BACKGROUND

PURPOSE

Parks can be a respite from normal day-to-day routines, a place to exercise, a place to gather with family and friends or any number of uses. Certain parks are destinations, drawing millions of people a year, and some are a few minutes’ walk from your front door where one may catch up with the neighbors. Regardless of how people use parks, they are invaluable to a healthy, active community. Parks and trails have been responsible for dramatic increases in property value, attracting new residents and businesses and enhancing quality of life in communities around the country. For McKinney, as is the case in every great city, parks are integral to the creation of a quality, attractive environment in which to live and work.

This chapter links these personal and city-wide benefits of parks through a quantitative analysis of the overall system. It includes an analysis of McKinney’s existing parks, recreation, and open space facilities; an assessment of needs based on standards and level of service; and a series of priorities for studies and policies, land acquisition, park development, and outdoor recreation facilities.

GOALS

Utilizing information gathered from a citywide telephone survey, an online survey, a public open house forum, a series of key stakeholder meetings, and input from the Visioning Committee, the following goals for the parks and open space portion of this Parks Master Plan were developed:

• **STRATEGICALLY LOCATE NEW PARKS** in a way that adds value to the City
• **IMPROVE EXISTING PARKS** to aid in revitalization of older areas of the City
• **LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY** to enhance park experience(s) (add Wi-Fi, etc.)
• **ENCOURAGE SOCIALIZATION**; make parks the focal points of neighborhoods and dense urban developments
• **IMPLEMENT BEAUTIFICATION ELEMENTS** at City parks, entrances and gateways that enhance the image and brand of the City
• **BRING** all existing park **INFRASTRUCTURE**, sidewalks and playgrounds up to **CURRENT STANDARDS** for universal accessibility
• **SERVE AS A TOOL** for securing grant funding for parks, open space and trail projects
• **PROVIDE A STRATEGIC PLAN** for acquiring land for future parks and open space
• **ENCOURAGE AND FOSTER COLLABORATION** on City projects in order to leverage the efforts of all departments towards implementation of the Master Plan
CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

In analyzing McKinney’s current parks and open space system, it is important to identify the functional classification of each of the City’s parks. While each park in the City is unique in its own right, each can also be assigned to one of five categories.

PARK TYPOLOGY 1

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS (24 total)
Neighborhood parks are typically between 10 and 15 acres in size (larger parks being most desirable for efficient maintenance and operation) and serve their surrounding neighborhoods. These parks are usually accessible by walking or bicycling and are typically spaced based on a 1/4 to 1/2 mi service radius. Neighborhood parks constitute the core of the parks system and generally serve 3,000 to 4,000 residents. As a rule of thumb, all neighborhood parks should have a playground, pavilion, a loop trail, and open areas for free play. Additional amenities often provided at neighborhood parks include benches, picnic tables, basketball courts, multi-purpose fields (for formal practice and/or informal play), and backstops.

PARK TYPOLOGY 2

COMMUNITY PARKS (8 total)
Community parks are larger than neighborhood parks – typically 25 to 100+ acres in size – and have more amenities. Although these parks often serve specific neighborhoods, it is ideal to evenly distribute these parks across the City so that they are easily accessed by all residents. The ideal distribution is such that all residents are within a 1 to 2 mile radius of a community park. Typically, community parks will have all of the amenities of a neighborhood park (playgrounds, pavilions, open areas for free play, trails, basketball courts, multi-purpose practice fields, backstops, etc.), but with the addition of amenities such as lighted competitive athletic fields, larger areas of open space for free play, natural areas, and restrooms. Quite often, community parks will include special facilities such as recreation centers and skateboard parks.

PARK TYPOLOGY 3

SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS (5 total)
This subcategory includes 1-3 acre pocket parks, 1-2 acre trailheads, 0.25-1 acre plazas, athletic complexes, and practice fields. It also includes “special interest” parks that are not otherwise part of another neighborhood or community parks. Examples of special interest parks include dog parks, skate parks, or any other type of park designed to accommodate a limited number of specific recreation activities. While parks less than 5 acres are typically discouraged because they are often difficult to maintain efficiently, small park areas are often necessary to serve special purposes. Smaller parks are also desirable in urbanized areas, such as around Downtown.
PARK TYPOLOGY 4 | LINEAR PARKS & OPEN SPACE (3 total)
Greenbelts are corridors typically following creeks, railroads, or utility lines and in unique situations as part of the roadway system. Greenbelts usually contain trails and are ideal for providing alternative, non-motorized transportation to parks, schools, neighborhoods, libraries, retail, and other major destinations. Other than providing connections, these parks provide recreational value by themselves. In addition, greenbelts along creeks have the added benefit of providing habitat and migration/movement corridors for wildlife. They also provide opportunities for improving watershed management in an aesthetically-pleasing and sustainable manner.

PARK TYPOLOGY 5 | REGIONAL PARKS (2 total)
Regional parks in McKinney are limited to two private facilities - Heard Nature and Science Museum and Myers Park and Event Center. While these are not included among parks the city is responsible for maintaining and improving, they are great additional venues with park-type amenities and event space.
## INVENTORY OF AMENITIES

### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS | 227.27 ACRES

McKinney currently has 24 neighborhood parks, most of which are located in the more developed areas south of US 380. Overall the City’s neighborhood parks include amenities such as multi-purpose fields, backstops, basketball courts, splash pads and many miles of trails.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Hardy Eubanks, Jr. Park</td>
<td>1501 Round Hill Rd.</td>
<td>10.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash Woods Park</td>
<td>10301 John F. Kennedy Blvd.</td>
<td>10.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aviator Park</td>
<td>1201 Monticello Dr.</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carey Cox Memorial Park</td>
<td>1211 N. Stonebridge Dr.</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood Park</td>
<td>212 McMakin St.</td>
<td>3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Charles McKissick Park</td>
<td>2702 Taylor Burk Dr.</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.A. Randles Park</td>
<td>5400 Cedar Elm Dr.</td>
<td>11.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon Creek Park</td>
<td>301 Peregrine Dr.</td>
<td>11.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitzhugh Park</td>
<td>700 Fitzhugh St.</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill Top Park</td>
<td>1850 Winding Brook Dr.</td>
<td>10.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horizon Park</td>
<td>401 Flatrock Dr.</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Name</td>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspiration Park</td>
<td>4212 Shawnee Dr.</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Ledbetter Park</td>
<td>3212 Bluewood Dr.</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John M. Whisenant Park</td>
<td>3701 Hudson Crossing</td>
<td>9.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Will Craig Park</td>
<td>2701 Bois D'Arc Rd.</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murphy Park</td>
<td>1601 W. Josephine St.</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowlett Creek Park</td>
<td>4200 Big Fork Tr.</td>
<td>20.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serenity Park</td>
<td>6701 Berkshire Rd.</td>
<td>16.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Mack Hill Park</td>
<td>2001 Reagan Dr</td>
<td>16.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Allen Jr. Park</td>
<td>3301 Bahnman Dr</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Creek Park</td>
<td>2750 Valley Creek Tr.</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.B. Finney Park</td>
<td>6350 Glen Oaks Dr.</td>
<td>13.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wattley Park</td>
<td>912 Charleston St.</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winniford Park</td>
<td>4900 Highlands Dr.</td>
<td>6.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# INVENTORY OF AMENITIES

## COMMUNITY PARKS | 1,010.67 ACRES

Eight community parks currently exist in the City of McKinney and range in size from 26 acres to more than 200 acres. They provide many amenities including sports fields, walking trails, aquatics, playgrounds and picnic areas just to name a few. The following is a summary of current community park amenities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al Ruschhaupt Soccer Complex / Alex Clark Memorial Disc Golf Course</td>
<td>Phase 1 - 1986 Park View Ave.</td>
<td>114.00 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnie Wenk Park</td>
<td>2996 Virginia Pkwy. (Phase 1)</td>
<td>168.50 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erwin Park</td>
<td>4300 CR 1006</td>
<td>212.00 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finch Park</td>
<td>301 West Standifer</td>
<td>32.40 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabe Nesbitt Softball &amp; Baseball Complexes</td>
<td>Phase I - 7001 W. Eldorado Pkwy.</td>
<td>160.00 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKinney Soccer Complex at Craig Ranch</td>
<td>6375 Collin McKinney Pkwy.</td>
<td>65.00 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Settler’s Park</td>
<td>1201 East Louisiana St.</td>
<td>29.00 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towne Lake Disc Recreation Area &amp; Golf Course</td>
<td>1405 Wilson Creek Parkway</td>
<td>229.77 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS | 26.70 ACRES

