
Community Services Committee

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation
FROM: Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation
MEETING: September 3, 2025

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide recommendations to the city council regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (*Staff Contact: Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation*)

SUMMARY:

The *Rooted in Burleson* Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan provides a strategic framework for guiding the development, enhancement, and stewardship of the City's parks, trails, open space, and recreational programs over the next 5+ years. The plan builds upon the successes of the 2019 plan and incorporates community feedback, stakeholder input, benchmarking analysis, and best practices to ensure the City continues to meet the needs of a growing and diverse population.

Since 2019, the City has invested approximately \$30.89 million into the parks system, completed more than 20 park renovations, expanded trails, acquired land for a new community park, and secured multiple grants and awards recognizing innovation, environmental stewardship, and excellence in maintenance.

The plan is designed to:

- Enhance quality of life through thoughtful design and management of parks, trails, and recreation areas.
- Promote community well-being, connectivity, and healthy lifestyles.
- Preserve natural resources and support environmental stewardship.
- Contribute to Burleson's economic vitality.
- Diversify recreation programs to serve all ages, abilities, and interests.

Community & Stakeholder Engagement

- Online Survey (Apr–Sep 2024): 1,089 responses identified top priorities as trail development, preservation of open space, and maintenance of existing facilities.
- Program Preferences: Festivals/events, family programming, and fitness classes ranked highest.
- Facility Use: Bailey Lake, Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, Warren Park, and Chisenhall Sports Complex most frequented.
- Stakeholder Interviews: Conducted December 2024, highlighting priorities for inclusivity, connectivity, environmental stewardship, safety, and diversification of recreation opportunities.

Goals & Strategic Framework

1. Elevate Park Quality – Develop underserved areas, update parkland dedication ordinance, and increase park access.
2. Strengthen Connectivity & Environmental Resilience – Expand trail networks, integrate trailheads, shade, lighting, and promote sustainable design.
3. Enhance Recreational Facility Opportunities – Improve aquatic, indoor, and outdoor facilities; adapt programming to trends.
4. Enrich Events & Programming – Broaden year-round events and address gaps for underrepresented groups.
5. Advance Hidden Creek Golf Course – Enhance facilities and create new revenue-generating opportunities.
6. Establish Russell Farm Art Center as a Cultural & Art Hub – Increase programming diversity and community engagement.

Key Findings

- Parkland Level of Service: 14.1 acres per 1,000 residents—above NRPA standard of 10.2 acres; population growth will require continued acquisition.
- Trail Level of Service: 1 mile per 1,952 residents—below NRPA standard; 16.6 additional miles needed to meet benchmarks.
- Funding Strategies: 4B funds, Park Performance Fund, General Fund revenues, grants, development fees, and municipal bonds identified for capital and operational needs.

Implementation

The plan outlines action items for each goal, with priority projects including:

- Inclusive playground upgrades

- Interactive fitness zones
- Trail lighting and connectivity improvements
- Greenway expansion
- Outdoor learning spaces and community gardens
- Public art installations

OPTIONS:

RECOMMENDATION:

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

Park Board reviewed the plan on August 21, 2025 and unanimously supported

FISCAL IMPACT:

STAFF CONTACT:

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