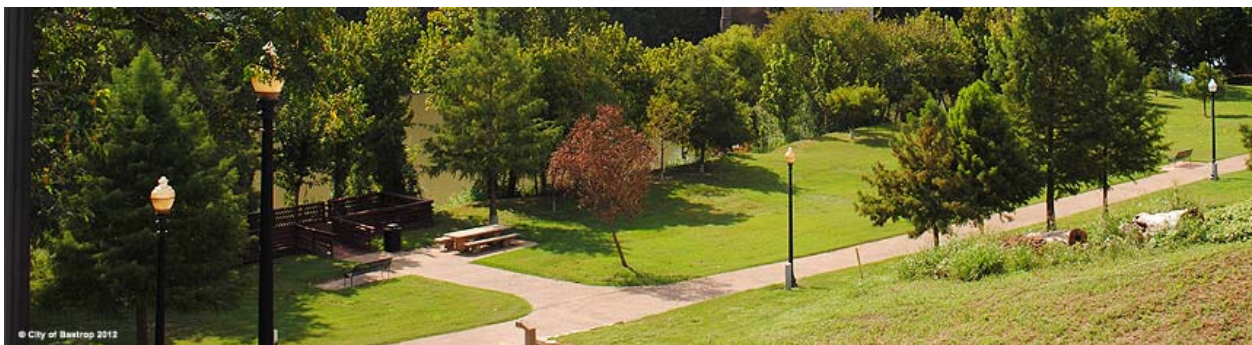




City of Bastrop

Parks and Open Space

Master Plan Update 2015



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Introduction

The City of Bastrop is a rapidly growing community to the east of Austin in the Lost Pines region of Central Texas. The City has successfully managed to protect its historic character and a high quality of life in the face of significant growth. Downtown Bastrop is a vibrant mix of retail, service, and restaurants in historic buildings lining Main Street. Many of the neighborhoods in the City have a mix of historic homes.

The City of Bastrop is the county seat of Bastrop County and serves as the primary city for most county residents, thereby creating a much larger population usage of City facilities. In the future, proper planning and budgeting for parks facilities will be imperative to maintain safety and the quality of life in Bastrop. Forty-four percent (44%) non-City resident respondents to our survey indicated high use of City parks facilities. These visitors to the parks, when shopping and eating in local businesses, do contribute significantly to the City's sales tax revenue, which in turn subsidizes funding for City parks.

This Plan Update is an opportunity to review progress made since the 2008 Master Plan Update that reflects changes in the community. It also will reflect updated population figures from the 2010 Census and more current projections. This will ensure the City has relevant data to make decisions going forward and will provide direction for park investments over the next several years. Since the background data included in the 2008 Plan has not changed, this Plan does not include new parks maps and inventories. This data can be referenced from the 2008 Plan available via the City's website.

Using information from the existing Plan, the public engagement, and the Parks Board, five goals were identified for the Parks Plan Update. These goals represent the overarching direction for the Bastrop parks and open space system and are intended to guide decision making in the future. There are also more specific actions listed in Appendix A that incorporate individual projects and actions that were identified by citizens and staff as being important for improving the park system.

Address Existing Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Safety Needs

Identify Land for Future Park Development

Increase Advocacy / Partnership for long term sustainable parks and rec department

Provide additional amenities to increase / improve parks facilities and programming

Provide and Improve Connectivity for Bikes and Pedestrians Throughout Bastrop

Demographic Analysis

Bastrop County has become a high-growth area due to its proximity to Austin. Good schools, lower costs, and a high quality of life support this. The once rural area has seen agricultural lands converted to subdivisions, with a range of home prices and types being constructed. The City has seen significant growth, as well, and this is expected to continue.

Table 1: Population

	2000	2010	2014 (est.)
City of Bastrop	5,821	7,218	7,785
Bastrop County	57,733	74,171	77,506

Source: US Census

This population growth is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. The Austin metropolitan area, which includes Bastrop County, has been and is expected to be one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Bastrop not only serves as a bedroom community to Austin, but it has a vibrant economy in its own right, with a diverse array of businesses providing quality jobs. This combination will ensure Bastrop continues to grow, which means the parks system will have to continue to grow to serve this population.

