



City of Fredericksburg

PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

Master Plan



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INTRODUCTION

The City of Fredericksburg is a growing community within the Texas Hill Country. This growth necessitates the need for advance planning to ensure that municipal service systems, including parks and recreation, keep pace with increasing demands upon these systems. In the last 20 years, parks and open space planning has become a specialized area within the overall municipal planning structure. The existing population of Fredericksburg is 11,500 and is expected to continue growing to a built-out population of 21,000. With this population increase, the acquisition and development of parks and open space areas will be significant factors in maintaining a high quality of life for citizens in Fredericksburg. These growth characteristics indicate that the City should continue taking a “hands-on” approach in guiding the development of the City.

PREVIOUS PLANNING STUDIES

The City of Fredericksburg’s current Park Master Plan was prepared in 2006 in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan. Because of the growth of the Fredericksburg area, the City Manager and Director of Parks and Recreation decided to prepare a new Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. Therefore, the City employed a private consulting firm to prepare the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

The City of Fredericksburg is experiencing moderate residential and commercial growth. The Texas Hill Country has become a residential retirement area, wine tourism destination and is known for their downtown retail shopping on Main Street. Because of Fredericksburg’s location in the Texas Hill Country and due to its growing population, the City determined it is necessary to evaluate the City’s park system, park needs and park land acquisition, leading to the creation of this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals provide a statement for achievement or accomplishment. Objectives are a perceived means through which the goal(s) can be partially or fully attained. Identified within this section are the ways and methods of implementing the *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* recommendations. Critical to the implementation of these goals and objectives is the *Five-Year Action Plan*, which should be updated annually by City Staff and the City Council.

The following are the goals and objectives for the Fredericksburg park system:

GOAL 1: A system of outstanding parks and open space area which are responsive to the leisure needs of a growing community and sensitive to the conservation of natural resources.

- 1.1 The City should increase quality recreational opportunities for Fredericksburg citizens.
- 1.2 The City should encourage and conserve natural areas of Lady Bird Johnson Park, native habitat, wildlife, creek corridors, and wooded areas so as to enrich the local quality of life.
- 1.3 The City should seek the donation of land for parks, open space, greenways and floodplains.
- 1.4 The City should administer development and construction guidelines which result in minimal destruction of native and wildlife habitats along key creek corridors and open space areas.

GOAL 2: Recreational facilities, programs and park areas that meet the needs of a diverse population with various levels of ability and skill.

- 2.1 The City should recognize the special needs of youth, teens, adults, the elderly, and handicapped when designating and providing recreational facilities.

GOAL 3: An equitable geographic distribution of parks and recreational facilities.

- 3.1 The City should acquire necessary parkland and open space at the time of development review in accordance with the classification of parks identified by the Parks Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

GOAL 4: Orderly replacement and/or re-design of aging parks and recreational infrastructure to ensure existing recreational opportunities are not lost.

- 4.1 The City should continue to upgrade existing park and athletic facilities and playgrounds in order to provide a safe open space environment.

- 4.2 The City should pursue land acquisition for development of active recreational opportunities such as baseball, softball, soccer and football for youth and adults.

GOAL 5: Cooperation with the school district, county and other agencies, as well as community organizations, to provide cost-effective services and optimize benefits to citizens.

- 5.1 The City and the Fredericksburg Independent School District should work together to promote the integrated development of schools and park sites.
- 5.2 The City should seek joint financing of new recreational and athletic facilities with the Fredericksburg Independent School District.
- 5.3 The City should seek joint financing of new recreational and athletic facilities with Gillespie County.

GOAL 6: A Comprehensive Trail System that meets the needs of Fredericksburg residents.

- 6.1 The City should identify the various types of trails – multi-purpose trail, serving recreational needs (for instance along a natural feature), or connector trail, serving transportation purposes. Paving standards and other design features should be adopted for construction of both types.
- 6.2 The City should identify opportunities for using trails to linking key locations within Fredericksburg. Such trails should connect city parks and landmarks to the Downtown area. Trails should connect neighborhoods to destinations within the neighborhood, as well as, to major public facilities and key destinations.

POLICIES AND ORDINANCES

The effectiveness of these implementation mechanisms is dependent upon the proper coordination of input from contributing bodies or groups including elected City officials - appointed boards and commissions - City staff, sports groups, and most importantly the citizens of Fredericksburg. All parties must communicate and work collectively toward common goals. Only this sort of communication and coordination will ensure successful development of the park system. An example of this communication, at the staff level, would be the incorporation of the *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* during review of proposed development plans by the City.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The City Council recognized the need for a comprehensive analysis of the park system in Fredericksburg. In 2015, City employed a private consulting firm (Dunkin Sims Stoffels, Inc.) to prepare a new *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*. The consultant worked with the City of Fredericksburg administrative staff to develop this *Master Plan*.

Meetings were held with the Fredericksburg Parks & Recreation Department staff to examine collected needs, findings and preliminary recommendations. To obtain a comprehensive and complete analysis of the City's park and recreation needs, and park system, three methodologies were used for this evaluation: a public input meeting, surveys mailed with utility bills, and a standards-based analysis.

The *Master Plan* provides the City long-range planning for future areas of development for the next 10 years (2026). The time period of the financial plan, as set forth in this *Master Plan* (specifically within the Implementation sub-section) is five years. The prioritization listing identifies certain projections as high priorities for development with the priorities based on satisfying a stipulated/recognized need. The service area studied for the *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* is within the City Limits of Fredericksburg.



