



Addenda

- A. *Public Participation – Telephone Survey by Ray Turco and Associates*
 - *Executive Summary of “A Survey of Resident Attitudes about Parks and Recreation in the City of Waxahachie: 2005 Parks and Recreation Attitude Survey”*
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- B. *Public Participation – Town Hall Meeting*
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Addendum A. Public Participation – Telephone Survey by Ray Turco and Associates

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A SURVEY OF RESIDENTS ATTITUDES ABOUT PARKS AND RECREATION IN THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE

2005 Parks and Recreational Attitude Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RAYMOND TURCO & ASSOCIATES

PROJECT 05132005

SEPTEMBER 2005

 **RAYMOND TURCO & ASSOCIATES**

 **Half Associates**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Raymond Turco & Associates conducted the city's 2005 Recreation Needs Assessment and Attitude Survey, a component of city's parks and recreation master plan update. This public opinion poll captured attitudes on parks and recreational issues in the community from respondents randomly selected from phone-matched households. The full sample of 400 respondents was interviewed with a comprehensive questionnaire that collected attitudinal data on a variety of recreational issues including quality ratings of facilities, need for construction of additional amenities and satisfaction with recreational characteristics.

The telephone survey included the responses of 400 individuals. Below are listed the highlights from our analysis of the project:

Parks and Recreation: Utilization and Opinions

- Better than four of five residents (84%) were satisfied (63%) or very satisfied (21%) with the quality of parks and recreation in Waxahachie, while twelve percent were either dissatisfied (10%) or very dissatisfied (2%). The remaining 4% had no opinion. The ratio of satisfied to dissatisfied respondents was seven to one. Satisfaction citywide was fairly consistent, varying from 87% (Area I) to 81% (Area II). People who utilized parks and recreation facilities in Waxahachie were more positive in their evaluation than those who did not, both in terms of intensity as well as overall satisfaction. People with children in the three age subsets were satisfied at rates of 83% (0-6), 70% (6-12), and 75% (13-18). People without children, or whose children were over the age of 18, were most satisfied, at 86%.
- Respondents were most satisfied with the recreational services provided by Waxahachie for the following age groups: young children, ages 6-12 (62%-14%, 4.4:1), under age 6 (61%-15, 4.1:1), and adults, ages 18-45 (65%-19%, 3.4:1). People were least positive about the services provided children, ages 13-18 (49%-24%, 2.0:1) and adults over the age of 65 (48%-22%, 2.2:1). A significant portion of survey participants, between 18%

and 30%, had no opinion about the recreational services provided any one of the six age groups. Area I respondents voiced the highest satisfaction for services provided the three child subsets. Comparatively, Area III was most positive in its evaluation of services provided the three parent subsets. Parents of young children were most satisfied with services provided in their own age bloc (78%-67%-67%), as were parents of teenagers (47%-39%-52%). Interestingly, parents of pre-teens did not voice the highest rate of satisfaction (69%-68%-65%) relative to children in their age bracket. Nonparents were most satisfied with the services provided adults, age 46-65 (63%, to 52%-48%-61%).

- A park (24%), pool/natatorium/aquatic center (13%), and multi-use trails/track and playgrounds (both 11%) were most frequently mentioned by survey participants as recreational facilities lacking in the city. Area II was most desirous of a park (15%-31%-18%), as they were nearly twice as likely to mention that type of facility. Interest in a pool/natatorium was consistent throughout the city (15%-11%-13%). Most of the desire for a skate park/rink was driven by people in Area III (4%-7%-15%). The more negative a person was about parks and recreation (very satisfied-satisfied-dissatisfied), the more often they mentioned needing a park (12%-27%-29%) and playgrounds (0%-13%-17%). Comparatively, those most satisfied mentioned the need for multi-use trails/track (20%-12%-2%). Nonparents more often believed the city was lacking multi-use trails/track (16%, to 5%-7%-10%) and gym/health club (12%, to 0%-0%-0%). Parents voiced the most interest in a pool/natatorium/aquatic center (18%-16%-20%, to 8%). Interest in the park included significant portions of both parents (20%-22%-25%) and nonparents (23%). A total of 13 facilities were identified as lacking within the city.
- A municipal park or park facilities (86%) and a city playground (70%) were the park and recreation facilities most often utilized by residents over the past 12 months. A majority of residents also visited or used a city park pavilion (64%), a municipal hike and bike trail (60%), visited Lake Waxahachie (56%), and visited or used a municipal athletic field (50%). Comparatively, using a municipal tennis court located at the high school (8%), participating in an adult athletic league (16%), and utilizing a municipal facility for a meeting (27%) were the facilities or activities that drew the least participation among Waxahachie residents. Of the 10 items tested, five drew their highest participation rate from people in Area II and five from Area III, although visiting a city playground received similar scores in both Areas I and III. Parents were more likely recreational participants, as they generated higher percentages except in terms of utilizing a municipal facility for a meeting, which was most popular among nonparents.

- The maintenance of city athletic fields (69%-17%, 4.1:1), overall quality of city athletic fields (68%-19%, 3.6:1), maintenance of city parks (74%-25%, 3.0:1), overall quality of hike and bike trails in the city (69%-24%, 2.9:1), and overall quality of city parks (71%-30%, 2.4:1) were the top five recreational aspects that received the highest ratio of positive (excellent/good) to negative (fair/poor) ratings from list the 22 park and recreation facility characteristics tested. Comparatively, the items that scored lowest in terms of the quality ratio ratings were the number of city tennis courts (26%-46%, 0.6:1), having hike and bike trails conveniently located for people in all areas (41%-54%, 0.8:1), variety of recreational facilities within parks (43%-55%, 0.8:1), variety of classes and programs offered by the parks and recreation department (31%-35%, 0.9:1), and having practice fields conveniently located for people in all areas (45%-52%, 0.9:1). Several statements generated high no opinion responses, indicating a lack of available information among respondents. Those items were overall quality of parks and recreation classes and programs (37%), quality of city tennis courts (36%), variety of classes and programs offered by parks and recreation department (35%), number of city tennis courts (29%), safety of practice fields (26%), and quality of practice fields (25%). Residents were not very passionate in their evaluation of recreational elements, as no item scored an excellent rating higher than 14% (maintenance of city parks). Conversely, nine aspects generated poor ratings of 14% or higher, including having practice fields conveniently located (34%), number of city tennis courts (24%), and having hike and bike trails located for people in all areas (22%). Location of facilities appeared to be of concern to residents, as ranking lower were location of parks (16th), athletic fields (10th), practice fields (18th), and trails (21st).
- Word of mouth (81%), city newspaper (75%), and signs (54%) were where residents got information about recreational activities in Waxahachie. Conversely, the sources least likely to be utilized were the Parks and Recreation office (19%), internet home page (30%), and Radio Station KBEC (34%). The city newspaper was a popular source throughout the city, evidenced by consistent ratings (77%-72%-78%). Area II residents did not rely on word of mouth (88%-76%-83%), signs (58%-47%-66%), and radio station KBEC (40%-27%-46%) to the same extent as others in the city. The older the respondent, the more reliance he or she placed on the city newspaper (64%-73%-84%), and radio station KBEC (24%-34%-41%). Conversely, it was the younger respondent who made the most of signs (58%-60%-44%) and the internet home page (50%-28%-20%) to get information about recreational activities.

Improving Parks And Recreation In Waxahachie

- Park restrooms (90%-9%, 10.0:1), a senior citizens center (88%-11%, 8.0:1), picnic tables (86%-13%, 6.6:1), playgrounds (80%-16%, 5.2:1), and additional access for hiking along the shores of Lake Waxahachie (77%-16%, 4.8:1) were the facility construction items that earned the broadest consensus – judging from the ratio of important to unimportant ratings. Secondary items from the list of 36 facility-types rated important or very important to construct by residents included a recreation center (81%-18%, 4.5:1), natural habitat/nature areas (78%-20%, 3.9:1), additional access for hiking along the shores of Lake Waxahachie (70%-21%, 3.3:1), rental picnic/reunion pavilions (74%-23%, 3.2:1), and jogging/biking trails (75%-25%, 3.0:1). At the other end of the attitude spectrum were five construction prospects that drew the lowest importance ratings from residents: shuffleboard courts (39%-57%, 0.7:1), adult softball fields (45%-46%, 0.9:1), football fields (45%-50%, 0.9:1), horseshoe pits (46%-45%, 1.0:1), and a disc golf course (45%-45%, 1.0:1). The items residents were most passionate (very important) about were a senior citizens center (37%), park restrooms (32%), recreation center (27%), playgrounds (25%), picnic tables (24%), jogging/biking trails (23%), a natatorium (22%), water spray park (21%), and a lake rental facility at Lake Waxahachie for water-related items such as paddleboats, canoes, etc. (20%).
- A senior citizen center (31%) was considered the most important recreational facilities to construct out of the 36 facility-types presented. Rounding out the top five choices were recreation center (13%), jogging/biking trails (8%), natatorium (6%), and a lake rental facility for water-related items (5%). Comparatively, mentioned least often by residents were adult softball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, shuffleboard courts, and meeting space, each mentioned as being most important by one respondent. The recreational diversity of the community was reinforced as 32 of 36 items were listed as most important by at least one person. Other important facility-types were playgrounds and a skateboard park (both 4%) and park restrooms and aquatic center (both 3%). Although percentages were fairly consistent, Area III residents assigned the highest priority to both a senior citizens center (32%-30%-36%) and a recreation center (11%-12%-16%). They were not however, the group most likely to prioritize jogging/biking trails (9%-8%-3%). Nearly one-half of all nonparents mentioned a senior citizens center as the most important facility to construct (44%, to 14%-17%-19%). Facilities mentioned by at least ten percent of a particular parental subset, besides a senior citizen center, were as follows. For

those with young children, a recreation center (13%), while parents of pre-teens considered as most important a recreation center (16%) and skate board park (10%) and those with teenage children, a recreation center (14%), natatorium (11%), and skate board park (13%).

- “Improved landscaping of city streets will help to improve our city image” (85%-15%, 5.7:1) and “I support the city developing ‘gateways to the city’ so that people know they are entering Waxahachie” (81%-17%, 4.7:1) were the beautification-related statements that attained the highest ratio of agreement to disagreement. Of the six statements tested, agreement was also significant for “I believe the city should plant more trees and improve landscaping along streets and intersections” (75%-24%, 3.1:1), “I would like to see more public art in Waxahachie” (62%-33%, 1.9:1), and “I am satisfied with how streets and intersections are landscaped in Waxahachie” (63%-38%, 1.7:1). The only statement not to generate an agreement ratio of greater than one to one was “I do not believe that landscaping city streets and intersections is all that important (25%-74%, 0.3:1). Strong agreement showed residents most enthusiastic about the city developing “gateways to the city” (20%), improved landscaping of city streets will help to improve the city image (17%), and the city should plant more trees and improve landscaping along streets and intersections (16%). Area III was the area most likely to agree that landscaping city streets and intersections are not that important (30%-24%-18%), but at the same time, that improved landscaping of city streets will help to improve the city image (86%-84%-80%). Additionally, Area III was most likely to agree to want to see more public art in Waxahachie (58%-63%-68%).
- “There is convenient parking and access” (69%-33%, 3.0:1), “I would support spending money to develop “under-street” or “above-street crossings for our trails” (67%-27%, 2.5:1), “I feel safe when I’m on a trail” (63%-26%, 2.4:1), and “The trails are wide enough to handle multiple activities e.g. walking and cycling” (64%-28%, 2.3:1) were the trail-related statements of which residents most strongly agreed, as evidenced by the ratio of agreement to disagreement. The ratio showed concerns over the two remaining statements: “Trails connect to places I or my family want to go” (54%-38%, 1.4:1), and “trails are close to where I live” (47%-51%, 0.9:1). The last statement was the only one to not generate majority agreement. There was not a lot of enthusiasm in people’s opinions, as no statement generated more than 9% strong agreement, and that was about trails being close to where one lives, the least popular item. There was a wide disparity relative to several trail statements. For example, there was a 35-point difference over the issue of trails being close to where one lives (53%-35%-70%) and a 16-point

gap for trails connecting to places I or my family want to go (57%-49%-65%) and support for spending money to develop crossings for trails (65%-64%-80%).

- Along creeks (80%), only in city parks (79%), and connecting to neighborhoods (70%), were the most popular destination choices among residents for where they would like to see trails constructed in Waxahachie. A majority would also like trails that connected throughout downtown (66%), to schools (62%), and to shopping (51%). Of less interest to respondents was constructing trails along utility rights of ways (45%), to churches (45%), and to trails from other cities (40%). Their least desirable locations by which to construct trails were along main thoroughfares (31%) and behind their house (29%). Residents in Area III were the subsector most favorable toward connecting trails to the various destinations, including along creeks (83%-76%-86%), only in city parks (82%-74%-86%), throughout downtown (69%-60%-81%), and to schools (63%-58%-70%). Note that individuals from Area II were generally the subset least likely to favor trails being connected to the different locations.
- Renovate and redevelop neighborhood parks (92%-7%, 13.1:1), construction of a senior center (92%-8%, 11.5:1), construction of restrooms in small neighborhood parks (89%-12%, 7.4:1), and expand the city's trail system (88%-12%, 7.3:1) were the top four park and recreation projects supported by residents for being funded by the city in the next five to ten years. All but one of the 12 items tested was more often supported than opposed, with the least support voiced for construction of a dog park (47%-50%, 0.9:1), a skateboard park in the city (55%-44%, 1.3:1) and expanding community meeting space (66%-30%, 2.2:1). Residents were most enthusiastic about constructing a senior citizen center (32% strong support), renovating and redeveloping neighborhood parks (31%), construction of a recreation center (27%), and purchasing additional land for parks and construction of a children's water spray park (both 22%). Only three facilities generated significantly different support ratings throughout the city: a dog park (43% in Area II, to 58% in Area III), a children's spray water park (82% in Area III, to 70% in Area I), and recreational facilities at Lake Waxahachie (85% in Area III, to 75% in Area I).

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2005 WAXAHACHIE PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY CUMULATIVE RESULTS

PROJECT 05132005

RAYMOND TURCO & ASSOCIATES

SEPTEMBER 2005

MY NAME IS _____ AND I'M WITH RAYMAR RESEARCH. WE ARE NOT A DIRECT MARKING FIRM AND THIS IS NOT A SALES CALL. OUR FIRM IS CONDUCTING A SURVEY ON PARKS AND RECREATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY. MY QUESTIONS SHOULD ONLY TAKE ABOUT 10 MINUTES, AND YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL. WOULD YOU CARE TO PARTICIPATE?

AREA _____	AREA I31%
DATE _____ SHEET NUMBER _____	AREA II53%
	AREA III16%
SEX _____	MALE49%
	FEMALE51%

1. FIRST, HOW SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN WAXAHACHIE?

	VERY SATISFIED21%
	SATISFIED63%
	DISSATISFIED10%
	VERY DISSATISFIED2%
	NO OPINION4%

2. AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE CITY?

	UNDER 1 YEAR2%
	1 - 3 YEARS14%
	4 - 7 YEARS19%
	8 - 10 YEARS8%
	11 - 20 YEARS18%
	OVER 20 YEARS41%
	REFUSE TO ANSWER0%

3. PLEASE TELL ME HOW SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED YOU ARE WITH RECREATIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY WAXAHACHIE FOR PEOPLE IN THE FOLLOWING AGE GROUPS . .

