

A scenic view of a park with a paved path, lush green trees, and a grassy area with a small stream. The sky is blue with light clouds. The text 'CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, TX' is overlaid in large white letters, and 'PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN' is overlaid in smaller white letters below it.

# CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, TX

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

**November 2016**





Parks and Recreation Master Plan



## Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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### City Manager

Matt Benoit

### Parks and Recreation Department

Joseph Wiggs, Parks and Leisure Director  
John Agey, Parks Manager  
Penny Joiner, Administrative Coordinator  
Jay L. Miller, Aquatic Center Manager

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Rhonda Reddoch  
Chris Cirrito  
John Kerr Smither  
Maxia Ferris  
Nate Grigsby  
Rodney Southern  
Keith Jenkins  
Julia Woods  
Kevin Edney

### Production Team

Charles Burditt, Resource Planner  
Paul Howard, Planner/GIS, Project Manager  
Brannyn McDougal, Planner  
Leroy Collins RLA, LI  
Claudia T Walker, PLA, LI, ASLA  
Eric Geppelt, AIA, Architect

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# HUNTSVILLE

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## PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

“To accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream. Not only plan but also believe.” -Anatole France



# Executive Summary



The City of Huntsville has a robust Parks and Recreation Department that maintains and operates a diverse range of parks, facilities and programs for residents and visitors. The City's existing Parks Master Plan was last updated in 2009. A master plan for parks and recreation typically has a lifespan of 5 to 10 years before needing updates. Effectively, most planning is focused on the next 5 years, while keeping a long-term vision for the parks system.

This planning effort aims to evaluate existing parks and recreation facilities to determine opportunities for improvements and additions, as well as identify new park and facility opportunities to support the recreation needs of Huntsville residents. Burditt Consultants, LLC was engaged by the City to develop a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that addresses current and future recreation needs and is influenced by stakeholder input. The following approaches were implemented in the development of the master plan:

- Standards-Based Approach – utilizing traditional park standards and evaluation of current trends.
- Demand-Based Approach - utilizing input from staff, Council, working groups, sports leagues, and the residents to identify current and future needs and desires.
- Resource-Based Approach - leveraging available land, natural features, rights-of-way, and city facilities to enhance park and recreation opportunities.

The following studies were undertaken in the development of the master plan:

- Inventory of existing parks and facilities
- Evaluation of available growth and demographic data, trends and projections.
- Analysis of stakeholder input conducted by the City including survey input, public meeting results, focus group input.
- Identification of Priority Projects

- Development of concepts for new and renovated facilities
- Probable cost estimation for priority projects
- Evaluation of cost impacts per household

## Existing Parks and Facilities

The overall condition of parks and facilities in Huntsville is good, with individual resources in varied age and operational condition. A total of 26 developed parks and green space properties are maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department for a range of purposes including programmed activities such as league sports and community events, passive recreation, environmental quality, and wildlife habitat. Survey responses indicated that 43% of participants considered Huntsville's parks to be as good as or better than those of other cities, and 48% agreed or strongly agreed that the City needed more parks. Top priorities identified through the City's stakeholder outreach as follows:

1. Recreation Center (67%)
2. Sports Complex (63%)
3. Additional Trails (58%)
4. Soccer/Football Fields (49%)
5. Indoor Basketball Court (44%)
6. Water Park (43%)
7. Baseball/Softball Fields (41%)
8. Indoor Pool (39%)
9. Skate Park (34%)

\*Responses that "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" as a priority.

The planning process combined stakeholder involvement with on-the-ground evaluation of conditions and sought to identify projects for further study that would maximize the amount of recreation and fulfill as many of the above intentions as feasible. The following projects were identified and concept drawings were developed along with statements of probable cost:

## Priority Projects

The following Priority Projects have been identified in this plan:

1. Renovation of Kate Barr Ross Sports Complex
2. Construction of a Multi-Purpose Recreation Center at Eastham Thomason Park.
3. Renovation of TH Ball "Josey" Park to include an additional adult softball field.
4. Construction of a new Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center at Emancipation Park.
5. Development of a City-Wide Trail System.
6. Renovation of Emancipation Park

# Inventory & **Analysis**



01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Inventory & Analysis	Demand Assessment	Walkability	Programs & Events	Natural Resources	Priority Projects	Park Profiles

## Project Overview

### Introduction

#### The Benefits of Parks and Open Space

Parks and open space are key components contributing to the quality of life for any community. These elements of the public domain provide spaces for recreation and exercise, as well improve aesthetics and ecological services such as mitigating stormwater runoff, cleaning the air we breathe and providing wildlife habitat in the urban environment. Studies have even shown that parks can increase the property values of homes in a community. “The real estate market consistently demonstrates that many people are willing to pay a larger amount for a property located close to parks and open space areas than for a home that does not offer this amenity,” writes John L. Crompton, a professor at Texas A&M University who has published extensive research on parks and recreation

#### Park Standards

Traditional park and recreation planning techniques have used standards established by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) to determine the quantity and type of amenities a city should provide. An example of such standards commonly provided by the NRPA is the overall recommendation for park acreage by population. The NRPA suggests a minimum of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of park land per 1,000 population. This standard would suggest that the City of Huntsville should provide 171 to 287 acres of park land for its residents. Currently the City provides three parks with a total of approximately 183.2 acres of developed park land with a total of 297.6 acres of total park land. Traditionally the NRPA has recommended a set of standards for minimum numbers of specific park facilities according to population (e.g.: 1 soccer field per 1,000 population), however they recognize that communities have unique needs and standards need to be used as benchmarks rather than firm rules for determining the number of facilities needed.

“Parks and recreation facilities are an integral part of the public infrastructure system and essential to Huntsville’s strategic goal of promoting and sustaining “active living” for all residents. - *Huntsville Comprehensive Plan 2025*”

#### Local Demand

The Demand Assessment phase of this master plan development was conducted by City Staff with a series of outreach efforts beginning in June of 2015.

Group meetings were held at a variety of locations including City Hall, the Service Center, the Chamber of Commerce, Sam Houston State University, the Golden Corral, the Katy E. and Don Walker Education Center, and the Grand Buffet. Groups ranged in size from 6 to 51 people and were guided through a series of topics and questions. Opinions for each topic were recorded using electronic engagement tools known as “clickers”.

In addition to group meetings, an online survey was conducted in 2012 and in 2015 with a series of questions regarding parks and recreation needs and opinions. The results of these public engagement efforts are detailed in the Demand Assessment chapter of this plan.

#### Planning Principles

The City’s *Huntsville Horizon Comprehensive Plan 2025* identifies parks, recreation and green space as key components to the overall livability and quality of life for residents and visitors in Huntsville. During development of the comprehensive plan, the following set of Planning Principles were drafted to guide future planning and development of parks and recreation programs and facilities:

### Planning Principles

- All residents and visitors will have unrestricted access to public park areas and recreational facilities regardless of their age, gender, race, income, cultural background, housing environment, or handicap;
- Public recreation will be highly coordinated with other organizations and programs, including Walker County, Sam Houston National Forest, Huntsville State Park, Huntsville ISD, civic clubs, athletic organizations, private entities, and others to avoid duplication and encourage cooperation;
- Public recreation will incorporate other public services such as education, health and fitness, transportation, and leisure;
- The arts will be incorporated into the City’s park sites through partnerships with local artists and organizations;
- Facilities will be well planned and coordinated to ensure adequate adaptability to future needs and requirements;
- There will be an established process and procedure for acquiring land for future parks and recreational areas and facilities prior to development; and
- The design of spaces and facilities will encourage the most efficient utilization of land and will consider the needs, desires and opinions of the intended users.

## Methodology

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed using a three-fold technique that follows general methodologies accepted by TPWD for local park master plans and by the Department of the Interior for local park system Recovery Action Plans (RAP). The following approaches were implemented:

**1. Standard-Based Approach** – uses standards established by the City to determine the quantity of park facilities required to meet the City’s needs a given population. Standards are usually expressed as the quantity of park facilities needed to adequately serve every 1,000 citizens of the City.

Standards are established to provide the level of service that the City believes is most responsive to the amount of use and interests of its citizens. This plan establishes individual standards for the City.

**2. Demand-Based Approach** – uses public meetings, participation rates, league usage data, and surveys to determine how much the population uses and desires certain types of recreation facilities.

**3. Resource-Based Approach** – is based on the usefulness of available physical resources to provide recreation opportunities. For example, the City’s street rights-of-way, floodplains, and drainage corridors provide opportunities for trail connections.

All three methods are important in their own manner, but individually do not represent the entire picture. The assessment component of the project utilizes all three methods to determine what types of recreation facilities and park requirements are needed.

Typical assessments evaluate Level of Service (LOS). While this is important, we believe it is also critical to also understand and evaluate the Quality of Service. QOS evaluation requires

intense community involvement and yields critical information of how the facility or park amenity is performing according to the expectations of citizens overall. Quality of Service is most easily identified through conversation. Engaging park users is the most direct method of understanding the user experience for a given facility.

As national guidelines and standards are based on demographic trends rather than specific local desires, they must be fine-tuned to meet local conditions. It is important to recognize that national standards are simply guidelines or benchmarks that are intended to serve as a starting point for park planning. Each city has its own unique geographic, demographic, and socio-economic composition, and as such, the arbitrary application of national standards, as is often done, would not necessarily meet the needs of Huntsville.

### Inventory and Analysis

The inventory phase includes inspection of the City’s existing parks and recreation facilities to determine overall condition, maintenance needs, and opportunities for additions/improvements. Observations of site, equipment and facility conditions are noted.

In addition to the City’s facilities, recreational facilities provided by other entities are noted to identify service gaps, duplication of service and to gather a complete picture of recreation in Huntsville.

### Demographics, Growth and Trends

A key component of any master plan is understanding patterns of growth in the community and region. Huntsville is a mature community, positioned far enough from the Houston Metropolitan Region to limit immediate growth pressure. On the other hand, the City’s location is ideal for offering tournament opportunities for baseball, soccer or football.

Regional, state and national trends in recreation are also considered, as the types of facilities and activities desired by the public are ever-changing.

### Priority Projects and Implementation

The results of data collection, analysis and stakeholder input result in the identification of priority projects for enhancement of Huntsville’s parks and recreation system. Some of these projects are recommended to provide upgrades and improvements to existing facilities, whereas others are opportunities to add new features to the parks system that address growing needs for recreation.

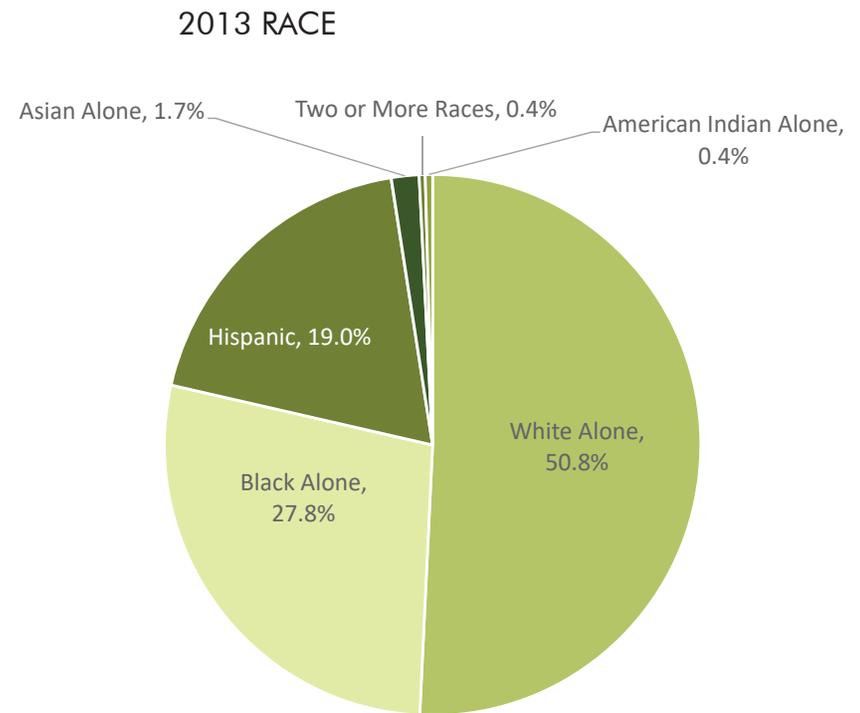
Priority Projects have been studied to determine feasibility and probable costs to the level of detail appropriate at the conceptual level. Further study during a “design development” phase with a planning and design consultant will be needed to further vet the details, programming and costs for a given project.

# Community Profile

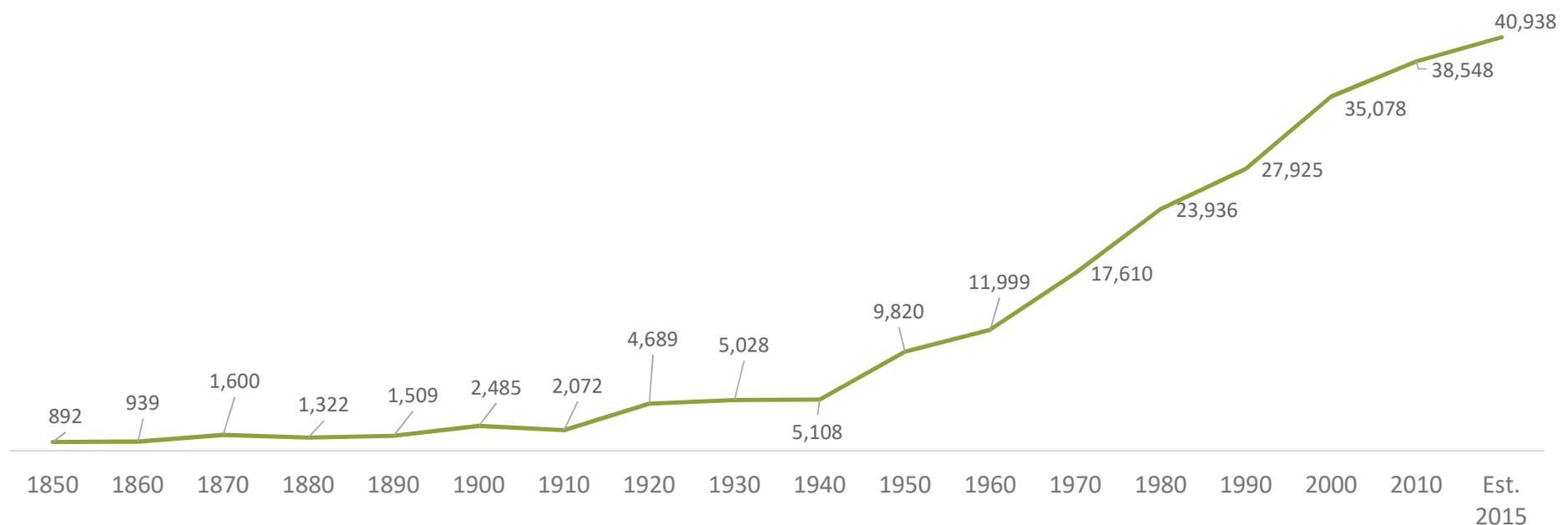
## Planning for the Future of Huntsville

The City of Huntsville, Texas is one of the oldest cities in Texas, founded in 1845. The City has rich natural and historic resources and offers a diverse range of economic and recreational opportunities. Home to Sam Houston State University, approximately 20,000 students reside in Huntsville in addition to long-term residents to a total population approximately 40,938<sup>2</sup>. The non-institutionalized population is reported to be approximately 27,312 persons.

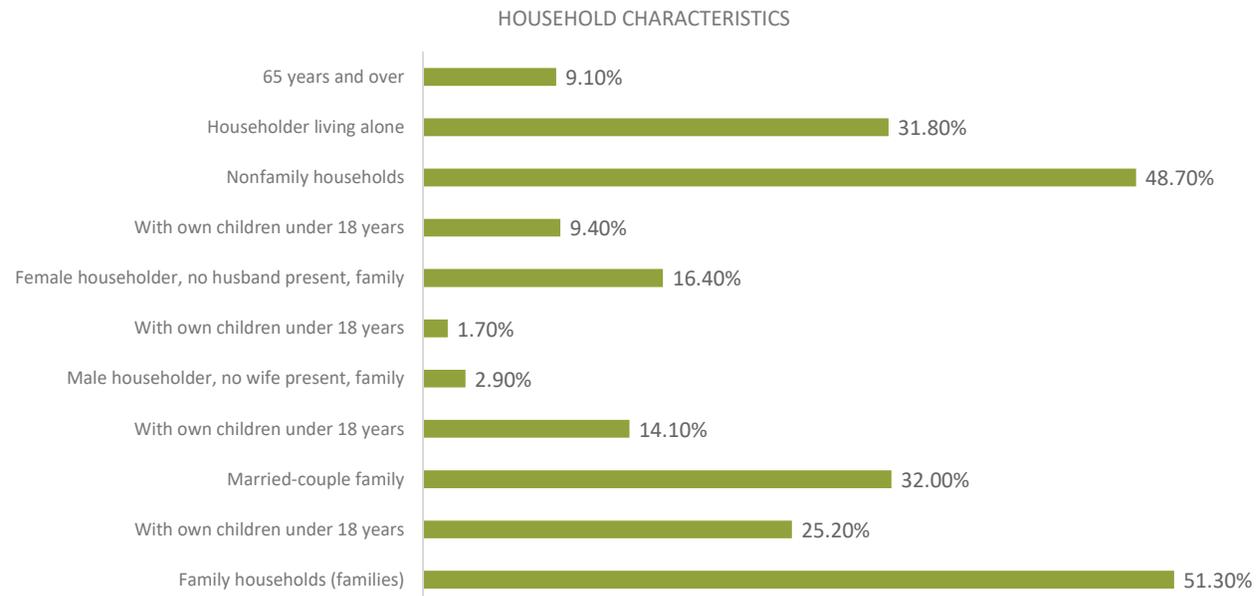
The city of Huntsville is a thriving, livable community situated in the piney wood and rolling hills of East Texas on the northern edge of the Sam Houston National Forest. The county seat of Walker County, Huntsville has presence on Interstate 45 with easy access to Houston and fast-growing suburb Montgomery County along with easy access to the Dallas metropolitan area, just 170 miles away.



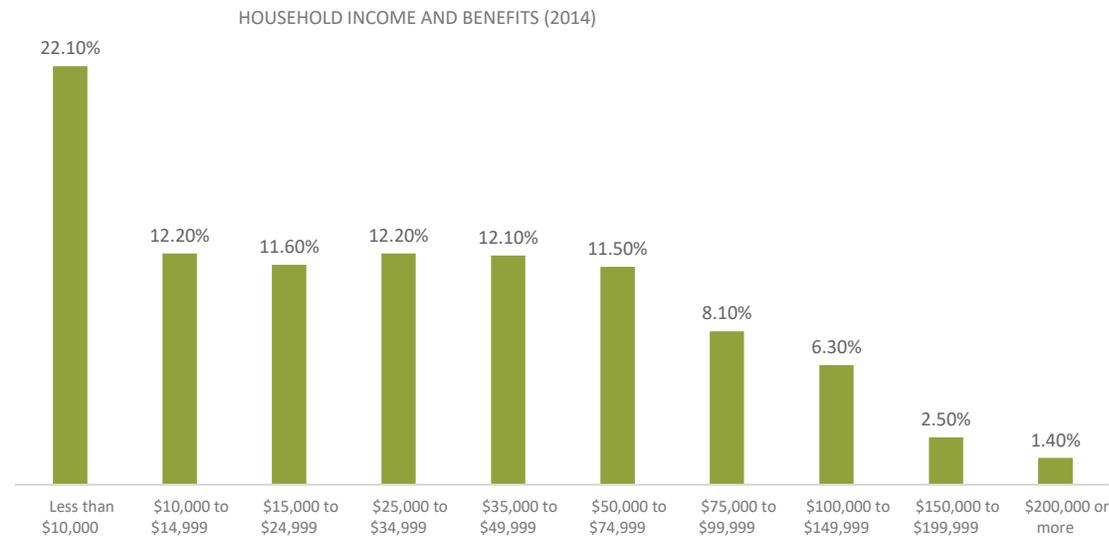
2013 Estimates, <http://www.city-data.com/city/Huntsville-Texas.html>



\*Census population estimates above include prison populations.



*U.S. Census estimates regarding household characteristics show the diversity of Huntsville. Data indicate an approximately even split between family and non-family households. This drives a need to be aware of the recreation needs of both group.*



*Huntsville's population 16 years of age and older have approximately 34.5% in the labor force, compared to the U.S. figure of 64.5%. Median household income is approximately \$29,257 in 2014. Studies have shown that parks tend to have more users in low-income neighborhoods than their higher-income counterparts.*

# Community Profile

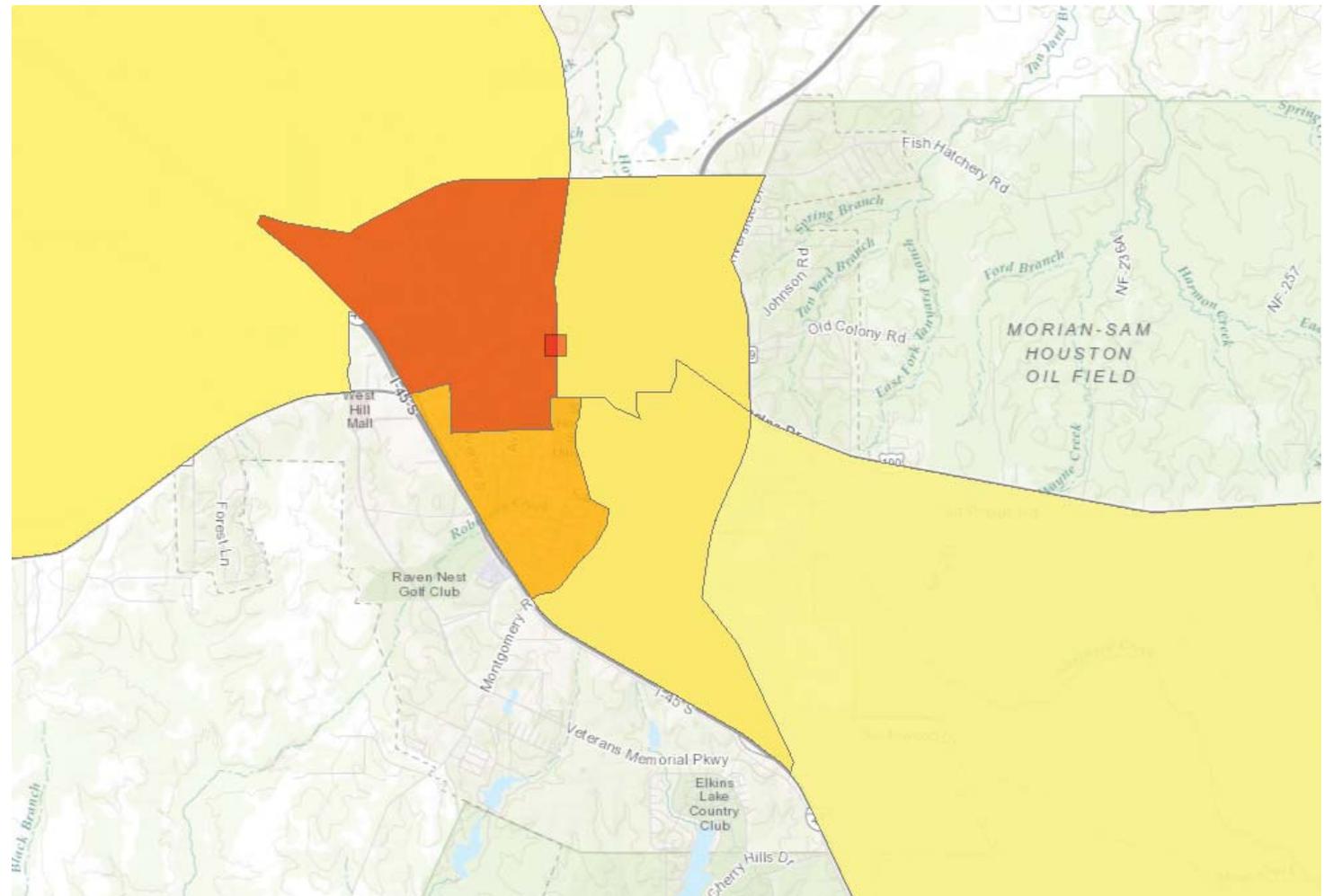
## Health and Wellness Considerations

### Food Desert

According to the USDA, limited access to supermarkets, supercenters, grocery stores, or other sources of healthy and affordable food may make it harder for some Americans to eat a healthy diet. There are many ways to measure food store access for individuals and for neighborhoods, and many ways to define which areas are food deserts—neighborhoods that lack healthy food sources. Most measures and definitions take into account at least some of the following indicators of access:

- Accessibility to sources of healthy food, as measured by distance to a store or by the number of stores in an area.
- Individual-level resources that may affect accessibility, such as family income or vehicle availability.
- Neighborhood-level indicators of resources, such as the average income of the neighborhood and the availability of public transportation.

The following maps provide a snapshot of food access conditions in Huntsville / Walker County:

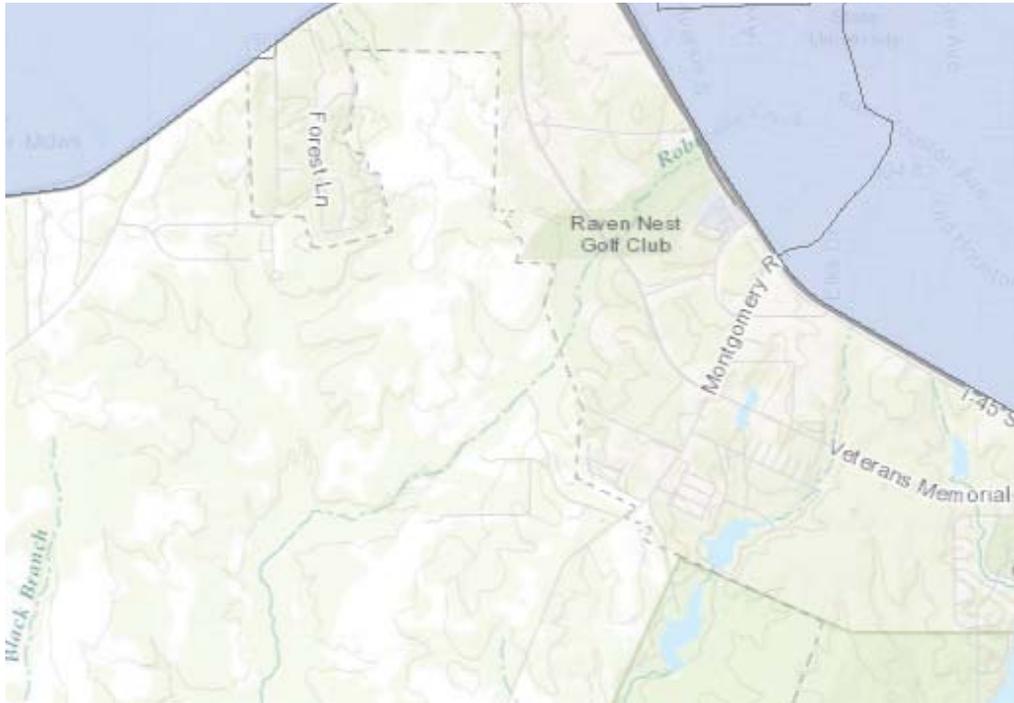


### Original Food Desert Measure

-  LI and LA at 1/2 and 10 miles
-  LI and LA at 1 and 20 miles
-  LI and LA using vehicle access

Low income census tracts where a significant number or share of residents is more than 1/2 mile or 1 (urban) mile OR 10 miles or 20 (rural) miles from the nearest supermarket.

# Inventory & Analysis 01



Low income: Census tracts with a poverty rate of 20% or higher or tracts with a median family income less than 80% for the state or metropolitan area

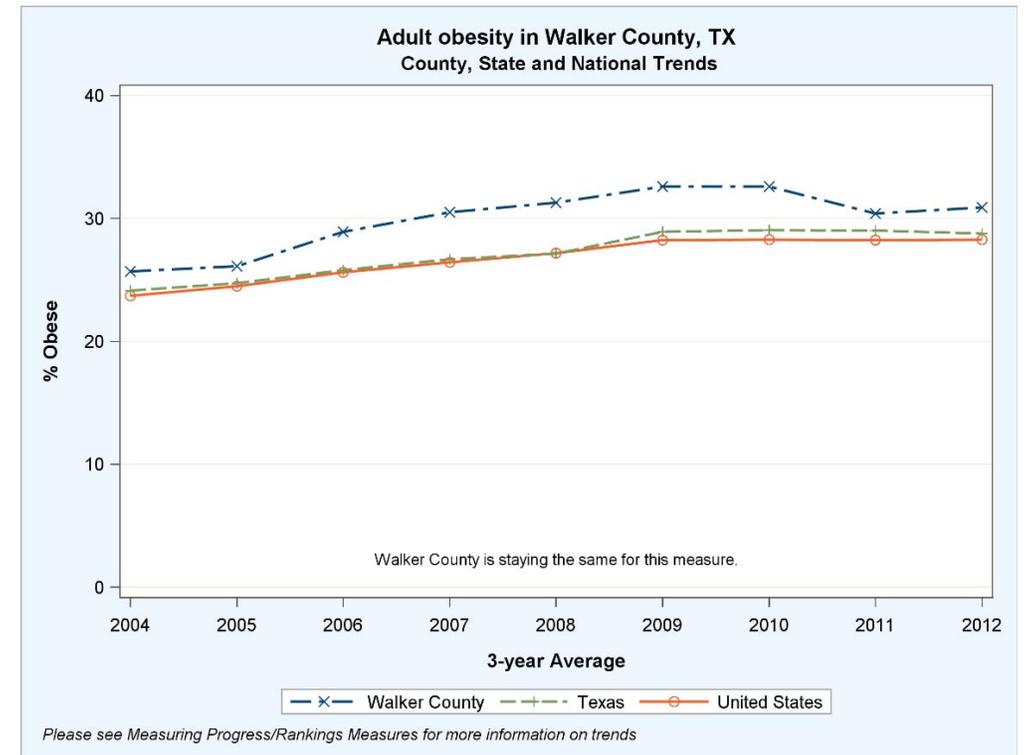
## Health And Wellness

According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Ranking, Walker County struggles with

Adult smoking

Adult obesity

Food environment index



Increasing walkability through a network of sidewalks, trails, and destinations can improve health outcomes. According to AARP and the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, “people who live in neighborhoods with sidewalks are 47 percent more likely than residents of areas without sidewalks to be active for at least 39 minutes a day.”