Special purpose parks are designed to accommodate specialized recreational activities. Because the facility needs for each activity type are different, each special purpose park usually provides for one or a few activities which are summarized below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Park</td>
<td>105 W. Hunt St.</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney World Collection</td>
<td>6452 Collin McKinney Pkwy.</td>
<td>7.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Glenn Mitchell Memorial Park</td>
<td>300 West Louisiana St.</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Park</td>
<td>1701 N. McDonald</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Memorial Park</td>
<td>6053 Weiskopf Ave.</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ezra Lee (Tinker) Taylor Park</td>
<td>4301 W. Eldorado Pkwy</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LINEAR PARKS & OPEN SPACE | 1,044.45 ACRES, 38 MILES

The City’s three linear parks are located along creeks and drainage corridors, containing primarily open space and woodlands with trails, disc golf and sport field programming.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Creek Greenway</td>
<td>655.58 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Fork of the Trinity River Greenway</td>
<td>355.77 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avalon Park</td>
<td>6.00 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood Creek Greenway</td>
<td>20.80 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge Open Space</td>
<td>6.30 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

McKinney currently has 24 neighborhood parks totaling 227.27 acres – 3 of which are located north of US 380, with the vast majority in the southern sector of the City.

Needs Assessment

In addition to citizen input, needs for neighborhood parks are determined by analyzing level of service (LOS) for park acreage and service area.

Acreage LOS

Acreage LOS is typically expressed as a per-capita figure. For example, the acreage LOS for neighborhood parks might be expressed as “X acres per 1,000 population.” Referencing the established National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standard a target LOS (TLOS) was developed for neighborhood parks in McKinney.

- NRPA Acreage Standard: 1-2 acres/1,000 population
- McKinney Acreage TLOS: 2.0 acres/1,000 population

Service Area TLOS

Park Service Area LOS represents the spatial distribution of neighborhood parks. For example, a target park service area LOS might be expressed as “one neighborhood park within one half-mile of every residence in McKinney.” The regional benchmark for neighborhood park service area TLOS is:

Neighborhood Park Service Area – quarter-mile to half-mile radius, or approximately a five to ten minute walk

This service area is general. While a half-mile radius is a good guideline for the area that is well-served by a neighborhood park, not all parks will fully serve these areas. Physical barriers (such as railroads and major thoroughfares) limit connections between parks and access from some of their intended service areas. Consideration should be given when developing new parks to the physical barriers that separate it from some or all of the neighborhoods that it is intended to serve.

Needs Assessment Results

The City currently stands at approximately 80% of its TLOS for the year 2017 (see Table 3.0). The neighborhood park service area deficit is shown in Figure 3.0.

Table: TABLE 3.0: NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS LOS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Acreage</td>
<td>227.27 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current LOS</td>
<td>1.4 acres per 1,000 residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target LOS</td>
<td>2 acres per 1,000 residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acreage to Acquire to Meet Target (based on 218,000 projected population in 2022)</td>
<td>209 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The service areas shown also include community parks which serve as “de facto” neighborhood parks for some residents.
Figure 3.0: Neighborhood Park Service Area Deficit

The yellow areas in this figure indicate the areas of McKinney that are not within a half-mile of an existing neighborhood park or community park.
LEVEL OF SERVICE
FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

COMMUNITY PARKS

McKinney currently has 8 community parks totaling 1,010.67 acres. Like neighborhood parks, the majority are located in the southern sector of the City.

Needs Assessment

In addition to citizen input, needs for community parks are determined by analyzing level of service (LOS) for park acreage and service area.

Acreage LOS

As with neighborhood parks, acreage LOS for community parks is typically expressed as a per-capita figure such as “X acres per 1,000 population.” Referencing the established National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standard a target LOS (TLOS) was developed for community parks in McKinney. This TLOS is within the NRPA standard.

- NRPA Acreage Standard: 5-8 acres/1,000 population
- McKinney Acreage TLOS: 6.0 acres/1,000 population

Service Area TLOS

Park Service Area LOS represents the spatial distribution of neighborhood parks. For example, a target park service area LOS might be expressed as “one community park within one mile of every residence in McKinney.” The regional benchmark for neighborhood park service area TLOS is:

Community Park Service Area – one mile radius, or approximately a five minute drive

This service area is general. While a one mile radius is a good guideline for the area that is well-served by a community park, not all parks will fully serve these areas. Physical barriers (such as railroads and major thoroughfares) limit connections between parks and access from some of their intended service areas. Consideration should be given when developing new parks to the physical barriers that separate it from some or all of the neighborhoods that it is intended to serve.

Needs Assessment Results

The City currently stands at approximately 77% of its TLOS for the year 2017 (see Table 3.1). The community park service area deficit is shown in Figure 3.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Acreage</td>
<td>1,010.67 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current LOS</td>
<td>6.2 acres per 1,000 residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target LOS</td>
<td>6 acres per 1,000 residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acreage to Acquire to Meet Target (based on 218,000 projected population in 2022)</td>
<td>297 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 3.1: Community Park Service Area Deficit

The yellow areas in this figure indicate the areas of McKinney that are not within a one mile radius of an existing community park.
LEVEL OF SERVICE
SUMMARY

TOTAL PARK ACREAGE

Table 3.2: Parks Classification Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Classifications</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>227.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>1,010.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Purpose Parks</td>
<td>26.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linear Parks &amp; Open Space</td>
<td>1,044.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Parks</td>
<td>447.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,756.09</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Table 3.3 summarizes the park land acreage needed to fulfill a continued high level of service based on national standards for park systems. The acreage deficits indicated are representative of the park land needs for a five-year time frame of continued growth and development in McKinney.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Current LOS (Acres Per 1000 Residents)</th>
<th>Target LOS (Acres Per 1000 Residents)</th>
<th>Forecasted Acreage Deficit by 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Purpose Parks</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linear Parks and Open Space</td>
<td>6.45</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Parks</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNDEVELOPED PARK LAND

Within McKinney’s park system is also a number of sites that have been acquired, but are not currently developed. As demand increases, these sites should be evaluated for their park development potential.

Table 3.4: Undeveloped Park Land and Open Space Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acreage Undeveloped</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avalon</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolin Tract</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnie Wenk Park</td>
<td>216.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookview</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge Parkland</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creekside Estates</td>
<td>31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dowell Tract</td>
<td>55.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Tract</td>
<td>292.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabe Nesbitt Community Park</td>
<td>72.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray Branch</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Service Center</td>
<td>28.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Tract</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain Tract</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sparry</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Creek @ Eldorado Pkwy (N and S)</td>
<td>12.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Creek @ Lake Forest (NE Side)</td>
<td>4.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Creek @ McDonald/Hwy 5</td>
<td>1,032.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.4: Undeveloped Park Land and Open Space Inventory
PARKS & OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS & STRATEGIES

OVERALL APPROACH TO THE PARKS PLAN:
How do we add value to McKinney?

- Acquire ideal park land early
- Focus park redevelopment effort on aging areas of the City
- Create signature / destination parks along greenbelt corridors
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

1a. **Strategic Park Land Acquisition**

The first step in achieving a great system of neighborhood parks is to ensure that they are located on quality sites. Often, neighborhood parks are simply remnant pieces of undevelopable land with little natural or environmental quality that are frequently subject to floods. While creek corridors are great for trail connectivity, it is recommended that the majority of programmed neighborhood park space be above the 100 year floodplain.

Where possible in the Northwest and Northeast sectors of the City, neighborhood parks should be associated with and built adjacent to schools. (This is a very beneficial relationship that supplements park land with school open space and encourages kids and families to use trails as an alternative means of transportation.)

1b. **Provide Access to New Neighborhood Parks**

It is also recommended that the subdivision ordinance be revised to require (02) clear, safe pedestrian modes of access to parks within new neighborhoods by one or both of the following methods:

- a) The dedication of a minimum 20’ wide trail easement with a 10’ trail, or
- b) Provide a 10’ wide sidepath in combination with a 6’ wide landscaped parkway along neighborhood streets

Developers shall be responsible for the construction of trails and amenities per City of McKinney standards.