	VS	S	D	VD	NO
A) YOUNG CHILDREN (UNDER AGE 6)	12%	49%	12%	3%	25%
B) CHILDREN, AGES 6 - 12	11%	51%	11%	3%	24%
C) CHILDREN, AGES 13 - 18	8%	41%	20%	4%	28%
D) ADULTS, AGES 19 - 45	10%	55%	15%	4%	18%
E) ADULTS, AGES 46 - 65	7%	52%	15%	4%	22%
F) ADULTS OVER THE AGE OF 65	6%	42%	18%	4%	30%

4. IN YOUR PART OF TOWN, WHAT ONE RECREATIONAL FACILITY WOULD YOU SAY THE CITY IS LACKING?
 Park (24%), pool/natatorium/aquatic center (13%), multi-use trails/track (11%), playgrounds (11%), skate park/rink (7%)

5. IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, HAVE YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD	YES	NO	DON'T REM
A) VISITED OR USED A MUNICIPAL PARK OR PARK FACILITY	86%	14%	1%
B) VISITED OR USED A MUNICIPAL ATHLETIC FIELD	50%	50%	0%
C) PARTICIPATED IN A YOUTH ATHLETIC LEAGUE	30%	70%	0%
D) PARTICIPATED IN AN ADULT ATHLETIC LEAGUE	16%	84%	0%
E) USED A MUNICIPAL HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL	60%	40%	0%
F) UTILIZED A MUNICIPAL FACILITY FOR A MEETING	27%	73%	1%
G) USED A MUNICIPAL TENNIS COURT LOCATED AT THE HIGH SCHOOL	8%	92%	0%
H) VISITED A CITY PARK PAVILION	64%	37%	0%
I) VISITED A CITY PLAYGROUND	70%	30%	0%
J) VISITED LAKE WAXAHACHIE	56%	43%	1%

6. PLEASE TELL ME WHICH CITY PARKS YOU GENERALLY VISIT? (PROBE: ANY OTHERS?)
 Getzendaner (92%), Chapman (13%), Waxahachie Sports complex (7%), Lion's (5%)

7. THE CITY IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A MASTER PLAN FOR ITS PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM. WHEN COMPLETED, THE PLAN WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AND OTHER SERVICES. PLEASE TELL ME HOW IMPORTANT OR UNIMPORTANT YOU THINK IT WOULD BE TO BUILD NEW OR ADDITIONAL _____ IN WAXAHACHIE?

	VI	I	U	VU	NO
A) BASEBALL FIELDS	14%	41%	32%	7%	7%
B) ADULT SOFTBALL FIELDS	7%	38%	40%	6%	10%
C) YOUTH SOFTBALL FIELDS	11%	46%	30%	5%	8%
D) SOCCER FIELDS	12%	43%	31%	6%	9%
E) TENNIS COURTS	12%	44%	32%	3%	9%
F) FOOTBALL FIELDS	8%	37%	43%	7%	6%
G) VOLLEYBALL COURTS	11%	49%	28%	4%	8%
H) BASKETBALL COURTS	14%	54%	24%	3%	5%
I) HORSESHOE PITS	8%	38%	41%	4%	10%
J) DISC GOLF COURSE	7%	38%	39%	6%	11%
K) JOGGING/BIKING TRAILS	23%	52%	22%	3%	1%
L) RENTAL PICNIC/REUNION PAVILIONS	17%	57%	20%	3%	4%
M) IN-LINE HOCKEY RINK	9%	39%	42%	5%	6%
N) EXERCISE STATIONS ALONG TRAILS	13%	55%	27%	4%	2%
O) RACQUETBALL OR HANDBALL COURTS	10%	49%	30%	4%	7%
P) PLAYGROUNDS	25%	58%	14%	2%	2%
Q) PICNIC TABLES	24%	62%	11%	2%	2%
R) NATATORIUM	22%	49%	21%	4%	5%
S) WATER SPRAY PARK	21%	46%	27%	4%	3%
T) AMPHITHEATER	14%	56%	25%	4%	2%
U) DOG PARK	14%	40%	37%	6%	4%
V) NATURAL HABITAT/NATURE AREAS	19%	59%	17%	3%	2%
W) GYMNASIUMS	13%	46%	35%	4%	3%
X) SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	4%	35%	50%	7%	6%
Y) BIRD WATCHING FACILITIES	8%	43%	41%	5%	4%
Z) RECREATION CENTER	27%	54%	16%	2%	1%
AA) MEETING SPACE	9%	51%	33%	4%	4%
AB) ADDITIONAL BOAT RAMPS ALONG LAKE WAXAHACHIE	12%	40%	27%	5%	17%

	VI	I	U	VU	NO
AC) ADDITIONAL ACCESS FOR HIKING ALONG THE SHORES OF LAKE WAXAHACHIE	17%	53%	18%	3%	9%
AD) ADDITIONAL ACCESS FOR PICNICKING ALONG THE SHORES OF LAKE WAXAHACHIE	18%	59%	14%	2%	7%
AE) PARK RESTROOMS	32%	58%	8%	1%	1%
AF) BMX BICYCLE COURSE	9%	43%	37%	4%	8%
AG) SKATEBOARD PARK	11%	43%	36%	5%	6%
AH) AQUATIC CENTER	16%	51%	25%	3%	6%
AI) A LAKE RENTAL FACILITY AT LAKE WAXAHACHIE FOR WATER-RELATED ITEMS SUCH AS PADDLEBOATS, CANOES, ETC.	20%	52%	21%	4%	4%
AJ) SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER	37%	51%	9%	2%	2%

8. FROM THE LIST I JUST READ, WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT RECREATIONAL FACILITY TO CONSTRUCT? (USE LETTER FROM LIST)
 Senior citizen center (31%), recreation center (13%), jogging/biking trails (8%), natatorium (6%)

9. USING A SCALE OF EXCELLENT, GOOD, FAIR OR POOR, AND BASED ON WHATEVER IMPRESSIONS YOU MAY HAVE, HOW WOULD YOU RATE WAXAHACHIE IN TERMS OF . . .

	E	G	F	P	NO
A) THE NUMBER OF PARKS IN THE CITY	13%	45%	31%	10%	2%
B) HAVING PARKS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED FOR PEOPLE IN ALL AREAS	11%	39%	33%	16%	2%
C) THE OVERALL QUALITY OF CITY PARKS	13%	58%	24%	6%	0%
D) THE OVERALL SAFETY OF CITY PARKS	10%	56%	24%	8%	3%
E) THE MAINTENANCE OF CITY PARKS	14%	60%	20%	5%	1%
F) THE VARIETY OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITHIN PARKS	4%	39%	36%	19%	3%
G) THE NUMBER OF ATHLETIC FIELDS IN THE CITY	11%	49%	22%	8%	10%
H) HAVING ATHLETIC FIELDS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED FOR PEOPLE IN ALL AREAS	8%	46%	27%	10%	9%
I) THE OVERALL QUALITY OF CITY ATHLETIC FIELDS	10%	58%	15%	4%	12%
J) THE MAINTENANCE OF CITY ATHLETIC FIELDS	12%	57%	14%	3%	15%
K) THE NUMBER OF PRACTICE FIELDS IN THE CITY	5%	38%	20%	14%	23%
L) HAVING PRACTICE FIELDS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED FOR PEOPLE IN ALL AREAS	6%	39%	18%	34%	22%
M) THE OVERALL QUALITY OF PRACTICE FIELDS	5%	40%	18%	12%	25%
N) THE OVERALL SAFETY OF PRACTICE FIELDS	6%	44%	17%	8%	26%
O) THE VARIETY OF CLASSES AND PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT	4%	27%	18%	17%	35%
P) THE OVERALL QUALITY OF PARKS & RECREATION CLASSES AND PROGRAMS	4%	29%	17%	14%	37%
Q) THE AMOUNT OF HIKE AND BIKE TRAILS IN CITY	8%	42%	30%	15%	6%
R) HAVING HIKE AND BIKE TRAILS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED FOR PEOPLE IN ALL AREAS	7%	34%	32%	22%	6%
S) THE OVERALL QUALITY OF HIKE AND BIKE TRAILS IN THE CITY	13%	56%	18%	6%	7%
T) THE OVERALL QUALITY OF PLAYGROUNDS IN CITY	7%	56%	23%	9%	6%
U) THE NUMBER OF CITY TENNIS COURTS	3%	23%	22%	24%	29%
V) THE OVERALL QUALITY OF CITY TENNIS CTS	3%	30%	20%	12%	36%

10. THESE NEXT STATEMENTS DEAL WITH BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS IN THE CITY. HOW STRONGLY DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH . . .

	SA	A	D	SD	NO
A) I AM SATISFIED WITH HOW STREETS AND INTERSECTIONS ARE LANDSCAPED IN WAXAHACHIE	5%	58%	31%	7%	0%
B) I BELIEVE THE CITY SHOULD PLANT MORE TREES AND IMPROVE LANDSCAPING ALONG STREETS AND INTERSECTIONS	16%	59%	22%	2%	1%
C) I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT LANDSCAPING CITY STREETS AND INTERSECTIONS IS ALL THAT IMPORTANT	2%	23%	63%	11%	1%
D) I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE PUBLIC ART IN WAXAHACHIE	10%	52%	31%	2%	5%
E) IMPROVED LANDSCAPING OF CITY STREETS WILL HELP TO IMPROVE OUR CITY IMAGE	17%	68%	14%	1%	2%
F) I SUPPORT THE CITY DEVELOPING "GATEWAYS TO THE CITY" SO THAT PEOPLE KNOW THEY ARE ENTERING WAXAHACHIE	20%	61%	16%	1%	3%

11. NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT TRAILS. HOW STRONGLY DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING TRAIL-RELATED STATEMENTS . . .

	SA	A	D	SD	NO
A) TRAILS ARE CLOSE TO WHERE I LIVE	9%	38%	39%	12%	2%
B) THE TRAILS ARE WIDE ENOUGH TO HANDLE MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES e.g. WALKING & CYCLING	5%	59%	24%	4%	9%
C) I FEEL SAFE WHEN I'M ON A TRAIL	3%	60%	22%	4%	11%
D) THERE IS CONVENIENT PARKING AND ACCESS	3%	66%	19%	4%	8%
E) TRAILS CONNECT TO PLACES I OR MY FAMILY WANT TO GO	2%	52%	34%	4%	9%
F) I WOULD SUPPORT SPENDING MONEY TO DEVELOP "UNDER-STREET" OR "ABOVE STREET" CROSSINGS FOR OUR TRAIL SYSTEM	8%	59%	23%	4%	6%

12. IN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS OR DESTINATIONS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE TRAILS IN WAXAHACHIE CONSTRUCTED? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

ALONG CREEKS	80%	ALONG UTILITY RIGHTS OF WAY	45%
BEHIND MY HOUSE	29%	THROUGHOUT DOWNTOWN	66%
CONNECTING TO SCHOOLS	62%	ALONG MAIN THOROUGHFARES	31%
ONLY IN CITY PARKS	79%	CONNECTING TO NEIGHBORHOODS	70%
CONNECTING TO SHOPPING	51%	CONNECTING TO TRAILS FROM OTHER CITIES	40%
CONNECTING TO CHURCHES	45%		

13. IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS, THE CITY'S POPULATION IS PROJECTED TO GROW FROM ITS CURRENT SIZE OF 26,500 TO 38,000. THE CITY IS TRYING TO ADDRESS THE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF BOTH ITS CURRENT RESIDENTS AS WELL AS FUTURE CITIZENS. TO MEET THOSE NEEDS, HOW STRONGLY WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS BEING FUNDED BY THE CITY IN THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS

	SS	S	O	SO	NO
A) RENOVATE AND REDEVELOP NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	31%	61%	6%	1%	1%
B) PURCHASE ADDITIONAL LAND FOR PARKS	22%	61%	13%	2%	3%
C) CONSTRUCTION OF A RECREATION CENTER	27%	57%	12%	2%	3%
D) EXPAND COMMUNITY MEETING SPACE	11%	55%	28%	2%	4%
E) CONSTRUCTION OF A DOG PARK	11%	36%	41%	9%	4%

	SS	S	O	SO	NO
F) CONSTRUCTION OF RESTROOMS IN SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	19%	70%	10%	2%	1%
G) CONSTRUCTION OF A CHILDREN'S SPRAY WATER PARK	22%	54%	20%	3%	2%
H) CONSTRUCTION OF A NATATORIUM	18%	49%	26%	3%	4%
I) CONSTRUCTION OF A SKATEBOARD PARK IN THE CITY	14%	41%	37%	7%	3%
J) EXPAND THE CITY'S TRAIL SYSTEM	21%	67%	9%	3%	1%
K) CONSTRUCTION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AT LAKE WAXAHACHIE	17%	61%	15%	4%	4%
L) CONSTRUCTION OF A SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER	32%	60%	6%	2%	1%

14. FROM WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SOURCES DO YOU GET INFORMATION ABOUT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN WAXAHACHIE? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

CITY NEWSPAPER	75%
INTERNET HOME PAGE	30%
SIGNS	54%
WORD OF MOUTH	81%
PARKS & RECREATION OFFICE	19%
RADIO STATION (KBEC)	34%
OTHER _____	9%

15. THESE LAST FEW QUESTIONS ARE JUST FOR CLASSIFICATION PURPOSES. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING AGE GROUPS DO YOU COME UNDER?

LESS THAN 25 YEARS	5%
25 - 35 YEARS	17%
35 - 45 YEARS	16%
45 - 55 YEARS	24%
55 - 65 YEARS	17%
OVER 65 YEARS	20%
REFUSED TO ANSWER	1%

16. PLEASE TELL ME IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 AT HOME (IF YES: IN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING GROUPS DO THEY COME UNDER?)

(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

NO CHILDREN	56%
UNDER 6	17%
6 - 12	20%
13 - 18	19%
REFUSE TO ANSWER	1%

17. DO YOU BELONG TO AN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION IN THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE?

YES	16%
NO	84%

THAT'S THE END OF OUR SURVEY BUT COULD I CHECK TO SEE IF I DIALED THE CORRECT NUMBER. I DIALED _____. AND COULD I HAVE YOUR FIRST NAME, ONLY IN CASE MY SUPERVISOR HAS TO VERIFY THIS INTERVIEW? _____. THANK YOU AND HAVE A NICE EVENING.

