

City of Laredo  
Parks & Leisure Services



# Parks and Open Space Master Plan

May 2008



Pemberton Professional Services, LLC



*Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc.*  
Engineers ■ Architects ■ Planners



**The Earl Survey Research Laboratory**  
Department of Political Science  
Texas Tech University

**Acknowledgements**

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District II	Hector “Tito” Garcia
District III	Dr. Michael Landeck
District IV	Johnny Amaya
District V	Johnny Rendon
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Known today as the “Gateway City”, Laredo has emerged as the principal port of entry into Mexico. Laredo enjoys the fourth busiest port in the entire United States and has become the second fastest growing city in the country. The 2000 Census reflects that the City of Laredo has rapidly grown to a population of 176,576. Estimates by the Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer place the January 1, 2007 population of Laredo at 220,534, a 24.9 percent increase over the 2000 Census. The rapid growth of population and property development has placed extensive pressure on the City to provide a quality park and recreation infrastructure and services, especially in the newly developing parts of Laredo. Currently, the City of Laredo is responsible for 340.55 acres of developed parkland. Another 512.93 acres of parkland are owned but undeveloped. In addition, 181.17 acres of undeveloped River Vega parkland is available. Finally, 191.73 acres of land is currently in the acquisition phase, pending finalization. This brings the total acreage to **1,226.38**, a significant increase from the total of 553.89 acres in 2000.

To provide for an orderly and consistent response to this pressure now and over the next decade, the City selected the consultant team of Pemberton Professional Services, LLC and Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, Inc. to prepare the 2008 Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The consultant team also included the Earl Research Laboratory at Texas Tech University, which conducted a bi-lingual community needs assessment via telephone for each of the eight City Council Districts. The City of Laredo provided clear direction that the Parks and Open Space Master Plan needed to be more than a Needs Assessment for the park system. To adequately serve the City of Laredo and the development community, the Master Plan would be required to address present and **future growth** within the City limits as well as in the **Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ)**.

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan has several purposes:

1. Provide the structure for systematic and consistent planning and development for the next decade.
2. Provide detailed research regarding the community and the roles of the Laredo Parks and Recreation Department.
3. Provide direction in the area of acquisition and development of park land within the City limits as well as in the **Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ)** as growth continues.
4. Establish priorities and implementation time lines based on documented research and a community based needs analysis.
5. Conform to the Texas Parks and Wildlife guidelines for local Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plans.

**The Process & Rationale**

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan was prepared using a three phase process. Phase 1 involved the Needs Assessment which included interviews with key City of Laredo staff, organized recreation providers and user groups; the phone survey for each of the eight Council Districts; public meetings for the eight Council Districts; inventory/supply analysis; GIS analysis of land use, projected growth, the Thoroughfare Master Plan and natural land features such as slope and hydrography; and facility standards analysis, including park service areas. Furthermore, the Park Dedication





Ordinance, which was adopted in April 2008, provides definitions of park classifications.

Phase 2 involved the Goals and Objectives including Parks and Recreation Service Goals, recommendation for Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Priorities by District and a cursory review of operating policies. Phase 3 involves the Action Plan and Implementation Strategies including opinions of probable cost, implementation time line, funding source identification, as well as Operating and Maintenance Cost estimates. The Operating and Maintenance Cost estimates will be provided as a supplement to the Master Plan in June 2008 to assist the City with budget preparation.

This Master Plan includes the standards adopted by the Laredo Parks and Recreation Board, which are a modified version of the standards published by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). These modified standards create a locally created guideline to determine land and facility requirements for various kinds of park and recreation needs at the community level. Based upon the locally adopted standards for each of the park classifications, the NRPA recommended park acreage per 1,000 population is 6.0 acres (includes neighborhood and community park acreage). The City of Laredo includes a total of 1,226.38 acres of park land; of this 997.95 acres are Neighborhood and Community Parks for a ratio of 4.53 acres per 1,000 population at its current population estimate of 220,534 in January 2007. Laredo’s Metropolitan Park needs are met by Lake Casa Blanca International State Park, located in the western part of the city, which has 2,201 acres. The standard of 5 acres per 1,000 population for metropolitan parks is far exceeded by the ratio of 9.16 acres per 1,000 population. Table ES.1 shows a summary of Laredo’s population in the 2000 census with the current park acreage inventory (excluding Lake Casa Blanca International State Park).

<b>Table ES.1 City of Laredo Census Population and Park Acreage</b>		
<b>Council District</b>	<b>2007 Census Population**</b>	<b>Park Acreage***</b>
1	29,388	112.64
2	26,850	241.56
3	27,528	256.68
4	27,552	20.34
5	27,121	106.73
6	28,420	215.07
7	26,811	145.44
8	26864	127.93
<b>TOTAL **</b>	<b>220,534</b>	<b>1,226.38</b>
<b>2010 Pop Estimate**</b>	<b>263,286</b>	

Sources: \*\* Population Estimates from Texas State Data Center  
 \*\*\* City of Laredo Parks & Leisure Services (Developed, Undeveloped and Pending Acquisition)



Laredo has recognized and seized the opportunity to proactively develop a Parks and Open Space Master Plan to strategically guide future park development and renovations, protect natural assets, and increase accessibility to meet current and future needs of the community. Central to the Master Plan process was a fully integrated public input process that actively engaged the community voices in decision making and planning.

The Earl Research Laboratory at Texas Tech University conducted a Community Needs Assessment through a phone survey. The bi-lingual survey gathered citizen opinions and attitudes about the existing parks system as well as a list of their needs and wants. All were measured against the principles that would guide decision-making– accessibility, connectivity, diversity and adaptability, sustainability, and safety. Priorities were identified and measured against these. The results of the Community Needs Assessment and an analysis of recreation trends helped to define priorities and recommendations. From February 20th to March 17th, 2007, The Earl Survey Research Laboratory at Texas Tech University conducted a phone survey across eight Council districts.

- 535 phone surveys were completed (3,408 calls were made)
  - 60% English/40% Spanish
  - The overall response rate was 15.3% due to potential respondents being unavailable for contact.
  - The overall cooperation rate of 71.7% illustrates that when potential respondents were contacted the large majority were willing to participate in the survey.

Table ES.2 reflects the importance of new parkland and new open space as reported in the phone survey by each of the eight Council Districts. Respondents were asked to rate the importance of eighteen (18) amenities, including new park land. The rankings of 1 show the highest priority, with 2 representing the second highest priority, and so on. With the exception of District #4, new park land was the first or second priority cited by the respondents. New Open Space (green space) was rated no lower than the fifth priority.

<b>Table ES.2 Importance of New Parkland and Open Space</b>		
<b>Council District #</b>	<b>Rank of New Parkland</b>	<b>Rank of New Open Space</b>
1	2	1
2	1	4
3	1	2
4	4	3
5	1	4
6	2	1
7	1	5
8	2	3

Source: Earl Survey Research Laboratory



**The Priorities**

Priorities were established for twelve separate planning districts. Planning Districts 1-8 correspond to the respective eight City Council Districts. The remaining four Planning Districts represent moderate to high growth areas in the ETJ.

Within the planning districts common themes emerged that emphasized the need for more park land and open spaces in close proximity to neighborhoods, linkages that extend recreation and commuting opportunities to a larger system, the need for improved access and multi-use and special use facilities to accommodate growing recreation trends such as a water theme park, spray parks, skate park. There is a strong desire to protect natural spaces that provide habitats for wildlife species and native and rare plants. Areas were identified for future parkland acquisition to ensure that the city’s parks system continues to thrive and provide benefits for future generations.

The results of the priority ranking were categorized as:

<b>Priority Level</b>	<b>Timeframe in Years</b>
High	1-3
Medium	4-6
Low	7-10

**The Recommendations**

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan is a comprehensive document designed to assist the City in facilitating a strategic expansion and retooling of the parks system. The plan is innately flexible and can be easily adapted to changing trends, user expectations and funding opportunities. It has been developed as a **ten-year** strategic plan, incorporating both short and mid- term priorities for development. Specific recommendations will guide new key parkland acquisitions, renovations of existing parks, and preservation of natural areas.

Included for consideration is a discussion of funding programs and strategies. The City of Laredo must allocate funds to implement the plan, which can also be utilized to leverage a number of sources of public and non-government dollars.

Table ES.3 shows the number of proposed new neighborhood and community parks for each of the twelve planning districts.

- A total of 148 new parks are proposed.
- 37 new neighborhood parks are proposed within the existing 8 Council Districts
- 3 new community parks are proposed within the existing 8 Council Districts
- 101 new neighborhood parks are proposed in the ETJ
- 5 new community parks are proposed in the ETJ





<b>Table ES.3 Proposed Neighborhood &amp; Community Parks by Planning District</b>		
Planning District	New Neighborhood Parks	New Community Parks
1	6	1
2	10	0
3	1	0
4	1	0
5	11	1
6	3	0
7	7	1
8	0	0
9 (ETJ)	21	2
10 (ETJ)	16	1
11 (ETJ)	4	1
12 (ETJ)	60	1
TOTAL	140	8

The locations of the parks have been determined for residential development only. In the spirit of the Parkland Dedication Ordinance, the size of the parks will be determined by the proposed size and population of the neighborhood development.

**Conclusion**

The City of Laredo is defined by a comprehensive parks system including mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, sports complexes, linear parks and a State park. Quality of life is often measured by the amenities found in a city that make that location a desirable place to work, play and raise families. Proximity, connectivity, accessibility, variety and number and type of amenities all play a significant role in defining a sense of place in open spaces, and attracting local residents and visitors. Parks are often a city’s most flexible asset and can easily be adapted to meet immediate needs as well as changing trends in recreation. Citizen satisfaction surveys indicate a strong support for the city’s park system and public feedback confirmed the value of the system and the need for new park land and improvements to the undeveloped parkland inventory. The results show that residents appreciate what they have and are supportive of measures to reinforce and expand the Park system

This Master Plan should serve as the basis for the future development and fiscal planning for the Laredo park system for the next five to ten years. Annual reviews of the Master Plan should be performed by the City to ensure that the implementation is on course and addresses any specific changes in priorities and/or needs.



## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Known as the “Gateway City,” Laredo is located on the Rio Grande and serves as an important role in international trade between the United States and Mexico. Laredo has the fourth busiest port in the United States and its recent economic prosperity has led to higher expectations from the citizenry. As a growing list of growth-related infrastructure priorities competes for the same limited base of tax dollars, the City must examine alternative models to deliver those amenities that mean most to their residents in new ways. The City of Laredo however, has historically demonstrated foresight in planning for infrastructure and is well positioned to develop thoughtful and creative strategies that demonstrate the City’s visionary leadership and commitment to build a city of excellence.



### *Government Role in Providing Park and Recreation Opportunities*

The City of Laredo provides its residents with a high quality of life that is enjoyed through its parks and open space system. The city has a comprehensive park system that provides ample opportunity for active and passive recreation activities. Currently, the City of Laredo is responsible for 340.55 acres of developed parkland. Another 512.93 acres of parkland are owned but undeveloped. In addition, 181.17 acres of undeveloped River Vega parkland is available. Finally, 191.73 acres of land is currently in the acquisition phase, pending finalization. This brings the total acreage to **1,226.38**, a significant increase from the total of 553.89 acres in 2000.

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan will guide development phasing and future parkland development. The Parks and Open Space Master Plan embraces the City’s vision for parkland development and positions the City to readily respond to emerging trends and to meet the challenges associated with continued growth. Advanced planning for land acquisition will ensure a continued level of excellence in the provision of a comprehensive open space system that meets the needs of residents.

In order to optimize investment value, a public engagement process fully integrated in the Master Plan development assisted in identifying and responding to community issues and the requirements for phasing, safety, and environmental stewardship.

Laredo’s natural topography creates a variety of opportunities to provide an array of active and passive recreation activities including trail use, bird watching, playgrounds, competitive athletics, picnic areas, quiet enjoyment, natural enjoyment, interpretive centers, walking, cycling, – an endless list of possibilities that continues to expand as the public finds new ways to enjoy their leisure time.

### *SCOPE OF THE MASTER PLAN*

The Parks & Open Space Master Plan is wide-ranging in scope, integrating community input and feedback in the process in order to establish priorities and action plans that guide the City’s park development and management strategy. The Plan incorporates:

- Major park requirements and locations
- Neighborhood park standards that meet community needs and guide planning;
- Linear park systems;
- Special use areas including mountain bike areas and skate parks;
- Classification system with definitions;



- Opinions of Probable Costs and recommendations with funding alternatives that may be available to the municipality;
- Community needs assessment based on the recreational trends analysis and stakeholder engagement;
- Park development guidelines; and
- Implementation strategies.

*Socio-Economic Characteristics of Laredo*

Key characteristics include age, race and origin, income and educational attainment. Table 1.1, below, illustrates the age characteristics in Laredo as derived from the 2000 Census.

<b>Table 1.1 Population Age in Laredo 2000</b>						
<b>Age</b>	<b>Laredo</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Webb County</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>%</b>
Population < 18 years old	62,662	35.5%	69,862	36.2%	5,886,759	28.2%
Population 18-64	100,132	56.7%	108,599	56.2%	12,892,529	61.9%
Population 65 and older	13,782	7.8%	14,656	7.6%	2,072,532	9.9%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>176,576</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>193,117</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20,851,820</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, QT-P1. Age Groups and Sex: 2000**

Laredo’s population has a higher percentage of younger residents that the State of Texas as a whole. In 2000, 35.5% of the population was under 18 years of age, as compared to 28.2% for the State of Texas. Approximately 60% of the households in Laredo had individuals under the age of 18 in the 2000 Census.

Laredo has a lower percentage of seniors than the State average. In 2000, 7.8% of the population was age 65 or older, as compared to 7.6% for Webb County and 9.9% for the State.

**Racial Characteristics**—In 2000, approximately 94.1% of the population of Laredo was of Hispanic origin, and it is probable that the percentage of Hispanics in Laredo will be even higher in the 2010 Census. Laredo’s racial make-up is similar to that of Webb County, which has 94.3% of the population having Hispanic origins.

**Educational Attainment**—In 2000, only 54.8% of the population of Laredo age 25 years or older had received a high school education or equivalent compared to 53% in Webb County and 75.7% in the State of Texas.

**Income and Poverty Levels**—The annual per capita incomes for the Laredo, Webb County and the State of Texas were \$11,084, \$10,759, and \$19,697 respectively in 2000. In 1999, 25.2% of the families in Laredo were living in poverty. The numbers were slightly higher in Webb County, with 26.7% of the families there living in poverty.

**Family Size**—The average household size in Laredo is approximately 3.87 residents per owner-occupied household, compared to 3.91 residents per owner-occupied household in Webb County.



**Current and Projected Population**

As seen below in Table 1.2, Laredo is growing at a rapid pace, approaching an estimated population of almost 263,286 in 2010. By 2020, the population is projected to reach 342,789. The base data is derived from the 2000 Census. Population projections contained in this report were derived from information provided by the Texas State Data Center (TXSDC).

<b>Table 1.2 Population Projections 2005 to 2030*</b>							
<b>Year</b>	<b>Laredo</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>				<b>Texas</b>	<b>Percent. Change</b>
<b>2000</b>	176,576					20,851,820	
<b>2007*</b>	220,534	24.9%				22,556,054	8.2%
<b>2010</b>	263,286	19.4%				24,330,612	7.9%
<b>2015</b>	301,988	14.7%				24,330,612	7.5%
<b>2020</b>	342,789	13.5%				28,005,788	7.1%
<b>2025</b>	386,990	12.9%				29,897,443	6.8%
<b>2030</b>	435,776	12.6%				31,830,589	6.5%
2005-2030 population projections for the City of Laredo and the State of Texas derived from a base population made by the Texas State Data Center (TXSDC) dated October, 2006, using the .5 Race/Ethnicity and Migration Scenario.							
* 2007 estimate for Laredo is January 1, 2007 estimate provided by the TXSDC							

**Growth-Nongrowth Patterns**

Population growth, which is expected to occur at roughly double the State average through 2015, is estimated to add an additional 80,000 residents to Laredo during that time. Park facilities must be developed on a cycle that addresses this increased demand. Tables 6.1a through 6.5a (see pages 44-49) illustrate the need for Laredo’s Neighborhood and Community Park acreage, respectively, as the community grows over the next 25 years. The acreage needs by district are discussed in detail in the District summaries.

Growth within Laredo continues to be to the north, the west and the south. Refer to maps for further detail.



## II. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Laredo Parks & Open Space Master Plan recognizes the need for a comprehensive plan that continues to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors to Laredo. The redevelopment of existing parks and planning for future open space creates the need to develop a long-range strategic plan and implementation program that considers current needs, shifting demands and multiple uses. **The time period of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan is ten (10) years.**

Each park must be designed to have its own unique landscape character. Diversity in design should be encouraged by the planners and designers, to create a unique sense of place for the neighborhood and to continually expand diversity in the landscape. As the parks system landscape evolves and develops over time, the identity of Laredo will be further reinforced and increasingly appreciated by its citizens and visitors.

The following goals and objectives have been established for the Parks System and were developed from previous comprehensive park planning efforts and from meetings with the citizens of Laredo, the Parks and Recreation Board, Parks and Recreation staff and the Laredo City Council. These goals are reproduced from the City's 1999 and 2002 Parks and Open Space Master Plans.

- A. *To provide a variety of recreational experiences that appeal to all segments of the population of Laredo.*
- B. *To enhance the physical attractiveness of Laredo by developing parks and open space amenities.*
- C. *To protect the natural resources of Laredo and Webb County by preserving those resources.*
- D. *Improve the quality of the urban environment by providing adequate parks and open space within the City of Laredo.*
  - *Require the dedication of parks and open space in new residential subdivisions.*
  - *Provide adequate linkages between parks and design urban transportation corridors to optimize access to open space.*
  - *Develop neighborhood playgrounds in each neighborhood in conjunction with school districts.*
  - *Integrate arroyos and drainage basins into the park system to expand park resources.*
- E. *Provide parks and open spaces that are safe for use by persons of all ages and abilities.*
  - *Improve maintenance and enhance the appearance of city parks, arroyos, and drainage basins.*
  - *Access existing parks utilizing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design methods. Redesign and make improvements as required.*
  - *Limit obstacles to the disabled and the elderly.*
  - *Segregate age groups by facility design to enhance the sense of security in all parks and open spaces.*
- F. *Expand the range of recreational opportunities available to all age groups.*
  - *Coordinate recreational programs with school curricula.*
  - *Develop joint facilities and maintenance agreements in conjunction with schools and universities.*
  - *Coordinate cultural programs of interest to visitors and senior citizens.*





- G. Increase private sector involvement in developing and maintaining parks and open spaces.*
- *Expand private sector support of park development and clean-up activities.*
  - *Increase the use of native plant materials and xeriscape to reduce maintenance and irrigation costs.*
  - *Encourage the planting of trees in parks and along streets.*
  - *Encourage the joint development of open spaces by private interests and public agencies which provide additional recreational and open space opportunities.*
  - *Develop an Adopt-A-Park program to build neighborhood support for local parks.*



**III. PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

In January 2007, Pemberton Professional Services, LLC, with Parkhill Smith and Cooper, Inc. as sub-consultants, was hired to conduct and prepare the Parks and Open Space Master Plan for the City of Laredo. Master Plan development is a comprehensive process that identifies the problem, incorporates relevant finding from previous and current studies in its solutions, engages the community throughout the process to seek their input and feedback, and provides clear and measurable outcomes and recommendations.

Master plans by their nature, consider problems and opportunities from a range of perspectives and provide a focused action plan. They provide conceptual, high level planning ideas rather than detailed resolution, and incorporate flexibility to encourage innovation and creative solutions

The 2008 Parks & Open Space Master Plan follows the general guidelines for local park master plans established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The process in preparing the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan consisted of a three phase process.

*Phase 1 Needs Assessment*

1. Interviews with key City of Laredo staff, organized recreation providers and user groups
2. Phone survey for each of the eight Council Districts
3. Public input meetings for the eight Council Districts
4. Public input through Parks and Recreation Board Meetings
5. Public input through Planning and Zoning Commission Meetings
6. Inventory/supply analysis (includes developed and undeveloped park land)
7. GIS analysis of land use, projected growth, the Thoroughfare Master Plan and natural land features such as slope and hydrography
8. Facility standards analysis, including park service areas.
9. The newly adopted Park Dedication Ordinance provides definitions of park classifications.



Public Meeting for Districts 1 & 2



Public Meeting for Districts 5 & 6

*Phase 2 Goals and Objectives*

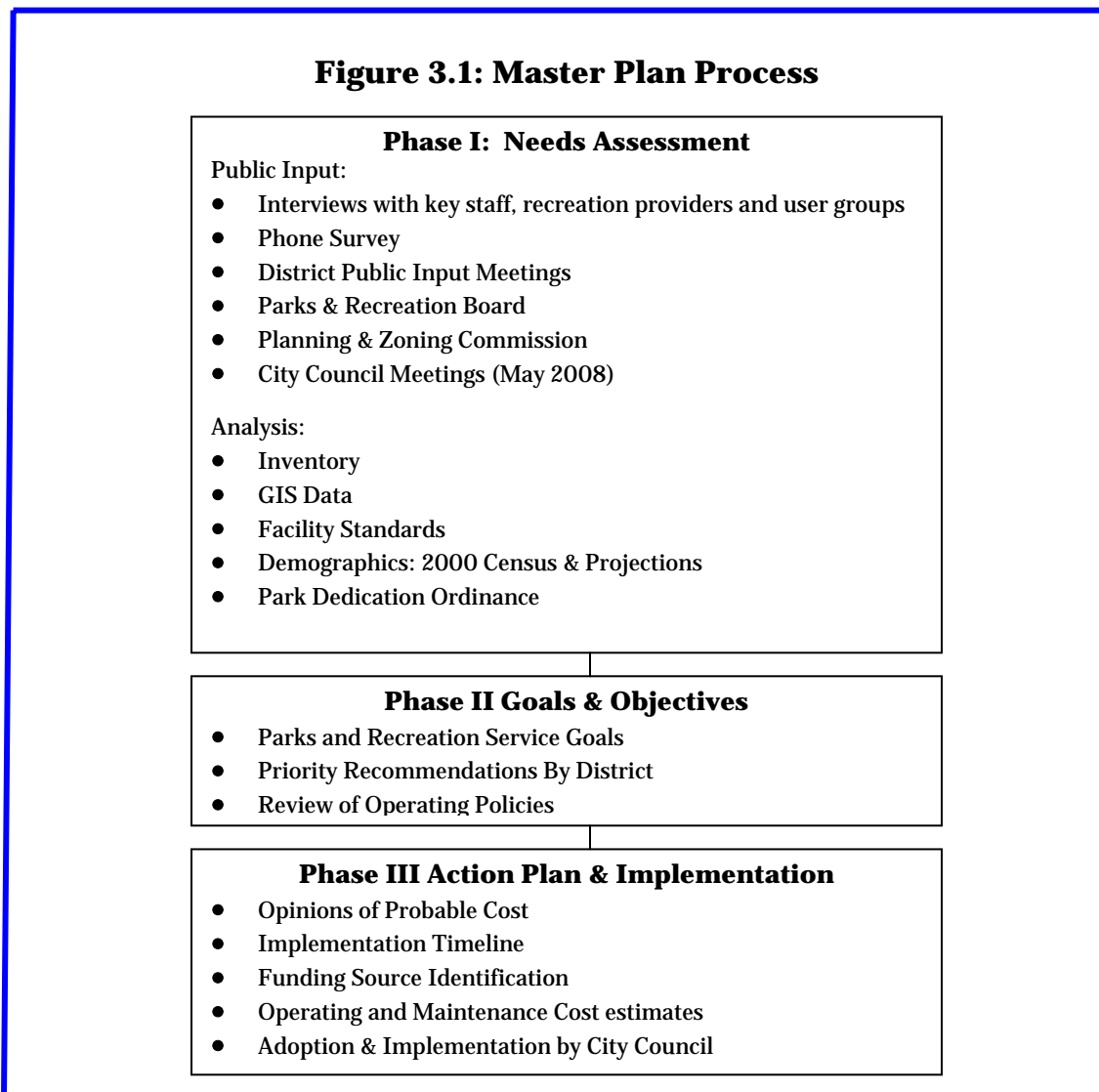
1. Parks and Recreation Service Goals
2. Recommendation for Indoor and Outdoor recreation priorities by District
3. Cursory review of operating policies

*Phase 3 Action Plan and Implementation Strategies*

1. Opinions of probable cost
2. Implementation time line
3. Funding source identification
4. Operating and Maintenance Cost estimates



The methodology includes seven major steps shown in the flowchart in Figure 3.1:



**STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

The primary source of research for this Parks & Open Space Master Plan was an extensive municipal public consultation process. This integral component of the planning process gives strong credibility to the Plan which incorporated comments and recommendations from residents.

