



2024 LOCKHART PARKS MASTER PLAN

5-YEAR UPDATE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Lockhart Parks Master Plan 5-Year Update was developed by the City of Lockhart with the technical support and design assistance of Halff, Inc. A special thanks goes to the countless citizens, additional staff members and other community leaders for their insight and support during this planning process. The following individuals are recognized for their substantial contributions towards the creation of this Plan.

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- Juan Mendoza, District 1
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CITY OF LOCKHART STAFF

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RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

The City of Lockhart City Council passed Resolution No. 2024-06 on February 6, 2024, to adopt the City of Lockhart’s Parks Master Plan 5-Year Update.

WILL PLACE ADOPTION HERE



PLAN CONTENTS

PART 1 | INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

Purpose and Principles.....	8
Plan Components.....	11
Demographics Profile.....	14

PART 2 | LOCKHART PARKS TODAY

Parks System Introduction.....	18
Demand-Based Assessment.....	28
Standards-Based Assessment.....	30

PART 3 | CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

Conditions-Based Assessment.....	38
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PART 4 | LOCKHART PARKS TOMORROW

Top Priorities.....	53
Priority Projects.....	54
Implementing The Plan.....	66





PART 1

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

This planning effort was initiated by the City of Lockhart with intent to reflect additional priorities needed to update the City’s parks system in order to meet the needs of the community residents. The plan will provide guidance for future enhancements and the development of new parks, recreational facilities, and programs. This plan update revisits the goals and priorities of the 2018 and will provide an important update for both near-term and future park, recreation and leisure opportunities. This chapter identifies overarching citywide parks planning principles and the community context for the planning area.

WHY PLAN A PARK SYSTEM

A local community’s trust in its government stems from the City’s ability to be good stewards of community facilities and capital resources. A plan is an invaluable tool for documenting the information needed to identify improvements, additions, and expenditure of those resources. Parks are City facilities, and an essential part of the City’s civic infrastructure, that directly impact the quality of life of existing and future residents alike. Therefore, it is important to understand the role parks and open spaces play in supporting a community that is a vibrant and desirable place to live.

Parks and other civic spaces are the public’s primary destinations for exercise, play, fellowship, and other leisure activities. The ability to participate in these activities help to define how people view the quality of their community. The 2023 City of Lockhart Parks Master Plan Update has been prepared in recognition of this. It also addresses the following six key public benefits of parks.

PARKS PROMOTE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

For most people, their daily lives involve a lot of sitting and not much physical activity. It requires making a conscious effort to exercise instead of relying on regular activities to keep fit. To make this easier, we need our surroundings to support and motivate us to be active. Exercise is crucial for our physical well-being, while our mental health benefits from social interactions and spending time in nature. Parks and open areas are great places that provide these opportunities to be active and relax.

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



Parks and open spaces provide citizens with opportunities for active recreation such as the disc golf course in City Park.



Parks and recreation programs provide opportunities for both adults and youth to participate in organized events which contribute to community building and important life skills.

PARKS CONTRIBUTE TO A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

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

Parks also provide an opportunity for community service and participation in group events or leagues. A neighborhood group can volunteer to maintain a specific park through an Adopt-A-Park program. Special events and festivals hosted in local parks are great ways to get to know neighbors and local businesses.

PARKS PROVIDE A SAFE HAVEN TO YOUTH

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

PARKS INCREASE TOURISM

People will visit a community because of local attractions, including parks with desirable facilities or unique features. Festivals, concerts, sports tournaments, and special events typically take place in community owned public spaces. Even museums and sometimes libraries can be located within or adjacent to a park to increase community offerings in a central location. Lockhart and the surrounding area are already a destination for activities such as BBQ festivals, athletic tournaments, and camping/RVing at Lockhart State Park. Capitalizing on these existing attractions and enhancing those experiences is a way to increase local revenues.

PARKS CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMY

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

The Proximate Principle extends beyond residential property. The relationship between private business and parks has a positive impact through an increase in demand for services. Hotels and restaurants that overlook a park, lake, or garden see increased customer satisfaction versus those without similar views. These relationships often lead to positive experiences and reviews and in turn generate more business and tax revenue for the community.

PARKS PROMOTE CONSERVATION

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

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



Comanche Park is an undeveloped area of parkland within Lockhart's city limits, located along FM 20 on the eastern edge of town. This unused parkland can be saved for open space or utilized as a future park to be added into Lockhart's park system.

TPWD CONSISTENCY

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

A TPWD-consistent plan includes the following organizational components: plan goals and objectives, parkland and facility standards, inventory of existing parks and park facilities, a needs assessment, an implementation strategy, and prioritized list of needs. These plan components are supported by public input and outreach, maps, graphics, and photos that add support and context for the issues covered in the plan.

PLAN COMPONENTS

The Parks Master Plan Update is organized by the following parts:

Part 1: Introduction and Context.

This introductory chapter defines the purpose of the master plan, provides the regional context for the area, and showcases the planning area for the Lockhart Parks System.

Part 3: Parks Condition Assessment.

This chapter incorporates an assessment of the entire parks system that was used to inform plan recommendations and implementation strategies.

Part 2: Demographics & Public Engagement Summary.

This chapter provides details and context of Lockhart's current demographic makeup, and summarizes the results of the public survey that was administered.

Part 4: Plan Recommendations and Implementation.

This chapter identifies plan goals recommended actions for new park facilities, improvements to existing parks, and operational elements.



Texas Monthly BBQ Festival held at Lockhart City Park in 2022

REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of Lockhart is located in the heart of Central Texas, nestled approximately 30 miles south of Austin and 70 miles northeast of San Antonio. Lockhart benefits from its proximity to these major metropolitan areas because the region serves as a gateway between the urban sprawl of IH-35 and the more rural landscapes that characterize much of the surrounding region.

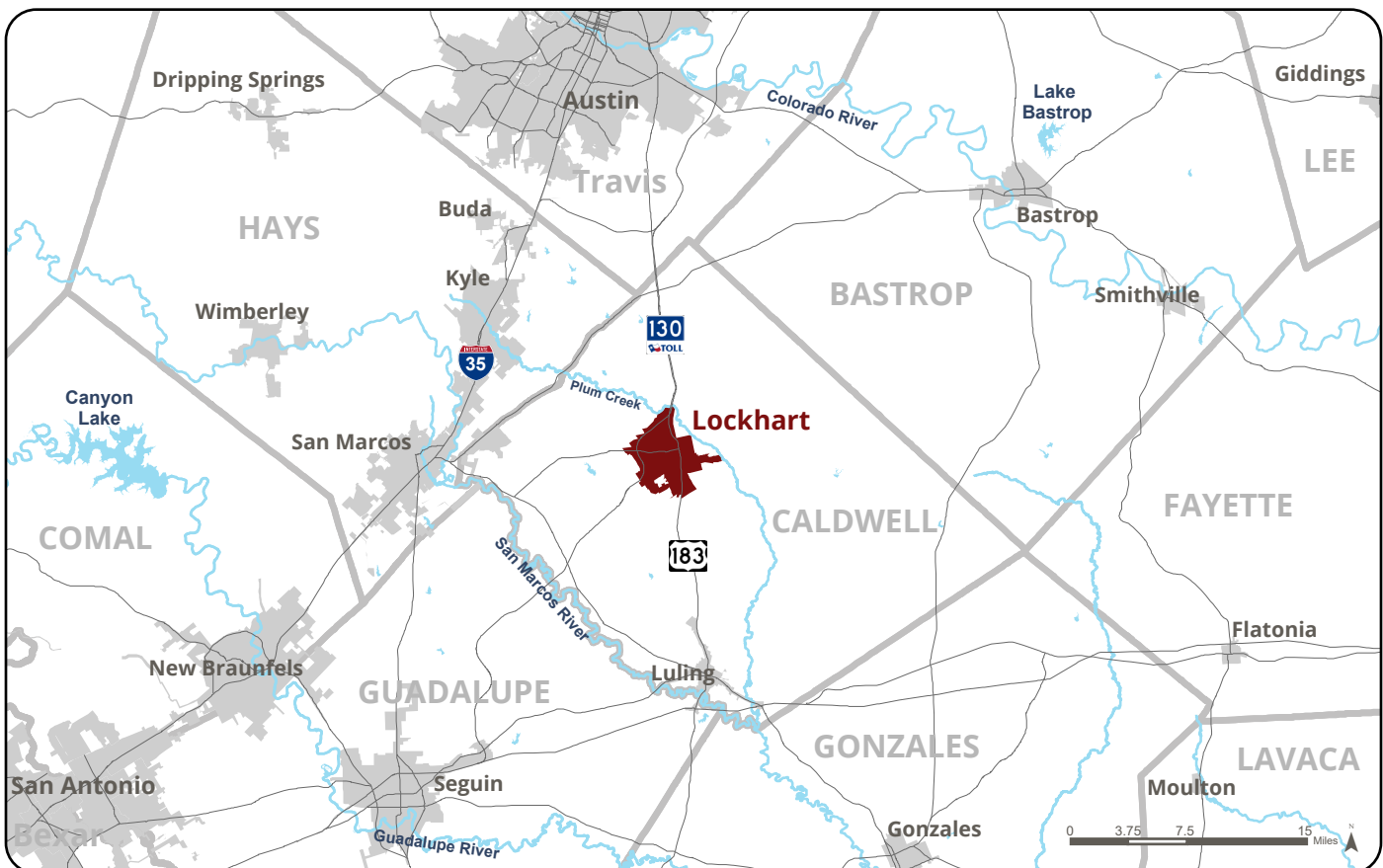
Lockhart's regional context is defined by its prime location along major transportation routes. The city is intersected by Highway 183 and Highway 142, making it easily accessible to neighboring towns and cities. This accessibility enhances Lockhart's role as a regional hub, attracting visitors from nearby communities for various events, festivals, and business endeavors.