Table 2: Population Projections

	2019 (ESRI BAO)	2020 (TWDB)	2030 (TWDB)	2040 (TWDB)
City of Bastrop	8,383	9,653	13,088	17,553
Bastrop County	83,535	95,487	125,559	164,648

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Online and Texas Water Development Board

Age is another important factor in planning for parks and recreational facilities. The needs and expectations of different age groups will drive the demand for the desired facilities. Twenty-five percent (25%) of Bastrop residents are under the age of 18, which fosters a high demand for park facilities and recreation programming for sports teams and other recreational activities. Nearly 17% of the population is over 65, which is another high-demand demographic. Residents in this age group are often retired and looking for opportunities to engage in social activities with others. These residents may also have some transportation limitations, making

access to facilities more challenging. Planning for senior activities is often focused on indoor programming and low-impact exercise activities, such as water aerobics. Given that Bastrop can expect to see its population continue to age, planning for this will be vitally important.

While most parks and recreation programs cater to senior citizens and school-age youth, it is critical not to overlook the working class. Adults are interested in walking and jogging paths, as well as sports programs, especially softball and tennis. These programs and facilities are an important part of a well-rounded parks and recreation system and should not be overlooked, as demonstrated in the survey results below.

Table 3: 2014 Age (Estimate)

	City of Bastrop	Bastrop County
0-4	6.1%	6.6%
5 – 9	6.1%	6.5%
10 – 14	6.6%	6.7%
15 – 24	12.9%	12.2%
25 – 34	11.5%	12.4%
35 – 44	12.9%	12.1%
45 – 54	13.6%	13.1%
55 – 64	13.7%	14.4%
65 – 74	9.6%	10.5%
75 – 84	4.7%	10.5%
85+	2.6%	1.4%
Median Age	40.6	39.6

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Online

Race and ethnicity are also factors to consider in parks planning. The expectations of different people will impact what types of facilities and programming are desired. It will be important to work with the minority community to ensure its needs are heard and met in the development of park facilities and programming. The Census defines Hispanic as an ethnicity

rather than a race. Therefore, the numbers below will not add up to 100%, as respondents can be multi-racial or multi-ethnic.

Table 4: 2014 Race and Ethnicity (Estimate)

	City of Bastrop	Bastrop County
White Alone	76.3%	72.5%
Black Alone	11.1%	7.5%
American Indian	0.8%	1.1%
Asian	1.5%	0.9%
Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%
Other	7.2%	14.8%
Two or More	3.1%	3.1%
Hispanic	24.1%	35.2%

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Online

Income is another influence on park expectations and needs. Parks and recreation services are a fundamental service for government; so, programming and facilities should be available to residents of all income levels. That is not to say there cannot be a fee for services. It should be set at a level that is affordable for residents of all income levels. Some cities accomplish this through a sliding-scale fee based on income, while others just set a low fee and subsidize it through general funds. This is a policy decision that will have to be made by City leadership. With nearly 25% of the population making less than \$25,000 annually, it will be important to provide low-cost services to ensure these residents can participate.

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Table 5: 2014 Household Income (Estimate)

	City of Bastrop	Bastrop County
< \$15,000	14.6%	12.0%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	8.8%	9.4%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	9.4%	9.3%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	11.8%	14.3%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	19.0%	22.3%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	12.6%	13.5%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	17.3%	14.6%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	3.2%	2.7%
\$200,000 +	3.3%	1.9%
Median Income	\$55,212	\$53,810

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Online

There are other factors influencing parks usage that need to be addressed but are less easily captured in demographic data. One important element is the rise of single-parent households. These families are significantly time-constrained and are looking for opportunities that are affordable, flexible, and in close proximity to their homes. Another challenge is the competition from private providers, such as select team sports programs and private club sports. These organizations are often cost-prohibitive for lower-income residents and may also compete with public programs for facility usage. Finally, programming must adapt to changing tastes. Team sports, while still very popular, are being challenged by individual sports, such as swimming and skateboarding. There is also the challenge of getting younger generations away from indoor technology and engaging them in outdoor activities. These factors present a challenge and show a need to be creative in developing facilities and programming to meet changing expectations of what recreation is.

Plan Update Process

This Master Plan Update is intended to provide the City with a plan that reflects the growth seen in Bastrop, as well as an opportunity to identify new goals and objectives for the parks system. The goals from this project will likely be rolled into the upcoming Comprehensive Plan for the City of Bastrop, and identified projects will be incorporated into that planning effort. By having a separate process, this Master Plan Update allows for a more focused approach to the attention on parks and recreation, rather than being lost in the complexity of the comprehensive planning process.