Community Needs Assessment Phone Survey

From February 20th to March 17th, 2007, The Earl Survey Research Laboratory at Texas Tech University conducted a phone survey across eight Council districts.

- 535 phone surveys were completed (3,408 calls were made)
  - 60% English/40% Spanish
  - The overall response rate was 15.3% due to potential respondents being unavailable for contact.



- The overall cooperation rate of 71.7% illustrates that when potential respondents were contacted the large majority were willing to participate in the survey.
- The response was generally positive, with a great amount of support for acquisition of new park land as well as development of new passive and active recreational amenities.
- These responses provide the framework for the recommended priorities for the twelve planning districts.

For additional information regarding the phone survey, refer to pages 34-43.

Public Input Meetings: April 23 - 26, 2007

The public input meetings were held in four locations, with each location hosting two Council Districts at a time. The meetings were held in east, central north, and west Laredo at the following sites:

Inner City Tech. Rec.	April 23, 2007 for Districts III & IV
UISD Student Activity Center	April 24, 2007 for Districts I & II
Hillside Rec. Center	April 25, 2007 for Districts V & VI
Farias Rec. Center	April 26, 2007 for Districts VII & VIII

The purpose of these meetings was to obtain feedback and comments from residents. Participants were asked to provide comments about their personal use of parks in the city. Generally, participants responded that:

1. More land was needed for parks and the amenities on them
2. More soccer fields were needed throughout the City

Parks and Recreation Board Meetings

The Parks and Recreation Board meets on the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Monday of each month, except on holidays. On June 25, 2007 the Parks and Recreation Board was presented with preliminary findings from the phone survey. On July 30, 2007, the Parks and Recreation Board began discussions of facility standards. On September 24, 2007 the Parks and Recreation Board adopted facility standards for indoor and outdoor recreational amenities. On May 7, 2008, the Parks & Recreation Board recommended approval of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

Planning and Zoning Commission Meetings

The Planning and Zoning Commission meets every other Thursday, except on holidays. This Commission was instrumental in helping the City of Laredo to adopt a Parkland Dedication Ordinance, which also provides guidelines for Parks Master Plans. On December 20, 2007 the Planning and Zoning Commission was presented with the methodology of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. On April 3, 2008 and April 17, 2008, the methodology was again presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission with a recommendation for approval.

City Council Meetings

The City Council was presented with a draft of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan on May 12, 2008. The City Council provided direction to include parkland currently in the acquisition phase in the inventory, to show the River Vega acreage separately and to show comparisons to the 2000 park acreage. The City Council adopted these changes, incorporated herein, on May 19, 2008.



**IV. AREA AND FACILITY CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS**

This step involved a comparison of Laredo's existing park facilities to standards adopted by the Laredo Parks and Recreation Department, which are a modified version of the standards published by the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA). Acreage standards and facility standards, based upon population numbers, were analyzed for an objective review of the Laredo park system.

The adequacy of existing parks, recreation facilities and open spaces can be evaluated by comparing the needs of the present and forecasted populations of Laredo to specific goals and standards. The most common standards for park planning guidelines are the published standards by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). As mentioned earlier, the NRPA recognizes the importance of establishing and using park and recreation standards as:

1. A national expression of minimum acceptable facilities for the citizens of urban and rural communities.
2. A guideline to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation areas and facilities.
3. A basis for relating recreation needs to spatial analysis within a community wide system of parks and open space areas.
4. One of the major structuring elements that can be used to guide and assist regional development.
5. A means to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land use pattern of a region or community.

The purpose of this document is to present park and recreation space standards that are applicable for planning, acquisition, and development of parks, recreation, and open space lands, at the community level. ***These standards should be viewed as a guide. They address minimum, not maximum, goals to be achieved. The standards are to be coupled with conventional wisdom and judgment relating to the particular situation to which they are applied and specific local needs. (Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, p. 11).***

The Laredo Parks and Recreation Department has adopted a modified version of the standards published by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) to create a local guideline to determine land and facility requirements for various kinds of park and recreation needs at the community level. This section includes a comparison of Laredo to locally established standards based upon park acreage per population and facilities per population.

**Park Classification System**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>NRPA Standard</b>
Mini Park	2 acres or less	¼ mile	N/A
Neighborhood	2-15 acres	½ to 1 ½ mile	1 acre/1,000 pop.
Community	16-99 acres	2-5 miles	5 acres/1,000 pop.
Metropolitan	100-499 acres	Entire City	5 acres/1,000 pop.
Regional	500+ acres	Regional	N/A





**Park Types**

**Mini Park**

1. **Definition Summary:** A play lot or playground provides space for parental supervised recreation of toddlers and young children within a neighborhood.
2. **Size Objectives:** ½ acre to 1½ acres.
3. **Service Area Objectives:** Generally within a neighborhood of a ½ mile radius or population of up to one thousand (1,000).
4. **Location Objectives:** Located in protected areas with separation (fencing or other buffer) from street traffic yet in areas with high visibility; serving local neighborhoods and may adjoin schools, libraries or police and fire facilities.

**Orientation:** Small geographic areas or neighborhoods. Serves youth in ages ranging from toddlers to 12 years, with adult supervision.

**Function:** Provides outdoor play experiences for the young under parental supervision. Generates neighborhood communication and provides physical and health opportunities, diversion from work and domestic chores. Promotes neighborhood solidarity.

**Space, Design & Service Area:** The size of a play lot or playground may range from as small as 2,500 sq. ft. to 1.5 acres.\*

The amenities generally include sand play areas, play apparatus, play equipment and other special child-oriented features. The service radius in terms of distance from population served is limited to a ¼ mile.

\* (NOTE: Stand-alone play lots require more land area than play lots incorporated into larger parks.)

Mini Parks are the smallest parks and are used to meet limited or isolated recreational needs. Examples include parks in isolated development areas, limited populations, unique recreational opportunities, urban plazas, scenic overlooks and public use areas.

<b>Typical Mini Park Elements</b>	
<b>Active Uses</b>	<b>Passive Uses</b>
Volleyball Courts	Picnic Areas
Playgrounds	Seating Areas/ Pavilions
Horseshoe Pits	Arbors
Splash Areas	Fountains
Skateboard Areas	Scenic Overlooks
Tot lots/Children’s Play Areas	Themed Gardens

**Neighborhood Park**

1. **Definition Summary:** A neighborhood park, by size, program and location, provides space and recreation activities for the immediate neighborhood in which it is located. It is considered an extension of neighborhood residents' "out-of-yard" and outdoor use area.



- 2. **Size Objectives:** Two (2) acres to fifteen (15) acres.
- 3. **Service Area Objectives:** Generally a one-half (1/2 ) mile to a one and one-half mile radius (1.5), but to be further defined by arterial street patterns which form the limits of neighborhood or recreation service area. Population served may range from 1,000 and up to 5,000. The service standard for this park is 1 acre per 1,000.
- 4. **Location Objectives:** Centrally located for equitable pedestrian access within a definable neighborhood service area. In instances where the park is from 2 to 5 acres it is recommended that it be next to or adjoining or adjacent to an elementary, middle school or high school, or fire station/library, if possible.
- 5. **Program Objectives:** Compatible with the neighborhood setting and park site constraints. May include the following, which are determined with public input as to use and activities:
  - a. Limited Parking if any.
  - b. Restrooms
  - c. Bike racks
  - d. Tot Lot/ Children's Play Area
  - e. Family Event/Group Picnic Facility
  - f. Informal Family Picnic Area with Benches & Tables
  - g. Unstructured Turf Grass Play Area/play or Practice Field for Children, Young Adults & Families.
  - h. Sport Facilities - Compatible with Neighborhood Setting & Park Site Constraints.
    - 1) Basketball: half court, full court or tri-court configuration
    - 2) Volleyball area
    - 3) Softball field/soccer practice or game overlay
    - 4) Other features as needs or site conditions allow
    - 5) Skateboard Areas

**Orientation:** Serves all age groups, with an emphasis on youth and families in neighborhood settings.

**Function:** To provide a combination of active recreation and passive activities, both outdoor and indoor facilities, and special features as required or needed.

Neighborhood Parks remain the fundamental element of the park system, serving as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Neighborhood Parks are developed for recreational activities for those living within the immediate area.



Typical Neighborhood Park Elements	
Active Uses	Passive Uses
Multipurpose Ball Fields	Nature Study Areas
Volleyball Courts	Seating Areas/ Pavilions
Basketball Courts	Cultural Activities Facilities
Tennis Courts	Gardens
Archery Ranges	Open Spaces/Fields
Playgrounds	Individual/Group Picnic Areas
Handball Courts	Trails
Open Spaces/Fields	
Horseshoe Pits	
Swimming Pools	
Skate park	

**Community Park**

1. **Definition Summary:** A Community Park, by size, program and location, provides space and recreation activities for a defined service area, the entire city or significant geographic segment of the city's population.
2. **Size Objectives:** Approximately 15 acres up to 99 acres.
3. **Service Area Objectives:** Generally a 2 to 5 mile radius. The service standard for this park is 5 acres per 1,000.
4. **Location Objectives:** Centrally located if planned to serve a particular geographic segment of the city. Located adjoining or immediately adjacent to a collector street providing community-wide vehicular access, reducing neighborhood traffic impacts. Connected with off-street community trail and bike lane system whenever possible. Adjoining or adjacent to an elementary, middle or high school, library, police and fire facilities if possible.
5. **Program Objectives:** Compatible with the community setting and park site constraints. May include the following facilities:
  - a. Off-street parking calculated to satisfy demand of park and recreation activities provided. Includes bike racks and public transit station at the site and both on-site and street parking.
  - b. Restrooms
    - 1) Should accommodate the level of park and recreation activities provided and number of people served and at a minimum include:
 

a. for male restrooms	2 water closets
	4 urinals
	4 lavatories
b. for female restrooms	6 water closets
	4 lavatories



Restrooms should be located within a reasonable walking distance from children's play equipment and other high-use areas at one or more sites.

- c. Community Recreation Center
- d. Park Maintenance & Equipment Storage Building
- e. Tot Lot/Children's Play Areas
- f. Picnic Shelters
- g. Picnic Facilities
- h. Sport/recreation facility fulfilling the overall city demand.

Appropriate program elements include:

1. Community Pool/Water Feature
2. Soccer Fields
3. Softball, Little League Baseball, Junior Pony League Baseball
4. Football
5. Roller Hockey/Skate Board Area
6. Tennis courts
7. Basketball courts
8. Amphitheater/Performing Arts and Pavilions
9. Volleyball (indoor and outdoor)
10. Jogging Trails/Tracks
11. Other facilities as desirable and park site plan permissible
12. Concessions (Food and Beverage)

**Orientation:** Multi-purpose service area or a community-wide recreation/ resource serving most or all of the population.

**Function:** Provides opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreation of a diverse mix of uses and experiences, including walking and bicycling, outdoor performances, various programmed and non-programmed field sports, swimming, and special events.



Typical Community Park Elements	
Active Uses	Passive Uses
Ball Fields	Nature Study Areas
Volleyball Courts	Seating Areas/ Pavilions
Basketball Courts	Cultural Activities Facilities
Tennis Courts	Gardens
Archery Ranges	Open Spaces/Fields
Playgrounds	Individual/Group Picnic Areas
Handball Courts	
Open Spaces/Fields	
Horseshoe Pits	
Swimming Pools	
Skate park	
Shuffleboard Courts	
Hike and Bike Trails	

**Metropolitan Park**

Metropolitan parks are large park facilities that serve several communities. They range in size from 100-499 acres and serve the entire city. The metropolitan park is a natural area or developed area for a variety of outdoor recreation such as ball fields, playgrounds, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, and trail systems. The service standard for this park is 5 acres per 1,000 population.

**Regional Park**

Regional parks are very large multi-use parks that serve several communities within a particular region. They range in size from 500 acres and above and serve those areas within a one hour driving distance. The regional park provides both active and passive recreation, with a wide selection of facilities for all age groups. They may also include areas of nature preservation for activities such as sight-seeing, nature study area, wildlife habitat, and conservation areas.

**Special Use Park**

- 1. Definition Summary:** A Special Use Park is often designed as a revenue-generating enterprise created to satisfy the demand for a particular sport, recreational activity or special event. A Special Use Park may also be a sports park combined with enterprise activities and administered as a community recreation resource.
- 2. Size Objective:** The actual size is determined by land availability and facility market demand for special uses or recreation programs.
- 3. Service Area Objectives:** Community or area-wide and determined by the type of recreation program, special events or use activities.
- 4. Location Objectives:** Determined by the property opportunity, size objectives and service area.





**5. Program Objectives:** Special Use Parks require facility programming that is user- or market-driven and based on community needs or economic and service principles for public and private partnerships. The magnitude and type of special use facilities may include but are not limited to:

- a. Water Play Park
- b. Amphitheater
- c. Festival Swap Meet Farmers Market
- d. League Individual Sports Complex
- e. Fitness Entertainment Center
- f. Skateboard In-line Hockey Park
- g. Recreation Programs & Classes

**Orientation:** Provides recreation programming, sports and special event attractions and activities for all age groups.

**Function:** Special events, fairs, festivals, expositions, symposiums, sports, community gatherings, ethnic/cultural celebrations, plays and numerous other recreational programs and activities.

**Space, Design & Service Area:** The minimum size for special parks varies depending on intended use and programming.

**The Special Use Parks classification covers a wide range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use. Special Use Parks generally fall into three categories: (1) special event facilities; (2) passive recreation facilities; (3) specialized sport facilities.**

Typical Special Use Park Elements		
Special Event Facilities	Passive Recreation Facilities	Specialized Sport Facilities
Performing Arts Parks	Community Centers	Tennis Centers
Theaters Community	Senior Centers	Skate park
Amphitheaters	Arboretums	Softball/Baseball Complexes
	Marinas	Sports Stadiums
	Gardens	Hockey Arenas
	Zoos	Golf Courses
	Nature Centers	Aquatic Parks
	Museums/Historical Areas	Football Stadium
		Soccer Stadium
		And other sport facilities

**School-Park**

**1. Definition Summary:** By combining the resources of two public agencies, the school park classification allows for expanding the recreation, social and educational opportunities available to the public in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Depending on the circumstances, school-park sites often complement other public recreation or open lands. As an example, an elementary/middle school site could also serve as a neighborhood park.



Likewise, middle or high school sports facilities could do double duty as a community park or as youth athletic fields. Depending on its size, one school-park site may serve in a number of capacities, such as a neighborhood park, youth athletic fields, and a location for recreation classes. Given the inherent variability of type, size and location, determining how a school-park site is integrated into the park system will depend on case-by-case circumstances. The important outcome in the joint-use relationship is that both the school district and the park system benefit from shared use of facilities and land area.

2. **Size Objective:** The optimum size of a school-park site depends on its intended use. The size criteria established for Neighborhood Park and Community Park classifications may apply.
3. **Service Area Objectives:** Neighborhood Park and Community Park classifications criteria should be used to determine school-park functions and area served. For planning purposes, the degree to which school lands, including buildings or facilities, meet community needs depends on the specific interlocal agreements formed.
4. **Location Objectives:** The location of a school-park site will be determined by the school district based on district policy. Coordinated city and school district planning allows for sit-ting, acquisition and facility development to be responsive to community needs. Service areas for school-park sites will depend on the type of use and facilities provided.
5. **Program Objectives:** The criteria established for neighborhood parks and community parks should be used to determine how a school-park site is developed and programmed. Where feasible, if athletic fields are developed at a school-park site, they should be oriented toward youth rather than adult programs.

Establishing a clearly defined joint-use agreement between involved agencies is critical to making school-park relationships workable. This is particularly important with respect to acquisition, development, maintenance, liability, use, and programming of facilities issues.

The orientation of school-park projects is typically for neighborhood and community recreation services. The functions may include sports, recreation classes, passive recreation activities and other recreation programs suitable to an elementary, middle or secondary education school. School-Parks serve the recreational needs of neighborhoods or large areas within the community. The school-park service area is generally consistent with the established population services design standard for the school.

School-parks accommodate recreation programs, sports activities and specialized recreation functions.



Typical School-Park Elements	
Active Uses	Passive Uses
Ball Fields	Nature Study Areas
Volleyball Courts	Seating Areas/ Pavilions
Basketball Courts	Cultural Activities Facilities
Tennis Courts	Gardens
Running & Jogging Tracks	Open Spaces/Fields
Playgrounds	Individual/Group Picnic Areas
Handball Courts	Dance Spaces
Soccer Fields	Performance Arts Facilities
Gym Facilities	Recreation Classrooms
Swimming Pools	Festival Spaces
Handball Courts	

The preceding park classification models are provided to assist the department with a graphic definition of the size and character of each park classification used in this document. Actual design and configuration of new facilities will be influenced by property size, topography, surrounding land uses and design criteria for the specific park to be developed. The park design criteria should consider specific needs of the population within a given service area. Standards for park design should be carefully followed to ensure quality of facilities and recreation program services for each park.

**Trail & Pathway Classifications**

Pedestrians, bicyclists and users of various other non-motorized transportation modes need safe, convenient and direct routes linking neighborhoods with schools, and, parks. The ultimate goal is for residents of all age groups and skill levels to have the opportunity to travel on a wide variety of trails to reach destinations within and outside of the city.

The Master Park System Plan provides the framework for the establishment, growth and maintenance of a citywide trail system that will include linkages to trail systems for access to neighborhoods, schools and parks. In conjunction with the city's Transportation Plan, and various other municipal policies, the trail designations and classifications shall be included in, and are an integral part of the Master Park System Plan.

Types of Trails Standards for various types of trail, bikeway and path facilities.

**Paved Class I Shared Use Paths:** are provided to accommodate non-motorized wheel and pedestrian use. These are often located within a designated greenbelt and/or utility corridor. The need to accommodate multiple users requires a width of 10 to 14 feet, with 2-foot shoulders and a minimum 10-foot height clearance.

**Class II Bike Lanes:** are associated with roadways. Class II bike lanes are defined by standards as having a minimum 5 foot width-one foot wider than AASHTO minimums.

**Class III Bike Routes (Shared Route):** usually involve a combination of a wide curb lane (13-14 feet in width) and designation as a bicycle route. Shared Use Soft Surface Trails are designed for a 6 to 10-foot trail width, and are intended for predominantly recreation use.



**Local Soft Surface Trails:** are intended for areas with a less intense use. Intended to preserve the natural setting in which it is located, local soft surface trails are narrower and have somewhat tighter design clearances, appropriate for pedestrian and limited mountain-bike use.

**Local Paved Path:** are often narrower (4 to 6 feet) than a typical Class I trail, these trail facilities are intended to have the same general design specifications for shoulders, grade and sight distance as other paved facilities.

**Hillside Connection Trails:** are trails intended to provide pedestrian access along steep terrain. These are narrower facilities (3 to 6 feet) with gravel or wood mulch surfaces. Due to steeper grades, these paths may not be suitable for persons with disabilities or for all types of bicycles.

**Neighborhood Paths:** are intended for locations alongside roadways. They may be either a paved or soft-surface facility. Generally not intended for bicycle use, these facilities should have at least a 5-foot lateral separation from the roadway, although more is much preferred.

### **Diversity and Adaptability**

Diversity is essential to quality of life and health. Parks can provide a dramatically diverse range of experiences; therefore a variety of landscapes should be encouraged. There is an expressed desire for additional special-use facilities within the open space system. Examples include:

- Mountain bike park
- Spray parks
- Motorized Trail

Additionally, a range of experiences could be included in parks within walking proximity to home including manicured turf and treed parks for passive and active recreation, constructed naturalized landscapes, forests with soft surfaced pathways and for observing wildlife, active tot lots with play equipment and seating for parents, secluded seating areas, water play, and spaces that encourage social interaction. Not all experiences are feasible and depending on park size and space available, one or two experiences together with related amenities could be incorporated. Bio-diversity is key to reducing long-term maintenance costs, increasing habitat area and quality while improving opportunities for direct contact with nature.

### **Sustainability**

The open space system including public parks, natural areas, river bottom lands and future developed parks are valuable natural assets that require innovative strategies, new design directions, and comprehensive management in order to be sustainable in the long term.

There are two guiding principles related to sustainability. The first principle relates to the role of parks in sustainable planning. Interconnected parks and pathways create healthy communities.

The second principle relates to long term parks sustainability. Ongoing maintenance of existing parks inventory with decreased municipal funding has become a significant challenge. Incorporating a variety of landscapes in the parks system by providing a balance of manicured and naturalized landscapes is a more sustainable approach to addressing long term maintenance issues. As an example, constructed natural landscapes require far less maintenance and irrigation after the initial establishment period.



Naturalized park landscapes can reduce dependency on pesticides through bio-diversity principles. Multi-use parks designed to include attractive wetlands or ponds have become highly sought-after community amenities and provide added value by contributing to surface and ground water quality. Natural areas prone to erosion and vegetation damage from over-use require protection from inappropriate activity in order to be sustainable for future generations. Lastly, special landscapes such as unique habitats, natural areas and heritage landscapes require on-going, proactive protection and management for future sustainability.

**Safety and Security**

Safety and security for all users of the open space system are important considerations in the design, implementation and management of the plan. Incorporating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies in parks planning aims to reduce fear and the incidence of crime. Research indicates that by changing or managing the physical environment to produce a behavioral effect that will reduce the incidence and fear of crime, inappropriate behavior is reduced. Incorporating design principles that make it more difficult to carry out inappropriate behavior can be achieved through a number of strategies that include fostering resident/user interaction, vigilance and control over their neighborhood; maximizing the ability to spot suspicious people and activities; encouraging the intended use of public space by residents; identifying ownership by delineating private space from public space, using physical barriers, etc to restrict entry; designing an environment that takes into account the surrounding environment and minimizes the use of space by conflicting groups; and ensuring that buildings and areas are clean, well-maintained, and graffiti-free. CPTED strategies can be applied to all park and amenity spaces including river valley parks.

