

Executive Summary

REVISED

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APPROVED

Executive Summary

1.0 Purpose of the Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs

The Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities, and Programs (LRP) was developed by the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) staff using demographic information, surveys, trends and standards for parks and in collaboration with multiple neighborhood representatives, non-profit organizations, public entities, and interested citizens on the future of the park system. Information was collected from ten public meetings held throughout the city starting in December 2007 through April 2009.

The LRP is a guide for future growth and development of Austin's parks and recreation system and is an update to the 1998 Long Range Plan for Land and Facilities. The LRP provides recommendations based on demographic research, public input, service analysis, neighborhood plans, greenprinting and surveys. The LRP provides recommendations for greenway and parkland acquisition, park development, park renovations and master planning.

2.0 Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) Definitions and Standards

Neighborhood and School Parks:

Neighborhood and school parks range from two to 30 acres, have a service area of a one mile radius and provide basic recreational opportunities close to home.

District Parks:

District parks range from 31 to 200 acres, have a service area of a two mile radius, provide basic recreational opportunities found in neighborhood parks that may also utilize the land's features in preservation and interpretation and provide major indoor and outdoor facilities.

Metropolitan Parks:

Metropolitan parks are, at a minimum, 201 acres with a city-wide service area that provides the greatest diversity of recreational experiences, and are generally natural resource-based and usually located along waterways.

Special Parks:

Special parks vary in size, have a city-wide service area and serve a specific function or protect a special feature.

Neighborhood and Urban Pocket Parks:

Neighborhood and urban pocket parks are up to 1.99 acres, each has a service area of 1/4 mile radius and provide recreational opportunities in areas where public green/open space is limited or not served by any park.

3.0 Existing Facilities Summarized

The City of Austin (COA) has over 18,000 acres of water recreation areas, parks and preserves consisting of 13 district parks, 24 metropolitan parks, 74 neighborhood parks, 23 school parks, 20 pocket parks, 40 greenways, 5 golf courses, 20 recreation centers, 3 senior activity centers, 4 tennis centers, 50 aquatic facilities, 38 special parks and 15 nature preserves. The Austin Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the management of parks, as well as many other diverse endeavors including recreation centers, museums, cultural centers, a botanical garden, a nature center and an urban forestry program. The Parks and Recreation Department is operated by over 600 full-time employees and 1400 seasonal employees.

In addition, the department maintains five city cemeteries (Oakwood, Oakwood Annex, Evergreen, Austin Memorial Park and Plummers) which are not PARD facilities.

PARD will create a separate plan for Cemeteries that will address the renovation and preservation needs of the five city cemeteries and how these needs will be implemented.

4.0 Goals

The Departmental goals are as follows:

- Provide safe and accessible parks and facilities to all citizens
- Provide a diversity and sufficiency of recreational opportunities
- Design and maintain parks and facilities to achieve environmental sustainability
- Foster collaboration, coordination, and partnerships throughout the community
- Employ an ongoing system of organizational evaluation
- Maintain fiscal responsibility throughout the Department
- Improve maintenance and operational efficiency throughout the park system

5.0 Summarization of the Planning Process

This Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities, and Programs was developed by the Parks and Recreation Department staff in collaboration with multiple neighborhood representatives, non-profit groups, public entities, and interested citizens. Information was collected from five public input meetings held throughout the city from December 2007 through April 2008. In April of 2009 the Parks and Recreation Department staff held an additional series of public meetings to review the information gathered at the initial five public meetings and how this information was incorporated into the draft document.

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Because the community has a broad range of issues and needs, a variety of approaches were used in the planning process; which included:

- Demographics
- Park and Facilities Standards
- Inventory of Existing Facilities
- Goals and Objectives
- Needs Assessment

6.0 Needs Assessment

A needs assessment is an analytical method to help staff assess what facilities are most needed and desired by the citizens of Austin and to determine which of these needs are the most critical. Two approaches were used for this assessment: a demand-based survey and a resource-based analysis. The demand-based approach gathered information from surveys, public input meetings and other relevant plans. The resource-based approach analyzed natural resources, facilities and parks to determine how these assets can best be used to develop a park system for the future. In addition to demand and resources, staff examined local trends that may influence PARD.