PLANNING AREA

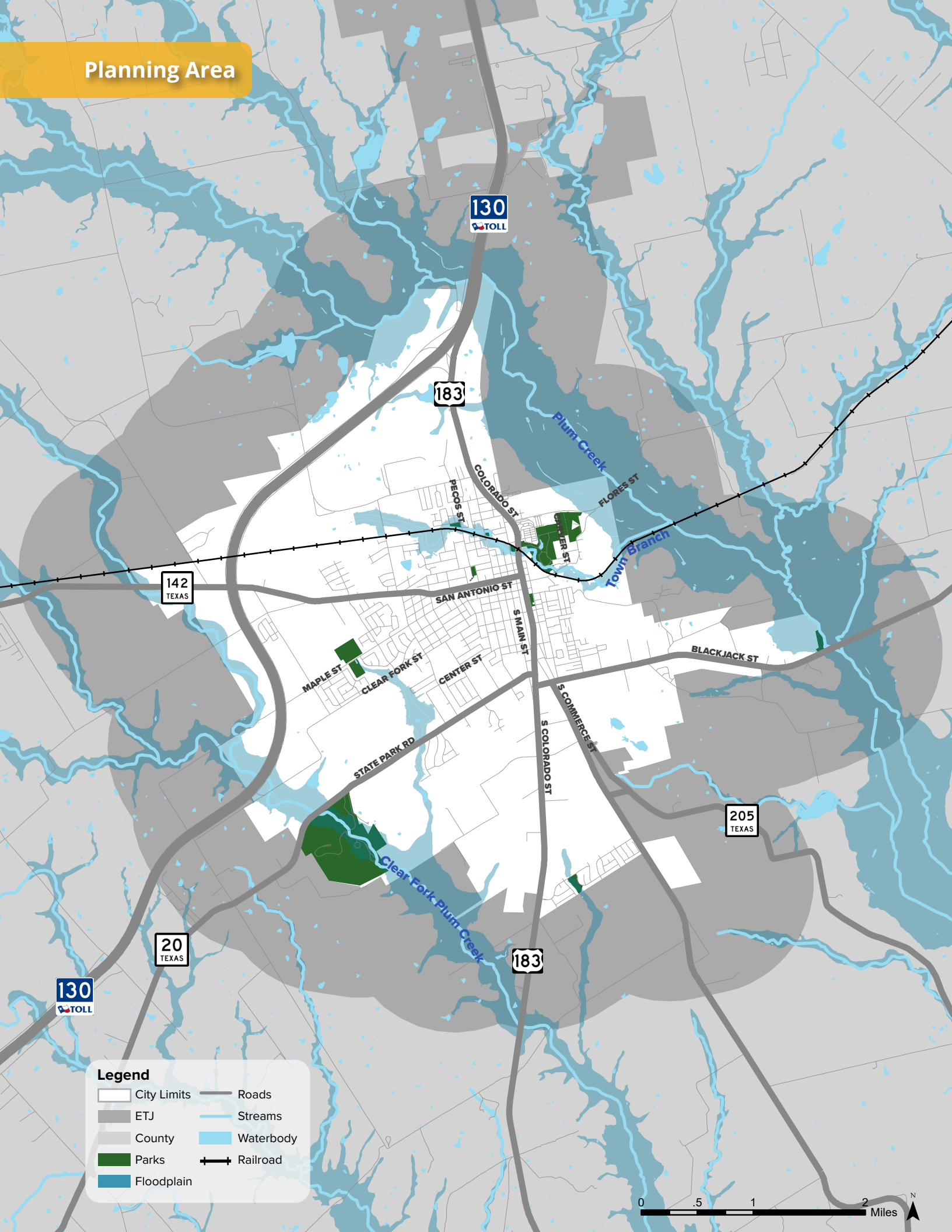
It is important that the park planning effort considers the entire extent of the area that is under the jurisdictional influence of the municipality. Regardless of the community's growth rate, a city should explore opportunities beyond its current limits for parks and recreation to take advantage of its natural resources and prepare for future growth.

The Parks Master Plan Update analyzes the park, recreation, and open space needs for the residents within Lockhart's municipal limits and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The City limits of Lockhart include approximately 16.3 square miles, while the ETJ adds 31.8 square miles. The Parks Master Plan planning area is illustrated on the following page, **Planning Area**.

Regional Context Map



Planning Area



Legend

- City Limits
- ETJ
- County
- Parks
- Floodplain
- Roads
- Streams
- Waterbody
- Railroad



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

A community's demographics can contribute to a better understanding of the people a planning effort is intending to serve. Effectively addressing public preferences and needs requires an understanding of the unique characteristics of the resident population. Key demographic and wealth metrics of Lockhart's population are presented on **pages 8 through 9**. For additional demographic information please see **Appendix B, Demographics**.

POPULATION GROWTH

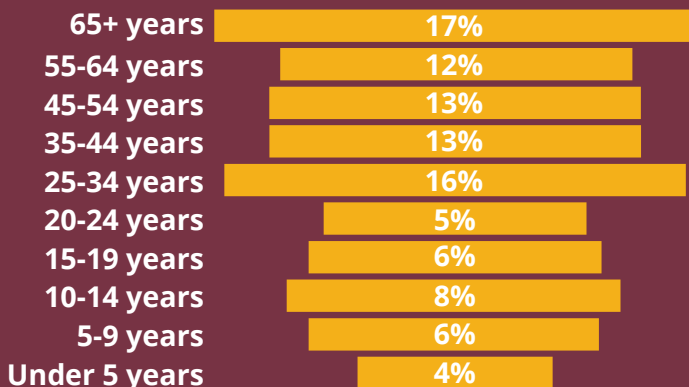
According to the U.S. Census, the City's population changed very little overall between 2000 and 2020. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) projects the population to increase more significantly over the next several decades, as seen in **Historic and Projected Population**.

LOCKHART, TEXAS	CITY POPULATION	AVERAGE AGE	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME
	14,379	38.8	\$64,633

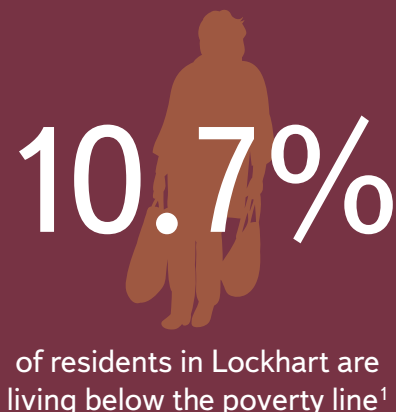
PROJECTED POPULATION

Year	TWDB Baseline	Low Growth (2% CAGR)	Medium Growth (2.5% CAGR)	High Growth (3.5% CAGR)
2020	14,614	14,379	14,379	14,379
2030	16,563	17,528	18,406	20,283
2040	18,722	21,366	23,562	28,611
2050	21,276	25,046	30,161	40,359
2060	24,114	31,749	38,609	56,930

POPULATION AGE GROUPS



POVERTY LEVEL



HEALTH INDICATORS

20.0%

of residents in Lockhart live with a **physical disability**¹

57.3%

of residents in Lockhart **exercise** at a home or club 2+ times per week¹

40.0%

of adults in Lockhart are **chronically obese**²

CALDWELL COUNTY OVERALL HEALTH RANKINGS²

Caldwell County ranks **#109** of 254 ranked counties in Texas

Ranking Out of 254 Texas Counties

Health Factors ranked in the lower to middle range of all counties

Health Outcomes ranked in the higher to middle range of all counties

Physical Environment

242

Social & Economic

100

Clinical Care

179

Health Behaviors

143

Quality of Life

138

Length of Life

81

The Community Health Rankings issued by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are a tool used to understand the levels of overall health of a community. These annual rankings are an examination of community-wide health care outcomes which include length and quality of life and health factors which consist of health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment.

The County Health Rankings are based on a model of community health that emphasizes the many factors that influence how long and how well we live. The Rankings use more than 30 measures that help communities understand how healthy their residents are today (health outcomes) and what will impact their health in the future (health factors).

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's 2020 health rankings for Caldwell County are illustrated to the left. Caldwell County ranks 109 out of 254 Texas counties in terms of community-wide health factors - including measures of diet and exercise - and 88 out of 254 in health outcomes. Lockhart's lowest scores are in "length of life" and "social & economic".

Source: 1. U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates; 2. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, County Health Rankings



A photograph of a baseball field under a clear blue sky. The field has green grass and a brown dirt infield. In the background, there are trees and a fence. A large red overlay covers the left side of the image, containing white text. The text reads "PART 2 LOCKHART PARKS TODAY".

PART 2 LOCKHART PARKS TODAY

PARKS SYSTEM INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the Parks Master Plan establishes a base assessment of the existing park system. This information will be used to develop the park recommendations.

Park classifications, existing park properties, a park system inventory, and Level of Service tables are all topics covered in this chapter.

- Park classifications provide the context to how each park functions and the role each park plays within the overall park system.
- Examining existing parkland provides an inventory of park facilities.
- The identification of the level of service the parks should be providing in regards to acreage and facilities / amenities

These three topics will be discussed in further detail in the following pages. The City of Lockhart Parks and Recreation Department currently maintains 10 City-owned parks, and all of them include planned amenities or facilities.

The Department is tasked with managing the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities, grounds, and trails for these properties, as well as several non-park properties, as shown in the map, **Existing Parks System**. In addition, the Department assists with coordinating numerous community events, recreational programming and supports development review.



Left: Skatepark located at City Park; **Right:** Trail running through North Pecos Park

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Organizing parkland into a classification system is important for management and evaluation of the park offerings and services being provided to the local residents. The Parks Master Plan follows national, state, and industry standards for evaluating and classifying parkland.

Parks are typically grouped into general classification system that considers types of uses, size, and service area of each park type.

These include:

- Pocket/Mini Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Regional Parks
- Special Use Parks
- Trails and Greenways
- Open Space/Greenspace (typically undeveloped land for parks)

In Lockhart, there are three primary types of parks: community, neighborhood, and special use parks.



Existing Parks System



Legend

- City Parks
- State Park
- Trails
- City Limits
- Streams
- Railroad

Lockhart Parks

- 1 Pecos Park
- 2 Navarro Springs Park
- 3 Santos Arrendondo Park
- 4 City Park
- 5 Youth Sports Complex
- 6 Nueces Park
- 7 Lions Park
- 8 Maple Street Park
- 9 Cpl. Jason LaFluer Soccer Complex
- 10 Braun Park



COMMUNITY PARKS

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

There is currently one community park in Lockhart totaling 51.9 acres which comprises approximately 41 percent of Lockhart's total parkland. City Park is located in the northeast portion of the city.

LOCKHART'S COMMUNITY PARK

- **City Park**



Above: Looped trail around pond; **Top Right:** Dog Park; **Bottom Right:** Amphitheater

COMMUNITY PARK HIGHLIGHTS

Lockhart's community park include multiple amenities that attract residents from across the City. Highlights include:

- BBQ grills
- Walking and nature trail
- Playground areas
- Basketball courts
- Disc golf course
- Fishing areas
- Amphitheater
- Pavilions
- Skatepark
- Dog park
- Swimming pool & splashpad

A full inventory of community park amenities is located in **Existing Park System Inventory**, on page 24.



SPECIAL USE PARKS

Special use parks tend to be diverse in size, category, and amenities because they are designed to serve a unique purpose and support specific activities. Because the facility accommodates particular or unique recreational activities, each special use park may provide only one or a few activities. Prominent examples of special use parks are athletic complexes, skate parks, dog parks, natural areas and open space.

The Lockhart parks system includes two special use parks totaling 46.3 acres which comprise approximately 37 percent of Lockhart's total parkland. These parks are located in the southern portion of the city.

LOCKHART'S SPECIAL USE PARKS

- **Youth Sports Complex**
- **Jason K. LaFleur Soccer Complex**



Top Right: Entrance to Youth Sports Complex; **Above:** Youth Sports Complex picnic area; **Above:** Jason K. LaFleur Soccer Complex

SPECIAL USE PARK HIGHLIGHTS

Lockhart's special use parks include amenities that attract residents and visitors from the region. Highlights include:

- Baseball fields
- Youth softball fields
- Adult softball fields
- Soccer fields
- Concession facilities
- Pavilions

A full inventory of special use park amenities is located in **Existing Parks System Inventory** on page 24.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

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

The Lockhart parks system includes seven neighborhood parks totaling 26.9 acres which comprise approximately 22 percent of Lockhart's total parkland. These parks are located throughout the city.

LOCKHART'S NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- **North Pecos Park**
- **Nueces Park**
- **Santos Arredondo Park**
- **Navarro Springs Park**
- **Lions Park**
- **Braun Park**
- **Maple Street Park**



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK HIGHLIGHTS

Lockhart's neighborhood parks include multiple amenities that attract residents from surrounding neighborhoods. Highlights include:

- BBQ grills
- Basketball courts
- Splash pad
- In-park trails
- Playgrounds
- Picnic tables
- Pavilions
- Benches

A full inventory of neighborhood park amenities is located in **Existing Parks System Inventory**.