CALLER INI. _____ ZIPCODE _____ SURVEY LENGTH _____

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A SURVEY OF RESIDENTS ATTITUDES ABOUT PARKS AND RECREATION IN THE CITY OF WAXAHACHIE

2005 Parks and Recreational Attitude Survey

Survey Results Tables

RAYMOND TURCO & ASSOCIATES

PROJECT 05132005

SEPTEMBER 2005

 **RAYMOND TURCO & ASSOCIATES**

 **Halff Associates**

TABLE #1: OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH RECREATIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY WAXAHACHIE

AGE GROUP	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED	NO OPINION	SATISFACTION RATIO
Young Children (under age 6)	12%	49%	12%	3%	25%	4.1:1
Children, ages 6-12	11%	51%	11%	3%	24%	4.4:1
Children, ages 13-18	8%	41%	20%	4%	28%	2.0:1
Adults, ages 18-45	10%	55%	15%	4%	18%	3.4:1
Adults, ages 46-65	7%	52%	15%	4%	22%	3.1:1
Adults over the age of 65	6%	42%	18%	4%	3%	2.2:1

TABLE #2: SATISFACTION WITH RECREATIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY WAXAHACHIE BY SUBSECTOR

AGE GROUP	AREA I		AREA II		AREA III	
	SATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	SATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	SATISFIED	DISSATISFIED
Young Children (under age 6)	62%	15%	60%	13%	60%	20%
Children, ages 6-12	69%	13%	58%	13%	65%	17%
Children, ages 13-18	57%	23%	44%	22%	48%	26%
Adults, ages 18-45	63%	20%	63%	18%	71%	15%
Adults, ages 46-65	60%	22%	56%	18%	66%	15%
Adults over the age of 65	54%	25%	42%	23%	56%	18%

TABLE #3: SATISFACTION WITH RECREATIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY WAXAHACHIE BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN

AGE GROUP	NO CHILD		UNDER 6 YEARS		6-12 YEARS		13-18 YEARS	
	AGREE	DISAGR	AGREE	DISAGR	AGREE	DISAGR	AGREE	DISAGR
Young Children (under age 6)	51%	12%	78%	16%	67%	24%	67%	23%
Children, ages 6-12	58%	10%	69%	13%	68%	26%	65%	26%
Children, ages 13-18	47%	19%	47%	22%	39%	33%	52%	43%
Adults, ages 18-45	63%	16%	68%	19%	63%	23%	69%	26%
Adults, ages 46-65	63%	21%	52%	16%	48%	18%	61%	19%
Adults over the age of 65	49%	25%	44%	17%	42%	19%	54%	22%

TABLE #4: OVERALL MOST IMPORTANT RECREATIONAL FACILITY THE CITY IS LACKING

FACILITY	OVERALL	AREA I	AREA II	AREA III	MALE	FEMALE
Park	24%	15%	31%	18%	17%	31%
Pool/natatorium/aquatic center	13%	15%	11%	13%	14%	11%
Multi-use trails/track	11%	9%	14%	5%	13%	10%
Playgrounds	11%	14%	10%	13%	10%	13%
Skate park/rink	7%	4%	7%	15%	7%	8%
Gym/health club	6%	11%	5%	3%	7%	5%
Senior citizen center	6%	8%	5%	5%	4%	7%
Miscellaneous	5%	5%	4%	8%	7%	3%
Golf course	4%	3%	5%	3%	5%	2%
Theater/game room/billiards	4%	1%	3%	10%	3%	4%
Camping/barbecue	3%	4%	2%	3%	5%	1%
Tennis courts	2%	5%	2%	0%	3%	2%
Sports complex	2%	3%	2%	0%	2%	2%
Teen/youth center	2%	3%	0%	5%	2%	1%

TABLE #5: OVERALL PARK USAGE OVER PAST 12 MONTHS

FACILITY USAGE	YES	NO	DON'T REMEMBER
Visited or used a municipal park or park facility	86%	14%	1%
Visited or used a municipal athletic field	50%	50%	0%
Participated in a youth athletic league	30%	70%	0%
Participated in an adult athletic league	16%	84%	0%
Used a municipal hike and bike trail	60%	40%	0%
Utilized a municipal facility for a meeting	27%	73%	1%
Used a municipal tennis court located at the high school	8%	92%	0%
Visited or used a city park pavillion	64%	37%	0%
Visited a city playground	70%	30%	0%
Visited Lake Waxahachie	56%	43%	1%

TABLE #6: RATING OF SCHOOL ASPECTS BY SUBSECTOR

FACILITY USAGE	AREA I		AREA II		AREA III	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Visited or used a municipal park or park facility	85%	14%	85%	14%	89%	11%
Visited or used a municipal athletic field	44%	56%	56%	43%	42%	38%

Participated in a youth athletic league	27%	73%	31%	69%	29%	71%
Participated in an adult athletic league	14%	86%	18%	82%	15%	85%
Used a municipal hike and bike trail	58%	42%	59%	41%	66%	34%
Utilized a municipal facility for a meeting	31%	68%	21%	78%	34%	66%
Used a municipal tennis court located at the high school	7%	93%	10%	90%	6%	94%
Visited or used a city park pavillion	60%	40%	66%	34%	63%	37%
Visited a city playground	71%	29%	68%	31%	71%	29%
Visited Lake Waxahachie	57%	42%	54%	45%	63%	37%

TABLE #7: IMPORTANCE OF SPENDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS ON STREET-RELATED ITEMS BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN

FACILITY USAGE	NO CHILD		UNDER 6 YEARS		6-12 YEARS		13-18 YEARS	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Visited or used a municipal park or park facility	80%	19%	94%	6%	93%	7%	91%	9%
Visited or used a municipal athletic field	39%	60%	72%	28%	69%	31%	55%	45%
Participated in a youth athletic league	16%	84%	44%	56%	54%	46%	46%	54%
Participated in an adult athletic league	13%	87%	16%	84%	15%	85%	23%	77%
Used a municipal hike and bike trail	55%	45%	72%	28%	69%	31%	61%	39%
Utilized a municipal facility for a meeting	32%	68%	16%	84%	17%	83%	24%	76%
Used a municipal tennis court located at the high school	7%	93%	9%	91%	10%	90%	11%	89%
Visited or used a city park pavillion	63%	37%	66%	34%	67%	33%	61%	39%
Visited a city playground	58%	41%	87%	13%	89%	11%	78%	22%
Visited Lake Waxahachie	55%	44%	65%	34%	53%	47%	55%	45%

TABLE #8: OVERALL CITY PARKS GENERALLY VISITED BY RESPONDENT

PARK	OVERALL	AREA I	AREA II	AREA III	MALE	FEMALE
Getzendaner	92%	98%	87%	94%	91%	92%
Chapman	13%	6%	20%	3%	11%	15%
Waxahachie Sports Complex	7%	3%	10%	5%	8%	6%
Lion's	5%	6%	4%	8%	4%	6%
Miscellaneous/unknown	5%	3%	8%	0%	5%	5%
Waxahachie creek/hike and bike trails	5%	4%	3%	11%	4%	5%
Lake Waxahachie	3%	2%	4%	2%	4%	2%
Hot Well	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%	3%
Lee Penn	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%
Jetty	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%

Brown Chiles	1%	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%
Belle Vue	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Bullard Heights	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%
River Oaks Addition	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Boat Dock	1%	0%	0%	3%	1%	0%
Spring	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%

TABLE #9: OVERALL IMPORTANCE OF ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN WAXAHACHIE

FACILITY	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	UNIMPORTANT	VERY UNIMPORTANT	NO OPINION	IMPORTANCE RATIO
Baseball fields	14%	41%	32%	7%	7%	1.4:1
Adult softball fields	7%	38%	40%	6%	10%	0.9:1
Youth softball fields	11%	46%	30%	5%	8%	1.6:1
Soccer fields	12%	43%	31%	6%	9%	1.5:1
Tennis courts	12%	44%	32%	3%	9%	1.6:1
Football fields	8%	37%	43%	7%	6%	0.9:1
Volleyball courts	11%	49%	28%	4%	8%	1.9:1
Basketball courts	14%	54%	24%	3%	5%	2.5:1
Horseshoe pits	8%	38%	41%	4%	10%	1.0:1
Disc golf course	7%	38%	39%	6%	11%	1.0:1
Jogging/biking trails	23%	52%	22%	3%	1%	3.0:1
Rental picnic/reunion pavillions	17%	57%	20%	3%	4%	3.2:1
In-line hockey rink	9%	39%	42%	5%	6%	1.0:1
Exercise stations along trails	13%	55%	27%	4%	2%	2.2:1
Racquetball or handball courts	10%	49%	30%	4%	7%	1.7:1
Playgrounds	25%	58%	14%	2%	2%	5.2:1
Picnic tables	24%	62%	11%	2%	2%	6.6:1
Natatorium	22%	49%	21%	4%	5%	2.8:1
Water spray park	21%	46%	27%	4%	3%	2.2:1
Amphitheater	14%	56%	25%	4%	2%	2.4:1
Dog park	14%	40%	37%	6%	4%	1.3:1
Natural habitat/nature areas	19%	59%	17%	3%	2%	3.9:1
Gymnasiums	13%	46%	35%	4%	3%	1.5:1
Shuffleboard courts	4%	35%	50%	7%	6%	0.7:1
Bird watching facilities	8%	43%	41%	5%	4%	1.1:1
Recreation center	27%	54%	16%	2%	1%	4.5:1
Meeting space	9%	51%	33%	4%	4%	1.6:1

Additional boat ramps along Lake Waxahachie	12%	40%	27%	5%	17%	1.6:1
Additional access for hiking along the shores of Lake Waxahachie	17%	53%	18%	3%	9%	3.3:1
Additional access for picnicking along the shores of Lake Waxahachie	18%	59%	14%	2%	7%	4.8:1
Park restrooms	32%	58%	8%	1%	1%	10.0:1
BMX bicycle course	9%	43%	37%	4%	8%	1.3:1
Skateboard park	11%	43%	36%	5%	6%	1.3:1
Aquatic center	16%	51%	25%	3%	6%	2.4:1
A lake rental facility at Lake Waxahachie for water-related items such as paddleboats, canoes, etc.	20%	52%	21%	4%	4%	2.9:1
Senior citizens center	37%	51%	9%	2%	2%	8.0:1

TABLE #10: IMPORTANCE OF ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN WAXAHACHIE BY SUBSECTOR

ACTIVITY	AREA I		AREA II		AREA III	
	IMPORTANT	UNIMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	UNIMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	UNIMPORTANT
Baseball fields	51%	40%	55%	39%	60%	37%
Adult softball fields	41%	48%	45%	47%	54%	37%
Youth softball fields	56%	35%	54%	37%	66%	33%
Soccer fields	53%	39%	55%	37%	58%	31%
Tennis courts	52%	38%	58%	33%	58%	40%
Football fields	42%	51%	46%	48%	49%	48%
Volleyball courts	59%	32%	59%	32%	69%	28%
Basketball courts	63%	30%	69%	25%	74%	27%
Horseshoe pits	51%	39%	44%	46%	43%	52%
Disc golf course	45%	46%	45%	43%	43%	48%
Jogging/biking trails	74%	25%	75%	23%	74%	26%
Rental picnic/reunion pavillions	74%	21%	74%	23%	77%	20%
In-line hockey rink	47%	49%	49%	42%	46%	53%
Exercise stations along trails	71%	29%	67%	30%	65%	35%
Racquetball or handball courts	59%	33%	60%	32%	55%	42%
Playgrounds	81%	17%	83%	14%	85%	15%
Picnic tables	82%	15%	86%	12%	91%	8%
Natatorium	73%	23%	69%	25%	72%	25%
Water spray park	63%	34%	69%	27%	68%	32%
Amphitheater	71%	29%	68%	30%	74%	25%
Dog park	52%	47%	53%	41%	57%	41%

Natural habitat/nature areas	80%	20%	76%	20%	79%	20%
Gymnasiums	55%	45%	62%	34%	60%	40%
Shuffleboard courts	43%	54%	35%	58%	37%	57%
Bird watching facilities	54%	44%	48%	47%	56%	40%
Recreation center	76%	22%	81%	17%	88%	12%
Meeting space	61%	36%	59%	36%	60%	38%
Additional boat ramps along Lake Waxahachie	50%	28%	51%	33%	58%	32%
Additional access for hiking along the shores of Lake Waxahachie	70%	22%	70%	20%	73%	25%
Additional access for picnicking along the shores of Lake Waxahachie	73%	19%	77%	15%	83%	16%
Park restrooms	88%	10%	91%	7%	89%	11%
BMX bicycle course	50%	45%	54%	36%	49%	45%
Skateboard park	52%	42%	54%	39%	57%	42%
Aquatic center	67%	27%	67%	27%	64%	32%
A lake rental facility at Lake Waxahachie for water-related items such as paddleboats, canoes, etc.	73%	20%	72%	25%	67%	32%
Senior citizens center	88%	11%	87%	10%	86%	14%

TABLE #11: IMPORTANCE OF ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN WAXAHACHIE BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN

ACTIVITY	NO CHILD		UNDER 6 YEARS		6-12 YEARS		13-18 YEARS	
	IMPORT	UNIMPORT	IMPORT	UNIMPORT	IMPORT	UNIMPORT	IMPORT	UNIMPORT
Baseball fields	52%	39%	56%	38%	56%	42%	63%	33%
Adult softball fields	43%	45%	53%	41%	43%	53%	47%	44%
Youth softball fields	57%	33%	59%	34%	54%	43%	61%	33%
Soccer fields	55%	35%	69%	28%	50%	42%	52%	42%
Tennis courts	54%	37%	61%	30%	59%	33%	64%	34%
Football fields	39%	54%	61%	34%	55%	43%	52%	45%
Volleyball courts	53%	37%	72%	19%	70%	23%	70%	27%
Basketball courts	63%	31%	81%	13%	77%	21%	73%	25%
Horseshoe pits	42%	47%	59%	33%	51%	39%	43%	54%
Disc golf course	40%	47%	50%	38%	52%	40%	50%	48%
Jogging/biking trails	74%	24%	77%	23%	74%	24%	77%	22%
Rental picnic/reunion pavillions	70%	27%	84%	11%	78%	17%	82%	16%
In-line hockey rink	37%	54%	64%	32%	62%	34%	61%	36%
Exercise stations along trails	65%	31%	73%	25%	72%	28%	65%	33%

Racquetball or handball courts	55%	37%	76%	19%	60%	34%	57%	41%
Playgrounds	78%	20%	95%	4%	89%	10%	85%	14%
Picnic tables	82%	16%	87%	3%	89%	9%	90%	8%
Natorium	63%	30%	85%	14%	77%	20%	77%	19%
Water spray park	55%	41%	84%	14%	86%	13%	74%	23%
Amphitheater	64%	34%	81%	19%	78%	20%	80%	19%
Dog park	52%	44%	58%	40%	54%	43%	52%	45%
Natural habitat/nature areas	72%	25%	92%	8%	84%	15%	88%	11%
Gymnasiums	53%	44%	69%	30%	68%	31%	68%	31%
Shuffleboard courts	39%	55%	41%	56%	37%	55%	31%	62%
Bird watching facilities	51%	45%	53%	45%	50%	44%	50%	46%
Recreation center	78%	20%	83%	16%	82%	17%	83%	15%
Meeting space	61%	36%	60%	35%	59%	35%	54%	42%
Additional boat ramps along Lake Waxahachie	50%	30%	63%	26%	61%	28%	50%	42%
Additional access for hiking along the shores of Lake Waxahachie	67%	22%	82%	15%	78%	18%	66%	28%
Additional access for picnicking along the shores of Lake Waxahachie	73%	19%	89%	7%	81%	16%	73%	22%
Park restrooms	87%	102%	96%	4%	94%	6%	91%	5%
BMX bicycle course	47%	43%	59%	38%	60%	36%	61%	33%
Skateboard park	47%	45%	59%	38%	66%	29%	64%	32%
Aquatic center	57%	35%	82%	16%	85%	12%	74%	23%
A lake rental facility at Lake Waxahachie for water-related items such as paddleboats, canoes, etc.	65%	30%	90%	10%	84%	13%	70%	27%
Senior citizens center	86%	12%	89%	9%	90%	7%	89%	9%

