

THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP

A large, stylized graphic of the year '2022' in white. The numbers are filled with a light green color. The '2's are decorated with orange silhouettes of people engaged in various recreational activities: a person walking a dog, a person playing tennis, a person sitting on a bench, a person pushing a stroller, and a person walking. The '0's are decorated with white and light green tree silhouettes.

# 2022

## PARKS & RECREATION

NEEDS ASSESSMENT



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# INTRODUCTION

Over the past 45+ years, The Woodlands has developed into one of the most, if not the most, successful large master-planned community in the United States.

Unlike many other master-planned developments, The Woodlands has placed a major emphasis on environmentally-sensitive planning, preservation of natural open space and the development of high quality parks and recreation amenities like aquatic facilities, sports fields, and multi-use pathways.

The Parks and Recreation Department believes that The Woodlands is a living laboratory for creating an environment that contributes to and enhances the quality of life for residents, visitors and commercial interests. There is no question that parks, recreation and open space are important to community members. Not only do parks perpetuate some of the community's most beautiful natural resources, but quality parks and recreation activities have proven to be significant factors in the decisions of individuals and businesses to locate or remain in a given locality. They provide relief from the hustle and bustle of today's fast-paced society through opportunities to relax and revitalize in the solitude of nature.

## A high quality parks and recreation system

Quality recreational opportunities contribute to the overall aesthetics of The Woodlands while also increasing residents' overall quality of life and satisfaction with the community. Residents go to parks to be alone or with other people, to exercise or to sit quietly and read. Families gather to play, picnic or enjoy each other's company, and residents can stroll or meet friends. In addition, parks contribute to and enhance the safety, stability and vitality of the surrounding neighborhoods. The Woodlands also has high levels of participation in organized sports and recreation. The park system hosts several leagues ranging from competitive aquatics to field sports.

## A diverse range of amenities

Throughout the 45+ years of the community's existence, the focus of parks and recreation has morphed from focusing solely on maintaining physical assets to a multi-faceted service provider which has become a recognized leader at the state and national level for the administration and maintenance of high quality recreation, aquatic, park and open space facilities and community based recreation and environmental education programs.

## An evolving system

Many of these statements have been supported through the Township's Strategic Plan, the bi-annual community survey, the 2017 Bear Branch Park Master Plan, 2016 Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, 2011 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, and other planning documents. The completion of the 2003 and 2011 Needs Assessment Studies established a framework to identify needs and deficiencies of the system and to leverage the Department's resources to improving the parks system. Since the 2011 Report, the Parks & Recreation Department has implemented several milestones including:

### Lighting Improvements

Added sports field lights to Lakeside (2 fields), Falconwing (2 fields), Harper's Landing, Creekwood, Shadowbend, and Cattail Parks

Worked in cooperation with The Woodlands Development Company to have lights added to the Wendtwoods multi-purpose fields

### Field Improvements

Converted four (4) fields at Bear Branch Sports Park and two (2) fields at Alden Bridge Sports Park to artificial turf

Expanded Alden Bridge Sportsfields to include an additional five (5) acres of multi-purpose fields

Built Gosling Sports fields which added three (3) all-weather and two (2) grass fields to the community's inventory

**Aquatic Improvements**

Added heaters to Sawmill, Creekwood and Forestgate pools to assist with year-round swim teams

**Park Improvements**

Major renovations to Sawmill, Shadowbend, Northshore, Bear Branch and Falconwing (in progress) Parks

Built a Decomposed Granite pathway at Shadowbend Park

Built Community Garden in Wendtwoods Park

These improvements were also accompanied by systematic updates and renovations to tennis courts, pathways, skate parks, playgrounds, etc.

next 15 years. The study was conducted between February and August 2022 and involved four key tasks: Understand, Engage, Envision, and Act.

The Understand Phase included data collection, analysis, and site tours in order to develop a Township profile and system-wide inventory. The profile and inventory were coupled with community feedback during the Engage Phase. During the envision phase, the Assessment team developed analyzed feedback, inventory, and profile to identify opportunities for improvements and develop recommendations across the system coupled with more detailed concept plans for three parks. Finally, an implementation strategy was developed during the Act Phase that aims to guide the improvements over the next 15 years. The process is summarized below.

**A vision for the future**

This 2022 Needs Assessment aims to build off the success of these efforts by responding to evolving demographics and community needs in order to guide improvements over the

**Assessment Organization**

**The Woodlands Profile**

The Township profile compiles existing data on land use and natural assets as well as demographics and recreational trends to develop a profile for The Township. This section includes charts and maps that establish the overall character of the parks and recreation system as well as the residents and visitors that utilize the parks and recreation system.

**Community Needs**

The Assessment's engagement approach is summarized in the Community Needs Section. The Assessment was promoted at Village Association Meetings to provide information to residents about the project, spread the word about the public survey, and listen to direct feedback from residents. The survey engaged over 2,000 residents and park users. The feedback received from the survey was combined with demographic data to develop a series of Park User Profiles. These Park User Profiles identify specific needs based on resident's lifestyle and understand how to improve the parks system in response to these needs.

**System-wide Assessment**

The system-wide inventory included an assessment of park facilities, amenities, field utilization, and level of service. Park facilities provide details on the classification of parks, distribution throughout the system, and guidelines.

**Recommendations**

The proposed improvements range from large-scale concept plans and facility improvements to amenity based improvements at existing parks. The recommendations were guided by three overall goals aimed at improvements for sports/recreational tourism, community-responsive amenities, and ensuring a high-quality system.

**RECREATIONAL TOURISM**

With abundant parks, recreation centers, boat houses, an aerial adventure course, swimming pools, playgrounds, and 220 miles of pathways, The Woodlands Township is well equipped for recreational tourism. By focusing on the community's participation in organized sports as well as the Township's desire to support economic development and tourism, recreational tourism strategies include improvements to sports park facilities and field utilization optimization.

**COMMUNITY RESPONSIVE**

The Woodlands Township is dedicated to serving the community throughout life-cycle changes, diversifying trends, and local demographic shifts. By utilizing census data, survey results, community meetings and park user groups, the park system anticipates and responds to community needs. Based on the in-depth analysis of community input, demographics, and national trends outlined in Section 3 – Community Needs, the following recommendations have been made:

- Improve Community Spaces
- Respond to Active Recreation Needs
- Respond to Nature-based recreation needs

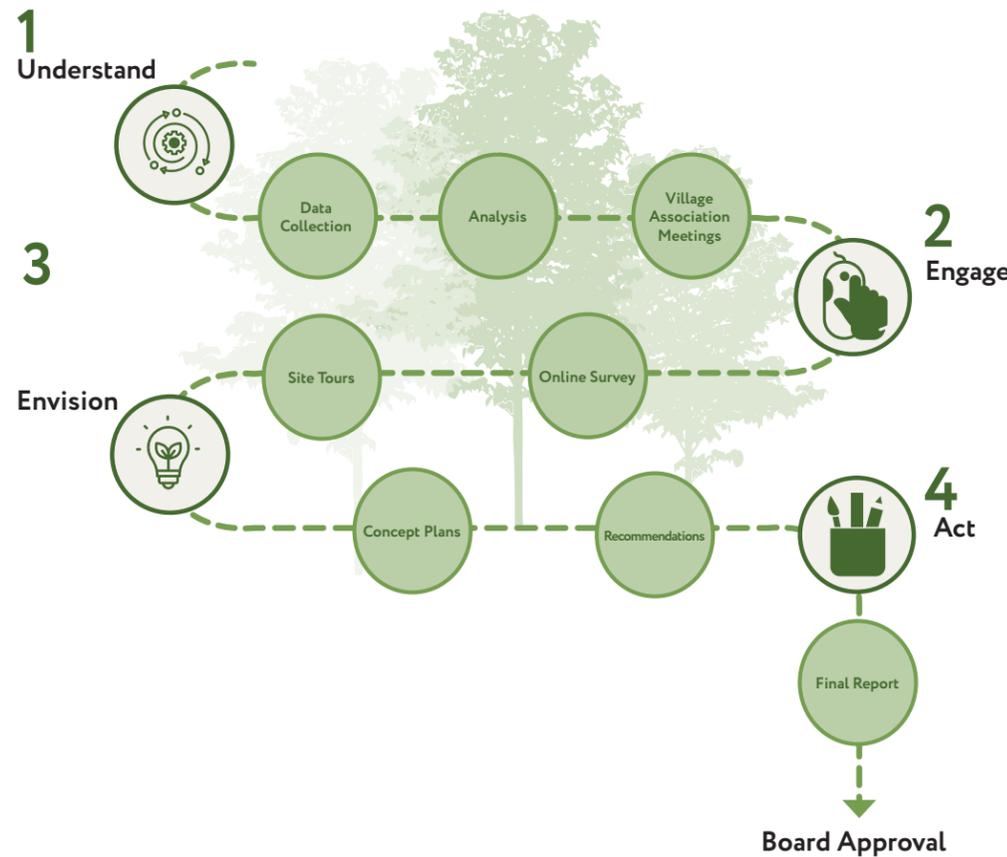
**FUTURE NETWORK**

The future of the parks and recreation network is a system that is safe, comfortable, sustainable, and accessible. While 98% of respondents rated the park system as very to extremely important in the 2022 assessment, there are ongoing amendments needed to maintain this beloved system while expanding to meet the rising population and capacity requirements. The strategies identified aim to (1) create a robust, high-quality system and (2) a multi-sustainable system to ensure the parks and recreation system continues to serve the community in 2037 and beyond as well as it is in the present.

**Funding & Implementation**

This section outlines a framework for successful implementation of this assessment including details on funding strategies, priority improvements, and maintenance plan to guide improvements over the next 15 years. Details on funding strategies and maintenance scheduling is included in this section. The proposed improvement types and specific parks identified in the recommendations of this report have been selected based off data collected during Summer 2022. The implementation matrix it is intended to serve as a framework for prioritizing improvements and leveraging resources. As the needs of the community continue to evolve, some of specific parks and improvement types may need to be adjusted. The prioritization and dollars associated with these improvements are subject to change in the future.

The 2022 Needs Assessment vision, goals, assessment, analysis and recommendations are summarized on the following page.



# 2022 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## VISION

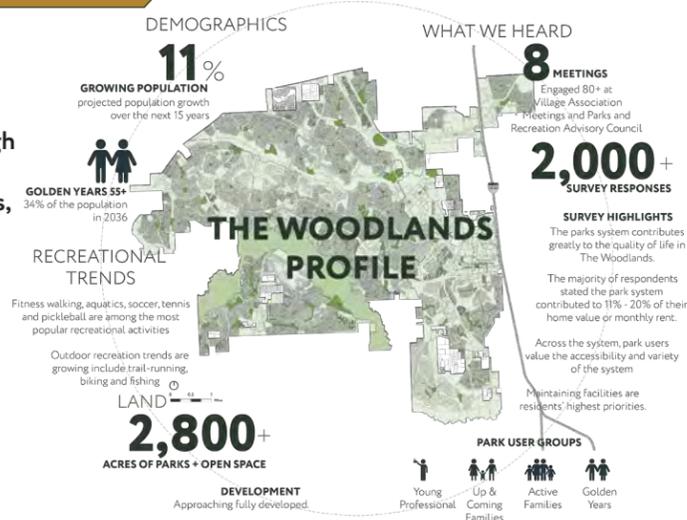
The vision for the 2022 Needs Assessment is to evaluate the existing parks and recreation facilities, programs and services in the Township and provide recommendations for improvements, additions, changes, priorities and strategies to address the current and future needs of the community.

## GOALS

- 1 To meet the needs of current and future parks and recreation users.
- 2 To conduct a system-wide assessment of parks, pathways, trails, recreation, aquatics, and athletics.
- 3 Identify gaps, challenges, and opportunities pertaining to services, facilities, and demographics.
- 4 Foster economic development through expanded athletic and recreational opportunity.
- 5 Develop recommendations that balance residential needs with economic development goals.

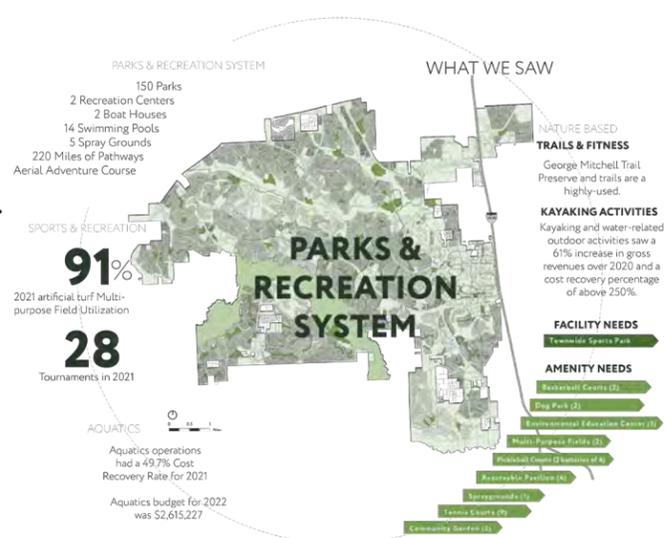
## WOODLANDS PROFILE

The project studied the Woodlands Profile through land use, demographics, and recreational trends.



## SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

The project assessed the park facilities, amenities inventory, field utilization and level of service.

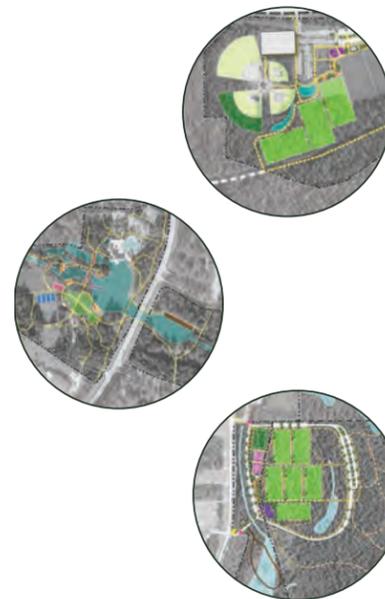


## RECOMMENDATIONS

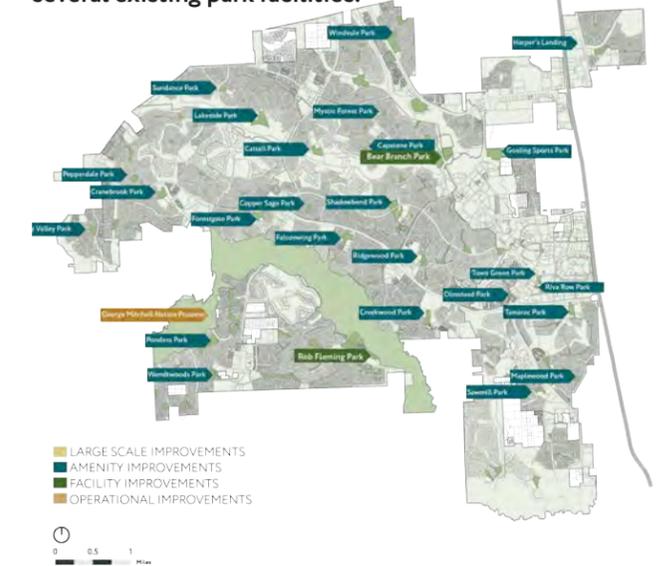
- 1 **RECREATIONAL TOURISM**  
Sport Fields
- 2 **COMMUNITY RESPONSIVE**  
Community Spaces  
Active Recreation
- 3 **FUTURE NETWORK**  
Support Amenities  
Accessibility and Connectivity

## IMPROVEMENTS

Large-scale improvements include the three concept plans for Alden Bridge Park, Alden Bridge Sports Park and South Gosling Park.

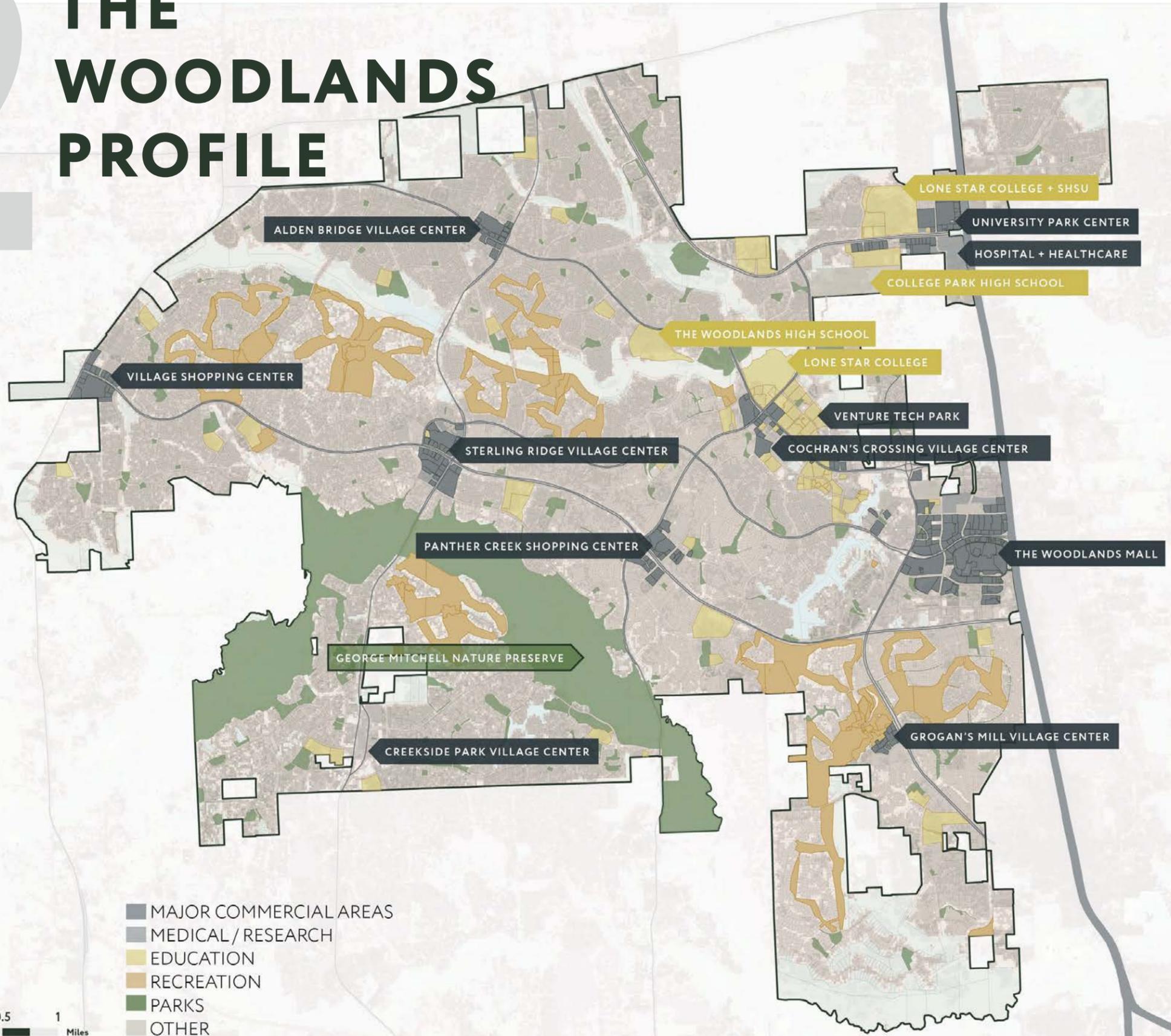


Amenity and Facility improvements are proposed at several existing park facilities.



# 2

# THE WOODLANDS PROFILE



## Profile

The Woodlands Township is a special purpose district, a political subdivision located in unincorporated areas of Montgomery and Harris Counties, 27 miles north of Houston, Texas.

### Land Use

The Township is approximately 44 square miles in size and considered fully developed. The highest development footprint is localized along the IH-45 Corridor along the eastern edge of the Township around Research Park and Town Center. The following is a summary of the community as of January 2022.

### COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL

The total square footage of non-residential area in the Township is 42.6 million. This is largely split between Retail/Hospital/General Commercial and Office. The main corridor includes The Woodlands Mall and Venture Tech park with smaller, more localized village commercial centers,

### SCHOOLS

There are 24 public schools and 11 private schools. Lone Star College System has two (2) campuses in the north eastern region of the Township.

### HOUSING

The Township includes nearly 35,000 homes and 12,060 apartments and assisted living facilities.

### RECREATION

Beyond the parks and recreation system, the Township also includes a Country Club and several golf courses.

### ROADWAYS

The most significant roadway is IH-45 along the eastern boundary of the Township running North/South. The major East/West roadways include Texas 242, Lake Woodlands Drive, Woodlands Pkwy, and Research Forest Dr.

In addition to the Township's development character, the Woodlands also features over 7,000 acres of ecological and environmental assets.

**Natural Assets**

The area's natural assets include natural preserves and protected lands, parks and open spaces, as well as lakes and waterways. This map illustrates the natural features. The Woodlands natural areas are defined by forests, grasslands, wetlands, and shrubs. The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for 2,800+ acres of parks and open space. Key assets are described below.

**NATURAL AREAS AND PRESERVES**

Natural areas such as George Mitchell Nature Preserve and WG Jones State Park play a vital role in supporting the local ecology.

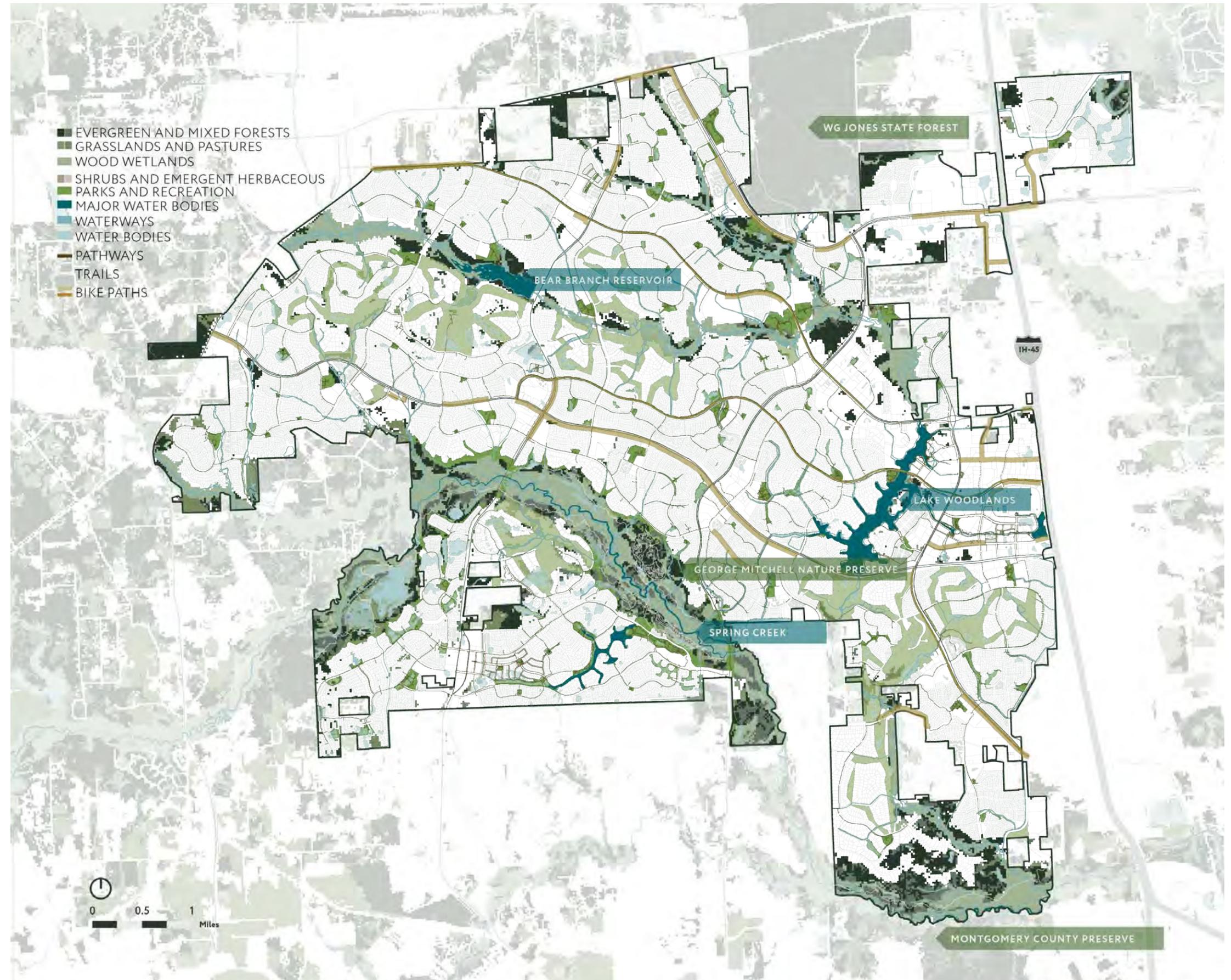
George Mitchell Nature Preserve is perhaps the most popular natural asset in the Township. At 1,800 acres, the preserve is host to numerous local flora and fauna. The preserve is also part of the Montgomery County Spring Creek Greenway which connects 12,000 acres of forest along the creek. Residents of the Woodlands frequent the meandering nature trails within the Preserve. WG Jones State Forest lies at the northern boundary of the Township and offers pathways and trails that attract nearly 8,000 visitors annually. The forest is also home to the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

**PARKS & RECREATION**

In addition to nature preserves, The Woodlands is also home to several public and private parks and open spaces. The Parks & Recreation Department oversees 151 parks and over 220 miles of pathways and trails. Other recreational areas highlighted on this map include The Woodlands Country Club as well as several golf courses.

**WATER**

The major water bodies in The Woodlands are Spring Creek, Lake Woodlands, and Bear Branch Reservoir. Stormwater runoff drains to the reservoir and approximately eight miles of conveyance channels known as Bear Branch, Alden Branch, and Upper Panther Branch. Other waterways and lakes include Lake Paloma and Forrest Hills Lake.



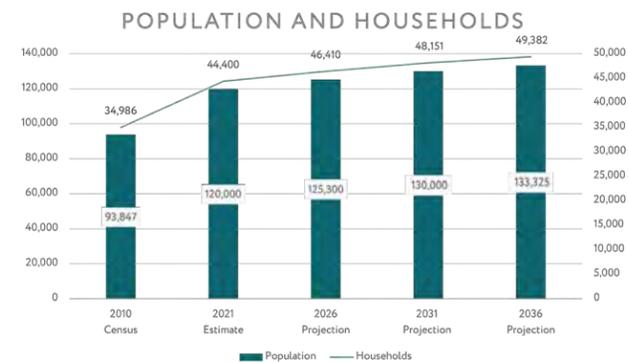
The Township provides quasi-governmental & municipal type services to approximately 119,000 residents and over 35,000 single-family residences and is projected to grow to approximately 125,000 by the year 2025.

**People**  
**POPULATION + DEMOGRAPHICS**

The Demographic and Trend Analysis provides an understanding of the population of The Woodlands, Texas. This analysis demonstrates the overall size of total population by specific age segment, race and ethnicity, and the overall economic status and spending power of the residents through household income statistics. It is important to note that while the demographics analysis evaluates the population characteristics based on the geographic area, the Parks and Recreation Department does tend to serve an audience outside that as well. All future demographic projections are based on historical trends. All projections should be utilized with the understanding that unforeseen circumstances during or after the time of the projections could have a significant bearing on the validity of the final projections.

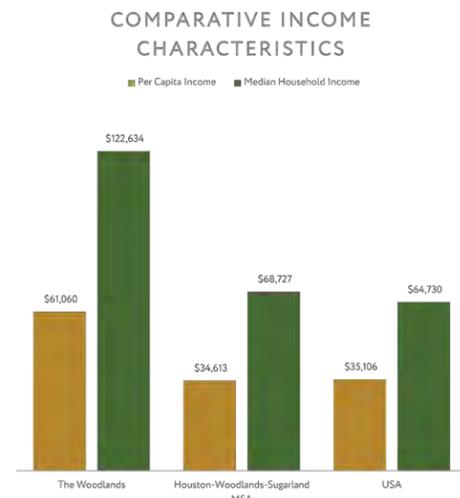
**DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY /**

Demographic data used for the analysis was obtained from the Howard Hughes Corporation, the U.S. Census Bureau and from ESRI, the largest research and development organization dedicated to Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and specializing in population projections and market trends. All data was acquired in April 2022 and reflects actual numbers as reported in the 2010 Censuses, and estimates for 2021 and 2026 as obtained by Howard Hughes and ESRI. Straight line linear regression was utilized for projected 2031 and 2036 demographics.



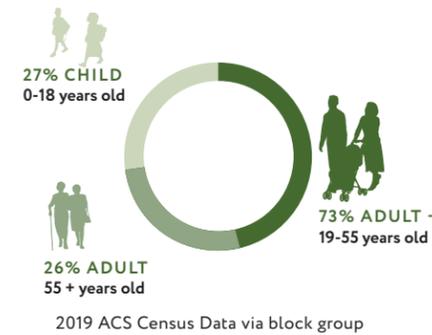
**POPULATION**

Over the last decade, The Woodlands population has grown steadily from under 94,000 residents in 2010 to 120,000 in 2021. This growth is projected to continue through 2036 to 158,000. Projecting ahead, the total population is expected to continue to grow slightly over the next 15 years. Based on predictions through 2036, the service area is expected to have 133,325 residents living within 49,382 households (2.7 persons per household.)

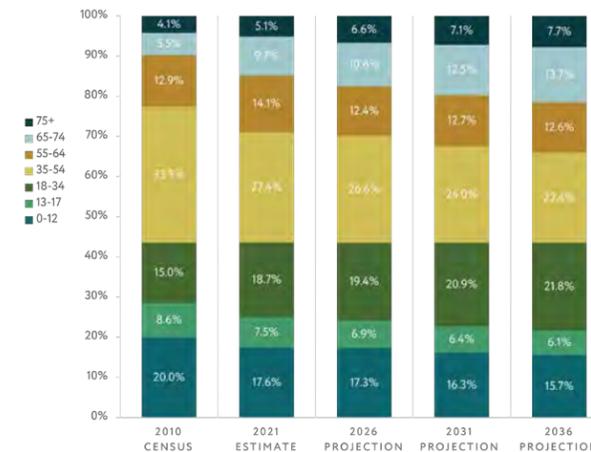


**HOUSEHOLDS & INCOME**

As seen in the chart to the above, the Township's per capita and median household income levels are above both regional and national averages.



**POPULATION BY AGE SEGMENT**



**AGE SEGMENTATION**

The population by age segments, the service area exhibits a fairly balanced distribution among the major age segments. Currently, the largest age segment is the 55+ segment, making up 28.9% of the population.

The overall age composition of the population is projected to undergo a slight aging trend. While most of the younger age segments are expected to remain the same or experience slight decreases in population percentage; those who are 55 and older are projected to continue increasing over the next 15 years, making up 34% of the population by 2036 – an increase of 5.1% over 2021. This is assumed to be a consequence of a vast amount of the Baby Boomer generation shifting into the senior age segment.

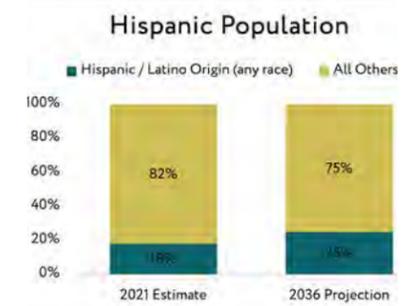
Given the differences in how the active adults (55 and older) participate in recreation programs, the trend is moving toward having at least two to three different program age segments for older adults. When developing the park and recreation system, the Township should evaluate recreation experiences that would cater to active adults who are 55-64, 65-74, and 75+ age segments.



**RACE & ETHNICITY**

In analyzing race, the Township's current populations are predominately White Alone. The 2021 estimates show that 82% of the Township's population falls into the White Alone category, while the Asian population (7%) represents the largest minority. The predictions for 2036 expect that the service area's population by race will diversify with a decrease in the White Alone population by approximately 7% and slight gains in most every other category.

The Woodland's population was also assessed based on Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, which by the Census Bureau definition is viewed independently from race. It is important to note that individuals who are Hispanic/Latino in ethnicity can also identify with any racial categories identified above. People of Hispanic/Latino origin currently represents approximately 18% of the Township's population, which is in-line with the national average (19% Hispanic/Latino). The Hispanic/ Latino population is expected to grow to 25% of the Township's total population by 2036.



## POPULATION BY VILLAGE

2019 ACS Census Data via block group. Does not include Town Center

**ALDEN BRIDGE**  
17,050

**COLLEGE PARK**  
5,626

**COCHRAN'S CROSSING**  
13,896

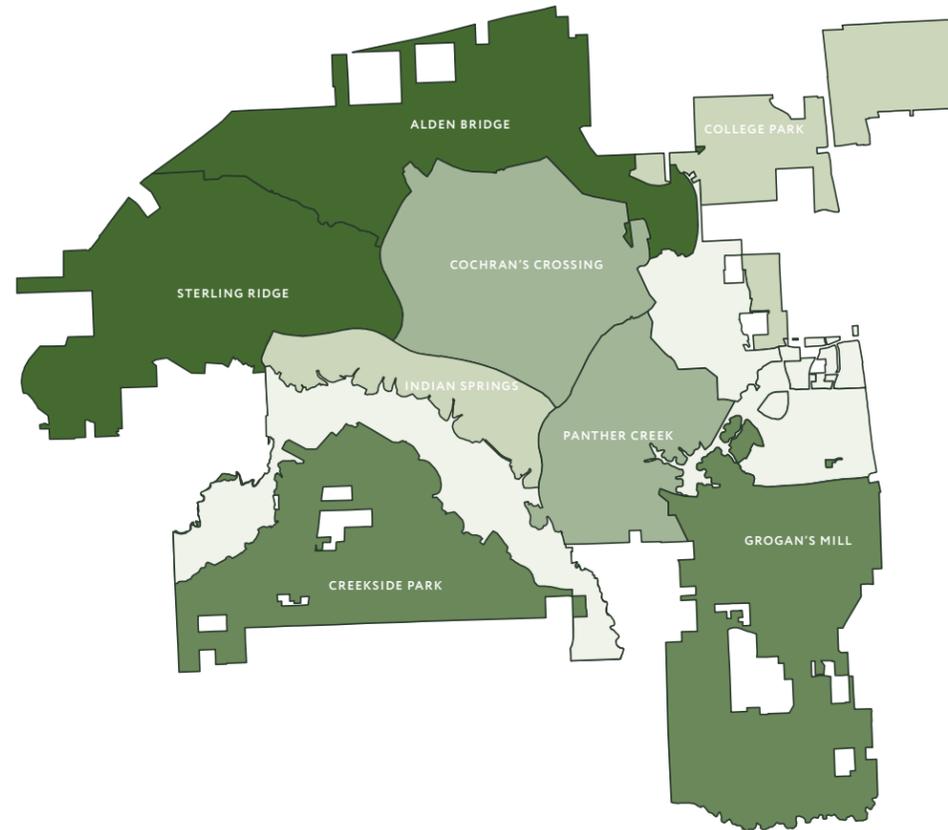
**STERLING RIDGE**  
19,506

**PANTHER CREEK**  
13,216

**INDIAN SPRINGS**  
5,782

**CREEKSIDE PARK**  
15,103

**GROGAN'S MILL**  
14,844

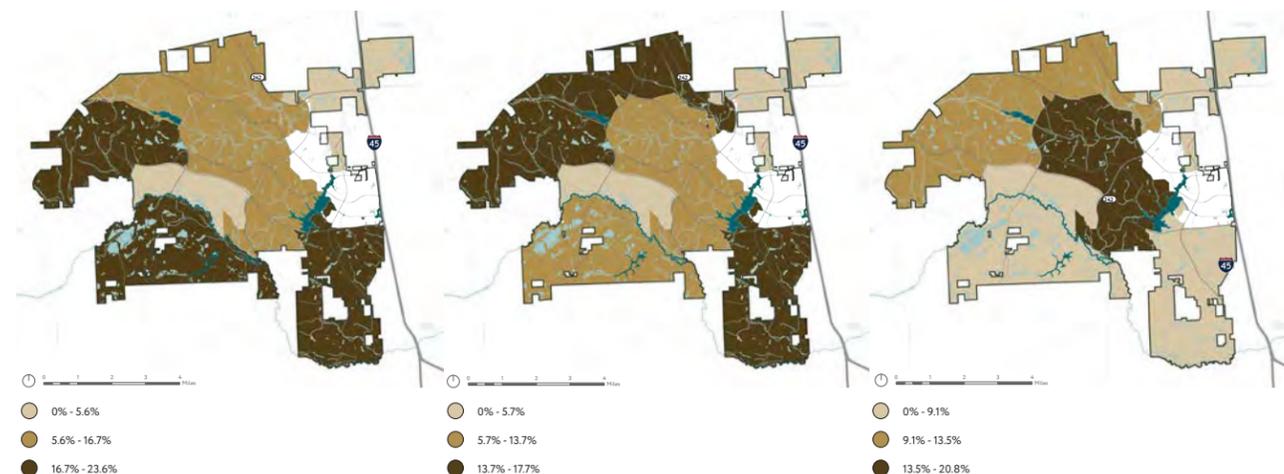


## AGE SEGMENTATION BY VILLAGE

Population Under 18

Population 18 - 64

Population Age Over 64



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

The following implications are derived from the analyses provided above. Each implication is organized by the outlined demographic information sections.

### POPULATION

The population is increasing and is projected to experience an 11% population growth over the next 15 years. This is in-line with the national average over the same time period. With a growing population, park and recreation services will need to strategically invest, develop, and maintain park and recreation facilities in relation to current and future residential growth.

### AGE SEGMENTATION

The Woodlands has a balanced age segmentation with the largest group being 55+. Over the next 15 years, the service area is projected to remain balanced but also age slightly as the 55+ segment will be 34% in 2036.

### RACE AND ETHNICITY

A diversifying community will likely focus the Township on providing traditional and emerging programming and service offerings.

### HOUSEHOLDS AND INCOME

With median and per capita household income averages above regional and national averages, it would be important for the Township to prioritize providing offerings that are first class with exceptional customer service while seeking opportunities to create revenue generation.

# RECREATIONAL TRENDS

## NATIONAL RECREATION TRENDS ANALYSIS

The Recreational Trends Analysis provides an understanding of national and local recreational trends. Trends data used for this analysis was obtained from Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA), National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). All trend data is based on current and/or historical participation rates, statistically-valid survey results, or NRPA Park Metrics.

### METHODOLOGY

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report 2022 was utilized in evaluating the following trends:

- National Recreation Participatory Trends
- Core vs. Casual Participation Trends

The study is based on findings from surveys carried out in 2021 by the Physical Activity Council (PAC), resulting in a total of 18,000 online interviews. Surveys were administered to all genders, ages, income levels, regions, and ethnicities to allow for statistical accuracy of the national population. A sample size of 18,000 completed interviews is considered by SFIA to result in a high degree of statistical accuracy. A sport with a participation rate of five percent has a confidence interval of plus or minus 0.32 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. Using a weighting technique, survey results are applied to the total U.S. population figure of 304,745,039 people (ages six and older).

The purpose of the report is to establish levels of activity and identify key participatory trends in recreation across the U.S. This study looked at 118 different sports/activities and subdivided them into various categories including: sports, fitness, outdoor activities, aquatics, etc.

### CORE VS. CASUAL PARTICIPATION

In addition to overall participation rates, SFIA further categorizes active participants as either core or casual participants based on frequency of participation. Core participants have higher participatory frequency than casual participants. The thresholds that define casual versus core participation may vary based on the nature of each individual activity. For instance, core participants engage in most fitness activities more than 50-times per year, while for sports, the threshold for core participation is typically 13-times per year.

In each activity, core participants are more committed and tend to be less likely to switch to other activities or

become inactive (engage in no physical activity) than casual participants. This may also explain why activities with more core participants tend to experience less pattern shifts in participation rates than those with larger groups of casual participants.

### IMPACT OF COVID-19

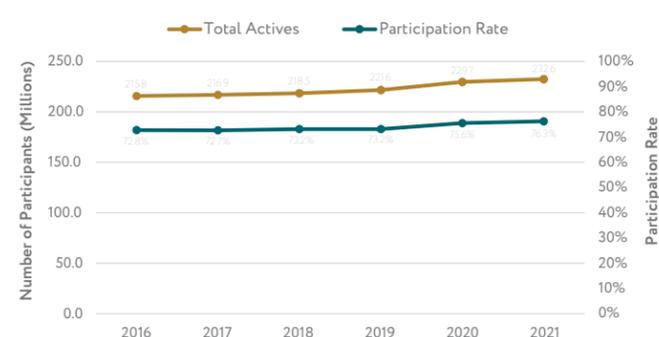
Approximately 232.6 million people ages 6 and over reported being active in 2021, which is a 1.3% increase from 2020 and the greatest number of active Americans in the last 5 years. There were more things to do as outdoor activities thrived, fitness at home became more popular, and team sports started back up after the COVID-19 hiatus.

Americans continued to practice yoga, attend Pilates training, and workout with kettlebells. They were drawn to the ease of pickleball and the competitiveness of tennis. Many started at indoor climbing, while others took to the hiking trail. The waterways traffic had an increase of stand-up paddlers, kayaks, and jet skis. Gymnastics, swimming on a team, court volleyball, and fast-pitch softball benefited from the participation boom created from the Olympics.

Water sports had the largest gain in participation rates. Activities such as kayaking, stand-up paddling, and boardsailing/windsurfing all contributed to the 2.0 percent increase. Outdoor sports continued to grow with 53.9 percent of the U.S. population participating. This rate remains higher than pre-pandemic levels, having 6.2 percent gain over 50.7 percent participation rate in 2019. The largest contributor to this gain was trail running having increased 5.6 percent in one year and 13.9 percent from 2019.

Generationally, fitness sports continue to be the go-to means of exercise for Boomers, Gen X, and Millennials. Over half of the Gen X, Millennials, and Gen Z generation participated in one type of outdoor activity. Team sports were heavily dominated by generation Gen Z.

### TOTAL ACTIVES 6-YEAR TREND

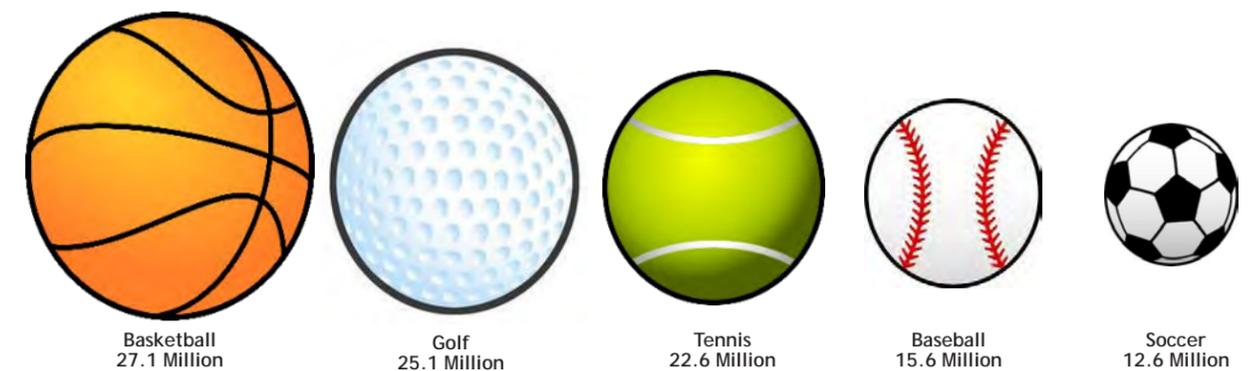


## NATIONAL TRENDS GENERAL SPORTS

### PARTICIPATION LEVELS

The top sports most heavily participated in the United States were Basketball (27.1 million), Golf (25.1 million), and Tennis (22.6 million) which have participation figures well in excess of the other activities within the general sports category. Baseball (15.6 million), and Outdoor Soccer (12.6 million) round out the top five.