Left: Santos Arredondo Park; **Top Right:** North Pecos Park; **Bottom Right:** Navarro Springs Park



Top: Nueces Park basketball court; **Bottom Left:** Lion's Park playground; **Middle Right:** Maple Street Park splash pad; **Bottom Right:** Braun Park

Existing Park System Inventory

Existing Parks				Active Facilities					
Facility	Address	Acres	Baseball Fields	Softball Fields	Soccer Fields	Basketball Full Courts	Multi-purpose Practice Fields	Disc Golf Course	
Community Parks									
1	City Park	504 E. City Park Road	51.9				2	1	
Subtotal			51.9	0	0	0	2	1	
Special Use Parks									
2	Jason K. LaFluer Soccer Complex	1507 Maple St.	19.9			7	2		
3	Youth Sports Complex	700 North Carver	26.4	5	1	1		1	
Subtotal			46.3	5	1	8	2	1	
Neighborhood Parks									
4	Braun Park	310 Summerside Ave.	6.8						
5	Lion's Park	400 South Colorado	3.3						
6	Navarro Springs Park	800 North Blanco	1.8						
7	North Pecos Park	831 North Pecos	2.8				1		
8	Nueces Park	315 Nueces	2.3				2		
9	Maple Street Park	1508 Maple St.	8.4						
10	Santos Arredondo Park	317 North Commerce	1.5						
Subtotal			26.9	0	0	0	3	0	
Undeveloped Parkland									
11	Comanche Park	3800 FM 20	8.2						
Total			133.3	5	1	8	7	1	

Active Facilities				Water			Passive / Support Facilities						Infrastructure				
Paved Hike/Bike Trails (miles)	Amphitheater	Playground (# of units)	Skating Facilities	Splash Pads	Swimming Pools	Fishing Piers	Covered Picnic Table	Pavilions	Picnic Tables	BBQ Grills	Benches	Drinking Fountains	Lakes or Water in Park	Bike Racks	Concession Bldgs.	Restroom Bldgs./Portable	Parking (# of spaces)
1.5	1	2	1	1	1	1	8	4	36	7	16	4	1				150
1.5	1	2	1	1	1	1	8	4	36	7	16	4	1	0	0	0	150
		1						3	5		3				1	1	170
		1							7			2			1	1	72
0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	12	0	3	2	0	0	2	2	242
		1					1		4	1	3			1		1	9
		2					2	2	9	3						1	12
		1					1		7	2	4	1					25
		2					2	1	6	2		1					
		2						1	3	4		1				1	
		1		1				1								1	
		1							9		3						12
0	0	10	0	1	0	0	6	5	38	12	10	3	0	1	0	4	58
1.5	1	14	1	2	1	1	14	12	86	19	29	9	1	1	2	6	450

PARK HIGHLIGHT: LOCKHART STATE PARK

This state park is not maintained by the City of Lockhart, but is a major asset located within Lockhart's city limits. Nestled in the southwest corner of the City, the park is a serene oasis for nature enthusiasts and people that love the outdoors. The state park spans approximately 263 acres and offers a unique blend of natural beauty and recreational opportunities. Currently the City of Lockhart does not have a city-wide trail system, but this Plan will recommend a Trails Master Plan to guide the development of future trails in Lockhart. Until then, Lockhart State Park offers approximately 4 miles of trails for residents and visitors to enjoy. Visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife website to learn more about annual state park passes. (tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/park-information/passes)

- **9-Hole Golf Course:** One of the park's standout features is its beautifully maintained golf course, built in 1938. Golfers of all skill levels can enjoy a round surrounded by the park's natural beauty. This is one of the best values for golf in the state of Texas.
- **Picnic Areas:** Numerous shaded picnic areas are scattered throughout the park, making it an ideal spot for a family picnic
- **Hiking / Biking Trails:** Lockhart State Park boasts a network of scenic hiking trails that wind through the park's woodlands and meadows. These trails offer opportunities for hikers to explore the park.
- **Camping Facilities:** For those looking to extend their stay, the park offers a campground with both tent and RV sites. Campers can immerse themselves in the natural surroundings while still having access to modern amenities.
- **Swimming Pool:** A refreshing swimming pool is available during the summer months, providing visitors with a cool escape from the Texas heat.
- **Fishing and Wildlife Viewing:** The park is home to Clear Fork Creek, where anglers can try their luck at catching a variety of fish species. Birdwatchers and wildlife enthusiasts will also find plenty to observe among the diverse ecosystems.
- **Nature Center:** Lockhart State Park's nature center offers educational exhibits and programs that delve into the local flora, fauna, and history, making it an engaging experience for visitors of all ages.

“THE CLEAR FORK CREEK AND ITS LUSH, SHADY FORESTS HAVE ATTRACTED PEOPLE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. LARGE BLUFFS OFFER REMARKABLE VIEWS OF NATURAL AND HISTORIC BEAUTY, WHILE THE LOWLANDS AND CREEK OFFER A NICE RESPITE FROM THE HOT SUMMER SUN. TEXAS NATURE AND CULTURE COME TOGETHER IN THIS LITTLE PIECE OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS.”

- TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT



Lockhart State Park group hall, and outdoor seating
Photo Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife



Lockhart State Park walking trail
Photo Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife



LOCKHART STATE PARK TRAIL SYSTEM

TRAIL	DISTANCE	TIME	DIFFICULTY	DESCRIPTION
CLEAR FORK TRAIL	0.4 mi.	20 min.	Easy	For great views of Clear Fork Creek, take an easy stroll through this riparian corridor. You will pass some of the biggest trees in the park and see some of the historical CCC constructed check dams.
WILD ROSE LOOP	0.4 mi.	20 min.	Easy	One of the more diverse trails in the park, this short loop winds through habitats of bluestem prairie grass, Eastern red cedar, and green ash trees.
CREEKVIEW TRAIL	0.3 mi.	10 min.	Easy	Enjoy this flat walk along the ridge above Clear Fork Creek to discover a great fishing spot. Continue on to link up to the Fence Line and Persimmon trails.
HILLTOP TRAIL	0.3 mi.	15 min.	Moderate	Whether ascending or descending this trail, you will move through diverse landscapes with new plants to discover.
FENCE LINE TRAIL	0.2 mi.	20 min.	Moderate	Watch the landscape change as this trail parallels a large portion of the park's southern boundary.
PERSIMMON TRAIL	0.2 mi.	15 min.	Challenging	Traverse the rugged hillside covered with Texas persimmon trees, and enjoy the shaded journey.
CHISHOLM TRAIL	0.7 mi.	15 min.	Moderate	This trail will take you past the third hole of the golf course to connect with Rattlesnake Run, Comanche Loop, Fence Line Trail, or CCC Trail.
COMANCHE LOOP	0.1 mi.	10 min.	Easy	Named for the vantage point used by Comanche tribes in the past, this relaxing loop yields hilltop views of the entire park and surrounding Lockhart area.
RATTLESNAKE RUN	0.5 mi.	20 min.	Challenging	The most challenging trail in the park, this trek will place you near the Recreation Hall.
CADDY TRAIL	0.4 mi.	5 min.	Moderate	This meandering path will transport you between the Recreation Hall and the CCC Trail.
CCC TRAIL	0.2 mi.	5 min.	Moderate	From the back patio of the Recreation Hall there is a pleasant hilltop view of nearby Lockhart. This trail drops off the back patio and leads you down the high hill to the golf course and the park road.

DEMAND-BASED ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SURVEY SUMMARY

A community-wide online survey was conducted to better understand the opinions, perceptions, and desires of the local community. 128 respondents took the survey during the summer of 2023.

The next two pages highlight key survey results. The complete survey results can be found in **Appendix A, Public Engagement Results**.

Most Frequented Parks In Lockhart

#1



City Park

#2



Maple Street Park

#3



Youth Sports Complex



City Park Pond

Least Frequented Parks In Lockhart

#1



Santos Arredondo Park

#2



Ed Braun Park

#3



North Pecos Park



Santos Arredondo Park

What Are The Primary Reasons You Use Parks In Lockhart?



Overall Condition of City Parks



51%

RESIDENTS FEEL THE PARKS SYSTEM IS IN FAIR CONDITION

Desired Park Types

#1 INDOOR FACILITIES, #2 OPEN SPACE/TRAILS, #3 LINEAR PARKS

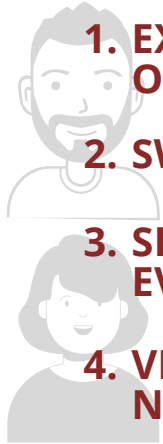
MOST DESIRED 

LEAST DESIRED 

#4 SPECIAL USE PARKS, #5 LARGE PARKS, #6 SMALL PARKS

Park Activities You Would Most Like To Participate In

Adults



1. EXERCISING ON TRAILS
2. SWIMMING
3. SPECIAL EVENTS
4. VIEWING NATURE
5. CANOEING OR KAYAKING

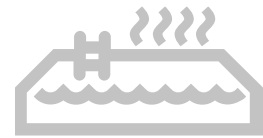
Children



1. PLAY-GROUNDS
2. SPLASH PAD
3. SWIMMING
4. ART / CRAFTS CLASSES
5. SOCCER

88%

OF RESPONSES INDICATED THAT INDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE IN LOCKHART



Most Important Facilities or Amenities

#1

NEW / UPGRADED RESTROOMS

#2

TREES AND LANDSCAPING

#3

BENCHES

#4

WALKING / HIKING TRAILS

#5

SWIMMING POOL

What is Keeping You or Your Family From Using the Parks More Frequently?

30%

OF RESPONDENTS SAY, LACK OF MAINTENANCE

Lockhart Parks System

96%

AGREE THAT BETTER PARKS WILL HELP TO IMPROVE OUR CITY IMAGE

If You Were Given an Unlimited Budget,

“Lockhart would truly benefit from an indoor recreation center (gym, courts and classes) with an indoor swimming pool. This would greatly benefit citizens of all ages, especially during the hot months (and the few cold months).”

- SURVEY RESPONDENT

Top Priorities

#1

CONSTRUCT A NEW AQUATICS FACILITY (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)

34%

VOTED AS TOP PRIORITY

#2

IMPROVEMENTS / MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

23%

VOTED AS TOP PRIORITY

#3

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW INDOOR FACILITIES

13%

VOTED AS TOP PRIORITY

STANDARD-BASED ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC SURVEY SUMMARY

This Parks Master Plan includes level of service (LOS) analysis of existing park size, park distribution and park facilities. These service levels should be viewed as guidance so the City can make decisions on future amenities within parks, or future real estate decisions on parks. The LOS is established using locally developed metrics to compare existing parkland and recreation facilities to the projected need based upon the current and future projected population.

Three types of LOS-based analyses are described below.

Level of Service - Park Acreage. The parkland acreage LOS analysis defines the ratio of park acreage to population. It analyzes whether there is sufficient acreage to serve the population today and in the future. The analysis also sheds light on whether the amount of parks in the community is adequate to meet future growth and what the deficiencies are per park classification.

Level of Service - Access to Parkland. The access to parkland LOS analysis examines the location and distribution of parkland throughout Lockhart. This analysis determines how easy it is for residents to access parkland, and identifies where parkland is needed to meet the City's target LOS.

Level of Service - Park Facilities. The facility LOS analysis defines the number of facilities recommended to serve each particular recreation need. Facility standards are usually expressed as a ratio of units of one particular facility per population size. For example, a facility standard for a baseball field is one field for every 5,000 residents of the city.



Park facilities such as the disc golf at City Park can enhance the experience for the park user.

