

Willow Park, Texas

October 2019

Parks and Trails Master Plan



PARKS



TRAILS



OPEN SPACE

ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 08, 2019

Acknowledgments

City Council Members

Doyle Moss, Mayor
Eric Contreras, Council Member Place 1
Amy Fennell, Council Member Place 2
Greg Runnebaum, Council Member Place 3
Lea Young, Council Member Place 4
Gary McKaughan, Council Member Place 5

Parks and Trails Master Plan Steering Committee

Lea Young, Council Member Place 4
Amy Fennell, Council Member Place 2
Larry Johnston
Billy Weichert

City Staff

Bryan Grimes, City Manager
Bernie Parker, Assistant City Administrator
Rosealee Kertok, Communications and Marketing Specialist

Consultant Team

Eric P. Wilhite, AICP, Project Manager
Nick Nelson, PLA
Cameron Rouze, PLA
Dorothy Witmeyer, PLA
Amber Davis, PLA

Prepared for:



Prepared by:



4060 Bryant Irvin Road
Fort Worth, Texas 76109
Administrator
817.412.7155

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments

Chapter 01 - Introduction	1
Context	2
Purpose	2
Vision.....	2
Chapter 02 - Development	5
Planning Process	6
Goals & Objectives	6
Community Engagement.....	8
Chapter 03 - Standards	13
Assessment Styles	14
Park Types	14
Chapter 04 - Assessment	19
Inventory.....	20
Assessment of Needs.....	25
Indications	25
Chapter 05 - Recommendations	29
Priorities	30
Recommendations.....	30
Chapter 06 - Implementation	35
Funding	36
Next Steps.....	37
Appendix 01	40
Citizen Survey Results	



Chapter 01: Introduction

Background, Purpose of Document & Vision



01: Introduction

Context, Purpose & Vision



Context

Willow Park is an attractive and vibrant community near the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex (DFW). The City blends a rural character, consisting of farms, large-lot homes, rolling hills and open space with livability and nearby amenities found in the larger, DFW metroplex. Located in the east central region of Parker County, (along Interstate 20) Willow Park is approximately 21 miles west of Fort Worth and 9 miles east of downtown Weatherford. The City's placement is directly within the growth corridor of north central Texas.

The current population of Willow Park is approximately 5,340, with an average yearly population increase of 7.4%, over the past 40 years. It is likely the City will continue to experience this growth rate, and in return, benefit from the strong north central Texas markets.

With this growth, Willow Park, is experiencing new commercial and residential development, as well as, implied changes to the makeup of its population and needs. As development continues, available land becomes a limited

resource and the demand on the existing system increases. These changes make planning for the future needs of parks, trails and open space an important next step.

Purpose & Vision

Recently, the City of Willow Park has engaged in several planning initiatives to help further develop their identity and guide future growth. In 2014, the Willow Park Comprehensive Plan was updated to aid in future decisions about the City's development. In 2018, the City created a unified vision for their parks and trails system, by pursuing the Willow Park Parks and Trails Master Plan.

In the Fall of 2018, the City commissioned Pacheco Koch to assist in developing a plan with guidance and input from stakeholders.

While the 2014 Comprehensive Plan focuses on the broader vision, the Parks and Trails Master Plan delves deeper into the contributing relationship, parks and trails have on the City's vision and how they can be implemented. Parks and open space were identified as strong assets

City of Willow Park

01: Introduction

Context, Purpose & Vision

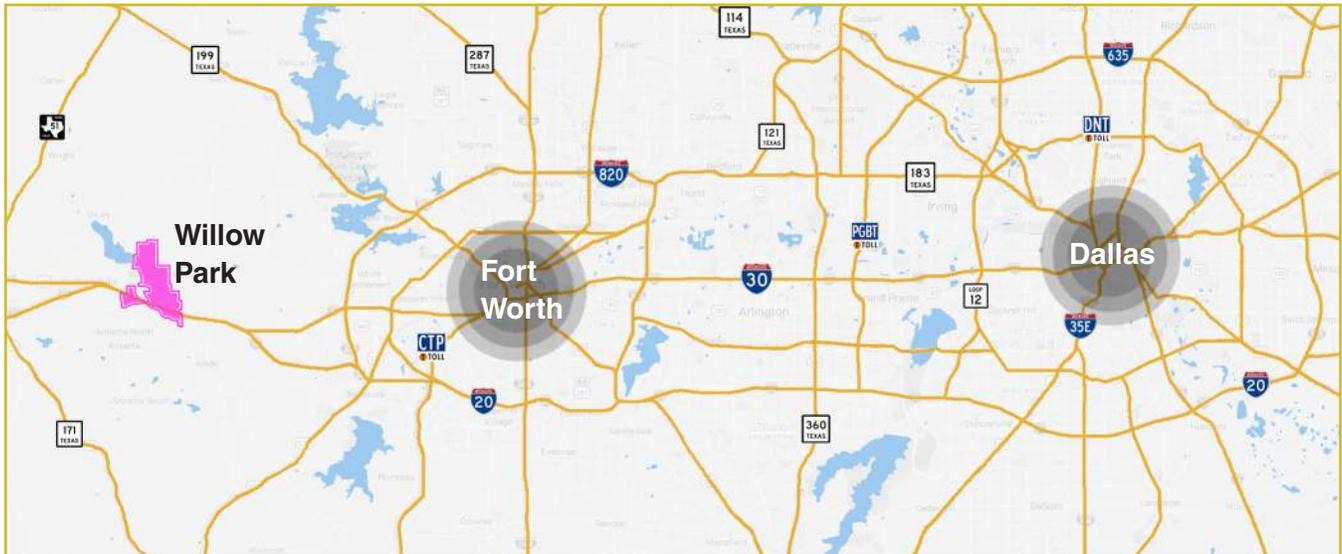


Figure 1.0 Regional Context

to the community, while also contributing to quality of life, encouraging further development in the 2014 plan.

This master plan will evaluate both citizen demand and opportunities for parks, trails and recreation, paring them with strategies and guidelines for development.

In addition the Master Plan should:

- Identify opinions through citizen input and a steering committee
- Establish goals and priorities for improvements and future opportunities
- Identify changing trends locally, regionally, and nationally
- Set guidelines for identification, development and acquisition
- Assess existing parks and trails system
- Show regional relationships and opportunities for recreational and trail system connectivity
- Prioritize the parks and recreational needs of the City over the next 10 years
- Provide clear direction for city staff and elected officials

- Help the City leverage and pursue various funding sources to assist in the development of parks and trails facilities.
- Make general suggestions for future improvements to park and trail facilities.
- Assist in implementation of decisions.