Public Input Findings

The top five recreation activities identified in a telephone survey were:

1. Trails
2. Swimming (Pools)
3. Cultural Activities or Arts (Indoor)
4. General Fitness
5. Swimming (Natural Waters)

The top five recreational activities identified in the on-line recreation survey were:

1. Walking/biking trails
2. Nature and science center tied with preserves
3. Museums
4. Outdoor swimming pools tied with running, and walking track
5. Community gardens

The public input meetings findings varied from meeting to meeting, however the common themes were:

- Develop parks (that are undeveloped or under developed)
- Continue trail development
- More off-leash areas
- Skate parks
- Pools
- Neighborhood tennis courts

Gap Analysis

As a part of the methodology used to assess recreational service delivery, PARD performed a "Gap Analysis" using its GIS (Geographical Information Systems). The objective was to determine which areas of the City are under-served with park facilities, thereby creating gaps in the park system.

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Adopted Neighborhood Plans

A summary of the adopted Neighborhood Plans recommendations related to PARD include:

- Protect and enhance all natural and environmentally-sensitive features, creek banks, trees, green spaces, trails, gardens, existing parks and recreational facilities
- Increase connectivity from neighborhoods to parks, greenways and trails
- Increase recreational activities and programs for youth and seniors
- Increase opportunities for cultural arts, recreation and leisure activities/services for all ages
- Develop neighborhood pocket parks and greenways
- Install more park benches, picnic tables, checkerboard tables, pet waste stations/ trash receptacles

General Obligation (GO) Bonds

In 2004 and 2005 PARD performed a Needs Assessment for existing facilities using current outstanding work orders. These were reviewed and a bond proposition was recommended by the Department to the City Council in 2005. The voters of Austin approved a city bond in November of 2006 which included \$64 million dollars for PARD to complete renovations to existing facilities and construct new facilities to meet expected growth and \$20 million for land acquisition.

Trends

The following are trends that play a key role in planning efforts while addressing the various changes in citizens' recreational needs:

- Population Growth and Changing Demographics
- Commercialization of Parkland
- Saving Open Space
- Nature and Resource-Related Activities
- Partners and Other Providers
- Favorite Activities
- Rise of Culture
- Non-Traditional Recreational Activities
 - Off-Leash Dog Areas (OLAs)
 - Community Gardens
 - Extreme Sports
 - Community Wildlife Habitat
- Energy and Natural Resource Conservation Measures
- The New Downtown Austin and Urban Infill
- Challenges of Park Operations and Maintenance
- Rising Cost of Fuel
- The Economic Impact of Parks and Open Space

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7.0 Relevant Plans

As part of the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning planning process for each neighborhood, residents were able to provide input to be used as a guide for existing and future development within their respective neighborhood.

http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/neighborhood/planning_areas.htm

A summary of the input related to the Parks and Recreation Department follows:

- Protect and enhance all natural and environmentally-sensitive features
- Preserve and enhance neighborhood trees, green spaces, trails, gardens, existing parks and recreational facilities
- Preserve creek banks with low-impact, natural stabilization (no concrete or gravel gabions)
- Increase connectivity from neighborhoods to parks, greenways and trails
- Develop neighborhood pocket parks and greenways
- Install more park benches, picnic tables and checkerboard tables
- Increase amounts of mutt mitt/trash receptacles within parks, greenways and trails
- Promote existing and provide more recreational activities and programs for youth and seniors
- Provide opportunities for cultural arts, recreation and leisure activities/services for all ages

In addition to neighborhood plans, there are other planning growth initiatives that shape urban development, such as:

The North Burnet/Gateway (NBG)

Through redevelopment of the non-residential/light industrial area to a high density mixed-use development, unmet recreational needs must be provided to create a sense of community. http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/neighborhood/north_burnet.htm

Transit Oriented Developments (TODs) and Vertical Mixed Use (VMUs)

TODs are well designed, accessible developments that integrate open spaces, high density residential and mixed use developments adjacent to a mass transit station.

