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2016 KYLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# KYLE PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

*A Comprehensive Guide for the City of Kyle 2016-2026*

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 6, 2016



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## CITY COUNCIL

Todd Webster, MAYOR  
Travis Mitchell, DISTRICT 1  
Becky Selbera, DISTRICT 2  
Shane Arabie, DISTRICT 3  
David Wilson, DISTRICT 4  
Damon Fogley, DISTRICT 5, MAYOR PRO TEM  
Daphne Tenorio, DISTRICT 6

## PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

Rhonda Cox  
Shane Arabie  
Julie Rodriguez  
Tracy Scheel  
David Nichols  
Mike Rubsam  
Timothy A. Kay  
Dex Exellison

## KYLE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Kerry Urbanowicz, PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

## PLAN CONSULTANTS - HALFF ASSOCIATES, INC.

Jim Carillo, FAICP, ASLA  
Christian Lentz, AICP  
Aaron Cooper, PLA, CLARB, ASLA  
Kimberly Castillo



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2016 KYLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



# CHAPTER 7



## *Introduction and Purpose*



## RELEVANCE OF PARKS & OPEN SPACE

Central Texas and the City of Kyle have experienced tremendous growth over the past two decades. Between 1990 and 2000, the population in Kyle increased by over 50 percent. Since 2000, Kyle's population has quadrupled. Exceptional local growth - in such an abbreviated time frame - has resulted in high demand for city infrastructure and services including: roads, water, wastewater, public safety, parks, recreational programs, and more.

Such demands on expanded and enhanced local services is not anticipated to subside. Kyle is expected to continue growing. In 2014, the Kyle Economic Development Corporation (EDC) estimated that another 7,000 residents would be added to the City within five years - pushing the City to a population of over 40,000 by the year 2019. (Annexation activity may accelerate the EDC's estimate.)

Access to parks, open space, and recreational opportunities are vital measures of any community's health and quality of life. Parks are visible and tangible expressions of a community's natural beauty. They offer places for both exercise and relaxation. They preserve wildlife habitat and contribute to clean air and water. The 2016 Kyle Parks and Recreation Master Plan (the "Master Plan") has been prepared in recognition of these attributes, and to provide six (6) essential public benefits.

### I. Parks Improve Health and Wellbeing

We live in a fast paced world, and yet spending time in a park just seems to make everything slow down for the better. Whether a park visit involves intense exercise such as playing soccer or running on trail, or whether it involves more passive activities such as sitting on a bench to watch birds or fishing in a pond, being in nature has profound effects on a person's mental wellbeing.

Parks also allow us to feel as if we've escaped. They offer a quiet green space to pause, breathe, and forget about stress, if only for a brief moment.

Parks offer convenient places to exercise which is desperately needed in a society where heart disease, diabetes, and child obesity are rising to unprecedented numbers. The most common places for a person to be physically active is in parks, and through recreation programming.

Finally, play is crucial for child development. Children learn by playing whether it is organized sports, being on a playground, or a simple game of tag. Play helps children develop muscle strength, coordination, cognitive thinking, language skills, and appropriate social interaction.



KYLE, TX

A SHADY GROVE - NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IN PLUM CREEK

## 2. Parks Provide Opportunities to Be Involved

One of the easiest ways to get involved in a community is to utilize local parks. A neighborhood group can volunteer to maintain a specific park through an Adopt-A-Park program. Residents can become instructors for programs or coaches for athletic leagues. Special events and festivals hosted in local parks are great ways to get to know neighbors and local businesses. Park and recreation departments often organize work day projects or Arbor Day celebrations so that residents can help install a playground or plant trees.

## 3. Parks Provide a Safe Haven to Youth

Parks and recreation programs - specifically those targeted towards teens and youth - can have a positive social impact. They provide a supervised environment and safe place to be (generally speaking). Organized sports as well as unstructured activities such as skateboarding at a skate park increase interaction with peers, provide opportunities to be mentored by positive adult or older teen role models, and help develop life skills such as leadership and decision making.

## 4. Parks Increase Tourism

People will visit a community because of the attractions that are offered, and many of those attractions can be located in parks. Festivals, concerts, and special events almost always occur in parks or other public spaces. Sports tournaments take place on park athletic fields. Even museums, observatories, and sometimes libraries, can be located within a park.

## 5. Parks Contribute to the Economy

Parks have been shown to improve a local economy by increasing residential property values. What is known as the Proximate Principle<sup>1</sup> has shown that people are willing to pay more for their home when it is located

close to a park or green space. The higher the home values, the higher the property taxes being paid to a city.

The Proximate Principle extends beyond residential property. For example, hotels often charge more for a room that overlooks a park, lake or garden versus one that overlooks a roof or parking lot. The higher rated room results in a higher hotel/motel tax being paid to a city.

Finally, parks impact the local economy by providing business opportunities. Often times an entrepreneur will open a bicycle shop along a trail, a canoe and kayak rental at a lake, or even a hot dog stand near a park.

**“A nation behaves well if it treats its natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.”**

**~Theodore Roosevelt**

## 6. Parks Preserve the Environment

Parks, open spaces, and greenbelts contribute to clean air and clean water. They can control storm water runoff and reduce flooding. Parks provide wildlife habitat for many creatures including endangered species and migratory birds.

Finally, parks and open space contribute to the preservation of land in general and ensure that our communities do not become overrun with concrete. Public parks and greenbelts often represent a community's greatest efforts in open space conservation or preservation.

<sup>1</sup> John L. Crompton (2004). The Proximate Principle: The Impact of Parks, Open Space and Water Features on Residential Property Values and the Property Tax Base (Second Edition). Ashburn, Virginia: National Recreation and Park Association, 187pp.

## MASTER PLAN PARAMETERS

A master planning process for parks, recreation, and open space must include specific parameters that guide the process and structure of the plan. This section defines the purpose for the 2016 Kyle Parks and Recreation Master Plan, identifies the geographic area of the plan, outlines the steps that are taken during the planning process, and finally provides a time frame for Master Plan implementation.

### Purpose of the Master Plan

The City of Kyle first developed a Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2006. At that time, Kyle was at the forefront of a new population boom. This growth has accelerated and - although the City has sought to develop a parks system that meets increasing public needs - new demands for recreational opportunities are being placed on the City by a diversifying population base. This Master Plan establishes updated goals and confirms new priorities for the City of Kyle in the year 2016.

The Master Plan assesses Kyle's parks and recreation system - including improvements that have been made since 2006. Guided by public input, the Master Plan:

- **Evaluates trends occurring in the parks and recreation profession locally and nationally, and evaluate how those trends could benefit Kyle.**
- **Examines the future land use plan in Kyle in order to assess where additional parks and recreation facilities will be needed as the City continues to grow.**
- **Guides city staff in acquiring land to meet current and future parkland and open space needs.**
- **Prioritizes recommendations so that projects or initiatives are implemented which address perceived park system and recreational programming deficiencies.**

The Master Plan is the culmination of a City-led park planning effort, and guides Kyle's elected and appointed officials, and staff, as they decide how best to meet the recreation needs of the City over the next 10 years. The Master Plan has been prepared in accordance with the general guidelines for local park master plans established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

Adherence to these guidelines - and filing with the TPWD assists the City in qualifying for state-administered grant opportunities as they become available.

### Park Master Planning Components

The components of the City's parks master planning process are illustrated in **Figure I-A** below. It is important to note that although the figure suggests a general chronology of planning steps, many components of the master planning process have occurred simultaneously. More details on the public engagement process incorporated into the master planning effort is provided in **Chapter 2, Community Context**



**Figure I-A:** The City of Kyle's park master planning process adhered to a six-step process.

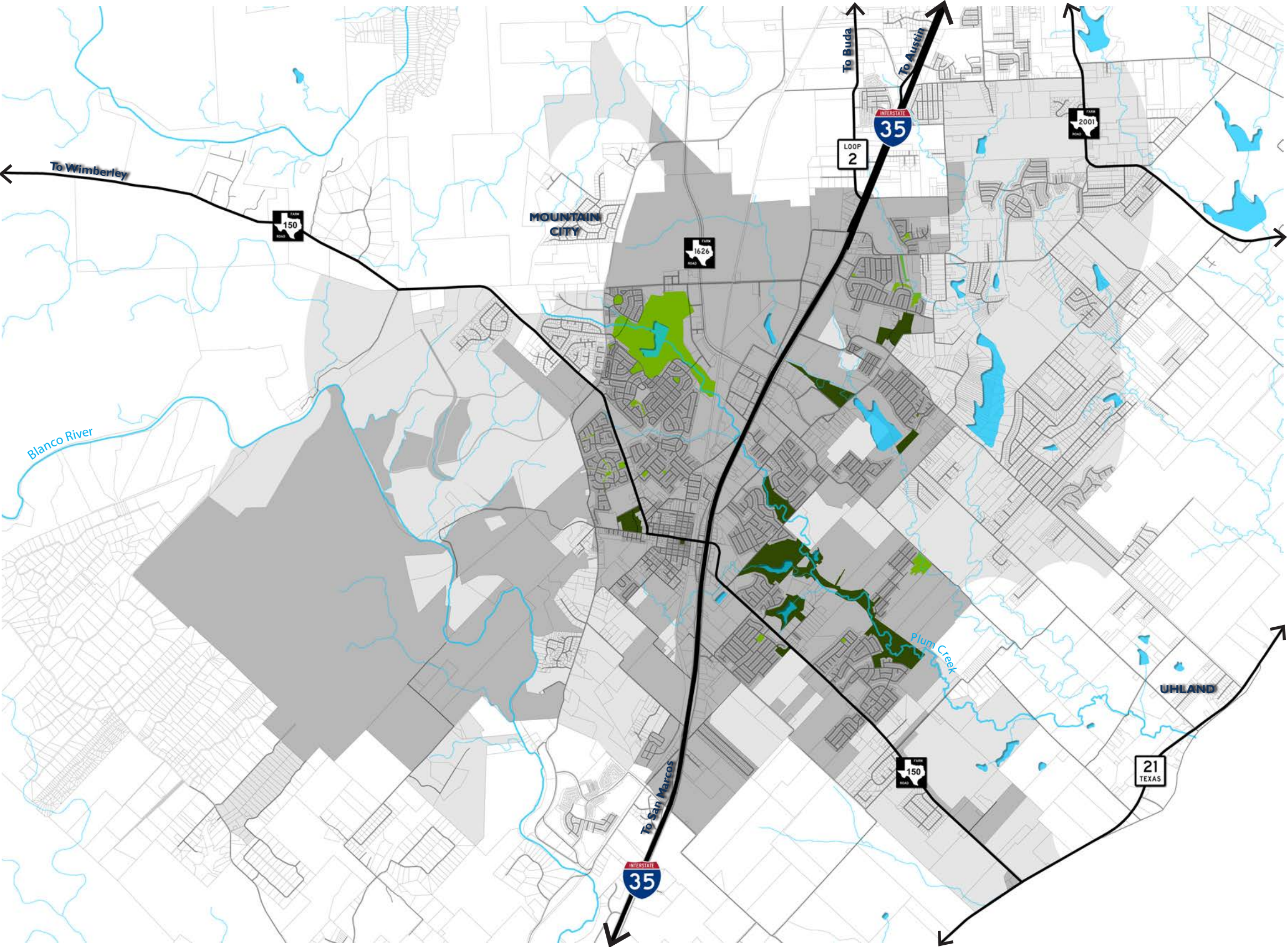
### Jurisdiction and Planning Area

The City of Kyle is the primary entity providing recreational facilities for the citizens of Kyle. Additional park facilities and recreational opportunities are provided by Hays County, other nearby cities, and the Hays Consolidated Independent School District (ISD) on many public school campuses in Kyle.

Since the City of Kyle is the primary entity charged with implementing this plan, the plan focuses on the park and open space needs for the city of Kyle and its surrounding extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The city limits of Kyle are approximately 19.5 square miles in size, while the ETJ adds another 36.5 square miles. The Master Plan planning area is illustrated on **Map I-A, City of Kyle: Area of Jurisdiction** (page 5).



# MAP I-A: CITY OF KYLE: AREA OF JURISDICTION



- Municipal limits**
- Extra-territorial jurisdiction**
- Lakes/ponds**
- Rivers/creeks**
- Private park land\***
- City-owned park land\***

\*Note: A full inventory of park facilities in the City of Kyle is provided in Chapter 3, Existing Conditions.



Plan Time frame

This plan has been prepared to address the City of Kyle’ parks, open space, and recreation needs for a period of 10 years (2016-2026). Although many of the recommendations of the Master Plan are intended to be implemented throughout the entire planning period, the action plan contained in this document should be reassessed periodically. Local planning requirements issued by TPWD recommend that a parks, recreation, and open space master plan should be completely updated at least at the conclusion of a ten year period, but also before if any major developments occur which significantly alter the recreation needs of the city.

A periodic review of the plan should including the following steps:

- **An annual workshop by the Kyle Parks Advisory Board and city staff to review progress and successes.**
- **Annual updates of the document by city staff.**
- **Public involvement through citizen meetings, interviews, and workshops should be included in any updating process.**
- **Updates are reviewed and adopted by the Kyle City Council.**



KYLE, TX  
PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS - GREGG CLARKE PARK

RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Public enthusiasm for community planning requires evidence that previous planning efforts resulted in tangible community improvement. The City of Kyle has worked tirelessly to ensure that the actions and initiatives of its 2006 park master planning efforts have been implemented in accordance with community goals.

Major accomplishments over the last 10 year period include:

- **276% Increase in Total Parkland (Public and Private) Since 2006**
- **Total parkland in excess of 133% of 2006 Plan Goal**

- **Acquired Land for Kyle Vista Park, Plum Creek Preserve and Nature Trail**
- **General City Park Enhancements**
- **Shaded Playscapes at All Parks (pictured above)**
- **Adopted Landscaping and Parkland Dedication Ordinances**

The City’s 2006 parks master plan included multiple policy recommendations, and a work program containing 25 actions and initiatives. A full summary of the City of Kyle’s parks and recreation record of accomplishments can be found in **Appendix A, Record of Accomplishments (2006-2016)**.

## GOALS OF THE KYLE PARK SYSTEM

Goals and objectives within a community plan are the foundation upon which elected and appointed officials make investment and development decisions on behalf of the general public.

Goals developed during the parks and recreation planning process provide the underlying philosophical framework for decisions made when evaluating needs and priorities for public park or recreation improvements. The goals in this Master Plan reflect the desires of the citizens, elected and appointed officials, and City staff. The 2016 Kyle Parks and Recreation Master Plan goals mimic those of the 2006 parks master plan – having been re-affirmed during the public engagement process as an accurate reflection of Kyle's park and recreation system needs during the next 10 year period.

The City's success in 2006 master plan implementation, combined with Kyle's rapid growth, has resulted in the identification of 2016 Master Plan objectives which vary significantly from those of the 2006-2016 implementation period.

### **Goal 1: Develop an excellent system of parks and trails that establishes Kyle as a preferred community in which to live and work.**

- 1.1 Implement a long-range program for continued improvement of Kyle's parks system based upon this Master Plan.**
- 1.2 Through this parks planning process, as well as subsequent updates, identify benchmarks that will indicate progress towards meeting the goal.**
- 1.3 Set and pursue benchmarking goals that set Kyle apart as a city that values parks, trails and open spaces.**
- 1.4 Incorporate applicable policies, projects, and initiatives referenced in this Master Plan into other subsequent City planning documents (i.e. comprehensive plan, bicycle-pedestrian plan, etc.)**
- 1.5 Periodically update the long-range plan and standards to reflect changing conditions in the City and to provide a forum for citizen input.**

### **Goal 2: Provide a balanced city-wide distribution of park facilities.**

- 2.1 Work towards a system of parks and trails where most residents of the city are within 1/2 mile from a park or trail in most areas of Kyle.**
- 2.2 Develop a strong network of smaller close to home parks that address neighborhood park needs.**
- 2.3 Create a strong system of larger parks, with at least one major community park in various quadrants of the City.**
- 2.4 Develop and operate one or more facilities that will support indoor recreational activities including athletic programs, and non-athletic community programming.**
- 2.5 Preserve the ability to respond to unique acquisition or development opportunities as they arise, even if out of the proposed sequence of improvements, provided that they respond to key citywide needs and goals.**
- 2.6 Provide adequate funding and resources to ensure that the park and recreation needs for all citizens are met.**
- 2.7 Encourage and provide opportunities for citizens to participate in planning, development, maintenance, and operation of the city's parks, recreation and open space system.**
- 2.8 Actively promote the continued beautification of key city corridors.**

### **Goal 3: Develop a strong and highly linked network of linear parks, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout Kyle.**

- 3.1 Develop an interconnected system of linear parks that incorporate shared use pathways to connect all parts of the City such as schools, neighborhoods, parks, civic facilities and businesses.**
- 3.2 Ultimately, plan to have access to a shared use path no more than five minutes (or around 1500 feet) from most residents of Kyle.**
- 3.3 Plan for greenway corridors and nature trails along the Blanco River as feasible.**
- 3.4 Preserve and utilize drainage, utility and natural creek corridors as primary potential linkage corridors throughout the City.**



#### **Goal 4: Preserve open space to retain sufficient areas of natural habitat throughout the community.**

4.1 As part of the citywide park planning and development process, establish criteria to identify key open space areas and natural areas worthy of preservation throughout the City and its ETJ.

4.2 Identify key natural space corridors and lands with unique natural qualities throughout the City, and prioritize key areas for preservation.

4.3 Establish public access to portions of the Blanco River as a unique long term heritage for all of the citizens of Kyle.

4.4 Preserve unique features or properties with water, and if possible, maintain them as open space that is accessible to all of the residents of Kyle.

4.5 Continue to establish policies and methods to preserve needed flood way and drainage ways throughout the City and keep them as valuable greenbelt corridors.

4.6 Establish policies that encourage private owners to preserve and protect key natural areas within the City. Incentivize set-asides of upland corridors as part of new development to provide greenbelt connections between watersheds and floodplains.

4.7 Provide clear distinctions between active park and recreation space, and natural/passive open space; and, establish methods to ensure the acquisition or preservation of both.

4.8 Encourage educational institutions, semi-private land trusts, and other nonprofit organizations to acquire, develop, manage and maintain natural and open space conservation areas within the City.

#### **Goal 5: Improve undeveloped City parkland to address unmet community recreation needs, and to ensure long-term access to open space**

5.1 Define undeveloped parkland intended for active recreational programming versus those spaces intended for passive recreation and open space conservation.

5.2 For new development, balance the need to fund the improvement of existing parks versus the acquisition of new parkland that serves the area.

5.3 Where appropriate restore portions of undeveloped parkland to a natural state.

#### **Goal 6: Pursue partnerships with other public, semi-public, and private entities to meet public park, trail, open space, and recreation programming needs in Kyle.**

6.1 Work to strengthen local organizations that can assist with provide park and recreation facilities and programs for the residents of Kyle.

6.2 Continue to actively pursue mechanisms that allow the private sector to build or fund many park and recreation facilities in Kyle.

6.3 Coordinate extensively with other recreation providers in the area, such as Hays County, the cities of San Marcos and Buda, and other private entities. Consider joint development of park and recreation facilities and programs where those opportunities can be shown to adequately fulfill the needs of the citizens of Kyle.





KYLE, TX

**ATHLETICS - KYLE AND THE HAYS CISD PARTNER TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING**

**Goal 7: Address a growing community desire for recreational programming and events.**

**7.1** Administer or sponsor adult and youth athletic programs that maximize the use of existing public recreational facilities. Expand offerings which allow Kyle to address unmet athletic opportunities in the region.

**7.2** Partner with non-profit organizations and private vendors to expand community programming opportunities.

**7.3** Administer or sponsor recurring community events that enhance community identity and provide a unified sense of pride in Kyle.

**Goal 8: Maintain all City of Kyle parks and recreation facilities in a superior condition.**

**8.1** Provide city parks staff with the manpower and funding resources to maintain all park lands and facilities in a superior manner. Provide adequate operations and maintenance resources as new recreational facilities are developed and added to the parks system.

**8.2** Consider the use of native plant materials and xeriscape techniques where appropriate to reduce maintenance and irrigation costs in parks and on city properties.



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2016 KYLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# CHAPTER 2

*Community Context*



## CHARACTERISTICS OF KYLE

### Regional Context

The City of Kyle is located in Hays County - within the greater Central Texas region. Kyle straddles Interstate Highway 35, approximately 20 miles south of Austin and 50 miles north of San Antonio. Other major roads that are in close proximity to and serve Kyle include the 45-Toll Road, FM 1626, SH 21 and FM 150.

The Union Pacific railroad still utilizes the tracks that run through downtown Kyle with freight rail carrying goods between Mexico and northern states. Additionally, Amtrak uses the rail line for passenger trains, with the nearest stop 10 miles south in San Marcos.

The combined parallel routes of IH 35 and the Union Pacific Railroad influence Kyle in positive and negative ways. The City's links to these major transportation corridors improves accessibility into and out of the community; but, they also serve as a barrier bisecting the City. This physical barrier has the potential to create perceived inequities in community investment - a risk that City officials are cognizant of and continually work to abate.

### Historical Context

The City of Kyle was named after Fergus Kyle. In 1880, he and David E. Moore deeded 200 acres of land to the International-Great Northern Railroad. The railroad company had recently built a line connecting Austin to San Antonio, and the deeded land was to be used as a town site along that line. Settlers came from neighboring communities, and the original town included over 500 people. The primary industry at the time was farming and ranching, which is still prominent in the greater region today.

In 1928, Kyle incorporated and became a general-law city with a mayor and five (5) council members. During the 1940s, the City of Kyle had an all-woman government. By 2000, Kyle's population had reached the necessary threshold to become a home rule city.

### Land Use

Kyle has long been considered as one of the bedrooms communities serving Austin. The City is characterized mostly as suburban with large neighborhood developments, and rural with many farms and ranches that have existed for more than a century. The current land uses in Kyle consist mainly of single-family residential and retail shopping strip centers.

In accordance with Chapter 213, Texas Local Government Code, the City of Kyle's 2010 comprehensive plan established a future land use plan to guide the type and character of growth of the City. The comprehensive plan created 15 land use districts, each with a descriptive character, intent and application. Various land use districts support a mix of residential and commercial development patterns, and open space preservation. The City's Future Land Use Map is illustrated on **Map 2-A, Land Use Districts: City of Kyle 2010 Comprehensive Plan** (page 13).

Out of the City's 15 land use districts, parks and open spaces are most heavily mentioned within the Riparian District. The comprehensive plan recommends that preserves and open spaces be set aside in order to preserve the waterways and floodplains within Kyle. The comprehensive plan further highlights that there is a potential to utilize the Blanco River for recreational activities.

### Subdivision Growth

Rapid residential growth in Kyle began during the 1990s. Development began to reach Kyle as residential and commercial growth extended further from Austin and San Antonio, and absorbed small communities flanking IH 35. Plum Creek - which broke ground in 1999 - was one of the first major subdivisions to be constructed in Kyle, and established a local precedent to meet recreational needs through a community-wide combination of public and private open space.

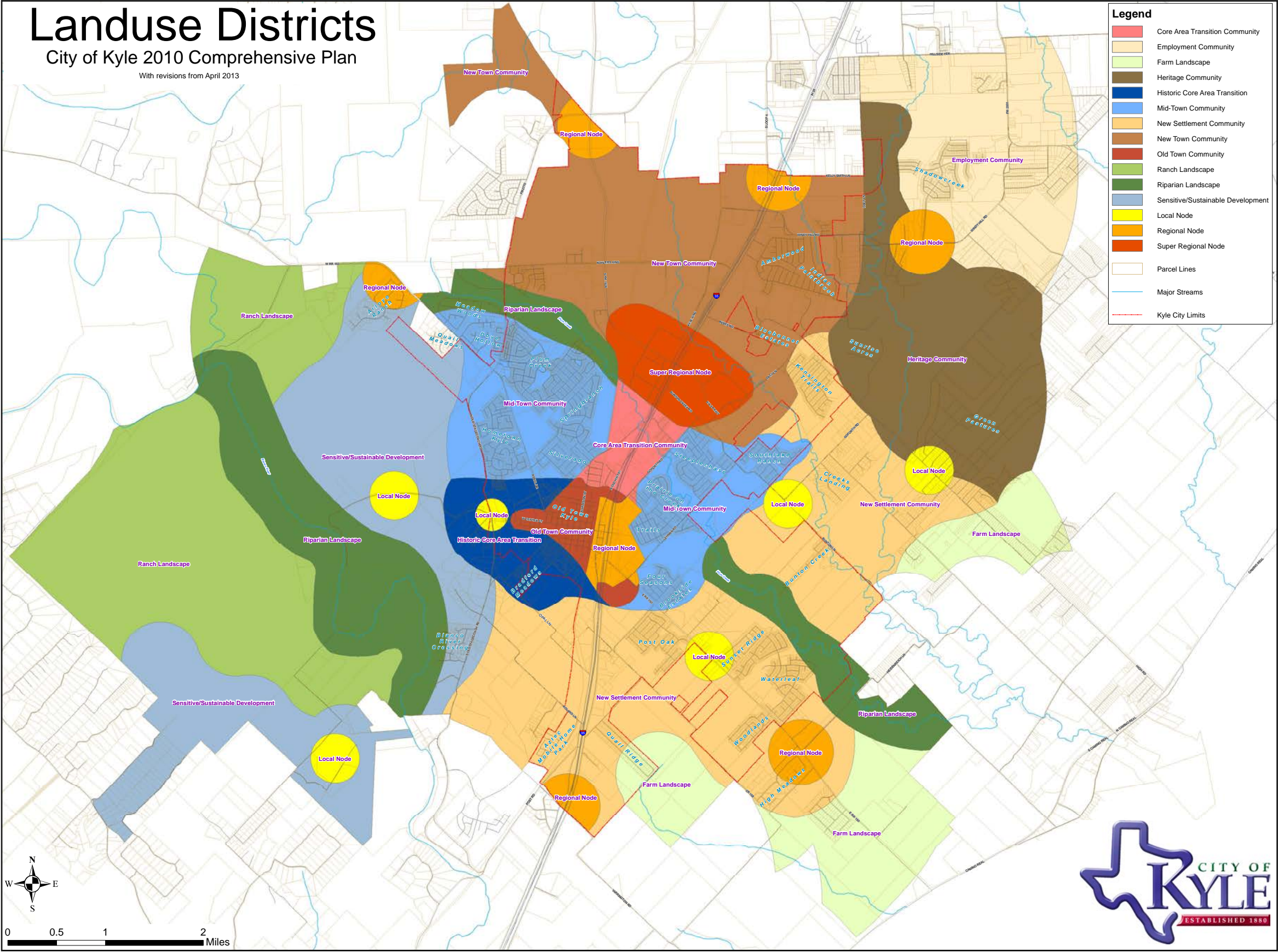
**According to the US Census, the current number of housing units in Kyle is 9,933.**

**77%**

**of existing dwelling units in Kyle were built since 2000**



**MAP 2-A:**  
**LAND USE**  
**DISTRICTS:**  
**CITY OF KYLE 2010**  
**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**



Source: City of Kyle 2010 Comprehensive Plan



**Floodplains and Conservation Lands**

Similar to other communities at the edge of the Texas Hill Country, Kyle is characterized by a varied topography and ecological zones. Rolling hills and steep slopes are predominant in the western portion of the City, while variation in gradients decrease as one travels to the eastern reaches of the community. These variations occur because Kyle is located along the Balcones Fault line which separates the Blackland Prairie and the Edwards Plateau. Furthermore, Kyle’s area of jurisdiction includes a portion of the Blanco River and flood way and floodplain, which also contributes to topography changes throughout the city limits and ETJ.

Even though the Blanco River and its tributaries flow through Kyle, only small portions of the City are actually located within the 100 year floodplain. However, over the past two decades many residential developments have started to encroach on the river’s tributaries and Plum Creek specifically. This is a serious issue for the City (as evidenced by devastating floods in late 2015 and early 2016). The City’s comprehensive plan recommends that lands surrounding waterways should be regulated and growth should be managed. These waterways and associated floodplains provide excellent opportunities to consolidate a network of preserved natural lands linked by greenbelt corridors.

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KYLE, TX  
ENJOYING NATURE - PLUM CREEK PRESERVE

DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

Understanding the current and future demographic characteristics of a community’s population is an essential component of any public planning process. Establishing a base population for today is the foundation from which the projection of population growth extends and influences the demand and needs for future park and recreation facilities.

This section examines the historical growth of Kyle, reviews recent growth trends, and establishes a potential population projection range for the Master Plan. The US Census 5-Year American Community Survey is the primary source for the demographic data provided in this plan. Other key sources include the Kyle Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).



KYLE, TX  
MORE ROOFTOPS - FUELING PUBLIC SERVICE DEMANDS IN KYLE

Historic and Future Population Growth

The City of Kyle has experienced significant growth since 2000 - so much so that the City’s population is more than six times what it was just 15 years ago - increasing from 5,300 persons to a population exceeding 33,000.

Kyle is expected to continue to grow at a steady pace over the next several decades. The Kyle Economic Development Corporation (EDC) projects that the City’s population will surpass 40,000 by the end of this decade, and the Texas Water Development Board projects that Kyle’s population will exceed 77,000 persons by the year 2030. Population growth projections are illustrated in **Figure 2-1: City of Kyle, Historic and Future Population Growth** (right).

Figure 2-1: City of Kyle, Historic and Future Population Growth		
Year	Population	% of Growth
1980	2,093	-
1990	2,225	6%
2000	5,314	139%
2010	28,016	427%
2014	33,050	18%
2019	40,578	23%
2030	77,050	90%
2040	90,363	17%

Source: 1980-2010 US Census Bureau; 2014-2019 Kyle EDC Estimates; 2030 Texas Water Development Board; 2040 Kyle 2010 Comprehensive Plan

## Age Characteristics

Evaluating community population by age helps determine the needs and interests of the residents to be served by park facilities and recreational programs. The population in Kyle is mostly comprised of young families. More than one-third (37 percent) are children under the age of 19, and another 37 percent are working-aged adults between 25 and 59 years of age.

When compared to Hays County and the State of Texas overall, **Figure 2-2: Population by Age Group** (below), suggests that Kyle's senior population (aged 60 or above) comprises a much smaller proportion of the overall City population.



*Less than three (3) out of every ten residents of Kyle is aged 60 or older.*

Figure 2-2: Population by Age Group			
Age Group	City of Kyle	Hays County	State of Texas
Under 5	9.8%	6.4%	7.4%
5 - 9	9.9%	7.0%	7.6%
10 - 14	9.2%	6.8%	7.4%
15 - 19	7.6%	8.7%	7.3%
20 - 24	5.2%	13.1%	7.4%
25 - 29	8.1%	7.0%	7.3%
30 - 34	10.2%	6.6%	7.1%
35 - 39	8.5%	6.7%	6.8%
40 - 44	9.7%	6.1%	6.8%
45 - 49	6.1%	6.0%	6.6%
50 - 54	5.1%	6.0%	6.6%
55 - 59	3.4%	5.5%	5.8%
60 - 64	3.1%	4.9%	4.9%
65 - 69	1.8%	3.7%	3.7%
70 - 74	0.9%	2.1%	2.6%
75 - 79	0.3%	1.4%	1.9%
80 - 84	0.9%	1.2%	1.4%
85 and Over	0.3%	0.8%	1.3%

*Source: US Census Bureau 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5 Year Population Estimate*



## Race and Ethnicity

**Figure 2-3: Race and Ethnicity** (below), compares the racial and ethnicity characteristics of Kyle, Hays County and the State of Texas. The racial composition in Kyle is slightly different than Hays County. Kyle has a higher proportion of Black or African American residents than the county, and a higher percent that self-identifies as “Some other race.” A higher percentage of Kyle’s population is ethnically Hispanic or Latino as compared to Hays County overall. (According to the US Census demographic categories, a person of Hispanic or Latino heritage can be of any race. Therefore, in the table below, the percentages can add up to more than 100%.)

Figure 2-3: Race and Ethnicity				
		City of Kyle	Hays County	State of Texas
Race	White	76.2%	83.4%	74.7%
	Black or African American	7.0%	3.5%	11.9%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%
	Asian	0.9%	1.4%	4.1%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
	Some other race	13.2%	8.7%	6.4%
	Two or more races	2.4%	2.8%	2.4%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)		46.6%	36.4%	38.2%

Source: US Census Bureau 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5 Year Population Estimate

## Household Income

**Figure 2-4: Household Income** (below), indicates that the household income for Kyle is slightly higher than Hays County and the State of Texas overall. The percent of City population with a household income over 100,000 dollars is 28.9 percent for Kyle - whereas it is slightly less at 27 percent for Hays County and 22.9 percent for the State of Texas. Furthermore, the median household income for Kyle is 16,000 dollars higher than it is in Hays County.

Figure 2-4: Household Income			
Household Income	City of Kyle	Hays County	State of Texas
Less than \$10,000	2.5%	7.9%	7.3%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1.4%	5.2%	5.3%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	4.6%	10.5%	10.8%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	8.0%	8.9%	10.5%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	10.8%	11.3%	13.7%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	22.5%	17.1%	17.8%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	21.2%	13.0%	11.8%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	22.6%	14.8%	12.9%
\$150,000 or more	6.3%	11.2%	10.0%
Median Household Income	\$75,182	\$58,878	\$52,576

Source: US Census Bureau 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5 Year Population Estimate

Educational Attainment

**Figure 2-5: Educational Attainment**, indicates that the rates of educational attainment for residents of Kyle is comparable to Hays County. When compared to the State of Texas however, Kyle’s population exhibits higher rates of educational attainment. The percent of the population that has a high school diploma or less is lower for Kyle (34.5 percent) than it is for the State of Texas (43.7 percent). Furthermore, the percentage of Kyle residents with a degree in higher education is 35.9 percent for the City of Kyle - and slightly less at 33.6 percent for the State of Texas.



More than three out of every ten residents in Kyle has a college degree.

Figure 2-5: Educational Attainment			
Education Level	City of Kyle	Hays County	State of Texas
Less than 9th grade	4.9%	5.1%	9.3%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	7.8%	5.9%	9.2%
High school graduate, GED	21.8%	21.3%	25.2%
Some college, no degree	29.6%	24.1%	22.7%
Associate's Degree	7.3%	6.9%	6.6%
Bachelor's Degree	22.3%	25.7%	17.9%
Graduate or Professional Degree	6.3%	11.1%	9.1%

Source: US Census Bureau 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5 Year Population Estimate

## Employment by Industry

Employment by industry percentages illustrated in **Figure 2-6: Employment by Industry** (below), are calculated based on those residents over the age of 16 that are employed. The employment by industry percentages for the City of Kyle closely mirror those of Hays County and the State of Texas. Some of the most notable differences is that a smaller percentage of Kyle residents are employed in the “arts, entertainment, food services” industry when compared to Hays County and the State of Texas.

The most prominent industry in Kyle is the education, health care and social assistance industry with 26 percent of all residents working in those fields. Other key industries in Kyle include retail trade (14 percent) and professional, scientific, management (11 percent).



*More than one-fourth of the population in Kyle is employed in the education, health care, social assistance industry*

Figure 2-6: Employment by Industry			
Employment Industry	City of Kyle	Hays County	State of Texas
Agriculture, fishing, hunting, mining	0.8%	1.0%	2.9%
Construction	6.4%	7.8%	8.3%
Manufacturing	8.1%	6.7%	9.6%
Wholesale trade	2.6%	2.6%	3.2%
Retail trade	14.1%	14.0%	11.5%
Transportation, warehousing, utilities	5.5%	4.1%	5.6%
Information	2.3%	2.1%	2.1%
Finance, insurance, real estate	7.0%	5.8%	6.8%
Professional, scientific, management	11.1%	10.6%	10.6%
Education, health care, social assistance	26.6%	24.1%	21.2%
Arts, entertainment, accommodation, food services	5.3%	10.3%	8.3%
Other services except public administration	2.5%	4.7%	5.3%
Public administration	7.7%	6.1%	4.4%

*Source: US Census Bureau 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5 Year Population Estimate*

## PARK PLANNING IN KYLE

### 2010 Comprehensive Plan

As mentioned previously in **Chapter 1, Introduction and Purpose**, the City of Kyle completed their parks master plan in 2006. Since that time, the City has accomplished many of the recommendations. Furthermore, the City also completed their comprehensive plan in 2010, which has a parks and open space component.

The comprehensive plan identifies open spaces as an integral part of the community and provide a valuable asset. It identifies the need to preserve more of the waterways of both Plum Creek and the Blanco River. The comprehensive plan also emphasizes the preservation of grasslands, farm lands, and significant tree stands throughout Kyle and its ETJ.

The comprehensive plan suggests that more detailed planning is needed in order to identify acquisition opportunities and maintenance needs of additional parks and open space preserves. Specific recommendations for parks and recreation that were derived from the comprehensive plan include the following:

- **Kyle should create and adopt a formal Park and Open Space Plan that addresses all of these resources in greater detail and provides time lines, responsible parties, and funding sources for specific actions** *(the creation of this Parks Master Plan addresses this recommendation).*
- **Update the Kyle Park Plan for consistency with the Open Space element of the Comprehensive Plan.**
- **Establish a parkland dedication policy for the City of Kyle that allows either for dedication of land or a fee in lieu of land dedication for designation of future public parks and natural areas.**

- **Ensure that public parks are designated in areas of future growth.**
- **Locational criteria should be applied by the City when planning new parks so that areas currently under-served by parks, especially the northeastern and southwestern portions of the City, are targeted for new park construction.**
- **Construct public Neighborhood Parks and more public Block Parks in areas of new development**
- **Additional Block Parks should be developed in Kyle to meet the needs of the current population, as well as to provide for future populations.**
- **Kyle currently has no true Neighborhood Parks. The City should seek to develop these parks with the appropriate facilities and amenities to serve both the current and the future populations.**
- **Land designated for the Plum Creek Preserve and Nature Trail will provide a great deal of the acreage required for the future population. The City should continue to plan Community Parks for the future projected population.**
- **The City should not rely solely on homeowner associations (HOAs) to provide Block Parks. Block Parks should be constructed that can be accessed by the public at large and should be provided in both residential and commercial settings (such as plazas and squares).**
- **Signage and accessibility via roadways and trails to all park types should be enhanced so that these resources may be utilized by all members of the community.**

### Kyle Vista Park Master Plan

Kyle Vista Park is land that the City of Kyle acquired for the purpose of developing a community park and recreation center. The site is approximately 42 acres in size and is located along Dacy Lane and Bebee Road (CR 122) in the northeast portion of the City. A concept master plan was completed for the site in 2008.

The planning process for the park concept plan included a detailed site analysis which identified elevations, slopes, soil characteristics, easements, and utilities. After a few revisions, the concept plan was finalized.

Amenities that are proposed for the park include a recreation center, tennis courts, trails, baseball fields, football/soccer fields, playgrounds, amphitheater, sand volleyball, basketball, skate park, disc golf, picnic areas with pavilions, spray grounds, and general infrastructure such as parking and restrooms.

Many of the amenities that were envisioned for inclusion in Kyle Vista Park have been reaffirmed by the public engagement process of this Master Plan as community priorities.



KYLE, TX

RESERVED FOR FUTURE AMENITIES - KYLE VISTA PARK SITE

## PARK ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The recommendations of the 2016 Kyle Parks and Recreation Master Plan are designed to reflect the recreational needs and desires of the citizens of Kyle. As part of the process, citizen input provided information regarding the use of current facilities, where key needs exist, and what level of improvements the citizens of the City would like to see in their parks and recreation system. A variety of different engagement types were used to gain a well-rounded understanding of the community's thoughts and ideas. Through the use of a variety of engagement strategies, different user types were provided a chance to voice their thoughts. The public engagement component of this Plan included five (5) key stakeholder meetings or interviews, an on-line public survey, a public open house, three meetings with a project Steering Committee, a joint City Council/Parks and Recreation Board workshop, and a public hearing.

### Stakeholder Meetings

Over the course of a day at the onset of the project (March, 2016), a series of five (5) small group stakeholder meetings were held with representatives of community organizations and interest groups who partner with the City of Kyle to provide or support recreational services. These meetings helped to identify opportunities and challenges faced by the community. At the stakeholder meetings, attendees were asked their opinion of the current parks system, what they felt the community was lacking, and what the highest priority needs were.

### Public Survey

To better understand the parks and recreation needs of Kyle residents, an on-line public opinion survey was conducted. The survey examined residents' opinions of park facilities in the City, their participation in recreational activities within and beyond the City, desired improvements to the City's parks, and prioritization of potential improvements. The survey was made available to all residents and interested parties via a link on the City's homepage website, through a series of social media announcements coordinated, and through mailers in utility bills. The survey ran for two months with a total of 1,006 responses received.

