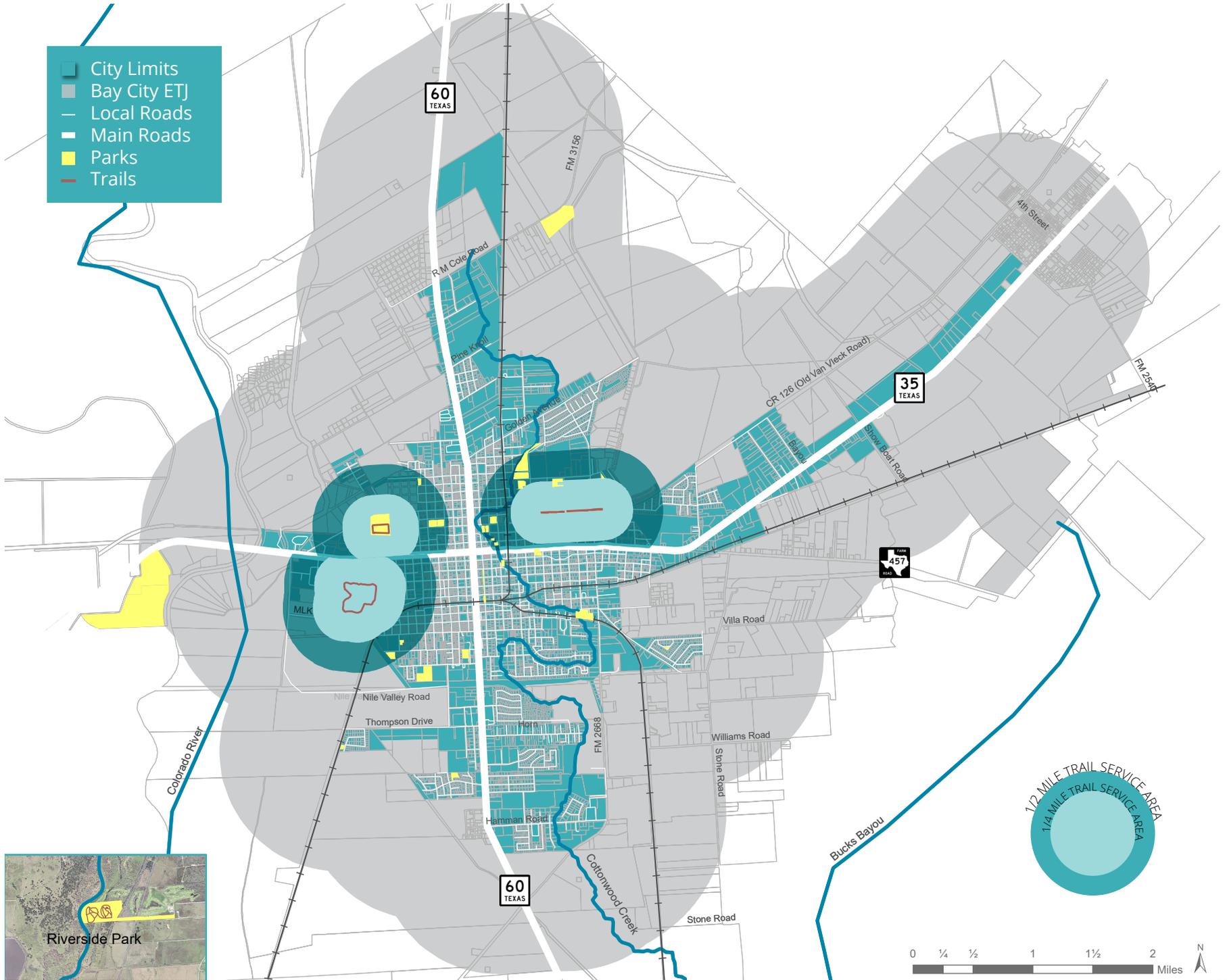
Southern Pacific Trail is located on the east side of Highway 60 and north of Highway 35. Today, this trail is in poor condition and does not provide a connection to any key areas of the City. However, if this trail is extended and properly maintained, it could provide greater community-wide connectivity of parks, schools, neighborhoods, and to downtown. Further details about expansion of the Southern Pacific Trail are found in Chapter 4, *Plan Recommendations*.

Lastly, there is approximately one mile of trails located throughout Riverside Park. The park includes a wilderness trail and the paved roads throughout the park which are often used by campers as a walking loop. There are also exercise equipment stations along the trail in Riverside Park.



The Wellness Matagorda County Hike & Bike Trail, located behind the Bay City High School, is a loop trail with associated fitness stations.

Map 3.5, Trail Service Areas



Park Facilities

In addition to evaluating the quantity and location of parkland throughout the City, comparing the current and target levels of service for recreation facilities helps to evaluate the need for improvements to the park system (see Figure 3.20, *Target Level of Service for Park Facilities*). As population growth occurs, this evaluation will help to ensure that a variety of recreational opportunities are adequately provided throughout the City.

Summary of Park Facility Needs

Some of the more notable deficiencies in the current park system include standalone baseball backstops for unprogrammed pick-up games, miles of trail, multipurpose practice fields, basketball courts, and picnic facilities. Also, living in Texas warrants the need for an adequate number of activities involving water play. There are currently two swimming pools in Bay City, both of which are in need of improvements. Based on the strong public desire for water-based recreation, the target number of swimming pools is three for the community. Also, a splash pad is another family-friendly amenity that is gaining popularity across the nation. Currently, Bay City currently has one splash pad, and based on the existing population, it is recommended to have three. By the year 2030, that number increases to four.

The addition of a community recreation center would provide indoor athletic, fitness, and other programming opportunities, all of which residents are currently traveling beyond the City limits to access.

If no additional recreational facilities are developed by the year 2030, the majority of the facility needs will stay the same with the exception of growing needs for more trails, playgrounds, soccer fields, and splash pads.

Although the number of facilities may not meet the recommended level of service, Bay City does currently provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities. However, after reviewing public survey results and completing the needs assessment, a major cause for concern is park and facility maintenance and upkeep. In some instances, the need for maintenance may be rendering a facility essentially unusable.



Additional trail mileage, such as an extension of the Southern Pacific Trail, is one of the key facility needs in the City.

Figure 3.2I, Target Level of Service for Park Facilities

	Facility	Current Avail.	Current LOS (1 Facility per # Residents)	Target LOS (Per Residents)	2022 Need Based on 18,061 Pop.	2022 Deficit or Surplus	2030 Need Based on 19,786 Pop.	2030 Deficit or Surplus
Active Recreation	Baseball/Softball Fields	10	1,750	1 per 5,000	4	Surplus of 6	4	Surplus of 6
	Backstop	2	8,750	1 per 4,000	5	Deficit of 3	5	Deficit of 3
	Basketball Courts	7	2,500	1 per 3,000	6	Deficit of 2	7	Deficit of 3
	Community Recreation Center	0	none	1 per city	1	Deficit of 1	1	Deficit of 1
	Disc Golf (18-hole)	1	18,061	1 per city	1	No deficit	1	No deficit
	Dog Park	1	18,061	1 per city	1	No deficit	1	No deficit
	Fitness Equipment Circuit	0	18,061	1 per city	1	Deficit of 1	1	Deficit of 1
	Football Fields	1	18,061	1 per city	1	No deficit	1	No deficit
	Golf Course (public)	0	none	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies
	Skate Park	1	18,061	1 per city	1	No deficit	1	No deficit
	Soccer Fields	11	1,591	1 per 2,000	9	No deficit	10	Deficit of 1
	Tennis Courts	5	3,500	1 per 5,000	4	Surplus of 1	4	Surplus of 1
	Trails (miles)*	2	9,210	1 per 2,000	9	Deficit of 6.8	10	Deficit of 8
	Multipurpose Practice Fields	0	none	1 per 5,000	4	Deficit of 4	4	Deficit of 4
Volleyball Courts (Outdoor)	2	8,750	1 per 5,000	4	Deficit of 2	4	Deficit of 2	
Passive Recreation	Amphitheater or Outdoor Event Space	0	none	1 large outdoor facility	1	Deficit of 1	1	Deficit of 1
	Horseshoe Pits	1	18,061	2 per city	2	Deficit of 1	2	Deficit of 1
	Picnic Pavilions	17	1,029	1 per 3,000	6	Surplus of 11	7	Surplus of 10
	Picnic Facilities (Tables, Benches, BBQ Grills, Fountains, Trash Bins)	11 parks	1,591	In all parks	In all parks	Deficit in 19 parks	In all parks	Deficit in 19 parks
	Playgrounds	7	2,500	1 per 2,000	9	Deficit of 2	10	Deficit of 3
Water Rec.	Canoe/Kayak Launch	1	18,061	2 per city	2	Deficit of 1	2	Deficit of 1
	Fishing Piers	1	18,061	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies
	Swimming Pool	1	18,061	2 per city	2	Deficit of 1	2	Deficit of 1
	Boat Ramp	1	18,061	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies
	Splash Pad	1	none	1 per 6,000	3	Deficit of 2	4	Deficit of 3
	Restrooms/Portable	15 parks & facilities	1,167	Where feasible	Where feasible	Feasible	Where feasible	Feasible

*Including Wellness Matagorda County Trail

Summary of Park and Recreation Needs

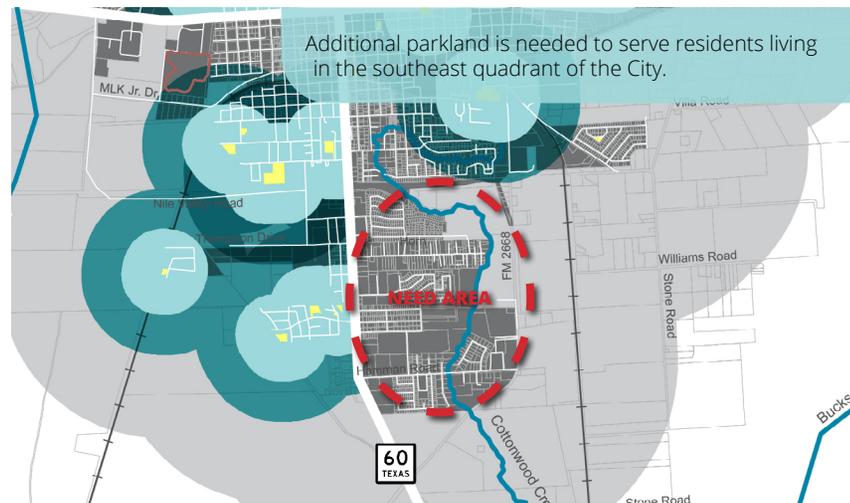
Through the needs analysis and public engagement process, the need for a redistribution of parkland, and increased connectivity, recreational facilities, and programming was identified.

Parkland Acreage

While the City generally meets the parkland acreage targets, a number of acres remain undeveloped. Additionally, the public voiced a desire for a more consolidated parks system. Evaluating opportunities to sell parkland in certain areas and develop at least one park in the southeast quadrant of the City, would help provide a more equally distributed parks system.

Parkland Connectivity

Based on public input, the community largely supports the idea of trails being developed as an alternative means of transportation. However, in its current state, the City is largely lacking pedestrian and bicycle trails, and especially those that can function as transportation routes. In the coming years, there is a need for Bay City to continue to develop key trail segments to provide citywide access to parks, schools, downtown, and other key areas. At a minimum, this should include primary east-west and north-south connectivity routes.



Facility Needs

Based on public feedback, residents would prefer to have existing facilities improved upon before adding any new ones. Bay City provides a variety of recreational opportunities, but the condition of the facilities is inadequate for the demand. New field lighting, spectator seating, designated recreational fields, swimming pools, and updated playgrounds are examples of areas for improvement.