This update began with a Parks Board meeting to discuss the Board's issues and concerns and to allow them an opportunity to review the responses found in the community survey. Based on the Board's feedback, the survey was revised and opened to responses from the public for a period of approximately 4 weeks. The survey was available on-line via the City website and via announcements through social media. Also, the survey was published in the local newspaper and distributed through City utility bills. Hard copies were also available. The survey resulted in 534 responses, showing a diversity in ages and neighborhoods. A full discussion of the survey is exhibited below.

Following the survey, a Town Hall meeting was held prior to the Parks Board meeting. Approximately 80 people were in attendance, representing a diversity in neighborhoods and interest groups. The participants were engaged and passionate about parks in Bastrop, offering excellent ideas and recommendations to improve the existing system. Further discussion of these findings is provided below.

Based on the public engagement and a review of the projects from the 2008 Plan, a list of goals and objectives was created. This list was prioritized to reflect the community's desires and presented to the Parks Board for review. Once reviewed, final changes were made to reflect their concerns, and the final update was developed. This update was presented to the Parks Board for a recommendation to City Council for final adoption. Once adopted, it will be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan currently being developed and will provide direction for future park investments.

Public Engagement Summary

As mentioned, the survey received 534 responses, and the full report from the survey can be found in Appendix A. In Question 1, participants were asked where they lived, using the map in Figure 1. There was good representation from all areas of town, with no single neighborhood over-influencing the results. Of the total respondents, 54% were City residents, while 46% lived outside the City of Bastrop. This indicates the importance of City parks and facilities to County residents, as well.

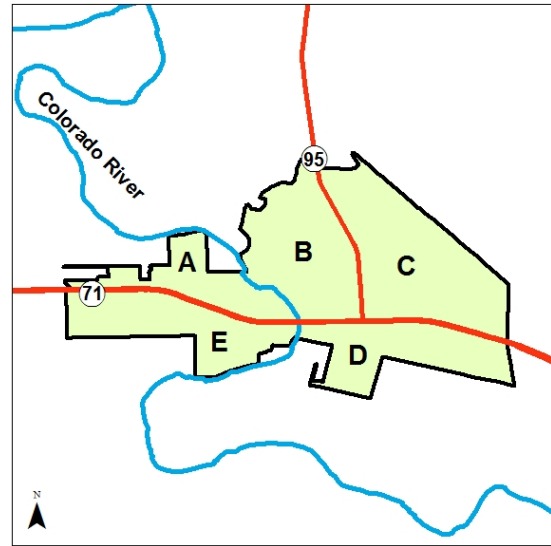


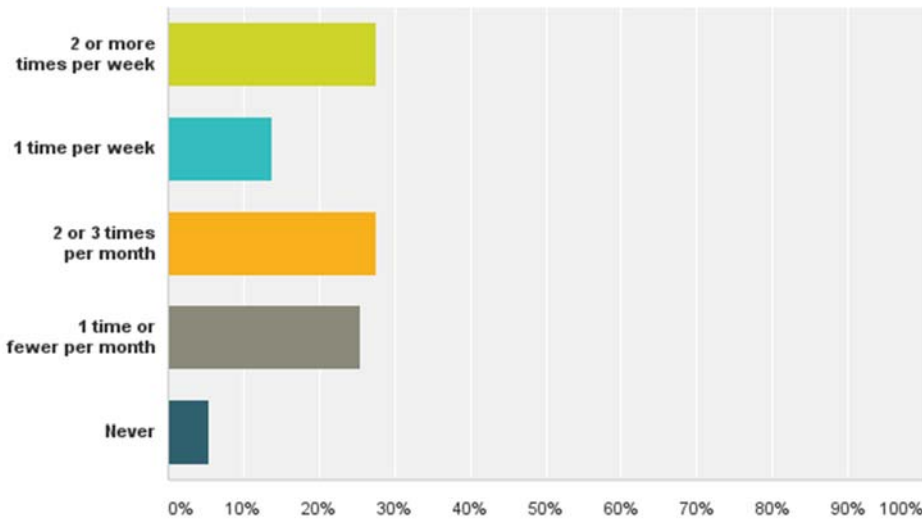
Figure 1 Survey Map

In Question 2, respondents were asked their ages. The majority of respondents was between 25 and 44, an age that is typically less responsive to surveys. The least responsive age group is under 18. While this is typical, understanding what activities and facilities young people want is important when developing a parks plan. The Youth Advisory Committee is a component of the Bastrop Parks Board and provides input on the Plan from the youth perspective.