LEVEL OF SERVICE - PARK ACREAGE

To help determine an appropriate LOS, a “target” level is provided using a range of acreage to determine adequacy. **Parkland Level of Service in Lockhart, 2023** provides the current LOS for park acreage and **Parkland Level of Service in Lockhart, 2030** provides the LOS for park acreage based on 2030 population projections.

Lockhart is currently within acreage targets for neighborhood parks but are below the range for community park acreage. The classification of special use parks do not have target acreage recommendations.

Parkland Level of Service in Lockhart, 2023

Park Classification	Existing Acreage	# of Parks	Avg. Size (ac.)	Current Level of Service (Based on 14,379 population)		Recommended Target LOS Ac./1000 Residents	Recommended Acreage	2023 Surplus or Deficit
Community Park	51.9	1	51.9	3.6	Ac./1,000 Residents	5.0 to 8.0	71.9 to 115.0	Deficit
Neighborhood Park	26.9	7	3.8	1.9	Ac./1,000 Residents	1.0 to 2.0	14.8 to 28.8	Within Range
Special Use	46.3	2	23.2	N/A		Varies	N/A	N/A
Undeveloped	8.2	1	8.2	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A

The 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review Report suggests a city with a population size of 14,379 should have at least **10.8 acres** of parkland for every 1,000 residents. Currently, Lockhart sits at **5.5 acres** (combined community parks and neighborhood parks acreage LOS) for every 1,000 residents,

Parkland Level of Service in Lockhart, 2030 (projected)

Park Classification	Existing Acreage	# of Parks	Avg. Size (ac.)	Current Level of Service (Based on 20,283 population)		Recommended Target LOS Ac./1000 Residents	Recommended Acreage	2023 Surplus or Deficit
Community Park	51.9	1	51.9	2.6	Ac./1,000 Residents	5.0 to 8.0	82.8 to 132.5	Deficit
Neighborhood Park	26.9	7	3.8	1.3	Ac./1,000 Residents	1.0 to 2.0	16.6 to 33.1	Within Range
Special Use	46.3	2	15.4	N/A		Varies	N/A	N/A
Undeveloped	8.2	1	8.2	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A

LEVEL OF SERVICE - ACCESS TO PARKLAND

In addition to parkland acreage, the location of parkland is equally important. The City has approximately 133 acres of parkland in total yet nearly half of that parkland is found in City Park and the Youth Sports Complex. The following sections evaluate parks from an access-based assessment, which uses locational distances to determine whether parks are reasonably accessible by residents.

Access to parkland is derived by applying service areas to specific types of park classifications and how they are intended to be used. For example, a neighborhood park is intended to serve the citizens in their immediate neighborhood, within roughly a quarter to half mile walkshed. This park classification would have a smaller service area than that for a community park, which serves a much broader area of four miles.

The LOS areas shown in the map on the following page indicates the areas of the community that have access to a park, delineated in each map by park type. Areas between the identified service area have to travel further to reach parks and may be considered underserved, as defined by National Recreation and Parks Association locational metrics. Note that these access standards are not indicative of a precise pedestrian shed but rather a general coverage area.

GAP ANALYSIS

A gap analysis shows the locations throughout a city where parks are needed. The **Parks System Service Area**, on the next page identifies the “gaps” where parks are needed currently and in the future. These areas are currently underserved in regards to park access.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Accessibility to neighborhood parks is an important consideration to ensuring equitable distribution of park space. Typically, neighborhood parks are centrally located to the residents they serve.

As illustrated on **Parks System Service Area Map** on the follow page, Lockhart’s neighborhood parks are augmented with a one-quarter-mile

and one-half-mile coverage area to represent a reasonable five-and ten-minute walking distance, respectively. These are the recommended distances for ease of access to neighborhood park amenities. While not fully developed as public parkland, public schools do provide some additional recreational resources similar to those found in neighborhood parks.

The level of service tables for park acreage indicate that there is adequate acreage of neighborhood parkland in Lockhart based on the current and projected population, while the **Parks System Service Area** on the next page, shows that there are gaps throughout the community that are not currently being served by a neighborhood park.

Neighborhood park development intended to meet the Parks Master Plan LOS targets should occur under the following provisions:

- Neighborhood parkland should be principally reserved for recreational use;
- Neighborhood parks should be safe, maintained and improved to high standards; and
- Gaps in neighborhood park areas should be examined for the potential addition of small open spaces, trail/sidewalk improvements, or partnerships with other entities such as schools for green space.

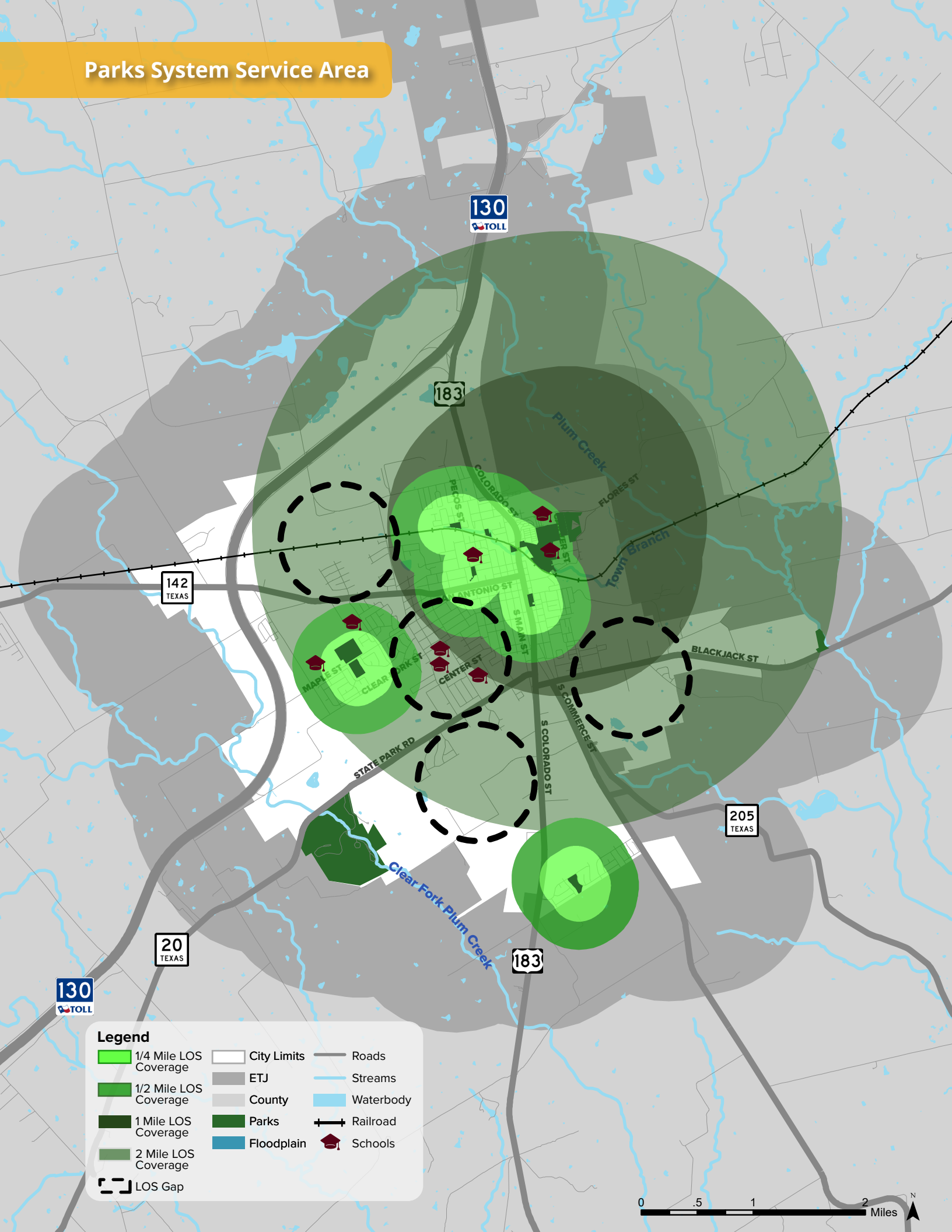
COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are intended to serve large neighborhoods or several neighborhoods within a one-to-two-mile service area, as shown in, **Parks System Service Area**. This distance represents a reasonable one-mile walking distance and a two-mile biking distance. Although often accessed by the community by motor vehicles, they may also serve as neighborhood parks to the residents in their immediate vicinity. Community parks may host larger community events, sports, and activities.

The City should continue to focus on developing the existing community park, City Park for future improvements.

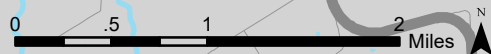
The level of service tables for park acreage indicate that there is a deficit amount of community park land acreage in Lockhart.

Parks System Service Area



Legend

- 1/4 Mile LOS Coverage
- 1/2 Mile LOS Coverage
- 1 Mile LOS Coverage
- 2 Mile LOS Coverage
- LOS Gap
- City Limits
- ETJ
- County
- Parks
- Floodplain
- Roads
- Streams
- Waterbody
- Railroad
- ⌂ Schools



LEVEL OF SERVICE - PARK FACILITIES

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

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

The baseline LOS for each facility type listed in the table, **Recreation Facilities Level of Service** represents minimum recommended, locally-defined targets. Additional facilities may be added to or removed from those listed in **Recreation Facilities Level of Service** to reflect changes in public demands for recreational offerings over time.

SUMMARY

Based on the table, **Recreation Facilities Level of Service**, the City currently needs to focus their resources on adding the following facilities to the parks system:

- *Softball fields*
- *Tennis courts*
- *Outdoor volleyball*
- *More trails*
- *Indoor recreation facility*
- *Swimming pool*

Overall, Lockhart has small deficiencies for seven different types of recreation facilities. Conversely, there are many categories that are in surplus, like playgrounds, basketball courts, soccer fields, and pavilions. There are also quite a few large facilities that fit the need for Lockhart residents, these include, an amphitheater, a disc golf course, a skate park, dog park, and splash pads.




The basketball court at North Pecos Park is one example of a park facility that is currently adequately serving the community.

Recreation Facilities Level of Service

	Facility	Current Count	Current LOS (1 Facility per # Residents)	Target LOS (Median Number of Residents per Facility)	2023 Need Based on 14,379 Pop.	2023 Deficit or Surplus	2030 Need Based on 20,283 Pop.	2030 Deficit or Surplus
Active Recreation	Youth Baseball Field	5	1 per 2,876	1 per 3,000	5	Adequate	7	Deficit of 2
	Youth Softball Field	1	1 per 14,379	1 per 6,000	3	Deficit of 2	4	Deficit of 3
	Soccer Field	8	1 per 1,797	1 per 3,500	5	Surplus of 3	6	Surplus of 2
	Practice Fields/ Football	1	1 per 14,379	1 per 8,500	2	Deficit of 1	3	Deficit of 2
	Playground	14	1 per 1,027	1 per 2,000	8	Surplus of 6	11	Surplus of 3
	Tennis Courts	0	N/A	1 per 4,000	4	Deficit of 4	6	Deficit of 6
	Outdoor Basketball Courts	7	1 per 2,054	1 per 5,000	3	Surplus of 4	5	Surplus of 2
	Outdoor Volleyball Courts	0	N/A	1 per 5,000	3	Deficit of 3	5	Deficit of 5
	Skate Park	1	1 per 14,379	1 per City	N/A	Adequate	N/A	Adequate
	Dog Park	1	1 per 14,379	1 per City	N/A	Adequate	N/A	Adequate
Water Rec.	Splash Pad	2	1 per 7,190	1 per 7,500	2	Adequate	3	Deficit of 1
	Swimming Pool/Aquatic Facility	1	1 per 14,379	1 per 10,000	2	Deficit of 1	3	Deficit of 2
Passive Rec.	Trails	1.5	1 per 9,586	1 mile per 4,000	4	Deficit of 2.5	6	Deficit of 4.5
	Amphitheater	1	1 per 14,379	1 to 2 per City	N/A	Adequate	N/A	Adequate
Misc.	Disc Golf	1	1 per 14,379	1 per City	N/A	Adequate	N/A	Adequate
	Indoor Recreation Facility	0	N/A	1 per City	1	Deficit of 1	1	Deficit of 1
Park Features	Pavilions	12	1 per 1,198	1 per 4,000	4	Surplus of 8	6	Surplus of 6
	Picnic Facilities	86	N/A	In all parks	In all parks	In all parks	In all parks	In all parks
	Drinking Fountains	9	N/A	In all parks	In all parks	In all parks	In all parks	In all parks
	Restrooms	6	N/A	Where feasible	Where feasible	Where feasible	Where feasible	Where feasible



A photograph of a park scene. In the foreground, there is a paved path made of reddish-brown bricks. To the left of the path is a grassy area with some weeds. In the background, there is a playground structure with a red slide and a green roof. The sky is blue with white clouds. A large, semi-transparent red overlay covers the left side of the image, containing the text "PART 3 CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: "PART 3" on the first line, "CONDITIONS" on the second line, and "ASSESSMENT" on the third line.

