

Hays County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas MASTER PLAN

Hays County, Texas
April 2012



DESIGNWORKSHOP



HAYS COUNTY PARKS, OPEN-SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN

April 2012

Prepared for
Hays County, Texas

by

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FORWARD

Texans have flocked to Hays County to cool off in spring-fed rivers or enjoy its unspoiled beauty and rural character for centuries. For many, Hays County is the gateway to the Hill Country, where the coastal plains give way to rolling hills, natural springs, clean rivers and unspoiled open vistas. In recent decades, these assets have drawn many to live as well as play here, bringing with them needs for new developments and recreational facilities. In guiding this plan, Hays County sought a way to balance the reality of advancing urbanization with the common desires of its citizens to maintain the character, traditions, and unique natural assets of its communities.

In a series of public meetings, surveys, and discussions with stakeholder groups in 2011, residents of Hays County consistently placed the highest priority for parks and open space programming on projects that provide river and creek access, trails, youth camping, and open spaces that provide general enjoyment of nature. These were the overarching themes within each of five planning areas, common to all of the communities.

We recognize that many of the local projects that will be needed in the next decade are already being addressed by the cities and municipalities within Hays County in their individual Master Plans. To define a role for county government in the future, we looked for overarching priorities and unmet needs in unincorporated areas.

The first priorities that emerge are a desire for parks and open spaces that preserve water corridors, beloved landscapes and our rural character for public enjoyment in the face of inevitable development. As large ranches that once dominated the landscape are divided into ever smaller pieces for development, there is a pressing need to preserve special places and natural amenities in the Hill Country that drew people here in the first place.

Hays County will provide a leadership role in developing parks and open space projects that address these priorities. Regional-scale projects will be accomplished by working in public/private partnerships, collaborating with local communities and non-profit groups, and initiating projects in unincorporated areas. These approaches will contribute to the county's vision for Hays County Parks and Open Spaces: a system of public lands and facilities retained with thoughtful attention and care to ensure that treasured places, natural amenities and local heritage remain available for recreation, enjoyment, and the well-being of the citizens of Hays County.

- Hays County Park and Open Space Advisory Board

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
History	2
Demographics	3
Past Planning Efforts	4
Accomplishments	4
Parks and Open Space Support	4
PLANNING PROCESS	5
Methodology	6
Vision	9
County Role	9
Goals	9
Park and Open Space Classifications	11
Concepts and Standards	12
INVENTORY	13
County Facilities	14
Local Plans and Parks	17
Inventory Conclusions	18
ASSESSMENT	19
Standards-Based Assessment	20
Demand-Based Assessment	21
Resource-Based Assessment	22
Fiscal-Based Assessment	22
Needs Assessment Conclusions	23
PROJECT PRIORITIES	25
Planning Areas	27
IMPLEMENTATION	31
Implementation Timeline	32
Partnerships	32
Funding sources	34
Plan Conclusion	37
APPENDIX	COMPANION DOCUMENT

FIGURES LIST

Figure 1: Community Kick-Off March 31, 2011	6
Figure 2: Open House April 20/21, 2011	7
Figure 3: Conceptual Blueprint May 26, 2011	7
Figure 4: Draft Plan June 30, 2011	8
Figure 5: Parks Definitions	11
Figure 6: Open Space Definitions	12
Figure 7: Parks and Open Space Project Master Plan	29

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Hays County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan* will be used by Hays County, Texas to make decisions regarding parks and open space programs and facilities. It lays the groundwork for the County's involvement in providing park, open space and natural areas for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

The *Hays County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan* was formed from the results of a multi-faceted process that included a current inventory, needs assessment and several community polls and meetings. Based on the findings of this phased process, a set of recommendations for the County's parks and open space system as a whole as well as for each of the County's six parks that make up that system was completed. What follows is a brief summary of that process, assessment results and recommended priority projects.

Background

As Hays County continues to grow, its 4,300+ acres of parks and open space will not be able to handle the increased usage without destroying the County's celebrated natural features. The County's goal was to develop a focused plan that outlines how to preserve its existing holdings and expand its parks and open space acreage to meet growing demand and enable all residents to enjoy County parks and open space.

The goals of the *Hays County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan* are to:

- Provide regional park and open space lands for an assortment of recreational experiences suited to a variety of users in the County. These shall include large, multi-purpose facilities that may connect to community features through trails, greenways and other parks.
- Utilize the County park and open space system to conserve land that has environmental value including habitat, watershed health, heritage and scenic

qualities, while providing appropriate recreation opportunities for the public.

- Create a financially balanced and economically viable parks and open space system.

Hays County controls six parks and open space areas. These include Five Mile Dam Sports Complex (encompassing Dudley Johnson Park, Randall Vetter Park and the Soccer Complex), Jacob's Well Natural Area, and the Regional Hike and Bike Trail near Wimberley. Recently, the County partnered in a conservation easement over the Dahlstrom Ranch. The conservation easement did not include a right of public access on the Dahlstrom Ranch. The County and the Dahlstroms have agreed to negotiate a lease to allow for public access on the property.

Process

The *Hays County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan* is the result of a comprehensive process led by the County and consultant team enlisted for the planning process. This process was informed by review of existing County documents, focus-group input, Hays County Park and Open Space Advisory Board (POSAB) input and review, citizen participation, Commissioner input and County staff input and review from January to October 2011. From this phased process, a list of recommendations for the County's parks and open space system as a whole as well as each of the County's six parks was created.

The Master Plan was developed over the course of five distinct phases:

- Phase 1: The focus of first phase was to define goals and objectives for parks and open space in Hays County. Using the *2006 Parks and Open Space Master Plan* as a starting point, followed by input from the Hays County POSAB, goals and objectives were created, which were then shared with the County residents through public meetings and stakeholder interviews.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Phase 2: During this phase, the County's vision and desired role for future parks and open space projects began to be defined. This is also when the County narrowed down its list of priority projects and refined its role in park and open space facility development. Potential projects in the County were identified and categorized by their ability to meet the goals and objectives identified in Phase 1. A second set of public meetings was held and an online poll to garner resident feedback was conducted.
- Phase 3: During the third phase, a needs assessment was completed using four methods of assessment: standard-based, demand-based, resource-based and fiscal-based. The goals and objectives for the plan were used as baseline information to define a set of projects or strategies that could be implemented in Hays County. Additional public outreach and feedback was achieved.
- Phase 4: Priority projects were identified during the fourth phase. Project locations and specific goals were created through public input, opportunity analysis (i.e. ability to build additional capacity for projects and resources), comparison to existing inventory and partnership support. During a final public meeting, which was held on June 30, 2011 at the Hays County Extension Office in San Marcos, the consultant team reviewed the priority projects with the public and gathered their feedback on the direction of the plan through comment cards and informal discussion.
- Phase 5: During the final phase, potential partners and funding sources for project implementation as well as future park and open space planning objectives were identified. Management recommendations for inclusion in partnership agreements for future park and

open space projects the County undertakes were also created.

Assessment Results

During the third phase of the master-planning effort, four different assessments were conducted to help inform Hays County's priority projects list.

Standards-based Assessment

Conclusions:

Based on comparison with park and open space standards it is recommended to:

- Increase the total acres of parks in the parks and open space system
- Increase the number and length of trails in the park and open space system
- Locate active recreation facilities in areas of denser population

Demand-based Assessment

Conclusions:

As a result of the public input it is recommended to:

- Create larger-sized facilities with both passive and active recreation
- Provide river access
- Provide multi-use trails that allow for biking, hiking and connecting parks where appropriate
- Promote the incorporation of camping and youth outdoor facilities
- Provide educational opportunities on general nature enjoyment and sports activities when possible

Resource-based Assessment

Conclusions:

To protect sensitive land it is recommended to:

- Provide river access and restoration
- Conserve land that provides opportunities for ground-water recharge and surface-water protection
- Protect scenic corridors along rivers, roads and ridge tops that allow for views to general open space lands
- Create Park Stewardship Plans for all facilities: removing invasive species, repairing the unstable soil conditions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

and practicing land management and programs to better the environmental conditions at any park or open space

Fiscal-based Assessment Conclusions

In achieving additional revenues or partnerships it is recommended to:

- Diversify tourism opportunities beyond sports to potentially include nature tourism, festivals or special events and educational events
- Build upon existing and new funding opportunities and partnerships to grow the parks and open space network.

Priority Projects

In support of the goals for parks and open space in Hays County, Priority Projects were identified. This includes focusing resources to develop large multi-purpose spaces that encompass multiple Priority Projects within the park or open space area to service a larger population.

Priority projects for the County are:

1. River and Creek Access
2. Trails
3. Camping
4. Youth Camping
5. General Nature Enjoyment
6. Nature Center
7. Festival Space
8. Recreation and Sports Complex
9. Shooting Sports Complex
10. Community Gardens

INTRODUCTION



This Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan is created for Hays County and lays the groundwork for the County's involvement in providing park, open space and natural areas for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

There are currently 1,225 acres of publicly owned parks and 3,083 acres of publicly owned open space in Hays County. The largest park facility is 105 acres, with most parks in the County being community and neighborhood-sized parks.

According to the 2010 US Census, Hays County is growing rapidly, more than doubling its population from 66,614 in 1990 to 157,107 in 2010. With the median age being 30.4 and approximately 30 percent of the residents under the age of 19, Hays County has a highly active population.

History

The County was formed by the legislature in 1848, although several current counties were later carved out of the initial territory. The County has an area of 679.8 square

miles and is located on the border between the Edwards Plateau and the southern Blackland Prairie region in south central Texas. The City of San Marcos is the county seat. Incorporated cities within the County include Buda, Driftwood, Dripping Springs, Kyle, Wimberley, Hays, Mountain City, Niederwald, San Marcos, Uhland and Bear Creek.

There has been a long history of appreciation and conservation of the natural resources in Hays County. The first County park, Dudley Johnson Park, was acquired in 1973 through a donation of land along the Blanco River. Following the acquisition of this park, the County had no new acquisition of parks until 2003 when Randall Vetter Park was opened adjacent to Dudley Johnson Park. Additional parks have been acquired by the County recently and are discussed in the Accomplishments section of this Chapter.

A time line of park and open space planning efforts in Hays County can be found in Appendix A: Process and History.



Demographics

Growth in Hays County has increased rapidly in the past 10 years and is anticipated to continue accelerating. The County needs to actively plan for future park, recreation and open space opportunities for the growing and changing population. The demographics, including existing and projected population, age, race and income, were reviewed to better understand the citizen base of Hays County for future parks and open space needs. Additional data on demographics, including age charts, race charts and population growth maps are included in Appendix A: Process and History.

Projected Population Figures

The population of Hays County, and the Austin metro-area in general, is growing rapidly. Between 1990 and 2000, Hays County saw a 49 percent population increase. Between 2000 and 2010, the County experienced a 61 percent increase in population. This trend is anticipated to continue through the 10-year life of this plan.

CENSUS YEAR	POPULATION
1990	66,614
2000	97,589
2010	157,107
2015 (proj.)	215,670
2020 (proj.)	271,388
2025 (proj.)	335,014

The Hays County projections were calculated in 2008 by the Texas State Data Center, but are using 2000 census data. As of the date of this report, projections based upon the 2010 census data have not been released.

Growth Patterns

Higher densities exist along the I-35 corridor, particularly in San Marcos and Kyle. Maps included in Appendix A: Process and History illustrate the population density of Hays County census block groups.

Age Patterns

The median age in Hays County is 30.4 years old, with a third of the residents being under the age of 24. Approximately 13 percent of residents are over the age of 60, while 21 percent is under the age of 14. The largest portion of citizens are between the ages of 20 and 24, at 23 percent.

Race

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, over three quarters of the population reports themselves as white, followed by 11 percent who identify themselves as "other" race, 3 percent black or African American or 3 percent two or more races. Approximately 35 percent of the residents identify themselves as Hispanic.

Income

According to the US Census, the median income in Hays County in 2009 was \$53,113, 10 percent above the Texas average of \$48,268.

Need for Parks and Recreation

As the number of people in the County increases and the percent of the population under the age of 24 grows, pressure will be placed on the County's parks and open space. Planning now for the future of Hays County's parks and open space will ensure that future generations of Central Texas residents can continue to enjoy recreational pursuits of all kinds and the wide-open, natural spaces that make Hays County such a desirable place to live.

Past Planning Efforts

The Hays County Park and Open Space Advisory Board (POSAB) was established in 2000 to “advise the Hays County Commissioners Court on matters pertaining to acquisition, development, management, maintenance and use of parks, recreation facilities, open space and leisure services owned or controlled by Hays County.” The POSAB’s first role was to review and comment on the 2002 Park and Open Space Master Plan, which gave guidance and criteria for projects receiving support from the 2001 Bond Funding.

In 2006, the Parks and Open Space Master Plan was updated; and, in 2007, an additional bond was passed supporting park and open space development throughout Hays County. In most cases, the County and those recipients who were awarded funds partnered together to improve existing or to implement new park facilities throughout Hays County.

Over the past 10 years, the County has partnered with municipalities for park upgrades and projects through bond funding. During that time, the County leveraged a \$33.5 million bond to improve 32 parks and open space facilities throughout Hays County.

Accomplishments

In 2010, the County, in partnership with the City of San Marcos, opened a Soccer Complex adjacent to the two previously acquired County parks. Most recently, the County has supported the acquisition and development of Jacob’s Well Natural Area and the regional Hike and Bike Trail (both near Wimberley) and was involved in the funding for the Dahlstrom Ranch conservation easement. (The County and the Dahlstroms have agreed to negotiate a lease to allow for public access on the property.) Funding of County park and open space projects that took place from 2001 through 2007 came through bond initiatives.

In addition, other parks and open space in local jurisdictions were also funded in part by County bond initiatives. Together, the County and local government jurisdictions currently have 1,225 acres of park and 3,083 acres of open space. The largest park facility in the County and local government jurisdictions is 105 acres. The majority of acreage is at the “community” or “neighborhood” park level (70%). The largest open space facility is approximately 1,000 acres.

Parks and Open Space Support

The continued investment in parks and open space throughout Hays County has been largely due to bond funding in 2001 and 2007. In 2001 \$3.5 million supported 12 projects. In 2007, \$30 million supported 20 projects. Parks Bonds were supported by a margin greater than 2 to 1.

Numerous cities in Hays County have established parks and open space programs of their own. Many of the cities have Parks and Open Space Master Plans and some have parks departments to manage their parks. Details on cities’ parks department documents are located in Appendix A: Process and History.

2

PLANNING PROCESS



PLANNING PROCESS

The former Hays County Park and Open Space Master Plan was originally created in 2002 and was revised on July 20, 2006. To stay current with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) guidelines, the Park and Open Space Master Plans must be updated every five years and a new plan is required every 10 years. With the last revision having been in 2006, a new plan needed to be prepared in 2011. Hays County enlisted the support of a consultant in the creation of this plan.

The *Hays County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan* is a planning document that can be used by the County to make future decisions about parks and open space projects. This document can be used as a guideline for parks and open space program and facilities priorities. The County can purchase land, develop facilities and/or operate and maintain facilities that provide a clear public benefit of park and open space to the citizens of Hays County.

Methodology

The *Hays County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan* was guided by a multi-faceted process. This process was informed by review of existing documents, focus group input, Hays County POSAB input and review, public input, Commissioner input and County staff input and review from January to October 2011. Public input – a key element in the development of the plan – was received through key-pad polling, group activities, dot voting, online poll, comment cards, emails, one-on-one conversations and key stakeholder interviews. While polling methods were not administered in a statistically valid method, they do represent input from those who chose to participate in the process. A variety of methods were used to solicit input and provide some interpretation of what people wanted in the County parks and open space system. The process was completed in five phases.

Phase 1

The focus of first phase was to define goals and objectives for parks and open space in Hays County. Using the 2006 Parks and Open Space Master Plan as a starting point, the consultant team received input from the Hays County POSAB to create goals and objectives for public comment. The objectives presented to the public included baseline conditions and potential measures of success for each objective.

The first public meeting was held on March 31, 2011 at the San Marcos Community Center. This meeting covered goals, objectives and measures of success for the *Hays County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan*. The information and activities included in this meeting encouraged feedback on resource maps of the area, goals and priorities for parks and open space in the County and ideas presented and planning process.

In conjunction with the first public meeting, stakeholder interviews were held on March 30 and 31, 2011 at the Five Mile Dam Sports Complex. These meetings involved individuals identified by the County as having a specific interest or fields of expertise in topics related to parks and open space. Key stakeholder interviews included park and recreation directors from local cities, agricultural and ranching interests, realtors and home builders, organized sports groups, conservation interests, agencies, environmental interests and economic development interests.



Figure 1: Community Kick-Off | March 31, 2011

Phase 2

During this phase, the County's vision and desired role for future parks and open space projects began to be defined. This is also when the County narrowed down its list of priority projects and refined its role in park and open space facility development. Potential projects in the County were identified and categorized by their ability to meet the goals and objectives identified in Phase 1.

The consultant team facilitated a second set of public meetings on two evenings (April 20 and 21, 2011) in two different locations (the Precinct 2 Office in Kyle and the Dripping Springs City Hall, respectively). These meetings included a presentation and activities regarding the vision. Participants discussed the most appropriate role for the County in the development of parks and open space both in types of parks and open space and methods of support that should be pursued. Lists of projects were generated during the meeting to help prioritize projects.

In addition to the public meetings, an online poll (using Survey Monkey) was made available to the public from April 21, 2011 to May 14, 2011. A link to the survey was available on the County website. The poll had almost 1,000 responses from various areas in the County, including 40 percent from the San Marcos area, 23 percent from the Kyle Area and approximately 10 percent each from the Dripping Springs and Buda areas. This additional outreach measure allowed the planning process to reach more people than just those who attended the meetings.

Phase 3

During the third phase, the consultant team facilitated a needs assessment using four methods of assessment: standard-based, demand-based, resource-based and fiscal-based. The goals and objectives for the plan provided baseline information to produce a set of projects or strategies that could be implemented in Hays County. The details of the methods and findings of these assessments are discussed in the Needs Assessment section of this document. The goals and objectives analysis can be found in the Appendix.

The consultant team held a fourth meeting on May 26, 2011 at the Jacobs Well POA Building in Wimberley. This meeting covered the needs analysis and reviewed the polling results to determine local standards and to get feedback on potential priorities/preferences for planning areas within the County. Comment cards and informal discussions were used to gather feedback on the direction of the plan.



Figure 2: Open House | April 20/21, 2011



Figure 3: Conceptual Blueprint | May 26, 2011

PLANNING PROCESS

Phase 4

Priority projects were identified during the fourth phase. Project locations and specific goals were identified through public input, opportunity analysis (ability to build additional capacity for projects and resources) and comparison to existing inventory and partnership support in planning areas in Hays County. The priority projects are described in detail in Appendix E: Priority Project Descriptions. Location-specific prioritization of these projects is also discussed in Appendix F: Planning Area Preferences.

Another public meeting was held on June 30, 2011 at the Hays County Extension Office in San Marcos. The prioritized projects and the planning areas were reviewed and comment cards and informal discussions were used to gather feedback on the direction of the plan. The final public meeting will occur when the Commissioners Court adopts or accepts the plan.

Phase 5

During the final phase, the team identified potential partners and funding sources for project implementation as well as future park and open space planning objectives. They also created management recommendations for inclusion in partnership agreements for future park and open space projects that the County undertakes. Implementation details can be found in Implementation section of this plan.

Details on specific outreach tools, meeting agendas and supplementary materials are included in Appendix B: Public Input Documentation.



Figure 4: *Draft Plan | June 30, 2011*

Vision

Hays County is a burgeoning, vibrant community characterized by abundant natural resources. The parks and open space system in the County plays an important role in allowing people to enjoy these unique features, conserve valuable resources and provide a variety of recreation opportunities in the County.

County Role

The role of the County is to support park and open space projects that have clear public value, to protect public interest and to provide public access to desired, needed and well-designed facilities. The County can support this role through acquisition of land for parks and open space and potentially develop, operate and/or maintain facilities on the park or open space land.

Land acquisition by the County can only be pursued with willing landowners. Land can be acquired either through purchase of property in fee-simple, wherein a landowner sells his or her property outright, or the County can establish a conservation easement where a landowner willingly conveys certain interests on the property, such as the restrictions on development. When land is purchased in fee-simple, the land is obtained in its entirety. When a conservation easement is purchased from a willing landowner, the landowner still owns and operates the land and the County or partnering non-profit owns the development or other rights to the land. A purchase of a conservation easement is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and either a non-profit conservation organization or government agency and requires the landowner's consent for public access.

A Resolution of the Hays County Commissioners Court regarding the County's authority for land acquisition is included in Appendix A: Process and History.

Goals

The *Hays County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan* has three major goals with related objectives. The objectives under each goal have measures of success that are used to further define the objective. Detailed analysis of each objective and measure of success can be found in Appendix D: Assessment.

The goals are focused around the concept of the County supporting large regional facilities that help conserve natural features in the County.

Goal 1: Community Goal

Provide regional parks and open space for an assortment of recreational experiences suited to a variety of users in the County. These shall include large, multi-purpose facilities that may connect to community features through trails, greenways and other parks.

- Objective 1.1: Provide ample parks and open spaces in the park and open space system.

Measure of Success

- The plan contributes to a system that provides 30 acres of parks and open space per 1,000 residents, while ensuring that open space and park areas are located proportionate to the population density.
- Objective 1.2: Utilize the park and open space system to provide a range of recreational experiences to service a variety of age groups and user-types year-round.

Measure of Success

- The plan contributes to increased diversity of program types in response to the needs of the various areas of the County.
- Objective 1.3: Connect the parks and open space system where appropriate.

Measure of Success

- The plan contributes to increased connectedness of parks and

open space where appropriate. Determining “where appropriate” includes looking at adjacency of other parks and open space facilities, community node or places and their proximity to urban areas.

Goal 2: Environmental Goal

Utilize the County park and open space system to conserve land that has environmental value including habitat, watershed health, heritage and scenic qualities, while providing appropriate recreation opportunities for the public.

- Objective 2.1: Utilize the parks and open space system to improve the condition of water quality and quantity in Hays County.

Measures of Success

- The plan increases acreage of land within the park and open space system that has high priority for surface water retention including flood zones, wetlands, riparian corridors and protections buffers. Encourage techniques to minimize erosion and storm water runoff at all scales.
- The plan increases acreage of land within the parks and open space systems that has high priority for water recharge to improve the quality and quantity of water entering into the aquifer.
- Objective 2.2: Utilize the parks and open space system to conserve important natural resource areas that contribute to the health and vitality of the County.

Measures of Success

- The plan increases acreage of woodland areas and grassland within the parks and open space system to improve air quality while also improving habitat and stabilizing slopes to prevent runoff.
- The plan increases the amount of tree canopy in developed areas to improve air quality and lower the urban heat-island effect.

- The plan increases acres of protected land with high potential erosion risk to integrate the natural topography and hydrology into the parks and open space system.
- Objective 2.3: Utilize the parks and open space system to protect scenic qualities throughout the County.

Measure of Success

- The plan increases the amount of significant scenic qualities that are in parks and open space as a way of protecting those views.

Goal 3: Financial Goal

Create a financially balanced and economically viable parks and open space system.

- Objective 3.1: Incorporate a variety of funding mechanisms and partnerships for park and open space funding.

Measure of Success

- The plan creates a 60/40 mix of public private financing in order to balance park and open space development priorities with fiscal responsibilities.
- Objective 3.2: Promote economic development through increased year-round tourism.

Measure of Success

- The plan increases the County's tourism-related sales taxes by 10% and increases visitor spending per day for park and open space activities by 10%.

Park and Open Space Classifications

Parks, open space and natural areas have many definitions specific to each jurisdiction. The National Parks and Recreation Association breaks down parks and open space into many sub-categories. These definitions were used as a basis for public input and feedback from the Hays County POSAB to create a local definition of parks, open space and natural areas.

For purposes of this plan, Open Space includes the classification of Natural Areas but the County focuses attention and has increased consideration for areas with natural resources in Hays County, thus calling it out specifically in the title of this plan. This plan defines parks and open space as follows:

Parks

Parks are traditionally developed and managed to accommodate multiple recreation activities. They are open to the public and designed for a high intensity of use. Parks often include a wide variety of amenities and facilities that support active recreation such as sports fields and courts, play structures and recreation centers. Parks can be various sizes, ranging from the neighborhood to the regional scale.

This plan establishes six classifications of parks for Hays County: mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, multi-purpose parks, sports complexes and special-use parks. All of these coincide with the NRPA definitions except for Multi-Purpose Parks. Hays County has added this park type to the NRPA standard list of park classifications because the NRPA classifications lacked a park type that addressed the regional nature of park facilities for a county.



Figure 5: Parks Definitions

Open Space

Open space areas are managed primarily for resource conservation and low-impact passive recreation opportunities. These areas often include trails, water access and educational activities. Open spaces can be of various sizes, from linear greenways of limited width to larger block areas encompassing significant resources.

This plan establishes two classifications of open space for Hays County: natural areas and greenways. These two classifications align with the NRPA classifications. Hays County has added that both have public access included in their definitions.

Concepts and Standards

The County has a relatively small parks system with only six facilities, but includes a diversity of park types from natural areas, such as Jacob's Well, to recreation facilities, such as Five Mile Dam Sports Complex.

Through the planning process, a desire for large facility with multiple uses that was accessible to all was clear. The concept of a large multi-purpose facility focused on trail and passive recreation became the foundation of project development and priorities.

The process to identify projects and activities to occur in a large multi-use facility took a four part approach that build upon the standard park planning analysis of standards, demand and resource analysis and additionally included a fiscal analysis. The standards analysis used the NRPA standards to analyze the baseline inventory conditions. Simply, this supported the need for a larger, multi-purpose facility in the County. The demand analysis used public input to establish the local standard for Hays County. This analysis supported the desire for trails and passive recreation. The resource analysis identified key location of resources and standards for incorporation of environmental practices to be incorporated into projects. The analysis supported the numerous ecological resources in the area to focus passive recreation around. The fiscal analysis looked for potential economic impacts and benefits for projects. Simply, there are many tourism and partnership opportunities in the area to capitalize on. By using a multi-dimension approach, projects identified for the County were able to meet multiple needs identified during assessment process.

The Assessment Chapter of the Master Plan Book and the Appendix D: Assessment elaborate on this process and findings.



Natural areas are managed primarily for natural resource conservation. They are often conserved because of their scenic, wildlife, cultural or hydrologic values.

Greenways are linear tracts of land that are accessible to the public and offer passive recreation opportunities. Often multi-use trail systems through greenways enhance local and regional connectivity.

Figure 6: *Open Space Definitions*

INVENTORY



As part of the planning process, an inventory of existing public parks and open space properties was conducted to assess the number and types of facilities available in the County. This information was gleaned primarily from local parks and open space plans of communities in Hays County (Buda, Dripping Springs, Kyle, San Marcos and Wimberley) and from the limited database held by Hays County.

Open space lands incorporated in the inventory include those with public access and/or where a public entity owned or purchased rights for public use. Private properties that have conservation easements where public access is prohibited were not included in this inventory.

For purposes of this plan, school recreation facilities, private parks, small subdivision parks, golf courses and non-profit group parks were not included in the inventory. Although they add recreational opportunities to the park and open space system, the County has incomplete information available for these facilities.

Total Park Acreage	1,225 acres	Number
Mini Parks	12 acres	3
Neighborhood Parks	250 acres	18
Community Parks	625 acres	26
Multipurpose Parks	132 acres	3
Sports Complex Parks	145 acres	5
Special Use Parks	61 acres	2

Total Open Space Acreage	3,083 acres	Number
Greenways	1,090 acres	14
Natural Areas	1,993 acres	9

County Facilities

The County owns six facilities with a variety of recreational activities at four locations. These facilities include both parks, open space and trails and range in activities and sizes. Four of the facilities are currently in operation, while two have been recently acquired and are in the planning and development phases.

Five Mile Dam Park

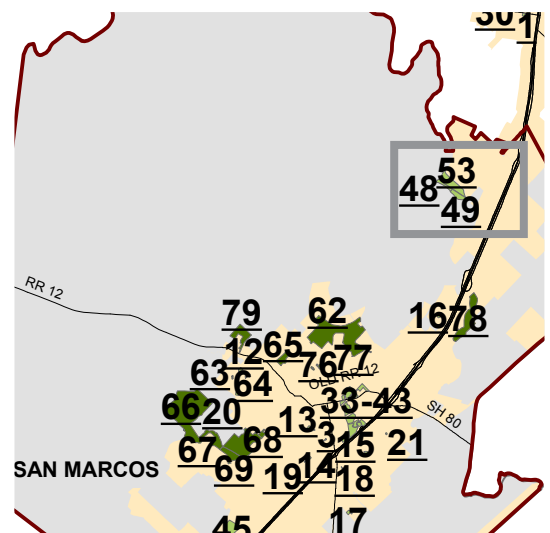
The Five Mile Dam Park includes the Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex, Dudley Johnson Park and Randall Vetter Park. These three parks offer a range of recreational opportunities from active soccer and playscapes to passive river access with fishing and picnicking.

Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex

The Soccer Complex at the Five Mile Dam Complex is a 44-acre park that provides 10 full-size soccer fields, a concession stand, play ground, picnic facilities, pavilion, parking and trail access. The facility is operated and maintained through an agreement with the City of San Marcos. In addition to the recreational amenities the park offers, the park also generates a portion of its own electricity through wind and solar energy.



Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex



Facility 53 | Five Mile Dam Sports Complex Location

Dudley Johnson Park

Dudley Johnson Park is located at the Five Mile Dam Complex along the Blanco River. The 15-acre park includes picnic areas; river access; and a small, non-motorized boat launch. A trail currently runs along the bank of the river.



Dudley Johnson Park



Dudley Johnson Park

Randall Vetter Park

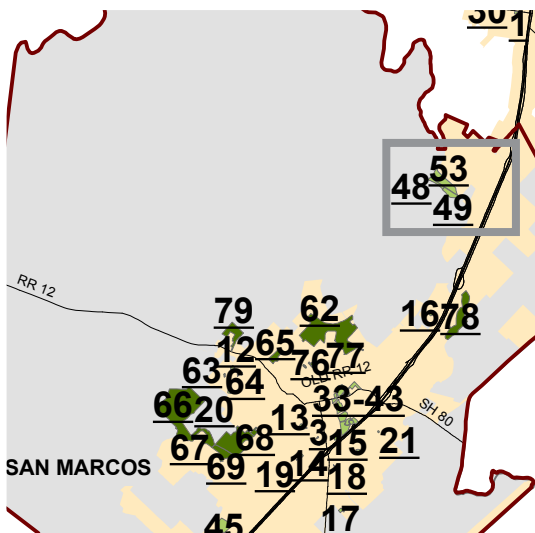
Randall Vetter Park is also located at the Five Mile Dam Complex along the Blanco River. The 12-acre park has river access, a trail and picnic facilities adjacent to Dudley Johnson Park.



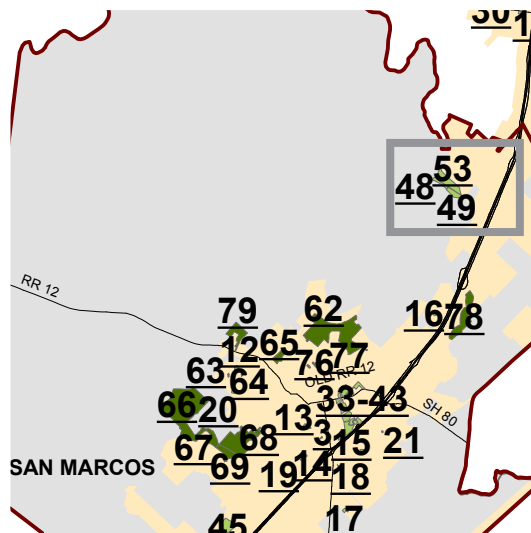
Randall Vetter Park



Randall Vetter Park



Facility 48 | Dudley Johnson Park Location



Facility 49 | Randall Vetter Park Location

Hays County - City of Wimberley Regional Hike and Bike Trail

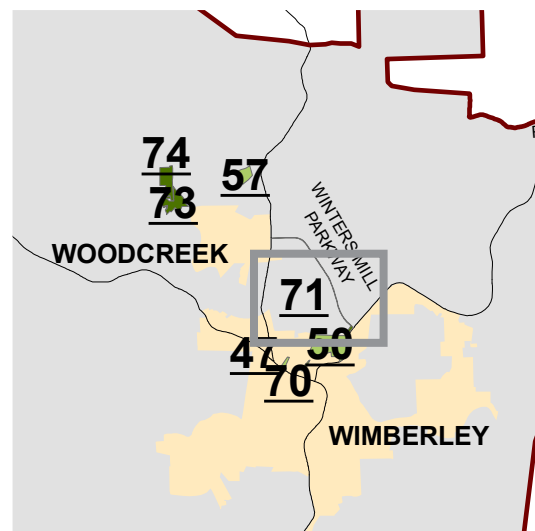
The Regional Hike and Bike Trail in Wimberley is currently a 3.1-mile trail connecting Ranch Road 12 and Winters Mill Parkway to Blue Hole Regional Park. The trail is made of crushed granite and concrete and connects the communities of Wimberley and Woodcreek with Blue Hole Park.



Regional Hike and Bike Trail



Regional Hike and Bike Trail



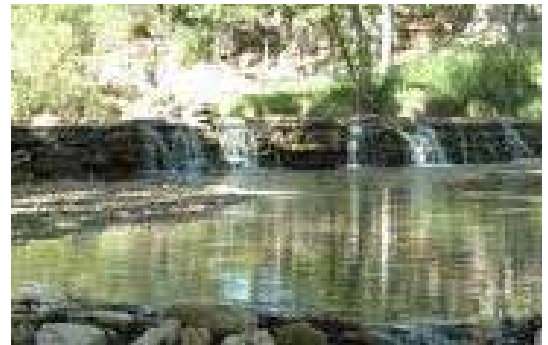
Facility 71 | Regional Hike and Bike Trail Location

Jacob's Well Natural Area

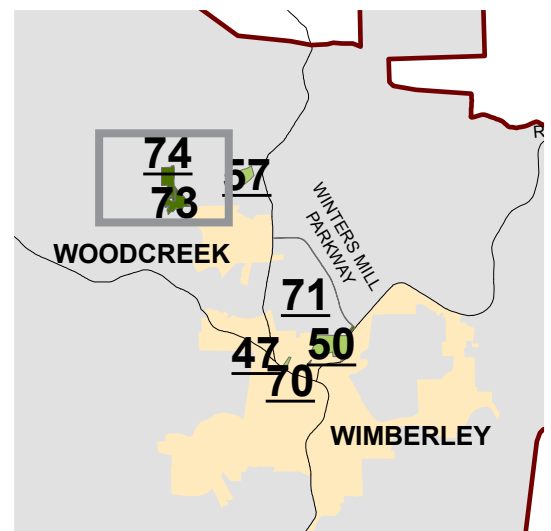
Jacob's Well Natural Area has recently been acquired by the County. The 81-acre facility is centered around the artesian spring, Jacob's Well, and several acres of natural area. Jacob's Well is the entrance to underwater caves that connect directly to the Edwards Aquifer and Cypress Creek. The Jacob's Well facility is currently being developed and is anticipated to include environmental education, passive recreation and continued water access.



Jacob's Well



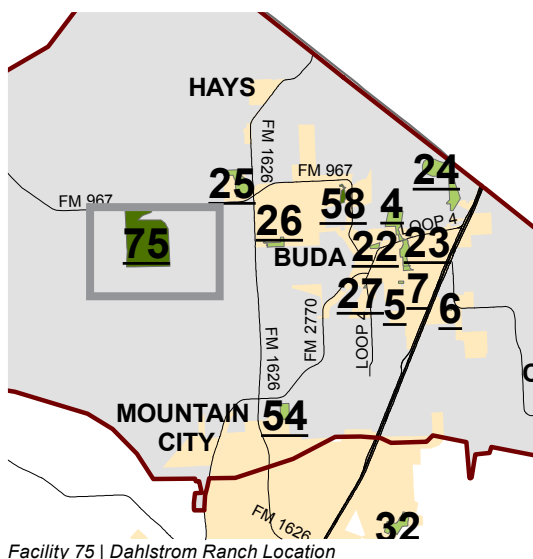
Jacob's Well



Facility 73 & 74 | Jacob's Well Location

Dahlstrom Ranch Public Access

The Dahlstrom Ranch Public Access project is a partnership between a private landowner, the County, a federal agency, a non-profit conservation organization and the City of Austin. It utilizes a conservation easement to protect water resources and natural resources and character and to conserve a working ranch. Through an agreement with the landowner, the County will lease part of the total conservation easement area to provide public access to a 384-acre portion of the property for education and nature programs.



Local Plans and Parks

Inventory Conclusions

Hays County includes multiple cities and their respective parks departments or divisions. The goal for County park and open space planning is not to overlap City efforts, but instead to complement their work. Various cities’ park and open space planning documents were compared in order to identify any overlap in goals, needs and inventory of parks and open space in the County.

Hays County has 1,225 acres of park land and 3,083 acres of open space. Local jurisdictions are responsible for 1,151 acres of park land and 1,466 acres of open space. The majority (72%) of park land in the County is made up of local facilities such as neighborhood and community parks. Only eight facilities include multi-purpose parks and sports complexes.

In all of the cities’ plans, preserving open space was a goal for the park and open space system. Other common goals and priorities include developing diverse recreational opportunities, working with neighbors or overlapping jurisdictions to expand the park network, connecting a system of parks and marketing parks to locals and tourists.

The County has a relatively small parks system with only six facilities, but includes a diversity of park types from natural areas to recreation facilities.

A full inventory can be found in Appendix C: Inventory.

All of the cities’ plans included some form of public outreach to determine the needs of the community, yet only one of the plans completed a resource-based analysis.

In addition, the County has requirements under subdivision regulations regarding park land dedication that establishes standards for the dedication of park land for new subdivisions developed outside the cities. This policy requires 1 acre of park land per 50 acres of development, with some exceptions. A fee-in-lieu of dedicated park land/open space may also be paid, to be utilized by the County for acquisition, development, rehabilitation or improvement of parkland and open space.

4

ASSESSMENT



This study uses several different approaches to identify the needs of park and open space facilities in the County. An assessment and analysis of existing conditions was conducted, resident's desires for additional resources were compiled and opportunities for future projects were identified. The needs assessment used in this plan included four categories:

- Standards-Based
- Demand-Based
- Resource-Based
- Fiscal-Based

The first three methods are commonly accepted in park planning practices and are utilized throughout the nation. The fourth method is a way to address the economics of parks and potential revenue generation to offset operational costs, along with benefits to other economic sectors of the community.

Each assessment resulted in recommendations on potential projects and strategies that could be implemented in Hays County to meet their goals and objectives. These assessments were the basis for the list of County priorities. Diagrams explaining the process of each assessment can be found in Appendix D: Assessment.

Standards-Based Assessment

The standards-based assessment uses commonly agreed upon standards to compare Hays County parks and open space facilities to the national recommended averages. Historically in parks and recreation administration, analysis has been completed using population or "capacity" ratios known as the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Standards. The NRPA standards were developed in the 1980s and revised in 1990 as a method for calculating the number of park and recreation facilities a community should have based on providing X number of acres or X number of facilities per 1,000 population.

These standards were intended to help define the needs based on a national level, although it is recognized that they must be adjusted for the needs and desires of each community. Different geographic areas of the country have varying user groups, trends, interests, etc. In many cases, the individual community needs are different from those of the historically-referenced population ratios.

Although these ratios have been used over the last 30 years in parks and recreation planning, most park and recreation professionals now consider the standards methodology obsolete because they do not include newer types of recreation. Some of the types of parks amenities in Hays County, such as recreation centers, disc golf courses, dog parks, skate parks, playscapes, community gardens, picnic areas, nature centers and fishing docks, are not listed in the NRPA standards. Also not included are standards for open space or passive recreation activities.

Process

The NRPA capacity ratios can provide a snapshot over time but are limited to specific components and are shown here primarily for reference only.

This report uses population numbers based on the 2010 US Census data and projections. Park amenity and facility information used to calculate comparison to the NRPA Standards for Hays County was based on the inventory and available data at the time this report was compiled. Deficiency estimates are based primarily on those numbers. An inventory of school and private facilities was not conducted as part of this study and may adjust these deficiencies, specifically organized sports facilities such as football. A full table of the NRPA Standards comparison can be found in Appendix D: Assessment.

Results and Recommendations

Based on the current population, the existing level of service indicates that Hays County is deficient in the following categories:

- Overall Park Acreage
- Trails
- Swimming Pools
- Baseball Fields
- Softball Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Volleyball Courts
- Tennis Courts
- Track
- Shooting Sports

In addition, the County would also be deficient in football fields in 2020, based on the projected growth of Hays County to a population of 271,388. School facilities were not factored into the inventory or projections. Many have football fields.

Based on the standards assessment, priority projects in Hays County should focus on:

- Increasing the total acres of parks in the parks and open space system
- Increasing the number and length of trails in the park and open space system
- Locating active recreation facilities in areas of denser population

Demand-Based Assessment

The demand-based assessment relies on identifying those types of facilities and amenities that people desire to have available. Demand is dependant not only on the opinions and desires of the participants, but also on evaluating the overall facilities in the County and comparing those to the demographics of the local population.

Process

The interest of residents in specific activities was taken from an online poll as well as community input during meetings. Although not considered statistically valid, these

polls provide good information concerning general trends and desires of the community. This information is used to inform the direction of park and open space planning specific to the local needs. Participants were asked to rate the importance and significance of recreational activities from not at all important to very important. Responses for each activity were then plotted on a chart. Activities that have high importance and low satisfaction indicate an unmet need and could become future priorities for County or City parks and open space projects. Activities that have a high importance and high satisfaction could be maintenance projects that cities and counties should continue to address as the County population increases. Details from this process can be found in Appendix D: Objective Assessment.

Results and Recommendations

Based on the demand-based analysis, Hays County has many active recreation facilities located in urban areas. Many of these are connected through small trail systems. There is currently a deficiency in overall park and open space acres for the County; this is especially true for larger multi purpose parks that have both passive and active facilities.

Based on the demand assessment, priority projects in Hays County should focus on:

- Creating larger-sized facilities with both passive and active recreation
- Providing river or creek access
- Providing multi-use trails that allow for biking, hiking and connecting parks where appropriate
- Promoting the addition of camping and youth outdoor facilities
- Providing educational opportunities on general nature enjoyment and sports activities when possible

Resource-Based Assessment

Hays County has diverse ecological regions and environmentally sensitive landscapes. The resource-based analysis looked at varying land sensitivity in Hays County. When possible, the purchase of these lands from willing land owners can allow the County to provide additional conservation to these lands and allow the public to enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of Hays County.

Process

This resource analysis used Geographic Information System (GIS) information to map the various land conditions related to the environmental goals for the *Hays County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan*. The resources mapped are existing conditions in Hays County. Each map identifies a percentage of the County that has the sensitive land feature and a baseline condition of the percentage of the sensitive land feature that is currently protected by parks or open space in Hays County. Details from this process can be found in Appendix D: Assessment.

Results and Recommendations

According to the resource-based analysis, water issues are a large concern for Hays County. Efforts need to be taken to protect and enhance water quality and quantity throughout the County. Great opportunities exist for protection and enhancement through the parks and open space system.

In addition, there is support to protect the natural beauty and ecosystem services the County has to offer. These range from scenic corridors, erosion protection, tree-canopy enhancement and protection, and general natural-area protection.

Based on the resource assessment, priority projects in Hays County should focus on:

- Providing river or creek access and restoration
- Conserving land that provides opportunities for ground-water recharge and surface-water protection
- Protecting scenic corridors along rivers, roads and ridgetops that allow for views to general open space lands
- Creating Park Stewardship Plans for County facilities: removing invasive species, repairing unstable soil conditions, and practicing land management and programs to better the environmental conditions at County park or open space.

Fiscal-Based Assessment

Although not a commonly employed method of assessment, Hays County also completed a fiscal-based assessment in order to identify opportunities for funding partnership and development of their parks and open space. This assessment focused on implementation opportunities used in the past and ones that could potentially be furthered moving forward.

Process

The fiscal analysis looked at potential funding opportunities in the County related to the parks and open space activities existing and potentially occurring throughout the County.

As a current tourism destination, Hays County already has opportunities for economic development and revenue-generation through sales tax. The fiscal analysis reviewed existing tourism and potential tourism based upon recreational facilities and scenic resources in the County. Details from this process can be found in Appendix D: Objective Assessment.

Results and Recommendations

Based on this analysis, projects for the County should build upon already existing partnerships and development of new

partnerships for future park and open space development.

In Hays County, there are significant sports tourism events currently held and natural amenities exist that could be further enhanced.

Based on the financial assessment, priority projects in Hays County should focus on:

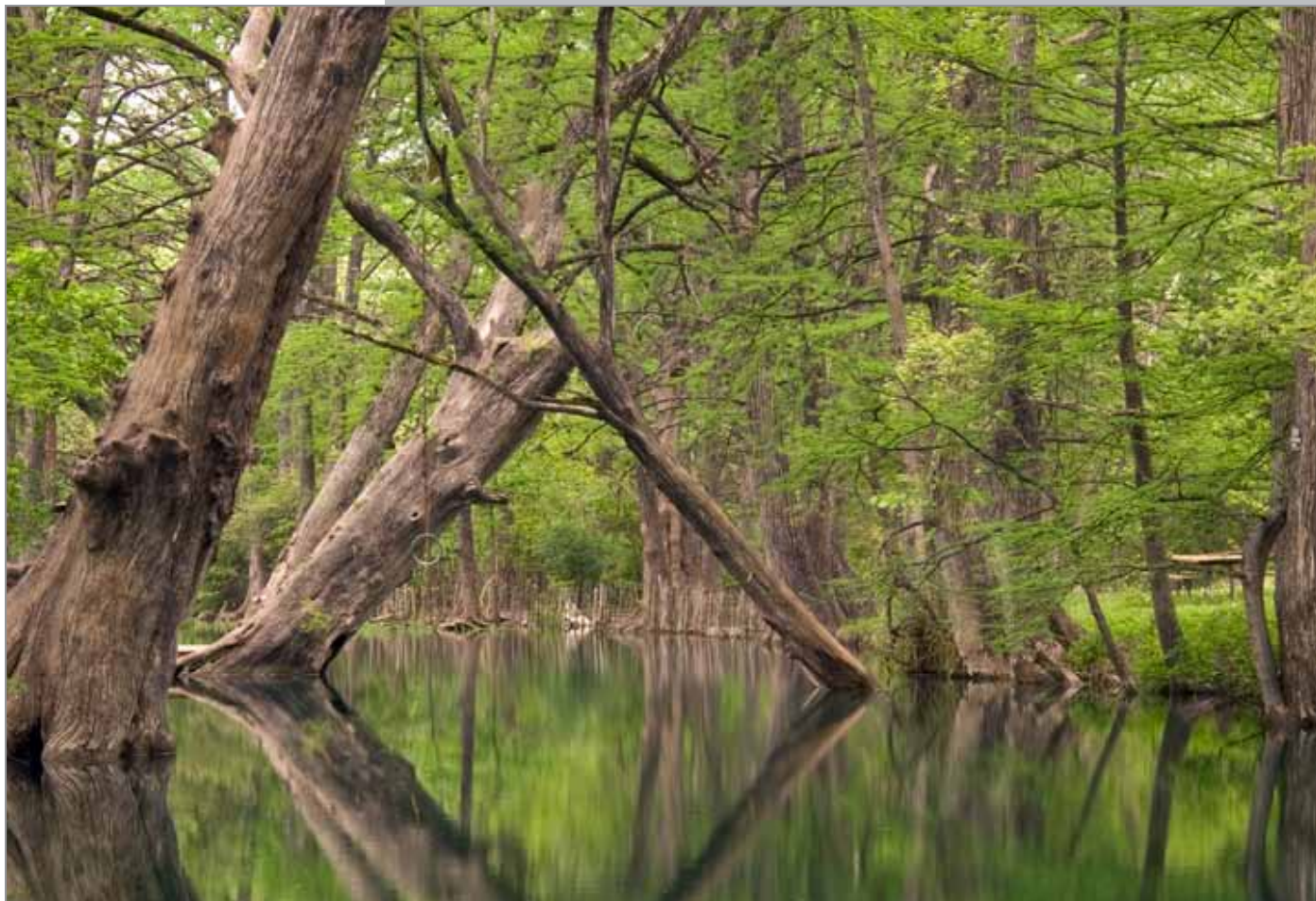
- Diversifying tourism opportunities beyond sports to potentially include nature tourism, festivals or special events and educational events
- Building upon existing and new funding opportunities and partnerships to grow the parks and open space network.

