



CITY OF LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS

PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Approved by the City Council on
November 14th, 2006



CONTENTS

- 0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY i**

- 1. INTRODUCTION 1**

- 2. PLANNING FRAMEWORK 5**
 - 2.1 Planning Process 5
 - 2.2 Planning Areas 7
 - 2.3 Parks Inventory 8
 - 2.4 Park Typology 15

- 3. NEEDS ASSESSMENT 29**
 - 3.1 Demand-Based Needs: Resident Survey 29
 - 3.2 Resource-Based Needs: Physical Resources 41
 - 3.3 Standards-Based Needs: Level of Service (LOS) 45

- 4. PLANNING FOR 2025 63**
 - 4.1 2025 Park Needs 64
 - 4.2 System of Trails Concept 70
 - 4.3 String of Lakes Concept 79

- 5. IMPLEMENTATION 87**
 - 5.1 Financing 87
 - 5.2 Implementing Policies and Actions 93
 - 5.3 Prioritization of Needs 99

- A. APPENDICES 101**
 - A.1 Demographics 102
 - A.2 Survey Data 104



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0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In any successful and memorable city, parks and open space systems play a critical role in shaping the urban structure. As a green refuge in a sea of built development, they enhance the city's image by protecting nature within the city, improve the quality of life for all citizens, increase property values and make the city a better place to live, work, and play.

League City is one of the most rapidly growing cities in the Houston metropolitan region. Today (2005) it has an estimated population of 62,500. In 2025 it is projected to have a population of 154,300. In 2004 the City approved a Comprehensive Plan designed to guide the management of future growth and change. This plan was prepared with the participation of the public, an 18-citizen Steering Committee, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City staff. One of the key recommendations of the plan was to prepare a new Parks Master Plan; the previous plan having been prepared in 1995 when the population of the City was approximately 30,000.

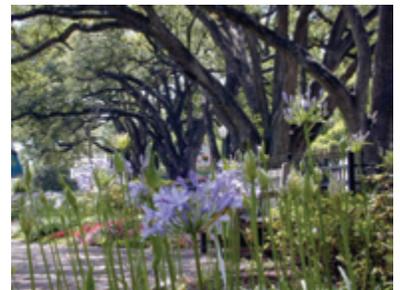
In the Comprehensive Plan the public envisioned that the City in 2025 would have a system of parks, open spaces, and public facilities linked by a network of paths and trails which would serve citizens of all age groups. It is this system which is the subject of this report.

The report seeks to provide a growth management tool whereby the City can assess its needs over a twenty year period. It demonstrates how resources can be used in the most effective way to remedy deficiencies in the provision of parkland by acquiring, developing and managing land for different types of public parks that would serve all sections of the community. It also deals with the integration of private sector parks into the city's park system.

The plan is for a citywide system of parks, open space, and public facilities. The preparation of master plans for specific sites will follow once decisions are made to develop sites already acquired or when new acquisitions are made in the future.



Clear Creek Nature Park



Helen's Garden

ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT

The report is comprised of the following chapters:

CHAPTER 1, INTRODUCTION

This provides a brief background to the parks planning process setting the Parks and Open Space Master Plan in the context of the City's approved Comprehensive Plan 2025 and its relevant policy recommendations. The citizens' vision for their city in 2025 is described, and the growth pressures currently affecting development decisions in the surrounding area are emphasized.

CHAPTER 2, PLANNING FRAMEWORK

This section describes the planning process that involved the City's elected and appointed representatives, the public, and the City staff. A planning framework of four planning areas was devised to analyze the specific roles of the diverse parks in League City and their accessibility and function serving citizens of different age groups.

Planning Areas

The East planning area comprises the most concentrated groupings of middle- and high-income subdivisions including waterfront development on Clear Lake.

The Central planning area comprises older subdivisions, the Historic District and commercial property on Main street, the residential area south of FM 518, undeveloped and unused agricultural areas and wetlands, the Civic Center, the Sportsplex, and the regional "big box" commercial strips on both sides of Interstate 45.

The areas to the west of the Central area have been divided into two distinct planning areas. The Southwest planning area is open undeveloped agricultural land currently used for occasional grazing. The Northwest planning area contains both mature as well as recently developed subdivisions, a golf course, and wooded areas along Clear Creek.

Review and Inventory

A review was undertaken of all relevant documents including the 1995 Parks Master Plan. GIS maps were produced of existing physical condition such as hydrology, soils, vegetation, existing and planned use of land, areas for future development, transportation networks and an inventory of all parks and facilities was compiled.



The Sportsplex

Currently the City has 1,041.24 acres of parkland including parks owned by Harris and Galveston County. Of these, 621.47 acres represent developed parks currently used by the public. The majority of this acreage is in parks owned by the Counties. There are 608.66 acres of land owned by the City, of which 419.77 acres has been acquired by the City for park purposes but is still to be developed. While the undeveloped city land represents a potential resource, it does not currently provide a service to the community. Privately owned Homeowners Association (HOA) parks, while only accessible to those living in the subdivision where they are located, currently play a major role in providing neighborhood amenities.

Parks Typology

A new typology of parks by size, function and facilities was devised to reflect League City's special characteristics.

Regional Parks

Large parks or parks designed to enhance or preserve some unique physical characteristic that serve the population of a number of cities or communities, e.g. Challenger Park.

Citywide / Special Parks

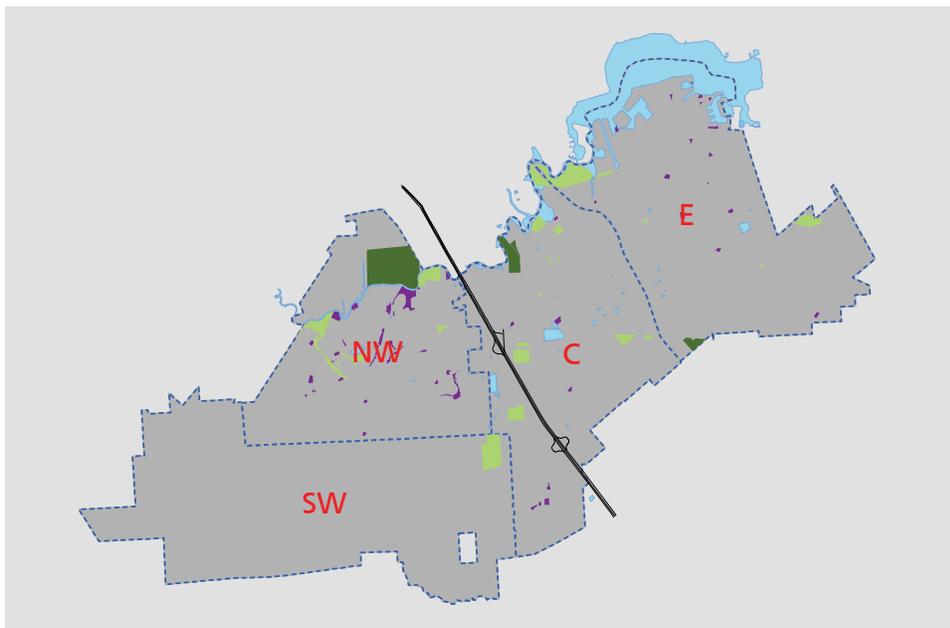
Parks of different sizes which are of special interest to the whole city, e.g. League Park, Helen's Garden, and the Sportsplex.



Challenger Park is a Regional Park.



Helen's Garden is a Citywide/Special Park.



County parks (dark green), City parks (light green), and HOA parks (purple)



Countryside Park is a Community Park.

Community Parks

Multi-purpose parks, usually over ten acres in area that often provide both active and passive recreation and serve an area within a radius of 3 miles, e.g. Walter Hall Park and Countryside Park.

Neighborhood Parks

Parks, generally 10 acres or less in area, that meet immediate neighborhood needs and are located not more than half a mile from the residences they serve, e.g. Bayridge and Newport parks.

Greenways/Trails

Typically linear parks on a creek, drainage easement, road, or infrastructure corridors providing pedestrian and/or bicycle access linking parks or facilities to each other, to schools and residential neighborhoods and to other places of interest, e.g. Rustic Oaks Park.



Rustic Oaks Park is a Greenway.

Homeowners Association Parks

Small neighborhood parks serving adjacent owners and their families, often with playgrounds and facilities, with an area usually less than five acres. These parks have been dedicated by developers for park use as a result of a city ordinance.

CHAPTER 3, NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In order to determine League City's current and future needs as well as deficiencies in terms of parklands three types of needs assessment techniques were used:

- Demand-based needs
- Resource-based needs
- Standards-based needs

Demand-based Needs

A mail-in survey of the 18,958 residences in League City resulted in a response from 10% of those surveyed. The survey gained insight into current perception on the use and maintenance of City parks and open space, residents' recreational interests as well as priorities for future parks and open space improvements. The survey suggested a general satisfaction with the provision and maintenance of active recreational parks but clearly indicated a serious concern about the deficiency in more natural open space and, in particular, in the lack of pedestrian and bicycle trails throughout the City. Concerns over the recent scale of development and the consequent loss of habitat were voiced. The special needs of the senior citizens, the disabled and youth were cited as well as the



The Sportsplex received high marks from survey respondents.

need for specific facilities such as those for competitive swimming. The survey also brought to light that many citizens were not informed of the range or location of parks and facilities provided by the City.

Resource-based needs

Three aspects of the city's physical resources were found to affect the future provision of parks and open space.

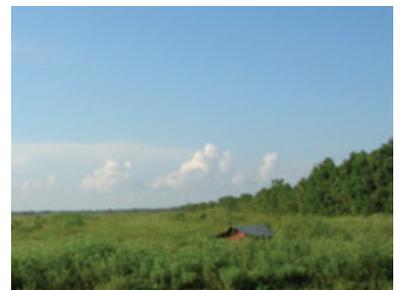
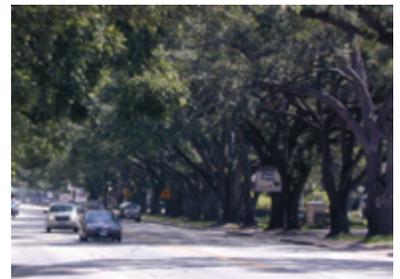
The City's unique hydrologic system of lakes, creeks, floodways, and wetlands are both an asset and liability in terms of implementing a parks system. Clear Lake and Clear Creek are distinct assets in terms of riparian vegetation, habitat, and scenic beauty as well as recreational potential. Drainage easements create additional opportunities for developing a linked trail network. The city's topography is conducive to ponding and flooding and significant retention of surface water is required. However, this could be a positive factor if floodplains are used selectively for either active or passive recreation and surface water drainage could be directed to create large lakes as accessible recreational amenities.

The City has stands of fine Live Oaks, other hard woods, and coniferous trees and is heavily wooded along Clear Creek, an area ideal for passive recreational activities and trails. Considerable landscaping of esplanades with street trees and tree cover in parkland has always been and should continue to be a significant policy in keeping League City green and providing shade in a hot humid climate.

The third unique aspect of the City conducive to the planning and implementation of an extensive parks system is League City's generous supply of available land suitable for park use. While this is interspersed in currently developed areas, it is particularly significant in the Southwest planning area, which is undeveloped and represents some 31% of the city's total land area.

Standards-based Needs

Planning practice is moving away from using a set of national standards to plan for parks provision in favor of creating local standards reflecting the physical and societal characteristics which differ from city to city depending on the climate, terrain, demographics and local customs. League City's current Level of Service (LOS) for different park types and public facilities were tested against national standards in terms of provision of acreage, number, and accessibility. New standards, which total 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in terms of acreage, are proposed based on the City's goals and the responses from the citizen survey for specific park types. Relative to League City's current LOS, deficiencies were identified in all planning areas, however, deficits were greatest in the East planning area. Facility LOS was found to be generally sufficient.



The City's hydrologic system (top), tree cover (middle), and undeveloped land (bottom) are important physical resources related to parks and recreation.

CHAPTER 4, PLANNING FOR 2025



League City is expected to continue its rapid growth over the next two decades, and so the City will need to increase its park acreage by 2025.



Infrastructure corridors could be adapted to accommodate trails and greenways.

The plan is for a linked system of diverse park types serving a wide spectrum of age groups and interests throughout the existing development and projected future growth areas. This chapter proposes the type of parklands and facilities, the park acreage to be acquired and developed, and the location for future acquisition in order to satisfy the needs of the projected population by planning area of the City by the year 2025.

To achieve the targeted citywide LOS of 10 acres per 1,000 residents, the City will have to develop approximately 1,050 acres of parkland, including land that has already been acquired but not developed. The plan recommends that the City concentrates its resources in local parks and leaves regional parks to be developed, if required, by Counties or regional authorities. On this basis, 69 acres of citywide/special parks, with an addition of ten acres of already acquired parkland will need to be developed. In terms of community parks, 339 acres of land need to be acquired and developed in addition to the 258 acres already acquired but not developed. Neighborhood parks and greenways/trails will require the acquisition and development of approximately 265 acres and 188 acres respectively. These acreages for neighborhood parks include the fact that the Homeowners Association (HOA) Parks, although privately owned, play a major role in providing local amenities. Because of their access limitations, they have been taken into account to a lesser extent than publicly owned parks in assessing the LOS to the total community. The role of these HOA parks will become increasingly important as the City seeks to keep up with the expected addition of an estimated 35,000 new housing units by 2025, and so these parks are given greater weight toward achieving the City's LOS goal.

Although this plan concentrates on the parks and open space as a system, a number of urban design concepts are included to illustrate how a linked system of trails could be achieved and how major open space for public amenities could be gained by innovative infrastructure measures. Detailed plans for specific areas and eventually site master plans for each park site would have to be prepared based on future acquisition or development decisions.

A network of trails linking parks with residential neighborhoods and places of interest could be achieved by using a combination of existing infrastructure corridors and drainage easements that traverse the City. These could be linked to on-street pedestrian paths and bikeways as part of the TxDOT road programs, a major east/west trail within the right of way of the proposed Grand Parkway and a parallel path along the banks of the American Canal. The banks of Clear Creek, although already developed in certain areas, could provide the

most attractive nature trail linking existing and future active and passive parks, school and residential areas with this citywide trail network. The rail line, running north/south could also be used to increase connectivity. There is considerable precedent for such “rails to trails” concepts.

In the Southwest planning area where most of the growth of 91,500 people is expected to occur in the next twenty years, and which will require large acreages for detention of surface water run-off, a “string” of major lakes could be developed. These would be an exciting development asset for the design of compact neighborhoods, as well creating the potential of a major publicly accessible open space and a unique image for the League City of the future.

CHAPTER 5, IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter estimates financial requirements, identifies potential sources of funding as well as stating the policies and actions that will be required to support a program of successful implementation. In addition, the City’s five most important priority projects are identified.

Financing

Capital Costs

Capital costs for the acquisition of parkland necessary to serve the projected 2025 population are calculated based on an estimate of average 2005 land costs as well as the capital costs to develop both land already acquired and future acquisition. The total capital cost to meet the 2025 park needs is \$152.7 million in 2005 dollars.

Operating Costs

As the City’s developed park inventory increases, operating costs to administer, operate, and maintain will increase accordingly. Based upon current per acre operating costs, the costs to operate a park system that will meet 2025 needs is projected to cost \$14.5 million per year.

Potential Funding Sources

Apart from the City’s General Fund and monies collected through the City’s Section 4-B quarter percent sales tax, a number of current and potential sources are identified. These include the Park Dedication requirement and fee based on the City ordinance mandating that property developers make both a land dedication and a fee payment based on the number of units they plan to develop. While the projected development of 32,000 new homes by 2025 would make a substantial contribution, the collected funds would fall well short of the city’s needs to fund the parks program. In addition to these sources, federal,



Unlike detention ponds in existing subdivisions (above), a “string” of detention lakes could provide major recreational amenities.

state, and other grants are potentially available as is the option to impose user fees, accept donations, set up special districts, and initiate joint-use agreements with other landowners in the City as well as other minor sources of potential funding.

Implementing Policies and Actions

Key policies and recommended actions that require to be implemented by the City in order to achieve the phased creation of the proposed citywide park and open space system by 2025 are listed in this section. These policies include but are not limited to:

- Seeking to remedy existing deficiencies and provide for future growth by electing and investigating potential sites by planning area, prioritizing in order to use available resources in the most cost effective manner, developing a program for future acquisition, and seeking and allocating funding on annual basis for implementing such a program
- Regularly monitoring the city’s development and, if necessary, amending the plan in a way that makes it sensitive to changing patterns of growth in the City
- Continuing to acquire land at the lowest cost in advance of demand, i.e. “land banking”
- Introducing or modifying ordinances to ensure the preservation of natural open space and local habitat
- Supporting private citizen initiatives to preserve natural habitat and enhance the City’s open space
- Continuing to rigorously apply the Tree Preservation ordinance and encourage the planting of indigenous species
- Ensuring that any parkland dedicated by the private sector is located where it can provide the greatest accessibility to its potential user
- Striving to achieve a park system in which no household is further than a half mile from an accessible park or open space
- Acquiring land and negotiating the use of easements for the construction of a linked citywide network of trails and paths
- Working with implementing agencies and/or the private sector to ensure that road corridors will be designed to provide adequate space for the inclusion of on-street or off-street trail facilities
- Continuing to seek all potential opportunities to secure outside funding for parks projects
- Continuing to prepare and fund recreation, cultural, and educational programs related to parks and public facility use for a wide spectrum of citizens
- Seeking to maximize the joint use of all parks, open space, or public facilities



League Park

by establishing mutually beneficial relationships with both public and private sector land owners

- Reinforcing the City’s public information programs in order to ensure that all citizens are aware of the parks, open space and public facility provisions that could enhance their quality of life in the City
- Providing adequate staffing and operational funding to ensure that the City’s excellent record of parks maintenance is sustained as the City and the parks system expands
- Reviewing the use, design, and management practices with regard to all parks and open space and have individual site master plans prepared for the development of new parks, greenways, trails, and open space
- Maximizing the planned public use of floodplains and drainage easements for both active and passive recreation while safeguarding the requirements to manage surface water runoff.
- Striving to ensure that all existing and new facilities will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and to ensure convenient public access to the entire parks and open space system

Prioritization of Needs

Consistent with the guidelines of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department the City has prioritized its five highest parks, recreational, and open space needs:

1. Meeting the established LOS standards for each park type in each planning area through a park acquisition and development program that serves to increase park provision in underserved planning areas.
2. Development of a comprehensive citywide greenway and trail network that links parks, schools, and other major destinations.
3. Preservation of the city’s physical resources—its hydrologic system, its tree cover, and portions of its undeveloped lands—as the city grows, while developing appropriate passive recreational opportunities for citizens to enjoy these resources.
4. Expansion of the City’s active public recreational facilities so as to maintain a high level of service as the City’s population grows.
5. Management of storm water in a manner that provides large-scale recreational and open space benefits, particularly in the Southwest planning area.



Helen's Garden

Appendices

Appendices include an overview of the City’s demographics as well as the complete survey data.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The balanced provision of parks and open space together with public and private amenities designed to serve the full spectrum of local interests and age groups are integral to the achievement of League City's vision of its future.

The City of League City is located at the southern edge of the rapidly expanding Houston Metropolitan Region and lies within both Harris and Galveston Counties. As areas to the north become built out, League City, which still has large undeveloped areas available, is under constant pressure to be the recipient of metropolitan growth. Growing at sustained annual rate of approximately 6%, the current (2005) population of the City is estimated at 62,500 and is projected to reach 154, 300 by the year 2025 (detailed demographic information is included in Appendix 1).

It was against this background that the City prepared and approved a Comprehensive Plan in 2003. This document describes the strategies, policies, plans, and programs designed to manage urban growth in order to achieve a future vision and specific goals which reflected the aspirations of its citizens. The plan dealt with a range of urban growth elements, land-use, transportation, neighborhoods, housing, community facilities, parks and open space, infrastructure, and economic development. One of the key recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan 2025 was to prepare a Parks and Open Space Master Plan to replace a previous plan that had been prepared in 1995 when the city had a population of 35,000. A new 2005 Parks and Open Space Master Plan, as with all plans for the City's most important sectoral elements, should be compatible with the intent and supportive of the urban policies expressed and approved by Council in the Comprehensive Plan 2025. This new plan seeks to provide a guide for the City to manage the provision of parkland and open space in the most effective way in terms of planning, acquisition, and development. In doing this, the plan elaborates on the parks and open space policies, programs, and plans as expressed in the Comprehensive Plan 2025. During the comprehensive planning process, the importance of providing the population with a balanced system of parks and open space was expressed in the following terms as an integral part



Helen's Garden

of the citizen’s “vision” of the city as viewed in 2025:

“While it (the city) has conserved its important natural resources—the lake, creeks and wetlands, waterfront, local flora, fauna and tree cover—the City has enhanced these assets by a city-wide park system linked by trails and greenways.”

“League City has preserved forever its scenic open spaces and features of environmental and scenic value through sound planning and by the timely acquisition of key sites, voluntary conservation efforts and through creative guidance and incentives for private sector development projects.”

“The City has encouraged development that conserves open spaces, provides recreational amenities and promotes pedestrian and bicycle activity.”

“The City has kept pace with growth by anticipating and programming investments to meet short and long-range needs for efficient infrastructure, services and public facilities such as parks, schools and civic activities. Local amenities, easily accessible from nearby residences, have contributed to a family-oriented environment and maintained the aesthetic character of the neighborhoods.”

Clear Creek Nature Park will serve both scenic and educational purposes while preserving wetland habitat



“The City maintains a wide range of recreational and sports facilities designed to serve all age groups, with plans for incremental expansion of its recreational amenities to continue to meet the needs of an expanding population.”

“In cooperation with private developers, a city-wide system of convenient and well-used pedestrian, bicycle and greenway linkages and corridors have developed connecting neighborhoods with parks, schools, local shopping areas and other civic facilities.”

The above quotations from the City’s vision of its future (Comprehensive Plan 2025 Section 2.0; pages 2 – 4 of 5) reiterate the most significant aspects of the vision and goals expressed in the 1995 Parks Master Plan. As part of the Comprehensive Plan (Section 4.0: pages 42 – 44 of 73), the City established the following policies to assist in realizing this vision:

Policy 4.4-5 Continue to acquire land for large scale parks.

Policy 4.4-6 Develop and implement a city-wide open space program.

Policy 4.4-7 Require that new residential developments reserve land for parks within the development.

Policy 4.4-8 Secure corridors that permit the linking together of parks.

Policy 4.4-9 Increase grant funding for parks and open space.

Policy 4.4-10 Continue to provide recreational, cultural, and educational programs and services that benefit youth, adults and seniors.

These aspirations and policies were subsequently endorsed by the Parks Board at the inception of the planning process in early 2005 and have provided the basis for the preparation of this 2005 Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

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2 | PLANNING FRAMEWORK

A systematic planning process was developed to analyze League City’s current park and open resources, identify existing and future park needs, and establishing a strategy to satisfy these needs. As part of this process, a planning framework was designed as a means for analyzing the specialized and varied roles of League City’s parks. Based upon an examination of the current parks inventory, the planning framework designates descriptive park types that best reflect how groups of parks function within the larger open space inventory. By using a planning framework, the City is better able to consider its existing holdings and plan for future acquisitions in a more systematic manner.



Countryside Park

2.1 PLANNING PROCESS

The preparation of the 2005 Parks and Open Space Master Plan stems directly from an intensive participatory process carried out in the development of the Comprehensive Plan 2025. This two year process involved stakeholder interviews, a “Visioning” process, public meetings, joint meetings with the Council, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and an eighteen-person steering committee. Regular meetings were held with the Steering Committee and with City staff. Discussion, review and the identification of goals and objectives as well as policies and plans for the Parks and Open Space Element were an integral part of the process. The follow-on process to prepare the 2005 Parks and Open Space Master Plan was designed as a series of sequential steps that began in March 2005.

1. The collection of base information, existing conditions, and land use mapping in ArcGIS.
2. Review of all data, including the 1995 Parks Master Plan with City staff.
3. Meeting with the Parks Board to confirm the relevance of the vision for parks and open space development expressed by the public in the Comprehensive Plan and seek their approval to base a new plan on these goals and objectives.

4. Regular meetings and communication with the City Planner and City staff in the Department of Planning and its Parks Planning Division as well as the Superintendent of Parks Operations in the Department of Public Works.
5. A review of planning sectors used in the 1995 Parks Master Plan and the identification of planning areas more appropriate to current and future planned growth patterns.
6. Categorization and development of a parks typology specifically related to existing use and future conditions in League City.
7. The design and preparation of a needs assessment process using demand-based, resource-based and standard-based approaches:
 - a. Demand-based assessment
 - i. The design of a mail-out survey to all known residences in the City survey.
 - ii. The mail-out of the survey and the reception and collation of survey results by City staff.
 - iii. Analysis and documentation of survey results.
 - b. Resource-based assessment
 - i. Review of all physical resources in the city; analysis and identification of the special characteristics which might support or negate the planned acquisition or development of parkland or open space. This assessment was undertaken using the full range of collected GIS data.
 - c. Standard-based assessment
 - i. Review of current levels of service in terms of parks and open space provision and facilities; comparison and bench-marking with relevant national standards and standards derived from similar sized cities.
 - ii. Calculation of desired standards relevant to League City's climate, customs, and existing and projected demographic structures.
8. Meeting with the Parks Board to report on the findings of previous tasks and to propose new planning areas, a revised parks typology, an assessment of park and open space needs, and to secure their approval to continue with the planning process on the basis of these proposals.
9. Preparation of an administrative draft 2005 Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

10. Commencement of a review and revision of the City Ordinance 102 referring to the acquisition, development and funding of parks and open space in League City in order to ensure its compatibility with, and support of, the changes being proposed in the 2005 Parks and Open Space Master Plan.
11. Review by City staff of the proposed draft plan document.
12. Joint workshop with the City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Parks Board to present the draft plan.
13. Public meeting to present the draft plan.
14. Separate meetings with the Parks Board, Planning and Zoning Commission, and finally the City Council to seek their adoption of the final 2005 Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

2.2 PLANNING AREAS

For the purposes of planning the provision of services, it is a recognized technique to divide a city into sectors, districts, or planning areas. In the case of the Comprehensive Plan 2025, the planning areas used were those previously delineated by service area boundaries in the City's approved water and sewer master plans. Since the service areas for water distribution and sewage collection are different from the service areas or areas of influence of park and open space, a more appropriate sectorization of the city into planning areas was proposed and presented to City staff and the Parks Board. The four 2005 planning areas were based upon the three "regions" that were identified in the 1995 Parks Master Plan, though significant changes were made based on recent development and the modified land use and circulation plans adopted by the City as part of the Comprehensive Plan 2025.

The City was divided into the four planning areas delineated on Figure 2.1: East, Central, Northwest, and Southwest.

The East planning area is bounded to the east by the City's boundary with Kemah and to the west by FM 270. This relatively homogeneous area represents the most concentrated focus of recent middle and higher income subdivisions as well as the waterfront development on Clear Lake.

The Central planning area is bounded to the east by the East planning area, while the western boundary roughly follows the edge of commercial and mixed

use land use districts just to the west of I-45; the boundary is partially defined by segments of Hobbs Road and Calder Drive. In contrast with the 1995 Parks Master Plan, the boundary was set just to the west of I-45 so as to treat the existing and future regional commercial corridor on both sides of I-45 as a single entity. This area includes the Main Street commercial area, the historic district and older residential areas, obsolete agricultural areas south of FM 518, the Civic Center, and Sportsplex.

The area to the west of the Central planning area is divided by a line running east-west into two distinct planning areas—the Northwest and Southwest planning areas—as opposed a single western “region” as used in the 1995 Parks Master Plan.

The Northwest planning area is bounded to the north by the City’s limits with the adjacent city of Webster, to the south by the American Canal, and to the west by current extent of development. This planning area includes some mature middle-income residential subdivisions between FM 518 and Clear Creek and a relatively undeveloped segment north of Clear Creek that includes Harris County’s Challenger Park. The area to the south of FM 518 includes a large area of more recent subdivisions and a golf course.

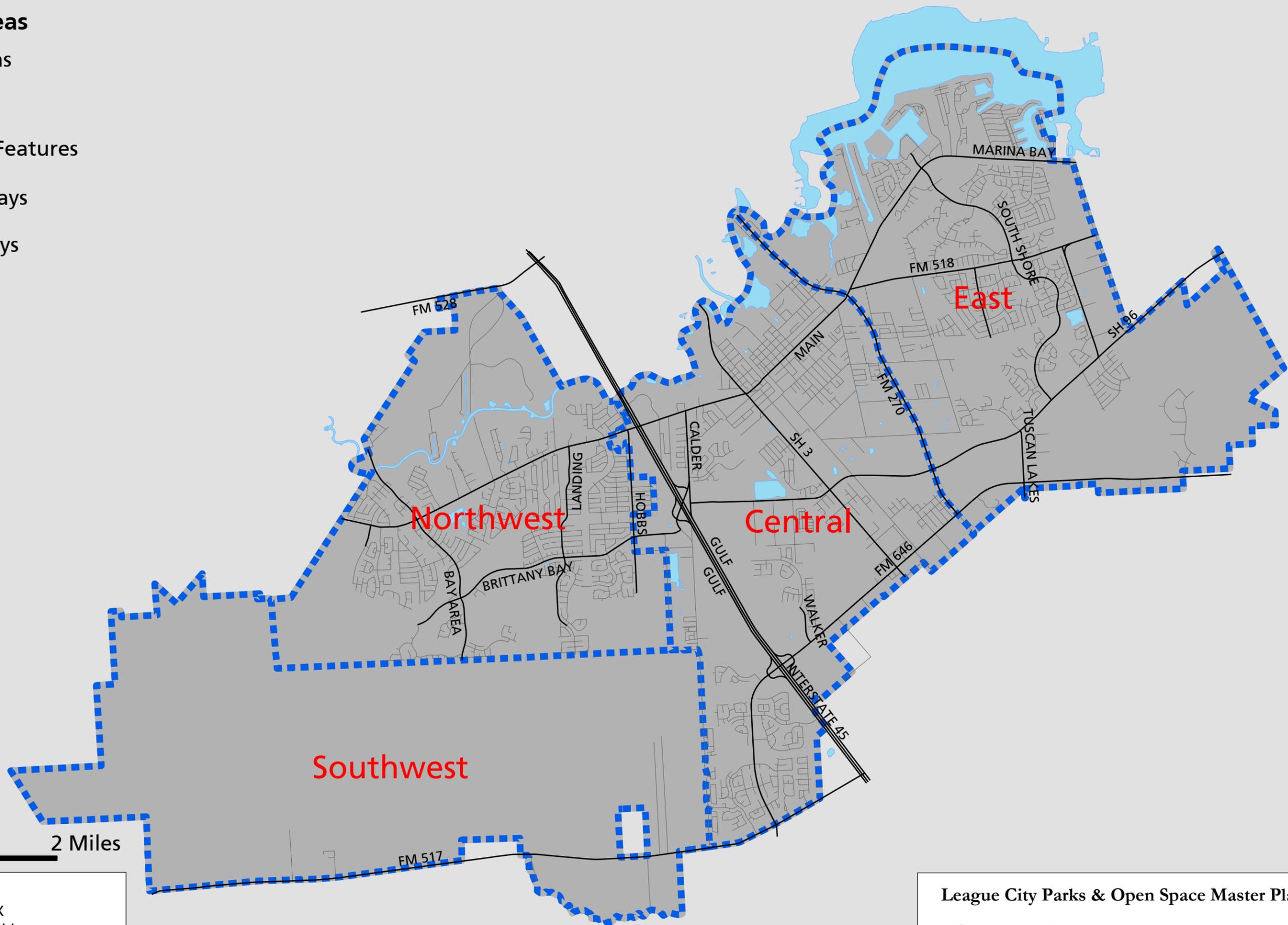
The Southwest planning area has its northern boundary with the Northwest planning area and its southern boundary is the City’s boundary with the city of Dickinson. This vast area is virtually undeveloped and is currently in limited agricultural use for grazing. When provided with utilities and roads in the near future, this area will become available for large scale development.

2.3 PARKS INVENTORY

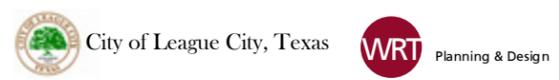
The City has a current inventory of 1,041.24 acres of parkland, including both developed and undeveloped parks as well as parks owned by Harris and Galveston Counties. The complete inventory is listed in Table 2-1 and graphically shown in Figure 2.2. Of the 1,041 acres of parkland, 621.47 acres have been developed: 432.58 acres of County parkland and 188.89 acres of City parkland. The City has an additional 419.77 acres of parkland that has been acquired but not yet developed. These unimproved lands presently provide little direct public benefit aside from their habitat value, perception as open space, and potential to be developed into parkland.

Park Planning Areas

-  Planning Areas
-  Hydrological Features
-  Major Roadways
-  Local Roadways



October 31, 2005
Sources: City of League City, TX
Wallace Roberts & Todd



League City Parks & Open Space Master Plan
Figure 2.1:
Planning Areas

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2005 Park Inventory by Ownership and Status

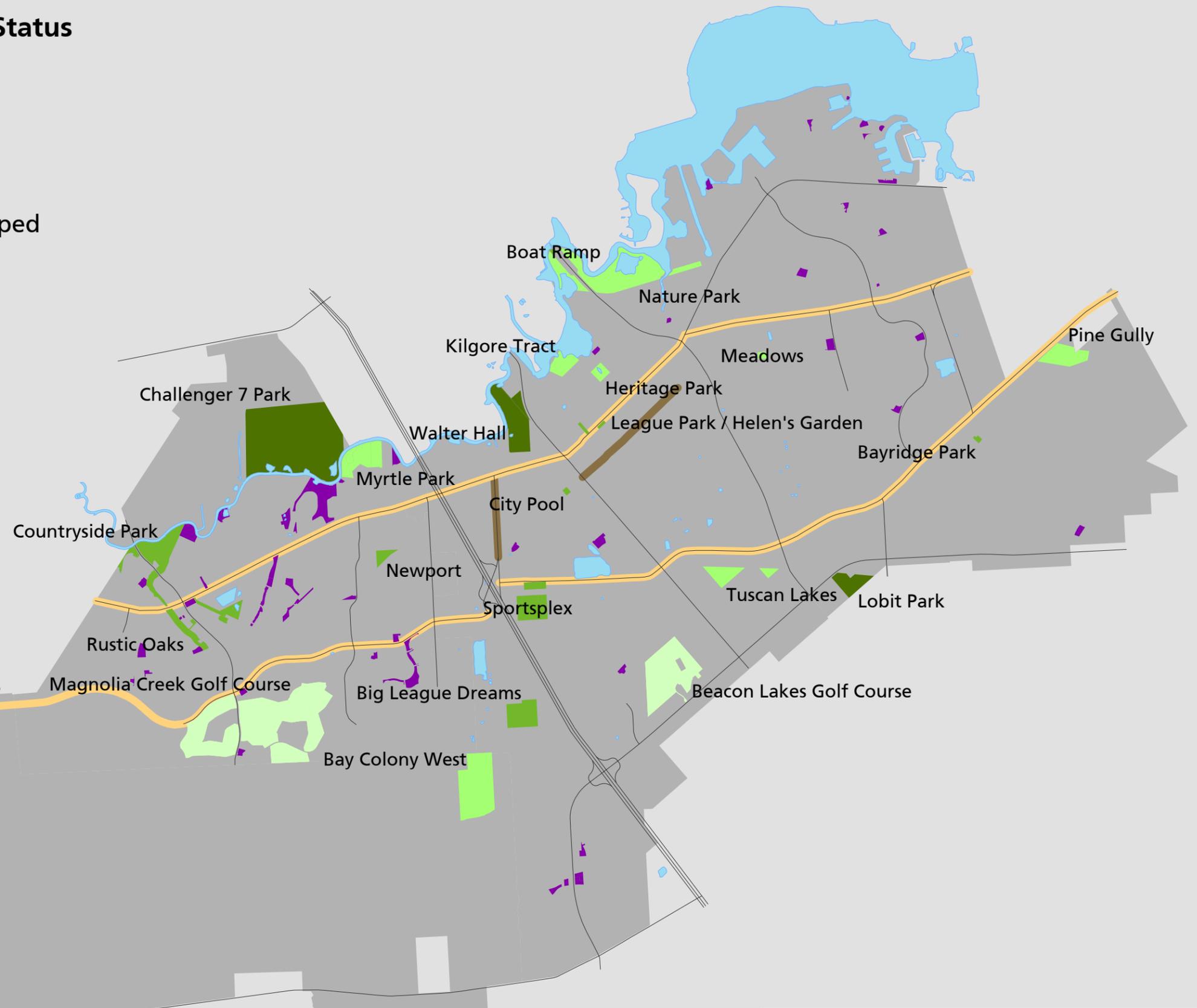
- County Parks: Developed
- City Parks: Developed
- City Parks: Acquired but Undeveloped
- HOA Parks: Developed
- Publicly Accessible Golf Courses: Developed

Existing and Planned Trails

- Existing ROW Hike and Bike
- Planned TxDOT ROW Hike and Bike

Hydrological Features

Major Roads



October 31, 2005
Sources: City of League City, TX

League City Parks & Open Space Master Plan

**Figure 2.2:
Park Inventory**

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Table 2-1: Park Inventory (2005)

<u>Developed City Parks</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Acquired Land for City Parks</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Bayridge Park	1.82	Bay Colony West	106.00
Big League Dreams*	13.61	Butler Longhorn Museum	10.40
Boat Ramp	1.47	Clear Creek Nature Park	148.00
City Pool	1.87	Kilgore Tract	28.47
Countryside Park	68.00	Meadows	3.00
Helen's Garden	1.47	Myrtle Park (Erickson Tract)	50.91
League Park	2.18	Pine Gully Park	44.28
Newport	9.00	Tuscan Lakes	28.71
Rustic Oaks Park	35.47	TOTAL	419.77
Sportsplex	54.00		
TOTAL	188.89		
<u>Developed County Parks</u>	<u>Acreage</u>		
Challenger Park (Harris)	326.00		
Lobit Park (Galveston)	28.00		
Walter Hall Park (Galveston)	78.58		
TOTAL	432.58		
TOTAL CITY DEVELOPED	188.89	TOTAL CITY ACQUIRED	608.66
TOTAL COUNTY DEVELOPED	432.58	TOTAL COUNTY ACQUIRED	432.58
TOTAL CITY/COUNTY DEVELOPED	621.47	TOTAL CITY/COUNTY ACQUIRED	1041.24

*Big League Dreams is counted at 60% of its actual acreage—22.68 acres—due to limited periods of public access.

Note: Acreages based on plat records

League City's parks vary greatly in size and character. For example, Helen's Garden, one of the smallest at 1.47 acres, is a highly formal and urban park situated along the City's busy Main Street, while Challenger Park, the largest at 326 acres, provides a mixture of active and passive recreational opportunities along an isolated stretch of Clear Creek. The Big League Dreams complex, though developed using City land and funds, is operated as a private franchise that charges significant user fees for league play, though its facilities are open to the public at no charge when games are not scheduled. Due to the dual nature of this facility, Big League Dreams is considered a public park but its role in serving recreational needs is considered to be less than other parks: its acreage and facilities are counted at sixty percent of their actual amount. The facilities currently provided within developed City and County parks are shown in Table 2-2. Based upon park size, facilities, and a more general understanding of how these parks function within the community, a park typology was developed to describe the City's park system (see Section 2.4 Park Typology).

Table 2-2: Facility Inventory (2005)

Developed City Parks & Facilities	Softball/Baseball	Basketball Courts	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Tennis Courts	Swimming Pools	Golf	Volleyball	Boat Launching Ramp	Hiking-Biking Trail (mi)	Picnic Tables	Play Grounds	Community Center	Senior Center
Bayridge Park	1	1									Y	1		
Big League Dreams*	4											1		
Boat Ramp									1		Y			
Countryside Park	2	1		1				1		3	Y	1		
Helen's Garden											N			
League Park		1									Y	1		
Municipal Pool						1					N			
Rustic Oaks Park				2	2			1			Y	1		
Sportsplex	10		1	11				6		2	Y	2		
Newport Park		1		1							Y			
Civic Center											N		1	
TOTAL	17	4	1	15	2	1	0	8	1	5	--	7	1	0
Developed County Parks														
Challenger 7	1			4	2				1		Y	1		
Walter Hall	1		2	2	2						Y	1		
Lobit	1										N	3		
TOTAL	3	0	2	6	4	0	0	0	1	0	--	5	0	0
City and County Developed Parks														
City Total	17	4	1	15	2	1	0	8	1	5	--	7	1	0
County Total	3	0	2	6	4	0	0	0	1	0	--	5	0	0
TOTAL	22	4	3	21	6	1	0	8	2	5	--	12	1	0

*Big League Dreams is included at approximately 60% of actual facility inventory—6 baseball fields and 2 playgrounds—due to limited periods of public access.

In addition to these publicly owned facilities, there are a number of Homeowners Association (HOA) Parks and other private recreational facilities that serve the City’s residents, and these are indicated on the inventory map (Figure 2.2). HOA Parks are private recreational facilities that are owned and operated by Homeowners Associations for the sole use of their members. Also included are two of the City’s golf courses, Magnolia Creek and Beacon Lakes, both of which are privately owned and operated but are open to the general public.

2.4 PARK TYPOLOGY

Park typology refers to the categorization of parks based upon use or potential service area. By typing parks, deficiencies citywide or in a specific planning area are more easily identified and future park needs are more effectively addressed.

The 1995 Parks Plan did not directly establish park types, though it alluded to types by contrasting City parks with County parks and describing “regional” and ‘non-regional’ parks, where “regional” referred to three “regions”—i.e. planning areas—within the City.

The 2005 Master Plan establishes five primary types based upon park function, facilities, and size:

- Regional Parks
- Citywide/Special Parks
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Greenways/Trails

Unlike in the 1995 Parks Plan, “Regional” is used in its more accepted sense to refer to parks serving a larger area formed by a number of neighboring communities. In contrast to regional parks, the four other types—Citywide/Special

Table 2-3: Parks by Type

Regional Parks	Status	Owner	Planning Area	Acreage
Challenger Park	Developed	Harris County	Northwest	326
Clear Creek Nature Park	Acquired	City	Central / East	148
TOTAL				474
Citywide/Special Parks	Status	Owner	Planning Area	Acreage
Sportsplex	Developed	City	Central	54
Big League Dreams*	Developed	City/Private	Central	14
City Pool	Developed	City	Central	2
League Park	Developed	City	Central	2
Boat Ramp	Developed	City	Central	1
Helen's Garden	Developed	City	Central	1
SUBTOTAL DEVELOPED				75
Heritage Park	Acquired	City	Central	10
TOTAL				85

Table 2-3: Parks by Type (cont.)