PART 3 CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

CONDITIONS-BASED ASSESSMENT

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

Park System Condition Categories

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

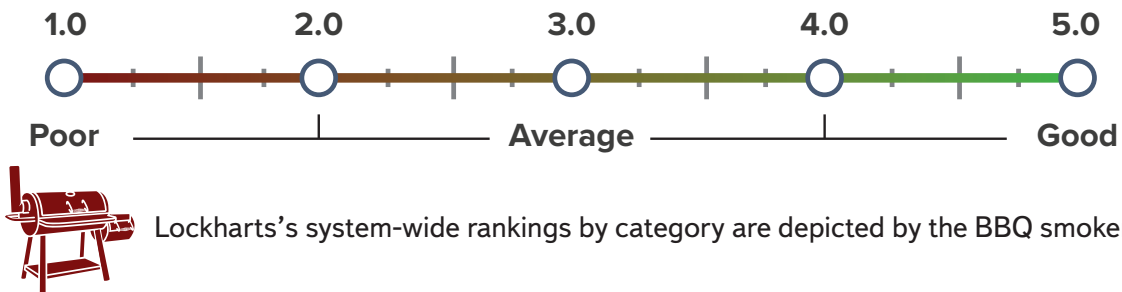
PARK CONDITIONS SCORING

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

a score of 4.0 or greater is considered “good.” The system-wide results of each of the 15 conditions assessment categories is presented on pages 40 through 44, sorted in a descending manner with the most positive scores listed first and the least positive scores listed last. A corresponding overview of high-scoring and low-scoring park properties is presented on page 45.

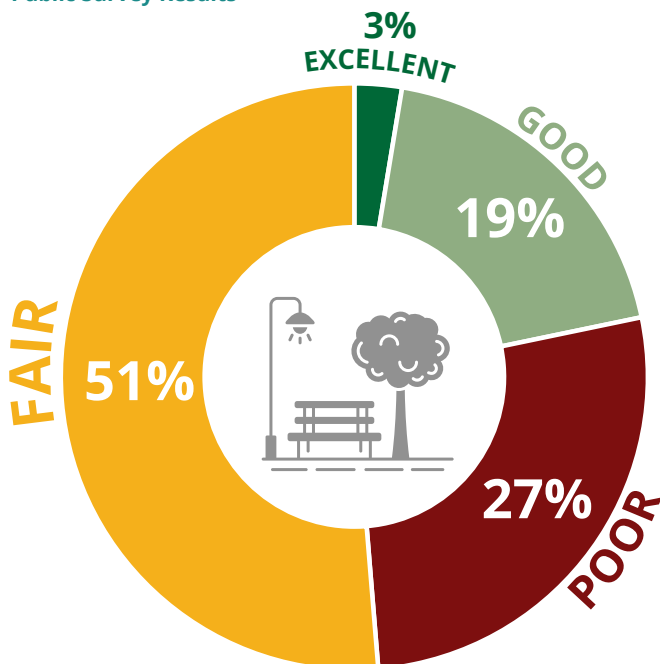
When online community survey respondents were asked about the overall condition of parks, trails, and recreation facilities in the City of Lockhart, most survey respondents indicated that the parks system is in fair condition.

Park Conditions Scale



Overall condition of the City of Lockhart's recreation facilities and amenities

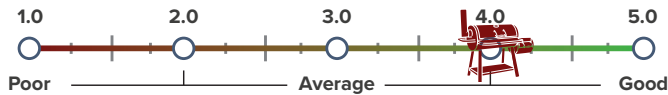
Public Survey Results



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

SYSTEM-WIDE CONDITIONS

SPORT COURTS: SCORE 4.0

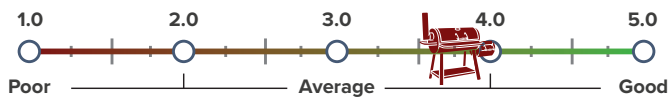


The system-wide conditions assessment for sport courts is 4.0. There are only four parks that have sports courts. Two of the sport courts are in average condition with minimal cracks evident and few incidents of resurfacing necessary. Nets and hoops are mostly intact with few evident instances of immediate maintenance needs. The other two courts are in good condition, after being recently resurfaced.



Basketball courts in Nueces Park. Overall condition is good.

TURF: SCORE 3.8

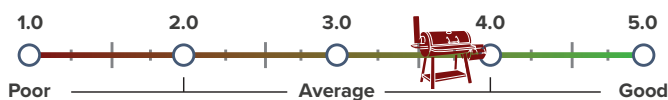


The system-wide conditions assessment for turf is 3.8. There exist intermittent examples of obvious bare spots, but only in confined instances. Where bare spots are not present, remaining turf quality ranks above average with minimal weeds, and expansive coverage.



Turf near a picnic area in City Park. Overall condition is average.

STRUCTURED PLAY: SCORE 3.7



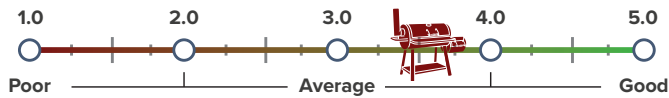
The above average condition of structured play is 3.7 throughout the Lockhart parks system. Most play structures are of a high quality and provide diversity in play experiences. While most structures have shade, this often leads to fading and weathering, accelerating the need for maintenance or replacement. There are localized instances where immediate playscape area maintenance is needed including the replacement of play structures and improvements to the fall surface (mulching).



Playscape in Maple Street Park. Overall condition is average.

SYSTEM-WIDE CONDITIONS

PARK ACCESSIBILITY: SCORE 3.6

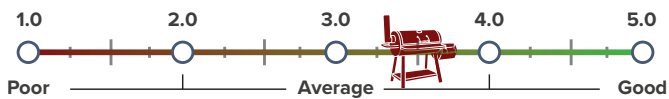


The system-wide conditions assessment for park accessibility is 3.6. The slightly above average score is based on the access that is provided by the sidewalks and paths. There exist intermittent examples of cracking or heaving, but overall the conditions are rated average.



Crosswalk and sidewalks leading into the Youth Sports Complex. Overall condition is slightly average.

ATHLETIC FIELDS: SCORE 3.5

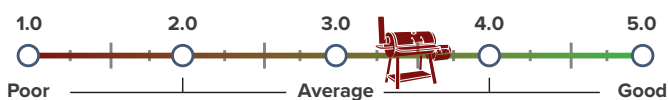


The average condition of athletic fields is 3.5. There are only two parks, the Jason K. LaFluer Soccer Complex and the Youth Sports Complex within the system that include baseball, softball, and soccer fields. Factors contributing to the above average score include maintained turf on the fields and substantial lighting.



Baseball field at the Youth Sports Complex. Overall condition is slightly above average.

GENERAL FENCING | WALLS: SCORE 3.5



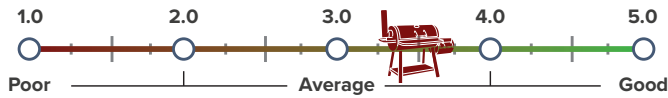
The above average condition of general fencing and walls is 3.5. Of the parks that do have fencing, half of the fencing has above average structural condition, with little to no rusting or leaning posts present. Improvements can be made in the park with lower scores by adding more fencing along playgrounds, basketball courts and busy streets adjacent to parks.



Sport court fencing at Nueces Park. Overall condition is slightly above average.

SYSTEM-WIDE CONDITIONS

PLANTINGS | TREES: SCORE 3.4

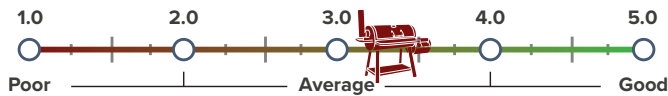


The condition of plantings and trees is 3.4. Overall, trees and shrubs that are maintained are in good condition, with minimal trees needing obvious pruning or removal. Trees provide a significant amount of shade in Lockhart parks but are not always positioned to best benefit park system users.



Tree shade located in Neuces Park. Overall condition is average.

PUBLIC GATHERING PLACES: SCORE 3.3

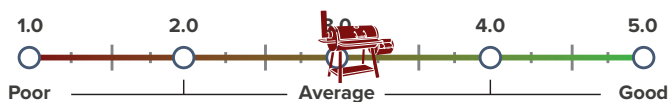


The system-wide conditions assessment for public gathering places is 3.3. The quality of facilities in most formal gathering spaces and casual sitting areas is average/above average with only two parks in the system scoring below average. The amount of pavilions and seating in the park system is ample enough to host many people at once, which creates opportunities for large gatherings.



Public gathering pavilion in City Park. Overall condition is average. More seating is needed.

SITE LIGHTING: SCORE 3.1



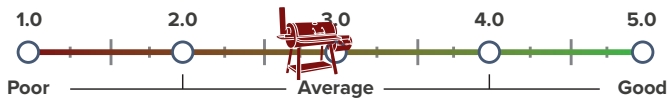
The average condition for site lighting is 3.1. Many parks do not contain adequate lighting or are lack lighting in general. The parks that have received higher lighting scores were due to newly installed lighting around sport courts and fields. Converting to more modern LED lighting systems will greatly benefit the park system.



Site lighting near the Santos Arredondo Park. Overall condition is average.

SYSTEM-WIDE CONDITIONS

OPEN PLAY AREAS: SCORE 2.9

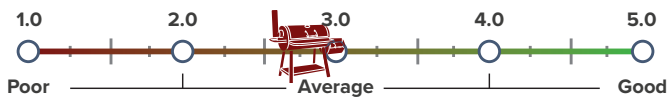


The system-wide conditions assessment for park open play areas is 2.9. This score is reflective of most spaces being located a safe distance within each park space from any hazards such as roads. Open play areas often have uneven terrain with occasional disruptions or imperfections. There are also instances of open play areas that are not of significant size for proper open play activities.



Open play area in Navarro Springs Park. Overall condition is average.