The popularity of Basketball, Golf, and Tennis can be attributed to the ability to compete with relatively small number of participants, this coupled with an ability to be played outdoors and/or properly distanced helps explain their popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Basketball's overall success can also be attributed to the limited amount of equipment needed to participate and the limited space requirements necessary, which make basketball the only traditional sport that can be played at the majority of American dwellings as a drive-way pickup game. Golf continues to benefit from its wide age segment appeal and is considered a life-long sport. In addition, target type game venues or Golf Entertainment Venues have increased drastically (72.3%) as a 5-year trend, using Golf Entertainment (e.g., Top Golf) as a new alternative to breathe life back into the game of golf.



### FIVE-YEAR TREND

Since 2016, Pickleball (71.2%), Golf- Entertainment Venues (51.3%), and Tennis (25.1%) have shown the largest increase in participation. Similarly, Basketball (21.4%) and Boxing for Competition (20.7%) have also experienced significant growth. Based on the five-year trend from 2016-2021, the sports that are most rapidly declining in participation include Ultimate Frisbee (-40.4%), Roller Hockey (-26.1%), Volleyball (Sand/Beach) (-23.8%), Squash (-23.5%), Slow Pitch Softball (-21.9%), and Gymnastics (-20.7%).

### ONE-YEAR TREND

The most recent year shares some similarities with the five-year trends; with Pickleball (14.8%) and Boxing for Competition (7.3%) experiencing some of the greatest increases in participation this past year. The greatest one-year increases also include Fast Pitch Softball (15.3%), Gymnastics (10.9%), and Court Volleyball (8.1%). Basketball (-2.2%), Flag Football (-1.6%), Indoor Soccer (-0.6%) and Baseball (-0.5%) have shown a five-year trend increase, but a decrease over the last year. This is likely a direct result of coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Similarly, other team sports such as Ultimate Frisbee (-5.8%), Slow Pitch Softball (-5.4%), Roller Hockey (-5%), Racquetball (-4.8%) and Beach/Sand Volleyball (-3.1%), also had significant decreases in participation over the last year.

See page 31 and 32 for local trends.

**CORE VS. CASUAL TRENDS IN GENERAL SPORTS**

Highly participated in sports, such as Basketball, Baseball, and Slow Pitch Softball generally have a larger core participant base (participate 13+ times per year) than casual participant base (participate 1-12 times per year). Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, most activities showed a decrease in their percentage of core participants. However, there were

significant increases in the percentage of casual participation for Court Volleyball, Pickleball, Fast Pitch Softball, Gymnastics and Lacrosse in the past year. See Appendix A for full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.

National Participatory Trends - General Sports					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2016	2020	2021	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Basketball	22,343	27,753	27,135	21.4%	-2.2%
Golf (9 or 18-Hole Course)	23,815	24,804	25,111	5.4%	1.2%
Tennis	18,079	21,642	22,617	25.1%	4.5%
Baseball	14,760	15,731	15,587	5.6%	-0.9%
Soccer (Outdoor)	11,932	12,444	12,556	5.2%	0.9%
Golf (Entertainment Venue)	8,173	12,057	12,362	51.3%	2.5%
Softball (Slow Pitch)	7,690	6,349	6,008	-21.9%	-5.4%
Football (Flag)	6,173	7,001	6,889	11.6%	-1.6%
Volleyball (Court)	6,216	5,410	5,849	-5.9%	8.1%
Badminton	7,354	5,862	6,061	-17.6%	3.4%
Soccer (Indoor)	5,117	5,440	5,408	5.7%	-0.6%
Football (Touch)	5,686	4,846	4,884	-14.1%	0.8%
Football (Tackle)	5,481	5,054	5,228	-4.6%	3.4%
Gymnastics	5,381	3,848	4,268	-20.7%	10.9%
Volleyball (Sand/Beach)	5,489	4,320	4,184	-23.8%	-3.1%
Track and Field	4,116	3,636	3,587	-12.9%	-1.3%
Cheerleading	4,029	3,308	3,465	-14.0%	4.7%
Pickleball	2,815	4,199	4,819	71.2%	14.8%
Racquetball	3,579	3,426	3,260	-8.9%	-4.8%
Ice Hockey	2,697	2,270	2,306	-14.5%	1.6%
Ultimate Frisbee	3,673	2,325	2,190	-40.4%	-5.8%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	2,467	1,811	2,088	-15.4%	15.3%
Lacrosse	2,090	1,884	1,892	-9.5%	0.4%
Wrestling	1,922	1,931	1,937	0.8%	0.3%
Roller Hockey	1,929	1,500	1,425	-26.1%	-5.0%
Boxing for Competition	1,210	1,361	1,460	20.7%	7.3%
Rugby	1,550	1,242	1,238	-20.1%	-0.3%
Squash	1,549	1,163	1,185	-23.5%	1.9%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

<b>Legend:</b>	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
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**NATIONAL TRENDS**

**GENERAL FITNESS**

**PARTICIPATION LEVELS**

Overall, national participatory trends in fitness have experienced strong growth in recent years. Many of these activities have become popular due to an increased interest among Americans to improve their health and enhance quality of life by engaging in an active lifestyle. The most popular general fitness activities in 2021 also were those that could be done at home or in a virtual class environment. The activities with the most participation are: Fitness Walking (115.8 million), Treadmill (53.6 million), Free Weights (52.6 million), Running/Jogging (48.9 million), and Yoga (34.3 million).]

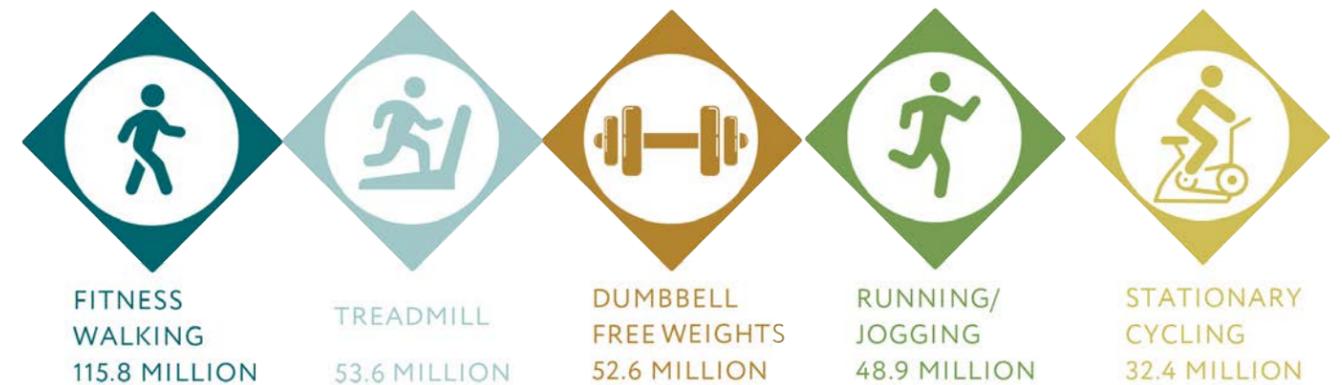
**FIVE-YEAR TREND**

Over the last five years (2016-2021), the activities growing at the highest rate are Trail Running (45.9%), Yoga (30.8%), Dance, Step & Choreographed Exercise (13.3%), and Pilates

Training (9.6%). Over the same time frame, the activities that have undergone the biggest decline include: Group Stationary Cycling (-33.5%), Traditional Triathlon (26.4%), Cardio Kickboxing (-26.1%), Cross-Training Style Workout (-24.4%) and Non-Traditional Triathlons (-23.5%).

**ONE-YEAR TREND**

In the last year, activities with the largest gains in participation were those that can be done alone at home or socially distanced outdoors. The top increases were in Treadmill (7.6%), Cross-Training Style Workouts (6.4%) Trail Running (5.6%), Yoga (4.7%), and Stair Climbing (4.7%). In the same span, the activities that had the largest decline in participation were those that would generally take more time and investment. The greatest drops were seen in Traditional Triathlon (-5.3%), Aerobics (-5.1%), Non-Traditional Triathlons (-4.3%), and Cardio Kickboxing (-3.7%).



**CORE VS. CASUAL TRENDS IN GENERAL FITNESS**

The most participated in fitness activities all had increases in their casual user base (participating 1-49 times per year) over the last year. These fitness activities include: Fitness Walking, Free Weights, Running/Jogging, Treadmills, Yoga, and Recumbent/Upright Stationary Cycling. Please see Appendix A for full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.

National Participatory Trends - General Fitness					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2016	2020	2021	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Fitness Walking	107,895	114,044	115,814	7.3%	1.6%
Treadmill	51,872	49,832	53,627	3.4%	7.6%
Free Weights (Dumbbells/Hand Weights)	51,513	53,256	52,636	2.2%	-1.2%
Running/Jogging	47,384	50,652	48,977	3.4%	-3.3%
Stationary Cycling (Recumbent/Upright)	36,118	31,287	32,453	-10.1%	3.7%
Weight/Resistant Machines	35,768	30,651	30,577	-14.5%	-0.2%
Elliptical Motion Trainer	32,218	27,920	27,618	-14.3%	-1.1%
Yoga	26,268	32,808	34,347	30.8%	4.7%
Free Weights (Barbells)	26,473	28,790	28,243	6.7%	-1.9%
Dance, Step, & Choreographed Exercise	21,839	25,160	24,752	13.3%	-1.6%
Bodyweight Exercise	25,110	22,845	22,629	-9.9%	-0.9%
Aerobics (High Impact/Intensity Training HIIT)	10,575	10,954	10,400	-1.7%	-5.1%
Stair Climbing Machine	15,079	11,261	11,786	-21.8%	4.7%
Cross-Training Style Workout	12,914	9,179	9,764	-24.4%	6.4%
Trail Running	8,582	11,854	12,520	45.9%	5.6%
Stationary Cycling (Group)	8,937	6,054	5,939	-33.5%	-1.9%
Pilates Training	8,893	9,905	9,745	9.6%	-1.6%
Cardio Kickboxing	6,899	5,295	5,099	-26.1%	-3.7%
Boot Camp Style Cross-Training	6,583	4,969	5,169	-21.5%	4.0%
Martial Arts	5,745	6,064	6,186	7.7%	2.0%
Boxing for Fitness	5,175	5,230	5,237	1.2%	0.1%
Tai Chi	3,706	3,300	3,393	-8.4%	2.8%
Barre	3,329	3,579	3,659	9.9%	2.2%
Triathlon (Traditional/Road)	2,374	1,846	1,748	-26.4%	-5.3%
Triathlon (Non-Traditional/Off Road)	1,705	1,363	1,304	-23.5%	-4.3%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

<b>Legend:</b>	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
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**NATIONAL TRENDS  
OUTDOOR RECREATION**

**PARTICIPATION LEVELS**

Results from the SFIA report demonstrate strong growth in participation regarding outdoor/adventure recreation activities. Much like the general fitness activities, these activities encourage an active lifestyle, can be performed individually or with proper social distancing in a group, and are not as limited by time constraints. In 2021, the most popular activities, in terms of total participants, from the outdoor/adventure recreation category include: Day Hiking (58.6 million), Road Bicycling (42.7 million), Freshwater Fishing (40.8 million), Camping within ¼ mile of Vehicle/Home (35.9 million), Recreational Vehicle Camping (16.3 million) and Birdwatching (14.8 million).

**FIVE-YEAR TREND**

From 2016-2021, Day Hiking (39.3%), Camping within ¼ mile of Vehicle/Home (36.0%), Skateboarding (35.8%), Birdwatching (27.8%), BMX Bicycling (24.4%), and Fly Fishing (15.5%) have undergone the largest increases in participation. The five-year trend also shows activities such as Adventure Racing (-39.1%), Traditional Climbing (-14.9%), In-Line Roller Skating (-8.2%), and Archery (-7.1%) to be the only activities with decreases in participation.

**ONE-YEAR TREND**

The one-year trend shows almost all activities declining in participation from the previous year. The growing activities being Indoor Climbing (2.7%), Day Hiking (1.5%), Archery (1.3%), In-Line Roller Skating (1.0%), Boulder Climbing (0.5%), and over the last year, the activities that underwent the biggest decreases in participation were Recreational Vehicle Camping (-8.2%) and Adventure Racing (-7.1%).



**CORE VS. CASUAL TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION**

A majority of outdoor activities have experienced participation growth in the last five- years. Although this a positive trend, it should be noted that all outdoor activities participation, besides adventure racing, consist primarily of casual users. Please see Appendix A for full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.

National Participatory Trends - Outdoor / Adventure Recreation					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2016	2020	2021	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Hiking (Day)	42,128	57,808	58,697	39.3%	1.5%
Bicycling (Road)	38,365	44,471	42,775	11.5%	-3.8%
Fishing (Freshwater)	38,121	42,556	40,853	7.2%	-4.0%
Camping (< 1/4 Mile of Vehicle/Home)	26,467	36,082	35,985	36.0%	-0.3%
Camping (Recreational Vehicle)	15,855	17,825	16,371	3.3%	-8.2%
Fishing (Saltwater)	12,266	14,527	13,790	12.4%	-5.1%
Birdwatching (>1/4 mile of Vehicle/Home)	11,589	15,228	14,815	27.8%	-2.7%
Backpacking Overnight	10,151	10,746	10,306	1.5%	-4.1%
Bicycling (Mountain)	8,615	8,998	8,693	0.9%	-3.4%
Archery	7,903	7,249	7,342	-7.1%	1.3%
Fishing (Fly)	6,456	7,753	7,458	15.5%	-3.8%
Skateboarding	6,442	8,872	8,747	35.8%	-1.4%
Climbing (Indoor)	-	5,535	5,684	N/A	2.7%
Roller Skating, In-Line	5,381	4,892	4,940	-8.2%	1.0%
Bicycling (BMX)	3,104	3,880	3,861	24.4%	-0.5%
Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering)	2,790	2,456	2,374	-14.9%	-3.3%
Climbing (Sport/Boulder)	-	2,290	2,301	N/A	0.5%
Adventure Racing	2,999	1,966	1,826	-39.1%	-7.1%

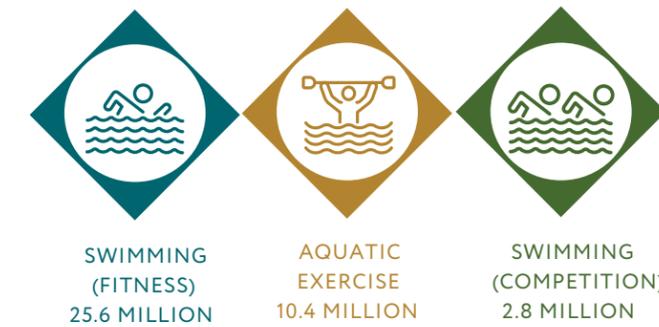
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

<b>Legend:</b>	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
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**NATIONAL TRENDS  
AQUATICS**

**PARTICIPATION LEVELS**

Swimming is deemed as a lifetime activity, which is most likely why it continues to have such strong participation. In 2021, Fitness Swimming remained the overall leader in participation (25.6 million) amongst aquatic activities, despite the fact that most, if not all, aquatic facilities were forced to close at some point due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



**ONE-YEAR TREND**

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is seen here as most aquatic facilities were forced to shut down for some part of the year. This caused decreases to Aquatic Exercise (-5.1%) having the largest decline, followed by Fitness Swimming (-0.2%). Participation in Competitive swimming increased by 8%.

**CORE VS. CASUAL TRENDS IN AQUATICS**

Only Aquatic Exercise has undergone an increase in casual participation (1-49 times per year) over the last five years, however, they have all seem a drop in core participation (50+ times per year) in the same time frame. This was happening before the COVID-19 pandemic, and the large decreases in all participation over the last year have furthered this trend. Please see Appendix A for full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.

**FIVE-YEAR TREND**

Assessing the five-year trend, no activity has experienced an increase from 2016-2021, most likely due to the accessibility of facilities during COVID-19. While Fitness Swimming and Aquatic Exercise underwent a slight decline, dropping -3.7% and -1.7% respectively, Competitive Swimming suffered a -16.2% decline in participation.

National Participatory Trends - Aquatics					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2016	2020	2021	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Swimming (Fitness)	26,601	25,666	25,620	-3.7%	-0.2%
Aquatic Exercise	10,575	10,954	10,400	-1.7%	-5.1%
Swimming (Competition)	3,369	2,615	2,824	-16.2%	8.0%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

<b>Legend:</b>	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
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## NATIONAL TRENDS WATER SPORTS / ACTIVITIES

### PARTICIPATION LEVEL

The most popular water sports / activities based on total participants in 2020 were Recreational Kayaking (13.3 million), Canoeing (9.2 million), and Snorkeling (7.3 million). It should be noted that water activity participation tends to vary based on regional, seasonal, and environmental factors. A region with more water access and a warmer climate is more likely to have a higher participation rate in water activities than a region that has a long winter season or limited water access. Therefore, when assessing trends in water sports and activities, it is important to understand that fluctuations may be the result of environmental barriers which can greatly influence water activity participation.

### FIVE-YEAR TREND

Over the last five years, Recreational Kayaking (33.3%), Surfing (24%), and Stand-Up Paddling (16.1%) were the fastest growing water activities. White Water Kayaking (1.4%) was the only other activity with an increase in participation. From 2016-2021, activities declining in participation most rapidly were Boardsailing/Windsurfing (-25.3%), Scuba Diving (-20.4%), Water Skiing (-17.4%), Sea Kayaking (-17.2%) Snorkeling (-16.1%), and Sailing (-15.4%).

### ONE-YEAR TREND

Recreational Kayaking (2.7%) and Stand-Up Paddling (1.7%) were the activities to grow both over 5 years and in the last one year. Activities which experienced the largest decreases in participation in the most recent year include Surfing (-8.9%), Snorkeling (-5.3%), Scuba Diving (-4.3%), and Canoeing (-4.1%).

### CORE VS. CASUAL TRENDS IN WATER SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

As mentioned previously, regional, seasonal, and environmental limiting factors may influence the participation rate of water sport and activities. These factors may also explain why all water-based activities have drastically more casual participants than core participants, since frequencies of activities may be constrained by uncontrollable factors. These high causal user numbers are likely why a majority of water sports/activities have experienced decreases in participation in recent years. Please see Appendix A for full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown



National Participatory Trends - Water Sports / Activities					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2016	2020	2021	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Kayaking (Recreational)	10,017	13,002	13,351	33.3%	2.7%
Canoeing	10,046	9,595	9,199	-8.4%	-4.1%
Snorkeling	8,717	7,729	7,316	-16.1%	-5.3%
Jet Skiing	5,783	4,900	5,062	-12.5%	3.3%
Sailing	4,095	3,486	3,463	-15.4%	-0.7%
Stand-Up Paddling	3,220	3,675	3,739	16.1%	1.7%
Rafting	3,428	3,474	3,383	-1.3%	-2.6%
Water Skiing	3,700	3,050	3,058	-17.4%	0.3%
Surfing	2,793	3,800	3,463	24.0%	-8.9%
Wakeboarding	2,912	2,754	2,674	-8.2%	-2.9%
Scuba Diving	3,111	2,588	2,476	-20.4%	-4.3%
Kayaking (Sea/Touring)	3,124	2,508	2,587	-17.2%	3.1%
Kayaking (White Water)	2,552	2,605	2,587	1.4%	-0.7%
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	1,737	1,268	1,297	-25.3%	2.3%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

<b>Legend:</b>	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
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# PARTICIPATION BY GENERATION

Boomers (1945-1964)

	2019	2020	2021
Fitness Sports	59.8%	59.9%	64.4%
Individual Sports	23.1%	22.3%	22.9%
Outdoor Sports	39.4%	39.5%	41.9%
Racquet Sports	5.5%	6.4%	6.8%
Team Sports	4.3%	4.9%	5.1%
Water Sports	7.4%	7.8%	8.2%
Winter Sports	3.9%	3.5%	3.7%

Millennials (1980~1999)

	2019	2020	2021
Fitness Sports	68.3%	68.7%	70.0%
Individual Sports	39.8%	41.5%	41.3%
Outdoor Sports	57.5%	59.4%	60.5%
Racquet Sports	17.6%	19.3%	19.3%
Team Sports	27.2%	30.4%	30.6%
Water Sports	15.0%	17.1%	17.2%
Winter Sports	14.9%	14.5%	14.0%

Gen X (1965~1979)

	2019	2020	2021
Fitness Sports	65.1%	66.0%	64.2%
Individual Sports	29.9%	31.5%	29.6%
Outdoor Sports	50.4%	52.5%	50.4%
Racquet Sports	10.1%	12.2%	11.8%
Team Sports	12.0%	15.5%	15.2%
Water Sports	10.9%	13.0%	12.3%
Winter Sports	8.6%	8.7%	8.2%

Gen Z (2000+)

	2019	2020	2021
Fitness Sports	53.5%	55.2%	55.8%
Individual Sports	42.0%	44.3%	44.0%
Outdoor Sports	59.1%	60.6%	60.8%
Racquet Sports	18.1%	22.4%	22.6%
Team Sports	56.3%	56.6%	55.8%
Water Sports	12.9%	16.3%	15.8%
Winter Sports	18.9%	19.4%	19.1%

## NON PARTICIPANT INTEREST BY AGE SEGMENT

In addition to participation rates by generation, SFIA also tracks non-participant interest. These are activities that the U.S. population currently does not participate in due to physical or monetary barriers, but is interested in participating in. Below are the top five activities that each age segment would be most likely to partake in, if they were readily available.

Overall, the activities most age segments are interested in include: Camping, Bicycling, Fishing, and Swimming for Fitness. All of which are deemed as low-impact activities, making them obtainable for any age segment to enjoy.



## RECREATION TRENDS FOR THE SENIOR POPULATION (55+)

Today, The Woodlands is more diverse with greater and contrasting needs and desires. The Parks and Recreation Department has evolved to ensure that all members of the community are able to benefit from their vast holdings of open space, recreation facilities and service offerings. One area of growing interest is serving the expanding population of older adults.

As mentioned previously, 34% of the population in The Woodlands will be 55+ by 2036.

The findings in a research report produced by NRPA affirms that parks and recreation is a vital service provider to older adults, and yet there remains significant opportunity to do much more. Some of the key findings in the report indicate that more than nine in 10 park and recreation agencies report that they offer facilities, activities and programming that cater to older adults. These activities vary greatly, including providing older adults with chances to socialize with others, ways to stay healthy and active, and opportunities to serve others in their communities. Following is a list of activities that are among those most often geared to older adults:

- Exercise classes
- Field trips, tours, vacations
- Arts and crafts classes
- Opportunities to volunteer
- Special events and festivals targeted to older adults
- Group walks
- Paid job opportunities to lead exercise classes, work in recreation centers or at parks.

As noted above, the list of activities varies greatly from active to passive and everywhere in-between.

Where The Woodlands can make a real, lasting difference is in providing evidence-based chronic disease prevention and/or management programs that keep older adults healthy and active for years to come. The trend to accomplish this is for the Department to offer these types of programs for older adults in The Woodlands, including those focused on enhanced fitness, diabetes management, living with arthritis and improving balance.

The wide breadth of service offerings for older adults should reflect the broad population served. This includes The Woodlands following a wide definition of “older adults” when designing and marketing offerings — in many cases starting with adults as young as 55 years old.

Furthermore, The Woodlands may be unique in ensuring that the needs of underserved older adults are met. The Department can be a critical, lifesaving resource for lower and/or fixed income segments of the older adult population. This can possibly include transportation to and from activities and facilities and low-cost or free fitness programs.

The Woodlands could consider developing programming for older adults with key partners. To best serve this population, partnerships can include, but not limited to:

- Area agencies on aging
- Retirement communities
- Senior meals providers
- Hospitals and doctors’ offices
- Local health departments
- Health insurance companies
- Community-based organizations (e.g. faith-based)

But even with these partners, The Woodlands will have hurdles that must be overcome before providing more services to older adults. The most common challenges are the result of inadequate resources, including facility space shortages, insufficient funding and inadequate staffing. Presumably, these resource constraints will become even more acute as the older adult population grows and the demand for these services increase.

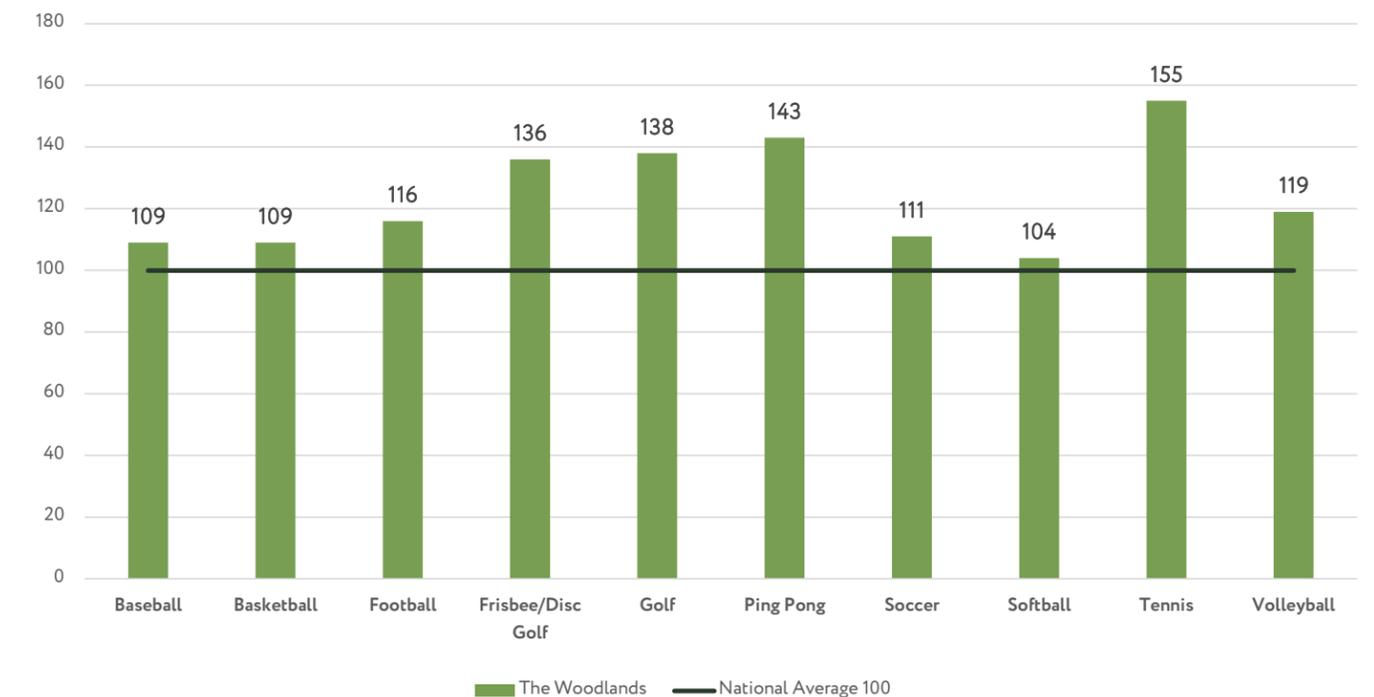
## LOCAL TRENDS GENERAL SPORTS MARKET POTENTIAL

The following charts show sport and leisure market potential data from ESRI. A Market Potential Index (MPI) measures the probable demand for a product or service within the Township. The MPI shows the likelihood that a resident of the target area will participate in certain activities when compared to the US National average. The national average is 100, therefore numbers below 100 would represent a lower than average participation rate, and numbers above 100 would represent higher than average participation rate. The Township is compared to the national average in three (3) categories – general sports, fitness and outdoor activity.

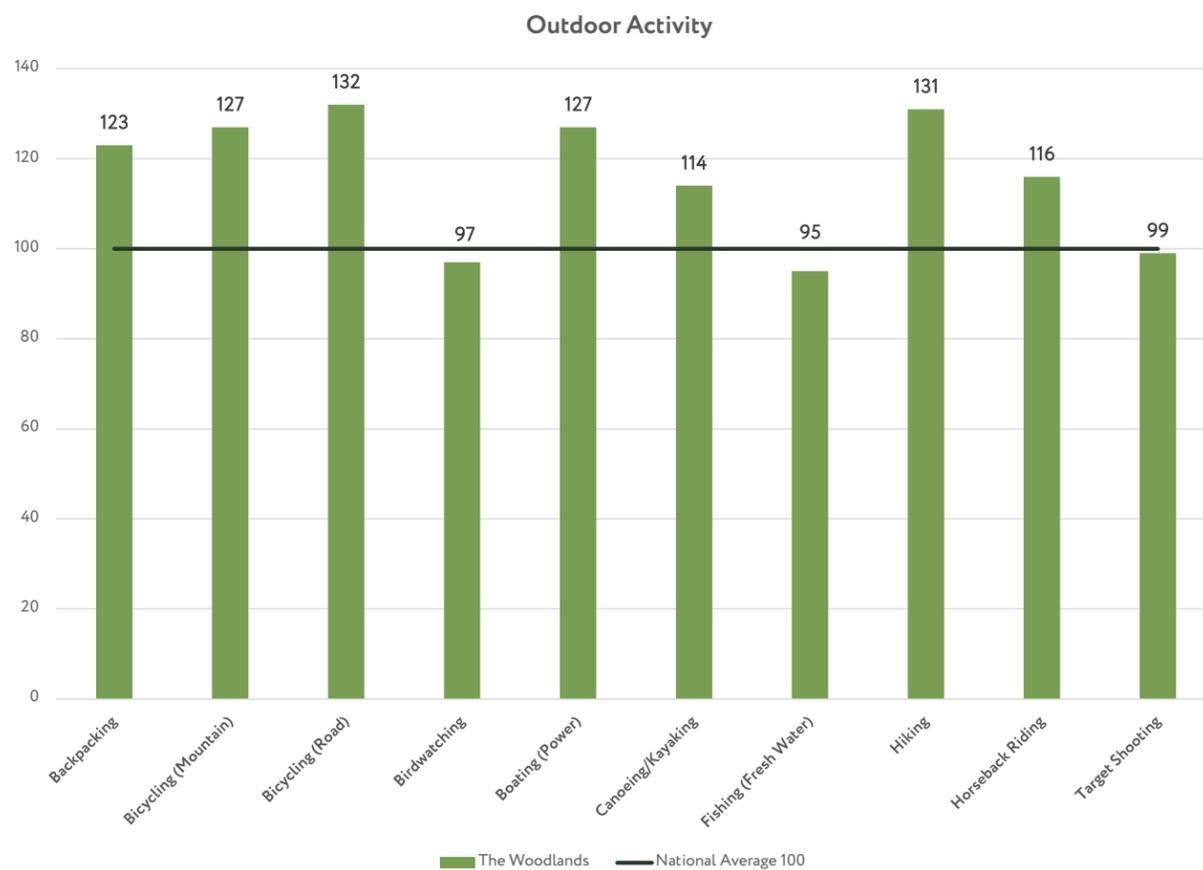
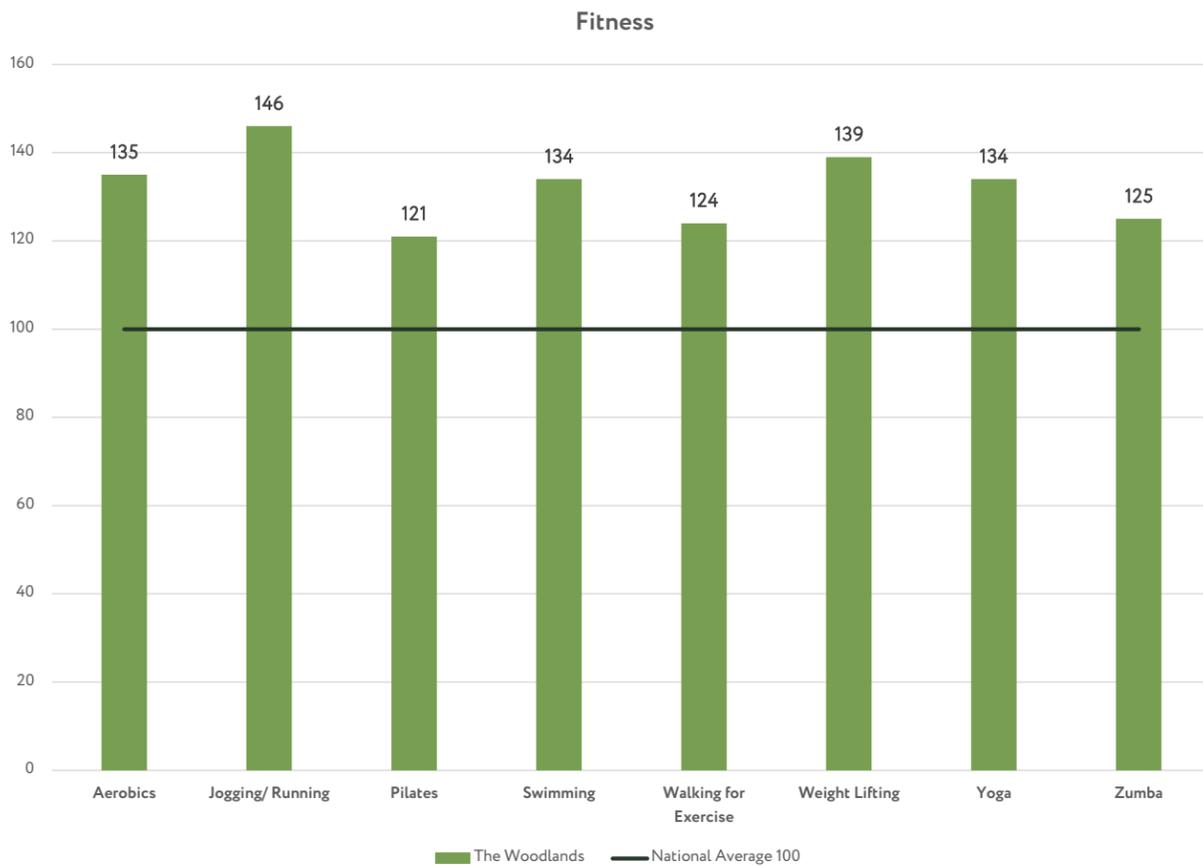
Overall, The Woodlands demonstrates above average market potential index (MPI) numbers. Looking at the three categories (general sports, fitness and outdoor activity), most every activities’ MPI scores are above OR well above the

national average. These overall MPI scores show that The Woodlands has strong participation rates when it comes to recreational activities. This becomes significant for when the Township considers building new facilities or starting up new programs; giving them a strong tool to estimate resident attendance.

High index numbers (100+) are significant because they demonstrate that there is a greater potential that residents of the Township will actively participate in offerings provided by the Township.



Data on lacrosse and rugby can be found on the page 18 of this report.



#### RECREATION TRENDS SUMMARY

It is critically important for The Woodlands Parks and Recreation Department to understand the local and national participation trends in recreation activities. In doing so, the Department can gain general insight into the lifecycle stage of recreation programs and activities (emerging, stable and declining) and thereby anticipate potential changes in need and demand for the programs and activities that it provides to the residents of The Woodlands. Here are some major takeaways for local and national recreation trends:

- Fitness walking remained the most popular activity OVERALL nationally and locally (124 MPI = 31.5% of residents walk for exercise). This activity will likely continue to grow in popularity in The Woodlands.
- All listed aquatic activities have experienced strong participation growth, both locally and nationally.
- Basketball is the most participated in sport nationally while soccer is the most participated in sport locally.
- Softball and football are losing participants both locally and nationally, though local MPI numbers are above the national average for each of these activities.
- Outdoor recreational activities are on the rise nationally, and are also popular locally.
- Based on national measurements, income level has a positive impact on activity rate. Higher income households tend to have higher activity rates.
- Age is also a significant factor to inactivity level. Generation Z (age 6-17) had the lowest inactivity rate while the boomers (age 55+) had the highest inactivity rate.
- Besides income and age factors, non-participants are more likely to join sports or fitness activities if a friend accompanies them.

# 3

## COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Parks and Recreation Department has a history of engaging the community to identify the needs and priorities for the parks and recreation system.

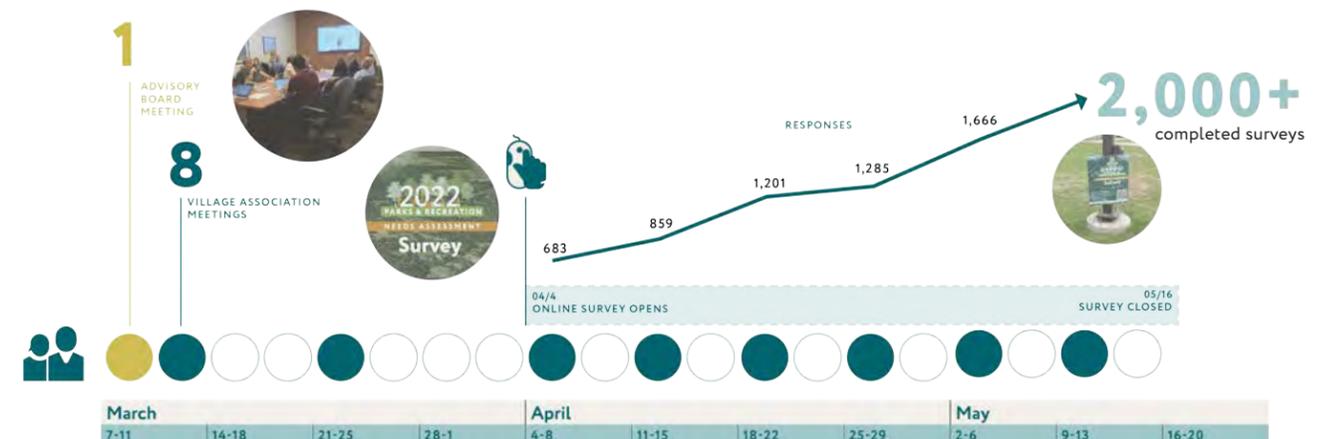
The goals of public engagement for the 2022 Needs Assessment were to (1) inform the community of the project and (2) listen to feedback on the community's needs and priorities relative to the parks, pathways, trails, recreation, aquatics, and athletics.

The community engagement plan included:

- Meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board composed of nominated representatives from each Village to introduce the project and team members and to promote the community-wide survey.
- Presenting at eight Village Association Meetings to provide an overview of the project and gather feedback from each Village regarding their needs and expectations related to the parks within their village and The Woodlands Township's system. All villages except Town Center were attended.
- Launching an online survey to gather input from park users, residents, and visitors on the future of the parks system.

### ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Summary of the engagement process with key events and survey responses.



## What We Heard

Input from the community confirms that the parks and recreation system is integral to the quality of life in The Woodlands.

The 2022 Assessment engaged over 2000 respondents to provide feedback on the future parks system. After a review of the input, the overall feedback can be categorized into four broad themes: community, recreation, nature and comfort.

### COMMUNITY

The parks and recreation system plays a significant role in community gathering and family-oriented spaces. These spaces range from reservable pavilions to playgrounds and community gardens. Respondents enjoyed the system's family-friendly atmosphere and community programming.

*"I love the options I have for outdoor recreation as a runner and cyclist -- and how easy it is to plan runs and rides between parks so that my toddler can play at the end of our adventures."*

(Sterling Ridge, 35-44,3)

### RECREATION

The Woodlands community is highly active and participates in a wide variety of recreation. Recreational spaces in the park system include trails and pathways, courts, fields, aquatics, and nature-based amenities. Organized sports and recreation is an important aspect of this theme. Many residents participate in organized recreation and have expressed challenges surrounding accessibility, maintenance, and capacity issues surrounding the sports parks and multi-purpose fields.

*"We love our trail systems and use them several times a week for biking and running. Our kids play tennis, rugby and soccer and use the Woodlands park system for all of their sports. They are in good condition and convenient."*

(Creekside, 45-54, 2)

### NATURE

With over 30% of land in the Township reserved for green space, land management and conservation are core values of the parks and recreation department. Residents and visitors alike recognize the natural charm of the Township. Responses in the nature theme centered around land stewardship, rewilding and conservation and water quality.

*"I live a comfortable walking distance from 3 lakes and 5 parks and that means so much to me. There are beautiful views in every direction. I love seeing the wildlife and birds in the early mornings."*

(Panther Creek, 25-34, 0)



### COMFORT

The department has established a high-quality system that is as comfortable as it is accessible. Feedback on the overall comfort of the system related to capacity of system-wide amenities, maintenance, and accessibility. According to respondents, accessibility was the top favorite feature of the system. Yet, there is some concern around capacity.

*"The influx of population will be too much for current maintenance schedule and our parks and playgrounds will begin to deteriorate. I've already seen a huge uptick in trash everywhere."*

(Panther Creek, 35-44, 3)

## Survey Design

The online survey was developed to gather a range of feedback on the current state of the parks and recreation system as well as an opportunity to engage residents on their needs and vision for the future of parks and recreation in the community. To promote the online survey, the team developed a series of fliers placed in parks with a QR Code, distributed digital and print fliers to Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members, and posted digital fliers on social media platforms for the Parks and Recreation Department, Township page, Village pages, and the monthly newsletter.

- The survey was designed to be completed in 5-8 minutes using Survey Monkey.
- 14 questions with three additional open-ended questions and covered topics such as demographics, current park system usage and barriers, system needs and priorities, and the system's value.
- Survey period was six weeks from April 4th to May 16th.

Major findings of the survey are summarized on the following pages. Complete survey results are available in Appendix B.

## Park System Value

Parks contribute to the quality of life in The Woodlands.

Throughout the engagement period, residents and Township staff made it clear that parks and pathways and the Parks and Recreation department are among the biggest contributors to quality of life in The Woodlands.

**Approximately 98% of respondents consider the park system very important to extremely important.**

There are no significant variations in survey results when compared by age, village and/or household size.

### VALUE

Participants were also asked to identify a percentage of their home value or monthly rent to attribute to the availability of parks and recreation facilities. **The majority of respondents stated the park system contributed to 11% - 20% of their home value or monthly rent.** Compared to the other villages, respondents from Creekside had the highest share of total responses stating the park system contributed to 31% or more of their home value. There is no significant variation in responses compared by age and/or household size.

### QUALITIES

According to the survey feedback, accessibility to parks and variety of amenities are among the top favorite features of the parks and recreation system. Other favorites include the strong connection to nature, family-oriented facilities, and the pathways/trails system. The Survey Summary below depicts a word cloud of the open-ended feedback received.

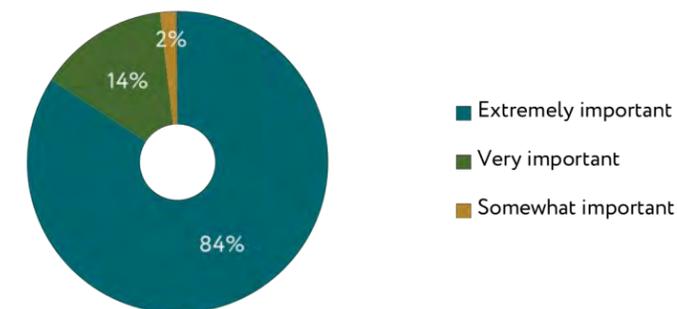
### SURVEY SUMMARY

Summary of the park system value survey responses and feedback received.