INVENTORY OF AREAS AND FACILITIES

CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG PARKS

The following information documents existing park and recreational facilities in Fredericksburg. The listing beginning on the following page is an enumeration of the existing parks, their size and the National Recreation Park Association park classification which best describes their function within the City's park system.



Cross Mountain Park



Park Size: 16 Acres

Park Location: Located off of North Milam

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: Walking Trails
Overlook
Picnic Tables



Elementary School Park



Park Size: 10 Acres

Park Location: 101 North Adams Street

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Facilities: Baseball/Practice Field
Soccer Practice Field
Basketball Court
Playground
Picnic Pavilion
Restrooms
Trails



Frantzen Park



Park Size: 1.8 Acres
Park Location: 400 South Orange Street
Park Classification: Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities: Picnic Facilities
Trail



Fort Martin Scott



Park Size: 10 Acres
Park Location: U.S. 290 East (Main Street)
Park Classification: Special Use Park
Park Facilities: Self-guided tour with interpretive signage around the fort's quadrangle
Living history re-enactments four times a year
Benches
Trail



Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park



Park Size: 260 Acres
Park Location: S.H. 16
Park Classification: Regional Park
Park Facilities: 18-Hole Golf Course
Baseball/Softball Fields
Practice Field
Olympic Size Swimming Pool
5 Outdoor Pavilions
Tennis Courts
Volleyball Court
Basketball Court
Restrooms
Fishing @ Live Oak Creek
R.V. Camp Ground
Nature Trail
Picnic Tables



Marktplatz (Market Square)



Park Size: 4.5 Acres
Park Location: Market Square
Park Classification: Special Use Park
Park Facilities: Large Picnic Pavilions
Playground
Restrooms
Open Space with Benches
Gardens
Historic Markers



Oak Crest Park



Park Size: 10 Acres

Park Location: S.H. 16

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: 3 Lighted Baseball/Softball/Soccer Fields (Soccer Fields are in the Outfields)
Covered Bleachers
Concession Stands
Covered Playground



Old Fair Park



Park Size: 10 Acres

Park Location: Corner of Ufer Street & Lincoln Street

Park Classification: Community Park

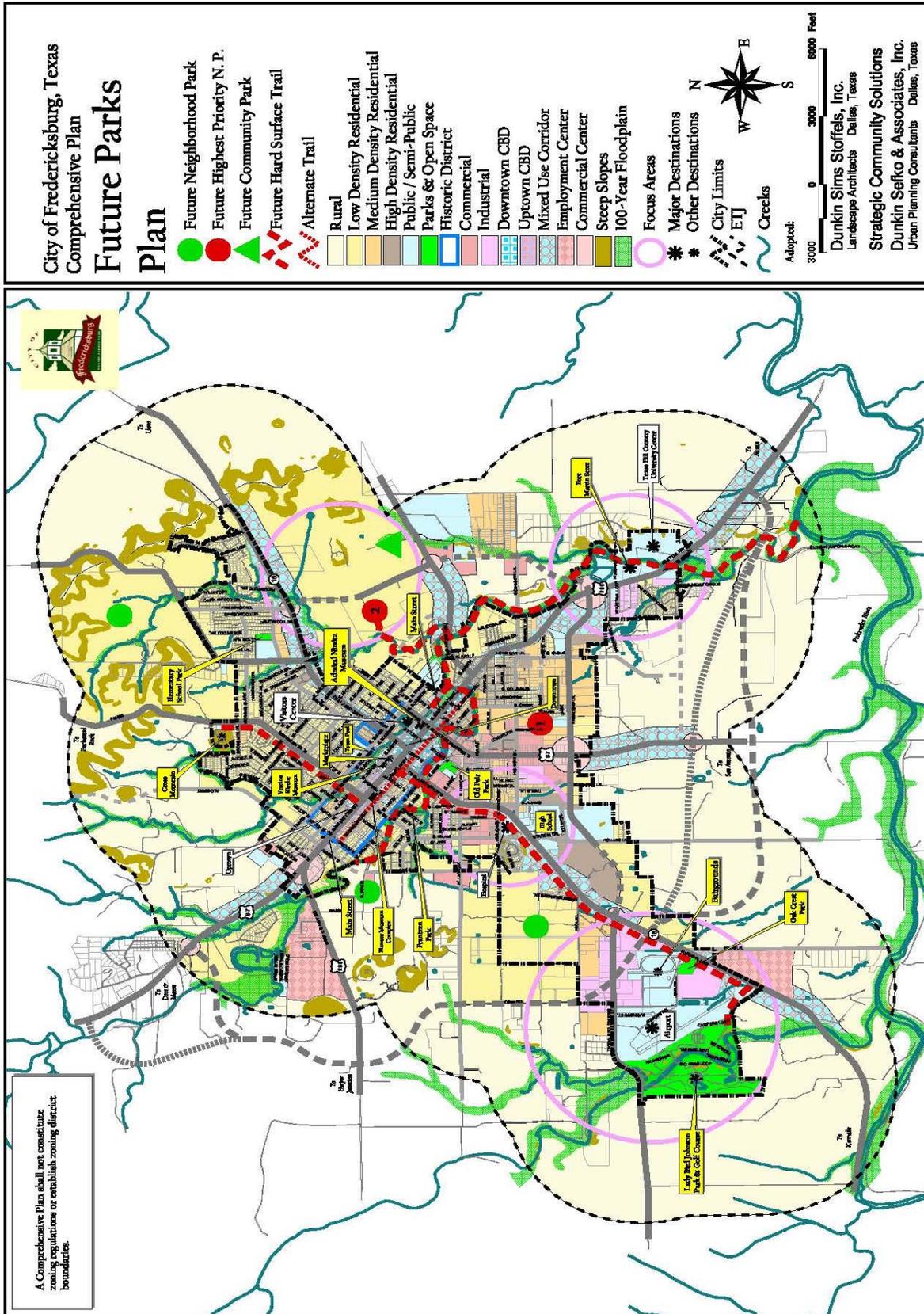
Park Facilities: 2 Lighted Baseball Fields
Playground
Concession Stands
Soccer Field
Skate Park