GENERAL SITE FACILITIES: SCORE 2.8

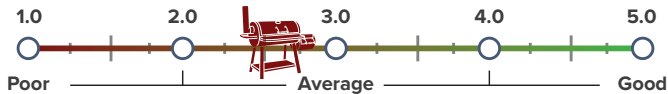


The condition of general site features varies greatly depending on the specific park space. Active recreational facilities such as playscapes and sport court amenities are maintained in average condition, while accessory facilities such as restrooms concession stands, and shade structures exhibit higher degrees of wear and tear.



Club house at the Youth Sports Complex. Overall condition is average.

SIGNAGE: SCORE 2.6



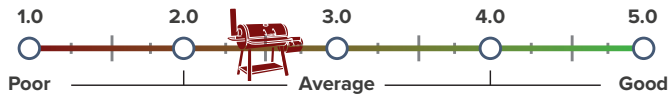
The system-wide conditions assessment for signage is 2.6. Newly placed signage in the park system is consistent in half of the parks. The parks that do not have signage or signage that is in below average condition need to be updated. Long-term aesthetic improvement through replacement with high-quality monument signage can enhance all park spaces.



Navarro Springs Park signage, overall condition is average.

SYSTEM-WIDE CONDITIONS

ADDITIONAL SITE FACILITIES: SCORE 2.5

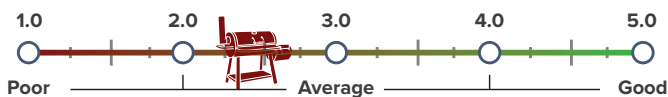


The system-wide conditions assessment for additional site facilities is 2.5. Many trash receptacles, water fountains, and benches are in a slightly deteriorated condition. There are many opportunities to provide immediate cosmetic updates, such as the color of receptacles and material used. There are many instances where a more permanent amenity solution should be provided such as in the provision of trash receptacles.



Trash receptacle in North Pecos Park, Overall condition is average.

PARK PATHWAYS | TRAILS: SCORE 2.4

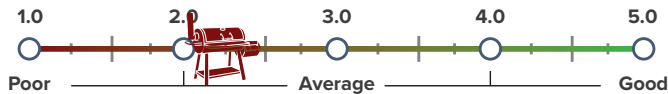


The system-wide conditions assessment for park pathways and trails is 2.4. In general, half of the parks in Lockhart need pathways so the absence of these brings down the overall score. The quality of pavement in parks with pathways and sidewalks is above average with minimal areas of cracking or heaving. Some trails are of sufficient width, although instances of encroaching vegetation is evident in some areas with hard surface pathways.

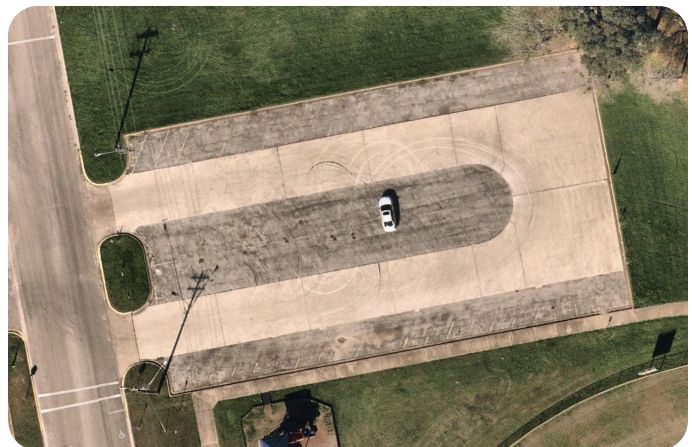


Park pathway from parking lot in Santos Arredondo Park. Overall condition is below average.

PARKING: SCORE 2.2



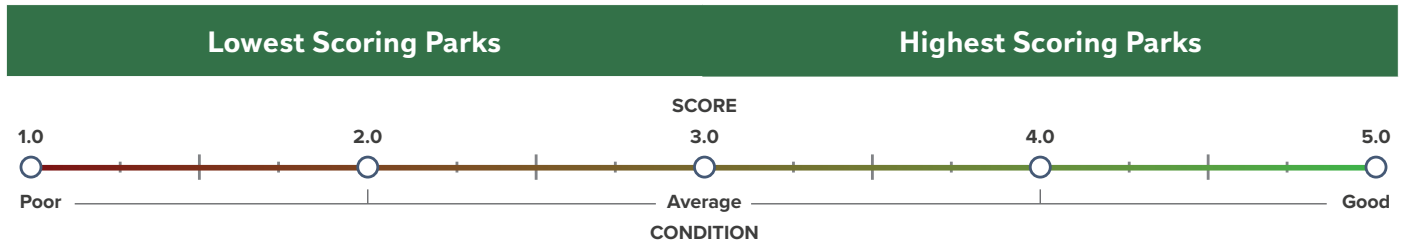
The system-wide conditions assessment for parking is 2.2. This score reflects the quality of parking lots, pedestrian access, parking availability in relation to park type, and public transit opportunities. Most parking lots are in average condition, with resurfacing and striping improvements needed.



Parking lot at the Youth Sports Complex, overall condition is average.

CONDITIONS BY PARK

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



Park Name/Rank ¹	Average Score
#1 Santos Arredondo Park	3.8
#2 City Park	3.6
#3 North Pecos Park	3.4
#4 Navarro Springs Park	3.4
#5 Nueces Park	3.3
#6 Lion's Park	3.1
#7 Youth Sports Complex	2.7
#8 Jason K. LaFluer Soccer Complex	2.7
#9 Braun Park	2.7
#10 Maple Street Park	2.0

The average conditions score for the lowest and highest-ranking properties is shown in **Conditions Assessment by Park, Low and High Scores (2021)**.

HIGH SCORING PARKS

Park properties that received high conditions scores contain one or both of the following features:

- A)** They are newer and contain more recent investments with limited deterioration; and/or,
- B)** The park is popular and is a component of shared community-wide pride.

One of the most common elements of high scoring parks is the quality of structured play and turf – within each park property. High scoring parks also contained park accessibility, landscaping, and trees.

LOW SCORING PARKS

Several neighborhood parks ranked low in the conditions assessment. This is a common condition among municipal park systems for two reasons: **A)** The lack of facilities in most neighborhood parks reduces visits and public demands for investment or maintenance; and, **B)** These neighborhood parks are older, with aging equipment and lack diverse features that do not draw demand from the public.

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



Shaded play structure at Nueces Park, which was the highest ranked playground in the Conditions Assessment.



FUTURE SERVICE NEEDS

A review of the park-by-park condition assessment determined property-specific priorities that should be addressed. The system-wide condition of the Lockhart parks and recreation system can be quickly enhanced with attention to the following elements:

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

- **The City should establish designated areas within parks that are mowed only a few times a year (No Mow Zones / Grow Zones) to reduce cost of mowing and establish areas for native grasses and wildflowers.**
- **Reduce and reallocate the percentage of staff hours spent on reoccurring maintenance activities towards park improvement activities by 15-20% by 2026.**
- **Develop and implement a priority system for tasks and create an O&M manual for staff.**

SPECIFIC INVESTMENTS

- **Investments towards park access can be identified through a trails master plan. The creation of a trails master plan can provide a guide for how to connect the park system city-wide, creating connections from neighborhoods to parks.**
- **Invest in repairs and upgrades to parking facilities throughout the parks system.**
- **Create and implement a complete renovation plan (repairs and upgrades) for the Youth Sports Complex.**
- **Implement the construction of the recently completed (2023) concept plan for Lion's Park.**
- **Where possible, replace older lighting technologies with LED lighting to save on energy costs.**
- **Create a schedule to replace and upgrade all accessory amenities serving general visitation including trash receptacles, pet waste stations, water fountains, benches, etc.**


Lockhart
Pecos Park



PARK HIGHLIGHT: CITY PARK

City Park is the City's only community park, where a variety of amenities are provided. Specific recommendations for City Park improvements and activities are detailed below.

ENTRANCE, CIRCULATION, AND PARKING

- Create a better sense of arrival to the park entry. Pedestrian safety improvements, bicycle infrastructure, landscaping, additional park entrance signs at all entrances.
- Consider adding a large parking lot where the old baseball field used to be at the top of the park by the restrooms.
- Across from the pond, remove the ability to park along the trail underneath the trees by adding more landscaping, benches, workout equipment, or increase the size of the trail width.
- Surface the parking lot by the skatepark with asphalt and stripe for parking lot spaces.
- Consider expanding the parking lot size in front of the dog park areas for additional parking spaces (spaces intended for, dog park and skatepark visitors), also stripe the parking lot spaces.
- Consider expanding the parking lot size for the disc golf course, surface the lot and stripe for parking spaces.
- Expand the width of the interior park road that comes off of Carver Street and then loops around the pond and trail. Expanding this road to a full two-lane road will increase circulation and could create opportunities to add bike and pedestrian facilities.
- Add a trailhead at Colorado Street and Main Drive. Extend a crosswalk from the Colorado St bridge to the beginning of the trail. Also add a crosswalk across City Park Road for the disc golf course to connect to the trailhead.
- Around the playground area, define new parking areas with walking paths to the playground.
- Conduct a parking assessment throughout the park to ensure logical, proximate locations to amenities and reduced circulation of vehicles.
- Locate two small areas to place City Park directional signs (In-Park wayfinding).
- Add additional bike parking near existing amenities.



Left: The entrance sign to Riverside Park could benefit from additional entry enhancements; Right: Disc golf under the large trees;
Top Right: Park pathway from Carver Street into the park

AMENITIES

- Remove the City Park Pool and conduct a site analysis study to determine the best site for a new pool facility in Lockhart.
- Consider expanding existing pavilions or adding more pavilions in the center of the park.
- Add additional shade structures and benches for both dog parks.
- Add additional trail amenities along the City Park Trail including seating, trash cans, dog waste stations, shade and lighting.
- Around the playground area, add additional lighting and access improvements.
- Add wayfinding and City Park-branded signage throughout the park.
- Add a fishing pier in a location mindful of occasional flooding concerns.
- Tear down the old restrooms (by the old baseball field) and replace with newly constructed restrooms facilities.
- Add two sand volleyball courts near the restrooms or dog parks.
- Expand the splash pad area, with new features and amenities.
- Expand the playground area with new all-ability equipment, that includes shade structures over all play equipment.
- Consider enhancements to the seating at the amphitheater.
- Create additional sports fields (football, soccer) behind the dog parks.
- Re turf the area of existing sport fields.
- Enhance the pond area by planting more trees along the perimeter of the pond. Consider adding more benches and pathways around the pond as well.



Bottom; A formal fishing pier extending into the pond could help activate the site and could become a regional draw for fishing activities
Top; The dog park at City Park could use more shade structures and seating for dog owners





PART 4

LOCKHART PARKS TOMORROW

Lockhart
Nueces Park

2018 LOCKHART PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

The previous plan outlined 13 goals for the master plan and seven (7) priority projects. This update will carry those same goals through to this planning effort, while compiling a new list of priority projects and recommended actions that the City can focus on for the next five years.

PREVIOUS MASTER PLAN'S GOALS (2018)

Goal 1: Public recreational facilities should be multipurpose and adaptable to future needs.

Goal 2: Because of rising costs, recreational improvements should be shared, where possible, with school, county, and non-profit entities who may have a stake in the benefits of recreational programs.

Goal 3: Open spaces and natural habitats should be preserved for future generations: additional land should be acquired and specialized parks developed.

Goal 4: All people should have access to all parks and recreational facilities regardless of age, sex, income, cultural differences, location in the community, and handicap status.

Goal 5: The availability of high quality parks, open spaces, and recreation opportunities plays an important role in economic development.

Goal 6: New growth (new subdivisions) should pay for their own recreational facilities.

