

DRAFT



2024 Leon Valley Parks, Trails, Open Space, and Recreation Master Park Plan Update

Adopted: _____



Parks Commission Foreword

In July of 2024, the Leon Valley City Council approved funding to assist the Leon Valley Park Commission in the revision of the Leon Valley Parks, Trails, Open Space, and Recreation Master Park Plan Update (“Plan”). Formal updates to the plan are recommended at minimum 5-year increments, however a continual annual review process is recommended. Since the last revision to the Plan in 2019, the city has added three neighborhood parks, a hike & bike trail, and has improved Raymond Rimkus Park tremendously. This revised Plan includes park maintenance challenges and makes recommendations for future additions to the park system.

The revised Plan sets forth four strategic goals for the Leon Valley Park system:

- Protect and enhance natural and cultural resources
- Develop excellent management systems
- Maintain high quality operations and public service
- Create meaningful connections and relevancy to people

Through the Plan, visitors will know that we care about their parks when they interact with us at all levels. Collectively, all of these initiatives will strengthen our efforts to protect and preserve Leon Valley’s parks which include cultural, historic and natural resources. Our sense of commitment and service will be evident and contagious. We will inspire visitors to help us protect these special places and their resources.



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As a result of the new initiatives, we will:

- Have a better understanding of our resources through strengthened data collection, allowing us to strategically focus our efforts and resources on compelling actions that advance our mission. We will use this enhanced information to improve our priority setting and communicate parks information to the public in a clear and simple way.
- Look beyond ourselves to better serve our visitors. We will engage the power of partnerships, philanthropy, and volunteerism on a larger scale and do so thoughtfully and strategically. Through such partnerships, we can broaden our impact for more resources and enhanced services.

Our many thanks go out to the Leon Valley Mayor and City Council, and to the citizens of Leon Valley, who have so graciously provided their insight and input on their vision of the future of the Leon Valley Park system.

-Parks Commission



Advisory Committee meeting #2

City Foreword

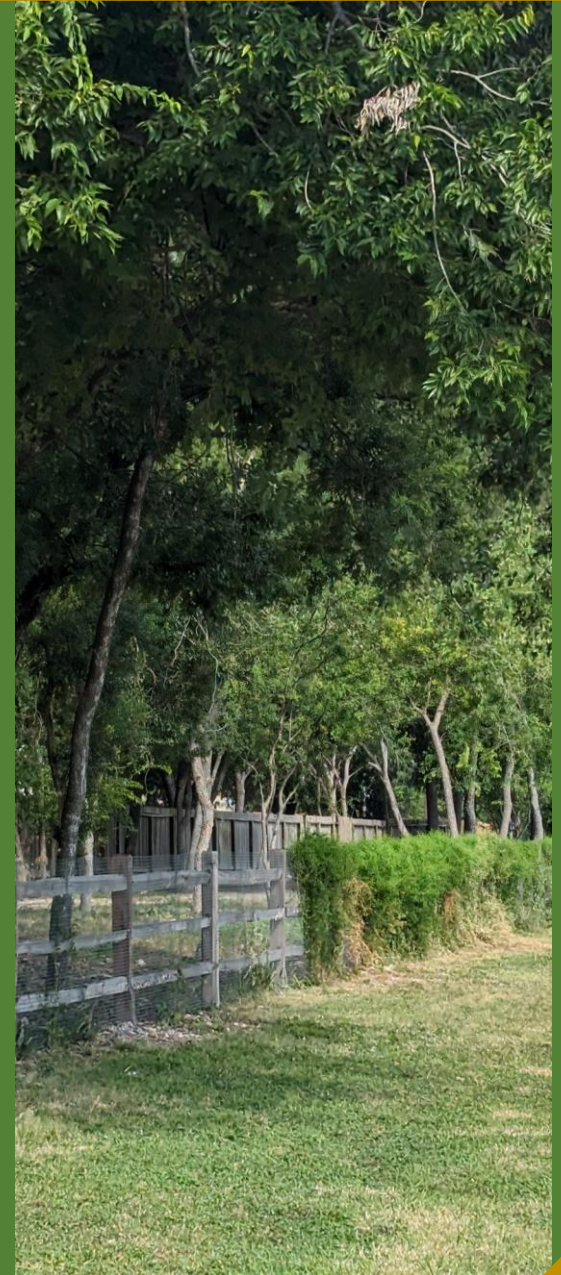
The goal of the 2024 Leon Valley Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Master Park Plan Update (“Plan”) is to provide a roadmap that incorporates the community’s park spaces and recreation resources for the next 10 years.

Ardurra, an engineering and urban planning consulting firm, assisted in developing the Plan for the city, providing statistics, compiling outcomes from publicly driven input, and making recommendations for better serving the city.

Throughout 2024, community input was received via surveys, public forums, and feedback from Leon Valley Park Commission members. The public provided information on their current usage, values, interests, and critiques of current facilities, as well as their recommendations, expectations, and visions for the future parks and recreation system. Current and projected demographics and details of the current system are included.

The Plan recommends that the city of Leon Valley strive to meet the national parks and recreation standards, guidelines, and best practices to develop adequate park spaces and recreation facilities to improve the quality of life for all.

- City of Leon Valley Public Works Director, Melinda Moritz



Acknowledgements

This Leon Valley Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Master Park Plan Update (2024 Master Park Plan Update) has been developed by the City of Leon Valley, with the assistance of the citizens, Advisory Committee and City staff. This is a result of invaluable input, expertise, and collaboration among many organizations and individuals. It would not have been possible without their assistance, guidance, and dedication.

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Philip Campos, Mayor Pro Tem

Benny Martinez, Place 1

Betty Heyl Place 2

Rey Orozco, Place 4

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Executive Summary

Community

Public parks, trails, and open spaces hold a special place in the hearts of the residents of Leon Valley. This is where the community gathers, plays, recreates and celebrates. The trails link the City to its surroundings, San Antonio, and the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System (regional network). The City of Leon Valley has a population dominated by young families and active older adults, both of which are avid users of park and recreation resources.

Process

The 2024 Master Park Plan Update sought to understand the recreational needs and priorities through an extensive community engagement process.

To accomplish this a toolkit of numerous strategies was used, which included:

1. Community Input
 1. Advisory Committee
 2. Stakeholder meetings
 3. Online questionnaire
 4. Public meetings
2. Qualitative and Quantitative Techniques
 1. Facility evaluations
 2. Demographics analysis
 3. Operations and maintenance analysis
 4. Needs assessment online questionnaire
 5. Community benchmarking

Most Leon Valley residents have access to an open green space, trail, park, or recreational facility that is located **within half a mile** of where they live



Park Commission/Advisory Committee Meeting #1

Executive Summary

Guiding Vision

The City’s recreational needs and priorities can be best met through its parks, trails, facilities, programs, events, and management practices. The priorities of the community were encapsulated in the vision statement (shown on the right).

The city-wide recommendations were organized into the following key themes:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Family Oriented & Inclusive | Recreation & Amenities |
| Reinvestment & Maintenance | Comfort & Safety |
| Access & Connectivity | Nature & Environment |
| Sustainable & Resilient | |

In addition to the city-wide recommendations, the plan identified specific improvements for each of the following facilities:

- Eight (8) parks

Old Mill Park

Shadow Mist Park

Huebner Onion Natural Area

Raymond Rimkus Park

- Two (2) pools

Leon Valley Community Pool

- Four (4) walking trails

Hetherington Trail

Trail Stirrup Walking Trail Zone

The Ridge at Leon Valley

Leon Valley/El Verde Park

Triangle Park

Steurenthaler-Silo Park

Forest Oaks Community Pool

Huebner Creek Greenway (Hike/Bike)

Pavona-Linkwood Walking Trail

Use Of The Parks And Recreation Master Plan

The 2024 Master Park Plan Update is a roadmap that will help shape the future for parks and recreation. It is anticipated that this plan will be used in conjunction with other documents including the Strategic Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and other governing documents to plan for current and future needs.

VISION

The City of Leon Valley’s Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces will provide safe, accessible, and well-connected parks and recreation facilities, as well as preserve the natural environment of open space for improved quality of life for all

Executive Summary

Implementation

Implementation of the recommendations require time, resources, and coordination and is influenced by many factors such as community priorities, resource allocation, and funding. Any plan must be capable of evolving with the economy, market conditions, available budget, and trends in the industry. The recommended actions listed in the Implementation: City Wide chapter of this plan were a snapshot in time and included an estimated time frame and high-level costs. These are subject to prioritization as needed.

Key Themes

The priorities and a summary of recommendations that emerged through the process are listed below:

Family Oriented & Inclusive

An inviting place with various activities, events, and venues for all ages

Recreational facilities and opportunities for all cohorts; increased activities, events, and celebrations; community plaza; new facilities such as disc golf, skate park, pickle ball, and splash pads

Recreation & Amenities

Facilities for more park users from different backgrounds to participate and utilize

Programs for all ethnic groups; aquatic related events; trail connectivity between parks, regional trails and neighborhoods; preservation and expansion of parks, trails, and open space; dog park; all-weather surface for trails; public art program

Reinvestment & Maintenance

Enhancement of existing trail, parks, and recreation facilities with high-quality resilient and sustainable maintenance

High maintenance standards for all facilities; adequate staffing levels; incorporation of best practices and industry standards



Regional Trail System – Location of Leon Valley and Leon Creek Greenway

Executive Summary

Comfort & Safety

New and improved amenities with ample shade, amenities, and increased safety for users

Guidelines on amenities and landscaping; heat mitigation measures; safety standards; consider an addition of a Park and Recreation Department with a safety Ranger

Access & Connectivity

Safe connections on roadways, trails, and sidewalks for all transportation modes to access recreational areas, with a good park signage system throughout the City

Unique directional signage; safe pedestrian and bike connections to neighborhoods; playground design catered to children and adults with disabilities; active promotion of all facilities and events

Nature & Environment

Maintenance of existing trees and creation of natural and scenic environments for passive or reactive activities

Preservation and augmentation of all natural areas; enhancement of ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity; native plant materials; promotion of eco-tourism

Sustainable & Resilient

Substantiable and Resilient solutions to decrease flooding and major drainage issues that impact usage of parks and amenities

Green infrastructure; integration of stormwater drainage systems and trail and open space; habitat enhancements within stormwater detention; efficient resource management; parkland acquisition plan; funding mechanisms; public private partnerships; periodic evaluation of facility usage



Opportunities to mitigate heat and enhance comfort



Opportunities for resource management



Opportunities to integrate stormwater drainage facilities and trails

Detailed city-wide and area-specific recommendations are addressed in the report.

Table of Contents



1. Introduction.....	7	7. Certification, Standards, & Policies.....	40
2. Community Collaboration.....	11	8. City Wide Vision.....	48
3. 2024 Update.....	15	9. City-Wide Recommendations.....	52
4. Current City.....	17	10. Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks	57
5. Community Input.....	26	11. Maintenance & Operations.....	105
6. Evaluation of Facilities.....	33	12. Implementation: City Wide.....	113
		13. Appendices.....	121

1

Introduction

Purpose
Scope
Planning Area
Process and Timeline
Schedule



Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this 2024 Master Park Plan Update is to reevaluate the 2020 Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Park Plan's (2020 Master Park Plan) goals and objectives in the context of current conditions to create a new vision for the next ten years.

Scope

The city's current 2020 Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Park Plan was adopted in 2020 to identify the existing current and future needs to serve the community's active and passive park needs. This 2024 Master Park Plan Update identifies improvements necessary over a ten-year period and serves as a guide to inform decision-makers on capital improvement projects, grant funding, and resource placement within Leon Valley parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities. The facilities include:

- Eight (8) parks
- Two (2) pools
- Four (4) walking trails

Planning for parks generally starts with a community need, request, or desire to improve amenities and/or infrastructure. The process can range from simple to complex, depending on the fiscal ability to alter a park and the type of changes being proposed. Each park is created uniquely and can provide a distinctive experience.



Advisory Committee meeting #2



Greenway Trail amenities



Silo Park

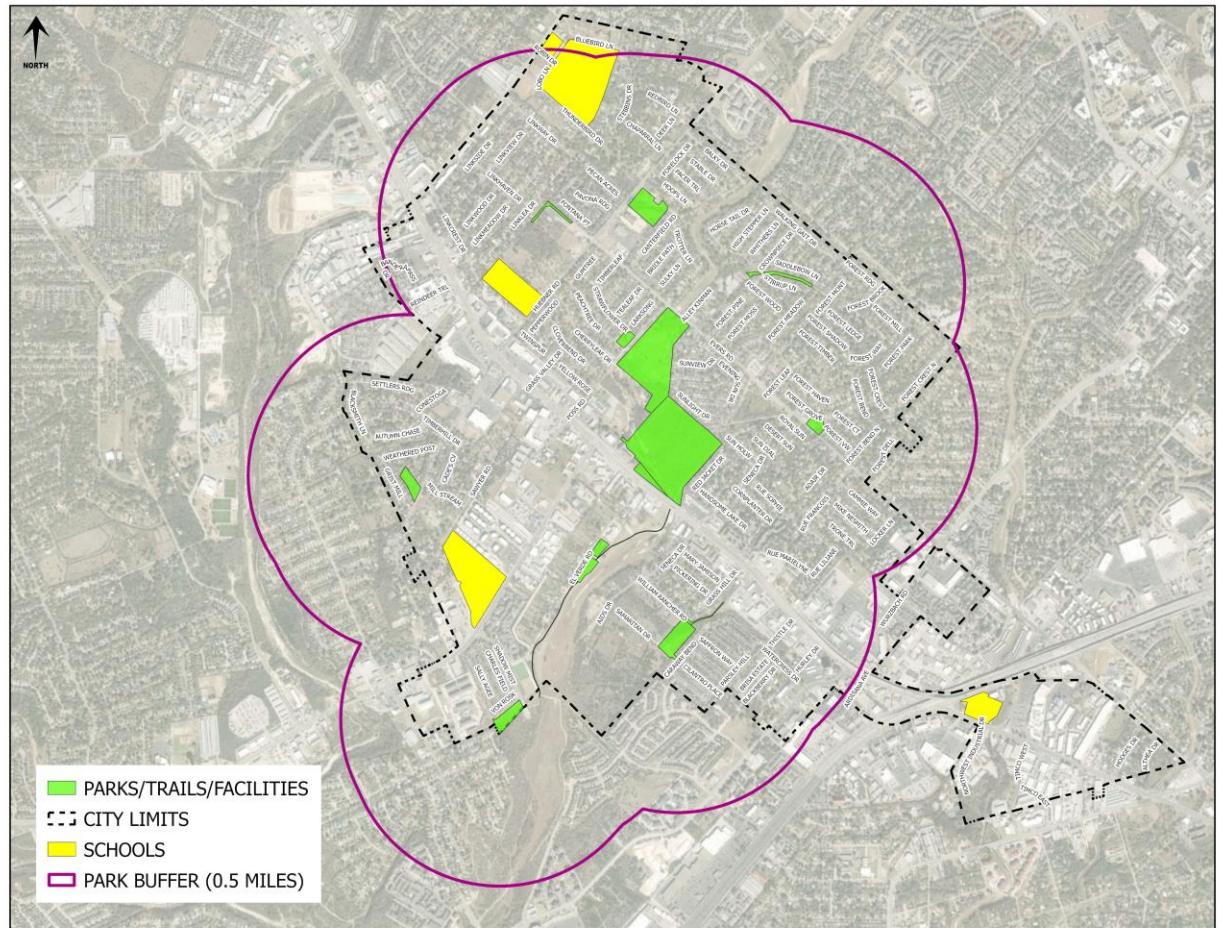
Introduction

Planning Area

The City of Leon Valley is approximately 3.5 square miles in area, surrounded by a larger municipality of San Antonio. The city is mostly built out with limited remaining vacant land for development.

The city has a suburban character with predominantly single-family homes, some multifamily apartments and commercial uses. **The city has an open space network, wherein almost every resident can have access within half a mile from a park, trail, or open space.**

This provides a unique opportunity to envision a park and open system that is easily accessible, preserves and enhances the cherished natural resources, and provides a green network that binds the community together.



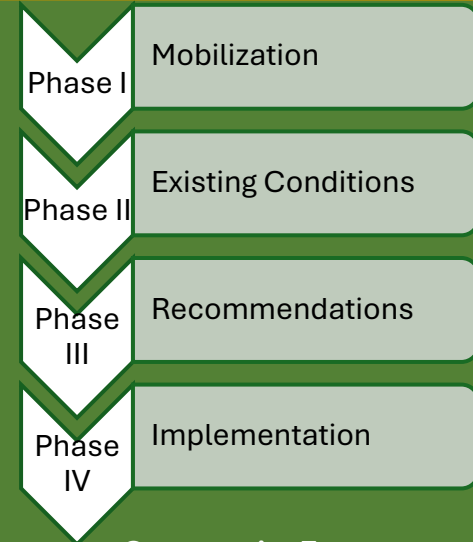
Leon Valley parks with half a mile buffer

Introduction

Process and Timeline

The process used to prepare the 2024 Master Park Plan Update commenced with a robust community engagement plan, identification of existing conditions, and assessment of existing facilities in the context of national park standards. These steps guided the articulation of a community vision and goals for parks and recreation facilities in Leon Valley. Maintenance and operations, recent improvements to parks, and programming of activities were also considered to formulate recommendations. The final step was to prioritize short- and long-term projects, create an implementation strategy and identify financing and/or funding opportunities. These steps were completed throughout a six (6) month process and were broken down into four (4) phases.

1. Phase I – What does the community want?
2. Phase II - Where are we today?
3. Phase III - Where do we want to go tomorrow?
4. Phase IV - How do we get there?



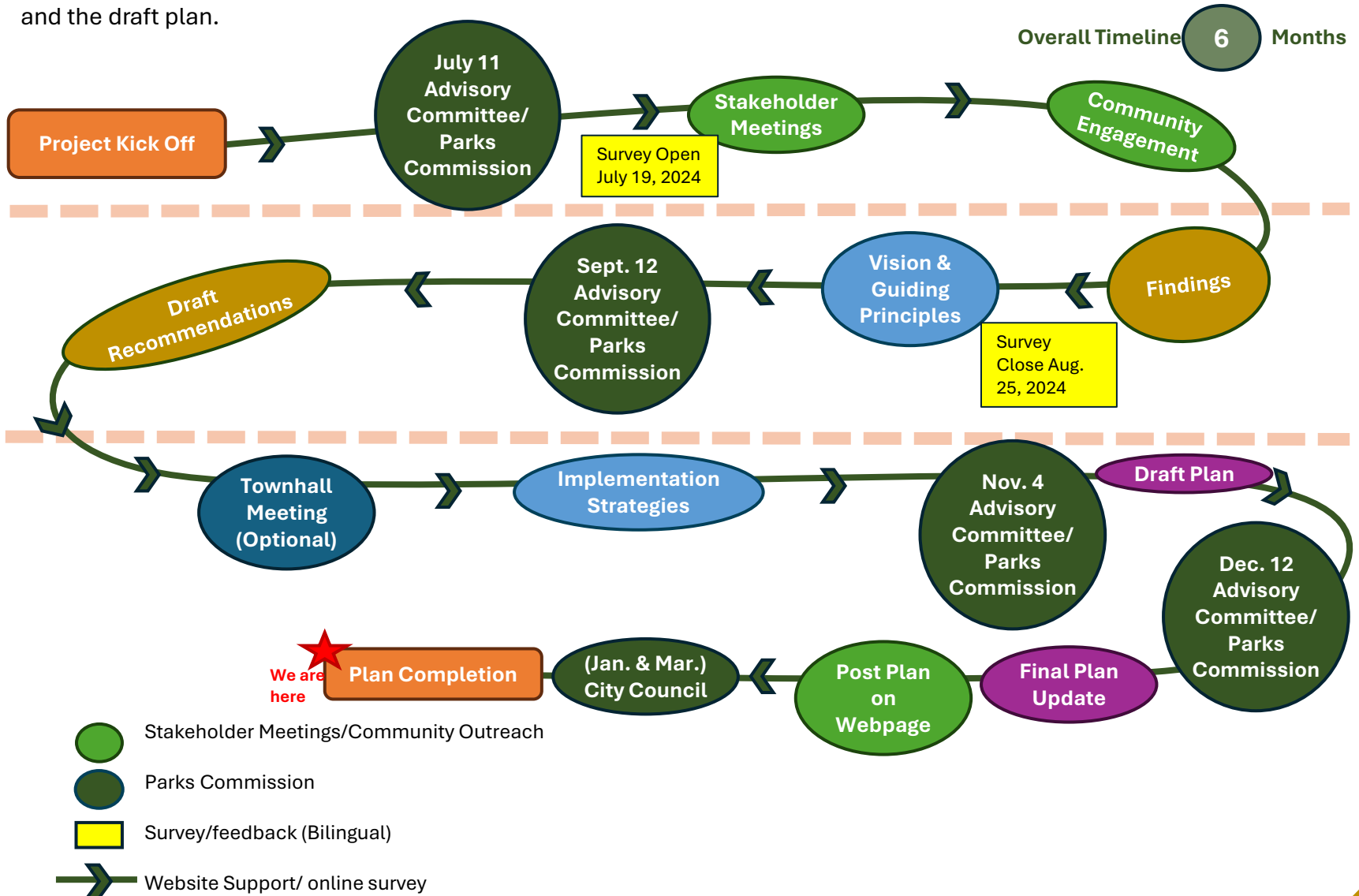
Community Engagement Strategies

- Outreach: Provide outlets and opportunities for the community to participate in the project
- Consultation: Obtain feedback, assess, and create solutions
- Involvement: Ensure an understanding of the community feedback and progress of the plan
- Collaboration: Meet with stakeholders, the advisory committee, and city board members
- Empower: Show the community the plan is created by them and keep them in the decision-making process

Introduction

Schedule

The 2024 Master Park Plan Update was a six (6) month process which included a robust public engagement process. The community provided feedback at numerous milestones of the plan to discuss findings, vision, implementation strategies, and the draft plan.