**Identity and Character**

Parks play a vital role in contributing to visual aesthetics, a sense of place, and quality of life. A “Made-in-Laredo” open space development plan should build on these excellent local examples, and be guided by the principles of accessibility, connectivity, diversity, sustainability and safety and security



City of Laredo  
Outdoor Recreation Facility Standards & Comparison of Deficiencies

AMENITY	NRPA Minimum Standards <sup>A</sup>	Locally Adopted Standards <sup>B</sup>	2008 CITY INVENTORY	CITY WIDE					
				220,534	2007 Pop. Est.	263,286	2010 Pop. Est.	301,988	2015 Pop. Est.
				TARGET BASED ON 2007 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2010 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2015 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
Competitive Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000	5,000	12	44	(32)	53	(41)	60	(48)
Football Fields	1 per 20,000	20,000	0	11	(11)	13	(33)	15	(15)
Competitive Baseball Fields	1 per 5,000 1 Lighted Field per 30,000	5,000	22	44	(22)	53	(31)	60	(38)
Competitive Softball Fields	1 per 5,000	5,000	7	44	(37)	53	(46)	60	(53)
Basketball Courts	1 per 5,000	5,000	32.5	44	(12)	53	(20)	60	(28)
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000	4,000	17	55	(38)	66	(49)	75	(58)
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	20,000	3	11	(8)	13	(10)	15	(12)
Indoor Recreation Center		45,000	8	7	1	9	(1)	10	(2)
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	20,000	6	11	(5)	13	(7)	15	(9)
Golf Course -18 holes	1 course per 50,000	50,000	2	4	(2)	5	(3)	6	(4)
Playgrounds		1,000	46	221	(175)	263	(217)	302	(256)
Picnic Tables		600	211	368	(157)	439	(228)	503	(292)
Large Pavilions		5,000	11	44	(33)	53	(42)	60	(49)
Multi-purpose Court	1 per 10,000	25,000	0	9	(9)	11	(11)	12	(12)
Skating Facility (hockey rink)	1 per 100,000	100,000	2	2	(0)	3	(1)	3	(1)
Paved Trails (miles/system)	1 system per region	20,000	3.88	11.0	(7.1)	13.2	(9)	15.1	(11)
Skate Park		20,000	7	11	(4)	13	(6)	15	(8)
Multi-purpose Field		20,000	16	11	5	13	3	15	1
Splash Park		20,000	5	11	(6)	13	(8)	15	(10)
Water Park		250,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)

A: National Recreation and Park Association Standards, 1996

B: Locally Adopted Standards as of September 2007 as Recommended by the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation Board

NRPA does not have an established standard for this amenity

Note: t-ball fields are not included in the competition baseball category. There are four t-ball fields on City of Laredo parks.





**City of Laredo  
Indoor Recreation Facility Standards**

<b>2007 Population Estimate • 220,534</b>		<b>Pop. Indoor Rec. Ctr. Should Serve 45,000</b>		
<b>AMENITY</b>		<b>Recommended Sq. Ft. •</b>	<b>Recommended # Sq.Ft. per 1,000 Population</b>	<b>TARGET BASED ON 2007 POP</b>
Gymnasium w/ Equip. Storage		8,200	0.18	40,186
Auxillary Gym/Rental Hall		4,800	0.11	23,524
Small Meeting Room		900	0.02	4,411
Computer Lab		1,200	0.03	5,881
Arts & Crafts Room		800	0.02	3,921
Lg. Meeting Room/Multipurpose Room		2,000	0.04	9,802
Exercise Room		1,200	0.03	5,881
Game Room		800	0.02	3,921
Reading Lounge		400	0.01	1,960
Indoor Soccer (60 X 100 yds)		64,800	0.59	129,915
			Total With Soccer	229,400
			Total Without Soccer	99,485
<b>Sources:</b>				
A	Texas State Data Center, Population 2000 and Projected Population 2005-2040 by Race/E			
B	Recommendations from Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., June 2007.			

The deficiencies for Indoor Recreation will be discussed in the Needs Assessment and in the District Summaries.



**V. INVENTORY OF AREAS AND FACILITIES**

The City of Laredo provided the following inventory for the Parks and Recreation System. A photographic inventory is included in the Appendix. If the City of Laredo is able to enter into a joint use agreement with Laredo ISD and United ISD, additional recreational amenities could become available for use.

Table 5.1 below compares the park acreage by NRPA Park Classification between the City Council Districts. Included in the inventory is both developed and undeveloped park acreage. Districts 4 and 5 have the fewest park acres. All Districts have neighborhood park land, however, Districts 4 and 8 do not have any Community Parks.

Table 5.1: Laredo Park Classification Acreage by City Council District						
Acres by Park Classification						
District	Special Use	Neighborhood*	Community	Trail	River Vega	Total
1	0	35.28	77.36	0	0	112.64
2	0	94.93	121.74	1.13	23.77	241.56
3	4.29	31.40	136.46	1.47	83.06	256.68
4	3.4	16.94	0	0	0	20.34
5	3.5	11.71	91.52	0	0	106.73
6	6	47.76	161.31	0	0	215.07
7	2.59	16.03	116.23	0	10.59	145.44
8	22.51	39.29	0	2.38	63.75	127.93
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42.29</b>	<b>293.34</b>	<b>704.61</b>	<b>4.97</b>	<b>181.17</b>	<b>1,226.38</b>

\* Includes Mini Park acreage as these parks serve their neighborhood. Also there is not a National Standard for how many acres of Mini Park a community should have. In essence, the Mini Park classification was created to differentiate parkland that is not of “optimal size.”

Laredo’s Metropolitan Park needs are met by Lake Casa Blanca International State Park, located in the western part of the city, which has 2,201 acres.

The following pages provide a detailed inventory of:

- Undeveloped park acreage by Park Classification
  - Undeveloped Parkland
  - River Vega
  - Proposed Acquisition locations that are currently in the acquisition phase
- Developed park acreage by Park Classification
- Developed Park Amenities



**CITY OF LAREDO  
INVENTORY OF UNDEVELOPED PARK LAND  
As of May 31, 2008**

<b>UNDEVELOPED PARK LAND</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
CIELITO LINDO	I	3.35
CHACON PROPERTY (N OF 359) **	II	4.56
HERITAGE PARK / SAN JOSE	II	9.10
LAS MISSIONES	II	10.43
CRUZ PROPERTY **	II	14.85
COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES	V	1.00
ANDREWS CIRCLE PARK	VI	1.57
VILLAGE HEIGHTS	VI	5.50
DIVINE MERCY	VI	5.06
ZC ROSARIO AND CHIHUAHUA (MONTERREY PROPERTY)	VIII	2.00
<b>Total Undeveloped Neighborhood Parkland</b>		<b>57.42</b>
INDEPENDENCE HILLS (Vaquillas & Freedom park)	I	62.05
KILLAM PROPERTY (E SIDE REC CTR - OUTDOOR) **	II	18.00
CHEYENNE PARK ( drainage and trail )	II	18.17
HAYNES PROPERTY - (E SIDE REC.)**	II	21.65
Abel Vela tract	III	31.00
SLAUGHTER PARK	III	35.00
RASH TRACT/UPPER ZACATE ( detention pond)*	V	65.82
NORTH CENTRAL PARK	VI	31.18
SAN ISIDRO LINEAR PARK - 12.4 ac credit (S. of Loop 20)*	VI	49.50
MANADAS (West of McPherson)	VI	80.63
NW REC CTR PARK	VII	20.69
INDIAN SUNSET PARK	VII	21.83
<b>Total Undeveloped Community Parkland</b>		<b>455.51</b>
<b>TOTAL Undeveloped Parkland</b>		<b>512.93</b>

<b>RIVER VEGA</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
REYNA PROPERTY	II	23.77
LAFOUN	III	3.33
TEX-MEX RIVER PROPERTY	III	12.81
VELA TRACT	III	31.00
KVTV PROPERTY	III	17.05
GILBERT AND GUTIERREZ TRACT	III	14.87
GOODRICH PROPERTY	III	4.00
TREND PROPERTY (RV)	VII	10.59
LOPEZ PROPERTY	VIII	1.60
PEREZ GARCIA TRACT	VIII	3.00
R LOPEZ PROPERTY	VIII	1.88
RIVER BEND (DYE & SAN FRANCISCO JAVIER)	VIII	57.27
<b>TOTAL RIVER VEGA</b>		<b>181.17</b>

<b>TOTAL UNDEVELOPED PARKLAND &amp; RIVER VEGA</b>	<b>694.10</b>
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<b>PROPOSED ACQUISITION LOCATION</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
CUATRO VIENTOS SOUTH	I	5.00
CUATRO VIENTOS NORTH	I	6.55
RIVER VALLEY	I	48.32
VISTA NUEVA SUBD. (East of Loop 20, North of HWY 59)	II	6.79
CAMPO REAL (6.94 PARK CREDIT)	II	10.40
C. SUMMERS (next to Freedom Park)	II	14.90
LAGO DEL VALLE	II	16.39
PAUL YOUNG (East Side Rec. Center) **	II	21.42
MORENO TRACT (East Side Rec. Center)**	II	26.11
SHILOH CROSSING (JoEmma)	VI	12.50
SAN ISIDRO PARK - (North of Loop 20)	VI	14.83
PAN AMERICAN by Mines Road	VII	8.52
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED ACREAGE</b>		<b>191.73</b>

<b>TOTAL UNDEVELOPED, RIVER VEGA &amp; ACQUISITION</b>	<b>885.83</b>
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CITY OF LAREDO INVENTORY OF DEVELOPED PARK LAND As of May 31, 2008		
PARK NAME	DISTRICT	ACRES
<b>MINI PARK</b>		
GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK	I	0.50
EAST HACHAR RECREATION CENTER (13,400 sq ft)	II	0.74
MARKET STREET TENNIS COMPLEX	III	1.80
TODDLER PARK (HEALTH DEPT.)	IV	0.54
ZC, LINEAR PARK SOUTH (DR CECILIA MORENO)	IV	1.00
ZC, LINEAR PARK SOUTH (JOSE "PEPE" MORENO FIELD)	IV	1.00
EAST CENTRAL PARK / ANDRES RAMOS JR.	IV	1.26
OCHOA / SANCHEZ PARK	IV	1.50
K. TARVER RECREATION CENTER (13,400 sq ft)	IV	1.74
ZC LINEAR PARK NORTH (LAFAYETTE TO LYON)	IV-V	
CHAPARRAL PARK	V	1.70
LAS BRISAS PARK	VI	1.30
CANIZALES PARK	VII	1.80
CIRCLE DRIVE PARK	VIII	0.16
ZC LINEAR PARK SOUTH (BENAVIDES)	VIII	0.33
ZC LINEAR PARK SOUTH (OKANE)	VIII	0.50
ZC LINEAR PARK SOUTH (AZTECA PARK)	VIII	1.50
EL CUATRO PARK	VIII	1.80
<b>TOTAL MINI PARKS</b>		<b>19.17</b>
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>		
CENTURY CITY PARK	I	2.58
MARIO TIJERINA / SOUTH LAREDO PARK	I	3.89
EL EDEN / NEWMAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	I	13.41
VILLA DEL SOL PARK	II	2.20
EASTWOODS PARK	II	4.16
LOMA ALTA PARK	II	6.50
DRYDEN PARK	II	10.30
THREE POINTS PARK / POOL	III	3.30
M.E. BENAVIDES SPORTS COMPLEX	III	13.00
SANTA FE PARK	III	13.30
INNER CITY TECH REC / AQUATIC CENTER (11,980 sq ft)/PARK	IV	3.90
ALBERT OCHOA / NIXON PARK	IV	6.00
NORTHEAST HILLSIDE RECREATION CENTER (13,400 sq ft)	V	0.31
BLAS CASTANEDA PARK (NORTHEAST HILLSIDE)	V	2.20
NOON LIONS PARK	V	3.00
EISTETTER PARK	V	3.50
ANDREW TRAUTMAN / RANGEL FIELD/POOL	VI	7.00
LAFAYETTE STREET PARK	VII	2.80
FARIAS RECREATION CENTER (13,400 sq ft) & SPLASH PARK	VII	2.91
LILIA PEREZ SENIOR CTR/FARIAS SENIOR CTR (1,800 sq ft)	VII	Included above
ZC LINEAR PARK EAST AND WEST (HOUSTON PK)	VIII	3.50
ZC LINEAR PARK EAST AND WEST (SCOTT ST BALL PK)	VIII	3.70
LA LADRILLERA SENIOR REC CTR (4,956 sq ft)	VIII	0.11
LA LADRILLERA / JOSE ORTIZ-ELIDA VALDEZ PARK	VIII	5.89
ZC LINEAR PARK EAST AND WEST (SEVEN FLAGS PARK)	VIII	6.80
LOS DOS LAREDOS PARK	VIII	13.00
<b>TOTAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>		<b>137.26</b>
<b>TOTAL MINI PARKS &amp; NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>		<b>156.43</b>



<b>CITY OF LAREDO INVENTORY OF DEVELOPED PARK LAND As of May 31, 2008</b>		
<b>PARK NAME</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
<b>SPECIAL USE</b>		
CANIZALES BOXING GYM	III	0.29
GARCIA-VELA BALL PARK	III	4.00
AL KING LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD	IV	1.60
CRUZ LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD	IV	1.80
TAYLOR BALL PARK	V	3.50
ST. JAMES COMMUNITY BASEBALL FIELDS (3)	VI	6.00
TREE FARM NURSERY	VII	2.59
VETERAN'S /WEST MARTIN BASEBALL FIELD	VIII	4.89
BRUNI PLAZA	VIII	1.77
EL MERCADO	VIII	1.77
JARVIS PLAZA	VIII	1.77
SAN AGUSTIN PLAZA	VIII	1.77
ST. PETER'S PLAZA	VIII	1.77
SAN IGNACIO SOCCER FIELD	VIII	1.77
EAST MARTIN FIELD	VIII	3.50
CIVIC CENTER AUDITORIUM/BALLROOMS/POOL COMPLEX	VIII	3.50
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL USE</b>		<b>42.29</b>
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>		
FREDDIE BENAVIDES SPORTS COMPLEX/CIGARROA REC CENTER( 13,400 sq. ft.)	I	15.31
SANTA RITA PARK	III	22.14
BASE COMMUNITY SPORTS COMPLEX	V	25.70
FATHER MCNABOE SPORTS COMPLEX	VII	73.71
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY PARKS</b>		<b>136.86</b>
<b>TRAILS</b>		
CHACON HIKE & BIKE TRAIL (12,500 L FT)	II-III	2.25
NATURE QUEST TRAIL (2,962 LF)	III	0.34
ZC LINEAR PARK NORTH RYAN ST (PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE)	V	
INDIAN SUNSET (1,400 LF) included in undeveloped park land	VII	
ZACATE CREEK TRAIL (1,035 L FT)	VIII	0.19
EL PASEO DEL ANTIGUO	VIII	0.35
ALDO TATANGELO WALKWAY	VIII	0.70
LAS PALMAS TRAIL (2,613 L FT)	VIII	1.14
<b>TOTAL TRAILS</b>		<b>4.97</b>
<b>TOTAL DEVELOPED PARKLAND</b>		<b>340.55</b>



**Inventory of Developed Amenities goes here—it is 2 pages and set up to print on 11 X 17. It will be pages 33-34.**







**VI. NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION**

The Needs Assessment used two types of analysis: Demand Based analysis and Standards Based analysis.

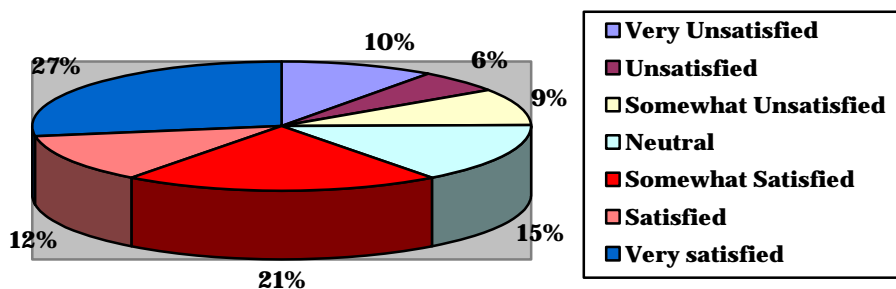
***Demand Based***

The phone survey established demand within the eight City Council Districts. The Earl Survey Research Laboratory at Texas Tech University conducted the phone survey across eight Council districts to obtain opinions and preferences about the City of Laredo’s parks and recreation system. The survey commenced on February 20, 2007 and ended on March 17, 2007. To obtain the 535 completed phone surveys, 3,408 phone calls were made; the overall response rate was 15.3% due to potential respondents being unavailable for contact. The overall cooperation rate of 71.7% illustrates that when potential respondents were contacted the large majority were willing to participate in the survey. For questions using a 7 point scale, 1 is the low end and 7 is the high end.

**There were 535 completed surveys.**

- 60.04% were conducted in English
- 39.96% were conducted in Spanish
- Partial data was obtained from an additional 23 surveys that were not complete

**Citizen satisfaction with parks and recreation in Laredo**



- 60% were somewhat satisfied or better.
- 25% were somewhat unsatisfied or worse.
- 15% were neutral

*On average, satisfaction with parks and recreation was rated at 4.73 on a seven-point scale Facility Use & Quality Ratings*

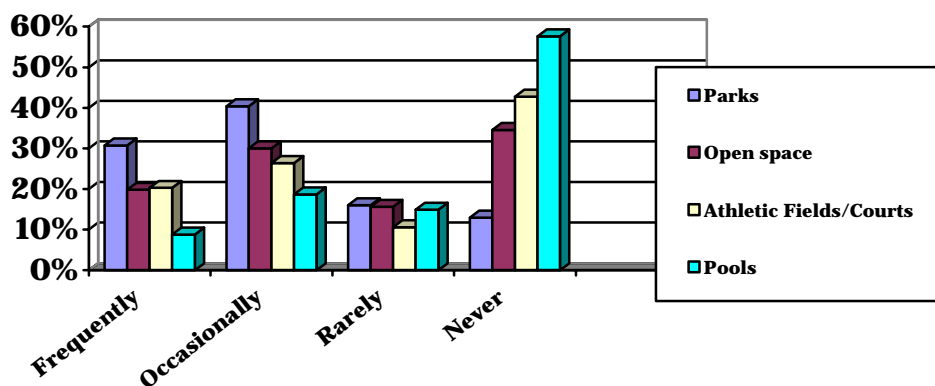
Citizens were asked “how often does someone in your household use city parks, open space, athletic fields/courts, and pools?”

- 70% of respondents reported using parks frequently or occasionally
- 50% of respondents reported using open spaces frequently or occasionally
- Pool usage is significantly less than parks and open space in general
  - This may be an area to increase marketing to the public to increase pool usage
  - Increasing pool usage may require a change to the schedule of opening and closing the pools (both in terms of daily schedule as well as seasonal schedule).



- If capacity allows, this may also provide an opportunity to offer new programming targeting special needs populations.

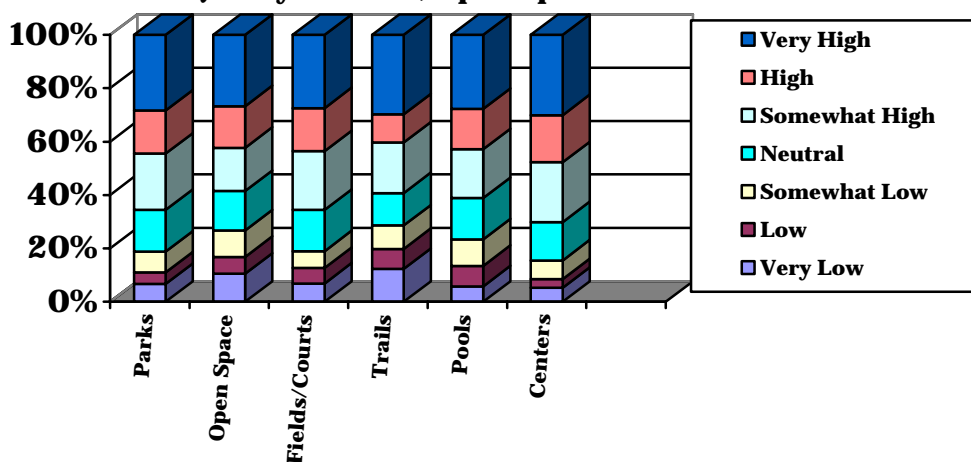
Use of Parks, Open Space, Fields/Courts & Pools



citizens were asked “how do you rate the quality of parks, open space and facilities in Laredo?”

- Ratings are generally high with high ratings at twice the levels of low ratings
  - 65.5% rated quality of park areas as somewhat high or better; while 18.8% rated quality as somewhat low or worse.
  - 58.5% rated quality of open space as somewhat high or better; while 26.73% rated quality as somewhat low or worse.
  - 65.5% rated quality of fields/courts as somewhat high or better; while 18.9% rated quality as somewhat low or worse.
  - 59.3% rated quality of trails as somewhat high or better; while 28.6% rated quality as somewhat low or worse.
  - 61.1% rated quality of pools as somewhat high or better; while 23.4% rated quality as somewhat low or worse.
  - 70.2% rated quality of recreation centers as somewhat high or better; while 18.5% rated quality as somewhat low or worse.

Quality of Parks, Open Space & Facilities



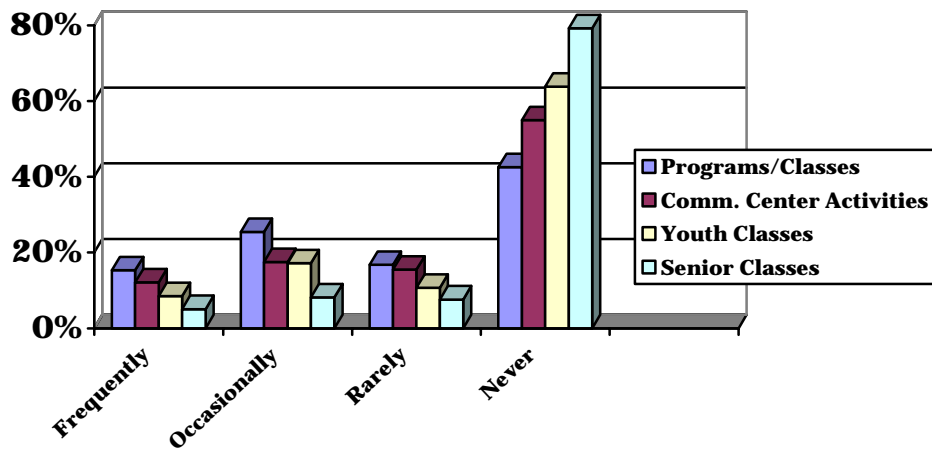
To gauge recreation programming participation & quality ratings, several questions were asked.



Citizens were asked, "How often does someone in your household participate in programs, classes, youth programs and senior programs?"

- Use levels are fairly low given the support for the Parks and Recreation Department.
  - 79.2 % reported that no one in the household using senior programming
  - 42.3% reported that no one in the household attending a program/class or special event
  - 63.78 reported that no one in the household uses youth classes or programs
  - 54.9% reported that no one in the household uses the community centers

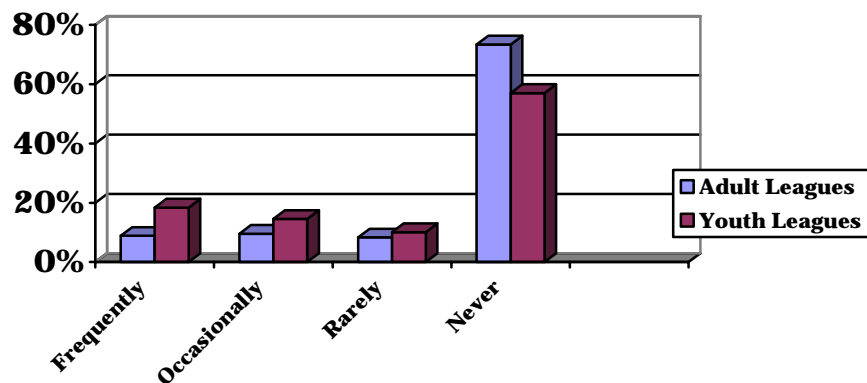
**Recreation Programming Use: Classes, Youth Programs & Sr. Programs**



Survey participants were asked, "How often does someone in your household participate in athletic leagues?"