## PARK VALUE

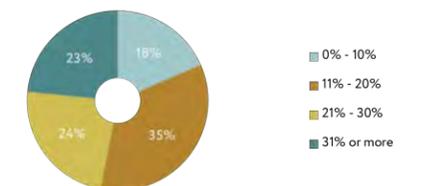
### QUALITY OF LIFE

Q1. Overall, how important do you think the availability of quality parks, recreation and open space facilities and amenities are to the quality of your life in The Woodlands?



### VALUE

Q2. What percentage of the value of your home, or the rent you pay, do you attribute to the availability of parks and recreation facilities in your neighborhood and in the overall Township?



### BEST QUALITIES



### WHAT WE HEARD

My favorite thing about my community park is "variety, how may we have, being immersed in nature, accessibility by walking/biking on trails, these parks contribute to why The Woodlands is so special"

(Sterling Ridge, 45-54, 2)

## Park Use

The Woodlands parks and pathways system is beloved by residents and visitors.

Respondents that identified as residents of The Woodlands Township typically visited the community parks over ten times per month. The majority of respondents identifying as non-residents/visitors of The Woodlands Township visit six to ten times per month. There are no significant variances in response by age, village and/or household size.

Parks and pathways are even more popular in a post COVID-19 environment.

While the majority of residents indicated no change in their park usage during the COVID-19 pandemic, park usage in Creekside (48%) and Sterling Ridge (49%) increased. When comparing age groups, respondents over

the age of 45 indicated no change in their park usage. However, respondents under 45 years old stated they visited community parks more often. A similar shift occurs in responses by household size. Respondents stating to have no children to one child under 18 in the household did not use the park system more during the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of respondents with a household size of 3 or more children under 18 stated they used the park system more during the COVID-19 pandemic. The responses for households with two children under 18 were split between no change and more frequent usage. In conclusion, these comparisons in data by age, village and household size suggest that families may have utilized community parks more during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The majority of respondents indicated that they anticipated no change in their

park usage post COVID. In comparing responses based on age, village and household size, respondents who anticipate increase in their usage of the park system post COVID identify as: not residents of The Woodlands; between the age of 25 and 34, or; and having five children under the age of 18 in their household

Half of respondents did not have a barrier to using the park system.

While accessibility ranked as one of the top favorite aspects of the parks and recreation system, respondents were asked to identify existing or potential barriers impacting park use today. Among the barriers identified, the most significant barriers were the lack of specific amenities (19%), other (15%), and lack of parking (11%).

## Park Conditions

Across the parks and recreation system, participants are very satisfied with the facilities and amenities.

Respondents were asked to rank their level of satisfaction with the current parks and recreation facilities. The green bars indicate high levels of satisfaction, while the orange and red indicate low levels of satisfaction. Overall, 66% of respondents indicated that at least 50% of their needs were being met across the system. **The national benchmark for excellence of condition is 29%.** The types of facilities that received below national benchmark ratings were: restrooms.

### PARKS & PATHWAYS

Within the parks and pathways system, the lowest level of satisfaction was recreation centers with 10% of respondents indicating a level of satisfaction lower than 25%.

### SYSTEM-WIDE AMENITIES

Among the system-wide amenities, participants indicated the least amount of satisfaction with facility bathrooms.

### NATURAL FACILITIES

George Mitchell Nature Preserve is the most utilized natural facility within the system. Other natural amenities such as boat launch areas and boat houses are less utilized but still retain high levels of overall satisfaction.

### EXTREME SPORTS AMENITIES

Extreme sports amenities was the lowest relevance with 63% of participants indicating that this amenity was not relevant to them. Of the 37% that did rank the level of satisfaction, 22% indicated a level of 75% to 100% satisfied.

### RECREATION FACILITIES

Of the recreational facilities, the most frequented facilities are aquatics (pools, spraygrounds) and courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball). The results suggest over half of the respondents had at least 75% satisfaction with aquatic and court facilities. The facility that was the least relevant for participants and had the lowest level of satisfaction was diamond sports.

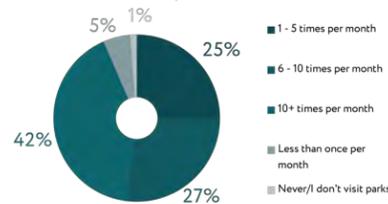
### SURVEY SUMMARY

Summary of the park system value survey responses and feedback received.

## PARK USE

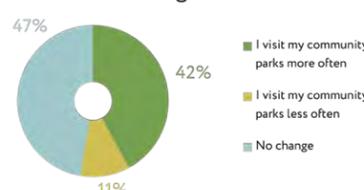
### PARK USE FREQUENCY

Q3. On average, how often did you visit your community parks prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?

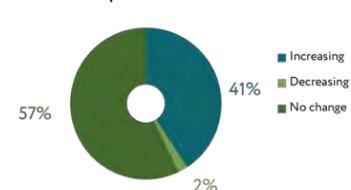


### COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During the Covid-19 pandemic, has your rusage of community parks changed?



Do you anticipate this level staying the same, decreasing, or increasing post COVID?



### TOP 5 BARRIERS TO SYSTEM TODAY



AMENITIES



OTHER



PARKING



DISTANCE



KNOWLEDGE OF SYSTEM

# 49%

Of Respondents indicated no barriers to using the system.

### WHAT WE HEARD

"I'm new here & drive a wheelchair. I live right by the waterway so I'm there most every day. I love seeing the ducks and turtles, and the upkeep of the landscaping is impressive."  
(Town Center, 65+, 0)

### WHAT WE HEARD

"The lack of sidewalks in many neighborhoods and local roads makes it very difficult to walk to parks, even when they are very close by."  
(Grogan's Mill, 25-34, 0)

### SURVEY SUMMARY

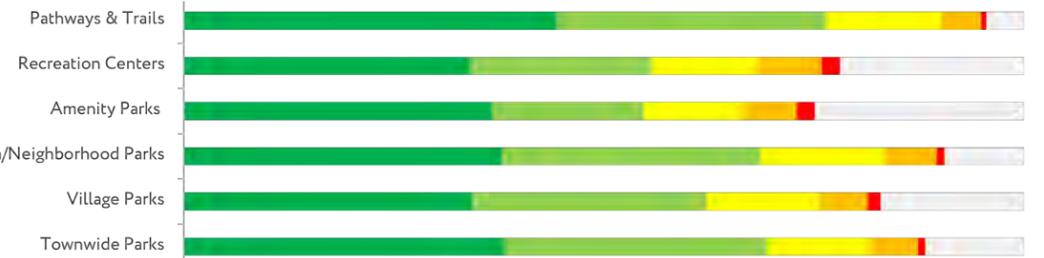
Summary of the park system value survey responses and feedback received.

## PARK CONDITIONS

### LEVEL OF SATISFACTION

100% 75% 50% 25% 0% I do not have a need for this facility

### PARKS & PATHWAYS SYSTEM



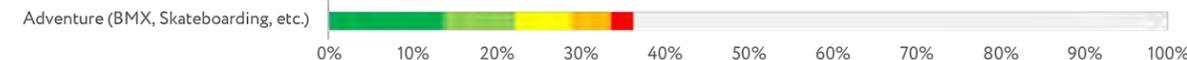
### SYSTEM-WIDE AMENITIES



### NATURAL FACILITIES



### EXTREME SPORT AMENITIES



Organized recreation and sports are popular in The Woodlands. Over half of respondents indicated they participated in organized recreation with field sports and tennis receiving the highest levels. While field sports contributed to nearly

40% of organized recreation responses, participants also expressed a desire to use fields for leisure. When asked about how participants would like to utilize athletic fields in the future, 60% of responses indicated leisurely use of

multi-purpose fields and another 53% indicating leisurely use of diamond sports fields.

## Facility Priorities

Maintaining facilities are the residents' highest priorities followed by pathways and trails maintenance and improvements to system-wide amenities such as restrooms and parking.

Survey participants were asked to first determine an overall strategy: to maintain as is, improve existing, or develop new facilities. Then, rank the

level of priority for those actions. At least half of all respondents selected maintenance as the preferred action for park, nature-based, sports & recreation facilities and aquatic facilities. Improvements were only selected as the preferred action for system-wide amenities. Most respondents did not prioritize new development as a preferred action.

According to survey feedback, safety, restrooms, and general maintenance are

among the top concerns of the parks and recreation system. In these responses, safety encompassed a wide variety of concerns related to real and perceived threats including a need for lighting, need for security patrol or cameras, and concerns related to crime. It is important to note that safety concerns were not identified as a primary barrier to park usage. For restrooms, feedback addressed both the accessibility and maintenance of restrooms.

### SURVEY SUMMARY

Summary of the park system value survey responses and feedback received.

## SPORTS CONDITIONS

### LEVEL OF SATISFACTION

100% 75% 50% 25% 0% I do not have a need for this facility

#### RECREATION FACILITIES

Diamond Sports - Softball, Baseball, Kickball  
Multi-Purpose - Soccer /Football/Lacrosse/Ultimate  
Courts - Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis, Pickleball  
Multi-Sports Complex (many fields at one location)  
Aquatics (pools, spraygrounds)



#### WHAT WE HEARD

"Athletic fields are so hard to get and keep up. We want our kids in sports and have to fight hard to get fields and good bathrooms that are well maintained."  
(Sterling Ridge, 45-54, 2)



Alden Bridge Sports Park

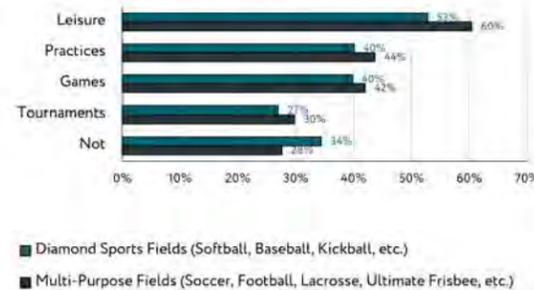
#### ORGANIZED SPORTS

Q7. Do you or a family member participate in organized recreation (team and individual sports, aquatics, etc.)? Check all that apply



#### FIELD USAGE

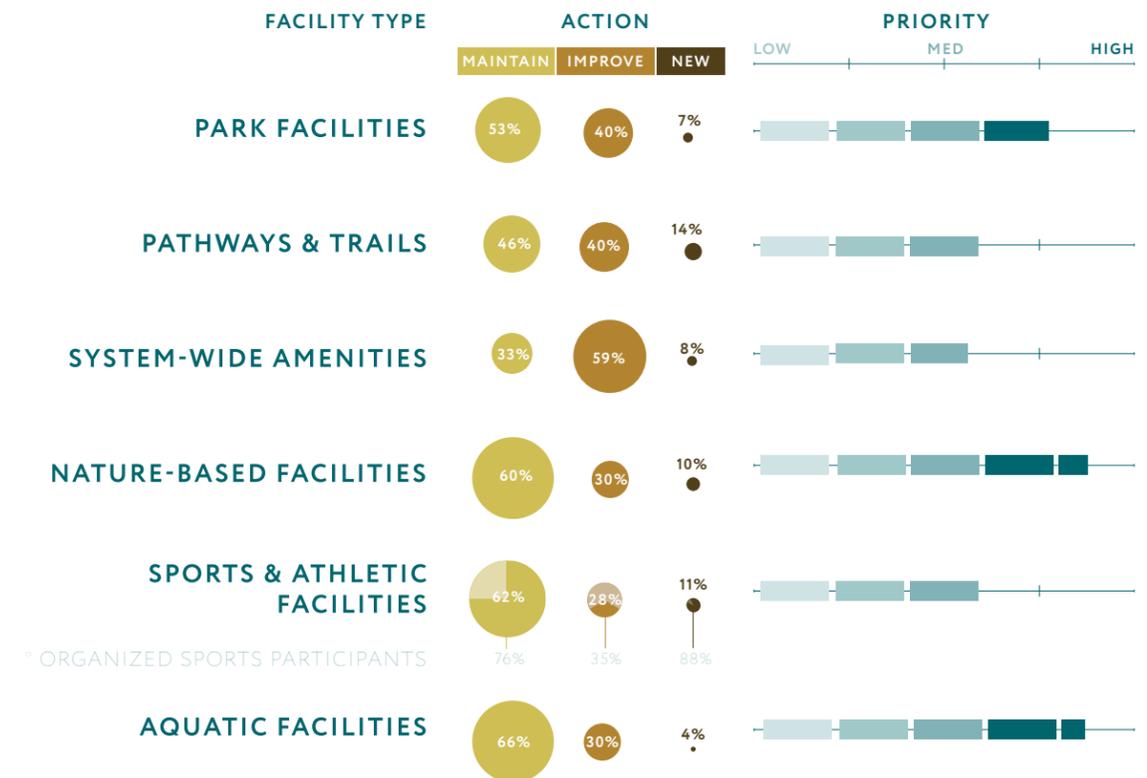
Q8. How would you or members of your household like to utilize athletic fields in The Woodlands in the next 10 years? Check all that apply



### SURVEY SUMMARY

Summary of the park system value survey responses and feedback received.

## PRIORITIES



\* ORGANIZED SPORTS PARTICIPANTS

#### TOP PRIORITIES



#### WHAT WE HEARD

"Not enough bathrooms spaced while using bike/walking trails. If you have little ones or are pregnant, you really have to keep an eye on where facilities are available. Also, the walking paths, especially the older ones are not really wide enough for pedestrians and bicyclists to share (especially with kid bike trailers)."  
Grogan's Mill, 35-44, 3

## Participation

Residents from Alden Bridge represented 20% of the responses followed by Creekside Park with 15% of total responses. Non-residents/ visitors accounted for 8% of the survey results. Generally the distribution of the survey participants by village reflects the population distribution between villages in The Woodlands. However, the villages of Sterling Ridge and Grogan's Mill are slightly underrepresented.

Over half of respondents (66%) were between the ages of 25 and 54. Older residents (55+) accounted for 32% of responses. These responses are consistent with the Township's demographic age segmentation. The survey also asked participants about the number of children in their households.

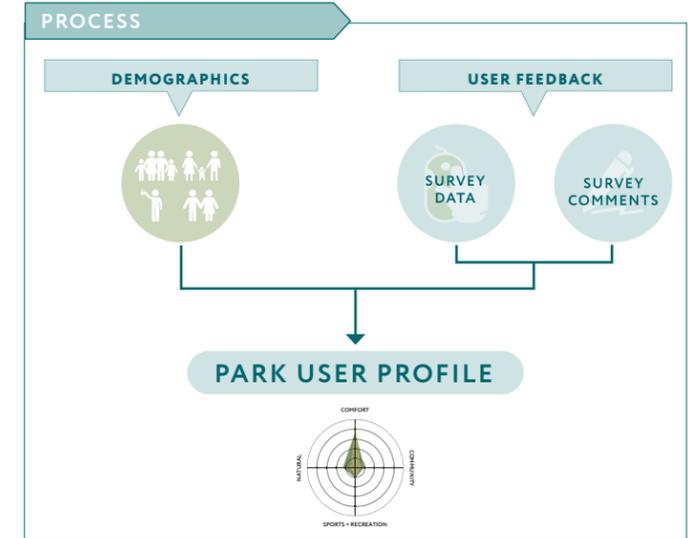
Just over half of the participants (59%) had at least one child in their household whereas 41% did not have children currently living in their household.

## User Profile

With over 100,000 residents, the user profile is an effort to categorize the various needs and opportunities identified through demographic and recreational trends as well as feedback. Park user profiles identify specific needs based on resident's lifestyle and understand how to improve the parks system in response to these needs. The synthesis process described below details how the user profile was developed.

### PROCESS

The park user profiles have been developed through an assessment of qualitative feedback and quantitative data. This process included the synthesis of life mode and public input into a park user profile.

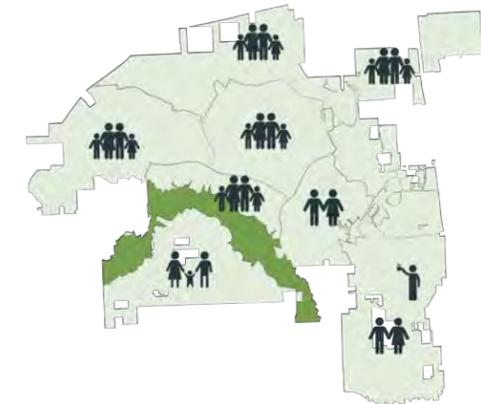


### LIFE MODE

Each park user profile is defined by the resident's age, household size, age of children and typical park usage. The park user profile is derived from the overall survey responses, PROS demographic and trend data, previous park assessments and ESRI tapestry segmentation by ZIP code. ESRI tapestry segmentation provides an additional socioeconomic, demographic and consumer behavior pattern to round out the lifestyle of each park user type. The Township includes four primary life modes summarized below.

### VILLAGE LIFEMODES

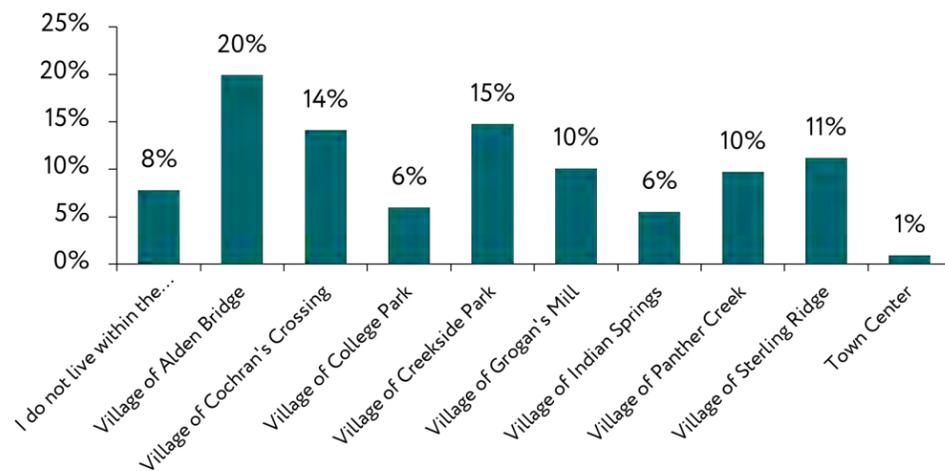
Townwide map of lifemodes in each village



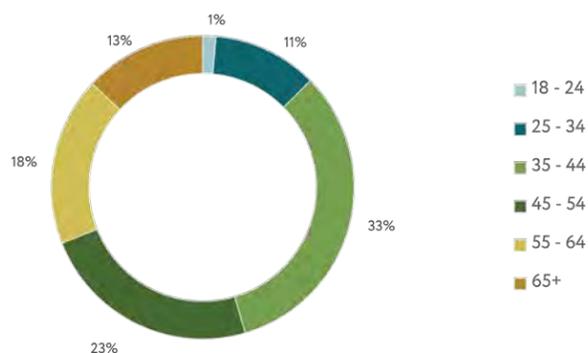
### SURVEY SUMMARY

## PARTICIPANTS

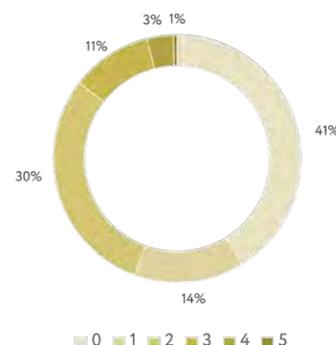
### SURVEY PARTICIPANTS - VILLAGES



### AGE SEGMENTATION



### CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD



### LIFE MODES



#### ACTIVE FAMILIES

As the most common user profile, Active Families includes residents from Alden Bridge, Sterling Ridge, Cochran's Crossing and Indian Springs. They are typically between the ages of 45 - 54 and have 1-2 children that are grade school age. A large portion of residents participate in organized sports and they value the park system as part of their active, healthy lifestyle.



#### UP AND COMING FAMILIES

The Up and Coming Families park user is concentrated in Creekside Village. They are a younger household in both age of parents and children compared to the Active Families park profile and embrace the community aspect of the park system through pools, playgrounds/open leisure areas and public events.



#### GOLDEN AGE

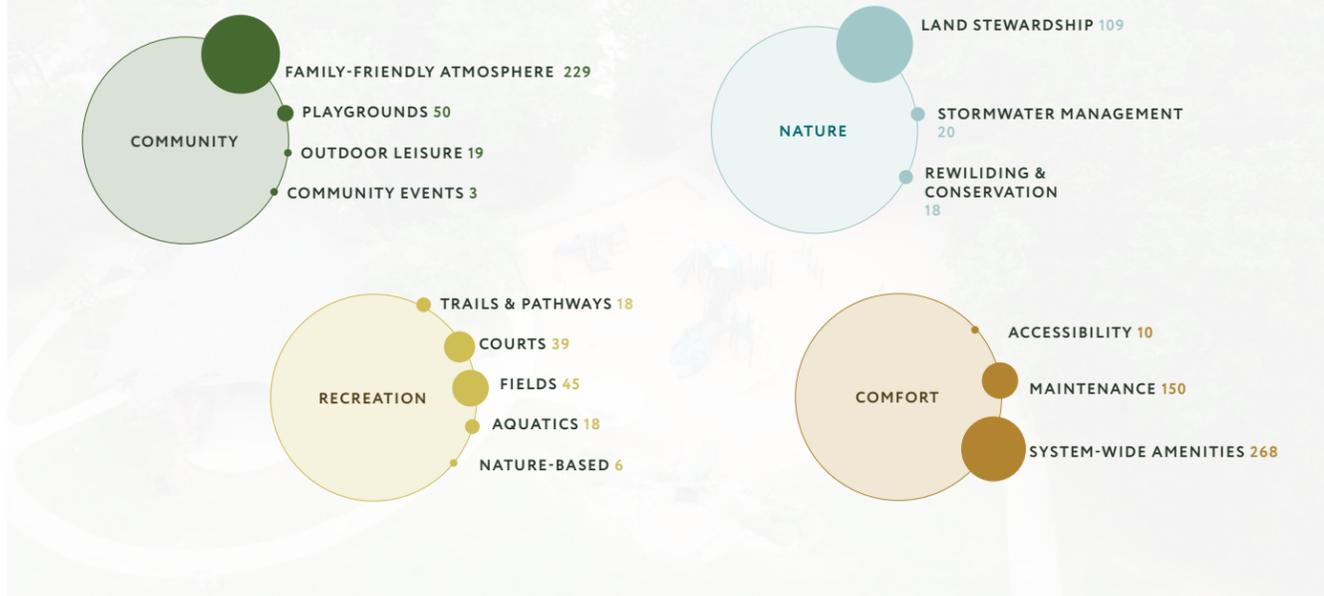
Golden Age park users reside in Grogan's Mill and Panther Creek. These villages house over one-third of the senior population in The Woodlands and some have resided in the Township for decades. They embrace the natural and social aspects of the park system, and enjoy sharing them with visiting family (grandchildren).



#### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The Young Professional user profile is derived from survey feedback and ESRI tapestry data in the Grogan's Mill village. 42% of survey respondents for this village identified as under 44 years old. Some households may have children but overall they share an interest in nature-based recreation and support improvements to pathways/trails and system-wide amenities.

## INPUT THEMES



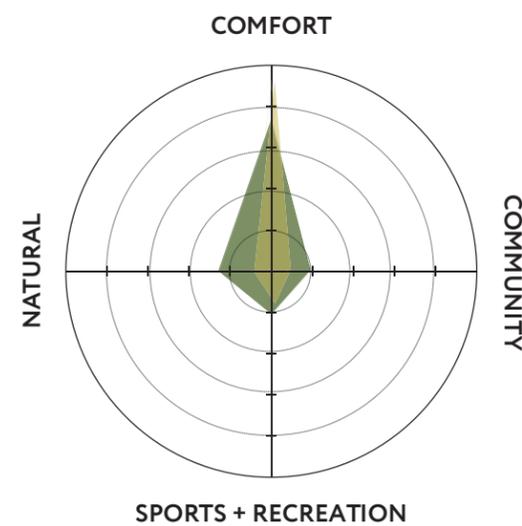
### SURVEY INPUT

Park user profiles were then applied and/or validated to the survey feedback by the village to identify focused opportunities for improvements in the park system based on the user group's needs/desires. Key themes from public input (community, recreation, nature, and comfort) are summarized below. The aspects also contain a value that indicates relative significance. For example, in the key theme of Comfort, system-wide amenities was mentioned 268 times whereas accessibility was mentioned 10 times.

### PARK USER PROFILE

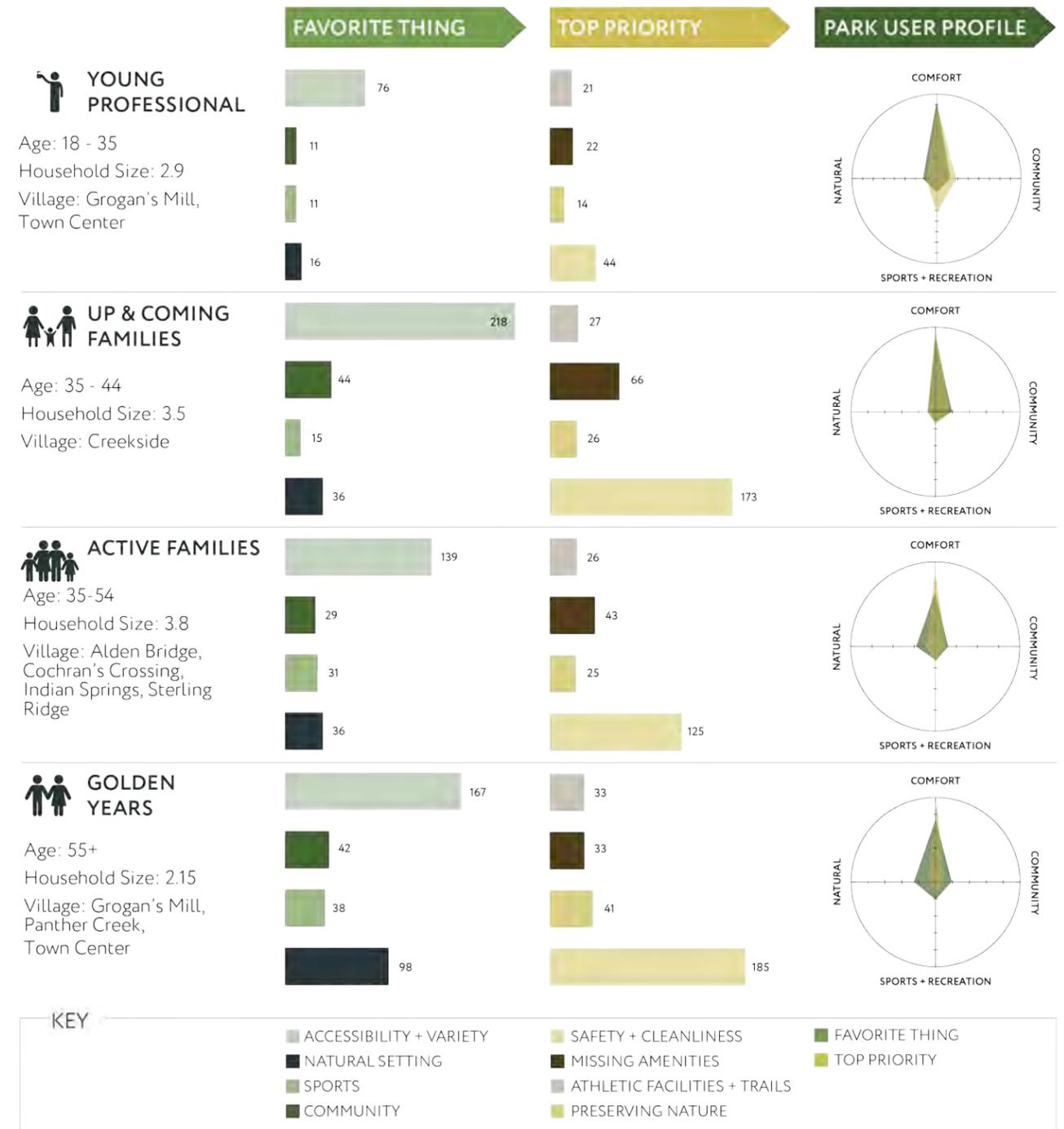
Park User Profile builds off of demographic data, survey data, and qualitative feedback to better understand the needs and priorities of the user group. The user profile is defined through the key themes of community, natural resilience, comfort, and recreation. This diagram highlights various aspects of the user profile summarized by key themes of community, recreation, nature, and comfort. The final profile is generated in the radar chart below. The chart to the right illustrates the differences in amenity preferences for a sample user profile. Preferences include top priorities (yellow) and favorite aspects (green). For favorite aspects, notice that this user profile has a slight preference towards natural amenities over community amenities along the x-axis. Additionally, the user is more likely to consider comfort amenities as a priority area for improvements over sports and recreation amenities along the y-axis.

### PARK USER PROFILE



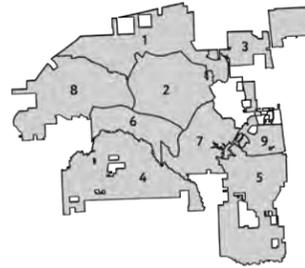
# Townwide Park Users

The four LifeMode archetypes highlight the evolution of experience with the park system over time and life events. The park user profile is developed through a synthesis of each LifeMode's interests and priorities shared in the survey feedback by age, household size and village.



# Preliminary Survey Feedback

This table summarizes aspects of the park user profile by village. The feedback received identifies the preferred amenities and priority improvements desired by park users.



## VILLAGE PROFILE

### 1 ALDEN BRIDGE

Survey respondents from Alden Bridge align with the **Active Families** LifeMode. The majority of survey respondents are over age 35 and have on average two children. Many respondents indicated that they intend to utilize the athletic fields over the next 10 years indicating their adult usage or the presence of younger children in the household.

% of total population  
 % of responses

### 2 COCHRAN'S CROSSING

Cochran's Crossing survey respondents align with the **Active Families** LifeMode. Half of survey respondents were between the ages of 35 and 54 years old, respectively and half also have one or more children in the household.

% of total population  
 % of responses

### 3 COLLEGE PARK

Survey respondents from College Park align with the **Active Families** LifeMode. The majority of survey respondents are between the ages of 35 and 44 years old. One-third of survey respondents do not have children in their household.

% of total population  
 % of responses

### 4 CREEKSIDE PARK

Creekside Park survey respondents represent the **Up & Coming Families** LifeMode. Half of survey respondents are under age 44 and half have one to two children in their household. In addition, 35% of the total population of Creekside are children.

% of total population  
 % of responses

### 5 GROGAN'S MILL

Survey respondents from Grogan's Mill are a unique blend of **Young Professional** and **Golden Year** LifeModes. Over half of respondents do not have children under 18 in their household.

% of total population  
 % of responses

### 6 INDIAN SPRINGS

Indian Springs survey respondents align with the **Active Families** LifeMode. Most survey respondents are between the ages of 34-44 years old and/or have more than one children under 18 in their household.

% of total population  
 % of responses

### 7 PANTHER CREEK

Panther Creek survey respondents represent the **Golden Year** LifeMode. The village has the second highest ratio of seniors to total population (21.5%). One-third of survey respondents are over age 55 and most do not have children under 18 years old in their household.

% of total population  
 % of responses

### 8 STERLING RIDGE

Survey respondents from Sterling Ridge represent the **Active Families** LifeMode. The village has the second highest ratio of children to total population. Over 60% of respondents are between 35-54 years old and/or have children under 18 years old in their household.

% of total population  
 % of responses

### 9 TOWN CENTER

Survey respondents from Town Center align with the **Golden Year** LifeModes. Over 60% of survey respondents were over age 55 and/or do not have children under 18 years old in their household. However, the **Young Professional** LifeMode is emerging with the increasing popularity of apartments near Lake Woodlands.

% of total population  
 % of responses

COMMUNITY
The park system connects villages through moments of interaction ranging from afternoons at the dog park to Concert in the Park. The desired agency of community varies based on the park user profile and village.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Dog park</li> <li>· Age inclusive play equipment (&gt;5 years old)</li> <li>· Community gardens</li> <li>· Food vendors</li> <li>· Twinvale neighborhood park</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Age inclusive play equipment</li> <li>· Informal gathering space (Woodlands Garden Club)</li> <li>· Improve sense of community and opportunity for social contact</li> <li>· Interest in adult recreational activities/ groups</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Dog park - 5+ acre wooded (off-leash) with trails. Comments on sand and mud at current park</li> <li>· Innovative playground features like adventure, nature and creative play</li> <li>· Communal features for gathering and lounging</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Dog park - baths or water feature</li> <li>· Age inclusive play equipment - improved quality</li> <li>· Community gardens - expanded facilities (Rob Fleming)</li> <li>· Flexible area for hosting meetings, nature and creative play</li> <li>· Interest in moments of leisure - hammocks?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Community gardens - at end of cul-de-sacs or in individual neighborhoods</li> <li>· Opportunity for yoga, tai chi</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Age inclusive play equipment and activities catered toward older children (Hazelcrest)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Dog parks with water features</li> <li>· Portable dance floor for live music or other opportunities to socialize</li> <li>· Community center to hold meetings</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Dog park (Burroughs Park)</li> <li>· Community center (Creekside)</li> <li>· Yoga centers</li> <li>· Food vendors</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Olmstead Park community amenities update for gazebo, playground and lighting around trees</li> </ul>

RECREATION
Survey feedback emphasized a need for increased and/or improved recreational facilities. The park user profile by village offers insight in the specific amenities including but not limited to field sports, court sports, diamond sports and aquatics.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Indoor basketball gym</li> <li>· Splash pad</li> <li>· Ice rink</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Pickleball courts</li> <li>· Few requests for pump track</li> <li>· Leisure pools (Sunterra in Katy, Balmoral in Summerwood)</li> <li>· Lacrosse fields</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Dedicated pickleball courts</li> <li>· Request for aquatic amenities similar to other pools (play structure, slide, etc.)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Basketball, pickleball/tennis courts</li> <li>· Skate parks</li> <li>· Splash pads</li> <li>· 'New' sports: disc golf, mini-golf &amp; cricket</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Badminton and 8' basketball courts</li> <li>· Interested in fitness groups and cycling</li> <li>· Almost half do not participate in organized recreation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Expansion/availability of tennis and pickleball court</li> <li>· More mountain biking trails at George Mitchell</li> <li>· Higher interest than average in improved aquatic facilities (lap pool at Forestgate)</li> <li>· Low interest of improving opportunities for outdoor leisure</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Improve/add basketball and pickleball courts</li> <li>· Overall interest in mountain biking (BMX track at Ridgewood needs improvement)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Pickleball (Terramont) and more tennis courts</li> <li>· Outdoor racquetball/handball</li> <li>· Roller hockey and pump track (Cranebrook Park)</li> <li>· New pool, prefer indoor or extended season</li> <li>· Multi-purpose fields for lacrosse, rugby and cricket</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Desire to maintain quality of tennis courts and light</li> <li>· High organized tennis group membership</li> </ul>

NATURE
Preservation of nature was a common concern of survey respondents. The depth of interest varied by village ranging from functional benefits like improved drainage to advocating for a nature center and educational signage.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Improve pond water quality and fishing</li> <li>· Preserve natural setting amongst developed area</li> <li>· Invasive species management</li> <li>· Interest in organic pest control and lawn care</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Desire a more natural setting (Shadowbend Park versus Waterway or Rob Fleming)</li> <li>· Opportunities for birdwatching</li> <li>· Pervious trail surfaces</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Multiple comments on insects/mosquitoes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· More trees on path</li> <li>· Pervious trail surface</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Interest in nature based social groups and supportive of improvements/upgrades to nature-based recreation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Indicate water activities/classes by park (fishing, kayaking, etc)</li> <li>· Opportunity to connect children with nature - suggestion of displaying various wildflower growing seasons</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Fishing for larger bass and priority for residential boating</li> <li>· Interest in dark sky lighting</li> <li>· Focus on nature education - interest "Walk in the Woods" program and dedicated nature center</li> <li>· Pervious trail surfaces</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Pervious trail surfaces</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Preserve natural setting amongst developed area</li> </ul>

COMFORT
Respondents across all villages expressed a desire for improved basic amenities such as restrooms, seating, lighting and waste receptacles. Each village identified areas of their local parks that had opportunities for improvement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Seating along pathways and neighborhood playgrounds (Deep Dale)</li> <li>· Dog waste stations and trash receptacles</li> <li>· Improved/increased restrooms</li> <li>· Lighting on trails and fields</li> <li>· More storage, seating and shade at ABSP</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Restrooms and water stations along paths, closer to tennis courts (Shadowbend Park)</li> <li>· Increased handicap parking and accessible trails</li> <li>· Complete trail on south side of Research Forest from Cochran's Crossing to Gosling</li> <li>· Lighted pathways and tennis courts</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Seating at 1/4 mile or 1/2 mile markers of trails</li> <li>· Additional restrooms</li> <li>· Trail connectivity</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Seating around playground</li> <li>· Benches at school bus stops</li> <li>· More dog waste stations</li> <li>· Consistency of sidewalks</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Safe crossing Grogan's / Point Road</li> <li>· Distance from residents is an obstacle in using parks followed by safety</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Improved shade, specifically around play areas (Hazelcrest)</li> <li>· Additional restrooms (Sundance, Mystic Forest)</li> <li>· Improved maintenance for entry island and more welcoming entrance to parks</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Interest in 'porch swings' to lounge while watching children on playground</li> <li>· Access to shopping areas via trails</li> <li>· Pathway from Panther Creek to Woodlands Parkway (corner pad going to South Shore Park)</li> <li>· Places to wash feet at sand volleyball courts</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Improved visibility along trails</li> <li>· Issue of parking highlighted in several responses</li> <li>· (Additional) water fountain (May Valley and jogging trail)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Concern for cleanliness in restrooms, crowding</li> <li>· Consistency of (accessible) pathways</li> </ul>

# SUMMARY

## The Woodlands Profile

### EMERGING DEMOGRAPHICS

The emerging demographics include two primary growing trends for the next several years: an 11% overall growth in population with a 34% increase in residents enjoying their Golden years.

### RECREATIONAL TRENDS

In keeping with national trends, The Woodlands community is spending more time outdoors running through trails, biking, and fishing. Additionally, there is rising local interest in fitness walking, aquatics, soccer, tennis, and pickleball. Across generations (from Gen Z to Boomers), fitness and outdoor sports had the greatest percentages of participation.

### PUBLIC INPUT

The Woodlands community is highly engaged with the Parks and Recreation system. Community input findings indicate that the parks system is held in high regard both in terms of the value and standard. The parks and recreation system contributes greatly to the quality of life in The Woodlands. Residents enjoy the accessibility to parks and the variety of amenities offered. Survey feedback also highlighted the significance of maintenance and upgrades throughout the system to improve issues surrounding capacity, safety, utilization, and quality.

### PARK USER

The Township currently exhibits four user profile groups. Primary park users include: Active Families, Up & Coming Families, Golden Years, and Young Professionals. Active families user profile is the predominant user group in the Township.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

**11%**

### GROWING POPULATION

projected population growth over the next 15 years



### GOLDEN YEARS 55+

34% of the population in 2036

## RECREATIONAL TRENDS

Fitness walking, aquatics, soccer, tennis and pickleball are among the most popular recreational activities

Outdoor recreation trends are growing include trail-running, biking and fishing

LAND Miles

**2,800+**

### ACRES OF PARKS + OPEN SPACE

### DEVELOPMENT

Approaching fully developed.

## WHAT WE HEARD

**8 MEETINGS**

Engaged 80+ at Village Association Meetings and Parks and Recreation Advisory Council

**2,000+**  
SURVEY RESPONSES

### SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

The parks system contributes greatly to the quality of life in The Woodlands.

The majority of respondents stated the park system contributed to 11% - 20% of their home value or monthly rent.

Across the system, park users value the accessibility and variety of the system

Maintaining facilities are residents' highest priorities.

