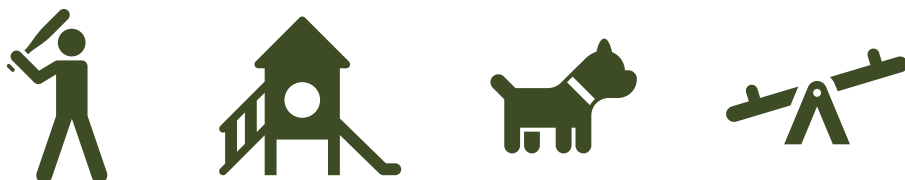
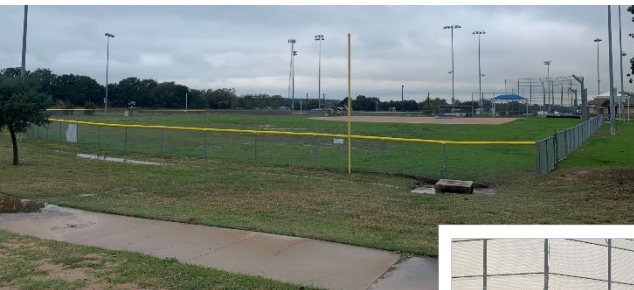


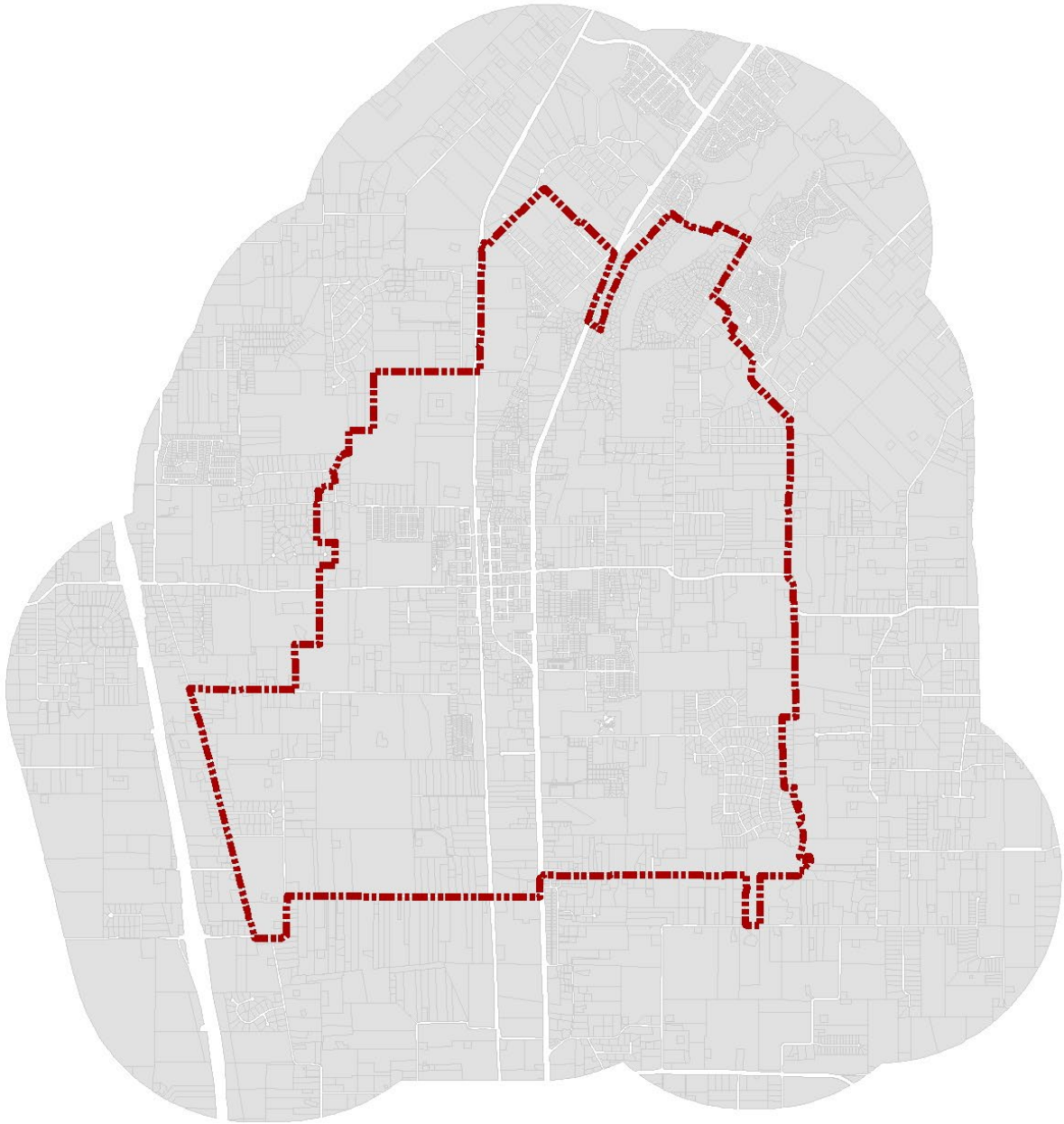
City of Joshua

Parks and Open Space Master Plan

2023-2033



City of Joshua



Parks & Open Space Master Plan 2023-2033

CITY OF JOSHUA, TEXAS

PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

2023-2033

**Prepared for the City Council of
Joshua, Texas
February 2023**

Prepared on behalf of the City of Joshua by

GrantWorks

Austin, Texas

Acknowledgments

This planning effort on behalf of the residents of Joshua was funded by local funds from the City of Joshua. This document is intended to provide guidance for the city's future. Many people provided information during the development of this plan including:

Members of the Joshua City Parks Board

Glen Walden
Bill Funderbulk
Kim Carter
Courtney Hewett
Merle Breitenstein
Dustin Dees

Member of the Joshua City Council

Scott Kimble – Mayor
Mike Kidd
Merle Breitenstein
Shelly Anderson
Johnny Waldrip
Angela Nichols
Robert Fleming
City Staff
&
The Residents of Joshua

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PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

For many Texans, population growth and increased concentration in larger cities over the last 20 years has been accompanied by declining connection with nature and increased obesity-related health challenges. Many Texas communities are also confronted with increased vulnerability to and damage from natural disasters, particularly because of flooding.

Recreation areas play a key role in both individual and community health. Parks and recreation areas provide pleasant places for family reunions, friendly competition, exercise, and socializing.

To encourage healthy living, every city and town is responsible for providing adequate parks and open space. Funding for these public uses is often limited, so park or public open space development and expansion require careful planning.

To adequately plan for the future, it is important to understand a community's historical background and characteristics of current residents. Demographic and cultural factors contribute to increased demand for parks and recreational facilities in many Texas towns and cities, including Joshua. Common factors include:

- increased life expectancy coupled with earlier retirement,
- the spread of competitive sporting programs across age groups (including the youngest and oldest), and
- increased understanding that a healthy diet and regular exercise are good for mental and physical well-being.

The recommendations in this Parks Master Plan are informed by the current and anticipated population, cultural and economic characteristics of Joshua's residents, community input, a detailed inventory of existing parks and service areas, and recommended park and facility standards.

Joshua currently meets the recommended minimum Level of Service (LOS) for park acreage per 1,000 residents. However, based on anticipated population change, the LOS will fall below the recommended minimum if no additional acreage is added during the planning period.

Additionally, because the city's sole existing park – Joshua City Park - is located on the northern end of Joshua, the number of households served by at least one public recreational facility is significantly reduced. As a result, ***many residents do not have sufficient access to recreational opportunities that allow for quality leisure time pursuits or activities which lead to a healthy lifestyle.***

Joshua City Park includes several recreational opportunities for multiple age groups. Park facilities include playground equipment and a splash pad for children, fields and courts offering individual play and team sport opportunities for youth and adults, and passive recreation opportunities for all residents (walking path, benches and picnic tables, grills). The existing facilities are in good condition, with only routine maintenance currently required.

Over the next ten years, the population of Joshua is projected to steadily increase, which means additional park development is needed to maintain the existing level of service. Residents would benefit from an expanded park network that includes facilities for all ages and abilities. Particularly, additional play equipment for children and families and passive recreation opportunities such as sidewalks, multi-use paths, or group picnic areas would help meet future recreation and open space standards, as well as demand-based needs.

By utilizing three parcels of land already set aside for park development in planned subdivisions, new park facilities can be introduced in areas of Joshua that will increase park access to residents. Outside of developing new recreational facilities, the City can also increase park access and level of service by establishing a shared resources plan with Joshua ISD to ensure all available area facilities can be utilized year-round and to share costs for local facility development.

1.1 Introduction

Located south of Fort-Worth along Texas State Highway 174, the city of Joshua's development and growth is closely tied to the production and export of local agricultural produce, as well as the expansion of the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area.

First established in 1881 as a station on the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway, Joshua's farming community slowly grew from a population of near 300 in 1890, to a population of 824 by 1914, with two cotton gins, an ice plant, a bank, a newspaper, and four churches. Following decades of small population fluctuations, Joshua incorporated in 1955 with a population around 550.

Due to its proximity to Fort Worth, Joshua saw a major boom in growth in the mid-to-late 20th century, adding 3,764 residents between 1960 and 2000, as well as a reported 239 businesses.¹ Joshua's growth has continued through the 21st century, growing from 4,528 residents in 2000 to 7,891 in 2020.²

For Joshua to be prepared for continued growth in the future, developing a new parks master plan can assure that the City is providing its current and future residents with recreational and open space amenities that meet their needs.

Population Changes (2000-2010)

Age cohort distributions can indicate whether a community's population dynamics generally support expansion, stability, or decline. A distribution peaked in the middle (adults 20-44) suggests stable-to-expanding or "healthy" natural population growth (births to current residents) because adults between 20 and 44 are considered the cohort most likely to have new children.

The 2010 Texas distribution is an example of a "healthy" distribution. In contrast, a flatter and/or right-skewed distribution can indicate relatively stationary or declining natural population change.

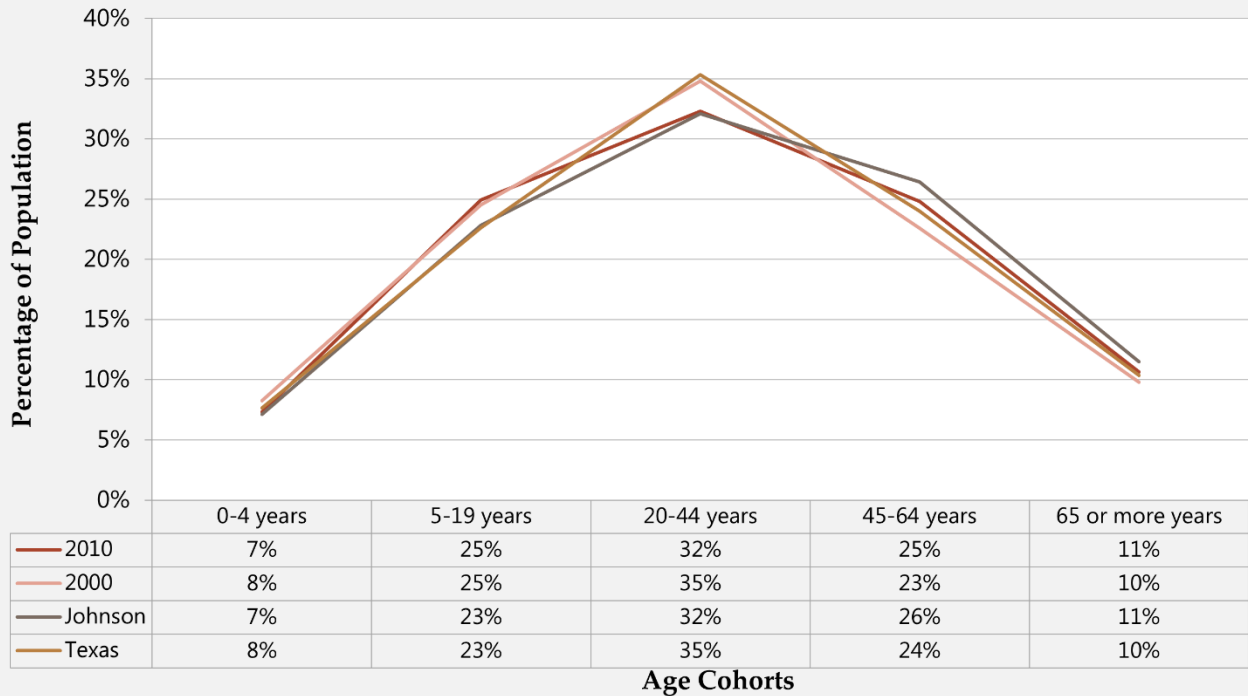
As *Chart A (next page)* demonstrates, Joshua's 2010 age distribution has a larger proportion of residents between ages 20-to-44 than any other age range, which demonstrates a "healthy" age distribution. Joshua's population is slightly younger compared to Johnson County, with a smaller number of adults 45-to-64 years old and a larger percent of population aged 5-to-19 years old.