Community Parks	Status	Owner	Planning Area	Acreage
Walter Hall Park	Developed	Galveston County	Central	79
Countryside Park	Developed	City	Northwest	68
Lobit Park	Developed	Galveston County	East	28
<i>SUBTOTAL DEVELOPED</i>				<i>175</i>
Bay Colony West	Acquired	City	Southwest	106
Myrtle Park	Acquired	City	Northwest	51
Pine Gully Park	Acquired	City	East	44
Tuscan Lakes	Acquired	City	Central	29
Kilgore Tract	Acquired	City	Central	28
<i>SUBTOTAL ACQUIRED</i>				<i>258</i>
TOTAL				433
Neighborhood Parks	Status	Owner	Planning Area	Acreage
Newport	Developed	City	Northwest	9
Bayridge Park	Developed	City	East	2
<i>SUBTOTAL DEVELOPED</i>				<i>11</i>
Meadows	Acquired	City	East	3
TOTAL				14
Greenways	Status	Owner	Planning Area	Acreage
Rustic Oaks	Developed	City	Northwest	35
TOTAL				35
HOA Parks*	Status	Owner	Planning Area	Acreage
Southwest	Developed	Various	Southwest	0
Northwest	Developed	Various	Northwest	32
Central	Developed	Various	Central	6
East	Developed	Various	East	8
TOTAL				47

*Here and for the purposes of calculating Level of Service (LOS, see Chapter 3, Needs Assessment), HOA Parks are included at 25% of actual acreage.

Note: Public park acreages are based on plat records; HOA Park acreages are approximated using GIS parcel data. Numbers may not total due to rounding error.

Parks, Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Greenways/Trails—are considered Local Parks since they primarily serve all or part of League City. An additional sixth type, Homeowners Association (HOA) Parks, is considered due to their significant role in satisfying neighborhood recreational needs within the City. Table 2-3 and Figure 2.1 inventory League City’s parks by type. Parks often have multiple functions, so each park was assigned by its predominate function and character.

2005 Parks by Types

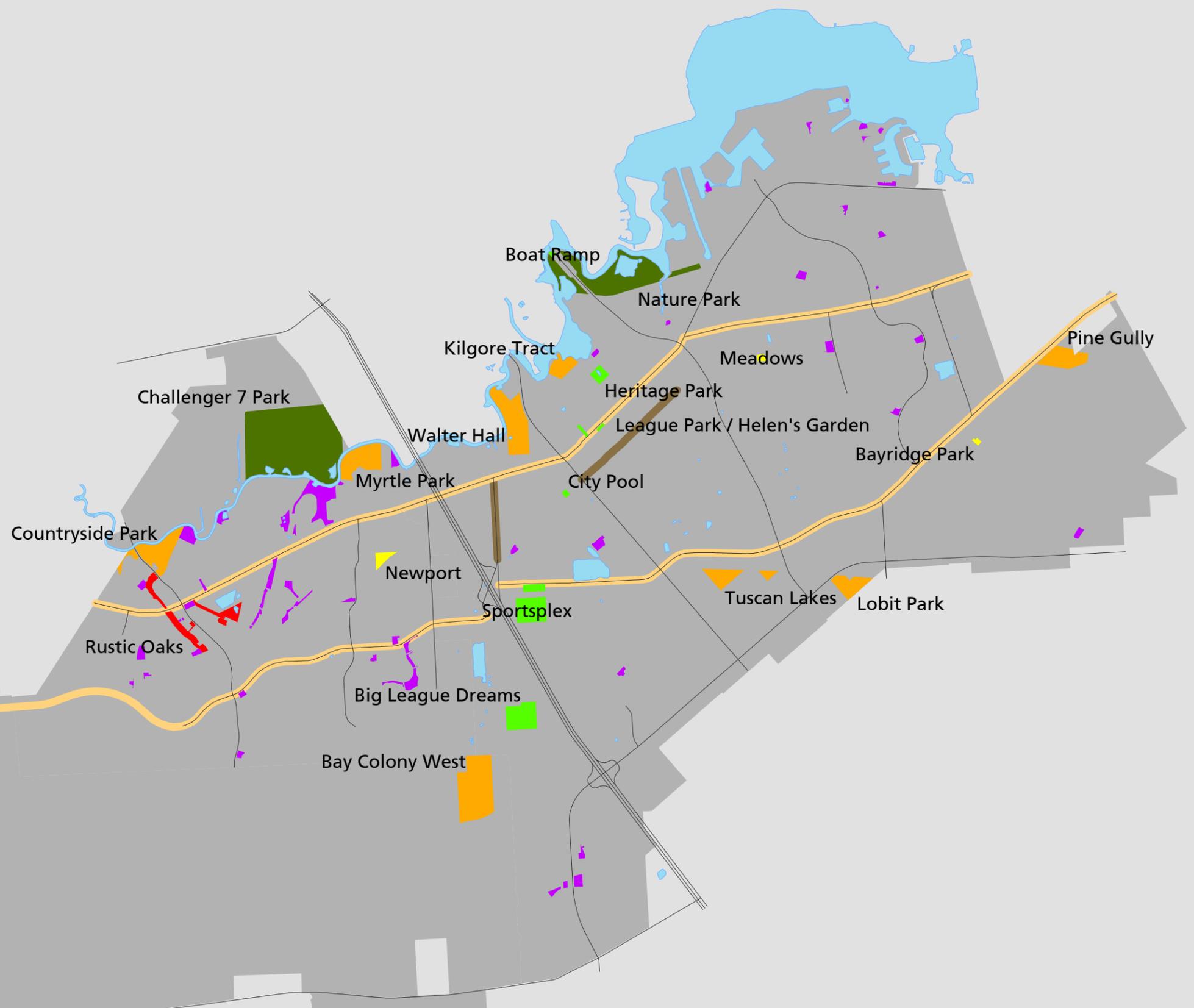
- Regional
- Citywide / Special
- Community
- Neighborhood
- Greenway / Trails
- HOA

Existing and Planned Trails

- Existing ROW Hike and Bike
- Planned TxDOT ROW Hike and Bike

Hydrological Features

Major Roads



October 31, 2005
 Sources: City of League City, TX
 Wallace Roberts & Todd

Figure 2.3:
Parks by Type

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2.4.A Regional Parks

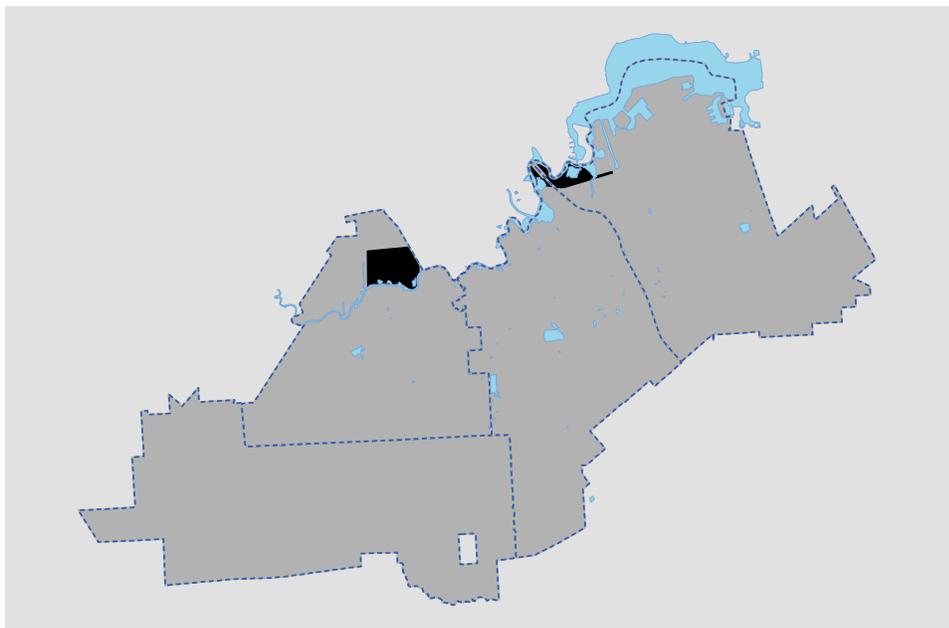
Regional parks refer to often large open space preserves that are developed around a specific natural resource, amenity, or other special feature that draws visitors from an entire region. Given the open space orientation of these parks, passive recreational activities consistent with resource preservation are often the predominant use, though limited areas of active recreational facilities may be developed. Typical features may include:

- Nature center
- Interpretative or educational center
- Interpretative/educational trails
- Unique or rare ecosystems
- Habitat viewing
- Historic or cultural features
- Picnic facilities
- Limited active recreational facilities, such as sports fields

While these features may be present in other park types, the distinguishing characteristic here is that the park is of regional as opposed to local interest, and thus brings in visitors from well beyond the City's boundaries. While regional parks should be accessible by all modes of transportation, including trail systems, most users travel to regional parks by automobile given the large regional service area, which is considered to be approximately 20 miles for League City. This



Challenger (top) and Clear Creek Nature Park (bottom) are both Regional Parks



Regional Parks

large service area means that other regional parks located outside of League City are also accessible to many of the City's residents. With an emphasis on open space, these parks usually must be fairly substantial, typically 100 acres or more, to protect and preserve sensitive resources and maintain the desired open space character. Surrounding land uses should be compatible with the character of regional parks; if their uses are not compatible, any negative impacts should be mitigated.

Currently, the only regional park within the City is Challenger Park, though the Clear Creek Nature Park will fulfill a similar function upon its development. Because of the larger service and land areas of regional parks, these facilities are often provided by regional entities, such county or state governments, as with Challenger Park, or special parks districts. While regional parks serve an important function, the City should generally focus on the provision of local parks.

2.4.B Citywide/Special Parks

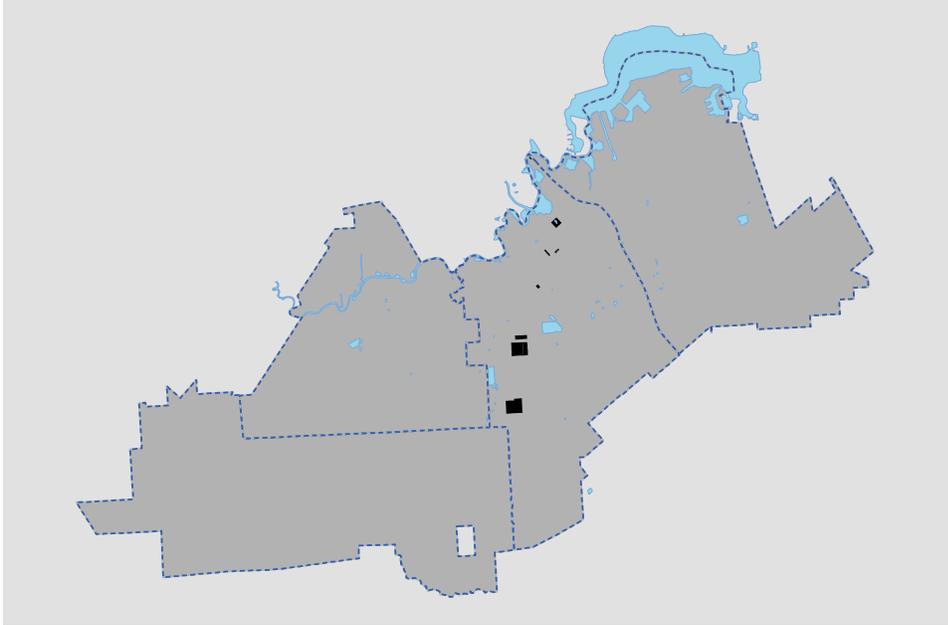
Citywide/special parks contain one or more unique features that are a citywide attraction either because of local historic or civic value or a specific yet limited function. Citywide/special parks may include:

- Civic and event spaces
- Sports complexes
- Swimming pools
- Fitness centers
- Community centers
- Senior centers
- Youth/Teen centers
- Historic or cultural sites of local interest



League Park (top) and Helen's Garden (bottom) are both Citywide/Special Parks that serve civic and event functions.

Citywide/special parks with unique historic or civic character are often developed around an established historic resource or develop their significance based upon their present and often longstanding tradition of civic use. Citywide/special parks often contain capital intensive features that are expensive to construct and maintain and thus are only developed in a few select locations. League City is a geographically large city, and so the service area of citywide/special parks is approximately 8 miles. Given this substantial service area, many users arrive at citywide/special parks by automobile, though residents who live within proximity of the facility may walk or bicycle. Given the great diversity of



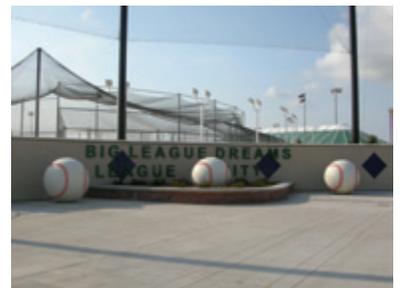
Citywide/Special Parks

parks encompassed by this type, there is no associated typical size. Citywide/special parks have the potential to have noise, traffic, and light impacts upon surrounding uses, and so they should be sited carefully to avoid negative impacts upon surrounding sensitive uses. Many citywide/special parks can have symbiotic relationships with adjacent retailers and other commercial uses.

Citywide/special parks within League City include League Park and Helen's Garden, important civic spaces that often host special events, as well as the Sportsplex, Big League Dreams, and the City Pool. All these parks are comprised of special high value facilities. The Boat Ramp is also included within this type because of the unique public access it provides to Clear Creek. Once developed, Heritage Park, which is to include the Butler Longhorn Museum, will also serve as a citywide/special park. All of the identified citywide/special parks are located within the Central planning area; while the current population is concentrated more to the east, these geographically central locations should prove an effective means of serving the City's entire population as future growth concentrates in the Southwest planning area.

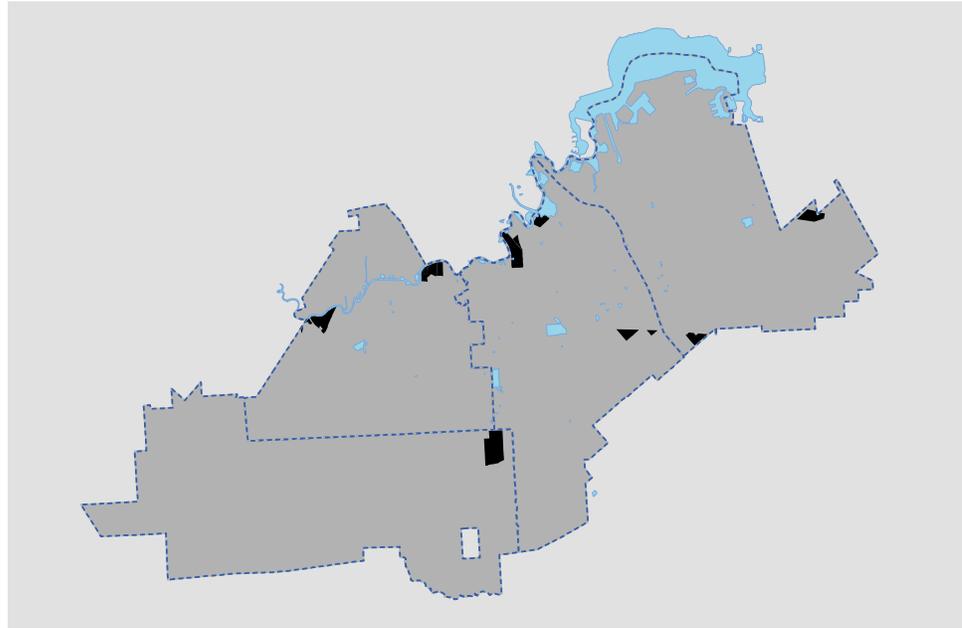
2.4.C Community Parks

Community parks provide a mixture of active and passive facilities that primarily serve residents within a particular section of the City, typically a single planning area. Community parks may include:



The Sportsplex (top) and Big League Dreams (bottom) are both Citywide/Special Parks that feature unique facilities.

Community Parks



Countryside Park epitomizes the Community Park type.

- Sports fields
- Basketball, tennis, or volleyball courts
- Open play fields
- Playgrounds
- Running tracks
- Walking trails
- Picnic areas

Community parks are generally larger than 10 acres and are often intended to be multi-purpose parks, and so care must be taken to include and balance active and passive recreational uses. Serving a particular section of the City, the service area for these parks is approximately 3 miles. Since park users are typically a combination of drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists, adequate parking should be provided on-site, though particular attention should be provided to non-motorized connectivity and amenities. Community parks may have heavily utilized lighted sports fields with public address systems, and so community parks should be sited or designed to minimize impacts upon adjacent residences and other sensitive uses.

The City’s currently developed community parks include Walter Hall, Countryside, and Lobit Parks. Although owned and maintained by Galveston County, Lobit and Walter Hall Parks are considered local parks because of their predominant use and character. The City has also acquired a number of park sites that

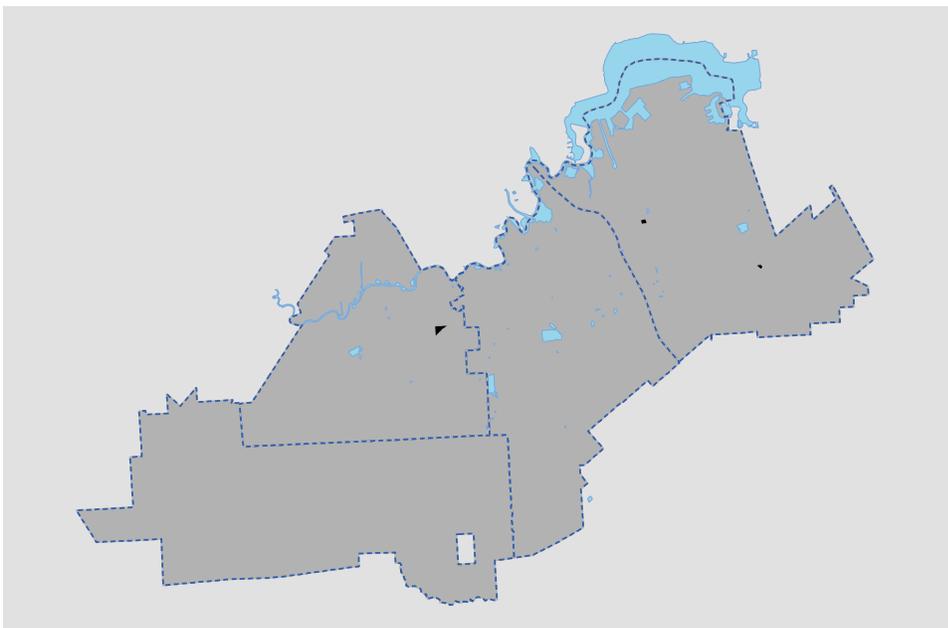
are expected to be developed as community parks, such as Pine Gully, Myrtle Park, and the Kilgore Tract. Of these many community parks, Countryside Park and Walter Hall epitomize the ideal type by providing both a variety of sports fields and a passive edge along Clear Creek.

2.4.D Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are intended to meet the most immediate recreational needs of city residents within a particular neighborhood. Neighborhood parks may include:

- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Walking trails
- Basketball, tennis or volley ball courts
- Open play fields
- Practice or limited sports fields

Neighborhood parks should be well integrated into residential neighborhoods and accommodate day-to-day recreational activities, such as unstructured sports, that require more space than is available in the typical League City backyard. Neighborhood parks are typically reached on foot and bicycle, and so safe pedestrian and bicycle connections, particularly for unaccompanied youth, are



Neighborhood Parks

essential within the approximate 1-mile service area; limited parking should be accommodated on adjacent streets. Lighted sports facilities and public address systems are generally inappropriate in neighborhood parks.

Neighborhood parks are generally 10 acres or less in size, though the City should generally avoid acquiring parks smaller than 5 acres, typically referred to as mini- or pocket-parks. While mini-parks can serve an important function within dense urban areas, the significant amount of private open space associated with the typical League City home fulfills the limited recreational roles of mini-parks, which often have disproportionately high per-acre maintenance costs.

Neighborhood parks currently include Bayridge and Newport Parks, though an additional neighborhood park site, Meadows, has been acquired by the City.

2.4.D Greenways/Trails

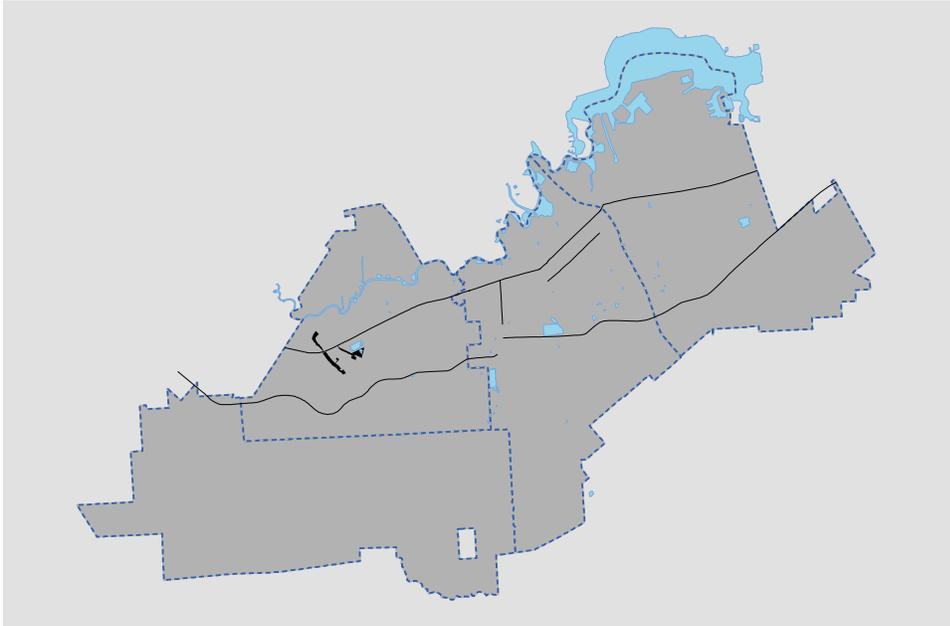
Greenways/trails are linear parks designed to protect a linear resource, such as a stream or other habitat corridor, and/or provide linkage to other parks and other destinations via multi-use trails that allow pedestrian, bicycle, and other non-motorized use. Greenways/trails typically feature:

- Multi-use trails
- Interpretative elements
- Picnic areas
- Stream or drainage corridors
- Habitat movement corridors
- Limited active recreational facilities



Rustic Oaks Parks is a Greenway

Greenways/trails are unique park facilities in that they are also part of the transportation network that can be designed to allow to safe non-motorized travel between homes and parks, schools, workplaces, and shops. As such, they may be provided within roadway right-of-ways or utility easements based upon their transportation value rather than purely recreational and open space concerns. While such connections are an important means of providing park access, trail corridors that average less than 50 feet in width or are narrower than 25 feet at any one point are not considered parkland. There are no service areas associated with greenways/trails.



Greenways/Trails

Rustic Oaks Park, located along Magnolia Creek and an adjacent drainage canal that feed into Clear Creek, is the only park within the City that currently serves as a greenway/trail park. There are two “Hike and Bike” trails within the rights-of-way of Walker and Calder Streets that serve as non-park trail facilities.

Additionally, the Texas Department of Transportation has plans to develop Hike and Bike trails along the FM 518 and SH 96 / Brittany Bay Boulevard. A trail along FM 518 from SH 146 to FM 2094 is expected to be completed by 2007, though a trail extending westward to the City’s boundary is still in long term planning and will be considered as part of the FM 518 Corridor Access Study. The planned trail along SH 96 is expected to be developed between SH 146 and I-45 by 2007, and there are long range plans for this trail to continue along Brittany Bay Boulevard to the City’s western boundary. While these existing and planned Hike and Bike facilities are not included in the park acreage inventories due to their narrow widths, they are shown on the figures within this plan because of their potential to link recreational facilities. Greenways/ Trails are most successful from both ecological and transportation standpoints when they directly connect to major destinations and other greenways/trails, however, the City’s current greenway/trail system is minimal and largely unconnected.

2.4.E Homeowners Association (HOA) Parks

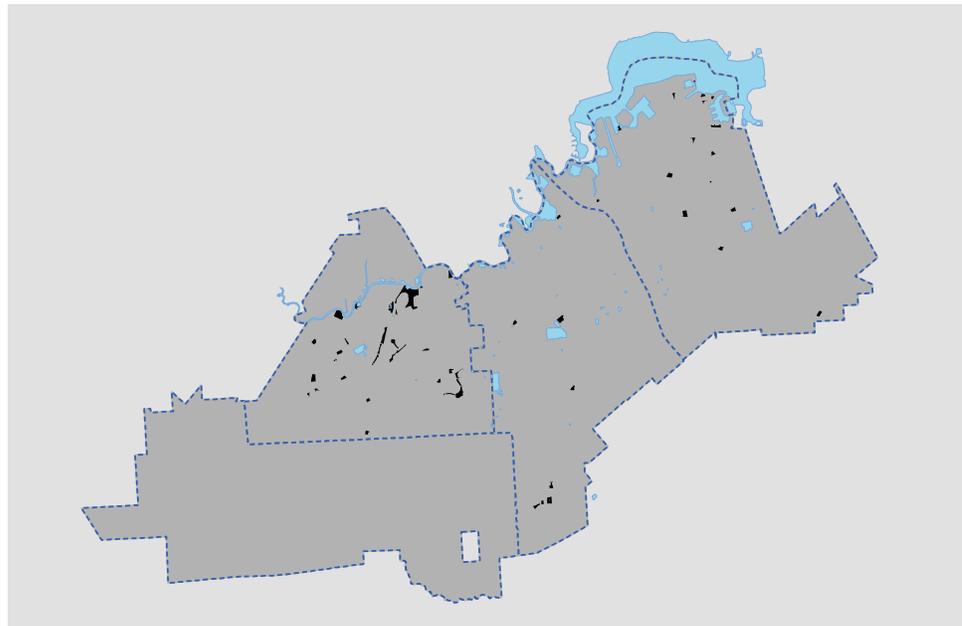
Homeowners Association (HOA) Parks are private recreational facilities that are owned, operated, and maintained by HOAs for the sole use of their members. While HOA Parks are not the responsibility of the City, they serve as neighborhood parks for many City residents. In fact, HOA parks are so widespread through the City that they currently total approximately 186 acres, and thus are collectively larger than the City’s developed park inventory. Residents belonging to HOAs with recreational facilities often have greater personal interest in HOA facilities as opposed to City facilities since a significant portion of their HOA fees are typically dedicated to these facilities. HOA parks are created during resident development projects in response to park dedication requirements specified within the City’s subdivision regulations, and so the City has had a role in their creation if not their design or operation.



An HOA Park

HOA parks are typically very small, usually less than 5 acres, but often contain high value facilities that might be cost prohibitive for the City to construct, operate, and maintain, such as small swimming pools and recreational and meeting centers. On occasion, an HOA may become insolvent and thereby unable to maintain and operate its facilities; the City may then be requested to assume ownership. In these cases, the City should carefully consider whether the anticipated operating costs are consistent with other neighborhood parks and whether the park will be reasonably accessible to non-HOA residents within a neighborhood park service area.

HOA Parks



While not a part of the public park system, HOA parks have and will continue to satisfy important recreational needs of many City residents, and thus they should be considered as part of this Master Plan. In contrast, the publicly accessible golf courses within the City are considered to provide a relatively minor role in satisfying recreational needs, and so they are not further considered.

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3 | NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Parks needs are typically assessed through three different approaches: demand-based, resource-based, and standards-based.

- A demand-based approach involves a city's residents through public outreach to determine what the residents themselves feel that they require in terms of parks, recreation, and open space.
- A resource-based approach examines what physical resources are present within a City and then considers their potential for recreational development and/or open space preservation.
- A standards-based approach analyses the ratio of land and facility inventories relative to population and location. These ratios are referred to as Level of Service (LOS). The local LOS is measured against commonly used benchmarks so as to develop standards appropriate to the City's customs, climate, and geography.

The park needs of League City were examined through all three approaches to provide a comprehensive needs assessment. In the following sections, a survey of residents is analyzed, the City's physical resources are identified, and LOS is calculated and standards developed.

3.1 DEMAND-BASED NEEDS: RESIDENT SURVEY

3.1.A Survey Background

A mail-in survey was created, distributed, and analyzed as part of the parks planning process to determine the City's park needs as voiced by the City's residents. The survey was designed to gain insight into current perceptions and use of parks, recreation, and open space; residents' recreational interests; and priorities for future park and open space improvements. The survey was distributed to all 18,958 current known households in the City. Respondents were asked to complete a single survey for all members of their households. Of the

18,958 surveys sent, 1,892 surveys were returned to the City within the allotted time, a response rate of almost 10.00% that compares favorably with the 6.78% rate of the 1995 Master Plan survey.

It is important to note that the survey respondents are a self-selected sample (i.e. they were not randomly chosen), and therefore the survey's results cannot be directly applied to all City residents. Instead, the survey must be treated like the comments received at a public meeting, where those who attend generally have a significant interest in the topic of discussion. The survey data accurately reflects the concerns of those residents who had sufficient interest in parks and open space to voice their preferences through a survey.

A copy of the survey, modified slightly to include the complete response data, may be found in Appendix 2: Survey Data along with a complete listing of free response comments.

3.1.B Survey Analysis

Existing Conditions

Meeting the needs of the current population

Residents were asked how well existing park and recreational features are meeting the City's needs. As shown in Chart 3-1, respondents felt that the recreational facilities, recreational programs, and parks are generally meeting the needs of the community. In contrast, respondents generally felt that open space and, in particular, trails were not meeting the community's needs.

Maintenance

This trend was reinforced when respondents were asked about the maintenance and physical condition of fourteen types of facilities and features within the City. The four most highly rated ("completely" or "mostly satisfied") were the Sportsplex, baseball/softball fields, multi-use fields (soccer/football), and large multi-use parks. The three most poorly rated ("not at all" or "not very satisfied") were on-street bike lanes, off-street paths for hiking/jogging/biking, and conservation/critical wildlife habitats. The results, which are shown in Chart 3-2 and Table 3-1, likely reflect the satisfaction that has come from the significant investment in the Sportsplex and similar active recreational facilities. In contrast, the low satisfaction rates with the *maintenance* of trail and conservation areas may actually be a reflection of a dissatisfaction with the low level of *provision* of these particular facilities.



Respondents were most satisfied with the maintenance of the Sportsplex

Use/Visitation

Chart 3-1: Satisfaction with Existing Facilities

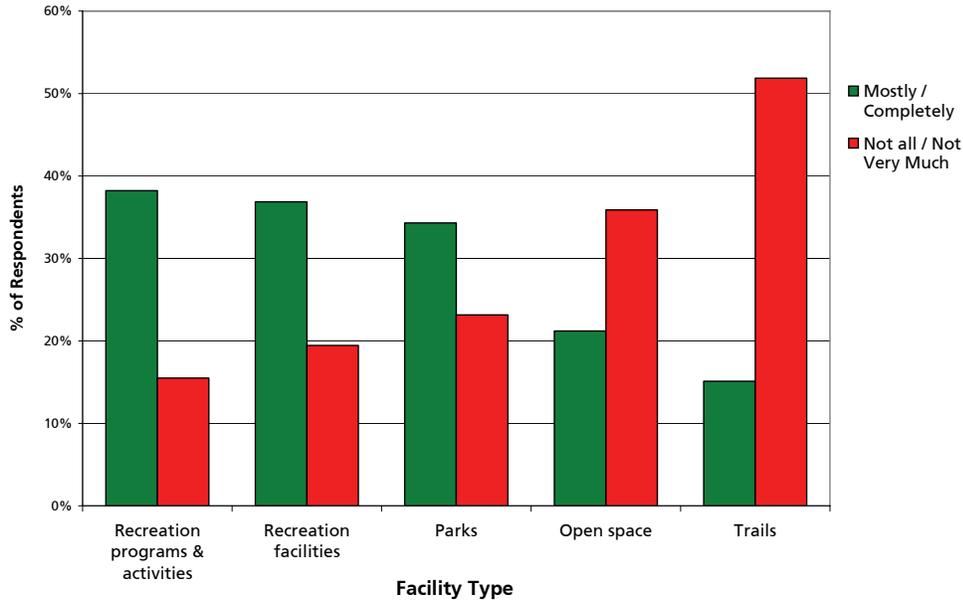
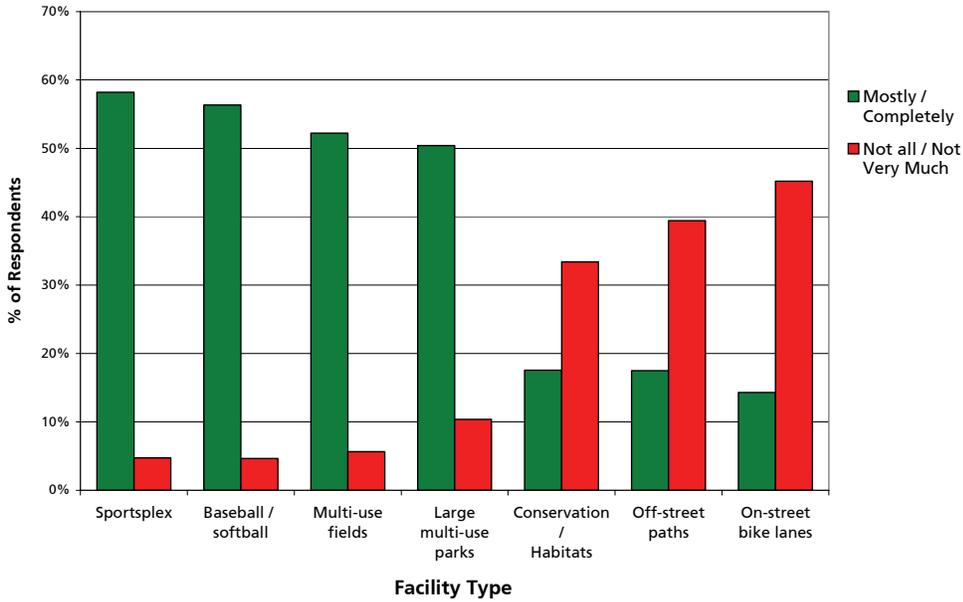


Chart 3-2: Satisfaction with Maintenance of Selected Facilities



Residents were asked how frequently they use park and recreational facilities and

Table 3-1: Maintenance Satisfaction

Question Text: Please rate your overall satisfaction with the maintenance/physical condition of the following types of parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open space in League City.

City and County Parks	% of Respondents "Completely" or "Mostly Satisfied"	% of Respondents "Not at all" or "Not Very Satisfied"
Sportsplex	58%	5%
Baseball/softball fields	56%	5%
Multi-use fields (soccer/football)	52%	6%
Large multi-use parks	50%	10%
Landscaping	48%	13%
Small neighborhood parks	42%	16%
Athletic courts (tennis/basketball)	39%	13%
Playgrounds	36%	12%
City Pool	32%	11%
Picnic facilities	32%	18%
Restrooms	27%	18%
Conservation/critical wildlife habitat	18%	33%
Off-street paths for hiking / jogging / biking	17%	39%
On-street bike lanes	14%	45%

programs as well as their reasons for *not* using parks or participating in programs. Table 3-2 shows the percentage of residents who stated that they visit a particular City or County park at least once per year. The most visited parks fall into three general categories: large passive or mixed parks, such as Walter Hall Park and Challenger Park; small citywide parks where special events are often held, such as League Park and Helen’s Garden; and the highly improved active recreational facilities at the Sportsplex. The primary reasons for not visiting parks, as shown in Chart 3-3, were “don’t know about it,” “not interested / too busy,” and “inaccessible (too far/no safe route);” concerns related to maintenance, crowding, and safety were mentioned by only a small percentage of respondents. Respondents were also asked about their participation rates in recreational programs, and the most popular programs among respondents were “special events (4th of July, egg hunt)” and “youth leagues (T-Ball, Soccer, etc).” Reasons for not participating in recreational programs were similar to those for parks, except that “Not interested / too busy” was more common than “Don’t know about it.” “Inaccessible (too far/no safe route)” was not a significant reason.

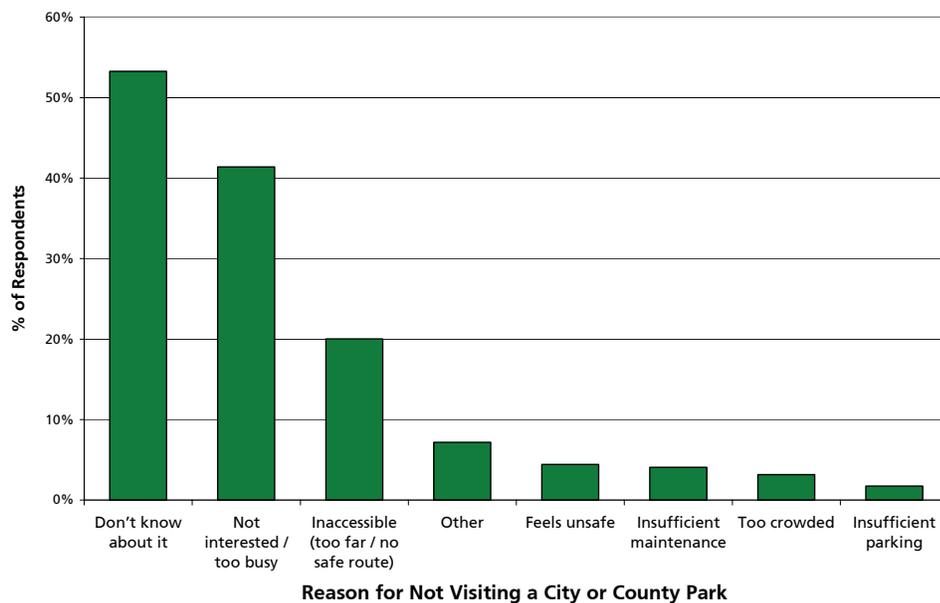


Walter Hall Park (top) and League Park (bottom) were the most visited parks by respondents

Table 3-2: Park Visitation Rates

Question Text: Please indicate what City and County parks and recreation facilities you or members of your household have visited in the past year. About how often did you visit these facilities in the past year?

City and County Parks	% of Respondents Visiting at least Once per Year
Walter Hall Park	61%
League Park	56%
Helen's Garden	51%
Sportsplex	49%
Challenger Park	49%
Civic Center	47%
Countryside Park	37%
City Pool	28%
Rustic Oaks Park	24%
Boat Ramp at FM 270	23%
Lobit Park	22%
Bayridge Park	11%

Chart 3-3: Reasons for Not Visiting City and County Parks

Recreational Interests

Residents were asked to identify recreational activities in which they participate so as to identify real interests that the City could potentially serve. The listed activities included those typically be supported by a parks and recreation department (e.g. field sports, playgrounds, etc.) as well as pursuits that typically occur individually or through private organizations (e.g. bowling, motorsports, etc.). Table 3-3 details the percentage of residents whose participation in each activity is either “Frequent” or “Moderate,” and the residual percentage of “never” and blank responses. The most popular activity among respondents was swimming. This is particularly interesting considering that the City Pool is visited by only 28% of respondents. The respondents could be swimming in private pools, HOA pools, or other cities’ public pools or visiting nearby beaches. The six next most popular activities were passive in nature: picknicking, visiting playgrounds, jogging/running, hiking, fishing, bird/wildlife watching, and exercising pets. These responses suggest that the most common recreational activities among respondents are not organized sports requiring expensive improvements. Instead, the most common activities are passive pursuits that require large and relatively preserved areas of land with focused improvements, such as trails and playgrounds. This trend was reinforced by the responses to questions related to future park and open space improvements.

Future Project Priorities

Respondents were asked to assign levels of importance to a variety of potential park, open space, and recreational facilities that could be provided in the future. As listed in Table 3-4, the possible projects deemed “Very Important” or “Important” by the greatest percentage of respondents were large passive parks, off-street paths, wildlife habitat preservation, historic preservation, small neighborhood parks, and picnic facilities. These projects are very consistent with the most popular activities among respondents: trails and preserved areas for running and hiking, and small neighborhood parks that would typically provide playgrounds. These responses suggest a desire for natural parkland, i.e. open space, that provides opportunities for passive activities. Residents were then asked more specific questions about the future recreational uses of Clear Creek and the appropriate rationale for open space preservation. The future uses of Clear Creek deemed “Very Important” or “Important” by the greatest percentage of respondents were also consistent with more general priorities: “wildlife habitat conservation,” “off-street paths for hiking/jogging/biking,” and “scenic viewing areas” (see Table 3-5). As for the preservation of open space more



Respondents desire the preservation of Clear Creek for its habitat, scenic, and potential trail values

Table 3-3: Recreational Activity Participation

Question Text: In what recreational activities do you or members of your household participate in? How often? Please mark all that apply.

Activity	% of Respondents indicating "Frequent" or "Moderate"	% of Respondents indicating "Never" or nonresponsive
Swimming	62%	38%
Picknicking	55%	45%
Visiting playgrounds	52%	48%
Jogging/running	48%	52%
Hiking	46%	54%
Fishing	45%	55%
Bird/wildlife watching	44%	56%
Exercising pet	42%	58%
Bowling	38%	62%
Golf	36%	64%
Road biking	35%	65%
Boating (power/sail)	34%	66%
League/organized sports	32%	68%
Aerobics	31%	69%
Weight lifting	30%	70%
Dance	29%	71%
Basketball	29%	71%
Tennis	28%	72%
Baseball	27%	73%
Boating (canoeing/other paddling)	26%	74%
In-line skating/rollerblading	24%	76%
Mountain biking	23%	77%
Soccer	23%	77%
Softball	21%	79%
Volleyball	19%	81%
Shooting/rifle sports	18%	82%
Football	18%	82%
Horseback riding	15%	85%
Climbing	13%	87%
Martial arts	12%	88%
Skateboarding	12%	88%
Motorsports (on-road/off-road)	11%	89%
Models (radio controlled/ rocketry)	10%	90%
Ultimate frisbee/disc golf	10%	90%

Table 3-4: Possible Future Projects by Importance

Question Text: Regarding possible future projects for which the City could allocate resources, please indicate the level of importance you would place on the following projects?

