

City of

# LAKE JACKSON

Parks and Open Space Master Plan 2016



Lake Jackson  
PARKS & RECREATION

CLARK CONDON



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following individuals are recognized for their significant contribution to the preparation of the Lake Jackson Parks and Open Space Master Plan 2016.

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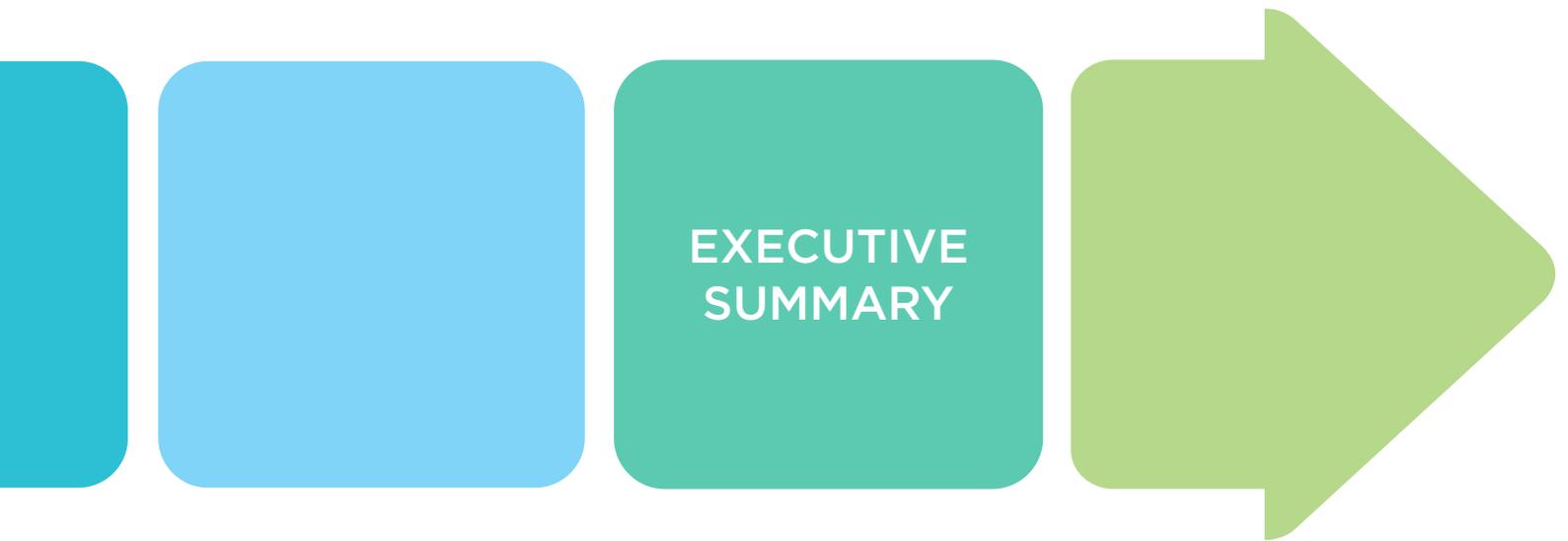
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**INTRODUCTION**

The City of Lake Jackson, Texas is located 54 miles south of Houston within the Brazosport Area in Brazoria County. The City is 18 square miles and 2016 population is 27,224. Population growth over the next 20 years has been projected to 36,100, or a 30% increase in residents. The City recently completed an updated Comprehensive Master Plan which identifies 6 guiding principles for the City’s mission *“To be a leader among cities and in the region at large in delivering outstanding quality services to all citizens through innovative and efficient use of resources.* These principals and associated action items to provide a high quality of life and include many items related to park and recreation with the intent to provide a high quality of life.

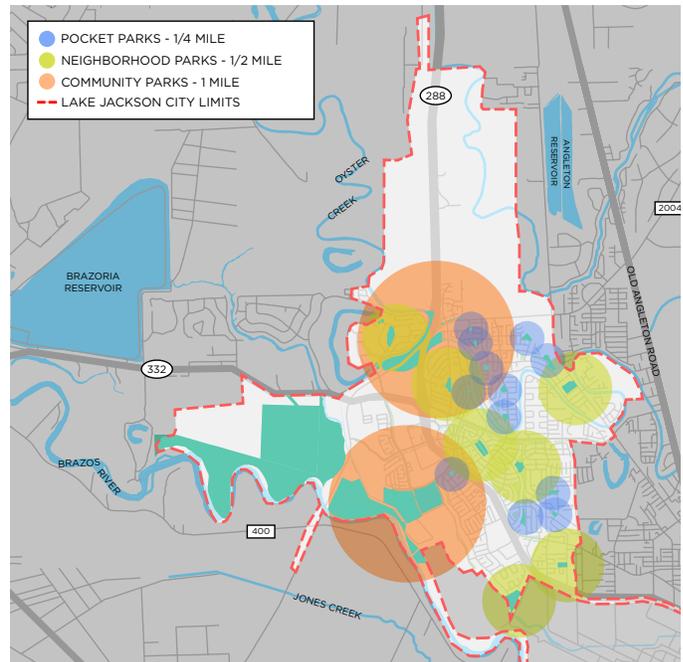
Lake Jackson is surrounded by natural beauty and known as the “Land of Enchantment.” Waterways including the Brazos River, Oyster Creek, Buffalo Camp and Bastrop Bayous provide residents year round access to preservation areas and wildlife. Part of the Great Texas Birding Trail, an estimated 239 million migratory birds pass through Lake Jackson’s Columbia Bottomlands ecoregion annually.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS**

There are currently over 1,600 acres of parks and greenspaces within Lake Jackson. Size, amenities and current condition vary but the City has a good balance of active and passive recreation opportunities. The majority of facilities are older and showing their age. Repairs, renovation or complete redevelopment is warranted. Nearly 200 acres of undeveloped greenspace are owned by the City. These greenspaces are located along road rights-of-way, and drainage corridors as well as small areas within residential areas. These underutilized areas could be developed to complement the City’s existing parks.

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

An inventory of each of Lake Jackson’s existing park facilities was utilized to assess existing level-of-service based upon national standards. Due to the large quantity of park acreage, the overall current level-of-service is 60.3 acres per 1,000 residents compared to the national recommendation of 11-20 acres. Using the National Recreation and Park (NRPA) standards, level-of-service for unique park types were analyzed and revealed a large deficit in community park space. A projected increase in nearly 9,000 people over the next 20 years will result in acreage deficits in all park categories except for regional parks. Reviewing current access to parks revealed a gap in service within the northern, undeveloped portion of the City, as well as smaller gaps in developed areas. The public was also solicited to provide input regarding future improvements to park facilities. Large public meetings, focus groups and a survey were utilized to



gather feedback. Major themes included a desire for upgrades to existing facilities, expansion of the Recreation Center, as well as the consideration of new types of park amenities such as leisure-type aquatics, a dog park, more permanent and larger skate park, splash pads and trails.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Reviewing the existing conditions of Lake Jackson's parks while considering population growth over the next 20 years, recommendations were developed into four categories:

1. Land acquisition to meet current and future needs
2. Introduction of new types of park facilities
3. Renovation or redevelopment of existing parks and greenways
4. Improve accessibility and connectivity to parks

**ACQUISITION** An estimated 226 acres of park lands for pocket, neighborhood and community parks would need to be acquired and developed by 2040 in order to meet the proposed Lake Jackson level-of-service goal of 15.5 - 24.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Meeting this goal can include proposed park space within new developments, redevelopment of city-owned properties to park space, as well as joint-use partnerships with local land owners.

**NEW FACILITIES** Public input gathered during plan development indicated the desire for new types of park facilities including leisure aquatics, a dog park, interactive splash pads, a permanent skate park facility, outdoor performance and event area and facilities for specific users groups such as seniors. Many of these new facilities could be incorporated into existing parks and greenspace.



**RENOVATION AND REDEVELOPMENT** Many of Lake Jackson's park facilities are older and some are even beyond their expected usage. For each existing park a list of recommendations was developed that range from a simple playground inspection to determine safety to full redevelopment of the park.

**ACCESSIBILITY** Trails were the top requested amenity from the public survey. Expanding Lake Jackson's existing trails to include off-road connections to park spaces as well as developing more major trails along road right-of-ways could be phased as funding allows. Developing internal trails within existing park spaces to connect amenities could also increase usage of small pocket parks.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### IMPLEMENTATION

This plan provides for an extensive list of recommendations to improve Lake Jackson's park and recreation system. Proposed projects shall be implemented in phases and therefore 10 priority projects were identified.

### GENERAL NEEDS

Action Item #1: Increase marketing efforts of Lake Jackson's existing parks

Action Item #2: Develop design standards for park facilities

Action Item #3: Perform playground safety assessment

Action Item #4: Support tree preservation and protection

### IMMEDIATE NEEDS (1-5 YEARS)

Action Item #5: Redevelop Madge Griffith Park

Action Item #6: Improve Dunbar Park

Action Item #7: Improve MacLean Park and expand Recreation Center

### FUTURE NEEDS

Action Item #8: Improve Jasmine Park

Action Item #9: Redevelop Dunbar Park

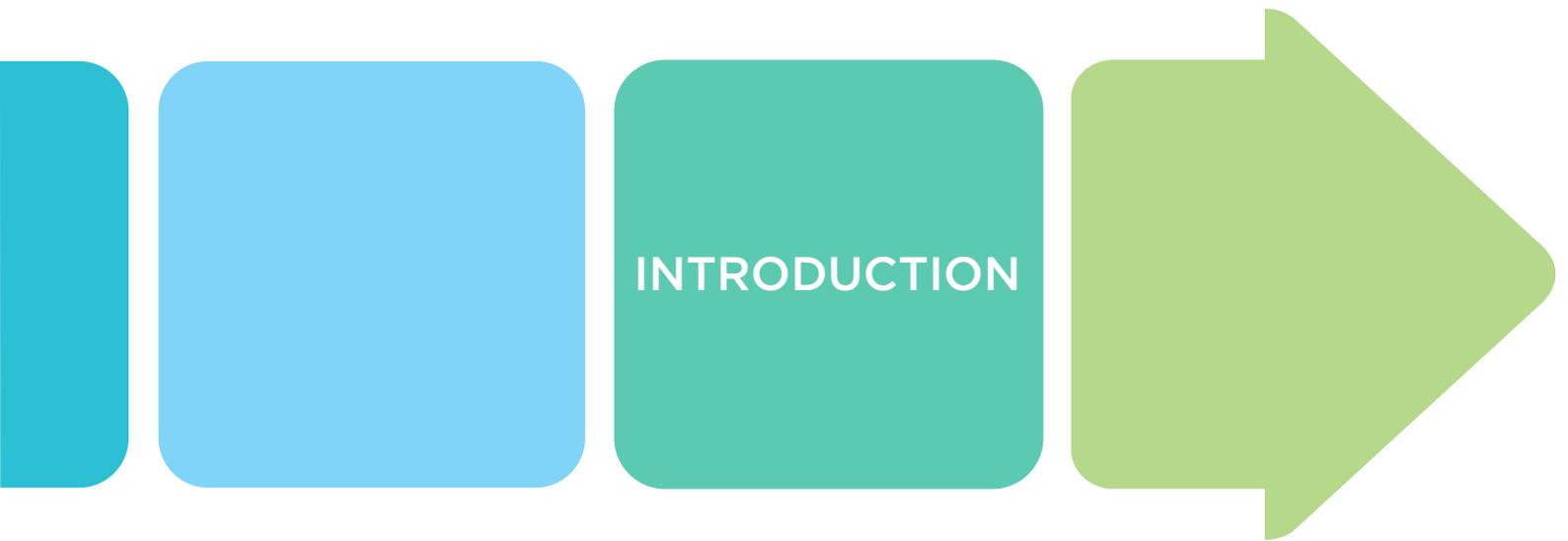
### LONG TERM NEEDS

Action Item #10: Improve connectivity



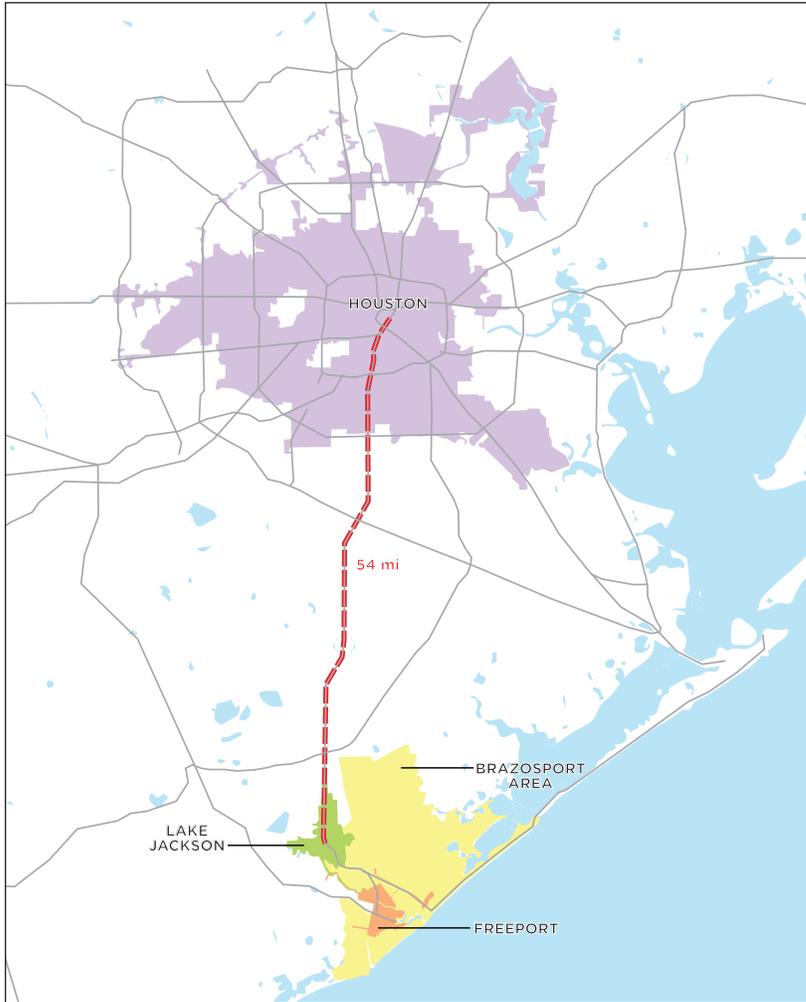
### FUNDING OPTIONS

In order to implement the recommendations within this plan, multiple funding options were explored including existing city funds, 4B tax revenues, a future parks bond referendum as well as alternative sources including grant programs and joint-use partnerships.



## THE CITY OF LAKE JACKSON

Known as the “City of Enchantment,” Lake Jackson was designed by Alden Dow in 1941 as a master planned community to serve the employees of the recently completed Dow Chemical Company’s Freeport facilities. Dow, an architect by education, understood the importance of site context and exhibited this philosophy in his layout for Lake Jackson. Street patterns twist and turn allowing for varied views and unique opportunities to incorporate greenspace into each neighborhood. This original plan provides an abundance of parks and open space that the residents of Lake Jackson still enjoy today.



## REGIONAL CONTEXT

Lake Jackson is located 54 miles south of Houston and encompasses 18 square miles within the coastal plains of southeast Texas. Located at the heart of the Brazosport Area in Brazoria County, it has long been known as the regional hub providing major retail, restaurants, commercial and employment opportunities.

Greatly expanding from the original 1,800 residents, the current population of Lake Jackson is 27,224 with 20-year projections estimated to be over 36,000. The largest municipality within the region, Lake Jackson’s current population represents 45% of the overall Brazosport Area. It is also the largest municipality, at 18 square miles (20 sq. miles including the extraterritorial jurisdiction).

## COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Lake Jackson is very proud of its small town feel, friendly citizens and, of course, the overall aesthetics of the City. Determined to continue its legacy of natural scenic beauty, Lake Jackson has recently begun to redevelop, renovate, and re-envision the City in order to plan for future expected growth. \$26 Million is being invested in downtown revitalization projects which will include upgraded utilities, roadway, sidewalks, lighting and wayfinding signage. The City recently updated its Comprehensive Master Plan defining the City's mission statement as the following:

*“To be a leader among cities and in the region at large in delivering outstanding quality services to all citizens through innovative and efficient use of resources”*

Providing quality services is an important factor for promoting a thriving, healthy community. Lake Jackson's city officials and community leaders are passionate about maintaining and continually improving the City's already enhanced quality of life. Numerous guiding principles and strategic action priorities were identified within the City's 2016 Comprehensive Plan, many of them aligning with parks, recreation, and open space initiatives.

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Lake Jackson is surrounded by natural beauty. Only 10 miles from the Gulf of Mexico and popular Surfside Beach, the City also benefits from numerous water bodies within its limits including the Brazos River, Oyster Creek, Bastrop Bayou, Buffalo Camp Bayou and Lake Jackson. Located within the far-eastern reach of the Columbia Bottomlands ecoregion, the City and surrounding areas are an important stopover for an estimated 239 million migratory birds annually.

## CITY OF LAKE JACKSON GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### (Lake Jackson Comprehensive Master Plan)

#1 Lake Jackson will be better **CONNECTED** through further roadway network extensions, [an enhanced hike-and-bike trail system](#), improved public transit, [a wide array of recreational and leisure offerings that bring residents together](#), and volunteer and service opportunities for long-time citizens and newcomers alike.

#2 Lake Jackson will insist on **QUALITY** and long-lasting value in its private development, public facilities and services, and community appearance.

#3 Lake Jackson will be even more **LIVABLE** through new and expanded housing choices, quality schools, [great parks and recreational offerings](#), safe streets and neighborhoods, additional shopping/dining and entertainment options, and a revitalized and vibrant Downtown.

#4 Lake Jackson will be **PROSPEROUS** by continuing to build on Brazosport's strong industrial base, diversifying into other promising sectors for private investment and creation of well-paying jobs, maintaining a low-cost "business friendly" environment, emphasizing reinvestment in older and under-performing areas and by [focusing even more attention on the "quality of place" Lake Jackson offers](#).