Results from the public survey have been incorporated into the demand-based needs assessment prepared as a part of this Plan. **A corresponding summary of public survey results can be found in Chapter 4, Needs Assessment.**

### Public Open House

A public open house was held on June 13, 2016, to solicit additional public input in the parks master planning process. The purpose of the open house was two-fold: **A)** To offer an additional method by which the general public could participate in the planning process; and, **B)** To receive direct public feedback on preliminary conclusions drawn from survey results. **A brief summary of public open house feedback can be found in Chapter 4, Needs Assessment.**

### Steering Committee

The Master Plan was prepared under the direction of a project steering committee. The steering committee was comprised of the City's Parks and Recreation Board with additional representation from the City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, and a citizen with parks and recreation professional background. Essentially serving as an 'expanded' Park and Recreation Board, the steering committee fulfilled the following role:

***"The parks and recreation board may act as a public forum for citizens to address concerns over city parks and recreation activities, including the comprehensive master plan." (Kyle City Code, Chap. 26, Art. II § 26-21 (General Duties))***

Over the course of the project, the steering committee met to evaluate plan goals and objectives; review preliminary findings, recommendations, and cost estimates; and, consider Master Plan implementation measures.





The background of the entire page is a photograph of a park. In the foreground, there is a body of water, possibly a pond or a slow-moving stream, with some dry, brown reeds or grasses growing along the edge. In the middle ground, there are several large, mature trees with thick trunks and bare branches, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

2016 KYLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# CHAPTER 3

*Existing Conditions*



## PARK SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Similar to the community overview provided in **Chapter 2**, it is necessary to evaluate a community's park and recreation assets and the methods by which it delivers recreational services to relate potential enhancements to anticipated public need. This chapter provides an overview of the City of Kyle's existing park system. The system inventory and evaluation – in conjunction with the needs assessments provided in **Chapter 4** – provide the basis upon which Master Plan recommendations have been prepared.

### Park Administration

The City of Kyle owns and maintains approximately 600 acres of park land and open space. The Kyle Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) consists of three (3) divisions - each containing several staff positions. **Figure 3-1: City of Kyle, Parks and Recreation Department Structure** lists these positions in their respective divisions. These three (3) divisions and 25 staff members collectively ensure the ongoing provision, development, maintenance, and acquisition of park land, and recreational opportunities and services in Kyle.

**Figure 3-1: City of Kyle, Parks and Recreation Department Structure**

Division	Staff
<b>Administrative</b>	Director
	Office Manager
	Administrative Assistant
<b>Recreation</b>	Manager
	Recreation Program Coordinator
	Aquatic Program Coordinator
	Youth Program Coordinator
	Intern
<b>Maintenance</b>	Manager
	Parks Projects Coordinator
	Parks & Grounds Crew Leader
	Parks & Grounds Crew (11 staff members)
	Building & Facilities Crew (3 staff members)

Source: City of Kyle

### Recreational Programming

A variety of recreational programs are sponsored and/or facilitated by the Kyle PARD. These programs are listed in **Figure 3-2: Recreational Programs in Kyle**. City recreation programs utilize several city-owned parks, including: Lake Kyle Preserve, Gregg-Clarke Park and Kyle Pool, as well as Fire station No. 2, Historic Kyle City Hall, and HCISD property.

In addition to the activities listed in **Figure 3-2**, health and fitness classes are periodically scheduled and conducted at the old City Hall building by arrangement with private vendors. Nonetheless, the City does not have an indoor recreation center in which additional events and programs could be offered throughout the year according to a predictable schedule. Public interest in a recreation center to expand City-sponsored or facilitated programs remains a public priority (see **Chapter 4**).

The City of Kyle sponsors and facilitates several community and special events throughout the year. These events occur at several locations, including: Historic Kyle City Hall, Lake Kyle Preserve, Gregg-Clarke Park and Kyle Pool. A high level of event participation and an expressed interest in further development of existing and future events may cause the need for a larger event/festival space. This need could be alleviated via development of Kyle Vista Park, or other existing/future City park property.

### Parks and Recreation Partners

The Kyle PARD partners with several public and private organizations to provide City residents with the recreational opportunities listed in **Figure 3-2**. Key partners include the Hays County Independent School District, Red Cross, Live Well Personal Training, Academia de Preparacion Profesional de Austin (APPA), Challenger British Soccer, North Hays Optimist, and Kyle Invaders. Continued reliance on parks and recreation partners may be necessary to substantially expand the offering of City recreational programs and events beyond those currently provided.



**Figure 3-2: Recreational Programs and Events in Kyle**

Type	Program Name	Target Age	Location	Time of Year
Special Events	Polar Bear Splash	All Ages	Kyle Pool	1-Jan
Fitness	Bootcamp	All Ages	Historic Kyle City Hall & Fire Station No. 2	Jan-Dec
Fitness	CoreFIT Pilates	All Ages	Historic Kyle City Hall & Fire Station No. 2	Jan-Dec
Fitness	Yoga	All Ages	Fire Station No. 2	Jan-Dec
Fitness	Zumba	All Ages	Historic Kyle City Hall & Fire Station No. 2	Jan-Dec
Fitness	SeniorFIT	Seniors	Historic Kyle City Hall & Fire Station No. 2	Jan-Dec
Special Events	Watershed Clean Up	All Ages	-	March
Special Events	Hooked on Fishing	All Ages	Lake Kyle Preserve	March & June
Special Events	TAAF Regional Sporting Events	Youth	HCISD Property	March & July
Sports	Adult Kickball	Adults	Gregg Clarke Park	March-Aug
Special Events	Movies at the Lake	All Ages	Lake Kyle Preserve & Kyle Pool	March-Aug
Special Events	Clean & Green	All Ages	City Square Park	April
Special Events	Easter Egg-Stravaganza	Youth	Gregg Clarke Park	April
Special Events	Market Days	All Ages	City Square Park	April-Oct
Aquatics	Red Cross Training	Teens to Adults	Kyle Pool	May
Aquatics	Teen Night	Youth	Kyle Pool	May
Sports	Quiddich Clinic	Youth	Gregg Clarke Park	May
Aquatics	Special Evenings	All Ages	Kyle Pool	May-July
Aquatics	Swim Team	Youth	Kyle Pool	May-July
Aquatics	Swim Lessons	Youth	Kyle Pool	June-Aug
Aquatics	Free Swim	All Ages	Kyle Pool	June-Sept
Fitness	AquaFIT	All Ages	Kyle Pool	June-Sept
Sports	Adult Flag Football	Adults	Gregg Clarke Park	June-July & Sept-Nov
Sports	Youth Soccer	Youth	Gregg Clarke Park	July
Special Events	July 4 Fireworks	All Ages	Plum Creek Golf Course	July
Special Events	Downtown Halloween Treat Trail	Youth	City Square Park	October
Special Events	Founders Parade	All Ages	Gregg Clarke Park, Center St. & City Square Park	October
Sports	Youth Basketball	Youth	HCISD Property	Nov-Feb
Special Events	Santa's Arrival	All Ages	City Square Park	Nov-Dec

Source: City of Kyle

## PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

This Master Plan follows national and state practices to identify and evaluate parks in four (4) broad categories.

- **Local “Close to Home” Space** - Local parks are usually located within the specific neighborhood, subdivision, or development served by the facility. The local park category includes the following park types: pocket, neighborhood, and community parks.
- **Regional Space** - Regional parks are typically located within a one (1) to two (2) hour driving radius to the areas that they serve. Parks in this category serve a number of communities and may include: metropolitan, county, state, and even regionally-accessible national parks.
- **Special Use Space** - These parks may be either local or regional. They are defined as areas that are unique in some way - either because of the physical features of the park, or the types of facilities offered. Parks in this category may include: linear parks, special interest parks, nature preserves, sports complexes, botanical gardens, etc.
- **Civic Space** - These spaces are limited in their recreational use and are primarily heavily structured gathering spaces in the urban/suburban context. Often less than 3 acres in size, these spaces include: greens, squares, and plazas.

### LOCAL, CLOSE-TO-HOME SPACE

#### Pocket Parks

Pocket parks are small green gathering spaces ranging from one eighth (1/8) acre to one (1) acre. Due to the size of this type of park, parking is typically not provided. Therefore, pocket parks are typically accessed by foot or bicycle. Benches, fountains, landscaping, and other focal features are common items found in pocket parks. Size is not the key factor of the typical pocket park, but rather the quality of the landscaping and other design features.

In urban contexts, pocket parks may take the form of plazas, piazzas, court yards, squares, and other formal gathering spaces (see “Civic Spaces,” page 31). In suburban areas, a pocket park may take the form of small greens, trailheads, or even “tot-lots” equipped with small-scale play-scapes. The utility of pocket parks can be enhanced when serving a dual purpose (such as



KYLE, TX

**POCKET PARK WITH BASKETBALL COURT**

a neighborhood trailhead) or incorporating a unique feature of relevance in the community.

#### Neighborhood Parks

Because neighborhood parks should be within easy walking or bicycling distance to the neighborhoods, subdivisions, or developments they serve, they are the most prevalent type of municipal park. Neighborhood parks provide amenities for an entire family and typically serve one (1) large or several small neighborhoods. Ideally, neighborhood parks serve a population of between 2,000 and 4,000 persons, and range from one (1) to fifteen (15) acres in size.

The following additional factors also guide typical neighborhood park placement and design:

**Accessibility** - Neighborhood parks should be accessible within a quarter (1/4) mile to a half mile (1/2) radius of residents. Neighborhood parks should be easily accessible without having to cross major arterial streets.

**Location** - Neighborhood parks should be centrally located within the neighborhoods they serve. The park should also be bordered on at least two (2) sides by local or minor collector streets to allow for easy pedestrian and bicycle accessibility from adjacent residential areas.

**Parking** - Generally, a minimum of eight (8) parking spaces per new neighborhood park is recommended with an additional two (2) ADA accessible parking spaces per each neighborhood park. The exact amount will vary based on the size of the park, the availability of safe on-street parking, the facilities offered, and the number of users the park is designed to attract. On-street parking adjacent to the park - particularly along collector and arterial roads - provides a physical separation between the park and adjacent traffic.

**Facilities** - Restrooms are not typically placed in neighborhood parks because they increase maintenance costs, and the parks are ideally within walking distance of a person's home. Typical neighborhood park facilities can include:

- **Playground equipment with adequate safety surfacing;**
- **Unlighted practice fields for baseball, soccer, and football, etc.;**
- **Unlighted tennis courts;**
- **Unlighted multi-purpose courts for basketball and volleyball;**
- **Open areas for unorganized play;**
- **Picnic areas with benches, picnic tables, and cooking grills;**
- **Shaded pavilions or gazebos;**
- **Jogging and exercise trails; and,**

#### • **Security lighting**

**Design** - It is important to design neighborhood parks that are unique in character, respond to the surrounding environment, and provide unique experiences for the park's users.

Neighborhood parks should be designed with programmed space - playgrounds, pavilions, basketball courts, etc. - clustered into an "active zone" within the park. These areas should be located along park edges, and accessorized with seating and shade to be hospitable year round.

Open/unprogrammed neighborhood park space should be visible from activity areas, but should be clearly delineated through plantings or hard scape features such as looped trails, berming, landscaped edges, or decorative fencing.

How neighborhood parks integrate with surrounding land uses - residences, a school, a wooded area, etc. - is crucial to the quality of experience within the park. When a road borders the park, it should be ensured that the houses across the street face the park. When houses must back up to a park, ensure that fencing between the house and the park is transparent wrought iron fencing (or similar) rather than wooden, tall, privacy fencing. Transparent fencing allows a softer transition between park and residence, and provides for informal surveillance. When a park is constructed adjacent to a school, ensure that the two (2) sites interact. Work with school districts to accommodate paved walkway connections between the school and the park.



CEDAR PARK, TX

**ACCESS - NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE TO ADJACENT RESIDENTIAL AREAS**



## Community Parks

Community parks are larger parks which serve a group of neighborhoods or portion of a city. They are usually accessed by motor vehicle, but may also be accessed by nearby residents by walking or biking. A variety of recreational facilities may be provided within regional parks including: playing fields (often lighted) for organized sports, hike/bike trails, and sufficient parking to accommodate participants, spectators, and other users.

The typical community park should be large enough to provide multiple facilities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation and natural areas. The park should also have room for expansion, as new facilities are required. A typical community park varies in size from 10 acres to over 50 acres.

**Type** - There are two (2) types of community parks: active and passive. Active community parks typically focus on high-intensity recreation such as lighted competitive game fields, recreation centers, and manicured vegetation. Passive community parks incorporate low-intensity uses such as hiking, picnicking, and free play. Passive community parks generally reserve a large amount of natural and unprogrammed space. Community parks of substantial size may incorporate both active and passive recreational areas.

**Location** - Community parks should typically be located near a major thoroughfare to provide for easy vehicular access. Due to the potential for noise and bright lighting (if lighted fields or facilities are included), community parks should also be buffered from adjacent residential areas.

**Parking** - Parking needs vary based on the facilities provided and the size of the park. Additional parking is needed to accommodate facilities, athletic fields, swimming pools, or other special uses. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommends a minimum of five (5) spaces per acre with one (1) ADA compliant parking space per 25 standard spaces, with additional parking for added facilities. The specific amount of parking provided in a park should be determined by the facilities provided in each.

**Facilities** - Community park facilities typically include:

- **Play equipment with adequate safety surfacing;**
- **Active free play areas;**
- **Picnic areas and pavilion(s);**
- **Restrooms;**
- **Jogging, bicycle or nature trails, sometimes lighted for evening use;**
- **Lighted ball fields, suitable for organized competitive events;**



LONG BRANCH, TX

COMMUNITY PARKS TYPICALLY SERVICE SEVERAL NEIGHBORHOODS OR A PORTION OF A CITY

- **Recreation center (if appropriate);**
- **Sufficient off-street parking based on facilities provided and size of park;**
- **Lighting for evening use; and,**
- **Other facilities as needed which can take advantage of the unique characteristics.**

**Design** - As with neighborhood parks, the overall design and layout of a community park is important to the park's final quality and timelessness. Similarly, activity zones of programmed space are also important. Playgrounds, pavilions and basketball courts make up one (1) type of activity zone, while athletic fields, concession stands and storage buildings make up another type. Providing shade by means of constructing amenable facilities near existing stands of trees is strongly recommended.

In community parks and other large parks, it is often desirable to delineate between activity zones and unprogrammed areas by the use of natural features such as stands of trees or drainage corridors where available. This helps to break up the park visually and delineate space. Paved trails should connect these various areas with each other, as well as provide a walking/jogging loop for recreational use.

The interaction between a community park and surrounding areas is crucial to the quality of park experience. It is important that a community park is bordered by roadways, or by creeks or other natural areas. When development does border the park, treatments will differ based on land use and intensity. If development is residential, ensure that the fencing between the houses and the park is transparent. If the development is industrial in nature or otherwise aesthetically unpleasing, the border should be fenced and heavily planted with trees and shrubs to soften the edge.

As a final consideration, it is important to understand that active community parks can themselves sometimes be a nuisance if near residential neighborhoods. Bright lighting at night, excessive noise from cheering spectators, or the overflow of parking onto neighborhood streets can all become major issues. If an active community park is to be developed in close proximity to a neighborhood,

it should be designed so that parking areas are not in close proximity to adjacent housing, and with an adequate landscape buffer to provide visual screening and sound reduction.

## **REGIONAL SPACE**

### **Regional Parks**

Regional parks are intended to serve multiple communities or a larger geographic area. Regional park land is often dedicated as such due to its regional, state, or national importance or relevance. This may be due to its natural characteristics including habitat, geological formations, and/or aesthetic beauty. Other reasons may be the role that the particular site plays in issues of regional importance: e.g. historical memorial, habitat protection, or ecological service including water conservation and flood protection. The size of a regional park can vary from less than 10 acres to several thousand acres, depending on the purpose and character of the site. Regional parks are often under the ownership and control of a county or state government.

Regional parks should be located near highways or major arterials to provide easy access from different parts of the region. Because of the potential for traffic, noise and bright lights, regional parks should be buffered from adjacent residential areas.



HAYS COUNTY, TX

**REGIONAL PARKS MAY PROTECT CRITICAL HABITAT**

## **SPECIAL USE SPACE**

Special use space accommodates particular or unique recreational activities. Because the facility needs for each activity are distinct, each special use park usually provides only one (1) or a few activities. Examples of some of the recreational needs that may be exclusively served by a special use park include (but are not limited to):

- **Athletic complexes;**
- **Swimming pool/aquatic centers;**
- **Tennis complexes;**
- **Skate parks;**
- **Dog parks;**
- **Golf courses;**
- **Open space preserves or natural area parks; and,**
- **Linear parks.**
- **Some types of special use parks are described in more detail below.**

**Athletic Complexes** (and golf courses) are the most common type of special use parks. Athletic complexes provide fields for organized play in an area that can accommodate the traffic and noise that a large number of users can generate. Athletic complexes should include sufficient fields so that leagues can congregate at one (1) facility and not dispersed to different locations across the community for competitive play. Evening activities at athletic complexes necessitate high-intensive lighting that can be a nuisance when the complex is located too close to residential areas. To address this, wide buffers should be placed around such complexes and/or they should be located adjacent to commercial or industrial areas.

**Nature Parks and Preserves** provide wildlife habitat, flood control, and places for passive recreation. These parks can vary greatly in size depending on the resources available, but are meant to have a city-wide service radius. The benefit and inclusion of places that are reserved as natural areas or unprogrammed open space has been largely overlooked in many urban areas. Conservation and preservation are especially valuable as, over time, areas of natural habitat disappear from our urbanizing areas.

As unprogrammed space, nature parks and preserves are largely self-maintaining. Maintenance is generally not a significant factor - other than to check for hazards or invasive plant species. Besides recreational and aesthetic opportunities afforded by natural areas, they also have huge economic value to society in terms of ecological services provided - functions such as water and air purification, carbon sequestration, flood control, pollination, air cooling, and positively effecting human health and well being. The 2006 parks plan recommended a park acreage standard of 15 to 20 acres per 1,000 residents.

**Linear Parks** are open park areas that generally follow a natural or man-made corridors such as creeks, abandoned railroad right-of-ways, drainage corridors, or utility easements. Properly developed to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel, linear parks may link other parks, as well as schools, neighborhoods, civic buildings, and other major destinations. They should also serve to help preserve open space. No specific acreage standards apply to linear parks other than the park should be large enough to adequately accommodate the resources they contain.

Multi-use trails - often found in linear parks - provide active and passive recreation as well as connections between parks and other destinations within a community. A multi-use trail system should be established to serve both recreation needs and as a means of active transportation. Such a system should provide each resident with quick and easy access to parks, retail, and employment areas.

**“Special Interest” Parks** typically serve a unique or niche use such as a skate park, dog park, or some other park designed to accommodate a special recreational need. Many cities of Kyle’s size may only accommodate one (1) park of each special interest type (e.g. only one (1) skate park per city). In the future however, demand from residents might be able to sustain greater numbers of each type of special interest park. Alternatively, special interest park facilities are commonly incorporated into larger community or regional parks.





GREENVILLE, SC

**SPECIAL INTEREST PARKS - SERVING UNIQUE NICHES, SUCH AS DOG PARKS.**

## **CIVIC SPACE**

Principally located within historic city centers, or dense urban environments, formal civic space can serve as a community's 'front porch' - providing critical gathering and event space. Civic spaces differ from other park categories in that their function is largely passive. Active recreation programming is not a priority in urbanized civic spaces, but their presence provides important focal points in highly built environments.

### **Greens**

Green are large lawns demarcated with landscaping and trees planted in strong geometric fashion. Greens provide for limited unprogrammed recreation. Greens may contain architectural structures such as gazebos, arbors, or pavilions, and pedestrian elements such as benches and seat walls.

### **Squares**

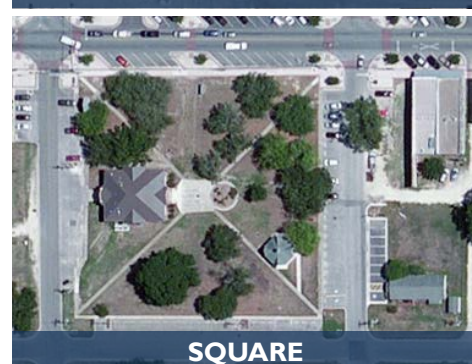
Found at significant junctions and nodes, squares may provide for programmed and/or unprogrammed recreation, as well as civic purposes such as open air markets, concerts, or even civil assemblies. Unlike greens, squares are fronted by roadways. Surrounding buildings may be used for civic purposes, but may also consist of other mixed land uses. Similar to greens, squares may contain lawns, trees, landscaping, architectural and pedestrian elements.

### **Plazas**

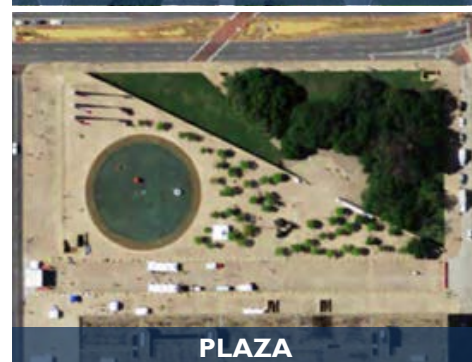
Plazas may be found in civic, commercial, or even residential settings as dominant, celebrated intersections or peaceful neighborhood gathering spaces. Plazas are noticeably associated with building frontages and are typically paved. Landscaping and trees are optional.



GREEN



SQUARE



PLAZA

## EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

Understanding of the types of parks available in Kyle and their distribution throughout the community assists in determining whether or not the public is being well-served with accessible recreation opportunities. The quantity, type, and condition of existing parks and facilities also defines the effort and cost required for operations and maintenance. As such, having a current park land inventory is a key part of the park planning process.

**Map 3-A, Existing Park Facilities** illustrates both city-owned and privately owned park land, open space, and common areas found in Kyle. To meet the overall park land needs of its residents, the City of Kyle embraces both public and private ownership models. Through the use of its park land dedication ordinance - and negotiation with residential developers - the City of Kyle is able to assemble land for the long-

term development of community and linear parks. Neighborhood park needs in Kyle have been met through the establishment of private common areas containing programmed recreational facilities, and positioned so that they are directly accessible from adjacent public streets.

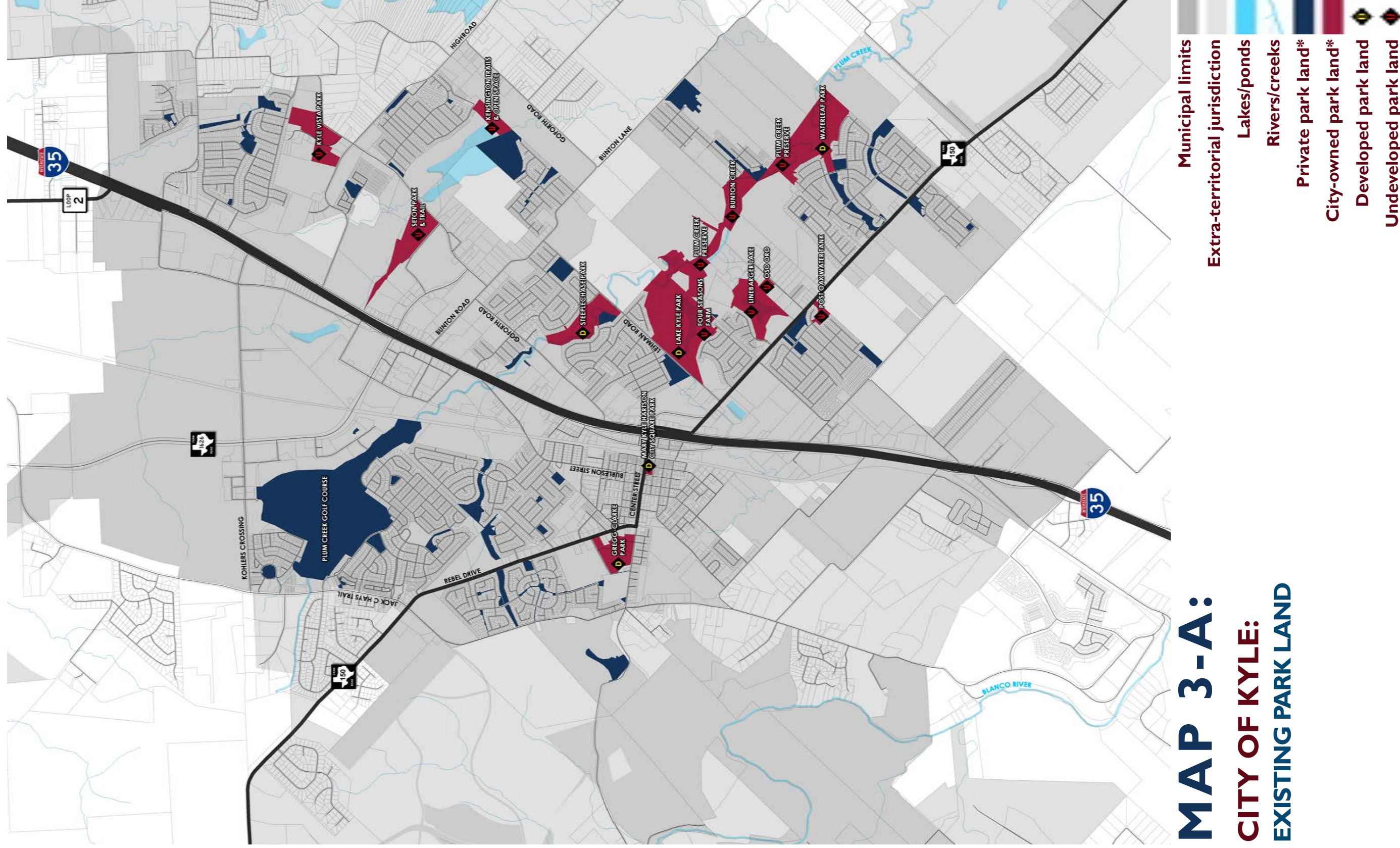
Approximately 900 acres, or 7.2 percent of the City's current land area is dedicated park land, open space, and common areas utilized (or intended) for recreational purposes. Roughly 58 percent of this property is publicly-accessible - without requiring a user fee to access at least some of the facilities contained on the property. Furthermore, roughly 63 percent of municipal land area is within a ½ mile service radius of a public or private park space depicted on **Map 3-A** (statement accounts for service area variations resulting from barriers such as major roadways or waterways).



KYLE, TX

COMMON AREAS ARE SERVING AS NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS IN KYLE





City-Owned Parks

Consistent with the information depicted on **Map 3-A, Figure 3-3: City of Kyle, City-Owned Park Land** identifies City-owned park properties according to their status as ‘developed/programmed’ and ‘undeveloped/unprogrammed.’ The figure identifies each park type, and also displays the park amenities that are provided at each location. Although conceptual site and facility plans have been prepared for Kyle Vista Park, all City park properties listed as undeveloped/unprogrammed in **Figure 3-3** have also been assigned a park type designation of ‘open space.’

This generic designation has been applied to each of these properties because the park type designation for each may differ based on how each is developed over time.

**Figure 3-3** illustrates that the City of Kyle’s park system is comprised primarily of community parks. Of the 521 acres of public park land owned by the City, roughly 1/3 remains undeveloped. Much of this undeveloped land is located within or adjacent to flood prone areas and/or is being assembled for development of a trail network. Approximately 26 percent of the Kyle’s municipal jurisdiction is located within (1/2 mile) of City park land.

Figure 3-3: City of Kyle, City-Owned Park Land													
Park Name	Park Type	Size (acres)	Playground	Swimming Pool	Baseball/Softball Field	Soccer/Football Field	Misc. Sports Courts	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Picnic Pavilion/Shelter	BBQ Grills	Walking Trail/Track
Developed/Programmed Parks													
Bunton Creek	Linear	16.8											
Gregg-Clarke Park	Community	29.3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Kyle Train Depot	Special Use	0.5											
Lake Kyle Preserve	Community	118.3	X				X				X	X	X
Mary Kyle Hartson City Square Park	Civic	1.4									X		
Plum Creek Preserve	Open Space	60.4											
Steeplechase Park	Community	39.6	X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Waterleaf Park	Community	92.0	X		X	X							X
Undeveloped/Unprogrammed Parks													
Four Seasons Farm	Open Space	4.6											
Kensington Trails Open Space	Open Space	14.9											
Kyle Vista Park	Open Space	42.2											
Linebarger Lake	Open Space	45.7											
Oso Oro	Open Space	3.9											
Post Oak Open Space	Open Space	6.2											
Seton/SCC Open Space	Open Space	44.9											
TOTAL		520.7 Acres (358.3 Developed; 162.4 Undeveloped)											

Source: City of Kyle  
Note: Includes property intended for public recreational use only. Excludes public grounds reserved for drainage, storm water detention/retention, or other utility services.



### Privately-Owned Parks

Privately-owned and maintained park land depicted on **Map 3-A** is listed in **Figure 3-4: City of Kyle, Privately-Owned Parks/Common Areas**. Although designated to serve a recreational purpose, most of the ‘parks’ identified in **Figure 3-4** may alternatively be referred to as ‘common areas’ because they are owned and maintained by private homeowners’ associations. The City of Kyle has embraced the concept of meeting community recreational needs through a mix of public and private lands. The common area listed in **Figure 3-4** have been specifically designed, located, and programmed to meet the City’s commitment in providing small neighborhood-level park spaces throughout the City. Except for some restricted access facilities (i.e. swimming pools, community centers) the majority of these spaces have been designed to accommodate unfettered public access.

**Figure 3-4** suggests that there is almost 380 acres of private park land in Kyle. The inclusion of the Plum Creek Golf Course however, skews the acreage total. Although a golf course may be classified as a special use park, the private nature of the Plum Creek Golf Course means that it requires membership fees and is not publicly accessible. Absent the golf course acreage, remaining privately-owned park land/common areas accounts for 71 acres, and only marginally increases the (largely) publicly accessible recreational space in Kyle.

### Additional Facilities

The City’s 2006 parks master plan identified school properties owned and maintained by the Hays Consolidated Independent School District (HCISD) as properties which may be utilized to meet some local recreational needs. These properties are not incorporated into the calculations of publicly-accessible recreation and open space contained this Master Plan. Access to middle and high school facilities is restricted, while potential use of elementary school grounds during non-school hours is limited.

Five Mile Dam Park and Soccer Complex is located along the banks of the Blanco River in close proximity to the Kyle municipal limits. The park serves as a regional hub for soccer activity, and also provides a node which could link to additional destinations along the river via a multi-use trail and/or paddling trail network.

**Figure 3-4: City of Kyle, Privately-Owned Parks/Common Areas**

Park Name	Park Type	Size (acres)
Amberwood Detention Pond	Neighborhood	4.9
Amberwood Pool	Neighborhood	0.7
Bunton Creek Ball Field	Special Use	13.0
Bunton Creek Pool	Neighborhood	6.3
Hometown Kyle Trails	Neighborhood	7.7
Kensington Trails Pool	Neighborhood	0.5
Lakeside Crossing	Neighborhood	5.0
Meadows at Kyle	Neighborhood	1.8
Plum Creek (Kirby Circle)	Neighborhood	4.4
Plum Creek (McNaughton Pool & Park)	Neighborhood	3.9
Plum Creek (Utterback)	Neighborhood	0.9
Plum Creek Golf Course	Special Use	309.8
Plum Creek Park (Sampson)	Neighborhood	1.6
Plum Creek Pool (Haupt)	Neighborhood	5.9
Post Oak Pool and Park	Neighborhood	2.9
Saddle Creek Apartments	Pocket	0.4
Silverado at Plum Creek	Neighborhood	1.8
Silverado Pavilion	Neighborhood	0.8
Sunset Ridge Pool	Neighborhood	1.0
Vantage Apartments	Neighborhood	0.6
Waterleaf HOA Pool	Neighborhood	4.0
Woodlands	Neighborhood	1.1
TOTAL		379.0

Source: City of Kyle

Note: This figure excludes many parcels dedicated for park land satisfaction that either have no programmed recreational activity, or are intended specifically for storm water runoff mitigation.

## Cumulative Park and Open Space in Kyle

**Figure 3-5: City of Kyle, Park Land Level of Service**, displays the City's cumulative park land acreage (public and private), and compares the City's current park land level of service (LOS) with LOS targets established in Kyle's 2006 parks plan. Acreage totals from **Figures 3-3** and **3-4** have been combined to generate the City's current park land acreage depicted in **Figure 3-5**. Park land LOS refers to a ratio of park land acres per 1,000 residents of any given study area.

It is important to note that the park land accounted

for in **Figure 3-5** only counts park land, open space and general common areas for which one or more specific recreational use(s) has been constructed or programmed, or is accessory in nature. This figure does not include dedicated land that is used primarily for drainage and/or storm water retention purposes. The cumulative land totals in **Figure 3-5** also assume that the land is publicly-accessible – with an expectation that use of at least part of the site by the general public is permissible without a mandatory fee (public and private park spaces). The only exception is that the Plum Creek Golf Course is included in **Figure 3-5** totals. Although a fee-based facility, the golf course is designated as park land by City ordinance.

**Figure 3-5: City of Kyle, Park Land Level of Service<sup>1</sup>**

Park Category	Current Acreage <sup>2</sup>	Current Level of Service (acres/1,000 residents)	Target Level of Service per 2006 Master Plan (acres/1,000 residents)	Current Park Land Surplus (Deficit) Per 2006 Master Plan Goals (acres)
Local, Close-to-Home Space	497.7	15.1	8 to 9	200.4 to 233.3
Pocket Parks	0.4	0.0	N/A	0.4
Neighborhood Parks	61.9	1.9	3	(37.4)
Community Parks <sup>2</sup>	435.4	13.2	5 to 6	237.1 to 270.1
Regional Space	0.0	0.0	N/A	-
Regional Parks	0.0	0.0	N/A	-
Special Use Space	400.0	12.1	17 to 23	(474.9) to (673.2)
Athletic Complexes	0.0	0.0	N/A	-
Nature Parks and Preserves	60.2	1.8	15 to 20	(435.6) to (600.8)
Linear <sup>2</sup>	16.8	0.5	2 to 3	(49.3) to (82.4)
Special Interest Parks <sup>3</sup>	322.8	9.8	N/A	9.8
Civic Space	1.4	0.0	N/A	-
Greens	0.0	0.0	N/A	-
Squares	1.4	0.0	N/A	1.4
Plazas	0.0	0.0	N/A	-
<b>TOTAL (Publicly-accessible)</b>	<b>589.3<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>17.8<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>25 to 32</b>	<b>(237.0) to (468.3)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>899.2<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>27.2<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>25 to 32</b>	<b>158.4 to (73.0)</b>

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.

Note: <sup>1</sup>Because the City of Kyle embraces both public and private ownership models to meet the overall parks and open space needs of its residents, this figure includes both public and private park land. <sup>2</sup>Includes undeveloped, dedicated park land classified per its planned park category (including parks previously classified as 'open space' in Figure 3-3). <sup>3</sup>Figure includes Plum Creek Golf Course. <sup>4</sup>Omits Plum Creek Golf Course. <sup>5</sup>Includes Plum Creek Golf Course.



KYLE, TX

OPEN SPACES MAY VARY BETWEEN UTILITY AREAS AND THOSE INTENDED TO MEET RECREATIONAL DEMAND

**Figure 3-5** indicates that there is currently 17.8 acres of publicly accessible parkland per 1,000 residents in Kyle. This ratio is significantly less than the City's 2006 target ratio of 25 to 32 acres of park land and open space per 1,000 residents. This perceived park land and open space deficit results from a 2006 target LOS of 15 to 20 acres of open space preserves per 1,000 residents. Alternatively, **Figure 3-5** suggests that, when including Plum Creek Golf Course in acreage totals, the City is matching 2006 park land/open space LOS targets. Using either measure, **the City of Kyle actually exceeds 2006 LOS targets by almost 2 to 1 for pocket, neighborhood, and community parks.**

The alternative outcomes depicted in **Figure 3-5** raise the following issues (discussed in more detail in **Chapter 4, Needs Assessment**) which must be addressed when establishing new park land LOS standards:

- **Nature Parks and Preserves** - May be stand-alone parks; or, may be a programmed element of another park space.
- **Open Space** - Must be more clearly defined. Qualifying recreational space may be left in natural state, or be principally for an active or passive recreational use.



- **Accessibility** - The degree to which public access may be permitted/accommodated at a site (developed or undeveloped) must be clarified when determining whether or not a park land or open space meets a an active or passive recreational purpose.



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2016 KYLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# CHAPTER 4

*Needs Assessment*



## ASSESSING PARK SYSTEM NEEDS

A needs assessment is an analytical way of determining which recreational facilities and programs are most needed and desired by the residents of a community. The needs assessment considers the community's current performance in providing recreational services to its citizens, and the types of investments which will be required in the future to meet public recreational needs. An understanding of Kyle's park system assets and deficiencies - and community preferences - is necessary to determine the appropriate actions to address immediate needs.

A needs assessment also projects future park system needs relative to recreational trends and changing local demographics. Recommendations and actions to address these needs are created and prioritized from the results of the needs assessment.

While population growth within and around Kyle will place increasing demands on the City to provide additional public park land and facilities, the community has been challenged by limitations in public revenue. As a result, the recommendations generated in this chapter of the Master Plan are written to balance City park system growth with enhancements to existing resources.

**“The following three approaches may be employed in determining parks and recreation needs: (1) demand-based, (2) standard-based, and (3) resource-based. Or a combination of these approaches may help you more accurately assess your needs.”**

**~TPWD, *Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Guidelines***

### Needs Assessment Methods

The needs assessment utilizes three (3) methodologies to evaluate Kyle's current and future park needs. These techniques follow methodologies accepted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for local park master plans:

- **Demand-Based Assessment** - This technique uses growth data and citizen input to determine actual and/or anticipated park system usage, and to recommend suitable recreational facilities and programs to meet existing and latent demand.
- **Resource-Based Assessment** - This technique recognizes that each community has prominent or unique physical features, and explores how to convert them into recreation or open space assets that help meet local recreational demand.
- **Standard-Based Assessment** - This technique uses locally-developed level of service ratios to compare park land and recreational facilities to existing and projected population. This assessment method identifies park land and facility benchmarks to which the City should aspire to maintain or improve its public park system. The standards-based assessment considers the findings of the other two (2) evaluation methods.

All three (3) methods are important in their own regard, but individually do not represent the entire picture. This assessment uses the cumulative findings of all three (3) methods to determine the types of recreation facilities and park requirements which are needed in Kyle.



## DEMAND-BASED ASSESSMENT

A preliminary evaluation of park facilities and/or programs which may be viewed as valuable assets in Kyle is derived from direct public input. The demand assessment incorporated in this Master Plan is based on citizens' input that was voiced during stakeholder meetings, a public survey, and at a public open house. Demand-based assessment findings are discussed on pages 42 through 48.

### Stakeholder Interviews

As indicated in **Chapter 2**, a series of stakeholder meetings were conducted as part of the planning process. These meetings included representatives of various organizations within the community that provide or support recreational services.

Stakeholder interviews revealed key themes among participants. Themes include:

- **Trails -** There is a desire for additional trails, especially along Plum Creek.
- **Indoor Recreation -** Participants indicated that an indoor recreation center remains a key need in Kyle. Some of the stakeholders mentioned looking into a possible private-public partnership with the YMCA or other organization. It was also suggested that there was a need for an indoor swimming pool for year-round use.
- **Recreational Programming -** Many stakeholders mentioned that there is a need for more programs, especially for teens and adults. Suggestions included adding a skate park, offering more after school programs, having a community garden, botanical garden, adding a disc golf course, and offering classes such as music, technology, tutoring, etc.
- **Undeveloped Park Land -** Participants voiced a desire that the City develop existing park land. Many of the stakeholders stressed the need for a festival/special event area in Kyle. Many events have moved to Central Texas Speedway. The stakeholders suggested that having an event area would attract more events to the City.

Several stakeholders mentioned that the current maintenance of parks is very good and appreciated. Stakeholders also felt that open space should be maintained at least quarterly for health and safety reasons. Education and trail signage could help the public understand that preserved open space areas are in a natural habitat, and not poorly maintained like some residents might think.

Stakeholders mentioned the hesitation to pursue a park bond. They stressed that residents do not want their taxes raised to pay for park improvements. In the past, the council has wanted to invest in maintaining the existing parks rather than develop new ones. Stakeholder hesitancy regarding park system funding differs slightly from public survey feedback.



KYLE, TX

**NEW TRAILS ALONG PLUM CREEK ARE A PRIORITY**

## Public Survey Results

A public survey was distributed to better understand citizens' perceptions of the City of Kyle's parks and recreation system. The on-line survey was made available via a link on the City's website. A total of 1006 surveys were completed - a significant response for a community the size of Kyle.