2. **Neighborhood Park Revitalization**

Several smaller parks in McKinney are either located in older, aging areas of the City and/or need to be updated with newer, more diverse amenities. This plan examines parks not only from their recreational value but also from the standpoint of how capital investment in parks can contribute to the redevelopment of certain areas. Detailed breakdowns of 10 individual parks and their potential for improvements are found later in this chapter, but specific attention should be given to the following parks in terms of their impact on surrounding development and/or increased property values if reprogrammed:

- a. Cottonwood Park
- b. Wattley Park
- c. Murphy Park
- d. Winniford Park

A 2016 study of 174 neighborhood parks across the country found that most were highly underutilized, especially among seniors and teenagers. To increase user-ship among these age groups public awareness of parks must first be addressed through a combination of banners, wayfinding signage and a marketing program to the general public.¹

3. **Add 18 new neighborhood parks by 2022 at approximately 10 acres each.**

PARKS & OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS & STRATEGIES

COMMUNITY PARKS

1. Develop the “Next Wave” of Signature Parks

The “Next Wave” of Signature Parks refers to a line of proposed parks at the current northern edge of development in McKinney, just beyond US 380. These parks will vary in their programming, but should set the new standard city-wide and regionally for high-quality parks. The design principles of multi-modal connectivity, open space preservation and ease of access coupled with utilization of technology and high standards for amenities will make the area surrounding these parks very desirable for similarly high-quality neighborhood and commercial development.

2. String of Pearls and Gems

Tapping in to the floodplain corridors as “highways” for trails adds a pedestrian linkage component to the plan that is accessible to all age groups. The “String of Pearls and Gems” concept champions this to connect McKinney’s greenbelt community and neighborhood parks to one another for a continuous network of recreation facilities. A recent study for the City of Dallas has shown the importance of trails such as those connecting the “String of Pearls and Gems”, with a return on investment upwards of $50 for every $1 spent (in urban areas). Thus, the “Next Wave” of parks and beyond will be a tremendous benefit to McKinney in terms of the amount of adjacent land with higher taxable values.

3. Community Park Revitalization

Similar to neighborhood parks listed previously, some existing community parks in McKinney, if redeveloped, will act as “catalyst projects” for redevelopment around them - in turn generating more tax revenue for the City. The focus of community revitalization and park redevelopment is on the following parks:

a. Towne Lake Park
b. Finch Park
c. Old Settler’s Park

These parks are all located in the eastern half of the City, near downtown and the historic district. The complete vision for improvements to these parks is found later in this chapter in the 10 Parks Write-ups section.
4. **Master Plan Studies/Implementation for Old Settlers and Finch Parks**

There are 2 parks in the city that are of particular interest due to their potential as a springboard for neighborhood redevelopment: Old Settlers and Finch Parks. These parks are relatively large and located in the older areas of the city where new construction has not been as prominent in recent years compared to other areas of the city. They are both situated on land with rolling topography, mature trees and lots of natural character, which should be taken advantage of to create spectacular parks as outlined later in the chapter.

Due to the urban nature of these parks, it is also recommended that the City utilize alternative funding strategies, such as public-private partnerships or TIF districts to ensure that a very high quality design is implemented with the support of those who will benefit from the infrastructure investment.

5. **Erwin Park Master Plan update to include the Honey Creek Greenbelt Corridor**

Erwin Park and the associated Honey Creek Greenbelt are in a unique position in the next few years with the anticipated Laud Howell Parkway extension, creating a “gateway” bridge and roadway, opening up the area for new commercial and residential development. The park is one of the “Next Wave” of parks and, like Old Settlers and Finch parks, it has unique natural character. Views from Erwin Park are unrivaled, looking out over forested, undulating landscapes to the horizon, and access to the trail system is a tremendous advantage.

The high-quality design here could also be constructed by utilizing alternative funding strategies to supplement City budgets, or by partnering with developers who would have a vested interest in residential neighborhood and commercial center access to the creek corridor. Also, Bloomdale Road, bordering the southern boundary of the park, should factor into its expansion the preservation of open space and vegetation, as well as increased access to the park.

6. **Add (6) new community parks by 2022 at approximately 100 acres each.**
EXISTING & PROPOSED COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS | NORTH

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<td>24 Winniford Park</td>
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<td>25A Dr. Mack Hill Park</td>
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<td>25B Unnamed Park</td>
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| Community Parks (Active) |
| 26 Al Ruschhaupt Soccer Complex Phase I & II |
| 27 Finch Park |
| 28 Gabe Neabitt Community Park |
| 29 Old Settler’s Park & Moulton Ball Fields |
| 30 Towne Lake Recreation Area |
| 31 Wilson Creek Softball Complex |
| 32 Towne Lake Disc Golf |

| Community Parks (Passive) |
| 33 Bonnie Wood Park |
| 34 Erwin Park |

| Special Purpose Parks |
| 35 Central Park |
| 36 Dey Labor Plaza |
| 37 Dr. Glen Mitchell Memorial Park |
| 38 Dwayne Howell Meditation Garden |
| 39 Ezra Lee (Tinker) Taylor Memorial Park |
| 40 McKinney Soccer Complex at Craig Ranch |
| 41 North Park |
| 42 Oak Hollow Golf Course & Driving Range |

| Linear Parks |
| 43 Wilson Creek Greenway |
| 44 Trinity River Greenway |

| Open Space / Natural Areas |
| 45 Cambridge Parkland |

| Recreation Facilities |
| 46 McKinney Community Center & Nature Trail |
| 47 Old Settler’s Recreation & Aquatic Center |
| 48 Senior Recreation Center & Pool |
| 49 Juanita Mayfield Aquatic Center |

PROPOSED PARKS

- Proposed Community Park
- Proposed Neighborhood Park
- Proposed Special Purpose Park

SCALE IN MILES

0 1 1.5 2 3 4

McKinney
ONE COMMUNITY, ONE VISION, ONE MCKINNEY 2040
McKINNEY PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS & STREETScape VISIONING MASTER PLAN
UNIQUE PARK SYSTEM

STRING OF PEARLS, GEMS, AND INTEGRATED TRAIL & BIKEWAY SYSTEMS “CONNECTEDNESS”

McKinney has a wealth of existing parks primarily in the southern half of the City where the majority of residences are located. Citizens place a high value on hike and bike trails along creeks, streets, and other connective corridors that link their neighborhoods with parks, schools, and businesses.

As stated previously, the “String of Pearls” concept is the implementation and expansion of parks along the City’s greenbelts. These parks are connected by a system of interconnected trails and bikeways representing as the “String” that ties everything together. Bikeways found along city streets provide the initial means of access from one’s “front door”, eventually connecting to the trail system within creek areas. Additionally, this concept works in tandem with the current comprehensive plan’s designated districts throughout the city which are bisected by Wilson Creek, Honey Creek and the East Fork of the Trinity River.

Existing and future parks within the City that are not along the greenbelt serve as “Gem” parks for nearby neighborhoods and communities. An integrated bike and trail system provides residents with alternative methods of access to these areas and promotes walkability and health benefits to the community.

TOP 10 PARK & RECREATION ITEMS
- Develop Signature / Gateway Park(s)
- Acquisition and Preservation of Open Space and Floodplain
- Integrated Trail Network
- Branding and Wayfinding
- Bike Boulevard connection(s) to Downtown
- Multi-gen Recreation/Aquatic Center(s)
- Smart City Initiatives
- Socialization Nodes
- String of Pearls “Gems” -Connectedness
- Interdepartmental Coordination

UNIFY VISION WITH ONE MCKINNEY 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WOW FACTOR!
SUMMARY

The citizens of McKinney recognize that they live in a great area and have tremendous pride in their city. They value their parks system and want to ensure that a very high standard of quality and design is pushed forward as a result of this plan. With development marching on at a rapid pace throughout North Texas it will be critical over the next several years to set aside park land in the most suitable and preferred sites to continue to provide residents with the best amenities.

The “String of Pearls and Gems” concept should also help to visualize the intent of the parks master plan and be carried through to future plans as an ultimate goal for McKinney to achieve, connected by a continuous network of greenbelt trails. By undertaking these initiatives, the City is positioned to increase property values, have quality commercial and residential areas and become an ideal destination for those wishing to find an active, engaging community in which to live, work and play.
INDIVIDUAL PARK REVIEW

McKinney is a City with numerous public parks ranging in size from small 1 to 2 acre pocket parks to regional parks in excess of 100 acres. It is also a city with many distinct districts with their own unique character. The 10 parks reviewed in the following pages mirror this diversity and are a representative cross section of McKinney’s park system, with facilities of different sizes, demographics served, conditions and accessibility included in the review.

