

CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG

2024 PARKS MASTER PLAN:

Gutes Leben

“Good Life”





Frantzen Park

FOREWARD

A Parks Master Plan is a living document that provides an assessment of past actions, existing conditions, and future steps towards the achievement of long-range goals. This Plan was built on a foundation of community input and desires, outlined in Chapter 2 and the Appendix, and as such embodies the community's vision for parks and recreation within Fredericksburg. The development of this plan involved two public surveys, focus group meetings, two public open houses, a community event, and a series of Advisory Committee meetings, during which participants expressed a wide range of preferences for the parks system. The feedback from citizens created the foundation on which a future vision and implementation actions could be established. The plan implementation steps, expressed in Chapter 4, includes a prioritization of needs that serves as guide for budget allocations, additional study, and annual operational requirements for the City of Fredericksburg. The valuable feedback from residents formed the cornerstone upon which to build a future vision and action plan. The planning process undertaken here will facilitate opportunities for cost-sharing, partnerships, and collaboration with neighboring communities and local organizations. To that end, this Parks Master Plan should be the guiding framework for both public and private efforts, as well as semi-private initiatives, aimed at enhancing and developing parks over the next decade.





CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG

Parks Master Plan Executive Summary



Marktplatz Garden

As an update to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan (adopted in March 2016), the 2024 Parks Master Plan provides the foundation and rationale for the identification and implementation of capital projects, operational and programmatic changes, and policy considerations that will further enhance a cohesive and high-quality parks and recreation system for the City of Fredericksburg. The community engagement and comprehensive needs assessment this plan has undertaken, ensures the plan adheres to the community's vision and is aligned with the best practices in parks and recreation facilities management and operation.

APPROACH

The Master Plan is subdivided into three volumes, consisting of four chapters, and supported by a series of appendices. The following is a summary of specific Plan elements:

PART 1

Chapter 1 Introduction and Vision

Chapter 2 Parks System

PART 2

Chapter 3 Needs Assessment

Chapter 4 Implementation

PART 3

Appendix A Public Engagement

Appendix B Funding for Implementation

THE SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF THE PARKS MASTER PLAN INCLUDE:



Evaluating and analyzing existing conditions;



Conducting a robust public engagement program;



Developing appropriate goals and objectives;



Assessing needs based on community engagement, growth estimates, and available resources;



Identifying strategies and actions through which to implement the Master Plan's recommendations and priorities.



WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE PUBLIC

53% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS THINK
ENHANCING CURRENT ATHLETIC FIELDS
SHOULD BE THE TOP PRIORITY

“We desperately
need more options
to walk and hike.

-Fredericksburg resident

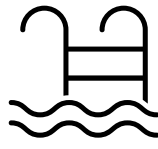
DESIRED FUTURE PARK IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:



Pickleball
courts



More trails



Heated
pool

SURVEY RESPONDENTS IDENTIFIED THESE AS THEIR TOP PREFERENCES

PERSONAL

Senior
athletic
league

FOR TEENS

Youth
athletic
league

FOR CHILDREN

Splash pad



SURVEY RESPONDENTS MOST AGREED

Parks will help improve the quality of life for the residents of Fredericksburg

The City should publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities

The City should more fully develop the parkland and open space that it already owns

ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED DURING THE PLANNING PROCESS

OPERATIONS-BASED ASSESSMENT

Operating Budget,
Revenue, & Staffing



DEMAND-BASED ASSESSMENT

Stakeholder Listening Sessions
& Community Needs Survey



RESOURCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

Natural & Built Resource
Analysis



PARK CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

Assessment of Parkland
Grounds & Facilities



STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENT

Level of Service and Park
Service Area Analysis



First public engagement event held in
November 2022

PARK SYSTEM GROWTH

According to the U.S. Census, Texas Water Development Board, and City of Fredericksburg predictions, Fredericksburg's population may increase by between 3.5% to 51% over the next ten years. The difference between the estimates makes it difficult to predict future populations with certainty. But it is very likely that Fredericksburg will experience more growth than historically seen.

To maintain or increase Fredericksburg's current levels of service for park space, the City's inventory of parkland acreage and recreational facilities must expand to accommodate new residents and keep up with quality of life standards. Fredericksburg currently has approximately 8.4 acres of neighborhood and community parkland for every 1,000 residents. Based on **Table 3.2, Parkland Level of Service (2030)** on page 30, Fredericksburg will need somewhere between 6 to 10 acres of neighborhood and community parkland for every 1,000 residents.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SUMMARY

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The following insights offer guidance for the Parks and Recreation Department to sustain success and drive improvement. While effectively managing the current parks network with allocated resources, the department must navigate external factors influencing future success in maintaining an efficient parks system.

Administration and Staffing

- The Parks Department does not have a mission and vision statement
- While the Department is above the NRPA average, there is opportunity to strengthen management and oversight of the front line staff to improve efficiency and coordination.
- The City should continue to invest in staff retention and recruitment, as the need for qualified staff is required with park services and amenities.

Budget and Funding

- The Department's budget aligns with national averages and peer cities, however increases to maintenance budgets have not matched new parks and park enhancements.
- External funding continues to be an excellent source for new park projects, the Department should continue to work closely with these organizations to offer opportunities to support existing park needs.
- Venue and reservation fees support the department services, the City should evaluate the fees for facilities, events, or other programs with a focus on enhancing cost recovery.

Park Maintenance

- The Parks Department does not have a work order system and should develop one to prioritize tasks and improve efficiency.
- The Department should create maintenance plans for new projects during planning and development.
- 5/7 of the staff are dedicated to Marketplatz, the department should evaluate if these resources and the number of programs offered at this venue.



Guiding Principles

GUIDING PRINCIPLES, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

THIS MASTER PLAN PROPOSES A SET OF OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS TIED TO THE STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES LAID OUT IN THE SIX GUIDING PRINCIPLES. THESE OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS ADDRESS THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT.

6

Guiding Principles

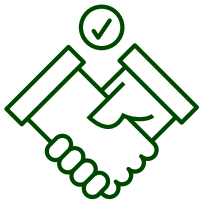
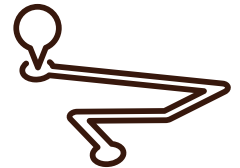
14

Objectives

99

Actions

Fredericksburg will create safe and easily accessible connections through walking and biking.



Fredericksburg will cultivate partnerships to leverage financial and philanthropic support.

Fredericksburg will provide recreational activities, facilities, and cultural events for the community.



Fredericksburg will prioritize improvements to existing parks or amenities which enhance safety and support multipurpose functionality.

Fredericksburg will adequately fund and staff the parks and recreation department to maintain and operate high quality parks.



Fredericksburg will increase inclusivity and access in future park design and location.

Acknowledgments

The Fredericksburg Parks Master Plan was developed by the City of Fredericksburg with the technical support and design assistance of Halff. A special thanks goes to the countless community members, staff members and community leaders for their insight and support during the duration of this study. The following individuals are recognized for their substantial contributions towards the creation of the 2024 Fredericksburg Parks Master Plan.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Jeryl Hoover, Mayor
Bobby Watson, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Member
Emily Kirchner, Council Member
Tony Klein, Council Member
Randy Briley, Council Member
Sharon Joseph, Council Member

CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG STAFF

Clinton Bailey, P.E., City Manager
Garret Bonn, P.E., C.F.M., Assistant City Manager
Anna Hudson, AICP-C, Director of
Development Services
Andrea Schmidt, Director of Parks and Recreation

PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Brady Closson
Tim Crenwelge
Todd Eidson
Jacob Grant
Cindy Heifner
Jim Jarreau
Emily Kirchner
Keith Kramer
Richard Laughlin
Tim Lehmberg
Penny McBride
Jim Mikula
Spencer Neffendorf
Polly Rickert
Joe Rodriguez
Mike Starks
Amanda Stevens
Sarah Washburne

HALFF

Nathlie Booth, AICP
Jordan Maddox, AICP
Whitney Linder, AICP-C
Julian Salas-Porras

TXP

Travis James



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PART 1

Introduction & Guiding Principles



Introduction

This planning effort was initiated by the City of Fredericksburg with an intent to guide the growth and management of the city’s parks system to ensure the needs of the community are met. The last parks plan was approved in 2016. This Plan will provide updates for both existing and future park, recreation, and leisure opportunities. This chapter outlines the purpose of this document and establishes the vision and guiding principles for the Parks Master Plan.

WHY PLAN A PARK SYSTEM?

A local community’s trust in its government stems from the city’s ability to be good stewards of the community facilities, natural resources, and capital resources. Parks and other civic spaces are the public’s primary destinations for exercise, play, fellowship, and other leisure activities. The ability to participate in these activities defines how people view the quality of their community. The City of Fredericksburg Parks Master Plan has been prepared in recognition of this. It also addresses the following six key public benefits of parks.



Pickleball players at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park

PARKS PROMOTE ACTIVE & HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

For many, the sedentary nature of daily life requires exercise needs to be met through intentional actions as opposed to the by-product of everyday activity. This requires a built environment that allows for and encourages people to be active. Exercise is a key component to physical health, while mental health is affected by social opportunities and the restorative effects of interaction with nature. Parks and open spaces provide opportunities for both active and passive recreation.

- **Active recreation** includes organized sports and activities that require specific spaces for recreation or play.
- **Passive recreation** includes opportunities that promote interaction with nature and have a smaller imprint on the natural environment. Activities may include hiking, biking, kayaking, and wildlife viewing.

PARKS CONTRIBUTE TO A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Parks are places to socialize, participate in groups or clubs, and meet new people. Some may talk with another parent as their children use a nearby play structure, while others may find common interests with other pet owners during interactions at a dog park. These social interactions help build a safe, connected, and friendly community.

Parks also provide an opportunity for community service and participation in group events or leagues. A neighborhood, school or community group can volunteer to maintain a specific park through an Adopt-A-Park program. Special events and festivals hosted in local parks are great ways to get to know neighbors and local businesses. These interactions between residents can also help to develop a sense of community pride.



Pollinator garden at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park

PARKS PROVIDE A SAFE HAVEN TO YOUTH

Parks and recreation programs, specifically those targeted towards teens and youth, can have a positive social impact by providing a supervised and safe environment. Organized sports as well as unstructured activities such as skateboarding, increase interaction with peers, and help develop life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and decision-making.

PARKS PROMOTE CONSERVATION

Parks, open spaces, and conservation lands remind us of our roles and responsibilities as stewards of the land. Proper practices and approaches to stormwater runoff reduce flooding, prioritize clean water, and promote wise use of resources. The use of native plantings and water reclamation practices have the potential to provide mutually beneficial relationships of lower park maintenance costs and opportunities for passive recreation by providing native landscapes suitable for habitats and wildlife viewing.

Finally, the designation of park land and open space is complementary to the development of a city. Understanding where future park land or open space should be located can encourage new development to occur in a manner that promotes other city goals and interests, such as protecting environmentally sensitive areas or buffering between incompatible land uses.

PARKS CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMY

Parks attract not only visitors but businesses as well. They can help create jobs which can strengthen local tax revenues. Parkland can provide a ripple effect in the economy by attracting visitors who may stay a meal or shop at local stores. The relationship between private business and parks has a positive impact through an increase in demand for services. These relationships often lead to positive experiences and reviews and in turn generate more business and tax revenue for the community.

Parks can also improve local economies by increasing residential property values through what is known as the Proximate Principle. This concept recognizes that people will pay more for a home when it is close to a park or green space.

PARKS ENHANCE TOURISM

People visit a community because of local attractions, including parks with desirable facilities or unique features. Festivals, concerts, sports tournaments, and special events typically take place in community-owned public spaces. Even museums and sometimes libraries can be located within or adjacent to a park to increase community offerings in a central location. Capitalizing on Fredericksburg's existing attractions and enhancing those experiences is a way to boost local revenues.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Consistency

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) provides guidance for the development of a Parks Master Plan. Their guidance is intended to help municipalities organize park planning initiatives in a manner that improves the chances of being awarded points through the “Project Priority Scoring System,” which is used as part of a ranking for project funds through a matching grant program administered by TPWD. The guidelines are ancillary to TPWD’s desire to ensure an equitable manner for awarding funds to communities throughout Texas. Additionally, the guidelines promote a process that generates locally-sponsored projects and are reflective of the community’s wants and needs.

A TPWD-consistent plan includes the following organizational components:

- plan goals and objectives,
- parkland and facility standards,
- inventory of existing parks and park facilities,
- needs assessment,
- implementation strategy,
- and a prioritized list of needs.

These plan components are supported by public input and outreach, maps, graphics, and photos that add support and context for the issues covered in the plan.



Nature trail at Cross Mountain Park

Plan Timeframe

The Parks Master Plan is the City of Fredericksburg’s blueprint for developing a consolidated municipal parks and recreation system. This Plan provides direction for municipal park system development over the next 10 years (2024-2034), which includes a corresponding program of projects, actions, and initiatives.

Local planning requirements issued by the TPWD recommend that a new park plan should be developed no less than every 10 years. A plan update is encouraged after five years to maintain competitiveness for TPWD grants. Each update will act as an opportunity to measure success and make revisions to plan policies and implementation strategies. Plan updates and implementation provisions are detailed in **Chapter 4, Recommendations.**

Plan Components

Fredericksburg's Parks Master Plan is organized into four chapters, as shown below.

1 INTRODUCTION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In addition to defining the purpose and process of this Plan, the introduction also includes guiding principles for the management and development of parks within the city.

2 PARK SYSTEM

This chapter provides details and context for the existing Fredericksburg parks and recreation system and identifies park classifications and characteristics of each.

3 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This chapter incorporates a series of assessment methods to inform plan recommendations and implementation strategies.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter summarizes key actions that should be taken to help guide the city for both near-term and future opportunities. This chapter identifies recommended actions for new park facilities, improvements to existing parks, trail development, and operational elements.



Water wheel at Marktplatz

Creating the Vision

The guiding principles on the next page reflect the community’s vision for future parks, recreation, and open space within Fredericksburg. These were created through multiple rounds of public engagement. From the first round of public engagement, which included an open house, an online survey, and stakeholder meetings, six overarching themes emerged. These summarized the public’s general feelings of where they wanted the park system to be in the future. These six themes were:

**SAFE WALKABLE AND/OR BIKEABLE
CONNECTIONS**

**EFFICIENT MAINTENANCE AND
OPERATIONS**

**RECREATION FOR ALL AGES AND
ABILITIES**

**DIVERSE PARK TYPES AND
LOCATIONS**

IMPROVE EXISTING PARKS

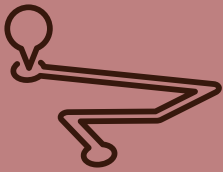
ENHANCE PARK EXPERIENCES

During an Advisory Committee workshop, these sentiments were refined into the guiding principles for this Plan. The intent is for each principle to guide not only the recommendations identified in this Plan but also any future decisions from the City of Fredericksburg on the park system operations, management, growth, or development.



Fredericksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau

Guiding Principles



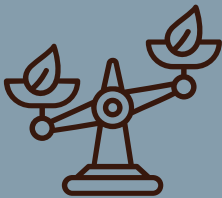
Fredericksburg will create safe and easily accessible connections between local destinations through walking and biking.



Fredericksburg will prioritize improvements to existing parks or amenities which enhance safety, support multipurpose functionality, and improve quality of life.



Fredericksburg will support a high-quality parks and recreation department with adequate funding and staffing to maintain and operate park facilities and grounds to the community's expectation of quality.



Fredericksburg will increase access, equity, and inclusivity in future park design and location.



Fredericksburg will cultivate partnerships to bring groups together to leverage financial and philanthropic support.



Fredericksburg will provide recreational activities, facilities, and cultural events for people of all ages and abilities which provide quality of life improvements for the community.

Community Engagement Summary

To ensure that this Plan embodies the vision of the community, an extensive public engagement process was completed to identify the needs and desires of the community. The information collected during this process created the foundation for this Plan, as well as the Comprehensive Plan, which was developed at the same time. Community engagement efforts for both plans were combined and the plans were developed simultaneously. The following engagement summaries are organized by their phase in the process: Data Gathering, Parks Master Plan Prioritization, and Unveiling.



FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

A total of 10 focus group meetings were held over the course of the data gathering phase, beginning in September 2022, and continuing through January 2023. Participants represented a variety of organizations including groups related parks and recreation services, people who host or organize community events, and community members who use the parks and recreation services provided by the city. Information collected during these meetings helped shape plan recommendations.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Advisory Committee met at key intervals throughout the planning process to provide input and guidance to both the Comprehensive Plan and the Parks Master Plan. The Committee was comprised of community leaders including representatives from City Council, Fredericksburg Independent School District, Planning and Zoning, Gillespie County, and community members. The 18-person committee helped identify and evaluate needs and issues, assisted with setting priorities, and provided strategic direction for the Comprehensive Plan, as well as provide comments on the preliminary and final recommendations. Participants in these meetings participated in mapping exercises, open discussions, and prioritization exercises.



JOINT PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

An in-person open house was held on January 18, 2023, to solicit initial community input for the development of both the Comprehensive Plan and Parks Master Plan. Individuals were asked to provide feedback on a number of topics which had been identified as key issues during the kick-off meetings. Key takeaways regarding the Parks Master Plan are summarized on the following pages.

JOINT ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY

A joint online survey was available from November 7, 2022 to February 17, 2023, to gather community input for the development of both the City of Fredericksburg Comprehensive Plan and the Parks Master Plan. The 24-question survey included a variety of topics such as demographics, satisfaction with city services, priority issues, and desires. Key takeaways regarding the Parks Master Plan are summarized on the following pages and the complete survey results can be found in **Appendix A, Public Engagement Results**.

The following information is a high-level summary of the input received related to parks from the first open house and survey.



SURVEY RESPONDENTS MOST AGREED

- Parks will help improve the quality of life for the residents of Fredericksburg
- The City should publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities
- The City should more fully develop the parkland and open space that it already owns

SURVEY RESPONDENTS IDENTIFIED THESE AS THEIR TOP PREFERENCES

“We desperately need more options to walk and hike.

-Fredericksburg resident

PERSONAL
Senior athletic league

FOR TEENS
Youth athletic league

FOR CHILDREN
Splash pad

Marktplatz
Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park
Cross Mountain Park

MOST VISITED PARKS

LEAST VISITED PARKS

Frantzen Park
Elementary School Park
Fort Martin Scott

TOP THREE REASONS FREDERICKSBURG RESIDENTS DO NOT USE TRAILS MORE

- 1 Not enough trail connectivity
- 2 None located near me
- 3 Lack of time or interest



Joint Open House

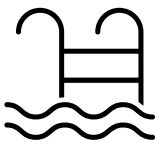
DESIRED FUTURE PARK IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:



Pickleball courts



More trails



Heated pool

PLAN PRIORITIZATION ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

PARKS MASTER PLAN ONLINE SURVEY

An online survey was available from March 20, 2023 to May 09, 2023 to gather community input specific to the Parks Master Plan. The survey included topics related to the use and desires of parks and trails in Fredericksburg. A full copy of the survey is provided in the [Appendix](#).

IF THE CITY WERE TO BUILD A SPORTS COMPLEX, WHICH FACILITIES SHOULD BE INCLUDED?

BASEBALL/
SOFTBALL
FIELDS

SOCCER
FIELDS

TENNIS/
PICKLEBALL
COURTS

PLAYGROUNDS

53%
OF SURVEY
RESPONDENTS THINK
**ENHANCING
CURRENT
ATHLETIC FIELDS**
SHOULD BE THE TOP
PRIORITY



TOUCH-A-TRUCK COMMUNITY EVENT

An in-person event was held at the City's annual Touch-a-Truck community event on March 23, 2023, at Marktplatz. An online survey was available for people to take and there was an activity for kids to pretend to be "City Council for a Day" and vote for their favorite park feature.

PARKS MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE

An in-person open house, specifically seeking community input for the Parks Master Plan, was held on April 25, 2023, at the Pioneer Pavilion in Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park. Individuals were asked to provide more in-depth feedback on a variety of parks-related issues identified in previous engagement efforts. Guiding principles for this Plan were confirmed at this open house and specific improvements to existing parks were identified.

PLAN UNVEILING ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE DRAFT REVIEW MEETING

The Parks Master Plan was presented to the Advisory Committee on November 14, 2023, to gather final input for the Plan. The Advisory Committee provided direction for several components within the Plan including the guiding principles, trail development in Fredericksburg, and the Operations and Maintenance Assessment. Lastly, the Advisory Committee provided further direction regarding the recommendations provided in **Chapter 4, Recommendations.**



PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

Following the incorporation of guidance from the Advisory Committee, the Parks Master Plan was posted for public review and comment both in print at City Hall and digitally on the city website.

ELECTED OFFICIAL APPROVAL AND ADOPTION

The final version of the Parks Master Plan, which considered and integrated comments received during the public review and comment period was presented for approval to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Parks Master Plan was then presented to the City Council and formally approved for adoption.

PART 2

Park System



Parks System Introduction

This chapter of the Parks Master Plan is intended to establish the organizational structure and provide a base assessment of the existing park system. This information will be used in the following chapters to develop the needs assessment and to provide context for park recommendations.

Park classifications and existing park properties are topics covered in this chapter. Park classifications provide the context to how each park functions and the role each park plays within the overall park system. Examining existing park land provides an inventory of park facilities. The City of Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation Department currently owns or operates nine (9) City-owned parks, most of which include some type of planned amenities or facilities. The Department is tasked with managing the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities and grounds for these properties, which are shown in **Map 2.1, Existing Parks System**, on the next page. In addition, numerous community events and recreational programming take place at these properties.



The Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation Department hosts numerous community events throughout the year such as the annual Touch-a-Truck event.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

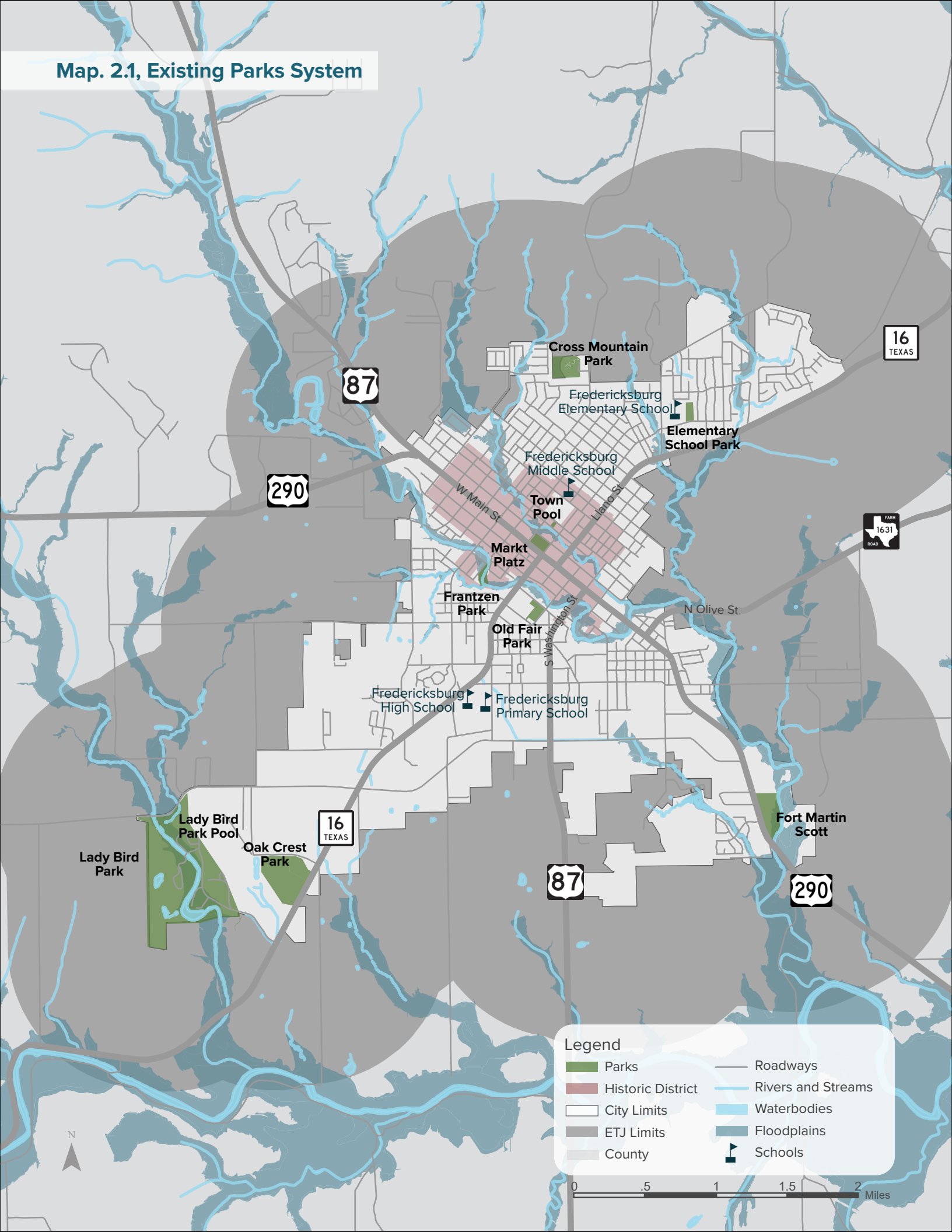
Organizing park land into a classification system is important for both the management and evaluation of the park offerings and services being provided. The Parks Master Plan follows the standard national, state, and industry practices for evaluating and classifying park land. In Fredericksburg today, there are four (4) existing types of parks including regional, community, neighborhood, and special use parks.

PARK PROFILES

The following pages present a brief summary, or “profile” for each of Fredericksburg’s parks. These summaries of existing conditions provide a thorough understanding of issues and opportunities at each park. A boots-on-the-ground observation of park function and conditions was paired with an assessment of conditions for certain key park elements, which can be found in **Chapter 3, Needs Assessment**. A full inventory of amenities found in each park is located in **Table 2.1, Existing Parks System**.



Map. 2.1, Existing Parks System



REGIONAL PARK PROFILE

Regional parks are large parks designed to serve multiple communities and provide a variety of amenities. These parks often provide an ideal staging ground for outdoor events, athletic tournaments, and festivals. These parks also provide passive recreation opportunities such as camping, hiking, and fishing, which requires design approaches that have a limited footprint on the natural environment. These parks may contain preserved land in conjunction with active and passive recreational amenities.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON MUNICIPAL PARK

This 260-acre park, located on the southwest edge of Fredericksburg, is the largest of the City's parks. The park features pavilions, a fishing pond, dog park, and a nature center, as well as campground sites. The park is home to many of Fredericksburg's sports facilities including:

- Outdoor pavilions with over-sized BBQ pits
- Two indoor facilities; Tatsch House and Pioneer Pavilion
- Picnic tables with BBQ pits
- Playgrounds
- Swing set
- Nature Trails
- Baseball field
- Softball field
- Batting cages
- Practice field
- Sand Volleyball court
- Basketball court
- Tennis courts
- Pickleball courts
- Swimming pool
- Fishing at Live Oak Creek
- Airport viewing area
- Golf Course
- RV park
- Pollinator Garden



Fishing spot at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park



Tennis courts at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park



COMMUNITY PARK PROFILES

Community parks are typically larger parks that offer a range of active and passive recreation opportunities for multiple neighborhoods. Amenities of community parks may include swimming pools, ball fields (often lighted) for organized sports, playgrounds, and trails. Community parks generally provide multiple facilities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation, natural areas, and landscaped areas for beautification.



Bench along nature trail at Cross Mountain Park

CROSS MOUNTAIN PARK

This 16-acre park, located on the northern side of the City, is a historic lookout and offers views of the surrounding area. Cross Mountain Park features passive recreation facilities such as benches, picnic tables, walking trails, as well as restrooms.



Baseball field at Oak Crest Park

OAK CREST PARK

This 53-acre park features a covered playground in addition to passive amenities such as picnic tables, benches, and restrooms. This park is designed for both recreational and organized team sports with the following features:

- Baseball and softball fields
- Soccer fields
- Batting cage
- Bleachers
- Concession building

OLD FAIR PARK

Located south of historic Fredericksburg, this 10-acre park features the City's only skate park as well as improved playground facilities with interactive features, picnic tables, benches, and a full-court basketball pavilion. Old Fair Park is designed for team sports with facilities including:

- Baseball and softball fields
- Batting cages
- Concession building
- Soccer field



Skate park at Old Fair Park



Playground facilities at Old Fair Park



Bleachers at Old Fair Park baseball fields



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PROFILES

Neighborhood parks are small parks designed to be within walking or biking distance to surrounding neighborhoods and subdivisions. Typically, they offer passive and active amenities including trails, playgrounds, pavilions, and benches.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK

This 10-acre park is located on the property of Fredericksburg Elementary School, in the northeast portion of the City, and is maintained by the school district. The park features a playground, multi-purpose practice fields, an outdoor basketball court, and a large pavilion.

Playground at Elementary School Park



FRANTZEN PARK

This 1.8-acre park is located in the floodplain along Barons Creek and consists of mainly open park space. This park includes picnic tables, benches, and a foot bridge over Barons Creek.

Open space at Frantzen Park

SPECIAL USE PARK PROFILES

Special use parks tend to be diverse in size, category, and amenities because they are designed to serve a unique purpose and support specific activities. Because the facility accommodates particular or unique recreational activities, each special use park may provide only one or a few activities.

FORT MARTIN SCOTT

This 10-acre park is an historic military outpost, dating back to the nineteenth century. Located on the southeast outskirts of Fredericksburg, along Barons Creek, this site features an unpaved nature trail and other passive amenities such as benches, picnic tables, a pavilion, and a meeting room.



Historic building at Fort Martin Scott

TOWN POOL

This special use facility is located in the central part of Fredericksburg. This facility includes a splash pad and a leisure pool with a water slide, as well as benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, kiddie pool, and a shade structure.



Community residents at Town Pool



Annual Touch-a-Truck event at Marktplatz



MARKTPLATZ

This 4.5-acre park is located in the center of Fredericksburg and features several historical markers and monuments. Marktplatz includes a playground, gardens, pavilions, catering kitchen, fest room, and a new facility with upgraded restrooms. Throughout the year, Marktplatz serves as a gathering place and hosts a variety of community events throughout the year. Marktplatz houses a number of amenities that include:

- Playground
- Three large pavilions
- The Vereins Kirche Museum
- Butterfly garden
- Picnic tables
- Meeting room
- Festival grounds



Covered playground at Marktplatz



Monuments at Marktplatz

Table 2.1, Existing Parks System

Existing Parks				Active Facilities														
Facility	Address	Acres	Baseball fields (Competitive)	Softball fields (Competitive)	Soccer Pads (Competitive)	Softball Fields / Adult	Basketball Full Courts	Basketball Half Courts	Baseball / Softball Backstops	Multi-purpose Practice Fields	Disc Golf Course	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts (sand)	Multi-purpose Courts	Unpaved Hike/Bike Trails (miles)	Nature Area (acres)	Playground (# of units)	
Regional Parks																		
1	Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park	432 Lady Bird Drive	260.0	1			1	1		1	1		6	1		1	15	5
Subtotal		260.0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	6	1	0	1	15	5	
Community Parks																		
2	Cross Mountain Park	1510 N. Milam	16.0												1			
3	Oak Crest Park	2926 S. State Hwy 16	53.2	3		5											1	
4	Old Fair Park	412 S. Lincoln St.	10.0		2		2			1				3			2	
Subtotal		79.2	3	2	5	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	
Neighborhood Parks																		
5	Elementary School Park	101 N. Adams	10.0							2	2						2	
6	Frantzen Park	400 S. Orange St.	1.8															
Subtotal		11.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Special Use Parks																		
7	Fort Martin Scott	1606 E. Main St.	10.0												0.5			
8	Marktplatz	114 W. Main St.	4.5														1	
9	Town Pool	107 W. Travis St.	1.0															
Subtotal		15.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	1	
Total		366.5	4	2	5	1	3	0	3	4	0	6	1	3	2.5	15	11	



Active Facilities			Water Related				Infrastructure																
Skating Facilities	Dog Park	Fishing Pond	Fishing Pier / Observation Deck	Water / Spray Pool	Fitness / Lap Pool	Leisure Pool	Covered Picnic Tables	Large Pavilions	Small Pavilions	Picnic Units	BBQ Grills	Benches	Bleachers	Drinking Fountains	Meeting Room(s) w/ tables & chairs	Stage	Foot Bridge	Lakes or Water in Park	Adjacent to Creek	Concession Building	Restroom Building/Portable	Off-Street Parking (# of Spaces)	Handicapped Parking (# of Spaces)
	1	1	1		1	2	72	3	5	171	10	51	13	14	2	1	2	1	1	2	11	125	6
0	1	1	1	0	1	2	72	3	5	171	10	51	13	14	2	1	2	1	1	2	11	125	6
										5		5		2							1	15	
										2		3	7	2						1	1	39	2
1							3	1		6		5	4	1			1			1	2	54	4
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	13	0	13	11	5	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	108	6
							4	1													1	11	
										2		4					1	1	1				
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	11	0
								1		7		44		1	1			1	1		2	31	5
							53	3				30		3	2		1			2	2		
				1		2	3		1	15		10		2							1	10	2
0	0	0	0	1	0	2	56	4	1	22	0	84	0	6	3	0	1	1	1	2	6	41	7
1	1	1	1	1	1	4	135	9	6	208	10	152	24	25	5	1	5	3	3	6	22	285	19

Community Events

The City's Parks and Recreation Department supports multiple special events in parks and in other areas throughout the community on an annual basis. These events are widely attended by both City residents and out of town visitors. Special event programs contribute to the quality of life within Fredericksburg and are a component of the City's overall economic development efforts.

There are countless small special events and activities sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department and other community organizations, including events, concerts, markets, and festivals. While these are extremely important to the City, a few larger, signature events generally account for the largest share of attendance. Examples include Oktoberfest, Fredericksburg Craft Beer Fest, and the Crawfish Festival, which all draw thousands of visitors.



Annual Oktoberfest event at Marktplatz



Annual Touch-a-Truck event at Marktplatz



Annual Volunteer Fire Department Fish Fry event at Marktplatz in April 2023



RECREATION AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUE ASSOCIATIONS

Organized sports play a key role in youth development and a community's parks and recreation offerings. Involvement in organized sports is changing, and sports such as soccer have increasing youth involvement. Presently, independent athletic leagues are offering primary youth sports. See **Table 2.2, Recreation Associations**, for a full list of independent youth sports leagues.

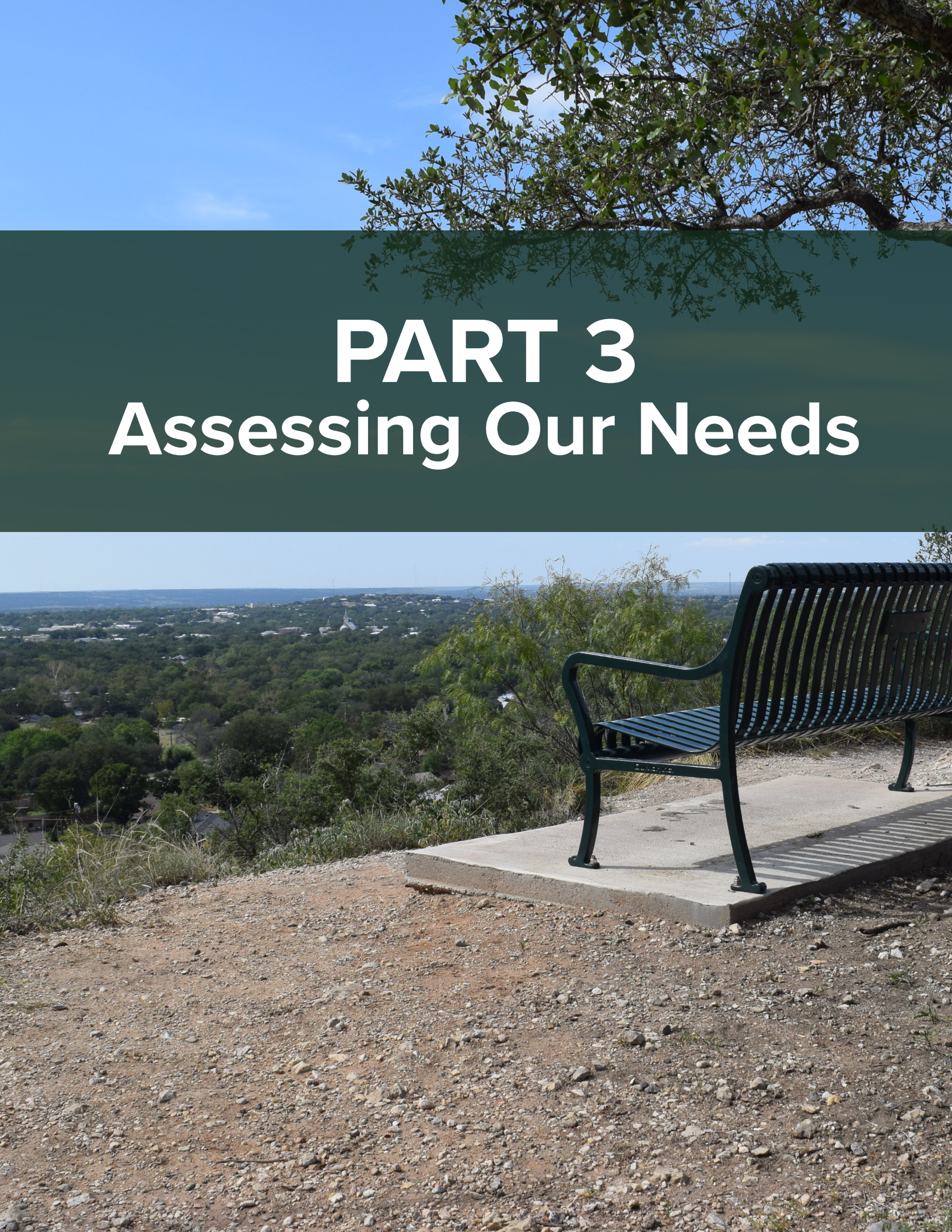


Table 2.2, Recreation Associations

Organization	Website
Fredericksburg Youth Soccer	fbgtxsoccer.com
Hill Country Youth Football League	hillcountryyfl.com
Fredericksburg Pickleball Association	https://www.fredericksburgpickleball.org/
Fredericksburg Tennis Association	fredericksburgtennis.org
Optimist T-Ball	fredericksburgtxoptimist.org
Fredericksburg Little League	fbgll.com
Ziegen Softball	facebook.com/ziegensoftball
TX Voodoo Softball	facebook.com/txvoodoo14u
United Softball	united-softball.com
Fredericksburg Force Baseball	facebook.com/FredericksburgForce/
Fritztown Reds Baseball	facebook.com/people/Fredericksburg-Reds-Baseball-Club/100054266840407/
Heart of Texas Swim	facebook.com/fisdcommunityed
Upward Youth Basketball	fbcfbg.com/upward-sports-program
Little Billies Basketball	facebook.com/LittleBilliesBasketball
Little Dribblers Basketball	facebook.com/fisdcommunityed
Hill Country United Soccer	http://www.hcunitedsoccer.com/

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The image is a composite of two photographs. The top photograph shows a close-up of a tree's branches with green leaves against a clear blue sky. The bottom photograph shows a black metal park bench with a slatted back and seat, positioned on a concrete pad. The bench is on a dirt and gravel hillside, overlooking a vast cityscape with numerous buildings and a prominent church spire in the distance. The sky is a pale blue with some light clouds.

PART 3

Assessing Our Needs

Assessing Parks System Needs

METHODS OF PARKS SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

There are many different methods by which to assess the ability of a public parks and recreation system to meet the evolving needs of users. The Fredericksburg Parks Master Plan uses four primary techniques, as identified below in **Parks System Assessment Methods**, to evaluate Fredericksburg's current and future park and recreation needs. Three of these techniques - the demand, resource, and access-based assessments follow general methodologies accepted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for local park master plans and are designed to provide guidance for the future amount, location and distribution of parkland and recreational facilities. The fourth technique, the conditions assessment, addresses the quality of existing recreational spaces and amenities.

PARK SYSTEM ASSESSMENT METHODS



DEMAND-BASED ASSESSMENT

The demand-based assessment evaluates the expressed needs and desires of residents and property owners. It identifies the types of facilities, amenities, and activities that they would like to see added to their community.



ACCESS-BASED ASSESSMENT

The access-based assessment evaluates the current quantity and distribution of parkland and facilities to determine if the needs of everyone in the community are being met in a convenient manner. It considers methods to reduce gaps in recreational services.



RESOURCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

The resource-based assessment evaluates the potential of man-made and natural resources to be utilized to expand or connect the community's parks and open space system. It considers a community's ability to leverage resources to attract greater visitation and investment.



CONDITIONS-BASED ASSESSMENT

The condition-based assessment evaluates the condition of existing parkland, recreational facilities and structures to assist in prioritizing anticipated near-term maintenance needs. It augments potential long-term capital investments in the community's parks system.

In addition to the four primary assessment methodologies identified above, this Plan also considers factors of: **A)** Equitable access to Fredericksburg's parks system assets by the City's low-to-moderate income residents; and, **B)** The relationship between municipal parkland and facilities with environmentally sensitive lands.



Parks System Assets

The accessed-based assessment – occasionally referred to as the “standards-based” assessment – analyzes the amount and distribution of parkland and recreational facilities offered by a jurisdiction in relation to the community’s current and projected population. Two common types of analysis are used to evaluate a parks system’s access-based level of service:

- **Level of Service - Park Acreage.** The acreage-based level of service analysis defines the amount of parkland acreage in a community, expressed as a ratio of acreage to population. This analysis method considers whether there is enough acreage to serve the community’s population today and in the future.
- **Level of Service - Access to Parkland.** The access-based parkland analysis examines the location and distribution of parkland throughout a community to determine its accessibility to community members. This method is frequently measured using a “proximity guideline,” expressed as a maximum walking radius from a park property.

Both access-based level of service analysis methods can also be applied to recreational facilities. Where applicable, both methods have been applied to selected recreational facilities in the Fredericksburg parks and recreational system.

PARKLAND LEVEL OF SERVICE

A common method to measure how a municipal parks and recreation system can meet the needs of its residents is to create targeted “levels of service” for parkland acreage and core recreational facilities (i.e., athletic fields, sport courts, aquatics, and trails). These targets are aspirational – typically not being met in full – yet provide defined benchmarks that tell a community where funding and resources for new recreational services should be directed.

PARKLAND LEVEL OF SERVICE TARGETS

Level of service targets are not the only way to measure the health of a municipal parks and recreation system or to prioritize future improvements. These measures can provide a snapshot of a community’s progress in offering adequate and suitable parkland and recreation facilities for its community members and visitors.

Table 3.1, Parkland Level of Service (2023) (next page), displays the present quantity of parkland offered in the City of Fredericksburg in comparison to the level of service targets.



Lady Bird Johnson Park spans 330 acres

Level of Service Assessment

PARK ACREAGE

The purpose of park acreage levels of service is to ensure that sufficient area is allocated for all the outdoor recreation and open space needs of a community. To help determine an appropriate LOS, a “target” level is provided using a range of acreage to determine adequacy. **Table 3.1, Parkland Level of Service Fredericksburg 2023** provides the current LOS for park acreage.

POPULATION PROJECTION

As seen in the Comprehensive Plan, the city’s population experienced little overall change between 2000 and 2020, an approximately 3.3 percent increase. **Figure 2.1, Historic and Projected Populations**, on page 14 of the Comprehensive Plan, shows two population estimates for Fredericksburg in 2030. The estimate used for this plan and the Comprehensive Plan indicates an increase in population by approximately 51 percent. This estimate is based on planned residential developments in Fredericksburg, factoring in vacancy rates and average household size estimates derived from the U.S. Census. However, due to the large number of second homes in Fredericksburg, it is likely the increase in population will be lower than what is projected. Please refer to the Comprehensive Plan for more details.

