

CONCLUSION

In the face of Burleson's rapid growth and to maintain the quality of life the citizens expect in Burleson the park and trail system must evolve and adapt. Based on the results of the user survey, a majority of the respondents said the condition of the current park system was good and they enjoyed the safe, family friendly environment. In order for the City to continue to provide quality parks and trails for the citizens of Burleson a proactive approach to park land purchase and facility development must be implemented.

The key implementation components of the park, recreation and trail master plan are as follows:

1. No more development of mini parks.
2. Development of 17 playgrounds.
3. Addition of 10 neighborhood parks within the city limits to meet current needs.
4. Addition of up to 29 neighborhood parks in the ETJ to meet 2030 needs.
5. Addition of 5-10 community parks and 3 regional parks in the ETJ.
6. Development of 7 practice baseball fields, 7 practice softball fields and 5 basketball courts to meet current 2008 facility deficits.
7. Development of 17 baseball game fields, 17 softball game fields, 17 practice baseball fields, 17 practice softball fields, 15 basketball courts, 9 tennis courts, 52 playgrounds and 29 miles of trail to meet 2030 target needs.
8. Program and develop existing undeveloped park land.
9. Develop the surplus City property at the south end of Spinks Airport into a community park with practice baseball and softball fields and basketball courts.
10. Actively work to preserve natural areas.
11. Revise the Parkland Dedication Ordinance to require 1.5 acres of park land per 100 dwelling units.
12. Start acquiring land in the ETJ for regional, community and neighborhood parks.

13. Adopt a proactive maintenance and facility upgrade program in existing parks.

As the survey results revealed the citizens of Burleson are proud of their parks. Now is the time to take a proactive approach to improve the quality of life in Burleson by providing a first class park, recreation and trail system.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Over the next four years the City of Burleson should consider the following implementation strategy for development of the recommendations of this report. The focus of this implementation strategy is as follows:

- the development of neighborhood parks to reduce the current deficit of 10 neighborhood parks
- the development of one community park on the surplus city property at the south end of Spinks Airport (this community park would include the construction of practice softball and baseball fields and basketball courts to address the facility deficit)
- playground development to reduce the current deficit of 17 playgrounds
- trail development
- on-street bike route

All development costs noted in the following yearly implementation strategies are based on 2008 construction costs which are not adjusted to reflect anticipated cost escalation and inflation.

YEAR ONE - 2009

Based on the current planned construction of the sports complex at Chisenhall Park and the soccer complex at Bartlett Park as well as the construction of the Recreation Center at Bartlett Park the anticipated development in Year 1 will be minimal. The recommended development for Year 1 will include the following:

- Implementation of a bike route signage program. This program will identify 4 to 5 major roadways within the City, which have been identified in the master plan for bike routes, and have bike route signs installed. These bike route signs will alert motorists that they will be sharing the road with bicyclist. We do

not recommend that additional roadway width be provided or a designated 3' bike lane be established. The anticipated cost of this bike route signage implementation program should not exceed \$25,000.00.

YEAR TWO – 2010

The anticipated development in year two will focus on development of the community park on the south end of Spinks Airport, playground development and trail development. The recommended development for Year 2 will include the following:

- Design of the community park with an anticipated construction implementation in 2011. The anticipated cost for professional services should not exceed \$165,000.00.
- Development of a playground at the existing undeveloped Meadow Crest Estates Park. Anticipated development would include a playground, associated access walkways and a drinking fountain. The anticipated project cost for design and construction should not exceed \$ 300,000.00.
- Development of a playground at the existing undeveloped Burleson Meadows / Scarlet Sage Park. Anticipated development would include a playground, associated access walkways and a drinking fountain. The anticipated project cost for design and construction should not exceed \$300,000.00.
- Development of the Warren Park Trail from the western termination of the proposed Oak Valley Trail to Warren Park. The anticipated project cost for design and construction of approximately 0.8 miles of trail should not exceed \$1,500,000.00.

YEAR THREE – 2011

The anticipated development in year three will focus on construction of the community park on the south end of Spinks Airport, playground development and trail development. The recommended development for Year 3 will include the following:

- Development of a playground at the existing undeveloped Prairie Timber Estates Park. Anticipated development would include a playground, associated access walkways and a drinking fountain. The anticipated project cost for design and construction should not exceed \$ 300,000.00.
- Development of a playground at the existing undeveloped Wakefield Heights Park. Anticipated development would include a playground, associated access walkways and a drinking fountain. The anticipated project cost for design and construction should not exceed \$ 300,000.00.
- Construction of the community park with 8 - practice baseball and softball fields, parking facilities for 200 cars, pavilion and a restroom building. The anticipated project cost including professional services and construction cost should not exceed \$ 1,500,000.00.
- Development of the Village Creek Trail from the termination on the east side of Chisenhall Park continuing north under Hidden Creek Parkway to Bailey Lake Park. The anticipated project cost including design and construction cost for approximately 0.4 miles of trail should not exceed \$800,000.00

YEAR FOUR – 2012

The anticipated development in year four will focus on playground development and trail development. The recommended development for Year 4 will include the following:

- Development of a playground at the newly constructed community park. Anticipated development would include a playground, associated access walkways and a drinking fountain. The anticipated project cost for design and construction should not exceed \$ 300,000.00.
- Development of the Village Creek Trail from the eastern termination at Bailey Lake Park to continue east to tie into the western termination of the Oak Valley Trail. The anticipated project cost including professional services and construction cost for approximately 1 mile of trail should not exceed \$ 2,000,000.00.