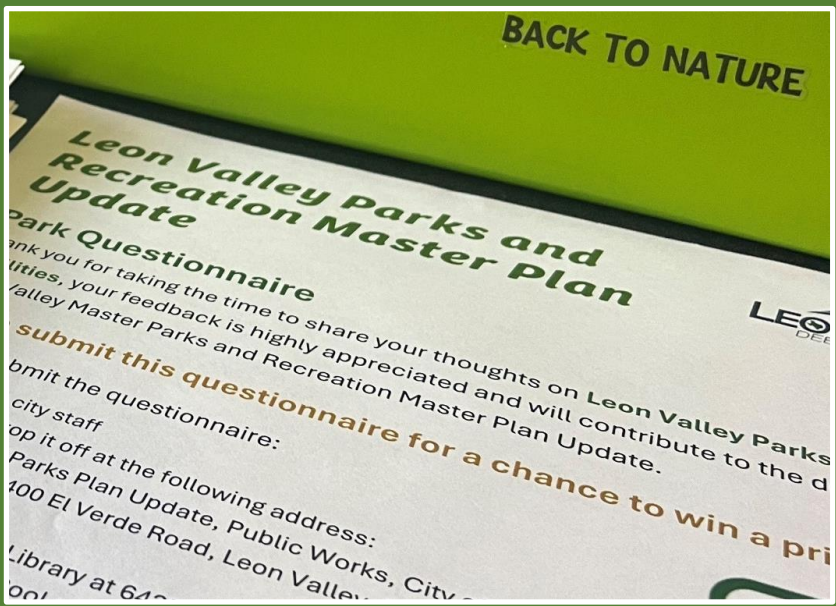


DRAFT

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Community Collaboration

Community Engagement
Key Takeaways

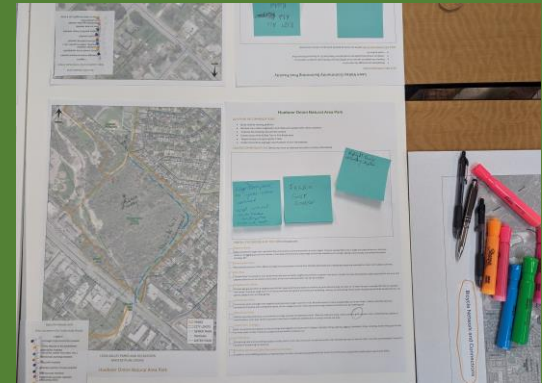


Community Collaboration

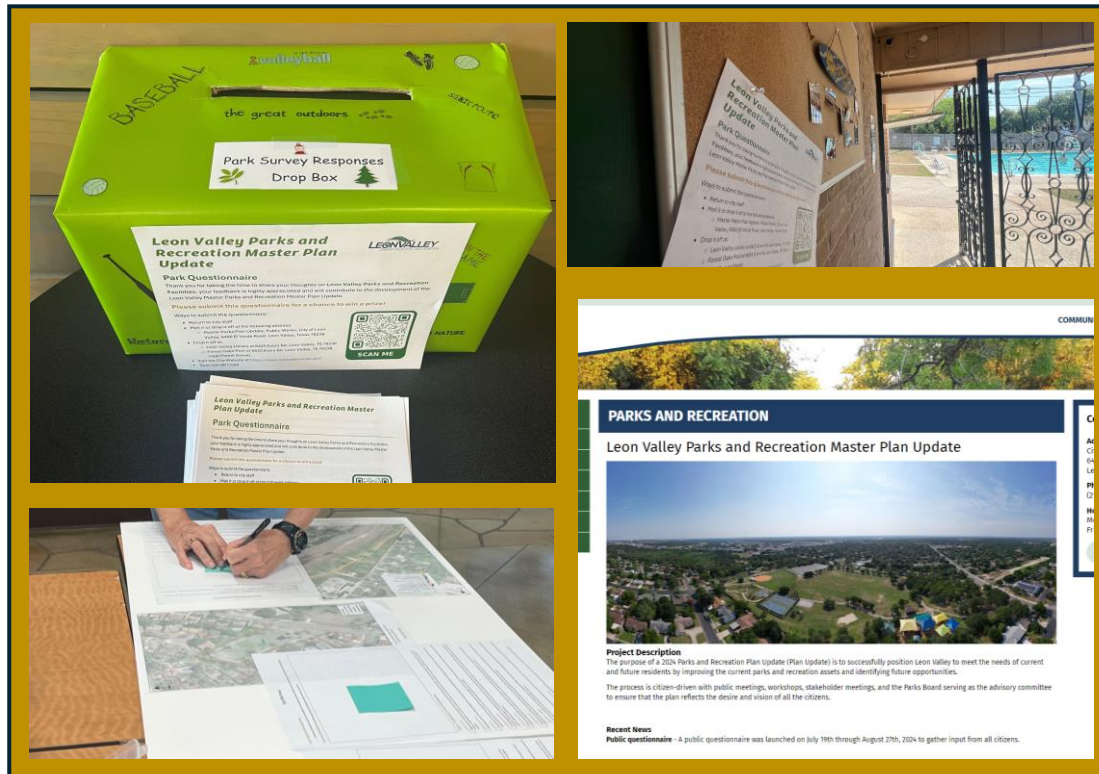
Community Engagement

It is vital to include people in the decisions that impact their lives. A robust and inclusive public outreach strategy was used to engage all City of Leon Valley residents and stakeholders. To ensure meaningful and inclusive participation a customized approach developed in partnership with City officials and staff. The strategy focused on establishing consensus early in the process. The community engagement program included the three **E's of public involvement: Engage, Educate, and Empower.**

The toolbox included both traditional and high-tech communication tactics, as well as multi-lingual communications as needed.



Advisory Committee meeting #2 exercise



Toolbox Strategies

- Face-to-face interactions: Regular meetings with the Park Commission that served as the Advisory Committee, and interviewed with stakeholders
- Printed materials: Distributed flyers at city hall, facilities, library
- Website: Set up a dedicated city web page with periodic updates, public meeting agendas and minutes, presentation materials, FAQs, and online forms for public feedback
- Digital methods: Social Media, smart phone apps, bilingual online questionnaire in Spanish

Community Collaboration

Key Takeaways

Summarized below are the key takeaways from the city-wide survey, questionnaire, stakeholders, and the Advisory Committee meetings. Detailed information is included in the appendices.

Advisory Committee Mtg. #1

Responses: 6

Duration: July 11th Meeting

- 50% have a dog and/or a child
- 66% walk less than one (1) mile to the park/s at least once a week
- Trails, climbing wall, dog park, pickleball, and playground are the most desired amenities

City-Wide Questionnaire

Responses: 71

Duration: July 19, 2024, - August 25, 2024

- Each household had at least one dog
- 50% had a child and/or someone to care for
- The parks don't have what they want or need
- 50% live within three (3) miles of a park or trail and travel by car or walk
- Trails, splash pad, green open space, pickleball, and dog park are the most desired amenities



Questionnaire drop box placed in the City Library

City-Wide Survey

Responses: 37

Duration: May 2024 – June 30th, 2024 (Conducted by the city)

- ADA accessibility is satisfactory
- Safety, welcoming, and inclusivity are satisfactory
- Raymond Rimkus Park, Hike and Bike Trail, Huebner Onion, Forest Oaks Pool, and the Community Garden are the most used
- Trails, playgrounds, and natural areas are most liked; fitness equipment are least liked
- Splash pad, dog park, and pickle ball courts are the most desirable

Stakeholder Meetings

Meetings: 2

- Continue good maintenance of an existing great park system
- Raymond Rimkus can be a regional park
- Continue the park land dedication in ordinances
- Add a dog park, splash pad, pickleball, skate park, art, events, and improve water infrastructure
- Improve lighting, drainage; add accessible water facilities
- Family-friendly and pocket parks create a higher quality of living
- Connect parks with each other and provide access by buses
- Preserve nature
- Safe and comfortable parks
- Community policing and regulate shared usage of park amenities

Community Collaboration

Key Takeaways - Continued

Advisory Committee Mtg. #2

Responses: 5

Duration: September 12th Meeting

- Formulated overall city vision to
“Provide exceptional safe, accessible, and well-connected parks and recreation facilities, and preserve and enhance the natural environment for improved quality of life for all.”
- Classified individual parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities and created a vision for each
- Identified recommendations for individual parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities

Advisory Committee Mtg. #3

Responses: 5

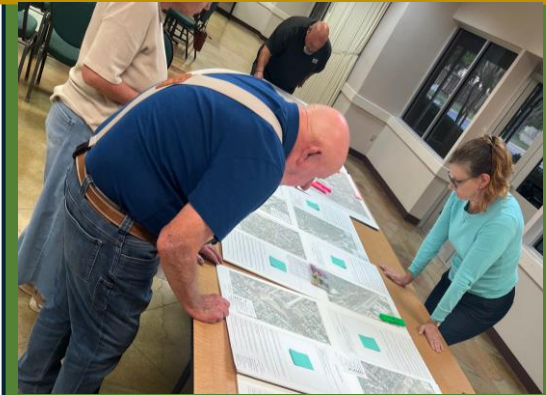
Duration: November 14th Meeting

- Recommended:
 - Additional landscape requirement along walking paths (Old Mill Park)
 - Minor text revisions
 - Keeping dark night sky provisions in all parks and open space
- Overall, a great report

City Council Mtg.

Duration: January 21st Meeting

- Draft Plan presented to City Council to be reviewed
- Available for the public to view



Advisory Committee meeting #2



Advisory Committee meeting #2 mobility exercise



Advisory Committee meeting #2 vision exercise

3

2024 Update

Changes Since 2020
Moving Forward



2024 Update

Changes Since 2020

The goal of the current 2020 Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Park Plan (2020 Master Park Plan) was to serve as a guide for future improvements and development for parks and recreation. The 2020 Master Park Plan also stated that there is value in periodically updating the plan every few years to evolve with the changes in Leon Valley's parks, recreation, and open space areas.

The changes to the facilities that have occurred since the 2020 Master Park Plan include:

- Closure of The Leon Valley Community Pool
- New green space enhancement, addition, and extension of a trail at Senna 1 & 2 Subdivision
- New trail between Trilogy at Huebner Creek Subdivision and Huebner Onion Natural Area walking trail
- New trail and park connection from the Ridge Park to Seneca Trails Subdivision

Moving Forward

The 2024 Master Park Plan Update focuses on furthering the objectives of the 2020 Master Park Plan to maintain high-quality amenities, programs, and open green spaces for the community to enjoy. The 2024 Master Park Plan Update addresses the changes in the community and incorporates the desires of the community to provide a roadmap that will guide future decisions, investments, and implementation.

Key factors that guided the 2024 Master Park Plan Update were:

- Community vision
- Community and stakeholder input
- Existing conditions
- Recommendations of the 2020 Master Park Plan
- Changes since 2020 in city and the surroundings



Leon Valley Pool in 2017



Leon Valley Pool in 2024



The Ridge Park

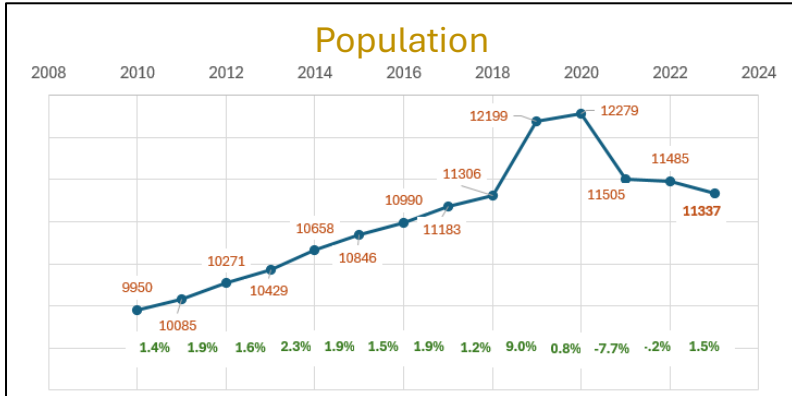
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Current City

- Demographic Profile
- Land Use & Development
- Vacant Parcels
- Access & Connectivity
- Resiliency & Hazard Mitigation
- Economic, Housing & Market Conditions



Demographic Profile



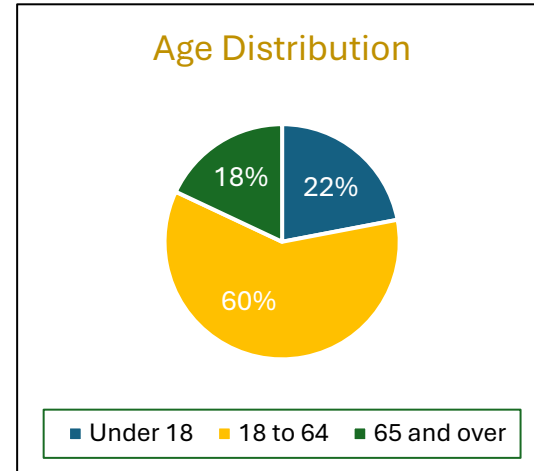
U.S. Census population trend of Leon Valley

The current population, as estimated by the City, is approximately 11,554.

It's estimated that the city will have a 1.25% annual growth. Based on the City's estimate, development of remaining vacant land, and current trends, the 2035 Leon Valley population will be approximately **13,300**. Within the City, the development density of the vacant land will influence the built-out population.

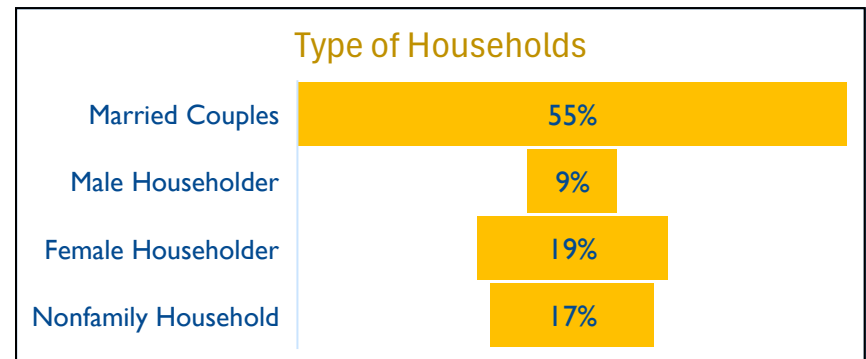
Planned residential development includes:

- Seneca West residential development with 371 units that could add 1200 additional people
- Senna 1 & 2 with a total of 133 units that could be about 425 additional people
- Trilogy at Huebner Creek with 64 units



Community response results

Leon Valley is a family-oriented community. Majority of the residents of Leon Valley are between the ages 18-64 and majority of the households consist of married couples, as per the U.S. Census.



Community response results

Land Use and Development

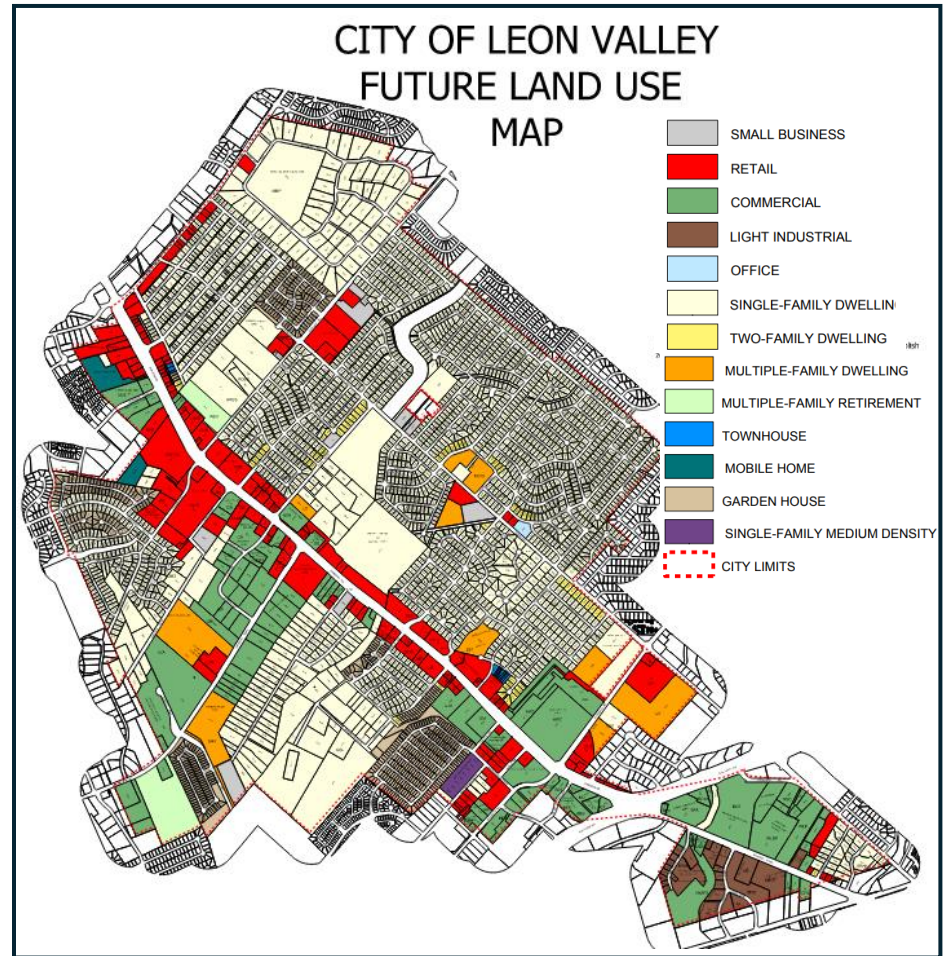
Complimentary land uses adjacent to parks can enhance the use of parks, be beneficial to the community and boost the economy. Residential uses around the park assist in ensuring a steady stream of park users, while compatible uses such as bike shops, ice cream shops, and alike provide services to the park user.

Existing Uses

Majority of the land use is single-family residential. Some multi-family uses are interspersed throughout the city. Retail or commercial uses are located along the main corridors (Bandera Rd. and Grissom Rd.). Parks constitute about 3.8% of the city.

The city adopted a Comprehensive Master Plan in 2018. One of the recommendations of the plan was to:

- Preserve existing natural areas in Leon Valley; maintain utility provisions, such as natural gas; develop water and sewer extensions; and sustain community amenities, such as pools, trails, and parkland.



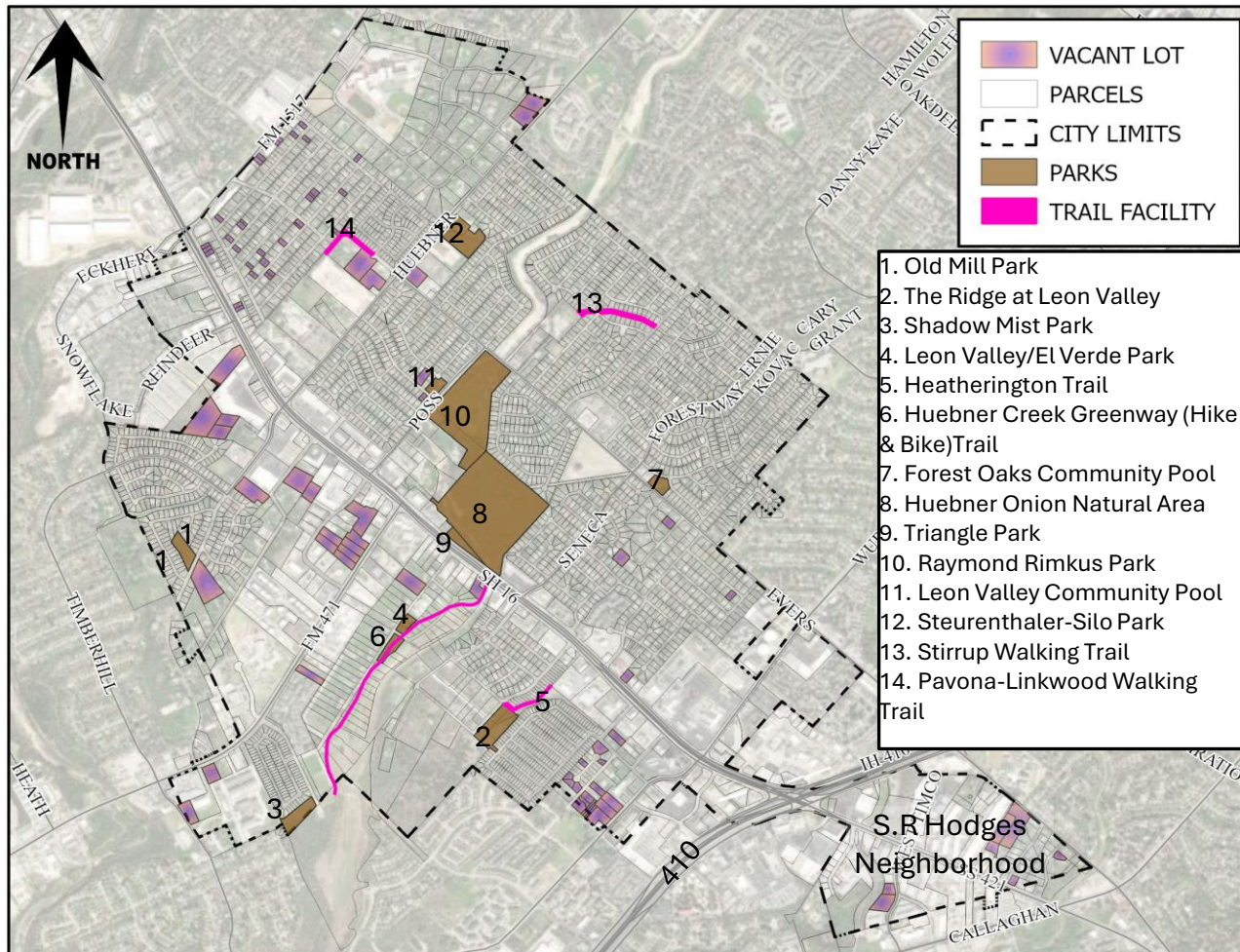
Source: Leon Valley 2018 Comprehensive Plan

Development Currently Underway or Proposed:

Proposed Location	Proposed Development Projects
South of Grissom Rd. and abutting the city boundary	Senna Subdivision Phase 1 and Phase 2 (133 lots) Trilogy at Huebner Creek (64 lots) Seneca Trails (371 lots)

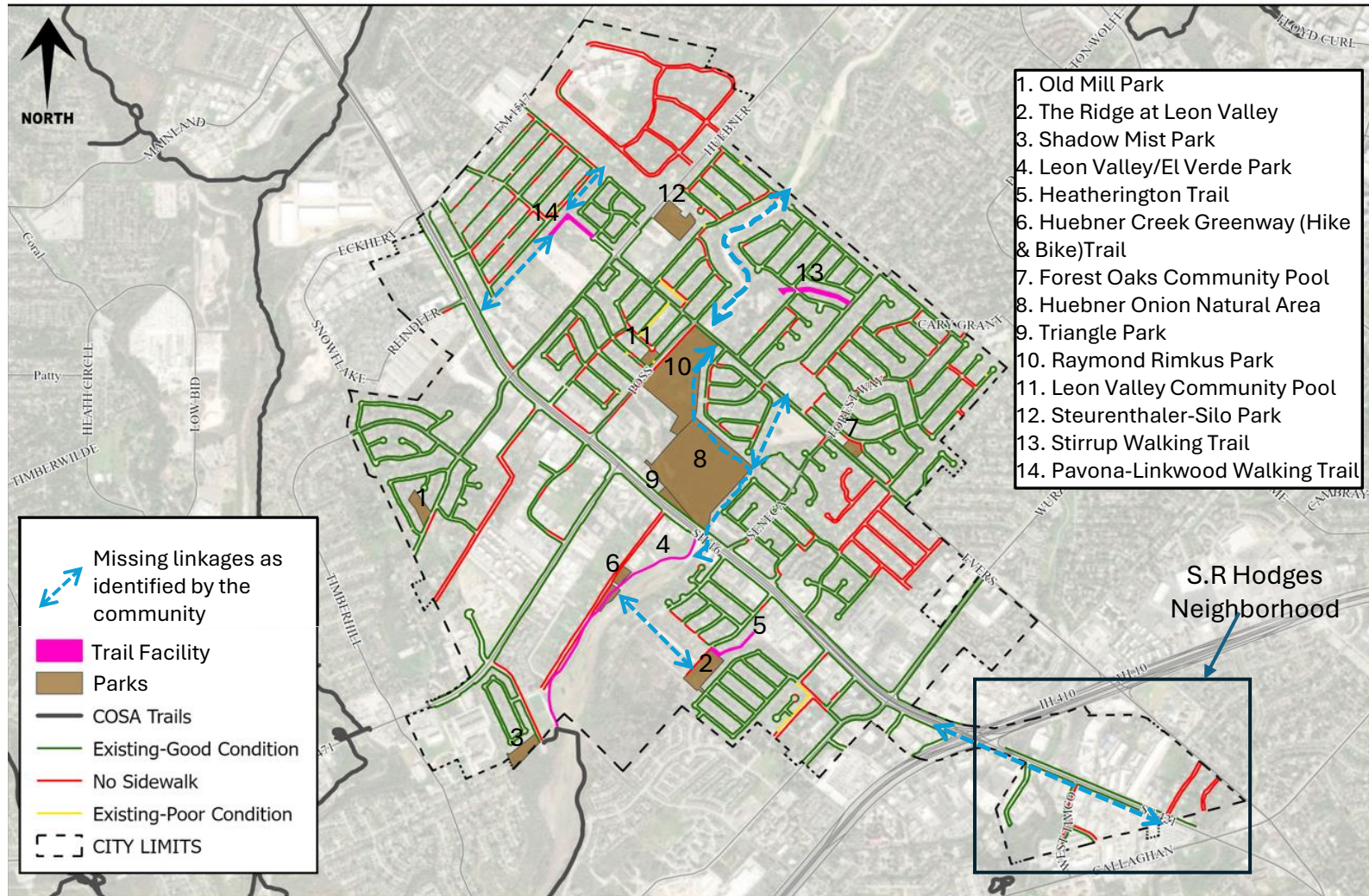
Vacant Parcels

Approximately 60 acres or 2.75% of the City (out of 2,180 acres in Leon Valley) is vacant. Majority of vacant lots were zoned retail (B-2), commercial (B-3), and single-family (R-1), as per the city's 2018 zoning map. Where vacant land exists near a park or trail, it is advantageous to develop a complimentary land use or expand the green space. In Leon Valley, except for The Ridge at Leon Valley, most of the land around the parks and trails is developed. The area of S.R. Hodges Neighborhood (south of 410) has vacant parcels that have the potential to be developed as open space to serve that area that is currently lacking in parks and trails.