Table 3.1, Parkland Level of Service (2023)

Park Classification	Existing Acreage	# of Parks	Average Size (ac)	Current Level of Service (Based on 10,875 population)	Recommended Target LOS	Recommended Acreage	Surplus or Deficit
Regional	260.0 ac	1	260.0	23.9 acres/ 1,000 residents	5.0 - 10.0 acres/ 1,000 residents	54.4 ac - 108.7 ac (81.5 average)	Surplus
Community	79.2 ac	3	26.4	7.3 acres/ 1,000 residents	5.0 - 8.0 acres/ 1,000 residents	54.4 ac - 86.9 ac (70.6 average)	Within Range
Neighborhood	11.8 ac	2	5.9	1.1 acres/ 1,000 residents	1.0 - 2.0 acres/ 1,000 residents	10.9 ac - 21.7 ac (16.3 average)	Below Average
Special Use	15.5 ac	3	5.17	1.4 acres/ 1,000 residents	Varies	Varies	N/A

Table 3.2, Parkland Level of Service (2030)

Park Classification	Existing Acreage	# of Parks	Average Size (ac)	Current Level of Service (Based on 16,432 population)	Recommended Target LOS	Recommended Acreage	Surplus or Deficit
Regional	260.0 ac	1	260.0	15.8 acres/ 1,000 residents	5.0 - 10.0 acres/ 1,000 residents	82.2 ac - 164.3 ac (123.2 average)	Surplus
Community	79.2 ac	3	26.4	4.8 acres/ 1,000 residents	5.0 - 8.0 acres/ 1,000 residents	82.2 ac - 131.5 ac (106.9 average)	Deficit
Neighborhood	11.8 ac	2	5.9	0.7 acres/ 1,000 residents	1.0 - 2.0 acres/ 1,000 residents	16.4 ac - 32.9 ac (24.7 average)	Deficit
Special Use	15.5 ac	3	5.17	0.9 acres/ 1,000 residents	Varies	Varies	N/A



Parkland Development Tools

PARKLAND DEDICATION

Anticipated future population growth will place additional demands on Fredericksburg’s parks. To maintain or increase Fredericksburg’s current levels of service, the City’s inventory of parkland acreage and recreational facilities must expand to accommodate new residents. Cities throughout Texas leverage the land development process to meet at least some of the demand for parks and recreation that accompanies population growth. Under the authority of Chapter 232 of the Texas Local Government Code, Texas municipalities (and counties) have adopted parkland dedication provisions as part of their land development ordinances. Parkland dedication ordinances may be structured to require new developments to include public parkland and/or trails, including facility improvements, or the option to accept fees in lieu of new acreage.

The City of Fredericksburg’s Subdivision Ordinance currently includes parkland dedication provisions; however, due to the recent increase in development and public desire for more parks it is time to revisit the ordinance. The current ordinance is structured in such a way that very little parkland has been created and most developers are paying fees in lieu instead of land dedication.

The current parkland dedication ordinance does not allow parks smaller than 5 acres to be created due to maintenance burdens on the Parks and Recreation Department. However, this limitation has contributed to the current lack of neighborhood and community sized parks. Based on Fredericksburg’s projected deficits in smaller parks such as neighborhood and community parks combined with the Park and Recreation Department’s maintenance desires, this plan suggests the city consider allowing developers to construct parks under 5 acres but require they be maintained by a home owners association. This distinction would allow for smaller neighborhood parks to be created and not overly burden the Parks and Recreation Department.

Additionally, the City should re-examine the fees associated with the ordinance and explore a hybrid option for developers to both pay fee in lieu and dedicate parkland. A formula-based method for calculating parkland dedication, in-lieu-of land and park development fees provides a methodical and fair approach to fees for development. Calculations should be based on current U.S. population projections, average land cost of acres purchased, and cost to construct a park. Inflation and market factors associated with the cost of land and construction can change from year-to-year affecting parkland acquisition and park development. Reviewing the parkland ordinance requirements, i.e., land and fees, at scheduled intervals—one (1), three (3) to five (5) years—offers an opportunity to evaluate newest data and set requirements appropriately.

In summary, there are many different ways to update the parkland dedication provisions in the Subdivision Ordinance. This plan suggests the City begin a public process as soon as possible to update these ordinances. Below is a summary of parkland dedication requirements in comparison communities.

Table 3.3, Comparison of Peer Cities Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Cities	Parkland to be Dedicated	Fee In-Lieu-of Land	Park Development Fee
Fredericksburg	1ac / 133 dwelling units (DU)	\$200 / DU	\$300
New Braunfels	1 ac / 168 DU	\$208 / DU	\$2,038 / DU
Kerrville	1 ac / 42 single-family DU	\$850 / DU	N/A
Lockhart	5% of land (5-20 ac) 8-15% of land (20+ ac)	5% market value	equal to market value of dedicated land land prior to development
Georgetown	1 ac / 80 DU (1-2 DU per lot) or 1 ac / 110 DU (13+ DU per lot)	\$750 / \$570 per DU	\$1200 / \$900 per DU

LEVEL OF SERVICE - ACCESS TO PARK LAND

The level of service areas shown in **Map 3.1, Park System Levels of Service** on the following page indicate the areas of the community that are within accessible areas of a park, delineated by park type. Areas between the identified service area have to travel further to reach parks and may be considered underserved, as defined by NRPA locational metrics. Note that these access standards are not indicative of a precise pedestrian shed but rather a general coverage area.

Access to park land is derived by applying service areas to specific types of park classifications and how they are intended to be used. For example, a neighborhood park is intended to serve the citizens in their immediate neighborhood. This park classification would have a smaller service area than that for a community park, which serves a much broader area. Associated with the map on the following page are descriptions of the park classifications and their effective services areas, as locally defined for this plan.

Also noted on the map are Park Service Gap zones, these zones show locations throughout the City where parks are needed. These zones identify the “gaps” where parks are needed currently and in the future. These areas are currently being underserved in regards to park access.



REGIONAL PARK SERVICE AREA

Regional parks are intended to serve the entire city and beyond, typically in a four-mile service area. Regional parks generally offer a greater level of amenities that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Regional parks such as Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park serve the entire city



COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREA

Community parks are intended to serve users who may walk or drive to the park within a one- to two-mile service area. Depending on location and accessibility, community parks may also be utilized by the residents of surrounding neighborhoods to meet their recreational needs.

Community parks such as Old Fair Park generally serve a 1- to 2-mile area



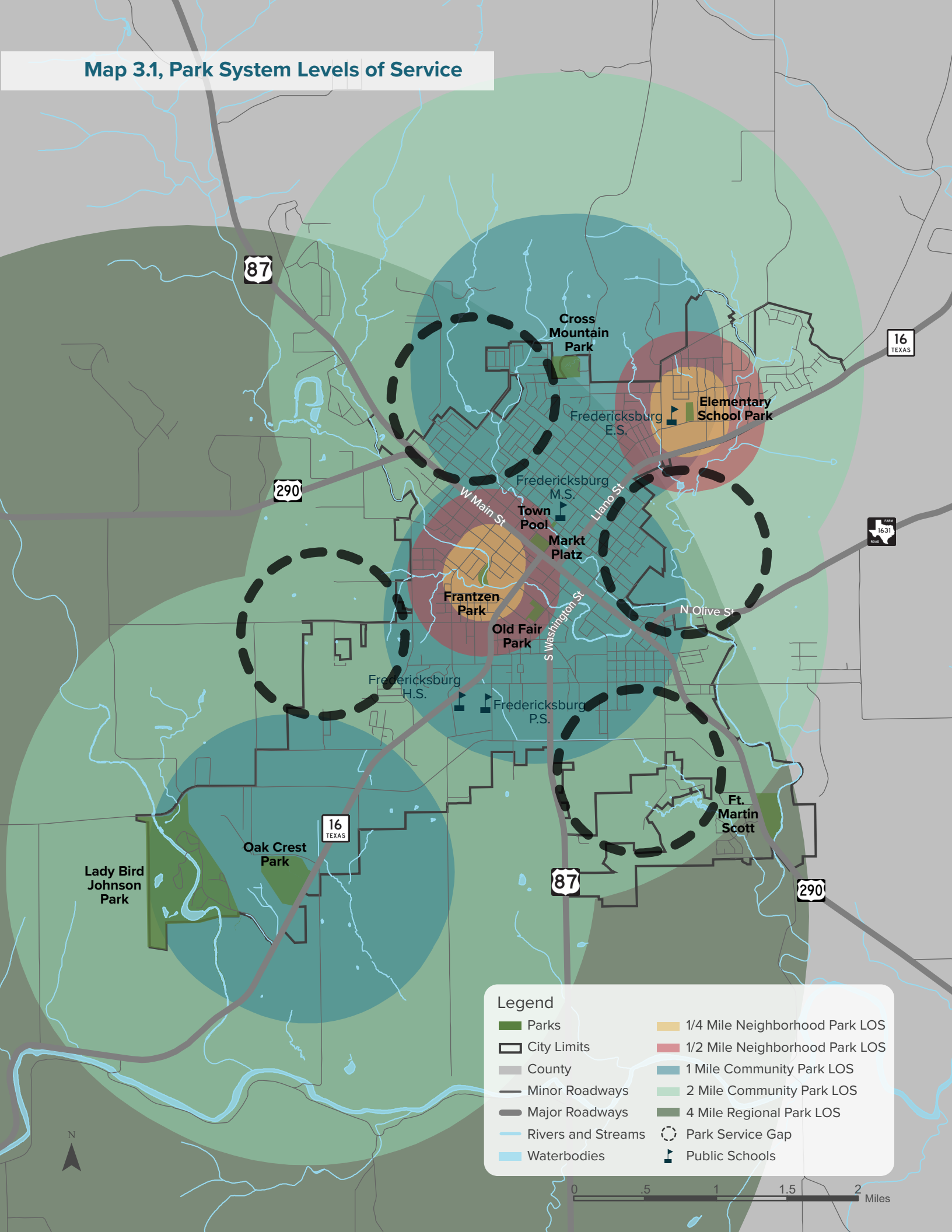
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE AREA

Neighborhood parks should be accessible to residents within a one-quarter mile (ideal) or one-half mile (standard) radius. These distances correlate to reasonable walking distances for all ages. These parks should be accessible without requiring residents to cross major roadways.

Neighborhood parks such as Frantzen Park serve smaller areas



Map 3.1, Park System Levels of Service





Old Fair Park contains sidewalks that can safely take you in and out of the park

PARKLAND ACCESSIBILITY SNAPSHOT

A community that is well-served by its public parks system is one where parkland is distributed in a manner that it is conveniently accessible by the maximum possible number of residents. Sufficient accessibility to parkland is typically determined by “proximity guidelines” calibrated to ensure that residents of a range of ages and abilities can independently access a park space without reliance on a motor vehicle. Proximity guidelines suggest that an “accessible” park is one that is within 1/4 to 1/2 mile of residential area - which equates to a 5 to 10 minute walk for most able-bodied persons on an unobstructed pathway.

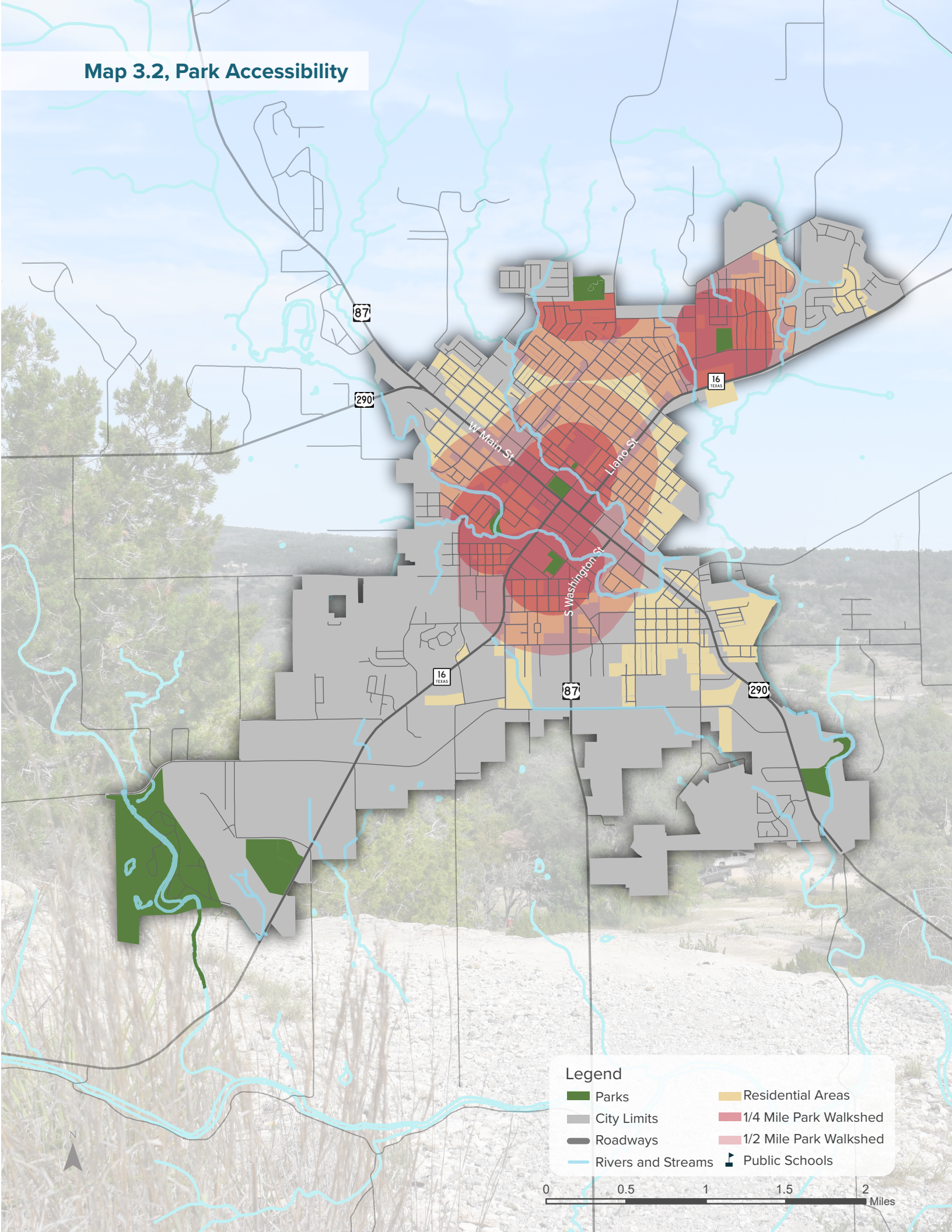
Map 3.2, Park Accessibility, to the right indicates that the majority of master planning participants believe that there is not a park within walking distance of their residences, and that most residents of Fredericksburg typically drive to a park—either through obligation or preference. **Map 3.2, Park Accessibility**, shows that around 68.3—percent of all residential areas in Fredericksburg are within a 1/2 mile of a park. As illustrated, these 1/4 and 1/2 mile walksheds are limited to account for barriers such as drainage channels, streams, rail lines and roadways without signalized crosswalks. Certain parks, like Lady Bird Park, Cross Mountain Park, Oak Crest Park, and Fort Martin Scott, do not have walksheds due to the accessibility constraints and entrances along highways. When a park is only accessible by cars, the park will not have a walkshed. By creating trails to and from these parks, this will enhance the walkability for residents to visit these parks by foot or bike.



Accessible parks are within 5 to 10 minute walk of a residence along a clearly designated and convenient pathway.



Map 3.2, Park Accessibility



TRAILS IN FREDERICKSBURG

Throughout the planning process, Fredericksburg residents and stakeholders have consistently ranked walkability and trails as their highest priority for future investments. While the City currently does not have any multi-use trails outside of the parks, the NRPA identifies that communities with a population under 20,000 have on average four miles of trail.

Listed below are specific trail types that could be developed in Fredericksburg:

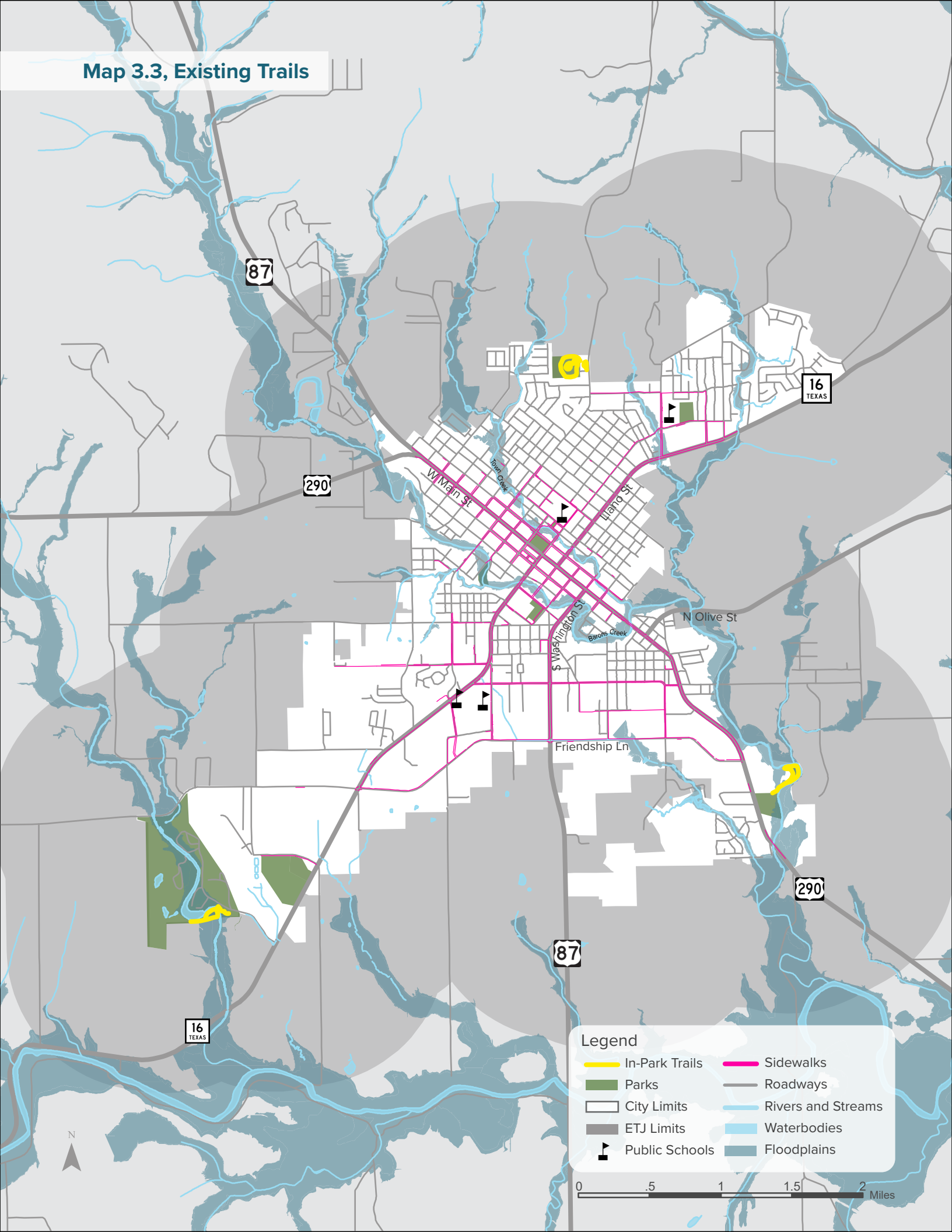
- **Greenway Trails:** These hard- or soft-surface trails are aesthetically more natural than other trail types, intended for off-street paths, and often located within or parallel to streams, drainage corridors, utility easements, railways, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- **Shared-Use Paths:** These are paved trails separated from vehicle traffic and typically found along a roadway, creek, utility easement, railroad, or within a park or greenbelt. These trails should be 10- to 12-feet wide to accommodate different types of users, serve as important connectors to parks, and can be used for transportation throughout the city.
- **Feeder Paths:** These hard- or soft-surface trails are short segments that connect neighborhoods, parks, and other destinations to the larger trail network. These trails provide an important active transportation connection in areas where the traditional grid network is broken or disrupted.
- **On-Street Facilities:** These on-street facilities convert a portion of existing roadway for bicycle, pedestrian, and other non-motorized use. These facilities offer a physical barrier from motor vehicle traffic to promote safety and comfort for users.

EXISTING TRAILS

The City of Fredericksburg currently has 2.5 miles of existing trails, as shown in **Map 3.3, Existing Trails**. All of these trails are in-park trails located within existing parks. Citywide trail development within Fredericksburg has been difficult due steep slopes and creek banks, private ownership, floodplains, and numerous other reasons. It is likely that the majority of citywide trails in Fredericksburg will not be greenway trails but a combination of shared-use paths, sidewalks, and on-street facilities. Pictured below is the nature trail within Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park.



Map 3.3, Existing Trails



TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIORITIES

A citywide trail network can take decades to build. While this Plan does not replace a Trails Master Plan it creates a starting point for the City to build upon. At several meetings, residents and stakeholders were asked where should Fredericksburg start building its trail network. People identified that they would like trails in Downtown Fredericksburg, out to Cross Mountain, and out to Fort Martin Scott first. At these meetings and throughout the public engagement process, the outlines of these Trail Opportunity Zones were strategically selected by the community who considered factors such as accessibility, ecological sensitivity, connectivity to existing trail networks, and the potential to foster recreational engagement.

A Trail Opportunity Zone is an area identified by the public for prioritized trail connections, however the exact trail alignments will need additional study and refinement. These zones are where the most people would like to see improvements in walkability and recreational trail access and serve to help Fredericksburg prioritize trail development. These identified zones are also similar to the areas where trails are included in the City's Thoroughfare Plan.