It should be kept in mind that, due to the relatively small size of Joshua's population, the age distribution can fluctuate from minor change. **However, Joshua's peaked age distribution shape and small changes over the previous decade suggests that natural population increases will be stable-to-expanding during the planning period.**

¹ Texas State Historical Association, *Handbook of Texas*, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/joshua-tx>

² U.S. Census Decennial Redistricting Data, 2020; <https://data.census.gov/table?q=joshua+city+texas&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.P1>

Chart A: Population by Age Group (2000, 2010)



Source: 2000 and 2010 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing

The U.S. Census distinguishes between two minority population groups: “racial minorities” - all non-“White” residents - and “ethnic minorities” - all “Hispanic or Latino” residents. *Table A (next page)* provides a population profile of residents in Joshua, Johnson County, and Texas in terms of race and ethnicity.

As *Table A* demonstrates, approximately 22% of Joshua’s 2020 population identified as a racial minority (non-White), and 19% identified as an ethnic minority (Hispanic or Latino). Racial and ethnic minorities comprised a greater percentage of Joshua residents in 2020 than in 2010.

Table A also shows that **Joshua’s population is less ethnically and racially diverse than the Johnson County and Texas populations.**

Residents of all races and ethnicities in Joshua were invited to participate in the survey about park needs.

Table A: Population by Race & Ethnicity (2010, 2020)

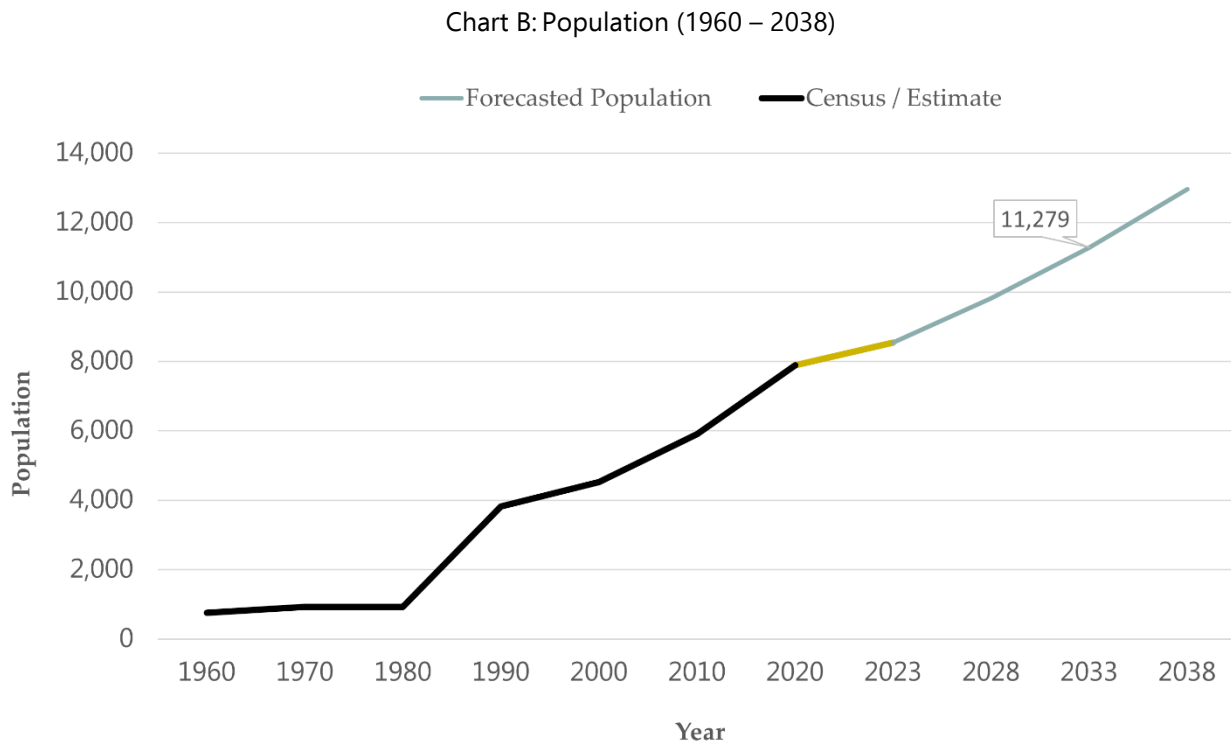
<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Joshua</u>				<u>Johnson County</u>		<u>Texas</u>	
	2010		2020		2020		2020	
	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Total Population	100%	5,910	100%	7,891	100%	179,927	100%	29,145,505
Race								
White	92%	5,462	78%	6,171	72%	129,863	50%	14,609,365
Black or African American	1%	57	2%	142	4%	6,770	12%	3,552,997
American Indian, Alaskan Native	1%	30	1%	87	1%	1,719	1%	278,948
Asian	0.4%	25	0.5%	39	1%	1,812	5%	1,585,480
Native Hawaiian / Hawaiian / Another Pacific Islander	0.03%	2	0.3%	26	1%	949	0.1%	33,611
Other	4%	221	7%	540	9%	16,605	14%	3,951,366
Two or More Races	2%	113	11%	886	12%	22,209	18%	5,133,738
Ethnicity								
Hispanic or Latino	13%	774	19%	1,520	24%	42,613	39%	11,441,717
Not Hispanic or Latino	87%	5,136	81%	6,371	76%	137,314	61%	17,703,788

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2020 Census Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171). Note: Figures may be rounded to next whole number

2023 Population Estimate & 2033 Forecast

Joshua's estimated 2023 population is 8,790 residents.

Based on population projections from the Texas Demographic Center, this plan forecasts that Joshua will experience steady population growth over the planning period, reaching approximately 11,280 residents by 2033 (*see Chart B*).



Recreation & Open Space Survey

A demand-based assessment of local recreation facilities was made using results from a survey provided to of Joshua's residents made available for approximately 30 days between January and February 2023.

One hundred and fifty (150) surveys were completed. Nearly all survey respondents live in the city of Joshua (*see Chart C, next page*). Respondents range in age from 14-to-78. The average age of survey respondents is 45 years old (*see Chart D, next page*).

Data gathered from the surveys identified common recreational activities of adults and children, favorite parks, improvement priorities, and desired additional recreational facilities.

The City of Joshua desires to provide recreational activities for all residents regardless of age.

Chart C: Do you live in Joshua?

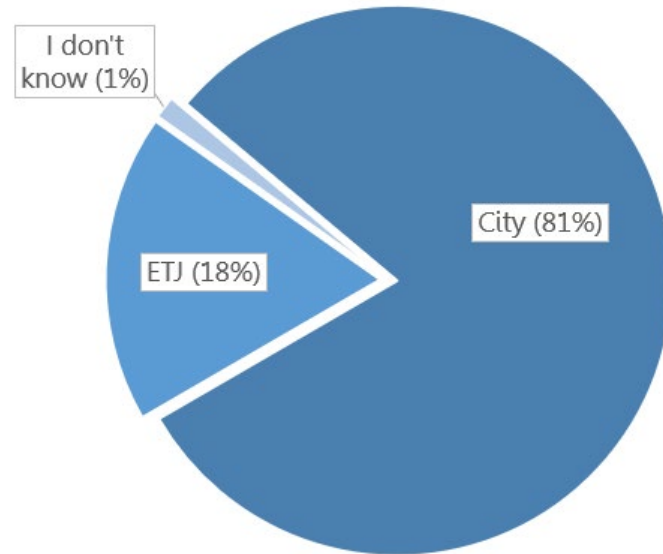
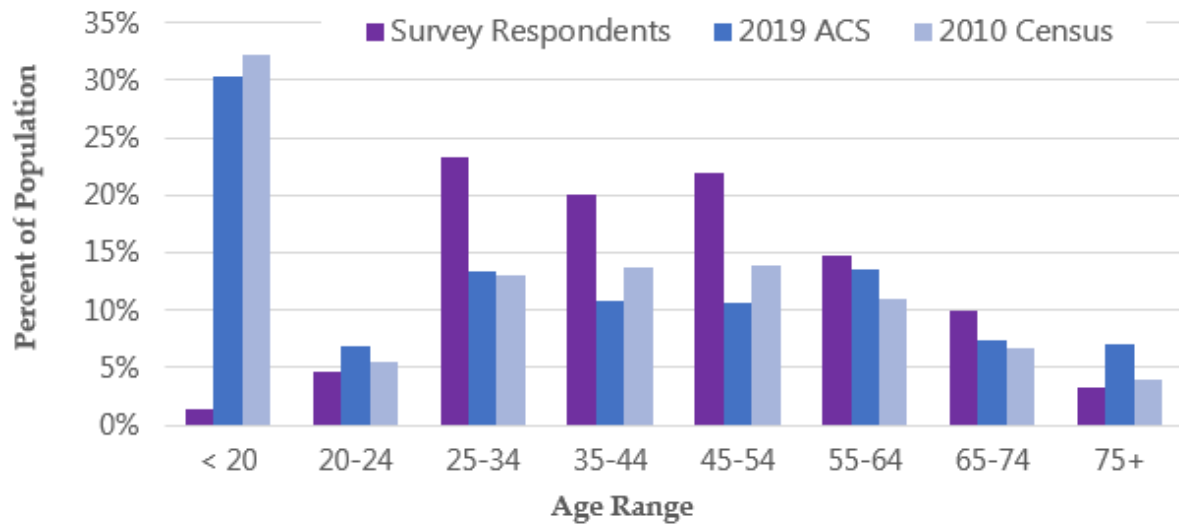


Chart D: Survey Respondents by Age Group



Anticipated Financial Resources for Parks & Recreation Facilities

An estimated 9.1% of Joshua residents live below the poverty level.³

The unemployment rate in Johnson County is 3.2%, which is slightly higher than the rate in the North Central Texas Workforce Development Area⁴ (3.1%), but lower than the state of Texas overall rate (3.7%).⁵

Average weekly wages in Johnson County are \$973, which is lower than average wages in the North Central Texas WDA (\$1,304) and for the state of Texas overall (\$1,368). However, depending on the employment industry area, average weekly wages range from \$328 to \$6,958.⁶

Based on the above-referenced measures, the City of Joshua has limited ability to fund recreation facilities through increased taxes, bond issues, or user fees. Residents rely on local parks because they have fewer resources to travel outside of Joshua and less money to spend on private recreation than residents of wealthier municipalities.

³From the American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2020, Table DP03, Poverty level of "All people", accessible from data.census.gov

⁴ The North Central Texas Workforce Development Area includes the following counties: Collin, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Wise

⁵ Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Labor Market & Career Information Department (LMCI) TRACER November 2022.

⁶ Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Labor Market & Career Information Department (LMCI) TRACER 2022 Q1 data.

1.2 Goals & Objectives

Joshua's Parks Master Plan provides a foundation for development of future park and recreation facilities and guidance for maintenance of existing facilities in the city. To realize this vision for the future, actions suggested in this plan relate to specific goals that the residents of Joshua hope to accomplish.

The goals and objectives presented here (*Table B*) were determined through formal surveys of residents and interviews with City staff.