The vision for the Willow Park Parks and Trails Master Plan is a citizen driven plan, that meets the needs of the city and aligns itself with the future demand of its residents. Taking advantage of the City's unique characteristics and historical character, the master plan is a result of imagining the City's future and aligning its priorities to promote quality of life, preserve natural resources and attract future residents.

Evaluate the existing & guide the future of
PRESERVATION
ACTIVE RECREATION
PASSIVE RECREATION
TRAILS/LINKAGES

Figure 2.0 Purpose of the Master Plan

Chapter 02: Development

Planning Process, Goals & Objectives, & Community Engagement



02: Development

Planning Process, Goals & Objectives & Community Engagement



Planning Process

The Parks and Trails Master Plan process was initiated in November of 2018. At the initial meeting, a steering committee was established and a seven month planning process was developed. The process involved gathering community input, exploring existing conditions and comparing findings to both national and regional standards, to help develop goals for the city. The 2014, Comprehensive Plan contributes to this process, allowing for recently acquired data and input to help round out the determinations. This process produced recommendations for implementation and tactics to guide future decision making. Each step informed the next.

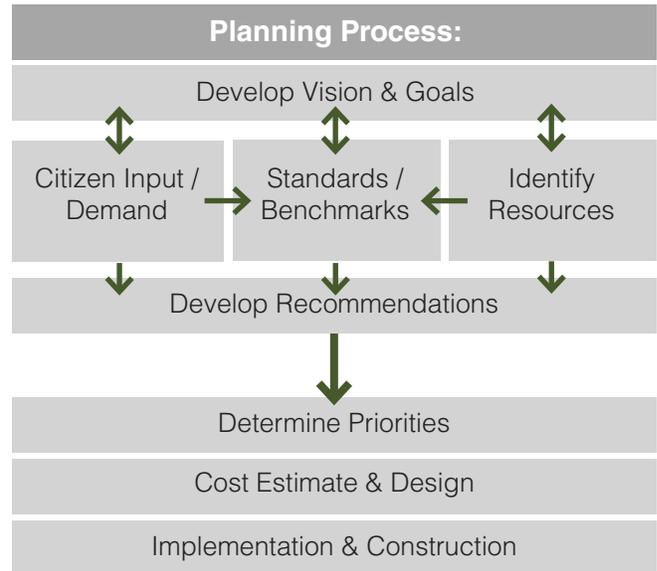


Figure 3.0 The Planning Process

Goals & Objectives

The guiding elements of the Parks and Trails Master Plan are the goals and objectives adopted by the City. They become the connection between the City's vision and its organizational efforts to advance towards the preferred future. The development of these goals and objectives are based upon information gathered from the steering committee, citizen surveys, public stakeholder meetings, city staff and the comprehensive plan. Identified in the 2014 Comprehensive Plan, two

over arching goals for the City of Willow Park were generated from the input received as they relate to parks and trails.

Provide Quality & Attractive Neighborhoods

- Incorporate neighborhood amenities, such as pocket parks and neighborhood parks, in new residential subdivisions.
- Provide connections between neighborhoods and parks and trails and shopping areas.

Ensure that Willow Park's Quality of Life is Maintained - Live, Work & Play

- Provide a range of recreational choices for residents of all ages.
- Conserve and protect environmentally sensitive areas and utilize floodplain areas for parks, trails and open spaces.
- Create a recreational trail system that is able to be utilized by pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Provide educational opportunities for residents of all ages.



02: Development

Planning Process, Goals & Objectives & Community Engagement



Additional data pulled directly from the 2014 Comprehensive Plan, explores area specific amenity suggestions. The image to the right shows the City of Willow Park & its ETJ divided up into six different Planning Areas (based on similar visual character). Citizens were asked to define opportunities by planning area. Summarized below are citizen suggested goals.

Planning Area 1:

- Utilize open space for multi-purpose equestrian, bike and hike trails

Planning Area 2:

- Pedestrian, Bike and possibly equestrian paths and trails to provide connectivity within the community
- Preserve greenways as open space, parks and trails

Planning Area 3:

- Sports park in floodplain
- Potential water feature in floodplain
- Community park.

Planning Area 4:

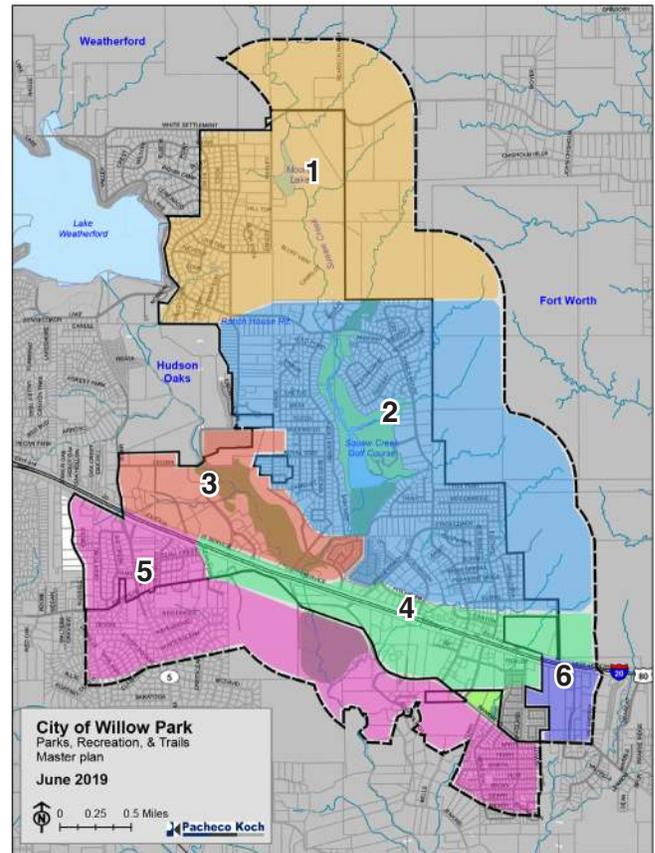
- Commercial development only

Planning Area 5:

- Open space, parks and trails
- Bike trail at I20 underpass along Squaw Creek
- Connectivity between residential and shopping areas

Planning Area 6:

- First impression of Willow Park
- Higher levels of Landscaping



Large amounts of land within the city limits are designated as floodplain. A unique opportunity for branding and developing a strong outdoor recreation and open space program. These types of offerings can be unique and attractive city amenities for branding.



Community Engagement

Identifying the people and assets within a community that provide valuable insights and historical perspectives into how an area functions, is a valuable part of developing a master plan. These stakeholders provide an understanding of critical issues that need to be addressed. A combination of site visits, public meetings, a survey and an appointed steering committee, were used to gain a better understanding of existing city context and what the community envisions for their future parks and trails system.

The success of the master plan depends on addressing the needs of citizens. Therefore, a key focus for the master planning process is to identify those needs seen as important by the citizens and prioritize.