Additionally, throughout the public engagement process, the desire for an aquatic complex has continually been brought up. Provision of such a facility could provide water-based recreation options for the entire community, while also helping to improve the community's health (e.g., aquatic fitness) and safety (e.g., swimming lessons).

Recreational Program Needs

It is apparent from the stakeholder meetings and public survey results that Bay City residents desire additional recreational programming and lack awareness of the current opportunities. There is a desire for multigenerational, family-friendly recreation. The provision of additional community events and an indoor facility that houses various programs would provide for this need.

Additionally, survey respondents indicated that teens, ages 13 to 19, and children, ages nine to 12, had the greatest need for programming. Through additional partnerships with third-party organizations, the City's recreational program offering could be expanded.





Chapter 4: Plan Recommendations

4



Goal 1: Renovate, develop, and construct diversified park and recreation facilities based on the changing needs of the community.

Objective 1.1. Renovate and replace existing facilities and amenities to improve and/or enhance accessibility, connectivity, facilities, amenities, and programming.

■ *** ACTION 1.1.1. Improve Riverside Park as set out in the master plan created during the 2022 Master Plan Update. (See next page, Figure 4.1)**

During the original plan, a series of facility and infrastructure improvements were identified in response to damage from Hurricane Harvey. During this update, a new master plan has been developed to guide the full future redevelopment of this important passive, nature-focused recreation park for the City of Bay City. Recommended improvements include: (see Figure 4.2)

- Install flood resistant playground surfacing
- Add a small pavilion in front of the office
- Pursue a greenway trail connection from the City limits to Riverside Park to provide pedestrian access
- Pursue a designated paddling trail
- **Relocate boat ramp to an alternate location***
- **Build a payment kiosk with a park entrance/exit gate***
- **Build a series of looped trails within the park***
- **Create an outdoor event space (The Meadow), including parking and a performance pad for events***
- **Convert six wilderness camping sites in the Wilderness Area Campground into cabins***
- **Build two bridges that cross the Hossey Slough to connect the wilderness area to the west side of the park via trails***
- **Construct another birding blind for wildlife viewing***
- **Build a sand volley ball court and playground***
- **Build a kayak launch next to the boat dock***
- **Build two council rings within the Colorado Cove RV camping and Wilderness Area campgrounds***
- **Construct an 18-hole disc golf course***

■ **ACTION 1.1.2. Improve Community Park.**

Recommended improvements to Community Park include:

- Add security and field lighting for safety and ball field usage
- **Remove the covered bleachers, and perimeter fence***
- **Add benches at the newly constructed pickleball courts***
- **Add a playground***

■ **ACTION 1.1.3. Improve the Girls Softball Fields.**

Recommended improvements to the Girls Softball Fields include:

- Add lights to promote evening use and provide security
- Repair the buildings and create uniformity between the buildings and other structures
- Add additional scoreboards
- Add signs that denote the names of each field
- Provide additional improved parking
- **Alternatively, the City can consider creating a new sports park (see page 98, Action 2.2.6)***

■ **ACTION 1.1.4. Improve Hardeman Park.**

Recommended improvements to Hardeman Park include:

- Replace the roads to address safety concerns
- Add amenities such as pavilions with picnic tables and sports facilities such as bleachers to allow for evening use
- Provide additional tree cover in appropriate areas throughout the park
- **Add additional parking spaces***
- **Add field lighting and lighting for skatepark***
- **Soccer fields from Frahms Field moving to Hardeman Park***

* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

Figure 4.1, Riverside Park Master Plan



- **ACTION 1.1.5. Improve the Little League Fields.**

Located adjacent to the Girls Softball Fields, the Little League Fields share similar characteristics and needs.

Recommended improvements to the Little League Fields include:

- Add lights to promote evening use and provide security
- Update the park with new scoreboards
- Add signs that denote the names of each field
- Provide additional improved parking
- **Alternatively, the City can consider creating a new sports park (see page 98, Action 2.2.6)***

- *** ACTION 1.1.6. Improve Duncan Park following the master plan created during the 2022 Master Plan Update. (See next page, Figure 4.2)**

Recommended immediate improvements to Duncan Park include: (See page 91, Figure 4.4)

- Resurface the basketball court and add a shade pavilion
- Remove the volleyball court
- **Construct a splash pad***
- **Create a looped trail around the perimeter of the park***
- **Add picnic shelters along the looped trail***
- **Add a shade structure over the basketball court***
- **Build a performance stage for events in the park***

- **ACTION 1.1.7. Guide improvements to Avenue I Parks (north and south) as part of the North Downtown Plan.**

Avenue I Parks (north and south) are part of the North Downtown Plan park and open space. During implementation of the North Downtown Plan, the City should ensure that elements developed in the parks are those that best meet the needs the community (e.g., addressing citywide deficiencies) and that perpetual maintenance of this parkland is provided by the developer.

- **ACTION 1.1.8. Improve Bay Ridge Park.**

Recommended improvements to Bay Ridge Park include:

- Add a community garden to promote resident involvement and interaction
- **Add parking within the park boundary***
- **Add a looped trail***
- **Add benches and picnic tables***

- **ACTION 1.1.9. Improve Chateaux Oaks Park.**

Recommended improvements to Chateaux Oaks Park include:

- Add a pavilion with picnic tables and barbecue grills
- Resurface the existing basketball court

- **ACTION 1.1.10. Improve City Field.**

Recommended improvements to City Field include:

- Convert the existing baseball field into soccer fields.
- Add site lighting and a higher law enforcement presence to promote safety.
- Install an improved parking lot surface.
- **Consider removing property from the park system***

- **ACTION 1.1.11. Improve Henderson Park.**

Now that all park amenities have been removed from Henderson Park, it is recommended that the City wait until adequate funding for development and continual maintenance is available before developing any major improvements in the park. Once funding is available, the following improvements are recommended for Henderson Park:

- Add new park amenities such as a playground with swings, a basketball court, and benches.
- Add picnic amenities such as a pavilion with picnic tables, and barbecue pits

- **ACTION 1.1.12. Improve Mary Withers Park.**

Recommended improvements to Mary Withers Park include:

- Add a fence around the tennis courts

- **ACTION 1.1.13. Improve Highland Park.**

Recommended improvements to Highland Park include:

- Add a parking area

- **ACTION 1.1.14. Improve Liberty Park.**

Recommended improvements to Liberty Park include:

- Clean the adjacent creek to enhance its natural value

* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

Figure 4.2, Duncan Park Master Plan



■ **ACTION 1.1.15. Improve Wickersham Park.**

Recommended improvements to Wickersham Park include:

- Implement a landscape pruning program and maintain a mowed lawn to promote open field recreation
- Remove and replace the existing benches and Crape Myrtle trees with covered picnic tables and low maintenance hedges
- **Install a playground***

■ **ACTION 1.1.16. Improve existing segments of the Southern Pacific Trail.**

Recommended improvements to the Southern Pacific Trail include:

- Add lighting, benches, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, and shade trees to encourage trail greater trail usage
- Continue to extend the trail for greater citywide connectivity (see Action 3.1.3)

■ **ACTION 1.1.17. Improve the Barkway.**

Recommended improvements to the Barkway include:

- Reestablish the lawn
- Add lighting for security and to allow evening use
- Consider a water feature for dogs
- **Add benches under existing shade structures***

■ **ACTION 1.1.18. Improve the Caboose and Train Depot.**

Recommended improvements to the Caboose and Train Depot include:

- Add security lighting, trash receptacles, and benches to provide an outdoor gathering area associated with the Caboose
- Add interpretive signage at the Caboose to educate visitors on its history
- Return the Train Depot to its historical appearance with dormers and shutters.
- **Utilize the Caboose facility for special events***

■ **ACTION 1.1.19. Improve the Country Club.**

Recommended improvements to the Country Club include:

- Add a non-motorized kayak launch with the necessary access to create a water connection to Riverside Park
- Consider developing the southwest corner of the property as no program elements currently exist
- Provide additional parking to address parking shortages
- (See related improvements proposed in the Le Tulle Park Master Plan (Action 1.1.1))

■ **ACTION 1.1.20. Improve Gusman Park.**

Recommended improvements to Gusman Park include:

- Add a monument in the first block (between 4th and 5th Streets) to identify the area as a park
- Plant a low maintenance hedge or other plantings along the street to beautify the area
- Provide trash receptacles at key locations to discourage people leaving pet waste

■ **ACTION 1.1.21. Complete improvements to Hilliard Pool.**

There are a number of improvements needed at Hilliard Pool. It is recommended that the City develop a comprehensive list (including costs) of all improvements needed to get the pool and entire property back into good working order. Then implement necessary improvements using a phased approach, as necessary.

In addition to the necessary renovations, some improvements to consider include:

- Add picnic tables for outdoor dining
- Provide a splash play area
- Add shaded areas and a party / rental area

■ **ACTION 1.1.22. Improve the USO Building.**

Recommended improvements to the USO Building include:

- Update the name of the facility to "USO" rather than "Bay City Service Center"
- Add an electronic sign along the Highway 35 street frontage to allow for public announcements

* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

- Utilize the building for City sponsored events and programs
- Provide an ADA compliant exit ramp in the auditorium
- Implement necessary building repairs
- Provide outdoor security lighting

■ **ACTION 1.1.23. Improve and evaluate the Valiant Park and Pool.**

The Valiant Pool is in need of significant repairs. It is thus recommended that the City consider replacing the pool or partnering with the school district or other entities to complete these repairs. The City should also develop a comprehensive list of repairs and/or reconstruction needs, and associated costs, required throughout the remainder of the property. In addition to the replacing the pool, some improvements to consider for Valiant Park and Pool include:

- Add a concession stand, spectator seating, trash receptacles, and lighting for Bay City and Van Vleck ISD swim competitions
- Provide a splash play area and seating areas
- Either clearly identify the property as Valiant Park and Pool or construct two entry signs to establish a separate park identity from the pool
- Provide trash cans in Valiant Park
- Consider allowing food truck access to the park during key times

■ **ACTION 1.1.24. Continue to improve Amistad Park and the National Guard/Parks Office per the master plan that was completed in the 2017 master plan.**

Located directly adjacent to each other and remaining largely undeveloped, Amistad Park and the National Guard/Parks Office property provide a unique opportunity for the City to create an enhanced neighborhood park to serve the adjacent neighborhood and guide the quality of development in other neighborhood parks. As part of this planning process a Master Plan has been created for improvements to the park (see *page 91, Figure 4.4*). Recommended improvements to Amistad Park include:

- Add a park monument and plaza to create a park identity
- Add a multi-purpose court and a multi-purpose publicly accessible athletic field to promote active recreation

- Add shade picnic shelters, a butterfly garden, community gardens, a loop trail, and an open play field for passive recreation
- Provide additional pavilions with picnic tables, restrooms, and vehicular parking spaces to attract park patrons

■ *** ACTION 1.1.25. Continue to improve and redevelop Le Tulle Park as set out in the master plan. (See *page 90, Figure 4.3*)**

Le Tulle Park is the most highly frequented park in the Bay City parks system. As part of this planning process a Master Plan has been created for improvements to the park. Recommended improvements include: (see *Figure 4.3*)

- Add a zip line, sculpture garden, beaches, and an overhead pedestrian walkway (i.e., tree village) to provide unique recreation amenities in the park
- Add three additional disc golf holes for a total of 21
- Add pavilions, picnic shelters with tables, an open fitness space, and a walking trail for additional passive recreation opportunities
- Coordinate with the Birding Nature Center to provide a pedestrian bridge connection between Le Tulle Park and the Center
- Provide additional parking spaces to accommodate the anticipated influx of park users
- Provide traffic calming devices along the driveway to deter speeding motorists
- **Build a performance pavilion with an event lawn***
- **Construct more parking***
- **Build walking trails throughout the park***
- **Repair in-park roads***
- **Investigate options to add city water lines to the park***
- **Undertake improvements to the Le Tulle fish pond, including periodic stocking of fish, dredging and cleaning lake bottom, and performing lake edge stabilization projects***

* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

Figure 4.3, Le Tulle Park Master Plan



Figure 4.4, Amistad Park Master Plan



Objective 1.2. Provide general park upgrades throughout the system to improve user experiences.