Town Pool



Park Size: 1 Acres
Park Location: 100 Block of West Travis
Park Classification: Community Park
Park Facilities: Swimming Pool
Parking Spaces
Restroom/Bathhouse



FACTORS INFLUENCING PLANNING FOR PARKS

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES & THOROUGHFARES

The City of Fredericksburg is located in Gillespie County, U.S. Highway 290/Main Street runs east/west and divides the City in half.

State Highway 16 runs North South and intersects with U.S. 290 in the Center of Downtown. These major highways provide the primary access to Fredericksburg.

Downtown Fredericksburg is well known as a retail/shopping destination throughout the state and the nation. In the last decade the wine tourist industry has exploded. As this trend is likely to continue, it is probable that the City’s population will increase as well. These retail sales tax dollars represent an opportunity for funding for the park and recreation services that Fredericksburg will need to support its growing number of citizens.



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The population of Fredericksburg, according to U.S. Census 2010, was 10,530 people. The City’s planning department estimates the current population at 11,500. The City is anticipated to continue experiencing growth, making the provision of park and recreational services even more important to address in the short and long terms. The estimated population for Fredericksburg is 14,000 people in 2030. This is projected by the City of Fredericksburg.

Race and Age Composition

Table 1 illustrates the race and ethnic composition of the City of Fredericksburg according to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau. The table shows the diversity of the local population. The *White/Caucasian* group comprises the largest percentage, with the *Other* category representing the second largest. People of Hispanic Origin also represent a relatively large percentage of the local population.

Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
White/Caucasian	9,531	90.51%
African American	51	0.48%
American Indian or Aleut	67	0.64%
Asian/Pacific Islander	66	0.63%
Other ⁽¹⁾	815	7.74%
Total	10,530	100%
Hispanic Origin ⁽²⁾	2,248	

Source: U.S. Census 2010
⁽¹⁾ Includes “Two or More Races”
⁽²⁾ Hispanic/Spanish Origin may be of any race and may be included in any category. It is therefore not included in the total, but is separately included.

The age composition of the population within a city can also provide insight into the types of park and recreation facilities and services the City may need to provide. As reflected in *Table 2*, the largest age group is the *Elderly (65 years and older)*. The youngest age group, *School Age Children and Young Adults (19 & Under)* which came in as the second highest, are generally the largest number of people that use a community's park facilities because of league sports and other organized play activities.

TABLE 2 Age Composition & Distribution City of Fredericksburg, Texas		
Age Groups	Number	Percent
School Age Children & Young Adults (19 & Under)	2,259	21.45%
College/New Family (20-34 years old)	1,439	13.67%
Prime Labor Force (35-49 years old)	1,626	15.44%
Older Labor Force (50-64 years old)	2,109	20.03%
Elderly (65 + years old)	3,097	29.41%
Total	10,530	100%
Source: U.S. Census 2010		

Fredericksburg also has a fairly high percentage of people in the *College/New Family* category (20-34 years old); many in this age group play organized adult sports. The *Older Labor Force* and the *Prime Labor Force*, together with the *Elderly*, comprise a significant percentage of the City's population. Clearly, groups of all of ages have recreational needs.

Household Income

Household income for Fredericksburg according to the 2010 U.S. Census was used as the base data for the percentages shown in *Table 3* to determine current percentages for the current population. Therefore, approximately 11.50 percent of the households in Fredericksburg are in the range of \$14,999 or less. The highest percentage of households in Fredericksburg are in the \$50,000 to \$74,999 income category.

TABLE 3 2012 Income Distribution City of Fredericksburg, Texas		
Income Level	Number	Percentage
Less than \$14,999	1,211	11.50%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	1,555	14.77%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,226	11.64%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	1,240	11.78%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1,759	16.70%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,634	15.52%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,250	11.87%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	433	4.11%
\$200,000 or more	222	2.11%
Total	10,530	100%
Source: U.S. Census 2010		

The lowest percentages are in the range of \$150,000 or more.

PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATION

To deliver a variety of recreational features in an efficient manner, some type of relationship defining system must be established among those facilities used for recreation. Guidelines and standards recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) have been followed by cities for many years to define a hierarchy for their park systems. The NRPA made major revisions to their recommendations for delivering park and recreation services in the publication, Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. The classification system has been changed slightly to more closely define a park space in relationship to its proposed use.

The following analysis identifies the NRPA classification of parks, their description, location criteria within the community and criteria for size. Only the park classifications selected specifically for Fredericksburg are defined in this section. Once established, these guidelines are then applicable for structuring the Fredericksburg park system in an orderly manner responsive to the recreational demands being generated by the present and future population.

Neighborhood Park

The neighborhood park is considered to be the most important feature of a park system and is one of the major cohesive elements in neighborhood design. Its primary function is the provision of recreational space for the entire neighborhood which surrounds it.