Surveys

On February 22nd, an online survey was posted to the Willow Park civic live web page and advertised on the City's Facebook page on February 25th. Additional surveys were distributed to all Willow Park water customers through mailings. The survey was open through March. Over 400 participants responded. Not every participant voted on every question. Votes were calculated and the results and conclusions for each question are outlined on the following pages.

Overwhelmingly, citizens felt that the current parks and trails system (in Willow Park) was unidentifiable and that a future system would benefit from more offerings. Trails and playgrounds ranked amongst the highest amenities desired. Feedback revealed people were excited the City was pursuing development of a parks and trails system.

Public Meetings & Stakeholders

Following the citizen survey, a public meeting was held on June 4, hosted by the City and Pacheco Koch. The meeting was also cast on Facebook live and both attendees and viewers alike were encouraged to comment and present questions throughout the presentation. The meeting reviewed the findings from the survey and provided an update on the progress of the parks and trails master plan.

Citizen comments included:

- Review regionalism and abilities to provide trail connections to other, larger, DFW trail systems.
- Maintain and improve the existing city parks and signage
- Has a budget been presented for the development of a parks and trails plan
- Request for playgrounds and better maintenance



02: Development

Planning Process, Goals & Objectives & Community Engagement



Question 1: Approximately how often have you or someone in your home utilized the existing park system or facilities in the past 12 months.



Results:
The majority of participants answered that they had visited the existing park system between 1 and 5 times with in the past 12 months.

Question 2: Reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using Parks & Recreation Facilities in the City of Willow Park.



Results:
The top five responses are identified above. For additional response options and their selection rate, reference Appendix 1



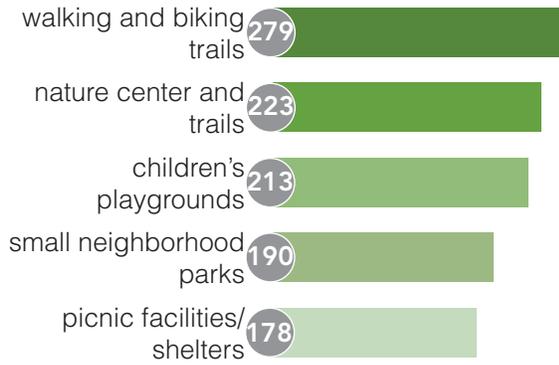
City of Willow Park

02: Development

Planning Process, Goals & Objectives & Community Engagement

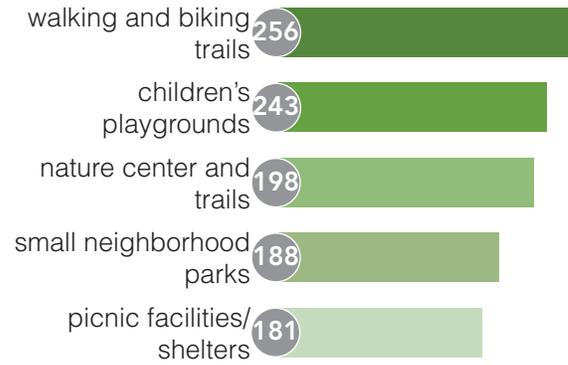


Question 3: Check every option that would fit a need for your household.



Results:
The top five responses selected are identified above. For additional response options and their selection rate, reference Appendix I

Question 4: Check every option that would fit a need for the City of Willow Park



Results:
The top five responses selected are identified above. For additional response options and their selection rate, reference Appendix 1

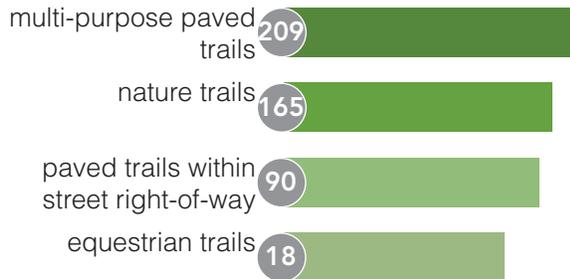


02: Development

Planning Process, Goals & Objectives & Community Engagement

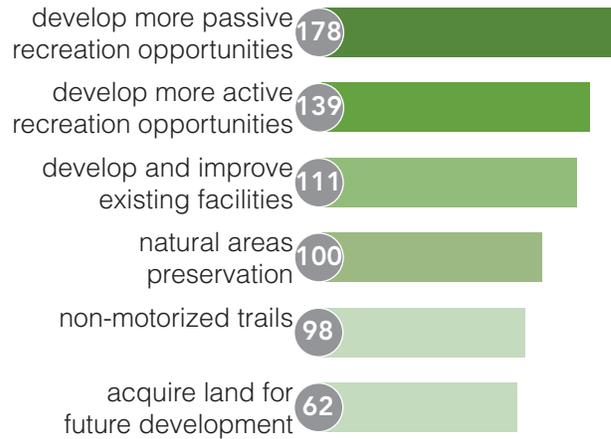


Question 5: What trail initiatives should the City of Willow Park invest in as a priority?



Results:
Participants were asked to select their preference from the four options listed above. Multi-purpose paved trails and nature trails received the most votes. Although listed in the 2014 Comprehensive plan multiple times, equestrian trails only received one vote

Question 6: Which initiatives should the City of Willow Park prioritize for future implementation?



Results:
Facilities for passive (walking trails, picnic areas, etc.) and active (sports fields, playground, etc.) received the most votes.



Chapter 03: Standards

Assessment Styles & Park Types



03: Standards



Assessment Styles & Park Types

In order to assist the City of Willow Park in planning efforts for parks and trails development, the location criteria, facility standards and maintenance criteria need to be addressed. The identification of local standards, establishes a foundation for development and assists in providing a consensus amongst stakeholders.

Assessment Styles

Level of Service (LOS)

A park systems, level of service (LOS) is a term used to describe the importance of recreational opportunities (parks and trails) within a community, and is expressed in acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Over the past several decades, this statistic has been targeted nationwide.

Depending on the specific needs of a community, levels of service can range from five (5) acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents to 1.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. While private recreational facilities should be considered when establishing LOS, desired acreage is not used for calculation of park land.

National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Standard

Launched in 2009, this resource assists professionals in effective planning and management of operating resources and capital facilities. It consists of custom reports and city, peer comparisons.

Citizen Demand Base

This methodology calls for the city to determine its own standard or level of services, based on its mix of natural, economic and social characteristics. The standard is formatted to an adequate quantity and quality of recreational

opportunities within the city's boundaries and ETJ. This methodology requires more study and expense for development.

Due to specific characteristics of Willow Park, (such as limited potential open space and physical constraints) a blend of NRPA standards and citizen demand based methodology is utilized. NRPA benchmarks are indicated for potential park land in Willow Park, such as location criteria, size and population. Geography, proximity to parks or open space and/or substandard number of community parks also apply.