■ *** ACTION 1.2.1. Improve the parking areas and in-park roads in each park.**

The parking areas in a number of City parks are currently either in poor condition, remain unpaved, or provide insufficient spaces for the level of use of the park. It is recommended that the City provide parking improvements in each park where parking is provided to improve ease and efficiency of vehicular access. This could include repaving and striping existing lots and providing new paving and striping in unpaved areas. As parking improvements are made, the City will need to comply with applicable requirements regarding the provision of ADA accessible parking spaces.



Curbed and paved parking areas help to restrict vehicular access to appropriate locations within parks, thus providing protection of adjacent park amenities and natural areas.

■ *** ACTION 1.2.2. Coordinate with Bay City Independent School District (BCISD) to execute a school joint use agreement for the sharing of resources related to new and existing school facilities and amenities.**

Some of the additional amenities which could be considered include: ADA loop trails (with LED solar lights and distance markers), water fountains/bottle refill stations, social seating and benches, community or school gardens, covered/lighted sport courts (e.g., basketball, pickleball, etc.), tracks, functional fitness court and/or stations along the loop trail, irrigated multipurpose sports field, and lots of shade).

- *** ACTION 1.2.3. Evaluate opportunities to install splash pads in areas of need.**

The City should consider the addition of smaller scale, more intimate water features or splash pads at key neighborhood parks, like the one recently constructed at Amistad Park. Today, while community pools are still important, lack of funding and greater competition for limited resources has forced many cities to change course. This has led to the increase in use of zero depth splash pads, which still provide significant relief to summer heat, but are less impactful to operate and maintain. As such, splash pads are an excellent complement to other parks amenities and provide for an appealing attraction in the summer.

- **ACTION 1.2.4. Provide additional shade opportunities in the parks and along trails.**

Park shelters/picnic areas and shade trees were ranked as two of the top five most important park elements by survey respondents in the 2017 and 2022 surveys. In order to improve user comfort throughout the parks and trail system, and thus encourage greater use, it is recommended that the City provide additional shade opportunities throughout parks and along the trails. This includes additional tree coverage as well as shade structures (e.g., covered benches and picnic pavilions).

- **ACTION 1.2.5. Identify opportunities to beautify existing parks (e.g., improved landscaping, signage, etc.).**

In addition to increased maintenance, enhancing the visual aesthetic of the parks system would help to improve the community's opinions of the parks, foster greater civic pride, and improve the City's overall image. The City should evaluate opportunities to beautify and enhance existing parks through improved landscaping, high-quality signage, upgrading amenity materials for durability and aesthetics (e.g., pavilion materials), and repairing and replacing amenities as needed. Landscaping improvements can also provide opportunities for local organizations and residents to volunteer.



Goal 2: Provide a diversified, multigenerational offering of recreational programs, events, facilities, and amenities to serve residents and attract regional users and visitors.

Objective 2.1. Provide increased programming and event options which serve the public and meet the needs of the community.

■ *** ACTION 2.1.1. Continue to provide additional community-wide family-friendly events in the City.**

The Bay City community highly values the community-wide events the City hosts. It is recommended that the City continue to explore opportunities to diversify its event calendar to include additional family-oriented events. Some events to consider include live concerts, kids days, and art in the park (e.g., painting in the park), among others. The Recreational Programming and Event Assessment will help to identify other events that could benefit the community.

■ *** ACTION 2.1.2. Track recreation program lifecycle rates of participation to ensure that the City program portfolio adjusts to meet changing recreational needs and preferences.**

A lifecycle analysis involves reviewing program participation data over a period of years. Lifecycle analysis results will assist the City in determining the stage of growth or decline of each City-sponsored or facilitated program as a way of informing strategic decisions about the overall recreation program portfolio. Refine recreation program offerings to replace low enrollment or canceled programs due to no enrollment with programs that allow the City and its partners to provide a programming portfolio that is better distributed across age groups.

■ **ACTION 2.1.3. Conduct a Recreational Programming and Event Assessment.**

A Recreational Programming and Event Assessment can be used to help staff gain a comprehensive understanding of the recreational needs of the community and identify the resources necessary to provide a diversified event calendar and full recreation program. This assessment involves collecting information on all of the City's public, private, or public/private recreational program offerings and existing events. This includes an inventory of Bay

City's programs, services, facilities, and events, as well as those offered by other organizations within the City or extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Analysis of the collected inventory data will identify gaps and overlaps and potential additional event opportunities which could have added recreation and economic benefits for the City. If hired, a dedicated Recreation Coordinator could be responsible for this analysis.

■ **ACTION 2.1.4. Expand multigenerational recreation opportunities through additional City-provided and third-party programming.**

Based on the results of the Recreational Programming and Event Assessment, it is recommended that the City provide or coordinate with third-party organizations to provide additional recreation opportunities for youth, adults, and seniors. During the 2022 public survey a variety of program requests were made by respondents. Ideas voiced by the community included such programs as:

- Public special events (concerts, festivals, etc.)
- Art classes (pottery, painting, music, etc.)
- Community flea markets
- Outdoor movies in the park
- After school activities/out-of-school camps
- Fishing programs



Image courtesy: <http://mifastpate.org/event/painting-in-the-park-2-2/>

* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

- **ACTION 2.1.5. Consider providing smaller, park-specific events to encourage greater use of all parks throughout the community.**

In order to encourage greater use of all the parks in Bay City and to address the community's desire for additional special events, it is recommended that the City consider providing smaller events at different parks. This could include events such as movies or concerts in the park, community picnics, etc.

- **ACTION 2.1.6. Implement additional public outreach to ensure residents are aware of the recreational opportunities in the City.**

During the public survey, a majority of respondents indicated that they most frequently receive information about City programming and events from social media sites and word of mouth. When asked how they prefer to receive updates, the greatest amount of people selected social media and the City of Bay city website. The PARD uses Bay City Parks and Recreation Facebook page regularly to post specifically about their department.



- **ACTION 2.1.7. Continue to update the City's website on a regular basis to provide complete, accurate information about the parks system.**

The City's website currently provides minimal information about the parks system. It is recommended that the website be updated to include information about all City parks, including a map, list of amenities, and photos. There should also be regular, timely updates to include complete and accurate information about recreational programming throughout the year.

To maximize the potential of the website, the City should consider increasing the site's visual appeal, the ease of navigation, and incorporating interactive features for such elements as pavilion reservations, RSVPs to recreation events, etc.

- **ACTION 2.1.8. Work with the convention and visitors' bureau and the chamber of commerce to promote municipal parks and recreational programs aimed at tourists and new residents.**

Bay City maintains relationships with other entities which promote quality of life and public health initiatives. These partnerships should be maintained while new partnerships should be developed to expand the reach of the City's parks and recreation assets. Although the majority of near-term investments recommended in this Plan are not principally targeted for the development of regional tournaments or events, collaboration with local economic development organizations can help the City pay for the upkeep of key facilities through targeted advertising campaigns.

Decisions on event-diversification – particularly those that may be hosted at larger or specialized venues such as Riverside Park, or Le Tulle Park – should be driven as much by potential direct and indirect revenue via visitors to the community as by stated resident interests.

Objective 2.2. Plan and develop additional high-quality recreational facilities and amenities to serve residents, attract outside users, and take advantage of unique opportunities.

- *** ACTION 2.2.1. Secure access to the Colorado River within the Country Club property to establish a new river access point for the TPWD paddling trail and other river-based uses.**

The City should evaluate the purchase of the certain areas of the country club as a potential expansion of Le Tulle park. The purchase and acquisition of land followed by a conversion to publicly accessible parkland can not only expand the park system but also provide new amenities, facilities and programming.

- *** ACTION 2.2.2. Identify a location to construct or retrofit a new recreation center to serve the citizens of Bay City.**

Master planning participants identified the need for more indoor recreation opportunities. This desire is based both on local climate, and on the perception that a greater number of meeting rooms, fitness rooms, and gymnasium space would provide more recreational programming options than currently offered. This recreation center should include a walking track, sport courts and multipurpose space, and other traditional recreational center facilities and amenities. To maximize the efficiency of limited resources, there are several larger existing/vacant buildings which could be evaluated for retrofit

- *** ACTION 2.2.3. Evaluate opportunities to increase food access and safety in parks and during special events.**

The City should formalize a policy for allowing and/or increasing private sector food truck access in City parks and during special events. In the near-term, this could include identification of a single point of contact for food inspections for both food trucks and other concessionaires. Over a longer-term, it could include retrofitting specific facilities to tailor to food trucks rather than providing permanent concession stand facilities.

- *** ACTION 2.2.4. Evaluate opportunities to construct public restroom facilities inside the Downtown district of Bay City.**

The City should evaluate the construction of restrooms in the downtown area of Bay City, where there are currently no restrooms facilities in this area of Bay City. Providing safe public restrooms encourage tourism, making people more likely to feel comfortable attending downtown special events when they know that they won't have to search for restrooms.

- *** ACTION 2.2.5. Evaluate opportunities to develop a new centralized sports complex closer to downtown to maximize usability.**

Sportsplexes have always been an important part of the community and an increasingly significant economic driver for area athletics. These parks provide an ideal staging ground for outdoor events, athletic tournaments, and festivals; and, they incorporate facilities that allow for lengthy visits (i.e., parking areas, restrooms, concessions, etc.). The City could benefit from a modern outdoor sports complex that can house multiple ball fields (e.g., soccer, baseball, football) for weekly play and regional tournaments. Adding a premier facility like this can expand Bay City's athletic programming and bring in sports tourism to the area.

One potential location with good proximity to town includes the properties located off Nile Valley Road, just west of the railroad crossing bridge. An analysis should be undertaken to identify the possibility consolidating existing sports complexes and relocating to a newer modern sports complex. The analysis should also include opportunities for this new facility to be used as a driver of sports tourism and overall regional economic competitiveness.

- *** ACTION 2.2.6. Evaluate opportunities to establish locally-created sculptures and other art installations in downtown, parks, and along trails.**

To celebrate the culture and history of Bay City, adding public art installations throughout the City can provide enormous value to the cultural, aesthetic and economic vitality of a community. It is now a well-accepted principle of urban design that public art contributes to a community's identity, fosters community pride and a sense of belonging, and enhances the quality of life for its residents and visitors.

■ **ACTION 2.2.7. Develop a shooting range feasibility study.**

The City and surrounding Matagorda County residents have a long history of outdoor and indoor shooting activities. To continue the growth, promotion, and education of hunting and shooting, a safe and accessible facility is needed to continue the sound education and practice of novice and experienced hunters and shooters in a safe environment. In order to determine the viability of developing a shooting range in the City or ETJ, it is recommended that the City develop a shooting range feasibility study. The study should evaluate location; level of demand; and the technical, economic, legal, and operational feasibility of such a facility.