TABLE #12: OVERALL MOST IMPORTANT RECREATIONAL FACILITY TO CONSTRUCT IN WAXAHACHIE

FACILITY	OVERALL	AREA I	AREA II	AREA III	MALE	FEMALE
Senior citizen center	31%	32%	30%	36%	23%	37%
Recreation center	13%	11%	12%	16%	14%	11%
Jogging/biking trails	8%	9%	8%	3%	10%	6%
Natorium	6%	7%	5%	8%	5%	7%
Lake rental facility for water-related items	5%	3%	5%	8%	6%	4%
Playgrounds	4%	3%	6%	2%	4%	5%
Skateboard park	4%	5%	3%	5%	4%	5%
Park restrooms	3%	4%	2%	3%	2%	4%
Aquatic center	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%

Water spray park	2%	3%	2%	0%	1%	4%
Natural habitat/nature areas	2%	1%	1%	5%	4%	0%
Additional access for hiking along the shores of Lake Waxahachie	2%	2%	2%	0%	2%	2%
Gymnasiums	2%	3%	1%	0%	2%	1%
Additional boat ramps along Lake Waxahachie	2%	1%	1%	3%	3%	1%
Baseball fields	1%	3%	1%	0%	2%	1%
Rental picnic/reunion pavillions	1%	3%	0%	2%	1%	2%
Amphitheater	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%	1%
Picnic tables	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%
Additional access for picnicking along the shores of Lake Waxahachie	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%
Youth softball fields	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Soccer fields	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Football fields	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%	0%
Disc golf course	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
In-line hockey rink	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Dog park	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	2%
BMX bicycle course	1%	1%	0%	3%	2%	0%
Exercise stations along trails	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Adult softball fields	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Tennis courts	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Basketball courts	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Shuffleboard courts	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Meeting space	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%

TABLE #13: OVERALL RATING OF RECREATIONAL ASPECTS IN WAXAHACHIE

ASPECT	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	NO OPINION	RATIO
The number of parks in the city	13%	45%	31%	10%	2%	1.4:1
Having parks conveniently located for people in all areas	11%	39%	33%	16%	2%	1.0:1
The overall quality of city parks	13%	58%	24%	6%	0%	2.4:1
The overall safety of city parks	10%	56%	24%	8%	3%	2.1:1
The maintenance of city parks	14%	60%	20%	5%	1%	3.0:1
The variety of recreational facilities within parks	4%	39%	36%	19%	3%	0.8:1
The number of athletic fields in the city	11%	49%	22%	8%	10%	2.0:1
Having athletic facilities conveniently located for people in all areas	8%	46%	27%	10%	9%	1.5:1
The overall quality of city athletic fields	10%	58%	15%	4%	12%	3.6:1
The maintenance of city athletic fields	12%	57%	14%	3%	15%	4.1:1
The number of practice fields in the city	5%	38%	20%	14%	23%	1.36:1

Having practice fields conveniently located for people in all areas	6%	39%	18%	34%	22%	0.9:1
The overall quality of practice fields	5%	40%	18%	12%	25%	1.5:1
The overall safety of practice fields	6%	44%	17%	8%	26%	2.0:1
The variety of classes and programs offered by the parks and recreation department	4%	27%	18%	17%	35%	0.9:1
The overall quality of parks and recreation classes and programs	4%	29%	17%	14%	37%	1.1:1
The number of hike and bike trails in the city	8%	42%	30%	15%	6%	1.1:1
Having hike and bike trails conveniently located for people in all areas	7%	34%	32%	22%	6%	0.8:1
The overall quality of hike and bike trails in the city	13%	56%	18%	6%	7%	2.9:1
The overall quality of playgrounds in the city	7%	56%	23%	9%	6%	2.0:1
The number of city tennis courts	3%	23%	22%	24%	29%	0.6:1
The overall quality of city tennis courts	3%	30%	20%	12%	36%	1.0:1

TABLE #14: RATING OF RECREATIONAL ASPECTS IN WAXAHACHIE BY SUBSECTOR

ASPECT	AREA I		AREA II		AREA III	
	EXC/GOOD	FAIR/POOR	EXC/GOOD	FAIR/POOR	EXC/GOOD	FAIR/POOR
The number of parks in the city	55%	42%	59%	40%	58%	40%
Having parks conveniently located for people in all areas	44%	52%	51%	48%	57%	41%
The overall quality of city parks	68%	31%	73%	26%	66%	34%
The overall safety of city parks	58%	37%	69%	29%	67%	33%
The maintenance of city parks	73%	26%	77%	21%	67%	29%
The variety of recreational facilities within parks	40%	57%	41%	56%	51%	48%
The number of athletic fields in the city	60%	31%	62%	30%	57%	30%
Having athletic facilities conveniently located for people in all areas	50%	40%	57%	35%	53%	40%
The overall quality of city athletic fields	62%	25%	71%	16%	72%	19%
The maintenance of city athletic fields	65%	18%	71%	15%	66%	20%
The number of practice fields in the city	46%	30%	42%	34%	40%	42%
Having practice fields conveniently located for people in all areas	46%	32%	44%	33%	46%	39%
The overall quality of practice fields	44%	29%	45%	30%	47%	34%
The overall safety of practice fields	46%	25%	51%	24%	49%	28%
The variety of classes and programs offered by the parks and recreation department	25%	39%	30%	34%	42%	31%
The overall quality of parks and recreation classes and programs	31%	28%	31%	33%	43%	26%
The number of hike and bike trails in the city	48%	45%	49%	45%	57%	42%
Having hike and bike trails conveniently located for people in all areas	36%	55%	40%	54%	47%	49%
The overall quality of hike and bike trails in the city	67%	26%	67%	25%	78%	17%
The overall quality of playgrounds in the city	65%	29%	58%	35%	70%	27%
The number of city tennis courts	25%	45%	25%	44%	28%	49%
The overall quality of city tennis courts	28%	37%	33%	29%	40%	27%

TABLE #15: RATING OF RECREATIONAL ASPECTS IN WAXAHACHIE BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN

ASPECT	NO CHILD		UNDER 6 YEARS		6-12 YEARS		13-18 YEARS	
	EXC/ GOOD	FAIR/ POOR	EXC/ GOOD	FAIR/ POOR	EXC/ GOOD	FAIR/ POOR	EXC/ GOOD	FAIR/ POOR
The number of parks in the city	59%	38%	56%	44%	52%	49%	61%	39%
Having parks conveniently located for people in all areas	48%	50%	57%	42%	46%	55%	54%	42%
The overall quality of city parks	73%	26%	66%	33%	62%	38%	65%	35%
The overall safety of city parks	65%	30%	61%	37%	62%	38%	64%	36%
The maintenance of city parks	77%	21%	61%	38%	67%	32%	69%	29%
The variety of recreational facilities within parks	43%	53%	41%	59%	38%	61%	42%	55%
The number of athletic fields in the city	59%	27%	62%	34%	56%	40%	60%	34%
Having athletic facilities conveniently located for people in all areas	55%	33%	53%	42%	53%	44%	54%	41%
The overall quality of city athletic fields	66%	17%	69%	24%	65%	28%	71%	20%
The maintenance of city athletic fields	66%	15%	72%	19%	70%	21%	67%	19%
The number of practice fields in the city	40%	26%	47%	40%	38%	53%	45%	46%
Having practice fields conveniently located for people in all areas	42%	27%	53%	36%	40%	53%	50%	41%
The overall quality of practice fields	41%	24%	52%	34%	41%	51%	51%	34%
The overall safety of practice fields	45%	17%	45%	17%	50%	41%	58%	27%
The variety of classes and programs offered by the parks and recreation department	27%	31%	33%	43%	32%	42%	36%	42%
The overall quality of parks and recreation classes and programs	30%	26%	37%	39%	35%	36%	37%	39%
The number of hike and bike trails in the city	52%	40%	39%	59%	40%	55%	46%	48%
Having hike and bike trails conveniently located for people in all areas	41%	52%	38%	61%	34%	61%	35%	58%
The overall quality of hike and bike trails in the city	67%	24%	73%	25%	70%	25%	61%	31%
The overall quality of playgrounds in the city	60%	32%	58%	39%	63%	37%	64%	32%
The number of city tennis courts	24%	39%	29%	47%	29%	51%	26%	59%
The overall quality of city tennis courts	29%	27%	38%	29%	41%	35%	36%	43%

TABLE #16: OVERALL LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH STATEMENTS REGARDING BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS IN THE CITY

STATEMENT	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREEMENT RATIO
I am satisfied with how streets and intersections are landscaped in Waxahachie	5%	58%	31%	7%	0%	1.7:1
I believe the city should plant more trees and improve landscaping along streets and intersections	16%	59%	22%	2%	1%	3.1:1
I do not believe that landscaping city streets and intersections is all that important	2%	23%	63%	11%	1%	0.3:1
I would like to see more public art in Waxahachie	10%	52%	31%	2%	5%	1.9:1
Improved landscaping of city streets will help to improve our city image	17%	68%	14%	1%	2%	5.7:1
I support the city developing "gateways to the city" so that people know they are entering Waxahachie	20%	61%	16%	1%	3%	4.7:1

TABLE #17: LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH STATEMENTS REGARDING BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS IN THE CITY BY SUBSECTOR

STATEMENT	AREA I		AREA II		AREA III	
	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE
I am satisfied with how streets and intersections are landscaped in Waxahachie	62%	39%	63%	36%	63%	37%
I believe the city should plant more trees and improve landscaping along streets and intersections	76%	21%	77%	23%	72%	28%
I do not believe that landscaping city streets and intersections is all that important	30%	69%	24%	75%	18%	79%
I would like to see more public art in Waxahachie	58%	38%	63%	31%	68%	28%
Improved landscaping of city streets will help to improve our city image	86%	15%	84%	12%	80%	20%
I support the city developing "gateways to the city" so that people know they are entering Waxahachie	82%	15%	79%	18%	86%	14%

TABLE #18: LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR FUND ALLOCATION FOR VARIOUS DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN

STATEMENT	NO CHILD		UNDER 6 YEARS		6-12 YEARS		13-18 YEARS	
	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE
I am satisfied with how streets and intersections are landscaped in Waxahachie	61%	38%	63%	37%	65%	34%	62%	38%
I believe the city should plant more trees and improve landscaping along streets and intersections	74%	24%	78%	22%	74%	26%	79%	20%
I do not believe that landscaping city streets and intersections is all that important	25%	72%	23%	77%	28%	72%	24%	76%
I would like to see more public art in Waxahachie	59%	36%	71%	24%	70%	28%	62%	28%
Improved landscaping of city streets will help to improve our city image	80%	18%	92%	9%	90%	10%	89%	9%
I support the city developing "gateways to the city" so that people know they are entering Waxahachie	78%	19%	83%	15%	86%	14%	83%	15%

TABLE #19: OVERALL LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH TRAIL-RELATED STATEMENTS

STATEMENT	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	NO OPINION	RATIO
Trails are close to where I live	9%	38%	39%	12%	2%	0.9:1
The trails are wide enough to handle multiple activities e.g. walking and cycling	5%	59%	24%	4%	9%	2.3:1
I feel safe when I'm on a trail	3%	60%	22%	4%	11%	2.4:1
There is convenient parking and access	3%	66%	19%	4%	8%	3.0:1
Trails connect to places I or my family want to go	2%	52%	34%	4%	9%	1.4:1
I would support spending money to develop "under-street" or "above-street" crossings for our trails	8%	59%	23%	4%	6%	2.5:1

TABLE #20: LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH TRAIL-RELATED STATEMENTS BY SUBSECTOR

STATEMENT	AREA I		AREA II		AREA III	
	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE
Trails are close to where I live	53%	44%	35%	64%	70%	26%
The trails are wide enough to handle multiple activities e.g. walking and cycling	65%	25%	59%	32%	73%	20%
I feel safe when I'm on a trail	63%	25%	63%	27%	63%	27%
There is convenient parking and access	73%	20%	66%	23%	73%	23%
Trails connect to places I or my family want to go	57%	35%	49%	40%	65%	32%
I would support spending money to develop "under-street" or "above-street" crossings for our trails	65%	29%	64%	29%	80%	17%

TABLE #21: LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH TRAIL-RELATED STATEMENTS BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN

STATEMENT	NO CHILD		UNDER 6 YEARS		6-12 YEARS		13-18 YEARS	
	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE
Trails are close to where I live	42%	53%	45%	53%	42%	59%	61%	38%
The trails are wide enough to handle multiple activities e.g. walking and cycling	60%	28%	71%	25%	61%	34%	69%	25%
I feel safe when I'm on a trail	58%	28%	81%	19%	64%	30%	64%	30%
There is convenient parking and access	67%	22%	72%	26%	65%	28%	72%	23%
Trails connect to places I or my family want to go	51%	35%	62%	35%	50%	45%	62%	33%
I would support spending money to develop "under-street" or "above-street" crossings for our trails	61%	30%	74%	25%	78%	21%	77%	19%

TABLE #22: OVERALL LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR FUND ALLOCATION FOR VARIOUS PARK AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS

DEVELOPMENT	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	NO OPINION	RATIO
Renovate and redevelop neighborhood parks	31%	61%	6%	1%	1%	13.1:1
Purchase additional land for parks	22%	61%	13%	2%	3%	5.5:1
Construction of a recreation center	27%	57%	12%	2%	3%	6.0:1
Expand community meeting space	11%	55%	28%	2%	4%	2.2:1
Construction of a dog park	11%	36%	41%	9%	4%	.9:1
Construction of restrooms in small neighborhood parks	19%	70%	10%	2%	1%	7.4:1
Construction of a children's spray water park	22%	54%	20%	3%	2%	3.3:1
Construction of a natatorium	18%	49%	26%	3%	4%	2.3:1
Construction of a skateboard park in the city	14%	41%	37%	7%	3%	1.3:1
Expand the city's trail system	21%	67%	9%	3%	1%	7.3:1
Construction of recreational facilities at Lake Waxahachie	17%	61%	15%	4%	4%	4.1:1
Construction of a senior citizen's center	32%	60%	6%	2%	1%	11.5:1

TABLE #23: LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR FUND ALLOCATION FOR VARIOUS PARK AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS BY SUBSECTOR

DEVELOPMENT	AREA I		AREA II		AREA III	
	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Renovate and redevelop neighborhood parks	87%	12%	94%	6%	92%	5%
Purchase additional land for parks	82%	16%	82%	15%	88%	9%
Construction of a recreation center	79%	17%	86%	11%	87%	12%
Expand community meeting space	68%	30%	64%	31%	66%	29%
Construction of a dog park	47%	48%	43%	53%	58%	40%
Construction of restrooms in small neighborhood parks	88%	10%	87%	11%	91%	9%
Construction of a children's spray water park	70%	27%	77%	22%	82%	18%
Construction of a natatorium	66%	29%	67%	28%	67%	33%
Construction of a skateboard park in the city	52%	46%	55%	42%	53%	41%
Expand the city's trail system	85%	14%	88%	11%	93%	8%
Construction of recreational facilities at Lake Waxahachie	75%	21%	77%	20%	85%	13%
Construction of a senior citizen's center	94%	6%	90%	8%	95%	5%