(1) NORTH PARK is an older facility that is the size of a neighborhood park, but is not adjacent to or near a neighborhood.

(2) MARY WILL CRAIG PARK is a neighborhood park that is well integrated with the adjacent elementary school.

(3) MURPHY PARK is located in a well-established neighborhood in east McKinney.

(4) WATTLEY PARK is one of McKinney’s older neighborhood parks.

(5) FINCH PARK Finch Park is one of the oldest (established in 1910) and most attractive parks in all of McKinney. It is set in the midst of tall, mature trees, rolling hills, a creek, and a historic Victorian home and stable (the Kirkpatrick Crum House).

(6) OLD SETTLERS PARK One of McKinney’s oldest; this park is linear in nature, being bisected by a creek that drains into the East Fork of the Trinity River, and houses the Old Settler’s Aquatic Center, Old Settler’s Recreation Center, the Barney & Me Boxing Gym, and the Mouzon Ball Fields.

(7) TOWNE LAKE PARK serves as a “central park” for McKinney in that it is both centrally located in the City (along Wilson Creek) and it provides a multitude of opportunities for a variety of different user types.

(8) COTTONWOOD PARK in east McKinney, is in one of the older neighborhoods in the City. The park is well-integrated with the surrounding neighborhood and provides the necessary amenities to the nearby residents.

(9) E.A. RANDLES PARK This park is located adjacent to an elementary school and along one of McKinney’s primary Hike & Bike Trail corridors.

(10) KATHERINE B. WINNIFORD PARK This is a neighborhood park in linear form, bordered by houses on one side and Lake Forest Drive on the other.

These parks represent a diverse cross section of McKinney’s park system. The facilities range in size, programming, the primary population served, condition, and typical means of access.
North Park is a 15 acre signature park located in northeast McKinney adjacent to the Oak Hollow Golf Course. North Park is one of the few community parks that has an aquatic facility, Juanita Maxfield Aquatic Center, which designates it as a special purpose park. The aquatic center features an outdoor seasonal pool that offers recreational swimming as well as structured swim lessons.
RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The following are recommended park improvements based on field observation and park analysis. These include short term and long term solutions for the park.

SHADE

Shaded and sheltered environments provide refuge along trails and places to gather among active program elements. It is essential for park enjoyment during the summer months and should be incorporated into many features of the park such as the bleachers at the ball fields and pool deck at the Aquatic Center.

The trees within North Park are located at the edges and do not provide shade for visitors while watching baseball games. Therefore, significant planting should be integrated throughout the park to provide shade for visitors. Additionally, the existing bleachers should receive fabric shade structure coverings.

WALKWAYS

North Park’s baseball field lacks pedestrian connectivity to the existing parking lot and aquatic facility, resulting in only non-ADA compliant circulation patterns. It is recommended that access be improved from the parking areas to the ball fields and pool by providing a minimum 8’ wide sidewalk along the road with landscape plantings. This not only addresses accessibility issues in the short term, but also gives a fresh appearance and ‘curb appeal’ to the park.

ACCESSIBILITY

To accommodate all users, wide walkways, ramps and steps should be provided whenever possible. A transition plan should include an assessment of existing walkways requiring access improvements.

PARKING

North Park currently has two parking lots. One is located adjacent to Juanita Maxfield Aquatic Center. It has four parking spaces, none of which have handicap designation. The larger of the two lots has 64 spaces and is located across North Park Road. This larger parking lot is shared between the Aquatic Center and Baseball Field. The two lots are currently accommodating for North Park, however, is recommended that both parking lots are re-striped and repaired to provide ADA compliant access.
North Park has the potential to become a premier small “special purpose park” located next to Oak Hollow Golf Course. A master plan for revitalization of North Park should be developed to address the eventual removal of the Juanita Maxfield Aquatic Center and the expansion of park area in two phases. Phase I, a short-term plan, should primarily address shade and access within North Park and the Juanita Maxfield Aquatic Center. Phase II, a long-term plan, should primarily include the removal of the Aquatic Center, new roadway alignment for North Park Road, adjustments to the existing parking lot location and the addition of a new ball field. By phasing out the aquatic facility at North Park, feasibility studies and fundraising for the replacement center should be initiated to ensure continued access to swim lessons and summer pool recreation.

***DESTINATION SOCIAL ZONE***

North Park’s proximity to nearby civic facilities lays the groundwork for a true “special purpose park” that provides premier program elements for the underserved citizens in the area. The adjacent Samaritan Inn is a nonprofit organization that helps individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and the North Texas Job Corps is an education and career technical training program that helps young people obtain career technical and academic training. New park amenities such as a splash pad, skate park and additional baseball fields would provide unique opportunities for passive and active use for these nearby users.

### CONNECTION

Access, visibility and alternative locations for its programmed elements should be assessed.

### GATEWAY

**SIGNAGE + WAYFINDING**

Oak Hollow Golf Course, located adjacent to North Park, is highly visible from SH-5 and runs along the northern portion of North Park Road. Due to the size of the golf course, North Park can be easily missed from SH-5, unless one already knows it is there. New Gateway enhancements in the form of planting and entry signage would greatly enhance North Park’s visibility from the roadway and will provide the park with an entry sequence and identity.

### MASTER PLANNING

North Park has the potential to become a premier small “special purpose park” located next to Oak Hollow Golf Course. A master plan for revitalization of North Park should be developed to address the eventual removal of the Juanita Maxfield Aquatic Center and the expansion of park area in two phases. Phase I, a short-term plan, should primarily address shade and access within North Park and the Juanita Maxfield Aquatic Center. Phase II, a long-term plan, should primarily include the removal of the Aquatic Center, new roadway alignment for North Park Road, adjustments to the existing parking lot location and the addition of a new ball field. By phasing out the aquatic facility at North Park, feasibility studies and fundraising for the replacement center should be initiated to ensure continued access to swim lessons and summer pool recreation.

### SHORT TERM GOALS

- Entry signage would greatly enhance North Park’s visibility from the roadway and will provide the park with an entry sequence and identity.

### LONG TERM GOALS

- Estimated Cost
  - SHORT TERM = $250,000 - $350,000
  - LONG TERM = $1,500,000 - $2,000,000
Mary Will Craig Park is a large, open neighborhood park adjacent to Slaughter Elementary and Lawson Early Childhood School. The park is centrally located, providing a large number of households easy access to recreation amenities. The park’s main feature is the abundance of open area for both practice and competitive baseball and soccer. Additionally, the park has a play structure and swings for different age groups and a large pavilion.

- 10 ACRES
- 16 Parking Spaces
- Baseball/Softball Backstop on Athletic Field
- Barrier-free Play Structure
- 1 Picnic Shelter
The following are recommended park improvements based on field observation and park analysis. These include short term and long term solutions for the park.

**SHADE**

Trees planted within Mary Will Craig Park are located throughout the perimeter of the park and the center of the soccer fields. Additional shade in the form of trees and 'cool-toppers' should be incorporated to provide relief from the sun near the basketball court, playground and baseball field.

**WALKWAYS**

With the availability of open space within Mary Will Craig Park, a loop trail should be incorporated around the soccer fields connecting into the perimeter sidewalks and the central space for residents to use and for students during the day.

**ACTIVE PROGRAMS**

The park’s ball fields have aged and are in need of revitalization. To enhance the overall character of the park the baseball field should be infilled with calcined clay and receive new sod. In addition, the basketball court should be resurfaced and new basketball nets should be installed on the existing goals. Irrigation should be assessed to ensure adequate coverage for higher-quality play fields.
Mary Will Craig Park serves both the surrounding neighborhood and two nearby schools. A new park master plan should be developed that incorporates features that would encourage the nearby schools, Slaughter Elementary and Lawson Early Childhood School, to utilize the parks for educational, recreational and after school programs. To achieve this, the master plan should relocate the pavilion with a plaza making it the park’s central element juxtaposed between the baseball fields and basketball courts. The entry walkway and loop trail should connect through the central pavilion plaza creating a sense of harmony with surrounding elements. In addition, new playground equipment with cool toppers should be installed.

Mary Will Craig Park has a large amount of open space that consists of multi-purpose fields and a practice baseball field. Landscape berming should be incorporated outside the sports fields to provide some topographical change and add interest.

New park signage along Bois D’Arc Road consistent with the branding of McKinney should be incorporated to provide the park with an entry sequence and identity. Wayfinding signage should be installed along Bois D’Arc Road and Jordan Road to Virginia Parkway to lead visitors to the Wilson Creek corridor and Bonnie Wenk Park.