#5 Lake Jackson will be **WELL-MANAGED** through effective long-range and strategic planning, prudent management and allocation of public resources, attention to maintenance and rehabilitation of older streets/infrastructure, and ongoing citizen engagement for setting and accomplishing community priorities.

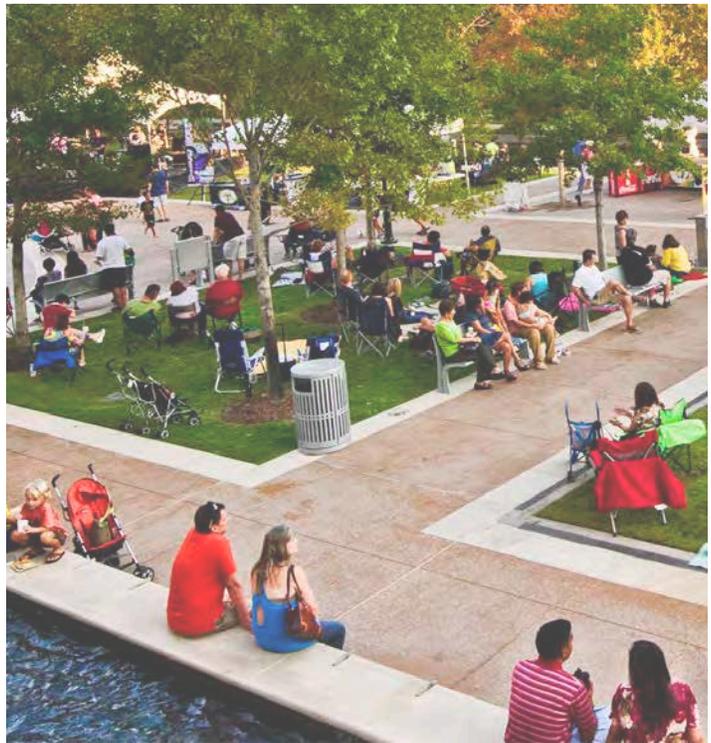
#6 Lake Jackson will be **GREEN** through [sound management of its parks and parkways](#), responsible stewardship of its water use and waste management, and by [staying focused on mature tree cover and preserved open spaces as the physical elements that have always shaped and set apart this master-planned city](#).

### IMPORTANCE OF PARKS

Parks, trails, and greenspace are a very visible testimony of a community's vitality. A respite from day-to-day activities, parks serve as an important component of civic infrastructure, providing multiple benefits to the environment, the community and its residents. In an effort to analyze expected impacts of the proposed Bayou Greenway Project, the Houston Parks Board commissioned a study by Dr. John Crompton of Texas A&M University in 2012. In his report, Dr. Crompton evaluated the multiple benefits of developing 243 miles of trails and greenways throughout the city along 10 major bayous and attempted to apply a dollar figure for each mile of trail that was constructed. He concluded that once constructed, the City would see \$117.1 million dollars in direct benefits annually including reduction in health costs, enriching the environment and improved quality of life.

The significant impact parks and open spaces can have on a community's well being can be summarized into the following categories:

**Social:** A well-planned and maintained park system often becomes the center of a community. It provides place for families to gather on the weekend, playgroups and school-children on field trips to enjoy during the week, and an optimal location for large, community-wide events. According to a report published by the Trust for Public Land in 2006, "residents of neighborhoods with greenery in common spaces are more likely to enjoy stronger social ties than those who live surrounded by barren concrete." Park spaces provide a place to play for people of all ages. Social interaction also provides opportunities for at-risk youth, the most difficult age group to serve. Providing specific programming to teens has also been linked to a reduction in crime, creating a safer neighborhood for the entire community.



**Health:** As concerns for health and obesity rise throughout the United States, the significance of providing abundant opportunities for residents to engage in physical activity is ever increasing. Some physicians have now begun prescribing outdoor wellness for patients with certain health issues. Improving access to outdoor space for recreation can provide huge benefits to a person's mental and physical health. According to the National Recreation and Park Association,



the “use of greenspace is associated with improved blood pressure and cholesterol levels, reduced stress, improved general health perceptions and a greater ability.”

**Economic:** The economic benefit, or hedonic value, parks provide to a community is one of the hardest to quantify of all park benefits. Increased property values, tourism and the ability to attract and retain homeowners and business are all direct advantages to a successful park system. Numerous studies have shown that proximity to parks can increase overall property values, depending on distance and quality of the park. Parks can also be a tourist destination depending on size, use and special features of the park that are unique to the region.

**Environmental:** The environmental gain to adding more park and greenspace within a community seems like a no-brainer. Parks protect natural ecosystems, by controlling stormwater runoff and allowing for stormwater cleansing as well as ground water recharge. A mature canopy of trees can reduce the heat island effect as well as air pollution. A study performed by the U.S. Forest Service calculated that over a 50-year time frame, just one tree can generate over \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provide \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, and recycle \$37,500 worth of water. In 2013, the City of Portland, Oregon ran an awareness campaign regarding the value of their existing City trees by hanging tags indicating the worth of each tree based upon environmental and aesthetic benefits.

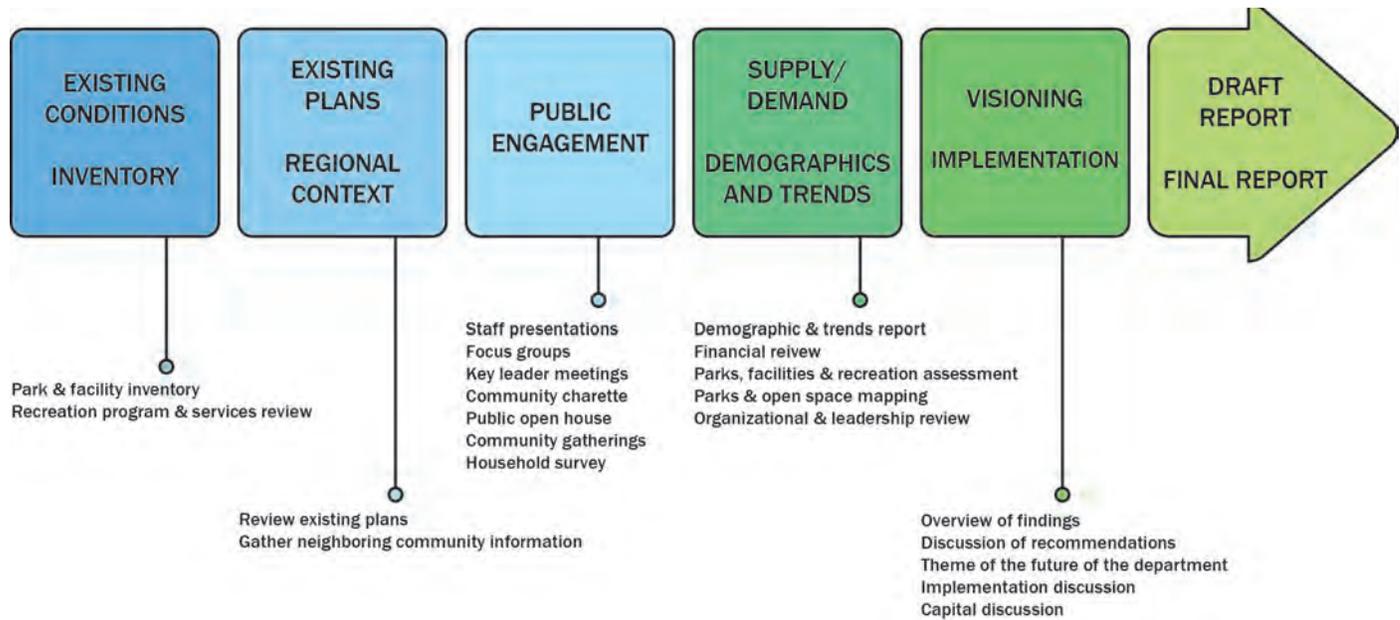


## PARK PLANNING

Before the City of Lake Jackson can determine where they want to go, they first need to establish a benchmark by understanding where they are today. Developing a comprehensive parks and open space master plan will provide a framework from which the City can begin to work towards achieving their desired goals. Much like the recently completed City Comprehensive Plan, the Parks and Open Space Master Plan will identify both short term and long range goals for specific park and recreation development within the City. This type of plan also allows for community engagement and participation which is a key element to nurturing pride and sense of ownership in one’s community. In 1998 the City administered a public survey to solicit public input regarding park priorities. In 2007, they repeated the survey and developed the “Lake Jackson Parks and Recreation Master Plan “ with assistance from the Parks and Recreation Board. The 2007 plan identified a need for 24 projects including a canoe/kayak launch along Oyster Creek, renovations to Dunbar Park, and developing a hike/bike trails plan. Several of projects within that plan have been advanced and implemented.

**THE PARKS MASTER PLAN PROCESS**

The Lake Jackson City Council approved the development of a comprehensive Parks and Open Space Master Plan on December 21st, 2015. An 8-member task force was assembled to lead the Plan’s development along with the consultant team and City Parks and Recreation Department staff. Members included representatives from City Council, the Parks Board, Planning Commission, and the Oyster Creek Conservancy. The task force met frequently throughout the nine-month process and provided input and feedback as well as served as spokesman for the plan with the public and special interest groups.



Site tours of existing parks within Lake Jackson were facilitated in early February with the consultant team and the Parks and Recreation director. Existing facilities were photographed and inventoried and previous studies were evaluated. A community wide public meeting on February 24th attracted over 100 attendees and allowed citizens to provide individual feedback for facilities they would like to see in Lake Jackson. Over the next several months the team met with focus groups including the Parks Board, Hike and Bike Committee and sports groups to provide input regarding specific sports and interest groups. A final public meeting was held on September 14th to provide an overview of the recommendations for park and recreation development over the next 20 years.



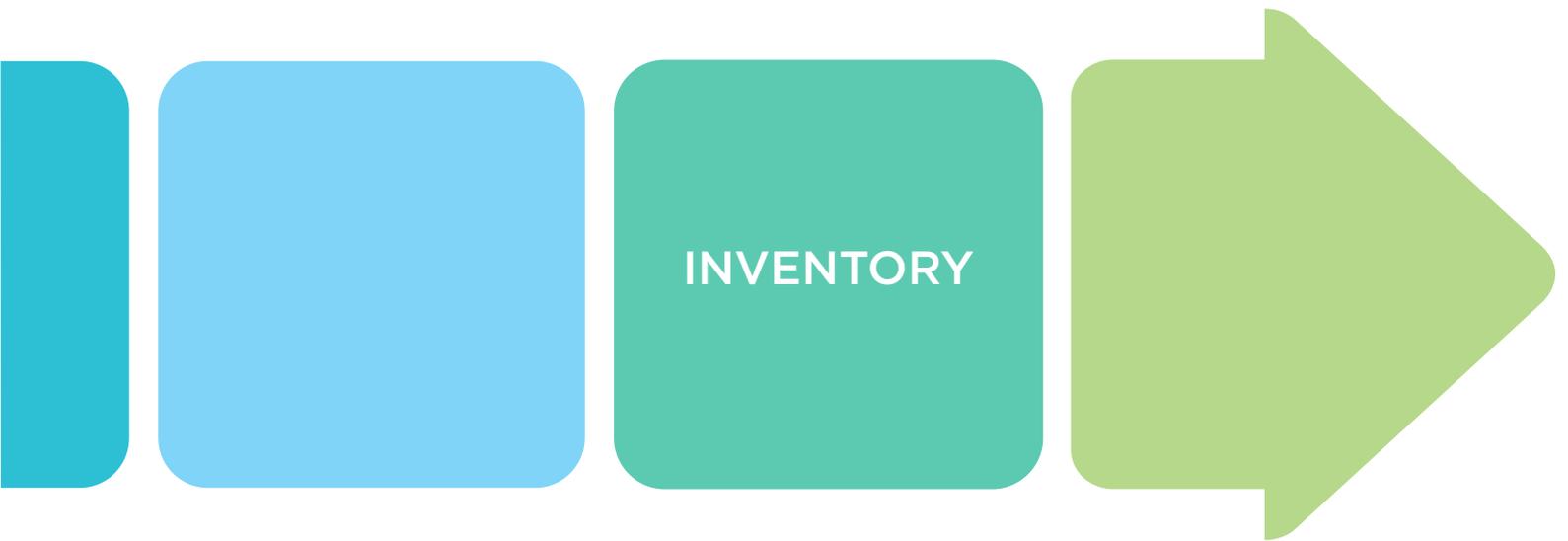
## MASTER PLAN GOALS

Building upon recommendations from the previous parks master plans, the Parks Board and Parks and Recreation Department staff developed several goals for the 2016 Lake Jackson Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The goals are outlined below:

1. Provide an update from the 1996 parks plan
2. Develop an inventory of existing facilities
3. Clearly identify future needs for each facility
4. Develop long-term goals while prioritizing immediate needs
5. Utilize plan as a marketing tool for the City







Developing a thorough inventory of existing parks and greenspace within the City is critical to understanding current level of service and will serve as the basis for developing long-term goals. Each park facility was visited and inventoried with City staff, existing amenities were documented including condition, opportunities for improvement and any visible constraints that would pose challenges for future development or renovation.

## PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Utilizing guidelines established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) as well as reviewing previous classifications assigned in the 1996 Lake Jackson Parks Master Plan, each existing park was classified using a combination of its total acreage, existing amenities, and usage. The NRPA guidelines for park classifications are shown below, as well as definitions of each park type.

NRPA RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR PARK CLASSIFICATION				
PARK FACILITY	SIZE/ACRES (ac)	SERVICE AREA (RADIUS)	ACRES (ac) PER 1000	LAKE JACKSON EXISTING ACREAGE (ac)
Mini/Pocket	2,500 sf - 1 ac	1/4 mile	N/A	30.6 ac
Neighborhood	1-15 ac	1/2 mile	1-2 ac	58.8 ac
Community	16-99 ac	1 mile	5-7 ac	117.9 ac
Regional	100-499 ac	35 miles	5-10 ac	813.5 ac
Special Use	varies	N/A	N/A	432.7 ac
Greenways/Linear	sufficient width to protect the natural resource and provide maximum use	N/A	N/A	189.4 ac



### POCKET PARKS

Pocket parks, or mini parks are the smallest of the park classifications and typically serve a very limited area (less than 1/4 mile or a 10 minute walk). Typically, they are 1 acre in size and include limited recreational facilities such as one playground structure, benches, and a litter receptacle.

- *Bluebonnet Park*
- *Brazos Oaks Park*
- *Brazoswood Key Club Park*
- *Captain RR Terry Park*
- *Cottonwood Park*
- *Firemen's Park*
- *Huisache Park*
- *Junior Service League Park*
- *Pecan Park*
- *Plantation Oaks Park*
- *Shadow Glen Park*
- *Yaupon Park*



### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks range from 1 - 15 acres and serve either one large neighborhood or several smaller, adjacent neighborhoods. These parks typically have a variety of facilities, both passive and active but may have limited parking and access. Generally neighborhood parks serve residents within a 1/2 mile radius, or a 15 minute walk.

- *Garland Park*
- *James F. Crews Park*
- *Jasmine Park*
- *Lloyd Morrison Park*
- *Madge Griffith Park*
- *Timbercreek Park Complex*



### COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are city-wide facilities and range in size from 15 acres to 100 acres. These parks can be active or passive in nature but generally have elements of both and include an extensive list of recreational features and programming. These parks typically have abundant parking and therefore serve a larger area of a 1 mile radius or more.

- *Dunbar Park*
- *MacLean Park*



### REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks are the largest of the park classifications and therefore have a large service radius of 30 miles or more. These parks are generally developed within or adjacent to special natural features or protected environmental areas. They can be passive or active in nature but their large acreage and special features create a regional destination, drawing visitors from nearby cities and beyond.

- *DOW Centennial Bottomlands Park*
- *Wilderness Park*



### SPECIAL USE PARKS

Special use parks can range in size from a pocket park to a regional park but are categorized as special use due to their limited recreation activities. Botanic gardens and arboretums, golf courses and sports complexes are examples of special use parks.

- *Lake Jackson Youth Sports Complex*
- *Suggs Park*
- *Wilderness Golf Course*



### GREENWAYS OR LINEAR PARKS

Greenways or linear parks are generally developed along roadways, easements, waterways or drainage corridors and connect other parks or destinations within a city. Due to their restricted width and access these types of parks typically have limited recreational facilities such as a trail or trailhead.

- *189.4 acres*

### EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

The existing park space within Lake Jackson is a combination of large passive regional parks such as the Dow Centennial Bottomlands and Wilderness Parks as well as numerous small pocket parks located within residential areas - some as small as 0.3 acres. Total acreage of parks and open space within the City is over 1,600 acres, although 75% of the acreage is a combination of regional and special use parks which have limited benefits for the entire population of Lake Jackson. This imbalanced distribution provides just over 200 acres of pocket, neighborhood, and community park space.