Possible Future Project	% of Respondents indicating "Very Important" or "Important"	% of Respondents indicating "Opposed" or "Not Important"
Large parks dedicated to passive uses, such as walking, hiking, nature appreciation, etc.	82%	9%
Off-street paths for hiking/jogging/ biking	78%	11%
Preservation of critical wildlife habitat areas	77%	11%
Preservation of historic sites	77%	11%
Small neighborhood parks dedicated to general park uses	76%	12%
Picnic facilities	69%	18%
Senior center	65%	19%
Acquisition of open space lands	64%	20%
Remodel/expand existing park facilities	64%	19%
On-street bike lanes	64%	24%
Youth/teen center	63%	21%
Expansion of existing recreation programs	53%	28%
Neighborhood community centers	51%	31%
Environmental center	50%	30%
Large parks dedicated to active uses, such as soccer, softball, football, etc.	49%	38%
Enhancement of fishing areas	46%	38%
Indoor swimming facility	44%	40%
Water park	43%	41%
Amphitheater	43%	39%
Arboretum	42%	37%
Additional outdoor swimming pool	41%	42%
Dog park	37%	47%
Fairgrounds	31%	51%
Skateboard/in-line skate park	30%	51%
Indoor soccer facility	19%	62%

generally, the respondents gave fairly even weight to a variety of open space programs, though the preservation of working farms and buffers between League City and adjacent communities were both granted relatively lower importance (see Table 3-6).

Table 3-5: Use of Clear Creek by Importance

Question Text: Regarding possible future projects for which the City could allocate resources, please indicate the level of importance you would place on the following projects?

Use of Clear Creek	% of Respondents indicating "Very Important" or "Important"	% of Respondents indicating "Opposed" or "Not Important"
Wildlife habitat conservation	79%	10%
Off-street paths for hiking/jogging/biking	79%	12%
Scenic viewing areas	75%	13%
Developing waterfront parks	66%	21%
Environmental education programs	66%	21%
Public access (boating, fishing, etc.)	64%	23%
Historic and cultural interpretation	60%	26%

Table 3-6: Possible Open Space Projects by Importance

Question Text: The City may acquire certain lands in the community for the purposes of preserving open space. Please indicate the level of importance you would place on the following purposes of acquisition?

Open Space Purpose	% of Respondents indicating "Very Important" or "Important"	% of Respondents indicating "Opposed" or "Not Important"
Ditches, canals, and drainageways	79%	10%
Lands accommodating passive recreation and wildlife habitat	78%	10%
Scenic lands	76%	12%
Historic or archaeological sites	75%	13%
Sensitive environmental lands, such as wetlands	75%	13%
Wildlife migration corridors	74%	13%
Potential trail corridors	74%	13%
Agricultural lands maintained as working farms	58%	29%
Buffers between League City and adjacent communities	57%	29%

Accessibility

To help establish locational standards for parks, respondents were asked several questions regarding the desired accessibility by foot and bicycle of neighborhood parks, community parks, and open space. The priorities for pedestrian and bicycle access were the same: neighborhood parks received the highest priority, followed by community parks and then open space (see Table 3-7). Respondents were asked to quantify this accessibility for neighborhood parks and open space in terms of travel time. Approximately half of respondents desired

Table 3-7: Walking and Bicycle Accessibility Priorities

Question Text: The City may establish goals for access to open space, trails, parks, and recreation facilities. What level of priority should be given to each of the following?

Accessibility Priority	Low Priority: % of Respondents	Medium Priority: % of Respondents	High Priority: % of Respondents
Walking access to a neighborhood park from home	10%	30%	54%
Walking access to a community park from home	20%	42%	32%
Walking access to open space areas from home	27%	37%	30%
Bicycle access to a neighborhood park from home	14%	31%	49%
Bicycle access to a community park from home	18%	38%	38%
Bicycle access to open space areas from home	25%	35%	33%

Table 3-8: Park and Open Space Accessibility Goals

Question Text: What is the maximum walking and bicycling time you feel a neighborhood park should be from most residents' homes? What is the maximum walking and bicycling time you feel open space should be from most residents' homes?

Neighborhood Park Travel Time	Walking: % of Respondents	Bicycling: % of Respondents
5 minutes	14%	25%
10 minutes	34%	26%
15 minutes	25%	17%
20 minutes	12%	8%
25 minutes	6%	8%
Will not bicycle	4%	8%

Open Space Travel Time	Walking: % of Respondents	Bicycling: % of Respondents
5 minutes	8%	10%
10 minutes	20%	20%
15 minutes	24%	19%
20 minutes	16%	13%
25 minutes	16%	16%
Will not bicycle	10%	12%

neighborhood parks to be within a 10-minute walk or bicycle ride, and a similar percentage desired open space within a 15-minute walk or bicycle ride (see Table 3-8). Only a small percentage of respondents stated that they would neither walk nor bicycle to neighborhood parks and open space. These results suggest that respondents generally desire to have park and open space opportunities within what is considered, as noted earlier, an acceptable walking distance: ½ mile.

Demographics

Respondents were asked several questions regarding their households so as to establish the respondents' demographic character, which could then be compared with the current demographic projections for the City. Respondents were asked to use a small map included within the survey to identify in which planning they lived. The geographic distribution of respondents as well as the City's current total projected population distribution is illustrated in Chart 3-4. The survey's respondent distribution reasonably reflects the City's population distribution.

Respondents were also asked about their housing tenure. Ninety-four percent of respondents stated that they were homeowners, well above 77% homeownership rate reported in the 2000 US Census. The disproportionately large homeowner response rate is likely related to the temporal and financial investments associated with home ownership. Homeowners were then asked if they belonged to a Homeowners Association (HOA), and if so, whether they used recreational facilities. Eighty-four percent of homeowners belong to HOAs, and the great majority of these homeowners (71%) use recreational facilities provided by their HOAs (see Chart 3-5). These percentages suggest that HOA recreational facilities serve an important function; given the high rate of homeownership and the large number of HOA recreational facilities throughout the City, the survey suggests that HOA recreational facilities could be satisfying a significant portion of recreational needs at a citywide level.

Chart 3-4: Geographic Distribution of Respondents

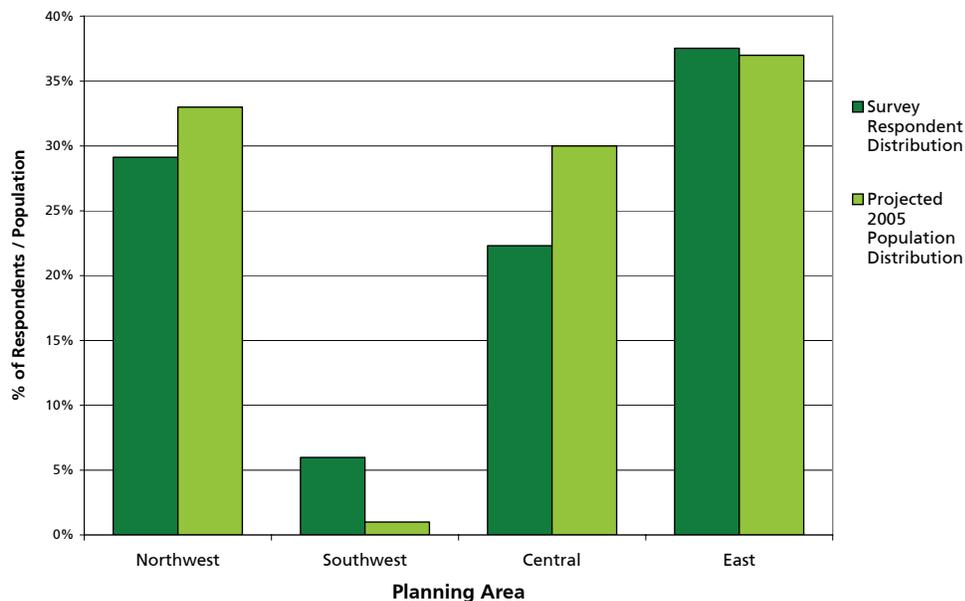
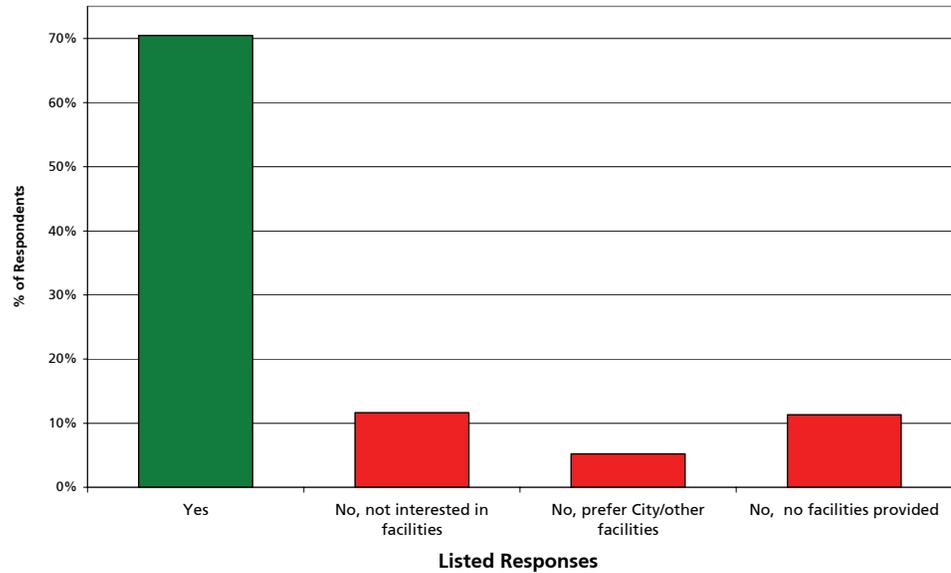


Chart 3-5: Use of HOA recreational facilities by HOA members

3.1.C Survey Summary and Free Responses

The survey suggests that while respondents are generally satisfied with the traditional active recreational parks provided by the City, there is a serious deficiency in more natural parkland, i.e. open space, that provides opportunities for passive activities, in particular trails. These feelings were reinforced by the free response comments garnered at the end of the survey and which are included, verbatim, in Appendix 2. Seventeen percent of survey respondents who included a response discussed trails compared with twenty percent who discussed all other potentially needed parks or facilities. Concerns over the pace of development and the loss of habitat were also common, as was a feeling that there is insufficient communication of park locations and the City's recreational offerings. While fewer in number, some respondents articulated the special needs of certain populations, such as seniors, the disabled, and youths, while others stressed facilities that they believe to be underprovided, such as competitive swimming facilities and tennis courts. While most respondents were satisfied with active recreational facilities, the survey did not make reference to the City's significant projected growth, and so additional active recreational facilities will be needed to maintain this high satisfaction. The survey, however, indicates that the City should place a far greater priority on trails and open space preservation in future park acquisition and development.

3.2 RESOURCE-BASED NEEDS: PHYSICAL RESOURCES

League City is located several miles inland from Galveston Bay on a flat coastal plain, and most of its land has been used for agriculture and later for urban development since its founding in the late 19th century. Given the City's undifferentiated topography, relatively little undisturbed land, and still developing character, the City's physical resources are comprised of three main components: its hydrologic system, tree cover, and large areas of undeveloped land.

3.2.A Hydrologic System

The City's hydrologic system is defined by Clear Lake and Clear Creek, which have major recreation and habitat values. Delineating much of the City's northern boundary, the Creek, the Lake, and their tributaries provide significant recreational opportunities, such as boating, fishing, and passive activities associated with the surrounding lush banks. The Creek and Lake support ecologically productive wetlands and uplands that provide important habitat for plant and animal species. While the Creek and Lake are key physical resources, they are also related to a major concern: flooding.

The City's flat topography lends itself to ponding and flooding during major storm events, and the flood plains that are associated with Clear Lake, Clear Creek, and the Dickinson Bayou are shown in Figure 3.1. While 100-year flood plains are generally unsuitable for urban development, parks are an appropriate and productive use of these areas during the great majority of the time in which these areas are dry. The limited structural improvements associated with parks can be designed to withstand inundation or be raised above the floodplain. By preserving these floodplains in their natural state, the hydrologic system is better able to slow, retain, and absorb the increased storm flows generated by the impervious surfaces of development elsewhere in the City.

Given the limited development potential and significant recreational and habitat values of flood plains and surrounding areas, the lands in the Northwest, Central, and East planning areas surrounding the Creek, the Lake, and their tributaries are ideal locations for open space preservation and passive park creation. In the Southwest planning area, significant investments in surface drainage and storm water management will be required to safely accommodate intended planned development. As a manmade hydrologic system is developed, there is a significant opportunity to establish a unified storm water management



The City's hydrologic system is an important physical resource.

system that may also serve as a valuable recreational amenity. This innovative approach to stormwater detention is discussed in Chapter 5.

3.2.B Tree Cover



The live oaks along FM 518 (top) are prized by City residents, however newer development has created densely planted esplanades.

The tall live oak trees that cover portions of the City are a major source of pride and civic identity. They provide shade from the hot Texas summers as well as habitat for local species; they also provide a sense of permanence and history in a city that is undergoing relatively rapid growth. So central is the live oak to the City's identity that it forms the City's official seal. Given the City's flat topography, the trees are also important in terminating views. With distant views ending in vegetation instead of development, the City retains a more comfortable and natural feel that is more consistent with its desired "small town" character. While less important than the large live oaks, other deciduous trees and conifers also provide shade, habitat, and introduce natural elements into the City's built areas.

Generalized tree cover is shown on Figure 3.1. The City's tree cover is generally concentrated along Clear Creek and Clear Lake, while tree cover in other areas, such as along SH 96, Brittany Bay Boulevard, and I-45/FM 646/SH 3, is more generally comprised of smaller tree species mixed with shrubs. All of these areas of tree cover have potential to serve passive recreational uses, and so their preservation should be considered and prioritized as part of park acquisition and development. Since much of the most desirable tree cover occurs within or near flood plains, preservation of the hydrologic system will often serve to protect the City's tree cover and vice versa. While not shown in Figure 3.1, the live oaks also serve as important street trees, particularly along SH 518, the City's Main Street, and these trees should be preserved along with more natural tree cover. More recent development has been heavily planted with trees and landscaped esplanades, and these trees features will gain additional prominence as these trees mature.

3.2.C Undeveloped Land

Despite significant urban growth in the 20th century and particularly following World War II, large of the areas of the City remain rural in character. These lands are well suited to a number of recreational facilities. While all four planning areas contain areas of largely undeveloped land—very low density residential, agricultural, or vacant lands—the majority of the City's undeveloped lands are

Hydrological Features

 Hydrological Features

Generalized Tree Cover

 Generalized Tree Cover

Flood Hazards

 100-Year Flood Way

 100-Year Flood Plain

 500-Year Flood Plain

 Coastal Flooding

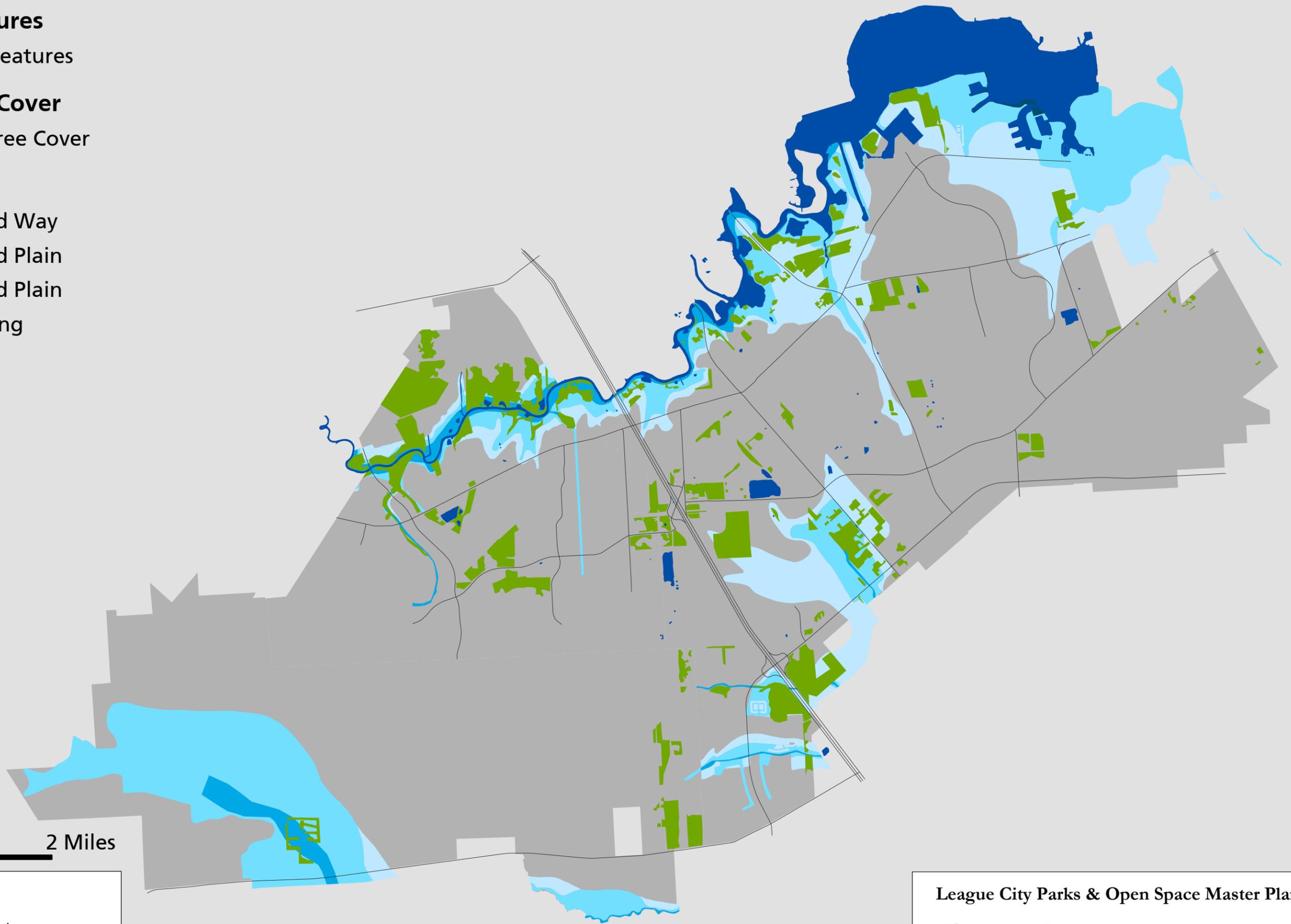
Roadways

 Major Roads

 0 0.5 1 2 Miles

October 31, 2005
Sources: City of League City, TX
Wallace Roberts & Todd

League City Parks & Open Space Master Plan
Figure 3.1:
Physical Resources



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located within the Southwest planning area. This planning area constitutes 31% of the City's total land area. Much of the City's undeveloped land is comprised of cleared fields or low scrub that could easily be adapted to active recreational facilities. This land, however, also serves as habitat in its altered state and has the potential to be developed for passive recreational purposes. These lands within the Southwest and elsewhere could serve higher recreational priorities, such as trails and habitat preservation, as indicated by survey respondents.

Given that more than half of the City's growth within the next twenty years is expected to occur in the Southwest planning area, these undeveloped lands, if they can be acquired by the City in the short term, represent an opportunity to bank parkland for the future. The City has grown steadily, and undeveloped lands that could be inexpensively purchased just a decade have greatly appreciated in price as land available for development has decreased. This is particularly true in the East planning area, where much of the previous residential and commercial development has occurred and where land prices are the highest. As League City continues to grow, development pressures will make park and open space acquisition ever more expensive while at the same time ever increasing the needs for parks and open spaces. The City has already effectively land banked approximately 420 acres by purchasing undeveloped land. A continuation of this strategy would well serve both current and future residents.

3.3 STANDARDS-BASED NEEDS: LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)

Standards-based needs assessments provide an objective way of measuring the strengths and deficiencies within a park system, and such assessments are frequently used by cities throughout the U.S. Level of Service (LOS) is the term that is used to describe the quantifiable measurement of park provision, and LOS can be used to establish numerical standards. For the purposes of this Master Plan, LOS is considered in three ways:

- Park Acreage LOS, which considers the acres of parkland available per 1,000 residents;
- Facility LOS, which considers the number of facilities available per total population (typically expressed as 1 facility per X residents); and
- Park Accessibility LOS, which considers the areas of the City within acceptable proximity of available parkland.



The City still has large undeveloped areas, such as the Southwest planning area (top), though the City's rapid growth (bottom) will reduce lands available for park and open space acquisition.

3.3.A Park Acreage LOS

Existing Conditions

Based upon the inventory and typology developed in Chapter 3, the current park acreage LOS was calculated for League City and is shown in Table 3-9. Existing HOA parks, although accessible only to nearby homeowners, have also been included at 25% of their actual acreage so as to acknowledge their role in satisfying neighborhood recreational needs. All LOS calculations use a current projected population of 62,500 residents.

The LOS numbers presented in Table 3-9 show a varied picture based upon how exactly LOS is calculated. By counting all parkland within the City, a LOS of 16.7/17.4 acres per 1,000 residents (with/without HOA Parks) is achieved. These numbers, however, include undeveloped parkland that, while acquired, is not presently providing a direct recreational benefit to City residents. Additionally, these numbers include regional parkland. When only considering local acquired parks and local developed parks, the far more representative numbers of 9.1/9.8 acres per 1,000 residents and 4.7/5.5 acres per 1,000 residents respectively are derived. For the purposes of assessing park acreage LOS in League City, regional parks have been excluded.

To put these numbers in perspective, LOS numbers are compared against national standards developed by the National Recreation and Parks (NRPA). The NRPA originally developed its standards in the 1970s and 1980s in response to the needs of large urban park systems, and subsequent use by cities

Table 3-9: 2005 Citywide Park Acreage LOS

Basis of LOS Calculation	2005 Level of Service (Acres/1,000 Residents)
Total Acquired	16.7
Total Acquired with HOA Parks at 25%*	17.4
Total Developed	9.9
Total Developed with HOA Parks at 25%*	10.7
Regional Acquired Total	7.6
Regional Developed Total	5.2
Local Acquired Total	9.1
Local Acquired Total with HOA Parks at 25%*	9.8
Local Developed Total	4.7
Local Developed Total with HOA Parks at 25%*	5.5

*HOA Parks included at 25% of actual acreage

throughout the U.S. demonstrated that a single set of standards did not reflect the great variety of American communities. Since 1995, the NRPA has recommended that cities develop their own park standards, however the NRPA's older standards are still used as a benchmark. The NRPA standards by park type are shown against League City's acquired and developed LOS in Table 3-10.

Using the total local LOS recommended by the NRPA as a benchmark, League City falls well within the upper end of the range, though in terms of actual parkland provision the City is slightly below these standards. The City has been particularly strong in community park acquisition, but the City's neighborhood park acquisition has been very minimal relative to the NRPA standards. By counting HOA Parks at only 25% of their actual acreage toward neighborhood LOS, however, brings the neighborhood park LOS to 0.9 acres/1,000 residents, far closer to the low end 1.25 acres/1,000 standard of the NRPA. The NRPA does not have established standards for citywide/special or greenways/trails types, and so benchmark comparisons are not possible.

As shown in Table 3-11, the provision of local parkland is not uniform within the City. The Central planning area has a total LOS above the City average, while the East planning area, which contains a significant portion of the current population, has a local LOS that is less than half of the citywide average. All citywide/special parks are located in the Central planning area, though given the nature of these facilities, they are presumably serving residents from all planning areas. While also having the highest LOS for community parks, the Central planning area's total LOS is in some ways deceptively high, as its LOS for neighborhood parks, greenways/trails, and HOA parks are below the citywide

Table 3-10: NRPA Acreage Standards vs. 2005 Acreage LOS

Park Type	NRPA LOS Standard⁺ (Acres/1,000 Residents)	2005 League City Acquired LOS (Acres/1,000 Residents)	2005 League City Developed LOS (Acres/1,000 Residents)
Citywide/Special	No Standard	1.4	1.2
Community	5 – 8	6.9	2.8
Neighborhood*	1.25 – 2.5	0.2	0.2
Greenways/Trails	No Standard	0.6	0.6
HOA Parks at 25%	No Standard	0.7	0.7
Local Total	6.25 – 10.5	9.8	5.4
Regional	5 – 10	7.6	5.2

⁺ National Parks and Recreation Association 1983 Standards

*Includes Mini-Parks

Table 3-11: Local Park Acreage LOS by Planning Area

Planning Area	Projected 2005 Population	Citywide/Special		Community		Neighborhood		Greenways/Trails		HOA Parks at 25%*		Total Local Acquired
		Acquired	Developed	Acquired	Developed	Acquired	Developed	Acquired	Developed	Acquired	Developed	
Southwest	268	0.0	0.0	395.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	395.5
Northwest	20,649	0.0	0.0	5.8	3.3	0.4	0.4	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	9.5
Central	18,640	4.6	4.0	7.3	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	12.2
East	22,944	0.0	0.0	3.2	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	3.7
Total	62,500	1.4	1.2	6.9	2.8	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	9.8

*HOA Parks included at 25% of actual acreage

Table 3-12: Acreage Standards and 2005 Park Acreage Surpluses/Deficits (S/D)

Planning Area	Citywide/Special: 1 acre/1,000 residents		Community: 5 acres/1,000 residents		Neighborhood*: 3 acres/1,000 residents		Greenways/Trails: 1 acre/1,000 residents		Total: 10 acres/1,000	
	Acquired S/D	Developed S/D	Acquired S/D	Developed S/D	Acquired S/D	Developed S/D	Acquired S/D	Developed S/D	Acquired S/D	Developed S/D
Southwest	-0.3	-0.3	104.7	-1.3	-0.8	-0.8	-0.3	-0.3	103.3	-0.3
Northwest	-20.6	-20.6	15.7	-35.2	-20.8	-20.8	14.8	14.8	-10.9	-10.9
Central	66.4	56.0	42.6	-14.6	-49.9	-49.9	-18.6	-18.6	40.3	40.3
East	-22.9	-22.9	-42.4	-86.7	-55.6	-58.6	-22.9	-22.9	-144.0	-144.0
Total	22.5	12.1	120.5	-137.9	-127.1	-130.1	-27.0	-27.0	-11.2	-11.2

*HOA Parks included at 25% of actual acreage

average. The Northwest planning area closely approximates the citywide average, though its distribution by type is nearly opposite to that of the Central planning area: it is above average in neighborhood, greenways/trails, and HOA parks, while it is below average for community park acquisition. It should be stressed that these calculations do not include regional parks, and so the total park provision in the Northwest planning is actually far higher given the 327 acres of Challenger Park. The East planning is underserved relative to the citywide average LOS in nearly every measurement, and these relatively low LOS figures are particularly striking considering that almost 23,000 residents (approximately 37% of the total City population) are projected to live in this planning area by 2025. While the sparsely populated Southwest currently has no developed parks, the recently acquired Bay Colony West site is not well located to serve the area.

Proposed Standards

Based upon the needs analyses, the following LOS standards were developed and are proposed for League City:

- 1 acre / 1,000 of Citywide/Special Parks
- 5 acres / 1,000 residents of Community Parks
- 3 acres / 1,000 residents of Neighborhood Parks
- 1 acre / 1,000 residents of Greenways/Trails

These standards, which will provide for a total of 10 acres / 1,000 residents, are largely consistent with the NRPA standards as well as the local level of park acquisition. The City currently exceeds the citywide/special and community parks standards in terms of acquisition, though the City is deficient in terms of neighborhood parks and greenways/trails. The standards were set higher than current acquisition levels for these two currently deficient types on the basis of the demand based needs assessment that suggests that these types are underprovided. Considered against developed LOS, achievement of the proposed standards would actually result in a substantial increase in park provision. By comparing the existing park inventory against the developed standards, the surplus or deficit of parkland by park type and planning area were calculated, and these acreages are detailed in Table 3-12. Consistent with previously identified LOS trends, the East planning area shows significant deficits in all park types, while neighborhood parks and greenways/trails are in deficit citywide.

3.3.B Facility LOS

Existing Conditions

Using the facility inventory from Chapter 3, the LOS for each facility type was calculated, and these calculations are displayed in Table 3-13. Since the programs for acquired but as of yet undeveloped public parks are uncertain and no facility inventory was available for HOA parks, facility LOS calculations are based solely upon developed public park facilities. Table 3-13 also includes applicable NRPA standards, though as previously mentioned, these standards were developed in a different geographic and temporal context. For example, the NRPA standards suggest a higher need for tennis courts than provided in League City (1 court / 2,000 residents versus 1 court / 10,417 residents), though tennis has greatly fallen in popularity since the development of the NRPA standards. Additionally, tennis as well as basketball are often better suited to satisfying recreational needs in dense urban areas where land is at premium, and so the NRPA standards put greater weight on these facilities than what would be required in a community such as League City. Conversely, the NRPA standard for soccer is far below the City's existing LOS (1 field / 10,000 residents versus 1 field / 3,049 residents), because the NRPA standards were developed before soccer's relatively recent rise to prominence within the U.S.

Table 3-13: 2005 Facility LOS versus NRPA Standards

Facility	2005 Level of Service (1 facility / X Residents)	NRPA LOS Standard*
Softball/Baseball	3,125	2,500
Basketball Courts	15,625	5,000
Football Fields	25,000	20,000
Soccer Fields	3,049	10,000
Tennis Courts	10,417	2,000
Swimming Pools	62,500	20,000
Golf	0	50,000
Volleyball	7,813	No Standard
Boat Launching Ramp	31,250	No Standard
Hiking-Biking Trail (mi)	13,514	No Standard
Picnic Tables	--	No Standard
Play Grounds	5,208	No Standard
Community Center	62,500	No Standard
Senior Center	--	No Standard

* National Parks and Recreation Association 1983 Standards

Table 3-14: Facility Standards and 2005 Surpluses/Deficits

Basis of LOS Calculation	2005 Level of Service (1 facility / X Residents)	Facility Standard (1 facility / X Residents)	2005 Surplus / Deficit
Softball/Baseball	3,125	2,500	-5
Basketball Courts	15,625	15,000	1
Football Fields	25,000	50,000	0
Soccer Fields	3,049	3,000	0
Tennis Courts	10,417	10,000	0
Swimming Pools	62,500	50,000	0
Golf	0	50,000	-1

Proposed Standards

Given the high satisfaction with active recreational facilities expressed within the resident survey, the current facility LOS was used as the primary guide for developing facility LOS standards, which are presented along with the resulting surpluses and deficits in Table 3-14. As a result, the only deficits are in baseball/softball fields, where there is a deficit of five fields, and public golf courses, which are currently not provided despite being one of the top ten recreational activities indicated by survey respondents. While passive recreational facilities are clearly a priority based upon the survey results, facility LOS standards are not applicable to passive recreational facilities, such as trails and interpretative features.

3.3.C Park Accessibility LOS

Existing Conditions and Proposed Standards

Using the service area descriptions that were developed as part of the park typology (see Chapter 3), accessibility LOS standards were developed for each park type as well as in general. These standards serve to identify the “catchment” area for each park and the specific areas of the City that are geographically underserved in terms of access to parks. The standards, which are expressed as mile radii service areas, are presented in Table 3-15 alongside applicable NRPA standards for the relevant park type. League City is a very large and dispersed city that measures approximately thirteen and a half miles east-west and nine miles north-south. The City also has a high rate of automobile ownership and use. Given these conditions, the service area standards are relatively large compared to the distances recommended by the NRPA. The City’s recently adopted Comprehensive Plan, however, establishes that future development should take a more compact form, and so smaller service areas will likely be appropriate.

Table 3-15: Accessibility LOS Standards

Park Type	2005 Service Area Standards (mi)	NRPA Service Area Standard (mi)*
Regional	20	1 hour (no mi. standard)
Citywide/Special	8	No Standard
Community	3	.5 – 3
Neighborhood	.5	.25 – .5
General Accessibility	.5	No Standard

*National Parks and Recreation Association 1995 Standards

Regional parks are expected to serve multiple cities, and so a service area standard of twenty miles was set. Since a citywide/special park is expected to serve the entire city, the service area for this type was set at eight miles, a distance that would allow citywide coverage provided a central location. The service radius for community parks, which are intended to serve an entire planning area, is set at three miles, while the service area for neighborhood parks is set at a half mile. Survey respondents expressed a desire that City residents should be able to walk to a park within approximately ten minutes, which translates, based upon average walking speeds, into a general accessibility standard of one half mile. These standards are illustrated using the current inventory of acquired parks, both inclusive and exclusive of HOA parks, in Figures 3.2 through 3.5 and quantified in Tables 3-16 and 3-17.

The City's regional and citywide/special parks, as shown in Figure 3.2 and Table 3-16, provide for 100% coverage of the City's land area¹ based upon the developed accessibility standards. Acquired community parks serve virtually all of the developed portions of the city as well as much of the undeveloped Southwest. Neighborhood parks, of which there are currently three, provide coverage over

Table 3-16: Accessibility LOS: Type Standards

Planning Area	Percentage of Land Area Served by Park Type				
	Regional	Citywide /Special	Community	Neighborhood	Neighborhood w/ HOA Parks
Southwest	100%	100%	70%	0%	3%
Northwest	100%	100%	100%	10%	76%
Central	100%	100%	100%	1%	43%
East	100%	100%	99%	14%	61%
Citywide	100%	100%	91%	6%	42%

Note: Refer to Figures 3.2 and 3.3. Land area excludes Clear Lake and Clear Creek.

¹ Land area is exclusive of Clear Lake and Clear Creek, but includes all other land regardless of current or planned use.

just 6% of the City’s land area. Two of these parks are located in the generally underserved East planning area, and so in this particular instance, this planning area has the highest LOS: 14% coverage. As previously noted, HOA Parks often serve as neighborhood parks in the City, and so when these facilities are treated as neighborhood parks, as illustrated in Figure 3.3, the LOS rises significantly: 42% coverage citywide and at or above 43% coverage in the three developed planning areas.

The application of the City’s general half-mile standard is illustrated in Figure 3.4 and summarized in Table 3-17. All three developed planning areas show significant unserved areas based upon the half mile service area standard, though the 34% coverage in the heavily developed East planning area is particularly low when compared against the 55% and 57% respectively in the Central and Northwest planning area. The Southwest planning area will require a number of parks to meet the general accessibility standard as it develops. When HOA Parks are added into this LOS measurement, the coverage area increases significantly as illustrated in Figure 3.5. The effect is most noticeable in the East planning area, particularly along the Clear Lake waterfront, which is not served by public parkland but well served by HOA Parks.

Collectively, the areas that remain unshaded on these four accessibility LOS maps represent the areas within the City that are potentially underserved in general or by park type. When determining future park acquisition, parks should be located in underserved parks when possible. Locational decisions must be balanced against actual need given surrounding land uses, land availability and price, and competing needs to preserve important fixed physical resources.

Table 3-17: Accessibility LOS: ½ Mile Standard

Planning Area	Percentage of Land Area Served	
	Public Parks	Public Parks w/ HOA Parks
Southwest	6%	9%
Northwest	57%	86%
Central	55%	79%
East	34%	76%
Citywide	35%	58%

Note: Refer to Figures 3.4 and 3.5. Land area excludes Clear Lake and Clear Creek.

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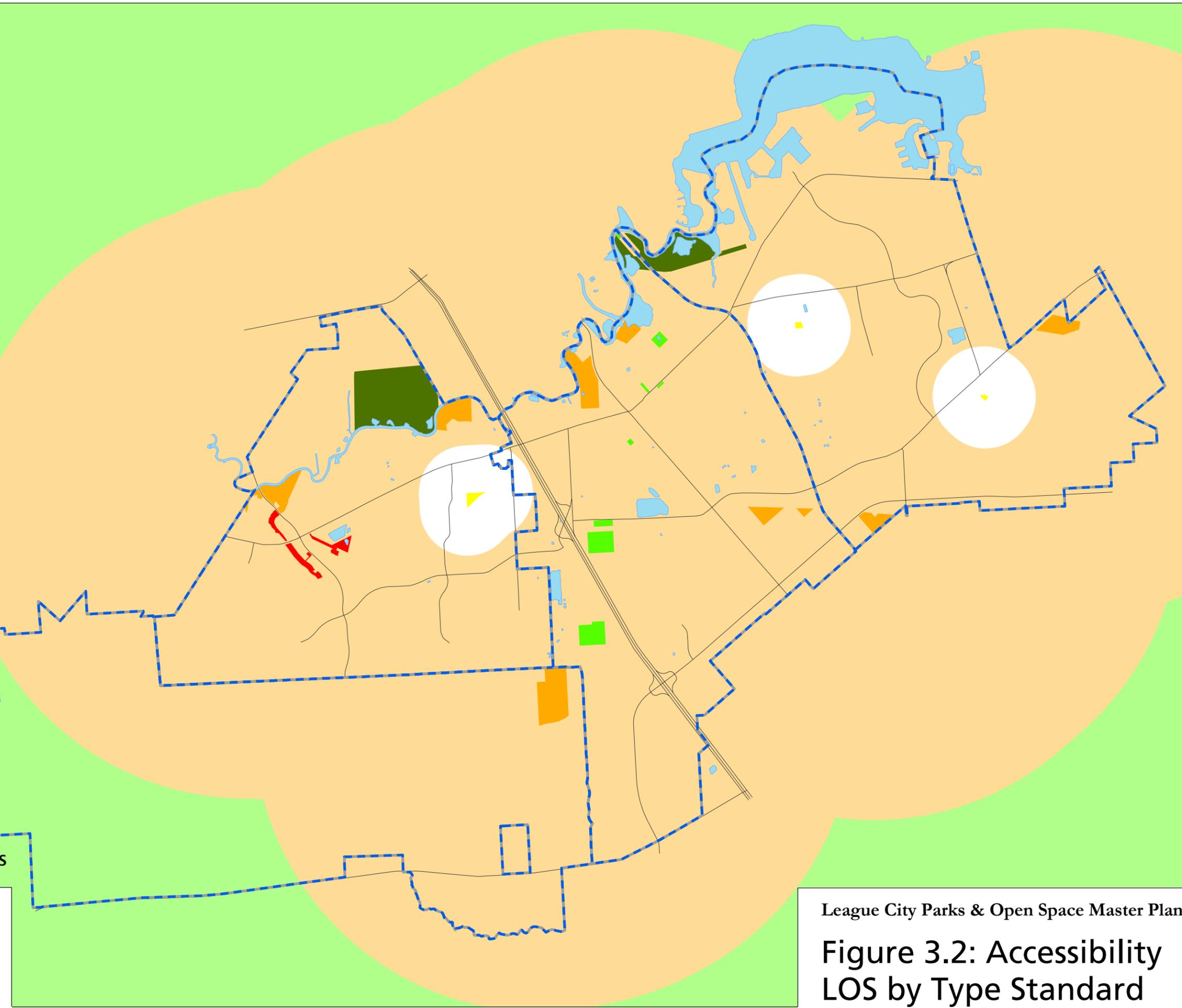
2005 Parks by Type

- Regional
- Citywide / Special
- Community
- Neighborhood
- Greenway / Trails

Service Areas by Type

- Regional: 20 miles
- Citywide Special: 8 miles
- Community: 3 miles
- Neighborhood: .5 mile

- Park Planning Areas
- Hydrological Features
- Major Roads



October 31, 2005
Sources: City of League City, TX
Wallace Roberts & Todd

League City Parks & Open Space Master Plan
**Figure 3.2: Accessibility
LOS by Type Standard**

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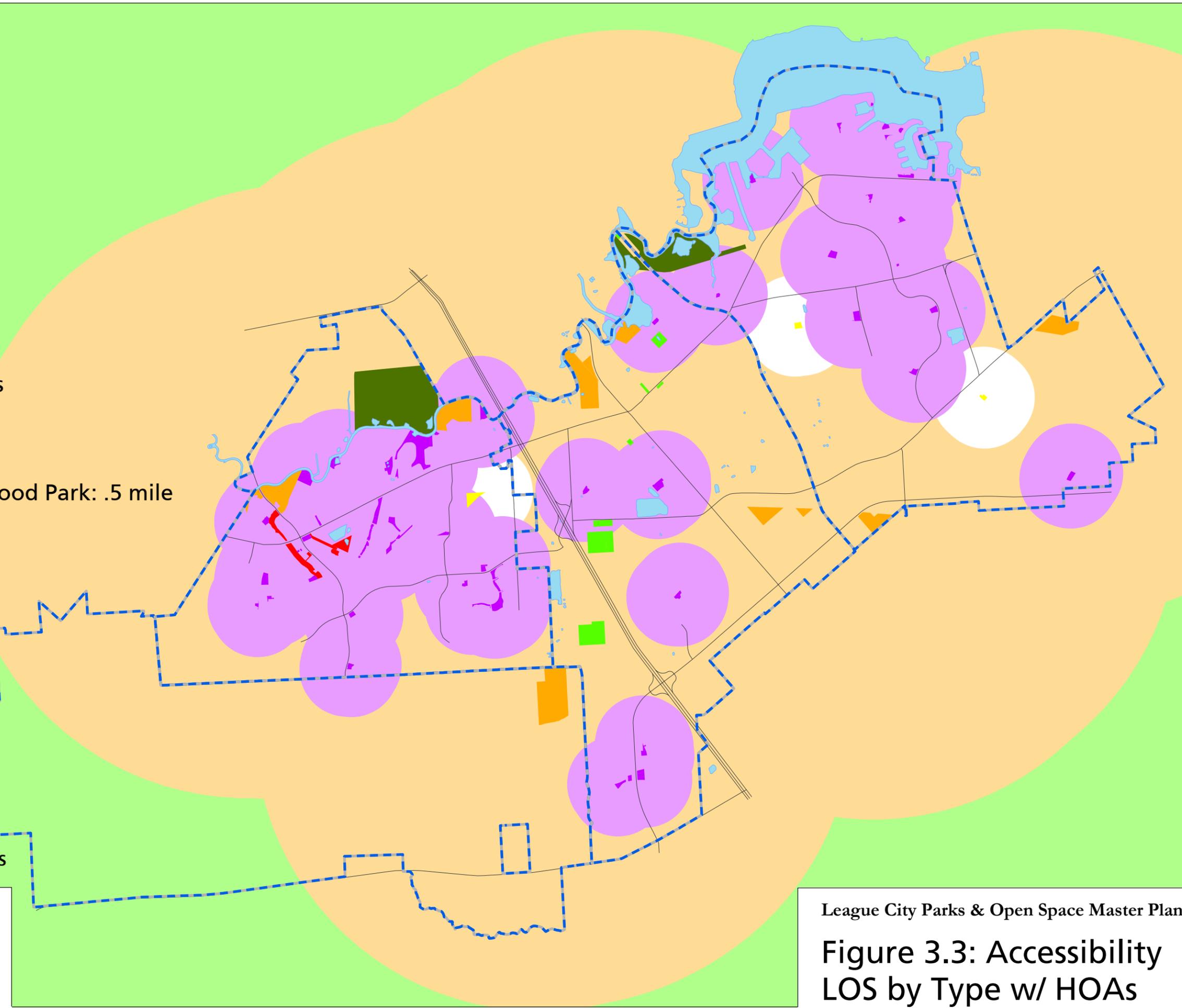
2005 Parks by Type