### PARK USER GROUPS



Young Professional



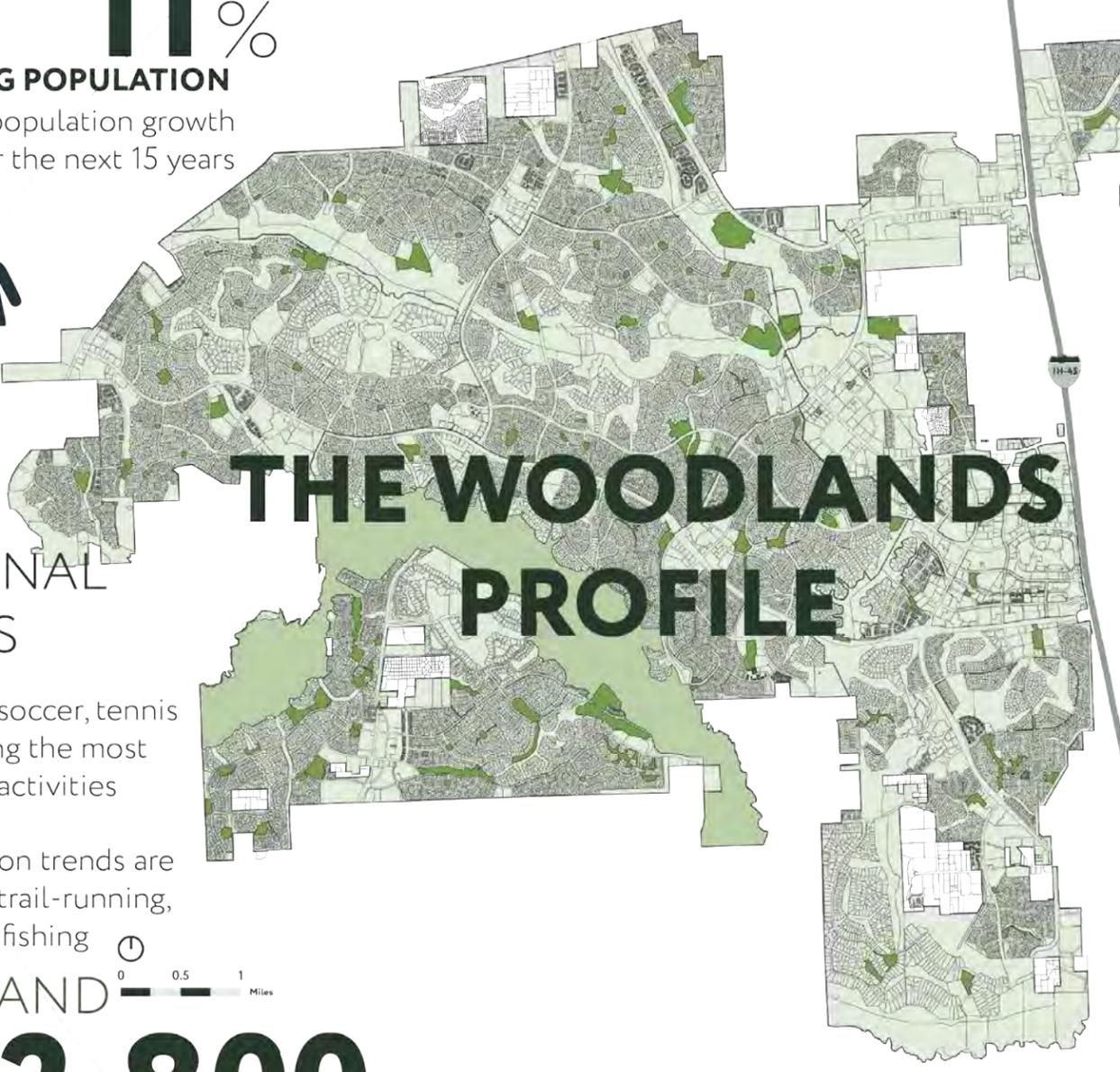
Up & Coming Families



Active Families



Golden Years



# THE WOODLANDS PROFILE

# 4

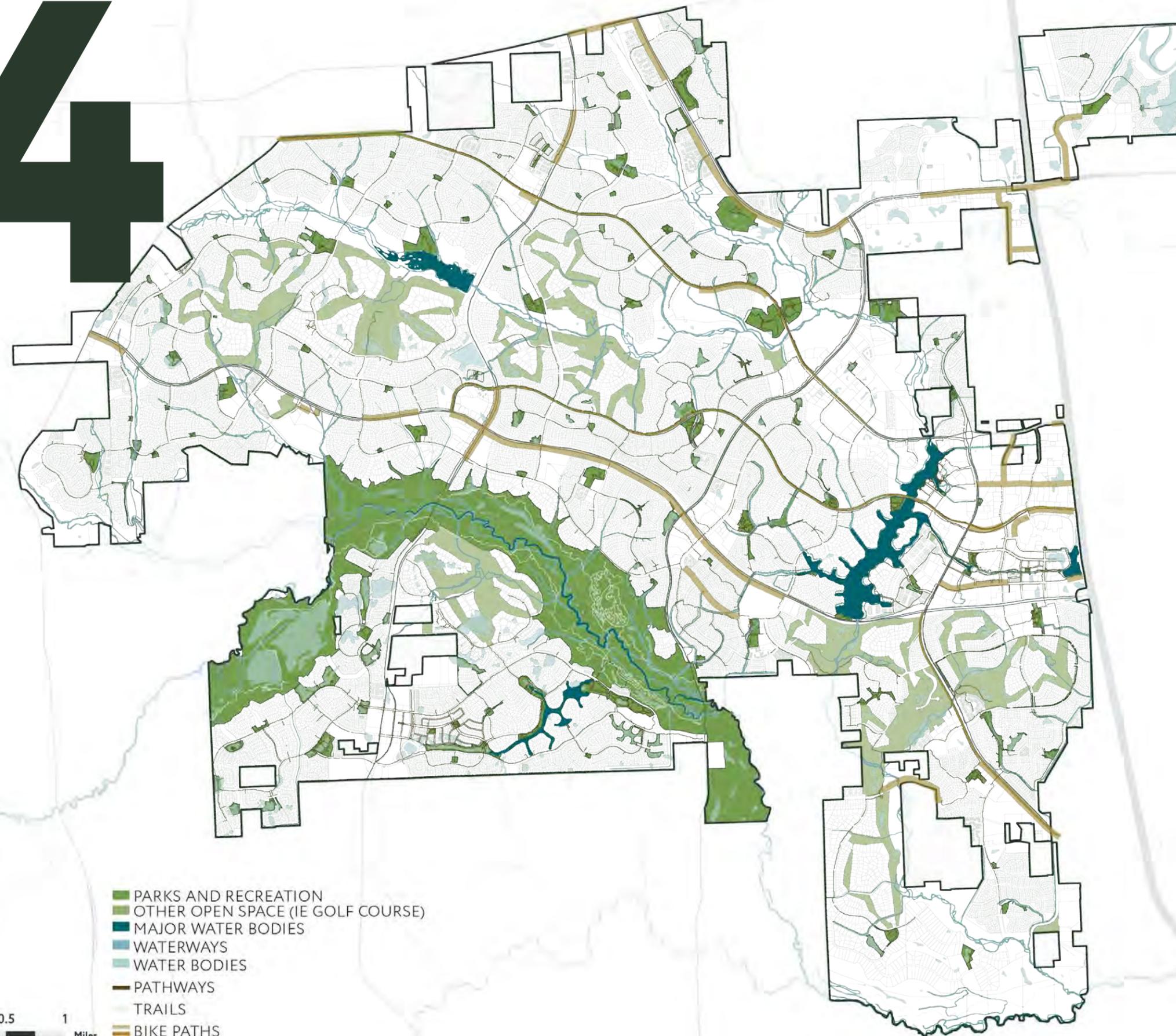
## SYSTEM-WIDE ASSESSMENT

The parks and recreation system includes 150 parks, 2 recreation centers, 2 boat houses, aerial adventure course, 14 swimming pools, 5 spraygrounds, and 220 miles of pathways.

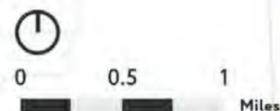
The system-wide assessment was conducted during the Understand and Envision phases of the project. The goal of the assessment was to understand the parks system through the classification of park facilities, development of amenities inventory, field utilization analysis and level of service.

Park Facilities are classified into a number of park facilities based on size, amenities, service radius, context, etc. The first part of this section covers the park facilities and definitions. The second part of this section addresses the system's amenities and includes a system-wide amenity inventory. To verify the matrix and park classifications, the consultant team conducted several on-site park assessments between March and June of 2022. Parks were selected from each classification system in each village. For each of the parks visited, the team documented site conditions and completed a park audit form that is available in Appendix C and D.

The second half of this section includes the field utilization analysis and level of service analysis to identify gaps in the current provision of parks as well as the opportunities to utilize the existing system.

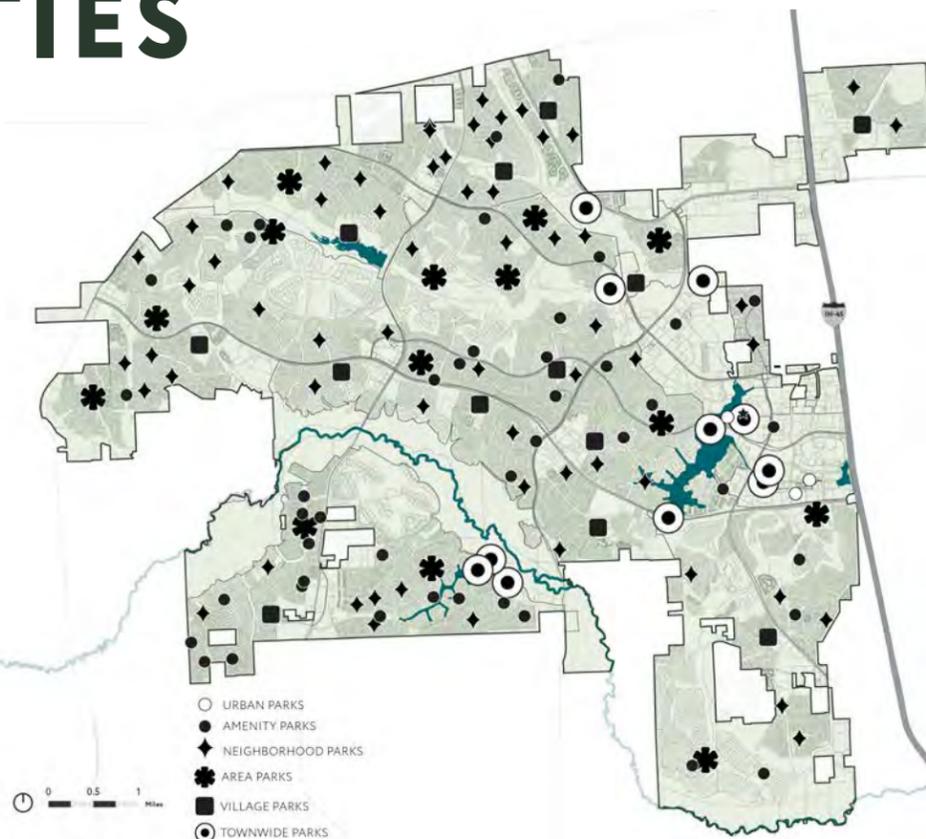


- PARKS AND RECREATION
- OTHER OPEN SPACE (IE GOLF COURSE)
- MAJOR WATER BODIES
- WATERWAYS
- WATER BODIES
- PATHWAYS
- TRAILS
- BIKE PATHS



# PARK FACILITIES

Over the last 20 years, the Township's park system has expanded and grown more diverse in the experiences that it provides to its residents. This map illustrates the current parks classification system developed by The Woodlands Development Company in the mid 1990s.



## Park/ Facility Classifications

The parks system includes several types of park facilities distributed across the Township. Park facilities are currently classified as townwide, village, area, neighborhood, amenity, urban, and other.

In developing design principles for parks, it is important that each park be programmed, planned, and designed to meet the needs of its service area and classification within the overall parks and recreation system. The term programming, when used in the context of planning and developing parkland, refers to a list of uses and facilities and does not always include staff-managed recreation programs. The program for a site can include such elements as ball fields, spray parks, shelters, restrooms, sport courts, trails, natural resource stewardship, open meadows, nature preserves, or interpretive areas. These types of amenities are categorized as lead or support amenities. The needs of the population of the park it is intended to serve should be considered and accommodated at each type of park.

Every park, regardless of type, needs to have an established set of outcomes. Park planners and designers design to those outcomes, including operational and maintenance costs associated with the design outcomes.

Each park classification category serves a specific purpose, and the features and facilities in the park must be designed for the number of age segments the park is intended to serve, the desired length of stay deemed appropriate, and the uses it has been assigned. Recreation needs and services require different design standards based on the age segments that make up the community that will be using the park. A varying number of age segments will be accommodated with the park program depending on the classification of the park.

### Terminology utilized in Park Design Principles:

#### LAND USAGE

The percentage of space identified for either passive use or active use in a park.

#### PROGRAMMING

Can include active or passive programming. Active means it is organized and planned with pre-registration by the user. Examples of active programming include sports leagues, day camps, and aquatics. Passive programming is self-directed by the user at their own pace. Examples of passive programming include playground usage, picnicking, disc golf, reading, or walking the dog.

#### PARK/FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

Includes Neighborhood Park, Area Park, Village Park, Townwide Park, Sports park Facility, Amenity Parks, Recreation/Special Use Park and Greenbelts and Conservation.

#### REVENUE FACILITIES

These include facilities that charge to play on them in the form of an access fee, player fee, team fee, or permit fee. These could include pools, tennis courts, sport field complexes, concession facilities, reservable shelters, and special event spaces.

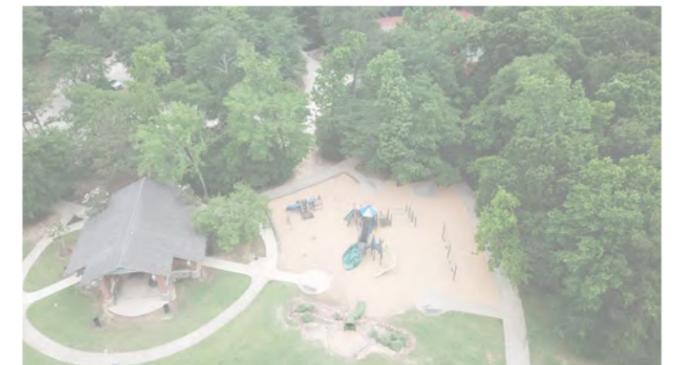
#### SIGNATURE FACILITY/AMENITY

This is an enhanced facility or amenity which is viewed by the community as deserving of special recognition due to its design, location, function, natural resources, etc.

## General Park Design

### INTENT:

To provide the Township with parks that are centerpieces of neighborhoods, places that people use regularly and care for, are aesthetically pleasing, universally accessible, safe, allow for both individual and group activities and both formal and impromptu use, are successfully maintained, and are programmed, planned, and designed to meet the needs of its surrounding neighborhood(s) and typology within the overall parks and recreation system.



### DESIGN GUIDELINES



Parks should be designed to be aesthetically pleasing, inviting, innovative, universally accessible, connect people with place, and create value and a sense of ownership among its users.

Park entries and edges should be inviting and well maintained. Bounding streets should be integrated into the design (planting street trees, repaving sidewalks, etc.) as feasible and appropriate.



Entries should be clearly marked with park signage.



Path circulation should provide access to amenities as well as loops for walking.



Restroom buildings should be located near recreation fields, children's play areas, and group picnic areas, if possible. Restroom buildings should be aesthetically pleasing, and well-maintained, and can be opportunities for unique architectural and artistic expression in the park.



Parks should be designed to ensure safety and the perception of safety, through visibility, activation, and other applicable strategies of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED reviews should be conducted at 30% project planning phase to ensure the design maximizes safety measures.



Parks should have sufficient lighting to ensure safety, day and night.



New parks should be a central feature of a neighborhood and should be located where it can be easily accessed by residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.



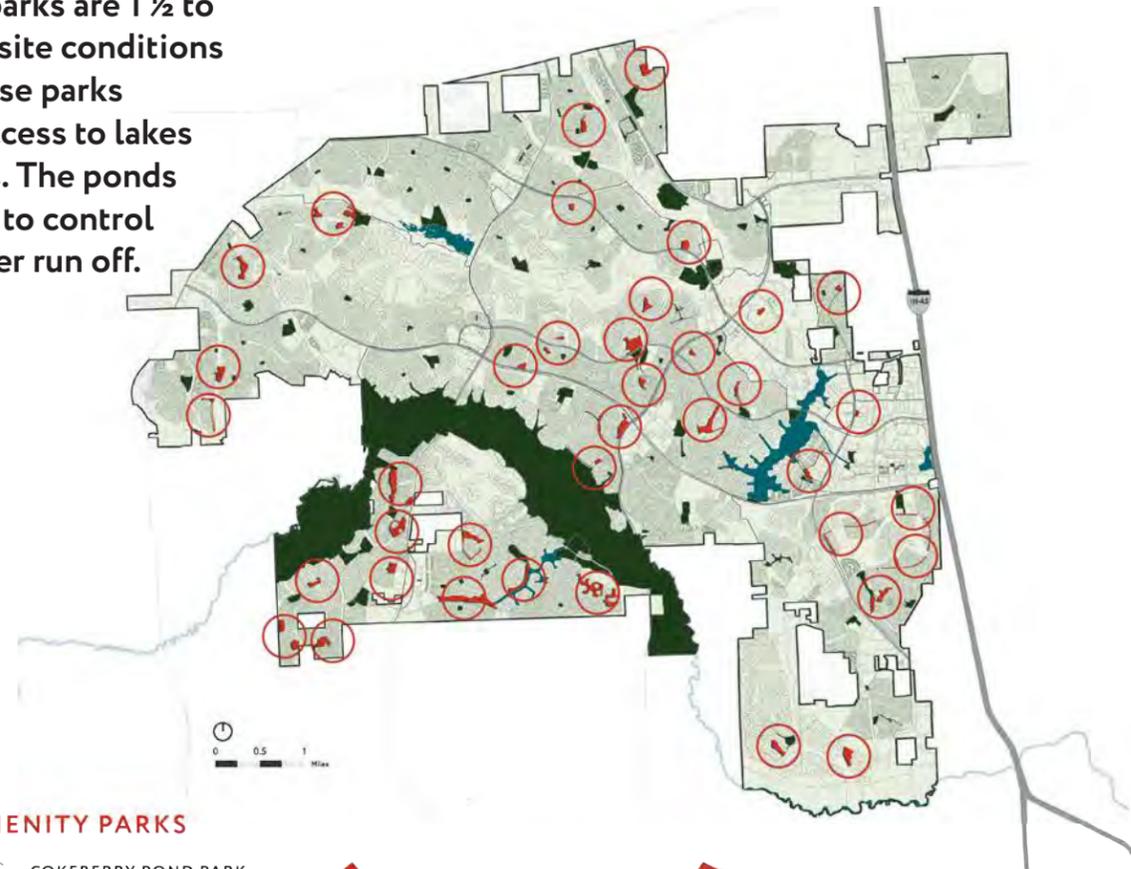
Parks should be programmed, planned, and designed to meet the needs of the surrounding neighborhood and classification within the overall parks and recreation system. Please refer to The Woodlands' Park Classifications, including minimum acreage, and typical amenities, when creating design goals.



The designer should establish a set of outcomes or design goals, based on The Woodlands' Park Classifications, and should design to those outcomes, including operational and maintenance costs associated with the design outcomes.

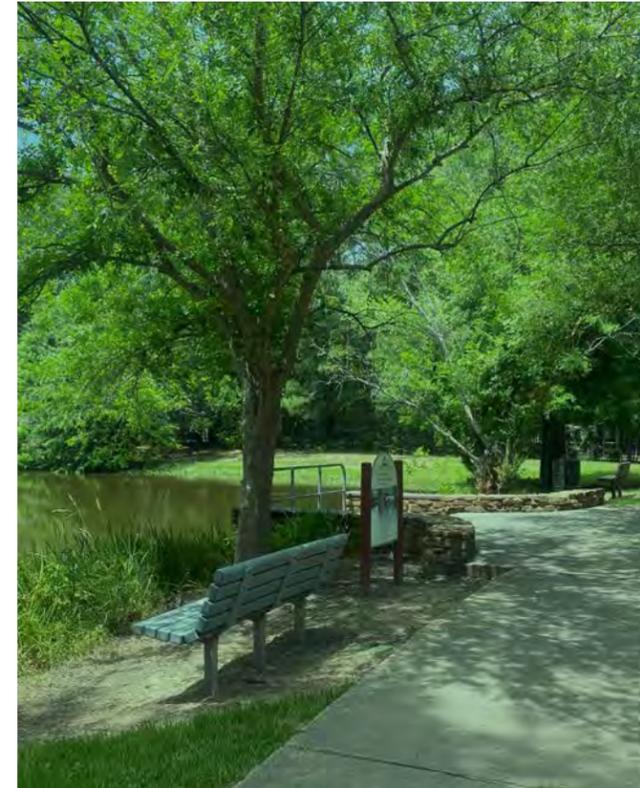
# Amenity Parks

Amenity parks are 1 ½ to 5 acres as site conditions allow. These parks provide access to lakes and ponds. The ponds also serve to control storm water run off.



## AMENITY PARKS

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  COKEBERRY POND PARK          |  DEER RUSH POND PARK      |  HAMLIN LAKE PARK        |
|  MEL KILLIAN PARK             |  REEDY POND PARK          |  HERITAGE MILL POND PARK |
|  MILLBEND LINEAR PARK         |  CYPRESS LAKE PARK        |  HULLWOOD POND PARK      |
|  PASTORAL POND PARK           |  DEEPDALE POND PARK       |  KAYAK RIDGE POND PARK   |
|  HIDDEN LAKE PARK             |  KIRKPATRICK GLEN PARK    |  LAKE PALOMA TRAIL       |
|  LONG LAKE PARK               |  MARQUISE OAKS PARK       |  LAKE VOYAGEUR POND PARK |
|  WEDGEWOOD PARK               |  PLAYER BEND PARK         |  MARIPOSA POND PARK      |
|  ENTRY LAKE PARK              |  SPINDLE TREE PONDS PARK  |  PALOMA POINT PARK       |
|  FOREST LAKE PARK             |  TERRACE MILL POND PARK   |  TIMARRON LAKE PARK      |
|  HIDDEN VIEW POND             |  MASON POND PARK          |  TIMARRON POND PARK      |
|  MYSTIC LAKE PARK             |  EVERGREEN PARK           |  TWIN PONDS PARK         |
|  SHADOW LAKE MARSH EXPERIENCE |  OLMSTEAD                 |  SOOKI POND PARK         |
|  SHADOW POINT PARK            |  VENTURE TECH PARK        |  SHUMARD OAK PARK        |
|  SOMERSET POND PARK           |  CAMELLIA POND PARK       |  MONARCH POND PARK       |
|  SUMMER CLOUD PARK            |  FOOTBRIDGE WAY POND PARK |   |



Spindle Tree Jogging Trail (Source: AR)



Deepdale Pond Park (Source: AR)

## MULTI-USE DETENTION BASINS FOR PARK AND RECREATIONAL USES

General on-line detention facilities, which pass the entire flood through them, are well suited for joint-uses such as open space, wetlands and wildlife habitat that can tolerate frequent inundations. Off-line detention facilities, which bypass the frequent flows and allow only the excess flow into the detention basin are well suited for intensive recreational uses such as playgrounds and play fields since they are flooded less frequently. The uses should be combined at the time of development.

## STORMWATER DETENTION AND RETENTION BASIN GUIDELINES

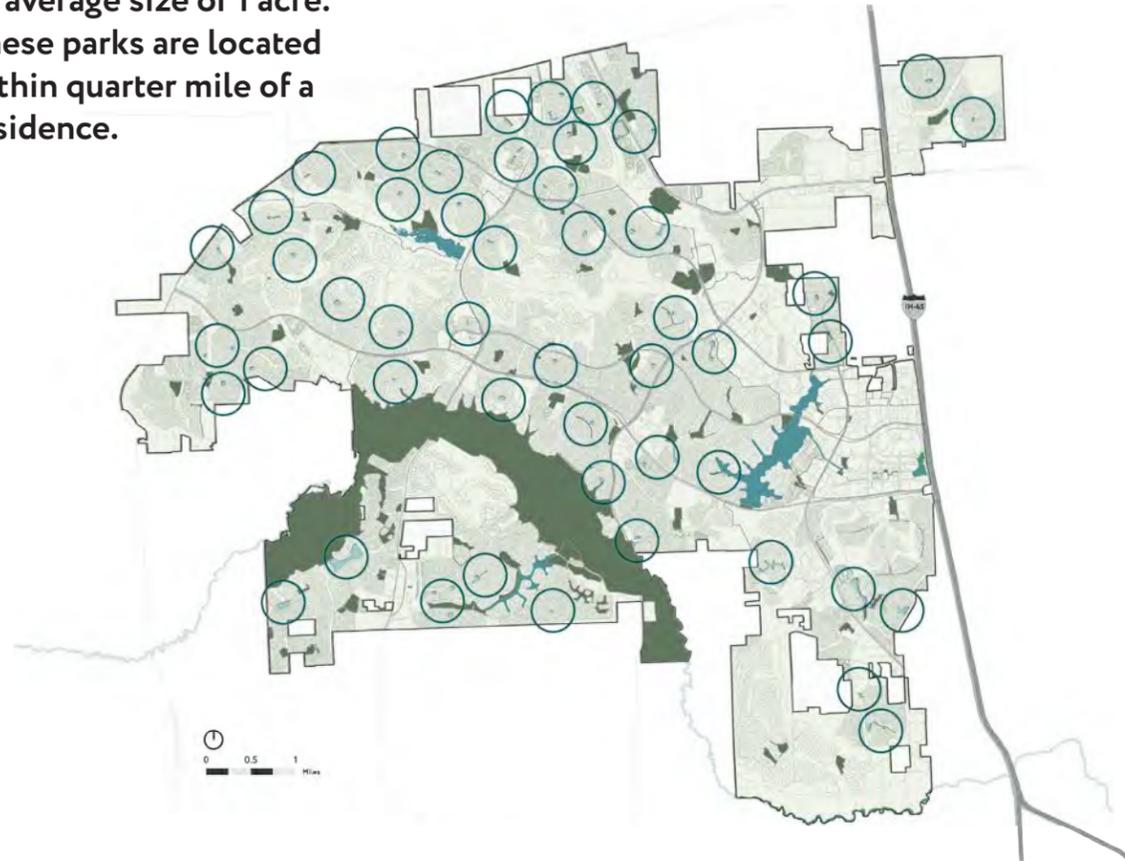
The following guidelines direct the recreational use of stormwater basins and channels:

- Informal turf areas and passive vegetation zones may be placed within the average annual storm flood zone (1-yr 85th percentile storm) and up to the 10-year storm.
- Recreational sports fields (e.g. soccer, baseball, softball) shall be placed at or above the 10-year 24-hr storm event elevation.
- Hard court game surfaces and group picnic areas shall be placed at or above the 50-year storm event.

- Habitable structures, swimming pools, skate parks, children's play grounds, and parking lots shall be placed at or above the 100-year storm event.
- Storm basins may be contoured to provide a natural look. The use of gently curving, variable contouring to establish design grades within a dual use detention basin is encouraged to provide for a more aesthetically interesting design.
- Side slopes of storm basins shall be 6:1 or flatter to facilitate the ease of mowing and accessibility for residents. The use of irregular configuration and gentle side slopes is encouraged.
- Basin bottoms shall have a minimum cross-slope of 2 percent to allow for positive drainage.
- Contouring within the detention facilities is recommended to create internal elevation variations (or tiers) that have differing frequencies and depths of inundation and differing flood risk.
- Joint-use detention/park facilities will require site specific designs to be coordinated with the Township's planning and engineering departments during conceptual and final design to ensure the facilities meet both water quality/detention and park needs while minimizing maintenance requirements.

# Neighborhood Parks

There are 59 Neighborhood parks in The Woodlands that are an average size of 1 acre. These parks are located within quarter mile of a residence.



- |                      |                     |                      |                       |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| CROSSVINE PARK       | SUMMER STORM PARK   | MAPLE GLADE PARK     | STAR RIDGE PARK       |
| HIGH OAKS PARK       | TURNSTONE PARK      | NORTHWAY PARK        | ST. PETER'S GATE PARK |
| LOGGER'S HOLLOW PARK | CHANDLER CREEK PARK | PIPER'S GREEN PARK   | WINTERRA PARK         |
| MAPLEWOOD PARK       | HAZELCREST PARK     | PLEasant HILL PARK   | AVALON PARK           |
| SUNSET SPRINGS PARK  | RUSH HAVEN PARK     | SLATESTONE PARK      | MISTY DAWN PARK       |
| CLOVER PARK AND POND | TRACE CREEK PARK    | SPRING HILL PARK     | TAPESTRY PARK         |
| LEHIGH SPRINGS PARK  | ACACIA PARK         | WYNNOAK PARK         | WIMBERLY PARK         |
| RAINPRINT PARK       | ALDEN TRACE PARK    | ARTIST GROVE PARK    | JAGGED RIDGE PARK     |
| TALLOWBERRY PARK     | BETHANY BEND PARK   | BANTAM WOODS PARK    | LIBERTY SQUARE PARK   |
| THE COVE PARK        | BLUFF CREEK PARK    | BLACK KNIGHT PARK    | PONDERA PARK          |
| COCHRAN'S BEND PARK  | COTTAGE GREEN PARK  | BONNY BRANCH COMMONS | ROCKWELL SQUARE PARK  |
| COCHRAN'S GREEN PARK | EVANGELINE OAKS     | CRAFTWOOD PARK       | SPINCASTER PARK       |
| GOLDEN SAGE PARK     | GRANITE RIDGE PARK  | MONTFAIR PARK        | WILDE CREEK PARK      |
| HAYDEN'S RUN PARK    | HOLLYLAUREL PARK    | OLD STERLING PARK    | SMOOTH STREAM PARK    |
| PACHYDERM PARK       | LARKWOOD PARK       | SPINNING WHEEL PARK  |                       |

A neighborhood park is a small outdoor space, usually less than 0.1 acres up to 1.5 acres, most often located in an urban or residential area surrounded by commercial buildings or houses. Neighborhood parks are small spaces that may serve a variety of functions, such as: small event space, play areas for children, spaces for relaxing and socializing, taking lunch breaks, etc.

Successful neighborhood parks have four key qualities: they are accessible; allow people to engage in activities; are comfortable spaces and inviting; and are sociable places. In general, neighborhood parks offer minimal amenities on site and are not designed to support programmed activities. The service area for neighborhood parks is usually less than a quarter-mile and they are intended for users within close walking distance of the park.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

- SERVICE RADIUS:**  
1/4 mile of a residence
- LENGTH OF STAY:**  
1-2 hours
- AMENITIES:**  
Playgrounds, Pavilions, Benches, Signage, Picnic Tables
- REVENUE FACILITIES:**  
None
- LIGHTING:**  
Security only.
- SIGNAGE:**  
Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience.
- SIZE OF PARK:**  
Typically, 0.1 to 1.5 acres.
- RETENTION BASINS:**  
While joint use is acceptable, park related uses in storm-drainage basins typically do not satisfy Township requirements for amounts of parkland needed to serve local populations.



Winterra Park Playground (Source: AR)



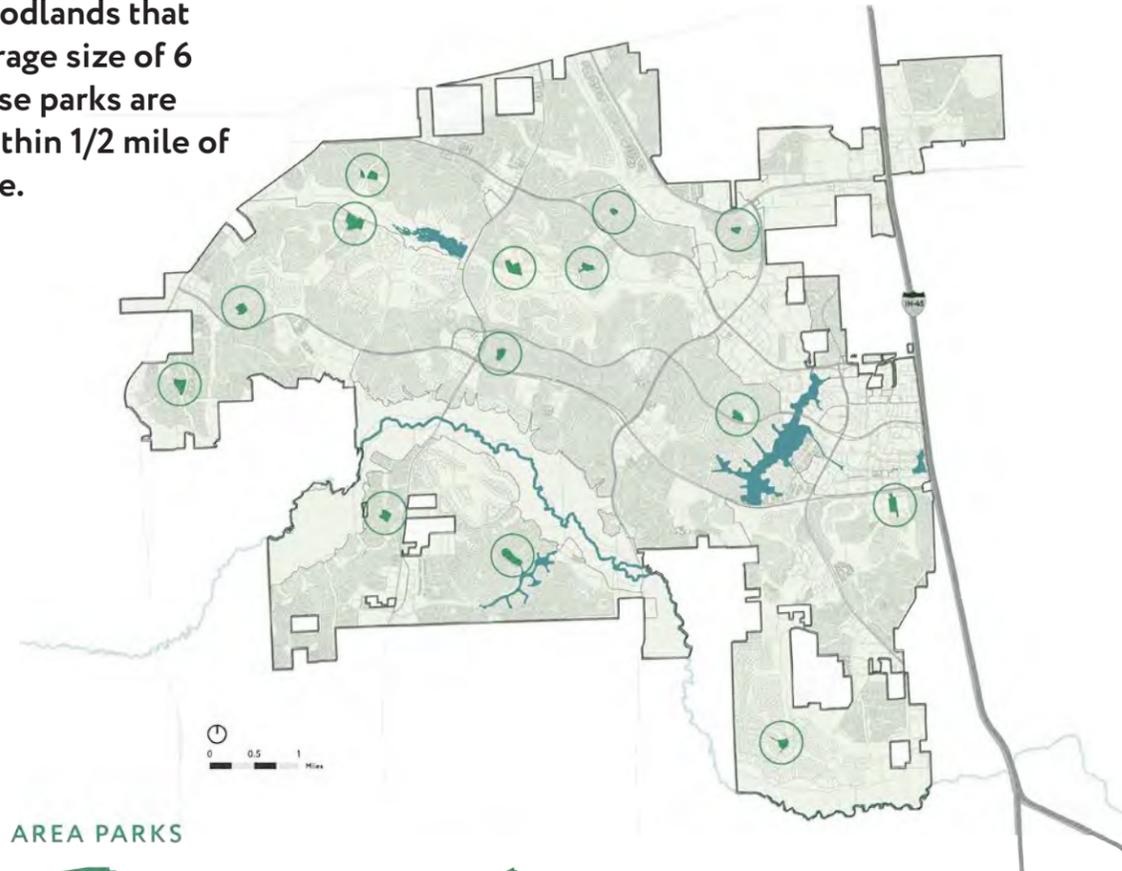
Avalon Park (Source: AR)



Smoothstream Park (Source: AR)

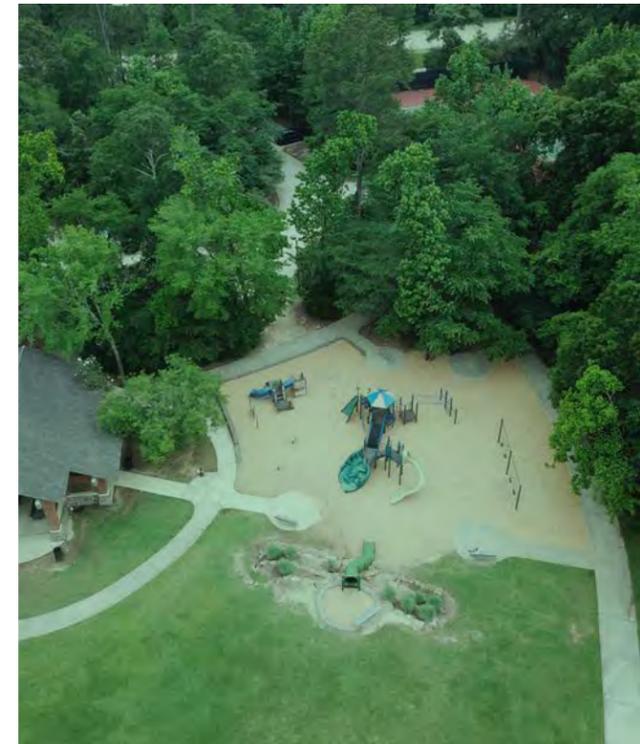
# Area Parks

There are 15 Area parks in The Woodlands that are an average size of 6 acres. These parks are located within 1/2 mile of a residence.



## AREA PARKS

- |   |                              |   |                    |
|---|------------------------------|---|--------------------|
|  | ALDEN WOODS PARK             |  | MYSTIC FOREST PARK |
|  | CAPSTONE PARK                |  | PEPPERDALE PARK    |
|  | CATTAIL PARK                 |  | SUNDANCE PARK      |
|  | COPPER SAGE PARK             |  | TAMARAC PARK       |
|  | CREEKSIDE PARK VILLAGE GREEN |  | TERRAMONT PARK     |
|  | GROGAN'S POINT PARK          |  | TIMARRON PARK      |
|  | MAY VALLEY PARK              |  | TUPELO PARK        |
|  | MEADOWLAKE PARK              |   |                    |



Terramont Park Pavilion and Playground (Source: AR)

An area park should be 1.5 to 10 acres; however, some area parks are determined by use and facilities offered and not by size alone. The service radius for an area park is typically 0.5 -1 mile. Area parks should have safe pedestrian access for surrounding residents; parking is typically not provided for neighborhood parks less than 5 acres in size, but if included accounts for up to 10 parking spots and provides for ADA access. Area parks serve the recreational and social focus of the adjoining neighborhoods and contribute to a distinct neighborhood identity. There may be opportunities to create joint-use sites that serve as both neighborhood parks and recreational space for schools.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

### SERVICE RADIUS:

1/2 mile radius, to either a Neighborhood or Community Park.

### SITE SELECTION:

On a local or collector street. If near an arterial street, provide natural or artificial barrier. Where possible, next to a school. Encourage location to link subdivisions and linked by trails to other parks.

### LENGTH OF STAY:

One to four hours.

### AMENITIES:

One signature amenity (e.g. playground, spray ground park, sport court, gazebo); restrooms unless a signature amenity is not present; may include one non-programmed sports field; playgrounds for ages 2-5 and 5-12; one reservable shelter for parks 3 acres in size or greater; loop trails; one type of sport court; benches, small shaded area next to play areas.

### REVENUE FACILITIES:

None.

### LAND USAGE:

85 percent active/15 percent passive

### RETENTION BASINS:

While joint use is acceptable, park related uses in storm-drainage basins typically do not satisfy Township requirements for amounts of parkland needed to serve local populations.

### PROGRAMMING:

Typically, none, but a signature amenity may be included which is programmed

### MAINTENANCE STANDARD:

Provide the highest-level maintenance with available funding.

### PARKING:

Design should include widened on-street parking area adjacent to park. Goal is to maximize usable park space. As necessary, provide 5-10 spaces within park including accessible spaces. Traffic calming devices encouraged next to park.

### LIGHTING:

Security only.

### SIGNAGE:

Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience.

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN:

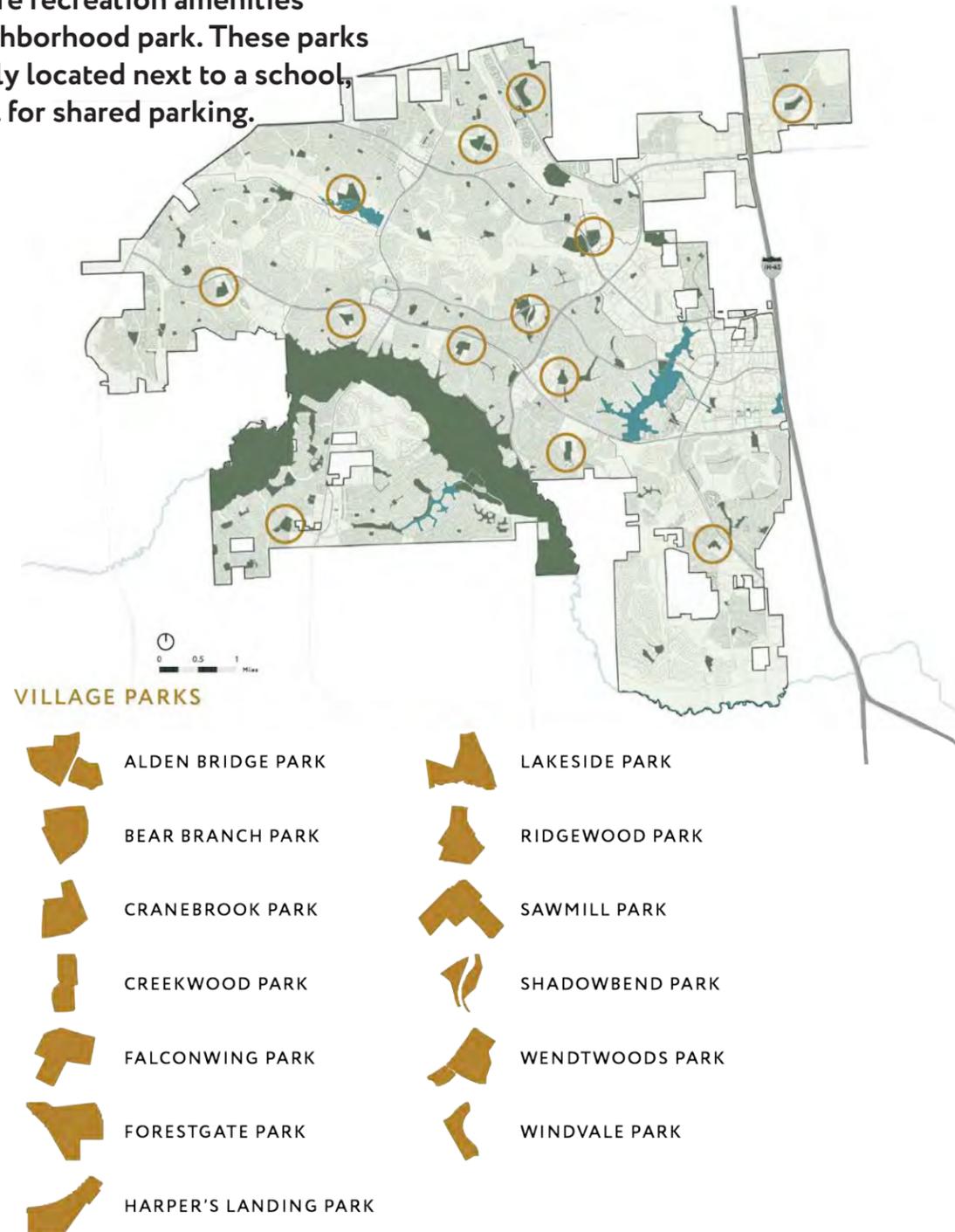
Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience.

### SIZE OF PARK:

Typically, 1.5 to 10 acres.

# Village Parks

There are currently 13 Village parks in The Woodlands that range from 10 to 14 acres. Village parks serve a larger area – radius of two to three miles and contain more recreation amenities than a Neighborhood park. These parks are generally located next to a school, church, etc. for shared parking.



Ridgewood Park Playground (Source: AR)

## STANDARDS

Village parks are intended to be accessible to multiple neighborhoods and should focus on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Village parks are generally larger in scale than neighborhood parks, but smaller than regional parks and are designed typically for residents who live within a three-mile radius. When possible, the park may be developed adjacent to a school. Village parks provide recreational opportunities for the entire family and often contain facilities for specific recreational purposes: athletic fields, tennis courts, extreme sports amenity, loop trails, picnic areas, reservable picnic shelters, sports courts, restrooms with drinking fountains, large turfed and landscaped areas and a playground or spray ground. Passive outdoor recreation activities such as meditation, quiet reflection, and wildlife watching also take place at Village parks.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

### SERVICE RADIUS:

Two to three-mile radius.

### SITE SELECTION:

On two collector streets minimum and preferably one arterial street. If near an arterial street, provide natural or artificial barrier. Minimal number of residences abutting site. Preference is streets on four sides, or three sides with school or municipal use on fourth side. Encourage trail linkage to other parks.

### LENGTH OF STAY:

Two to three hours experience.

### AMENITIES:

Four signature amenities at a minimum: (e.g., trails, sports fields, large shelters/ pavilions, community playground for ages 2-5 and 5-12 with some shaded elements, recreation center, pool or family aquatic center, sports courts, water feature); public restrooms with drinking fountains, ample parking, and security lighting. Sport Fields and Sport Complexes are typical at this park.

### REVENUE FACILITIES:

One or more (e.g. pool, sports park, pavilion).

### LAND USAGE:

65 percent active and 35 percent passive.

### RETENTION BASINS:

While joint use is acceptable, park related uses in storm-drainage basins typically do not satisfy Township requirements for amounts of parkland needed to serve local populations.

### MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Provide the highest-level maintenance with available funding.

### PARKING:

Sufficient to support the amenities; occupies no more than 10 percent of the park. Design should include widened on-street parking area adjacent to park. Goal is to maximize usable park space. Traffic calming devices encouraged within and next to the park.

### LIGHTING:

Amenity lighting includes sport field light standards.

### SIGNAGE:

Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience. May include kiosks in easily identified areas of the facility.

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN:

Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience. Enhanced landscaping at park entrances and throughout park.

### OTHER:

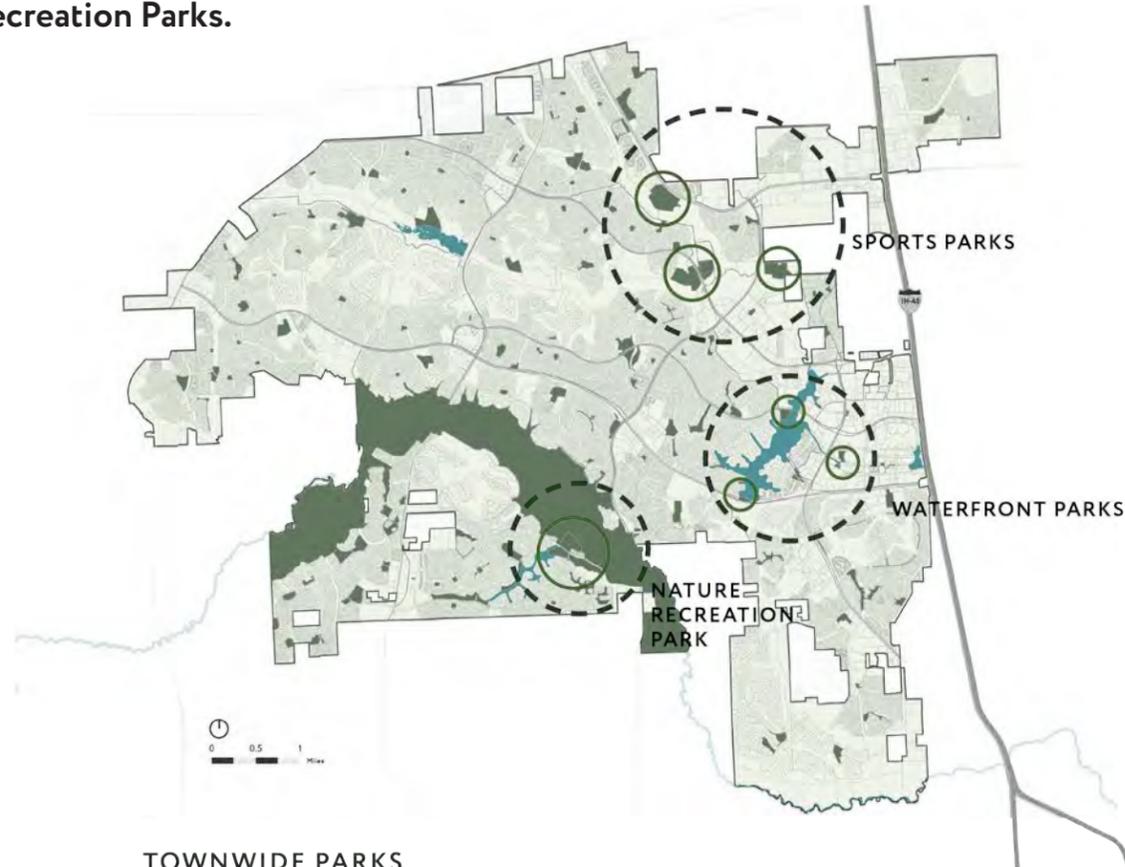
Strong appeal to surrounding neighborhoods; loop trail connectivity; linked to Townwide Park, trail or recreation facility.