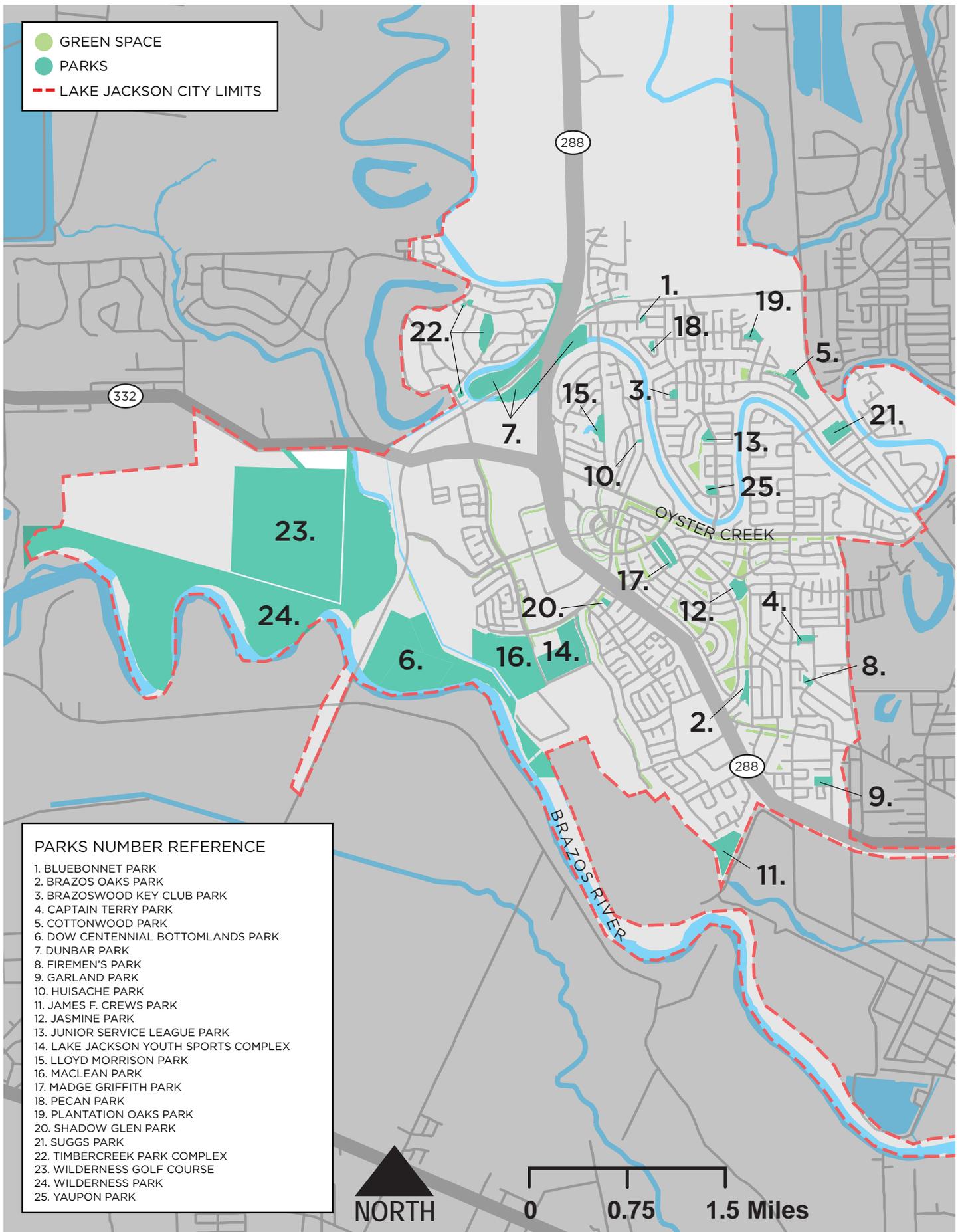
## 12% PARK & GREENSPACE

13,440 city acres + 1,642.9 park acres

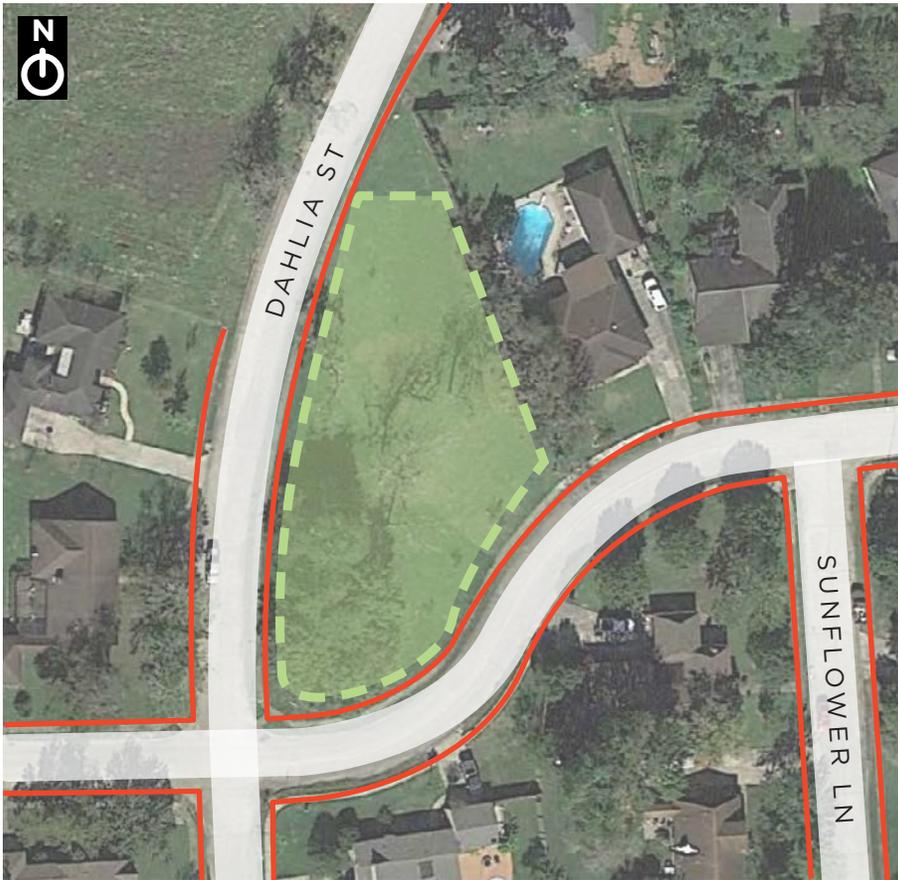
The City has also developed several trail systems along Oyster Creek and Dixie Drive as well as trails systems within parks. A Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan was prepared in 2011 as a recommendation from the 2007 Parks and Open Space Master Plan. Priority recommendations included trails along Lake Road and FM2004 as well as additional natural trails within Dow Centennial Bottomlands and Wilderness Parks. A public survey distributed during the plan development process indicated that 18% of respondents would like to commute to work if safe routes were available.



An overall map and a full description of each existing park and trail is provided on the following pages.



- PARKS NUMBER REFERENCE**
1. BLUEBONNET PARK
  2. BRAZOS OAKS PARK
  3. BRAZOSWOOD KEY CLUB PARK
  4. CAPTAIN TERRY PARK
  5. COTTONWOOD PARK
  6. DOW CENTENNIAL BOTTOMLANDS PARK
  7. DUNBAR PARK
  8. FIREMEN'S PARK
  9. GARLAND PARK
  10. HUISACHE PARK
  11. JAMES F. CREWS PARK
  12. JASMINE PARK
  13. JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE PARK
  14. LAKE JACKSON YOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX
  15. LLOYD MORRISON PARK
  16. MACLEAN PARK
  17. MADGE GRIFFITH PARK
  18. PECAN PARK
  19. PLANTATION OAKS PARK
  20. SHADOW GLEN PARK
  21. SUGGS PARK
  22. TIMBERCREEK PARK COMPLEX
  23. WILDERNESS GOLF COURSE
  24. WILDERNESS PARK
  25. YAUPON PARK



202 Dahlia St  
 Park Type: Pocket  
 Size: 0.8 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits
- Trail

**Existing Amenities:**

- Benches (2)

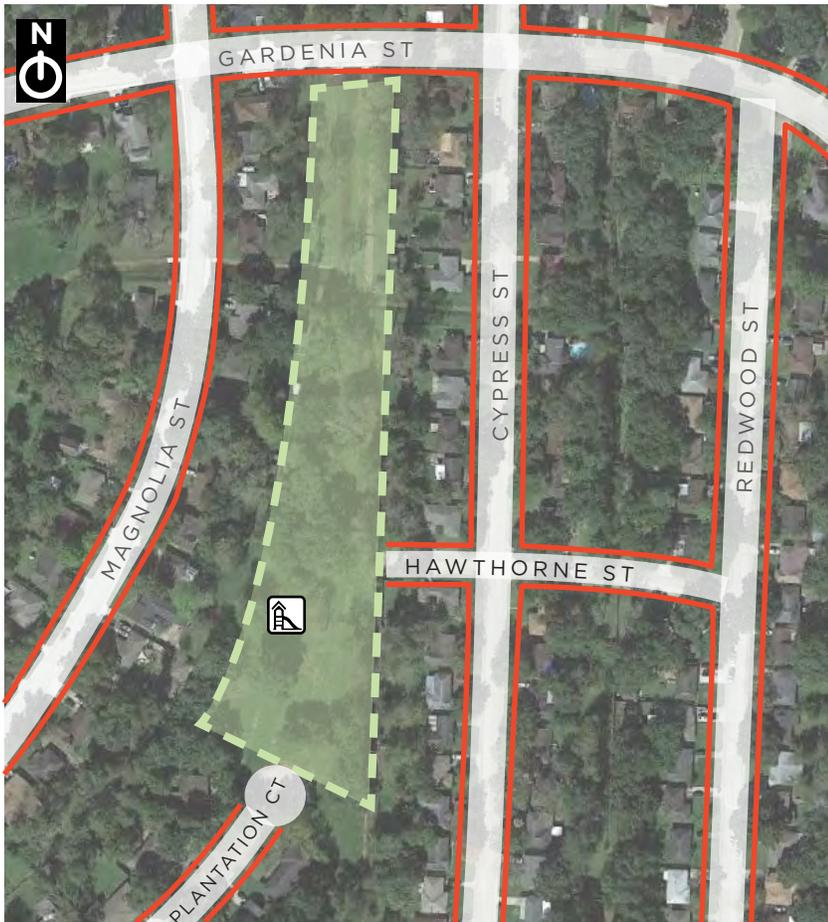
**Opportunities:**

- Located near Brannen Elementary
- Large shade trees

**Constraints:**

- Existing sidewalks do not connect to elementary





**64 Plantation Ct**  
**Park Type:** Pocket  
**Size:** 4.5 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits - - - - -
- Trail —————
- Playground 

**Existing Amenities:**

- Playground, ages 5-12
- Swings, child (6) and tot (2)
- Pedestrian bridge
- Practice backstop

**Opportunities:**

- Large shade trees
- Adjacent homes have chain link fence which enhances community feel
- Potential for trails system to connect to downtown
- Access from 3 streets

**Constraints:**

- No parking
- No existing internal trail





**149 Daffodil St**  
**Park Type:** Pocket  
**Size:** 1.8 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits
- Trail
- Playground
- Picnic Area

**Existing Amenities:**

- Picnic Table
- Swings, child (3) and tot (1)
- Slide

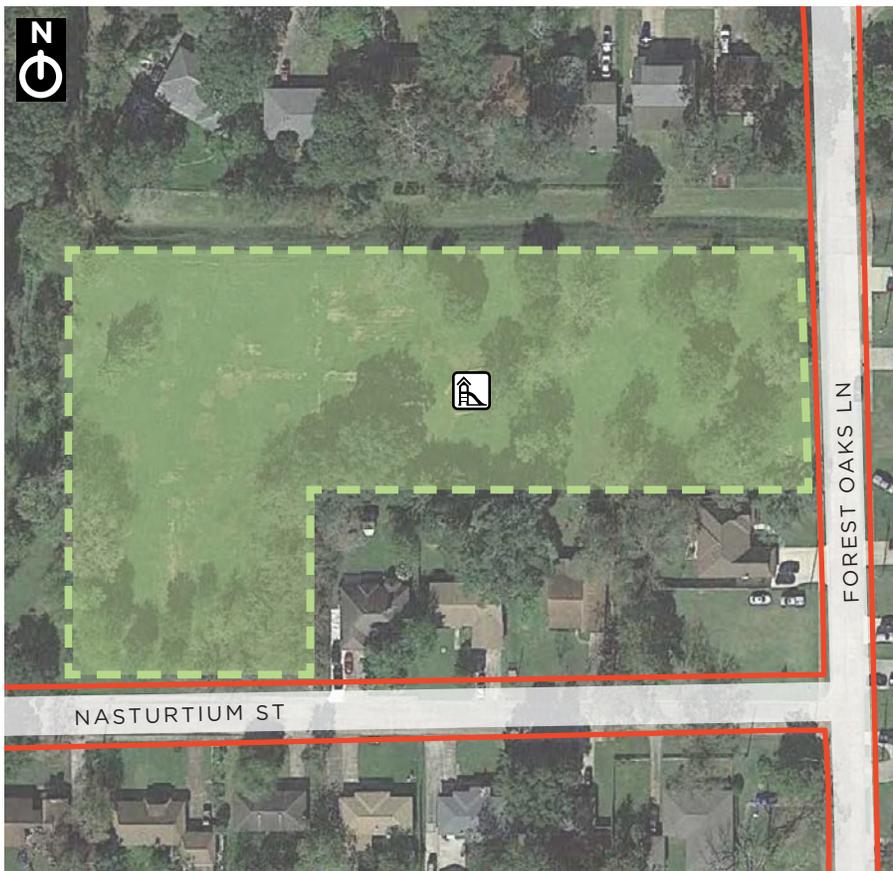
**Opportunities:**

- Existing sidewalks connect to adjacent neighborhood
- Some adjacent homes have wood fences, while others have no fencing and are open to the park

**Constraints:**

- No parking
- Drainage challenges
- No internal sidewalks/trails





425 Forest Oaks Ln  
 Park Type: Pocket  
 Size: 3 Acres

LEGEND:

- Park Limits
- Trail
- Playground 


**Existing Amenities:**

- Playground, ages 5-12
- Swings, child (4)
- Backstops

**Opportunities:**

- Adjacent drainage swale could provide trail connectivity to greenspace
- Established tree cover
- Access from 2 streets

**Constraints:**

- Poor drainage
- No internal trails



101 Cottonwood Dr  
 Park Type: Pocket  
 Size: 6.9 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits
- Trail

**Existing Amenities:**

- Undeveloped

**Opportunities:**

- Large shade trees
- Adjacent homes have direct views and access
- Utility corridor could provide connectivity to Plantation Oaks and Suggs Park

**Constraints:**

- Poor drainage
- No parking
- Northern portion of park is currently inaccessible



**93 Lake Rd**  
**Park Type:** Regional  
**Size:** 204.4 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits - - - -
- Trail ————
- Waterway
- Picnic Area 
- Parking 

**Existing Amenities:**

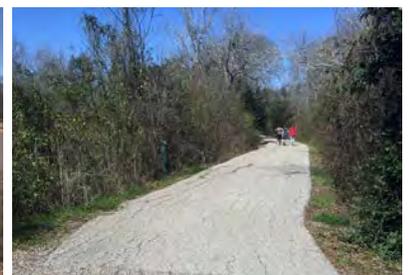
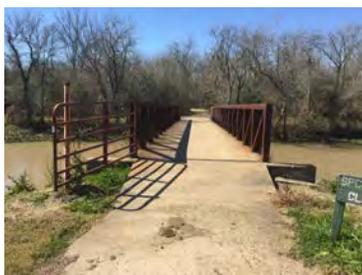
- Trails
- Picnic Table
- Geocaches
- Primitive Parking at FM 2004

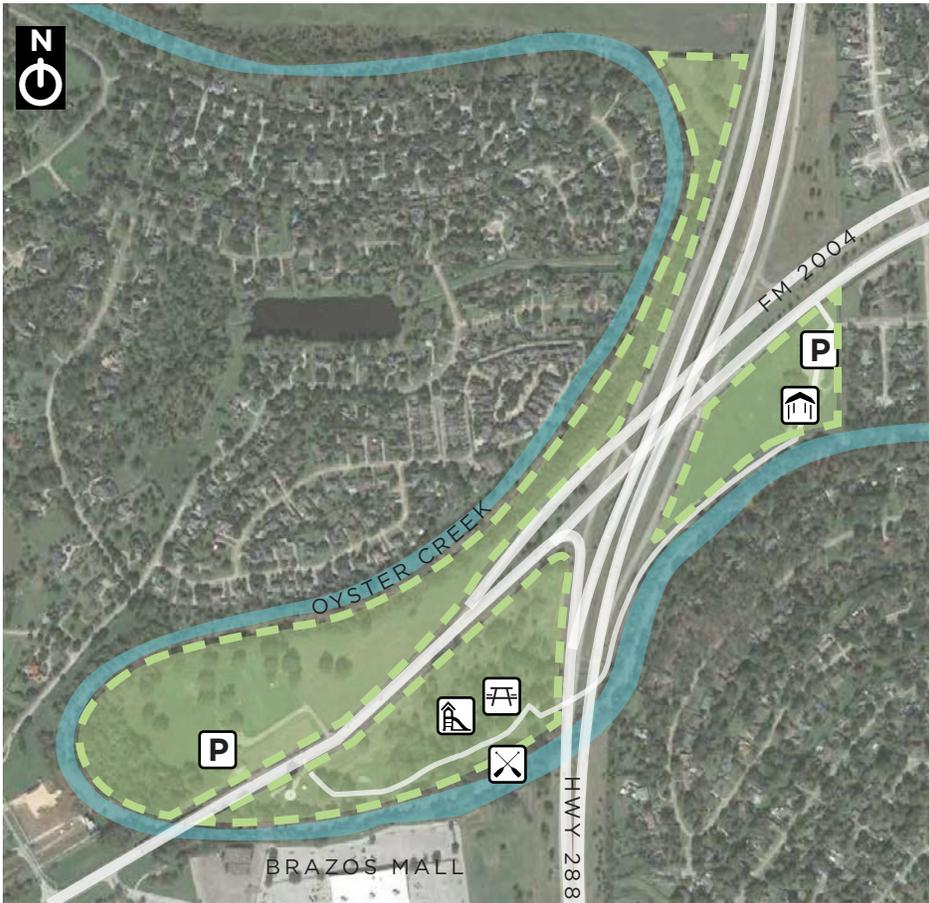
**Opportunities:**

- Extensive Columbia Bottomlands forest
- Brazoria River access
- Adjacent to active MacLean Park
- Site UTC 114 on Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail
- Nature sanctuary

**Constraints:**

- Environmental sensitivity
- Limited access and parking





**303 FM 2004**  
**Park Type:** Community  
**Size:** 65.7 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits - - - - -
- Trail —————
- Waterway —————
- Pavilion 
- Playground 
- Picnic Area 
- Parking 
- Canoe/Kayak Launch 