- (a) Space in the neighborhood park should be distributed between active and passive uses.
- (b) When it is possible to combine an elementary or middle school with this type of park, the two features further enhance the identity of the neighborhood by providing a central location for recreation and education and a significant open space feature within the neighborhood.
- (c) The neighborhood park should be located near the center of a neighborhood area/park planning area and have a service area of approximately one-half mile to one-quarter mile.
- (d) The size should be related to the service area population and the menu of activities chosen for placement in the park. Five (5) to ten (10) acres is the optimal size for this park.
- (e) Safe and convenient pedestrian access is considered important to a neighborhood park location.
- (f) Generally, the location should not be adjacent to a heavily traveled major or minor thoroughfare.

(g) Facilities normally provided at a neighborhood park consist of:

- Playground equipment for small children.
- A multiple purpose hard surfaced play area.
- Space for court games, such as basketball, tennis, volleyball and in-line hockey in addition to walking/jogging trails.
- Playfield space for non-organized competitive games such as baseball, football and soccer.
- Passive space possibly for a pavilion with tables and grills, restrooms, drinking fountains and sitting areas.
- Off-street parking is a consideration if users are beyond an acceptable walking distance or if users need to drive to access the park.
- It is not desirable to light athletic facilities in a neighborhood environment since lighting is often objectionable to nearby residents; however, some lighting for security purposes should be incorporated into the park.
- The allocation of space in the neighborhood park should be approximately 50 percent passive area and 50 percent active area. The above facilities are those generally considered for active space. The passive space should be used to develop the character of the park by creating an open landscaped setting with trails, sitting area, and picnic space. This park becomes an integral part of the neighborhood.



Community Park

A community park is larger in size than a neighborhood park and provides service to several neighborhoods or specific sections of the community. The community park is oriented primarily toward providing recreational opportunities.

- (a) A community park serves several neighborhood areas, and should therefore be conveniently accessible by automobile and include provisions for off-street parking.
- (b) The optimal size for the community park is between 20 and 150 acres. This size should be based on its intended use and the population residing in the service area. Natural features such



as terrain, tree cover, flood prone areas, and water features are all factors to be used in selecting and sizing this type of park.

- (c) Activities provided should include both active and passive space.
- (d) Space for active uses associated with neighborhood parks including field and court games.
- (e) Passive spaces more extensive than the neighborhood park for trails, natural areas, picnicking, and ornamental or natural landscape areas.
- (f) Facilities for cultural activities such as plays or concerts; possibly provide an amphitheater.
- (g) Lighted or unlighted athletic fields or facilities may be placed in community parks provided careful thought is given to their design and location.
- (h) A community park should be well removed from the residential environment due to the traffic, noise, and lights associated with the sports complex.
- (i) Based on use, accessibility and other requirements, the community park should be located in a non-residential area served by major thoroughfares.
- (j) Sites are not recommended to be less than 20 acres with the optimal site ranging upward to 80-150 acres, if demand is present.
- (k) Although community parks are designed primarily for competitive play by both young people and adults, other features should be included in the complex. Among these are play apparatus, court game space, picnicking facilities, and trails.
- (l) Support facilities in a sports complex include restrooms, concessions, multi-purpose building(s), and maintenance facilities.
- (m) Parking is a major consideration for the sports complex. Spaces should be allocated to accommodate those currently participating, those lingering following the previous games and those arriving to participate in the next scheduled game.

Greenways

This classification applies to types of land which have characteristics either identifying them as undevelopable land or suitable for use as a component linking other park areas.

- (a) These spaces are generally natural corridors along creeks/flood prone areas or along easements containing a man-made feature.
- (b) There is no specific size for these spaces; however, establishing a minimum width is important to the function of the greenway, particularly if used as a location for a trail. This width should not be less



than 50 feet. Where the greenway is on either side of a natural drainage course, a minimum of fifteen feet shall be provided for foot traffic or motorized vehicles performing maintenance along the greenway.

Special Use Park

These parks or recreational spaces are identified by a single use, and fall into three categories:

- (a) *Historical/cultural/social sites* – These sites offer recreational opportunities because of their unique characteristics. A local example is the Marktplatz Park and Fort Martin Scott. Others might include ornamental gardens or special use structures.
- (b) *Recreational facilities* – These are generally single-purpose facilities such as a recreation center, senior center, community center, golf course, or marina.
- (c) *Outdoor recreational facilities* – These vary, but examples include a tennis center, stadium, or possibly a special type of sports complex designed specifically for a single sport.



Regional Park

Regional parks serve an area beyond the City limits and/or the ETJ. Typically these parks are large in geographical size. Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park would be classified as a regional park for several reasons: its 260 acre size and the Lady Bird Johnson Golf Course, which serves regional residents and tourists who visit Fredericksburg. The Recreational Vehicle Camp Ground also is a regional recreational use.



NEEDS ASSESSMENT & IDENTIFICATION

GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The City of Fredericksburg is the largest city in Gillespie County. Many of the cities in the county may not have the resources to provide park and recreation opportunities. The City of Fredericksburg currently provides these park and recreational facilities to residents of Fredericksburg and residents who live outside of the City, but within Gillespie County.

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING PRIORITY LIST

The City of Fredericksburg held a public input meeting on August 17, 2015 to receive citizens' comments on the park and recreational needs within the City. There were approximately 70 to 75 in attendance.

The following is a priority listing of recreational elements mentioned at the public input meeting.