- Regional
- Citywide / Special
- Community
- Neighborhood
- Greenway / Trails
- HOA

Service Areas by Type

- Regional: 20 miles
- Citywide Special: 8 miles
- Community: 3 miles
- Neighborhood: .5 mile
- HOA Park as Neighborhood Park: .5 mile

- Park Planning Areas
- Hydrological Features
- Major Roads



October 31, 2005
 Sources: City of League City, TX
 Wallace Roberts & Todd

League City Parks & Open Space Master Plan
**Figure 3.3: Accessibility
 LOS by Type w/ HOAs**

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2005 Parks by Type

- Regional
- Citywide / Special
- Community
- Neighborhood
- Greenway / Trails

Service Areas

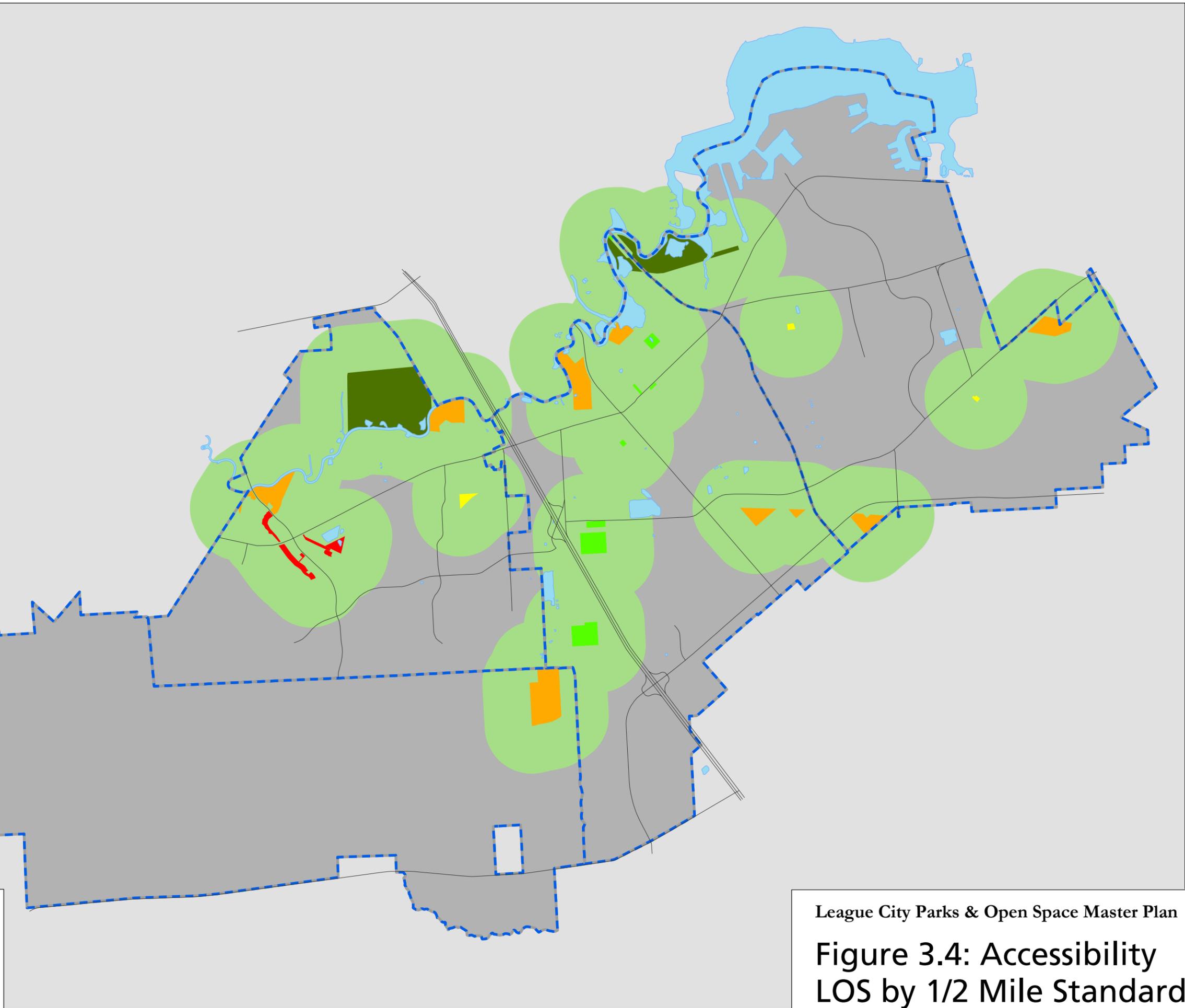
- Half Mile Service Area

- Park Planning Areas
- Hydrological Features
- Major Roads



October 31, 2005
Sources: City of League City, TX
Wallace Roberts & Todd

League City Parks & Open Space Master Plan
**Figure 3.4: Accessibility
LOS by 1/2 Mile Standard**



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2005 Parks by Type

- Regional
- Citywide / Special
- Community
- Neighborhood
- Greenway / Trails
- HOA

Service Areas

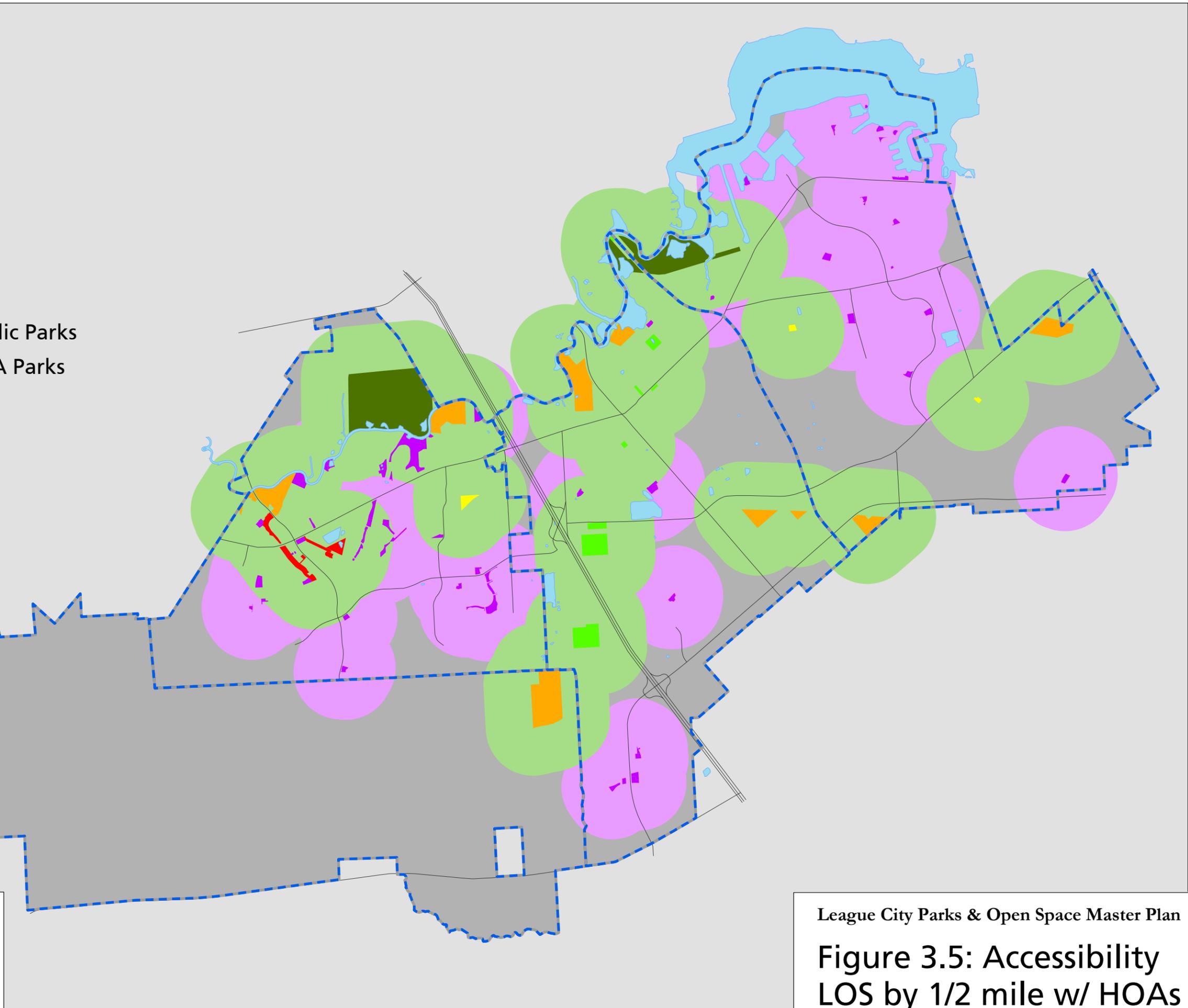
- 1/2 Mile Service Area: Public Parks
- 1/2 Mile Service Area: HOA Parks

- Park Planning Areas
- Hydrological Features
- Major Roads



October 31, 2005
Sources: City of League City, TX
Wallace Roberts & Todd

League City Parks & Open Space Master Plan
**Figure 3.5: Accessibility
LOS by 1/2 mile w/ HOAs**



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4 | PLANNING FOR 2025

League City in the year 2025, while it has experienced rapid growth, has maintained and enhanced its small town lifestyle. This is reflected in the character and scale of its activity centers and a number of distinctive sub-centers that conveniently serve diverse and attractive neighborhoods. The City's unique natural resources, open spaces and parks have been preserved, enhanced and well maintained. Improved road and trail systems provide convenient access to all parts of the developed area for both public transit and private vehicles. The City is well served by an excellent school system and is efficiently and affordably provided with a full range of infrastructure services and public facilities. New employment opportunities in commercial and environmentally friendly light industrial areas have been created. These business activities have both allowed citizens to work nearer to their homes and have increased the City's revenues enabling it to keep taxes affordable and pay for needed improvements and maintenance.

*"A Vision of League City in the Year 2025,"
Comprehensive Plan 2025*

In keeping with this overall vision, the League City 2025 Master Plan for Parks and Open Space is conceived as an integrated system of diverse park types and natural open spaces linked by an on- and off-street network of greenways and trails creating the image of a "garden city." In its response to the City's growth and inevitable change over the next 20 years, the Plan seeks to preserve and enhance the City's natural assets, respond to the citizens' vision of small town character, and provide accessible city-wide recreation facilities for a full range of age groups by locating appropriately scaled, equipped, and landscaped passive and active parkland near to each house and neighborhood. The Plan is designed to act as a guide for decision making on future acquisition, development, and maintenance of parkland and open space that is based upon a realistic understanding of the cost and resources needed to achieve the levels of service and hence the quality of life desired by the citizens of League City.



Helen's Garden

Significant residential and commercial growth is expected within League City during the next two decades, and the 2005 Master Plan identifies the distribution, type, and acreage of parks and facilities that will be necessary to satisfy the resulting needs. The plan sets a planning horizon of the 2025 so as to coincide with the Comprehensive Plan 2025 that was adopted in March 2004. As described in Chapter 1, the City is expected to grow from a projected 2005 population of 62,500 to a projected 2025 population of 154,312. This growth will require the City to greatly expand its park system to achieve the LOS objectives developed within this plan. Specific acreage needs by planning area as well as citywide facility needs are described in the following sections. Effectively satisfying future park needs, however, will require more than merely satisfying quantitative standards. Qualitative concepts follow the standards analysis, while implementing policies and actions as well as an analysis of funding issues follow in Chapter 5, Implementation.

4.1 2025 PARK NEEDS

4.1.A Projected 2025 Growth



League City is expected to continue its rapid growth over the next two decades

Population projections prepared during the Comprehensive Plan suggest that League City will grow by over 90,000 residents between 2005 and 2025, and this growth has significant implications for park planning. In order to understand where new residents will be located and where new parks will be required, the projected increase in population was distributed between the four planning areas. This projected distribution was based upon the availability of residentially zoned land available for development, current development trends, and planned infrastructure. Land available for residential development as well as the projected 2025 population by planning area is shown in Figure 4.1. Parcels were assumed to be developable if they were zoned for residential use and, in the case of single-family residential development, were larger than two acres. Given the City's substantial areas of available undeveloped land, infill on small tracts was considered to be a relatively minor factor in the next two decades.

Most of the growth within the next 20 years is expected to occur in the Southwest planning area, which is estimated to grow from a projected population of 256 to over 50,000. This large projected population increase is based upon the planned pattern of compact neighborhood development described in the Comprehensive Plan 2025, and the fact that there is a shrinking supply of undeveloped land elsewhere in the City. Large-scale infrastructure improvements,

Potential Residential Growth Areas

- Mixed Use
- Multi-Family Residential
- Residential / Multi-Family / Mixed Use

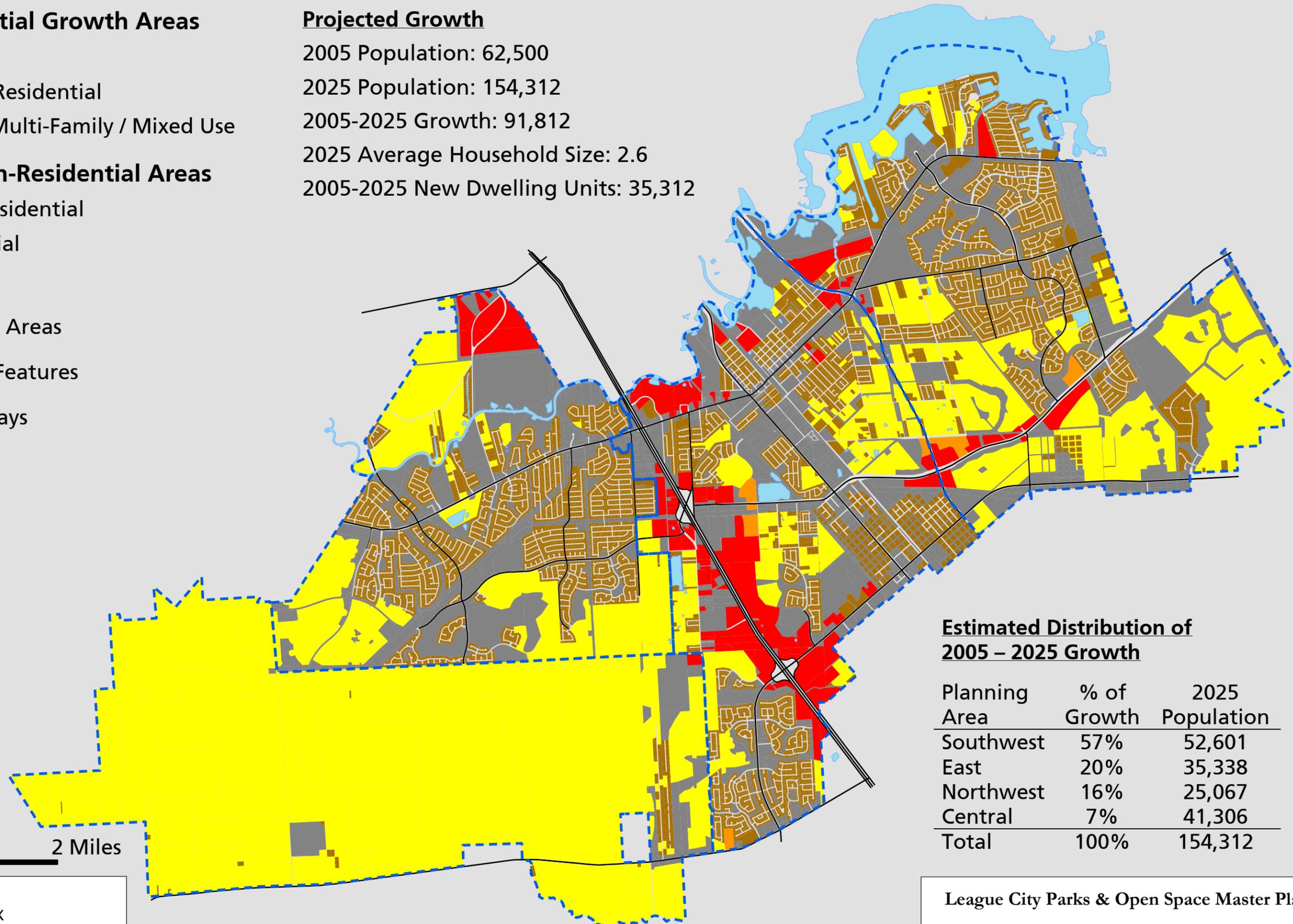
Developed or Non-Residential Areas

- Developed Residential
- Non-Residential

- Park Planning Areas
- Hydrological Features
- Major Roadways

Projected Growth

2005 Population: 62,500
 2025 Population: 154,312
 2005-2025 Growth: 91,812
 2025 Average Household Size: 2.6
 2005-2025 New Dwelling Units: 35,312



Estimated Distribution of 2005 – 2025 Growth

Planning Area	% of Growth	2025 Population
Southwest	57%	52,601
East	20%	35,338
Northwest	16%	25,067
Central	7%	41,306
Total	100%	154,312

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

October 31, 2005

Sources: City of League City, TX
 Wallace Roberts & Todd

**Figure 4.1:
 Projected 2025 Growth**

Back of Figure
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such as the proposed Grand Parkway highway and the City's new sewage treatment plant, are expected to spur development in this area. Of the remaining planning areas, growth is expected to be strongest in the East and Northwest, the two planning areas that have seen strong growth within recent decades. Growth within the Central planning area is expected to be 10% of the total. To accommodate this projected citywide growth, over 35,000 new dwelling units will be needed based upon a household size of 2.6, which assumes a slight reduction relative to the 2000 Census household size and is consistent with national demographic trends.

4.1.B 2025 Park Acreage Needs

In order to meet the plan's developed LOS standards in the year 2025, the City will need to develop approximately 1,050 acres of parkland, including the land that has already acquired but not yet developed. Increases in park acreage will be required in every local park type, and these projected deficits relative to the existing acquired and developed park acreage inventories are listed in Table 4-1. Sixty-nine acres of citywide/special parks will need to be acquired and developed, while an additional 10 acres of already acquired parkland will need to be developed. In terms of community parks, 339 acres of land need to be acquired and developed in addition to the development of 258 acres of acquired but undeveloped parks. Neighborhood parks and greenways/trails will require the acquisition and development of approximately 265 acres and 188 acres, respectively.

The acreage projections for neighborhood parks continue to include 25% of existing HOA park acreage into the existing inventory, but it is also assumed that 50% of future neighborhood park needs—i.e. need associated with new growth, not existing deficits—will be satisfied through HOA parks. Existing HOA parks effectively and efficiently have served neighborhood recreational needs, and this role will become increasingly important as the City attempts to meet the significant acquisition and development needs identified for 2025. As previously discussed, undeveloped land available for parks is expected to markedly decrease within this time period, and so growing park acquisition costs are expected to be an increasing challenge to what is an ambitious parks program (park financing is discussed in Chapter 6). If the City were to develop all neighborhood parkland necessary to meet the LOS standard of 3 acres / 1,000 residents as opposed to relying on HOA parks to satisfy 50% of this need, its 2025 acquisition deficit would increase by 138 acres from the 265 acres indicated in Table 4-1 to 403 acres.



The City will need to increase its park acreage by 2025

Table 4-1: 2025 Park Acreage Surpluses/Deficits (S/D)*

Planning Area	Citywide/Special: 1 acre/1,000 residents		Community: 5 acres/1,000 residents		Neighborhood [†] : 3 acres/1,000 residents		Greenways/Trails: 1 acre/1,000 residents		Total: 10 acres/1,000
	Acquired S/D	Developed S/D	Acquired S/D	Developed S/D	Acquired S/D	Developed S/D	Acquired S/D	Developed S/D	
Southwest	-52.6	-52.6	-157.0	-263.0	-79.3	-79.3	-52.6	-52.6	-341.5
Northwest	-35.3	-35.3	-57.8	-108.7	-42.8	-42.8	0.1	0.1	-135.8
Central	59.9	49.5	10.4	-46.8	-59.6	-59.6	-25.1	-25.1	-14.3
East	-41.3	-41.3	-134.3	-178.5	-83.2	-86.2	-41.3	-41.3	-300.0
Total	-69.3	-79.7	-338.6	-597.0	-264.9	-267.9	-118.8	-118.8	-791.6

*Surpluses/Deficits are relative to the existing 2005 park acreage inventories.

[†]Includes existing HOA parks at 25% of actual acreage and assumes that 50% of future neighborhood park acreage is provided by HOA parks.

Consistent with projected growth patterns as well as existing deficits, the largest projected 2025 deficits occur in the Southwest and East planning areas, where 342 acres and 300 acres, respectively, will need to be acquired. These planning areas have significant deficits in each park type. The Northwest planning area will require the acquisition of 136 acres of citywide/special, community, and neighborhood parks, though its existing Rustic Oaks Park will continue to meet the acreage requirements if not the connectivity needs for greenways/trails needs through 2025. The Central planning area, while requiring just 14 acres when local parkland is considered as a whole, will have deficits in neighborhood and greenway parks.

4.1.C 2025 Facility Needs

Facility needs will increase alongside acreage needs by 2025, and the projected 2025 deficits relative to existing facility provision is detailed in Table 4-2. While residents are generally satisfied with the current level of active recreational facilities, these types of facilities will need to be expanded to maintain that level of service for a growing population. For example, thirty-one additional soccer fields and forty-two softball/baseball fields will be needed by 2025. As parkland is acquired and site planned, these facilities should be incorporated in appropriate numbers to satisfy future active recreational needs. While the Sportsplex effectively addresses many of these active recreational needs at present, it may be necessary to consider providing these facilities in one or more new Sportsplex facilities. If this approach is taken, additional active recreational centers should be geographically distributed throughout the City so that the Sportsplex transitions from being a single citywide/special facility into serving as one of multiple community parks.



Active recreational facilities will need to be expanded as the City grows.

Table 4-2: 2025 Facility Surpluses/Deficits*

Basis of LOS Calculation	2005 Level of Service (1 facility / X Residents)	2005 LOS Standard (1 facility / X Residents)	2025 Surplus / Deficit
Softball/Baseball	3,125	2,500	-42
Basketball Courts	15,625	15,000	-6
Football Fields	25,000	50,000	-1
Soccer Fields	3,049	3,000	-31
Tennis Courts	10,417	10,000	-9
Swimming Pools	62,500	50,000	-2
Golf	0	50,000	-3

*Surpluses/Deficits are relative to existing 2005 facility inventory

4.2 SYSTEM OF TRAILS CONCEPT



Rustic Oaks Park (top) is the City's only greenway; the City's two on-street trail facilities (bottom) are narrow, inconsistently planted with shade trees, and inadequately signed.



Infrastructure corridors could be adapted to accommodate trails and greenways.

The resident survey repeatedly confirmed a strong unmet need for a comprehensive trail system, a system which the City currently lacks. This need is not new: a linked park system was detailed in the 1995 Parks Master Plan, and the concept was subsequently endorsed in the Comprehensive Plan. As shown in Figure 4.1, the City has made little progress toward achieving this goal. The only existing trail facilities are within Rustic Oaks Park and two stretches of substandard Hike and Bike facilities on Calder and Walker Streets. While Rustic Oaks Park exemplifies much of what is desired in a greenway, the facilities on Calder and Walker are too narrow to effectively serve a substantial volume or variety of users. Neither the park nor the two hike and bike facilities are adequately signed. As previously discussed, additional Hike and Bike facilities are planned for FM 518 and SH 96/Brittany Bay Boulevard by TxDOT. The City does not have any on-street bicycle lanes. While parks serve an important public health function in terms of recreation and environmental preservation, trails can also reduce potential traffic conflicts between motorists and pedestrians and bicyclists that were often mentioned by survey respondents. School sites are shown in addition to parks in Figure 4.1, because youths, who are particularly vulnerable to automotive traffic, would be expected to be important trail users.

Establishing a comprehensive trail network throughout League City will be difficult, because many portions of the City have already been built-out without consideration to trail facilities. In the absence of developed trails or reserved rights-of-way, other service corridors could be adapted to serve as trails. Infrastructure, such as electrical lines, drainage ditches, and railways, are often developed as systems, and these infrastructure corridors blanket the City in a web of interconnected and largely undeveloped segments of land as shown in Figure 4.2. While these corridors are typically privately owned, voluntary joint use agreements could be reached with the respective landowners to permit both existing and trail uses in a mutually beneficial manner. These agreements are referred to as easements, and they are granted, either by donation or payment, by landowners to another party, such as the City, for a specified use, such as a hike and bike trail, of the landowner's property. In developed areas without infrastructure corridors, streets could be reconfigured to include either multi-use paths or bicycle lanes and well appointed sidewalks.

By using existing streets, infrastructure networks in already developed areas and assuming the dedication of trail corridors in undeveloped areas, an integrated trail system concept, shown in Figure 4.3, was developed for the year 2025. The

Existing and Planned Trails

- Existing Off-Street Hike and Bike
- Existing ROW Hike and Bike
- TxDOT ROW Hike and Bike

2005 City and County Parks

2005 Schools

Hydrological Features

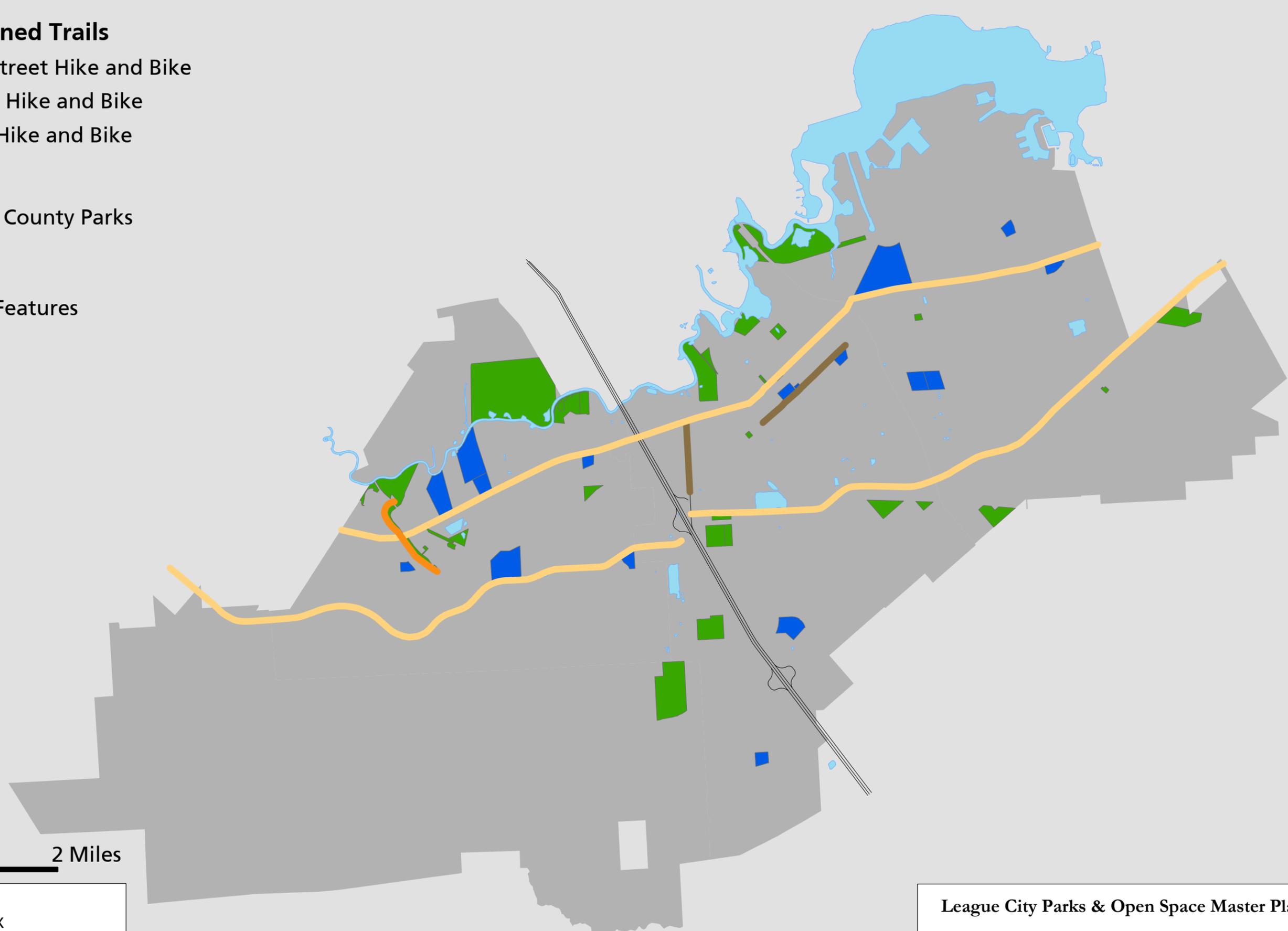
I-45

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

October 31, 2005
Sources: City of League City, TX

League City Parks & Open Space Master Plan

Figure 4.2: Existing and Planned Trails



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Service Corridors

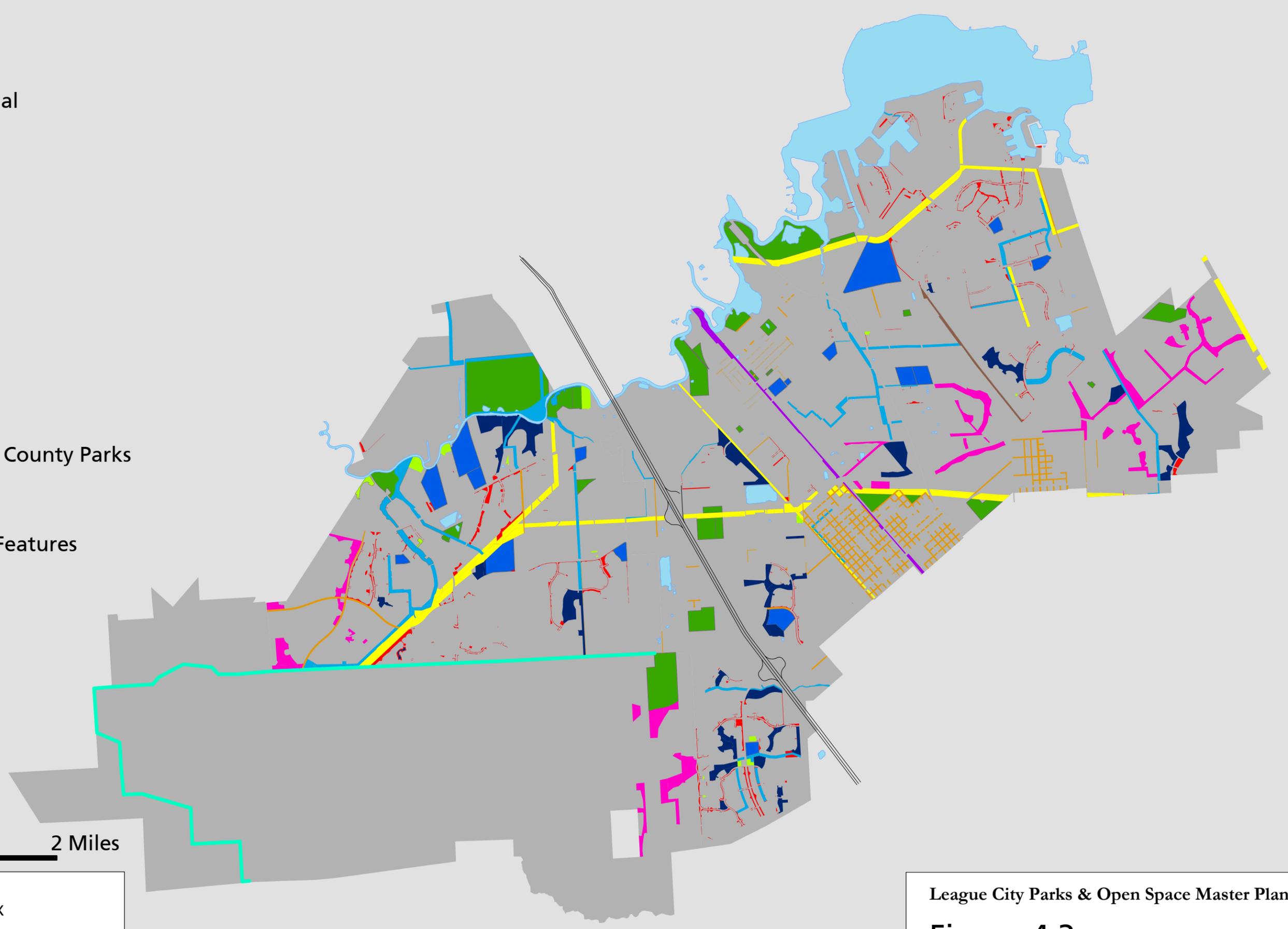
- Park
- American Canal
- Detention
- Drainage
- ROW
- Railroad
- Electric
- Pipeline
- Reserve
- Other

- 2005 City and County Parks
- 2005 Schools
- Hydrological Features
- I-45

 0 0.5 1 2 Miles

October 31, 2005
Sources: City of League City, TX

League City Parks & Open Space Master Plan
Figure 4.3:
Service Corridors



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Existing and Planned Trails

- Existing Off-Street Trail
- Existing Right-of-Way Hike and Bike Trail
- TxDOT Right-of-Way Hike and Bike

Conceptual Trails

- Grand Parkway Greenway
- Clear Creek Off-Street Trail
- American Canal Trail
- Rail Line Trail
- Off-Street Trail
- Off-Street Connector
- Right-of-Way Trail

2005 City and County Parks

2005 Existing or Planned Schools

Hydrological Features

I-45

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

October 31, 2005

Sources: City of League City, TX
Wallace Roberts & Todd

League City Parks & Open Space Master Plan

Figure 4.4: 2025
Trail System Concept

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conceptual system connects to nearly all parks and a majority of schools through a combination of roadway right-of-way and off-street trails in the developed portions of the city while suggesting how trails could be more consistently interwoven into future development within the undeveloped Southwest planning area. This system, however, is intended to be conceptual only, and further planning will be necessary to determine the most appropriate routing based upon landowner or developer consent, detailed physical resource inventories, and patterns of future residential and commercial growth. Four trail concepts, however, are specifically identified on the conceptual map (Figure 4.3) and are more specifically discussed below.

4.2.A Grand Parkway Greenway Concept

The Grand Parkway, a 172-mile-long limited access roadway that is planned as the Houston metropolitan area's third and most outer ring road, is planned to be developed as a greenway across the Southwest planning area. The Comprehensive Plan intended the Grand Parkway to be a major force in shaping the development of the city's southwest: planned mixed use centers would be supported by the access afforded by the exits of the future roadway. Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, these centers and the surrounding residential areas should be well linked through greenways and other pedestrian connections. The Grand Parkway could be designed to serve not only motorists but also pedestrians and bicyclists as a seven-and-a-half-mile greenway.

While portions of the Grand Parkway are currently under construction, the section through League City is still in a schematic design phase. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) currently has planned for a right-of-way of between three hundred and four hundred feet that will accommodate two travel lanes in each direction with the potential to add a third lane in the future. Given these requirements, a conceptual cross section was developed to demonstrate how the Grand Parkway could also be built as a greenway. As shown in Figure 4.5.A, the right-of-way under consideration by TxDOT provides sufficient space to develop an attractive parkway that accommodates both roadway and trail users. The greenway sections show paved pathways for bicyclists and gravel or decomposed granite pathways for pedestrians surrounded by native or compatible non-native plantings. Trails are shown on both sides of the roadway since crossings will be widely spaced due to the Grand Parkway's limited access design. The greenway could be designed to connect with other trail segments and thereby provide linkages to future parks,

schools, and businesses. It is important to note that TxDOT does not currently intend to develop a greenway along the Grand Parkway and has not reviewed this concept. The concept, however, could be used by the City in discussions with TxDOT as the design of the Grand Parkway is further developed.

4.2.B American Canal Greenway Concept



The American Canal (top) could serve as an attractive greenway, particularly if development was oriented toward the canal as opposed to most recent development (bottom).

The American Canal divides the Northwest and Southwest planning areas and has the potential to serve as a four-and-a-half-mile trail corridor. The canal was originally developed to provide rice fields with water from the Brazos River, but it is now operated by the Brazos Water River Authority (BRA) to provide Texas City, TX with drinking water. Canals are often well suited to trails as they are generally flat, long, and scenic, and the American Canal possesses these traits. While some development has occurred along the canal at the southern edge of the Northwest planning area, much of the land surrounding the canal remains vacant. As this land is developed in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan, a greenway along the southern bank and potentially the northern bank of the canal could be developed. The initial residential development along the canal has turned its back to the canal: fenced backyards extend within feet of the canal edge. Future development, however, could be oriented to a canal greenway: homes, parks and open space features, and potentially even small neighborhood centers could directly front upon the greenway. The greenway, an amenity, would add value to the development, while the development would in turn provide both a pool of potential users as well as passive supervision of the greenway, making it safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.

4.2.C Clear Creek Greenway and Trail Concept



A trail along Clear Creek would increase access to this important physical resource.

Clear Creek is one the City's most prominent physical resources, and it is well suited to greenway or trail development. This potential was realized within the 1995 Parks Plan, which sought to establish the Creek and Lake corridor as one of the City's principal east-west greenway linkages. While the City has made progress since that time in terms of acquiring land along the Creek—most notably Clear Creek Nature Park—significant gaps remain between the City and County Parks that line the Creek. While a trail along Clear Lake would be particularly difficult to develop since much of this waterfront is already built-out, Clear Creek is comparatively undeveloped and still retains a largely natural form that makes it highly desirable from a recreational and environmental preservation perspective. A Clear Creek Greenway and Trail is envisioned as following

the curving shoreline of the Creek for eight and a half miles from the Boat Ramp at SH 270 to Countryside Park at the City’s western boundary. This route would serve to additionally link Challenger, Myrtle, Walter Hall, and the Kilgore Tract Parks as well as the public Creekside Intermediate School, a planned public high school site, and the private Bay Area Christian School. The trail could feature extensive interpretive features to explain the Creek’s ecological role to trail users. The trail could be developed in part or whole through easements along Creek fronting properties, thereby allowing public access to the Creek while minimizing impacts upon landowners. Where easements are not possible, the trail could be routed along the streets most closely paralleling the Creek.

4.2.D Railroad Trail Concept

The Union Pacific rail line running northwest-southwest through the entire Central planning area presents a unique opportunity for trail development. While once also used for passenger service, the rail line now only carries freight between Galveston and Houston and points beyond. While abandoned rail corridors are frequently considered for “rails to trails” development, working rail corridors have also been used to develop “rails with trails” facilities. These trails are best suited to rail lines that have infrequent traffic and relatively slow speeds, such as League City’s rail line. Examples as well as guidelines for such trails are detailed in the U.S. Department of Transportation’s “Rails-with-Trails: Lessons Learned” publication. If this trail is to be developed, provisions must be made to adequately protect trail users from active tracks, and such measures can include vegetated buffers, fences, and/or signage. The trail could include interpretive elements explaining the role of the railroad in League City’s development. The concept of a trail along this rail corridor was previously included in the 1995 Parks Master Plan, though no progress has been made toward its development.

4.3 STRING OF LAKES CONCEPT

As discussed as part of the resource-based needs assessment, the City’s hydrology is both one of its greatest assets as well as one of its most significant hazards. The City’s flat topography and its exposure to strong Gulf storms makes managing storm water a paramount consideration as development occurs, particularly in the 10,000-acre undeveloped Southwest planning area. As construction occurs, developers will be required to detain an estimated .65 acre-feet of storm water (a volume of water with an area of .65 acres and depth of



The Union Pacific rail line corridor (top) could be developed as a trail similar to the Cottonbelt Trail (bottom, credit: U.S. DOT) in Grapevine, TX.

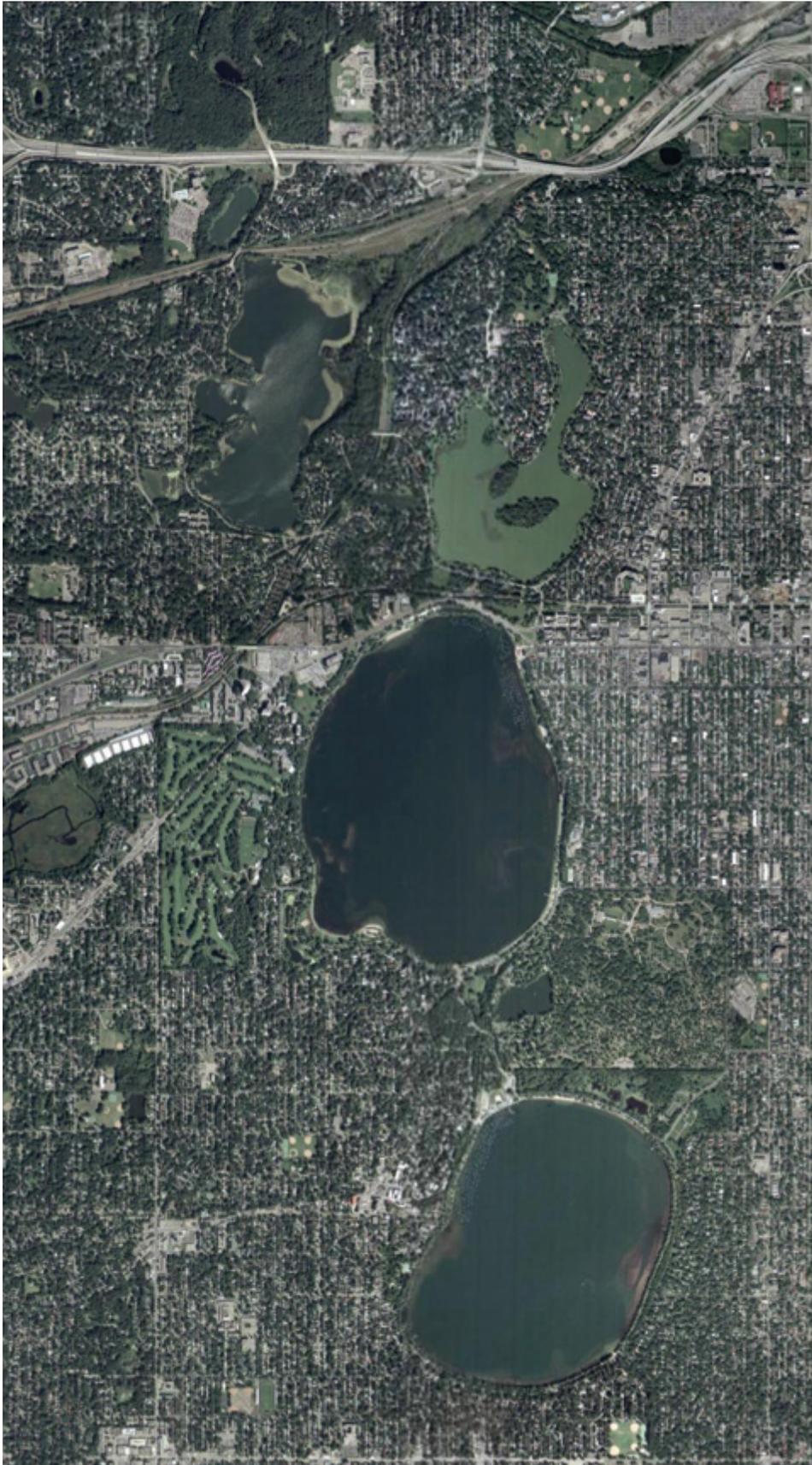


Detention ponds in existing subdivisions do not provide major recreational amenities.

one-foot) for every acre of development. In earlier subdivisions within the City, storm water detention requirements have been met through small decorative ponds that are set sufficiently below the surrounding grade so that the water level may rise to a level necessary to accommodate the subdivision's storm water. Given the scale of the Southwest, however, over 1,600 acres of such ponds would be required assuming that each pond could rise four feet to detain stormwater. While this calculation is a rough estimate (engineering calculations will be required to establish the exact detention needs), the stormwater management of the Southwest planning area will require substantial detention areas: lakes, not ponds. Whereas League City's detention ponds have been minor visual amenities for nearby residents, storm water detention lakes could be developed in such a way that provides major public recreational and open space benefits while supporting the compact neighborhood development form envisioned by the Comprehensive Plan.