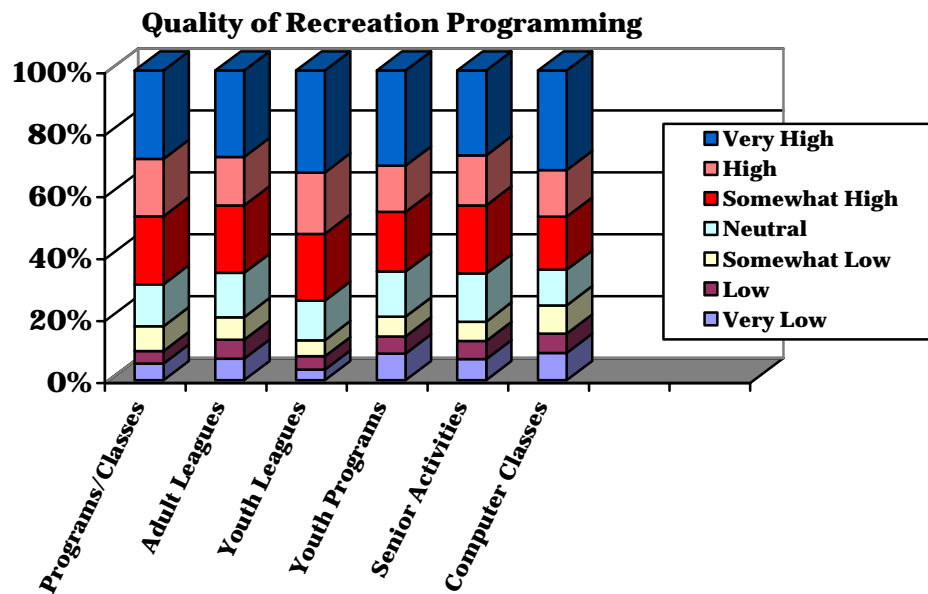
- 73.3 % reported no one in the household participating in adult athletic leagues
- 57.0 % reported no one in the household participating in youth athletic leagues

**League Participation**



Citizens were asked to rate the quality of recreation programming in Laredo. Ratings are generally high with high ratings at twice the levels of low ratings

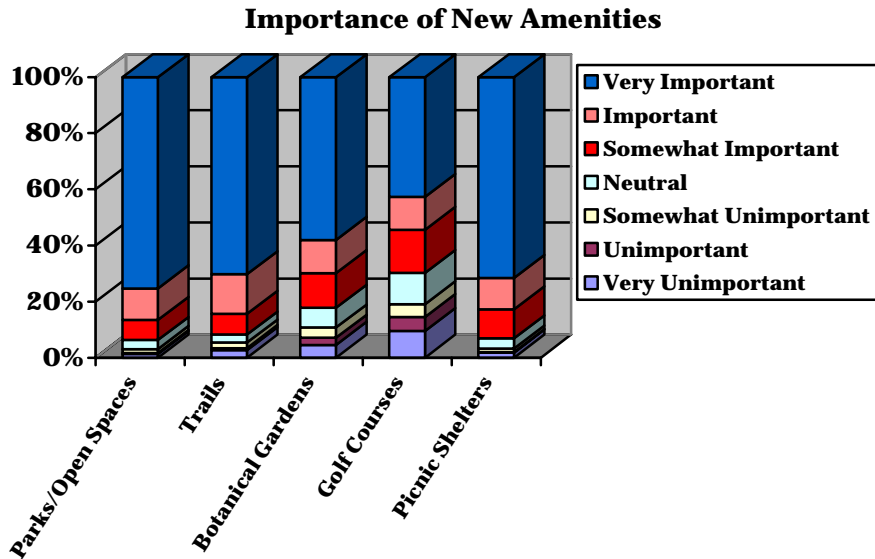
- 69.0% rated quality of recreation programs as somewhat high or better; while 17.4% rated quality as somewhat low or worse.
- 65.4% rated quality of adult athletic leagues as somewhat high or better; while 20.4% rated quality as somewhat low or worse.
- 74.3% rated quality of youth athletic leagues as somewhat high or better; while 13.0% rated quality as somewhat low or worse.
- 64.9% rated quality of youth programs/camps as somewhat high or better; while 20.6% rated quality as somewhat low or worse.
- 49.8% rated quality of senior activities as somewhat high or better; while 25.9% rated quality as somewhat low or worse.
- 64.3% rated quality of computer classes as somewhat high or better; while 25.2% rated quality as somewhat low or worse



The Phone Survey was instrumental in gauging citizen support for new facilities. First citizens were asked about the importance of new facilities. Overall, there is a great deal of support for new parks and facilities.

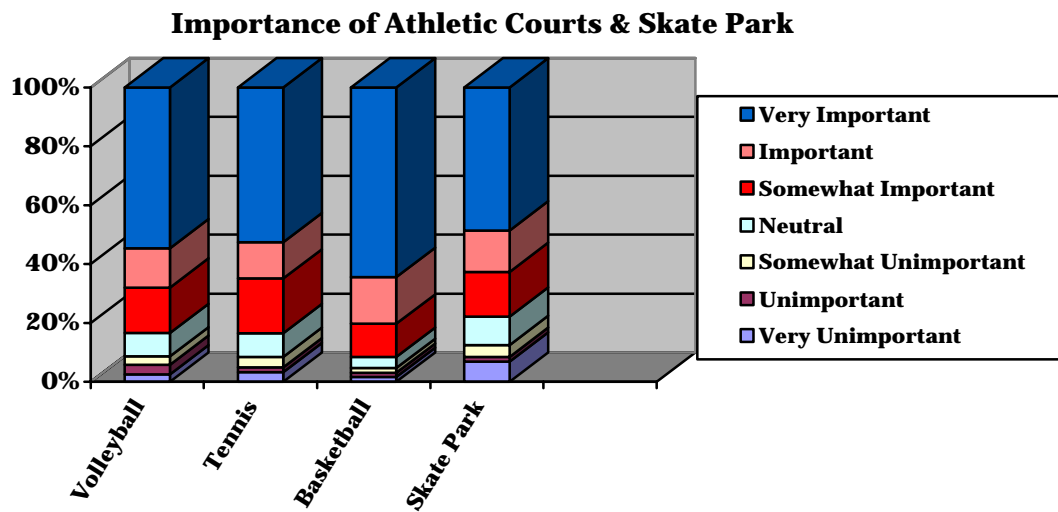
- 86.4% responded that new parks and open green spaces were important or very important
- 84.4% responded that new hiking/walking/jogging trails were important or very important
- 69.8% responded that new botanical and flower gardens were important or very important
- 54.4% responded that new golf courses were important or very important
- 82.8% responded that new picnic areas were important or very important





Importance of new athletic courts & skate park/extreme sports park:

- 69.9% responded that new volleyball courts were important or very important
- 64.9% responded that new tennis courts were important or very important
- 80.2% responded that new basketball courts were important or very important
- 62.7% responded that new skate parks/extreme sports parks were important or very important



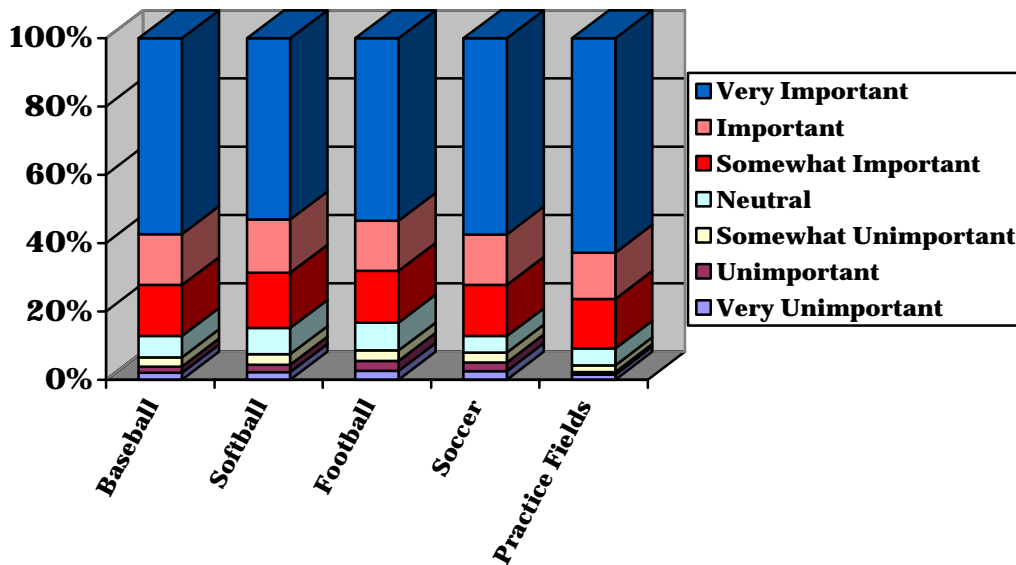
Importance of new athletic fields:

- 72.3% responded that new baseball fields were important or very important
- 68.7% responded that new softball fields were important or very important
- 68.1% responded that new football fields were important or very important
- 72.2% responded that new soccer fields were important or very important
- 75.4% responded that new practice fields were important or very important





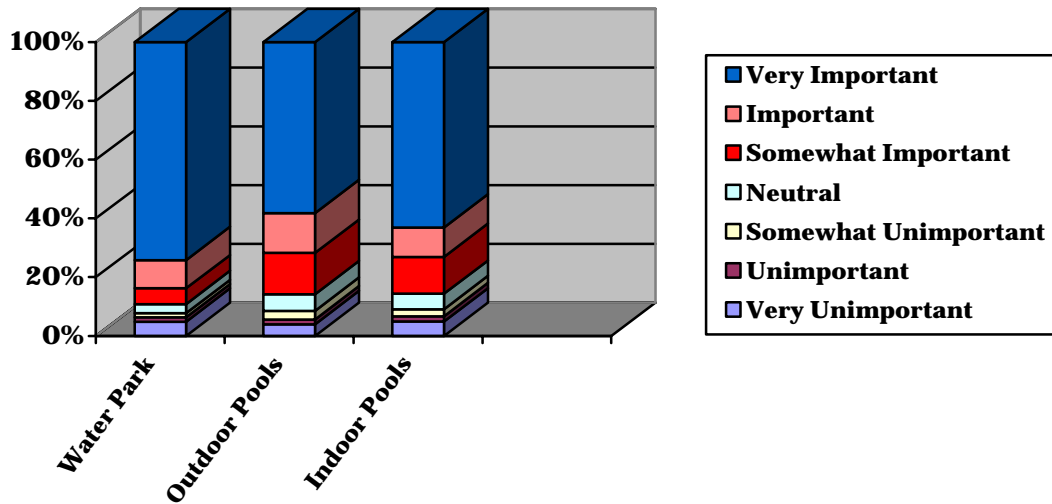
**Importance of New Athletic Facilities**



**Importance of new water facilities:**

- 83.6% responded that a new water park was important or very important
- 71.1% responded that new outdoor pools were important or very important
- 73.1% responded that new indoor pools were important or very important

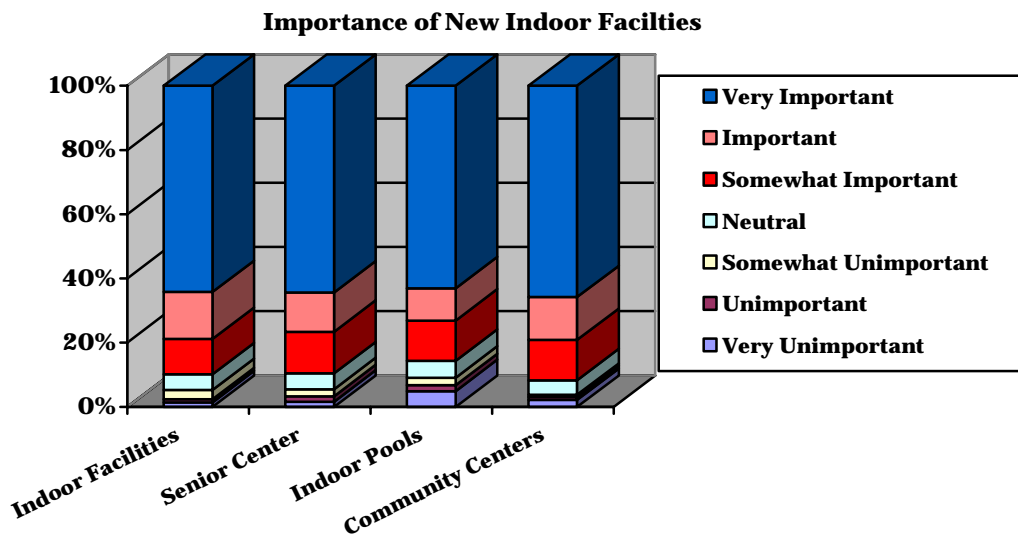
**Importance of New Water Facilities**



**Importance of new indoor facilities:**

- 78.9% responded that new indoor recreation facilities were important or very important
- 76.6% responded that new senior centers were important or very important
- 73.1% responded that new indoor pools were important or very important
- 79.1% responded that a new community centers were important or very important





District Ratings

Respondents across eight Council districts were asked two sets of questions to help determine preferences for amenities. The first set asked if there were “too few,” “too many” or “about the right amount” of amenities to evaluate the sufficiency of the current supply. The second set asked the respondents about the importance of having new (additional) amenities which relates to potential future gaps in the supply of amenities and activities. The question was asked with a **seven-point scale** with 1 = very unimportant and 7 = very important. The mean ratings are broken down by outdoor and indoor amenities. Higher mean ratings reflect higher priorities for the amenities. These ratings, along with input from public meetings will serve as the basis for the preliminary recommendations for the priorities for each Council district.

For each individual district, the following tables compare the amenities that were most frequently cited as having “too few” of them to the amenities that were cited as most important to have. While golf courses and extreme sports parks have high percentages of respondents stating that there are too few of them, the overall importance of providing these two amenities is a low priority when compared to the mean ratings of other amenities.

<b>District 1 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating “Too Few”</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Extreme Sports	67.2%	Open Space	6.68	Community Ctr.	6.44
Golf Course	66.7%	Parkland	6.62	Senior Center	6.21
Disc Golf	59.0%	Trails	6.44	Indoor Pool	6.03
Pools	58.2%	Practice Field	6.41		
Athletic Courts	58.0%	Picnic Shelter	6.41		
Park Areas	57.8%	Basketball Court	6.37		
Facilities/Fields	54.9%	Water Park	6.27		
Trails	52.9%	Softball Field	6.23		
Community Ctr.	43.3%	Flower Garden	6.19		
		Baseball Field	6.16		



<b>District 2 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating "Too Few"</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Disc Golf	82.4%	Parkland	6.62	Community Ctr.	6.31
Extreme Sports	81.4%	Trails	6.54	Senior Center	6.26
Pools	76.6%	Picnic Shelter	6.52	Indoor Pool	6.18
Golf Course	65.0%	Open Space	6.37		
Park Areas	63.5%	Water Park	6.36		
Facilities/Fields	62.5%	Flower Garden	6.3		
Trails	61.2%	Baseball Field	6.24		
Athletic Courts	59.4%	Basketball Court	6.22		
Community Ctr.	50.0%	Football Field	6.15		
		Outdoor Pool	6.14		

<b>District 3 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating "Too Few"</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Golf Course	72.7%	Parkland	6.52	Senior Center	6.06
Trails	71.2%	Open Space	6.35	Community Ctr.	6.01
Disc Golf	71.2%	Picnic Shelter	6.34	Indoor Pool	5.80
Extreme Sports	65.1%	Trails	6.30		
Facilities/Fields	64.7%	Water Park	6.26		
Athletic Courts	61.8%	Basketball Court	6.22		
Pools	61.2%	Practice Field	6.20		
Community Ctr.	61.2%	Flower Garden	6.03		
Park Areas	53.6%	Baseball Field	5.91		
		Volleyball Court	5.90		

<b>District 4 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating "Too Few"</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Extreme Sports	81.7%	Water Park	6.60	Community Ctr.	6.62
Trails	79.4%	Trails	6.57	Senior Center	6.44
Pools	75.8%	Open Space	6.55	Indoor Pool	6.08
Disc Golf	75.5%	Parkland	6.49		
Community Ctr.	71.4%	Picnic Shelter	6.46		
Golf Course	68.3%	Practice Field	6.41		
Park Areas	67.2%	Basketball Court	6.34		
Athletic Courts	65.1%	Outdoor Pool	6.27		
Facilities/Fields	63.1%	Soccer Field	6.26		
		Baseball Field	6.25		



<b>District 5 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating "Too Few"</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Disc Golf	79.2%	Parkland	6.33	Community Ctr.	6.21
Extreme Sports	77.8%	Picnic Shelter	6.28	Senior Center	6.16
Trails	73.3%	Water Park	6.18	Indoor Pool	5.64
Golf Course	68.4%	Open Space	6.13		
Facilities/Fields	65.6%	Basketball Court	6.09		
Athletic Courts	62.1%	Trail	5.97		
Park Areas	61.9%	Practice Field	5.94		
Pools	60.0%	Soccer Field	5.91		
Community Ctr.	52.5%	Outdoor Pool	5.87		
		Softball Field	5.73		

<b>District 6 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating "Too Few"</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Golf Courses	82.3 %	Open Space	6.25	Community Ctr.	6.08
Disc Golf	79.6%	Parkland	6.18	Indoor Pool	6.00
Extreme Sports	79.6%	Picnic Shelter	6.16	Senior Center	5.84
Trails	76.6%	Basketball Courts	6.03		
Pools	74.1%	Trails	5.98		
Facilities/Fields	67.8%	Baseball Fields	5.97		
Park Areas	66.7%	Water Park	5.86		
Athletic Courts	65.1%	Practice Fields	5.82		
Community Ctr.	59.7%	Softball Fields	5.78		
		Soccer Fields	5.66		

<b>District 7 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating "Too Few"</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Extreme Sports	83.0 %	Trails	6.62	Indoor Pool	6.36
Pools	72.6%	Parkland	6.60	Senior Center	6.35
Trails	71.9%	Practice Fields	6.52	Community Ctr.	6.22
Disc Golf	71.4%	Water Park	6.45		
Golf Course	71.2%	Open Space	6.45		
Facilities/Fields	63.9%	Picnic Shelters	6.45		
Park Areas	63.5%	Basketball Courts	6.42		
Athletic Courts	57.8%	Football Fields	6.38		
Community Ctr.	57.4%	Baseball Fields	6.23		
		Tennis Courts	6.09		



District 8 Ratings					
Amenity	% Rating "Too Few"	New Outdoor Amenity	Mean Importance Rating	New Indoor Amenity	Mean Importance Rating
Disc Golf	75.0%	Picnic Shelter	6.6	Community Ctr.	6.37
Extreme Sports	68.3%	Parkland	6.54	Senior Center	6.23
Golf Course	67.2%	Open Space	6.45	Indoor Pool	6.03
Park Areas	65.1%	Trails	6.44		
Trails	64.1%	Basketball Court	6.38		
Pools	61.5%	Water Park	6.29		
Facilities/Fields	60.9%	Volleyball Court	6.25		
Athletic Courts	58.1%	Soccer Field	6.21		
Community Ctr.	50.8%	Practice Field	6.11		
		Tennis Court	6.08		

**Standard Based Needs**

Standards for park acreage as well as locally determined and adopted facility standards also provide a tool for analyzing the community's need. Coupled with the demand based need, the standard based need helps to provide a basis for prioritizing the needs within each district.

Classification	Size	Service Area	NRPA Standard
Mini Park	2 acres or less	¼ mile	N/A
Neighborhood	2-15 acres	½ to 1 ½ mile	1 acre/1,000 pop.
Community	16-99 acres	2-5 miles	5 acres/1,000 pop.
Metropolitan	100-499 acres	Entire City	5 acres/1,000 pop.

As mentioned earlier, Lake Casa Blanca International State Park has over 2,000 acres and is meeting the Metropolitan Park needs for Laredo. Table 6.1 reflects the current ratio of park acreage compared to the NRPA recommended standard of 1.0 acre of population for Neighborhood Parks. **Included in the acreage is Mini-Park and Neighborhood Park acreage.**

Table 6.1a: City-wide Neighborhood Park Needs with 1 Acre PDO Requirement						
NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population						
Current Acreage/Ratio– 293.34 acres/1.33 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 1 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2000	176,576	180.87	176.58	N/A	180.87	4.29
2007*	220,534	293.34	220.5	N/A	293.34	72.81
2010*	263,286	293.34	263.3	16.13	309.47	46.19
2015*	301,988	293.34	302.0	27.56	320.90	18.91

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.



Table 6.1a also illustrates the acreage in relation to the population estimates that were discussed in the Introduction. The 2000 information is from the previous Master Plan prepared by Carter Burgess. Currently, Laredo has a moderate surplus of neighborhood park acreage due to aggressive land acquisition over the past five years. In April 2008, the City of Laredo adopted a Park Dedication Ordinance (PDO) which provides for dedication of park land as new residential neighborhoods are platted and developed. The City will continue to experience a surplus of Neighborhood Parkland at the aggregate level, however, deficiencies will be discussed at the District level in the following sections. The above figures do not include any PDO acquisition of Neighborhood Park land for District 4 or 8. This will be discussed in detail in those chapters.

Table 6.1b shows the effect on the future surplus of Neighborhood Park land with the PDO Acquisition acres being required at a ratio of 2 acres per 1,000.

<b>Table 6.1b: City-wide Neighborhood Park Needs with 2 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 293.34 acres/1.33 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	Current # Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2 Acres/1,000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
<b>2000</b>	176,576	180.87	176.58	N/A	180.87	4.29
<b>2007*</b>	220,534	293.34	220.5	N/A	293.34	72.81
<b>2010*</b>	263,286	293.34	263.3	32.27	325.61	62.32
<b>2015*</b>	301,988	293.34	302.0	55.12	348.46	46.48

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus death.

Table 6.1c illustrates the park acre ratios and City-wide surplus based on the PDO maximum allowable dedication requirement of 2.56 acres per 1,000 population.

<b>Table 6.1c: City-wide Neighborhood Park Needs with 2.56 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 293.34 acres/1.33 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	Current # Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2.56 Acres/1,000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
<b>2000</b>	176,576	180.87	176.58	N/A	180.87	4.29
<b>2007*</b>	220,534	293.34	220.5	N/A	293.34	72.81
<b>2010*</b>	263,286	293.34	263.3	41.30	334.64	71.35
<b>2015*</b>	301,988	293.34	302.0	70.56	363.90	61.91

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus death.

The needs change when applying these standards to the existing inventory of park acreage within the eight Districts. Tables 6.2a, 6.2b and 6.2c examine park acreage inventory by district compared against the current population estimate and projections for 2010 and 2015 and the minimum PDO requirement of 1 acre per 1,000 population. Districts 4, 5, and 7 currently are **not** meeting the





NRPA minimum standard of 1 acre per 1,000 population with deficiencies of 10.61 acres, 15.41 acres and 10.78 acres respectively. As District 4 is built out, there is little chance that the PDO will be able to provide a means to acquire parkland for that District. The projected deficit for District 4 is expected to grow to 20.79 acres by 2015. Even with 1 acre of required park dedication as new neighborhoods develop in District 5 and 7, those deficiencies climb to 20.93 acres and 16.24 acres respectively. Districts 1 and 3 are projected to have a slight deficiency by 2015 under this scenario.

<b>Table 6.2a: District Neighborhood Park Needs, 2007</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 293.34 acres/1.33 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
District	Population	Current # Acres	Recommended Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 1 - 2.56 Acres	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
1	29,388	35.28	29.39	N/A	35.28	5.89
2	26,850	94.93	26.85	N/A	94.93	68.08
3	27,528	31.40	27.53	N/A	31.40	3.87
4	27,552	16.94	27.55	N/A	16.94	(10.61)
5	27,121	11.71	27.12	N/A	11.71	(15.41)
6	28,420	47.76	28.42	N/A	47.76	19.34
7	26,811	16.03	26.81	N/A	16.03	(10.78)
8	26,864	39.29	26.86	N/A	39.29	12.43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>220,534</b>	<b>293.34</b>	<b>220.53</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>293.34</b>	<b>72.81</b>

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 to 2.56 acres per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus death.

