

**ROOTED IN BURLESON
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2025



Prepared By.

Jen Basham, CPRE



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Burleson extends its sincere gratitude to the many individuals, organizations, and community members who contributed their time, insight, and passion to the development of the 2025 Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan.

We thank the Burleson City Council, Parks Board, and City leadership for their vision, guidance, and commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all residents. Your leadership ensured that this plan reflects both the community's aspirations and the City's dedication to excellence.

Special appreciation goes to the stakeholders and partner organizations—including community leaders, youth sports associations, civic groups, businesses, and nonprofit partners—whose perspectives helped shape a plan that is both ambitious and achievable.

We are especially grateful to the residents of Burleson who shared their ideas, priorities, and hopes for the future through surveys, public meetings, and stakeholder interviews. Your voices were essential in creating a plan that reflects the heart of our community.

Finally, we recognize the dedication of the Parks and Recreation Department staff and the consultant team at Kimley-Horn for their expertise, collaboration, and tireless effort in bringing this plan to life.

This plan is truly a product of collective vision, and we look forward to working together to bring it from concept to reality.

The following individuals are recognized for their significant contributions to the preparation of the City of Burleson Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan.

PARK AND RECREATION

Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation
Jessica Martinez, Deputy Director of Parks
Allison Smith, Deputy Director of Recreation
James Roberts, Golf General Manager

PARKS BOARD

Shannan Sutter, Place 1
Addison Oscarson, Place 2
Miguel Angel Sanchez, Place 3
Christian Schott, Place 4
Lindsey Cobb, Place 5
Sherry Scott, Place 6
Matthew Quinn, Place 7
Tyler Knox, Place 8
Ashli Logan, Place 9

CITY COUNCIL

Chris Fletcher, Mayor
Victoria Johnson, Council Place 1
Phil Anderson, Council Place 2
Alexa Boedeker, Council Place 3
Larry Scott, Council Place 4
Dan McClendon, Council Place 5 & Mayor Pro Tem
Adam Russell, Council Place 6

CITY MANAGEMENT

Tommy Ludwig, City Manager
Harlan Jefferson, Deputy City Manager
Eric Oscarson, Deputy City Manager

CONSULTANT TEAM

Kimley-Horn, and Associates, Inc.
Katherine Utecht, PLA, LI
Amanda Hinton
Haley Carruthers, AICP
Adolfo Gonzalez

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Jen Basham

Director of Parks and Recreation

It is my privilege to present the 2025 Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan for the City of Burlison. This plan is the result of months of collaboration, listening, and planning—guided by the voices of our residents, the vision of our elected leaders, and the dedication of our Parks and Recreation team.

Burlison is growing rapidly, and with that growth comes both challenges and opportunities. Our mission has always been to deliver exceptional experiences through high-quality public spaces, trails, and recreational opportunities. This master plan ensures that as our city evolves, our parks and programs will continue to meet the diverse needs of our community—today and for generations to come.

More than 1,000 residents participated in surveys, meetings, and interviews to shape this vision. Your feedback confirmed what we already know—our parks and recreation system is a treasured part of daily life in Burlison. You asked us to focus on maintaining and improving existing facilities, strengthening trail connectivity, preserving open space, and creating inclusive, accessible experiences for all. These priorities are woven into every recommendation in this plan.

The 2025 Master Plan provides a clear roadmap to guide capital investments, programming, and operations over the next decade. It reflects our commitment to environmental stewardship, health and wellness, cultural enrichment, and community connection.

On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department, thank you for your engagement and support. Together, we will continue building a park system that reflects the character of Burlison and enhances the quality of life for every resident.

Sincerely,
Jen Basham

RESOLUTION CSO#5959-10-2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURLESON, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE 2025 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Burleson (“City”) seeks to provide high-quality, equitable, and fiscally responsible parks, recreation, trails, open space, and cultural amenities that enhance community health, economic vitality, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the City undertook a comprehensive planning process to prepare the **2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan** (“Master Plan”), including data analysis, facility and program assessments, financial strategies, and a prioritized capital improvement framework; and

WHEREAS, the planning process incorporated extensive public engagement— including community surveys, stakeholder interviews, public meetings, on-site pop-ups, and digital outreach— to ensure the plan reflects the needs and values of residents, partner organizations, and user groups; and

WHEREAS the city’s Park Board contributed countless hours and consideration in making recommendations to shape the 2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council thanks the Park Board for their work on this community project; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan aligns with the City’s strategic goals, supports eligibility for state and federal grants, and advances best practices consistent with National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and CAPRA accreditation standards; and

WHEREAS, notice was duly given and the City Council held a meeting on **October 20, 2025**, at which time the Master Plan and public input were considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURLESON THAT:

Section 1.