Sixty percent of survey participants were female, while 68 percent were between the ages of 20 - 45. Eighty-eight percent of participants are City residents – of which, 55 percent live east of Interstate 35. The following pages summarize key survey findings.

**Favorite Park** - Survey participants were asked what their favorite developed, city-owned park in Kyle was. The most popular parks were Gregg-Clarke Park (29%), Steeplechase Park (28%), and Lake Kyle (27%). Only 4 percent chose Waterleaf Park and 2 percent chose City Square Park. Ten percent of the survey participants responded that their favorite park was a privately owned and maintained park.

## TOP TEN FAVORITE RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Survey respondents were given a list of recreational activities and were asked to choose their favorites. The top 10 responses include:

Walking/hiking on trails

Going to festivals or special events

Swimming for leisure/fitness

Playing on playgrounds

Viewing nature/wildlife

Walking your dog

Going to a dog park

Arts/crafts classes

Bicycling

Running/jogging



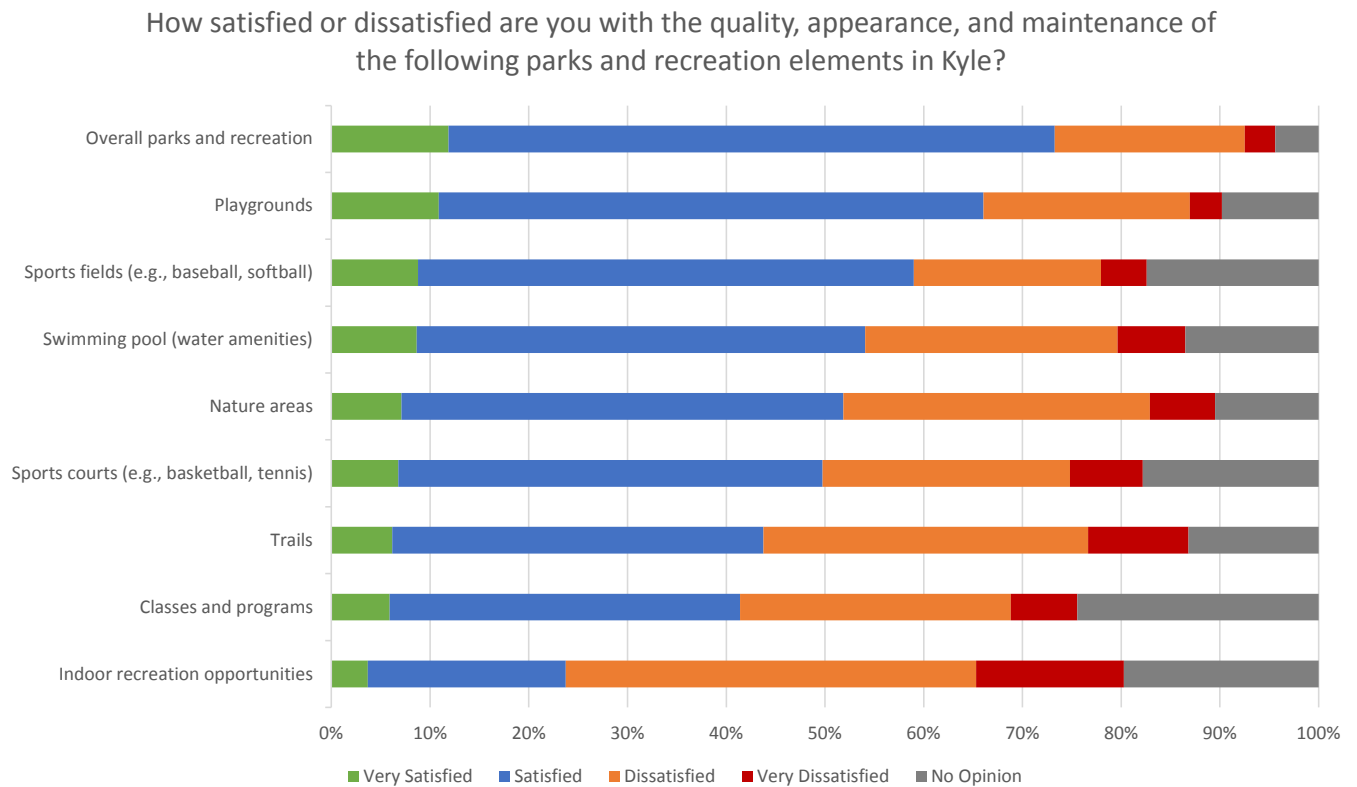
KYLE, TX

OPINION ON A 'FAVORITE' PARK IS SPLIT BETWEEN GREGG-CLARKE (ABOVE), STEEPLCHASE, AND LAKE KYLE.

**Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation** - Survey participants were asked how satisfied or dissatisfied they are with different aspects of parks and recreation in Kyle. Seventy-three percent of respondents indicated that they are satisfied or very satisfied with parks and recreation overall.

Two-thirds of the respondents (66%) are satisfied or very satisfied with playgrounds in the City of Kyle. Fifty-nine percent are satisfied or very satisfied with sports fields, while 54 percent are satisfied or very satisfied with aquatic amenities in Kyle.

Less than one-fourth of the participants (24%) are satisfied or very satisfied with indoor recreation opportunities in Kyle. Indoor recreation received the lowest satisfaction rating among the different aspects of Kyle's parks and recreation system.

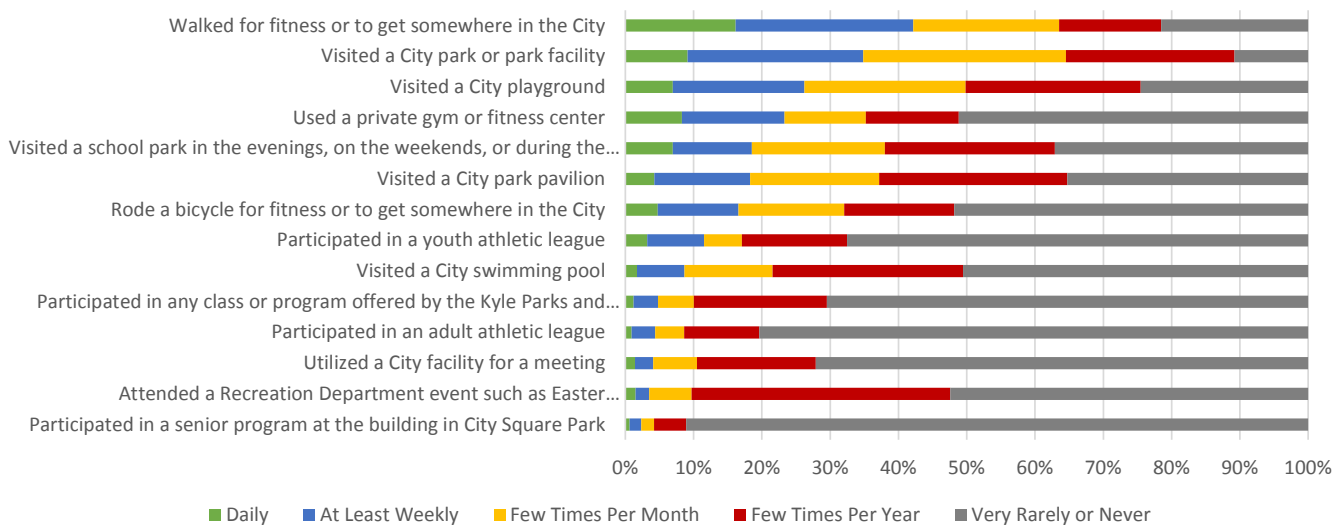




**Participation and Utilization** - When considering the frequency in which survey respondents participate in recreational activities, and/or utilize City park facilities, results indicate that 64 percent of respondents have walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City at least monthly. Furthermore, 42 percent of respondents indicated that they have walked for fitness or to get somewhere in the City at least weekly or daily.

Sixty-five percent of respondents have visit a City park at least monthly. Half of the survey respondents (50%) have used a city playground at least a few times per month in the past year. More than one-third (35%) have used a private gym or fitness center at least a few times per month in the past year.

In the past year, how often have you or your family participated in or utilized the following?



KYLE, TX

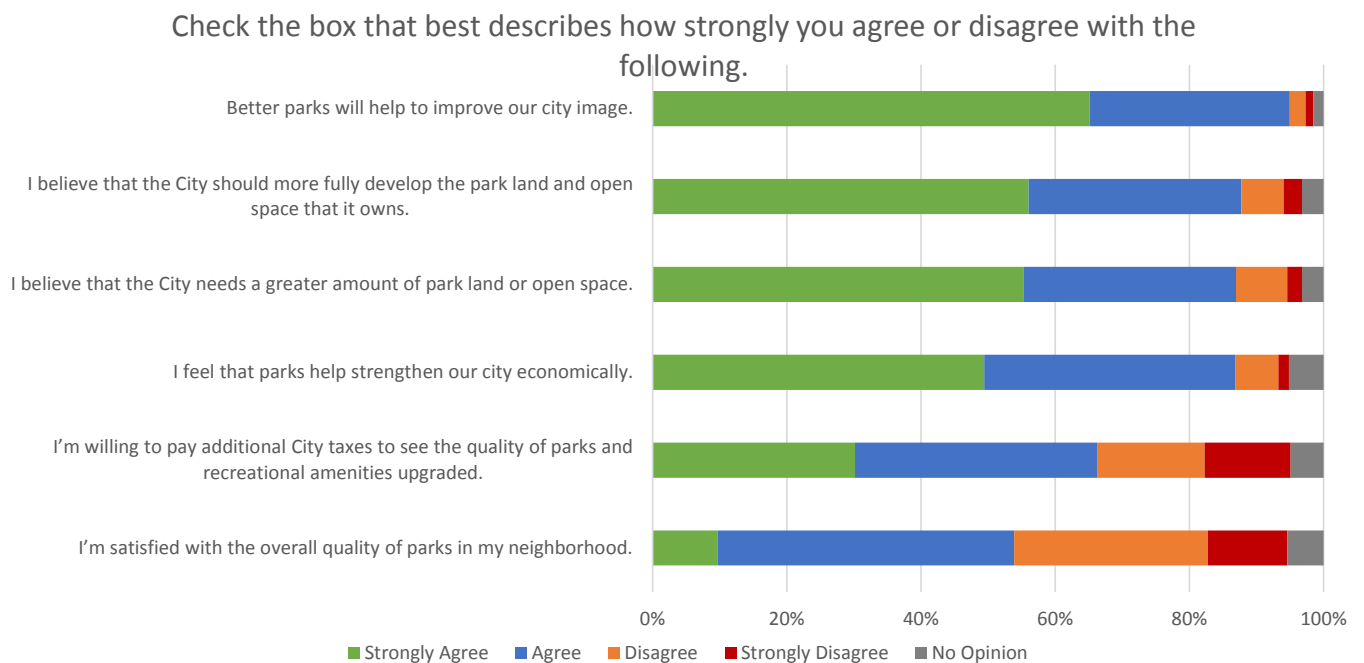
TRAILS IN PARKS - WALKING IS THE MOST POPULAR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY IN KYLE.

**Park Statements** - Survey participants were presented with a series of general statements about parks in Kyle - to which they were asked to rate their degree of agreement or disagreement. Most statements received a high level of agreement among the survey responses.

Ninety-five percent of survey participants agree or strongly agree that better parks will help improve the image of Kyle. Eighty-eight percent agree or strongly agree that the City should more fully develop the park land that it already owns.

Slightly more than half of all survey respondents (54%) agree or strongly agree that they are satisfied with the overall quality of parks in their neighborhood. Nonetheless, two-thirds of the respondents (66%) agree or strongly agree that they would be willing to pay additional city taxes to see the quality of parks and recreational amenities upgraded.

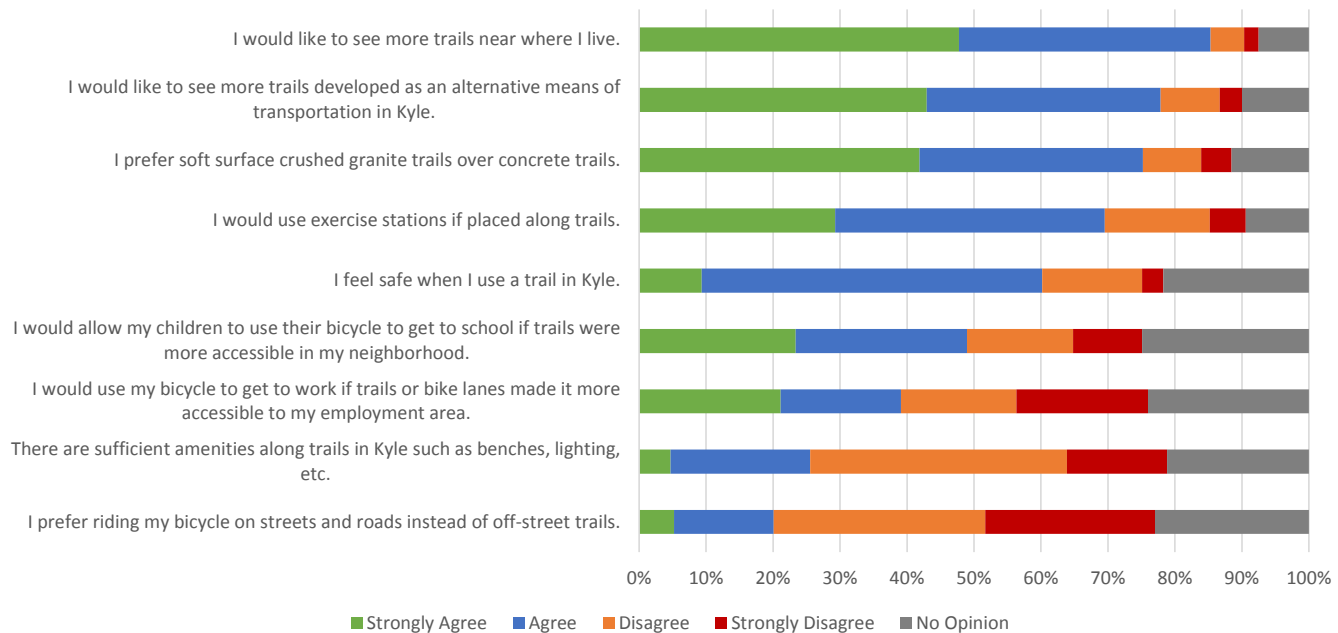
The responses from these statements demonstrate a strong support for parks among the residents who responded. They understand the importance that parks have within the Kyle community and desire enhancements to their parks system.



**Trail Statements** - Survey participants were presented with a list of statements regarding trails in Kyle. Again, they were asked to rate how strongly they agree or disagree with each statement. Eighty-five percent of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that they would like to see more trails developed near where they live. Furthermore, 78 percent agree or strongly agree they would like to see trails developed as an alternative means of transportation in Kyle. Nearly half of survey participants (49%) indicated that they would allow their children to ride a bicycle to school if trails were more accessible to their neighborhoods.

Survey responses demonstrate the high importance of trails to Kyle residents. These findings correspond with survey results that suggest walking, jogging and bicycling are among the top 10 preferred recreational activities in Kyle (see page 42). Acquisition of park property along Plum Creek over the last 10 years is intended to partially meet this need, but trails are about accessibility and citizen feedback indicates that the City's long-term trail network should extend beyond the Plum Creek watershed.

Please check the box that best describes how strongly you agree or disagree with the following trail-related statements.





### Importance of Park Amenities - Survey

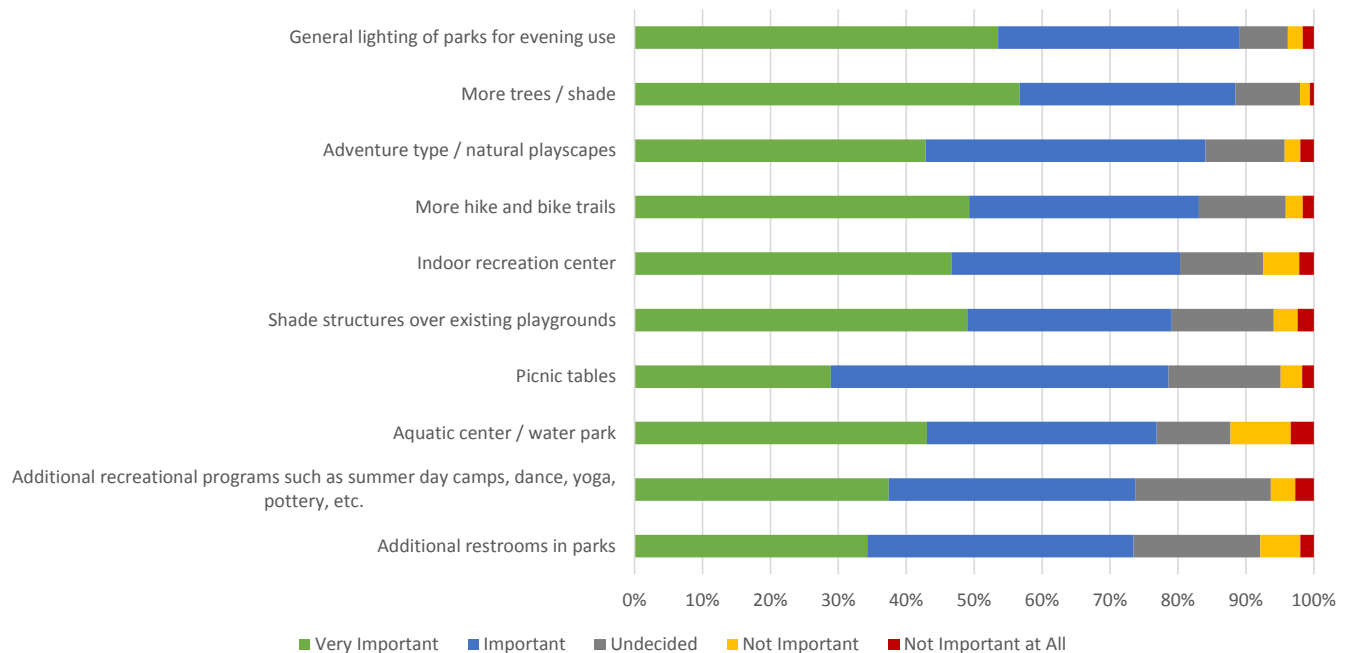
participants were presented with a list of several different park amenities. They were asked to rate each facility regarding its importance or lack of importance to the City of Kyle's parks and recreation system. The facilities referenced in the question extend beyond principal recreational uses, and include accessory facilities such as lighting, landscaping, shade, etc. The top 10 amenities that received the highest level of importance are shown in the graph below.

The highest rated park amenity according to survey participants was park lighting - with 89 percent indicating it was important or very important to add more lighting in parks for evening use.

The second highest rated amenity was more trees and shade with 88 percent indicating this was important or very important.

Other amenities that were rated as highly important to survey participants were: adventure type nature play-scapes (84%), more hike and bike trails (83%), an indoor recreation center (80%), shade structures over existing playgrounds (79%), additional picnic tables (79%), an aquatic center or water park (77%), additional recreational programs (74%), and additional restrooms in parks (73%).

Please indicate how important or unimportant it is for the following items to be provided or added in Kyle parks.



**Most Needed Park Amenities** - From the list of all park amenities mentioned in previous questions, survey participants were asked to pick just three (3) amenities that they felt were most needed in the City of Kyle.

The five (5) highest ranked amenities were:

1. **More hike and bike trails (28% of all responses)**
2. **Dog parks (off leash areas) (22%)**
3. **Indoor recreation center (21%)**
4. **Additional public swimming pools (16%)**
5. **Splash pads/spraygrounds (15%)**

**Priorities** - One of the final on-line public survey questions included a comprehensive list of different park and recreation amenities. Respondents were asked to rank each priority using a scale of one (1) to 10 with one (1) being the highest priority for Kyle. The following list shows the order in which the priorities were ranked.

1. **Make improvements to existing undeveloped parks.**
2. **Develop major trails for transportation and recreation in each sector of the City.**
3. **Work to preserve environmentally sensitive areas such as natural creek corridors.**
4. **Develop an indoor recreation center.**
5. **Have larger parks with more amenities within driving distance of residences.**

6. **Offer large regional parks with a wide variety of facilities.**
7. **Develop signature park facilities such as a botanical garden, festival grounds, or downtown park.**
8. **Provide parks that can be used by people with disabilities.**
9. **Renovate and add to existing developed parks in the City.**
10. **Expand youth recreation programs.**
11. **Develop an aquatics center.**
12. **Have smaller parks with fewer amenities within walking distance of residences.**
13. **Create an “art in the park” program.**
14. **Expand adult athletic leagues.**

## Public Open House

Following the conclusion of the on-line public survey, an open house meeting was held to solicit additional public input in the parks master planning process. The purpose of the June 13, 2016 open house was:

- **To offer an additional method by which the general public could participate in the planning process; and,**
- **To receive direct public feedback on preliminary conclusions drawn from survey results.**

Public open house attendees were presented with a series of charts on which they could express their preferences on park land development, recreational facilities, and recreational programming. **Feedback affirmed the results of the public survey,** but also generated the following unique observations:

- **There is support for facility design using durable materials, and water-efficient fixtures and landscape design.**
- **Participants identified the Blanco River and existing park sites as areas where park land or park amenities are most desired.**
- **Trail design and surfacing may vary, but connections to adjacent property is desired.**



KYLE, TX

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE PARTICIPANTS

## RESOURCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

The resource-based assessment examines key physical features within the City of Kyle (or Kyle ETJ) that may lend themselves to recreational opportunities - either in support of active recreational pursuits, or as areas for passive enjoyment such as nature preserves or greenways. Both man-made features (e.g. railroad corridors, utility easements) and natural features such as creeks and drainage corridors may be considered as part of the assessment. The City of Kyle has a few key features that may be adapted for recreational use or open space preservation.

### Creeks and Drainage Corridors

With Kyle's acquisition of interconnected parcels along the Plum Creek watershed, City officials recognize the opportunities that creeks and drainage ways provide in creating interconnected open space and community wide trails. Key criteria in the preservation of creek and drainage corridors include:

- **Preserve the larger of the 100 year floodplain or a 300 foot wide corridor along undeveloped or underdeveloped creek areas. Ensure flood control and recreation opportunities by preventing unrestricted encroachment and destruction of the vegetative areas along creeks and their tributaries.**

- **Acquire and preserve drainage systems that can create linkages to adjacent neighborhoods. Preserve more than just the minimum for drainage purposes.**
- **Work with landowners and homeowners to create linear vehicular and pedestrian parkways along the edges of the floodplain, rather than backing lots up to it. Designing neighborhoods in such a way will open up creek areas and allow for their enjoyment by all residents.**
- **Acquire land that is regularly subjected to flooding, remove all improvements, and restore the flood area to a healthy and functional ecosystem. This means returning the floodplain to the creeks with the benefit of flood control and recreation access.**

### Blanco River

The Blanco River flows through 6-plus miles of the City of Kyle's planning area. Although many of the recommendations of the preceding subsection explain the overall community benefit of preserving creeks and drainage corridors, major river channels such as the Blanco River offer additional water-based recreation activities. In addition to swimming, wading, and fishing, multiple public access points on the river would provide the opportunity for a paddling trail and adjacent greenway network.



HAYS COUNTY, TX

FIVE MILE DAM PARK (HAYS COUNTY) - OPPORTUNITIES TO LINK KYLE TO THE BLANCO RIVER.



## Rights of Way

Highway, rail, and utility rights-of-way offer alternative corridors for trail development. Although not offering the same aesthetic benefits as creeks and drainage ways, man-made right-of-way corridors can provide “overland” linkages between trails that follow waterways.

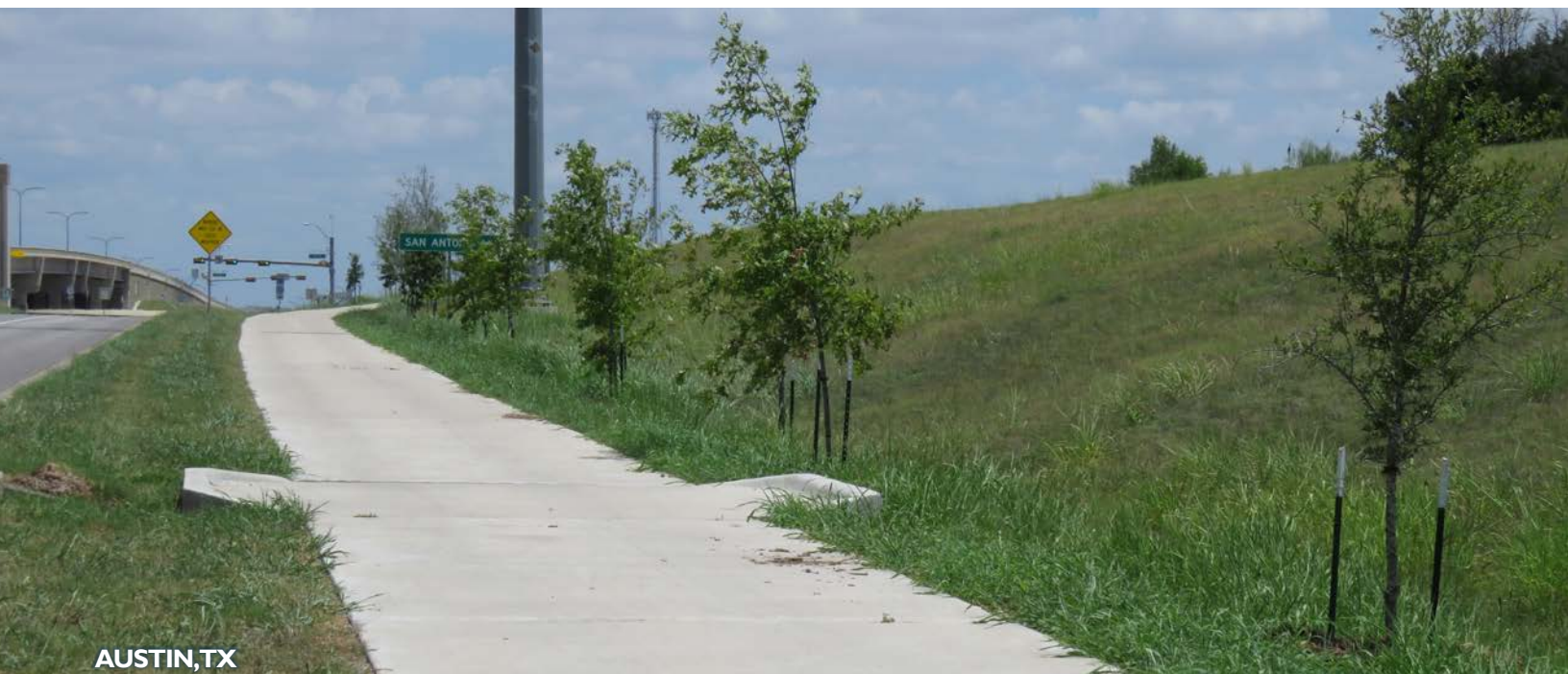
- **Highway Corridors** - Many Hill-Country communities are constructing sidepaths along highways and frontage roads. Trails in Austin along Mopac Expressway, and U.S. Highway 290, and parallel to Highway 183-A Toll in Cedar Park are recent examples. Segments of Interstate 35 frontage roads in Kyle could support similar development.
- **Railroad Rights-of-Way** - The BNSF railroad corridor in Kyle runs north/south through the middle of the City. There is little development adjacent to the railroad corridor south of the downtown area. Over time, the City could pursue trail development parallel to the railroad, connecting the downtown area to the Blanco River and Five Mile Dam Park.

- **Utility Easements** - Linear utility easements are also ideal corridors which can support a multi-use trail network. Kyle would have to work with utility companies to allow public access on the easement, and any improvements made for recreational purposes would be at the City's expense.

## Undeveloped Parks

**Figure 3-3** (page 50) lists the City of Kyle's seven (7) “undeveloped” parks. The Master Plan public input process revealed little consensus on the form that residents believe that a “developed” park should take.

Some of Kyle's undeveloped park land may be “developed” as a passive nature park or preserve (see description, page 46). Many of these undeveloped parcels dedicated to the City as park land lie within or adjacent to the Plum Creek drainage way and can be restored to a condition that supports native prairie or woodland. Even with an emphasis on conservation/restoration, the City's nature parks or preserves can still support facilities that place little impact on the property such as trails, bird blinds, etc. (See **Chapter 5** for more information about native prairie restoration.)



AUSTIN, TX

FRONTAGE ROAD SIDEPATH - A TRAIL CORRIDOR UNDER A FUTURE SHADE CANOPY.

## STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENT

The City of Kyle's 2006 parks and recreation master plan established community benchmarks for meeting future park land acreage and recreational facility needs. An inventory of the City's current public and private park lands - and how the cumulative totals compare to 2006 targets - are provided in **Chapter 3**.

This section of the Master Plan analyzes the City of Kyle's existing park land and recreational facility levels of service (LOS) in greater detail, and determines whether they are adequate, or whether they must be adjusted to meet community needs and preferences that have evolved over the last 10 years. Several factors are taken into consideration when determining if LOS ratios should be adjusted, including anticipated growth in Kyle, under-served areas in the City, and the findings of the demand-based and resources-based assessments presented in this chapter.

The standards-based assessment presented on pages 51 through 61 calculates the level of service for both park land and facilities.

- **Park Land Level of Service - Defines the distribution of parks throughout Kyle. Depending on park type, it is expressed as a ratio of acreage to population, a standard of proximity (accessibility), or both measures.**

- **Facility level of service defines the number of facilities recommended to serve each particular recreation need. Facility standards are usually expressed as a ratio of units per population size.**

### Park Acreage Level of Service

The purpose of spatial levels of service for parks and recreational areas is to ensure that sufficient area is allocated for all recreation needs of a community. Level of service targets allow communities to plan ahead so that land can be targeted and acquired for parks and open space before it is developed.

Furthermore, Additional acreage is required both to serve the existing and future population, and to allow for the even dispersal of park land throughout the City.

The recommended levels of service for the City of Kyle are shown by park type in **Figure 4-1: City of Kyle, Recommended Level of Service**. These spatial standards are based on a review of the levels established in the 2006 parks master plan and the 2010 comprehensive plan, and have been adjusted where needed based on the current level of importance.

Figure 4-1: City of Kyle, Recommended Level of Service	
Local, Close-to-Home Space	
Pocket Parks	N/A (Private development. Should be met through City requirements on common area.)
Neighborhood Parks	3 acres per 1,000 residents (Public and private parks)
Community Parks	5 acres per 1,000 residents
Regional Space	
Regional Parks	No target established.
Special Use Space	
Athletic Complexes	No target established.
Nature Parks and Preserves	8 acres per 1,000 residents
Linear Parks	Trail access within 10 minutes (1,500')
Special Interest Parks	No target established.
Civic Space	
Greens, Squares, Plazas	No target established.

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.

Acreage targets established in this Master Plan are similar to the acreage goals from the 2006 plan. The targets established herein recognize a need to prioritize the development of existing park land. (This need was emphasized when open house participants principally identified existing undeveloped City park land when posed with the question, “Where are public parks most needed in Kyle?”)

**Figure 4-1** does identify new park land goals for two (2) types of special use parks in Kyle - linear parks and nature parks/preserves. Spatial goals applied to these two (2) park types may increase the City’s overall target acreage. In meeting these special use park goals, the City should consider the following:

- **The level of service goal for linear parks is based on proximity - acreage may vary greatly; and,**
- **The acreage goal for nature parks/preserves may be met in part - or in full - by designating sufficient space within community parks.**

#### **Figure 4-2: City of Kyle Park Land Acreage Goals**

illustrates the acquisition demand that Kyle’s re-calibrated park land acreage targets will place on the City moving forward. Moving forward, the acquisition demands collectively represented by **Figures 4-1** and **4-2** (as compared to 2006 master plan targets) enable the City to focus on park land quality rather than quantity. (Methods to support quality park land development are included in the remaining pages of this chapter, and within **Chapter 5**.)

Some readers may mis-interpret the findings in **Figure 4-2**. Implied park land surpluses in the Figure do not mean that City of Kyle has a sufficient amount of park land to meet public needs through 2030. These benchmarks must be balanced by measures of park land accessibility. **Ultimately, the standards represented in Figures 4-1 and 4-2 do not relieve the City from ensuring that future park land acreage is evenly distributed throughout Kyle.** Meeting future park land proximity and accessibility standards may require the acquisition of public park land in excess of the benchmarks presented in both figures.

**Figure 4-2: City of Kyle, Park Land Acreage Goals**

Park Type <sup>1</sup>	Current Acreage <sup>2,3</sup>	Recommended Level of Service (2016-2030)	Recommended Acres (2016)	Surplus/Deficit (2016)	Recommended Acres (2030)	Surplus/Deficit (2030)
<b>Local, Close-to-Home Space</b>						
Neighborhood Parks	61.9	3 acres per 1,000 residents	99.3	(37.4 acre deficit)	231.2	(169.3 acre deficit)
Community Parks <sup>3</sup>	435.4	5 acres per 1,000 residents	165.3	270.1 acre surplus	385.3	50.1 acre surplus
<b>Special Use Space</b>						
Nature Parks and Preserves <sup>4</sup>	20.0	8 acres per 1,000 residents	264.4	(244.4 acre deficit)	616.4	(596.4 acre deficit)

Note: <sup>1</sup>Parks for which an acreage-based level of service is established in Figure 4-1, <sup>2</sup>Includes public and private park space identified in Figures 3-3 and 3-4.

<sup>3</sup>Includes undeveloped, dedicated park land classified per its planned park category (including parks previously classified as ‘open space’ in Figure 3-3). <sup>4</sup>Portion Lake Kyle Park specifically set aside for open space preservation or habitat restoration, and passive recreation.



## LEVEL OF SERVICE BY PARK TYPE

### LOCAL CLOSE-TO-HOME SPACE

#### Pocket Park Level of Service

No specific level of service target is recommended for pocket parks in the Master Plan. Absence of a spatial level of service however, does not mean that publicly-accessible pocket parks should not be developed in Kyle.

Pocket parks could be developed as the need or opportunity arises under the following provisions (list not all-inclusive):

- **Public pocket park development in Kyle should occur when necessary to leverage a unique opportunity, or to protect a significant resource.**
- **Pocket parks may be developed where smaller parcels are accessory to a larger resource. For instance, a pocket park may serve as a trailhead.**
- **The City may negotiate with a developer to develop one (1) or more public or private pocket parks to meet City park land dedication needs.**

Accessibility to neighborhood parks is as important as acreage goals. Typically, neighborhood parks are in a central location for the residents they serve, and as such, and should be accessible to all users. The preferred service area for a neighborhood park from any neighborhood in Kyle is between one-quarter mile (1/4) to one-half mile (1/2). Service area radii do not extend across major collector or arterial roads.

Neighborhood park development intended to meet Master Plan level of service targets should occur under the following provisions:

- **Neighborhood park acreage (public or private) must not be fee-restricted or gated to obstruct reasonable access or use during daylight hours.**
- **Neighborhood park land must be principally reserved for recreational use. Drainage basins or utility easements should not be used to fulfill neighborhood park requirements.**
- **Neighborhood parks should be located outside of the floodplain. Flood prone areas should only overlap small percentages of neighborhood park area.**
- **Although private parks may account for much of Kyle's neighborhood park land, additional public neighborhood parks may be necessary to meet accessibility targets in certain sections of the City.**
- **The City may require the location of a neighborhood park to enable the extension of a multi-use trail network and/or to provide access to adjacent nature parks or preserves, or other natural resource.**

**Map 4-A, Neighborhood Park Service Areas** (page 55) illustrates the distribution and service areas for neighborhood parks in Kyle. (Note that for the purposes of access, every neighborhood park and community park is shown.) This is because community parks in Kyle may be considered as the “neighborhood park” for the residents closest to them. Please note that future neighborhood park locations illustrated on **Map 4-A** are conceptual and not parcel-specific. The location of property designated for future neighborhood parks in Kyle may vary.



ALLEN, TX

POCKET PARKS - MAY SERVE AS TRAILHEADS

#### Neighborhood Park Level of Service

A neighborhood park in Kyle is generally one (1) to 15 acres in size. The standard of three (3) acres of neighborhood park land for every 1,000 residents remains the minimum acreage target for Kyle (consistent with the 2006 plan).

## Community Parks Level of Service

Community parks in Kyle are intended to serve large neighborhoods or several neighborhoods within a one (1) to three (3) mile service area. Although intended to be accessed by the community via motor vehicles, they also serve as neighborhood parks to the residents in their immediate vicinity. Community parks may host larger community events, sports and activities. Therefore, they contain many popular recreation and support facilities.

The additional facilities associated with a community park increases the park's spatial requirements. Future community parks in Kyle should exceed 15 acres in size. The recommended spatial level of service for community parks in Kyle is five (5) acres per 1,000 residents (consistent with the 2006 plan).

Kyle's community park surplus referenced in **Figure 4-2** includes seven (7) undeveloped City park properties that encompass over 162 acres. These parks will need to be programmed and developed during the Master Plan time frame to truly meet the 2030 park land target established herein.

Existing community parks in Kyle are well distributed among developed portions of the City. Since Kyle's developed community parks also serve as the de-facto neighborhood parks for the areas around them, there is a danger that some could deteriorate as a result of over-use. Existing undeveloped park lands must be programmed. Similarly, the development of Kyle Vista Park - and at least one (1) community park west of Interstate 35 will be crucial in helping to reduce the risk of over use and deterioration.

Community park development intended to meet Master Plan level of service targets should occur under the following additional provisions:

- **Community parks may be partially located in flood-prone areas, but sufficient upland acreage should be available for facilities, buildings, and structures.**
- **Some community parks may be programmed so that a portion of their acreage serves as a nature park or preserve.**
- **Community parks may be of a sufficient size, and programmed in such a manner (i.e. athletic complex, event grounds, etc.) that they support a regional park function.**
- **Community parks must be accessible via at least one (1) major collector or arterial thoroughfare.**
- **The City may require the location of a community park to enable the extension of a multi-use trail network and/or to provide access to adjacent nature parks or preserves, or other natural resource.**

**Map 4-B, Community Park Service Areas** (page 56) illustrates the recommended distribution and service areas for community parks in Kyle. Please note that future community park locations illustrated on **Map 4-B** are conceptual and not parcel-specific. The location of property acquired for future community parks in Kyle may vary.

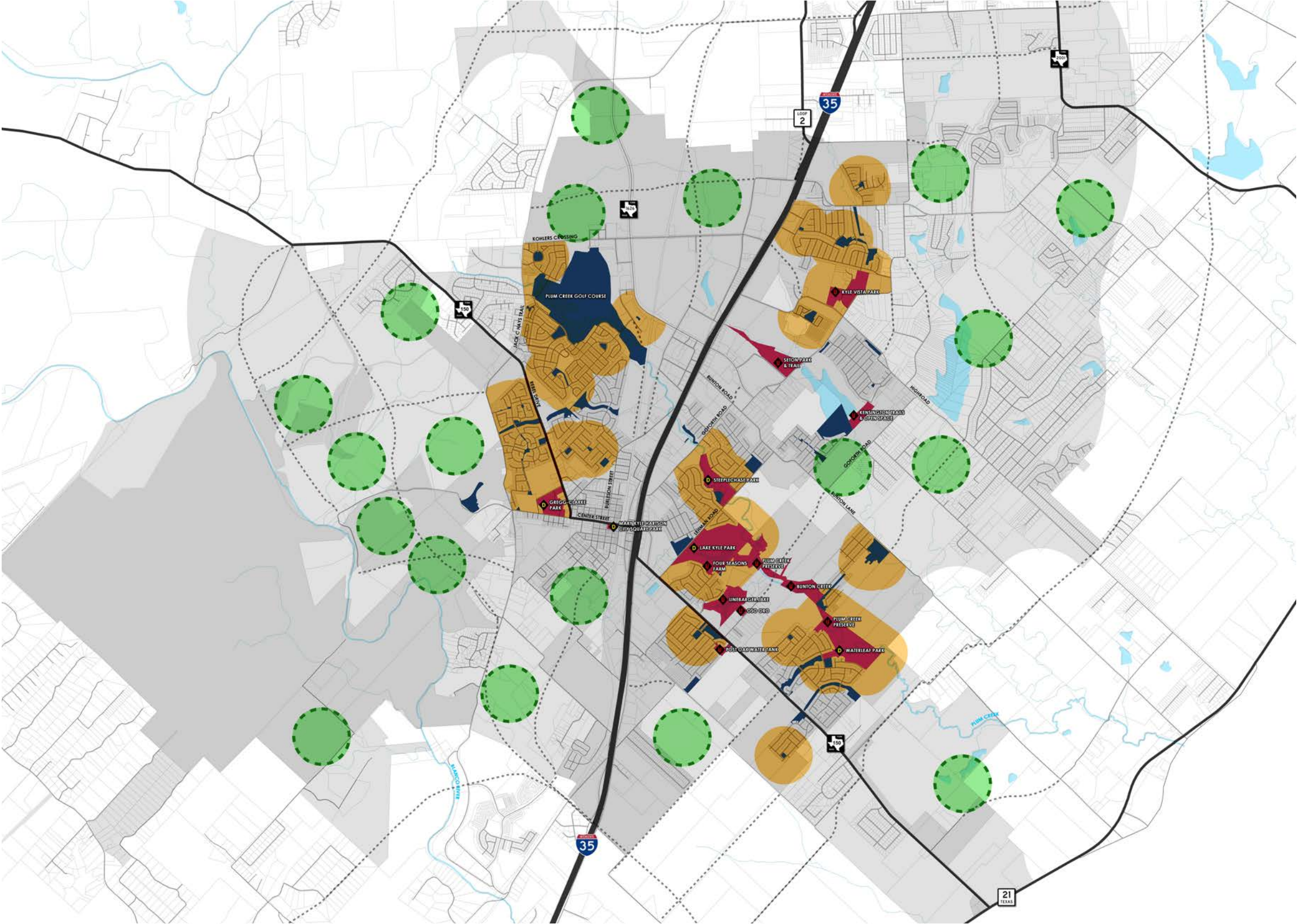
## REGIONAL SPACE

### Regional Park Level of Service

No specific level of service target is recommended for regional parks in the Master Plan. Absence of a spatial level of service however, does not mean that publicly-accessible regional parks should not be developed in Kyle. One (1) or more community park sites in Kyle may be programmed in a manner that supports regional activities, tournaments, and events.