- 1.) Hike and Bike Trail
- 2.) Youth Programs
- 3.) Soccer
- 4.) Passive Recreation
- 5.) Recreation Center
- 6.) Tennis Courts
- 7.) Picnic Areas/Eating Areas/Public
- 8.) Girls Softball Fields
- 9.) Frisbee Free Throw
- 10.) Nature Center / Nature Trail
- 11.) Baseball Fields / Little Leagues
- 12.) Football Fields
- 13.) Renovation Lighting System
- 14.) Light Softball at Lady Bird Park
- 15.) Fort Martin Scott as Tourist Destination
- 16.) Linear Park System / City Park Plan
- 17.) Develop a Trail System from 290 Center Creek to Creek Behind Water Treatment Plant
- 18.) More Soccer Fields / Use the Multi-Use Fields
- 19.) Tennis – How many in schools? Lady Bird courts need repair
- 20.) Lighting of Soccer Lights Skate Park
- 21.) Nature Center
- 22.) Practice Soccer Area for Football and Baseball
- 23.) Multi-Use Building for Soccer
- 24.) Swimming Pool for Adults
- 25.) Promote LBJ Golf Course
- 26.) Smart Growth Environmental
- 27.) More Green Space
- 28.) Neighborhood Parks
- 29.) More Parks (as many as possible)
- 30.) Skate Park
- 31.) Trail at Nature Center

UTILITY MAILED OUT SURVEY

A Park and Recreation survey was mailed with the utility bill to all residences in Fredericksburg. The survey was also available at City Hall for residents to fill out with a Spanish translated version of the survey available for Non-English speaking residents as well. The survey asked residents their opinion for needed recreation facilities in Fredericksburg. It also asked them to prioritize each recreational element, in their opinion, from High, Medium to Low. Table 4 below illustrates the results of this survey.

Table 4 – Park and Recreation Survey

PARK ELEMENTS	PRIORITY		
	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
1 Walking/Jogging/Biking Trails	507	112	37
2 Swimming Pool	297	106	45
3 Youth Baseball	294	104	41
4 Youth Soccer	282	116	32
4 Natural Areas	282	128	48
6 Playgrounds	258	130	26
7 Youth Softball	240	80	37
8 Picnic Areas	213	132	44
9 Youth Football	153	66	61
10 Golf Course	150	54	129
11 Picnic Shelters	144	104	53
12 Recreation Center	126	94	83
12 Tennis Courts	126	82	61
14 Splash Pad - Soft Surface - Padded - Covered	90	4	0
15 Basketball Courts	78	88	59
16 Adult Soccer	69	56	68
17 Adult Softball	42	54	72
18 Clean Creeks in Park Areas	30	2	0
19 Tennis Facility Improvements	27	0	0
20 Natural Play Areas & Playgrounds (Built in Nature)	24	0	0
20 Keep Old Fair Park (As is; Open)	24	4	0
22 Early Morning Pool Hours	18	4	0
22 Tennis Court Resurfacing	18	0	0
24 Frantzen Park - More Swings, Playgrounds, (Extend)	15	0	0
24 Tennis Facility Expansion	15	0	0
24 Better Surface on Marketplatz Playground (Not Dirt)	15	4	0
27 Skate Park (Skateboard)	12	6	0
27 Indoor Play Area For Young Children	12	2	0
27 Dog Park	12	2	3
30 Golf Course	9		
31 Volleyball / Sand Volleyball	6	0	1
31 Playgrounds with Cushion for Age 3 and Under	6	0	0
31 HEB Park / Keep HEB Field	6	0	0
31 Animal Shelter	6	0	0
31 Animal Control	6	0	0
31 Public Shooting Range / Rifle Range	6	2	0
31 Indoor Basketball Court	6	0	0
31 Walking/Jogging/Biking Trails	6		
31 Natural Areas	6		
40 Emphasize organized sports for all ages	3	0	0
40 More Parks, etc. for Children under age of 5 years	3	0	0
40 Fishing Areas	3	0	1
40 Tennis Court Lights Improvement	3	0	0
40 Bike Lane from Main Street to Lady Bird	3	0	0
40 Fitness walks with equipment along the path	3	0	0

PARK ELEMENTS	PRIORITY		
	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
40 Park Along Highway 16	3	0	0
40 Park Near/In Stoneridge	3	0	0
40 Open Fields for Concerts / Gatherings	3	0	0
40 Spray Park / Water Park	3	2	0
40 Fort Martin Scott	3	0	0
40 Pickle Ball Court	3	2	0
40 Gazebo Park	3	0	0
40 Travis Street Pool to Open More Days and Hours	3	0	0
40 Sun Shelter for Skate Park	3	0	0
40 Shaded Playgrounds	3	0	0
40 Better Playgrounds at City Park	3	0	0
40 Better & More Walking Trails at City Park	3	0	0
40 Youth Games	3	0	0
40 Neighborhood Parks	3	0	0
40 Better Lighting Marketplatz	3	0	0
40 New Wellness Center	3	0	0
40 Cross on Mountain Park Needs More Care	3	0	0
40 Amphitheater	3	0	1
40 Greenspace for Year-Round Residents	3	0	0
40 Convention Center @ LBJ Park	3	0	0
40 Parking Tower	3	0	0
40 Special Needs Children Play Area	3	0	0
40 Tennis Courts	3		
40 Adult Softball	3		
40 Adult Soccer	3		
40 Recreation Center	3		
40 Swimming Pools	3		
73 Shade Canopies on New/Existing Playgrounds	0	2	0
73 Indoor Swimming Pool	0	8	0
73 Parks	0	4	0
73 Dining Re-Opened at Golf	0	0	1
73 Small Recreation Center	0	2	0
73 Sidewalks	0	2	0
73 Hotel @ LBJ Park	0	2	0
73 Swim Center @ LBJ Park	0	2	0
73 Parkway to Loop Past LBJ Park	0	0	1
73 Expand Softball for Adult Tournaments @ LBJ Park	0	0	1
73 Expand LBJ Park	0	0	1
73 Business, Hotels and Shopping			

STANDARD-BASED ANALYSIS

This approach is used to assist in assessing the future recreational needs, and follows established and recognized standards for assessing the quantity of park land and the number of facilities that are required to meet the needs of a given population.