Table B: Recreation & Open Space Goals & Objectives 2023-2033

Goals & Objectives	Activity Year(s)			Lead Organization	Cost Estimate	Funding Sources
	2023-2026	2027-2029	2030-2033			
<i>Goal 1 Maintain recreation facilities in good condition</i>						
Budget funds for park maintenance and for on-going facility development.	X	X	X	City	\$80,000±	GEN, EDC
Establish a voluntary park donation fund to maintain, repair, and upgrade local parks and open space. Solicitation could be added to the city utility bill.	X			City	Staff	GEN
Hold annual "community workday" to support local recreation and open space improvements. Seek volunteers from residents, City staff, community service workers, schools, local institutions, religious and civic groups, etc. Tasks might include cleanup of recreation/open space and vacant lots.	X	X	X	City	<\$1,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Schedule biennial review of the Parks Master Plan and update priority list as needed. Solicit new public input every five (5) years.	X	X	X	City	< \$1,000	GEN
Schedule creation of new Parks Master Plan.			X	City	\$10,000	GEN, CDBG

Goals & Objectives	Activity Year(s)			Lead Organization	Cost Estimate	Funding Sources
	2023-2026	2027-2029	2030-2033			
<i>Goal 2 Improve existing recreation facilities and open space conditions to permit and encourage additional use that brings existing facilities up to standard.</i>						
Improve on existing facilities at Joshua City Park by adding a light activity area with activities such as shuffleboard, a horseshoe pit, bean bag toss, or dominoes/card games. As resources allow, install additional benches, picnic tables, grills, and lighting along the existing walking path.			X	City	Up to \$150,000 (or 50% match of TPWD grants)	GEN, TPWD, Local
Hold an annual festival at Joshua City Park. Festivals and events provide diverse activities not normally available in the park and enhance the usefulness of the facilities. These events can also highlight the community's cultural diversity or offer special events such as kite-flying contests or bike-a-thons. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in parks improvement projects.	X	X	X	City	\$2,000 - \$5,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Hold a "community work day" to support local recreation and open space improvements. Seek volunteers from residents, City staff, community service workers, schools, local institutions, religious and civic groups, etc. Tasks might include cleanup of recreation/open space and vacant lots, tree planting, and/or other improvements to property with frontage on thoroughfares.	X	X	X	City	<\$1,000	GEN, Local, EDC, ISD
Develop a shared resources plan with the ISD to ensure all available area facilities may be used year-round and to support shared facilities development.	X			City	<\$1,000 (legal)	GEN, ISD
Develop policy to educate the public regarding the benefits of private donation of land to be used for parks, greenbelts, and open space.			X	City	Staff	GEN

Goals & Objectives	Activity Year(s)			Lead Organization	Cost Estimate	Funding Sources
	2023-2026	2027-2029	2030-2033			
Goal 3 <i>Foster the construction new facilities that fulfill residents expressed needs and provide residents with adequate access to parks and open space.</i>						
Develop exhibits at park facilities to foster nature appreciation and educate visitors about local flora, fauna, and geology. This can include community gardens and/or xeriscape gardens.	X			City	< \$1,000	GEN, Local
Develop future neighborhood parks in the Cooper Valley Neighborhood by installing a light activity area, picnic tables, benches, and a walking path where appropriate. Install native flora to act as an aid to stormwater drainage in areas that cannot be developed. As resources allow, install inclusive play facilities and playscapes.	X			City	Up to \$150,000 (or 50% match of TPWD grants)	GEN, TPWD, Local
Develop the future neighborhood park in Joshua Meadows by installing playscapes, swings, and a general use/soccer field. Where appropriate, install native flora to act as an aid to stormwater drainage as well as provide natural open space. As resources allow, install picnic tables, benches, a covered group picnic area, and a perimeter walking path.		X		City	Up to \$150,000 (or 50% match of TPWD grants)	GEN, TPWD, Local
Encourage development of other indoor activities typically operated by private businesses such as a movie theater, bowling alley, roller-skating rink, gymnastics/twirling center, and indoor rodeo facilities.			X	City	Variable	GEN, EDC
Encourage development of other outdoor activities typically operated by private businesses such as a skate park, equestrian facilities, miniature golf, bicycle motor-cross, and a mountain bike trail.			X	City	Variable	GEN, EDC
Support both temporary and permanent recreational uses on vacant land such as pocket parks or community gardens	X	X	X	City	Variable	GEN, ISD, Local

GEN = City of Joshua Municipal Funds; **CDBG** = Community Development Block Grant Program; **EDC** = Joshua Economic Development Corporation; **ISD** = Joshua Independent School District; **Local** = Donations from private citizens, organization, and local businesses; **TPWD** = Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

1.3 Plan Development Process

Previous Studies

MHS Planning and Design, LLC completed a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for the City of Joshua in 2008.

The plan has not been updated since its completion.

2023-2033 Plan

Development of this plan began in July 2022 when the City of Joshua hired a professional planning firm, GrantWorks Inc. of Austin, to create a Parks Master Plan.

To begin judging the level of interest in park needs, planners consulted with City staff, the Joshua Parks Board, and asked parks-related questions in a survey available to residents for approximately one month (January 2023). One hundred and fifty (150) surveys were completed. Nearly all survey respondents live within the city limits (see *Chart C, page 7*). Survey results are further discussed in *Section 6: Needs Assessment & Identification*.

Appendix A provides a copy of the survey form.

In addition to community input, this plan evaluates Joshua's recreation resources in relation to its existing and projected population and an inventory of existing facilities, a method called Standards-based Assessment. The analysis is used to develop a logical and cost-efficient strategy to address the identified needs over a 10-year planning period.

Following adoption of this plan by the City Council, the City's ongoing responsibility will be:

- to maintain and improve City-managed facilities,
- to identify funding resources, and
- to engage in cooperative projects with local volunteer groups and local schools.

Texas Parks and Wildlife recommends that parks and recreation plans be updated every five years to reflect changing realities in recreation trends, participation, area population, and funding. An update would include revised goals and objectives that raise items of lower priority to higher priority as higher priority items are accomplished; a new facility inventory; and a new survey. **A new plan will be required in 2033.**

1.4 Area & Facility Concepts & Standards

Several basic principles guide successful development of parks and recreational opportunities in communities of all sizes and types. These standards and guidelines provide direction to community leaders who know generally what their community's needs are but require more specific information to guide the planning process.

The City's standards for needed recreation and open space include facility type, size, service area, and needed equipment. The criteria are based on nationwide standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)⁷ and small-community standards developed by the State of Colorado.⁸ The standards were tailored to Joshua based on knowledge about financial capacity, popular sports, community activities, and which facilities would provide participation opportunities to the broadest segments of residents.

The City of Joshua's standards are as follows:

General Standards for all Facility Development

- Residents should have access to a minimum two acres and a recommended five-to-seven acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents.
- When possible, active recreation areas should be separated according to the users' ages, primarily to protect younger children from injury. Some areas should be designated for use by all ages so entire families can enjoy being together.
- Residents of all age groups should have access to recreational facilities.
- Recreational areas should be accessible to the age group they are designed to serve. For example, neighborhood playgrounds usually serve an area with a radius of ½-mile, which is a reasonable distance for a child to walk. Safe pedestrian routes should provide access to those facilities.
- All city park facilities will be made accessible to physically challenged and special needs populations when required by applicable laws. The items mentioned as needed for other categories apply equally to special needs populations. Additional special needs facilities may be developed as warranted by local demand.

⁷ NRPA-suggested classification system (Berke, Kaiser, Godschalk and Rodriguez, *Urban Land Use Planning*, University of Illinois Press, Fifth Edition.)

⁸ *State of Colorado Small Community Park & Recreation Planning Standards* (2003). RPI Consulting, Inc. and Colorado Heritage Planning Grant program, Office of Smart Growth, Colorado Department of Local Affairs. (Page 16). Accessed at www.dola.state.co.us/osg/docs/Park%20Standards%20Report.pdf

- All facility construction is required to meet the minimums found in the International Building Code.
- Combined municipal and school recreational facilities are recommended. Lack of coordination often leads to the construction of redundant facilities. When possible, school recreational areas, including parking areas, drinking fountains, and restrooms, should remain open on weekends and during the summer months.
- Greenbelts, hike and bike trails, parkways, or paths should be provided to connect large recreational areas to improve access to facilities, scenic views, and recreational opportunities.
- Vehicular routes should be encouraged only when recreational areas are separated by more than one mile.
- Ideally, each recreation area should include public access to restrooms and water fountains and should be equipped with lighting and trash cans.

Standards for Service Area & Park Types

Table C describes the size and service area standards for types of park and recreation areas already located in Joshua or considered possible as future public recreation areas.

Table C: Types of Parks: Size & Service Area Standards

Park Type	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Desirable Site Characteristics
Minipark	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens	< ¼-mile radius	≤ 1 acre	Within neighborhoods and close to apartment complexes, townhouses, housing for the elderly or Central Business District.
Neighborhood Park/ Playground	Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, skating, and picnicking; also for wading pool and playground apparatus area	¼-to-½-mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000.	1-to-15+ acres	Suited for intense development; easily accessible to neighborhoods; geographically centered with safe walking and bike access; may be developed as a school-park facility
Community Park	Includes areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools; may be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking.	Several neighborhoods 1-to-2-mile radius	15-to-25+ acres	May include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development; easily accessible to neighborhoods
Linear Park	Area developed for one or more modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, canoeing, horseback riding. May include active play areas.	N/A	Sufficient width to protect the resources and provide maximum use	Built on corridors, such as utility right-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, or roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities such as schools and libraries.
Special Use	Areas for single-purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, zoos, conservatories, gardens, outdoor theaters. Also, plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, and parkways	N/A	Variable	Within city limits
Conservancy	Protection and management of the natural or cultural environment with recreational use as a secondary objective	N/A	Sufficient to protect the resource	Variable, depending on the resource being protected.

Facility Standards

Table D presents recommended standards for Joshua's park equipment and sports fields or courts. The activities and facilities listed are based on existing facilities and feedback from the community survey. In the future, as standards are changed or upgraded, part of the Parks Master Plan review process should address any discrepancies. The City's standards should conform to the most recent standards from nationally recognized organizations.

Table D: Facility Standards

Activity/ Facility	Service Radius	Space Requirements <i>SF = Square feet</i> <i>Min. = Minimum</i>	Suggested #/ Population	Characteristics
Team Sport Courts & Fields				
General Use / Soccer Field	1-to-2-miles	1.7-to-2.0 acres	1 per 10,000	Usually in school, recreation complex, or neighborhood/community park.
Soccer (dedicated)	1-to-2-miles	1.7-to-2.2 acres	1 per 12,000	Part of neighborhood park. Lighted field part of community park.
Softball/Little League Field	¼-to-½-mile	1.5-to-2.0 acres	1 per 5,000	If no dedicated fields available. Slight difference in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
Little League (dedicated)	¼-to-½-mile	1.2 acres	1 per 20,000	Part of neighborhood park. Lighted field part of community park.
Softball (dedicated)	¼-to-½-mile	1.5-to-2.0 acres	1 per 12,000	Slight difference in dimensions for 16" slow pitch
Basketball Court	¼-to-½-mile	7,000 SF/ 0.16 acres	1 per 5,000	Usually in school, recreation complex, or church. Safe walking or bike access. Outdoor courts in neighborhoods and community parks.
Tennis Court	¼-to-½-mile	Min. 7,200 SF per court (0.17 acres)	1 per 8,900	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in community or neighborhood park or near schools.
Volleyball Court	¼-to-½-mile	Min. 3,000 SF	1 per 8,900	Usually in school, recreation, or church facility. Safe walking or bike access. Outdoor courts in neighborhoods and community parks.
Football Field	¼-to-½-hour travel time	2 acres	1 per 20,000	Usually, part of a sports or school complex
Individual & Specialty Use				
¼-mile Running Track	¼-hour travel time	4.3 acres	1 per 20,000	Usually, part of a high school or in community park complex.

Activity/ Facility	Service Radius	Space Requirements <i>SF = Square feet</i> <i>Min. = Minimum</i>	Suggested #/ Population	Characteristics
Multiuse Trail (per mile)	N/A	N/A	Per mile: Unpaved: 6,525; Paved: 8,700	Capacity: rural trail – 40 hikers per day per mile; urban trail – 90 hikers per day per mile.
Swimming Pool	¼-to-½-hour travel time	Varies with size of pool and amenities. Usually 1/3-to-2-acres	1 per 20,000	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community parks or school sites.
Group & Passive Recreation				
Playground	¼-to-½-mile	3,200 SF	1 per 4,395	Part of neighborhood park.
Picnic Table	¼-to-½-mile	435 SF	1 per 935	1 garbage can within 150 ft. of every 4 picnic tables; 40 ft. between uncovered picnic tables; Picnic tables within 400 ft. of parking
Group Picnic Area (Covered)	¼-to-½-mile	1-to-2 acres	1 per 5,556	
Park Bench	N/A	N/A	1 per 800	Variable
Light Activity Area	¼-to-½-mile	Estimated 500 SF	1 per 8,000	Could include facilities for horseshoe pit, shuffleboard, chess, meditation, gardening, or similar activity

1.5 Inventory & Assessment of Existing Resources

This section provides information about recreation facility availability and existing organizations involved in recreation and open space activities and development. Existing resources are assessed as they relate to opportunities for improvements to each recreation area, Joshua's demographics, and organizations available to pursue recreation and open space improvements in Joshua.

1.5.1 Local Outdoor Recreation Areas

Joshua City Park (20.7 acres)

Located in northwestern Joshua off Main Street, Joshua City Park is the city's primary park and recreation space. The park includes an array of facilities for active and passive recreation. Completed in 2010, Joshua City Park facilities are relatively new and in relatively good condition.

While one contiguous space, the park functions as two separate activity areas connected by a half-mile paved walking path. The first activity area includes a playground with multiple playscapes, a basketball court, restrooms, splashpad, and covered group picnic area (see *Figure A*). Adding facilities such as shuffleboard, tennis or pickle ball courts could provide more diverse activities for a range of ages and abilities.