Access, visibility and alternative locations for its programmed elements should be assessed.

**Estimated Cost**

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<td>$200,000 - $300,000</td>
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Located in an older neighborhood northwest of Downtown McKinney, Murphy Park is a great example of how a small neighborhood park can provide added value for citizens. This park provides local residents with a common play area as well as passive recreation opportunities.

The programmed space is simple and contains a playground, walking trail, benches, open play areas, and a pavilion. Single loaded roads on two sides of the park make it easily accessible. A row of evergreen hedges serve as a boundary separating an alleyway along the rear of the property, and a variety of trees create small intimate pockets for enjoyment.
RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The following are recommended park improvements based on field observation and park analysis. These include short term and long term solutions for the park.

SIGNAGE

As the park is renovated it is important to include new signage consistent with the branding of McKinney. New signage will provide the park with an entry sequence and identity.

ACCESS

The existing sidewalk is recommended to widen to 6’ to allow a more comfortable walking space for visitors.

PLANTINGS

Update entry plantings with more drought tolerant planting to soften the appearance of the entry to the park.
LONG TERM GOALS

DESTINATION
SOCIAL ZONE

Murphy Park is a pleasant neighborhood park in a peaceful setting. Currently, the park has a central walk that divides up the space creating areas for the pavilion, playground and open space. The alignment of the central walkway should be changed as it goes north to open up the space and unify the site elements. The walk should receive special treatment such as staining or texture adjacent to the pavilion to give architectural interest. The existing pavilion should be replaced, upgraded, and relocated near the playground in a central location with new ADA accessible benches and trash receptacles. To maintain quality the pavilion could feature stone-cladded columns and a standing-seam metal roof. The existing playground area should be extended to the east encompassing the nearby tree into the playground.

CONNECTION

PROXIMITY

Access, visibility and alternative locations for its programmed elements should be assessed.

MASTERS PLANNING

Murphy Park is a small neighborhood park that should continue to function as a great destination for families and children. A new Master Plan with circulation and pavilion location adjustments can make the park stand out among McKinney’s neighborhood parks.

Estimated Cost
SHORT TERM = $35,000 - $50,000
LONG TERM = $200,000 - $300,000
Wattley Park is located in a quiet neighborhood just northeast of Historic Downtown and features a playground (renovated in 2004), pavilion, swings, benches, multi-use sport court with basketball goals, and an abundance of open space with a backstop. In 2008 the parking lot was renovated and irrigation was added. The park has unique character with a large open play area and rolling topography set within mature shade trees which buffer noise from Highway 380 and create a secluded area to escape from the typical suburban landscape.
RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The following are recommended park improvements based on field observation and park analysis. These include short term and long term solutions for the park.

SHADE

Wattley Park has an abundance of mature trees that line the edge of the park and the perimeter of the softball fields. The existing play equipment has attached shade structures that provide some relief during the summer months. However, a larger, hard-top shade structure should be installed to achieve full shade for the area.

PARKING

Wattley Park’s 12 space parking lot is located at the end of Charleston Street. The aged asphalt lot has concrete wheel stops at each stall, some of which are broken and/or moved and should be replaced or readjusted. It is also recommended that the parking be re-striped for continued use.

ACCESS

The park is located within walking distance of the homes in the nearby neighborhood and visitors most often use the park through pedestrian access. To accommodate pedestrians bicycling into the parks, bike racks should be located adjacent to the parking lot.

ACTIVE PROGRAMS

Wattley Park has program areas that should be updated and re-configured to better serve visitors. The backstop should be relocated closer to the parking lot to provide ease of access. Updated efficient lighting at the sport court should be incorporated for safety and extended daily use.

WALKWAYS

Wattley Park has a large open space area that could accommodate a walking trail connecting the park to both Charleston Street and Pride Court. To create safer pedestrian friendly access, a new 6’ wide loop trail should be installed connecting to the entry and sidewalk from Charleston Street.
Wattley Park has large areas of open space that provide opportunities for various active uses. To enhance the user experience, accessibility should be upgraded to current ADA standards. Additionally, the existing pavilion should be replaced with a new structure that has enhanced lighting, electrical outlets, and ADA compliant site furnishings to enhance the quality of the park’s seating area.

As the park is renovated it is important to include new signage consistent with the branding of McKinney. New signage will provide the park with an entry sequence and identity. In addition, wayfinding markers should be added at Throckmorton Street to bring awareness of the park to the nearby neighborhood.

Access, visibility and alternative locations for its programmed elements should be assessed.

A revitalization plan should be developed relocating the existing basketball court east of the existing parking lot. In its place a new playground area should be installed with cool toppers and an added landscape edge. The existing pavilion should also be replaced and relocated southeast near the proposed playground area with a tree-lined walkway providing a sense of approach as well as connection from Charleston Street into the park.

Estimated Cost
SHORT TERM = $150,000 - $250,000
LONG TERM = $850,000 - $1,200,000
Finch Park, donated to the City in 1974, is a prime example of a well-established neighborhood park. Mature elms and pecans with high canopies cast shade over picnic and play areas, and create a peaceful and quaint setting. Until the late 1940s, Finch Park featured a zoo and bandstand, and throughout the years has developed to become a favorite destination nestled in the neighborhood south of Downtown McKinney. The use of stone on the site amenities blends well with the beauty of the natural surroundings.

The park has many picnic tables, barbecue grills, and two large play structures that make it ideal for large family gatherings. To the east of the park, a pavilion overlooking a small drainage corridor provides a quiet, more secluded gathering space.

The active areas include two fenced and lighted tennis courts, two multipurpose sports courts, and sand volleyball courts. Finch Park is also one of eight parks in the McKinney Parks system which has a splash pad.
The following are recommended park improvements based on field observation and park analysis. These include short term and long term solutions for the park.

**SHADE**
Shade should be incorporated into many features of every park. Finch park is set in the midst of mature trees that provide adequate shading for the playground and picnic areas, but the sports court and volleyball court would be improved by the addition of small shade canopies in the open areas of these programmed spaces.

**PARKING**
Parking for Finch park is adequate for its current use, however, it is recommended that parking lots on Standifer Street and W. Post Street be re-striped and repaired.

**ACTIVE RECREATION**
Finch Park’s current programmed features serve multi-generational park users. The park’s existing playground equipment and splash pad are in good condition and provide variety and fun for the younger users. The athletic facilities for the older users such as the basketball and volleyball courts should be updated to enhance the overall multi-generational experience.

The park has an abundance of open space, mature landscaping and is in close proximity to the Wilson Creek greenbelt. An interconnected trail system should be installed within the park taking advantage of it’s open space and proximity to the nearby Wilson Creek.
Finch Park is set in the midst of tall, mature trees, rolling hills, a creek and a historic Victorian home. Because of the park’s setting, location, and proximity to downtown McKinney, there exists a great opportunity to re-establish a destination park facility linked by enhanced bike boulevards within this section of the City.

A master plan for revitalization should be developed, creating a focal space in the interior of the park. Finch Park currently has the feeling of several separate parks instead of one continuous park with several subareas. Eliminating and realigning select internal roadways into a simplified network with the incorporation of walking trails will enhance connectivity and continuity.

Finch Park’s historical context should be incorporated through interpretive signage to tell the story of the historical relevance of the park’s location. This is also essential due to the size of the park. Wayfinding to various park elements such as the volleyball and tennis courts should be added as well as new signage consistent with the branding of McKinney. New signage will provide the park with an entry sequence and identity.

Access, visibility and alternative locations for its programmed elements should be assessed.

Estimated Cost
SHORT TERM = $175,000 - $275,000
LONG TERM = $1,400,000 - $2,000,000
6

OLD SETTLERS PARK

1201 E LOUISIANA ST.

LEGEND
- TRAILS
- BIKEWAYS
- ACCESS WAYS
- PEARLS
- GEMS

Baseball/Softball Backstop on Athletic Field
Community Center
Main Park

Old Settlers Park is one of McKinney’s signature parks located in the Mill District in close proximity to Downtown. The park features mature trees, a multi-use sport court, a covered pavilion, picnic and playground areas and creek that runs through the park.

Recreation Center

The Old Settlers Recreation Center, built in 1996 and expanded in 2005, is situated between the Mouzon Ball Fields and the Aquatic Center where classes and activities are available for year-round participation. The center also features a large pavilion that covers a multi-use sport court with multiple basketball goals near the entrance.