TABLE #24: LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR FUND ALLOCATION FOR VARIOUS PARK AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN

DEVELOPMENT	NO CHILD		UNDER 6 YEARS		6-12 YEARS		13-18 YEARS	
	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Renovate and redevelop neighborhood parks	87%	11%	100%	0%	95%	5%	97%	2%
Purchase additional land for parks	78%	19%	93%	6%	90%	10%	90%	8%
Construction of a recreation center	81%	17%	85%	12%	91%	7%	86%	9%
Expand community meeting space	66%	31%	64%	29%	61%	34%	65%	29%
Construction of a dog park	46%	50%	44%	50%	42%	52%	52%	48%
Construction of restrooms in small neighborhood parks	87%	12%	91%	9%	91%	9%	91%	6%
Construction of a children's spray water park	66%	31%	85%	13%	92%	7%	82%	15%
Construction of a natatorium	60%	36%	71%	24%	74%	21%	78%	19%
Construction of a skateboard park in the city	45%	52%	59%	38%	65%	32%	72%	27%
Expand the city's trail system	83%	15%	99%	1%	92%	9%	91%	8%
Construction of recreational facilities at Lake Waxahachie	73%	24%	93%	4%	86%	14%	79%	18%
Construction of a senior citizen's center	92%	7%	94%	6%	94%	6%	89%	9%



Addendum B. Public Participation – Town Hall Meeting

Notes of the Town Hall Public Meeting conducted April 25, 2006



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TOWN HALL MEETING NOTES

ATTENDEES: Other than members of the Community, the following individuals were present at the meeting:

Parks Board Members:

Renda Hickerson, Chairperson
Bonnie Ramsey
Coy Sevier
Rufus Venters

Others City Representatives:

Jay Barksdale, Mayor
Joe Jenkins, Councilmember
Robert W. Sokoll, City Manager
Paul Stevens, Assistant City Manager
Nancy Ross, City Secretary
John Smith, Director of Parks & Recreation
James Villarreal, Sports Complex Superintendent

Halff Associates Planning Team:

Francois de Kock
Lenny Hughes
David Buchanan

SUBJECT: Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan
Public Meeting

MEETING DATE: April 25, 2006

LOCATION: Council Chamber, 401 South Rogers, City of Waxahachie, Texas

Mr. John Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests to the Town Hall meeting to discuss the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. He introduced Francois de Kock, Halff & Associates, who would be leading the discussion on the Parks Master Plan.

Francois explained the purpose of the town hall meeting was to solicit ideas on the things that are important to the citizens of Waxahachie. He presented the following topics to be discussed:

- Why do you like living in Waxahachie?
- What in Waxahachie calls for celebration?
- How should Waxahachie look in the future?
- How do we ensure that Waxahachie stays a choice destination amongst neighboring cities?

Francois explained the importance of a Parks Master Plan which is to:

- Create a “snapshot” of where the Parks, Trails and Streetscape system is today;
- Set goals for Parks, Trails & Streetscape development;
- Create a forum for citizens to tell what types of parks, recreation facilities, trails & other amenities they want;
- Establish the priorities for next 5 to 10 years and beyond;



- Guide future acquisition; and
- Is a tool to secure funding by City and outside sources.

Francois described Waxahachie as having a unique image which is defined by the City Approach; Downtown Waxahachie; Neighborhoods; Creeks; Flood Plain Areas; Lake Waxahachie; Open Space; and Rural Landscapes

After presenting an overview of the current park system, Francois led the discussion on a vision for the City of Waxahachie with the following questions:

- **Town image**... Why do you like living in Waxahachie? What in Waxahachie calls for celebration? How should Waxahachie look in the future?
- **Neighborhoods**... How do you define various communities? What makes them different and special?
- **Parks**... What would you like to see in your parks?
- **Trails**... What do you want to use a trail for? Where would you like to connect with a trail?
- **Open Space**... How important is Waxahachie's open space? Would you like to see open space preserved?
- **Streetscape**... What image would you like to see along your streets?
- **Recreational Facilities**... What is missing? What works?

The following is the result of the discussion:

1. What represents the image of the City?

- Everyone respects and appreciates the historic feel of the city.
- People of the community like the feeling of the city being "stuck in 1950's".
- Getzendaner Park still has the historic values and intrinsic feel that makes people want to visit the park. (e.g. the large shade trees).
- Confusion between "Downtown Waxahachie"
 - Kids believe that "Downtown" is newly developed Wal-Mart area.
 - Adults from the community see Downtown Waxahachie as "Downtown"
- The comment was that we need to keep cohesion between "different" downtown areas; Francois' response was that is important to connect these areas, and that Highway 77 should be explored for this purpose.
- Mixed-use redevelopment along Highway 77, close to the existing downtown area, will provide a new injection of life and will be the ideal interface for kids and adults.
- Most citizens avoid Highway 77 due to its congested traffic and being heavily traveled.

2. Why did you move to Waxahachie?

- Waxahachie has always been a "Quaint and Friendly" city"
- It has a "Small Town Feel"
 - Enjoys the amenities of a big city, but wants the feel of a small town community
 - Appreciates having one central high school instead of having 4 or so high schools like Plano (Feels there is better school spirit and unity).
- In order to maintain the current feel of the city Francois suggested that the city needs a vision and goals that can be implemented to maintain the historic, quaint qualities that the city has today.
- The question was asked..."Who of the participants were born in Waxahachie?"
 - The response was that only the children of the audience were born in Waxahachie.

3. What are the positives and negatives of being the county seat?

- The City of Waxahachie is the "County seat" and it is felt the buildings in the City should be more user friendly – parking is a real problem.



- b. Most of the government buildings are inaccessible especially during busy driving periods of the day.
- c. Downtown has lack of parking for the amount of visitors.
 - i. There needs to be a compromise between more parking and “Old town” feel
 - ii. People who go to the mall are prepared to walk quite a distance; response by another participant: yes, but you go to the mall out of choice; not so when you need to go to a governmental building
- d. Amenities and additions such as green space and newly landscaped areas should be added along the downtown corridor for beautification and importance of being the county seat.

4. What calls for celebration in the City of Waxahachie?

- a. Neighborhoods – people loves the unity of individual neighborhoods
- b. Historic feel – important to keep this feel with the amount of growth expected
- c. Sense of community – Waxahachie has a community feeling with people getting involved
- d. Dedications of important figures in Waxahachie society for park names and parkland dedication, e.g.
 - i. Bessie Coleman
 - ii. Byron Nelson
- e. Ellis County Courthouse – A very defining element for Downtown Waxahachie and the city as a whole
- f. People of Waxahachie
- g. Crape Myrtle Capitol
- h. Gingerbread Trail

5. Vision for Neighborhoods

- a. New developments need connection to the Historical District and need to support the historic feel of the city.
- b. Community gardens provide the opportunity to promote community togetherness.
- c. New developments can contribute to the revitalization of existing parks and continue the addition of future parks.
- d. There is a need and opportunity for more sidewalks and reconditioning of existing sidewalks.
- e. The city needs to maintain the character of the existing communities – especially the older ones.

6. Parks

Francois asked the question: “What is your vision of the Parks: What would you like to see in your parks?”

- a. There are not enough existing park benches; there needs to be more sitting areas for adults.
- b. Addition of young children play areas in existing and future parks
 - i. Fenced to make it easier for parents to watch and not worry.
 - ii. Lenny (Halff) commented saying that the use of seat walls or plant material instead of an actual fence serves the same purpose, but also provides functional areas and opportunities.
- c. Lake Waxahachie
 - i. Lake Waxahachie is visited and becomes overpopulated on weekends.
 - 1. Lake Waxahachie is not only visited from people that live within Waxahachie city boundaries, but is also visited from neighboring cities.
 - 2. Children swimming on boat ramps do not present a safe playing environment.
 - a. Possible beach areas will replace boat ramps as playing area and at the same time provide a safer play environment.
 - 3. Needs fishing piers for both boat tie up and fishing enjoyments that is wheelchair accessible.



4. Needs options for launching boats dependent on wind variables i.e. launching opportunities from both the north and south shore.
 5. More pavilions to provide opportunities for picnicking.
 6. More amenities such as park benches and pavilions are needed due to the high use.
 7. Need for more restrooms and to be unlocked during the daytime hours.
- d. Skate Park addition
- i. Currently no place to skate for youth within the city limits of Waxahachie.
 - ii. The only place currently is the downtown area, but police and security keep the kids off steps and sidewalks.
 - iii. A comment was made about the misplaced image of skaters as being hooligans, and a menace to society.
 - iv. Skaters should not have to leave city to participate in sports
 - v. Lenny's suggestion was a possible "X-treme" park; such an "X-treme" park contains skating, batting cages, etc.
 - vi. It was suggested that skating opportunities should be included as elements of new park developments.
- e. Water Spray Park
- i. A very exciting opportunity for not only the younger community, but also parents and older adults.
 - ii. The images of the spray park on the display boards were a cause for excitement for the children at the meeting.
 - iii. Even the older participants recognized the joy and fun provided by spray parks.
- f. Current Parks
- i. Need better lighting and access for existing sport fields.
 - ii. Provide trails around Lions Park and Lee Pen Park for parents while their children are practicing and at play on the ball fields.
 - iii. More workout areas for Getzendaner Park.
 - iv. Upgrade of the older parks is needed.
- g. Restrooms
- i. Francois mentioned that restroom facilities are a high need on the telephone survey, yet a liability with maintenance and safety issues, therefore are typically not recommended for neighborhood parks.
 - ii. The comment was made that the restroom facilities along the Hike and Bike Trail at the Rodeo are very helpful.

7. Trails

- a. There are currently 4 miles of existing hike and bike trails in the City of Waxahachie.
- b. In the future there can be a possible connection to other city trails – i.e. city wide trail network
- c. Need an educational component to trails such as educational signage.
- d. The trails are being used for connection to shopping areas and used for transportation to work (especially from the south of the city, thereby missing the train and evading cars).

8. Open Space

- a. Open space is important for people's mental state and general health.
- b. Open space has tremendous marketability that developers benefit from.
- c. Question was asked: how it can be said that open space needs no maintenance? – Francois responded by saying that open space is not entirely without maintenance but may have the need for once or twice mowing or burning, etc.
- d. A question was brought up about adding Crepe Myrtles into open space. Francois responded by saying that open space typically comprises natural habitats for various animal species; it is crucial to maintain the natural plant diversity which will ensure the quality of the natural open



space. Crepe Myrtles are exotic plants from China and should not be allowed in any natural area in the city.

- e. Question: will the Parks Master Plan address Conservation Development? Francois responded by saying that it should and will be addressed by the Comprehensive Plan. The Parks Master Plan though, will describe the quality of the Waxahachie landscape that calls for the implementation of Conservation Development.

9. Streetscape

- a. Addition of planting and flowers.
- b. Addition of sidewalks with a possible connection to the city trail system.
- c. Need to update sidewalks by both adding sidewalks where they are needed and updating existing sidewalk conditions.
- d. One of the younger participants in the meeting mentioned that when going to church on Sundays with her family, the sidewalks in disrepair make it hard to walk.
- e. Need to add additional plantings within the downtown area along Main St.
- f. Streets that need to be upgraded
 - i. Main St.
 - ii. Highway 77
 - iii. Downtown area
 - iv. A pedestrian connection across Highway 287 is needed.
 - v. Generally not enough sidewalks
 - vi. There is no connection between new schools and new developments.

10. Recreation Facilities

- a. Kayaking and white water rafting down creek system e.g. Boulder Colorado should be considered.
- b. Restroom facilities at Lions Park need to be upgraded or added.
- c. Restroom facilities along the hike and bike trail need to be added.
- d. People like the existing restroom facility along the hike and bike trail next to the rodeo.
- e. Current sports activities lead to a good possibility to add another ball field complex. The planning team responded by saying that the need of all sport organizations must be balanced.

11. Other comments

- a. The comment was made that we should stay cognizant of the cost to implement all the things that were discussed. Francois explained that the Parks Plan recommendations will be prioritized in shorter, medium term and long term actions. In fact, the Plan looks as far into the future as 50 years. The sum of all the actions can be expected to be high in cost. However, without a plan of action, nothing will be done and we will fall short of our vision or hopes for the city. Mayor Jay Barksdale stated citizens are not wasting money because homes adjacent to parks are more valuable and nice sidewalks in front of homes also make homes more valuable. The mayor said: Yes, it may cost dollars, but it will be an investment in the community: upgraded sidewalks, parks and enhanced streetscapes will increase property values.
- b. Improved parks and streetscapes will also provide a marketing opportunity for the city to draw in future developments and investors. It was noted more advertisement and marketing needs to be conducted on what the city already has available. It was particularly expressed in terms of the importance of Waxahachie's open space.

END



Halff Associates, Inc.

ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • SCIENTISTS • PLANNERS • SURVEYORS

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Addendum C. Public Participation – Sport Organization Input



Waxahachie Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

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Waxahachie Girls Fast Pitch Softball

Prepared by: Robert Banda

12/16/06

The Waxahachie Youth Sports League contains the following two sport groups:

- 1) Texas Thunder Girls Fast Pitch Softball
- 2) Waxahachie Girls Fast Pitch Softball Association

Questions posed by the Parks and Recreation Department

1. What is the current number of participants and teams?

14 Teams = 140 girls

2. What is the growth projection of your particular sport activity for the next 5 to 10 years?

40 Teams

3. What is your need to meet the future requirements?

4 dedicated Fields

4. Are the current facilities for your specific sport activity adequate? If not, why and what should be done to correct it?

Yes and No – Field specifications are for slow pitch, not fast pitch = 300 ft. – 200 ft.
We need temporary fences or a girls fast pitch facility

5. How does your organization/league fit into a regional context in terms of the use of facilities?

We hold 3 to 4 tournaments drawing teams from as far north as Oklahoma and south to Waco.



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Waxahachie Family YMCA

Prepared by: Erin Sarkees; Sports Director
2006

1. What is the current number of participants and teams?

Spring Sports: Softball (275/30 teams), Soccer (400/45 teams), Adult Flag Football (50/6 teams), Adult Softball (60/5 teams)

Summer Sports: Baseball (400/45 teams)

Fall Sports: Softball (60/6 teams), Soccer (350/40 teams), Adult Flag Football (50/6 teams), Adult Softball (60/5 teams)

2. What is the growth projection of your particular sport activity for the next 5 to 10 years?

I would like to see fall softball grow at a rate of 5-10% by advertising in surrounding areas such as Maypearl, Italy and Palmer. Fall flag football has grown by around 3-4% over the past couple of years and I would like to see that continue. We are trying to grow baseball and Fall softball, but with the heat of the summer and various other activities (cheerleading, etc.), we have to find new ways to reach a wider population. Adult sports tend to stay about the same from year to year.

3. What is your need to meet the future requirements?

I would love to have a designated "practice" space developed at the complex. I realize we have the use of Lion's Park, but I think as Waxahachie continues to grow, those facilities will become a little overused. For example, if the city were planning to add (X) number of soccer fields, it might be a good idea to designate a couple fields as practice. I realize this presents multiple problems (someone must be hired to open the gate, insurance problems, etc.), but it's just a thought. I have been pleased with the setup (both for game days and practices) so far, but I can see a problem with the facility space keeping up with the population growth of Waxahachie.