Figure A: Joshua City Park Play Facilities

The center of Joshua City Park contains a pond and a grassy lawn, circled by a half-mile paved walking path. Along the path are other passive recreation facilities like park benches, picnic tables, grills, and a viewing dock on the pond (see *Figure B*). The path connects the playground, group picnic area, splash pad, and basketball court to the ball fields on the north end of the park. This area of Joshua City Park could benefit from additional passive facilities along the walking path such as a sensory garden, native planting with educational signage, as well as additional benches and picnic tables.



Figure B: Joshua City Park Passive Activity Facilities

The northernmost section of Joshua City Park contains the park's second activity center – a baseball/softball complex (see *Figure C*). Accessed from a separate drive than the playground and splash pad section of the park, the complex consists of three ball fields, each with two covered bleachers, two dugouts, announcers' boxes, score boards, and lighting. A building at the center of the ball fields hosts concessions and restroom facilities with picnic tables and benches for additional seating.



Figure C: Joshua City Park Baseball facilities

Future Joshua Parks (9.7 acres)

The City of Joshua plans to add three parcels of land to its park system as part of new residential development in the city's southeast corner. While still in the development phase, these future neighborhood parks will provide usable park space for nearby residents and expand on the existing park facilities in Joshua.

Cooper Valley

Just east of Joshua High School and Joshua Elder Elementary, the Cooper Valley residential subdivision has two parcels of land that are to be dedicated as public parks (see *Figure D*). Due to their proximity to school, these small neighborhood parks can be utilized to fulfill open space and recreation needs of area residents that are not met by ISD facilities.

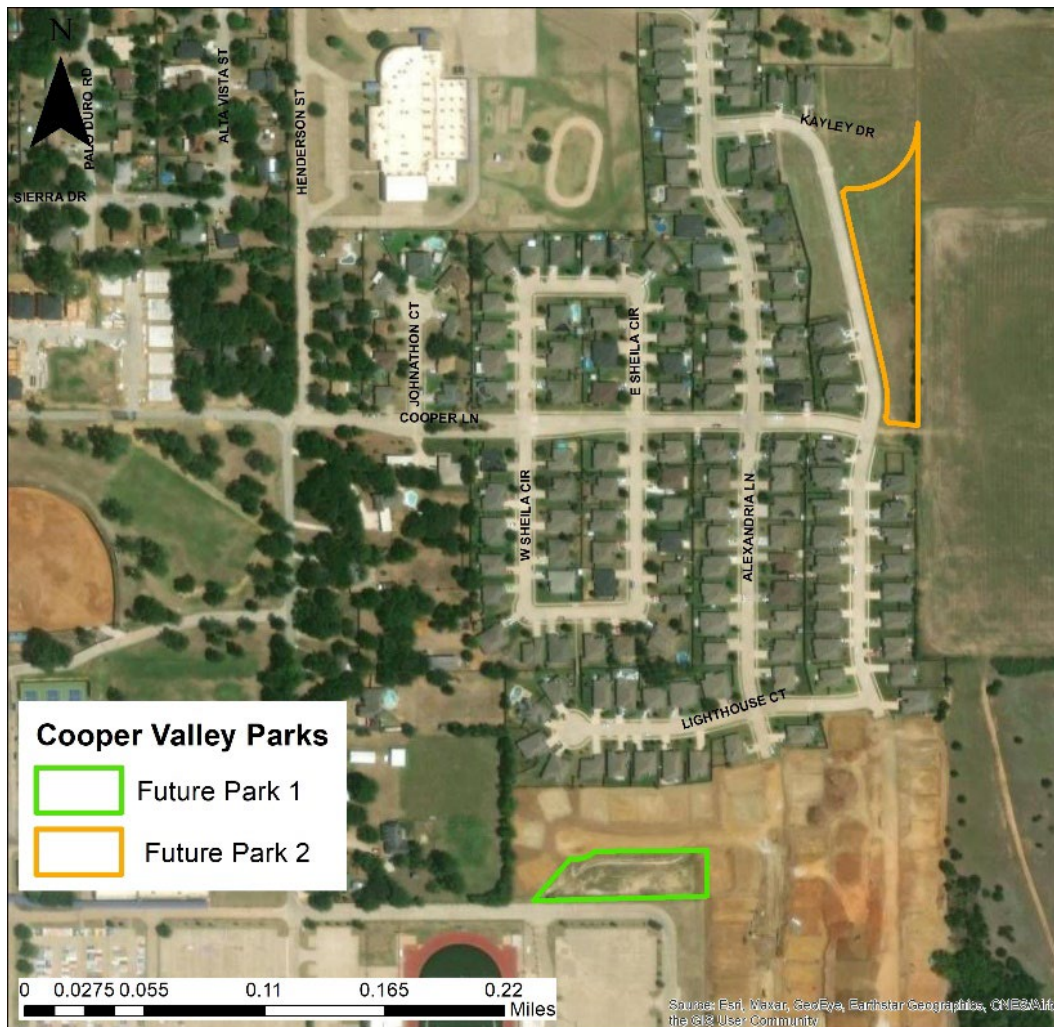


Figure D: Cooper Valley Future Parks

Future Park 1, located off Believe Boulevard (see *Figure E*), is an approximately one-acre piece of land that's primary function is as a storm drainage facility. Because of this, the usability and development of this park is limited, but not impossible. Often, drainage facilities can serve a dual purpose, as both a flood prevention measure and a public, natural open space. This parcel can become a functional park and drainage facility by planting native plants and trees that are resilient in intermittently saturated conditions and paving a path between the Cooper Valley Neighborhood and Joshua High School to provide easier pedestrian access.



Figure E: Cooper Valley's Future Park 1 (left) & Future Park 2 (right)

Future Park 2 is located on the eastern border of the development (see *Figure E above*). Larger than the Future Park 1 (1.7 acres), this parcel has the potential to provide active play areas for children and adults alike. While there is a 50-foot utility easement that runs through the park that can't have structures or fences built upon it, there is ample room for a playscape, jungle gym, or swing set, as well as passive facilities like picnic tables and benches. This future park could also benefit from a walking path around the perimeter.

Joshua Meadows

Located further southeast from Cooper Valley is Joshua Meadows, a neighborhood that is in the process of building out the remaining lots and residences in the development. As part of that development, a seven-acre tract of land will be dedicated jointly as open space and a drainage easement. The parcel additionally contains multiple utility easements (see *Figure F*), which limits how the open space can be developed and utilized. However, this future park has the potential to be utilized by active and passive recreation facilities, as well as provide natural open space to be enjoyed by future residents. The City should consider developing a playground, covered picnic area, benches, and a walking trail crossing the unbuildable easement. The remaining area of the park can be utilized as a general use field, which generally takes up to two acres of park space.



Figure F: Future Joshua Meadows Park

Development of these new parks should incorporate play facilities for toddlers and young children and provide opportunities for all children regardless of ability or background. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NPRA) Parks for Inclusion Initiative provides a variety of information and resources for developing inclusive playgrounds (<https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/partnerships/initiatives/parks-for-inclusion/>).

1.5.2 Inventory

Table E provides the shared inventory for all public parks in Joshua. Only facilities open to the public are included in the recreation facility inventory.

Table E: Recreation Facility Inventory

<u>AMENITIES</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>CITY- MAINTAINED</u> Joshua City Park
TEAM SPORT COURTS & FIELDS		
Softball/Little League	3	3
Basketball Court	1	1
SUPPORTING AMENITIES		
Announcer's Box	3	3
Bleachers	6	6
Concessions Stand	1	1
Dugouts	6	6
Scoreboards	3	3
Lights	13	13
PLAY		
Playground	1	1
Playscapes	2	2
Monkey Barks/Jungle Gyms	2	2
Swing sets	3	3
PASSIVE		
Picnic Tables - Covered	4	4
Picnic Tables – Uncovered	4	4
Group Picnic Area - Covered	1	1
Park Benches	10	10
BBQ Grills	4	4
WALK – BIKE - RUN		
½ Mile Walking Path - Paved	1	1
WATER		
Splash Pad	1	1
Splash Pad Seats	20	20
OTHER SUPPORTING AMENITIES		
Water fountains	3	3
Restrooms	2	2
Trashcans	10	10
Memorial	1	1
Parking	150	150

Source: GrantWorks Field Survey, 2022

1.5.3 Additional Local Areas Used for Outdoor Activities

Open Space

A city's park system often includes dedicated open spaces to provide opportunities for passive recreation, to provide habitat for local flora and fauna, to preserve landmarks or vistas, and/or to ensure no development occurs in areas where potential hazards exist, such as flooding. There are no dedicated open spaces in Joshua. As mentioned in *Section 1.5.1*, several planned future parks include areas that may be appropriate for open space dedication. While falling outside of this plan's recommendations within the planning period, the City should consider utilizing local flood zones as preserved open space or linear greenbelts in the future. Preserving flood plain and flood zones as open space not only provides residences with expanded passive recreation opportunities but maintains natural storm water drainage systems.

Joshua Independent School District Sports Facilities

While not open to the public daily, facilities at Joshua Independent School District (ISD) schools provide space for students to play and participate in organized sports. Facilities include playgrounds, walking tracks, indoor sports facilities, a football field, and field and track facilities. A shared use agreement that allows residents to access ISD recreational facilities outside of school hours and ISD events would increase the level of service provided to Joshua residents, as well as assure amenities are being used to their fullest extent. Shared use of facilities can also include shared cost of maintenance between the City and Joshua ISD, which reduces overall maintenance costs for both parties involved.

1.5.4 Regional Recreation Areas

Cleburne State Park

Located 22 minutes southwest of Joshua, Cleburne State Park is a 528-acre Texas state park in Johnson County operated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The park includes the 116-acre, spring-fed Cedar Lake created by construction of an earthen dam by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Activities available include hiking, mountain biking, camping, swimming, fishing, and no-wake boating. For more information visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/cleburne>.

Lake Pat Cleburne

Located approximately 10 miles south of Joshua, Lake Pat Cleburne offers 1,500 acres of water for swimming, boating, fishing, as well as kayak and jet ski rentals with four boat ramps conveniently located around the lake. For more information visit <https://www.visitcleburne.com/business/lake-pat-cleburne>.

Lake Granbury

Lake Granbury is located approximately 40 minutes west of Joshua off US Highway 377-East. Known for its fishing, boating, and camping areas, Lake Granbury provides water recreation options for residents and visitors alike. For more information visit <https://www.visitgranbury.com/things-to-do/lake-granbury/>.

Neighboring City Park Systems

Due to Joshua's proximity to nearby municipalities, many other parks are within 20 miles of the city limits. These cities include Cleburne and Burleson in the close range, or up to Fort Worth and Arlington.

1.5.5 Privately Owned Recreational Facilities

Joshua YMCA- Located on the southern end of the city, the Joshua Community YMCA provides youth programs, a gym, indoor sports courts, as well as an outdoor pool. For more information about the Joshua Community YMCA visit <https://ymcafw.org/locations/joshua>.

Mountain Valley Country Club- located partially in Joshua and Burleson, the Mountain Valley Country Club is a privately owned golf course and club with an 18-hole golf course, restaurant, event space, and pro shop. For more information visit <https://www.mountainvalleycc.com/WordPress/>.

1.6 Needs Assessment & Identification

This section outlines local recreational needs using a standards-based assessment and a demand-based assessment.

1.6.1 Standards-Based Assessment

The standards-based assessment uses three criteria to analyze Joshua's recreational needs:

- current and future population
- acreage devoted to parks and open space
- number of households within/outside of a recreational facility service area

The standards-based assessment does not consider residents' desires or a community's capacity to maintain facilities.

Joshua City Park includes several recreational opportunities for multiple age groups. Park facilities include playground equipment and a splash pad for children, fields and courts offering individual play and team sport opportunities for youth and adults, and passive recreation opportunities for all residents (walking path, benches and picnic tables, grills). The existing facilities are in good condition, with only routine maintenance currently required.

Over the next ten years, the population of Joshua is projected to steadily increase, which means additional park development is needed to maintain the existing level of service. Residents would benefit from an expanded park network that includes facilities for all ages and abilities. Particularly, additional play equipment for children and families and passive recreation opportunities such as sidewalks, multi-use paths, or group picnic areas would help meet future recreation and open space standards, as well as demand-based needs.

By utilizing three parcels of land already set aside for park development in planned subdivisions, new park facilities can be introduced in areas of Joshua that will increase park access to residents. Outside of developing new recreational facilities, the City can also increase park access and level of service by establishing a shared resources plan with Joshua ISD to ensure all available area facilities can be utilized year-round and to share costs for local facility development.

Detailed Standard-Based Assessment Data

Facility Needs by Population Size

Table F identifies Joshua's existing and future needs based upon the population projection and standards for facilities described earlier in the chapter.