Park Types

This section outlines park types the City of Willow Park is aiming to establish, which include neighborhood parks, park trails and connector trails.

Neighborhood Park

Purpose: These parks are the basic unit of a park system and are primarily done in conjunction with residential subdivisions, by the developer. A neighborhood park is public or privately owned (Home Owner's Association, HOA). The park focuses on providing informal, active and passive recreational opportunities for all ages. This unique site, nestled within the neighborhood, creates a sense of place and accessibility.

Location Criteria (NRPA):

- 1/4 to 1/2 mile typical service radius
- Unimpeded by large thoroughfares or other physical barriers
- Interconnected with sidewalks or multi-use trails, within walking and/or biking distance of those served
- High visibility to streets (for safety)

03: Standards



Assessment Styles & Park Types

Size Criteria (NRPA)

- Demographic profiles and population density primary indicators
- 5 acres minimum, 7-10 acres optimal

Community Park

Purpose: These park types serve a broader spectrum than neighborhood parks. A community park focuses on community based recreation and needs. Typically these parks provide the biggest impact of services for the parks and trails system.

Location Criteria (NRPA):

- Serve two or more neighborhoods
- 1/2 to 3 mile typical service radius
- Served by arterial or collector streets, trail system networks should connect to them (if possible)
- Geographically centered, per community layout
- If public access is available, recreation and open space opportunities provided by nearby schools should be considered

Size Criteria (NRPA):

- Demographic profiles, population density, resource availability and recreation demand within the park service area, are primary determinants
- Based on accommodating desired recreation uses as needed
- Benchmark in the region is 5-20 acres minimum, but can be 20-50 acres

Park Trails

Purpose: Park trails are multipurpose located within parks, greenways and natural areas. They are most desirable because they allow for mostly uninterrupted pedestrian movement and act as a protection from vehicular traffic and urban development.

Development Parameters (NRPA)

- Trail design should match standards developed by TXDOT and AASHTO (American Association of State and Highway Transportation Organization), if applicable
- Development policies (approved by city council), requiring developers to incorporate trails and greenways into their development.

Types of Trails (NRPA)

- Type I: Patterns dictate separate paths for pedestrians and bicyclists (along river front)
- Type II: Lighter use patterns (housing subdivision to natural area)
- Type III: Minimum impact (nature preserve)



03: Standards



Assessment Styles & Park Types

Connector Trails

Purpose: The primary difference between park trails and connector trails are their location. While park trails are located in the natural environment, connector trails are located within right-of-ways, utility easements or artificial drainage ways.

Development Parameters (NRPA)

- Establish trail right-of-way and easements early in community development
- Establish design standards for trail development. Trail design should match TXDOT and AASHTO, if applicable

Types of Trails (NRPA)

- Type I: Patterns dictate separate paths for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Type II: Lighter use patterns (link between parkway and nearby housing)

Facilities and Features

Recreational opportunities can be flexible and informal or programmed active recreation facilities, and may include the following:

Active Recreation Examples:

- Informal Ball Fields (open play and practice)
- Game Courts
- Splash Pad
- Aquatics Center
- Dog Park
- Walking/Jogging Trails
- Skate Park, or other trending recreation uses

Passive Recreation Examples:

- General Open Space
- Group Picnic Pavilion or Tables
- Natural Areas for Interpretation or Study
- Community Garden



03: Standards

Assessment Styles & Park Types



Nature Area



Dog Park



Game Courts



Skate Park



Trails



Aquatics Center

City of Willow Park

Parks and Trails Master Plan - October 2019

Chapter 04: Assessment

Inventory, Assessment of Needs & Indications





Inventory of Facilities

Identified in the Comprehensive Plan, Willow Park currently has large amounts of land within the city limits designated as floodplain. This designation puts a constraint on typical intensive development, but also gives Willow Park a unique opportunity for branding and developing a strong outdoor recreation and open space programming.

A semi-private golf course currently makes up 6% of the City's land use and .3% is parks & open space. 33% of the existing land use is vacant acreage indicating room for growth and development within the City's current boundaries. Squaw Creek and the Clear Fork of the Trinity River, both located within the city limits, produce a significant amount of floodplain. This occurrence will generally discourage development due to its heavy regulations, but it also an opportunity for recreation facilities and city linkages unique to Willow Park.

Prior to developing a plan for future parks and trails, the city should first have an understanding of the present level of service and facilities. An inventory provides city leaders and staff with an understanding of where under-served needs of the community may be. In addition to evaluating the demographic data, this understanding is gained through an analysis of existing parks, trails and open space lands.

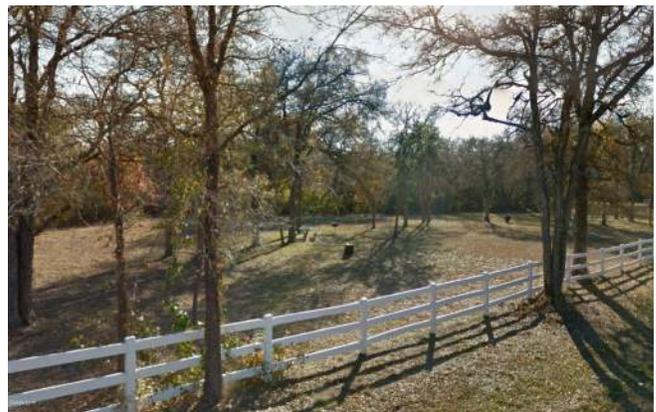
These land uses may be public city owned, public school district, city right-of-way, or privately owned by homeowners associations (HOAs). For this study, semi-private, public school district property and HOA property were not inventoried. The following inventory provides baseline documentation for future parks and trail facility planning.

04: Assessment

Inventory, Assessment of Needs & Indications



Park Inventory



Willow Park Wildscape (Deer Park)

Location: Ranch House Rd
Size: Approx. 2.0 Acres

Existing Amenities:

- Fence
- Picnic Tables
- Trash Receptacle
- Grill
- Shade (mature trees)
- Drive area (limited parking)
- Open Space
- Naturalized Area
- Signage



City of Willow Park

Parks and Trails Master Plan - October 2019

04: Assessment

Inventory, Assessment of Needs & Indications



Park Inventory



Pfc. Paul Balint Jr. Memorial Park

Location: 516 Ranch House Rd
Size: Approx. 1.5 Acres

Existing Amenities:

- Walking Trail (.2 miles)
- Seating
- Arbors
- Planters/Planting
- Flag Poles
- Memorial Marker
- Shade (mature trees)
- Pavilion
- Parking (shared with Municipal Complex)
- Demonstration Gardens



City of Willow Park

October 2019 - Parks and Trails Master Plan

04: Assessment

Inventory, Assessment of Needs & Indications



Trails Inventory

Currently no formal trail system or linkages exist in Willow Park. However, future trail connections to adjacent cities and regional trail planning efforts are feasible. The image to the right shows the 2045 Veloweb routes including linkages to Weatherford. Willow Park has an opportunity to connect into this system by way of the proposed trail system for the City of Aledo. (Reference City of Aledo Future Land Use Plan and 2045 Regional Veloweb Graphics)



2045 Regional Veloweb

Existing Amenities:

- Walking path loop at PFC. Paul Balint Jr. Memorial Park (.2 miles) as seen on the park inventory page.