Just over 50% of respondents had children at home (Question 3), and all ages were represented. Nearly half the respondents had no children at home but are still engaged enough in the parks system to spend time filling out a survey. The survey results showed the importance of a balance between the needs for youth and adult activities.

Approximately 70% of respondents are regular park visitors (Question 4), going at least 2 or 3 times per month, with over 40% going to City parks at least once a week or more. This means that the parks are getting frequent and heavy use, which is the reason why maintenance and safety were primary discussion points during the Town Hall meeting. It will be vitally important to adequately fund the parks for management of such heavy usage, especially in the most popular parks.

Figure 2: Frequency of Park Visitation



Fisherman’s Park is the primary destination for park visitors (Question 5). This puts enormous strain on maintenance and safety issues in this park. The opening of Bob Bryant Park has relieved some of the stress on Fisherman’s, but not entirely, as Fisherman’s downtown location and proximity to the river make it an attractive destination. Plans to add amenities in Fisherman’s Park should be balanced with the increased usage these new amenities will bring.

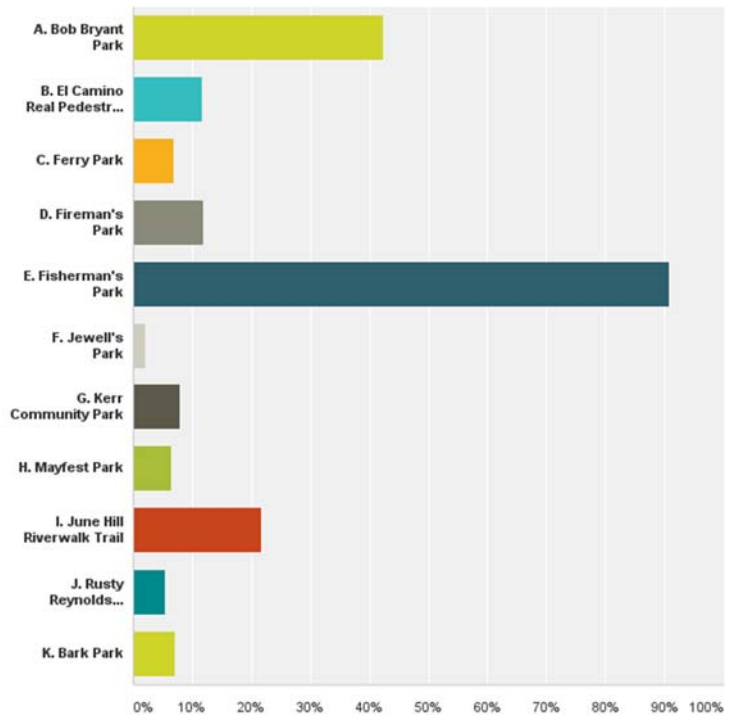


Figure 3: Park Visitation

Over half the respondents participate in recreational activities (Question 6). The survey did not specify what activities those were; but it is likely that youth sports, festivals, and other events were the primary activities. Question 7 asked what activities residents would like to see provided. Outdoor Programming received nearly 90% Agree or Agree Strongly, while Outdoor Education was over 80%. This was supported by comments in the survey requesting hiking,

mountain biking, equestrian, and related activities. Youth and adult baseball and softball received over 70% support, as well. In the “Other” category, common requests included: YMCA, indoor and outdoor swimming, disc golf, and gymnastics.

Table 6: What Programming

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	Total	Weighted Average
A. Senior Activities	28.79% 129	36.83% 165	33.48% 150	0.67% 3	0.22% 1	448	3.93
B. Youth and Adult Baseball and Softball	38.67% 174	35.33% 159	23.78% 107	1.56% 7	0.67% 3	450	4.10
C. Youth and Adult Soccer	32.56% 141	33.49% 145	30.02% 130	2.77% 12	1.15% 5	433	3.94
D. Youth and Adult Basketball	28.78% 120	32.37% 135	35.25% 147	2.88% 12	0.72% 3	417	3.86
E. Outdoor Programming	54.97% 260	34.04% 161	10.57% 50	0.42% 2	0.00% 0	473	4.44
F. Outdoor Education Programming	50.54% 232	32.68% 150	15.25% 70	1.31% 6	0.22% 1	459	4.32
G. Other	62.84% 137	10.09% 22	24.31% 53	1.83% 4	0.92% 2	218	4.32