4. Are the current facilities for your specific sport activity adequate? If not, why and what should be done to correct it?

As I said before, I am pleased with the current situation, but as Waxahachie continues to grow, I foresee a problem with practice space. I don't think space for games is as big a problem because we can spread out game schedules. For example, if our league grows by 20%, we would have to find a way to accommodate those new teams by either playing later in the day on game days or having game days during the week. The YMCA requires our teams to practice at least once a week; with Waxahachie's growth, there are only so many hours and days we can practice at Lion's Park. Again, I know this is not as easy as it sounds, but it is just a thought.

5. How does your organization/league fit into a regional context in terms of the use of facilities?

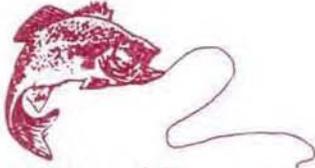
The Waxahachie YMCA primarily services residents of Ellis County (more specifically, Waxahachie). We send out flyers for each sport to the following cities in Ellis County: Palmer, Italy, Midlothian, Maypearl, Desoto (occasionally), Cedar Hill and Red Oak.

I would guess the participation of Waxahachie participants to all other participants is 85% (Waxahachie) to 15% (all others).



Waxahachie Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

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Kathy Magers

Professional Angler

Fishing & Boating Consultant

• 2002 Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame Inductee

April 25, 2006

John Smith
City Parks & Recreation
City of Waxahachie, Texas

From: Kathy Magers
Fishing & Boating Consultant

Dear Mr. Smith:

I've worked in the fishing and boating industries for over twenty years and have a great deal of experience in each. I have worked closely with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department here "at home" and also with several of the national organizations which represent and care for the sport of fishing.

My past offers of help have been made out of interest in and passion for this timeless, family sport. Fishing is one of the most level playing fields for all family members is a wonderful bonding tool for every family.

As one who enjoys fishing on Lake Waxahachie myself, I've come across several problems that I felt you should know about – so I reported them. (See attached list.) My new position as consultant with ESPN and BASS (the world's largest fishing organization) leaves me with very little time of my own now – but if I can help you, let me know. Thanks so much for considering these problem areas in your future planning.

Sincerely,


Kathy Magers

Enclosure

132 Grande Casa Road
Waxahachie, TX 75167

(972) 938-0250
kmagers@ectisp.net

www.Gone-Fishin.com

Areas of Need at Lake Waxahachie

Submitted By Kathy Magers
Fishing & Boating Consultant
(972) 938-0250

Problems and Potential solutions:

1. RAMPS:

- All ramps are located on the north side of lake making it nearly impossible to launch or load when strong winds come out of the south. This is also very dangerous.
Recommended Solution: A south side ramp.
- The 2nd launch ramp from main road was in poor condition last time I was there.

2. PIERS:

Piers are not luxury items but necessities for protection of both life and property. Each ramp needs at least one launching pier – whether fixed or floating.

- Boaters need to tie to while parking tow vehicle, picking up passengers.
- The rocky shoreline damages boat hulls especially if the wind is up.
- Nothing to tie boat to while boater leaves to go get vehicle and trailer.

3. RESTROOMS:

- In past, have occasionally been locked in mid-day – or weekdays. Need to be open.
- Conditions have been poor – not very clean.

4. Wish list:

- A Fishing Pier off south end left of dam
- More kids playground equipment

SUGGESTION: FOLLOW UP ON GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE FOR PIERS AND RAMPS, ETC.



Addenda D. Creeks and Streams

The value of creeks and streams in the urban and semi-urban environments



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Addendum D: Creeks and Streams
The value of creeks and streams in the urban and semi-urban environments

Water availability for domestic, industrial, agriculture, as well as ecological use is important from a quantity *and* quality point of view. In fact, water has become a scarce commodity which has far-reaching impacts on the future of all communities, especially in Texas. Uncontrolled land development, water overuse, and pollution continue to impact this precious and primary life supporting element. Planning on all levels should be cognizant of the effects of our actions on the future of water availability.

Communities need to realize that good stewardship of water is crucial to ensure sustainable economic growth including safety, health, and welfare to everyone. Ideally, state, county, and municipal planning should take place on a watershed scale where the source, use, and disposal of water are all integrated. The goal of such an approach is sustained availability of good quality water, effective flood management, and ecologically healthy environments, with tremendous recreational opportunities.

Specific tools to achieve effective watershed management include the establishment of riparian/ creek buffers and integrated storm water management.



This impressive and dramatic waterfall along Prong Creek has huge aesthetic and recreational value. This and similar natural features together with the surrounding context, require special protection for the continuous enjoyment by current and future generations.



Creek buffers along creeks and drainage ways

References:

Riparian Buffer Strategies for Urban Watersheds: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; 1995.

Stream Corridor Restoration: The Federal Interagency Stream Restoration Working Group.

The Waxahachie Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan recommends that riparian buffers be established along all creeks and drainage ways in the City of Waxahachie and its ETJ as a measure to protect the fully developed 100 year flood area and an additional buffer of up to 500 feet wide as an important resource for the City. The value of such corridors is manifold and includes the following:

- Flood conveyance and management
 - Natural streams have developed over time to absorb flood waters and to release them gradually once the flood has subsided. In fact, wetlands and riparian vegetation act as “sponges” that take up the water, hold it and release it slowly as it drains through the vegetation. Maintaining the natural vegetation within creek corridors contributes to less intense floods, less erosion, and more stable stream banks.
- Creek morphology
 - Creeks and drainage ways are by nature dynamic which means that they change course over time as the rushing water of large floods carves its way through the landscape. A proper riparian buffer allows for this dynamic change without impacting property and structures.
 - Upstream development typically leads to higher intensity floods that increase the 100 year floodline over time. A wide riparian and creek buffer take into account the future elevated 100 year floodline based on fully developed and built-out land use conditions in the watershed.
- Safety
 - Structures within creek corridors including buildings, bridges, and dams are all potentially in danger of being damaged or destroyed during floods, depending on the size of the particular flood event. Where bridges and dams by their very nature are built within corridors, habitable structures should be located outside the built-out 100 year floodline as a safety precaution.
 - Wide riparian corridors have a definite positive effect on dam safety – well established riparian corridors upstream of a dam decrease the chance of dam failure: Should a dam failure occur, the resultant downstream damage will be reduced with the floodwater absorbed by the wide riparian corridor.
- Health and water quality
 - Water quality in streams and creeks is typically a factor of the quality of water entering the system and the manner in which vegetation in the watershed “cleans” the runoff before it enters the creek. The excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides within a watershed, leads to low water quality entering the streams and creeks. In an intact system, vegetation, especially native grasses, filtrate the runoff prior to entering the creek and stream. However, it is crucial that the creek buffer is in place to ensure such filtration.
 - Creek buffers lead to reduced nutrient load of streams which effects water quality. This, in turn, prevents the development of algae blooms in lakes.
 - Creek buffers prevent excessive sediment loads in streams which, in turn, decrease the possibility of sedimentation of lakes.



The value of Creeks and Streams in the City of Waxahachie

- An ecologically intact creek and drainage way system has a natural predator and prey system in place whereby insects like mosquitoes are preyed upon by reptiles, birds and bats. However, habitat disturbance through excessive erosion and concrete lined channels, causes a loss in the predator species which leads to excessive insect populations. With the West Nile virus on everyone's mind it is thus important to keep the creek corridors healthy by encouraging the protection of the riparian vegetation.
- Economy
 - Economic sense is important in the protection of structures by their construction outside the 100 year floodline based on built-out conditions.
 - Stable stream banks preclude expensive measures to prevent or fix failing stream banks.
 - Reduced flood damage means fewer costs.
 - Property facing or adjacent to open space is more desirable and expensive which leads to increased tax income.
- Ecology and habitat preservation
 - Riparian buffers typically preserve some of the natural breeding, foraging, and resting areas of native animals and bird species.
 - Riparian vegetation adds to the diversity of life within streams, wetlands, and lakes.
 - The edges where two ecological zones meet are extremely important from a vegetation and wildlife dynamic point of view. Animals from the one zone may forage in the one while resting in the other, and plants are often adapted to that specific edge zone. The edges of creeks and other water bodies are thus important where the water and land ecosystems are supportive, enriching, and dependant on each other.
 - The variety of habitats within creek corridors leads to greater diversity of wildlife.
 - Riparian vegetation typically includes multi-layered habitats including trees, shrubs, grass, and herbaceous plant material.
 - Riparian vegetation provides a variety of functions related to aquatic habitat including:
 - Providing food source for species of the aquatic food chain;
 - Regulating light and temperature entering the water body. Many species have a low tolerance for temperature or light change beyond the normal range;
 - Maintaining oxygen concentrations in water through temperature regulation;
 - Preventing sediment from inundating water bodies, which interferes with fish behavior and destroys benthic habitat.
- Recreation
 - Creek corridors provide visually appealing environments.
 - The linear nature of creeks and drainage ways render them ideal for hike and bike trails.
 - Linear creek corridors with an associated trail system link various destinations within the City with better interaction between neighborhoods, schools, and parks.
 - The variety of wildlife found within creek corridors leads to the opportunity for wildlife viewing, including birding.



The creek environment of Grove Creek offers habitat to various aquatic and bird species.

- Education
 - A myriad of natural processes is very visible along creeks and creek banks, all of which is ideal for educational purposes.
 - Students and the public may learn about the vegetation and wildlife of both terrestrial and aquatic environments, the process of natural erosion and deposition, stream morphology, and water quality.
- Utilities
 - Areas that parallel creek corridors provide the opportunity for utility corridors with permeable surfaces including water, sewer, overhead power, and telephone lines.
 - Such utilities should be located outside the 100 floodline at built-out conditions to prevent future damage that may result from floods.
 - Measures must be taken to prevent impacts on the recreation and habitat integrity within the creek corridors. Disturbance of vegetation must be minimized during the construction phase of placing the utilities.



The vegetation within the creek buffer of Waxahachie creeks is generally well established with large, mature trees and dense grass cover.

Riparian/Creek Buffer Criteria

The ability of a riparian/creek buffer to realize its many benefits depends on how well it is planned, designed and maintained. As development is considered for properties, the following provide some criteria in this regard.

Riparian/creek buffer dimension

For creek corridors, a wide riparian buffer is an essential component of any protection strategy. A network of buffers acts as the right-of-way for a creek and functions as an integral part of the creek ecosystem. The primary criteria for buffer sizing should be ecological but may also include economic and legal factors. However, the danger is that economic and legal considerations may compromise the very essence of what constitutes a healthy ecological creek corridor. With creek corridors in the City of Waxahachie considered a crucial natural resource and where deemed appropriate, a creek buffer of up to 500 feet on each side of all creeks measured from the 100 year floodline is recommended.

Three-zone buffer system

The primary aim of the buffer system is to protect the core of creek corridors including the stream channel, its banks, the 100 year flood area with vegetation adapted to flood conditions, as well as an upland buffer area that is crucial for the health of creek systems. Protecting the entire area below the 100 year floodline together with an upland buffer, ensures the protection of current creek conditions, as well as the anticipated changed conditions in the future. The “up to” 500 feet upland buffer outside the 100 year floodline is divided into 3 lateral zones: stream side, middle zone and outer zone. Each zone performs a different function, with a different vegetative target and management scheme.



The value of Creeks and Streams in the City of Waxahatchie

1. The stream side zone has the function to protect the physical and ecological integrity of the stream associated ecosystem. It adds visual and ecological protection through preservation of views, wildlife habitat, and noise abatement. The vegetation target is the pre-development natural condition including range land with low key recreational development including hike, bike, and equestrian trails.
2. The middle zone provides additional distance between upland development and the stream ecosystem and is available for utilities with no impervious surfaces, open space development including ball fields and golf courses, and storm water management including retention/ detention basins. The vegetative target is natural pre-development conditions or unfertilized dry land cultivation and range land.
3. The outer zone is available for a parkway collector street system. Such a parkway has four major functions. First, it will serve as a buffer between development with potentially manicured landscapes and the natural creek corridor environment. Secondly, it will provide easy access for maintenance. Thirdly, the parkway will improve local traffic circulation. Fourthly, the parkway will provide a leisurely route connecting the parks, schools and neighborhoods along the creek corridor. The pleasing vistas along the creek corridor allow for scenic drives and improved neighborhoods. In fact, similar projects in other cities have enhanced property values along the route.

Drainage area

It is recommended that riparian/creek corridors are applied to all creeks and streams from a point at which the creek or stream drains a surface area of 100 acres or greater. For any drainage area smaller than 100 acres, it is recommended that the practices as defined in the iSWM (Integrated Stormwater Management) design manuals for construction and for site development as prepared by NCTCOG (North Central Council of Governments) should be applied.

Buffer crossings

Major objectives for riparian/ creek buffers are to maintain an unbroken corridor of riparian habitat and to allow for upstream and downstream movement of both aquatic (including a fish passage) and terrestrial wildlife along the creek corridor. Where linear forms of development such as roads, bridges, underground utilities, enclosed storm drains, or outfall channels must cross the stream or the buffer, measures must be put in place to minimize blocking the aquatic and terrestrial wildlife passageway including extended bridge spans.

Buffer management

The general vegetation target for the land that involves the 100 year flood plain and up to 500 feet wide buffer is pre-agricultural development/ modifications. Treated correctly, such vegetation cover requires the minimum management effort. In order for the burden to not fall on the City or individual landowner, it is recommended that management be done by one of the many Texas Land Trusts that will have an interest in such land. (see www.texaslandtrusts.org)



No Rise in Base Flood Elevation

As stated in the City's flood damage prevention ordinance, it is required that the reclamation of the 100 year floodplain should be permitted only if it can be demonstrated that there will be no rise in the base flood elevation. It should be noted however, that without due consideration of future upstream build-out conditions, which imply increased impervious surfaces with higher volumes surface runoff over shorter periods of time, areas that appear adequately protected with the "No Rise in Base Flood Elevation" may be compromised in the future.



General view of the landscape as seen along FM876 approaching Prong Creek. The large and dense stand of trees along the creek is particularly noticeable.

Creek Confluences

Creek confluences typically have unique natural and visual qualities due to the increased channel length per surface areas, widened floodplain, the potential occurrence of wetlands, dense stands of trees, and increased wildlife. Such areas, also referred to as "ecological nodes", call for their special protection in the form of nature parks and nature preserves which are diagrammatically shown in the maps: **Creek Corridors and Ecological Nodes** and **Proposed Nature Preserves**.



View of Prong Creek with FM876 bridge in the back ground; note the well established creek banks.

Watershed Management Plan

As much as it is important to ensure the protection of the creek and drainage way corridors and nodes, it is also vitally important to follow a watershed wide approach to stormwater management and landuse planning. Such a regional approach is demonstrated in the map: **Regional Watershed** on page 12 a) of this Addendum, which shows the extent of Lake Waxahachie watershed as a sub-component of the Bardwell Lake watershed. From this map it is clear that almost the entire Lake Waxahachie watershed lies within the City of Waxahachie ETJ posing thus the opportunity for readily control by the City. The Lake Bardwell watershed shares surface area with the Cities of Midlothian, Waxahachie, and Ennis and calls for a multi-jurisdictional management plan. The entirety of both watersheds lies within Ellis County which ideally should be closely involved with any attempt to achieve regional stormwater management and landuse planning.