Table F: Facilities Standards & Existing Facilities Comparison

<u>Facility</u>	<u>2023</u>		<u>Additional Facilities Needed</u>	
	<i>Existing within service area</i>	<i>Suggested (#/population)</i>	<i>Currently needed</i>	<i>Total needed by 2033</i>
<i>Facilities needed locally (within 2.0 miles)</i>				
General-Use/Soccer Field	-	1 per 10,000	0.9	1.1
Softball / Little League Field [1]	3	1 per 5,000	-	-
Basketball Court	1	1 per 5,000	0.8	1.3
Tennis Court	-	1 per 8,900	0.9	1.3
Volleyball Court	-	1 per 8,900	0.9	1.3
Playground	1	1 per 4,395	1	1.6
Picnic Tables	8	1 per 935	1.4	4.1
Group Picnic Area (Covered)	1	1 per 5,556	.6	1
Benches	4	1 per 800	2	2.3
Light Activity Area	-	1 per 8,000	1.1	1.4
Multiuse Paths/Trails	Actual Mileage	Pop Per Mile		
Multiuse Trails (Dirt/Gravel)	-	6,525	1.3	1.7
Multiuse Trails (Paved)	0.5	8,700	0.5	0.8

Notes: **[1]** Standard met by existing, dedicated fields

Source GrantWorks Fieldwork 2022

Acreage Needs by Population Size

Level of Service (LOS) is the term used to describe the park system's role in the community. The LOS for parks and open space is based on useable space per 1,000 residents; therefore, undeveloped parkland is not included.

As expressed in the City's facility standards, Joshua's residents should have access to a minimum of two (2) acres and an ideal 5-to-7 acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents. Acreage of private recreational facilities and areas of school campuses closed to the public or open only on a limited basis are not included. Housing Authority playgrounds are not included.

The City of Joshua's current Level of Service (LOS) meets the minimum park acreage. Public parks provide a LOS of 2.1 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents.

Table G: Level of Service, Existing

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Park Type</u>	<i>Desirable</i>	<u>Acreage</u>		<u>Service</u>
			<i>Total</i>	<i>Developed</i>	<u>Area</u> <u>(Miles)</u>
Joshua City Park	Community	15-to-25	20.7	17.8	1-2 miles
Total Acreage			20.7	17.8	1-2 miles
Population – 8,790 (est. 2023); 11,279 (est. 2033)					
<i>Level of Service 2023</i> (acres per 1,000 residents)			<i>2.4</i>	<i>2.1</i>	
<i>Level of Service 2033</i>			<i>1.8</i>	<i>1.6</i>	

Source: GrantWorks Fieldwork, 2022

Acreage Needs by Park Location

The standards-based assessment also determines recreation needs based on park service areas. The service area refers to the area formed by a predetermined radius extending out from the park that would typically serve the surrounding population. The service area of existing parks is described in *Table G (above)* and in *Figure G (next page)*.

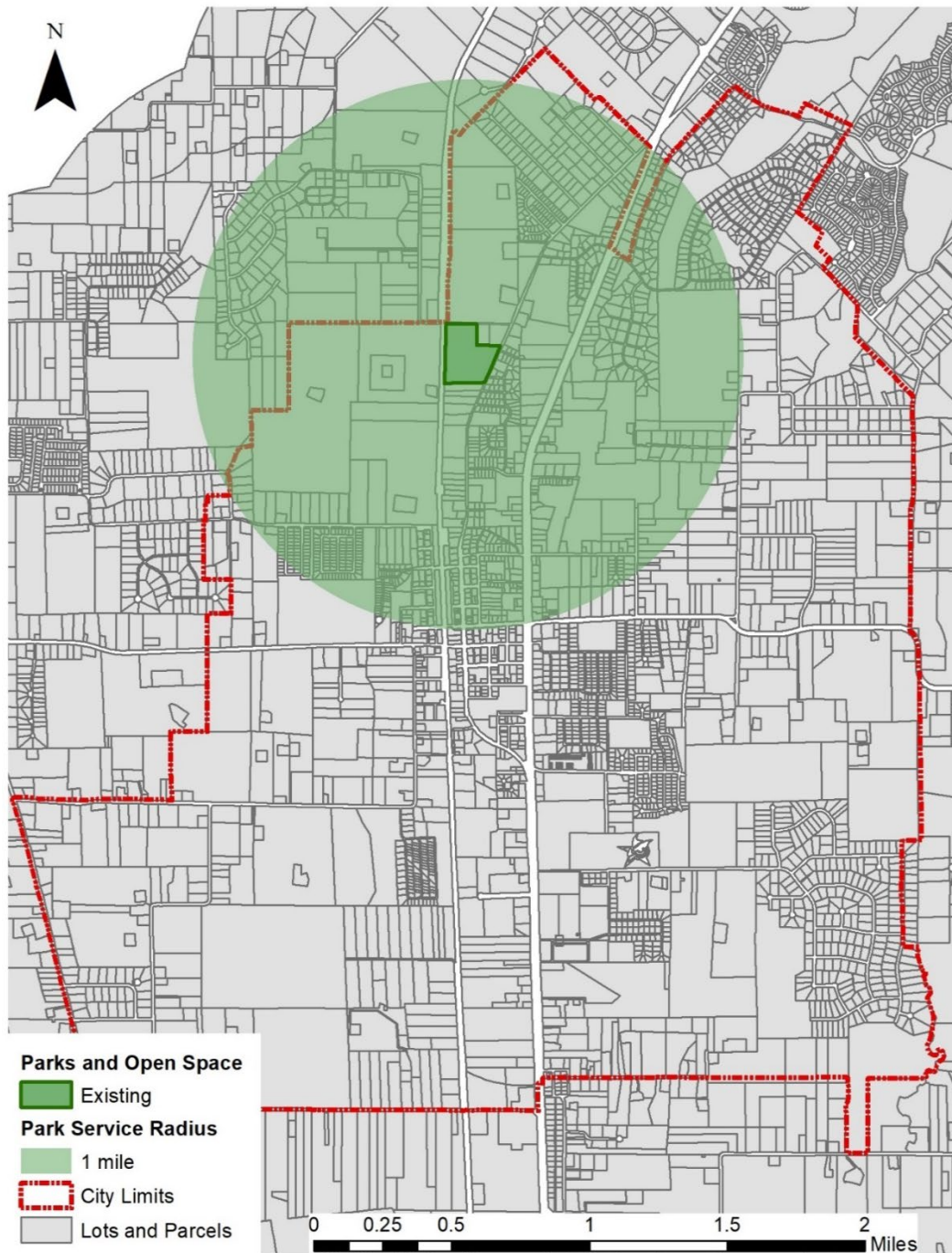


Figure G: Park Service Areas, Existing

Proposed New Parks

The City of Joshua is currently in the process of adding three parcels of land to the Joshua Parks system as part of new residential development. While still in the development phase, these future neighborhood parks will provide usable park space for nearby residents and expand on the existing park facilities in Joshua (see [Section 9.5.1](#)).

As [Table H](#) and [Figure H \(next page\)](#) illustrate, the future parks increase the total acreage of open space per 1,000 residents by 1.1 acres in 2023, which is above the minimum suggested park acreage. (see also [Table G, page 28](#)).

Table H: Level of Service, Existing & Proposed

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Park Type</u>	<i>Desirable</i>	<u>Acreage</u>		<u>Service Area (Miles)</u>
			<i>Total</i>	<i>Developed</i>	
Joshua City Park	Community	15-to-25	20.7	17.8	1-2 miles
Cooper Valley Park 1	Minipark	≤ 1 acre	1	-	1/2
Cooper Valley Park 2	Neighborhood	1-to-15	1.7	-	1/2
Joshua Meadows Park	Neighborhood	1-to-15	7.03	-	1/2
Total Acreage			30.43	17.8	
Level of Service 2023 (acres per 1,000 residents)		3.5		2.0	
Level of Service 2033		2.7		1.6	

Source: GrantWorks Fieldwork, 2022

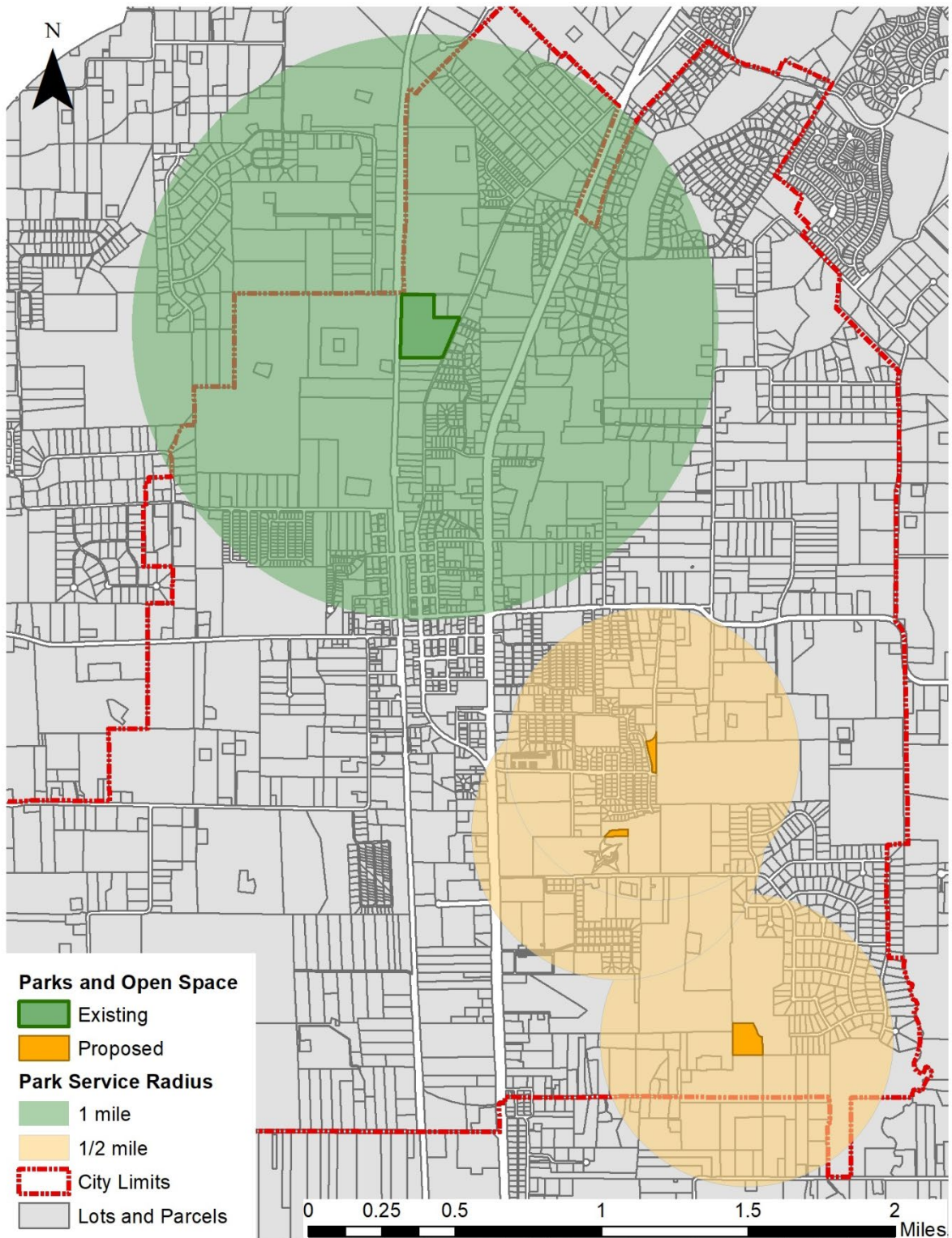


Figure H: Park Service Areas, Existing & Proposed

1.6.2 Demand-Based Assessment

The demand-based assessment of local recreation facilities is based on the results from a survey made available to Joshua residents through January 2023. One hundred and fifty (150) respondents completed the survey.

Data gathered from the surveys identified common recreational activities, favorite parks/recreation spaces, priority improvements to local parks, and desired new recreational facilities.