### SIZE OF PARK:

Typically 10 to 75 acres.

# Townwide Parks

Townwide Parks are 30 to 50 acres and provide recreational amenities to residents within a 1 to 2 mile radius. Townwide parks can be grouped into three categories: Waterfront Parks, Sports Parks, and Nature-based Recreation Parks.



## TOWNWIDE PARKS

- |   |                          |   |                   |
|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
|  | ALDEN BRIDGE SPORTS PARK |  | TOWN GREEN PARK   |
|  | BEAR BRANCH SPORTS PARK  |  | WATER GARDEN PARK |
|  | GOSLING SPORTS PARK      |  | ROB FLEMING PARK  |
|  | NORTHSHORE PARK          |   |                   |
|  | SOUTHSHORE PARK          |   |                   |
|  | RIVA ROW PARK            |   |                   |



Rob Fleming Pavilion (Source: AR)

A townwide park functions as a destination location that serves a large area of several communities, residents within a Township or county, or across multiple counties. Depending on activities within a Townwide park, users may travel as many as 60 miles for a visit. Townwide parks include recreational opportunities such as soccer, softball, golf, boating, camping, conservation-wildlife viewing and fishing. Although regional parks usually have a combination of passive areas and active facilities, they are likely to be predominantly natural resource-based parks.

A common size for a townwide park is 50 to 1,000 acres but some parks can be 2,000 to 5,000 acres in size. A townwide park focuses on activities and natural features not included in most types of parks and often based on a specific scenic or recreational opportunity. Facilities could include those found in a village park and have specialized amenities such as an outdoor stage, boating facility, recreation center, or natural area with interpretive trails. Townwide parks can and should promote tourism and economic development. Townwide parks can enhance the economic vitality and identity of the entire region.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

**SERVICE RADIUS:**  
Three mile or greater radius.

**SITE SELECTION:**  
Prefer location which can preserve natural resources on-site such as wetlands, streams, and other geographic features or sites with significant cultural or historic features. Significantly large parcel of land. Access from public roads capable of handling anticipated traffic.

**LENGTH OF STAY:**  
All or multiple day experience.

**AMENITIES:**  
Six to 12 amenities to create a signature facility (e.g. dog parks, fishing/boating access, tennis complex, sports park, lake, playground, 3+ reservable picnic shelters, nature center, outdoor recreation/extreme sports, recreation center, pool, gardens, trails, specialty facilities); restrooms with drinking fountains, concessions, restaurant, ample parking, special event site.

**REVENUE FACILITIES:**  
Typically, park designed to produce revenue to offset operational costs.

**LAND USAGE:**  
Up to 50 percent active/50 percent passive.

**MAINTENANCE STANDARDS:**  
Provide the highest-level maintenance with available funding.

**PARKING:**  
Sufficient for all amenities. Traffic calming devices encouraged within and next to park.

**LIGHTING:**  
Amenity lighting includes sport field light standards.

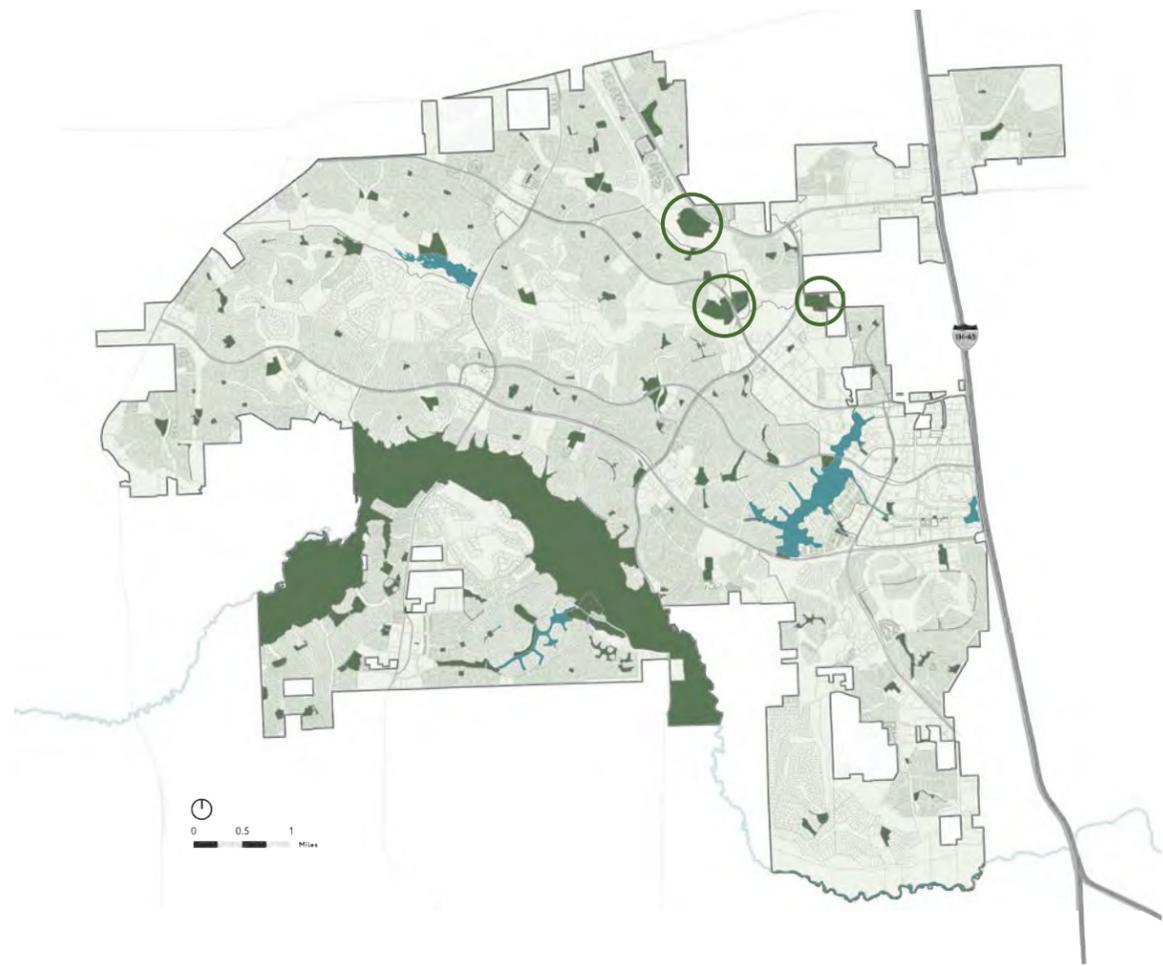
**SIGNAGE:**  
Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience, may include kiosks in easily identified areas of the facility.

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN:**  
Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience. Enhanced landscaping at park entrances and throughout park.

**OTHER:**  
Linked to major trails systems, public transportation available, concessions, and food and retail sales available, dedicated site managers on duty. Wi-Fi and Telephone/Cable TV conduit.

**SIZE OF PARK:**  
Typically, 30 to 50 acres.

# Townwide Parks: Sports Parks



## TOWNWIDE PARKS SPORTS PARK

-  ALDEN BRIDGE SPORTS PARK
-  GOSLING SPORTS PARK
-  BEAR BRANCH SPORTS PARK



Aerial view of turfed multipurpose fields at Alden Bridge Sports Park (Source: AR)

Sports parks at townwide parks are developed to provide 4 to 16+ fields or courts in one setting. A sports park may also support community spaces such as community gardens or playgrounds. Sports parks can be single focused or multi-focused and can include indoor or outdoor facilities to serve the needs of both youth and adults. Outdoor fields should be lighted to maximize value and productivity of the complex. Agencies developing sports parks focus on meeting the needs of residents while also attracting sport tournaments for economic purposes to the community. Sport field design includes appropriate field distances for each sport's governing body and support amenities designed to produce revenue to offset operational costs.

Signature sports parks include enhanced amenities such as artificial turf, multipurpose field benches and bleachers, scoreboards, amplified sound, scorer's booths, etc. Enhanced amenities would be identified through discussion between Township and Schools and/or sports associations and dependent upon adequate funding.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

### SERVICE RADIUS:

Determined by community demand.

### SITE SELECTION:

Stand-alone sports parks are strategically located on or near arterial streets.

### LENGTH OF STAY:

Two to three hours experience for single activities. Can be all day for tournaments or special events.

### AMENITIES:

Four to sixteen or more fields or sports courts in one setting; 1 restroom for every 4-6 fields, ample parking (70 parking spots per field), turf types appropriate for the facility and anticipated usage, and field lighting.

### REVENUE FACILITIES:

Four or more (e.g. fields, concession stand, picnic pavilion).

### LAND USAGE:

95 percent active and 5 percent passive.

### RETENTION BASINS:

While joint use is acceptable, park related uses in storm-drainage basins typically do not satisfy Township requirements for amounts of parkland needed to serve local populations.

### PROGRAMMING:

Focus on active programming of all amenities.

### PARKING:

Sufficient to support the amenities. Traffic calming devices encouraged within and next to park. A typical sports park should accommodate 75 parking spaces per field.

### LIGHTING:

Amenity lighting includes sport field light standards.

### SIGNAGE:

Directional signage and facility/amenity regulations to enhance user experience. May include kiosks in easily identified areas of the facility.

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN:

Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience. Enhanced landscaping at entrances and throughout complex.

### SIZE OF PARK:

Preferably 20 or more acres for stand-alone complexes.

# Pathways



Pathway along Lake Woodlands Dr (Source: AR)

Pathways are recognized for their ability to connect people and places while serving as active transportation facilities. Linking neighborhoods, parks, recreation facilities, attractions, and natural areas with a multi-use trail fulfills three guiding principles simultaneously: 1) protecting natural areas along river and open space areas, 2) providing people with a way to access and enjoy them, and 3) providing a safe, alternative form of active transportation.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

**SITE SELECTION:**  
Located consistent with an approved Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Master Plan.

**AMENITIES:**  
Parking and restrooms at major trailheads. May include small parks along the trail.

**MAINTENANCE STANDARDS:**  
Demand-based maintenance with available funding. Biological management practices observed.

**LIGHTING:**  
Security lighting at trailheads and pathways within parks that have lighted amenities is preferred.

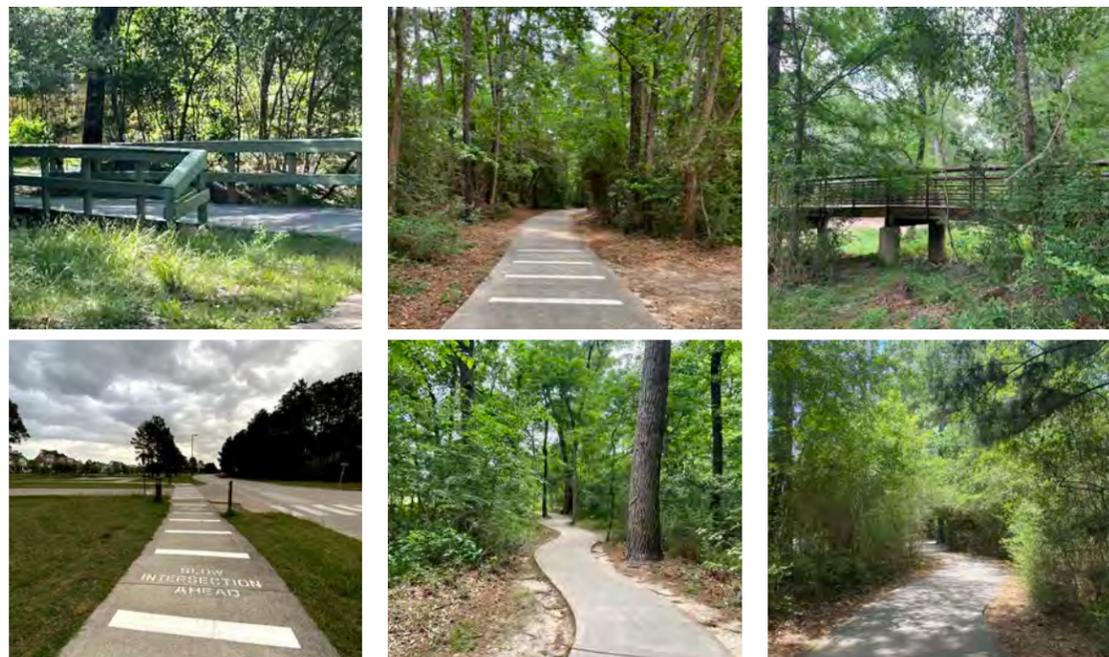
**SIGNAGE:**  
Mileage markers at ¼ mile intervals. Interpretive kiosks at all trailheads and where deemed necessary.

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN:**  
Coordinated planting scheme in urban areas. Limited or no planting in open space areas.

**OTHER:**  
Connectivity to parks or other Township attractions and facilities is desirable.

**SIZE:**  
Typically, at least 30 ft. width of unencumbered land for a Greenbelt. May include a trail to support walk, bike, run, equestrian type recreational activities. Typically, an urban trail is 8-10 feet wide to support pedestrian and recreational bicycle uses. Trails incorporate signage to designate where a user is located and where the trails connect in the Township.

## PATHWAYS & TRAILS



# Revenue Facilities

Revenue facilities are those spaces that don't fall within a typical park classification. A major difference between a revenue facility and other parks is that they usually serve a single purpose whereas other park classifications are designed to offer multiple recreation opportunities. Examples include Riva Row & Lake Edge Boathouses, Texas Tree Ventures, and Recreation Centers. It is possible for a revenue facility to be located inside another park. Revenue facilities generally fall into the following categories:

**Nature Parks** – Parks where people can experience a preserved or enhanced natural environment and a refuge from active, urban life. This classification is appropriate for areas where the human experience is emphasized.

**Outdoor Recreation Facilities** – Examples include aquatic parks, boathouses, disc golf, skateboard, BMX, and dog parks, which may be located in a park. Where appropriate, facilities such as mini golf, batting cages, camping, or other revenue generating facilities/services should be considered to support the overall financial positioning of the Parks and Recreation Department.

**Historic/Cultural/Social Sites** – Unique local resources offering historical, educational, and cultural opportunities. Examples include plaza parks, performing arts parks, arboretums, display gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, churches, and amphitheatres.



Rob Fleming Recreation Center (Source: AR)

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

**SIZE OF PARK:**  
Depends upon facilities and activities included. Their diverse character makes it impossible to apply acreage standards.

**SERVICE RADIUS:**  
Depends upon facilities and activities included. Typically serves special user groups while a few serve the entire population.

**SITE SELECTION:**  
Given the variety of potential uses, no specific standards are defined for site selection. As with all park types, the site itself should be located where it is appropriate for its use.

**LENGTH OF STAY:**  
Varies by facility.

**AMENITIES:**  
Varies by facility.

**REVENUE FACILITIES:**  
Due to nature of certain facilities, revenue may be required for construction and/or annual maintenance. This should be determined at a policy level before the facility is planned and constructed.

**LAND USAGE:**  
Varies by facility.

**RETENTION BASINS:**  
While joint use is acceptable, park related uses in storm-drainage basins typically do not satisfy Township requirements for amounts of parkland needed to serve local populations.



Texas Tree Ventures (Source: VisitTheWoodlands)

# Open Space/ Conservation Lands



Open space/conservation lands are undeveloped but may include natural or paved trails. Open space/conservation lands contain natural resources that can be managed for recreation and natural resource conservation values such as a desire to protect wildlife habitat, water quality and endangered species. Open space/conservation lands also can provide opportunities for nature-based, unstructured, low-impact recreational opportunities such as walking and nature viewing.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

**AMENITIES:**  
May include paved or natural trails, wildlife viewing areas, mountain biking, disc golf, interpretation and education facilities.

**MAINTENANCE STANDARDS:**  
Demand-based maintenance with available funding. Biological management practices observed.

**LIGHTING:**  
None.

**SIGNAGE:**  
Interpretive kiosks as deemed appropriate.

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN:**  
Generally, none. Some areas may include landscaping, such as entryways or around buildings. In these situations, sustainable design is appropriate.

**PROGRAMMING:**  
Varies by facility.

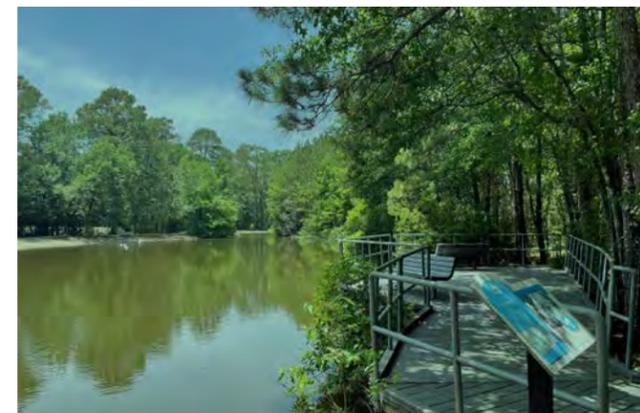
**MAINTENANCE STANDARDS:**  
Provide the highest-level maintenance with available funding.

**PARKING:**  
On-street or off-street parking is provided as appropriate. Goal is to maximize usable park space. As necessary, provide a minimum of five to 10 spaces within park including accessible spaces. Traffic calming devices encouraged next to park.

**LIGHTING:**  
Security or amenity only.

**SIGNAGE:**  
Directional and regulation signage to enhance user experience.

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN:**  
Appropriate design to enhance the park theme/use/experience.



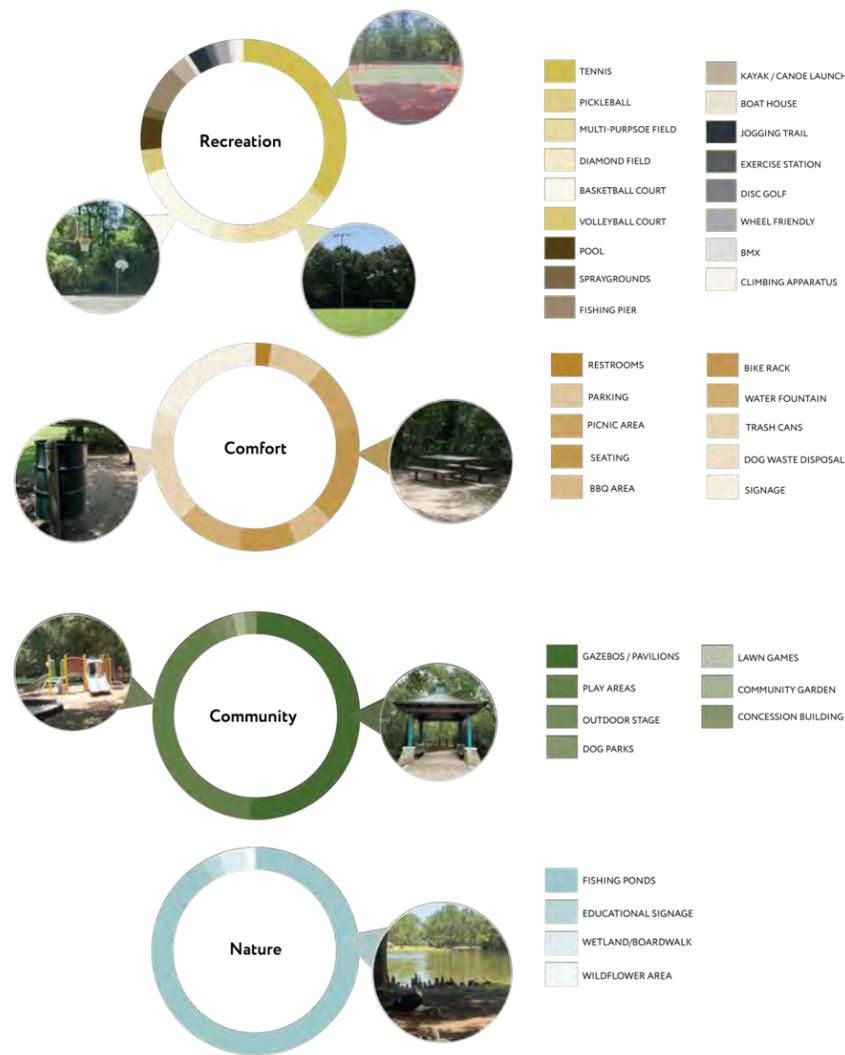
Shadow Lake Marsh Experience (Source: AR)

# AMENITIES

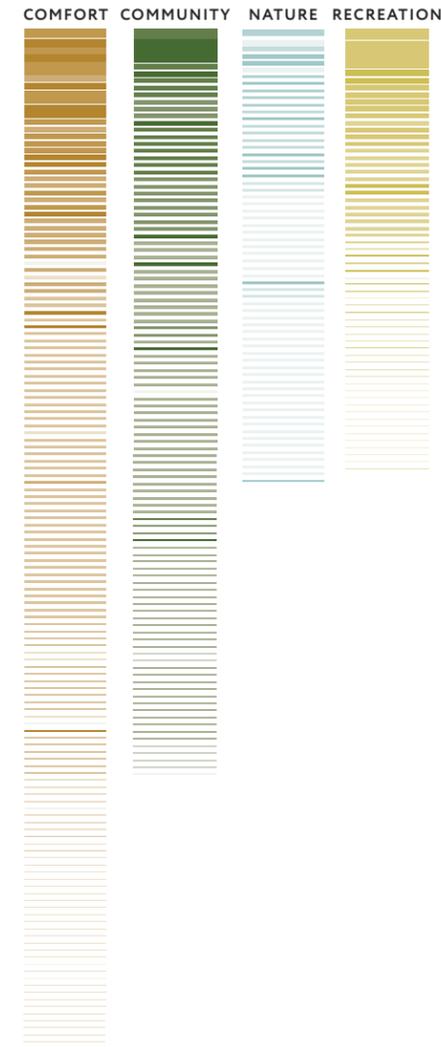
The Parks and Recreation Department oversees the ongoing maintenance and operation of several amenities. There are four basic categories: community, recreation, comfort, and nature.



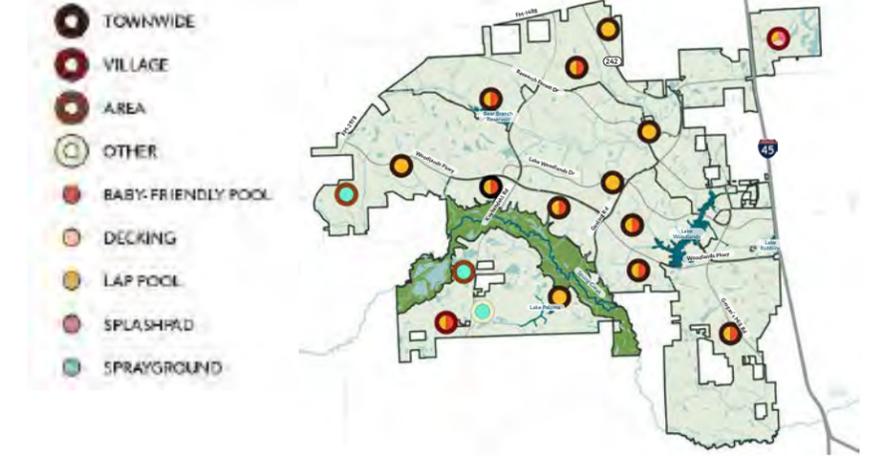
Amenities are classified by type and theme below. Recreational amenities is the most diverse category with 18 different amenities whereas community contains 8 different amenities. The graphics below highlight key amenities within each theme.



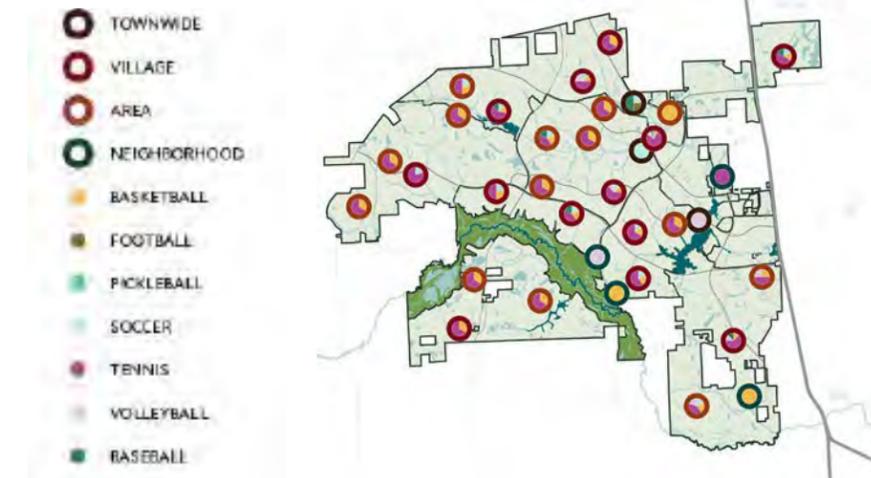
## SYSTEM AMENITIES



## AQUATIC AMENITIES



## RECREATIONAL AMENITIES



Amenities are identified by park facility and type to the left. Each band represents a park in the system. The darker the band, the larger the park classification (ie. townwide, village parks, and area) whereas lighter bands represent neighborhood and amenity parks. The thickness of the band is proportional to the amount of amenities within the park. Generally, this thickness is proportionate to the park type. Townwide and Village parks have the highest amount of comfort amenities followed by Area, Neighborhood, and Amenity parks. Comfort amenities represent the largest inventory of amenities across the system. These amenities are distributed among 96% of the

parks system. Community amenities were identified at 105 parks, or 70% of the system. Nature amenities are provided at 42% of parks and only 41% of parks contain recreational amenities.

### RECREATION AMENITIES

Whereas recreational amenities were the most diverse category, there are fewer amenities provided throughout the system. Recreational amenities were mapped across the system and summarized to the below.

# FIELD UTILIZATION

The following sections provide a snapshot of the annual utilization of the formalized athletic field locations in The Woodlands in 2021.

## ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS

As shown in the table below, the existing artificial turf multi-purpose fields are being utilized at 91% of the total combined capacity. Only AB Sports Park Multi #2 is being utilized at less than 80% of its annual capacity. Simply, there is limited capacity within the artificial turf multipurpose fields to take on additional use of the fields without exceeding the best practice annual maximum hours of utilization (1,900 hours per field per year).

The following chart summarizes the multi-purpose field utilization for the year 2021.

Summary of Current Multi-purpose field utilization	Annual Hrs Utilized	Best Practice Max Annual hrs	Under Max Hours	Percentage of Max
ARTIFICIAL TURF	15,575	17,100	1,525	91%
NATURAL GRASS	10,800	14,400	3,622	75%
TOTALS	26,375	31,500	5,147	84%

FIELD	ANNUAL HOURS UTILIZED	BEST PRACTICE MAX ANNUAL HOURS	(OVER) UNDER MAX HOURS	PERCENTAGE OF MAX
Bear Branch Soccer 1 Artificial Turf	1,874	1,900	26	99%
Bear Branch Soccer 5 Artificial Turf	1,810	1,900	91	95%
Bear Branch Soccer 3 Artificial Turf	1,803	1,900	98	95%
Gosling Sports Field Multi #1 - Turf	1,759	1,900	142	93%
AB Sports Park Multi #1 Artificial Turf	1,755	1,900	145	92%
Bear Branch Soccer 4 Artificial Turf	1,738	1,900	162	91%
Gosling Sports Field Multi #2 - Turf	1,717	1,900	183	90%
Gosling Sports Field Multi #3 - Turf	1,682	1,900	219	89%
AB Sports Park Multi #2 Artificial Turf	1,439	1,900	461	76%
<b>SUBTOTAL ARTIFICIAL TURF</b>	<b>15,575</b>	<b>17,100</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>91%</b>

## NATURAL TURF FIELDS

As shown in the table below, the existing natural grass multi-purpose fields are being utilized at 75% of the total combined capacity. However, it must be noted that many fields in park locations where multiple fields exist and the use of these fields are for both practices and games, exceed the best practice annual maximum hours of utilization (600 hours per field per year), including Gosling, Bear Branch, AB Sports Park and Falconwing. To resolve the overuse of these fields,

it is NOT as simple as relocating hours of use to other fields that have capacity. Many of the other locations where natural grass fields exist were not designed for intensive use as they lack support facilities such as parking, restrooms and athletic field lighting.

FIELD	ANNUAL HOURS UTILIZED	BEST PRACTICE MAX ANNUAL HOURS	(OVER) UNDER MAX HOURS	PERCENTAGE OF MAX
Gosling Sports Field Multi #4 - Grass	1,017	600	(417)	169%
Gosling Sports Field Multi #5 - Grass	920	600	(320)	153%
Bear Branch Soccer 6	767	600	(167)	128%
AB Sports Park Multipurpose #4	711	600	(111)	118%
Falconwing Soccer	660	600	(60)	110%
Rob Fleming Rec Center Field 1	628	600	(28)	105%
Wendtwoods Multi-Purpose Field	628	600	(28)	105%
AB Sports Park Multipurpose #5	596	600	5	99%
Bear Branch Soccer 2	537	600	63	90%
Harper's Landing Multi-purpose Field	515	600	86	86%
Cattail Multi-Use Field	478	600	123	80%
Lakeside Soccer	427	600	173	71%
AB Sports Park Multipurpose #3	402	600	198	67%
Creekwood Soccer	378	600	222	63%
Bear Branch Soccer 7	361	600	240	60%
Shadowbend Soccer	294	600	306	49%
Timarron Multi Purpose Field	290	600	310	48%
Terramont Soccer	266	600	334	44%
Tupelo Multi Purpose Field	257	600	343	43%
Ridgewood Soccer	251	600	349	42%
Alden Bridge Soccer	155	600	445	26%
Cranebrook Soccer	141	600	459	24%
Forestgate Soccer	80	600	520	13%
May Valley Multi Purpose Field	44	600	556	7%
<b>SUBTOTAL NATURAL GRASS</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>14,400</b>	<b>3,622</b>	<b>75%</b>

# LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level of Service (LOS) standards are guidelines that define service areas based on population that support investment decisions related to parks, facilities and amenities. LOS standards can and will change over time; as the population increases, the need to acquire additional land and develop parks also increases as will the costs to do so.

## LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD ASSUMPTIONS

The consultant team evaluated and developed LOS standards using a combination of local, regional and national resources, including:

- Demographic projections (including population, age and diversity segmentation).

- Township General Plan.

- Township Capital Needs Assessment.

- Community benchmarking – see Appendix C for Benchmark Analysis.

- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines.

- Recreation activity participation rates reported by the Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) 2022 Study of Sports – see Appendix for Recreation Trend Analysis.

- Ability for the Township to acquire park land for developed parks, trails and open space.

- Community and stakeholder input including the online survey and general observations.

- Planned yet not developed parks in the Township.

- The ability for the Township to financially sustain a high-quality park, open space and trail system.

The service level standards analysis is a review of the inventory of parks and major park assets in relation to the total population of the study area and community needs. Ultimately, these standards should be used as goals for leadership to use in measuring service levels and making decisions about providing park facilities and assets. The standards should not be the sole determinant of how the Township will invest in its parks, recreation facilities and trails system over the next 10-15 years.

## CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS

The chart below provides a snapshot of the current level of service standards and The Township's current level of contribution associated with the current service levels.

PARK TYPE	2022 PARK INVENTORY	CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS	
	The Woodlands	Current Service Level	
Amenity Parks	43	0.36	acres per 1,000
Neighborhood Parks	59	0.49	acres per 1,000
Area Parks	15	0.13	acres per 1,000
Village Parks	13	0.11	acres per 1,000
Townwide Parks	10	0.08	acres per 1,000
<b>Total Developed Park Acreage</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>acres per 1,000</b>

OUTDOOR AMENITIES	2022 PARK INVENTORY	CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS	
	The Woodlands	Current Service Level	
Archery Range (Fixed)	1	1.00	range per 120,000
Baseball / Softball Diamond (Lighted)	8	1.00	field per 15,000
Basketball Court	27.5	1.00	court per 4,364
Dog Park (off-leash dog area)	5	1.00	site per 24,000
Disc Golf Course	15	1.00	course per 80,000
Environmental Education Center	0	0.00	facility per 125,000
Multi-purpose Field (Lighted)	26	1.00	field per 4,615
Pickleball Court (Stand Alone) <sup>o</sup>	8	1.00	court per 15,000
Playgrounds	90	1.00	site per 1,333
Reservable Pavilions	44	1.00	site per 2,727
Pavilions/Gazebo	73	1.00	site per 1,644
Skatepark/BMX Park	8	1.00	site per 15,000
Splash Pad	5	1.00	site per 24,000
Swimming Pool - Neighborhood	14	1.00	site per 8,571
Tennis Courts	80	1.00	court per 1,500
Volleyball Courts - Outdoors	9	1.00	court per 13,333

<sup>o</sup> Denotes that Inventory includes 8 future courts

## LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS RECOMMENDATION

The current service levels have served the Township well and provide a basis for measuring park system performance. Coupled with the park system assessments, community input and analysis conducted, it is recommended that the Township update its level of service standards to better provide for the

recreational priorities of its residents while seeking to achieve geographical equity. The following chart summarizes the recommended service level standards.

PLEASE NOTE: Natural Area parks and trails, were not calculated in this population-based service level analysis because they are based on resource location and connected networks rather than the Township's resident population.

PARK TYPE	PARK INVENTORY		CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS		RECOMMENDED DEVELOPED PARK SERVICE LEVELS	
	The Woodlands	Total	Current Service Level		Recommended Developed Park Service Levels	
Amenity Parks	43	43	0.36	acres per 1,000	0.25	acres per 1,000
Neighborhood Parks	59	59	0.49	acres per 1,000	0.40	acres per 1,000
Area Parks	15	15	0.13	acres per 1,000	0.10	acres per 1,000
Village Parks	13	13	0.11	acres per 1,000	0.10	acres per 1,000
Townwide Parks	10	10	0.08	acres per 1,000	0.25	acres per 1,000
<b>Total Developed Park Acreage</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>acres per 1,000</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>acres per 1,000</b>

OUTDOOR AMENITIES	PARK INVENTORY		CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS		RECOMMENDED DEVELOPED PARK SERVICE LEVELS	
	The Woodlands	Total	Current Service Level		Recommended Developed Park Service Levels	
Archery Range (Fixed)	1	1	1.00	range per 120,000	1.00	range per 150,000
Baseball / Softball Diamond (Lighted)	8	8	1.00	field per 15,000	1.00	field per 17,500
Basketball Court	27.5	27.5	1.00	court per 4,364	1.00	court per 4,500
Dog Park (off-leash dog area)	5	5	1.00	site per 24,000	1.00	site per 20,000
Disc Golf Course	15	15	1.00	course per 80,000	1.00	course per 75,000
Environmental Education Center	0	1	0.00	facility per 125,000	1.00	facility per 125,000
Multi-purpose Field (Lighted)	26	33	1.00	field per 4,615	1.00	field per 4,750
Pickleball Court (Stand Alone) <sup>*</sup>	8	12	1.00	court per 15,000	1.00	court per 12,000
Playgrounds	90	92	1.00	site per 1,333	1.00	site per 2,000
Reservable Pavilions	44	46	1.00	site per 2,727	1.00	site per 2,750
Pavilions/Gazebo	73	91	1.00	site per 1,644	1.00	site per 2,000
Skatepark/BMX Park	8	8	1.00	site per 15,000	1.00	site per 20,000
Splash Pad	5	6	1.00	site per 24,000	1.00	site per 24,000
Swimming Pool - Neighborhood	14	14	1.00	site per 8,571	1.00	site per 10,000
Tennis Courts	80	84	1.00	court per 1,500	1.00	court per 1,500
Volleyball Courts - Outdoors	9	9	1.00	court per 13,333	1.00	court per 15,000

<sup>\*</sup> Denotes that Inventory includes 8 future courts

# SUMMARY

## Assessment

The system assessment focused on park facilities, amenities, field utilization, and level of service analysis.

## PARK FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

The parks and recreation system is constantly evolving to suit the needs of the Woodlands community. The current facilities offered include amenity parks, neighborhood parks, area parks, village parks, townwide parks, sports parks, pathways, and trail networks.

## AMENITIES

The system amenities fall under four themes: community, recreation, comfort, and nature. Recreational amenities such as multi-purpose fields and diamond fields are heavily utilized by organized sports groups for practice and tournaments. Aquatic amenities such as pools and spraygrounds continued to remain popular to the public and to competitive aquatics. With the popularity of the George Mitchell Nature Preserve Trail and low-impact activities such as bicycling, fishing, and swimming, the need for improved nature-based amenities is growing. Local trends indicate a correlating increase between community interest and gross revenues from kayaking and other water-related outdoor activities. Generating \$834,000 annually, nature-based recreation supports both community interests and the ongoing sustainability of the Parks and Recreation system.

## FIELD UTILIZATION

The Woodlands community makes full use of the available athletic fields through athletic tourism and tournaments. Except for the AB Sports Park Multi #2 which is at 80% annual capacity, the artificial turf fields are being utilized at 91% of the total combined practice. Although the entire natural grass field system is being utilized at 75% of its maximum capacity, many individual fields currently exceed the best practice annual maximum hours of utilization. Additionally, many other natural grass fields lack the amenities required to support additional usage.

## LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level of Service standards summarize the current inventory as well as identify future needs in terms of park facilities and amenities in relation to the total community population and needs.

## PARKS & RECREATION SYSTEM

- 150 Parks
- 2 Recreation Centers
- 2 Boat Houses
- 14 Swimming Pools
- 5 Spray Grounds
- 220 Miles of Pathways
- Aerial Adventure Course

## SPORTS & RECREATION

**91%**  
2021 artificial turf Multi-purpose Field Utilization

**28**  
Tournaments in 2021

## AQUATICS

Aquatics operations had a 49.7% Cost Recovery Rate for 2021

Aquatics budget for 2022 was \$2,615,227

## WHAT WE SAW

### NATURE BASED TRAILS & FITNESS

George Mitchell Trail Preserve and trails are a highly-used.

### KAYAKING ACTIVITIES

Kayaking and water-related outdoor activities saw a 61% increase in gross revenues over 2020 and a cost recovery percentage of above 250%.

### FACILITY NEEDS

Townwide Sports Park

### AMENITY NEEDS

Basketball Courts (2)

Dog Park (2)

Environmental Education Center (1)

Multi-Purpose Fields (2)

Pickleball Courts (2 batteries of 4)

Reservable Pavilion (4)

Spraygrounds (1)

Tennis Courts (9)

Community Garden (2)



# 5

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Woodlands features a robust parks and pathways network that is cherished by the community over many years. As the Township has continued to grow and develop in recent years, so too has the community's needs and desires when it comes to parks and recreation. This section outlines a path forward and identifies strategies to support the continued evolution of the parks and pathways system.

### GOALS AND STRATEGIES

The recommendations address the three main goals for the future of the Township's parks and recreation system.

1



#### RECREATIONAL TOURISM

Improve the capacity of the recreational facilities and amenities to respond to existing community needs while supporting economic development and tourism goals.

2



#### COMMUNITY RESPONSIVE

Enhance the diversity and experience of the parks system by drawing on community input, demographics, and national trends

3



#### FUTURE NETWORK

Continue to create a robust system that is safe, comfortable, sustainable and accessible.



## GOALS AND STRATEGIES



## RECREATIONAL TOURISM

**Improve the capacity of the recreational facilities and amenities to respond to existing community needs while supporting economic development and tourism goals.**

The network of **Townwide** parks presents an opportunity for recreational tourism in two areas: Sports park facilities and Natural Recreation areas. The key areas of opportunity where the department can generate revenue are athletic tournaments, aquatic leisure, and nature based tourism. These strategies aim to leverage the existing system while identifying strategies for future development.

### STRATEGY

#### Improve Field Utilization and Capacity

The Woodlands has benefited from a variety of athletic organizations and active recreation park users. Revenue generated in sports and recreation include: field rental, programs, and tournaments. Today the system is in need of upgrades that add capacity to the system such as converting natural turf fields to synthetic turf at existing facilities. In addition to these strategies, the department should also develop strategies to utilize boutique tournaments.

#### RECOMMENDATION EXISTING FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

##### Add Capacity to the Existing Multi-Purpose Field System

The Woodlands has very limited capacity to add new parks and thereby new fields and additional utilization capacity to its parks and recreation system. A strategic solution that the Parks and Recreation Department is currently pursuing is the conversion of the following natural grass fields to artificial to add capacity and thereby maximize the utilization of the multi-purpose field system in The Woodlands.

If these fields are converted to artificial turf, an additional 9,000+ hours of annual capacity can be added to the multi-purpose athletic field system as shown in the table to the right.



Gosling Turf Field (Source: AR)

FIELD	ANNUAL HOURS UTILIZED	BEST PRACTICE MAX ANNUAL HOURS	(OVER) UNDER MAX HOURS	PERCENTAGE OF MAX
Gosling Sports Field Multi #4 - Grass	1,017	600	(417)	169%
Wentwoods Multi-Purpose Field	628	600	(28)	105%
Falconwing Soccer	660	600	(60)	110%
Harper's Landing Multi-purpose Field	515	600	86	86%
Lakeside Soccer	427	600	173	71%
Creekwood Soccer	378	600	222	63%
Shadowbend Soccer	294	600	306	49%
<b>TOTAL CURRENT HOURS OF USE</b>	<b>3,919</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>93%</b>

FIELD	ANNUAL HOURS UTILIZED	BEST PRACTICE MAX ANNUAL HOURS	(OVER) UNDER MAX HOURS
Gosling Sports Field Multi #4 - Grass	1,017	1,900	884
Wendtwoods Multi-Purpose Field	628	1,900	1,273
Falconwing Soccer	660	1,900	1,240
Harper's Landing Multi-purpose Field	515	1,900	1,385
Lakeside Soccer	427	1,900	1,473
Creekwood Soccer	378	1,900	1,522
Shadowbend Soccer	294	1,900	1,606
<b>Total Current Hours of Use</b>	<b>3,919</b>	<b>13,300</b>	<b>9,382</b>

### Summary of Future Multi-purpose Field Utilization / Capacity

This table summarizes the future multi-purpose field system capacity against current utilization if the fields noted in the section to the right are converted from natural grass to artificial turf.

### Existing Field Improvements

As noted above, an **additional 9,000 hours** of potential utilization would be gained. This is the equivalent of approximately **5 new artificial turf fields** to the system at a fraction of the cost.

### Supporting Amenities Improvements

Upgrade existing amenities at Townwide sports parks. Field improvements should also be accompanied by upgrades to existing facility amenities. Depending on the park, these improvements would include the replacement of scoreboards with wireless scoreboards, LED lighting, additional parking to accommodate 75 parking spaces per field, community spaces, restrooms, signage, shade, and benches that improve the capacity of the park. Other supporting amenities may include WiFi capability for live streaming and other network activities.