<http://www.walklive.org/livability-1/>

Access to healthy, safe places to be outdoors and exercise, even passive recreation, can dramatically improve community health and overall quality of life.

# The Huntsville Parks System

## Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

Huntsville maintains and operates a total of 26 park, including 70 structures ranging from field houses, restrooms and concession stands to pavilions, community center, aquatics center and a visitor's center. The parks system includes 183.2 acres of developed park space and a total of 297.6 acres of park space including the undeveloped green space properties and natural park space such as that found at Eastham Thomason Park. The park system also includes approximately 2 miles of multi-purpose trails within City parks.

Huntsville's parks are classified according to their use, relative service area, and size. Parks that are designed to serve the recreation needs for all Huntsville residents are regarded as "City Parks" and generally have a large number of features or specific use, whereas "Neighborhood Parks" are generally designed to provide playgrounds, picnic areas and open space within residential neighborhoods. Parks classified as "Passive Parks" provide cultural features such as historical monuments, or in some cases simply offer a shady, well-manicured place to have lunch. A total of 8 parks within the system are classified as "Green Space". These parks are generally undeveloped, properties that typically have trees and shrubs or other natural landscape. Most of these properties were conveyed through the City's Park Land Dedication Ordinance (see Article 19.900 Parks and Open Space) of the Code of Ordinances. Green Space parks preserve important natural areas for stormwater management, wildlife habitat, and screening of land uses. Some these properties have the potential for development into more formal park space in the future.

Park Name	Council Ward	Address	Classification	Acreage
Bayou Bend	1	97 Magnolia Way	Green Space	2.19
Bush Miller	1	546 Normal Park Dr	Passive	3.66
Forest Hills	1	130 Pine Valley	Neighborhood	0.84
John Henry Rather	1	1223 University Ave	Passive	0.71
Kate Barr Ross	1	486A SH 75 N	City	77.19
Sallie E. Gibbs	1	1227A 11th St	Passive	0.15
Thomas Clifton Gibbs	1	1890 Ave S	Green Space	4.27
Town Creek	1	1200 Ave M	Passive	0.56
Woods Addition	1	3001 Paul Knox Rd	Green Space	0.62
Emma Etheredge	2	242 Autumn Rd	Neighborhood	13.89
Montgomery Road	2	2533 Sam Houston Ave	Green Space	1.30
Pine Shadows	2	3336 Knob Oaks Dr	Neighborhood	1.27
Pineview	2	2335 Ave N 1/2	Neighborhood	1.95
Smither	2	2420 Ave S	Green Space	0.60
Thomas Henry Ball (Josey)	2	2250 Sam Houston Ave	City	9.84
West Hill	2	139 Col Etheredge Blvd	Green Space	3.75
Boettcher Mill	3	101 Boettcher Mill Rd	Neighborhood	0.63
Eastham-Thomason	3	1500 7th St	City	143.53
Emancipation	3	300 Martin Luther King Jr Dr	City	8.80
Founders Spring	3	1000 University Ave	Passive	0.28
Gillaspie	3	890 Ave I	Passive	0.45
New Addition	3	1249 Goodrich Dr	Neighborhood	6.70
Raven Terrace	3	671 SH 30 E	Green Space	2.74
Sam Houston Statue	4	7600 SH 75 S	Passive	10.82
Sandbrook	4	3166 Clay Cir	Neighborhood	0.50
Shady Acres / Elks	4	698 Vicki Dr	Green Space	1.32
				298.58

# Inventory & Analysis 01

## Park Distribution

The distribution of parks throughout a city greatly determines the frequency of use and accessibility of parks by residents and visitors. Parks classified as “City” parks aim to serve the entire community rather than just a neighborhood, therefore a central location is ideal. Also of consideration is the expected service area of a park. “Neighborhood” parks are ideally accessible within a 1/4 mile or 5-minute walk, whereas “City” parks serve an area within 1-mile or a 5-minute drive. The map to the left shows the classification of Huntsville’s parks along with each park’s service area radius. Notably, the areas of the community west of Interstate 45 have fewer parks due to a lower demand in those neighborhoods. As the City continues to grow, it will be important to ensure that underserved neighborhoods are not left behind.

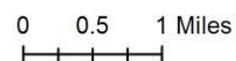


### Legend

#### PARKTYPE

- City
- Green Space
- Neighborhood
- Passive
- Service Area

Classification	Service Area
City Park	1 Mile
Neighborhood Park	1/4 Mile
Passive Park	1/2 Mile
Green Space	1/4 Mile



# Standards Analysis

## National Standards and Level-of-Service

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) published *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines* which includes criteria for the provision of parks and recreation facilities and open space. The criteria are based on a national survey of municipalities of all sizes and geographic regions.

These standards offer guidance to municipalities for parks and recreation planning. The NRPA offers these standards and guidelines as a starting point and benchmark for communities to plan from. As with all communities, Huntsville has unique characteristics that require consideration of local demand for parks and recreation facilities that reflects the values and interests of residents in addition to the recognized standards.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends creating a park classification system that categorizes parks based on use, size, and service area. Examples include Neighborhood parks with 1/4 mile service areas (5-10 minute walk) versus City parks with 1 mile or more in service area.

NRPA Recommended Acreage		
	Low	High
NRPA Recommended Acreage	6.25	10.5
Huntsville Developed Park Needs	170.7	286.776
Huntsville Developed Park Supply	183.2	
Huntsville Greenspace (acres)	114.4	
Huntsville Total Park Space (acres)	297.6	
*acreage reported from City GIS		
*Non-Institutionalized Population	27,312	

Level of Service Compared to Other Cities (in order of Level of Service)			
City	Developed Park Acreage	Acres per 1,000 Residents	Population
GALVESTON	1010.67	20.14	50,180
GEORGETOWN	756.00	11.87	63,716
PFLUGERVILLE	500.00	8.75	57,122
CEDAR PARK	500.00	7.58	65,945
HUNTSVILLE	183.20	6.70	27,312
FRIENDSWOOD	234.00	6.03	38,800
ALVIN	127.85	5.28	24,236
LA PORTE	178.00	5.06	35,148
CONROE	325.00	4.74	68,602
DEER PARK	139.36	4.35	33,806
PEARLAND	458.40	4.21	108,821
SAN MARCOS	246.00	4.05	60,684
STAFFORD	32.63	1.77	18,459
*POPULATIONS REPORTED FROM US CENSUS QUICKFACTS OR CITY WEBSITES			

*Using the NRPA recommended acreage for population, the above table offers a comparison of Huntsville's Level of Service compared to other parks cities' parks systems.*

## Comparison of NRPA Standards for Selected Facilities in Huntsville

FEATURE	CURRENT QUANTITY	NRPA STANDARD (UNITS PER POPULATION)	CURRENT NEED BASED ON POPULATION
PLAYGROUNDS	10	1 PER 2,000	15
BASKETBALL COURTS	4	1 PER 5,000	6
SHELTER/PAVILION/GAZEBOS	4	1 PER 2,000	15
SOFTBALL GAME FIELDS	4	1 PER 5,000	6
FOOTBALL GAME FIELDS	2	1 PER 4,000	7.5
BASEBALL GAME FIELDS	5	1 PER 5,000	6
SOCCER GAME FIELDS	8*	1 PER 10,000	3
SWIMMING POOLS	1	1 POOL PER 20,000	1.5
MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL SYSTEM	0	1 MILE/3,000	10
SKATE PARK	0	1 PER 100,000	0.3
TENNIS COURTS	0	1 PER 2,000	15
VOLLEYBALL COURT	2	1 PER 5,000	6
RACQUETBALL COURTS	0	1 PER 20,000	1.5
*Number of fields varies depending on age group and marked dimensions			

*The standards established by the NRPA were once the primary factor in determining adequate park space for a community. Current recommendations are to use these standards only as a benchmark while determining the appropriate amount of park space for a specific community. For Instance, although the standards calls for a total of 15 tennis courts given Huntsville's population, survey and stakeholder meetings did not reveal a demand for tennis courts.*

# Parks and Facilities Inventory

## Current Park and Facility Amenities

Park Name	Address	Classification	Acreage	Maintenance Level	RESTROOM	PAVILLION	PICNIC AREA	PLAY MODULE	SWING-SET
Bayou Bend	97 Magnolia Way	Green Space	2.194	Medium					
Boettcher Mill	101 Boettcher Mill Rd	Neighborhood	0.632	Medium - High			X	1	
Bush Miller	546 Normal Park Dr	Passive	3.662	Medium - High		1	X		
Eastham-Thomason	1500 7th St	City	143.530		2	1	X	2	1
Emancipation	300 Martin Luther King Jr Dr	City	8.801	Medium - High	1	1	X	2	2
Emma Etheredge	242 Autumn Rd	Neighborhood	13.886	Medium - High			X		1
Forest Hills	130 Pine Valley	Neighborhood	0.840	Medium - High			X	1	2
Founders Spring	1000 University Ave	Passive	0.282	High					
Gillaspie	890 Ave I	Passive	0.450	High			X		
John Henry Rather	1223 University Ave	Passive	0.709	High			X		
Kate Barr Ross	486A SH 75 N	City	77.190	Medium - High	4	1	X	2	1
Montgomery Road	2533 Sam Houston Ave	Green Space	1.297	High					
New Addition	1249 Goodrich Dr	Neighborhood	6.704	HISD	P				
Pine Shadows	3336 Knob Oaks Dr	Neighborhood	1.266	Medium - High			X		1
Pineview	2335 Ave N 1/2	Neighborhood	1.952	Medium - High			X		
Raven Terrace	671 SH 30 E	Green Space	2.737	Very Low					
Sallie E. Gibbs	1227A 11th St	Passive	0.153	High					
Sam Houston Statue	7600 SH 75 S	Passive	10.821	High	1				
Sandbrook	3166 Clay Cir	Neighborhood	0.502	Medium - High			X		1
Shady Acres / Elks	698 Vicki Dr	Green Space	1.320	Low					
Smither	2420 Ave S	Green Space	0.605	Low					
Thomas Henry Ball (Josey)	2250 Sam Houston Ave	City	9.844	Medium - High	P		X	1	1
Thomas Clifton Gibbs	1890 Ave S	Passive	4.267	Medium			X		
Town Creek	1200 Ave M	Passive	0.565	High			X		
West Hill	139 Col Etheredge Blvd	Green Space	3.754	Low					
Woods Addition	3001 Paul Knox Rd	Green Space	0.622	Low					

298.58

\*P = Portable Toilet

X = Feature(s) Available

# Inventory & Analysis 01

BASKETBALL	SOCCER	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	FOOTBALL	VOLLETBALL	AQUATICS	DOG PARK	TRAIL	GREEN SPACE	CULTURAL	DISC GOLF	PARKING
									X			
								X				
1	P	P			1	1	X	X	X		X	50
1	P	P			1							40-50
												10
												5
										X		5
										X		X
1	8	5	3	2								360
									X			
	P											
							X					5
									X			
									X			
									X	X		
1			1									60
									X			
								X		Amphithe- ater		60
									X			
									X			

# Parks and Facilities Inventory

## League Sports in Huntsville

Huntsville is home to a population of very active children and adults engaged in a variety of sports and activities. The City recognizes the need to support active lifestyles by providing both the quantity and the quality of facilities necessary to accommodate current and future demands.

Soccer, Football and Baseball/Softball stand out as the most widely popular sports with youth and adult leagues playing games at Kate Barr Ross Park and Josey Park. All league sports have reported continued growth of their programs and a desire to have upgraded and/or additional facilities. Sports in Huntsville are managed by the leagues, with the City providing facilities and maintenance.

### The Kate Barr Ross Sports Complex

The existing sports complex is a well-used facility that provides 8 fields for tee-ball, baseball & softball, 2 football fields and multi-age soccer fields. The facility includes bleachers, restrooms, concessions, field houses, scorer's stands, and batting cages. Additional amenities include playgrounds, a pavilion/gazebo with barbecue pit, and picnic areas. Kate Barr Ross serves as the primary location for community events such as Independence Day celebrations, Movies in the Park, and many more.

Tournament activity at Kate Barr Ross is very limited due to the age of facilities. Most tournament play by local leagues involves significant travel. The City staff has expressed a goal of providing high quality facilities for local sports, but also would like to be able to host tournament play in the future.

The sports fields, support facilities and other park amenities at Kate Barr Ross are in varied condition and age. Some improvements have been made through league funds, and others by the City. Recent upgrades included the addition of 2 football fields and associated concession to provide a new home for

the Huntsville Youth Football League. Discussion with HYFL representative indicate that they are excited to play their first season at the new fields and look forward to the addition of lighting in the near future.

### Thomas Henry Ball “Josey” Park

Josey Park serves primarily as the home of Huntsville’s adult softball activity. The Huntsville Men’s Softball League is highly active with a total of 8 teams and 96+ players. All games are played at Josey Park, thereby creating high demand on the existing facilities. Discussions with staff and league indicate the need for at least one additional field to support the program. Overall, the facilities are functional but aging at Josey Park and could benefit from some improvements to lighting system, parking lot, dugouts and bleachers.



*Softball field at Josey Park. The Huntsville Men’s Softball League is comprised of 8 teams with at least 96 players and reports the need for an additional game field.*

### Current Sports Rosters

League	Roster
Huntsville Girl’s Softball Association	14 Teams
Huntsville Men’s Softball League	8 Teams
Huntsville Youth Baseball League	25 Teams
Huntsville Youth Football League	120 Players
Huntsville Youth Soccer Association	7 Teams
Huntsville Lakers (Swim Team)	Not Available
Huntsville Little Dribblers	N/A



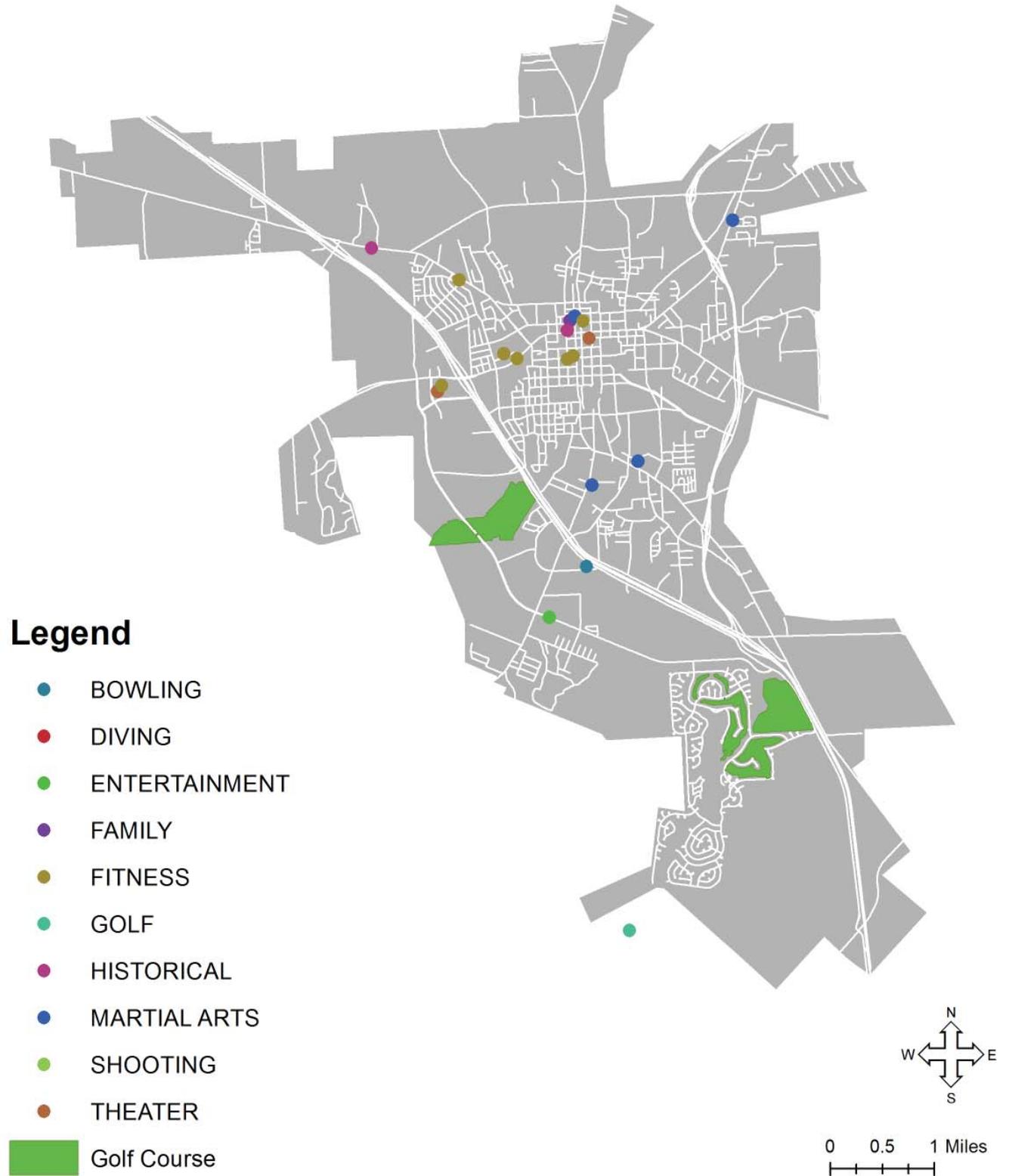
## Recreation by Others

When evaluating the level of service provided by the City's Parks and Recreation Department, it is important to consider the facilities and services provide by private organizations, businesses, and other entities. Identifying the location and availability of these facilities and services can help to locate areas in need of additional recreational opportunities. To the right is an inexhaustive list of recreation facilities and services provided by other entities in and around the Huntsville area:

NAME	ADDRESS	TYPE
Snap Fitness	130 Colonel Etheredge Blvd., Huntsville, TX, 77340	Fitness
Iron Works Health Club #1	1702 11th Street, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Fitness
Iron Works Health Club #2	123 American Bank Street, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Fitness
116 Boxing Club	1212 14th Street, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Fitness
J-Zone Paintball	1920 Veteran's Memorial Parkway, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Entertainment
Huntsville Family YMCA Teen	1216 10th Street, Huntsville, TX, 77320	Family
Curves	279 State Highway 75 North, Huntsville, TX, 77320	Fitness
Huntsville Hospital Wellness Center	1963 Memorial Parkway, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Fitness
Dragon's Temple Kung Fu San Soo	1780 Hwy 30 E. Huntsville, TX, 77340	Martial Arts
Huntsville School of Karate	597 Palm St, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Martial Arts
Reeder's Kung Fu School	927 Sam Houston Ave, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Martial Arts
CrossFit Stars and Bars	929 University Ave, Huntsville, TX,	Fitness
Huntsville Lanes	663 I-45 South, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Bowling
Cinema 10	3 Financial Plz, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Theater
H.E.A.R.T.S. Veteran's Museum of Texas	463 Hwy 75 N, Huntsville, TX, 77320	Historical
Town Theater	1023 12th St, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Theater
Gaertner Performing Arts Center	1900 Ron Randleman Blvd, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Theater
Gibbs-Powell Home Museum	1228 11th Street, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Historical
The Blue Lagoon	649 Pinedale Rd, Huntsville, TX, 77320	Diving
Huntsville Innovative Fitness	3011 TX-30, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Fitness
Nautilus Health Center	123 American Bank St, Huntsville, TX, 77320	Fitness
Fitbody Studio	1404 Avenue M, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Fitness
Taekwondo Action Center	2505 Lake Rd, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Martial Arts
Raven's Nest Golf Course	457 N Fwy Service Rd, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Golf
Country Campus Golf Course	3312 TX-19, Huntsville, TX, 77320	Golf
Able's Sporting	357 Farm to Market 1791, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Shooting Sports
Possum Walk Hunting and Shooting	10 Bowden Rd, Huntsville, TX, 77340	Shooting Sports
Texas National Tactical	31 Wallace Rd, Huntsville, TX, 77320	Shooting Sports



# Inventory & Analysis 01



# Demand **Assessment**



01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Inventory & Analysis	Demand Assessment	Walkability	Programs & Events	Natural Resources	Priority Projects	Park Profiles

# Stakeholder Input

## Parks Master Plan Survey

The City of Huntsville began an extensive citizen outreach program in June of 2015 to identify priorities for parks and recreation in the forthcoming master planning process. The outreach program involved a series of group meetings and an online survey. Group meetings ranged from 6 to 51 participants and were held at the following locations:

- City Hall
- City Service Center
- Chamber of Commerce,
- Katy E. and Don Walker Education Center
- Sam Houston State University,
- Golden Corral and
- Grand Buffet

Groups engaged during the outreach program included:

- Chamber of Commerce
- Rotary Club
- Lions Club
- Optimist Club
- SHSU Student Government Association
- Huntsville Girls Softball Association
- Huntsville Lakers Swim Team
- Huntsville Little Dribblers
- Huntsville Youth Baseball Association
- Huntsville Youth Football Association
- Huntsville Youth Soccer Association
- City of Huntsville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Top Large-Scale Projects	Responses that "Strongly Agree" or "Agreed" as Priority
Recreation Center	67%
Sports Complex	63%
Additional Trails	58%
Soccer/Football Fields	49%
Indoor Basketball Court	44%
Water Park	43%
Baseball/Softball Fields	41%
Indoor Pool	39%
Skate Park	34%

**43% of survey participants stated that our recreation programs were as good as, or better than other cities; while 19% stated they were not as good as in other cities.**

**46% of survey participants believe that Huntsville's parks are not as good as other cities.**

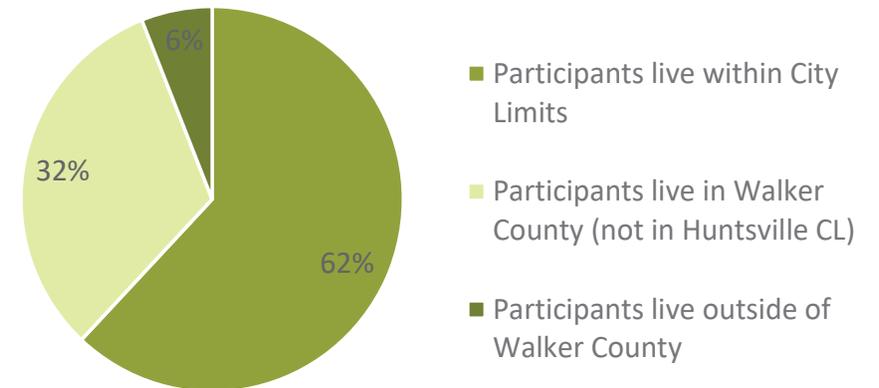
**48% of survey participants agreed or strongly agreed that the City of Huntsville needs more parks.**

**61% of surveyed participants agreed or strongly agreed that the City of Huntsville needs more Recreation Programs.**

# Demand Assessment 02

Top 5 Project Comparisons	% Chosen Over Another Project
Recreation Center	67%
Sports Complex	58%
Additional Trails	51%
Ball Fields	56%
Indoor Basketball Court	41%

Residency of Survey

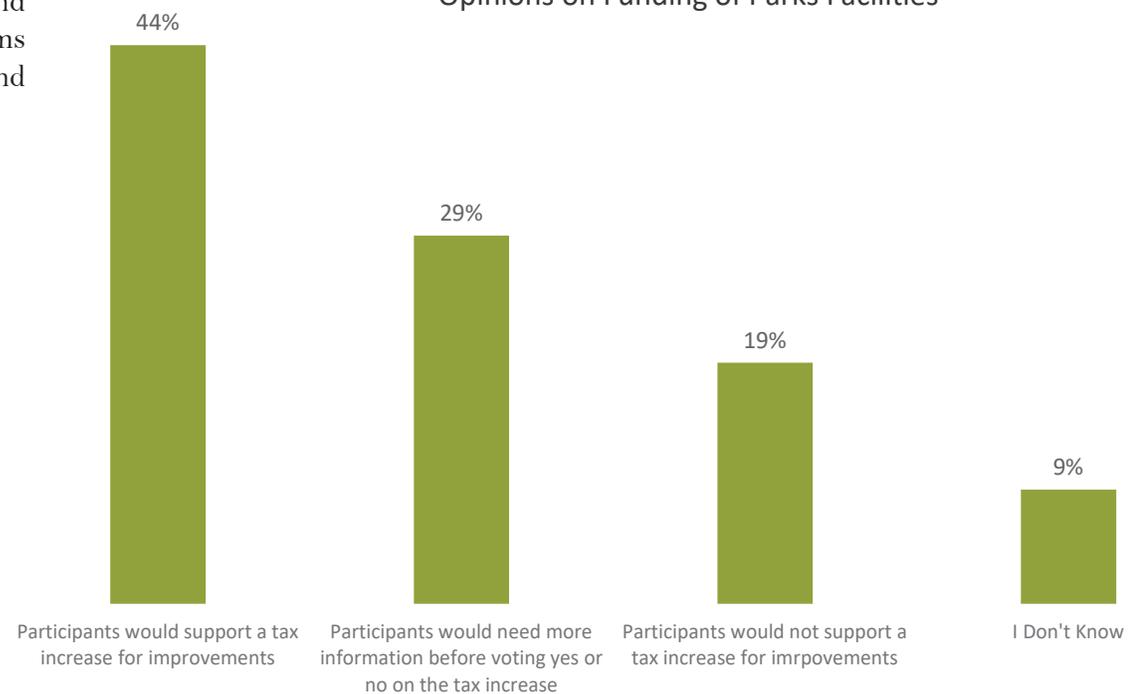


61% of survey participants agreed or strongly agreed that our City parks need more amenities such as gazebos, picnic tables, dog parks, etc..

## 2015 Online Survey

The City conducted an online survey to identify priorities for the parks and recreation system. Participants were asked to rate recreation programs and parks, compare them to other cities, prioritize large-scale projects, and provide preferences when projects were compared against each other.