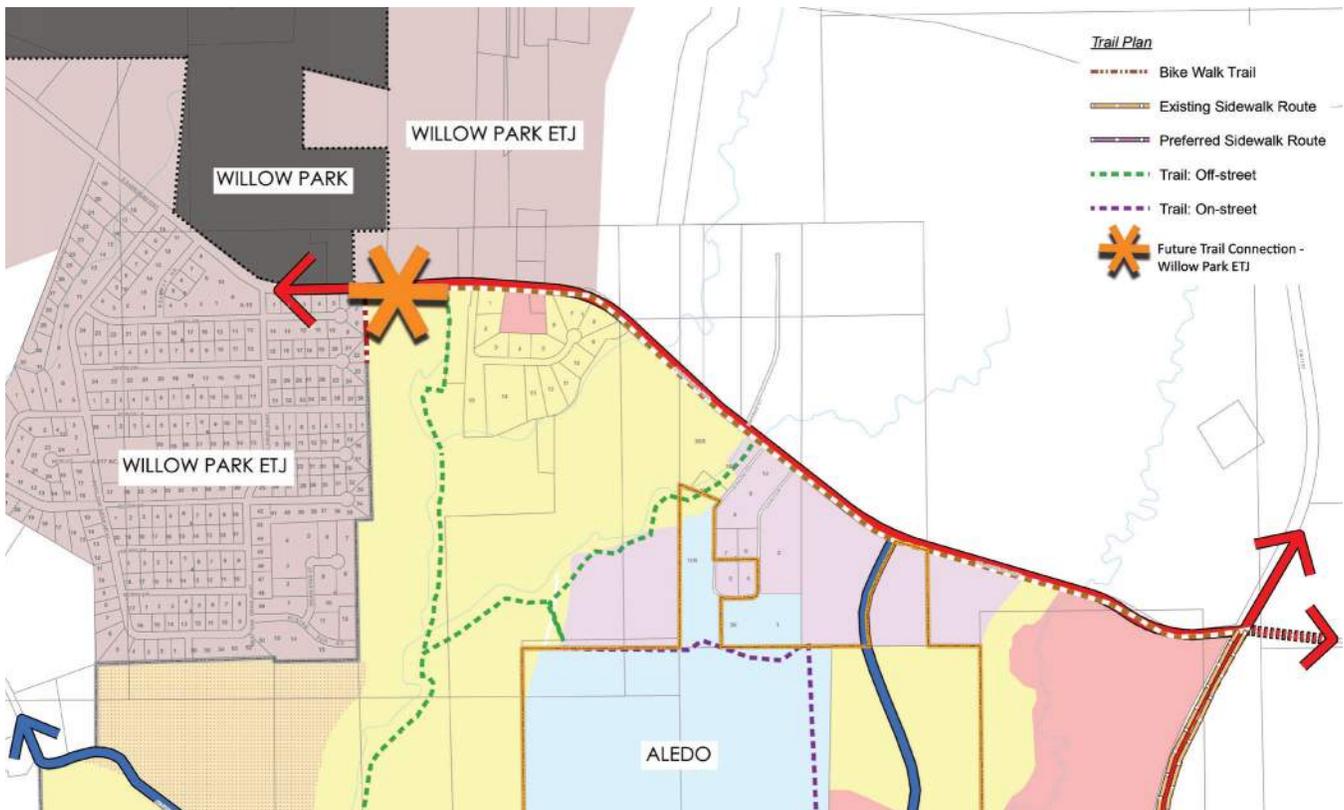


Image Adapted from Aledo Future Land Use Plan

City of Willow Park

Parks and Trails Master Plan - October 2019

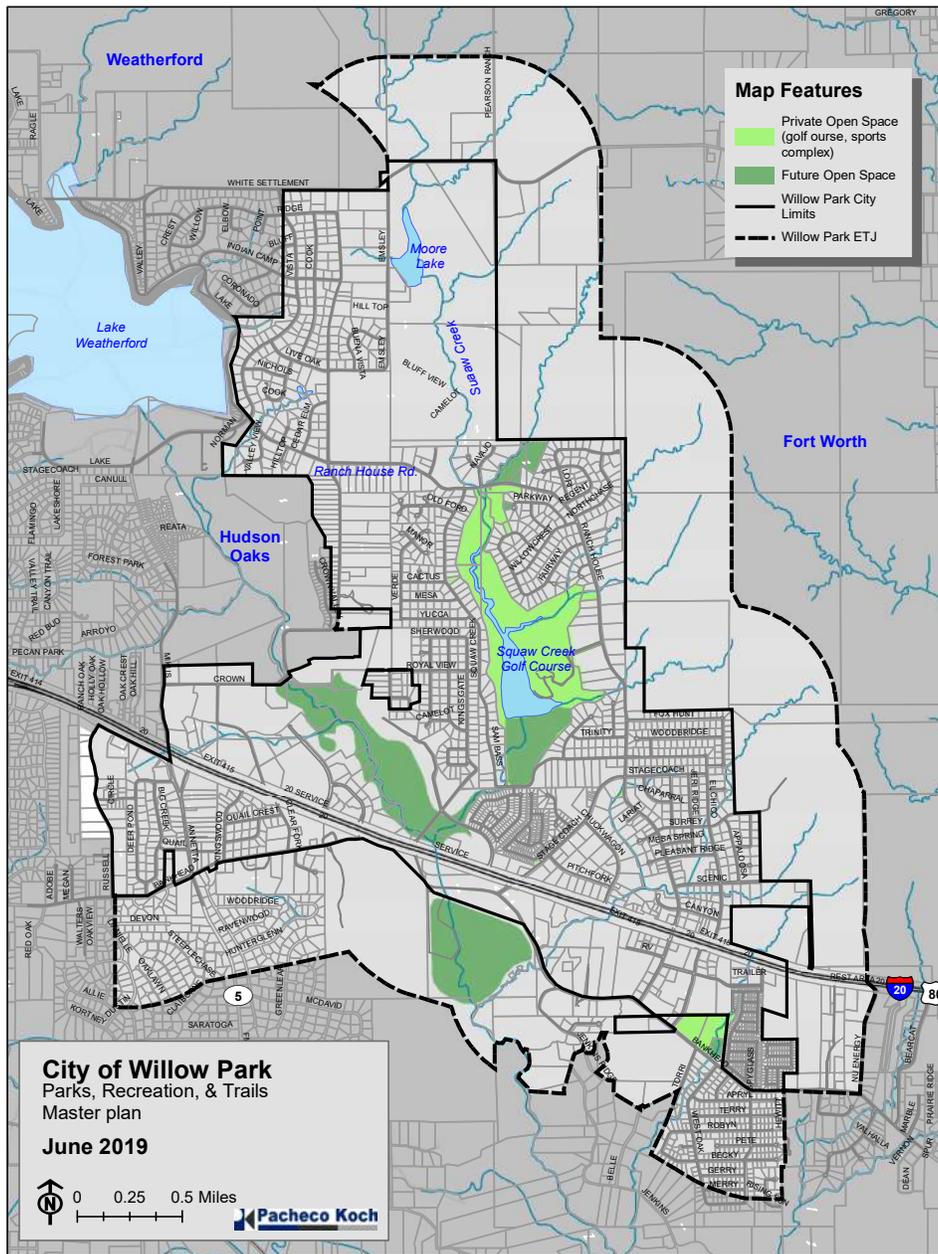


Open Space Inventory

Location: Willow Park City limits & ETJ
Size: Approx. 14 Acres

The map indicates the current open space within Willow Park city limits and ETJ. The large light green area is the privately owned Squaw Creek Golf Course.

- Existing Amenities:
- Riparian Corridors
 - Mature Vegetation



Assessment of Needs

To define the needs of the Willow Park parks and trail system, the Park Acreage Standard (PAS) can be used and applied to the existing park acreage and population vs the needed park acreage to population. NPRA has established a PAS of twenty-five (25) acres per 1,000 residents. This acreage is consistent with area municipalities. However, the typical NPRA standards for the state are anywhere from four (4) acres to fifty (50) acres for every 1,000 residents. These guidelines should be considered flexible in the park planning process and utilized in conjunction with other planning factors such as site carrying capacity, current and potential utilization rates and location.