Access and Connectivity

A community with high pedestrian and bike connectivity to a well thought out park system generally results in a higher-quality of life, enhanced home values, and increased economical opportunities. With parks and trails located within half a mile radius, there is an opportunity to enhance connectivity and access to all parks and trails, and to the regional network. Identifying gaps and poor sidewalk conditions are high priorities for future improvements.



Map showing existing and missing sidewalks and their conditions

Resiliency and Hazard Mitigation - Drainage

Building and protecting parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities entail foreseeing any natural hazards and ensuring that these areas are protected and resilient. Heat and drainage issues are the primary concerns that need to be addressed.

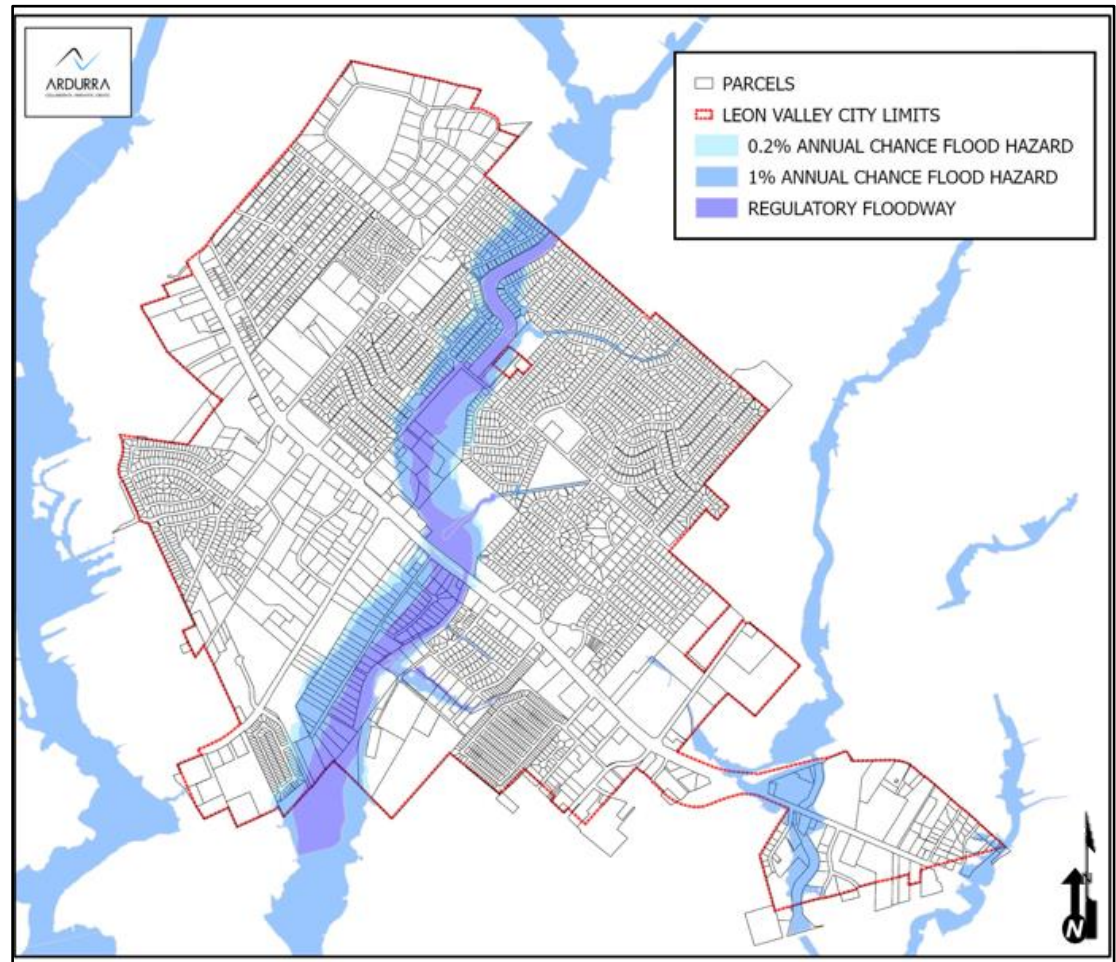
2020 Master Park Plan

The drainage improvements identified in the 2020 Master Park Plan were to:

- Protect natural watersheds and be aware of wildlife habitat, original landscapes, wetlands, natural drainage areas, and forestry in need of conservation.
- Adhere to Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP's) and increase public education on stormwater.
- Partner with agencies to monitor water quality and reverse scouring or erosion.

2024 Opportunities:

- Complete assessments on each park and it's surrounding neighborhoods to determine the size of detention needed, then use multi-use park facilities to address detention deficiencies through a combination of underground and surface detention designs.
- Improve drainage in Raymond Rimkus



100-year flood plain and high-risk flood areas in Leon Valley and the region

Resiliency and Hazard Mitigation - Heat

Urban heat is another threat facing communities across the region, which will be exacerbated by the twin impacts of climate change and increased urban development. High growth communities are at higher risk of extreme heat due to higher levels of development and reducing green space.

Causes of Urban Heat Island

Urban heat island can be attributed to a variety of factors, such as:

1. Heat Absorbing (Low Albedo) Materials
2. Paved and Impermeable Surfaces
3. Thermal Mass (Heat Storage in Buildings)
4. Dark Surfaces (Heat Absorption)
5. Lack of Vegetation
6. Climate Change
7. Increased Use of Air Conditioner
8. Urban Canopy
9. Wind Blocking
10. Air Pollutants
11. Human Gathering (Emission of CO₂)

Effects of Urban Heat Island

Some of the ways that it affects residents, and the city are.

1. Increased Energy Consumption
2. Elevated Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Pollution
3. Poses Danger to Aquatic Systems
4. Discomfort and Danger to Human Health
5. Secondary Impacts on Weather and Climate
6. Impacts on Animal



Example of a green parking lot

Solutions to Urban Heat Island

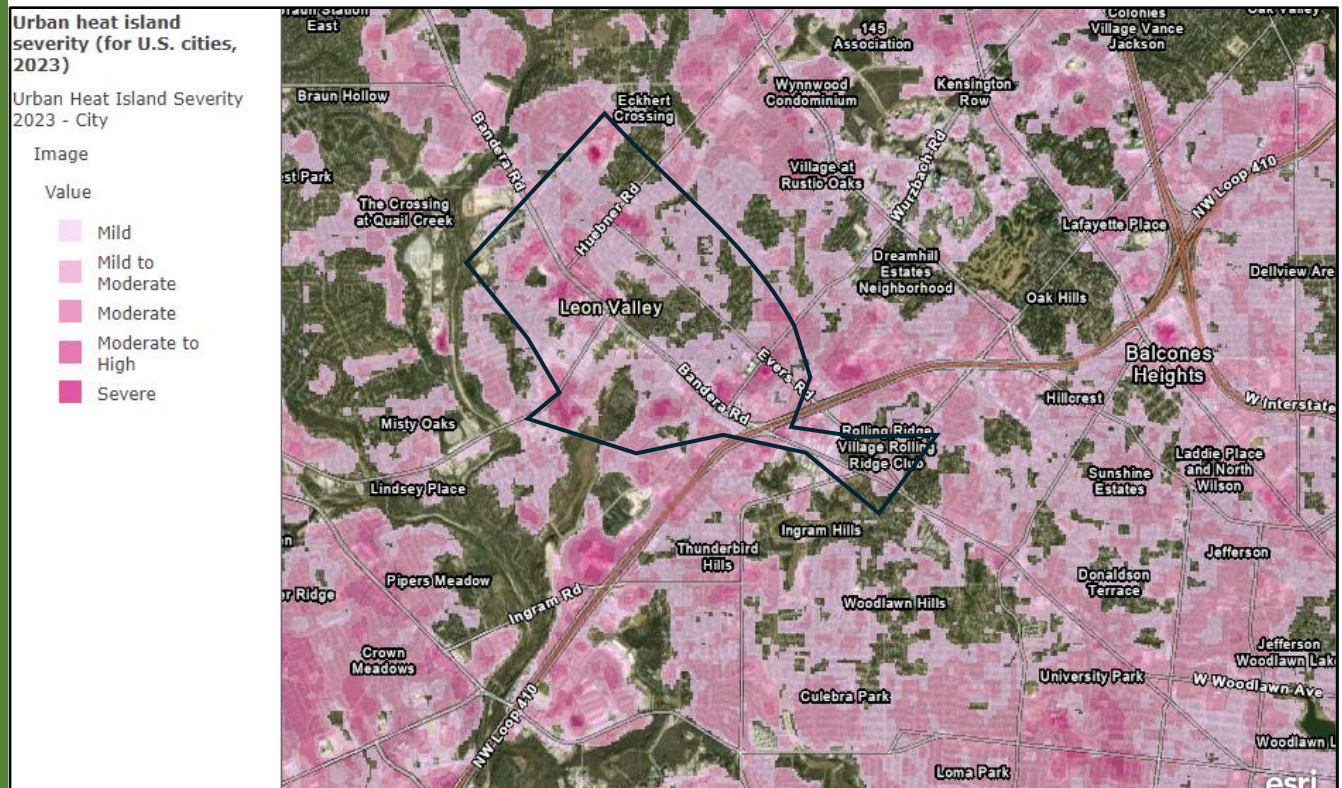
1. Use of Light-colored Concrete and White Roofs
2. Green Roofs and Vegetation Cover
3. Planting Trees in Cities
4. Shade Structures
5. Water Features
6. Green Parking Lots
7. Implementation and Sensitization of Heat Reduction Policies and Rules

Resiliency and Hazard Mitigation – Heat - Continued

The map below shows temperatures that residents must endure in their daily life. Darker colors indicate higher heat. As indicated in the map there are areas in the City that experience moderate to severe temperatures. The usage of parks, trails, and other outdoor recreational facilities in the city, as indicated by the community input, is negatively affected by lack of trees and shade.

Federal statistics over a 30-year period show extreme heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the United States. Extreme heat exacerbated by urban heat islands can lead to increased respiratory difficulties, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. These heat impacts significantly affect the most vulnerable—children, the elderly, and those with preexisting conditions.

Source; Urban Heat Island Severity for U.S. cities - 2019 | HEAT.gov - National Integrated Heat Health Information System



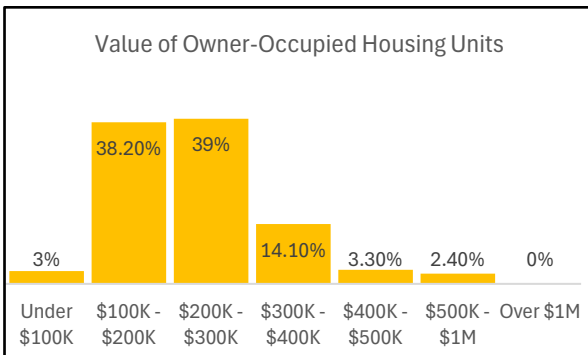
Economic, Housing, Income, and Market Conditions

City demographics provide information on the likely users of parks, trails, and open spaces. By analyzing demographic information, such as age, income, and ethnicity, the City can identify disparities in park access and usage among different populations. This data-driven insight helps in developing targeted initiatives and programs that cater to specific communities and their needs.

	Leon Valley	Nation	Difference of Leon Valley
Median Household Income *	\$58,784	\$74,580	-\$15,796
Persons in Poverty	11.3%	11.5%	-.2%

**(2018-2022, in 2022 dollars)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

The median household income in Leon Vally is almost \$15,000 less than that of the nation, and the City has lesser number of people living in poverty. Almost 80% of the homes are under 300K, with the median value being \$215,800.



NRPA found that living next to a park can boost home values by 8% to 20%, depending on park size and amenities. NRPA found that all income levels are in favor of using government fundings for their local park and recreational agency.

Parks provide intrinsic environmental, aesthetic, and recreation benefits to our cities. They are also a source of positive economic benefits.

- #1. Real property values are positively affected.
- #2. Municipal revenues are increased.
- #3. Affluent retirees are attracted and retained.
- #4. Knowledgeable workers and talent are attracted to live and work.
- #5. Homebuyers are attracted to purchase homes

*Source: American Planning Association:
How Cities Use Parks for Economic Development
City Parks Forum Briefing Papers 3
By Megan Lewis, AICP*

5

Community Input

- Park & Recreation Usage
- Park Programs & Facilities
- Mobility & Transportation
- Pedestrian & Bike Connectivity
- Evaluation of Facilities

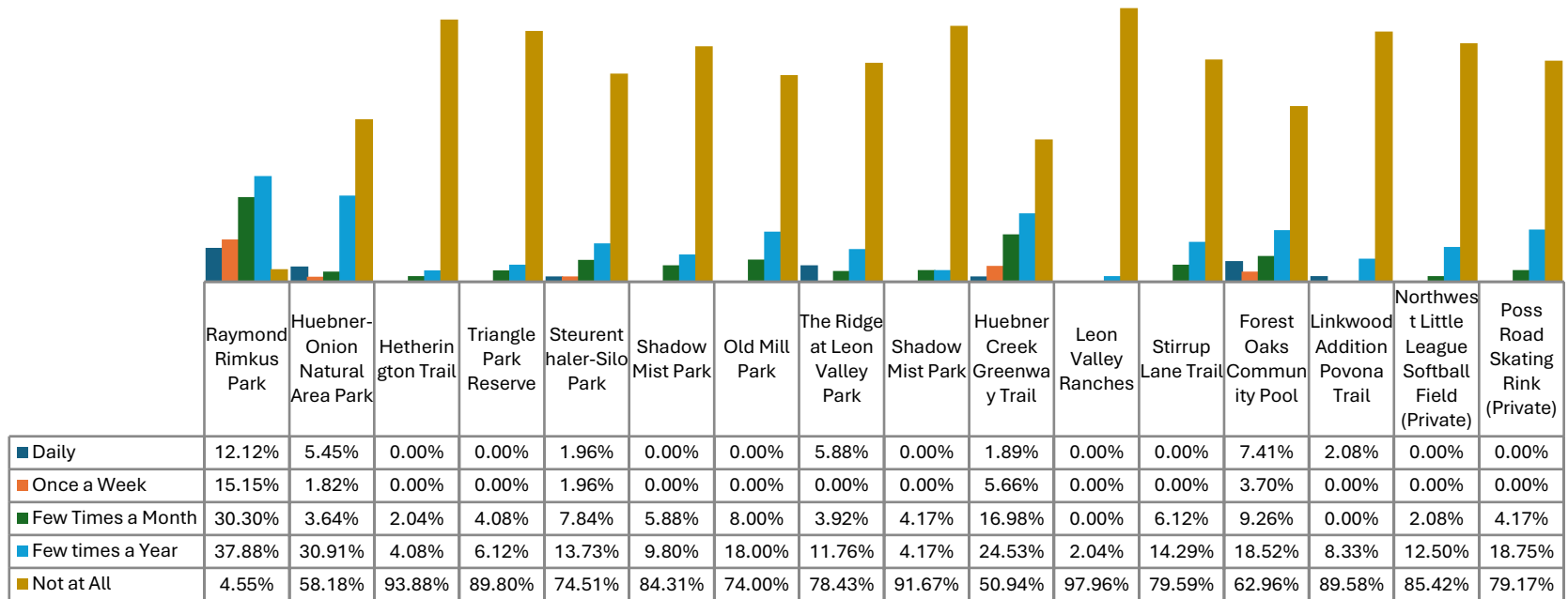


Park and Recreation Usage

Raymond Rimkus Park, Huebner-Onion Park, and Forest Oaks Pool are the most known and daily used parks and facilities.

Other than Raymond Rimkus Park, the parks used once a week were, Huebner Creek Greenway, Forest Oaks Community Pool, and Steruenthaler Silo Park.

Parks and Recreation Facility Usage



■ Daily ■ Once a Week ■ Few Times a Month ■ Few times a Year ■ Not at All

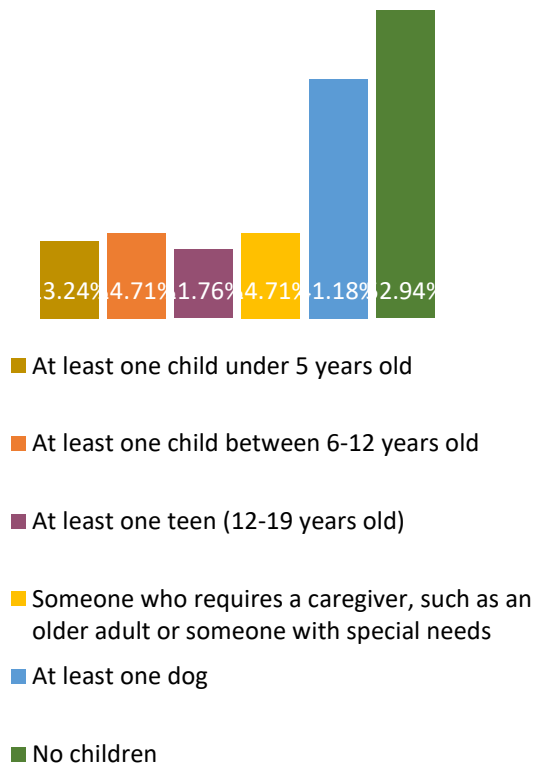
Community Input

Park Programs and Facilities

Majority of households had at least one child and/or a dog and no children.

Programs are specific activities that encourages the community to visit the park, such as, a community center class, exercise groups, and age specific activities (seniors, children, and teenagers). Facilities are accessory to a park or program such as restrooms, water amenity, or a physical structure such as a playground. Understanding what prevents someone from using a park helps to prioritize park programs and facilities.

Type of Households



What Prevents the Community From Using the Park



Recommendations

- Amenities for seniors
- Facilities for dogs
- Facilities for children
- Facilities for special needs (ADA)
- Add facilities that are needed/desired
- New events
- Advertise/spread word about existing events
- Access by bike/walk
- Increase safety designs – walkability, lighting where appropriate, landscaping



Dog friendly amenities



Recreational opportunities for adults

Park Programs and Facilities – Continued

Trails were the most desired.

Green multi-use open space, a splash pad, and a pool were the next three desired features throughout the parks. A skatepark and a climbing wall were least desired.

Other recommended amenities included park facilities, recreational features, and programs:



Splash pad and amenities for children

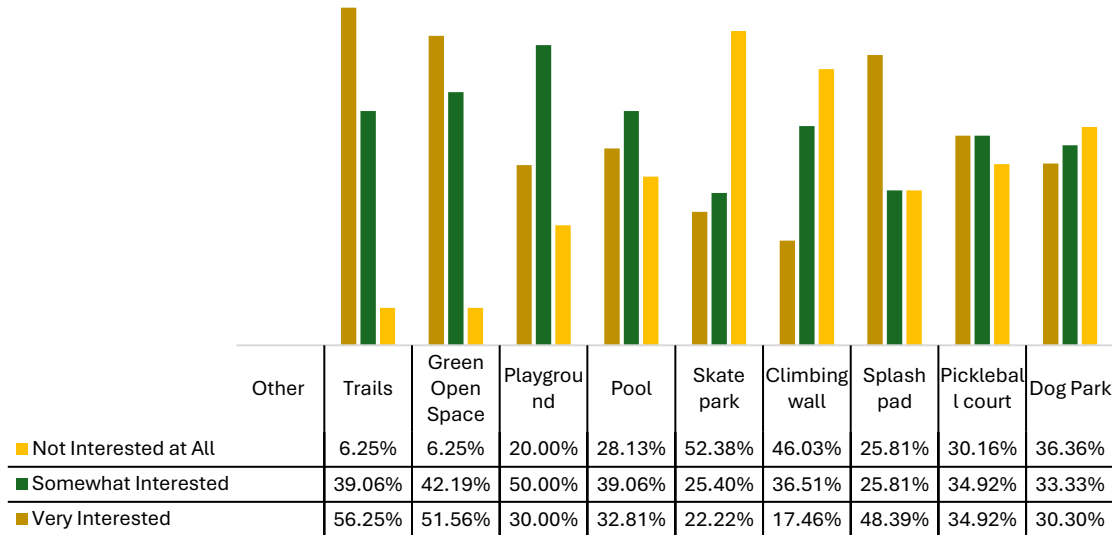


Trails – the most desired amenity in Leon Valley



Open green space

■ Not Interested at All
 ■ Somewhat Interested
 ■ Very Interested



Community Input

Park Programs and Facilities - Continued

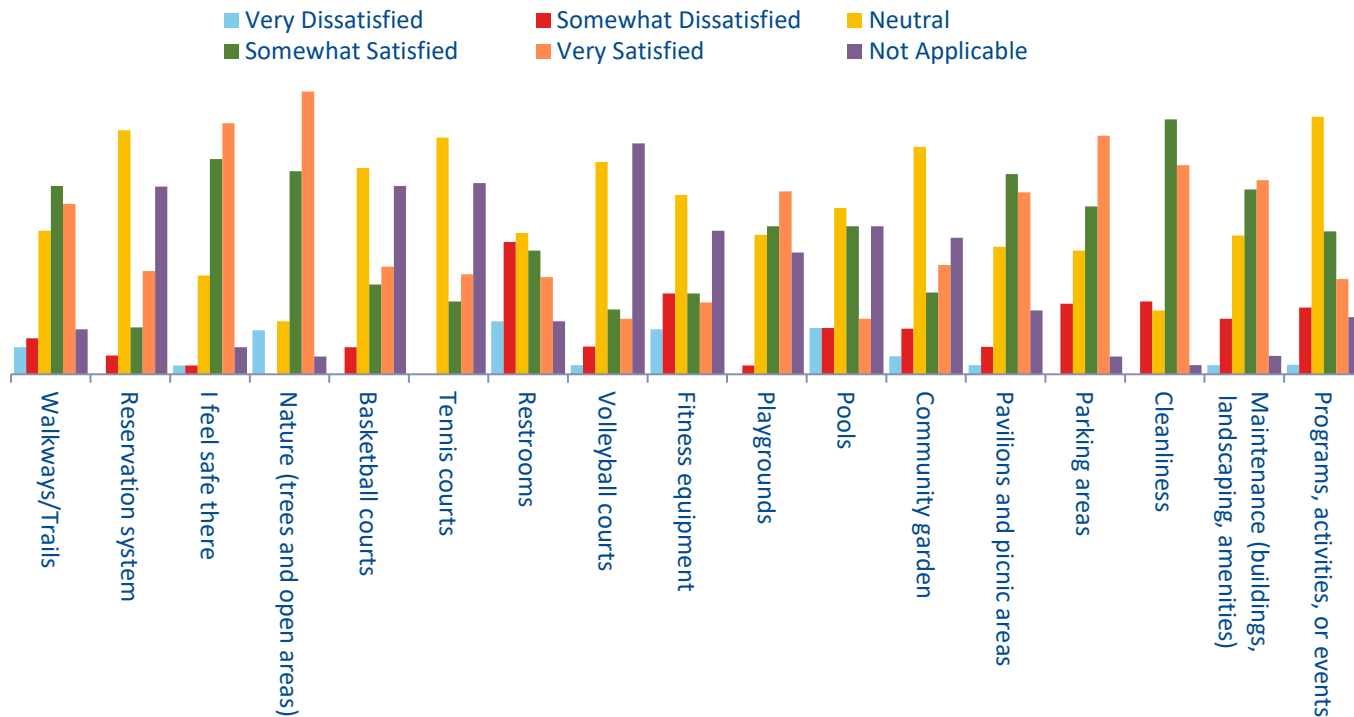
The majority felt the most satisfied with the city's nature, safety, and parking areas.