The City Council finds the recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated herein as findings of the Council.

Section 2.

The City Council hereby adopts the 2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth fully, as the City's official guiding document for parks, recreation, trails, open space, facilities, programs, and related capital improvements.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND DULY RESOLVED on the 20th day of October, 2025

Chris Fletcher, Mayor
City of Burleson, Texas

ATTEST:

Amanda Campos, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

E. Allen Taylor, Jr. City Attorney

(SEAL)



INTRODUCTION

The 2025 Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan provides a comprehensive framework for developing, enhancing, and sustaining Burleson's park system over the next decade. Building on significant progress since the 2019 plan, it aligns community priorities, demographic trends, and operational goals to ensure that Burleson's parks, facilities, and programs remain vibrant, inclusive, and accessible for all residents.



**The 2019 Master Plan Identified Multiple Priorities.
The following priorities have been accomplished since 2019**

- Identify and build a dog park –Bark Park
- Work on improving connectivity- Oak Valley South, Scott St Trailhead, MTB Trail Expansion
- Trail expansion and development-Village Creek Trail Design
- Upgrade amenities at Chisenhall Fields-Renovation of 15 fields to artificial turf infields, phase I parking expansion
- Acquire land for the community park-Acquired land and currently wrapping up design for phase I
- Create a Capital Improvement Plan-Completing Year 5
- Continue Renovating Existing Parks-Over 20 completed Renovations

MISSION, VISION VALUES

Mission

The Burleson Parks and Recreation Department serves exceptional experiences to our community through quality public spaces, trails and recreational opportunities.

Vision

To have a meaningful impact in the every day lives through parks and recreation.

Core values

At the Burleson Parks and Recreation Department, our internal values shape the quality of life in our community. We foster transparency through vulnerability, create inclusive and accessible spaces by being mindful and intentional, and build strong connections through healthy, professional relationships. By holding ourselves accountable, staying passionate and energized, and leading with care and empathy, we earn trust, uphold high standards, and ensure every voice is heard—creating parks, programs, and experiences that connect, inspire, and enrich Burleson.

| INPUT | OUTPUT |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Vulnerability | Transparecy |
| Mindful and Intentional | Inclusive and Accessible |
| Healthy, Professional Relationships | Building Connections |
| Accountable | Trustworthy |
| Passionate and Energized | High Quality Standards |
| Caring and Empathetic | Hearing the Voices of Our Community |

INVESTMENT INTO OUR COMMUNITY

- Bailey Lake Parking Lot Expansion and Lake Dredging
- Bartlett Soccer Complex Field Regrading
- BRiCk Remodel
- Burleson Bark Park
- Burleson Memorial Cemetery Expansion
- Burleson Splash Pad
- Cedar Ridge Playground
- Centennial Playground and Landscape Improvements
- Chisenhall Sports Complex Turf Infields and Parking Lot Expansion
- Cindy Park Playground
- Clark Park Playground and Parking Lot
- Claudia's Playground
- Elk Ridge Playground
- FS16 Memorial Garden
- MTB Trail Signage
- Oak Valley North Playground, Parking Lot Expansion and Restroom Addition
- Oak Valley South Trail Extension
- Oak Valley South Scott St Trailhead
- Prairie Timbers Pavilion, Playground and Drainage Improvements
- Park Annex
- Veteran's Memorial Turf Conversion
- Warren Park Playground and Court Renovation
- Wakefield Park Playground
- Meadowcrest Park Playground and Pickleball Courts
- Willow Creek Park Low Water Crossing
- Hidden Creek Golf Course Bunkers
- Hidden Creek Golf Course Clubhouse Renovation
- Hidden Creek Golf Course Range Improvements
- Hidden Creek Golf Course Cart Replacements
- Green Ribbon Phase I
- Park Monument and Rule Signs
- Shannon Creek Nature Preserve Design
- Community Park Land Acquisition and Phase I Design



WHAT WE HEARD



Survey

- >1000 individuals gave feedback on existing conditions and current recreational options, their visions, top priorities, and desires for future park development within the city
- Respondents voted trails, preservation of open space, and maintenance of existing facilities as priority.
- Festivals, events, and family gathering opportunities were higher priority for programming throughout the community.