Watershed management suggests measures in place that aim to decrease the amount of hard and impervious surfaces which result in higher frequency and intensity of runoff, as well as water detention that absorbs the runoff peaks allowing it to drain slowly and over time into the creek system. Together with watershed wide measures, proper site design of each and every development is essential to obtain the best results.



Located within the Waxahachie ETJ, this indiscriminate clearing of riparian (creek side) vegetation in the Prong Creek watershed is unfortunate since it typically leads to erosion, flooding and poor water quality.

The manner in which development occurs in the watershed is crucial. Due consideration should be given to every component that may contribute to increased runoff volumes and intensity. Two complimentary tools that are effective to achieve watershed management are Integrated Stormwater Management and Conservation Development (see below).

Integrated Stormwater Management

Recognizing the importance of water quantity and quality, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, developed iSWM (Integrated Stormwater Management) design manuals for construction and for site development that assist cities and counties to achieve their goals of water quality protection, streambank protection, and flood control. They also help communities meet their construction and post-construction obligations under state storm water permits, current and emerging. (see <http://iswm.nctcog.org/>)

The integrated Storm Water Management (iSWM™) approach

Source: <http://iswm.nctcog.org/index.asp>

Development and redevelopment by their nature increase the amount of imperviousness in our surrounding environment. This increased imperviousness translates into loss of natural areas, more sources for pollution in runoff, and heightened flooding risks. To help mitigate these impacts, 55 local governments are cooperating to proactively create



sound storm water management guidance for the region through the integrated Storm Water Management (iSWM)[™] project.

The iSWM[™] design manuals for construction and for site development are cooperative initiatives that assist cities and counties to achieve their goals of water quality protection, streambank protection, and flood control by managing stormwater on a site-by-site basis throughout all phases of development.. They also help communities meet their construction and post-construction obligations under state storm water permits, current and emerging.

- The iSWM[™] Design Manual for Construction contains a stepwise methodology for creating an effective storm water pollution prevention plan for construction sites and detailed information for the design, installation, and maintenance of practices to reduce the release of sediment and other pollutants resulting from construction activities. The Design Manual for construction is also intended to assist public and private entities in compliance with the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) General Permit for Construction Storm Water Runoff, TXR 150000, issued by the Texas Council on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Cities in the region are encouraged to officially adopt the Design Manual for Construction and require compliance with the provisions of the Design Manual within their jurisdictions. Adoption of the Design Manual for Construction will fulfill the major requirements of the “Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control” Minimum Measure of TPDES General Permit TXR040000 for Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems.

- The 2006 Edition of the iSWM[™] Design Manual for Site Development is a step-by-step detailed instructional manual to guide developers and government agencies on the control and management of storm water quality and quantity. It is a practical manual oriented to implementation in everyday practice.

It calls for the consideration of storm water issues at the conceptual stages of projects and provides tools to achieve the goals of water quality protection, streambank protection, and flood control. Its adoption in the region will simplify engineering designs, minimize local government plan review efforts, facilitate multi-jurisdictional drainage analysis, and enable regional training opportunities.



Further Studies

Reference: Linear Greenbelt Park Study: City of Allen, Texas; 1986.

For purposes of establishing an integrated riparian corridor and greenbelt system for the City of Waxahachie, a Creek and Linear Greenbelt Park Study is recommended. It is recommended that such a study include the following components:

1. Floodplain Delineation

The flood plains of all creeks defined and delineated as the area inundated by either the 100 year flood based on a fully developed watershed condition, or the maximum flood on record, whichever reaches the higher water elevation.

2. Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Study areas to include:

- a. Physical features (geology, topography, soils, climate);
- b. Biological features (vegetation and wildlife);
- c. Man-made features (history, archaeology, streets, buildings and utilities); and
- d. Scenic values.

3. Stream segments

Homogenous segments with similar landform, unique water features, common vegetation, wildlife habitat, scenic features, and divisions made by existing roadways.

4. Stream Corridor Delineation

Delineation of the 1% and 0.2% flood events.

5. Stream Corridor Alternatives

Flood plain and stream corridor management

6. Implementation Strategy

Supporting and additional information may include:

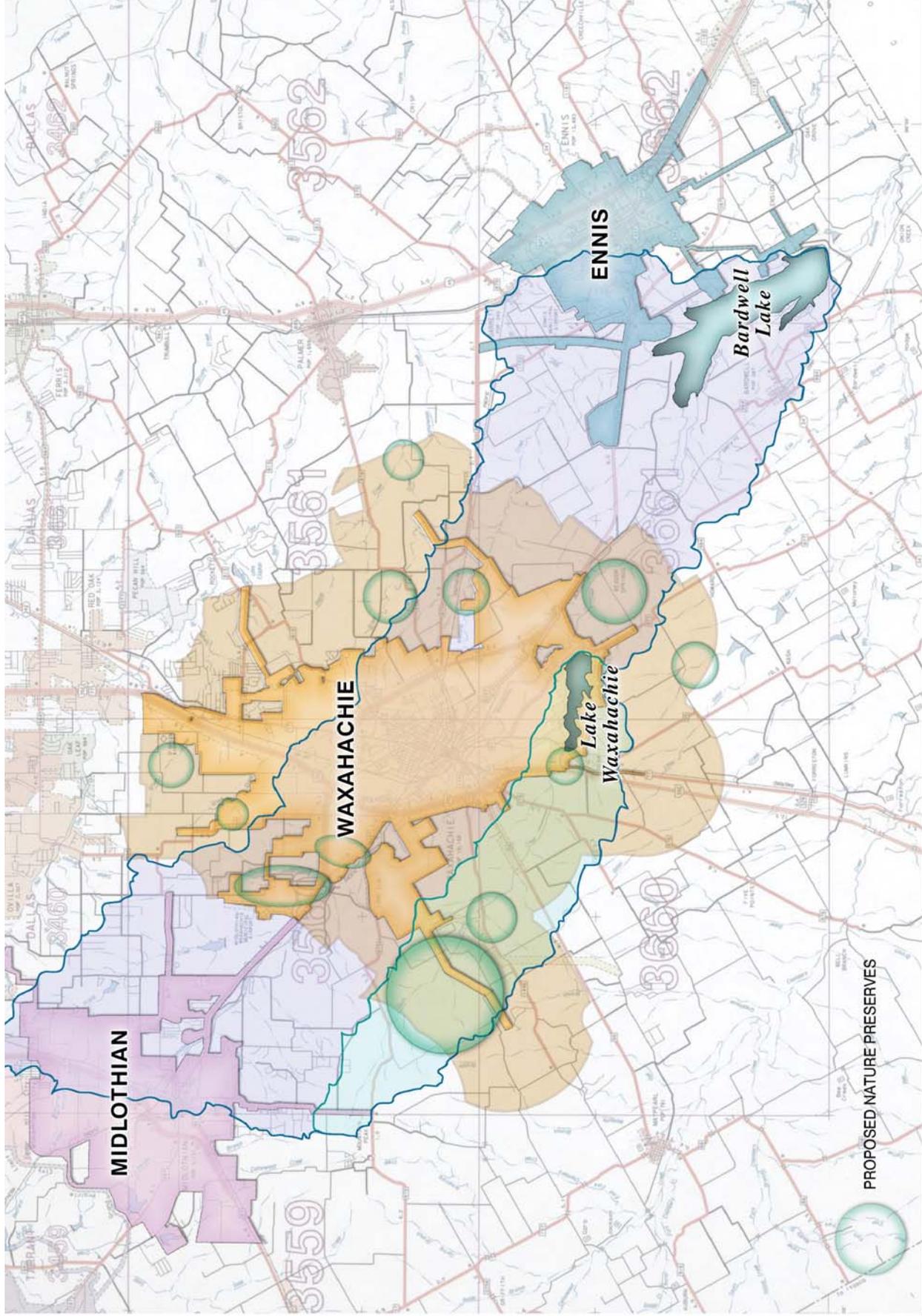
- a. social, cultural, legal, and governmental influences;
- b. land use planning along creek corridors;
- c. funding;
- d. public participation; and
- e. landownership issues.

The Linear Greenbelt Park Study that was conducted for the City of Allen in 1986 is proof that early planning efforts lead to superior city development conditions. Based on this 1986 study, the City of Allen has ordinances and regulations in place that ensure the optimal protection and use of creek corridors. The end result 20 years later is a noticeable quality of life experience for its citizens that surpasses many other cities in the region. The vision for the City of Waxahachie is to build on the experience of this Texas city and to incorporate exemplary and functional practices that will ensure the protection of its natural resources for the enjoyment and appreciation of future generations.



*The map: **Regional Watershed** on the following page illustrates the extent of Lake Waxahachie watershed as a sub-component of the Bardwell Lake watershed.*

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April 16, 2007

REGIONAL WATERSHED PERSPECTIVE

CITY OF WAXAHACHIE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN





***Addendum E:* A Case for Conservation Planning and Design**



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Addendum E: A Case for Conservation Planning and Design

With extracts from: Arendt, R.; Growing Greener, Putting Conservation into Local Plans and Ordinances; Island Press; 1999 and <http://www.greenerprospects.com/growinggreener.pdf>

The Conservation Planning and Design Concept

Each time a property is developed into a residential subdivision, an opportunity exists for adding land to a community-wide network of open space. Although such opportunities are seldom taken in many municipalities, this situation could be reversed fairly easily by making several small but significant changes to three basic local land-use documents - the comprehensive plan, the zoning ordinance, and the subdivision and land development ordinance. Simply stated, Conservation Design rearranges the development on each parcel as it is being planned so that half (or more) of the buildable land is set aside as open space. Without controversial “down zoning,” the same number of homes can be built in a less land-consumptive manner, allowing the balance of the property to be permanently protected and added to an interconnected network of community green spaces. This “density-neutral” approach provides a fair and equitable way to balance conservation and development objectives.

Conservation Planning and Design are attractive to cities since they are relatively easy to implement, do not involve public costs, do not diminish landowner equity, and are not onerous to developers.

Why change from conventional subdivision planning and design?

Conventional Subdivision Planning and Design as applied in most of the USA, generally refers to residential development in which all the developable land is divided into house lots or streets. The only open space is typically undevelopable wetlands, steep slopes, and storm water management areas. There are no amenable places to walk, open meadows for wildlife, or playing fields for children. Furthermore, almost all of the land has been cleared, graded, and converted into lawns or private back yards. As a result, residents of conventional subdivisions depend upon their cars even more to bring them social and recreational opportunities. Conservation Planning and Design offers social and recreational advantages over conventional layouts in several distinct ways.

Objective of Conservation Planning and Design

The basic principle of Conservation Planning and Design is that open space that is conservable in nearly every new residential development can be required to be laid out so that it will ultimately coalesce to form an interconnected system of protected lands across a community.

Dean William McDonough of the University of Virginia, School of Architecture suggests that one measure of a project’s success should be the increase in the number of songbird species inhabiting a site after it has been developed.

In addition to the designated wetlands, floodplains, and steep slopes that are often the only lands protected under existing codes, the types of open space that can easily be conserved through the Conservation Planning and Design include upland woodlands, meadows, fields, and historic, cultural, or scenic features of local or greater significance.



Conservation Planning and Design approach

For effective Conservation Planning and Design it is recommended that a community inventories the following principal resources:

1. Wetlands and their Buffers
2. Floodplains
3. Moderate and Steep Slopes
4. Groundwater Resources and their Recharge Areas
5. Woodlands
6. Representative stands of Blackland Prairie
7. Productive Farmland
8. Significant Wildlife Habitat
9. Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Features
10. Cultural Landscapes
11. Scenic Features
12. Scenic Viewsheds from Public Roads

Part, if not all, of these resources are often already inventoried as a matter of course in city documents including the Comprehensive Plan, the Parks Master Plan and Storm Water and Drainage studies.

The Conservation Planning and Design approach is easy for cities to implement, since it:

- Respects private property rights;
- Respects the ability of developers to create new homes for an expanding population; and
- Accommodates newcomers without unduly impacting the remaining natural areas and cultural resources that make a community a special place to live, work and recreate.

Benefits of Conservation Planning and Design

The benefits of Conservation Planning and Design is threefold:

- Environmental and ecological benefits
- Social and recreational benefits
- Economic Benefits

Environmental and ecological benefits

In addition to preventing intrusions into inherently unbuildable locations such as wetlands and floodplains, conservation subdivision design also protects terrestrial habitats and upland buffers alongside wetlands, water bodies, and watercourses, areas that would ordinarily be cleared, graded, and covered with houses, lawns, and driveways in a conventional development.

The environmental and ecological benefits to employing conservation subdivision design instead of conventional layouts include wildlife management, water quality protection, greater aquifer recharge, and environmentally sensitive sewage treatment and disposal.

Social and recreational benefits

Conservation Planning and Design offer social and recreational advantages over conventional layouts in several distinct ways.



- Pedestrian friendly neighborhoods,
- Community-wide greenways and trails,
- Increased interaction within the community due to the footpath system that connects the homes with interesting places to visit.

Economic Benefits

- Lower costs including reduced infrastructure engineering and construction costs, for example: shorter roads, less wetland/ creek crossings, less stormwater management facilities, and less wood clearing.
- Value appreciation; it has been proven that properties within Conservation Planned and Designed communities appreciate markedly more than their counterparts in conventional communities.
- Reduced Demand for New Public Parkland; The natural areas that are preserved and the recreational amenities that are provided in Conservation Planned and Designed communities help to reduce the demand for public open space, parkland, playing fields, and other areas for active and passive recreation. Current deficiencies with regard to such public amenities will inevitable grow larger as the population continues to rise. To the extent that each new development meets some of its own local needs, pressure on local governments will be lessened in this regard, a factor that may make such designs more attractive to local reviewing bodies.

Ordinances for Conservation Planning and Design

Model Language for Conservation Subdivisions is available on pages 151 to 194 of the publication: Arendt, R.; Growing Greener, Putting Conservation into Local Plans and Ordinances; Island Press; 1999. This document describes an ordinance language for two distinct planning components:

- a) Zoning; and
- b) Subdivisions

The **Zoning Ordinance Language** provides wording as it relates to Conservation Design Overlay Districts and include:

- Purpose;
- Use Regulations;
- Dimensional Standards;
- Density Determination;
- Design Standards;
- Greenway Land Use;
- Greenway Protection Through Conservation Easements;
- Discretionary Density Bonuses; and
- Ownership and Maintenance of Greenway Land and Common Facilities.

The **Subdivision Ordinance Language** provides wording as it relates to:

- Plan Content Requirements;
- Plan Processing Procedures;
- Resource Conservation and Greenway Delineation Standards; and

Supplemental Design Standards.