**Existing Amenities:**

- Restrooms (2)
- Pavilions (5)
- Practice Fields (5)
- Football Fields (1)
- Backstops (7)
- Playground, ages 5-12
- Picnic Tables (48)
- Swings, child
- Disc Golf
- Canoe/ Kayak Launch
- Parking (133)

**Opportunities:**

- First canoe/kayak launch along Oyster Creek
- Highway divides park into 3 distinct areas
- High visibility from major thoroughfare

**Constraints:**

- Park is divided by major roadways
- One-way entrance/exit causes some challenges for vehicular/pedestrian/bike conflicts
- Pavilion area west of Hwy. 288 in need of repairs/updates
- Restrooms lacking west of Hwy. 288
- Existing restrooms require updating or replacement





207 Forest Oaks Ln  
 Park Type: Pocket  
 Size: 1.7 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits - - - - -
- Trail —————
- Playground 
- Picnic Area 

**Existing Amenities:**

- Picnic Tables (2)
- Swings, child (2) and tot (2)
- Large granite boulders

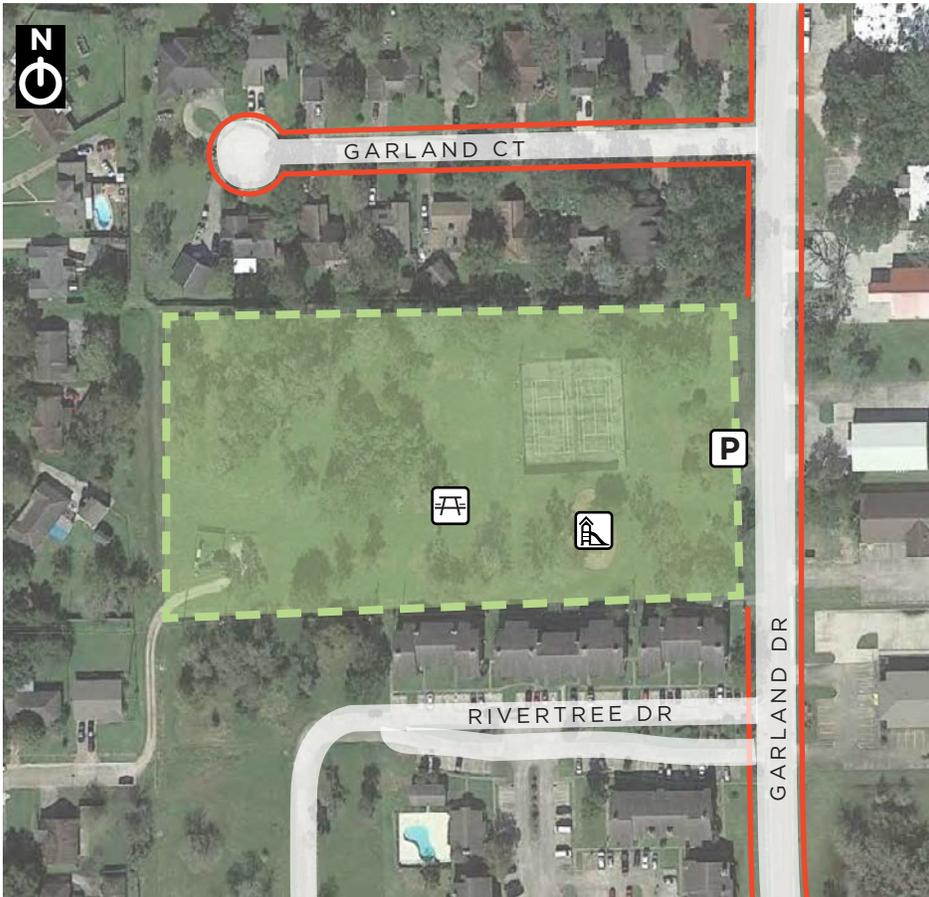
**Opportunities:**

- Large boulders provide historic value
- Large shade trees
- Adjacent homes create neighborhood feel

**Constraints:**

- No parking
- No internal trail/walk
- Playground equipment is outdated





**328 Garland Dr**  
**Park Type:** Neighborhood  
**Size:** 4.7 Acres

LEGEND:

- Park Limits - - - - -
- Trail —————
- Playground 
- Picnic Area 
- Parking 

**Existing Amenities:**

- Tennis Courts (2)
- Parking (10)
- Playground, ages 2-5
- Picnic Table
- Swings, child (2) and tot (2)

**Opportunities:**

- Adjacent apartments, single family and commercial
- Large shade trees
- Potential connectivity through adjacent utility corridors

**Constraints:**

- Existing sidewalk stops at park
- Parking is limited and needs improvements
- Tennis courts in need of repairs
- Site furnishings/playground equipment outdated





**474 Huisache St**  
**Park Type:** Pocket  
**Size:** 0.3 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits
- Trail
- Playground 


**Existing Amenities:**

- Playground, ages 2-5
- Swings, child (2) and tot (2)
- Basketball (half court)
- Benches

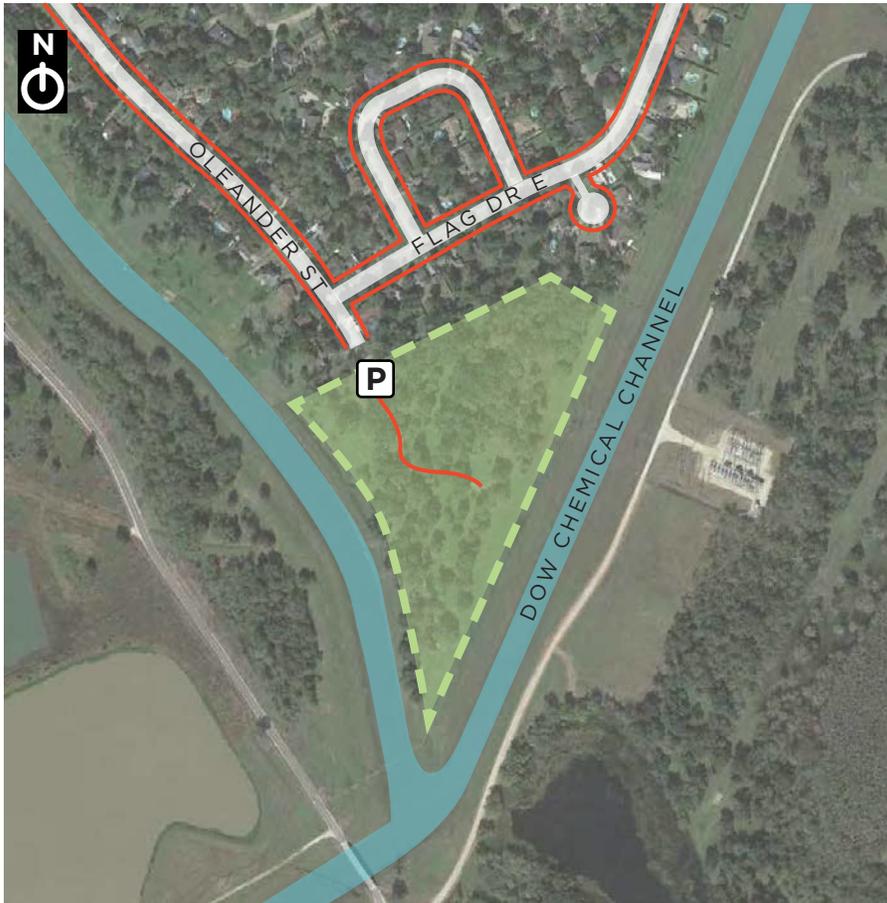
**Opportunities:**

- Potential for trail connectivity utilizing drainage channels to Lloyd Morrison Park

**Constraints:**

- Small linear park
- No internal trails
- Overhead and underground utilities
- Play equipment and site furnishings are outdated





1040 Oleander St  
 Park Type: Neighborhood  
 Size: 18.2 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits - - - - -
- Trail —————
- Waterway
- Parking P

**Existing Amenities:**

- Trails
- Parking (6)

**Opportunities:**

- Large shade trees
- Access to waterways

**Constraints:**

- Limited access & visibility





**300 Jasmine St**  
**Park Type:** Neighborhood  
**Size:** 6.8 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits - - - -
- Trail ————
- Playground 
- Parking 

**Existing Amenities:**

- Restroom
- Meeting Hall
- Kitchen
- Slide
- Tennis Courts (4)
- Playground, ages 5-12
- Swings, child (4) and tot (4)
- Parking (35)
- Picnic Tables (2)
- Climber

**Opportunities:**

- Adjacent drainageways could provide trail connectivity
- Large open space with large trees at west side of park
- Community building frequently used

**Constraints:**

- Tennis courts in need of upgrades/repairs





709 Yaupon St  
 Park Type: Pocket  
 Size: 2.9 Acres

LEGEND:

- Park Limits - - - - -
- Trail —————
- Playground 
- Picnic Area 
- Parking 

Existing Amenities:

- Playground, ages 2-5 and 5-12
- Picnic Tables (7)
- Parking (10)

Opportunities:

- Large shade trees
- Adjacent drainageway could provide trail to Yaupon Park
- Access to residential areas

Constraints:

- Poor drainage





**301 Oak Drive South**  
**Park Type:** Special Use  
**Size:** 21.75 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits
- Trail
- Parking P

**Existing Amenities:**

- ADA Accessibility
- Pavilion
- Parking (408)
- Soccer Fields, Practice (10)
- Soccer Fields, Competition (3)
- Basketball Courts (3)
- Baseball Fields (3)
- Backstop

**Opportunities:**

- Highly used by competitive youth teams
- Adjacent to MacLean Park

**Constraints:**

- Lack of concessions and restrooms
- Parking is shared with Rasco Middle School



**507 That Way St**  
**Park Type:** Neighborhood  
**Size:** 5 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits - - - - -
- Trail —————
- Waterway —————
- Playground 
- Picnic Area 
- Parking 

**Existing Amenities:**

- Playground, ages 5-12
- Picnic Tables (10)
- Climber
- Parking (42)
- Fishing Pier
- Slide
- Swings, child (6) and tot (4)
- Restrooms

**Opportunities:**

- Very popular park
- Good visibility from That Way Street
- Fishing for youth
- High use of picnic areas
- New accessible playground (2015)

**Constraints:**

- Private property on west side limits trail development





**93 Lake Rd**  
**Park Type:** Community  
**Size:** 52.2 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits ---
- Trail —
- Waterway █
- Pavilion 
- Playground 
- Pool 
- Picnic Area 
- Parking 

**Existing Amenities:**

- Restrooms
- Pavilions (2)
- Kitchen
- Parking (895)
- Baseball Fields (3)
- Softball Fields (9)
- Soccer Fields (9)
- Volleyball Court (2)
- Tennis Courts (2)
- Playground, ages 2-5 and 5-12
- Swings, child (4) and tot (2)
- Recreation Center\*
- Jogging Trails
- Horse Shoes
- Skate-park
- Backstops (4)

**\*Recreation Center Amenities:**

- Full Size Gymnasium (2 courts)
- KidZone (Childcare)
- Weights/Cardio Training Room
- Wi-Fi
- Family Changing Room
- Aerobic/Multipurpose Rooms (2)
- Fitness on Demand Studio
- Vending Area
- Racquetball Courts (4)
- Locker Rooms/Shower Facilities
- Spinning Studio
- Indoor Swimming Pools (2)

**Opportunities:**

- Rec Center is highly used
- Location for future dog park
- Popular trail connection to Brazos River and DOW Centennial Bottomlands Park

**Constraints:**

- Lack of adequate parking
- Limited concessions and restrooms
- Drainage & maintenance concerns on fields
- Pool size is small
- Not all fields are lighted





**302 Magnolia St**  
**Park Type:** Neighborhood  
**Size:** 9.2 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits -----
- Trail —————
- Playground 
- Pool 
- Parking 

**Existing Amenities:**

- Restrooms (2)
- Baseball Fields (4)
- Softball Fields (2)
- Swimming Pool (outdoor)
- Playground (ages 5-12)
- Meeting Rooms
- Parking (90)

**Opportunities:**

- Adjacent to Ney Elementary
- Close proximity to downtown
- Building with restrooms and meeting rooms

**Constraints:**

- Limited parking
- Pool requires upgrades/repairs
- Drainage swale bisects site



**208 Crocus St**  
**Park Type: Pocket**  
**Size: 1.2 Acres**

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits
- Trail
- Playground
- Picnic Area

**Existing Amenities:**

- Playground, ages 2-5 (1) and 5-12 (1)
- Picnic Tables (3)
- Swings, child (2) and tot (2)

**Opportunities:**

- Large shade trees

**Constraints:**

- No internal sidewalk/trail





**11 Sumac Ct**  
**Park Type:** Pocket  
**Size:** 3.8 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits
- Trail
- Playground ⏸
- Picnic Area 🍴

**Existing Amenities:**

- Playground, ages 5-12
- Picnic Table
- Swings, child (4)

**Opportunities:**

- Adjacent utility easement could provide connectivity to Cottonwood Park

**Constraints:**

- No parking
- Limited access and visibility
- No internal sidewalk/trail





**99 Oak Dr**  
**Park Type:** Pocket  
**Size:** 1.1 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits - - - -
- Trail - - - -
- Playground 

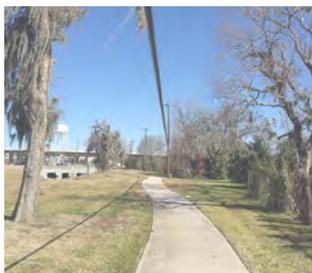
**Existing Amenities:**

- Playground, ages 5-12
- Swings, tot (2)
- Slide

**Opportunities:**

**Constraints:**

- No parking
- No direct access to street
- Evergreen shrubs along Oak Drive limit visibility
- Overhead utilities directly above trail to park





**213 C.R. 288**  
**Park Type:** Special Use  
**Size:** 11.6 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits
- Railroad
- Parking P

**Existing Amenities:**

- Restroom
- Baseball Fields (2)
- Parking (50)
- Meeting room
- Practice backstop

**Opportunities:**

- Utility easement north of park could provide trail connectivity to Cottonwood Park

**Constraints:**

- Used only for league sports
- No sidewalks along Old Angleton Rd. or surrounding residential streets
- Utility corridor through center of park limits development



**337 Timbercreek Dr**  
**Park Type:** Neighborhood  
**Size:** 14.9 Acres

LEGEND:

- Park Limits
- Waterway
- Trail
- Playground ⏮

**Existing Amenities:**

- Playground, ages 5-12
- Swings, tot (2)
- Slide

**Opportunities:**

- Large preserve-like acreage at heart of Timber Creek
- Adjacent to Oyster Creek

**Constraints:**

- Park acreage is divided among several separate parcels
- Existing sidewalks along Timbercreek Dr. do not connect to park space along Hwy. 856
- Lack of neighborhood sidewalks limits connectivity
- No parking
- Existing playground has no shade
- No internal trails



501 W Hwy 332  
 Park Type: Special Use  
 Size: 399.3 Acres

LEGEND:

- Park Limits
- Waterway
- Parking P

**Existing Amenities:**

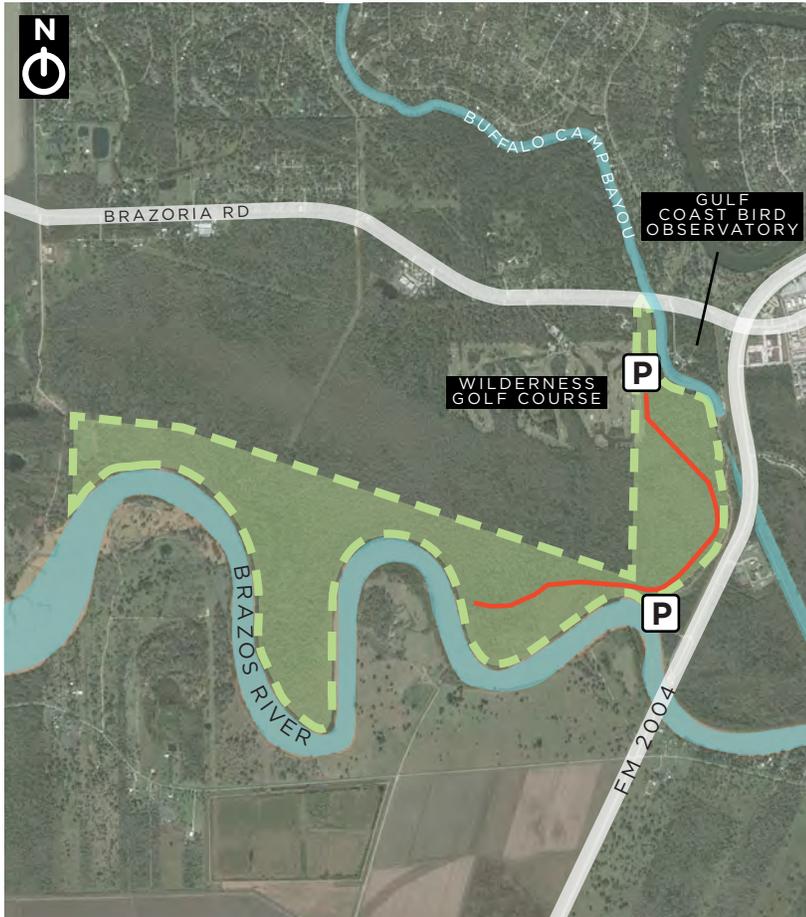
- 18 hole golf course

**Opportunities:**

- Successful golf course is regional draw
- Adjacent to Wilderness Park and Brazos River

**Constraints:**

- Environmental sensitivity may limit further development



301 W Hwy 332  
 Park Type: Regional  
 Size: 609.1 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits
- Trail
- Waterway
- Parking P

**Existing Amenities:**

- Natural trails
- Boat ramp
- Parking (12)

**Opportunities:**

- Natural park
- Access to both Buffalo Camp Bayou and Brazos River
- Adjacent to Wilderness Golf Course
- Adjacent to Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
- Popular hiking location