4.3.A Precedent

Waterfronts around the world have given form to cities and provided recreational opportunities to their residents, though the linked system of lakefront parks developed in Minneapolis, MN is a particularly applicable precedent to the stormwater detention needs of League City. Minneapolis's "Chain of Lakes," shown in an aerial photograph on the opposite page, was developed starting a century ago and includes substantial areas of parkland surrounding five lakes that are connected by twelve miles of walking and bicycling trails. One the lakes, 334-acre Lake Harriet, is shown in more detail on page 80 so as to show not only the parkland but also how the surrounding Minneapolis neighborhood has developed around its amenities. Located several miles from the downtown, Lake Harriet is separated from a surrounding residential neighborhood by a parkway, except for its northern extent, where a substantial portion of the park's 66 upland acres are located. The parkway is "single-loaded," meaning that the highly valued residences with prized lake views are developed on one side of the parkway; the strip of land adjacent to the lake remains publicly accessible parkland. The park provides not only continuous walking trails but also a number of recreational facilities, such as a bandshell, beaches, gardens, and fishing docks. To the west of the lake, there is a small neighborhood commercial center. While natural freshwater lakes, Lake Harriet and the lakes that make up Minneapolis's Chain of Lakes demonstrate how League City could transform storm water detention areas into lake-sized open space assets that would improve quality of life and property values for future residents.



The Chain of Lakes park system in Minneapolis, MN could serve as a model for an integrated park and storm water management system in League City

4.2.B String of Lakes System and Urban Form

The String of Lakes Concept is comprised of two sub-concepts: a system concept that shows how storm water could be dealt with across a large portion of the Southwest and an urban form concept that shows how parks and development could be integrated into the areas surrounding the lakes. These two concepts are illustrated in Figure 4.5.B.

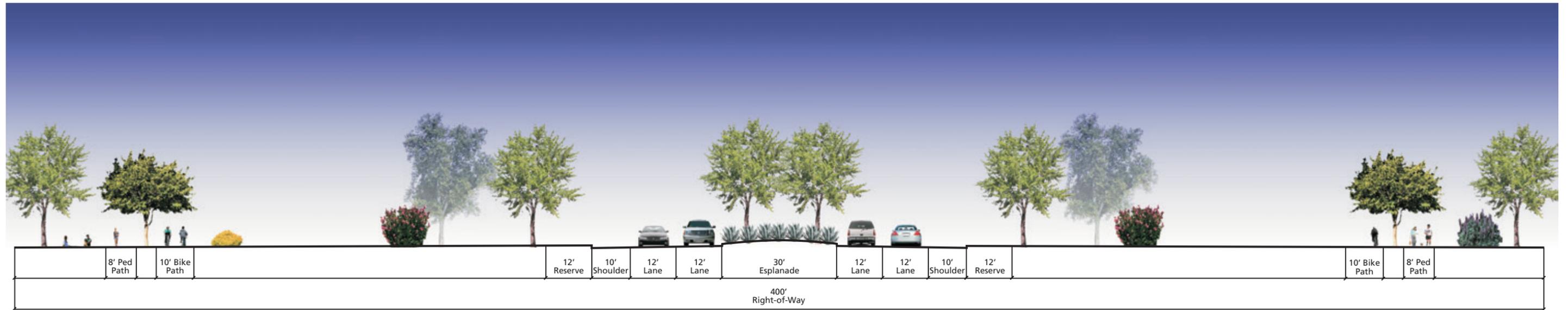
The System Concept envisions a string of detention lakes across the Southwest planning area that would be joined by a series of canals that would also serve as recreational and habitat trail corridors. Following the natural flows of the watershed, urban storm water would drain southward into the lakes, where the water would be safely detained and slowly released southward toward the Dickinson Bayou.

The Urban Form Concept demonstrates how a Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) could be designed around these lakes. In implementing the Comprehensive Plan, the City has recently adopted zoning that will permit TNDs, new diverse and walkable neighborhoods designed in a manner similar to the way in which American towns developed prior to World War II. In the illustrated diagram, a mixed use neighborhood center anchors the neighborhood and is oriented to a neighborhood green, a neighborhood park that would serve



Lake Harriet, part of Minneapolis's Chain of Lakes, shows how a lake, parkland, and surrounding urban development can occur in a complementary manner.

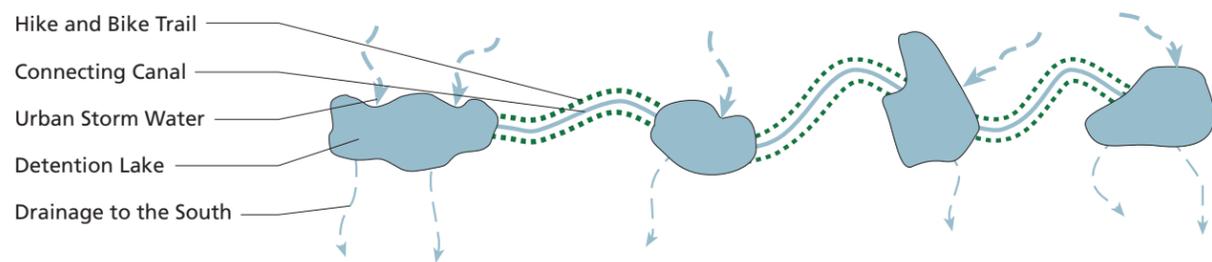
A: The Grand Parkway Trail Concept: Proposed Typical Section



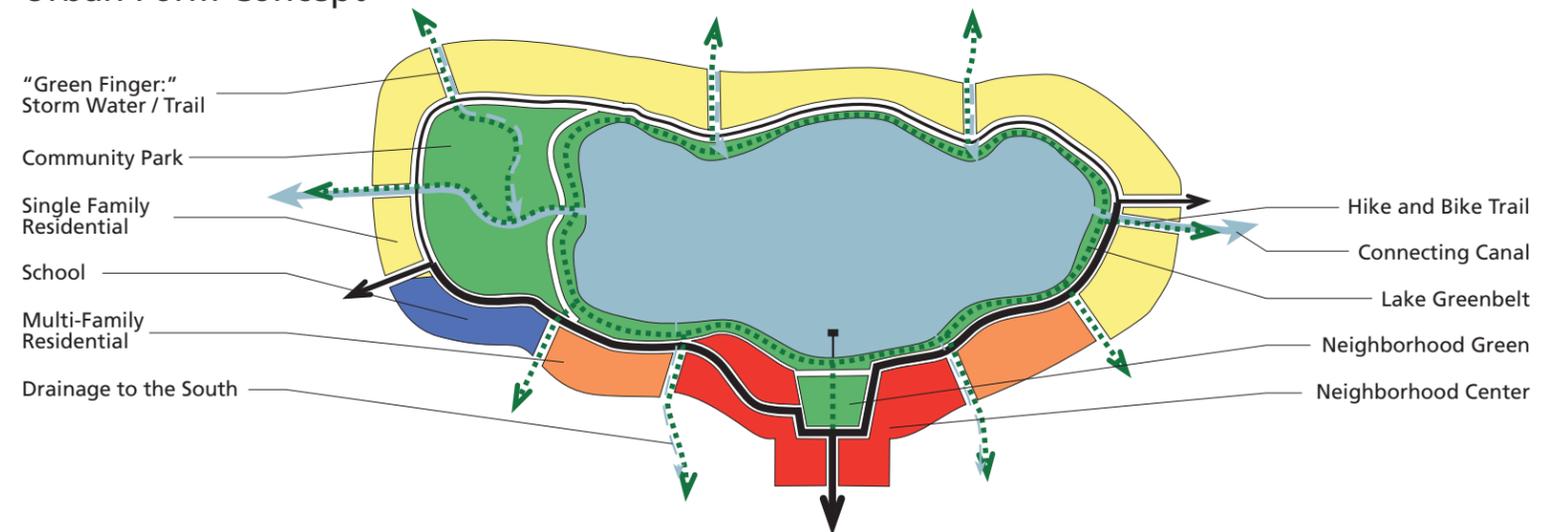
1" = 26'

B: String of Lakes Concept

System Concept



Urban Form Concept



October 31, 2005
Sources: Wallace Roberts & Todd

League City Parks & Open Space Master Plan

Figure 4.5
2025 Concepts

Back of Figure
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as a central community gathering and events place, much like League Park. The neighborhood green as well as a small portion of mixed use development front directly upon a lakefront trail that continues along one side of a single loaded parkway around the entire lake. A small dock extending outward from the neighborhood green affords a place to admire the view of the water and launch small, non-motorized watercraft. Development gradually steps down in intensity to multi-family and then single-family housing so that the majority of the lake is surrounded by relatively low intensity uses and the majority of automotive traffic occurs around just one side of the lake. The primary recreational needs of the neighborhood and those just beyond are satisfied through a mixture of active and passive recreational facilities in the community park that is located on the lake's western shore. A school is located directly across from the park so that recreational facilities between the two sites can be shared and so that students can use the paths through the park and around the lake to walk or bicycle to school. These trails continue out into the residential areas beyond the lakefront through a series of "green fingers" that serve both as trail corridors as well as collection swales for storm water flowing into the lake. The swales are pervious and vegetated so as to slow, absorb, and filter storm water as it flows toward the lake while supporting a lush environment surrounding the adjacent trail.

The String of Lakes concept seeks to suggest a development model in which recreation, open space, and a range of other human and environmental needs are planned side by side in such a way that more lively and sustainable neighborhoods result. While this concept is focused upon the undeveloped Southwest planning area, the urban form concept could be applied to any large-scale development in other planning areas. While the urban form concept is intended to be a model, other design approaches should be considered so as to best achieve the aims of the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance that the concept seeks to embody for this type of development. Additionally, the model could be adapted to fit other development patterns, such as the Mixed Use Centers included within the Comprehensive Plan.

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5 IMPLEMENTATION

In order for a plan to be successful, it must provide a realistic method for achieving its stated aims. The City will need to make and consistently meet significant commitments to address the identified park acreage and facility needs by 2025 and to further develop and realize the previously described trail system and chain of lakes concepts. To that end, this chapter identifies the projected capital and operating costs associated with the City's park needs as well as potential sources of funding that may be able to help pay for those costs. Implementing policies and actions are then established so as to provide the direction necessary to implement the Plan. Finally, the City's top five park, recreation, and open space needs are identified and prioritized consistent with Texas Park and Wildlife Department guidelines.

5.1 FINANCING

5.1.A Capital Costs

As identified in the previous chapter, the City will need to acquire and develop 792 acres of new parkland as well as develop the 272 acres of undeveloped local parkland currently in its inventory by 2025. The costs, in 2005 dollars, associated with this acquisition and development program are shown in Table 5-1.

Based upon current real estate market conditions, it is assumed that an average acre of land within the City costs approximately \$25,000. In the undeveloped Southwest planning area, land may be acquired far more cheaply, while in the heavily developed East planning area, potential park sites are far more expensive. The average of \$25,000 per acre, however, serves to allow a baseline estimate of the capital acquisition costs, which are estimated to be \$19.8 million for the needed acres.

These park sites, however, must also be developed—i.e. site planned, landscaped, and otherwise equipped—if they are to fulfill recreational needs. Based upon the City's most recent experience, the per acre improvement cost for

Table 5-1: Projected Capital Costs for 2025 Park Needs

Cost	Capital cost per Acre	Acres	Amount
Acquisition of new parkland	\$25,000	795.9	\$19,790,570
Improvement of newly acquired parkland	\$125,000	795.9	\$98,952,850
Improvement of already acquired local parkland	\$125,000	271.8	\$33,971,250
TOTAL	--	--	\$152,714,670
Cost per year over 20 years	--	--	\$7,635,734

Note: All figures in 2005 dollars; see accompanying text for explanation of assumptions.

typical parkland is estimated to be \$125,000. This amount includes: site design and construction management; clearing and grading; path and parking area paving; lighting and other electrical improvements; bathroom facilities; fencing and signage; and any play fields or equipment. Improving the 794 acres of new parkland is projected to cost \$99.0 million, though the City will also need to improve the 271.8 acres of acquired but undeveloped parkland at cost of \$34.0 million.

In total, the projected acquisition and development cost of all parkland needed by 2025 will be \$152.7 million, which will require an average annual capital investment of \$7.6 million. As the City's park system increases, so too will its operating costs.

5.1.B Operating Costs

The City's parks and recreation operational division, which is currently within the Public Work department, has a 2005 budget of \$1.8 million. As shown in Table 5-2, this sum includes parks and recreation administration, recreational programs, and maintenance of existing improvements and facilities. While the City currently has acquired 595 acres of parkland, the City is only actively maintaining 175 acres of developed parks. Since the carrying costs of undeveloped park sites are marginal, annual operating costs per acre are based upon developed acreages. Assuming a current per acre operating cost of \$10,427, the cost of operating the 1,391 acres of parkland—175 existing acres plus 1,068 newly developed acres plus the 148 acres of the Clear Creek Nature Park—that will be needed in 2025 will be approximately \$13 million in current dollars. These costs, however, do not take into account revenues, such as user fees, and other funding sources that serve to offset costs and which are discussed below.

Table 5-2: Current and Projected 2025 Operating Costs

Cost	2005 Cost	2005 Acres	2005 Cost /Acre	2025 Acres	2025 Amount
Administration	\$130,395	175	\$744	1,387	\$1,031,595
Recreational Programs	\$683,658	175	\$3,900	1,387	\$5,408,627
Maintenance	\$1,013,494	175	\$5,782	1,387	\$8,018,060
Total	\$1,827,547	175	\$10,427	1,387	\$14,458,282

Note: All figures in 2005 dollars. The costs listed also include limited non-park related expenses, so figures may be slightly high; see accompanying text for explanation of other assumptions.

5.1.C Potential Funding Sources

The City has historically funded its parks and recreational program through four principal sources:

- General Fund revenues
- Section 4-B economic development quarter cent sales tax,
- Park dedication requirement and fee levied upon new development, and
- Federal and state grants

A listing of the City's parks and recreation capital funding sources since 1984 is shown in Table 5-3 as well as the current balances of its two major parks and recreation funds. These as well as other potential funding sources for capital and operational programs are discussed below.

General Fund Revenues

The City's General Fund, which is comprised of the City's unrestricted tax and other revenues, is the primary funding source for park and recreation operations. General Fund revenues, however, can also be used to purchase parkland outright or leveraged through general obligation bonds, which are backed by the City's taxing authority. These two sources have funded approximately a third of the City's capital program for parks since 1984. The majority of General Fund revenues come from property and sales taxes, and so future development will dictate the state of the City's General Fund. If the City greatly increases its commercial base relative to residential population in a manner consistent with the Comprehensive Plan 2025, the City's funding power should increase.

Section 4-B Economic Development Sales Tax

The Section 4-B sales tax allows Texas communities to raise funds for a variety of economic development purposes, including the development amateur sports facilities. A quarter cent Section 4-B sales tax was approved League City resi-

Table 5-3: Past Capital Funding Sources & Current Funds

Past Funding Source	Amount Spent	Percent of Total Funds
General Fund Revenues	\$6,115,346	34%
General Fund	\$3,713,694	21%
General Obligation Bonds	\$2,401,652	13%
Section 4-B Sales Tax	\$3,935,000	22%
Park Dedication Ordinance	\$3,577,802	20%
Park Dedication Fees	\$1,299,232	7%
Park Dedication Land	\$2,278,570	13%
Federal/State Grants	\$2,713,599	15%
Federal Grants	\$1,500,000	8%
State Grants	\$1,213,599	7%
Donations	\$241,048	1%
Water/Wastewater Fund	\$170,000	1%
Other Grants	\$1,224,697	7%
TOTAL	\$17,977,492	100%

Current Funding Sources	Amount Available	Percent of Total Funds
Section 4-B Corporation	\$2,399,051	71%
Park Dedication Fund	\$965,860	29%
TOTAL	\$3,364,911	100%

Note: All figures are unadjusted for inflation. Land values of dedicated parkland are from the Galveston Central Appraisal District, September 2005. Account balances are as of October 2005.

dents, and the resulting funds are administered by the 4-B Economic Development Corporation Board. The 4-B Corporation contributed \$3.9 million toward the development of the Sportsplex and currently has \$2.4 million in reserves. The Section 4-B Corporation is presently investigating the development of a new swimming pool. As with general sales tax revenues, increases in the City's commercial base would enhance future Section 4-B revenues.

Park Dedication Requirement and Fee

The City's current subdivision ordinance requires both the dedication of land as well as the payment of a park dedication fee so as to offset the new park needs created by development. Currently, developers are required to dedicate one acre of land per ninety units as well as pay \$1,000 per unit into a City Park Land Dedication Fund for public park acquisition. Dedicated land is typically used for HOA parks, and the current amount of land required for dedication is consistent with the assumed role of HOA parks in satisfying neighborhood park needs through 2025. Since 1994, the City has spent \$1.3 million in park dedication fees, received \$2.3 million worth of land, and collected an additional \$1.0

million in unallocated park dedication funds. Based upon the projected construction of approximately 35,300 new dwelling units by 2025, the park dedication fee could be expected to generate \$35.3 million toward the acquisition of new public parks. The current ordinance, however, only permits these funds to be used for acquisition, not development. In order to meet the identified 2025 park development needs and the associated costs, other funding sources in addition to the park dedication fee will need to be utilized.

Federal and State Grants

League City has received over \$2.7 million in federal and state funding for parks and recreational facilities. The largest grants have been through Texas Parks and the Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Clear Creek Nature Park (\$1.2 and \$1.0 million respectively) as well as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Zone Management Program for Myrtle Park (\$.5 million). TPWD administers several grant programs that fund local parks and recreation facilities, such as the Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA), which includes Outdoor Recreation Grants (up to \$500,000 with 50% matching funds) and Indoor Recreation Grants (up to \$637,500 with 50% matching funds). Funding may also be available through the TRPA application process for Land & Water Conservation Fund grants. TPWD manages grants from the National Recreational Trails Fund (up to \$100,000 with 20% matching funds) under approval by the Federal Highway Administration as well as grants related to boating and target ranges. Trail facilities may also be funded under a variety of state and federal transportation programs, such as the Texas Department of Transportation's Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program, which will be funded under the newly passed federal transportation act (SAFETEA). Potential federal and state grant programs should be monitored continually as programs, requirements, and funding levels can change yearly.

User Fees

User fees can be used to help fund both operational and capital costs of parks and recreational facilities. User fees are charges levied upon an individual user of a park or facility, and fees may be varied, for example, to account for residency, age, income, etc. The City currently has user fees for the City Pool, the Sportsplex, many of its recreational programs, and special uses of its parks and facilities. There are typically costs associated with collecting user fees, and so these must be accounted for when establishing a new user fee. Significant potential user fees can also be leveraged against major capital improvements

through revenue bonds. Revenue bonds are backed by the expected user fees, and so revenue bonds are typically only used for facilities in which there is already a proven market, such as golf courses, fitness centers, etc.

Donations

A City can receive donations in support of its parks and recreational program in a variety of ways: land can be donated outright or through easements, funds can be donated for the purchase and development of parks, or in-kind donations, such as equipment, expertise, and manual labor, can be made. Providing donor recognition, such as the City's engraved paver program at the Sportsplex, as well as emphasizing tax and other benefits can increase donations. In particular, larger donations can be solicited through offers of advertising or naming rights. Some cities receive support from nonprofit groups specially focused upon assisting local parks programs, while other nonprofit organizations, known as land trusts, can purchase and hold potential park lands in trust either permanently or until a community is prepared to assume ownership.

Special Districts

Special districts, such as Public Improvement Districts, allow property owners within a defined area to levy additional taxes, fees, or assessments upon themselves to provide additional funds for a specific purpose, such as increased park acquisition, development, and/or maintenance. Special districts could be used by residents in underserved areas to fund increased park provision.

Joint-Use Agreements

While not technically a funding source, joint-use agreements permit reciprocal use of park and recreational facilities with other jurisdictions and thereby expand parks and facilities available for public use. One of the most common types of joint-use agreements permit the after-hours use of school facilities (especially elementary schools) by the general public. The City does not currently have any joint-use agreements.

Concessions

The selling of food and other concessions within parks can provide additional (albeit limited) park and recreational funds.

Other Funding Sources

The Comprehensive Plan 2025 contains additional funding sources for a variety of city capital improvement and economic development activities, and while the most likely funding sources for parks and recreation have been listed above, other funding sources may, in certain circumstances, be applicable.

5.2 IMPLEMENTING POLICIES AND ACTIONS

Upon adoption by the City Council, the City will implement the 2005 Master Plan as an integral part of the Comprehensive Plan 2025 adopted in March 2004. Expanding upon the policies developed therein, the City shall be guided by the following implementing policies so as to achieve its vision for parks, recreation, and open space.

Policy-1 The City shall seek to remedy the deficiencies by area, location, and park type identified by planning area in the 2005 Parks and Open Space Master Plan as it selects sites to be acquired for future parks. Particular emphasis shall be given to those areas that are currently most underserved.

Policy-1 Action: The City will rank and prioritize potential park sites by need, type and location and institute proceedings to examine availability and estimated costs. On this basis the city will develop a program for future acquisition and assess funding needs:

- 1. In order of rank and availability the City will seek to acquire property and prepare appraisals for future acquisition*
- 2. The City will negotiate with landowners and attempt to secure funding from a number of sources, including its Parks Dedication Fund or other City funds*
- 3. Land will be purchased for the above purposes*
- 4. Master Plans will be prepared*
- 5. The sites will be developed according to approved Master Plans.*

Policy-2 The City shall not seek to purchase land for regional parks as these are considered to serve many cities and communities and would normally be acquired, developed, and maintained by regional authorities or counties. The city shall concentrate its investment and administrative resources on the acquisition, development and maintenance of local parks and open space serving its own inhabitants: citywide/special, community, and neighborhood parks and greenways/trails.

Policy-3 The City shall regularly review and if necessary amend the 2005 Parks and Open Space Master Plan in the context of actual growth and other changes occurring within the City and its ETJ.

Policy-3 Action: The City staff and the Parks Board will regularly monitor the parks acquisition and development programs in the light of future development plans and proposals submitted by both the public and private sectors. The Council will be kept advised on the pace of development and location of new areas and their implications for the successful achievement of the Plan.

Policy-4 The City has aggressively acquired land in order to develop its parks and open space system as recommended within the 1995 Parks Plan. The City shall continue this practice, as the rapid development of vacant land in League City is reducing locational options while increasing acquisition costs of future large-scale parks.

Policy-4 Action: City Staff will annually review the plan and report any significant changes in the rate, type and character of new development to the Parks Board.

Policy-5 The City shall introduce new ordinances or modify existing regulations to include prescriptive standards for the preservation of natural open space, the private sector provision of passive open space (in addition to active parks) within residential areas, and the public sector acquisition of open space (in addition to or as part of community and regional parks). These open space areas should be able to be maintained in their natural state or require minimum maintenance by the public or private sectors.

Policy-5 Action: The issue of preservation of natural open space will be addressed in the current review and update of Parks and Recreation Ordinance 102

Policy-6 The City shall support as well as encourage citizen organizations or individuals to preserve and enhance significant habitat for wildlife and species of special concern.

Policy-6 Action: The Council will encourage and support local organizations whose mission it is to preserve and enhance natural habitat by implementing all regulations and ordinances related to such areas including safeguarding wetlands, and riparian areas including Clear Creek and Clear Lake. This would include the strict application of all laws relating to endangered habitat and species.

Policy-7 The City shall continue and enhance its tree planting and reforestation program with the emphasis on native species, and the City shall encourage the private sector to follow suit.

Policy-7 Action: The City will apply its Tree Preservation Ordinance to ensure the preservation of mature trees and the replacement, planting, and maintenance of street trees as part of both private sector and public development.

Policy-8 The large amount of undeveloped land within League City and the trend of large-scale residential development within the city emphasize the importance of ensuring that new residential development includes neighborhood scale parks and recreational facilities within or in close proximity to the development. The City should continue its commitment to parks by supplementing private parks development with concurrent community and citywide serving parks. The City should ensure that the parks ordinance does not facilitate the creation of parks that, because of unsuitable location, land area or dimensions, have no recreational value to their neighboring community.

Policy-8 Action: The City will carefully monitor all private sector development applications to ensure that both the required area of land is dedicated for the use of homeowners and that the location of any dedicated land is in the most accessible and convenient location to serve its specified users.

Policy-9 The City, through its ordinances and plans, shall strive to achieve a structure in which no household is more than one half mile from some accessible park or open space.

Policy-9 Action: The City will carefully monitor all private sector development applications to ensure that both the required area of land is dedicated for the use of homeowners and that the location of any dedicated land is in the most accessible and convenient location to serve its specified users.

Policy-10 In order to achieve continuity in a linked network of pedestrian and bicycle greenways and trails, the City shall seek, where appropriate, to acquire easements for such purposes from the landowners of existing infrastructure corridors. The City shall work with other local governments, utility agencies, and private landowners to secure such voluntary agreements so as to create a linked trail system between public parks and other major destinations.

Policy-10 Action: The City will coordinate and establish a close liaison with developers to negotiate the purchase or dedication of easements or corridors to establish a linked network of trails and greenways that will benefit both the private developer and citizens in general.

Policy-11 In planning and designing the future transportation improvements, major road corridors shall be adequately sized and intentionally designed to permit the inclusion of on- or off-road trail facilities, as appropriate. The City shall investigate opportunities to reconfigure existing arterial and collector road rights-of-way in order to create an accessible citywide greenway and trail network linking different sectors of the city.

Policy-11 Action: The City will work with TxDOT and private developers to ensure, wherever possible and appropriate, that road and right-of-way specifications as located in the Plan include space for on- or off-street bike and/or pedestrian paths.

Policy-12 The City department responsible for parks planning, acquisition, and development should continue its grant funding application activities by continuing to seek funds from a variety of sources, including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The City shall expand its grant applications commensurate with the City's growth and increased park needs.

Policy-12 Action: The City will continue its ongoing initiative to secure grant funding from a variety of sources for the acquisition and development of parklands.

Policy-13 League City shall continue to provide a range of recreation, cultural and educational programs and services to its citizens. The City shall periodically modify these programs and services as needed to reflect changing community values, interests, and resources.

Policy-13 Action: The City will continue to prepare and implement recreation programs for a wide range of age groups and consider the needs for the new facilities as established in the Plan in the annual Capital Investment Program(CIP) budget process.

Policy-14 When it is considered mutually beneficial and feasible, the City shall seek to associate with other public or private bodies such as school districts or non-profit organizations to maximize the shared use by citizens of sports fields and facilities and open space. The City shall plan to ensure that access to these amenities is convenient for potential users.

Policy-14 Action: The City will take positive steps to establish mutually beneficial relations with school districts and other organizations that are major users of land in order to achieve the most effective use of land within the City limits.

Policy-15 The City shall reinforce existing public information programs and introduce new means to inform citizens of the range and availability of parks, open space, and public facilities available for their use.

Policy-15 Action: The City will increase the effectiveness of its public information program and provide all citizens with information on existing and future parks and recreation provision in addition to upcoming recreation programs and events.

Policy-16 Responsible for the maintenance of city-owned parks and open space, the City shall provide the ongoing maintenance necessary to maintain the high quality appearance of the parks. Mainte-

nance shall include both landscaping (mowing, weeding, tree trimming, etc) as well as proper care for and periodic replacements of capital investments (cleaning, light replacement, sidewalk repair, etc) due to normal use. Well-maintained parks not only encourage use by residents, but they also enhance the appearance of the community and contribute to the experienced quality of life. The privately owned park facilities maintained by Homeowner Associations face similar maintenance, and the City shall monitor their maintenance.

Policy-16 Action: The City will provide and continue to provide adequate funding to staff, operate and maintain public lands.

Policy-17 The City shall prepare, adopt, and subsequently fund a comprehensive phased maintenance program that will ensure that all land purchased for parks or open space, whether developed or undeveloped, will be maintained according to an agreed schedule.

Policy-17 Action: The City will provide and continue to provide adequate funding to staff, operate and maintain public lands.

Policy-18 Based on the deficiencies identified in the 2005 Parks and Open Space Master Plan the City shall prepare an investment program specifically related to the acquisition, development, and operation of public parks. The City shall allocate and annually approve the funding needed for these actions in the City's Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

Policy-18 Action: Parks and Open Space acquisition, development and operation at the levels of service approved in the Plan will be funded in a sustained manner as part of the City's annual investment programs.

Policy-19 The City shall on a regular basis, review the use, design, and management practices with regard to all parks and open space areas. If the evaluation indicates needed changes due to public demand for new services or the condition of existing land, structures, or amenities, the City shall take appropriate action to

make the necessary improvements. Individual master plans shall be prepared for the development of new parks, greenways, trails and open space.

- Policy-20 In order to maximize the public use of floodplains and drainage easements while safeguarding all areas required to control and manage surface water run-off, the City shall encourage the planned use of such areas for open space, parks, and trails.
- Policy-21 The City shall strive to ensure that all existing and new facilities, including but not limited to parks and open space, connecting trails and greenways, and any associated public amenities, comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

5.3 PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS

Consistent with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s “Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Guidelines” for Texas Recreation and Parks Accounts, the City has prioritized its five highest park, recreational, and open space needs:

- Priority-1: Meeting the established LOS standards for each park type in each planning area through a park acquisition and development program that serves to increase park provision in underserved planning areas.
- Priority-2: Development of a comprehensive citywide greenway and trail network that links parks, schools, and other major destinations.
- Priority-3: Preservation of the city’s physical resources—its hydrologic system, its tree cover, and portions of its undeveloped lands—as the city grows, while developing appropriate passive recreational opportunities for citizens to enjoy these resources.
- Priority-4: Expansion of the City’s active public recreational facilities so as to maintain a high level of service as the City’s population grows.

Priority-5: Management of storm water in a manner that provides large-scale recreational and open space benefits, particularly in the Southwest planning area.

A APPENDICES

A.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

A.2 SURVEY DATA

A.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

The City's demographics are summarized in the table below using 2000 U.S. Census data; this is the most recent demographic data available for the City.

Table A-1 League City 2000 Census Demographics

Total Population	Number	Percent of City Population
Citywide	45,444	100.0%
Male	22,610	49.8%
Female	22,834	50.2%

Age	Number	Percent of City Population
Under 5 years	3,685	8.1%
5 to 9 years	3,815	8.4%
10 to 14 years	3,757	8.3%
15 to 19 years	3,159	7.0%
20 to 24 years	1,976	4.3%
25 to 34 years	6,872	15.1%
35 to 44 years	9,427	20.7%
45 to 54 years	6,710	14.8%
55 to 59 years	2,086	4.6%
60 to 64 years	1,275	2.8%
65 to 74 years	1,535	3.4%
75 to 84 years	792	1.7%
85 years and over	355	0.8%
Median age (years)	34.4	N.A.

Race*	Number	Percent of City Population
White	38,968	85.7%
Black or African American	2,481	5.5%
American Indian/Alaska Native	352	0.8%
Asian	1,677	3.7%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	59	0.1%
Some other race	2,882	6.3%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	6,130	13.5%
Not Hispanic or Latino	39,314	86.5%

Housing Tenure	Number	Percent of City Population
Owner-occupied housing units	12,466	77.0%
Renter-occupied housing units	3,723	23.0%

*Citizens may belong to more than one group, and so numbers/percentages may not add up to the population total/one hundred percent.

Table A-1 League City 2000 Census Demographics (cont.)

Households	Number	Percent of City Population
In households	45,054	99.1%
Family households (families)	12,471	77.0%
With own children under 18 years	6,903	42.6%
Nonfamily households	3,718	23.0%
Householder living alone	2,973	18.4%
Householder 65 years and over	513	3.2%
Households with individuals under 18 years	7,292	45.0%
Households with individuals 65+ years	1,807	11.2%
Average household size	2.78	N.A.
Average family size	3.19	N.A.

Household Income	Number	Percent of City Population
Less than \$10,000	492	3.1%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	365	2.3%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	983	6.1%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,330	8.2%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	2,107	13.1%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	4,049	25.1%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	3,215	19.9%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	2,614	16.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	514	3.2%
\$200,000 or more	460	2.9%
Median household income (dollars)	67,838	N.A.

Vehicle Available per Household	Number	Percent of City Population
None	396	2.4%
1	4,021	24.9%
2	8,866	54.8%
3 or more	2,885	17.8%

Commute Mode (workers age 16+)	Number	Percent of City Population
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	19,502	83.7%
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	2,376	10.2%
Public transportation (including taxicab)	269	1.2%
Walked	198	0.8%
Other means	269	1.2%
Worked at home	693	3.0%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	28.7	N.A.

 Source: 2000 U.S. Census data obtained via <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

A.2 SURVEY DATA

The resident survey that was distributed as part of the planning process is included on pages 105 to 110. The survey form been modified slightly so as to include all survey data in percentage form. As applicable, percentages are based upon the 1,892 surveys that were received; a ‘no response’ percentage is indicated for each prompt. The free response comments from the survey then follow on pages 111 to 134 in complete and unedited form, including all 924 responses to the survey’s final free response question.

Dear Neighbor,

You and your household can play an important part in creating a Parks and Open Space Master Plan for the future of League City. The information you provide here will be used to make recommendations for future park, recreation, and open space initiatives in League City. Please return your questionnaire using the enclosed envelope within 10 days of receipt to ensure that your responses are recorded. Any response you provide is strictly confidential. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Susan Reid at (281) 554-1084 or by email at sreid@leaguecity.com. Thank you!

Definitions for terms used in the survey

Open Space: Unimproved public or private land devoted to natural resource preservation, managed resource production, outdoor recreation, or public health and safety. Parks are only one of many types of open space.

Park: An area set aside for public enjoyment and managed by a public agency.

Neighborhood Parks: Parks that are generally smaller than 10 acres and designed to serve residents/employees within ½ mile; neighborhood parks do not include “parks” and related facilities owned by a Homeowners Association for the use of its members.

Community Parks: Parks that are generally larger than 10 acres and designed to serve residents/employees within the entire city.

Trail: A linear publicly accessible route for recreation or circulation that may allow for multiple uses, such as walking, bicycling, etc.

Recreation facilities: Buildings, constructed improvements, or equipment that contains, allows, or facilitates recreation.

Recreation programs and activities: Classes, leagues, events, and similar recreational services.

ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE, TRAILS, PARKS, AND RECREATION FACILITIES

1. Overall, how well do you think the open space, trails, parks, recreation facilities provided by League City are meeting the needs of the community?

	Not at All	Not Very Much	Somewhat	Mostly	Completely	Don't Know	No Response
Open space	11%	25%	26%	14%	7%	14%	4%
Parks	5%	18%	30%	24%	10%	8%	4%
Trails	22%	30%	15%	9%	6%	14%	4%
Recreation facilities	4%	15%	29%	24%	12%	11%	4%
Recreation programs and activities	4%	11%	26%	26%	12%	16%	4%

2. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the maintenance/physical condition of the following types of parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open space in League City.

	Not at All Satisfied	Not Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Mostly Satisfied	Completely Satisfied	Don't Know	No Response
Small neighborhood parks	5%	11%	21%	30%	12%	17%	5%
Large multi-use parks	2%	8%	20%	35%	15%	14%	5%
Off-street paths for hiking/jogging/biking	18%	22%	14%	11%	6%	25%	4%
On-street bike lanes	22%	24%	13%	9%	5%	23%	5%
Conservation/critical wildlife habitats	15%	18%	16%	11%	6%	28%	5%
Baseball/softball fields	2%	3%	12%	27%	29%	22%	5%
Multi-use fields (soccer/football)	2%	4%	12%	27%	25%	25%	5%
Athletic courts (tennis/basketball)	4%	9%	14%	22%	17%	28%	6%
Sportsplex	3%	2%	10%	25%	33%	22%	5%
City Pool	4%	8%	15%	18%	14%	37%	5%
Playgrounds	3%	9%	22%	24%	11%	25%	5%
Restrooms	5%	14%	23%	20%	8%	26%	5%
Picnic facilities	4%	13%	24%	23%	9%	22%	5%
Landscaping	4%	9%	23%	34%	14%	11%	4%

Other: _____ See free response listings following page 6 of the survey

USE OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE, TRAILS, PARKS, AND RECREATION FACILITIES

3.A. Please indicate what City and County parks and recreation facilities you or members of your household have visited in the past year. About how often did you visit these facilities in the past year?

Facilities	Visited How Often?						
	Several times a week	Once a week	Once a month	Several times a year	Once a year	Never / No longer visit	No Response
<i>City Facilities</i>							
Bayridge Park	1%	1%	1%	3%	4%	79%	11%
Boat Ramp at FM 270	0%	1%	3%	9%	9%	69%	9%
City Pool	3%	2%	2%	11%	10%	65%	7%
Civic Center	1%	1%	3%	20%	22%	46%	7%
Countryside Park	2%	2%	5%	16%	12%	55%	8%
Helen's Garden	1%	1%	5%	27%	18%	41%	7%
Hike and Bike Trail (SH 96 #1)	1%	1%	2%	5%	4%	77%	10%
Hike and Bike Trail (SH 96 #2)	1%	1%	2%	5%	4%	78%	10%
League Park	2%	4%	7%	29%	14%	37%	7%
Rustic Oaks Park	2%	2%	3%	9%	8%	68%	8%
Sportsplex	6%	5%	5%	21%	12%	45%	6%
<i>County Facilities</i>							
Challenger Park	0%	1%	5%	18%	23%	43%	8%
Lobit Park	0%	1%	2%	7%	13%	68%	10%
Walter Hall Park	2%	3%	5%	29%	23%	31%	7%

Note: The City is currently planning or constructing the following additional facilities: Butler Longhorn Heritage Park, Clear Creek Nature Preserve, Davis Tract, Heritage Park, Kilgore Tract, and Myrtle Park – Erickson Tract.

3.B. For the City and County parks and recreation facilities above that you never or no longer visit, please indicate the reasons for not visiting (select all that apply).

Inaccessible (too far/no safe route)	Not interested/ too busy	Don't know about it	Feels unsafe	Insufficient maintenance	Insufficient parking	Too crowded	Other
20%	41%	53%	4%	4%	2%	3%	7%

See free response listings following page 6 of the survey

USE OF EXISTING RECREATION PROGRAMS

4.A. What recreation programs offered by League City do you or members of your household participate in? Please mark all that apply.

Arts and crafts	10%	Youth leagues (T-Ball, Soccer, etc.)	25%
Camp by the creek	3%	Adult leagues	5%
Sports instruction (karate, gymnastics, swimming lessons, etc.)	14%	Special events (4 th of July, egg hunt)	27%

4.B. For the recreation programs in which you never or no longer participate, please indicate the reasons for not participating (select all that apply).

Inaccessible (too far/no safe route)	Not interested/ too busy	Don't know about it	Too expensive	Poor quality instruction/ supervision	Insufficient parking	Too crowded	Other
4%	47%	30%	4%	4%	1%	3%	8%

See free response listings following page 6 of the survey

5. In what recreational activities do you or members of your household participate in? How often? Please mark all that apply.