<b>Table 6.2b: District Neighborhood Park Needs in 2010, with 1 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 293.34 acres/1.33 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
District	Population	Current # Acres	Recommended Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 1 Acre	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
1	35,085	35.28	35.09	2.85	38.13	3.05
2	32,055	94.93	32.06	2.61	97.54	65.48
3	32,864	31.40	32.86	2.67	34.07	1.21
4	32,893	16.94	32.89	0	16.94	(15.95)
5	32,379	11.71	32.38	2.63	14.34	(18.03)
6	33,929	47.76	33.93	2.76	50.52	16.59
7	32,008	16.03	32.01	2.60	18.63	(13.37)
8	32,072	39.29	32.07	0	39.29	7.22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>263,286</b>	<b>293.34</b>	<b>263.29</b>	<b>16.13</b>	<b>309.47</b>	<b>46.19</b>

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population minimum for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus death.



**Table 6.2c: District Neighborhood Park Needs in 2015, with 1 Acre PDO Requirement**

**NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population**

**Current Acreage/Ratio– 293.34 acres/1.33 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.**

District	Population*	Current # Acres	Recommended Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 1 Acre	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
1	40,242	35.28	40.24	4.88	40.16	(0.09)
2	36,767	94.93	36.77	4.45	99.38	62.62
3	37,695	31.40	37.70	4.57	35.97	(1.73)
4	37,728	16.94	37.73	0	16.94	(20.79)
5	37,138	11.71	37.14	4.50	16.21	(20.93)
6	38,917	47.76	38.92	4.72	52.48	13.56
7	36,714	16.03	36.71	4.45	20.48	(16.24)
8	36,786	39.29	36.79	0	39.29	2.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>301,988</b>	<b>293.34</b>	<b>301.99</b>	<b>27.56</b>	<b>320.90</b>	<b>18.91</b>

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population minimum for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus death

Tables 6.3a and 6.3b examine park acreage inventory by district compared against the current population estimate and projections for 2010 and 2015 and the PDO requirement of 2 acres per 1,000 population. As mentioned earlier, Districts 4, 5, and 7 currently are **not** meeting the NRPA minimum standard of 1 acre per 1,000 population with deficiencies of 10.61 acres, 15.41 acres and 10.78 acres respectively. As District 4 is built out, there is little chance that the PDO will be able to provide a means to acquire parkland for that District. The projected deficit for District 4 is expected to grow to 20.79 acres by 2015. Even with 2 acres of required park dedication as new neighborhoods develop, those deficiencies climb to 16.43 acres for District 5 and 11.79 acres for District 7.

**Table 6.3a: District Neighborhood Park Needs in 2010, with 2 Acres PDO Requirement**

**NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population**

**Current Acreage/Ratio– 293.34 acres/1.33 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.**

District	Population*	Current # Acres	Recommended Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2 Acres	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
1	35,085	35.28	35.09	5.71	40.99	5.90
2	32,055	94.93	32.06	5.22	100.15	68.09
3	32,864	31.40	32.86	5.35	36.75	3.88
4	32,893	16.94	32.89	0	16.94	(15.95)
5	32,379	11.71	32.38	5.27	16.98	(15.40)
6	33,929	47.76	33.93	5.52	53.28	19.35
7	32,008	16.03	32.01	5.21	21.24	(10.77)
8	32,072	39.29	32.07	0	39.29	7.22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>263,286</b>	<b>293.34</b>	<b>263.29</b>	<b>32.27</b>	<b>325.61</b>	<b>62.32</b>

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 to 2.56 acres per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus death.



**Table 6.3b: District Neighborhood Park Needs in 2015, with 2 Acres PDO Requirement**

**NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population**

**Current Acreage/Ratio– 293.34 acres/1.33 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.**

District	Population	Current # Acres	Recommended Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2 Acre	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
1	40,242	35.28	40.24	9.75	45.03	4.79
2	36,767	94.93	36.77	8.91	103.84	67.07
3	37,695	31.40	37.70	9.13	40.53	2.84
4	37,728	16.94	37.73	0	16.94	(20.79)
5	37,138	11.71	37.14	9.00	20.71	(16.43)
6	38,917	47.76	38.92	9.43	57.19	18.27
7	36,714	16.03	36.71	8.90	24.93	(11.79)
8	36,786	39.29	36.79	0	39.29	2.50
TOTAL	301,988	293.34	301.99	55.12	348.46	46.48

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 to 2.56 acres per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus death.

Tables 6.4a and 6.4b examine park acreage inventory by district compared against the current population estimate and projections for 2010 and 2015 and the maximum PDO requirement of 2.56 acres per 1,000 population. As mentioned earlier, the projected deficit for District 4 is expected to grow to 20.79 acres by 2015. Even with 2.56 acres of required park dedication as new neighborhoods develop, those deficiencies are 13.91 acres for District 5 and 9.30 acres for District 7.

**Table 6.4a: District Neighborhood Park Needs in 2010, with 2.56 Acres PDO Requirement**

**NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population**

**Current Acreage/Ratio– 293.34 acres/1.33 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.**

District	Population	Current # Acres	Recommended Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2.56 Acres	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
1	35,085	35.28	35.09	7.31	42.59	7.50
2	32,055	94.93	32.06	6.68	101.61	69.55
3	32,864	31.40	32.86	6.84	38.24	5.38
4	32,893	16.94	32.89	0	16.94	(15.95)
5	32,379	11.71	32.38	6.74	18.45	(13.93)
6	33,929	47.76	33.93	7.07	54.83	20.90
7	32,008	16.03	32.01	6.67	22.70	(9.31)
8	32,072	39.29	32.07	0	39.29	7.22
TOTAL	263,286	293.34	263.29	41.30	334.64	71.35

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 to 2.56 acres per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus death.



**Table 6.4b: District Neighborhood Park Needs in 2015, with 2.56 Acres PDO Requirement**

**NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population**

**Current Acreage/Ratio– 293.34 acres/1.33 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.**

District	Population*	Current # Acres	Recommended Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2.56 Acres	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
1	40,242	35.28	40.24	12.48	47.76	7.52
2	36,767	94.93	36.77	11.40	106.33	69.57
3	37,695	31.40	37.70	11.69	43.09	5.40
4	37,728	16.94	37.73	0	16.94	(20.79)
5	37,138	11.71	37.14	11.52	23.23	(13.91)
6	38,917	47.76	38.92	12.07	59.83	20.91
7	36,714	16.03	36.71	11.39	27.42	(9.30)
8	36,786	39.29	36.79	0	39.29	2.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>301,988</b>	<b>293.34</b>	<b>301.99</b>	<b>70.56</b>	<b>363.90</b>	<b>61.91</b>

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 to 2.56 acres per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus death.

With the exception of the PDO projections, the same type of analysis was performed for Community Park acreage in Laredo. The PDO is in place to acquire Neighborhood Parkland only. Table 6.5a reflects the current ratio of park acreage compared to the NRPA recommended standard of 5.0 acre of population for Community Parks. The table also illustrates the acreage in relation to the population estimates that were discussed in the Introduction. Currently, Laredo has a large deficit of Community Park acreage which is approximately 400 acres, or a deficit of 1.8 acres per 1,000 population. In the absence of new acquisition of Community Parkland, these deficiencies are projected to grow to approximately 600 acres in 2010 and over 800 acres by 2015.

**Table 6.5a City-wide Community Park Needs**

**NRPA Recommended Standard - 5.0 acres per 1,000 population**

**Current Acreage/Ratio– 704.61 acres/3.20 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.**

Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
<b>2000</b>	176,576	329.52	882.88	(553.36)
<b>2007*</b>	220,534	704.61	1,102.67	(398.06)
<b>2010*</b>	263,286	704.61	1,316.43	(611.82)
<b>2015*</b>	301,988	704.61	1,509.94	(805.33)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

The following three tables illustrate the Community Parkland deficit by City Council District for 2007, 2010 and 2015 respectively. It is important to note that all Districts, except District 6, are currently deficient in Community Park land.



<b>Table 6.5b: Community Park Needs by District, 2007</b>				
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 5.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>				
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 704.61 acres/3.20 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>				
District	Population*	Current # Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
1	29,388	125.68	146.94	(21.26)
2	26,850	121.74	134.25	(12.51)
3	27,528	88.14	137.64	(49.50)
4	27,552	0	137.76	(137.76)
5	27,121	91.52	135.61	(44.09)
6	28,420	161.31	142.10	19.21
7	26,811	116.23	134.06	(17.83)
8	26,864	0	134.32	(134.32)
TOTAL	220,534	704.61	1,102.67	(398.06)

<b>Table 6.5c: Community Park Needs by District, 2010</b>				
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 5.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>				
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 704.61 acres/3.20 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>				
District	Population*	Current # Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
1	35,085	125.68	175.43	(49.75)
2	32,055	121.74	160.28	(38.54)
3	32,864	88.14	164.32	(76.18)
4	32,893	0	164.47	(164.47)
5	32,379	91.52	161.89	(70.38)
6	33,929	161.31	169.65	(8.34)
7	32,008	116.23	160.04	(43.82)
8	32,072	0	160.36	(160.36)
TOTAL	263,286	704.61	1,316.43	(611.82)

<b>Table 6.5d: Community Park Needs by District 2015</b>				
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 5.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>				
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 704.61 acres/3.20 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>				
District	Population*	Current # Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
1	40,242	125.68	201.21	(75.53)
2	36,767	121.74	183.84	(62.10)
3	37,695	88.14	188.48	(100.34)
4	37,728	0	188.64	(188.64)
5	37,138	91.52	185.69	(94.17)
6	38,917	161.31	194.58	(33.27)
7	36,714	116.23	183.57	(67.34)
8	36,786	0	183.93	(183.93)
TOTAL	301,988	704.61	1,509.94	(805.33)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).



*Facility Standards and Inventory Deficiencies*

As illustrated on pages 26-27, the City of Laredo has adopted facility standards for both Outdoor and Indoor Recreation amenities. The inventory, depicted on page 30, provides a “snapshot” of the variety of facilities currently in the park and recreation system. As seen in Table 6.6, the City of Laredo has several glaring deficiencies. Over the next seven years those deficiencies will worsen.

<b>Table 6.6: Laredo City-wide Deficiencies Based on Facility Standards</b>			
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Current Deficiency</b>	<b>2010 Deficiency</b>	<b>2015 Deficiency</b>
Competitive Soccer Fields	28	37	44
Football Fields	11	13	15
Competitive Baseball Fields	22	31	38
Competitive Softball Fields	37	46	53
Basketball Courts	12	20	28
Tennis Courts	38	49	58
Volleyball Courts	8	10	12
Indoor Recreation Centers	0	1	2
Swimming Pools	5	7	9
Playgrounds	175	217	256
Picnic Tables	157	228	292
Large Pavilions	33	42	49
Multipurpose Court	9	11	12
Hockey rink	0	1	1
Trails-miles	6.9	9	10.9
Skate Park	4	6	8
Multipurpose Field	0	0	1
Splash Park	6	8	10
Water Park	1	1	1

The deficiencies for amenities by District will be presented in the District Summaries.

As mentioned earlier, if the City is able to successfully negotiate joint use agreements with the local school districts, more facilities will be available to the public, thus reducing the stated deficiencies.

**The Challenge**

The Master Plan team faces an important challenge. The face of recreation has evolved and thus land development and parks and pathway management has changed significantly in response to the needs of the current generation of users, reflecting a significant, evolving and rapidly growing facet of community and lifestyle. Building a recreation legacy through appropriate and timely land acquisition, effective land planning and management of natural and recreational resources, the successful recognition of trends and facility adaptations to accommodate change will have positive impacts within Laredo.





## VII. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS

The recommendations reflect the synthesis of public input, the existing goals stated above and an updated Facility Standards and Park Facility Inventory. Recommendations are made for each of the twelve Planning Districts, which are made up of City Council Districts 1-8 and four high growth areas of the ETJ.

### **FUTURE PARK DEVELOPMENT**

Recommendations regarding future park development are based on the following:

- Response to suggestions and feedback from stakeholders, City administration and the Phone Survey Needs Assessment
- Analysis of socio-demographic variables including age, socioeconomic status, population density, etc.
- Recognition of the need for flexibility and choice
- Response of the relationship between the supply of land and its function to the population it serves within a geographically defined area
- Creation of logical connections and filling gaps in the existing system
- Providing a balance of new park development in all areas of the city

Recommendations for future park development are also based on related studies and plans developed concurrently with the Parks & Open Space Master Plan. Pathways are a major component of park development that provides the necessary pedestrian access, circulation and connection in the park system. Pathways help deliver the experience and give the park character.

### **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

General recommendations for future park development are in four categories:

#### **1. Key Parkland Acquisitions**

Although the city is meeting or exceeding its targets for Neighborhood park acreage, increasing development away from existing parks will still require acquisition of neighborhood park land. In addition, acquisition of new Community park land acreage is critical to providing space for larger organized activities such as athletics as well as for indoor recreation.

- Future greenbelt and riverfront land acquisition is a major component of the current park system;
- Acquisition of parkland to develop logical connections and enhance the park system;
- Acquisition of natural area buffers or corridors around areas with significant wildlife or vegetation habitat;
- Acquisition of additional open space to support expansion of passive, nature-oriented recreation activities (e.g., walking, nature appreciation, picnicking, unprogrammed open space, etc.);
- Parkland acquisitions in established communities may be pursued on an opportunity basis. It is important to consider park development and integration when road reconstruction, developments or redevelopments are proposed.

#### YEAR 2010

It is anticipated that a minimum range of 16.13 acres to 41.3 acres of additional Neighborhood Parkland will be acquired through the PDO through 2010. This range is based on the minimum of 1 acre per 1,000 population and the maximum of 2.56 acres per 1,000 population. To meet the NRPA





Standard of 5.0 acres per 1,000 population for Community Parkland, the City would need to acquire 612 acres to meet the projected population of 263,286.

Additionally, the opportunities for joint-use sites and facilities with the local school districts provide a tremendous dual-use of public facilities. Through creative joint-use agreements with the school districts, both the City and the school districts can expand recreational variety and opportunities throughout the entire community while maximizing the citizen tax dollars. Other opportunities could come from working with the local universities as well as with officials at the county level, and at the state level.

## **2. Facility Improvements & Park Development**

Analysis of recreation trends and community and stakeholder feedback confirms a satisfactory level of parkland inventory to meet the land based, active recreation needs in existing communities. Other factors must be considered beyond the reliance on future parkland dedication to determine future park needs and parkland distribution. The following alternatives can be considered to meet current and future land-based recreation facility needs:

- Begin development of inventory of vacant parkland;
- Upgrade existing facilities (e.g. lighting, washrooms, play facilities);
- Extend the use of existing facilities / design for intensified use (e.g., multi-use/ basketball courts, festival areas);
- Convert under-utilized facilities to meet other facility requirements;
- Restrict access by non-priority users;
- Enhance access for multi use facilities (e.g. commuter pathways, parking lots)
- Expand service areas to maximize use of facilities in all areas of the City; and
- Use non-municipal resources to expand supply (e.g. commercial areas).

## **3. Special Use Areas**

Special-use parks provide city-wide recreation opportunities that respond to distinctive site circumstances, unique community needs, and provide unique programming opportunities for specific user groups. Development of the following special-use park facilities are recommended:

- Motorized Trail in the northwestern part of the City (District 9 ETJ)
- Water Park (District 5)
- Sports Complex (Multi-Use Leisure Centre)
- Off Leash Dog Parks

## **4. Preservation Areas**

Preservation areas are protected environmentally significant areas that are sensitive to human activity. Preservation areas are established based on the following characteristics:

- A parcel of land that contains ravines, coulees, swamps, rivers or drainage courses
- Areas with a high concentration of wildlife habitat
- Important natural or historical features
- Regionally significant sites that exhibit unique natural resources
- Heritage sites or historically significant areas



**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

Priority-setting for future parkland development that optimizes quality recreational opportunities is necessary to determine capital requirements and is based on whether the current supply will meet future community needs.

It is recommended that an annual review to determine short, medium and long term priorities be undertaken and that corresponding allocations be included in capital budgets. The following are considered priorities to implement the Parks & Open Space Master Plan:

**Introduce and Publicize Master Plan**

Once the Parks & Open Space Master Plan is adopted by Council, the elements and recommendations of the Plan must be shared City administration, special interest groups, stakeholders, community organizations and the general public. A public roll-out strategy could include presentations to the Chamber of Commerce, the University, and events where potential sponsors and community leaders are introduced to the Plan. The Master Plan, including GIS data, should be made available in its entirety on the City website.

**Open Space Development in New Communities**

It is recommended that the City continue to seize opportunities to acquire appropriate levels of community parkland in new residential communities

**Existing Community Open Space Development and Upgrading**

Analysis of feedback from stakeholders, public open houses and the community needs assessment have identified the following priorities for retrofit and upgrade facilities.

**Funding Strategies And Programs**

It is unlikely that any single source of funds can reasonably support the scope and breadth of recommendations in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. As stewards of public money, municipalities today are faced with significant challenges when investing in infrastructure and services related to growth. Today's reality requires City Councils to develop fiscally responsible business plans together with sound project management policies when delivering programs and services to taxpayers. Municipalities are exploring innovative means to finance necessary growth-related infrastructure by leveraging limited public dollars with the private sector, developing community partnerships, and implementing user fees and levies, among others, to limit the financial burden on the taxpayer. Complementary to implementing the Parks and Open Space Master Plan would be an integrated marketing strategy with an action plan to identify an appropriate source and mix of funding to complete short and long term, small and large-price tag priorities and that brands the Parks and Recreation program.

***Funding Sources*****1. General Fund**

This is the primary source of funds for providing capital programs and improvements. The various grant programs that award matching funds to municipalities to improve park facilities should be continued as a way to garner public support while stretching the general fund dollars.

**2. Bonds**

An alternative funding source to the general fund, there are two types of bonds which are used and have to be approved by referendum. General Obligation Bonds pay for projects which do not produce sufficient revenue to cover the cost of bond financing such as streets, fire station, and some park projects. Revenue Bonds finance projects that produce enough revenue to retire their debt such as



for a golf course or game field park projects. Bond programs are affected by the City's bond indebtedness, the City's bond rating, the bond market conditions, and the types of other improvements which are competing with proposed park projects.

### 3. Enterprise and Revenue Funds

These are accounts separate from the general fund that are set up for operations that generally pay for themselves. These can be used for specific programs or activities such as recreation programs or facility expansion to help offset operating costs.

### 4. User Fees

These are fees charged for the use of City park and recreation facilities. These fees provide a means to collect from Laredo park users and help offset some of the costs associated with the park system such as maintenance and operation expenses.

### 5. Hotel/Motel Tax Revenue

Revenue from municipal hotel occupancy tax may be used to promote or enhance tourism. This includes acquisition of sites for and the construction, improvement, enlarging, equipping, repairing, operation, and maintenance of convention center facilities or visitor information centers or both. It also provides for promotional programs to attract tourists. The funds may be used to promote and encourage the application of the arts and presentation, performance, execution, and exhibition of major art forms. Historical restoration and preservation projects or activities and/or advertising to attract tourists to historic sites or museums are included as well. There are limitations on the percentage of Hotel-Motel Tax proceeds that may be used for historical restoration.

### 6. Public Improvement District (P.I.D.)

New developments and redevelopments of existing neighborhoods can establish a Public Improvement District (P.I.D.); when authorized by the City Council and legally set up according to state law, this taxing district provides funds specifically for the operation and maintenance of public amenities such as parks and major boulevards.

### 7. Grants

Grant programs provide funding from external sources other than municipal sources. The following list identifies potential grant programs:

a. Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) Program - Texas Local Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Fund, administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Funds are available on a fifty percent (50%) cost share basis.

b. The Landscaping Cost Sharing Program, administered by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Fifty percent (50%) cost sharing support is available for both highway and pedestrian landscape projects on routes within the designated permanent state highway system.

c. CDBG Funding:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs provide funding in accordance with national objectives established by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In larger cities like Laredo, projects must fit the Consolidated Plan to be considered for funding.



**d. Private Foundations:**

Private Foundations are required by law to give a set percentage of fund to charitable causes each year. There are over 90,000 Foundations throughout the country. The key is to match the municipality's priorities to those of the numerous foundations.

**e. Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)**

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) was signed into law on June 9, 1998, and makes over \$3 billion dollars available to state and local agencies over the next six years for "transportation enhancement" projects. Funds will be available for such projects as bicycle and pedestrian facilities, safe routes to schools, trails, rails-to-trails, historic preservation and similar projects.

**f. Private Park Foundations**

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

**8. Sports Facility District**

A district may be established to raise funds, acquire property, enter into contracts for services, issue bonds, and exercise the power of eminent domain for the purpose of creating parks, recreation, and sports facilities. The district is governed by directors appointed by the County Commissioners Court, the City Council of the largest city in the county, and the school district with the largest population.

**9. Round-up Programs**

A Voluntary Park and Library Fund is set up with an area on utility bills that allows residents to contribute a certain amount each month to parks and recreation and/or library funds.

**10. Parks Improvement Trust Fund**

A Laredo Parks Improvement Trust Fund may be set up specifically for parks development. This fund manages donations by service organizations, benevolent citizens, willed estates and other donated sources. The purpose of this trust is to establish a permanent source of principle value that will increase as donations occur. The principle value can never be decreased, however, the annual interest can be used for park development.

**11. Tax Increment Financing District (T.I.F)**

T.I.F. is a tool used by local governments to finance public improvements. When an area is designated a T.I.F. reinvestment zone or district, the tax base is frozen at the current level. As development occurs within the T.I.F. district and, therefore, appraised values of property in the zone increase, this increase in value, the tax increment, is captured. The tax increments are posted to a special fund to finance improvements within the T.I.F. district.

**12. Joint Use Agreement / Cost Sharing**

Joint use agreements and cost sharing for initial development, purchase of land, use of existing land and facilities and maintenance and operation costs of facilities can be constructed to allow for several entities paying and using the same facilities. Expanded joint use agreements with the school district and private recreation providers should be pursued.

**13. Local Sports Organizations**

Local sports organizations provide a source of funds or labor for the funding and construction, operation and maintenance of specific sports venues and amenities.



**14. Privately Managed Enterprise**

Privately managed businesses which operate in conjunction with parks and recreation programs can provide another avenue to provide further recreation opportunities. For example: Concession Management / Equipment Rentals – is a form of retail sales or rental of goods or consumable items that can be contracted to the private sector and that could generate a revenue stream (ie, sidewalk vendors, patios, food/drink dispensing machines, farmer’s markets, Concessions, Marinas, etc.

**15. Corporate Sponsorships**

Invites corporations to invest in the development or enhancement of new or existing facilities in both the parks and paths systems and often used for programs and events.

**16. Partnerships**

Refer to joint funding sources between two or more separate entities and could include two levels of government, The City and a not for- profit agency (ie, service clubs), or the City and private business, or a combination of all. Partners jointly develop facilities and may share risks, operational costs, responsibilities, and asset management based on the strength and weakness of each partner.

**17. Fundraisers**

Can be considered on various scales as an option that can be directed to smaller price-tag amenities; these programs can be marketed as “packaged donations” in pre-set denominations (ie, a \$100 donation will buy “X”; a \$500 donation will buy “Y”), together with a recognition program.

**18. Naming Rights**

Establishing (if not currently in place) a policy to “sell” the naming rights for new and existing parks, paths and associated amenity spaces.

**19. Advertising Sales**

Carefully managed and sensitive park signage and/or advertising space in program guides, venues as well as other visible forms of promotion that expose the advertiser to a large audience.

**20. Volunteerism**

Individuals and communities donate time to assist in the maintenance of a small park or amenity (ie, Adopt-a-Park).