Needs Assessment Conclusions

Through the four assessments, some themes came up in multiple categories. These common elements were recognized as having the potential to meet many of the goals for the County and should therefore be considered a priority for the County to incorporate into future projects. The priorities for the County were based upon the following re-occurring themes:

- Need for a larger-sized, regional facility
- Need for increased trail access
- Need for activities and facilities that provide opportunities to passively enjoy the scenic and natural beauty of Hays County
- Need for river or creek access and restoration
- Need for outdoor education opportunities through public access

PROJECT PRIORITIES



PROJECT PRIORITIES

Through the planning effort, a number of activities were identified by the various participants that would serve to enhance and further develop those amenities important to Hays County residents in the parks and open space system. These ranged from those elements considered somewhat “passive” in character, such as trails and nature based opportunities, to active sports venues and special purpose facilities. The re-occurring themes from the assessment and analysis phase placed emphasis on passive opportunities to enjoy the scenic qualities of Hays County through trails, river access and educational opportunities in large, regional-sized parks and open space facilities.

The focus for the County is to encompass many of the priority needs into one large facility that offers diverse activities to serve a large population. The ideal property would combine qualities of both park and open space by having scenic values and corridors, river or creek access and aquifer recharge opportunities while allowing more active uses for portions of the property. The ideal property would combine qualities of both park and open space by having scenic corridors, river or creek access, aquifer re-charge opportunities and road access in some portions for more active uses.

In support of the vision for parks and open space in Hays County, priorities support opportunities for citizens to enjoy special features, such as river and creek access, to conserve valuable resources, such as general nature enjoyment and rivers and creeks and to provide a variety of recreation opportunities in the County through active recreation and passive trails and camping. The following projects are listed in order of priority.



1. River and Creek Access

Increased public access to rivers will provide recreational opportunities such as swimming, floating, kayaking and fishing. Special attention and education needs to be given to users in order to minimize the environmental impact on the river and any conflicts with river-side private landowners.



2. Multi-Use Trails

New trails will offer hiking and biking opportunities and can be designed as part of the City-developed system for local connectivity and part of the larger system for increased regional connectivity.



3. Camping

Increasing the number of designated campgrounds will allow for a diversity of overnight getaway locations as well as provide new park space for day users.



4. Youth Camping Facilities

This type of facility offers a venue for educational activities and scout-type camps. The multi-purpose site would have other facilities and spaces that are accessible to all users.



5. General Nature Enjoyment Lands

Natural areas provide wildlife viewing, water resource protection and general nature enjoyment.



6. Nature Center

A nature center will showcase the unique ecology of the Hill Country while providing educational opportunities for students and local residents. These can include elements for education, nature enjoyment and classroom opportunities while showcasing best management practices for environmental restoration and conservation.



7. Festivals and Special Event Spaces

These facilities offer a venue for public events and community activities. They can be varied in scale and range from large amphitheaters to smaller outdoor classroom spaces.



8. Recreation Center and Sports Complex

This space will serve as a location for a large-amount of active recreation in a concentrated space. This can include both indoor and outdoor facilities that provide a range of facilities, activities and classes for the public.



9. Shooting Sports Complex

This project will offer firearm enthusiasts the opportunity to engage in a wide range of shooting activities as well as provide education on firearm safety.



10. Community Gardens

These gardens create productive social spaces that can bring the community together and produce local fresh food.

Priority Project details can be found in Appendix E: Priority Project Descriptions.

Planning Areas

Due to the diversity of both County terrain and resident desires, priority/preference lists were developed for specific regions of the County called Planning Areas. Planning Areas were defined based on zip codes (that include the community and adjacent areas). Priorities/Preferences for each planning area were based upon area-specific demand analysis, evaluation of resources and opportunities in each planning areas, input from the public, and City parks and open space projects and partnership opportunities, and analysis based upon current satisfaction of facilities and importance of facilities. Further discussion of this analysis can be found in Appendix F: Planning Area Priorities/ Preferences.

When cities indicated certain projects were priorities/preferences, the County did not indicate that project type would be a priority/preference for this study in order to reduce duplication of efforts.

Additional information on planning area priorities/preferences can be found in Appendix F: Planning Area Priorities/ Preferences.

Buda Planning Area

The Buda Area responses indicates preference for more active recreation and community facilities. As in all planning areas, trails and river and creek access were high priorities/preferences. The Buda Area had some satisfaction with active recreation activities but dissatisfaction with passive activities. The City of Buda's location allows for more direct connections to the highway and opportunities for more active recreation partnership. The following are priorities/preferences for the Buda Planning Area:

1. River and Creek Access
2. Multi-Use Trails
3. Community Gardens
4. Recreation Center and Sports Complex
5. Shooting Sports Complex

PROJECT PRIORITIES

Driftwood Planning Area

The demand assessment for the Driftwood area indicates the desire for mostly passive recreation and outdoor activities. There was an emphasis on youth in the Driftwood area with education opportunities and youth camping and outdoor facilities, as there is a dissatisfaction with existing passive activity opportunities. As in all planning areas, trails and river and creek access were high priorities/preferences. The Driftwood Area indicated low importance of active recreation. The location of the Driftwood area away from major highways but connected with developed Farm-to-Market Roads, provides many opportunities for open space and passive activities for larger groups. Due to these factors, the following are priorities/preferences for the Driftwood Planning Area:

1. River and Creek Access
2. Multi-Use Trails
3. General Nature Enjoyment Lands
4. Nature Center
5. Youth Camping Facilities

Dripping Springs Planning Area

Preferences for Dripping Springs area were for mostly passive recreation and outdoor activities. There was a strong emphasis in the Dripping Springs area on education opportunities and passive activities. As in all planning areas, trails and river and creek access were high priorities/preferences. The location of the Dripping Springs area along a major highway but in the Hill Country, provides many opportunities for open space and passive activities for that require more access. Due to these factors, the following are priorities/preferences for the Dripping Springs Planning Area:

1. Multi-Use Trails
2. General Nature Enjoyment Lands
3. River and Creek Access
4. Nature Center
5. Community Gardens

Kyle Planning Area

The demand assessment for the Kyle area indicates the desire for community spaces and passive recreation activities. There was a strong emphasis in the Kyle area on the importance of community facilities but also general satisfaction with them. There was overall dissatisfaction with existing passive activities in the area. As in all planning areas, trails and river and creek access were high priorities/preferences. The Kyle area's location along a major highway provides opportunities larger gathering facilities that require access and nearby amenities to support them. Due to these factors, the following are priorities/preferences for the Kyle Planning Area:

1. Multi-Use Trails
2. River and Creek Access
3. Camping
4. Recreation Center and Sports Complex
5. Festivals and Special Event Spaces

San Marcos Planning Area

The San Marcos area demand assessment indicates the desire for cultural and special use spaces and passive recreation activities. Overall, the residents of San Marcos were satisfied with the existing facilities and activities available to them, but there was also overall dissatisfaction with existing camping facilities. As in all planning areas, trails and river and creek access were high priorities/preferences. The location of the San Marcos area along a major highway and the San Marcos River provides opportunities for focused larger activities that provide passive outdoor recreation easily accessible to a larger population. Due to these factors, the following are priorities/ preferences for the San Marcos Planning Area:

1. Camping
2. Multi-Use Trails
3. River and Creek Access
4. Community Gardens
5. Festivals and Special Event Spaces

Wimberley Planning Area

The Wimberley area preferences indicate mostly passive recreation and outdoor activities. There was a strong emphasis in the Wimberley area on general nature enjoyment and education. There was also overall dissatisfaction and lack of desire for active recreation in the area. As in all planning areas, trails and river and creek access were high priorities/preferences. The location of the Wimberley area in the Hill Country provides opportunities for open space and passive activities for that can also provide conservation benefits. Due to these factors, the following are priorities/preferences for the Wimberley Planning Area:

1. River and Creek Access
2. Multi-Use Trails
3. General Nature Enjoyment Lands
4. Nature Center
5. Camping

PROJECT PRIORITIES

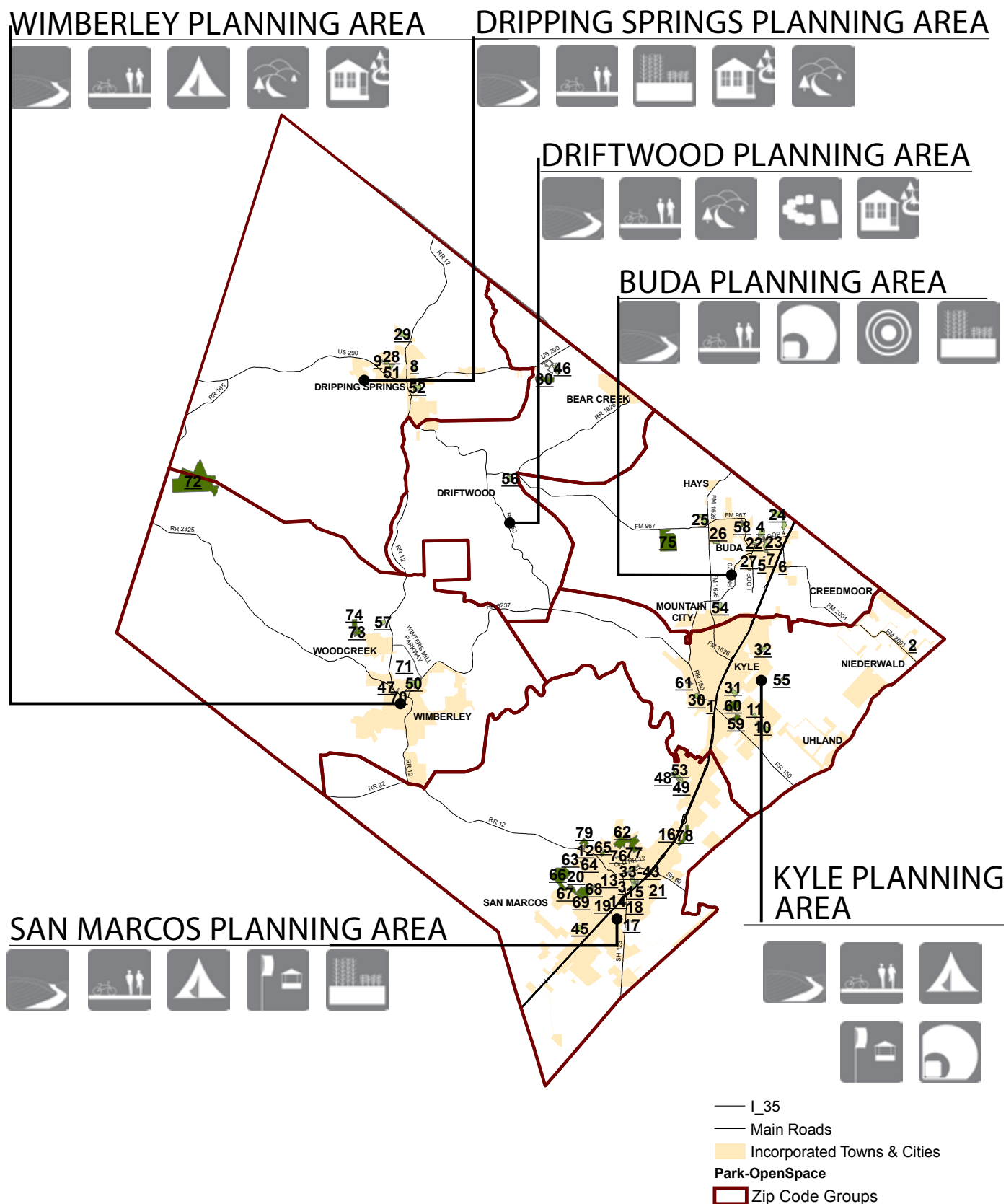


Figure 7: Parks and Open Space Project Master Plan

IMPLEMENTATION



As a regional governmental entity, Hays County has the capacity to organize large planning and implementation efforts. The County can use this to focus on land acquisition for the implementation of projects that meet the County priorities. This is best achieved through partnering with other entities for the capital development and operations and maintenance of the park or open space facilities.

If the appropriate opportunity arises, the County may also participate in capital development and/or operations and maintenance of park or open space facilities.

Implementation Timeline

The County has recently made two major investments for future facilities: the acquisition of Jacob's Well Natural Area and the Dahlstrom Ranch conservation easement. (The County and the Dahlstroms have agreed to negotiate a lease to allow for public access on the property.) These two facilities are currently natural areas where generally more passive recreational activities are being planned. Both of these facilities are potentially larger than most current park and open space opportunities the County has and have multiple natural resources on the properties.

Over the 10 year life-span of this document, the emphasis of the County is developing a large-multipurpose facility that includes multiple activities, including trails, river or creek access and passive recreation. Some of this could be accommodated in either of the recent County acquisitions but further acquisitions of larger acreage should be pursued. The focus of the County should be to partner and work together on moving the development of these facilities forward and identification of additional land for acquisition that can accommodate larger facilities.

Short-Term

Due to the economic situation of the nation and Hays County, limited resources are available for implementation of projects. Therefore the tasks for the County in the immediate future should be on establishing master plans for each park facility and initiating partnerships for capital implementation, fund-raising, and operations and maintenance.

Mid-Term

The mid-time range should include tasks related to designing the park facilities, creating operations and management plans and continued work with partners for funding. Once enough funding is secured, the master plans could be implemented.

Long-Term

Long term, the County should look toward purchasing land for additional large-multipurpose facilities to complement the growing park and open space system in the County.

Partnerships

The County should look to a variety of entities for partnership. In many cases the County will need to partner with a combination of public, private and non-profit agencies in order to implement projects. These partnering entities will be specific to the project being pursued.

The following is a list of potential partners the County could look to for implementation support:

- Municipalities
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Grant
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Trails Grant
- Lower Colorado River Authority Community Development Partnership Grant
- Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization/ Texas Department of Transportation – Bike/Pedestrian Grant

- U.S. Department of the Interior – Fish and Wildlife
- Edward's Aquifer Authority
- Water Control and Improvement District Park Development Fund
- U.S. Soccer Foundation
- McCoy Foundation
- Boy Scouts of America Troops
- Donations through Trust for Public Land
- Friends of the Blue Hole
- Burdine Johnson Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- HEB Foundation
- Rachael and Ben Vaughn Foundation
- Raymond Dickson Foundation
- Dripping Springs Rotary Group - Fund-raising
- San Marcos Soccer Association
- Dripping Springs Soccer Association
- North Hays Optimist Club (in-kind match)
- Buda Economic Development Corporation Contributions
- Community Donations (banks, businesses, individuals)
- Meadows Foundation

Partnership Criteria

A partnership is a cooperative venture between two or more parties with a common goal, who combine complementary resources to establish a mutual direction or complete a mutually beneficial project. Partnerships should enhance public offerings to meet the mission and goals of the *Hays County and the Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan*.

In order for partnerships to be successful, the following elements should be in place:

- Support for the project at the highest level of organization
- Establishment of a partnership policy with clear parameters and selection criteria for proposed partnerships
- Identification of priorities and multiple points for go/ no-go decisions on the project
- Creation of a public process for review of partnership creation.

Partnerships can take many forms. These include cash gift and donor programs, improved access to alternative funding, property investments, charitable trust funds, labor, materials, equipment, sponsorships, technical skills and/or management skills, and other forms of value such as volunteering.

Partner members can also take various roles in decision making. Active partnerships include management agreements, program partnerships, facility leases, intergovernmental agreements and marketing partnerships. Limited decision-making partnerships include grant programs, donor programs and volunteer programs.

Partnership Agreements

Detailed agreements between partners should outline specific roles and responsibilities of each partner. Partnership agreements could take the following forms:

- Lease Agreements
- Management and/or Operating Agreements
- Maintenance Agreements
- Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs)
- Combination of these and/or other appropriate agreements

Partnership agreements should ensure that the mission and goals of the partnership are compatible with the goals and objectives for the *Hays County Park, Open Space and Natural Area Master Plan*. At a minimum, the partnership proposal and agreements should include:

- Description of Proposing Organization
- Decision-making Authority
- Summary of Proposal
- Benefits to the Partnering Organization
- Benefits to the County
- Details regarding meeting the needs of the community, financing, logistics, agreements and evaluations

Funding sources

Funding can come from a variety of sources. Potential funding sources are listed below and are ranked according to their appropriateness for Hays County. Current funding sources include partnerships, fees, grant awards, private donations and voter-approved park bonds. Other funding sources that could be easily incorporated include foundation grants. Longer term options for funding would require additional planning, approvals and partnerships include agency grants, additional bonds, corporate or private marketing or sponsorship and fees. Full descriptions of the existing and potential funding sources that have been classified by the County for appropriateness for pursuing for park and open space projects are below.

1. Current Funding Sources

These funding sources are currently being used by the Hays County Parks Department to create the existing budgets for capital and operational expenditures.

Partnerships

Partnerships are joint development funding sources or operational funding sources between two separate agencies, such as two government entities, a non-profit and the County, or a private business and the County. Two partners jointly develop potential revenue-producing park and recreation facilities and share risk, operational costs, responsibilities and asset management based on the strengths and weaknesses of each partner.

Dedication/Development Fees

These fees are assessed for the development of residential and/or commercial properties with the proceeds to be used for parks and recreation purposes, such as open space acquisition, community park site development, neighborhood parks development, regional parks development, etc.

Texas Parks and Recreation Account

These funds are awarded for acquisition and development of parks, recreation and supporting facilities through the State Park System.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

These funds are awarded for acquisition and development of parks, recreation and supporting facilities through the National Park Service and State Park System.

Inter-local Agreements

Contractual relationships entered into between two or more local units of government and/or between a local unit of government and a non-profit organization for the joint usage/development of sports fields, regional parks or other facilities.

Friends Associations

These groups are formed to raise money typically for a single focus purpose that could include a park facility or program that will better the community as a whole and their special interest.

2. Easily Incorporated Funding Source

These funding sources are relatively easy for the Hays County Parks Department to create the existing budgets for capital and operational expenditures. These would be used to attempt to fund the Master Plan and Projects currently being developed.

Foundation/Gifts

These dollars are raised from tax-exempt, non-profit organizations established with private donations in promotion of specific causes, activities or issues. They offer a variety of means to fund capital projects, including capital campaigns, gifts catalogs, fundraisers, endowments, sales of items, etc.

Grants

A variety of special grants either currently exist through the Federal and State governmental systems or will be established through the life of current and proposed facilities.

3. Potential Long-Range Funding Sources

These are potential funding opportunities the Hays County Parks Department could consider. These would be used for long-range projects and plans.

Inter-modal Transportation and Efficiency Act

This funding program, commonly called TEA-21 Grants was authorized by the Federal Government in 1991. Funds are distributed through the state. There are several million dollars in enhancement revenues available for transportation related projects, including bicycle and pedestrian trails, rail depot rehabilitation, landscaping and beautification projects.

General Obligation Bonds

Bonded indebtedness issued with the approval of the electorate for capital improvements and general public improvements.

Volunteerism

This is an indirect revenue source in that persons donate time to assist the department in providing a product or service on an hourly basis, such as trail clean ups, forest management, etc. This reduces the County's cost in providing the service plus it builds advocacy into the system.

Security and Clean-Up Fees

Counties will charge groups and individuals security and clean-up fees for special events and other types of events held in parks.

4. Potential Partnership Agreement Funding Sources

These are potential funding opportunities the Hays County Parks Department could consider. These funding sources may not be available currently in the state or an intergovernmental agreement may be necessary for implementation. These funding sources may meet with some resistance and be more difficult to implement.

Corporate Sponsorships

This revenue-funding source allows corporations to invest in the development or enhancement of new or existing facilities in park systems. Sponsorships are also highly used for programs and events.

Naming Rights

Many counties have turned to selling the naming rights for new buildings or renovation of existing buildings and parks for the development cost associated with the improvement.

Private Developers

These developers lease space from County-owned land through a subordinate lease that pays out a set dollar amount plus a percentage of gross dollars for recreation enhancements. These could include a golf course, marina, restaurants, driving ranges, sports complexes, equestrian facilities and recreation centers, and ice arenas.

Irrevocable Remainder Trusts

These trusts are set up with individuals who typically have more than \$1 million in wealth. They will leave a portion of their wealth to the County in a trust fund that allows the fund to grow over a period of time and then is available for the County to use a portion of the interest to support specific park and recreation facilities or programs that are designated by the trustee.

Life Estates

This source of money is available when someone wants to leave their property to the County in exchange for them to live on

their property until their death. The County usually can use a portion of the property for park purposes and then all of it after the person's death. This revenue source is very popular for very wealthy individuals whose estates will be highly taxed at their death and whose children will have to sell their property because of probate costs. This allows the person to receive a good tax deduction yearly on their property while leaving a life estate. The County benefits because they do not have to pay for the land.

Permits (Special-Use Permits)

These special permits allow individuals to use specific park property for financial gain. The County either receives a set amount of money or a percentage of the gross service that is being provided.

Reservations

This revenue source comes from the right to reserve specific public property for a set amount of time. The reservation rates are usually set and apply to group picnic shelters, meeting rooms for weddings, reunions and outings or other type of facilities for a special activity.

Special Fundraisers

Many park and recreation agencies have special fundraisers on an annual basis to help cover specific programs and capital projects.

Manufacturing Product Testing and Display

This is where the County works with specific manufacturers to test its products in parks, recreation facilities and program services. The County tests the product under normal conditions and reports back to the manufacturer how its product is doing. Examples are in lighting, playground equipment, vehicle tires, mowers, irrigation systems, seed and fertilizers, etc. The County gets the product for free but must pay for the costs of installation and tracking results.

Recycling Centers

Some counties operate recycling centers for wood, mulch and glass as profit centers for their park systems.

Plan Conclusion

This plan represents the opinion, desires and needs for Hays County for a specific period of time in 2011. Invariably, the needs and desires of the community will change over time and should be reassessed regularly. Public input should be pursued through multiple means during implementation of project priorities.

This plan will need to be updated again in 5 years to be current with TPWD guidelines. At regular intervals between plan adoption and then, the County should assess how well the plan is being implemented and consider where to focus resources for upcoming years. This regular monitoring of plan implementation will assist in the information needed for the TWPD 5-year update.

APPENDIX

HAYS COUNTY PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN *April 2012*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPENDIX A

PROCESS AND HISTORY

History of Parks and Open Space in Hays County	A-3
Local Plan and Policy Document Comparison	A-5
Demographic Data	A-6
Process Diagram	A-9
Resolution of the Hays County Commissioners Court	A-11

APPENDIX B

PUBLIC INPUT

Public Meeting Notice	B-2
Community Kick-Off: Meeting Record	B-3
Stakeholder Meetings: Meeting Summaries	B-5
Open House April 20, 2011: Meeting Record	B-7
Open House April 21, 2011: Meeting Record	B-9
Conceptual Blueprint: Meeting Record	B-11
Draft Plan: Meeting Record	B-13
Polling Distribution and Process	B-15
Polling Results Summary	B-16
Polling Results Summary	B-17
Public Meeting Polling Results Community Kick-Off	B-18
Public Meeting Polling Results Open House 4-20-11	B-34
Public Meeting Polling Results Open House 4-21-11	B-44
Online Polling Results	B-54

APPENDIX C

INVENTORY

Inventory Map	C-3
Inventory	C-5

APPENDIX D

ASSESSMENT

NRPA Standards Comparison	D-4
Objectives and Measures of Success	D-5
Objective 1.1: Ample Park and Open Space	D-6
Objective 1.2: Diversity of Recreation	D-8
Objective 1.3: Connect Park and Open Space	D-10
Objective 2.1: Water Quality and Quantity	D-12
Objective 2.1 Water Quality and Quantity	D-14
Objective 2.2: Natural Resources	D-16
Objective 2.2: Natural Resources	D-18
Objective 2.3: Scenic Qualities	D-20
Objective 3.1: Funding Mechanisms	D-22
Objective 3.2: Tourism	D-23

APPENDIX E

PRIORITY PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. River and Creek Access E-3

2. Multi-Use Trails. E-4

3. Camping E-5

4. Youth Camping Facilities E-6

5. General Nature Enjoyment Lands E-7

6. Nature Center. E-8

7. Festivals and Special Event Spaces E-9

8. Recreation Center and Sports Complex E-10

9. Shooting Sports Complex. E-11

10. Community Gardens E-12

APPENDIX F

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

Buda Planning Area F-4

Driftwood Planning Area. F-6

Dripping Springs Planning Area F-8

Kyle Planning Area F-10

San Marcos Planning Area. F-12

Wimberley Planning Area. F-14

FIGURES LIST

Figure 1: History of Parks and Open Space in Hays County	A-3
Figure 2: Age	A-6
Figure 3: Race	A-6
Figure 4: Population Growth Pattern	A-7
Figure 5: Process Diagram	A-9
Figure 6: Community Kick Off Meeting Agenda	B-3
Figure 7: Parks and Open Space Inventory Map	C-3
Figure 8: Standards Based Analysis Diagram	D-3
Figure 9: Demand Based Analysis Diagram	D-3
Figure 10: Resources Based Analysis Diagram	D-3
Figure 11: Fiscal Based Analysis Diagram	D-3
Figure 12: Overall Analysis Process Diagram	D-3
Figure 13: Park Acreage per 1,000 people	D-6
Figure 14: Amount of Existing Parks	D-6
Figure 15: Willingness to Travel	D-6
Figure 16: Parks and Open Space Categories Map	D-7
Figure 17: Diversity of Existing Parks	D-8
Figure 18: Diversity of Recreational Programs	D-8
Figure 19: Distribution of Recreation Programs	D-9
Figure 20: Trails Map	D-11
Figure 21: Flood Zone Statistics	D-12
Figure 22: Important Qualities for Future Open Space Water Resources	D-12
Figure 23: Surface Water Map	D-13
Figure 24: Aquifer Zone Statistics	D-14
Figure 25: Aquifer Zones Map	D-15
Figure 26: Tree Canopy Statistics	D-16
Figure 27: Tree Canopy Map	D-17
Figure 28: Potential Erodable Soils Statistics	D-18
Figure 29: Potential Erosion Map	D-19
Figure 30: Important Qualities for Future Open Space Water Resources	D-20
Figure 31: Scenic Corridors	D-21
Figure 32: Importance of Internally Funded Parks	D-22
Figure 33: Importance of Tourism	D-23
Figure 34: Planning Area Preferences	F-3
Figure 35: Buda Area Map	F-4
Figure 36: Importance and Significance Chart Buda Area Recreation	F-5
Figure 37: Importance and Significance Chart Buda Area Facilities	F-5
Figure 38: Driftwood Area Map	F-6
Figure 39: Importance and Significance Chart Driftwood Area Recreation	F-7
Figure 40: Importance and Significance Chart Driftwood Area Facilities	F-7
Figure 41: Dripping Springs Area Map	F-8
Figure 42: Importance and Significance Chart Dripping Springs Area Recreation	F-9
Figure 43: Importance and Significance Chart Dripping Springs Area Facilities	F-9
Figure 44: Kyle Area Map	F-10
Figure 45: Importance and Significance Chart Kyle Area Recreation	F-11
Figure 46: Importance and Significance Chart Kyle Area Facilities	F-11
Figure 47: San Marcos Area Map	F-12
Figure 48: Importance and Significance Chart San Marcos Area Recreation	F-13
Figure 49: Importance and Significance Chart San Marcos Area Facilities	F-13
Figure 50: Wimberley Area Map	F-14
Figure 51: Importance and Significance Chart Wimberley Area Recreation	F-15
Figure 52: Importance and Significance Chart Wimberley Area Facilities	F-15

TABLES LIST

Table 1: Local Plans and Policy Document Comparison	A-5
Table 2: Hays County Population	A-6
Table 3: Parks and Open Space Inventory	C-5
Table 4: Parks and Open Space National Standards Level of Service	D-4
Table 5: River and Creek Access Project Cost	E-3
Table 6: Multi-Use Trails Project Cost	E-4
Table 7: Camping Project Cost	E-5
Table 8: Youth Camping Facilities Project Cost	E-6
Table 9: General Nature Enjoyment Lands Project Cost	E-7
Table 10: Nature Center Project Cost	E-8
Table 11: Festival and Special Event Space Project Cost	E-9
Table 12: Recreation Center and Sports Complex Project Cost	E-10
Table 13: Shooting Sports Complex Project Cost	E-11
Table 14: Community Gardens Project Cost	E-12

APPENDIX A

Process and History

History of Parks and Open Space in Hays County	A-3
Local Plan and Policy Document Comparison	A-5
Demographic Data	A-6
Process Diagram.	A-9
Resolution of the Hays County Commissioners Court	A-11

History of Parks and Open Space in Hays County

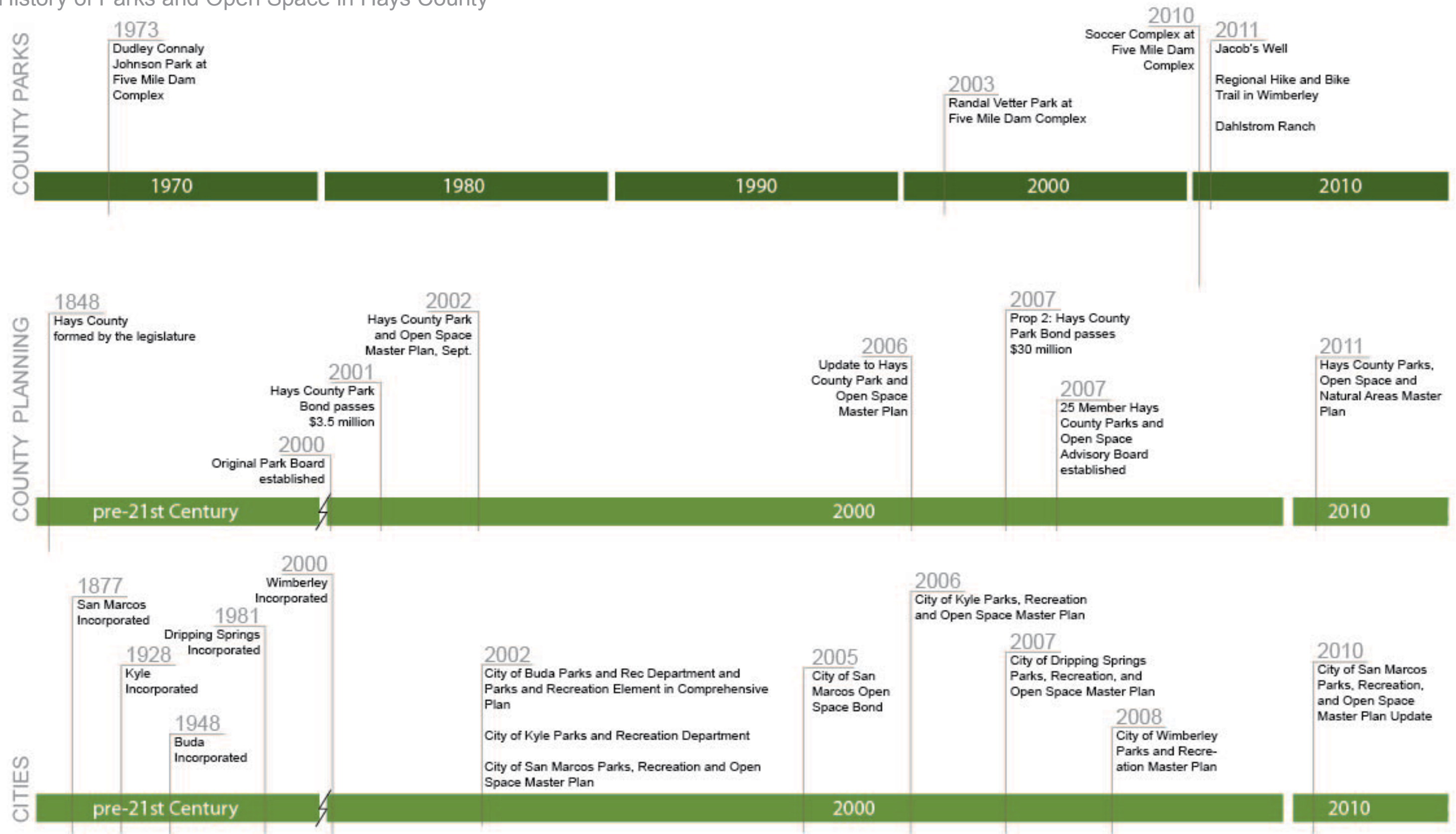


Figure 1: History of Parks and Open Space in Hays County

Local Plan and Policy Document Comparison

Table 1: Local Plans and Policy Document Comparison

	GOALS											PARK INVENTORY		ASSESSMENTS USED		
	Connected system of parks	Maintain/ create high quality of parks	Market parks to locals and tourists	Preserve open space	Develop diverse recreational opportunities for use by all citizens	Strategically place parks (geographically or commercially)	Encourage private land owners to create parks in new developments	Work with neighboring &/or overlapping jurisdictions to expand park network	Develop sustainable funding sources	Keep costs under control	Ensure park safety	Yes	No	Community - Based	Standards - Based	Resource - Based
Buda Comprehensive Plan	X	X		X	X		X	X				X		X	X	X
Dripping Springs Park Master Plan	X		X	X	X	X ('97 comp plan)		X				X		X	X	
Hays County Parks Master Plan	X		X	X	X			X		X	X	X		X		
Kyle Parks Master Plan	X	X		X		X		X	X				X	X		
San Marcos Parks Plan	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X		X	X	
Wimberley Parks Master Plan			X	X	X	X	X					X		X	X	

PROCESS AND HISTORY

Demographic Data

Table 2: Hays County Population

CENSUS YEAR	POPULATION
1990	66,614
2000	97,589
2010	157,107
2015 (proj.)	215,670
2020 (proj.)	271,388
2025 (proj.)	335,014

The Hays County projections were calculated in 2008 by the Texas State Data Center, but are using 2000 census data. They have not released the 2010 census data based projections yet.

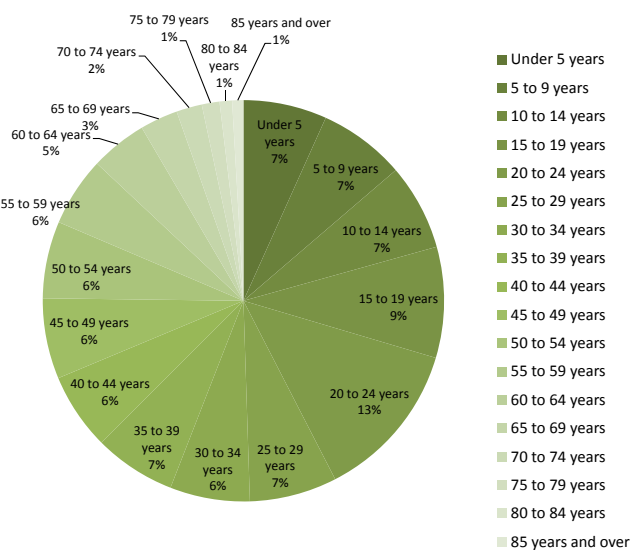


Figure 2: Age

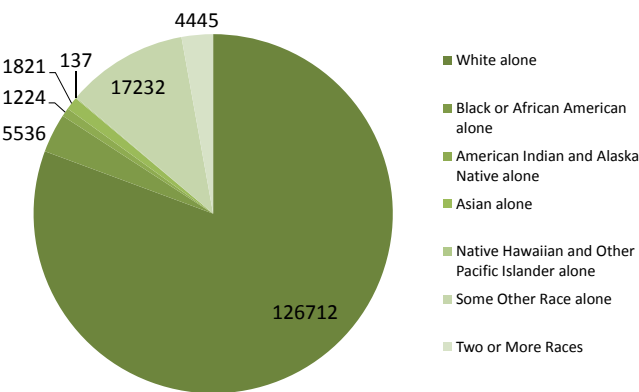
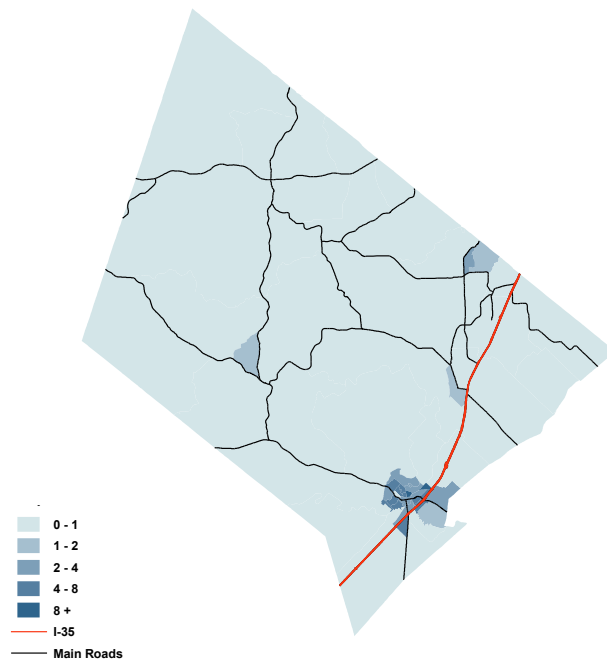


Figure 3: Race

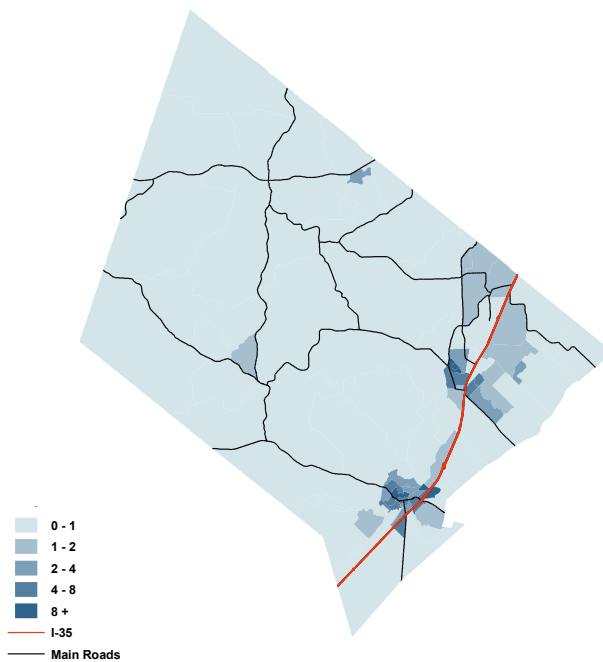
Figure 4: Population Growth Pattern



2000 Census: People/Acre

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN FOR HAYS COUNTY

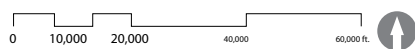
Data Sources: CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, US Census, TXDOT



2010 Census: People/Acre

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN FOR HAYS COUNTY

Data Sources: CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, US Census, TXDOT



PROCESS AND HISTORY

Process Diagram

VISION AND ROLE FOR THE COUNTY'S PARK, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE COUNTY'S PARK, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN

ASSESSMENTS, ANALYSIS, AND PROJECTS BASED UPON THE GOALS AND METRICS FOR THE PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN

PRIORITY PROJECTS AND PLANNING AREAS

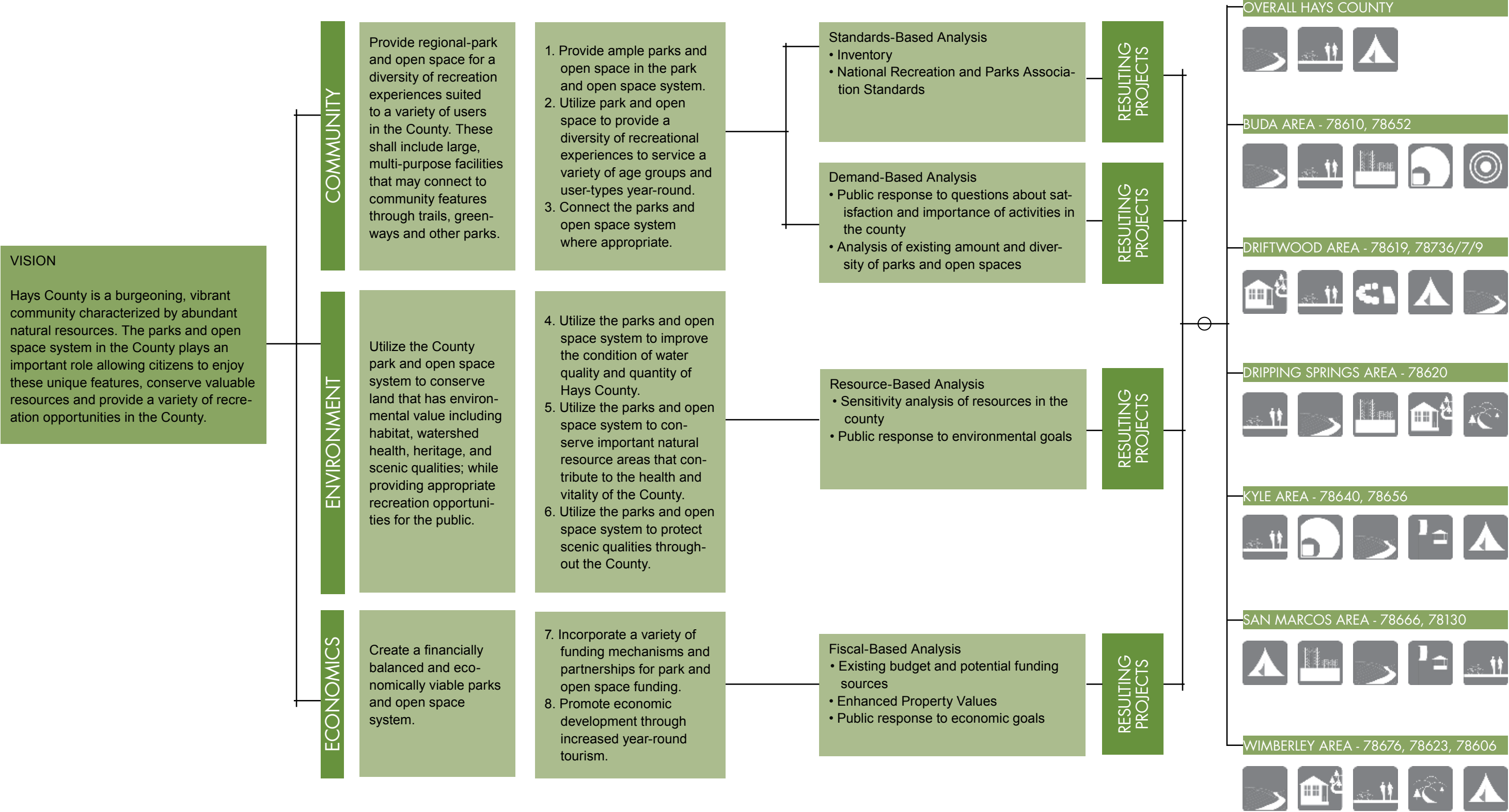


Figure 5: Process Diagram

Resolution of the Hays County Commissioners Court

**RESOLUTION OF THE HAYS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF HAYS §

WHEREAS, Hays County is developing a county wide parks plan for recreational and conservation benefit to Hays County citizens; and

WHEREAS, Hays County believes this plan will be used as a guide on where and how we invest tax dollars in the future in regards to parks and conservation; and

WHEREAS, Hays County believes this an important plan and that Hays County should be involved in parks planning; and

WHEREAS, Hays County believes private property rights are fundamental to freedom and are protected by federal and state constitutions for every American; and

WHEREAS, Hays County would like to further express our belief and policies in protecting private property rights for Hays County citizens in order to further protect citizens' private property rights;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

- Hays County will put a statement in the county parks plan that clearly communicates a strong belief in protecting private property rights;
- Hays County will never use a parks plan or any other authority regarding parks and conservation to forcefully take a land owners property for these uses; and
- Hays County will only acquire properties for parks and conservation use with the full consent of the land owner and the county.

RESOLVED by the Commissioners Court of Hays County, Texas this the 19th day of July, 2011.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bert Cobb", is written over a horizontal line.

JUDGE BERT COBB M.D.
 HAYS COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

 A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Liz Q. Gonzalez", is written over a horizontal line.

LIZ Q. GONZALEZ
 COUNTY CLERK



APPENDIX B

Public Input

Public Meeting Notice	B-2
Community Kick-Off: Meeting Record	B-3
Stakeholder Meetings: Meeting Summaries	B-5
Open House April 20, 2011: Meeting Record	B-7
Open House April 21, 2011: Meeting Record	B-9
Conceptual Blueprint: Meeting Record	B-11
Draft Plan: Meeting Record	B-13
Polling Distribution and Process	B-15
Polling Results Summary	B-16
Polling Results Summary	B-17
Public Meeting Polling Results Community Kick-Off.	B-18
Public Meeting Polling Results Open House 4-20-11	B-34
Public Meeting Polling Results Open House 4-21-11	B-44
Online Polling Results	B-54

Public Meeting Notice



COME SHARE YOUR VISION FOR HAYS COUNTY !



The Hays County Parks and Open Space Plan will provide an information base to help guide the decisions made about future parks and open space. Through the process of public participation, the plan aims to reflect the desires of the citizens while taking into account the county's growing population and the potential impact to and opportunities for parks, recreation, open space, and natural areas.

HAYS COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE PLAN

March 31

COMMUNITY KICK OFF

San Marcos Activity Center Rm#1, 6:30-8:30 PM
501 East Hopkins Street, San Marcos

April 20 & 21

VISION SETTING

4/20: Precinct 2 Office, 6:30-8:30 PM
111 North Front Street, Kyle

4/21: Dripping Springs City Hall, 6:30-8:30 PM
511 Mercer Street, Dripping Springs

May 26

CONCEPTUAL BLUEPRINT

Jacob's Well POA Building, 6:30-8:30 PM
119 Wood Acre Drive, Wimberley

June 30

FINAL PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

Hays County Extension Office, 6:30-8:30 PM
1253 Civic Center Loop, San Marcos

CONTACT: Jeff Hauff
jeff.hauff@co.hays.tx.us

www.co.hays.tx.us

Community Kick-Off: Meeting Record

Design Workshop, Inc.
Landscape Architecture
Land Planning
Urban Design
Strategic Services

Meeting Record

To: Jeff Hauf and Jerry Pinnix
From: Rebecca Leonard
Date: April 6, 2011
Project Name: Hays County Parks, Open Space & Natural Areas Master Plan
Project #: 4715
Subject: Summary of Community Kick Off
Meeting Date: March 31, 2011
Start/End: 6:30PM - 8:30PM
Location: San Marcos Activity Center
Copy To: Pat O'Tool and Heather Venhaus

☒ Meeting ☐ Telephone ☐ Conference Call

Following are the minutes of the above referenced meeting. The following people were present:
40 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE MEETING (SEE ATTACHED SIGN IN SHEET)

Items in **bold** print indicate what action is required, who will perform the action and the deadline to complete action.