The current level of service in Willow Park is 14 acres per 5,340 residents. On the low end a PAS deficit of 11 acres. An additional 11 up to 236 acres would be required to meet the state standard NPRA guidelines. It is not likely that the max number of acreage would be required for Willow Park due to the large amount of low density housing and surrounding recreational resources.

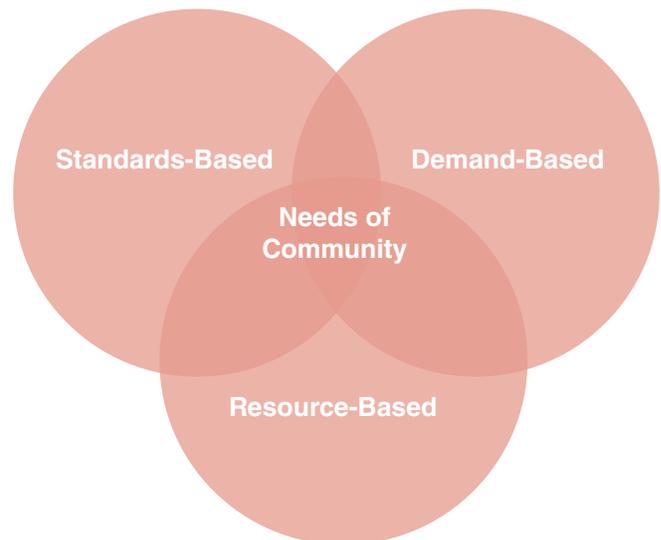
With parks, trails and recreation planning, a well-rounded needs assessment is critical component of park system master planning. There are three basic methodologies used in the evaluation of current and future needs of a community.

- Standards-based assessment: using anticipated growth data, user participation rates and surveys or other public input.
- Demand-based: reflects the needs of a community as provided by citizens and elected officials and relies heavily on public input.
- Resource-based: based on unique physical and natural features and their usefulness in providing recreational opportunities.

Due to the unique demographics of the community, portions of all three methods were used in the development of the Willow Park master plan, but primarily demand-based was utilized.

