

An aerial photograph of a park featuring a playground with colorful equipment, a gazebo, and winding paths. A large, semi-transparent white graphic of the number '02' is overlaid on the right side of the image, with a green outline.

# 02

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# INTRODUCTION

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McKinney is widely recognized as an exceptional community in the DFW region, having been ranked as a “best place to live” both locally and nationally. The qualities that make McKinney attractive are what continue to draw new residents, visitors and businesses there today. These qualities include beautiful tree-lined roadways, distinct residential neighborhoods, outstanding educational opportunities, diverse business establishments, a vibrant historic downtown, and an exceptional parks systems – one of the key components of McKinney’s “Unique by Nature” brand.

Unique by Nature speaks to McKinney’s inherent uniqueness and sense of place. It also speaks to the City’s vast and beautiful parks system – offering lakes, streams, greenbelts, forests, sports, nature, conservation, and inspiration. As McKinney grows and diversifies, the parks system will continue to be a treasure for its citizens and visitors. In short, its magnificent resources will highlight McKinney’s quality of life for decades to come.

## ***DESTINATION COMMUNITY***

Within an hour of both downtown Dallas and Fort Worth, McKinney is a picturesque city with a small-town atmosphere. For many years McKinney has thrived off the regional activities associated with being part of the DFW Metroplex. Its southern charm, green spaces and comfortable pace belie the fact that McKinney is one of the choice cities in America.

While many factors combine to make McKinney a truly special place, it’s the people of McKinney who bring these qualities to life. A community spirit is evident in a friendly, safe and inviting city that holds strong ties to its roots and cultural heritage. Additionally, the City enjoys robust economic development and diverse recreational amenities that compliment and expand its touted destination.

## UPDATED PARKS MASTER PLAN

To keep McKinney's parks system as one of the city's cornerstones, Dunaway Associates was commissioned to work with the Parks Department and City Leaders in updating its 2017 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan (Parks Master Plan). This Parks Master Plan positions the City to be in front of future development, and to help interweave its great parks system into the fabric of the City and strategy for economic success. Through balanced parks and open space development, a visionary network of parks, facilities, and natural resources, McKinney will continue to be set apart as a premier community in the North Texas region.

Some of the major goals of the Parks Master Plan include:

- Keep developing new and creative park resources that will serve the various growth areas across the City
- Focus on strength reinvestment in existing parks in three key categories: restore, enhance, and reimagine
- Identify and maintain the City's natural resources for environmental stewardship and recreational enjoyment
- Coordinate the Parks Master Plan with the separate Trails Master Plan to expand the City's trail network throughout McKinney
- Identify key partnerships with public/public, public/private, and public/not for profits that can support both capital investments and long-term maintenance costs