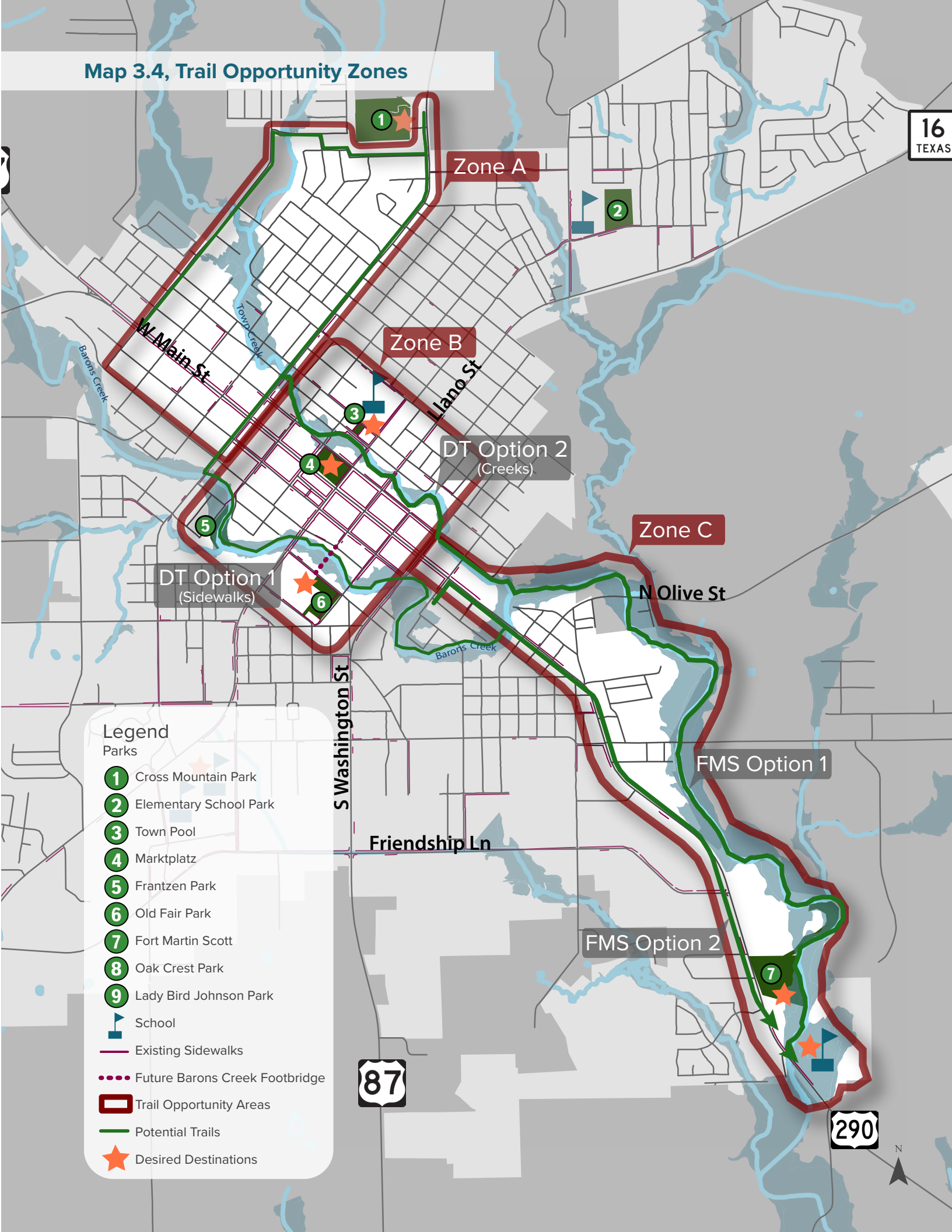
In the case of Opportunity Zone A, further study will be needed to determine the best way to connect downtown to Cross Mountain though it will likely take the form of alternative routes through neighborhoods to Cross Mountain Drive. In Opportunity Zone B, the public has expressed a desire for circuitous routes which connect various downtown destinations and provide trails for recreation along the creeks. This Zone will need further study and refinement as there are no clear and obvious alignments for trails. More than likely routes or trails in this Zone will take the form of a robust sidewalk network which connects to trails along creeks as they become possible. For Opportunity Zone C, there are essentially two options to connect downtown to Fort Martin Scott. These options are either a greenway trail along the creek or a separated shared-use path running along the north side of U.S. 290. These zones designate specific areas that have exceptional potential for the development of Fredericksburg's future trail system, offering a multiple benefits to both the community and the natural environment. The point of establishing these zones is to make the point that trail development is complicated, these alignments are high-level suggestions, and will all need further study, perhaps in a Trail Master Plan or Special Area Plan.



Certain streets in the downtown area are so wide that they possess opportunities for "Road Diets", where existing portions of the street can be reclaimed to be allocated for other uses, such as sidewalks, street trees, bicycle lanes, or mixed use trails.



Map 3.4, Trail Opportunity Zones



LEVEL OF SERVICE - RECREATION FACILITIES

Park system facility standards provide guidance on municipal investments for recreational structures and other facilities. This direction can be used to help program for parks with appropriate recreation facilities. Facility needs are based both on ratios related to existing population and future facility needs are derived from population projections.

The park facilities identified in **Table 3.3, Recreation Facilities Level of Service Comparison** do not represent an exhaustive list of recreational amenities; rather, they represent common facilities found throughout most municipal park systems nationwide. Their purpose in this Parks Master Plan is to assist in determining how existing parks should be programmed and/or expanded.

The baseline LOS for each facility type listed in **Table 3.3, Recreation Facilities Level of Service Comparison** represents locally-defined targets. Additional facilities may be added to, or removed from, those listed to reflect changes in public demands for recreational offerings. The chart below represents community desires for park improvements observed during the public engagement process for this plan.



Which of the following existing or future improvements would you prefer?

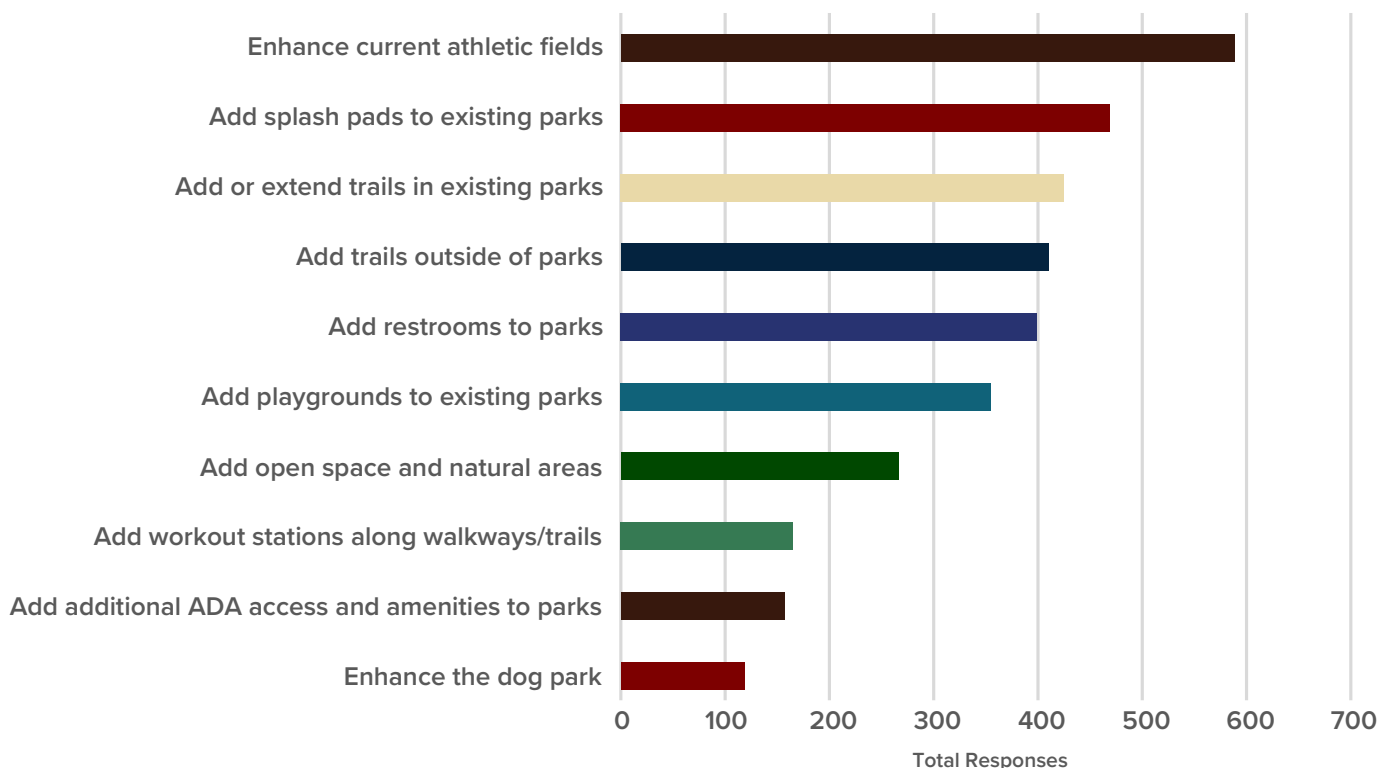


Table 3.4, Recreational Facility Level Of Service Comparison

Facility	Current Facilities	Fredericksburg Current LOS (Per Residents)	Average Level of Service, NRPA Park Metrics (2023)		
			Average LOS, All Agencies¹	Average LOS, Population of Jurisdiction Less than 20,000	Surplus or Deficit
Athletic Fields					
Baseball Fields	4	1 per 2,718	1 per 6,863 (youth) 1 per 20,228 (adult)	1 per 3,114 (youth) 1 per 7,627 (adult)	Surplus
Softball Fields	3	1 per 3,625	1 per 11,384 (youth) 1 per 15,345 (adult)	1 per 5,079 (youth) 1 per 5,800 (adult)	Surplus
Multi-Purpose Fields	3	1 per 3,625	1 per 9,177	1 per 3,859	Within Range
Soccer Fields	5	1 per 2,175	1 per 7,228 (youth) 1 per 13,692 (adult)	1 per 3,600 (youth) 1 per 6,955 (adult)	Surplus
Sports Courts					
Basketball Courts	3	1 per 3,625	1 per 7,404	1 per 3,729	Within Range
Pickleball Courts	11	1 per 989	1 per 13,922	1 per 3,252	Surplus
Tennis Courts	6	1 per 1,812	1 per 5,860	1 per 2,805	Surplus
Volleyball Courts	1	1 per 10,875	1 per 17,475	1 per 5,093	Deficit
Aquatics					
Pools	2	1 per 5,438	1 per 38,635	1 per 9,745	Surplus
Splash Pads	1	1 per 10,875	N/A	N/A	
Miscellaneous Recreational Facilities					
Playgrounds	11	1 per 988	1 per 3,759	1 per 2,014	Surplus
Skate Parks	1	1 per 10,874	1 per 53,144	1 per 10,726	Within Range
Miscellaneous Social Facilities					
Pavilions	15	1 per 725	N/A	N/A	
Picnic Facilities	135	1 per 81	N/A	N/A	
Dog Parks	1	1 per 10,875	1 per 43,532	1 per 11,100	Within Range

1. All agencies with measurable data participating in the NRPA's Park Metrics program.

Conditions-Based Assessment

The provision of “accessible” park spaces and amenities requires that assets are maintained and remain enticing to residents and other visitors. This Plan measures and ranks the condition of parkland and recreation facilities according to 15 categories described in **Table 3.4, Park System Condition Categories** below. This information has been used to help determine what improvements are warranted at each park and to establish investment priorities.

Table 3.5, Park System Condition Categories

Category	Principal Review Items
Sport Courts	Playing surface, fencing, netting, striping, walls, and other non-removable facilities essential to support the activity and define the area of play.
Athletic Fields	Playing surface, fencing, netting, and other non-removable facilities essential to support the activity and define the field of play (striping not considered due to differing conditions depending on season).
Park Pathways/Trails	Surface condition, pathway/trail widths, vertical and horizontal clearance, crossing points, and ADA accessibility. Considers variations in pathway/trail type depending on the type of fitness, recreational, or transportation activities the trail is designed to support.
Public Gathering Spaces	Areas defined for public gathering including seating and shade structures.
Structured Play	Playscapes, surrounding surface areas, accessory structures to improve the comfort of users and attendants.
Open Play Areas	Surface condition, landscaping, and access to shade for open lawn areas intended for random play.
Parking	Off-street parking areas and proximate on-street parking areas.
General Fencing and Retaining Walls	Condition of structures.
General Site Facilities	General recreational and accessory structures (enclosed and open air) including pavilions, restrooms, concession stands, bleachers, and special use facilities to support miscellaneous activities (i.e., Shooting sports, skating, archery, etc.).
Additional Site Amenities	Accessory amenities serving general visitation including trash receptacles, pet waste stations, water fountains, benches, etc.
Planting and Trees	Health, maintained condition, and coverage of trees and other landscaping including overgrowth. Strategic placement of vegetation to define park spaces.
Turf	Manicured lawn areas. Cumulative - may include surfacing for previously listed categories including athletic fields and open play areas.
Signage	Identification, informational, and way finding signage.
Site Lighting	Lighting standards, fixtures, and coverage area.
Park Accessibility	Bicycle, pedestrian, and ADA access to, from, and within the park space.



CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT SCORING

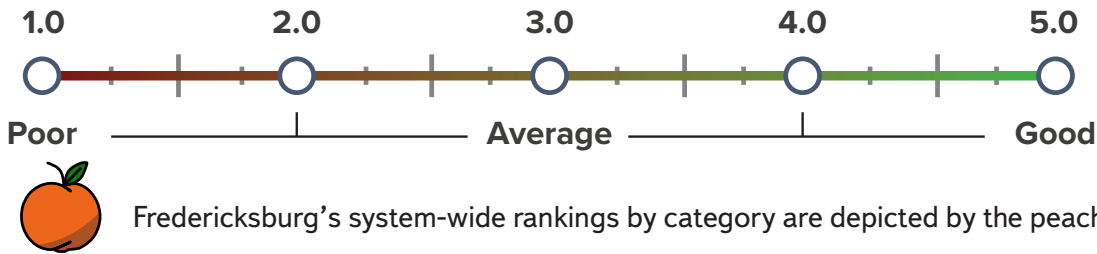
All Fredericksburg park properties have received a score of one to five in each of the 15 assessment categories– with “1” representing a negative score and “5” representing a positive score. Each park is assigned an average score based on the cumulative results of all categories by which it was assessed (where an assessment feature is non-existent or not applicable, then a score of “0” is assigned, and the category is excluded from the average score of the applicable park property). A score of 1.0 to 1.99 is considered “poor;” 2.0 to 3.99 is considered “average;” and, a score of 4.0 or greater is considered “good.”

The system-wide results of each of the 15 conditions assessment categories is presented on pages 44 through 48. A corresponding overview

of high-scoring and low-scoring park properties is presented on page 49.

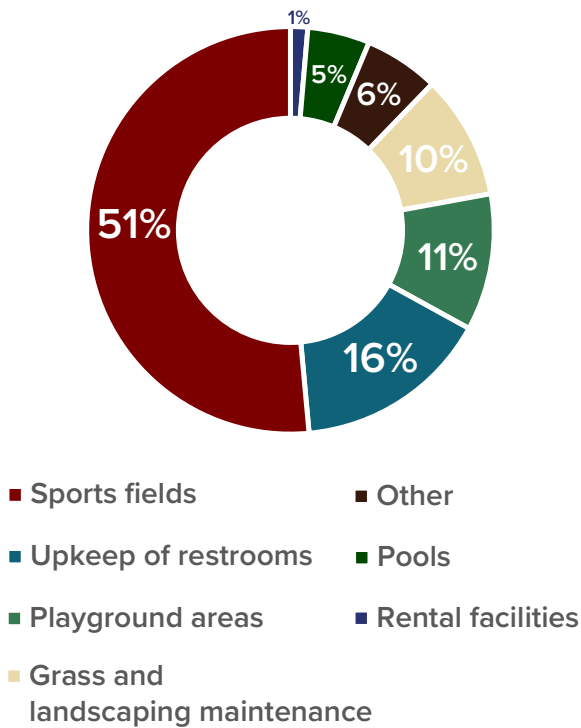
When online community survey respondents were asked about the overall condition of parks, trails, and recreation facilities in the City of Fredericksburg, most survey respondents indicated that the parks system is in good condition. Respondents also indicated which areas of parks are most important for maintenance and repair. As seen below about half of respondents felt the sports fields in Fredericksburg should be prioritized for maintenance and repair.

Park Conditions Scale



Fredericksburg’s system-wide rankings by category are depicted by the peach.

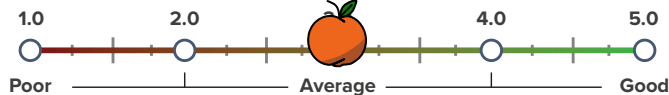
What area of maintenance and repair is most important to you?



Most public gathering places in the park system are in great condition. These gathering places have sufficient seating for large groups while also providing shade. The amount of pavilions and seating in the park system is enough to host many people at once, which creates opportunities for large gatherings.

SYSTEM-WIDE CONDITIONS

SPORT COURTS (SCORE: 2.7)

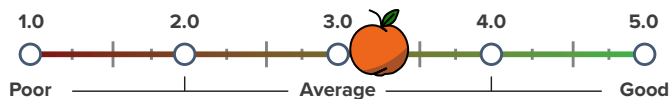


The system-wide conditions assessment for sport courts in Fredericksburg is 3.0. There are currently only three parks that have sports courts within them. Two of the sport courts are in average/above average condition with minimal cracks evident and few incidents of resurfacing necessary. Nets and hoops are mostly intact with few evident instances of immediate maintenance needs.



Basketball courts at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park. Overall condition is fairly average.

ATHLETIC FIELDS (SCORE: 3.3)

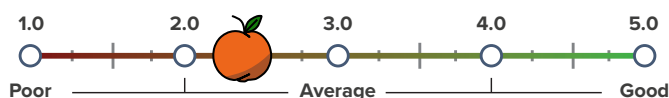


The average condition of athletic fields is 3.3 throughout the Fredericksburg parks system. There are only four parks within the system that have baseball, softball, or multi-use fields. Factors contributing to the average score include, well maintained baseball fields turf ; and substantial lighting at these baseball complexes. Conditions were much lower for informal and individual multi-purpose fields than for purpose-built fields in athletic complexes.



Baseball field in Oak Crest Park. Overall condition is fairly high.

PARK PATHWAYS | TRAILS (SCORE: 2.3)



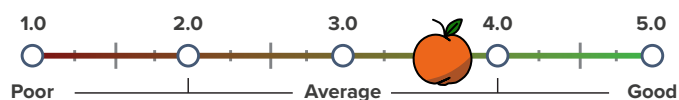
Fredericksburg received a system-wide score of 2.3 for park pathways and trails. The quality of surface materials on most multi-use trails and internal park pathways and sidewalks is low/medium with areas of cracking or heaving. Instances of washout present on most paths and trails that are comprised of decomposed granite or other similar pervious surface. Some trails are of sufficient width - although instances of encroaching vegetation is evident in some areas.



Gravel trail in Cross Mountain Park. Overall condition is fairly poor.



PUBLIC GATHERING SPACES (SCORE: 3.8)

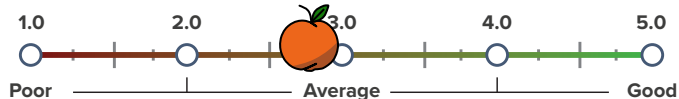


The average system-wide score for public gathering spaces within Fredericksburg parks is 3.8. The quality of facilities in most formal gathering spaces and casual sitting areas is above average, and exceptional in Lady Bird Park. The amount of pavilions and seating in a couple of the parks is ample enough to host many people at once, which creates opportunities for large gatherings. Although these gathering places are only available in four of the parks in the system.



Pavilion at Marktplatz. Overall condition is fairly high.

STRUCTURED PLAY (SCORE: 2.7)

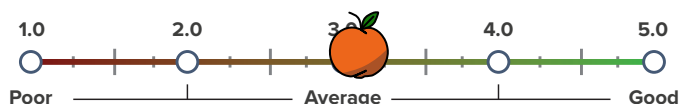


The condition of structured play areas and facilities received a system-wide score of 2.7. There are many instances where immediate playscape area maintenance is needed including the replacement of play structures. Most structures have shade which helps reduce fading and weathering, however is also accelerates the need for significant maintenance.



Playground in Old Fair Park. Overall condition is high.

OPEN PLAY AREAS (SCORE: 3.1)

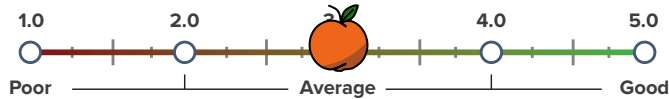


The quality of open play areas in Fredericksburg parks is slightly above average, receiving a system-wide score of 3.1. This score is reflective of most parks containing open areas, although most spaces are smaller areas of open play. These areas are usually located at a safe distance from any hazards such as roads. Most open play areas also exhibit non-uniform surfaces, with instances of disturbance.



Open play area in Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park. Overall condition is average.

PARKING (SCORE: 3.0)

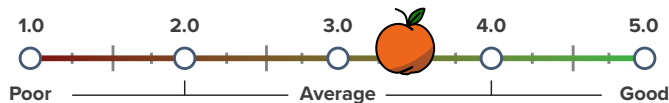


The system-wide score for parking is 3.4. This score reflects more than just the quality of parking lots, but also addresses pedestrian access, parking availability in relation to park type, and public transit opportunities. Most parking lots are in an unsuitable condition, with updates and striping needed.



Parking at Oakcrest Park. Overall condition is fairly poor.

GENERAL FENCING (SCORE: 3.4)

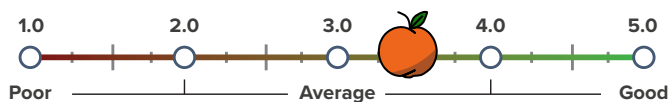


The condition of fencing in the entire park system received a score of 3.4. Most fencing has structural integrity that is in above average condition, with little to no rusting, or leaning posts present. Improvements can be made in the park system by adding more fencing along playgrounds, basketball courts and along busy streets adjacent to parks.