Opinions on Funding of Parks Facilities

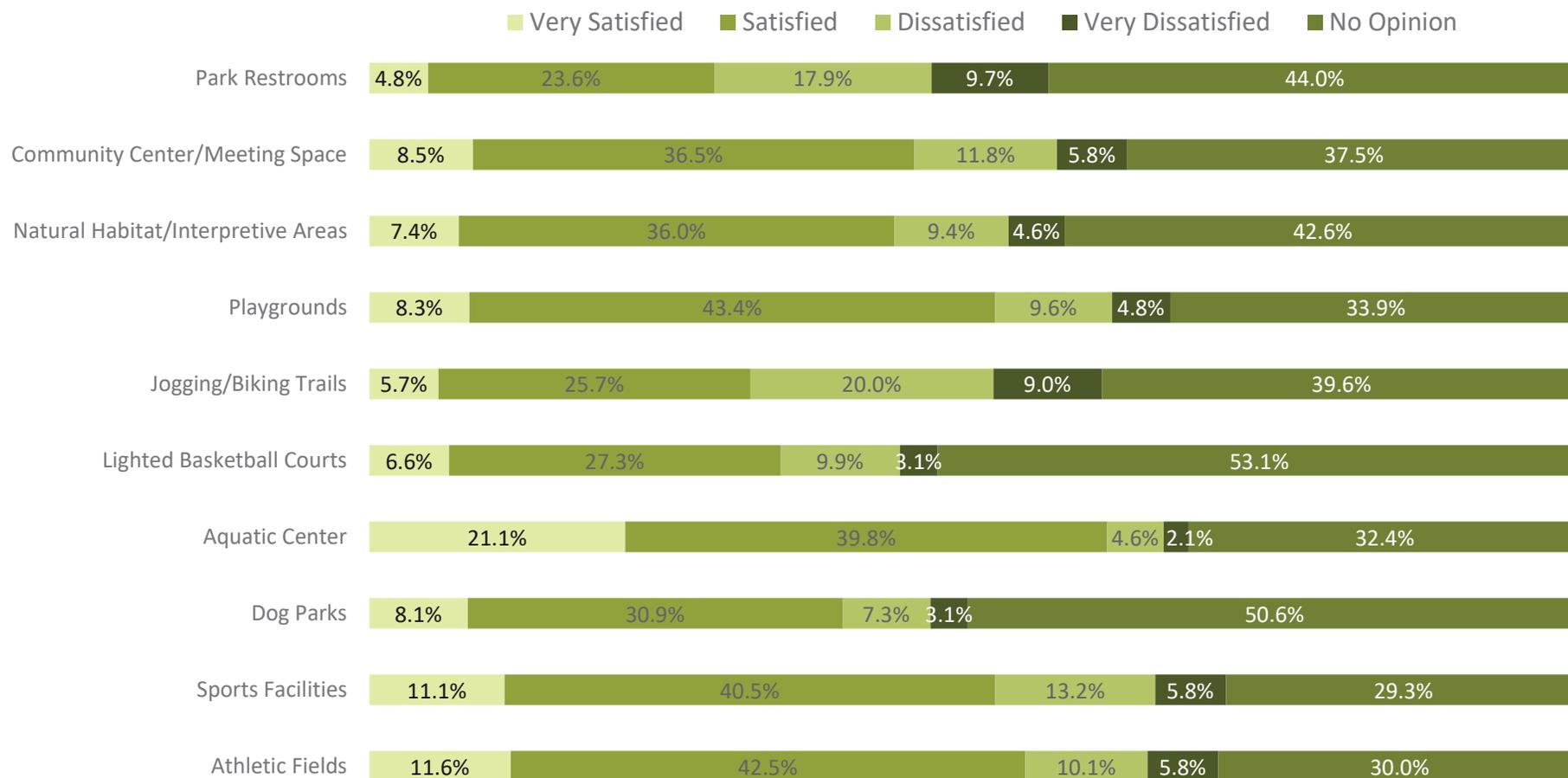


# Additional Stakeholder Input

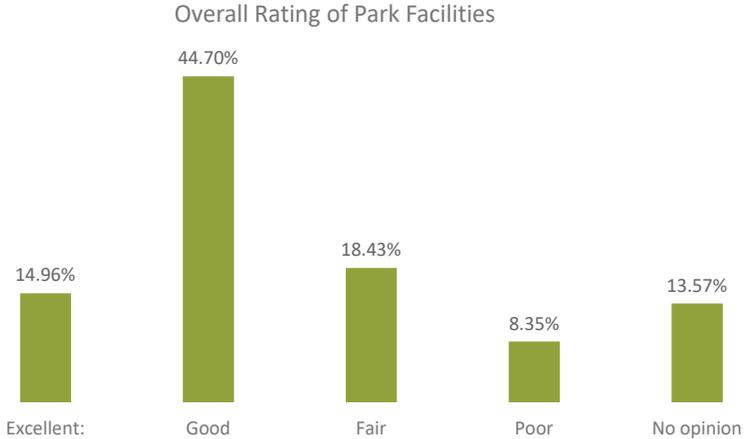
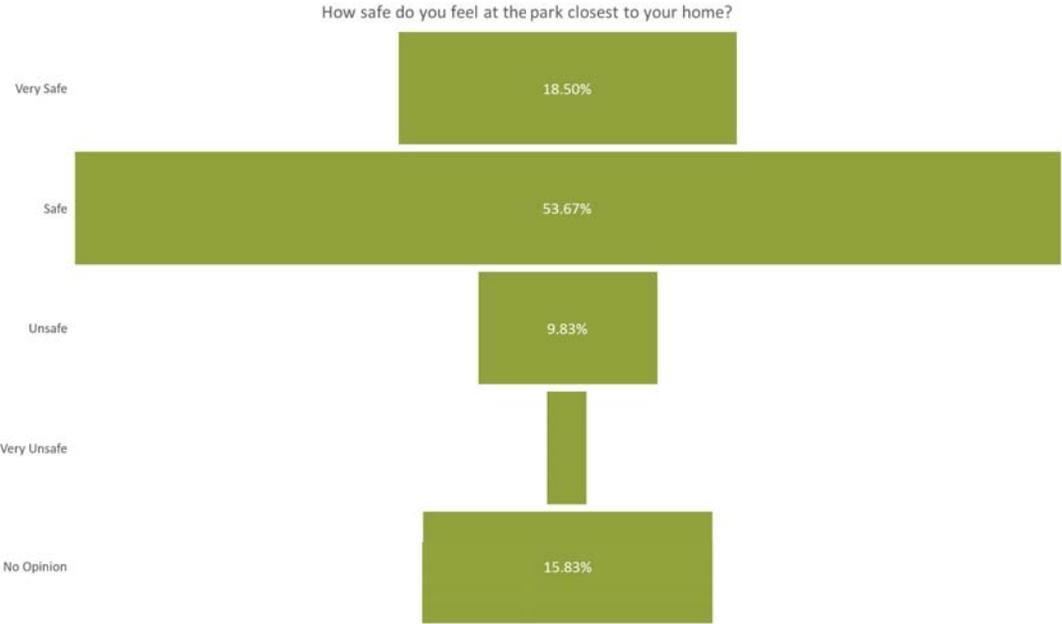
## 2012 Community Survey

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the number and condition of the following recreational opportunities in the City?

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the number and condition of the following recreational opportunities in the City?



# Demand Assessment 02



# Walkability



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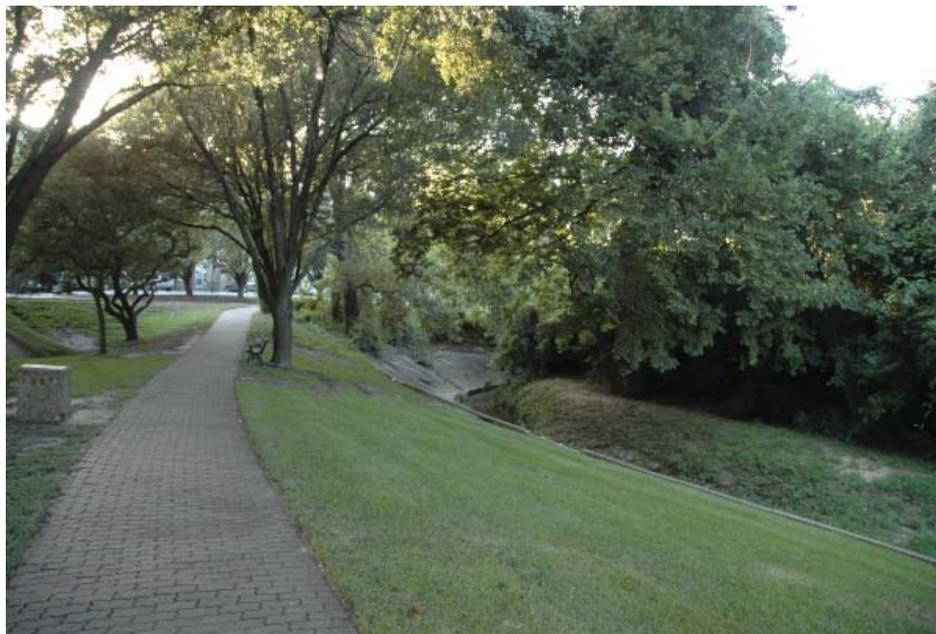
# Walkability 03



*Existing sidewalks along Veteran's Memorial Parkway, as well as the roadway, are a regular route for joggers. The west side of the road has significant right-of-way that could accommodate a wider, multi-purpose trail that would provide safe access for bicycles and pedestrians.*



*The Town Creek Trail within Eastham Thomason Park offers pedestrian recreation in a natural environment. This trail lets park visitors experience the forested environment and the scenic Town Creek that runs throughout the City of Huntsville.*



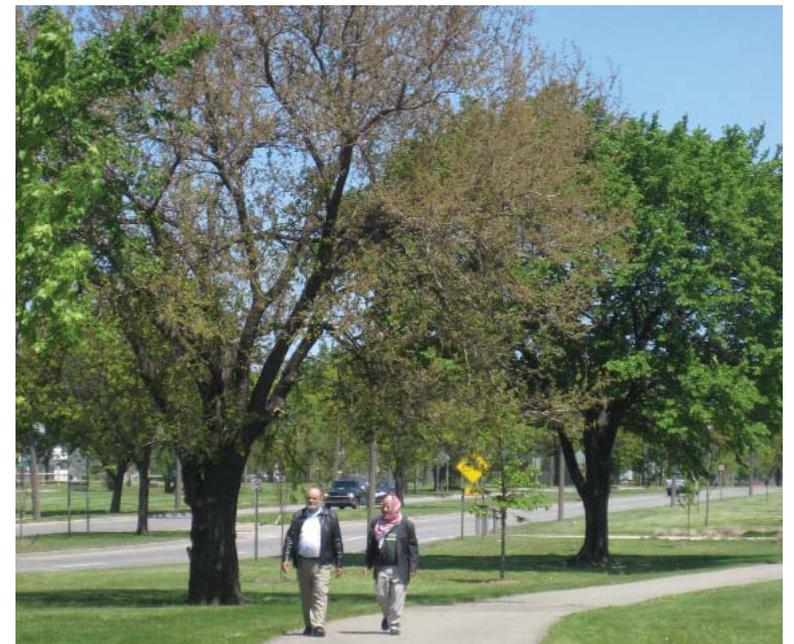
*The City Hall property provides a brick paved trail along a section of Town Creek. This pathway connects Avenue N to Avenue M, and a pedestrian bridge allows access to the adjacent Town Creek Park; a popular stop for food truck dining.*



*The 140 mile long Lone Star Hiking Trail is a popular recreation route that runs through the Sam Houston National Forest. A LSHT trailhead is located along Interstate 45 on the south side of town.*

## Planning for Walkability

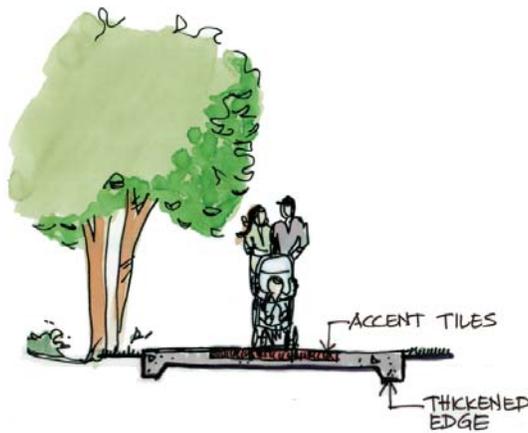
Existing bike route along Normal Park Drive (above and below) is identified by periodic signage along the street.



# Walkability 03

With 58% of survey respondents asking for more trails, it's important to consider a range of pedestrian and bicycle route opportunities. Bike lanes have been proven to work well even in the most urbanized environments with proper design, marking, and signage. Pedestrian connections should include opportunities to connect people to places as well as provide for more passive use such as exercise and nature appreciation.

“A pedestrian-friendly corridor linking SHSU to downtown will add character and help to define a distinct and unique district while encouraging both students and residents to walk more”  
- HGAC Housing & Economic Development Case Study | Huntsville, Texas



# Planning for Walkability

## Enhanced Photo Concepts



*Veterans Memorial Parkway has the opportunity to incorporate a wide multi-purpose trail with enhanced landscape and shade trees.*



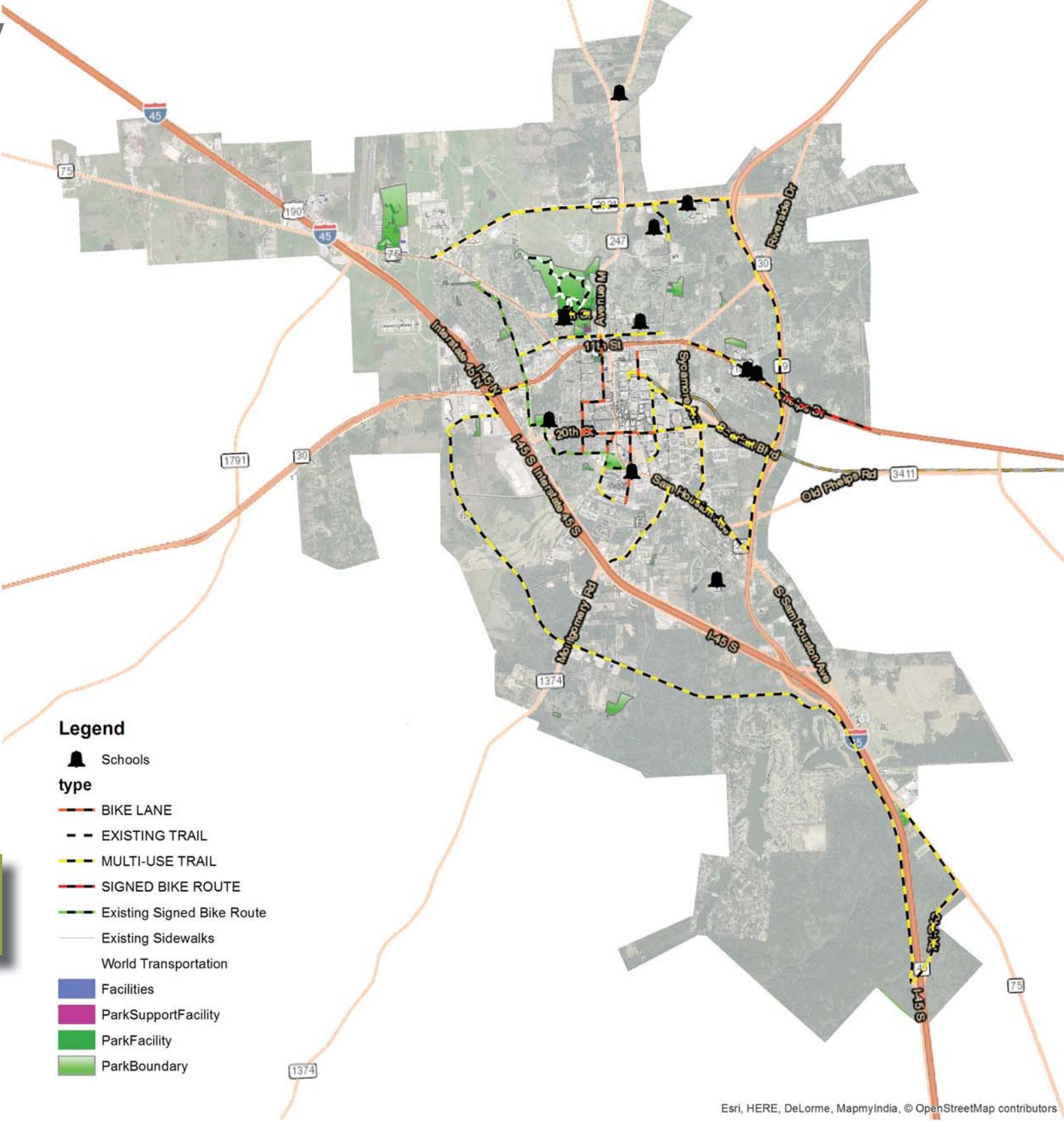
*20th Street towards Bowers Blvd. opportunity with asphalt bike path and enhanced landscape.*



*I-45 South Feeder Road wide multi-use asphalt trail to connect to existing trail head into National Forest.*

## Planning for Walkability Proposed Trail System

The proposed trail system for Huntsville pedestrian and bicycle recreation and transit seeks to work with the existing sidewalks and constraints of existing rights-of-way. Routes were identified that create connections between neighborhoods and living centers with parks, commercial areas, and the University. Bike lanes were identified along routes where sufficient right-of-way appeared to exist, but where off-street pathways were not feasible. Multi-use trail routes were established where space was adequate. A total of 3.03 miles of bike lanes are planned and 24.65 miles of multi-use trails.



**Investment Per Household:**  
\$45 to \$113 per year  
(depending on property value)

- Legend**
- Schools
  - type**
  - BIKE LANE
  - EXISTING TRAIL
  - MULTI-USE TRAIL
  - SIGNED BIKE ROUTE
  - Existing Signed Bike Route
  - Existing Sidewalks
  - World Transportation
  - Facilities
  - ParkSupportFacility
  - ParkFacility
  - ParkBoundary



Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors



## Planning for Walkability Pedestrian Roots of the City Center

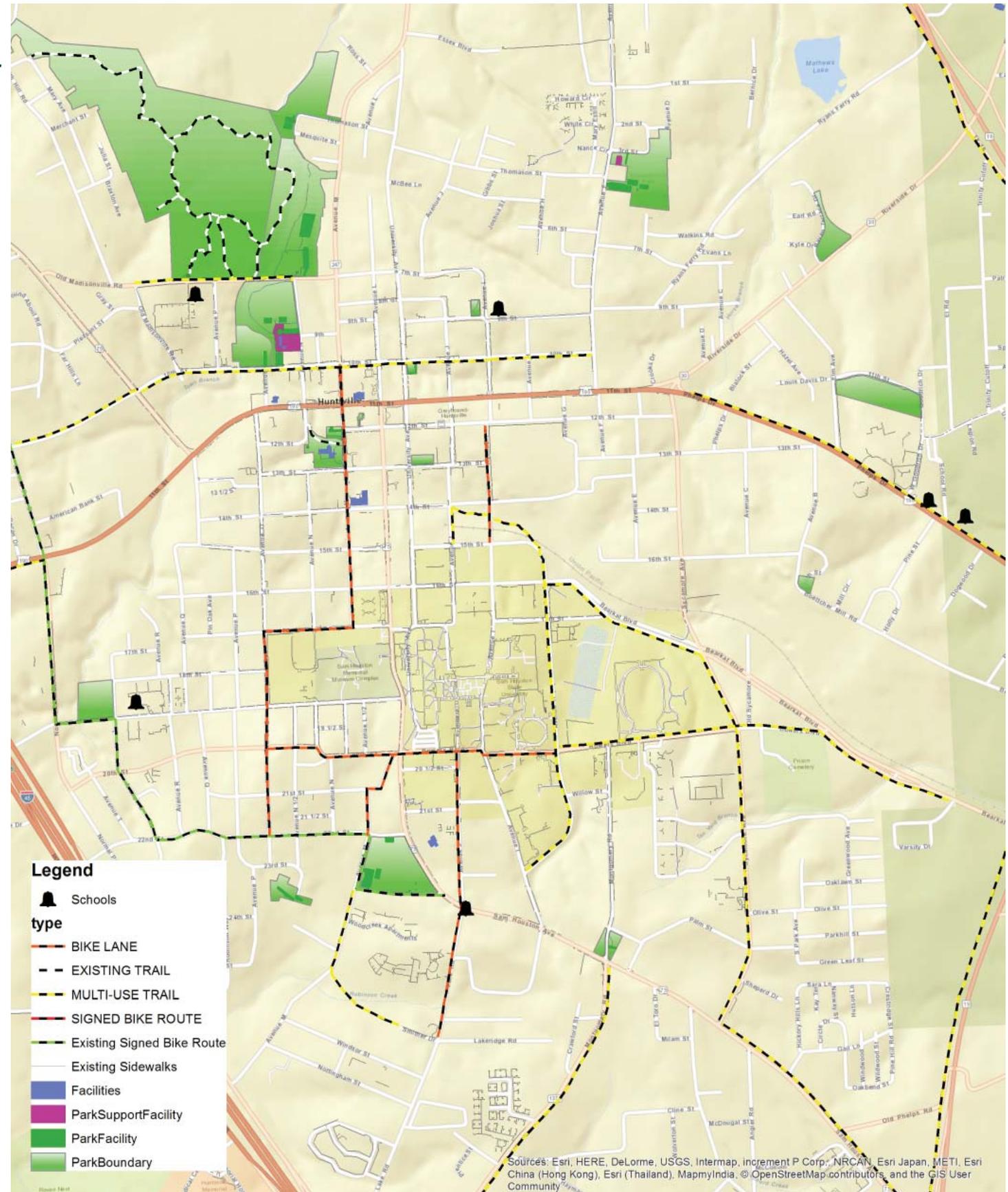
The City of Huntsville has approximately 109 of existing sidewalks, many of which are located in and around Downtown and the surrounding areas. The highest volumes of pedestrian and bicycle traffic tend to occur near Sam Houston State University with students travelling between residential dormitories and apartments to the University and nearby commercial areas. The proposed trail system has identified routes that seek to connect the residential areas in the core of the community with target locations such as schools, parks and shopping areas.

### Constraints

The developed, urbanized nature of the City's core creates some constraints when planning and designing pedestrian routes due to location of existing buildings, available rights-of-way, utilities, trees and other obstacles. The proposed trail system utilizes existing sidewalks and rights-of-way where feasible to lessen the challenges associated with land acquisition and redevelopment of pavement. Some roadways are better suited to bike lanes rather than multi-purpose trails.

### Bike Lane Considerations

Bike lanes can provide a highly effective means of transportation and recreation within an urbanized area. The City of Austin, Texas has successfully implemented bike lanes in much of their downtown and areas surrounding the University of Texas. The success of the bike lane program in Austin was due to the heavy use of signage, lane marking, physical barriers (where appropriate) and education of the public.



# Planning for Walkability

## Proposed Trail System Statement of Probable Costs 5/1/2015

City of Huntsville  
 Proposed Trail System  
 Opinion of Probable Costs

9/30/2016

Project Total  
 \$9,604,960

	Item / Description	Material	Qty	Unit	Unit Costs	Total Costs
1	Path					
	10TH STREET	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	65,018	SF	4.50	\$292,583
	11TH STREET	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	24,425	SF	4.50	\$109,914
	7TH STREET	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	23,094	SF	4.50	\$103,921
	AVENUE I	BIKE LANE, PAINTED	1,384	LF	2.00	\$2,769
	AVENUE I 1/2	BIKE LANE, PAINTED	1,155	LF	2.00	\$2,309
	AVENUE J	BIKE LANE, PAINTED	3,378	LF	2.00	\$6,756
	AVENUE J	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	5,198	SF	4.50	\$23,389
	AVENUE M	BIKE LANE, PAINTED	6,590	LF	2.00	\$13,180
	AVENUE M	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	11,418	SF	4.50	\$51,380
	BEARKAT BLVD.	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	58,468	SF	4.50	\$263,106
	BOBBY K. MARKS DRIVE	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	48,859	SF	4.50	\$219,865
	BOWERS BLVD.	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	25,218	SF	4.50	\$113,481
	BOWERS BLVD.	BIKE LANE, PAINTED	3,517	LF	2.00	\$7,033
	COL. ETHERIDGE BLVD.	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	26,295	SF	4.50	\$118,328
	FM 2821	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	176,751	SF	4.50	\$795,379
	I-45 FEEDER	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	189,289	SF	4.50	\$851,799
	MLK JR.	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	23,779	SF	4.50	\$107,004
	MONTGOMERY RD.	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	57,648	SF	4.50	\$259,418
	PARK ROAD 40	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	63,836	SF	4.50	\$287,263
	PELLIPS DRIVE	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	59,117	SF	4.50	\$266,026
	PELLIPS DRIVE, 1 sign per mile	SIGNED BIKE ROUTE	4,739	LF	0.75	\$3,554
	PINE SHADOWS	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	19,405	SF	4.50	\$87,323
	SAM HOUSTON PKWY.	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	40,756	SF	4.50	\$183,403
	SMITHER R.O.W.	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	13,417	SF	4.50	\$60,378
	STATE HIGHWAY 19	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	209,438	SF	4.50	\$942,473

# Walkability 03

	STATE HIGHWAY 75	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	54,450	SF	4.50	\$245,027
	SYCAMORE AVENUE	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	53,860	SF	4.50	\$242,371
	TOWN CREEK	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	13,576	SF	4.50	\$61,092
	VETERAN'S MEMORIAL DRIVE	MULTI-USE TRAIL, CONCRETE	298,499	sf	4.50	\$1,343,246
	Base Construction Cost					\$7,063,769
	Site Grading; excavation, rough grading, fine grading		1	allow		
6	General Conditions, Contingency and G.C. Markup					7,063,769
6.1	10% Contingency					706,377
6.2	12.5% G.C. Markup, Overhead and Profit					882,971
	Total Construction					8,653,117
7	Pre-Development					\$951,842.86
7.1	Surveying (1%)					86,531
7.2	GeoTech (1%)					86,531
7.3	Professional Service Fees (9%)					778,781
	Total Opinion of probable Costs					\$9,604,959.74

# Programs & **Events**



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# Community Events

## Bringing the Community Together

Community events and programs in Huntsville are available year-round from a variety of organizations and entities. The focus of this section is events and programs offered through or supported by the City Parks and Recreation Department, Huntsville Main Street, the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce. The following lists are not exhaustive, but provide a glimpse into the entertainment and recreation opportunities available.

Special Events: The following list is a sampling of the special events held in Huntsville throughout the year. As a thriving, engaged community and the home to Sam Houston State University, there is always something to do in Huntsville:

- Haunted Hayride at Kate Barr Ross Park, hosted by the City Parks and Recreation Department
- Scare on the Square, Downtown, hosted by Huntsville Main Street
- Fair on the Square, 1st Saturday in October, Downtown, hosted by the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce
- Fourth of July Fireworks at Kate Barr Ross Park, hosted by the City Parks and Recreation Department
- Huntsville Music Festival – every April in Rather Park (corner of 13th Street and University Avenue), hosted by Huntsville Main Street
- Huntsville Downtown Farmers Market, Saturdays in October and November, hosted by Huntsville Main Street
- Wine Down, Shop Small – Downtown in May, hosted by Huntsville Main Street

### City of Huntsville Programs:

- 4th of July Celebration
- Movies in the Park
- Dance Fitness Classes
- Holidays Around The World
- Haunted Hay Ride

### Huntsville Public Library Programs

- Comic Book Club
- Classes and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for all ages
- Creative writing, genealogy, Spanish, gardening
- Family Movie Night
- 3D printing
- STEAM Friday
- Free dance classes for youth and tweens
- Brown Bag Lecture Series
- Story Time and Mother Goose Lapsit

### Huntsville Aquatic Center Programs:

- Water Aerobics
- Lap Swimming
- Nadadores Swim Team
- Huntsville Lakers Swim Team
- Huntsville High School Swim Team

### Special Attractions:

- Sam Walker Houston Museum and Cultural Center
- Sam Houston Statue and Visitor Center
- The Texas Prison Museum
- Wynne Home Arts and Visitor Center
- The Blue Lagoon
- Gibbs-Powell Home Museum
- H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum
- Huntsville State Park
- Museum of Texas Arts
- Museum of Texas Furniture
- Huntsville Historical Ghost Tours

# Programs & Events 04



## Trends in Recreation

### Keeping Up with the Times

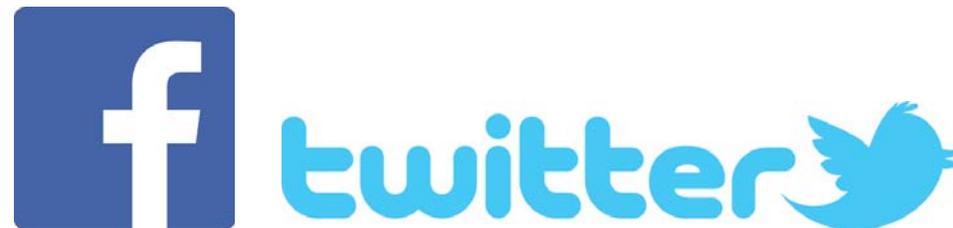
The world of parks and recreation is an ever-changing landscape. Some programs, facilities and activities remain popular through the ages, while changes in technology, interests, popular culture and local or regional demographics and economy can heavily influence the demand for certain types of programs and amenities. For instance, the “kiddie pool” has been replaced by the splash pad as the most desirable aquatics facility for young children. The standard slide and a swingset style of playground has been, if not replace, at least supplemented by the wide range of play equipment options available in the marketplace that offer enhanced play value, accessibility and attraction.

#### Current Trends

Current trends in parks and recreation across the nation are leaning towards health-oriented activities. A key factor for encouraging healthy, active lifestyles is providing access to parks and facilities.

#### Walkability

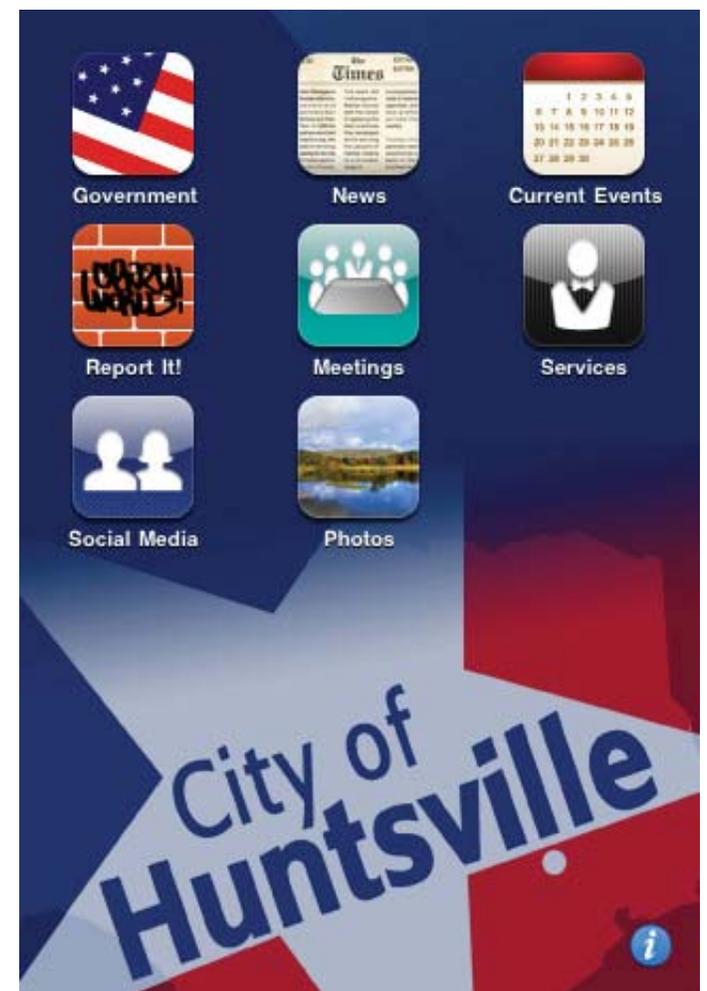
Research demonstrates that people who have easy access to parks are 47 percent more likely to walk at the daily-recommended level than those who do not have easy access. Moreover, when the distance from a park doubles, the likelihood of park use decreases by almost 50 percent.<sup>3</sup>



#### Social Media

The means by which residents and visitors find information about a city’s parks, facilities and programs is evolving. Where once the City’s website may have been the go-to portal for disseminating important information to residents, social media has rapidly become the most effective tool. The City of Huntsville has active participation on Facebook to provide updates about programs, facilities and events. Facebook and other platforms such as Twitter, Pinterest and Snapchat can provide access to a captive audience of followers to provide updates about programs and activities and promote events, with less effort than is needed to update a website. While the social media platforms change in popularity and usefulness, some important tips can help to reach users effectively and keep them engaged:

- Keep the content light - Talk more about the community and less about the City. Keeping posts brief makes them easy to read, “like” and forward to friends.
- Diversify - Maintain a variety of platforms for communication. Social media platforms can become less popular to some audiences over time.
- Keep em’ coming back - Offer incentives to keep up with the City such as occasional give-aways or prizes for participating in surveys and other activities.