Facility-Recreation Standard

One source is the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The NRPA has functioned as a source of guidance for park standards and development for a number of years. The NRPA’s standards are suggested to be a guide for determining park and open space needs. From community to community, differences will be found in the socio-economic and cultural characteristics, as well as in climatic conditions. Therefore, the range of demands and preferences for recreational activities will vary with these differences. Obviously, these variances will directly influence a uniform standard for all locations. NRPA is very specific to point out that their data is to be used only as a guide to the development of local standards. Therefore, the NRPA provides input to the formation of local needs. *Table 5* at the top shows a standard analysis ratio using existing population of 11,500 people in the City, and *Table 6* illustrates a standard analysis ration using 2030 projected population of 14,000 people in the City.

This is a standard comparison which illustrates the level of services provided at 11,500 and what the projected facilities need would be for the anticipated

TABLE 5
Park Facility Standard Analysis Ratio
Using Existing Population of 11,500* People in the City
City of Fredericksburg, Texas

Facility	NRPA Standards	Current City Inventory	Facilities Needed
Basketball	1/5,000	2	1/4,000 = 3
Tennis Courts	1/2,000	6	1/4,000 = 3
* Baseball	1/20,000	2	1/5,000 = 3
*T-Ball	NS	2	1/5,000 = 3
*Youth Softball	1/5,000	2	1/5,000 = 3
*Adult Softball	1/5,000	2	1/5,000 = 3
Football	1/20,000	0	1/65,000 = 1
*Soccer	1/10,000	0	1/5,000 = 3
Playgrounds ⁽¹⁾	NS	4	(1)
Picnic Tables	NS	196	1/300 = 38
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	2	1/20,000 = 1
Volleyball	NS	1	1/10,000 = 2
Trails	NS	Miles	As many as possible*
Recreation Center	1/20,000	0	1/25,000 = 1

⁽¹⁾ One playground should be installed in each proposed park.
 NS = No Standard
 NRPA = National Recreation and Parks Association
 *As many as possible in order to provide a comprehensive system of pedestrian trails that connect residential areas to parks, schools and open space
 *11,500 population is the City of Fredericksburg
 *Baseball, T-Ball, Youth Softball, Adult Softball and Soccer use the same facilities

TABLE 6
Park Facility Standard Analysis Ratio Using 2030
Projected Population of 14,000 People in the City
City of Fredericksburg, Texas

Facility	NRPA Standards	Current City Inventory	Recommendation
Basketball	1/5,000	2	1/4,000 = 4
Tennis Courts	1/2,000	6	1/4,000 = 4
* Baseball	1/20,000	2	1/5,000 = 3
*T-Ball	NS	2	1/5,000 = 3
*Youth Softball	1/5,000	2	1/5,000 = 3
*Adult Softball	1/5,000	2	1/5,000 = 3
Football	1/20,000	0	1/65,000 = 1
*Soccer	1/10,000	8	1/5,000 = 3
Playgrounds ⁽¹⁾	NS	3	(1)
Picnic Tables	NS	194	1/300 = 47
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	2	1/20,000 = 1
Volleyball	NS	1	1/10,000 = 2
Trails	NS	Miles	As many as possible*
Recreation Center	1/20,000	0	1/25,000 = 1

⁽¹⁾ One playground should be installed in each proposed park.
 NS = No Standard
 NRPA = National Recreation and Parks Association
 *As many as possible in order to provide a comprehensive system of pedestrian trails that connect residential areas to parks, schools and open space
 *Baseball, T-Ball, Youth Softball, Adult Softball and Soccer use the same facilities

population of 14,000. Again, it is important to note that these are national standards and the comparison will vary from city-to-city. It is common for larger cities to provide recreational facilities for smaller communities nearby. Often, smaller communities do not have recreational facilities and depend on larger area cities for these resources. However, it should be noted that the Fredericksburg Parks System also provides recreational opportunities for citizens outside the City limits.

The estimated built-out population for Fredericksburg, shown in Table 7, is 21,000 within the City Limits.

County Population

As previously mentioned, Fredericksburg provides park and recreation opportunities to citizens who live in the county outside of City Limits. Table 8 illustrates the county population and needed recreation amenities.

Public and Private School Enrollment

The 2010 Census population of 10,500 and the current population of 11,500 include children residing in the City Limits of Fredericksburg. Adults and children living within the Fredericksburg I.S.D. and Gillespie County and outside of the City of Fredericksburg use Fredericksburg park facilities as parks in Fredericksburg are limited in rural areas of the County.