There can be improvements to the somewhat dissatisfied amenities such as restrooms, cleanliness, fitness equipment, and programs/activities/events.



Leon Valley pool (left), basketball court & empty lot parking lot

City wide - how do you feel about the following?

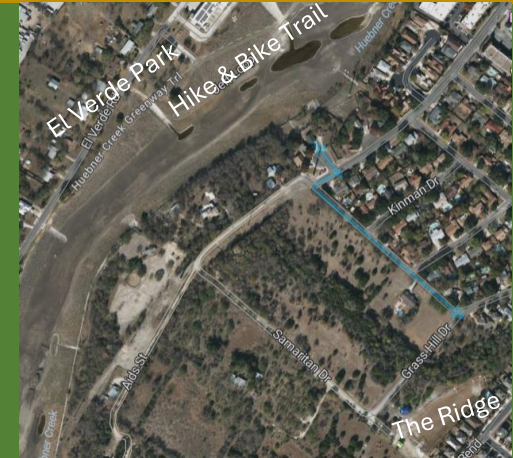
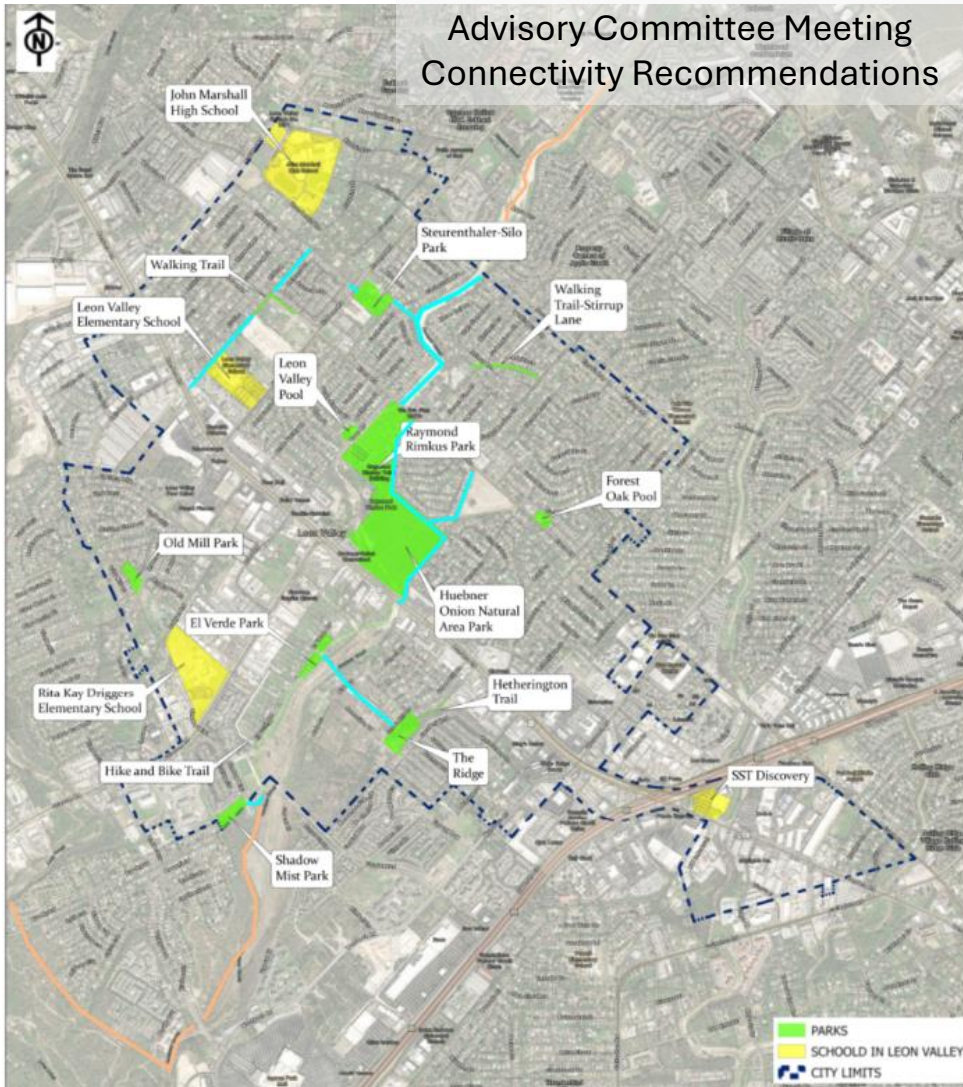


Community Input

Pedestrian & Bike Connectivity

Parks, trails, and open spaces add value to neighborhoods and the community.

Ease of access to and from each of these areas encourages additional usage, provides safe routes from point A to point B, and promotes healthier lifestyles.



Possible trail (blue) from The Ridge to park network

Identified desired connections

1. Walking Trail/Pavona-LinkWood to the residences through the alley way to connect with new Senna Subdivision, Leon Valley Elementary School, and to Bandera Road
 2. Pedestrian cross over Huebner Road needed at Pavona Ridge Rd. to Steurethaler-Silo Park
 3. Raymond Rimkus Park to the north up to San Antonio trails and south through Huebner Onion Park
 4. The Ridge Park and El Verde Park
 5. Shadow Mist Park and Greenway/Walk & Bike Trail
- *(blue are missing links and orange is existing or to be constructed)

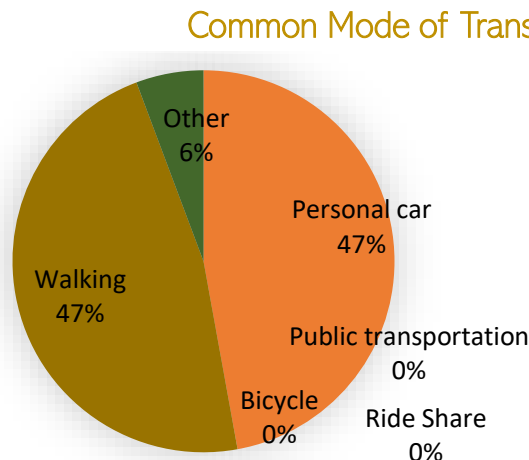
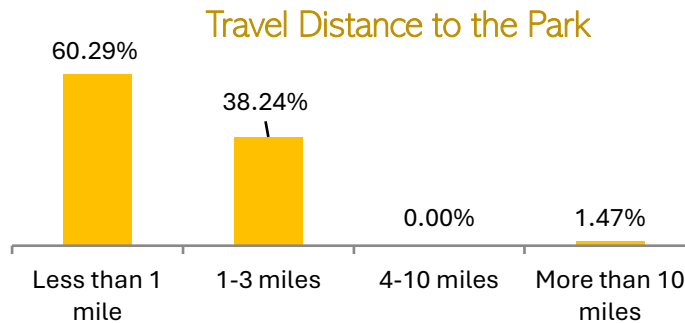
Community Input

Mobility and Transportation

The mode of transportation to and from the parks helps to prioritize connectivity to the parks via walking, driving, or rolling on a wheelchair. Connection projects can be sidewalks, railing, trails, roadway improvements, and bike lanes.

More than half of the users of parks and facilities walk or drive and lived less than one (1) mile away.

Majority of the park (98.5%) users lived within three (3) miles of a park or facility . None of the respondents used public transportation, bicycle, or ride share to access the parks.



Other responses of modes of transportation:

- Personal car, bicycle or walking
- Car and walking
- Walk or car
- Don't go



ADA curbs for all to access



Pedestrian access to The Ridge



Add park signage

6

Evaluation of Facilities

- Standards
- Current Facilities
- Current Amenities
- NRPA & Current System - Assessment
- Proposed Projects



Evaluation of Facilities

Standards

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provides guidelines and data for cities and park and recreation professionals to identify the best practices to optimally serve their communities.

NRPA Park Metrics is the most comprehensive source of benchmarks and insights for park and recreation agencies and includes passive and reactive recreational sports.

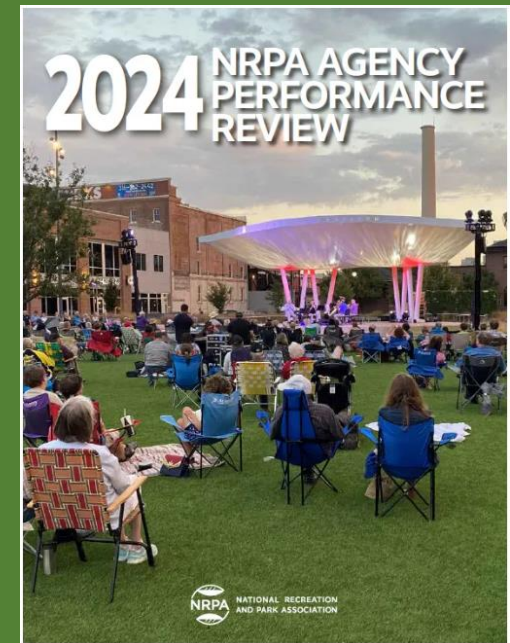
While the NRPA provides definitions, recommended standards, and guidelines, it also acknowledges that each community is unique in terms of geographical, cultural and socioeconomic make-up.

The comparison table beginning on page 34 evaluates the current facilities based on NRPA guidelines and identifies the deficiencies. This can serve as a guide for the city to plan for the future needs of the community



NATIONAL RECREATION
AND PARK ASSOCIATION

www.nrpa.com



Evaluation of Facilities

Current Facilities

Facilities	Hetherington Trail	Leon Valley Ranches Park	Hike & Bike Trail	The Ridge at Leon Valley Park	Forest Oaks Pool	Linkwood / Pavona Trail	Stirrup Lane Trail	Steurenthaler-Silo Park	Leon Valley Pool	Raymond Rimkus Park	Huebner Onion Natural Area Park	Old Mill Park	Shadow Mist	Triangle Park	Total
Acres	.43	3.33	1.02	4.67	1.34	.86	1.27	5.24	1.14	24	36.51	2.09	2.74	1.47	85.15
Playgrounds or play structures	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	-	2	0	1	0	0	5
Diamond fields	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	0	0	1
Basketball courts, standalone	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	-	2	0	0	0	0	3
Rectangular fields	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	2	0	0	0	0	2
Tennis courts	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	2	0	0	0	0	3
Dog Parks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tot lots	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community gardens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swimming pools (w/or w/out concessions)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	1
Skateboard parks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multiuse courts – basketball, volleyball, etc.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pickleball	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multiuse courts – tennis, pickleball	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
18-hole golf courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0

Evaluation of Facilities

Current Facilities - Continued

Facilities	Hetherington Trail	Leon Valley Ranches Park	Hike & Bike Trail	The Ridge at Leon Valley Park	Forest Oaks Pool	Linkwood / Pavona Trail	Stirrup Lane Trail	Steurenthale r-Silo Park	Leon Valley Pool	Raymond Rimkus Park	Huebner Onion Natural Area Park	Old Mill Park	Shadow Mist	Triangle Park	Total
Acres	.43	3.33	1.02	4.67	1.34	.86	1.27	4.28	1.14	24	36.51	2.09	2.74	1.47	85.15
Driving range stations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Synthetic rectangular fields	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Volleyball courts, standalone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Splash pads, spray grounds, or spray showers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fitness zones/Exercise stations	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	-	0	0	0	0	0	3
Disc golf courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ice rinks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walking loops/Running tracks	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	-	1	0	1	0	0	7
Nine-hole golf courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Racquetball/hand ball/squash courts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waterparks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0

Evaluation of Facilities

Current Amenities

Amenities	Hetherington Trail	Leon Valley Ranches Park	Hike & Bike Trail	The Ridge at Leon Valley Park	Forest Oaks Pool	Linkwood / Pavona Trail	Stirrup Lane Trail	Steurenthaler-Silo Park	Leon Valley Pool	Raymond Rimkus Park	Huebner Onion Natural Area Park	Old Mill Park	Shadow Mist	Triangle Park	Leon Valley Total Amenities
Pavilion	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	-	2	0	1	0	0	5
Bench	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	7	-	28	0	5	0	0	30
Mini Library	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restroom	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	2	0	0	0	0	3
Harmony Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Water Fountains	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	3	0	0	0	0	5

Evaluation of Facilities

NRPA and Current System - Assessment

As a result of over 400 new residential units there will be growth in Leon Valley, in addition to the regional growth overlapping into Leon Valley.

Leon Valley Facilities Current and Future Needs	Current Facilities	Median Number of Residents per Outdoor Facility	Leon Valley Total Facilities Needed Based on Population	
			2024 Population of ~11,554	2035 Population of ~13,300
		Population Less than 20,000		
Playgrounds or play structures	5	1,990	6	7
Diamond fields	1	1,833	6	7
Basketball courts, standalone	3	4,366	3	3
Rectangular fields	1	2,493	5	5
Tennis courts	3	3,074	4	4
Dog Parks	0	10,327	1	1
Tot lots	0	5,323	2	3
Community gardens	1	8,800	1	2
Swimming pools (w/or w/out concessions)	2	9,500	1	1
Skateboard parks	0	11,284	1	1
Multiuse courts – basketball, volleyball, etc.	0	5,248	2	3
Pickleball	0	3,390	3	4
Multiuse courts – tennis, pickleball	0	4,634	2	3
18-hole golf courses	0	9,626	1	1
Driving range stations	0	2,122	5	6
Synthetic rectangular fields	0	11,284	1	1
Volleyball courts, standalone	1	9,250	1	1
Splash pads, spray grounds, or spray showers	0	12,756	1	1
Fitness zones/Exercise stations	1	8,233	1	2
Disc golf courses	0	11,079	1	1
Ice rinks	0	8,015	1	2
Walking loops/Running tracks	7	5,459	2	2
Nine-hole golf courses	0	17,750	1	1
Racquetball/handball/squash courts	0	13,350	1	1
Waterparks	0	17,813	1	1

Evaluation of Facilities

Proposed Projects

City-wide Projects

Proposed Location	Proposed Amenity Project
Four (4) parks	Nonverbal communications signage in four (4) parks. Funded by Channing Joy Grant Foundation
Senna 1 & 2 Subdivision	New green space enhancement, addition, and extension of a trail at Senna 1 & 2 Subdivision
Huebner Creek Subdivision	New trail between Trilogy at Huebner Creek Subdivision and Huebner Onion Natural Area walking trail
Seneca Trails Subdivision	New trail and park connection from the Ridge Park to Seneca Trails Subdivision

Specific Projects

Existing Park	Possible Proposed Projects
Shadow Mist Park	Skate Park & Parking Lot
Old Mill Park	None
Huebner Onion Natural Area Park	Add a walking trail in the park and connect it to the city-wide Hike & Bike Trail and the Trilogy Subdivision
Raymond Rimkus Park	None
Leon Valley Pool	TBD
Steurenthaler-Silo Park	None
Stirrup Lane Trail	Connect to the citywide trail system
Linkwood / Pavona Trail	Connect to adjacent subdivision
Forest Oaks Pool	Pavilion, Flagstone Patio, Outdoor Shower, Lifeguard Station, Single Shade Canopies
The Ridge at Leon Valley Park	Trail to Huebner Creek
Hike & Bike Trail	Connect through Huebner Onion and Evers Rd (Seg 2)
Leon Valley Ranches/El Verde Park	Remain natural
Hetherington Trail	Trail to connect to Ridge Park

7

Certification, Standards, and Policies

Certification by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation
Agencies (CAPRA)
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
Envision
AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit
Policy



Certification, Standards, & Policies

Certification by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)

CAPRA, is the only national certification for park and recreation agencies in the United States. CAPRA accreditation is a measure of agency's overall quality of operation, management, and service to the community.

According to the information contained on their website, the benefits of CAPRA accreditation include, but is not limited to:

Acknowledgement of Excellence.

CAPRA accreditation is a mark of excellence and allows agencies to stand apart from other non-accredited agencies in the community.

Positive Marketability.

CAPRA accreditation is a great way to catch the attention of elected officials and demonstrate the value of the department. CAPRA-accredited agencies are provided a comprehensive marketing toolkit to promote their accomplishment to the community and elected officials.

A National Network.

The agency becomes part of the CAPRA community — an active group of professionals from high-performing agencies nationwide. During the initial application process, and while maintaining accreditation, this network can provide guidance, support and advice.

The City of Leon Valley is not accredited by CAPRA currently, and the City should explore this opportunity.



Benefits of Accreditation

For Your Community

- Demonstrates that the department meets national standards of best practice.
- Recognizes the community as a great place to live.
- Helps secure external financial support and reduce costs for the community.
- Holds the park and recreation department accountable to the public and ensures responsiveness to meet their needs.
- Ensures that all staff are providing quality customer service.

Source: www.nrpa.org

Certification, Standards, & Policies

Regional examples of NRPA awarded CAPRA accreditation.



City of Arlington



City of Allen



City of Austin



City of New Braunfels



City of San Antonio



City of College Station

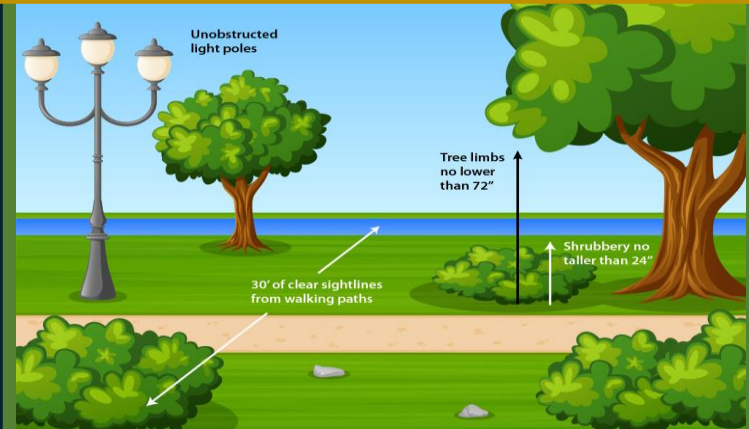
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) are design tactics for developments, parks, trails, and open space to address safety concerns that can prevent crime. These tactics contribute to making spaces safer, while embracing and preserving the natural environment.

Principles that enhance safety include:

1. Access Control – Use the design to physically guide where to go and place barriers or harder access points to areas of where not to go, this detours even unwanted users to access these areas
2. Surveillance – Eliminate too many barriers that prevent natural observers surveilling the area and enhance it with lighting, placement of shrubbery, and well-located windows
3. Territorial Reinforcement – Collaborate, incentivize, or turn an area over to active members who will take ownership of an area to tend to it, this increases the monitoring and reduces nuisances. This can be implemented through the use of walls, fences, landscaping, light fixtures, flags, clearly marked addresses, and decorative sidewalks
4. Maintenance and Management – Keep areas green, clean, and maintained including, removal of trash, graffiti, and damaged property

Safety has been voiced by the community as a concern and adoption of these design principles can contribute to enhancing safety of the city's parks and trails.



CPTED strategies
Source: Cisworldservices:



Well lit and clear path
Source: mayurpahwa

Certification, Standards, & Policies

Envision

Sustainability is found in the triple bottom line: Environmental protection and resource conservation, social well-being and equity, and economic prosperity and continuity.

For a project, or program, even a city or nation, to be sustainable, it's essential that these critical elements be in balance. This balance defines how a project, or community, can continue functioning over the long term. The way cities traditionally worked on infrastructure; a large part of this balance was missing.

The purpose of Envision is to foster a necessary improvement in the performance and resiliency of all physical infrastructure across the full spectrum of sustainability. Envision provides the framework and incentives needed to initiate this systemic change.

As a guidance tool, Envision provides industry-wide sustainability metrics for all infrastructure types. While initially developed for the US and Canada, Envision is being applied world-wide.

Envision can be used to evaluate the design and seek additional improvements toward more sustainable development. Integrating the Envision rating system assessment into the design process will encourage the city to make sustainable-minded decisions throughout the project and limit the additional impact to schedule and budget from adding sustainable features onto a project at a later stage.



The use of Envision can benefit projects in numerous ways including:

- Long-term viability through increased resiliency
- Lower costs
- Reduced negative impacts on the community and the environment
- Potential to save owners money over time
- Credibility of a third-party rating system
- Increased public confidence and involvement in decision making.

Certification, Standards, & Policies

AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit

The AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit has been created for use by communities to evaluate and address the safety and walkability of a street, neighborhood or community.

A walk audit identifies the barriers to safe and comfortable pedestrian circulation for people of all ages. Most of the suburban communities and roadways were designed to move cars fast and are auto-centric. These streets area often unwalkable due to the following barriers:

- No sidewalks or discontinuous sidewalks
- Wide streets, with multiple lanes, that lack traffic lights or stop signs and are uncrossable
- Public transit stops that do not have safe access
- Streets that are comfortable and lack shade
- Lack of accessibility for people with disabilities

The AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit provides the community with a way to identify unsafe streets, gather and document needed information and observations and then identify and prioritize solutions to make streets safer for all users.

Creative Solutions

▼ A pedestrian island, bold crosswalk, landscaped median and raised brick-curbs (to prevent cars from parking and impeding visibility near the crosswalk) help make San Pablo Avenue safer for people walking between the small city's schools, senior center and community center.