■ **ACTION 2.2.8. Support development of a downtown park network as part of the City's North Downtown Plan.**

The City's 2013 North Downtown Plan identifies the framework for a multi-phased high-quality mixed-use housing district. As part of the plan, a downtown park, open space, and trail network is proposed. It is recommended that the City support development of this area and ensure that the final design for the space includes family-friendly gathering areas, trail connectivity, and an event space. It is recommended that the North Downtown developer be required to provide perpetual maintenance for the park, trail, open space, and amenities.

■ **ACTION 2.2.9 Evaluate opportunities to develop a multi-jurisdictional partnership to establish a new aquatic complex or natatorium for Bay City residents.**

The community has strongly voiced a desire for an aquatics center/water park in the City. An ongoing effort championed by Wellness Matagorda County has already been looking into the potential for this project. The aquatics center/water park would best serve the community as a partnership between the City, Wellness Matagorda County, and the Bay City ISD. As such, it is recommended that the three organizations partner to proceed with a feasibility study and locational analysis for the complex. The study should evaluate financial feasibility today and into the future, the best location for the development, and staffing and organizational structure options. The study should also evaluate the potential to allow sufficient space for a future expansion to include a recreation center.

Throughout the public engagement process, the community voiced a number of priorities, including, but not limited to:

- serve the community.
- include amenities for people who aren't swimming.
- include an adventure water play park (splash pad, water slide, etc.).
- be located in an area that allows for walking and driving access.
- include an indoor pool.
- accommodate competitive swimming, recreational swimming, and aquatic fitness.



Goal 3: Increase connectivity and accessibility in the parks system.

Objective 3.1. Enhance bicycle, pedestrian, and transit connectivity throughout the community.

■ *** ACTION 3.1.1. Prepare a Citywide Trails Plan to increase connectivity and accessibility to parks and key destinations.**

The City could continue to prioritize the development of an interconnected citywide trail system built upon a foundation of greenway and thoroughfare connector trails. As a first step, the City should prepare a detailed comprehensive city-wide Trails Plan to identify specific trail segment alignments and ultimately create a connected citywide loop. This could include the development of both off-street trails and near-street sidepaths.

As set out on Map 4.1, *Target Connectivity Corridors*, there are several segments that should be considered as a starting point for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.



The City has a unique opportunity for trail development as it already owns the Southern Pacific railroad corridor.

■ **ACTION 3.1.2. Prioritize acquisition and development of trail segments throughout the City.**

Based on the results of the citywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, the City should prioritize and develop the expanded bicycle and pedestrian network. Depending on the location, additional acquisition of property or easements may be necessary. To ensure that the network best serves the needs of the community today, prioritization should include a public input component. At a minimum, key north-south and east-west connectors should be prioritized.

■ **ACTION 3.1.3. Continue development and extension of the Southern Pacific Trail.**

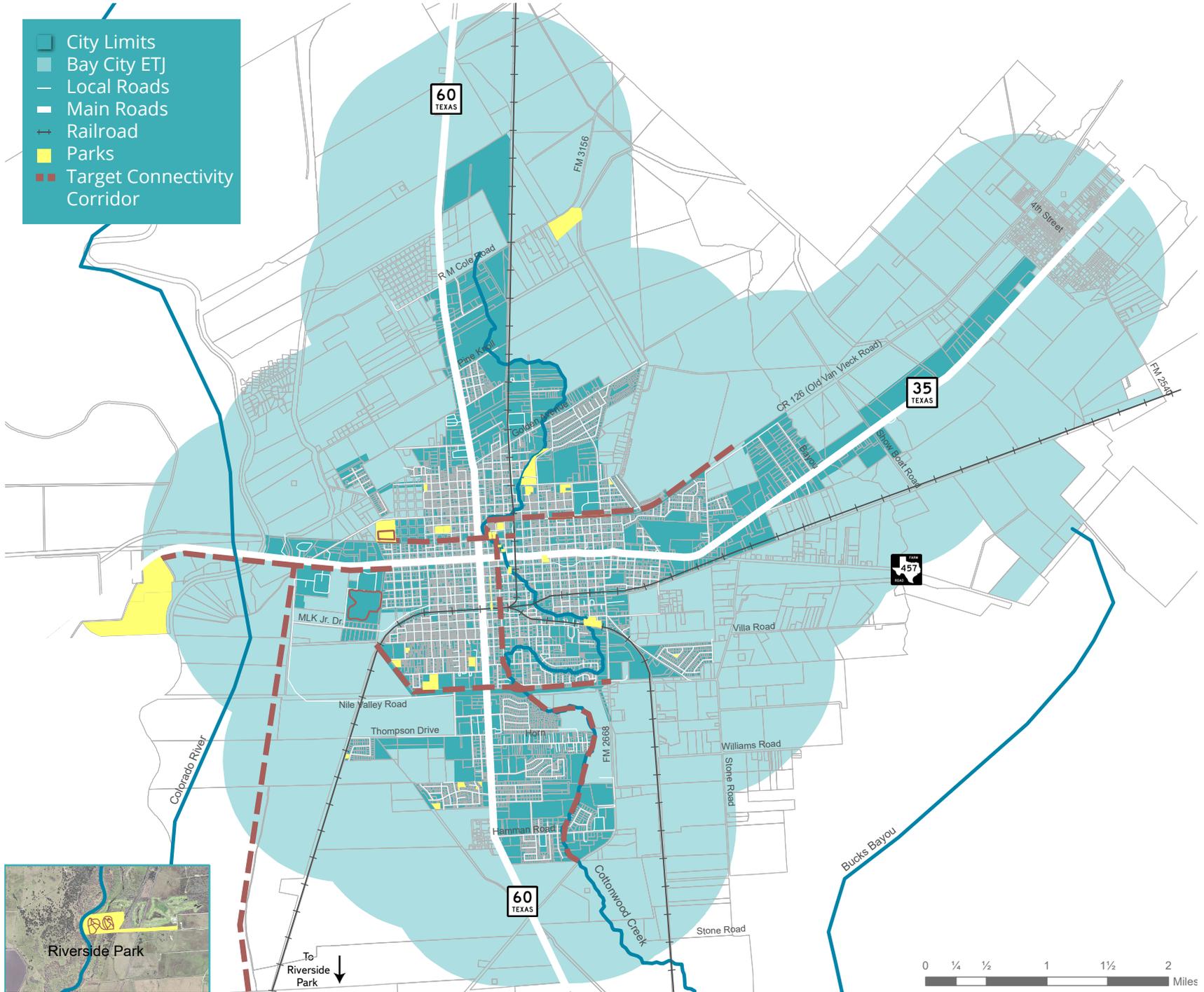
The City currently owns the Southern Pacific railroad corridor. In an effort to expand the trail opportunities in the community today, it is recommended that the City take advantage of the land they already own to continue development of the Southern Pacific Trail. The City should evaluate material options and weigh the upfront and long-term maintenance costs. Amenities, such as trash cans, benches, and trees, should be provided along the trail.

■ **ACTION 3.1.4. Coordinate with the County transit provider to determine if improved connectivity can be made to the City's parks and trail system.**

Residents have requested public transit options to increase access to parks. Currently the Friends of Elder Citizens, Inc. (FOEC) provides a ride voucher program. Once individuals pick up a voucher at a designated social service location, they can call the R-Transit Bus Service to schedule a ride anywhere within the City limits. As a number of the City's parks (including many residents' favorite park — Le Tulle Park) are beyond the City limits, access to these areas is not possible. It is recommended that the City approach FOEC to determine if improved connectivity to the parks and trail system can be provided.

* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

Map 4.1, Target Connectivity Corridors



* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

- *** ACTION 3.1.5. Coordinate with LCRA to determine potential trail connections along the rice canals.**

The City should investigate partnerships with the LCRA to complete a study to identify potential trail connections running parallel to the rice canals running from Riverside Park to the Matagorda Regional Medical Center/Bay City High School. This could add four miles to the trail system and connect Riverside Park to the east side of Bay City. It could also serve as a regional destination attraction for both Bay City residents and visitors.

- *** ACTION 3.1.6. Improve and rebrand park system signage as a means to highlight a new focus on improving existing park quality and usability for citizens.**

A well-planned, consistent signage and wayfinding system helps both residents and visitors navigate to the parks and trail system and visually recognize City-owned parkland. Parks and trail signage throughout Bay City today can be hard to see or is in disrepair. It is recommended that the City provide consistent park entry signage, as well as wayfinding signage in key locations to make the parks system more easily recognizable and navigable.



The City has an opportunity to develop a regional trail along an existing canal, that could connect the Bay City High School and Le Tulle Park to Riverside Park.

Objective 3.2. Improve ADA accessibility in the parks system.

■ **ACTION 3.2.1. Conduct an ADA accessibility assessment of all developed parks to identify, prioritize, and address accessibility issues in the parks system.**

Many amenities throughout the City's parks are currently inaccessible to those who use a wheelchair, walking aid, or are otherwise mobility challenged. To ensure that all residents and park users have equal access to park facilities and amenities, the City should conduct a park accessibility assessment of parking areas, picnic facilities, playgrounds, trails, seating areas, etc. Following a system-wide assessment, the required accessibility improvements should be funded and implemented based on a prioritized list.



Goal 4: Provide a consolidated parks system which preserves the City's unique physical and natural assets.

Objective 4.1. Consolidate and redistribute parkland throughout Bay City.

- *** ACTION 4.1.1. To increase programming and amenities at the Senior Citizen Center, consider moving the Frahms Field soccer fields to an alternate location.**

The City should consider relocating the soccer fields operated by the Bay City Youth Soccer Club to an alternate location. The significant amount of space that could become available for the senior center would free up land for potential senior center expansion or for the construction of future outdoor amenities to be added to the property. The City could consider relocating the soccer fields to a future sportsplex, (see page 98, Action 2.2.5).

- *** ACTION 4.1.2. Consider removing City Field Park from the parks system.**

The City should consider removing City Field Park from the City's parks system due to the safety hazards posed by aging equipment and facilities, and the illicit activities hosted by an under-utilized/unprogrammed park. The sale of the property also provides an opportunity to remove an unnecessary redundancy in the system and to prioritize resources to other parks in need.

- **ACTION 4.1.3. Adopt a Parkland Dedication and Development ordinance.**

Over the years, the City has received areas of parkland through developer dedication. To date, no regulatory measures are in place to guide the location and criteria of land suitable for dedication. It is thus recommended that the City adopt a parkland dedication and development ordinance to ensure that any lands that are dedicated are suitable and create additional mechanisms (i.e., fee-in-lieu) with which the City can refuse dedication where fee-in-lieu creates a better benefit for the community.

The purpose of a parkland dedication and development ordinance is to allow new growth to contribute their fair share to the overall park and recreation system. In this regard, the ordinance allows for the dedication of land and/or the collection of money for the acquisition, development, and improvement of neighborhood parks within respective park benefit zones. The ordinance should also provide for allocating resources across all park benefit zones for such things as establishing or improving community parks which serve a greater area than just individual park zones.

In addition, a portion of the collected funds (if required instead of dedication) should also be able to be used for the revitalization and/or enhancement of any existing parks which may be located within the same park benefit zone.

The following components should be considered when developing a parkland dedication and development ordinance as part of the City's subdivision regulations:

Establishment

- Adopt a parkland dedication and development ordinance which integrates this requirement as part of the City's overall new residential development review and approval process.
- Establish a park benefit zone map that includes zones made up of both developed and undeveloped areas. This allows fee-in-lieu resources to be used for the expansion and/or improvement of other existing parks within the same park benefit zone. The park benefit zone map should be developed with the intent of providing equitable distribution of resources over time.
- Establish different dedication and development requirements for single-family and multifamily residential development. In this regard, separate requirements would be created for per dwelling unit land dedication, fee-in-lieu of land dedication, and fee for parkland development.
- Establish an independent Parkland Dedication and Development Fund in which all received monies are placed. Criteria should be developed indicating how the funds can be spent. In addition, there should be a requirement which specifies that all funds must be spent within a specified maximum number of years of being received.

* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

Dedication

- Establish minimum criteria for determining suitable sites for dedication (e.g., at least 50% of the site being dedicated must be able to accommodate active recreation such as sports fields). This includes ensuring adequate public access. It should also provide for the right of refusal by the City Council.
- Establish requirements which apply both within the City limits and in the City's ETJ. For proposed dedication within the ETJ, the City should be given first right of refusal, followed by dedication to a public and/or non-profit receiving entity, followed by fee-in-lieu dedication.
- Adopt provisions which allow private amenities to account for only a portion of the requirements. In other words, a new development cannot fulfill all of its requirements solely by providing private amenities to just its own residents.
- Accept the dedication of undevelopable floodplain as a prorated component of the overall dedication (e.g., it takes X acres of floodplain to equal 1 acre of dedication).

Development

- Establish minimum design criteria for park, trail, or other public use improvements which are used to satisfy the requirements of the parkland dedication and development ordinance. In this regard, City staff will need to review and approve all proposed improvements during the planning and design stage of development.
 - Ensure that all proposed off-site improvements are located within the same park benefit zone.
-
- **ACTION 4.1.4. Consider dedicating City-owned land adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant as parkland.**

The City currently owns approximately 11 acres of land adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant. In order to meet parkland needs in this area, it is recommended that the City consider dedicating this land as parkland. Once dedicated, it is recommended that the City evaluate the feasibility of developing the land into a passive and active park. If the City is considering applying for a grant to fund improvements, it may be prudent to use the land as “in kind” collateral as part of fulfilling matching requirements.

As such, land dedication should only take place in connection with a grant award to serve as a match. This area also provides the opportunity to connect this potential park property to the proposed regional trail system (see *page 101, Map 4.1*).

- **ACTION 4.1.5. Consider converting the Sports Complex property to an alternate use and reestablishing its athletic amenities in closer proximity to City residents.**

The Sports Complex is located well outside the City limits and more heavily populated residential areas. In its current condition and location, this site is not likely to get adequate use to fully justify the dollars spent on maintenance and repairs. The community would be better served with a sports complex located in closer proximity to residents. It is recommended that the City consider converting the current Sports Complex property into an alternate use (e.g., a shooting range, see Action 2.2.7) and evaluate opportunities to redevelop athletic amenities closer to town (see Action 4.1.3 and 4.1.4).

- **ACTION 4.1.6. Consider future acquisition of additional non-City-owned land adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant to increase the recreation potential of the City-owned land in the area.**

In order to maximize the recreation potential of the City-owned land next to the wastewater treatment facility, it is recommended that the City consider future acquisition of additional adjacent lands. If sufficient land is assembled, this property may have potential to serve as a replacement sports complex.



- **ACTION 4.1.7. Consider selling select areas of parkland to consolidate and further enhance a high-quality Bay City parks system.**

The City has a large amount of fragmented parkland which is widely distributed throughout the community. Throughout the planning process, the community voiced a desire for a more consolidated parks system. There are currently four undeveloped parks which offer minimal recreation benefit or potential and are located in areas already served by developed parks. It is recommended that the City consider selling the following areas of parkland to consolidate the parks system and allow for greater maintenance of existing developed parks which see greater use. The City should evaluate strategies to ensure that the PARD sufficiently benefits from the sale of the land.

If the City is unable to sell the land, it is recommended that strategies be considered to naturalize the properties in order to minimize the maintenance burden on PARD staff.

Objective 4.2. Promote natural resource preservation and conservation practices throughout the parks system.

- **ACTION 4.2.1. Continue to preserve and protect areas along Cottonwood Creek.**

Cottonwood Creek runs through the center of Bay City and holds potential to provide natural open space amidst the more developed suburban and downtown areas. As part of the North Downtown Plan, the creek is proposed as a central element to the district. In support of that plan, it is recommended that the City continue to preserve and protect areas along Cottonwood Creek throughout the City in order to maximize the environmental, ecological, and recreational potential of the waterway. The Cottonwood Creek corridor can also be developed as a potential future greenway trail improving citywide connectivity (see Map 4.1).

Goal 5: Enhance the function, safety, and appearance of City parkland through the provision of sufficient resources.

Objective 5.1. Provide adequate staffing, equipment, and funding to allow for a well-maintained parks and trails system.

- *** ACTION 5.1.1. Develop and implement a department-wide annual maintenance plan and long-term asset maintenance schedule.**

Prepare and adopt a maintenance management plan that clearly outlines different levels of maintenance service (maintenance modes) depending on anticipated usage, complexity of amenities/facilities, and revenue generation potential. The plan and schedule should define routine maintenance tasks and frequency to be implemented through a work order management system.

A formalized maintenance management plan includes not only maintenance modes and standards for each park but also tracks the performance of the work against a set of defined outcomes as well as the costs expended to achieve each outcome.

- **ACTION 5.1.2. Ensure adequate funding and staffing are provided to allow for improved park system maintenance.**

Through discussions with the public and PARD staff, it was evident that additional staffing is necessary to better maintain the existing parks and trails system. Additionally, as the parks and recreation system continues to diversify, it is important that sufficient staffing and increased departmental funding are planned for to allow adequate upkeep of the system. A poorly maintained parks system is frequently viewed in a worse light than no park system at all.

- Two additional Riverside Rangers
- One full time Administrative Assistant
- One additional Park Specialist

- **ACTION 5.1.3. Evaluate the need for additional equipment to increase efficiencies with regard to park maintenance operations.**

The PARD staff are responsible for the maintenance of over 348 acres of parkland. The efficiency of maintenance is largely impacted by the types and quality of equipment used by staff. In order to improve efficiency, it is recommended that the City undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the equipment needs compared to equipment currently available. Based on the results of the evaluation, the City should prioritize acquisition of additional and updated equipment. Some needs already identified by staff include new weed eaters, blowers, and updated mowing equipment. Moving forward, the City should include an annually budgeted replacement program to ensure that maintenance equipment remains up-to-date.

Objective 5.2. Provide upgrades to improve the safety and security of the City parks and trails system.

- *** ACTION 5.2.1. Conduct an annual or bi-annual conditions assessment update.**

The condition-based assessment evaluates the condition of existing parkland, recreational facilities and structures to assist in prioritizing anticipated near-term maintenance needs. It augments potential long-term capital investments in the community's parks system. This plan recommends the PARD staff conduct or commission an annual or bi-annual update of the conditions assessment conducted as part of this planning process. Recurring updates to the conditions assessment is a way to track progress in implementing system-wide investment recommendations and to ensure the adequate maintenance of the parks system. The conditions assessment can also be used to re-prioritize or add to recommended park enhancements.

- *** ACTION 5.2.2. Participate in the NRPA's park metrics program and agency performance review on a recurring basis.**

To evaluate how other public parks and recreations agencies deliver services to constituents within their jurisdictions.

Uploading budget, staffing, programming, facilities, and parkland data into the Park Metrics program is a simple process and would ensure that much of the data organized and submitted by Bay City on an annual basis is arranged in a manner consistent with national peers (making comparison assessments more useful). Participation in the Park Metrics program should not obligate Bay City to measure all data sets in a corresponding manner to the NRPA. The City should always prioritize local needs and processes when determining how to best to organize and submit data to national advocacy and industry groups.



NRPA Park Metrics is the most comprehensive source of data standards and insights for park and recreation agencies. Launched in 2009, these agency performance resources assist park and recreation professionals in the effective management and planning of their operating resources and capital facilities. This suite of tools allows park and recreation agencies to build customized reports that allow for comparisons with peer agencies. Park and recreation professionals can use this benchmark data to gain more funding support, improve operations and better serve their communities.

-
- *** ACTION 5.2.3. Prepare and implement an urban forest management policy to guide the selection, management and removal of trees on public properties.**

Prepare an urban forest management policy for application on City properties that guides proper tree selection, placement, long-term care and removal.

An initial management policy may include an inventory of City trees placed close to streets or other public infrastructure or public gathering areas. Associated guidelines may be applied to trees on private property planted in accordance with municipal land development codes. A completed urban forest management plan will include a tree inspection and replacement schedule which should be incorporated into the PARD's overall maintenance plan and schedule. Plan implementation will require the oversight of a licensed arborist - either as a full-time City staff member or a third-party vendor.

-
- *** ACTION 5.2.4. Conduct a cost of services analysis to refine municipal fee schedules for recreational programs, reservations rentals.**

To properly fund all programs, either through tax subsidies or user fees, and to establish the right cost recovery targets, a cost of service analysis should be conducted on each program, or program type, that accurately calculates direct (i.e., program-specific) and indirect (i.e., comprehensive, including administrative overhead) costs.

-
- **ACTION 5.2.5. Continue to implement an energy-efficient lighting plan for the parks and trails system.**

A need for additional park and trail lighting was identified through the public engagement process. When asked in the 2017 survey, what would make them feel safer in City parks, 70 percent of survey respondents indicated additional lighting. It is thus recommended that, as part of a capital program, the City develop an energy-efficient lighting plan which addresses the need for security lighting and lighting of athletic fields, trails, etc. The plan should identify preferred lighting types and locations, and prioritize implementation over the coming years.

-
- **ACTION 5.2.6. Install call boxes at appropriate locations throughout the parks and trails system.**

City staff have identified the need for additional safety measures in the parks and trails system. In addition to lighting, it is recommended that the City install call boxes at appropriate locations throughout the parks and along trails.

-
- **ACTION 5.2.7. Install park rules signs.**

The City should consider installing signs in a prominent location (e.g., in or near the parking lot or entrance) at all City parks indicating the park hours, prohibited uses, and a phone number and email address where visitors can report maintenance issues or concerns. This will allow citizens and visitors to take more ownership over the use and quality of their park system and to allow the City to respond to safety or maintenance concerns with greater efficiency.

-
- **ACTION 5.2.8. Continue to implement a phasing plan to upgrade playgrounds in need of replacement.**

To proactively plan for this need, it is recommended that the City develop and implement a phasing plan for needed upgrades. This would involve creating a playground replacement program and including it as part of the yearly operational budget.

-
- **ACTION 5.2.9. Evaluate opportunities to provide an enhanced security presence in the parks system.**

In order to further improve safety and discourage illicit activities and vandalism in the parks and trails system, it is recommended that the City evaluate opportunities for a more consistent security presence. This could include solutions such as a park ranger, coordination with the Bay City Police Department for increased park patrol time, and the addition of strategically located security cameras.

Goal 6: Maintain, improve, and enhance existing park and recreation facilities in Bay City.

Objective 6.1. Enhance park design and maintenance practices to improve the overall quality and aesthetics of City parks.

■ ACTION 6.1.1. Remove non-parkland from the maintenance responsibilities of the PARD to allow adequate resources (e.g., staffing, funding, equipment) for maintenance of the parks and trails system.

As described in Chapter 3, the PARD's maintenance responsibilities have grown over the years to include lands which do fall easily under another departments' jurisdiction. This, in turn, inhibits the provision of adequate maintenance in the parks system. In order to allow for enhanced maintenance in the community, it is recommended that all non-parkland be removed from the maintenance responsibilities of the PARD. To do this, the City may need to consider additional staffing in other departments or contracting for third-party maintenance. The City should also consider formalizing an "adopt-a-park" program to allow residents and local organizations to contribute to the upkeep of parkland.

■ ACTION 6.1.2. Develop and implement a series of park staffing, management, and maintenance policies to ensure a quality parks system.