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/tod/default.htm> Currently there are three TODs in the development process; Lamar/Justin, MLK and Plaza Saltillo. Each are unique, however, they have some common recommendations, such as:

- Open space near the most intensely developed portion of the TOD District
- Trail development for recreational and connectivity purposes – where feasible
- Pocket parks designed for active recreation, especially for children, and for passive recreational needs

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VMUs addresses, at a minimum, design standards relating to: landscaping; building materials; use of windows; façade articulation; lighting; convertibility; development orientation; transit and pedestrian amenities; parking signage; and screening or equipment, storage, and trash. The Vertical Mixed Use Standards also encourage additional density for residential growth.

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/designstandards.htm>

Additional initiatives, such as open space conservation play a key role in development.

The Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan (ATCP) Interim Update

The ATCP establishes a guide for the future, provides policy principles with a map delineating areas where the city should and should not grow, establishes timetables for review and update of the plan. It also articulates a broad capital improvement policy to direct development away from unsuitable areas.

http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/compplan/downloads/atcp_interim_update_adopted.pdf

Since the adoption of the ATCP plan in 1979, the City of Austin has implemented a number of policies, initiatives, and ordinances that implement the intent and the specifics of the ATCP. The following policy areas reflect the priorities of the ATCP:

- The Environment
- Downtown
- Neighborhoods
- Compact City/Density

Upon its adoption by City Council, the 2011 Parks and Recreation's Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs document will be an attachment to the Austin Tomorrow Plan, providing a more detailed work plan for the next five years.

Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan

This plan is a two-year process (2009 – 2011) to create a new Comprehensive Plan, in accordance with City Charter requirements for an over-arching document that coordinates spending and regulations across a range of city areas related to growth, development, and beautification, including parks and open space. The current process emphasizes public participation, sustainability, and implementation.

When the new comprehensive plan is adopted, all attachments to the current Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan (including Parks & Recreation's Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities, and Programs) are expected to be attached to the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, followed by separate processes to update those plans to comply with Imagine Austin. <http://www.cityofaustin.org/compplan/>



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Downtown Austin Plan (DAP)

The purpose of this plan is to articulate a community-supported vision for Austin's downtown parks and open space system that will guide public and private investment and management of individual parks and the system as a whole.

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/downtown/downtownaustinplan.htm>

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan, found within the DAP, informs the policy recommendations of the overall Plan, that finalized in 2010.

Waller Creek District Master Plan

The Waller Creek District Master Plan describes a four-part implementation strategy for Waller Creek that addresses significant amenities and redevelopment potential made possible by flood control improvements that will remove 28 acres of Downtown real estate from the 100-year flood plain. Through redevelopment the Waller Creek District will be improved as a high quality amenity which will include a linear greenway.

The vision of a linear greenway through Downtown and connecting Lady Bird Lake with Waterloo District Park is viewed as a catalyst for new development within the District and surrounding area. The Waller Creek corridor will consist of a series of high-quality natural and urban open spaces, connected by a continuous hard-surfaced trail system once completed. http://www.cityofaustin.org/wallercreek/wcmp_home.htm

The Austin – Bastrop River Corridor Partnership

This partnership is a group of agencies, organizations, and individuals committed to seeking positive, cooperative opportunities to promote a healthy river corridor ecosystem and to enhance public awareness of the Colorado River as a unique natural, recreational, and economic resource for the Austin to Bastrop area.