**Constraints:**

- Drainage challenges
- Parking lot needs resurfacing
- Dense vegetation



705 Yaupon St  
 Park Type: Pocket  
 Size: 2.6 Acres

**LEGEND:**

- Park Limits
- Trail
- Picnic Area A

**Existing Amenities:**

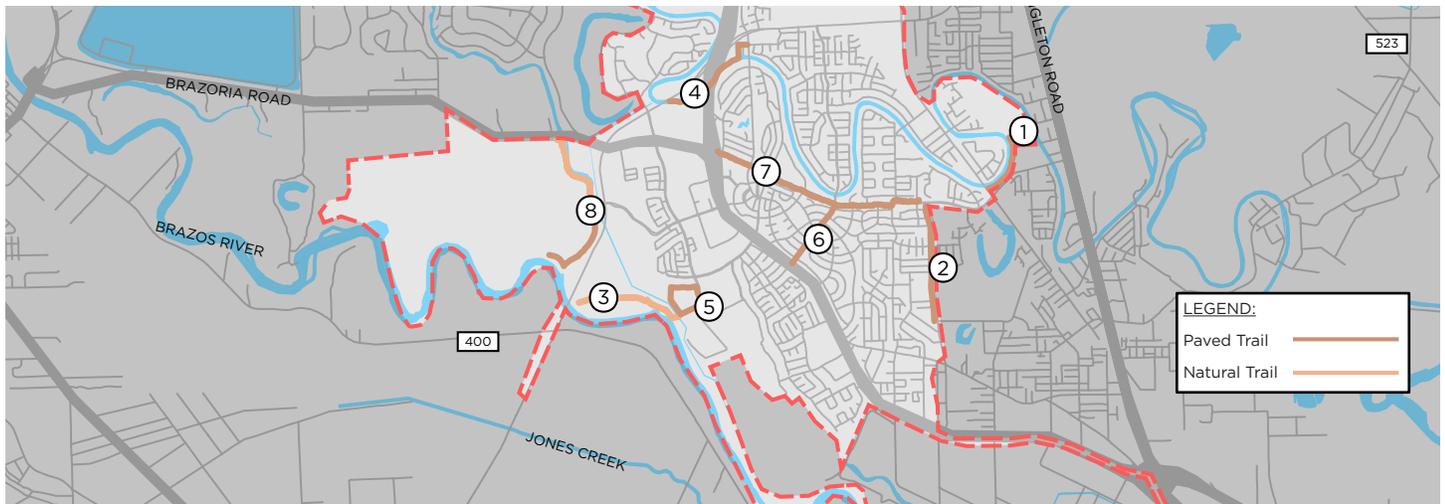
- Picnic Table
- Climbing Structure

**Opportunities:**

- Adjacent drainageways could provide connectivity to Junior Service League Park

**Constraints:**

- Poor drainage
- No internal trails
- No parking



- 1. **BRAZOSPORT COLLEGE** - 1 mile, 5' wide, asphalt jogging trail
- 2. **DIXIE DRIVE TRAIL** - 1 mile, 3' wide, concrete sidewalk
- 3. **DOW CENTENNIAL TRAIL** - 1 mile, 8' wide, gravel trail
- 4. **DUNBAR PARK TRAIL** - 1 mile, 12' wide, asphalt trail
- 5. **MACLEAN PARK TRAIL** - 1 mile, 3' wide, decomposed granite trail
- 6. **OAK DRIVE TRAIL** - .65 mile, 3' wide, concrete sidewalk
- 7. **GARDNER CAMPBELL TRAIL** - 2 miles, 8' wide, concrete sidewalk
- 8. **WILDERNESS PARK TRAIL** - 2 miles, 8' wide, gravel trail

## EXISTING GREENWAYS

Lake Jackson enjoys multiple greenspaces including wide road rights-of-ways and smaller tree-filled areas within neighborhoods and along drainageways. Currently there are a total of 189.4 acres of greenspace in Lake Jackson, primarily located within older neighborhoods. These spaces are currently under-utilized and could serve as trail corridors to connect the numerous pocket parks as well as provide pedestrian access to the recently revitalized downtown area.

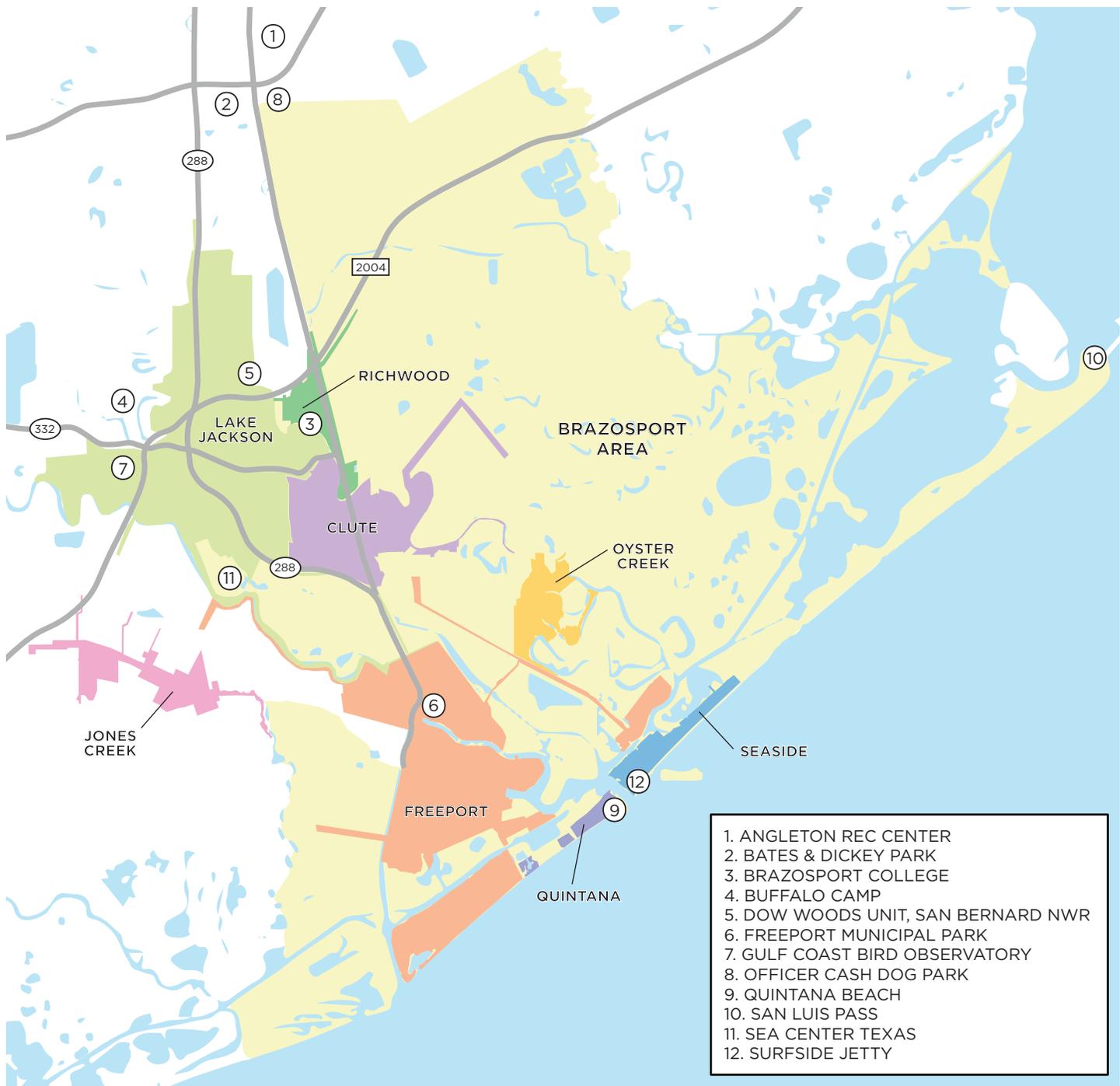


PARK	DEVELOPED	ACRES	RESTROOM	PAVILION	MEETING HALL	KITCHEN	PARKING	BASEBALL FIELDS	BASEBALL BACKSTOPS	SOFTBALL FIELDS	FOOTBALL FIELDS	SOCCER FIELDS	VOLLEYBALL COURTS	TENNIS COURTS	BASKETBALL COURTS	GOLF COURSE	SKATE-PARK	SWIMMING POOL		
			INFRASTRUCTURE					ACTIVE AMENITIES												
<b>POCKET PARKS</b>																				
Bluebonnet Park	N	0.8																		
Brazos Oaks Park	Y	4.5						1												
Brazoswood Key Club Park	Y	1.8																		
Captain RR Terry Park	Y	3						1												
Cottonwood Park	N	6.9																		
Firemen's Park	Y	1.7																		
Huisache Park	Y	0.3																		
Junior Service League Park	Y	2.9					10													
Pecan Park	Y	1.2																		
Plantation Oaks Park	Y	3.8	1																	
Shadow Glen Park	Y	1.1																		
Yaupon Park	Y	2.6																		
<b>SUBTOTAL = 12</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>																				
Garland Park	Y	4.7					10							2						
James F. Crews Park	N	18.2					6													
Jasmine Park	Y	6.8	1		1	1	35						4							
Lloyd Morrison Park	Y	5		4			42													
Madge Griffith Park	Y	9.2	3	1			90	4	4	2									1	
Timbercreek Park Complex	N	14.9																		
<b>SUBTOTAL = 6</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>																				
Dunbar Park	Y	65.7	2	5	1		133	2	7	1	1	4								
MacLean Park	Y	52.2	1	2		1	895	3	4	9		9	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	
<b>SUBTOTAL = 2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>117.9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1028</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>REGIONAL PARKS</b>																				
Dow Centennial Bottomlands Park	Y	204.4																		
Wilderness Park	Y	609.1					12													
<b>SUBTOTAL = 2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>813.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>SPECIALTY PARKS</b>																				
Wilderness Golf Course	Y	399.3	1		1		15									1				
Suggs Park	Y	11.6	1		1		50	3												
Youth Sports Complex	Y	21.75		1			408	3	1			13			3					
<b>SUBTOTALS = 3</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>432.7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>TOTAL = 25</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>1,453.5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1706</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	

PARK	PLAYGROUND (CHILD)	PLAYGROUND (TOT)	PICNIC TABLES	SWINGS (CHILD)	SWINGS (TOT)	BOAT/KAYAK LAUNCH	JOGGING TRAIL	DISC GOLF	CLIMBERS	FISHING PIER	HORSESHOES	SLIDES
	PASSIVE AMENITIES											
<b>POCKET PARKS</b>												
Bluebonnet Park												
Brazos Oaks Park	1			6	2							
Brazoswood Key Club Park			1	3	1							1
Captain RR Terry Park	1			4								
Cottonwood Park												
Firemen's Park			2	2	2				1			
Huisache Park	1			2	2							
Junior Service League Park	1	1	7									
Pecan Park	1	1	3	2	2							
Plantation Oaks Park	1		1	4								
Shadow Glen Park	1				2							1
Yaupon Park			2						1			
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>												
Garland Park		1	1	2	2							
James F. Crews Park							1					
Jasmine Park	1		2	4	4				1			1
Lloyd Morrison Park	1		10	6	4				1	1		1
Madge Griffith Park	1											
Timbercreek Park Complex	1				2							1
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>												
Dunbar Park			48	10	2	1		1	1			
MacLean Park	1	1		4	2		1					1
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>REGIONAL PARKS</b>												
Dow Centennial Bottomlands Park			1				1					
Wilderness Park						1	1					
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SPECIAL USE PARKS</b>												
Suggs Park			1									
Wilderness Golf Course												
Youth Sports Complex												
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

**EXISTING FACILITIES**

The previous charts provide an inventory of the types of facilities that can be found in each of Lake Jackson's Parks. Amenities are divided into infrastructure (restrooms, parking, etc), active (sports fields, pools) and passive (picnic areas, playgrounds, etc.) Although Lake Jackson has numerous picnic areas, playgrounds and sports fields, it is lacking in larger, covered picnic pavilions that could be rented for special events as well as adequate sports facilities for the existing leagues. Many of Lake Jackson's existing facilities are at or beyond their expected life and require renovation or complete replacement.



## VICINITY AMENITIES

Lake Jackson's existing park facilities not only serve its residents but also provide recreational opportunities at a regional level. Understanding both the local and regional opportunities and needs for parks and open space provides a more comprehensive view of the types of facilities Lake Jackson's residents currently enjoy. Facilities within the Brazosport area were inventoried and a brief description is provided on the following pages.



**1. Angleton Recreation Center**

City of Angleton

Distance From LJ - 14 mi

**Existing Amenities:**

- Fitness Rooms
- Gymnasium
- Weight Rooms
- Locker Rooms
- Meeting Rooms
- Parking
- Swimming Pool



**2. Bates & Dickey Park**

City of Angleton

Distance From LJ - 11 mi

**Existing Amenities:**

- Basketball Court
- BBQ Pits
- Butterfly Garden
- Disc Golf Course
- Exercise Stations
- Horseshoe Pits
- Picnic Tables
- Playgrounds
- Rental Pavilions



**3. Brazosport College**

State of Texas

Distance From LJ - 3 mi

**Existing Amenities:**

- Tennis Courts
- Trails



**4. Buffalo Camp**

Brazoria County

Distance From LJ - 3 mi

**Existing Amenities:**

- Pavilion
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Trails
- Parking



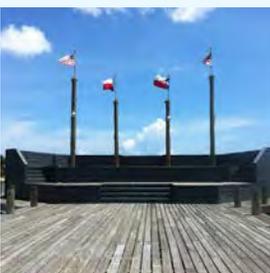
**5. Dow Woods Unit, San Bernard NWR**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Distance From LJ - 4 mi

**Existing Amenities:**

- Parking
- Trails



**6. Freeport Municipal Park**

City of Freeport

Distance From LJ - 8 mi

**Existing Amenities:**

- Basketball Courts
- Playground
- Trails



### 7. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

Privately Owned

Distance From LJ - 4 mi

#### Existing Amenities:

- Wildlife Sanctuary
- Trails



### 8. Officer Cash Dog Park

City of Angelton

Distance From LJ - 12 mi

#### Existing Amenities:

- Large Dog Area
- Small Dog Area
- Puppy Playground with Obstacle Course
- Frisbee Field



### 9. Quintana Beach

Brazoria County

Distance From LJ - 15 mi

#### Existing Amenities:

- Campsites
- Cabins
- Restrooms/Shower
- Meeting Room
- Pavilions
- Picnic Tables
- BBQ Pits
- Playground
- Volleyball Court
- Trails
- Fishing Dock
- Parking



### 10. San Luis Pass

Brazoria County

Distance From LJ - 25 mi

#### Existing Amenities:

- Campsites
- Cabins
- Meeting Room
- Interpretive Center
- Pavilion
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Boat Lunch
- Parking Lot



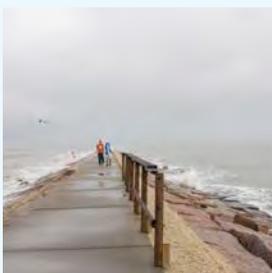
### 11. Sea Center Texas

Texas Parks & Wildlife

Distance From LJ - 3 mi

#### Existing Amenities:

- Education Center
- Marine Aquarium
- Trails



### 12. Surfside Jetty

Brazoria County

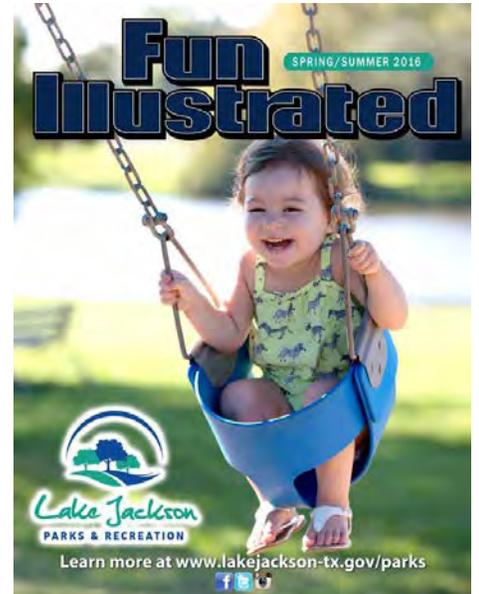
Distance From LJ - 13 mi

#### Existing Amenities:

- Restrooms
- Playground
- Jetty
- Parking Lot

The City of Lake Jackson offers a variety of recreational programming including adult and youth league sports, fitness training and aerobics, aquatics, wrestling, dancing and Taekwon Do. The Lake Jackson Parks and Recreation Department also coordinates special events including the annual Easter egg hunt, 5k walk/runs, outdoor movies and Kids Reel Big Fish Event. Several of the park facilities are available for rental including picnic pavilions, the MacLean softball complex, the indoor and outdoor pools and party room.

The Parks and Recreation Department publishes Fun Illustrated twice, annually to advertise upcoming events and programming.







### HOW DO WE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE?

The previous chapter establishes a clear benchmark for what the City of Lake Jackson currently has to offer its citizens for park and recreational opportunities. This data becomes the foundation for calculating existing level-of-service (LOS), or how the City compares to local, regional and/or national standards as well as determining the types of facilities needed to accommodate expected population growth within the next 20 years. Level-of-service is typically calculated using a standard per a set number of people, typically in increments of 1,000. In order to properly determine the recommended additions, renovations or redevelopment the City should consider, three different types of needs assessment are analyzed.

**STANDARDS BASED** needs assessment utilizes national, regional, or local guidelines such as the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommendations for park and facility classifications, size, quantity or total acreage and service area. NRPA's guidelines were established in 1995 and although the association now recommends a more community-specific approach for determining level-of-service guidelines, the previous standards are still utilized as a general starting point for determining current deficit or surplus of park space and facilities.

A more tailored method for establishing level-of-service is to review and compare standards established by other local, similar municipalities and compare those to the national guidelines. This type of approach can develop customized park, recreation, and open space goals for a specific community.