The quality of a parks and recreation system is critically linked to the appearance of the facilities and amenities which it is comprised of, and of the appearance and professionalism of the staff who represent it. As such, it is recommended that the PARD adopt and adhere to the following parks facility and maintenance guidelines which will help establish and maintain high quality facilities and amenities and help develop the specialized skill sets to maintain it over time. These policies can be used to assist in the development of training and operational schedules and are intended to promote pride and ownership over the City's park properties.

- All permanent parks staff to be knowledgeable and experienced in their assigned duties;
- All temporary or seasonal staff to be assigned to a crew with permanent parks staff at all times;

- All personnel to be uniformed, provided protective gear as needed, and presented in a professional manner;
- All parks maintenance equipment and vehicles to be properly maintained, washed, and identified as a City Parks Department vehicle;
- Perform all scheduled work that will utilize acceptable horticultural practices for the exterior landscape maintenance (see Figure 4.1, *Recommended Routine Landscape and Facility Maintenance Schedule*);
- Perform all work necessary to inspect, maintain, repair, and replace park amenities on a routine basis;
- Assign trained park maintenance personnel to athletic field maintenance in order to establish and maintain a consistent, playable, and safe condition to all fields;
- Assign park maintenance personnel to large field mowing, utilizing trained personnel for the safe operation and transport of large maintenance equipment;
- Allow Highway 35 to subdivide the City into a north and south region. Assign park maintenance personnel to parks in each region to increase productivity and efficiency;
- Assign specialized park maintenance personnel for irrigation inspections and repairs. All personnel to have and maintain all required State of Texas licenses. Implement a policy of all irrigation components to be of same manufacture to minimize the diversity of inventory of replacement parts;
- Assign specialized park maintenance personnel for chemical maintenance programs. All personnel to have and maintain all required State of Texas licenses;
- Assign park maintenance personnel for facility building, sidewalk, parking lot, playground, fencing, lighting, and furnishings maintenance, upkeep, and repairs. If a skilled tradesman is employed, such as a plumber or electrician, then all personnel to have and maintain State of Texas license;
- Cross-train park maintenance personnel to perform alternative maintenance tasks during times of need or employee absences;
- Institute and adhere to an equipment replacement rotation program where mowers are replaced routinely in the off-season, vehicles are replaced after a City-

- determined mileage life span; and
- Train all parks personnel annually on safety procedures and expectations.

Set out in Figure 4.1, *Recommended Routine Landscape and Facility Maintenance Schedule*, on the page 112, is a recommended annual maintenance schedule which focuses on standard routine maintenance practices which are intended to keep facilities and amenities in good condition and to minimize or prevent major issues from developing incrementally over time.

- **Action 6.1.3. Pursue CAPRA accreditation for the Bay City PARD.**

The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accredits park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service. CAPRA accreditation is a multi-step process including a preliminary application, self-assessment, on-site evaluation, accreditation, and an annual report. The self-assessment phase is an important task which involves the entire PARD in a detailed assessment of its efficiency and effectiveness. In addition to gaining accreditation and public recognition, CAPRA accreditation can lead to increased efficiency, accountability, teamwork, and regular review of the PARD's operations, policies, and procedures, thus continually improving the provision of parks and recreation in Bay City. It is recommended that the PARD take the necessary steps to pursue CAPRA accreditation.

- **ACTION 6.1.4. Implement overall park design guidelines.**

As the City considers improvements to its park system, it should consider adopting a series of park design guidelines. These guidelines would guide the design and construction of new and improved parks and recreation facilities and amenities and should be geared towards attractive, high-quality, low maintenance design. The guidelines should indicate that new and improved park facilities and amenities be:

- designed using water-efficient and native landscaping;
- designed and constructed of durable, long-lasting materials;
- designed using sustainable, efficient "green" design solutions;
- designed to minimize maintenance requirements;
- designed using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques (e.g., increase

- natural surveillance, control access, management and maintenance) to increase safety;
- designed to maximize shade opportunities;
- designed for flexibility of use; and
- designed with a cohesive system of styles and materials to create a "brand" within all City parks.

- **ACTION 6.1.5. Publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities to allow the public to help improve City parks.**

The City's residents have voiced a strong desire for an improved parks and recreation system, as well as a desire to be involved. It is recommended that the City develop a formalized Park Amenities Foundation and Donation Program to set minimum standards and processes for donations.

This could include creation of a long-term park donation and endowment program for both financial and land donation offerings. It could also include the programmatic identification of specific park amenity needs (e.g., shade structures, benches, water fountains, trees, monument signs, etc.) which could be advertised on the City's website for solicitation of volunteers. This could include the request for a specific need and location and cost for purchasing and installation. For example, the need for a playscape shade structure could be advertised showing the project location and costs. A volunteer could donate the money for materials and installation so that the City could get it installed. Small donations could be recognized on the City's website, on a small plaque on site, and during an annual recognition program. Large donations (e.g., entire parks) could be given the opportunity for naming rights. This could also be used for solicitation of other community park wish lists items (e.g., community service clean up day volunteers, materials, and equipment, etc.).

- *** ACTION 6.1.6. Identify opportunities to add "No Mow" areas across the parks systems.**

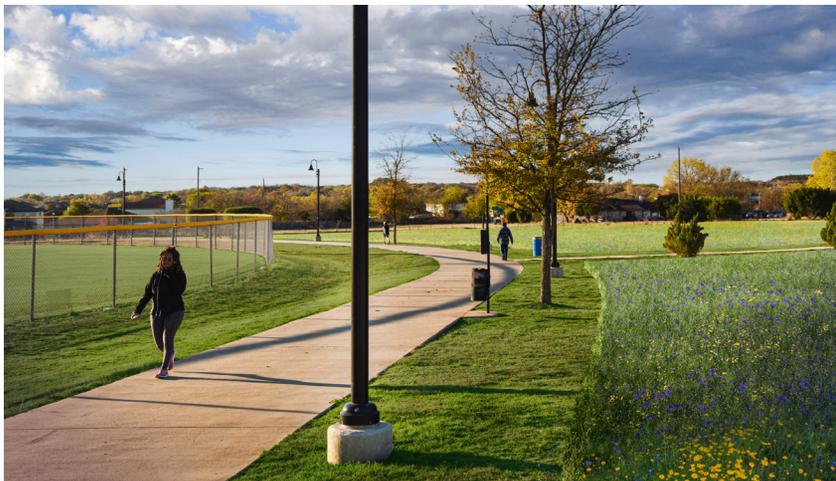
Mowing is a major cost driver for the operations and maintenance of a parks system. There are portions of parks that can be left unmown for most of the year, thus reducing the manpower required to maintain those properties. These areas are ones that are not used for any type of park programming due to character of the land (steep slopes, uneven grades, tree cover) or location (far from access points or inaccessible for other reasons).

These can be converted to “No Mow” areas, which are areas where the existing turfgrasses and weeds are replaced with plants and wildflowers. Once the native plants and wildflowers are seeded, the frequency of mowing is reduced to once or twice per year. The native plants and wildflowers do take some time and expense to get established but are necessary to prevent these areas from simply becoming nuisance “weedy and overgrown areas”. While it takes potentially two growing seasons to become a truly aesthetic feature of the parks, the reduction in mowing frequency translates to an immediate cost reduction for mowing.

Example of typical mowing conditions in most park systems



Example of implementing “No Mow” areas and its impact on reducing areas of weekly maintenance.



Objective 6.2. Proactively plan for the continuation of a high-quality parks and recreation system into the future.

■ **Action 6.2.1. Update the Bay City Parks Master Plan.**

As the City’s population grows and demographics shift, parks and recreation needs will also change. To ensure that the City continues to provide the parks and recreation opportunities and facilities to best serve its residents, the City should update the Bay City Parks Master Plan periodically. As suggested by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Plan should be updated after a five-year period, or before any major developments occur which significantly impact the recreation needs of the City. While the TPWD does not require a parks master plan update, it does place a higher point value (during grant funding evaluation) on submittals that demonstrate that a plan has been updated within the past five years.

The following steps are recommended for periodic review of this Plan:

- An annual review by City staff should be conducted to review progress and successes.
- An annual report should be provided to the City Council.
- More frequent updates may be required if special needs or occurrences require modifications to the Plan.
- In all cases, public involvement through citizen meetings, interviews, and workshops should be included in any update process.
- Since this the 2022 Plan Update meets TPWD’s criteria for a five-year plan update, the 2027 plan should be developed as a new 10-year plan.

Figure 4.5, Recommended Routine Landscape and Facility Maintenance Schedule

CONTRACT TASK / FUNCTION		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
		FREQ												
GENERAL														
1	General site cleanup (not including pond water surface management)	DAILY												
IRRIGATION														
2	Irrigation inspections	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
TREE MAINTENANCE														
3	Prune shade trees	1												1
4	Prune native trees	1												1
5	Prune spring flowering ornamental trees					1								1
6	Prune Crape Myrtles		1											1
7	Tree trimming (misc. trimming for clearance over paths/walks, minor limb breaks, etc.)				1	1	1	1	1	1				6
8	Maintain tree wells/Round-up band	1		1		1		1		1		1		6
9	Replenish tree well mulch, trees installed less than 1 year			1						1				2
10	Treat insects & disease control				1			1						2
11	Replenish mulch						1				1			2
TURF														
12	Aerification (except athletic fields)			1										1
13	Aerification of athletic fields			1		1					1			3
14	Mowing, edging, trimming of summer turf (bermuda, St. Augustine)	1	1	2	3	5	4	5	4	4	5	3	1	38
15	Mowing, edging, trimming of Buffalo turf				1	1	2	2	2	1	1			10
16	Fertilizer application to Bermuda and St. Augustine turf athletic fields			1		1		1			1			4
17	Apply post-emergent herbicide		1			1				1				3
18	Apply pre-emergent herbicide		1							1				2
19	Insect/pesticide control (fire ants included)				1				1			1		3
20	Disease control						1							1

(continued on next page)

Figure 4.5, Recommended Routine Landscape and Facility Maintenance Schedule (cont.)

	CONTRACT TASK / FUNCTION	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
		FREQ												
POND MANAGEMENT														
21	General policing of floating debris and removal of debris	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	26
22	Clean out-fall structures	AN	15											
23	Maintain edges		1	1	2	3	3	3	2	2	1			18
24	Aquatic weed control		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	9
JOGGING AND BIKE TRAILS/CONCRETE PAVERS/CONCRETE WALKS														
25	Clean/Sweep trails and paths	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
DEBRIS AND TRASH COLLECTION														
26	Empty trash receptacles	DAILY												
DRAINAGE WAYS, INLETS, CULVERTS														
27	Remove trash/debris	AN	12											

AN = As needed



Parks with irrigation are looked at by the Parks and Recreation maintenance crews once a month, in order to properly maintain the efficiency and use of the sprinklers being used

Goal 7: Explore funding and partnering opportunities to further leverage parks and recreation facility enhancements and program offerings.

Objective 7.1. Actively pursue additional funding, partnerships, and sponsorships to support the provision of a high quality parks and recreation system in Bay City.

- *** ACTION 7.1.1. Identify appropriate funding source to improve the City's parks maintenance/storage yard for better usability.**

This includes the installation of electric gates and pavement (or other hard surface material) of the parking/storage yard areas for better long-term storage of materials and equipment. This could also include the installation of a camera system to improve long-term security.