<http://environmental-stewardship.org/education.aspx>

Greenprinting

A method used by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to help local governments and communities make informed decisions about land conservation priorities. The Greenprinting model utilizes a geographic information system (GIS) to systematically analyze public goals for parks and open space.

http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=21160&folder_id=264

Envision Central Texas

A five-county, non-profit organization created to address the growth of central Texas; and has developed a plan for the region to preserve and enhance its natural resources, economic vitality, social equity, and overall quality of life.

http://envisioncentraltexas.org/resources/ECT_visiondoc.pdf

Other Recreation Providers

There are many other public and private entities that provide substantial recreational opportunities within Austin's area of jurisdiction. Those providers are as follows:

- Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)
- Travis, Williamson and Hays Counties
- Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs)
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- YMCA
- Public School District Partnerships
- Public/private parks

The facilities and plans of these entities are given consideration in the development of this plan.

8.0 Blueways, Greenways and Park Trails Plan

Blueways

A blueway is a river or creek that may serve as a wildlife corridor, a means of preserving water quality, and as a paddle trail. Blueways, or Paddle Trails provide kayakers, canoeists and outdoor enthusiasts with many reasons to enjoy the outdoors including excellent fishing and bird watching opportunities.

For the purpose of this document, blueways will focus on the existing dedicated Texas Paddling Trail.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Texas Paddling Trail program is designed to create access for paddlers on waterways throughout the state. Paddling trails typically have segments that are four to twelve miles long; however they do vary in length. The Paddling Trails network includes highway signage, maintained put-in and take-out locations, and interpretive information and maps to help visitors get the most out of their day on the water.

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/paddlingtrails/>

Greenways

The terms greenway greenbelt are often used interchangeably. The term greenway is the standard term that will be used in this document in order to be consistent with National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines.

A greenway is a natural corridor that often follows a river, creek, ridge line, valley or other linear open spaces. A greenway can serve multiple functions including hike and bike trails, a linear park system, a wildlife corridor, an area for flood control, a means of preserving water quality, and link bicycle and pedestrian throughout a community.

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Connection of Existing Greenways and Parkland in Urbanized Watersheds

Creeks within urbanized areas of Austin are a patchwork of public and private lands. Opportunities exist to acquire more creek-side land, and create connections to existing parkland. Some of these areas have been described in the major greenways section.

New Major Greenways along Creeks in Developing Watersheds

Currently many watersheds within Austin's five-mile jurisdiction have little development but are expected to undergo significant impacts from developments in the near future. Securing public land in these areas is a high priority prior to development and as development occurs through parkland dedication when feasible. Such creek-side areas include:

- Colorado River (below Lady Bird Lake)
- Gilleland Creek System
- Dry Creek East System

A **park trail** provides a wide variety of trail types located within parks, greenways, and natural resource areas. Located within a mostly natural setting, park trails provide recreational opportunities and may also provide connectivity to other green spaces, neighborhoods, urban development, and alternative transportation modes outside of the park. The following are various types of recreational trails that are further defined within Ch 8, *Blueways, Greenways and Park Trails Plan*.

- **Park Trail Corridor**
 - Improved Surface Trail
 - Natural Surface Trail
- **Special Use Park Trails**
 - Equestrian Trail
 - Motorcycle Trail
 - Mountain Bike Trail
 - Nature Trail
- **Other Modes**
 - Connector Trail
 - Shared Use Path
 - Bike Lane
 - Bike Route
 - Bikeway

Existing Park Trails

The core of Austin's trail system is the downtown "hub and spoke" system that provides an inter-connected web of approximately 30 trail miles. The "hub" is the ten-mile Trail at Lady Bird Lake that loops through central Austin. The "spoke" trails follow the various creeks that feed into the Lake. These trails include Shoal Creek, Waller Creek, Blunn Creek, West Bouldin Creek, Barton Creek, and Johnson Creek. This trail system also connects the two major "bookend" parks – Zilker Metropolitan Park and Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Metropolitan Park. These trails provide a vital source of recreation and travel opportunities for central Austin.