# MAP 4-A: CITY OF KYLE: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE AREAS



- Municipal limits
- Extra-territorial jurisdiction
- Lakes/ponds
- Rivers/creeks
- Private park land\*
- City-owned park land\*
- Developed park land
- Undeveloped park land
- Neighborhood park service area
- Future service area
- Future roadway

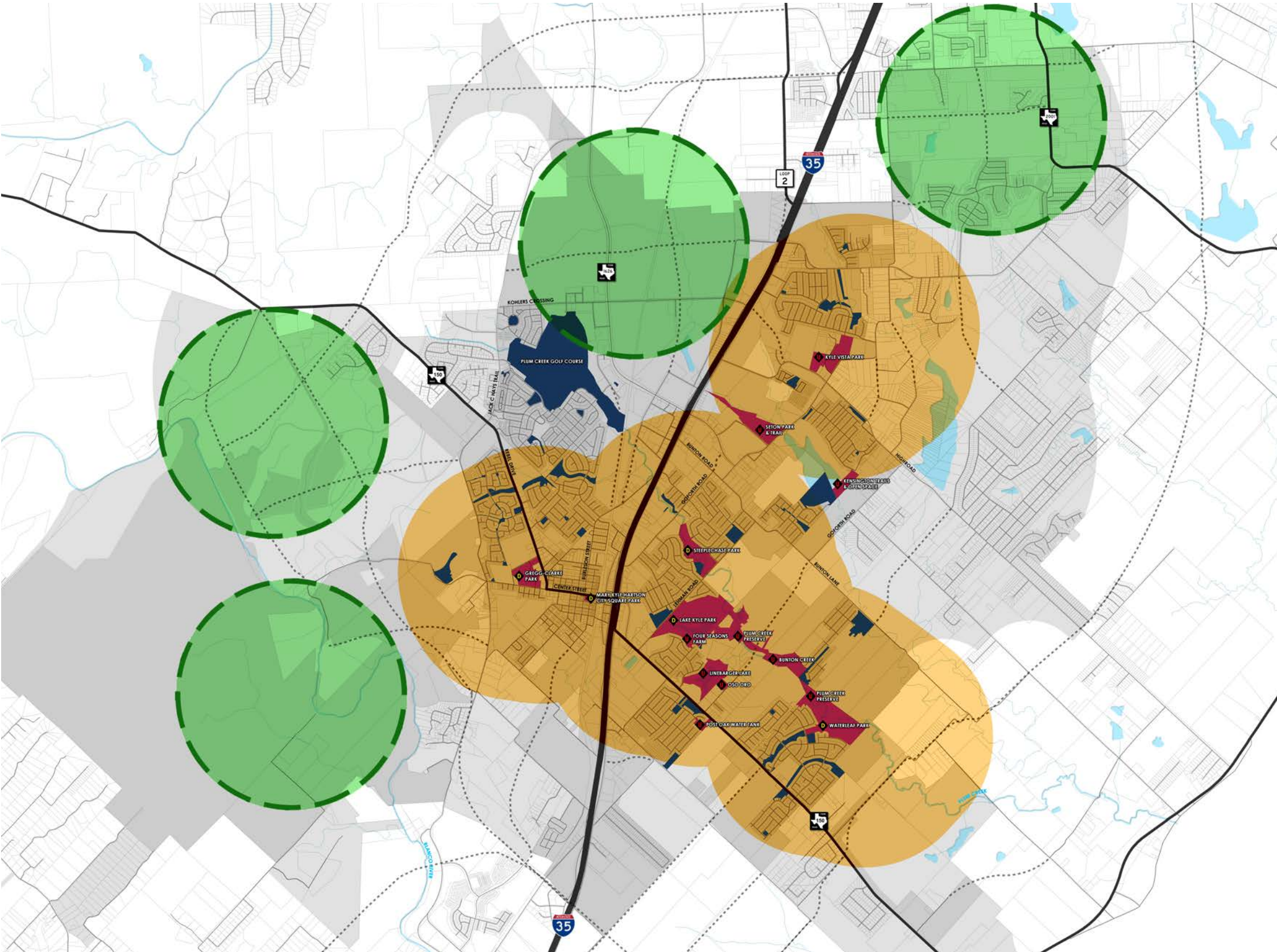
Note: Neighborhood park service area boundaries are based on a 1/4 mile radius, and include community parks, and undeveloped park lands intended to serve as future community parks. The service areas shown on this map are clipped along roadways that serve as barriers to adjacent neighborhoods.



# MAP 4-B:

## CITY OF KYLE: COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREAS

- Municipal limits
- Extra-territorial jurisdiction
- Lakes/ponds
- Rivers/creeks
- Private park land\*
- City-owned park land\*
- Developed park land
- Undeveloped park land
- Community park service area (1 mile)
- Future service area
- Future roadway



Note: Community park service area boundaries are based on a one (1) mile radius. This map shows service areas for existing and potential future community parks.



## **SPECIAL USE SPACE**

There is no specific level of service target for most types of special use parks such as golf courses, athletic complexes, skate parks, etc. These “special interest” facilities may be programmed within other park land in Kyle.

### **Linear Parks**

The Master Plan’s demand-based assessment reveals a high public demand for multi-use trails for walking, jogging, and bicycling. Multi-use trails within linear parks and other corridors also provide greater access to other park facilities and community destinations. Acquiring rights of public access for trail corridors can also be significantly less expensive than fee-simple purchase of tracts of land for park construction.

Although this section refers to “linear parks,” the greenbelt and conservation advantages gained by a community through linear park development are essentially the same as for nature parks and preserves. In this sense a linear park is essentially a narrow nature preserve or greenway.

For purposes of this Master Plan, linear parks simply represent the City’s intent to establish a city-wide multi-use trail network – whether such trails are located in a linear greenway or not. For this reason, the Parks Master Plan recommends a proximity-based target level of service for linear parks/multi-use (hike and bike) trails in Kyle providing for: trail access from all residential areas within 10 minutes (roughly 1,500’). This proximity standard may include trails within public road rights-of-way.

**Map 4-C, Hike and Bike Trail Network** (page 59) illustrates the recommended distribution of multi-use trails throughout Kyle. For consistency with the City’s park land dedication ordinance, the map refers to “hike and bike” trails. Trails either following drainage ways, streams, or utility corridors (shared use paths), or road rights-of-way (sidepaths). The conceptual trail network depicted on **Map 4-C** does not include recreational trails contained within a specific park property - unless part of the network extending between and linking parcels. Please note that future trail corridors illustrated on **Map 4-C** are conceptual and final alignments may vary.



ARLINGTON, TX

**LINEAR PARKS - MAY ALSO SERVE AS NATURE PRESERVES, AND MULTI-USE TRAIL CORRIDORS IN KYLE**

## Nature Parks/Preserves

The acquisition of open space for natural resource preservation or restoration is one of the most important park issues facing communities today. It is vital to target and acquire undeveloped tracts of land for preservation before they are fully developed. Ideal areas for the establishment of nature parks or preserves in Kyle include large stands of trees, wetland areas that attract migratory birds, and tracts that can support prairie land restoration.

The recommended target level of service for nature parks or preserves in Kyle is eight (8) acres per 1,000 residents (a reduction of the target level of service from the 2006 park plan). This standard is not necessarily in addition to the City's overall community park land goal of five (5) acres per 1,000 residents as established in **Figure 4-1** (page 51). Nature park/preserve acreage may be partially or totally incorporated into other existing or future City park properties.

This Master Plan identifies only 20 acres of Lake Kyle Park as an official nature park or preserve within the City of Kyle; yet, portions of many of the City's other undeveloped park lands (see **Figure 3-3**, page 50) may also meet this definition. Property acquired or programmed for nature preserves should meet the following additional provisions:

- **Nature preserve land should include woodland or meadows acquired and preserved in a largely natural state; or, previously cleared lands intended for restoration in accordance with a specific restoration plan.**
- **Nature preserve land must be principally reserved for conservation or natural restoration purposes. Drainage basins, utility easements, or other land kept cleared of natural vegetation should not be used to fulfill nature preserve requirements.**
- **Nature preserve land should be deed restricted to ensure its conservation status for an extended time frame or in perpetuity.**
- **Public access and use must be limited to low-impact activities such as hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, etc. Public access areas must be limited in scale.**

- **Private park land may meet part of the City's nature park or preserve goal subject to the approval of deed restrictions which contain sufficient conservation easements, and permit a reasonable degree of public access for passive enjoyment.**

## CIVIC SPACE

### Civic Space Level of Service

No specific level of service target is recommended for civic spaces in the Master Plan. Absence of a spatial level of service however, does not mean that publicly-accessible civic spaces should not be developed in Kyle. For purposes of this Master Plan the concept of "civic" space extends beyond the traditional definition of citizenship (and the free exercise of assembly) to include miscellaneous spaces intended for casual public gathering.

The development of new civic spaces should be considered in conjunction with the following:

- **New development (or redevelopment) in downtown Kyle.**
- **The enhancement of public grounds surrounding municipal buildings.**
- **As part of new "town center" or other high-intensity urban style developments.**
- **As part of large-scale non-residential development.**
- **During the conversion of highways into landscaped parkways.**



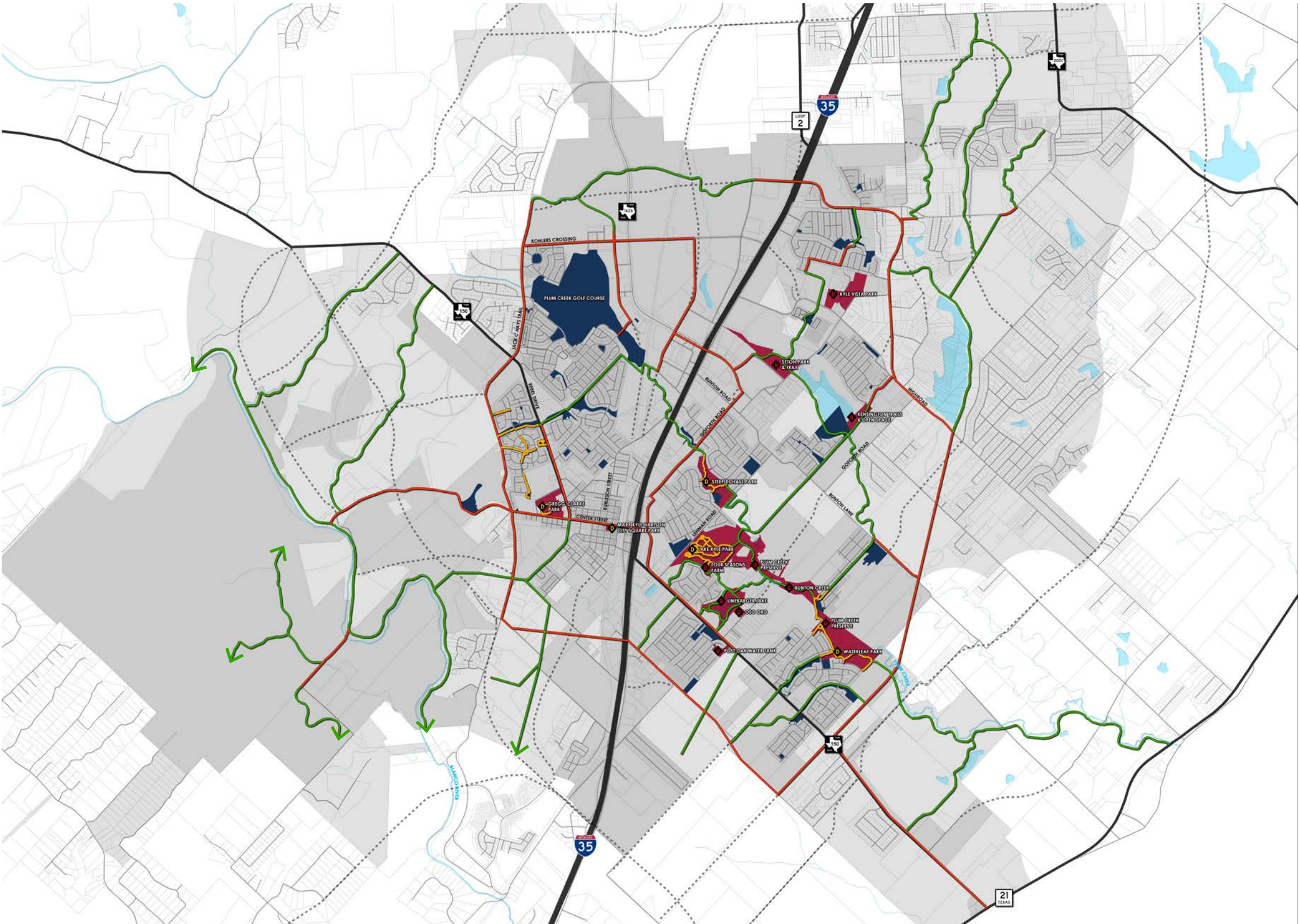
HUNTSVILLE, AL

CIVIC SPACES - SUPPORT CASUAL PUBLIC GATHERING



# MAP 4-C:

## CITY OF KYLE: HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL NETWORK



- Municipal limits
- Extra-territorial jurisdiction
- Lakes/ponds
- Rivers/creeks
- Private park land\*
- City-owned park land\*
- Developed park land
- Undeveloped park land
- Existing trails
- Future on-street trails (sidepaths)
- Future off-street trails (shared use paths)
- Future roadway

Note: This map excludes park land that - while approved by the City - was not dedicated at the time this document was written. This map does include dedicated private park land, open space, and common areas that are in some instances used for storm water retention.



**Figure 4-3: Recreational Facilities, Level of Service**

Facility	Current Amount	Current LOS (per residents)	Target LOS (per residents) <sup>1</sup>	2030 Need Based on Population	Level of Need	Key Issues
Baseball Fields	5	1 per 6,610	1 per 7,500	10, deficit of 5	Medium	While Kyle currently has an adequate number of baseball fields, key issues include condition and distribution. All the fields are located on the west side of the City, and the three fields at Waterleaf Park are not considered game quality condition.
Softball Fields	5	1 per 6,610	1 per 7,500	10, deficit of 5	Medium	All softball fields are located on the west side of the City in Gregg-Clarke Park. Four (4) of the five (5) fields are configured inward towards each other, making it difficult to play multiple games at one time.
Soccer Fields	3	1 per 11,016	1 per 7,500	10, deficit of 7	High	Soccer has become one of the fastest growing sports in the area. Developing multi-purpose fields is a key need to accommodate not just soccer, but also football, lacrosse, field hockey, and other sports as demand warrants them.
Practice Fields/ Backstops	0	None	1 per 10,000	8, deficit of 8	High	Practice fields should be included in all future neighborhood and community parks, and should be added to existing parks where feasible. Practice fields are a key asset in preventing the overuse and deterioration of game quality fields.
Tennis Courts	1	1 per 33,050	1 per 10,000	8, deficit of 7	Medium	The one existing tennis court in Kyle is in adequate condition, and is heavily overused. A city of this size should have multiple courts grouped together and distributed throughout the community.
Basketball Courts	2	1 per 16,525	1 per 10,000	8, deficit of 6	Medium	Basketball courts are often one of the most popular amenities in a park because they allow for spontaneous games for people of all ages, especially teens.
Volleyball Courts	1	1 per 33,050	1 per 10,000	8, deficit of 7	Medium	Similar to basketball courts, outdoor sand volleyball courts can be popular amenities and are relatively easy to add to existing parks.
Swimming Pool	1	1 per 33,050	1 per 50,000	1 to 2, deficit of 1	Low	Swimming pools are extremely popular amenities in Texas, and typically receive high levels of use during the summer season. Long term, a second public swimming pool may be needed. Swimming pools are most popular when they have added amenities such as a beach entry, water play features, slides, a lazy river, and lap lanes for fitness.
Splash Pad/ Sprayground	0	None	1 to 2 per city	2, deficit of 2	High	Splash pads provide a lower cost aquatic facility for a city, and are very popular in other Central Texas communities.
Trails	6.72 (in miles)	1 mile per 4,918	1 per 5,000	15 miles, deficit of 8.28 miles	High	Trails are consistently ranked as a high priority need among residents. Trails can benefit everyone in the community, and Kyle has the potential resources for a great linear trail system to link several areas of the City together.
Playgrounds	6	1 per 5,508	1 per 5,000	15, deficit of 11	Medium	Playgrounds should be installed in all neighborhood and community parks. When feasible, playgrounds should also be covered with a shade structure so that they can be used all year without getting too hot.
Pavilions	4	1 per 8,263	1 per 7,500	10, deficit of 6	Medium	All community parks and larger neighborhood parks should have a minimum of 1 to 2 pavilions. Pavilions provide shaded, central gathering places for residents while utilizing a park.
Picnic Facilities	Varies	Varies by park	In every park	In every park	High	These are key facilities that should be included in all parks. They include picnic tables, drinking fountains, BBQ grills, benches, and trash bins.
Disc Golf Course	1	1 per city	1 to 2 per city	2, deficit of 1	Low	Disc golf is a very popular activity, and the current disc golf course is heavily used. Adding a second disc golf course to a community park would be relatively inexpensive.
Dog Park	0	None	1 to 2 per city	1, deficit of 1	Low	Dog parks are quickly becoming one of the most common amenities in cities across the nation.
Skate Park	0	None	1 to 2 per city	1, deficit of 1	Low	Skate parks are very popular destinations among youth and teens. Typically skate parks do not have to be a separate individual park, but rather skate “spots” are added to larger community parks.
Amphitheater	0	None	1 to 2 per city	1, deficit of 1	Medium	Amphitheaters are popular amenities for citywide special events and festivals.
Indoor Recreation Center	0	None	1 per 40,000	1, deficit of 1	High	Kyle has a young and active population that would be interested in fitness and classes that are provided by a recreation center.

<sup>1</sup> Developed based on analyzing current level of service, citizen demand determined during the public input process, and comparing to other similar cities in Texas.

## RECREATIONAL FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE

### Recreation Facilities Level of Service

Facility levels of service identify benchmarks to provide desired recreational amenities to existing and future residents. As with target levels of service for park land, facility targets are used to prioritize the investments in recreational amenities in a manner that best focuses City resources.

**Figure 4-3, Recreational Facilities, Level of Service,** lists the 2016 target levels of service for popular or common recreational amenities in Kyle, and applies them to the City's estimated 2030 population. Facility needs are based both on ratios related to existing population, as well as the amount of demand for each facility type - which is derived from public input and user information where available. As with the acreage standards discussed earlier, facility target levels of service are adjusted based on Kyle's unique recreational goals. The target level of service for each type of facility is determined as a guide to provide the most basic level of recreation facilities to the community.

**The exclusion of a proposed level of service standard for a particular recreational facility in Figure 4-3 does not negate the potential addition of such a facility to Kyle's park system.** Additionally, the construction of the facilities referenced in this section by the City of Kyle will likely generate the need for other accessory facilities such as parking, restrooms, water fountains, seating, etc.



CEDAR PARK, TX

RECREATION CENTERS - HIGH PRIORITY AND COST

### INDOOR RECREATION NEEDS IN KYLE

The City of Kyle's 2006 parks and recreation master plan emphasized the need to develop an indoor recreation center to meet many of the recreational facility needs identified in Figure 4-3. The plan indicated that indoor recreation center development may be feasible by 2015. The City has since prepared site plans for a recreation center to be constructed in Kyle Vista Park. Advanced engineering on the recreation center building and grounds has not been initiated.

Construction of an indoor recreation center will require a major financial commitment on behalf of the City of Kyle. Nonetheless, the needs assessment presented in this chapter confirms a continued public demand for indoor recreation opportunities in Kyle.

Operation of an indoor recreation center would require Kyle to contribute direct annual subsidies because user fees are generally insufficient to cover annual costs. Alternatively, the City of Kyle may partner with a vendor to provide programming and operations for some or all of indoor recreation center facilities and functions.



## SUMMARY OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Master Plan's needs assessment reveals multiple opportunities to enhance park facilities and recreational programming in the City of Kyle. These opportunities - and associated recommendations - are discussed in **Chapter 5**. The most prevalent recreational needs in Kyle include the following (listed in random order):

- **Much of the City's neighborhood park needs will be fulfilled by private developers in the form of homeowners association parks because of the City's parkland dedication ordinance. Public acquisition of neighborhood parkland should be targeted in currently under-served areas of the city limits.**
- **While the City does have a surplus of community park land, much of that land is undeveloped. The development of existing community parks should be prioritized, starting with Kyle Vista Park.**
- **Regardless of park land acreage goals, new neighborhood and community parks will be necessary to meet long-term needs - particularly from an accessibility/proximity perspective.**
- **Trails continue to be one of the highest priority needs for the residents in Kyle. The City also has valuable natural resources that can serve as trail corridors. Plum Creek, the Blanco River, and portions of other undeveloped City parks offer immediate opportunity for low-impact recreation.**
- **Clear parameters should be established to ensure that a portion of Kyle's public park land is designated for nature parks - either through preservation of the existing natural landscape, or through restoration.**
- **The City currently does not have an indoor recreation center, and it continues to be a high priority among the residents. In order to serve the City of Kyle most efficiently, an indoor recreation center needs to be a multi-generational facility. There was some interest among the public to also have an indoor swimming pool tied to the recreation center to that aquatic fitness could occur all year. An indoor pool could become a second phase when planning and designing the recreation center, and could be constructed long term.**
- **The City of Kyle has a significant deficit in sports courts. Tennis courts, basketball courts, and sand volleyball courts should be added to existing community parks where feasible, and should be included in designs for future community parks.**
- **Kyle lacks game and tournament quality athletic fields. The fields at Waterleaf Park need to be improved and upgraded. The fields at Gregg-Clarke Park need to be reconfigured to allow for more softball/baseball games to be played simultaneously. Additional soccer, football and baseball fields are currently planned for Kyle Vista Park. Once developed, this will help alleviate the deficit of athletic fields.**
- **The City of Kyle needs to invest in practice fields and backstops. Having practice fields is crucial to so that game fields can be maintained at a higher quality and not get overused.**
- **Some of the amenities that could be added to existing parks or programmed into future parks include a dog park, skate park, disc golf course, community garden, and splash pads/spraygrounds. Each of these amenities are quickly becoming staples within a parks system when comparing cities throughout Texas.**
- **The City of Kyle currently lacks a festival/special event area with an amphitheater. There was concern among some of the residents during the public input process that many events have left the City and are now held at Central Texas Speedway. Having a designated amphitheater and festival area will help bring events to Kyle. Currently there is an amphitheater planned for Kyle Vista Park.**
- **All existing parks and future developed parks need to offer picnicking facilities. This includes pavilions, picnic tables, trash bins, benches, and BBQ grills where appropriate.**
- **Park lighting and shade were both high priorities among residents. Lighting should be added to parks and along key trail segments to encourage evening use (especially in the winter months when it gets dark early). Shade trees should be planted throughout the parks system and shade structures should be installed over existing and future playgrounds.**





2016 KYLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# CHAPTER 5

*Plan Recommendations*





## KYLE PARK SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the findings presented in **Chapter 4** of the Master Plan, a series of recommendations has been developed to facilitate the growth and enhancement of Kyle's park system and recreational offerings. In addition to addressing apparent park and recreation system needs, these recommendations are intended to correlate with the Master Plan goals and objectives presented in **Chapter I**, and are intended to be implemented over the next five (5) to 10 years.

The recommendations contained in this chapter are not exclusive, and do not negate other park system and recreational program development initiatives that compliment and support Master Plan goals and objectives.



KYLE, TX

EVIDENCE OF GROWING PARK DEMAND IN KYLE

### RECOMMENDATION PARAMETERS

The Master Plan's park system recommendations are organized according to the seven (7) categories described in **Figure 5-1: Kyle Park System Recommendation Categories** and are discussed in detail on pages 65 through 74. All Master Plan park system recommendations are summarized in **Figure 5-2: Summary of Master Plan Recommendations** (page 75).

All 34 park system recommendations include a general description, and are cross-referenced with applicable Master Plan goals and objectives in **Figure 5-2**. The recommendations presented in this chapter are conceptual and are not accompanied by specific cost estimates. Costs for capital projects that relate to these recommendations are found in **Figure 6-2, Kyle Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Priorities** (page 81).

The City of Kyle will lead efforts to implement the recommendations contained in this Master Plan. More specifically however, it is presumed that the City's Parks and Recreation Department, and Parks and Recreation Board will be the primary Master Plan administrators – while other municipal departments, boards, and commissions (as well as City Council) will fulfill vital roles in Master Plan implementation. To guide Master Plan implementation, park system recommendations are prioritized in **Figure 6-1, Kyle Parks and Recreation Action Plan** (page 79).

**Figure 5-1: Kyle Park System Recommendation Categories**

Category	Considerations
I. Park Land Planning and Design	Guidelines and priorities for park land acquisition, design, and maintenance.
II. Park Renovations, Development, and Maintenance	Identifying key improvements to existing park properties and facilities.
III. Natural Resource Preservation	Methods to preserve the City's natural resources, and to incorporate passive space into existing City park land.
IV. Community Connectivity	Using linear corridors to increase community accessibility to public park land and other City destinations.
V. Recreational Programming	Providing recreational opportunity to the residents of Kyle.
VI. Private Amenities and Open Space	Facilitating development that provides recreational and other communal spaces to augment the public park and open space system.
VII. Codes and Ordinances	Adjusting municipal ordinances to meet the long-term demand for park land/public grounds.

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.



## I. Park Land Planning and Design

Kyle's projected growth patterns over the next 10 years will require the acquisition of additional park land – distributed throughout the municipal limits and ETJ – to meet and exceed the minimum park land acreage goals established in **Chapter 4**. Upon acquisition of new park land tracts, immediate efforts should be made to prepare concept site plans to provide predictability for future capital expenditures. (Kyle Vista Park provides an example of pro-active site planning). Similarly, there should be consistency in municipal park design – both in terms of aesthetics and maintenance.

Park Land Planning and Design recommendations include the following actions:

### **ACTION I.1. Establish consistency between the park land recommendations contained in the City's various land use plans and policy documents.**

Although predominantly consistent, some Master Plan recommendations diverge from previous parks and open space recommendations contained in the Kyle Comprehensive Plan (2010). Advisory oversight of these plans is vested in the Kyle Parks and Recreation Board and Kyle Planning and Zoning Commission, respectively. Nonetheless, implementation of parks and open space recommendations in both plans will require amendments to the City's land development regulation plans. A series of joint workshops should be held between the Board and Commission to ensure consistent plan implementation, and appropriate amendments to the Kyle Comprehensive Plan and City Code.

### **ACTION I.2. Compile and maintain a park system asset inventory.**

Similar to the Park and Recreation Department's annual activity report, a complete inventory of all park system assets should be compiled and maintained. The asset inventory will describe individual recreational and accessory facilities at each park property, and describe their current conditions. For example, an inventory of picnic facilities may detail estimated seating capacity, covered/uncovered, physical condition, etc. The park

system asset inventory should be used to update the City's NRPA PRORAGIS database entries to assist in future performance-based planning efforts.

### **ACTION I.3. Acquire property in north Kyle and west Kyle to develop future community park sites.**

Prioritize the acquisition of property in northern and western Kyle to ensure that adequate community park space is reserved for existing and future residents prior to new development. Focus efforts on areas that ensure adequate spacing of community park facilities (example depicted on **Map 4-B**, page 56).

### **ACTION I.4. Develop a municipal park on the Blanco River.**

Public access to the Blanco River remains a community priority. Due to the costs of riverfront property, municipal acquisition efforts should be flexible regarding park size - community, neighborhood, and pocket parks all being suitable park types to provide for differing levels of recreation.



KYLE, TX

PARK ASSET TO INVENTORY - GREGG CLARKE PARK

## II. Park Renovation, Development, and Maintenance

While Kyle's expanding park system will require additional resources over time to ensure a high level of property and facility maintenance, Master Plan participants have generally expressed a high level of satisfaction with the upkeep and maintenance of existing facilities. Nonetheless, there is an expressed desire for new facilities. While there are specific recreational amenities that have been identified in **Chapter 4** that Kyle residents desire, many facility needs can be classified as "accessory," and should be addressed throughout the City's park system. Examples include (among others): shade structures, trees, trails, lights, etc.

Park Renovation, Development, and Maintenance recommendations include the following actions:

### **ACTION II.1. Construct the outdoor facilities programmed for Kyle Vista Park.**

A master site plan was prepared for Kyle Vista Park in 2008. The plan proposes an indoor recreation center, new ballfields, an amphitheater, spray ground, skate park, and a variety of other outdoor amenities. Although funding for park development has not been forthcoming since 2008, this planning process reveals that many of the amenities proposed for the site are still desired by the public. Although the City's park system includes a handful of undeveloped park sites, development of an initial phase at Kyle Vista Park must be prioritized. Per the recommendations contained in **Figure 4-3** (page 60), facilities such as baseball/softball practice fields, soccer fields, and a splash pads are a high community priority.

### **ACTION II.2. Construct an indoor recreation center.**

Kyle's population is rapidly reaching the threshold at which the availability of indoor recreation opportunities will influence long-term community perceptions and competitiveness. Such a facility remains a high citizen priority and can serve many of the recreational needs identified during this planning process. Previously prepared plans for an indoor recreation center at Kyle Vista Park should be reviewed and updated. Building plans should allow for a

future expansion to incorporate an indoor aquatics center. Continue to engage partnering organizations for assistance in facility development, operations, and or maintenance.

### **ACTION II.3. Reduce community recreational facility deficits.**

**Figure 4-3, Recreational Facilities, Level of Service**, identifies a series of target goals for different recreational facilities in Kyle. The City should fund high priority capital needs identified in the Master Plan including ball fields, picnic facilities, splash pads, etc. Absent a stated community-wide desire for development of a major sports complex, such additions should be geographically distributed throughout the City.

### **ACTION II.4. Establish a program for increasing shade at key locations within Kyle city parks.**

Kyle residents continue to express the desire for shade at municipal parks. To meet this need, the City has diligently invested in shade structures at playgrounds, picnic areas, and other locations. Future efforts should be augmented by strategically located plantings of tree groves in conjunction with the installation of shade structures. This integrated shading approach can mitigate extreme sun angles in early morning and late evening, while creating long-term 'shade islands' as the canopy matures.

### **ACTION II.5. Install lighting in conjunction with recreational trails within parks.**

Lighting should be installed around select recreational trail circuits located within the boundaries of one (1) or more City parks. Lighting installation would allow for early evening enjoyment of trail networks during the hot summer months and short winter days. Light fixtures should be pedestrian-scale (i.e. low height) and fully shielded to eliminate glare onto adjacent property.

**ACTION II.6. Design and construct a dog park.**

A portion of at least one (1) existing developed or undeveloped park should be designated for the development of a dog park. Because this type of special interest park will generate motor vehicle traffic, the selected park should border a major thoroughfare. Portions of Seton Open Space or park land currently being acquired near Heidenreich Lane may offer suitable locations buffered from residential areas. Ultimately, the design process should be preceded by a more detailed survey of public preferences regarding dog park location.

**ACTION II.7. Improve trailhead parks as multi-use trail segments are developed.**

Development of basic recreational facilities at future trailhead locations will increase citizen utilization of these otherwise obscure parks. Playgrounds, picnic tables, community gardens, and other similar amenities, increase the value of these locations, and serve the accessibility needs otherwise met by small pocket parks located in areas with lower bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

**ACTION II.8. Include recreational trails within City parks.**

The development of interconnected multi-use trail (hike and bike trail) networks linking community destinations can be time-consuming and expensive due to property and construction costs related to these dual-purpose facilities. The City's multi-use trail networks (see page 59) should be augmented by recreational trail development within park properties. Such internal networks focus on fitness and recreation and are not intended to serve a dual transportation function. Internal trail networks require a less formal construction treatment.

**ACTION II.9. Review maintenance schedules and practices to increase efficiency.**

Evaluate park maintenance practices and create clear park management plans to determine the schedule for routine replacement of park facilities. Incorporate a programmatic line item into the City's capital improvements plan to anticipate the availability of minimum annual funds for major facility repair based on the schedules incorporated into each park management plan.



KYLE, TX

TRAILHEADS ACCESSING PLUM CREEK AND OTHER CORRIDORS CAN BE PROGRAMMED AS POCKET PARKS



### III. Natural Resource Preservation

Over the last 10 years, the City of Kyle has acquired substantial acreage – principally along the Plum Creek watershed – for the development of a linear trail network. Much of this trail network will be preserved as a continuous greenbelt of woodlands, preserving critical floodplain and natural habitat. As opportunities arise similar lands should be acquired along the Blanco River corridor and other sections of Kyle for passive recreation and natural resource preservation. Complimentary actions could be taken to facilitate prairie or woodland preservation on portions of existing park properties where active recreational facilities are not feasible in the near-term.

Natural Resource Preservation recommendations include the following actions:

#### **ACTION III.1. Identify areas within the existing Kyle parks system for natural resource preservation.**

Select a municipal park property where all or a portion of the site may be restored to natural grassland or woodland for purposes of creating habitat diversity and passive recreation opportunities. Possible sites include portions of Linebarger Lake, Seton Open Space, Waterleaf Park, and others. Conduct public outreach to solicit community support for the programming of the selected site.

#### **ACTION III.2. Prepare and implement a prairie or woodland restoration plan for one (1) or more of Kyle's park properties.**

Prepare a prairie or woodland restoration plan for selected park property(ies) - including a schedule or plan implementation and program of passive (and accessory) recreational amenities. (See Action III.1)

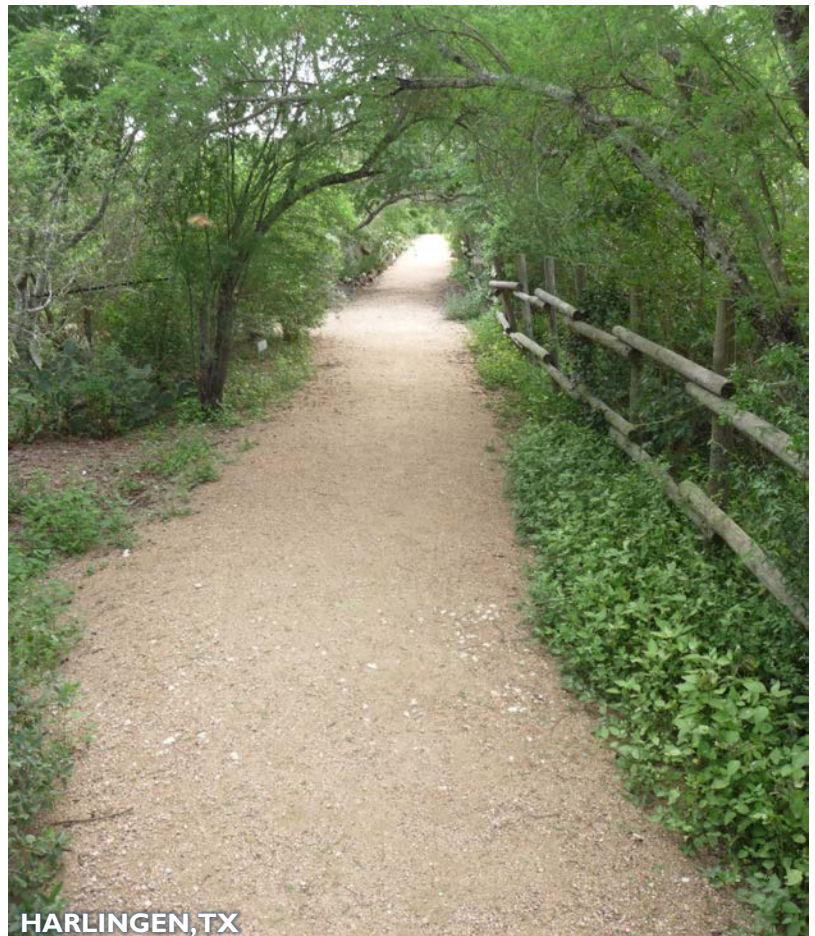
#### **ACTION III.3. Incorporate tools in the City's land development ordinances which encourage natural resource preservation.**

Work with the Kyle Planning and Zoning Commission to prepare and propose development incentives (including density bonuses, transfer of development rights, and

preservation credits in exchange for the preservation of nature preserve land. Prepare clear definitions and parameters for lands that may qualify as nature preserves ("designed natural areas" as described in the Kyle Comprehensive Plan (2010)).

#### **ACTION III.4. Acquire parcels for the assembly of interconnected greenways.**

Utilize modified land development ordinance tools and to acquire and preserve greenway lands within riparian areas in an undisturbed natural state, or allow for natural reclamation to create a network of passive open spaces ("designed natural areas" as defined in the Kyle Comprehensive Plan (2010)). As applicable, leverage funding sources that support watershed preservation or water conservation. Focus efforts on the Blanco River, Plum Creek, and other perennial and intermittent streams and channels.



HARLINGEN, TX

NATURE PRESERVES PROMOTE HABITAT RESTORATION

## PROCESS FOR NATIVE PRAIRIE RESTORATION

With increasing frequency, Texas communities are engaging in habitat restoration by casually or directly converting previously “un-programmed” land into nature preserves. Nature preserve, or “designated natural areas” are now becoming integral components of municipal park systems.

Casual restoration of park land into small areas of natural vegetation or wildlife habitat simply refers to allowing the land to remain fallow. As the land repairs itself, non-native invasive grasses, shrubs, and trees, mix with native species.

Prairie restoration that promotes the regeneration of native plant species requires careful planning and execution. Managed prairie restoration activities must adhere to the following six (6) parameters:

1. **Public Support** - The general public must be educated about the long-term community benefits of native restoration including: soil stabilization, water quality, wildlife benefits, and aesthetic benefits. Absent such public engagement, sites undergoing restoration may be perceived as unkempt - especially during early stages. Public interest may also be enhanced by incorporating means for public access to the site.
2. **Research** - Understand the site history - including prior land management activities. Consider climate conditions; and most importantly, test the soil to understand the types of plants that will flourish on the site.
3. **Site Planning and Project Preparation** - Define current natural amenities on the site, and understand the type and distribution of invasive species. Prepare a site plan that identifies preferred grasses, forbs (broadleaf flowering plants/ wildflowers), and legumes. Determine a plant establishment strategy including: planting method, seed/acre ratio, planting schedule, and annual maintenance schedule.
4. **Site Preparation** - Selection of existing plants to remain, removal techniques for removing invasive species, and soil conditioning.
5. **Establishment** - First year will include a mix of seed and bare roots, with live roots in the second year only in limited areas where needed. Mowing will be limited to once during the growing season, while a spring burn will be beneficial every few years.
6. **Maintenance** - Although watering and fertilizing needs will decrease significantly after the first annual growing season, targeted weeding will be necessary, and periodic grazing will aid long-term regeneration (as will scheduled mowing and burns).



WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TX

A 70% NATIONAL DECLINE IN GRASSLAND BIRD POPULATIONS IS DUE TO THE REDUCTION OF NATIVE PRAIRIE HABITAT.