Emeryville, California

▼ Guardrails and planting strips between a sidewalk and street help protect pedestrians. The pictured location has both as well as a visible crosswalk, school crossing signage, arrows and a flashing pedestrian-activated beacon that provide a collective alert to drivers.



Severna Park, Maryland

AARP Livable Communities

A WALK AUDIT IS ... an activity in which participants observe and evaluate the walkability of a location to identify and document if and how pedestrians can safely travel along a street, navigate an intersection and get from Point A to B and C and so on.

A WALK AUDIT CAN ...

- Gather input about community infrastructure needs and investments
- Educate residents about design elements that support safety
- Empower community members and local leaders to become agents of change

A WALK AUDIT CAN LEAD TO ...

- Reduced traffic congestion and pollution
- Healthier, more active lifestyles
- Increased property values
- Safer streets for people of all ages

WHO CAN DO A WALK AUDIT?

- *Everyone and anyone!*

Policy

Parkland Dedication and Park Zone Funds

Parkland dedication serves as a mechanism to provide public parkland and park amenities in newly developed regions without placing an undue tax burden on current city residents.

Parkland dedication ordinances provide developers with a monetary contribution alternative to constructing public parks and recreational areas. This monetary contribution or Park Zone Fund enables municipalities to acquire and enhance park facilities to support population growth rather than taxing existing park and recreational areas and taxpayers. These funds can be applied for development and enhancement of parks in the specified park zone the development is located in or used for city-wide parks.

Division 6 of the city's subdivision standards contain the parkland dedication requirements for residential developments. It is recommended that the city review and update the parkland requirements on a regular basis to ensure that the requirements are comparable to the other cities in the region and to ensure provision of high-quality open spaces that are easily accessible by the residents



Art in the Park Example of Pearland City, TX

Regional Standard Examples

New Braunfels has a land requirement calculation of:

1. The total population divided by the current level of service for neighborhood/community parks to establish the number of residents per acre.
2. Then take the number of residents per acre and divide by the residents per household for the maximum number of dwelling units per 1 acre of neighborhood/community park land.

Calculation example:

1. $91,611 \div 190.95 = 480$ residents per park acre
2. $480 \div 2.85 = 168$ dwelling units per park acre

Additionally, New Braunfels shows a formula in the Code of Ordinances to determine the fee in lieu of land (\$35,000 per acre of land divided by the number of dwelling units).

Calculation example:

Ex) $\$35,000 \div 168 = \208 fee per dwelling units

Policy

User Fee

Cities fund their operations through many revenue sources such as taxes, fines, grants, special charges, user fees, etc. Services that provide global benefits are funded primarily through voter approved tax revenues. Services that provide direct benefit to citizens are typically funded by user fee revenue. A “user fee” is a charge for service provided by a governmental agency.

When confronted by fast growth and high processing loads, the need for evaluating the current fee structure is critical to ensure adequate cost recovery. Generally, the purpose of analyzing fees is to evaluate the proportion of the cost of service provided by the city that is compensated by the recipient of the service. The end goal is to minimize the cost incurred by the citizens and use of other revenue sources to offset the cost of service. A well-designed fees structure will not only reduce the need for additional revenue sources, but also promote service efficiency.

The cost for delivering services generally fall under the following categories - administration and management; materials and supplies; direct and indirect labor.

It is recommended that the city review the fee structure and adjust it periodically to reflect inflation, revenue fluctuations, changes in city policies, technology improvements, enhanced customer service, legislative changes, and other circumstances.

Administrative Fee

Same for all permits



Application Fee

Based on the application type

Base fee + Additional fees
(scope of work and nature of the permit)



3rd Party Fees (if any)

Based on the current contract between the City and the consultant

DRAFT

8

City Wide Vision

Vision Statement
Key Themes Defined
Key Themes & Objectives



City Wide Vision

Vision Statement

Based on the community, a Vision statement was formulated. The Vision statement provided an overview of what Leon Valley would look like or provide in years to come.

“To provide exceptional parks and recreation facilities, as well as preserve the natural environment of open spaces for improved quality of life.” – AC Member

Vision Statement :

The City of Leon Valley’s Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces will provide safe, accessible, and well-connected parks and recreation facilities, as well as preserve the natural environment of open spaces for improved quality of life for all.

“The City of Leon Valley’s Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces will enhance the quality of life for people from all walks of life and foster a strong community. It will provide safe, accessible, and well-connected parks and recreation facilities.” - AC Meeting #2

City Wide Vision

Key Themes Defined

The following key themes for the future parks system emerged from the community engagement activities.



Family Oriented & Inclusive

An inviting place with various activities, events, and venues for all ages



Recreation & Amenities

Facilities for more park users from different backgrounds to participate and utilize



Reinvestment & Maintenance

Enhancement of existing trail, parks, and recreation facilities with high-quality resilient and sustainable maintenance



Comfort & Safety

New and improved amenities with ample shade, amenities, and increased safety for users



Access & Connectivity

Safe connections on roadways, trails, and sidewalks for all transportation modes to access recreational areas, with a good park signage system throughout the City



Nature & Environment

Maintenance of existing trees and creation of natural and scenic environments for passive or reactive activities



Sustainable & Resilient

Substantiable and Resilient solutions to decrease flooding and major drainage issues that impact usage of parks and amenities

City Wide Vision

Key Themes & Objectives

For the key themes identifies, the following objectives were identified by the community.

1. Family Oriented & Inclusive

1.1 Add activities for all

- More opportunities to participate in parks
- Additional city-offered/hosted events
- Provide spaces for groups i.e. clubs, classes

2. Recreation & Amenities

2.1 Increase active and passive recreation

- Addition of water areas, cool down areas, shaded benches, swimming pools, grills, astroturf soccer field, more playgrounds
- More walking paths and hiking trails throughout the City

2.2 Increase park usage

- Larger Rimkus Park, more useful exercise equipment
- Extended hours - open at night
- Safety - more lighting around basketball courts and playground

2.2 Public art program

2.3 Incorporate multiuse active Recreational places

- Specialized space for flag football

3. Reinvestment & Maintenance

3.1 Upkeep trails

3.2 Maintain landscaping - cut high grass, maintain trees

3.3 Reinvest in playground, exercise equipment and additional shade structures

4. Comfort & Safety

4.1 Access to clean and safe restrooms and water fountains (climate controlled)

4.2 Improve lighting for night use.

5. Access & Connectivity

5.1 Improve Connectivity

- Connect City trails to Leon Creek trails and to the San Antonio hike and bike trail system to walk or bike from the Medical Center to UTSA or beyond (The Howard Peak greenway)

- Provide connectivity between parks with walking/biking trails

5.2 Increase parking

5.3 Enhance multi-modal accessibility

6. Nature & Environment

6.1 Add trees and greenery

- Provide shade in the summer heat

6.2 Expand and preserve natural areas

- Preserve existing trees and add healthy shade trees in the park and along the creek
- Create butterfly gardens
- Plant an abundance of native plants to bring more pollinators and wildlife
- Add well maintained screening trees for privacy

7. Sustainability & Resiliency

7.1 Improve drainage and consider mitigation strategies

7.2 Address erosion problems

7.3 Implement "Dark Parks Policy" at Raymond Rimkus

9

City-Wide Recommendations



City-Wide Recommendations

The City-wide recommendations for City of Leon Valley were guided by the input received by the community, the Advisory Committee, and best practices. In addition to these City-wide recommendations, specific recommendations for each Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks are listed in the following sections.

1. Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Ensure that the City’s parks provide age-friendly recreational facilities and opportunities for all cohorts.
- Expand the parks programming to increase activities and events hosted by the city.
- Consider a park celebration event throughout the city parks and recreational facilities (for example walkathon, bike race, scavenger hunt, art walks, etc.) that involves all residents and garners media attention.
- Add a venue such as a plaza or a park square to hold outdoor events and celebrations.
- Add sports fields and recreational facilities such as disc golf, skate park, pickle ball, and splash pads.

2. Recreation & Amenities

- Adopt National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines.
- Reevaluate the parkland dedication requirements and fees.
- Ensure that the programming of parks and open spaces meets the diverse ethnic needs of the community.
- Complete an aquatics study and incorporate aquatic related events for all
- Create a Master Trails Plan, including bulk heads, mile markers, and other facilities, that provides connectivity between parks and to the regional trail network.
- Expand the parks, trails, and open space network. Explore opportunities to provide additional open spaces in the area south of I-40 (S.R. Hodges Neighborhood) and link them to the City’s trail and open space system with continuous and easily accessible bike and pedestrian linkages.
- Add a dog park and include amenities for dogs in all facilities.
- Retain one pool for the community and repurpose the other pool facility site.
- Upgrade surfaces for fields and trails with all-weather surface.
- Replace or augment exercise equipment with children’s climbing equipment.
- Implement a public art program that provides in a unique identity, incorporates local culture, and unifies the park, open space, and trail system.



Art in the park example



Dog park example



Community responses

City-Wide Recommendations

3. Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Prepare a Maintenance Plan with incorporation of high maintenance standards for all facilities and trails.
- Augment existing staffing levels by addition of two dedicated personnel to oversee maintenance.
- Consider Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation to optimize departmental resources and embrace best practices to meet the open space and recreational needs of the community.

4. Comfort & Safety

- Prepare a design criteria manual that provides guidelines on amenities, landscaping, shade, and other elements to increase usage.
- Adopt measures for mitigation of heat islands.
- Encourage compliance with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
- Ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards
- Address crime and homelessness in parks in collaboration with other agencies.
- Consider a Parks and Recreation Department with a safety Ranger to address park programs and events, as well as security and safety issues especially on-site security.
- Continue to enforce the “Dark Sky” ordinance and examine areas where additional lighting may be beneficial for safety and maintain the current park hours (sunrise to sunset).

Why are Dark Sky Ordinances important?

Benefits:

- Impact on Wildlife
Reduces disruption and disorientation, thereby contributing to the health and survival of our wildlife.
- Human Health and Well-being
Reduces significant health impacts for humans due to disruption of circadian rhythms, thereby safeguarding our health and well-being.



Visibility of stars with dark night sky ordinance

City-Wide Recommendations

5. Access & Connectivity

- Prepare and adopt a comprehensive signage plan with unique branding for all facilities including trails.
- Connect every park to the surrounding neighborhood by a safe and accessible pedestrian and bike paths. Conduct a Walk Audit utilizing NRPA's Safe Routes to Parks Action Framework to evaluate and address the safety and walkability of a street, neighborhood or community.
- Consider better integration and inclusion of the area South 410 into the citywide park system.
- Continue to ensure playgrounds are designed to meet the needs of children and adults with disabilities, beyond ADA accessibility compliance.
- Adopt a marketing plan that amplifies the presence of parks, increases participation, and foster community connections in exciting new ways, including use of social media, sponsorships, map, bulletin boards, and promotional activities such as park run, treasure hunt, etc.

6. Nature & Environment

- Preserve, enhance and expand natural areas.
- Protect indigenous ecosystems in parks to promote biodiversity.
- Create and enhance habitats for local and migratory birds and animals.
- Promote the use of native plant materials in parks, trails and within public medians.
- Actively promote eco-tourism.

On the Path to Safe Routes to Parks

This infographic highlights features and steps to creating Safe Routes to Parks. Click the image to see a full version.



Source: "Safe Routes to Parks." National Recreation and Parks Association <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/partnerships/initiatives/safe-routes-to-parks/>

City-Wide Recommendations

7. Sustainability & Resiliency

- Adopt guidelines based on Envision best practices.
- Promote integration of green infrastructure: Including elements like rain gardens and green roofs.
- Explore opportunities to integrate the City's stormwater drainage systems into the trail and open space network. Consider habitat enhancements within stormwater detention for birds.
- Promote efficient resource management by implementing water-saving landscaping and using renewable energy sources
- Formulate long-range parkland acquisition plan.
- Explore long-term and short-term funding sources.
- Consider partnerships and corporate sponsorships for improvements and initiatives.
- Consider partnering with the Northside Independent School District (NISD) to share resources and apply for funding. The City has 4 main schools (John Marshall High School, Leon Valley Elementary Schools, Rota Key Driggers Elementary School, SST Discovery), however there are additional private/study-focused schools throughout.
- Continue to periodically monitor and quantify park and recreational facility use.



Example of directional signage



Natural preservation along a walkway



All ages able to use amenities

10

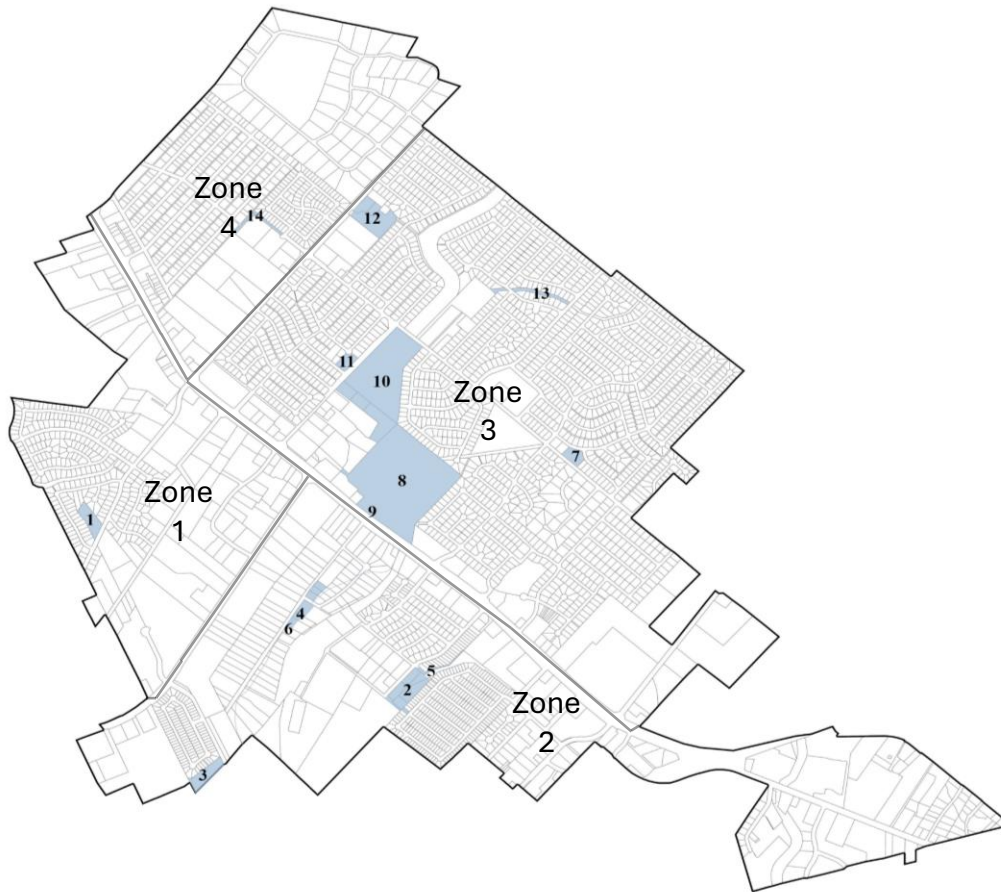
Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

- Raymond Park
- Leon Valley Ranches / El Verde Park
- Hetherington Trail
- Forest Oaks Pool
- Old Mill Park
- Huebner Creek Greenway Trail (Hike & Bike)
- Shadow Mist Park
- Triangle Park
- Pavona-Linkwood Trail
- Linkwood Rimkus Park
- Steurenthaler-Silo Park
- The Ridge
- Stirrup Trail
- Leon Valley Pool
- Huebner Onion Natural Area Park

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Existing Park Zones

The current 2020 Master Park Plan includes general recommendations for all areas in the City as well as for the four (4) Park Zones. These zones are shown in the map below.



Zone 1

1. Old Mill Park

Zone 2

2. The Ridge at Leon Valley
3. Shadow Mist Park
4. Leon Valley/El Verde Park
5. Heatherington Trail
6. Huebner Creek Greenway (Hike & Bike) Trail

Zone 3

7. Forest Oaks Community Pool
8. Huebner Onion Natural Area
9. Triangle Park
10. Raymond Rimkus Park
11. Leon Valley Community Pool
12. Steurenthaler-Silo Park
13. Stirrup Walking Trail

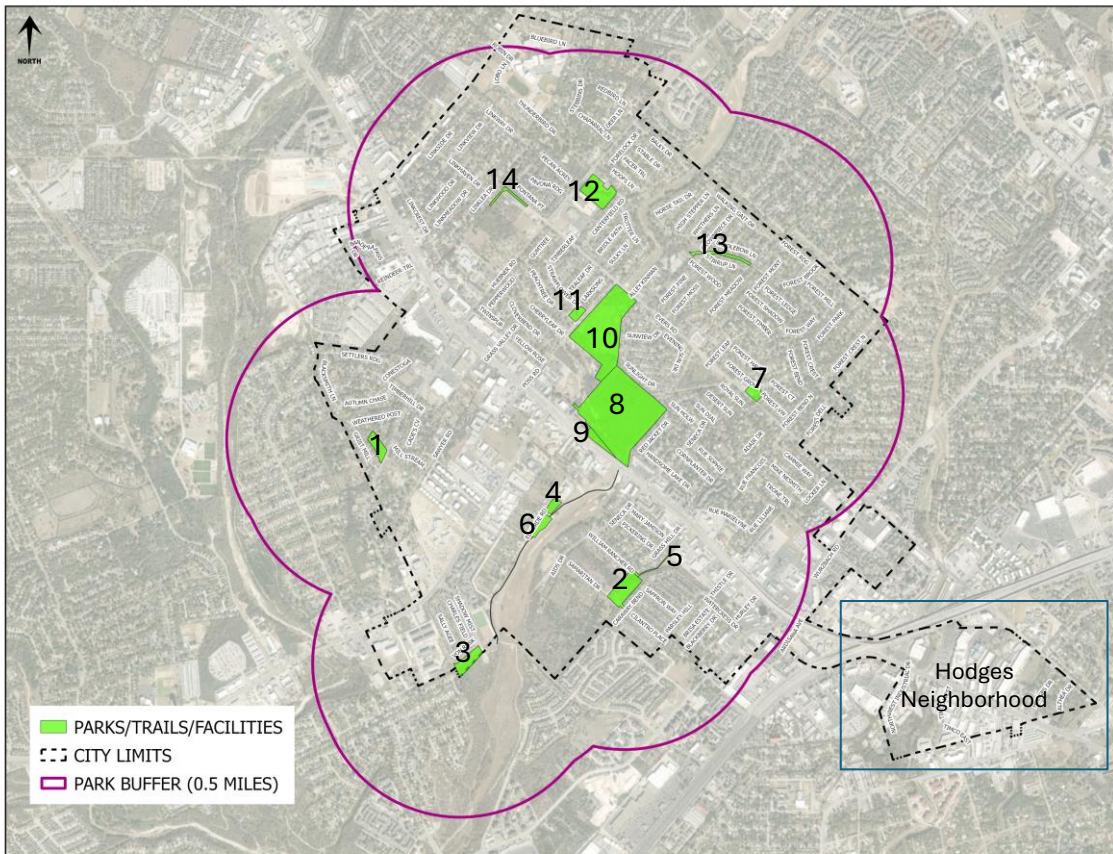
Zone 4

14. Pavona-Linkwood Walking Trail

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Park Locations

A majority of Leon Valley residents have access to an open green space, trail, park, or recreational facility that is located within half a mile of where they live. The fourteen (14) facilities that were included in this update are listed here and the map below shows the location of these facilities. The map identifies an opportunity to enhance connectivity to the Hodges neighborhood.



1. Old Mill Park
2. The Ridge at Leon Valley
3. Shadow Mist Park
4. Leon Valley/El Verde Park
5. Heatherington Trail
6. Huebner Creek Greenway (Hike & Bike)Trail
7. Forest Oaks Community Pool
8. Huebner Onion Natural Area
9. Triangle Park
10. Raymond Rimkus Park
11. Leon Valley Community Pool
12. Steurenthaler-Silo Park
13. Stirrup Walking Trail
14. Pavona-Linkwood Walking Trail

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Park Classifications

Park classifications assist in determining the character and purpose of a park, trail, or open space. The classifications follow the National Recreational and Parks Association (NRPA) guidelines and the ones listed in this section are most relatable to the City of Leon Valley's green space network.

It is important to note that while the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines provides definitions for park classifications, it also acknowledges that each community is unique in terms of geographical, cultural and socioeconomic make-up. As such each community should develop its own standards for recreation, parks and open space, with the NRPA definitions as a guide.

Regional Parks

Regional Parks are large multi-use parks that serve several communities within a certain region. They are usually 500 acres or larger and users drive up to one-hour distance. All age groups can find interest in the parks and there are a broad range of activities available such as sight-seeing, nature study, and active and passive activities.

Metropolitan Park

Metropolitan Parks are 100 to 499 acres large and serve several communities. Multiple developed and undeveloped areas are available for indoor and outdoor activities.



Onion House, historical building at Huebner Onion Park, a desired regional park



Basketball court at Raymond Rimkus Park



Pavilion, playground, & walking trail at Old Mill Park, a desired Mini Park

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Community Parks

Community Parks are larger than neighborhood parks and range in size from 16 to 99 acres where the users are generally within one to two miles in radius. Recreational activities are more intense with competitive sports, tennis, playground, etc. There may be some light passive activities such as a walking trail.

Neighborhood Parks

Multiple age groups within a neighborhood utilize these Neighborhood Parks that are closer in proximity to park users. The park is usually a half-mile to a quarter mile radius and within a walking distance. The parks range from 1 to 15 acres and contain passive activities such as walking, viewing, and picnicking and some active recreational activities such as playscapes, playgrounds, and field games.

Mini Park

Mini Parks or Pocket Parks serve a nearby neighborhood within a quarter-mile radius. Usually, the sizes are between 2,500 square feet to one acre. The park includes passive options such as a bench, picnic area, and perimeter trails.

Special Use Area

Special Use Area parks focus on a particular or single-purpose recreational activity. These are historical areas, nature centers, golf courses, zoos, conservatories, plazas, amphitheaters, and similar. Each park varies in size, and some may have multiple classifications based on their additional functions.



Playground, walking trail, & pavilion at The Ridge Park, a desired Neighborhood Park



Pool area at Forest Oaks Pool, a desired Community Park



Silos at Steurenthaler-Silo Park, a desired Butterfly Park

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Linear Park / Linkages

Linear Park / linkages include built connections and natural corridors linking several parks and natural areas. Typically, biking, walking, jogging, horseback riding, canoeing, and/or hiking are located on these types of parks.

Conservancy

Conserving nature and providing a space to study nature is the main priority of a Conservancy with recreational use being secondary. The size generally depends on the resource being conserved.

Privately Owned and Other Recreational Facilities

In addition to the NRPA guidelines, private facilities can offer recreational purposes and serve the community as a potential private public opportunity (PPO). These facilities include parks, open space, and recreational opportunities provided by homeowner associations and other private entities.