Aquatic Center

Built in 2001, the Aquatic Center is a popular destination for residents in McKinney between Memorial Day and Labor Day. It has approximately 4,151 sf of surface area with shallow water including a zero beach entry and a slide tower.

Mouzon Ball Fields

Mouzon Ball Fields are on the far east side of Old Settlers Park. Originally built in 1960 and renovated in 2004, the fields are made up of three baseball diamonds surrounding a centralized seating area. Shade structures were added to the park in 2011.
RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The following are recommended park improvements based on field observation and park analysis. These include short term and long term solutions for the park.

NATURE

Old Settlers Park’s open space areas are well-maintained with its abundance of mature trees, the creek along the northern portion of the park, and the varying topography that give the park a natural quality. However, it is recommended that the park’s visibility be improved by limbing up and trimming all existing trees to minimum of 12’ clear height. Additional trees may need to be planted to accommodate shading for existing amenities such as the basketball court.

ACCESSIBILITY

ADA accessibility is key to efficient site safety, mobility and ease of use. All accessibility issues should be addressed to include access to benches and future shade structures. An accessible 8’ wide sidewalk connection to all amenities such as the multi-sport court, and rear entrance to the Mouzon Ball Fields are to be installed.

SOCIAL ZONES

Spatial characteristics, massive trees and close proximity to Downtown creates an opportunity for unique “Social Zones” that would attract users from the downtown area and surrounding neighborhoods. Program elements such as “concerts in the park”, an “Urban Outdoor Library”, QR fitness zones, WiFi hotspots with a “Selfie Station”, “Enhanced Bike Boulevards” and a new Bike Share Program are elements found in successful urban environments across the world that could be incorporated into Old Settlers Park. Strong pedestrian linkages with wide, tree-lined walks provides a pleasurable experience for park users who may work or shop in the Downtown District.

ACTIVE PROGRAMS

Old Settlers currently has various areas of passive and active recreation. The existing active amenities that should be updated and/or replaced are the tennis courts and playground area. The tennis courts located behind the Aquatic Center should be re-purposed with an added shade structure, seating and lighting. With overall improvements and the potential for redevelopment around the park, the playground should be expanded and include a large shade structure component.
LONG TERM GOALS

MASTER PLANNING

To increase the visitation and to “Celebrate” the newfound vigor of the community, a master plan should be developed for Old Settlers Park. The plan would include expansion and renovation of Old Settler’s Recreation and Aquatic Center and construct approximately 30,000 sf of new indoor recreation space to replace the existing southern portion of facility, bringing it up to par with neighboring city recreation centers. The renovation should also provide recreational programs and trends to attract a new client base of business owners, merchants and millennials from the Downtown District. Additionally, the plan should explore the inclusion of other amenities to the park such as supplemental outdoor active and passive program elements.

GATEWAY

SIGNAGE + WAYFINDING

New park identification signage at the entries and drop-off areas will provide the park with entry sequence and a sense of identity.

DESTINATION

Old Settler’s could become the “new” neighborhood center providing recreational services such as “spin classes,” yoga, and pilates to those in the immediate area and Downtown that would attract millennials and business owners. Park renovations could spark redevelopment and revitalization of the surrounding area leading into Downtown.

CONNECTION

PROXIMITY

Old Settlers location between McKinney's Greenbelts and Downtown has the potential to form a central gateway connection with the use of green infrastructure such as widened sidewalks, bikeway boulevards, street trees, lighting and site furnishings.

Estimated Cost

SHORT TERM = $150,000 - $200,000
LONG TERM = $1,200,000 - $1,600,000
Towne Lake Park is truly a gem in the City of McKinney’s park system. This large community park is a favorite of local residents, featuring a dense forest with beautiful mature elm and oak trees, walking paths, a 22 acre lake, disc golf (added in 2009) and pedestrian connections to adjacent facilities such as Wilson Creek Softball Complex and the Alex Clark Memorial Disc Golf Course.

The forested setting along Wilson Creek also has the added benefit of providing users with unexpected opportunities to view native wildlife while out for a casual morning stroll. Towne Lake Park’s unique contrast of the urban environment with a natural creek corridor sets it apart as a special place within the City which should be enhanced and celebrated.
RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The following are recommended park improvements based on field observation and park analysis. These include short term and long term solutions for the park.

SIGNAGE

New park identification signage at the entries and drop-off areas will provide the park with entry sequence and a sense of identity. Additionally, wayfinding signage along the roadway can help direct visitors to parking areas and the nearby Community Center.

WALKWAYS

Provide a widened sidewalk along Wilson Creek Parkway and the north side of the lake to allow for better pedestrian access through the park.

AMENITIES

The existing horseshoe pits and sand volleyball court should be repaired and maintained.
LONG TERM GOALS

**MASTER PLANNING**

Towne Lake Park is one of McKinney’s premier community parks. A master plan should be developed to enhance the active and passive use qualities of the park, addressing improvements to the lake edge, trail connections, signage and gateway monumentation. Additionally, the park contains a softball complex where a series of shade structures, plantings and upgraded playgrounds can refresh the character of the facility.

**GATEWAY**

**SIGNAGE + WAYFINDING**

One of the “4 Pillars of McKinney” is designated to be placed in Towne Lake Park. This location is a marker that announces arrival in McKinney through the use of monumentation and landscape treatments. A trail connection combined with landscaping should be incorporated along Wilson Creek Parkway and North Central Expressway associated with the monumentation.

**DESTINATION SOCIAL ZONE**

Towne Lake Park is in an ideal location to make a tremendous impact on visitors to McKinney by becoming the “Front Door” to the City. Through its trail network, beautiful setting, and programming, this active park can truly encapsulate all the values that make for a destination social zone in McKinney.

**CONNECTION**

**PROXIMITY**

Access, visibility and alternative locations for its programmed elements should be assessed.

Estimated Cost

- **SHORT TERM** = $275,000 - $350,000
- **LONG TERM** = $3,000,000 - $4,000,000
COTTONWOOD PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

SIGNATURE | GATEWAY PARK (GEM)

COLLIN McKinney COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

DESTINATION

Cottonwood Park is a small neighborhood park located in an area of the city with a diverse range of land uses. It’s an open park with limited vegetation primarily along the perimeter of the site. The high percentage of open space with a backstop and baseball field allows for valuable practice space or pick-up games by residents from the surrounding neighborhood. The programmed space includes a multipurpose court, playground, swings, picnic tables, and a pavilion.

Baseball/Softball Backstop on Athletic Field

25 Parking Spaces

Barrier-free Play Structure

1 Picnic Shelter
The following are recommended park improvements based on field observation and park analysis. These include short term and long term solutions for the park.

**LANDSCAPE**

Cottonwood Park is an older park that needs updating to improve its aesthetic appeal. Drought tolerant native plantings can be provided to soften the appearance and entry to the park.

**SAFETY & SECURITY**

The lighting for the park should be updated for security and extended park use. Decorative LED fixtures can be installed to provide a simple facelift while also promoting sustainability.

**AMENITIES**

The basketball court should be resurfaced with colorful paint for a fresh look in addition to the application of new striping to the parking lot.

**PARKING**

Additional on-street parking spaces should be added along McMakin Street to accommodate the baseball field users.
LONG TERM GOALS

GATEWAY

SIGNAGE + WAYFINDING

As the park is renovated it is important to include new signage consistent with the branding of McKinney. New signage will provide the park with an entry sequence and identity. Wayfinding signage to the nearby Cotton Mill should be installed to promote pedestrian connectivity.

CONNECTION

PROXIMITY

Access, visibility and alternative locations for its programmed elements should be assessed.

DESTINATION

SOCIAL ZONE

With new development in the area, Cottonwood Park has the opportunity to become a small destination park. New playground and pavilion areas should be installed along with equipment upgrades, monumentation and updated ADA accessible benches and trash receptacles.

Cottonwood Park has mature trees within the park, however, street trees as well as a sidewalk connection along McMakin Street should be incorporated to provide continuous pedestrian access.

Estimated Cost

SHORT TERM = $125,000 - $175,000
LONG TERM = $650,000 - $750,000
E. A. RANDLES PARK

5400 CEDAR ELM DRIVE

Baseball/Softball Backstop on Athletic Field & Multi-Use Sports Court

19 Parking Spaces (Shared with Johnson Elementary)
E.A. Randles Park is a very open park approximately 10 minutes from Winniford Park via Cottonwood Creek Trail. The main programming of the park is its open practice fields and baseball field, which has a designated parking lot, and it is connected to Reuben Johnson Elementary School with ample shared parking. The rest of the park’s amenities consist of a playground, pavilion, and multi-use sport court.