*The City of Huntsville mobile app keeps residents up-to-date on current events and provides opportunities to stay engaged. Additions to the app in the future could include location-enabled functions to help users find recreation features such as trails or points of interest.*

## Art Walks & Public Art

A growing trend in communities across the country is the inclusion of the arts in parks and recreation programs. Cities are providing space and opportunities for the creation of public art in the form of sculptures, murals, decorative benches and more on city property to enhance parks and facilities. Sculptures can become play structures with proper design and consideration for safety and location. Sculptures can serve as a backdrop to other park features or as climbable elements that encourage social play and imagination. Other public art may be decorative in nature and can serve to provide insight into local culture and history. Many cities will commission artists for specific projects or even host a competition upon which a winner will have their work permanently on display at public parks or facilities.



# Natural **Resources**



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## Natural Resources

An often overlooked component of a city's parks and recreation system is the undeveloped green space. Some green spaces may be land that just hasn't been developed into a formal park or is not suited for traditional recreation uses. The City of Huntsville has a total of 16.80 acres of park land classified as "Green Space" and a total of 114.40 acres of undeveloped park space when the land at Eastham Thomason Park is included. This green space serves a variety of important uses including nature-based recreation such as bird-watching, hiking, and mountain biking, stormwater runoff reduction, filtration of stormwater sediments, capture and storage of greenhouse gases, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics. It is important to capture and preserve much of this green space as the City continues to grow and develop over time.

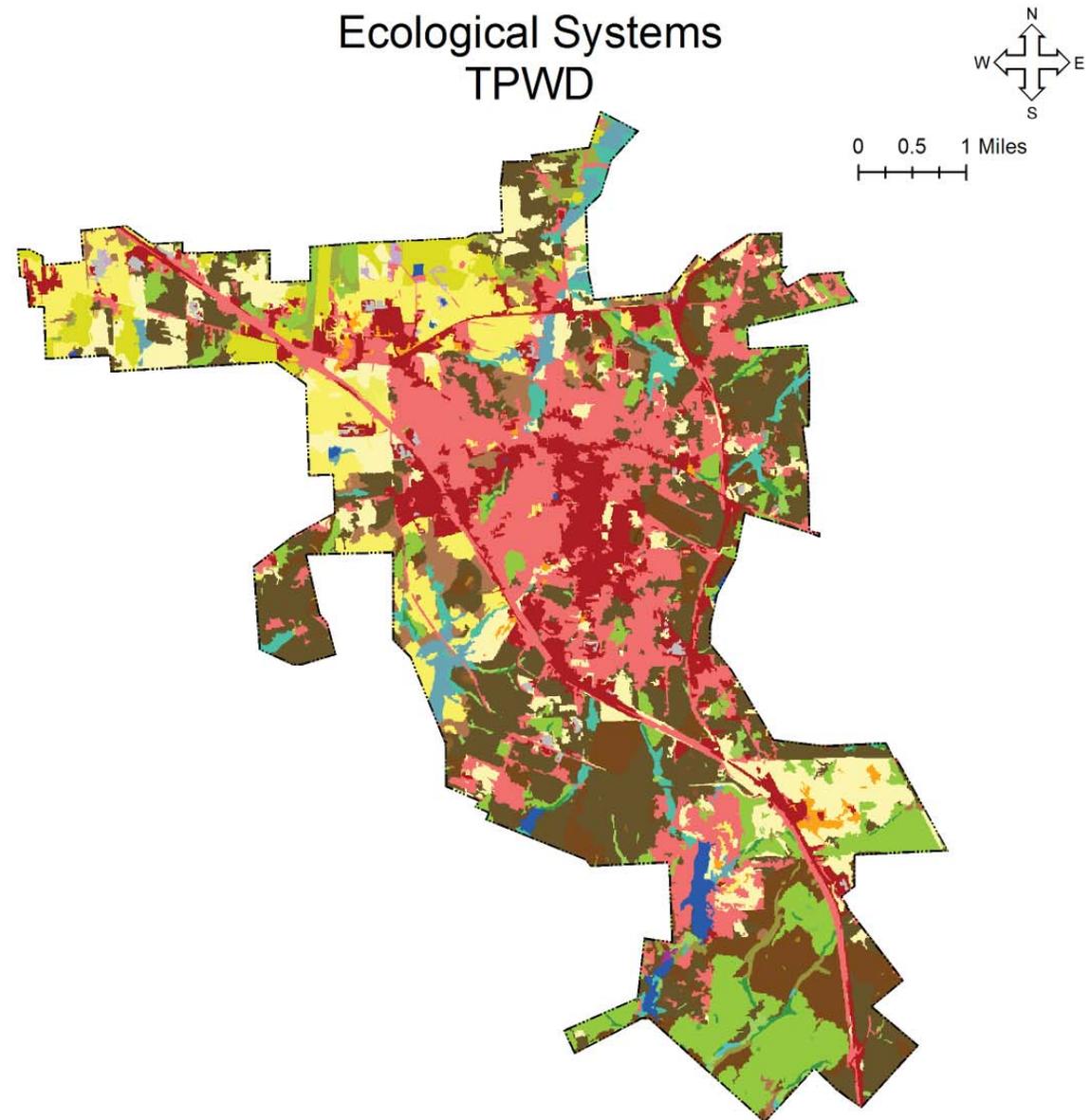
In addition to preserving natural green space, the City should consider measures for conservation of natural resources with all future design and development of park facilities. Key considerations include:

- Water Conservation
- Energy Conservation
- Stormwater Management
- Water Quality



Huntsville is located in the Pineywoods ecogregion of Texas, historically comprised of forests of mixed pine and hardwood species. Much of the native landscape remains in the Huntsville area while the core of the city has been urbanized. The natural resources of Huntsville offer rich recreation opportunities as well as providing critical ecological services such as stormwater runoff reduction, filtration of water, carbon sequestration and wildlife habitat. Huntsville is surrounded by the adjacent Sam Houston National Forest and Huntsville State Park that serve to preserve the area forests for multiple purposes including recreation, commercial forest reserves and wildlife habitat. Select park properties in Huntsville provide additional natural areas for enjoyment, screening and wildlife habitat. Some areas, such as green space parks like West Hill Park, are in floodway areas that have little potential for development but offer important protection of the floodplain from erosion and filter sedimentation from stormwater. These resources are an important and often overlooked component of the City's parks and recreation system.

## Ecological Systems TPWD



*Green space at West Hill Park provides for filtration of stormwater runoff into the stream bed that runs through the property.*

### Legend

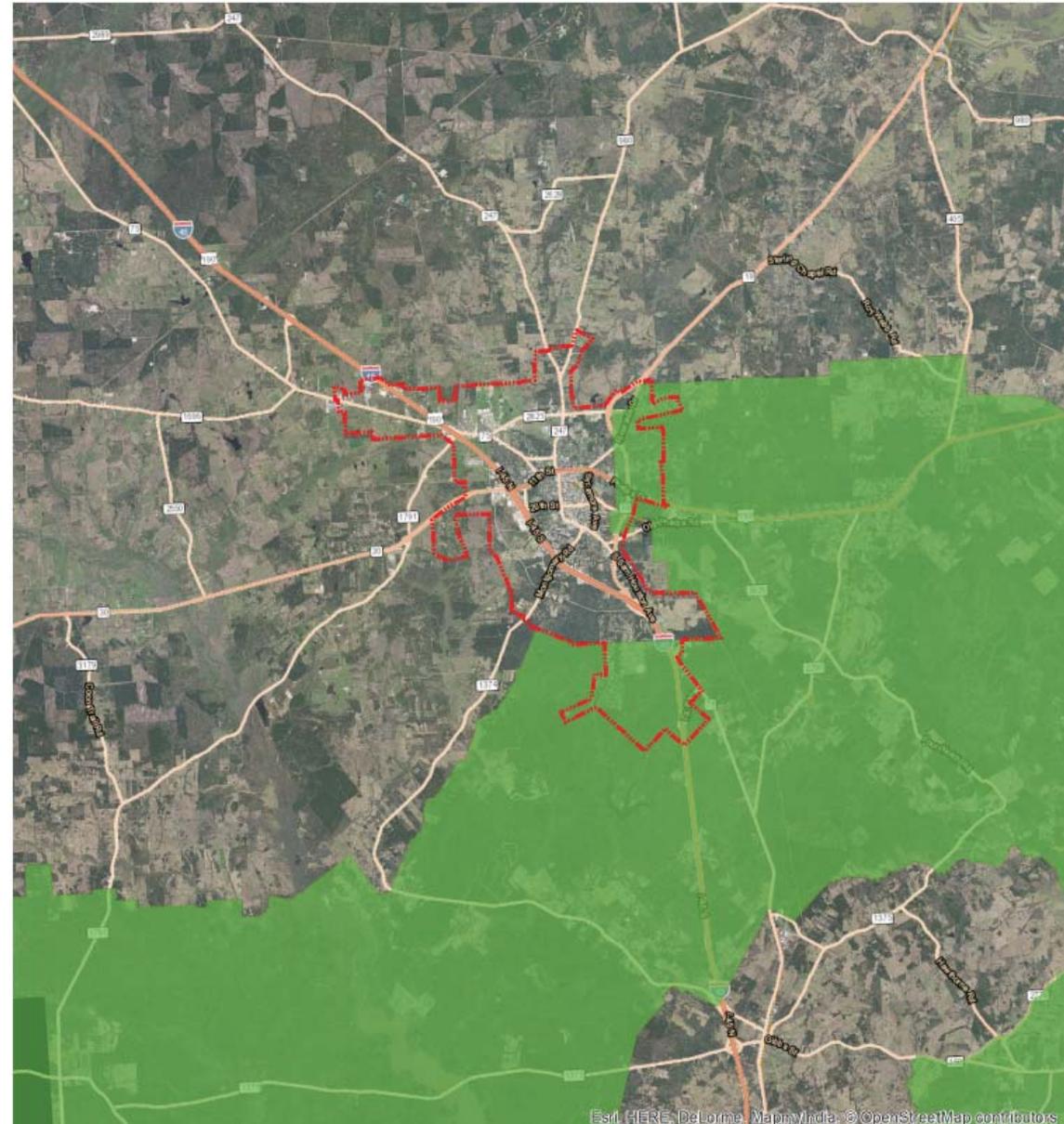
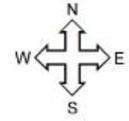
citylimitmask30mi	Pineywoods: Sandhill Oak Woodland	Native Invasive: Juniper Woodland
Post Oak Savanna: Post Oak Motte and Woodland	Pineywoods: Sandhill Grassland or Shrubland	Native Invasive: Mesquite Shrubland
Post Oak Savanna: Savanna Grassland	Pineywoods: Bottomland Temporarily Flooded Mixed Pine / Hardwood Forest	Native Invasive: Deciduous Shrubland
Pineywoods: Southern Mesic Pine / Hardwood Forest	Pineywoods: Small Stream and Riparian Temporarily Flooded Mixed Forest	Marsh
Pineywoods: Southern Mesic Hardwood Forest	Pineywoods: Small Stream and Riparian Temporarily Flooded Hardwood Forest	Barren
Pineywoods: Pine Forest or Plantation	Pineywoods: Small Stream and Riparian Herbaceous Wetland	Open Water
Pineywoods: Pine / Hardwood Forest or Plantation	Pineywoods: Small Stream and Riparian Seasonally Flooded Hardwood Forest	Row Crops
Pineywoods: Upland Hardwood Forest	Pineywoods: Small Stream and Riparian Wet Prairie	Grass Farm
Pineywoods: Dry Pine Forest or Plantation	Pineywoods: Herbaceous Seepage Bog	Pine Plantation > 3 meters tall
Pineywoods: Dry Pine / Hardwood Forest or Plantation	Pineywoods: Southern Calcareous Mixedgrass Prairie	Pine Plantation 1 to 3 meters tall
Pineywoods: Dry Upland Hardwood Forest	Blackland Prairie: Disturbance or Tame Grassland	Urban High Intensity
Pineywoods: Sandhill Pine Woodland	Pineywoods: Disturbance or Tame Grassland	Urban Low Intensity
Pineywoods: Sandhill Oak / Pine Woodland	Native Invasive: Deciduous Woodland	

## Natural Resources

### Preserving Huntsville's Natural Heritage



## Sam Houston National Forest



The Sam Houston National Forest provides 163, 037 acres of forest lands for multiple uses. Established as forest reserves by the U.S. Government, the land is accessible by the public for recreation activities ranging from hiking and camping to hunting, off-highway vehicles, fishing and more. Hikers from across the nation visit the SHNF each year to hike the Lone Star Trail which crosses through Huntsville. A trailhead along the Lone Star Trail provides access along the Interstate 45 feeder road.

## Strategies

### Low Impact Design (LID)

In a world of ever-decreasing natural resources and increasing development, it becomes important for the City to consider and adopt Low Impact Development (LID) techniques during design and construction of parks and facilities. Issues such as stormwater management, water quality, heat islands, and water conservation can be addressed through sound design principles.

Tools such as bio-retention of stormwater, bioswales, use of drought-tolerant native plant materials and rainwater harvesting can effectively be implemented in park and facility designs. Use of such tools are rapidly becoming a standard practice, and in some cases a requirement, in communities nationwide.

In addition to being a matter of good environmental stewardship, design and implementation of LID techniques in the City's projects can also improve the City's overall rating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Community Rating System. Improving the City's score with this system can result in discounted insurance rates city-wide.

### LED Lighting

An important consideration with the replacement or installation of lighting and both parks and facilities is the use of LED lighting. LED light fixtures use remarkably less energy compared to incandescent bulbs and provide costs savings as well as promote sound environmental stewardship.



*Rainwater harvesting should be considered during the development of future pavilions. The above example captures rainwater from a pavilion roof top and stores it in a 5,000 tank for use in irrigation of the park landscape.*



*LED lighting is available for replacement of existing bulbs in parks or as a complete solution when choosing light standards for new facilities. Cost savings over the long-term are significant given the low energy requirement and long lifespan of the bulbs.*



*Use of native plants within landscape areas of parking lots can aid in removal of contaminants and sediments from stormwater prior to drainage into the watershed.*



*Bioswales, similar to drainage ditches, utilize selected vegetation to filter and slow down stormwater runoff prior to its drainage into the water shed. These bioswales can be designed using native vegetation adapted to the area, requiring minimal maintenance.*

# Priority **Projects**



01

Inventory &  
**Analysis**

02

Demand  
**Assessment**

03

**Walkability**

04

Programs &  
**Events**

05

Natural  
**Resources**

06

Priority  
**Projects**

07

Park  
**Profiles**

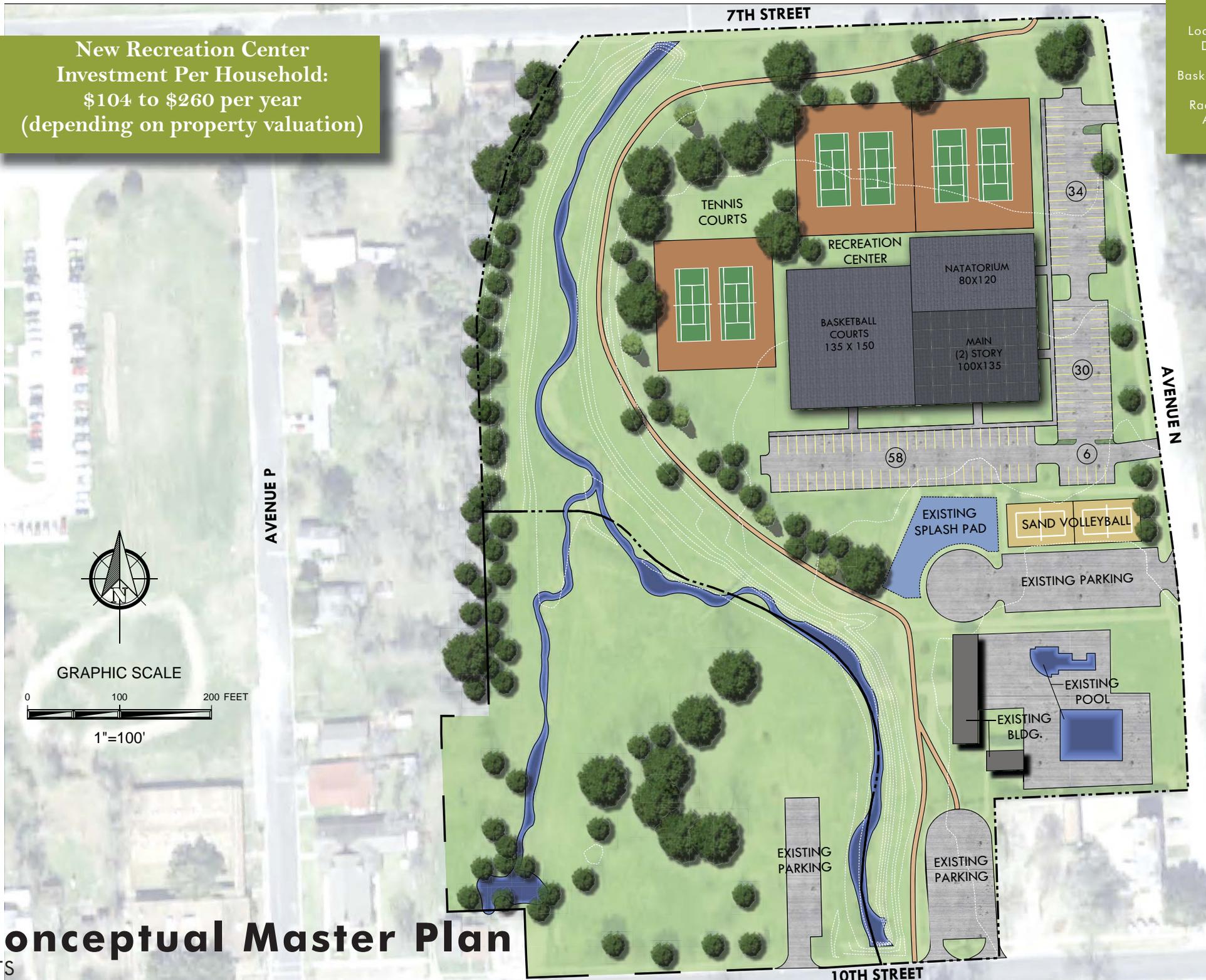
Opinion of Probable Costs					Project Total	
					Low Estimate	High Estimate
					\$13,603,997	19,659,503.00
Item / Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Costs	Total Costs Low	Total Costs High	
1	Demolition and Site Grading				25,000.00	25,000.00
1.1	Site Grading; excavation, rough grading, fine grading				25,000.00	25,000.00
2	Municipal Infrastructure				495,832.75	495,832.75
2.1	Parking Tire Stops - Precast Concrete				11,780.00	11,780.00
2.2	Parking Lots & driveways - asphalt with 6" aggregate base, 3" binder course, 1/2" wearing course	102,587	sf	3.50	359,052.75	359,052.75
2.3	Utilities-electric, water, storm drainage infrastructure				50,000.00	50,000.00
2.4	Lighting - Parking Lot				75,000.00	75,000.00
3	Outdoor Recreation					
3.1	Tennis Courts (2 courts, 127'x140' element area, 78'x36' court dimension)				41,558.40	41,558.40
4	Main Elements				9,403,845.00	14,248,250.00
4.1	Fitness/Cardio Room				-	-
4.2	Aerobic Room				-	-
4.3	Cycling Room				-	-
4.4	Natatorium (80'x120')				-	-
4.5	Activity Pool				-	-
4.6	Lockers, Showers & Dressing Areas				-	-
4.7	Saunas				-	-
4.8	Basketball Gymnasium (135'x150')				-	-
4.9	Lounge				-	-
5	Racquetball Courts				-	-
5.1	Administration				-	-
	Total Conceptual Program Area				-	-
	Total Circulation, support spaces, etc.				-	-
	Total Footprint				9,403,845.00	14,248,250.00
5	Base Cost				9,966,236	14,810,641
6	General Conditions, Contingency and G.C. Markup				2,491,559.04	3,702,660.29
6.1	10% Contingency				996,623.62	1,481,064.12
6.2	15% G.C. Markup, Overhead and Profit				1,494,935.42	2,221,596.17
7	Total Construction				12,457,795.19	18,513,301.44
8	Pre-Development				1,146,201.57	1,146,201.57
8.1	Surveying				8,000.00	8,000.00
8.2	GeoTech				5,000.00	5,000.00
8.3	Texas Accessibility Review and Inspection				4,000.00	4,000.00
8.4	Testing				8,000.00	8,000.00
8.5	Professional Services Fees (9%)				1,121,201.57	1,121,201.57
9	Total Opinion of probable Costs				13,603,996.75	19,659,503.00

## New Multi-Purpose Recreation Center Recreation Center at Eastham Thomason Park

### AMENITIES

- Fitness/Cardio Room
- Aerobic Room
- Cycling Room
- Natorium
- Activity Pool
- Lockers, Showers & Dressing Areas
- Saunas
- Basketball Gymnasium
- Lounge
- Raquetball Courts
- Administration
- Tennis

New Recreation Center  
Investment Per Household:  
\$104 to \$260 per year  
(depending on property valuation)



## Conceptual Master Plan

NTS

# Kate Barr Ross Sports Complex

## Recommended Renovation of Kate Barr Ross Sports Complex

### Cost of Ownership

As any City knows, the costs associated with capital improvements do not end with the initial investment for new facilities. Annual budgets must account for the multitude of costs including materials, equipment and labor to maintain and operate the facilities provided to the public. Huntsville currently has a total of 10 year round staff members that maintain and operate the parks and facilities, within the Parks and Recreation Department. In addition to year-round staff, 5 seasonal employees are utilized as well as 19 seasonal aquatics staff.

Some important details regarding identified "Priority Projects" remain to be worked out, as the City moves forward with implementation of a given project. Details of the "program" and design details are part of a future architectural effort beyond the scope of a master plan. Due to this fact, some general estimates for maintenance of fields, equipment, repairs and materials are provided as follows. These figures can be applied to the number of fields to be constructed to estimate the additional investment of personnel and equipment on an annual basis.

### Maintenance Costs Per Fields Per Year

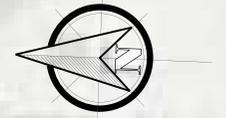
- Routine Mowing
- Fertilizing Program
- Equipment Maintenance
- Infield Repairs (pre-game smoothing assumed by leagues)
- Irrigation Repairs

**Sports Complex  
Investment Per Household:  
\$122 to \$304 per year  
(depending on property valuation)**

**Maintenance Costs Per Fields Per Year  
Baseball/Softball Fields - \$7,000 per year each  
Football/Soccer Fields - \$6,600 per year each**



# Priority Projects 06



GRAPHIC SCALE



SCALE: 1" = 200'



## Conceptual Master Plan

NTS

# Kate Barr Ross Sports Complex

City of Huntsville  
 Kate Bar Ross Park  
 Opinion of Probable Costs

9/30/2016

Project Total  
 \$19,479,193

	Item / Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Costs	Total Costs
0	Demolition and Site Grading				\$905,000
0.1	Demolition and disposal of pavements, structures, sports fields, utilities & trees	1	allow	350,000.00	350,000
0.2	Site Grading; excavation, rough grading, fine grading	1	allow	375,000.00	375,000
	Walls & Terracing	1	allow	180,000.00	180,000
1	Municipal Infrastructure				\$1,954,406
1.1	Roadway extension - 6" Concrete, fixed form, finish, 12 ft pass, 18lb steel reinforcement	3000	sf	6.00	18,000
1.2	Parking Tire Stops - Precast Concrete	1063	ea	62.00	65,906
1.3	Parking Lots & driveways - asphalt with 6" aggregate base, 3" binder course, 1 1/2" wearing course	385000	sf	3.30	1,270,500
1.4	Utilities-electric, water, storm drainage infrastructure	1	allow	250,000.00	250,000
	Lighting - Street & Parking Lot	1	allow	350,000.00	350,000
2	Path				\$1,272,800
	Concrete Walks and Plazas, 4"	201000	sf	4.50	904,500
2.2	Trails - Decomposed granite	51000	sf	3.30	168,300
	Lighting - Street & Parking Lot	1	allow	200,000.00	200,000
3	Shelter				\$2,010,000
	Highschool Complex Restroom/Concession	2500	sf	250.00	625,000
3.2	Little League Complex - move & set existing portable Restroom/Concession	1	allow	30,000.00	30,000
3.3	Soccer Complex Restroom/Concession	2500	sf	250.00	625,000
3.4	Highschool Softball Clubhouse	1	allow	450,000.00	450,000
3.5	Highschool Baseball Clubhouse (renovation)	1	allow	80,000.00	80,000
3.6	Park Pavilion	2	allow	100,000.00	200,000
3.7	Picnic Pavilion	6	allow	12,000.00	72,000
4	Play				\$7,915,000
	Championship Highschool Baseball Field w/ lighting, grass sod, irrigation, fencing, CMU backstop and netting, masonry dugouts, covered stadium style bleacher system (Cardinal Series Stadium Chairs) with masonry sponsor wall.	1	ea	720,000.00	720,000
4.2	Championship 13-14 Year Old Baseball Field w/ lighting, grass sod, irrigation, fencing, CMU backstop and netting, masonry dugouts, covered stadium style bleacher system (Cardinal Series Stadium Chairs) with masonry sponsor wall.	1	ea	635,000.00	635,000

# Priority Projects 06

Item / Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Costs	Total Costs
Championship 200 ft Softball Field w/ lighting, artificial turf, fencing, brick/cmu backstop and netting, cmu dugouts, covered stadium style bleacher system (Cardinal Series Stadium Chairs) with masonry sponsor wall.	4	ea	525,000.00	2,100,000
4.4 Championship 200 ft Baseball Field w/ lighting, artificial turf, fencing, CMU backstop and netting, masonry dugouts, covered stadium style bleacher system (Cardinal Series Stadium Chairs) with masonry sponsor wall.	5	ea	540,000.00	2,700,000
4.5 Practice Baseball/Softball Fields, backstop, natural grass	1	ea	5,000.00	5,000
4.6 Soccer Complex, grass seed fields, irrigation, lighted fields, goals, bleachers	1	ea	725,000.00	725,000
Playgrounds 2-5, 5-12, wood fiber fall surface, curbed, fence	2	allow	125,000.00	250,000
4.8 Site Amenities-benches, tables, bubblers, receptacles, bike rack	1	allow	250,000.00	250,000
4.9 Basketball Courts, concrete, finish surface, goals, striping	2	allow	40,000.00	80,000
4.10 Exiting Football Fields - 4 bleachers	1	allow	120,000.00	120,000
4.11 Covered Batting Cages - 2 lanes each, metal building, concrete slab & foundation, lights	2	allow	150,000.00	300,000
4.12 Batting Cages 24 ft x 70 ft	4	allow	7,500.00	30,000
<b>5 Site</b>				\$125,000
Landscape w/ Irrigation- trees, grass seed outside athletic fields	1	allow	125,000.00	125,000
<b>6 General Conditions, Contingency and G.C. Markup</b>				\$3,514,301.50
6.1 10% Contingency				\$1,405,720.60
6.2 15% G.C. Markup, Overhead and Profit				\$2,108,580.90
<b>7 Total Construction</b>				\$17,696,507.50
<b>8 Pre-Development</b>				\$1,782,685.68
8.1 Surveying	1	allow	25,000	25,000
8.2 GeoTech	1	allow	10,000	10,000
8.3 Texas Accessibility Review and Inspection	1	allow	5,000	5,000
8.4 Testing	1	allow	150,000	150,000
8.5 Professional Services Fees (9%)			1,592,686	1,592,686
<b>9 Total Opinion of probable Costs</b>				19,479,193

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# TH Ball “Josey” Park

## Increasing the Capacity for Adult Softball

TH Ball “Josey” Park is home to the Huntsville Men’s Softball League in Huntsville. The current program include Division C (3 teams) and Division D (7 teams), and has outgrown the capacity of the single ball field at Josey Park. The League has expressed a need for 1 additional field in order to maintain existing needs and support expansion of the program.

The current facilities at Josey Park offer a 300’ game field with fences and lighting, dugouts, bleachers and a scoreboard. The park also includes parking, a basketball court, picnic tables, a playground, and portable toilets. Also located at the park is the Josey Boy Scout Lodge that serves as the home for the local Boy Scout troop and Cub Scout pack.

The goal of any renovation of a park is to not displace any existing features and activities that are desirable in the future landscape. With this in mind, 3 concepts were developed for how an additional ball field could be added to Josey Park. In each concept, the existing Scout Lodge structures would remain, along with associated parking. The basketball court is relocated on-site in each concept as well.

### Concept A

The first concept for redevelopment moves softball-related parking to the south side of the park adjacent to a proposed restroom and concession building. This area would serve as the center of activity related to the softball games, providing access to both fields and included seating. The basketball court is moved to the northeast corner of the property close to the existing parking lot on the north boundary.

### Concept B

The second concept seeks to expand parking opportunities with a total of 70 spaces spread along a linear lot that connects Sam Houston Avenue to Avenue M. This concept provides improved traffic flow and a net increase in parking capacity.

### Concept C

The third concept for renovation of Josey Park is similar to Concept A in the placement of the ball fields, however like Concept B, does not include restrooms and concessions. Concept C provides 31 parking spaces located in a renovated and paved lot on the southwest corner of the property.

### Implementation

Renovation of Josey Park is estimated to cost residents between \$14 and \$34 per year in taxes, depending on household valuation, should the project be funded using a municipal bond. Timing of the project is critical to avoid disruption of game play during the season, as there are not current alternative locations for adult softball. It is reasonable to assume that the entire renovation from programming and design through construction documentation and buildout could be accomplished within one year.

The land at and around Josey Park is owned by the Josey Foundation and leased to the City for recreation uses. Any redevelopment of the park will require collaborating with the Josey Foundation and entering into agreement for the new construction.