Goal 7: The life expectancy of new parks and equipment can be 15 to 20 years: parks need to be renovated and equipment replaced or maintained as needed.

Goal 8: Maintaining public recreational facilities places a financial burden on the City; more facilities require more staff.

Goal 9: Parks and recreational programs must find ways to celebrate the variety of cultures within the community.

Goal 10: Public recreation should be coordinated with other community recreation providers to avoid duplication and promote innovation.

Goal 11: Public recreation should be integrated with all other public services, such as economic development, education, health, public safety, transportation, and protection of the environment.

Goal 12: Citizens should be involved in all aspects of planning for public recreation.

Goal 13: Local public recreation should be integrated with regional and state plans.

PREVIOUS MASTER PLAN'S PRIORITY PROJECTS (2018)

1. City Park and Youth Sports Complex (Renovations and Additions)
2. Soccer Complex (Parking Expansion, Dog Park and Other Improvements)
3. Downtown Park/Plaza (Public Space Opportunities in Downtown)
4. Courthouse Square (Public Space Opportunities in Downtown)
5. Pecos Park (Park Redevelopment Standards for City-Wide Implementation)
6. Future Recreation Center (Capital Investment)
7. Connections (Trails)

2023 LOCKHART PARKS MASTER PLAN 5-YEAR UPDATE

TOP PRIORITIES



LION'S PARK

RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS



CITY PARK

RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS



YOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX

RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS



SWIMMING POOL & SPLASH PADS

CONSTRUCTING A NEW OUTDOOR POOL



INDOOR RECREATION CENTER

CREATING THE CITY'S FIRST RECREATION CENTER



TRAILS MASTER PLAN

DEVELOP THE CITY'S FIRST TRAILS MASTER PLAN

PRIORITY PROJECTS

LION'S PARK

RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

In 2023, the City completed a new concept plan for the redevelopment of Lion's Park. This concept plan should serve as a model for all future park redevelopment standards and will be considered for city-wide implementation of all parks, facilities and amenities.

Lion's Park is an important neighborhood park in Lockhart for many reasons, like the park's proximity to the downtown square, the park is within a short walking distance of the majority of downtown Lockhart's residents, and the park is a great host for visitors and locals looking to have a BBQ picnic. In order for the park to become a standard for the park system in Lockhart, this plan recommends allocation of funding for this park immediately. To view the full conceptual site plan for Lion's Park with a list of new amenities and facilities, see pages 56-63.

Lion's Park Today



Lion's Park Conceptual Site Plan



CITY PARK & YOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX

RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The 2018 Parks Master Plan included a conceptual site plan for City Park and the Youth Sports Complex. According to the public survey administered during this planning process, these two parks are some of the most heavily frequented places within Lockhart's parks and recreation system. The layout of this two-in-one park has a current layout that effectively caters to a wide spectrum of activities, ranging from leisurely picnics and relaxed play to hosting large organized events like the Chisholm Trail Roundup. However, while the majority of the park is currently operational, numerous features require updates or replacements, justifying a comprehensive park renovation. Key recommendations include:

- Enhancing Baseball and Softball Facilities
- Expanding Tee-Ball and Soccer Fields
- Augmenting Parking and Traffic Flow Throughout the Park
- Modernizing the Aquatics Facility
- Introducing New and Additional Pavilions
- Elevating the Amphitheater

The proposed conceptual site plan for City Park and the Lockhart Youth Sports Complex was developed with input from stakeholders. The plan presents an improved layout, featuring a new loop road along the northern boundary, optimizing vehicular circulation while creating ample opportunities for substantial parking expansion within the park's core. This expanded parking area will not only accommodate the park's vehicular parking needs, by adding 500 parking spaces but will also be able to be used flexibly to accommodate various event activities such as festivals and rodeos.

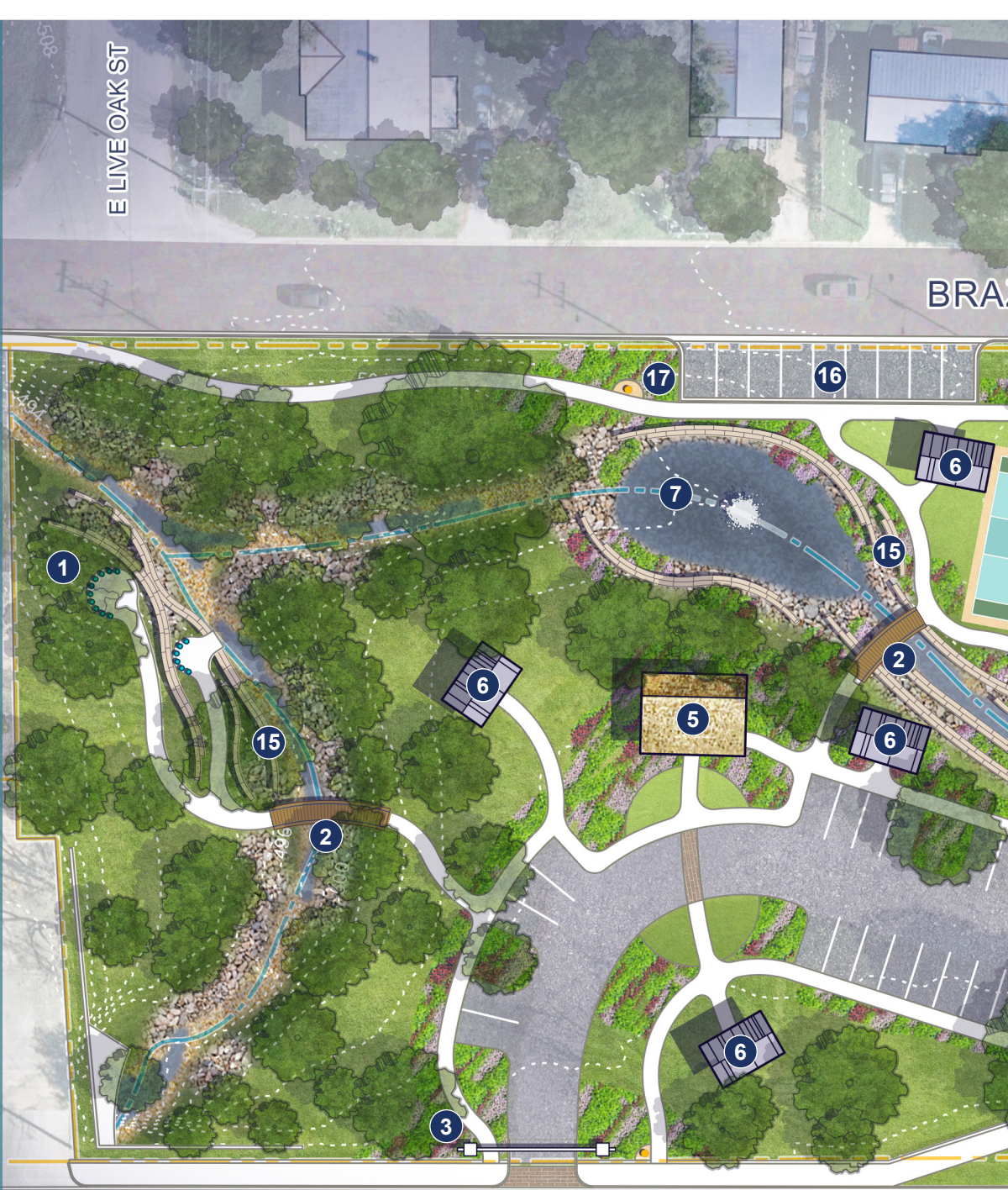


LEGEND

1. CREEK ACCESS AREA
2. PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
3. ENTRY MONUMENT
4. DECORATIVE PAVING
5. BROCK CABIN
W/ INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS
AND NATIVE PLANTING
6. PICNIC PAVILION W/ GRILL
7. ENHANCED POND
W/ FOUNTAIN
8. PICNIC TABLES
9. MULTI-USE SPORTS COURT
(BASKETBALL, PICKLEBALL,
VOLLEYBALL, TENNIS)
10. RENOVATED RESTROOM
11. 2-5 INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND
12. 5-12 INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND
13. MULTI-USE PAVILION
14. ADULT FITNESS
EQUIPMENT (TYP.)
15. QUARRY BLOCK
RETAINING WALLS (TYP.)
16. EXPANDED PARKING
17. TRAILHEAD AND
WAYFINDING SIGNAGE
18. SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT
19. UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE
20. WELL-FED SPLASHPAD

ADDITIONAL AMENITIES

- SITE LIGHTING
- TREE LIGHTING
- WI-FI HOTSPOT
- POWER RECEPTACLES
- NATIVE LANDSCAPING



Lockhart
TEXAS

Lion's Park Concept Plan



CHAPARRAL ST

PEARL ST

ZOS ST

O ST / 183

520

518

516



LIONS PARK CONCEPT PLAN





LIONS PARK CONCEPT PLAN





LIONS PARK CONCEPT PLAN



PRIORITY PROJECTS (CONT.)

SWIMMING POOL & SPLASH PADS

CONSTRUCTING A NEW OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL AND ADDITIONAL SPLASH PADS

Living in Texas necessitates activities involving water play. There is currently one swimming pool maintained and operated by the City, which is in need of major repairs and improvements. Based on the strong public desire for waterbased recreation, the target number of swimming pools is two for the community. One possibility for a new swimming pool site would be to pursue a shared-use agreement with an existing school property in Lockhart. This would alleviate some up-front capital costs for the City.

Splash pads are another family-friendly amenity that is gaining popularity across the nation. The City should consider the addition of splash pads at key neighborhood parks, like the one recently constructed at Maple Street Park. While community pools are still important, lack of funding and greater competition for limited resources has forced many cities to look to splash pads as an alternative. This has led to the increase in use of zero depth splash pads, which still provide significant relief from summer heat, but are less challenging to operate and maintain. As such, splash pads are an excellent complement to other parks amenities and provide for an appealing attraction in the warm months.



Large splash pad facility with seating and shade



*Medium sized public pool with multiple amenities
City Pool in Gatesville, Texas*

INDOOR RECREATION CENTER

CREATING THE CITY'S FIRST RECREATION CENTER

The community voiced a desire for an indoor recreation facility. A recreation center would best serve the community as a partnership between the City, Caldwell County, and the Lockhart ISD. As such, it is recommended that the three organizations partner to proceed with a feasibility study and locational analysis for the complex. The study should evaluate financial feasibility today and into the future, the best location for the development, and staffing and organizational structure options. The study should also evaluate the potential to allow sufficient space for a future expansion to include an indoor swimming center.