**SUMMARY**

Laredo residents have high expectations for quality recreation facilities close to home where they can escape the pressures of their day to day lives. These expectations include the provision of a well designed, connected, multi-use parks system. The City of Laredo Parks & Open Space Master Plan is a planning document that will guide City administration, Council, developers, agencies and other key stakeholders in decision-making, design, implementation and management of a comprehensive multi-use parks system. The Master Plan demonstrates the City’s commitment to:

- Public health and active living;
- An integrated parks system built in partnership with developers who have interests in expanding the community;
- Attracting new residents and business to a city that is a desirable place to live, work and raise families;
- Ongoing communication with residents and interest groups about park development; and
- Support and enhance the city’s natural environment.

The City of Laredo Parks & Open Space Master Plan provides a comprehensive framework to evaluate, enhance, develop and promote the city’s open space and parks network to encourage and increase parks use.



**District 1 Summary**

**Phone Survey**

There were 535 completed surveys. Sixty percent were completed in English with 40 % conducted in Spanish (3,408 calls were made to get the random sample). The previous Master Plan mailed out 15,000 surveys and received 300 completed surveys. Respondents across eight Council districts were asked two sets of questions to help determine preferences for amenities and activities. The first set asked if there were “too few,” “too many” or “about the right amount” of amenities or activities. This evaluates the sufficiency of the current supply of amenities and activities. For each district, the “too few” responses are shown in separate charts for amenities as well as activities.

The second set asked the respondents about the importance of having new (additional) amenities which relates to potential future gaps in the supply of amenities and activities. The question was asked with a **seven-point scale** with 1 = very unimportant and 7 = very important. The mean ratings are broken down by outdoor and indoor amenities. Higher mean ratings reflect higher priorities for the amenities. These ratings, along with input from public meetings as well as staff and board surveys, will serve as the basis for the preliminary recommendations for the priorities for each Council district.

<b>District 1 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating “Too Few”</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Extreme Sports	67.2%	<b>Open Space</b>	<b>6.68</b>	Community Ctr.	6.44
Golf Course	66.7%	<b>Parkland</b>	<b>6.62</b>	Senior Center	6.21
Disc Golf	59.0%	Trails	6.44	Indoor Pool	6.03
Pools	58.2%	Practice Field	6.41		
Athletic Courts	58.0%	Picnic Shelter	6.41		
<b>Park Areas</b>	<b>57.8%</b>	Basketball Court	6.37		
Facilities/Fields	54.9%	Water Park	6.27		
Trails	52.9%	Softball Field	6.23		
Community Ctr.	43.3%	Flower Garden	6.19		
		Baseball Field	6.16		

Citizens in District 1 cited open space and parkland as their two highest priorities. In addition over half said that there were “too few” park areas. District 1 is currently meeting and is projected to continue to meet its Neighborhood Park acreage targets through 2015.

<b>District 1 Neighborhood Park Needs with 1 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 35.28 acres/1.2 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 1 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
<b>2007*</b>	29,388	35.28	29.39	N/A	35.28	5.89
<b>2010*</b>	35,085	35.28	35.09	2.85	38.13	3.05
<b>2015*</b>	40,242	35.28	40.24	4.88	40.16	(0.09)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).  
 \*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.





<b>District 1 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 35.28 acres/1.2 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	29,388	35.28	29.39	N/A	35.28	5.89
2010*	35,085	35.28	35.09	5.71	40.99	5.9
2015*	40,242	35.28	40.24	9.75	45.03	4.79

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

<b>District 1 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2.56 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 35.28 acres/1.2 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2.56 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	29,388	35.28	29.39	N/A	35.28	5.89
2010*	35,085	35.28	35.09	7.31	42.59	7.5
2015*	40,242	35.28	40.24	12.48	47.76	7.52

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

The need for additional Community Parkland is supported by park acreage standards as presented below.

<b>District 1 Community Park Needs, 2007 -2015</b>				
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 5.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>				
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 77.36 acres/2.63 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>				
Year	Population*	Current # Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007	29,388	77.36	146.94	(69.58)
2010	35,085	77.36	175.43	(98.07)
2015	40,242	77.36	201.21	(123.85)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).





Below are the amenity/facility deficiencies for District 1 based on the current inventory and the facility standards as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board.

AMENITY	NRPA Minimum Standards <sup>A</sup>	Locally Adopted Standards <sup>B</sup>	2008 INVENTORY	District 1					
				29,388	2007 Pop. Est.	35,085	2010 Pop. Est.	40,242	2015 Pop. Est.
				TARGET BASED ON 2007 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2010 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2015 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
Competitive Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000	5,000	1	6	(5)	7	(6)	8	(7)
Football Fields	1 per 20,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Competitive Baseball Fields	1 per 5,000 1 Lighted Field per 30,000	5,000	1	6	(5)	7	(6)	8	(7)
Competitive Softball Fields	1 per 5,000	5,000	1	6	(5)	7	(6)	8	(7)
Basketball Courts	1 per 5,000	5,000	7	6	1	7	(0)	8	(1)
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000	4,000	4	7	(3)	9	(5)	10	(6)
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Indoor Recreation Center		45,000	1	1	0	1	(0)	1	(0)
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Golf Course -18 holes	1 course per 50,000	50,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Playgrounds		1,000	6	29	(23)	35	(29)	40	(34)
Picnic Tables		600	0	49	(49)	58	(58)	67	(67)
Large Pavilions		5,000	0	6	(6)	7	(7)	8	(8)
Multi-purpose Court	1 per 10,000	25,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	2	(2)
Skating Facility (hockey rink)	1 per 100,000	100,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Paved Trails (miles/system)	1 system per region	20,000	0.3	1.5	(1.2)	1.8	(1.5)	2.0	(1.7)
Skate Park		20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Multi-purpose Field		20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Splash Park		20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Water Park		250,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)

A: National Recreation and Park Association Standards, 1996

B: Locally Adopted Standards as of September 2007 as Recommended by the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation Board

NRPA does not have an established standard for this amenity



Based on phone survey, PDO requirements, facility standards and inventory, below are the Outdoor Recreation priorities for District 1.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 1

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT \$45,000 per acre in addition to PDO	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	1	X			Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
1 Acre Open Space	2	X				Bonds, Grants
Playground	3	X			\$204,120	Bonds, Grants
Trail	4	X			\$30 LF	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	5	X			\$52,488	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	6	X			\$13,997	Bonds, Grants,
Sprayground	7	X			\$408,240	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Community Park	8		X		\$48,600- per acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
1 Acre Open Space	9		X		Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Trail	10		X		\$37 LF	Bonds, Grants
Large Playground	11		X		\$477,532	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	12		X		\$73,466	Bonds, Grants
Softball Field (225' Fence)	13		X		\$293,866	Bonds, Grants
Flower Garden	14		X		\$15 SF	Bonds, Grants
Baseball Field (300' Fence)	15		X		\$367,332	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Soccer Field (300' x 180')	16		X		\$117,546	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Volleyball Court (sand court)	17		X		\$36,733	Bonds, Grants
Tennis Court	18		X		\$80,813	Bonds, Grants
Skate Park	19		X		\$734,604	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	20			X	\$52,488 per Acre in Addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
1 Acre Open Space	21			X	Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Playground	22			X	\$349,826	Bonds, Grants
Trail	23			X	\$51 LF	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	24			X	\$89,955	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	25			X	\$23,988	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	26			X	\$699,652	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court	27			X	\$99,950	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.  
Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually.



Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Indoor Recreation priorities for District 1.

**INDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 1**

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Community Park	1		X		\$48,600 per acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Gymnasium	2		X		\$2,615,414	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights
Auxiliary Gym/Rental Hall	3		X		\$1,530,974	Bonds, Grants
Small Meeting Room	4		X		\$287,058	Bonds, Grants
Computer Lab	5		X		\$382,744	Bonds, Grants
Arts & Crafts Room	6		X		\$255,162	Bonds, Grants,
Large Meeting Room	7		X		\$637,906	Bonds, Grants
Exercise Room	8		X		\$382,744	Bonds, Grants
Game Room	9		X		\$255,162	Bonds, Grants
Reading Lounge	10		X		\$127,581	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.

Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually. A/E Fees of 15% are included. FFE is estimated at 10%

The opinion of probable cost for a 22,500 Sq. Ft. Indoor Recreation Center with administrative areas, restrooms, mechanical room, etc. is \$7,151,348 to be completed in 2013. Again, this does not include any site work or parking.

Due to the extreme heat in Laredo for a large portion of the year, there is a premium on providing comfortable recreation opportunities. To meet the recreational needs of District 1, the new facility should be a minimum of 22,500 sq. ft. and it should provide diverse amenities for recreation and conservation education. The City of Laredo should incorporate "green building" technologies for HVAC, windows, lighting and plumbing fixtures when designing and constructing the new building. In addition, recycled materials should be incorporated into the construction and furnishings of the new facility. To reinforce the conservation element, educational signage explaining the "green technologies" should be displayed next to their uses throughout the building.



**District 1 analysis map (here)**



**District 1 Proposed New Acquisition Sites here**



***District 2 Summary***

***Phone Survey***

There were 535 completed surveys. Sixty percent were completed in English with 40 % conducted in Spanish (3,408 calls were made to get the random sample). The previous Master Plan mailed out 15,000 surveys and received 300 completed surveys. Respondents across eight Council districts were asked two sets of questions to help determine preferences for amenities and activities. The first set asked if there were “too few,” “too many” or “about the right amount” of amenities or activities. This evaluates the sufficiency of the current supply of amenities and activities. For each district, the “too few” responses are shown in separate charts for amenities as well as activities.

The second set asked the respondents about the importance of having new (additional) amenities which relates to potential future gaps in the supply of amenities and activities. The question was asked with a **seven-point scale** with 1 = very unimportant and 7 = very important. The mean ratings are broken down by outdoor and indoor amenities. Higher mean ratings reflect higher priorities for the amenities. These ratings, along with input from public meetings as well as staff and board surveys, will serve as the basis for the preliminary recommendations for the priorities for each Council district.

<b>District 2 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating “Too Few”</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Disc Golf	82.4%	<b>Parkland</b>	<b>6.62</b>	Community Ctr.	6.31
Extreme Sports	81.4%	Trails	6.54	Senior Center	6.26
Pools	76.6%	Picnic Shelter	6.52	Indoor Pool	6.18
Golf Course	65.0%	<b>Open Space</b>	<b>6.37</b>		
<b>Park Areas</b>	<b>63.5%</b>	Water Park	6.36		
Facilities/Fields	62.5%	Flower Garden	6.3		
Trails	61.2%	Baseball Field	6.24		
Athletic Courts	59.4%	Basketball Court	6.22		
Community Ctr.	50.0%	Football Field	6.15		
		Outdoor Pool	6.14		

Citizens in District 2 cited new parkland as their highest priority and new open space as the 4<sup>th</sup> highest priority. In addition approximately 2 out of 3 of the respondents said that there were “too few” park areas. District 2 currently has and is project to continue to have a surplus of Neighborhood Park acreage.

<b>District 2 Neighborhood Park Needs with 1 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 94.93 acres/3.54 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 1 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
<b>2007*</b>	26,850	94 .93	26.85	N/A	94 .93	68.08
<b>2010*</b>	32,055	94 .93	32.06	2.61	97.54	65.48
<b>2015*</b>	36,767	94 .93	36.77	4.45	99.38	62.62

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).



<b>District 2 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2 Acres PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 94.93 acres/3.54 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	26,850	94.93	26.85	N/A	94.93	68.08
2010*	32,055	94.93	32.06	5.22	100.15	68.09
2015*	36,767	94.93	36.77	8.91	103.84	67.07

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

<b>District 2 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2.56 Acres PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 94.93 acres/3.54 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2.56 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	26,850	94.93	26.85	N/A	94.93	68.08
2010*	32,055	94.93	32.06	6.68	101.61	69.55
2015*	36,767	94.93	36.77	11.40	106.33	69.57

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

The need for additional Community Parkland is supported by park acreage standards as presented in the table below.

<b>District 2 Community Park Needs, 2007 -2015</b>				
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 5.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>				
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 121.74 acres/4.53 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>				
Year	Population*	Current # Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007	26,850	121.74	134.25	(12.51)
2010	32,055	121.74	160.28	(38.54)
2015	36,767	121.74	183.84	(62.10)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).





Below are the amenity/facility deficiencies for District 2 based on the current inventory and the facility standards as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board.

AMENITY	NRPA Minimum Standards <sup>A</sup>	Locally Adopted Standards <sup>B</sup>	2008 INVENTORY	District 2					
				26,850	2007 Pop. Est.	32,055	2010 Pop. Est.	36,767	2015 Pop. Est.
				TARGET BASED ON 2007 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2010 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2015 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
Competitive Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000	5,000	2	5	(3)	6	(4)	7	(5)
Football Fields	1 per 20,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Competitive Baseball Fields	1 per 5,000 1 Lighted Field per 30,000	5,000	3	5	(2)	6	(3)	7	(4)
Competitive Softball Fields	1 per 5,000	5,000	0	5	(5)	6	(6)	7	(7)
Basketball Courts	1 per 5,000	5,000	1	5	(4)	6	(5)	7	(6)
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000	4,000	0	7	(7)	8	(8)	9	(9)
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Indoor Recreation Center		45,000	1	1	0	1	(0)	1	(0)
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Golf Course -18 holes	1 course per 50,000	50,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Playgrounds		1,000	4	27	(23)	32	(28)	37	(33)
Picnic Tables		600	17	45	(28)	53	(36)	61	(44)
Large Pavilions		5,000	2	5	(3)	6	(4)	7	(5)
Multi-purpose Court	1 per 10,000	25,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Skating Facility (hockey rink)	1 per 100,000	100,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Paved Trails (miles/system)	1 system per region	20,000	1.2	1.3	(0.2)	1.6	(0.4)	1.8	(0.7)
Skate Park		20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Multi-purpose Field		20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Splash Park		20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Water Park		250,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)

A: National Recreation and Park Association Standards, 1996

B: Locally Adopted Standards as of September 2007 as Recommended by the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation Board

NRPA does not have an established standard for this amenity



Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Outdoor Recreation priorities for District 2.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 2

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	1	X			\$45,000 per acre in addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Trail	2	X			\$30 LE	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	3	X			\$13,997	Bonds, Grants,
Playground	4	X			\$204,120	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	5	X			Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Flower Garden	6	X			\$12 SF	Bonds, Grants, Operating Budget
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	7	X			\$58,320	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	8	X			\$52,488	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	9	X			\$408,240	Bonds, Grants
Trail	10		X		\$37 LE	Bonds, Grants
Large Playground	11		X		\$477,532	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	12		X		\$17,632	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	13		X		Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Baseball Field (300' Fence)	14		X		\$367,332	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	15		X		\$73,466	Bonds, Grants
Swimming Pool	16		X		\$4,407,984	Bonds, Grants
Soccer Field (300' x 180')	17		X		\$117,546	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Tennis Court	18		X		\$80,813	Bonds, Grants
Volleyball Court (sand court)	19		X		\$36,733	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	20			X	\$52,488 per Acre in Addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Trail	21			X	\$51 LE	Bonds, Grants
Playground	22			X	\$349,826	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	23			X	\$23,988	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	24			X	Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Flower Garden	25			X	\$20 SF	Bonds, Grants, Operating Budget
Basketball Court	26			X	\$99,950	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	27			X	\$699,652	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.  
 Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually.



Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Indoor Recreation priorities for District 2.

INDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 2

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Community Park	1	X			\$45,000 per acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Gymnasium	2	X			\$2,076,200	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights
Auxiliary Gym/Rental Hall	3	X			\$1,215,337	Bonds, Grants
Small Meeting Room	4	X			\$227,876	Bonds, Grants
Computer Lab	5	X			\$303,834	Bonds, Grants
Arts & Crafts Room	6	X			\$202,556	Bonds, Grants,
Large Meeting Room	7	X			\$506,390	Bonds, Grants
Exercise Room	8	X			\$303,834	Bonds, Grants
Game Room	9	X			\$202,556	Bonds, Grants
Reading Lounge	10	X			\$101,278	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.

Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually. A/E Fees of 15% are included. FFE is estimated at 10%

The opinion of probable cost for a 22,500 Sq. Ft. Indoor Recreation Center with administrative areas, restrooms, mechanical room, etc. is \$5,676,971 to be completed in 2010. Again, this does not include any site work or parking.

Due to the extreme heat in Laredo for a large portion of the year, there is a premium on providing comfortable recreation opportunities. To meet the recreational needs of District 2, the new facility should be a minimum of 22,500 sq. ft. and it should provide diverse amenities for recreation and conservation education. The City of Laredo should incorporate "green building" technologies for HVAC, windows, lighting and plumbing fixtures when designing and constructing the new building. In addition, recycled materials should be incorporated into the construction and furnishings of the new facility. To reinforce the conservation element, educational signage explaining the "green technologies" should be displayed next to their uses throughout the building.



District 2 analysis map here



**District 2 Proposed New Acquisition Sites here**



***District 3 Summary***

***Phone Survey***

There were 535 completed surveys. Sixty percent were completed in English with 40 % conducted in Spanish (3,408 calls were made to get the random sample). The previous Master Plan mailed out 15,000 surveys and received 300 completed surveys. Respondents across eight Council districts were asked two sets of questions to help determine preferences for amenities and activities. The first set asked if there were “too few,” “too many” or “about the right amount” of amenities or activities. This evaluates the sufficiency of the current supply of amenities and activities. For each district, the “too few” responses are shown in separate charts for amenities as well as activities.

The second set asked the respondents about the importance of having new (additional) amenities which relates to potential future gaps in the supply of amenities and activities. The question was asked with a **seven-point scale** with 1 = very unimportant and 7 = very important. The mean ratings are broken down by outdoor and indoor amenities. Higher mean ratings reflect higher priorities for the amenities. These ratings, along with input from public meetings as well as staff and board surveys, will serve as the basis for the preliminary recommendations for the priorities for each Council district.

<b>District 3 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating “Too Few”</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Golf Course	72.7%	<b>Parkland</b>	<b>6.52</b>	Senior Center	6.06
Trails	71.2%	<b>Open Space</b>	<b>6.35</b>	Community Ctr.	6.01
Disc Golf	71.2%	Picnic Shelter	6.34	Indoor Pool	5.80
Extreme Sports	65.1%	Trails	6.30		
Facilities/Fields	64.7%	Water Park	6.26		
Athletic Courts	61.8%	Basketball Court	6.22		
Pools	61.2%	Practice Field	6.20		
Community Ctr.	61.2%	Flower Garden	6.03		
<b>Park Areas</b>	<b>53.6%</b>	Baseball Field	5.91		
		Volleyball Court	5.90		

Citizens in District 3 cited new parkland and new open space as their two highest priorities. In addition, over half of the respondents said that there were “too few” park areas. District 3 is currently meeting its Neighborhood Park acreage target and could have a slight deficit in 2015.

<b>District 3 Neighborhood Park Needs with 1 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 31.4 acres/1.14 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
<b>Year</b>	<b>Population*</b>	<b># Acres</b>	<b>NRPA Standard in Acres</b>	<b>PDO Acquisition** 1 Acre/1000 pop.</b>	<b>Current Acres + PDO Acquisition</b>	<b>Surplus/(Deficit) in acres</b>
<b>2007*</b>	27,528	31.4	27.53	N/A	31.4	3.87
<b>2010*</b>	32,864	31.4	32.86	2.67	34.07	1.21
<b>2015*</b>	37,695	31.4	37.70	4.57	35.97	<b>(1.73)</b>

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).



<b>District 3 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 31.4 acres/1.14 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2 Acres/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	27,528	31.4	27.53	N/A	31.4	3.87
2010*	32,864	31.4	32.86	5.35	36.75	3.88
2015*	37,695	31.4	37.70	9.13	40.53	2.84

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

<b>District 3 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2.56 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 31.4 acres/1.14 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2.56 Acres/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	27,528	31.4	27.53	N/A	31.4	3.87
2010*	32,864	31.4	32.86	6.84	38.24	5.38
2015*	37,695	31.4	37.70	11.69	43.09	5.40

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

The need for additional Community Parkland is supported by park acreage standards as presented in the table below.

<b>District 3 Community Park Needs, 2007 -2015</b>				
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 5.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>				
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio–136.46 acres/4.96 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>				
Year	Population*	Current # Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007	27,528	136.46	137.64	(1.18)
2010	32,864	136.46	164.32	(27.86)
2015	37,695	136.46	188.48	(52.02)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).





Below are the amenity/facility deficiencies for District 3 based on the current inventory and the facility standards as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board.

AMENITY	NRPA Minimum Standards <sup>A</sup>	Locally Adopted Standards <sup>B</sup>	2008 INVENTORY	District 3					
				27,528	2007 Pop. Est.	32,864	2010 Pop. Est.	37,695	2015 Pop. Est.
				TARGET BASED ON 2007 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2010 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2015 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
Competitive Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000	5,000	2	6	(4)	7	(5)	8	(6)
Football Fields	1 per 20,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Competitive Baseball Fields	1 per 5,000 1 Lighted Field per 30,000	5,000	1	6	(5)	7	(6)	8	(7)
Competitive Softball Fields	1 per 5,000	5,000	3	6	(3)	7	(4)	8	(5)
Basketball Courts	1 per 5,000	5,000	3	6	(3)	7	(4)	8	(5)
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000	4,000	9	7	2	8	1	9	(0)
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Indoor Recreation Center		45,000	1	1	0	1	(0)	1	(0)
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Golf Course -18 holes	1 course per 50,000	50,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Playgrounds		1,000	4	28	(24)	33	(29)	38	(34)
Picnic Tables		600	46	46	0	55	(9)	63	(17)
Large Pavilions		5,000	0	6	(6)	7	(7)	8	(8)
Multi-purpose Court	1 per 10,000	25,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	2	(2)
Skating Facility (hockey rink)	1 per 100,000	100,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Paved Trails (miles/system)	1 system per region	20,000	1.7	1.4	0.4	1.6	0.1	1.9	(0.1)
Skate Park		20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Multi-purpose Field		20,000	2	1	1	2	0	2	0
Splash Park		20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Water Park		250,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)

A: National Recreation and Park Association Standards, 1996

B: Locally Adopted Standards as of September 2007 as Recommended by the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation Board

NRPA does not have an established standard for this amenity



Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Outdoor Recreation priorities for District 3. **There are no Indoor Recreation Priorities for District 3.**

OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 3

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
1 Acre Open Space	1	X			Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Playground	2	X			\$204,120	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	3	X			\$13,997	Bonds, Grants,
Trail	4	X			\$301LF	Bonds, Grants,
Baseball Field (300' Fence)	5	X			\$291,600	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Volleyball Court (sand court)	6	X			\$29,160	Bonds, Grants
Soccer Field (300' x 180')	7	X			\$93,312	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Skate Park	8	X			\$583,200	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights
Softball Field (225' fence)	9	X			\$233,280	Bonds, Grants
Tennis Court	10	X			\$64,152	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	11		X		\$48,600 per acre in addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Playground	12		X		\$257,132	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	13		X		Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	14		X		\$17,632	Bonds, Grants
Trail	15		X		\$371LF	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	16		X		\$73,466	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	17		X		\$66,120	Bonds, Grants
Flower Garden	18		X		\$15 SF	Bonds, Grants, Operating Budget

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.

Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually.



**District 3 analysis map here**



**District 3 Proposed New Acquisition Sites here**



***District 4 Summary***

***Phone Survey***

There were 535 completed surveys. Sixty percent were completed in English with 40 % conducted in Spanish (3,408 calls were made to get the random sample). The previous Master Plan mailed out 15,000 surveys and received 300 completed surveys. Respondents across eight Council districts were asked two sets of questions to help determine preferences for amenities and activities. The first set asked if there were “too few,” “too many” or “about the right amount” of amenities or activities. This evaluates the sufficiency of the current supply of amenities and activities. For each district, the “too few” responses are shown in separate charts for amenities as well as activities.