1. Overall:

- Need to separate the discussion of Parks and Open Space. Different strategies for each. Confusing if discussed together.

2. Presentation Specific:

- Define where rivers fit in.
- Clarify Natural Areas and Fee Simple vs. Conservation Easement
- Recreation should become part of Parks
- Proximity to Parks – The metrics overlap with the city jurisdiction and their parks master plans. Why do county metrics discuss this – because there are fringe areas that still need to have a metric that are not under city jurisdiction? Need a county metric that meets or supplements the city metrics.
- Citizen population not well informed of the diversity or amount of parks throughout Hays County.

Figure 6: Community Kick Off Meeting Agenda

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

- Recreation Programs should include theater/arts and a shooting sports complex.
 - Tourism is more than just environmental. List open space tourism as separate from sports tourism, etc.
 - Need for parks. Habitat should be left for the private property.
 - In plan, need to separate out parks, open space, and natural areas in the inventory.
3. Recreation Prioritization Activity (large wall display):
 - Missing: Shooting Sports, Archery, Bow Hunting, 4H, Equestrian,
 4. Additional Partners:
 - 4H, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, LCRA, Veteran Population
 5. Future Outreach:
 - Post to Community Calendar on the Hays County Website
 - Materials need to be posted on the County Website

Next Meeting

Date: April 20, 2011

Time: 6:30PM

Location: Kyle, TX

END OF NOTES

The record herein is considered to be an accurate depiction of the discussion and/or decisions made during the meeting unless written clarification is received by Design Workshop within five (5) working days upon receipt of this meeting record.

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. PPT Presentation

Stakeholder Meetings: Meeting Summaries

Stakeholder Meetings – March 30 & 31.

Economic Development/ Chamber of Commerce

- Looking to increase tourism and economic growth through sports tournaments. Especially looking for facilities for baseball and water activities.
- Need to increase active recreation opportunities and facilities.
- Priority for linking parks through greenbelts and trails.
- Need to be developing the parks, not just money for dedication.
- Don't develop facilities that take away from private business.

Conservation Groups

- Another bond is possible and should be pursued for continued open space preservation. A poll supports this.
- Need to develop a Hallmark project that shows the possibilities of conservation easements for ecosystem services, riparian protection, recharge zone protection, and park access needs.
- Various projects in county could be pursued.
- Partnerships for grants are available through HCC and Federal resources.

Environmental Groups

- Priorities should be with preserving lands around water resources. Incorporate education and natural opportunities for children.
- Hiking, biking, and trails tied into conservation easement lands and a regional system.
- Concerned with the lack of protection for the head waters of San Marcos River.
- Process of bond spending money was not well thought out, but Jacob's Well was a great investment.
- Focus of the Department should be 25% Parks and Recreation (partnered with the cities), 25% Open Space and Agriculture, 50% Natural Areas with Trails and Environmental Protection.

Organized Sports Clubs

- Shooting Sports needed in area for safe place to shoot, outdoor recreation, and youth education.
- Swim Facility in Wimberley is needed.
- Need clearer definitions of parks, open space and recreation.
- Need clearer definitions of criteria for project funding selections that looks at scoring, wider representation on board, and range of types of projects.

Agencies

- Focus of department should be natural areas, including riparian areas, aquifer recharge and linear parks with trails.

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

- County should manage its own sites and create better geographic distribution.
- River access should be managed through a River Management Plan and Managed put-in and take outs from river.

Realtors/ Homebuilders

- Priorities should go to places where growth is happening. Pressure is on Dripping Springs and currently has poorly maintained and funded active recreation.
- County should give half priorities to active parks and the other half to open space with access. None to conservation with no access.
- Partnerships should focus on O&M responsibilities.
- Parkland dedication ordinances should include private facilities as well.

Ranchers/ Agricultural Interests

- Priority should be on open space and creating protection for plants, water, habitat, and public access.
- Value of parks and open space include family values, educational opportunities, and exercise and health.
- Facilities need to be distributed throughout county based on population density and provide parks with a regional draw.
- River Access needs to be managed to address issues of trash, alcohol consumption, property and livestock conflicts, and environmental impacts.

City Parks Departments

- Previous County Bond money was Absolutely Critical in park improvements and creation.
- Parks should be maintained by the cities since they have the resources in place. All park departments have more acres of park lands then they have staff to maintain.
- Open Space is outside the cities and should be the focus of the County. MUST have access.
- Trails and River access are very popular and could be a focus of county in the future.

Open House April 20, 2011: Meeting Record

Design Workshop, Inc.
Landscape Architecture
Land Planning
Urban Design
Strategic Services

Meeting Record

To: Jeff Hauf and Jerry Pinnix
From: Rebecca Leonard
Date: April 20, 2011
Project Name: Hays County Parks, Open Space & Natural Areas Master Plan
Project #: 4715
Subject: Summary of Community Kick Off
Meeting Date: April 20, 2011
Start/End: 6:30PM - 8:30PM
Location: 4-20: Kyle, Precinct 2 Office
Copy To: Pat O'Toole and Heather Venhaus

☒ Meeting ☐ Telephone ☐ Conference Call

Following are the minutes of the above referenced meeting. The following people were present: 24 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE MEETING on 4-20 (SEE ATTACHED SIGN IN SHEETS)

Items in **bold** print indicate what action is required, who will perform the action and the deadline to complete action.

1. Overall:
 - Need to separate the discussion of Parks and Open Space. Different strategies for each. Confusing if discussed together.
2. Presentation Specific:
 - Define where indoor facilities fit in.
 - Need to make sure to clarify Parks projects are separate from Open Space projects. Need to make sure that both areas are receiving equal attention in activities.
3. Overall Vision and Role Summaries:
 - The overall supported vision was for the county to be involved with
 - Multi-Purpose Regional Parks – 70%
 - Sports Complex and Special Use Parks – 57%
 - Resource Specific Open Space – 39%
4. Parks Projects Summary: (detailed analysis will be completed for POSAB meeting on May5)
 - Parks Vision focused on multi-purpose regional facilities (land ownership, development of facilities) and destination facilities (land ownership, development of facilities)

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

- Parks Projects with most priority were: shooting sports complex; youth sports; Centers with sports fields, recreation center or outdoor facilities; River Access; or Center with indoor facilities.
5. Open Space Project Summary: (detailed analysis will be completed for POSAB meeting on May 5)
- Open Space Vision focused on destination facilities (land ownership, development of facilities), expanding open space (keeper of the vision, land ownership, discretionary funding), and preserving sensitive lands (keeper of the vision, and land ownership)
 - Open Space Projects with most priority were: shooting sports complex; water quality protection lands; river access; preservation of triangle of I-35/SH130/ SH45; protected prairies; and trails (various).
6. Satisfaction with the Process:
- Results showed some dissatisfaction in the process (40%). Comments given on the board and in conversation were almost all concerned with the level of outreach and lack of community awareness of planning process.
 - **Meeting information needs to be posted on County Website.** **Hays County**
 - **All participants should be added to the email distribution lists.** **Hays County**
 - **City parks and recreation departments should be encouraged to send out notifications of upcoming meetings.** **Hays County**
 - **Email contacts should be asked to forward notifications of upcoming meetings to their email distribution list.** **Hays County**
 - **Summaries from meetings and notices of upcoming meetings should be posted on the website and a link should be emailed to the email distribution list.** **Hays County**
 - **Could there be a second meeting presenting the draft plan in May closer to San Marcos or Kyle?** **Hays County to discuss**

Next Meeting

Date: May 26, 2011

Time: 6:30PM

Location: Wimberley, TX

END OF NOTES

The record herein is considered to be an accurate depiction of the discussion and/or decisions made during the meeting unless written clarification is received by Design Workshop within five (5) working days upon receipt of this meeting record.

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. PPT Presentation
3. Sign-in Sheet

Open House April 21, 2011: Meeting Record

Design Workshop, Inc.
Landscape Architecture
Land Planning
Urban Design
Strategic Services

Meeting Record

To: Jeff Hauf and Jerry Pinnix
From: Rebecca Leonard
Date: April 21, 2011
Project Name: Hays County Parks, Open Space & Natural Areas Master Plan
Project #: 4715
Subject: Summary of Community Kick Off
Meeting Date: April 21, 2011
Start/End: 6:30PM - 8:30PM
Location: 4-21: Dripping Springs, City Hall
Copy To: Pat O'Toole and Heather Venhaus

☒ Meeting ☐ Telephone ☐ Conference Call

Following are the minutes of the above referenced meeting. The following people were present: 45 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE MEETING on 4-21 (SEE ATTACHED SIGN IN SHEETS)

Items in **bold** print indicate what action is required, who will perform the action and the deadline to complete action.

1. Overall:

- Need to make sure there is more publicity of meetings.
- Votes need to be taken with more of a representation of the community.
- Cities need to have representatives at these meetings in order to better speak to what the cities are doing.
- Should clarify the jurisdiction of the county.

2. Presentation Specific:

- Need to start indicating the amount of acres for the different park or open space categories.

3. Overall Vision and Role Summaries:

- The overall supported vision was for the county to be involved with
 - Destination Facilities – Sports Complex and Special Use – 42%
 - Destination Open Space – 42%
 - Connected Open Space – 39%
 - Resource Specific Open Space – 35%
 - No Open Space - 32%

4. Parks Projects Summary: (detailed analysis will be completed for POSAB meeting on May5)

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

- Parks Vision focused on multi-purpose regional facilities (land ownership, development of facilities, funding) and destination facilities (land ownership, development of facilities, funding)
 - Parks Projects with most priority were: Multi Use Trails and Equestrian Trails, Shooting Sports Complex, Maintaining Existing Facilities – Including Jacobs Well, and Naturalist Park or Natural Center or Natural Science Park.
5. Open Space Project Summary: (detailed analysis will be completed for POSAB meeting on May 5)
- Open Space Vision focused on destination facilities (land ownership, development of facilities), expanding existing open space (no role, land ownership, discretionary funding), and preserving resource specific lands (keeper of the vision, and land ownership)
 - Open Space Projects with most priority were: Water Quality Protection Education, Shooting Sports Complex, Equestrian Trails and Hiking Biking Trails, and no more future purchases or mandating open space with private development.
6. Recreation Activities Section (on wall):
- Feedback that it was biased to active recreation. Need to add hiking, kayaking, bird watching. Make sure this is represented in the survey.
7. Satisfaction with the Process:
- Results showed some dissatisfaction in the process (60%). Conversation indicated that the dissatisfaction was due to not allowing adequate opportunity for public engagement.
 - **Meeting information needs to be posted on County Website.** **Hays County**
 - **All participants should be added to the email distribution lists.** **Hays County**
 - **City parks and recreation departments should be encouraged to send out notifications of upcoming meetings.** **Hays County**
 - **Email contacts should be asked to forward notifications of upcoming meetings to their email distribution list.** **Hays County**
 - **Summaries from meetings and notices of upcoming meetings should be posted on the website and a link should be emailed to the email distribution list.** **Hays County**
 - **Could there be a second meeting presenting the draft plan in May closer to San Marcos or Kyle?** **Hays County to discuss**
 - **Post fliers at grocery stores.** **DW**
 - **Survey should be listed on the county and city websites.** **DW**

Next Meeting

Date: May 26, 2011

Time: 6:30PM

Location: Wimberley, TX

END OF NOTES

The record herein is considered to be an accurate depiction of the discussion and/or decisions made during the meeting unless written clarification is received by Design Workshop within five (5) working days upon receipt of this meeting record.

Conceptual Blueprint: Meeting Record

Design Workshop, Inc.
Landscape Architecture
Land Planning
Urban Design
Strategic Services

Meeting Record

To: Jeff Hauf and Jerry Pinnix
From: Rebecca Leonard
Date: May 31, 2011
Project Name: Hays County Park, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan
Project #: 4715
Subject: Public Meeting Summary
Meeting Date: May 26, 2011
Start/End: 6:30-9:30pm
Location: Jacob's Well Activity Center
Copy To:

☒ Meeting ☐ Telephone ☐ Conference Call

Following are the minutes of the above referenced meeting. The following people were present:
THERE WERE OVER 45 people in attendance.

Items in **bold** print indicate what action is required, who will perform the action and the deadline to complete action.

1. Discussion of private property rights, scope of park and open space plan, and citizen concerns.
 - a. Lead by Commissioner Conley who answered questions and concerns regarding planning efforts currently going on in the county. Discussed the HCP, water quality, private land owner rights, Greenprint for Growth, public process, and other citizen concerns.
2. Presentation of Parks and Open Space
 - a. Request for information on pros and cons of the process the parks and open space master plan uses.
 - b. Add in the word voluntary into the visions.**
 - c. Survey Comments
 1. Concerns from citizens regarding the availability of the survey
 2. Concerns from citizens regarding the way the questions were worded and felt the survey was coached.
 3. Concerns from citizens regarding the survey not being statistically significant

- DW advised that it was used as a piece of information and is more people than the few that were attending meetings.
- d. Inventory Comments
 - 1. **Make available online for public review.**
- e. In the analysis – **discuss why we chose the analysis that we did.**
 - 1. **Discuss how this lead to the projects in certain areas.**
- f. Written Comments
 - 1. County should not be in the business of promoting or supporting sports complexes.
 - 2. Please post the plan in the Dripping Springs library or Note to look at the City Hall.
 - 3. Still don't know what the proposed changes to the master plan are. Not much review period time.
 - 4. Still a question of whether or not Greenprint for Growth information is in the plan.
 - 5. Partners should use and maintain facilities.
 - 6. County already not able to fund park facilities.
 - 7. Good planning process and like the direction it is moving.
 - 8. Good meeting, but too long and too many interruptions
 - 9. Statement of purpose of meeting is needed. Invite disruptive people to discuss issues off topic of purpose at another time. Disruption not fair to all participants.
 - 10. :

Next Meeting

Date: June 30, 2011

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: San Marcos Activity Center

END OF NOTES

The record herein is considered to be an accurate depiction of the discussion and/or decisions made during the meeting unless written clarification is received by Design Workshop within five (5) working days upon receipt of this meeting record.

Attachments:

- 1.
- 2.

Draft Plan: Meeting Record

Design Workshop, Inc.
Landscape Architecture
Land Planning
Urban Design
Strategic Services

Meeting Record

To: Jeff Hauf and Jerry Pinnix
From: Rebecca Leonard
Date: July 5, 2011
Project Name: Hays County Park, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan
Project #: 4715
Subject: Public Meeting Summary
Meeting Date: June 30, 2011
Start/End: 6:30-8:30pm
Location: Hays County Extension Office
Copy To:

☒ Meeting ☐ Telephone ☐ Conference Call

Following are the minutes of the above referenced meeting. The following people were present:
THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 40 people in attendance.

Items in **bold** print indicate what action is required, who will perform the action and the deadline to complete action.

1. Presentation of Parks and Open Space
 - a. Brief presentation on the overall process of the parks and open space planning process.
Discussion of goals and metrics, analysis process, and priority project categories.
 - b. Citizen Verbal Comments
 1. Concerns regarding the scope of this plan and private property rights.
 - There will be a statement in the document that this plan will not be used to purchase or take private property without owners consent and willingness to sell.
 2. Concerns regarding the ability of citizens to comment on the goals of the plan.
 - Citizens will have a 30 day period to review and comment on all parts of the plan. They will have page numbers and specific wording they can suggest or questions they can pose. All comments will be given to the consultant and documented. Final revisions will be reviewed by the county parks board.
 3. Concerns regarding the purpose of the plan and funding.
 - How will citizens have the ability to comment on the funding sources for projects?

- This plan will be used as guidance for the commissioners to plan projects. Funding sources will be specific to those projects. Citizens will have the ability to review the funding sources proposed just as the commissioners will in the agenda and supporting documents for the public commissioners' court meetings as projects are prepared for review.
- 4. Concerns from citizens regarding the relationship of this document to Agenda 21
 - This plan has no direct relationship to Agenda 21. The United Nations had no influence on the creation of the plan. Goals, metrics, and projects were developed through local input and concerns.
- c. Written Comments
 - 1. You did great. Please clarify that preserving open space does not mean taking someone's land.
 - 2. Greenspace is great. Hays County needs parks – especially San Marcos. Greenspace is for the able bodied. Sadly, San marcos has plent of people with physical ailments and mobility impairments. All these folks can use parks and need parks!
 - 3. You do not have dots for 'no' – identifying projects that are not acceptable. This is the same as the survey – does not allow for context.

Next Meeting

No further public participation meetings scheduled.

Requested Information

Inventory Comments

1. **Make available online for public review.**

END OF NOTES

The record herein is considered to be an accurate depiction of the discussion and/or decisions made during the meeting unless written clarification is received by Design Workshop within five (5) working days upon receipt of this meeting record.

Attachments:

1. Comment Cards
2. Sign In Sheet
3. Presentation PDF

Polling Distribution and Process

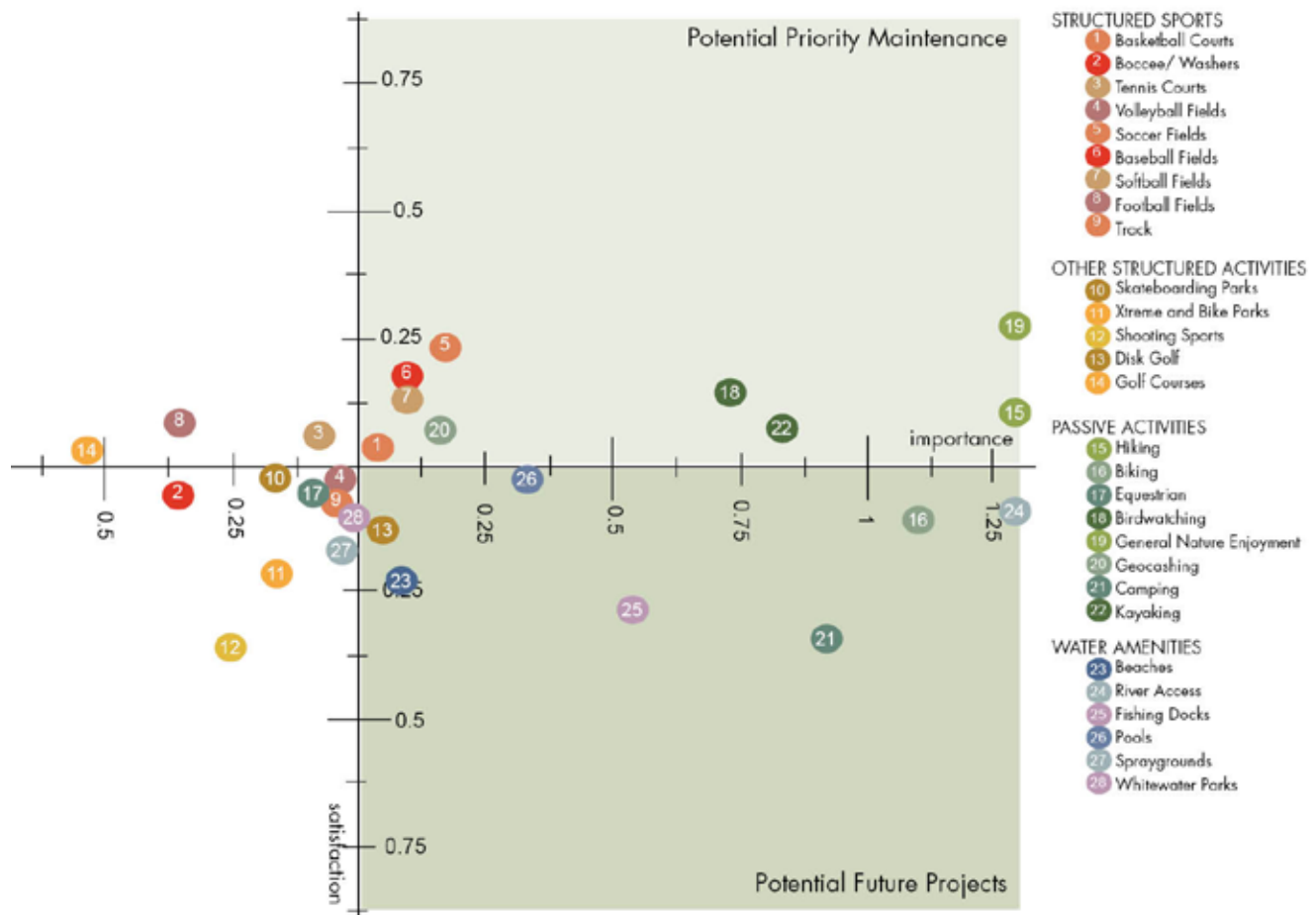
Both in-person and online polls were completed during the planning process. The in-person polls were administered using keypad polling devices during the public meeting presentations on March 31 and April 20 & 21.

The questions asked during the March 31 meeting were also put together in an online poll using Survey Monkey. The online poll was available at www.surveymonkey.com/s/HaysCountyParks from April 22, 2011 until May 19, 2011. Approximately 900 people took the poll, over 85% of them indicating they were from zip codes in Hays County. The polling link was announced during the April 20 and 21 public meeting and a link was located on the County website.

A combination of feedback from the online and keypad polls at public meetings created the Polling Results Summaries: Importance and Significance Graphs included in this Appendix. In the poll, respondents were asked to rate on a scale of least (-2) and most (2) the importance and significance of various recreational activities. The responses per activity were graphed as a scatter plot. The activities that were in the upper right quadrant were ones that people indicated were high importance and high satisfaction. These activities are good candidates for maintenance and repair project of facilities that include them. The activities that were in the lower right quadrant were ones that people indicated were high importance and low satisfaction. These activities are good candidates for capital projects.

The polling results were used to help inform the demand-based needs assessment and planning area priorities/preferences.

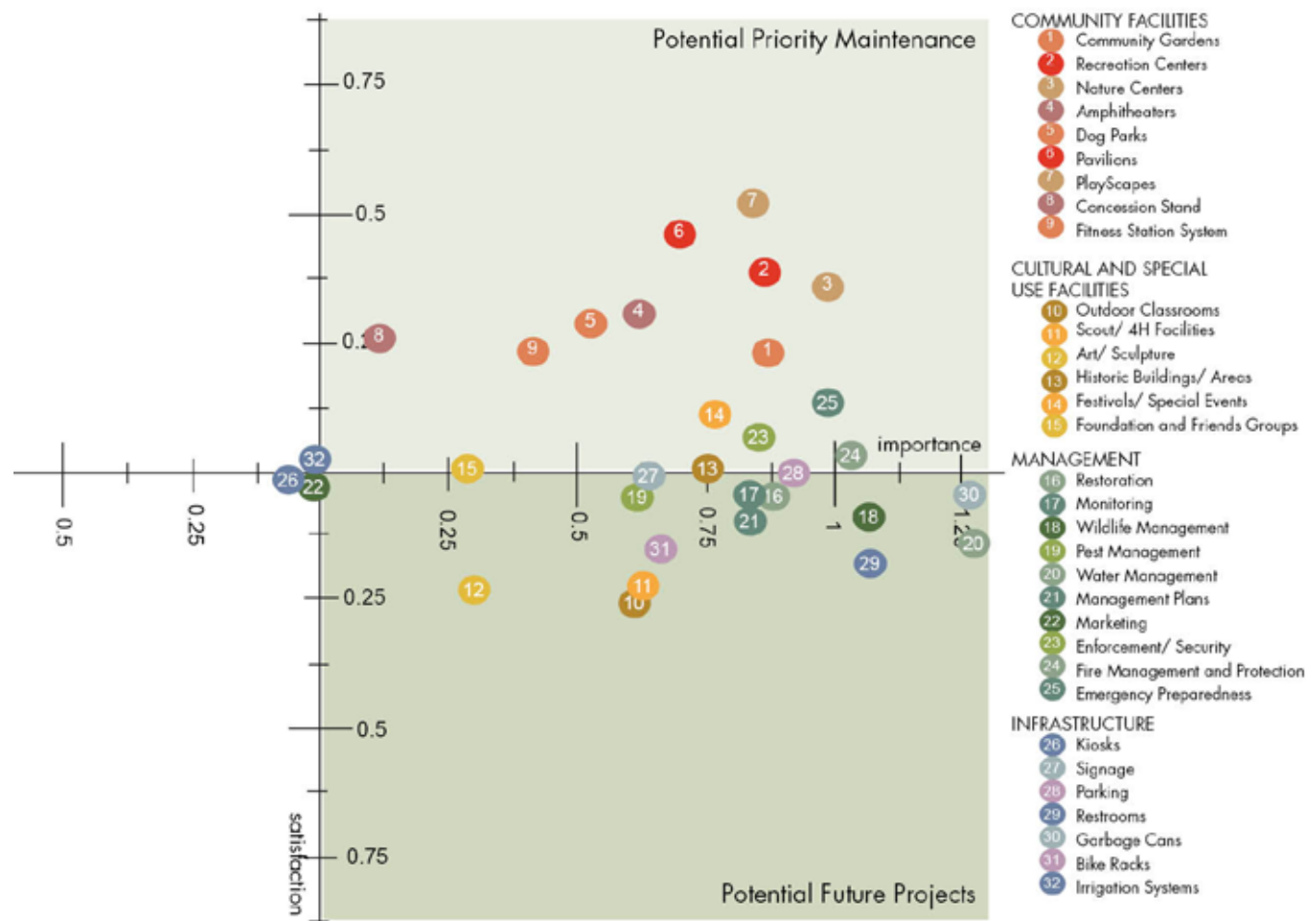
Polling Results Summary



HAYS COUNTY PARKS, OPEN SPACE, & NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN FOR HAYS COUNTY

Survey Data: Public Meetings on 3.31.11, 4.20.11, 4.21.11, and
online survey collected 5.16.11

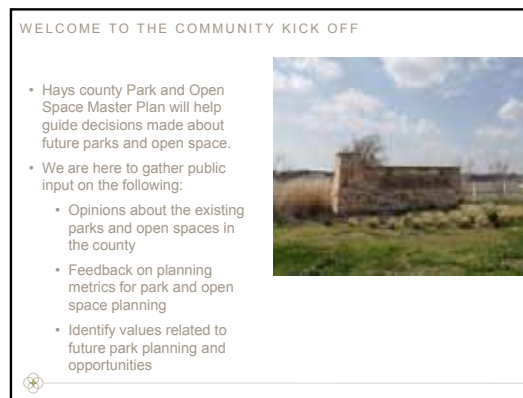
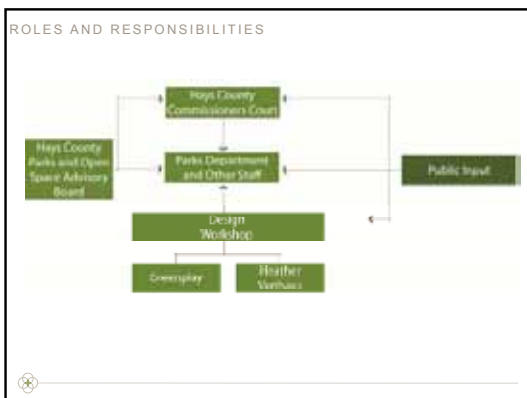
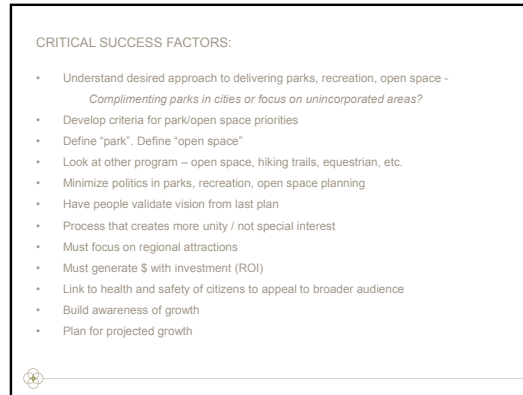
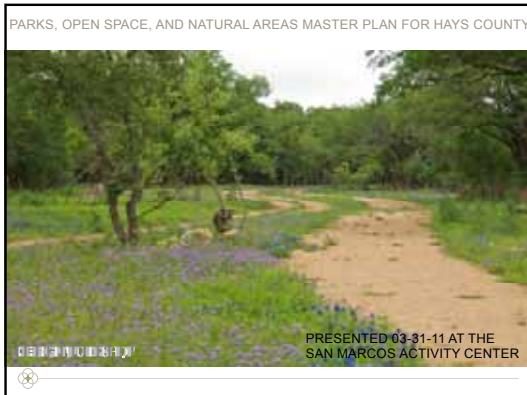
Polling Results Summary



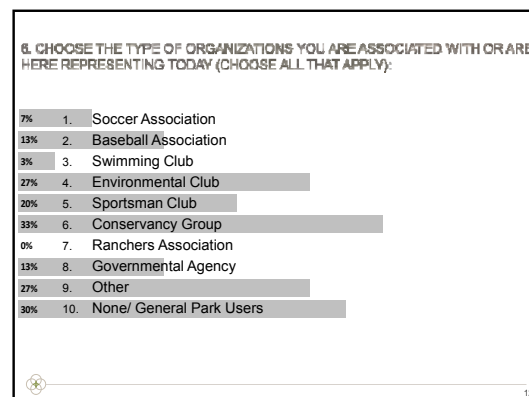
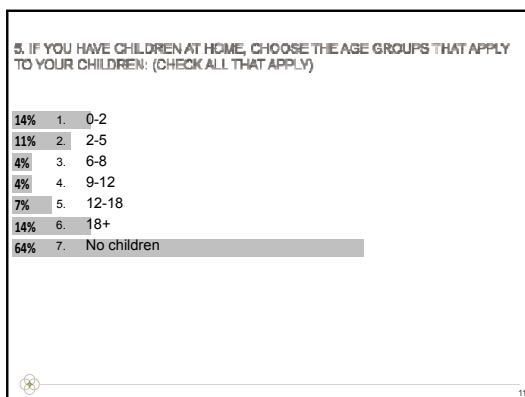
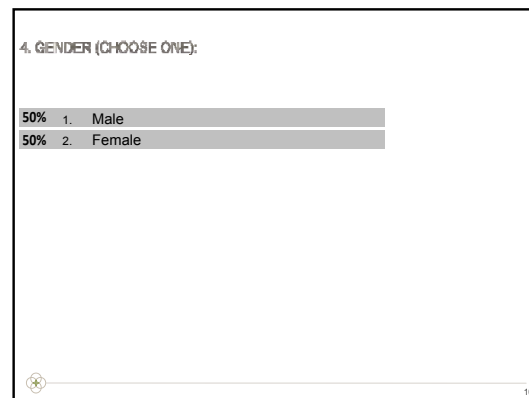
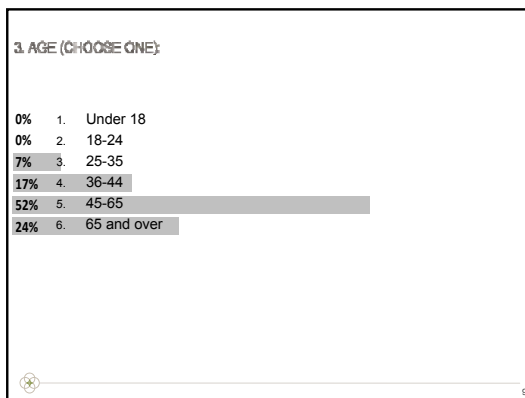
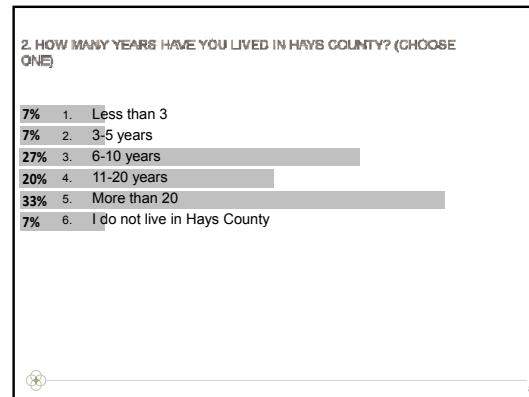
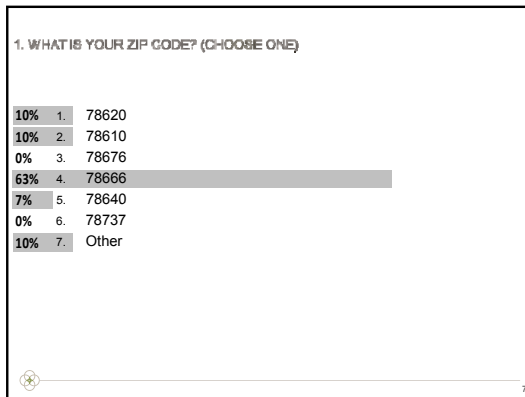
HAYS COUNTY
PARKS, OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN FOR HAYS COUNTY

Survey Data: Public Meetings on 3.31.11, 4.20.11, 4.21.11, and
online survey collected 5.16.11

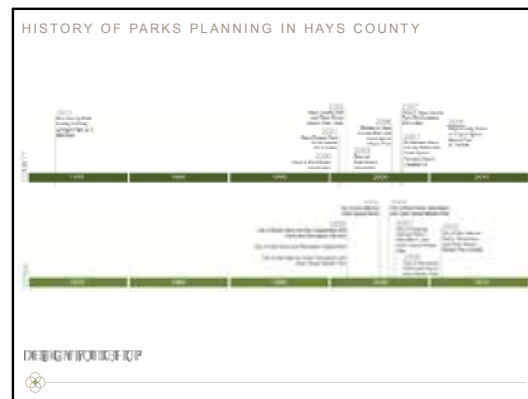
Public Meeting Polling Results | Community Kick-Off



PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION



PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION



PURPOSE OF 2011 PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

2002 & 2006 Master Plans

- Purpose: To guide decisions related to parks, recreation, and open space.
- Goal: To provide recreational opportunities and open space for its citizens, as well as plan for the growing population's potential impact on the County's natural resources.
- Goal: set guidelines for future park and open space development that are feasible for the county in accordance with the desires of its citizens.

PURPOSE OF 2011 PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

2011 Parks and Open Space Master Plan

- Define various levels of program desirable for park/open space
- Set guidelines for future park and open space development based on need, demand, and resource opportunities
- Public engagement opportunities will provide discourse about the value (economic or otherwise) of parks, recreation and open space.

7. ARE YOU AWARE OF HAYS COUNTY'S CURRENT PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN? (CHOOSE ONE)

14%	1.	Yes – I know it intimately
28%	2.	Yes – I am not very aware of its contents
14%	3.	Yes – I feel that it has been useless
28%	4.	Yes – I feel that it has been a great resource
3%	5.	No – I have never heard of it
17%	6.	No – I am interested to know more about it

8. IDENTIFY THE 3 GOALS YOU THINK THE PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN SHOULD AIM TO ACHIEVE? (CHOOSE 3)

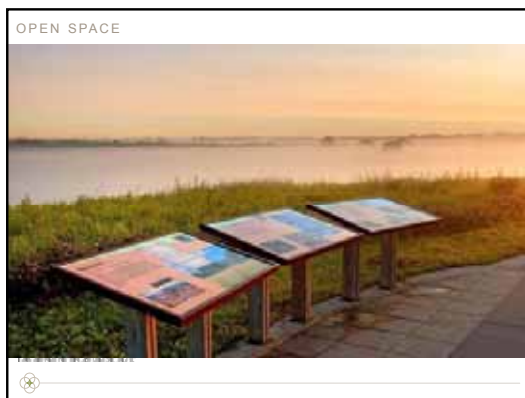
45%	1.	Protect and preserve habitat and sensitive ecosystems.
48%	2.	Protect water quality and quantity – including aquifer re-charge.
35%	3.	Preserve natural systems – including flood, erosion, and air.
3%	4.	Protect farm and ranch lands.
35%	5.	Provide diversity of park types.
32%	6.	Provide diversity of recreational types.
6%	7.	Protect cultural heritage and historic sites.
16%	8.	Preserve scenic corridors and viewsheds.
39%	9.	Boost tourism and money generating activities.
3%	10.	Other.

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE				
	March	April	May	June
Community Outreach	Community Kick-Off	Vision Setting: Stakeholder Meetings and Community Open House	Conceptual Blueprint: Draft Plan Presented to County and Community	Final Plan Presented to County and Community
Data Collection	Land Data, Community Surveys	Values and Community Priorities	Community Feedback on Draft Plan	
Goals, Metrics, Vision	Goals and Metrics Presented	Goals and Metrics Refined	Strategies to Meet Goals and Metrics	
Deliverables	Needs and Desires	Alternatives	Benefits and Value of Preferred Plan	

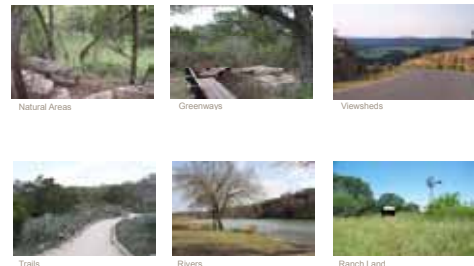
PURPOSE OF 2011 PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

- METRICS
 - Used to help gauge success toward reaching goals
 - Based upon Best Management Practices
 - Help structure the plan

PARKS | EXISTING CONDITIONS

Open Space Examples in Hays County


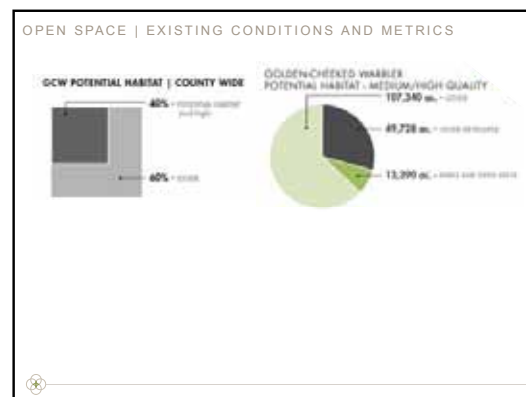


Natural Areas Greenways Viewsheds

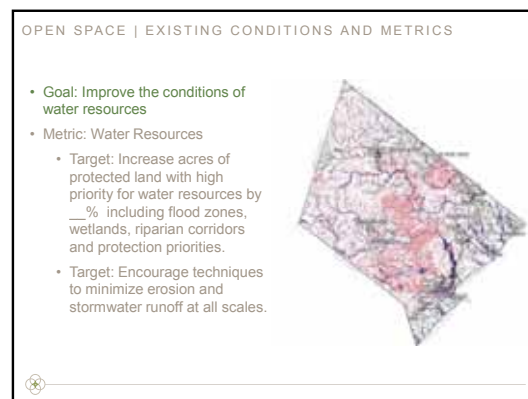
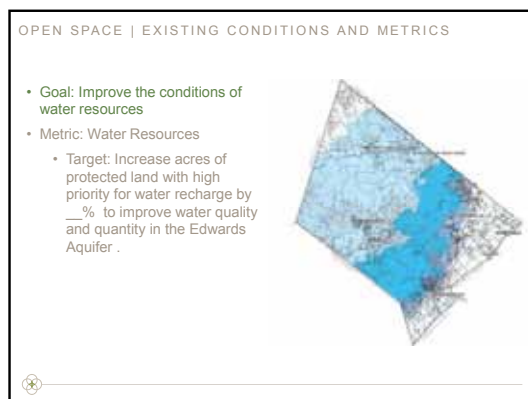
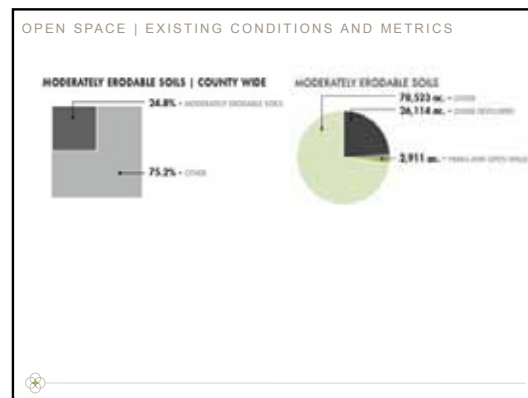
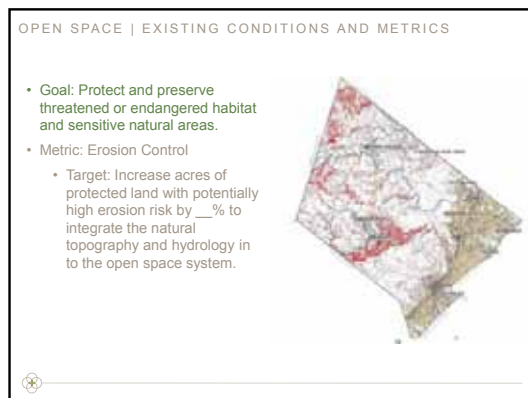
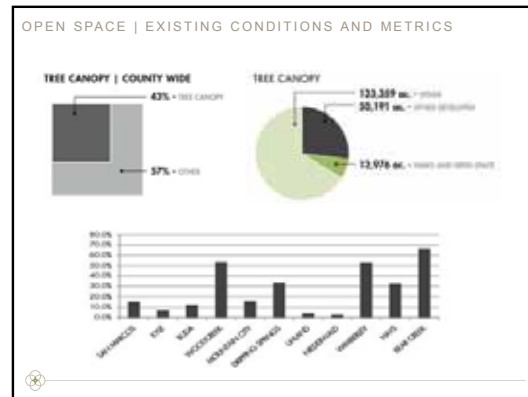
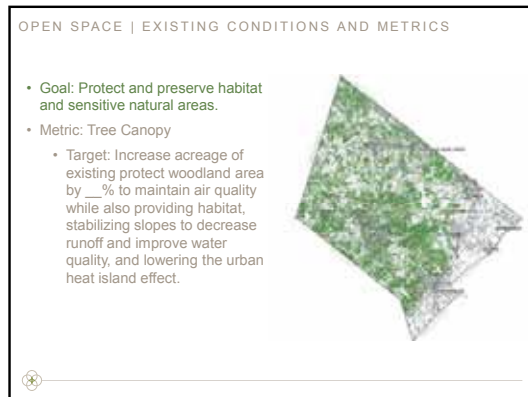
Trails Rivers Ranch Land

OPEN SPACE | EXISTING CONDITIONS AND METRICS

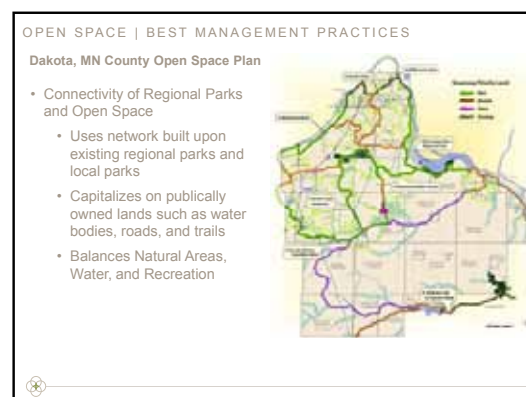
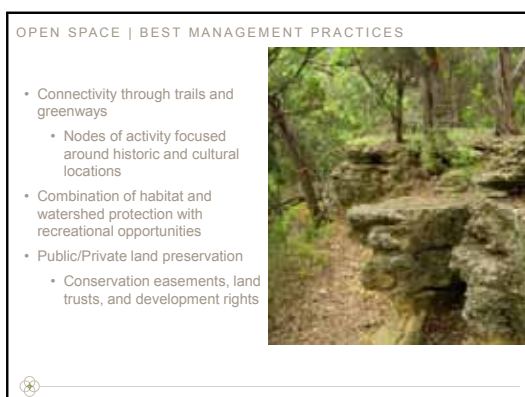
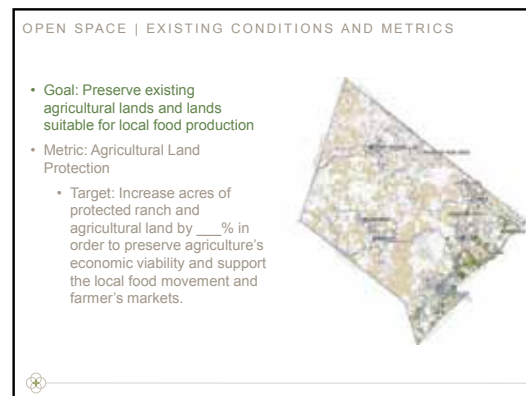
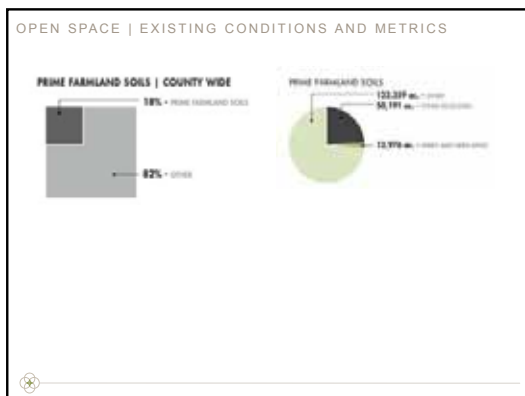
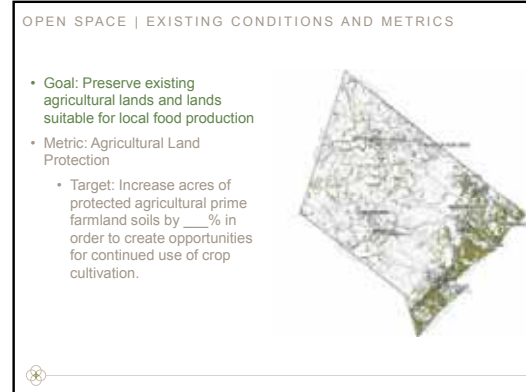
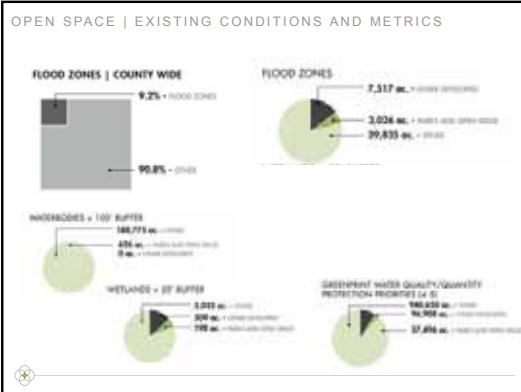
- Goal: Protect and preserve threatened or endangered habitat and sensitive natural areas.
- Metric: Habitat Protection
 - Target: Meet and exceed the 10,000-15,000 acres suggested for protection in the Hays County Habitat Conservation Plan.
 - Target: Increase the median acreage in size of protected habitat by ___% in order to conserve contiguous habitat for imperiled species and ecological communities.