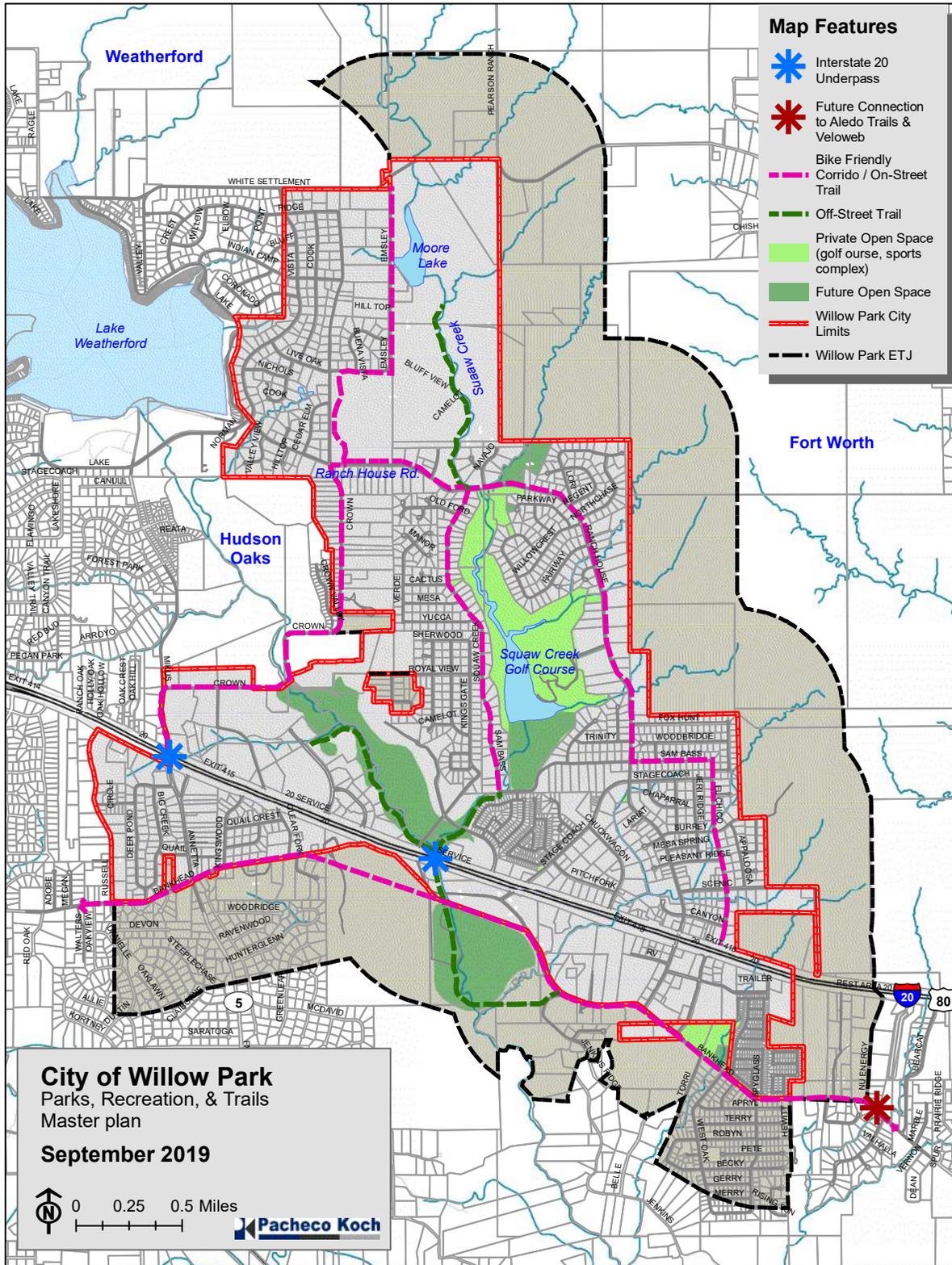
Indications

The map on the next page shows the limits of Willow Park and its ETJ. This map indicates future open space potentially available for the development of the Willow Park's parks system, future trail routes and potential underpass crossing are identified. These crossings would enable safe and comfortable trail connections along I20 for non-vehicular users.



04: Assessment

Inventory, Assessment of Needs & Indications



City of Willow Park



Chapter 05: Recommendations

Priorities & Recommendations



05: Recommendations



Priorities & Recommendations

Priorities

In an effort to identify priorities for recreational facilities, Willow Park received public input through data acquisition, including: a needs base analysis, surveys, public and steering committee meetings and city staff feedback.

The top seven (7) priorities identified by citizens and staff are ranked highest to lowest according to favorability:

Top Priorities
1 - Playgrounds
2 - Walk/Bike Trails
3 - Nature Area
4 - Picnic Facilities
5 - Basketball Courts
6 - Sand Volleyball Courts
7 - Splash Pad

Figure 4.0 List of Priorities from Survey



The priorities outlined are further described in this chapter according to degrees of development and overall benefits. Levels are dependent on an array of factors including needs base analysis, demographics and funding.

Recommendations

- The phrase ‘Bigger and Better’ does not equate to higher use or satisfaction.
- Details should be finalized in the design phase and should not consume the park planning phase.



Playground

Degrees of Development

- Traditional vs. Customized
- Single vs. Multiple Components

Benefits

- Community Gathering Space
- Inclusive (Accessible)
- Free and Fun Activity

City of Willow Park

05: Recommendations



Priorities & Recommendations

Walk/Bike Trails

Degrees of Development

- Hard vs. Soft Trail
- Accessible vs. Non-accessible

Benefits

- Preserves and promotes open space
- Outdoor Recreation
- Free Activity



Nature Areas

Degrees of Development

- Traditional vs. Customized
- Single vs. Multiple Components

Benefits

- Biodiversity and Air Filtration
- Education: Encourages Observation and Exploration
- Recreational Activities



City of Willow Park

Parks and Trails Master Plan - October 2019

05: Recommendations

Priorities & Recommendations



Degrees of Development

- Stand Alone Tables vs. Pavilions
- Traditional vs. Custom (Furniture, Pavilion)

Benefits

- Gathering Space
- Shade Opportunities (Pavilion)

Picnic Facility/Tables



Basketball Court

Degrees of Development

- Full Court Layout vs. Half Court Layout
- Traditional vs. Customized Aesthetics

Benefits

- Promotes fitness in the community
- Weather resistant
- Option to Design as Multi-Use Court



City of Willow Park

05: Recommendations



Priorities & Recommendations

Sand Volleyball Courts

Degrees of Development

- Professional vs. Recreational
- Manufacturer vs. Customized Design

Benefits

- Outdoor Recreation
- Free Activity
- Tournaments with Entry Fees



City of Willow Park

Splash Pad

Degrees of Development

- Manufactured vs. Customized Design
- Single vs. Multiple Components

Benefits

- Flexible and Expandable
- Inclusive (Accessible)
- Sustainable



Chapter 06: Implementation

Funding & Next Steps



06: Implementation



Funding & Next Steps

In order to implement the Parks and Trails Master Plan, there needs to be an emphasis on commitment from elected officials, city staff and the general public. The master plan is a reflection of the community's needs and desires and serves as a useful tool in directing the future of parks in Willow Park.

The seven (7) priorities outlined in the master plan may be funded through a variety of sources, including but not limited to grants (Texas Parks and Wildlife), North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), donations, bonds and volunteer participation.

Funding

Local Funding

General Obligation Bonds

The municipality pledges to pay interest and principal to retire the debt. General obligation bonds are sold to finance improvements to parks and trails recreational facilities that are permanent.

Sales Tax

Cities, counties and special purpose districts, (such as municipal utility districts, recreation districts, economic development zones) may impose sales taxes which are held in a general account.

Enterprise and Revenue Funds

Per city direction, funds may be earmarked for park and recreational facilities. The City would give its residents the option to donate on their monthly utility bill.

Parkland Dedication

City Council establishes parkland dedication ordinance where as sub--divisions are required to set aside a specified amount of property dedicated for parkland and/or open space (or pay a fee in-lieu of parkland dedication).

Additional Local Entity Funding

Private funds are used to facilitate support for parks and recreation. For example, Nonprofit 501 (c)(3) tax exempt (Friends of Parks and Trails Organization) is an entity that is created to raise private funds and volunteers to support park improvements.

State Funding

Grants (Example)

Texas Parks and Wildlife Local Parks grant, awards grant funding for the development of parks and recreation facility development. The funding is a matching grant of up to \$500,000.00 awarded yearly.

Land Donation

Opportunities may arise in which a property owner will donate land to the city, for a public park. This type of donation is encouraged. The value of land is leveraged as part or all, of matching funds for the grants program distributed by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Prior to accepting the donation, city officials will examine suitability of the land for park facility development and its consistency with the Parks Master Plan goals and objectives.



City of Willow Park

06: Implementation



Funding & Next Steps

This section provides direction for implementation strategies. Further development of these strategies are required by City Council and the proposed Park Board to outline and finalize goals presented in this master plan.