**Park Renovation  
Investment Per Household:  
\$14 to \$34 per year  
(depending on property valuation)**



*View of existing parking lot at Josey Park.*



*Dugout at Josey Park. Current facilities are in good working order, but lack the capacity for desired number of teams.*

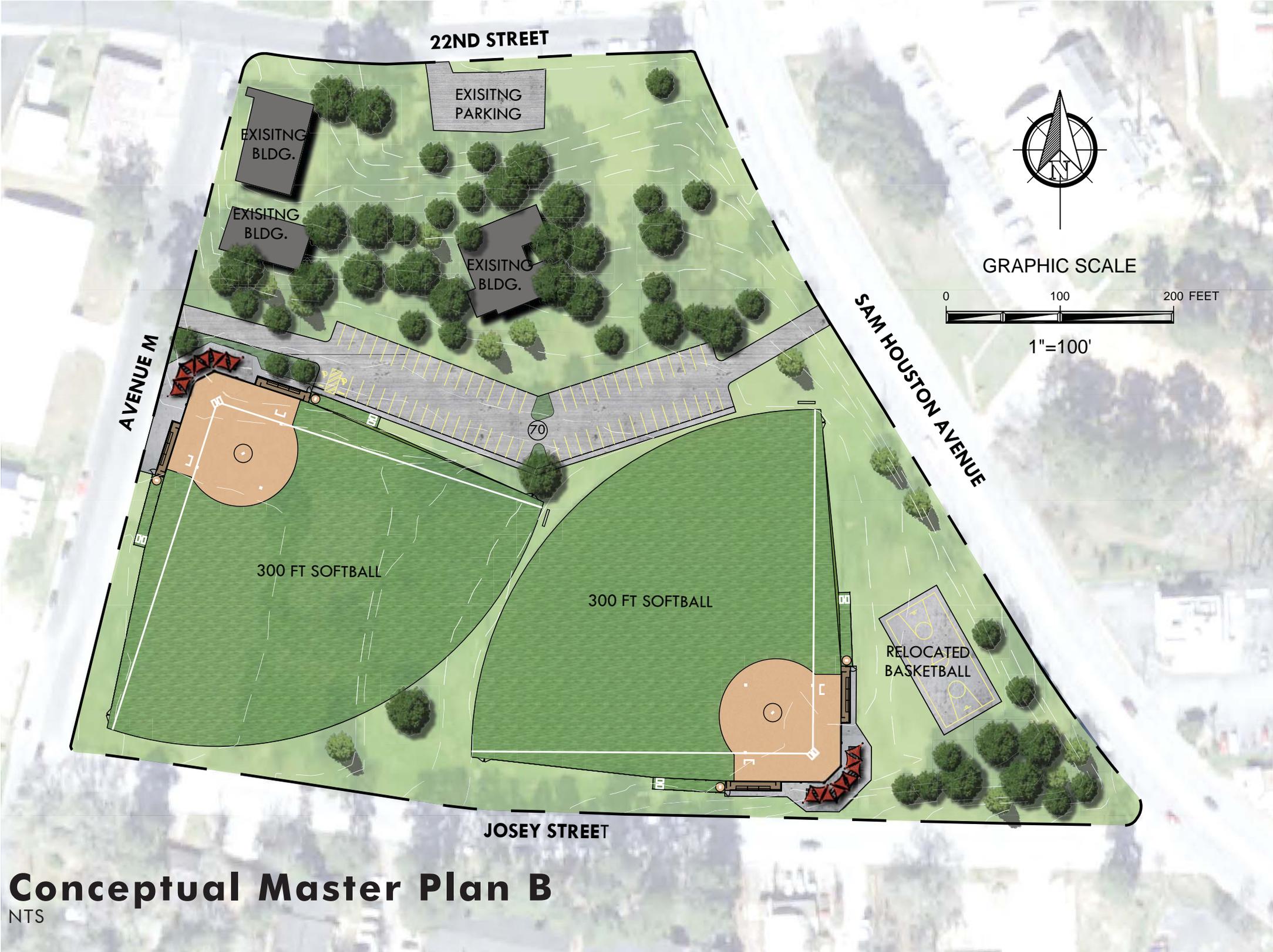
# Priority Projects 06



## Conceptual Master Plan A

NTS

# TH Ball "Josey" Park



## Conceptual Master Plan B

NTS

# Priority Projects 06



# TH Ball "Josey" Park

## Increasing the Capacity for Adult Softball

City of Huntsville  
Josey Park  
Opinion of Probable Costs

9/30/2016

Project Total  
\$2,169,318

	Item / Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Costs	Total Costs
0	Demolition and Site Grading				\$40,000
0.1	Demolition and disposal of pavements, structures, sports fields, utilities & trees	1	allow	15,000.00	15,000
0.2	Site Grading; excavation, rough grading, fine grading	1	allow	25,000.00	25,000
1	Municipal Infrastructure				\$753,240
1.2	Parking Tire Stops - Precast Concrete	70	ea	62.00	4,340
1.3	Parking Lots & driveways - asphalt with 6" aggregate base, 3" binder course, 1/2" wearing course	25400	sf	3.50	88,900
1.4	Utilities-electric, water, storm drainage infrastructure	1	allow	10,000.00	10,000
	Lighting - Parking Lot	1	allow	25,000.00	25,000
1.6	Restroom/Concession Building	2500	sf	250.00	625,000
2	Path				\$79,850
	Concrete Walks and Plazas, 4"	13300	sf	4.50	59,850
	Lighting - Street & Parking Lot	1	allow	20,000.00	20,000
3	Shelter				\$12,000
3.7	Picnic Pavilion	1	allow	12,000.00	12,000
4	Play				\$675,000
4.4	300 ft Softball w/ lighting, skinned infield, grass sod outfield, irrigation, fencing, cmu backstop and netting, cmu dugouts, bleachers	2	ea	310,000.00	620,000
4.8	Site Amenities-benches, tables, bubblers, receptacles, bike rack, drinking fountain	1	allow	15,000.00	15,000
4.9	Basketball Courts, concrete, finish surface, goals, striping	1	allow	40,000.00	40,000
4.12	Batting Cages 24 ft x 70 ft		allow	7,500.00	0
5	Site				\$25,000
	Landscape w/ Irrigation- trees, grass seed outside athletic fields	1	allow	25,000.00	25,000
6	General Conditions, Contingency and G.C. Markup				\$390,022.50
6.1	10% Contingency				\$156,009.00
6.2	15% G.C. Markup, Overhead and Profit				\$234,013.50

# Priority Projects 06

Item / Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Costs	Total Costs
7 Total Construction				\$1,975,112.50
8 Pre-Development				\$194,205.13
8.1 Surveying	1	allow	8,000	8,000
8.2 GeoTech	1	allow	2,500	2,500
8.3 Texas Accessibility Review and Inspection	1	lump	945	945
8.4 Testing	1	allow	5,000	5,000
8.5 Professional Services Fees (9%)			177,760	177,760
9 Total Opinion of probable Costs				2,169,318

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Community Center & Park Renovation  
Investment Per Household:  
\$26 to \$64 per year  
(depending on property valuation)

## Emancipation Park

### Park Improvements and Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center

Emancipation Park is a landmark in Huntsville and provides more than 8 acres of open space and recreation amenities for residents. The park offers a large covered pavilion, playgrounds, athletic practice fields, a basketball court and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. Also located on the property is the local Masonic Lodge. Overall the park is in good working condition and is used frequently by residents and visitors alike. Some features that could be added or improved upon include the need for a walking path that connects park features to the neighborhoods, a splash pad, and more parking.

The MLK, Jr. Community Center is an old building that serves as the current home of the Walker County Boys and Girls Club. On the weekends, the facility is rented for various events such as wedding receptions and parties. The Boys and Girls Club has stated that they find the community center to be inadequate in terms of space and layout. They are in need of more overall space to accommodate the approximate 125 to 150 daily visitor, as well as the need to have smaller classrooms for various activities. The community center is in aging condition and has a number of physical constraints and maintenance needs. Evaluation of the structure and its intended use has resulted in a recommendation for replacement.

A concept was developed for renovation of Emancipation Park as a whole with replacement of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. The proposed features seek to enhance the current program and use of the park and include the following:

- Expanded Parking
- New Community Center
- Walking Paths
- Splash Pad
- Community Garden

Retractable Basketball Goals in Existing Pavilion Gazebo

The total probable cost for renovation of Emancipation Park and the Community Center is approximately \$3,744,000. The Opinion of Probable Costs considered a high level of quality for all improvements and included assumptions for demolition, grading, electrical work, contractor markup, contingencies, and professional fees. The estimated cost per household for the duration of financing the park would be approximately \$26 to \$64 per household valuation (\$100k-\$250k taxable value).

# Priority Projects 06



## Conceptual Master Plan

NTS

City of Huntsville  
 Emancipation Park  
 Opinion of Probable Costs

9/30/2016

Project Total  
 \$3,744,185.23

	Item / Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Costs	Total Costs
0	Demolition and Site Grading				\$22,000
0.1	Demolition and disposal of pavements and structures	1	allow	10,000.00	10,000
0.2	Site Grading; excavation, rough grading, fine grading	1	allow	12,000.00	12,000
1	Municipal Infrastructure				\$90,646
1.2	Parking Tire Stops - Precast Concrete	58	ea	62.00	3,596
1.3	Parking Lots & driveways - asphalt with 6" aggregate base, 3" binder course, 1/2" wearing course	16300	sf	3.50	57,050
1.4	Utilities-electric, water, storm drainage infrastructure	1	allow	10,000.00	10,000
	Lighting - Parking Lot	1	allow	20,000.00	20,000
2	Path				\$69,617
	Concrete Walks and Plazas, 4"	6930	sf	4.50	31,185
	Decomposed Granite Trail and Picnic Table locations	11646	sf	3.30	38,432
3	Shelter				\$2,403,133
3.1	Recreation Center	1	allow	\$2,378,133	\$2,378,133
	Large Activity	4,000	sf	-	-
	Small Activity	1,600	sf	-	-
	Administration	300	sf	-	-
	Kitchen	300	sf	-	-
	Classrooms	500	sf	-	-
	Restrooms	250	sf	-	-
	Storage	200	sf	-	-
	Conceptual Program Area	9,100	sf	-	-
	Circulation, support spaces, etc.	3,640	sf	-	-
3.2	Picnic Gazebo	1	allow	25,000.00	25,000
4	Play				\$140,000
4.1	Splash Pad	1	ea	125,000.00	125,000
4.2	Site Amenities-benches, tables, bubblers, receptacles, bike rack, drinking fountain	1	allow	15,000.00	15,000
5	Site				\$12,000
	Landscape w/ Irrigation- trees, grass seed in disturbed areas	1	allow	12,000.00	12,000
6	General Conditions, Contingency and G.C. Markup				\$682,549.03

6.1	10% Contingency				\$273,739.61
6.2	15% G.C. Markup, Overhead and Profit				\$408,809.42
7	Total Construction				\$3,419,945.17
8	Pre-Development				\$324,240.07
8.1	Surveying		allow	8,000	8,000
8.2	GeoTech		allow	2,500	2,500
8.3	Texas Accessibility Review and Inspection		lump	945	945
8.4	Testing		allow	5,000	5,000
8.5	Professional Services Fees (9%)			307,795	307,795
9	Total Opinion of probable Costs				\$3,744,185.23

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## Skateboarding and other Wheeled Sports

### Considerations for Development of a Skatepark in Huntsville

Skatepark The skateboarding community in Huntsville has expressed an interest in building a skatepark in the community. The 2015 Parks and Recreation Survey had a total of 34% of responses that Agreed or Strongly Agreed that a skatepark was needed.

The most important critical component during the development of a skatepark is to engage the community in meaningful, directed dialogue about the type of facility they want. Skateparks can take many forms ranging from concrete plazas that mimic an urban streetscape, to pool bowl complexes that provide a more advanced skateboarding environment. The details of how features are chosen and the layout of the park needs to be informed by the riders who will use it. Additionally, the design process should consider other skatepark users such as BMX riders (bicycle), scooters, wheelchair riders; all of whom actively use skateparks nationwide. Engaging an experience design team will be critical for success of a skatepark project. The project delivery may be design-build or designed and then contracted, however project management and oversight will be key to maintaining quality in either case.

Skateparks range in cost, depending on the complexity of features, size, and details of construction. On average, streetscape types of skate areas and features will cost around \$35 per square foot for construction. Pool bowls and other more vertical elements will cost closer to \$45 per square foot.



**Skatepark Cost Ranges:**  
Street Elements and Flat Work - \$35/Square Foot  
Pool/Vertical Elements - \$45/Square Foot

# Priority Projects 06



## Steps for a Skatepark Project:

- Engage the skateboarding community to identify priority features and style of park.
- Identify a site with the appropriate amount of space for desired skatepark size and features. Skateparks should be integrated into the public space, rather than tucked away from other activity. Too many cities treat skateparks as a nuisance or eyesore and are hidden from other activity areas in the community and/or park.
- Work with a Landscape Architect to develop site plan that ensure the skatepark concept is in harmony with the proposed site.
- Engage a design-build skatepark contractor to develop final design and construction documents.



## Where to Begin

### Project Prioritization

The Parks Master Plan identifies the priority projects and justification through stakeholder input. However, the timing of project implementation is largely a function of funding availability and the City's will to move forward on a given project.

City Council will likely use a municipal bond to fund any major improvements to the parks and recreation system. The system-wide goals for improvements include significant expenditures if all proposed projects were to be implemented. Given that not all items can be reasonably developed at one time, it is important to focus on the highest priority components listed above for implementation. Below is a summary table of probable costs and projected investment by the community. An annual debt service rate was calculated using 2014 taxable property values and City rates for guidance. With an assumption of 15 year bond periods and an annual debt service of 6%, the table below illustrates the

level of investment per household projected for key property value categories.

### Options and Alternatives

The list of proposed projects for the parks and recreation system offer individual opportunities for addressing current and future demand of recreation facilities. Some projects can be combined into a single effort, thereby providing some economy during design, construction and land acquisition.

### Project Design and Construction

When it comes to parks and recreation planning, identifying the needs of residents and developing a vision for the future parks system are important first steps. Once a project has been identified and approved for further study, the process of funding, design and construction can begin.

The proposed parks projects would likely be funded through a municipal bond, while also exploring other funding mechanisms. Following a decision

to move forward on a priority project, the City will need to engage a qualified design team to further program the details of the project.

The Design Development phase of this process will allow the City to further refine the important details that bring the park and recreation project to life. This process will include several iterations of projected costs, revisions and refinements that ultimately will be turned into construction documents. It is important during to continue to gather input from stakeholders during this process to ensure that key details are not left out.

Construction documentation, bidding and construction of the project is the phase where it will be important to have the right team for the job. Quality construction documents followed by strict adherence to the drawings during construction administration will ultimately determine the quality of the end result. All too often great projects are turned over to a general contractor to be completed with insufficient supervision, resulting in poor

### Proposed Parks Department Capital Projects - Cost Per Household Valuation

Capital Project	Project Cost Estimate (avg. low-high)		Annual Debt Svc	I&S Rate per \$100 Value	Annual Cost per Household Valuation			
	low	high			\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$250,000
Kate Barr Ross Sports Complex Renovation	19,479,193.18	23,375,031.81	\$1,876,670	0.122	\$122	\$183	\$243	\$304
Recreation Center at Eastham Thomason Park	13,603,996.75	19,659,503.00	\$1,602,341	0.104	\$104	\$156	\$208	\$260
Josey Park Renovation	2,169,317.63	2,603,181.15	\$208,997	0.014	\$14	\$20	\$27	\$34
Multi-Purpose Trail System	\$9,604,960	\$11,525,952	\$1,017,900	0.066	\$66	\$99	\$132	\$165
Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Reconstruction and Emancipation Park Improvements	\$3,744,185	\$4,493,022	\$396,796	0.026	\$26	\$39	\$51	\$64
*annual cost per household based on 2015 City tax rates and total property valuation								
*assumes 5% debt service and 15-year bond								

performance, change orders and added costs. The City will need the designer to act as an advocate for the City throughout the construction process to ensure success.

As the City continues with improvements and additions to the parks system, funding is often the key player in the decision making process. The following are a variety of State and Federal grant programs available to aid cities in the enhancement of parks and recreation facilities and other public space projects.

### **Community Development Block Grants**

**-potential funding: up to 80% of project cost or maximum of \$200,000**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides assistance to communities across the nation for a wide range of activities through the Community Development Block Grants Program. These funds are often distributed to individual communities by the state as match-grants to fund projects supporting economic development and improved quality of life. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department awards grants from this program annually to develop and enhance parks and open space.

### **Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU) - Recreation Trails Program**

The Transportation Safety Act, also known as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), provides for the distribution of funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Federal Highway Administration is the largest source of **funding for shared use paths, trails and related projects. The Recreational Trails Program, an assistance program to FHWA, distributes funds for a range of activities including:**

- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails.
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and

trailhead facilities and trail linkages.

- Purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment.
  - Construction of new trails (with restrictions for new trails on Federal lands).
  - Acquisition of easements or property for trails.
  - Assessment of trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance.
  - Development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to trails (including supporting non-law enforcement trail safety and trail use monitoring patrol programs, and providing trail-related training) (limited to 5 percent of a State's funds).
  - State administrative costs related to this program (limited to 7 percent of a State's funds).
- (typically managed via TRPA \*see below)**

### **TRPA Grants Program**

**-potential funding: \$400,000 (match grant)**

The Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) is funded by a portion of Texas sales tax received on select sporting goods. These grants are awarded to applicants annually at varied levels depending on project type and available resources for the funding cycle. These funds are administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Recreation Grants Branch for five programs including the following:

1. Outdoor Recreation
2. Indoor Recreation (facility)
3. Small Community
4. Regional
5. Community Outdoor Outreach Program

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

**-\$2.4 million apportioned to Texas in 2014**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a program of the National Park Service that provides matching grants to local governments for acquisition of **park land and development of park facilities.** An example project in Texas is the *Wimberley Blue Hole Regional Park Hays County*, which received \$1,909,500 in funding from the LWCF





## Funding Opportunities

As the City continues with improvements and additions to the parks system, funding is often the key player in the decision making process. The following are the primary funding mechanisms for the Parks and Recreation Department. Additionally, there are a variety of State and Federal grant programs available to aid cities in the enhancement of parks and recreation facilities and programs.



### **Special Revenue Funds - Hotel/ Motel Occupancy Tax Fund**

This fund is used to account for proceeds from hotel occupancy taxes received during the year. Expenditures from this fund are restricted to tourism activities. An appropriations style budget is adopted for this fund on an annual basis.

### **Special Revenue Funds - General Obligations Series 2005 Fund**

This fund is used to account for the receipt of bond funds and the expenditures of such funds to construct/improve various public buildings, purchase of land for parks and recreation facilities, street improvement projects and sidewalk construction.



### **Community Development Block Grants**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides assistance to communities across the nation for a wide range of activities through the Community Development Block Grants Program. These funds are often distributed to individual communities by the state as match-grants to fund projects supporting economic development and improved quality of life. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department awards grants from this program annually to develop and enhance parks and open space.

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- Construction of new trails (with restrictions for new trails on Federal lands).
- Acquisition of easements or property for trails.
- Assessment of trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance.
- Development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to trails (including supporting non-law enforcement trail safety and trail use monitoring patrol programs, and providing trail-related training) (limited to 5 percent of a State's funds).
- State administrative costs related to this program (limited to 7 percent of a State's funds).

# Park **Profiles**



01  
Inventory &  
**Analysis**

02  
Demand  
**Assessment**

03  
**Walkability**

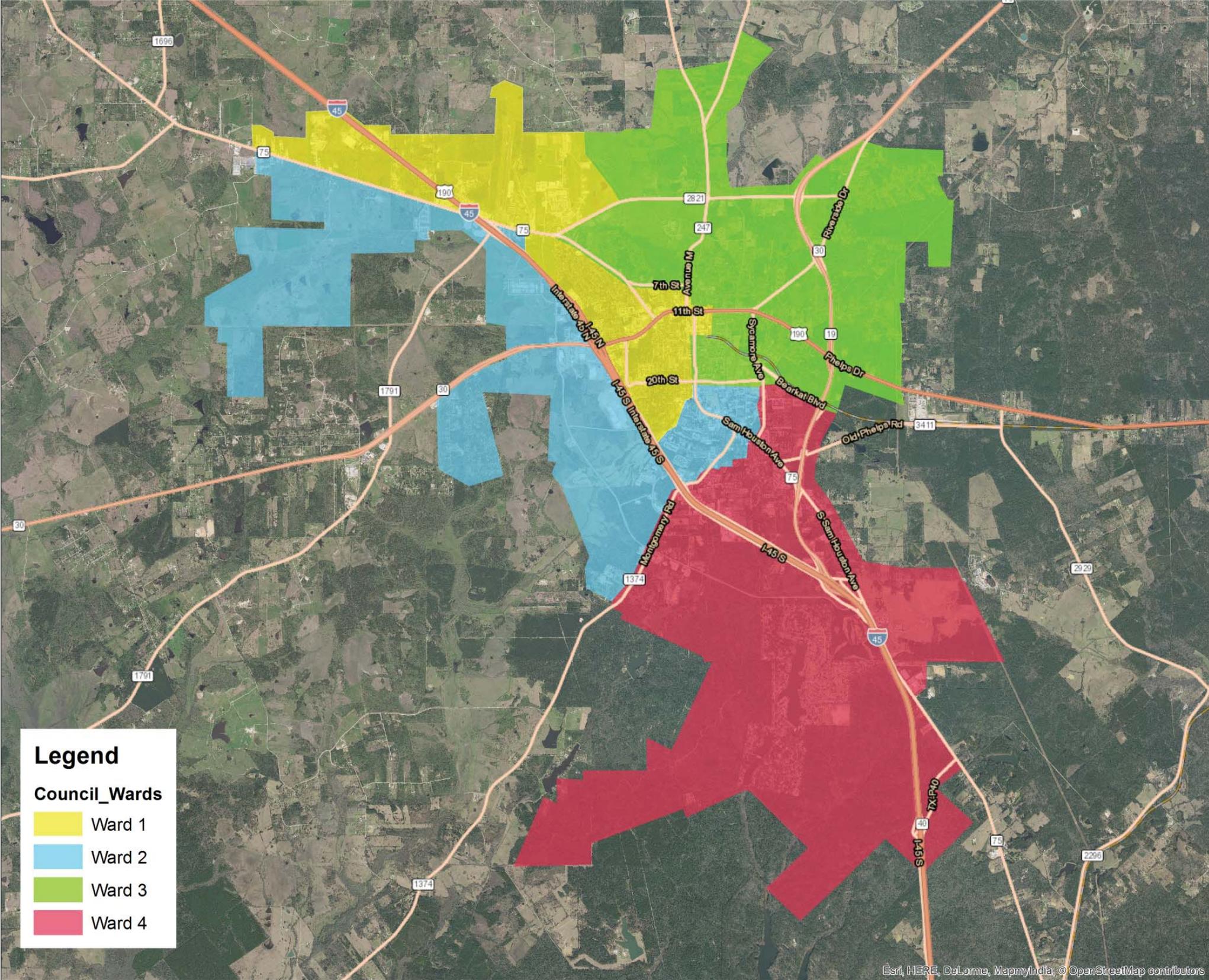
04  
Programs &  
**Events**

05  
Natural  
**Resources**

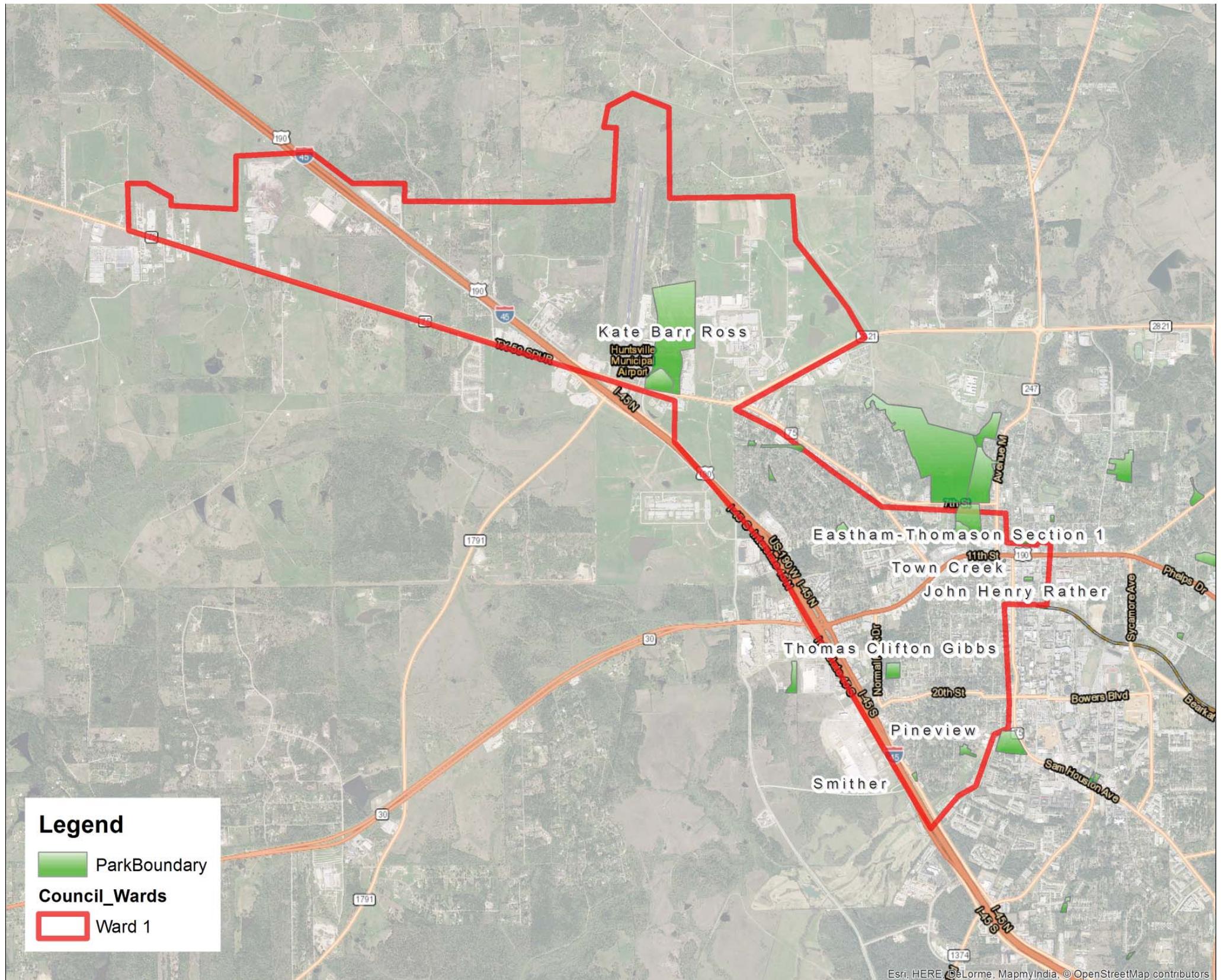
06  
Priority  
**Projects**

07  
Park  
**Profiles**

# Overall Council Ward Map

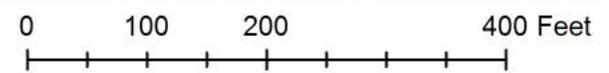


## Council Ward 1



Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors

# Bayou Bend Park and The Woods Addition



## Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities



## Bayou Bend Park and The Woods Addition

**97 Magnolia Way & 3001 Paul Knox Rd.**

**2.194 Acres & 0.622 Acres**

**(Green Space)**

Bayou Bend Park and The Woods Addition are small parcels of green space platted with the subdivision. The properties are situated along a drainage easement and are heavily vegetated. The primary benefit of the parks are to function as general green space that provides wildlife habitat and screening for adjacent properties.

Recommendations: none

# Park Profiles 07



*Bayou Bend Park is a narrow green space along a drainage ditch. This heavily vegetated strip of land helps filter rainwater runoff*



*View of the right-of-way along the perimeter of Bayou Bend Park along Normal Park Dr..*

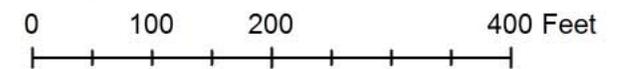


*One end of Bayou Bend Park is a maintained areas with beautiful Live Oaks and other species that provides shade and an aesthetically pleasing landscape.*



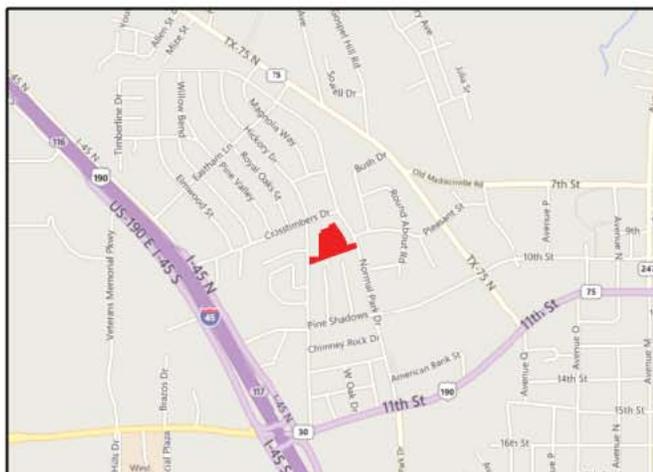
*The Woods Addition is an undeveloped green space along Paul Knox Rd. The property could serve as a small neighborhood park with a picnic area.*

# Bush Miller Park



## Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities



## Bush Miller Park

546 Normal Park Drive

3.662 Acres

(Passive Park)

Bush Miller Park is a passive park located in between a community of town homes and single family residential homes. The park is heavily wooded, providing significant shade. A decomposed granite, concrete, and paver-lined trail winds throughout the park connecting the neighborhoods and providing for off-street exercise. Amenities include a gazebo, bench, water fountains, a small pond and trash receptacles. The trail is lined with security lighting in fair condition.