San Marcos Recreation Center

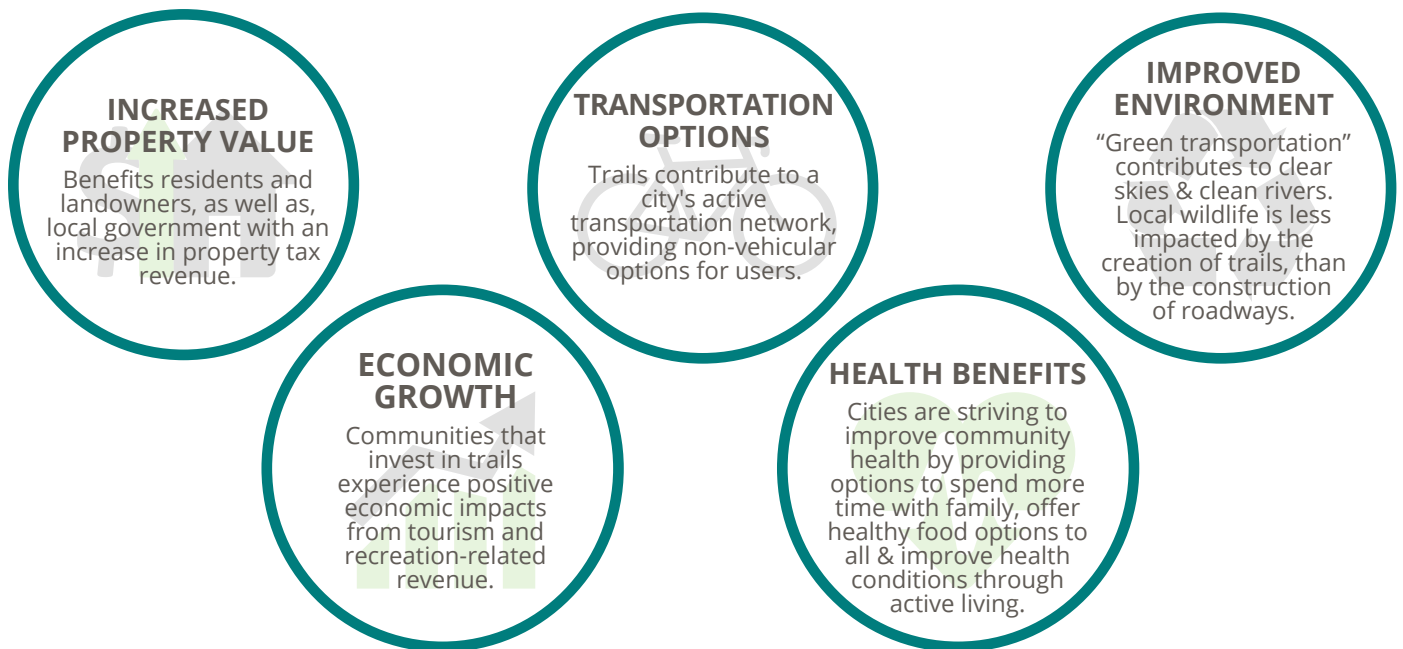
TRAILS MASTER PLAN

FUNDING A CITY-WIDE TRAILS MASTER PLAN STUDY

The planning, design, and development of a comprehensive trails system serves tremendous value to the broader community. Communities across the United States and throughout the world are investing in trails as a key contributor to livability. Trails promote health, safety, and welfare. Not only are trails needed for recreation, but in many communities they are utilized as essential components of the bicycle and pedestrian transportation network.

Public trails build community at a human scale and support physical, social and economic prosperity across a community, regardless of class, economic status, age or ability. **The Primary Benefits of Trails**, summarizes the positive impacts that an interconnected network of multi-use trails can have on a community. Communities across Texas recognize of outdoor recreation supports and contributes to a high quality of life, as well as, attracting and sustaining employers and families. Investing in outdoor infrastructure attracts employers and active workforces, ensuring those communities thrive economically and socially.

THE PRIMARY BENEFITS OF TRAILS



An interconnected multi-use trail network within the City of Lockhart provides residents the ability to move from destination to destination without getting in a car. Recreation opportunities are also improved when the trail network includes diverse trail types that cater to multiple interests and are accessible for people of all abilities.

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

Lockhart’s elected and appointed officials and City staff are the primary decision makers for implementation actions, budgeting, integration of this plan into refined park plans and maintaining up-to-date processes. The Parks and Recreation Department will be the primary leader in operating, maintaining, and expanding parks and recreation offerings. Ultimately, plan outcomes will be a community-wide effort and determination of success will be an ongoing evaluation.

WORK PROGRAM

This section contains an implementation action plan. The actions are allocated by three categories of timing and reflects the action’s target priority or ongoing nature.

The actions generally fall into one or more of the following categories:

PARTNERSHIP

Partnerships include two or more entities working close together to serve as champions of the plan.

POLICY

Official procedures or policies used to make City decisions.

OPERATIONAL

New or altered programs, staffing, or operational procedures.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Larger-scale capital improvements incorporated into the greater capital improvement program or bond initiative. These projects may include outside funding sources or funding matches.

STUDY

Additional study or examination required to determine the best result.

REGULATION

Council approved regulations used to direct growth or additional actions.

The time frames for the table actions focus on initiation and not necessarily completion:

- Short-term: To be initiated or completed within the next 1-2 years
- Long-term: To be initiated within the next 2 - 5 years, or as opportunities arise
- Ongoing: Recommendations that are to be continually implemented during the course of the plan horizon

PLAN UPDATES

Implementation by level of priority guarantees that the City is responding incrementally to community needs and desires. This does not mean that the plan will serve all needs and desires of the public for the entirety of the next 5 years. The following updates are recommended to keep the plan current and relevant over time.

- **Five-Year Update.** Undertaking an official plan update every five years allows the City to remain competitive in TPWD grants process, as five-year updates are needed to ensure strong scores in the grant application point system.
- **10-Year Update.** Towards the end of this plan’s time horizon, the City should prepare for a new master plan with an assessment of facilities and priorities. While neither the five-year or 10-year update are strict requirements for grant funding, TPWD does reward communities that create a new plan every 10 years.

Implementation Plan

Action	Short-Term	Long-Term	Ongoing
Goal 1: Flexible Park Spaces			
Explore the feasibility of a multi-generational recreation center that could include indoor aquatics and a senior component.	✓		
Identify a location to construct a new swimming pool with a splash pad.		✓	
Consistently review recreation trends to ensure parks are meeting service needs and community interests.			✓
Goal 2: Strategic Cost-Sharing			
Coordinate with Lockhart Independent School District (LCISD) to execute a school joint use agreement for the sharing of resources related to new and existing school facilities and amenities.	✓		
Coordinate with Caldwell County to continue building county trails in the City of Lockhart.		✓	
Coordinate with Chamber of Commerce and area sports leagues on continuing efforts for sport tourism opportunities.			✓
Participate in the NRPA's park metrics program and agency performance review on a recurring basis.			✓
Goal 3: Parkland Aquisition			
Develop a concept plan focused around a nature park on the undeveloped land that is Comanche Park.		✓	
Preserve city-owned open space to support passive recreation uses.		✓	
Support development of a downtown park network, that could provide pocket parks, special use parks, and civic areas.	✓		
Goal 4: Parks for All			
Encourage exercise classes such as running / walking groups or yoga to community members to increase recreational program offerings that don't require facilities or supervision.			✓
Add additional athletic programming opportunities for adults and seniors.	✓		
Build inclusive play facilities at a neighborhood park to foster a recognized inclusive destination at that park for individuals and families.		✓	
Develop an ADA Transition Plan, in order to make Lockhart parks more ADA-compliant.		✓	
Expand multi-generational recreation opportunities through additional City-provided and third-party programming.	✓		

Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

Action	Short-Term	Long-Term	Ongoing
Goal 5: Parks for Economic Growth			
Pursue CAPRA accreditation for the Lockhart PARD.		✓	
Develop and implement a series of park staffing, management, and maintenance policies to ensure a quality parks system.	✓		
Implement overall park design guidelines for all park classifications.		✓	
Consider approaching the citizens with a bond election to fund identified larger-scale capital improvements for the parks system.	✓		
Update the Lockhart Parks Master Plan in five (5) years		✓	
Evaluate and pursue public-private partnerships for development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.			✓
Improve the parking areas and in-park roads in each park.		✓	
Where possible, replace older lighting technologies with LED lighting to save on energy costs.	✓		
Create a schedule to replace and upgrade all accessory amenities serving general visitation including trash receptacles, pet waste stations, water fountains, benches, etc.	✓		
Goal 6: Balancing the Growth or Self-funding New Growth			
Amend municipal codes to require the dedication and improvement of neighborhood parkland as part of new development.	✓		
Amend municipal land development codes to require trail corridor dedication for multi-use trails and the construction of applicable trail segments as part of new development.	✓		
Amend municipal codes to require common areas and recreational amenities as part of new multi-family development.	✓		
Goal 7: Develop Park Renovation Plan			
Develop and implement a department wide annual maintenance plan and long-term asset maintenance schedule.		✓	
Evaluate the need for additional PARD equipment to increase efficiencies with regard to park maintenance operations.	✓		
Continue to implement a phasing plan to upgrade playgrounds in need of replacement.	✓		
Develop and implement a series of park staffing, management, and maintenance policies to ensure a quality parks system.			✓

Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

Action	Short-Term	Long-Term	Ongoing
Goal 8: Seek Efficiencies and New Sources of Funding			
Evaluate the City's park-related fee structure to ensure that users are adequately offsetting cost of maintenance.	✓		
Remove non-parkland from the maintenance responsibilities of the PARD to allow adequate resources (e.g., staffing, funding, equipment) for maintenance of the parks and trails system.			✓
Identify opportunities to add "No Mow" areas across the parks systems.	✓		
Implement software solutions, like Work Order Tracking. These softwares can help streamline preventative maintenance, work scheduling, equipment lifecycle tracking, and other features.		✓	
Goal 9: Celebrate Culture in Parks			
Work with Caldwell county and the chamber of commerce to promote municipal parks and recreational programs aimed at tourists and new residents.			✓
Activate parks and facilities through vibrant programs, events, and recreation opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, cultures, and interests.			✓
Commission and seek funding sources for local artists to provide various works of public art in the parks and activated public spaces		✓	
Add interpretive educational displays or art showcasing local history.		✓	
Continue to expand the wall murals throughout Lockhart and use a promotional tool outside the community.	✓		
Continue to promote and expand family-oriented programming, special events, festivals, and concerts in various locations to enhance community identity, activity, and education.			✓
Consider commissioning a simple yet new brand for Lockhart's park system that could be used in the marketing/communication material for the department and slowly integrated into facility and signage upgrades or replacements		✓	
Goal 10: Coordinate, Avoid Duplication			
Track recreation program lifecycle rates of participation to ensure that the City program portfolio adjusts to meet changing recreational needs and preferences.			✓
Conduct a study identifying all of the third-party recreation programs offered in the City of Lockhart and Caldwell County, where there are gap's in program offerings, the City can look to provide new recreation programs or leagues	✓		

Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

Action	Short-Term	Long-Term	Ongoing
Goal 11: Integrate Recreation with Other Services			
Consider providing smaller, park-specific events to encourage greater use of all parks throughout the community.			✓
Encourage collaboration and information sharing among various city departments, this will promote a holistic approach to park planning and management.			✓
Design and develop parks to serve multiple functions that benefit the community. For example, incorporating educational elements, health-promoting features, and green infrastructure within park spaces can enhance their value and utility.			✓
Explore opportunities to integrate parks with economic development initiatives. Parks can be catalysts for local business growth, tourism, and job creation, thereby contributing to economic prosperity.		✓	
Goal 12: Commit to Citizen Involvement			
Initiate discussions with local athletic leagues to reevaluate partnership responsibilities.	✓		
Publish a list of volunteer and donation opportunities to allow the public to help improve City parks.			✓
Involve the community in the planning process to ensure that parks meet the diverse needs and preferences of local residents. Public input should be sought and considered at all stages of park development.		✓	
Goal 13: Regional Integration			
Coordinate with the Caldwell County to publicize Lockhart PARD events.			✓
Align with Texas Parks and Wildlife state-level initiatives, policies, and funding opportunities related to parks and recreation.	✓		
Pursue state and regional grant opportunities to fund park development and improvement projects. Align grant proposals with the priorities and objectives of both local and higher-level plans.	✓		

Lockhart City Park Playground