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PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION



PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

OPEN SPACE | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Onion Creek Greenway

- Greenway with active, passive and transportation
 - Focuses on river access and cultural preservation and interaction
 - Serves a region



OPEN SPACE | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Southwest Florida Water Mgt District

- Varying levels of recreation on open space lands set aside for water protection
 - Management Plans for each park to protect the most vulnerable habitat and allow safe access to the open space
 - Uses on land are specific to local interest, resources available, and original goals for land purchase



OPEN SPACE | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Opportunities to work with Texas organizations
 - Texas Trails Network
 - Texas Stream Team, San Marcos River Foundation,
 - Hill Country Conservancy, Austin Water Board, Guadalupe Blanco River Trust, Hill Country Land Trust,
 - Trust for Public Land, Nature Conservancy, Conservation Fund, Texas Land Fund
 - Ranch Association, Hays Extension Office

8. I FEEL THAT THE EXISTING CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND AMOUNT OF OPEN SPACE IN HAYS COUNTY IS: (CHOOSE ONE)

18%	1.	Sufficient
68%	2.	Should be increased
11%	3.	Should be reduced
4%	4.	I do not have an opinion

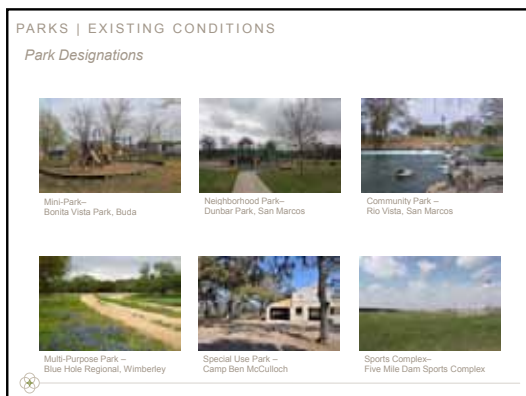
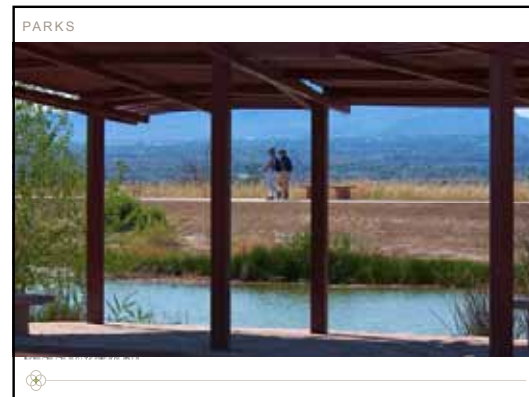
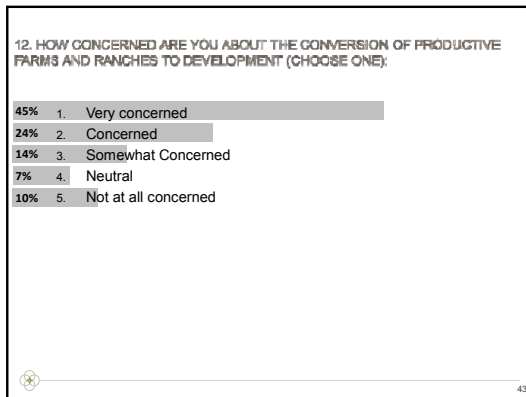
10. CHOOSE THE THREE MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE IN HAYS COUNTY:

55%	1.	Protects habitat and sensitive ecological areas.
48%	2.	Protects water quality and quantity – including aquifer recharge.
34%	3.	Protects other natural systems – flooding, erosion, slopes, air.
21%	4.	Protects working farm and ranch lands.
45%	5.	Provides public access and passive recreation
17%	6.	Connects to other park and open space lands.
14%	7.	Provides scenic corridors.
7%	8.	Preserves cultural history.
21%	9.	Provides buffers between communities.
3%	10.	Other

11. CHOOSE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES FOR FUTURE OPEN SPACE IN HAYS COUNTY:

45%	1.	Protects habitat and sensitive ecological areas.
55%	2.	Protects water quality and quantity – including aquifer recharge.
38%	3.	Protects other natural systems – flooding, erosion, slopes, air.
17%	4.	Protects working farm and ranch lands.
55%	5.	Provides public access and passive recreation
14%	6.	Connects to other park and open space lands.
14%	7.	Provides scenic corridors.
7%	8.	Preserves cultural history.
10%	9.	Provides buffers between communities.
7%	10.	Other

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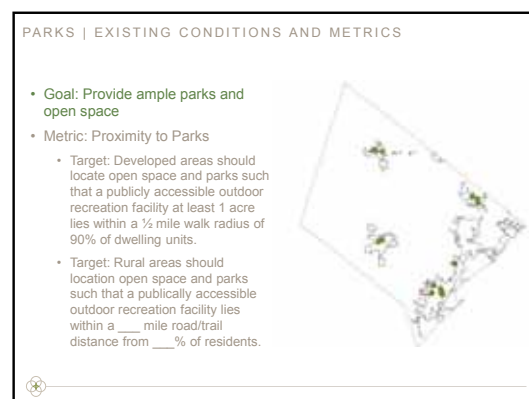
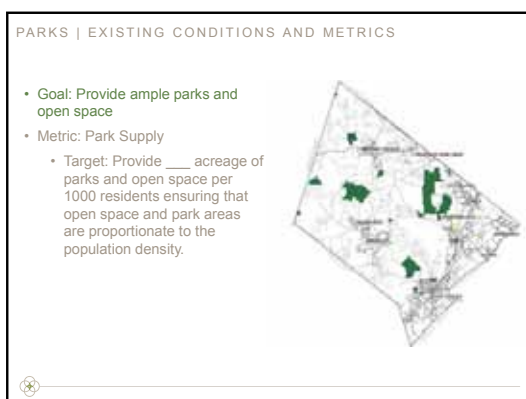


PARKS | EXISTING CONDITIONS

• Level of service


	Park	Trails
NRPA	10.5/1000	.25/ 1000
Hays County, TX (county parks only)	0.59/ 1000	0/1000
Hays County, TX (all public parks)	4.5/1000	0.001/ 1000
Kendall Co, TX	0/ 1000	-
Williamson Co, TX	4.8/ 1000	-
Dakota Co, MN	12.7/ 1000	-
Schertz, TX	7.5/ 1000	3.5/ 1000
Pflugerville, TX	25/ 1000	.2/ 1000
San Marcos, TX	23.3/ 1000	-
Cedar Park, TX	15.3/ 1000	-
Austin, TX	24/ 1000	-


46



PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES


- Adjusting the level of service for the region
- Large, multi-purpose centers with diverse programs and facilities that service multiple communities and rural enclaves






PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Destination Playgrounds
 - Large, multi-faceted playground draws from larger geographic area
 - Users drive further to participate based on uniqueness
 - School group attendance and usage increases
 - Economic impact increases






Coppell, TX
Grandview, MO
Indianapolis, IN




PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Wide, Hard Surface Trails
 - Largest community user base
 - Recreational, social, exercise, transportation uses
 - Unique designs: creative staging areas, dog water fountains, fitness equipment, linear skatepark, public art, etc.

Pflugerville, TX
Coppell, TX



PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Tree Houses as Park Shelters
 - Creative design increases typical rental revenues
 - Users drive further to participate based on uniqueness
 - Family socializing activities in parks increase







Lake Travis, TX –
Candlelight Ranch
Burlington, VT
Ashford, CT




PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Dog Parks
 - Growing popularity
 - Designed uniquely for suburban, urban, open space
 - Programming for dogs on the rise







Douglas County, CO
Lees Summit, MO
Bend, OR



PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Plum Creek Preserve
 - Combination of passive and active recreation opportunities
 - Trails, Fishing Nook, Wildflower Meadow
 - Picnic Area, Pavilion, Horseshoes, Game Tables
 - Connection to other City parks with playscapes and sport courts/fields.





PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Opportunities to work with Texas organizations

- San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance, Master Naturalists,
- Barton Springs/ Edwards Aquifer Conservation District,
- San Marcos Board of Realtors



13. I FIND THE DIVERSITY OF PARKS THAT HAYS COUNTY HAS TO OFFER TO BE (CHOOSE ONE)

- | | | |
|-----|----|-----------|
| 7% | 1. | Excellent |
| 34% | 2. | Good |
| 28% | 3. | Neutral |
| 24% | 4. | Poor |
| 7% | 5. | Very Poor |



56

14. I FIND THE AMOUNT OF EXISTING PARKS IN HAYS COUNTY TO BE (CHOOSE ONE)

- | | | |
|-----|----|-----------|
| 7% | 1. | Excellent |
| 17% | 2. | Good |
| 14% | 3. | Neutral |
| 48% | 4. | Poor |
| 14% | 5. | Very Poor |



57

15. CHOOSE THE THREE MOST OUTSTANDING QUALITIES OF EXISTING PARKS IN HAYS COUNTY:

- | | | |
|-----|-----|--|
| 25% | 1. | Convenient locations. |
| 33% | 2. | Size of parks – appropriate for amount of park users. |
| 58% | 3. | Active recreational activities – courts, fields, playscapes, etc |
| 33% | 4. | Passive recreational amenities – trails, river access, natural features, etc |
| 17% | 5. | Facilities – restrooms, benches, trashcans, pavilions, etc. |
| 4% | 6. | Historic and cultural resources. |
| 21% | 7. | Safety and security. |
| 8% | 8. | Fund generating opportunities – concessions, tourism, increased property values. |
| 8% | 9. | Information materials – interpretive signage, education, system information. |
| 38% | 10. | Other. |



58

16. CHOOSE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES FOR FUTURE PARKS IN HAYS COUNTY:

- | | | |
|-----|-----|--|
| 36% | 1. | Convenient locations. |
| 36% | 2. | Size of parks – appropriate for amount of park users. |
| 61% | 3. | Active recreational activities – courts, fields, playscapes, etc |
| 46% | 4. | Passive recreational amenities – trails, river access, natural features, etc |
| 36% | 5. | Facilities – restrooms, benches, trashcans, pavilions, etc. |
| 4% | 6. | Historic and cultural resources. |
| 21% | 7. | Safety and security. |
| 36% | 8. | Fund generating opportunities – concessions, tourism, increased property values. |
| 11% | 9. | Information materials – interpretive signage, education, system information. |
| 0% | 10. | Other. |



59

RECREATION



RECREATION | EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Goal: Provide a diversity of recreational experiences to service all age groups and user-types year-round.
- Metric: Diversity of Park and Open Space
 - Target: In developed areas 50% of the dwelling units are within a 1/4-mile walking distance of 5 diverse park amenities including at least two active recreational amenities.
 - Target: In rural areas, each regional or local park has a combination of at least 5 diverse park amenities including a combination of passive and active recreation.

RECREATION | EXISTING CONDITIONS

RECREATION | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Broad range of activities capitalizing on the natural environment and outdoor recreation
- Assessing the types of programs for the region and local population
- Education and outreach integral to the park system

PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Larger Multi-generational Community (Recreation) Centers
 - Large, multi-faceted centers draws from larger geographic area
 - Users drive further to participate based on uniqueness and opportunities
 - Family attendance and usage increases
 - Efficient operational costs

San Marcos, TX
Burnet, TX
Coppell, TX
Lees Summit, MO

PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Leisure Aquatic Centers
 - Shallow water for all ages
 - Popular water play features
 - Family attendance
 - Longer stay periods
 - Water activities versus still water to swim only
 - Revenue opportunities

North Richland Hills, TX
Austin, TX
Pflugerville, TX

PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Spraygrounds
 - Fun water play for all ages
 - Popular water spray features
 - Family attendance
 - No standing water
 - Low operational costs i.e. no lifeguards necessary
 - Low capital costs

McAllen, TX
Tyler, TX
Dallas & Fort Worth, TX
Oklahoma City, OK

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PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Whitewater Parks
 - Unique outdoor recreation water attraction draws from large geographic area
 - Users drive further to participate based on uniqueness
 - Family and group attendance and usage increases
 - Economic impact increases



Charlotte, NC
Reno, NV

PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES


- Sports Complexes
 - Large, multi-sports facility draws from larger geographic area
 - Users drive further to participate based on tournament play
 - Synthetic Turf
 - All age groups at one location, great for families
 - Economic impact increases



Hays County, TX
Humble, TX
Coppell, TX
Douglas County, CO

PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES


- Nature Centers
 - Incorporates education aspect in nature based recreation
 - Creates a passive recreational programming alternative



Kerrville, TX
Austin, TX

PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Xtreme and Bike Parks
 - Unique recreation attraction draws from large geographic area
 - Users drive further to participate based on uniqueness
 - Special events programming
 - Economic impact increases



Crested Butte, CO
Pine, CO

PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Trends in Recreation Programming
 - Healthy Lifestyles
 - Festivals & Special Events
 - Farmer's Market
 - Electronic Games for all ages - Wii
 - Programming for Dogs
 - Drop in / Pick up Sports
 - Table Tennis
 - Social Media
 - Kayak Water Polo & Underwater Hockey
 - Shorter Condensed Program Length



Bloomington, IN
Winter Park, FL
Lake Oswego, OR

PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Facility Operations and Management
 - Assess local population for interest-specific opportunities
 - Capitalize on partnership opportunities i.e. wellness, fitness, rehab, health care, physical therapy
 - Incorporate state-of-the-art technology in facility management
 - Create organized volunteer and customer service programs




Foothills, CO
South Suburban, CO
Peoria, IL
Fairfax County, VA

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

RECREATION | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Blue Hole Regional Park, Wimberley
- Diverse Recreational Opportunities
 - Soccer, tennis, field play, swimming hole, hiking, biking, habitat,
- Practice Field programming



RECREATION | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Texas Organizations

- Local Organized Sports Clubs
 - Hays County Youth Athletic Association, North Hays Optimists Club, Hays County Shooting Sports Task Force, Swimmerley, Inc., San Marcos Area Youth Soccer Organization, etc.
- Agricultural Interests
 - Hays County Master Gardeners and Naturalists

Role of Public Participation

- Establishes Demand for certain recreation types
- Becomes part of Master Plan
- Pflugerville Table.

17. I FIND THE DIVERSITY OF RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS THAT HAYS COUNTY HAS TO OFFER TO BE. (CHOOSE ONE)

13%	1. Excellent
25%	2. Good
29%	3. Neutral
29%	4. Poor
4%	5. Very Poor


18. CHOOSE THE THREE MOST OUTSTANDING RECREATION PROGRAM TYPES EXISTING IN HAYS COUNTY:

67%	1. Organized athletic leagues – soccer, baseball, swimming, etc.
17%	2. Unstructured play – playscapes, open fields, imagination play, etc.
21%	3. Non-sport youth programs – scouts, camps.
29%	4. Community programs – fitness/wellness, cultural arts.
8%	5. Senior programs.
17%	6. Festivals, tournaments, and other large gatherings.
8%	7. Nature education and enjoyment.
33%	8. Water recreation.
33%	9. Trail opportunities – equestrian, walking, bicycling, etc.
33%	10. Other

19. CHOOSE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT RECREATION PROGRAM TYPES FOR THE FUTURE IN HAYS COUNTY:

52%	1. Organized athletic leagues – soccer, baseball, swimming, etc.
37%	2. Unstructured play – playscapes, open fields, imagination play, etc.
19%	3. Non-sport youth programs – scouts, camps.
11%	4. Community programs – fitness/wellness, cultural arts.
11%	5. Senior programs.
33%	6. Festivals, tournaments, and other large gatherings.
26%	7. Nature education and enjoyment.
44%	8. Water recreation.
33%	9. Trail opportunities – equestrian, walking, bicycling, etc.
15%	10. Other

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM



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SYSTEM | EXISTING CONDITIONS AND METRICS

Goal: Maximize long term value of real estate.

- Metric: Return on Investment
 - Target: Increase home values of houses located near new parks and open space by ____%.
 - Target: Attract new businesses and new residents as a result of diverse parks and open space system.

Goal: Create a financially sustainable parks system.

- Metric: Secure Financing Mechanisms
 - Target: Establish a mix of public and private financing/ funding.

Goal: Promote year round environmental tourism.

- Metric: Cultural Landscape and Tourism
 - Target: Increase the county's tourism related sales taxes and increase visitor spending per day for open space activities



SYSTEMS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Park Values Matrix

Park Name	Location	Size (Acres)	Year Established	Current Use	Future Use	Value Added
Barton Creek Greenbelt	Barton Creek	1,200	1980	Recreation	Recreation	+\$1.2M
Lost Creek	Lost Creek	800	1985	Recreation	Recreation	+\$0.8M
Wilderness Park	Wilderness Park	1,500	1990	Recreation	Recreation	+\$1.5M
Blue Hole Regional Park	Blue Hole	2,000	1995	Recreation	Recreation	+\$2.0M
Dripping Springs Sports Park	Dripping Springs	1,000	2000	Recreation	Recreation	+\$1.0M
Stagecoach Park	Stagecoach	1,100	2005	Recreation	Recreation	+\$1.1M
Stagecoach Park	Stagecoach	1,100	2005	Recreation	Recreation	+\$1.1M
Stagecoach Park	Stagecoach	1,100	2005	Recreation	Recreation	+\$1.1M
Stagecoach Park	Stagecoach	1,100	2005	Recreation	Recreation	+\$1.1M
Stagecoach Park	Stagecoach	1,100	2005	Recreation	Recreation	+\$1.1M



SYSTEMS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Hays County Parks Partnerships
- 2001 Bond Money was leveraged with other partnerships to create parks
 - Stagecoach Park, Buda
 - Financial: City of Buda, Hays County, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and LCRA.
 - Financial and Community: BSA Troop 128
 - Blue Hole Regional Park, Wimberley
 - Financial: Texas Parks and Wildlife, Hays County, Lower Colorado River Authority, Burdine Johnson Foundation
 - Financial and Community: Friends of Blue Hole
 - Community Donations: Banks, businesses
 - Partnerships outlined in the O&M plan
 - Dripping Springs Sports Park
 - Financial: Hays County, DS Soccer Association, DS Rotary Group



SYSTEMS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Enhance value of parks through increased safety, opportunities, and aesthetics.
- Develop partnerships between city, county, non profit and private entities to better serve users.



SYSTEMS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Austin Greenways
- Barton Creek Greenbelt and Wilderness Park
 - 3 neighborhoods adjacent to the greenway: Barton, Lost Creek, and Travis
 - 2 of the 3 neighborhoods had significant property value premiums
 - Factors that may influence prices:
 - Steepness of edge condition, recreational access, other environmental factors (powerlines), density of vegetation.



SYSTEMS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Parks Partnerships

- Mutually Beneficial Partnership Agreements; Monetary or In Kind



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PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Park Maintenance Manual
 - Defines all maintenance standards
 - Preventative maintenance for all park assets
 - Integrated Pest Management
 - Park procedures and policies
 - Park employee training



Wimberley, TX – Blue Hole Regional Park
Boulder, CO
Orange County, FL

PARKS | BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Park Operations and Management
 - Assess local population for interest-specific opportunities
 - Capitalize on partnership opportunities i.e. cultural, historical, natural resources
 - Incorporate state-of-the-art technology in parks & recreation management ie QR codes to get onsite educational information via mobile devices
 - Create organized volunteer programs



Wimberley, TX – Blue Hole Regional Park
Arlington, TX

20. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS DO YOU THINK THE PARKS DEPARTMENT SHOULD PRIORITIZE. (CHOOSE THREE)

1. Marketing
2. Cleanliness
3. Security
4. Interpretive signage
5. Concessions
6. Enforcement
7. Restoration/ Monitoring
8. Special Events and Festivals

87

21. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT THAT PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PAY FOR THEMSELVES THROUGH USER FEES OR OTHER FEES? (CHOOSE ONE)

40%	1. Very important
28%	2. Important
20%	3. Minimally important
8%	4. No opinion
4%	5. Not at all important

88

22. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT THAT PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ENCOURAGE INCREASED FUNDING THROUGH TOURISM? (CHOOSE ONE)

44%	1. Very important
33%	2. Important
15%	3. Minimally important
4%	4. No opinion
4%	5. Not at all important

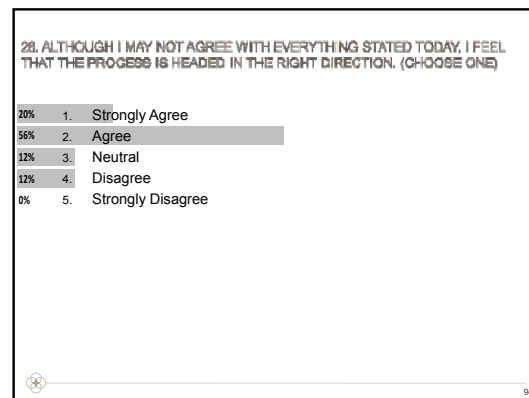
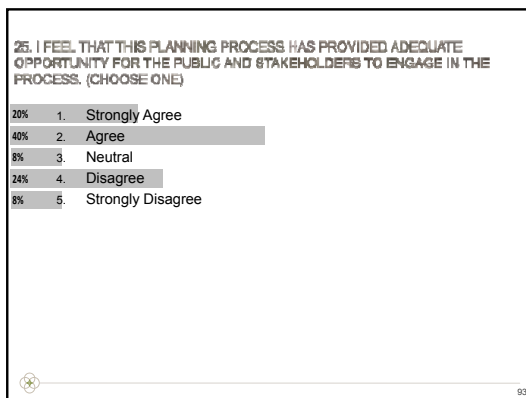
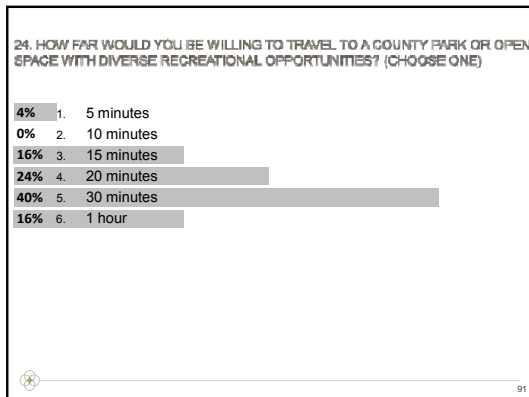
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23. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT THAT PARKS AND OPEN SPACE INCREASE PROPERTY VALUE? (CHOOSE ONE)

35%	1. Very important
23%	2. Important
35%	3. Minimally important
0%	4. No opinion
8%	5. Not at all important

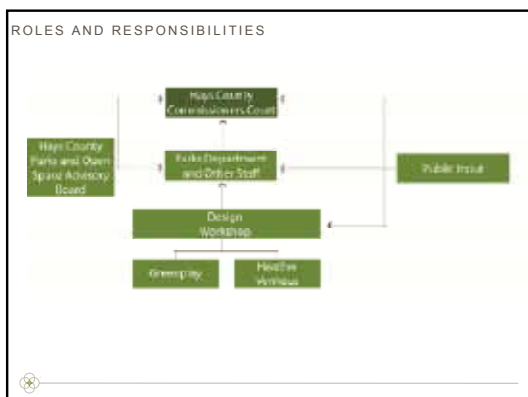
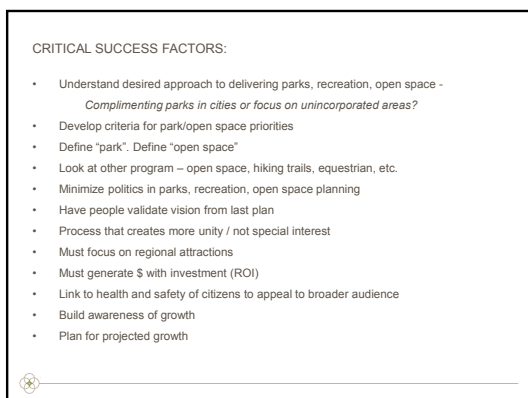
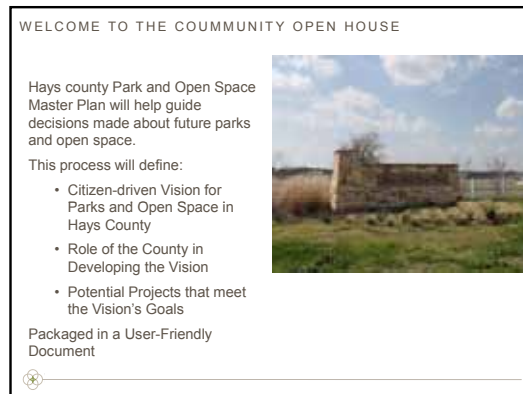
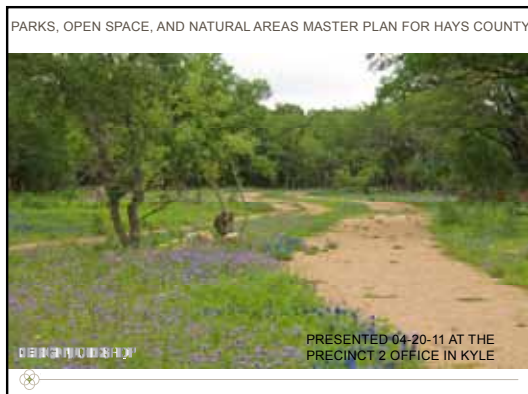
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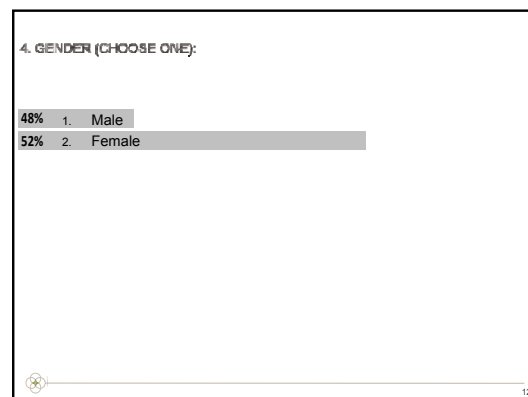
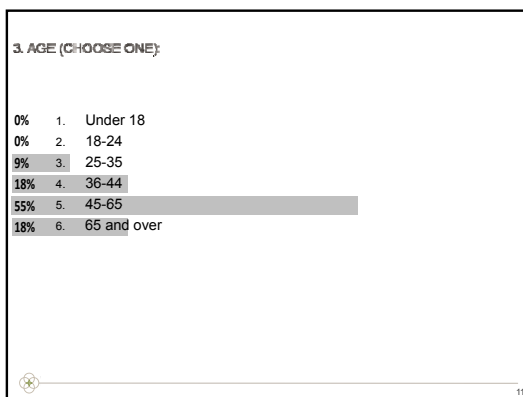
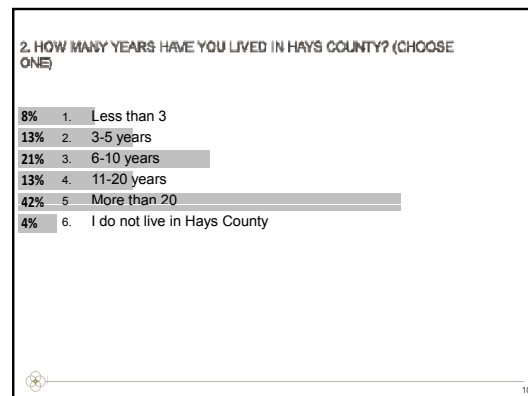
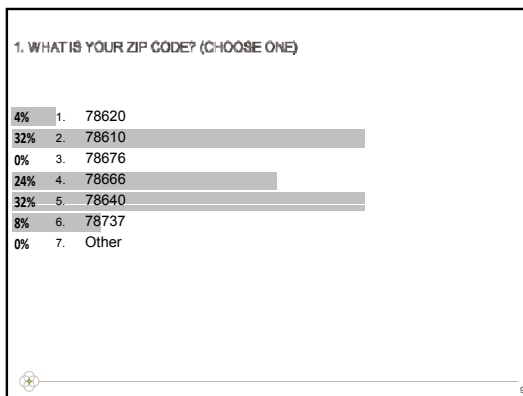
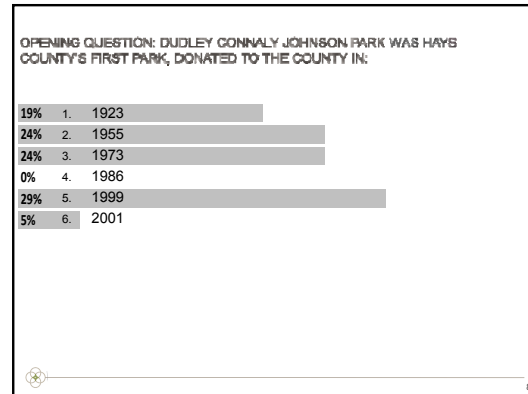
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Public Meeting Polling Results | Open House 4-20-11



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WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE				
	March	April	May	June
Community Outreach	Community Kick-Off	Vision Setting: Stakeholder Meetings and Community Open House	Conceptual Blueprint: Draft Plan Presented to County and Community	Final Plan Presented to County and Community
Data Collection	Land Data, Community Surveys	Values and Community Priorities	Community Feedback on Draft Plan	
Goals, Metrics, Vision	Goals and Metrics Presented	Goals and Metrics Refined	Strategies to Meet Goals and Metrics	
Deliverables	Needs and Desires	Alternative Visions and Project Options	Benefits and Value of Preferred Plan	



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5. IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN AT HOME, CHOOSE THE AGE GROUPS THAT APPLY TO YOUR CHILDREN: (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

13%	1.	0-2
4%	2.	2-5
13%	3.	6-8
13%	4.	9-12
13%	5.	12-18
9%	6.	18+
57%	7.	No children

13

6. CHOOSE THE TYPE OF ORGANIZATIONS YOU ARE ASSOCIATED WITH OR ARE HERE REPRESENTING TODAY (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY):

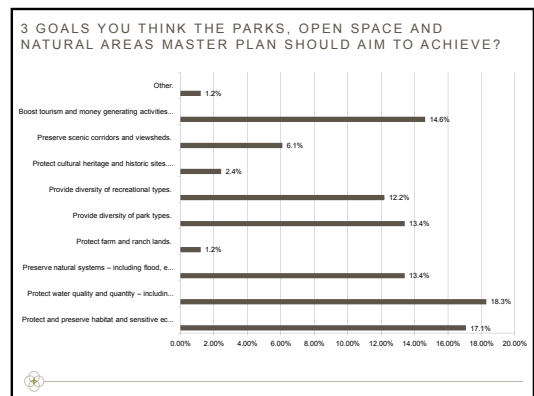
17%	1.	Soccer Association
4%	2.	Baseball Association
4%	3.	Swimming Club
13%	4.	Environmental Club
26%	5.	Sportsman Club
22%	6.	Conservancy Group
9%	7.	Ranchers Association
43%	8.	Governmental Agency
39%	9.	Other
22%	10.	None/ General Park Users

14

7. IDENTIFY THE 3 GOALS YOU THINK THE PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN SHOULD AIM TO ACHIEVE? (CHOOSE 3)

33%	1.	Provide diversity of park types.
46%	2.	Provide diversity of recreational types.
38%	3.	Protect and preserve sensitive ecosystems.
46%	4.	Protect water quality and quantity – including aquifer re-charge.
33%	5.	Preserve natural systems – including flood, erosion, and air.
25%	6.	Protect farm and ranch lands.
13%	7.	Protect cultural heritage and historic sites.
8%	8.	Preserve scenic corridors and viewsheds.
33%	9.	Boost tourism and money generating activities.
4%	10.	Other.

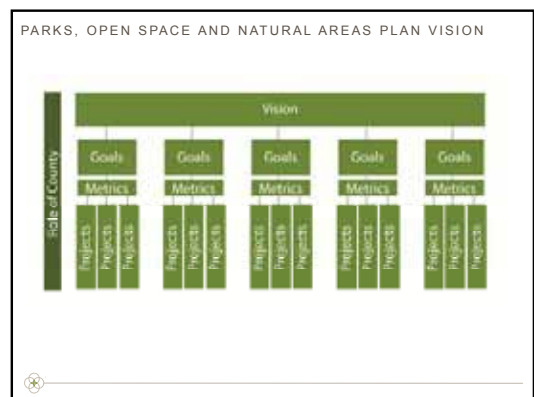
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PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND NATURAL AREAS PLAN VISION

- METRICS
 - Used to help gauge success toward reaching goals
 - Based upon Best Management Practices
 - Help structure the plan

17



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PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS IN YOUR ZIP CODE

TABLE BREAK-OUT

- Review of Statistics and Geography of your Zip Code.



PARKS

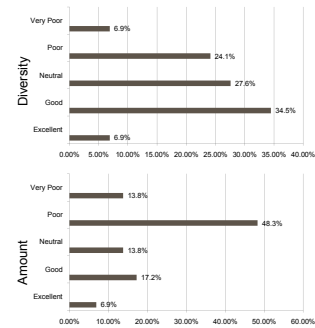


PARKS | OVERVIEW

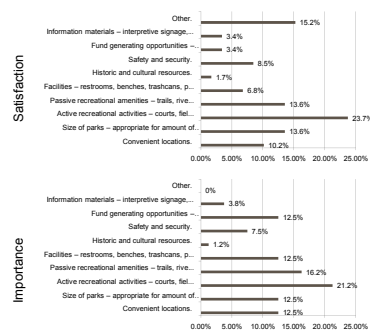
Review of Existing Vision and Contribution of the County

Neighborhood Park –
Bonita Vista Park, BudaNeighborhood Park –
Dunbar Park, San MarcosCommunity Park –
Rio Vista, San MarcosMulti-Purpose Park –
Blue Hole Regional, WimberleySpecial Use Park –
Camp Ben McCullochSports Complex –
Five Mile Dam Sports Complex

PARK SPACE | RESULTS FROM 03-31-11 COMMUNITY KICK OFF



PARK QUALITIES | RESULTS FROM 03-31-11 COMMUNITY KICK OFF



PARKS | COUNTY'S POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION/ROLE

County's Potential
Contribution/Role

- Keeper of the Vision
- Land Ownership
- Development of Facilities
- O&M, programs
- Discretionary Funding



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PARKS | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS

Alternative Visions

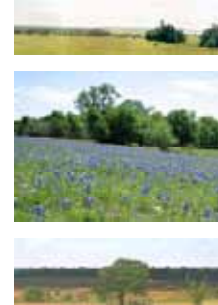
- Vision #1: County vision includes no park facilities
- Vision #2: County vision includes neighborhood, community facilities
- Vision #3: County vision includes multipurpose regional facilities
- Vision #4: County vision includes destination facilities – sports complex and special use



PARKS | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS

Vision #1 - County vision includes No Facilities

- The focus of the county is on open space and natural areas.
- No active recreation facilities are developed in the future through county support
- Active recreation facilities are developed by the cities and special interest organizations

**8. WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE COUNTY HAVE IN THE FUTURE FOR VISION #1. (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)**

38%	1. None
31%	2. Keeper of the Vision
31%	3. Land Ownership
8%	4. Development of Facilities
15%	5. O&M, programs
15%	6. Discretionary Funding
8%	7. Other



27

PARKS | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS

Vision #2: County vision includes Neighborhood and Community Facilities

- The focus of the county is on contributing to parks with local neighborhood and/or community draw.
- Active recreation facilities are developed in the future through county support

**8. WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE COUNTY HAVE IN THE FUTURE FOR VISION #2. (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)**

48%	1. None
24%	2. Keeper of the Vision
24%	3. Land Ownership
19%	4. Development of Facilities
19%	5. O&M, programs
19%	6. Discretionary Funding
10%	7. Other



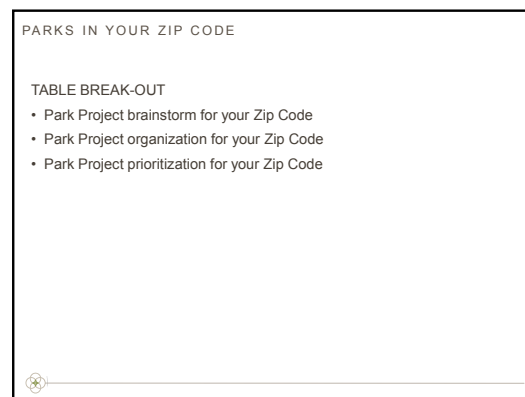
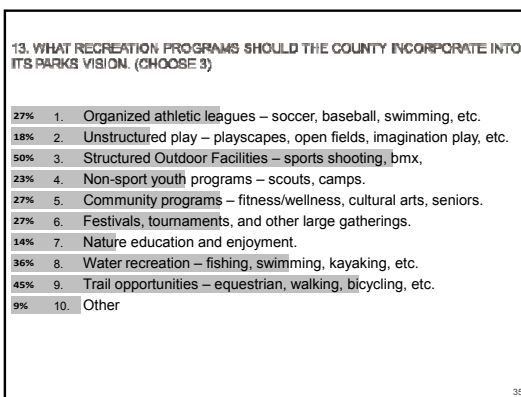
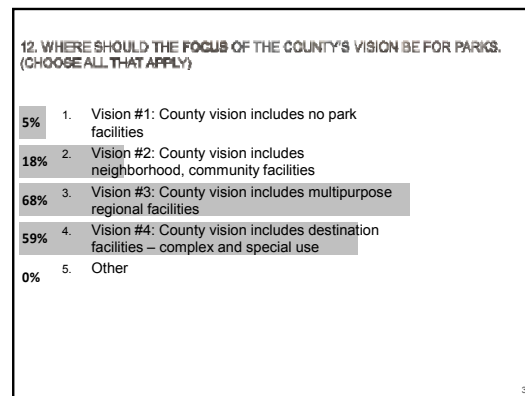
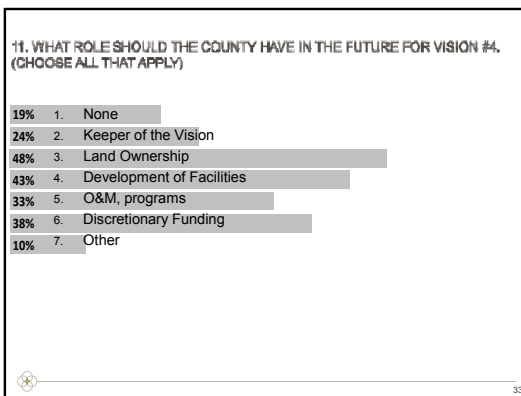
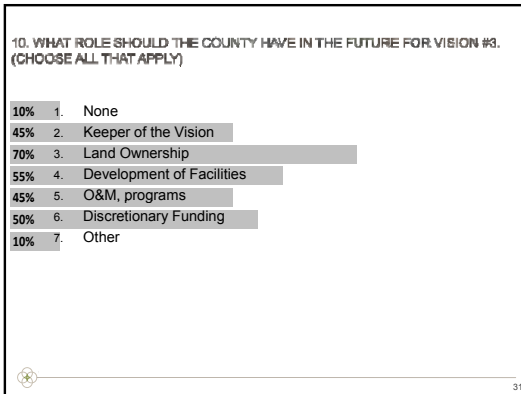
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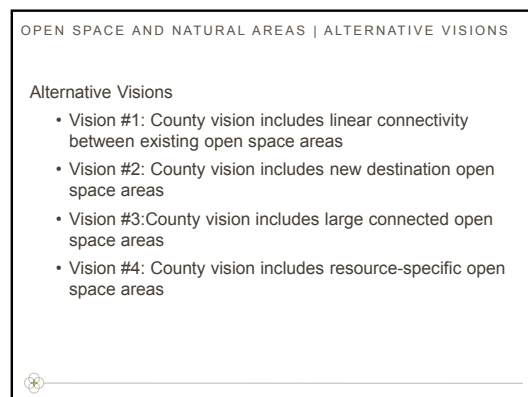
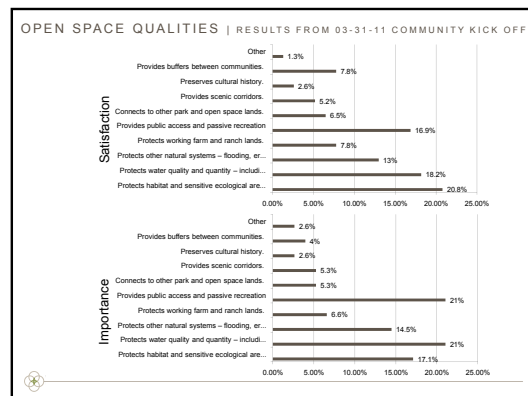
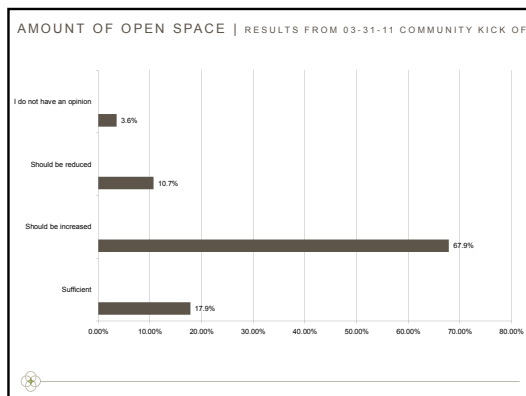
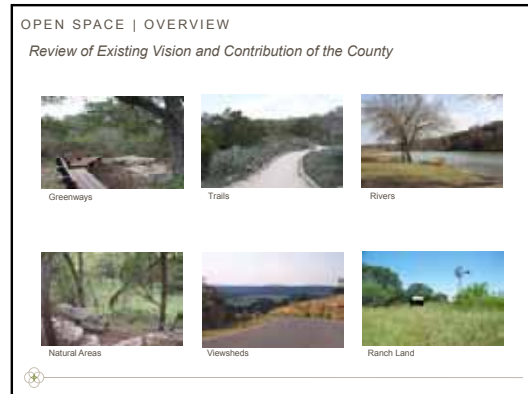
PARKS | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS

Vision #3: County vision includes Multipurpose Regional Facilities

- The focus of the county is on contributing to larger parks with regional a draw.
- Active and passive recreation facilities are developed in the future through county support
- Regional facilities can be a combination of both active and passive recreation.







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OPEN SPACE | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS

Vision #1: County vision includes Linear Connectivity between Existing Open Space Areas

- Focus of the plan is on connecting existing regional parks through waterways, roads, and trails.
- Public agencies work together to create greenways using mostly publicly-owned land



Dakota County, MN


14. WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE COUNTY HAVE IN THE FUTURE FOR VISION #1. (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)

26%	1. None
42%	2. Keeper of the Vision
47%	3. Land Ownership
32%	4. Development of Facilities
11%	5. O&M, programs
21%	6. Discretionary Funding
5%	7. Other

OPEN SPACE | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS

Vision #2: County vision includes New Destination Open Space Areas

- Focus was a regional size park in each of the quadrants.
- Location of open space was based upon opportunities for environmental, social, and geographic goals.
- There is a great desire for trails and riparian corridors as expressed by the community



Travis County, TX

15. WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE COUNTY HAVE IN THE FUTURE FOR VISION #2. (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)

19%	1. None
33%	2. Keeper of the Vision
48%	3. Land Ownership
38%	4. Development of Facilities
14%	5. O&M, programs
29%	6. Discretionary Funding
0%	7. Other

OPEN SPACE | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS

Vision #3: County vision includes Preserving Connected Open Space Areas

- Focused on preserving hills with sensitive structure, views and providing watershed protection.
- The District works with surrounding municipalities to build upon existing open space for more connected spaces with the most ecological benefits.



East Bay Regional Park District, CA

16. WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE COUNTY HAVE IN THE FUTURE FOR VISION #3. (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)


25%	1. None
33%	2. Keeper of the Vision
38%	3. Land Ownership
29%	4. Development of Facilities
13%	5. O&M, programs
29%	6. Discretionary Funding
0%	7. Other

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OPEN SPACE | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS

Vision #4: County vision includes Resource-Specific Open Space Areas

- Focused around a variety of resources and characteristics.
 - Including cultural, natural, ecological and visual.
- Locations are determined by the specific resource and are mostly large regional sized facilities.



Watershed Protection Lands
Maricopa County, AZ

17. WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE COUNTY HAVE IN THE FUTURE FOR VISION #4. (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)

17%	1. None
57%	2. Keeper of the Vision
48%	3. Land Ownership
30%	4. Development of Facilities
13%	5. O&M, programs
26%	6. Discretionary Funding
0%	7. Other

18. WHERE SHOULD THE FOCUS OF THE COUNTY'S VISION BE FOR OPEN SPACE. (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)

21%	1. Vision #1: County contributes to linear connectivity between existing open space areas.
42%	2. Vision #2: County contributes to new destination open space areas.
46%	3. Vision #3: County contributes to resource specific open space areas.
50%	4. Vision #4: County contributes to preserving connected open space areas.
33%	5. County does not contribute to open space in Hays County
4%	6. Other

19. ACCESS IS _____ IN OPEN SPACE THAT THE COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT FUNDS, MANAGES OR SUPPORTS.

27%	1. Required
18%	2. Preferred
41%	3. Allowed
14%	4. Restricted to appointment/ tours only
0%	5. Not permitted

20. WHAT RECREATION PROGRAMS SHOULD THE COUNTY INCORPORATE INTO ITS OPEN SPACE VISION. (CHOOSE 3)

4%	1. Organized athletic leagues – soccer, baseball, swimming, etc.
13%	2. Unstructured play – playscapes, open fields, imagination play, etc.
29%	3. Structured Outdoor Facilities – sports shooting, bmx,
38%	4. Non-sport youth programs – scouts, camps.
4%	5. Community programs – fitness/wellness, cultural arts, seniors.
13%	6. Festivals, tournaments, and other large gatherings.
54%	7. Nature education and enjoyment.
63%	8. Water recreation – fishing, swimming, kayaking, etc.
50%	9. Trail opportunities – equestrian, walking, bicycling, etc.
0%	10. Other

OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS IN YOUR ZIP CODE

Table Break-Out

- Open Space and Natural Areas Project brainstorm for your Zip Code
- Open Space and Natural Areas Project organization for your Zip Code
- Open Space and Natural Areas Project prioritization for your Zip Code

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OVERALL VISION AND NEXT STEPS



21. WHAT SHOULD THE GREATEST FOCUS BE FOR THE VISION OF THIS PLAN. (CHOOSE 3)

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| 4% | 1. | Parks Vision #1: No Park Facilities |
| 4% | 2. | Parks Vision #2: Community and Neighborhood Parks |
| 70% | 3. | Parks Vision #3: Multi-Purpose Regional Parks |
| 57% | 4. | Parks Vision #4: Sports Complex and Special Use Parks |
| 22% | 5. | Open Space Vision #1: Linear Connections |
| 26% | 6. | Open Space Vision #2: New Destination Open Space Areas |
| 26% | 7. | Open Space Vision #3: Connected Open Space Areas |
| 39% | 8. | Open Space Vision #4: Resource Specific Open Space Areas |
| 17% | 9. | Other Vision Not Discussed |

NEXT STEPS

- Synthesize all of the input from the meetings and create Preferred Vision and Role for the County
- Create Priority Project lists that fulfill the Preferred Vision and meets the Goals of the County Parks Advisory Board
- Create Document that culminates all of this information into a narrative.