Hike & Bike Trail, a Linear Park/Linkage



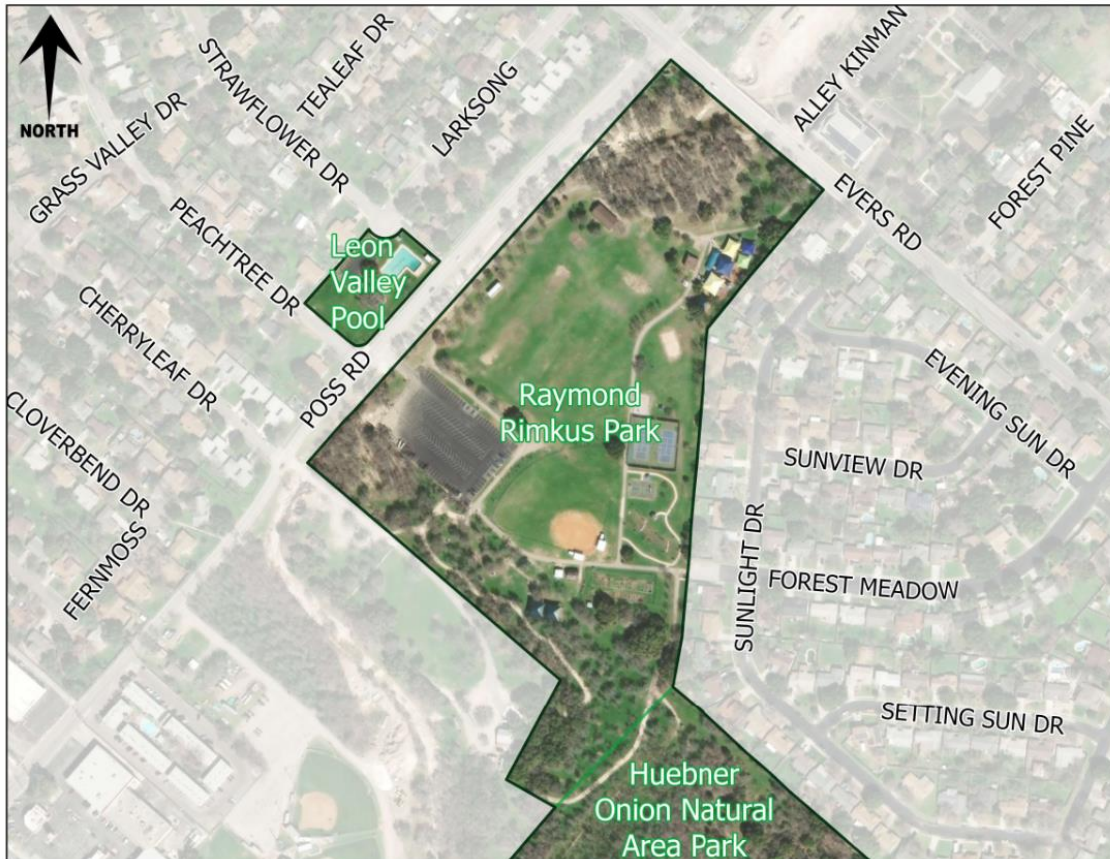
Area of Hetherington Trail, a Conservancy Park



Roller blading rink, a Private Recreational Facility

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Raymond Rimkus Park - Existing Conditions



Park Zone - 3

Size

24 acres

Location

Located southeast of Poss Road and Evers Road. Raymond Rimkus Park is adjacent to Huebner Onion Natural Area Park and is one of the largest parks in the City.

Classification

Neighborhood Park
Linear Park/Linkages
Functionally, the park serves as a Community Park.

Amenities

- 2 Playgrounds/play structures
- 1 Diamond field
- 2 Basketball courts, standalone
- 1 Rectangular field
- 2 Tennis courts
- 1 Musical (Harmony) park
- 1 Community garden
- 1 Walking loop/trail
- 2 Pavilions
- 15 Benches
- 2 Restrooms
- 4 Water Fountains
- 1 Volleyball court

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Raymond Rimkus Park – Existing Conditions



BOUNDARY OF PARKS/TRAILS

CITY LIMITS

ADDITIONAL PARKING NEEDED

TREES NEEDED

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED (NO INPUT)

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS NEEDED (WITH ADA)

SAFETY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

BIKE ACCESS NEEDED

AMENITIES NEEDED (BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, ETC.) (NO INPUT)



Community garden, Raymond Rimkus



Open space, Raymond Rimkus



Diamond field, Raymond Rimkus

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Raymond Rimkus Park – Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community's feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Add historic signage
- Add a paved plaza for musicians or groups to use
- Provide ADA compliance for all play equipment, trails, and amenities

Recreation & Amenities

- Add an additional walking path, pavilion (possibly in the area west of the trail along the third baseline of the softball diamond), butterfly garden, chess tables with shade, outdoor fitness equipment stations, pickleball courts
- Rebuild basketball court to NBA standards, with junior hoops on each side
- Create an open space area for library users to use at the park for classes/activities

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Adopt annual maintenance plan for all playground equipment and walking paths to prevent trip and fall hazards
- Maintain picnic tables, water fountains, barbecue pits, signage, and benches
- Renovate restroom facilities

Comfort & Safety

- Install sanitation stations at various intervals around the park – especially near playground equipment
- Resurface Raymond Rimkus Park trails with all-weather surface as needed
- Add shaded bleachers to athletic fields
- Add shade along Poss Road
- Enhance adjacency landscaping and safety protocols along the east side of the park, abutting the residential homes
- Install informative bulletin boards at pavilions and entrances
- Add shaded sitting areas near playscapes
- Address safety issues including access and patrol
- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction activities

Access & Connectivity

- Create pedestrian access to Huebner Onion Park
- Improve signage, connectivity and access to other parks
- Remove chain link fence around playscape

Nature & Environment

- Plant trees around playground and picnic areas and bushes/flowers around drinking fountains, benches and picnic tables
- Create additional groves of trees with benches
- Adopt a *Leave No Trace* awareness strategy

Sustainable & Resilient

- Add environmental signage to educate and inform park users of trees, plants, and natural ecology
- Plant native and drought resistant landscaping
- Widen the creek to minimize flooding
- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and park design

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Leon Valley Ranches / El Verde Park - Existing Conditions



Park Zone - 2

Size

3.33 acres

Location

Located east of El Verde Road, west of Bandera Road. The trail connects to City of San Antonio trail network Leon Valley Ranches/El Verde Park, and Raymond Rimkus Park. The hike & bike trail and a creek is adjacent to the park.

Classification

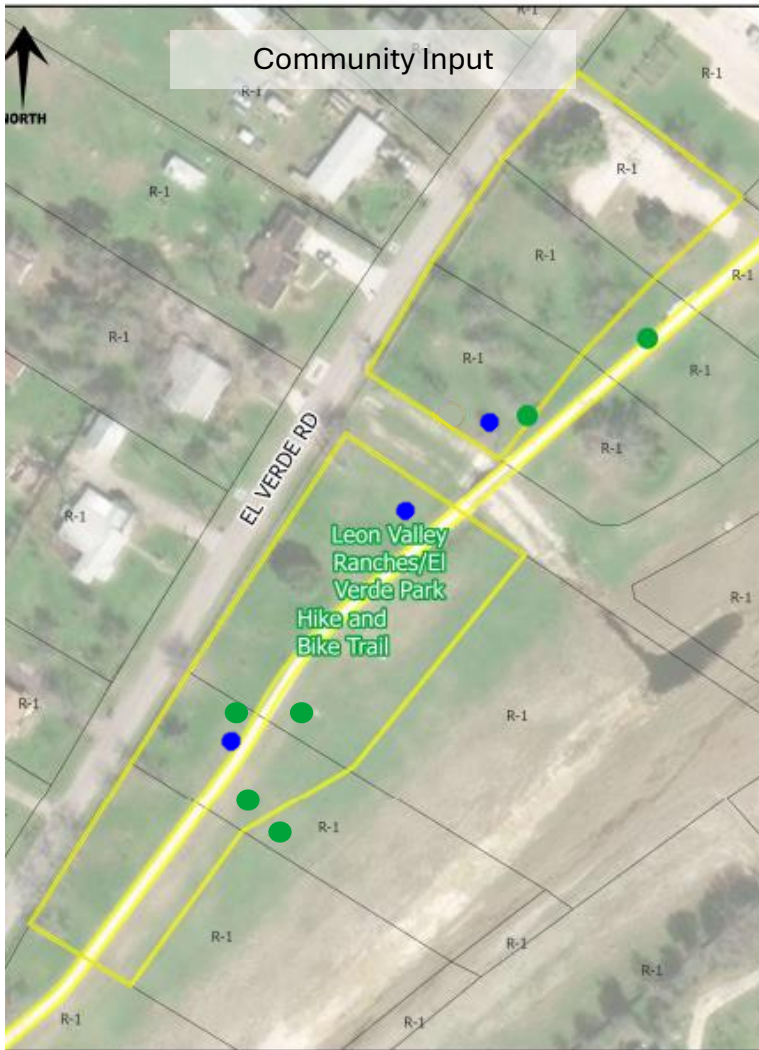
Linear Park/Linkages
Conservancy

Amenities

Open, unbuilt green space
1 Bench

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Leon Valley Ranches / El Verde Park – Existing Conditions



- BOUNDARY OF PARKS/TRAILS
- CITY LIMITS
- ADDITIONAL PARKING NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- TREES NEEDED
- DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS NEEDED (WITH ADA) (NO INPUT)
- SAFETY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED (NO INPUT)
- BIKE ACCESS NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- AMENITIES NEEDED (BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, ETC.)



Preserve open spaces and trees



Add more trees and benches under shade



Add trees and wildflowers in the park

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Leon Valley Ranches / El Verde Park – Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community’s feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Engage the community in park design, layouts and in provision of new amenities
- Provide ADA compliance for all play equipment, trails, and amenities

Recreation & Amenities

- Incorporate rustic features and split rail cedar fence to maintain the character
- Add kiosks for environmental education on local flora, fauna, and other ecological features

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Seek funding opportunities to undertake improvements
- Adopt annual maintenance plan

Comfort & Safety

- Add shade
- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction activities

Access & Connectivity

- Provide equitable access throughout the park and connectivity to trails

Nature & Environment

- Preserve open space
- Incorporate natural vegetation with wildflowers

Sustainable & Resilient

- Preserve trees and natural shrubs
- Adopt a “No Mow” policy with signage to educate the public on the benefits
- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and park design



Incorporate and preserve rustic features



Add benches in the park, facing the Hike & Bike Trail



Add wildflowers in the park

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Hetherington Trail - Existing Conditions



Park Zone - 2

Size

.43 acres

Location

Located south of Grass Hill Drive. Connects to The Ridge park with open green space, a pavilion, and basketball court.

Classification

Conservancy/Mini Park

Amenities

Open, unbuilt green space

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Hetherington Trail – Existing Conditions



- BOUNDARY OF PARKS/TRAILS
- CITY LIMITS
- ADDITIONAL PARKING NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- TREES NEEDED
- DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS NEEDED (WITH ADA) (NO INPUT)
- SAFETY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED (NO INPUT)
- BIKE ACCESS NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- AMENITIES NEEDED (BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, ETC.)



Walking trail from The Ridge Park to Hetherington Trail



Trees along the Hetherington Trail



A natural, unbuilt trail toward Hetherington Trail

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Hetherington Trail - Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community's feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Engage with the developer of the Seneca Trails Subdivision to possibly dedicate a portion of property to this trail and enhance connectivity and access from the surrounding residential
- Provide ADA compliance for all play equipment, trails, and amenities

Recreation & Amenities

- Construct the trail
- Install a kiosk for environmental education on animals, plants, trees
- Add an amenity at the entrance of William Rancher Road

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Ensure adequate maintenance and access
- Adopt annual maintenance plan

Comfort & Safety

- Add benches
- Add trash receptacles
- Add landscaping and trees along Grass Hill Drive, along the trail
- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction activities

Access & Connectivity

- Connect the trail to The Ridge at Leon Valley Park, with an extension to the Leon Creek Greenway Trail System, from Samaritan and Aids Drive
- Add signage and mile markers

Nature & Environment

- Adopt a *Leave No Trace* awareness strategy
- Construct the trail by following natural contours, slopes, and grading

Sustainable & Resilient

- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and park design



The Ridge Park trail facing Hetherington Trail area



The Ridge pathway connecting to Hetherington Trail



Aerial view of the Hetherington Trail area

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Forest Oaks Pool - Existing Conditions



Park Zone - 3

Size

1.34 acres

Location

Located east of Evers Road and west of Forest Way.

Classification

Mini Park

Community Park

Amenities

1 Tennis court

1 Swimming Pool

1 Restroom

- **Current plans to remodel the pool and buildings**

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Forest Oaks Pool – Existing Conditions



- BOUNDARY OF PARKS/TRAILS
- CITY LIMITS
- ADDITIONAL PARKING NEEDED
- TREES NEEDED
- DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS NEEDED (WITH ADA) (NO INPUT)
- BIKE ACCESS NEEDED
- SAFETY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED
- AMENITIES NEEDED (BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, ETC.) (NO INPUT)



Beautify the fencing area with landscaping and art



Tennis courts to add trees/shade



Trees to be added in the grass areas around the pool

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Forest Oaks Pool – Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community’s feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Provide an open space with a grove of trees for a small park area that is usable year round
- Provide ADA compliance

Recreation & Amenities

- Provide public art
- Eliminate “party room”
- Eliminate tennis courts and use space for parking or small park with trees
- Renovate the “party room” to be an aquatics facility

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Rehabilitate parking area and create more parking spaces
- Remodel entire building for ADA compliance
- Adopt annual maintenance plan

Comfort & Safety

- Construct shade structure over deck near tennis courts
- Add a fence around pool and add a deck. Design fencing to view live oak trees from the pool and create it to look like a pool from the outside
- Add benches with shade structures
- Install lockers for pool users
- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction activities

Access & Connectivity

- Provide safe and continuous sidewalks, that are ADA accessible from surrounding areas
- Provide direct access to the park area , separate from the pool area, from Evers Road and Forest View Street

Nature & Environment

- Refresh landscaped areas

Sustainable & Resilient

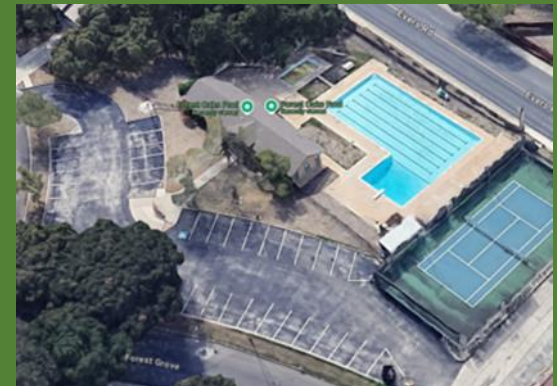
- Use energy efficient systems
- Conserve water
- Reduce chemical usage and apply UV light sanitizers
- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and park design



Add natural landscape along the pool fence



Incorporate art along the pool fencing



Aerial view of the pool area

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Old Mill Park - Existing Conditions



Park Zone - 1

Size

2.09 acres

Location

Located northeast of the intersection of Huebner Road and Grist Mill

Classification

Mini Park
Neighborhood Parks

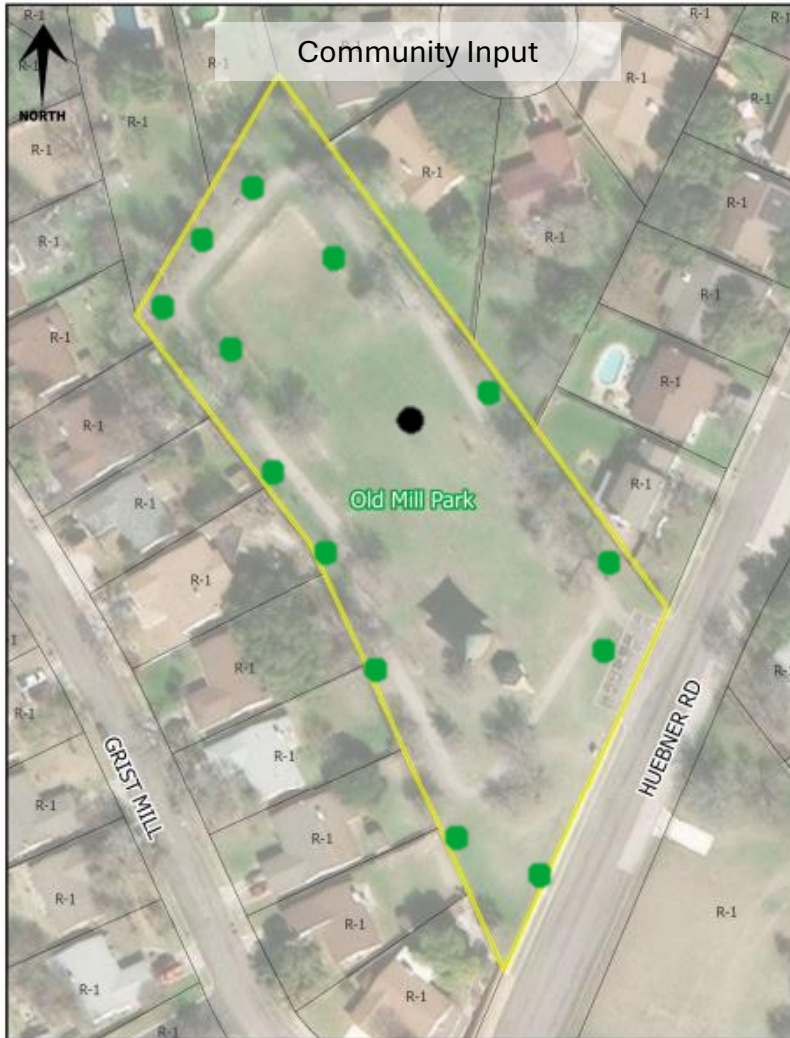
Amenity

1 Playground/ play structure
1 Walking trail/loop
1 Pavilion
5 Benches

- **Current plans to install an irrigation system**

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Old Mill Park – Existing Conditions



- BOUNDARY OF PARKS/TRAILS
- CITY LIMITS
- ADDITIONAL PARKING NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- TREES NEEDED
- DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS NEEDED (WITH ADA) (NO INPUT)
- BIKE ACCESS NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- SAFETY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED (NO INPUT)
- AMENITIES NEEDED (BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, ETC.) (NO INPUT)



Add trees along the boundary of the trail



Pavilion and playground at Old Mill Park



Preserve and grow more trees

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Old Mill Park - Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community's feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Add artwork
- Provide ADA compliance for all play equipment, trails, and amenities

Recreation & Amenities

- Add picnic tables
- Place benches at far end of walking trail

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Replace dead trees
- Adopt annual maintenance plan

Comfort & Safety

- Add a water fountain with a dog station
- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction activities

Access & Connectivity

- Provide safe pedestrian and bike access/safe street crossing for users that are on the east side of Huebner Road

Nature & Environment

- Plant trees and other landscaping

Sustainable & Resilient

- Address drainage in the rear of the park
- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and park design



Shaded playground at Old Mill Park



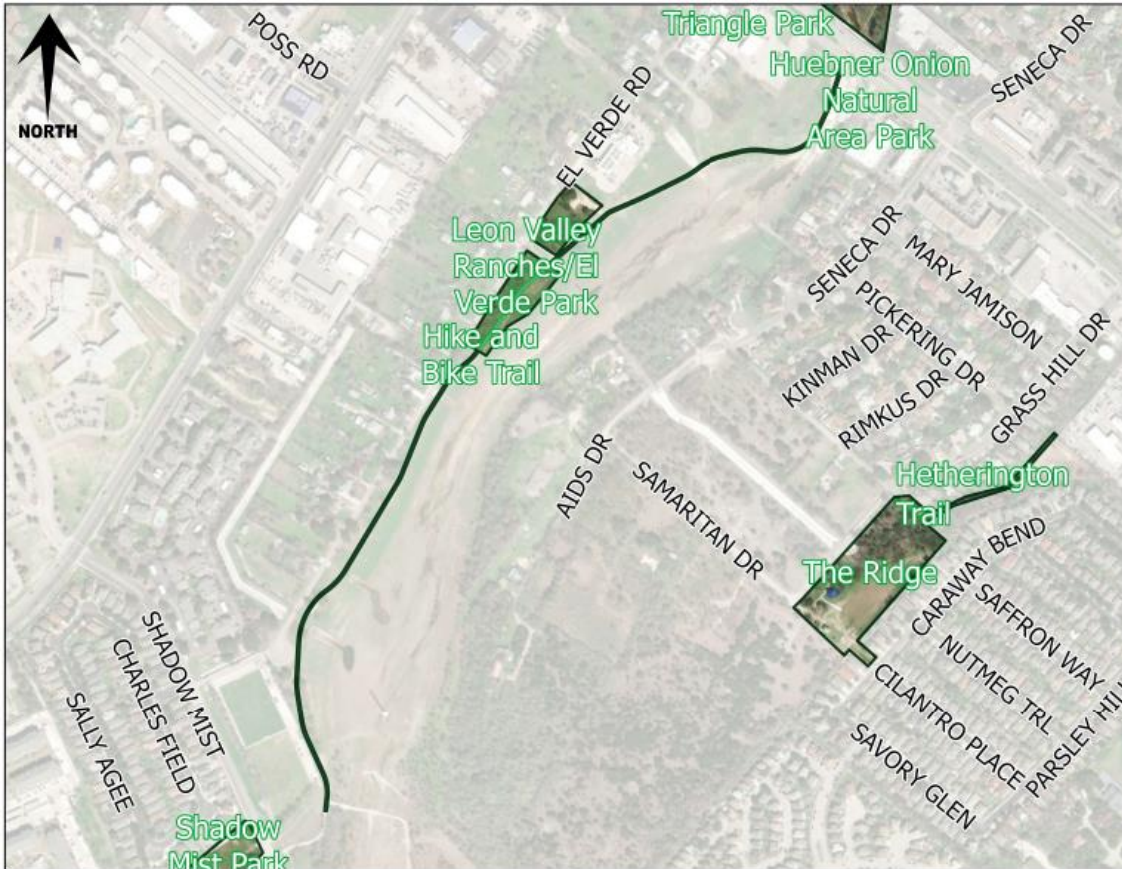
Walking loop with benches at Old Mill Park



Add trees and benches along the trail

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Huebner Creek Greenway Trail (Hike & Bike) - Existing Conditions



Park Zone

2

Size

1.02 acres

Location

Located northeast of Shadow Mist Drive and El Verde Road. The trail connects to the City of San Antonio trail network, Leon Valley Ranches/El Verde Park, and Raymond Rimkus Park.