Greenways and Park Trails Public Input Findings

During the public input process, many citizens expressed a desire for better connectivity to parks from neighborhoods. Additional comments were for partnerships with the Austin Water Utility and Watershed Protection & Development Review Department to maximize usage of their land for recreational purposes while preserving the land from development. Existing drainage and utilities easements are currently under review for potential connectivity to parks and neighborhoods. Responsible development of these and all lands must be carefully considered for sustainable trail development.

Newly funded Trails

Current trail projects include over \$18 million in funding from grants and the City's Capital Improvement Program. Over 14 miles of major trails are funded for design and construction. Improvements to existing trails are also part of this package. A list of these funded trails follows:

- Northern Walnut Creek Trail, Phases I & II
- Southern Walnut Creek Trail
- The Boardwalk Trail on Lady Bird Lake - design and engineering
- Circle C Ranch Metropolitan Park to Veloway Extension
- Various improvements to existing trails

Proposed Trails (unfunded)

Many proposed trails are associated with waterways, which make natural trail corridors. However these natural trail corridors exclude heavily urbanized parts of the city where trails must follow other linear pathways. Below are the near and long term trail projects.

Near Term (no additional land acquisition)

- The Boardwalk Trail at Lady Bird Lake
- Little Walnut Creek to the Southern Walnut Creek
- Blunn Creek from Little Stacy Park to Lady Bird Lake
- Dick Nichols District Park to the Hampton Library at Oak Hill
- Slaughter Creek from Mary Searight Metropolitan Park to the Southpark Meadows Development
- Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park
- Williamson Creek (east of IH-35) to Onion Creek to McKinney Falls State Park
- Southern Walnut Creek Trail to John Trevino Jr. at Morrison Ranch Metropolitan Park
- Walk for a Day Trail - Phase 1

Long Term (requires land acquisition)

- Central Walnut Creek from IH-35 to Pioneer Farms
- Central Walnut Creek from Pioneer Farms to the Southern Walnut Creek Trail
- Colorado River (north side) from Longhorn Dam to Hornsby Bend
- Colorado River (south side) from Longhorn Dam to the mouth of Onion Creek
- Gilleland Creek
- Oak Hill Neighborhood Trails
- Walk for a Day Trail - Future phases

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Austin Trails Master Plan and Regional Park Trails Master Plan

Austin Trails Master Plan

In April 2008, the Austin City Council passed a resolution mandating the creation of a comprehensive and coordinated trails map that shows the connection of the City of Austin's existing bicycle and pedestrian trails networks. The Austin Bicycle Plan contains this map (<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/publicworks/bicycle-plan.htm>), which includes existing park trail networks, potential additions, and opportunities to eliminate gaps in the network. The vision for the map is to create an interconnected non-motorized network of on-road bike routes, sidewalks and off-road park trail corridors that provide transportation, environmental and historic resources preservation, recreation, socialization and health benefits.

Regional Park Trails Master Plan

As Austin grows, its trail systems will extend and connect to surrounding counties and adjacent cities. There is a compelling need to coordinate with other governmental entities concerning their parks trails and bicycle plans. Williamson County has a trails master plan which emphasizes the Brushy Creek Trail connecting Cedar Park, Round Rock and Austin. Pflugerville, Austin and Travis County can all share in trail development along Gilleland Creek. Austin and Travis County can share the development of trails along Onion Creek. Austin and Hays County and San Marcos can potentially connect through the proposed Walk for a Day Trail.

9.0 Recreational, Environmental and Cultural Programs Plan

The Recreational, Environmental and Cultural Programs Plan was developed to address future trends as defined by the citizens' needs and meet the requirements of the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) for a Recreational, Environmental and Cultural Programs Plan.