Entrance fencing at Oakcrest Park. Overall condition is average.

GENERAL SITE FACILITIES (SCORE: 3.3)



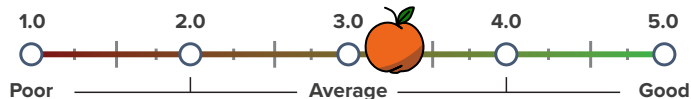
The condition of general site features varies greatly depending on the specific park space. Active recreational facilities such as playscapes and sport court amenities are maintained in an average condition (and are often halfway or more beyond their life cycle) while accessory facilities such as restrooms and shade structures exhibit slightly higher degrees of wear and tear.



Restrooms in Cross Mountain Park. Overall condition is very good.



ADDITIONAL SITE AMENITIES (SCORE: 3.3)

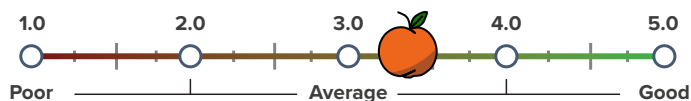


The system-wide score for additional site amenities is slightly above average at 3.3. Many trash receptacles, water fountains, and benches are in a slightly deteriorated condition. There are many opportunities to provide immediate cosmetic updates, such as the color of receptacles and material used. There are instances where a more permanent amenity solution should be provided.



Bench at Frantzen Park. Overall condition is fairly average.

PLANTING AND TREES (SCORE: 3.5)

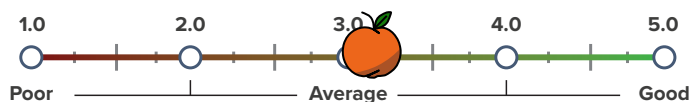


The category of plantings and trees received a system-wide score of 3.5 based solely on the health of vegetation. Overall, trees and shrubs that are maintained in good condition, with few needing obvious pruning or removal. Trees provide a significant amount of shade in Fredericksburg parks but are not always positioned to best benefit park system users.



Tree in Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park. Overall condition is average.

TURF (SCORE: 3.1)

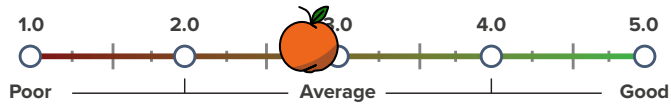


System-wide turf quality scored 3.1 across all Fredericksburg park properties. There exist intermittent examples of obvious bare spots, but only in confined instances. Where bare spots are not present, remaining turf quality ranks high with minimal weeds, and thick coverage. Some of the parks turf areas are unlevel and need additional grading to be done in order to provide a safer environment for people to walk and run safely on.



Open areas of turf at the dog park located in Lady Bird Park. Overall condition is fairly average.

SIGNAGE (SCORE: 2.8)

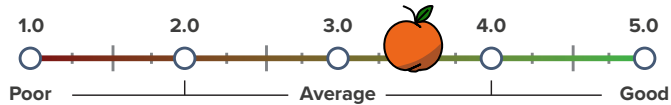


The category of signage received a system-wide score of 3.3 across all park properties. Signage in the park system is consistent but not located at every park. Signage is placed conveniently at park entrances, and are structurally sound. Paint repairs can be made annually to ensure the signs are always looking at their best.



Park signage at Fort Martin Scott Historic Site. Overall condition is very poor.

SITE LIGHTING (SCORE: 3.4)

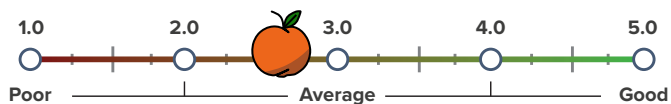


The system-wide score for site lighting is slightly above average at 3.4. Many parks are not receiving the proper lighting at night and are lacking lighting in general. The parks that have received higher lighting scores were due to lighting around sport courts and fields. Lighting like shown in the picture to the right, should now be the standard for the park system.



Lighting in Oakcrest Park. Overall condition is above average.

PARK ACCESSIBILITY (SCORE: 2.6)



The category of park accessibility received a system-wide score of 2.6. Slightly below average based on the access that is provided by the sidewalks and paths. Access to parks in Fredericksburg relies heavily on vehicles to get you there. Almost half of the parks in Fredericksburg are not accessible by foot or bicycles.

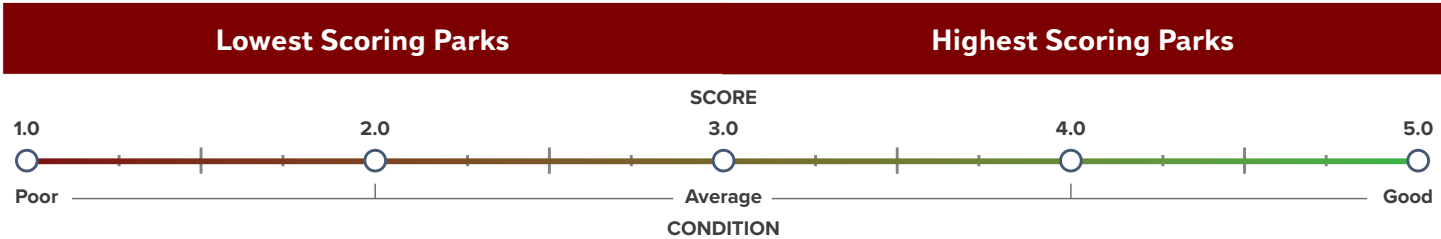


Park accessibility in Old Fair Park. Overall condition is average.



CONDITIONS BY PARK

Conditions Assessment by Park, Low and High Scores (2023)



Park Name/Rank ¹		Average Score
#1	Marktplatz	4.2
#2	Old Fair Park	3.9
#3	Lady Bird Park	3.3
#4	Fort Martin Scott	3.1
#5	Frantzen Park	2.7
#6	Cross Mountain Park	2.6
#7	Elementary School Park	2.4
#8	Oak Crest Park	2.3

1. The numerical designation of the lowest park ranked differs from the total number of parks in the Fredericksburg parks and recreation system due to property combinations/divisions for inventory purposes.

The average conditions score for the lowest and highest-ranking properties in the Fredericksburg parks and recreation system is shown in **Conditions Assessment by Park, Low and High Scores (2023)**.

HIGH SCORING PARKS

Park properties that received high conditions scores contain one or both of the subsequent features: **A)** They are newer and contain more recent investments with limited deterioration; and/or, **B)** The park is more popular and is an component of shared community-wide pride.

One of the most common elements of high scoring parks is the quality of pathways and trails - both hard and natural surface – within each property. High scoring parks also contained quality turf, landscaping, and trees.

LOW SCORING PARKS

Most of the lowest scoring municipal parks in Fredericksburg are classified as neighborhood parks. This is a common condition among municipal park systems for two reasons: **A)** The lack of facilities in most neighborhood parks reduces visits and public demands for investment or maintenance; and, **B)** Neighborhood parks are older because they are not being added to municipal inventories due to long-term upkeep concerns.

Lower scoring parks in the Fredericksburg parks system still rank average or above average in turf condition, which was consistent in all parks (excluding in areas where bare spots were present). The quality of “additional amenities” such as fountains, trash receptacles, and seating areas – in combination with low system-wide scores for lighting, general site facilities, and park accessibility – contributes to poor individual park scores.



Shaded play structure at Marktplatz, which was the highest ranked park in the Conditions Assessment.



Picnic area at Marktplatz

FUTURE SERVICE NEEDS (CONDITIONS)

A review of the park-by-park condition assessment inventory forms will determine property-specific priorities for inclusion in the City's master maintenance list. The system-wide condition of the Fredericksburg parks and recreation system can be quickly enhanced with attention on the subsequent property and facility elements:

Maintenance Standards

- The need for more uniform maintenance practices including a long term asset management schedule that anticipates the life cycle of built amenities.
- A parks system design standards manual may identify preferred amenities and structures. Existing fixtures may be replaced according to the recommendations of the standards manual starting with non-permanent fixtures.
- Identify opportunities to add No Mow Zones across the parks system.
- Identify opportunities to continue outsourcing non-park or -trail related efforts to protect park's staff resources.

Specific Investments

- Investments towards park accessibility can be addressed through a trails master plan. The creation of a trails master plan can help connect the park system city-wide, creating connections from neighborhoods to parks.
- Major repairs or upgrades could be made to parking facilities throughout the parks system.
- Construct more athletic fields, these additional fields can enhance the amount of sports and leagues that can be played within the parks system and can also create a greater marketability for regional tournaments.



Live Oak Creek runs through Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park

Resources and Resilience

BUILT FEATURES

Historic Properties. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Fredericksburg's National Historic District has over 80 points of historic interest and significance. Fredericksburg is currently home to 14 historic properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, three properties are listed as a State Antiquities Landmarks and one is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Between these historic properties and sites, opportunities could exist to create a connected system of bicycle and pedestrian facilities that would allow visitors to the area to experience the community from a unique perspective.

Utility Corridors. When present, utility corridors provide an opportunity in which multi-use trail systems can be supported. Fredericksburg currently lacks a prominent utility corridor to provide space for a significant stretch of trail. However, the potential for future partnerships with utility companies to co-locate a multi-use trail should not be overlooked.

NATURAL FEATURES

Pedernales River. The Pedernales River is a tributary of the Colorado River, approximately 106 miles long flowing west to east across the Hill Country south of Fredericksburg (the river does not flow through the City Limits, but runs parallel to the southern edge of the ETJ). The Lower Pedernales River includes the most commonly paddled runs starting above US-281 just north of Johnson City and continues to SH-71 at the top of Lake Travis, above the confluence with the Colorado River. The lower section covers about 50 miles and has only 4-5 access points including Pedernales Falls State Park. The river varies from about 30 to 60 feet wide and is usually shallow, though deep enough for paddling much of the time.

Creeks and Drainage Channels. These resources include Barons Creek, Town Creek, FEMA 100-year floodplains, and undeveloped land. Barons Creek and Town Creek run through central Fredericksburg and have been identified by the community as a potential trail corridor for decades. These resources can create new connections to existing parks through the addition of a trails system along creeks and in floodplains. Any drainage master planning efforts should include opportunities for trails and parks.

SPOTLIGHT: DRAINAGE AREAS

Floodplains and drainage areas are critical pieces of a city's infrastructure for stormwater management. These areas also provide advantageous opportunities for cities to integrate trail and parkland infrastructure and moving forward, the City should re-evaluate the value to the community of these spaces. Trail and parkland development should be incentivized within drainage areas to further action towards goals of community well-being and sustainability. Primary benefits of protecting drainage areas as trails and parkland include reducing risk of downstream flooding by providing areas for water to travel and increasing the availability of natural vegetation to slow and filter water. Other co-benefits include provision of recreational open spaces which contribute to residents' physical and mental well-being and the preservation of habitats and biodiversity.

Operations and Maintenance Assessment

INTRODUCTION

The administrative and maintenance practices (i.e., staffing, processes and budgets) of a parks and recreation agency serves as factors influencing the quality of a city's parks and facilities. A high-level review of the department's practices was performed to provide recommendations to align with agency resources and national best practices. This review should be used as a guide to the staff and serve as a general direction for future administrative and maintenance practices.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE PARKS MASTER PLAN

The Fredericksburg Operations and Maintenance Assessment is designed to support the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that focuses on a continued effort to protect natural areas, provide high-quality parks and programs, facilities, trails, amenities, and attractions for the community as it continues to grow. Parks and amenities that are well-maintained, funded, and are efficient are important to delivering high quality programs and services to residents.

BEST PRACTICES

Staffing and budget levels of service are calculated and compared to national medians for similar sized communities using National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Metrics. The NRPA Metrics are gathered annually from 1,000 park and recreation agencies from across the country. The NRPA Metrics includes lower quartiles, median, and upper quartiles, providing a detailed distribution analysis of the data. The comparisons are used to gauge how Fredericksburg compares to other communities of similar size and should not be viewed as conclusive as communities will vary in resources, geography, and demographics.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW

The review includes three areas of the department's administrative and maintenance practices including organizational structure, department budget, and park system maintenance. The organizational structure reviews current staffing levels compared to other park agencies through the NRPA Metrics. The budget is reviewed in relation to the overall budget and compared to other similar sized communities. Lastly, the park maintenance practices were evaluated using expenditures and staffing. This section also provides options for maintenance levels within the park system.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The following insights offer guidance for the Parks and Recreation Department to sustain success and drive improvement. While effectively managing the current parks network with allocated resources, the department must navigate external factors influencing future success in maintaining an efficient parks system.

Administration and Staffing

- The Parks Department does not have a mission and vision statement
- While the Department is above the NRPA average, there is opportunity to strengthen management and oversight of the front line staff to improve efficiency and coordination.
- The City should continue to invest in staff retention and recruitment, as the need for qualified staff is required with park services and amenities.

Budget and Funding

- The Department's budget aligns with national averages and peer cities, however increases to maintenance budgets have not matched new parks and park enhancements.
- External funding continues to be an excellent source for new park projects, the Department should continue to work closely with these organizations to offer opportunities to support existing park needs.
- Venue and reservation fees are support the department services, the City should evaluate the fees for facilities, events, or other programs with a focus on enhancing cost recovery.

Park Maintenance

- The Parks Department does not have a work order system and should develop one to prioritize tasks and improve efficiency.
- The Department should create maintenance plans for new projects during planning and development.
- 5/7 of the staff are dedicated to Marketplatz, the department should evaluate if these resources and the number of programs offered at this venue.



PARK SYSTEM & ADMINISTRATION

The Parks and Recreation Department owns and operates nine (9) parks, or 366.5 acres including two (2) outdoor aquatic facilities, Fort Martin Scott a restored United States Army outpost, eight (8) ball fields, six (6) tennis courts, five (5) soccer fields, 11 playscapes, six (6) basketball or multi-purpose courts, a skate park, 14 open-air pavilions, and a RV campground. In 2023, the City added 42 acres at Oakcrest Park for a proposed soccer complex.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE & OPERATIONS

The Parks and Recreation Department is organized with a traditional Administration/Recreation and Maintenance split, following the typical hierarchy found in municipal parks, recreation, and public works departments. Administration/Recreation oversees events, aquatics, the RV park, and athletic leagues, while the Maintenance division, led by the Park Maintenance Superintendent, manages the upkeep of parks and facilities with a team of 13 workers, including full- and part-time staff. The maintenance staff handles various tasks, such as facility maintenance, mowing, irrigation, electrical repairs, RV park trash pickup, and tree trimming across most parks. However, certain areas, like the golf course in Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park and Elementary School Park, are maintained separately. Oakcrest Park’s 42-acre expansion is co-managed with AYSO Fredericksburg, local youth soccer organization. Contractual services, including janitorial services and pest management, support maintenance efforts. The Parks maintenance staff also tend to non-park sites like the convention and visitor center grounds, City building maintenance, and Main Street benches.

Fredericksburg PARD Organizational Chart

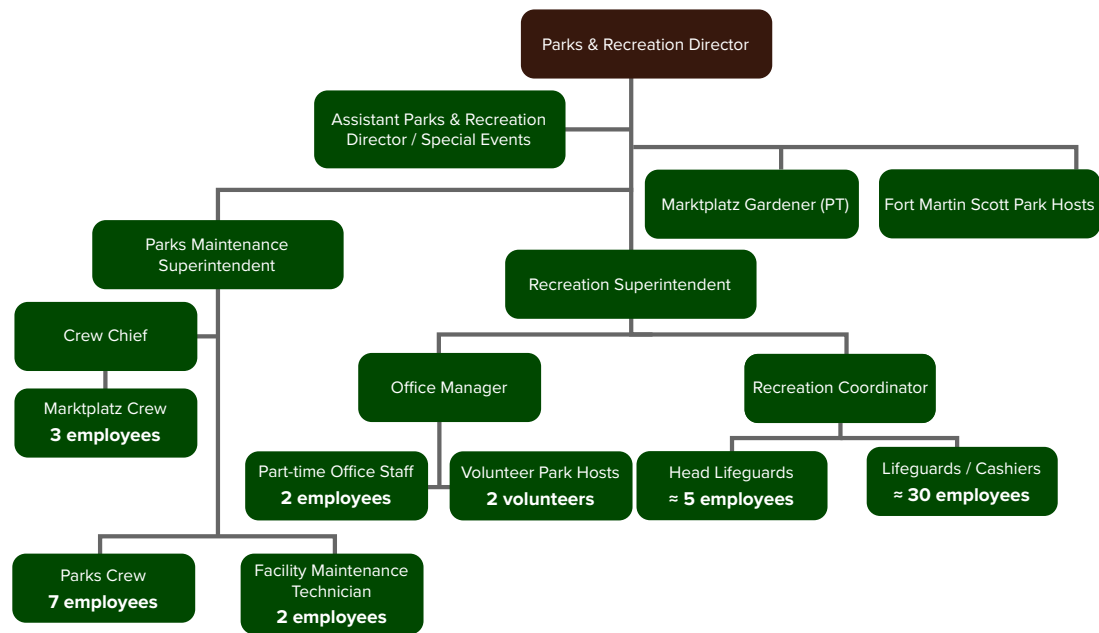


Table 3.10, Parks and Recreation Department by Function shows the distribution of FTE staff by responsibility and compares Fredericksburg’s distribution to NRPA averages. More than 50 percent of the staff are performing maintenance tasks, higher than the NRPA average of 46 percent. This can be attributed to the numerous events maintenance staff assist in, particularly in Marktplatz. Programming staff distribution is at 35% sitting above the NRPA average of 30%. With the higher level of maintenance and programming staff, and administration falling almost half below NRPA averages, the City may want to consider strengthening the oversight with administrative and supervisory staff. This staff can assist in reviewing processes and procedures to make the workflow, tasks, and overall processes more systematic and streamlined, thereby enhancing efficiency.

Table 3.6, Parks and Recreation Department by Function

Full-time Staff	Part-time/Seasonal	Total FTE Staff	Distribution of Department FTEs	NRPA Distribution of Agency FTEs
<i>Maintenance</i>				
11	1.1	12.1	56%	46%
<i>Programming (special events, recreation, RV staff)</i>				
3	4.7	7.7	35%	30%
<i>Administration</i>				
2	0	2	9%	17%

Under the Assistant Director/Special Events Coordinator, five (5) staff manage events, pools, recreational leagues, park rentals, and the RV park. Three staff members focus on RV park operations, with seasonal staff hired during the summer to assist with community pools and the splashpad. In 2023, the Department maintained 193.3 park acres, however this number is increasing to 221.3 park acres in 2024 with the addition of new soccer fields. The maintenance division, consisting of 14 staff, allocates 5/7 of its crew/tech staff to Marktplatz. If the Department considers re-proportioning staff resources due to new demands and amenities at other parks, potential adjustments may involve part-time to full-time staff conversions or a reduction in Marktplatz events.

Table 3.7, Parks and Recreation Department Maintenance Staffing

MAINTENANCE STAFF	PARKS	#STAFF
Park Maintenance Superintendent	All	1
Crew Chief	All	1
Facilities Maintenance Technician	Marktplatz (1) All Parks (1)	2
Crew Workers	Marktplatz (2) All Parks (5)	7
Crew Workers (part-time)	Marktplatz (1) All Parks (1)	2
Gardener (part-time)	Marktplatz	1
Total Staff		14
Total Tech/Crew Dedicated to Marktplatz		5
Total Tech/Crew for All Parks		7

The pool of available workers has been a pressing concern for many local governments. For Fredericksburg, this may be a particularly challenging issue and a high priority. Many factors add to this challenge including, location, aging workforce, lack of competitive pay, and lack of affordable housing. Hiring seasonal aquatic staff continues to be a challenge, in FY 2023 the Pool Manager position, a key seasonal hire, remained vacant. Many local parks and recreation agencies that struggled to hire seasonal staff opt to adjust the seasonal schedule and daily hours at municipal aquatic facilities.