Table I summarizes key assessment results:

Table I: Top Five: Recreation Activities, Locations & New Facilities

Top 5:	Activities	Locations	New Facilities
1.	Walking	Home	Hike / jogging / bike trail
2.	Fishing	Joshua City Park	Sidewalks
3.	Hiking	State Parks	Playground
4.	Swimming	Parks/Gyms/Schools in other cities	Covered picnic area
5.	Basketball	School	Outdoor picnic area

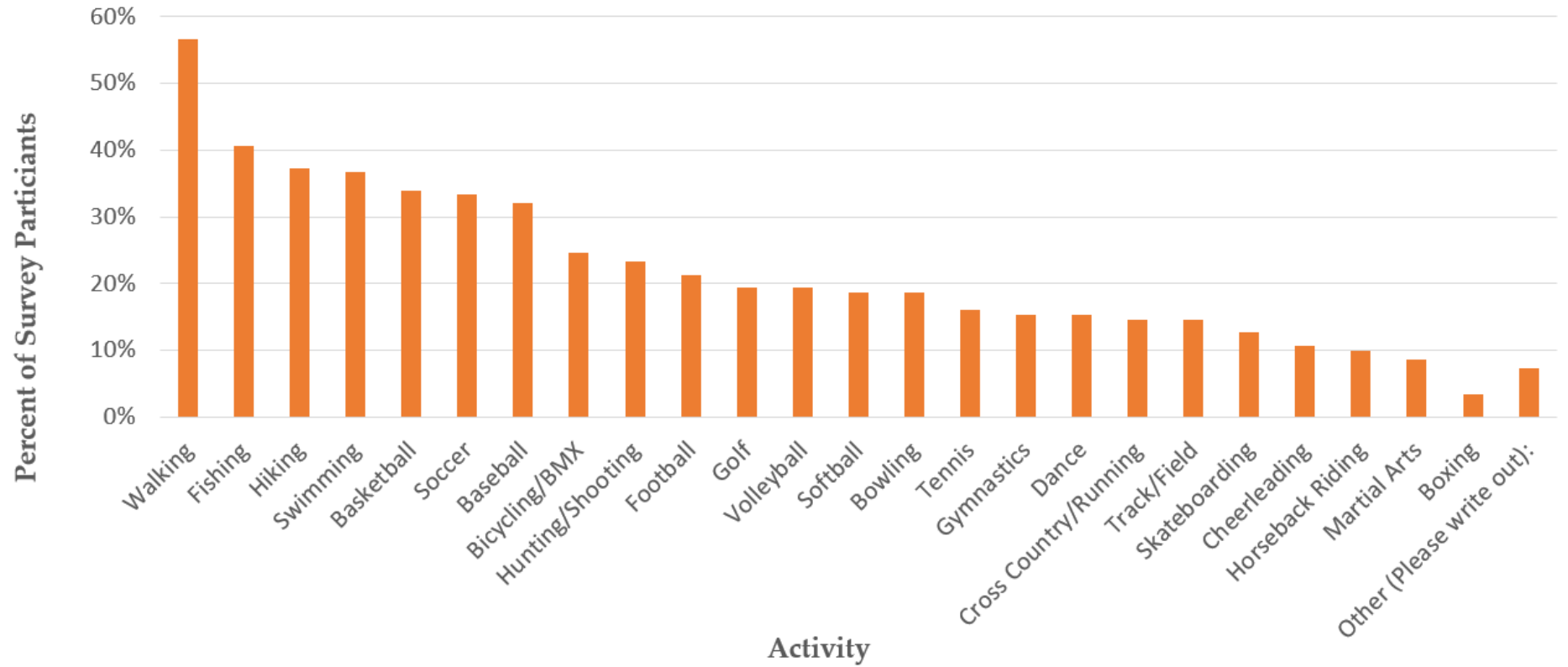
Detailed Demand-Based Assessment Data

Resident Activities & Activity Locations

The survey asked respondents to share their household recreational activities and where those activities take place.

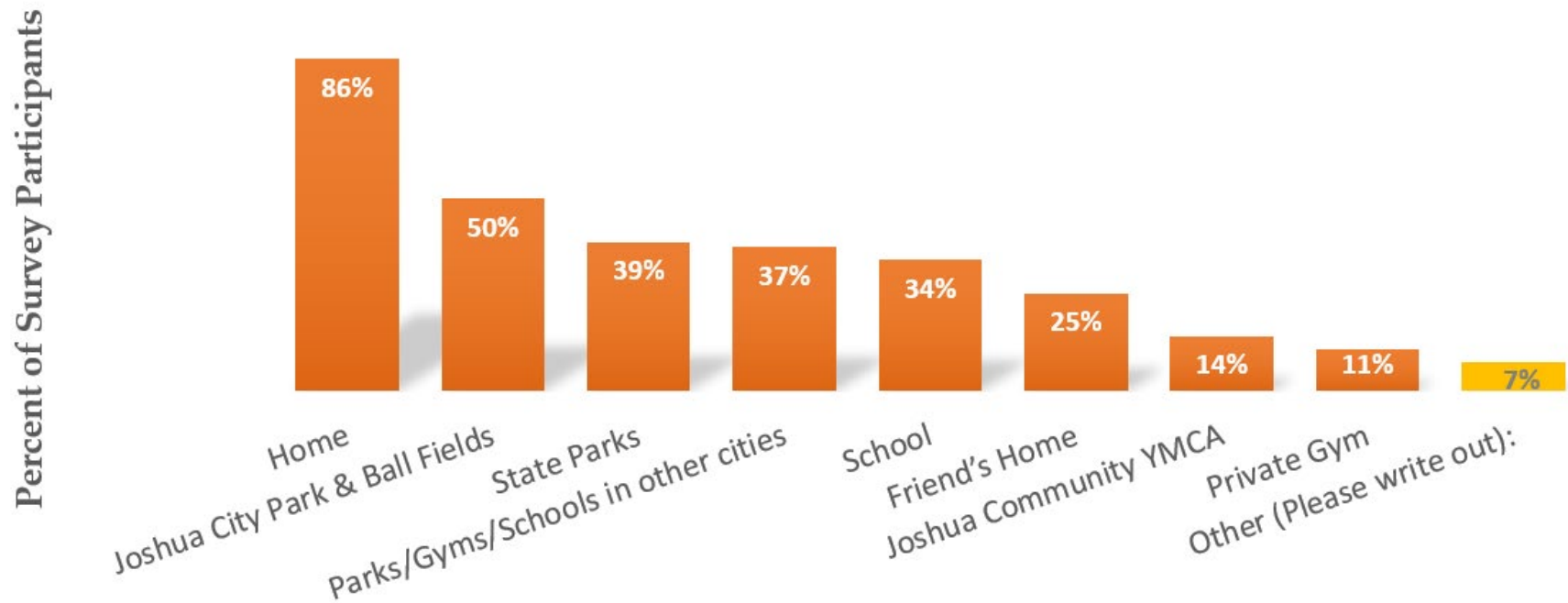
Walking, fishing, hiking, swimming, and basketball were the five most popular reported activities. The most popular team sports were basketball, soccer, baseball, football, and volleyball (see *Chart E, next page*).

Chart E: Top Activities



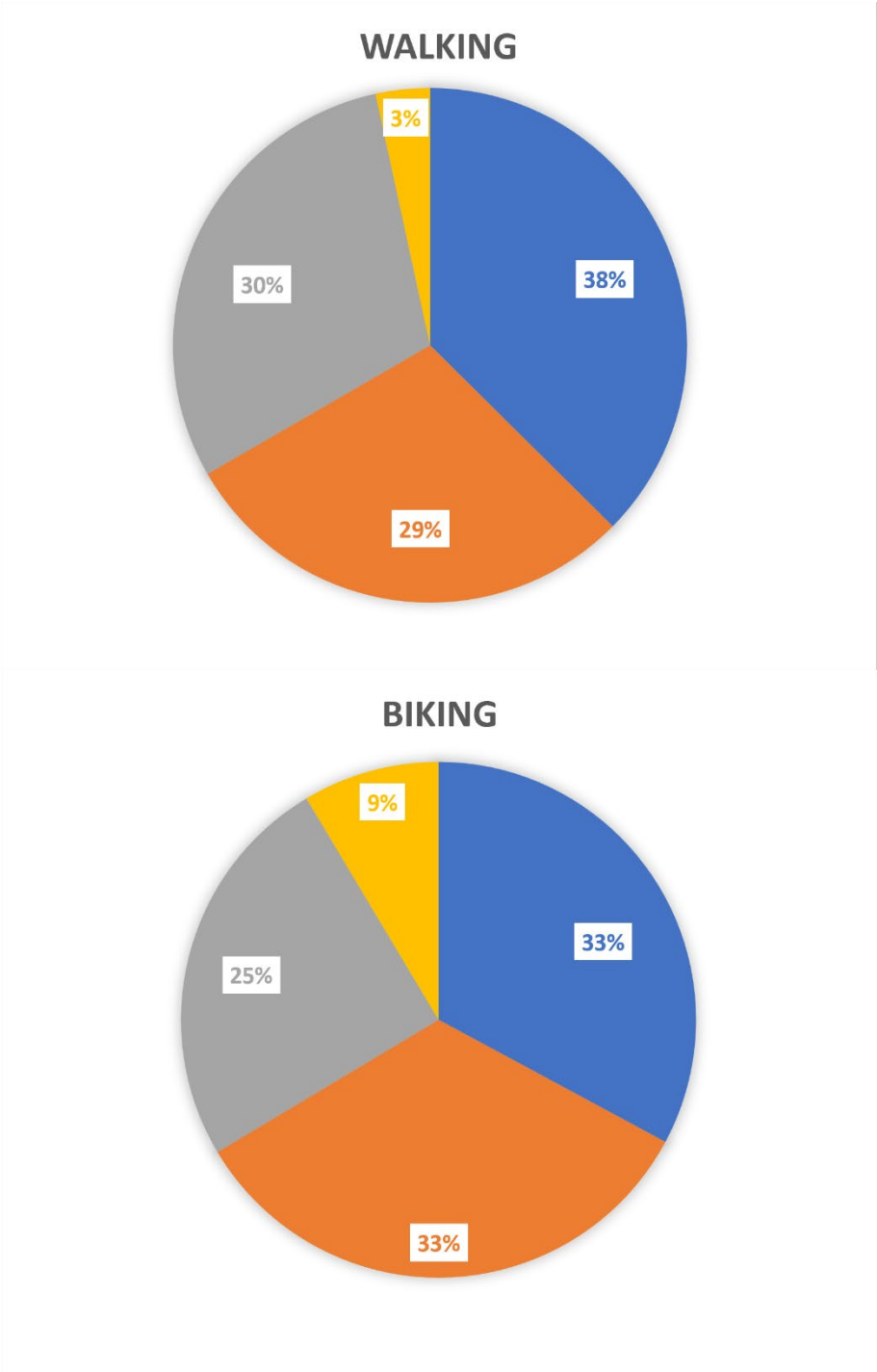
Most survey respondents report participating in recreational activities at home or at Joshua City Parks. Residents who answered other stated leaving Joshua for recreational opportunities not provided by the City, such as an off-leash dog park or disk golf course (see *Chart F*).

Chart F: Activity Locations

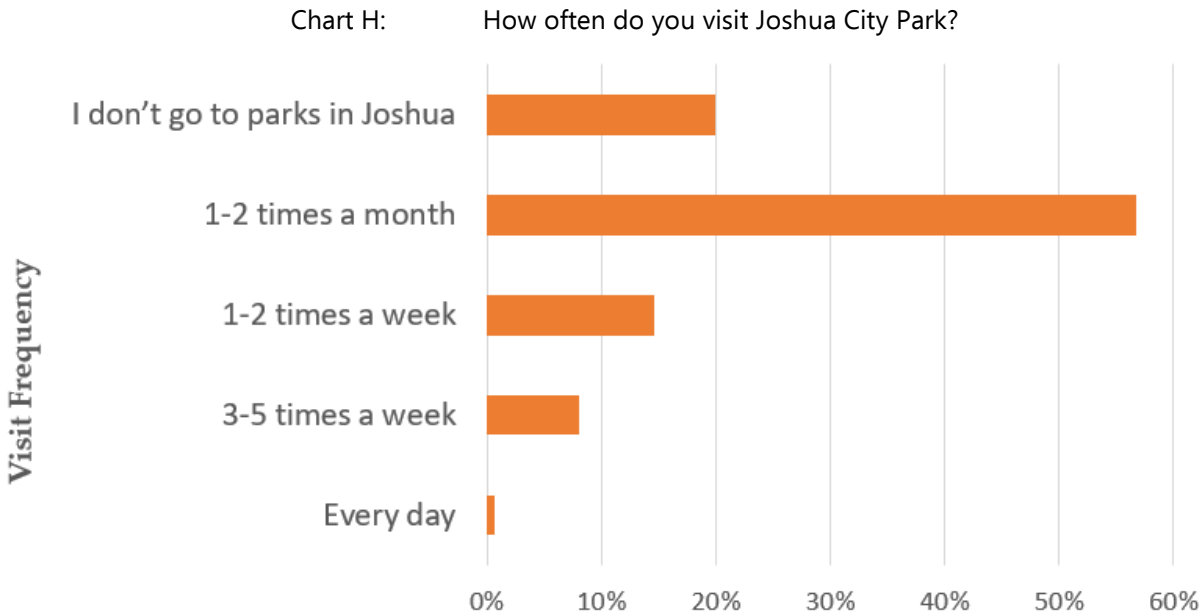


A majority of survey respondents either do not feel safe walking or biking, feel the trip is very far, or are not interested in walking or biking to Joshua City Park (see *Chart G*).

Chart G: Do you feel safe walking or biking to Joshua City Park?