This Recreational, Environmental and Cultural Programs Plan will:

- Define each Division's purpose statement
- Identify existing facilities and programs within the Recreational, Environmental and Cultural Programs System
- Establish goals
- Determine the programming needs of the citizens
- Establish recommendations

10.0 Recommendations and Prioritization of Needs

Introduction

The department has established a long range plan to address the residential growth within the city and the recreational needs of the citizens for the next five years. The plan is based on extensive analysis of the results of citizen surveys, feedback from public input meetings, demographics, void spaces within the Gap Analysis map, and other methodologies described in Chapter 6 and Chapter 7.

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Goals and Recommendations for Parkland Acquisition – The Department has shifted its parkland acquisition program to address growing inner-city needs by establishing the category of pocket parks. These “infill” parks are a priority for parkland acquisition.

Park Renovations – There is a growing need to repair, restore or replace older park facilities. Two key parks are recommended for future improvements: the corridor of parkland along Lady Bird Lake and Zilker Metropolitan Park, especially Barton Springs Pool and its facilities.

Master Planning – Austin has an abundance of underdeveloped parkland that needs to be master planned for future recreational development. Priority parks for master planning include the following:

- A. Metropolitan Parks
- B. Neighborhood Parks
- C. Special Parks

The Downtown Area - defined as MLK Blvd to the north, I-35 to the east, Lady Bird Lake to the south and Lamar Blvd to the west.

In 2005 a resolution was passed to encourage the development of the downtown area and support the Mayor’s goal of increasing the downtown residents to 25,000 in the next 10 years. Such anticipated growth will put a strain on the existing green spaces within the Downtown Area. Therefore the need for additional parkland and facilities is vital. The following priority projects are recommended to meet the anticipated density:

- Revitalize the three remaining historic squares: Brush, Republic and Wooldridge
- Restoration and revitalization of Waller Creek Trail and Corridor with pocket parks and open spaces
- Acquisition of land or recreation easements for Shoal Creek Trail at 5th St
- Implement the Downtown Open Spaces Plan’s wayfinding plan for the historic squares and parks
- Master Plan and implement Sir Swante Palm Neighborhood Park
- Redevelop Duncan Neighborhood Park
- Implement improvements and enhancements to the Lady Bird Lake corridor

City-wide recommendations tend to apply throughout the city and park system as opposed to any one specific location. These recommendations act as a synopsis of pressing needs for planning, land, facilities and programs.

- **Park Trails and Greenways** – coordinate planning efforts and increase trail connectivity
- **Community Gardens** – Provide additional land for use as community gardens and farmers’ markets
- **Aquatics** – improve existing facilities and provide new types of facilities throughout the city
- **Tennis** – improve existing facilities, add support facilities, and provide more neighborhood tennis opportunities
- **Athletics** – renovate existing fields and provide more multi-purpose fields
- **Golf** – increase the opportunity to play golf in all areas of the city

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City-wide recommendations *cont.*

- **Playgrounds** – increase diversified play opportunities for toddlers, teens and special needs children
- **New Facility Distribution** – increase off-leash areas (OLAs) for dogs, skate parks, BMX parks and recreation complexes
- **Facility Improvements** – ensure all existing and new facilities are safe, secure, barrier free and comfortable for all users; develop field offices for athletics and aquatics
- **Asset Management** - Consistently inventory, track and update all PARD assets in the Asset Management Database
- **Partnerships** – partner with school districts, other city departments and advocacy groups
- **Recreation and Cultural Programs** – expand and promote outdoor and indoor recreational, cultural and nature programs
- **Natural Resources** – restore degraded parkland and plan new parks to be environmentally sustainable
- **Preserves** – improve security, increase interpretive signage, improve trails, and increase operational support
- **Operational issues** – seek to increase PARD’s operational budget to the level of the national average
- **Energy and Natural Resource Conservation Measures** – continue following best management practices for water conservation, solar power, renewable resources, recycling, technology based conservation, joint use energy conservation, purchase equipment with a large percentage of post consumer recycled building materials, nature and adaptive landscape plants, modify scheduled mowing practices to work with nature, removal of invasive species, and trim trees for safety and tree health care.
- **FEMA Buyout** – acquisition of 410 properties at risk of severe creek flooding to be dedicated as parkland

Planning Areas

For park planning purposes, the recommendations are broken down into 27 planning areas that encompass the entire city. The planning areas within the central core are then broken down further by the respective neighborhood planning areas. The following is the priority scoring breakdown followed by a synopsis of these recommendations.