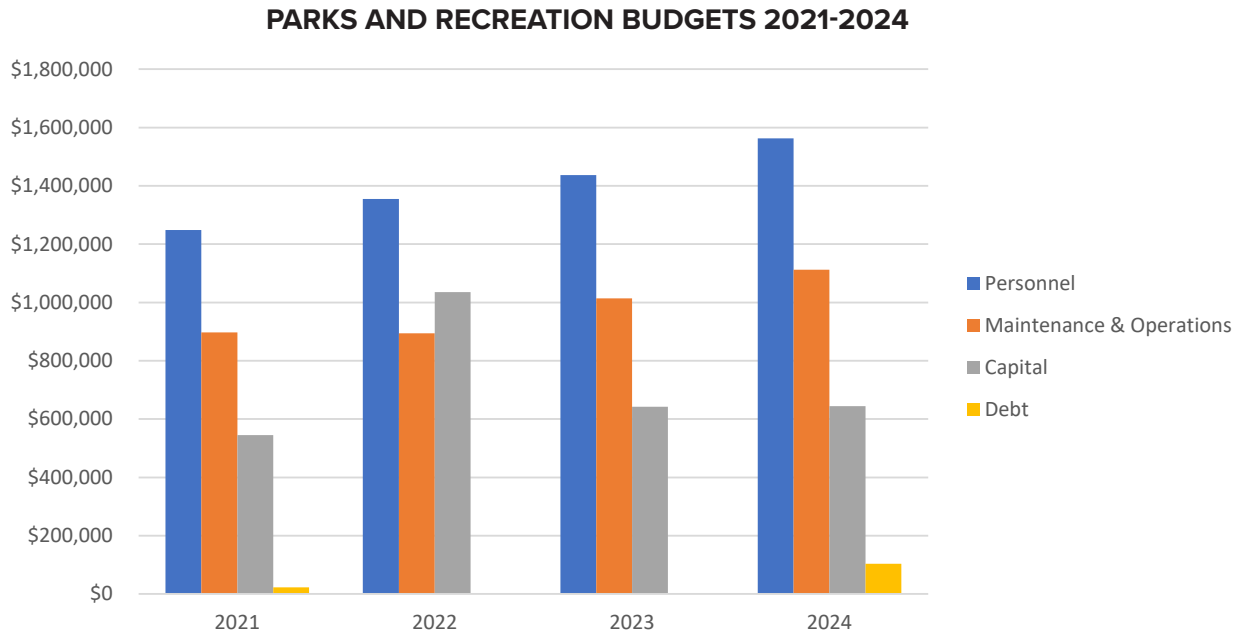
In the Parks Department, four (4) maintenance staff are eligible for retirement with one already electing this option. This leaves a gap in maintenance services provided within the parks. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the employment of recreation workers is projected to grow 10 percent from 2021 to 2031, faster than the average for all occupations. About 61,700 openings for recreation workers are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook

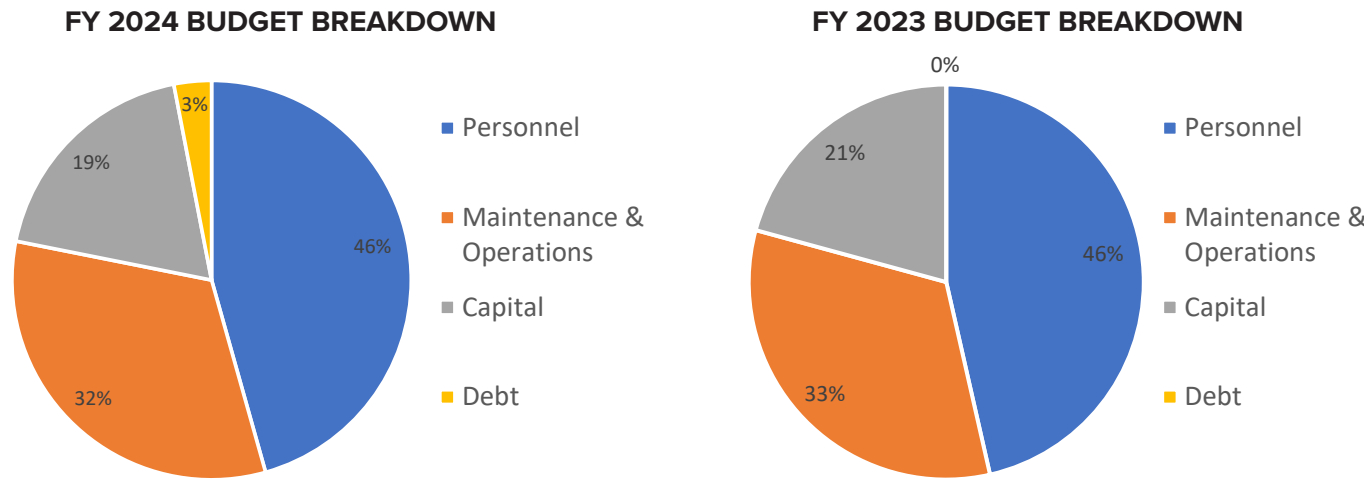


BUDGET & FUNDING

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, the City of Fredericksburg approved an annual budget of \$3,423,421 for the Parks and Recreation Department. This amount includes \$644,562 for capital improvement projects (CIP). Excluding the CIP, the operating budget totals \$2,778,859. The operating expenditures for the Parks and Recreation Department consist primarily of personnel services; materials and supplies for parks and recreational facilities; services; and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. This is a 10 percent growth from the previous year. In the FY2023 the approved annual budget was \$3,093,074.



Over the past four years, budgets have exhibited a gradual increase, with FY 2022 witnessing a significant investment in capital projects. However, the maintenance budget did not see a corresponding increase until subsequent years. As the department endeavors to catch up with evolving needs, it may be prudent to consider implementing a proportional approach, whereby the addition of new capital projects corresponds with a percentage increase in the maintenance budget. Alternatively, incorporating a maintenance plan for each new project could significantly enhance budgeting and forecasting capabilities, ensuring a more holistic and sustainable financial strategy. The FY 2023 budget for the Department without capital projects totaled \$2,450,874 and of this amount \$1,014,440 is for maintenance of the parks, or approximately 41 percent of the budget. According to the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review, a typical park and recreation agency dedicates 46 percent of its annual operating budget to managing and maintaining parks and open spaces.



The several funding sources support the Parks Department and park projects including the General Fund, Tourism Fund, fees, and external funding. Since 2020, the City has transferred a portion of the Tourism Fund to support six (6) staff that are primarily focused on events or maintenance at Marktplatz.

Generous local organizations, including rotary clubs, Gillespie County Leadership, friends of the parks, Fredericksburg Optimist Club, and anonymous donors, have contributed over \$1.1 million, with notable projects funded by the Morning Rotary Club, such as a skatepark, basketball pavilion, batting cages, playground, and splashpad. Major park donations, like the \$1.2 million investment in the northwest corner of Marktplatz, have significantly enhanced park facilities, though there is a need for increased coordination between the Department and philanthropic groups to address ongoing maintenance challenges with new park amenities.

COMPARISON TO PEER CITIES

While no two park systems are alike, and each has its own distinctive characteristics that dictate necessary and appropriate measures for an agency, comparing similar-sized organizations can be beneficial. When selecting cities for comparison to Fredericksburg, considerations of population and proximity were paramount. It is crucial to note that, while population is a valid point of comparison, understanding the activities of nearby park agencies is equally important, as residents are more likely to engage with parks, trails, and facilities in nearby cities than those of similar size. Peer communities, municipalities with similarities in total population, geographical size, and/or park acreage, provide a useful benchmark.

For Fredericksburg, a city experiencing a surge in visitors throughout the year, it is essential to factor in the impact on park usage and facilities for any comparative analysis. Notably, events like Oktoberfest, drawing in 25,000 visitors over three days, and the Light the Night Christmas Parade and Eisbahn, each attracting 25,000 and 15,000 visitors respectively, contribute to a substantial influx of 181,565 visitors between fiscal year 2022-2023¹. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that these figures pertain to specific events and may not capture the entirety of tourism-driven population surges.

Given the dynamic visitor patterns in the city, diligent data collection is paramount. While event-based estimates offer valuable insights, achieving a comprehensive understanding of the overall tourism impact requires ongoing efforts to gather specific and detailed data. This commitment to accurate information will empower the city to make informed decisions about park management, recognizing that the surge in visitors sets Fredericksburg apart from many similar-sized organizations in Texas. This acknowledgment underscores that while comparisons serve as valuable indicators, they may not always be fully apple-to-apples, especially when unique factors like high visitor numbers come into play.

¹Data provided by City of Fredericksburg Parks Staff.

Table 3.8, Park System Budget & Acres Comparison

CITIES	POPULATION	ACRES	ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET
Fredericksburg	11,257	367	\$2,450,274 (FY23)
Kerrville	24,280	840	\$4,488,393
Boerne	17,850	295	\$4,700,000
Lockhart	14,380	136	\$1,846,132
Brenham	17,370	280	\$1,711,040
NRPA 2023*	Less than 20,000	303-482	\$1,200,121 to \$2,808,432

*NRPA Agency Performance Review



Table 3.9, Park System Comparison by FTE's

CITIES	FTE's
Fredericksburg	21.3*¹
Kerrville	37
Boerne	35
Lockhart	16
Brenham	36
NRPA 2023* (FTE's/10,000 residents)	9.0 - 25.6

Source: *NRPA Agency Performance Review, ¹Includes non full-time and season staff hours

According to the 2023 NRPA Metrics Report a typical park and recreation agency 8.9 FTEs on staff for every 10,000 residents. However, jurisdictions serving less than 20,000 people, with 250 acres or less have 11.5 FTEs for every 10,000 residents. Fredericksburg's estimated FTEs is 21.3 is based on the combination of part-time hours and full-time hours.

There are 12.1 FTEs in park maintenance for 221.3 acres of parks maintained, or 1 FTE per 18.2 acres. The NRPA reports agencies managing 250 or fewer acres have FTEs ranging from low end 7.6 FTEs, mid-range at 20.4 FTEs, and high end 42.6 FTEs. In comparison, Fredericksburg sits below the mid-range of FTEs. Again, Fredericksburg falls in the middle range when compared to its geographic peer cities and closer to the top end of the NRPA range. As previously mentioned, the Department would benefit from working with the human resources and finance departments to determine standards for calculating FTEs for future planning and budgeting.

Two metrics that can be used to gauge whether a community is adequately funded to manage, operate, and maintain its parks system—is the operating expenditures per acres of parkland and operating expenditures per capita. The first metric, operating expenditures per acre, is calculated by dividing total park related operating expenditures by total parkland acres managed by the agency. The second metric, operating expenditures per capita, is calculated by dividing total operating expenditures by the population of the jurisdiction served by the agency.

Using the Parks FY2023 budget, the operating expenditure per acre for Fredericksburg is \$12,679, landing in the middle of its peer cities. However, compared to NRPA Fredericksburg is well above the average, this may be due to a larger park acreages.

Table 3.10, Park System Operating Expenditures and Acres Comparison

CITIES	POPULATION	ACRES	OPERATING EXPENDITURES PER ACRES OF PARKLAND
Fredericksburg	11,257	221	\$12,679
Kerrville	24,280	840	\$5,343
Boerne	17,850	295	\$15,932
Lockhart	14,380	136	\$13,575
Brenham	17,370	280	\$6,111
NRPA 2023*	Less than 20,000	303-482	\$4,364

*NRPA Agency Performance Review

Table 3.11, Park System Budget Comparison by Per Acre

CITIES	POPULATION	ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	COST PER CAPITA
Fredericksburg	11,257	\$2,450,874	\$218
Gillespie County	27,477	\$0	\$151
Kerrville	24,477	\$4,488,393	\$183
Boerne	19,109	\$4,700,000	\$246
Lockhart	14,844	\$1,846,132	\$124
Brenham	18,117	\$1,711,040	\$94
NRPA 2023*	Less than 20,000	\$2,482,403	\$230

*Findings from the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review uses survey data gathered from 2019-2021 by NRPA Park Metrics. Statistics listed are for median of data provided.

Many of the parks in Fredericksburg play a crucial role in serving the broader community, particularly Gillespie County residents. Notably, both Marktplatz and Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park (LBJMP) stand out as significant attractions. When looking at the community surveys conducted during the park master planning effort, 25-33 percent¹ of respondents live outside the city limits but actively utilize Fredericksburg's parks, including amenities like the RV park, aquatics, and sports fields.

In assessing the cost per capita for park services, a key distinction emerges. Given that the City's parks cater to both Fredericksburg citizens and Gillespie County residents, two distinct population figures were considered for this evaluation. When factoring in the county population, the cost per capita decreases to \$151. This adjustment is particularly relevant considering the 16,220 Gillespie County residents who potentially utilize city parks, excluding those within the City of Fredericksburg. Importantly, these county residents do not contribute property taxes to the City, despite benefiting from Fredericksburg's Parks and Recreation services.

This scenario raises concerns about the equitable distribution of costs, as Fredericksburg citizens, who reside within the city limits and pay city property taxes, bear the entire financial burden of maintaining the parks. To address this disproportion, the City may consider implementing measures to track program participation and rentals based on residential status. This approach could inform the exploration of non-resident fees for facilities, events, or other programs, ensuring a more equitable distribution of costs among those who directly benefit from Fredericksburg's Parks and Recreation services, particularly in parks supported from the General Fund.

¹Three community surveys were conducted, the percentages of respondents who live outside the city limits were Survey #1 ~25%, Survey #2 ~33%, Survey #3 ~27%.



Lady Bird Park serves as Fredericksburg's largest park, amounting for majority of the parks system total acreage.



RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES

Park and recreation agencies oversee a variety of services and facilities in their communities beyond the two core functions of operating parks and related facilities and providing recreation programming and services. According to the 2023 NRPA Report, in addition to those two core functions, the top responsibilities for park and recreation professionals are to:

- Operate and maintain indoor facilities (91% of agencies)
- Have budgetary responsibility for their administrative staff (87%)
- Conduct major jurisdiction-wide special events (81%)
- Operate, maintain or manage trails, greenways and/or blueways (81%)
- Operate, maintain or manage special-purpose parks and open spaces (73%)
- Operate and maintain non-park sites (69%)
- Operate, maintain or contract outdoor swim facilities/water parks (67%)
- Operate, maintain or contract racquet sport activities/courts/facilities (63%)
- Administer or manage tournament/event-quality outdoor sports complexes (56%)
- Administer community gardens (45%)

Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation staff is utilized for all city-wide special events and private events in the parks. For a few events, the organizer does all the event activities, but some coordination is provided by park staff such as permits or other rental information. The following information was assessed— number and type of events annually, level of service provided, event location, and when the events occur. It is important to understand how much staff time and effort is dedicated to these events to improve planning, staffing, and costs associated within the department. As previously observed, 5/7 of the park maintenance staff is dedicated to Marktplatz. While this park hosts the majority of events, there is a pressing need to assess staffing resources, as allocating a significant portion of the team to events may hinder day-to-day park responsibilities. To address this, the city should evaluate rental fees for Marktplatz to better offset the demand on park staff and ensure stronger cost recovery while maintaining focus on daily park responsibilities.

In 2022, there were a total of 74 events that Park staff was responsible for organizing, assisting, or coordinating. Staff evaluated the level of service provided to each of the events at the following levels.

- **HIGH** - staff organizes and attends event
- **MEDIUM** - staff assists sponsors with park/facility needs
- **LOW** - Staff permit processing, provides little to no assistance at event, is available for emergency

More than two-thirds of the events required a medium level of staff assistance, with 12 needing a high level of staff assistance. The Food and Wine Fest necessitates almost three days (21 hours) of staff assistance (6), outside of regular duties. Many of the events are free community events. Additional observations were made:

- 80% of the events require a fee, revenue generating from rental fees
- 69% landed on a weekend day
- 40% are on Saturday
- 45% of event are held between April - August
- 18% of events span multiple days
- 11% are city-sponsored events

Naturally, events will occur on the weekend and during warmer weather months. Many of the events are occurring in Marktplatz or Marktplatz-adjacent, and only 24 are located at other locations (streets or non-park facilities) of which 12 events are at other city parks. While most events are occurring in the warmer months the highest attendance for events are during the months of October, November, and December. In 2022, attendance records provided by staff tallied a total of 181,265 attendees to park supported events. Of this amount 70% of 181,265 are from events in the fall, specifically Oktoberfest, Eisbahn, Christmas of Lights, and Light the Night parade.

PARK CLASSIFICATION AND MAINTENANCE

As previously noted, there are 366.5 acres of parkland in Fredericksburg's Park network, of which 221.3 acres is actively maintained by park staff. The additional acres that are not actively maintained are held in a natural state, maintained by the school district, and or maintained by volunteers. Apart from the 221.3 actively maintained park acres, maintenance staff do assist with items from time to time for the other park acres. Also as previously mentioned, the department is responsible for non-park facilities including, CVB Main Street benches, Boys and Girls Club and the Girl Scout Cabin.

The Parks and Recreation Department did not have a work order or work tracking program. There is only one maintenance staff with a desktop computer all the rest do have cell phones but are not technology proficient. To manage workloads there are weekly meetings with all supervisors and management in the parks where issues and concerns are discussed including maintenance. The Director keeps a running list of major maintenance items and projects and reviews this at the weekly update.

There are a few approaches to improving the parks operations and maintenance efficiency. A simple, but effective method to improving park maintenance and operations is through a prioritization. In this method tasks are categorized by priority and accomplished in this order on a day-to-day and weekly basis. This approach offers some control of time and resources.

- **Emergency Repairs:** Tasks that need to be done asap to remove a safety risk, attend to physical damage done to a park asset, i.e., building, utility, playground, or fallen tree.
- **High-priority Tasks:** Tasks that need to be done in a few days so the issues do not turn into a safety or security risk.
- **Medium-priority Tasks:** Includes most routine maintenance tasks done weekly or monthly.
- **Low-priority Tasks:** Includes maintenance work that can be done months down the line whenever the resources are available.
- **Deferred Maintenance Tasks:** These are often low or medium-priority tasks that are moved to a deferred maintenance backlog because of budget or time constraints

Another common approach to improving and enhancing park operations is the maintenance mode approach. This method develops a baseline target level of service for parks maintenance using park typology, amenities, and frequency of tasks completed at each of the parks.

One advantage to having an assigned the maintenance mode per park is that it allows the Department to determine the ideal or optimal maintenance frequencies, budget, and staff needs. Below is an example of maintenance frequencies the Department can use and compare to existing lines of service. The tables provide an example of how to classify parks and the level service-based park amenities and usage. Typically, the more amenities, the higher usage.

- **Maintenance Mode 1** – Applies to parks or sites that require the greatest level of maintenance standard in the system. These parks or sites are often revenue producing facilities.
- **Maintenance Mode 2** – Applies to parks or sites that require a moderate level of effort and maintenance standards in the system. These include parks that are heavily used and special use parks.
- **Maintenance Mode 3** – Applies to parks or sites that require a nominal level of effort and maintenance standards in the system, generally undeveloped with minimal amenities.



Table 3.12, Sample Park Types and Modes

EXAMPLE PARK	TYPE	PARK SIZE	AMENITIES	PARK USAGE
Park A	Regional	150 ac	Sports courts, fields, trails, picnic tables, playground, 2 restrooms, parking, dog park, rental pavilions, pool	High
Park B	Community	15 ac	Walking trails, restrooms	Low
Neighborhood Park A	Community	12 ac	Sports fields, trails, playground, restrooms, bleachers	Moderate
Neighborhood Park B	Community	40 acres	Sports courts, fields, trails, picnic tables, playground, splashpad, restrooms, parking, skate park	High
Neighborhood Park C	Neighborhood	22 acres	Playground, pavilion, restrooms, trails practice fields, outdoor basketball court	Moderate
Trail Park A	Neighborhood	8 acres	Trail, open space, picnic tables, benches	Low
Art Park A	Special Use	16 acres	Trail, open space, parking, sculptures	Low
Pool Park	Special Use	4 acres	Slide, splash pad	High
City Plaza Park	Special Use	15 acres	Playgrounds, restrooms, open space, rental pavilions, historic markets, gardens	High

Table 3.13, Sample Modes and Frequency

Maintenance Tasks	Mode & Frequency		
	MM 1	MM 2	MM 3
Tennis / Basketball Courts			
Sweep/blow	Weekly	As needed	NA
Pressure wash	2X per year	As needed	NA
Net inspection	Weekly	Weekly	NA
Bleacher / Player Benches / Backstops			
Sweep/blow	Weekly	As needed	NA
Pressure wash	2X per year	As needed	NA
Net inspection	Weekly	Weekly	NA
Drinking Fountains			
Clean/inspect	Daily	Daily	NA
Irrigation			
Park turf	3-4X per week	2-3X per week	NA
Athletic fields	3X per week	3X per week	NA
Landscape			
Trees / prune	4X per year	2X per year	NA
Flowerbed maintenance	4X per year	2X per year	NA
Mulch	1X per year	1X per year	NA
Litter			
Trash cans	Daily	Daily	Weekly
Pet waste	Daily	Daily	Weekly
Park Benches			
Inspect	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly
Pressure wash	Weekly	Weekly	As needed
Graffiti removal	Within X days of notice	Within X days of notice	Within X days of notice
Picnic Tables			
Inspect	Daily	Daily	Daily
Pressure wash	Weekly	Weekly	As needed
Graffiti removal	Within X days of notice	Within X days of notice	Within X days of notice
Pavilions			
Inspect	Daily, after use	Daily, after use	NA
Pressure wash	Weekly	Weekly	NA
Graffiti removal	Within X days of notice	Within X days of notice	Within X days of notice



Table 3.13, Sample Modes and Frequency cont.,

Maintenance Tasks	Mode & Frequency		
	MM 1	MM 2	MM 3
Playgrounds			
Inspection	Daily	Daily	Daily
Restrooms			
Clean	Daily	Daily	Weekly
Remove graffiti	Within X days of notice	Within X days of notice	Within X days of notice
Turf / Grounds			
Aerate	X per year		NA
Fertilize	X per year		NA
Mow	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly
Facilities			
Painting exterior	Once every 3-5 years	Once every 3-5 years	NA
Graffiti removal	Within X days of notice	Within X days of notice	Within X days of notice
Park Signage			
Pressure wash	1X per year		
Paint	Once every 3-5 years	Once every 3-5 years	Once every 3-5 years
Graffiti removal	Within X days of notice	Within X days of notice	Within X days of notice

As mentioned earlier, the Department does not have a work order or work tracking system. Without this data it is difficult to develop maintenance tasks and frequencies. For Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation, both approaches could be utilized but would require identification of lines of service (trash, mowing, inspection, waste removal, pruning, etc.) and the frequency to determine what level of maintenance or priority tasks/issues fall under.



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PART 4

Recommendations



Guiding Principles

This plan includes **95 recommended actions** that work toward achieving the six guiding principles of this plan. Plan actions are organized to address the findings presented in **Chapter 3, Needs Assessment**, to best meet the needs of the Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation Department and City residents.

The guiding principles, objectives, and actions presented in this chapter should not deter community leaders and partners from considering future actions or initiatives intended to improve Fredericksburg's parks and recreation system. A list of park enhancements is also listed on page 84.

Fredericksburg will create safe and easily accessible connections through walking and biking.



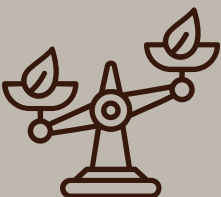
Fredericksburg will cultivate partnerships to leverage financial and philanthropic support.

Fredericksburg will provide recreational activities, facilities, and cultural events for the community.



Fredericksburg will prioritize improvements to existing parks or amenities which enhance safety and support multipurpose functionality.

Fredericksburg will adequately fund and staff the parks and recreation to maintain and operate high quality parks.



Fredericksburg will increase inclusivity and access in future park design and location.