Question 9 focused on what amenities would most benefit the parks. Covered pavilions and lighting had the most support in this section. This indicates concerns about safety and access, which were also voiced in comments during the Town Hall meeting. Covered pavilions are a popular amenity in many communities, offering a shaded place for family and group gatherings. They can also be a relatively low-cost improvement to neighborhood parks. As most City parks have covered pavilions, the survey results indicate that residents would like to see more covered pavilions inside those parks, as well as covered pavilions inside the smaller neighborhood “pocket” parks. Lighting and safety were another area of concern. Providing adequate lighting, police patrols, and fencing in parks can increase the perception of safety and make park users feel more comfortable and secure using the parks. Common concerns from the “Other” category included: Repairs and maintenance, especially in Fisherman’s Park, improved fencing around playscapes, installing dog waste bag dispenser stations in all city parks, and improvements in the overall cleanliness and appearances of parks.

Table 7: What Amenities

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	Total	Weighted Average
A. Lighting	49.57% 229	32.03% 148	16.67% 77	1.52% 7	0.22% 1	462	4.29
B. Picnic Tables	34.93% 153	40.64% 178	23.06% 101	1.37% 6	0.00% 0	438	4.09
C. covered Pavilions	45.65% 210	35.22% 162	17.39% 80	1.74% 8	0.00% 0	460	4.25
D. Pedestrian Access	37.23% 156	34.13% 143	27.21% 114	1.43% 6	0.00% 0	419	4.07
E. Handicapped Access	31.08% 124	28.82% 115	38.10% 152	2.01% 8	0.00% 0	399	3.89
F. Other	64.14% 127	8.08% 16	25.76% 51	1.52% 3	0.51% 1	198	4.34

Hiking and biking trails, new restrooms, indoor and outdoor swimming, and improved play equipment were among the priorities identified in Question 10. This also reflects comments heard in the Town Hall meeting. River access, fishing, and community gardens also received strong support. These are yet another reflection of changing expectations for the parks system, wherein residents want more passive activities like gardening and fishing as options for their leisure time.

The Town Hall meeting was an opportunity to dive deeper into the survey results. The meeting had a good turnout of residents with diverse interests and priorities that resulted in a list of ideas included in Appendix A. Much of the conversation focused on maintenance issues in various parks, primarily: Leaking water faucets and drainage issues in the Bark Park and proper lighting and tree trimming along the Riverwalk. Maintenance and upkeep create a self-reinforcing cycle, as facilities that are of a higher quality and are better maintained, are incentives for users to take better care of them. This is known as crime prevention by environmental design. Investing in maintenance and quality facilities can help reduce vandalism and misuse. Another opportunity to consider is looping the El Camino Real trail to cross the river upstream from the Old Iron Bridge. This would allow walkers, joggers, and cyclists to make a circuit. Another suggestion was improving access to the Colorado River. Comments from the Town Hall attendees mentioned improvements underway at the Colorado River Refuge. Although this park is outside the city limits, perhaps a county-wide partnership should be

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Table 8: What Facilities

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	Total	Weighted Average
A. Hiking / Biking Trails	65.37% 302	26.41% 122	7.14% 33	1.08% 5	0.00% 0	462	4.56
B. Updated / New Restrooms	59.58% 283	29.47% 140	9.89% 47	1.05% 5	0.00% 0	475	4.48
C. Updated / New Playground Equipment	51.63% 222	23.49% 101	21.86% 94	2.79% 12	0.23% 1	430	4.23
D. Outdoor Swimming	57.33% 262	24.07% 110	15.32% 70	1.75% 8	1.53% 7	457	4.34
E. Indoor Swimming	56.51% 256	18.98% 86	18.32% 83	4.19% 19	1.99% 9	453	4.24
F. Softball Fields	23.72% 93	30.87% 121	34.69% 136	6.89% 27	3.83% 15	392	3.64
G. Baseball Fields	21.56% 83	29.87% 115	37.92% 146	7.01% 27	3.64% 14	385	3.59
H. Soccer Fields	22.48% 87	28.42% 110	37.98% 147	8.27% 32	2.84% 11	387	3.59
I. Outdoor Basketball	18.55% 69	30.65% 114	40.32% 150	7.26% 27	3.23% 12	372	3.54
J. Indoor Basketball	25.94% 97	22.99% 86	41.18% 154	6.42% 24	3.48% 13	374	3.61
K. community Gardens	42.17% 183	34.33% 149	20.51% 89	1.84% 8	1.15% 5	434	4.15
L. Sports Complex	44.50% 178	24.25% 97	23.00% 92	5.00% 20	3.25% 13	400	4.02
M. Skate Park	27.75% 111	25.25% 101	34.75% 139	7.25% 29	5.00% 20	400	3.63
N. River Access / Fishing	50.00% 215	31.63% 136	16.05% 69	1.63% 7	0.70% 3	430	4.29
O. Indoor Exercise Room	49.88% 212	20.00% 85	23.53% 100	3.53% 15	3.06% 13	425	4.10
P. Weight Room	43.33% 182	20.24% 85	28.33% 119	4.76% 20	3.33% 14	420	3.95
Q. Arts and Craft Room	31.22% 128	27.80% 114	32.93% 135	5.61% 23	2.44% 10	410	3.80
R. Meeting Space	27.74% 109	29.52% 116	34.35% 135	5.34% 21	3.05% 12	393	3.74
S. Computer / Media Room	20.26% 78	24.68% 95	39.22% 151	10.39% 40	5.45% 21	385	3.44
T. Disc Golf	34.16% 137	28.43% 114	30.17% 121	4.49% 18	2.74% 11	401	3.87
U. Football Fields	17.38% 65	19.52% 73	45.99% 172	10.96% 41	6.15% 23	374	3.31
V. Other	43.42% 66	4.61% 7	45.39% 69	3.29% 5	3.29% 5	152	3.82