### RECOMMENDATION

#### TOURNAMENT UTILIZATION

Though the Woodlands Township does not currently have the land to develop a large multi-purpose field sports park, and, in turn, host large scale tournaments, the current multi-purpose fields are being utilized for tournament play. As shown in the chart below, the current multi-purpose fields were utilized for 5,620 hours in 2021 for tournaments. This equates to 21% of the total usage of all multi-purpose fields in 2021.

2021 Multi-Purpose Field Tournaments			
Tournament	Start Date	Number of Days	Field Hours Utilized
TWHS Varsity Soccer Tournament	7-Jan	3	240
TWHS JV Soccer Tournament	14-Jan	3	210
HDDYSC - MLK Tournament	15-Jan	4	103
HDDYSC - Premier Cup	22-Jan	3	219
HDDYSC - Premier Cup	29-Jan	3	369
Mudslinger	6-Feb	2	111
JH Girls Play Day	13-Feb	1	60
Come & Take It	13-Feb	1	67.5
Girls Rugby Tournament	20-Feb	1	4
Endzone 7-on-7 Tournament	13-Mar	2	88
HDDYSC - Turf Cup	3-Apr	1	220.5
JH Girls Lax - End of Season Tournament	1-May	2	64
LAX to the MAX	14-May	2	96
HDDYSC - South Texas Spring Showdown	22-May	2	157.5
HDDYSC - Memorial Day Cup	29-May	1	132
Ultimate Frisbee Tournament	26-Jun	2	76.5
Cherrybone	17-Jul	1	45
HDDYSC - Youth Cup	20-Aug	3	634
Friday Night Lights	27-Aug	2	90
Nike South	1-Oct	2	192
I-45 Shoot Out	30-Oct	1	21.5
NXX South	19-Nov	2	192
Woodlands FC - Woodlands World Cup	20-Nov	2	36
COPA	24-Nov	5	1970
HDDYSC - Winterblast	11-Dec	1	52.5
Best of Texas	11-Dec	2	126.5
Something Spicy	18-Dec	2	20
WUF Hat Tournament	19-Dec	1	22.5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>28 tournaments</b>	<b>57 Days</b>	<b>5,620 Hours</b>

It is expected that tournament usage will increase if the utilization capacity is increased through the conversion of grass fields to artificial turf fields as stated earlier in the chapter.

### IMPROVEMENTS

#### SPORT FIELDS

##### FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

- Conversion of 5 natural grass fields to artificial turf.

##### SUPPORTING AMENITIES IMPROVEMENTS

- Sport amenities to increase capacity of the system

### STRATEGY

#### Nature-based Tourism

Natural recreation includes water-related activities, nature preserve, and nature-based activities. Outdoor recreational activities are on the rise nationally, and are also popular locally. They contribute to a significant portion of revenue generated (\$834,000). Water-related activities have continued to grow. 2021 marked the highest yearly revenue and rentals figures for the boat houses in the 12-year history of the program, with an approximately 61% increase in gross revenues over 2020 and a cost recovery percentage of above 250%.

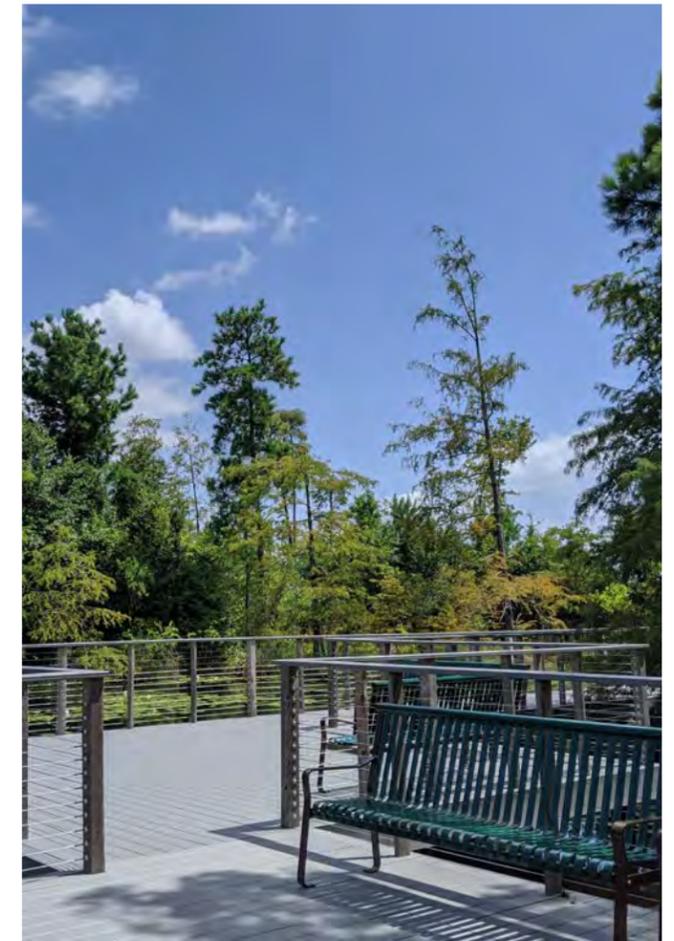
Recently, the department has added a new swan boat rental site as well as added 6 additional water bikes to the inventory. Other developments included the installation of the self-service kayak racks at Lake Paloma. You can see this at places such as Riva Row Boat House. This infrastructure promotes recreation, but also encourages economic stimulation.

Recreational trend analysis suggests that the activities to expand to meet most age segments are: Bicycling, Fishing, and Swimming for Fitness. All of which are deemed as low-impact activities, making them obtainable for any age segment to enjoy.

### RECOMMENDATION

#### GEORGE MITCHELL NATURE PRESERVE TRAIL MASTER PLAN

George Mitchell Nature Preserve is the most utilized natural facility within the system. With growing nature-based recreational trends such as trail-running and the popularity of major events such as Ironman, the Parks and Recreation Department should pursue the development of a trails master plan for George Mitchell Nature Preserve. The scope of this plan would be to assess the existing trail system, identify gaps, and determine recommendations for improvements and expansion of the system. The recommendations of this plan would achieve safe, sustainable trails throughout the preserve, provide connections to the larger Spring Creek Greenway and to continue to support quality nature-based experiences for park users.



### IMPROVEMENTS

#### NATURE-BASED TOURISM

##### OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Develop the trail master plan.



## COMMUNITY RESPONSIVE

**Enhance the diversity and experience of the parks system by drawing on community input, demographics, and national trends.**

The parks system caters to a diverse range of park users. Over the last decade, demographic shifts have resulted in the need for expanded park user profiles. Diversifying amenities, facilities, and programming to meet the needs of this community will require thoughtful redevelopment and improvements that respond to townwide user profiles along with local demographics.



### STRATEGY

#### Improve Community Spaces

Continue to renovate and provide new and diverse community-based amenities at parks. Future improvements should build off the existing diversity and quality of the existing system and address the park user profiles developed in the Community Input section.

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### PLAYGROUNDS

Playgrounds are an optimal place to reflect local, community character. When considering renovations, expansions, or new park development, it can help to understand the end goal to promote play in any community. Add four playgrounds to the system. There is a growing need to include playgrounds across townwide parks which would include the remaining townwide sports parks (Bear Branch Sports Park and Alden Bridge Sports Park) as well as Riva Row and future parks.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

##### MUTTS & GARDENS

Community amenities that have become popular in recent years include the dog parks and community gardens. Proposed addition of two (2) new community gardens. One at Tamarac Park in Grogan's Mill and Cattail Park in Cochran's Crossing. The system currently offers five (5) dog parks. These have been highly successful and have also resulted in park users renting the dog park for parties. Park users for the Up & Coming Families as well as Active Families user profiles were most likely to utilize the dog park. Proposed addition of two new dog parks.

### IMPROVEMENTS

#### COMMUNITY SPACES

##### PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

- Add four new playgrounds to the system.

##### MUTTS & GARDENS IMPROVEMENTS

- Incorporate two new dog parks and two new community gardens into the existing system.



### STRATEGY

#### Address the Golden Year User Profile

Today, seniors (55+) is a growing demographic in villages such as Grogan's Mill and Panther Creek. The typical park user embraces the natural and social aspects of the park system, and enjoys sharing them with visiting family. Over the next 15 years, the 55+ segment will represent 34% of the Township's population in 2036. The Department should expand programming options and improve amenities.

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### ENHANCE PROGRAMMING

Work with health partners such as local and regional hospitals, community health centers, public health agencies and health funders

- Work with health partners on programming and events with Senior focus.
- Refer to Chapter 2 for details on recreational trends for senior demographic

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### OFFER INTERGENERATIONAL AMENITIES

Provide additional amenities and facilities throughout parks and pathways to expand outdoor opportunities to the senior population. Incorporate strategies that offer choice for passive and active recreation.

1. Social gathering opportunities with areas that incorporate game opportunities such as corn hole, table games, etc. )
2. Movable furniture (chairs) for informal gatherings and provide choice.
3. Fitness stations along segments of trails
4. Dedicated outdoor fitness areas ("Outdoor Gyms")
5. Accessible nature trails
6. Improve signage and way finding
7. Benches and seating areas along trails

Intergenerational programming and recommendations are integrated into the three other community-responsive strategies of this section.



**STRATEGY**

**Respond to Nature-Based Recreation Needs**

With 30% of the community's area dedicated to green space, the community takes pride in the value of the natural features of the Woodlands. Over the years, the department has received feedback about the need for a nature center.

**RECOMMENDATION  
DEVELOP A NATURE CENTER**

As the department continues to add natural recreation amenities, it should consider the development of a nature center near George Mitchell nature preserve or Rob Fleming. Another potential location for a nature center is shown in the Concept Plan Section, located at an available plot of land south of Gosling Road in Creekside Village. (See page 109) Survey respondents expressed a desire for a nature center.

**IMPROVEMENTS**

**NATURE-BASED RECREATION**

- NATURE-BASED RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS**  
- Develop a nature-based center



**STRATEGY**

**Respond to Active Recreation Needs**

Park users are highly-active and enjoy recreational amenities ranging from courts to extreme sports. In working with staff, the future expansion of the recreational amenities include:

**RECOMMENDATION  
COURT IMPROVEMENTS**

Add capacity to the parks network with the addition of 9 tennis courts, 3 pickleball courts, and 2 basketball courts.

**RECOMMENDATION  
AQUATIC IMPROVEMENTS**

The aquatics facilities have more than doubled in size from seven (7) neighborhood swimming pools in 2001 to a system of 14 swimming pools and 5 spraygrounds. These facilities are highly used for both organized recreation as well as leisure. To respond to the community needs, the department will need to add one sprayground to the system.

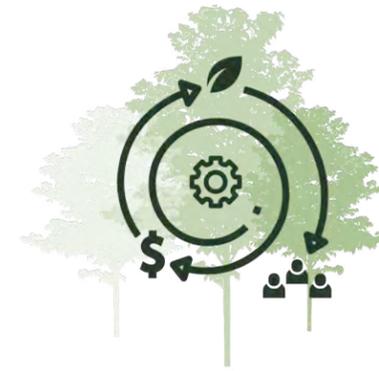
**RECOMMENDATION  
PATHWAYS**

Add capacity to the system to improve connectivity and accessibility within and between parks. This includes consideration of a proposed regional trail, 1.5 miles of nature trails, and 4.5 miles of pathways. Trail amenities could enhance this improvement with signage/wayfinding, benches/resting, work out stations

**IMPROVEMENTS**

**ACTIVE RECREATION**

- COURT IMPROVEMENTS**  
- 9 tennis courts, 3 pickleball courts, and 2 basketball courts.
- AQUATICS IMPROVEMENTS**  
- Add 1 sprayground
- PATHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS**  
- Expand connectivity and accessibility within and between parks.



**FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION NETWORK**

**Continue to create a robust system that is safe, comfortable, sustainable and accessible.**

The population is increasing and is projected to experience an 11% population growth over the next 15 years. This is in-line with the national average over the same time period. With a growing population, park and recreation services will need to strategically invest, develop, and maintain park and recreation facilities in relation to current and future residential growth. And, in this year's assessment, approximately 98% of respondents consider the park system very important to extremely important.

Maintaining this high-quality system will need to be balanced with the growing population and capacity needs. To leverage the system's resources, we have identified two strategies that are detailed in the following pages.

## Continue to create a robust, high-quality system.

Ensuring high quality system that is safe, comfortable, and accessible

Enhance routine maintenance, operation, and capacity of system-wide comfort amenities that includes seating, waste, lighting, restrooms, wayfinding, and parking. These elements serve as the foundational amenities of the system.

### RECOMMENDATION

#### ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM-WIDE AMENITIES

Continue programs that support park maintenance and safety throughout the system such as Park Rangers Patrol, Town Center Rangers, Annual Lake Woodlands Dam Inspection, playground safety inspection program, playground asset list, park restroom maintenance schedule, among others. Ensure the senior population has access to participate in these or new programs as another outdoor activity for this segment of the population.

### RECOMMENDATION

#### INSTALL NEW SUPPORT AMENITIES

Provide amenities that increase system's comfort

- **Review site amenities** at Amenity Parks to ensure basic amenities such as water fountains, bike racks, and benches are met.



Park Pavilion (Source: AR)

- Provide additional **benches** along primary pathways to expand resting areas for users. These should be placed strategically in areas around schools and areas with high foot traffic. Refer to the pathways and trails map in the park facilities classification section.
- Provide **additional shade structures or trees** to increase comfort.
- **Renovate/Add restroom.** Improvements can be classified into four groups:

**Restroom Improvement I** - Attached restroom facility  
These parks already have a restroom facility attached to a larger building. Improvements would typically involve minor MEP.

**Restroom Improvements II** - Standalone  
Improvements add capacity such as toilets or ventilation and require MEP, Structural, Architectural, etc. Generally, these parks include Village and area parks with the exception of two neighborhood parks.

**Restroom Improvements III**  
A series of Area Parks with recreational amenities lack restroom facilities. This tier is envisioned as a new facility to add capacity to the system.

**Restroom Improvements IV**  
This tier of improvement is reserved for other standalone facilities that require larger renovations.

Beyond these improvements, the Parks and Recreation department should consider the option of portable toilet facilities for special events and tournaments. These facilities should include temporary fencing around the facilities to provide additional screening.

### RECOMMENDATION

#### INCORPORATE AMENITIES THAT ENHANCE THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE SYSTEM WITHIN A 10-MINUTE WALK

To maintain accessibility of parks within a ten minute walking distance, ensure that sidewalks and pathways connecting to parks meet ADA accessibility standards and provide safe and comfortable pedestrian access. (See appendix for the 2022 10-minute walk Accessibility Map)

### RECOMMENDATION

#### INCORPORATE AMENITIES THAT ENHANCE THE CONNECTIVITY OF THE SYSTEM

Provide signage and wayfinding within Townwide parks, Village parks, and pathways to direct pedestrians and cyclists to nearby parks and destinations.

### RECOMMENDATION

#### ENHANCE THE SAFETY AND VISIBILITY OF THE SYSTEM

Provide elements that enhance safety of users throughout the system such as entry gates at parks that are isolated, safe pedestrian crossings to parks, lighting at highly used areas of parks and expanded lines of vision within hidden areas in parks.

## Create a Multi-Sustainable System

Strategies that preserve character and leverage value of the parks and pathways system.

Since its inception in 1974, the community has placed a premium on protecting and preserving the natural landscape. This commitment is evidenced by the fact that 30% of the community's area has been retained as forest preserves, parks, greenbelts, and lakes. Furthermore, the community attributes 17% of their home values to the provision of high-quality parks, recreation, and open spaces (2019-2020 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment). This perceived value has continued through the current assessment with the majority of this year's survey respondents indicating 11% - 20% of their home value or monthly rent contributing to the provision of high-quality parks, recreation, and open spaces.

### RECOMMENDATION

#### NATURAL QUALITY

Continue to preserve the Township's natural character and charm by developing stronger connections with nature.

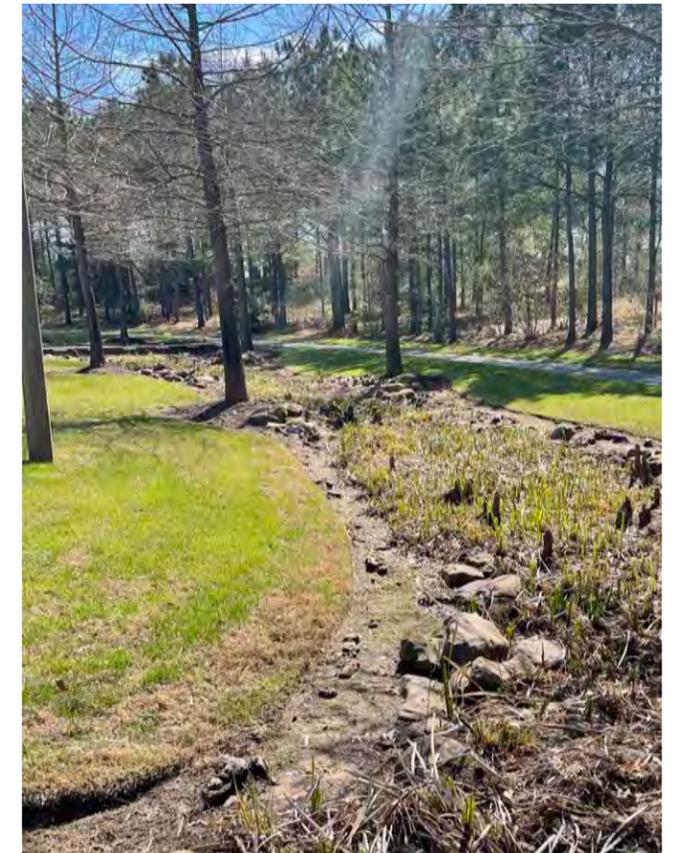
- **Wildlife**  
Leverage natural recreation activities to enhance wildlife including the annual fish stock and by providing bird watching programming.
- **Ecology**  
Build community stewardship and provide learning opportunities within existing parks. Create environmental signage educating the community about the site ecology, riparian habitat, and stewardship of these environments.
- **Green Infrastructure**  
Incorporate stormwater infrastructure such as vegetated swales, bioswales in parking perimeter and interior planting islands.  
  
Incorporate vegetated detention/retention basins as needed with new development.  
  
Incorporate rainwater capture strategies to reduce irrigation needs in parks. This can be focused on community gardens and smaller areas.

### RECOMMENDATION

#### FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

**Revenue Management Philosophy**  
The Woodlands' Park and Recreation Department has multiple revenue sources that include tax percentages to residents and facilities that provide revenue for maintenance and replacement in order to maintain the integrity of the system and meet resident's needs. The department should continue with this philosophy and expand opportunities for revenue by implementing strategies mentioned in this assessment and previous studies.

In order to reduce costs, it is encouraged that lighting, pool equipment and other utility related systems are replaced with more sustainable and cost-efficient technology such as



Rob Fleming Park (Source: AR)

LED Lighting. In addition, the department should consider reducing maintenance costs for mowing and irrigation where feasible and accepted by the community.

### RECOMMENDATION

#### LEVERAGE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Department should continue to develop strategic partnerships with other organizations to support existing and future needs. Key opportunities include:

- **Local Schools**  
Pursue partnerships with local schools (ISDs, colleges) to establish joint-use partnerships to increase the capacity of the field system. Potential partnerships could include Conroe ISD and Tomball ISD. Agreements should consider needed improvements (front-end) such as field improvements and sports amenities as needed. See Sports Tourism Strategy for improvements.
- **San Jacinto River Authority**  
Partnership with **San Jacinto River Authority** on identifying strategic opportunities to expand recreational access.
- **TxDOT**  
There is an opportunity to partner with TxDOT for the creation of pedestrian/bicycle trail improvements that coincide with the expansion of Hwy Texas 242.
- **Arts and Cultural Partners**  
Continue implementation of Art Benches and art bike parking (racks).

## MEETING RECOMMENDED SERVICE LEVELS IN 2022

The following table shows the level of service currently being achieved by the Woodlands against the recommended service level standards (see page 74 for details on LOS assumptions and standards). Overall, a high percentage of needs for parks and amenities are currently met by the existing parks and

amenities. Based on the numeric analysis alone, opportunities to meet the recommended service level standards exist for Townwide Parks (20 acres) and amenities such as dog parks and pickleball courts.

PARK TYPE	2022 PARK INVENTORY	RECOMMENDED DEVELOPED PARK SERVICE LEVELS		2022 STANDARDS	
	The Woodlands Inventory	Recommended Developed Park Service Levels	Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Developed Parks/Facilities/ Amenities Needed	
Amenity Parks	43	0.25 acres per 1,000	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)	
Neighborhood Parks	59	0.40 acres per 1,000	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)	
Area Parks	15	0.10 acres per 1,000	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)	
Village Parks	13	0.10 acres per 1,000	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)	
Townwide Parks	10	0.25 acres per 1,000	Need Exists	20 Acre(s)	
<b>Total Developed Park Acreage</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>1.10 acres per 1,000</b>	<b>Meets Standard</b>	<b>20 Acre(s)</b>	

OUTDOOR AMENITY	2022 PARK INVENTORY	RECOMMENDED DEVELOPED PARK SERVICE LEVELS		2022 STANDARDS	
	The Woodlands	Recommended Developed Park Service Levels	Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Developed Parks/Facilities/ Amenities Needed	
Archery Range (Fixed)	1.0	1.00 range per 150,000	Meets Standard	- Range(s)	
Baseball / Softball Diamond (Lighted)	8.0	1.00 field per 17,500	Meets Standard	- Field(s)	
Basketball Court	27.5	1.00 court per 4,500	Meets Standard	- Court(s)	
Dog Park (off-leash dog area)	5.0	1.00 site per 20,000	Need Exists	1 Site(s)	
Disc Golf Course	1.5	1.00 course per 75,000	Meets Standard	- Course(s)	
Environmental Education Center	1.0	1.00 facility per 125,000	Need Exists	1 Facility(ies)	
Multi-purpose Field (Lighted)	33.0	1.00 field per 4,750	Meets Standard	- Field(s)	
Pickleball Court (Stand Alone) <sup>o</sup>	12.0	1.00 court per 12,000	Need Exists	2 Court(s)	
Playgrounds	92.0	1.00 site per 2,000	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	
Reservable Pavilions	46.0	1.00 site per 2,750	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	
Pavilions/Gazebo	91.0	1.00 site per 2,000	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	
Skatepark/BMX Park	8.0	1.00 site per 20,000	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	
Splash Pad	6.0	1.00 site per 24,000	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	
Swimming Pool - Neighborhood	14.0	1.00 site per 10,000	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	
Tennis Courts	84.0	1.00 court per 1,500	Meets Standard	- Court(s)	
Volleyball Courts - Outdoors	9.0	1.00 court per 15,000	Meets Standard	- Court(s)	

<sup>o</sup> Denotes that Inventory includes 8 future courts

## MEETING RECOMMENDED SERVICE LEVELS IN 2037

The population of The Woodlands will increase by approximately 13,000 by 2037 and with it, there will be a correlating increase in need for park and recreation facilities. The following table shows the magnitude of additional

park acreage, amenities, and facilities that will be needed in 2037 based on the projected population growth and the recommended service level standard.

PARK TYPE	2022 PARK INVENTORY	RECOMMENDED DEVELOPED PARK SERVICE LEVELS		2037 STANDARDS	
	The Woodlands Inventory	Recommended Developed Park Service Levels	Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Developed Parks/Facilities/ Amenities Needed	
Amenity Parks	43	0.25 acres per 1,000	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)	
Neighborhood Parks	59	0.40 acres per 1,000	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)	
Area Parks	15	0.10 acres per 1,000	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)	
Village Parks	13	0.10 acres per 1,000	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)	
Townwide Parks	10	0.25 acres per 1,000	Need Exists	23 Acre(s)	
<b>Total Developed Park Acreage</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>1.10 acres per 1,000</b>	<b>Meets Standard</b>	<b>23 Acre(s)</b>	

OUTDOOR AMENITY	2022 PARK INVENTORY	RECOMMENDED DEVELOPED PARK SERVICE LEVELS		2037 STANDARDS	
	The Woodlands	Recommended Developed Park Service Levels	Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Developed Parks/Facilities/ Amenities Needed	
Archery Range (Fixed)	1.0	1.00 range per 150,000	Meets Standard	- Range(s)	
Baseball / Softball Diamond (Lighted)	8.0	1.00 field per 17,500	Meets Standard	- Field(s)	
Basketball Court	27.5	1.00 court per 4,500	Need Exists	2 Court(s)	
Dog Park (off-leash dog area)	5.0	1.00 site per 20,000	Need Exists	2 Site(s)	
Disc Golf Course	1.5	1.00 course per 75,000	Meets Standard	- Course(s)	
Environmental Education Center	-	1.00 facility per 125,000	Need Exists	1 Facility(ies)	
Multi-purpose Field (Lighted)	26.0	1.00 field per 4,750	Need Exists	2 Field(s)	
Pickleball Court (Stand Alone) <sup>o</sup>	8.0	1.00 court per 12,000	Need Exists	3 Court(s)	
Playgrounds	90.0	1.00 site per 2,000	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	
Reservable Pavilions	44.0	1.00 site per 2,750	Need Exists	4 Site(s)	
Pavilions/Gazebo	73.0	1.00 site per 2,000	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	
Skatepark/BMX Park	8.0	1.00 site per 20,000	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	
Splash Pad	5.0	1.00 site per 24,000	Need Exists	1 Site(s)	
Swimming Pool - Neighborhood	14.0	1.00 site per 10,000	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	
Tennis Courts	80.0	1.00 court per 1,500	Need Exists	9 Court(s)	
Volleyball Courts - Outdoors	9.0	1.00 court per 15,000	Meets Standard	- Court(s)	

<sup>o</sup> Denotes that Inventory includes 8 future courts

# PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS

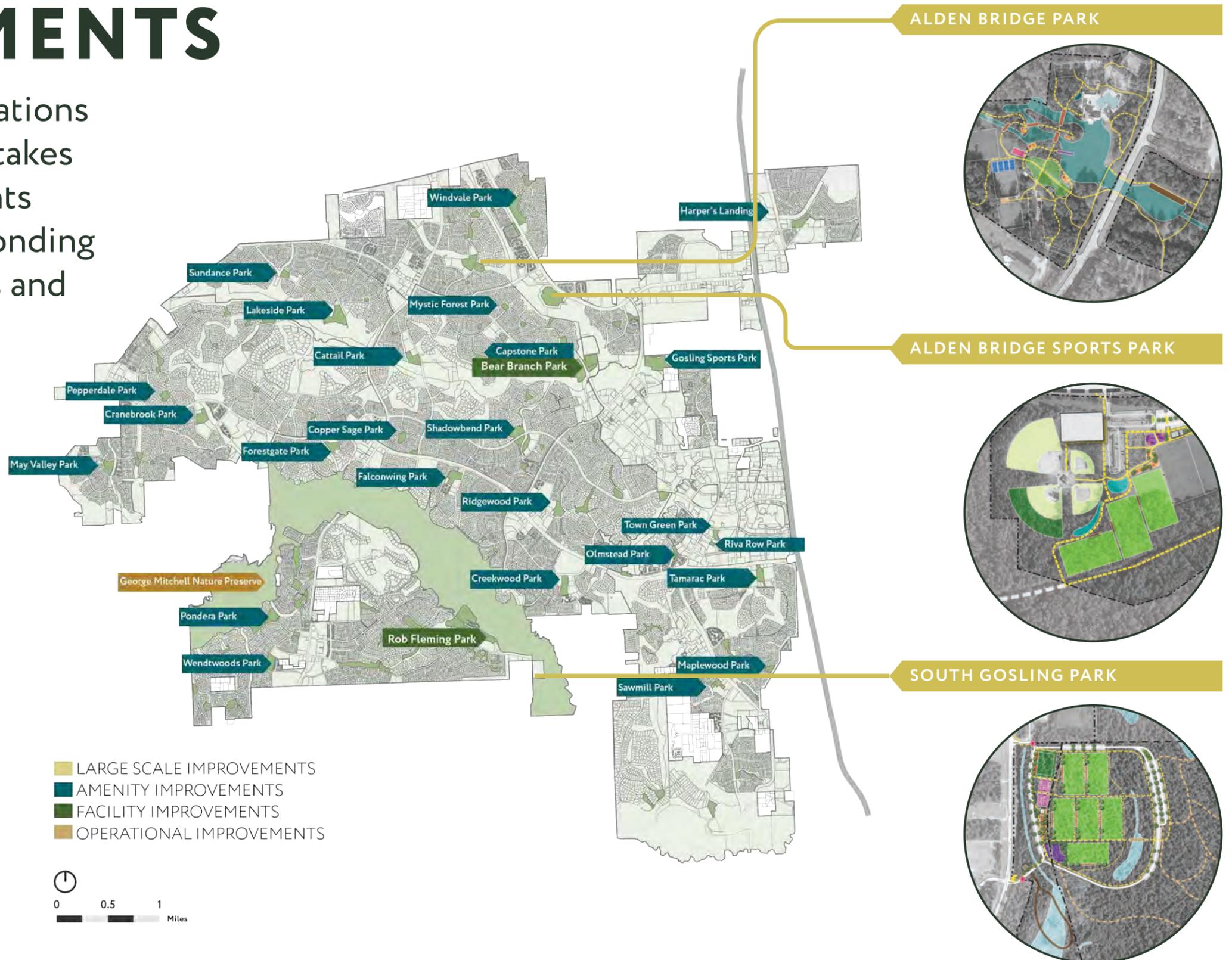
Putting these recommendations into practice, this section takes the proposed improvements and identifies the corresponding parks to improve the parks and recreation system.

## IMPROVEMENTS OVERVIEW

In order to meet the future level of service, the parks and recreation system should address improvements at three scales: Large-scale improvements as well as amenity-specific and facility-specific improvements at existing park facilities. The following pages detail the proposed large-scale improvements which includes conceptual designs for Alden Bridge Village Park, Alden Bridge Sports Park, and South Gosling tract. Amenity improvements include improvements for recreational, community-responsive, and comfort based amenities such as restrooms, playgrounds, and fields. Facility improvements include the Rob Fleming Recreation Center and the Bear Branch Park Recreation Center. (See appendix for more details). This map illustrates the large-scale improvements (gold) amenity improvements (blue), facility improvements (green), and operational improvements (orange).

## LARGE-SCALE IMPROVEMENTS

The following pages of this section includes details on each improvement type. For large-scale improvements, each conceptual design includes a summary of the existing conditions, illustratives of the proposed concepts, and an outline of the opinion of probable cost organized by phases.



# LARGE-SCALE IMPROVEMENTS



## ALDEN BRIDGE SPORTS PARK

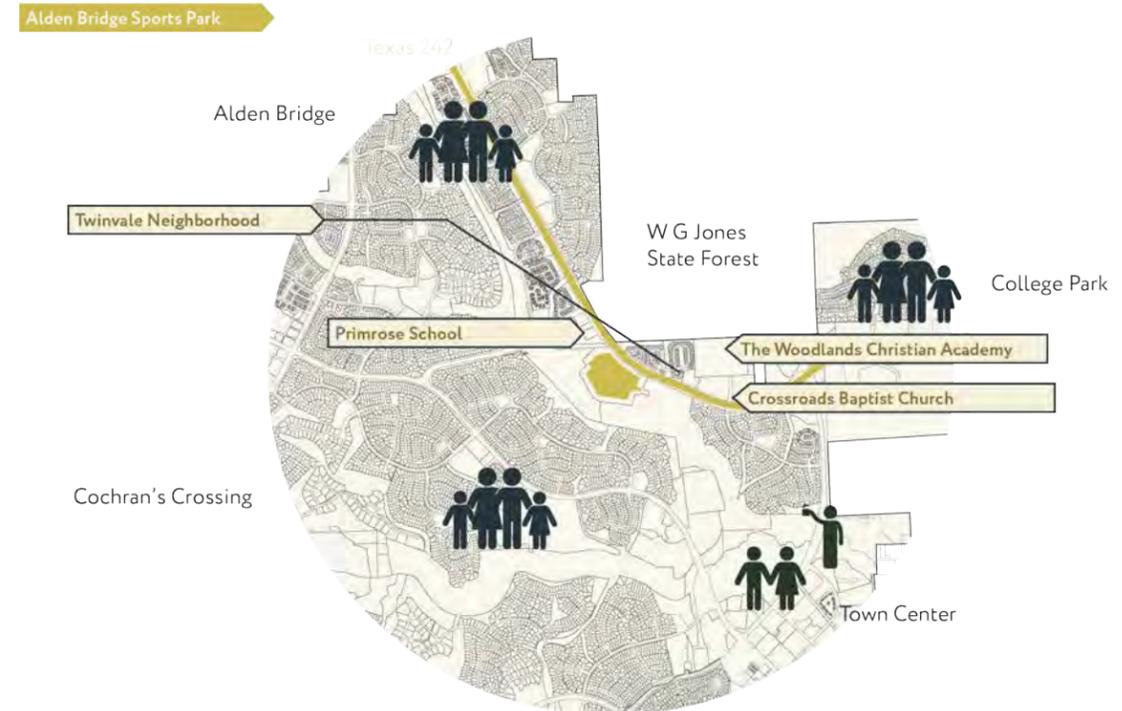
Built in 1999, Alden Bridge Sports Park (ABSP) includes 5 multi-purpose fields and 4 ball fields that are anchored by a signature community garden.

As the region continues to experience population growth and rapid development, Alden Bridge Sports Park will need increased capacity and field utilization to accommodate demand. Proposed improvements aim to enhance this high-quality sports park facility with field improvements, new amenities such as the lacrosse practice wall, 1.5 miles of new pathways, play area, multi-use building, and expanded restrooms and parking.

### GOALS

ABSP improvements address the following goals and strategies:

<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>RECREATIONAL TOURISM</b></p> <p>Sport Fields</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>COMMUNITY RESPONSIVE</b></p> <p>Community Spaces Active Recreation</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>FUTURE NETWORK</b></p> <p>Support Amenities Accessibility and Connectivity</p>
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### CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

ABSP is classified as a Townwide Sports park located at the northern Township border in Alden Bridge Village. The park is situated along Hwy 242, just southwest of the Twinvale neighborhood and WG Jones State Forest. The proposed ABSP concept plan uses the findings of the system-wide assessment and analysis in order to identify key improvements.

### COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The park serves a variety of users: organized sports, community-oriented users. Located within Alden Bridge Village, the park serves the Active Family user profile. These park users are more likely to participate in organized sports. The park hosts several organized sports including lacrosse, field hockey, softball, rugby, and soccer.

This map highlights surrounding context including the Twinvale neighborhood as well as nearby schools and churches. Just like these facilities, ABSP represents a community anchor that provides outdoor community spaces. ABSP's community garden is a prime example. The community garden is a designated Veggie Village, a community donation garden through a partnership between the Township and Interfaith Ministries of The Woodlands.

### FUTURE NETWORK

There is a growing need for expanded parking and improved accessibility at ABSP. Survey respondents have expressed concerns about overflow parking and safety concerns along 242. The future widening of 242 by TxDOT includes a 10-foot-wide shared use path. This presents a unique opportunity to improve the park's local accessibility and regional connectivity through new vehicular driveways as well as multi-modal pathways.



# ALDEN BRIDGE SPORTS PARK

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

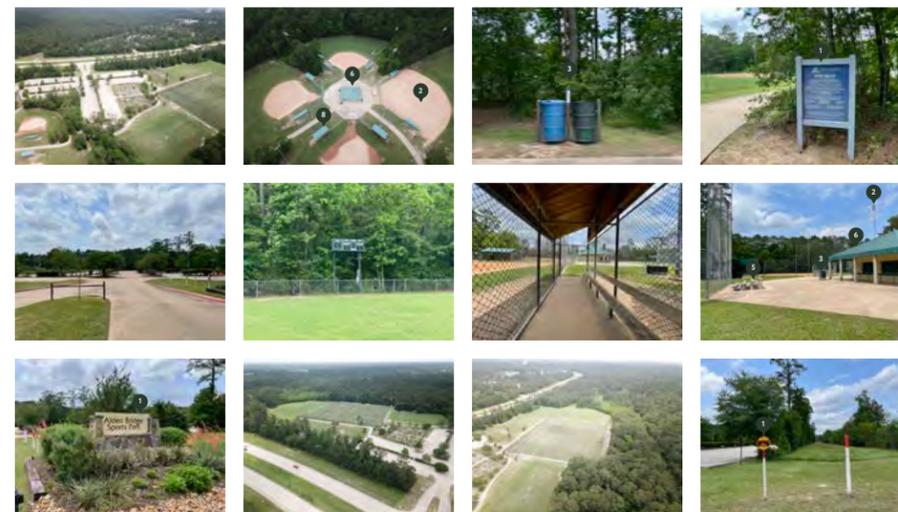
- This townwide sports park is primarily used for diamond field and multi-purpose field activities.
- The park landscape is defined by forested and wetland areas.
- The only way to access the park is by vehicle and better connections are needed.
- A well-maintained, active community garden sits at the center of the site.
- There is a parking deficiency.



- 1 PARKING LOTS
- 2 EXISTING BASEBALL FIELDS
- 3 RESTROOM FACILITIES
- 4 COMMUNITY GARDEN
- 5 MULTI-PURPOSE FIELDS
- 6 EXISTING SPORTS FIELDS

## SYSTEM-WIDE AMENITIES

- 1 SIGNAGE
- 2 LIGHTING
- 3 WASTE RECEPTACLES
- 4 PAVILIONS
- 5 PICNIC TABLES / BENCHES
- 6 BATHROOMS
- 7 BIKE RACK
- 8 SHADE STRUCTURE
- 9 PERGOLA
- 10 WATER FOUNTAIN



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- The park is buffered from College Park Drive with a row of mature deciduous trees.
- An oil pipeline easement running North to South across the site, along with an power line easement run East to West on the northern boundary of the park.
- Wetlands are located to the east of the site and south of the existing fields.
- Creek
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Drainage



## WHAT WE HEARD

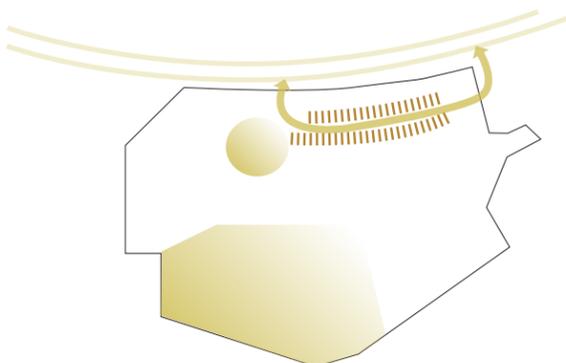
- “We need bathrooms at ABSP by the soccer/lacrosse fields. Its a very long trip to the bathroom and not safe for a small kid to go alone.”
- “A lot of other parks in the Houston area have an athletic “wall” for soccer and lacrosse athletes to utilize to sharpen individual skills.”
- “We would like to see LED lighting for the softball fields at ABSP”
- ABSP fields need work. Field conditions could cause injury



## REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Create a trail system connecting Alden Bridge Village Park, Alden Bridge Sports Park, Bear Branch Park and Gosling Sports Fields to expand access options through pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.

- 1 ALDEN BRIDGE VILLAGE PARK
- 2 ALDEN BRIDGE SPORTS PARK
- 3 BEAR BRANCH PARK
- 4 GOSLING SPORTS FIELDS



## OPPORTUNITIES

This diagram highlights the key design opportunities identified for the conceptual design.

- ↔ IMPROVE SITE ACCESS
- ▨ IMPROVE PARKING
- EXPAND RECREATIONAL AMENITIES
- SITE BOUNDARY
- SH242

# ALDEN BRIDGE SPORTS PARK CONCEPT DESIGN - OPTION 1

## DESCRIPTION

The park has an area of approximately 45 acres of which 20 acres are being used for existing programming. Currently the park is served by 310 parking spaces.

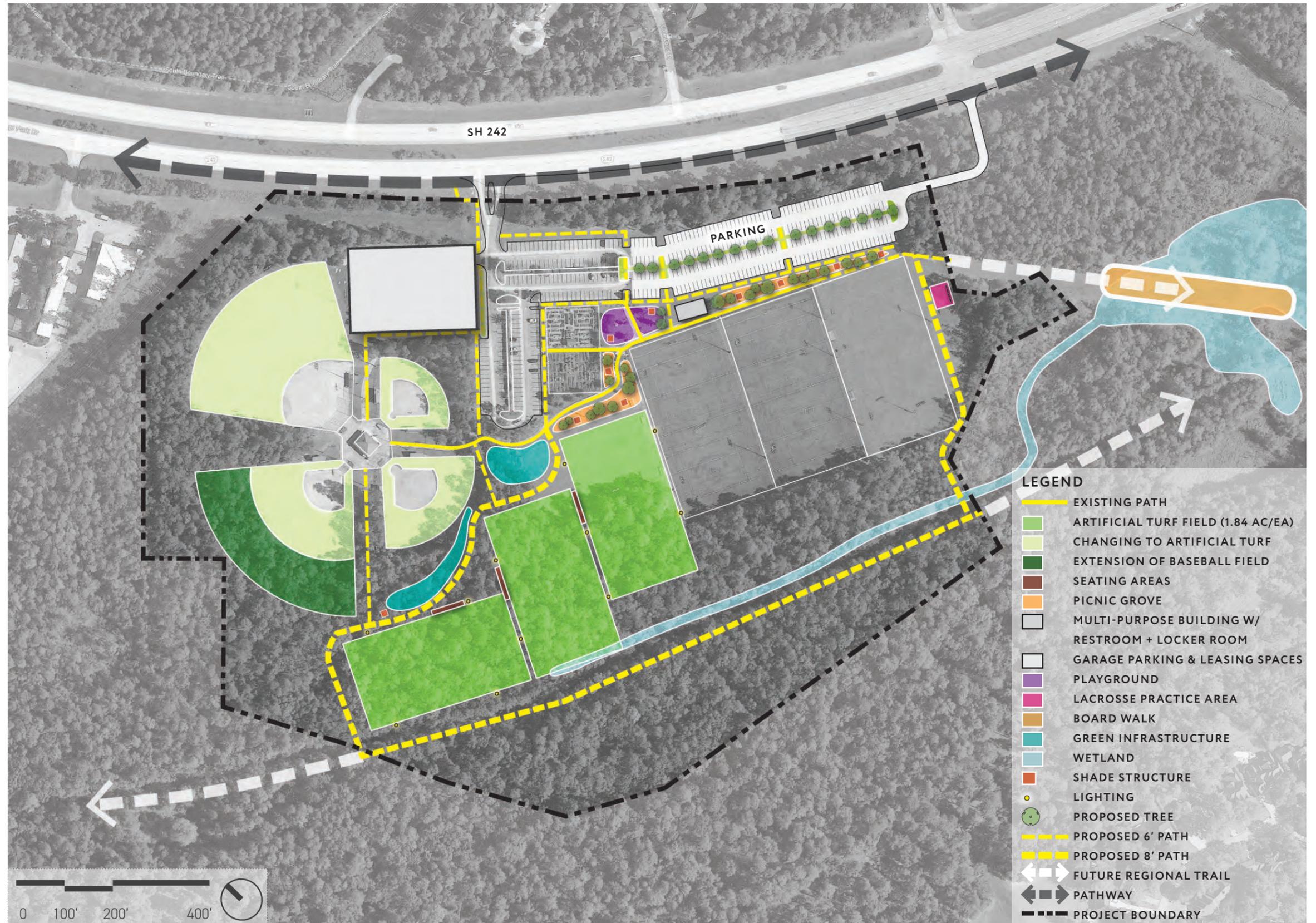
There are 25 acres that can support additional programming. The main recommendations for this park are described below.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Three all-weather rectangular fields to the West of the existing fields
- Expand the size of the baseball field to the southwest
- Upgrade turf on baseball fields to artificial turf
- System of trails and sidewalks is recommended to further connect other areas of the park along with new gathering picnic zones
- Add playground adjacent to existing community garden to enhance diversity of uses
- Provide multi-use building with restrooms and open air pavilion north of fields
- Provide area for proposed lacrosse practice wall
- Provide supporting amenities such as benches, bike racks, signage, and trash receptacles along expanded system of trails
- To accommodate parking, there are two main recommendations. The first is to expand the surface parking area to the East while providing a second entrance that can be shared with future development and connect to Valewood Pl. This connection would enhance access to the community North of SH 242 and alleviate traffic congestion. The second expands on the recommendations from the Parking Feasibility Study by creating a 5-story mix use building with a capacity of 466 parking spaces on the first 3 stories and leasing office space on the top two stories. The total combined parking capacity would be 880 spaces

## CONSTRAINTS

- Wetland mitigation may be required to the south of proposed fields and other areas in the site
- An access easement is needed to share entrances to the East property
- Stormwater detention may be needed for new facilities. Consider the use of green infrastructure strategies to mitigate water quality challenges



# ALDEN BRIDGE SPORTS PARK CONCEPT DESIGN - OPTION 2

## DESCRIPTION

The park has an area of approximately 45 acres of which 20 acres are being used for existing programming. Currently the park is served by 310 parking spaces.