TABLE 7
Park Facility Standard Analysis Ratio
Using Ultimate Population of 21,000 People in the City
City of Fredericksburg, Texas

Facility	NRPA Standards	Current City Inventory	Recommendation
Basketball	1/5,000	2	1/4,000 = 6
Tennis Courts	1/2,000	6	1/4,000 = 6
* Baseball	1/20,000	2	1/5,000 = 5
*T-Ball	NS	2	1/5,000 = 5
*Youth Softball	1/5,000	2	1/5,000 = 5
*Adult Softball	1/5,000	2	1/5,000 = 5
Football	1/20,000	0	1/65,000 = 1
*Soccer	1/10,000	8	1/5,000 = 5
Playgrounds ⁽¹⁾	NS	3	(1)
Picnic Tables	NS	194	1/300 = 70
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	2	1/20,000 = 1
Volleyball	NS	1	1/10,000 = 3
Trails	NS	Miles	As many as possible*
Recreation Center	1/20,000	0	1/25,000 = 1

⁽¹⁾ One playground should be installed in each proposed park.
Table assumes lighted facilities
NS = No Standard
NRPA = National Recreation and Parks Association
*As many as possible in order to provide a comprehensive system of pedestrian trails that connect residential areas to parks, schools and open space
*Baseball, T-Ball, Youth Softball, Adult Softball and Soccer use the same facilities

TABLE 8
Park Facility Standard Analysis Ratio
Existing Gillespie County Population 20,000
City of Fredericksburg, Texas

Facility	NRPA Standards	Current City Inventory	Recommendation
Basketball	1/5,000	2	1/4,000 = 5
Tennis Courts	1/2,000	6	1/4,000 = 5
* Baseball	1/20,000	2	1/5,000 = 4
*T-Ball	NS	2	1/5,000 = 4
*Youth Softball	1/5,000	2	1/5,000 = 4
*Adult Softball	1/5,000	2	1/5,000 = 4
Football	1/20,000	0	1/65,000 = 1
*Soccer	1/10,000	8	1/5,000 = 4
Playgrounds ⁽¹⁾	NS	3	(1)
Picnic Tables	NS	194	1/300 = 66
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	2	1/20,000 = 1
Volleyball	NS	1	1/10,000 = 2
Trails	NS	Miles	As many as possible*
Recreation Center	1/20,000	0	1/25,000 = 1

⁽¹⁾ One playground should be installed in each proposed park.
Table assumes lighted facilities
NS = No Standard
NRPA = National Recreation and Parks Association
*As many as possible in order to provide a comprehensive system of pedestrian trails that connect residential areas to parks, schools and open space
*Baseball, T-Ball, Youth Softball, Adult Softball and Soccer use the same facilities

Table 9 illustrates the enrollment for the Fredericksburg I.S.D. and the total enrollment for private schools in Fredericksburg. The Fredericksburg I.S.D. encompasses much of Gillespie County.

	K-5th Grade	6th – 8th Grade	9th- 12th Grade
Fredericksburg I.S.D.	1,479	670	985
Private School	205	127	54
Combined Total	1,684	797	1,039

These enrollment numbers demonstrate the need for additional youth athletic fields.

Park Land Analysis

Park land analysis is also evaluated on the basis of Fredericksburg’s current population, as shown in Table 10. This evaluation is a reliable guide and analysis for park land comparison. The acreage required per 1,000 populations varies for each park classification. For long range planning, this is a useful tool for determining future park land acreage acquisition.

Park Type	Recommended Acres per 1,000 Persons	Existing Fredericksburg Parks	Acreage for 11,500 Persons Existing Population	Acreage for 14,000 Persons Year 2030	Acreage for 21,000 Persons CL/UP	Acreage for 33,000 Persons Urban ETJ & CL/UP
Neighborhood	2.5 acres	11.8 acres	29 acres	35 acres	52.5 acres	100 acres
Community	5 acres	37 acres	58 acres	70 acres	105 acres	205 acres
Special	2 acres	14.5 acres	23 acres	28 acres	42 acres	80 acres
Regional	2-6 Acres	260 acres	69 acres	84 acres	126 acres	240 acres
Open Space/ Greenbelts	6-8 acres	0 acres	92 acres	112 acres	72 acres	160 acres
Acres Per 1,000 Persons:	23.5 acres	323.3	271 acres	329 acres	397.5 acres	785 acres

As mentioned previously, the neighborhood park is an important aspect to the overall municipal park system. The ratio of 2.5 acres per 1,000 population should not be confused with the minimum acreage size. The minimum acreage for a neighborhood park should be five (5) acres for several important reasons. A minimum of five (5) acres provides enough land to develop playgrounds, small pavilions, etc. A smaller tract will limit the facilities and the recreational opportunities available to citizens. In the event that a city accepts a smaller tract of land, in the one (1) acre to three (3) acre range, maintenance of these parks would be time consuming and would also require an increase the city’s maintenance budget. A minimum of five (5) acre tracts is therefore recommended for Neighborhood Park development.

FUTURE PARK & RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The future park plan indicates the general location of future neighborhood and community parks. The graphic symbols do not indicate an exact location only a general service area. Because of the geographical size of Fredericksburg, the community park could be located anywhere within the City Limits.

FUTURE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK ACQUISITION

The neighborhood park is considered to be the core unit in a municipal park system because it provides recreation opportunities within walking distance in a neighborhood. The City of Fredericksburg has a distribution of neighborhood parks and community parks within the City limits. Both park classifications provide recreational opportunities which are typical to neighborhood areas and can serve neighborhood areas.

The City is projecting to increase its existing population from 11,500 in 2016 to 14,000 by the year 2030. The Park and Recreation Department will have to adjust to the growing population as the Fredericksburg City limits expand by acquiring park land as the City develops; once land is developed for residential and commercial uses, the best opportunity for park land acquisition is lost unless park land is acquired concurrently with the new development.