Classification

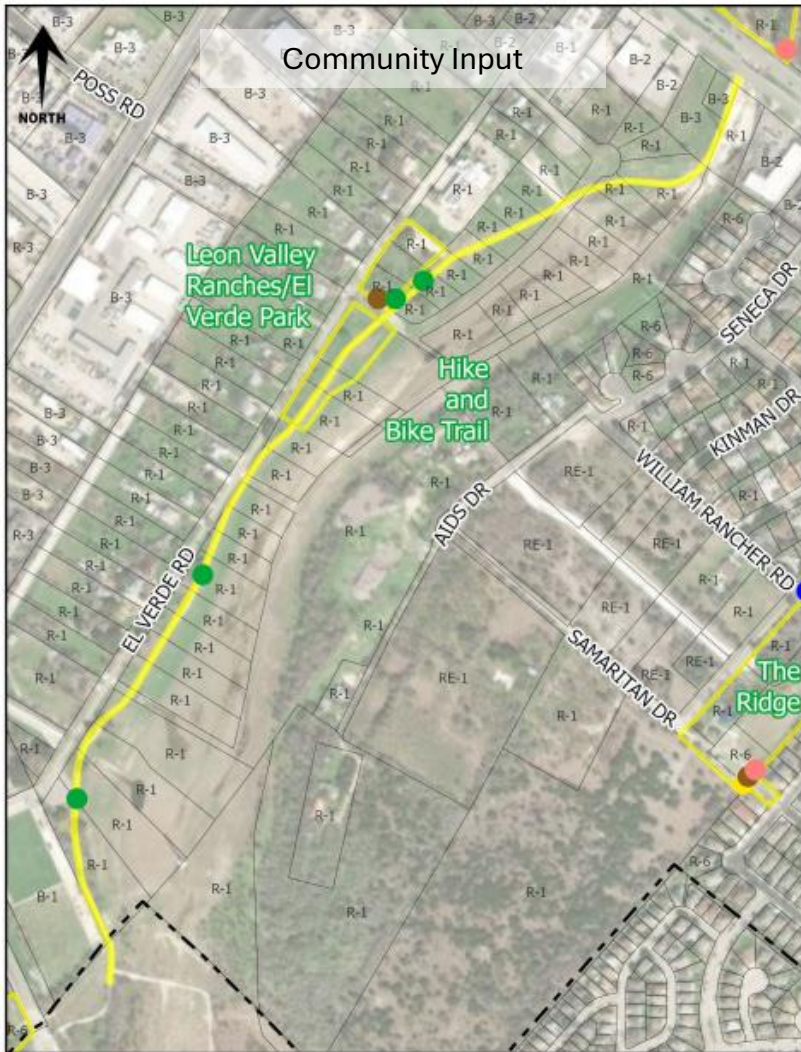
Linear Park/Linkages

Amenity

1 Walking trail

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Huebner Creek Greenway Trail (Hike & Bike) – Existing Conditions



Overview of the Huebner Creek Greenway



South end of the trail connecting to San Antonio



Add trees and benches along the trail

- BOUNDARY OF PARKS/TRAILS
- CITY LIMITS
- ADDITIONAL PARKING NEEDED
- TREES NEEDED
- DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS NEEDED (WITH ADA) (NO INPUT)
- BIKE ACCESS NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- SAFETY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED (NO INPUT)
- AMENITIES NEEDED (BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, ETC.) (NO INPUT)

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Huebner Creek Greenway Trail (Hike & Bike)- Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community's feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Install environmental and health education awareness bulletins
- Provide ADA compliance for all play equipment, trails, and amenities

Recreation & Amenities

- Add benches, water fountain with a dog station, mile markers, and trash receptacles
- Add parking

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Plant native trees and shrubs along the trail
- Strengthen the trees to grow
- Adopt annual maintenance plan

Comfort & Safety

- Add shade along the trail
- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction activities

Access & Connectivity

- Connect to the Leon Creek Greenway Trail system and Crystal Hills Park
- Build out Segment II of the trail
- Construct Segment III from Evers to Bally Road

Nature & Environment

- Adopt a *Leave No Trace* awareness strategy to dispose of waste properly

Sustainable & Resilient

- Install a recycled water irrigation
- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and park design



Add trees along Huebner Creek Greenway



Trees planted along Huebner Creek Greenway (2024)



Comfort amenities where shade can be added

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Shadow Mist Park - Existing Conditions



Park Zone - 2

Size

2.94 acres

Location

Located southwest of Von Rosk Road and Shadow Mist Drive. Near the Huebner Creek Greenway Trail (Hike and Bike Trail) to the northeast.

Classification

Community Park

Amenity

Access restricted, unbuilt green space

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Shadow Mist Park – Existing Conditions



Park frontage



Current undeveloped condition of the park



Aerial view of the park – connection to San Antonio

- BOUNDARY OF PARKS/TRAILS
- CITY LIMITS
- ADDITIONAL PARKING NEEDED
- TREES NEEDED

- DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS NEEDED (WITH ADA)
- SAFETY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED (NO INPUT)
- BIKE ACCESS NEEDED (NO INPUT)

- AMENITIES NEEDED (BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, ETC.)

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Shadow Mist Park – Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community's feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Use the undeveloped land as an opportunity to build a new amenity
- Provide ADA compliance for all play equipment, trails, and amenities

Recreation & Amenities

- Create a skate park
- Add a pavilion

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Use grant funding to develop and open the park
- Adopt annual maintenance plan

Comfort & Safety

- Install a water fountain with a dog station
- Add benches
- Add shade structures and trees
- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction activities

Access & Connectivity

- Connect with the City of San Antonio's planned Crystal Hills Park, Leon Creek Greenway Trail system, and the City of Leon Valley
- Provide additional pedestrian access
- Allow access for bicycle
- Construct a low impact parking lot

Nature & Environment

- Install pervious concrete or similar
- Adopt a *Leave No Trace* awareness strategy

Sustainable & Resilient

- Install an irrigation system
- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and park design



View of the park from San Antonio Trails



Existing connections to neighborhoods and trails



Materials on the park to develop with

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Triangle Park - Existing Conditions



Park Zone - 3

Size

1.47 acres

Location

Located at the southern edge of and connected to the Huebner Onion Natural Area Park along Bandera Road.

Classification

Conservancy

Amenity

Open, unbuilt green space

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Triangle Park – Existing Conditions



- BOUNDARY OF PARKS/TRAILS
- CITY LIMITS
- ADDITIONAL PARKING NEEDED
- TREES NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS NEEDED (WITH ADA) (NO INPUT)
- SAFETY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED (NO INPUT)
- BIKE ACCESS NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- AMENITIES NEEDED (BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, ETC.) (NO INPUT)



Aerial view of the park



Adjacent trail connecting to the street



Street view of the trail along the Triangle Park boundary

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Triangle Park – Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community’s feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Partner with the Onion House to include the area as a tourist and educational attraction
- Provide ADA compliance for all play equipment, trails, and amenities

Recreation & Amenities

- Install benches and directional signage where drivers can see the opportunity for passive recreational activities

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Perform regular maintenance - mowing, trash and debris clearance, tree trimming
- Create a parking lot with trees for the historical house
- Adopt annual maintenance plan

Comfort & Safety

- Monitor and prevent homeless camp
- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction activities

Access & Connectivity

- Build Hike & Bike Trail under Bandera Road bridge and provide connection to existing sidewalk along Bandera Road

Nature & Environment

- Preserve and enhance natural environment
- Adopt a Leave No Trace awareness strategy

Sustainable & Resilient

- Undertake flood control measures to prevent flooding of the stream
- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and park design



Undeveloped Triangle Park



Adjacent pathway near Triangle Park



A potential trail along the utility lines

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Pavona-Linkwood Trail – Existing Conditions



Park Zone

4

Size

.86 acres

Location

Located south of Linklea Drive and Linkhaven Drive. Linkwood is a natural trail for the neighborhood.

Classification

Linear Park/Linkages

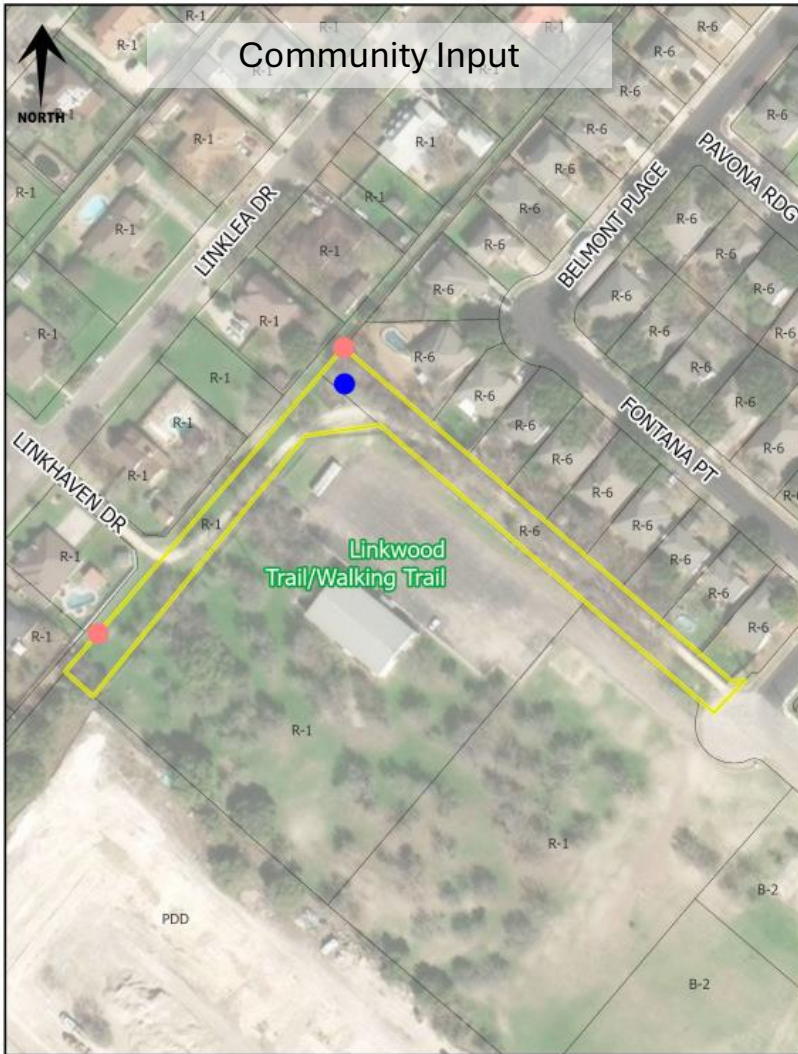
Amenity

1 Walking trail/ loop
3 Benches
1 Exercise Station

- **Current plans to connect a new trail on the southwest corner of Linkwood Trail to the Senna Subdivision**

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Pavona-Linkwood Trail - Existing Conditions



- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| BOUNDARY OF PARKS/TRAILS | DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED (NO INPUT) | AMENITIES NEEDED (BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, ETC.) (NO INPUT) |
| CITY LIMITS | PEDESTRIAN ACCESS NEEDED (WITH ADA) (NO INPUT) | |
| ADDITIONAL PARKING NEEDED (NO INPUT) | SAFETY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED (NO INPUT) | |
| TREES NEEDED (NO INPUT) | BIKE ACCESS NEEDED (NO INPUT) | |



Trail entrance from Evers Rd. and Chenal Pt.



Mostly shaded trail



Trail entrance form Linkhaven Dr. and Linklea Dr.

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Pavona-Linkwood Trail - Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community's feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Install and layout pavers in a hopscotch game for all to use as exercise and enjoyment
- Provide ADA compliance for all play equipment, trails, and amenities

Recreation & Amenities

- Add an amenity (bench) at the center of the trail

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Enhance with artwork to attract users
- Adopt annual maintenance plan

Comfort & Safety

- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction activities

Access & Connectivity

- Increase pedestrian access to the Senna Subdivision
- Increase bicycle access to the Senna Subdivision
- Clear the walking path of overgrown vegetation and install an all-weather surface
- Investigate connecting trail to the Linkwood neighborhood behind houses on Linklea Drive and behind houses on Belmont Place

Nature & Environment

- Install bushes along the outskirts, near the parking lot and driveway
- Adopt a *Leave No Trace* awareness strategy

Sustainable & Resilient

- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and trail design



Exercise station along trail



Add art and make ADA surface accessible



Add trail and directional signage

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Steurenthaler-Silo Park - Existing Conditions



Park Zone - 3

Size

4.28 acres

Location

Located south of Huebner Road

Classification

Linear Park/Linkages
Conservancy

Amenity

- 1 Playground/ play structure
- 1 Fitness zone/ exercise station
- 1 Walking trail/ loop
- 1 Pavilion
- 6 Benches

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Steurenthaler-Silo Park – Existing Conditions



Repurpose - paint art on the silos



Exercise station in the park



Add a butterfly garden and natural walk path

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| BOUNDARY OF PARKS/TRAILS | DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED (NO INPUT) | AMENITIES NEEDED (BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, ETC.) (NO INPUT) |
| CITY LIMITS | PEDESTRIAN ACCESS NEEDED (WITH ADA) | |
| ADDITIONAL PARKING NEEDED | SAFETY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED (NO INPUT) | |
| TREES NEEDED | BIKE ACCESS NEEDED | |

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Steurethaler-Silo Park - Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community's feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Incorporate the silos into the park design and enhance them with murals and other artwork
- Provide ADA compliance for all play equipment, trails, and amenities

Recreation & Amenities

- Add trees or a shade structure over the exercise station

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Reprint the exercise equipment labels that are worn out
- Adopt annual maintenance plan

Comfort & Safety

- Add a water fountain with a dog station
- Add more shade – structures or trees
- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction activities

Access & Connectivity

- Build a walking trail to this park from Huebner Road, and then from Canterfield to Huebner Creek via the drainage way
- Provide access for pedestrians and bicycles along the edges of the park adjacent to Huebner Road
- Build a bridge over seasonal creek
- Provide safe pedestrian crossing at Pavona Ridge Rd. and Huebner Rd.

Nature & Environment

- Consider adding a butterfly garden in this park, near the silos
- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and park design

Sustainable & Resilient

- Add an irrigation system



Connection to the silos with ADA access



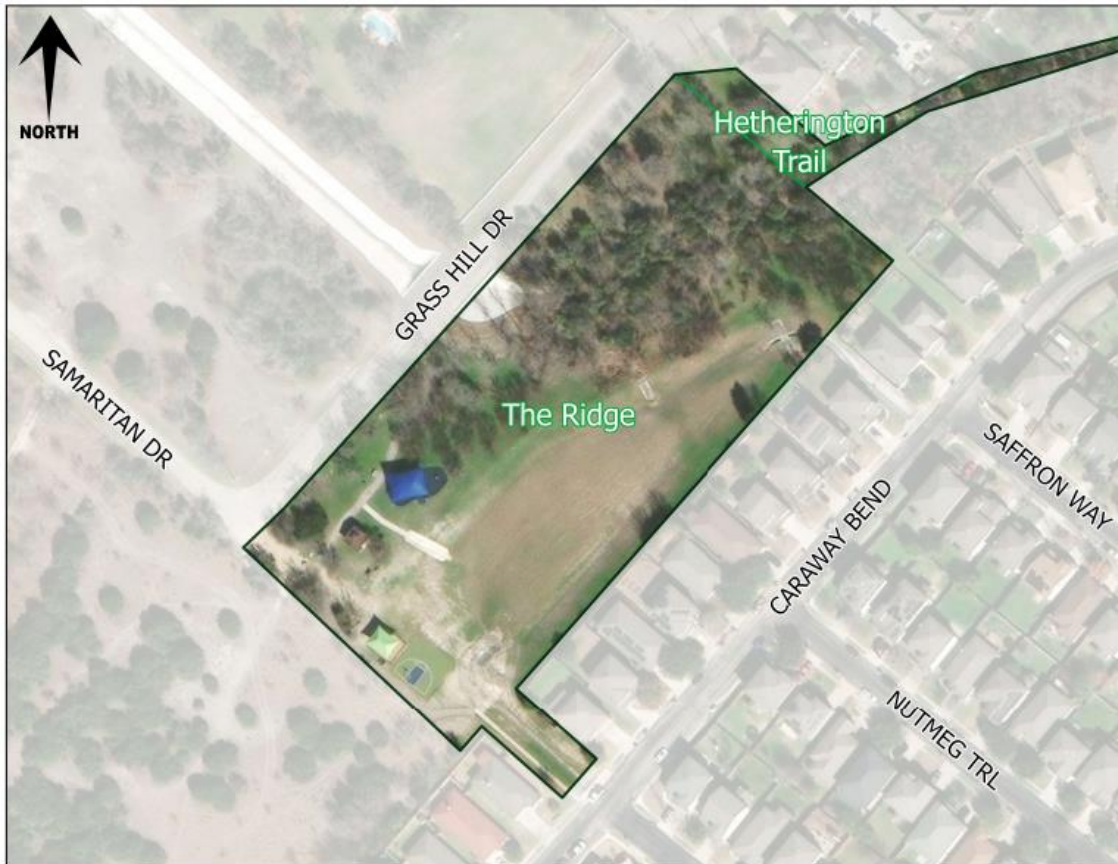
Add flowers to attract butterflies



Shaded playground in the park

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

The Ridge - Existing Conditions



Park Zone - 2

Size

4.67 acres

Location

Located south of Heatherington Trail.

Classification

Neighborhood Park

Amenity

- 1 Pavilion
- 1 Playground
- 1 Exercise Station
- ½ Court Basketball
- Walking loop/trail
- Multiuse detention pond with a playing field

Current Plans

- Connect trail to Heatherington and Seneca trail (starting November 2024)

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

The Ridge – Existing Conditions



- BOUNDARY OF PARKS/TRAILS
- CITY LIMITS
- ADDITIONAL PARKING NEEDED
- TREES NEEDED

- DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS NEEDED (WITH ADA)
- SAFETY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED (NO INPUT)
- BIKE ACCESS NEEDED

- AMENITIES NEEDED (BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, ETC.)



Pavilion area with sustainable disposable



Exercise station with shade and 1/2 basketball court



Playground with ADA functions

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

The Ridge – Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community’s feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Install two pickle ball courts
- Provide ADA compliance for all play equipment, trails, and amenities

Recreation & Amenities

- Enhance basketball court
- Add picnic tables
- Extend walking path

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Pave pervious concrete or flat surfacing for parking
- Adopt annual maintenance plan

Comfort & Safety

- Add water fountains with dog stations
- Add benches
- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction activities

Access & Connectivity

- Connect to the Hetherington Trail and to the Huebner Creek Greenway Trail
- Widen Grass Hill Drive on the City side and install sidewalks
- Connect to the city trail system
- Provide pervious parking
- Provide pedestrian and bike access from the entrance area leading to the residential lots (south)

Nature & Environment

- Plant new landscaping and/or a flower garden
- Adopt a *Leave No Trace* awareness strategy

Sustainable & Resilient

- Continue to develop this park with the addition of an irrigation system
- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and park design



Parking area near the playground and pathway



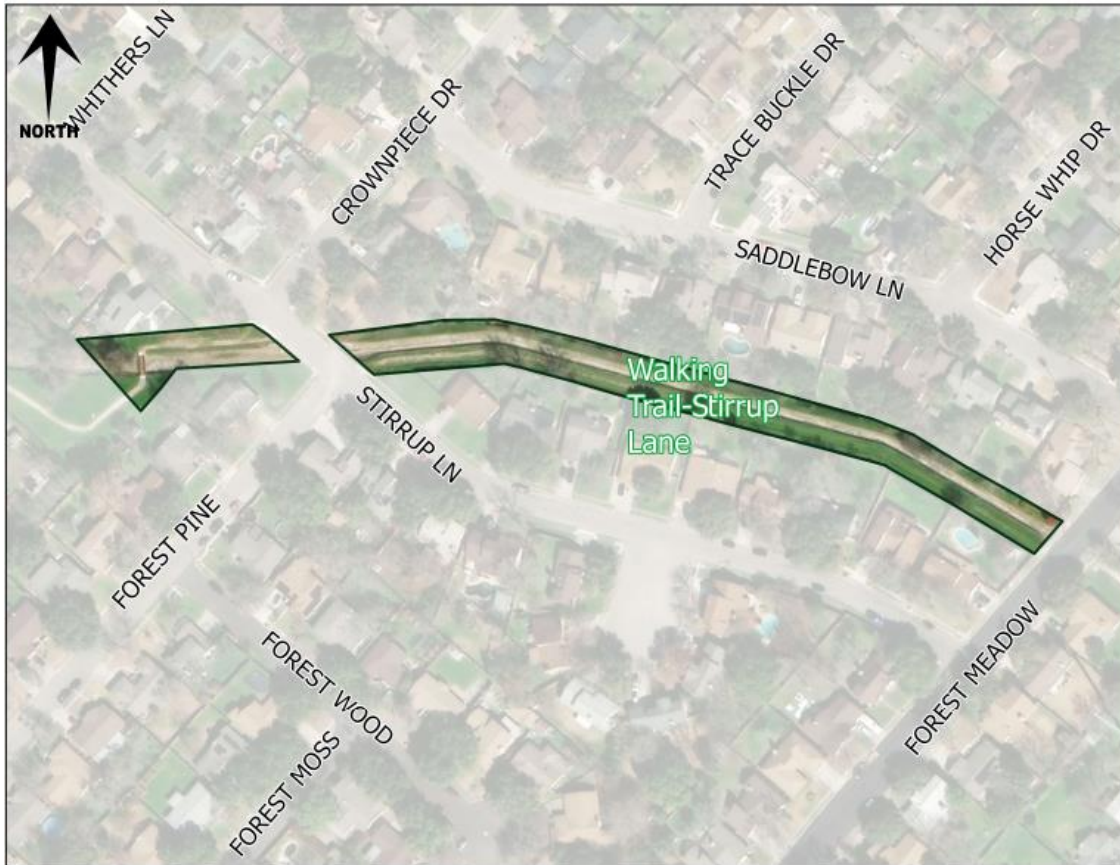
Multi-use detention pond with a playing field area



Pavilion, playground, bench, and walking path

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Stirrup Trail - Existing Conditions



Park Zone - 3

Size

1.27 acres

Location

Located in the rear of residential homes with potential to provide connectivity and access to the city library, located southwest from Forest Moss Road.