NEXT STEPS

- Link to Survey: www.surveymonkey.com/s/HaysCountyParks
- Closes on May 4, 2011



22. I FEEL THAT THIS PLANNING PROCESS HAS PROVIDED ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDERS TO ENGAGE IN THE PROCESS. (CHOOSE ONE)

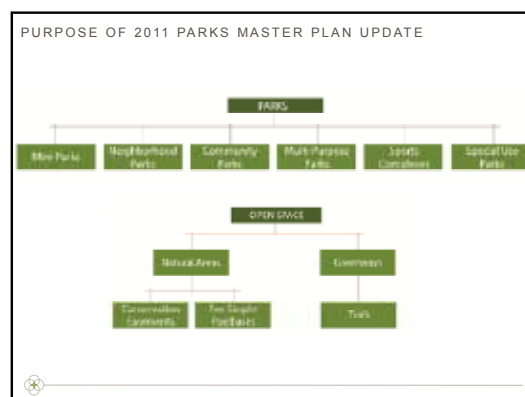
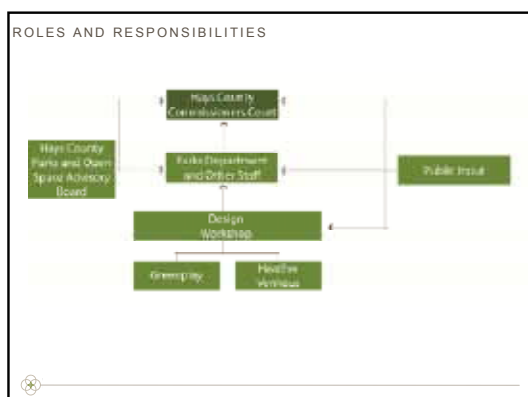
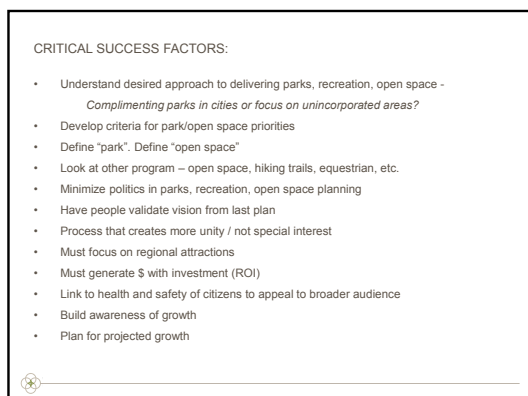
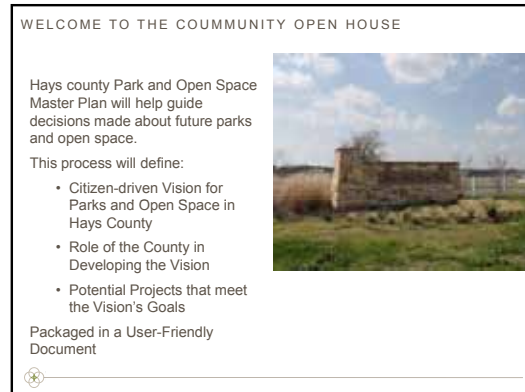
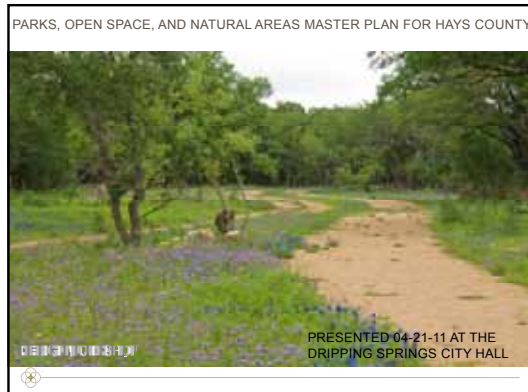
- | | | |
|-----|----|-------------------|
| 13% | 1. | Strongly Agree |
| 30% | 2. | Agree |
| 13% | 3. | Neutral |
| 39% | 4. | Disagree |
| 4% | 5. | Strongly Disagree |

23. ALTHOUGH I MAY NOT AGREE WITH EVERYTHING STATED TODAY, I FEEL THAT THE PROCESS IS HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. (CHOOSE ONE)

- | | | |
|-----|----|-------------------|
| 17% | 1. | Strongly Agree |
| 56% | 2. | Agree |
| 0% | 3. | Neutral |
| 22% | 4. | Disagree |
| 6% | 5. | Strongly Disagree |

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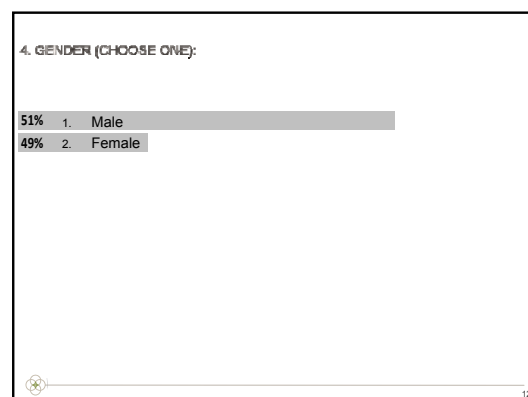
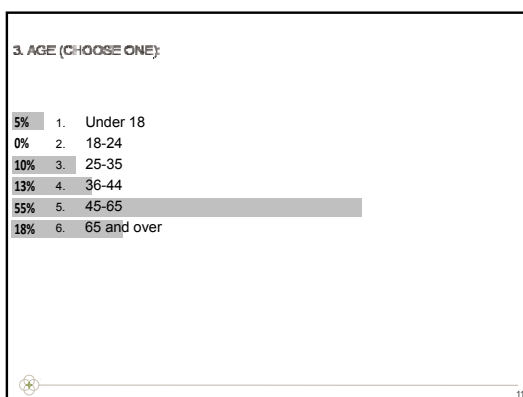
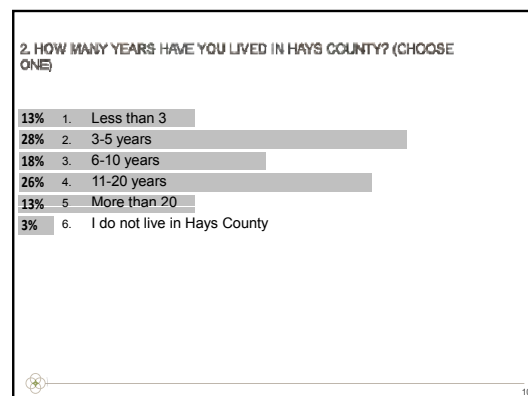
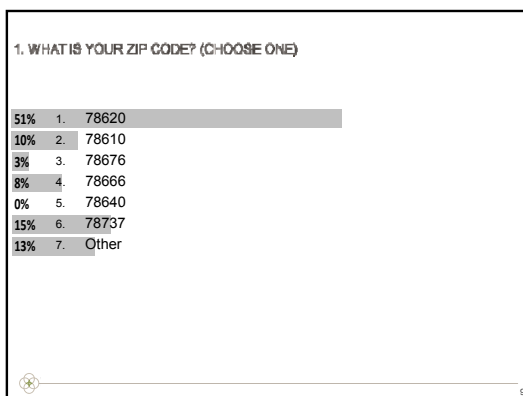
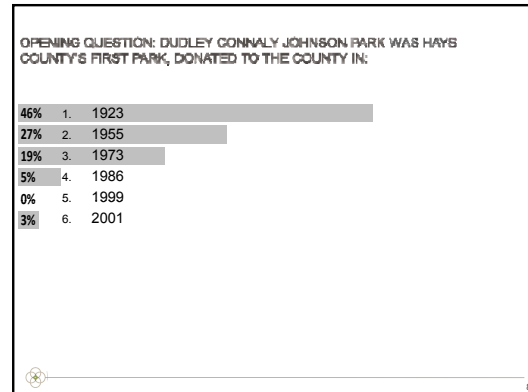
Public Meeting Polling Results | Open House 4-21-11



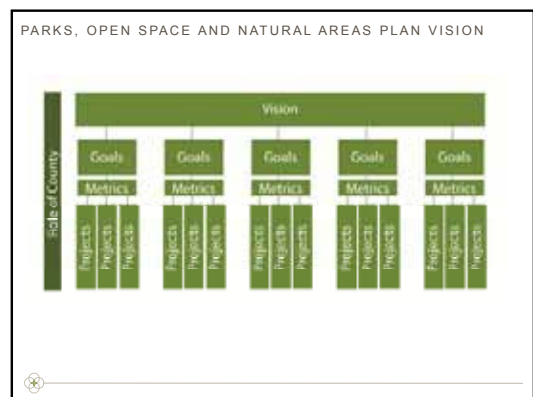
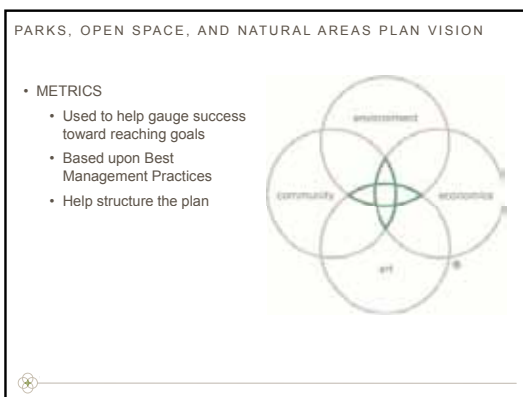
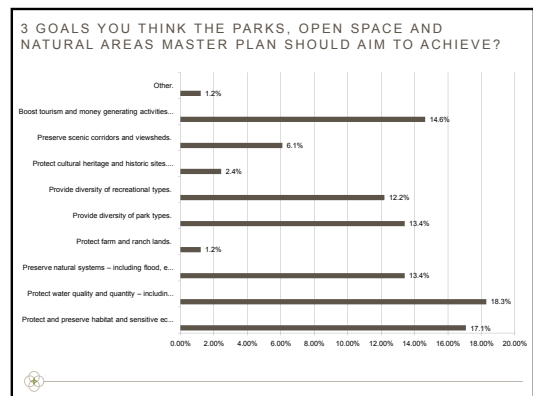
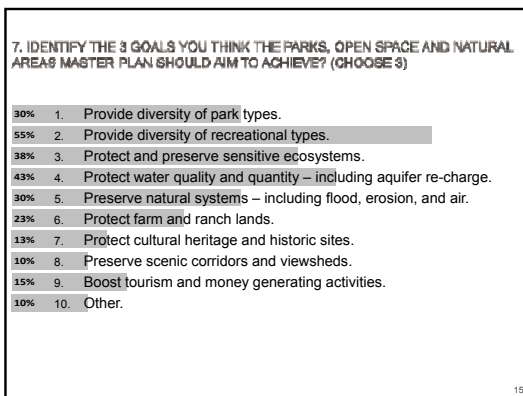
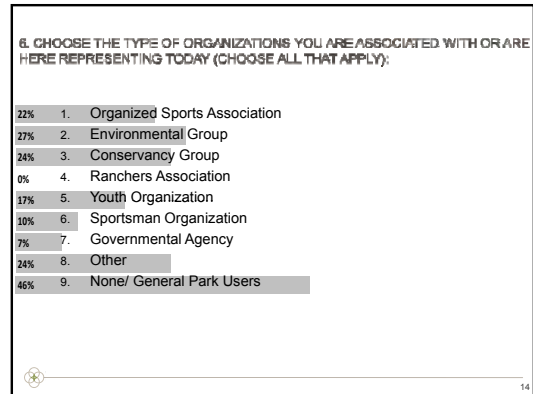
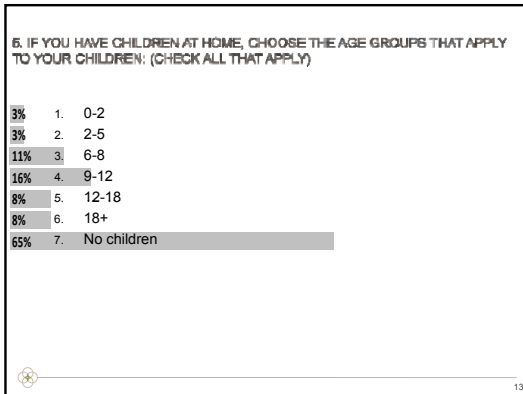
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WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE

	March	April	May	June
Community Outreach	Community Kick-Off	Vision Setting: Stakeholder Meetings and Community Open House	Conceptual Blueprint: Draft Plan Presented to County and Community	Final Plan Presented to County and Community
Data Collection	Land Data, Community Surveys	Values and Community Priorities	Community Feedback on Draft Plan	
Goals, Metrics, Vision	Goals and Metrics Presented	Goals and Metrics Refined	Strategies to Meet Goals and Metrics	
Deliverables	Needs and Desires	Alternative Visions and Project Options	Benefits and Value of Preferred Plan	




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PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS IN YOUR ZIP CODE

Review of Statistics and Geography of your Zip Code.




PARKS | OVERVIEW

Review of Existing Vision and Contribution of the County



Neighborhood Park –
Bonita Vista Park, Buda



Neighborhood Park –
Dunbar Park, San Marcos




Community Park –
Rio Vista, San Marcos



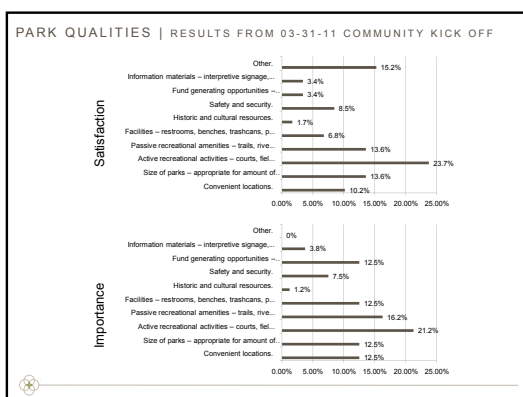
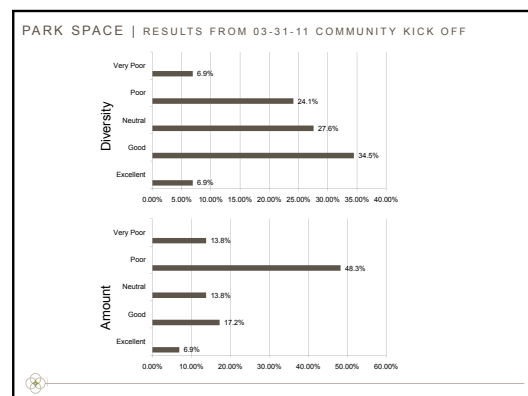
Multi-Purpose Park –
Blue Hole Regional, Wimberley



Special Use Park –
Camp Ben McCulloch



Sports Complex –
Five Mile Dam Sports Complex

PARKS | COUNTY'S POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION/ROLE

County's Potential Contribution/Role

- Keeper of the Vision
- Land Ownership
- Development of Facilities
- Operations and Maintenance, programs
- Discretionary Funding




PARKS | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS

Alternative Visions

- Vision #1: County vision includes neighborhood, community facilities
- Vision #2: County vision includes multipurpose regional facilities
- Vision #3: County vision includes destination facilities – sports complex and special use
- Vision #4: County vision includes no park facilities



PARKS | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS

Vision #1: County vision includes Neighborhood and Community Facilities

- The focus of the county is on contributing to parks with local neighborhood and/or community draw.
- Active recreation facilities are developed in the future through county support


**9. WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE COUNTY HAVE IN THE FUTURE FOR VISION #1.
(CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)**

41%	1. None
30%	2. Keeper of the Vision
24%	3. Land Ownership
27%	4. Development of Facilities
27%	5. Operations and Maintenance, programs
38%	6. Discretionary Funding
11%	7. Other

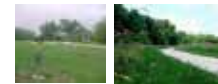


27

PARKS | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS

Vision #2: County vision includes Multipurpose Regional Facilities

- The focus of the county is on contributing to larger parks with regional a draw.
- Active and passive recreation facilities are developed in the future through county support
- Regional facilities can be a combination of both active and passive recreation.


**10. WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE COUNTY HAVE IN THE FUTURE FOR VISION #2.
(CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)**

20%	1. None
37%	2. Keeper of the Vision
54%	3. Land Ownership
54%	4. Development of Facilities
34%	5. Operations and Maintenance, programs
51%	6. Discretionary Funding
5%	7. Other



28

PARKS | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS


Vision #3: County vision includes destination facilities – sports complex and special use

- Large sports complexes are developed in the future through county support and draw from larger demographic area.
- Great economic impact as families / multiple age groups travel further and stay locally to participate in tournaments.



11. WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE COUNTY HAVE IN THE FUTURE FOR VISION #3. (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)


28%	1. None
25%	2. Keeper of the Vision
45%	3. Land Ownership
35%	4. Development of Facilities
28%	5. Operations and Maintenance, programs
60%	6. Discretionary Funding
10%	7. Other


 31

PARKS | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS

Vision #4 - County vision includes No Facilities


- The focus of the county is on open space and natural areas.
- No active recreation facilities are developed in the future through county support
- Active recreation facilities are developed by the cities and special interest organizations.



 32


12. WHERE SHOULD THE FOCUS OF THE COUNTY'S VISION BE FOR PARKS. (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)

25%	1. Vision #1: County vision includes neighborhood, community facilities
70%	2. Vision #2: County vision includes multipurpose regional facilities
59%	3. Vision #3: County vision includes destination facilities – complex and special use
18%	4. Vision #4: County vision includes no park facilities
20%	5. Other

 33

13. WHAT RECREATION PROGRAMS SHOULD THE COUNTY INCORPORATE INTO ITS PARKS VISION. (CHOOSE 3)


28%	1. Organized athletic leagues – soccer, baseball, swimming, etc.
19%	2. Unstructured play – playscapes, open fields, imagination play, etc.
23%	3. Structured Outdoor Facilities – sports shooting, bmx,
5%	4. Non-sport youth programs – scouts, camps.
14%	5. Community programs – fitness/wellness, cultural arts, seniors.
12%	6. Festivals, tournaments, and other large gatherings.
37%	7. Nature education and enjoyment
42%	8. Water recreation – fishing, swimming, kayaking, etc.
56%	9. Trail opportunities – equestrian, walking, bicycling, etc.
14%	10. Other

 34


PARKS IN YOUR ZIP CODE


TABLE BREAK-OUT

- Park Project brainstorm for your Zip Code
- Park Project organization for your Zip Code
- Park Project prioritization for your Zip Code

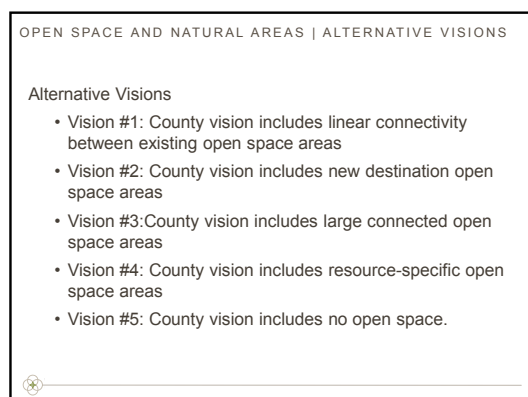
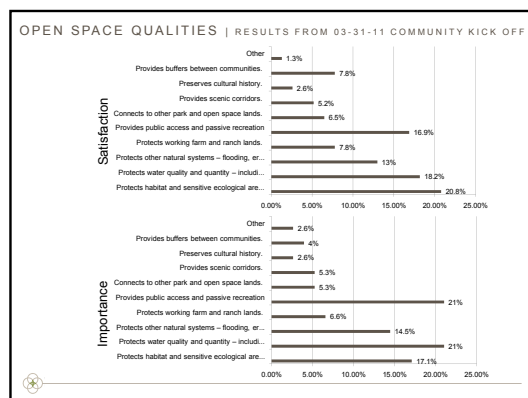
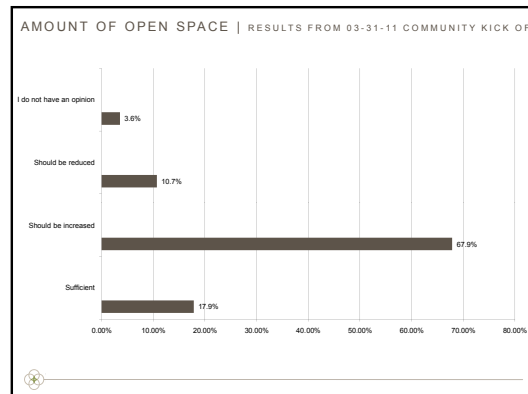
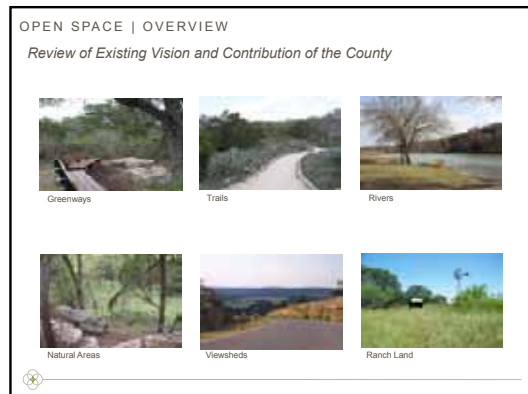
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OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS

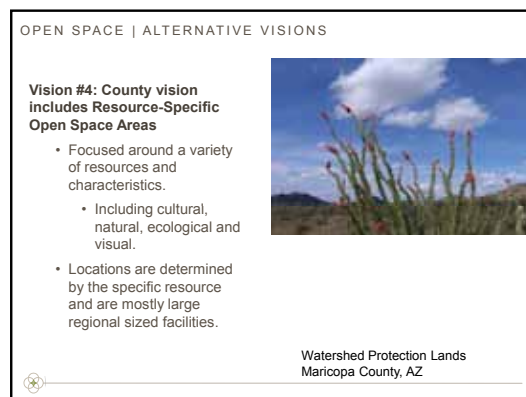
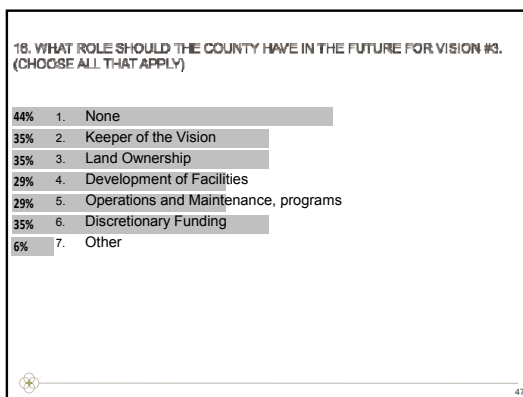
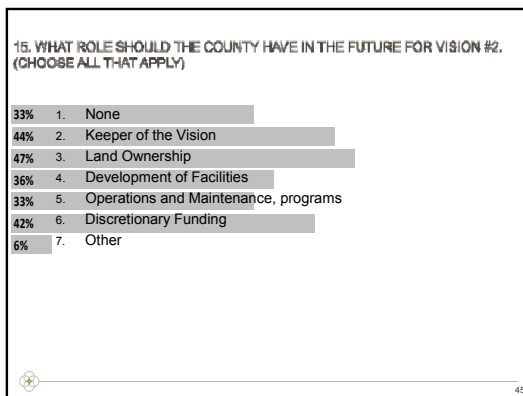
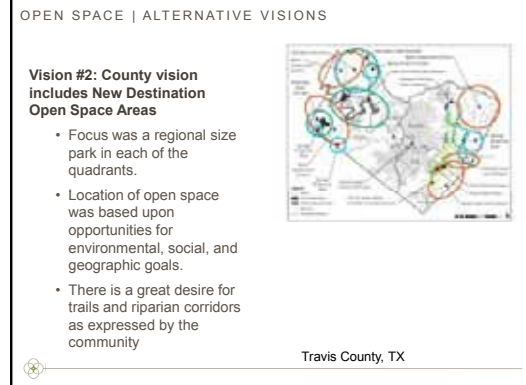
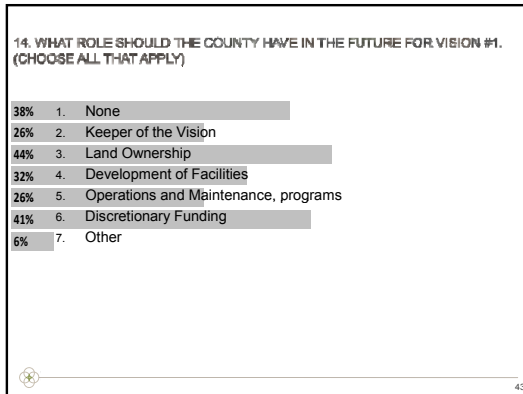


 36

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17. WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE COUNTY HAVE IN THE FUTURE FOR VISION #4. (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)

38%	1. None
38%	2. Keeper of the Vision
44%	3. Land Ownership
28%	4. Development of Facilities
25%	5. Operations and Maintenance, programs
25%	6. Discretionary Funding
3%	7. Other

49

OPEN SPACE | ALTERNATIVE VISIONS

Vision #5: County vision includes No Open Space

- Focus of the plan is on parks development and active recreation.
- Open Space development is done through special interest groups and private groups.



50

18. WHERE SHOULD THE FOCUS OF THE COUNTY'S VISION BE FOR OPEN SPACE. (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)

23%	1. Vision #1: County vision includes linear connectivity between existing open spaces.
40%	2. Vision #2: County vision includes new destination open space areas.
43%	3. Vision #3: County vision includes preserving connected open space.
57%	4. Vision #4: County vision includes resource specific open space areas.
31%	5. Vision #5: County vision includes no open space.
3%	6. Other

51

19. ACCESS IS _____ IN OPEN SPACE THAT THE COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT FUNDS, MANAGES OR SUPPORTS.

54%	1. Required
14%	2. Preferred
26%	3. Allowed
6%	4. Restricted to appointment/ tours only
0%	5. Not permitted

52

20. WHAT RECREATION PROGRAMS SHOULD THE COUNTY INCORPORATE INTO ITS OPEN SPACE VISION. (CHOOSE 3)

17%	1. Organized athletic leagues – soccer, baseball, swimming, etc.
19%	2. Unstructured play – playscapes, open fields, imagination play, etc.
17%	3. Structured Outdoor Facilities – sports shooting, bmx,
6%	4. Non-sport youth programs – scouts, camps.
3%	5. Community programs – fitness/wellness, cultural arts, seniors.
17%	6. Festivals, tournaments, and other large gatherings.
56%	7. Nature education and enjoyment.
47%	8. Water recreation – fishing, swimming, kayaking, etc.
69%	9. Trail opportunities – equestrian, walking, bicycling, etc.
11%	10. Other

53

OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS IN YOUR ZIP CODE

Table Break-Out

- Open Space and Natural Areas Project brainstorm for your Zip Code
- Open Space and Natural Areas Project organization for your Zip Code
- Open Space and Natural Areas Project prioritization for your Zip Code

54

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OVERALL VISION AND NEXT STEPS



21. WHAT SHOULD THE GREATEST FOCUS BE FOR THE VISION OF THIS PLAN. (CHOOSE 3)

13%	1.	Parks Vision #1: Community and Neighborhood Parks
26%	2.	Parks Vision #2: Multi-Purpose Regional Parks
42%	3.	Parks Vision #3: Sports Complex and Special Use Parks
23%	4.	Parks Vision #4: No Park Facilities
26%	5.	Open Space Vision #1: Linear Connections
42%	6.	Open Space Vision #2: New Destination Open Space Areas
39%	7.	Open Space Vision #3: Connected Open Space Areas
35%	8.	Open Space Vision #4: Resource Specific Open Space Areas
32%	9.	Open Space Vision #5: No Open Space
0%	10.	Other Vision Not Discussed



56

NEXT STEPS

- Synthesize all of the input from the meetings and create Preferred Vision and Role for the County
- Create Priority Project lists that fulfill the Preferred Vision and meets the Goals of the County Parks Advisory Board
- Create Document that culminates all of this information into a narrative.



NEXT STEPS

- Link to Survey: www.surveymonkey.com/s/HaysCountyParks
- Closes on May 4, 2011



22. I FEEL THAT THIS PLANNING PROCESS HAS PROVIDED ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDERS TO ENGAGE IN THE PROCESS. (CHOOSE ONE)

10%	1.	Strongly Agree
10%	2.	Agree
7%	3.	Neutral
37%	4.	Disagree
37%	5.	Strongly Disagree



58

23. ALTHOUGH I MAY NOT AGREE WITH EVERYTHING STATED TODAY, I FEEL THAT THE PROCESS IS HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. (CHOOSE ONE)

16%	1.	Strongly Agree
32%	2.	Agree
10%	3.	Neutral
16%	4.	Disagree
26%	5.	Strongly Disagree



60

Online Polling Results

Hays County









1. What is your ZIP code?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
78610		9.0%	88
78620		8.5%	83
78640		22.6%	221
78666		39.7%	389
78676		3.9%	38
78737		4.8%	47
Other		11.6%	114
answered question			980
skipped question			1






2. Does the municipality you live in provide parks or open space?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		77.0%	351
No		4.6%	21
I do not live within a municipalities' city limits.		19.1%	87
answered question			456
skipped question			525

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3. How many years have you lived in Hays County?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 3 years		10.1%	99
3-5 years		18.5%	181
6-10 years		21.5%	211
11-20 years		16.8%	165
more than 20		23.7%	232
I don't live in Hays County		9.4%	92
answered question			980
skipped question			1






4. What is your age?




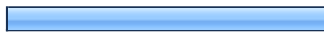






		Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18		0.0%	0
18-24		6.2%	61
25-34		18.0%	176
35-44		21.0%	206
45-64		44.7%	438
65 and over		10.1%	99
answered question			980
skipped question			1

7. If you have children at home, choose the age groups that apply to your children. (Check all that apply.)











		Response Percent	Response Count
0-2		16.4%	161
3-5		10.4%	102
6-8		11.2%	110
9-12		11.2%	110
13-18		13.9%	136
18 +		9.8%	96
No children		49.4%	484
answered question			980
skipped question			1






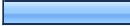




8. Are you aware of Hays County's current Park and Open Space Plan?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes – I am aware of the plan and contents.		21.8%	212
Yes – I am not very aware of its contents.		35.7%	347
Yes – I feel it has not been used.		2.8%	27
No – I have never heard of it.		11.8%	115
No – I am interested to know more about it.		28.0%	272
answered question			973
skipped question			8






9. Identify the 3 GOALS you think the parks and open space master plan should aim to achieve.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Provide diversity of recreational opportunities.		41.0%	385
Provide diversity of park types.		29.3%	275
Protect and preserve habitat and sensitive ecosystems.		55.9%	524
Protect water quality and quantity – including aquifer recharge.		56.2%	527
Preserve natural systems – including flood risk mitigation, erosion control and air quality improvements.		39.1%	367
Protect farm and ranch lands.		15.5%	145
Protect cultural heritage and historic sites.		18.1%	170
Preserve scenic corridors and viewsheds.		22.7%	213
Boost tourism and money generating activities.		14.7%	138
Other (please specify)		14.7%	138
answered question			938
skipped question			43

10. I feel that existing conservation efforts and the amount of open space in Hays County:			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Is sufficient	<div></div>	18.2%	160
Should be increased	<div></div>	65.6%	576
Should be reduced	<div></div>	3.0%	26
I do not have an opinion	<div></div>	13.2%	116
Other (please specify)			25
answered question			878
skipped question			103

11. Choose the 3 MOST OUTSTANDING qualities of existing open space in Hays County:			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Provides public access and passive recreation.		59.8%	508
Connects to other park and open space lands.		22.7%	193
Protects habitat and sensitive ecological areas.		45.8%	389
Protects water quality and quantity – including aquifer recharge.		43.5%	370
Protects other natural systems – flooding, erosion, steep slopes, air quality.		24.1%	205
Provides scenic corridors.		33.1%	281
Protects working farm and ranch lands.		14.5%	123
Preserves cultural history.		13.8%	117
Provides buffers between communities.		22.1%	188
Other (please specify)		10.1%	86
answered question			850
skipped question			131



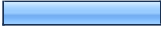







12. Choose the top 3 MOST IMPORTANT qualities for future open space in Hays County:			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Provides public access and passive recreation.		46.1%	403
Connects to other park and open space lands.		29.0%	254
Protects habitat and sensitive ecological areas.		52.0%	455
Protects water quality and quantity – including aquifer recharge.		57.4%	502
Protects other natural systems – flooding, erosion, steep slopes, air quality.		34.6%	303
Provides scenic corridors.		22.1%	193
Protects working farm and ranch lands.		16.7%	146
Preserves cultural history.		11.8%	103
Provides buffers between communities.		12.7%	111
Other (please specify)		10.3%	90
answered question			875
skipped question			106

13. How concerned are you about the conversion of productive farms and ranches to development?











		Response Percent	Response Count
Very concerned		46.2%	406
Concerned		32.3%	284
Neutral		14.9%	131
Unconcerned		3.2%	28
Not at all concerned		3.4%	30
answered question			879
skipped question			102

14. I find the _____ of all existing parks in Hays County to be:

	Excellent	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor	Response Count
DIVERSITY	4.3% (35)	39.6% (320)	36.8% (297)	15.6% (126)	3.7% (30)	808
AMOUNT	4.0% (31)	29.4% (228)	30.7% (238)	28.1% (218)	7.9% (61)	776
Other (please specify)						26
answered question						810
skipped question						171

15. Choose the 3 MOST OUTSTANDING qualities of all existing parks in Hays County:			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Active recreational amenities – courts, fields, playscapes.		49.1%	396
Passive recreational amenities – trails, river access, natural features.		65.3%	527
Facilities – restrooms, benches, trashcans, pavilions		27.5%	222
Convenient locations.		41.3%	333
Size of parks – appropriate for amount of park users.		32.8%	265
Information materials – interpretive signage, education, system information.		7.1%	57
Safety and security.		18.0%	145
Historic and cultural resources.		16.1%	130
Fund generating opportunities – concessions, tourism, increased property values, etc.		6.1%	49
Other (please specify)		12.0%	97
answered question			807
skipped question			174

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16. Pick the top 3 MOST IMPORTANT qualities for future parks in Hays County:			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Active recreational amenities – courts, fields, playscapes.		31.5%	260
Passive recreational amenities – trails, river access, natural features.		71.7%	592
Facilities – restrooms, benches, trashcans, pavilions		37.2%	307
Convenient locations.		27.7%	229
Size of parks – appropriate for amount of park users.		44.3%	366
Information materials – interpretive signage, education, system information.		15.4%	127
Safety and security.		22.4%	185
Historic and cultural resources.		16.2%	134
Fund generating opportunities – concessions, tourism, increased property values, etc.		10.8%	89
Other (please specify)		13.8%	114
answered question			826
skipped question			155

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17. How important is it that parks and open space:

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Not important	Not at all important	Response Count
Pay for themselves through user fees or other?	12.5% (102)	26.5% (217)	32.8% (268)	18.6% (152)	9.7% (79)	818
Promote tourism?	12.4% (101)	27.9% (227)	32.5% (265)	17.1% (139)	10.2% (83)	815
Increase property values?	17.0% (139)	33.9% (277)	30.1% (246)	11.7% (96)	7.3% (60)	818
Other (please specify)						31
answered question						820
skipped question						161

18. How far would you be willing to travel to a county park or open space with diverse recreational opportunities?

		Response Percent	Response Count
5 minutes		2.9%	23
10 minutes		10.3%	83
15 minutes		18.7%	150
20 minutes		22.3%	179
30 minutes		27.1%	218
1 hour		18.8%	151
Other (please specify)			32
answered question			804
skipped question			177

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19. I find the diversity of all recreational programs in Hays County to be:			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent		2.9%	22
Good		36.8%	281
Neutral		42.5%	325
Poor		15.1%	115
Very Poor		2.7%	21
Other (please specify)			17
answered question			764
skipped question			217

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20. SPORTS WITH COURTS or FIELDS - Importance							
	Least Important		No Opinion		Most Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Basketball Courts	16.4% (120)	12.0% (88)	30.9% (226)	33.0% (241)	7.7% (56)	0.03	731
Bocce/Washers	26.5% (192)	11.0% (80)	39.2% (284)	19.0% (138)	4.3% (31)	-0.36	725
Tennis Courts	18.8% (136)	12.7% (92)	32.8% (238)	28.8% (209)	6.9% (50)	-0.08	725
Volleyball Fields	16.7% (121)	11.8% (86)	34.8% (253)	31.4% (228)	5.2% (38)	-0.03	726
Soccer Fields	16.1% (116)	10.2% (74)	27.1% (196)	33.0% (238)	13.6% (98)	0.18	722
Baseball Fields	16.0% (116)	11.7% (85)	29.8% (216)	30.8% (223)	11.6% (84)	0.10	724
Softball Fields	16.3% (118)	11.2% (81)	29.9% (216)	31.3% (226)	11.3% (82)	0.10	723
Football Fields	25.6% (185)	14.0% (101)	34.9% (253)	20.6% (149)	5.0% (36)	-0.35	724
Track	20.1% (146)	12.2% (89)	30.4% (221)	28.6% (208)	8.8% (64)	-0.06	728
answered question							739
skipped question							242

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

21. SPORTS WITH COURTS or FIELDS - Satisfaction							
	Unsatisfied		No Opinion		Very Satisfied	Rating Average	Response Count
Basketball Courts	5.8% (41)	7.2% (51)	67.4% (480)	14.2% (101)	5.5% (39)	0.06	712
Bocce/Washers	5.9% (42)	5.8% (41)	79.5% (562)	4.8% (34)	4.0% (28)	-0.05	707
Tennis Courts	5.6% (40)	7.0% (50)	67.2% (478)	12.9% (92)	7.2% (51)	0.09	711
Volleyball Fields	6.3% (45)	8.3% (59)	71.4% (506)	9.2% (65)	4.8% (34)	-0.02	709
Soccer Fields	3.5% (25)	6.9% (49)	61.4% (436)	17.3% (123)	10.8% (77)	0.25	710
Baseball Fields	4.1% (29)	6.6% (47)	63.4% (450)	18.0% (128)	7.9% (56)	0.19	710
Softball Fields	4.8% (34)	6.0% (42)	65.1% (458)	17.3% (122)	6.8% (48)	0.15	704
Football Fields	3.5% (25)	6.0% (42)	73.6% (519)	10.6% (75)	6.2% (44)	0.10	705
Track	7.7% (54)	8.2% (58)	69.9% (492)	9.2% (65)	5.0% (35)	-0.04	704
answered question							718
skipped question							263

22. OTHER STRUCTURED ACTIVITIES - Importance							
	Least Important		No Opinion		Most Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Skateboarding Parks	21.8% (154)	11.9% (84)	32.2% (228)	26.4% (187)	7.6% (54)	-0.14	707
Xtreme and Bike Parks	22.7% (161)	11.4% (81)	31.9% (226)	26.2% (186)	7.8% (55)	-0.15	709
Shooting Sports	33.0% (233)	9.9% (70)	25.2% (178)	13.4% (95)	18.5% (131)	-0.25	707
Disk Golf	17.6% (125)	9.4% (67)	29.6% (210)	33.6% (238)	9.7% (69)	0.08	709
Golf Courses	37.9% (269)	9.4% (67)	27.5% (195)	18.5% (131)	6.6% (47)	-0.54	709
answered question							721
skipped question							260

23. OTHER STRUCTURED ACTIVITIES - Satisfaction							
	Unsatisfied		No Opinion		Very Satisfied	Rating Average	Response Count
Skateboarding Parks	9.1% (65)	6.2% (44)	67.7% (482)	11.4% (81)	5.6% (40)	-0.02	712
Xtreme and Bike Parks	11.8% (84)	9.8% (70)	68.8% (490)	5.8% (41)	3.8% (27)	-0.20	712
Shooting Sports	20.1% (143)	6.8% (48)	64.8% (461)	2.7% (19)	5.6% (40)	-0.33	711
Disk Golf	9.0% (64)	12.4% (88)	64.5% (459)	9.1% (65)	5.1% (36)	-0.11	712
Golf Courses	7.2% (51)	6.9% (49)	67.5% (477)	9.9% (70)	8.5% (60)	0.06	707
answered question							718
skipped question							263

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

24. WATER AMENITIES - Importance							
	Least Important		No Opinion		Most Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Beaches	20.3% (146)	7.9% (57)	28.3% (203)	27.4% (197)	16.0% (115)	0.11	718
River Access	2.5% (18)	3.2% (23)	7.4% (54)	32.7% (238)	54.2% (394)	1.33	727
Fishing Docks	8.6% (62)	8.4% (61)	22.0% (159)	41.1% (297)	19.9% (144)	0.55	723
Pools	14.8% (106)	9.6% (69)	21.9% (157)	34.0% (244)	19.7% (141)	0.34	717
Sprayground	20.6% (147)	9.9% (71)	34.9% (249)	21.0% (150)	13.6% (97)	-0.03	714
Whitewater Parks	20.8% (149)	11.7% (84)	29.9% (215)	24.0% (172)	13.6% (98)	-0.02	718
answered question							732
skipped question							249

25. WATER AMENITIES - Satisfaction							
	Unsatisfied		No Opinion		Very Satisfied	Rating Average	Response Count
Beaches	15.2% (107)	11.8% (83)	58.3% (410)	10.1% (71)	4.6% (32)	-0.23	703
River Access	18.0% (129)	21.3% (153)	24.9% (179)	26.6% (191)	9.2% (66)	-0.12	718
Fishing Docks	14.9% (106)	17.9% (127)	51.8% (368)	10.3% (73)	5.1% (36)	-0.27	710
Pools	11.0% (78)	13.6% (96)	50.3% (356)	16.8% (119)	8.3% (59)	-0.02	708
Sprayground	11.5% (81)	9.5% (67)	66.8% (471)	6.7% (47)	5.5% (39)	-0.15	705
Whitewater Parks	11.2% (79)	10.0% (71)	62.1% (439)	9.8% (69)	6.9% (49)	-0.09	707
answered question							720
skipped question							261

26. PASSIVE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES - Importance							
	Least Important		No Opinion		Most Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Hiking	2.4% (17)	2.4% (17)	7.4% (52)	27.1% (190)	60.6% (425)	1.41	701
Biking	4.3% (30)	4.7% (33)	11.5% (80)	34.7% (242)	44.8% (312)	1.11	697
Equestrian	19.5% (134)	11.2% (77)	38.8% (267)	20.2% (139)	10.3% (71)	-0.09	688
Birdwatching	8.4% (58)	4.6% (32)	23.8% (164)	30.6% (211)	32.6% (225)	0.74	690
General Nature Enjoyment	3.0% (21)	1.9% (13)	10.2% (71)	25.4% (177)	59.6% (416)	1.37	698
Geocaching	13.0% (89)	6.8% (47)	43.1% (296)	22.3% (153)	14.8% (102)	0.19	687
Camping	5.2% (36)	5.9% (41)	17.4% (121)	35.8% (249)	35.8% (249)	0.91	696
Kayaking	5.8% (40)	5.5% (38)	21.5% (149)	33.6% (233)	33.6% (233)	0.84	693
answered question							704
skipped question							277

27. PASSIVE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES - Satisfaction							
	Unsatisfied		No Opinion		Very Satisfied	Rating Average	Response Count
Hiking	14.8% (102)	16.9% (117)	21.9% (151)	35.0% (242)	11.4% (79)	0.11	691
Biking	14.7% (101)	21.0% (145)	31.5% (217)	25.5% (176)	7.3% (50)	-0.10	689
Equestrian	7.1% (48)	9.0% (61)	71.5% (486)	7.1% (48)	5.4% (37)	-0.05	680
Birdwatching	9.5% (65)	9.4% (64)	45.9% (313)	25.7% (175)	9.5% (65)	0.16	682
General Nature Enjoyment	9.4% (65)	15.8% (109)	24.9% (171)	35.8% (246)	14.1% (97)	0.29	688
Geocaching	5.4% (37)	7.5% (51)	67.0% (458)	13.0% (89)	7.2% (49)	0.09	684
Camping	17.9% (122)	21.6% (147)	44.3% (302)	11.3% (77)	5.0% (34)	-0.36	682
Kayaking	8.7% (59)	14.4% (98)	44.7% (305)	23.8% (162)	8.5% (58)	0.09	682
answered question							694
skipped question							287

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

28. COMMUNITY SPACE and STRUCTURES - Importance							
	Least Important		No Opinion		Most Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Community Gardens	9.8% (70)	7.9% (56)	18.9% (135)	34.2% (244)	29.2% (208)	0.89	713
Recreation Centers	7.1% (50)	8.3% (59)	19.6% (139)	42.2% (299)	22.8% (162)	0.90	709
Nature Centers	4.9% (35)	5.3% (38)	17.5% (125)	41.2% (294)	31.0% (221)	1.04	713
Amphitheaters	9.9% (70)	11.9% (84)	29.5% (208)	36.0% (254)	12.7% (90)	0.65	706
Dog Parks	15.7% (111)	12.3% (87)	27.1% (192)	29.1% (206)	15.8% (112)	0.54	708
Pavillions	8.9% (63)	8.6% (61)	24.4% (173)	43.3% (307)	14.8% (105)	0.72	709
Playscapes	7.8% (55)	7.4% (52)	19.2% (135)	42.2% (297)	23.4% (165)	0.88	704
Consession Stands	26.9% (190)	20.0% (141)	31.4% (222)	17.4% (123)	4.2% (30)	0.12	706
Fitness Station System	16.7% (117)	13.4% (94)	31.0% (217)	28.6% (200)	10.3% (72)	0.43	700
answered question							718
skipped question							263

29. COMMUNITY SPACE and STRUCTURES - Satisfaction							
	Unsatisfied		No Opinion		Very Satisfied	Rating Average	Response Count
Community Gardens	18.4% (128)	17.5% (122)	45.8% (319)	13.1% (91)	5.3% (37)	0.22	697
Recreation Centers	11.7% (81)	13.7% (95)	43.1% (299)	22.8% (158)	8.7% (60)	0.44	693
Nature Centers	14.8% (103)	17.4% (121)	39.0% (271)	22.4% (156)	6.3% (44)	0.40	695
Amphitheaters	11.0% (76)	14.4% (100)	57.6% (400)	10.7% (74)	6.3% (44)	0.30	694
Dog Parks	11.7% (81)	12.3% (85)	55.1% (382)	13.7% (95)	7.2% (50)	0.29	693
Pavillions	7.4% (51)	15.2% (105)	51.8% (358)	20.1% (139)	5.5% (38)	0.47	691
Playscapes	7.2% (50)	10.8% (75)	47.3% (328)	25.9% (180)	8.8% (61)	0.51	694
Consession Stands	6.4% (44)	7.4% (51)	70.9% (487)	8.0% (55)	7.3% (50)	0.25	687
Fitness Station System	10.5% (72)	13.0% (89)	64.5% (441)	6.0% (41)	6.0% (41)	0.23	684
answered question							701
skipped question							280

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

30. CULTURAL and SPECIAL USE AMENITIES - Importance							
	Least Important		No Opinion		Most Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Outdoor Classrooms	8.5% (59)	5.9% (41)	26.0% (181)	35.2% (245)	24.4% (170)	0.61	696
Scout/ 4H Facilities	6.9% (48)	5.6% (39)	28.0% (196)	36.7% (257)	22.9% (160)	0.63	700
Art/Sculpture	13.5% (94)	9.5% (66)	27.5% (191)	32.4% (225)	17.0% (118)	0.30	694
Historic Buildings/Areas	5.7% (40)	5.7% (40)	20.8% (145)	43.7% (305)	24.1% (168)	0.75	698
Festivals/ Special Events	6.2% (43)	5.9% (41)	18.7% (131)	42.2% (295)	27.0% (189)	0.78	699
Foundation and Friend Groups	10.0% (69)	8.1% (56)	38.5% (267)	30.0% (208)	13.4% (93)	0.29	693
answered question							706
skipped question							275