## IV. Community Connectivity

Consistent with the results of Kyle's 2006 parks master plan, community members continue to express a desire for greater access to multi-use trails for recreation and transportation. The needs assessment in **Chapter 4** reveals that trail development remains among the highest public recreation priorities. The City's consolidation of land along the Plum Creek corridor over the last decade brings substantial trail development in a portion of Kyle closer to reality, but other steps will be necessary to promote trail accessibility to a broader geographic area of the City.

Community Connectivity recommendations include the following actions:

### **ACTION IV.1. Adopt design standards for multi-use trails.**

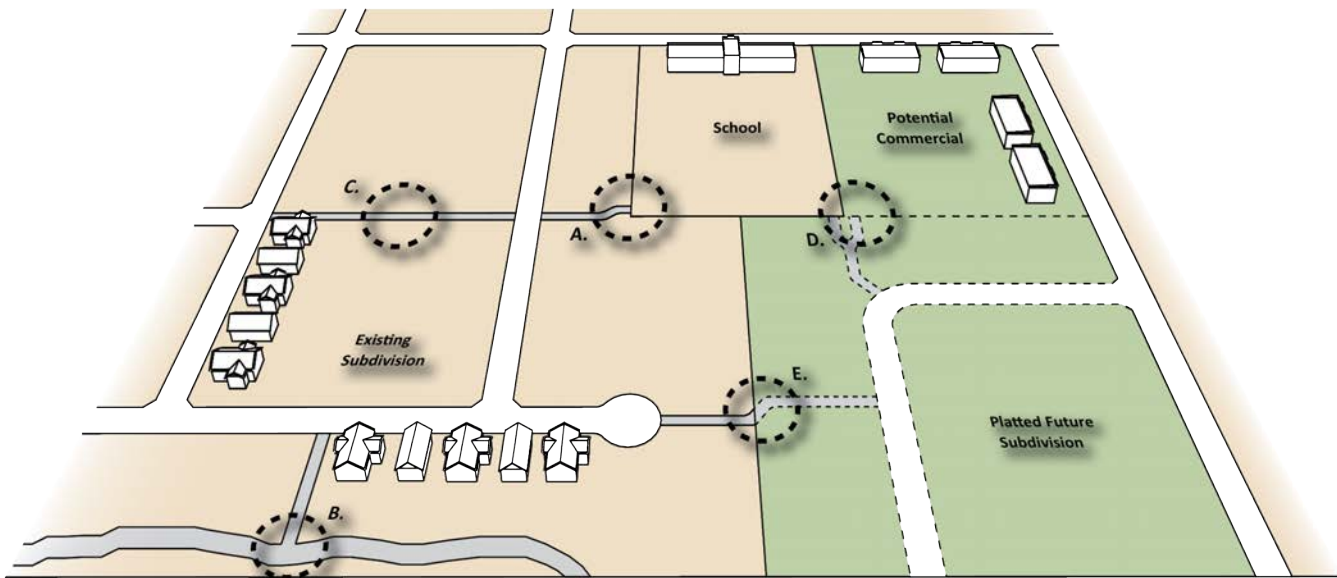
Prepare minimum design standards for multi-use trails including options for: surfacing, width, vertical and horizontal clearance, cross-slope, etc. Incorporate design standards in the City's construction design manual and/or as an appendix to applicable land development regulations.

### **ACTION IV.2. Amend land development ordinances to require walkway connections between subdivisions, trails, and other development.**

Amendments to Chapter 41 and Chapter 53 of the City of Kyle Code of Ordinances will provide the City with the authority to require walkway connections between new development and multi-use trail networks ("hike and bike trails" per ch. 41 § 41-147, City of Kyle Code of Ordinances). Connectivity ordinances may also provide for bicycle and pedestrian linkages to other destinations such as parks, schools, shopping areas, adjacent neighborhoods, etc.

### **ACTION IV.3. Amend land development ordinances to incorporate provisions for the development of sidepaths.**

Amendments to Chapter 41 and Chapter 53 of the City of Kyle Code of Ordinances will define when sidepaths may be required by the City within existing or proposed public street rights-of-way to promote multi-use trail connections where other man-made or natural corridors are unavailable. Code amendments would allow sidepaths to replace sidewalks where consistent with this Master Plan.



Connectivity ordinances are supported by simple graphics that convey opportunities to link land uses and public facilities. The graphic above illustrates potential walkway connections. Walkway connections may be required (A) to provide access to a public facility; (B) to access a shared use path; (C) to connect between or to existing or future streets; (D) to provide access between two (2) or more future developments; or, (E) to extend existing walkway stubs.

**CONNECTIVITY ORDINANCES PROVIDE RECREATION AND TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT**



**ACTION IV.4. Construct multi-use trails along key corridors.**

The City continues to pursue land assembly for active and passive park use along the Plum Creek and Porter Creek corridors. As identified priorities in the City's 2006 parks master plan, multi-use trail construction should begin within these corridors as soon as feasible. Other suitable corridors are identified on **Map 4-C, City of Kyle, Hike and Bike Trail Network** (page 59).

**ACTION IV.5. Construct sidepaths along key thoroughfares.**

Trail development within Kyle's riparian corridors will provide direct bicycle and pedestrian linkages to limited areas of the City. The off-street multi-use trail system must be supported by on-street bicycle and pedestrian sidepaths. In west Kyle, sidepaths along N. Old Stagecoach Road and Highway 136 can provide north-south connectivity. In east Kyle, a similar north-south connection on Goforth Road/Dacy Lane, or Lehman Road can help link many parks, residential areas, and other destinations. Other suitable sidepath corridors are identified on **Map 4-C, City of Kyle, Hike and Bike Trail Network** (page 59).



BASTROP, TX

SIDEPATHS EXTEND TRAIL NETWORKS ALONG ROADWAYS WHERE NATURAL CORRIDORS ARE ABSENT

## V. Recreational Programming

The Master Plan's needs assessment reveals public enthusiasm for the City's growing recreation and event offerings. Some residents have indicated that, in particular, municipal-sponsored events such as Kyle Market Days, Movies at the Lake, and Independence Day Celebration Fireworks (to name only a few) have created a sense of community identity and pride that was previously absent. A common theme during the planning process was the desire for additional park facilities and spaces that will allow the City to grow its recreational programming and event offerings.

Recreational Programming recommendations include the following actions:

### **ACTION V.1. Expand community event offerings.**

Expansion of community event offerings may take the form of new events, modification of existing events, and/or the development of designated event space at one (1) or more of the City's current or future community park sites. The addition of new annual events should be coordinated with Kyle's Special Event department and may require additional permanent (full or part-time) staff resources during the Master Plan's 10-year planning horizon.

### **ACTION V.2. Expand recreational program offerings that can maximize the use of existing park facilities.**

Expand upon survey efforts conducted as part of this master planning process to pin-point one (1) or more athletic programs, and/or one (1) or more non-athletic recreational programs to meet a priority community need not currently being filled by the City or other vendor. Focus on activities that can be conducted in municipal buildings or outdoor spaces. Seek grant funds to purchase program materials and budget for program operations.

### **ACTION V.3. Build partnerships with the Hays County CISD.**

Current reciprocal arrangements between Kyle and the Hays County CISD to provide recreational services have taken place on an ad-hoc basis. As population growth places greater demand on public facilities, this partnership may evolve to require formal arrangements for the use of municipal and school district properties. Additionally, City and Hays County CISD officials may consider the co-development of specific athletic facilities or complexes to meet community-wide need.

### **ACTION V.4. Work with third parties to provide additional recreational programming opportunities.**

Coordinate with third party groups to provide recreational programs in/on City facilities. Proactively negotiate long term contracts with recreation providers to create a predictable offering/schedule of athletic and non-athletic activities throughout the calendar year. On a case-by-case basis, investigate the feasibility of transferring operations of specific existing and future City facilities to non-profit or for-profit recreation providers.





CEDAR PARK, TX

PUBLIC GATHERING SPACES MAY EMPLOY FORMAL OR NATURAL/CASUAL TREATMENTS

## VI. Private Amenities and Open Space

The cost burdens associated with maintaining multiple small parks and public grounds throughout a community have caused many local governments to shift some of the burden of providing recreational facilities for new community residents to private developers. Through the use of municipal land development regulations, pocket parks and small recreational facilities are often incorporated into private common areas in residential subdivisions and other residential development types. Nonetheless, there remains a persistent demand for public gathering space. Private recreation space can also be more clearly distinguished from other common areas maintained principally for utility purposes. Opportunities also exist to incorporate civic space and other public gathering space in non-residential areas.

Private Amenities and Open Space recommendations include the following actions:

### **ACTION VI.1. Incorporate minimum requirements for recreation areas and amenities in multi-family development.**

Amend Chapter 53 (Zoning) of the City of Kyle Code of Ordinances to require that multi-family development dedicate a minimum amount of common area for recreation. Incorporate a series of recreational facility options that can be included in designated recreation areas, and design standards addressing minimum area and dimensions, land suitability, and access. Provisions can require linkages to the City multi-use trail (hike and bike trail) network.

### **ACTION VI.2. Incorporate minimum requirements for public gathering space in non-residential development.**

Amend Chapter 53 (Zoning) of the City of Kyle Code of Ordinances to incorporate the designation and development of public gathering areas in retail, office, and other commercial areas exceeding a certain size. Include minimum design provisions.



## VII. Codes and Ordinances

The City of Kyle's parkland dedication provisions require that subdivision and multi-family developers dedicate funds to the City for the acquisition of public park land. Additional funding is also required for park development. There are additional opportunities to utilize municipal ordinances to meet park and open space needs. Possibilities in Kyle include:

- **Municipal ordinances may establish a clear private park development requirement to augment the municipal park system with small parks and recreation spaces that are easily accessible by a cross-section of the community.**
- **Distinctions in open space types can be established to differentiate between utility space (e.g. detention ponds, utility easements, etc.) and active or passive recreation space (lawns, greens, preserves, etc.)**

Codes and Ordinances recommendations include the following actions:

### **ACTION VII.1. Incorporate minimum requirements for private recreation areas and amenities in subdivisions.**

Amend Chapter 41 (Subdivisions) of the City of Kyle Code of Ordinances to require a minimum amount and distribution of privately-owned and maintained recreation land and facilities in new subdivisions. As with recreation areas in multi-family developments (Action VI.1, page 73), private parks in subdivisions would be subject to design standards addressing minimum area and dimensions, land suitability, distribution and access. Private park provisions would be in addition to Kyle's public park land dedication requirements, and serve the accessibility needs typically provided by pocket parks in the hierarchy of parks classifications.

### **ACTION VII.2. Clearly define open space types.**

Amend Chapter 41 (Subdivision Regulations) and 53 (Zoning) of the City of Kyle Code of Ordinances to provide clear distinctions between open space principally set-aside for utility purposes, and (e.g. detention ponds, utility easements, etc.) and active or passive recreation space (lawns, greens, preserves, etc.). Provide further distinctions between manicured open spaces, and open space lands intended to remain undistributed as nature preserves or designated natural areas. Establish minimum open space requirements for new residential and non-residential development that are independent of common area that serves community infrastructure needs.

### **ACTION VII.3. Assess municipal fees schedules related to park facility usage.**

Evaluate park fees on an annual basis to determine where adjustments should be made to fund associated maintenance and management activities.



**Figure 5-2: Summary of Master Plan Recommendations**

Number	Action	Plan Goals/Objectives <sup>1</sup>
<b>I. Park Land Planning and Design Recommendations</b>		
I.1	Establish consistency between the park land recommendations contained in the City's various land use plans and policy documents.	Goal 1; Obj. 1.4 (p.7)
I.2	Compile and maintain a park system asset inventory.	Goal 1, Obj. 1.2/1.5 (p.7)
I.3	Acquire property in north Kyle and west Kyle to develop future community park sites.	Goal 2, Obj. 2.3 (p.7)
I.4	Develop a municipal park on the Blanco River.	Goal 3, Obj. 3.3 (p.7) Goal 4, Obj. 4.3 (p.8)
I.5	Prepare a master plan for the City of Kyle's downtown civic spaces.	Goal 2, Obj. 2.7 (p.7)
I.6	Prepare conceptual site plans for Kyle's undeveloped park properties.	Goal 5, Obj. 5.1 (p.8)
I.7	Establish a consistent construction and branding standard for the Kyle parks system.	Goal 8, Obj. 8.1 (p.9)
<b>II. Park Renovations, Development, and Maintenance Recommendations</b>		
II.1	Construct the outdoor facilities programmed for Kyle Vista Park.	Goal 2, Obj. 2.3 (p.7)
II.2	Construct an indoor recreation center.	Goal 2, Obj. 2.4 (p.7)
II.3	Reduce community recreational facility deficits.	Goal 2, Obj. 2.6 (p.7)
II.4	Establish a program for increasing shade at key locations within Kyle city parks.	Goal 2, Obj. 2.6 (p.7)
II.5	Install lighting in conjunction with recreational trails within parks.	Goal 2, Obj. 2.6 (p.7)
II.6	Design and construct a dog park.	Goal 2, Obj. 2.6 (p.7)
II.7	Improve trailhead parks as multi-use trail segments are developed.	Goal 2, Obj. 2.2 (p.7)
II.8	Include recreational trails within City parks.	Goal 3, Obj. 3.1 (p.7)
II.9	Review maintenance schedules and practices to increase efficiency.	Goal 8, Obj. 8.1 (p.9)
<b>III. Natural Resource Preservation Recommendations</b>		
III.1	Identify areas within the existing Kyle parks system for natural resource preservation.	Goal 5, Obj. 5.3 (p.8)
III.2	Prepare and implement a prairie or woodland restoration plan for one (1) or more of Kyle's park properties.	Goal 5, Obj. 5.3 (p.8)
III.3	Incorporate tools in the City's land development ordinances which encourage natural resource preservation.	Goal 4, Obj. 4.5 (p.8)
III.4	Acquire parcels for the assembly of interconnected greenways.	Goal 3, Obj. 3.1 (p.7) Goal 4, Obj. 4.2 (p.8)
<b>IV. Community Connectivity Recommendations</b>		
IV.1	Adopt design standards for multi-use trails.	Goal 3, Obj. 3.2 (p.7)
IV.2	Amend land development ordinances to require walkway connections between subdivisions, trails, and other development.	Goal 3, Obj. 3.1 (p.7) Goal 6, Obj. 6.2 (p.8)

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.,

<sup>1</sup>See Chapter 1 for a full list of Master Plan Goals and Objectives.

**Figure 5-2: Summary of Master Plan Recommendations**

Number	Action	Plan Goals/Objectives <sup>1</sup>
IV.3	Amend land development ordinances to incorporate provisions for the development of sidepaths.	Goal 3, Obj. 3.1 (p.7) Goal 6, Obj. 6.2 (p.8)
IV.4	Construct multi-use trails along key corridors.	Goal 3, Obj. 3.1/3.4 (p.7)
IV.5	Construct sidepaths along key thoroughfares.	Goal 3, Obj. 3.1 (p.7)
<b>V. Recreational Programming Recommendations</b>		
V.1	Expand community event offerings.	Goal 7, Obj. 7.3 (p.9)
V.2	Expand recreational program offerings that can maximize the use of existing park facilities.	Goal 7, Obj. 7.1 (p.9)
V.3	Build partnerships with the Hays County CISD.	Goal 6, Obj. 6.3 (p.8)
V.4	Work with third parties to provide additional recreational programming opportunities.	Goal 7, Obj. 7.2 (p.9)
<b>VI. Private Amenities and Open Space Recommendations</b>		
VI.1	Incorporate minimum requirements for recreation areas and amenities in multi-family development.	Goal 2, Obj. 2.1 (p.7) Goal 6, Obj. 6.2 (p.8)
VI.2	Incorporate minimum requirements for public gathering space in non-residential development.	Goal 2, Obj. 2.1 (p.7) Goal 6, Obj. 6.2 (p.8)
<b>VII. Codes and Ordinances Recommendations</b>		
VII.1	Incorporate minimum requirements for private recreation areas and amenities in subdivisions.	Goal 2, Obj. 2.1 (p.7) Goal 6, Obj. 6.2 (p.8)
VII.2	Clearly define open space types.	Goal 4, Obj. 4.7 (p.8)
VII.3	Assess municipal fees schedules related to park facility usage.	Goal 8, Obj. 8.1 (p.9)

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.,

<sup>1</sup>See Chapter 1 for a full list of Master Plan Goals and Objectives.





2016 KYLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# CHAPTER 6

*Implementation Program*





## INTRODUCTION

Previous chapters of the Kyle Parks and Recreation Master Plan evaluate public opinions and current conditions, present a system-wide needs analysis, and provide recommendations to improve the City's existing park system and recreational assets. These chapters also project the community's future park, open space, and recreational needs, and present actions and initiatives to meet anticipated (and additional) system demands.

In order to efficiently implement Master Plan recommendations, this chapter identifies an implementation program which: **A)** Prioritizes the plan's proposed actions and initiatives; **B)** Provides funding strategy recommendations; **C)** Identifies potential partnering opportunities; and, **D)** Suggests general park system operations and maintenance guidelines. The chapter also outlines methods to administer the Master Plan - including details about plan updates so that the document continues to accurately represent the City's parks and recreation needs over the next several years. The Master Plan's implementation program is intended to guide City staff, and the City of Kyle's elected and appointed officials, for the next five (5) to 10 year period, and should be revisited and updated on a regular basis.

## IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM PARAMETERS

The implementation program described within this chapter includes two (2) major components: **A)** An Action Plan; and, **B)** Capital Priorities. The Action Plan is designed to prioritize all general policy, programming, regulatory, operational, and capital actions and initiatives that were previously described in **Chapter 5**. The Action Plan addresses capital actions and initiatives only in general terms, and does not address anticipated project costs. The supplementary Capital Priorities list identifies estimated cost ranges associated with capital projects including: park land acquisition, new facilities, or the major renovation of existing facilities. Many of the recommended facility improvements included in the Capital Priorities list are not individually identified in **Chapter 5**.

The Action Plan and Capital Priorities list are represented by **Figure 6-1: Kyle Parks and Recreation Action Plan**; and, **Figure 6-2: Kyle Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Priorities**, respectively.

## Implementation Program Prioritization

The actions and initiatives listed in **Figures 6-1** and **6-2** have been prioritized based on information received from public input, as well as from the Master Plan's needs assessment (which establishes facility and acreage target levels of service for Kyle). The criteria used to prioritize the park facility needs of Kyle include:

- **Level of need based on citizen input (on-line survey results, stakeholder interviews, public open house meeting, etc.)**
- **Level of need based on needs assessment**
- **Assessment of existing park facility inventory in the City**

**Figure 5-2, City of Kyle, Summary of Park Priorities**, consolidates and summarizes the identified community needs referenced in prior chapters of the Master Plan. Actions and initiatives included in the Master Plan's Action Plan and Capital Priorities list have been ranked to correspond with the priorities identified in **Figure 5-2**.

## Action Plan

The Kyle Parks and Recreation Master Plan's Action Plan is depicted in **Figure 6-1**. The recommended policy, programming, regulatory, operational, and capital actions and initiatives identified within the figure are described in more detail in **Chapter 5**. The needs identified in **Figure 6-1** exhibit a high degree of consistency with all three (3) criteria referenced in the previous subsection, and should receive the highest level of attention by the City over the next five (5) to 10 years. All recommendations are divided into two (2) categories, based on the level of need and estimated ease of implementation:

- **Short-Term Priorities.** To be initiated or completed within the next five (5) years.
- **Long-Term Priorities.** To be initiated within the next five (5) to 10 years, or as opportunities occur.

Note that the level of prioritization illustrated in the Action Plan is intended as a decision-making guide rather than a mandate. Any item listed in **Figure 6-2** may be initiated sooner than recommended if unique circumstances or opportunities arise.

**Figure 6-1: Kyle Parks and Recreation Action Plan**

Action	Time Frame (Priority)		
	Short-term (1-5 Years)	Long-term (5-10 Years)	Ongoing?
<b>I. Park Land Planning and Design Recommendations</b>			
I.1 Establish consistency between the park land recommendations contained in the City's various land use plans and policy documents.			
I.2 Compile and maintain a park system asset inventory.			
I.3 Acquire property in north Kyle and west Kyle to develop future community park sites.			
I.4 Develop a municipal park on the Blanco River.			
I.5 Prepare a master plan for the City of Kyle's downtown civic spaces.			
I.6 Prepare conceptual site plans for Kyle's undeveloped park properties.			
I.7 Establish a consistent construction and branding standard for the Kyle parks system.			
<b>II. Park Renovations, Development, and Maintenance Recommendations</b>			
II.1 Construct the outdoor facilities programmed for Kyle Vista Park.			
II.3 Reduce community recreational facility deficits.			
II.4 Establish a program for increasing shade at key locations within Kyle city parks.			
II.5 Install lighting in conjunction with recreational trails within parks.			
II.8 Include recreational trails within City parks.			
II.9 Review maintenance schedules and practices to increase efficiency.			
II.2 Construct an indoor recreation center.			
II.6 Design and construct a dog park.			
II.7 Improve trailhead parks as multi-use trail segments are developed.			
<b>III. Natural Resource Preservation Recommendations</b>			
III.1 Identify areas within the existing Kyle parks system for natural resource preservation.			
III.4 Acquire parcels for the assembly of interconnected greenways.			

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.,

<sup>1</sup>Not all actions listed in numerical order. Actions are grouped according to prioritization time frame.



Figure 6-1: Kyle Parks and Recreation Action Plan

Action	Time Frame (Priority)		
	Short-term (1-5 Years)	Long-term (5-10 Years)	Ongoing?
III.2 Prepare and implement a prairie or woodland restoration plan for one (1) or more of Kyle's park properties.			
III.3 Incorporate tools in the City's land development ordinances which encourage natural resource preservation.			
<b>IV. Community Connectivity Recommendations</b>			
IV.1 Adopt design standards for multi-use trails.			
IV.2 Amend land development ordinances to require walkway connections between subdivisions, trails, and other development.			
IV.3 Amend land development ordinances to incorporate provisions for the development of sidepaths.			
IV.4 Construct multi-use trails along key corridors.			
IV.5 Construct sidepaths along key thoroughfares.			
<b>V. Recreational Programming Recommendations</b>			
V.1 Expand community event offerings.			
V.2 Expand recreational program offerings that can maximize the use of existing park facilities.			
V.3 Build partnerships with the Hays County CISD.			
V.4 Work with third parties to provide additional recreational programming opportunities.			
<b>VI. Private Amenities and Open Space Recommendations</b>			
VI.1 Incorporate minimum requirements for recreation areas and amenities in multi-family development.			
VI.2 Incorporate minimum requirements for public gathering space in non-residential development.			
<b>VII. Codes and Ordinances Recommendations</b>			
VII.1 Incorporate minimum requirements for private recreation areas and amenities in subdivisions.			
VII.2 Clearly define open space types.			
VII.3 Assess municipal fees schedules related to park facility usage.			

Source: Halff Associates, Inc.,






<sup>1</sup>Not all actions listed in numerical order. Actions are grouped according to prioritization time frame.

## Capital Priorities

The Kyle Parks and Recreation Master Plan's Capital Priorities list identifies potential development projects that support the implementation of many park system recommendations listed and described in **Chapter 5**. These recommended capital projects are listed in **Figure 6-2: Kyle Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Priorities**. With a focus on park system growth, **Figure 6-2** focuses on park land acquisition, multi-use trail network development, and major facility development. The Capital Priorities list herein does not include recommendations regarding small capital needs at individual park sites, or operational projects such as maintenance or equipment needs.











The Capital Priorities list provided in **Figure 6-2** is not a supplement to, or replacement of, any formal capital improvements plan (CIP) adopted by City Council as part of the City's annual budget process (although some listed projects may already be incorporated into Kyle's CIP). Further, this project list should not affect the operational budget of the City's Parks and Recreation Department, or any other City entity engaged in recreational programming. The projects identified in **Figure 6-2** should however, be strongly considered for inclusion in Kyle's future capital improvements plans as funds become available.

**Figure 6-2: Kyle Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Priorities**

Priority	Project	Cost Range <sup>1</sup>	Corresponding Plan Action (Page #)	Time Frame		Notes
				Short-term (1-5 Years)	Long-term (5-10 Years)	
Acquisition/New Parks						
1	<b>Blanco River Park.</b> Acquisition and assembly of land along the Blanco (between 5 and 50 acres).	\$300,000 - \$2,000,000	I.4 (page 65)			May also meet the need described in priority 3. May be dispersed sites. All costs related to land purchase.
2	<b>Community Park Land (West Kyle).</b> Acquisition and assembly of land in west Kyle (15 to 25 acres).	\$300,000 - \$1,500,00	I.3 (page 65)			May also meet the need described in priority 2. All costs related to land purchase.
3	<b>Community Park Land (North Kyle).</b> Acquisition and assembly of land in north Kyle (15 to 25 acres).	\$300,000 - \$1,500,00	I.3 (page 65)			Part of development approval process. All costs related to land purchase.
4	<b>Riparian Corridor Land Assembly.</b> Assembly of parcels or easements along identified riparian corridors (Kyle Comprehensive Plan, 2010) and stream corridors for linear park development ( <b>Map 4-C</b> , page 59).	Varies (\$20,000 - \$60,000 acre)	III.4 (page 68)			As development occurs. Minimum 50' wide corridor. Costs will vary.
5	<b>Steeplechase Park Extension.</b> Acquire 5 or more acres to extend Steeplechase Park to Goforth Road.	\$100,000 - \$400,000	III.4 (page 68)			All costs related to land purchase.
Total Estimated Acquisition Costs:		\$1,000,000 - \$5,400,000 (Excludes Project #4)				

Note: <sup>1</sup>Costs shown are at a pre-design level, and will vary as more detailed design occurs. Priority numbers and time frames are or planning guidance only, and not all items may be implemented in the sequence or time frame suggested. Costs ranges relating to land costs are general estimates intended to establish allowances, and will vary. Detailed appraisals should be conducted to determine specific land costs prior to acquisition. Grants and donations may reduce the cost of each item. All costs are shown in 2016 dollars.











Figure 6-2: Kyle Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Priorities

Priority	Project	Cost Range <sup>1</sup>	Corresponding Plan Action (Page #)	Time Frame		Notes
				Short-term (1-5 Years)	Long-term (5-10 Years)	
Park and Recreation Facilities						
1	<b>Kyle Vista Park, Ph. 1.</b> Update of previous plans, site work, and construction of outdoor facilities including: skate park, splash pad, picnic area, trails, amphitheater, parking, and restrooms.	\$2,000,000 - \$2,500,000	II.1 (page 66)			Based on 2008 site plan.
2	<b>Shade Island Program.</b> Project to design and constructed significant integrated shade solution for a targeted activity node within an existing City park. One (1) shade structure, 1/2 acre planting area.	\$50,000	II.4 (page 67)			Annual targeted program. In addition to other annual expenditures for trees and shade structures.
3	<b>Trail Lighting Project.</b> Project to light one (1) recreational trail contained within an existing City park. Estimated length of .5 miles, with light fixtures spaces every 100 - 150 feet.	\$150,000 - \$250,000	II.5 (page 67)			Location TBD.
4	<b>City-wide Indoor Recreation Center.</b> Sixty five thousand (65,000) SF facility incorporating aquatics. Plans to be updated. Development may be contingent on a public-private partnership for financing, operation, and/or maintenance.	\$12,900,000 - \$20,700,000	II.2 (page 67)			Updated plans may alter facility size and programming.
5	<b>Kyle Dog Park.</b> Minimum 5 acre fenced site.	\$150,000 - \$300,000	II.6 (page 67)			Location and facility enhancements TBD.
6	<b>Community Park Improvements (West Kyle), Ph. 1.</b> Including: 2 baseball fields, 3 multi-sport fields, play area, parking, trails, pavilion, 2 basketball courts, landscaping, entry features.	\$4,000,000 - \$6,000,000	I.3 (page 65)			Park programming TBD.
7	<b>Blanco River Park Improvements.</b> Including: picnic area, parking, restrooms, boat access, pavilion, trails.	\$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000	I.4 (page 65)			Park programming TBD.
8	<b>Community Park Improvements (North Kyle), Ph. 1.</b> Including: 2 baseball fields, 3 multi-sport fields, play area, parking, trails, pavilion, 2 basketball courts, landscaping, entry features.	\$4,000,000 - \$6,000,000	I.3 (page 65)			Park programming TBD.
9	<b>Prairie Restoration Project.</b> Planning and implementation including: site preparation, reseeding, plantings, and four (4) year maintenance plan.	\$250,000 - \$350,000	III.2 (page 68)			Park location and size TBD. Include planning and implementation costs. Does not include facility development.
Total Estimated Park Facility Costs:		\$24,500,000 - \$38,200,000				

Note: <sup>1</sup>Costs shown are at a pre-design level, and will vary as more detailed design occurs. Priority numbers and time frames are or planning guidance only, and not all items may be implemented in the sequence or time frame suggested. Costs ranges relating to land costs are general estimates intended to establish allowances, and will vary. Detailed appraisals should be conducted to determine specific land costs prior to acquisition. Grants and donations may reduce the cost of each item. All costs are shown in 2016 dollars.



Figure 6-2: Kyle Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Priorities

Priority	Project	Cost Range <sup>1</sup>	Corresponding Plan Action (Page #)	Time Frame		Notes
				Short-term (1-5 Years)	Long-term (5-10 Years)	
Multi-use Trails <sup>2</sup>						
1	<b>Plum Creek Multi-use Trail, Ph. 1 (Steeplechase Park - Waterleaf Park).</b> Follows the course of Plum Creek for roughly 1.5 miles.	\$2,000,000 - \$3,000,000	IV-4 (page 71)			Improved (paved) surface. 10' width.
2	<b>Plum Creek Trail South Extension (Linebarger Lake - Post Oak Park).</b> Includes off-street trail segment and sidepath to signalized intersection on SH 150. .5 miles.	\$500,000 - \$750,000	IV-4 & IV-5 (page 71)			Improved (paved) surface. 10' width.
3	<b>FM 150 Sidepath (Hometown Kyle - Plum Creek Preserve).</b> Trail between Condalia Drive and CR 171. 1-1.5 miles.	\$1,500,000 - \$2,500,000	IV-5 (page 71)			Street project. Improved (paved) surface. 10' width.
4	<b>Kensington Park - Bunton Creek Park.</b> Multi-use trails and sidepaths extending from Kensington Park to Bunton Creek Park. 1.5 miles.	\$2,000,000 - \$3,000,000	IV-4 & IV-5 (page 71)			Public streets not factored into distance. Improved (paved) surface. 10' width.
5	<b>Plum Creek North Trails (CR 171 - Kyle Crossing).</b> Multi-use trails and sidepaths extending through the northern phases of Plum Creek (north of CR 171).	\$3,500,000 - \$4,500,000	IV-4 & IV-5 (page 71)			Improved (paved) surface. 10' width.
6	<b>Kensington Park - Kyle Vista Park.</b> Multi-use trail between both parks via Seton Open Space. Alternate corridor may include sidepath along Dacy Lane. 1-1.5 miles.	\$1,500,000 - \$2,500,000	IV-4 & IV-5 (page 71)			Improved (paved) surface. 10' width.
7	<b>Gregg Clarke Park - S.W. Kyle.</b> Multiple options connecting to Blanco River Trail ( <b>Map 4-C</b> , page 59). 1-2 miles (length varies).	\$1,500,000 - \$3,000,000	IV-4 & IV-5 (page 71)			Improved (paved) surface. 10' width.
8	<b>Plum Creek Multi-use Trail, Ph. 2 (Waterleaf Park - Simon Middle School).</b> Follows the course of Plum Creek then south from M.D. Heatley Reservoir for roughly 2.25 miles.	\$2,500,000 - \$3,500,000	IV-4 (page 71)			Improved (paved) surface. 10' width.
9	<b>Blanco River Trail.</b> Riverfront trail linking future City parks with Five Mile Dam Park. 1-2 miles (length varies).	\$1,500,000 - \$3,000,000	IV-4 (page 71)			10' width. Low-cost natural surface. High cost improved (paved) surface.
10	<b>Plum Creek Multi-use Trail, Ph. 3. (Goforth Road - Marketplace Road).</b> Follows the course of Plum Creek under I-35.	\$1,500,000 - \$2,000,000	IV-4 (page 71)			Improved (paved) surface. 10' width. Culverts.
Total Estimated Multi-Use Trail Costs:		\$18,000,000 - \$27,750,000				
TOTAL ESTIMATED CAPITAL PROJECT COSTS:		\$43,500,000 - \$71,350,000				

Note: <sup>1</sup>Costs shown are at a pre-design level, and will vary as more detailed design occurs. Priority numbers and time frames are or planning guidance only, and not all items may be implemented in the sequence or time frame suggested. Costs ranges relating to land costs are general estimates intended to establish allowances, and will vary. Detailed appraisals should be conducted to determine specific land costs prior to acquisition. Grants and donations may reduce the cost of each item. All costs are shown in 2016 dollars.

## PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDING STRATEGIES

Investment in Kyle's park system will require the employment of various funding strategies to meet the facility and program needs identified in the Master Plan. While small improvements to existing parks can often be accomplished utilizing local funds, other park, open space, and large facility projects may be eligible for federal or state funding assistance.

This section provides brief descriptions of a few key (and common) funding implementation assistance opportunities. A comprehensive list of park and recreation funding opportunities is found in **Appendix ?**.

### KEY CITY-GENERATED FUNDING SOURCES

- **General Fund Expenditures** - General fund expenditures are used for operations and improvements of all types.
- **Bond Funds** - Accelerated park system development during the 10-year horizon of this plan may require public approval of a bond to fund capital projects. Fifty-four percent of Master Plan public survey respondents indicated that they would support a "tax increase to fund bond issuance" for purposes of financing the Kyle parks system. Public opinion regarding municipal bond funding is influenced by the specificity of proposed project lists.
- **Parkland Dedication Ordinance Fees** - Among other provisions, Kyle's parkland dedication ordinance allows the City to collect a fee-in-lieu for parkland acquisition, and a fee for the development of neighborhood parks. Because community park demand is also based on demand from new residents, these fees may be extended to community park acquisition and the development of basic infrastructure and facilities for passive use. The development of active community park facilities (e.g. swimming pools, athletic fields, etc.) should be funded through other traditional municipal revenue sources.

### KEY GRANT FUNDING SOURCES

Grants can provide a significant source of additional funding for parks, but should not be considered as the primary source for park construction.

- **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA)** is the primary source for parks grants in Texas - including funding for recreational trails. Up to \$500,000 for new parks and trail facilities with a 50 percent match. Grant applications that stress joint funding and support from two (2) or more local entities may have a greater chance of contending for the TRPA grants. These grants are highly competitive, and in recent years there have been far fewer grants available or awarded due to state budget restrictions. When the grants are available, the deadlines to submit applications vary by grant type and range from February 1st for some to October 1st for most categories.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** - This National Park Service fund is divided into two (2) funding categories: state grants and federal acquisition. The state grants are distributed to all 50 states, DC, and other territories based on factors such as population. State grant funds can be used for park development and for acquisition of park land or easements.
- **Statewide Transportation Assistance Program**. - This program provides monetary support for transportation activities designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic and environmental aspects of the transportation system. Typically, funds can be used for trails and streetscape related projects. Funding is on a cost reimbursement basis, and projects selected are eligible for reimbursement of up to 80 percent of allowable costs. This funding program is not available on a yearly basis, but intermittently only, often in two (2) to five (5) year periods. These funds, while difficult to work with, are becoming more responsible to real world costs, and should be seriously considered since they remain one of the few sources of outside funds.
- **LCRA Community Development Partnership Program (CDPP) Grants** - LCRA administers a community grant program to assist local governments and non-profit organizations fund capital improvement projects. Grants may be awarded for up to \$50,000 dollars with a 20 percent match.
- **Foundation and Company Grants** - Can assist in direct funding for projects, while others exist to help citizen efforts get established with small seed funds or technical and publicity assistance.

## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

With the projected addition of parks, recreation facilities, and walking paths, it is apparent that additional manpower is needed to ensure proper long-term maintenance. The provision of adequate staffing must be included as each facility is developed or the facility should not be built.

As the park system grows, additional resources should be provided to the Parks and Recreation Department. This includes new mowing and transport equipment, as well as park maintenance staff. Over the next 10 years, if and when new facilities are added, park maintenance staff should grow at the same rate.

### Sustainability Approach to Maintenance

As a significant landholder in Kyle, City stewardship of the community's natural resources and recreation amenities is a key responsibility - while managing the conscientious expenditure of tax dollars. According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), *"Good stewardship requires management practices that protect and enhance the recreational, environmental, social and cultural values of public lands and natural and cultural resources in a manner that is cost-effective and sustainable for future generations."*

Kyle's role in the conservation of natural and recreation resources, while implementing "sustainability" in its approach to resource management, not only contributes to the health and welfare of its residents, but also reduces operations and maintenance costs, particularly for mowing and irrigation.

To provide the highest level of park and recreation facilities and amenities, while maintaining these facilities in the most cost-effective manner, it is recommended that the City implement a sustainability based approach to park development and maintenance. This approach can include:

- **Planting native tree and grass species that are amenable to the regional climate and eliminating the use of species that use large amounts of water (e.g., cedars). This approach will encourage the "greening" of parks, while limiting the amount of long-term maintenance required to achieve attractive facilities.**
- **Developing active areas in parks that will be maintained to levels dictated by the intended use. For example, high intensity use areas such as athletic facilities or playgrounds, will have a higher degree of maintenance and cultivation. On the other hand, areas that are less used or do not require a high level of care, such as disc golf courses or open play areas will receive a less frequent or less intensive maintenance.**
- **Planting more trees in parks in mass plantings to create more shade, bird habitat, rainfall absorption and summer cooling effect.**
- **Planting native grasses and wild flowers in peripheral areas of parks and in park sites that are planned as natural or habitat areas. These areas will only need to be mowed once or twice per year, and rarely fertilized, reducing maintenance costs.**
- **Provide beds of native and drought tolerant ornamental shrubs and perennial plants for color in "high-impact" areas such as park entrances. These beds can be mulched with recycled "green waste" such as Christmas trees, chipped branches and dead trees, and lawn clippings to help the soil retain moisture and reduce irrigation demand.**
- **Only irrigating those areas that are designated as "high intensity use" areas, such as playground and adjacent picnic areas and designated sports fields. This approach will conserve water and reduce costs by discouraging turf growth except in priority locations.**



## PLAN ADMINISTRATION

### PLAN REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

The City of Kyle's Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for the daily oversight and administration of this Master Plan. As illustrated by the growth of Kyle between 2006 and 2016, conditions within (and adjacent to) the City of Kyle will continue to change over the Master Plan's 10 year horizon. Area population may increase more rapidly than projected, the community may indicate a special need for a facility not listed in the recommendations, an unforeseen funding source may become available, or development of some of the recommendations listed in the Master Plan may occur in an order or at a pace that differs from the priorities identified in **Figure 6-2** or **6-3**.

A review and update of the Master Plan should be conducted on an annual basis, or when significant changes occur. These updates may be published in short report format and attached to this Master Plan for easy use. Four (4) key focus areas subject to periodic review may include:

- **Facility Inventory** - An inventory of new or updated City-owned facilities should be recorded. This inventory should also mention any significant changes or improvements to the City's parks that are currently listed as undeveloped (see **Figure 3-3**, page 34), park properties or facilities provided by other public entities, or major private facilities that could influence recreation in Kyle.
- **Public Involvement** - This Master Plan reflects the attitudes expressed by Kyle's current residents. Over time however, attitudes and interests may vary as the City changes. Periodic surveys are recommended to provide an ongoing account of citizen attitudes, and to provide additional direction from the public on issues that may arise. In order to make an accurate comparison of the changes in attitudes, it is recommended that future surveys include similar questions to those included in this Master Plan.

- **Facility Use and Program Participation** - Facility use is a key factor in determining the need for additional facilities. Likewise, measures of program participation will assist Kyle in determining how to adjust its recreational program and event offerings over time to best meet latent community demand. The City should continue to compile its "recreation and facility annual activity reports" and use the results to modify Master Plan recommendations as needed.
- **Implementation Program** - As items from the Action Plan and Capital Priorities list (**Figure 6-2** and **6-3**) are implemented, updates should be made to each to maintain an up-to-date work program for City staff, and elected and appointed officials.

### BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Although the City of Kyle's Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for the oversight of this Master Plan, it is not the organization responsible for establishing municipal park and recreation policy. Master Plan administration and implementation decisions must reflect the ongoing direction of the City Council, and advisory boards. This section affirms the roles of key City boards and commissions in ensuring that the Master Plan - including future amendments and implementation actions - remains the principal guide influencing City park system development.

#### Parks and Recreation Board

The general duties of the City of Kyle's Parks and Recreation Board are established in Chapter 26, § 26-21 of the City of Kyle Code of Ordinances. This section of code includes the provision that the Board may:

*"...act as a public forum for citizens to address concerns over city parks and recreation activities, including the comprehensive master plan." (ch. 26, § 26-21, City of Kyle Code of Ordinances)*

In exercising this duty, the Parks and Recreation Board acts as the City's advisory body for preparing and implementing the City's parks master plan. Annual Master Plan reviews recommended in the previous section should be conducted in consultation with the Board, and all proposed amendments should include a Board recommendation. The Parks and Recreation Board should also be consulted when developing parks, recreation, and open space policy in other City planning documents – including the City of Kyle's comprehensive plan.



KYLE, TX

KYLE'S PARK SYSTEM HAS GROWN THROUGH A MIX OF CAPITAL INVESTMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

### Planning and Zoning Commission

The purposes and duties of the Kyle Planning and Zoning Commission are established in city charter and city code. Included in the Commission's powers is the review and oversight of a municipal comprehensive plan. The City's current comprehensive plan (City of Kyle Comprehensive Plan, 2010) includes an open space plan incorporating recommendations regarding park land development. Continual coordination between the Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board will be required to ensure that applicable comprehensive plan recommendations are consistent with this Master Plan.

The Planning and Zoning Commission's role in administering the City's subdivision regulations and zoning ordinance also requires that it coordinate closely with the Parks and Recreation Board when recommending amendments to City park land dedication (ch. 41, § 41-147, City of Kyle Code of Ordinances) and other related provisions.

### Policies and Ordinances

In addition to capital projects, municipal land use and development ordinances are an important tool for acquiring park land, trail corridors, and recreational amenities (both public and private). **Chapter 5** recommends multiple revisions to Kyle's existing park land dedication and general land development regulations to better implement Master Plan recommendations. In addition to these specific actions, continual monitoring of municipal ordinances will ensure that they remain relevant in meeting community park and recreation goals over the long term as development and redevelopment occurs.



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# APPENDIX A

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## RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2006-2016)

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**Table I.1 Record of Accomplishments Since 2006**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Project Status</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>	
Acquire 20 to 30 acres for centrally located community center	<b>Completed</b> - This is Kyle Vista Park at the corner of Dacy Lane and Bebee Rd
Acquire land for southeast community park	<b>Completed</b> - Development of Waterleaf Park and the property along the Plum Creek to develop the Plum Creek Preserve & Nature Trail
Acquire 10 to 20 acres to expand Gregg Clarke Park	<b>Not Completed</b> - Current property owners not interested in selling
Steeplechase - extend to Goforth	<b>Not Completed</b>
Acquire land for northeast community park	<b>Completed</b> - This is Kyle Vista Park at the corner of Dacy Lane and Bebee Rd
Expand Waterleaf Community Park	<b>Completed</b> - Development of Waterleaf Park and the property along the Plum Creek to develop the Plum Creek Preserve & Nature Trail Plus new trail head and access points with new development on north side of creek
Blanco River Park	<b>In the Process</b> - Continue discussions with development as they draft their concept plans
<b>Trail Development</b>	
Plum Creek Trail - Waterleaf to Steeplechase Park	<b>In the Process</b> - Still missing a key piece of property that will be dedicated in the next few years.
Plum Creek Trail South Extension	<b>In the Process</b> - The property will be dedicated to the city for this trail within the next few years, developer has agreed to dedicate.
Trail Connection from Hometown Kyle to Plum Creek Development	<b>In the Process</b> - Waiting on sidewalks to be completed along FM-150 to make connections
Trail Connection from Post Oak to SE Kyle	<b>Not Completed</b> - The development in that area has stalled, but will keep this a priority when development picks back up
Trail Development from Kensington to Amberwood corridor	<b>Not Completed</b> - Waiting on County to finish the Dacy Lane project that will include this trail/sidewalk. Land has been dedicated from the Kyle Vista Park for this road/sidewalk project
Kensington to Twin Creeks trail corridor	<b>Not Completed</b> - The trail project behind the dam between Kensington and South Lake Ranch has been used for dam rehab project.
Trail Development from Gregg Clark to SW Kyle Trail corridor	<b>Not Completed</b> - Development in this area has stalled, but will keep this as a priority when development picks back up
Plum Creek Steeplechase to FM 150 corridor	<b>Completed</b> - Restrictions forced a change in the plans that added sidewalks to the overpass projects over IH-35 at Center St and Kyle Parkway
Blanco River Trail	<b>Not Completed</b> - Development in this area has stalled, but will keep this as a priority when development picks back up



**Table I.1 Record of Accomplishments Since 2006**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Project Status</b>
<b>Parks and Recreation Facilities</b>	
City Square Park Enhancements	<b>In the Process</b> - Renovations to old city hall, gazebo, landscaping beds have been completed. Irrigation and electrical work completed. Digital marquee completed. Plans are to continue to make improvements.
Steeplechase Park Enhancements	<b>Completed</b>
Future Gregg Clarke Park expansion and enhancement	<b>Completed</b>
Major citywide recreation center	<b>Plans are completed</b>
Waterleaf Park enhancements and expansion	<b>Completed</b>
Recreation center park development	<b>Plans are completed</b>
Northeast community park (initial phase)	<b>Plans are completed</b>
Southwest community park (initial phase)	<b>Not Completed</b> - Development in this area has stalled, but will keep this as a priority when development picks back up
Blanco River Park	<b>Not Completed</b> - Development in this area has stalled, but will keep this as a priority when development picks back up
<b>High Facility Development Priorities</b>	
Playgrounds	<b>Completed</b> - New playscapes with shade at all parks
Picnic facilities	<b>Completed</b>
Multi-purpose Trails	<b>Completed and in progress</b>
Indoor recreation center	<b>Plans are completed</b>
Natural areas	<b>Completed and in progress</b>
Areas for open play and practice	<b>Completed and in progress</b>
Basketball courts	<b>Not completed</b>
Parkland around lakes or ponds	<b>Completed</b>
Athletic facilities for soccer and baseball	<b>Completed</b>
A river park	<b>Not Completed</b>

**Table I.I Record of Accomplishments Since 2006**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Project Status</b>
<b>Implementation Plan Recommendations</b>	
Some funding should be set aside annually to cover upgrades to at least one park. An amount of \$50,000 to \$100,000 should be budgeted for annual improvements.	<b>Yes</b> , this has been done
It is recommended that the city consider a bond program to support park improvements within the next five years.	<b>No</b> , this has not been done
Create a land dedication ordinance that will provide some lands and funding for the development of neighborhood parks throughout the city.	<b>Yes</b> , this has been done
The City should work together with the developer to create non-motorized corridors, which will connect the new neighborhood to adjacent or future neighborhoods, schools, and other key destinations and be beneficial to both the developer and the citizens of Kyle.	<b>Yes</b> , this has been done
Establish a landscaping ordinance that will contribute to new beautification efforts throughout the city.	<b>Yes</b> , this has been done
Establish joint planning review sessions with the School District to allow for coordination of facilities and possible pooling of resources for a partnership in acquiring land for schools and parks.	<b>When possible</b> , this is being discussed with school officials

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# APPENDIX B

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## **PARKS & RECREATION FUNDING SOURCES**

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Appendix B, Parks and Recreation Funding Sources, includes a comprehensive list of federal, state, and privately-funded grant programs which support local park system or recreational program development. These funding sources may be structured to support direct investment into municipal parks and recreation systems, or to allow for the indirect development of park and recreation opportunities to support other principal grant objectives. For instance, federal and state grants focused on residential development or redevelopment may also allow for the inclusion of recreational amenities as part of an eligible project. Similarly, transportation funding sources may support multi-use trail and sidepath development.

The parameters of the funding sources referenced in this appendix are always changing. Be sure to contact administering agencies/ organizations directly to receive the most up-to-date grant program information.

## FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

### CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

#### AMERICORPS

AmeriCorps seeks to strengthen communities through projects that address education, public safety, the environment, and other unmet human needs. AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities.

**Amount:** Vary, may be awarded as fixed amount or cost reimbursement

**Deadline:** January 18, 2017

**Website:** <http://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities/2017/ameri-corps-state-and-national-grants-fy-2017>

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE — AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

#### FARMERS MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM

The purpose of the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) is to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets by developing, improving, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to, or assisting in the development, improvement, and expansion of, domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agri-tourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.

**Website:** <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp>

**Amount:** Varies

**Deadline:** 2016 grants closed; 2017 grants pending

**Contact:**

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 4534-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250-0269

**E-mail:** [USDAFMPPQuestions@ams.usda.gov](mailto:USDAFMPPQuestions@ams.usda.gov)

**Phone:** 202-720-0933

**Fax:** 202-690-4152

**Grants Management Specialists:**

Earlene Henderson-Samuels, [Earlene.Henderson-Samuels@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Earlene.Henderson-Samuels@ams.usda.gov)  
Theresa (Teri) Davis, [Theresa.Davis@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Theresa.Davis@ams.usda.gov)  
Camia (Mia) Lane, [Camia.Lane@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Camia.Lane@ams.usda.gov)  
Christy Wipperfurth, [Christy.Wipperfurth@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Christy.Wipperfurth@ams.usda.gov)



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE — FOOD NUTRITION SERVICE

### CHILD NUTRITION-TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION GRANT

The 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law 114-113 December 18, 2015, authorized funding to be used for grants to States for the purpose of developing or improving current automated information systems used to operate and manage the Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs). The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has approximately \$4.4 million available in fiscal year (FY) 2017 to be used for grants under this funding. This Request for Applications (RFA) invites State agencies that administer the CNPs to apply for grant funding to implement innovative technology solutions that will improve program accountability, data accuracy, program performance measurement, and the capacity to identify and target error-prone areas (locations or program functions) within and across the CNPs at the State and Local Educational Agency (LEA) or Sponsor Organization (SO) levels. The Child Nutrition Technology Innovation Grant (CN TIG) funds will be available on a competitive basis to State agencies administering the CNPs (i.e., National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program). FNS is offering two types of CN TIGs: Planning Grants and Implementation Grants. States may apply for either a Planning Grant or an Implementation Grant, as described within this RFA, but not both under this 2017 RFA solicitation.

**Website:** <http://www.fns.usda.gov/child-nutrition-technology-innovation-grant-cn-tig>

**Amount:** \$100,000 to \$2 million

**Deadline:** January 25, 2017

**Contact:** Carla Garcia, Grant Officer: [Carla.garcia@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Carla.garcia@fns.usda.gov)

### CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers funds for meals and snacks for children in low-income areas during after-school and summer hours. Through the Child and Adult Care Food Program, USDA administers Afterschool Snacks, a program that offers reimbursement for snacks to after-school care program providers. For eligibility, the after-school programs must offer educational or enrichment activities in an organized, structured, and supervised environment after school, on weekends or holidays during the school year. The organization will be reimbursed at the highest level, currently 55 cents a snack per child per day. For more information, please visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/child-and-adult-care-food-program>.

**National website:** <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/cacfp-contacts>

**Texas Office:**

Administered by Texas Department of Agriculture  
1700 N. Congress Ave., 11th Floor  
Austin, TX 78701

**Phone:** 877-839-6325

**Website:** <http://www.squaremeals.org>

### FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT

The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. On an annual basis, USDA awards up to \$5 million in competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs.

The Program offers three types of grants: Planning awards range from \$20,000 - \$45,000; implementation and support service awards range from \$65,000 - \$100,000; training awards range from \$15,000 - \$50,000. Matching funds of 25% are required for all four grant types.

**Website:** <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program>

**Amount:** \$15,000 to \$100,000; Total program funding estimated to be \$5 million.

**Deadline:** December 8, 2016

**Contact:** [farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov](mailto:farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov)

## SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Summer Food Service Program is a federally-funded, state-administered program that provides free meals to children throughout the summer months when school is not in session. Approved sponsors, including school districts, park agencies, nonprofit organizations, and camps, organize the program and provide the meals to a group of children (18 or under) at a central site(s). Children can receive either one or two reimbursable meals each day. For more information on the program, go to: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program>.

Contact the state administering agency: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/sfsp-contacts>

### Texas Office:

Administered by Texas Department of Agriculture  
1700 N. Congress Ave., 11th Floor  
Austin, TX 78701

Phone: 877-839-6325

Website: <http://www.squaremeals.org>

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE — NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS (CFP) COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

The primary goals of the CFP are to: Meet the food needs of low-income individuals through food distribution, community outreach to assist in participation in Federally assisted nutrition programs, or improving access to food as part of a comprehensive service; Increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for the food needs of the communities; Promote comprehensive responses to local food access, farm, and nutrition issues; and Meet specific state, local or neighborhood food and agricultural needs including needs relating to: Equipment necessary for the efficient operation of a project; Planning for long-term solutions; or The creation of innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and low-income consumers. This grant requires 100% matching.

Examples of CFP Projects include, but are not limited to, community gardens with market stands, value chain projects, food hubs, farmers' markets, farm-to-institutions projects, and marketing & consumer cooperatives. All projects must involve low-income participants.

Examples of PPs include, but are not limited to, community food assessments' coordination of collaboration development plan, GIS analysis, food sovereignty study, and farm-to-institution exploration. All projects must involve low-income participants

Website: <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/community-food-projects-cfp-competitive-grants-program>

**Amount:** Total program funding: \$8.64 million; Maximum award of \$125,000 for Community Food Projects and \$35,000 for Planning Projects

**Deadline:** November 30, 2016

**Contact:** Jana Clary Loveless, National Program Leader,

**Email:** [jclary@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:jclary@nifa.usda.gov)

**Location:** 2322 Waterfront Centre

**Phone Number:** (202) 720-3891

**Fax Number:** (202) 401-4888

## BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (BFRDP)

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program provides grants to organizations for education, mentoring, and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers or ranchers. According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service's most recent Ag Census data, the number of young people entering farming continues to decline, but the number of new farmers and ranchers over the age of 35 rises, as does the number of smaller farms and ranches nationwide. Ensuring there will be a "new generation" of beginning farmers and ranchers—regardless of age or production choice—is especially important to the continuation of agricultural production in the United States.

In accordance with the authorizing legislation, priority will be given to partnerships and collaborations led by or including nongovernmental, community-based organizations and school-based agricultural educational organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach. At least 5 percent of the funds will support programs and services that address the needs of limited resource beginning farmers or ranchers; socially disadvantaged beginning farmers or ranchers; and farm workers desiring to become farmers or ranchers. At least 5 percent of the funds will support programs and services that address the needs of veteran farmers and ranchers. The term "farmer" is used in the broadest sense and should be interpreted to include traditional agricultural farmers, ranchers, and tree farmers. As far as possible, geographical diversity will also be ensured.

A 25% match is required.

**Website:** <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/beginning-farmer-and-rancher-development-program-bfrdp>

**Amount:** Maximum of \$200,000 for 3-year program; estimated total program funding: \$17.7 million

**Deadline:** December 8, 2016

**Contact:** Jill Auburn, National Program Leader, Division of Agricultural Systems

**Email:** [jauburn@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:jauburn@nifa.usda.gov)

**Location:** 3430 Waterfront Centre

**Phone Number:** (202) 720-2635

**Fax Number:** (202) 401-1782

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE — NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

### ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

Eligible program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices, or activities like conservation planning, that address natural resource concerns on their land. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are implemented. Contracts can last up to ten years.

**National website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=stelpdb1242633>

**Texas website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/eqip/>

Texas Office:

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, TX 76501-7602

**Phone:** (254) 742-9800

**Fax:** (254) 742-9819

**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

**Phone:** (254) 742-9881

**Email:** [Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov)

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

**Phone:** (254) 742-9525

**Email:** [Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov)

**Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>



## CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS (CIG)

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) are competitive grants that stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on agricultural lands. CIG uses Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or nongovernmental organizations, American Indian Tribes, or individuals. Producers involved in CIG funded projects must be EQIP eligible.

Through CIG, NRCS partners with public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adopt promising technologies. These new technologies and approaches address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resources concerns. CIG benefits agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations.

States can also award project that benefit a limited geographical area. Participating states will announce their funding availability for CIG competitions through their state NRCS offices.

**National website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/>

**Texas website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/cig/>

**Amount:** Total program funding averages \$20 million per year.

**Contact:**

National Office:

**Program Contact:** [nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov)

**Phone:** (202) 720-1895

Melleny Cotton, CIG Program Analyst

**Phone:** (202) 720-7412

**Email:** [Melleny.cotton@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Melleny.cotton@wdc.usda.gov)

Texas Office:

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, TX 76501-7602

**Phone:** (254) 742-9800

**Fax:** (254) 742-9819

**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

**Phone:** (254) 742-9881

**Email:** [Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov)

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

**Phone:** (254) 742-9525

**Email:** [Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov)

**Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

RCPP combines the authorities of four former conservation programs – the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the Great Lakes Basin Program. Assistance is delivered in accordance with the rules of EQIP, CSP, ACEP and HFRP; and in certain areas the Watershed Operations and Flood Prevention Program.

Funding for RCPP is allocated to projects in three different categories:

- Critical Conservation Areas receive 35% of the funding. These are projects in eight geographic areas chosen by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Nationwide and multistate projects receive 40 percent of funding.
- Projects in a single state receive 25 percent of funding.

Texas Office:

Texas State Office  
101 S Main St.  
Temple, TX 76501-7602  
**Phone:** (254) 742-9800  
**Fax:** (254) 742-9819  
**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs  
**Phone:** (254) 742-9881  
**Email:** [Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov)

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager  
**Phone:** (254) 742-9525  
**Email:** [Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov)

**Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

## AIR QUALITY INITIATIVE

The NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Air Quality Initiative provides financial assistance to implement conservation practices that address air resource issues for designated locations throughout the nation. Agricultural atmospheric related concerns include greenhouse gas emissions, ozone precursors, volatile organic compounds, airborne particulate matter, and some odor-related volatile compounds. For more information about agricultural air quality concerns, see the Air Quality topic.

**Deadline:** NRCS accepts applications for assistance on continuous basis, but states may establish application periods.

**Texas office:**

Texas State Office  
101 S Main St.  
Temple, TX 76501-7602  
**Phone:** (254) 742-9800  
**Fax:** (254) 742-9819  
**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

**Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers assistance to land owners who are already implementing conservation practices to enhance those practices. For example, if you have been practicing prescribed grazing, CSP would give you options to enhance that practice with activities such as grazing management to improve plants for wildlife, or grazing management to reduce soil compaction, or grazing management to improve riparian function, just to name a few.

With enrollment in CSP, the local NRCS conservation planner will have a one-on-one consultation with the property owner(s) to evaluate your current management system and the natural resources on your land. The NRCS conservation planner will present a variety of CSP enhancement alternatives for implementation on the land, based on existing conservation practices. CSP offers annual incentive payments for installing these enhancement practices.

**National website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/>

**Texas website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/csp/>

**Award:** varies based on implementation of conservation practices

**Deadline:** Applications are accepted throughout the year. Specific deadlines are set for ranking and funding opportunities. The next application deadline for funding consideration is February 3, 2017.

### Texas office:

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, TX 76501-7602

**Phone:** (254) 742-9800

**Fax:** (254) 742-9819

**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

### Contact:

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

(254) 742-9881

Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

(254) 742-9525

Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

**Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

## CONSERVATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The purpose of the program is to assist land—users, communities, units of state and local government, and other federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. The purpose of the conservation systems are to reduce erosion, improve soil and water quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, improve pasture and range condition, reduce upstream flooding, and improve woodlands. The program is also used as a means to collect, analyze, interpret, display, and disseminate information about the condition and trends of the Nation's soil and other natural resources so that people can make good decisions about resource use and about public policies for resource conservation. Information collected through the program is used to develop effective science-based technologies for natural resource assessment, management, and conservation.

For more information about the Conservation Technical Assistance program go to: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/cta/>

Technical assistance is provided at the state level by State Conservationists. Contact information for each State Conservationist is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

### Texas office:

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, TX 76501-7602

**Phone:** (254) 742-9800

**Fax:** (254) 742-9819

**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

**Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>



## EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. EWP is an emergency recovery program. All projects undertaken, with the exception of the purchase of floodplain easements, must have a project sponsor.

NRCS may bear up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures. The remaining 25 percent must come from local sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind services. Funding is subject to Congressional approval.

City and county governments, flood and water control districts, and soil and water conservation districts are the most common sponsors of EWP projects. Activities include providing financial and technical assistance to:

- remove debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges,
- reshape and protect eroded banks,
- correct damaged drainage facilities,
- establish cover on critically eroding lands,
- repair levees and structures, and
- repair conservation practices.

NRCS may purchase EWP easements “in lieu of recovery” on any floodplain lands that have been impaired within the last 12 months or that have a history of repeated flooding (i.e., flooded at least two times during the past 10 years). If it is more cost effective, EWP-Floodplain Easement (FPE) can be used as an alternative to EWP. See the comparison of EWP and EWP-FPE.

**National website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/>

**Texas website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/ewp/>

**Award:** state-administered. Texas received over \$21 million in FY2016 to restore conditions from heavy rains and flooding in 2015.

**National contact:**

National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Manager

**Phone:** 202-690-0793

**Texas contact:**

Claude Ross, State Easement Program Manager

[claudeross@tx.usda.gov](mailto:claudeross@tx.usda.gov)

**Phone:** 254-742-9822

## WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS (WFPO) PROGRAM

The Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program provides technical and financial assistance to States, local governments and Tribes (project sponsors) to plan and implement authorized watershed project plans for the purpose of:

- watershed protection
- flood mitigation
- water quality improvements
- soil erosion reduction
- rural, municipal and industrial water supply
- irrigation
- water management
- sediment control
- fish and wildlife enhancement
- hydropower

Under the Watershed Program NRCS cooperates with States and local agencies to carry out works of improvement for soil conservation and for other purposes including flood prevention; conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water; and conservation and proper utilization of land.

**National website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wfpo/>

**Texas website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

**Contact:**

Kevin Farmer

**Phone:** 202-720-3413

[kevin.farmer@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:kevin.farmer@wdc.usda.gov)

## WATERSHED SURVEYS AND PLANNING (WSP)

The purpose of the program is to assist Federal, State, and local agencies and tribal governments to protect watersheds from damage caused by erosion, floodwater, and sediment and to conserve and develop water and land resources. Resource concerns addressed by the program include water quality, opportunities for water conservation, wetland and water storage capacity, agricultural drought problems, rural development, municipal and industrial water needs, upstream flood damages, and water needs for fish, wildlife, and forest-based industries.

Types of surveys and plans include watershed plans, river basin surveys and studies, flood hazard analyses, and flood plain management assistance. The focus of these plans is to identify solutions that use land treatment and nonstructural measures to solve resource problems.

No funding has been authorized since 2008.

**National website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wsp/>

**Texas website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

## WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Watershed Rehabilitation Program helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their 50-year design lives. This rehabilitation addresses critical public health and safety concerns. Since 1948, NRCS has assisted local sponsors in constructing more than 11,900 dams.

**National website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wr/>

**Texas website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

## RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The RC&D Program was established in the Agriculture Act of 1962, with responsibility for the administration of the program placed within the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Successive Farm Bills have provided for the further development of the program, including deepening the partnership between RC&D Councils and the NRCS.

RC&D Councils are 501(C)3 non-for-profit corporations. They are not governmental entities, so the typical policies and constraints of local, state, and federal government programs do not limit the types of issues they address or the means they use. Within their respective areas (typically covering 5-8 counties), RC&D Councils have a high degree of independence to carry out activities that will achieve their most important goals. RC&D Council volunteers are leaders and community stakeholders involved in multiple roles in local government, school boards, churches, and other civic activities. At RC&D Council meetings, they draw from their professional expertise and community connections to determine the needs of their RC&D Council areas, address those needs, and make their communities better places to live, work, and play. Nationwide, over 25,000 volunteers serve on local RC&D Councils.

Collaborators and financial supporters of the RC&D Council include: Ensave, International Code Council, USDA-National Resource Conservation Service, USDA-Forest Service, US Department of Homeland Security, and US Government Grant.

**National Association of RC&D Areas:** <http://narcdc.org/rcd-program.html>

**Texas Association of RC&D Programs:** <http://www.texasrcd.org/>

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE — RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOAN & GRANT PROGRAM

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings.

Eligible areas include rural cities, villages, townships, or towns with no more than 20,000 residents. Funding types include low-interest loans, grants, or a combination of the two. Grants are awarded on a need-basis, based on community size and median household income. Grant assistance share of total eligible project costs is limited depending on community size and median household income.

**Website:** <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/tx>

**Contact:**

Texas USDA Rural Development State Office  
101 South Main Street, Suite 102  
Temple, TX 76501  
**Phone:** 254-742-9700  
**Fax:** (844) 496-8123

## RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE GRANTS

This program provides funding to help non-profit housing and community development organizations support housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

Funds may be used to improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

Eligible areas include rural cities, villages, townships, or towns with no more than 20,000 residents. Funding types include low-interest loans, grants, or a combination of the two. Grants are awarded on a need-basis, based on community size and median household income. Grant assistance share of total eligible project costs is limited depending on community size and median household income.

100% matching is required.

**Website:** <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/tx>

**Amount:** Minimum grant award is \$50,000; maximum grant award is \$250,000

**Deadline:** Applications are accepted year round.

**Contact:**

Texas USDA Rural Development State Office  
101 South Main Street, Suite 102  
Temple, TX 76501  
**Phone:** 254-742-9700  
**Fax:** (844) 496-8123

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE — US FOREST SERVICE

### COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAM

The Community Forest Program (CFP) protects forests that are important for people and the places they call home. Community forests provide many benefits such as places to recreate and enjoy nature; they protect habitat, water quality and other environmental benefits, and they can provide economic benefits through timber resources. Community Forests have also long been sites for environmental and cultural education.

50% match is required.

**Website:** <http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/loa/cfp.shtml>

**Amount:** Proposed Administration funding for community forest project is \$2 million for fiscal year 2017. Individual grant applications may not exceed \$400,000.

**Deadline:** January 13, 2017

**Contact:** [http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/library/cfp\\_regional\\_contact.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/library/cfp_regional_contact.pdf)

**Southern Regional Office:**

Mike Murphy  
U.S. Forest Service  
1720 Peachtree Rd., NW  
Suite 700B North  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
**Phone:** 404-347-5214  
**Fax:** 404-347-2776  
[mwmurphy@fs.fed.us](mailto:mwmurphy@fs.fed.us)  
[communityforest@fs.fed.us](mailto:communityforest@fs.fed.us)



## URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM, COUNCIL & 10-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Urban and Community Forestry program assists state forestry agencies, local and tribal governments, and private sector entities improve natural resource management of trees and forests in urban areas and community settings. The program encourages and facilitates the active involvement of volunteers in the management and protection of their community's natural resources. The program also analyzes, develops, disseminates, and demonstrates scientific information about protecting, managing, and maintaining community forest resources. States are encouraged to offer competitive grants that involve partnerships with local governments, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector for the purpose of establishing effective community forestry programs. Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf>

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) is a Congressionally designated advisory council to the Secretary of Agriculture on urban forestry and related issues. The 1990 Farm Bill created NUCFAC to bring together the wide variety of voices raised about a common concern: the present health and future preservation of America's urban forests. NUCFAC was founded to synthesize the full spectrum of views into a consistent vision, as a foundation for practical policy on urban forestry and related natural resources.

**Website:** <http://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/nucfac>

The Ten Year Urban Forestry Action Plan developed by and for the urban forestry community. The plan's purpose is to expand awareness of the benefits that our urban forests, including green infrastructure, provide to communities throughout the nation, and increase investments in these urban forest resources for the benefit of current and future generations. The plan provides specific goals, actions, and recommendations for improving the status of urban and community forestry for the United States and its territories. The plan also identifies research needs, messaging and communications needs, and innovative funding and collaborative opportunities for urban forestry initiatives. Notably, this plan also serves as a framework for funding and recommendation priorities developed by the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) for the U.S. Forest Service's National Urban and Community Forestry program and National Challenge Cost Share Grants. The urban forestry community, including the Forest Service and other applicable Federal agencies, are to use the Action Plan as a guide to implement and expand urban and community forestry for the next ten years.

**Website:** <http://urbanforestplan.org/>

**Contact:**

Nancy Stremple, Urban Forestry Program Specialist

**Phone:** 202-309-9873

[nstremple@fs.fed.us](mailto:nstremple@fs.fed.us)

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

### PLANNING PROGRAM AND LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Through its Planning and Local Technical Assistance programs, EDA assists eligible recipients in developing economic development plans and studies designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. The Planning program helps support organizations, including District Organizations, Indian Tribes, and other eligible recipients, with Short Term and State Planning investments designed to guide the eventual creation and retention of high-quality jobs, particularly for the unemployed and underemployed in the Nation's most economically distressed regions. As part of this program, EDA supports Partnership Planning investments to facilitate the development, implementation, revision, or replacement of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), which articulate and prioritize the strategic economic goals of recipients' respective regions. The Local Technical Assistance program strengthens the capacity of local or State organizations, institutions of higher education, and other eligible recipients to undertake and promote effective economic development programs through projects such as feasibility studies and impact analyses.

**Website:** <https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

**Award:** up to \$300,000

**Deadline:** Continuing basis

**Contact:**

EDA Headquarters  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Suite 71014  
Washington, DC 20230

**Main Line:** 202-482-2000

**Texas Office:**

Austin Regional Office  
903 San Jacinto  
Suite 206  
Austin, Texas 78701

**Regional Director:**

Jorge Ayala  
**Phone:** 512-381-8150  
**Fax:** 512-499-0478  
[jayala@eda.gov](mailto:jayala@eda.gov)

## **PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

EDA solicits applications from applicants in rural and urban areas to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works and EAA programs. Grants and cooperative agreements made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities.

**Website:** <https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

**Award:** up to \$300,000

**Deadline:** Continuing basis

**Contact:**

EDA Headquarters  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Suite 71014  
Washington, DC 20230

**Main Line:** 202-482-2000

**Texas Office:**

Austin Regional Office  
903 San Jacinto  
Suite 206  
Austin, Texas 78701

**Regional Director:**

Jorge Ayala  
**Phone:** 512-381-8150  
**Fax:** 512-499-0478  
[jayala@eda.gov](mailto:jayala@eda.gov)

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES — ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is a division of the Department of Health & Human Services that aims to promote the economic and social well-being of children, families, individuals and communities with leadership and resources for compassionate, effective delivery of human services.

Announcements for funding opportunities can be found at: <https://ami.grantsolutions.gov/>

## **NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

The National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) brings together four of the nation's leading research funders — the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) — to address the problem of childhood obesity in America. These leading national organizations work in tandem to manage projects and reach common goals; coordinate funding to make the most of available resources; and share insights and expertise to strengthen research. NCCOR focuses on efforts that have the potential to benefit children, teens, and their families, and the communities in which they live.

NCCOR publishes the funding opportunities from the partners to fund a range of project types. Visit the following website for more information on the opportunities: <http://nccor.org/news/funding-opportunities/>

## CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) made available \$5.2 billion to States, Territories, and Tribes in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. CCDF is authorized by the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act and Section 418 of the Social Security Act. CCDF assists low-income families in obtaining child care so they can work or attend training/education. The program also improves the quality of child care, and promotes coordination among early childhood development and afterschool programs.

Initiatives of the CCDF include:

- Strengthening Family Child Care, a special initiative to strengthen family child care (FCC). The purpose of this initiative is to promote pathways and progressions to build the supply and stability of high quality FCC providers.
- Early Learning Initiative, which includes projects and grants that bring child care and early learning partners together at federal, state, and local levels for greater collaboration and more effective services throughout the country.
- Let's Move! Child Care promotes children's health by encouraging and supporting physical activity and healthier nutrition practices in early care and education settings.
- Emergency Preparedness, which addresses emergency preparation and response as it relates to the children in the event of a major disaster or emergency.

**Website:** <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/child-care-and-development-fund>

### Contact:

#### **CCDF Grantee State and Territory Contacts**

Texas Workforce Policy and Program Assistance  
Workforce Development Division  
Texas Workforce Commission  
Room 440-T  
101 East 15th Street  
Austin, TX 78778  
**Phone:** 512-463-6022  
**Website:** <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/childcare/ccinfo.html>

#### **OCC Regional Program Managers, Region VI**

Gwendolyn Jones  
OCC/ACF/HHS  
Suite 914  
1301 Young Street  
Dallas, TX 75202  
**Phone:** (214) 767-3849  
**Fax:** (214) 767-8890  
**E-mail:** [gwendolyn.jones@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:gwendolyn.jones@acf.hhs.gov)



## HEAD START PROGRAM

The Office of Head Start (OHS) promotes the school readiness of young children from low-income families through local programs. Head Start and Early Head Start programs support the mental, social, and emotional development of children from birth to age 5.

Head Start grants are awarded directly to public or private non-profit organizations, including community-based and faith-based organizations, or for-profit agencies within a community that wish to compete for funds. The same categories of organizations are eligible to apply for Early Head Start, except that applicants need not be from the community they will be serving. Funding opportunities: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs/funding>

**Website:** <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohs>

**Contact:**

Texas Head Start Collaboration Office

Alferma Giles, Director

**Phone:** 713-500-3835

**Fax:** 713-500-3820

**Email:** [alferma.crawford@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:alferma.crawford@uth.tmc.edu)

Texas Head Start Collaboration Office

Tracy Jones, Program Coordinator

**Phone:** 713-500-3832

**Fax:** 713-500-3820

**Email:** [tracy.a.jones@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:tracy.a.jones@uth.tmc.edu)

Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office The Children's Learning Institute

University of Texas Houston

7000 Fannin, Suite 1920

Houston, TX 77030

**Website:** <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/thssco>

CCDF Grantee State and Territory Contacts

Texas Workforce Policy and Program Assistance

Workforce Development Division

Texas Workforce Commission

Room 440-T

101 East 15th Street

Austin, TX 78778

**Phone:** 512-463-6022

**Website:** <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/childcare/ccinfo.html>

OCC Regional Program Managers, Region VI

Gwendolyn Jones

OCC/ACF/HHS

Suite 914

1301 Young Street

Dallas, TX 75202

**Phone:** (214) 767-3849

**Fax:** (214) 767-8890

**E-mail:** [gwendolyn.jones@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:gwendolyn.jones@acf.hhs.gov)

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

The Office of Community Services (OCS) partners with states, communities and agencies to reduce the causes of poverty, increase opportunity and economic security of individuals and families and revitalize communities. The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities.

**Website:** <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/csbhg>

**Administered in Texas by:** Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs: [www.tdhca.state.tx.us](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us)

**Contact:**

Tim Irvine, Executive Director  
Department of Housing and Community Affairs  
Texas Dept. of Housing & Community Affairs  
221 East 11th, PO Box 13941  
Austin, Texas 78711-3941  
**Phone:** 512- 475-3897  
**Fax:** 512-475-4624  
**Email:** [tim.irvine@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:tim.irvine@tdhca.state.tx.us)

Rita Gonzales-Garza, Project Manager for Planning and Contracts  
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs  
221 East 11th, PO Box 13941  
Austin, Texas 78711-3941  
**Phone:** (512) 475-3905  
**Fax:** (512) 475-3539  
**Email:** [rita.garza@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:rita.garza@tdhca.state.tx.us)

Federal Staff by Region- Region VI  
**Program Specialist:** Isaac Davis  
**Phone:** (202) 401-5335  
**Email:** [Isaac.Davis@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Isaac.Davis@acf.hhs.gov)

## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Community Economic Development (CED) is a federal grant program funding Community Development Corporations that address the economic needs of low-income individuals and families through the creation of sustainable business development and employment opportunities.

CED awards funds to private, non-profit organizations that are community development corporations (CDCs), including faith-based organizations, and Tribal and Alaskan Native organizations. CDCs must be governed by a three-party board of directors that includes residents of the community served, and local business and civic leaders. CDCs must have as their principle purpose planning, developing or managing low-income housing or community development projects.

CED programs also provide technical and financial assistance for economic development activities.

**Website:** <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ced>

**Contact:**

Community Economic Development Program  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Community Services  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20447  
**Phone:** (202) 401-5663  
**Email:** [CED@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:CED@acf.hhs.gov)

## SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANTS

Social Services Block Grants (SSBG) enables each state or territory to meet the needs of its residents through locally relevant social services. SSBGs support programs that allow communities to achieve or maintain economic self-sufficiency to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency on social services. Each state administers the program locally, determining which services to provide and who is eligible to receive these services.

**Website:** <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ssbg>

**Contact:**

Region VI  
**Program Specialist:** Edwin Patout  
**Phone:** (202) 401-4838  
**Email:** [Edwin.Patout@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Edwin.Patout@acf.hhs.gov)

## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The activities of the Community Planning and Development Program build stronger and more resilient communities through an ongoing process of identifying and addressing needs, assets, and priority investments. Community development activities may support infrastructure, economic development projects, installation of public facilities, community centers, housing rehabilitation, public services, clearance/acquisition, microenterprise assistance, code enforcement, homeowner assistance and many other identified needs. Federal support for community development encourages systematic and sustained action by State, and local governments. The Office of Block Grant Assistance administers funds, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), allocated to State and local governments to address locally identified community development needs through the following programs (only showing those applicable in Texas):

- CDBG Entitlement Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.
- CDBG State Program allows States to award grants to smaller units of general local government that develop and preserve decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create and retain jobs.
- CDBG Program Colonias Set-Aside requires the border states of Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas to set aside a percentage of their annual State CDBG allocations for use in the Colonia to help meet the needs of the Colonias residents in relationship to the need for potable water, adequate sewer systems, or decent, safe and sanitary housing.
- Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program is the loan guarantee provision of the CDBG Program and provides communities with a source of financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and large-scale physical development projects.
- CDBG Disaster Recovery Program provides flexible grants to help cities, counties, and States recover from Presidentially declared disasters, especially in low-income areas, subject to availability of supplemental appropriations.
- The Neighborhood Stabilization Program provides grants to communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment to purchase and redevelop foreclosed and abandoned homes and residential properties.
- Brownfields Economic Development Initiative provides grants to assist cities with the redevelopment of abandoned, idled and underused industrial and commercial facilities where expansion and redevelopment is burdened by real or potential environmental contamination.

Each fiscal year (FY), HUD publishes a General Section that contains requirements for all of HUD's competitive grant programs. To be considered for funding, applications must meet all applicable requirements of the General Section and the requirements in the Program NOFA.

**Website:** [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail/nofa2017/gensec](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail/nofa2017/gensec)

To identify funding opportunities through HUD, visit the following website: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail)

**Award:** Varies

**Deadline:** Varies

**Contact:**

#### National Office:

Office of Strategic Planning and Management  
Grants Management & Oversight Division  
Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street, SW, Room 3156  
Washington, DC 20410-3000  
Phone: (202) 708-0667

#### Houston Regional Office:

Sandra H. Warren  
Director, CPD  
1301 Fannin Street  
Suite 2200  
Houston, TX 77002  
**Phone:** 713-718-3279  
**Email:** Sandra.H.Warren@hud.gov

#### Fort Worth Regional Office:

Shirley J. Henley  
Director, CPD  
801 Cherry Street  
Unit #45 - Suite 2500  
Ft. Worth, TX 76102  
**Phone:** 817-978-5951  
**Email:** Shirley.J.Henley@hud.gov

#### San Antonio Regional Office:

Elva F. Garcia  
Director, CPD  
Hipolito Garcia Federal Building  
615 E. Houston Street  
Suite 347  
San Antonio, TX 78205  
**Phone:** 210-475-6866  
**Email:** Elva.Garcia@hud.gov



## HOPE VI REVITALIZATION GRANTS

The specific elements of public housing transformation that have proven key to HOPE VI include: Changing the physical shape of public housing; establishing positive incentives for resident self— sufficiency and comprehensive services that empower residents; lessening concentrations of poverty by placing public housing in non—poverty neighborhoods and promoting mixed-income communities; and forging partnerships with other agencies, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private businesses to leverage support and resources. Only public housing authorities are eligible to apply for these funds, but park and recreation agencies can contract to develop recreation facilities at public housing sites and to provide community and supportive service programs for residents, including those relocated as a result of revitalization efforts. For more information, go to: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/ph/hope6](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/hope6)

## HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM

The HBCU Program helps HBCUs expand their role and effectiveness in helping their communities with neighborhood revitalization, housing, and economic development. HUD views HBCUs as key partners in rebuilding America's neighborhoods, and annually invites HBCUs to compete for funds to assist in revitalization efforts. This program awards grants to historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to address community development needs in their localities.