Next Steps

Park Board

The park board's primary purpose is to implement, preserve and advocate for the Parks and Trails Master plan to benefit both the municipality's community and natural environment alike. It is recommended Willow Park appoint 5 park board members to evaluate opportunities and make recommendations to city council.

Design: Park and Trail Master Plan

An overall, Park and Trail Master Plan design document has the potential to initiate advocacy with community members, stakeholders and city officials. It is recommended Willow Park hire an outside consultant to develop a design concept that adheres to this written, master plan document, engages additional community input and provides a vision for future implementation and funding.

Land Acquisition

Land Acquisition is a vital component in implementing the goals, objective and vision identified in this document. It is recommended Willow Park establish land acquisition objectives to encourage growth of the city's park and trails system as it applies to existing and future demographics and funding.

Park and Trail Development

Once initial implementation efforts have been executed, the city can initiate the final design and construction process. It is recommended Willow Park hire an outside consultant to develop a schematic plan through final construction documents. The consultant would be responsible

Park Maintenance and Operations Plan

The parks maintenance plan is intended to be a guide for staff and volunteers concerning the day to day operations of the parks department. Areas to address include but are not limited to horticulture, urban forestry, parks/greenways/athletics and construction/development. It is recommended Willow Park hire an outside consultant to develop this manual.

Time frame

1-2 YEARS

1. Park Board
2. Overall Park and Trail Design Master Plan
3. Land Acquisition
4. Stand Alone - Priority Implementation
5. Trail Development
6. Annual Report

2-5 YEARS

1. Park Maintenance Plan
2. Park and Trail Development

06: Implementation



Funding & Next Steps

Further development of the implementation strategies are required by City Council and the proposed park board to finalize goals presented in this master plan. Elected officials and city staff are encouraged to identify whether top priorities should be stand alone projects or a larger combined, project vision. Final decisions are guided by the city's need, budget and funding efforts.

With residential or commercial development on the rise, park and trail development serve as an important amenity for developers. If applicable, proposed facilities should be accessible to all citizens, (if city funds are utilized), regardless of final ownership (private or public).

Lack of connection and access discourages use of recreational facilities. Connectivity via existing roads, sidewalk and proposed trails, should help guide the location and/or placement of future facilities.



Willow Park Parks & Trails Master Plan Next Steps:

A. Identify and ID Top Priorities for Recreation Amenities/Facilities	Partner with appropriate agencies to identify if priorities should be stand alone projects or combined into a park site plan.
B. Set A Probable Opinion of Cost	Perform needs and assessment study to determine square footage and parking needed to accommodate recreation amenities/facilities. Determine pricing per item and projected design and construction costs.
C. Identify Possible Site Locations	Inventory and determine what areas are viable to reuse/use and complement the recreational functions of the project.
D. Funding	Look for opportunities to partner with private developers, apply for grant funding and utilize existing facility and land opportunities for parks and trails development.



Annual Report

It is suggested that, in addition to the adoption of this Master Plan, an annual report be provided to the City Council on progress achieved on the plans implementation. This annual report should show accomplishments made in fulfilling plan goals & objectives and revise priorities for expending funds, use of city resources, and identify contributions made by developers. The annual report and review is intended solely as a review of implementation progress, not as a revision or update of master plan document. An update of this Master Plan may be determined after a 5 year period has passed and a revision may be called for, as needed to respond to changing conditions or other circumstances, as identified by the City Council.

Appendix 01

Citizens Survey Results





Q2: Approximately how often do you or someone in your home, utilize the existing park system or facilities in past 12 months?

Answer Choices	Survey Monkey Results:	Mail in responses	Totals
1-5 Visits	73	99	172
6-10 Visits	24	19	43
11 or more visits	25	19	44
I don't know	18	15	33
other		16	16

Comments:

Q3: Please CHECK ALL the reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES in the City of Willow Park:

Answer Choices	Survey Monkey Results:	Mail in responses	Totals
Facilities are not well maintained	17	30	47
Program or facility not offered	21	49	70
Facilities do not have the right equipment	18	28	46
Security is insufficient	0	9	9
Lack of quality programs	6	20	26
Too far from our residence	8	13	21
Health problems	6	13	19
Use services of other organizations	2	27	29
Poor customer service by staff	0	3	3
I do not know locations of facilities	24	67	91
Availability of parking	1	7	8
I do not know what is being offered	22	95	117
Other (please specify)	14	60	74

Comments:

Appendix 01

Citizens Survey Results



Q4: Please Check every option that would fit a need for your household.

Answer Choices	Survey Monkey Results:	Mail in responses:	Totals
Youth Soccer Fields	28	45	73
Youth Baseball and Softball Fields	27	42	69
Youth Football Fields	12	22	34
Outdoor tennis courts	21	64	85
Adult softball fields	7	34	41
Children's playgrounds	89	124	213
Off-leash dog park	47	72	119
Splash pad	64	66	130
Large community parks	67	104	171
Small neighborhood parks	73	117	190
Basketball courts	34	50	84
Walking and biking trails	115	164	279
Nature center and trails	88	135	223
Picnic facilities/shelters	68	110	178
Rollerblade or inline skating facilities	11	24	35
Equestrian trails	5	22	27
Other (please specify)	14		14

Comments:

Q5: Please Check every option that would fit a need of Willow Park.

Answer Choices	Survey Monkey Results:	Mail in responses:	Totals
Youth Soccer Fields	31	81	112
Youth Baseball and Softball Fields	34	69	103
Youth Football Fields	24	47	71
Outdoor tennis courts	33	78	111
Adult softball fields	16	51	67
Children's playgrounds	100	143	243
Off-leash dog park	56	72	128
Splash pad	69	82	151
Large community parks	74	93	167
Small neighborhood parks	78	110	188
Basketball courts	42	79	121
Walking and biking trails	115	141	256
Nature center and trails	86	112	198
Picnic facilities/shelters	79	102	181
Rollerblade or inline skating facilities	15	38	53
Equestrian trails	11	31	42
Other (please specify)	7	4	11

Comments:

Appendix 01

Citizens Survey Results



Q6: What trail initiatives should the City of Willow Park invest in as a priority? Check all that apply.

Answer Choices	Survey Monkey Results	Mail in responses	Totals
paved trails within street right-of-way	22	68	90
nature trails	48	117	165
equestrian trails	1	17	18
multi-purpose paved trails	68	141	209

Comments:

Q7: Which initiatives should the City of Willow Park prioritize for future implementation?

Answer Choices	Survey Monkey Results	Mail in responses	Totals
Acquire land for future development	8	54	62
Develop and improve existing facilities	19	92	111
Develop more activities recreation (sports fields, playground, etc.) opportunities	50	89	139
Develop more passive recreation (walking trails, picnicking, etc.) opportunities	43	135	178
Natural areas preservation	14	86	100
Non-motorized trails	7	91	98

Comments: