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PLACEHOLDER FOR RESOLUTION
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Acknowledgments

The Bay City Parks Master Plan was developed by the City of Bay City with the technical assistance and design help of Halff Associates, Inc. A special thanks goes to the many residents, landowners, and community leaders for their insight and support throughout the duration of this study. The following individuals are recognized for their significant contributions to the preparation of the 2017 Parks Master Plan.

Mayor and City Council
Mark Bricker, Mayor
Julie Estlinbaum
Bill Cornman, Mayor Pro-Tem
Chrystal Folse
Becca Sitz
Jason Childers

Friends of the Park Advisory Board
(Parks Advisory Committee)
Marilyn Alvarado
Jordan Brown
Denise Fortenberry
Lane Hollister
Patti McKelvy
Shelly Orsak
Ronny Reeves

City Staff
Shawn Blackburn, Parks & Recreation Director
Kelly Penewitt, Parks & Recreation Supervisor

Halff Associates, Inc.
Gail Ferry, AICP, PLA, ASLA, CLARB
Tim May, PLA, LEED AP
Jordan Pickering
Quan Vu, ASLA
Chad Easter
Amanda Jaloway, PLA
Kolby Davidson, PLA, ASLA, CLARB
Matt Bucchin, AICP LEED Green Associate
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<th>ix</th>
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Importance of Parks and Recreation Planning

Located in southeast Texas, the City of Bay City has a widely distributed network of parks and open spaces. As the community has grown over the years, the City has striven to create and preserve a variety of well-designed, well-loved parks and recreational opportunities for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. The community benefits from local access to nature, passive and active recreation, and community interaction which provides mental and physical health benefits, encourages community relationships, and improves the sense of pride residents have for their City. This first-ever Parks Master Plan for Bay City will guide park and recreational development over the coming years to ensure the system is meeting the community’s needs. In order to do this, the Plan first identifies the wants and needs of residents, City staff, and elected and appointed officials. It then paints a picture of the community’s desired direction for the City and identifies clear goals and actions for staff to implement in order to move the City towards a positive future of which the community can be proud.

Parks, recreation, and open space play a significant role in establishing a quality of life for residents and visitors in any city. A great parks and recreation system will provide a healthier environment, improve the well-being of adults and children, and remind residents of the beauty and fun in their community (see Benefits of Parks and Recreation sidebar on next page). The creation and adoption of a parks master plan ultimately helps the City control its future. Through the master planning process, the characteristics and factors shaping the community are identified and analyzed. By taking a step back from the day-to-day decision-making, the City can assess the community’s preferences for the future. This will ensure that current and future residents of the City are provided with a high quality-of-life with opportunities tailored to their wants and needs. A parks master plan helps to build consensus and commitment between elected and appointed officials, City staff, and the residents, and provides the City with a list of prioritized implementation actions to be phased in over time, as funding becomes available.

The Bay City Parks Master Plan plays an important role in the future of the City. The Plan will create a “snapshot” of the current parks system and provide a forum for residents to express their desires for the future. The Parks Master Plan will create a series of prioritized recommendations for parks, trails, open space, and recreation to provide guidance for the next five to 10 years. The Plan will also be compliant with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) guidelines and thus support City efforts to apply for indoor and outdoor park facility development grants and help to maximize the potential of the City’s parks and recreation system.

Purpose of the Parks Master Plan

This Parks Master Plan serves a variety of purposes. The primary functions are to analyze the current state of the City’s parks, recreation, and open spaces; identify needs and deficiencies in the system; and determine a series of goals, recommendations, and priorities for improving the system. Above and beyond these primary functions, this Plan will also:

- Identify the opinions and needs of the residents and park system users.
- Analyze the potential for growth of the City over the next 10 years and identify associated facility needs in terms of types, locations, and priorities.
- Identify opportunities and recommend alternatives to enhance the parks system.
- Analyze the distribution of existing parkland and determine how the City can best manage its resources.
- Provide clearly prioritized recommendations so that the community’s greatest deficiencies are addressed as quickly as possible.
- Guide City staff and leaders in determining how and where parks funding should be allocated over the next five to 10 years.

By identifying and recognizing the community’s needs and desires, and providing realistic, prioritized implementation actions, this Plan will help guide Bay City towards a sustainable, positive future as a great place to live, work, play, and visit.
Benefits of Parks and Recreation

Individual and Community Benefits
- Helps ensure an overall higher quality of life
- Provides refuges of safety for at-risk youth, which can in turn help reduce juvenile delinquency
- Provides opportunities for people of all ages to be physically active, socially engaged, and cognitively stimulated

Economic Benefits
- Increases property value of homes in close proximity to parks
- Can help attract new businesses to the community by improving the standard of living

Environmental Benefits
- Protects and preserves vital green spaces and critical wildlife habitat
- Educates visitors regarding the appropriate use of natural areas as recreational areas
- Contributes to clean air and water

Personal Health Benefits
- Access to parks and nature increases the frequency of exercise and improves psychological and social health
- Play is critical for child development
- Staying active can help reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity, depression, and other health problems
### Planning Process & Timeline

In January 2017, Bay City commissioned Halff Associates, Inc. to prepare the City’s first-ever Parks Master Plan. The planning process involved a series of steps that allowed for the development of a successful document which outlined the vision, goals, and strategy for the future of parks, recreation, and open space in the City (see Figure 1.1, *Planning Process*). These steps included evaluating and understanding the existing conditions and developing appropriate goals for the parks and recreation system; identifying local resources and opportunities; analyzing parkland, facility, and recreational needs based on population growth and community input; developing recommendations and priorities; and identifying potential implementation strategies.

Through a series of meetings held throughout the planning process, the community provided valuable input regarding their opinions, wants, and needs for the City’s parks and recreation system. Public engagement included meetings with City staff, residents, and stakeholders, and a public survey and open house. Detailed documentation of the public input process, including meeting notices and minutes, sign-in sheets, and the public survey can be found in Appendix A, *Supplemental Information*.

**Figure 1.1, Planning Process**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop Goals for the Parks System</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek Public Participation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Existing Facilities &amp; Conditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyze Park &amp; Recreation Needs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop Recommendations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Plan &amp; Implementation Strategies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Implementation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Plan Time Frame

This Plan is formulated to address the time frame from 2017 to 2030. Many of the recommendations of this Plan are valid for a period of up to 10 years, but should be evaluated periodically. Local planning requirements issued by the TPWD recommend that the Plan be updated after a five-year period, or before any major developments occur that significantly alter the parks and recreation needs of the community.

### Planning Area

The Parks Master Plan analyzes the park, recreation, and open space needs for the residents within Bay City’s municipal limits and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The City limits of Bay City include approximately 9.3 square miles, while the ETJ adds 29.8 square miles. The Parks Master Plan planning area is illustrated on Map 1.1, *Planning Area*.

The City of Bay City is the primary governmental entity charged with providing recreational facilities for its citizens. Therefore, the implementation of this Plan will be led by the City. Regardless, everyone in Bay City has a vested interest in ensuring the parks system in the City thrives and adapts as the Bay City population grows and changes. Interested Plan implementation partners include:

- Other governmental entities, including Matagorda County, Bay City Independent School District (BCISD), Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Parks Service (NPS), and other advisory group entities.
- The business community in Bay City, including property owners, developers, commercial entities, corporate neighbors (TenarisBayCity, Oxea Corporation, LyondellBasell, South Texas Project Electric Generating Station (STP)), and others.
- All citizens of Bay City, regardless of the area they live in, nearby residents of Matagorda County that may use Bay City parks or recreational services, and tourists at LeTulle and Riverside Parks.
Bay City, the county seat of Matagorda County, is located in a humid, subtropical area in southeast Texas. The City encompasses 9.3 square miles in the north central portion of the county and the City’s ETJ includes an additional 29.8 square miles. The City lies just east of the Colorado River at the junction of State Highways 35 and 60. Located 80 miles southwest of Houston, and 70 miles east of Victoria, Bay City is situated 30 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico (see Map 2.1, Regional Context).

In a region characterized by history, lush green vegetation, and nearby access to the coast, residents and visitors to this region enjoy family-friendly activities, the great outdoors, and access to nature.
Chapter 2  Understanding the Community

To this day, multiple historic dwellings and buildings are still standing throughout Bay City's downtown and surrounding areas. Recent parks and recreation development has included the construction of the Southern Pacific Trail, the Barkway dog park, and the addition of a disc golf course in LeTulle Park.

Over the years, a number of challenges, such as multiple floods, fires, and general aging of infrastructure, in addition to the increased size and distribution of parkland, have increased the general maintenance requirements of the City parks and recreation resources.

Bay City has been the county seat of Matagorda County since 1894. The City was named for its location in the Bay Prairie, between the productive bottomlands of the Colorado River and Caney Creek. The City began as one square mile which was surveyed, subdivided into lots, and sold for development.

By 1901 numerous buildings had been constructed and businesses began to develop. Early businesses in town included the post office, saloons, convenience stores, grocers, blacksmiths, barbers, drugstores, lumberyards, cotton gins, and a rice mill. That same year, the Can Belt Railroad reached Bay City. This was the first of three rail lines to serve the town. The MoPac Depot (now a Parks and Recreation Department resource) was built in 1905. By 1914, Bay City was a thriving community located at the center of the largest rice-producing area in the nation.

Bay City continued to develop in the coming decades and by 1930 the population had risen to 4,000 residents. Named after local rice grower Victor L. LeTulle, Bay City's first park, LeTulle Park, was donated to the City in 1934. By 1940 the population reached nearly 9,500 people. During that same year Hilliard Pool became the first public pool in Bay City.

Notable new developments during the 1950s and 1960s were a new public library, a United States Army Reserve building, an airport, barge canal linking to the Gulf, and the onset of a population boom. In 1960, the Celanese Chemical Company built a petrochemical plant in the City which soon became the City's largest employer. The following decades brought even greater population as more large-scale employers entered the county. The population drastically increased to almost 20,000 residents between 1960 and 1990. During this time, the City limits were expanded and an additional 12 new parks and recreation facilities were developed or enhanced. Between 1990 and 2010, the City experienced a population decline to 17,500 people.

Demographic Profile of Bay City

**Age Distribution**

Understanding age distribution in a community helps determine its overall recreation needs, even as its residents age. Identifying the age-appropriate recreational opportunities needed in Bay City allows the City to allocate resources towards amenities and programs that can best serve the community. In comparison to the population of the United States, Bay City has a significantly greater percentage of children (especially boys) under nine years of age (see Figure 2.1, *Population by Age and Gender* and Figure 2.2, *Population by Age*). The City also has a greater number of residents ages 30 to 39 and 60 to 64. Conversely, Bay City’s populations of 20 to 29 year olds, 40 to 44 year olds, and 55 to 59 years are notably lower than that of the United States.

Analysis of the highly diversified age ranges found in Bay City illustrates the need to provide multigenerational parks and recreation which can adapt as the age of the population shifts.

**Figure 2.1, Population by Age and Gender**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Texas</th>
<th>Matagorda County</th>
<th>Bay City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 yrs</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9 yrs</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14 yrs</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19 yrs</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24 yrs</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34 yrs</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 34 yrs</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 39 yrs</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 44 yrs</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 49 yrs</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 54 yrs</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 59 yrs</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 to 64 yrs</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 69 yrs</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 to 74 yrs</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 to 79 yrs</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 to 84 yrs</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 years and over</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Median Age**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Texas</th>
<th>Matagorda County</th>
<th>Bay City</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Age and Sex, Table S0101
Race and Ethnicity

Bay City’s population by race and ethnicity is illustrated in Figure 2.3, Race and Ethnicity. Similar to the state and County, Bay City’s population is predominantly white, though at a slightly lower percentage than that of Matagorda County overall. Those of Hispanic or Latino descent make up 43.3 percent of the City’s population. This is slightly higher, but still comparable, to both the state and County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race &amp; Ethnicity</th>
<th>Texas</th>
<th>Matagorda County</th>
<th>Bay City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>74.9%</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
<td>75.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian &amp; Alaska Native</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian &amp; Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino Descent</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates

Educational Attainment

As set out in Figure 2.4, Educational Attainment Comparison, Bay City has a comparable percentage of high school graduates to Matagorda County, however, both are somewhat lower than that of the state. Similarly, attainment of a bachelors degree or higher education in Bay City and the County also falls behind the attainment percentage for the state. When considering the lower percentage of 20 to 24 year olds previously illustrated in Figure 2.1, Population by Age and Gender, the low percentage of higher education attainment found in Bay City may be a reflection of recently graduated young adults leaving the City for jobs elsewhere.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Texas</th>
<th>Matagorda County</th>
<th>Bay City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School or Higher</td>
<td>81.9%</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>76.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors Degree or Higher</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, Table S1501: Educational Attainment
Household & Family Income

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, household income includes income from the householder and all other people (whether or not they are related) who are 15 years or older living in the same housing unit. Family income includes income from two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption who are residing together.

Understanding a community's income distribution assists in planning for recreational amenities and programs, including determining the demand for free or fee-based recreation. As seen in Figure 2.5, *Income Comparison*, both Bay City and Matagorda County have lower family and household incomes than that of the state.

Poverty Level Comparison

The percentage of both families and individuals in Bay City whose income fell below the poverty level during 2015 is notably higher than the rest of Matagorda County, and significantly higher than the state (see Figure 2.6, *Poverty Level Comparison*). Over one-quarter of Bay City’s population of individuals experienced poverty during that time frame.

As the City evaluates options for recreational programming, it will be important to consider providing low-cost and free options to allow equal participation among community members.
Understanding the employment of a community helps paint the picture of how residents spend a large majority of their time. Knowing this information can assist the City in providing appropriate recreation types that reflect how the community might like to use their park system and programming during work hours or their free time. In Bay City, educational services, healthcare, and social assistance represent the largest percentage of Bay City residents (see Figure 2.7, Local Industries). In response, adding educational and health and wellness elements into parks and programming might enhance their overall benefit to the community.

Other large industries in Bay City include construction and transport, warehousing, and utilities. Bay City is home to TenarisBayCity and STP. These are two very large companies which employ significant numbers of temporary workers. TenarisBayCity is a new state-of-the-art seamless pipe mill which is currently under construction. Once operational (slated for 2017), the mill will employ 600 people. During the construction period, the company has employed large numbers of workers who have been in Bay City for a year or longer. However, it is likely that the majority of these workers will move on to a new construction job in another city once construction is complete. STP is a local nuclear power facility and is one of the newest and largest in the country. In order to clean the facility, STP brings in temporary workers for multiple weeks at a time, twice a year.

The City is in a unique position where it needs to recognize the needs of the permanent and temporary populations, and determine an appropriate approach to parks and recreation for the entirety of the population.
Growth Context

Historical & Projected Population Growth

As previously mentioned, Bay City is a temporary home to a number of transient construction and other workers. As the City plans for enhancement and development of the parks and recreation system, it is important to recognize the impact this population can have on the City. Though these individuals are not accounted for in the Census data, they can have a significant impact on the community, through the use of hotels, restaurants, services, and parks and recreation, and must be considered in the planning process.

According the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Bay City has seen a slight decline since 2000 (see Figure 2.8, Historical and Projected Future Population Growth). While the City's ETJ can accommodate growth, population projections illustrate that growth will be slow and steady over the time frame of this Plan. The decline in population from 2000 to 2010 has influenced the Texas Water Development Board's projections into 2020 and 2030. However, while growth is likely to remain slow and steady, economic activity happening in Bay City could alter the population projections.

Figure 2.8, Historical and Projected Future Population Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>CITY OF BAY CITY (PERSONS)</th>
<th>PERCENT CHANGE</th>
<th>CITY PERCENT OF COUNTY POPULATION</th>
<th>MATAGORDA COUNTY (PERSONS)</th>
<th>PERCENT CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>17,837</td>
<td></td>
<td>47.15%</td>
<td>37,828</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
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Previous Planning Efforts

**Vision Bay City 2040**

The Bay City comprehensive plan, Vision Bay City 2040, was developed in 2014. The plan used extensive public input to develop a vision for the future of Bay City. As part of the plan, parks and recreation opportunities were analyzed and a series of recommendations were presented.

The plan recognized two primary challenges within the parks and recreation system: adequate facilities and maintenance. Recommendations presented in the Vision Bay City 2040 plan were intended to address these issues and the input received from the public throughout the planning process. These recommendations included:

- Develop a Parks Commission and Friends of the Parks Organization.
- Partner with the ISD to make facilities available for public recreation.
- Prioritize needed improvements at existing parks.
- Identify additional funding sources for park improvements and programs.
- Initiate new recreation programs for youth and adults.
- Develop sidewalk and trail connectivity throughout town.
- Develop a sports complex.
- Develop a community recreation center.
- Develop a park at SH 35 and the Colorado River.

At the time that Vision Bay City 2040 was developed, the City had been dedicating additional attention to the improvement of the parks system. The plan’s recommendations were proposed to build on this developing momentum. As a follow up, this Parks Master Plan is intended to continue that momentum and further define recommendations for the parks and recreation system to determine how parks and recreation can further the community’s vision for the next 10 years and beyond.

As stated in Vision Bay City 2040, “investing in the park system should be viewed as an investment in Bay City as a whole.” This Parks Master Plan will be used to guide that investment.

**Bay City North Downtown Plan**

In May 2013, the Bay City North Downtown Plan was developed for the 40-acre, 12-block site north of Downtown Bay City. The four-phased plan is intended to complement the commercial and civic activity of Downtown by providing a high quality, mixed-use housing district with parks and trail connectivity. The combination of City-owned property and vacant or unused property and parking lots within the area of focus presents numerous opportunities for future development. Cottonwood Creek runs through the study area and provides a key focal point for park and open space features in the area. Key features of this small-area plan include a park plaza, amphitheater and splash pad, a multi-use trail, creekside path, neighborhood park, and gateway and streetscape elements. As trail connectivity and parkland distribution are evaluated and planned for in this Parks Master Plan, the North Downtown Plan will be incorporated into the analysis and recommendations.

North Downtown Plan by Kendig Keast Collaborative
Public Engagement

One of the most important aspects of any planning process is to engage the general public and ensure the plan reflects and addresses their wants, needs, and concerns. This Parks Master Plan is intended to guide City investments in parks and recreation to ultimately best serve the community. A series of public engagement strategies were used throughout this planning process to gain an understanding of the wants, needs, and priorities of the community. Engagement strategies included stakeholder meetings, key person interviews, a public survey, a public open house workshop, Parks Advisory Committee meetings, and a City Council public hearing. The key findings of the public engagement are detailed in Chapter 3, Inventory & Needs, as part of the demand-based assessment.

Stakeholder Meetings

Over the course of two days at the beginning of the project, three stakeholder meetings and two key person interviews were held to identify opportunities and challenges faced by the community. Attendees included key City staff; City Council members; representatives from Bay City Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Bay City Community Development Corporation, Matagorda County, Matagorda County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Matagorda Historical Commission, and Matagorda County Economic Development Corporation; and local athletic leagues, residents, and business owners. At the stakeholder meetings, attendees were asked their opinion on the current park system, what they felt the community was lacking, and what the highest priority needs were.

Public Survey

In order to gain a better understanding of the parks and recreation needs of Bay City residents, a citywide survey was conducted as an online and paper questionnaire. The survey was advertised via utility fliers, radio announcements, local newspapers, the City’s Facebook page, at City events, and through emails to City staff and athletic leagues. Survey fliers and hard copy surveys were also made available at a number of City-owned facilities. The survey ran for one and a half months and a total of 871 responses were received.

Open House Public Workshop

An open house public workshop was held in June of 2017 to further engage the public. The community was presented with early public engagement findings, preliminary needs assessment results, a variety of preliminary park concept sketches, and asked a series of interactive questions to help further direct the recommendations of the Plan.

Parks Advisory Committee

Development of this Plan was guided by the Bay City Friends of the Park Advisory Board, which served as the Parks Advisory Committee (PAC). A series of three meetings were held over the course of the planning process to provide guidance and feedback at key intervals. The PAC’s responsibilities included ensuring that the Plan provided a balance of opinions on important City issues, making sure the Plan had comprehensive input towards its vision, and to review and provide comments on the draft Plan during its development.
Plan Vision and Goals

Bay City's vision for their parks and recreation system represents the community's collective aspiration for the future and provides the framework for the goals and objectives of this Plan. A vision statement serves as a decision-making tool to be used by elected and appointed officials, to guide City staff priorities, and to help build community consensus to ensure that everyone is cohesively working together towards a common future. The vision statement presented in the Parks Master Plan was derived from input received during early public engagement.

As previously mentioned, key public engagement findings are incorporated into the demand-based assessment portion of Chapter 3, Inventory & Needs.

Bay City Parks and Recreation Vision Statement

“By the year 2030, Bay City will provide its residents with a safe, well-maintained, well-connected, centralized parks system. An enhanced Bay City parks and recreation system will provide spaces for social interaction, pursuit of healthy living, recreational and educational opportunities for people of all ages, and improve quality of life for the community. With a diversity of recreational opportunities including passive and active recreation, accessible amenities, preserved access to nature, and multigenerational programming, Bay City’s parks and recreation system will provide options for all residents, foster economic development, and be a focal point of community pride.”

To implement this vision statement, the following mission statement guides daily decision making of the Parks and Recreation Department:

“In partnership with our citizens, the Parks and Recreation Department provides park and recreation programs, facilities, and services which respond to changing needs within our communities.

We strive to protect and preserve a park system that promotes quality recreational, cultural and outdoor experiences for the community and enriches the quality of life for present and future generations in a safe and secure environment.”
Park Master Plan Goals

Goals for a plan such as this create the foundation for guiding future decisions and development, as well as guiding the recommendations presented in this Plan. Goals are an important part of the planning process in that they provide the underlying philosophical framework for the decisions that the City will make when evaluating the need for park and recreation improvements. The goals in the Plan reflect the desires of the citizens, City staff, and elected and appointed officials. The goals below will be further refined into a detailed series of objectives and action recommendations in Chapter 4, Plan Recommendations.

- **Goal 1:** Renovate, develop, and construct diversified park and recreation facilities based on the changing needs of the community.
- **Goal 2:** Provide a diversified, multigenerational offering of recreational programs, events, facilities, and amenities to serve residents and attract regional users and visitors.
- **Goal 3:** Increase connectivity and accessibility in the parks system.
- **Goal 4:** Provide a consolidated parks system which preserves the City’s unique physical and natural assets.
- **Goal 5:** Enhance the function, safety, and appearance of City parkland through the provision of sufficient resources.
- **Goal 6:** Maintain, improve, and enhance existing park and recreation facilities in Bay City.
- **Goal 7:** Explore funding and partnering opportunities to further leverage parks and recreation facility enhancements and program offerings.
Introduction

In order to determine how to plan for the future of the Bay City parks and recreation system, it is necessary to understand its existing condition. This in turn helps to identify where the current system is meeting expectations; and alternatively, where it is falling short.

Bay City has a network of 33 parks and recreation facilities distributed throughout the City, its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), and beyond. These parks offer approximately 348 acres of parkland with a variety of recreational opportunities.

Through an analysis of the current inventory and condition of facilities, and a comparison of that data with local level-of-service ratios, the opinions voiced by the community, and the local resources available, this Parks Master Plan will develop a clear picture of what is currently lacking and where opportunities exist in the parks system.

Park Classifications

Different parks types serve different purposes, areas, and intended users. Understanding this helps to identify gaps and overlap in the overall system and whether or not existing facilities are addressing the current park, recreation, and open space needs of the City. This Plan follows national and state guidelines that identify three broad categories of parks.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are located within a one to two-hour driving time radius of the area they serve. Parks within this category include metropolitan parks, county parks, and state parks.

Local “Close to Home” Parks

Local parks are typically located within the community they serve. Subset park types within this category include pocket parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks.

Special Use Areas

These areas may be local or regional and can be defined as areas that are unique in some way due to their physical features or the types of facilities offered. Parks in this category include linear parks, special use parks, and land conservancies.

Regional Parks

Description: With the intentions of serving the entire city and beyond, a regional park often becomes the premier park in that area due to its broad range of facilities and activities. These parks often include regionally significant natural resources.

Site Characteristics: These parks are frequently planned to accommodate large numbers of visitors for events such as fairs, festivals, and exhibitions. Regional parks should be located near highways or major arterials to provide easy access from different parts of the city.

Service Area: Up to 50 mile radius, depending on site features.

Typical Size: Depending on the purpose and character of the site, regional parks can vary in size from less than 10 acres to several thousand acres.

Community Parks

Description: Community parks provide a variety of recreational activities which may include athletic fields and courts, swimming pools, hike and bike trails, or exercise stations. These parks may also provide a venue for community festivals and, therefore, must have sufficient parking for participants, spectators, and other park users.

Site Characteristics: These parks should be located near a major thoroughfare to provide easy access from different parts of the city. Vegetative buffering may be required to minimize the impact of light and sound pollution on adjacent residential areas.

Service Area: Primarily serves a one to two-mile radius, but available for persons throughout the community.

Typical Size: These parks should be large enough to accommodate a variety of facilities while leaving sufficient space for unstructured recreation, natural areas, and possible expansion. This can vary the size from 10 acres to over 50 acres.
**Neighborhood Parks**

**Description:** These parks provide both active and passive recreational opportunities within walking distance of residential neighborhoods, thus creating accessible family-friendly destinations. Amenities may include athletic fields, courts, playground equipment, walking trails, park benches, etc.

**Site Characteristics:** Evenly distributed throughout the city, these parks are centrally located in various neighborhoods, providing safe and easy pedestrian access for nearby residents.

**Service Area:** Serves a one-quarter to one-half-mile radius.

**Typical Size:** Existing physical conditions and availability of land can determine the size of neighborhood parks. Ideally these parks range from three to 10 acres, however, sizes can vary.

**Pocket Parks**

**Description:** Pocket parks provide passive recreational opportunities to a concentrated population within an immediate proximity. For example, a playground near a multi-family housing complex or a small lot that has been developed to include sidewalks and benches.

**Site Characteristics:** Located within a close proximity to medium/high density residential areas.

**Service Area:** Immediate neighborhoods.

**Typical Size:** Typically range from one-quarter acre to one acre in size.

**Linear Parks**

**Description:** Developed for bicycling, hiking, walking, and jogging, linear parks are commonly used as a link between two or more park and recreation areas.

**Site Characteristics:** Typically follows a linear man-made or natural feature such as a stream, creek, abandoned rail line, or road.

**Service Area:** Variable.

**Typical Size:** These parks/trails vary in size depending on existing site constraints and proximity to other parks.

**Special Use Parks & Facilities**

**Description:** These parks and facilities are used for specialized or single-purpose recreational activities such as a golf course, skate park, aquatic facility, historic site, tennis complex, or nature center.

**Site Characteristics:** Varies according to the overall functionality of the site - often operated by a private enterprise.

**Service Area:** Variable.

**Typical Size:** Having no minimum, these parks vary in size according to their specific functions.
Bay City Park Inventory

In order to plan for a parks and recreation system that addresses the needs and desires of Bay City residents, it is important to gain an understanding of the existing park and recreation facilities. Developing an understanding of current facilities, their condition, and potential opportunities, helps to identify what amenities may be lacking and are thus needed to meet current and future demands. This analysis helps determine whether or not the public is being well served with recreational opportunities. The need for new or improved recreational facilities can be determined by comparing the information gathered from the various methods of public engagement with the existing park inventory.

Bay City currently offers approximately 348 acres of regional, community, neighborhood, pocket, and special use parks (see Map 3.1, Existing Parks). Parks are distributed throughout the community, with the least amount of parkland in the southeast quadrant of the City.

The City’s regional parks encompass approximately 126 acres and include Le Tulle Park and Riverside Park. These two parks are located west of the City limits along the Colorado River and are predominately used for passive recreation purposes. The City’s community parks encompass approximately 91 acres and include Community Park, Frahms Field, Girls Softball Fields, Hardeman Park, Little League Fields, and the Sports Complex. These six parks offer a combination of recreational opportunities, including baseball, softball, football, soccer, tennis, and a skate park. Bay City offers a number of neighborhood parks scattered throughout the City encompassing approximately 19 acres. These 14 parks are intended to serve nearby residential neighborhoods providing open space and active recreation. The City also offers three pocket parks that provide minimal amenities within the neighborhoods they serve. There is currently one designated City-owned trail located in the old Southern Pacific railroad corridor. This small segment of trail provides an opportunity for expansion and connectivity. Additionally, Bay City has seven special use parks and facilities. These include the Caboose and Train Depot, two public pools, a dog park, a country club, Gusman Park, and the USO building.
Chapter 3
Inventory & Needs

Map 3.1, Existing Parks

1. Le Tulle Park
2. Riverside Park
3. Community Park
4. Frahm’s Field
5. Girls Softball Fields
6. Hardeman Park
7. Little League Fields
8. Sports Complex
9. Amistad Park
10. Avenue I Park
11. Avenue J Park
12. Bay Ridge Park
13. Bay Ridge Park (Block 1)
14. Bay Ridge Park (Block 4 East)
15. Bay Ridge Park (Block 5)
16. Chateau Gales Park
17. City Field
18. Duncan Park
19. Henderson Park
20. Mary Withers Park
21. National Guard/Parks Office
22. Recycling Park
23. Highland Park
24. Liberty Park
25. Wickersham Park
26. Southern Pacific Trail
27. Barkway Park
28. Train Depot/Caboose
29. Country Club
30. Guinan Park
31. Hilliard Pool
32. USO Building
33. Valiant Street Park & Pool
## Figure 3.1, Bay City Park Inventory

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<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
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<th>Water Recreation</th>
<th>Passive Recreation</th>
<th>Misc.</th>
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<td>Multipurpose Field</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Court</td>
<td>Puttning Green</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Court</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>6.7</td>
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<td>8 Sports Complex</td>
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<td>24.9</td>
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<td>Henderson Park</td>
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| Total                     | 348.1| 4   | 6   | 2   | 11  | 1   | 0   | 4   | 4   | 2   | 4   | 1   | 1   | 1.9 | 1   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 0   | 1   | 7   | 1   | 11  | 5   | 11  | 15  | 19  |
Park Profiles

Bay City's parks and recreation network currently includes two regional parks, six community parks, 14 neighborhood parks, three pocket parks, one linear park, and seven special use parks and facilities. With this large number of parks, maintenance requirements have become a challenge. This is a common theme as evaluating the park system showed evident wear-and-tear and vandalism. Many residents are concerned with the current conditions and sometimes feel unsafe in City parks. This then discourages some people from fully using the parks system. If an effort is shown to improve the park system, public support will grow and residents may begin to take an active role in helping to keep the parks clean.

The following pages provide a detailed profile for each City-owned park and recreation asset. These profiles help determine priorities within the park system and give a thorough understanding of issues and opportunities at each park. Each profile contains the following information:

- Size;
- Park type;
- Surrounding uses;
- Accessibility; and
- Description of existing conditions and potential opportunities.
1. Le Tulle Park

Size: 44.2 acres  Park Type: Regional

Surrounding Land Uses: Situated on the western outskirts of City’s ETJ, Le Tulle Park is nestled between Highway 35 and a segment of the Colorado River. The Bay City Country Club is located directly south and the Matagorda County Birding Nature Center is northeast of the park.

Accessibility: There are two vehicular access points off Highway 35, but without sidewalks, pedestrian access to the park is nonexistent.

Existing Conditions: Donated to Bay City in 1934, Le Tulle Park was the first public park in the Bay City parks system. Park amenities include numerous legacy oak trees, a lake with fishing access, picnic pavilions, play structures, outdoor bathrooms, and a disc golf course. With the size of the park and its natural features, Le Tulle Park is host to annual events such as “Sparks in the Park” (an Independence Day event), “Bark in the Park,” and an Easter Egg Hunt. The disc golf course also serves as overflow parking for these events. As evidence through public survey results, Le Tulle Park is the community’s favorite park.

Issues with the park include aged and wood-rotted park equipment, vehicular conflicts with the Country Club patrons, trash and debris throughout the park, and a stagnant pond. With the existing impressive natural features and some improvements and further enhancements, Le Tulle Park has potential to be a truly remarkable regional park. Opportunities to improve this unique park include adding a trail system that leads to and through the park, an all abilities playground, a canoe/kayak launch, a zip-line or challenge course, fountains in the pond, additional restrooms and picnic pavilions, park entry signage, a pedestrian bridge to the Birding Nature Center, and security lighting, among other things.
2. Riverside Park

Size: 103.6 acres  
**Park Type:** Regional

**Surrounding Land Uses:** Located significantly south of the limits of the City's ETJ, Riverside Park is surrounded by the Rio Colorado Golf Course to the east and the Colorado River to the west. The remaining surrounding areas are undeveloped land.

**Accessibility:** Park access is limited to a single vehicular entrance along FM 2668. A land bridge on Riverside Rd. provides access to the park.

**Existing Conditions:** Purchased in 1993, Riverside Park is the second regional park in Bay City. The Park is primarily used as a camp site for tents and recreational vehicles. Amenities in the park include hiking trails, outdoor restrooms, picnic tables, barbecue pits, playgrounds, a boat launch, and swimming access to the Colorado River. A Ranger Station is located along the entry drive. The park provides access to nature for locals and visitors alike. Wildlife found in the park has included alligators, bobcats, deer, and more. Riverside Park also hosts the annual Christmas in the Park event. Riverside Park is unique in that it generates revenue through day pass and overnight fees. To date, approximately 80 percent of the park's revenue comes from out-of-town users.

The park was severely flooded in 2017 and will need extensive repairs. In addition, previously existing challenges and issues in the park include the stability of the entry drive, a need for wayfinding and “please don't feed the animals” signage, the lack of a visible entrance sign, flooding, silt accumulation on the boat ramp, aged infrastructure and park equipment, and lack of security. There is a need for additional staff in the park to allow the ranger and administrative staff to adequately complete their tasks.

Opportunities for improvements to the park could include another boat launch and a kayak or canoe launch, a challenge course, additional trails, and an archery range, among others.
3. Community Park

Size: 6.4 acres  

Park Type: Community

Surrounding Land Uses: This park is surrounded on all sides by a residential neighborhood with a rail yard and tracks to the south. Cottonwood Creek bisects the park in the western half of the park.

Accessibility: Access is limited to one entrance road off of Rugeley Street. There are no sidewalks leading to the park.

Existing Conditions: The singular baseball field in the park is used as a practice field, but the associated press box is slated for removal due to its deteriorated wooden structure. The bleachers, shade covers, and the dug outs are in poor shape, while the score board and field lights do not function. The tennis courts to the north of the park have not seen consistent use so considerations are being made for their conversion into basketball courts. Other park issues include pot holes in the parking lot, trash left behind by park patrons, and vehicles and boats illegally parked on site. A City-owned building on the site is leased to Bay City Recovery. This presents concerns due to the potential for illicit activities.

Opportunities for improvement to the site include converting the tennis courts into basketball courts; creating a shaded picnic area near the courts; resurfacing the parking lot; providing new ADA compliant covered bleachers, concession stand/press box, and scoreboard; restoring the park lighting; and rehabilitating the ball field and fence; among others.
4. Frahms Field

Size: 8.2 acres  
**Park Type:** Community

**Surrounding Land Uses:** Linnie Roberts Elementary School is located to the east, residential areas and the Economic Action Committee of the Gulf Coast form the western and northern borders, and the land south of the site remains undeveloped.

**Accessibility:** An unimproved grassy area serves as the parking lot for the park. Pedestrian access to the park is limited as there are no sidewalks leading to the park.

**Existing Conditions:** Built by the Frahm family and the Bay City Youth Soccer Club, Frahms Field consists of ten soccer playing and practice fields. The Bay City Youth Soccer Club building sits at the northeast corner of the park while the play fields comprise the rest of the site. Other park facilities include restrooms and an equipment storage shed. The soccer association maintains the land but all utilities and facility maintenance is the responsibility of the City Parks and Recreation Department.

Opportunities to improve the park include field lights for nighttime play and covered bleachers.
5. Girls Softball Fields

**Size:** 8.4 acres  
**Park Type:** Community

**Surrounding Land Uses:** Surrounding land uses include an intermediate school, the Little League Fields, residential homes, and the Bay City Municipal Services Building (just southwest of the park). Cottonwood Creek runs along the western border of the park.

**Accessibility:** The site is easily accessible by automobile, but has very minimal parking. A sidewalk begins at Cottonwood Creek to the west and runs along the south edge of the fields, connecting to sidewalks along Avenue M.

**Existing Conditions:** Maintained by the Bay City Girls Softball Association, the fields are comprised of three fully playable softball fields. All fields include a pair of dug outs, field lighting, scoreboards, a broadcast booth, and bleachers. The Mark Ebel Pavilion lies adjacent to the main ball field and contains concessions with wooden picnic tables for seating and eating. Recent renovations include a new dumpster enclosure with planned improvements to include electrical and lighting upgrades. Current issues with the park include insufficient vehicular parking, lack of security lighting, and weathered wooden bleacher seats and picnic table tops.

Improvement opportunities could include additional parking, new scoreboards, field signage, windscreens, safety mesh on the infields, and providing uniformity among the building and structure styles.
6. Hardeman Park

Size: 17.9 acres  
Park Type: Community

Surrounding Land Uses: The site lies between industrial land uses to the west, a retirement community to the east, and a residential neighborhood to the south. The land to the north of the park is largely undeveloped land with a small pocket of residential homes. The Southern Pacific Trailway right of way is directly south of the property.

Accessibility: Vehicular access to the site is provided from 12th Street and no sidewalks are provided along the street. A canal on the southern edge of the property creates a disconnect with the residential neighborhood.

Existing Conditions: Donated to Bay City by the Hardeman family, Hardeman Park contains the Bay City Lions Club Teen Center and Skate Park. Both the Center and Skate Park were built by The Lions Club. The Teen Center is now leased to Young Life. Other park elements include a football field, open air restrooms, a small concession stand, an internal walking trail and a track with fitness stations. Building issues consist of graffiti and equipment theft. Site issues consist of mowing difficulties near the roadside ditch. There are also large open areas that have ruts and mud pits.

Potential opportunities for improvements to the park include an improved restroom building, redesigning the skate park, diversifying amenities (e.g., splash pad, playground, soccer field) on site to increase the park’s draw, and landscape enhancements, among others.
7. Little League Fields

Size: 6.7 acres  
Park Type: Community

Surrounding Land Uses: A municipal building sits on the west side of Cottonwood Creek which defines the western edge of the park. Additional surrounding uses include an intermediate school, residential neighborhoods, and the Girls Softball Fields.

Accessibility: Sitting at the corner of Grace St. and Avenue M, the site is easily accessible by automobile, but lacks sufficient parking. A sidewalk on the east side of the property runs north and south providing a connection with the residential development.

Existing Conditions: The Little League Fields include three fully playable softball fields, with associated items such as dug outs, field lighting, score boards, a broadcast booth, and bleachers. There is also a pitcher’s practice cage for two and large estate Live Oak trees surrounding the site. Recent renovations include a new dumpster enclosure with planned improvements to include additional lighting. A major issue is lack of vehicular parking.

Potential improvements to the park are the same as those for the Girls Softball Fields including improved parking, field signage, windscreens and infield safety mesh, new scoreboards, and providing uniformity among the building and structure styles.
8. Sports Complex

Size: 24.9 acres  
**Park Type:** Community

**Surrounding Land Uses:** There are a small number of residential lots to the west of the complex. The Bay City brush site and Police Department Gun Range are located south of the site. The rest of the surrounding land remains undeveloped.

**Accessibility:** There are no trails or sidewalks leading to the site as the complex is located outside of the City limits. Vehicular access is limited to FM3156 and Skelly Road. A gravel parking lot is located between the baseball and the soccer fields.

**Existing Conditions:** The site consists of three baseball fields, practice soccer fields, an open air pavilion with basketball hoops, and a small playground. Standard baseball accessory features include press boxes, lighting, and team dug outs. Current issues with the sports fields include uneven and rough playing surfaces (Field 3 is in the worst shape). The grass within the open field has numerous ruts in it from people driving their vehicles through it. The parking lot is also rutted as it is not permanently paved. Lighting in the parking lot and soccer fields does not work consistently. Additional site issues are the aged press boxes, bathrooms, bleachers, and fences. The pavilion is heavily used but the roof has leaks during and after rainfall. Since the site is isolated from the City, crime is a concern. There have been issues with vehicle break-ins and theft in the past.

Opportunities for improvements to the park include athletic field and spectator facility upgrades and replacements, resurfacing the parking lot, providing equipment storage, repairing the pavilion roof, providing natural barriers between the park and the road to discourage off-road vehicles, and potentially repurposing the softball fields, among others. Alternatively, the entire park could be repurposed (e.g., as a shooting range) and the athletic amenities could be relocated to a site situated closer to City users.
9. Amistad Park

Size: 2.1 acres  
**Park Type**: Neighborhood

**Surrounding Land Uses**: The site is surrounded by a residential neighborhood. The office and workshop of the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) are directly west of the site.

**Accessibility**: Streets border all sides of the park, making it easily accessible by vehicles. There is minimal parking on site and a lack of sidewalks limit pedestrian access.

**Existing Conditions**: Amistad Park contains amenities that can make this park a successful one, such as barbecue pits, baseball practice fields, basketball courts, an open air pavilion, a play structure, and covered public restrooms. Many of the park amenities are in good condition. Site issues include large pools of water within the open grassy areas after heavy rainfall. Other issues include undesirable uses and the need for security lighting.

Being located directly adjacent to the PARD site, there is potential to develop Amistad Park into a larger neighborhood park incorporating both properties. Potential amenities that could be developed on the site include enhanced picnic areas, a splash pad, community gardens, multipurpose playing fields, an interior loop trail, age appropriate play areas, parks plazas with game tables, and a butterfly garden.
10. Avenue I Park (north)

Size: 0.3 acres  
**Park Type:** Neighborhood

**Surrounding Land Uses:** Cottonwood Creek bisects the site and there are commercial uses surrounding the park.

**Accessibility:** Located at the northwest corner of Avenue H and 8th Street, the park is accessible by vehicles, but there is minimal parking and a lack of sidewalks around the park.

**Existing Conditions:** As an undeveloped tract, Avenue I Park (north) contains a large creek (Cottonwood Creek) in the center surrounded by large canopy trees. The remainder of the site is covered in grass with utility poles lining 8th Street to the south.

Largely unused, Avenue I Park (north) would benefit from the addition of park amenities in the form of picnic tables, benches, a gazebo, drinking fountains, a walking trail along Cottonwood Creek, and barbecue grills. Its proximity to heavily traveled roads and lack of on-site parking may make this park difficult to develop.

11. Avenue I Park (south)

Size: 0.6 acres  
**Park Type:** Neighborhood

**Surrounding Land Uses:** The site is bisected by Cottonwood Creek and surrounded by commercial uses.

**Accessibility:** Located at the southwest corner of Avenue I and 8th Street, the site has the same accessibility and parking challenges as Avenue I Park (north).

**Existing Conditions:** Avenue I Park (south) is located directly across 8th Street from Avenue I Park (north). This park shares that same opportunities and constraints as Avenue I Park (north). Park amenities, such as trail access along Cottonwood Creek, would improve the usability of the site.
12. Bay Ridge Park

**Size:** 1.7 acres

**Park Type:** Neighborhood

**Surrounding Land Uses:** Residential homes occupy the west, east, and south sides of the park. There is undeveloped land and an apartment complex to the north.

**Accessibility:** There are no sidewalks in the area and the park has one access point off Bay Ridge Blvd. The street is, however, wide enough to allow for on-street parking on both sides.

**Existing Conditions:** Entrance into the park is a narrow path between two residential homes. A park sign sits at the park entrance with Crape Myrtles lining the entrance and larger canopy trees scattered about the rest of the park site. Park equipment includes a play structure with benches, but weeds have begun to grow on the play surface. Replacement of the play structure and benches will improve the park's viability. Additionally, the City could potentially coordinate with adjacent neighbors to help with the required site maintenance and surveillance.
### 13. Bay Ridge Park (Block 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Type: Neighborhood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size:</strong> 0.2 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surrounding Land Uses:</strong> Surrounded by residential uses on all sides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong> There are no sidewalks or designated parking areas, and the only access to the park is through private property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Existing Conditions:</strong> This park remains undeveloped. Due to its small size, and the other nearby park areas, sale of this land may be the best option.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 14. Bay Ridge Park (Block 4 East)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Type: Neighborhood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size:</strong> 1.7 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surrounding Land Uses:</strong> Residential homes are located to the north and east and undeveloped land is situated to the south and west.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility:</strong> There are no sidewalks or vehicular access to the site. Residential homes block the view from the road to the park along the northern edge of the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Existing Conditions:</strong> Bay Ridge Park is located at the southwest corner of the Bay Ridge Subdivision and the City limits. The park is comprised of an open grassy field and currently remains undeveloped. As a larger piece of property, this site holds potential to serve as a high-quality neighborhood park. However, the best use of the site, be it parkland or otherwise, will need to be determined. If the site is intended to remain as parkland, greater public awareness of the site will be needed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**15. Bay Ridge Park (Block 5)**

**Size:** 0.5 acres  
**Park Type:** Neighborhood  

**Surrounding Land Uses:** This park is largely surrounded by residential uses and a water well.

**Accessibility:** There is limited access due to the lack of sidewalks and parking.

**Existing Conditions:** This park is undeveloped. Due to limited access and other parkland in the neighborhood, sale of this land may be the best option.

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**16. Chateaux Oaks Park**

**Size:** 0.7 acres  
**Park Type:** Neighborhood  

**Surrounding Land Uses:** The park is surrounded by a residential neighborhood and a rail line.

**Accessibility:** The site is accessible by residents within an immediate proximity. There are no sidewalks leading to the site and no areas dedicated for parking.

**Existing Conditions:** Previously slated to be sold, Chateaux Oaks Park was retained within the City's park system at the insistence of the neighboring residents. An agreement is currently in place for the residents to maintain the park. However, this is an issue for concern as the maintenance practices and schedule are not controlled by the PARD. Park features include a heavily used basketball court with large stands of canopy trees surrounding it. A small barbecue pit sits to the west of the basketball court.

Opportunities for improvements to this park include the installation of a picnic pavilion and associated amenities.
17. City Field

Size: 2.8 acres  
**Park Type:** Neighborhood

**Surrounding Land Uses:** Single family residential homes, a night club named “The Club,” and the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church surround the park.

**Accessibility:** There are no sidewalks or trails in the area, restricting park access to primarily vehicles.

**Existing Conditions:** A park that was originally intended for baseball, City Field is now used as a soccer field. Current park elements include bleachers, field lights, soccer goals, and a new bathroom. As the interest has shifted towards soccer play, all baseball related elements have been removed. The turfed areas are in need of leveling in order to allow for safer soccer play. Lighting remains an issue despite repeated repair attempts which have proven ineffective. The unpaved parking lot has ruts in it, thus making it difficult to properly park vehicles. The primary issues with City field is the prevalence of trash, crime, and undesirable uses.

Opportunities to improve this park include conversion of the baseball field to a soccer field, resurfacing the parking lot, installation of security lighting, and a greater law enforcement presence.
18. Duncan Park

Size: 2.2 acres  
Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: Surrounding land uses include undeveloped land, a child development center, and residences.

Accessibility: There are no sidewalks in this area, making access to the site primarily vehicular in nature.

Existing Conditions: This park is the most used neighborhood park in Bay City. Duncan Park contains a large open air pavilion with picnic tables where patrons congregate to play dominoes. Other site amenities include a children's play structure, two overhead structures that provide shade for a barbecue pit and swing set, a basketball court, a volleyball court, a horseshoe pit, and various picnic tables and benches constructed of wood or concrete. A newly constructed and fully enclosed restroom lies east of the parking lot. The primary issue with the park is people riding ATVs within the park open space. Residents have requested additional picnic amenities and square game tables.

Opportunities to improve this park include adding lighting, signage, landscape enhancements, a natural barrier to discourage ATV use in the park, and additional picnic tables. Other improvements could include resurfacing the basketball court, and rehabilitating the horseshoe pit, among others.
19. Henderson Park

Size: 1.0 acres  
**Park Type:** Neighborhood

**Surrounding Land Uses:** This park is surrounded by residential areas and undeveloped land.

**Accessibility:** The park is located in close proximity to residences, but safe pedestrian access can be difficult as there are no sidewalks leading to the site.

**Existing Conditions:** Also known as North End Park, Henderson Park was the site of one of the original schools in Bay City. In 1995, the park was officially named in honor of Mr. Frank Henderson, who became the first black councilman of Bay City. A monument with a plaque is on site to commemorate this occasion. Existing park features include a swing set and two basketball courts. Large stands of Live Oak trees are situated at the park’s perimeter and scattered within the site. This site presents a number of challenges including a swing set in disrepair and the basketball courts have a cracked and unleveled playing surface. The City has received complaints about homeless people loitering in the park.

Potential improvement opportunities for this park include removing all amenities and starting fresh. Elements to consider for the park could include a picnic pavilion, interior loop trail with educational signage about the site’s history, a playground, basketball court, security lighting, designated parking areas, and an increased law enforcement presence. It will be essential to improve and diversify usage of this park in order to discourage illicit activities and loitering.
20. Mary Withers Park

Size: 0.8 acres  Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: The USO Building and The American Legion Post #11 are directly to the north of the park. The remaining surrounding uses are largely residential.

Accessibility: Sidewalks line three sides of this park, but there are no crosswalks to provide safe crossing locations from adjacent blocks. The parking lot to the west of the park provides sufficient space for vehicles.

Existing Conditions: This park neighbors the historic USO Building. Park amenities include two lighted tennis courts, a sand volleyball court, picnic tables, and trash receptacles. A wooden park sign sits at the southwest corner of Southwest Avenue and 6th Street. Although the park sees frequent use by patrons, there are undesirable elements that prevent the park from sustaining its family-friendly atmosphere. Issues with the site include loose trash, vandalism, alcohol consumption, and overnight sleeping on the tennis courts. Within the last few years the tennis courts were resurfaced and sand was added to the volleyball court.

Opportunities for improvements in the park include the addition of picnic amenities (e.g., tables, trash cans, etc.), security lighting, fencing along the sides of the tennis court, and further rehabilitating the volleyball court.
21. National Guard/Parks Office

Size: 2.6 acres  
Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: This site is located in a residential neighborhood and Amistad Park is located directly to the east.

Accessibility: A sidewalk extends along the southern edge of the site providing pedestrian access and a parking lot to the east provides sufficient vehicular access.

Existing Conditions: The Bay City Parks and Recreation Department is housed in the previously empty National Guard Building. The buildings located to the north of the Parks Office are used as the PARD warehouse and workshop. Site issues include standing water in the parking lot after rain events.

Opportunities for improvements to the site include development of a consolidated, high-quality neighborhood park using both this and the Amistad Park property. See the Amistad Park profile for further description.

22. Recycling Park

Size: 1.9 acres  
Park Type: Neighborhood

Surrounding Land Uses: Recycling Park is surrounded by industrial and residential uses and is bordered by the Cottonwood Creek.

Accessibility: There is no on-site parking or sidewalk access to the park.

Existing Conditions: Although the park contains a few amenities such as a small wooden amphitheater and an open lawn, Recycling Park does not see many visitors. Neighboring industrial buildings and overhead power poles are elements that do not promote a park-like atmosphere.

As determined by previous City planning efforts, this property is slated to be sold when the recycling center is moved.
23. Highland Park

**Size:** 0.4 acres  
**Park Type:** Pocket  

**Surrounding Land Uses:** Residential uses surround all sides of the park.  

**Accessibility:** There are no designated parking areas or sidewalks leading to the site. Access is limited to residents within the immediate proximity.  

**Existing Conditions:** This is a newly renovated park with a recycled plastic play structure and a small handicap accessible picnic table. Highland Park is a favorite park among the residents and may act as a model for future neighborhood and pocket parks. Current site issues are a broken park sign, lack of a designated parking area, limited lawn maintenance, and trash within the park.  

Opportunities for improvement include a new sign, additional site furnishings such as picnic tables, benches, a small pavilion and drinking fountains. Neighborhood residents have expressed their willingness to purchase some of the park items, such as picnic tables and benches.

24. Liberty Park

**Size:** 1.0 acres  
**Park Type:** Pocket  

**Surrounding Land Uses:** Industrial uses surround the park on all sides. The Cottonwood Creek runs through the park and City Hall is located one block to the west.  

**Accessibility:** Limited pedestrian access and on-street parking makes it difficult to access the site.  

**Existing Conditions:** Established in the 1960's, Liberty Park is one of the oldest parks in the City. With a gazebo that dates back to 1907 and new picnic tables, Liberty Park also bridges the gap between the old and new. The historic gazebo is a popular location for wedding photos and ceremonies. The park is surrounded by industrial uses, but access to Cottonwood Creek creates a small sense of nature.  

Opportunities for improvement to the park include a vegetative screen along the existing chain link fence, sidewalks along the park frontage, and future trail connectivity along the Cottonwood Creek. Additional improvements to the southern half of the park are slated to occur as part of an improved City Hall complex master plan.
25. Wickersham Park

**Size:** 0.4 acres  
**Park Type:** Pocket

**Surrounding Land Uses:** Surrounded by residential uses on all sides.

**Accessibility:** There are no crosswalks or sidewalks leading to the park, making accessibility difficult and unsafe.

**Existing Conditions:** This is a triangular shaped park located within a median at the heart of a residential neighborhood. The park includes benches, an open play field, and a few Crape Myrtle trees. Issues with the site include the need for mowing. Opportunities for improvements to the park include removal of the Crape Myrtles and replacing them with canopy trees and/or a shrub hedgerow. Site amenities such as new benches and a walking path would attract patrons to the park. Safe access to the park is the primary concern as the park as it is surrounded on all sides by Wickersham Drive.

26. Southern Pacific Trail

**Size:** 5.9 acres, 0.5 miles  
**Park Type:** Linear

**Surrounding Land Uses:** The trail runs adjacent to residential areas, and Bay City Junior High School.

**Accessibility:** There are multiple trail access points at intersections of various crossroads.

**Existing Conditions:** The 10-foot wide trail sits at the center of a residential neighborhood with the paved portion extending from Mary Avenue to Cottonwood Avenue. The trail was built with asphalt from Mary Avenue to Sycamore Avenue and concrete from Sycamore Avenue to Cottonwood Avenue. The trail is also surrounded by drainage ditches on both sides. Issues with the trail include the asphalt breaking apart, overgrown grass covering the asphalt, and trash accumulation. Safety is a concern as there are no traffic calming devices or walkway indicators at the street crossings.

Opportunities for improving the trail include converting the asphalt section to concrete, and providing shade, benches, trashcans, safety lights with call boxes, and restroom facilities. The City can also continue to extend the trail along the old railway corridor.
27. Barkway

Size: 2.1 acres  
**Park Type:** Special Use

**Surrounding Land Uses:** Surrounding land uses include residences and the Bay City Recycling Center.

**Accessibility:** There is no sidewalk access or designated parking areas on site.

**Existing Conditions:** Formerly a composting site, Barkway is a heavily used dog park that is new to the community. Chain link fences separate large and small dog agility courses with a community canine drinking station located in between. All of the canine play equipment are constructed with re-purposed materials such as wooden bollards, loose timber pieces, and unused storm sewer pipes. A picnic bench is situated on site for the dog owners but proper shade is not provided for them or their pets.

Opportunities for improvement include a dedicated parking lot, evening lighting, shade structures, a water feature for dogs, and a improved lawn maintenance. Ultimately, the City will need to determine a way to allow lawn areas to rest for periods of time in order to maintain the long-term health of the landscape.

28. Caboose and Train Depot

Size: 0.7 acres  
**Park Type:** Special Use

**Surrounding Land Uses:** The site of the Train Depot and Caboose is surrounded by residential uses and a rail line located directly south of the Train Depot.

**Accessibility:** There is sufficient vehicular access and parking, however, pedestrian access is limited to one sidewalk that is in poor condition.

**Existing Conditions:** Associated with Gusman Park to the north, the Train Depot and Caboose are both historical features at the intersection of Avenue G and 2nd Street. Built in 1905 and in use until 1984, the historic Train Depot is currently used as a meeting room. Recent renovations to the Train Depot occurred in the 1990's and in 2010. Built in 1980, the historic Caboose is a retired symbol of the rail yard. Primarily used as a tourist attraction, the potential use for the caboose may be as an item for public rentals. The site’s issues are parallel with that of Gusman Park as it is hard to mow due to the tall curbing and animal waste is often found around the Caboose and Train Depot. Caboose restoration and interpretive signage would improve the facility.
**29. Country Club**

- **Size:** 92.4 acres
- **Park Type:** Special Use
- **Surrounding Land Uses:** Primarily surrounded by undeveloped land, an industrial site, Le Tulle Park, and the Colorado River.
- **Accessibility:** The vehicular entrance is through Le Tulle Park’s entrance off Highway 35. There is no pedestrian access to the site.
- **Existing Conditions:** Located at the southern end of Le Tulle Park, the Bay City Country Club consists of a clubhouse, golf course, golf pro shop, a swimming pool, and tennis courts. The Country Club has an 80-year lease from Bay City for use of the land. Site issues are primarily seen through the vehicular conflicts between the park and Country Club patrons. Disregard for vehicle directional signs and high speed traveling through the park to reach the Country Club are traffic concerns from the park users and Country Club patrons.

**30. Gusman Park**

- **Size:** 0.8 acres
- **Park Type:** Special Use
- **Surrounding Land Uses:** There is a combination of residential and industrial uses surrounding all sides of the park.
- **Accessibility:** Sidewalks run parallel along the length of the park, but there is no designated area for a crosswalk or parking for vehicles.
- **Existing Conditions:** Comprised of four sections, Gusman Park is a linear park that extends along a Bay City Historic Neighborhood. An obelisk shaped monument was erected on the north end of Avenue G between 4th and 5th Street in honor of former Mayor R.C. Gusman, the park’s namesake. In 1988, the train Caboose was relocated to the south end of the Avenue next to the Train Depot. Tall street curbs are an issue for mowing access onto the park. Site issues include areas where deposits of animal waste are left behind from stray animals or negligent pet owners.

Opportunities to improve this park include enhanced landscaping which would remove some mowing requirements.
31. Hilliard Pool

**Size:** 0.8 acres  
**Park Type:** Special Use

**Surrounding Land Uses:** The site is surrounded by a child development center and residential homes.

**Accessibility:** There is one vehicular access road (Le Tulle Avenue), but without any sidewalks in this area, pedestrian access is limited.

**Existing Conditions:** Originally built in 1940 with funds raised by the Hilliard School, Hilliard Pool accommodates 25 to 40 patrons daily. The large pool has depths of three to 12 feet and includes a small baby pool. Although the pool was re-plastered as recently as 2012, there are signs of leakage. Other issues range from an undersized pool equipment room, a lack of pool cleaning and maintenance, inadequate chemical storage facilities, and challenges with lifeguards. There is an undeveloped area on the property that may provide potential for additional amenities.

Opportunities to improve this pool include addressing the above listed issues, providing a splash/play area, party area, improved furnishings, and picnicking amenities in the undeveloped area, among others.

32. USO Building

**Size:** 1.1 acres  
**Park Type:** Special Use

**Surrounding Land Uses:** The USO Building is surrounded by a residential neighborhood, businesses along 7th Street, and Mary Withers Park.

**Accessibility:** There are sidewalks on all four sides of the site, but no crosswalks. The site is easily accessible by vehicle and has ample parking in the rear. 7th Street (Hwy 35) is a major thoroughfare within the City.

**Existing Conditions:** The USO Building is a historic building located in the center of Bay City. Previous upgrades include an auditorium and renovations of the lobby, kitchen, dining room, library, restrooms, the main lobby, a stage, and stage curtains. Existing issues include maintenance difficulties with new construction finishes, mold on the auditorium ceilings, and the non-renovated stage and storage rooms. Additional issues include the lack of interior signs and exterior lighting. There are also water leaks in the dining room and the non-commercial grade carpeting needs to be replaced.
33. Valiant Park and Pool

**Size:** 3.1 acres  
**Park Type:** Special Use

**Surrounding Land Uses:** Surrounding uses include residences, undeveloped land, Matagorda County Educational Service, and a Bay City ISD school which is no longer open.

**Accessibility:** There are sidewalks on the property but no crosswalks are not provided. The site is easily accessible by vehicle and parking is sufficient.

**Existing Conditions:** Built in 1976 by Texas Parks and Wildlife, the swimming pool is used by the City’s residents and the competitive swim club named “The Bay City Aqua Cats.” The park contains manicured lawns with stately Live Oak trees in front of the pool building. Remnants of tree removals are seen as two large tree stumps remain near the intersection of Live Oak Ave and Carey Smith Blvd. Maintenance of the pool used to be shared with Bay City ISD, but that is no longer the case. The pool is used by both Bay City and Van Vleck ISD swim teams for practice and competitive swim meets. Issues with the park and pool include a deteriorating building, pool leaks, a lack of proper chemical storage, a general need for increased maintenance, and a lack of public awareness that Valiant Park is a public park.

Opportunities for improvements to the park and pool include visually differentiating the park from the pool, replacing the pool, and providing a splash/play area, site furnishings, shade structures, concession stand, picnic amenities, and enhanced landscaping, among others.
Recreation & Events

Bay City offers a variety of recreational programs and events that provide year-round activities for residents of all ages. Although the majority of the programs are offered by third-party providers, many of these programs take place at City parks or facilities. The City also has a joint-use agreement with the school district for the 16th Street pool and intermediate school basketball gym.

Third-party associations provide organized athletics throughout the year for children and youth, such as baseball/softball, basketball, football, soccer, and swimming (see Figure 3.2, Recreation Programming, on the following page). The City also offers organized recreation year-round for adults including co-ed softball, men's only softball, and volleyball. However, it is apparent from public input that many residents are unaware of the programming that is provided and do not know where to access this information. When survey respondents were asked which age group they felt had the greatest need for recreational programming moving forward, the greatest amount of respondents indicated teens and children, or those ages 19 and under. When asked how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with the current program offerings, programming for adults and seniors received the least amount of satisfaction. Notably, some residents expressed a desire to get involved in the planning and execution of recreational programs.

Generally, the residents of Bay City have voiced a desire for more recreational opportunities. While people may have an interest in getting out and being more active, their lack of program awareness and the quality of facilities in the City may drive them to seek recreational opportunities outside of Bay City. In fact, over 50 percent of survey respondents indicated that they travel outside of the City to participate in recreational activities. These activities include swimming, soccer, softball, baseball, basketball, fishing, hiking, camping, gymnastics, and other indoor activities (see Figure 3.8, Participation in Athletics/Recreation Outside of City, on page 61). Providing more opportunities in Bay City will encourage residents to use the City’s parks system and help to attract more visitors.

The City, along with third party associations, also offer festivals and events throughout the year (see Figure 3.3, Festivals/Events, on page 53). Some of these events include Camofest, Christmas in the Park, Easter Egg Hunts, Rotary Summer Concert, Seafood Festival, Oktoberfest Dance, and the Matagorda County Rodeo. Nearly all of the festivals and events offered are available to all age groups.
### Figure 3.2, Recreation Programming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Host</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AquaCats Swim Team</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>6-18</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Assoc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>5-12</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Assoc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball League</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>5-12</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Van Vleck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scouts</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>11-17</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>BSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys &amp; Girls Club</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>6-14</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>United Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cub Scouts Pack 4545</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>7-10</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>BSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>5-16</td>
<td>Fall/Winter</td>
<td>Assoc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girl Scouts</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>11-17</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>GSUSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matagorda County 4-H</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>5-18</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>4-H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Club</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>U5-U10</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Assoc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>8-14</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Assoc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-ed Softball</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>18 &amp; up</td>
<td>Spring/Summer/fall</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-ed Volleyball</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>18 &amp; up</td>
<td>Summer/Fall/Spring</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Softball</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>18 &amp; up</td>
<td>Spring/Summer/fall</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Gym/Volleyball practice</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>18 &amp; up</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Figure 3.2, Recreation Programming (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Host</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classes/Series</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td></td>
<td>Art league</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hop to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>13 &amp; up</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Misc. Training/Lessons</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Lessons</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifeguard Class</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>16 &amp; up</td>
<td>April/May</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Camps</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball and Volleyball Camps</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>12 - 18</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>BCISD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Senior Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAC</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>50 +</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>EAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Sneakers</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>50 +</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Age Group</td>
<td>Season</td>
<td>Host</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby It's Cold Out</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camofest</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas in the Park</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Parade</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>Chamber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Nights (no longer host)</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>0 - 18</td>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg Hunts in the Park</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>March/April</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Fun Day</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>BCODA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Moon Food Truck Festival</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Nature Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June Zydeco Dance</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEPC Safety Day</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Emergency Mgmt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lite it Up</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>18 &amp; up</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>HDBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Days</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>3rd Saturday of each month</td>
<td>Chamber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matagorda County Rodeo</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movies in the Park</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>May, August, October, December</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November Fun Run</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oktoberfest Dance</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 3.3, Festivals/Events (cont.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Host</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power of the Purse Fundraiser</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Regional Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice Festival/Bull Blast/Parade</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Lion’s Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock the Block (temporarily on hold)</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotary Summer Concert</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Rotary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seafood Festival</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Spring &amp; Fall</td>
<td>Matagorda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sparks in the Park</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Paddlers’ Rally on the River</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Nature Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>M/F</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>CAST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Egg Hunts in the Park
Bay City Park and Recreation Department

The Bay City PARD currently includes 12 full time staff and 23 seasonal staff. Full time staff include a Director, Supervisor, Park Secretary (shared with Municipal Services Building), Lead Park Specialist, six Park Specialists, Park Ranger, and an Aquatic/Recreation Specialist. Seasonal staff include four Head Guards and 16 Lifeguards. There used to be one seasonal staff for Riverside Park but the positions was not budgeted for 2017.

The Bay City PARD is currently responsible for the maintenance of over 348 acres of parkland. The parkland acreage is significantly spread out across the City, ETJ, and beyond, thus decreasing maintenance efficiency. Additionally, the City has acquired a number of parkland acres through developer dedication. Some of this parkland is essentially inaccessible and likely unusable for recreation purposes.

Over the years, the PARD’s maintenance responsibility has expanded to include lands that do not fall easily under other departments’ responsibilities. As such, the PARD is now responsible for maintaining water wells, lift stations, water towers, and the wastewater treatment plant. They also maintain the lands in and around downtown, City Hall, the Police Department, the Fire Department, Economic Development Corporation, Economic Action Committee, the rent house, hair salon, several other miscellaneous properties, and an esplanade that is not owned by the City. With all of this additional land that the PARD is responsible for maintaining, they are unable to spend the time and resources needed to adequately maintain the parks system. This is evident throughout the City and the need for improved park maintenance has been strongly voiced by the community and City staff alike.

Considering the resource demands on the PARD, additional staffing needs have been identified. This includes two additional Riverside Park Rangers, a full-time administrative assistant, and the two vacant full-time positions.

While the City does have agreements with the Bay City ISD and local athletic leagues for the maintenance and operation of some parks and facilities throughout the community, the agreements may not be adequately addressing the maintenance requirements at each site. Review of the agreements will be needed.
Needs Assessment

A needs assessment is the most critical component of the parks planning process. It includes a comprehensive analysis of the existing parks and recreation system in Bay City and compares it to the needs of today and the future. It evaluates the demand, diversity, distribution, and quality of parks and recreation to identify deficiencies within the existing system. This, in turn, helps to guide development of recommendations to address the identified needs.

It is important to recognize that the criteria and standards set forth in this section primarily serve to establish a baseline for facilities and to help the City see whether it is providing an adequate number and distribution of facilities. These levels of service can, and should, be adjusted periodically to meet changing conditions in the City.

This Plan uses a variety of different techniques to evaluate Bay City’s current and future park and recreation needs. Three different techniques are included in the needs assessment analysis. These techniques follow general methodologies accepted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for local park master plans. The three techniques are described in Figure 3.4, Assessment Methods, below.

While each assessment method is important in its own regard, it does not represent the entire picture. This assessment, and the recommendations resulting from it, use findings from all three methods to determine what types of park and recreation facilities and programs are needed in Bay City.

Decades ago, a series of national guidelines and standards for the provision of parks and recreation were developed based on nationwide demographic trends rather than local desires. In recognition that one size does not fit all, the national guidelines now serve as a starting point for park planning. After analyzing the existing conditions of the parks system and gaining an understanding of the community, the standards are specifically tailored to meet local conditions.

Figure 3.4, Assessment Methods

Demand-Based Assessment

The demand-based assessment uses citizen input on the types of activities they would like to engage in to determine which facilities and programs are most in demand.

Resource-Based Assessment

The resource-based assessment is based on the usefulness of available physical and natural resources to provide recreation opportunities. For example, Le Tulle and Riverside Parks provide residents with various opportunities to access nature.

Access-Based Assessment

The access-based assessment analyzes the current quantity and location of parkland and facilities to determine if the needs of the population are being met. This technique uses locally developed level-of-service ratios of facilities to population (typically expressed as quantity of acreage or facilities to every 1,000 residents) to determine what is available for residents today and project future needs as the population grows.
Demand-Based Assessment

During the planning process, it is essential to identify public demand for park facilities and/or programming. Derived directly from public input, a preliminary evaluation is done to determine the types of parks and recreation opportunities that may be considered valuable assets in Bay City. The demand-based assessment is based on preferences expressed by the community during stakeholder meetings, key person interviews, a public survey, and a public open house. Highlights from the different engagement strategies are described below. Highlights are presented as they were voiced by the public during each engagement method, even though the opinions may differ between different engagement components (e.g., public survey responses may differ from public open house results).

Stakeholder Meetings & Key Person Interviews

A series of stakeholder meetings and key person interviews were conducted at the onset of the planning process. With 40 attendees, the meetings and interviews helped to identify a variety of desires and concerns in the community. Some of the key themes which were continually brought up both during these meetings and throughout the remainder of the planning process are listed in the adjacent sidebar.

Kick-off Meeting Highlights

Wants:
- Recreation center/aquatic complex
- Trails, connectivity
- Lighted athletic fields
- More consolidated, centralized parks and facilities
- Better wayfinding/signage
- More “things to do,” additional programming
- System-wide park upgrades
- More attractive parks
- Competitive facilities that the residents can be proud of
- Better and more partnerships (e.g., school district, Convention & Visitors Bureau, athletic leagues, business community)

Issues/Needs:
- Infrastructure (e.g., pools, pavilions, playgrounds, parking) – the City has been “patching” over the years
- Greater park maintenance
- Challenges with vandalism
- Safety hazards
- Staffing and budget shortages
- Parkland dedication challenges
- Communication with the public
- Determine best way to get the residents into the parks
- Feeling of insecurity in parks

Stakeholder meetings included varying interested parties from throughout the community.
Public Survey

Survey Respondent Demographics

A public survey, provided online and in print, was used as an inclusive way to solicit feedback from the residents and community members of Bay City. The heavily advertised survey was open for one and one-half months and received a total of 871 respondents. 80 percent of respondents currently resided within Bay City. Of the permanent resident respondents, responses were received from each quadrant of the City, with the greatest percentage from people being those who live south of Highway 35 and east of Highway 60 (see City Resident Response Distribution in Figure 3.5, Survey Respondent Demographics).

Over 75 percent of respondents were female and while there was a wide distribution in age range of respondents, almost 40 percent were between the ages 19 and 34.

A majority of survey respondents did have children under the age of 19 living in their home, with the children’s ages being evenly distributed among the age groups. There were also approximately 36 percent of respondents who did not have children living at home.
Athletic & Recreational Programming

Survey respondents were asked about their level of satisfaction with athletic and recreational programming in Bay City. Overall, there were very few respondents that were very satisfied or satisfied with the current athletic and recreational programming provided in Bay City (see Figure 3.6, *Athletic/Recreational Programming Satisfaction*). A large portion had no opinion on the matter, however, for those that did, most were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with current programming.

Respondents were also asked to rank the age groups they felt were most in need of recreational programming moving forward. Teens, ages 13 to 19, were the top choice, with children, ages nine to 12, coming in second.

**Figure 3.6, Athletic/Recreational Programming Satisfaction**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very Dissatisfied</th>
<th>No Opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young children (under age 5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children, ages 5-8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children, ages 9-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens, ages 13-19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults, ages 20-55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors over the age of 55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Favorite Recreation Activities

The public survey asked respondents to identify their top five favorite recreation activities. As illustrated in Figure 3.7, *Top 10 Favorite Recreation Activities*, the top favorite activity for respondents was water parks, facilities with splash pads, and/or swimming pools. It is important to note that all of the top 10 activities included family-friendly, passive recreation.

**Figure 3.7, Top 10 Favorite Recreation Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Recreation Activity</th>
<th>Percent of Respondents Which Chose Activity as One of Their Top Five</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Water park (facility with splash pad, swimming pool, etc.)</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Going to festivals or special events</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Swimming for leisure / fitness</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Playing on playgrounds</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Walking / hiking on trails</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Art / crafts classes</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Splash pad</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Viewing nature / wildlife / birding</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Importance of Park Facilities and Elements**

Respondents were asked to rate the level of importance they associate with a number of park facilities and elements. The elements ranked as most important included swimming pool / water park, playgrounds, parks shelters and picnic areas, shade trees, and an indoor recreation center.

**City’s Performance on Park Facilities and Elements**

In addition to rating the level of importance, respondents were asked to rate the City’s performance in providing the same park facilities and elements. Some of the elements are not currently provided by the City, and thus a low performance is expected. As illustrated in Figure 3.9, *City’s Performance on Park Facilities and Elements*, respondents felt that the City was performing poorly (i.e., ranked under five) on many of the elements which were ranked as most important (e.g., swimming pool / water park), and no facilities were ranked above a six on a scale of one to 10.
Figure 3.10, Satisfaction With Current State of Parks

When comparing the responses in the previous two Figures, the facilities can be categorized based on how important it is for the City to address improvements to them. Each of the facilities or elements listed was placed within the associated quadrant of the graph in Figure 3.10, Satisfaction With Current State of Parks. The quadrants are described at the right.

Legend

Special Interest/Lower Priority (lower importance / higher performance):
- Items in this quadrant should be given the lowest priority for improvement. Respondents ranked these items as less important, but the City is also performing well.

Keep Up the Good Work (higher importance / higher performance):
- Items in this quadrant should be given secondary priority for improvement. Respondents placed a high level of importance on these items, but the City’s performance is also ranked higher.

Lower Priorities (lower importance / lower performance):
- The City’s performance was ranked low on these items, but they were also ranked as less important. These items may be a lower priority for improvement.

Top Priorities (higher importance / lower performance):
- Items in this quadrant should be given the highest priority for improvement. Respondents placed a high level of importance on these items, and ranked the City’s performance lowest. Improvements to items in this quadrant will likely have positive benefits for a great number of Bay City residents.

The quadrants can be described as:

- **Top Priorities** (higher importance / lower performance): Items in this quadrant should be given the highest priority for improvement. Respondents placed a high level of importance on these items, and ranked the City’s performance lowest. Improvements to items in this quadrant will likely have positive benefits for a great number of Bay City residents.

- **Keep Up the Good Work** (higher importance / higher performance): Items in this quadrant should be given secondary priority for improvement. Respondents placed a high level of importance on these items, but the City’s performance is also ranked higher.

- **Special Interest / Lower Priority** (lower importance / higher performance): Elements in this quadrant represent those which may be frequented by a more specialized user base. Respondents ranked these items as less important, but the City is also performing well.

- **Lower Priorities** (lower importance / lower performance): The City’s performance was ranked low on these items, but they were also ranked as less important. These items may be a lower priority for improvement.
Recreational Activity or Sports Outside of Bay City

Survey respondents were asked whether they travel outside of Bay City to participate in recreational activities. Those that answered positively were then asked what activity they primarily participate in outside of the City. The activities identified are illustrated in Figure 3.11, Participation in Athletics/Recreation Outside of City (note that the larger the word, the greater number of responses it received). The top activity that people left the City for was swimming. Other frequently identified activities that respondents participated in outside of Bay City included soccer, fishing, basketball, softball, parks, camping and movies.

What Respondents Like About Their Favorite Park

After identifying their favorite park, survey respondents were asked what they liked about it. The parks most frequently chosen as favorites were Le Tulle Park (42.5%), Riverside Park (25%), and Highland Park (8.2%). Elements that respondents liked most about their favorite parks included primarily passive amenities such as playgrounds, trees, a pond, and trails, as illustrated in Figure 3.12, What People Like About Their Favorite Park.
What Respondents Would Change About Their Favorite Park

As a follow-up question, respondents were asked what they did not like, or what they would change about their chosen park. As displayed in Figure 3.13, *What People Would Change About Their Favorite Park*, better, well-maintained parks and park elements were very important to survey respondents. Elements such as playground equipment, lighting, and restrooms were brought up frequently.
**Figure 3.14, Trail-Related Statements**

Amenities along trails in Bay City such as benches, lighting, trees, etc., are important if I am to use a trail.

I would like to see trails developed as an alternative means of transportation in Bay City.

I would like to see trails near where I live.

I would use exercise stations if placed along trails.

I prefer soft surface crushed granite trails over concrete trails.

I would use my bicycle to get to work if trails or bike lanes made it more accessible to my employment area.

I would allow my children to use their bicycle to get to school if trails were more accessible in my neighborhood.

I prefer riding my bicycle on streets and roads instead of off-street trails.

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**Trail Systems and Linear Parks**

Given a list of statements related to trail systems or linear parks that connect destinations, respondents were asked to rate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with each. Over 90 percent of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that amenities along trails in Bay City, such as benches and lighting, were important if they were to use a trail. Additionally, a large percentage of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they support the idea of trails being developed as an alternative means of transportation (71%) and for trails being located near their homes (67%) (see Figure 3.14, *Trail-Related Statements*).

---

**Figure 3.15, Park-Related Statements**

Better parks will help to improve our city image.

The City should publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities to allow the public to help improve City parks.

I believe that the City should more fully develop the park land and open space that it already owns.

Better parks and recreation facilities would help strengthen our city economically.

I believe that the City needs a more consolidated, centralized parks system for ease of access and maintenance.

I’m willing to pay additional City taxes and/or consider a bond initiative to see new parks and recreational amenities developed.

I’m willing to pay additional City taxes and/or consider a bond initiative to see the quality of existing parks and recreational amenities upgraded.

I’m satisfied with the overall quality of parks in my neighborhood.

---

**Park Statements**

Survey respondents were asked to rate how strongly they agreed or disagreed with a list of statements related to Bay City parks. An overwhelming amount of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that better parks would help improve Bay City’s image (93%). There was a large percentage of respondents who agreed that the City should publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities to allow the public to help improve City parks (92%), and that better parks and recreation facilities would help to strengthen the economy in Bay City (84%) (see Figure 3.15, *Park-Related Statements*).
The survey asked respondents to rate the importance of a number of actions the PARD could take. A majority (93%) felt that improving and enhancing the maintenance of park facilities was of utmost importance. Other items that respondents believed to be very important and important were renovating existing neighborhood parks, playgrounds, shelters, parking, etc. (90%); providing parks and amenities that can be used by people with disabilities (87%); developing a water park (86%); and partnering with the school district to provide mutually beneficial facilities and programs (85%).

**Parks and Recreation Department Action Items**

- Improve and enhance maintenance of park facilities.
- Renovate existing neighborhood parks, playgrounds, shelters, parking, etc.
- Provide parks and amenities that can be used by people with disabilities.
- Develop water park (facility with splash pad, swimming pool, etc.).
- Partner with the school district to provide mutually beneficial facilities and programs.
- Work to increase the diversity of recreational facilities within parks.
- Renovate the existing public pools.
- Work to preserve environmentally sensitive areas such as natural creek corridors.
- Develop indoor recreation space.
- Develop an indoor recreation center.
- Renovate existing athletic facilities (soccer, baseball/softball, basketball, etc.).
- Work to increase the diversity of recreational programming/events within parks.
- Develop additional walking and biking trails.
- Develop signature park facilities such as a downtown park and Cottonwood Creek improvements.
- Develop a competition level natatorium (indoor swimming facility).
- Increase number of athletic facilities (soccer, baseball/softball, basketball, etc.).
- Develop a shooting range.

**Funding Strategies**

In order to meet the wants and needs of the community, the PARD may require additional funding. Therefore, the public was asked to indicate their level of support for a variety of financing strategies that would increase funding for the City’s parks and recreational programming. The top strategy strongly supported or supported by respondents to this question was increasing the Department’s annual budget (79%). Raising funds for new facilities through a voter approved bond initiative also garnered a significant amount of support (69%).
Open House Public Workshop

In order to solicit community wide feedback, a public open house was held in June of 2017. A brief introductory presentation was given at the open house and a series of boards presented an overview of the planning process, a summary of public input heard so far, and parkland analysis results. Attendees were also given the opportunity to participate in a variety of exercises to provide input regarding the goals of the Plan, improvements to parks, and programming and connectivity throughout the City. A total of 34 people attended the event. A majority of attendees lived east of Highway 60, however, there was representation from throughout the entire City, ETJ, and nearby surrounding areas.

Goals

Based on the community survey feedback and other early public engagement results, a series of seven goals were developed to guide the planning process and potential near- and long-term implementation actions (see Park Master Plan Goals in Chapter 2). Open house attendees were asked to indicate which goals they supported. The results of this exercise showed that the community strongly supported all of the goals, with an emphasis of support on Goal 1: Renovate, develop, and construct diversified park and recreation facilities based on the changing needs of the community; as well as, Goal 2: Provide a diversified multigenerational offering of recreation programs, events, facilities, and amenities to serve residents and attract regional users and visitors.
Park Improvements

Provided a map of existing developed parks within the City and its ETJ, attendees were asked to choose the three parks they felt were most in need of improvement by placing a sticky dot next to the park(s) of their choice. They were also asked to provide written feedback regarding how they believed each of their chosen parks should be improved. Le Tulle Park received 56 percent of attendee’s votes, with improvement suggestions such as lighting, covered restrooms, and an updated and covered playscape. Riverside Park was also supported heavily as a park in need of improvements, with 47 percent of attendees choosing this as one of their three parks. Suggestions included improvements to the boat ramp, beach and water area, a stage for music, and new picnic facilities.

Other strongly supported parks for improvement included the Valiant Street Park and Pool (26%), with recommendations to replace the pool, add lighting, and improve maintenance; and the Sports Complex (24%), with suggestions to revitalize the complex, fix the lights and fields, and either move it or demolish it.

Undeveloped Parks

Open house attendees were also asked to select the two undeveloped parks they thought were most important to develop in the future. Of the seven parks listed, the most support was shown for Recycling Park (56%) and both Avenue I Parks (47% and 44%).

Walking and Biking Facilities

Based on the community’s desire for an increased trail network, an important part of the parks planning process includes gaining an understanding of preferences for walking and biking facility types and materials. A pictorial list of facility types and materials was presented and attendees were asked to identify the types and materials they felt the City would most benefit from. While there was strong support for all of the options illustrated, the community showed a preference for short distance off-street pathways connecting neighborhoods to parks, and concrete as the preferred material.
Water-Based Recreation

Based on public survey results (see Figure 3.18, Water Park/Swimming Facility Survey Preferences), providing water-based recreation which serves the entire community is a high priority for Bay City. With that in mind, it was essential to solicit further feedback on the community’s wants and needs in this regard. Given a pictorial list of aquatic amenities and activities, open house participants were asked to choose three amenities they felt should be prioritized for incorporation into an aquatic complex. Results of this exercise showed that the top preferred amenity to consider in planning the future of Bay City's aquatics is an adventure water play park (82%). The attendees also voiced strong support for splash pads (65%), competitive swimming (59%), recreational swimming (53%), and aquatic fitness (53%).
Recreation Programs
Open house attendees were asked which recreation programs they are most interested in. Youth sports was the top choice (53%), with music-related events (47%), entertainment (44%), and family-oriented events (38%) as other highly-selected activities.

Park Design Elements
As the City considers developing new parks and updating existing parks, it is key to understand the residents’ priorities for various park design elements. Attendees felt that restrooms (62%) and lighting (56%) were most important to include during future parks planning. Trail connections to pedestrian routes outside of parks (41%) and internal park loop trails (38%) were additional priority elements.

Park Design Policies
Attendees were asked to voice whether or not they supported a list of park design policies. Three-quarters of attendees believed using water-efficient and native landscaping in park landscape designs was a top priority. Using durable, long-lasting materials in park design was the second highest selected design policy, however, respondents showed strong support for all policies listed.

Other policy options included:
- design park facilities using sustainable, efficient “green” design solutions (68%);
- design parks and facilities to require minimal maintenance (62%); and
- use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques (e.g., increase natural surveillance, control access, management and maintenance) to increase safety of parks and recreation facilities (47%).
Le Tulle Park

Le Tulle Park was selected as Bay City's favorite and most-used park based on results from the public survey. The park is a large, tree-covered beauty with great potential. For these reasons, this park was chosen as one of the park concepts to be developed during this planning effort. A preliminary concept depicting some ways to maximize the potential of this park was developed and presented at the open house. Attendees were asked to write what they liked and did not like about the concept. Features that respondents liked about the concept included the amphitheater, bridges, beaches, sculpture garden, and the canoe/kayak launch, among others. Some concerns about the concept included questionable space for event parking, the zip line, maintenance of a volleyball court, and the lack of splash pad.

This exercise also asked for attendees to select recreation amenities they would be most interested in for Le Tulle Park. The top choices included a pedestrian bridge to the Birding Nature Center (62%), an all abilities playground (59%), and an amphitheater/event space (56%).

Amistad Park

Amistad Park

As an underused and underdeveloped space with a lot of potential, Amistad Park was chosen as the second park concept to be developed during this planning effort. This park, which also includes the Parks and Recreation Department Office and maintenance areas, provides an opportune space to create an enhanced neighborhood park and a concept that would guide the quality of development in other neighborhood parks in Bay City. Attendees were again asked to describe what they liked and disliked about the presented concept. Notably, most were happy with the design. Dislike comments suggested that this concept might be better purposed at Recycling Park or just closer to the downtown development.

Attendees also selected recreation amenities that they felt should be a high priority in the development of the park. Approximately 88 percent chose a splash pad, with picnic pavilion with grills (65%), and a shaded playscape (65%) following as second and third top choices.
Resource-Based Assessment

The resource-based assessment identifies key physical features within Bay City and its ETJ that may provide potential recreational opportunities. These areas may include both man-made features, such as railroad corridors and utility rights-of-way, and natural features, such as creeks and drainage corridors. These areas can be used to either support active recreational pursuits or create areas for passive enjoyment, such as greenways.

Bay City is also known as the “Gateway to the Great Outdoors.” As such, there are a few key features within the City and its ETJ that may be further adapted for recreational use or open space preservation.

- The **Colorado River** is an 862-mile river running from Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico. The river provides opportunities for water-based recreation such as fishing and kayaking. With two City parks (Le Tulle and Riverside Parks) sitting adjacent or nearly adjacent to the river, there may be opportunities to further enhance access to this natural amenity.

- **Cottonwood Creek** is a smaller waterway which runs through the center of Bay City. While the creek is not currently developed for recreational purposes, it and its floodplain could potentially be preserved and enhanced to provide passive recreation, access to nature, and trail connectivity throughout the community. The City has already begun to preserve some areas adjacent to the creek as parkland (i.e., both Avenue I parks, Community Park, Girls Softball Fields, Little League Fields, Recycling Park, and Liberty Park).

- **Le Tulle Park** is a developed park which provides opportunities for passive recreation, access to natural beauty, and shaded spaces to relax. Cited by many as their favorite City park, further development of this park could have a positive impact on many residents.

- **Riverside Parks** is the City’s second regional park and includes large areas of preserved natural land. Through further enhancement, this park can provide even greater amenities amidst the preserved natural areas.

- The **Southern Pacific Railroad Corridor** runs in a east-west direction through the City. The rails are no longer in operation, and thus the corridor provides an excellent opportunity for trail connectivity. The City has already begun to take advantage of this opportunity through development of the Southern Pacific Trail. Expansion of this trail corridor would help to improve connectivity throughout the City.

- The **Matagorda County Birding Nature Center** is an example of a non-City owned natural resource. The Center is situated adjacent to Le Tulle Park and the Colorado River. Its location provides an excellent opportunity for improved access to nature for Le Tulle visitors. Coordination with the County to provide a pedestrian connection between the two areas would further enhance the draw to both sites.
Access-Based Assessment

The access-based assessment analyzes existing parkland and facilities to determine if the quantity and distribution of park facilities and acreage is meeting the needs of residents today and in the future. Three types of access-based level of service determinations are made as described below.

Level of Service - Park Acreage

The park acreage level of service analysis defines the quantity of parkland acreage in the City, expressed as a ratio of acreage to population. It analyzes whether there is sufficient acreage to serve the population today and in the future.

Level of Service - Access to Parkland

The access to parkland analysis examines the location and distribution of parkland throughout Bay City to determine how easy it is for residents to access parkland, and determines where parkland may be needed to meet the City’s target level of service.

Level of Service - Park Facilities

The facility level of service analysis defines the number of facilities recommended to serve each particular recreation need. Facility standards are usually expressed as a ratio of units of one particular facility per population size (e.g., one basketball court per 3,000 people).

Parkland Acreage

The purpose of acreage levels of service for parks and recreational areas is to ensure that sufficient area is allocated for all the outdoor recreation needs of a community. They allow a city to plan ahead so that parkland can be targeted and acquired (if deemed necessary) before it is otherwise developed. To help determine an appropriate level of service for Bay City, unique “target” levels were developed and incorporated into this Plan. These targets were established to provide the level of service that Bay City believes is the most responsive to the amount of use and the interest of its citizens.

The City’s population is projected to increase slowly over the coming years. Based on the City’s challenges with maintaining its current level of parkland, “target” levels were developed to respond to current and future needs, while striving to address the maintenance workload.

There are currently a total of approximately 348 acres of parkland in Bay City (see Figure 3.1, Bay City Park Inventory). Based on this, the City’s current parkland level of service is 19.9 acres per 1,000 residents. Moving forward to 2030 and considering the projected population growth, if no additional parkland is acquired, the City’s parkland level of service will reduce to 17.6 acres per 1,000 people.

Current and recommended levels of service for Bay City parkland are displayed in Figure 3.19, Parkland Level of Service in Bay City. Based on analysis of the community and existing parkland, recommended target levels of service have been developed for pocket, neighborhood, community, and regional parks. When each park type is reviewed individually, the City currently has adequate parkland acreage for all types of parks except for pocket parks. By the year 2030, a neighborhood parkland deficit would develop and the pocket park deficit would grow.

The current level of service for parkland is 19.9 acres per 1,000 people.
### Figure 3.19, Parkland Level of Service in Bay City

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pocket Parks</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.1 Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>0.25 Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>2.6 Ac. Deficit</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>3.1 Ac. Deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>1.1 Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>1.0 Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>1.6 Ac. Surplus</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>0.7 Ac. Deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>4.1 Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>3.5 Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>11.3 Ac. Surplus</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>3.2 Ac. Surplus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Cumulative</td>
<td>93.4 (cumulative total)</td>
<td>5.3 Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>4.75 Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>91.9</td>
<td>10.3 Ac. Surplus</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>0.6 Ac. Deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Parks</td>
<td>147.80</td>
<td>8.4 Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>6.0 Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>105.0</td>
<td>42.8 Ac. Surplus</td>
<td>118.7</td>
<td>29.1 Ac. Surplus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linear Parks</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>0.2 Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Use Parks</td>
<td>99.8</td>
<td>5.7 Ac./1,000 Residents</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An overall **cumulative** target level of service (4.75 acres per 1,000 people) for pocket, neighborhood, and community parks, representing the total of their separate targets, is also listed in Figure 3.19. The City’s regional parks are situated outside the City limits and are thus not included in the overall target acreage. When considering all of the City’s existing parkland, it becomes clear that the City has a sufficient amount of parkland to meet the community’s needs today and a marginal increase in parkland may be needed by 2030.

However, a number of parks remain undeveloped. Rather than seek out large areas of additional parkland in the future, the City would be better served by ensuring that the parkland it has is developed and maintained at a high quality, and that parkland is adequately distributed throughout the City.

If properly developed with trail facilities to facilitate bicycle and pedestrian travel, linear parks can greatly contribute to citywide connectivity to parks, schools, and other key destinations. No specific target level of service applies to linear parks other than that they should be large enough to adequately accommodate the resources they contain and their distribution should ideally allow for walking or biking access by all residents.

Special use parks are areas that are designated for a special purpose. Since they vary by size, type, and from city to city, there are no specific recommended levels of service.

A number of parks, such as the Avenue I parks, remain undeveloped.
Access to Parkland

In addition to overall acreage, the location of parks is equally as important. While the City owns over 348 acres of parkland, not all residents have access to these parks. Different types of parks and recreation amenities serve different functions and consequently have different service areas. As such, neighborhood, community, and regional parks will be analyzed separately on the following pages.

Neighborhood Park Accessibility

Neighborhood parks are typically centrally located within a neighborhood or central to several smaller neighborhoods which they are meant to serve. Due to their close-to-home location, neighborhood parks are frequently accessed by foot. Neighborhood parks should be accessible to residents within a one-quarter-mile (ideal) or one-half-mile (standard) radius. These distances correlate to reasonable walking distances for all ages. These parks should be generally located away from major arterial streets and should be accessible without requiring residents to cross major roadways. As such, services areas shown on Map 3.2, Neighborhood Park Service Areas, for these parks do not extend beyond the City's arterial roadways (Highway 60 and Highway 35).

Additionally, if developed with neighborhood level amenities (e.g., playground, picnic amenities), community parks can serve the function of neighborhood parks for nearby residents. Consequently, the City's community parks are also illustrated with a one-quarter-mile and one-half-mile service area on Map 3.2, Neighborhood Park Service Areas.

Current and Future Need Areas

As illustrated on Map 3.2, Neighborhood Park Service Areas, there are many areas within Bay City that are not currently served by neighborhood parks. A majority of these unserved areas are east of Highway 60 and south of Highway 35. Through the individual park analysis process, it was evident that access to the existing neighborhood parks needs to be improved. Many parks currently lack sidewalks and crosswalks which would provide a safe and direct connection to the park.

Despite the results of the parkland acreage analysis, the locational analysis illustrates that there is inadequate distribution of neighborhood parkland throughout certain areas of the City. While the area east of Highway 60 and south of Highway 35 lacks adequate neighborhood parkland, areas west of Highway 60 (e.g., the Bay Ridge neighborhood) are more saturated with parkland, some of which is not truly accessible or usable. If some of the existing undeveloped parkland throughout the City were to be developed, inaccessible parkland sold, and additional parkland acquired and developed in the southeast and northeast quadrants of the City, the neighborhood park need areas would diminish substantially. Potential parkland could include both neighborhood and community parkland, which may serve as neighborhood parks for the residents in the area.

City Field is one of the neighborhood parks located in the southwest quadrant of the City.
Map 3.2, Neighborhood Park Service Areas

- City Limits
- Bay City ETJ
- Local Roads
- Main Roads
- Parks
- Trails

Chapter 3
Inventory & Needs
Community Park Accessibility

Community parks are large parks which serve several neighborhoods or a portion of a city. Community parks are intended to serve users who may walk or drive to the park within a one-mile service area.

Current and Future Need Areas

Due to the larger service area of community parks, a majority of Bay City residents are adequately served. However, as illustrated on Map 3.3, Community Park Service Areas, the eastern and southern extents of the City lie outside of the current service area.

Community parks are an important part of the city which they serve. They provide a variety of recreational activities with the potential to host tournaments and events that can attract people from areas outside of Bay City. Baseball, softball, soccer, football, and tennis programs are all examples of community park-based programs that have the opportunity to host tournaments. However, most of the existing park facilities are in poor condition and in need of improvements. This, in turn, makes them insufficient to support such events. The addition of another park to the southeast corner of the City that includes a combination of amenities may be essential in developing a network of parks that adequately serves all residents of Bay City while also attracting visitors from other areas.
Map 3.3, Community Park Service Areas

- City Limits
- Bay City ETJ
- Local Roads
- Main Roads
- Parks
- Trails

Map showing Community Park Service Areas with various symbols and roads.
Regional Park Accessibility

Regional parks are generally intended to serve an entire city and surrounding region. Similar to community parks, regional parks act as locations for larger community events, tournaments, or activities. Taking into account their large size, variety of amenities, and access challenges due to location beyond the City limits, Bay City's regional parks have a service area of five miles.

Current and Future Need Areas

Bay City has two regional parks located beyond the City limits; Le Tulle Park and Riverside Park. As shown on Map 3.4, Regional Park Service Areas, these two parks are adequately serving over half of the City. With over 67 percent of survey respondents choosing these parks as their favorite park, it is clearly evident that these parks are greatly valued by the community. However, while these parks are highly valued, they are not easily accessible to residents, and especially those without access to a vehicle.

Like community parks, regional parks have the potential to attract visitors from other areas outside of Bay City. In fact, the majority of Riverside Park revenue and extended use is from non-residents. According to public input, residents have stated that these parks have become run down and need safety improvements. With improved amenities, entry signage, and bicycle and pedestrian access, these parks could more conveniently serve a greater portion of the Bay City community.
Trail Accessibility

Trails create multigenerational recreation opportunities, promote health, improve the overall quality of life, and provide non-vehicular transportation alternatives. Having close access to trails has become important for communities all over the country as people are gaining more interest in pursuing a healthier lifestyle. As facilities intended for pedestrian and bicycle access, walking trails have a service area of one-quarter-mile to one-half-mile.

Current and Future Need Areas

As illustrated on Map 3.5, Trail Service Areas, it is evident that walking trails are sparse within the City and a vast majority of residents do not have access to these trails. With trail access limited to small areas in the City, and Riverside Park (beyond the City limits), it is essential that key segments are identified and provided to create greater connectivity.

There are two trails on the west side of Highway 60; the first is behind Bay City High School and the second is located in Hardeman Park. These two trails are closed loop trails and are only used and accessed within their designated site. These trails provide a path to walk or bike around, but do not create a connection outside of that site. The Southern Pacific Trail is located on the east side of Highway 60 and north of Highway 35. Today, this trail is in poor condition and does not provide a connection to any key areas of the City. However, if this trail is extended and properly maintained, it could provide greater community-wide connectivity of parks, schools, neighborhoods, and to downtown. Further details about expansion of the Southern Pacific Trail are found in Chapter 4, Plan Recommendations.

Lastly, there is approximately one mile of trails located throughout Riverside Park. The park includes a wilderness trail and the paved roads throughout the park which are often used by campers as a walking loop. There are also exercise equipment stations along the trail in Riverside Park.
Map 3.5, Trail Service Areas

- City Limits
- Bay City ETJ
- Local Roads
- Main Roads
- Parks
- Trails
Park Facilities

In addition to evaluating the quantity and location of parkland throughout the City, comparing the current and target levels of service for recreation facilities helps to evaluate the need for improvements to the park system (see Figure 3.20, Target Level of Service for Park Facilities). As population growth occurs, this evaluation will help to ensure that a variety of recreational opportunities are adequately provided throughout the City.

Summary of Park Facility Needs

Some of the more notable deficiencies in the current park system include standalone baseball backstops for unprogrammed pick-up games, miles of trail, multipurpose practice fields, basketball courts, and picnic facilities. Also, living in Texas warrants the need for an adequate number of activities involving water play. There are currently two swimming pools in Bay City, both of which are in need of improvements. Based on the strong public desire for water-based recreation, the target number of swimming pools is three for the community. Also, a splash pad is another family-friendly amenity that is gaining popularity across the nation. Currently, Bay City does not have any splash pads, and based on the existing population, it is recommended to have three. By the year 2030, that number increases to four.

The addition of a community recreation center would provide indoor athletic, fitness, and other programming opportunities, all of which residents are currently traveling beyond the City limits to access.

If no additional recreational facilities are developed by the year 2030, the majority of the facility needs will stay the same with the exception of growing needs for more trails, playgrounds, soccer fields, and splash pads.

Although the number of facilities may not meet the recommended level of service, Bay City does currently provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities. However, after reviewing public survey results and completing the needs assessment, a major cause for concern is park and facility maintenance and upkeep. In some instances, the need for maintenance may be rendering a facility essentially unusable.
### Figure 3.20, Target Level of Service for Park Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Current Avail.</th>
<th>Current LOS (1 Facility per # Residents)</th>
<th>Target LOS (Per Residents)</th>
<th>2017 Need Based on 17,499 Pop.</th>
<th>2017 Deficit or Surplus</th>
<th>2030 Need Based on 19,786 Pop.</th>
<th>2030 Deficit or Surplus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Active Recreation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball/Softball Fields</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>1 per 5,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Surplus of 6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Surplus of 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backstop</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8,750</td>
<td>1 per 4,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Deficit of 3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Deficit of 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Courts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4,375</td>
<td>1 per 3,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Deficit of 2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Deficit of 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Recreation Center</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>1 per city</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Deficit of 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Deficit of 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc Golf (18-hole)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17,499</td>
<td>1 per city</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Park</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17,499</td>
<td>1 per city</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness Equipment Circuit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17,499</td>
<td>1 per city</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football Fields</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17,499</td>
<td>1 per city</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Course (public)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skate Park</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17,499</td>
<td>1 per city</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Fields</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1,591</td>
<td>1 per 2,000</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Deficit of 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4,375</td>
<td>1 per 5,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>No deficit</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Deficit of 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails (miles)*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6,481</td>
<td>1 per 2,000</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Deficit of 6.0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Deficit of 7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multipurpose Practice Fields</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>1 per 5,000</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Deficit of 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball Courts (Outdoor)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8,750</td>
<td>1 per 5,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Deficit of 2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Deficit of 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Passive Recreation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphitheater or Outdoor Event Space</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>1 large outdoor facility</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Deficit of 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Deficit of 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe Pits</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17,499</td>
<td>2 per city</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Deficit of 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Deficit of 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Pavilions</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1,591</td>
<td>1 per 3,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Surplus of 5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Surplus of 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Facilities (Tables, Benches, BBQ Grills, Fountains, Trash Bins)</td>
<td>11 parks</td>
<td>1,591</td>
<td>In all parks</td>
<td>In all parks</td>
<td>Deficit in 19 parks</td>
<td>In all parks</td>
<td>Deficit in 19 parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>1 per 2,000</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Deficit of 2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Deficit of 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water Rec.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe/Kayak Launch</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17,499</td>
<td>2 per city</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Deficit of 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Deficit of 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Piers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17,499</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8,750</td>
<td>3 per city</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Deficit of 1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Deficit of 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat Ramp</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17,499</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splash Pad</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>1 per 6,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Deficit of 3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Deficit of 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms/Portable</td>
<td>15 parks &amp; facilities</td>
<td>1,167</td>
<td>Where feasible</td>
<td>Where feasible</td>
<td>Feasible</td>
<td>Where feasible</td>
<td>Feasible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Including Wellness Matagorda County Trail
Summary of Park and Recreation Needs

Through the needs analysis and public engagement process, the need for a redistribution of parkland, and increased connectivity, recreational facilities, and programming was identified.

Parkland Acreage

While the City generally meets the parkland acreage targets, a number of acres remain undeveloped. Additionally, the public voiced a desire for a more consolidated parks system. Evaluating opportunities to sell parkland in certain areas and develop at least one park in the southeast quadrant of the City, would help provide a more equally distributed parks system.

Parkland Connectivity

Based on public input, the community largely supports the idea of trails being developed as an alternative means of transportation. However, in its current state, the City is largely lacking pedestrian and bicycle trails, and especially those that can function as transportation routes. In the coming years, there is a need for Bay City to continue to develop key trail segments to provide citywide access to parks, schools, downtown, and other key areas. At a minimum, this should include primary east-west and north-south connectivity routes.

Facility Needs

Based on public feedback, residents would prefer to have existing facilities improved upon before adding any new ones. Bay City provides a variety of recreational opportunities, but the condition of the facilities is inadequate for the demand. New field lighting, spectator seating, designated recreational fields, swimming pools, and updated playgrounds are examples of areas for improvement.

Additionally, throughout the public engagement process, the desire for an aquatic complex has continually been brought up. Provision of such a facility could provide water-based recreation options for the entire community, while also helping to improve the community’s health (e.g., aquatic fitness) and safety (e.g., swimming lessons).

Recreational Program Needs

It is apparent from the stakeholder meetings and public survey results that Bay City residents desire additional recreational programming and lack awareness of the current opportunities. There is a desire for multigenerational, family-friendly recreation. The provision of additional community events and an indoor facility that houses various programs would provide for this need.

Additionally, survey respondents indicated that teens, ages 13 to 19, and children, ages nine to 12, had the greatest need for programming. Through additional partnerships with third-party organizations, the City’s recreational program offering could be expanded.
Goal 1: Renovate, develop, and construct diversified park and recreation facilities based on the changing needs of the community.

Objective 1.1. Renovate and replace existing facilities and amenities to improve and/or enhance accessibility, connectivity, facilities, amenities, and programming.

ACTION 1.1. Improve and further develop Le Tulle Park.

Le Tulle Park is the most highly frequented park in the Bay City parks system. As part of this planning process a Master Plan has been created for improvements to the park (see Figure 4.1, Le Tulle Park Master Plan, on the following page). Recommended improvements to Le Tulle Park include:

- Install a highly visible park entrance monument.
- Prune the trees and mow the lawn at the park entrance to promote an inviting park.
- Remove the existing play structure and replace it an inclusive structure for children of all abilities.
- Add an amphitheater with an event lawn and a beach area to provide a large entertainment venue for events.
- Add a zip line, sculpture garden, beaches, and an overhead pedestrian walkway (i.e., tree village) to provide unique recreation amenities in the park.
- Add three additional disc golf holes for a total of 21.
- Add pavilions, picnic shelters with tables, an open fitness space, and a walking trail for additional passive recreation opportunities.
- Coordinate with the Birding Nature Center to provide a pedestrian bridge connection between Le Tulle Park and the Center.
- Provide additional parking spaces to accommodate the anticipated influx of park users.
- Provide traffic calming devices along the driveway to deter speeding motorists.

ACTION 1.1.2. Prepare a Riverside Park Redevelopment Master Plan.

Riverside Park was severely damaged during Hurricane Harvey. With record level flooding greater than the City has ever seen, significant repairs to the park will be required. Some key necessary repairs include, but are not limited to:

- Redesign and construct a new septic leach field.
- Reclaim all RV camping spaces.
- Rebuild roadways.
- Reset or rebuild the boat launch.
- Rebuild the boat dock.
- Convert the damaged Ranger building back into a park shop.
- Build or install a new Ranger residence.
- Install flood resistant playground surfacing.

To plan for repairs and the rebuilding of the park in a more resilient manner, it is recommended that the City prepare a Riverside Park Master Plan.

In addition to addressing necessary repairs, it is recommended that the following elements be considered as part of the Master Plan:

- Relocate or construct a monument sign at the park entrance for increased visibility.
- Relocate the ranger house and office away from the flood zone.
- Remodel existing store and shower rooms.
- Add a small pavilion in front of the office.
- Pursue trail connectivity from the City limits to Riverside Park to provide pedestrian access.
- Replace or add new picnic tables, barbecue grills, fire pits to accommodate more park patrons.
- Redesign Parks Office
- Pursue a designated paddling trail
Figure 4.1, Le Tulle Park Master Plan

- Pond fountain
- "Discover Woods" nature walk/play
- Park entrance monument
- Picnic
- Playground
- Restroom
- One-way loop road with parallel parking
- Beach
- Pavilion
- Zip line
- Parking tree
- Village
- All-inclusive playground
- Amphitheater & event lawn
- Picnic shelter
- Fishing
- Sculpture garden
- Open fitness space
- Loop trail
- Disc golf
- Open field play
- Ex. Country Club clubhouse
- Maintenance yard
- Pedestrian bridge
- Birding nature center
ACTION 1.1.3. Improve Community Park.

Recommended improvements to Community Park include:
- Replace the existing park sign with a citywide standard sign for park system cohesiveness (see Action 3.1.5).
- Remove the tennis courts and replace them with basketball courts or a skate park.
- Remove the unused press box and replace the scoreboard, the covered bleachers, and perimeter fence.
- Add security and field lighting for safety and ball field usage.

ACTION 1.1.4. Improve Frahms Field.

Recommended improvements to Frahms Field include:
- Add a park sign compliant with citywide standards (see Action 3.1.5).
- Add field lighting to promote evening use and provide security.
- Add shaded bleachers to provide a more comfortable spectator experience.

ACTION 1.1.5. Improve the Girls Softball Fields.

Recommended improvements to the Girls Softball Fields include:
- Add lights to promote evening use and provide security.
- Repair the buildings and create uniformity between the buildings and other structures.
- Add additional scoreboards.
- Add signs that denote the names of each field.
- Provide additional improved parking.

ACTION 1.1.6. Improve Hardeman Park.

Recommended improvements to Hardeman Park include:
- Replace the roads and restrooms to address safety concerns.
- Add amenities such as pavilions with picnic tables and sports facilities such as bleachers and lighting to allow for evening use.
- Provide additional tree cover in appropriate areas throughout the park.

ACTION 1.1.7. Improve the Little League Fields.

Located adjacent to the Girls Softball Fields, the Little League Fields share similar characteristics and needs. Recommended improvements to the Little League Fields include:
- Add lights to promote evening use and provide security.
- Repair the buildings and create uniformity between the buildings and other structures.
- Update the park with new scoreboards.
- Add signs that denote the names of each field.
- Provide additional improved parking.

ACTION 1.1.8. Consolidate and improve Amistad Park and the National Guard/Parks Office.

Located directly adjacent to each other and remaining largely undeveloped, Amistad Park and the National Guard/Parks Office property provide a unique opportunity for the City to create an enhanced neighborhood park to serve the adjacent neighborhood and guide the quality of development in other neighborhood parks. As part of this planning process a Master Plan has been created for improvements to the park (see Figure 4.2, Amistad Park Master Plan, on the following page). Recommended improvements to Amistad Park include:
- Add a park monument and plaza to create a park identity.
- Add a splash pad and ADA accessible playground.
- Add a multi-purpose court and a multi-purpose publicly accessible athletic field to promote active recreation.
- Add shade pavilions, picnic shelters, a butterfly garden, community gardens, a loop trail, and an open play field for passive recreation.
- Provide additional pavilions with picnic tables, restrooms, and vehicular parking spaces to attract park patrons.
Figure 4.2, Amistad Park Master Plan
**ACTION 1.1.9. Guide improvements to Avenue I Parks (north and south) as part of the North Downtown Plan.**

Avenue I Parks (north and south) are part of the North Downtown Plan park and open space. During implementation of the North Downtown Plan, the City should ensure that elements developed in the parks are those that best meet the needs the community (e.g., addressing citywide deficiencies) and that perpetual maintenance of this parkland is provided by the developer.

**ACTION 1.1.10. Improve Bay Ridge Park.**

Recommended improvements to Bay Ridge Park include:
- Replace the playground and add a splash pad for children’s activities.
- Add a community garden to promote resident involvement and interaction.

**ACTION 1.1.11. Improve Chateaux Oaks Park.**

Recommended improvements to Chateaux Oaks Park include:
- Add a pavilion with picnic tables and barbecue grills.
- Resurface the existing basketball court.

**ACTION 1.1.12. Improve City Field.**

Recommended improvements to City Field include:
- Add signage to improve park visibility.
- Convert the existing baseball field into soccer fields.
- Add site lighting and a higher law enforcement presence to promote safety.
- Install an improved parking lot surface.

**ACTION 1.1.13. Improve Duncan Park.**

Recommended improvements to Duncan Park include:
- Add signage to delineate the park.
- Add physical barriers to prevent vehicular trespassers on the lawn area.
- Resurface the basketball court.
- Remove the volleyball court.
- Remove and replace the benches and picnic tables to encourage use of the lawn areas.

**ACTION 1.1.14. Improve Henderson Park.**

Now that all park amenities have been removed from Henderson Park, it is recommended that the City wait until adequate funding for development and continual maintenance is available before developing any major improvements in the park. Once funding is available, the following improvements are recommended for Henderson Park:
- Add new park amenities such as a playground with swings, a basketball court, and benches.
- Add picnic amenities such as a pavilion with picnic tables, and barbecue pits.

**ACTION 1.1.15. Improve Mary Withers Park.**

Recommended improvements to Mary Withers Park include:
- Delineate the volleyball court boundaries and add additional sand in the court.
- Create physical barriers to prevent parking on the grass.
- Provide additional picnic tables and benches.
- Add lighting and fencing for security.
- Add a fence around the tennis courts.
ACTION 1.1.16. Improve Highland Park.
Recommended improvements to Highland Park include:
- Add a new park sign to replace the existing damaged sign.
- Add a parking area.
- Add additional picnic tables, benches, and a pavilion to promote multigenerational use of the park.

ACTION 1.1.17. Improve Liberty Park.
Recommended improvements to Liberty Park include:
- Clean the adjacent creek to enhance its natural value.
- Provide a fence along the ditch bank and vegetation to screen the chain link fences.
- Add a sidewalk along the street frontage with access to the picnic tables.

ACTION 1.1.18. Improve Wickersham Park.
Recommended improvements to Wickersham Park include:
- Implement a landscape pruning program and maintain a mowed lawn to promote open field recreation.
- Remove and replace the existing benches and Crape Myrtle trees with covered picnic tables and low maintenance hedges.

ACTION 1.1.19. Improve existing segments of the Southern Pacific Trail.
Recommended improvements to the Southern Pacific Trail include:
- Add lighting, benches, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, and shade trees to encourage trail greater trail usage.
- Continue to extend the trail for greater citywide connectivity (see Action 3.1.3).

ACTION 1.1.20. Improve the Barkway.
Recommended improvements to the Barkway include:
- Reestablish the lawn.
- Add lighting for security and to allow evening use.
- Provide a shade pavilion and benches for pet owners.
- Consider a water feature for dogs.

ACTION 1.1.21. Improve the Caboose and Train Depot.
Recommended improvements to the Caboose and Train Depot include:
- Renovate the Caboose reflect its original design. The facility can be utilized as a public attraction and for special events.
- Add security lighting, trash receptacles, and benches to provide an outdoor gathering area associated with the Caboose.
- Add interpretive signage at the Caboose to educate visitors on its history.
- Return the Train Depot to its historical appearance with dormers and shutters.

ACTION 1.1.22. Improve the Country Club.
Recommended improvements to the Country Club include:
- Add a non-motorized kayak launch with the necessary access to create a water connection to Riverside Park.
- Consider developing the southwest corner of the property as no program elements currently exist.
- Provide additional parking to address parking shortages.
- (See related improvements proposed in the Le Tulle Park Master Plan (Action 1.1.1)).
ACTION 1.1.23. Improve Gusman Park.

Recommended improvements to Gusman Park include:
- Add a monument in the first block (between 4th and 5th Streets) to identify the area as a park.
- Plant a low maintenance hedge or other plantings along the street to beautify the area.
- Provide trash receptacles at key locations to discourage people leaving pet waste.

ACTION 1.1.24. Improve Hilliard Pool.

There are a number of improvements needed at Hilliard Pool. It is recommended that the City develop a comprehensive list (including costs) of all improvements needed to get the pool and entire property back into good working order. Then implement necessary improvements using a phased approach, as necessary.

In addition to the necessary renovations, some improvements to consider include:
- Add picnic tables near existing barbecue pits for outdoor dining.
- Provide a splash play area.
- Add shaded areas and a party / rental area.

ACTION 1.1.25. Improve the USO Building.

Recommended improvements to the USO Building include:
- Update the name of the facility to “USO” rather than “Bay City Service Center.”
- Add an electronic sign along the Highway 35 street frontage to allow for public announcements.
- Utilize the building for City sponsored events and programs.
- Update the guest tables and seating.
- Provide an ADA compliant exit ramp in the auditorium.
- Implement necessary building repairs.
- Provide outdoor security lighting.


The Valiant Pool is in need of significant repairs. It is thus recommended that the City consider replacing the pool. The City should also develop a comprehensive list of repairs and/or reconstruction needs, and associated costs, required throughout the remainder of the property. As a joint use facility with Bay City ISD, the City should coordinate with the school district on planning and funding pool improvements.

In addition to the replacing the pool, some improvements to consider for Valiant Park and Pool include:
- Add a concession stand, spectator seating, shade structures, trash receptacles, and lighting for Bay City and Van Vleck ISD swim competitions.
- Provide a splash play area and seating areas.
- Either clearly identify the property as Valiant Park and Pool or construct two entry signs to establish a separate park identity from the pool.
- Provide trash cans in Valiant Park.
- Consider allowing food truck access to the park during key times.
Objective 1.2. Provide general park upgrades throughout the system to improve user experiences.

- ACTION 1.2.1. Improve the parking areas in each park where parking is provided.

  The parking areas in a number of City parks are currently either in poor condition, remain unpaved, or provide insufficient spaces for the level of use of the park. It is recommended that the City provide parking improvements in each park where parking is provided to improve ease and efficiency of vehicular access. This could include repaving and striping existing lots and providing new paving and striping in unpaved areas. As parking improvements are made, the City will need to comply with applicable requirements regarding the provision of ADA accessible parking spaces.

- ACTION 1.2.2. Provide additional shade opportunities in the parks and along trails.

  Park shelters/picnic areas and shade trees were ranked as two of the top five most important park elements by survey respondents. In order to improve user comfort throughout the parks and trail system, and thus encourage greater use, it is recommended that the City provide additional shade opportunities throughout parks and along the trails. This includes additional tree coverage as well as shade structures (e.g., covered benches and picnic pavilions).

- ACTION 1.2.3. Identify opportunities to beautify existing parks (e.g., improved landscaping, signage, etc.).

  In addition to increased maintenance, enhancing the visual aesthetic of the parks system would help to improve the community’s opinions of the parks, foster greater civic pride, and improve the City’s overall image. The City should evaluate opportunities to beautify and enhance existing parks through improved landscaping, high-quality signage, upgrading amenity materials for durability and aesthetics (e.g., pavilion materials), and repairing and replacing amenities as needed. Landscaping improvements can also provide opportunities for local organizations and residents to volunteer.
Goal 2: Provide a diversified, multigenerational offering of recreational programs, events, facilities, and amenities to serve residents and attract regional users and visitors.

Objective 2.1. Provide increased programming and event options which serve the public and meet the needs of the community.

- **ACTION 2.1.1. Conduct a Recreational Programming and Event Assessment.**

  A Recreational Programming and Event Assessment can be used to help staff gain a comprehensive understanding of the recreational needs of the community and identify the resources necessary in order to provide a diversified event calendar and full recreation program. This assessment involves collecting information on all of the City's public, private, or public/private recreational program offerings and existing events. This includes an inventory of Bay City's programs, services, facilities, and events, as well as those offered by other organizations within the City or extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Analysis of the collected inventory data will identify gaps and overlaps and potential additional event opportunities which could have added recreation and economic benefits for the City. If hired, a dedicated Recreation Coordinator could be responsible for this analysis (see Action 5.1.2).

- **ACTION 2.1.2. Expand multigenerational recreation opportunities through additional City-provided and third-party programming.**

  Based on the results of the Recreational Programming and Event Assessment, it is recommended that the City provide or coordinate with third-party organizations to provide additional recreation opportunities for youth, adults, and seniors. During the public survey a variety of program requests were made by respondents. Ideas voiced by the community included such programs as:
  - Youth athletics (e.g., soccer, baseball)
  - Adult athletics (e.g., basketball, softball)
  - Senior programming (e.g., dances, game night)
  - Arts programming (e.g., theater, painting)
  - Health and fitness (e.g., yoga, self defense)

- **ACTION 2.1.3. Provide additional community-wide family-friendly events in the City.**

  The Bay City community highly values the community-wide events the City hosts. It is recommended that the City continue to diversify its event calendar to include additional family-oriented events. Some events to consider include live concerts, kids days, and art in the park (e.g., painting in the park), among others. The Recreational Programming and Event Assessment will help to identify other events that could benefit the community.

- **ACTION 2.1.4. Consider providing smaller, park-specific events to encourage greater use of all parks throughout the community.**

  In order to encourage greater use of all the parks in Bay City and to address the community's desire for additional special events, it is recommended that the City consider providing smaller events at different parks. This could include events such as movies in the park, community picnics, etc.
ACTION 2.1.5. Implement additional public outreach to ensure residents are aware of the recreational opportunities in the City.

During the public survey, a majority of respondents indicated that they most frequently receive information about City programming and events from social media sites and word of mouth. When asked how they prefer to receive updates, the greatest amount of people selected Facebook and the newspaper. The PARD recently created a Facebook page specifically for their department. In order to better publicize recreation opportunities, PARD staff should regularly use its newly developed Facebook page to provide timely updates on programs and events.

ACTION 2.1.6. Update the City’s website on a regular basis to provide complete, accurate information about the parks system.

The City’s website currently provides minimal information about the parks system. It is recommended that the website be updated to include information about all City parks, including a map, list of amenities, and photos. There should also be regular, timely updates to include complete and accurate information about recreational programming throughout the year.

To maximize the potential of the website, the City should consider increasing the site’s visual appeal, the ease of navigation, and incorporating interactive features for such elements as pavilion reservations, RSVPs to recreation events, etc.

Objective 2.2. Plan and develop additional high-quality recreational facilities and amenities to serve residents, attract outside users, and take advantage of unique opportunities.

ACTION 2.2.1. Develop an aquatics center/water park feasibility study and locational analysis in coordination with Wellness Matagorda County and the Bay City ISD.

The community has strongly voiced a desire for an aquatics center/water park in the City. An ongoing effort championed by Wellness Matagorda County has already been looking into the potential for this project. The aquatics center/water park would best serve the community as a partnership between the City, Wellness Matagorda County, and the Bay City ISD. As such, it is recommended that the three organizations partner to proceed with a feasibility study and locational analysis for the complex. The study should evaluate financial feasibility today and into the future, the best location for the development, and staffing and organizational structure options. The study should also evaluate the potential to allow sufficient space for a future expansion to include a recreation center.

Throughout the public engagement process, the community voiced a number of priorities. These include, but are not limited to, the fact that the complex should:
- serve the community.
- include amenities for people who aren’t swimming.
- include an adventure water play park (splash pad, water slide, etc.).
- be located in an area that allows for walking and driving access.
- include an indoor pool.
- accommodate competitive swimming, recreational swimming, and aquatic fitness.
ACTION 2.2.2. Develop a shooting range feasibility study.

The City and surrounding Matagorda County residents have a long history of outdoor and indoor shooting activities. To continue the growth, promotion, and education of hunting and shooting, a safe and accessible facility is needed to continue the sound education and practice of novice and experienced hunters and shooters in a safe environment. In order to determine the viability of developing a shooting range in the City or ETJ, it is recommended that the City develop a shooting range feasibility study. The study should evaluate location; level of demand; and the technical, economic, legal, and operational feasibility of such a facility.

ACTION 2.2.3. Provide at least one all abilities playground in the City.

When asked to rate a number of potential PARD actions, providing parks and amenities that can be used by people with disabilities was ranked in the top three by survey respondents. It is recommended that the City provide at least one “all abilities” playground in the community. An all abilities playground provides equipment and experiences which can be enjoyed by children of all abilities, including those with physical disabilities, autism, sensory disorders, vision impairments, etc. During the late summer of 2017, the City conducted a FundYourPark℠ campaign to raise funds for an all abilities playground in Le Tulle Park. It is recommended that the City use the funds raised to bring the playground to fruition.
ACTION 2.2.4. Support development of a downtown park network as part of the City’s North Downtown Plan.

The City’s 2013 North Downtown Plan lays out the framework for a multi-phased high-quality mixed-use housing district. As part of the plan, a downtown park, open space, and trail network is proposed. It is recommended that the City support development of this area and ensure that the final design for the space includes family-friendly gathering areas, trail connectivity, and an event space. It is recommended that the North Downtown developer be required to provide perpetual maintenance for the park, trail, open space, and amenities.

ACTION 2.2.5. Consider developing a community-scale park in the southeast quadrant of the City.

The City owns land adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant. If dedicated as parkland (see Action 4.1.3), it is recommended that the City develop a master plan for the park and proceed with development as funding becomes available. Amenities to consider for development could include:

- Alternate access to the property;
- Walking and biking trails (both an internal loop trail and connectivity to a greater citywide trail network);
- Picnic facilities;
- Age appropriate play areas;
- Splash pad;
- Multipurpose athletic field; and
- Basketball court; among others.
Goal 3: Increase connectivity and accessibility in the parks system.

Objective 3.1. Enhance bicycle, pedestrian, and transit connectivity throughout the community.

- **ACTION 3.1.1. Develop a citywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to increase connectivity and accessibility to parks and other key destinations throughout the community.**

  Based on resident demand, the City should prioritize the development of a non-vehicular transportation network. As a first step, the City should prepare a detailed comprehensive citywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to address the need for both cyclists and pedestrians and identify specific alignments of new and improved sidewalks, multi-use trails, and on-street bicycle facilities.

  As set out on Map 4.1, *Target Connectivity Corridors*, there are several segments that should be considered as a starting point for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

- **ACTION 3.1.2. Prioritize acquisition and development of trail segments throughout the City.**

  Based on the results of the citywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, the City should prioritize and develop the expanded bicycle and pedestrian network. Depending on the location, additional acquisition of property or easements may be necessary. To ensure that the network best serves the needs of the community today, prioritization should include a public input component. At a minimum, key north-south and east-west connectors should be prioritized.

- **ACTION 3.1.3. Continue development and extension of the Southern Pacific Trail.**

  The City currently owns the Southern Pacific railroad corridor. In an effort to expand the trail opportunities in the community today, it is recommended that the City take advantage of the land they already own to continue development of the Southern Pacific Trail. The City should evaluate material options and weigh the upfront and long-term maintenance costs. Amenities, such as trash cans, benches, and trees, should be provided along the trail.

- **ACTION 3.1.4. Coordinate with the County transit provider to determine if improved connectivity can be made to the City’s parks and trail system.**

  Residents have requested public transit options to increase access to parks. Currently the Friends of Elder Citizens, Inc. (FOEC) provides a ride voucher program. Once individuals pick up a voucher at a designated social service location, they can call the R-Transit Bus Service to schedule a ride anywhere within the City limits. As a number of the City’s parks (including many residents’ favorite park — Le Tulle Park) are beyond the City limits, access to these areas is not possible. It is recommended that the City approach FOEC to determine if improved connectivity to the parks and trail system can be provided.
Map 4.1, Target Connectivity Corridors

- City Limits
- Bay City ETJ
- Local Roads
- Main Roads
- Railroad
- Parks
- Target Connectivity Corridor
ACTION 3.1.5. Provide consistent wayfinding and park entry signage to increase public awareness of park locations.

A well-planned, consistent signage and wayfinding system helps both residents and visitors navigate to the parks and trail system and visually recognize City-owned parkland. Parks and trail signage throughout Bay City today can be hard to see or in disrepair. It is recommended that the City provide consistent park entry signage, as well as wayfinding signage in key locations to make the parks system more easily recognizable and navigable.

Objective 3.2. Improve ADA accessibility in the parks system.

ACTION 3.2.1. Conduct an ADA accessibility assessment of all developed parks to identify, prioritize, and address accessibility issues in the parks system.