With the neighborhood development the creek has been channelized with a concrete flume and turf grass banks. Although this lacks aesthetic appeal from a naturalized landscape point of view, it does allow for ease of maintenance and results in a neatly manicured appearance.
**RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

The following are recommended park improvements based on field observation and park analysis. These include short term and long term solutions for the park.

**SHADE**

Shade should be added at the ball fields and playground, and tree plantings should be implemented throughout the park to provide refuge from the sun.

**PARKING**

Parking is currently accommodating for the park's current use but should be re-striped to maintain an updated appearance.

**RECREATION**

E.A. Randles park provides opportunities for both active and passive recreation for various user groups. Lighting should be added to the sport court and Cottonwood Creek Trail to provide longer daily use and security. In addition, the basketball court should be resurfaced for an updated appearance.

To create safer and more pedestrian-friendly access, all existing sidewalks should be widened to a minimum 8’ and accessible benches should be added at key locations with shade tree groupings.
E.A. Randles Park has a linear drainage channel, which is paralleled by a recreational trail that could become a greater asset to the park. The channel should be enhanced both aesthetically and ecologically with plantings of select inundation-tolerant grasses that are generally left un-mowed. In addition, educational signage implemented along the drainage channel provide unique interpretive “pause points” for neighbors and the adjacent school.

Access, visibility and alternative locations for its programmed elements should be assessed.

As the park is renovated it is important to include new signage consistent with the branding of McKinney. New signage will provide the park with an entry sequence and identity.

A new master plan for E.A. Randles Park should be developed relocating the playground and primary pavilion north of Reuben Johnson Elementary school adjacent to the basketball court. On-street parking should be incorporated along Ash Lane to serve the new gathering area. Small pavilions along the trail should be placed creating social nodes and overlook opportunities along the drainage channel.

**LONG TERM GOALS**

- **GATEWAY**
  - Estimated Cost
    - SHORT TERM = $150,000 - $200,000
    - LONG TERM = $950,000 - $1,200,000

- **SIGNAGE + WAYFINDING**
  - As the park is renovated it is important to include new signage consistent with the branding of McKinney. New signage will provide the park with an entry sequence and identity.

- **CONNECTION**

- **PROXIMITY**

- **MASTER PLANNING**
  - Estimated Cost
    - SHORT TERM = $150,000 - $200,000
    - LONG TERM = $950,000 - $1,200,000

  - A new master plan for E.A. Randles Park should be developed relocating the playground and primary pavilion north of Reuben Johnson Elementary school adjacent to the basketball court. On-street parking should be incorporated along Ash Lane to serve the new gathering area. Small pavilions along the trail should be placed creating social nodes and overlook opportunities along the drainage channel.

  - E.A. Randles Park has a linear drainage channel, which is paralleled by a recreational trail that could become a greater asset to the park. The channel should be enhanced both aesthetically and ecologically with plantings of select inundation-tolerant grasses that are generally left un-mowed. In addition, educational signage implemented along the drainage channel provide unique interpretive “pause points” for neighbors and the adjacent school.
KATHERINE WINNIFORD PARK

16 ACRES

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

TRAIL SYSTEM

SIGNATURE | GATEWAY PARK (GEM)

DESTINATION

Katherine B. Winniford Park serves as a large neighborhood park for residents near Cottonwood Creek in the southern portion of the City with opportunities for active and passive recreation.

The Cottonwood Creek Trail provides the park with phenomenal pedestrian access, which is further reinforced by the single-loaded streets and open cul-de-sacs that surround the facility. Thus, the potential to bring in additional regular users is very high, and should be capitalized upon. By utilizing and enhancing the creek and existing ponds, providing upgrades to facilities, and enhancing the buffer along Lake Forest Drive, the park has the ability become a truly wonderful amenity in this area of the City.
RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The following are recommended park improvements based on field observation and park analysis. These include short term and long term solutions for the park.

AMENITIES

The existing fence along the perimeter of the site should be replaced with a decorative metal fence with masonry columns for an appealing border when viewed from the road. Also, cool-toppers added to the playground will provide much needed shade.

FBASKETBALL COURT

The basketball court is a full court layout with two basketball goals and is unlighted with graffiti present. The addition of lighting will extend the use of the court and discourage vandalism.

FISHING POND

The park has one pond that is separated by Highlands Drive with two very distinct characteristics. The pond on the north side of Highlands Drive is maintained with a gabion basket edge. The pond on the south side of Highlands Drive is not maintained, with a much more natural appearance. This area has opportunities for wildlife viewing and educational signage to help users understand the benefit and complexity of these habitats.
**MASTER PLANNING**

A new master plan should be created to address the expansion and relocation of the playground and pavilion areas to provide a more unified, cohesive space. The plan should also include landscape enhancements to the drainage channel and highlight connections to the adjacent neighborhoods.

**GATEWAY**

Signage + Wayfinding

As the park is renovated, it is important to include new signage consistent with the branding of McKinney. New signage will provide the park with an entry sequence and identity.

**DESTINATION**

Social Zone

Katherine B. Winniford Park is a pleasant linear park with great pedestrian connectivity to the neighboring E.A. Randles Park and Reuben Johnson Elementary School. The existing playground and pavilion areas along Cottonwood Creek Trail should be expanded to provide a larger outdoor plaza space with landscaping. Smaller pavilions can be introduced throughout the trail system creating refuge points with berming and native grass planting added to provide character along the trail.

**PROXIMITY**

Access, visibility and alternative locations for its programmed elements should be assessed.

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**LONG TERM GOALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>$$</strong> Estimated Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHORT TERM = $200,000 - $250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>LONG TERM = $750,000 - $850,000</td>
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</table>
SYSTEM WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT

Key design points that should guide the design of every existing or new park in the City are recommended as follows:

- **A design concept** for each neighborhood park, incorporating children’s play areas, offering solar refuge with shade trees/structures, walkways, hike and bike trails, areas for open play, multi-use play areas, picnic facilities and a park pavilion with a multi-tiered roof.

- Each park should truly celebrate the **history** and **culture** of the City of McKinney by incorporating historical plaques and features that allude to the neighborhoods around the park, the circumstances that caused the park to be created, or tell a story of significant historical relevance.

- Every park should include features for a **wide variety of park users** and levels of activity. Parks should be multi-faceted, without being over-programmed and overfilled with elements. Natural and unprogrammed areas play a huge role in providing “breathing space” in a park and should be encouraged.

- Parks should incorporate **art** and should be an example of the sophistication of the City of McKinney of today and tomorrow.

- Include all the basic facilities that make up a **high impact** (active) Community Park with specific reference to the programmed recreation facilities as identified in the needs assessment.

- Consider low impact (passive) Community Parks as an opportunity to provide additional opportunities for passive recreation whereby the **natural components** of McKinney’s parks system can be enjoyed by everyone in the community.

- The size of one individual Special Purpose Park may vary depending on the **specific need and function**.

- Linear Parks are ideal for **hike and bike trails**, as these parks may be associated with creeks, rail or utility corridors. This type of park is a great asset because it provides trail and bikeway **connectivity** to many destination points.

- Within **nature areas** and **open spaces**, provide low-key facilities with generally **passive uses**.

- Work with owners of **cemeteries** to provide park facilities such as trails to connect with these valuable cultural resources.

- Enroll in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP), to encourage **environmental stewardship** at the Oak Hollow Golf
Course.

- A single loaded road adjacent to all parks is advised in order to protect open space for purposes of informal surveillance and prevent crime in areas that may pose danger for park and open space users. The suggested requirement of single loaded roads along all parks, creeks, and open space is 75% minimum of the boundary between new development and the adjacent park, creek and open space.

- A transparent, wrought iron metal fence between all residential lots and parks and/or open space should be constructed where a single loaded road is not possible.

- Shade should be incorporated into many features of every park. Playgrounds should be covered where feasible, and several shaded picnic tables should be included in every park, no matter how small the park.

- All pavilion structures should consist of a multi-tiered, permeable, or other type of roofing system to ensure adequate ventilation and to prevent heated air from being trapped under the roof.

- Implement storm water bio-swales to allow for temporary retention of storm water in order to allow for infiltration and bio-filtration of run-off water before the excess water leaves the site.

- Continuous community input should be welcomed and included in the design of every park in the City.

- Provide park lights and time clocks supported by photocells as an energy saving measure.

