



BURLESON

# INCLUSIVE & ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMMING – WORK SESSION

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JOINT WORK SESSION – JUNE 18, 2026

PARK BOARD | PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE | SPECIAL NEEDS COHORT

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# Purpose of Tonight's Discussion

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## Objectives

- Review current inclusive and accessible recreation efforts
- Share recommendations developed through the Special Needs Cohort
- Identify priorities for future implementation
- Gather feedback from community stakeholders
- Develop recommendations for City Council

## Desired Outcome

A shared roadmap for advancing inclusive recreation opportunities in Burleson.



## Who is at the table:

- Park Board
- People with Disabilities Committee
- Special Needs Cohort
- Burleson Parks and Recreation

## Our goals are to:

- Reduce participation barriers
- Improve accessibility and awareness
- Increase community belonging
- Support individuals of all abilities
- Create opportunities for unified participation

### **Discussion Question**

What does success look like for Burleson in five years?

# Introductions & Goals

Recreation Should Be For Everyone



# Current Programs & Accommodations

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## Existing Efforts

- ✓ Special Needs Egg Hunt
- ✓ Sensory-Friendly Boo Bash Accommodations
- ✓ Center for ASD Partnerships
- ✓ Sensory Hours at Splash Pad
- ✓ Programs for Individuals with Different Abilities
- ✓ Sensory-Friendly Family Nights
- ✓ Adult Transition Program Partnership
- ✓ Sensory Aqua Egg Hunt
- ✓ Sensory-Friendly Carnival Hours

## **Discussion Question**

Which current efforts have had the greatest impact?

# Listening & Adapting

## Changes Made Based on Community Feedback

- Sensory Time added to Aqua Egg Hunt
- Sensory-Friendly Carnival Hours
- Increased communication about accommodations
- Improved accessibility messaging

## Guiding Principle

**Listen → Adapt → Improve**



# Special Needs Cohort

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## Purpose

The cohort was established to:

- Align community partners
- Identify service gaps
- Explore collaboration opportunities
- Improve communication
- Advance accessible recreation



## Current Partners

- Parks & Recreation
- Center for ASD
- BISD Special Education
- People with Disabilities Committee Member
- Human Resources
- Community Organizations

# Terminology

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## **Moving Toward Unified Recreation**

The cohort emphasized:

Prefer use of the term "Unified" over "Inclusive"

Whenever possible, create opportunities for individuals of all abilities to participate together.

**WORDS HAVE POWER**

## **Discussion Questions**

What does "Unified Recreation" look like in Burleson?  
Is there other terminology we should discuss?

# Focus Area 1: BRiCk (Fitness & Wellness)

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## Recommendations

- Accessibility anchor charts
- Equipment accessibility guide
- Staff assistance promotion
- Fitness floor orientation
- Adaptive group fitness classes
- Fit at the BRiCk partnership
- Staff Training Partnerships

## **Discussion**

Which of these initiatives should be prioritized first?

How can we create adaptive fitness opportunities that are inclusive and meaningful while recognizing that no single program may meet the needs of every individual?

# Focus Area 2: Programming

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## Opportunities

- Unified Adult Basketball League
- Summer Camp Accommodations
- Partner with Special Olympics
- Unified Teen Movie Night
- Buddy Volunteer Program



## Discussion

Which opportunities appear most achievable in the next 12 months?

# Focus Area 3: Events

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## Recommendations

- Adult Adaptive Aqua Egg Hunt
- Expanded sensory hours
- Sensory and cool-down spaces
- Improved accommodation communication
- Earlier Bunny Daze adaptive hunt timeslot

## **Discussion**

What accommodations should become standard practice at all city events?

# Focus Area 4: Russell Farm Art Center

## Opportunities

- Sensory-Friendly Fall Fest
- Sensory-Friendly Santa Experience
- Art Therapy Programs
- Parent Support Workshops
- Sensory-Friendly Farm Fun



## Discussion

Russell Farm has known physical accessibility limitations. What opportunities exist to create meaningful and inclusive experiences for individuals with disabilities despite those challenges?

# Focus Area 5: Communication & Outreach

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## Recommendations

- Dedicated Special Needs webpage
- Email notification list
- Enhanced promotion through BISD and Center for ASD partners
- Presence at BISD Special Needs Expo

## **Discussion**

What communication barriers currently exist?