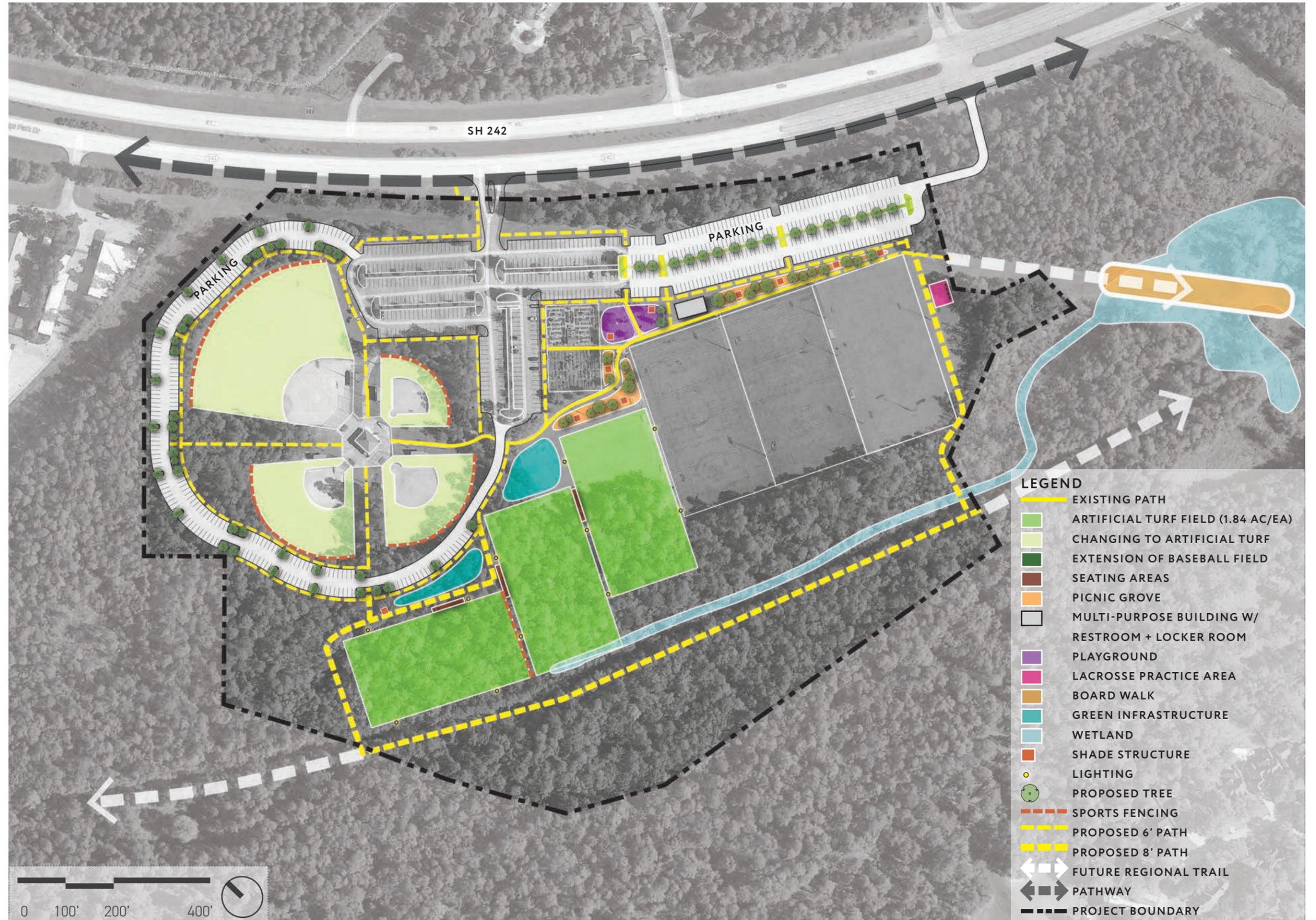
There are 25 acres that can support additional programming. The main recommendations for this park are described below.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Three all-weather rectangular fields to the West of the existing fields
- Expand the size of the baseball field to the southwest
- Upgrade turf on baseball fields to artificial turf
- System of trails and sidewalks is recommended to further connect other areas of the park along with new gathering picnic zones
- Add playground adjacent to existing community garden to enhance diversity of uses
- Provide multi-use building with restrooms and locker rooms north of fields
- Provide area for proposed lacrosse practice wall
- Provide supporting amenities such as benches, bike racks, signage, and trash receptacles along expanded system of trails
- To accommodate parking, there are two main recommendations. The first is to expand the surface parking area to the East while providing a second entrance that can be shared with future development and connect to Valewood Pl. This connection would enhance access to the community North of SH 242 and alleviate traffic congestion. The second expands surface parking to the west around the baseball fields. These additions provide 479 parking spaces with a total of 789.
- Provide baseball netting around ball fields to protect cars

## CONSTRAINTS

- Wetland mitigation may be required to the south of proposed fields and other areas in the site
- An access easement is needed to share entrances to the East property
- Stormwater detention may be needed for new facilities. Consider the use of green infrastructure strategies to mitigate water quality challenges



# CONCEPT DESIGN - CHARACTER IMAGES



IMAGE REFERENCE PLAN



1 Parking Extension w/ LID Strategies



2 multi-purpose building w/ restroom + locker room



3 Playground (Similar to the one at Gosling Sports Field)



4 Picnic Grove



5 Artificial Turf Field



6 Swale / Green Infrastructure



7 Trails



8 Lacrosse Practice Area

## NOTE

The images shown illustrate design intent and are for reference only. Proper design/engineering process needs to be performed to identify character and address current conditions on the site.

# OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST

## ALDEN BRIDGE SPORTS PARK - OPTION 1

PHASE	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT DESCRIPTION	LOW COST	HIGH COST
1	Add additional parking area along SH 242 (within site boundary). Design parking area to incorporate permeability and green infrastructure practices while handling flooding events.	\$837,200	\$874,500
1	Add additional park features by the "picnic grove"	\$75,200	\$251,200
1	Add additional park amenities for comfort around sports fields, picnic areas, and walking trails	\$45,170	\$310,200
1	Propose three additional turf fields (Low Cost: Natural Turf; High Cost: Artificial Turf)	\$1,046,650	\$4,574,650
1	New Multipurpose Field LED Lighting	\$812,403	\$812,403
1	Existing Multipurpose Field Lighting Upgrades to LED	\$590,848	\$720,110
1	New Lacrosse Practice Walls (as funded by others)	\$50,000	\$50,000
1	Adding Fencing between sports fields and parking, and between N/S Sports fields and E/W Sports fields	\$43,200	\$72,000
1	Propose/Construct new restroom with locker room	\$300,000	\$700,000
1	Add accessible paths to picnic areas, new parking lot, and connection between parking lot and community garden	\$129,330	\$172,440
1+2	Add pedestrian/bicycle looped path and connection to future pathway system	\$240,840	\$301,050
1+2	Park Amenities (Benches, Bike Racks, signage, Entry Signs)	\$45,200	\$103,200
2	Expand existing baseball diamond	\$159,100	\$436,000
2	Converting sod to artificial turf on existing baseball/softball fields	\$2,109,600	\$2,109,600
2	Existing Baseball Field Lighting Upgrade to LED	\$541,357	\$692,105
3	Propose playground	\$712,800	\$712,800
3	Add pedestrian/bicycle path and connection to the park from Northway Dr and HWY 242	\$213,120	\$266,400
3	Provide Pathway connecting park to Greendbridge Drive and Academy Way along College Park Dr. Pathway to run along the southern edge of College Park Dr.	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
4	New Building with rental space	\$6,000,000	\$9,720,000
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>\$14,952,017</b>	<b>\$23,878,658</b>
<b>Estimated Professional Fees - 12.5%</b>		<b>\$1,869,002</b>	<b>\$2,984,832</b>
<b>Contingency - 30%</b>		<b>\$4,485,605</b>	<b>\$7,163,597</b>
<b>Escalation (4%)</b>		<b>\$598,081</b>	<b>\$955,146</b>
<b>Project Total</b>		<b>\$21,904,705</b>	<b>\$34,982,233</b>

Alden Bridge  
Sports Park -  
Option 1  
Base OPCC

### NOTE

Opinion of Cost does not include utility connections or other associated soft costs.

# OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST

## ALDEN BRIDGE SPORTS PARK - OPTION 2

PHASE	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT DESCRIPTION	LOW COST	HIGH COST
1	Add additional parking area along SH 242 and diamond fields (within site boundary). Design parking area to incorporate permeability and green infrastructure practices while handling flooding events.	\$1,790,700	\$1,835,800
1	Add additional park features by the "picnic grove" (Picnic Tables, Gazebos)	\$75,200	\$251,200
1	Add additional park amenities for comfort around sports fields, picnic areas, and walking trails	\$45,170	\$310,200
1	Propose three additional turf fields (Low Cost: Natural Turf; High Cost: Artificial Turf)	\$1,046,650	\$4,574,650
1	New Multipurpose Field LED Lighting	\$812,403	\$812,403
1	Existing Multipurpose Field Lighting Upgrades to LED	\$590,848	\$720,110
1	New Lacrosse Practice Walls (as funded by others)	\$50,000	\$50,000
1	Adding Fencing between sports fields and parking, and between N/S Sports fields and E/W Sports fields	\$43,200	\$72,000
1	Propose/Construct new restroom with locker room	\$300,000	\$700,000
1	Add accessible paths to picnic areas, new parking lot, and connection between parking lot and community garden	\$312,390	\$416,520
1+2	Add pedestrian/bicycle looped path and connection to future pathway system	\$193,320	\$241,650
1+2	Park Amenities (Benches, Bike Racks, signage, Entry Signs)	\$45,200	\$103,200
2	Converting sod to artificial turf on existing baseball/softball fields	\$2,109,600	\$2,109,600
2	Existing Baseball Field Lighting Upgrade to LED	\$541,357	\$692,105
2	Adding 8' perimeter fencing between baseball fields and parking, and between artificial turf fields	\$45,000	\$45,000
3	Propose playground	\$712,800	\$712,800
3	Add pedestrian/bicycle path and connection to the park from Northway Dr and HWY 242	\$213,120	\$266,400
3	Provide Pathway connecting park to Greenridge Drive and Academy Way along College Park Dr. Pathway to run along the southern edge of College Park Dr.	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>\$9,926,957</b>	<b>\$14,913,638</b>
<b>Estimated Professional Fees - 12.5%</b>		<b>\$1,240,870</b>	<b>\$1,864,205</b>
<b>Contingency - 30%</b>		<b>\$2,978,087</b>	<b>\$4,474,091</b>
<b>Escalation (4%)</b>		<b>\$397,078</b>	<b>\$596,546</b>
<b>Project Total</b>		<b>\$14,542,993</b>	<b>\$21,848,479</b>

### NOTE

Opinion of Cost does not include utility connections or other associated soft costs.

# LARGE-SCALE IMPROVEMENTS



## SOUTH GOSLING FUTURE PARK

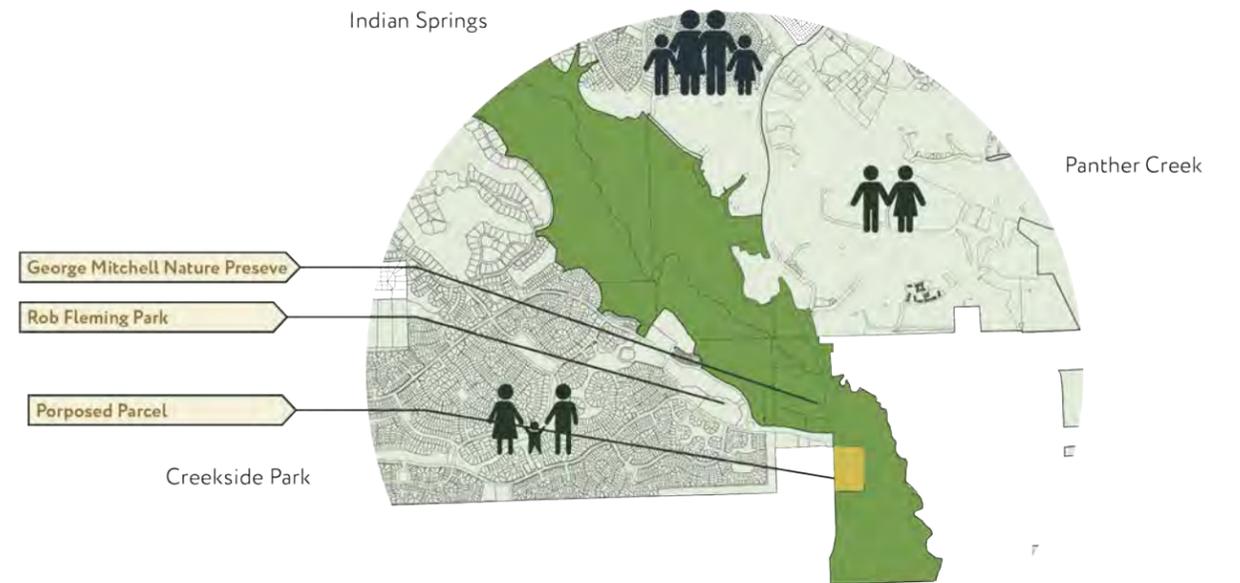
While undeveloped land today, the South Gosling concept plan represents the park of the future.

The two-phased plan addresses the need for additional townwide park acreage and provides a blend of passive and active recreational amenities that balances sports and recreational tourism with community needs and values. Proposed improvements include multi-purpose fields, tennis courts, playground, nature center, ~2 miles of new nature trails, and support amenities such as parking, pathways, restrooms, pavilions, benches, bike racks, etc.

### GOALS

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>
<p><b>RECREATIONAL TOURISM</b></p> <p>Sport Fields</p>	<p><b>COMMUNITY RESPONSIVE</b></p> <p>Community Spaces Nature Based Recreation Active Recreation</p>	<p><b>FUTURE NETWORK</b></p> <p>Support Amenities Accessibility and Connectivity</p>

South Gosling



### CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

South Gosling is envisioned as the future Townwide park. The site is situated near the eastern corner of Creekside Park Village adjacent to George Mitchell Nature Preserve and Spring Creek to the east and Gosling Road to the West.

### COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The park serves a variety of users: organized sports, natural recreation users. Located near Creekside Park Village, the parcel border Spring Creek and George Mitchell Nature Preserve. With the potential to become a townwide attraction, the improvements will need to address several villages. To respond to the park users of nearby villages such as Creekside Park, Indian Springs, and Panther Creek, the proposed improvements consider the Up and Coming Families, Active Families as well as Golden Age user profiles to guide the selection of nature-based recreation, community space, and active recreation amenities.

This map highlights surrounding context including nearby parks (Rob Fleming Park, George Mitchell Preserve), nearby schools (French Elementary) and churches (WoodsEdge Community Church).

### FUTURE NETWORK

The park will serve as the anchor for nature-based recreation activities with connections to Rob Fleming Park as well as George Mitchell Nature Preserve.

**“I would love to see a nature center built where we can see programs about wildlife, native plants and outdoor activities such as fishing, birding, camping, rock climbing, etc.”**

# SOUTH GOSLING

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department has access to a 24 acre tract of land along Gosling Road in Creekside Village. This tract of land is part of a larger property that in total covers approximately 132 acres bounded by Gosling Rd. to the West and Spring Creek to the East.

The available tract of land has different environmental challenges that limit the potential uses.

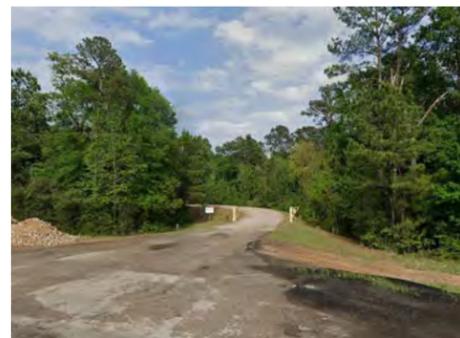
- The current available site has multiple areas that hold water or are designated as wetlands. One is a swale that runs north-south along Gosling (number 2 on image) and the other one is to the south of the property (number 3 on image)
- The higher elevations are to the north-east. (Number 4)
- There is currently no access to the property, but there is opportunity to create shared access in two locations, one is to align with N. Woodsedge Dr. at the center of the property and the other one is to share access with the existing water treatment station to the north. (Number 1)

There are also several opportunities that could be developed as a Phase I:

- Regrade swale area to the north east to accommodate parking and additional program in the park.
- Provide park connection to WoodsEdge Community Church and community.
- A larger opportunity exists to acquire additional land to the East, providing additional space for a larger park that can serve as a Sport Tourism attraction to the Woodlands. See following page for proposed plan and phases.



Project Site



Potential North Site Access



Forested Edge of Property



Gosling Rd Looking South



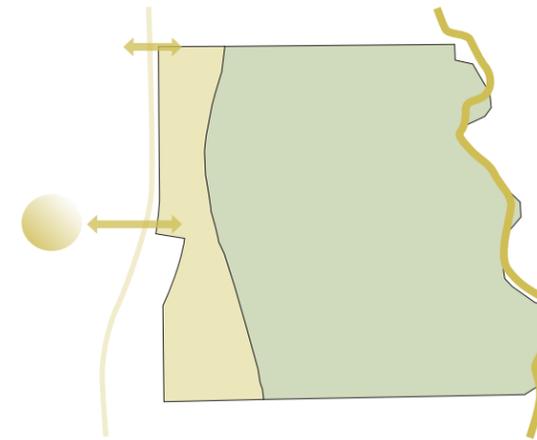
Wetland Area in Property

- 1 POTENTIAL ENTRY
- 2 EXISTING SWALE
- 3 EXISTING WETLAND
- 4 HIGHER ELEVATION
- 5 FLAT AREA OF HIGHER ELEVATION
- 6 SPRING CREEK
- 7 FLOODWAY



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

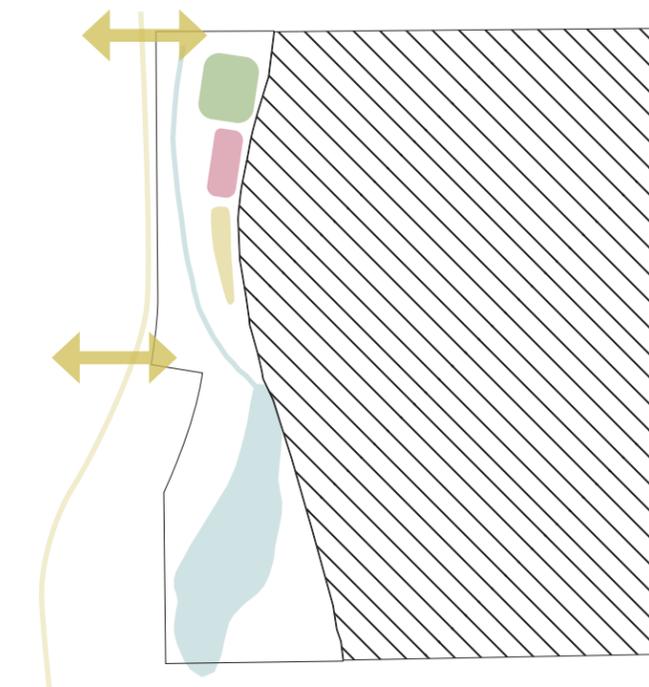
- The park is buffered from Gosling Road with a row of mature deciduous trees.
- Wetlands are located to the south of the site.
- Creek / Water Body
- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Floodway



## OPPORTUNITIES

This diagram highlights the key design opportunities identified for the conceptual design.

- Phase 1 - existing property
- Phase 2 -potential land acquisition
- Site access
- Woodsedge community church
- Spring Creek trail connection
- Site Boundary
- Gosling Rd



## OPPORTUNITIES ON CURRENT SITE

This diagram highlights the key design opportunities identified for the conceptual design.

- Existing Swale/Wetland
- Field
- Tennis Courts Or Pickleball Courts
- Picnic Area
- Site Access
- Gosling Rd
- Site Boundary
- Potential Expansion

# SOUTH GOSLING CONCEPT DESIGN

## DESCRIPTION

The design recommendations for this park are divided in two phases. Phase 1 considers the currently available land while Phase 2 studies the potential for a larger recreational facility that can expand the Township's Sport and Recreational Tourism capacity.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Phase 1:

With the existing site constraints the design considers the following:

- Modify the swale to the west to accommodate a vehicular drive and parking
- Multipurpose field
- Tennis courts or pickleball courts.
- Restroom building with locker rooms
- Picnic area with supporting shade structures
- Nature Education Center with boardwalks
- 151 parking spaces

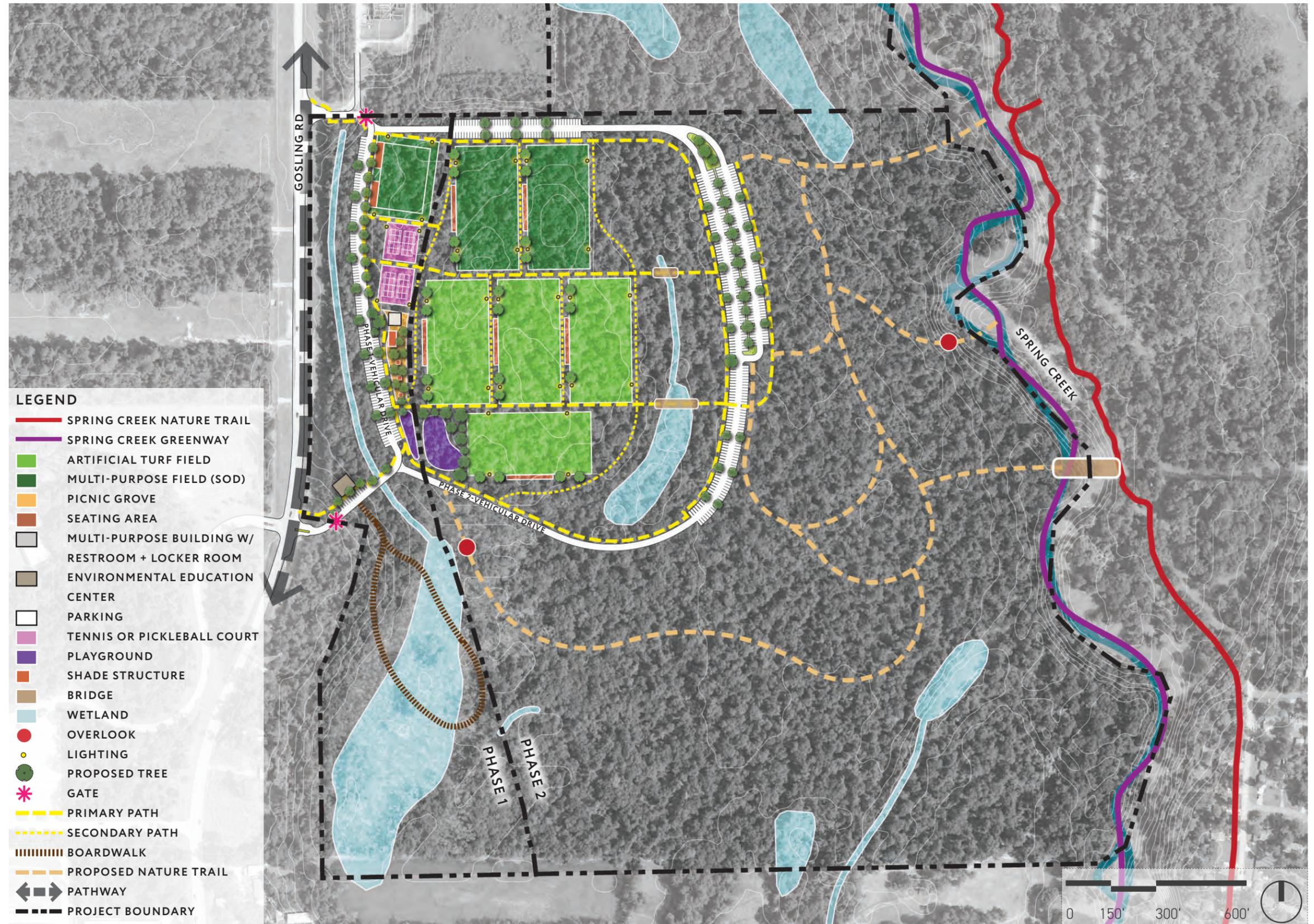
### Phase 2:

If additional land is acquired, the opportunities for this park grow significantly. Phase two takes advantage of higher topography on the site to provide:

- Two large multipurpose fields with natural turf
- Four all-weather fields
- System of nature trails that connect to the Spring Creek Greenway
- Provide supporting amenities such as benches, bike racks, signage, and trash receptacles along expanded system of trails
- 439 parking spaces.

## CONSTRAINTS

- The site has multiple wetland areas that may require mitigation
- An access easement is needed to share entrances to the northern and southwestern properties
- Due to the isolated location, further security measures should be taken such as controlled access gates, and lighting among others.
- Land acquisition is required for development of Phase 2
- With the expansion of Gosling Road, considerations for entry and exit traffic should be taken



# CONCEPT DESIGN - CHARACTER IMAGES

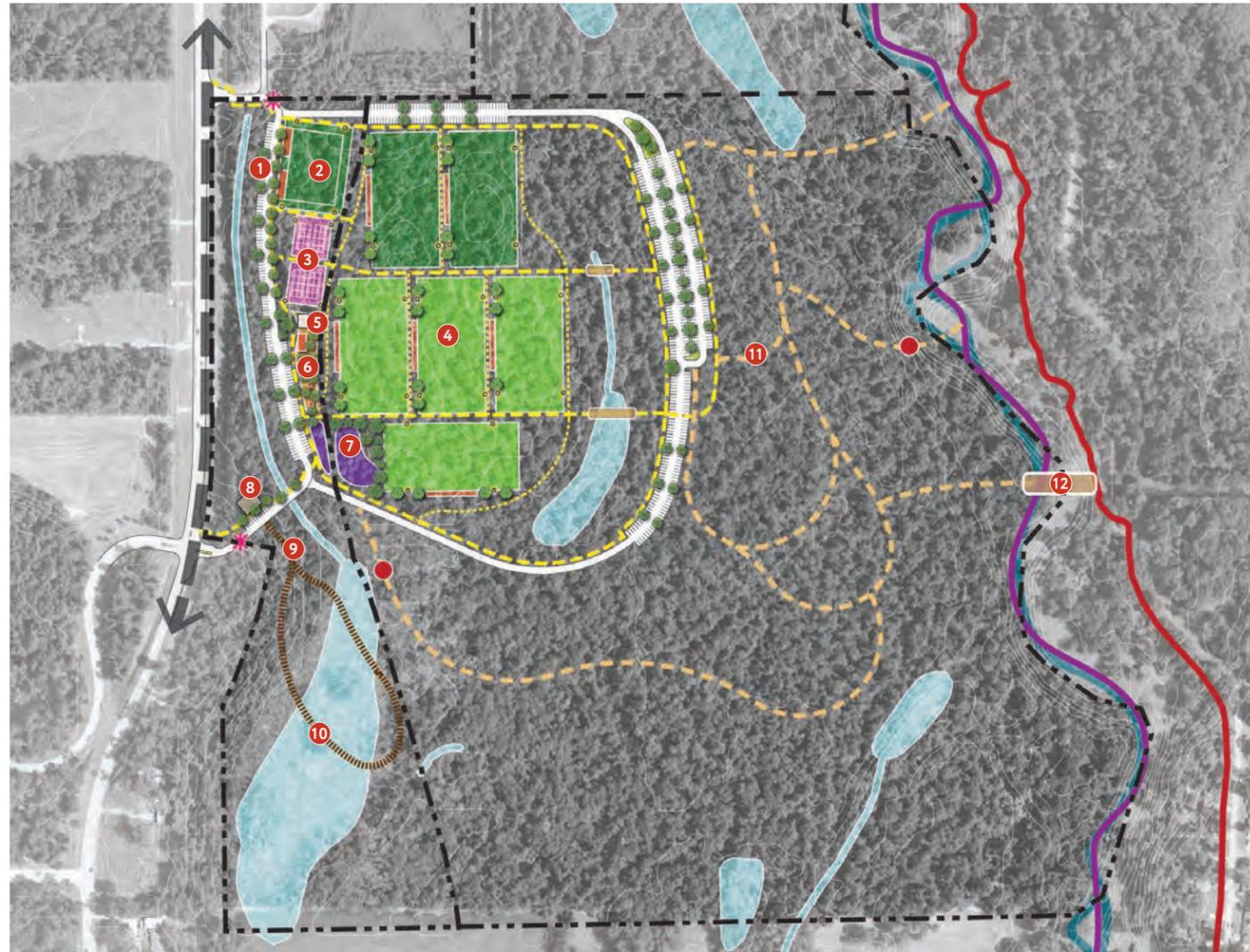


IMAGE REFERENCE PLAN

**NOTE**

The images shown illustrate design intent and are for reference only. Proper design/engineering process needs to be performed to identify character and address current conditions on the site.



1 Parking



2 Multi-purpose Field



3 Tennis or Pickleball Court



4 Artificial Turf Field



5 Multi-purpose Building w/ Restroom + Locker Room



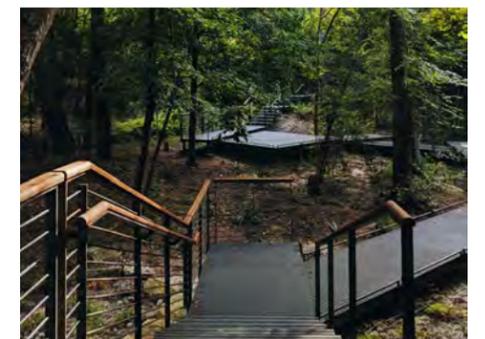
6 Picnic Grove



7 Playground (Similar to the one at Gosling Sports Field)



8 Environmental Education Center



9 Boardwalk Entrance



10 Boardwalk



11 Nature Trails



12 Bridge to Spring Creek Trail

# OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST

## SOUTH GOSLING

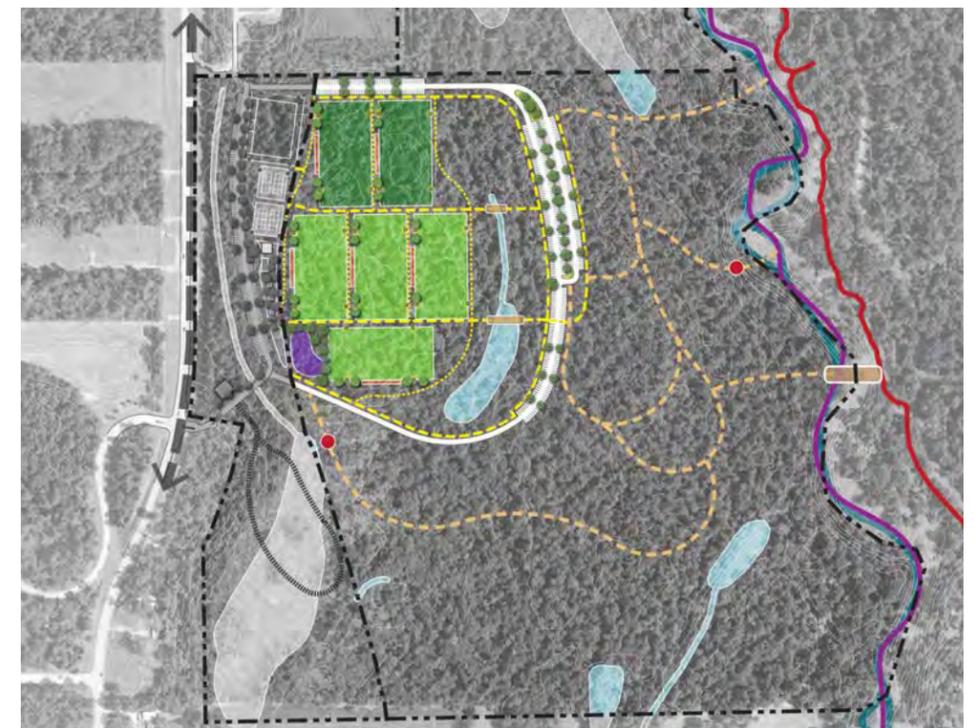
	PHASE	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT DESCRIPTION	LOW COST	HIGH COST
South Gosling - Phase 1 Base OPCC	1-A	Internal Driveway and Parking Design parking area to incorporate permeability and green infrastructure practices while handling flooding events.	\$1,997,392	\$2,053,867
	1-A	Add Pathway connection from Creekside Forest Dr intersection to entrance of South Gosling Park	\$189,000	\$349,560
	1-A	Add pedestrian walkway connectors between parking, sports fields, and picnic areas	\$76,680	\$95,850
	1-A	Add additional park features by the sports courts	\$20,400	\$77,700
	1-A	Propose/Construct new restroom and locker rooms	\$300,000	\$700,000
	1-A	Propose tennis courts/Pickleball Courts	\$508,732	\$508,732
	1-A	Propose multi-use sports field	\$427,076	\$780,676
	1-A	Propose playground	\$404,740	\$404,740
	1-A	Park Amenities (benches, Bike Racks, signage, Entry Signs)	\$45,200	\$103,200
	1-B	Propose nature center and wetland boardwalk	\$3,564,800	\$5,445,000
<b>Phase 1 Sub-total</b>			<b>\$7,534,020</b>	<b>\$10,519,325</b>
<b>Estimated Professional Fees - 12.5%</b>			<b>\$941,753</b>	<b>\$1,314,916</b>
<b>Contingency - 30%</b>			<b>\$2,260,206</b>	<b>\$3,155,798</b>
<b>Escalation (4%)</b>			<b>\$301,361</b>	<b>\$420,773</b>
<b>Phase 1 Total</b>			<b>\$11,037,339</b>	<b>\$15,410,811</b>
South Gosling - Phase 2 Base OPCC	2-A	Add additional parking area on interior of the park. Design parking area to incorporate permeability and green infrastructure practices while being able to handle flooding events.	\$3,589,042	\$3,961,042
	2-A	Add two natural turf fields	\$1,058,050	\$2,000,000
	2-A	Add four artificial turf fields (Low Cost: Natural Turf)	\$2,116,100	\$5,771,516
	2-A	Field Lighting	\$1,500,000	\$1,624,806
	2-A	Add primary pathways to connect Phase 1 to Phase II, Parking areas, and sports fields	\$362,520	\$453,150
	2-A	Add secondary pathways between sports fields and park amenities	\$131,760	\$197,640
	2-B	Propose nature trails through the park, leading to the Spring Creek Greenway trail	\$990,900	\$1,240,500
	2-B	Propose pedestrian boardwalk bridge to connect across Spring Creek	\$485,165	\$605,165
	2-B	Park Amenities (benches, Bike Racks, signage, Entry Signs)	\$31,200	\$67,100
	2-B	Propose playground	\$1,688,040	\$1,688,040
<b>Phase 2 Sub-total</b>			<b>\$11,952,777</b>	<b>\$17,608,959</b>
<b>Estimated Professional Fees - 12.5%</b>			<b>\$1,494,097</b>	<b>\$2,201,120</b>
<b>Contingency - 30%</b>			<b>\$3,585,833</b>	<b>\$5,282,688</b>
<b>Escalation (4%)</b>			<b>\$478,111</b>	<b>\$704,358</b>
<b>Phase 2 Total</b>			<b>\$17,510,818</b>	<b>\$25,797,126</b>
<b>Project Total (Phase 1 and Phase 2)</b>			<b>\$28,548,157</b>	<b>\$41,207,937</b>

### NOTE

Opinion of Cost does not include land acquisition costs, utility connections or other associated soft costs.



PHASE 1



PHASE 2

# LARGE-SCALE IMPROVEMENTS



## ALDEN BRIDGE PARK

Established in 1995, Alden Bridge Park is a village park that includes a community pool, 2 play areas, 4 tennis courts, 1 multi-purpose field, 1 basketball court, 1 sand volleyball court, and fishing area.

The park has served the community well over the last 30 years, but looking ahead, several improvements are needed to meet the existing and future needs of the community. Proposed improvements incorporate community spaces through outdoor lounge areas, support nature-based activities such as fishing and walking trails, and facilitate stewardship through educational signage.

### GOALS

Alden Bridge Park improvements address the following goals:



#### COMMUNITY RESPONSIVE

Community Spaces  
Active Recreation



#### FUTURE NETWORK

Support Amenities  
Accessibility and Connectivity

Alden Bridge Park



### CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

Alden Bridge Park is classified as a Village Park for Alden Bridge Village. The proposed Alden Bridge Park concept plan uses the findings of the system-wide assessment and analysis in order to identify key improvements.

### COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The park serves a variety of users: organized sports, community-oriented users. Located within Alden Bridge Village, the park serves the Active Family user profile. These park users are more likely to participate in organized sports.

This map highlights surrounding context including the Twinvale neighborhood as well as nearby schools (Bush Elementary) and churches (Spirit of Joy!, New Hope Christian Church, and Woodland Oaks Church of Christ). Just like these facilities, Alden Bridge Park provides a host of outdoor programming and community activities. The Park's amenities offer a mix of sports and active recreation as well as passive nature-based recreation.

# ALDEN BRIDGE VILLAGE PARK

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

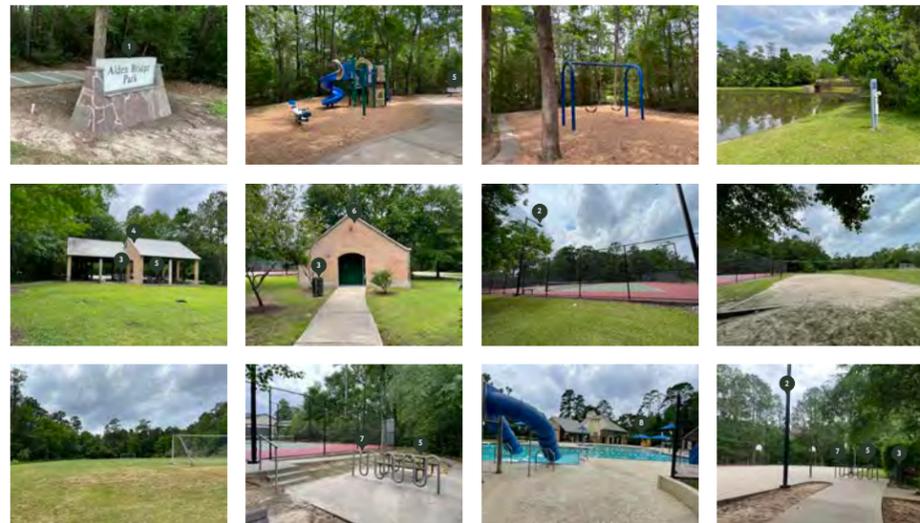
Alden Bridge Village Park located off Alden Bridge Drive has three distinct areas. To the north, the park houses a pool, basketball and parking, to the south across the pond, there are tennis courts, playground areas, a multi-purpose field and picnic opportunities. Across Alden Bridge Drive to the east, there is a trail segment with bridge connecting to the neighborhood and residential areas.

Although the park area's are well kept and used by residents, the park can be enhanced by providing additional amenities that are directed to different generations. In addition, pedestrian circulation can be enhanced by expanding trails that create a loop around the park, further connecting the different zones and allowing visitors to explore.

- 1 SPORTS FIELD
- 2 VOLLEYBALL COURT
- 3 TENNIS COURTS
- 4 RESTROOM
- 5 PARKING LOTS
- 6 SWIMMING POOL
- 7 BASKETBALL COURTS
- 8 PONDS
- 9 PAVILION

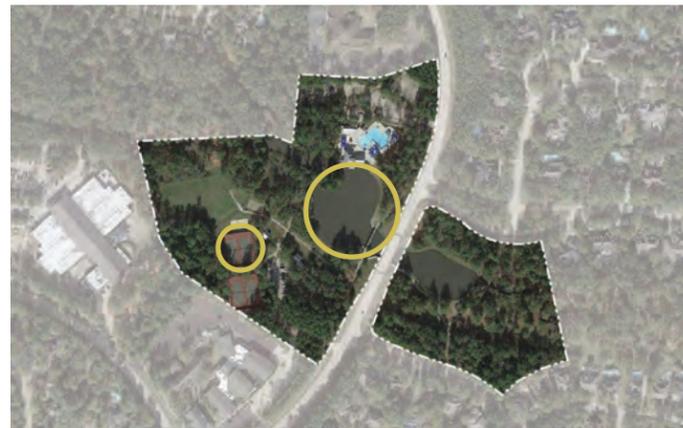
## SYSTEM-WIDE AMENITIES

- 1 SIGNAGE
- 2 LIGHTING
- 3 WASTE RECEPTACLES
- 4 PAVILIONS
- 5 PICNIC TABLES / BENCHES
- 6 BATHROOMS
- 7 BIKE RACK
- 8 SHADE STRUCTURE
- 9 PERGOLA
- 10 WATER FOUNTAIN



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- Pond
- Creek
- Flood Area
- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard



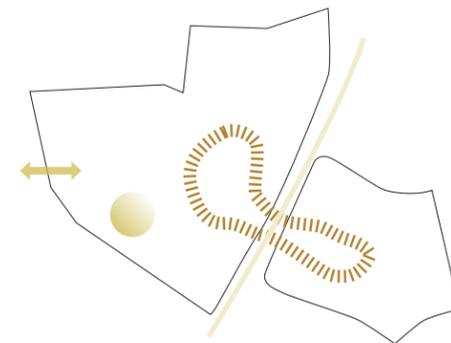
## WHAT WE HEARD

"Would love to see way more dedicated pickleball courts throughout the community, especially in Alden Bridge"

"Overall increasing community wildlife and nature education would be really cool."

## OPPORTUNITIES

This diagram highlights the key design opportunities identified for the conceptual design.