<i>Activity</i>	How Often?			
	Never	Moderate	Frequent	No Reponse
Aerobics	51%	20%	11%	18%
Baseball	56%	16%	10%	17%
Basketball	54%	20%	9%	17%
Bird/wildlife watching	41%	30%	14%	15%
Bowling	45%	33%	5%	18%
Boating (power/sail)	49%	21%	14%	16%
Boating (canoeing/other paddling)	55%	19%	8%	18%
Climbing	67%	11%	2%	19%
Dance	54%	20%	9%	17%
Exercising pet	43%	21%	22%	15%
Fishing	40%	30%	15%	15%
Football	64%	13%	5%	18%
Golf	49%	21%	14%	15%
Hiking	38%	34%	12%	16%
Horseback riding	67%	12%	2%	18%
In-line skating/rollerblading	58%	19%	4%	18%
Jogging/running	38%	27%	21%	14%
League/organized sports	51%	17%	15%	17%
Martial arts	69%	8%	4%	19%
Models (radio controlled/ rocketry)	71%	8%	2%	19%
Motorsports (on-road/off-road)	70%	7%	4%	19%
Mountain biking	59%	17%	6%	18%
Picknicking	30%	44%	11%	15%
Road biking	49%	22%	12%	16%
Shooting/rifle sports	64%	12%	6%	17%
Skateboarding	70%	8%	4%	18%
Soccer	60%	14%	9%	17%
Softball	60%	15%	6%	18%
Swimming	24%	34%	29%	13%
Tennis	54%	22%	6%	17%
Ultimate frisbee/disc golf	71%	8%	2%	19%
Visiting playgrounds	32%	33%	19%	15%
Volleyball	62%	15%	4%	18%
Weight lifting	53%	18%	13%	16%

POSSIBLE FUTURE OPEN SPACE, TRAILS, PARKS, AND RECREATION FACILITIES

6. Regarding possible future projects for which the City could allocate resources, please indicate the level of importance you would place on the following projects?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Opposed	Uncertain	No Response
Large parks dedicated to active uses, such as soccer, softball, football, etc.	15%	34%	24%	14%	4%	10%
Large parks dedicated to passive uses, such as walking, hiking, nature appreciation, etc.	46%	36%	7%	2%	2%	7%
Small neighborhood parks dedicated to general park uses	32%	45%	10%	3%	3%	8%
Acquisition of open space lands	32%	32%	15%	5%	7%	9%
Additional outdoor swimming pool	17%	24%	31%	11%	7%	10%
Amphitheater	12%	31%	30%	9%	8%	10%
Arboretum	13%	29%	29%	8%	10%	11%
Neighborhood community centers	14%	37%	25%	7%	7%	11%
Dog park	15%	23%	33%	14%	6%	9%
Enhancement of fishing areas	14%	32%	31%	6%	7%	9%
Environmental center	16%	35%	24%	6%	9%	11%
Expansion of existing recreation programs	13%	40%	23%	6%	8%	11%
Fairgrounds	7%	24%	36%	15%	8%	10%
Indoor soccer facility	5%	14%	40%	22%	8%	11%
Indoor swimming facility	18%	26%	26%	14%	6%	10%
Off-street paths for hiking/jogging/ biking	42%	37%	8%	2%	3%	8%
On-street bike lanes	30%	33%	16%	8%	4%	9%
Picnic facilities	20%	49%	16%	2%	4%	9%
Preservation of critical wildlife habitat areas	43%	34%	9%	3%	4%	8%
Preservation of historic sites	39%	38%	9%	2%	3%	8%
Remodel/expand existing park facilities	18%	45%	16%	3%	7%	11%
Senior center	24%	42%	15%	4%	7%	8%
Skateboard/in-line skate park	8%	22%	35%	16%	8%	11%
Water park	17%	26%	26%	15%	7%	9%
Youth/teen center	23%	40%	15%	6%	7%	9%
Other_____	See free response listings following page 6 of the survey					

7. Regarding Clear Creek, how important are each of the following to you?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Opposed	Uncertain	No Response
Developing waterfront parks	29%	37%	16%	6%	5%	7%
Environmental education programs	27%	39%	17%	3%	6%	8%
Historic and cultural interpretation	23%	36%	22%	3%	6%	8%
Public access (boating, fishing, etc.)	22%	42%	20%	4%	5%	8%
Scenic viewing areas	36%	39%	11%	2%	5%	7%
Wildlife habitat conservation	45%	34%	8%	2%	4%	7%
Off-street paths for hiking/jogging/ biking	45%	33%	9%	3%	3%	6%
Other_____	See free response listings following page 6 of the survey					

8. The City may acquire certain lands in the community for the purposes of preserving open space. Please indicate the level of importance you would place on the following purposes of acquisition?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Opposed	Uncertain	No Response
Sensitive environmental lands, such as wetlands	46%	28%	9%	4%	6%	6%
Agricultural lands maintained as working farms	25%	33%	22%	7%	7%	7%
Historic or archaeological sites	38%	37%	10%	3%	5%	7%
Scenic lands	40%	36%	9%	3%	5%	7%
Potential trail corridors	37%	36%	10%	3%	6%	7%
Buffers between League City and adjacent communities	27%	30%	24%	4%	7%	7%
Lands accommodating passive recreation and wildlife habitat	43%	35%	8%	3%	6%	6%
Wildlife migration corridors	42%	32%	10%	3%	7%	7%
Ditches, canals, and drainageways	39%	39%	7%	2%	6%	6%

9. The City may establish goals for access to open space, trails, parks, and recreation facilities. What level of priority should be given to each of the following?

	Priority			
	Low	Medium	High	No Response
Walking access to a neighborhood park from home	10%	30%	54%	6%
Walking access to a community park from home	20%	42%	32%	7%
Walking access to open space areas from home	27%	37%	30%	7%
Bicycle access to a neighborhood park from home	14%	31%	49%	6%
Bicycle access to a community park from home	18%	38%	38%	7%
Bicycle access to open space areas from home	25%	35%	33%	7%

10. What is the maximum walking and bicycling time you feel a neighborhood park should be from most residents' homes? Please circle.

Walking				Bicycling			
5 minutes	14%	20 minutes	12%	5 minutes	25%	20 minutes	8%
10 minutes	34%	25 minutes	6%	10 minutes	26%	25 minutes	8%
15 minutes	25%	Will not walk	4%	15 minutes	17%	Will not bicycle	8%
		No Response	5%			No Response	8%

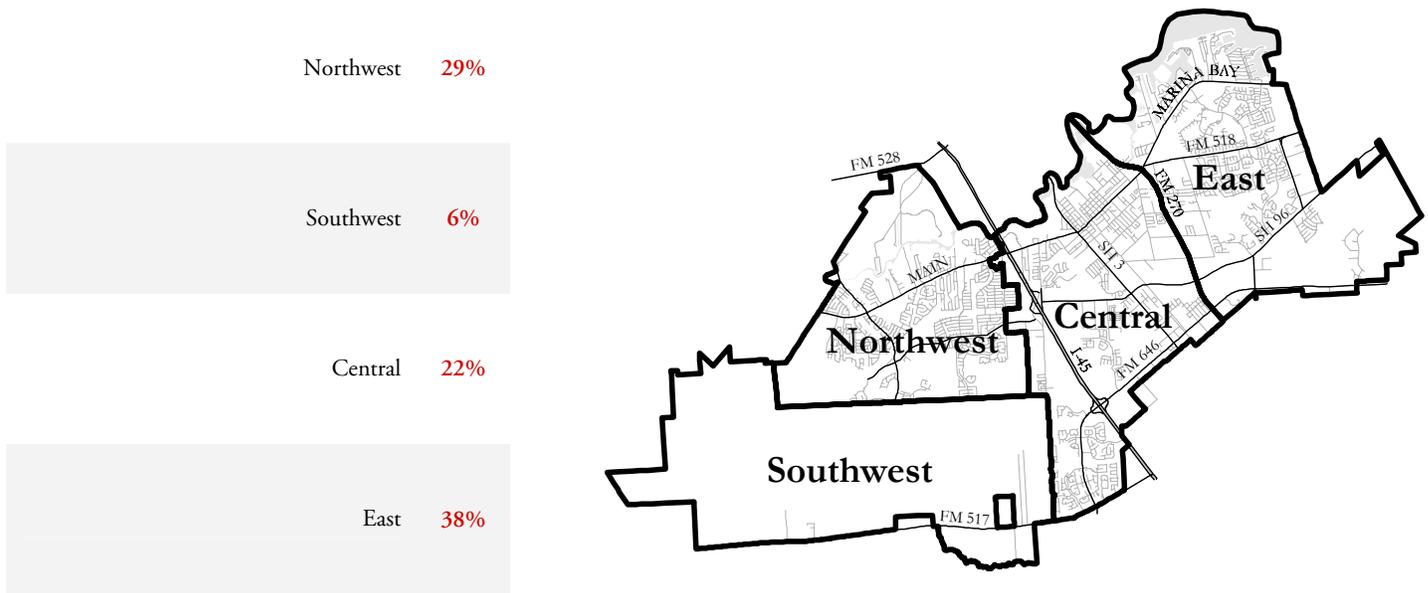
11. What is the maximum walking and bicycling time you feel open space should be from most residents' homes? Please circle.

Walking				Bicycling			
5 minutes	8%	20 minutes	16%	5 minutes	10%	20 minutes	13%
10 minutes	20%	25 minutes	17%	10 minutes	20%	25 minutes	16%
15 minutes	24%	Will not walk	10%	15 minutes	19%	Will not bicycle	12%
		No Response	7%			No Response	9%

ABOUT YOUR HOUSEHOLD

The following questions will help the City to classify your responses.

12. Where do you live? Please indicate what area of the city you live in by looking at the map below.



13. Which of the following best describes your household status?

Unrelated individuals / roommates	1%	Single with children	5%	Couple, no children	15%	Couple, children no longer at home (empty nester)	18%
Single, no children	6%	Single, children no longer at home (empty nester)	3%	Couple with children	43%	Extended Family / Other	4%
						No Response	4%

14. Please indicate the number of persons in your household in each of the following age groups.

Under 5 years	10%	13-17 years	8%	25-34 years	12%	45-54 years	17%	65+ years	7%
5-12 years	12%	18-24 years	6%	35-44 years	18%	55-64 years	11%		

15.A. Do you rent or own your residence?

Rent	2%	Own	94%	Other	-0%	No Response	4%
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15.B. If you own your residence, are you a member of a homeowners association?

Yes	84%	No	16%
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15.C. If you belong to a homeowners association, do you use recreational facilities or open space provided by your homeowners association.

Yes	70%	No, not interested in facilities	12%	No, prefer City/other facilities	5%	No, no facilities provided	11%	No Response	1%
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ANYTHING ELSE?

16. Do you have any further comments/observations regarding open space, trails, parks, recreation facilities, and recreation programs and activities provided by League City?

[See free response listings that begin on the following page](#)

Please direct any questions regarding this survey or the 2005 Parks and Open Space Master Plan to Susan Reid at (281) 554-1084.

Question 2: Other

Please rate your overall satisfaction with the maintenance/physical condition of the following types of parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open space in League City.

Note: 65 (3%) of the 1,892 respondents provided a response to Question 2: Other.

We need more picnic; more for kids to play on
 Open space on 518 & Landing Blvd - not well kept
 Not enough restrooms
 Need tennis courts
 Emergency telephone sites
 Security—not at all satisfied
 Dog Parks—not at all satisfied
 New to area
 Dog park—not at all satisfied
 Weekly recycling never comes
 Boat ramp—not at all satisfied
 Skateboard park—not at all satisfied
 No oleanders near playgrounds
 Boat ramps—somewhat satisfied
 Civic Center—completely satisfied
 No walking path sidewalk along FM 270
 Billboards—not very satisfied
 Maintenance of curb on Walker St. —not at all satisfied
 Need toddler playgrounds
 Newport pool was closed.
 City sidewalks—not at all satisfied
 None of these in Bay Colony
 Wetlands need to be preserved - very imp
 Walter Hall Park porta-potty never clean
 Brittany Bay Blvd (north end) median is appalling
 facilities for seniors & disabled—not at all satisfied
 senior recreation—not very satisfied
 sportsplex on 646/145 ridiculous
 I'm told we can't use sportsplex unless in league
 quality of life - relating to env—not at all satisfied
 need more trails & family picnic facilities

Kayaking access & mtn biking trails—not at all satisfied
 need tennis courts
 Area behind the homes on Lazy Hollow—not at all satisfied
 Track (track & field)—not at all satisfied
 shoulder lanes or sidewalks on 517 west of 145
 City Hall - flags dirty, landscaping needs work
 Need more biking areas
 FM 270 Boat Ramp—not at all satisfied
 dog parks—not at all satisfied
 More nature trails, preservation. Limit developers
 dog parks—not at all satisfied
 270 mowing along roadway N of 518—not at all satisfied
 LC historical areas, museum or displays—not very satisfied
 Racquetball courts—not at all satisfied
 senior exercises—not at all satisfied
 Nothing on west side of 45—not at all satisfied
 dog parks—not at all satisfied
 restrooms terrible at League Park
 restrooms never clean
 need more green space, less development
 Field of Dreams—not at all satisfied
 518 needs additional traffic carrying capacity
 Challenger Park—not at all satisfied
 City golf course open to public—not at all satisfied
 need bike lanes where you don't get run over
 boat ramps/canoe and kayak launch—not very satisfied
 water recreation along the creek—not very satisfied
 Countryside Hike & Bike trail—mostly satisfied
 field of dreams is the stupidest waste of money
 sidewalks—not at all satisfied
 RV storage—not at all satisfied
 green belts—not at all satisfied
 Badly need city pool improvements
 clean up water/sewer facility off of Bay Area Blvd

Question 3B: Other

For the City and County parks and recreation facilities above that you never or no longer visit, please

indicate the reasons for not visiting (select all that apply).

Note: 136 (7%) of the 1,892 respondents provided a response to Question 3B: Other.

Thought Lobit Park only for Dickinson residents
 Just moved to League City
 Don't know where they are
 Recently moved to League City
 Unknown; nothing is posted
 Retired
 Kids are grown
 New to the area
 They don't have very much for toddlers
 Too old
 Have a pool in yard & don't live around other area
 Too hot
 No tennis courts
 Just moved into area
 just moved here
 No indoor facilities
 Husband in wheelchair
 can't drive
 Mostly lack of quality
 We've only lived here 3 months.
 Just moved here.
 Don't spend my tax \$ on it
 No playground at Walter Hall Park
 New in town
 Past 70 years of age
 No billiards
 Waste of money
 Retired; too old
 Out of the way
 other parks closer
 Too swampy, mosquitos
 Use other facilities, have pool, etc
 Use other facilities
 Undesireables hang out
 Geared towards organized sports
 We just moved here.

Our children are too small	need attractions	just moved here
Not convenient	waste of tax dollars	new to area
Location, kids too young	have other facilities closer	hours of operation at pool
Senior citizens	too far	no hiking trails for dogs.
Nothing at the facility I would use, or too far	costs too much for what you get	want a dog park
We spend most time in Friendswood or Pearland	no links between nature and park areas	new to city
None of these in Bay Colony	No tennis courts or golf	interested in running/hiking space
Too far	kids grown	new to city
Not sports oriented	afraid of poisonous snakes at Lobit Park	Sportsplex too expensive
New to area	kids grown	No place for flatland bicycling
Police very rude. Shapiro, boat.	thought they were HOA Parks	not shaded for my child
Husband sick	where are they?	Need more shade
Enjoy Challenger Park better	poor health	the idiot ex-mayor disallowed beer at Walter Hall
Go to Clear Lake Park - more play equipment	not interesting	just moved to League City
Walter Hall Park all concrete now.	Too many illegal immigrants at all city parks	elderly
My age	our children grew up	
Sportsplex - too expensive	in private subdivisions	
Walter Hall Park - unsafe	no children's play equipment	
needs more senior facilities	kids are grown	
poor quality	senior citizen - stay close to home	
just moved here 5 months ago	for children only	
no need, kids grown & away at college	senior citizen	
Sportsplex - just haven't been there yet	Infant in household, no time	
Pool bad	Walter Hall Park - poor & insufficient restrooms	
My son no longer plays baseball	just moved here	
Can't find directions or website for city	not needed	
New to area	new to League City	
no children	not well maintained, not grassy enough	
old age	just moved to League City	
lack of trees to get out of the sun	no dogs allowed off leash	
insufficient maint & parking refer to Lobit only	use HOA park	
Too small; too few trees	our age	
stupid pool rules	Pool in The Landing in poor quality - need new one	
we are new here.	I just moved here.	
we have lived in TX for 1 year	roads are too crowded to get to parks	
have recreational facility in my community	recently moved to area	
new to Texas since April 2005	Challenger no longer allows boat ramp access	
not close to home	just moved here.	
no dogs	traffic to get there - we need roads	
health disabilities	too old	
Just moved back to area	no activities offered	
just moved here	other facilities	
new to town		

Question 4B: Other

For the recreation programs in which you never or no longer participate, please indicate the reasons for not participating (select all that apply).

Note: 147 (8%) of the 1,892 respondents provided a response to Question 4B: Other.

- Discrimination
- Child is too young
- Recently moved to League City
- None on east side
- Kids grown
- Too old
- Too old
- grown out of it
- No children
- Too hot
- Not offered to senior citizens
- No tennis program
- Child under 1 year old
- Parents push their children too hard in the sports
- Pool needs update

No age appropriate programs	no kids	I'm 83.
Just moved into area	Not at good times	Probably will when kids are older
just moved here	Not nature oriented	medical
Need inside pool for laps	kids older	too old
Poor signs	"Little League is too geared twd ""win at all costs"""	kids weren't old enough
Not enough publicity.	Poor quality instruction refers to swimming lesson	most for children - not seniors
days/times conflict	kids are older now	senior citizen
We've only lived here 3 months.	no kids	Infant in household, no time
Just moved here.	Time	no kids
Prefer other leagues' sports	Kids grown up	daughter too young to participate yet
Don't spend my tax \$ on it	I'm too old	just moved here
Attend other cities' programs	working	don't know of any programs for adults
Old and somewhat handicapped	no kids at home	not needed
Retired; too old	Karate - have to pay tournament fees to get belt	Parents are nuts
School & private sports now that kid's are older	we participate when work permits	our age
Not offered for high schoolers - all ability level	too old	I just moved here.
Sports only or young child	just moved back 6 months ago	roads are too crowded to get to parks
Our children are too small	will participate in the future	recently moved to area
Kids grew up	no kids	just moved here.
Kids too young	there aren't any of interest, too few choices	no adult basketball league
Senior citizens	age	no good times for us
Nothing unique	not as convenient as neighborhood	too old
We spend most time in Friendswood or Pearland	waste of my tax dollars	no kids
Open some park/trails in Bay Colony	kids grown	prior notification
We recently moved to League City.	not convenient times	other facilities
Hours are not good for us.	kids moved; too old	just moved here
Too old	city should provide facilities for exercising	camp by the creek was a terrible experience
Husband sick	kids too old	times
Attend at church or friend's house	no kids	just moved here.
Age	behavior of other kids	new to city
children too young	tennis league for adults	not for adults
nothing geared to older adults	poor health	would enjoy a museum and related activities
not applicable to seniors	not age appropriate for our children yet	No place for flatland bicycling
outgrew	inappropriate for age	kids too young
parks & rec center had no info on programs	the city no longer rund adult softball leagues	forced to Bayside, though we live/pay taxes in LC
no kids	too old	too old
no young children	children grown up	age
our children are too young for most activities	too competitive	getting too old
City employees unfriendly	our children grew up	no kids
New to area	kids are grown now	child not old enough
no children	no children	kids are getting older
senior citizen	other sports activities	just moved to League City
88 years old		very few programs offered for adults

new to area
 don't know enough about instructors
 children too young
 elderly

Question 6: Other

Regarding possible future projects for which the City could allocate resources, please indicate the level of importance you would place on the following projects?

Note: 114 (6%) of the 1,892 respondents provided a response to Question 6: Other.

Shooting - sporting clays
 More schools
 Tennis Courts
 sidewalks — create a safe environment for walking
 Biking trails on east side
 Parks for small children
 Kids need things to do
 Playgrounds
 City tennis center
 Full court basketball
 Mountain bike trails
 More trees planted
 Every neighborhood has a park—very important
 Indoor rec center—very important
 Boat ramp—very important
 Affordable senior living
 Horseback riding trails—very important
 League City Band—very important
 Fishing ponds
 Seating at parks—very important
 wave pool as in LaPorte—very important
 Casino—very important
 Tennis courts—very important
 Public golf course—very important
 Quality facilities around boat launches—very important
 Disc golf—important

Public tennis courts
 Competition swimming & diving pool—very important
 Center for mentally ill or challenged
 Infant/toddler center - very important
 sidewalks—very important
 Billiard leagues—very important
 Theatrical/ballet theater/performing arts—very important
 City golf—very important
 Year round indoor pool
 Improve sidewalks and streetlights
 YMCA on Brittany Bay Blvd - what happened?
 This town is nuts on green space.
 Clean up FM 270 landscape or at least mow it.
 Require wider sidewalks along all secondary roads
 Trails for motorized vehicles (dirt bikes, etc)
 Area for off-road vehicle use—very important
 Indoor basketball facility—very important
 Covered pavilions—very important
 Joint CCISD and City projects—very important
 Walking park—very important
 Maintaining existing landscaping - very important
 Do not need Cynthia Woods pavilion or River Walk
 Racquetball courts
 Plant more trees.
 New high school—very important
 Racquetball courts—very important
 live theater—very important
 acquisition of now defunct HOA parks—very important
 City community center, NOT neighborhood—very important
 bird sanctuary observation area—very important
 wellness center—very important
 Sidewalks would help down Texas Ave
 dog park—very important
 Arena horseback riding/dressage—very important
 Lower my taxes in lieu of new parks
 Golf cart paths to grocery stores
 no new taxes
 horseback riding (rental) - very important
 more fishing sites, public golf course
 Boat launch - very imp

Gof/putt putt — very imp.
 Senior help line or center
 indoor tennis courts - very imp
 YMCA—very important
 not your job to provide these with my tax dollars
 Equestrian center—important
 Central historic center—very important
 Covered outdoor basketball courts—very important
 golf course & tennis courts, lighted & covered
 yoga, senior exercises
 fix & add sidewalks where they do not exist.
 too many taxes
 Paintball—very important
 traffic problem—very important
 Playgrounds (swings, slides, etc) —very important
 20x the hike/bike trails—very important
 Indoor shooting range—very important
 racquetball courts—very important
 enhancing 518 (by Kilgore's)—very important
 Bigger library—very important
 Childrens playgrounds—very important
 Park funds to be diverted to solve traffic problem
 Shade/cover playgrounds—very important
 City sidewalks—very important
 wave pool—very important
 golf course—very important
 Art classes, etc for adults & seniors
 need ATV park, indoor basket/racquet ball courts
 New parks—very important
 civic theater for use by local performers
 canoe launch on Clear Creek—very important
 extend Countryside hike/bike trail—very important
 getting this stuff heard about—very important
 more non-sports related for our youth
 sidewalks—very important
 drainage—very important
 fishing pond/lake—very important
 Why no mention of the Butler Longhorn Museum?
 Cultural centers, museums, art, theater—very important
 Beautify the creek in the 518 area
 convention center—very important

more younger children parks—very important
 safe playground for infant/toddler—very important
 playground park
 volleyball—very important
 disc golf courses—very important
 bowling/horse shoes/shuffle board, etc —very important
 better utilize public school for summer activities

Question 7: Other

Regarding Clear Creek, how important are each of the following to you?

Note: 64 (3%) of the 1,892 respondents provided a response to Question 7: Other.

Saving tax dollars
 Land for schools
 Bike path/running trail along creek's length
 Bike lanes on road
 Opposed to commercial development
 OK for dogs—very important
 Stop building—very important
 Business development—opposed
 preserve flood plain
 Horseback riding trails—very important
 Commercial/retail/housing—opposed
 Boardwalk—opposed
 Integrate with comm'l areas (Kemah Boardwalk etc)
 Golf—very important
 A nice boardwalk with shops & restaurants
 Dog park—very important
 Par fitness course—very important
 Preservation of existing wetlands—very important
 Pets on leashes—very important
 Track for running
 Why no boat launch at Challenger Park? Police use?
 Deepen Clear Creek for better flood control.
 Mainly just conservation and wildlife mgmt

Bike lanes—very important
 indoor swimming—very important
 more parkland from private sector for public use
 Don't like tourists coming in and leaving a mess
 Protection of natural state of creek—very important
 Boat launch
 Waterfront shopping, dining & entertainment—very important
 these are stupid excuses to spend my tax dollars
 boat ramp—very important
 restrooms for FFPS Soccer League
 same as above
 River Market & other comm'l development—opposed
 all parks should be connected by trails.
 dog park—very important
 San Antonio River Walk - make LC a destination.
 taxes are too high
 Clean up—very important
 traffic problem—very important
 Enhance surroundings—very important
 dog walk—very important
 not relevant if we can't move within city
 Keep natural—very important
 enforcement of no-wake zones
 ATV trails, indoor basketball
 on-street paths for walking/riding bikes—very important
 public information—very important
 do not channelize Clear Creek—very important
 open space—very important
 noce eating establishments on the creek—important
 better stadium (real bleachers)—very important
 neighborhood sidewalks repaired—very important
 add more open space and greenways betw development
 Indoor swimming facility—very important
 Cultural centers, museums, art, theater—very important
 No bridge on Palomino
 Stop construction on Clear Creek
 jogging track—very important
 protecting it from run-off—very important
 disc golf courses—very important

no more development—very important
 place for motorcycles

Question 16

Do you have any further comments/observations regarding open space, trails, parks, recreation facilities, and recreation programs and activities provided by League City?

Summary

Statement Topic	% of Respondents
Advertising/communication	8%
Existing City facility/program quality/maintenance/security	11%
Homeowners' parks	1%
Indoor pool or gym/fitness center	1%
Nature/environment/habitat	9%
Future city facilities/programs	19%
Residential/commercial development	6%
Seniors and handicapped	3%
Taxes and government	11%
Trail systems	17%
Miscellaneous/other	13%
Total	100%

Note: 913 (48%) of the 1,892 respondents answered Question 16.

For the most part, I am happy with the parks and recreation facilities in League City.
 Year round swimming, longer pool hours, better diving, water aerobics classes, indoors
 1) Never enough soccer fields in season. Too much emphasis on baseball; 2) Butler Museum – big waste of money; 3) Youth/teen center – bring YMCA into League City; 4) Clear Creek – South Shore Harbour Island; also there is land, 61 acres on Egret Bay Blvd, across from Clear Creek Community Church.
 The Isaac Walton fishing program for kids needs to be introduced. Contact the Kiwanis Club in Burlington, IA. 40 years ago I told the JCs about this.
 I would like to see a walk way built from the park in Rustic Oaks to Carefree and have the sidewalk completed from Village of Oak Creek Colony to the walkway leading to the Rustic Oaks Park.
 I would rather have quality over quantity.

There is not enough green space in League City. 518 is ugly with just houses and no trees

On walking trails safety becomes an issue if they are isolated

Would like to see the Rustic Oaks tennis courts improved. Repair storm damage to fence. Upgrade/repair surface. Repaint lines. Repair vandalism to drinking fountains.

We would like to see more jogging trails. Dogs should not be allowed on playgrounds!

The city's communications of available facilities and programs is almost nonexistent.

I would like to see a place for shooting sports within a 30- minute drive.

I would love to have an indoor swimming pool locally.

We really should provide some nice extended trails for jogging/hiking/biking

I feel League City is behind the current facilities that other cities have. Seabrook for example has done a good job with modernizing their parks. They have a skate park, Frisbee golf and water park-type community pool. League City should look at adding these above listed facilities and quit building soccer fields every 1/2 mile.

More schools!

I've heard nothing further of plans to utilize land acquired east of 270 along Clear Creek.

The drive from 45 to 2094 on 518 is one of the most unkept areas in the county. It certainly does not look inviting to new business growth.

There needs to be biking trails where we don't have a chance of being ran over by a car.

We need more walking/hiking/biking trails and restroom facilities.

We just moved to League City from Florida. We appreciate the City's interest in the opinions of residents.

Please have running paths along streets & creeks. Dangerous to run on the roads! Same for bicycles. Slow down housing construction – too much traffic & pollution.

Overall City of League City has done a good job in preserving & providing parks. I think more people are attracted to League City because of it "suburb" "urban" image with close access to modern mall & shopping facilities. It is important not to change League City to a tourist trap.

We live in the historic district and absolutely love Helen's Garden & League City Park. We visit them both frequently – walking, but a safer route with a sidewalk or trail would be appreciated. Safer routes to grocery stores would also be neat.

They are critical and help with quality of life issue for residents.

I did not know there were any hike/bike trails except at Walter Hall and Countryside. Are they publicized?

Mowing is not adequate of ditches and roadsides.

Too much "cement" in the area – too many strip malls. We need more open space and stop building for commercial use.

No information has ever been provided to us about League City programs, parks, trails, open space, rec facilities for new residents.

Need more playing fields for sports such as rugby, soccer, football – need area walking paths. A good example is Memorial Park in Houston – Its parkland walking paths are always used. Need good lighting.

Field of Dreams is the best thing that has happened to League City since the Sportsplex.

When is nature preserve in Clear Creek Village going to start work?

I feel that a focus on trails & picnic areas will help support the family development.

We need parks that have better playgrounds for kids. I would like to have nature trails in League City.

My responses are from retired point of view.

We need to quit spending money on extras we do not need. We must keep up landscaping, but we do not need any more parks. We have the "Field of Dreams" that we are going to have to finance. Until we find out how well that does we need to slow down.

Stop letting developers build new houses and apartments in the east end of the city! It is too crowded now and the roads can not handle more traffic. I moved here for the low population density and proximity to work, but that is being ruined. Send the commuters back to Houston!

Focus on local history – ecology of Clear Creek!

On Seminole Drive in Glen Cove the water company has fenced land that could be used as a nice neighborhood park serving Glen Cove and Marina del Sol. This land is already owned by League City, but not developed. Consider using existing land first before buying additional land.

You still don't recognize the taxpayers in Glen Cove! Please refund our taxes!

I'm not sure where a lot of these parks are after living here for a year. Maybe a newsletter indicating these facilities with a map.

LC badly needs an indoor Olympic size swimming pool. No more ball parks.

Too much building now – taking away all the area in League City. Have been in area since 1979 – use to be a small town community – too big now!

I wish there was a home association to be able to enforce fines on unkept homes and yards. Bayridge subdivision

With the development going on in L.C, there is a desperate need for youth sports fields particularly soccer fields and baseball and softball fields.

Trails need to be redone by Rustic Oaks – when it rains there is no drainage

Leave creek alone! Leave it as natural habitat, but clean it up and keep it clean.

The Sportsplex facility is great. If Big League Dreams is a commercial failure, convert it into a second Sportsplex.

We support a new competitive outdoor swimming pool.

Residential development should be broken up by open space to reduce population density/traffic density. Open space also contributes to a better living environment by reducing flooding and urban heat island effects.

The largest unserved/underserved youth recreational group in League City is our competitive swimmers.

I believe open space areas are important to the quality of life in League City.

Bicycling, walking, jogging, skates, or other non-motorized forms of transportation should be removed from City streets.

Reduce property tax.

Would love something close to the house as subdivision does not have anything.

Does League City have a town paper?

Would like more tennis courts (lighted)

Bike trails would be great.

Bay Colony definitely needs a bigger/nicer park and recreation area.

Why don't you put the survey online?

Thank you for this opportunity to express my feelings on parks and recreation areas.

Better playgrounds/areas for children.

Please build and maintain trails. I run 50 miles a week. I bike 30 miles a week. Countryside Park trails are in poor condition – please fix soon.

I object to letting the daycares use the city swimming pool. The pool always smells like urine and I believe it's unhealthy because of the daycares. I wash my bathing suit over and over and can't get the urine smell out. I accidentally inhaled some pool water in early June and I've been very sick ever since. The swimming pool is very important to our family.

Need improvements in lower central and southwest areas. We have an unattended disregard for dogs and kids which need attractive areas.

Need long hiking trail across entire city.

Get rid of MUD tax.

Inform people of these parks and activities that take place when they move into an area. I've lived here 3 years and didn't know League City had parks. Places for hiking & biking would be great.

Hiking areas around the bayous would be awesome!

Need walking/jogging tracks in parks (gravel, not paved). Need to increase trees in many parks.

Less new homes, more open space. Remodel downtown (Main St.) New high school, but not by the creek (No new bridge). New stadium at the end of Palomino is fine (maybe a new bridge, but Clear Book & Clear Creek chip in).

I feel there's no need for open space; that is not future sites for something. There is one in particular in my neighborhood, and also one coming into The Landing subdivision that is an eye sore.

Seabrook has great hiking/jogging/nature trails! We need more like theirs.

Field of Dreams has killed my interest in League City and its good old boys.

New playgrounds and fairgrounds would be nice.

We just moved here from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Tough we have lived in Houston before – we love League City, especially the community involvement like the 4th of July celebration at League Park – great for our family!

We are in desperate need of walking/biking trails!!!! Need bathroom facilities open!!!

I wish there were parks with basketball and tennis courts.

The hiking and bike trail off of Toddville road in Seabrook is quite nice. I would like to have one like that in League City.

Quit wasting my tax dollars.

Recreational activities for senior citizens need to be prioritized. League City only has youth programs.

I am not interested in any of this since we can not get city water here at a reasonable cost!

City tennis groups must use school facilities – available only during the summer – or go out of town. A City tennis center is needed. League City is behind other area cities regarding city operated tennis centers.

I assume all of Hobbs Rd between 45 & Newport is Central – Do not have any open space or parks – not even sidewalks. Assume we are 2nd class citizens of LC – or maybe LC is planning on building a park! There are many young children playing in the street – wouldn't you agree this is a perfect location for a park! We pay taxes too.

Bay Colony has no City recreation facilities or activities within reasonable walking distance for our children to use.

Have enough now.

Homeowner association (for area in Brookport Street, etc) is only interested in raising and collecting money. Mowing seldom done. Street lights stay broken. No sidewalk to walk to HEB from Crystal Isle.

I think offering more programs for children would be very beneficial, also parks with bike passes (paths?) would be a great asset and would attract more people.

We would love more trails throughout the city with trees, water fountains and streams. We have lived in other communities with biking/walking paths that run for 50+ miles from town to town.

Can we put some emphasis on educational programs with the environment for kids for a change? Would like to see more hiking/biking trails for families – those of us that are into something besides baseball?

Definitely hiking, biking trails, family picnics to do together. We do not need another Sportsplex or Big League Dreams. We do a lot of family bike riding but are limited to our neighborhood for safe streets, etc.

Not counting HOA parks in Master Plan is ludicrous. The HOA parks are better maintained and more frequently used than city parks/facilities. Work together to coordinate facilities.

More money for schools – academics – not for sports facilities

Development is making it more difficult to acquire quality land at an affordable price in order to preserve open space for future residents – planning should be more responsive to the citizens and to the future growth of the city.

We aren't familiar with those in the area, especially not walking, exercise facilities. Parks are the only ones we've seen but would like more advertising/publication.

I believe we could have a nice water park/pool area for League City. The pool now is very outdated for a town like ours. There are many options to consider for a water park/pool. That would help with the children in our area for outdoor fun, exercise and activities.

We have no bike lanes and no mountain biking trails.

City staff/Parks Dept should determine where undeveloped wetlands in the city are and not rely on developers to properly disclose this information.

It feels like the city has built a lot of new homes and subdivisions with little to no new open space or park. Biking, walking or any other activity is very dangerous through out this city, there are little to no sidewalks in some areas. (Even in newly constructed areas) For example, Louisiana Ave – new road leading to two schools with no sidewalks.

Living on a canal w/docks and boats – being 78 years we are not as active for the last few years – enjoy country club and activities

Would like to see hiking, jogging, bicycling paths length of Clear Creek west of 45 to Egret Bay.

We would love to see the Palomino Lane area become a park/sanctuary and connect up with Challenger Park.

It would be nice to be able to ride a bike (street/mountain) without the problem of having to dodge walkers, joggers and casual strollers.

Too many bikers/walking on busy city streets.

Thank you for being concerned with these important issues. The best improvement League City could make in these issues is sidewalks. There should be a well-maintained sidewalk along every FM, blvd, etc

Please provide a dog park. Leash laws prevent allowing a dog to run free anywhere. Dogs like to swim and run and if allowed to will be less likely to try to escape.

Magnolia Creek trail is well maintained – I use it 3 or 4 times per week. Keep up the good work.

Too many questions to get a good response.

We would like to see small water parks, more tennis courts besides the high school and some bike trails (off street). Overall League City has a nice balance of parks and is better than our previous city – Corpus Christi.

I am concerned with the rate of development of subdivisions. These developers clear cut huge areas. I wish the city would require that more natural habitat and open space be preserved. At least save more trees.

More, better neighborhood parks, please. And within walking distance.

I think a water park would be a great idea along with something for the seniors.

I have never lived anywhere where there was such a lack of safe bicycling lanes. This is a relatively small community and it would be really nice to be able to get on the streets to bicycle.

Would love to see undeveloped land along Clear Lake and behind my house on Enterprise become park.

I think the City should leave the majority of sports programs to the YMCA and leagues. Focus on big picture of parks, space, etc. Why is City running sports programs?

The way that route 96 has been denuded is so sad. The deer have been pushed out with no chance of being allowed space to live. All the trees have been destroyed. It is so much like the rain forest in S. America. Man is so short sighted. I would say that it is too late to consider what could be done.

Please stop building homes. We used to see wildlife (deer) about every night. We are running them out of their home.

Need open green space with trails, stop overdevelopment. Parks provided by developers are often flood prone useless land not prime green space.

Concerned with loss of habitat (animal) and impact of added traffic from overbuilding

I am not aware of any open space preserves to benefit flora or fauna. I suggest the LC Parks Dept publish an article in the LC newsletter identifying all the open spaces, trails, parks, etc., along with the facilities or purpose of each.

Having lived in Denver, I think it is abominable that there is not more open space in both League City and in Houston. Commercial development is completely out of control and at the sake of green space. Parks, trails etc. should be easily accessible from each neighborhood. I hope plans are underway to save some additional space for parks, etc. Goodness knows League City doesn't need another Walgreen's.

My family and I are new to the community, we haven't visited the recreation facilities available yet, but what I can see is that the city needs more hiking/walking trails.

Lake Jackson, TX has a wonderful recreation center with a pool, racquetball courts, etc. Please visit their center.

FM 518 (Main Street) should have sidewalks the entire length.

Sidewalks and greenbelt walkways are inconsistent at best. Lack of zoning along much of Main Street has created an eyesore and prevents the city from the aesthetic community we could have.

Need to educate public about pedestrian rights. It is very dangerous to run on the roads here.

I wish you well. Good luck.

Maintain open space – too much clearing going on it Clear Lake.

Road biking improvements mainly in the area of safety for bikers would be greatly appreciated.

Please provide information on where hike & bike trail on Hwy 96 is located. I did not realize there were any & I live there.

I would like to see land along the lake for watching fireworks – such as Clear Lake park across the lake. I don't see where are parks are other than League Park which is fairly nice but not very big – poor parking.

We rely most heavily on parks & pool provided by our homeowners' assoc because city/county facilities are too far away. Hiking/biking trails which connect neighborhoods to city/county facilities are much needed.

Preserve animal habitats. Don't overbuild to cause additional flooding.

I am 75 yrs, my wife is 73. We don't use any of the facilities mentioned herein. We have lived in League City 2 years. We like the community. Not being familiar with these places and things, we can not do justice by answering all these questions.

More information about their location and existence should be provided in the monthly paper maybe, so new residents are acquainted with them. Less urban developing and more natural preservation should be attained for the city to maintain its "small town" appeal.

Developers should not be allowed to clear cut massive acreage displacing 1000s of critters with no provision for them. Solution such as: leaving wild life refuges in place within developing area. See Hwy 96/270 recent clear cut must have displaced approximately 5000 critters. Where did they go?

I disagree with The Big League Dreams. We also need fewer neighborhoods and more commercial development. Please consider these suggestions and add more environmental friendly spaces.

Do not build near the banks of Clear Creek. It will flood. Leave the creek alone.

Do not raise tax.

Need more trails, where Floyd should have been. Great for bikes or walking. Need to get kids off streets and on trails.

City rec center with gym, not \$20 million kid parks

Please make existing parks/programs more known to populace via newsletters/mail/website.

Bike lanes would be a big plus – but must include public education regarding right of way, etc to ensure safety. Most drivers do not understand bike lanes and even use them as turn lanes.

Boat ramp at Countryside Park

Against spending tax money for use of citizens that pay little or no tax.

League City has and is impairing itself by letting so many subdivisions to build spoiling our wetlands and green lands. Concrete is a destructive part of flooding – we have not had the massive weather storms i.e., hurricane and tropical storms since all the new building. We also have not done anything for the seniors.

Park construction & maintenance should emphasize durability to lower long term costs. Police and constable patrols should be increased to help prevent crime.

Trails are limited within League City.

Since this is a city with an oak as its emblem, and since this is southeast Texas with its long, hot summer, the emphasis should be on planting and maintaining as many trees as possible.

There are too many new subdivisions being built. By cutting down all the trees you are increasing the chances of flooding because there is nowhere for the water to drain off. There needs to be more community activities available for the families in

their neighborhood/community (i.e. community center with after school programs, exercise programs, etc.)

While I do not use any of the parks & recreation facilities, I think they are very important to the community for the well being of our children, families and even property values.

Safe bicycle trails from any east LC home to creek and bay waterfronts (should get together with Kemah and make the rail tracks along 146 key part of trail). The 'S' shaped side walks in the south shore community are not serious bike paths but can be used as links to get to them.

Thank you for letting us have a "voice."

I think the Parks Dept is severely under staffed. As fast as our city is growing and this dept doesn't seem to be able to take a breath. It's also about time a survey was sent out.

We do not need a League City version of the Kemah Boardwalk. We need to preserve the creek as the natural jewel that it is.

A need to keep children busy. Things for seniors to do.

Obstacles trail like the one you had in Countryside. Athletics trails.

Build them and provide protection for children from sexual predators and crime. Also it is known that you should not eat more than one serving per month of fish caught in our local area. Why is the public not notified?

Bicycle trails along major roads like 270 & 518 a must. Many lower income families rely on bicycles as their mode of transportation. They cause numerous driving hazards. We need to keep them safe.

Please preserve our green spaces. Children mourn the loss of the forests on Hwy 96. We didn't desire a concrete jungle here.

The city leaders need to lower expenditures and taxes. Allow business to fulfill the needs of special interest groups who can and should pay. The city should provide basic services only.

I live in historical district. This area could be a beautiful area with curbs, old time lighting, pocket parks and walk/bike paths that wind thru the area. Instead we have dump trucks driving to treatment facility in excess of speed.

We need more parks and safe bike routes for transportation and safe bike/hike/jogging trails for exercise. Trails for exercise should not be concrete – asphalt or other track material OK.

There is no apparent recreation programs in League City for older adults.

How about fairgrounds for rodeos or amusement – I realize there is Kemah nearby but it has really bad traffic problems.

We would enjoy a nice public park close to Clear Creek Village.

Bike lanes are built but not maintained or swept for debris. Dog park is needed

It would be nice if one day the City can provide us a fitness center and offer more recreational programs for senior citizens.

What programs you have are not well advertised. Most of the "City Matters" papers talk about "after the fact" events not what you can participate in. We are senior citizens so many not important to us but very important for younger adults and children.

We have been disappointed that the developers of the new homes off of Louisiana were allowed to take so many trees, even after their development.

If I were 30 years younger most of these ideas would be more appealing.

In the higher income areas more upkeep is done. The lower end is not kept up as much.

Not sure why you're asking all these questions since you seem determined to fill every square inch of land with housing developments. But it's a nice thought – imagine if we were willing to actually do some of this.

The large soccer fields at the Sportsplex need to be better maintained and drainage needs to be improved. Need more jogging/walking trails in our part of League City (NW). I feel that the "Field of Dreams" is a huge waste of the City's funds. I am particularly interested in preserving the wildlife area by Clear Creek Village.

Purchase land now for future green spaces.

I've seen the wildlife reduced to null in my immediate area. I think the overall city plan should require contiguous area for wild life habitat and migration.

None of this matters. Some people are really desperate to justify their position & salary.

Bike paths should be wider and cleaned more often. This would make it safer for motorists and bikers alike.

I do not want any recreation moneys spent unless it is voted on by the community.

I think the parks & recreation program in League City is good. You are doing a great job. I don't think we should expand or spend more money. Just keep the programs going like baseball and soccer for kids. Keep the facilities we have looking nice.

I think you should plant grass at League Park. There are now varieties of San Augustine specifically for shade. Took craft class in Spring of 2005. Didn't follow syllabus. Guy "teaching" didn't seem interested. Thought you could do a lot more with the class. Think you do a great job with egg hunt and 4th of July picnic.