The City will need to acquire approximately 40 to 50 acres of neighborhood park land in order to meet the projected built-out population of 21,000. The future park plan illustrates an additional need of five (5) neighborhood parks. It should be noted that the location of neighborhood parks, as illustrated on the *Future Park Plan*, is general in location and is not intended to identify specific parcels or lots for park land acquisition; the Fredericksburg Park Department and Planning Department will recommend property acquisition to the Parks and Recreation Board and City Council based on future growth trends and land availability.

FUTURE COMMUNITY PARKS, GREENBELTS AND SPECIAL USE PARKS

Community Parks

Based on the public input and surveys, there is a need for an additional athletic field for youth sports. The City does not have a field dedicated for soccer or football. The outfields of the existing baseball fields at Oak Crest Park are used for football and soccer. Fields that are used as multi-use fields are difficult to maintain and provide a suitable turf for athletic play. The City should pursue land acquisition for a community park to construct new athletic facilities. It is estimated the City should acquire a tract of land

between 30 and 50 acres for community park improvements. A Master Plan should be prepared on the property to determine the best and ultimate use.

Indoor Recreation Centers

The City of Fredericksburg has several needs at this time in terms of its parks system. An indoor recreation center is one of these needs and was listed as the number 10 priority on the Ten-Year Priority List. Typically, cities provide indoor recreational opportunities in the form of a recreation center. These facilities provide for organized work out programs such as aerobic exercise, weight lifting, and stationary low-impact bikes and treadmills. Basketball and racquetball also cultivate recreation opportunities. Typically, recreation centers are approximately 20,000 to 35,000 square feet. These facilities range in cost between \$6,000,000 to \$15,000,000 dollars. This cost is based on the final square footage and the amenities in the center. The City should plan on construction of this facility within the next five to ten years.

Aquatic Facilities

There have been major renovations completed on the pools. The City recently renovated the Lady Bird Johnson pool and the Town Pool. The renovation costs were approximately \$4,000,000.00. There are many recreation needs identified in this Master Plan. Aquatic requirements have been addressed for the next 5 years.



Example of Aquatic Facility
City of Roanoke, Texas

Greenbelts and Open Space

In 2006 the City did not have any park land in the Open Space/Greenbelt category and had not acquired any Greenbelts, Open Space or Linear Parks. One of the primary uses of greenbelts and open space is for hike and bike trail corridors. Based on the Needs Assessment survey and the Ten-Year Priority List, hike and bike trails or multi-use trails has been identified in the top five requested recreational elements in Fredericksburg. Although trails are developed in neighborhood and community parks, the most optimal location is in the greenbelts and open spaces of creek corridors.

When property adjacent to creeks and floodplains is developed, floodplain property should be dedicated to the City for Open Space and Greenbelts.

The City should accept floodplain areas as a donation and should not purchase the land, unless the City foresees a need for a critical purchase in order to preserve land and/or provide a link to another park. These open spaces preserve trees and native areas and enhance the educational and passive use of floodplains and open space for park patrons.

Special Use Parks

The City has two special use parks, Marktplatz and Fort Martin Scott. The City may acquire/construct additional special use facilities such as a recreation center.



TEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN/ PRIORITY LIST

The Recreational Facility Development Priority List, Table 11, represents the culmination of priorities as indicated by citizens of Fredericksburg. It is the synoptic conclusion of the park master planning process. Annual review of the action plan by the City Staff, City Council members, Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation members and citizens will allow analysis of action item recommendations for acquisition, improvements and new facilities to enhance the quality of Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation System to maximum effect.

TABLE 11
Recreational Facility Development Priority Listing
City of Fredericksburg, Texas

Priority	Facility	Timing	Estimated Cost	Possible Funding Sources
1.	*Youth Soccer	2016-2021	*\$275,000.00	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
2.	*Youth Baseball	2016-2021	\$350,000.00	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
3.	*Youth Softball	2016-2021	\$300,000.00	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
4.	Picnic Tables / Shelter	2016-2021	\$50,000.00	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
5.	Walking / Jogging / Biking Trails	2016-2021	\$300,000.00/Mile	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
6.	* Youth Football	2016-2021	\$250,000.00	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
7.	Playgrounds with Shade	2016-2021	\$100,000.00	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
8.	Natural Areas	2016-2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
9.	*Tennis Courts	2016-2021	\$135,000.00 (2)	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
10.	Recreation Center	2016-2026	\$4,000,000.00 to \$10,000,000.00	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
11.	Splash Pad – Soft Surface Padded - Covered	2016-2021	\$250,000.00 to \$500,000.00	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
12.	Basketball Court	2016-2021	\$95,000.00	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
13.	Pickle Ball Court	2016-2021	\$35,000.00 (2)	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
14.	Amphitheater	2016-2026	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
15.	Open Space	2016-2026	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
16.	Swimming Pool	2016-2026	Varies on Size	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
17.	Park Benches	2016-2026	\$1,500.00/Each	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations

*Lighted Facility

Estimated costs are approximate and do not reflect site conditions.

February 2, 2016

PLAN SUMMARY

This *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* is a fluid planning tool which will guide the development and acquisition of new park land and recreational facilities. The Master Plan has identified the need for park improvements, recreational athletic fields and acquisition of greenbelts and open space. As with any public or municipal project, the amount of available funding or potential to retire debt is the controlling factor in deciding which project or projects should be completed first.

This *Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* should be reviewed annually or after a major project or task has been accomplished.