Many amenities throughout the City’s parks are currently inaccessible to those who use a wheelchair, walking aid, or are otherwise mobility challenged. To ensure that all residents and park users have equal access to park facilities and amenities, the City should conduct a park accessibility assessment of parking areas, picnic facilities, playgrounds, trails, seating areas, etc. Following a system-wide assessment, the required accessibility improvements should be funded and implemented based on a prioritized list.
Goal 4: Provide a consolidated parks system which preserves the City’s unique physical and natural assets.

Objective 4.1. Consolidate and redistribute parkland throughout Bay City.

- **ACTION 4.1.1. Adopt a Parkland Dedication and Development ordinance.**

  Over the years, the City has received areas of parkland through developer dedication. To date, no regulatory measures are in place to guide the location and criteria of land suitable for dedication. It is thus recommended that the City adopt a parkland dedication and development ordinance to ensure that any lands that are dedicated are suitable and create additional mechanisms (i.e., fee-in-lieu) with which the City can refuse dedication where fee-in-lieu creates a better benefit for the community.

  The purpose of a parkland dedication and development ordinance is to allow new growth to contribute their fair share to the overall park and recreation system. In this regard, the ordinance allows for the dedication of land and/or the collection of money for the acquisition, development, and improvement of neighborhood parks within respective park benefit zones. The ordinance should also provide for allocating resources across all park benefit zones for such things as establishing or improving community parks which serve a greater area than just individual park zones.

  In addition, a portion of the collected funds (if required instead of dedication) should also be able to be used for the revitalization and/or enhancement of any existing parks which may be located within the same park benefit zone.

  The following components should be considered when developing a parkland dedication and development ordinance as part of the City’s subdivision regulations:

  - **Establishment**
    - Adopt a parkland dedication and development ordinance which integrates this requirement as part of the City’s overall new residential development review and approval process.
    - Establish a park benefit zone map that includes zones made up of both developed and undeveloped areas. This allows fee-in-lieu resources to be used for the expansion and/or improvement of other existing parks within the same park benefit zone. The park benefit zone map should be developed with the intent of providing equitable distribution of resources over time.
    - Establish different dedication and development requirements for single-family and multifamily residential development. In this regard, separate requirements would be created for per dwelling unit land dedication, fee-in-lieu of land dedication, and fee for parkland development.
    - Establish an independent Parkland Dedication and Development Fund in which all received monies are placed. Criteria should be developed indicating how the funds can be spent. In addition, there should be a requirement which specifies that all funds must be spent within a specified maximum number of years of being received.

  - **Dedication**
    - Establish minimum criteria for determining suitable sites for dedication (e.g., at least 50% of the site being dedicated must be able to accommodate active recreation such as sports fields). This includes ensuring adequate public access. It should also provide for the right of refusal by the City Council.
    - Establish requirements which apply both within the City limits and in the City’s ETJ. For proposed dedication within the ETJ, the City should be given first right of refusal, followed by dedication to a public and/or nonprofit receiving entity, followed by fee-in-lieu dedication.
    - Adopt provisions which allow private amenities to account for only a portion of the requirements. In other words, a new development cannot fulfill all of its requirements solely by providing private amenities to just its own residents.
Accept the dedication of undevelopable floodplain as a prorated component of the overall dedication (e.g., it takes X acres of floodplain to equal 1 acre of dedication).

Development

- Establish minimum design criteria for park, trail, or other public use improvements which are used to satisfy the requirements of the parkland dedication and development ordinance. In this regard, City staff will need to review and approve all proposed improvements during the planning and design stage of development.
- Ensure that all proposed off-site improvements are located within the same park benefit zone.

**ACTION 4.1.2. Consider converting the Sports Complex property to an alternate use and reestablishing its athletic amenities in closer proximity to City residents.**

The Sports Complex is located well outside the City limits and more heavily populated residential areas. In its current condition and location, this site is not likely to get adequate use to fully justify the dollars spent on maintenance and repairs. The community would be better served with a sports complex located in closer proximity to residents. It is recommended that the City consider converting the current Sports Complex property into an alternate use (e.g., a shooting range, see Action 2.2.2) and evaluate opportunities to redevelop athletic amenities closer to town (see Action 4.1.3 and 4.1.4).

**ACTION 4.1.3. Consider dedicating City-owned land adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant as parkland.**

The City currently owns approximately 11 acres of land adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant. In order to meet parkland needs in this area, it is recommended that the City consider dedicating this land as parkland. Once dedicated, it is recommended that the City evaluate the feasibility of developing the land into a passive and active park (see Action 2.2.5). If the City is considering applying for a grant to fund improvements, it may be prudent to use the land as “in kind” collateral as part of fulfilling matching requirements. As such, land dedication should only take place in connection with a grant award to serve as a match.

**ACTION 4.1.4. Consider future acquisition of additional non-City-owned land adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant to increase the recreation potential of the City-owned land in the area.**

In order to maximize the recreation potential of the City-owned land next to the wastewater treatment facility, it is recommended that the City consider future acquisition of additional adjacent lands. If sufficient land is assembled, this property may have potential to serve as a replacement sports complex.
ACTION 4.2. Promote natural resource preservation and conservation practices throughout the parks system.

ACTION 4.2.1. Continue to preserve and protect areas along Cottonwood Creek.

Cottonwood Creek runs through the center of Bay City and holds potential to provide natural open space amidst the more developed suburban and downtown areas. As part of the North Downtown Plan, the creek is proposed as a central element to the district. In support of that plan, it is recommended that the City continue to preserve and protect areas along Cottonwood Creek throughout the City in order to maximize the environmental, ecological, and recreational potential of the waterway.

Goal 5: Enhance the function, safety, and appearance of City parkland through the provision of sufficient resources.

Objective 5.1. Provide adequate staffing, equipment, and funding to allow for a well-maintained parks and trails system.

ACTION 5.1.1. Ensure adequate funding and staffing are provided to allow for improved park system maintenance.

Through discussions with the public and PARD staff, it was evident that additional staffing is necessary to better maintain the existing parks and trails system. Additionally, as the parks and recreation system continues to diversify, it is important that sufficient staffing and increased departmental funding are planned for to allow adequate upkeep of the system. A poorly maintained parks system is frequently viewed in a worse light than no park system at all. At a minimum, there is a current need for the following additional staff:

- Two additional Riverside Rangers
- One full time Administrative Assistant
- One additional Park Specialist

If the City is unable to sell the land, it is recommended that strategies be considered to naturalize the properties in order to minimize the maintenance burden on PARD staff.

The City has a large amount of fragmented parkland which is widely distributed throughout the community. Throughout the planning process, the community voiced a desire for a more consolidated parks system. There are currently four undeveloped parks which offer minimal recreation benefit or potential and are located in areas already served by developed parks. It is recommended that the City consider selling the following areas of parkland to consolidate the parks system and allow for greater maintenance of existing developed parks which see greater use. The City should evaluate strategies to ensure that the PARD sufficiently benefits from the sale of the land. The four undeveloped parks include:

- Bay Ridge Park (Block 1)
- Bay Ridge Park (Block 4 East)
- Bay Ridge Park (Block 5)
- Recycling Park (slated for sale as part of the North Downtown Plan)

It is important that sufficient staffing and funding is provided to adequately maintain the parks system.
ACTION 5.1.2. Consider hiring a dedicated full- or part-time Recreation Coordinator.

The public has clearly voiced a desire for additional recreational programming and special events. With the current level of staffing, coordination of City-provided and third-party recreation programming is handled by multiple people. To streamline coordination, and allow adequate manpower to take on additional coordination efforts, it is recommended that the City consider hiring a Recreational Coordinator. This position would be the point person for athletic leagues, Bay City ISD coordination, use agreements, senior programs, contract coordination, and event and activity planning and publicity. This position could also be responsible for undertaking an in depth Recreational Programming and Event Assessment.

ACTION 5.1.3. Evaluate the need for additional equipment to increase efficiencies with regard to park maintenance operations.

The PARD staff are responsible for the maintenance of over 348 acres of parkland. The efficiency of maintenance is largely impacted by the types and quality of equipment used by staff. In order to improve efficiency, it is recommended that the City undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the equipment needs compared to equipment currently available. Based on the results of the evaluation, the City should prioritize acquisition of additional and updated equipment. Some needs already identified by staff include new weed eaters, blowers, and updated mowing equipment. Moving forward, the City should include an annually budgeted replacement program to ensure that maintenance equipment remains up-to-date.

Objective 5.2. Provide upgrades to improve the safety and security of the City parks and trails system.

ACTION 5.2.1. Develop an energy-efficient lighting plan for the parks and trails system.

A need for additional park and trail lighting was identified through the public engagement process. When asked what would make them feel safer in City parks, 70 percent of survey respondents indicated additional lighting. It is thus recommended that, as part of a capital program, the City develop an energy-efficient lighting plan which addresses the need for security lighting and lighting of athletic fields, trails, etc. The plan should identify preferred lighting types and locations, and prioritize implementation over the coming years.

ACTION 5.2.2. Install call boxes at appropriate locations throughout the parks and trails system.

City staff have identified the need for additional safety measures in the parks and trails system. In addition to lighting, it is recommended that the City install call boxes at appropriate locations throughout the parks and along trails.

ACTION 5.2.3. Install park rules signs.

The City should consider installing signs in a prominent location (e.g., in or near the parking lot or entrance) at all City parks indicating the park hours, prohibited uses, and a phone number and email address where visitors can report maintenance issues or concerns. This will allow citizens and visitors to take more ownership over the use and quality of their park system and to allow the City to respond to safety or maintenance concerns with greater efficiency.
Goal 6: Maintain, improve, and enhance existing park and recreation facilities in Bay City.

Objective 6.1. Enhance park design and maintenance practices to improve the overall quality and aesthetics of City parks.

- ACTION 5.2.4. Develop and implement a phasing plan to upgrade playgrounds in need of replacement.

A number of playgrounds are or will be in need of replacement in upcoming years. To proactively plan for this need, it is recommended that the City develop and implement a phasing plan for needed upgrades. This would involve creating a playground replacement program and including it as part of the yearly operational budget.

- ACTION 5.2.5. Evaluate opportunities to provide an enhanced security presence in the parks system.

In order to further improve safety and discourage illicit activities and vandalism in the parks and trails system, it is recommended that the City evaluate opportunities for a more consistent security presence. This could include solutions such as a park ranger, coordination with the Bay City Police Department for increased park patrol time, and the addition of strategically located security cameras.

- ACTION 6.1.1. Remove non-parkland from the maintenance responsibilities of the PARD to allow adequate resources (e.g., staffing, funding, equipment) for maintenance of the parks and trails system.

As described in Chapter 3, the PARD’s maintenance responsibilities have grown over the years to include lands which do not fall easily under another departments’ jurisdiction. This, in turn, inhibits the provision of adequate maintenance in the parks system. When asked to rank the importance of a variety of PARD actions, improved park maintenance was ranked as the most important item by 93 percent of survey respondents. In order to allow the enhanced maintenance the community so strongly desires, it is recommended that all non-parkland be removed from the maintenance responsibilities of the PARD. To do this, the City may need to consider additional staffing in other departments or contracting for third-party maintenance. The City should also consider formalizing an “adopt-a-park” program to allow residents and local organizations to contribute to the upkeep of parkland.
ACTION 6.1.2. Develop a parks system management plan and maintain an inventory of park system assets.

The quality of a parks and recreation system is critically linked to the appearance of the facilities and amenities which it is comprised of, and of the appearance and professionalism of the staff who represent it. As such, it is recommended that the PARD adopt and adhere to the following parks facility and maintenance guidelines which will help establish and maintain high quality facilities and amenities and help develop the specialized skill sets to maintain it over time. These policies can be used to assist in the development of training and operational schedules and are intended to promote pride and ownership over the City’s park properties.

- All permanent parks staff to be knowledgeable and experienced in their assigned duties;
- All temporary or seasonal staff to be assigned to a crew with permanent parks staff at all times;
- All personnel to be uniformed, provided protective gear as needed, and presented in a professional manner;
- All parks maintenance equipment and vehicles to be properly maintained, washed, and identified as a City Parks Department vehicle;
- Perform all scheduled work that will utilize acceptable horticultural practices for the exterior landscape maintenance (see Figure 4.3, Recommended Routine Landscape and Facility Maintenance Schedule);
- Perform all work necessary to inspect, maintain, repair, and replace park amenities on a routine basis;
- Assign trained park maintenance personnel to athletic field maintenance in order to establish and maintain a consistent, playable, and safe condition to all fields;
- Assign park maintenance personnel to large field mowing, utilizing trained personnel for the safe operation and transport of large maintenance equipment;
- Allow Highway 35 to subdivide the City into a north and south region. Assign park maintenance personnel to parks in each region to increase productivity and efficiency;
- Assign specialized park maintenance personnel for irrigation inspections and repairs. All personnel to have and maintain all required State of Texas licenses. Implement a policy of all irrigation components to be of same manufacture to minimize the diversity of inventory of replacement parts;
- Assign specialized park maintenance personnel for chemical maintenance programs. All personnel to have and maintain all required State of Texas licenses;
- Assign park maintenance personnel for facility building, sidewalk, parking lot, playground, fencing, lighting, and furnishings maintenance, upkeep, and repairs. If a skilled tradesman is employed, such as a plumber or electrician, then all personnel to have and maintain State of Texas license;
- Cross-train park maintenance personnel to perform alternative maintenance tasks during times of need or employee absences;
- Institute and adhere to an equipment replacement rotation program where mowers are replaced routinely in the off-season, vehicles are replaced after a City-determined mileage life span; and
- Train all parks personnel annually on safety procedures and expectations.

Set out in Figure 4.3, Recommended Routine Landscape and Facility Maintenance Schedule, on the next page, is a recommended annual maintenance schedule which focuses on standard routine maintenance practices which are intended to keep facilities and amenities in good condition and to minimize or prevent major issues from developing incrementally over time.
Figure 4.3, Recommended Routine Landscape and Facility Maintenance Schedule

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<td>Mowing, edging, trimming of Buffalo turf</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Insect/pesticide control (fire ants included)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Disease control</td>
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<td>1</td>
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</table>

(continued on next page)
Figure 4.3, Recommended Routine Landscape and Facility Maintenance Schedule (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTRACT TASK / FUNCTION</th>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>FEB</th>
<th>MAR</th>
<th>APR</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUN</th>
<th>JUL</th>
<th>AUG</th>
<th>SEP</th>
<th>OCT</th>
<th>NOV</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FREQ</td>
<td>FREQ</td>
<td>FREQ</td>
<td>FREQ</td>
<td>FREQ</td>
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<td>FREQ</td>
<td>FREQ</td>
<td>FREQ</td>
<td>FREQ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POND MANAGEMENT</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 General policing of floating debris and removal of debris</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Clean out-fall structures</td>
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<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Maintain edges</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Aquatic weed control</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOGGING AND BIKE TRAILS/CONCRETE PAVERS/CONCRETE WALKS</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Clean/Sweep trails and paths</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEBRIS AND TRASH COLLECTION</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DAILY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Empty trash receptacles</td>
<td>DAILY</td>
<td>DAILY</td>
<td>DAILY</td>
<td>DAILY</td>
<td>DAILY</td>
<td>DAILY</td>
<td>DAILY</td>
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<td>DAILY</td>
<td>DAILY</td>
<td>DAILY</td>
<td>DAILY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRAINAGE WAYS, INLETS, CULVERTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27 Remove trash/debris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Remove trash/debris</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AN = As needed
**Action 6.1.3. Pursue CAPRA accreditation for the Bay City PARD.**

The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accredits park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service. CAPRA accreditation is a multi-step process including a preliminary application, self-assessment, on-site evaluation, accreditation, and an annual report. The self-assessment phase is an important task which involves the entire PARD in a detailed assessment of its efficiency and effectiveness. In addition to gaining accreditation and public recognition, CAPRA accreditation can lead to increased efficiency, accountability, teamwork, and regular review of the PARD’s operations, policies, and procedures, thus continually improving the provision of parks and recreation in Bay City. It is recommended that the PARD take the necessary steps to pursue CAPRA accreditation.

**ACTION 6.1.4. Implement overall park design guidelines.**

As the City considers improvements to its park system, it should consider adopting a series of park design guidelines. These guidelines would guide the design and construction of new and improved parks and recreation facilities and amenities and should be geared towards attractive, high-quality, low maintenance design. The guidelines should indicate that new and improved park facilities and amenities be:

- designed using water-efficient and native landscaping;
- designed and constructed of durable, long-lasting materials;
- designed using sustainable, efficient “green” design solutions;
- designed to minimize maintenance requirements;
- designed using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques (e.g., increase natural surveillance, control access, management and maintenance) to increase safety;
- designed to maximize shade opportunities;
- designed for flexibility of use; and
- designed with a cohesive system of styles and materials to create a “brand” within all City parks.

**ACTION 6.1.5. Publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities to allow the public to help improve City parks.**

The City’s residents have voiced a strong desire for an improved parks and recreation system, as well as a desire to be involved. It is recommended that the City develop a formalized Park Amenities Foundation and Donation Program to set minimum standards and processes for donations.

This could include creation of a long-term park donation and endowment program for both financial and land donation offerings. It could also include the programmatic identification of specific park amenity needs (e.g., shade structures, benches, water fountains, trees, monument signs, etc.) which could be advertised on the City’s website for solicitation of volunteers. This could include the request for a specific need and location and cost for purchasing and installation. For example, the need for a playscape shade structure could be advertised showing the project location and costs. A volunteer could donate the money for materials and installation so that the City could get it installed. Small donations could be recognized on the City’s website, on a small plaque on site, and during an annual recognition program. Large donations (e.g., entire parks) could be given the opportunity for naming rights. This could also be used for solicitation of other community park wish lists items (e.g., community service clean up day volunteers, materials, and equipment, etc.).
Objective 6.2. Proactively plan for the continuation of a high-quality parks and recreation system into the future.

- **Action 6.2.1. Update the Bay City Parks Master Plan.**

As the City’s population grows and demographics shift, parks and recreation needs will also change. To ensure that the City continues to provide the parks and recreation opportunities and facilities to best serve its residents, the City should update the Bay City Parks Master Plan periodically. As suggested by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Plan should be updated after a five-year period, or before any major developments occur which significantly impact the recreation needs of the City. While the TPWD does not require a parks master plan update, it does place a higher point value (during grant funding evaluation) on submittals that demonstrate that a plan has been updated within the past five years.

The following steps are recommended for periodic review of this Plan:

- An annual review by City staff should be conducted to review progress and successes.
- An annual report should be provided to the City Council.
- More frequent updates may be required if special needs or occurrences require modifications to the Plan.

- In all cases, public involvement through citizen meetings, interviews, and workshops should be included in any update process.

- **Action 6.2.2. Develop an Emergency Preparedness and Management Plan for the parks system.**

In recent months, the City was severely impacted by Hurricane Harvey. In order to ensure that all City staff know how to prepare for such an event in the future, it is recommended that the City develop an Emergency Preparedness and Management Plan. The document should include a comprehensive list of tasks for staff to complete in order to prepare the parks, facilities, maintenance areas, and equipment to best weather an emergency event. To maximize the efficiency of recovery efforts, the document should also include a list of staff responsibilities during an emergency, as well as tasks for staff to complete after an emergency (i.e., identifying the level of impact and addressing any damage to the parks system and facilities).

It would be best if the tasks for the PARD are included in a greater citywide Emergency Preparedness and Management Plan, meant to address necessary preparation and management tasks for all City staff before, during, and after an emergency or natural disaster.
Goal 7: Explore funding and partnering opportunities to further leverage parks and recreation facility enhancements and program offerings.

Objective 7.1. Actively pursue additional funding, partnerships, and sponsorships to support the provision of a high quality parks and recreation system in Bay City.

- **ACTION 7.1.1. Consider approaching the citizens with a bond election to fund identified larger-scale capital improvements for the parks system.**

  The community desires an improved and enhanced parks system. In order to provide this over the coming years, additional funding will be needed. When asked about funding strategies during the public survey, 69 percent of respondents to the question supported or strongly supported raising funds for new facilities through a voter approved bond initiative (see Figure 3.15, Funding Strategies, in Chapter 3). Additionally, 56 percent of respondents indicated willingness to pay additional City taxes or consider a bond initiative to see the quality of existing parks upgraded (see Figure 3.14, Parks and Recreation Department Action Items, in Chapter 3). As such, the City should consider approaching the citizens with a bond election to fund larger-scale capital improvements in the parks system. This includes preparing a series of bond-ready projects (with detailed design plans) and vetting them through a broadly represented citizen bond committee.

- **ACTION 7.1.2. Consider pursuing a partnership to develop a community recreation center in Bay City.**

  The desire for additional recreational programming (both indoor and outdoor) and establishing a community recreation center were identified as community desires during this planning process and during development of the City’s Vision Bay City 2040 plan. In order to provide a variety of indoor multipurpose facilities and increased recreational programming, it is recommended that the City establish a community recreation center. This could include pursuing a partnership with Wellness Matagorda County, the YMCA or another third-party organization. The facility should ultimately be centrally located in the City to maximize ease of access by all residents.

- **ACTION 7.1.3. Evaluate the need to update existing joint-use agreements with Bay City ISD to ensure that City facilities are adequately maintained.**

  The City currently has joint-use agreements with Bay City ISD for the Valiant Street (16th Street) Pool and the intermediate school gym. It is recommended that the City reevaluate the Valiant Street Pool agreement to determine what improvements should be made to the facility, and who is responsible for funding, implementing, and maintaining the improvements.