## Observations/Recommendations:

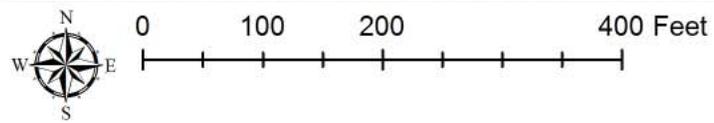
- Granite trails are in need of maintenance and edging to reduce movement of granite due to heavy foot traffic and /or stormwater.
- Light fixtures need glass replacement in multiple locations.
- Pavers need to be reinstalled along selected sections of the pathway.
- Gazebo is in overall good condition but could use a fresh coat of paint.
- Vegetation throughout the park could use some maintenance. Pruning of the tree canopy and reduction of brush along perimeter will aid in lighting the park and promoting a sense of security.



*View of paver-lined granite pathway within Bush Miller Park. Granite fill along this section has begun to wash away. Also noted was the significant growth of vegetation along the pathway that should be reduced.*



# Forest Hills Park



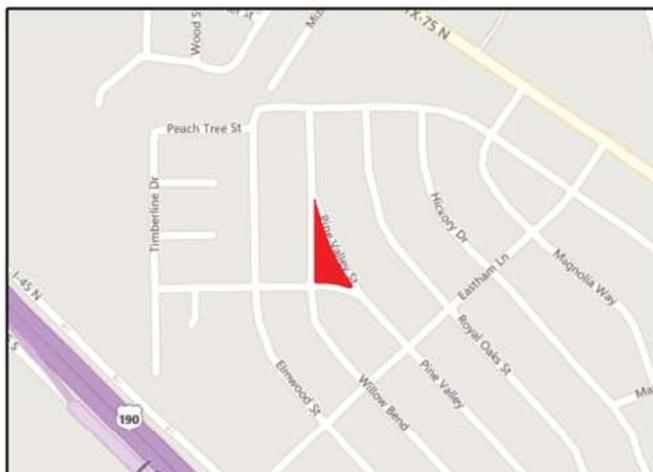
## Forest Hills Park

130 Pine Valley

0.840 Acres

(Neighborhood Park)

Situated in the Forest Hills Subdivision, this park is bounded on all 3 sides by neighborhood streets. The park is partially-shaded with a play structure, 2 swing sets, 2 picnic areas and 1 bench, a water fountain, and 2 light posts.



### Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

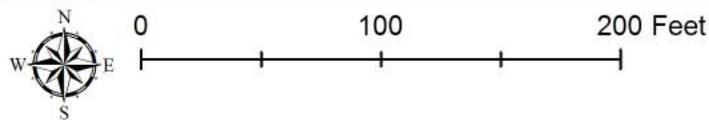
# Park Profiles 07

## Observations/Recommendations:

- The park is situated in a neighborhood with no sidewalks. Adding a walking path loop around the park would offer approximately 0.17 miles of pathway to allow parents to exercise while keeping an eye on their children as they play in the playground.



# Rather Park



## Rawley Samuel Rather Memorial Park

12223 University Ave.

0.709 Acres

(Passive Park)

Located on the former homesite of one of the early leaders of Huntsville, Rawley Samuel Rather Memorial (Rather) Park provides an inviting outdoor environment for passive recreation, music and events. The site has crushed granite pathways and landscaping throughout the park with custom log and stone furniture that adds interest to the seating arrangements. A small lighted stage offers an ideal venue for small musical acts with easy Downtown convenience.

### Observations/Recommendations:

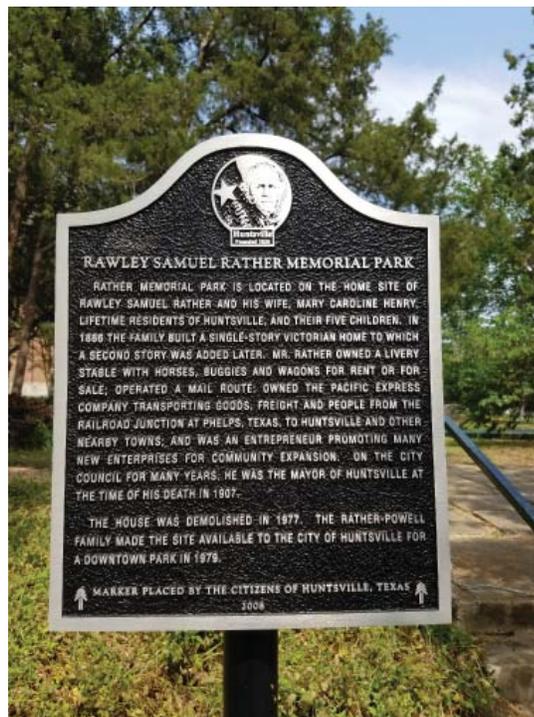
- None.



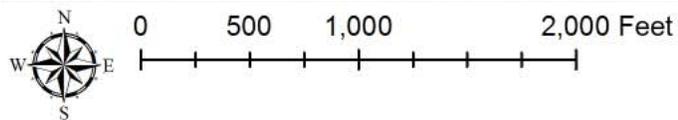
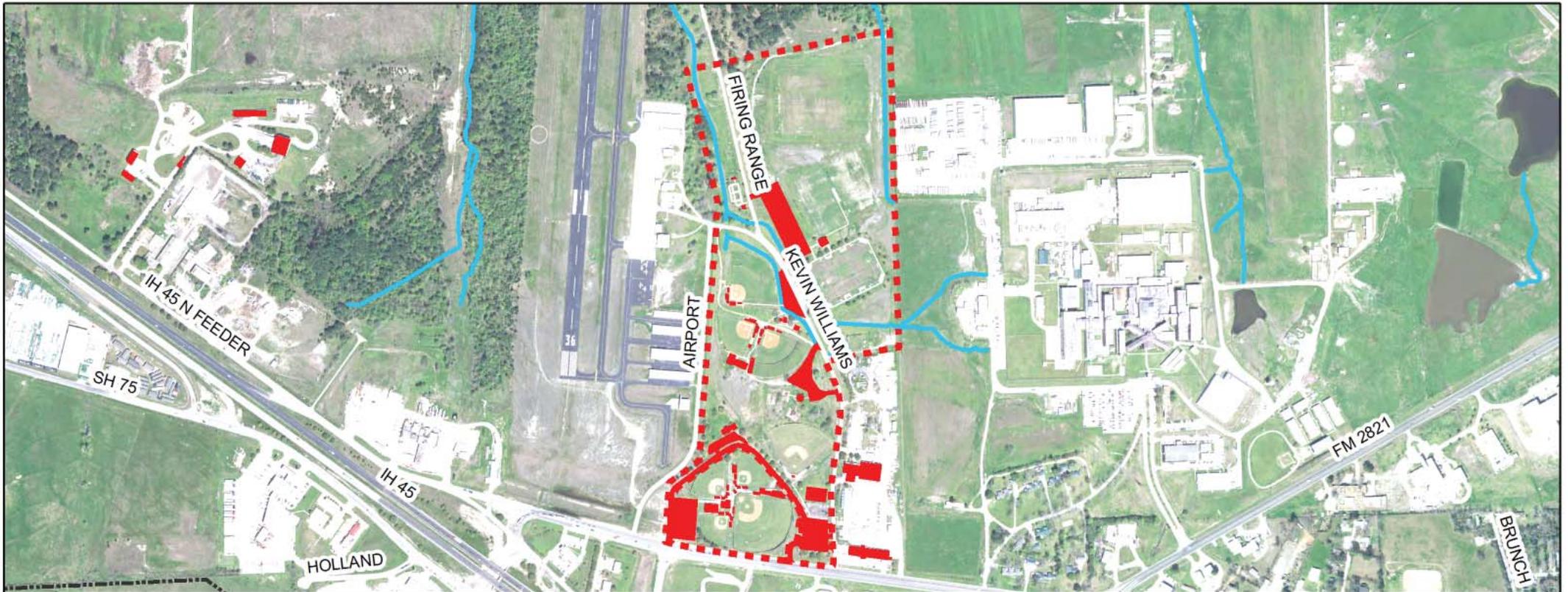
### Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

# Park Profiles 07



# Kate Barr Ross Sports Complex



## Kate Barr Ross Sports Complex

486A SH 75 North

77.190 Acres

(City/Regional Park)

The Kate Barr Ross Sports Complex is a well-used facility that offers more features than any other park in the system. The park is home to most of the team sports leagues within the City including Huntsville Youth Baseball League, Huntsville Girls Youth Softball League, Huntsville Youth Football League and Huntsville Youth Soccer Association. The park also offers play equipment, picnic areas and a basketball court. An educational facility called “Safety Village” provides a unique environment for teaching young children about safety on public streets with a miniature streetscape complete with sidewalk, curb and gutter roads, buildings and traffic signs. The park is used daily for general recreation with game play on most weekends from Thursday through Sunday depending on the season. Additionally, large City events such as the annual 4th of July Celebration and Movies in the Park are hosted at Kate Barr Ross.



### Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

## Amenities

- Baseball Fields
- Softball Fields
- Football Fields
- Soccer Fields
- Batting Cages
- Basketball Court
- Play Module
- Swingset
- Gazebo/Pavilion
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Safety Village Education Facility
- Picnic Areas

## Current Conditions

Kate Barr Ross Sports Complex has provide sports fields for areas leagues for many years, with regular upgrades to select features over the years. Recent upgrades include the addition of 2 football fields on the north side of the park. The park is in overall fair to good condition with individual features and facilities in varied condition and age. The game fields at Kate Barr Ross are fully functional in their current condition, and the City could choose to continue using the facilities in their current state with periodic upgrades or consider a wholesale renovation of the entire park.

## Level of Service

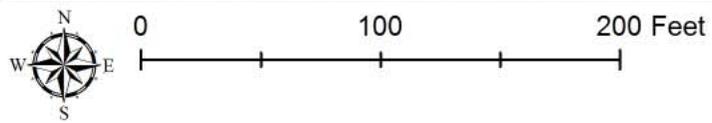
Input from the local sports leagues indicates various needs for sports capacity and level of service. While Huntsville Youth Football League is currently playing on their new fields with reportedly enough capacity at this time, Huntsville Girls Softball Association is in need of a 4th game field, primarily for the 6-8 year ages of game play. Baseball and softball leagues would benefit from additional capacity. Although current facilities are functioning, improvements in both capacity and quality of features would make the park more attractive to tournament play. The 2015 survey and public input effort reported that 63% of participants agreed or strongly agreed with improvements to the Kate Barr Ross Sports Complex being needed.

## Recommendations/Observations:

- Restrooms - existing restrooms are in poor - fair condition and are in need of renovation or replacement.
- Shade - more shade structures or trees are needed throughout the park. Staff have reported a need for pavilions as well in order to provide for general recreation needs and reservations for birthday parties and similar events.
- Parking - sufficient parking is a concern with game days on weekends and for large events. Existing parking lots are a long walk from some areas of the park. Future parking should be distributed throughout the park to provide better access to all areas.
- Trails/Sidewalks - The 77 acre park has features spread throughout the property. Existing sidewalks are limited to immediate connections between parking lots and adjacent ball fields, but do not connect to other areas of the park. The large property offers the opportunity to create long, multi-purpose walking paths/trails to provide for recreation and exercise above and beyond transportation to and from the parking lot.
- Playgrounds - the park currently has a playground located in between the softball and baseball fields with 2 play modules.. The play modules are showing signs of wear and fading with some rusted hardware and one with a broken panel. The play structure should be replaced within the next year. The fall surface underneath the play structure is also in need of additional mulch fill. Playgrounds at sports complexes are a great way to keep young children entertained while older children are playing games on the fields. In order to facilitate playground access while allowing parents to keep an eye on their children, playgrounds should be located near each ball field pod/complex.



# Sallie E. Gibbs Park



## Sallie E. Gibbs Park

1227 A 11th Street

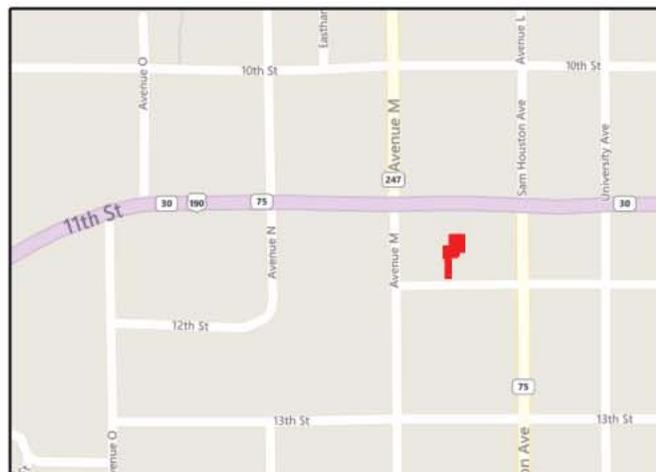
0.153 Acres

(Passive Park)

Sallie E. Gibbs Park is a small pocket park in the heart of Huntsville. Situated around the corner from City Hall, the park offers a quiet passive place to sit in the shade and have lunch. Amenities include brick-paved walkways connecting to adjacent buildings and streets, picnic tables, and plenty of shade trees.

### Observations/Recommendations:

- None.



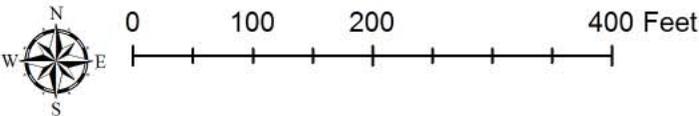
### Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

# Park Profiles 07



# Thomas Clifton Gibbs Park



Thomas Clifton Gibbs Park  
 1890 Avenue S  
 4.267 Acres  
 (Passive)  
 Thomas

**Observations/Recommendations:**

- None.

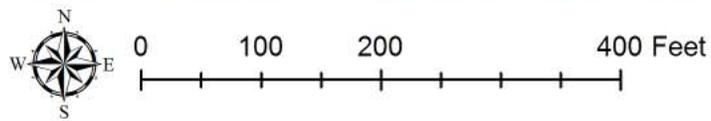
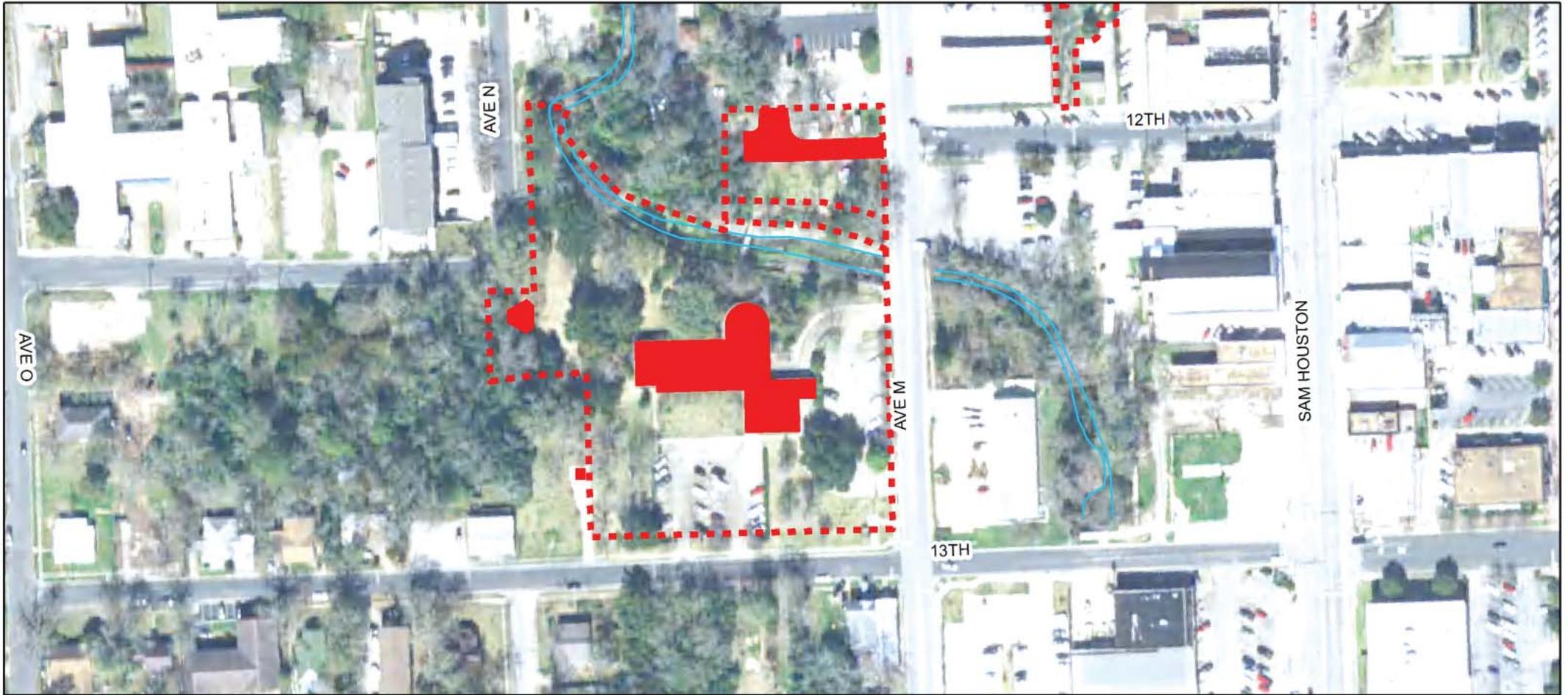


- Legend**
- Park Boundary
  - Stream
  - City Limits
  - Facilities
  - ParkSupportFacility
  - ParkTrail

# Park Profiles 07



# Town Creek Park



- Legend**
- Park Boundary
  - Stream
  - City Limits
  - Facilities
  - ParkSupportFacility
  - ParkTrail

## Town Creek Park

1200 Avenue M

0.565 Acres

(Passive Park)

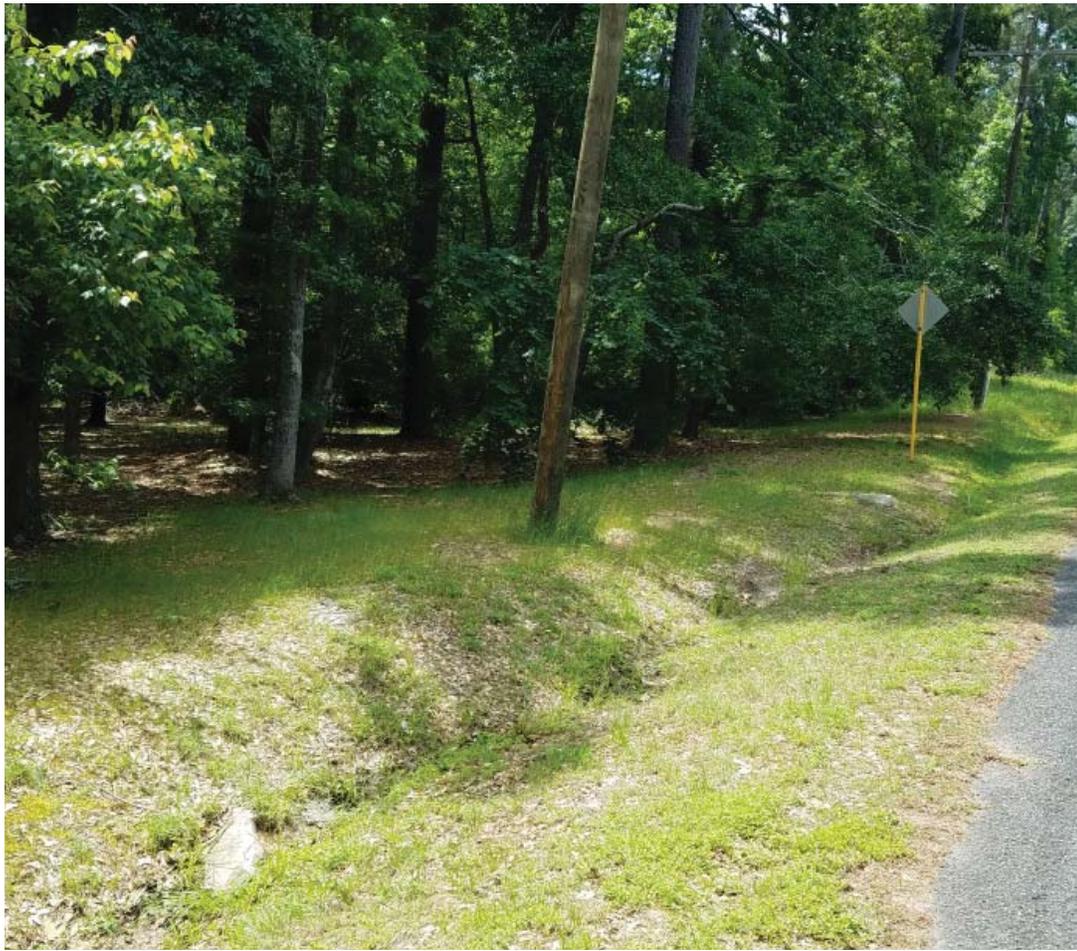
Ajacent to City Hall, Town Creek Park is a formal, passive park with well-kept landscaping, public art, amphitheatre, a gazebo, and walkways. The park follows Town Creek and has a pedestrian bridge that leads visitors to a food truck court on the north side of the creek.

### Observations/Recommendations:

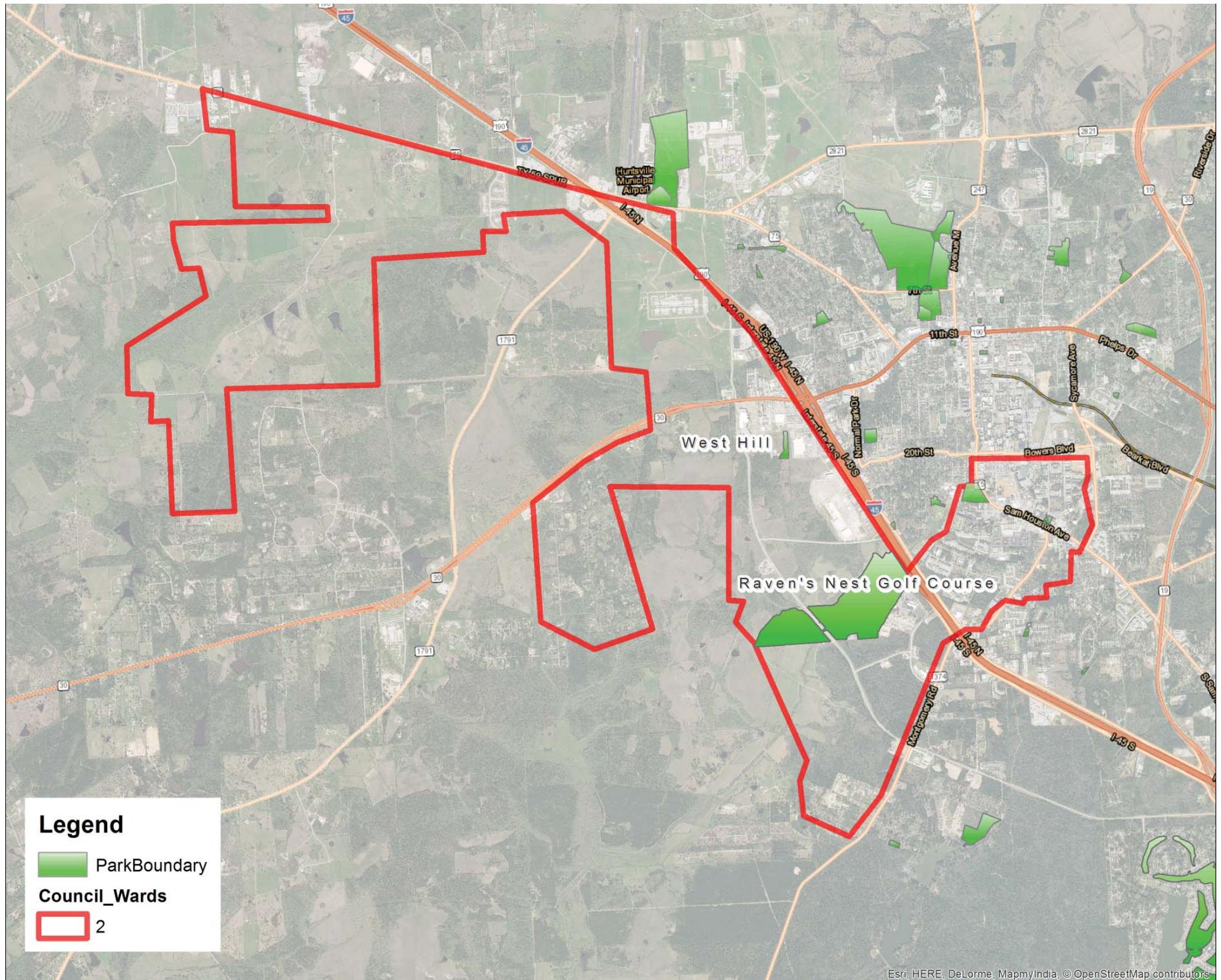
- None.

# Park Profiles 07

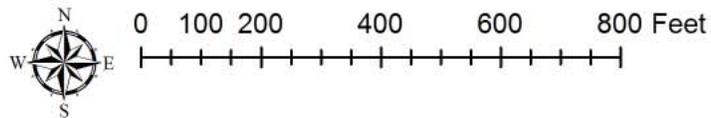




## Council Ward 2



# Emma Etheridge Park



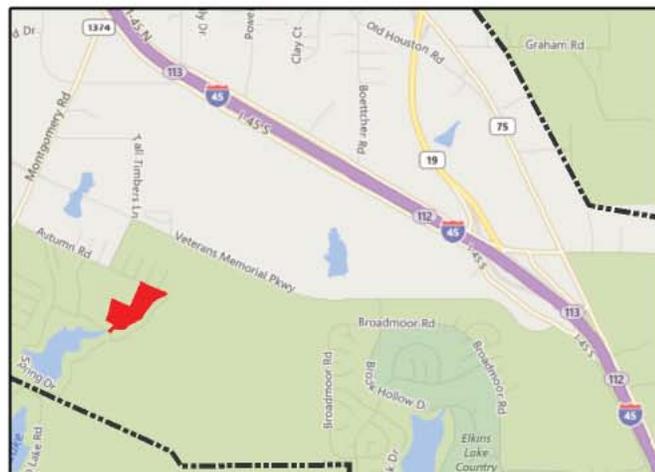
## Emma Etheridge Park

**242 Autumn Road**

**13.886 Acres**

**(Neighborhood Park)**

This park in the Spring Lake Subdivision offers approximately 14 acres of mostly undeveloped green space along an unnamed stream that feeds Spring Lake. The park offers passive recreation space with a swingset (6), picnic table and a water fountain. An impromptu trail has been created by regular foot traffic leading to the adjacent neighborhood. With so much acreage available, the opportunity exists to expand the capacity of the park by clearing additional space for more amenities and creating a more formal trail that provides a loop for walking as well as connections to the neighborhoods. Parking is limited to on-street, as with most neighborhood parks.

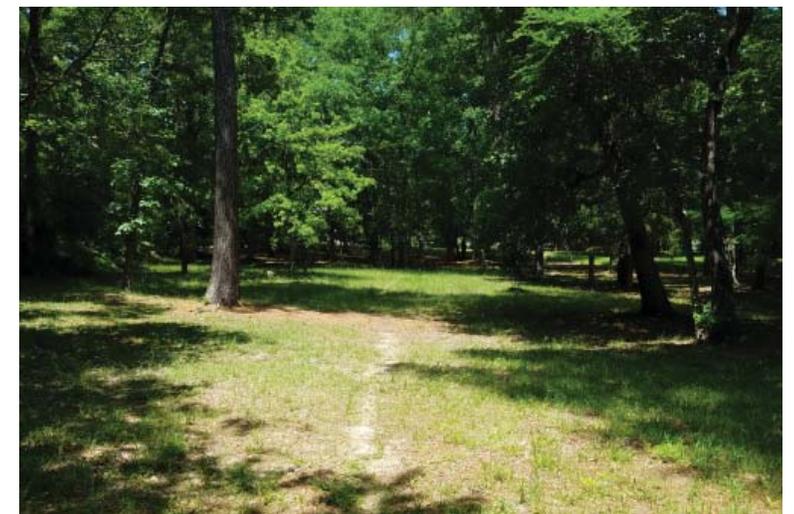
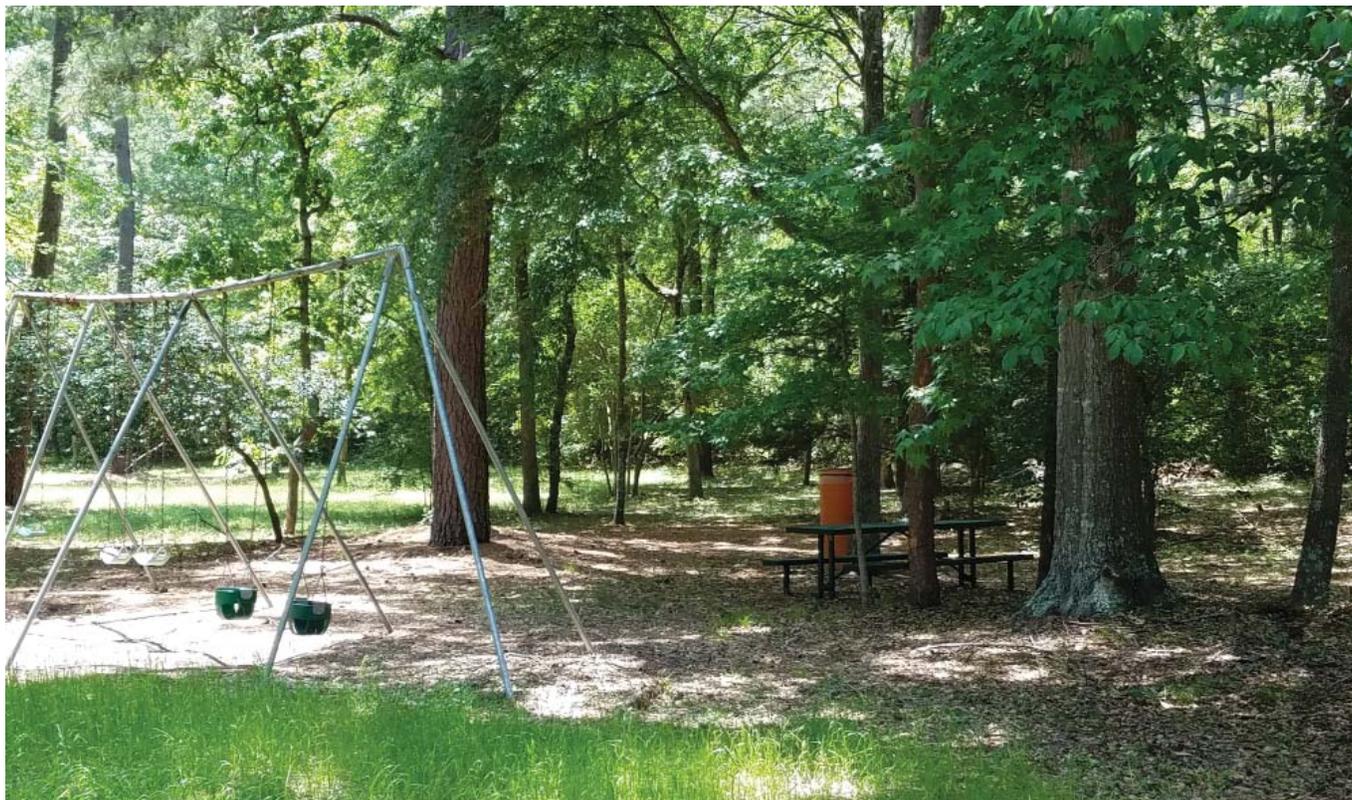


### Legend

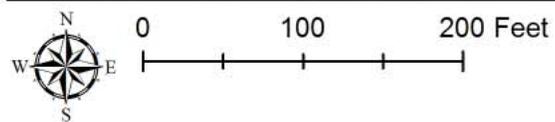
-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

## Observations/Recommendations:

- Water fountain is currently non-functional and should be repaired or replaced
- The swingset has a bent main beam and rusty chains. Replacement is warranted.
- The picnic table is in fair condition with some fading of the coating. Expect to replace within 5 years.
- Develop a loop trail throughout the park. A small loop can be developed with a paved or decomposed granite surface within the more developed/cleared areas of the park, while a larger “nature trail” loop reach within the remaining forested areas of the park.