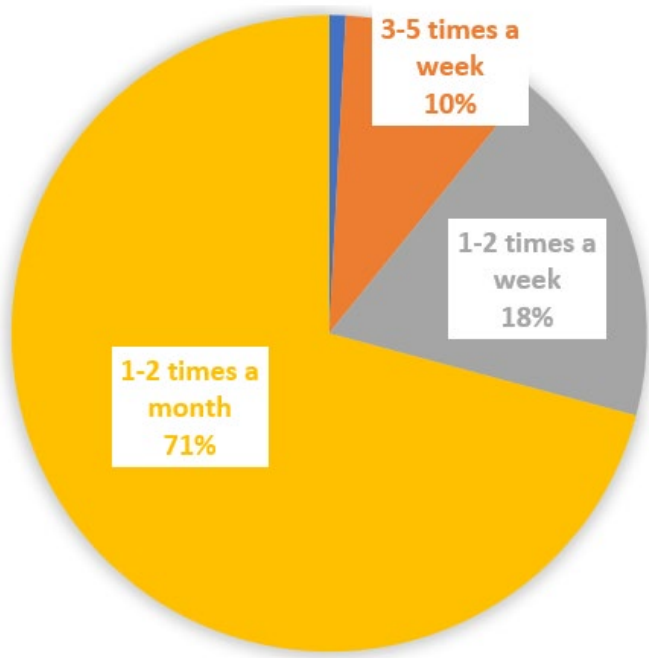


Twenty percent (20%) of respondents report never visiting parks in Joshua (see *Chart H*). Of the Respondents who do visit local parks, 71% go one to two times a month (see *Chart I*).



Percent of Survey Participants

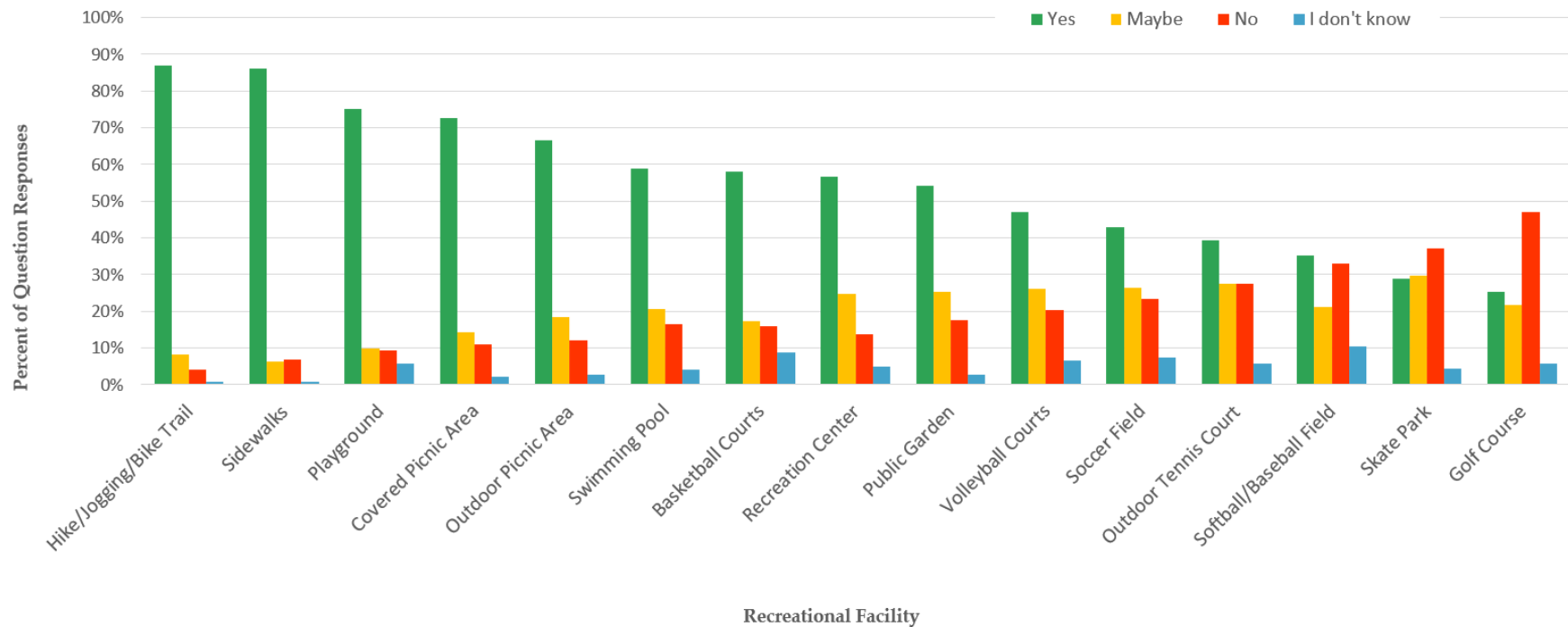
Chart I: Percentage of respondents who visit Joshua City Park



New Facilities

Question 9 asked respondents to review a list of potential new facilities and indicate whether they want the facility ("Yes"), may want the facility "Maybe"), do not want the facility ("No"), or are unsure ("I don't know"). *Chart J* shows the resulting scores. Top desired facilities are trails, sidewalks, playgrounds, and covered/outdoor picnic areas.

Chart J: Desired New Facilities



1.7 Prioritization of Needs

A review of public comments, survey results, and established standards indicates the need to remove and replace existing facilities in deteriorated and dilapidated condition and make targeted investments in new facilities to expand recreational opportunities in Joshua. Park planners realize that establishing priorities based solely on the public's numerical ranking of activities may not consider the most logical and efficient use of limited available cash and may not provide the widest range of activities to the broadest possible target audience. When establishing priorities to direct future investment it is important to strike a balance between community preferences, standards-based assessments, and the ability of the City to fund construction and maintenance of proposed facilities.

1.7.1 Park Priorities by Type

The City of Joshua has established the following development priorities.

Outdoor Construction-related Priorities (OC):

Priority 1:	Develop future neighborhood parks in the Cooper Valley Neighborhood by installing a light activity area, picnic tables, benches, and a walking path where appropriate. Install native flora to act as an aid to stormwater drainage in areas that cannot be developed. As resources allow, install inclusive play facilities and playscapes.
Priority 2:	Develop the future neighborhood park in Joshua Meadows by installing playscapes, swings, and a general use/soccer field. Where appropriate, install native flora to act as an aid to stormwater drainage as well as provide natural open space. As resources allow, install picnic tables, benches, a covered group picnic area, and a perimeter walking path.
Priority 3:	Improve on existing facilities at Joshua City Park by adding a light activity area with activities such as shuffleboard, a horseshoe pit, bean bag toss, or dominoes/card games. As resources allow, install additional benches, picnic tables, grills, and lighting along the existing walking path.
Priority 4:	Develop exhibits at park facilities to foster nature appreciation and educate visitors about local flora, fauna, and geology. This can include community gardens and/or xeriscape gardens.
Priority 5:	Encourage development of other outdoor activities typically operated by private businesses such as a skate park, equestrian facilities, miniature golf, bicycle motor-cross, or a mountain-biking trail
Priority 6:	Conduct a Tree Planting Campaign (three trees per year). Prioritize public spaces and thoroughfares.

Indoor Construction-Related Priorities (IC):

Priority 1:	Encourage development of other indoor activities typically operated by private businesses such as a movie theater, bowling alley, roller-skating rink, gymnastics/twirling center, and indoor rodeo facilities.
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Ongoing Non-Construction Priorities (NC):

Action Item 1:	Budget funds for park maintenance
Action Item 2:	Budget funds for on-going facility development.
Action Item 3:	Schedule biennial reviews of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan to update inventory and priority needs lists. Solicit new public input every five years.
Action Item 4:	Develop a shared resources plan with the ISD to ensure all available area facilities may be used year-round and to support shared facilities development.
Action Item 5:	Hold an annual festival at Joshua City Park. Festivals and events provide diverse activities not normally available in the park and enhance the usefulness of the facilities. These events can also highlight the community's cultural diversity or offer special events such as kite-flying contests or bike-a-thons. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in parks improvement projects.
Action Item 6:	Establish a "community work day" to support local recreation and open space improvements. Seek volunteers from residents, City staff, community service workers, schools, local institutions, religious and civic groups, etc.
Action Item 7:	Establish a voluntary park donation fund to maintain, repair, and upgrade local parks. Solicitation could be added to the City utility bill.
Action Item 8:	Form a Parks & Paths Advisory Committee to support parks and pathways planning, outreach, and activities.
Action Item 9:	Develop a policy to educate the public regarding the benefits of private land donation for development of parks, greenbelts, and open space.
Action Item 10:	Support both temporary and permanent recreational on vacant land such as pocket park or community gardens. For example, maintain a library of reference materials for public use; encourage use through public outreach; (co)sponsor a temporary-use project, etc.
Action Item 11:	Schedule creation of a new Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

1.8 Recreation & Open Space Plan

This plan is designed to be implemented during a 10-year period starting with fiscal year 2023-2024 and ending with fiscal year 2032-2033. The plan addresses the full spectrum of the City's new construction, maintenance, and operation needs to ensure that the highest quality park, recreation, and open space opportunities are available.

The following implementation plan sets forth the most reasonable development timeline assuming funding resources are available. The items are identified as Construction (C) priorities or as non-construction (NC) action items. Outdoor activities are identified as OC. Indoor activities are identified as IC.

Potential methods of funding for these projects are identified. These potential sources include:

- Local general funds
- General obligation bonds
- Certificates of obligation (CO's)
- Sales tax revenue
- Local in-kind labor
- Donations of land, cash, materials, and labor from private individuals
- Grants from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) through the outdoor, indoor, trails, and small community programs, and the TPWD Community Outdoor Outreach Program (COOP)

The following plan outlines projects the City should strive to achieve on a short-term basis within the first five years of the planning period and on a long-term basis. The plan derives from the above analyses: the inventory of existing conditions, including physical and social resources; the standards-based assessment; and the needs-based assessment.

Table J: Implementation Plan: 2023-2033

IMPLEMENTATION ITEM	ACTION ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)
FY 2023 - 2024 (10/1/23 to 9/30/24)			
Apply to TPWD Small Community Recreation Grant program to develop future neighborhood parks in the Cooper Valley Neighborhood by installing a light activity area, picnic tables, benches, and a walking path where appropriate. Install native flora to act as an aid to stormwater drainage in areas that cannot be developed. As resources allow, install inclusive play facilities and playscapes.	OC 1	Variable	GEN
Conduct a Tree planting campaign (three trees per year). Prioritize public spaces and thoroughfares.	OC 4	<\$2,000	GEN, EDC, Local
Support both temporary and permanent recreational uses on vacant land such as pocket park or community gardens. For example, maintain a library of reference materials for public use; encourage use through public outreach; (co)sponsor a temporary-use project, etc.	NC 10	Variable	GEN, ISD, EDC, Local
Develop annual programming and festivals at local parks. Festivals and events provide diverse activities not normally available in the park and enhance the usefulness of the facilities. These events can also highlight the community's cultural diversity or offer special events such as kite-flying contests or bike-a-thons. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in parks improvement projects.	NC 5	\$2,000 - \$5,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Hold a "community work day" to support local recreation and open space improvements. Seek volunteers from residents, City staff, community service workers, schools, local institutions, religious and civic groups, etc. Tasks might include cleanup of recreation/open space and vacant lots, tree planting, and/or other improvements to property with frontage on thoroughfares.	NC 6	< \$1,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Annual: Budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for ongoing facilities development. Review biennially.	NC 1, NC 2	\$80,000 +/-	GEN, EDC

IMPLEMENTATION ITEM	ACTION ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)
FY 2024 - 2025 (10/1/24 to 9/30/25)			
Develop a shared resources plan with the ISD to ensure all available area facilities may be used year-round and to support shared facilities development.	NC 4	<\$1,000 (legal)	GEN, ISD
Develop exhibits at park facilities to foster nature appreciation and educate visitors about local flora, fauna, and geology. This can include community gardens and/or xeriscape gardens.	OC 4	< \$1,000	GEN, Local
Review Parks & Recreation Master Plan to update inventory and priority needs lists.	NC 3	< \$1,000	GEN, Local
Ongoing: Conduct a Tree planting campaign (three trees per year). Prioritize public spaces and thoroughfares.	OC 4	<\$2,000	GEN, EDC, Local
Ongoing: Support both temporary and permanent recreational uses on vacant land such as pocket parks or community gardens	NC 10	Variable	GEN, EDC, Local
Annual: Budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for ongoing facilities development. Review biennially.	NC 1, NC 2	\$80,000 +/-	GEN, EDC
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at local parks. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 5	\$2,000 - \$5,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Annual: Continue "community work day". Conduct cleanup of recreation/open space and vacant lots, tree planting, and other improvements to property with frontage on thoroughfares.	NC 6	< \$1,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
FY 2025 - 2026 (10/1/25 to 9/30/26)			
Dedicate annual "community work day" activities to support the upcoming parks project. Tasks might include site preparation, clean up, and preliminary construction tasks.	NC 6	< \$1,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Use grant funds to develop future neighborhood parks in the Cooper Valley Neighborhood by installing a light activity area, picnic tables, benches, and a walking path where appropriate. Install native flora to act as an aid to stormwater drainage in areas that cannot be developed. As resources allow, install inclusive play facilities and playscapes.	OC 1	Up to \$150,000 (or 50% match of TPWD grants)	GEN, TPWD, Local