The second set asked the respondents about the importance of having new (additional) amenities which relates to potential future gaps in the supply of amenities and activities. The question was asked with a **seven-point scale** with 1 = very unimportant and 7 = very important. The mean ratings are broken down by outdoor and indoor amenities. Higher mean ratings reflect higher priorities for the amenities. These ratings, along with input from public meetings as well as staff and board surveys, will serve as the basis for the preliminary recommendations for the priorities for each Council district.

<b>District 4 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating “Too Few”</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Extreme Sports	81.7%	Water Park	6.60	Community Ctr.	6.62
Trails	79.4%	Trails	6.57	Senior Center	6.44
Pools	75.8%	<b>Open Space</b>	<b>6.55</b>	Indoor Pool	6.08
Disc Golf	75.5%	<b>Parkland</b>	<b>6.49</b>		
Community Ctr.	71.4%	Picnic Shelter	6.46		
Golf Course	68.3%	Practice Field	6.41		
<b>Park Areas</b>	<b>67.2%</b>	Basketball Court	6.34		
Athletic Courts	65.1%	Outdoor Pool	6.27		
Facilities/Fields	63.1%	Soccer Field	6.26		
		Baseball Field	6.25		

Citizens in District 4 cited new open space and new parkland as their third and fourth two highest priorities. In addition 2 out of 3 of the respondents said that there were “too few” park areas. District 4 is built out with very few vacant properties for development. With this in mind, the PDO is not an instrument that would provide for Neighborhood Parkland for this District.

<b>District 4 Neighborhood Park Needs with 1 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 16.94 acres/.61 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 1 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
<b>2007*</b>	27,552	16.94	27.55	N/A	16.94	(10.61)
<b>2010*</b>	32,893	16.94	32.89	0	16.94	(15.95)
<b>2015*</b>	37,728	16.94	37.73	0	16.94	(20.79)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).



<b>District 4 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 16.94 acres/.61 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2 Acres/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	27,552	16.94	27.55	N/A	16.94	(10.61)
2010*	32,893	16.94	32.89	0	16.94	(15.95)
2015*	37,728	16.94	37.73	0	16.94	(20.79)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

<b>District 4 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2.56 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 16.94 acres/.61 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2.56 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	27,552	16.94	27.55	N/A	16.94	(10.61)
2010*	32,893	16.94	32.89	0	16.94	(15.95)
2015*	37,728	16.94	37.73	0	16.94	(20.79)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

As with Neighborhood Parkland, District 4 also has significant deficiencies of Community Parkland as illustrated in the table below.

<b>District 4 Community Park Needs, 2007 -2015</b>				
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 5.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>				
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio–0 acres/0 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>				
Year	Population*	Current # Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007	27,552	0	137.76	(137.76)
2010	32,893	0	164.47	(164.47)
2015	37,728	0	188.64	(188.64)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).



Below are the amenity/facility deficiencies for District 4 based on the current inventory and the facility standards as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board.

AMENITY	NRPA Minimum Standards <sup>A</sup>	Locally Adopted Standards <sup>B</sup>	2008 INVENTORY	District 4					
				27,552	2007 Pop. Est.	32,893	2010 Pop. Est.	37,728	2015 Pop. Est.
				TARGET BASED ON 2007 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2010 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2015 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
Competitive Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000	5,000	1	6	(5)	7	(6)	8	(7)
Football Fields	1 per 20,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Competitive Baseball Fields	1 per 5,000 1 Lighted Field per 30,000	5,000	2	6	(4)	7	(5)	8	(6)
Competitive Softball Fields	1 per 5,000	5,000	0	6	(6)	7	(7)	8	(8)
Basketball Courts	1 per 5,000	5,000	9	6	3	7	2	8	1
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000	4,000	2	7	(5)	8	(6)	9	(7)
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Indoor Recreation Center		45,000	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Golf Course -18 holes	1 course per 50,000	50,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Playgrounds		1,000	12	28	(16)	33	(21)	38	(26)
Picnic Tables		600	15	46	(31)	55	(40)	63	(48)
Large Pavilions		5,000	1	6	(5)	7	(6)	8	(7)
Multi-purpose Court	1 per 10,000	25,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	2	(2)
Skating Facility (hockey rink)	1 per 100,000	100,000	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Paved Trails (miles/system)	1 system per region	20,000	0.2	1.4	(1.2)	1.6	(1.4)	1.9	(1.7)
Skate Park		20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Multi-purpose Field		20,000	3	1	2	2	1	2	1
Splash Park		20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Water Park		250,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)

A: National Recreation and Park Association Standards, 1996

B: Locally Adopted Standards as of September 2007 as Recommended by the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation Board

NRPA does not have an established standard for this amenity





Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Outdoor Recreation priorities for District 4. **There are no Indoor Recreation Priorities for District 4.**

OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 4

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	1	X			\$45,000 per acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Trail	2	X			\$30 LF	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
1 Acre Open Space	3	X			Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Playground	4	X			\$204,120	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	5	X			\$13,997	Bonds, Grants,
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	6	X			\$58,320	Bonds, Grants
Trail	7			X	\$51 LF	Bonds, Grants
Playground	8			X	\$349,826	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	9			X	\$23,988	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court	10			X	\$99,950	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	11			X	\$699,652	Bonds, Grants
Swimming Pool	12			X	\$5,997,014	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary.  
 The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.

Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually.



**District 4 analysis map here**



**District 4 Proposed New Acquisition Site here**



***District 5 Summary***

***Phone Survey***

There were 535 completed surveys. Sixty percent were completed in English with 40 % conducted in Spanish (3,408 calls were made to get the random sample). The previous Master Plan mailed out 15,000 surveys and received 300 completed surveys. Respondents across eight Council districts were asked two sets of questions to help determine preferences for amenities and activities. The first set asked if there were “too few,” “too many” or “about the right amount” of amenities or activities. This evaluates the sufficiency of the current supply of amenities and activities. For each district, the “too few” responses are shown in separate charts for amenities as well as activities.

The second set asked the respondents about the importance of having new (additional) amenities which relates to potential future gaps in the supply of amenities and activities. The question was asked with a **seven-point scale** with 1 = very unimportant and 7 = very important. The mean ratings are broken down by outdoor and indoor amenities. Higher mean ratings reflect higher priorities for the amenities. These ratings, along with input from public meetings as well as staff and board surveys, will serve as the basis for the preliminary recommendations for the priorities for each Council district.

<b>District 5 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating “Too Few”</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Disc Golf	79.2%	<b>Parkland</b>	<b>6.33</b>	Community Ctr.	6.21
Extreme Sports	77.8%	Picnic Shelter	6.28	Senior Center	6.16
Trails	73.3%	Water Park	6.18	Indoor Pool	5.64
Golf Course	68.4%	<b>Open Space</b>	<b>6.13</b>		
Facilities/Fields	65.6%	Basketball Court	6.09		
Athletic Courts	62.1%	Trail	5.97		
<b>Park Areas</b>	<b>61.9%</b>	Practice Field	5.94		
Pools	60.0%	Soccer Field	5.91		
Community Ctr.	52.5%	Outdoor Pool	5.87		
		Softball Field	5.73		

Citizens in District 5 cited new parkland as the highest priority and new open space as the fourth highest priority. In addition 3 out of 5 of the respondents said that there were “too few” park areas. The need for additional Neighborhood Parkland is supported by park acreage standards as reflected in the tables below.

<b>District 5 Neighborhood Park Needs with 1 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 11.71 acres/.43 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 1 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
<b>2007*</b>	27,121	11.71	27.12	N/A	11.71	(15.41)
<b>2010*</b>	32,379	11.71	32.38	2.63	14.34	(18.03)
<b>2015*</b>	37,138	11.71	37.14	4.50	16.21	(20.93)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).



<b>District 5 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 11.71 acres/.43 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	27,121	11.71	27.12	N/A	11.71	(15.41)
2010*	32,379	11.71	32.38	5.27	16.98	(15.40)
2015*	37,138	11.71	37.14	9.00	20.71	(16.43)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

<b>District 5 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2.56 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 11.71 acres/.43 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2.56 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	27,121	11.71	27.12	N/A	11.71	(15.41)
2010*	32,379	11.71	32.38	6.74	18.45	(13.93)
2015*	37,138	11.71	37.14	11.52	23.23	(13.91)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

As with Neighborhood Parkland, District 5 is also deficient in Community Parkland as reflected in the table below.

<b>District 5 Community Park Needs, 2007 -2015</b>				
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 5.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>				
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio–91.52 acres/3.37 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>				
Year	Population*	Current # Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007	27,121	91.52	135.61	(44.09)
2010	32,379	91.52	161.89	(70.38)
2015	37,138	91.52	185.69	(94.17)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).




Below are the amenity/facility deficiencies for District 5 based on the current inventory and the facility standards as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board.

AMENITY	NRPA Minimum Standards <sup>A</sup>	Locally Adopted Standards <sup>B</sup>	2008 INVENTORY	District 5					
				27,121	2007 Pop. Est.	32,379	2010 Pop. Est.	37,138	2015 Pop. Est.
				TARGET BASED ON 2007 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2010 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2015 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
Competitive Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000	5,000	3	5	(2)	6	(3)	7	(4)
Football Fields	1 per 20,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Competitive Baseball Fields	1 per 5,000 1 Lighted Field per 30,000	5,000	5	5	(0)	6	(1)	7	(2)
Competitive Softball Fields	1 per 5,000	5,000	2	5	(3)	6	(4)	7	(5)
Basketball Courts	1 per 5,000	5,000	0	5	(5)	6	(6)	7	(7)
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000	4,000	0	7	(7)	8	(8)	9	(9)
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Indoor Recreation Center		45,000	1	1	0	1	(0)	1	(0)
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Golf Course -18 holes	1 course per 50,000	50,000	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Playgrounds		1,000	6	27	(21)	32	(26)	37	(31)
Picnic Tables		600	24	45	(21)	54	(30)	62	(38)
Large Pavilions		5,000	5	5	(0)	6	(1)	7	(2)
Multi-purpose Court	1 per 10,000	25,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Skating Facility (hockey rink)	1 per 100,000	100,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Paved Trails (miles/system)	1 system per region	20,000	0.0	1.4	(1.4)	1.6	(1.6)	1.9	(1.9)
Skate Park		20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Multi-purpose Field		20,000	3	1	2	2	1	2	1
Splash Park		20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Water Park		250,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)

A: National Recreation and Park Association Standards, 1996

B: Locally Adopted Standards as of September 2007 as Recommended by the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation Board

 NRPA does not have an established standard for this amenity

District 5 also has 1 t-ball field.



Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Outdoor Recreation priorities for District 5.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 5						
ACTON	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT \$45,000 per acre in addition to PDO	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	1	X				Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Playground	2	X			\$204,120	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	3	X			\$13,997	Bonds, Grants,
1 Acre Open Space	4	X			Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court	5	X			\$38,320	Bonds, Grants
Trail	6	X			\$30 LF	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	7	X			\$52,488	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Community Park	8		X		\$48,600- per acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Large Playground	9		X		\$477,532	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	10		X		\$17,632	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	11		X		\$514,265	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	12		X		Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Trail	13		X		\$37 LF	Bonds, Grants
Soccer Field (300' x 180')	14		X		\$117,546	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Softball Field (225' Fence)	15		X		\$293,866	Bonds, Grants
Baseball Field (300' Fence)	16		X		\$367,332	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Volleyball Court (sand court)	17		X		\$36,733	Bonds, Grants
Flower Garden	18		X		\$15 SF	Bonds, Grants, Operating Budget
Tennis Court	19		X		\$80,813	Bonds, Grants
Skate Park	20		X		\$734,864	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	21			X	\$52,488 per Acre in Addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
1 Acre Open Space	22			X	Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Playground	23			X	\$349,826	Bonds, Grants
Trail	24			X	\$51 LF	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	25			X	\$89,955	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	26			X	\$23,988	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	27			X	\$699,652	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court	28			X	\$99,950	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary.  
 The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.  
 Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually.





Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Indoor Recreation priorities for District 5.

**INDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 5**

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Community Park	1		X		\$48,600 per acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Gymnasium	2		X		\$2,615,414	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights
Auxiliary Gym/Rental Hall	3		X		\$1,530,974	Bonds, Grants
Small Meeting Room	4		X		\$287,058	Bonds, Grants
Computer Lab	5		X		\$382,744	Bonds, Grants
Arts & Crafts Room	6		X		\$255,162	Bonds, Grants,
Large Meeting Room	7		X		\$637,906	Bonds, Grants
Exercise Room	8		X		\$382,744	Bonds, Grants
Game Room	9		X		\$255,162	Bonds, Grants
Reading Lounge	10		X		\$127,581	Bonds, Grants
Indoor Soccer Field (60 x 100 yards)	11		X		\$17,934,076	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights
Indoor Tennis Court	12		X		\$2,011,772	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights
Indoor Swimming Pool	13		X		\$12,035,083	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.

Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually. A/E Fees of 15% are included. FFE is estimated at 10%

The opinion of probable cost for a 22,500 Sq. Ft. Indoor Recreation Center with administrative areas, restrooms, mechanical room, etc. is \$7,151,348 to be completed in 2013. Again, this does not include any site work or parking.

Due to the extreme heat in Laredo for a large portion of the year, there is a premium on providing comfortable recreation opportunities. To meet the recreational needs of District 5, the new facility should be a minimum of 22,500 sq. ft. and it should provide diverse amenities for recreation and conservation education. The City of Laredo should incorporate "green building" technologies for HVAC, windows, lighting and plumbing fixtures when designing and constructing the new building. In addition, recycled materials should be incorporated into the construction and furnishings of the new facility. To reinforce the conservation element, educational signage explaining the "green technologies" should be displayed next to their uses throughout the building.



*District 5 analysis map here*



**District 5 Proposed New Acquisition Sites here**



***District 6 Summary***

***Phone Survey***

There were 535 completed surveys. Sixty percent were completed in English with 40 % conducted in Spanish (3,408 calls were made to get the random sample). The previous Master Plan mailed out 15,000 surveys and received 300 completed surveys. Respondents across eight Council districts were asked two sets of questions to help determine preferences for amenities and activities. The first set asked if there were “too few,” “too many” or “about the right amount” of amenities or activities. This evaluates the sufficiency of the current supply of amenities and activities. For each district, the “too few” responses are shown in separate charts for amenities as well as activities.

The second set asked the respondents about the importance of having new (additional) amenities which relates to potential future gaps in the supply of amenities and activities. The question was asked with a **seven-point scale** with 1 = very unimportant and 7 = very important. The mean ratings are broken down by outdoor and indoor amenities. Higher mean ratings reflect higher priorities for the amenities. These ratings, along with input from public meetings as well as staff and board surveys, will serve as the basis for the preliminary recommendations for the priorities for each Council district.

<b>District 6 Ratings- Phone Survey</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating “Too Few”</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Golf Courses	82.3 %	<b>Open Space</b>	<b>6.25</b>	Community Ctr.	6.08
Disc Golf	79.6%	<b>Parkland</b>	<b>6.18</b>	Indoor Pool	6.00
Extreme Sports	79.6%	Picnic Shelter	6.16	Senior Center	5.84
Trails	76.6%	Basketball Courts	6.03		
Pools	74.1%	Trails	5.98		
Facilities/Fields	67.8%	Baseball Fields	5.97		
<b>Park Areas</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	Water Park	5.86		
Athletic Courts	65.1%	Practice Fields	5.82		
Community Ctr.	59.7%	Softball Fields	5.78		
		Soccer Fields	5.66		

Citizens in District 6 cited new open space and new parkland as their two highest priorities. In addition 2 out of 3 of the respondents said that there were “too few” park areas. District 6 currently has and is projected to continue to have a surplus of Neighborhood Parkland.

<b>District 6 Neighborhood Park Needs with 1 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 47.76 acres/.43 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 1 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
<b>2007*</b>	28,420	47.76	28.42	N/A	47.76	19.34
<b>2010*</b>	33,929	47.76	33.93	2.76	50.52	16.59
<b>2015*</b>	38,917	47.76	38.92	4.72	52.48	13.56

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).



<b>District 6 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 47.76 acres/1.68 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	28,420	47.76	28.42	N/A	47.76	19.34
2010*	33,929	47.76	33.93	5.52	53.28	19.35
2015*	38,917	47.76	38.92	9.43	57.19	18.27

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

<b>District 6 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2.56 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 47.76 acres/1.68 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2.56 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	28,420	47.76	28.42	N/A	47.76	19.34
2010*	33,929	47.76	33.93	7.07	54.83	20.90
2015*	38,917	47.76	38.92	12.07	59.83	20.91

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

District 6 currently has a surplus of Community Parkland. If population projections hold true, District 6 will have a slight deficiency of Community Parkland in 2010 and a moderate deficiency by 2015.

<b>District 6 Community Park Needs, 2007 -2015</b>				
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 5.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>				
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio–161.31 acres/5.68 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>				
Year	Population*	Current # Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007	26,811	161.32	142.10	19.21
2010	33,929	161.32	169.65	(8.34)
2015	38,917	161.32	194.58	(33.27)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).



Below are the amenity/facility deficiencies for District 6 based on the current inventory and the facility standards as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board.

AMENITY	NRPA Minimum Standards <sup>A</sup>	Locally Adopted Standards <sup>B</sup>	2008 INVENTORY	District 6					
				28,420	2007 Pop. Est.	33,929	2010 Pop. Est.	38,917	2015 Pop. Est.
				TARGET BASED ON 2007 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2010 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2015 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
Competitive Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000	5,000	0	6	(6)	7	(7)	8	(8)
Football Fields	1 per 20,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Competitive Baseball Fields	1 per 5,000 1 Lighted Field per 30,000	5,000	4	6	(2)	7	(3)	8	(4)
Competitive Softball Fields	1 per 5,000	5,000	1	6	(5)	7	(6)	8	(7)
Basketball Courts	1 per 5,000	5,000	2	6	(4)	7	(5)	8	(6)
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000	4,000	0	7	(7)	8	(8)	10	(10)
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Indoor Recreation Center		45,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Golf Course -18 holes	1 course per 50,000	50,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Playgrounds		1,000	2	28	(26)	34	(32)	39	(37)
Picnic Tables		600	11	47	(36)	57	(46)	65	(54)
Large Pavilions		5,000	2	6	(4)	7	(5)	8	(6)
Multi-purpose Court	1 per 10,000	25,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	2	(2)
Skating Facility (hockey rink)	1 per 100,000	100,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Paved Trails (miles/system)	1 system per region	20,000	0.0	1.4	(1.4)	1.7	(1.7)	1.9	(1.9)
Skate Park		20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Multi-purpose Field		20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Splash Park		20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Water Park		250,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)

A: National Recreation and Park Association Standards, 1996

B: Locally Adopted Standards as of September 2007 as Recommended by the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation Board

NRPA does not have an established standard for this amenity

District 6 also has 2 t-ball fields.



Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Outdoor Recreation priorities for District 6.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 6

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	1	X			\$45,000 per acre in addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Playground	2	X			\$204,120	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	3	X			Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	4	X			\$13,997	Bonds, Grants,
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	5	X			\$58,320	Bonds, Grants
Trail	6	X			\$301LF	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	7	X			\$408,240	Bonds, Grants
Trail	8		X		\$371LF	Bonds, Grants
Large Playground	9		X		\$477,532	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	10		X		\$17,632	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	11		X		Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Wildlife Observation Platform	12		X		\$32,500	Bonds, Grants
Flower Garden	13		X		\$15 SF	Bonds, Grants, Operating Budget
Interpretive Signage	14		X		\$3,250	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Soccer Field (300' x 180')	15			X	\$159,920	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Tennis Court	16			X	\$109,945	Bonds, Grants
Volleyball Court (sand court)	17			X	\$49,975	Bonds, Grants
Trail	18			X	\$511LF	Bonds, Grants
Playground	19			X	\$349,826	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	20			X	\$23,988	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	21			X	Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court	22			X	\$99,950	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	23			X	\$699,652	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.

Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually.





Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Indoor Recreation priorities for District 6.

**INDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 6**

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Small Meeting Room	1		X		\$987,058	Bonds, Grants,
Computer Lab	2		X		\$382,744	Bonds, Grants,
Arts & Crafts Room	3		X		\$255,162	Bonds, Grants,
Large Meeting Room	4		X		\$637,906	Bonds, Grants
Reading Lounge	5		X		\$127,581	Bonds, Grants
Nature Study Classroom/Science Lab	6		X		\$382,744	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.

Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually. A/E Fees of 15% are included. FFE is estimated at 10%

The opinion of probable cost for a 22,500 Sq. Ft. Indoor Recreation Center with administrative areas, restrooms, mechanical room, etc. is \$7,131,348 to be completed in 2013. Again, this does not include any site work or parking.

Due to the extreme heat in Laredo for a large portion of the year, there is a premium on providing comfortable recreation opportunities. To meet the recreational needs of District 6, the new facility should be a minimum of 22,500 sq. ft. and it should provide diverse amenities for recreation and conservation education. The City of Laredo should incorporate "green building" technologies for HVAC, windows, lighting and plumbing fixtures when designing and constructing the new building. In addition, recycled materials should be incorporated into the construction and furnishings of the new facility. To reinforce the conservation element, educational signage explaining the "green technologies" should be displayed next to their uses throughout the building.



District 6 analysis map here



**District 6 Proposed New Acquisition Sites here**



**District 7 Summary**

**Phone Survey**

There were 535 completed surveys. Sixty percent were completed in English with 40 % conducted in Spanish (3,408 calls were made to get the random sample). The previous Master Plan mailed out 15,000 surveys and received 300 completed surveys. Respondents across eight Council districts were asked two sets of questions to help determine preferences for amenities and activities. The first set asked if there were “too few,” “too many” or “about the right amount” of amenities or activities. This evaluates the sufficiency of the current supply of amenities and activities. For each district, the “too few” responses are shown in separate charts for amenities as well as activities.

The second set asked the respondents about the importance of having new (additional) amenities which relates to potential future gaps in the supply of amenities and activities. The question was asked with a **seven-point scale** with 1 = very unimportant and 7 = very important. The mean ratings are broken down by outdoor and indoor amenities. Higher mean ratings reflect higher priorities for the amenities. These ratings, along with input from public meetings as well as staff and board surveys, will serve as the basis for the preliminary recommendations for the priorities for each Council district.

<b>District 7 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating “Too Few”</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Extreme Sports	83.0 %	Trails	6.62	Indoor Pool	6.36
Pools	72.6%	<b>Parkland</b>	<b>6.60</b>	Senior Center	6.35
Trails	71.9%	Practice Fields	6.52	Community Ctr.	6.22
Disc Golf	71.4%	Water Park	6.45		
Golf Course	71.2%	<b>Open Space</b>	<b>6.45</b>		
Facilities/Fields	63.9%	Picnic Shelters	6.45		
<b>Park Areas</b>	<b>63.5%</b>	Basketball Courts	6.42		
Athletic Courts	57.8%	Football Fields	6.38		
Community Ctr.	57.4%	Baseball Fields	6.23		
		Tennis Courts	6.09		

Citizens in District 7 cited new parkland as their second highest priority and new open space as fifth highest rated priority. In addition 63.5% of the respondents said that there were “too few” park areas. The need for additional Neighborhood Parkland is supported by park acreage standards as reflected in the tables below.

<b>District 7 Neighborhood Park Needs with 1 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 16.03 acres/.60 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
<b>Year</b>	<b>Population*</b>	<b># Acres</b>	<b>NRPA Standard in Acres</b>	<b>PDO Acquisition** 1 Acre/1000 pop.</b>	<b>Current Acres + PDO Acquisition</b>	<b>Surplus/(Deficit) in acres</b>
<b>2007*</b>	26,811	16.03	26.81	N/A	16.03	<b>(10.78)</b>
<b>2010*</b>	32,008	16.03	32.01	2.60	18.63	<b>(13.37)</b>
<b>2015*</b>	36,714	16.03	36.71	4.45	20.48	<b>(16.24)</b>

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).