# Montgomery Road Park



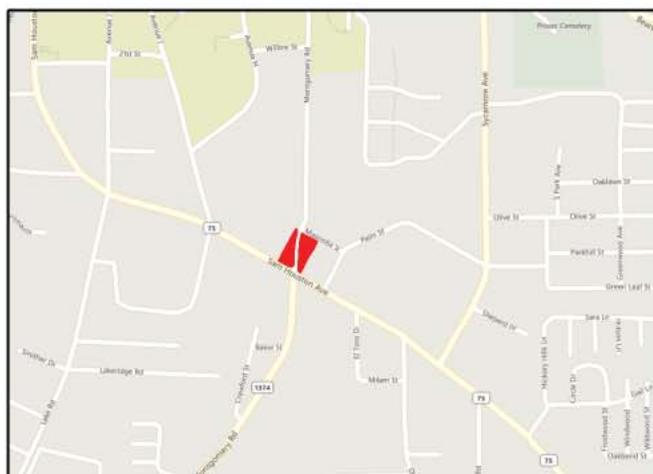
## Montgomery Road Park

2533 Sam Houston Ave.

1.297 Acres

(Green Space)

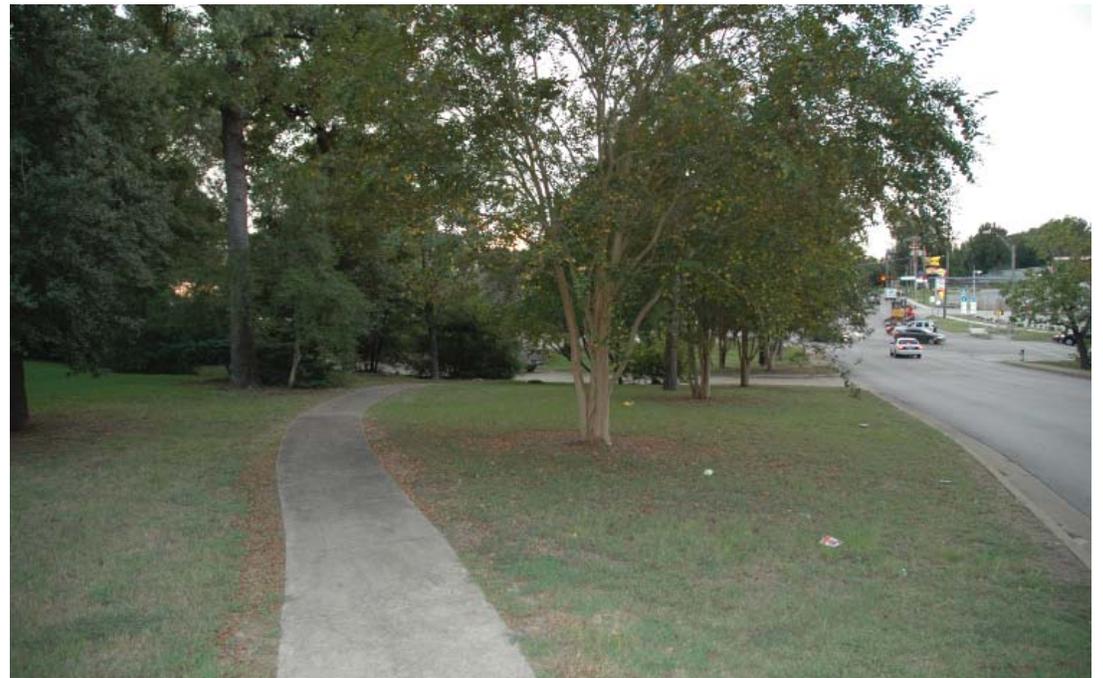
Situated at the corner of Sam Houston Avenue and Montgomery Road, this maintained green space provides a pleasant landscape that breaks up the uniformity of developed land along the corridor. The park is comprised of maintained turfgrass, native trees and walking paths on both sides of the road.



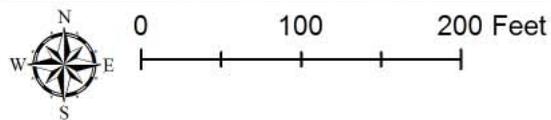
### Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

# Park Profiles 07



# Pine Shadows Park



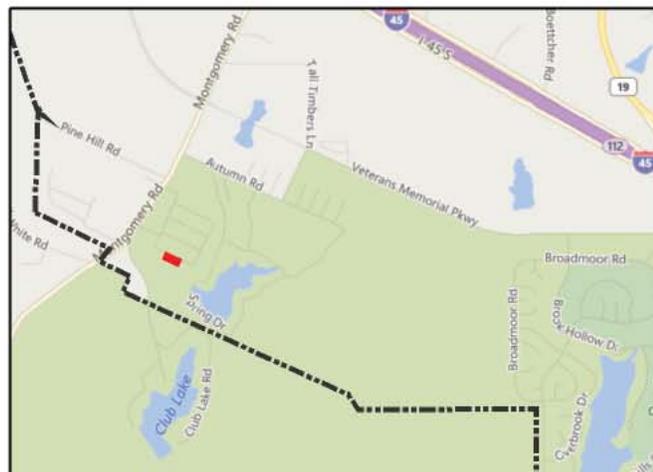
## Pine Shadows Park

**3336 Knob Oaks Dr.**

**1.266 Acres**

**(Neighborhood Park)**

This small park neighborhood park in the Pine Shadows Subdivision provides a selection of amenities for passive recreation including: a swingset, water fountain, picnic table and grill and open space. The forested area of the property to the south is largely floodplain and remains undeveloped.

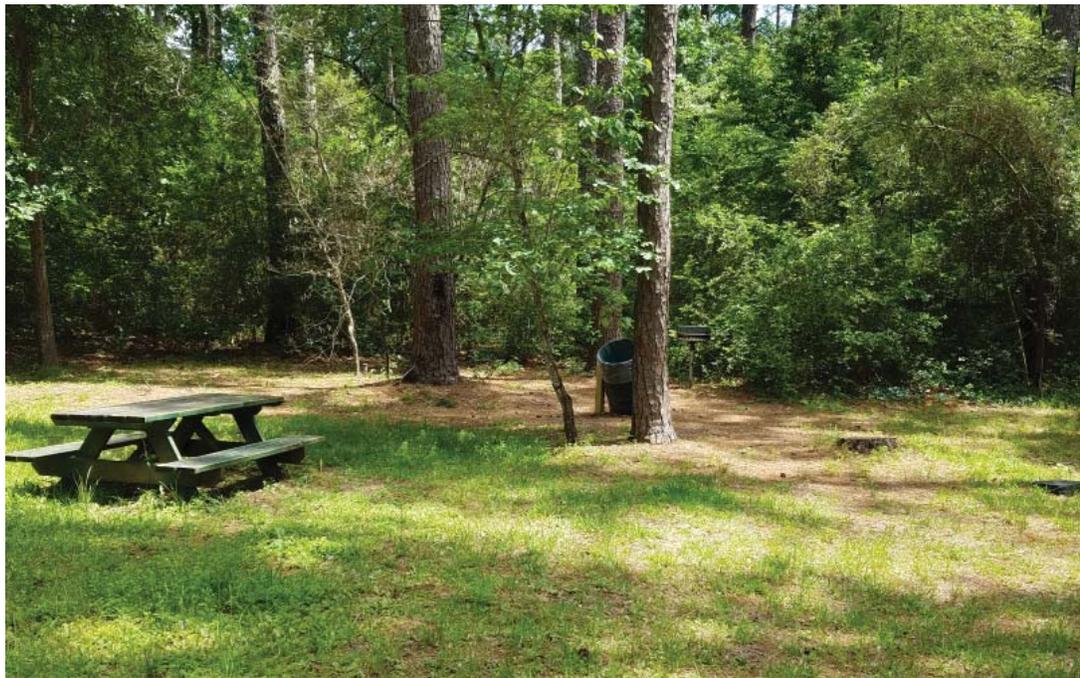


### Legend

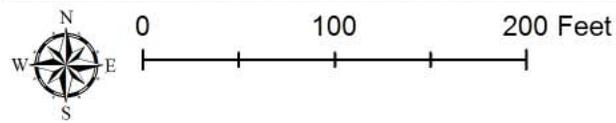
-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  Park Support Facility
-  Park Trail

## Observations/Recommendations:

- Swingset is rusty and needs a new coat of paint.
- Wooden picnic table needs a new coat of paint.
- Discussions with a local resident indicate that the park is primarily used by small children playing on the swingset.



# Pineview Pet Park



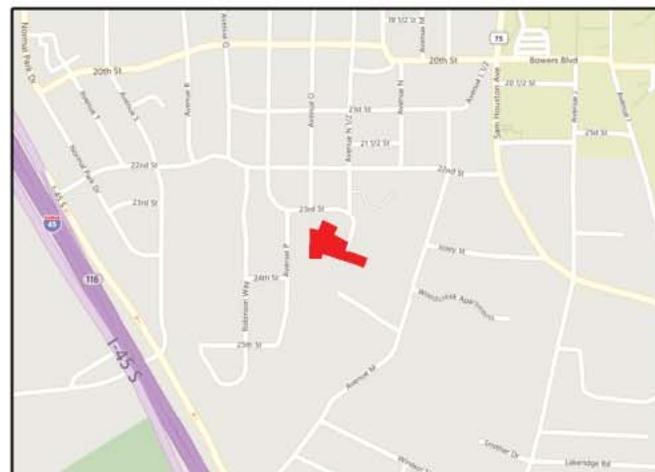
## Pineview Pet Park

2335 Avenue N 1/2

1.952 Acres

(Neighborhood Park)

Originally gifted to the City as park space in 1983, Pineview park has been repurposed as an off-leash dog park. The approximate 2 acres of park space is situated along a drainage right-of-way adjacent within a neighborhood adjacent to SHSU Horticulture and Crop Science Center. The fenced dog park component of the park is approximately 0.17 acres in size and offers a safe place for dogs to play and includes benches, trash receptacles, a fire hydrant, pet sanitation station and a dog-friendly water fountain. The park has a 6 parking spaces and adequate space for addition of more features in the future.



### Legend

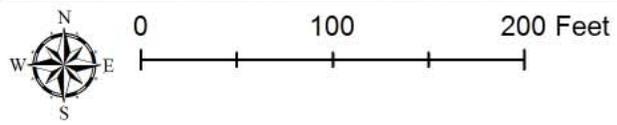
-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

## Observations/Recommendations:

- The water fountain is currently non--functional and should be repaired.
- The pet sanitation station is rusted and needs to be replaced.
- A trail along the drainage right-of-way would allow pedestrian connection to 23rd street to the north.
- Adequate space is available to expand recreation opportunities within the park. Fencing additional park area on the east side of the drainage right-of-way would allow for significant expansion of the dog park.



# Smither Park



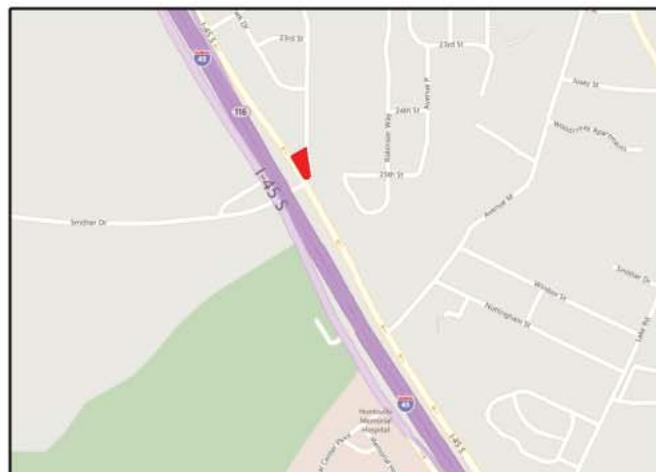
## Smither Park

2420 Avenue S

0.605 Acres

(Green Space)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



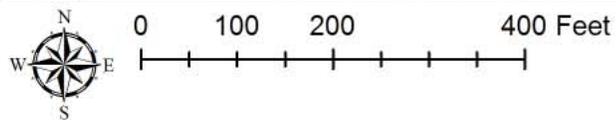
### Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

# Park Profiles 07



# Thomas Henry Ball (Josey) Park



## Thomase Henry Ball (Josey) Park

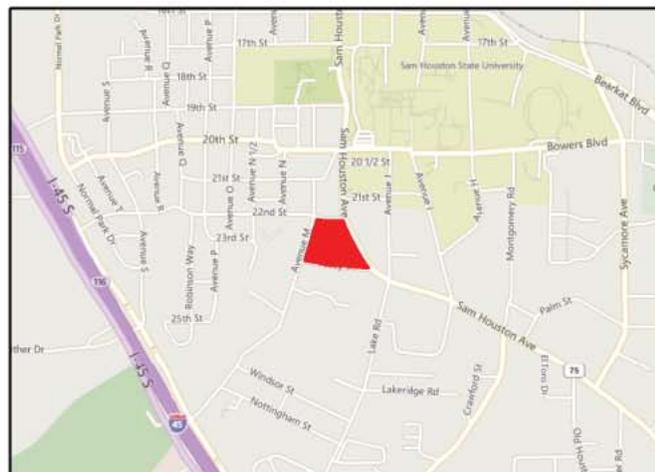
**2250 Sam Houston Avenue**

**9.844 Acres**

**(City Park)**

Josey Park is the primary location for adult softball in Huntsville. The park is centrally located in town and provides 1 300

softball field for game play and includes associated dugouts, bleachers, and maintenance shed. Other amenities include the Josey Boy Scout Lodge, a basketball court, a swingset, and a picnic area.



### Legend

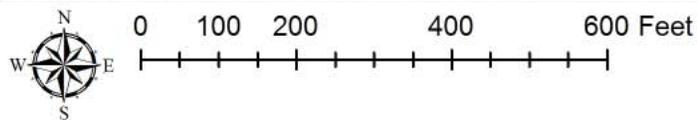
-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

## Observations/Recommendations:

- The existing softball field and related amenities are in good working order, but could use upgrades. The primary concern is that the single field is inadequate for meeting the needs of the adult softball program. The property is capable of having an additional field with rearrangement of site features.

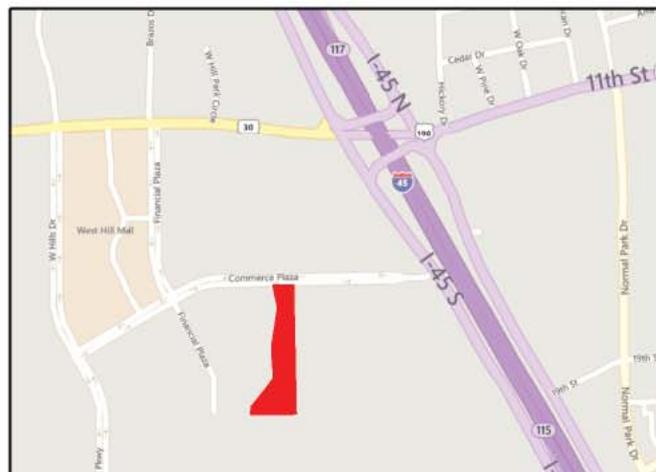


# West Hill Park



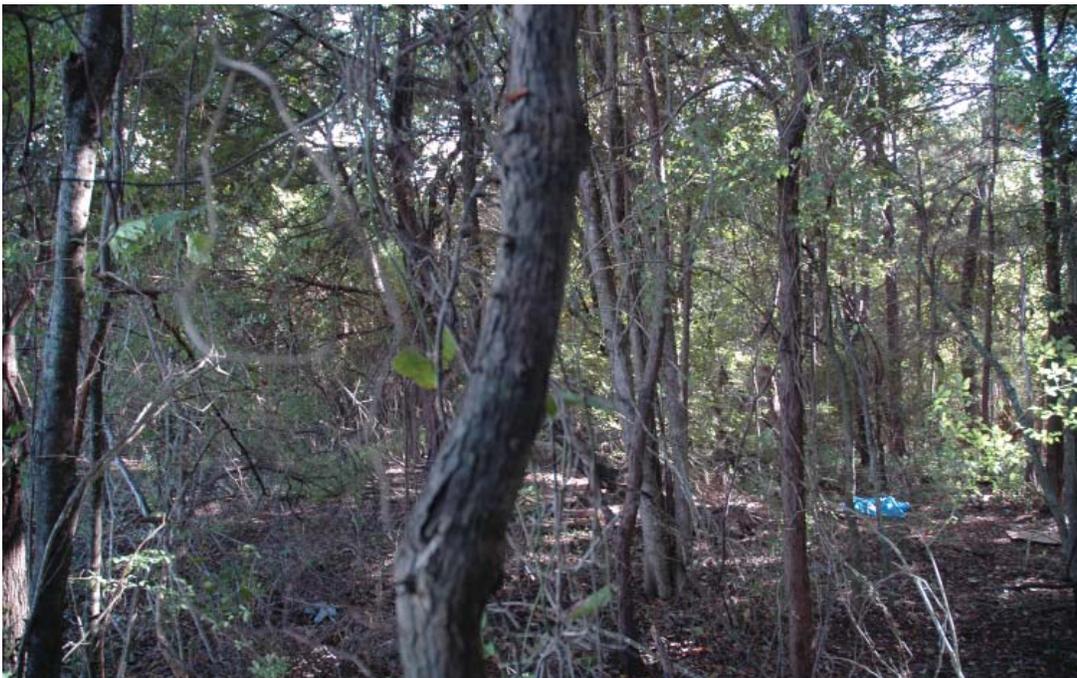
**West Hill Park**  
**139 Col. Etheridge Blvd.**  
**3.754 Acres**  
**(Green Space)**

Platted as a public park within the West Hills Subdivision, West Hill Park is a green space along a drainage easement behind the Walmart property. The property is undeveloped with a mixture of mature trees and heavy brush with a few large openings. Development of a passive park with a walking path, picnic areas and a parking lot would create much-needed recreation space on the west side of Interstate 45. A proposed trail connection along the frontage on Commerce Plaza would connect the park to additional walking opportunities along Veteran's Memorial Drive to the west.



- Legend**
- Park Boundary
  - Stream
  - City Limits
  - Facilities
  - ParkSupportFacility
  - ParkTrail

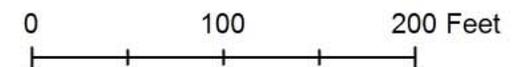
# Park Profiles 07





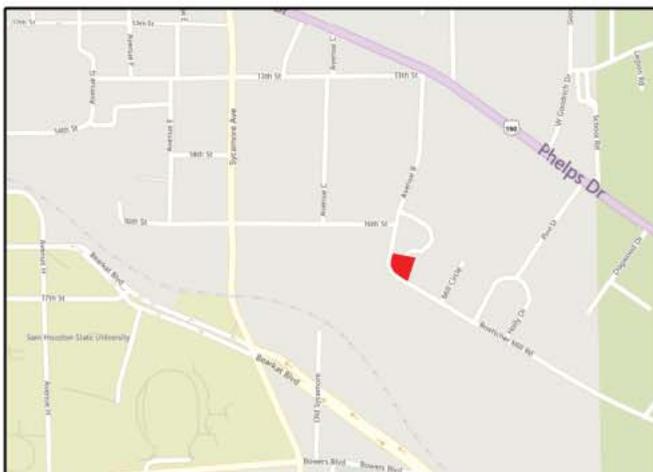


# Boettcher Mill Park



## Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities



## Boettcher Mill Park

101 Boettcher Mill Rd

2.194 Acres

(Neighborhood Park)

Boettcher Mill Park is a small neighborhood park located on the east side of Huntsville between SHSU and State Highway 19. The park offers play equipment and 2 picnic areas with tables. Parking is on-street with a sidewalk connecting the park to the adjacent neighborhood. The park offers significant shade and quality open space for passive recreation. Overall the park is maintained in good working order and has adequate features for a neighborhood park.

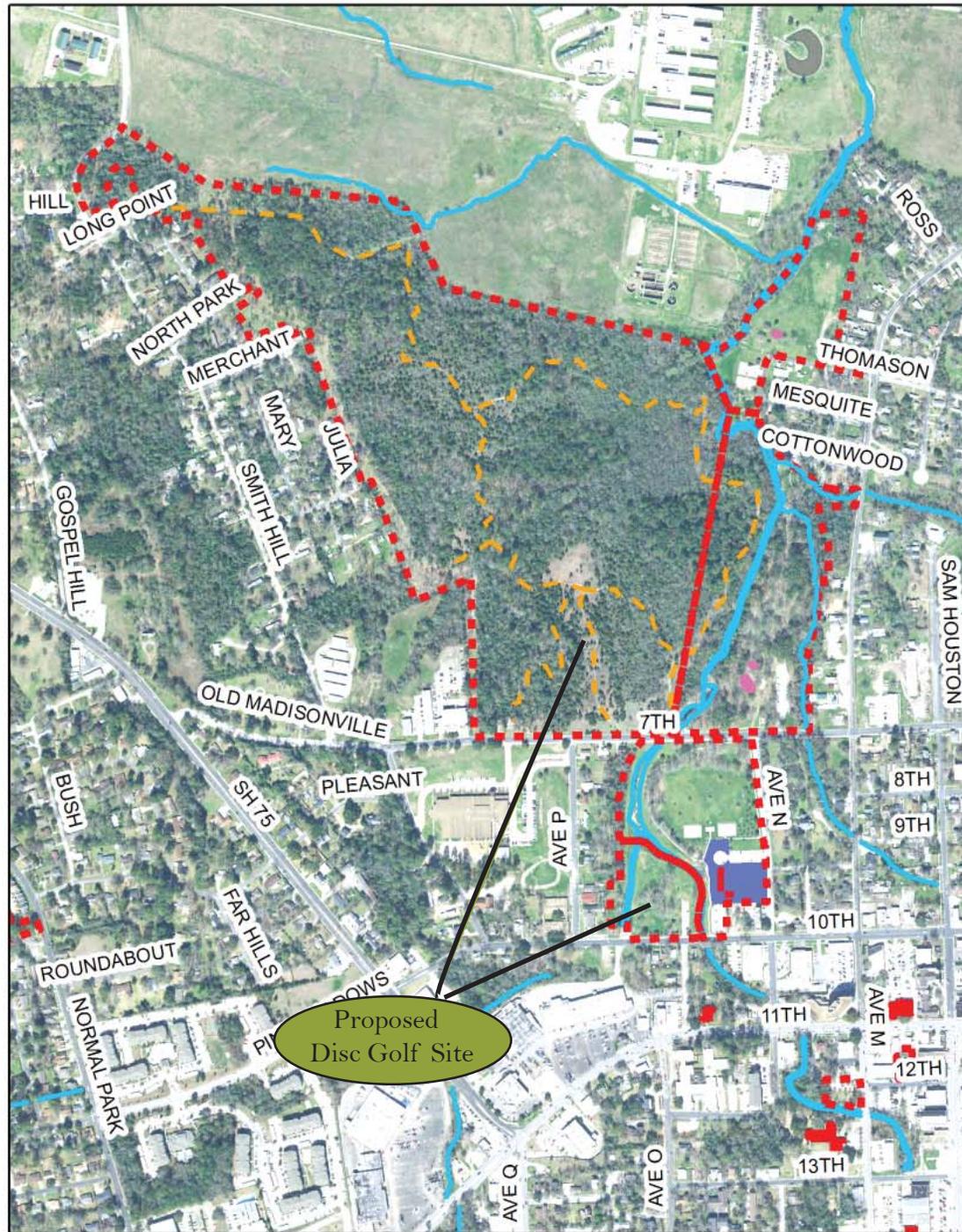
### Recommendations:

none

# Park Profiles 07



# Eastham Thomason Park



0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet



## Eastham Thomason Park

1500 7th Street

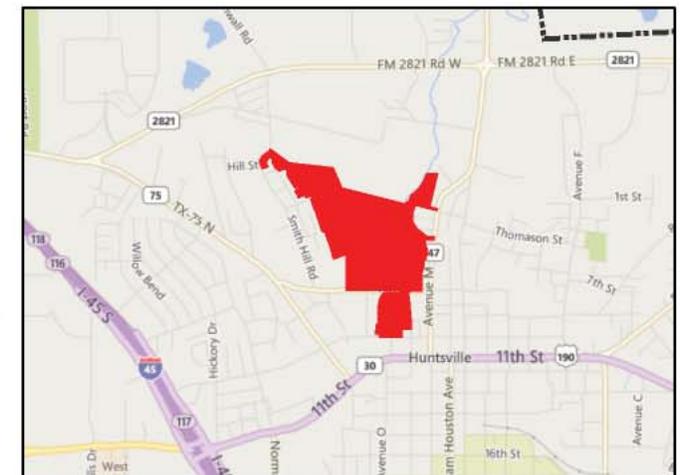
143.53 Acres

(City Park)

Eastham Thomason Park is a true gem of the Huntsville parks and recreation system. The approximate 143 acre park provides a wide range of recreation opportunities ranging from sports such as soccer, basketball, beach volleyball, and disc golf to more passive activities such as walking/hiking along the trails, cooling off at the splash pad or swimming at the Huntsville Aquatics Center. A playground and dog park are located near the parking lot north of 7th Street at Avenue N. The property is situated along the prominent Town Creek which winds across the city from the northwest to southeast and through downtown. Hiking trails cross the entire park, with a natural trail component on the north side and select concrete-paved sections in the more developed areas of the park along the creek and connecting to the aquatics center.

### Legend

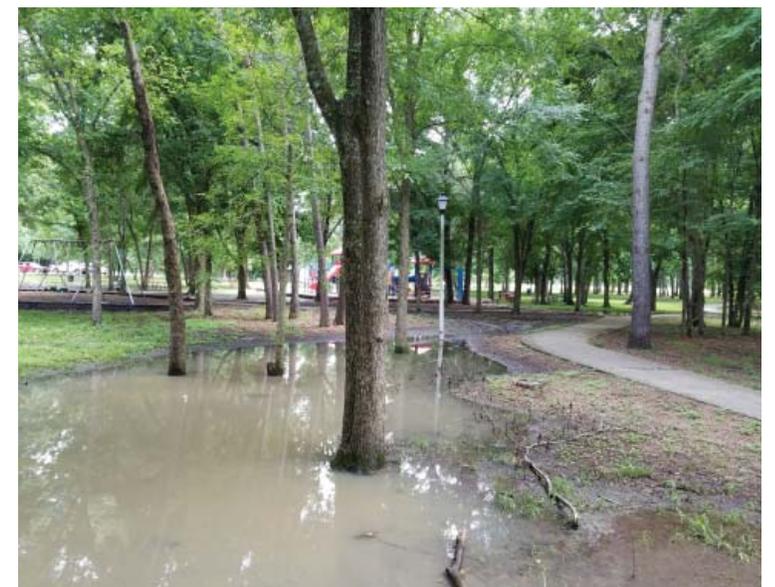
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Park Boundary
-  Facilities
-  Park Trail
-  Park Playground
-  Park Support Facility



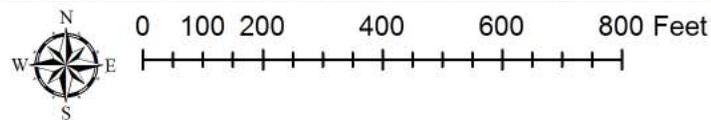
## Recommendations/Observations:

- The area of the park north of 7th Street near the dog park and playground has very little turfgrass or ground cover. This has created an opportunity for significant erosion and subsequent ponding of water after rain events. Re-grading the site to address the problem is impractical and detrimental to site trees. Select filling of low spots is recommended to improve aesthetics and allow for complete use of the park. A moderate pruning of the forest canopy in the developed areas of the park will aid in light penetration to allow for grass to grow and prevent erosion.