Given the current state of property taxes in this area (fairly high), I am opposed to undertaking any large scale programs or developments. Maintenance of existing programs and facilities should meet the community needs for the near future.

This is the only section I have completed because I believe that City Council is so arrogant and absent of integrity that they will ignore the data collected by this survey to do as their egos instruct.

Keep as much wetlands as possible.

More bike trails.

We just moved to Rustic Oaks. As soon as my husband is free from his wheelchair we will use all programs daily.

Should be more trails/park areas.

Spend less money on organized sports, more on other areas.

More flowers at parks.

Stop spending as much money on parks.

I know we didn't use some of the recreation opportunities because they all seem centered on the east side of 45. Traffic is a consideration. It would be nice to offer recreation programs on the west side of 45.

Good luck getting park and open space. Especially with the new Mayor and city council members. They are idiots.

Bicycling/jogging/walking trails integrated with surrounding communities are a necessity. It is shameful to see people trying to bike/walk along 270, with nowhere to go but on the street. Work with Webster/Clear Lake Shores/Friendswood – please.

Keep up the great work.

We chose our home because the Longhorn Park was planned in our neighborhood. We would really like to at least see some progress.

Support senior center. Do not support sport, water, etc., complexes being built. Need less taxes – freeze appraisals – need appraisal caps.

Would like to see the Countryside/Rustic Oaks trail connect with the trail in Magnolia Creek.

When the 1995 Master Plan for parks was developed, the biggest need identified was swimming. The least has been done about this. Also a major park for equestrian use had been proposed, including bridle trails.

Thanks for asking. No individual should lose their home to make open spaces or parks. I would not use a facility if I know someone had to move to make that land available.

League City has nothing for seniors.

Please expand the open spaces — we have enough new homes and businesses.

League City seems determined to chop down every pecan tree in sight. It would be nice if more trees (pecans, oaks) (not tallows or soft pines) could be preserved.

I have small children and don't feel like I know what recreational activities are available. We are not in the CCISD and seem to be left out.

Since I'm disabled, I'd like a supervised pool activity as exercise for my legs.

We would love to have a park and some open space here in Bay Colony. The landscaping needs help too.

We are located in Halls Bridge and would love to see the bike trail and park become a reality.

I feel that there is too much emphasis on baseball facilities and no emphasis on indoor recreation facilities for basketball.

Pool is not easy for older people to enter.

The city took over our park (Ellis Landing) and I look forward to updates in equipment & open access areas. The nature areas are what make this area beautiful. If the city continues putting homes on every available piece of land, it won't be long before we live in concrete hell.

Keep Clear Creek channel wild. Don't make it a concrete ditch.

League City is the coolest city.

I would like to see the River Market Plan proceed. There is great potential there. Take a look at a similar development by the city of Naperville, Illinois.

Would love more hike/bike paths. League City needs more green space. Too much development ruins atmosphere.

I really cannot fairly answer most questions. I am 73, have a treadmill in my home, and work out at a gym 3 times a week. So I don't use any park facilities. What is most important to me is to stop adding roof tops. We have too many people and too much traffic.

I am concerned that too much money is being spent on such projects as Field of Dreams and Sportsplex.

You will always have folks opposed to anything, but space for recreation and doing things with family and friends does seem important.

We just moved here and don't know what is available and haven't accidentally run across any parks/areas.

There should be a park or area to go to in every neighborhood. Too many people and not enough to do.

Need better publicity of what is now available.

We need more.

I think the City has done a very good job with the parks and would like to see more pools, especially in the central area. We moved from central Houston to raise our family here partly based on the amount of parks. I have two within walking distance and visit them often. Keep up the good work. Also, please try to keep League City its own city and not run into Houston. We love the small city feel with big city access.

Would like more bike trails.

A beautiful city is a great way to bring in business and residents. We can do better. Main Street needs help.

This area needs something better than Millie Bush Bark Park, a great dog park for socializing and pet exercise.

By and large, we are very pleased with the progress the city has made in this area over the past 24 years. Our only concerns regard keeping up – due to the “explosive” housing developments. Also, the loss of open space to enjoy riding our horses.

It would be nice to have a hiking/biking trail the length of the electrical easement adjacent to FM 518, SH 96, from Friendswood to Kemah. And attach it with the easement that is next to the police station. It would be nice to have a year-round pool.

Need more water fountains and trash cans in parks.

League City is a pretty big “small city.” I am soon going to ow3n. I like to bike and as a kid we went everywhere on bikes and buses in Miami. If advertised and done right, bikeways and bus service connecting major use areas would be a huge boon. My work keeps me from getting my son (15) back and forth consistently enough to be on a summer league. Thank you for your interest in our output.

Put jogging track/trail on east side by South Shore area. We have no natural parks, only streets.

Need facilities for teens and seniors

The open space is shrinking due to the number of households increasing in the city. We definitely need more community parks with picnic tables, swings, playground equipment, etc.

Traffic congestion makes it difficult to get to a lot of facilities. Too much building prior to additional roads, drainage, etc. We are becoming a congested nightmare on 518, especially dangerous by the corner near Academy and freeway.

I think the neighborhood and city pools need to have areas geared toward toddler aged children. I have a 7 month old and a 4 year old and do not use any League City pools because I do not feel they accommodate younger children. Or an entire pool facility only for younger children would be great. If anything like this already exists please inform me, because I know nothing about it. LaPorte, where my parents live has a City pool geared only for toddler children and their neighborhood pool has an area for them. Something like this would make me very happy.

Safe biking on road is almost non-existent. Tennis courts at Countryside HOA are unusable.

Quit killing and wasting all the trees, ensure adequate drainage, quit destroying wet lands, quit “shrinking” our parks and park spaces, clean up messes left by new construction.

Don't want to spend money. Don't want to increase already exorbitant taxes.

As a new resident, neither I or my spouse believe we could answer 90% of these questions at this

time. Maybe after a year we could.

Please finish Butler Longhorn Museum

Do not increase City taxes.

There is too much development in League City and we would like to see more open space.

Boat ramp at 270 needs restroom facilities. Hike and bike trails along the creek would be nice.

Control urban sprawl – don't need Walmart.

League City is good with recreation facilities. With population booming in our area, it would be hard for me to place a value for expansion over what we already have.

I really wish swim team were not so expensive. I would like more information about the parks I did not know about.

I (we) would like park ponds to picnic and fish in.

How does one find out about these facilities? I just found out we had a city pool and I've been to the city hall complex several times for the library.

This should not be our major concerns.

I would like for more basketball courts & football fields with seating available. As well as the YMCA on Brittany Bay Blvd. and Hobbs to actually be built. These children need something constructive to do with their time because the parks provided cater to very young children and not enough swings to go around for more than one family.

Need walking and running trails in Bay Colony. Could easily be added to large “greenbelt” areas. Too big of a community to not have trail. Also, the concrete streets are very hard on joints to run on, so there is nowhere close to home to run.

There is a need for basketball playing facilities in the League City area. There are enough baseball facilities already.

There is no safe way to ride a bicycle through town, and no safe route from the west side of town to Webster/Nasa. We need better bike routes.

A bike path for the kids at Creekside Intermediate (corner of Palomino and 518) is desperately needed. Seeing the kids riding to and from school beside Hwy 518 daily is frightening. It is a very dangerous situation for those kids. They are entirely too close to high speed traffic. There needs to be a path further off the road.

Need more running trails/bike lanes and sidewalks.

As it is very hot most of the year, we need cooling areas for families – pools, shade areas, water fountains, most parks and existing facilities are too hot to enjoy.

Flower beds are torn up and replanted too often, just when they start growing up nice, they pull everything out and put something new in. Waste of money.

The soccer fields are way too crowded. There are three teams per field just to practice. You can't learn

that way and it's potentially dangerous.

Keep them mowed.

City has gone to extreme on sport complexes and especially poor planning in locations with both being on the freeway (at least locate one on far side of town. Hope the City does better planning with CCISD on school location – the current Palomino location will require widening of roadway and a bridge at city expense.

Parks Dept is doing a great job offering a variety of programs and maintaining all parks.

Would like to see new YMCA start to be built at Brittany Bay.

City should be zoned differently. Could be a beautiful city but isn't because special interests and money talks. Low rent apartments and housing, too much traffic and ugly buildings. Need green space.

Enforcement of no motor bikes/4-wheelers on trail at Magnolia Creek and enforcement of leash law on trails.

Enough sports/softball megaplexes already. It's time to shift focus on nature/birding venues. Such as Seabrook parks. Reference Texas Parks/Wildlife data for revenues for birding. League City has the Sandhill Cranes in the winter months. Deer preservation.

This town is a mess. Ordinances make no sense. Too many businesses and junky stuff – low rent housing – no green space.

Make facilities safer from unsavory individuals who make women uncomfortable – example: unsupervised juveniles on bikes or in groups.

Cycling/hiking/walking trails are extremely important and lacking in the area.

I think some effort needs to be made to preserve some of our open spaces while that is still possible.

We love the new sports park. It's so clean.

Very happy that the Bay Area Bluegrass Assn is allowed to use the Civic Center for 10 months each year to provide free musical entertainment to families in League City and surrounding cities.

I want open space, etc., near home but NO commercial properties. Roads are not looked after by the city with neighborhood transportation – I can only imagine what would happen with commercial traffic.

Let's be good stewards of our environment, but let's not go off the “wacko” deep end. Use common sense and leave the “causes” to others with less important responsibilities.

It would be great if you could erect some type of shade over the playground equipment.

More facilities needed; more accessible

On Oriole Street at Canary (east side of Hobbs between 518 and Brittany Bay Blvd) there are 2

vacant lots that collect garbage and junk. Convert it into a little park for the kids. We feel we are forgotten.

I believe strongly our city should work to restore and preserve a projected 100-year floodplain, no building and no parking lots allowed. Do whatever to achieve control of these areas and include tributaries of Clear Creek. I support a conservations easement along the creek and its tributaries and public access through sensitively placed hike and bike trails throughout our community, especially along the length of Clear Creek in LC.

No transit available for disabled or retired citizens here in League City which tax dollars should pay for.

In my opinion, the new big league park is a waste of money. Also, in my opinion, the TV station that League City operates is an even greater waste of money.

More signs, etc. for t-ball & other youth sports. You only see soccer signs. More tennis courts.

Take a look at the jogging trails in Seabrook. I use it everyday.

We are losing the feeling of a small town. Soon all trees will be cleared for more houses. Then we will wonder why it floods more and more.

Don't spend my tax dollars on it.

There should be jogging trails in each community that are not only providing safety but are conducive to healthy running. Running/walking is a vital and active part of today's society.

We desperately need bike trails in this area – especially on our side (east) of town.

There is an excellent small creek that has been mostly improved that is mowed by city and would be perfect for hiking, jogging, biking, horseback. It runs underneath 518 just west of 270 (Robinson's Bayou – I cannot confirm City maintenance). With minimal money this would be great. All needed is a few signs and 1 or 2 extra mowings/year. I already jog this creek. Great for birding.

Newly constructed street – Calder Dr between Main St. and I45. Who is responsible for upkeep? Mowing grass and maintenance of sidewalk.

An indoor heated pool definitely an asset to community.

I feel a top priority should be to improve the roads to have bicycle lanes and/or sidewalks.

Eliminate MUD tax please – double taxation – equal taxation for all League City residents.

More walking trails closer to the main part of League City. Need to improve look of Main Street as a historic small town.

Save more of the trees we already have – preserve wildlife and their habitats.

Need to communicate better regarding services and programs offered by City and about parks, trails,

open spaces.

I am glad city is going in the right direction. Glad to be a League City citizen, even though it is not a small town anymore.

City should help HOAs maintain parks and open space. City charge for irrigation water is too high. Especially when watering city owned property.

We would love biking/walking trails and lighted tennis courts.

I have lived in League City for only a year. I don't know anything about the parks, etc.

If you don't want a new high school, quit building new homes. Field of Dreams – a big waste of money. Main Street off of 45 to high school – embarrassing, should be unified architecture – looks unzoned and cheap. That's where the money should have gone – Sportsplex was enough.

We have nothing close enough for usage. We don't have any idea what is available.

We would use a dog park very frequently. We have 2 young dogs.

A year ago, we moved from Coral Springs, FL to be near our son and your Parks and Recreation people should visit Coral Springs and duplicate everything they do. We saw the city progress from 60,000 to 110,000 and everybody wants to move to Coral Springs because of the way the city is governed and excellent schools and Parks & Recreation Dept.

I oppose the "Riverwalk" concept for League City. As a city that defends trees, we seem to be moving towards an image of a developer's city where clear cutting of trees for the building of cookie cutter homes is the priority.

More bike paths along major streets. More jogging trails like Pine Gully in Seabrook.

Need walking and biking trails.

Need a water park/pool, like Seabrook's city pool/ not that cement hole in the ground that League City has.

Great city doing a great job.

Would like League City to offer some fitness programs that fit into a daily working schedule, i.e., aerobics in the evening.

A sidewalk is needed on 270 between 518 and Nasa Road 1. A big mistake was made when no space was left for walkers/bikers on the bridge over the 270 boat ramp. A jogging/biking path along Clear Creek would be really cool. Similar to what is along South Shore Blvd.

League City is ignorant and has the best politicians money can buy. You must deny all new requests for permits to build new homes. You don't have enough schools for the kids now. You taxes are outrageous due to your own ignorance and arrogance. You need commercial taxes, not residential. My house note is up 25% due mainly to taxes. Yes, I will be leaving ASAP. This is the worst city I have lived in. this is solely due to taxes and

politicians and lousy schools. People are great. Yes, I know this will receive 0 attention, but makes me feel better

What attracted us to this area was the amount of open space around us. Now there is a great deal of development – both a plus and minus.

Very interested in safe walking/hiking trails.

Walking trails and bike trails are a great development for all neighborhoods.

I think League City does a lot better job with parks of all kinds than in the past years! We've never had the opportunity through the growth like we have now. Keep encouraging land developers to put neighborhood parks for the community.

We need street bike lanes on 518 and 2094. more off street paths for biking and hiking; maybe we could use the old power line (from IHL&P) for trails.

I'm so glad something like this came out. I love the outdoors – rollerblading and biking, but outside of our immediate neighborhood (we live in the Meadows off of 270), there is no safe bike lane, trail, or area of the road to really do this. I'm really looking forward to some positive change.

I use the library a lot.

Why doesn't the city concentrate on obtaining more businesses in the city instead of looking for opinions of parks and recreation? What a waste of time and money.

Developers should provide parks and open space for their projects. They should not be able to buy their way out of providing greenspace.

Very interested in getting a dog park. Think a large soccer complex would be beneficial – could be multi-use fields. Develop partnership with North Galveston County YMCA to develop their proposed lands.

Would like hike and bike trails, maybe exercise stations. It should be inexpensive, and it is something anyone can use. Would like well-maintained, well lighted, well patrolled.

There are many teenagers and young adults and etc living in League City. Mental health centers in Galveston are too far away for us and our children. My prayer – League City could realize our needs.

Do not let developers buy out of greenspace.

We would still like to see a zoning overlay and green space/trail plan as was presented for the "River Market" concept some years ago.

Streets should have space for safe biking, not like 2094.

I like the idea of on-road bike trails, but doubt that I would use them because most drivers do not respect bicyclists on the road.

Jordan's Cove Apartments should be torn down.

No more development along Clear Creek.

Paving a large area of previously green space in Walter Hall Park a few years back to create a parking lot that sits unused 99% of the time was a huge step in the wrong direction. League City already has plenty of paving – we need more green space. The previously announced plan to sell off part of Walter Hall Park for “private development” is the antithesis of Christian stewardship of a scarce and precious resource. Don’t do it.

More advertisement of recreation that is provided.

Improved sidewalks along streets would be a good start toward building a walking/exercising community.

I just moved here in February of this year. My responses are based on what I see as I drive around the city. The park in the middle of town is gorgeous.

The east side of League City has nothing out here. We need more parks and trails – please. Sidewalks to Goforth Elementary School.

Need to advertise what is available and where it is located. Need safe places to walk, run, and to bicycle.

Let’s develop the Clear Creek area from I45 to FM 270 (or at least to Hwy 3). Integrate bicycle paths for long, safe rides across League City.

We are past 72 years of age. Activity is limited because of handicaps.

Promote billiards.

Spent \$20M on a wasted Big League Dreams versus putting the road in for a new school. I guess with Big League the city has its first city owned bar.

Lower property, city, county taxes – enough is being paid out to have all this accomplished. Where are the taxes being accountable for? Lower taxes.

Even though the homeowners association provides some recreational facilities, the city needs to provide additional facility.

Bike lanes and trails and walking trails badly needed. Also, the city needs to mow along FM 270 more often.

Stop building new neighborhoods. It is time to preserve the few trees and open land that is left.

I hate it when new parks are being built and all the shade trees are cut down. We need shade trees in these open spaces. We need more small pavilions. I would love to see a swing set at Rustic Oaks Park.

While we love League City, it has been disappointing (since moving here from the Northwest) to see so much emphasis on baseball, soccer, etc. We are an avid “outdoors” family. However, my children are more interested in biking, swimming, etc. more than competitive sports such as baseball and soccer.

More activities for seniors.

We would like to see Bayridge become a more kid/bike/family friendly place to live. The streets are dangerous. We need sidewalks.

Please add on-street bike lanes. League City needs to be more bike friendly. Also the city should consider having the shoulders of 518 & SH 96 where bikers ride; the shoulders are littered with debris, this presents a hazard to riders.

I have lived in League City 4 years & have never received any info on city programs, park locations, or city resources. You need better means of informing citizens of city events, etc.

It would be nice to have a hike/bike trail similar to Frankie Carter Park in Friendswood. I also believe League City is getting big enough to have a golf course in the area besides Beacon Lakes. South Shore course is private, so that course is only for members.

Open space is important. One of the reasons I moved to League City was because of the open areas. Since I have been here 518 has lost the open land that I looked forward to.

Please do not use the dead end block of Moody to access any hiking trails which you may be planning to create in the area of the Community Church. Please do not allow motorcycles or dirt bikes on these nature trails. The animals we love to watch will leave. Please leave our neighborhood alone.

Think LC does a good job overall. We enjoy music and picnics in park. Thankful we live close to the League Park.

We need an art center and a water park.

Besides “sports” – need other varied for children.

I would like to see a bike trail that is at least 10 miles and away from the traffic. I would also like an indoor pool for League City and exercise facility such as a YMCA.

We love to bicycle ride and hike. We ride about 10 miles. We would love to see a way from Meadow Bend subdivision to bike to Kemah Boardwalk. Also we need a senior activity program.

It is extremely important that we allow our wildlife to do just that – live in the wild – too many banks, houses, etc. are being built in League City. A coyote ran in front of my car on 96 – why? Because they are being forced to leave their homes. This is animal cruelty – they were here first – let’s preserve nature.

Get some on the east side of town. Quit spending all that money on Field of Dreams.

More bike trails. Clean up broken glass and nails off of existing bike trails.

More non-sport facilities.

You have a great library. A Perry Construction truck driver hit me when I was riding my bike. They are not responsive to making amends, because you are too lenient the way you allow them to speed and block our small streets.

More sidewalks needed for joggers.

League City will start to decline when business and homeowners move out of CCISD because League City won’t work with CCISD so it can grow at the same rate the city is. Real estate agents are directing their clients towards Friendswood and Pearland because of the inability of League City to help schools grow.

Too many city parks – need to maintain the ones you have.

The parks and rec group have always done a good job with programs and maintenance. We usually end up using League park for picnics, grandchildren entertainment and program attendance. I would like to see a park with trails for bike and walking somewhere east of 270. also on my wish list is an airport. I moved here (1990) because of the access to the bay and we had an airport close by.

Too much efforts put on sports. Why not music, classic dance or science?

We no trails, parks, etc. near us, so it is very hard to know the space at which the parks are in. we would love a walking trail near us. Our dogs would love it and it would be a great place to jog.

I think an indoor playground would be nice.

Access for pets – for walking.

Happy to participate in this survey, and the City’s interest in preserving and maintaining open areas. But please focus on the needs of pedestrians along driveways as well.

No more expensive sports complexes that experience a 25%+ cost overrun with little or no oversight and auditing.

There are small undeveloped areas that can be used as open space. The city should seek partners (county, state, federal, chamber of commerce, environmental groups) to acquire open spaces. The nature preserve is an excellent idea because there have been several deer sightings on the east side between 518 and 96. The preserve is also a good example of where partners should be included. Trees should be protected more. I thought League City had a tree ordinance, a Conroe man discussed it with me, but the developers are obviously not following such a policy. A pet walk near apartments would be a good idea, but some of the funding should come from the apartments. Pet walks should have at least 3 fenced areas of different sizes for the different sizes of dogs and so somebody can walk their Yorkie separately from the neighbor walking his Rottweiler or Pit Bull. Parents, schools and cities should all try to keep the kids occupied to avoid mischief. The city’s part would be providing ample parks and programs for skating, basketball and soccer. Considering health and skin cancer, pools should be covered or indoors. Bicycle lanes would be a good way to protect children, and to make bicycling to work more practical to conserve fuel and reduce pollution. Those goals would allow the city to find at least 1 partner for bicycle lanes. I believe the city allocates zero dollars to open spaces in my subdivision, but maintains parks in other subdivisions. The city should take steps to allocate fairer, such as leaving improvements to the HOA.

I live in Brittany Lakes and I love coming into my neighborhood because it is so open and green. It is not wall to wall homes and businesses. I worry League City is growing too fast and soon there won't be anything left for any of these things.

The city should provide these observations to the community by all means of advertisement, especially billboards. Or radio station?

We need to be able to use hike/bike trails from east area to central area. How do you get across the intersection of 270/518/2094?

Seems some open spaces should be used for schools. People don't move to League City for parks. It's the good schools. Please tell the Council.

I would like the city to prohibit the use of skates, skateboards, rollerblades, scooters and bicycles on sidewalks/pedestrian areas at the Sportsplex.

Keeping natural habitats is very important. I think it would be nice if we had city trails like in Seabrook.

League City has a lot of concrete paths and sidewalks, but few dirt paths that are good for jogging (at least none on the east side)

Quit destroying trees and wildlife.

We are new to the community. As yet we have not been provided any description of community park & rec. resources, maps, activity schedules, services, etc. (name & address provided for response)

I think that League City has done an excellent job of economic development. In a previous survey, I highlighted the need for open space, green space and undeveloped wildlife areas. I think that League City has done a poor job of developing these areas. I am afraid that within another year, all of League City will be covered with concrete.

The destruction of tree-filled areas along SH 96 (on which I see no hike/bike trails). The loss of wildlife alone is extremely irritating and unbelievable. I've lived in Bayridge for over 30 years and am not happy with the destruction of the area. It will take 20 years to even see a sizable tree for birds/squirrels. Where have the deer gone, also, coyotes which have lived in these areas longer than I have? I bike along 96 to get to Lawrence Road and Clear Lake Shores. I drive home along 96 almost every day for 9 months of the year. Whoever allowed the development of these housing areas is not a friend of the area – meadow larks used to flourish behind Bayridge. Prairie chickens were once in the area. Directly behind Bayridge where schools are planned are the wintering places of hawks, or at least were. All the plans for "open areas" as you call them and protected environmental areas are a bit late.

Allow commercial development in League City. Back off all the excessive permitting, zoning and environmental red tape the city has added. You are killing commercial and recreational development.

FM 270 from Egret Bay Bridge to FM 518 is a eye sore. It is the gateway to our city for many people, but is not maintained and looks very bad. Great road – just bad maintenance.

Stop cutting down the trees. League City use to be mostly green, but now it looks bland with no character. We spend most of our time and money in Friendswood or Pearland. They know how to offer great community programs, they have fun parks, lots of nature stuff. We have a house in League City, but we live in all the surrounding communities. Not everyone in League City does sports, we enjoy nature, trails, learning languages, art, drama, etc. How about a tennis team?

Application for Parks Board ignored. Bad PR. Grant monies lost for lack of action.

Would like to see green spaces remain.

City's face needs cosmetic lift (downtown buildings, sidewalks, the rail). City needs to provide as many parks, nature centers, recreation facilities, but let private enterprises run them.

Re question 3B: once the horse show rink was demolished in favor of other sports, I have no desire or reason to go to Walter Hall Park. Way too much emphasis on kids team sports and nowhere near enough on individuals and/or adults. Let parents pay for entertaining their children instead of me through ever higher property taxes.

Would really enjoy safe bike trails and sections on the roads. It is quite dangerous to bike on the roads. Would also really enjoy a big, well-developed dog park. There are many dog owners in our community and perhaps, if there was a park, more animals would get exercise.

I feel the parks & recreation department is important to League City, however I feel money needs to be allocated to CCISD, especially toward building another high school, elementary and middle schools.

Please do something about the traffic on West 518.

Need to have better sidewalks – especially in busy traffic areas. Studies show that these should be at least 4 feet wide – areas along South Shore Blvd should have sidewalks on both sides of the road – to enable kids to walk to school, and so that people are not endangered by walking in the street (especially near the golf course).

Too much emphasis is placed on sports parks like the Sportsplex, we need more parks like Challenger or Walter Hall Park (e.g., trails, nature, bicycles, etc.)

You better get off your butt and let CCISD build the new high school.

Need more town meetings before you spend my tax dollars.

A dog park would be wonderful.

Not enough basketball facilities. Adult basketball league.

I like the shade of the trail that runs from Rustic Oaks to Countryside Park, but it makes me feel unsafe to go alone. I do feel very strongly that the "Field of Dreams" was money "not" very well spent.

Please send out a city map showing locations of all city and county facilities listed on page 2 of this questionnaire. I have no idea where some of these are located.

Please stop the new homes, bike trails would be awesome, bike lanes great too. We need more fields for softball program. Scheduling is crazy.

We need hike and bike trails along the creek.

We definitely need more – I'm appalled at the amount of destruction of animal habitats to make way for more residential areas. Traffic is also a great concern – it is already ridiculous and is only going to get worse. We've been in LC for 12 years. It was nice when we first moved here but now it is no longer pleasant. I understand progress is needed but too many large residential developments. Our schools are overcrowded now.

Re: Challenger 7 Park – I was told they would not service Ross Elementary School students because we were Galveston County and the park is in Harris – is this true?

Hope these future plans do not displace any homes.

I would love to see walk/jog/bike trails along Clear Creek and keep the creek natural instead of commercial or private.

I'm concerned that League City may ultimately be forced to take over aging or mismanaged MUDs. The City should prohibit future MUDs, PIDs, TIRZ, or any other developer/favored financing schemes.

The sports complex and Big League Dreams provide ample baseball and softball space.

I would like to have a walking/trail and arboretum like Memorial Park in Houston. This would provide residents a safe place to go and get exercise and meet fellow residents.

For those living in the South Central area, there are no easy access (short walking distance) parks, trails, scenic areas, community park areas nearby. You have to cross busy streets (Main, Hwy 3, 96) to get to them. This needs to be remedy.

Thanks for Bayridge Park. We enjoy it often. Thank you for keeping it well maintained, despite attempts to deface with graffiti and litter with trash by neighborhood hoodlums.

What was done to Walter Hall Park I believe destroyed its natural wildlife. There's nothing but parking lots now. Lobit Park needs more playground, maintenance.

Make anyone building homes set aside room for a school.

Please, please, it is not necessary for humans to be entertained by nature. Just observe.

Needs bike and walk trails around newer Meadowbend.

Please keep expenses and taxes down.

We don't have any information on anything in the city or county. We just moved here.

Need to maintain existing landscaping on a regular basis.

Need pool, park district. More League City information.

For future generations, it is imperative we preserve natural habitats for wildlife and areas for migratory species. The overall welfare of our environment and survival depends on it.

Send me a survey on how a new high school is more important.

There are no parks in 270 area and no hiking trails – open space is now being absorbed by development. The city used to be very inviting, but now it is getting overcrowded and overpriced – taxes are too high – side roads are very poor (lot of pot holes) – neighbors are not informed when construction is planned for their area.

Do not want anything built or constructed that would raise taxes.

It is important to provide the best to the youth of the city – the sports complexes and programs for participation. It is very important the LC protect our wildlife areas. It is important that we protect our history. People have to live in houses with small yards – they need a place to play. I am a grandmother so I can't utilize much but all this is important for my grandchildren.

More park areas in southeast League City.

Stop developers. More houses, more schools. Ha. Bigger City hall. Not give away

Need bike trails along 646 for bikers. (I am not a biker, but a driver that thinks they need them).

Keep the parks safe. I like having varied age appropriate playgrounds.

Countryside walking trails are very bad, dangerous & filthy areas & sewer smells. Walter Hall portables are never clean but games and practices are held there daily.

A few large facilities perhaps one on each end of 96 or behind the new golf course.

As an amateur astronomer, I would like to have dark space where I could set up my telescope for a few hours after dark. I realize that this is completely incompatible with most other uses of public space, however.

Just plant a lot more trees and landscape median on Brittany Bay Blvd on both sides of Landing intersection.

Want to see continuous efforts pertaining to Clear Creek and wetlands conservation.

Having bicycle lanes would be nice. Forbidding residents from blocking sidewalks with their cars.

We need to keep and have more open space we need to help preserve our central part of town.

Central LC has no bike paths at all. Our children ride on the street with cars whizzing by them at 45+. The only sidewalks here are built with a major road makeover to allow more traffic through our area. At that, our roads are blacktop, poorly maintained.

Very much appreciate Rustic Oaks neighborhood, park with trail around pond (lots of wildlife)

Less emphasis on commercial and home development and more on green spaces and preservation of nature needs to be made and soon. Before all our lands are turned into home sites in the goal of the all mighty tax dollar, more homes are being built and traffic has become unbelievable throughout the city.... I've lived in League City for over 30 years and it's time to change the focus from development to preservation, let's leave something for our children other than miles of concrete and strip malls.

Slow down development. Get the infrastructure in place first before we turn into the traffic mess on the east side of 45. How about major business growth to help us with our tax burden? Stop letting surrounding cities reap all the commercial tax benefits.

We definitely need more recreation activities for teenagers.

Used to use Walter Hall park but not since it became one big parking lot. Would like bike access from Oaks of Clear Creek to library.

Need a bike lane on Egret Bay or Hwy 3 going to Webster/Nassau Bay.

Need to build a 50-meter pool with restrooms, dressing facility, office space. SCAT, the local swim team, would be a "draw" to people looking to move in this area if they have swimmers. If SCAT had a pool to call home and host meets would be a boost to the local economy.

We need a dog park.

Our son is only 2, or we would take more advantage of what is offered. I do find that the website is not very informative (or maybe there is not much offered) as far as recreational leagues for children and adults.

Build the 4th high school or stop building new homes.

We don't know much about existing facilities/parks. We've been here for 1 year. Maybe good to send out flyers, etc. through mail.

Please continue to make these a priority. Keep this area the most beautiful in the area.

We need more soccer fields and baseball fields – kids are too crowded in these areas – practices and games go too late. Better maintenance of fields for soccer. Big League of Dreams was a total mistake.

The parks are OK, but 1) fix the traffic at 518/145, 2) build the high school, 3) tell City Council to make decisions and stop studying everything, "git'r done."

Seniors are a very underserved group in all aspects of League City planning. How about bus trips to Houston theater, symphony, opera, etc? Bridge groups, etc.

Need anything to beautify, provide walking & biking.

Would like more recreation programs and trails.

We would love more places to walk, jog, bike with children and pets, especially around the many bayous in these neighborhoods. That could be so beautiful.

Dog park.

A dog park is highly desirable, parks with walking/jogging trails are also highly desirable.

Let's stop over development of our open spaces. This town is truly becoming a city, not what I had hoped for.

I would like to see more recreational programs for retirees, senior citizens and surviving spouses.

A further reduction in crime and an increase in pleasantries among local dwellers would result if open spaces were established, and places were built to ho "hang out" or build better relationships with neighbors.

I am baffled at the progress of this city. There is far too much growth in this city with its population. Neighborhoods are popping up anywhere and everywhere. Hundreds of acres of woods are being destroyed to build neighborhoods that the school system cannot even begin to handle. There will be thousands of young kids and teenagers added to this city within the next few years, and what are they going to do? Where are they going to go? They need something to do and somewhere to go. Otherwise, we and they are in for a lot of trouble. We need to make it easy for good, worthwhile businesses to come in and help with the kids, the people and the taxes. League City is very expensive to live in right now. And I can't believe that with the taxes I pay, the services aren't better. The streets here are crowded and dangerous to drive. Stop helping the real estate companies so much. Stop bringing in people and help the ones who are already here. This comment section should have been 80% of the whole survey.

Leave the open space and stop building more houses.

I am concerned with the rapid housing put it – our high school is in danger of not being able to house and educate the number of students this influx has brought to us. Concentrate on city getting act together in priorities of this (school) before you spend a dime more on parks, etc. Politics is hurting us in City Hall. Get real on the needs of education.

Would like to see more accessible hike/bike trails.

General quality of life issues relating to environment and conservation, and recreation is abysmal.

More picnic areas and bike trails.

Compared to other communities I am familiar with (Lincoln, NE and Ft. Collins, CO) our bike access to the city is poor. Both cities have, in many places, wide sidewalks that accommodate pedestrian and bike traffic. Lincoln has a wide paved trail that bisects the city, weaving through parks and neighborhoods. I would also like to see better canoe/kayak access to Clear Creek and Clear Lake.

We just moved to The Meadows (Cerville) most parks by us are in other neighborhoods. I have a toddler and would love a place to take her and rec. activities for her. I have been tempted to help with activities just so they will be more organized.

Please acquire and preserve as much park/green space as we can afford – even if our taxes go up.

Lack of “out of season” indoor swimming pools and community parks.

Do we have a parks board. I would be interested in serving as a member on a parks board or at least attending their meetings. If we don’t have a parks board we need one. (Resident provided name and phone number; staff left message for him with info to get application and with day and time of meetings).

The City has spent enough on Field of Dreams. Let’s see some street improvements.

I live in Dove Meadows. There are no close playgrounds besides the local HOA for Bay Colony, of which our neighborhood is not part. There are no sidewalks outside our neighborhood so bicycle access to community parks is not an option unless sidewalks are added along FM 517. Open the city pool during the day for open swim rather than just swimming lessons and I would consider joining.

It would seem to be a very chance to purchase the Palomino Lane CCISD property and convert it to a city park with access to Clear Creek. Boat launch ramps are badly needed.

Please clean out the area behind the homes on Lazy Hollow. The other side of Magnolia Creek is clean, both sides need to be cleaned – especially by bridge. This is causing many unwanted animals to come in our yards.

We are not aware of any facilities in the Central area.

I would love to see a more bike-friendly, walker-friendly city. It would be nice if we could ride our bikes or walk around the entire city – even on main streets.

We need trails – that can double as transportation alternatives.

Better access to facilities and advertise events.

There is a need for a community park in the Bay Colony area since not all neighborhoods have parks or playgrounds.

Sell the Hall house.

The map is confusing.

We need hiking trails in League City and conservation areas.

Some of the questions on this survey do not pertain to seniors like us. Like question 4A and all the questions about bike trails.

I cannot find some parks that are listed (here) on the city’s website. Could you please include addresses for these parks/playgrounds? Maybe a map or two?

New to League City and not real sure what is available to our family. So far it’s been a wonderful neighborhood (Ellis Landing).

Need more lighted tennis courts.

Conservation of Clear Creek – not development of commerce in that area.

Outdoor/indoor skating facility would be awesome for the kids – also, new activities/senior center.

I think a city the size of League City should have a senior center where seniors can go to socialize with other seniors. We are the only city in our area that does not have one.

Enhance landscaping and Main Street area, beautify and protect environmental areas, keep big \$ developers out and pour money back into area – develop historic district, more advertising (like the ad campaign with “Resort League City” on billboards and vans) – keep Hall House and orchards protected from general public (still share history, though).

Control growth. Eliminate purchase-out option for open space by developers.

Would like to have a fairground so the drive would not be too far going down to Houston. Highly recommended.

I like Helen’s Garden and League Park. The bathrooms at Walter Hall Park need more frequent cleaning.

Beautiful open space (61 acres) on Palomino Lane should be purchased and used for park area. Natural creek park land.

Countryside Park crew does an outstanding job of maintenance. Need more jogging and bike trails that are off roadways.

More open space, trails are needed.

Cycling is very dangerous in League City due to no bike lanes and large amounts of debris along roads, especially on 96.

I think there should be more trees to shade the playgrounds. The equipment can get too hot in the summer and it’s more enjoyable to play in the shade.

Would like to see “homeowners association act” put into effect that help residents living in older area of the city.

Keep open space in mind when approving growth (i.e., housing and retail). Consider the wildlife. It’s what keeps the area special.

We need badly.

The woods that once were next to our house (purchase selling point) we were told were wet lands – we now have traffic driving past our house cutting through David Weekly’s land – we are sick about all of it – If we wanted to live in Clear Lake we would have bought there 16 years ago. No more new neighborhoods.

We live off Texas Ave and find it is hard to walk/jog/skate/bike from our house due to heavy traffic. My neighbors and I want a sidewalk down Texas Ave. This is a high priority. Why do most other neighborhoods, except Central LC, have such sidewalks? Do not forget those who are lifelong residents of LC.

Open space is being sacrificed to “development.” How soon will potential changes to preserve space occur? Name and phone number provided for response.

We need an indoor swimming pool. There are swim teams, diving teams and synchronized swim teams interested.

We need very large 2500+ acres open space parks with wildlife corridors now before we are simply housetops and cars.

More activities for teens.

Development of Newport Park – play area – walking trail – that would connect to other trails would be asset.

Don’t forget the handicapped. Trails, access to parks, etc. need to accommodate the use of wheelchair, walker-bound individuals (not just seniors citizens but children and other ages).

Don’t forget people work.

Suggestion: build lots of parks and open areas so Walmart will have plenty of new building sites.

We need property tax relief. You are losing young and old residents because of very very high taxes, that we get nothing for. Young residents are moving weekly because of taxes. Parks and recreational space should not be your first priority. If you do not do something about taxes, you will not have residents to use the parks and recreational space. We have lived here two years. We like the area but are looking to move in the area but out of League City. I would be willing to work with committee to find solution. Resident provided name, address, phone number for response.

Another high school is more important than more recreational place.

More walking trails in a shaded type area would be nice.

What we have is great. Please protect the Clear Creek corridor and keep wildlife areas available for my children to enjoy. The owners of the house agree with me totally, they pay the taxes and they want good facilities also.

The property on Palomino Lane would make a wonderful environment for children to have a park to learn about the importance of setting aside

room for nature and our environment. It would make a beautiful nature area and the wetland and trees we need so much could thrive. I for one would be glad to help on such a worthy project.

We prefer to swim in private pools and wouldn't use a regular pool. Also many residents swim in HOA pools. I would also be opposed to a pool dominated by swim teams. However, a pool with slides, fountains, waves and diving would be great.

Need street sweepers.

The city made commitments to several projects more than 10 years ago. I'd like to see the city fulfill its original commitments before entertaining new ones. We see survey after survey but still nothing gets done.

For us, the walking and biking paths are very important. One only has to look at The Woodlands to understand the importance home buyers place on recreation/quality of living.

Extend Hobbs Road. Provide additional access to I-45.

I am interested in both "homeowner" and city facilities as my money pays for these – I want as many options by both.

Access to a dog park within League City city limits would be greatly appreciated and used by my household and many other households in this community and surrounding communities.

More parks in the south section of Central LC.

Too much emphasis on baseball. Need equal commitment to football, baseball and soccer.

1) Where are the noted sidewalks or bike trails on SH96? I have almost been run over several times while attempting to bike from I-45 to Hwy 3 along SH96. 2) What do you mean by "open space?"

A person should be able to bike, walk or jog Clear Lake and Clear Creek (E to W) in LC.

Become more horse-friendly.

We appreciate this survey. This city is growing rapidly and this concerns us because parks, etc. are needed and are very important.

There are not enough playgrounds for children in League City.

It is important to mandate "green areas." Be within a specified acceptable range (% of developed area). Budget or otherwise provide that these areas be maintained. These areas provide green openness which is a relief from urban sprawl. They also are a hedge against urban decay which can happen when development is congested (too concentrated). In time developed areas become neglected or abandoned as growth favors a new (next) area of town. A golf-course-like environment that invites recreation is a good standard, design these areas for easy low cost maintenance from the start.

We don't need more parks. We need lower taxes.

Stop letting builders build more neighborhoods and subdivisions. We have enough taxes and traffic.

Stop worrying about parks and take care of the sorry roads in the old part of town.

I didn't know about the hike & bike trails on SH96.

City doing a good job – sports/baseball complex is a luxury some say is important – I am paying my share, I hope someone uses them.

We love Helen's Garden and League Park, especially the summer concert series.

Would be very interested in water park/indoor pool; developing fishing areas; camping areas. Would be very interested in hike/bike trail park for east part of the City.

Would like a facility for cultural arts such as ballet.

Less developments (homes, etc.) – more nature. We don't need more sports facilities (for soccer, football). No more car dealerships – they clear away all trees and natural habitats for wildlife and put down concrete.

We moved from Seabrook where parks & trails were a big priority in recent years. Our new neighborhood, The Meadows, doesn't even have sidewalks to the schools just blocks away. Very disappointing.

We really need a public access boat launch in the Countryside Park. There needs to be access in the Countryside-Rustic Oaks Park area.

Good idea for League City to purchase land for use other than building more houses on to add to our traffic congestion. I'm all for getting more bike and hiking trails. It adds to our quality of life, health and property values.

I cannot believe we do not have real running/walking trails (Houston's Memorial Park) and streets without bike lanes. We need to get into the 20th century at least.

Adult recreational classes (yoga, pilates, dance, etc), pottery, art, etc., would be a nice addition.

I recently visited Highland Village, TX and noted their wonderful bike & trail system. Would like to have League City adopt similar conservation/greenspace plan.

Would like to see a map of existing facilities. Take care planning subdivisions/place parks in between.

Dog parks would certainly improve League City's image.

Let's back off sports for a long time. Big Dreams – too much \$. Thanks for asking people's concerns – that is money well spent.

Stop using all the open spaces for new houses. Every inch of space is being taken for houses. Stop it.

Anything we can do to preserve our precious old trees and wooded areas would make me happy. Forget building more homes and subdivisions.

Please list parks, trails, etc., with locations on website.

I feel the land behind Creekside Intermediate School on Palomino Lane should be turned into an environmentally protected open space.

Music, arts & crafts classes for seniors??

More sidewalks and bike trails are needed in the community around the new sportsfield to increase access.

About tennis: you are not dumb: practice boards cost less than 1/2% of a tennis court. You must put practice boards at all tennis courts – you don't need a special court – just put one board court at each facility.

Open space is useless to the citizens without connectivity.