31. CULTURAL and SPECIAL USE AMENITIES - Satisfaction							
	Unsatisfied		No Opinion		Very Satisfied	Rating Average	Response Count
Outdoor Classrooms	15.4% (106)	13.9% (96)	58.3% (402)	8.1% (56)	4.2% (29)	-0.28	689
Scout/ 4H Facilities	13.8% (95)	11.0% (76)	64.1% (441)	7.6% (52)	3.5% (24)	-0.24	688
Art/Sculpture	12.4% (85)	19.1% (131)	53.5% (367)	9.3% (64)	5.7% (39)	-0.23	686
Historic Buildings/Areas	6.7% (46)	18.5% (127)	46.8% (321)	22.4% (154)	5.5% (38)	0.02	686
Festivals/ Special Events	9.2% (63)	11.6% (79)	44.5% (304)	27.2% (186)	7.5% (51)	0.12	683
Foundation and Friend Groups	6.7% (46)	7.8% (53)	67.6% (462)	12.6% (86)	5.3% (36)	0.02	683
answered question							692
skipped question							289

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

32. INFRASTRUCTURE - Importance							
	Least Important		No Opinion		Most Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Kiosks	18.0% (123)	12.7% (87)	35.3% (242)	24.7% (169)	9.3% (64)	-0.05	685
Signage	7.3% (51)	6.9% (48)	22.3% (155)	41.5% (288)	21.9% (152)	0.64	694
Parking	3.4% (24)	7.2% (50)	13.6% (95)	46.1% (321)	29.7% (207)	0.91	697
Restrooms	3.3% (23)	4.5% (31)	10.9% (76)	44.9% (312)	36.4% (253)	1.07	695
Garbage Cans	2.4% (17)	1.9% (13)	9.9% (69)	38.6% (268)	47.1% (327)	1.26	694
Bike Racks	6.2% (43)	7.7% (53)	23.3% (161)	37.8% (261)	24.9% (172)	0.68	690
Irrigation Systems	19.4% (133)	12.5% (86)	31.6% (217)	23.6% (162)	13.0% (89)	-0.02	687
answered question							701
skipped question							280

33. INFRASTRUCTURE - Satisfaction							
	Unsatisfied		No Opinion		Very Satisfied	Rating Average	Response Count
Kiosks	7.4% (50)	11.9% (81)	62.2% (423)	13.2% (90)	5.3% (36)	-0.03	680
Signage	7.5% (51)	18.7% (128)	47.7% (326)	21.1% (144)	5.1% (35)	-0.02	684
Parking	8.9% (61)	21.1% (144)	37.9% (259)	27.3% (187)	4.8% (33)	-0.02	684
Restrooms	13.3% (91)	23.2% (159)	36.9% (253)	22.7% (156)	3.9% (27)	-0.19	686
Garbage Cans	10.0% (68)	20.6% (140)	38.8% (264)	25.7% (175)	5.0% (34)	-0.05	681
Bike Racks	10.4% (71)	16.4% (112)	56.3% (384)	12.9% (88)	4.0% (27)	-0.16	682
Irrigation Systems	5.8% (39)	9.1% (61)	70.1% (472)	8.8% (59)	6.2% (42)	0.01	673
answered question							688
skipped question							293

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

34. MANAGEMENT and SERVICES - Importance							
	Least Important		No Opinion		Most Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Restoration	4.1% (28)	3.7% (25)	21.8% (148)	42.1% (286)	28.3% (192)	0.87	679
Monitoring	4.3% (29)	4.0% (27)	21.9% (149)	41.1% (280)	28.8% (196)	0.86	681
Wildlife Management	3.7% (25)	4.4% (30)	15.4% (105)	34.6% (236)	42.0% (287)	1.07	683
Pest Management	5.3% (36)	10.0% (68)	24.4% (166)	37.8% (257)	22.4% (152)	0.62	679
Water Management	2.9% (20)	2.8% (19)	11.5% (79)	29.5% (202)	53.2% (364)	1.27	684
Management Plans	3.5% (24)	5.0% (34)	25.3% (171)	36.0% (244)	30.1% (204)	0.84	677
Marketing	13.5% (91)	16.9% (114)	36.7% (248)	25.1% (170)	7.8% (53)	-0.03	676
Enforcement/ Security	2.8% (19)	6.3% (43)	21.6% (147)	40.6% (276)	28.6% (194)	0.86	679
Fire Management and Protection	2.3% (16)	3.4% (23)	20.4% (139)	36.1% (246)	37.7% (257)	1.04	681
Emergency Preparedness	3.5% (24)	2.8% (19)	22.2% (151)	34.8% (237)	36.7% (250)	0.98	681
answered question							693
skipped question							288

APPENDIX C

Inventory

Inventory Map	C-2
Inventory	C-3
NRPA Standards Comparison.....	C-9

INVENTORY

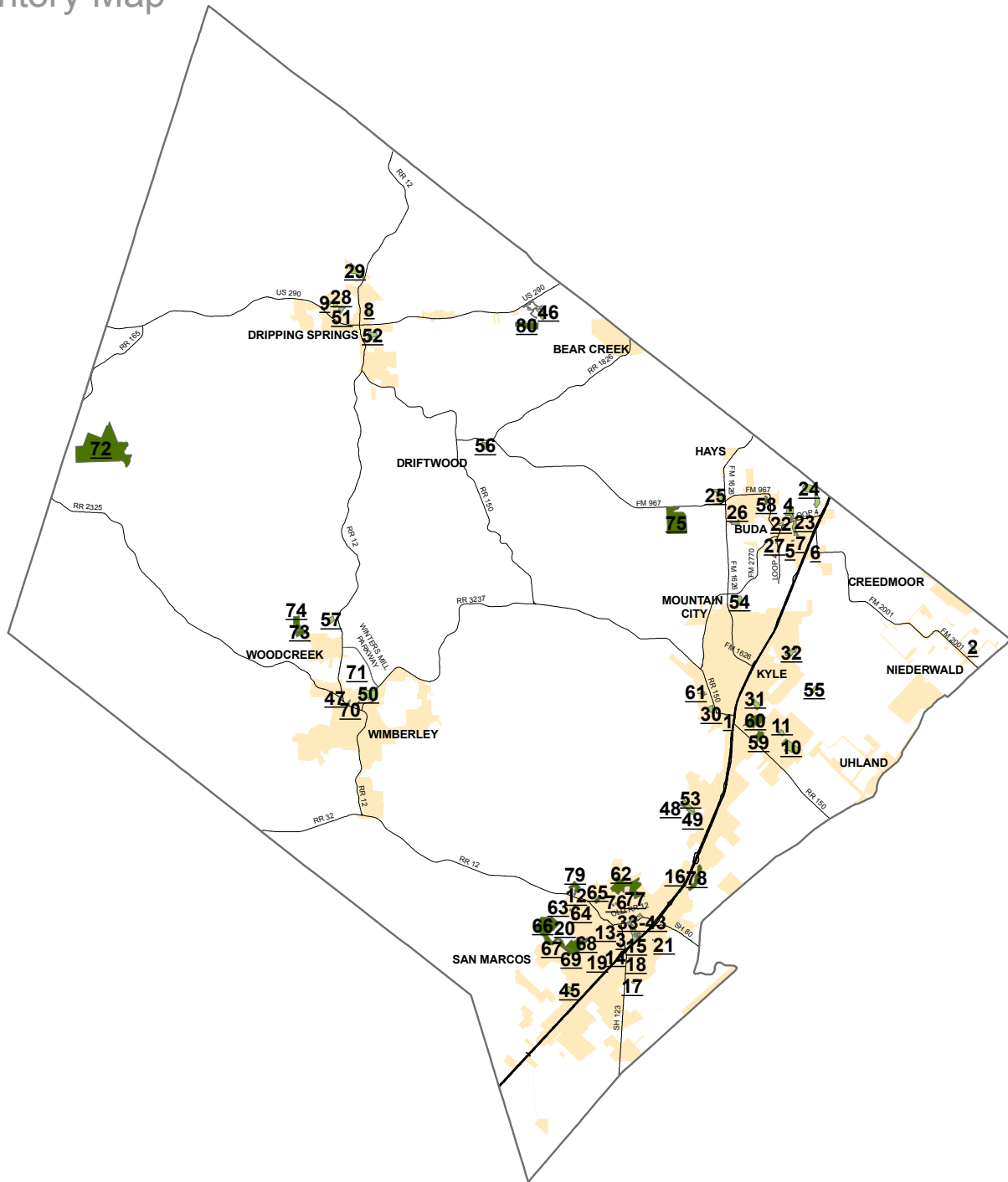
As part of the planning process, an inventory of existing public parks and open-space properties was conducted to assess the number and types of facilities available in the County. This information was gleaned primarily from local parks and open-space plans of local communities and from the limited database held by Hays County.

Open space lands incorporated in the inventory include those with public access and/or where a public entity owned or purchased rights for public use. Private properties that have conservation easements where public access is prohibited were not included in this inventory.

For purposes of this plan, school recreation facilities, private parks, small subdivision parks, golf courses and non-profit group parks were not included in the inventory. Although they add recreational opportunities to the park and open-space system, the County has incomplete information available for these facilities.

The following map identifies the park and open-space inventory locations in Hays County. Numbers on the map correspond to the detailed park and open-space inventory following the maps.

Inventory Map



- I_35
- Main Roads
- Incorporated Towns & Cities
- Park-OpenSpace**
- Facility Category**
- Parks
- Open Space

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN FOR HAYS COUNTY

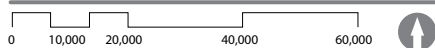


Figure 7: Parks and Open Space Inventory Map

Data Sources: CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, TXDOT, TPWD
* Numbers reference park inventory detail on the following pages.

Inventory

Table 3: Parks and Open Space Inventory

NUMBER	NAME	CATEGORY	TYPE	CITY/ OWNER	APPROXIMATE ACRES	BOND YEAR	AMOUNT OF BOND FUNDING	AMPHITHEATER	BASEBALL	BASKETBALL	BEACHES	BIRD	BOCCE	COMMUNITY GARDEN	CONCESSION	DISC GOLF	DOCK	EQUESTRIAN	FISHING	FOOTBALL	GOLF	NATURE CENTER	PAVILION	PICNIC	PLAYSCAPES	POOL	RECREATION CENTER	RESTROOM	RIVER ACCESS	SPORTS SHOOTING	SKATE	SOCCER	SOFTBALL	TENNIS	TRACK	VOLLEYBALL	WATER PLAY	TRAIL	DIVERSITY OF FACILITIES		
Mini Parks																																									
1	City Square	mini	Parks	Kyle	1	2007	\$250,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2		
2	Niederwald Community Park	mini	Parks	Niederwald	10	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
3	Victory Gardens Park	mini	Parks	San Marcos	1	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Neighborhood Parks																																									
4	Stagecoach Park	neighborhood	Parks	Buda	53	2001/ 2007	\$1,075,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
5	Bonita Vista Park	neighborhood	Parks	Buda	2	None		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
6	Stoneridge Park	neighborhood	Parks	Buda	2	None		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7	Bradfield Park	neighborhood	Parks	Buda	25	2007	\$310,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8	Founders Memorial Park/ DSYSA	neighborhood	Parks	Dripping Springs	24	2007	\$266,919	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	14	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
9	Hidden Springs Ranch Park	neighborhood	Parks	Dripping Springs	8	None		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
10	Waterleaf Park	neighborhood	Parks	Kyle	92	None		0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
11	Bunton Creek	neighborhood	Parks	Kyle	17	None		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
12	Jaycees Park	neighborhood	Parks	San Marcos	2	None		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
13	Dunbar Park	neighborhood	Parks	San Marcos	6	None		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
14	HEB Park	neighborhood	Parks	San Marcos	1	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
15	Veterans Park	neighborhood	Parks	San Marcos	5	None		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
16	River Ridge Park	neighborhood	Parks	San Marcos	4	None		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	
17	Hills of Hays Park	neighborhood	Parks	San Marcos	3	None		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
18	Swift Memorial Park	neighborhood	Parks	San Marcos	0	None		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
19	Willow Springs Park	neighborhood	Parks	San Marcos	4	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
20	Franklin Square Park	neighborhood	Parks	San Marcos	3	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
21	Bliss St. Park	neighborhood	Parks	San Marcos	0	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Community Parks																																									
22	Buda City Park	community	Parks	Buda	6	None		0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
23	Bradfield & Ashford Parks	community	Parks	Buda	30	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
24	Rainbow Ranch (YMCA)	community	Parks	Buda	109	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
25	Buda Sportsplex	community	Parks	Buda	59	2001	\$250,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
26	Whispering Hollow Park	community	Parks	Buda	16	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
27	Buda Skate Park	community	Parks	Buda	1	2007	\$140,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
28	Karhan Park	community	Parks	Dripping Springs	15	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
29	Harrison Ranch Park	community	Parks	Dripping Springs	64	2007	\$2,475,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

NUMBER	NAME	CATEGORY	TYPE	CITY/ OWNER	APPROXIMATE ACRES	BOND YEAR	AMOUNT OF BOND FUNDING	AMPHITHEATER	BASEBALL	BASKETBALL	BEACHES	BIRD	BOCCE	COMMUNITY GARDEN	CONCESSION	DISC GOLF	DOCK	EQUESTRIAN	FISHING	FOOTBALL	GOLF	NATURE CENTER	PAVILION	PICNIC	PLAYSCAPES	POOL	RECREATION CENTER	RESTROOM	RIVER ACCESS	SPORTS SHOOTING	SKATE	SOCCER	SOFTBALL	TENNIS	TRACK	VOLLEYBALL	WATER PLAY	TRAIL	DIVERSITY OF FACILITIES		
30	Gregg-Clark	community	Parks	Kyle	29	2007	\$475,000	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	50	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	
31	Steeplechase Park	community	Parks	Kyle	44	2001	\$222,500	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	10	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	10		
32	Vista Park/Rec Center	community	Parks	Kyle	42	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
33	Stokes Park	community	Parks	San Marcos	1	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
34	Veramendi Plaza Park	community	Parks	San Marcos	3	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	
35	San Marcos Plaza Park (Fish Hatchery)	community	Parks	San Marcos	2	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	
36	City Park	community	Parks	San Marcos	15	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	
37	Memorial Park	community	Parks	San Marcos	15	2007	\$100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
38	Bicentennial Park	community	Parks	San Marcos	6	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
39	Children's Park	community	Parks	San Marcos	4	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	
40	Rio Vista Park	community	Parks	San Marcos	15	2007	\$200,000	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	42	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	10	
41	Wildlife Habitat #1	community	Parks	San Marcos	5	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	19	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	
42	Crook Park	community	Parks	San Marcos	8	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
43	Ramon Lucio Park	community	Parks	San Marcos	18	None		0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
44	Gary Park Sports Complex	community	Parks	San Marcos	1	2007	\$500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
45	San Marcos Village	community	Parks	San Marcos	29	2007	\$1,569,927	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	9	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
46	Hays Co. WCID #1 Open Space	community	Parks	WCID #1	81	2001	\$100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
47	Wimberley Community Center	community	Parks	Wimberley	6	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Multi-Purpose Park																																									
48	Dudley Johnson Park	multi-purpose	Parks	Hays Co.	9	2007	Inc. w/ #53	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6
49	Randall Vetter Park	multi-purpose	Parks	Hays Co.	17	2007	Inc. w/ #53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5
50	Blue Hole Regional Park	multi-purpose	Parks	Wimberley	106	2001/ 2007	\$2,700,000	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	6	0	1	0	1	9		
Sports Complex																																									
51	Dripping Springs Youth Sports Assoc.	sports complex	Parks	Dripping Springs	18	None		0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
52	Dripping Springs Sports & Recreation Park	sports complex	Parks	Dripping Springs	40	2001	\$133,000	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	
53	Five Mile Dam Park Complex	sports complex	Parks	Hays Co.	45	2001/ 2007	\$2,291,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	
54	Hays Youth Sports Association	sports complex	Parks	Kyle	23	2007	\$447,256	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
55	North Hays Optimist Club	sports complex	Parks	Kyle (near)	18	2001/ 2007	\$906,000	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
Special Use Park																																									
56	Camp Ben McCulloch	special use	Parks	Driftwood	37	2001	\$160,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	30	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
57	Wimberley VFW	special use	Parks	Wimberley	24	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

NUMBER	NAME	CATEGORY	TYPE	CITY/ OWNER	APPROXIMATE ACRES	BOND YEAR	AMOUNT OF BOND FUNDING	AMPHITHEATER	BASEBALL	BASKETBALL	BEACHES	BIRD	BOCCE	COMMUNITY GARDEN	CONCESSION	DISC GOLF	DOCK	EQUESTRIAN	FISHING	FOOTBALL	GOLF	NATURE CENTER	PAVILION	PICNIC	PLAYSCAPES	POOL	RECREATION CENTER	RESTROOM	RIVER ACCESS	SPORTS SHOOTING	SKATE	SOCCER	SOFTBALL	TENNIS	TRACK	VOLLEYBALL	WATER PLAY	TRAIL	DIVERSITY OF FACILITIES	
Greenway Open Space																																								
58	Cullen Country Park	greenway	Open Space	Buda	12	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
59	Kyle 50-acre park	greenway	Open Space	Kyle	46	2001	\$200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
60	Plum Creek Preserve	greenway	Open Space	Kyle	118	2007	\$475,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
61	Hometown Kyle Trails	greenway	Open Space	Kyle	4	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
62	San Marcos Springs Recharge Park	greenway	Open Space	San Marcos	250	2001	\$700,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
63	Lancaster Greenbelt	greenway	Open Space	San Marcos	1	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
64	Castle Forest Greenbelt	greenway	Open Space	San Marcos	2	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
65	Schulle Canyon Greenspace	greenway	Open Space	San Marcos	21	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
66	Purgatory Creek Greenspace	greenway	Open Space	San Marcos	453	2007	\$1,600,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
67	Willow Creek Greenspace	greenway	Open Space	San Marcos	31	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
68	Prospect Greenspace	greenway	Open Space	San Marcos	8	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
69	Wonder World Greenspace	greenway	Open Space	San Marcos	123	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
70	Cypress Creek Nature Trail	greenway	Open Space	Wimberley	7	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
71	Wimberley Bike Trail	greenway	Open Space	Wimberley	14	2007	\$239,213	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Natural Area Open Space																																								
72	Nicholson Ranch	natural area	Open Space	Hays Co.	1004	2007	\$5,300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
73	Jacobs Well Park	natural area	Open Space	Hays Co.	46	2007	\$3,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
74	Jacob's Well Expansion	natural area	Open Space	Hays Co.	50	2007	\$850,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75	Dahlstrom Family Trust	natural area	Open Space	Hays Co./ Private	365	2007		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
76	Sessom Greenspace	natural area	Open Space	San Marcos	3	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
77	Sessom Greenspace	natural area	Open Space	San Marcos	1	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
78	Blanco Shoals	natural area	Open Space	San Marcos	83	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
79	Ringtail Ridge Greenspace	natural area	Open Space	San Marcos	45	None		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
80	Hays County WCID #2	natural area	Open Space	WCID	95	2007	\$100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

APPENDIX D

ASSESSMENT

NRPA Standards Comparison.	D-4
Objectives and Measures of Success.	D-5
Objective 1.1: Ample Park and Open Space	D-6
Objective 1.2: Diversity of Recreation	D-8
Objective 1.3: Connect Park and Open Space	D-10
Objective 2.1: Water Quality and Quantity.	D-12
Objective 2.1 Water Quality and Quantity	D-14
Objective 2.2: Natural Resources	D-16
Objective 2.2: Natural Resources	D-18
Objective 2.3: Scenic Qualities	D-20
Objective 3.1: Funding Mechanisms	D-22
Objective 3.2: Tourism.	D-23

STANDARDS-BASED ANALYSIS



Figure 8: Standards Based Analysis Diagram

PROJECT PRIORITIES

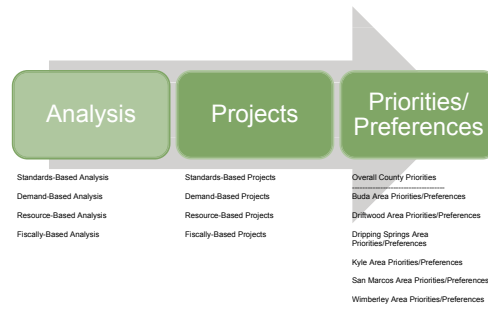


Figure 12: Overall Analysis Process Diagram

DEMAND-BASED ANALYSIS

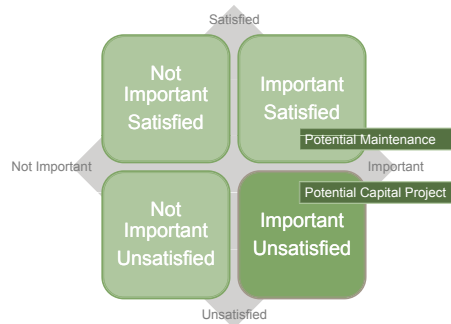


Figure 9: Demand Based Analysis Diagram

RESOURCE-BASED ANALYSIS

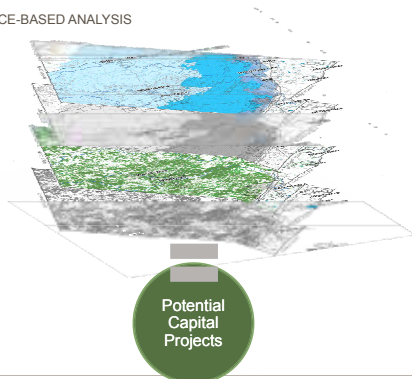


Figure 10: Resources Based Analysis Diagram

FISCAL-BASED ANALYSIS

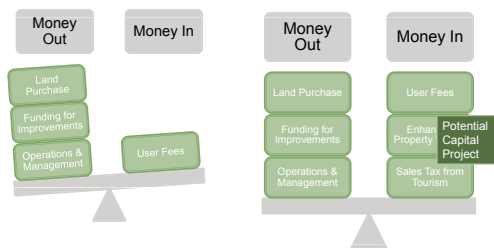


Figure 11: Fiscal Based Analysis Diagram

NRPA Standards Comparison

Table 4: Parks and Open Space National Standards Level of Service

AMENITIES	HAYS COUNTY		NRPA STANDARDS	ADDITIONAL FACILITIES CURRENTLY NEEDED PER STANDARDS BASED ANALYSIS	
	QUANTITY	CURRENT PER POPULATION RATIO	PER POPULATION RATIO	2010 POPULATION	2020 POPULATION
Park Acres	1224.9 acres	7.80/1000	10.5/1000	424 acres	733 acres
Open Space Acres	2929.9 acres	18.65/1000	-	-	-
Trails (miles)	18.5	1/8492	1/4000	20	50
Recreation Centers	3	1/52369	-	-	-
Swimming Pools	5	1/31421	1/20000	2-3	8-9
Baseball Fields	18	1/8728	1/5000	13-14	36-37
Softball Fields	27	1/5819	1/5000	4-5	27-28
Concessions	4	1/39277	-	-	-
Basketball Courts	15	1/10474	1/5000	16-17	39-40
Football Fields	8	1/19638	1/20000	0	5-6
Playscapes	30	1/5237	-	-	-
Soccer Fields	42	1/3741	1/10000	0	0
Volleyball Courts	2	1/78553	1/2000	29-30	52-53
Bocce Ball Courts	0	0/157107	-	-	-
Disc Golf Courses ¹	1	1/157107	-	-	-
Skate Parks	2	1/78553	-	-	-
Tennis Courts	9	1/17456	1/2000	70-71	126-127
Tracks	0	0/157107	1/20000	7-8	13-14
Pavilions	28	1/5611	-	-	-
Beach	2	1/78553	-	-	-
Fishing Dock	0	0/157107	-	-	-
Community Garden	0	0/157107	-	-	-
Bird Watching	0	0/157107	-	-	-
Cultural Amenities	0	0/157107	-	-	-
Nature Center	0	0/157107	-	-	-
Constructed Water Amenities	7	1/22444	-	-	-
Rest Rooms	44	1/3571	-	-	-
Picnic Areas	285	1/551	-	-	-
Equestrian	0	0/157107	-	-	-
Shooting Sports Complex	0	0/157107	1/50000	3	5-6
Dog Park	1	1/157107	-	-	-
River Access	5	1/31421	-	-	-
Amphitheater	0	0/157107	-	-	-

Objectives and Measures of Success

This section provides details for the objectives and measures of success for this plan. For each objective, one or multiple measures of success were established. These measures of success allow the County to track their progress toward the goals and objectives for the Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan. In order to track progress, a baseline condition was measured for each measure of success. In some cases, a map related to the objective was created to identify the distribution of a resource through Hays County. Each objective analysis also included public comment and feedback regarding the support of that objective in the County. Finally, a set of strategies was established for each objective's measure of success that could be incorporated into projects in the County to work toward accomplishing the desires of that specific objective and the overall goals of the County.

Community Objectives

Community objectives are measured to better understand the desires of the community and needs for parks and open space. They are dependant not only on the opinions and desires of the participants, but also on an evaluation of the facilities in the county as compared to the local population's demographic. These objectives focused on the recreation facilities currently existing in the community and how well they currently served the local population. They helped to better define the local area facility concepts and standards. Objectives 1.1-1.3 evaluate these objectives and measures of success.

Resource Objectives

Resource objectives are measured due to the location-specific qualities of natural resources specific to each location. Hays County has a diversity of natural resources that are valued by the local people and appreciated by people throughout Texas. Understanding where these resources exist and which resources are a priority for the County help to guide potential strategies and projects that the parks and open space system can incorporate. Objectives 2.1-2.3 evaluate these objectives and measures of success.

Economic Objectives

Economic objectives are measured in order to identify opportunities to create a sustainable parks department. It is important to look beyond the traditional economic fees and bond measures as the only income for the parks department. Objectives 3.1-3.2 evaluate these objectives and measures of success.

Objective 1.1: Ample Park and Open Space

Provide ample park and open space land in the park and open space system.

Measure of Success

Plan contributes to a system that provides 30 acres of parks and open space per 1,000 residents while ensuring that open-space and park areas are located proportionate to the population density.

Baseline Conditions

Baseline condition was calculated by dividing the total acres of park and open space land in Hays County by the 2010 US Census population total for Hays County.

COUNTY WIDE TOTAL PARKS and OPEN SPACE PER 1,000 PEOPLE: **27.4 ACRES**

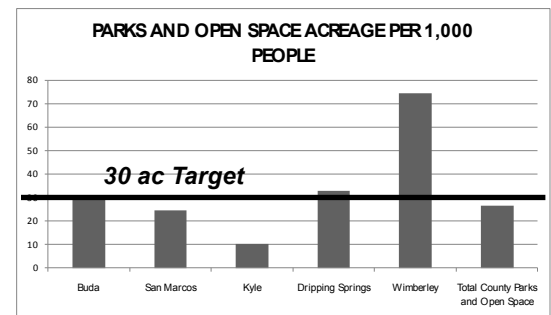


Figure 13: Park Acreage per 1,000 people

Public Response and Comment

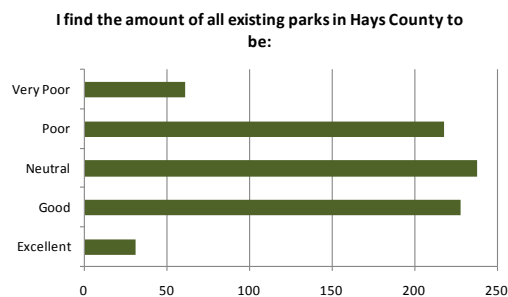
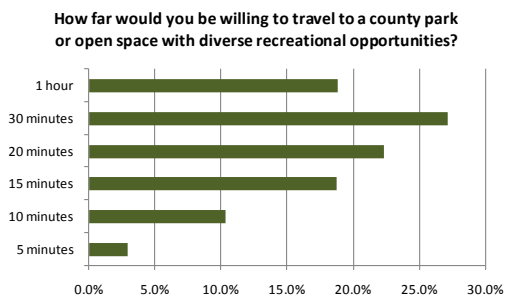


Figure 14: Amount of Existing Parks



Data Sources: Community Meeting 3/31, Open House 4/20-4/21, Online Poll Closed 5/16

Figure 15: Willingness to Travel

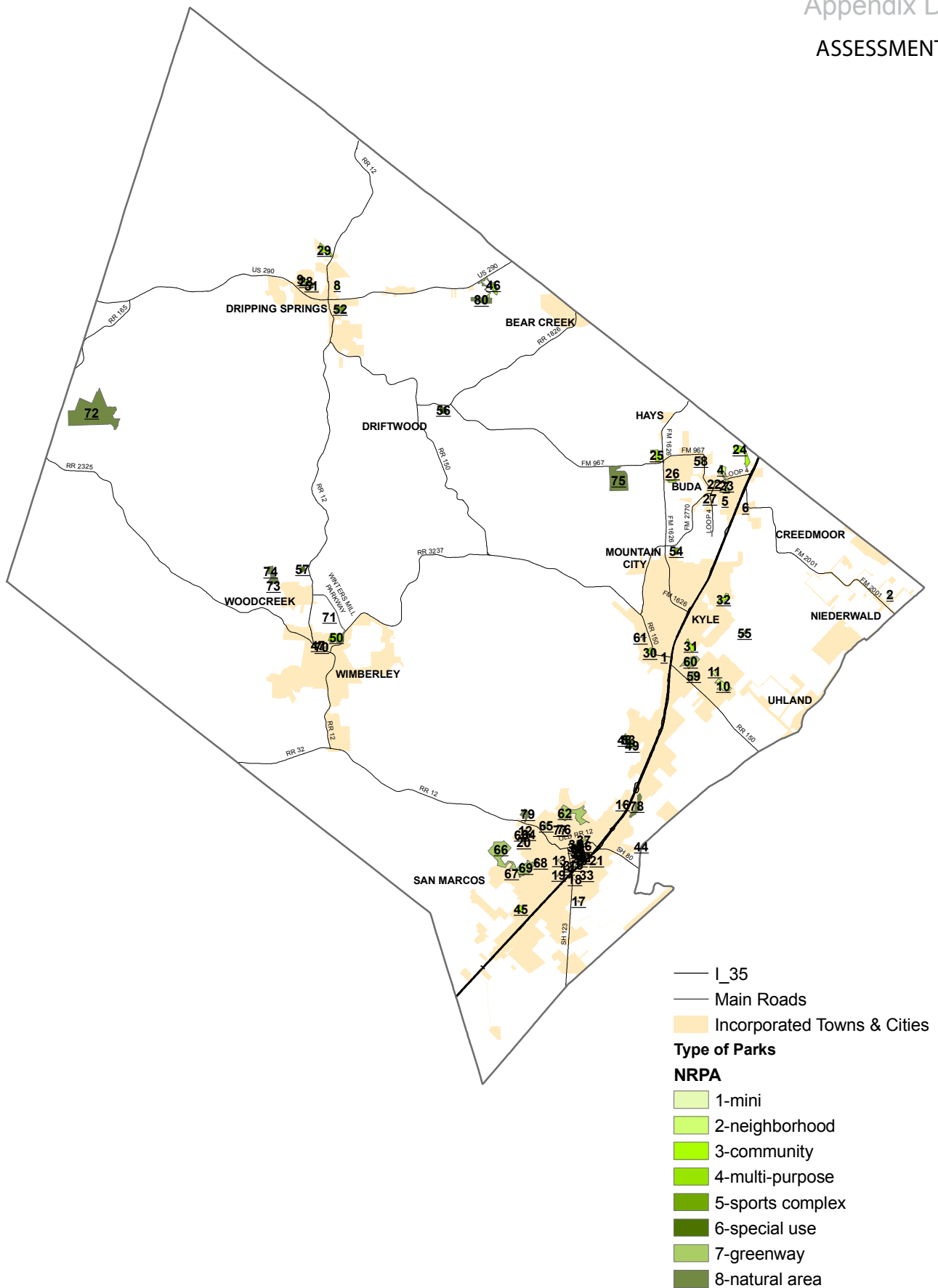
STRATEGIES

Encourage development of regional facilities but maintain smaller park and open space components.

Coordinate planning with adjacent counties and communities to create a larger open space network. Consider intergovernmental agreements and partnerships to accomplish a larger vision.

Coordinate open space and parks planning with transportation and land use planning.

Ensure the proposed plan does not exclude any demographic or user type and meets the special needs of elderly, minorities and/or the disabled.



PARKS, OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN FOR HAYS COUNTY

Data Sources: CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, TXDOT, TPWD

0 10,000 20,000 40,000 60,000



Figure 16: Parks and Open Space Categories Map

Objective 1.2: Diversity of Recreation

Utilize park and open space to provide a diversity of recreational experiences to service a variety of age groups and user-types year round.

Measure of Success

Plan increases the diversity of program types in response to the needs of the various areas of the County.

Baseline Conditions

Based upon the amenities recorded in the inventory included in this document, on average, Hays County parks and open space offer 1.89 program amenities per facility.

Parks have an average of 3.3 program amenities per facility, while open spaces have 0.28 program amenities per facility.

Public Response and Comment

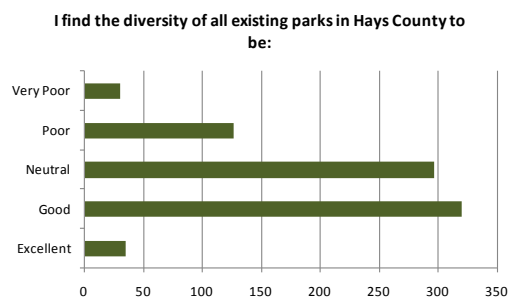


Figure 17: Diversity of Existing Parks

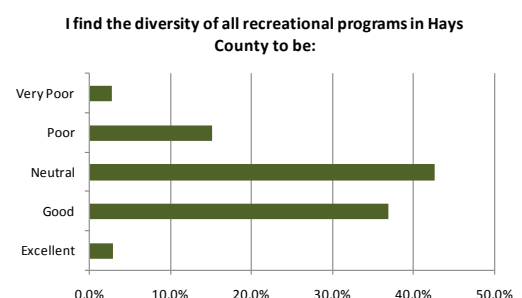


Figure 18: Diversity of Recreational Programs

Data Sources: Community Meeting 3/31, Open House 4/20-4/21, Online Poll Closed 5/16

STRATEGIES

Develop space for large community events.

Program a variety of recreational components including connective corridors, large nature areas, civic spaces, neighborhood parks, public gardens, dog parks and sports complexes.

Provide access to the Blanco River, the San Marcos River and other smaller lakes and ponds; provide for recreational activities based on the rivers.

Plan spaces for year-round recreation.



Data Sources: CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, TXDOT, TPWD

Figure 19: Distribution of Recreation Programs

Objective 1.3: Connect Park and Open Space

Connect the parks and open space systems where appropriate.

Measure of Success

Plan increases connectedness of parks and open space “where appropriate.” Determining where appropriate includes looking at adjacency of other parks and open space facilities, community node or places and their proximity to urban areas.

Baseline Conditions

Hays County currently has 15.46 miles of trails: 2.75 miles in Kyle, 12.21 miles of trails in San Marcos, 3.1 miles of trails in Wimberley and 0.5 miles of trails in Dripping Springs.

Note: This data is limited to existing GIS data.

STRATEGIES

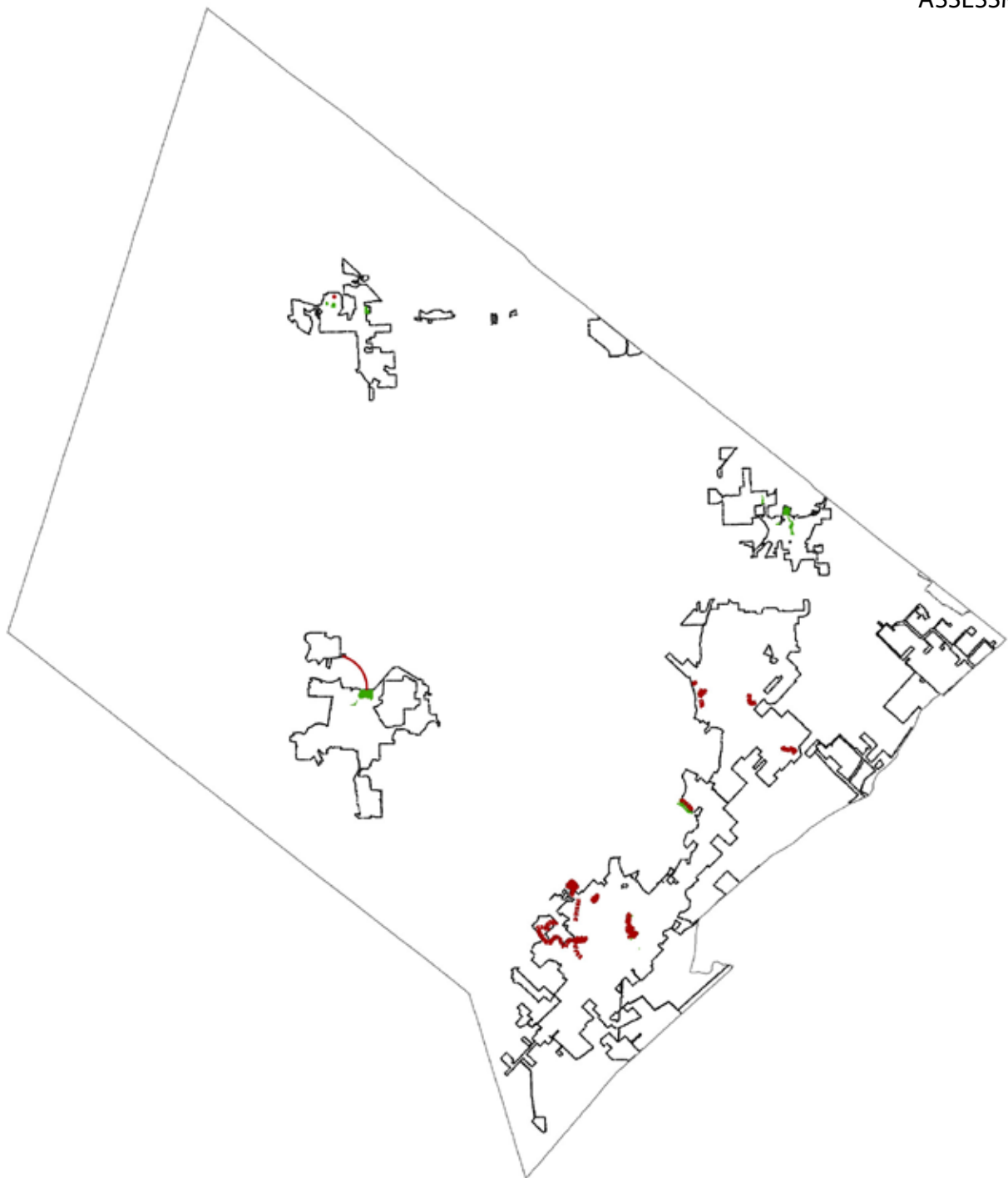
Connect park elements with trails.




Focus trails along corridors and transportation pathways.

Develop low-impact trails in open-space areas for passive nature enjoyment.

Connect small local park system elements to regional trail systems entering into Hays County.

Connect to regional planning of Violet Crown Trail.



-  CITY BOUNDARY
-  TRAILS
-  PARKS WITH TRAILS

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN FOR HAYS COUNTY

Data Sources: CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, TXDOT, TPWD



Figure 20: Trails Map

Objective 2.1: Water Quality and Quantity

Utilize park and open space to improve the condition of water quality and quantity in Hays County.

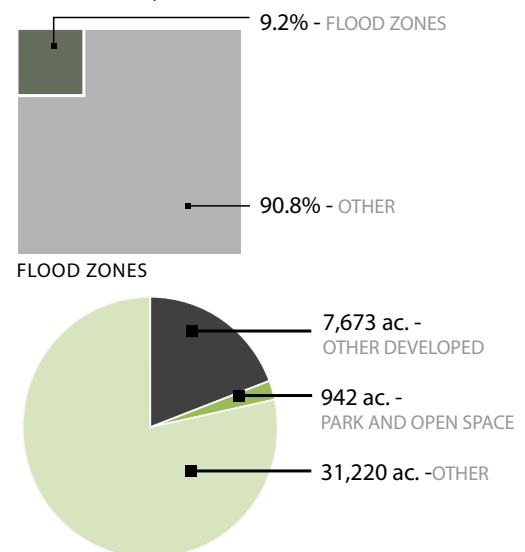
Measure of Success

Plan increases acreage of land within the parks and open space system that has high priority for surface water retention including flood zones, wetlands, riparian corridors and protection buffers.

Plan encourages techniques to minimize erosion and stormwater runoff at all scales.

Baseline Conditions

FLOOD ZONES | COUNTY WIDE



Public Response and Comment

Figure 21: Flood Zone Statistics

THREE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES FOR FUTURE OPEN SPACE IN HAYS COUNTY

Choose the top 3 most important qualities for future open space in Hays County:

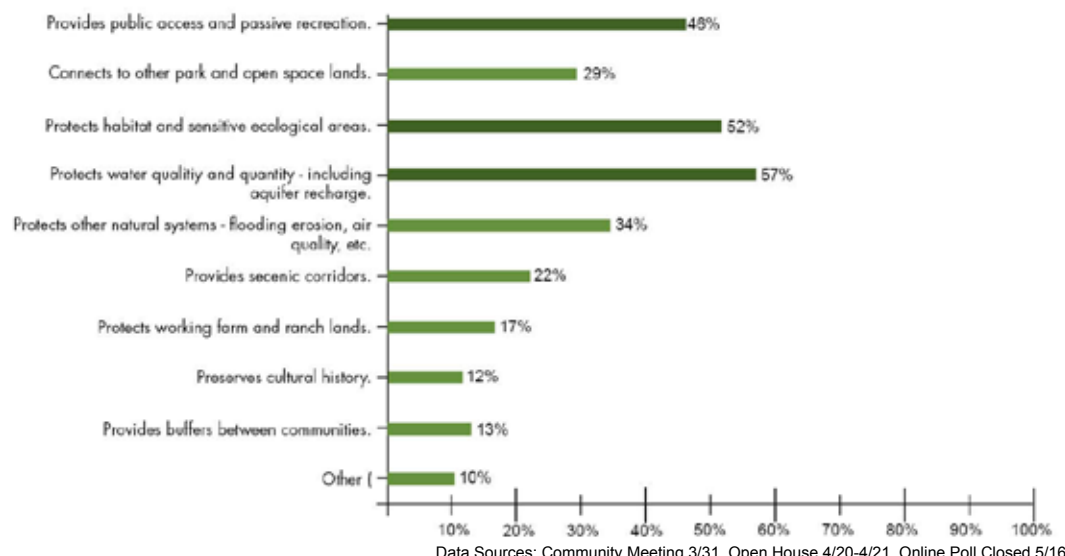


Figure 22: Important Qualities for Future Open Space | Water Resources

STRATEGIES

Include stream restoration or detention projects in parks and open-space.

Incorporate stormwater facilities with other recreational uses - parks, trails, fields, hike/bike.

Protect natural drainage flow patterns, existing wetlands and flood zones through buffers of 50' for wetlands and 100' for bodies of water.

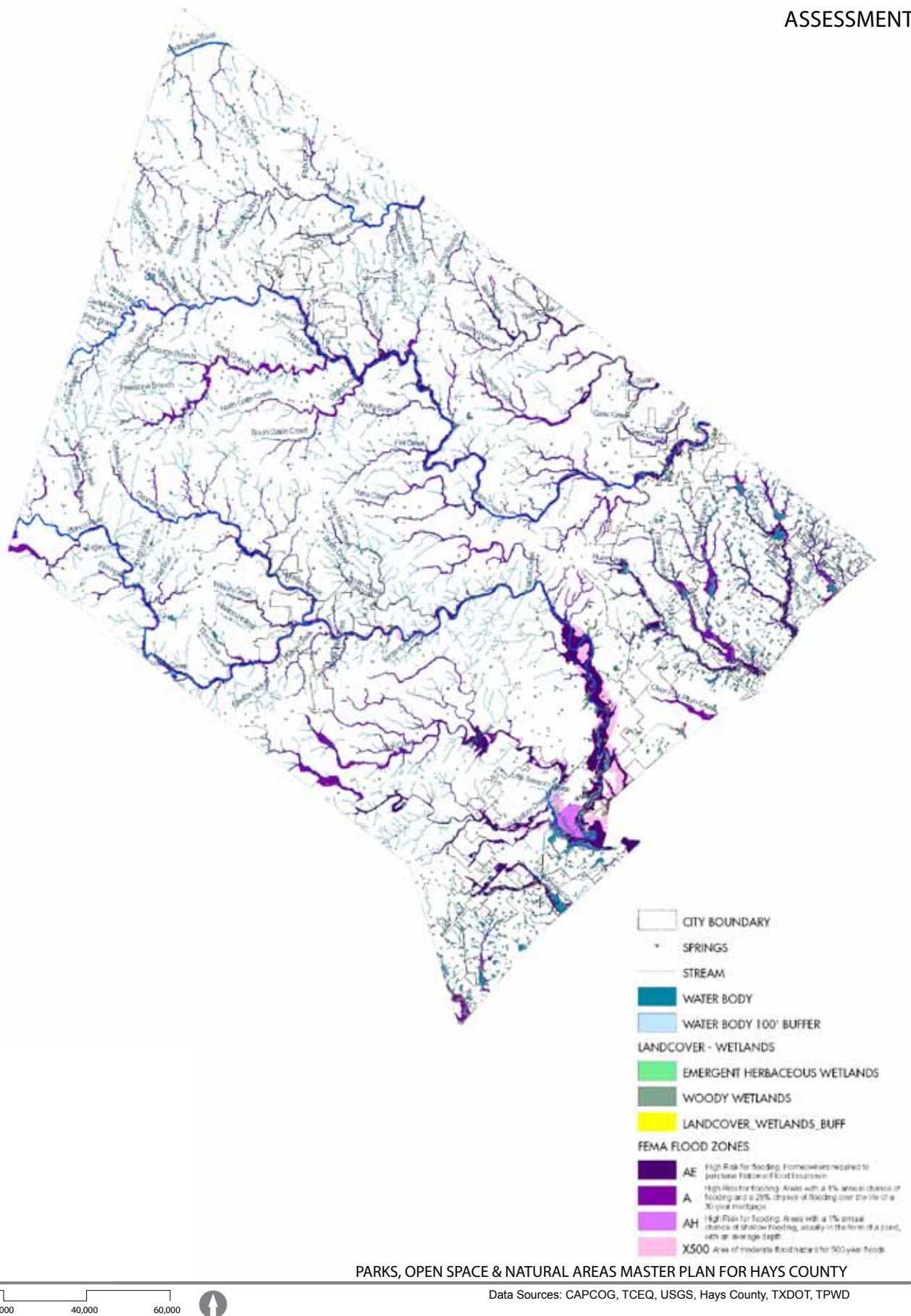


Figure 23: Surface Water Map

Objective 2.1 Water Quality and Quantity

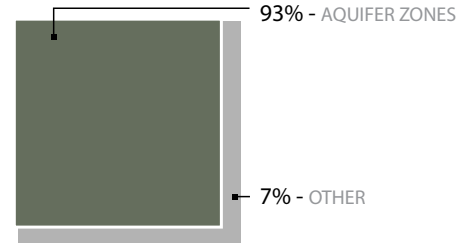
Utilize park and open space to improve the condition of water quality and quantity in Hays County.