IMPLEMENTATION ITEM	ACTION ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)
Ongoing: Support both temporary and permanent recreational uses on vacant land such as pocket parks or community gardens	NC 10	Variable	GEN, ISD, EDC, Local
Annual: Budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for ongoing facilities development. Review biennially.	NC 1, NC 2	\$80,000 +/-	GEN, EDC
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at local parks. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 6	\$2,000 - \$5,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
FY 2026 - 2027 (10/1/26 to 9/30/27)			
Establish a voluntary park donation fund to maintain, repair, and upgrade local parks. Solicitation could be added to the city utility bill.	NC 7	Staff	GEN
Review Parks & Recreation Master Plan to update inventory and priority needs lists.	NC 3	< \$1,000	GEN, Local
Ongoing: Conduct a Tree planting campaign (three trees per year). Prioritize public spaces and thoroughfares.	OC 4	<\$2,000	GEN, EDC, Local
Ongoing: Support both temporary and permanent recreational uses on vacant land such as pocket parks or community gardens	NC 10	Variable	GEN, EDC, Local
Annual: Budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for ongoing facilities development. Review biennially.	NC 1, NC 2	\$80,000 +/-	GEN, EDC
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at local parks. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 5	\$2,000 - \$5,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Annual: Continue "community work day". Conduct cleanup of recreation/open space and vacant lots, tree planting, and other improvements to property with frontage on thoroughfares.	NC 6	< \$1,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local

IMPLEMENTATION ITEM	ACTION ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)
FY 2027 - 2028 (10/1/27 to 9/30/28)			
Form a Parks & Paths Advisory Committee to support parks and pathways planning, outreach, and activities.	NC 8	Staff	GEN, Local, EDC
Apply to TPWD Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation program to develop the future neighborhood park in Joshua Meadows by installing playscapes, swings, and a general use/soccer field. Where appropriate, install native flora to act as an aid to stormwater drainage as well as provide natural open space. As resources allow, install picnic tables, benches, a covered group picnic area, and a perimeter walking path.	OC 2	Variable	GEN
Ongoing: Conduct a Tree planting campaign (three trees per year). Prioritize public spaces and thoroughfares.	OC 4	<\$2,000	GEN, EDC, Local
Ongoing: Support both temporary and permanent recreational uses on vacant land such as pocket parks or community gardens	NC 10	Variable	GEN, EDC, Local
Annual: Budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for ongoing facilities development. Review biennially.	NC 1, NC 2	\$80,000 +/-	GEN, EDC
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at local parks. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 5	\$2,000 - \$5,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Annual: Continue "community work day". Conduct cleanup of recreation/open space and vacant lots, tree planting, and other improvements to property with frontage on thoroughfares.	NC 6	< \$1,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
FY 2028 - 2029 (10/1/28 to 9/30/29)			
Solicit public input and conduct biennial review of Parks & Recreation Master Plan to update inventory and priority needs lists.	NC 3	\$1,000	GEN, ISD, Local

IMPLEMENTATION ITEM	ACTION ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)
Ongoing: Conduct a Tree planting campaign (three trees per year). Prioritize public spaces and thoroughfares.	OC 4	<\$2,000	GEN, EDC, Local
Ongoing: Support both temporary and permanent recreational uses on vacant land such as pocket parks or community gardens	NC 10	Variable	GEN, EDC, Local
Annual: Budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for ongoing facilities development. Review biennially.	NC 1, NC 2	\$80,000 +/-	GEN, EDC
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at local parks. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 5	\$2,000 - \$5,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Annual: Continue "community work day". Conduct cleanup of recreation/open space and vacant lots, tree planting, and other improvements to property with frontage on thoroughfares.	NC 6	< \$1,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
FY 2029 - 2030 (10/1/29 to 9/30/30)			
Dedicate annual "community work day" activities to support the upcoming parks project. Tasks might include site preparation, clean up, and preliminary construction tasks.	NC 6	< \$1,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Use grant funds to develop the future neighborhood park in Joshua Meadows by installing playscapes, swings, and a general use/soccer field. Where appropriate, install native flora to act as an aid to stormwater drainage as well as provide natural open space. As resources allow, install picnic tables, benches, a covered group picnic area, and a perimeter walking path.	OC 2	Up to \$150,000 (or 50% match of TPWD grants)	GEN, TPWD, Local
Annual: Budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for ongoing facilities development. Review biennially.	NC 1, NC 2	\$80,000 +/-	GEN, EDC

IMPLEMENTATION ITEM	ACTION ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)
Annual: Support both temporary and permanent recreational uses on vacant land such as pocket parks or community gardens	NC 10	Variable	GEN, ISD, EDC, Local
FY 2030 - 2031 (10/1/30 to 9/30/31)			
Develop a policy to educate the public regarding the benefits of private land donation for development of parks, greenbelts, and open space.	NC 9	Staff	GEN
Ongoing: Conduct a Tree planting campaign (three trees per year). Prioritize public spaces and thoroughfares.	OC 4	<\$2,000	GEN, EDC, Local
Ongoing: Support both temporary and permanent recreational uses on vacant land such as pocket parks or community gardens	NC 10	Variable	GEN, EDC, Local
Annual: Budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for ongoing facilities development. Review biennially.	NC 1, NC 2	\$80,000 +/-	GEN, EDC
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at local parks. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 5	\$2,000 - \$5,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Annual: Continue "community work day". Conduct cleanup of recreation/open space and vacant lots, tree planting, and other improvements to property with frontage on thoroughfares.	NC 6	< \$1,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
FY 2031 - 2032 (10/1/31 to 9/30/32)			
Apply to TPWD Small Community Recreation Grant program to Improve on existing facilities at Joshua City Park by adding a light activity area with activities such as shuffleboard, a horseshoe pit, bean bag toss, or dominoes/card games. As resources allow, install additional benches, picnic tables, grills, and lighting along the existing walking path.	OC 3	Variable	GEN
Ongoing: Conduct a Tree planting campaign (three trees per year). Prioritize public spaces and thoroughfares.	OC 4	<\$2,000	GEN, EDC, Local

IMPLEMENTATION ITEM	ACTION ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)
Ongoing: Support both temporary and permanent recreational uses on vacant land such as pocket parks or community gardens	NC 10	Variable	GEN, EDC, Local
Annual: Budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for ongoing facilities development. Review biennially.	NC 1, NC 2	\$80,000 +/-	GEN, EDC
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at local parks. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 5	\$2,000 - \$5,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Annual: Continue "community work day". Conduct cleanup of recreation/open space and vacant lots, tree planting, and other improvements to property with frontage on thoroughfares.	NC 6	< \$1,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
FY 2032 - 2033 (10/1/32 to 9/30/33)			
Encourage development of other outdoor activities typically operated by private businesses such as a skate park, equestrian facilities, miniature golf, bicycle motor-cross, or a mountain-biking trail	OC 5	Variable	GEN, EDC, Chamber
Encourage development of other indoor activities operated by private businesses such as a movie theater, bowling alley, roller-skating rink, gymnastics/twirling center, or indoor rodeo facilities.	IC 1	Variable	GEN, EDC, Chamber
Review Parks & Recreation Master Plan to update inventory and priority needs lists.	NC 3	< \$1,000	GEN, Local
Ongoing: Conduct a Tree planting campaign (three trees per year). Prioritize public spaces and thoroughfares.	OC 4	<\$2,000	GEN, EDC, Local
Ongoing: Support both temporary and permanent recreational uses on vacant land such as pocket parks or community gardens	NC 10	Variable	GEN, EDC, Local
Annual: Budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for ongoing facilities development. Review biennially.	NC 1, NC 2	\$80,000 +/-	GEN, EDC

IMPLEMENTATION ITEM	ACTION ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE(S)
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at local parks. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 5	\$2,000 - \$5,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Annual: Continue "community work day". Conduct cleanup of recreation/open space and vacant lots, tree planting, and other improvements to property with frontage on thoroughfares.	NC 6	< \$1,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
FY 2033 - 2034 (10/1/33 to 9/30/34)			
Dedicate annual "community work day" activities to support the upcoming parks project. Tasks might include site preparation, clean up, and preliminary construction tasks.	NC 6	< \$1,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local
Use grant funds to Improve on existing facilities at Joshua City Park by adding a light activity area with activities such as shuffleboard, a horseshoe pit, bean bag toss, or dominoes/card games. As resources allow, install additional benches, picnic tables, grills, and lighting along the existing walking path.	OC 3	Up to \$150,000 (or 50% match of TPWD grants)	GEN, TPWD, Local
Schedule creation of new Parks & Recreation Master Plan	NC 3	\$10,000	GEN, CDBG
Annual: Budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for ongoing facilities development. Review biennially.	NC 1, NC 2	\$80,000 +/-	GEN, EDC
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at local parks. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 5	\$2,000 - \$5,000	GEN, EDC, ISD, Local

GEN = City of Joshua Municipal Funds; **EDC** = Joshua Economic Development Corporation; **ISD** = Joshua Independent School District; **Local** = Donations from private citizens, organization, and local businesses; **TPWD** = Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

1.9 Appendix A: Survey

Joshua Parks Master Plan Survey

1) Do you live in the City of Joshua or in the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ)?

City ☐

ETJ ☐

Neither ☐

Not sure ☐

2) How old are you? _____

3) How often do you visit a park in Joshua?

Every day / most
days ☐

About once a
week ☐

A few times a
month ☐

Once a month or
less ☐

I don't go to
parks in Joshua ☐

4) Where does your family go to play? (check all that apply)

Home ☐

Friend's Home ☐

School ☐

Joshua City Park ☐

Joshua Community YMCA ☐

Private Gym ☐

Parks / gyms / schools in other cities ☐

State/County Parks ☐

☐ Other (please describe):

5) What types of sports do you play? (check all that apply)

Basketball ☐

Football ☐

Baseball ☐

Soccer ☐

Softball ☐

Volleyball ☐

Cheerleading ☐

Track/Field ☐

Camping ☐

Cross
Country/Running ☐

Swimming ☐

Tennis ☐

Golf ☐

Skateboarding ☐

Gymnastics ☐

Dance ☐

Bicycling/BMX ☐

Hunting/Shooting ☐

Martial Arts ☐

Boxing ☐

Horseback Riding ☐

Hiking ☐

Walking ☐

Bowling ☐

Fishing ☐

☐ Other (please describe):

6) What types of sports do your family members play? (check all that apply)

Basketball	☐	Cross Country/Running	☐	Hunting/Shooting	☐
Football	☐	Swimming	☐	Martial Arts	☐
Baseball	☐	Tennis	☐	Boxing	☐
Soccer	☐	Golf	☐	Horseback Riding	☐
Softball	☐	Skateboarding	☐	Hiking	☐
Volleyball	☐	Gymnastics	☐	Walking	☐
Cheerleading	☐	Dance	☐	Bowling	☐
Track/Field	☐	Bicycling/BMX	☐	Fishing	☐
Camping	☐				

☐ Other (please describe):

7) Do you feel safe walking or riding a bike to the nearest park?

	Yes, I feel safe	No, I don't feel safe	It's very far	Not interested
Walking	☐	☐	☐	☐
Riding a bike	☐	☐	☐	☐

8) Do Parks in Joshua provide enough amenities? Are additional things like playgrounds or sports fields needed?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes, please explain why:

9) Which of the following facilities would you like to have in Joshua?

	Yes	No	Maybe	I don't know
Recreation Center	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hike/Jogging/Bike Trail	☐	☐	☐	☐
Swimming Pool	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outdoor Tennis Court	☐	☐	☐	☐
Softball/Baseball Field	☐	☐	☐	☐
Soccer Field	☐	☐	☐	☐
Covered Picnic Area	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outdoor Picnic Area	☐	☐	☐	☐
Golf Course	☐	☐	☐	☐
Playground	☐	☐	☐	☐
Basketball Courts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Volleyball Courts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sidewalks	☐	☐	☐	☐
Skate Park	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public Garden	☐	☐	☐	☐

10) What is your #1 wish for Joshua parks?

# 1	
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11) What is your #2 wish for Joshua parks?

# 2	
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12) What is your #3 wish for Joshua parks?

# 3	
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