Scoring Methodology

To meet the maximum amount of the TPWD grant application requirements, each recommendation must have a priority ranking. In order to determine the ranking, each recommendation was scored based on the following scoring methods:

- Projects with some existing funding
- Consistent with Council Priorities
- Recommendations are consistent with PARD goals
- Consistent with the Gap Analysis Map
- Consistent with the Greenways Priority Acquisition
- Priorities listed in other adopted plans
- Public input meetings
- Surveys

Urban Redevelopment

In response to the densification adjacent to the downtown area, the need for additional parkland and facilities is essential. In order to respond to this additional growth, the following priority projects are recommended:

- Implement Lady Bird Lake corridor improvements and enhancements
- Construct of the "Boardwalk" trail on Lady Bird Lake
- Develop Phases III and IV of Auditorium Shores
- Master Plan Zilker Metropolitan Park and implement improvements
- Implement Barton Springs Pool master plan and improvements
- Decommission Holly Street Power Plant and dedicate land as parkland
- Acquire and develop urban infill parks
- Continue development of Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Metropolitan Park
- Daugherty Arts Center redevelopment and play area

Park Trails

Park trail-related activities such as walking, running and biking continue to be the most popular recreational activities in the region. In response to this need, these trail projects are recommended:

- Develop Phase I & II of Walnut Creek Trails (funded projects)
- Implement Circle C trail extension (funded project)
- Connect Blunn Creek and West Bouldin Creek to Lady Bird Lake
- Slaughter Creek Greenbelt between Searight Park and IH-35
- Williamson Creek / Onion Creek system east of IH-35
- Park trail connection from Dick Nichols District Park to Hampton Library
- Complete the Shoal Creek Trail gap at 5th Street
- Walk for a Day Phase I
- Oak Hill area
- Country Club Creek
- Bull Creek

Parkland Acquisition

Public input and natural resource analysis has indicated a great need to capture the riparian zones of the Colorado River and its tributaries in rapidly developing areas in the eastern part of Austin and Travis County. Priority greenway acquisition is recommended for the following:

- Colorado River below Longhorn Dam
- Gilleland Creek
- Onion Creek
- Dry Creek system
- Marble Creek
- South Boggy Creek

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The following greenway areas are recommended for continuing acquisition and to close the gaps within the existing greenways:

- Bull Creek
- Walnut Creek
- Slaughter Creek
- Williamson Creek

In addition to infill park acquisition in the urban core, there is a need to continue the acquisition of neighborhood and regional parks in developing suburban fringe areas. Parkland acquisition is recommended for the following areas:

- West of Oak Hill
- North / Northwest Austin
- Northeast Austin
- Areas with significant environmental features
- Transit Oriented, Vertical Mixed-Use, and other High-Density Developments
- North Burnet / Gateway area

Park Development

Continued development of existing and new parks is necessary to provide needed recreation in under-served and growing areas. The following projects are recommended:

- Gustavo "Gus" L Garcia Neighborhood Park
- Onion Creek Metropolitan Park
- Yarabee Bend at Onion Creek
- Copperfield Neighborhood Park
- Armadillo Neighborhood Park
- Del Curto Neighborhood Park
- Walnut Creek Greenway near Pioneer Farms
- Walnut Creek Sports Park on Johnny Morris Road
- Colorado River Preserve
- Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park, phase II
- Bauerle Ranch Metropolitan Park
- Lakeline Neighborhood Park
- Harris Branch Neighborhood Park
- Southland Oaks Neighborhood Park
- New park and recreation center in Southwest Austin
- Austin's Colony Neighborhood Park