Classification

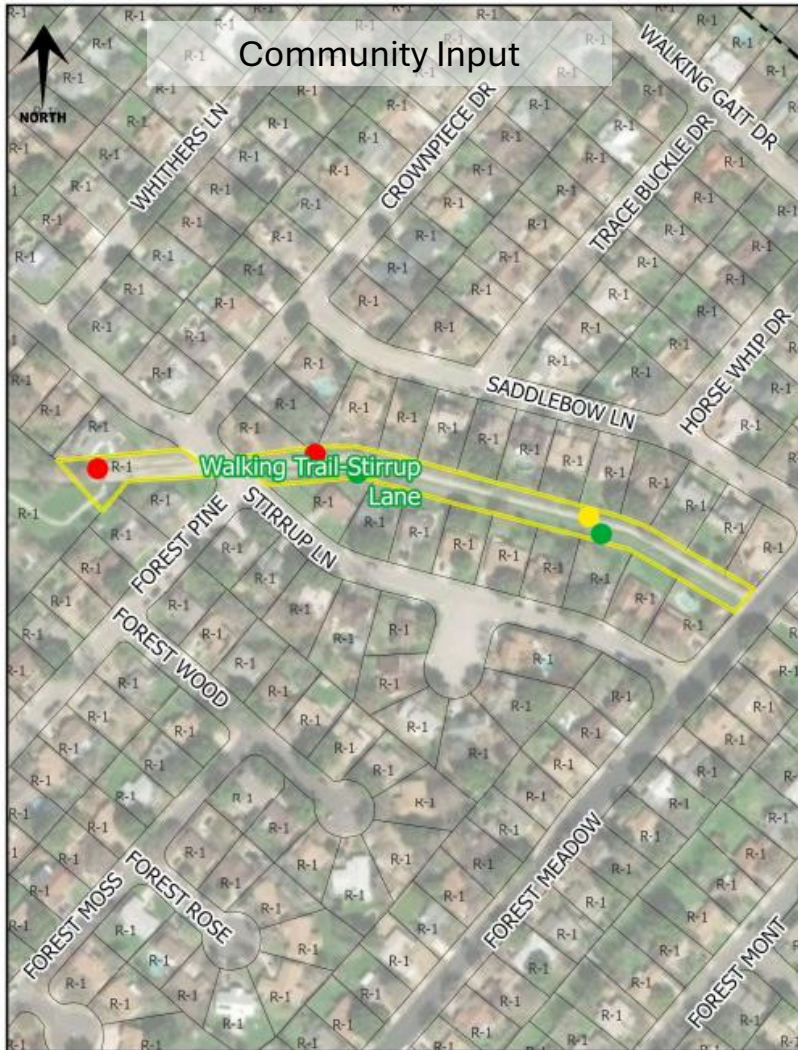
Linear Park/Linkages

Amenity

1 Walking trail/loop
2 Benches

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Stirrup Trail – Existing Conditions



Widen trail - 4-6 ft. for bikes and pedestrians



Add trail signage



Add natural wildflowers along the trail

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Stirrup Trail - Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community's feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Incorporate artwork about books and reading with signage to the library
- Provide ADA compliance for all play equipment, trails, and amenities
- activities

Recreation & Amenities

- Install children's rock-climbing area in the area near bridge
- Add playground equipment near the bridge
- Install mile markers

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Maintain trail surface and wooden bridge
- Adopt annual maintenance plan

Comfort & Safety

- Install recycling receptacles
- Add shade/trees
- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction

Access & Connectivity

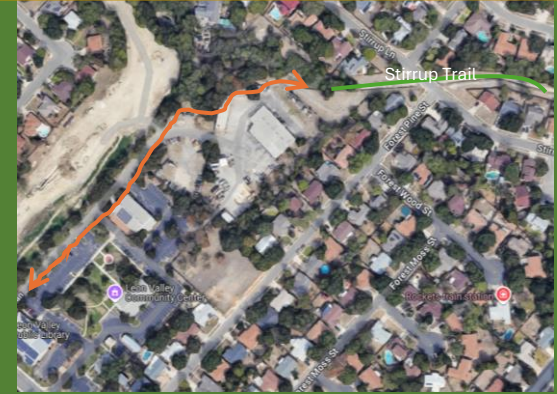
- Improve the trail with paved walkway along creek
- Improve pedestrian access to the trail

Nature & Environment

- Add environmental and water drainage educational billboards along the stream
- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and park design
- Adopt a *Leave No Trace* awareness strategy

Sustainable & Resilient

- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and trail design



Stirrup Trail leads to the City Library and Community



Add signage and ADA surface to trail



Add signage at street intersections

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Leon Valley Pool - Existing Conditions



Park Zone - 3

Size

1.14 acres

Location

Located adjacent to Raymond Rimkus Park

Classification

Community Park

Amenity

Pool, closed

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Leon Valley Pool – Existing Conditions



- BOUNDARY OF PARKS/TRAILS
- CITY LIMITS
- ADDITIONAL PARKING NEEDED
- TREES NEEDED
- DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS NEEDED (WITH ADA)
- SAFETY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED
- BIKE ACCESS NEEDED (NO INPUT)

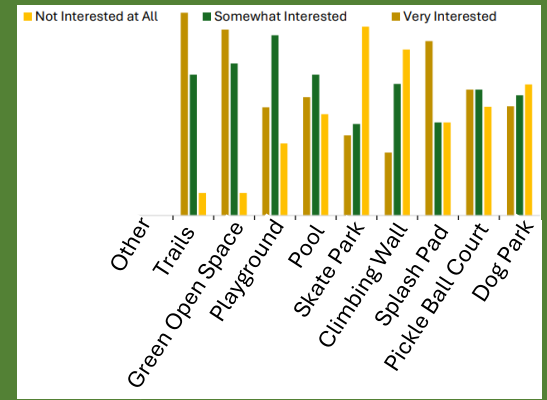
- AMENITIES NEEDED (BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, ETC.) (NO INPUT)



Parking lot, basketball hoop, and pool



Busy season when it was open



Questionnaire results of interested amenities

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Leon Valley Pool – Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community’s feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Install public art
- Provide ADA compliance for all play equipment, trails, and amenities

Recreation & Amenities

- Create splash pad
- Construct a dog park

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Rehabilitate and enlarge the restrooms
- Remodel the pool and bathhouse
- Adopt annual maintenance plan

Comfort & Safety

- Add a shade structure over future splash pad, pool, and sitting areas
- Meet all ADA needs
- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction activities

Access & Connectivity

- Develop the adjacent vacant lot as additional park facility with access to restrooms
- Install an enhanced pedestrian crossing from Peachtree Street to Raymond Rimkus Park
- Build safer pedestrian crossing
- Create bike/pedestrian walkways
- Provide more parking
- Create entrances to the pool facility on Poss Road and Peach Tree Street

Nature & Environment

- Install trees around the parking lot to offset gas emissions and heat
- Adopt a *Leave No Trace* awareness strategy

Sustainable & Resilient

- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and park design



2024 condition of the pool



2024 condition of the pool building



Leon Valley pool parking lot and vacant lot

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Huebner Onion Natural Area Park - Existing Conditions



Park Zone - 3

Size

36.51 acres

Location

Located between Triangle Park and Raymond Rimkus Park which is north of Bandera Road. Located north of Bandera Road and El Verde Road.

Classification

Regional Park
Linear Park/Linkages

Amenity

Open, unbuilt green space

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Huebner Natural Area Park – Existing Conditions



- BOUNDARY OF PARKS/TRAILS
- CITY LIMITS
- ADDITIONAL PARKING NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- TREES NEEDED (NO INPUT)
- DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS NEEDED (WITH ADA)
- SAFETY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED
- BIKE ACCESS NEEDED
- AMENITIES NEEDED (BENCHES, WATER FOUNTAINS, ETC.) (NO INPUT)



Connect park to the Hike and Bike Trail



Desired trail along the utility easement



Joseph Huebner Historical Texas Cemetery

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks

Huebner Onion Natural Area Park - Community Feedback

Park recommendations based on the community's feedback from the survey, questionnaire, and Advisory Committee.

Family Oriented & Inclusive

- Highlight family cemetery location (Historical Asset)
- Accentuate Onion House area which was a trading post and holds cultural value
- Provide ADA compliance for all play equipment, trails, and amenities

Recreation & Amenities

- Build wildlife viewing platform

Reinvestment & Maintenance

- Repair erosion along Huebner Creek
- Adopt annual maintenance plan

Comfort & Safety

- Install interpretive signage near Huebner-Onion Homestead
- Incorporate a sensitive lighting schedule – no lights down to dusk or keep as a “dark park” with no lights
- Incorporate CPTED design principles in all maintenance, design, and construction activities

Access & Connectivity

- Improve the existing natural trail surface
- Create bike trail along the edge of the park
- Build the Hike and Bike Trail to connect the existing one to Evers Road

Nature & Environment

- Preserve and enhance the natural environment
- Adopt a *Leave No Trace* awareness strategy

Sustainable & Resilient

- Remove non-native vegetation and trees and replant with native varieties
- Address drainage issues
- Encourage adherence to Envision sustainability framework and standards for all facilities and park design



Line ditches with river rocks and wildflowers



Trail and Cemetery access from Evening Sun Dr.



Huebner Cemetery fencing

11

Maintenance & Operations



Maintenance & Operations

Current

The City of Leon Valley Public Works Departments oversees the upkeep of the grounds maintenance at all parks, trails, and open space facilities such as restrooms, fields, playgrounds, exercise stations, and landscape. The goal is to ensure safe, clean, and updated facilities for the community and tourists to enjoy.

Leon Valley Parks, Trails, and Open Space Facilities

	Hetherington Trail	Leon Valley Ranches Park	Hike & Bike Trail	The Ridge at Leon Valley Park	Forest Oaks Pool	Linkwood / Pavona Trail	Stirrup Lane Trail	Steurethaler-Silo Park	Leon Valley Pool	Raymond Rimkus Park	Huebner Onion Natural Area Park	Old Mill Park	Shadow Mist	Triangle Park	Leon Valley Total Facilities
Acres	.43	2.62	1.02	4.67	1.34	.86	1.27	5.24	1.14	23.01	36.51	2.09	2.74	1.47	84.41
Playgrounds or play structures	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	-	2	0	1	0		5
Diamond fields	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	0		1
Basketball courts, standalone	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	-	2	0	0	0		3
Rectangular fields	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	2	0	0	0		2
Tennis courts	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	2	0	0	0		3
Community gardens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	0	0	0		1
Swimming pools (w/or w/out concessions)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0		1
Fitness zones/Exercise stations	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	-	0	0	0	0		2
Walking loops/Running tracks	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	-	1	0	1	0		7
Pavilion	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	-	2	0	1	0		5
Bench	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	7	-	28	0	5	0		44
Mini Library	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	0	1	0		2
Restroom	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	2	0	0	0		3
Volleyball court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
Water Fountain	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	3	0	0	0		5

Maintenance & Operations

General Park Maintenance Schedule

Daily/Weekly Park Maintenance Schedule

Monday - Rimkus and Pocket parks - 14 man hours combined

- Clean Restrooms, pavilion, water fountains and drag Softball field – 3-man hours
- Pick up trash on grounds
- Check all trash containers; empty if more than half full (in case of rain dump water out) re-fill doggie bag dispensers –4 man hour avg. Will increase due to adverse weather conditions.
- Rimkus Park - Check playground for loose equipment, broken parts or missing bolts etc... 1 man hour
- Fluff fall zone material/back fill low depressions: swings, merry-go-round, slide exits, etc... - 2-man hours avg,
- Silo, Old Mill, and the Ridge - Check Pocket Park grounds for trash, empty trash containers, doggie bag dispensers, visually inspect playground and exercise equipment for broken or missing parts (isolate broken equipment and report breakage) and fluff fall zone material – 4 man hours
- Manually water rain garden

Tuesday – 7 man hours combined

- Clean Restrooms, pavilion and water fountains – 3-man hours
- Check playground for loose equipment, broken parts or missing bolts etc...
- Fluff fall zone material/back fill low depressions: swings, merry-go-round, slide exits, etc....4 man hours

Wednesday – 9-man hours

- Clean Restrooms, pavilion and water fountains
- Pick up trash on grounds
- Check all trash containers; empty if more than half full (in case of rain dump water out)
- Check playground for loose equipment, broken parts or missing bolts etc...
- Fluff fall zone material/back fill low depressions: swings, merry-go-round, slide exits, etc....

Thursday – 7 man hours- Same as Tuesdays Park maintenance routine

- Clean Restrooms, pavilion and water fountains
- Check playground for loose equipment, broken parts or missing bolts
- Fluff fall zone material/back fill low depressions: swings, merry-go-round, slide exits, etc....

Friday — 14-man hour

- Clean Restrooms, pavilion and water fountains and drag Softball field
- Pick up trash on grounds
- Check all trash containers; empty if more than half full (in case of rain dump water out) re-fill doggie bag dispensers
- Check playground for loose equipment, broken parts or missing bolts
- Fluff fall zone material/back fill low depressions: swings, merry-go-round, slide exits, etc....
- Check Pocket Park grounds for trash, empty trash containers, doggie bag dispensers, visually inspect playground and exercise equipment for broken or missing parts (isolate broken equipment and report breakage) and fluff fall zone material – Silo, Old Mill, and the Ridge

Saturday and Sunday - RIMKUS PARK – 16-man hours combined for both days

- Clean Restrooms, pavilion and water fountains
- Pick up trash on grounds
- Check all trash containers; empty if more than half full (in case of rain dump water out)
- Check playground for loose equipment, broken parts or missing bolts
- Fluff fall zone material/back fill low depressions: swings, merry-go-round, slide exits, etc....
- Check both pavilions @ 2pm – trash on grounds, empty trash containers and clean-up any spills

TOTAL: Daily Park maintenance schedule approximate man hours required weekly 67 hours

Maintenance & Operations

Recommendation

Create a Maintenance Plan

Establishing a parks, trails, and open space maintenance plan will guarantee well-kept outdoor spaces and the longevity of facilities and amenities.

Maintenance Plan Goals:

1. Establish park maintenance standards
2. Develop a systematic approach to planning and scheduling
3. Develop standardized methods of quality indicators
4. Extend “lifetime” operation of amenities and facilities
5. Enhance overall employee productivity

Elements of a Maintenance Plan:

1. Level of care to categorize different fields, parks, and trails based on materials, utilization, and seasons. Level 1 is a high need of maintenance; examples are a highly utilized diamond field for baseball or tending to turf often. Level 2 is a medium need of maintenance; examples are pocket parks and trails. Level 3 is a lower need of maintenance; examples are parks with fewer amenities and facilities or low visitation rates.
2. Maintenance calendar that incorporates all tasks, frequencies, and month where amenities and facilities are scheduled to be completed. In addition to the list in this section, other tasks should be accounted for such as, tending to the garden in Raymond-Rimkus Park, soil fertilization, tree pruning, painting fields, invasive species evaluation, and additional tasks as needed and with new development.
3. Provide updated checklists of each park and a “how-to” check facilities for staff to complete quality and efficient maintenance checks.
4. Replacement schedule of mulch, hard court resurfacing, playground equipment.



Exercise Station Maintenance



Water, Trash, and Dog Station Maintenance



Garden Maintenance

12

Implementation: City Wide



Implementation: City wide

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan ensures that the ideas and policies articulated in a plan become reality. It prioritizes the key actions that need to be undertaken (what), the responsible entities (who), desired timeline (when), and available resources (how).

Action Types

Implementation occurs through many actions:

- Regulation: Updating existing regulations or developing new ordinances.
- Coordination: Working with other agencies or groups to implement goals.
- CIP: Any capital investments or physical improvements.
- Program: Utilizing existing or new programs, processes or work plans.
- Development: Goals implemented through the development process.
- Plan / study: Creating new plans or updating existing plans.

Timing

The actions have been assigned a time frame for implementation. These represent ideal targets that are subject to prioritization over time as needed.

Short-Term: 0-2 years

Mid-Term: 3-5 years

Long-Term: 6-10 years

Ongoing: Tasks completed through existing programs or as the need arises.

Funding Sources

In addition to the grants available through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the identified actions can be funded through sources such as the City's general funds, federal grants (e.g. Community Development Block Grants, Disaster Recovery Grants, Safe Routes to School, Safe Streets for All), state grants, and others. The City should actively seek external funding sources and explore public-private partnerships to implement the recommended actions.

State of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

Grants and Assistance

TPWD partners with communities across the state to build new parks and trails, conserve natural resources, preserve historical sites, provide access to water bodies, develop educational programs for youth, and much more. These grants include **Recreation Grants, Wildlife Grants, and Fisheries Grants.**



Examples of other funding sources:

Texas-Parks Wildlife Foundation
Texas Recreation & Park Society
National Park Service (NPS) Programs
Keep Texas Beautiful

Implementation: City wide

Key implementation actions in phases of short-, mid-, and long-term time goals are listed below and in the following pages. After receiving community input on the needs and wishes of Leon Valley Parks, Open Space, and Trails, these recommendations were created to meet the needs and recommendations listed within this plan. The actual cost will depend on the design, materials, resources, and timing of the action.

Recommended Action	Action Type & Cost	Term
Family Oriented & Inclusive		
Ensure that the City’s parks provide age-friendly recreational facilities and opportunities for all cohorts.	CIP - \$\$\$ P - \$	Ongoing
Expand the parks programming to increase activities and events hosted by the city.	P - \$\$	Short-Term
Consider a park celebration event throughout the city parks and recreational facilities (for example walkathon, bike race, scavenger hunt, art walks, etc.) that involves all residents and garners media attention.	P - \$\$ C - \$	Short-Term
Add a venue such as a plaza or a park square to hold outdoor events and celebrations.	CIP - \$\$\$ C - \$	Mid-Term
Add sports fields and recreational facilities such as disc golf, skate park, pickle ball, and splash pads.	CIP - \$\$\$	Long-Term

- Action Type:
- (R) Regulation: Updating existing regulations or developing new ordinances.
 - (C) Coordination: Working with other agencies or groups to implement goals.
 - (CIP) CIP: Any capital investments or physical improvements.
 - (P) Program: Utilizing existing or new programs, processes or work plans.
 - (D) Development: Goals implemented through the development process.
 - (PS) Plan / study: Creating new plans or updating existing plans.

- Anticipated Cost:
- \$ Low
 - \$\$ Medium
 - \$\$\$ High

- Terms:
- Short-Term: 0-2 years
 - Mid-Term: 3-5 years
 - Long-Term: 6-10 years
 - Ongoing: Tasks completed though existing programs or as the need arises.



Implementation: City wide

Recommended Action	Action Type & Cost	Term
Recreation & Amenities		
Adopt National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines.	P - \$ R - \$	Ongoing (P), Short-Term (R)
Reevaluate the parkland dedication requirements and fees.	R - \$ PS - \$\$	Short-Term
Ensure that the programming of parks and open spaces meets the diverse ethnic needs of the community.	P - \$\$	Ongoing
Complete an aquatics study and incorporate aquatic related events for all	PS - \$	Mid-Term
Create a Master Trails Plan, including bulk heads, mile markers, and other facilities, that provides connectivity between parks and to the regional trail network.	PS - \$	Short-Term
Expand the parks, trails, and open space network.	P, C,D - \$\$\$	Ongoing
Add a dog park and include amenities for dogs in all facilities.	CIP - \$\$\$	Short-Term
Retain one pool for the community and repurpose the other pool facility site.	CIP - \$\$	Short-Term
Upgrade surfaces for fields and trails with all-weather surface,	CIP - \$\$\$	Long-Term
Replace or augment exercise equipment with children's climbing equipment.	P, CIP - \$\$	Ongoing
Implement a public art program that provides in a unique identify, incorporates local culture, and unifies the park, open space, and recreation system (public private partnership).	C, CIP - \$	Short-Term

Action Type:

- (R) Regulation: Updating existing regulations or developing new ordinances.
- (C) Coordination: Working with other agencies or groups to implement goals.
- (CIP) CIP: Any capital investments or physical improvements.
- (P) Program: Utilizing existing or new programs, processes or work plans.
- (D) Development: Goals implemented through the development process.
- (PS) Plan / study: Creating new plans or updating existing plans.

Anticipated Cost:

- \$ Low
- \$\$ Medium
- \$\$\$ High

Terms:

- Short-Term: 0-2 years
- Mid-Term: 3-5 years
- Long-Term: 6-10 years
- Ongoing: Tasks completed though existing programs or as the need arises.



The Ridge Walking Path

Implementation: City wide

Recommended Action	Action Type & Cost	Term
Reinvestment & Maintenance		
Prepare a Maintenance Plan with incorporation of high maintenance standards for all facilities and trails.	PS - \$	Short-Term
Augment existing staffing levels by addition of two dedicated personnel to oversee maintenance.	R - \$\$	Short-Term
Consider Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation to optimize departmental resources and embrace best practices to meet the open space and recreational needs of the community.	P - \$	Mid-Term

Action Type:

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Anticipated Cost:

- \$ Low
- \$\$ Medium
- \$\$\$ High

Terms:

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- Long-Term: 6-10 years
- Ongoing: Tasks completed through existing programs or as the need arises.



The Silos

Implementation: City wide

Recommended Action	Action Type & Cost	Term
Comfort & Safety		
Prepare a design criteria manual that provides guidelines on amenities, landscaping, shade, and other elements to increase usage.	R - \$ PS - \$	Mid-Term
Adopt measures for mitigation of heat islands.	R - \$ PS - \$	Mid-Term
Encourage compliance with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.	R - \$ PS - \$	Mid-Term
Address crime and homelessness in parks in collaboration with other agencies.	R, C - \$	Ongoing
Consider a Parks and Recreation Department with a safety Ranger position to address park programs and events, as well as security and safety issues especially on-site security.	R - \$\$	Short-Term
Continue to enforce the “Dark Sky” ordinance and examine areas where additional lighting may be beneficial for safety and maintain the current	R - \$	Ongoing

Action Type:

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- (D) Development: Goals implemented through the development process.
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Anticipated Cost:

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- \$\$ Medium
- \$\$\$ High

Terms:

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Hike & Bike Greenway Trail

Implementation: City wide

Recommended Action	Action Type	Term
Access & Connectivity		
Prepare and adopt a comprehensive signage plan with unique branding for all facilities including trails.	PS - \$	Mid-Term
Connect every park to the surrounding neighborhood by a safe and accessible pedestrian and bike paths. Conduct a Walk Audit utilizing NRPA's Safe Routes to Parks Action Framework to evaluate and address the safety and walkability of a street, neighborhood or community.	C - \$ CIP - \$\$\$ D - \$ R - \$	Ongoing, Short-Term
Continue to ensure playgrounds are designed to meet the needs of children and adults with disabilities, beyond ADA accessibility compliance.	R - \$ P - \$ D - \$	Ongoing, Short-Term
Adopt a marketing plan that amplifies the presence of parks, increases participation, and foster community connections in exciting new ways, including use of social media, sponsorships, map, bulletin boards, and promotional activities such as park run, treasure hunt, etc.	PS - \$ C - \$	Mid-Term

Action Type:

- (R) Regulation: Updating existing regulations or developing new ordinances.
- (C) Coordination: Working with other agencies or groups to implement goals.
- (CIP) CIP: Any capital investments or physical improvements.
- (P) Program: Utilizing existing or new programs, processes or work plans.
- (D) Development: Goals implemented through the development process.
- (PS) Plan / study: Creating new plans or updating existing plans.

Anticipated Cost:

- \$ Low
- \$\$ Medium
- \$\$\$ High

Terms:

- Short-Term: 0-2 years
- Mid-Term: 3-5 years
- Long-Term: 6-10 years
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Raymond Rimkus Park

Implementation: City wide

Recommended Action	Action Type	Term
Nature & Environment		
Preserve, enhance and expand natural areas.	R - \$ D - \$	Ongoing, Short-Term
Protect indigenous ecosystems in parks to promote biodiversity.	R - \$ D - \$	Ongoing, Short-Term
Create and enhance habitats for local and migratory birds and animals.	CIP - \$\$\$ D - \$ R - \$	Short-Term
Promote the use of native plant materials in parks, trails and within public medians.	CIP - \$\$\$ D - \$ R - \$	Short-Term
Actively promote eco-tourism.	C - \$	Mid-Term

Action Type:

- (R) Regulation: Updating existing regulations or developing new ordinances.
- (C) Coordination: Working with other agencies or groups to implement goals.
- (CIP) CIP: Any capital investments or physical improvements.
- (P) Program: Utilizing existing or new programs, processes or work plans.
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Anticipated Cost:

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- \$\$\$ High

Terms:

- Short-Term: 0-2 years
- Mid-Term: 3-5 years
- Long-Term: 6-10 years
- Ongoing: Tasks completed through existing programs or as the need arises.



Raymond Rimkus Park

13

Appendices

- A. Parks Commission/Advisory Committee Meeting #1 Summary
- B. Findings Report (AC Meeting #2 Presentation)
- C. Advisory Committee Meeting #2 Summary
- D. City-Wide Survey Summary
- E. Questionnaire Summary
- F. Stakeholder Summary

To view any of these documents, please visit the City webpage under “Project Documents” here: [Leon Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update | Leon Valley Texas](#)