Website: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/programdescription/hbcu>

To identify funding opportunities through HUD, visit the following website: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail)

**Award:** Closed

**Deadline:** Closed

**Contact:**

### Houston Regional Office:

Sandra H. Warren  
Director, CPD  
1301 Fannin Street  
Suite 2200  
Houston, TX 77002  
**Phone:** 713-718-3279  
**Email:** Sandra.H.Warren@hud.gov

### Fort Worth Regional Office:

Shirley J. Henley  
Director, CPD  
801 Cherry Street  
Unit #45 - Suite 2500  
Ft. Worth, TX 76102  
**Phone:** 817-978-5951  
**Email:** Shirley.J.Henley@hud.gov

### San Antonio Regional Office:

Elva F. Garcia  
Director, CPD  
Hipolito Garcia Federal Building  
615 E. Houston Street  
Suite 347  
San Antonio, TX 78205  
**Phone:** 210-475-6866  
**Email:** Elva.Garcia@hud.gov

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR — FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

### AQUATIC RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Aquatic Resource Education Program helps people understand, enjoy and conserve the aquatic natural resources of the nation. States have the option of using up to 15 percent of their annual Sport Fish Restoration apportionment for aquatic resource education programs and outreach and communications projects. The Sport Fish Restoration Program, created in 1950, provides funding for fish management, conservation, restoration, aquatic education, and boating access. The program is funded by a 10 percent Federal excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits and a 3 percent tax on electronic fishing motors and sonar fish finders; duties on imported fishing tackle, pleasure boats and yachts; and a portion of the Federal fuel tax receipts from motorboats and small gasoline engines. The funds are apportioned annually to the states and territories by the Department of the Interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Apportionments are determined for each state by land area and number of fishing license owners. All funds are disseminated through State Fish and Wildlife Departments.

**Website:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/grantprograms/AquaticEd/AE.htm>

**Contact:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Kelly Oliver-Amy

**Phone:** 505-248-7457

**Email:** [Kelly\\_oliver-amy@fws.gov](mailto:Kelly_oliver-amy@fws.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

### BOATING ACCESS PROGRAM

The Boating Access (BA) Program provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas fish and wildlife agencies for projects that provide access to America's waterways by developing new access facilities or renovation and/or improvement of existing facilities.

Today more than 16.8 million boats use U.S. waterways. A large percentage of these are operated by anglers and recreational boaters.

The Boating Access Program is part of the Sport Fish Restoration Program. Spending for the BA is authorized in the Sport Fish Restoration Act.

The Sport Fish Restoration Act mandates each state, the District of Columbia and insular area to allocate at least 15 percent of their annual Sport Fish Restoration apportionment to boating access projects. The allocation is averaged over a five year period for each U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service region.

The funds apportioned annually are derived from excise taxes on fishing equipment, motorboat and small engine fuels, import duties, and interest collected in the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. These funds are apportioned to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas based on a formula which includes land area, number of paid license holders, minimums and maximums.

**Website:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/BoatAccess/BA.htm>

**Contact:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Buddy Fazio

**Phone:** 505-248-7461

**Email:** [Buddy\\_Fazio@fws.gov](mailto:Buddy_Fazio@fws.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG) provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas to construct, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities with features for transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or more in length, and to produce and distribute information and educational materials about the program. The BIG Program includes two funding tiers, Tier One (non-competitive) and Tier Two (nationally competitive). Under Tier One each state, the D.C. and insular area may receive funding for eligible projects up to \$200,000 annually. Tier Two funds are made available through a nationally competitive process. Tier Two proposals received are reviewed, evaluated and ranked by a national panel with the final decision for funding made by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The ranking criteria, eligible projects and regulations are listed in 50 CFR 86.

Funds for the BIG Program are provided annually from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. The amount provided is 4% of the funds (split between the BIG and CVA programs) in the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund after deducting amounts for WSFR administration, the Multistate Conservation Grant Program, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and fisheries commissions.

**Website:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/BIG/BIG.htm>

**Contact:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Buddy Fazio

**Phone:** 505-248-7461

**Email:** [Buddy\\_Fazio@fws.gov](mailto:Buddy_Fazio@fws.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## CLEAN VESSEL ACT GRANT PROGRAM

The Clean Vessel Act Grant Program (CVA) provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of pump-out stations and waste reception facilities for recreational boaters and also for educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper disposal of their sewage.

**Website:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/CVA/CVA.htm>

**Contact:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Buddy Fazio

**Phone:** 505-248-7461

**Email:** [Buddy\\_Fazio@fws.gov](mailto:Buddy_Fazio@fws.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) provides federal grant funds derived from federal offshore lease revenues to oil producing states for conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas including wetlands; mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources; planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with these objectives; implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan; and mitigation of the impact of outer Continental Shelf activities through funding of onshore infrastructure projects and public service needs.

Statewide CIAP plans that include proposed projects have been prepared by the affected states: Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The federally approved CIAP plans have also been coordinated through a public review process.

Federal grant funds must be used to directly benefit an authorized use to conserve, restore, enhance, and protect renewable natural resources. Non-federal matching funds are not required for approved grant projects associated with this federal grant program.

**National website:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/CIAP/CIAP.htm>

**State website:** <http://www.glo.texas.gov/coast/grant-projects/ciap/index.html>

**Contact:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Susan MacMullin

**Phone:** 505-248-7476

**Email:** [Susan\\_MacMullin@fws.gov](mailto:Susan_MacMullin@fws.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>



## HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Hunter Education Program provides grant funds to the states and insular areas fish and wildlife agencies for projects to provide instruction in firearm operations and safety, wildlife management, nature conservation, ethics, game laws, outdoor survival and wilderness first aid. Funds may also be used for the development and operations of archery and shooting range facilities.

The goal is to teach students to be safe, responsible, conservation-minded hunters. Most States require completion of a hunter education course prior to purchasing a hunting license.

**Website:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/HunterEd/HE.htm>

**Contact:** <http://www.glo.texas.gov/coast/grant-projects/ciap/index.html>

Southwest Regional Office

Andrew Ortiz

**Phone:** 505-248-7459

**Email:** [Andrew\\_Ortiz@fws.gov](mailto:Andrew_Ortiz@fws.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NON-TRIBAL PORTION) - OVERVIEW

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) provides federal grant funds to grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas to protect and restore habitats on private lands, to benefit Federally listed, proposed or candidate species or other species determined to be at-risk.

Grant funds must be used to establish or supplement State landowner incentive programs to benefit species identified in the State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (State Wildlife Action Plan) or classified as Special Concern by the State, or Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species or other species determined to be at-risk. These grant funds may also be used to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for habitat protection and restoration. More info...

The LIP Program includes two funding tiers, Tier One (non-competitive) and Tier Two (nationally competitive). Under Tier One each state may receive funding for eligible projects up to \$200,000 annually and the District of Columbia and insular areas up to \$75,000 annually. If there is adequate funding in the appropriation, WSFR will rank Tier Two grants and award grants through a national competition. The competition will be announced separately.

**Website:** [https://www.fws.gov/southwest/federal\\_assistance/ri.html#contactfedaid](https://www.fws.gov/southwest/federal_assistance/ri.html#contactfedaid)

**Contact:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Susan MacMullin

**Phone:** 505-248-7476

**Email:** [Susan\\_MacMullin@fws.gov](mailto:Susan_MacMullin@fws.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM - OVERVIEW

The MSCGP provides funding for wildlife and sport fish restoration projects identified as priority projects by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). These high priority projects address problems affecting states on a regional or national basis. Project types that are generally selected for funding are: biological research/training, species population status, outreach, data collection regarding hunter/angler participation, hunter/aquatic education, economic value of fishing/hunting, and regional or multistate habitat needs assessments.

The AFWA and the Division of Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) work together to manage the MSCGP. The AFWA administers the grant application process, providing oversight, coordination, and guidance for the MSCGP while the WSFR awards and manages the grants.

**Website:** [https://www.fws.gov/southwest/federal\\_assistance/ri.html#contactfedaid](https://www.fws.gov/southwest/federal_assistance/ri.html#contactfedaid)

**Contact:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

500 Gold SW, Suite 8514, Albuquerque, NM 87102

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## NATIONAL COASTAL WETLANDS GRANT PROGRAM

The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants Program is authorized by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to grant funds to coastal states to carry out coastal wetlands conservation projects. Participants in the program include state, county, and municipal governments as well as non-government partners.

Funds for the Coastal Wetlands Grant Program are provided annually from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) receives 18.5 percent of the funds in the Trust Fund after deducting amounts for WSFR administration, the Multistate Conservation Grant Program, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and fisheries commissions.

**Website:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/CW/CW.htm>

**Contact:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Susan MacMullin

**Phone:** 505-248-7476

**Email:** Susan\_MacMullin@fws.gov

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Act, approved by Congress on August 9, 1950, provides funding for fish management, conservation, and restoration. The program is funded by a 10 percent Federal excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits and a 3 percent tax on electronic fishing motors and sonar fish finders. The funds are apportioned annually to the states and territories (except Puerto Rico) by the Department of the Interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Apportionments are determined for each state by land area and number of fishing license owners. All funds are disseminated through State Fish and Wildlife Departments.

**Website:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/SFR/SFR.htm>

**Contact:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Kelly Oliver-Amy

**Phone:** 505-248-7457

**Email:** Kelly\_oliver-amy@fws.gov

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## STATE WILDLIFE GRANT PROGRAM

The State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program provides Federal grant funds to State fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished.

Grant funds may be used to address a variety of conservation needs—such as research, fish and wildlife surveys, species restoration, habitat management, and monitoring—that are identified within a State's Wildlife Action Plan. These funds may also be used to update, revise, or modify a State's Plan.

Congress appropriates funds for the State Wildlife Grant Program on an annual basis. Funds are apportioned to States, commonwealths, and U.S. territories based on a formula that considers each State's population and total geographical area.

Grant funds are disbursed to States for approved grants at a maximum federal share of 75% for planning grants and 65% for Plan implementation grants. Congress also allocates a portion of appropriated funds to a competitive SWG subprogram. State Wildlife Grant funds administered by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program provide a unique source of funding, helping States to focus on targeted species in a proactive fashion, to help identify and reverse species population declines before restoration becomes more difficult and costly.

**Website:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG.htm>

**Contact:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Vanessa Martinez

**Phone:** 505-248-7452

**Email:** Vanessa\_Martinez@fws.gov

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM

Approved by Congress on September 2, 1937, the Act provides funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management research and the distribution of information produced by the projects. Congress amended the Act on October 23, 1970, to include funding for hunter training programs and the development, operation and maintenance of public target ranges. Funds are derived from an 11 percent Federal excise tax on handguns. Funds are also collected from a 12.4 percent tax on archery equipment. A certain amount of funds (section 4) must be used on hunter education before additional funds (section 10) can be attained. The section 10 funds can be used for additional hunter education programs or for wildlife restoration. These funds are apportioned each year to the states and territories (except Puerto Rico) by the Department of the Interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Apportionments are determined for each state by land area and number of hunting license owners.

**Website:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/WR/WR.htm>

**Contact:** <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/ContactUs/ContactUs.htm>

Southwest Regional Office

Nicole Jimenez

**Phone:** 505-248-7466

**Email:** [Nicole\\_Jimenez@fws.gov](mailto:Nicole_Jimenez@fws.gov)

**Website:** <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/index.html>

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR — NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### CHALLENGE COST SHARE PROGRAM

The Challenge Cost Share Program supports local projects that promote conservation and recreation, environmental stewardship, education, and engaging youth in the outdoors. Local project partners work with National Park Service (NPS) staff to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Applications are submitted by NPS staff in collaboration with project partners. This partnership challenge rewards those proposals that highlight long lasting benefits while developing new partnerships.

The program requires equal matching share. Cash, goods, or services from non-federal sources can be considered as a cost share. The maximum Challenge Cost Share project support is \$25,000. If selected our national partner, Outdoor Foundation, forms an agreement and provides project funds directly to the local partner. Applications are submitted by NPS staff in collaboration with project partners.

**Website:** <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/ccsp/>

**Award:** up to \$25,000 (FY2017)

**Deadline:** July 1, 2016 (FY2017)

**Contact:**

National office:

National Coordinator

Stephan Nofield

**Email:** [Stephan\\_nofield@nps.gov](mailto:Stephan_nofield@nps.gov)

Southeast Region:

John Barrett

National Park Service

100 Alabama Street, SW

Atlanta, GA 30303

**Phone:** 404-507-5689

**Fax:** 404-562-3282

**Email:** [nps\\_flpsouth@nps.gov](mailto:nps_flpsouth@nps.gov)



## FEDERAL LANDS TO PARKS

The Federal Lands-to-Parks (FLP) enables states and local governments to establish park and recreation areas and adapt historic buildings for public uses. Through FLP, state and local agencies may acquire land and facilities once used for federal purposes at no cost to meet park and recreation needs.

**Amount: N/A.** Program based on existing inventory of federal lands and transferring it to state or local governments for park and recreation use.

**Annual Deadline:** As land becomes available, 25 days from the “notice of availability”

Information about the program is available at: <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/flp/index.htm>

**Contacts:** [https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/flp/flp\\_contact.html](https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/flp/flp_contact.html)

National office:

Wendy Ormont  
State and Local Programs Division  
National Park Service  
1201 I Street, NW  
Mail Stop 2225  
Washington, DC 20005  
**Phone:** 202-354-6915  
**Fax:** 202-371-5179  
**Email:** [nps\\_flpnational@nps.gov](mailto:nps_flpnational@nps.gov)

Southeast Region:

John Barrett  
National Park Service  
100 Alabama Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
**Phone:** 404-507-5689  
**Fax:** 404-562-3282  
**Email:** [nps\\_flpsouth@nps.gov](mailto:nps_flpsouth@nps.gov)

## LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was enacted in 1964 (Public Law 88-578) to “create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities.” LWCF provides funding for: (1) land acquisition for federal land managing agencies; and (2) matching grants to state and local governments for planning (states only), acquisition and development of park and recreation areas and resource based facilities. Specifics for federal land acquisition projects are determined each fiscal year by Congress and the Administration. Of the amounts appropriated in any given fiscal year for each State and Territory is determined based on a formula set in the LWCF Act, and is subsequently approved by the Secretary of the Interior. The grantee assumes all operation and maintenance costs in perpetuity. In Texas, the LWCF allocation funds a number of grant programs available to local communities, including

**Amount:** In 2016, Texas was allocated a total of \$5,415,887. All state and local grants require at least a 50 percent match by the non-federal partner.

**Annual Deadline:** Varies depending on state grant program.

Information about the program is available at: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/stateside.htm>

**Contacts:** <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/contact-list.htm>

National office:

National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW, Org-2225  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
**Phone:** 202-354-6900  
**Website:** <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1600/index.htm>

Midwest Region:

National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102  
**Phone:** 402-661-1540

Texas Office:

Director  
State Parks  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, TX 78744  
**Phone:** 512-389-8545  
**Website:** <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/>

## RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE

The RTCA program offers local groups staff assistance and consultations for locally-led conservation projects. Projects may include developing trails and greenways or protecting rivers and open space. Regional RTCA offices provide application information and assistance.

**Amount:** Funding or grants not offered.

**Annual Deadline:** June 30

Information about the program is available at: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

**Contact:** <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/contactus.htm>

National Office:

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program  
1201 Eye Street NW Washington, DC 20005

Texas Office:

RTCA, National Park Service  
1901 E. Ben White Blvd.  
Austin, Texas 78741  
**Phone:** (512) 744-1940

Marta de la Garza Newkirk  
**Email:** [marta\\_newkirk\\_de\\_la\\_garza@nps.gov](mailto:marta_newkirk_de_la_garza@nps.gov)  
**Phone:** (512) 784-3134

Erich Melville  
**Email:** [erich\\_melville@nps.gov](mailto:erich_melville@nps.gov)  
**Phone:** (512) 688-0652

Justin Bates  
**Email:** [justin\\_bates@nps.gov](mailto:justin_bates@nps.gov)  
**Phone:** (512) 878-7463

Intermountain Region:

Alan Ragins  
**Phone:** 303-969-2855  
**Email:** [alan\\_ragins@nps.gov](mailto:alan_ragins@nps.gov)

## URBAN PARKS & RECREATION RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program was authorized in November 1978 by Public Law 95625, providing direct federal matching assistance to cities and urban counties for rehabilitation of existing recreation facilities. The law encourages systematic local planning and commitment to continuing operation and maintenance of recreation programs, sites, and facilities. Project proposals are submitted to the appropriate National Park Service Regional Office by eligible local units of government (selected cities and urban counties). Grants are awarded on a nationally competitive basis with regional offices having the primary responsibility for monitoring progress and post-completion requirements.

**Amount:** Currently unfunded.

Information about the program: <https://www.nps.gov/uparr/>

**Contact:** <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/uprr/contact.html>

National Office:

National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW, Org-2225  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
**Phone:** 202-354-6900  
**Website:** <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1600/index.htm>

Midwest Region:

National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102  
**Phone:** 402-661-1540

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### TIGER DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Since 2009, Congress has dedicated nearly \$4.6 billion for seven rounds of TIGER to fund projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a region or a metropolitan area. The eligibility requirements of TIGER allow project sponsors at the State and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs.

**Website:** <https://www.transportation.gov/tiger>

**Deadline:** 2016 grant deadlines have passed.

**Contact:**

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
**Email:** TIGERgrants@dot.gov  
**Phone:** 202-366-0301

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) was signed into law in December 2015, authorizing \$305 billion over fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for highway, highway and motor vehicle safety, public transportation, motor carrier safety, hazardous materials safety, rail, and research, technology, and statistics programs. Funds are apportioned to states to administer programs or further allocate funds.

### ACCELERATED INNOVATION DEPLOYMENT (AID) DEMONSTRATION GRANT

The AID Demonstration program is one initiative under the multi-faceted Technology and Innovation Deployment Program (TIDP) approach providing funding and other resources to offset the risk of trying an innovation. The AID Demonstration program provides funding as an incentive for eligible entities to accelerate the implementation and adoption of innovation in highway transportation. The FAST Act authorized funding for the continuation of these programs and opportunities. Entities eligible to apply (Applicants) are State DOTs, Federal Land Management Agencies, and tribal governments. Metropolitan planning organizations and local governments may apply through the State DOT as a sub-recipient.

**Website:** <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/grants>

**Amount:** \$50,000 to \$1 million; Estimated Total Program Funding: \$50 million

**Deadline:** Sep 30, 2020; Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis.

**Contact:**

Mr. Thomas Harman, Director  
Center for Accelerating Innovation, Federal Highway Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.  
Washington, DC 20590  
**Phone:** (202) 366-6377

Ewa Flom, Program Coordinator, AID Demonstration  
**Phone:** (202) 366-2169  
**Email:** Ewa.Flom@dot.gov



## CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality improvement program (CMAQ) is to realign the focus of transportation planning toward a more inclusive, environmentally sensitive, and multi-modal approach. The CMAQ program provides funding for programs and projects in air quality non-attainment and maintenance for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), and small particulate matter (PM-10), which reduces transportation related emissions. Grants are provided through a reimbursement process that varies state by state. Funds may be used for either the construction of bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways, or non-construction projects (such as maps, brochures, and public service announcements) related to safe bicycle use. In general, however, a sponsor would submit expenses to the state department of transportation, which would then reimburse at 80 percent of the project cost. The CMAQ Program was reauthorized for 2016 through 2020 through the FAST Act.

**Amount:** FAST Act provides for \$2.3 M to \$2.5 M in CMAQ funding each year from 2016 through 2020. It is estimated the State of Texas will receive an average of \$853 million in CMAQ funds annually.

**Applications and information about CMAQ grants are available at:** [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/cmaq/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/)

## RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

The Recreational Trails Program, was reauthorized by the FAST Act, provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail users. Eligible project categories as defined in the act are: maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails; development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages; purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment; construction of new recreational trails (with restrictions on new trails on Federal land); acquisition of easements or property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors; state administrative costs related to program administration (up to 7 percent of a state's funds); and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as these objectives relate to the use of recreational trails (up to 5 percent of a state's funds). Each state has its own procedures and timelines to solicit, select, and fund Recreational Trails projects.

In Texas, the Recreational Trails program is administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

**Amount:** \$200,000 Requires 80/20 match

**Deadline:** February 1, 2017

**Program website:** [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/)

**Website:** <http://www.americantrails.org/ee/index.php/nationalrecreationtrails>

**Texas website:** <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/recreational-trails-grants>

**Contact:** For more information about project funding contact your State Trail Administrator. For a list of administrators go to: [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/rtpstate.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/rtpstate.cfm)

### National Office:

FHWA  
Christopher Douwes  
Community Planner  
Recreational Trails Program  
Transportation Alternatives  
Federal Highway Administration  
FHWA HEPH-10 Rm E74-474  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington DC 20590-0001  
Phone: 202-366-5013

### Texas Office:

Trey Cooksey, State Parks Trails Coordinator  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin TX 78744-3291  
**Phone:** 512-389-8743  
**Fax:** 512-389-8242  
**Email:** [trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us)

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Program is a Federal-Aid program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Program was created by Section 1404 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users Act (SAFETEA-LU). The SRTS Program was funded at \$1.162 billion for Federal fiscal years (FY) 2005-2012 and is administered by State Departments of Transportation (DOTs).

The SRTS Program received dedicated funding through 2012. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) authorized the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which replaced the funding from pre-MAP-21 programs including the Transportation Enhancement Activities, Recreational Trails Program, and Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). MAP-21 did not provide specific funding for SRTS, but SRTS projects are eligible for TAP funds and for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. Under Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), the TAP program was rolled into the Surface Transportation Program.

Safe Routes to School initiatives may be eligible under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program or Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside.

**Website:** [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/safe\\_routes\\_to\\_school/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/safe_routes_to_school/)

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The FAST Act converted the Surface Transportation Program to a block grant program that folds in the Transportation Alternative Program. The program provides funding to states and localities for projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects, including intercity bus terminals.

**Amount:** The FAST Act provides for an estimated average of \$4.796 million allocated to Texas for the STBG Program funding each year from 2016 through 2020

**Website:** <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/stbgfs.cfm>

**Contact:** <https://www.transportation.gov/fastact/>

National Office:

Office of the Under Secretary for Policy  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
United States  
**Phone:** 202-366-4540

Texas Office: Administered by TXDOT

**Online form:** <http://www.txdot.gov/contact-us/form.html>

## TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES, STBG SET-ASIDE

The FAST Act amended the Surface Transportation Program to include a set aside for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, which is replacing the MAP-21 Transportation Alternative Program. Similar to its predecessors, the Transportation Alternative Program and Transportation Enhancement Activities, the STBG Program, or TA Set-Aside, authorizes funding for The TA Set-Aside authorizes funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity; recreational trail projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways.

**Amount:** In Texas, The FAST Act provides for an estimated average of \$386 million set-aside from the STBG Program funding each year from 2016 through 2020

**Website:** <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/transportationalternativesfs.cfm>

**Contact:** <https://www.transportation.gov/fastact/>

National Office:

Office of the Under Secretary for Policy  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
United States  
**Phone:** 202-366-4540

Texas Office: Administered by TXDOT

**Online form:** <http://www.txdot.gov/contact-us/form.html>

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – COAST GUARD

### RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY

The RBS grant program provides funding to assist states with program administration, law enforcement and search and rescue capability, boater education, vessel numbering and titling systems, aids to navigation, and public boating access sites. Allowable uses of the RBS Program funds include a wide spectrum of activities that fall into six broad categories – program administration, law enforcement and search and rescue capability, boater education, vessel numbering and titling systems, aids to navigation, and public boating access sites. States with approved boating safety programs that meet the participation requirements are eligible.

Information about the program is available at: <http://www.uscgboating.org/grants/index.php>

**Amount:** In 2016, Texas received approximately \$3.8 million in state grant funding

**Contact:** <http://www.uscgboating.org/php-contact-form/contactC.php>

Commandant (CG-BSX-2)  
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters  
2703 Martin Luther King, JR Ave SE  
Stop 7501  
Washington, DC 20593-7501  
**Phone:** 202.372.1062

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Every year, EPA awards over \$4 billion in funding for grants and other assistance agreements. From small non-profit organizations to large state governments, EPA works to help many visionary organizations achieve their environmental goals. With countless success stories over the years, EPA grants remain a chief tool in the advancement of human health and the environment.

**Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/grants/specific-epa-grant-programs>

### AIR GRANTS & FUNDING

EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) announces competitive funding announcements for projects and programs relating to air quality, transportation, climate change, indoor air and other related topics.

**Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/grants/air-grants-and-funding>

**Contact:**

National Office:  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Grants and Debarment  
Mail Code: 3901  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**Phone:** (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:  
Environmental Protection  
Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
**Phone:** (214) 665-2200 or (800) 887-6063

## BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANTS

Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, tribes, and nonprofits to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites. Under Brownfields Assessment Grants, EPA is seeking proposals for Assessment Grants only, to provide funds to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning (including cleanup planning) and community involvement related to brownfield sites.

**Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/grants/fy17-guidelines-brownfields-assessment-grants>

**Award:** varies \$200,000 to \$600,000, cost sharing not required, but encouraged

**Deadline:** December 20, 2016

**Contact:**

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Grants and Debarment  
Mail Code: 3901  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**Phone:** (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Environmental Protection  
Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
**Phone:** (214) 665-2200 or (800) 887-6063

## BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANTS

EPA's Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, tribes, and nonprofits to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites. Under the Brownfields Cleanup Grants, EPA is seeking proposals for Cleanup Grants only to provide funds to carry out cleanup activities at a specific brownfield site owned by the applicant.

**Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/grants/fy17-guidelines-brownfields-cleanup-grants>

**Award:** varies \$200,000; 20% cost share required.

**Deadline:** December 20, 2016

**Contact:**

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Grants and Debarment  
Mail Code: 3901  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**Phone:** (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Environmental Protection  
Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
**Phone:** (214) 665-2200 or (800) 887-6063



## BROWNFIELDS AREA-WIDE PLANNING GRANT

EPA's Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, tribes, and nonprofits to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites. Under the Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant, the EPA solicits proposals from eligible entities to conduct research and/or technical assistance activities that culminate in an area-wide plan for brownfields assessment, cleanup and subsequent reuse. Grant-funded activities must be directed to one or more catalyst, high priority brownfield site(s) located within a specific project area, such as a neighborhood, downtown, business or arts district, a local commercial or industrial corridor, a community waterfront, one or more city blocks, etc. Each recipient that receives a grant under this funding opportunity must develop an area-wide plan for the brownfield(s) within the project area, and include in that plan specific implementation strategies for assessing, cleaning up and reusing the brownfield(s) and related project area revitalization strategies.

**Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/grants/fy2017-brownfields-area-wide-planning-grant>

**Award:** varies \$200,000; cost sharing not required, but encouraged.

**Deadline:** FY2017 grant deadline has passed.

**Contact:**

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Grants and Debarment  
Mail Code: 3901  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**Phone:** (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Environmental Protection  
Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
**Phone:** (214) 665-2200 or (800) 887-6063

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAM

The EPA Environmental grant program supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to make informed and responsible decisions that affect environmental quality. The program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. Each year, EPA's Office of Environmental Education releases a solicitation notice in the Federal Register that provides instructions for obtaining a grant. Educational agencies at the state, local and tribal level, state environmental agencies, college and universities, not-for-profit organizations, and noncommercial educational broadcasting entities are eligible to apply. Individuals are not eligible to apply. Although government agencies cannot apply directly, they are encouraged to work with other entities on developing and implementing environmental education programs.

**Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>

**Award:** closed

**Deadline:** closed

**Contact:**

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Grants and Debarment  
Mail Code: 3901  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**Phone:** (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Bonnie King  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
**Email:** king.bonita@epa.gov  
**Phone:** (214) 665-2200

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANTS

With these grants, the EPA aims to provide financial assistance to grassroots community—based groups to support projects to design, demonstrate or disseminate practices, methods or techniques related to environmental justice. Specifically, EPA will grant funding assistance to be used for: environmental justice education and awareness programs; environmental Justice Programs (for example, river monitoring and pollution prevention programs); technical assistance in gathering and interpreting existing environmental justice data; and technical assistance to access available public information. Community-based grassroots organizations, other incorporated nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Tribal Governments are eligible. Applications are usually due at the beginning of March each year. Awardees are notified in August of each year.

**Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

**Award:** closed

**Deadline:** closed

**Contact:**

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Grants and Debarment  
Mail Code: 3901  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
N.W.Washington, D.C. 20460  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**Phone:** (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Israel Anderson  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
**Email:** anderson.israel@epa.gov  
**Phone:** 214-665-3138

## MULTIPURPOSE GRANTS TO STATES AND TRIBES

For states and territories, this funding is available to support implementation of air and state-led climate activities and other state-defined high priority activities. Funding is also available to tribes that have obtained authorization to develop water quality standards.

**Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/grants/multipurpose-grants-states-and-tribes>

**Award:** closed

**Deadline:** closed

**Contact:**

National Office:

Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Grants and Debarment  
Mail Code: 3901  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
N.W.Washington, D.C. 20460  
**Email:** GAD\_OGDWEB@epa.gov  
**Phone:** (202) 564-5315

Region 6 Office:

Environmental Protection  
Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
**Phone:** (214) 665-2200 or (800) 887-6063

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT (TAG) PROGRAM

This EPA program seeks to provide financial assistance to States, Local agencies, and Indian Tribes for chemical accident prevention activities that relate to the Risk Management Program under the Clean Air Act Section 112(r). Additionally, through this program the EPA provides financial assistance to Tribes for chemical emergency planning, and community right-to-know programs, which are established to prevent or eliminate unreasonable risk to the health and environment of communities within the State. Eligible applicants include States, Local agencies in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Island, Northern Mariana Islands, and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes. Recipients must match 25 percent of the grant funds (including in-kind services).

**Website:** <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program>

**Award:** up to \$50,000, 20% match required

**Deadline:** closed

**Contact:** Region 6 Office:

Janetta Coats, Regional TAG Coordinator  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
**Phone:** (214) 665-7308  
**Email:** coats.janetta@epa.gov

## STATE FUNDING SOURCES

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### TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

#### BOAT SEWAGE PUMPOUT GRANTS

Federal funds through the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 allow private marinas and local governments to receive grants to install boat sewage pumpout stations in Texas. Pumpout Grants can constitute up to 75% of all approved project costs. These grants provide funds for the construction and/or renovation, operation and maintenance of pumpout and portable toilet dump stations.

**Website:** <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/boat-sewage-pumpout>

**Award:** Competitive

**Deadline:** Continuous

**Contact:**

Trey Cooksey, State Parks Trails Coordinator  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin TX 78744-3291  
**Phone:** 512-389-8743  
**Fax:** 512-389-8242  
**Email:** trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us

#### BOATING ACCESS GRANT

The Boating Access Grant Program provides 75% matching fund grant assistance to construct new, or renovate existing, public boat ramps that provide public access to public waters for recreational boating. The State Boating Access Program receives funding from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. Funds for the federal program are derived from the federal gasoline tax generated by sales of gasoline for recreational motorboats and a federal excise tax on the sales of fishing tackle and trolling motors. Fifteen percent of the state's annual apportionment from this federal program must be used to provide public recreational boating access.

**Website:** <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/boating-access>

**Award:** \$500,000

**Deadline:** October 1, 2016

**Contact:**

Trey Cooksey, State Parks Trails Coordinator  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin TX 78744-3291  
**Phone:** 512-389-8743  
**Fax:** 512-389-8242  
**Email:** trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us

## COMMUNITY OUTDOOR OUTREACH PROGRAM (CO-OP) GRANT

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) grant provides funding to local governments and non-profit organizations for programming that introduces under-served populations to environmental and conservation programs as well as TPWD mission oriented outdoor activities.

Grants are available to tax-exempt organizations and local governments introducing non-traditional constituents to TPWD related outdoor recreation, conservation and environmental education programs. The success of this program lies in the partnerships created between TPWD and grass-roots organizations who have already established a relationship with these identified targeted audiences; females, physically/mentally challenged, ethnic minorities, low income and youth.

CO-OP provides grants to tax-exempt organizations ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000. This is a reimbursement grant program. Recipients must purchase eligible items and submit proper documentation before being reimbursed. Eligible organizations can apply to use these funds for programming expenses such as equipment, leasing transportation, staff, liability insurance, food, program materials, etc.

**Website:** <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/community-outdoor-outreach-program-co-op-grants>

**Award:** \$50,000

**Deadline:** February 1, 2017

**Contact:**

Cappy Smith, Program Manager

**Phone:** (512) 389-8254

**Email:** cappy.smith@tpwd.texas.gov

## LOCAL PARKS GRANT

The Local Park Grant Program consists of 5 individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.

The Local Park Grant Program consists of 5 individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. Once funded, all grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.

Eligible applicants include political subdivisions of the State of Texas legally responsible for providing public recreation services to their citizens. This includes cities, counties, river authorities, municipal utility districts, and other special districts.

**Website:** <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/about-local-parks-grants>

**Award:** Varies

**Deadline:** October 1, 2016

**Contact:**

Dana Lagarde, Program Manager

**Phone:** (512) 389-8175

**Email:** dana.lagarde@tpwd.texas.gov

## RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

TPWD administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This federally funded program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles. The grants can be up to 80% of project cost with a maximum of \$200,000 for non-motorized trail grants and currently there is not a maximum amount for motorized trail grants (call 512-538-4427 for motorized trail grant funding availability). Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects such as the construction of new recreational trails, to improve existing trails, to develop trailheads or trailside facilities, and to acquire trail corridors.

**Website:** <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/recreational-trails-grants>

**Award:** \$200,000

**Deadline:** February 1, 2017

**Contact:**

Trey Cooksey, State Parks Trails Coordinator

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept

4200 Smith School Road

Austin TX 78744-3291

**Phone:** 512-389-8743

**Fax:** 512-389-8242

**Email:** trey.cooksey@tpwd.state.tx.us



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION DIVISION

### SPECIAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The Texas Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Division administers 12 federal child and special nutrition programs for the State of Texas. TDA supports providers of nutrition assistance by helping ensure accountability and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars to nourish Texans in need. These nutrition programs exemplify "eating right" for Texans of every age and background and help them build a bridge to success. Everyone plays a role in teaching children the 3E's of Healthy Living - Education, Exercise and Eating Right.

Financial grants from organizations may help advance nutrition efforts in our schools and communities. On this page you will find descriptions of specific grants with upcoming deadlines, as well as a list of organizations that make grants on an ongoing basis to support local nutrition, fitness, health, education, and community initiatives.

**Program Website:** <http://www.squaremeals.org/Programs.aspx>

**Grant opportunities:** <http://www.squaremeals.org/FandNResources/FundingGrants.aspx>

**Contact:**

Texas Department of Agriculture

**Mail:** P.O. Box 12847

Austin, Texas 78711-2847

**Physical:** 1700 North Congress Avenue, 10th Floor

Austin, Texas 78701

**Phone:** (877) TEX MEAL (839-6325)

**Fax:** (888) 203-6593

**Email:** [squaremeals@texasagriculture.gov](mailto:squaremeals@texasagriculture.gov)

## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

### CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS (CIG)

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) are competitive grants that stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on agricultural lands. CIG uses Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or nongovernmental organizations, American Indian Tribes, or individuals. Producers involved in CIG funded projects must be EQIP eligible.

Through CIG, NRCS partners with public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adopt promising technologies. These new technologies and approaches address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resources concerns. CIG benefits agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations.

States can also award project that benefit a limited geographical area. Participating states will announce their funding availability for CIG competitions through their state NRCS offices.

**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/cig/>

**Amount:** Total program funding averages \$20 million per year.

**Contact:**

National Office:

**Program Contact:** [nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov)

**Phone:** (202) 720-1895

Melleny Cotton, CIG Program Analyst

**Phone:** (202) 720-7412

**Email:** [Melleny.cotton@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Melleny.cotton@wdc.usda.gov)

Mark Habiger, Asst. State Conservationist-Programs

**Phone:** (254) 742-9881

**Email:** [Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov)

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

**Phone:** (254) 742-9525

**Email:** [Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov)

Texas Office:

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, TX 76501-7602

**Phone:** (254) 742-9800

**Fax:** (254) 742-9819

**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers assistance to land owners who are already implementing conservation practices to enhance those practices. For example, if you have been practicing prescribed grazing, CSP would give you options to enhance that practice with activities such as grazing management to improve plants for wildlife, or grazing management to reduce soil compaction, or grazing management to improve riparian function, just to name a few.

With enrollment in CSP, the local NRCS conservation planner will have a one-on-one consultation with the property owner(s) to evaluate your current management system and the natural resources on your land. The NRCS conservation planner will present a variety of CSP enhancement alternatives for implementation on the land, based on existing conservation practices. CSP offers annual incentive payments for installing these enhancement practices.

**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/csp/>

**Award:** varies based on implementation of conservation practices

**Deadline:** Applications are accepted throughout the year. Specific deadlines are set for ranking and funding opportunities. The next application deadline for funding consideration is February 3, 2017.

**Texas Office:**

Texas State Office

101 S Main St.

Temple, TX 76501-7602

**Phone:** (254) 742-9800

**Fax:** (254) 742-9819

**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs

**Phone:** (254) 742-9881

**Email:** [Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov)

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager

**Phone:** (254) 742-9525

**Email:** [Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov](mailto:Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov)

**Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

## EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. EWP is an emergency recovery program. All projects undertaken, with the exception of the purchase of floodplain easements, must have a project sponsor.

NRCS may bear up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures. The remaining 25 percent must come from local sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind services. Funding is subject to Congressional approval.

City and county governments, flood and water control districts, and soil and water conservation districts are the most common sponsors of EWP projects. Activities include providing financial and technical assistance to:

- remove debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges,
- reshape and protect eroded banks,
- correct damaged drainage facilities,
- establish cover on critically eroding lands,
- repair levees and structures, and
- repair conservation practices.

NRCS may purchase EWP easements "in lieu of recovery" on any floodplain lands that have been impaired within the last 12 months or that have a history of repeated flooding (i.e., flooded at least two times during the past 10 years). If it is more cost effective, EWP-Floodplain Easement (FPE) can be used as an alternative to EWP. See the comparison of EWP and EWP-FPE.

**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/ewp/>

**Award:** state-administered. Texas received over \$21 million in FY2016 to restore conditions from heavy rains and flooding in 2015.

**Contact:**

National office:

National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Manager

**Phone:** 202-690-0793

Texas office:

Claude Ross, State Easement Program Manager

**Email:** [claudio.ross@tx.usda.gov](mailto:claudio.ross@tx.usda.gov)

**Phone:** 254-742-9822

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

Eligible program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices, or activities like conservation planning, that address natural resource concerns on their land. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are implemented. Contracts can last up to ten years.

**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/eqip/>

### Texas Office:

Texas State Office  
101 S Main St.  
Temple, TX 76501-7602  
**Phone:** (254) 742-9800  
**Fax:** (254) 742-9819  
**Website:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/>

Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs  
**Phone:** (254) 742-9881  
**Email:** Mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Troy Daniell, Financial Program Manager  
**Phone:** (254) 742-9525  
**Email:** Troy.daniell@tx.usda.gov

**Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office Locations:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/>

## PRIVATE FUNDING SOURCES

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### ADVOCACY ADVANCE, RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

Advocacy Advance is a dynamic partnership of the Alliance for Biking & Walking and the League of American Bicyclists to boost local and state bicycle and pedestrian advocacy efforts. With support from SRAM Cycling Fund, the Every Body Walk Collaborative, REI, and New Belgium Brewing, Advocacy Advance provides targeted trainings, reports, grants and assistance to equip advocates with the specific tools they need to increase biking and walking in their communities.

Rapid Response Grants help state and local organizations take advantage of unexpected opportunities to win, increase, or preserve funding for biking and walking. Applications are not currently being accepted for Rapid Response Grants.

BIG Idea Grants are available to organizations that are pushing forward on some of the most important areas of bicycling and walking advocacy in the areas of equity; safety / Vision Zero; health / walking; and innovative local or state funding campaigns. "Big Idea" Grants are intended to help with unforeseen opportunities, short-term campaigns or to push campaigns into the end zone to win funding for biking and walking infrastructure and programs.

**Website:** <http://www.advocacyadvance.org/grants>

**\*Note:** Web and social media activity has been silent since 2014/2015.

## AEGON TRANSAMERICA FOUNDATION

Aegon Transamerica Foundation grant dollars go to non-profit organizations in the following categories:

- Arts & Culture: Programs that foster creativity in the areas of music and the performing arts, including venues for artistic expression.
- Civic & Community: Programs that strive to promote community development, encourage civic leadership, and enhance work and business opportunities.
- Education & Literacy: Programs with a mission to provide knowledge and to expand individuals' capabilities, especially in the areas of financial literacy.
- Health & Welfare: Programs committed to improving the condition of the human body through nutrition, housing for the homeless, disease prevention and more.
- United Way: In addition to leading an annual campaign, employees' contributions are matched by at least 50%.

Grant requests are considered if they relate to the Aegon Transamerica Foundation's key focus areas and mission, and are designated for a community where there is a significant company and employee presence. In Texas, Transamerica is located in Plano, Texas.