Develop a plan to join CCISD in development of a park adjacent to schools so that tracks, tennis courts, fields, gyms, etc. can be used year round. This would save city money in maintenance and assets would be closer to subdivisions.

Forget River Walk.

I have a problem with the mowing efforts on FM 270 between FM 518 and FM 270 boat ramp. It is not mowed often enough and some trees should be added near the over pass.

Great idea to have more space instead of too many buildings and ever growing. We would like to see more recreation programs for adults, like tai-chi and yoga.

A fenced dog park would be wonderful. A water park would be great, too.

Too much focus has been given to sports facilities.

The Clear Creek corridor must be preserved.

More waterfront activities.

Stop building houses on 518 West. We need more open space & less cars.

Bay Colony has a large amount of water retention zones that could be made into walk/bike trails that connect the various neighborhoods. Also, sidewalk and bike lanes need to be installed in all areas. Some roads don't even have sidewalks.

Thanks for the opportunity to have a say.

We need a walk/bike path from Village of Oak Creek Colony to Gilmore Elementary. For the kids to walk to the new school they have to walk through drainage ditch.

Need jogging trails on a relatively soft surface – not concrete.

Is Newport's park being taken over by the City or kept by the homeowner's association. Our park is very important to us.

Sorry, we don't have any interest in such facilities at this time in our lifetime.

The Sportsplex on 96 is a complete waste of money. It does not provide any benefit to the residents of League City.

New in area, don't know much about recreational areas, I will like to know about existing areas.

I am for open space between housing developments and within housing developments.

We have just moved here, so are not familiar with the subject.

Would like bicycle trails.

The main emphasis should be on preserving and beautifying the waterways, much like Seabrook has done with Pine Gully/Pine Gully Park. This does not mean development along Clear Creek – rather preserving it & making it accessible. Even the drainage ditches in the neighborhoods could be converted to open space with a trail system.

The small fishing lake at Rustic Oaks Park is in desperate need of attention. The lake is overrun with weeds and trash; there also appears to be few if any fish in there. An ATV/dirt bike park/trails would be a great thing. You could charge a membership or per ATV, etc.

Create more festivals for families to visit.

It would be nice if the YMCA would consider getting started of utmost importance or take the sign down. I would love to see them put a racquetball court in the facility.

It would be good to see the spaces owned by the city kept up a little better before adding any more. Bike trail at bridge 96/hwy 3 – someone is going to get hit before long – no place for bikes except in the lane with cars coming over bridge at 55 mph+.

Maybe put out a brochure reflecting all the parks and hiking trails available to League City residents.

League City's efforts would best be placed in finding ways to solve our traffic problems; lower water and electricity rates; lower city taxes and school taxes; lower school administrators' salaries while raising teacher pay; instead of constantly bickering and backstabbing each other while holding their hands out to every developer that comes along. They should force developers to build a school at developer expense and provide infrastructure at developer expense for every development they approve. No more big projects. Balance budget without raising taxes.

League City should set aside land as a conservation easement, so that they are forever protected from development. League City has too much development in neighborhood areas without adequate open spaces, trails and park areas with trees, especially in the South Shore area.

Making parks important is vital to the quality of life in League City. Thank you for putting out this survey.

More sidewalks, bike trails, bike lanes – so you could walk or ride to get groceries, etc.

Parks maintained by the City are always in great condition. Workers are always polite and helpful. Recommend restroom facilities at Helen's Garden. It is a beautiful area for weddings and special events that may last several hours, but no dressing room or bathrooms.

League City needs a nice swimming facility & one that can support a serious swim & diving team.

Please consider providing mountain biking and hiking trails.

4-wheelers and dirt bikes should be kept off of open space.

You should send out a welcome packet to new residents. We have lived here for 4 years and did not know about a lot of these things League City has to offer. These packets should include all these great things.

For sidewalk trails, I strongly prefer ones that are wide enough to rollerblade on. The standard size is not wide enough for the full stroke (side to side motion).

Automated or telephone registration for youth recreation programs would be a greatly appreciated improvement.

Zone – develop zoning and better landscaping. League City is a thrown together mess. Visit South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, D.C. One of the ugliest states in the U.S. Wish we could at least look like the Woodlands. They "get it" there. League City is so behind the times.

Need to tell people what we have and where.

Why not hold some of your activities at the HOA facilities and pay for the usage (help keep our dues down).

Don't build another sports facility. Leave the wildlife along, they need open spaces too.

Why not the land as environmental preserve, nature trails and bird sanctuary on Butler, Turner and Hobbs. Owned and farmed by Butlers. No more houses.

Provide the community maps about the parks, spaces, etc, and scholarships in kids programs.

Outdoor activities are limited in League City because you need a vehicle to get to the current areas, it's too dangerous to walk or bike the roads and most areas have no sidewalks. Improving historic and trail access will bring in visitors and do much to improve local outdoor activities for kids and adults as well.

Seabrook trails should be model for League City.

Fix the roads that go to rec facilities like Park Ave and Railroad Ave (stop filling the potholes – fix the roads).

Living on the border of Dickinson, we are almost completely unaware of what League City has to offer. And, since we are in the Dickinson school district, we know more about what Dickinson has to offer. The only communication we seem to get from League City is the City Matters newsletter.

Sound barriers on 518 coming through or from Friendswood – ditch that provide separation needs cleaning and trees cut along sound barrier – should show some interest in people entering our city. Lights around city entrance sign.

Bicycle paths should be constructed separately from, but parallel to, roads. One golf course is needed. Tennis courts (lighted) would be used frequently.

Too much baseball, soccer, etc.

We really enjoy Countryside Park, Helen's Garden and League Park. League City needs more soccer fields. Butler Longhorn Heritage Park is going to be great.

Possibly a bi-monthly newsletter of recreational programs available, with addresses and reminders to keep the parks and streets clean and litter free.

Need more on-road bike lanes – nice wide shoulders like Hwy 96 are ideal, curbs are dangerous for cycling. When building sidewalks, making them more straight is better for all but walkers. Need good study on drainage now that we're paving over all the lands that used to provide ponding/drainage. Need greenways between and among neighborhoods. Thanks for asking residents' opinion.

No more ideas like Big League Dreams please.

More trees, more walking trails, dog park.

Racquetball courts are needed in this area, I drive 15 minutes 4 times a week to play.

I have been living in League City 25 years and I think it is sad the direction it has taken cutting all the trees down and building in Master Planned Communities. I think the whole judicial system is a joke. The fact that the Mayor Pro Tem's wife steals \$60K from the PTA and no charges are to be brought against him. It is ridiculous. As soon as my child graduates in 2 years we are leaving. I am ashamed to say I live here. In September you are having a celebration of trees – what trees?

All the wooded areas in Bay Colony are being destroyed in favor of commercial or residential use. Every new development should be legally required to reserve 5-10% of the mature wooded areas in several contiguous, distribute locations throughout the development (10 to 15 minute walk from home). These areas should be sufficiently cleared of undergrowth and undesirable trees to enable installation and maintenance of paths and trails. Existing skate park is too small – add a second skate park. Need city sidewalks from homes to markets. The Meadows in Bay Colony green belts need walking paths with sufficient trees for shade along the paths.

Add bike/walk trails near drainage ditch areas – for example, expand Countryside South trail to Magnolia Creek subdivision and wrap around to Westover Park. Put a bridge in at high school #4 to reach Challenger Park. Require more greenspace and parks for all new subdivisions. Require sidewalks and walking paths in all new subdivisions.

Add yoga, senior exercise programs other than swimming outdoors. Indoor swimming pool for above. Please remove the smokers outside the recreation and city pool area. Disgusting.

Sidewalks are too narrow and need repair. May not be your money bucket, but it is your responsibility. On 2094 and other roads, I often ride my bike in middle of the lane. I think it is safer than staying to the right side. Austin has a good example of trails and paths.

More bike and hiking trails. Parks are excellent, too. A bike lane on 270 is a must.

Development of hiking and biking and walking trails for all residents of League City not just \$200,000+ households.

All citizens should have the opportunity to navigate our city easily, in spite of high-speed roads and very busy streets. (seems to be an oxymoron) A sense of community needed, especially young people – this is why we want parks nearby, more trails and bike paths, and sidewalks.

Better communication of what facilities city currently has. People may use more if they are aware of them.

Would love dog-friendly hiking trails and dog park. I am currently paying to use the Clear Lake City rec center for lap swimming because League City does not have an indoor pool/gym.

I would like to have available exercise programs for older people. Like yoga or that Chinese exercise thing you see them do outside.

The rate of deforestation in the last 3 years is very sad, where are the deer to go? Some place around here should provide a safe habitat for native plants and animals (Armand Bayou just isn't enough) with a walking trail. Iowa State is a good example of conservation and free nature trails (Hartman Nature Reserve). Children theme parks are also a hit – something with a Star Wars theme? A Cinderella theme? A Treasure Island theme the new playground equipment stifles children's natural creativity.

Nature and environmental experiences/education is sorely lacking. Senior and youth centers are also needed now.

Should be more.

I have recently moved to League City and I am not familiar with the park and recreation facilities. I do believe they are an important asset to the community even though I might not use them.

Stop promoting the city and our taxes would go down. And fire all the people that think that this is good.

Try getting across 45 by foot or bike – you're taking your life in your hands. Is there a website with maps and information?

Sadly, I don't use our parks enough to have a worthwhile opinion.

How about some tax relief instead of more spending?

Get more information out on activities provided and about the facilities for new residents.

I am not aware of many of the parks or programs. I don't even know how to find out about them.

We need something similar to Texas City's Lowery Center.

League City should have a community center with indoor pool and activities in the east part of the city.

The trails in city of Seabrook are a good model for how I would like to see League City in the future. We need safe and accessible biking and hiking trails in league city.

Natural preservation of Clear Creek and wildlife is very important. Walking trails, bike lanes are important. Continued support of children's organized sports events and leagues. Support school district expansion and building.

Facilities or activities/playgrounds that are appropriate for young children (toddler age) would be great.

An over pass road from Marina Bay Road to 45 would be very important as growth of LC continues.

I am a fairly new resident here & handicapped, so do not get around to parks and such, so not really qualified to answer these questions.

Fix our city's streets

Not enough around.

Would love to see Clear Creek area dedicated for hiking.

Developers should be required to provide open spaces and larger parks. European cities have much more.

Strong need for soccer complex.

The City of League City is placing the citizens of LC with finances that are too high. Too many taxes already.

All parks/pools are in central or west side of town, nothing on the east side. I would like to see this change. How about parks or pools on east side of town.

We love just off SH96 and feel it imperative the city maintain some of the rural or nature feel of this area of town through hike and bike parks or trails. The central and eastern residents of LC need easy

access to this type of rural natural beauty. Please send out more information about the SH96 #1 and #2 trails – I honestly have never heard of these being available and I have lived here 4 1/2 years.

It would be nice to have maps of parks, trails, open spaces.

I've lived in League City for 14 years and didn't even know some of the parks existed. City needs to advertise these parks more and expand more of the open spaces along with trying to bring in new businesses.

Need more roads for better access.

If you are really interested in parks and green space why did your City Council vote the Clear Creek Village Park to be zoned business.

Please give us some sidewalks and multi-use trails for biking and hiking/walking, a trail all the way around Clear Lake would be awesome, a park at Lighthouse Island would be fantastic, don't forget the trees in the parks, try to get interesting play equipment for kids (a la Bay Area Park) – ours in our neighborhood park is awful, how about a pool with a splash area like the one off Diana Lane?

The parks are nice in League City. They are being overrun by illegal immigrants. This must be stopped. No taxpayers will come to parks. The city should monitor parks more.

The vacant island at the end of Lighthouse Blvd – where the lighthouse is that overlooks South Shore Marina would be a perfect place for a community park with a walking path to overlook the water. Please consider.

An indoor swimming pool/natatorium is a must as community swimming pools are only open for 3 full months/year. Trails and sidewalks (straight ones) should be a definite priority. This is the first place/city I have lived where sidewalks are not made on main roads – i.e., FM 2094, SH3, Egret Bay. It is only a matter of time before a jogger/cyclist is injured/killed.

No more sports parks needed. Need quiet, scenic areas.

Overall, I think the city does a good job.

More activities and space dedicated for very old people and disabled people, too.

Public parks need to have facilities for ages 9-13, i.e. money bars. Need public space in LC east. It's a long drive to Sportsplex.

Everywhere I look all of the beautiful open space is being developed into commercial or residential property. Stop. If I wanted that I would move back into the city/Houston. Also, it would be wonderful if we could get a running/walking/jogging trail like Memorial Park in Houston.

Bike lanes are badly needed, as are running trails – more green areas, small to medium size parks.

Bike paths and parks would be nice – also require developments to save some trees – why are all the trees destroyed for new homes.

Preserve open space in front of South Shore Harbour Resort behind Marina Palms subdivision.
Dog park.

LC should do more to preserve open space and park space other than just charging developers penalties. How about enforcing mandatory green space for every few houses?

Big League Dreams was a \$20 million boondoggle and waste of taxpayer money. No way it's ever going to make money.

We must have open space/green space for nature, preventing flooding and beauty. Studies show children who are exposed to the great outdoors are better students, more tolerant of others and happier.

We are in the forgotten corner of League City. Take my taxes, give me little.

City should not spend taxpayer dollars to compete with YMCA programs. Should look for opportunities to partner.

Make information available on your hike and bike trails.

Build parks, skateboard, pool on the east side. The kids have nothing on our side of town.

I would ask you to help with Glen Cove's park problems.

It is sad to see so many buildings (homes and businesses) taking over any and all green areas. Keep green space green.

Improve and add bike lanes.

Playground parks are desperately needed for Bay Colony Pointe for the children to play in. the current park and pool are on the other side of the highway and dangerous for children to cross.

I think your recreation programs could be more friendly to your working parents in the community. Most of your programs are during the day when parents are still at work.

The sign-up for programs needs to be more fair – rich married women sign up while working single moms are trying to keep their jobs.

We need beautiful parks that can make League City proud.

Very poor planning for residential communities resulting in gridlock on all major streets. Clear Creek HS should have been relocated a long time ago. No school should be at intersection of major routes. Further, school bus barns should be relocated. There is a disturbing trend of parents allowing children to bike at night w/o lights and parents do the same.

Being careful of our environment should be a #1 priority.

Due to medical condition, wife (56) doesn't do outside activities. Husband attended Civic Center for LC Citizens Police Academy. Son-in-law uses sports complex for softball.

More children's playgrounds, better equipment at them, also more access to basic swimming instruction.

We need more tennis courts.

New parks on Clear Creek should not add parking like Walter Hall County Park did.

Take better care of our existing facilities.

Provide citizens with map showing location of all these facilities, especially new residents.

I oppose (strongly) spending my tax dollars on parks, etc. until the traffic problem in League City is alleviated. Recreation should not take priority over safety and accessibility to our community.

Albert and the guys at Parks & Recreation are #1 in customer service. Can Albert be an employee of the month? He has my vote.

We (City) paid \$18 million for a ball field I've seen used once. I think we need to promote it more so we can get a return on our investment. Allow the Little League to use it for the older boys to free up the Sportsplex for practices. There are never enough practice fields for teams.

Taxes are high enough.

Would like to see more events/year at Walter Hall for general public. Other than sports and couple events/year, park is under used when compared to League City park.

Perhaps a little more publicity about location, uses, rules, etc.

We need some type of running park, such as Memorial Park, Hermann Park, or the one around Rice University in Houston. One with parking access and an actual jogging trail.

Open space development is crucial and offers the widest variety of use.

Solving the traffic issues is considerably more important. Since money is always the issue, the priority should be in transportation, fire and safety first.

I am a resident of League City last 16 years. I am enjoying our lovely League City. Keep it up.

We chose to move to League City because of all of the green open spaces.

League City needs to improve the condition of sidewalks on the main streets and ensure that they are continuous.

Limiting the land that can be used for retail stores and parking lots would help to conserve nature and prevent flooding by preservation of trees, shrubs and natural wildlife at the same time.

I have seen a bobcat on Brittany Bay. Magnolia Creek is destroying habitat. Clear Creek should be kept natural. No commercial development on the creek. Maintain and/or preserve what wooded areas we have for wildlife. Look at Bay Area Blvd going to Friendswood – destruction of wood – mega mistake. I have lived in League City since 1998. I have been in the area since 1984.

Please expand park activities to include other options for arts/crafts, hobbies, computer classes for self-improvement and extra-curricular activities.

How many parks do we really need? Dedicate resources elsewhere. Sportsplex and Big League Dreams?

I am 75, with a bad back. Wife is 74, diabetic and has to use oxygen full time. Do not feel I can give any kind of view at all. Wish both us were in position to use what is offered.

No safe walking or biking space with roadways – too dangerous to allow kids or parents on them.

Please install a significantly larger amount of hike/bike trails. Need more trees & playground equipment. Ellis Landing Park needs playground equipment upgrade for safety reasons.

We have a beautiful city – why mess it up with some of the things you are looking at – wouldn't it be better to repair the roads – use money to protect the wildlife instead of building things to prevent their habitation.

What facilities? Seabrook has better facilities. We will never use Field of Dreams. Spend money on a decent park, pool, etc. League City parks are full of perverts who expose themselves to housewives with children. Our pool could use some decent bathrooms. Inner city Houston's are nicer.

Where are bike trails on SH96?

In the future, I would like to see wildlife habitat preserved. Also, we live in Cedar Landing and there are no recreational facilities. We would like to see a city park on this side of 518.

Would be wonderful to be able to run and ride a bike with true lanes for this - it's so dangerous right now. I would love to see a place with open trails and preservation of wildlife. We are tearing down too many trees and building huge houses – League City will get too crowded and lose its charm. We have discussed moving due to building and congestion.

I prefer well maintained grassy areas with trees, picnic tables – plenty of grills, benches, walking paths, gazebo and concrete surface for skating or basketball, and lots of parking – accessible from main streets.

We do enjoy the festivals, especially crawfish festival.

Should concentrate on slowing down housing development and school overcrowding along with eliminating MUD taxes, then work on parks.

More bike trails would make it much safer to ride away from street/highway traffic.

The rich and influential receive grater than deserved distribution of resources.

We have lived in League City over 20 years and feel your advertising of the bike and jogging trails (along SH96?) is poor at best – or is this one of those projects strictly for South Shore residents?

I love the parks and playground equipment. League Park and Rustic Oaks are the best for young children. Summer programs are good, too – can you do more for 3-4 year olds?

Too many neighborhoods are being built. We moved here because we liked the open space.

Provide sidewalk access to Creekside Intermediate School for neighborhoods. Too dangerous for kids to walk along 518. city should provide road access so CCISD can begin construction of new high school. Too many new residents, not enough school space.

Since the city is growing so quickly, it is important to acquire as much land as possible and to have a comprehensive plan to link the parks and take advantage of federal programs available to create more parks space, also to use parks as means to separate conflicting zoning in the city and pedestrian systems for people and kids.

I think we have great athletic opportunities; I would like to see more family activity areas.

The City of League City needs a recreational park service for the community that could offer all the indicated recreational activities. I understand the resource (\$) issue but most important to include other activities mentioned and cover/satisfy all spectrums of taxpayers.

Open space needs better maintenance, in my opinion. Brittany Bay Boulevard from the freeway to Magnolia Creek needs landscaping work badly.

Stop spending money on team sports – we have enough. Who uses the new baseball Field of Dreams?

We are not doing enough to preserve nature reserves/areas and historic sites. Some parks in the area are in deplorable condition – trash, dirty, etc.

There aren't any signs directing us to all the city's parks or recreational areas. I know of them through neighbors.

Need more ways of informing public of special events, extracurricular activities, road closures, etc.

I should be able to play Frisbee in the park with my dog & it not be against the law in this city.

More activities for older kids – teens on up. Basketball courts, tennis, skate park.

I feel it is more important for each subdivision to have & maintain their own facilities, even if it means a higher annual fee. I enjoy walking in my own neighborhood on good sidewalks. I use the pool for my grandchildren. I resent having my city taxes raised for recreation I will not use. Each subdivision should take care of their residents' recreation needs.

Running and biking trails are really needed in areas west of I-45 along 518. right now, I don't think any exist in the Ellis Landing area. There is a good one a distance away at the intersection of Bay Area Blvd and 518 along Clear Creek.

We do not need another park at the end of Palomino Road. We do however need to make Palomino a 4 lane road with a bridge to alleviate traffic whether school is there or not.

League City doesn't have nearly enough accessible open space and parks for a city of 65,000 – open space and parks are necessities for the health and well-being of its residents.

Migratory sandhill cranes off of Hobbs Road at Brittany Lakes Subdivision very important.

The "Field of Dreams" project is a joke. Don't spend another cent on it.

I'm 82 years old, no transportation.

It would make sense overall to provide parks for families and trails for biking, jogging, walking. It is dangerous and inconvenient when everyone is in the street because there is nowhere to go for these activities. Please – no more public pools.

More bike and walking trails along drainage ditches since space is unused.

Would use city pool, but it's not kept too clean – could be a health hazard. Need another pool on east side of city. Would like to receive newsletter of sports events sponsored by city. League City has developed too much in the residential area. Traffic is horrendous. Need more businesses and restaurants in the city.

No new big sports complexes – more sidewalks/ bike lanes.

It would be nice to see playground equipment designed for younger (pre-school) aged children. Lobit Park could use playground equipment.

Buy all the land you can and stop this needless residential sprawl. We have enough people in LC as it is.

Need to acquire more green space now since the city will only get more crowded and land more expensive.

More trails & natural parks; less man-made sports parks which require high maintenance and disrupt nature.

I don't like the swimming pool they have for us to use in the Landing on Landing Blvd. I wish we had the walking trails they have in Kingwood.

Trails, walking paths, bicycle paths, Walter Hall Park should have a walking path. I am very disappointed with the work that was done there recently.

Please publish in the city newsletter when the results are available.

Story time in library is great.

We need more recreation facilities and programs for seniors. Bay Area, Friendswood and Pearland have wonderful senior programs, but League City has next to nothing. It's too bad we have to go out of our city to find senior programs to participate in.

I am a new resident. I think this survey is an excellent idea.

Help. We work hard for our money and you tax it too high to support all this. Please – ease up on these "benefits" and lower our taxes instead.

Would strongly encourage dog parks & maybe more information on where these parks exist.

Should (no, must) develop land along Clear Creek in a master planned multi-use manner with highest priority to environment and aesthetics but "make it pay" with commercial-retail outlets. Use San Antonio's 70-year old excellent model. Other scenic areas/parks/trails should be developed along bayous/drainage. Plan for a rail corridor/scenic/park for Houston-Galveston rail connection. Build it, they will come. Use old HLP site for some park space.

We feel very left out in Bayridge. All we seem to attract is that laundry and crummy low-life apartments.

Our open space & parks are a disaster – poorly located and poorly maintained. The city should be ashamed at how it uses its parks \$\$.

With the explosive growth of League City, I feel it is imperative to have wildlife migration corridors/preserves and environmental/wildlife education to preserve nature in our city. Without wildlife and nature, our city will be dull and lifeless and we will lose the small town charm which attracts many, many tourists and much business (outdoor weddings, etc.) to our city. It is also what makes our city so livable and enjoyable. We have wonderful parks and playgrounds and programs for our children. Let's preserve the wonderful bounty of nature for our children, too. Thank you for sending out this survey and asking our citizens what they want for our city.

Bicycling in LC is unsafe. Should be sidewalk access to Walter Hall Park. Need a green belt for hiking/biking. Let's preserve the green space. This city is turning into one big residential neighborhood.

Develop park along power lines.

We can't afford every idea that floats down the creek. Be fiscally responsible.

Why can't the city keep all the roadways swept and grass cut? FM 270 and FM 518 intersection has been filthy for over 2 years.

Keep League City pretty – like the part of Main Street with the oaks.

Access to Challenger Park boat ramps should be allowed. Flood control projects should include/consider Clear Creek's natural beauty.

Need City Council and Mayor to do their job and stop continually stalling and putting off making decisions. Make a stand and stick to it and be an adult and handle the consequences of your decisions. I am tired of watching whiners on the public television.

I am supporter of youth sports and think there needs to be more practice facilities and more playing fields for soccer and softball.

We enjoy the parks and recreation areas.

League City does a good job and that's why we live here.

Please implement some type of Open Space Master Plan immediately. There are too many subdivisions being built. All of the open land on the west side seems to have already been taken up by houses. Thanks for your efforts.

I have been very happy with the parks Dept response to Rustic Oaks' request for trees for the small park on Bay Area Blvd. I have also been very impressed with every Parks Program in which we've participated.

Will my property tax increase to fund or support these facilities.

I feel League City has enough recreational areas for people, but bulldozers keep knocking down trees for housing developments and wildlife is waning. The snowy egret dies from eating sludge from our drainage ditches. Open space is important for people and wildlife alike.

Save money – who saves all of this “historical” stuff? It's not that historical – not that interesting.

I just am tired of my taxes going up with parks and nothing being done about traffic. Get priorities in line and I might feel different. The city's record on traffic, taxes, parks, etc. – dismal.

Just green space with trees and possibly restroom facilities.

We need a legal place to ride ATVs and off-road motorcycles. We also need an indoor recreation facility similar to the Lake Jackson Rec Center.

We are new to the area and not familiar with some of the areas. We enjoy walking and the waterfront.

Indoor parks would be great. Summer is too hot & humid to take babies and little kids to the park. More mommy and me activities.

More activities (such as the swimming lessons now provided) need to be available to children under the age of two.

I strongly favor limiting development. More (houses, pavement) is not necessarily better. I was especially interested in the survey questions about sensitive environmental wetlands and about maintaining agricultural lands as working farms.

Any recreation activities on this (east) side of town would be nice.

East side is pretty much built out – would like to see planning for west side including large acreage park (100+ acres). Critical to preserve/protect open space and wildlife habitat.

City parks and green spaces are very important.

Most parks are for sports – need park for play – hiking and biking. In a few years all open land will be developed – buy now.

Need more girls' sports – softball fields – need more for older girls.

I think we have enough sports facilities and not enough nature parks. Soon we will have nowhere to see animals or birds because of continued residential/commercial business growth.

Please consider at least updating the LC pool and restrooms or build an additional one. Please no more organized sports fields, i.e., soccer, baseball, etc.

I can't believe you're seriously interested in this information as long as LC is willing to rezone private neighborhood parks into commercial property. You need to get your priorities straight.

City has enough for growth – keep what we have up to date.

Don't throw money away like the field of dreams. Don't run off industry. Can't run a city on a bedroom community.

Majority of all open space has already been cleared. Deer, coon, possum and other mammals and birds were not relocated and provide open space. League city has already failed, in this is too late for wildlife has not been respected.

Would love some exercise trails.

League City needs more open space/general use parks. Hall Park could be like Zilker Park in Austin. The jewel of the city. There needs to be hike/bike trails connecting the entire city from Friendswood to Kemah/Seabrook. Parks need to be next to all of the schools. No ATV use along Clear Creek.

Need open access tennis facility. Keep up the good work at Sportsplex.

I believe it is extremely important to preserve native plants and animals as well as preserving as much green space as possible. I'm troubled by the amount of deforestation I see occurring.

Very few benches to be found.

I think that the businesses on 518 should keep the grass cut. After you pass Hwy 3, the stores are not very appealing.

This is a beautiful community. Let's work to maintain open spaces for all citizens.

Since living in League City, I've seen nothing but building. I'd like to see more wooded areas. The deer and other animals have nowhere to go. The safety of League City is the main reason I love it. Public attractions such as fairgrounds and water parks would destroy the safety.

More passive open space. No more Sportsplexes.

Provide for senior activities and transportation to and from when necessary. We didn't see disabled anywhere in this survey.

I would really enjoy more shaded hike and bike trails around League City. Bike lanes would be very much appreciated. Thanks so much for asking my opinion.

My husband and I use our home for our church members recreation and all our grandchildren – family activities very important.

We picked the Village of Oak Creek Colony subdivision because they have left the trees around the homes and the greenspace area. We love our area and the local trail in Countryside. Thanks for asking for our input.

I want to access anywhere in League City via bike trails/lanes safely.

Stricter animal control for dogs – dogs are just on the streets without leash or owner.

Make the creek more accessible. Canoe rentals in historic district. Scenic views from water.

We need more bike paths, protecting our environment. We (League City) are allowing more growth and development than our roads, schools and facilities can handle. We spent a fortune on Big League Dreams, but not on a road to open a new high school? How about some money for the new YMCA? A senior center? A community center? Some things do exist but need to be expanded. Have the builders build schools and recreation and roads for every house they throw up.

I would love to see Rustic Oaks swimming pool upgraded. The newer subdivisions – Magnolia Creek and Westover Park – have great swimming facilities.

All future road expansions should include a bike lane – establish master plan 25-50 years out.

Better communications to residents.

The city pool should be open longer and have just family times (kids under 12).

#1 Priority: safe places to ride a road bike. The city/county/state has taken all safe shoulders and lanes, making it unsafe to commute to work or ride for recreation. Examples: FM 270, 646 “turn lane addition”, 96 to freeway, plans for 518.

When I moved into League City around 1985, I loved the open spaces, the nature, the big trees, it breaks my heart to see what we've done with this city.

Concerned about lack of fencing at Sportsplex on east side. Add more picnic benches and tables to League Park – additional seating. Make sure City Matters is published before events happen.

I am new to the area. If there are parks near me I haven't seen them.

League City is poorly managing its space and creating an unhealthy, unsafe community. Bicycling is dangerous and unsafe, people are killed due to inadequate bike lanes and trails. Some people use bicycles to commute and need to be considered. LC is a poor steward of the earth – overdevelopment without adequate attention on the consequences – drainage, flooding and wildlife.

There is no open space – except by power lines. There are no parks such as Frankie Carter Randolph Park that have dog walking trails and plenty of open space combined. Need to give out free trees – especially to new subdivisions – such as an arbor program. Need diversity of trees in this program.

Example – red maple (fast growing trees), red oaks (native and fast growing as well) and shrubs for bird habitat. Native flowers – zinnias would be nice also. Developers are buying up all the land – and not replacing it with trees – thereby reducing native wildlife and its habitat. Centerpointe has a grove of pine trees that will be destroyed when the new section opens. No measure is taken to build around the trees – which can be done, of course.

League City does not need more recreation facilities. Subdivisions need basketball courts and parks improvement. League City needs biking trail, walking trail.

We really enjoy the Sportsplex. However, at all parks there should be bleachers or seating for the multi-use fields. Our nieces and nephews are involved in several of the sports programs (football, soccer, baseball) and it is hard to get information on registration dates (when we call parks & rec, it always seems that the deadline has just passed – or we have like one day to get it done). Our problems with the community parks are mainly 1. the grass is usually high and there are lots of bugs and 2. they get trashed with litter and overflowing garbage cans yuk. I wish we knew more about the facilities and what they have to offer. (We have lived here for 24 years).

My main concern would be the appreciation of our largest investment, which is our home. Would major changes to the open spaces cause much more congestion on our roads and thus depreciate our property? Can anything be done to relieve some of the traffic flow now before more development? League City is known for its congested roads.

The bike lanes and walkways are horrible along FM 518. My daughter rides her bike back and forth lifeguarding and I'm scared she'll be hit because the roads have no room for her and the sides have no walkways. And that exit from Academy is bad and needs something there. Please be better about letting people know about city sports and if there is a boys and girls club to put the kids in.

Safety and cleanliness are high priorities when I consider where to visit with my family. Parks and other areas should be well lit, well maintained and free of vandalism.

I feel the preservation of wildlife and the environment is most important and would use a pool if it was walking distance and would love a dog park.

Bicycle lanes are important to ride around the city. Will the results of this survey be posted on the web?

Besides activities for children, we should have more activities for adults and pets.

There should be more awareness. I never knew about the trails and would probably use them if they are lighted. I am very happy living here and love old town League City and Helen's Park especially. An arboretum would be awesome.

I wish the city cared about the less affluent neighborhoods – when it pertains to recreational activities.

It appears that the thrust of this questionnaire is to make L/C a 100% bedroom community – of which I strongly disagree. Expansion of parks and green space needs to be coordinated with commercial and industrial development.

Check vacant lot on east side of Dove Meadows for neighborhood park location. Residents of Dove Meadows and Bay Colony would be likely to support. Also, I am an environmental scientist in industry and would like more info on volunteering to help preserve parks. (Applicant provided email address and was contacted by staff).

Funds need to be spent on sidewalk repair.

Please put some bike trails in.

Please but in a bicycle trail on FM 2094 similar to Nasa 1.

Extravagant large facilities are a waste. Ex: Big League Dreams, indoor swimming pool.

Clear Creek Estuary needs to be preserved.

If Sportsplex is Big Field of Dreams – I think we voted against this. Good for developer.

There is a nice lake across from the Sportsplex that could be developed into a very nice fishing hole.

Handicapped accessibility and parking and bathrooms very important (including portables for special events).

We desperately need running/hiking/biking trails away from roads.

How do I find out about parks and activities in League City?

Overall, League City does a pretty good job, but we're not aware of trails availability. I also think a city of this size could use an aquatic center.

Need bike/jogging trails on FM 2094 and 518. I see kids walking in the dark to school on 518.

Motor homes/recreational vehicles are not allowed for repairs or loading and the HOA set their rules without time to do these. Other recreational has no limits, such as pools, motorcycles, hot tubs, children play items, boats, four wheelers on private property.

LC Sportsplex has done a wonderful job maintaining facilities. We have traveled to many ballparks and LC has the best maintained facilities.

Better notice of events. I often read about an event in the paper after it happens.

Sportsplex and Countryside fees so expensive Bay Area Soccer League no longer uses these fields. Not many running/biking paths/trails.

League City needs to build a walking path from Villages of Oak Creek Colony or Rustic Oaks to the new elementary school, Gilmore Elementary, in Magnolia Creek.

Link parks with trails like Seabrook.

Would really like some running trails for the SH96 area. There are several new housing divisions in the area with no parks in the area.

Put in walking, hiking and bicycle trails. Picturesque – not beside roads with traffic noise and smell.

The biggest problem in LC, in my opinion, is litter on our streets and uncontrolled weeds along city streets and private property. I would like to see a week ordinance and the city keep our streets free of litter – beer cans, bottles and general trash.

The survey was too long and very vague.

Vote in high school for our kids, now.

I love it here. Just wish it was more biker friendly and had easily accessible/well advertised adult activities. More classes (from COM). Love the library (a park near it?)

As the city is growing at a vast pace, the city should realize that much of the taxpayers' money is spent and over spent on sport facilities and many of us are tired to see our money spent on more of the same. We would like to see the Longhorn museum finished so we can have cultural events. This museum would put League City on "the map" as having something no other place would have and would bring much needed tourist money. The city should realize that many taxpayers are paying for sport facilities of no interest to them: give them a museum.

Greatly enhance the image of our city by adding trees and landscaping to a median on FM 518 and in the center of 96 where space is available.

It's time to do something for the seniors. We have to go to Friendswood, Dickinson, Clear Lake and Pasadena. Shame, League City. And we pay taxes, too.

League City seems to be forgetting that Bay Colony is in the city. We are not part of Dickinson, and all the zoning that was in place to protect green space seems to be changed at the will of developers. We would like to see a little preservation of our trees and buffers from I45 left in place.

It would be nice if the city can provide more tennis courts and outdoor swimming pools at the parks and recreation facilities.

Please consider a covered, lit, asphalt or concrete area that is not just for basketball, tennis, etc but smooth and level just like a regular court (for flatland bmx freestyle bicycling).

Indoor pool facility and more parks.

Not sure why we had to pave the soccer fields at Walter Hall Park – they're empty 90% of the time. The façade of the Walter Hall park Pavilion needs repair. I know this is a county park, but it is in our city. PS: I'll be waiting with bated breath to see if this "Field of Dreams" delivers.

We are irritated that we play Little League in Seabrook, when we pay our taxes to use the Sportsplex.

Do it!

Mostly more fogging for pests on hike trails.

Where would there be an asphalt trail for walking?

Bay Colony needs more hike and bike trails, possibly utilize the drainage ditches with lighted trails. It would make a large impact on selling homes in this area.

Some open space is good, but the city overdoes everything – parks, trails, Field of Dreams, etc.

When planting by stop signs – need full vision.

We do not want the creek altered with a bridge for a school only. We don't have enough open space. Stop building so many junky houses.

Need bike lanes on roads – traffic is too fast and roads too narrow for safety.

I feel the open space land is most important to our city as it will keep the city from becoming overcrowded and yet preserve our wildlife habitation along Clear Creek and adjacent lands. We must have that balance for this was why we moved to this city in the first place.

We are older and don't use the parks very often.

The potential for all the facilities mentioned is great. I hope that your vision of our communities expands to meet the needs of the growth of League City.

The city has great parks, but it could definitely use more bike lanes.

Get the joggers off the roadway. The joggers are out during the dark without safety equipment.

If the parks department would do the job that we, the taxpayer, pay for things could improve. Listen to the folk of League City.

Comments come from a perspective of having open spaces and parks for wildlife protection, resource protection, appreciation of environment by individuals, outlet of energy for adults/youth, but not catering to a person's endless passion for entertainment at any cost.

City should not compete with privately owned/ supported recreational facilities or programs. No need to build indoor pool or soccer facilities. Do not keep growing city department staff for recreation purposes. Buy wooded lands and preserve wildlife. Developers are destroying it rapidly.

Lack of a community center for liberal arts.

Focus on what we have now. Don't waste money. No teen centers or senior centers – churches have this in place now.

I really feel our youth need a place to go after school. A boys & girls club or even a YMCA would be nice.

I live in Newport and I would like to see our park reconstructed so that my child can go to a closer park.

Fix the pool – make bigger. Walter Hall needs more play areas and not so far from road access. More parks and trails.

Would love places to walk to – new neighborhood doesn't offer much and homeowner's association dragging feet on developing park or play area.

We would like to see a sidewalk along 646 from 517 to I45. also, a foot bridge over the large ditch on 646 near Bay Colony Elementary School so parents can walk kids to school.

Improve adult/child swim lessons. Add more activities for stay at home moms with small children (under 5 years old).

Need more biking lanes and trails and stop shrinking existing biking lanes like on 646. Maintain the existing bike lanes with street sweepers. Need off-road biking areas.

Improve webpage with specific land use and make sure it is kept up to date.

League City is a beautiful city (I'm from out of state) – hopefully the planning committee takes into consideration the aesthetic view of the parks and safety issues at hand as the city expands its facilities. As the population ages there is a need to accommodate this generation not only the younger generations.

Clear Creek should be protected from hazardous run off – while providing well allocated wetland areas for wildlife. No more "cement slabs" we call parks and public space.

I live in the Meadows and I think we need sidewalks on Louisiana Street, especially with 2 schools off of Webster.

Can't wait to see how League City politicians make a mess out of this. No doubt they, their friends or a family member have land that will be perfect for the city to purchase.

Consumption of beer/alcoholic beverages should be legal in city parks. 99% of people will drink responsibly. Political correctness has run amok.

No comments now – lived here one year. Husband has cancer and this consumes our time.

Would like more of the historic history of LC to be promoted and protected. Would like a real water park. Would like some bike/hike trails. Keep zoning tight – get empty strip centers filled or remodeled. Develop a town square. Improve the library – it is in great need of remodeling and expansion.

No more roadways through parks and over creek. Make use of existing parking lots.

It would be fun to have a city fun run/walk event during the fall attached to a Harvest day event. Keep our city having friendly parks and open space for our children and senior. Not enough done for seniors. Please put shade covers over stands at Sportsplex. We live in TX – so hot would definitely help out. Walter Hall baseball concession stand is needed. We need running water and we need

bathrooms, real bathrooms at the field. It is a disgrace to play ball there when we don't have just the necessities at the field for health reasons.

At first, I wanted to answer this survey, but then I realized I was wasting my time. Why? 1. I'm not a developer. City Council basically does what the developers want. 2. City Council won't fund any of it and the citizens will fight any type of tax increase to pay for it. 3. I know "field of dreams" doesn't count as a park, but the City Council was real quick to fund it, but can the average citizen use it? – no. 4. At the rate League City is going, it will look like the 1960 area or Beltway 8 and Westheimer area.

Too much money spent on new baseball fields that are limited in use by citizens.

I feel we need to upgrade existing instead of building more and a community center is a must.

My main concerns when visiting a recreation facility or park is the amount of shade when outdoors, cleanliness and safety. Thank you for taking the time to conduct this survey.

I am interested in parks, walking/bicycle paths, but not in the creation of a river walk. The river walk would destroy wildlife and damage the marshes and wetlands.

I feel that the people have empty lots in this neighborhood need to take care of them and clean them. They are very wooded and that's not good for our children safety.

Quit spending money so easy in city council meetings.

Nice parks and recreational facilities truly enhance a city. Thanks for asking.

I would like to see a small park on the Bay Colony Pointe side of FM 646.

Need safe walking/biking access along 2094 east of South Shore to city limits. Should coordinate with Kemah and Clear Lake Shores to extend to 146 and along it. How about access to old railroad right-of-way along 146.

Developers are encroaching rapidly along 518. No open spaces will remain.

Why have numerous people been told they cannot participate at the Sportsplex? (volleyball) Who pays the lights for the League City volleyball courts? We, along with many others have been kicked out of the Sportsplex for no reason at all.

Would like to see nice nature type park with lake, walking, biking trails.

I would like to see a dirt trail for ATVs.

Quit spending money on "Field of Dreams," start planning for new housing developments, roads, city infrastructure. Get the new school's construction started.

We need more mountain biking and cross-country running trails. Also, we need more disc golf courses. My family and active friends must drive

into Harris County or halfway to Galveston to exercise in the nature identified above. Thanks for reading my rant.

League City should encourage its citizens to get around more by bicycling or walking to the stores in town instead of driving. This will increase the health and welfare of its citizens.

You are not fooling all of us. The city actually provided very little. Homeowner's associations and MUD districts provide most which we pay extra for.

When are we going to get a natatorium? Promises, promises ...

League City has a few good existing parks. Also has a good parks staff. The PARD desperately needs more support from city hall. With all the new growth, it is a damn shame that there are no new parks. We need several new parks with interconnectivity to neighborhoods, etc. We will probably move soon because there are very limited existing opportunities.

A developer should not be able to come into the city without donating land for open space and land for schools per household. The Council and Mayor need to get this school situation resolved. The high school has been on the books forever. It's too late to change.

All good ideas – but we also feel City of League City should repair/replace pitiful roads first. For example: St. Christopher Street – one block long at Clear Creek High School – gives access from 518 to 270 – thereby relieving congestion at a very busy intersection – runs by large church, apartments, businesses and it is in disreputable condition. These roads all over L./C should be fixed. They are dangerous and should be fixed first.

We are destroying too much of our undeveloped land to build houses, etc. There are empty



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