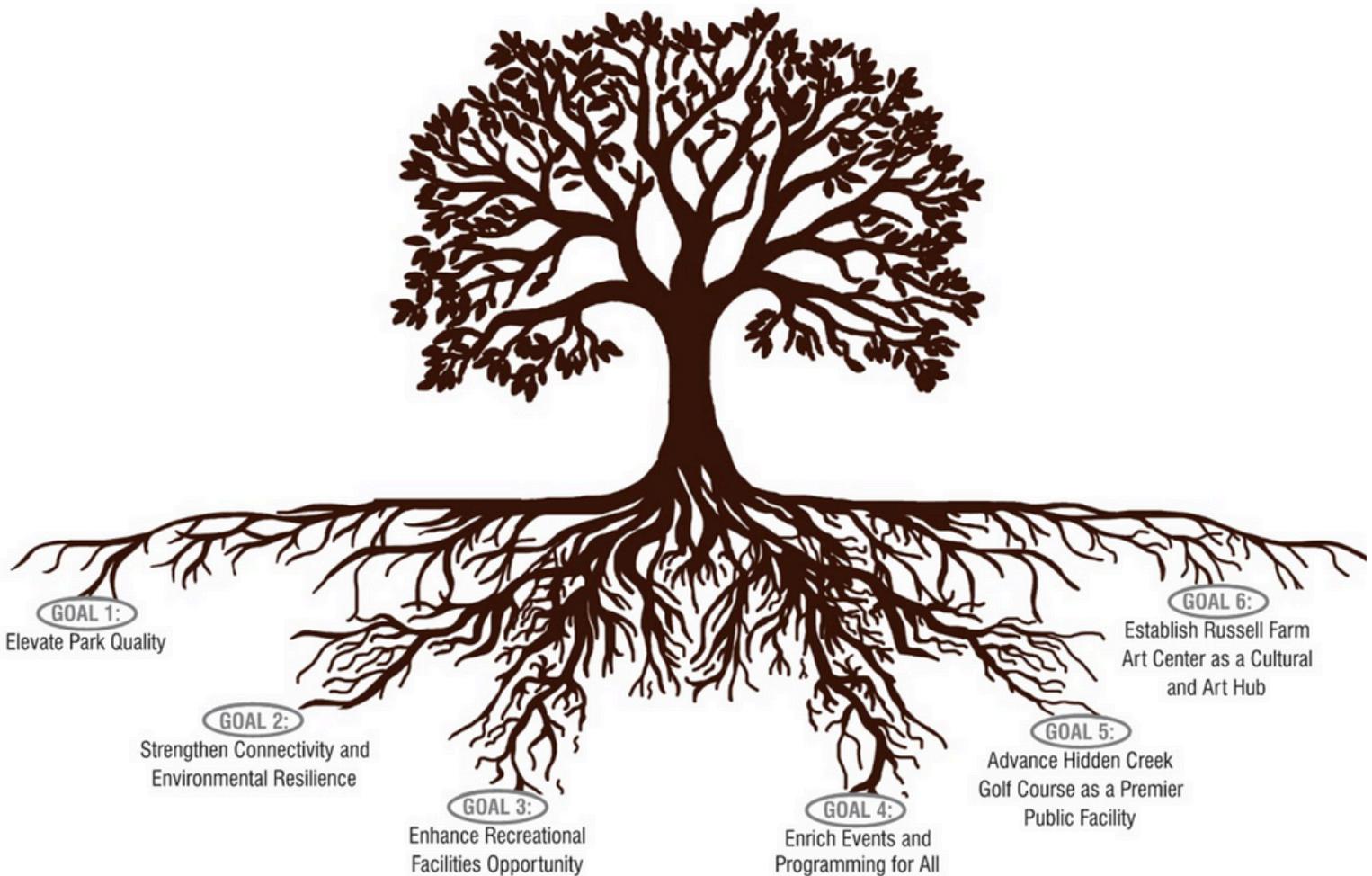


Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholder interviews were conducted on December 2nd and 3rd, 2024.
- These stakeholders, representing strong ties to the community, local government, city council, park board representatives, etc. were asked a variety of questions about what a successful master plan looks like and their ideal visions for the city.
- Common topics found through feedback:
 - Ways to improve the parks, trails, recreation, and open spaces throughout the city
 - Inclusivity and diversification of recreational opportunities / Inclusive programming
 - Connecting the city through a more seamless trail system
 - Environmental stewardship and connection to nature
 - Addressing safety concerns – signage, lighting, maintenance
 - Healthy mix of active and passive recreational opportunities
 - Burleson's current assets and successes
 - Increase transparency, engagement, and communication with the community