**DEMAND BASED** needs assessment incorporates public input and feedback. This type of analysis is gathered directly from the community and indicates how people want to use park spaces and the types of new facilities they desire. This type of assessment can assist with identifying priorities and understanding trends and programming needs. Public meetings, stakeholder and focus groups as well as community-wide surveys can be utilized to obtain demand based needs.

**RESOURCE BASED** needs assessment considers physical resources available to a community such as natural areas, waterbodies as well as historic and cultural landscapes. This type of analysis also reviews underutilized areas such as public and private rights-of-ways including roadways, drainage corridors and utility easements.

Assessing current and future needs utilizing these three methods provides a comprehensive summary for Lake Jackson. The following pages review each of these three methods.



## STANDARDS BASED NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Utilizing the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) level-of-service standards (pg. 18) to assess the existing park and recreational facilities within Lake Jackson provides a starting point for reviewing current level-of-service. The chart below applies these standards to the existing park acreage in Lake Jackson.

LAKE JACKSON LEVEL-OF-SERVICE PER NRPA GUIDELINES					
PARK FACILITY	EXISTING ACRES (ac)	NRPA RECOMMENDED 2016*	SURPLUS/DEFICIT 2016*	NRPA RECOMMENDED 2040**	SURPLUS/DEFICIT 2040**
Mini/Pocket	30.6 ac	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Neighborhood	58.8 ac	27-54 ac	+4.8 ac	36-72 ac	-13.2 ac
Community	117.9 ac	136-218 ac	-100 ac	63-289 ac	-171 ac
Regional	813.5 ac	136-272 ac	+542 ac	63-361 ac	+453 ac
Special Use	432.7 ac	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greenways/Linear	189.4 ac	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\* Based upon U.S. Census population of 27,224 in 2014

\*\* Based upon expected 2040 population growth of 36,100.

Currently, the City has an abundance of regional park space which includes the Dow Centennial Bottomlands and Wilderness Parks. These parks not only provide much needed natural open space for the residents of Lake Jackson but are also a regional attraction. The Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail includes Dow as a site along the Brazoria Loop Trail.

Utilizing the higher range of NRPA standards, Lake Jackson is already experiencing a 100 acre deficit in community parks. Community parks are an essential component of a comprehensive parks system providing a variety of both passive and active recreational features. Their larger size allows for amenities such as ball field complexes, community centers, dog parks, and aquatic facilities.

Expected growth projections for Lake Jackson in 2040 would increase population by over 8,000 people, creating a larger deficit in community park space as well as creating a slight deficit in neighborhood park space. The increase in population is expected to occur primarily on the north side of the City which is currently undeveloped. Proper planning is required to ensure that these new developments exhibit the same, quality, sense-of-place that the existing residents currently enjoy.

## BENCHMARKING

The 1995 NRPA standards provide a good starting point for evaluating level-of-service in Lake Jackson. The most recent NRPA standards recognize that the unique circumstances of each community may not be addressed by assigning national standards and therefore encourage a more tailored approach to park and recreation planning. In order to calculate level-of-service from a more regional approach, several similar communities were evaluated to provide a benchmark for establishing a unique level-of-service analysis. Deer Park, La Porte, and Friendswood have comparable populations to Lake Jackson. These cities have modified NRPA's standards to more accurately reflect their individual needs as shown in the chart on the following page.

RECOMMENDED LEVEL-OF-SERVICE GUIDELINES FOR SURROUNDING AREAS				
PARK FACILITY	NRPA RECOMMENDED ACREAGE PER 1,000	FRIENDSWOOD (2009 MP)	LAPORTE (2008 MP)	DEER PARK (2013 MP)
Mini/Pocket	N/A	N/A		1-2 ac
Neighborhood	1-2 ac	2.5 ac	1 ac	5-8 ac
Community	5-7ac	2-3 ac	3 ac	N/A
Regional	5-10 ac	N/A		N/A
Special Use	N/A	N/A		N/A
Greenways/Linear	N/A	N/A		N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11-19 ac</b>	<b>4.5-5.5 ac</b>	<b>4 ac</b>	<b>6-10 ac</b>

The City of Friendswood is located about an hour from Lake Jackson and is predominately suburban. Its adjacency to larger regional parks as well as numerous master-planned communities which own and maintain their own park facilities allows Friendswood to focus their park and recreational goals on two park categories, neighborhood and community type parks.

La Porte is located along Galveston Bay and is a mixture of residential, commercial, and retail similar to Lake Jackson. The City supplements their parks system with a school-share program as well as the 31.4 acre Sylvan Beach - a Harris County Precinct 2 facility. Therefore, La Porte also focuses its efforts for park and recreational facilities between neighborhood and community type parks.

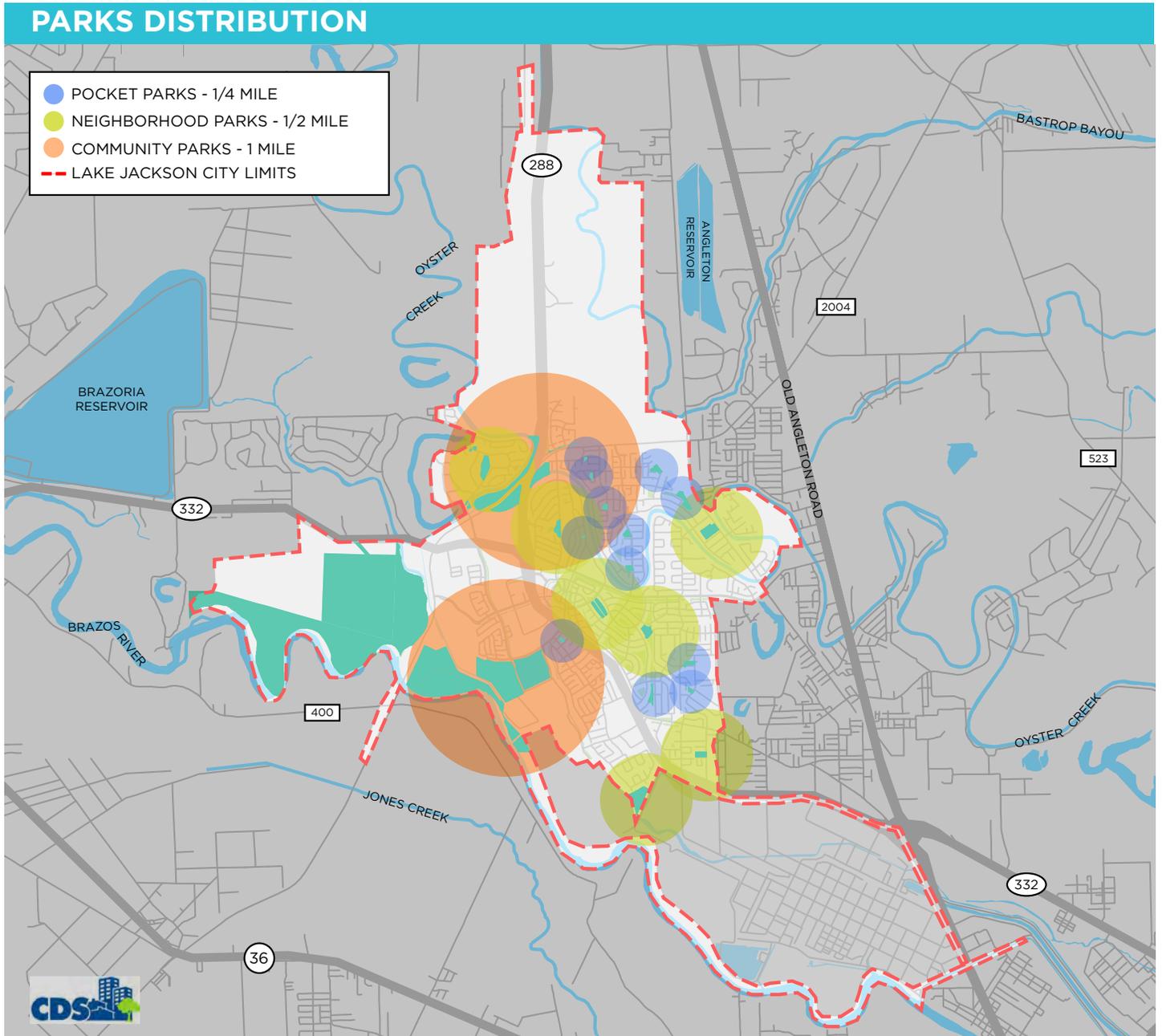
Deer Park is similar in nature to Lake Jackson due to its proximity to petrochemical refineries creating a predominate employment base. Park facilities in Deer Park are small pocket and neighborhood parks. Given the proximity to the City of Houston, residents have access to larger community and regional parks provided by both Houston and Harris County.

Originally established as a master-planned community, Lake Jackson has a distinctive character. More urban than suburban, the city’s central core is a mix of commercial, retail, industrial, and residential. The central hub of the Brazosport Area, Lake Jackson continues to be a strategic leader, committed to long-range planning and providing a first class quality of life for its residents. Expected growth over the next 20 years is projected to be predominately suburban in character, and primarily located within the northern region of the City. In order to maintain Lake Jackson’s emphasis on quality development, the following adjustments have been made from the NRPA guidelines. These adjusted standards for level-of-service per park facility type will ensure that the City of Lake Jackson maintains its outstanding access to public park space throughout the City.

LAKE JACKSON LEVEL-OF-SERVICE STANDARDS			
PARK FACILITY	NRPA RECOMMENDED ACRES PER 1,000	EXISTING LAKE JACKSON LEVEL-OF-SERVICE (ACRES PER 1,000)	LAKE JACKSON STANDARD (ACRES PER 1,000)
Mini/Pocket	N/A	1.12	1-2 ac
Neighborhood	1-2 ac	2.16	1-2 ac
Community	5-7 ac	4.33	6-8 ac
Regional	5-10 ac	30	5-10 ac
Special Use	N/A	15.9	VARIABLE
Greenways/Linear	N/A	6.95 ac	2.5 ac

**ACCESS TO PARKS**

Providing a diverse system of park types and facilities is only one way to ensure that the residents of Lake Jackson have access to quality open space. Exploring each park facility’s recommended level-of-service radii (the distance people are most likely to access the park) provides a clearer view of the distribution of park space. The map below illustrates the existing parks within Lake Jackson and their level-of-service radius\*. The following pages review each of the park types, individually.



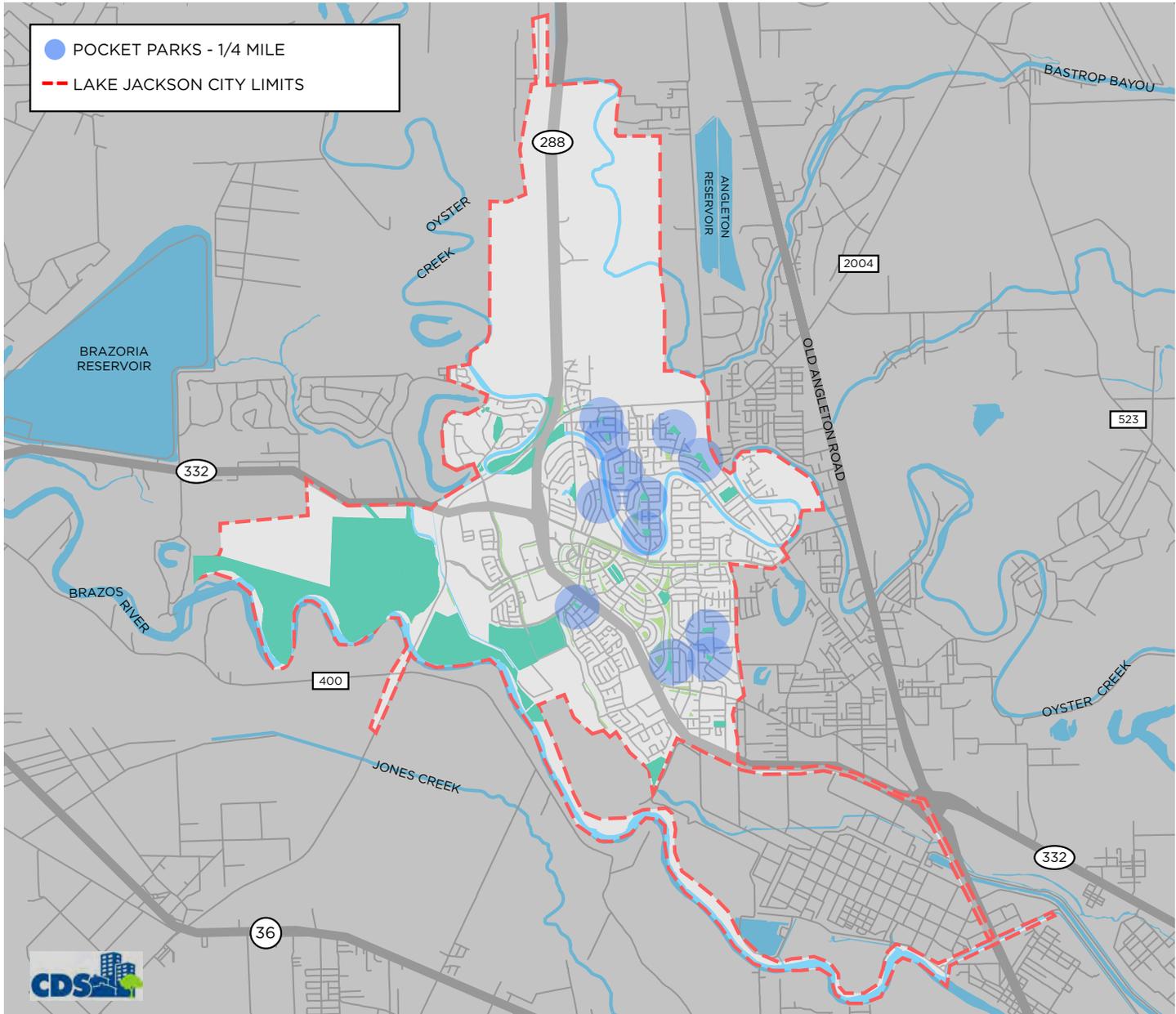
\*REGIONAL PARKS COVERAGES ARE NOT SHOWN ON THIS MAP DUE TO LARGE LEVEL-OF-SERVICE RADIUS

TOTAL EXISTING PARK & GREENSPACE	1,642.9 ACRES
RECOMMENDED LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	15.5 - 24.5 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE
CURRENT LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	60.3 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE
2040 PROJECTED LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	45.5 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE

Pocket parks have a level-of-service radius of 0.25 miles. Within Lake Jackson, pocket parks are located primarily east of Highway 288. Shadow Glen is the only pocket park that is located west of the highway.

Pocket parks include:

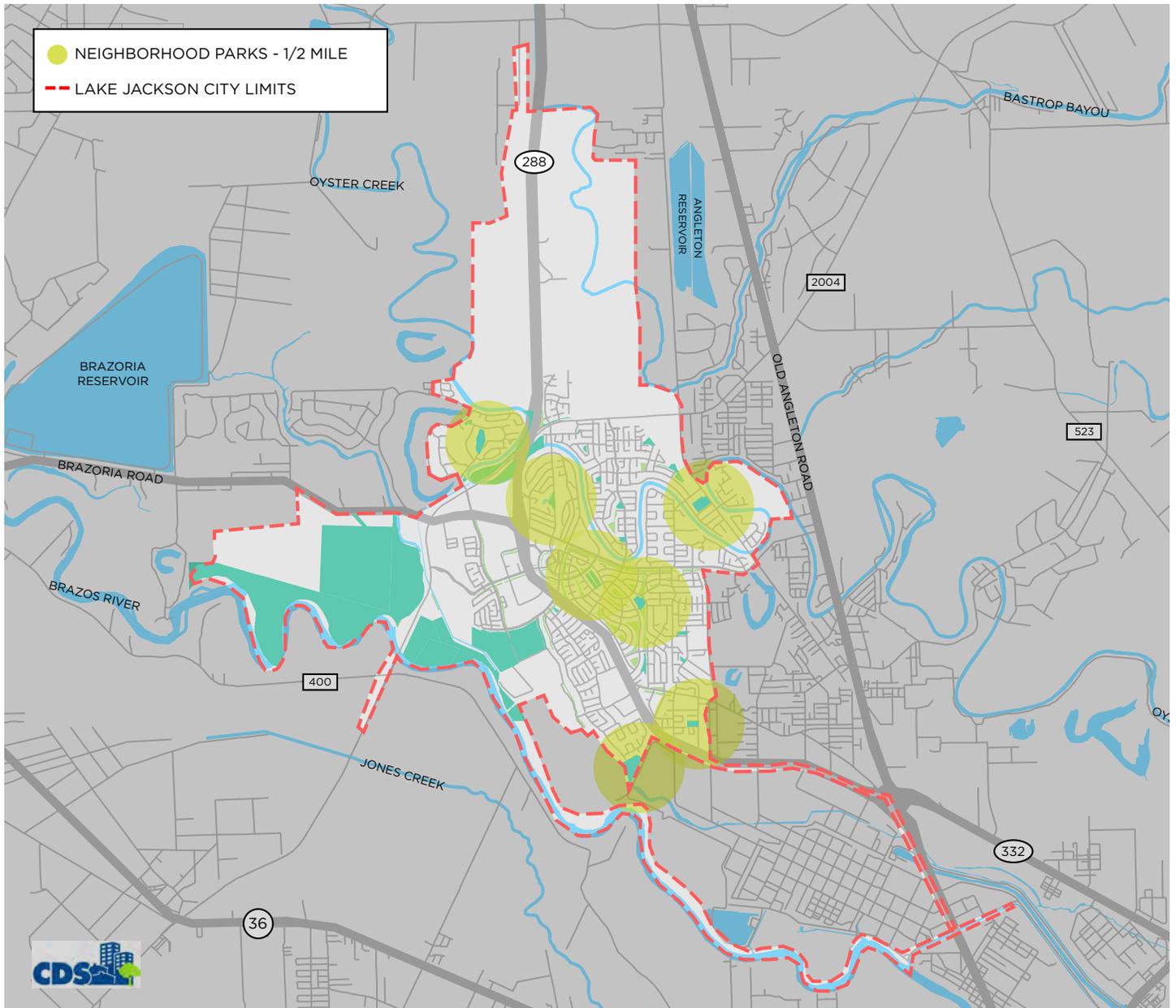
- Bluebonnet Park
- Brazos Oaks Park
- Brazoswood Key Club Park
- Captain RR Terry Park
- Cottonwood Park
- Firemen's Park
- Huisache Park
- Junior Service League Park
- Pecan Park
- Plantation Oaks Park
- Shadow Glen Park
- Yaupon Park



EXISTING POCKET PARKS=	30.6 ACRES
RECOMMENDED	1-2 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE
CURRENT LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	1.12 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE
2040 PROJECTED LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	0.85 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE

Neighborhood parks have a level-of-service radius of 0.5 miles. Four of Lake Jackson’s neighborhood parks are located east of Highway 288. For the purposes of assessing proximity to parks, Suggs Park is also shown on this map.