explored. The Colorado River is a nature resource that is a tremendous benefit to the City; and it should be the City's priority to engage citizens to utilize the river.

The conversation also focused on the needs for indoor recreation, such as swimming, exercise facility, and senior activities. These items scored highly among the survey respondents. Indoor recreation should be a consideration for the City to explore in the near future. An indoor recreation facility can be an important part of a well-rounded recreation program.

Accomplishments from the 2008 Plan

- Dog Park: The Bark Park has been built and is a popular destination for residents and visitors
- Skate Park: The site has been established and funding to build is being secured
- Splash Pad: Built in Fisherman's Park
- Playscapes in Fisherman's Park: Scheduled for replacement this year – 2015

Based on feedback from the Parks Board, the goals and objectives identified here represent key opportunities and challenges facing the Bastrop park system. It is intended to provide a framework for decision making for the Parks Board and City Council over time. Specific actions and projects are included in Appendix A.

Goals and Objectives

Based on the public input and a review of the 2008 Plan, the following goals and recommendations have been identified and ranked in priority based on the level of feedback generated by the survey and Town Hall meeting.

Address Existing Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Safety Needs

As discussed, the high use of Bastrop parks have led to issues of maintenance and upkeep at existing park facilities. It is vital for City leadership to provide adequate staff and financing to maintain existing properties and ensure adequate upkeep and maintenance. The objectives below provide additional direction.

- Develop a Prioritized List of Maintenance Needs and Ensure Adequate Funding to Address Them
- Increase Advocacy and Outreach to Public Regarding Maintenance and Upkeep Issues
- Develop a Prioritized List of Maintenance Needs and Ensure Adequate Funding to Address Them

Increase Advocacy / Partnership for long term sustainable parks and rec department

Bastrop parks serve a much larger population than just the City of Bastrop, which is leading to pressure in maintenance and in providing adequate facilities. The City should explore opportunities to find alternative funding sources for maintenance and upkeep as well as to help fund new facilities and land acquisition (discussed below).

- Explore New Funding Opportunities
- Ensure Adequate Funding for park maintenance and facility additions

Provide additional amenities to increase / improve parks facilities and programming

The 2008 Plan and public engagement identified a number of new facilities that should be considered for development over the next several years. Notably, a recreation center that provides swimming, recreational sports, meeting space, and other needs was identified as a priority, but would involve significant investment. Other projects, such as community gardens, can be developed at a fairly low cost and involve other community groups and volunteers to operate.

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- Develop City Recreation Programming
- Develop Indoor Recreation Center with Swimming, Exercise Room, Activity and Meeting Rooms
- Develop Additional Community Gardens

Provide and Improve Connectivity for Bikes and Pedestrians Throughout the City

Bicycle and pedestrian access was identified as a priority in the existing plan and during the public engagement during the update process. This will not only provide recreation benefits, it will also benefit all residents through safe access to community destinations without having to drive.