**Website:** <https://www.transamerica.com/individual/about-us/who-we-are/aegon-transamerica-foundation/>

**Award:** varies

**Timeframe:** Applications for Foundation grants are reviewed upon receipt by local committee representatives. The timing of responses will vary by location.

**Contact:**

Gregory Tucker

**Email:** greg.tucker@transamerica.com

Margaret Sherry,

**Email:** margaret.sherry@transamerica.com

2700 West Plano Parkway

Plano, TX 75075

**Phone:** (972) 881-6000

## AETNA FOUNDATION, GOLOCAL: CULTIVATING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Aetna Foundation is dedicated to improving health in local communities and large populations alike. How do we make it happen? Through community-based programs, dynamic partnerships and proven models that can help people accelerate progress everywhere. Through its GoLocal: Cultivating Healthier Communities program, Aetna Foundation supports local non-profit groups that advance healthy eating and active living in their communities.

**Website:** <https://www.aetna-foundation.org/grants-partnerships/grants.html>

**Timeframe:** In 2016, grant RFPs closed on April 15, 2016. Information for the 2017 cycle is not available.

## ALLEN FOUNDATION

Grants are limited under the terms of the foundation's charter to projects that primarily benefit programs for human nutrition in the areas of health, education, training, and research. Preferences are given to proposals that train children and young adults to improve their health and development so they can form good nutritional habits at an early age. Proposals will need to contain a nutritional focus.

**Website:** <https://www.allenfoundation.org/commoninfo/aboutus.asp>

**Award:** varies

**Timeframe:** Rolling. Deadline is December 31st. Applications received after this date will be considered for the following year.

## ALLSTATE FOUNDATION

The Allstate Foundation supports organizations dedicated to addressing two issues: Domestic Violence and Youth Empowerment. Applications for grants are by invitation only.

**Website:** [https://www.allstatefoundation.org/foundation\\_overview.html](https://www.allstatefoundation.org/foundation_overview.html)

**Contact:** grants@allstate.com



## AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY, SHADE STRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

The AAD Shade Structure Grant Program awards grants of up to \$8,000 to public schools and non-profit organizations for installing permanent shade structures for outdoor locations that are not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds, pools or recreation spaces. In addition to the grant, the AAD also provides a permanent sign for display near the shade structure.

**Website:** <https://www.aad.org/ssp/>

**Award:** Up to \$8,000

**Timeframe:** The application process runs from September through November, with winners announced in February. The 2016 deadline is November 28, 2016.

**Contact:** [ShadeStructure@aad.org](mailto:ShadeStructure@aad.org)

## BANK OF AMERICA FOUNDATION

Bank of America Foundation helps improve communities by addressing issues fundamental to economic health and sustainability. We address needs related to workforce development and education, community development, and basic needs.

**Website:** <http://about.bankofamerica.com/en-us/global-impact/charitable-foundation-funding.html>

**Amount:** Varies

**Timeframe:** The Foundation issues RFPs at various points throughout the year: Check funding opportunities on website

**Contact:** [Foundation@bankofamerica.com](mailto:Foundation@bankofamerica.com)

## BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION GRAND CHALLENGES

The Grand Challenges family of initiatives fosters innovation to solve key health and development problems. See below for Grand Challenges grant opportunities with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as sole or contributing funder. Grant opportunities have defined issues or activities to address.

**Website:** <http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/about>

**Opportunities:** <http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenges>

**Contact:** [grandchallenges@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:grandchallenges@gatesfoundation.org)

## BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF TEXAS HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY FAMILIES INITIATIVE

Healthy Kids, Healthy Families (HKHF) began in 2011 as a three-year initiative designed to improve the health and wellness of at least one million children through community investments. We extended the program, making HKHF part of our ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of the children and families across Texas. To date, we've helped nearly three million children.

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas Healthy Kids, Healthy Families initiative invests and partners with nonprofit organizations that offer sustainable, measurable programs. The programs must address health and wellness in the following areas:

- Nutrition
- Physical activity
- Disease prevention and management
- Supporting safe environments

In addition to aligning with one or more of our four areas of focus, the following criteria are required for review of all grant proposals:

- The organization must hold a 501(c)(3) tax status
- The grant must primarily target individuals in Texas
- The program must be measurable and demonstrate how the goals will be met as defined in the grant proposal

**Website:** <http://www.bcbstx.com/company-info/community-involvement/healthy-kids-healthy-families>

**Award:** up to \$250,000

**Timeframe:** Grant applications accepted from March 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017

**Contact:** [healthykidshealthyfamilies@hcsc.net](mailto:healthykidshealthyfamilies@hcsc.net)

## BNSF RAILWAY FOUNDATION

The Foundation is dedicated to supporting the communities they serve and in which their employees live, work, and volunteer. Generally, the foundation will consider grant requests that clearly fall within one or more of the following categories:

- Civic services including organizations which are concerned with the environment, as well as local community issues such as crime prevention, parks and recreation, diversity and community development.
- Cultural organizations that include performing, visual, and fine arts, museums and other related activities that offer opportunities for underserved children to experience cultural learning events, or preserve their cultural heritage.
- Educational institutions, both public and private, primarily at the college level. Grants of an exceptional nature may be made to vocational and non-college schools. Preferably, contributions will be directed toward the improvement of the quality of education. Ordinarily, grants will not be made to finance the expansion of a student body or the payment of scholarships (BNSF's scholarship programs, as well as the Employee Matching Gift Program, are governed by separate policies.)
- Health and Human Service organizations such as YMCA/YWCA, programs that address chemical dependency treatment and prevention, spouse and child abuse, women's and children's aid and transitional shelters. This category also includes hospitals and medical programs.
- Youth organizations such as Boys & Girls Clubs, Camp Fire, Scouts, Junior Achievement and similar groups.
- Federated organizations such as United Way and American Red Cross.
- A federally recognized tribal government, listed in the Federal Register by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Website:** <http://www.bnsffoundation.org/>

**Timeframe:** Applications accepted continuously

**Contact:**

Manager BNSF Railway Foundation  
BNSF Railway Foundation  
2500 Lou Menk Dr.  
Fort Worth, TX 76131-2830  
[BNSFFoundation@bnsf.com](mailto:BNSFFoundation@bnsf.com)

## BUILD-A-BEAR FOUNDATION GRANT

The Build-A-Bear Foundation mission is to add a little more to life by providing opportunities for children of all ages to better their communities and share their heart with others.

**Website:** <http://www.buildabear.com/shopping/workshop/Charitable%20Donations/3100023/10500018>

**Timeframe:** The 2016 application period is closed.

## CHRISTOPHER AND DANA REEVE FOUNDATION, QUALITY OF LIFE GRANT

The Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants Program awards grants to nonprofit organizations that serve the disability community. Grants are awarded to organizations that address the needs of people living with paralysis caused by spinal cord and other injuries, diseases or birth conditions, including (but not limited to) stroke, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

**Website:** <https://www.christopherreeve.org/get-support/grants-for-non-profits/program-overview>

**Award:** Up to \$25,000

**Timeframe:** There are two application cycles each year. In 2016, the first cycle opened January 11 and closed February 16; the second cycle opened July 1 and closed August 15. Applications will open again in January 2017.

**Contact:**

**Email:** [QoL@christopherreeve.org](mailto:QoL@christopherreeve.org)  
**Phone:** 1-800-539-7309

## CVS CAREMARK COMMUNITY GRANT

These grants provide funds to aid health-focused nonprofit organizations in their mission. Organizations must be invited to participate in the grant process, and are required to provide services in at least one of the following areas:

- Access to health care for underserved populations
- Chronic disease management programs
- Tobacco cessation and prevention services

Application for a Community Grant is by invitation only. For information about other giving programs, please contact the Community Relations team.

**Contact:**

Jennifer Leigh  
**Email:** [Jennifer.Leigh@cvshealth.com](mailto:Jennifer.Leigh@cvshealth.com)  
**Phone:** 401-770-2935

## DAVID & LUCILE PACKARD FOUNDATION

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation has worked with partners around the world to improve the lives of children, families, and communities, and to restore and protect the planet. Applicable programs funded by the Packard Foundation include:

- The Conservation and Science Program invests in action and ideas that conserve and restore ecosystems while enhancing human well-being.
- The Children, Families, and Communities Program strives to ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

**Website:** <https://www.packard.org/what-we-fund/>

**Award:** varies

**Timeframe:**

**Contact:** Online form - <https://www.packard.org/contact-us/>

343 Second Street

Los Altos, CA 94022 USA

**Phone:** +1 (650) 948-7658

## ESPING FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT

The Esping Family Foundation exists to help people and institutions of Dallas, Texas, specifically Dallas County to help themselves and future generations. Under the terms of its charter, the Foundation can distribute grants only to qualified public entities or 501(c)(3) charities serving the people of Texas. Grants are made in four categories:

- Education
- Human Services
- Health
- Arts and Culture

**Website:** <http://www.espingfamilyfoundation.org/grant-guidelines/>

**Award:**

**Timeframe:** There are two grant cycles each year:

- Spring Grant Cycle: You begin the grant application process by completing a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) which is due on or before February 15 each Spring. You will be notified on or before March 1st if you have been selected to proceed to the second phase of the grant process. Grant requests are due April 1st.
- Fall Grant Cycle: You begin the grant application process by completing a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) which is due on or before July 15 each Summer. You will hear on or before September 1st if you have been selected to proceed to the second phase of the grant process. Grant requests are due October 1st.

**Contact:**

Heather Esping, President

Esping Family Foundation

2828 Routh St., Suite 500

Dallas, TX 75201

**Phone:** 214.849.9808

**Fax:** 214.849.9807

**Email:** [hesping@espingfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:hesping@espingfamilyfoundation.org)

Jenny Kirtland, Vice-President

**Email:** [jkirtland@espingfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:jkirtland@espingfamilyfoundation.org)

## FINISH LINE YOUTH FOUNDATION

The Youth Foundation is a philanthropic outlet for Finish Line to make a difference in the lives of youth in the communities it serves. Through the years, the Youth Foundation has fine-tuned its mission and grown its philanthropic presence including its grant giving capacity.

To date, the Youth Foundation has awarded more than \$14.5 million in funding to support youth and Special Olympics athletes across the country. The generosity of our customers who donate online and in-store is what enables Finish Line to continually make an impact in the communities where our employees live, work and play.

FL Youth Foundation offers grants in three categories:

- Programmatic Grant: Up to \$5,000 to fund opportunities for kids to participate in community-based youth athletic programs and camps that emphasize active lifestyles, especially programs that serve disadvantaged and special needs kids.
- Legacy Grant: \$10,000 to \$75,000 to fund new facilities improvements and/or renovations to existing buildings, grounds, and property.
- Founder's Grant: \$5,000 to \$25,000 to fund emergency needs that would somehow be keeping the organization from providing current services, such as natural disasters or other unforeseen fiscal circumstances.

**Website:** <http://www.finishline.com/store/corporate/youthFoundation.jsp>

**Award:** varies

**Timeframe:** There are four grant submission cycles through the year, accepted and reviewed on a quarterly basis.

## FUEL UP TO PLAY 60

Fuel Up to Play 60 is an in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by National Dairy Council and NFL, in collaboration with the USDA, to help encourage today's youth to lead healthier lives.

Up to \$4,000 per year is available to qualified K-12 schools enrolled in Fuel Up to Play 60 to jumpstart healthy changes.

**Website:** <https://www.fueluptoplay60.com/>

**Award:** Up to \$4,000

**Timeframe:** November 2, 2016

**Contact:** Online contact form - <https://www.fueluptoplay60.com/about/contact-us>

## GENERAL MILLS FOUNDATION GRANTS

General Mills Foundation philanthropy focuses on:

- Increasing community food security worldwide.
- Advancing the sustainability of agriculture.
- Protecting the natural resources upon which food and people depend.

GM partners with employees to strengthen our hometown communities worldwide through volunteerism and grant-making addressing local community needs.

**Website:** <https://www.generalmills.com/en/Responsibility/general-mills-foundation/grants>

## GO! GRANT

GO! Grants are \$1,000 to \$5,000 grants to elementary schools to spark and sustain physical activity programs that take place before, during or after the school day. The funds may be used for equipment, facilities, professional development for adults and programs that increase students' physical activity to the recommended 60 minutes or more per day. Grants are available in all states and the District of Columbia.

PHIT America GO! Grants have been awarded to almost 300 schools getting children 5-12 years old physically active and healthier. GO! Grants help get children active for the first time or increase their physical activity & fitness level. Leading brands like Nike, adidas, Brooks, ETS, Life Fitness, Wilson, Mizuno, the USTA and many more are investing in the GO! Grants programs.

GO! Grant programs are implemented by three-year partner, KIDS in the GAME, which excels in managing programs which get more kids off the couch and physically active. This program is the ideal way to fight the 'Inactivity Pandemic' which is creating health issues for our children.

**Website:** <https://www.kidsinthegame.org/go-grant-school-activity-grants/>

**Amount:** \$1,000 to \$5,000

**Timeframe:** 2016-2017 deadline has ended

**Contact:**

875 SE 3rd Street  
Suite #240, Bend, OR 97702  
**Phone:** 541-508-3966  
**Fax:** 541-639-3645  
**Email:** [info@kidsinthegame.org](mailto:info@kidsinthegame.org)

## HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION, COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT

Grants up to \$5,000 are available to IRS-registered 501c designated organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their community. Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services.

The primary goal is to provide grants and volunteer opportunities to support the renovation, refurbishment, retrofitting, accessibility modifications, and/or weatherization of existing homes, centers, schools and other similar facilities.

**Website:** <https://corporate.homedepot.com/grants/community-impact-grants>

**Amount:** up to \$5,000

**Timeframe:** Rolling deadline. Will receive decision 6 weeks after submission. Last day to submit applications in 2016 is December 31, 2016.

**Contact:** [small\\_grants@homedepot.com](mailto:small_grants@homedepot.com)



## HOUSTON ENDOWMENT

Houston Endowment works to help create a vibrant community where all people have the opportunity to thrive.

Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones established Houston Endowment in 1937 to improve life for the people of greater Houston. Since its creation the Foundation has focused on our community's most compelling needs.

Today, the Foundation's mission encompasses two overarching and interconnected areas:

- Enhancing the vibrancy of greater Houston
- Advancing equity of opportunity for the people who live here

Houston Endowment invests in sound organizations, proven programs and innovative approaches that align with our mission and vision. Houston Endowment accepts applications from eligible organizations through five programs: Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Health and Human Services.

Houston Endowment makes six general types of investments. Most commonly, applications to the Foundation are for General Operating Support or toward Project Support for a specific project or onetime event. Houston Endowment also considers grants toward Capital Improvement, Building Capacity, Public Policy and Engagement, and Research. Applying organizations will need to select the application that fits the type of grant they seek.

**Website:** <http://www.houstonendowment.org/GrantGuidelines/Overview.aspx>

**Award:** varies

**Timeframe:** Houston Endowment accepts applications throughout the year and has no designated deadlines for the submission of requests.

**Contact:**

Houston Endowment  
600 Travis, Suite 6400  
Houston, TX 77002-3000  
**Phone:** 713-238-8100  
**Fax:** 713-238-8101  
**Email:** [info@houstonendowment.org](mailto:info@houstonendowment.org)

## KERR FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Kerr Foundation, Inc. supports 501(c)3 organizations, programs and institutions that provide new or enhanced opportunities in the areas of education, health, cultural development and community service. Preference is given to Oklahoma organizations and institutions, although they recognize that such located outside the state and region can also have a beneficial impact on the economic, social and cultural growth and development of Oklahoma. Grant requests are limited to the following states: Oklahoma, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, and Texas.

**Website:** <http://www.thekerrfoundation.org/guidelines.php>

**Award:** varies

**Timeframe:** Friday, January 13, 2017 - Grant Applications Due for consideration at the March 2017 trustee meeting

**Contact:**

The Kerr Foundation, Inc.  
12501 North May Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
**Phone:** (405) 749.7991  
**Fax:** (405) 749.2877

## LOCKHEED MARTIN COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Lockheed Martin is committed to a program of philanthropy that supports the Corporation's strategic business goals and invests in the quality of life in the communities where Lockheed Martin employees work and live.

In general, philanthropic contributions to national initiatives and organizations are made from corporate headquarters and contributions to local programs are made by Lockheed Martin sites close to the program.

**Website:** <http://www.lockheedmartin.com/us/who-we-are/community/philanthropy.html>

**Amount:** varies

**Timeframe:** Applications are accepted year-round. Evaluations are typically performed quarterly. Some grant applications may not be able to be considered until the next year's budget cycle, particularly those received in the second half of the year.

**Contact:** Community Relations - [community.relations@lmco.com](mailto:community.relations@lmco.com)

## L.L. BEAN COMMUNITY CHARITABLE GIVING

The L.L. Bean Community Charitable Giving program focuses giving on national and local outdoor conservation and recreation organizations. L.L.Bean has given more than \$14 million to local, state, regional and national conservation organizations in the last ten years. Grants are made only to qualified, federal tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations.

Grants are made in these four categories:

**Conservation and Outdoor Recreation:** Primary activities include the maintenance and protection of our natural resources; efforts to engage more young people in activities that are relevant to our product line, such as camping, hiking, cycling, canoeing, kayaking, fly fishing, hunting, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing; and programs that have proximity to L.L.Bean Retail Stores. Some of our recipients include the National Park Foundation, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, The Student Conservation Association, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Audubon, Trout Unlimited and National Wild Turkey Federation. For a more comprehensive list, click [here](#).

**Health and Human Services:** L.L.Bean has donated over \$6 million to health and human service organizations in the past ten years, primarily through the United Way in communities where we have a physical presence. These donations reflect our confidence in the United Way allocation process and our belief in supporting the physical and emotional well-being of our employees, their families and our neighbors. Because of our significant leadership gifts in this area, we are not accepting requests from health and human service organizations at this time.

**Education (\*only available in Maine):** L.L.Bean has contributed over \$4 million to statewide initiatives in Maine such as Junior Achievement and Jobs for Maine's Graduates, as well as local education partnerships. Our support is limited to the following Maine school systems: Freeport, Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick and Bangor. We do not fund education initiatives outside of Maine.

**Culture and the Arts (\*only available in Maine):** We support organizations that enrich the cultural development of our local Maine communities, including the Portland Museum of Art, Maine State Music Theatre and the American Folk Festival in Bangor. We only offer support to arts organizations in Freeport, Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick and Bangor, Maine.

**Website:** [http://www.llbean.com/customerService/aboutLLBean/charitable\\_giving.html](http://www.llbean.com/customerService/aboutLLBean/charitable_giving.html)

**Amount:** varies

**Timeframe:** Ongoing.

**Contact:** [donationrequest@llbean.com](mailto:donationrequest@llbean.com)

## LOWE'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS GRANT

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation funds nonprofit organizations and public agencies that support our charitable goals. The foundation's primary philanthropic focus centers on K–12 public education and community improvement. Within these areas, Lowe's Foundation is committed to supporting projects that have the greatest impact on our communities and align with their core business.

Lowe's Community Partners grant program helps build better communities by providing monetary assistance to nonprofit organizations and municipalities looking for support of high-need projects such as: building renovations/upgrades, grounds improvements, technology upgrades as well as safety improvements.

**Website:** [https://www.lowes.com/cd\\_Corporate+Citizenship\\_674540029\\_](https://www.lowes.com/cd_Corporate+Citizenship_674540029_)

**Website:** <https://newsroom.lowes.com/serving-communities/>

**Grant applications:** <https://newsroom.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/>

**Amount:** \$2,000 to \$100,000

**Timeframe:** There are two grant application cycles a year:

Spring Cycle: March 19, 2017 – May 11, 2017

Fall Cycle: July 2, 2017 – August 24, 2017

**Contact:**

Community Relations

**Phone:** 704-758-2917

**Email:** [Community@Lowes.com](mailto:Community@Lowes.com)

## LOWE'S SMALL GRANTS

The small grants program is an outlet for organizations seeking smaller-scale assistance for non-educational focused projects. These grants range from \$100 to \$2,000. Small grant project requests must also fit within the Giving Guidelines. These requests are received on a rolling basis, with no specific cycle dates.

**Website:** <https://newsroom.lowes.com/serving-communities/>

**Grant applications:** <https://newsroom.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/>

**Amount:** \$100 to \$2,000, distributed as a Lowe's gift card.

**Timeframe:** Continuous

**Contact:**

Community Relations

**Phone:** 704-758-2917

**Email:** [Community@Lowe.com](mailto:Community@Lowe.com)

## LOWE'S TOOLBOX FOR EDUCATION GRANT

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation funds nonprofit organizations and public agencies that support our charitable goals. The foundation's primary philanthropic focus centers on K–12 public education and community improvement. Within these areas, Lowe's Foundation is committed to supporting projects that have the greatest impact on our communities and align with their core business.

The Lowe's Toolbox for Education program is designed to help build better schools and communities by offering schools the opportunity to apply for a grant between \$2,000 and \$5,000. Playground projects are eligible under the grant program. Schools can use funding to build a new playground or refurbish old equipment. The Toolbox for Education program also allows for schools to pad the ground with wood chips or rubber matting to make playgrounds safe. In addition, schools may use funding to enhance a playground with handicapped—accessible configurations and build pathways for wheelchair accessibility.

**Website:** <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/index.html>; <https://newsroom.lowes.com/apply-for-a-grant/>

**Amount:** \$2,000 to \$5,000

**Timeframe:** There are two grant application cycles a year:

Spring Cycle: December 18, 2016 – February 9, 2017

Fall Cycle: August 6, 2017 – September 28, 2017

**Contact:**

Community Relations

**Phone:** 704-758-2917

**Email:** [Community@Lowe.com](mailto:Community@Lowe.com)

**Email:** [info@toolboxforeducation.com](mailto:info@toolboxforeducation.com)

## MATTEL CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

The Mattel Children's Foundation focuses its strategic grant making on one major objective: Improving the lives of children in need. The Mattel Children's Foundation has developed partnerships with exemplary nonprofit partners that demonstrate this ideal through both compassionate outreach to children and strong financial accountability.

The foundation is driven by the belief that play is essential for all children because it is fundamental to development and learning but millions of children lack access to play. Currently, the foundation is dedicated to supporting nonprofit organizations around the world that make a meaningful difference in the lives of children, and with an emphasis on programs that support or enhance the opportunity for children to play.

Not accepting unsolicited applications at this time.

**Website:** <http://philanthropy.mattel.com/focus#time>

## METLIFE FOUNDATION

MetLife Foundation has committed \$200 million over five years to help low-income individuals and families get access to safe and affordable financial products and services. MetLife Foundation works in both developing and developed economies to expand and improve financial services. We fund approaches that help low- and moderate-income people:

- improve basic cash flow management
- prepare for life's inevitable challenges
- take advantage of opportunities
- achieve their short- and long- term goals

In addition, MetLife sponsors initiatives in other philanthropic areas, expanding beyond the financial health of communities to support for medical research, arts and cultural institutions, disaster relief, and civic initiatives.

**Website:** [https://www.metlife.com/about/corporate-responsibility/metlife-foundation/index.html?WT.ac=GN\\_about\\_corporate-responsibility\\_metlife-foundation](https://www.metlife.com/about/corporate-responsibility/metlife-foundation/index.html?WT.ac=GN_about_corporate-responsibility_metlife-foundation)

**Contact:** [metlifefoundation@metlife.com](mailto:metlifefoundation@metlife.com)

## CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION

The Mott Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that are working to strengthen our hometown of Flint and communities around world. The foundation seeks to fulfill its mission of supporting efforts that promote a just, equitable, and sustainable society through these four programs:

**Civil Society:** efforts to increase civic engagement, encourage charitable giving and help communities make positive change.

**Education:** efforts to expand learning opportunities and supports for children, particularly those from low- and moderate-income communities.

**Environment:** programs around the world that protect communities and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

**Flint Area:** efforts to help our hometown of Flint solve problems, create opportunities and build a vibrant future for the community and its residents.

Funding for unsolicited requests is very limited. Interested entities wanting to submit an idea for funding should first complete a letter of inquiry (LOI) form. Your LOI will help our program staff determine the relevance of proposed project and offer advice on whether to submit a full proposal.

**Website:** <https://www.mott.org/>

**Contact:**

Office of Proposal Entry  
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation  
Mott Foundation Building  
503 S. Saginaw Street, Suite 1200  
Flint, MI 48502-1851  
U.S.A.

## MUSCLE MILK RECOVERY GRANT

The MUSCLE MILK® team awards grants to revitalize high school athletic departments around the country that demonstrate a financial need. The Muscle Milk Recovery Grant™ program helps athletic programs solve immediate needs like purchasing new uniforms, replacing broken equipment or restoring facilities in disrepair.

CytoSport, Inc. ("Sponsor") believes strongly that sports and exercise are essential to the health, well-being and happiness of children and adults of all ages. As a result, we want to give back to our audience by providing grant money to worthy school or community programs that have a specific need for resources to improve athletic opportunities for kids and young adults. To facilitate this goal, we developed the Muscle Milk® Brand Recovery Grant Program ("Grant Program"), which will provide a series of grants to deserving programs at least four times a year, and maybe more. Each grant will represent a self-contained giveaway with an entry period as defined below.

**Website:** <http://www.musclemilkrecoverygrant.com/>

**Award:** varies

**Timeframe:** Ongoing. In 2016, three grant periods, ending on (i) September 15, 2016; (ii) October 31, 2016; and (iii) December 31, 2016.

**Contact: Mail:**

1340 Treat Blvd. Suite 350  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
**Phone:** 1-888-298-6629



## NATIONAL SWIMMING POOL FOUNDATION GRANTS

The National Swimming Pool Foundation® is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to encourage healthier living by increasing aquatic activity through education and research. The National Swimming Pool Foundation has established the NSPF Fellowship Program to encourage and support graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who focus research in two areas associated with aquatic venues that are treated to maintain a sanitary condition (e.g. swimming pools, spas/hot tubs, therapy pools, water parks, etc.):

- Research to reduce the risk to people associated with - but not limited to - physical facility design, exposure to chemical or pathogenic contaminants, air quality, drowning, or entrapment, etc.
- Research to investigate and document the positive health consequences of aquatic activities against maladies such as - but not limited to - high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, cancer, aging, physical therapy, arthritis, etc.

**Website:** <https://www.nspf.org/NSPF-Scholarship-Program-and-Research-Fellowship-Grants>

**Award:** minimum of \$1,000 and \$2,000

**Timeframe:** Scholarships are awarded for the fall semester of each year. In order to be considered for the fall 2017 semester, the complete application package must be received by the National Swimming Pool Foundation no later than June 1, 2017.

**Contact:**

NSPF Fellowship Program  
National Swimming Pool Foundation  
4775 Granby Circle  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919-3131  
**Email:** [Service@nspf.org](mailto:Service@nspf.org)

## NATURE WORKS EVERYWHERE GRANT

The Nature Works Everywhere program is administered by The Nature Conservancy, a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Nature Works Everywhere gives teachers, students and families everything they need to start exploring and understanding nature around the globe alongside Nature Conservancy scientists. The program offers a grant opportunity to schools across the U.S. to build, amend or revitalize school garden projects with the core principal that gardens model nature on a relatable scale. By combining project-based learning curriculum with a school garden space, students learn conservation-mindedness.

In 2016, the Nature Works Everywhere grant broadened its support for all kinds of projects that involve students in developing a nature-based, green infrastructure solution to an environmental challenge in their community. Whether addressing issues surrounding access to healthy food, air quality, heat island effect, climate change or storm water collection, youth will be empowered as social innovators to model solutions in their school communities through project design and implementation. To accomplish this, the Nature Works Everywhere grant will support projects that implement green infrastructure to address local environmental challenges.

**Website:** <https://www.natureworkseverywhere.org/home/>

**Timeframe:** 2016-2017 deadline has ended.

**Contact:** [natureworks@tnc.org](mailto:natureworks@tnc.org)

## PEOPLE FOR BIKES COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride. Please review the following information carefully before submitting a grant application. Proposals that are incomplete or do not fall within our funding priority areas will not be considered. Visit our Grants Awarded database for examples of funded projects.

PeopleForBikes accepts grant applications from non-profit organizations with a focus on bicycling, active transportation, or community development, from city or county agencies or departments, and from state or federal agencies working locally. PeopleForBikes only funds projects in the United States. Requests must support a specific project or program; we do not grant funds for general operating costs.

PeopleForBikes focuses most grant funds on bicycle infrastructure projects and will also fund some advocacy projects.

**Website:** <http://www.peopleforbikes.org/pages/community-grants>

**Award:** Up to \$10,000

**Timeframe:** PeopleForBikes generally holds 1-2 open grant cycles every year. The 2016 grant cycles have closed.

**Contact:**

Zoe Kircos, Director of Grants and Partnerships  
**Phone:** 303-449-4893 x106  
**Email:** [zoe@peopleforbikes.org](mailto:zoe@peopleforbikes.org)

## ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) funds program and policy initiatives in four areas which are each critical to health equity—enabling everyone in our nation to live a healthier life:

- Health Systems: Catalyzing fundamental changes in health and health care systems to achieve measurably better outcomes for all.
- Healthy Kids, Healthy Weight: Enabling all children to attain their optimal physical, social and emotional well-being, including growing up at a healthy weight.
- Healthy Communities: Creating the conditions that allow communities and their residents to reach their greatest health potential.
- Health Leadership: Engaging a diverse array of leaders in all sectors with the vision, experience, and drive to help build a Culture of Health.

Specific grant programs are developed by RWJF program staff, in consultation with leading experts in our fields of interest, and with guidance and final approval from our board of trustees.

In many cases, a competitive call for proposals (CFP) is issued that defines the challenges to address, activities RWJF will support to achieve desired outcomes, and eligibility criteria. In addition, funding is also provided through open calls for ideas and different types of challenges and prize competitions.

**Website:** <http://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants.html>

**Funding opportunities:** <http://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants/funding-opportunities.html>

**Award:** varies

**Timeframe:** ongoing

**Contact:**

Office of Proposal Management

**Email:** [mail@rwjf.org](mailto:mail@rwjf.org)

**Phone:** 877-843-7953

## ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION, EVIDENCE FOR ACTION

Evidence for Action (E4A), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, funds research that expands the evidence base needed to build a Culture of Health. Our mission is to support rigorously designed quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research that yields convincing findings regarding the population health, well-being, and equity impacts of specific policies, programs and partnerships. We are especially interested in research examining the health impacts of programmatic or policy interventions that address factors outside the domain of health care services or public health practice.

**Website:** <http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2015/evidence-for-action-investigator-initiated-research-to-build-a-culture-of-health.html>

**Program website:** <http://www.evidenceforaction.org/>

**Award:** varies. E4A was allocated \$6.6 million in grant funding to award through July 2017.

**Timeframe:** Rolling basis.

**Contact:**

Erin Hagan, MBA, PhD, deputy director

**Email:** [evidenceforaction@ucsf.edu](mailto:evidenceforaction@ucsf.edu)

**Phone:** 415-502-3490

## ROTARY, DISTRICT GRANTS

District grants fund small-scale, short-term activities that address needs of a community of a qualified Rotary district. Each district chooses which activities it will fund with these grants. You can use district grants to fund a variety of district and club projects and activities, including:

- Humanitarian projects, including service travel and disaster recovery efforts
- Scholarships for any level, length of time, location, or area of study
- Youth programs, including Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Rotaract, and Interact
- Vocational training teams, which are groups of professionals who travel abroad either to teach local professionals about their field or to learn more about it themselves

**Website:** <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/apply-grants/district-grants>

### SAUCONY RUN FOR GOOD FOUNDATION

The Saucony Run For Good Foundation donates funds to causes aimed at keeping kids healthy and offers grants to reduce the childhood obesity epidemic. Grants are open to community nonprofit organizations that initiate and support running programs for kids.

**Website:** <http://www.saucony.com/en/runforgood/>

**Award:** up to \$10,000

**Timeframe:** Grants are issued twice per year, once in February and once in August. The deadline to apply for those grants are 12/15 and 6/15.

**Contact:**

191 Spring Street

Mail Drop 318S

Lexington, MA 02420-9191

**Email:** [runforgood@saucony.com](mailto:runforgood@saucony.com)

### SHANE'S INSPIRATION

Shane's Inspiration is a non-profit organization committed to the creation of inclusive, sensory rich, developmentally appropriate, fun, safe, and challenging playgrounds where children of all abilities can play together at their highest level of ability. Shane's Inspiration offers assistance for the installation of inclusionary playgrounds.

**Website:** <http://shanesinspiration.org/build/>

**Award:**

**Timeframe:** ongoing

**Contact:**

Brad Thornton,

**Phone:** 818-988-5676

**Email:** [brad@shanesinspiration.org](mailto:brad@shanesinspiration.org)

### USA SWIMMING MAKE A SPLASH GRANT

One of the guiding principles of Make a Splash is to spread the word and mission of the USA Swimming Foundation to every community in the nation. In order to reach the widest audience possible, Make a Splash will partner with learn to swim providers across the country that are willing to promote water safety education to their communities and or provide scholarships for children to participate in their swim lesson programs.

The USA Swimming Foundation awards grants on an annual basis to Make a Splash Local Partners who provide services to young people who, otherwise, would not have the opportunity to participate in water safety instructional programs and/or swimming lessons.

**Website:** <http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=2092&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>

**Award:** Up to \$4,000

**Timeframe:** November 2, 2016

**Contact:**

Shweta Shreyarthi

**Email:** [sshreyarthi@usaswimming.org](mailto:sshreyarthi@usaswimming.org)

**Phone:** 719-866-3546

### VOYA UNSUNG HEROES

Each year, 100 educators are selected to receive \$2,000 to help fund their innovative class projects. Three of those are chosen to receive the top awards of an additional \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000. The program is administered by Scholarship America, the nation's largest designer and manager of scholarship, tuition assistance and other education support programs for corporations, foundations, associations and individuals.

Applicants to the Voya Unsung Heroes Awards Program must be:

- Employed by an accredited K-12 public or private school located in the United States.

- Full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff with effective and innovative projects that improve student learning.

**Website:** <https://www.scholarsapply.org/unsungheroes/>

**Award:** \$2,000 and opportunity to receive "top awards" of an additional \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000

**Timeframe:** application must be submitted on or before April 30, 2017.

**Contact:**

**Email:** [unsungheroes@scholarshipamerica.org](mailto:unsungheroes@scholarshipamerica.org)

**Phone:** 1-507-931-1682



### WALMART COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Through the Community Grant Program, store associates are proud to support the needs of their communities by providing grants to local organizations. Funds must benefit the facility's service area: potential grantees should be nonprofit organizations with programs that benefit communities within the service area of the Walmart store, Sam's Club or Logistics facility from which they are requesting funds.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have identified four core areas of giving: Hunger Relief & Healthy Eating, Sustainability, Women's Economic Empowerment and Opportunity. To ensure that your application has the best chance of being funded, the proposed use of the grant should fit within one of these areas of giving.

**Website:** <http://giving.walmart.com/walmart-foundation/community-grant-program>

**Award:** \$250 to \$2,500

**Timeframe:** The 2016 grant cycle begins Feb. 1, 2016 and the application deadline is Dec. 31, 2016.

### WALMART STATE GIVING PROGRAM

The State Giving Program invests in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. The Walmart Foundation has a State Advisory Council in each state, made up of Walmart associates representing local communities. Each Council helps identify local needs within its state, reviews all eligible grant applications and makes funding recommendations to the Walmart Foundation. Councils base recommendations on alignment with Foundation focus areas, state or community needs and program eligibility criteria.

**Website:** [http://corporate.walmart.com/\\_foundation\\_/apply-for-grants/state-giving-program](http://corporate.walmart.com/_foundation_/apply-for-grants/state-giving-program)

**Award:** \$25,000 to \$200,000

**Timeframe:** All states have two application cycles annually. The State Giving Program application is currently closed. The application will reopen early 2017.

### WALMART NATIONAL GIVING PROGRAM

The National Giving Program supports organizations working across one or more states to address social issues strongly aligned with our focus areas. This program often provide funds to organizations that have local affiliates around the country, and the majority of grants from this program include re-grants to implement programs in local communities.

**Website:** <http://giving.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/national-giving>

**Award:** \$250,000 and above



## WELLS FARGO, COMMUNITY GIVING

Wells Fargo and the Wells Fargo Foundation provide monetary support, expertise, and volunteers to national and local nonprofit organizations and causes that align with our business priorities, values, business expertise, and geographies. Wells Fargo works with a wide range of nonprofits and community organizations to stabilize and strengthen low-to-moderate income neighborhoods, as well as address global social, economic, and environmental challenges. Wells Fargo focuses giving in the following areas:

**Community Development:** programs that help provide affordable housing for low and moderate income individuals; promote economic development by financing small businesses or small farms; provide job training for low and moderate income individuals. Provide financial education and promote economic empowerment; help to revitalize low and moderate income communities.

**Education:** Programs that promote academic achievement for low- and moderate-income students with a priority emphasis on K-12; provide training for teachers and administrators working with low- and moderate-income students; encourage school partnerships with parents and guardians, the local community, and the business community.

**Human Services:** social and human service organizations whose work chiefly benefits low- and moderate-income individuals.

**Arts and Culture:** Projects and requests that work to enhance community diversity through access to cultural experiences for low- and moderate-income individuals, availability of a broad array of artistic opportunities and venues that reflect the community's diversity, and educational programs.

**Civic Engagement:** projects that enhance a community's quality of life through projects involving public policy, community beautification, civic leadership, citizen education, and cultural diversity.

**Environment:** including natural resources conservation, environmental education, and support the transition to a sustainable environment.

**Website:** <https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/corporate-responsibility/texas-grant-guidelines/>

**Amount:** Varies

**Timeframe:** Ongoing.

**Contact:** Each region in Texas manages its own application process and accordingly has its own contact.

Austin Region:

Theresa Alvarez, Vice President  
111 Congress Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Austin, TX 78701  
**Phone:** (512) 794-2744  
**Email:** [theresa.alvarez@wellsfargo.com](mailto:theresa.alvarez@wellsfargo.com)

Dallas/Fort Worth Region

Sherry J. Key, Vice President  
201 Main Street, Suite 200,  
MAC T9639-020 Fort Worth, TX 76102  
**Phone:** (817) 334-7078  
**Email:** [sherry.j.key@wellsfargo.com](mailto:sherry.j.key@wellsfargo.com)

El Paso Region:

Jennifer Riordan, Vice President  
Community Affairs Representative  
**Phone:** (505) 766-7320  
**Email:** [jennifer.riordan@wellsfargo.com](mailto:jennifer.riordan@wellsfargo.com)

Greater Texas

Jennifer Riordan, Vice President  
Community Affairs Representative  
**Phone:** (505) 766-7320  
**Email:** [jennifer.riordan@wellsfargo.com](mailto:jennifer.riordan@wellsfargo.com)

Houston Region:

Tia Fuentes, Community Affairs Representative  
**Phone:** (713) 319-1787  
**Email:** [tia.fuentes@wellsfargo.com](mailto:tia.fuentes@wellsfargo.com)

San Antonio Region:

Theresa Alvarez, Vice President  
111 Congress Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Austin, TX 78701  
**Phone:** (512) 794-2744  
**Email:** [theresa.alvarez@wellsfargo.com](mailto:theresa.alvarez@wellsfargo.com)

Texarkana Region:

Jennifer Riordan, Vice President  
Community Affairs Representative  
**Phone:** (505) 766-7320  
**Email:** [jennifer.riordan@wellsfargo.com](mailto:jennifer.riordan@wellsfargo.com)

## WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY FOUNDATION

The Weyerhaeuser Company is deeply connected to the communities where we operate and have a long history of doing our part to help them thrive. Through the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation, awards are made to programs in the communities where the company operates. The majority of their funding focuses on affordable housing and shelter, education and youth development, environmental stewardship, and human services, civic, and cultural growth.

**Website:** <http://www.weyerhaeuser.com/sustainability/communities/community-investment/giving-fund/>

**Timeframe:** The 2016 grant cycle has closed. Information on the 2017 grant cycle will be available January 2017

**Contact:** Anne.Leyva@weyerhaeuser.com

## RESOURCES

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### **GRANTS.GOV**

The Grants.gov program management office was established in 2002 and is managed by the Department of Health and Human Services. Grants.gov is an E-Government initiative operating under the governance of the Office of Management and Budget.

Grants.gov is a resource for those seeking grants through federal funding opportunities. The site makes it simple to find grants based on Keyword searches, Categories, Agencies, or Eligibilities.

### **WEBSITE: WWW.GRANTS.GOV**

### **CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA)**

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) provides a full listing of all Federal programs available to State and local governments (including the District of Columbia); federally-recognized Indian tribal governments; Territories (and possessions) of the United States; domestic public, quasi- public, and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions; specialized groups; and individuals.

**Website:** <https://www.cfda.gov/?s=program&mode=list&tab=list>

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