ROOTED IN **BURLESON**



GOALS



ELEVATE PARK QUALITY



STRENGTHEN CONNECTIVITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE



ENHANCE RECREATIONAL FACILITY OPPORTUNITIES



ENRICH EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING FOR ALL



ADVANCE HIDDEN CREEK GOLF COURSE AS A PREMIER PUBLIC FACILITY



ESTABLISH RUSSELL FARM AS A CULTURAL AND ART HUB

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Goal 1: Elevate Park Quality

- ACTION ITEM 1: Develop parkland in areas currently under served.
- ACTION ITEM 2: Actively plan and coordinate with the County for the acquisition and development of parks and open space in ETJ areas of the City.
- ACTION ITEM 3: Routinely review and update the parkland dedication ordinance to ensure that it reflects the true cost of acquiring and developing parks and ensure maintenance and operations increase with development.
- ACTION ITEM 4: Increase the percentage of residents that are within a 10-minute walk to a park to 75% by 2040.
- ACTION ITEM 5: Conduct specific park master plans for several parks in Burleson.

Goal 2: Strengthen Connectivity and Environmental Resilience

- ACTION ITEM 1: Partner with other departments to implement the improvements throughout the city of Burleson.
- ACTION ITEM 2: Provide multi-use trails and accessibility connections throughout the city and to surrounding cities or trails.
- ACTION ITEM 3: Integrate trailheads, shade, lighting, and water stations.
- ACTION ITEM 4: Promote sustainability and conservation by minimizing concrete trails where possible.
- ACTION ITEM 5: Implement regular environmental monitoring and Maintenance.

Goal 3: Enhance Recreational Facilities Opportunity

- ACTION ITEM 1: Improve and enhance aquatic, indoor recreation amenities, and outdoor recreation amenities.
- ACTION ITEM 2: Evaluate program offerings as demands and trends evolve.
- ACTION ITEM 3: Encourage placemaking in recreation facilities.



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Goal 4: Enrich Events and Programming

- ACTION ITEM 1: Plan out a variety of events throughout the entirety of the year that target a range of audiences and activities.
- ACTION ITEM 2: Identify gaps in programming and establish new programs to target underrepresented groups.

Goal 5: Advance Hidden Creek Golf Course as a premier Public Facility

- ACTION ITEM 1: Enhance current facilities to increase efficiency, use, and appeal.
- ACTION ITEM 2: Integrate more opportunities for play and generating revenue.

Goal 6: Establish Russell Farm Art Center as a Cultural and Art Hub

- ACTION ITEM 1: Engage with the broader community to enhance the presence of the farm.
- ACTION ITEM 2: Offer diverse programming and resources.



IMPLEMENTATION

The city can work to implement the 6 goals noted throughout the Master Plan with help from Parks and Recreation, Planning, Development Services and Engineering, Capital Improvements, and other partnerships. Current action items range in estimated cost and may be funded through city bonds, grants, or private funding opportunities.



ELEVATE PARK QUALITY

Continue to elevate maintenance standards, replace aging infrastructure proactively, and incorporate new amenities to keep the parks feeling safe, well cared for and exciting.



STRENGTHEN CONNECTIVITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

In addition to expanding the trail network, and implement the environmental sustainability plan.



ENHANCE RECREATIONAL FACILITY OPPORTUNITIES

Prepare for community growth by planning for new and expanded facility offerings.



ENRICH PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FOR ALL

Expand recreational program opportunities to underserved populations and reach new demographics.



ADVANCE HIDDEN CREEK GOLF COURSE AS A PREMIER PUBLIC FACILITY

Complete Golf Course Maste Plan and address needed course improvements. Capitalize on recent years successes to capture new and retain members.



ESTABLISH RUSSELL FARM AS AN ART AND CULTURE HUB

Complete Russell Farm Master plan and begin implementation of plan to increase programming and experiences at the Farm.



Thank You!!