- **ACTION 7.1.4. Pursue development of additional joint use agreements with Bay City ISD to maximize sharing of mutually beneficial park amenities (e.g., playscapes, basketball courts).**

  There are a number of Bay City ISD facilities which have potential to serve the greater public during non-school hours. In order to maximize the potential of a relationship between the City of Bay City and Bay City ISD, it is recommended that the City pursue development of additional joint-use agreements for facilities which have mutually beneficial park amenities. This could include playscapes, athletic facilities, and general open space. Additionally, coordination should include discussions about the intended future use of non-operational Bay City ISD buildings and/or properties to determine the viability of joint use and development of these facilities.
ACTION 7.1.5. Initiate discussions with local athletic leagues to reevaluate partnership responsibilities.

A number of the City’s athletic fields are used by third-party leagues. It is recommended that the City reevaluate these use agreements to ensure that properties are adequately maintained, that partnership responsibilities are clear, and that league fees are adequately offsetting the City’s costs. If hired, this coordination could be handled by the designated Recreation Coordinator.

ACTION 7.1.6. Evaluate and pursue public-private partnerships for development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) that operate under a private management framework, yet are subsidized with public funding are becoming more common in cities. These partnerships can enable the development of amenities and facilities such as a community recreation center (see Action 7.1.2), athletic fields, and event spaces, as well as diversify park activities through the provision of rentals (e.g., canoe/kayak rentals). Partnerships can range from large-scale private development funding with ongoing public staffing or maintenance, to corporate sponsorships, to shared-use agreements and concessionaires. In an effort to diversify funding sources and maximize the parks and recreation potential in the City, it is recommended that the City pursue additional partnerships for the development and continued maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.

ACTION 7.1.7. Evaluate the City’s park-related fee structure to ensure that users are adequately offsetting cost of maintenance.

City parks and facilities can be rented for both small and large gatherings and events. In order to ensure that parks and facilities are maintained in a cost-effective, adequate manner, it is recommended that the City evaluate its rental fee structure to ensure that users are sufficiently covering the cost of maintenance required by their use of the property. This includes events in parks, at the USO Building, and the Train Depot. This also includes field use by athletic leagues.

ACTION 7.1.8. Coordinate with the Matagorda County Convention & Visitors Bureau to publicize City events.

The Matagorda County Convention & Visitors Bureau (MCCVB) publishes an events calendar on their website. In order to further publicize Bay City events, it is recommended that the City coordinate with the MCCVB to add City events to the online calendar.
Coordinated Implementation

Successful implementation of Plan recommendations will need to be a coordinated effort on part of the City and community leaders, such as residents, elected and appointed officials, and outside agencies. In order to most effectively provide high-quality parks and recreation to the community of Bay City, the City has a responsibility to partner with all local, state, and federal entities that can be of assistance in expanding and refining Bay City's parks, recreation, and open space system today and in the future. At a minimum, this includes:

- Bay City elected and appointed officials;
- City Administration and staff;
- Bay City Friends of the Park Advisory Board;
- Matagorda County;
- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT);
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD);
- Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA);
- Bay City Independent School District (BCISD);
- Bay City Community Development Corporation;
- Matagorda County Economic Development Corporation;
- Athletic leagues;
- Abutting local municipalities (on projects that benefit both jurisdictions);
- Area land and business owners and the development community;
- Interested community volunteers and stakeholders; and
- Other affected agencies and entities.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Compliance

In addition to guiding parks and recreation actions over the coming years, this Plan also serves as a parks, recreation, and open space master plan as defined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). This is because “qualified” plans increase the City's competitiveness when applying for TPWD grant funding.

High Priority Needs

The top priorities for parks, recreation, open space, and trails, listed in Figure 5.1, Summary of High Priority Needs in Bay City on the following page, are consistent with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) requirements. Priorities have been determined based on community input, needs assessments, site visits, and input from City staff and elected and appointed officials. The set of actions described in Chapter 5, Plan Recommendations, and prioritized in this Chapter, have been recommended to enhance quality of life in the community and may require the use of grant money in the future.

The identified priorities illustrated in Figure 5.1, Summary of High Priority Needs in Bay City have been categorized into two lists: outdoor facilities/amenities and indoor facilities/amenities.
### New or additional facilities needed based on citizen input

1. Splash pad  
2. Water park  
3. Indoor swimming pool  
4. Picnic facilities  
5. Accessible playground

### New or additional facilities needed based on level of service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Service</th>
<th>Upgraded facilities needed based on existing condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Trails</td>
<td>1. Boat launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Picnic facilities</td>
<td>2. Enclosed restrooms in parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Multipurpose practice fields</td>
<td>3. Lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Splash pad</td>
<td>4. Swimming pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Swimming pool</td>
<td>5. Upgraded picnic facilities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top 10 cumulative outdoor facility needs based on above summaries

1. Splash pad  
2. Water park  
3. Picnic facilities  
4. Trails  
5. Lighting  
6. Enclosed restrooms in parks  
7. Accessible playground  
8. Multipurpose practice fields  
9. Upgraded, covered playscapes  
10. Shade structures/trees

### Top cumulative indoor facility needs based on above summaries

1. Indoor swimming pool  
2. Community recreation center

---

**Figure 5.1, Summary of High Priority Facility Needs in Bay City**

Additional picnic facilities were another top priority need identified through the planning process.

Whether indoor or outdoor (or including elements of both), providing an aquatic complex/water park was the top identified desire by the public.
### Implementation Tools

There are a few overarching types of implementation tools which help define post-adoption actions taken by the City. These include:

- **Operational Change.** New or changed programs, staffing, or operational procedures.
- **Policy.** Official procedures or policies used to guide City decisions. In some cases, it includes a movement towards a general direction which may involve a combination of other implementation tool types.
- **Regulation.** Council adopted regulations used to guide development or other actions within the City.
- **Study.** Further study or investigation needed to determine the most appropriate solution.
- **Capital Investment.** Larger scale capital improvements incorporated into the greater Capital Improvement Program or five-year capital improvement plan (CIP).
- **Non-Capital Investment.** Smaller scale improvements which may more likely be funded through the annual budgeting process.

### Prioritization

The actions of this Park Master Plan can be further delineated into three levels of priority. These include:

- **High Priority Actions.** Actions which need to be initiated within the next one to two years (2018 - 2020). In many cases, these actions will be initiated and completed during this time frame. In other cases, these actions may be initiated during this time frame, but completed over time. These are the City's highest priorities for implementation.

- **Moderate Priority Actions.** Actions which need to be initiated within the next three to five years (2021-2023). Some of these actions may become the highest priorities identified during the City’s next Parks Master Plan update. These actions may also be ongoing extensions of high priority actions.

- **Longer-Term Priority Actions.** Actions which are intended to continually guide the City towards its ideal future parks and recreation vision. Most of these actions are intended to be implemented over the long term (2023+) and will be further prioritized in subsequent Plan updates. These actions are consequently not listed with a numbered ranking.

### Prioritization Criteria

Note that the prioritization shown in this Plan is intended to guide staff and Council actions, and any item may be initiated sooner than recommended if unique circumstances or opportunities arise. Prioritization of the action items is presented in Table 5.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan* (starting on the next page), using the criteria below. Needs meeting all of the criteria were ranked as high priority elements and are to receive the highest level of attention over the next one to five years.

- Level of need based on citizen input (online survey results, stakeholder interviews, public open house meetings, prioritization survey, etc.);
- Level of need based on the needs assessment; and
- Site assessments of existing park facilities in the City.

### Reach Projects

While all of the recommended actions are categorized as high, moderate, or longer-term priorities, there are a number of actions which are considered “reach projects.” These are actions which may be high-cost endeavors which would greatly improve the City’s recreation offerings and provide larger economic opportunities. Many of these projects would likely require bond funding, partnerships, and many years to complete.

### Order of Magnitude Costs

Order of magnitude potential cost ranges are provided in Table 5.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan*. Costs for actions whose cost ranges would be dependent on further decisions from the City are indicated as “TBD.” Costs for longer-term actions are based on a current understanding of the industry. The ultimate costs of these actions would be dependent on industry trends, and in many cases, design and construction plans, at the time of implementation.
### Figure 5.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Action ID</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Initiation Time Frame (years)</th>
<th>Potential Cost Range</th>
<th>Action Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.2.3</td>
<td>Identify opportunities to beautify existing parks (e.g., improved landscaping, signage, etc.).</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Non-Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.1.1</td>
<td>Improve and further develop Le Tulle Park.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$4,750,000 - $5,000,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.1.26</td>
<td>Improve Valiant Park and Pool.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$3,500,000 - $4,000,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.1.8</td>
<td>Consolidate and improve Amistad Park and the National Guard/Parks Office.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$2,000,000 - $2,250,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.2.2</td>
<td>Provide additional shade opportunities in the parks and along trails.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$25,000 - $100,000 per shade structure</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.1.19</td>
<td>Improve existing segments of the Southern Pacific Trail.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$100,000 - $150,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.2.1</td>
<td>Improve the parking areas in each park where parking is provided.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$1,000 per parking space</td>
<td>Non-Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.1.24</td>
<td>Improve Hilliard Pool.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$400,000 - $600,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.1.5</td>
<td>Improve the Girls Softball Fields.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$575,000 - $650,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.1.21</td>
<td>Improve the Caboose and Train Depot.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$225,000 - $300,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.1.25</td>
<td>Improve the USO Building.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$125,000 - $175,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.1.17</td>
<td>Improve Liberty Park.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$75,000 - $125,000</td>
<td>Non-Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>1.1.20</td>
<td>Improve the Barkway.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$150,000 - $225,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>1.1.15</td>
<td>Improve Mary Withers Park.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$175,000 - $250,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.1.2</td>
<td>Prepare a Riverside Park Redevelopment Master Plan.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$35,000 - $50,000</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>1.1.9</td>
<td>Guide improvements to Avenue I Parks (north and south) as part of the North Downtown Plan.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>1.1.6</td>
<td>Improve Hardeman Park.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$400,000 - $475,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>1.1.14</td>
<td>Improve Henderson Park.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$225,000 - $325,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>1.1.16</td>
<td>Improve Highland Park.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$100,000 - $150,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.1.4</td>
<td>Improve Frahms Field.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$350,000 - $400,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.7</td>
<td>Improve the Little League Fields.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$575,000 - $650,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goal 1 Actions:** Renovate, develop, and construct diversified park and recreation facilities based on the changing needs of the community.
**Goal 2: Provide a diversified, multigenerational offering of recreational programs, events, facilities, and amenities to serve residents and attract regional users and visitors.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Action ID</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Initiation Time Frame (years)</th>
<th>Potential Cost Range</th>
<th>Action Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.1.6</td>
<td>Update the City’s website on a regular basis to provide complete, accurate information about the parks system.</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Policy / Operational Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.2.2</td>
<td>Develop a shooting range feasibility study.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$52,200</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.2.3</td>
<td>Provide at least one all abilities playground in the City.</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>$200,000 - $1,000,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.1.5</td>
<td>Implement additional public outreach to ensure residents are aware of the recreational opportunities in the City.</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Policy / Operational Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.1.2</td>
<td>Expand multigenerational recreation opportunities through additional City-provided and third-party programming.</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Policy / Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.1.3</td>
<td>Provide additional community-wide family-friendly events in the City.</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Policy / Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.2.1</td>
<td>Develop an aquatics center/water park feasibility study and locational analysis in coordination with Wellness Matagorda County and the Bay City ISD.</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.1.1</td>
<td>Conduct a Recreational Programming and Event Assessment.</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>By Staff - $25,000</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Goal 3: Increase connectivity and accessibility in the parks system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Action ID</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Initiation Time Frame (years)</th>
<th>Potential Cost Range</th>
<th>Action Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.1.5</td>
<td>Provide consistent wayfinding and park entry signage to increase public awareness of park locations.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$500 - $5,000 per sign (dependent on sign design)</td>
<td>Non-Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.2.1</td>
<td>Conduct an ADA accessibility assessment of all developed parks to identify, prioritize, and address accessibility issues in the parks system.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Study / Non-Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.1.3</td>
<td>Continue development and extension of the Southern Pacific Trail.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$540,000</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.1.4</td>
<td>Coordinate with the County transit provider to determine if improved connectivity can be made to the City's parks and trail system.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.1.1</td>
<td>Develop a citywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to increase connectivity and accessibility to parks and other key destinations throughout the community.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$75,000 - $125,000</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.1.2</td>
<td>Prioritize acquisition and development of trail segments throughout the City.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>$750,000 - $1,500,000 per mile</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Goal 4: Provide a consolidated parks system which preserves the City’s unique physical and natural assets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Action ID</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Initiation Time Frame (years)</th>
<th>Potential Cost Range</th>
<th>Action Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.1.1</td>
<td>Adopt a Parkland Dedication and Development ordinance.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.1.5</td>
<td>Consider selling select areas of parkland to consolidate and further enhance a high-quality Bay City parks system.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Policy / Operational Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.2.1</td>
<td>Continue to preserve and protect areas along Cottonwood Creek.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Policy / Regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.1.2</td>
<td>Consider converting the Sports Complex property to an alternate use and reestablishing its athletic amenities in closer proximity to City residents.</td>
<td>■</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Action ID</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Initiation Time Frame (years)</td>
<td>Potential Cost Range</td>
<td>Action Type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.1.3</td>
<td>Consider dedicating City-owned land adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant as parkland.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Policy / Operational Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.1.4</td>
<td>Consider future acquisition of additional non-City-owned land adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant to increase the recreation potential of the City-owned land in the area.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goal 5: Enhance the function, safety, and appearance of City parkland through the provision of sufficient resources.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Action ID</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Initiation Time Frame (years)</th>
<th>Potential Cost Range</th>
<th>Action Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.1.1</td>
<td>Ensure adequate funding and staffing are provided to allow for improved park system maintenance.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.1.3</td>
<td>Evaluate the need for additional equipment to increase efficiencies with regard to park maintenance operations.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.2.4</td>
<td>Develop and implement a phasing plan to upgrade playgrounds in need of replacement.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>By Staff (Upgrade costs TBD)</td>
<td>Study / Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.2.5</td>
<td>Evaluate opportunities to provide an enhanced security presence in the parks system.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.2.3</td>
<td>Install park rules signs.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$500 - $1,000 per sign</td>
<td>Non-Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.2.1</td>
<td>Develop an energy-efficient lighting plan for the parks and trails system.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.2.2</td>
<td>Install call boxes at appropriate locations throughout the parks and trails system.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$10,000 per call box</td>
<td>Non-Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.1.2</td>
<td>Consider hiring a dedicated full- or part-time Recreation Coordinator.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$30,000 - $35,000</td>
<td>Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goal 6: Maintain, improve, and enhance existing park and recreation facilities in Bay City.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Action ID</th>
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<th>Initiation Time Frame (years)</th>
<th>Potential Cost Range</th>
<th>Action Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.1.2</td>
<td>Develop a parks system management plan and maintain an inventory of park system assets.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Policy / Operational Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.1.1</td>
<td>Remove non-parkland from the maintenance responsibilities of the PARD to allow adequate resources (e.g., staffing, funding, equipment) for maintenance of the parks and trails system.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Policy / Operational Change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Figure 5.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Action ID</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Initiation Time Frame (years)</th>
<th>Potential Cost Range</th>
<th>Action Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.2.2</td>
<td>Develop an Emergency Preparedness and Management Plan for the parks system.</td>
<td>![Y] 1-2 ![Y] 3-5 ![Y] 6-10+</td>
<td>$25,000 (for park-related facilities only, excluding personnel management)</td>
<td>Study / Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.1.5</td>
<td>Publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities to allow the public to help improve City parks.</td>
<td>![Y] 1-2 ![Y] 3-5 ![Y] 6-10+</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Policy / Operational Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.1.4</td>
<td>Implement overall park design guidelines.</td>
<td>![Y] 1-2 ![Y] 3-5 ![Y] 6-10+</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6.1.3</td>
<td>Pursue CAPRA accreditation for the Bay City PARD.</td>
<td>![Y] 1-2 ![Y] 3-5 ![Y] 6-10+</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Operational Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.2.1</td>
<td>Update the Bay City Parks Master Plan.</td>
<td>![Y] 1-2 ![Y] 3-5 ![Y] 6-10+</td>
<td>By Staff - $50,000</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Goal 7: Explore funding and partnering opportunities to further leverage parks and recreation facility enhancements and program offerings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.1.2</td>
<td>Consider pursuing a partnership to develop a community recreation center in Bay City.</td>
<td>![Y] 1-2 ![X]</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Policy / Operational Change / Capital Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7.1.8</td>
<td>Coordinate with the Matagorda County Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau to publicize City events.</td>
<td>![Y] 1-2 ![X]</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.1.7</td>
<td>Evaluate the City’s park-related fee structure to ensure that users are adequately offsetting cost of maintenance.</td>
<td>![Y] 1-2 ![X]</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Study / Policy / Operational Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.1.3</td>
<td>Evaluate the need to update existing joint-use agreements with Bay City ISD to ensure that City facilities are adequately maintained.</td>
<td>![Y] 1-2 ![X]</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Policy / Operational Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>7.1.4</td>
<td>Pursue development of additional joint use agreements with Bay City ISD to maximize sharing of mutually beneficial park amenities (e.g., playscapes, basketball courts).</td>
<td>![Y] 1-2 ![X]</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Policy / Operational Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7.1.5</td>
<td>Initiate discussions with local athletic leagues to reevaluate partnership responsibilities.</td>
<td>![Y] 1-2 ![X]</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Policy / Operational Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.1.6</td>
<td>Evaluate and pursue public-private partnerships for development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.</td>
<td>![Y] 1-2 ![X]</td>
<td>By Staff</td>
<td>Study / Operational Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7.1.1</td>
<td>Consider approaching the citizens with a bond election to fund identified larger-scale capital improvements for the parks system.</td>
<td>![Y] 1-2 ![X]</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Plan Update

After an extensive public engagement process, the Bay City Parks Master Plan identifies the community’s long-term vision for moving forward. It includes a 10-year strategy of prioritized implementation actions which, if implemented, will achieve the envisioned future. In other words, it ensures the City is incrementally responding to the community's needs and desires.

However, this does not mean that this Plan will serve the City for the next 10 years. To the contrary, it is intended to provide specific guidance for implementation actions that are prioritized in the near- and mid-term. In this regard, the following recommendations are intended to keep this Plan current and up to date:

- **Annual Progress Report and Update.** Prior to the start of the annual budget process, City staff should prepare and present an annual progress report on the status of the actions identified in the Implementation Action Plan. In addition, they should work with elected and appointed officials to determine which recommendations should move up in prioritization.

- **5-Year Update.** While not required by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to remain eligible for grant funding, undertaking an official plan update every five years helps the City to remain competitive in a very competitive grant process as TPWD places a higher point value (during grant funding evaluation) on submittals that demonstrate a plan update has been done within the past five years. Plan updates can be published in short report format and attached to this Parks Master Plan for easy use.

Potential Funding Sources

Since funding is the overarching prerequisite necessary to implement any of these actions, this Plan identifies a series of potential funding sources which may be helpful in achieving the recommended action items in the most cost-effective manner possible. Due to potential limitations of funding, it is recommended to pursue outside sources whenever possible (see Appendix D, Potential Funding Sources). Outside sources include grants, partnerships with public agencies (e.g., BCISD), and partnerships with private entities.

**City Generated Funding Sources**

General Fund expenditures (i.e., non-capital expenditures) are primarily used for improvements or repairs to existing parks and facilities. Typical general fund expenditures are for smaller repair and replacement efforts.

**Municipal Bonds**

Debt financing through the issuance of municipal bonds is the most common way in which to fund park and open space projects. This type of funding is a strategy wherein a city issues a bond, receives an immediate cash payment to finance projects, and must repay the bond with interest over a set period of time ranging from a few years to several decades. General obligation bonds – the most common form of municipal bond – is the primary bond type for park and open space projects.

**Tax Increment Financing/Public Improvement Districts**

These related tools allow a development district to divert a portion of its property taxes to fund infrastructure improvements within its area. This can include plazas, pocket parks, linear parks, and other types of facilities.

**Electric Utility Partnerships**

This type of partnership can be established for the purpose of providing and enhancing linear parks and trails along utility easements. This partnership typically does not involve monetary contributions. However, through use agreements and/or easements, it makes land for trail corridors accessible at little or no cost to the community.
Park Improvement Fee Funds
For many cities, this funding received from developers is a very helpful revenue source for park development. The requirement for such a fee needs to be written into the City’s Parkland Dedication and Development Ordinance.

Cash in Lieu of Conveyance of Land
As part of many cities’ Parkland Dedication and Development Ordinance, subject to specific prescribed conditions, a cash amount may be accepted in lieu of the conveyance of land. The goal is for the city to have the option to purchase land of an equal amount that was to be conveyed, elsewhere in the city.

Utility Bill Contributions
In many cities, residents are allowed to electively add a small amount to their utility collection bills to fund park improvements. As an example, the City of Colleyville has a Voluntary Park Fund, which allows citizens to donate $2.00 per month contribution through their water utility bills. This results in approximately $150,000 per year, which is used to fund park improvements throughout their community.

Tree Restoration Funds
The source of this type of fund is typically derived from cities that levy fines against developers for removing quality trees for development. The revenue generated is used to plant trees and to irrigate City properties enhancing the City.

Private Donations
Private donations from interested citizens, businesses, and organizations can support the improvement of the parks and recreation system. A formalized long-term park donation and endowment program can be used to collect land and monetary donations for use throughout the City.