Measure of Success

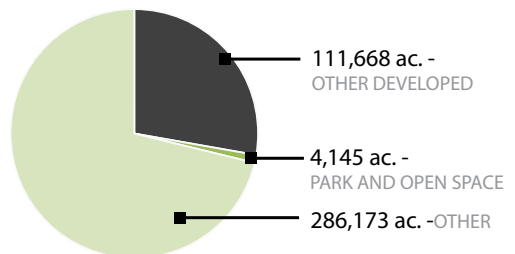
Plan increases acreage of land within the parks and open space system that has high priority for water recharge to improve the quality and quantity of water entering into the aquifer.

Baseline Conditions

AQUIFERS | COUNTY WIDE



AQUIFER ZONES



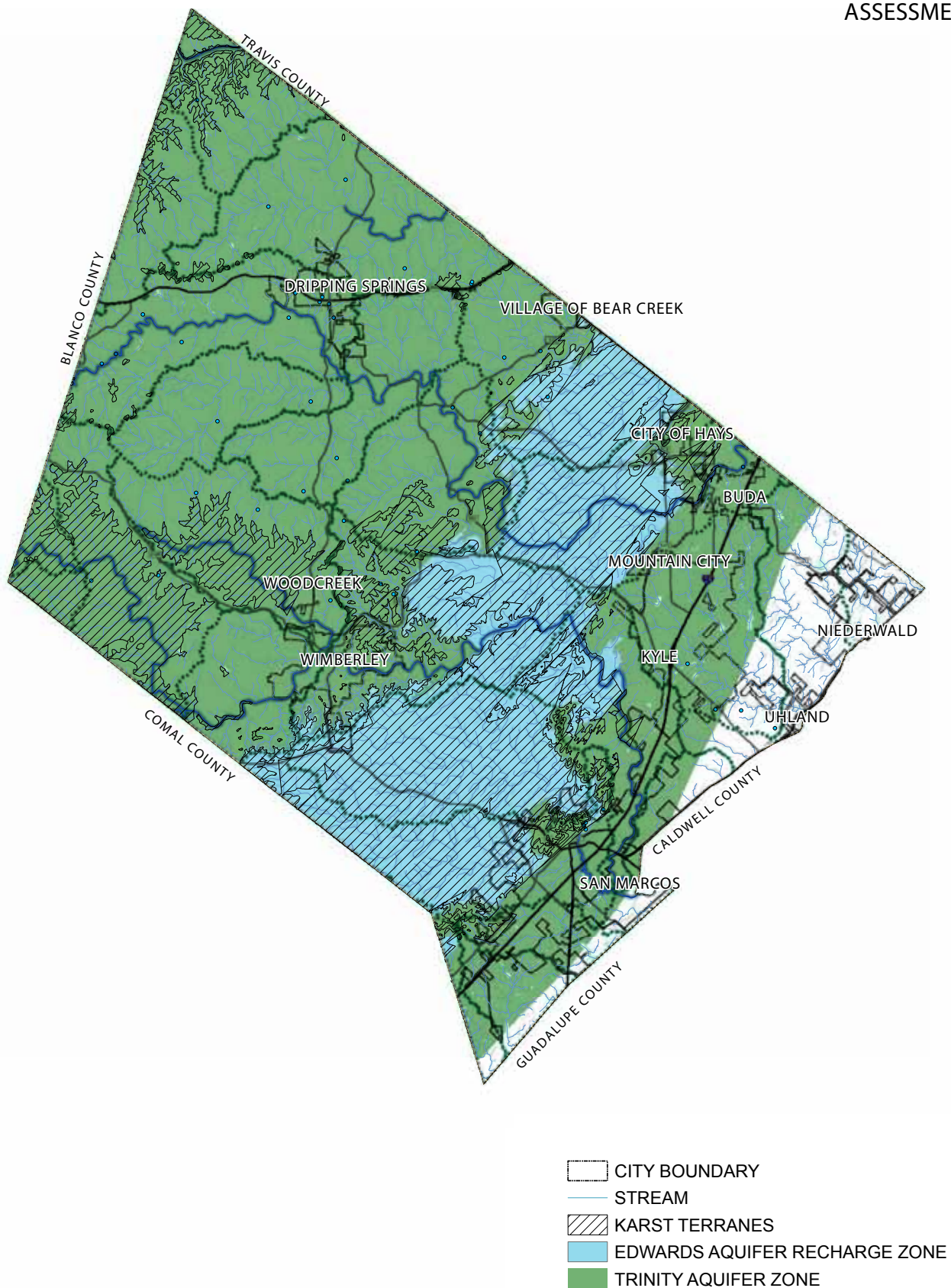
Data Sources: GIS Analysis Map

Figure 24: Aquifer Zone Statistics

STRATEGIES

Protect open space on Edwards and Trinity Aquifer Recharge Zone.

Encourage Low Impact Development stormwater mechanisms in parks over the Edwards and Trinity Aquifer Recharge Zone.



PARKS, OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN FOR HAYS COUNTY

Data Sources: CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, TXDOT, TPWD



Figure 25: Aquifer Zones Map

Objective 2.2: Natural Resources

Utilize park and open-space to conserve important natural resource areas that contribute to the health and vitality of the County.

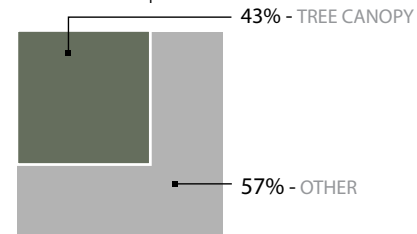
Measures of Success

Plan increases acreage of woodland areas and grasslands within the parks and open-space system to improve air quality while also improving habitat and stabilizing slopes to prevent runoff.

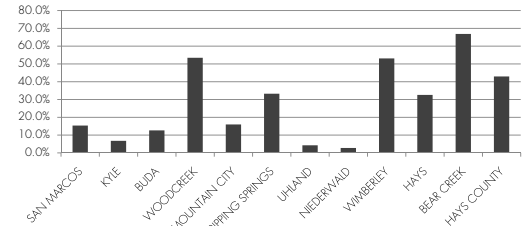
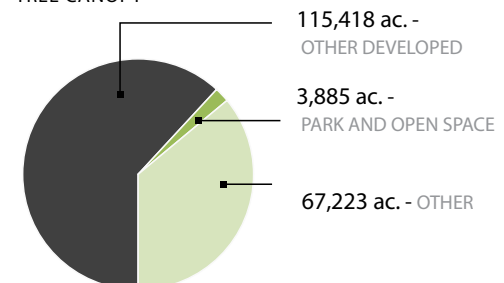
Plan increases the amount of tree canopy in developed areas to improve air quality and lower the urban heat-island effect.

Baseline Conditions

TREE CANOPY | COUNTY WIDE



TREE CANOPY



Data Sources: GIS Analysis Map

Figure 26: Tree Canopy Statistics

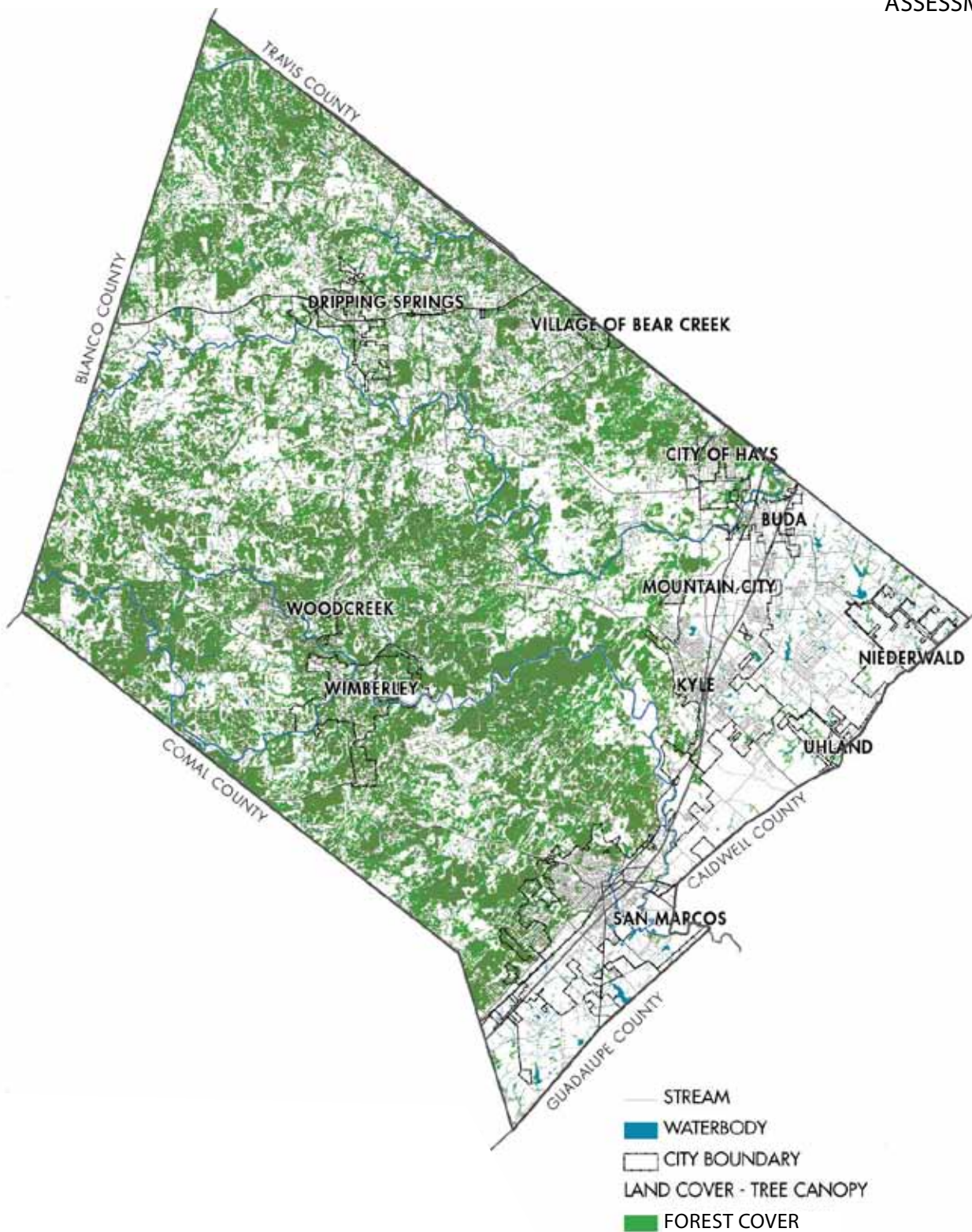
STRATEGIES

Encourage the planting of native trees for shade and air quality.

Encourage the planting of trees in urban parks to add relief to the urban heat-island effect.

Encourage the protection and conservation of areas with high tree canopy density.

Identify areas for reforestation or revegetation in parklands.



PARKS, OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN FOR HAYS COUNTY

Data Sources: CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, TXDOT, TPWD



Figure 27: Tree Canopy Map

Objective 2.2: Natural Resources

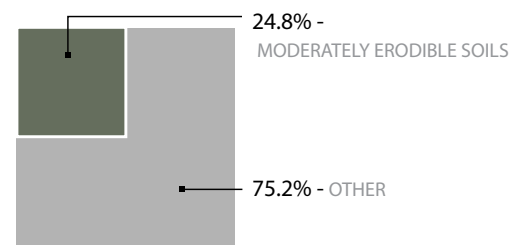
Utilize parks and open-space to conserve important natural resource areas that contribute to the health and vitality of the County.

Measure of Success

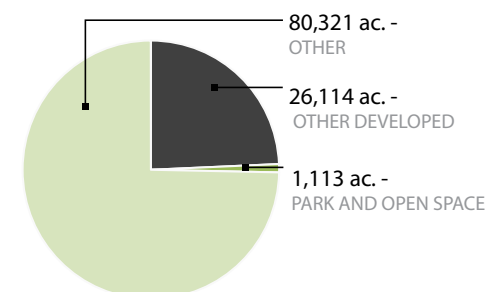
Plan increases acres of protected land with high potential erosion risk to integrate the natural topography and hydrology into the parks and open-space system.

Baseline Conditions

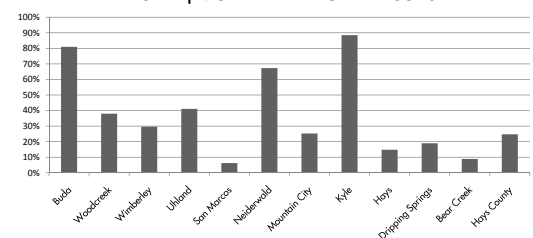
MODERATELY ERODIBLE SOILS | COUNTY WIDE



MODERATELY ERODIBLE SOILS



PERCENT | MODERATELY ERODIBLE SOILS



Data Sources: GIS Analysis Map

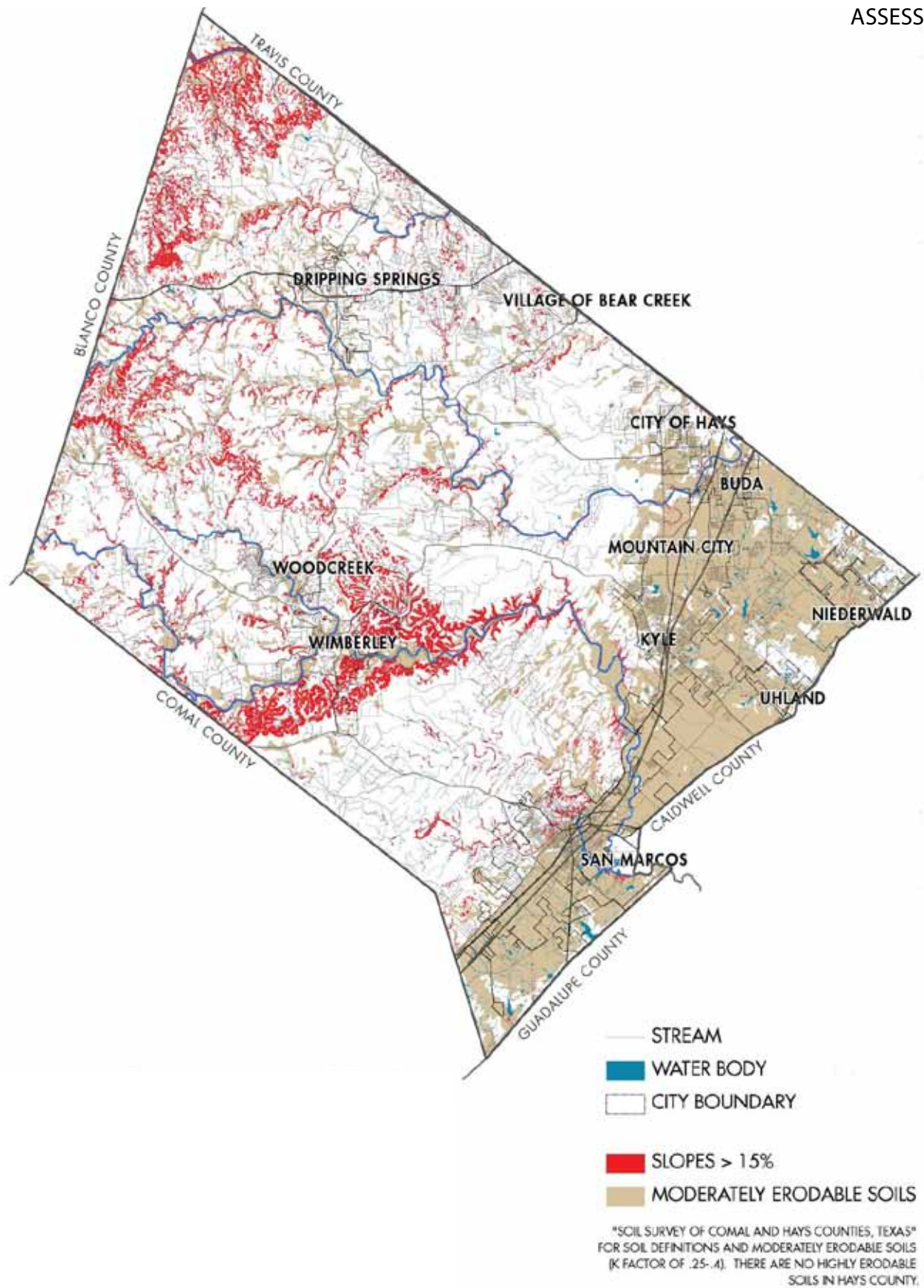
Figure 28: Potential Erodible Soils Statistics

STRATEGIES

Encourage the planting of native grasses and ground covers that will help prevent erosion in parks and open space.

Ensure trails and pathways are not contributing to erosion runoff through appropriate grading and materials.

Protect areas with high slopes over 15%.



PARKS, OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN FOR HAYS COUNTY

Data Sources: CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, TXDOT, TPWD



Figure 29: Potential Erosion Map

Objective 2.3: Scenic Qualities

Utilize the parks and open-space system to protect scenic qualities throughout the County

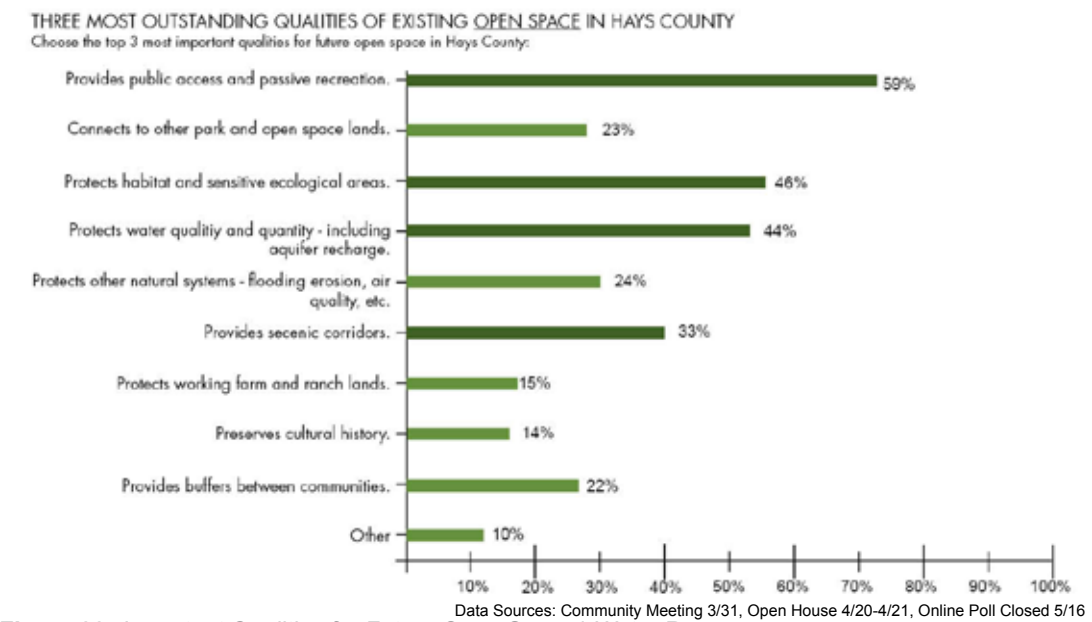
Measure of Success

Plan increases the amount of significant scenic qualities that are in parks and open space as a way of protecting those views.

Baseline Conditions

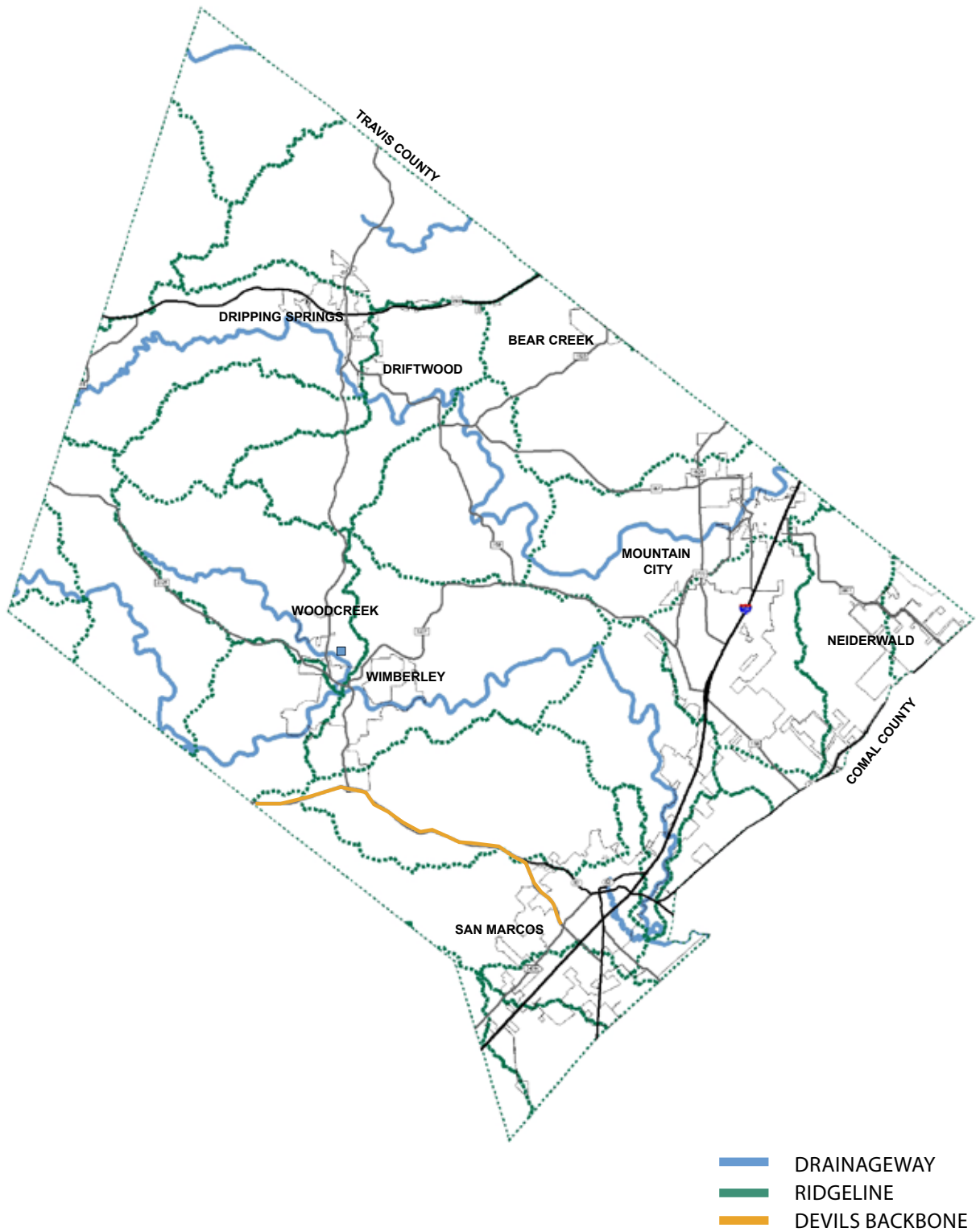
Scenic areas are difficult to define. They include areas with great views, favorite hiking and camping spots, rivers with natural vegetation, roadways along ranchland and open space and more. The scenic qualities in Hays County preserve the heritage and quality of life in the County.

Public Response and Comment



STRATEGIES

Consider potential view and scenic resources when evaluating potential park and open space projects.



PARKS, OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN FOR HAYS COUNTY

Data Sources: CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, TXDOT, TPWD



Figure 31: Scenic Corridors

Objective 3.1: Funding Mechanisms

Incorporate a variety of funding mechanisms and partnerships for park and open-space funding.

Measure of Success

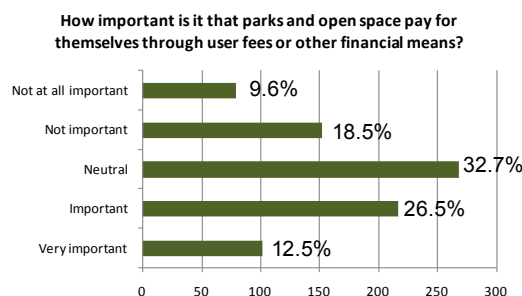
Plan creates a 60/40 mix of public private financing in order to balance park and open-space development priorities with fiscal responsibilities.

Baseline Conditions

In 2001, the county passed a \$3.5 million Park Bond. In 2001 and 2007, many partners came together to make the County bond-funded projects a success. These partners included federal agencies with grant programs, state agencies with grant programs, local governments, private foundations or associations, and local organizations. This funding was leveraged into over \$18 million in confirmed match.

Additional partners and funding were developed in the 2007 Park Bond funding of \$30 million.

Public Response and Comment



Data Sources: Community Meeting 3/31, Open House 4/20-4/21, Online Poll Closed 5/16

Figure 32: Importance of Internally Funded Parks

STRATEGIES

Form partnerships with private entities and donors to generate funds.

Work with the development community in providing parks and open space when approving new development.

Explore the use of creative public funding opportunities such as grants (TX Parks and Wildlife Department grant funding or EPA funding for stormwater management), conservation easements, bonds, levies, lottery funds in addition to property and sales tax.

Instate user fees for various park and recreational amenities.

Objective 3.2: Tourism

Promote year-round tourism.

Measure of Success

Plan increases the County's tourism related sales taxes by 10% and increases visitor spending per day for park and open space activities by 10%.

Baseline Conditions

Hays County, TX Tourism-Related Expenditures

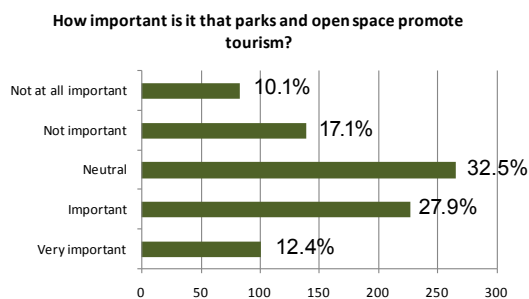
Travel - Food and Drink: \$23,761,011

Travel - Lodging on Trips: \$23,405,016

Recreational Vehicles & Fees: \$17,034,405

Entertainment and Recreation: \$34,319,718

Data Sources: ESRI: 2006 and 2007 Consumer Expenditure Surveys,
Bureau of Labor Statistics



Data Sources: Community Meeting 3/31, Open House 4/20-4/21, Online Poll Closed 5/16

Figure 33: Importance of Tourism

STRATEGIES

Create unified sports tournament tourism plan.

Integrate open space and parks with places of historic and cultural buildings or landscapes.

Identify environmental/historical/archeological/cultural treasures to be preserved.

Promote scenic areas and photography opportunities throughout the County.

Create year-round tourism calendar to use as promotion of events throughout County.

APPENDIX E

Priority Project Descriptions

1. River and Creek Access	E-2
2. Multi-Use Trails	E-3
3. Camping	E-4
4. Youth Camping Facilities	E-5
5. General Nature Enjoyment Lands	E-6
6. Nature Center	E-7
7. Festivals and Special Event Spaces	E-8
8. Recreation Center and Sports Complex	E-9
9. Shooting Sports Complex	E-10
10. Community Gardens	E-11

PRIORITY PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Priorities for the County focus around activities that would be included in a large, multi-purpose facility that would service the region of Hays County. This larger park and open space facility would ideally include many of the County priorities.

Each priority includes a brief description of what components could be included in the priority, identification of the needs that the priority could address based on the need assessment, potential costs based on average costs of large land sales and capital costs for potential components and potential mechanisms for funding.

PRIORITY PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. River and Creek Access



Increased public access to rivers will provide recreational opportunities such as swimming, kayaking and fishing. Special attention and education needs to be given to minimize the environmental impact on the river and conflicts with river-side private landowners. This priority could include the following components: water access, hiking trails, beaches, kayaking, interpretive signage, picnic benches, running water, restroom, parking, security, enforcement and pest management.

This priority meets the following needs:

- Demand-based Needs
 - River and Creek Access
 - General Nature Enjoyment
 - Water Management
- Resource-based Needs
 - Regional Water Restoration
 - Park Stewardship Plans
- Fiscal-based Needs
 - Nature Tourism

Estimated Acreage: 1-5+ acres/ access area

Estimated Land Cost: \$12,000-\$60,000

Potential Funding Sources:

- Partnerships
- Foundation/Gifts
- Grants
- Inter-local agreements
- Land water conservation fund



Table 5: River and Creek Access Project Cost

	Capital Costs	O & M	Space Needs
RIVER and CREEK ACCESS			1-5+ acres
River Access	\$	\$	1.5-5+ acres
Hiking Trails	\$\$	\$	10-15+ ft. wide
Beaches	\$\$-\$\$\$	\$	1.5-5+ acres
Kayaking	\$	\$	300-600+ SF
Interpretive Signage	\$	\$	N/A
Picnic Benches	\$	\$	N/A
Running Water	\$	\$	N/A
Restroom	\$	\$	N/A
Parking	\$-\$\$	\$	included in items above
Security	\$	\$	N/A
Enforcement	\$-\$\$	\$	N/A
Pest Management	\$	\$	N/A
Land Investment \$12,000 per/acre			\$12,000 - \$60,000

PRIORITY PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS



2. Multi-Use Trails

New trails will offer hiking and biking opportunities and can be designed as part of a City-planned system for local connectivity and part of the larger system for increased regional connectivity. This priority could include the following components: multi-purpose paved trails, parking, bike rack, fitness stations system, security, interpretive signage, restoration, and programming and special events.

This priority meets the following needs:

- Standards-based Needs
 - Trails: 20 miles in 2010, 50 miles in 2020
 - Demand-based Needs
 - Hiking
 - Biking
 - Passive Nature Enjoyment
- Resource-based Needs
 - Native Plantings
 - Grassland Conservation and Restoration
 - Storm-water Low-impact Design
 - Tree Plantings
 - Scenic Corridor Zones and Corridors
- Fiscal-based Needs
 - Nature Tourism
 - Educational Events

Estimated Land Cost: \$65,280 per mile at 45-feet wide

Potential Funding Sources:

- Partnerships
- Foundation/Gifts
- Grants
- Inter-local Agreements
- Dedication/Development Fees
- Texas Parks and Recreation Account



Table 6: Multi-Use Trails Project Cost

	Capital Costs	O & M	Space Needs
MULTI-USE TRAILS			N/A
Multi-purpose paved trails	\$\$-\$\$\$	\$	10-15+ ft. wide
Parking	\$-\$\$	\$	4000+ SF
Bike Rack	\$-\$\$	\$	N/A
Fitness Station System	\$	\$	3,000-5,000 SF
Security	\$	\$	N/A
Interpretive Signage	\$	\$	N/A
Restoration	\$-\$\$	\$\$	N/A
Programming and Special Events	\$	\$	N/A
Land Investment \$12,000 per/acre			\$65,280 per mile

PRIORITY PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

3. Camping



Increasing the number of designated campgrounds will allow for a diversity of overnight get-away locations as well as providing new park space for day users. This priority could include the following components: campground facilities, hiking trails, outdoor classroom, river access, restrooms, pavilions, running water, picnic benches, security and pest management.

This priority meets the following needs:

- Demand-based Needs
 - Camping
 - General Nature Enjoyment
 - Management Plans
 - Hiking
 - Bird Watching
- Resource-based Needs
 - Aquifer Protection
 - Storm-water Low-impact Design
 - Tree Plantings
 - Scenic Corridors
 - Park Stewardship Plans
- Fiscal-based Needs
 - Nature Tourism
 - Partnerships with Educational Groups

Estimated Acreage: 100-500+

Estimated Land Cost: \$1,200,000-\$6,000,000

Potential Funding Sources:

- Partnerships
- Foundation/Gifts
- Grants
- Inter-local Agreements
- Land Water Conservation Fund



Table 7: Camping Project Cost

	Capital Costs	O & M	Space Needs
CAMPING			100-500+ acres
Campground	\$	\$	1-5+ acres
Hiking Trails	\$\$	\$	10-15+ ft. wide
Outdoor Classroom	\$	\$	5,000-8,000 SF
River Access	\$	\$	1-5+ acres
Restroom	\$	\$	800-1,200+ SF
Pavilion	\$	\$	800-1,200+ SF
Running water	\$	\$	N/A
Picnic Benches	\$	\$	N/A
Security	\$	\$	N/A
Pest Management	\$	\$	N/A
Land Investment \$12,000 per/acre			\$1,200,000 - \$6,000,000

PRIORITY PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS



4. Youth Camping Facilities

This type of facility offers a venue for educational activities and scout camps. The multipurpose facility would have other facilities and spaces that all users could access. This priority could include the following components: scout or 4-H facilities, hiking trails, pavilion, outdoor classroom, geocaching, interpretive signage, picnic benches, running water, restroom, parking, security and pest management.

This priority meets the following needs:

- Standards-based Needs
 - Total Park Acres: 471 acres needed
- Resource-based Needs
 - Storm-water Low-impact Design
 - Tree Plantings
 - Park Stewardship Plans
- Fiscal-based Needs
 - Festivals or Special Events
 - Educational Events
 - Increased tax revenue

Estimated Acreage: 100-500+

Estimated Land Cost: \$1,200,000-\$6,000,000

Potential Funding Sources:

- Partnerships
- Foundation/Gifts
- Grants
- Inter-local Agreements



Table 8: Youth Camping Facilities Project Cost

	Capital Costs	O & M	Space Needs
YOUTH CAMPING FACILITIES			100-500+ acres
Scout / 4-H Facilities	\$	\$	2-3+ acres
Hiking Trails	\$	\$	10-15+ ft. wide
Pavilion	\$	\$	800-1,200+ SF
Outdoor Classroom	\$	\$	5,000-8,000 SF
Geocaching	\$	\$	N/A
Interpretive Signage	\$	\$	N/A
Picnic Benches	\$	\$	N/A
Running Water	\$	\$	N/A
Restroom	\$	\$	800-1,200+ SF
Parking	\$-\$	\$	included in items above
Security	\$	\$	N/A
Pest Management	\$	\$	N/A
Land Investment \$12,000 per/acre			\$1,200,000 - \$6,000,000

5. General Nature Enjoyment Lands



Natural areas provide wildlife landscapes, resting places for migratory birds, water resource protection and general nature enjoyment. This priority could include the following components: camping hiking trails, outdoor classroom, parking, trash, security, interpretive signage, running water, programming and special events.

This priority meets the following needs:

- Demand-based Needs
 - Water Management
 - River and Creek Access
 - Wildlife Management
 - Environmental Restoration
 - Environmental Monitoring
 - General Nature Enjoyment
 - Hiking
 - Fire Management
 - Nature Centers
 - Bird Watching
- Resource Needs
 - Native Plantings and Restoration
 - Prairie Grassland Preservation and Restoration
 - Aquifer Protection
 - Regional Water Detention and Restoration
 - Storm-water Low-impact Design
 - Tree Plantings
 - Park Stewardship Plans
- Fiscal-based Needs
 - Nature Tourism
 - Educational Events

Estimated Acreage: 100–1,000

Estimated Land Cost: \$1,200,000-\$12,000,000

Potential Funding Sources:

- Partnerships
- Foundation/Gifts
- Grants
- Land Water Conservation Fund



Table 9: General Nature Enjoyment Lands Project Cost

	Capital Costs	O & M	Space Needs
GENERAL NATURE ENJOYMENT LANDS			100-500+ acres
Camping	\$	\$	1-5+ acres
Hiking Trails	\$\$	\$	10-15+ ft. wide
Outdoor Classroom	\$	\$	5,000-8,000 SF
Parking	\$-\$	\$	included in items above
Trash	\$	\$	N/A
Security	\$	\$	N/A
Interpretive Signage	\$	\$	N/A
Running Water	\$	\$	N/A
Programming and Special Events	\$	\$	N/A
Foundation/Friends Groups	\$	\$	N/A
Land Investment \$12,000 per/acre			\$1,200,000 - \$12,000,000

PRIORITY PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS



6. Nature Center

A nature center will showcase the unique ecology of the Hill Country while providing educational opportunities for students and local residents. These can include elements for education, nature enjoyment, classroom opportunities while showcasing best management practices for environmental restoration and conservation. This priority could include the following components: nature center, hiking trails, outdoor classroom, parking, running water, bike rack, security and wildlife management.

This priority meets the following needs:

- Demand-based Needs
 - Nature Center
 - Environmental Restoration
 - Environmental Monitoring
 - General Nature Enjoyment
 - Hiking
 - Bird Watching
 - Management Plans
- Resource-based Needs
 - Native Planting and Restoration
 - Prairie Grassland Preservation and Conservation
 - Edwards Aquifer Protection
 - Storm-water Low-impact Design
 - Tree Plantings
 - Park Stewardship Plans
- Fiscal-based Needs
 - Nature Tourism
 - Festivals
 - Partnership
 - Fiscal Analysis

Estimated Acreage: 10-50+

Estimated Land Cost: \$120,000-\$600,000

Potential Funding Sources:

- Partnerships
- Foundation/Gifts
- Grants
- Inter-local Agreements



Table 10: Nature Center Project Cost

	Capital Costs	O & M	Space Needs
NATURE CENTER			10-50+ acres
Nature Center	\$\$\$\$	\$	2-3+ acres
Hiking Trails	\$	\$	10-15+ ft. wide
Outdoor Classroom	\$	\$	5,000-8,000 SF
Parking	\$-\$	\$	included in items above
Running water	\$	\$	N/A
Bike Rack	\$	\$	N/A
Security	\$	\$	N/A
Wildlife Management	\$-\$	\$	N/A
Land Investment \$12,000 per/acre			\$120,000 - \$600,000

7. Festivals and Special Event Spaces



These facilities offer a venue for public events and community activities. They can be various in scales and can range from large amphitheaters to smaller outdoor classroom spaces. This priority could include the following components: pavilion, concessions, restrooms, picnic benches, running water, security, parking, programming and special events..

This priority meets the following needs:

- Standards-based Needs
 - Total Park Acres: 471 acres needed
- Resource Needs
 - Stormwater Low Impact Design
 - Tree Plantings
- Fiscal-based Needs
 - Festivals or Special Events
 - Educational Events
 - Increased Tax Revenue

Estimated Acreage: 10-50

Estimated Land Cost: \$120,000-\$600,000

Potential Funding Sources:

- Partnerships
- Foundation/Gifts
- Grants
- Inter-local Agreements



Table 11: Festival and Special Event Space Project Cost

	Capital Costs	O & M	Space Needs
FESTIVAL & SPECIAL EVENT SPACE			10-50+ acres
Pavilion	\$	\$	800-1,200+ SF
Concessions	\$-\$\$\$	\$	800-1,200+ SF
Restroom	\$	\$	800-1,200+ SF
Picnic Benches	\$	\$	N/A
Running Water	\$	\$	N/A
Security	\$	\$	N/A
Parking	\$-\$\$\$	\$	included in items above
Programming and Special Events	\$	\$	N/A
Foundation/Friends Groups	\$	\$	N/A
Land Investment \$12,000 per/acre			\$120,000 - 600,000

PRIORITY PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS



8. Recreation Center and Sports Complex

This space will serve as a location for group activities and community events, while providing a range of facilities, activities and classes for the public. This priority could include the following components: recreation center, swimming pools, baseball fields, softball fields, basketball fields, volleyball courts, tennis courts, track, playscape, pavilion, concessions, restroom, parking, bike rack, running water, security, irrigation systems, and programming and special events.

This priority meets the following needs:

- Standards-based Needs
 - Swimming Pools
 - Baseball Fields
 - Softball Fields
 - Basketball Courts
 - Volleyball Courts
 - Tennis Courts
 - Track
- Resource-based Needs
 - Storm-water Low-impact Design
 - Tree Plantings
 - Park Stewardship Plans
- Fiscal-based Needs
 - Sports Tourism
 - Festivals or special events

Estimated Acreage: 40-60

Estimated Land Cost: \$480,000-\$720,000

Potential Funding Sources:

- Partnerships
- Foundation/Gifts
- Grants
- Inter-local Agreements
- Dedication/Development Fees
- Texas Parks and Recreation Account

Table 12: Recreation Center and Sports Complex Project Cost

	Capital Costs	O & M	Space Needed
REC CENTER AND SPORTS COMPLEX			40-60+ acres
Recreation Center	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$	2-3+ acres
Swimming Pools	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$	1.5-2 acres
Baseball Fields	\$\$	\$\$	3.4 acres / field
Softball Fields	\$\$	\$\$	1.75 acres / field
Basketball Courts	\$	\$	6,000 SF
Volleyball Courts	\$	\$	5,000 SF
Tennis Courts	\$\$	\$	7200 SF / court
Track	\$\$-\$\$\$\$	\$	2.5 acres
Playscape	\$	\$	3,000-5000 SF
Pavilion	\$	\$	800-1,200+ SF
Concessions	\$-\$\$	\$	800-1,200+ SF
Restroom	\$	\$	800-1,200+ SF
Parking	\$-\$\$	\$	included in items above
Bike Rack	\$	\$	N/A
Running Water	\$	\$	N/A
Security	\$	\$	N/A
Irrigation Systems	\$-\$\$	\$	N/A
Programming and Special Events	\$	\$	N/A
Land Investment \$12,000 per/acre			\$480,000 - \$720,000

PRIORITY PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

9. Shooting Sports Complex



This project will offer firearm enthusiasts the opportunity to engage in a wide range of shooting activities as well as provide education on firearm safety. This priority could include the following components: pavilion, concessions, restroom, picnic benches, running water, parking, security, programming and special events.

This priority meets the following needs:

- Standards-based Needs
 - Shooting Sports
- Resource-based Needs
 - Storm-water Low-impact Design
 - Tree Planting
 - Park Stewardship Plans
- Fiscal-based Needs
 - Sports Tourism
 - Special Events

Estimated Acreage: 30-50

Estimated Land Cost: \$360,000-\$600,000

Potential Funding Sources:

- Partnerships
- Foundation/Gifts
- Grants
- Inter-local Agreements
- Dedication/Development Fees
- Texas Parks and Recreation Account



Table 13: Shooting Sports Complex Project Cost

	Capital Costs	O & M	Space Needs
SHOOTING SPORTS COMPLEX			30-50+ acres
Pavilion	\$	\$	800-1,200+ SF
Concessions	\$-\$\$	\$	800-1,200+ SF
Restroom	\$	\$	800-1,200+ SF
Picnic Benches	\$	\$	N/A
Running Water	\$	\$	N/A
Parking	\$-\$\$	\$	included in items above
Security	\$	\$	N/A
Programming and Special Events	\$	\$	N/A
Foundation/Friends Groups	\$	\$	N/A
Land Investment \$12,000 per/acre			\$360,000 - \$600,000

PRIORITY PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS



10. Community Gardens

These gardens create productive social spaces that provide an opportunity to bring the community together. This priority could include the following components: community gardens, trash, running water, security and parking, programming and special events.

This priority meets the following needs:

- Demand-based Needs
 - Community Gardens
- Resource-based Needs
 - Native Plantings
- Fiscal- based Needs
 - Educational Events
 - Festival Tourism

- Increased Tax Revenue
- Estimated Acreage: 1-5+
- Estimated Land Cost: \$12,000-\$60,000
- Potential Funding Sources:
- Partnerships
 - Foundation/Gifts
 - Grants
 - Inter-local Agreements



Table 14: Community Gardens Project Cost

	Capital Costs	O & M	Space Needs
COMMUNITY GARDENS			1-5+ acres
Community Gardens	\$	\$	1-5+ acres
Trash	\$	\$	N/A
Running Water	\$	\$	N/A
Programming and Special Events	\$	\$	N/A
Foundation/Friends Groups	\$	\$	N/A
Security	\$	\$	N/A
Parking	\$-\$	\$	included in items above
Land Investment \$12,000 per/acre			\$12,000 - \$60,000

APPENDIX F

Planning Area Priorities/ Preferences

Buda Planning Area	F-4
Driftwood Planning Area	F-6
Dripping Springs Planning Area	F-8
Kyle Planning Area	F-10
San Marcos Planning Area	F-12
Wimberley Planning Area	F-14

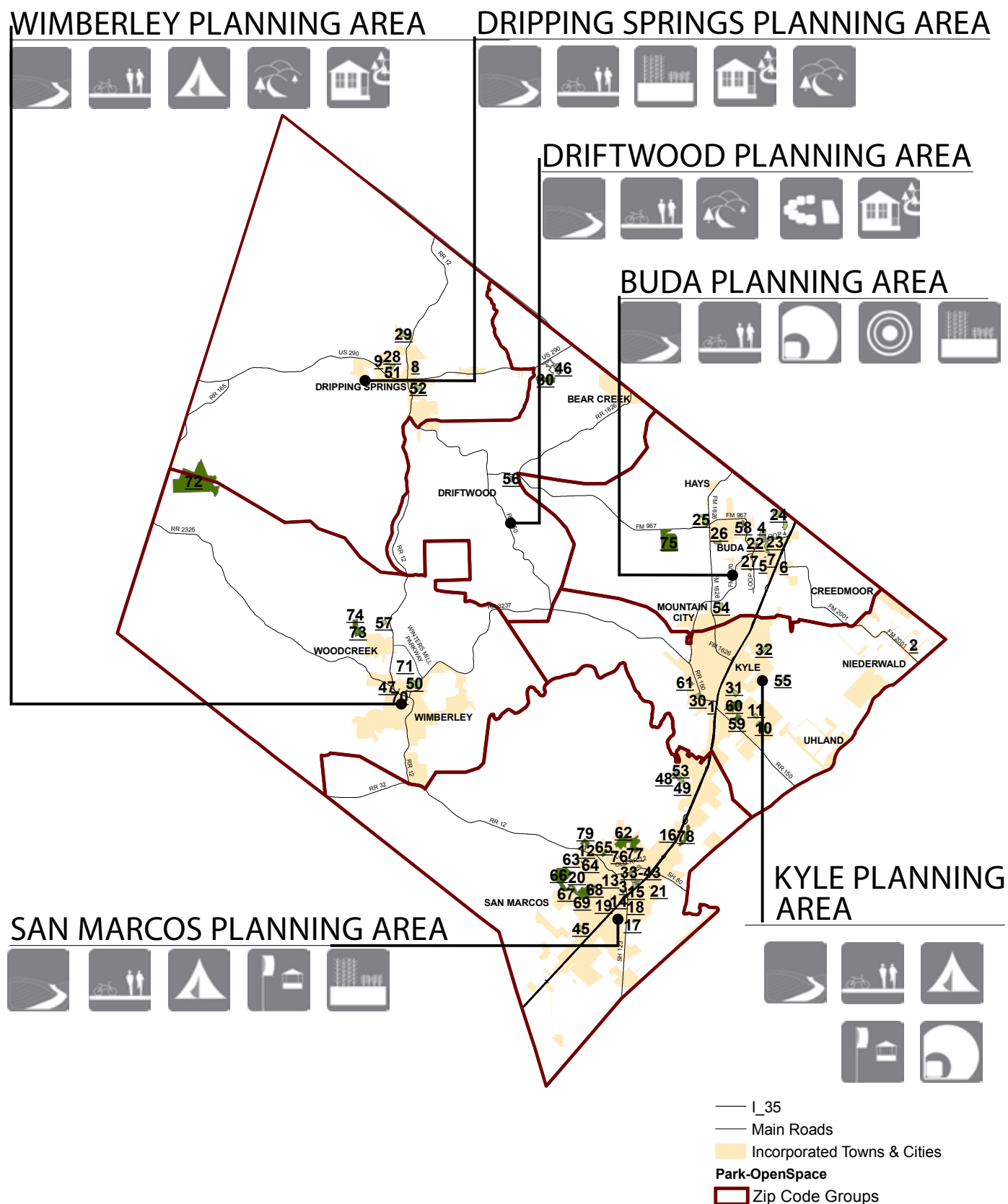
PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

Hays County is a large and diverse county with many land types, community needs and opportunities throughout it. Due to this, Hays County has identified planning areas with specific priorities/preferences for each. The planning areas were established by looking at cities and regional areas around each city as a unit of geographic reference for location of projects. Priorities/Preferences for each planning area were based upon the overall priorities for the County, evaluation of demand and identification of resources available in the specific planning area. Existing City priorities and partnership opportunities in each planning area were also taken into consideration.