Guiding Principles, Objectives, and Actions Structure

The **guiding principles** were derived from public input regarding the opportunities and challenges faced in the community and were then presented to the Advisory Committee and work-shopped into the statements described on the previous page. The **objectives** are set to provide clear steps to reach the goals of this plan. Within the objectives of the plan are actions. The **actions** are tangible tasks that can be measured and feasibly completed to meet the objectives, and ultimately the goals of the plan.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

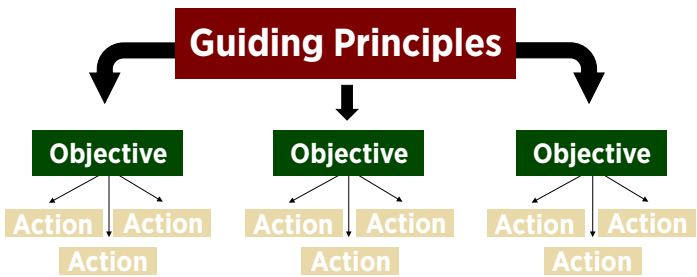
The implementation program presented in this chapter should serve as a checklist for the City to track progress of plan implementation over time. Successful implementation of this master plan will require coordination from multiple departments and partner entities. The following section describes the major components of the implementation program in more detail.

ACTION TYPES

The type of action guides the City in how to initiate implementation and who will be responsible for said implementation. The action types include:

- INVESTMENT** - NEW OR ADJUSTED CAPITAL OR OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES.
- OPERATIONS** - REQUIRES A NEW OR MODIFIED PROGRAM AND/OR STAFFING ARRANGEMENT.
- PARTNERSHIP** - FORMAL AGREEMENT OR INFORMAL PURSUIT OF SHARED GOALS WITH EXTERNAL ENTITY.
- POLICY** - REQUIRES A NEW OR MODIFIED PROCESS OR POLICY.
- REGULATION** - REQUIRES COUNCIL APPROVED MODIFICATION TO THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES.
- STUDY** - REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS OR INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE MOST APPROPRIATE SOLUTION.

Guiding Principles, Objectives, and Actions Relationship Chart



TIME FRAME

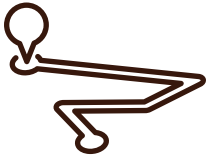
The time frame assigned to each action item refers to the time period in which they should be initiated.

- Short-Term:** This time frame represents actions that should begin within 1-3 years after plan adoption. These items are identified as either high priority or determined to be feasible for implementation in the near term.
- Mid-Term:** This time frame represents actions to be initiated within 3-5 years of plan adoption. These actions are not immediately feasible and require more complex planning and budgeting decisions.
- Long-Term:** This time frame represents actions that should be initiated after the first five years after plan adoption. These items support the long-term vision of the plan and may need additional studies, feasibility assessments, and significant funding to achieve.
- Ongoing:** Actions within this category are those that do not have a specific time frame and should be implemented over time or should be continually implemented on an established schedule.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

For each action item, suggested funding sources the City could utilize to initiate each action are identified. These sources may be subject to change.

- Bonds:** May be used to fund actions that are included as part of a Capital Improvement Project and require voter approval.
- General Fund (GF):** The General Fund is the source of the Parks and Recreation Department's budget.
- Grants:** May be awarded from federal, state, local, and private organizations for park and trails planning and development efforts.
- Philanthropy:** May include private donations or volunteer hours.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE

FREDERICKSBURG WILL CREATE SAFE AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE CONNECTIONS THROUGH WALKING AND BIKING.



As in most communities, trails are at the top of the list for Fredericksburg residents when it comes to desired amenities. This includes multi-use trails, share-use pathways along streets, and quiet greenway trails.

During the community engagement efforts, trails ranked at the top for amenities that the public is seeking. Citizens of all ages have a strong desire to be outside, enjoying nature and get exercise. Many people are realizing the social, health, and physical benefits of walking, jogging, or cycling on trails as essential to their quality of life. One priority for the future includes connecting parks and other local destinations such as schools and retail centers with a citywide multi-use trail/sidewalk system.

Coordination and partnership with other departments and entities are critical, as well as ensuring the proper regulatory tools are in place. As municipal capital improvements are planned and funded, including trails and pedestrian facilities should be at the top of the priority list.

TRAIL OPPORTUNITY ZONES

These zones designate specific areas that possess exceptional potential for the development and enhancement of trail systems, offering a multitude of benefits to both the community and the natural environment. These zones were strategically selected by the community who considered factors such as accessibility, ecological sensitivity, connectivity to existing trail networks, and the potential to foster recreational engagement. By concentrating efforts and resources on these prioritized zones, the City can ensure that trail development is not only efficient but also aligned with the broader goals of promoting outdoor recreation, improving public health, and fostering a sense of unity among residents. Through the establishment of Trail Opportunity Zones, the City commits to forging resilient, accessible, and harmonious spaces that enrich the quality of life for both present and future generations.





GUIDING PRINCIPLE

FREDERICKSBURG WILL CULTIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO LEVERAGE FINANCIAL AND PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT.



Partnerships represent a powerful vehicle for mobilizing resources, both financial and philanthropic, that can significantly enhance the quality and scope of park amenities and programs. By forging strategic alliances with local businesses, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and passionate community members, the City can tap into a wide array of expertise, funding sources, and volunteer networks. These partnerships not only augment the City's ability to initiate transformative projects but also foster a shared sense of ownership and responsibility for the care and development of public spaces.

Throughout recent years the City has been lucky enough to be on the receiving end of some generous donations from local groups who are passionate about the parks in Fredericksburg. By engaging community groups in the planning, fundraising, and execution of park enhancements, the City promotes a sense of ownership and pride of shared spaces in the community. These partnerships extend beyond financial support; they foster a spirit of unity, cooperation, and collective stewardship that empowers the community to shape the future of their parks, ensuring they remain vibrant, inclusive, and resilient for generations to come.

FACILITIES AND AMENITIES PROVIDED BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

- Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park - Nature trails, Pollinator Garden, Bird Blind by Friends of Fbg. Nature Center
- Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park - T-ball fields by Optimist Club of Fbg.
- Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park - Dog park by Fbg. Dog Park Association
- Old Fair Park - Skatepark, basketball pavilion, batting cages, playground equipment by Morning Rotary Club
- Marktplatz - Event room (completed 2023), playground, pavilions by Market Square Redevelopment Commission
- Town Pool - Splash pad (opened 2023) by Morning Rotary Club
- Cross Mountain Park – Monarch Garden, trails, benches, native plantings, and invasive removals by Native Plant Society of Texas - Fredericksburg Chapter

To better help private organizations meet the community's wants and needs, this plan has prioritized certain capital improvement projects, as well as park -by-park enhancements for the entire parks system.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE

FREDERICKSBURG WILL PROVIDE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, AND CULTURAL EVENTS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES.



Fredericksburg is dedicated to enhancing the overall quality of life within the community by providing a rich tapestry of recreational activities and engaging cultural events. The vision is to create an environment where residents of all ages and backgrounds can come together to enjoy the benefits of an active and connected community. A well-rounded approach to community well-being includes not only physical health but also emotional, social, and cultural aspects.

Fredericksburg will aim to design and develop parks and recreational facilities that encompass a wide spectrum of activities. Whether it's creating innovative playgrounds for children (like the existing play area at Old Fair Park), establishing walking and biking trails for fitness enthusiasts, or organizing cultural festivals and events that celebrate the richness of Fredericksburg's heritage. By offering a variety of options for recreation and cultural engagement, the City seeks to strengthen the bonds that unite the community, fostering a profound sense of unity and belonging among all residents. Through collaboration with community stakeholders the City is committed to creating an inclusive, vibrant, and harmonious community that prioritizes the well-being of its residents.

EVENT PROGRAMMING

To enhance event programming for the Parks and Recreation Department, the City must embrace innovative techniques and strategies that cater to diverse interests and foster community engagement. Here are some key approaches:

- **Thematic Planning:** Develop themed event series that span different seasons, celebrating cultural festivals, holidays, and local traditions.
- **Collaboration:** Forge partnerships with local cultural organizations, schools, and community groups to co-create events that reflect the city's diversity.
- **Digital Engagement:** Utilize social media, online registration, and virtual event options to reach a wider audience and adapt to changing circumstances.
- **Artistic and Cultural Expression:** Showcase local talent, artists, and cultural performers to promote community pride and creativity.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Continue to utilize post-event feedback mechanisms to gather insights for continuous improvement.





GUIDING PRINCIPLE

FREDERICKSBURG WILL PRIORITIZE IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS OR AMENITIES WHICH ENHANCE SAFETY AND SUPPORT MULTIPURPOSE FUNCTIONALITY.



Improving parks and facilities starts with determining the community's desires. In the public input gathered during this planning process, participants identified broad and specific improvements that are recommended in this Plan. The City's commitment to this approach is rooted in the recognition that while expanding the park system is important, revitalizing and optimizing existing assets is equally essential in meeting the evolving needs of the community. Whether it's improving accessibility for all, revitalizing playgrounds and recreational facilities, enhancing green spaces, or introducing sustainable landscaping practices. These improvements will not only ensure that the parks remain vibrant and attractive but will also enable the City to harness their full potential as hubs for community engagement, cultural enrichment, and well-being.

By prioritizing the rejuvenation of existing parks and amenities, Fredericksburg aims to create inclusive, safe, and enjoyable spaces that cater to the diverse needs of our community. Through strategic enhancements, the City can envision a future where the parks become even more integral to the well-being and happiness of the local residents, reflecting our commitment to creating a vibrant and cohesive parks system.

REPLACEMENT PLANNING

Planning for the replacement of playgrounds and key park amenities keeps the park system fresh, safe, and attractive for park users. A key implementation step after this plan is the need to prepare a targeted replacement schedule for playground equipment. A certified playground assessment will provide a more in-depth view of necessary upkeep versus replacement to ensure safety and viability of the playgrounds in Fredericksburg's parks. This assessment includes thorough inspections of all playground equipment, taking into account factors such as wear and tear, compliance with safety standards, and the introduction of innovative, inclusive design elements that reflect the evolving needs of our diverse community. By following this targeted replacement schedule and prioritizing safety and accessibility, the City can aim to provide a welcoming and enjoyable park experience for all residents.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE

FREDERICKSBURG WILL ADEQUATELY FUND AND STAFF THE PARKS AND RECREATION TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE HIGH QUALITY PARKS



The staff of the Parks and Recreation Department provides excellent service to the community, as evidenced by high marks received during public outreach. This is a testament to a good culture and focus on serving the public well, but it also speaks to having knowledgeable and well-trained staff.

Priorities for the department in the future include an efficient staff in a structure built for growth, proper credentials and skillsets, and an ability to do more with less. All staff should be required to maintain applicable State of Texas licenses and certifications. Specialized park maintenance personnel should have additional training on topics necessary to a more varied park system. Ensuring adequate training and educational opportunities will result in continued excellence within the park system through increased knowledge of new trends and best practices.

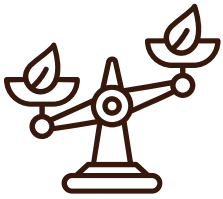
Additionally, creative solutions such as volunteers, interns, contracting specialists, etc. should all be options considered to stretch resources. Operational forecasting, benchmarking, and reporting of accomplishments is also of great importance.

FUNDING RESOURCES

There are many ways to fund park improvements that do not overburden local taxpayers. It's important to understand available sources and how to position Fredericksburg for funding resources in the future. Some sources include:

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Grants
- National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council Grants
- Foundation and Company Grants
- Trust for Public Land Action Fund
- KABOOM!
(Non-profit, geared towards ending play-scape inequity, by providing communities with kid-designed playscapes)





GUIDING PRINCIPLE

FREDERICKSBURG WILL INCREASE DIVERSITY AND ACCESS IN FUTURE PARK DESIGN AND LOCATION.



Parks play a pivotal role in enhancing quality of life within communities. More and more, people are seeing parks as an important element which fill a public need for green space and social gathering. To fill this public need, it is essential to create of a diverse array of park types, each thoughtfully designed to cater to individuals of all ages and abilities.

This approach reflects a commitment to inclusivity and recognizes that a truly vibrant city offers recreational spaces that resonate with its entire population. By crafting parks with varying amenities such as playgrounds, sports facilities, green spaces, and contemplative areas, the Plan ensures that everyone can find spaces that align with their interests and physical capabilities.

Equally important is the equitable distribution of these parks across the city's neighborhoods, minimizing disparities in access to nature and recreation. The Level of Service Analysis, such as those presented in **Chapter 3, Needs Assessment**, allows cities to plan ahead and seek out parkland in advance of development. It also identifies where deficiencies may exist in the current parks system, so that the City can seek solutions for more equitable park access and amenities.

ACCESSIBILITY

The development of several of Fredericksburg's parks occurred before the passing of the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**. These requirements allow more inclusion of accessibility in the built environment.

Making parks accessible and inclusive is significant responsibility that cities are assigned. It is important to communicate, educate, and promote these additions to parks and park facilities to the general public.

Providing a complete listing of park features that contribute to accessibility and promote inclusive play can serve as both a reference tool for local citizens and a benchmark for the City.

Table 4.1, Implementation Program

Action	Type	Action	Time-frame	Potential Funding Resources
1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FREDERICKSBURG WILL CREATE SAFE AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN LOCAL DESTINATIONS THROUGH WALKING AND BIKING.				
1.A. OBJECTIVE: INCREASE ACCESS TO ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES SUCH AS SIDEWALKS, SHARED USE PATHS/TRAILS CROSSWALKS, AND BIKE FACILITIES				
1.A.1.	Investment	Update the 2015 Sidewalks Plan to map gaps and identify priority sidewalk links for implementation, with an emphasis on schools and parks.	S	GF
1.A.2.	Policy	Develop sidewalk and trails design standards to meet goals of access, ease, and mobility.	S	GF
1.A.3.	Regulation	Review and update city ordinances to integrate newer sidewalk standards according to NACTO or AASHTO for example design widths.	S	GF
1.A.4.	Study	Identify primary bike routes throughout the City, prioritizing on-street bike facilities, safety, signage, etc., and include in any Thoroughfare Plan updates.	M	GF, Grants
1.A.5.	Partnership	Work to implement the trails identified in this plan by coordinating with planning and engineering departments to implement non-vehicular access to parks through sidewalks, trails, shared-use paths.	O	GF, Bonds, Grants
1.A.6	Investment	Implement the recommendations of the Thoroughfare Plan and integrate sidewalks and trails into these improvements.	O	GF, Bonds, Grants
1.B. OBJECTIVE: ENHANCE FREDERICKSBURG'S CONNECTIVITY BY CREATING A NETWORK OF TRAILS AND LINEAR PARKS BASED ON EXISTING NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE				
1.B.1.	Investment	Seek to expand trail investments throughout the community using existing right-of way, easements, or targeted acquisition locations.	O	GF, Grants
1.B.2.	Investment	Improve general accessibility to parks from adjacent neighborhoods and within existing parks.	O	GF, Bonds, Grants, Philanthropy
1.B.3.	Investment	Create a plan for long-term key trailhead locations for a city-wide trail network.	S	GF, Grants
1.B.4.	Study	Explore options for passive, nature-based walking trails in addition to more formalized active trails and sidewalks.	O	GF, Grants, Philanthropy
1.B.5.	Investment	Prioritize the identified Trail Opportunity Zones and determine optimal trail connections through specific area plans or a Trail Master Plan. • Cross Mountain to Downtown • Downtown/Creeks • Downtown to Fort Martin	M	GF, Bonds, Grants, Philanthropy
1.B.6.	Partnership	Seek out creative financing opportunities for trail projects such as federal and state grants, partnerships with other entities, sponsorships, and volunteer-based efforts.	O	GF, Grants, Philanthropy
1.B.7.	Operations	Consider training opportunities for staff and volunteers in trail building and maintenance.	M	GF, Philanthropy
1.B.8.	Regulation	Concurrent with the City's Drainage Master Plan update, ensure that drainage areas can be utilized as parkland or trails.	M	GF, Bonds



In the summer of 2023, the City completed construction of its first splash pad, located near downtown at Town Pool.



Table 4.1, Implementation Program (cont.)

Action	Type	Action	Time-frame	Potential Funding Resources
2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FREDERICKSBURG WILL CULTIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO BRING GROUPS TOGETHER TO LEVERAGE FINANCIAL AND PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT.				
2.A. OBJECTIVE: SEEK A BROAD ARRAY OF REGIONAL PARTNERS TO DIVERSITY FUNDING SOURCES				
2.A.1.	Partnership	Work with the Chamber of Commerce and Gillespie County Economic Development Corporation to identify potential corporate sponsors to provide monetary assistance for improvements of sports fields.	S	GF, Bonds, Grants, Philanthropy
2.A.2.	Partnership	Continue to partner with the Wellness Center to expand offerings to community.	O	GF
2.A.3.	Partnership	Partner with Gillespie County to create additional park and trail investments in or near the City.	O	GF
2.A.4.	Study	Identify grant or other funding opportunities for existing park improvements and new park or trail development.	O	GF
2.B. OBJECTIVE: STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE PARKS DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS				
2.B.1.	Investment	Commission and seek funding sources for local artists to provide various works of public art and/or murals in public spaces.	M	GF, Grants, Philanthropy
2.B.2.	Study	Identify key volunteer activities that support agency mission and goals (i.e., park maintenance, clean-ups, trail building, adopt-a-park/trail, etc.).	O	GF, Philanthropy
2.B.3.	Operations	Encourage and facilitate volunteer park maintenance and clean up groups.	S	GF, Philanthropy
2.B.4.	Operations	Encourage and facilitate volunteer park maintenance and clean up groups. Publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities on the City's website to allow the public to help improve City parks (i.e. Maintenance cost mitigation (adopt-a-park, adopt-a-trail).	O	GF, Philanthropy
2.B.5.	Partnership	Continue to support existing partnerships with Rotary, Lions Clubs, Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center and schedule quarterly meetings to identify parks needs and priority projects.	O	GF, Philanthropy
2.B.6.	Policy	Develop for formalize all agreements or MOUs for partners and other organizations working with PARD.	S	GF
2.B.7.	Partnership	Take steps to re-establish an organized group for maintaining Fort Martin Scott; model after or work with Pioneer Museum to establish.	S	GF, Grants, Philanthropy
2.B.8.	Investment	Hire a Parks Department staff person (part time or full time) to manage Fort Martin Scott, facilitate planning and fundraising efforts, coordinate volunteers and events, and implement the Fort Martin Scott Master Plan recommendations.	M	GF
2.B.9.	Operations	Outreach to community user groups to establish ongoing communication to solve maintenance problems, create new amenities, etc.	O	GF, Philanthropy
2.B.10.	Partnership	Maintain and strengthen any existing partnership with FSD to maximize shared use opportunities such as shared maintenance costs, shared use facilities such as playgrounds or athletic fields, and general planning for facilities.	O	GF



Table 4.1, Implementation Program (cont.)

Action	Type	Action	Time-frame	Potential Funding Resources
2.C. OBJECTIVE: IMPLEMENT A VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM				
2.C.1.	Operations	Create a simple process to track volunteer hours, in-kind, and donations to determine impact and value to the department and community. Volunteer hours can be leveraged for grant awards.	S	GF
2.C.2.	Operations	Request annual reports from organizations that are providing park and recreation services, such as youth soccer, tee-ball, etc.	O	GF
2.C.3.	Operations	Create annual recognition of local partners contributions and efforts to parks and recreation, i.e., banquet, awards, etc.	O	GF
3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FREDERICKSBURG WILL PROVIDE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, AND CULTURAL EVENTS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WHICH PROVIDE QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY.				
3.A. OBJECTIVE: MONITOR, REFINE, AND EXPAND THE TYPES OF RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE CITY TO MEET THE INTERESTS OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS				
3.A.1.	Investment	Add additional athletic programming opportunities for adults and seniors.	M	GF, Grants, Philanthropy
3.A.2.	Operations	Encourage group classes for community members to increase recreational program offerings that don't require facilities or supervision such as running groups or yoga.	O	GF, Philanthropy
3.A.3.	Study	Conduct participation data analysis for recreational programs.	M	GF
3.A.4.	Operations	Annually track program participation, fees, evaluation scores to determine trends in program life cycles in order to ensure offerings meeting changing needs of the community.	O	GF
3.A.5.	Investment	Add interpretive educational displays or art showcasing local German history throughout the parks system, specifically at Marktplatz and Fort Martin Scott.	L	GF, Grants, Philanthropy
3.A.6.	Partnership	Explore partnership with ISD to create new park or community center at the old Fredericksburg Middle School.	S	GF
3.A.7.	Investment	Build additional sports courts throughout the park system to address current level of service deficiencies.	L	GF, Bonds, Grants, Philanthropy
3.A.8.	Policy	Ensure that Fredericksburg's parks and open space areas are designed and maintained to accommodate multi-generational and multi-cultural recreational facilities, program offerings, and events.	O	GF, Bonds, Grants, Philanthropy
3.A.9.	Operations	Continue to promote and expand family-oriented programming in various locations to enhance community identity, activity, and education.	O	GF
3.A.10.	Policy	As amenities and service offerings increase within the parks, seek to balance them with revenue-generating enhancements in parks such as pavilions, event-focused facilities, and pay-to-use amenities within free parks, while periodically evaluating other cost recovery methods as needed.	O	GF
3.A.11.	Policy	Implement a new fee structure for park reservations and entrance fees that introduces a distinction between resident and non-resident fees for reservations.	S	GF

Table 4.1, Implementation Program (cont.)