- Eastham Thomason Park is the largest park in the system and is centrally located in the community. Public input indicates a high priority is placed on the development of a multi-purpose recreation center to provide for a variety of indoor recreation needs. Due to available space and proximity of the park, the most suitable location for a recreation center is adjacent to the Huntsville Aquatics Center. A site concept has been developed within this plan that can meet this need, but will require relocation of the disc golf course. Suitable locations for the future disc golf course include the area immediately north of 10th Street at Avenue O in between the creek channels and another location immediately north of 7th Street along Prairie Trail.



# Emancipation Park



## Emancipation Park

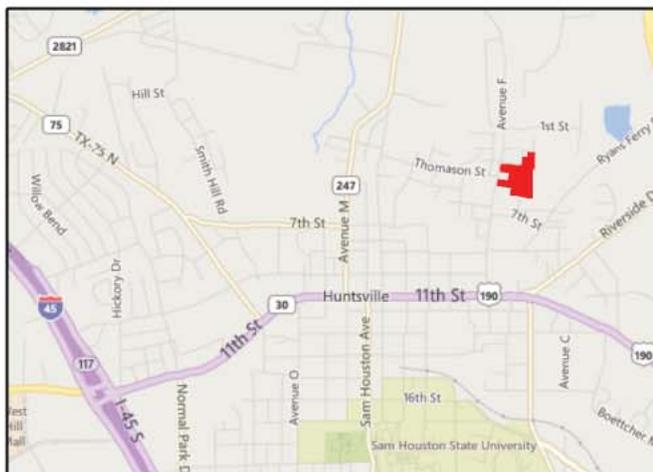
300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive

8.801 Acres

(CityPark)

Emancipation Park is a City Park that provides a high level of service to the surrounding community. The park offers a range of activities and amenities including the following:

- Covered, Full Basketball Court, Open Basketball Court
- Restrooms
- Picnic Areas with Grills
- Benches
- Water Fountains
- Athletic Practice Fields with Backstop
- Fenced Playground with Multiple Structures
- Volleyball
- Open Space
- Community Center
- Parking Lot
- Horseshoe Pits



### Legend

- Park Boundary
- Stream
- City Limits
- Facilities
- ParkSupportFacility
- ParkTrail

# Park Profiles 07



*The pavilion at Emancipation Park offers 7,600 square feet of shade, with lighting. The pavilion is weathered but functional. Adding retractable basketball goals would significantly increase the utilization of the structure, while still allowing it to be used for events.*

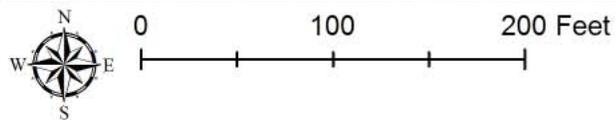


*The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center is an old, but well used facility. During after-school hours the Boys and Girls Club calls this place home with average daily participation of 125 children. The center is rented out for special events such as receptions and parties on weekends.*



*Backstops at Emancipation Park provide athletic practice space that is always in short supply. Any future renovations should ensure that practice fields are a component that remains.*

# Founders Park



## Founders Park

1000 University Ave.

0.282 Acres

(Passive Park)

Founders Park is a passive public space in the heart of Huntsville. This peaceful site offers a quiet place just outside of downtown for relaxation. The historic location is the former home site of a maker in Huntsville and the site of an old spring. The site is marked with historical plaques, and decorated with landscaping, a water feature, sculptures and a gravel pathway.

### Observations/Recommendations:

- None.

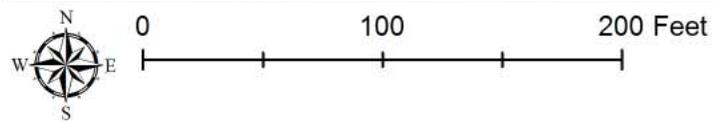


### Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail



# Gillaspie Park



## Gillaspie Park

890 Avenue I

0.450 Acres

(Passive Park)

Gillaspie Park is a passive park site located adjacent to Huntsville Middle School and the Huntsville Cemetery where Sam Houston's gravesite resides. The site offers formal landscaping and an obelisk monument in dedication to deceased war veterans of Walker County. A connecting pathway and picnic area are also available. The site is ideal for ceremonies with the available adjacent parking on the HISD property and its proximity to the historic cemetery.

### Observations/Recommendations:

- None.



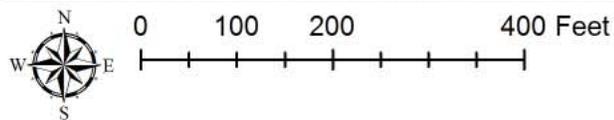
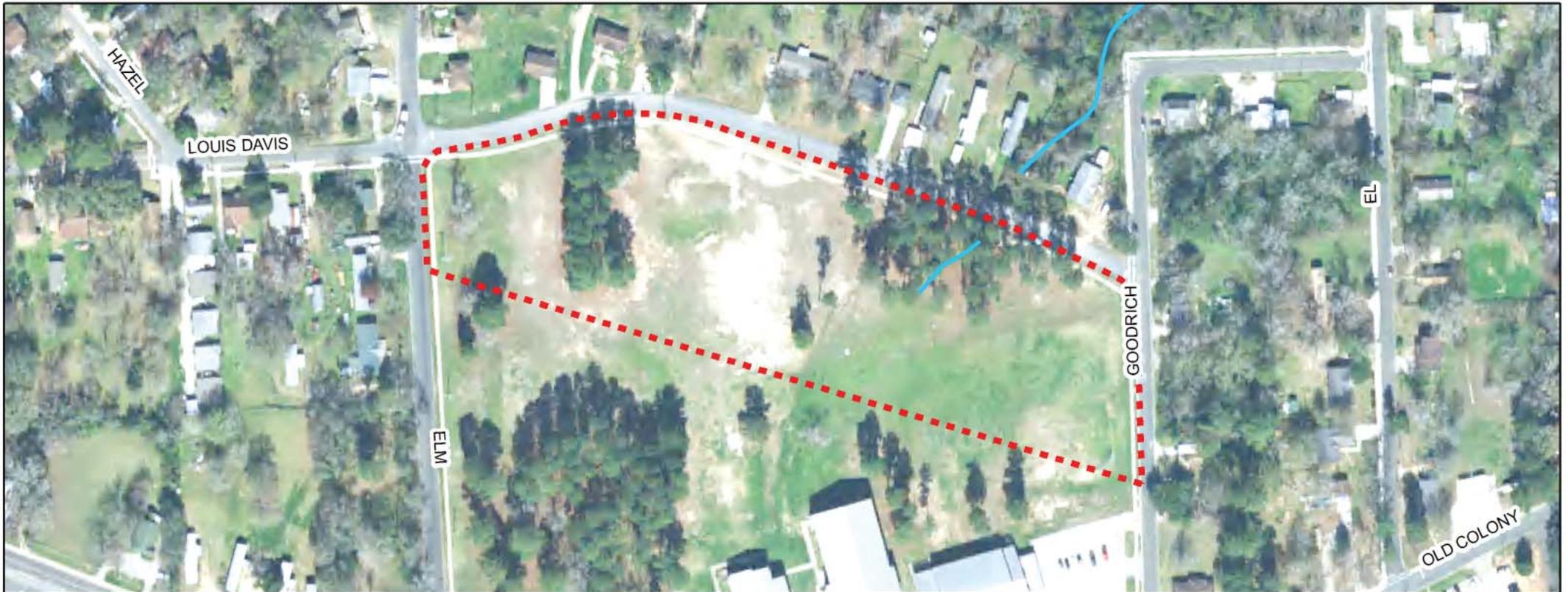
### Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

# Park Profiles 07



# New Addition Park



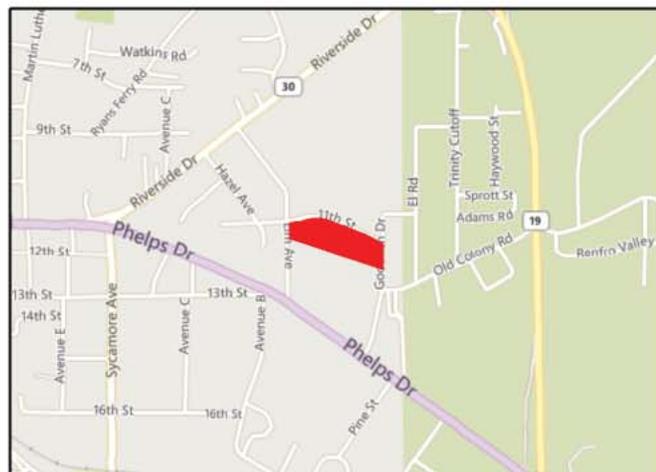
## New Addition Park

**1249 Goodrich Dr.**

**6.704 Acres**

**(Neighborhood Park)**

Adjacent to Huntsville Intermediate School, New Addition Park expands the recreation capacity of the school and local neighborhood. This park provides almost 7 acres of recreation space with walking paths, a fitness circuit, 4 athletic practice fields with backstops, a soccer field, swingsset, picnic area and open space. The park is maintained by the Huntsville Independent School District through an interlocal agreement. The athletic practice fields at New Addition park serve as the home for Huntsville YMCA sports games. The YMCA has a total of 8 teams including 4 soccer teams, 2 adaptive teams and 2 football teams. They are very pleased with the location and available park features, but report the need for a restroom facility. Currently, park users are provided a portable toilet that does not provide for hand washing.

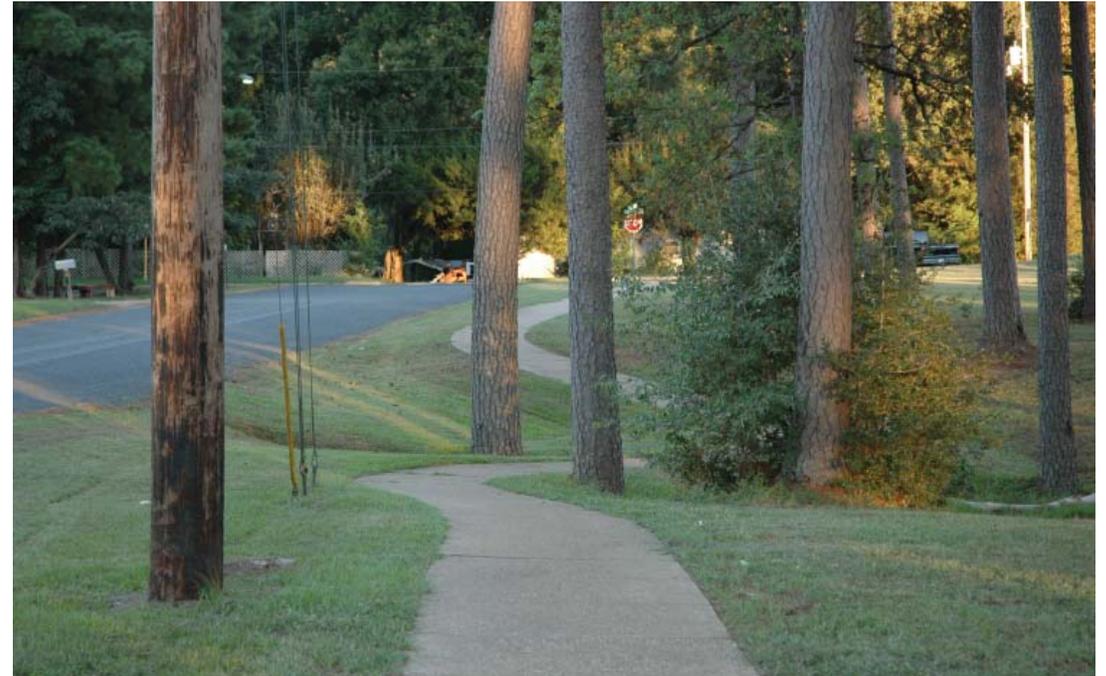


### Legend

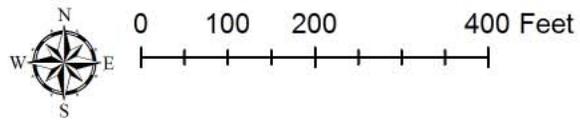
-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

## Observations/Recommendations:

- Park identification sign needs a new decal.
- Fitness circuit needs walking paths that connect the features and guide users through the course.
- Park users have reported the need for a restroom facility. Options could include lower-cost pre-cast concrete restroom systems, or upgraded portable toilet system with handwashing stations.



# Raven Terrace Park



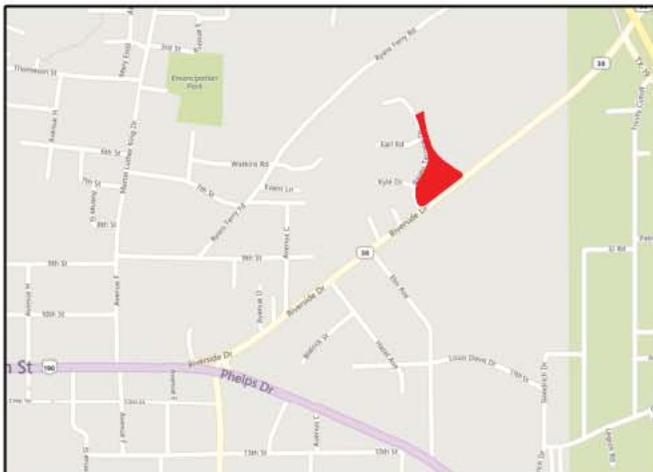
## Raven Terrace Park

671 SH 30 East

2.737 Acres

(Green Space)

Raven Terrace Park is an undeveloped parcel of green space adjacent to the Raven Terrace Subdivision. The property currently provides an effective screen from the highway traffic

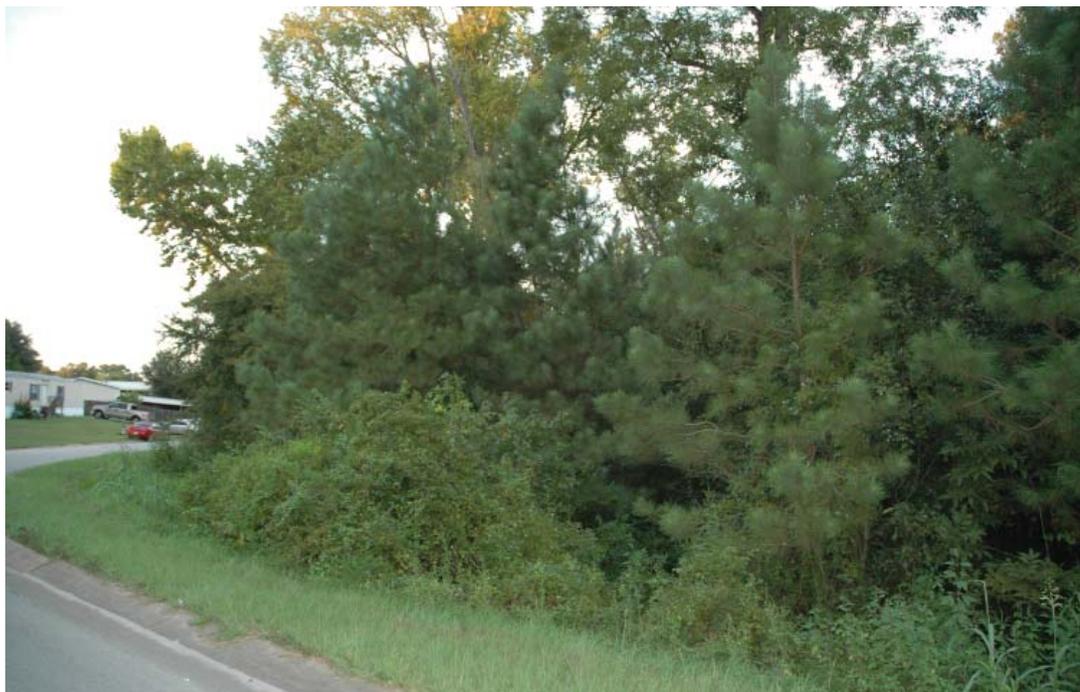


### Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

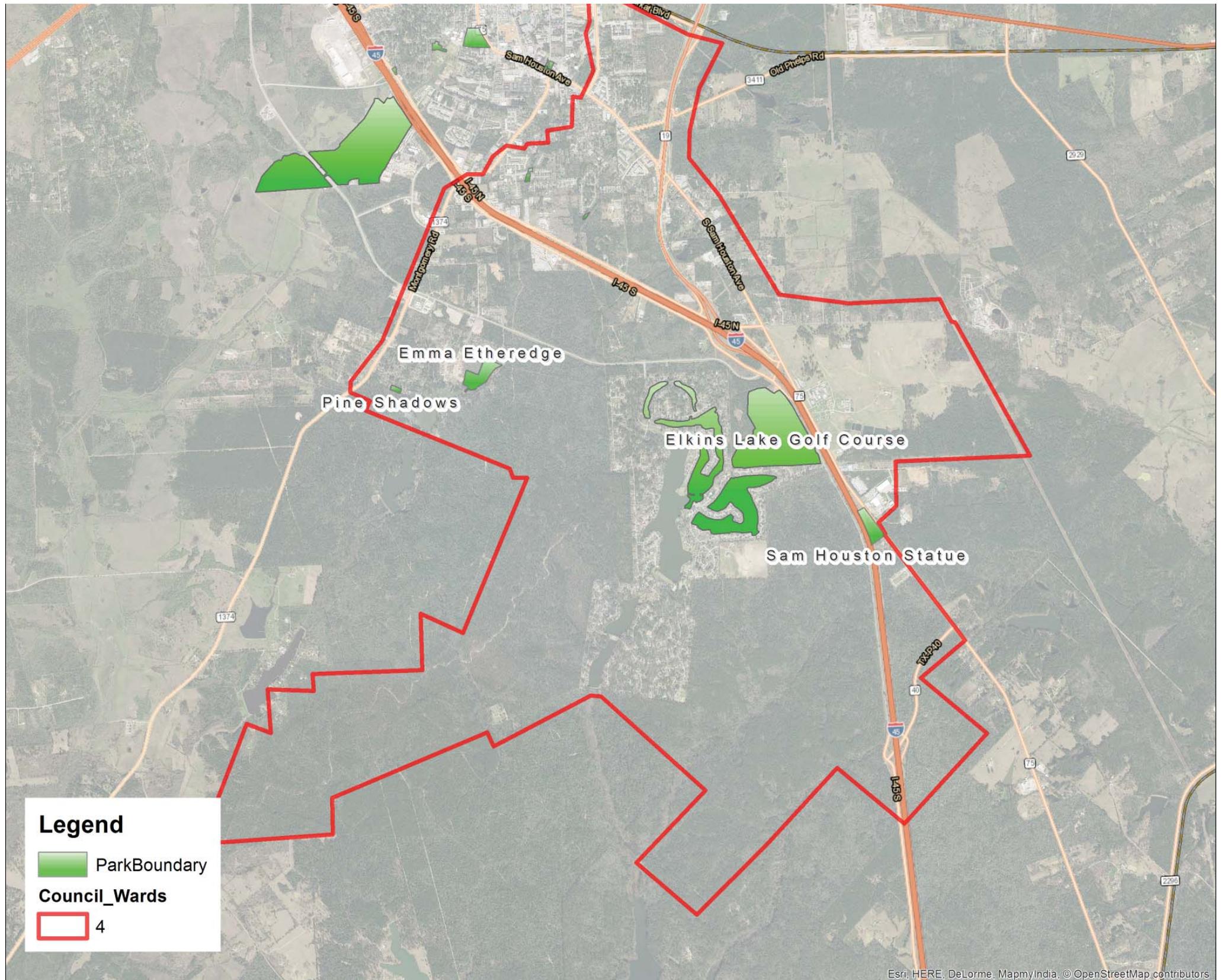
## Observations/Recommendations:

- At almost 3 acres, the property offers the opportunity to develop a neighborhood park for area residents. Walking paths, a playground, and a picnic area with tables and grills would fit nicely in the park. Care should be taken to preserve existing vegetation where appropriate to serve as a visual and noise-reducing buffer to State Highway 300 on the south boundary.

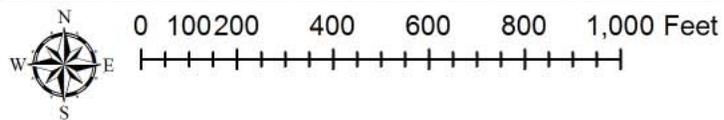
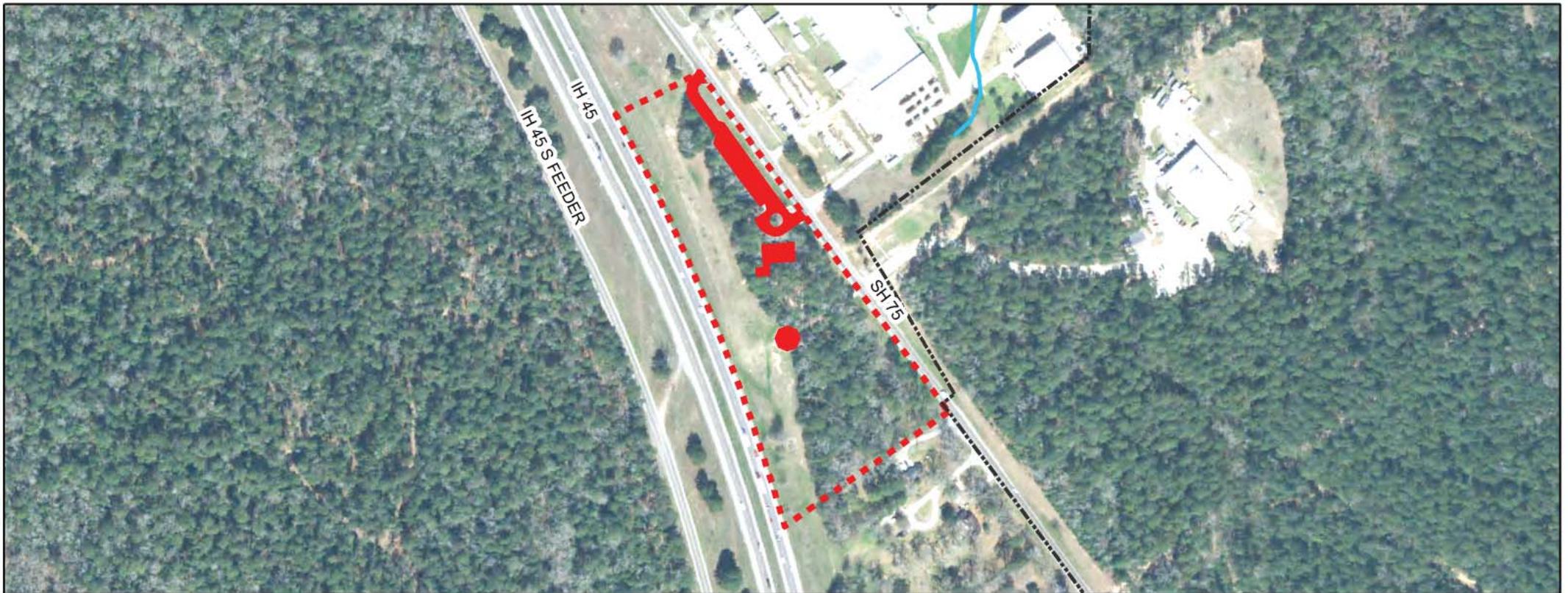




## Council Ward 4



# Sam Houston Statue Park



## Sam Houston Statue Park

7600 SH 75 South

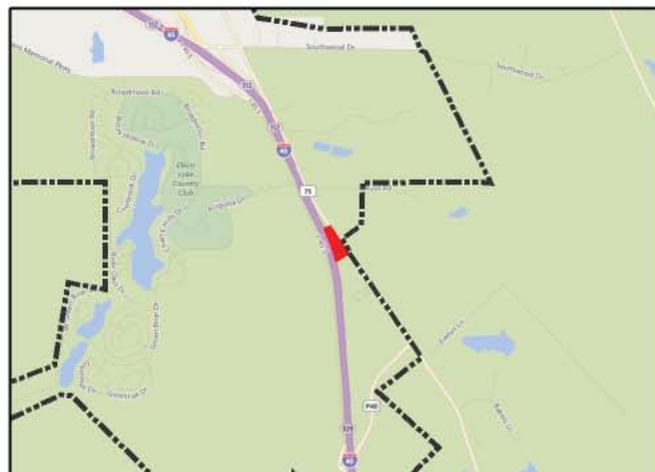
10.821 Acres

(Passive Park)

The Sam Houston Statue Park is a true landmark on Interstate 45 and serves as a de-facto city limits sign to travellers. The 67 foot tall statue, named "A Tribute to Courage" celebrates the life and legacy of the man who was once President of the Republic of Texas, Governor of the State of Texas, and a U.S. Senator. The park provides a visitor's center with restrooms and historical elements, picnic areas, an amphitheater, and a natural landscape with crushed granite pathways.

### Observations/Recommendations:

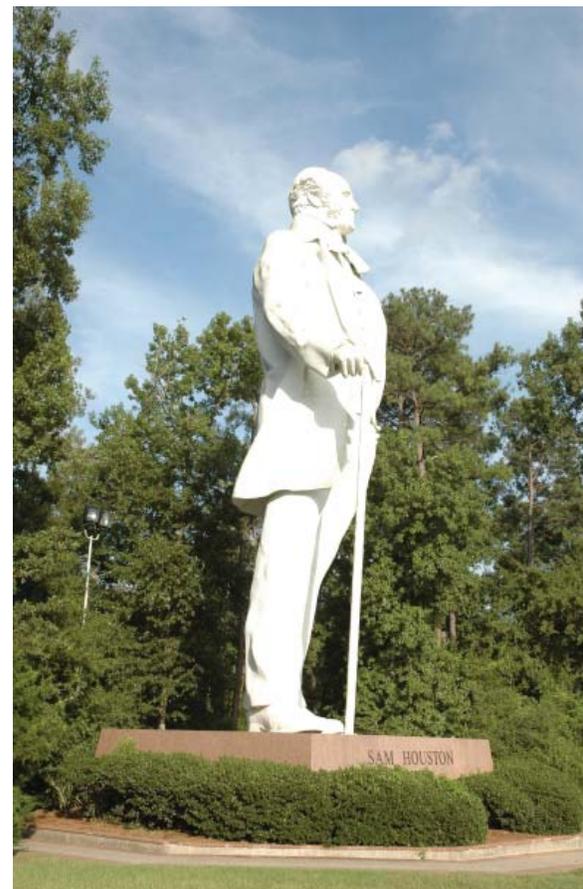
- None.



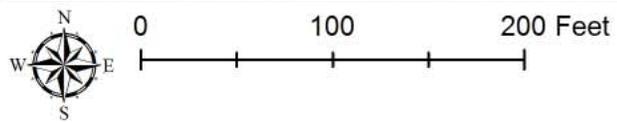
### Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

# Park Profiles 07



# Sandbrook Park



## Sandbrook Park

3166 Clay Circle

0.502 Acres

(Neighborhood Park)

This small neighborhood park in the Sandbrook Subdivision that is primarily used by residents for the swingset. The park offers a picnic table and grill, trash cans, a swingset, and a pet sanitation station.

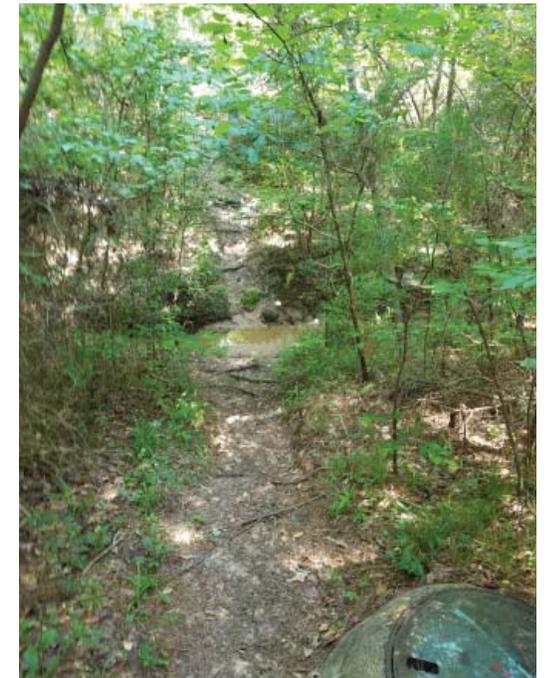


### Legend

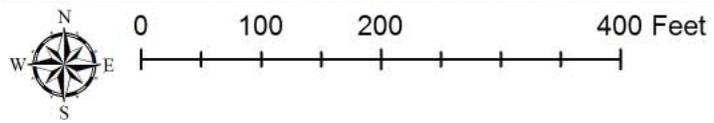
-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  Park Support Facility
-  Park Trail

## Observations/Recommendations:

- The existing is in good working order with some rust and fading of paint. A new coat of paint should be added.
- Improvised trails have been created leading to adjacent homes and undeveloped property. A park visitor has stated that the nearby utility easement is a popular location for walking dogs.



# Shady Acres / Elks Park



## Shady Acres / Elks Park

698 Vicki Drive

1.320 Acres

(Green Space)

XXXXXXXXXXXX



### Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Facilities
-  ParkSupportFacility
-  ParkTrail

# Park Profiles 07



## Works Cited

### Research and Bibliography

1. Walker County Transit Plan - 2012, Houston Galveston Area Council Transportation Department
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3. Safe Routes to Parks: Improving Access to Parks through Walkability, NRPA
4. Parks Build Healthy Communities: Success Stories, NRPA
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6. Parks and Recreation: A Look at Trends in Parks and Recreation, Emily Tipping, [recmanagement.com](http://recmanagement.com)
7. Texas Vegetation Classification Project: Interpretive Booklet for Phase 3, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Natural Resource Information System