- Include bike and pedestrian facilities in road improvements and upgrades through the Transportation Master Plan
- Identify alternative funding options (like TxDOT Transportation Enhancement grants) for improvements

Identify Land for Future Park Development and Acquire as Funding is Available

With the rapid growth in and around Bastrop, the cost of land will only rise. The City should be proactive in identifying appropriate areas for new parks and acquire land when funding is available. Opportunities to partner with developers, the County, and other entities to acquire land should also be explored to ensure adequate land is secured to support growing needs for parks and open space.

- Utilize the Comprehensive Plan process to identify future areas where parkland acquisition maybe needed
- Identify partners for parkland acquisition

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Suggested Outdoor Facility Standards have been developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association that can be used to establish expected levels of service for park facilities. The following tables provide information on how Bastrop compares to these standards, with the facilities provided by the City’s parks system. While the numbers below are based on the City’s population, it is important to recognize that Bastrop parks serve a much larger population due to the lack of facilities in the County. This adds additional stress to the already over-utilized City parks than would be expected based solely on the City’s population. A second table shows the NRPA standards using Bastrop’s estimated daytime population of 20,000.

Table 9: Estimate of Park Land per 1,000 and Projected Needs per NRPA Standards

Park Land per 1,000 Residents of Bastrop (Goal of 10 Acres / 1,000)		
Existing Acreage	Existing for 2014 est. of 7,785	Estimated for 2030 est. of 13,088
All Parks 102.86 Acres	13.2 Acres / 1,000	27.14 Acres to be Added to Achieve 10 Acres / 1,000
Neighborhood and Community Parks 55.35 Acres	7.1 Acres / 1,000 Deficit of ~ 23 Acres	75.65 Acres to be Added to Achieve 10 Acres / 1,000

* Acreage for All Parks includes Bob Bryant, Ferry Park, Fireman's, Fisherman's, Hill Street, Hunter’s Crossing, Kerr Community, Mayfest and Rusty Reynolds
Acreage for Community and Neighborhood Parks excludes Fisherman’s, Mayfest, and Rusty Reynolds

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Table 10: Facility Standards per NRPA using city of Bastrop Population

Units	Standard	Existing	Required for 7,785	By Location	Units Needed
Fields					
Baseball	1 per 7,000	6 (2 sites)	2	< ½ Mile	0
Softball	1 per 5,000	2 (2 sites)	2	< ½ Miles	0
Football	1 per 20,000	1	1	15 -30 Minute Drive	0
Soccer / Multi Use	1 per 5,000	7 (4 sites)	2	1 – 2 Miles	0
Courts					
Basketball	1 per 5,000	6.5 (5 sites)	2	< ½ Mile	0
Tennis	1 per 4,000	2 (2 sites)	2	< ½ Mile	0
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	2 (2 sites)	2		
Outdoor Areas					
¼ Mile Track	N/A	0	1	15 – 30 Minute Drive	1
Dog Park	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	0
Trails					
Walking / Biking	N/A	22,265 feet			
Specialized					
Aquatic Center	1 per 20,000	0	0		1 by Demand
Meeting Center	1 per 20,000	0	0		
Skate Park	N/A	1 to be built	N/A		1 by demand
Golf	1 per 25,000	1 (private)	0		0
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	1 (private)		15 – 30 Minute Drive	1 by demand
Rodeo Arena	N/A	1		15 – 30 Minute Drive	0

Does Not Include School Facilities

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Table 11: Facility Standards per NRPA using estimated daytime population of 20,000

Units	Standard	Existing	Required for 20,000	By Location	Units Needed
Fields					
Baseball	1 per 7,000	6 (2 sites)	3	< ½ Mile	0
Softball	1 per 5,000	2 (2 sites)	4	< ½ Miles	2
Football	1 per 20,000	1	1	15 -30 Minute Drive	0
Soccer / Multi Use	1 per 5,000	7 (4 sites)	4	1 – 2 Miles	0
Courts					
Basketball	1 per 5,000	6.5 (5 sites)	4	< ½ Mile	0
Tennis	1 per 4,000	2 (2 sites)	5	< ½ Mile	3
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	2 (2 sites)	4		2
Outdoor Areas					
¼ Mile Track	N/A	0	1	15 – 30 Minute Drive	1
Dog Park	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	0
Trails					
Walking / Biking	N/A	22,265 feet			
Specialized					
Aquatic Center	1 per 20,000	0	1		1 by Demand
Meeting Center	1 per 20,000	0	1		1
Skate Park	N/A	1 to be built	N/A		1 by demand
Golf	1 per 25,000	1 (private)	0		0
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	1 (private)		15 – 30 Minute Drive	1 by demand
Rodeo Arena	N/A	1		15 – 30 Minute Drive	0

Does Not Include School Facilities

Conclusion

The biggest challenge facing Bastrop City parks is heavy usage and insufficient staff. This heavy usage has created many more maintenance issues and a much sooner need for upgrades in the parks. The list of goals build on the past success Bastrop has had in developing a vibrant and diverse parks system. It identifies priorities of Bastrop residents and provides a framework for the decision-making process. This will allow City leaders to ensure the parks system provides for current and future patrons. This Parks Master Plan Update can provide an up-close viewpoint from the survey respondents to ensure the City's parks system goals are incorporated into the City's comprehensive planning process.