This implementation strategy is subject to change based on development growth and the possibility of parkland dedication that would provide new neighborhood parks. The possibility of additional land for neighborhood parks would encourage the development of more playgrounds which would help offset the current playground deficit. If more neighborhood park land becomes available in the areas identified in the master plan for future neighborhood parks we would recommend that the implementation strategy be modified or added to reflect the need to development more playgrounds.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

The following is a brief outline of design guidelines that could be used in the development of future parks and trails in the City of Burleson.

Trail Development (Hike and Bike Trails)

1. Average cross slope at 1.5% with a maximum cross slope of 1.8%.
2. Maximum longitudinal slope of 4.8%.
3. Minimum width of 8'-0", with an average width of 10'-0".
4. Maintain a 2' shoulder on each side of the trail that does not exceed a slope of 5%.
5. Maintain a vertical clearance from all vegetation and fixed obstructions of at least 10'-0".
6. Maintain a horizontal clearance from all vegetation and fixed obstructions of at least 2'-0".
7. Guardrails must be placed in all situations where the trail side slope exceeds a 4:1 slope.
8. All guardrails must be a minimum of 48" in height.
9. Minimum thickness of concrete trail paving should be 5" with a recommended thickness of 6".
10. Bridges for trails over creeks and drainage crossings should be set back at least 10' from the top of bank to allow for future bank erosion and to minimize the need to armor the bank.
11. Bridges should be located on straight runs of the creek or drainage way wherever possible.
12. When possible bridges shall be set 2'-0" above the 100 year flood elevation.
13. Trails adjacent to roadways should maintain a minimum 5'-0" vegetative buffer between the trail edge and the roadway.
14. Wherever possible drainage should be collected in parallel swales along the

side of the trail to minimize drainage across the trail.

Neighborhood Parks

1. All concrete walkways should be a minimum of 6'-0" wide.
2. Minimum thickness of concrete paving should be 5'-0".
3. Slopes on walkways should not exceed a 1.8% cross slope and 4.8% longitudinal slope.
4. Play grounds should be depressed below grade slightly in order to contain loose fill playground surfacing material.
5. Accessible ramps must be provided to all depressed play grounds.
6. Turf slopes should not exceed a 5:1 slope.
7. A physical barrier such as a fence or wall should be placed between any play ground that is closer than 30'-0" to a parking lot or roadway.
8. Rubberized mats should be placed below loose fill playground surfacing under all swings and slide exits.

Sports Complexes

Baseball/Softball

1. Turf slopes on the fields should not exceed 1.5% with a recommended slope of 1%.
2. The line between home plate and the base of the pitchers mound (baseball) or pitching plate (softball) should be level and the remainder of the infield should slope away at a 1% from the ridge established between the pitcher and home plate.
3. In no situations should ball field drainage be directed toward home plate.
4. All outfield fencing should be 8'-0" tall with no mid rail and should have an 18"

wide concrete mow edge under the fence.

5. Drainage slots shall be placed in the mow edges under the outfield fences so as not to block drainage across the mow edge.
6. If windscreens are anticipated on outfield fences all line posts should be a minimum of 3" diameter with 4" diameter corner posts.
7. All fence fabric should have knuckled top and bottom selvage.
8. For softball fields maintain a minimum distance from the base lines and home plate to the backstop of 25'-0".
9. The backstop from the foul lines extended should be padded.
10. Backstops should be a minimum of 25'-0" tall.
11. Minimum distance from foul lines of adjacent fields should be 100'-0".
12. Recommended number of parking spaces per field should 50.
13. All concrete paving should be a minimum of 5" thick.

Soccer/Football

1. Turf slopes on the fields should not exceed 1.5% with a recommended slope of 1%.
2. Recommended field drainage would be a turtle back slope with the center of the field higher than the sidelines with a graduated slope from 0.75% slope in the center to a steeper slope as you get closer to the sideline.
3. Minimize off site drainage from crossing over fields if the fields are going to sheet drain across the field.
4. Fixed obstructions should be no closer than the 20' from the edge of the field.
5. Irrigation should extend a minimum of 10' beyond the field edge.
6. All fencing should be a minimum of 8'-0" tall with an 18" concrete mow strip under the fence.

7. Recommended number of parking spaces per field should 50.
8. All concrete paving should be a minimum of 5" thick.

Nature / Eco Friendly Parks

1. Minimize impact to the natural environment. Include tree preservation and wildlife habit preservation.
2. Look for opportunities to enhance wildlife habitat.
3. Restrict infrastructure and utility development to the park entrance to minimize environmental impact and facilitate maintenance.
4. Consider the use of bio-swales for hard surface runoff.
5. Consider rain harvesting from roof tops.
6. Use native / adapted plant materials. Consider establishing demonstration gardens of native planting to educate the public.
7. Consider wind or solar power.
8. Consider composting toilets located close to parking facilities.
9. Consider porous paving for parking lots.
10. Trail should be soft surface trails that follow the natural contours of the land.
11. All facilities must be handicap accessible.
12. Consider an interpretive signage program to educate the public.
13. All construction materials should be sustainable, low maintenance and if possible manufactured or available from within 150 miles of the park site.
14. Strongly encourage development with recycled material.
15. Encourage view preservation and enhancement.
16. Involve the local community (master naturalist, scout groups, garden clubs, etc.) in the development of the park.