- **ACTION 7.1.2. Consider approaching the citizens with a bond election to fund identified larger-scale capital improvements for the parks system.**

The community desires an improved and enhanced parks system. In order to provide this over the coming years, additional funding will be needed. When asked about funding strategies during the 2022 public survey, 57 percent of respondents to the question supported or strongly supported raising funds for new facilities through a voter approved bond initiative (see *page 63*, in Chapter 3). Additionally, 47 percent of respondents indicated willingness to pay additional City taxes or consider a bond initiative to see the quality of existing parks upgraded (see *page 59*, in Chapter 3). As such, the City should consider approaching the citizens with a bond election to fund larger-scale capital improvements in the parks system. This includes preparing a series of bond-ready projects (with detailed design plans) and vetting them through a broadly represented citizen bond committee.

- **ACTION 7.1.3. Evaluate the need to update existing joint-use agreements with Bay City ISD to ensure that City facilities are adequately maintained.**

The City currently has joint-use agreements with Bay City ISD for the Valiant Street (16th Street) Pool and the intermediate school gym. It is recommended that the City reevaluate the Valiant Street Pool agreement to determine what improvements should be made to the facility, and who is responsible for funding, implementing, and maintaining the improvements.

- **ACTION 7.1.4. Pursue development of additional joint use agreements with Bay City ISD to maximize sharing of mutually beneficial park amenities (e.g., playscapes, basketball courts).**

There are a number of Bay City ISD facilities which have potential to serve the greater public during non-school hours. In order to maximize the potential of a relationship between the City of Bay City and Bay City ISD, it is recommended that the City pursue development of additional joint-use agreements for facilities which have mutually beneficial park amenities. This could include playscapes, athletic facilities, and general open space. Additionally, coordination should include discussions about the intended future use of non-operational Bay City ISD buildings and/or properties to determine the viability of joint use and development of these facilities.

- **ACTION 7.1.5. Initiate discussions with local athletic leagues to reevaluate partnership responsibilities.**

A number of the City's athletic fields are used by third-party leagues. It is recommended that the City reevaluate these use agreements to ensure that properties are adequately maintained, that partnership responsibilities are clear, and that league fees are adequately offsetting the City's costs. If hired, this coordination could be handled by the designated Recreation Coordinator.

- **ACTION 7.1.6. Evaluate and pursue public-private partnerships for development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.**

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) that operate under a private management framework, yet are subsidized with public funding are becoming more common in cities. These partnerships can enable the development of amenities and facilities such as a community recreation center (see Action 7.1.2), athletic fields, and event spaces, as well as diversify park activities through the provision of rentals (e.g., canoe/kayak rentals). Partnerships can range from large-scale private development funding with ongoing public staffing or maintenance, to corporate sponsorships, to shared-use agreements and concessionaires. In an effort to diversify funding sources and maximize the parks and recreation potential in the City, it is recommended that the City pursue additional partnerships for the development and continued maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.

- **ACTION 7.1.7. Evaluate the City's park-related fee structure to ensure that users are adequately offsetting cost of maintenance.**

City parks and facilities can be rented for both small and large gatherings and events. In order to ensure that parks and facilities are maintained in a cost-effective, adequate manner, it is recommended that the City evaluate its rental fee structure to ensure that users are sufficiently covering the cost of maintenance required by their use of the property. This includes events in parks, at the USO Building, and the Train Depot. This also includes field use by athletic leagues.

- **ACTION 7.1.8. Continue to coordinate with the Matagorda County Convention & Visitors Bureau to publicize City events.**

The Matagorda County Convention & Visitors Bureau (MCCVB) publishes an events calendar on their website. In order to further publicize Bay City events, it is recommended that the City continue to coordinate with the MCCVB to add City events to the online calendar.

- **ACTION 7.1.9. Partner with the school district, non-profits and other institutions to reduce service gaps to neighborhood parks and recreational amenities.**

Seek opportunities to partner with the school district, non-profits and other public authorities to increase access to recreational space in the City. Utilize intergovernmental arrangements to invest in property acquisition or initial facility investment, or to administer long-term maintenance responsibilities while the partnering entity fulfills complimentary roles in park development or maintenance.

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Chapter 5: Implementation

5



Coordinated Implementation

Successful implementation of Plan recommendations will need to be a coordinated effort on part of the City and community leaders, such as residents, elected and appointed officials, and outside agencies. In order to most effectively provide high-quality parks and recreation to the community of Bay City, the City has a responsibility to partner with all local, state, and federal entities that can be of assistance in expanding and refining Bay City's parks, recreation, and open space system today and in the future. At a minimum, this includes:

- Bay City elected and appointed officials;
- City Administration and staff;
- Bay City Friends of the Park Advisory Board;
- Matagorda County;
- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT);
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD);
- Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA);
- Bay City Independent School District (BCISD);
- Bay City Community Development Corporation;
- Matagorda County Economic Development Corporation;
- Wellness Matagorda County, Inc.;
- Athletic leagues;
- Adjacent local municipalities (on projects that benefit both jurisdictions);
- Area land and business owners and the development community;
- Interested community volunteers and stakeholders; and
- Other affected agencies and entities.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Compliance

In addition to guiding parks and recreation actions over the coming years, this Plan also serves as a parks, recreation, and open space master plan as defined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). This is because “qualified” plans increase the City's competitiveness when applying for TPWD grant funding.

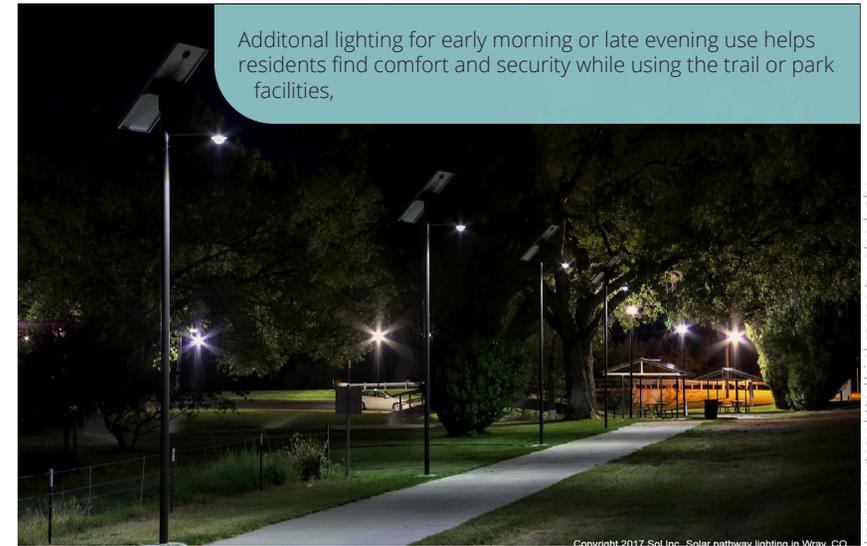
High Priority Needs

The top priorities for parks, recreation, open space, and trails, listed in Figure 5.1, *Summary of High Priority Needs in Bay City* on the following page, are consistent with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) requirements. Priorities have been determined based on community input, needs assessments, site visits, and input from City staff and elected and appointed officials. The set of actions described in Chapter 5, *Plan Recommendations*, and prioritized in this Chapter, have been recommended to enhance quality of life in the community and may require the use of grant money in the future.

The identified priorities illustrated in Figure 5.1, *Summary of High Priority Needs in Bay City* have been categorized into two lists: outdoor facilities/amenities and indoor facilities/amenities.

Figure 5.1, Summary of High Priority Facility Needs in Bay City

New or additional facilities needed based on <u>citizen input</u>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shade 2. Lighting 3. Picnic areas 4. Trails 5. Sport courts/fields 6. Splash pads 	
New or additional facilities needed based on <u>level of service</u>	Upgraded facilities needed based on <u>existing condition</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trails 2. Community recreation center 3. Splash pads 4. Sport courts/fields 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relocated Boat launch 2. Enclosed restrooms in parks 3. Lighting 4. Covered play structures
Top cumulative outdoor facility needs based on above summaries	Top cumulative indoor facility needs based on above summaries
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trails 2. Shade structures/trees 3. Splash pads 4. Sport courts/fields 5. Lighting 6. Multipurpose practice fields 7. Upgraded, covered playscapes 8. Picnic areas 9. Enclosed restrooms 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indoor swimming pool 2. Community recreation center



Additional lighting for early morning or late evening use helps residents find comfort and security while using the trail or park facilities,

Image courtesy: <http://cityofbaycity.com/tx.us/park.php>



Additional picnic facilities with shade were another top priority need identified through the planning process.

Prioritized Action Plan

Implementation Tools

There are a few overarching types of implementation tools which help define post-adoption actions taken by the City. These include:

- **Operational Change.** New or changed programs, staffing, or operational procedures.
- **Policy.** Official procedures or policies used to guide City decisions. In some cases, it includes a movement towards a general direction which may involve a combination of other implementation tool types.
- **Regulation.** Council adopted regulations used to guide development or other actions within the City.
- **Study.** Further study or investigation needed to determine the most appropriate solution.
- **Capital Investment.** Larger scale capital improvements incorporated into the greater Capital Improvement Program or five-year capital improvement plan (CIP). Also includes, smaller scale improvements which may more likely be funded through the annual budgeting process.
- **Coordination.** These initiatives will include two or more entities working close together to serve as champions of the plan.

Prioritization

The actions of this Park Master Plan can be further delineated into three levels of priority. These include:

- **High Priority Actions.** Actions which need to be initiated within the next one to two years (2023 - 2025). In many cases, these actions will be initiated and completed during this time frame. In other cases, these actions may be initiated during this time frame, but completed over time. These are the City's highest priorities for implementation.

- **Moderate Priority Actions.** Actions which need to be initiated within the next three to five years (2025- 2027). Some of these actions may become the highest priorities identified during the City's next Parks Master Plan update. These actions may also be ongoing extensions of high priority actions.

Prioritization Criteria

Note that the prioritization shown in this Plan is intended to guide staff and Council actions, and any item may be initiated sooner than recommended if unique circumstances or opportunities arise. Prioritization of the action items is presented in Table 5.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan* (starting on the next page), using the criteria below. Needs meeting all of the criteria were ranked as high priority elements and are to receive the highest level of attention over the next one to five years.

- Level of need based on citizen input (online survey results, stakeholder interviews, public open house meetings, prioritization survey, etc.);
- Level of need based on the needs assessment; and
- Site assessments of existing park facilities in the City.

Reach Projects

While all of the recommended actions are categorized as high, moderate, or longer-term priorities, there are a number of actions which are considered "reach projects." These are actions which may be high-cost endeavors which would greatly improve the City's recreation offerings and provide larger economic opportunities. Many of these projects would likely require bond funding, partnerships, and many years to complete.