# Prioritization Exercise

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## Activity

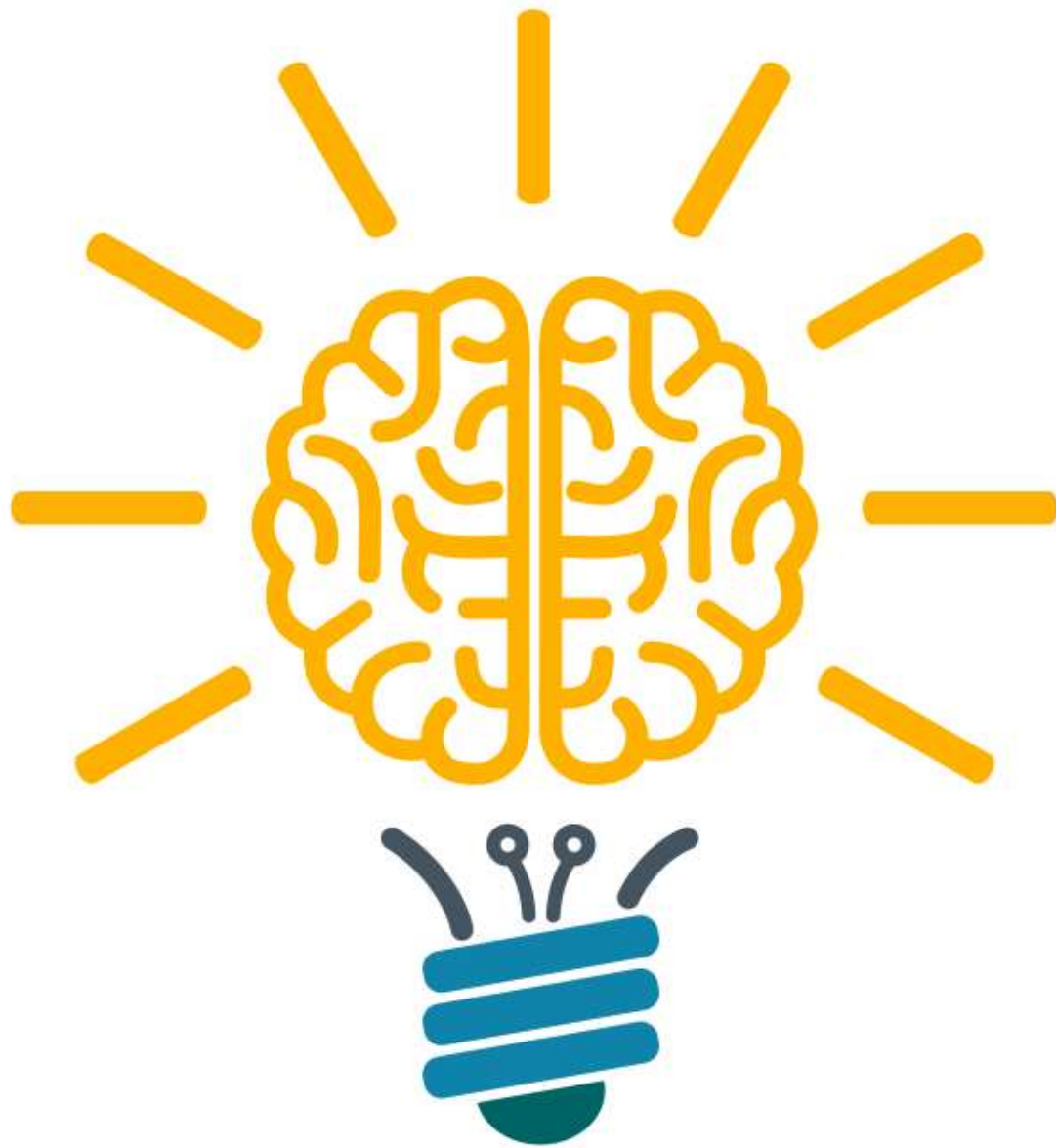
Each participant receives:

- 2 Priority votes in each category
- Vote for the initiatives you believe should be implemented first.