- ↔ IMPROVE SITE ACCESS
- ACTIVATE LAKE EDGE
- EXPAND RECREATIONAL AMENITIES
- SITE BOUNDARY
- ALDEN BRIDGE DR

# ALDEN BRIDGE VILLAGE PARK CONCEPT DESIGN

## DESCRIPTION

As described previously, this park has an opportunity to be more connected and provide the community with a variety of programs that serve different ages. The design strategy for the park consists of incorporating social interaction opportunities, and expand access to nature by providing additional trails, boardwalks and bridges and adding educational signage.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve center lawn at entrance of park to allow for informal gathering and play opportunities
- Provide outlook/gathering areas along the water's edge that incorporate pergolas or other shade structures and seating areas that form "lounges" with social games such as corn hole, or similar
- Community feedback suggested incorporating a pickleball court. The design proposes relocating the existing volley ball court to provide four pickleball courts north of tennis courts
- Expand trail system and provide additional around the park
- Expand water access by providing a fishing pier
- Provide sprayground west of pool area
- Provide informational/educational signage on the eastern side of park to expand nature experience
- Provide supporting amenities such as benches, bike racks, signage, and trash receptacles along expanded system of trails

## CONSTRAINTS

- Drainage swale north of tennis courts will require culvert to accommodate pickleball courts
- Additional stormwater detention may be required



# CONCEPT DESIGN - CHARACTER IMAGES

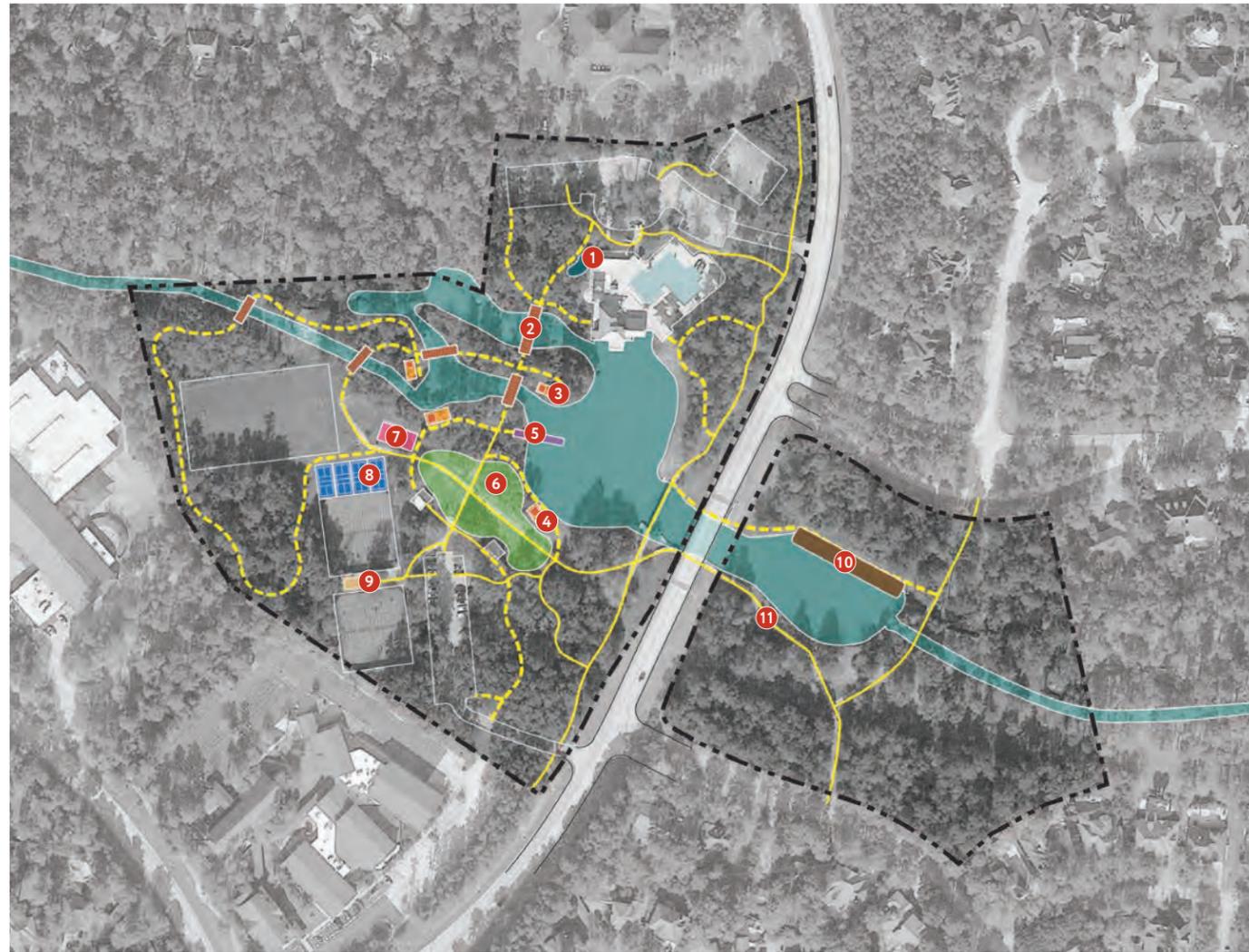


IMAGE REFERENCE PLAN

**NOTE**

The images shown illustrate design intent and are for reference only. Proper design/engineering process needs to be performed to identify character and address current conditions on the site.



1 Splash Pad / Sprayground



2 Bridge



3 Overlook w/ Pergola



4 Social Gathering Area



5 Fishing Pier



6 Lawn



7 Volleyball Court



8 Pickleball Court



9 Pergola



10 Boardwalk



11 Interpretative Trails

# SUMMARY

## OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST

ALDEN BRIDGE VILLAGE PARK			
PHASE	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT DESCRIPTION	LOW COST	HIGH COST
1	Add pedestrian walkway connectors between parking, sports fields, and seating areas, adjoining existing walkways	\$283,680	\$354,600
1	Create connections between various park areas and walkways with pedestrian bridges	\$249,600	\$390,000
1	Add small overlook areas with covered seating and light recreation opportunities	\$78,300	\$128,300
1	Propose four pickleball courts	\$300,000	\$300,000
1	Install replacement of existing volleyball court	-	\$53,922
2	Restroom Improvements (Low Cost: Improvements to existing restroom facility; High Cost: rebuild restroom structure)	\$182,750	\$600,000
2	Install new splashpad adjacent to community pool	\$300,000	\$500,000
3	Propose new boardwalk deck overlooking the east side pond	-	\$97,400
3	Park Amenities (Benches, Bike Racks, signage, Entry Sign)	\$35,200	\$88,200
3	Propose new fishing pier in the main pond	\$76,800	\$120,000
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>\$1,506,330</b>	<b>\$2,632,422</b>
<b>Estimated Professional Fees - 12.5%</b>		<b>\$188,291</b>	<b>\$329,053</b>
<b>Contingency - 30%</b>		<b>\$451,899</b>	<b>\$789,727</b>
<b>Escalation (4%)</b>		<b>\$60,253</b>	<b>\$105,297</b>
<b>Project Total</b>		<b>\$2,206,773</b>	<b>\$3,856,498</b>
<b>ROUTINE IMPROVEMENTS</b>			
	Routine pool improvements	\$750,000	\$750,000
	Routine building improvements	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000
<b>Net Total</b>		<b>\$4,206,773</b>	<b>\$5,856,498</b>

Alden Bridge Village Park - Base OPCC

**NOTE**  
Opinion of Cost does not include utility connections, or other associated soft costs.

### Large Scale Improvements

Realizing the concept plans over the next 15 years will represent a major effort towards achieving the goals and recommendations of this assessment and also addressing the current and future level of service. Below is a summary of the concept plans by park and improvement type.

#### ALDEN BRIDGE SPORTS PARK

Proposed improvements aim to enhance this high-quality sports park with field improvements, new amenities such as the lacrosse practice wall, 1.5 miles of new pathways, play area, multi-use building, and expanded restrooms and parking.



#### SOUTH GOSLING PARK

Proposed improvements include multi-purpose fields, tennis courts, playground, nature center, ~2 miles of new nature trails, and support amenities such as parking, pathways, restrooms, pavilions, benches, bike racks, etc.



#### ALDEN BRIDGE PARK

Proposed improvements incorporate community spaces through outdoor lounge areas, support nature-based activities such as fishing and walking trails, and facilitate stewardship through educational signage.



## Impact of Concept Plans on Level of Service

The concept plans outline a number of future developed parks and facilities that have been planned and are expected to be constructed within the next 10-15 years. In working with staff, the future expansion of the Parks and Recreation system through the implementation of these concept plans is summarized in the table below.

The table identifies an additional 20 acres and park amenities that, when developed at South Gosling, will be added to the Township's parks system. Additionally, the concept plans

add several outdoor amenities to the inventory. Proposed amenities in the concept plan that fulfill the 2037 needs are highlighted in green below. However, even with the concept plans, a number of outdoor amenities are still needed in order to meet the level of service. The type and quantity of the remaining amenities are highlighted in gold.

PARK TYPE	PARK INVENTORY			RECOMMENDED DEVELOPED PARK SERVICE LEVELS		2037 NEEDS BASED ON CURRENT INVENTORY		2037 NEEDS BASED ON CURRENT + FUTURE INVENTORY	
	The Woodlands CURRENT Inventory	The Woodlands FUTURE Inventory	The Woodlands CURRENT + FUTURE Inventory	Recommended Developed Park Service Levels	Quantity	Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Developed Parks/Facilities/	Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Developed Parks/Facilities/
Amenity Parks	43		43	0.25 acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)
Neighborhood Parks	59		59	0.40 acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)
Area Parks	15		15	0.10 acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)
Village Parks	13		13	0.10 acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)
Townwide Parks	10	24.3	34.3	0.25 acres per	1,000	Need Exists	23 Acre(s)	Meets Standard	- Acre(s)
<b>Total Developed Park Acreage</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>164.3</b>	<b>1.10 acres per</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>Meets Standard</b>	<b>23 Acre(s)</b>		<b>- Acre(s)</b>

OUTDOOR AMENITY	PARK INVENTORY			RECOMMENDED DEVELOPED PARK SERVICE LEVELS		2037 NEEDS BASED ON CURRENT INVENTORY		2037 NEEDS BASED ON CURRENT + FUTURE INVENTORY	
	The Woodlands CURRENT Inventory	The Woodlands FUTURE Inventory	The Woodlands CURRENT + FUTURE Inventory	Recommended Developed Park Service Levels	Quantity	Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Developed Parks/Facilities/	Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Developed Parks/Facilities/
Archery Range (Fixed)	1		1	1.00 range per	150,000	Meets Standard	- Range(s)	Meets Standard	- Range(s)
Baseball / Softball Diamond (Lighted)	8		8	1.00 field per	17,500	Meets Standard	- Field(s)	Meets Standard	- Field(s)
Basketball Court	27.5	2	29.5	1.00 court per	4,500	Need Exists	2 Court(s)	Need Exists	2 Court(s)
Dog Park (off-leash dog area)	5	2	7	1.00 site per	20,000	Need Exists	2 Site(s)	Need Exists	2 Site(s)
Disc Golf Course	1.5		1.5	1.00 course per	75,000	Meets Standard	- Course(s)	Meets Standard	- Course(s)
Environmental Education Center	0	1	1	1.00 facility per	125,000	Need Exists	1 Facility(ies)	Meets Standard	- Facility(ies)
Multi-purpose Field (Lighted)	26	14	40	1.00 field per	4,750	Need Exists	2 Field(s)	Meets Standard	- Field(s)
Pickleball Court (Stand Alone) <sup>9</sup>	8	4	12	1.00 court per	12,000	Need Exists	3 Court(s)	Meets Standard	- Court(s)
Playgrounds	90	4	94	1.00 site per	2,000	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	Meets Standard	- Site(s)
Reservable Pavilions	44	4	48	1.00 site per	2,750	Need Exists	4 Site(s)	Need Exists	2 Site(s)
Pavilions/Gazebo	73	18	91	1.00 site per	2,000	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	Meets Standard	- Site(s)
Skatepark/BMX Park	8		8	1.00 site per	20,000	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	Meets Standard	- Site(s)
Splash Pad	5	1	6	1.00 site per	24,000	Need Exists	1 Site(s)	Meets Standard	- Site(s)
Swimming Pool - Neighborhood	14		14	1.00 site per	10,000	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	Meets Standard	- Site(s)
Tennis Courts	80	10	90	1.00 court per	1,500	Need Exists	9 Court(s)	Need Exists	3 Court(s)
Volleyball Courts - Outdoors	9		9	1.00 court per	15,000	Meets Standard	- Court(s)	Meets Standard	- Court(s)

<sup>9</sup> Denotes that Inventory includes 8 future courts

# AMENITY IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed amenity improvements build upon current efforts to leverage the existing system in order to support recreational, community-responsive, and system-wide goals over the next 15 years. These amenities were identified through public feedback, site assessments, as well as the level of service analysis. It is important to note that these improvements augment the current earmarked projects identified by the parks and recreation department. This includes the current budget initiative to earmark funds for a new skate park in Creekside Village, which the village currently lacks.

Improvements to fields include artificial turf and LED lighting to respond to utilization analysis. Court and community improvements were identified through the level of service analysis and community-identified needs. These include basketball courts (2), tennis courts (6), playgrounds (2), community gardens (2), dog parks (2), reservable pavilions (2), and a skate park (1). System-wide improvements support the capacity and quality of the proposed field, court and community amenities by including picnic tables (8), and parking (121). Restroom improvements were also identified throughout the parks system. The proposed improvements fall under four categories summarized in the recommendation section.

## AMENITY IMPROVEMENTS

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	QTY	UNIT OF MEASURE	AVERAGE UNIT COST (\$)	SUBTOTAL	ESTIMATED PROFESSIONAL FEES (12.5%)	CONTINGENCY (30%)	GRAND TOTAL	COMMENTS
<b>FIELD IMPROVEMENTS</b>								
Artificial Turf Field	496,000	SF	12.00	5,952,000.00	744,000.00	1,785,600.00	\$ 8,481,600.00	Lakeside Park, Creekwood Park, Shadowbend Park, Wendwoods Park, Falconwing Park, Gosling Sports Field #4
LED Lighting Improvements <sup>9</sup>	8	LS	262,500.00	2,100,000.00	262,500.00	630,000.00	\$ 2,992,500.00	* In the event that Alden Bridge Sports Park Concept is not developed, it is recommended that an additional \$1,350,000 be allocated for LED lighting improvements at that park. This covers lighting improvements for the existing 9 fields at \$150,000 per field.
							<b>subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 11,474,100.00</b>
<b>COURT IMPROVEMENTS</b>								
Basketball Court	2	LS	116,000.00	232,000.00	29,000.00	69,600.00	\$ 330,600.00	
Tennis or Pickleball Courts	3	LS	300,000.00	900,000.00	112,500.00	270,000.00	\$ 1,282,500.00	Batteries of (2) Tennis Courts or Batteries of (4) Pickleball Courts
							<b>subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,613,100.00</b>
<b>COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS</b>								
Playground	2	LS	475,000.00	950,000.00	118,750.00	285,000.00	\$ 1,353,750.00	
Community Garden	2	LS	72,000.00	144,000.00	18,000.00	43,200.00	\$ 205,200.00	
Dogpark	2	LS	200,000.00	400,000.00	50,000.00	120,000.00	\$ 570,000.00	
Reservable Pavilion	2	EA	150,000.00	300,000.00	37,500.00	90,000.00	\$ 427,500.00	
Skate Park	1	LS	150,000.00	150,000.00	18,750.00	45,000.00	\$ 213,750.00	At Tupelo Park or other park at Creekside Park Village
							<b>subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 2,770,200.00</b>
<b>SYSTEM-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS</b>								
Picnic Tables	8	EA	3,500.00	28,000.00	3,500.00	8,400.00	\$ 39,900.00	
Parking	121	EA	3,500.00	423,500.00	52,937.50	127,050.00	\$ 603,487.50	
							<b>subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 643,387.50</b>
<b>SYSTEM-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS // RESTROOMS</b>								
Restroom Improvements I	10	LS	150,000.00	1,500,000.00	187,500.00	450,000.00	\$ 2,137,500.00	Minor restroom renovations within existing buildings
Restroom Improvements II	8	LS	300,000.00	2,400,000.00	300,000.00	720,000.00	\$ 3,420,000.00	Standalone improvements to restrooms
Restroom Improvements III	4	LS	600,000.00	2,400,000.00	300,000.00	720,000.00	\$ 3,420,000.00	New facilities at some area parks
Restroom Improvements IV	2	LS	425,000.00	850,000.00	106,250.00	255,000.00	\$ 1,211,250.00	Standalone with larger renovation
							<b>subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 10,188,750.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>43,247,250.00</b>	<b>2,341,187.50</b>	<b>5,618,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 26,689,537.50</b>	

NOTE: Refer to page 132 and 133 of the Needs Assessment Report for a detail breakdown per park.

# Other Improvements

Other improvements identified by the assessment include the implementation of previously proposed facility improvements at Bear Branch Park and Rob Fleming Park. The table below provides a snapshot of the facility improvement and cost breakdown. More information about these specific improvements can be found in the Appendix. Finally, the

assessment identified one operational improvement to pursue the development of a trails master plan at George Mitchell Nature Preserve. Details about the cost are included below.

## FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT	QTY	UNIT OF MEASURE	AVERAGE UNIT COST (\$)	SUBTOTAL	ESTIMATED PROFESSIONAL FEES (12.5%)	CONTINGENCY (30%)	GRAND TOTAL
50 Meter Pool	22,275	SF	308.40	6,869,500.00	858,687.50	2,060,850.00	\$ 9,789,037.50
Bear Branch Park - Recreation Center Renovation	1	LS	13,000,000.00	13,000,000.00	1,625,000.00	3,900,000.00	\$ 18,525,000.00
Rob Fleming Park - Recreation Center Renovation	1	LS	5,568,750.00	5,568,750.00	696,093.75	1,670,625.00	\$ 7,935,468.75
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>25,438,250.00</b>	<b>3,179,781.25</b>	<b>7,631,475.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,249,506.25</b>

## OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

	MEASURE			
Trails Master Plan °	1	LS	-	\$90,000 - \$120,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			-	<b>\$90,000 - \$120,000</b>

° NOTE: PROFESSIONAL FEES FOR TRAILS MASTER PLAN WILL VARY DEPENDING ON SCOPE OF WORK DETERMINED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

# Improvements by Park

The proposed improvements are distributed across the system at 26 parks. The following table depicts the improvements by park.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT OF MEASURE	UNIT COST (\$)	COST (\$)
<b>MAPLEWOOD PARK (GROGRAN'S MILL)</b>				<b>416,000.00</b>
Basketball court	1	LS	116,000.00	116,000.00
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
<b>PONDERA PARK (CREEKSIDE PARK)</b>				<b>716,000.00</b>
Basketball court	1	LS	116,000.00	116,000.00
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
Tennis Courts (2) or Pickleball Courts (4)°	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
<b>CRANEBROOK PARK (STERLING RIDGE)</b>				<b>371,000.00</b>
Dogpark	1	LS	200,000.00	200,000.00
Restroom Improvements I	1	LS	150,000.00	150,000.00
Expanded parking (6 spaces)	6	EA	3,500.00	21,000.00
<b>MAY VALLEY PARK (STERLING RIDGE)</b>				<b>521,000.00</b>
Dogpark	1	LS	200,000.00	200,000.00
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
Expanded parking (6 spaces)	6	EA	3,500.00	21,000.00
<b>OLMSTEAD PARK (TOWN CENTER)</b>				<b>164,000.00</b>
Reservable Pavilion	1	EA	150,000.00	150,000.00
4 Picnic Tables	4	EA	3,500.00	14,000.00
<b>COPPER SAGE PARK (COCHRAN'S CROSSING)</b>				<b>464,000.00</b>
Reservable Pavilion	1	EA	150,000.00	150,000.00
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
4 Picnic Tables	4	EA	3,500.00	14,000.00
<b>HARPER'S LANDING (COLLEGE PARK)</b>				<b>1,140,000.00</b>
Restroom Improvements I	1	LS	150,000.00	150,000.00
Tennis Courts (2) or Pickleball Courts (4)°	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
Artificial Turf Field	45,000	SF	12.00	540,000.00
LED Lighting Improvements	1	LS	150,000.00	150,000.00
<b>WINDVALE PARK (ALDEN BRIDGE)</b>				<b>450,000.00</b>
Restroom Improvements I	1	LS	150,000.00	150,000.00
Tennis Courts (2) or Pickleball Courts (4)°	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
<b>BEAR BRANCH PARK (COCHRAN'S CROSSING)</b>				<b>20,169,500.00</b>
Recreation Center Renovation and Expansion	1	LS	13,000,000.00	13,000,000.00
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
50 meter pool	22,275	SF	308.40	6,869,500.00
<b>ROB FLEMING (CREEKSIDE PARK)</b>				<b>5,950,250.00</b>
Recreation Center Renovation	1	LS	5,568,750.00	5,568,750.00
Expanded parking (109 spaces)	109	EA	3,500.00	381,500.00
<b>TAMARAC PARK (GROGAN'S MILL)</b>				<b>372,000.00</b>
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
Community Garden	1	LS	72,000.00	72,000.00
<b>CATTAIL (COCHRAN'S CROSSING)</b>				<b>372,000.00</b>
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
Community Garden	1	LS	72,000.00	72,000.00
<b>RIVA ROW (TOWN CENTER)</b>				<b>300,000.00</b>
Playground	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00

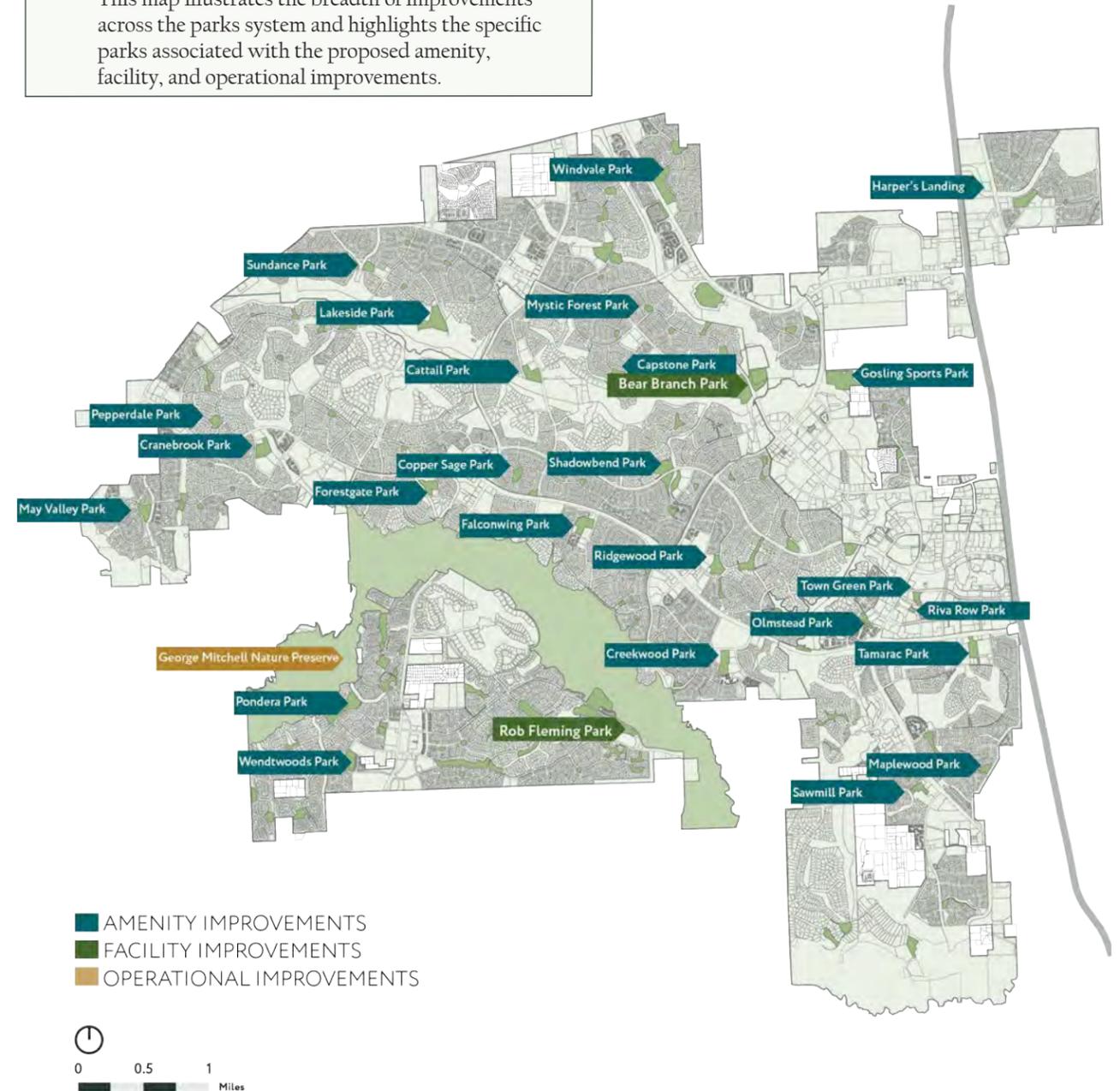
\* Courts are shown as each court not batteries.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT OF MEASURE	UNIT COST (\$)	COST (\$)
<b>MAPLEWOOD PARK (GROGRAN'S MILL)</b>				<b>416,000.00</b>
Basketball court	1	LS	116,000.00	116,000.00
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
<b>PONDERA PARK (CREEKSIDE PARK)</b>				<b>716,000.00</b>
Basketball court	1	LS	116,000.00	116,000.00
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
Tennis Courts (2) or Pickleball Courts (4)°	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
<b>CRANEBROOK PARK (STERLING RIDGE)</b>				<b>371,000.00</b>
Dogpark	1	LS	200,000.00	200,000.00
Restroom Improvements I	1	LS	150,000.00	150,000.00
Expanded parking (6 spaces)	6	EA	3,500.00	21,000.00
<b>MAY VALLEY PARK (STERLING RIDGE)</b>				<b>521,000.00</b>
Dogpark	1	LS	200,000.00	200,000.00
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
Expanded parking (6 spaces)	6	EA	3,500.00	21,000.00
<b>OLMSTEAD PARK (TOWN CENTER)</b>				<b>164,000.00</b>
Reservable Pavilion	1	EA	150,000.00	150,000.00
4 Picnic Tables	4	EA	3,500.00	14,000.00
<b>COPPER SAGE PARK (COCHRAN'S CROSSING)</b>				<b>464,000.00</b>
Reservable Pavilion	1	EA	150,000.00	150,000.00
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
4 Picnic Tables	4	EA	3,500.00	14,000.00
<b>HARPER'S LANDING (COLLEGE PARK)</b>				<b>1,140,000.00</b>
Restroom Improvements I	1	LS	150,000.00	150,000.00
Tennis Courts (2) or Pickleball Courts (4)°	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
Artificial Turf Field	45,000	SF	12.00	540,000.00
LED Lighting Improvements	1	LS	150,000.00	150,000.00
<b>WINDVALE PARK (ALDEN BRIDGE)</b>				<b>450,000.00</b>
Restroom Improvements I	1	LS	150,000.00	150,000.00
Tennis Courts (2) or Pickleball Courts (4)°	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
<b>BEAR BRANCH PARK (COCHRAN'S CROSSING)</b>				<b>20,169,500.00</b>
Recreation Center Renovation and Expansion	1	LS	13,000,000.00	13,000,000.00
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
50 meter pool	22,275	SF	308.40	6,869,500.00
<b>ROB FLEMING (CREEKSIDE PARK)</b>				<b>5,950,250.00</b>
Recreation Center Renovation	1	LS	5,568,750.00	5,568,750.00
Expanded parking (109 spaces)	109	EA	3,500.00	381,500.00
<b>TAMARAC PARK (GROGAN'S MILL)</b>				<b>372,000.00</b>
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
Community Garden	1	LS	72,000.00	72,000.00
<b>CATTAIL (COCHRAN'S CROSSING)</b>				<b>372,000.00</b>
Restroom Improvements II	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00
Community Garden	1	LS	72,000.00	72,000.00
<b>RIVA ROW (TOWN CENTER)</b>				<b>300,000.00</b>
Playground	1	LS	300,000.00	300,000.00

# SUMMARY

## Amenity, Facility, and Operational Improvements

This map illustrates the breadth of improvements across the parks system and highlights the specific parks associated with the proposed amenity, facility, and operational improvements.



# 6

## FUNDING & IMPLEMENTATION

**To continue building and maintaining the parks and recreation system, funding should be pursued for operations and capital improvement projects, such as those presented in this section.**

### Funding Strategies

New, sustainable funding sources are essential to implementing a capital improvement plan. There is substantial potential for increasing revenues for the parks and recreation system while still providing affordable recreation opportunities. The following are high level funding options that should be vetted as the department updates its Master Plan and develops a one to ten year capital improvement program in 2023:

### Funding Sources for Lifecycle Replacement Projects

#### PARKS FOUNDATION

A Parks Foundation is a joint-development funding source or operational funding source between a foundation and a government agency. The foundation operates as a non-profit organization, working on behalf of the public agency to raise needed dollars to support its vision and operational needs.

The dollars raised by the foundation are tax-exempt. Foundations promote specific causes, activities, or issues that a park-and-recreation system needs to address. They offer a variety of means to fund capital projects, including capital campaigns, gifts catalogs, fundraisers, endowments, sales of park-related memorabilia, etc.

Private donations may be received in the form of cash, securities, land, facilities, recreation equipment, art, or in-kind services. Donations from local and regional businesses as sponsors of events or facilities should be pursued.

#### FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Friends' associations are a foundation that typically are formed to raise money for a single purpose, such as a park facility or program that will better the community as a whole and, at the same time, meet special interests.

#### CORPORATE AND PERSONAL LEAD GIVING

Corporate and personal giving involves the department seeking corporate lead funds or personal lead gifts via a foundation partner or through personal contacts that are used to catalyze wider giving in support of a specific project or operation. The lead donations set the precedent for additional giving over a period of one year up to five years. Often those who have given or pledged contributions are invited to a recognition event, which may include additional opportunities for contribution through auctions, for example.

#### DONATIONS

Private donations are a popular form of fundraising by public agencies, particularly for facilities and services that are highly visible and valued by the public. Donations can be channeled through a foundation or conservancy aligned with the parks and recreation system's priorities. Donations can be made through one or more of the following methods:

- Donations of cash to a specific park or trail segment by community members and businesses
- Donations of services by large corporations to reduce the cost of park or trail implementation, including equipment and labor to construct and install elements of a specific park or trail
- Reductions in the cost of materials purchased from local businesses that support parks and trails implementation, and can supply essential products for facilities

## PARTNERSHIPS - DEVELOPMENT AND/OR OPERATIONS

Partnerships are joint-development funding sources or operational funding sources formed from two separate agencies, such as two government entities, a non-profit and a public agency, or a private business and a public agency. Two partners jointly develop revenue-producing park and recreation facilities and share risk, operational costs, responsibilities, and asset management based on the strengths of each partner.

## USER FEES

User fees are fees paid by a user of recreational facilities or programs to offset the costs of services in operating a park or a recreation facility, or in delivering programs. In The Woodlands Township, facility usage is under priced. A perception of “value” needs to be instilled in the community for the benefits the agency is providing to the user for exclusive use. Future fees could be charged by the agency based on cost-recovery goals for the parks and core recreation services, based on the level of exclusivity the user receives compared to the general taxpayer. The consultant highly recommends that user fees for programs and facilities continue to be charged in order to create value and provide operational revenues.

## RECREATION SERVICE FEE

This is a dedicated user fee, which can be established by local ordinance for the purpose of constructing and maintaining recreation facilities. The fee can apply to all activities that require a reservation. Examples of such activities include adult basketball, volleyball, tennis, and softball leagues, youth baseball, soccer, football and softball leagues, and special-interest classes. The fee allows participants an opportunity to contribute toward the upkeep of the facilities being used.

## PARK REVOLVING FUND

This is a dedicated fund replenished on an ongoing basis from various funding sources such as grants, sponsorships, advertising, program-user fees, and rental fees within one or more parks. The agency could establish a revolving fund to supported maintenance at multiple parks.

## ADVERTISING SALES

Advertising can occur with trash cans, playgrounds, dog parks, trails, flower pots, and as part of special events to pay for operational costs.

## MAINTENANCE ENDOWMENT FUND

This is a fund dedicated exclusively for a park’s maintenance and is funded by a percentage of user fees from programs, events, and rentals. The fee is paid by users and is added to a dedicated fund for facility and equipment replacement, such as fitness equipment, water slides, lights, artificial turf, and park-maintenance equipment.

## Funding Sources for Expanded Service Projects Within Existing System

Each of these sources can be evaluated in more detail to determine the level of funding they would yield if pursued aggressively.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FEES

Many park-and-recreation systems add a capital-improvement fee onto an existing user fee when they develop or enhance major recreation facilities. This is usually applied to golf courses, aquatic facilities, recreation centers, ice rinks, amphitheaters, and special-use facilities like sports parks. The dollars gained either offset the cost of the capital improvement or the revenue bond that was used to develop or enhance the special-use facility. Once the capital improvement is paid off, the fee typically expires and is discontinued.

## GRANTS

The grant market continues to grow annually. Grant writers and researchers are essential if the Department is to pursue grants. Matching dollars are required for most federal grants and many state grants. The types of grants available to the Department include:

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Grants

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) administers the following recreational grant programs: Boating Access Grants, Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Grants, CO-OP Grants, Local Parks Grants, Recreational Trails Grants, and Target Range Grants. CO-OP Grants, Local Parks Grants, and Recreational Trails Grants are described below. All of the grant types are included in the full Finance Feasibility Study.

- CO-OP Grants

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) grant provides funding (from \$5,000 to \$50,000) to local governments and nonprofit organizations for programming that introduces under-served populations to environmental and conservation

programs as well as TPWD mission oriented outdoor activities. Grants are available to tax-exempt organizations and local governments introducing non-traditional constituents to TPWD related outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental education programs.

- Local Park Grants

The Local Park Grant Program consists of five individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. All grant-assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public. Funding for the Local Park Grant Program comes from a portion of the state sales tax on sporting goods through the Texas Recreation and Parks Account and the Texas Large County & Municipality Recreation & Parks Account. Additional funds come from off-shore gas royalties through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

- Recreational Trails Grants

TPWD administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration. This federally funded program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles. The reimbursable grants can be up to 80% of project cost with a maximum of \$200,000 for non-motorized trail grants.

- Safe Routes to Schools

- Federal Transportation Enhancement Grants (FHWA)

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

- HUD Block Grants for Environmental Review (HUD)

- Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grants

- Storm-water grants that limit the storm-water runoff in and through parks

- Trail Enhancement Grants for regional trails systems

- Development grants from community foundations to support specific park projects

- Redevelopment grants to support parks and facilities that will increase revenue from the enhanced value of property or from activities that create sales and tourism taxes

## DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS TO PARKS AND TRAILS

Many municipalities seek developer contributions for parklands and also for the development of trails that run through the property being developed. The developer perceives the enhanced value such improvements mean for her or his development. Park or trail dedication as a requirement of subdivision development is a reliable means for maintaining equity of access to parks and trails.



Footbridge Way Pond Park (Source: AR)

## IRREVOCABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

These trusts are established for individuals who typically have more than \$1 million in wealth. They agree to leave a portion of their wealth to a park-and-recreation system in a trust fund that grows over time. The system is able to use a portion of the interest to support specific facilities or programs that are designated by the trustee.

## PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAIL BOND ISSUES

Agencies typically seek park bonds to meet park-related needs. The key is to use debt financing through bonds to address needs that are both unmet and clearly a community priority. It is best to propose a capital-bond project that serves a variety of users and needs. Even in the worst economic downturn, bond issues have been passing because communities are the direct recipient of the money, and it benefits families on a personal basis.

# Funding Sources for Visionary Projects (New or Major Renovations)

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FEES

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## SALES/4B TAX

One potential funding source for the parks and recreation system is an additional percentage sales tax that is committed to maintaining park sites, infrastructure, recreational fields, and trails. The advantage of a sales tax is that it collects

revenues from both residents and non-residents who do business in the Township.

## DEDICATED MILLAGE

This source provides the opportunity for the park-and-recreation system to demonstrate how well it is meeting the community's needs through a voter-approved millage. In the last five years in the United States, 93% of all park-related bond and millage issues have passed. Communities demonstrate the value of parks when given the opportunity to vote on an increase.

## OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

### LEASE BACKS

This is another source of capital funding wherein banks or private placement-fund companies develop a park or recreation attraction, complex by buying the land, developing a recreational attraction, and then leasing it back to the agency to pay off the land or capital costs over a 30- to 40-year period. Agencies may find this source attractive because typically they can increase operational budgets more easily than finding capital dollars to pay off the lease over a set period of time.

### FRANCHISE FEE FOR UTILITY RIGHT-OF-WAYS

Many agencies have sold the development rights below the ground to utility companies for fiber optic lines, water, sewer, electricity lines, and cable conduits on a linear-foot basis. King County in Washington (Seattle) sold the development rights below its greenway network and generates \$300,000 a year from the utilities involved.

### CATERING PERMITS AND SERVICES

This allows caterers to work in the park-and-recreation system on a permit basis with a set fee or a percentage of food sales returning to the department. Many departments have their own catering-service contracts and receive a percentage (10-15%) from the sale of food and drinks. This may be most suitable for large or special events occurring on publicly-owned properties. Another form of fee income is the temporary business license.

### PRIVATE CONCESSIONAIRES OPERATING WITHIN A LAND LEASE

Contracts with private businesses to provide and operate desirable recreational activities provide compensation to the agency through a land lease. Contractors may include coffee shops, grill and food concessions, small restaurants, ice cream shops, bicycle shops, farmers markets, and small businesses. Land leases are usually based on 15% of the value of the land plus a percentage of gross revenues from the contractor on an annual basis.

# Implementation Matrix

The table below summarizes the proposed improvements by park, cost (shown as high end cost), and priority (5, 10, 15 years). For large-scale improvements, funding strategies should be evaluated. Facility improvements include the recreation center renovation projects. In the near term,

funding strategies should be pursued for Rob Fleming recreation center. The proposed amenity improvements are listed for the 29 existing parks and can be implemented by leveraging reserve funds as a routine replacement project. The proposed operational improvement for the trails master plan is listed at the bottom.

Park Improvement	Cost	Timeline
<b>LARGE-SCALE</b>	<b>FUNDING STRATEGIES</b>	<b>FUTURE VISION 2036</b>
ALDEN BRIDGE SPORTS PARK.....	\$ 34,982,233 (OPT. 1) \$ 21,848,479 (OPT. 2)	MID TERM - 4 Phases
ALDEN BRIDGE PARK.....	\$ 3,856,498	MID TERM - 3 Phases
SOUTH GOSLING TRACT PHASE 1.....	\$ 15,410,811	MID/LONG TERM - 2 Sub-Phases
SOUTH GOSLING TRACT PHASE 2.....	\$ 25,797,126	LONG TERM - 2 Sub-Phases
* These costs include Estimated professional fees (12.5%) and Contingency (30%) refer to opinion of cost in concept plan section of recommendation chapter		
<b>FACILITY</b>		
ROB FLEMING REC CENTER.....	\$ 5,893,750	SHORT/MID TERM
BEAR BRANCH PARK <sup>1</sup> .....	\$ 13,000,000	MID/LONG TERM
<b>AMENITY</b>	<b>RESERVE FUNDS</b>	<b>ROUTINE REPLACEMENT</b>
LAKESIDE PARK.....	\$ 1,500,000	SHORT TERM
CREEKWOOD PARK.....	\$ 840,000	SHORT TERM
SHADOWBEND PARK.....	\$ 840,000	SHORT TERM
WENDTWOODS PARK.....	\$ 1,170,000	SHORT TERM
FALCONWING PARK.....	\$ 1,932,000	SHORT TERM
HARPERS LANDIND PARK.....	\$ 1,140,000	SHORT TERM
GOSLING SPORT FIELDS.....	\$ 930,000	SHORT TERM
MAPLEWOOD PARK.....	\$ 416,000	SHORT/MID TERM
PONDERA PARK.....	\$ 716,000	SHORT TERM
CRANEBROOK PARK.....	\$ 371,000	SHORT TERM
MAY VALLEY PARK.....	\$ 521,000	SHORT/MID TERM
OLMSTEAD PARK.....	\$ 164,000	SHORT TERM
COPPERSAGE PARK.....	\$ 464,000	SHORT TERM
WINDVALE PARK.....	\$ 450,000	SHORT TERM
BEAR BRANCH PARK <sup>2</sup> .....	\$ 7,169,500	SHORT TERM
TAMARAC PARK.....	\$ 372,000	SHORT/MID TERM
CATTAIL PARK.....	\$ 372,000	SHORT/MID TERM
BEAR BRANCH SPORTS PARK.....	\$ 2,200,000	SHORT/MID TERM
RIVA ROW PARK.....	\$ 300,000	SHORT/MID TERM
SUNDANCE PARK.....	\$ 600,000	SHORT/MID TERM
MYSTIC FOREST PARK.....	\$ 600,000	SHORT/MID TERM
PEPPERDALE PARK.....	\$ 600,000	SHORT/MID TERM
CAPSTONE PARK.....	\$ 600,000	SHORT/MID TERM
FORESTGATE PARK.....	\$ 150,000	SHORT TERM
RIDGEWOOD PARK.....	\$ 150,000	SHORT TERM
SAWMILL PARK.....	\$ 150,000	SHORT TERM
TOWN GREEN PARK.....	\$ 350,000	SHORT/MID TERM
TUPELO PARK.....	\$ 150,000	SHORT TERM
<b>OPERATIONAL</b>		
TRAILS MASTER PLAN.....	\$100,000-\$160,000	SHORT/MID TERM

<sup>1</sup> Includes recreation center improvements only

<sup>2</sup> Includes pool and restroom improvements

# Maintenance Schedule

These system-wide improvements occur on a routine schedule based on amenity:

<b>Tennis Courts</b>			
Tennis court resurfacing:	<b>5-7</b> years	Refurbishment	<b>7</b> years
Tennis fencing, including backboards:	<b>7-10</b> years	Replacement	<b>21</b> years
LED court lights:	<b>8-10</b> years	Swimming Pool Playstructure:	
		Refurbishment	<b>7-10</b> years
		Replacement	<b>15-20</b> years
<b>Pathways</b>			
Pathway Stenciling:	<b>3</b> years	Swimming Pool Shade Structures:	
		Fabric Replacement	<b>7-10</b> years
		Structure Replacement	<b>20</b> years
<b>Structures</b>			
Park Pavilions	<b>25-30</b> years	Swimming Pool Diving Board and Slide Replacement	<b>20</b> years
Building roof:	<b>20</b> years	ADA Swimming Pool Lifts:	<b>10</b> years
Playgrounds	<b>15-18</b> years	Sprayground Improvements/Replacement	<b>10</b> years
Pachyderm Cattail, and Turnstone are completed. These were delayed from 2021.			
Loggers Hollow, Old Sterling, Cochran's bend, and Larkwood playgrounds are scheduled for Fall 2022. Sawmill will be requested to carry over to 2023.			
<b>Support Amenities</b>			
Water fountain:	<b>15</b> years	Artificial Turf	
Shade structures (fabric) -depends on location	<b>5-20</b> years	Mid Cycle Refurbishment	<b>7-8</b> years,
		Replacement	<b>12</b> years
<b>Aquatic</b>			
Swimming Pool Plaster	<b>8-10</b> years		
Swimming Pool Decking:			
Refurbishment	<b>5</b> years		
Replacement	<b>20</b> years		
Baby Pool Theme Slide			

SEPTEMBER 2022