Parks are about green open spaces and trees. A planting strategy should include:

- Continue to place preference on the application of drought tolerant landscaping and native plantings including native trees, wildflowers and native grasses.

- Parks should continue to be developed and upgraded in order to reduce maintenance.

- Automatic irrigation systems attuned to plants with low water requirements should continue to be a key component of McKinney parks as simple features that make these parks easy to maintain. As a water saving tool, the ideal is that no irrigation be provided at all; however, even native plants require irrigation for a period of at least two years to ensure effective establishment. When opted for, hand watering with gator bags should be done consistently and in ample quantities.
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

General planning and design approach for neighborhood parks:

• Prepare a design concept for each undeveloped neighborhood park that incorporates children’s play areas offering solar refuge with shade trees/structures, walkways, hike and bike trails, areas for open play, multi-use play areas, picnic facilities, and a park pavilion.

• Continue to include the participation of neighborhood citizens in the design process.

• Provide good pedestrian access to all parks including signage and a wide, welcoming gateway.

• Continue to develop parks adjacent to existing and future schools with easy access from the school grounds. Not only will this add to the quality of life for the community, but also funding is more likely available through collaborative action.

• Place preference on the application of native plantings including native trees, wildflowers and native grasses.

COMMUNITY PARKS

General planning and design approach for community parks:

• Develop and implement a concept plan for each parcel of land acquired for the purpose of a Community Park.

• Include all the basic facilities that make up a Community Park with specific reference to the recreation facilities as identified in the needs assessment.

• In addition to the recreation facilities which are typical of a Community Park, incorporate children’s play areas covered with shade structures, walkways, hike and bike trails, areas for non-athletic, leisure “free play”, multi-use play areas, picnic facilities, and a park pavilion.

• Provide support facilities such as restrooms, parking, etc.

• Provide signage and a uniquely designed gateway.

• Place preference on the application of native plantings including native trees, wildflowers and native grasses.
FUNDING

STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING

OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANTS
This Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) program provides 50% matching grant funds to municipalities and other local units of government with a population less than 500,000 to acquire and develop park land or to renovate existing public recreation areas as identified and described per a TPWD-approved Parks Master Plan. There are two funding cycles per year with a maximum award of $500,000. Eligible sponsors include cities, counties, municipal utility districts, river authorities, and other special districts. Projects must be completed within three years of approval. Application deadlines are March 1st and August 1st each year (the Parks Master Plan submission deadline for TPWD approval is 60 days prior to application deadline). Award notifications occur six months after deadlines.

Additionally, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This federally funded program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles. The grants can be up to 80% of project cost. Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects, such as the construction of new recreational trails, improvement of existing trails, development of trail heads or trailside facilities and acquisition of trail corridors.

The deadline for this program is June 1st of each year. Grant funding for this program is on a cost reimbursement basis. Eligible projects include:
- Construction of new recreation trails on public or private lands
- Trail restoration or rehabilitation
- Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades
- Acquisition of easements, acquisition of property
- Maintenance of existing trails
- Environmental mitigation
- Development of trail-side and trail-head facilities (signs, restrooms, parking areas, water fountains, horse-watering, corrals, hitching posts, tool storage, bike racks, benches, picnic tables and fencing).

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT GENERATING ECONOMIC RECOVERY DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM (TIGER)
TIGER grants are competitive/discretionary grants that can be utilized to fund surface transportation infrastructure capital investments. TIGER grants primarily focus on projects that provide both economic benefits and improve access to reliable, safe and affordable transportation options. TIGER grants may be used for, but not limited to, bicycle lanes, cross walks, lighting, and bridges. Capital funds provided through the TIGER program are unique in that individual municipalities, counties, and MPOs can receive them directly from the federal government, as opposed to most federal funds that are distributed at the State or transit agency level and then allocated to individual municipalities. It is important to note that many bicycle and pedestrian projects will only be competitive if they are part of a larger project with proven economic benefits. To date, the TIGER program
has provided nearly $4.6 billion dollars of investment to support 381 projects. Five hundred million dollars in TIGER funding was recently secured for the 2016 fiscal year through the 2020 fiscal year.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)
SRTS is associated with the FAST Act as a set-aside program under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG). SRTS funds are meant to assist local municipalities in funding projects that improve connectivity and access to schools. Eligible bicycle and pedestrian projects include bicycle lanes, crosswalks, separated bicycle lanes, and signed bicycle routes, among others.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) SET-ASIDE PROGRAM - ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
TA funding is a set-aside of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program that provides funding for facilities for active transportation and facilities that improve Safe Routes to School. All bicycle and pedestrian projects previously eligible for TAP funding under MAP-21 continue their eligibility in the revised TA Set-Aside Program under the FAST Act. TA funding is a competitive process and projects are selected about every two years by MPOs and TxDOT. In the 2017 call, eligible projects could receive up to $5M in federal dollars.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)
The RTP was reauthorized under the FAST Act and is now a set-aside of funds from the TAP. The RTP is administered by the TPWD, who also receives the grant applications. Eligible projects include maintenance and restoration of existing facilities, construction of new trails, acquisition of easements or property for trails, and the development and rehabilitation of trailside/trailhead facilities and trail linkages.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

MUNICIPAL BONDS
Debt financing through the issuance of municipal bonds is the most common way in which to fund park and open space projects. This type of funding is a strategy wherein a city issues a bond, receives an immediate cash payment to finance projects, and must repay the bond with interest over a set period of time ranging from a few years to several decades. General obligation bonds—the most common form of municipal bond—is the primary bond type for park and open space projects.

DEVELOPER REQUIREMENTS
This tool can be used to require new development to provide a dedication of land for neighborhood and community parks (or fee-in-lieu of land) and park development fees to offset the City’s costs. This is accomplished through the Park Land Dedication Ordinance, which is recommended to be revised, as discussed in section 5.3.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING/PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS
These related tools allow a development district to divert a portion of its property taxes to fund infrastructure improvements within its area. This can include plazas, pocket parks, linear parks, and other types of facilities.

PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMS/NAMING RIGHTS
Obtaining private sponsorship for parks and recreation facilities—often by selling naming rights—can be an effective tool for acquiring additional financing. The long-term success of this financing tool depends greatly on a concerted effort by the City to ensure the ongoing prominence of the sponsored facilities through appropriate marketing efforts and a commitment to an excellent maintenance program.

PURCHASE AND TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS
Purchase of development rights (PDR) and transfer of development rights (TDR) are programs for landscape preservation whereby a municipality, county, or other entity can pay landowners (typically farmers and ranchers) to limit development on their land. Through PDR, landowners are paid an amount relative to the development potential of their land, required to maintain their land generally as-is (greatly limiting any future development), and maintain ownership of the land and residence. The land is thereby conserved, either in a natural or cultivated state. Taking the PDR model a step further, TDR programs conserve rural landscapes through “trading” potential development intensity between sending areas and receiving areas. Areas to be protected (significant cultural, rural, or natural landscapes) are designated as sending areas while areas where more intense development is desirable are designated as receiving areas. In this model, landowners in sending areas are allowed to sell their right to develop their land to developers in receiving areas. Both of these programs can offer a financially competitive alternative to selling land for development.

TREE MITIGATION FUNDS
The source of such a fund results when a city levies fines against developers for removing quality trees for development. The revenue generated is used to plant trees and to irrigate city properties, thereby enhancing the community.

ELECTRIC UTILITY PARTNERSHIPS
This type of partnership can be established for the purpose of providing and enhancing linear parks and trails along utility easements. This partnership typically does not involve monetary contributions. However, through use agreements and/or easements, it makes land for trail corridors accessible at little or no cost to the community.

UTILITY BILL CONTRIBUTIONS
In many cities, residents are allowed to electively add a small amount to their utility collection bills to fund park improvements. As an example, the City of Colleyville has a Voluntary Park Fund, which allows citizens to donate $2.00 per month through their water utility bills. This results in approximately $150,000 per year, which is used to fund park improvements throughout their community.

LAND TRUSTS
Land trusts provide a valuable service to municipalities across the country in helping to acquire natural areas, open space, and other land for public use. Typically, land trusts not only assist in funding land acquisition but also assist in managing the transaction and financing. Often, each land trust will have a specific set of requirements for the types of land they are willing to help acquire and/or how that land will be used. The Texas Land Trust Council can be contacted for more information.
“Celebrate what you’ve accomplished, but RAISE the bar a little HIGHER each time you succeed.”

— Mia Hamm