<b>District 7 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 16.03 acres/.60 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2 Acres/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	26,811	16.03	26.81	N/A	16.03	(10.78)
2010*	32,008	16.03	32.01	5.21	21.24	(10.77)
2015*	36,714	16.03	36.71	8.90	24.93	(11.79)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

<b>District 7 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2.56 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 16.03 acres/.60 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2.56 Acres/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	26,811	16.03	26.81	N/A	16.03	(10.78)
2010*	32,008	16.03	32.01	6.67	22.70	(9.31)
2015*	36,714	16.03	36.71	11.39	27.42	(9.30)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

District 7 currently has a moderate deficit of Community Parkland. Based on population projections through 2015, that deficit will continue to grow unless additional Community Parkland is purchased.

<b>District 7 Community Park Needs, 2007 -2015</b>				
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 5.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>				
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio–116.23 acres/4.33 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>				
Year	Population*	Current # Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007	26,811	116.23	134.06	(17.83)
2010	32,008	116.23	160.04	(43.82)
2015	36,714	116.23	183.57	(67.34)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

Below are the amenity/facility deficiencies for District 7 based on the current inventory and the facility standards as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board.



				District 7					
				26,811	2007 Pop. Est.	32,008	2010 Pop. Est.	36,714	2015 Pop. Est.
AMENITY	NRPA Minimum Standards <sup>A</sup>	Locally Adopted Standards <sup>B</sup>	2008 INVENTORY	TARGET BASED ON 2007 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2010 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2015 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
Competitive Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000	5,000	4	5	(1)	6	(2)	7	(3)
Football Fields	1 per 20,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Competitive Baseball Fields	1 per 5,000 1 Lighted Field per 30,000	5,000	3	5	(2)	6	(3)	7	(4)
Competitive Softball Fields	1 per 5,000	5,000	0	5	(5)	6	(6)	7	(7)
Basketball Courts	1 per 5,000	5,000	4	5	(1)	6	(2)	7	(3)
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000	4,000	2	7	(5)	8	(6)	9	(7)
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Indoor Recreation Center		45,000	1	1	0	1	(0)	1	(0)
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Golf Course -18 holes	1 course per 50,000	50,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Playgrounds		1,000	2	27	(25)	32	(30)	37	(35)
Picnic Tables		600	28	45	(17)	53	(25)	61	(33)
Large Pavilions		5,000	0	5	(5)	6	(6)	7	(7)
Multi-purpose Court	1 per 10,000	25,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Skating Facility (hockey rink)	1 per 100,000	100,000	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Paved Trails (miles/system)	1 system per region	20,000	0.27	1.3	(1.1)	1.6	(1.3)	1.8	(1.6)
Skate Park		20,000	2	1	1	2	0	2	0
Multi-purpose Field		20,000	3	1	2	2	1	2	1
Splash Park		20,000	3	1	2	2	1	2	1
Water Park		250,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)

A: National Recreation and Park Association Standards, 1996

B: Locally Adopted Standards as of September 2007 as Recommended by the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation Board

NRPA does not have an established standard for this amenity



Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Outdoor Recreation priorities for District 7.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 7						
ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	1	X			\$45,000 per acre in addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Trail	2	X			\$301LF	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	3	X			\$52,488	Bonds, Grants
Playground	4	X			\$204,120	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	5	X			Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	6	X			\$13,997	Bonds, Grants,
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	7	X			\$58,320	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	8	X			\$408,240	Bonds, Grants
Trail	9		X		\$371LF	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	10		X		Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	11		X		\$17,632	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	12		X		\$73,466	Bonds, Grants
Baseball Field (300' Fence)	13		X		\$367,332	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Tennis Court	14		X		\$80,813	Bonds, Grants
Swimming Pool	15		X		\$4,407,984	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights
Soccer Field (300' x 180')	16		X		\$117,546	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Skate Park	17		X		\$734,664	Bonds, Grants
Softball Field (225' Fence)	18		X		\$293,866	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	19			X	\$52,488 per Acre in Addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Trail	20			X	\$511LF	Bonds, Grants
Playground	21			X	\$349,826	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	22			X	Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	23			X	\$23,988	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court	24			X	\$99,950	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	25			X	\$699,652	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.  
 Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually.





Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Indoor Recreation priorities for District 7.

INDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 7

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Gymnasium	1		X		\$2,076,200	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights
Auxiliary Gym/Rental Hall	2		X		\$1,215,337	Bonds, Grants
Small Meeting Room	3		X		\$227,876	Bonds, Grants
Computer Lab	4		X		\$303,834	Bonds, Grants
Arts & Crafts Room	5		X		\$202,556	Bonds, Grants,
Large Meeting Room	6		X		\$506,390	Bonds, Grants
Exercise Room	7		X		\$303,834	Bonds, Grants
Game Room	8		X		\$202,556	Bonds, Grants
Reading Lounge	9		X		\$101,278	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Community Park	10			X	\$52,488 per acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Gymnasium	11			X	\$3,558,242	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights
Auxiliary Gym/Rental Hall	12			X	\$2,082,873	Bonds, Grants
Small Meeting Room	13			X	\$390,539	Bonds, Grants
Computer Lab	14			X	\$520,718	Bonds, Grants
Arts & Crafts Room	15			X	\$347,146	Bonds, Grants,
Large Meeting Room	16			X	\$867,864	Bonds, Grants
Exercise Room	17			X	\$520,718	Bonds, Grants
Game Room	18			X	\$347,146	Bonds, Grants
Reading Lounge	19			X	\$173,573	Bonds, Grants
Indoor Soccer Field (60 x 100 yards)	20			X	\$24,399,112	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.

Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually. A/E Fees of 15% are included. FFE is estimated at 10%

The opinion of probable cost for a 22,500 Sq. Ft. Indoor Recreation Center with administrative areas, restrooms, mechanical room, etc. is \$5,676,971 to be completed in 2010 and \$9,729,330 to be completed in 2017. Again, this does not include any site work or parking.

Due to the extreme heat in Laredo for a large portion of the year, there is a premium on providing comfortable recreation opportunities. To meet the recreational needs of District 7, the new facility should be a minimum of 22,500 sq. ft. and it should provide diverse amenities for recreation and conservation education. The City of Laredo should incorporate "green building" technologies for HVAC, windows, lighting and plumbing fixtures when designing and constructing the new building. In addition, recycled materials should be incorporated into the construction and furnishings of the new facility. To reinforce the conservation element, educational signage explaining the "green technologies" should be displayed next to their uses throughout the building.



**District 7 analysis map here**



**District 7 Proposed New Acquisition Sites here**



***District 8 Summary***

***Phone Survey***

There were 535 completed surveys. Sixty percent were completed in English with 40 % conducted in Spanish (3,408 calls were made to get the random sample). The previous Master Plan mailed out 15,000 surveys and received 300 completed surveys. Respondents across eight Council districts were asked two sets of questions to help determine preferences for amenities and activities. The first set asked if there were “too few,” “too many” or “about the right amount” of amenities or activities. This evaluates the sufficiency of the current supply of amenities and activities. For each district, the “too few” responses are shown in separate charts for amenities as well as activities.

The second set asked the respondents about the importance of having new (additional) amenities which relates to potential future gaps in the supply of amenities and activities. The question was asked with a **seven-point scale** with 1 = very unimportant and 7 = very important. The mean ratings are broken down by outdoor and indoor amenities. Higher mean ratings reflect higher priorities for the amenities. These ratings, along with input from public meetings as well as staff and board surveys, will serve as the basis for the preliminary recommendations for the priorities for each Council district.

<b>District 8 Ratings</b>					
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>% Rating “Too Few”</b>	<b>New Outdoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>	<b>New Indoor Amenity</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating</b>
Disc Golf	75.0%	Picnic Shelter	6.6	Community Ctr.	6.37
Extreme Sports	68.3%	<b>Parkland</b>	<b>6.54</b>	Senior Center	6.23
Golf Course	67.2%	<b>Open Space</b>	<b>6.45</b>	Indoor Pool	6.03
<b>Park Areas</b>	<b>65.1%</b>	Trails	6.44		
Trails	64.1%	Basketball Court	6.38		
Pools	61.5%	Water Park	6.29		
Facilities/Fields	60.9%	Volleyball Court	6.25		
Athletic Courts	58.1%	Soccer Field	6.21		
Community Ctr.	50.8%	Practice Field	6.11		
		Tennis Court	6.08		

Citizens in District 8 cited new parkland and new open space and as their second and third highest priorities. In addition roughly 2 out of 3 of the respondents said that there were “too few” park areas. District 8 is currently meeting its Neighborhood Park acreage needs and has a surplus. For the most part, District 8 is built out, therefore the PDO will not affect this District.

<b>District 8 Neighborhood Park Needs with 1 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 39.29 acres/1.46 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 1 Acre/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
<b>2007*</b>	26,864	39.29	26.86	N/A	39.29	12.43
<b>2010*</b>	32,072	39.29	32.07	0	39.29	7.22
<b>2015*</b>	36,786	39.29	36.79	0	39.29	2.50

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).



<b>District 8 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 39.29 acres/1.46 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2 Acres/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	26,864	39.29	26.86	N/A	39.29	12.43
2010*	32,072	39.29	32.07	0	39.29	7.22
2015*	36,786	39.29	36.79	0	39.29	2.50

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

<b>District 8 Neighborhood Park Needs with 2.56 Acre PDO Requirement</b>						
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 1.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>						
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio– 39.29 acres/1.46 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>						
Year	Population*	# Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	PDO Acquisition** 2.56 Acres/1000 pop.	Current Acres + PDO Acquisition	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007*	26,864	39.29	26.86	N/A	39.29	12.43
2010*	32,072	39.29	32.07	0	39.29	7.22
2015*	36,786	39.29	36.79	0	39.29	2.50

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).

\*\* PDO Acquisition requires 1 acre per 1,000 population for new residential development. Figures are based on TXSDC projections for 2010 based on .5 Migration Scenario minus the Zero Migration Scenario to account for growth other than births minus deaths.

While the District is meeting its Neighborhood Park acreage targets through 2015, the District is significantly deficient in Community Parkland as noted in the table below.

<b>District 8 Community Park Needs, 2007 -2015</b>				
<b>NRPA Recommended Standard - 5.0 acres per 1,000 population</b>				
<b>Current Acreage/Ratio–0 acres/0 acres per 1,000 population based on 2007 pop.</b>				
Year	Population*	Current # Acres	NRPA Standard in Acres	Surplus/(Deficit) in acres
2007	26,864	0	134.32	(134.32)
2010	32,072	0	160.36	(160.36)
2015	36,786	0	183.93	(183.93)

\* Population projections provided by the Texas State Data Center and Office of State Demographer (TXSDC).



Below are the amenity/facility deficiencies for District 8 based on the current inventory and the facility standards as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board.

AMENITY	NRPA Minimum Standards <sup>A</sup>	Locally Adopted Standards <sup>B</sup>	2008 INVENTORY	District 8					
				26,864	2007 Pop. Est.	32,072	2010 Pop. Est.	36,786	2015 Pop. Est.
				TARGET BASED ON 2007 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2010 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)	TARGET BASED ON 2015 POP	SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY)
Competitive Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000	5,000	3	5	(2)	6	(3)	7	(4)
Football Fields	1 per 20,000	20,000	0	1	(1)	2	(2)	2	(2)
Competitive Baseball Fields	1 per 5,000 1 Lighted Field per 30,000	5,000	3	5	(2)	6	(3)	7	(4)
Competitive Softball Fields	1 per 5,000	5,000	0	5	(5)	6	(6)	7	(7)
Basketball Courts	1 per 5,000	5,000	6.5	5	1	6	0	7	(1)
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000	4,000	0	7	(7)	8	(8)	9	(9)
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	20,000	2	1	1	2	0	2	0
Indoor Recreation Center		45,000	1	1	0	1	(0)	1	(0)
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Golf Course -18 holes	1 course per 50,000	50,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Playgrounds		1,000	10	27	(17)	32	(22)	37	(27)
Picnic Tables		600	70	45	25	53	17	61	9
Large Pavilions		5,000	1	5	(4)	6	(5)	7	(6)
Multi-purpose Court	1 per 10,000	25,000	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	1	(1)
Skating Facility (hockey rink)	1 per 100,000	100,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Paved Trails (miles/system)	1 system per region	20,000	0.49	1.3	(0.8)	1.6	(1.1)	1.8	(1.3)
Skate Park		20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Multi-purpose Field		20,000	4	1	3	2	2	2	2
Splash Park		20,000	1	1	(0)	2	(1)	2	(1)
Water Park		250,000	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)

A: National Recreation and Park Association Standards, 1996

B: Locally Adopted Standards as of September 2007 as Recommended by the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation Board

NRPA does not have an established standard for this amenity

District 8 also has 1 t-ball field.



Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Outdoor Recreation priorities for District 8. **There are no Indoor Recreation Priorities for District 8.**

OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 8

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	1	X			\$13,997	Bonds, Grants,
1 Acre Open Space	2	X			Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	3	X			\$52,488	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	4	X			\$58,320	Bonds, Grants
Volleyball Court (sand court)	5	X			\$29,160	Bonds, Grants
Playground	6	X			\$204,120	Bonds, Grants
Soccer Field (300' x 180')	7	X			\$93,312	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Tennis Court	8	X			\$64,152	Bonds, Grants
Flower Garden	9	X			\$12 SF	Bonds, Grants
Baseball Field (300' Fence)	10	X			\$291,600	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Softball Field (225' fence)	11	X			\$233,280	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Skate Park	12	X			\$583,200	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Land for Trail	13			X	\$45,000 per acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Trail	14			X	\$511F	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	15			X	\$23,988	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.

Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually.



District 8 analysis map here





District 8 map here



**District 9 (ETJ) Summary**

District 9 is an extension of District 7 into the ETJ. The priorities for this District are based on the neighborhood park needs in District 7 as determined by the phone survey and facility standards. **There are no Indoor Recreation Priorities for District 9.**

**OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 9**

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	1	X			\$45,000 per acre in addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Trail	2	X			\$30 LE	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	3	X			\$52,488	Bonds, Grants
Playground	4	X			\$204,120	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	5	X			Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	6	X			\$13,997	Bonds, Grants,
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	7	X			\$58,320	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	8	X			\$408,240	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	9		X		\$48,600 per acre in addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Trail	10		X		\$37 LE	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	11		X		\$66,120	Bonds, Grants
Playground	12		X		\$257,132	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	13		X		Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	14		X		\$17,632	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	15		X		\$73,466	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	16		X		\$514,265	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Community Park	17			X	\$52,488 per Acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Motorized Trail	18			X	\$35 LE	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	19			X	Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	20			X	\$23,988	Bonds, Grants
Large Pavilion	21			X	\$499,950	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.

Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually.



District 9 analysis map here



District 9 Proposed New Acquisition Sites here



**District 10 (ETJ) Summary**

District 10 is an extension of District 5 into the ETJ. The priorities for this District are based on the neighborhood park needs in District 5 as determined by the phone survey and facility standards. Below are the Outdoor Recreation priorities for District 10. **There are no Indoor Recreation Priorities for District 10.**

OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 10						
ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	1	X			\$45,000 per acre in addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Playground	2	X			\$204,120	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	3	X			\$13,997	Bonds, Grants,
1 Acre Open Space	4	X			Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court	5	X			\$58,320	Bonds, Grants
Trail	6	X			\$30 LF	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	7	X			\$52,488	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Community Park	8		X		\$48,600- per acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Large Playground	9		X		\$477,532	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	10		X		\$17,632	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	11		X		\$514,265	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	12		X		Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Trail	13		X		\$37 LF	Bonds, Grants
Soccer Field (300' x 180')	14		X		\$117,546	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Softball Field (225' Fence)	15		X		\$293,866	Bonds, Grants
Baseball Field (300' Fence)	16		X		\$367,332	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Volleyball Court (sand court)	17		X		\$36,733	Bonds, Grants
Flower Garden	18		X		\$15 SF	Bonds, Grants, Operating Budget
Tennis Court	19		X		\$80,813	Bonds, Grants
Skate Park	20		X		\$734,664	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	21			X	\$52,488 per Acre in Addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Playground	22			X	\$349,826	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	23			X	\$2,988	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	24			X	Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court	25			X	\$99,950	Bonds, Grants
Trail	26			X	\$51 LF	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	27			X	\$89,955	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary.  
 The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.  
 Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually.



**District 10 analysis map here**



District 10 Proposed New Acquisition Sites here



**District 11 (ETJ) Summary**

District 11 is an extension of District 2 into the ETJ. The priorities for this District are based on the neighborhood park needs in District 2 as determined by the phone survey and facility standards. Below are the Outdoor Recreation priorities for District 11.

**OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 11**

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	1	X			\$45,000 per acre in addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Trail	2	X			\$30.1F	Bonds, Grants,
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	3	X			\$13,997	Bonds, Grants,
Playground	4	X			\$204,120	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	5	X			Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Flower Garden	6	X			\$12 SF	Bonds, Grants, Operating Budget
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	7	X			\$58,320	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	8	X			\$52,488	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	9	X			\$408,240	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Community Park	10		X		\$48,600 per acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Trail	11		X		\$37.1F	Bonds, Grants
Large Playground	12		X		\$477,532	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	13		X		\$17,632	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	14		X		Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Baseball Field (300' Fence)	15		X		\$367,332	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	16		X		\$73,466	Bonds, Grants
Swimming Pool	17		X		\$4,407,984	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights
Soccer Field (300' x 180')	18		X		\$117,546	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Tennis Court	19		X		\$80,813	Bonds, Grants
Volleyball Court (sand court)	20		X		\$36,733	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	21			X	\$52,488 per Acre in Addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Trail	22			X	\$51.1F	Bonds, Grants
Playground	23			X	\$349,826	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	24			X	\$23,988	Bonds, Grants
1 Acre Open Space	25			X	Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Flower Garden	26			X	\$20 SF	Bonds, Grants, Operating Budget
Basketball Court	27			X	\$99,950	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	28			X	\$699,652	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.  
 Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually.





Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Indoor Recreation priorities for District 11.

**INDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 11**

ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Community Park	1			X	\$52,488 per acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Gymnasium	2			X	\$3,558,242	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights
Auxiliary Gym/Rental Hall	3			X	\$2,082,873	Bonds, Grants
Small Meeting Room	4			X	\$390,539	Bonds, Grants
Computer Lab	5			X	\$520,718	Bonds, Grants
Arts & Crafts Room	6			X	\$347,146	Bonds, Grants,
Large Meeting Room	7			X	\$867,864	Bonds, Grants
Exercise Room	8			X	\$520,718	Bonds, Grants
Game Room	9			X	\$347,146	Bonds, Grants
Reading Lounge	10			X	\$173,573	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.

Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually. A/E Fees of 15% are included. FFE is estimated at 10%

The opinion of probable cost for a 22,500 Sq. Ft. Indoor Recreation Center with administrative areas, restrooms, mechanical room, etc. is \$9,729,330 to be completed in 2017. Again, this does not include any site work or parking.

Due to the extreme heat in Laredo for a large portion of the year, there is a premium on providing comfortable recreation opportunities. To meet the recreational needs of District 11, the new facility should be a minimum of 22,500 sq. ft. and it should provide diverse amenities for recreation and conservation education. The City of Laredo should incorporate "green building" technologies for HVAC, windows, lighting and plumbing fixtures when designing and constructing the new building. In addition, recycled materials should be incorporated into the construction and furnishings of the new facility. To reinforce the conservation element, educational signage explaining the "green technologies" should be displayed next to their uses throughout the building.



**District 11 analysis map here**



**District 11 Proposed New Acquisition Sites here**



**District 12 (ETJ) Summary**

District 12 is an extension of District 1 into the ETJ. The priorities for this District are based on the neighborhood park needs in District 1 as determined by the phone survey and facility standards. Below are the Outdoor Recreation priorities for District 12.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 12-ETJ						
ACTION	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	1	X			\$45,000 per acre in addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
1 Acre Open Space	2	X			Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Playground	3	X			\$204,120	Bonds, Grants
Trail	4	X			\$30 LF	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	5	X			\$52,488	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	6	X			\$13,997	Bonds, Grants,
Sprayground	7	X			\$408,240	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Community Park	8		X		\$48,600- per acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
1 Acre Open Space	9		X		Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Trail	10		X		\$37 LF	Bonds, Grants
Large Playground	11		X		\$477,532	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court (94' x 50')	12		X		\$73,466	Bonds, Grants
Softball Field (225' Fence)	13		X		\$293,866	Bonds, Grants
Flower Garden	14		X		\$15 SF	Bonds, Grants
Baseball Field (300' Fence)	15		X		\$367,332	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Soccer Field (300' x 180')	16		X		\$117,546	Bonds, Grants, League Fundraising
Volleyball Court (sand court)	17		X		\$36,733	Bonds, Grants
Tennis Court	18		X		\$80,813	Bonds, Grants
Skate Park	19		X		\$734,664	Bonds, Grants
Acquisition Neighborhood Park	20			X	\$52,488 per Acre in Addition to PDO	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
1 Acre Open Space	21			X	Included in land cost	Bonds, Grants
Playground	22			X	\$349,826	Bonds, Grants
Trail	23			X	\$51 LF	Bonds, Grants
Practice Field (Backstop & Infield only)	24			X	\$89,955	Bonds, Grants
Picnic Shelter (20' x 20')	25			X	\$23,988	Bonds, Grants
Sprayground	26			X	\$699,652	Bonds, Grants
Basketball Court	27			X	\$99,950	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary.  
 The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.  
 Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually.



Based on phone survey, facility standards and inventory, below are the Indoor Recreation priorities for District 12.

**INDOOR RECREATION PRIORITY RANKING- DISTRICT 12 ETJ**

ACTON	PRIORITY RANK	DESIRED COMPLETION 1-3 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 4-6 YEARS	DESIRED COMPLETION 7-10 YEARS	OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PER UNIT	FUNDING SOURCES
Acquisition Community Park	1			X	\$52,488 per acre	Bonds, Grants, Land Donation
Gymnasium	2			X	\$3,558,242	Bonds, Grants, Naming Rights
Auxiliary Gym/Rental Hall	3			X	\$2,082,873	Bonds, Grants
Small Meeting Room	4			X	\$390,539	Bonds, Grants
Computer Lab	5			X	\$520,718	Bonds, Grants
Arts & Crafts Room	6			X	\$347,146	Bonds, Grants,
Large Meeting Room	7			X	\$867,864	Bonds, Grants
Exercise Room	8			X	\$520,718	Bonds, Grants
Game Room	9			X	\$347,146	Bonds, Grants
Reading Lounge	10			X	\$173,573	Bonds, Grants

Note: Costs estimates do not reflect design detail. As more detail occurs, costs will vary. The priorities above reflect recreational priorities only. In order to meet code requirements, support elements such as parking and restrooms will need to be developed along with any new recreation elements.

Assumption: Inflation is factored at 8% compounded annually. A/E Fees of 15% are included. FFE is estimated at 10%

The opinion of probable cost for a 22,500 Sq. Ft. Indoor Recreation Center with administrative areas, restrooms, mechanical room, etc. is \$9,729,330 to be completed in 2017. Again, this does not include any site work or parking.

Due to the extreme heat in Laredo for a large portion of the year, there is a premium on providing comfortable recreation opportunities. To meet the recreational needs of District 12, the new facility should be a minimum of 22,500 sq. ft. and it should provide diverse amenities for recreation and conservation education. The City of Laredo should incorporate "green building" technologies for HVAC, windows, lighting and plumbing fixtures when designing and constructing the new building. In addition, recycled materials should be incorporated into the construction and furnishings of the new facility. To reinforce the conservation element, educational signage explaining the "green technologies" should be displayed next to their uses throughout the building.



District 12 analysis map here



**District 12 Proposed New Park Acquisition Sites here**



Linear Park map here





**APPENDIX A**

**Bibliography**

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