Appendix A: Specific Actions and Recommendations

Develop a Prioritized List of Maintenance Needs and Ensure Adequate Funding to Address Them

- Identify health and safety issues at all parks - highest priority
- Repair water fixtures and drainage in the Bark Park
- Increase frequency of maintenance and cleaning of restrooms
- Increase frequency of landscaping and mowing
- Work with park users to identify other areas in need of frequent maintenance
- Review current park maintenance budget and staffing
- Request increased budget for FY2016 for staff, equipment, and resources to improve maintenance

Increase Advocacy and Outreach to Public Regarding Maintenance and Upkeep Issues

- Instruct team coaches, program leaders, and others on how to become advocates for the parks
- Provide informative signage and literature to educate the public

Improve Lighting, Fencing, and Other Safety Measures in City parks

- Work with Police Department to increase visibility in City parks, especially during evening and early morning hours
- Compile an inventory of light fixtures and add lighting where needed to improve visibility and safety
- Repair, maintain, install, and upgrade fences around playscapes, Bark Park, Splash Pad, and any other appropriate areas
- Maintain visibility along El Camino Real trail through regular landscape maintenance
- Consider installing more cameras in the parks where appropriate, especially in secluded areas
- Install signage with safety messages

Make Needed Upgrades in Existing Parks before Adding New Facilities

- Consider bathroom upgrades
- Add additional dog waste-bag dispenser stations in every park
- Additional pavilions, picnic tables, grills
- Mayfest Park Improvements
 - Bathroom upgrades
 - Improved parking
 - Picnic tables, covered pavilions, grills, playscape
- Complete Skate Park design and installation

Explore New Funding Opportunities

- Consider reviving “Friends of the Park” organization as 501(c3) to promote the parks and raise money independent of the City
- Consider creating Task Force groups to fundraise for specific needs, i.e., exercise workout stations for people and for dogs, disc golf courses
- Review existing funding partnerships with Little League and other athletic organizations to determine if they are reasonable to support needed maintenance and upgrades to existing and future facilities
- Consider a sponsorship policy to allow individuals, businesses, and other organizations to fund facilities and amenities in City parks
- Consider hiring a grant writer to pursue grants for improvements and maintenance for existing and future City parks facilities
- Include high-priority City parks improvements in a bond package

Improve Pedestrian and Bicycling Facilities throughout Town

- Create loop trails where feasible
- Consider options to loop El Camino Real Trail across the Colorado River
- Connect parks where feasible, particularly along the Colorado River
- Include bicycle and pedestrian facilities during road improvements and upgrades
- Install bike racks throughout town and in all City parks

Develop City Recreation Programming

- Research best practices from programs in similarly-sized communities
- Determine what programs are needed. Summer camps, outdoor educational programs and senior activities were high priorities mentioned in the survey and Town Hall meeting
- Determine staff, facility, and equipment requirements for selected programs
- Determine necessary funding
- Establish funding in FY 2016 budget for programming in Calendar Year 2016

Develop Indoor Recreation Center with Swimming, Exercise Room, Activity and Meeting Rooms

- Continue to explore private and public partnerships
- Consider funding sources (grants, bonds, local fundraisers, and sponsorships)
- Develop an on-going funding source, such as an indoor recreational facility with fee-based programs and membership fees, to subsidize expenses for staffing and maintenance
 - Consider higher membership fees for non-City residents
- Identify locations
 - Accessible to maximum number of residents, especially pedestrians
 - Ample acreage for building and future expansion of facilities
- Develop and build facility

Develop Additional Community Gardens

- Teach gardening at the community centers and parks
- Identify community groups that can take responsibility for gardens
- Contact other communities regarding how their programs work
 - City provides water
 - Community groups provide labor and supervision
- Identify potential locations
 - Excess ROW's
 - Vacant lots
 - Unused City lots