## Evaluation Criteria

- Community Impact
- Cost
- Ease of Implementation
- Sustainability
- Number of People Served



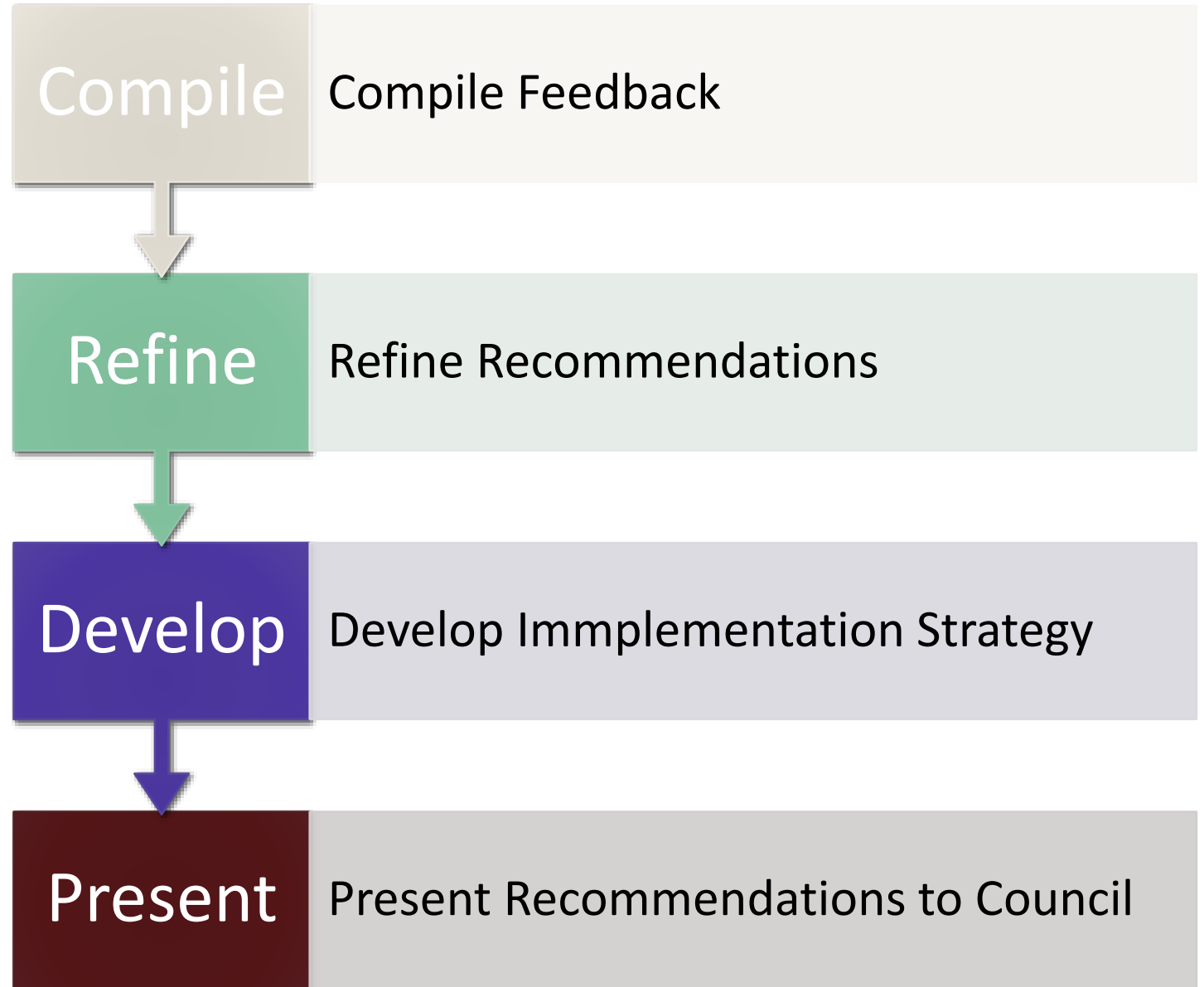


# Top Priorities Discussion

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1. What rose to the top?
2. Are any priorities missing?
3. What partnerships are needed?
4. What barriers should be addressed?

## Next Steps



THANK YOU

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