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Addendum F. Dallas Forth Worth Metro-Area Parks and Recreation Survey

2005 Metro Area Survey Park & Recreation Department

14-Jul-05

City	Population	Operating Budget				Other Operating Funds				Ratios			
		Total Park Acres	Total Full-Time Employees	Total FTE Employees	2003/04 Operating Budget	Total Full-Time Employees	Total FTE Employees	2003/04 Performance Fund	Park Acres per 1,000	Full-Time Employees Per 1,000	Full-Time Equivalent Per 1,000	Funding Per Person	
Allien	66,400	427	50	51	\$4,642,218	35	90	\$5,028,029	6.43	1.28	2.13	\$145.64	
Addison	14,450	143	32	38	\$3,521,730	0	0	\$0	9.90	2.21	2.62	\$243.72	
Burleson	28,350	198	13	14	\$1,094,273	0	0	\$70,000	6.98	0.46	0.49	\$41.07	
Carrollton	116,500	1,793	79	142	\$9,100,000	0	0	\$37,000	15.39	0.68	1.21	\$78.43	
Colleyville	21,000	190	12	13	\$1,300,000	0	0	\$0	9.05	0.57	0.60	\$61.90	
Corinth	17,800	179	17	18	\$1,040,609	0	0	\$151,548	10.06	0.96	1.01	\$66.98	
Denton	96,200	1,222	91	91	\$7,229,977	8	58	\$3,286,890	12.71	1.03	1.56	\$109.32	
Duncanville	36,150	227	15	23	\$1,716,948	0	0	\$13,500	6.29	0.41	0.64	\$47.87	
Flower Mound	60,450	545	29	29	\$2,808,618	1	2	\$457,387	9.02	0.50	0.50	\$54.03	
Fort Worth	618,600	10,612	283	331	\$21,006,014	80	120	\$13,893,861	17.15	0.59	0.73	\$56.42	
Frisco	73,900	869	53	59	\$3,745,338	0	0	\$0	11.76	0.72	0.80	\$50.68	
Garland	221,950	2,698	109	149	\$7,457,212	0	7	\$719,533	12.16	0.49	0.70	\$36.84	
Grapevine	44,850	1,511	36	67	\$4,117,809	0	0	\$351,308	33.69	0.80	1.49	\$99.65	
Highland Village	14,150	320	13	17	\$1,134,567	2	2	\$202,332	22.61	1.06	1.36	\$94.48	
Irving	197,400	1,756	143	210	\$11,753,049	0	12	\$981,054	8.90	0.72	1.13	\$64.51	
Mansfield	45,000	635	5	6	\$628,202	16	20	\$1,366,144	14.11	0.47	0.56	\$44.32	
Mesquite	133,600	1,427	73	116	\$5,494,072	0	0	\$0	10.68	0.55	0.87	\$41.12	
North Richland Hills	61,650	720	23	33	\$2,422,296	37	87	\$7,659,607	11.68	0.97	1.95	\$163.53	
Plano	247,000	3,809	239	360	\$16,413,000	17	44	\$3,532,790	15.42	1.04	1.64	\$80.75	
Rockwall	27,300	443	20	29	\$1,800,000	0	0	\$105,000	16.23	0.73	1.05	\$69.78	
Rowlett	52,250	983	19	22	\$2,124,731	1	89	\$738,852	18.82	0.38	2.12	\$54.81	
Southlake	24,900	636	36	36	\$2,663,749	0	0	\$2,028,019	25.54	1.45	1.45	\$188.42	
Terrell	15,400	200	6	7	\$500,000	0	0	\$0	12.99	0.39	0.47	\$32.47	
Wylie	29,800	545	11	12	\$1,061,890	4	4	\$625,000	18.27	0.50	0.54	\$56.61	
DFW Metro Area	2,265,050	32,088	1,408	1,874	114,776,302	201	535	41,247,854	14.17	0.71	1.06	\$68.88	

Shaded area reflects the average for the DFW Metro-Area

Population : 2005 North Central Texas Council of Governments - Estimated Population

Declined to Participate:

Arlington, Bedford, Benbrook, Cedar Hill, Cleburne, Coppell, Dallas, Desoto, Euless, Farmers Branch, Grand Prairie, Haltom City, Highland Park, Hurst, Keller, Lancaster, Lewisville, McKinney, Richardson, Seagoville, The Colony, Watauga, Weatherford, and White Settlement.



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Addendum G. Development Review Guidelines

Guidelines for parks, trails, and open space considerations during the review of proposed residential and non residential developments in the City of Waxahachie by the Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Board, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and Planning Department



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Development Review Guidelines

The following is a set of guidelines for parks, trails, and open space considerations during the review of proposed residential and non-residential developments in the City of Waxahachie by the Parks Board, Planning and Zoning Commission, and Planning Department.

Background

Informed by the public participation process, the vision for the future of Waxahachie is to protect and maintain the City's rural character with ample open space. The best manner to achieve this is by protecting the entire creek system including the 100 year floodplain with no creek or wetland reclamation as an option; a creek corridor buffer to provide additional protection to the creek environment; single loaded roads that make all parks and open space visually accessible and provide for long and wide vistas along the creeks.

Other considerations are a City wide network of trails that bring the Waxahachie residents in close contact with Waxahachie's unique rural character and open space; appropriate park land dedication; creek road crossings that allow for trail underpasses; the visibility of parks and open space; pavilions that allow for air flow; and on-site detention ponds that are aesthetically pleasing and acceptable.

Guidelines

The following is a set of guidelines for future residential and non-residential developments in the City of Waxahachie

- 1) Protection of the 100 year floodplain of creeks and streams**
The creek corridor is extremely important as a flood control measure, recreational opportunity, wildlife habitat, and establishing a sense of open space and rural character (see Parks Master Plan Addendum D: Creeks and Streams).
- 2) Preference for no reclamation of the 100 year floodplain of creeks and streams**
Such a measure prevents undesirable narrowing of the creek corridor, potential erosion of the creek banks and potential flood damage; and supports water quality and the ecological integrity of the floodplain.
- 3) Up to five hundred feet buffer along and outside the 100 year floodplain of all creeks** (see Parks Master Plan Addendum D: Creeks and Streams)
 - a. The health of a creek is directly linked to the quality of inflow. The vegetation in the up to 500 feet creek corridor buffer serves as a pollutant interceptor.
 - b. The up to 500 feet buffer along and outside the 100 year floodline in itself is a corridor available for the construction of trails up and down and on both sides of the creek.



4) Single loaded roads

- a. Fundamental to park and open space planning
The use of single loaded roads is a fundamentally important requirement for the successful use and enjoyment of all parks and protected open space including creek corridors.
- b. Accessibility to everyone in the community
Single loaded roads allow for parks and open space to be accessible to everyone in the community, whether enjoyed by means of a vehicle, bicycle, or on foot.
- c. Pleasant driving experience
People will often choose to drive along a road with pleasing views, even if the route is longer than a direct, less interesting road.
- d. Sense of safety
Visibility along the single loaded road as well as from the surrounding structures, adds to the sense of safety of the park and open space users.
- e. Property values
Single loaded roads adjacent to parks and open space have no effect on the value of the “prime location” of creek and park side properties. In addition, the park and open space accessible to the entire community through single loaded roads, results in a sustained property value increase for a distance further away from the park/open space compared to a community where such direct and open access is not provided.
- f. Minimum requirement
A compromise to the requirement of single loaded roads along all parks, creeks, and open space is to demand it along a 80% minimum boundary of the adjacent park, creek and open space.

5) Visually transparent wrought iron fences along parks, trails and/or open space

Parks, trails, and open space bordered by solid fences create a sense of claustrophobia as well as a sense of being unsafe. It is when eyes and ears are open to such areas that users feel safe and comfortable to relax and recreate. For this reason, it is necessary that visually transparent wrought iron fences be erected between all developments and parks, trails and/or open space.

6) Appropriate park land dedication

The aim with park land dedication is to provide park areas large enough where multiple amenities can be provided. The acreage required for a neighborhood park is typically 5 acres minimum which allows for amenities including a playground, pavilion, picnic facilities, one or two basketball goals, a multi-purpose practice field for activities like ball play and kite flying, and a trail that provides a walking/jogging loop and connections with the surrounding community. Together these facilities encourage social interaction and, therefore, community building. The best example is areas where children play ball while parents use a trail for exercise, or where children enjoy a playground while parents sit and socialize in the shade of an adjacent pavilion.



7) Minimization of Pocket parks

- a. Park land needs to be contiguous to have value as park land. Small parcels of land should as a rule, not be accepted as park land. Developers will often call such areas “pocket parks” which refer to parks typically smaller than 2 acres. Although such pocket parks have a role in build-out areas where open space is at a premium, new developments typically do not benefit by such pocket parks.
- b. In fact, in general the requirement should be that no land will be accepted as dedicated parkland unless it is contiguous land of 5 acres minimum. Such land has value since it provides the opportunity for a true neighborhood park.
- c. Pocket parks are typically applicable when a landmark, gateway or landscape feature/s needs to be protected and/or celebrated. Even so, the need to include the context of such features often requires the dedication of more land than that on which the feature stands alone.

8) Easements

- a. Easements versus dedicated parkland
Utility and drainage easements including a maintenance easement along creeks, should in no form or fashion account for dedicated parkland. The requirement by park ordinance should be that all utility easements as indicated on the Parks Master Plan, drainage and/or maintenance easements, or future easements that support the City wide trail system, be made available for the establishment of a trail whereby the City may or may not accept responsibility for the maintenance of the easement corridor.
- b. Maintenance of easements
Once a trail is developed, the maintenance of easements is often best achieved by the adjacent HOA especially if they have use of the easements by means of the trails. The City may choose to compensate the HOA for taking charge of such maintenance.

9) Unique features

All proposed development sites must be evaluated for the presence of any unique features that may include: wetlands and their buffers; moderate and steep slopes; groundwater resources recharge areas; woodlands; representative stands of native vegetation including blackland prairie; productive farmland; significant wildlife habitat; historic, archaeological, and cultural features; cultural landscapes; scenic features; and viewsheds from public roads. Every effort possible should be made to incorporate such features as places of special interest in the parks and open space system. The City may or may not choose to account such land, partially, or all inclusive, as part of the park land dedication, which should be considered on an individual basis. Potential criteria for such decision include public access and connection to other parks or open space.

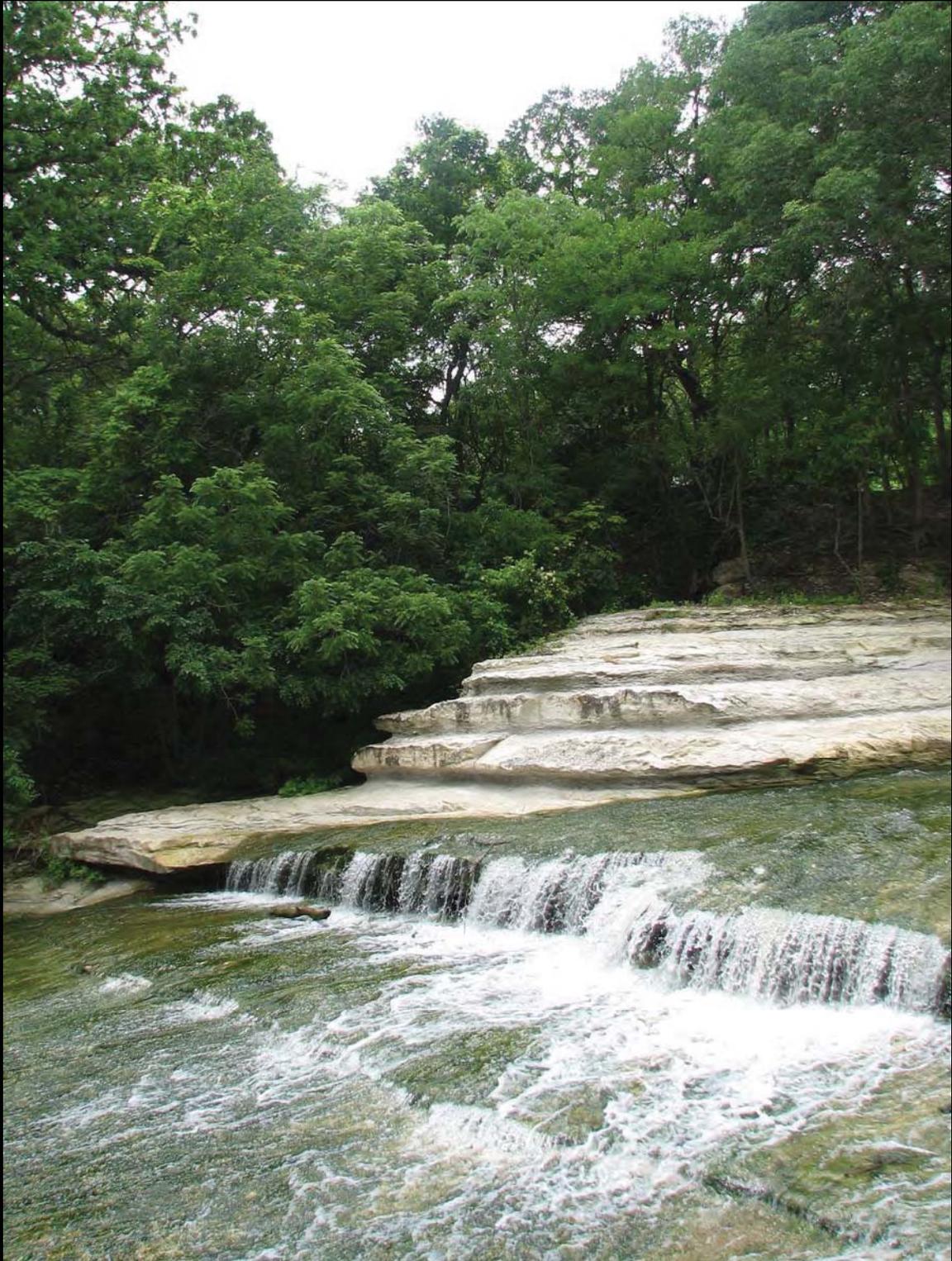
10) Multi-tier roof pavilions

The standard design of all pavilions should include openings in the roof that allows for hot air captured under the roof to escape. Multi-tier roofs make this possible and should be required as a standard throughout the City.



- 11) Creek road crossings with a trail underpass**
The use of creek corridors as trail connections is enhanced when the trail can follow a creek under a road crossing. However, this is typically only possible where the topography allows for a trail with a head clearance of 12 feet minimum. This should always be considered as a matter of principle before being disregarded as being impossible.
- 12) Physically and aesthetically accessible detention ponds**
Where detention ponds are provided on development sites, it is vitally important that such facilities be incorporated as a visually attractive and physically accessible feature within the development. Whether it contains water at a constant level or not, it is suggested that no more than 60% of the side slopes are steeper than 6:1 (horizontal: vertical) and easily accessible for either play when dry or water side enjoyment when operated at a constant water level.
- 13) Solid wall landscape requirements along non-residential use areas**
Where solid walls are required adjacent to areas zoned for non-residential use, the following should apply with regards to parks and open space: A landscape easement of 25 feet minimum is required between the boundary of the property and/or easement on which parks and trails are provided and the solid wall along developments in non-residential use areas. This landscape easement shall be planted with native plants include a living wall in front of the solid wall.
- 14) Visit all proposed developments**
Important decisions about the use of the land are often made on paper, in an office distant from the site, and with no clear insight as to the true potential and value of the site and its features. It should be mandated that all sites be visited by the relevant staff, P&Z, Parks Board and even Council members. In fact, Randall Arendt (Conservation Development) regards this as a crucial requirement for all land development projects.

END



Beautiful and dramatic waterfall on Prong Creek