Figure 5.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan

Action ID	Action	Initiation Time Frame (years)			Action Type
		1-2	3-5	Reach	
Goal 1: Renovate, develop, and construct diversified park recreation facilities based on the changing needs of the community					
Objective 1.1: Renovate and replace existing facilities and amenities to improve and/or enhance accessibility, connectivity, facilities, amenities, and programming.					
1.1.1.*	Improve Riverside Park as set out in the master plan created during the 2022 Master Plan Update.		■	×	Capital Investment
1.1.2.	Improve Community Park.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.3.	Improve the Girls Softball Fields.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.4.	Improve Hardeman Park.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.5.	Improve the Little League Fields.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.6.*	Improve Duncan Park following the master plan created during the 2022 Master Plan Update.		■	×	Capital Investment
1.1.7.	Guide improvements to Avenue I Parks (north and south) as part of the North Downtown Plan.	■			Study
1.1.8.	Improve Bay Ridge Park.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.9.	Improve Chateaux Oaks Park.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.10.	Improve City Field.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.11.	Improve Henderson Park.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.12.	Improve Mary Withers Park.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.13.	Improve Highland Park.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.14.	Improve Liberty Park.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.15.	Improve Wickersham Park.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.16.	Improve existing segments of the Southern Pacific Trail.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.17.	Improve the Barkway.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.18.	Improve the Caboose and Train Depot.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.19.	Improve the Country Club.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.20.	Improve Gusman Park.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.21.	Complete improvements to Hilliard Pool.	■			Capital Investment

* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

Figure 5.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

Action ID	Action	Initiation Time Frame (years)			Action Type
		1-2	3-5	Reach	
1.1.22.	Improve the USO Building.	■			Capital Investment
1.1.23.	Improve and evaluate the Valiant Park and Pool.	■			Capital Investment, Study
1.1.24.	Continue to improve Amistad Park and the National Guard/Parks Office per the master plan that was completed in the 2017 master plan.		■	✘	Capital Investment
1.1.25.*	Continue to improve and redevelop Le Tulle Park as set out in the master plan.		■	✘	Capital Investment
Objective 1.2. Provide general park upgrades throughout the system to improve user experiences.					
1.2.1.*	Improve the parking areas and in-park roads in each park.		■	✘	Capital Investment
1.2.2.*	Coordinate with Bay City Independent School District (BCISD) to execute a school joint use agreement for the sharing of resources related to new and existing school facilities and amenities.		■		Coordination, Study
1.2.3.*	Evaluate opportunities to install splash pads in areas of need.		■		Study
1.2.4.	Provide additional shade opportunities in the parks and along trails.	■			Capital Investment
1.2.5.	Identify opportunities to beautify existing parks (e.g., improved landscaping, signage, etc.).		■		Capital Investment
Goal 2: Provide a diversified, multigenerational offering of recreational programs, events, facilities, and amenities to serve residents and attract regional users and visitors.					
Objective 2.1. Provide increased programming and event options which serve the public and meet the needs of the community.					
2.1.1.*	Continue to provide additional community-wide family-friendly events in the City.	■			Operational
2.1.2.*	Track recreation program lifecycle rates of participation to ensure that the City program portfolio adjusts to meet changing recreational needs and preferences.	■			Study
2.1.3.	Conduct a Recreational Programming and Event Assessment.		■		Study
2.1.4.	Expand multigenerational recreation opportunities through additional City-provided and third-party programming.		■		Policy, Operational Change, Capital Investment
2.1.5.	Consider providing smaller, park-specific events to encourage greater use of all parks throughout the community.		■		Policy, Operational Change, Capital Investment
2.1.6.	Implement additional public outreach to ensure residents are aware of the recreational opportunities in the City.		■		Policy, Operational Change

* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

Figure 5.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

Action ID	Action	Initiation Time Frame (years)			Action Type
		1-2	3-5	Reach	
2.1.7.	Continue to update the City’s website on a regular basis to provide complete, accurate information about the parks system.	■			Policy, Operational Change
2.1.8.	Work with the convention and visitors’ bureau and the chamber of commerce to promote municipal parks and recreational programs aimed at tourists and new residents.		■		Policy
Objective 2.2. Plan and develop additional high-quality recreational facilities and amenities to serve residents, attract outside users, and take advantage of unique opportunities.					
2.2.1*	Secure access to the Colorado River within the Country Club property to establish a new river access point for the TPWD paddling trail and other river-based uses.	■		×	Study, Capital Investment
2.2.2.*	Identify a location to construct or retrofit a new recreation center to serve the citizens of Bay City.	■			Study
2.2.3.*	Evaluate opportunities to increase food access and safety in parks and during special events.		■		Study
2.2.4.*	Evaluate opportunities to construct public restroom facilities inside the Downtown district of Bay City.	■			Study, Capital Investment
2.2.5.*	Evaluate opportunities to develop a new centralized sports complex closer to downtown to maximize usability.	■		×	Study, Capital Investment
2.2.6.*	Evaluate opportunities to establish locally-created sculptures and other art installations in downtown, parks, and along trails.		■		Study, Capital Investment
2.2.7.	Develop a shooting range feasibility study.		■		Study
2.2.8.	Support development of a downtown park network as part of the City’s North Downtown Plan.		■		Policy
2.2.9.	Evaluate opportunities to develop a multi-jurisdictional partnership to establish a new aquatic complex or natatorium for Bay City residents.		■		Study
Goal 3: Increase connectivity and accessibility in the parks system.					
Objective 3.1. Enhance bicycle, pedestrian, and transit connectivity throughout the community.					
3.1.1.*	Prepare a Citywide Trails Plan to increase connectivity and accessibility to parks and key destinations.	■			Study, Capital Investment
3.1.2.	Prioritize acquisition and development of trail segments throughout the City.	■			Capital Investment
3.1.3.	Continue development and extension of the Southern Pacific Trail.	■			Capital Investment

* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

Figure 5.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

Action ID	Action	Initiation Time Frame (years)			Action Type
		1-2	3-5	Reach	
3.1.4.	Coordinate with the County transit provider to determine if improved connectivity can be made to the City's parks and trail system.	■			Policy
3.1.5.*	Coordinate with LCRA to determine potential trail connections along the rice canals.		■		Study
3.1.6.*	Improve and rebrand park system signage as a means to highlight a new focus on improving existing park quality and usability for citizens.	■		✘	Capital Investment
Objective 3.2. Improve ADA accessibility in the parks system.					
3.2.1.	Conduct an ADA accessibility assessment of all developed parks to identify, prioritize, and address accessibility issues in the parks system.	■			Study, Capital Investment
Goal 4: Provide a consolidated parks system which preserves the City's unique physical and natural assets.					
Objective 4.1. Consolidate and redistribute parkland throughout Bay City.					
4.1.1.*	To increase programming and amenities at the Senior Citizen Center, consider moving the Fromms Field soccer fields to an alternate location.	■			Study, Operational Change
4.1.2.*	Consider removing City Field Park from the parks system.	■			Study
4.1.3.	Adopt a Parkland Dedication and Development ordinance.		■		Regulation
4.1.4.	Consider dedicating City-owned land adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant as parkland.	■			Policy, Operational Change
4.1.5.	Consider converting the Sports Complex property to an alternate use and reestablishing its athletic amenities in closer proximity to City residents.	■			Capital Investment
4.1.6.	Consider future acquisition of additional non-City-owned land adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant to increase the recreation potential of the City-owned land in the area.		■		Capital Investment
4.1.7.	Consider selling select areas of parkland to consolidate and further enhance a high-quality Bay City parks system.		■		Policy, Operational Change
Objective 4.2. Promote natural resource preservation and conservation practices throughout the parks system.					
4.2.1.	Continue to preserve and protect areas along Cottonwood Creek.		■		Policy, Regulation
Goal 5: Enhance the function, safety, and appearance of City parkland through the provision of sufficient resources.					
Objective 5.1. Provide adequate staffing, equipment, and funding to allow for a well-maintained parks and trails system.					
5.1.1.*	Develop and implement a department-wide annual maintenance plan and long-term asset maintenance schedule.	■			Study

* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

Figure 5.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

Action ID	Action	Initiation Time Frame (years)			Action Type
		1-2	3-5	Reach	
5.1.2.	Ensure adequate funding and staffing are provided to allow for improved park system maintenance.		■		Operational Change, Capital Investment
5.1.3.	Evaluate the need for additional equipment to increase efficiencies with regard to park maintenance operations.		■		Operational Change, Capital Investment
Objective 5.2. Provide upgrades to improve the safety and security of the City parks and trails system.					
5.2.1.*	Conduct an annual or bi-annual conditions assessment update.	■			Study
5.2.2.*	Participate in the NRPA’s park metrics program and agency performance review on a recurring basis.		■		Policy
5.2.3.*	Prepare and implement an urban forest management policy to guide the selection, management and removal of trees on public properties.		■		Study, Policy
5.2.4.*	Conduct a cost of services analysis to refine municipal fee schedules for recreational programs, reservations rentals.	■			Study, Policy
5.2.5.	Continue to implement an energy-efficient lighting plan for the parks and trails system.		■		Study
5.2.6.	Install call boxes at appropriate locations throughout the parks and trails system.	■			Capital Investment
5.2.7.	Install park rules signs.	■			Capital Investment
5.2.8.	Continue to implement a phasing plan to upgrade playgrounds in need of replacement.		■	×	Study, Capital Investment
5.2.9	Evaluate opportunities to provide an enhanced security presence in the parks system.		■		Operational Change, Capital Investment
Goal 6: Maintain, improve, and enhance existing park and recreation facilities in Bay City.					
Objective 6.1. Enhance park design and maintenance practices to improve the overall quality and aesthetics of City parks.					
6.1.1.	Remove non-parkland from the maintenance responsibilities of the PARD to allow adequate resources (e.g., staffing, funding, equipment) for maintenance of the parks and trails system.	■			Policy, Operational Change
6.1.2.	Develop and implement a series of park staffing, management, and maintenance policies to ensure a quality parks system.	■			Policy
6.1.3.	Pursue CAPRA accreditation for the Bay City PARD.	■			Operational Change

* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

Action ID	Action	Initiation Time Frame (years)			Action Type
		1-2	3-5	Reach	
6.1.4.	Implement overall park design guidelines		■		Policy
6.1.5.	Publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities to allow the public to help improve City parks.	■			Policy, Operational Change
6.1.6.*	Identify opportunities to add “No Mow” areas across the parks systems.	■			Operational Change
Objective 6.2. Proactively plan for the continuation of a high-quality parks and recreation system into the future.					
6.2.1.	Update the Bay City Parks Master Plan.		■		Study
Goal 7: Explore funding and partnering opportunities to further leverage parks and recreation facility enhancements and program offerings.					
Objective 7.1. Actively pursue additional funding, partnerships, and sponsorships to support the provision of a high quality parks and recreation system in Bay City.					
7.1.1.*	Identify appropriate funding source to improve the City’s parks maintenance/storage yard for better usability.	■			Study
7.1.2.	Consider approaching the citizens with a bond election to fund identified larger-scale capital improvements for the parks system.	■			Study
7.1.3.	Evaluate the need to update existing joint-use agreements with Bay City ISD to ensure that City facilities are adequately maintained.	■			Policy, Operational Change
7.1.4.	Pursue development of additional joint use agreements with Bay City ISD to maximize sharing of mutually beneficial park amenities (e.g., playscapes, basketball courts).		■		Policy, Operational Change
7.1.5.	Initiate discussions with local athletic leagues to reevaluate partnership responsibilities.	■			Policy, Operational Change
7.1.6.	Evaluate and pursue public-private partnerships for development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.		■		Study, Operational Change
7.1.7.	Evaluate the City’s park-related fee structure to ensure that users are adequately offsetting cost of maintenance.		■		Study, Policy, Operational Change
7.1.8.	Coordinate with the Matagorda County Convention & Visitors Bureau to publicize City events.		■		Coordination
7.1.9.	Partner with the school district, non-profits and other institutions to reduce service gaps to neighborhood parks and recreational amenities.		■		Coordination

* New actions developed for the 2022 Parks Master Plan Update

Plan Update

After an extensive public engagement process, the Bay City Parks Master Plan identifies the community's long-term vision for moving forward. It includes a 5-year strategy of prioritized implementation actions which, if implemented, will achieve the envisioned future. In other words, it ensures the City is incrementally responding to the community's needs and desires.

However, this does not mean that this Plan will serve the City for the next 5 years. To the contrary, it is intended to provide specific guidance for implementation actions that are prioritized in the near- and mid-term. In this regard, the following recommendations are intended to keep this Plan current and up to date:

- **Annual Progress Report and Update.** Prior to the start of the annual budget process, City staff should prepare and present an annual progress report on the status of the actions identified in the Implementation Action Plan. In addition, they should work with elected and appointed officials to determine which recommendations should move up in prioritization.



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