Details for each planning area include the zip codes in that planning area, the projected population for the planning area, any related City priorities or projects that were listed in their comprehensive or master plans, the details of the demand-based assessment of satisfaction and importance of recreational activities and a summary of the priorities/preference resulting for each planning area. Each planning area's priorities/preferences are listed from highest to lowest priority/preference. This ranking is based upon the overall County ranking of priorities.

The following map identifies the preferences of each planning area. Following the map are details on each planning area.

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES



PARKS, OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS MASTER PLAN FOR HAYS COUNTY

Data Sources: CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, City of Kyle, City of San Marcos, City of Buda, TXDOT

* Project descriptions are located in Appendix E: Priority Project Descriptions

Figure 34: Planning Area Priorities/ Preferences

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

Buda Planning Area

Zip Codes: 78610 & 78652

Population Data:

2010. 23,531

2015. 32304

2020. 40648

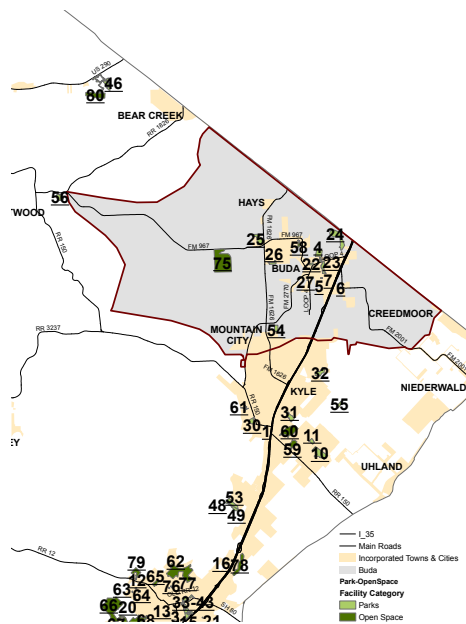
CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, City of Kyle, City of San Marcos, City of Buda, TXDOT
* Numbers refer to park and open space inventory

Figure 35: Buda Area Map

City Projects:

Buda – 2002 | Comprehensive Plan 2002-2012 (Chapter 3: Parks, Recreation and Open Space)

- Create a linear park/walking trail (unknown), build a trail that connects up existing parks (completion date: 2003)
- Preserve open space (unknown), create a mechanism to purchase land for conservation purposes (completion date: 2003)
- Construct a large, regional ball field facility (20+ acres), build a recreation facility for soccer, baseball and softball (completion date: 2003)
- Build a multipurpose indoor facility (unknown), construct a building to include a diverse range of activities including a gymnasium, a weight room and a space for aerobics (completion date: 2004)
- Create more picnicking facilities (unknown), install more picnic tables and shelters (completion date: 2003)

Planning Area Priorities/ Preferences



1. River and Creek Access



2. Multi-Use Trails



3. Community Gardens



4. Recreation Center and Sports Complex



5. Shooting Sports Complex

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

Based on the figures below, the planning priorities/preferences were established.

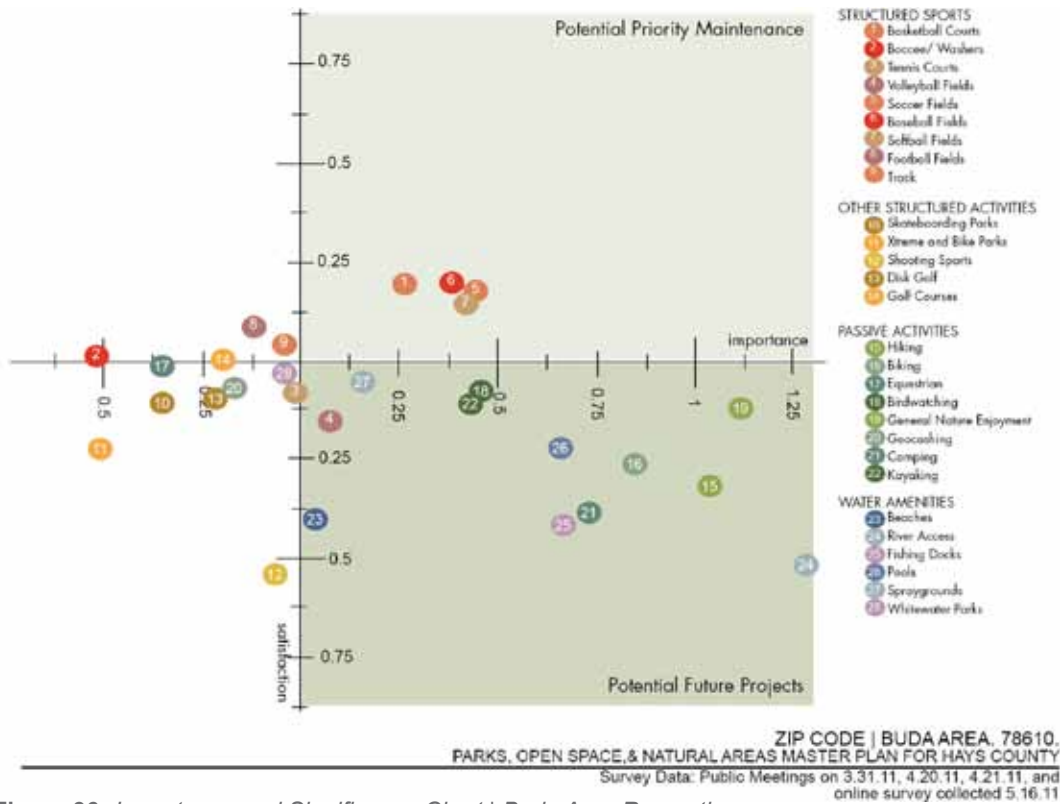


Figure 36: Importance and Significance Chart | Buda Area Recreation

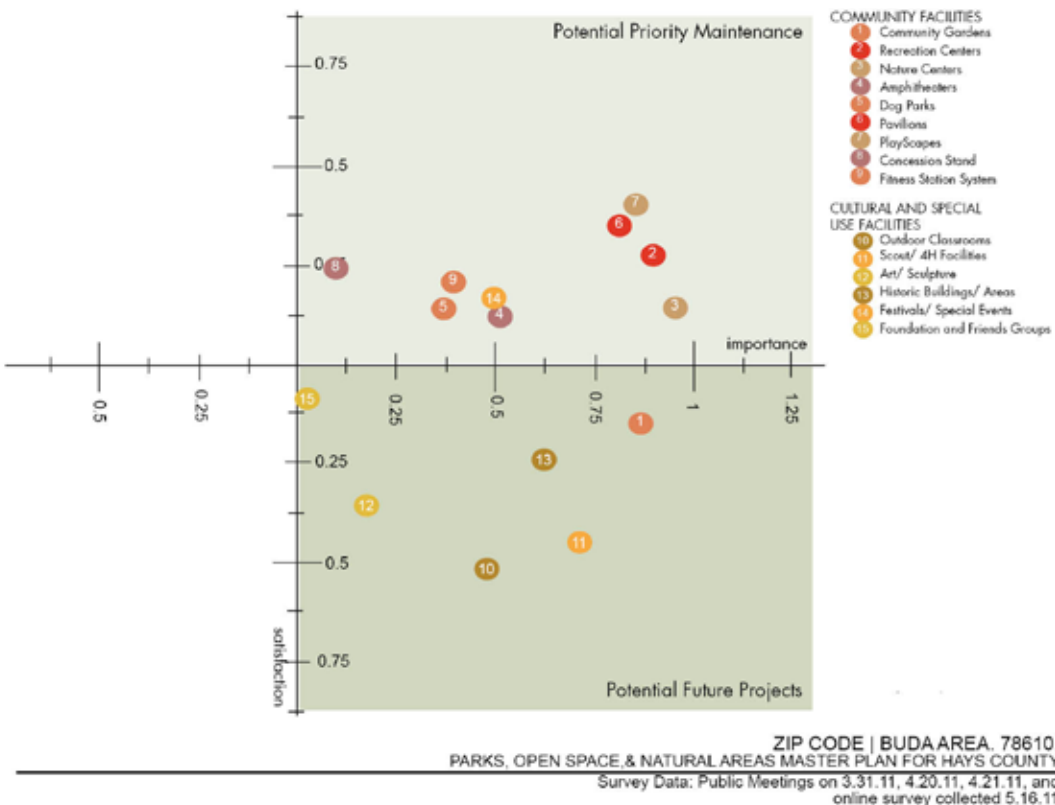


Figure 37: Importance and Significance Chart | Buda Area Facilities

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

Driftwood Planning Area

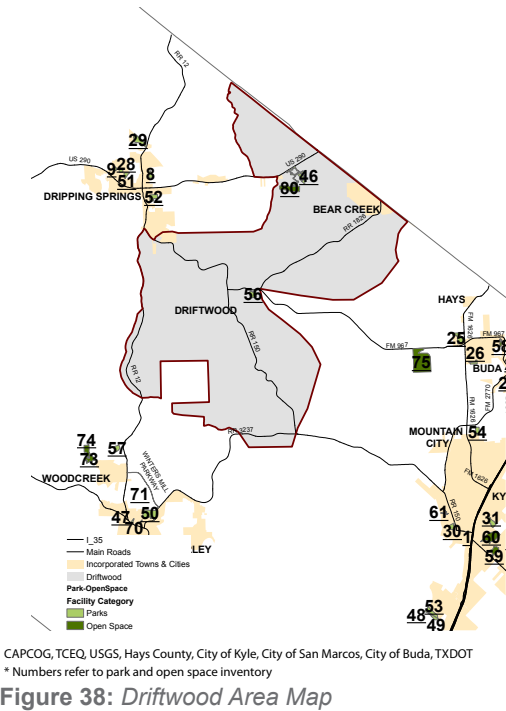
City Projects:

Zip Codes: 78619, 78736, 78737 & 78739

n/a

Population Data:

2010 | 10,127
2015 | 13,903
2020 | 17,493



CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, City of Kyle, City of San Marcos, City of Buda, TXDOT
* Numbers refer to park and open space inventory

Figure 38: Driftwood Area Map

Planning Area Priorities/ Preferences



1. River and Creek Access
2. Multi-Use Trails
3. General Nature Enjoyment Lands
4. Nature Center
5. Youth Camping Facilities

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

Based on the figures below, the planning priorities/preferences were established.

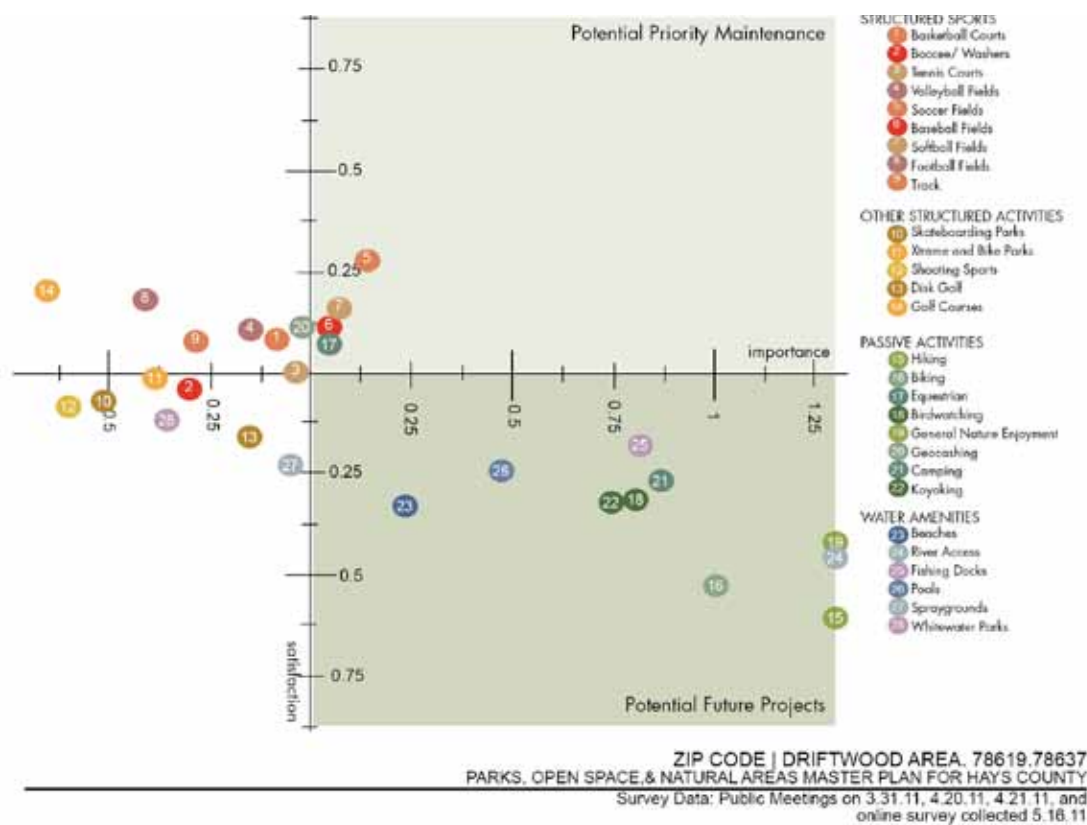


Figure 39: Importance and Significance Chart | Driftwood Area Recreation

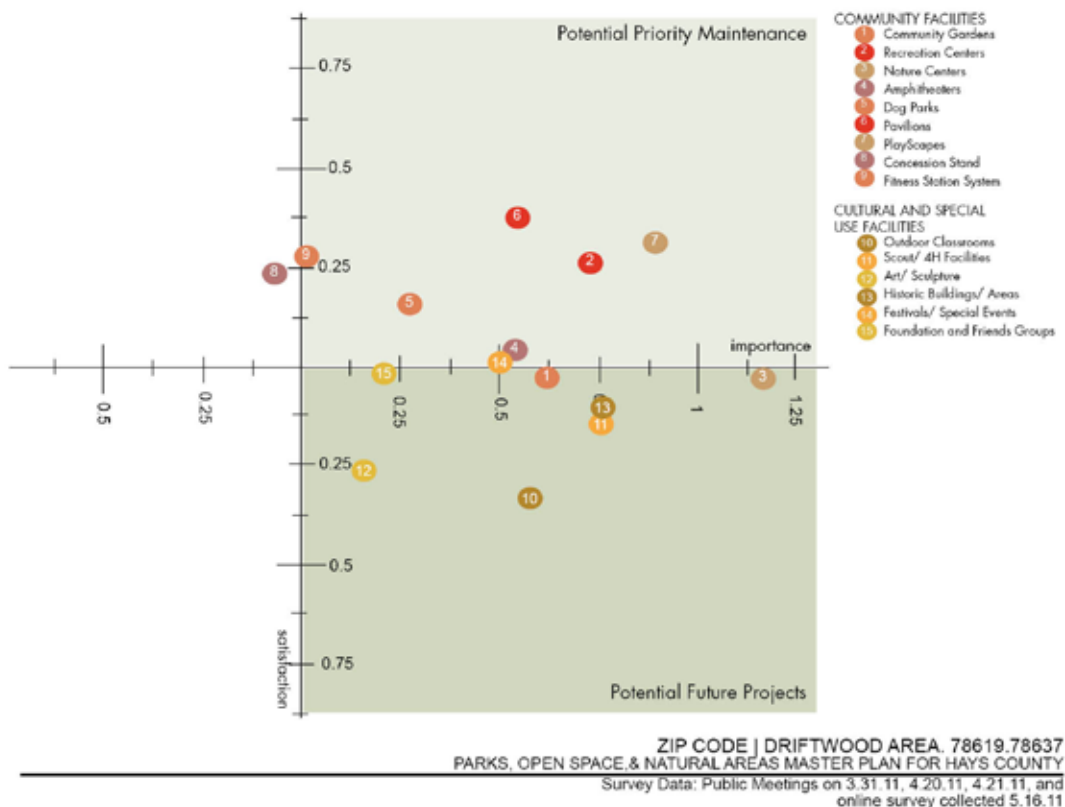


Figure 40: Importance and Significance Chart | Driftwood Area Facilities

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

Dripping Springs Planning Area

Zip Codes: 78620 & 78663

Population Data:

2010 | 13,611

2015 | 18,685

2020 | 23,512

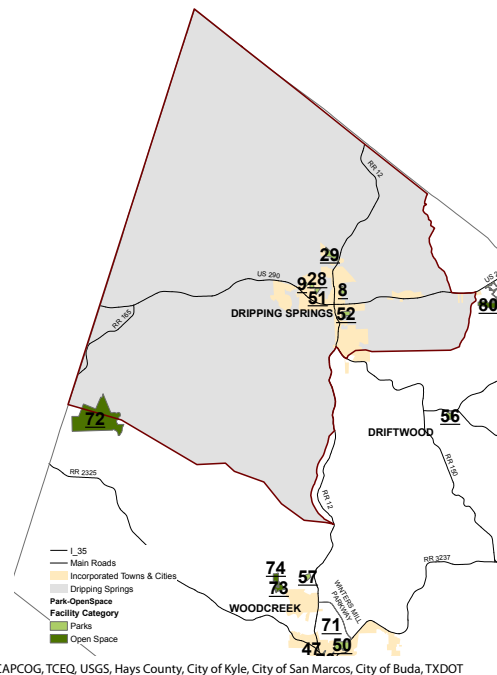
CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, City of Kyle, City of San Marcos, City of Buda, TXDOT
* Numbers refer to park and open space inventory

Figure 41: Dripping Springs Area Map

City Projects:

Dripping Springs – May 2007 | Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space

- Veterans Memorial Park Center (2.9 acres), develop the triangle of land bound by US 290, Highway 12 and Mercer Street/Loop 64 (no completion date)
- Equestrian/Agricultural Center (unknown size), space needed for riding trails and a space for 4H exhibits (no completion date)
- Town Trail System (unknown size), link areas of town with a trail system (no completion date)
- Expand park open space (unknown size), increase the amount of natural, public open space (no completion date)
- Increase program offerings in existing parks (unknown size), offer more of existing programs such as ball fields and increase the diversity of programs to include activities such as an indoor basketball court and a music venue/amphitheater (no completion date)

Planning Area Priorities/ Preferences



1. Multi-Use Trails



2. General Nature Enjoyment Lands



3. River and Creek Access



4. Nature Center



5. Community Gardens

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

Based on the figures below, the planning priorities/preferences were established.

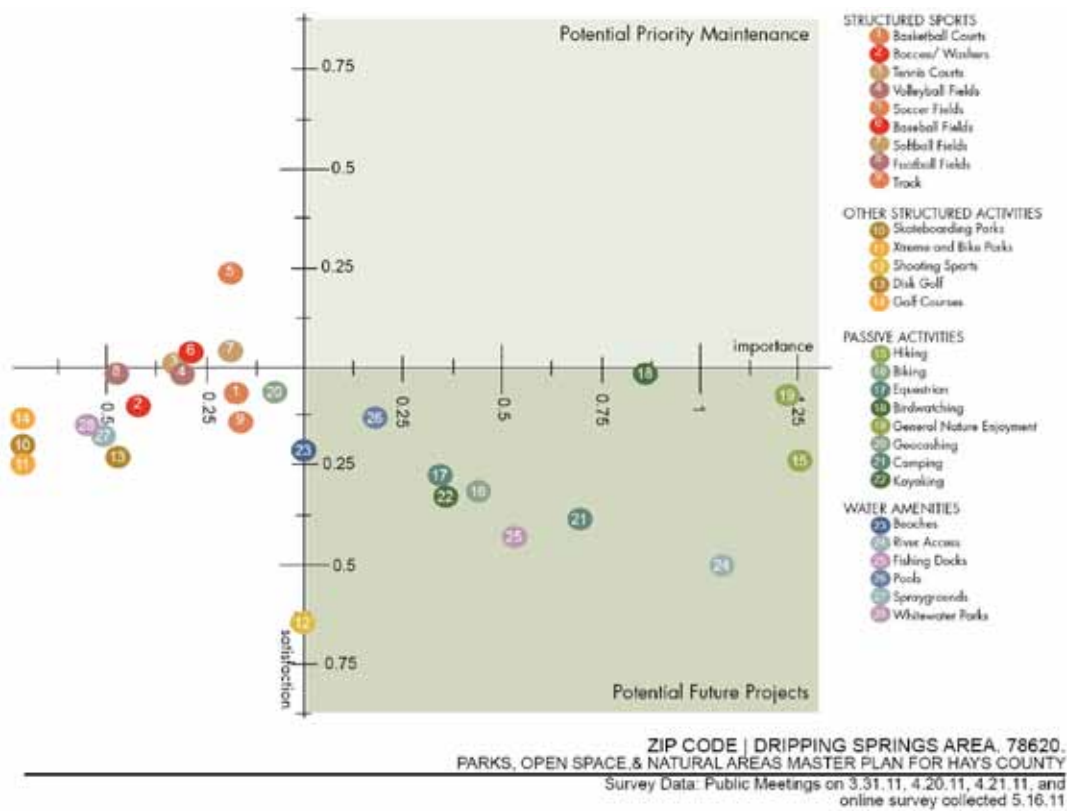


Figure 42: Importance and Significance Chart | Dripping Springs Area Recreation

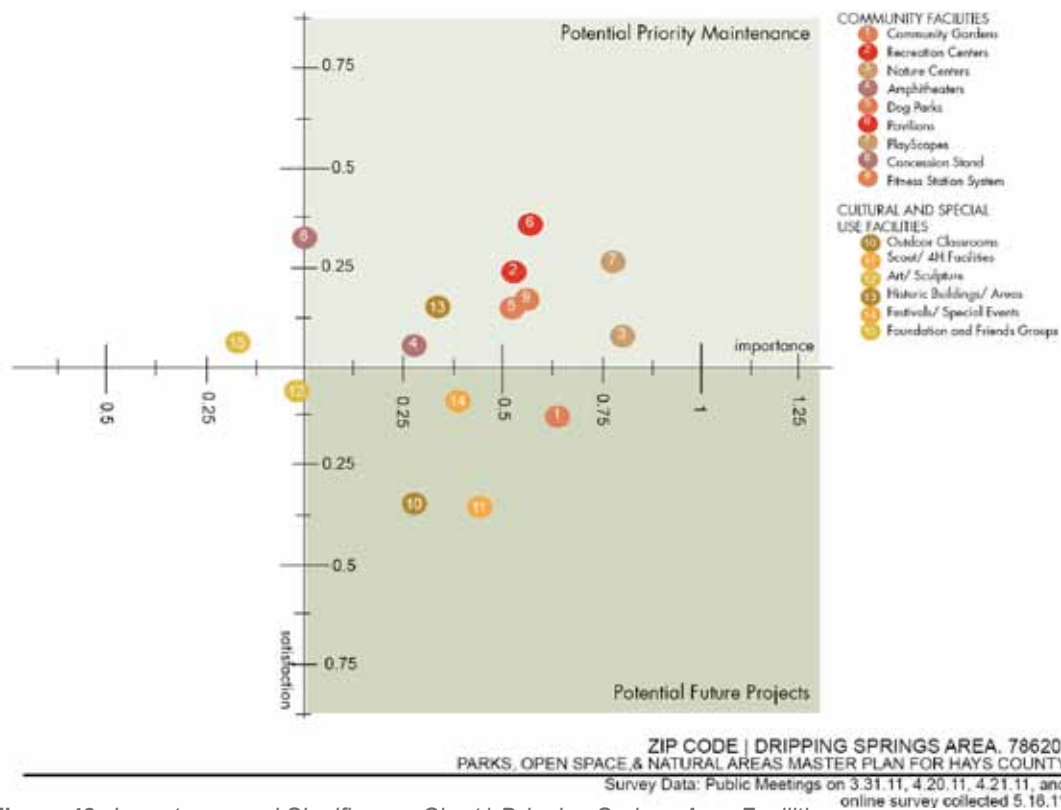


Figure 43: Importance and Significance Chart | Dripping Springs Area Facilities

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

Kyle Planning Area

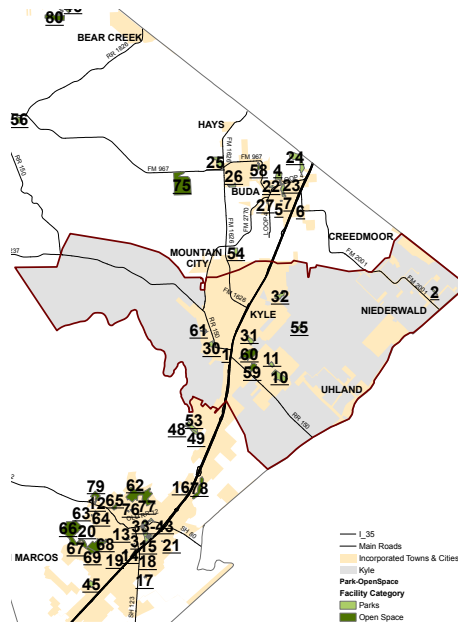
78640 & 78656

Population Data:

2010 | 41,061

2015 | 56,369

2020 | 70,292



CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, City of Kyle, City of San Marcos, City of Buda, TXDOT
* Numbers refer to park and open space inventory

Figure 44: Kyle Area Map

City Projects:

Kyle – 2006 | A Vision of Parks, Trails, & Open Space 2006-2016

- Purchase land for new park land (215-355 acres), increase the park space of the City by acquiring new sites and by buying new land adjacent to existing parks (completion date: various phases 2006-2010 & 2010-2016)
- Purchase land for a trail system (unknown), create a comprehensive system of trails throughout the town (completion date: various phases 2006-2008 & 2010-2016)
- Enhance facilities (unknown), renovate and expand facilities on existing park sites (completion date: various phases 2006-2008, 2008-2012, 2010-2014 & 2012-2016)

Planning Area Priorities/ Preferences



1. Multi-Use Trails



2. River and Creek Access



3. Camping



4. Recreation Center and Sports Complex



5. Festivals and Special Event Spaces

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

Based on the figures below, the planning priorities/preferences were established.

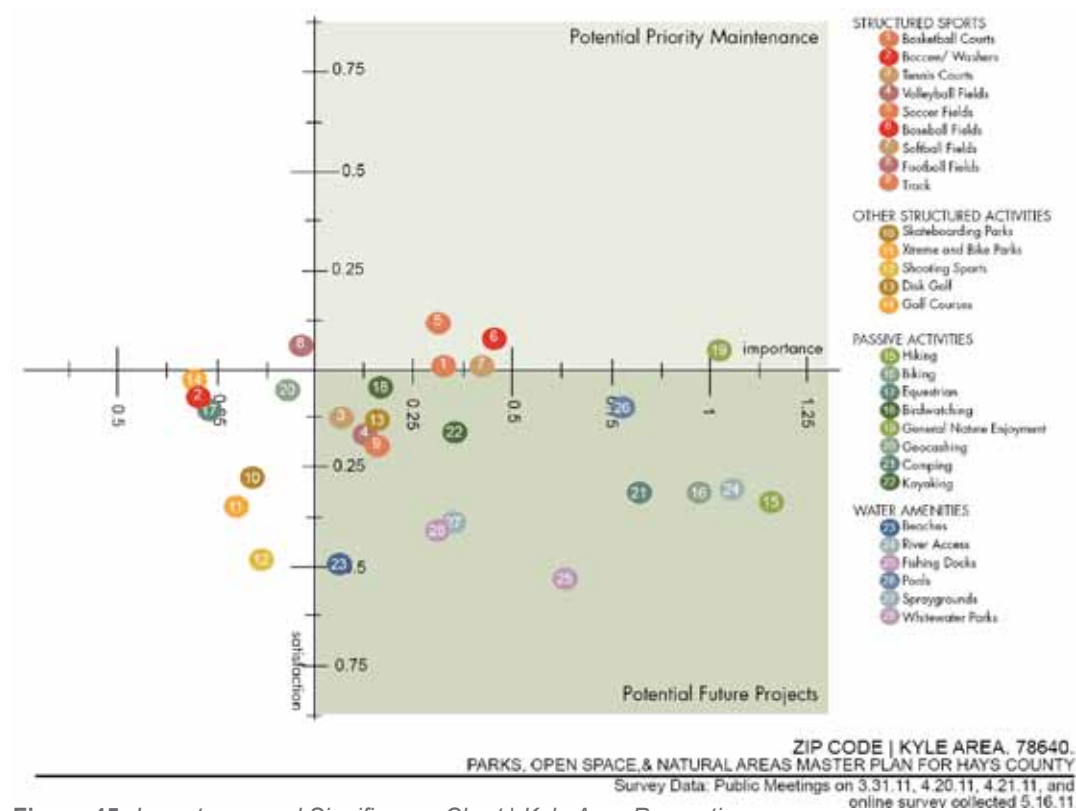


Figure 45: Importance and Significance Chart | Kyle Area Recreation

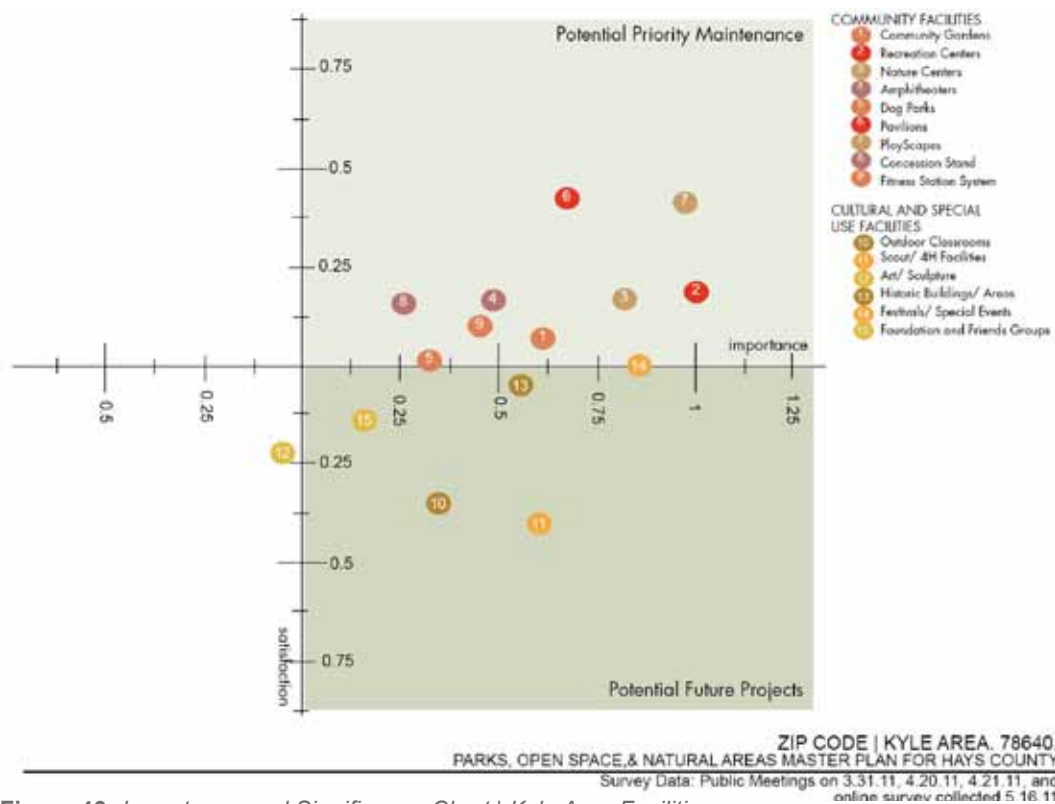


Figure 46: Importance and Significance Chart | Kyle Area Facilities

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

San Marcos Planning Area

Zip Codes: 78666 & 78130

Population Data:

2010 | 55,314

2015 | 75,936

2020 | 95,550

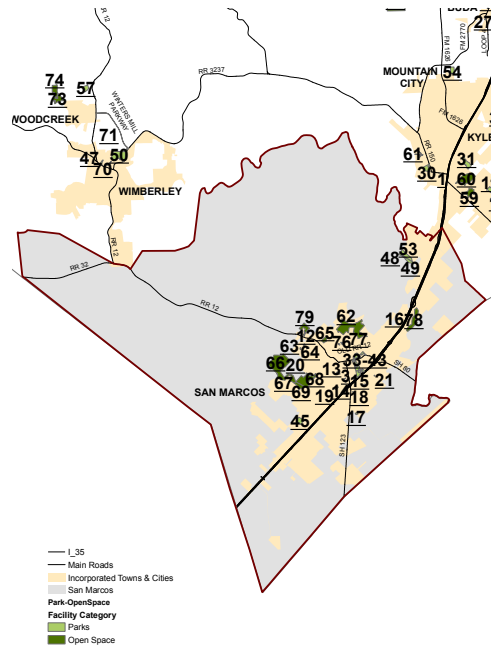
CAPCOG, TCEQ, USGS, Hays County, City of Kyle, City of San Marcos, City of Buda, TXDOT
* Numbers refer to park and open space inventory

Figure 47: San Marcos Area Map

City Projects:

San Marcos – November 2010 | Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan

- Land Acquisition (unknown), purchase dozens of acres to accommodate future growth (completion date: 0-10 years)
- Develop the existing parks (unknown), increase the park system offerings in a financially sustainable fashion (completion date: 0-10 years)
- Build a trail and greenbelt system (unknown), create an extensive network of trails throughout the city (completion date: 0-10 years)
- Increase the diversity of park programming (size not relevant), expand the programming and activities offering of the park system (no completion date)

Planning Area Priorities/ Preferences



1. Camping



2. Multi-Use Trails



3. River and Creek Access



4. Community Gardens



5. Festivals and Special Event Spaces

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

Based on the figures below, the planning priorities/preferences were established.

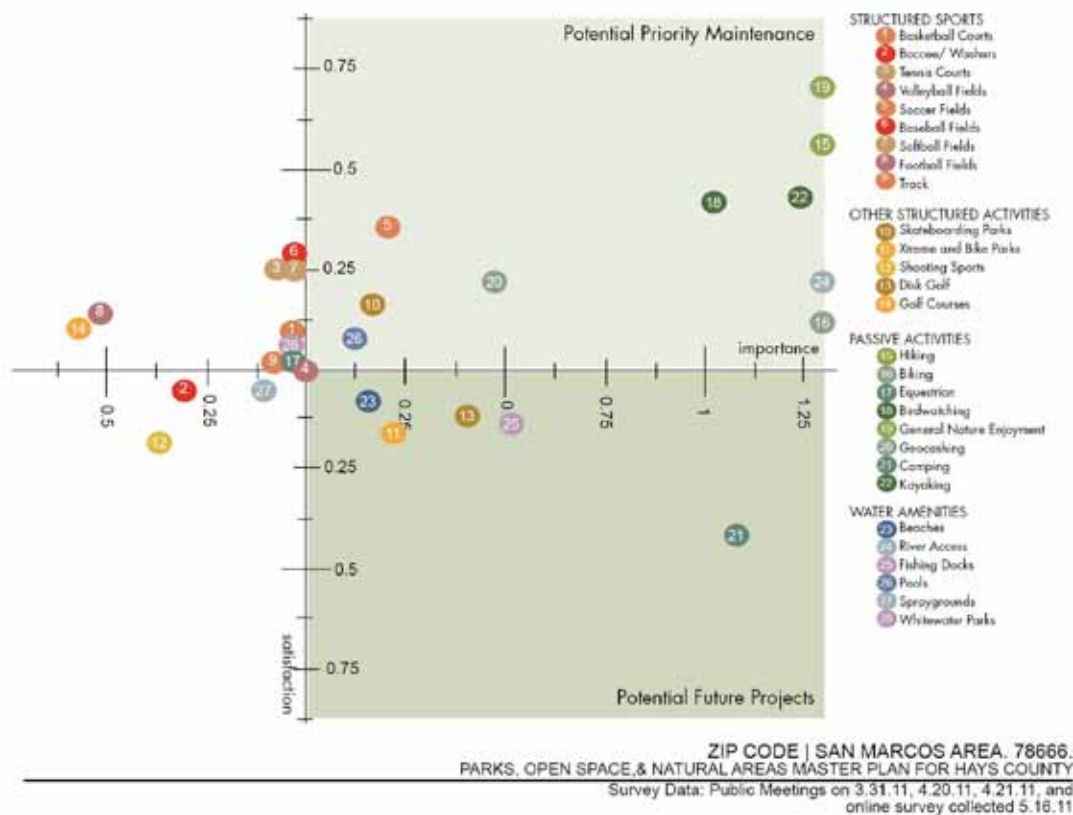


Figure 48: Importance and Significance Chart | San Marcos Area Recreation

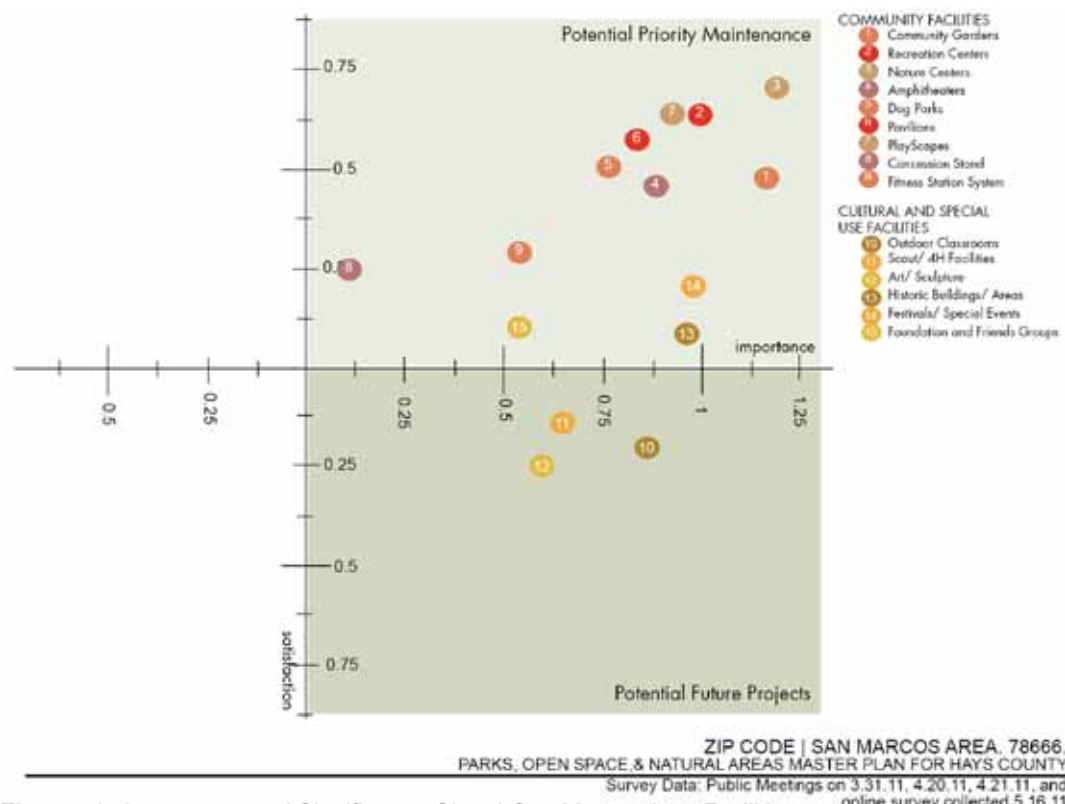


Figure 49: Importance and Significance Chart | San Marcos Area Facilities

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

Wimberley Planning Area

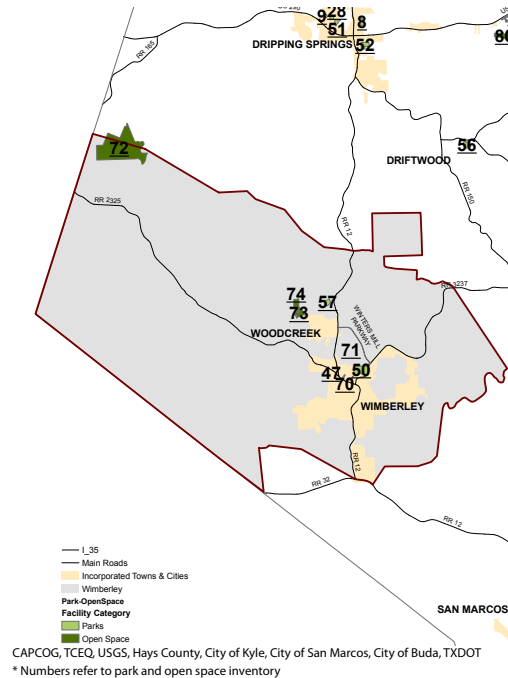
Zip Codes: 78676, 78623 & 78606

Population Data:

2010 | 13,463

2015 | 18,482

2020 | 23,256



City Projects:

Wimberley – November 2008 | Parks and Recreation Master Plan

- Expand facilities at Blue Hole Regional Park (unknown size), develop sports fields and other recreation facilities in Blue Hole (no completion date)
- Develop hike/bike/equestrian trails (unknown size), develop a system of trails throughout the town (no completion date)
- Expand facilities (unknown size), add new recreational opportunities to Wimberley which are spread evenly throughout the town, build a small park in the CBD, acquire waterfront property (no completion date)
- Market the park system (size not relevant), create avenues to disperse information regarding park activities (no completion date)
- Create passive recreational opportunities near businesses (size unknown), encourage business owners in commercial areas to provide benches, picnic tables, etc. (no completion date)

Planning Area Priorities/ Preferences



1. River and Creek Access



2. Multi-Use Trails



3. General Nature Enjoyment Lands



4. Nature Center



5. Camping

PLANNING AREA PRIORITIES/ PREFERENCES

Based on the figures below, the planning priorities/preferences were established.

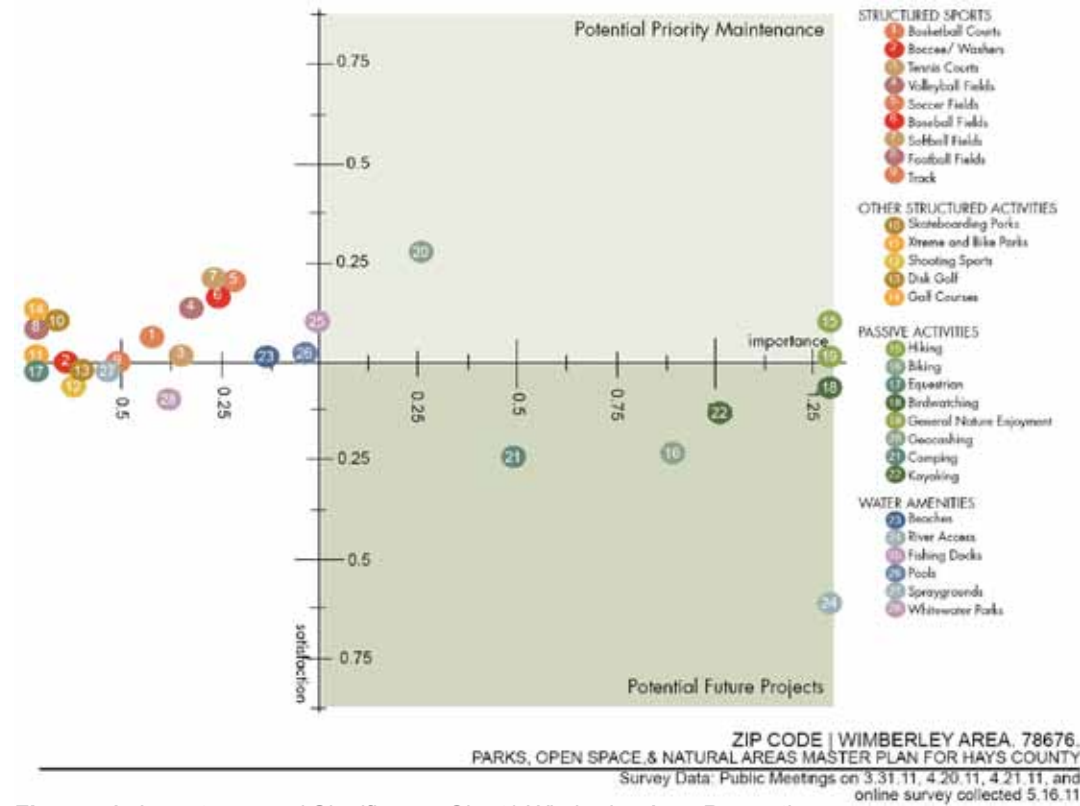


Figure 51: Importance and Significance Chart | Wimberley Area Recreation

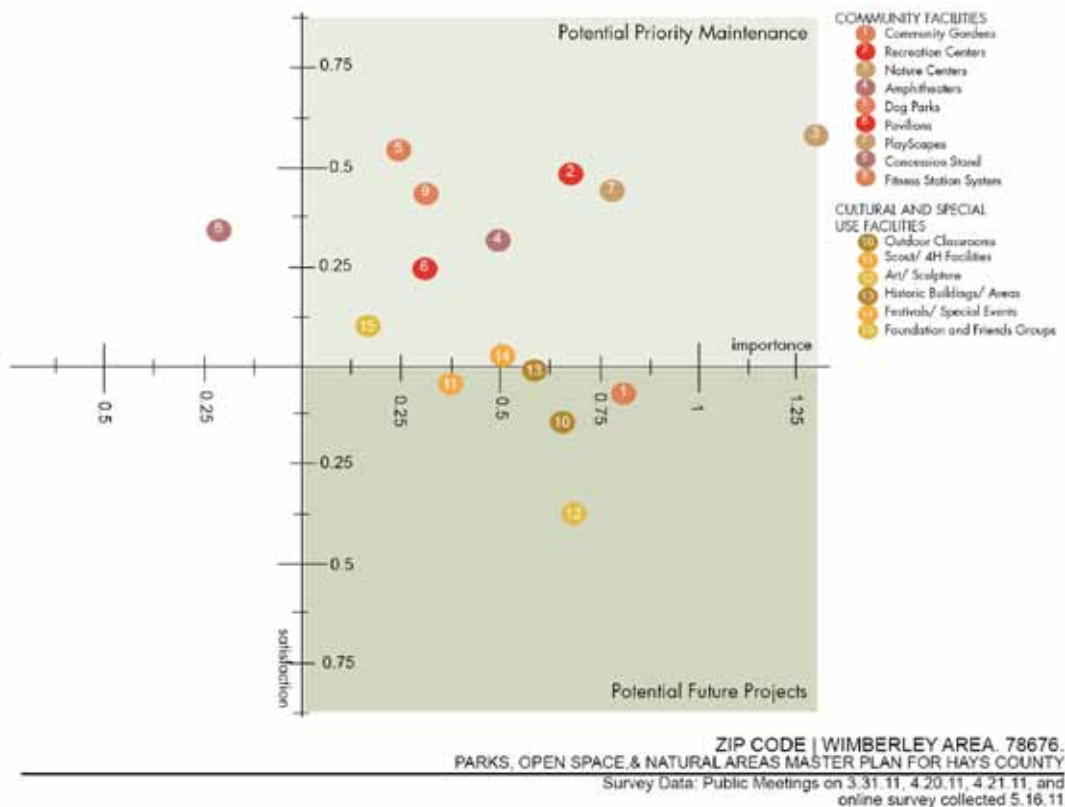


Figure 52: Importance and Significance Chart | Wimberley Area Facilities