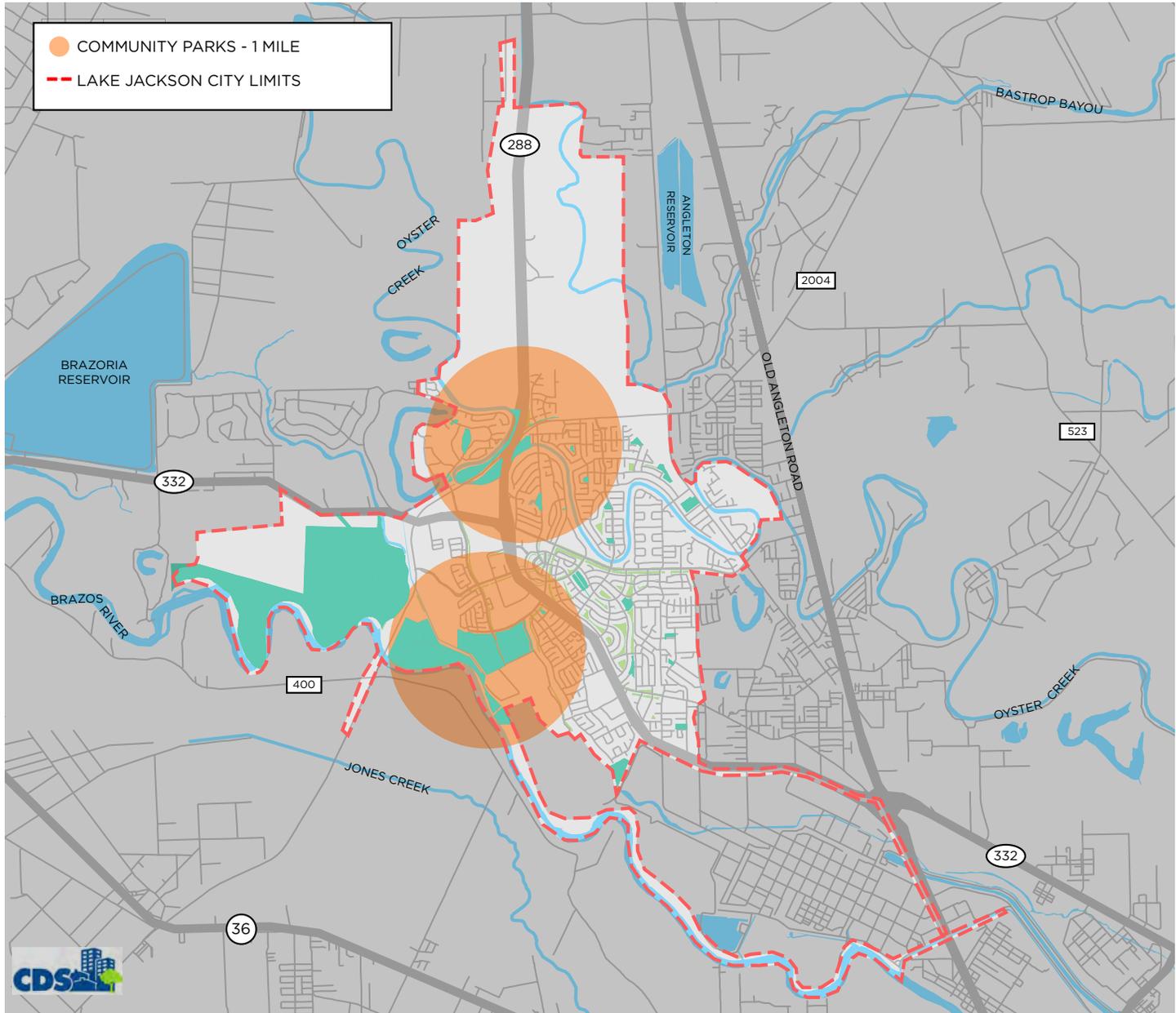
- Neighborhood parks include:
- *Garland Park*
  - *James F. Crews Park*
  - *Jasmine Park*
  - *Lloyd Morrison Park*
  - *Madge Griffith Park*
  - *Timbercreek Park Complex*



EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS=	58.8 ACRES
RECOMMENDED LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	1-2 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE
CURRENT LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	2.16 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE
2040 PROJECTED LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	1.63 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE

Community parks have a level-of-service radius of 1 mile. MacLean Park is located west of Highway 288 while Dunbar Park is divided by the same highway, which serves as a major barrier for pedestrian and bike access to these facilities.

- Community parks include:
- Dunbar Park
  - MacLean Park



EXISTING COMMUNITY PARKS=	117.9 ACRES
RECOMMENDED LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	6-8 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE
CURRENT LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	4.33 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE
2040 PROJECTED LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	3.27 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE

Regional parks have a large 30 mile or more level-of-service radius. Regional parks in Lake Jackson not only serve its residents but also the Brazosport Area and Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown metropolitan areas. Regional park locations are shown on the map below, as well as an inset map to indicate the extent of the 30 mile L-O-S radius. Special use parks and greenways have a variable level-of-service radius and their locations are also shown on the map, below.

REGIONAL PARKS

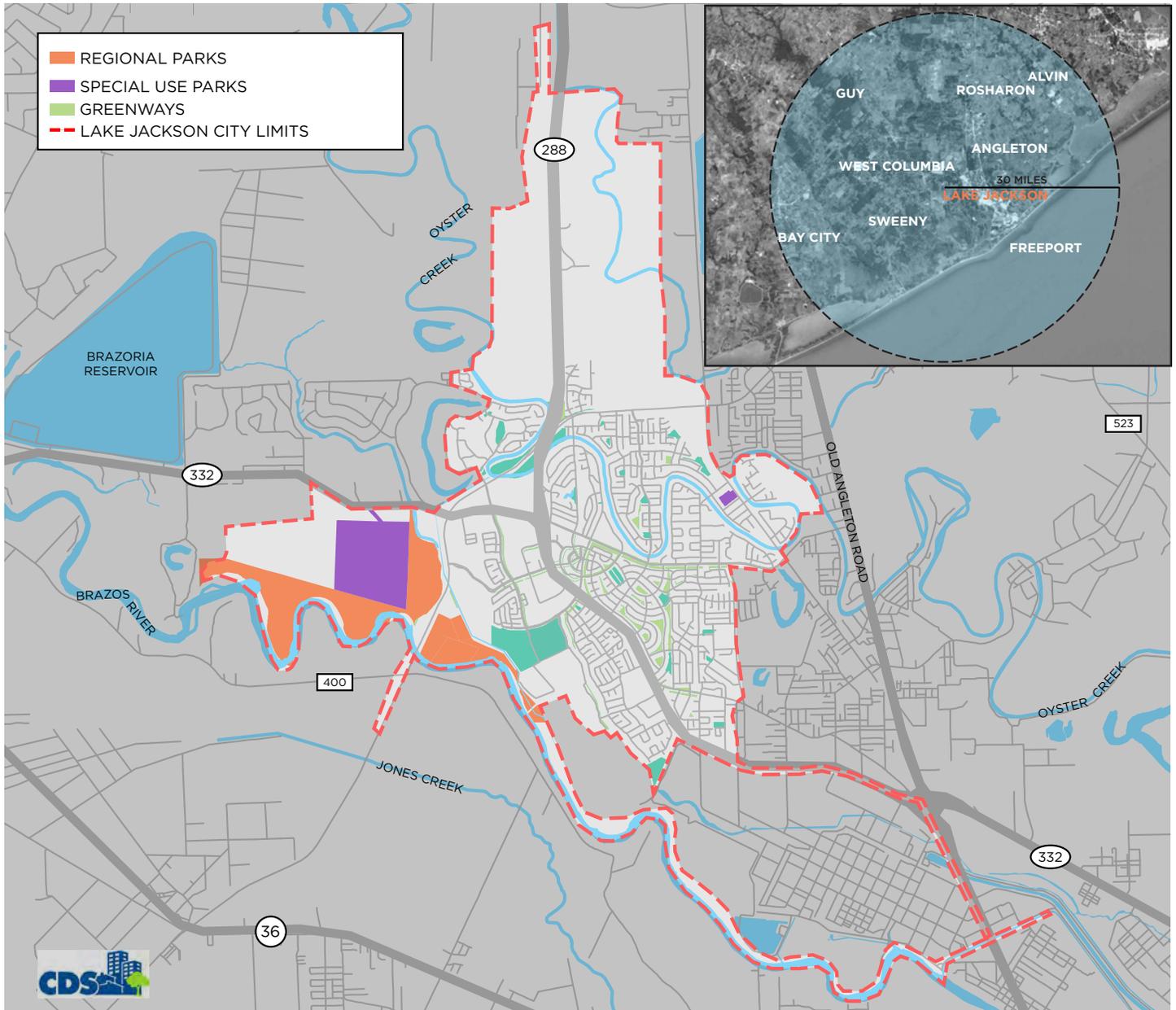
- Dow Centennial Bottomlands Park
- Wilderness Park

SPECIAL USE PARKS

- Lake Jackson Youth Sports Complex
- Suggs Park
- Wilderness Golf Course

GREENWAYS

- 189.4 Acres



EXISTING REGIONAL PARKS	813.5 ACRES
RECOMMENDED LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	5-10 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE
CURRENT LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	30 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE
2040 PROJECTED LEVEL-OF-SERVICE	22.5 ACRES/1,000 PEOPLE

**FACILITY BASED NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The National Recreation and Park Association also provides recommended standards for some facility types. The chart below indicates these standards and how Lake Jackson measures up. While these standards serve as a starting point for assessing existing facilities, trends and public demand for additional parks and facilities are better indicators of the types of recreational opportunities the City should consider investing in.

FACILITY ASSESSMENT PER NRPA STANDARDS						
ACTIVITY/FACILITY	NRPA RECOMMENDED FACILITIES PER POPULATION	RECOMMENDED FACILITIES FOR 2016	EXISTING FACILITIES IN LAKE JACKSON	2016 SURPLUS/ DEFICIT	RECOMMENDED FACILITIES FOR 2040	2040 SURPLUS/ DEFICIT
Amphitheater	1 per 50,00	1	1	0	1	0
Baseball (youth)	1 per 7,000	3	9	+6	5	+4
Baseball (practice)	1 per 10,500	2	17	+15	3	+14
Baseball Fields	1 per 7,000	3	14	+11	5	+9
Basketball Courts	1 per 4,000	6	4	-2	9	-5
Football Fields	1 per 20,000	1	1	0	1	0
Golf Course	1 per 50,000	1	1	0	1	0
Picnic Shelter	1 per 4,000	6	14	+8	9	+5
Picnic Pavilion (200 person or larger)	1 per 20,000	1	1	0	1	0
Picnic Tables	1 table per 300	90	79	-11	120	-41
Playgrounds	1 area per 3,000	9	16	+7	12	+4
Recreation Center	1 sf per person	27,224sf	42,100sf	+14,876sf	36,100sf	+6,000sf
Soccer Fields (League)	1 per 5,000	5	13	+8	7	+6
Soccer Fields (Practice)	1 per 7,500	3	13	+10	4	+9
Softball Fields (adult)	1 per 8,000	4	4	0	4	0
Softball Fields (youth)	1 per 5,000	5	6	+1	7	-1
Softball Fields (practice)	1 per 7,500	3	2	-1	4	-2
Swimming Pools (community)	1 per 20,000	1	1	0	1	0
Swimming Pools (family aquatics)	1 per 50,000	1	1	0	1	0
Tennis Courts	1 court per 4,000	6	8	+2	9	-1
Trails (hard)	1 mile per 4,000	6.8 miles	5.65 miles	-1.15 miles	9 miles	-3.35 miles
Trails (soft)	1 mile per 10,000	2.72 miles	4 miles	+1.28 miles	3.6 miles	+0.4 miles
Volleyball Courts (hard court)	1 per 7,000	3	0	-3	5	-5
Volleyball Courts (sand court)	1 per 5,000	5	2	-3	7	-5

## DEMAND BASED NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Applying level-of-service standards to the City of Lake Jackson provides a starting point for understanding the current deficit and future needs for park and open space acreage as it relates to park size and classification. In order to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the community-specific needs for Lake Jackson, diverse methods for obtaining public input were utilized. Both large and small format group meetings were held in order to gain a wide-range of feedback. Smaller meetings such as the task force and focus groups allowed for collective brainstorming and more detailed conversations. Large format public meetings provided community awareness and participation in the plan's development. An online-based public survey was also utilized as it is one of the easiest tools to obtain public feedback. A link to the survey can be emailed, advertised on social media or the survey can even be distributed in paper format.

**Task Force** With assistance from the Lake Jackson Parks and Recreation Director, an eight member task force was assembled to serve as the steering committee for the plan. Representatives from City Council, the Parks Board, The Hike and Bike Committee, as well as City staff met throughout the development of the plan to review progress and offer insight and recommendations. Members also provided support by promoting the public survey within their special interest groups. The Task Force reviewed critical components of the plan during development and provided a review of the final draft plan before final presentation to City Council.

**Focus Groups** Several special interest groups provided their insight and shared ideas regarding their specific needs. Over the course of two months, the consultant team, along with Parks and Recreation Department staff, met with each group and performed a SWOT analysis, i.e. a method for reviewing the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of the City's current park system. Each group met for an hour to discuss their ideas for enhancing park facilities. A summary of their SWOT analysis is provided on the following page.

**Public Meetings** The development of the 2016 Parks and Open Space Master Plan for the City of Lake Jackson kicked off with a community-wide public meeting on February 24th. Hosted at the City of Lake Jackson Civic Center, over 100 attendees were provided an overview of Lake Jackson's history, its park system, and the parks master plan process and timeline. After the formal presentation, participants were asked to brainstorm together around existing parks maps to provide their ideas and thoughts. Common themes included a dog park, more and improved tennis courts, a better skate-park, additional trails and expanding the existing recreation center. On September 14th a second public meeting was held to review the draft plan including a summary of existing inventory, the recommendations and identification of priority projects.



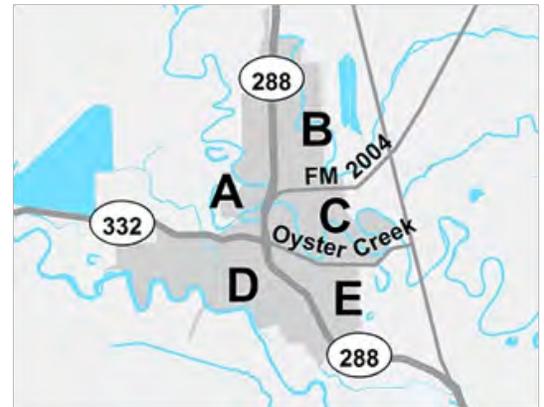
FOCUS GROUP	S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS
Parks & Recreation Staff	Strengths included the abundance of space available to the community, particularly the Recreation Center. Staff stated that weaknesses were the aging facilities and lack of maintenance staff. They found opportunities in expanding certain parks, and proposed new ideas such as splash pads, the use of artificial turf and creating a destination park downtown. One threat is competition from neighboring cities.
Parks Board	The Parks Board stated that their biggest strength was community involvement. A sense of community pride was apparent in Lake Jackson. Some weaknesses include poor connectivity and access to water-related recreation. They found opportunities in expanding the Recreation Center and developing a public event space. The Board felt that funding and community push back was a major threat.
Aquatics	Strengths included the friendly and always helpful staff and leadership. Weaknesses included lack of indoor diving facility and no outdoor youth facility. Opportunities were found in open water swimming and building a natatorium. They feared the city would oppose raising taxes to fund new development.
Hike & Bike	The Hike & Bike group found strengths in the quantity of sidewalks and named many parks with adequate trails. They felt connectivity was a major weakness. Opportunities were found in utilizing spaces near water and placing amenities along trails such as drinking fountains and exercise stations. They stated that funding and lack of a long term vision was a major threat.
Active Sports	Strengths included rising city growth and the support from Dow. Weaknesses found were lack of parking, poor lighting and old facilities. Opportunities were found in providing weather stations for better event planning, and developing tournament facilities. Threats included funding, sporting event communication, and facility vandalism.
Youth Advisory Commission (Y.A.C.)	Y.A.C. spoke very highly of Lloyd Morrison Park, stating it was one of the most popular parks. One strength they found was that there was a park for everyone. Weaknesses included poor restroom facilities, no indoor sports facilities, and lack of tournament space. Opportunities were found in updating the current skate-park and developing ADA accessible park facilities. They stated the biggest threat was funding.
Tennis	The Tennis Group found strength in the various park types and the number of local tennis players. Weaknesses included limited parking, poor tennis court conditions, and drainage problems. Opportunities were found in creating more tournament facilities and establishing better group organization. The Tennis Group felt they were in competition for funding and there was no budget for maintenance.

**Public Survey**

The public survey was provided online and advertised through the City’s webpage and Facebook pages. Several organizations, including focus group attendees and task force members, distributed the link to their members leading to a total of 1,119 responses to the survey. The survey was made available immediately following the public meeting in February and remained open through the end of May. A complete summary of the survey is provided in the appendix.