Action	Type	Action	Time-frame	Potential Funding Resources
4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FREDERICKSBURG WILL PRIORITIZE IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS OR AMENITIES WHICH ENHANCE SAFETY, SUPPORT MULTIPURPOSE FUNCTIONALITY, AND IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE.				
4.A. OBJECTIVE: CONTINUE TO FOCUS PRIMARY FUNDING ON IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS ACROSS THE WHOLE PARKS SYSTEM				
4.A.1.	Investment	Enhance any current athletic / sports fields, specifically the Oak Crest Park soccer fields. (Enhancements for all fields should include, irrigation, new turf, fencing, maintenance standards and plans, etc.).	S	GF, Bonds, Grants, Philanthropy
4.A.2.	Investment	Continue to include and update all lighting in parks to be Dark Skies compliant by 2029.	O	GF
4.A.3.	Investment	Review the Fort Martin Scott Master Plan to identify and implement short-term recommendations.	S	GF
4.A.4.	Investment	Install new playground surfacing that is ADA compliant and meets American Society for Testing Materials Standards for specific playground surfacing and fall surfaces.	L	GF, Bonds
4.A.5.	Investment	Install emergency preparedness elements in larger parks and along trails such as safety call boxes, blue-light safety beacons, emergency vehicle access routes, signage, lighting, water, neighborhood access links, etc.	L	GF, Bonds
4.A.6.	Investment	Develop a community gardens program that will determine installation and maintenance efforts, and establish a local board or volunteer group to maintain these type of facilities.	M	GF, Grants, Philanthropy
4.A.7.	Policy	Where possible ensure that Fredericksburg's park facilities areas designed and maintained to support multi-purpose functionality.	O	GF, Philanthropy
4.A.8.	Partnership	Continue to partner with tree donors and strategically determine which parks need trees. Limit donations of trees to designated planting seasons.	S	GF, Philanthropy
4.B. OBJECTIVE: SUPPORT A FORWARD THINKING APPROACH TO MANAGING THE PUBLIC PARKS IN FREDERICKSBURG THROUGH THE CREATION OF STUDIES AND DEPARTMENTAL STANDARDS				
4.B.1.	Policy	Ensure that a maintenance and operations plan is developed for the new soccer fields at Oak Crest Park.	S	GF
4.B.2.	Investment	Ensure ADA access for all park system facilities and amenities and develop a citywide ADA Transition Plan – which is required for CAPRA certification.	S	GF, Bonds
4.B.3.	Investment	Enhance shade accessibility in parks and facilities with a comprehensive shade assessment to create a dedicated capital improvement project and annual tree allocation that would work towards achieving set pre-determined shade coverage at parks.	L	GF, Bonds
4.B.4.	Study	Re-evaluate feasibility of heating city pools year-round.	M	GF
4.B.5.	Policy	Establish standards for a replacement program for playgrounds and key park amenities based on the conditions assessment in this plan.	S	GF
4.B.6.	Policy	Review parking adequacy periodically as amenities and more activated elements are added to parks.	O	GF
4.B.7.	Study	Explore the cost feasibility of adding additional RV parking spaces at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park.	L	GF
4.B.8.	Study	Explore the cost feasibility of adding gates to existing parks where ball fields are present in order to allow for hosting tournaments.	S	GF



Table 4.1, Implementation Program (cont.)

Action	Type	Action	Time-frame	Potential Funding Resources
4.B.9	Policy	Limit the application of harmful pesticides and herbicides and consider implementing integrated pest management practices on city owned or managed land. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an approach to pest control that combines various methods to effectively manage and control pests while minimizing the use of chemical pesticides. The goal of IPM is to achieve sustainable pest control with the least possible impact on human health, the environment, and non-target organisms.	S	GF
4.B.9	Policy	Prioritize drought tolerant native plants in landscape design and when restoring degraded areas within the park system. Use native species for ground cover, shrubs, trees, native grasses, wildflowers, and flowering perennials. Lastly, ensure that the design mimics natural ecosystems found in the area.	O	GF

5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

FREDERICKSBURG WILL SUPPORT A HIGH-QUALITY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT WITH ADEQUATE FUNDING AND STAFFING TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE PARK FACILITIES AND GROUNDS TO THE COMMUNITY'S EXPECTATION OF QUALITY.

5.A. OBJECTIVE:

IMPROVE ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

5.A.1.	Policy	Develop a parks and recreation department mission and vision statement.	S	GF
5.A.2.	Operations	Submit department data to NRPA Park Metric to keep a consistent log of departmental standards and data.	M	GF
5.A.3.	Operations	Evaluate technologies or software to modernize department administration and operations such as online reservations, work order systems, etc..	M	GF
5.A.4.	Operations	Use the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) as a guidance to develop administrative and operational improvements.	O	GF
5.A.5.	Operations	Create record of accomplishments for PARD through an annual impact report.	O	GF
5.A.6.	Operations	Explore additional revenue options for facility rentals and programs such as non-resident/resident fees, event fees, permits, and the like.	S	GF
5.A.7.	Operations	Explore adjustments to the annual events, in order to identify ways to get more of a financial return for the Parks and Recreation Department and allocate staff resources to other needs.	S	GF
5.A.8.	Policy	Re-evaluate sports use fees and update as needed to keep up with current trends and needs.	S	GF

5.B. OBJECTIVE:

MAINTAIN HIGH-QUALITY PARK OFFERINGS THROUGH OPERATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ASSET MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT

5.B.1.	Operations	Develop and share pedestrian infrastructure standards with other city departments, including planning, engineering, and CIP to improve interdepartmental communications on pedestrian infrastructure (definitions, communications, standards, planning efforts, etc.)	S	GF, Grants
5.B.2.	Regulation	Update parkland dedication ordinances and development standards based on a formula method for calculating parkland dedication, in-lieu-of land and park development fees provides a methodical and fair approach to fees for development. Calculations should be based on current U.S. population projections, average land cost of acres purchased, and cost to construct a park.	S	GF, Grants
5.B.3.	Regulation	Establish routine code revisions of parkland or trail dedication ordinances that reflect various factors such as population, inflation and market factors. Reviewing the parkland ordinance requirements, i.e., land and fees, at scheduled intervals—one (1), three (3) to five (5) years—offers an opportunity to evaluate newest data and set requirements appropriately.	O	GF

Table 4.1, Implementation Program (cont.)

Action	Type	Action	Time-frame	Potential Funding Resources
5.B.4.	Regulation	Evaluate the use of waivers or exceptions to parkland ordinance for affordable housing. Parkland ordinances are meant to increase access to park and exemptions of any kind decrease access to parks. Residential development that is meant to provide affordable housing may benefit most from access to parkland.	M	GF, Grants
5.B.5.	Regulation	Provide in the code of ordinances a map of the park zones and park zones and trail opportunity zones. These can be useful for developers and city planners to identify opportunities for parkland and trail corridor needs and coordination with new development.	S	GF, Grants
5.B.6.	Policy	Establish general standards, guidelines and criteria for the design and development of improvements in public parks, trails and open space.	S	GF, Grants
5.B.7.	Operations	Develop a M.O.R.E. assessment and estimate (maintenance, operations, revenues, and expenditures) as a precursor to a system-wide maintenance plan for each individual park and all facilities to ensure long-term maintenance and operations funding.	S	GF
5.B.8.	Operations	Standardize parks operations and maintenance efficiency through prioritization method or a maintenance mode approach.	S	GF
5.B.9.	Policy	Establish a general replacement projection program for playgrounds and playground-adjacent facilities to ensure a long-term plan to provide updated and safe facilities for users.	M	GF
5.B.10.	Policy	Prepare and implement an urban forest management policy to preserve the City's trees; tree inspection and maintenance schedule with oversight of a licensed arborist.	M	GF
5.B.11.	Policy	Continue alignment of general City CIP projects and large maintenance efforts to create efficiencies of construction costs for park and trail improvements.	O	GF

5.C. OBJECTIVE:

ENSURE ADEQUATE PLANNING AND FUNDING FOR NEW STAFF, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, AND STAFF PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS TO MANAGE SYSTEM NEEDS

5.C.1.	Operations	Track staff hours and effort to show and quantify impact on department operations from festivals and events including Oktoberfest, Fredericksburg Food and Wine Fest, etc..	S	GF
5.C.2.	Operations	Conduct an annual conditions assessment led by parks staff where each park is walked, photographed, and scored to identify issues. Present findings to City management.	O	GF
5.C.3.	Operations	Establish an annual Parks and Recreation Department workshop or retreat ahead of the annual budget to discuss resource and staffing needs along with ongoing community partnership opportunities.	O	GF
5.C.4.	Operations	Create a goal to pursue Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA).	L	GF
5.C.5.	Regulation	Create a parks and recreation board.	S	GF
5.C.6.	Partnership	Establish and maintain working relationship with the Parks Foundation.	S	GF
5.C.7.	Operations	Establish and maintain an apprenticeship or internship program in the Parks and Recreation Department.	S	GF
5.C.8.	Study	Evaluate the possibility of offering non-financial incentives to lifeguards to fill staffing needs (i.e. college/high school credit, volunteer service hours, certifications, etc.).	M	GF
5.C.9.	Operations	Hire or contract a dedicated grant writer to assist and pursue funding sources for the Parks and Recreation Department.	S	GF



Table 4.1, Implementation Program (cont.)

Action	Type	Action	Time-frame	Potential Funding Resources
6. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FREDERICKSBURG WILL INCREASE ACCESS, EQUITY, AND INCLUSIVITY IN FUTURE PARK DESIGN AND LOCATION.				
6.A. OBJECTIVE: DESIGN AND MAINTAIN PARKS AND FACILITIES TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY FOR CITIZENS				
6.A.1.	Policy	Develop an inclusive park policy that fully supports all ADA provisions.	S	GF
6.A.2.	Investment	Increase the City's offerings of special needs programming and adaptive options to existing programs to be safe and inclusive social gathering places within the community.	M	GF, Bonds, Grants, Philanthropy
6.A.3.	Policy	Incorporate universal and inclusive design standards for new parks.	S	GF, Bonds, Grants, Philanthropy
6.A.4.	Operations	Consider staff training for ADA requirements for architectural barriers and inclusionary policies. Trainings may be offered by the Department of Justice or National Recreation and Park Association.	M	GF
6.A.5.	Investment	Conduct a park safety assessment with the Police Department to determine areas where security lighting upgrades are most needed. Suggested enhancements could be combined into one capital improvement project addressing lighting issues in all parks.	M	GF
6.B. OBJECTIVE: ENSURE AN EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF ACCESSIBLE PARK SPACES AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THAT SUPPORT COMMUNITY INTERESTS				
6.B.1.	Policy	Establish target areas and priorities for new parkland, combine these efforts with Future Land Use Plan updates.	L	GF
6.B.2.	Investment	Develop additional neighborhood parks and playgrounds in existing parts of town located outside of a ¼ mile radius from existing parks.	M	GF, Grants
6.B.3.	Policy	Ensure siting of new parks to maintain the ¼-mile access standard for both neighborhood parks and neighborhood serving community parks, including trails and linear parks.	O	GF, Grants
6.B.4.	Investment	Explore opportunities for a future park located at the City-owned 10-acre parcel on Friendship Lane.	S	Grants
6.C. OBJECTIVE: UTILIZE THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS TO ENSURE THAT PARKLAND IS PROVIDED FOR FREDERICKSBURG'S NEW DEVELOPMENT				
6.C.1.	Regulation	Require developers to include additional open space and trails into new developments and integrate these into the existing parks system and trail network.	S	GF
6.C.2.	Regulation	Ensure that the City's land development codes and subdivision regulations require user friendly neighborhood parks as part of infill and new development.	S	GF
6.C.3.	Regulation	Develop a set of basic standards for common areas and recreational amenities as part of new multi-family development.	S	GF

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

Capital improvement projects are recommendations that require capital funds in order to be built. The ultimate funding source for the capital may not be solely derived from the City of Fredericksburg. Often, matching grant money is a source from federal and state funds through Texas Parks and Wildlife, CAMPO, TxDOT, etc. Other opportunities include voter-approved bond packages, general obligation debt issuance, developer-constructed completion, development-driven parks improvement funds, philanthropic donations, and even volunteer-driven improvements.

The recommendations in this section include projects that further the goals and objectives of this master plan and projects that were identified during the public input process. Some of these have been discussed in the community for some time, others are new or have more recently become a need based on changing desires and population change. This list is not exhaustive and requires attention and re-prioritization over time to determine if anticipated construction projects are still desirable and provide good value to the community. Cost ranges included with each project are budget opinion of costs and are not final construction estimates.

Criteria for ranking capital improvement projects were derived from a combination of guiding principles established in this plan and priorities from staff at the City of Fredericksburg. Priorities are equally weighted and not listed in a particular order. This list was reviewed by the Advisory Committee as well as the citizens of Fredericksburg.

Projects on the CIP list on the next page were prioritized using the following criteria:

- Does the project improve safety or accessibility?
- Is the project low cost and low maintenance?
- Does the project address a need the community has asked for in a public process?
- Is the project multipurpose in nature?

As mentioned earlier, this list is not exhaustive and requires attention, re-prioritization, and the addition of new projects over time. Future prioritization should follow the criteria above to reevaluate future needs. Adhering to the established and agreed-upon criteria is crucial for future prioritization, ensuring an ongoing assessment that aligns projects with evolving needs.

HOW DO THESE PROJECTS GET BUILT?

Capital improvement projects through a parks master plan are often identified through an examination of public input, facility need, and completion of prior priorities and planning efforts. Through the master plan process, a hierarchy of prioritized projects help the community to determine how to move forward with funding in the short and mid-term time frame.

Capital funds derived from bond collections can be re-routed to other projects, if those projects are identified to be supported by the master plan.



Prioritized CIP List

Priority	Project Description	Park Location	Maintenance Level	Budget Cost
HIGH	OAK CREST SOCCER COMPLEX	OAK CREST PARK	HIGH	\$250K / FIELD (SOD / IRRIG. /FIELD EQUIPMENT)
HIGH	CONSTRUCT TRAILS IN ZONE C	MAIN STREET TO FORT MARTIN SCOTT	MEDIUM TO HIGH	\$200LF (RURAL / 10 FT. CONC.)
HIGH	CONSTRUCT TRAILS IN ZONE B	MAIN STREET	MEDIUM TO HIGH	\$125/LF (URBAN / 8 FT. CONC.)
HIGH	CONSTRUCT TRAILS IN ZONE A	MAIN STREET TO CROSS MOUNTAIN PARK	MEDIUM TO HIGH	\$125/LF (URBAN / 8 FT. CONC.)
HIGH	CROSS MOUNTAIN ENHANCEMENTS - ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS ON CROSS MOUNTAIN DRIVE, EROSION CONTROL AND SLOPE STABILIZATION, AND REROUTE OVERHEAD ELECTRICAL LINES	CROSS MOUNTAIN PARK	LOW	\$650K (\$150K ROADS / PARKING) (\$250K ELEC.) (\$250K SLOPE STAB.)
HIGH	LBJMP PLAY FOR ALL PROJECT - REPLACE PLAYGROUNDS AND PLAY STRUCTURES	LBJMP	LOW	\$350 / 550K
HIGH	PARK SHADE INSTALLATION PROJECT	LBJMP, TOWN POOL, MARKETPLATZ	LOW	\$5,000 - \$20,000 PER SHADE STRUCTURE
MEDIUM	CONSTRUCT TENNIS COURTS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS	LBJMP OR OTHER LOCATION	LOW TO MEDIUM	\$200K/PER COURT TENNIS W/LIGHTING \$75K/PER COURT PICKLEBALL W/ LIGHTING
MEDIUM	DARK SKIES LIGHTING INITIATIVE - REPLACE LIGHTS BY 2029	VARIOUS LOCATIONS	LOW	\$1000 - \$3000 PER LIGHT
MEDIUM	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PAVILION PROJECT	FRANTZEN PARK, CROSS MOUNTAIN PARK, OAK CREST PARK	MEDIUM	\$100 / SF
MEDIUM	CONSTRUCT ADDITIONAL BALL FIELDS	OAK CREST PARK	HIGH	\$500K - \$600K / FIELD
MEDIUM	REPAIR / RESURFACE ALL SPORT COURTS	LBJMP	LOW	\$3-5 / SF
MEDIUM	REPLACE BALLFIELD LIGHTS WITH MUSCO LIGHTS	OAK CREST PARK, OLD FAIR PARK	LOW	\$300K / FIELD
MEDIUM	INSTALL DISC GOLF COURSE	LBJMP	MEDIUM	\$100K
LOW	PURCHASE EQUIPMENT - TWO COMMERCIAL GOLF CARTS WITH BEDS	N/A	LOW	\$40K
LOW	REPLUMBING FOR BACKWASHING AND REPAIR DIVING WELL PLASTER	LBJMP SWIMMING POOL	LOW	N/A
LOW	RESURFACE ROADS AND PARKING AREAS	LBJMP, OLD FAIR PARK, CROSS MOUNTAIN PARK	LOW	\$3-5 / SY (SEAL COAT)
LOW	REPLACE WINDOWS	ADELVEREIN HALLE	LOW	\$10K
LOW	PURCHASE EQUIPMENT - VENTRAC AND GROUNDSMASTER 4500	N/A	LOW	\$175K
LOW	STORAGE RENOVATIONS	OAK CREST PARK	LOW	\$60K
LOW	REPLACE BATTING CAGES	OAK CREST PARK	LOW	\$45K / EACH (SLAB, TURF, NETTING)
LOW	RESURFACE BASKETBALL PAVILION	OLD FAIR PARK	MEDIUM	\$150 / SF
LOW	ADD AUTOMATIC ENTRY GATE	LBJMP	LOW	\$10K / EACH

Cost Assumptions:

1. All budget opinion of costs are for planning purposes only. Costs represent the consultant's best judgment as professionals familiar with the construction industry and current available unit pricing. Consultant does not guarantee that proposals, bids, or actual project construction costs will not vary from this opinion.
2. Pricing is based on average cost statewide and does not account for site specific determinates that will affect construction (i.e., unknown subsurface conditions, structural foundations/footing per local soil conditions, etc.).
3. Right-of-way and/or easement acquisition, amenities, environmental and regulatory review, permitting and fees, plantings, and utility adjustment/relocation/extension/services are excluded from these costs.
4. Budget opinion of costs should presume a minimum 20% annual increase.

Park Enhancements

This section focuses on actions that the Parks and Recreation Department can focus on to enhance specific parks facilities. The following identified improvements may be integrated into a more substantial Capital Improvement Project earmarked for that park, while others could be placed into a maintenance plan or replacement schedule, as appropriate. Some of these enhancements could be good candidates for volunteers or the Parks Foundation to assist with, these are differentiated with an asterisk. Many of these improvements focus on fixing issues that exist today which could be grounds related, focused on durability, safety hazards, or general maintenance and upkeep. The intent of this section is to provide recommendations that are more of a to-do list for the department to focus on.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON MUNICIPAL PARK



SAFETY AND ACCESS ENHANCEMENTS

- Evaluate ADA compliance and needed improvements
- Add more in-park lighting along roads, pavilions, and play areas
- Lower speed limit of entrance drive; install traffic calming measures as feasible

RECREATION ENHANCEMENTS

- Add kayak launch
- Repair / resurface all sport courts
- Create a larger bird viewing area*
- Enhance turf across the park
- Resurfacing / repairs for tennis courts
- Repair / replace large BBQ pits*

MAINTENANCE ENHANCEMENTS

- Conduct a tree mitigation study
- Renovate Pioneer Hall (cooler, roof, ceiling tiles, add ceiling fans, stage floor, kitchen upgrades, install a BBQ pit)
- Stripe all parking lots
- Add more wayfinding signage for cars and pedestrians
- Install electricity to Nature Center building
- Replace tile at Tatsch House
- Renovations to Park HQ including irrigation
- Resolve drainage issue behind pool and tennis courts
- Replace all picnic tables with composite tables*
- Sign for the tennis courts
- Dredge Live Oak Creek

DOG PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- Install double sided sign*
- Resolve drainage issues
- Replace irrigation heads

RV PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- Add concrete pads and shade to each RV location
- Replace middle RV restroom
- Add coded doors to all restrooms at RV Park

POOL ENHANCEMENTS

- Install motorized ADA chair
- Install Lane Lines (including reels and reel covers)
- Install AC Window Unit
- Research feasibility of pool covers for offseason
- New buoy lines for diving well
- Speaker/PA system
- Renovate floor in shower/restrooms
- Purchase chair covers for all ADA chairs
- Repaint entry gates
- Evaluate and trim trees inside pool fencing



* Could involve volunteers or Parks Foundation



OAK CREST PARK



PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- Install security cameras
- Replace play structure
- Renovations to concession to bring it up to health code and ADA compliant
- Lock boxes for bases at ball fields

OLD FAIR PARK



PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- Add permanent fencing along H-E-B side of park
- Improve handicap parking
- Add bleachers for basketball pavilion*
- Additional camera monitoring and safety upgrades
- Upgrades to concession stands to bring up to health code
- Identify and fix drainage issues
- Add larger storage area
- Repair / replace batting cages
- Annual skatepark maintenance repairs

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK



PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- Add park sign with rules and hours, bathroom hours
- Add more picnic tables / replace damaged tables
- Plant more native trees surrounding open play areas*

* Could involve volunteers or Parks Foundation

FRANTZEN PARK



PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- Add parking striping for on-street parking
- Add fence along portions of park along private property
- Creek improvements (landscaping with native plants)*
- Replace damaged benches and tables*
- Add split rail fence where park ends
- Repair or replace swing set*

FORT MARTIN SCOTT HISTORIC SITE



PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- Improve nature trail access
- Trail surface upgrades*
- Remove invasive plants along trail*
- Add nature trail signage and map
- Complete sign replacement project
- Add hours/cost signage
- Improve drainage and washout areas

MARKTPLATZ



PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- Replace Christmas lights every 1-2 years
- Repaint Adelsverein Halle and add all halle to repaint schedule for every 5-7 years
- Resolve fest room basement moisture issue
- Repair or replace benches
- Add ADA picnic tables*
- Renovate restroom
- Replace picnic tables*
- Waterwheel renovation (plaster and new fencing)
- Repaint speakers on arbors*
- Repaint Maypole*

* Could involve volunteers or Parks Foundation



CROSS MOUNTAIN PARK



PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- Remove invasive plants*
- Add additional directional signage
- Add additional picnic tables and replace old/damaged tables*
- Remove fence and add new center entrance
- Add irrigation watering system

TOWN POOL



PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- Research feasibility of pool cover in the off-season
- Purchase chair covers for all ADA chairs
- Replace picnic tables*
- Repaint entry gates*
- Pool wall repairs
- New signs for pools
- Upgrade lightening detection system

* Could involve volunteers or Parks Foundation