**RESPONDENTS LOCATION**

In order to ascertain the area where respondents live and work or attend school, a sector map was developed. Utilizing this type of locator allows respondent to indicate the general area where they live and work without requiring specific addresses. 51% of respondents live or work within the Lake Jackson City limits while the remainder indicated they live outside the City, within nearby municipalities including Clute, Richwood, Freeport, Brazoria and Angleton.



**Where survey respondents live and work or go to school**

Sector	Q1 Where do You Live in LJ?	Q3 Work or School in LJ?
Sector A	9.8%	3.8%
Sector B	7.1%	3.8%
Sector C	29.4%	14.8%
Sector D	17.0%	14.3%
Sector E	15.9%	14.7%
Does not live (Q1), go to work/school (Q3) in LJ	20.8%	48.6%

Survey participants were also asked how long they had resided within Lake Jackson. The continual growth of the region creates a unique opportunity to balance both the expectations of newcomers while preserving the memories of the long time residents.

**How long survey respondents have lived in Lake Jackson**

Length of Time	% Share
Less than one year	3.0%
1 - 5 years	17.7%
6 - 10 years	13.6%
11 - 20 years	24.0%
More than 20 years	41.6%

**FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO SPECIFIC PARKS**

The survey provided a list of Lake Jackson’s existing park facilities for respondents to indicate their frequency of respective visits. The vast majority of parks and recreation facilities are visited rarely or not at all by a very high share of respondents. However, some parks did stand out for being more frequently visited. The summary below provides a list of parks that are visited at least once a month by 20% or more of the overall respondent sample and each of three respondent subgroups: respondents with children in the household under age 6, respondents with school-aged children aged 6 to 17, and respondents who identified themselves as over age 55.

**Parks visited monthly by at least 20% of respondents**

Park Name	All Respondents	HH with Children Aged 0-5	HH with Children Aged 6-17	Respondent Aged 55+
Dunbar Park	X	X	X	
Lloyd Morrison Park (Shy Pond)	X	X	X	
MacLean Park	X	X	X	X
Recreation Center	X	X	X	X

MacLean Park is by far the most popular park as two-thirds (67%) of respondents indicate they visit it at least once a month. For respondents in households with school-aged children, visits increase to 77%. For respondents aged 55 and over, it drops to 51%.

The Recreation Center is also frequently visited, with 43% visiting at least once a month. The results rise to 50% for respondents in households with school-aged children.

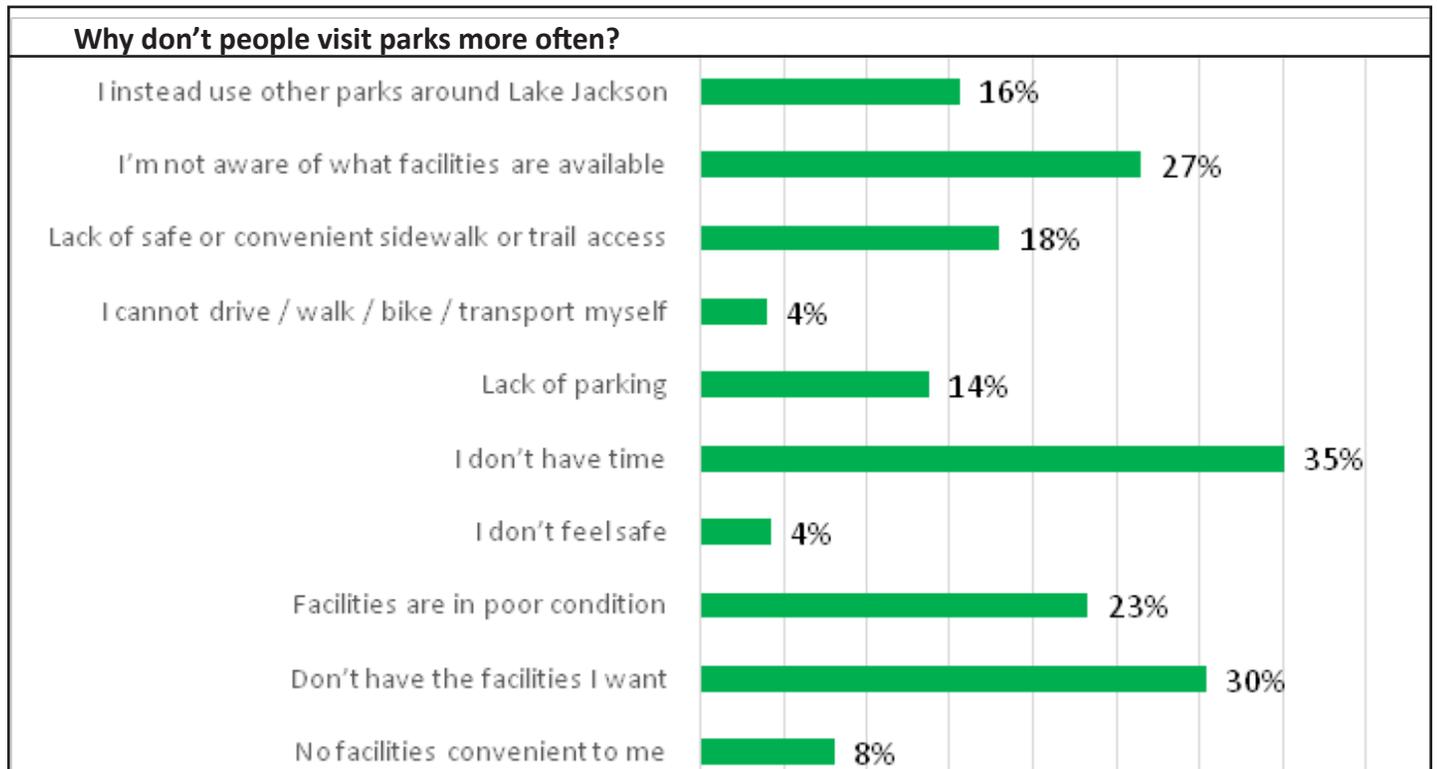
In the overall respondent sample, Jasmine Park was also indicated as a facility that is typically visited at least once by 30% of respondents; while 18% indicated they visited it at least once a month.

The previous parks survey in 2006 included two questions regarding the frequency of park usage, but did not list each park facility as the 2016 survey does. The 2006 sample size was also much smaller at only 115 responses. Respondents in 2006 indicated general park usage (across the system) on a fairly frequent basis, with 81% reporting usage at least once a month. As with the current survey, MacLean was by far the most popular park – 53% of respondents indicated that they visit it the most. Morrison and Dunbar parks were reported at 21% and 20% respectively.



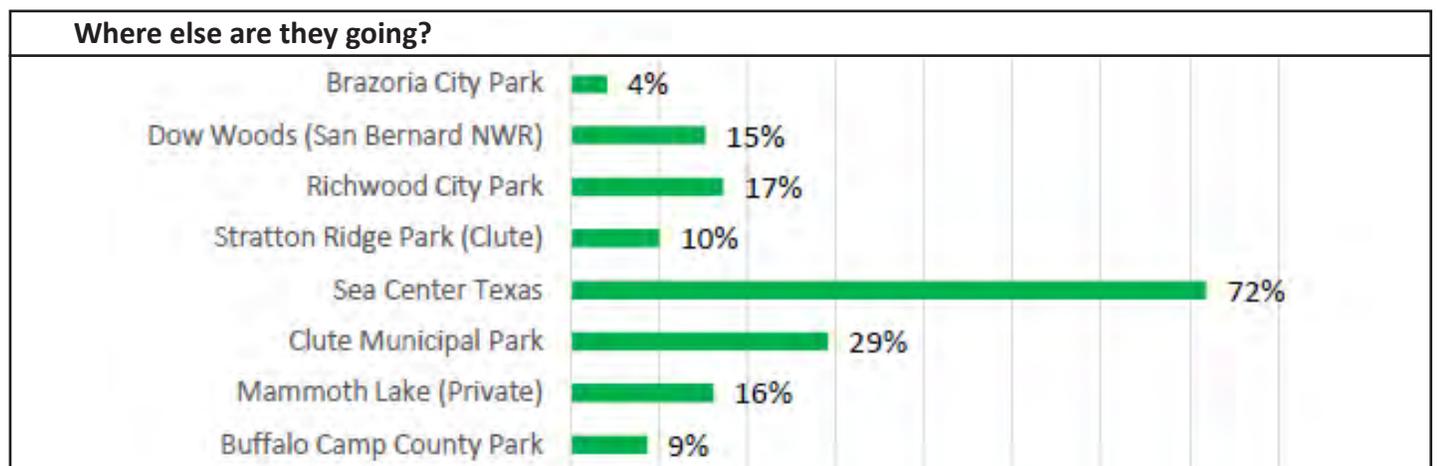
### FACTORS THAT LIMIT USE

In order to determine what obstacles discourage residents from more frequent use of city park and open spaces, the public survey provided a list of options. As shown in the chart below, numerous respondents indicated that Lake Jackson does not have the facilities they want or they are not aware of what facilities are available. The following question on the survey allowed respondents to choose other facilities they typically utilize and provided a field in which respondents could type in their response. These responses were reviewed and quickly suggested respondents' lack of knowledge regarding City parks as multiple fill-in responses were actually City parks.



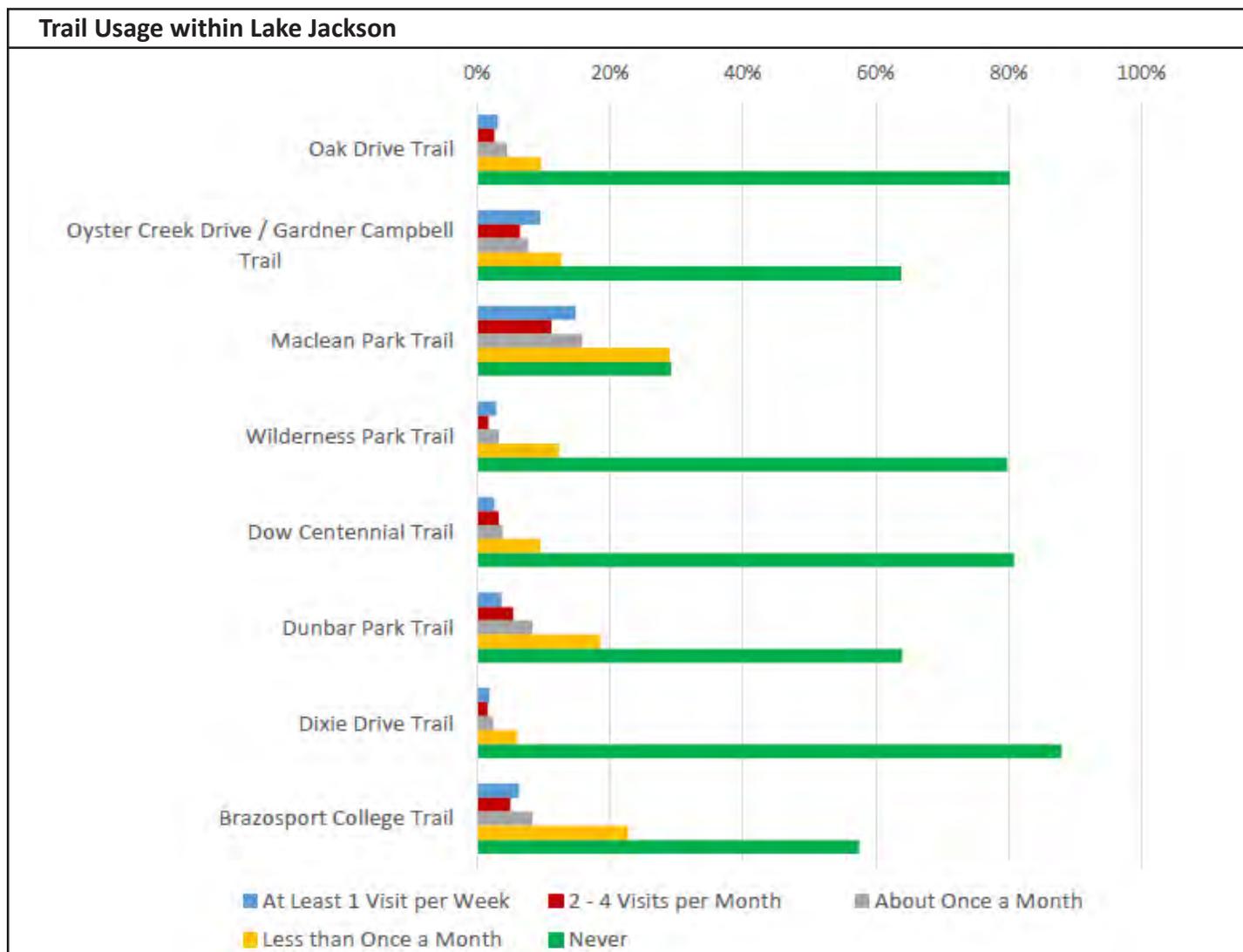
### OTHER POPULAR PARK FACILITIES

Respondents were also asked what other park facilities they utilize. Sea Center Texas, a Texas Parks and Wildlife facility and Clute Municipal Park were the most popular as well as other municipal park facilities within the region.



**TRAIL USAGE**

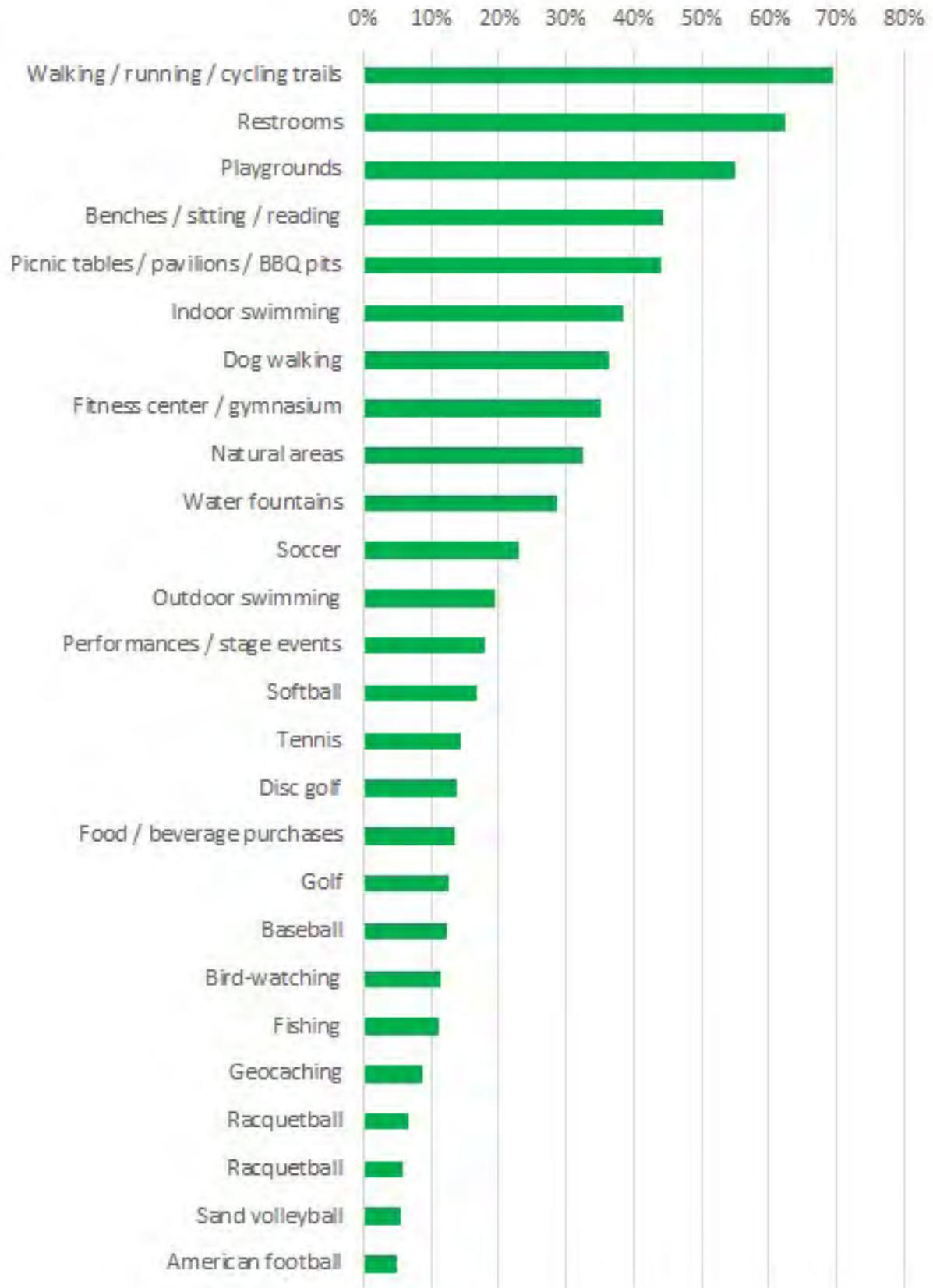
The 2006 parks survey identified a strong interest in expanding the existing trail system within Lake Jackson that led to the development of the 2011 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. Trails continue to be a common request not only in Lake Jackson but within the entire Gulf Coast Region. Respondents revealed their usage of existing trails within Lake Jackson indicating a more frequent use of trails within parks such as Dunbar and MacLean as well as the recently completed Gardner Campbell Trail along Oyster Creek Drive.



**PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES**

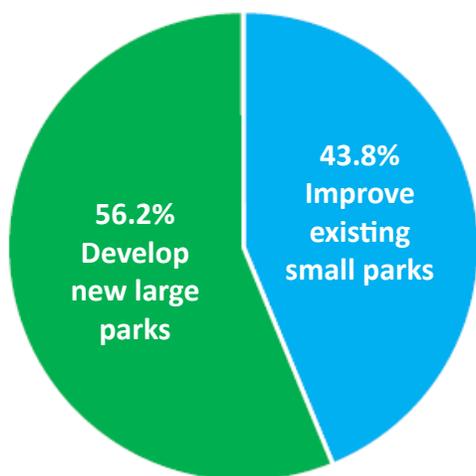
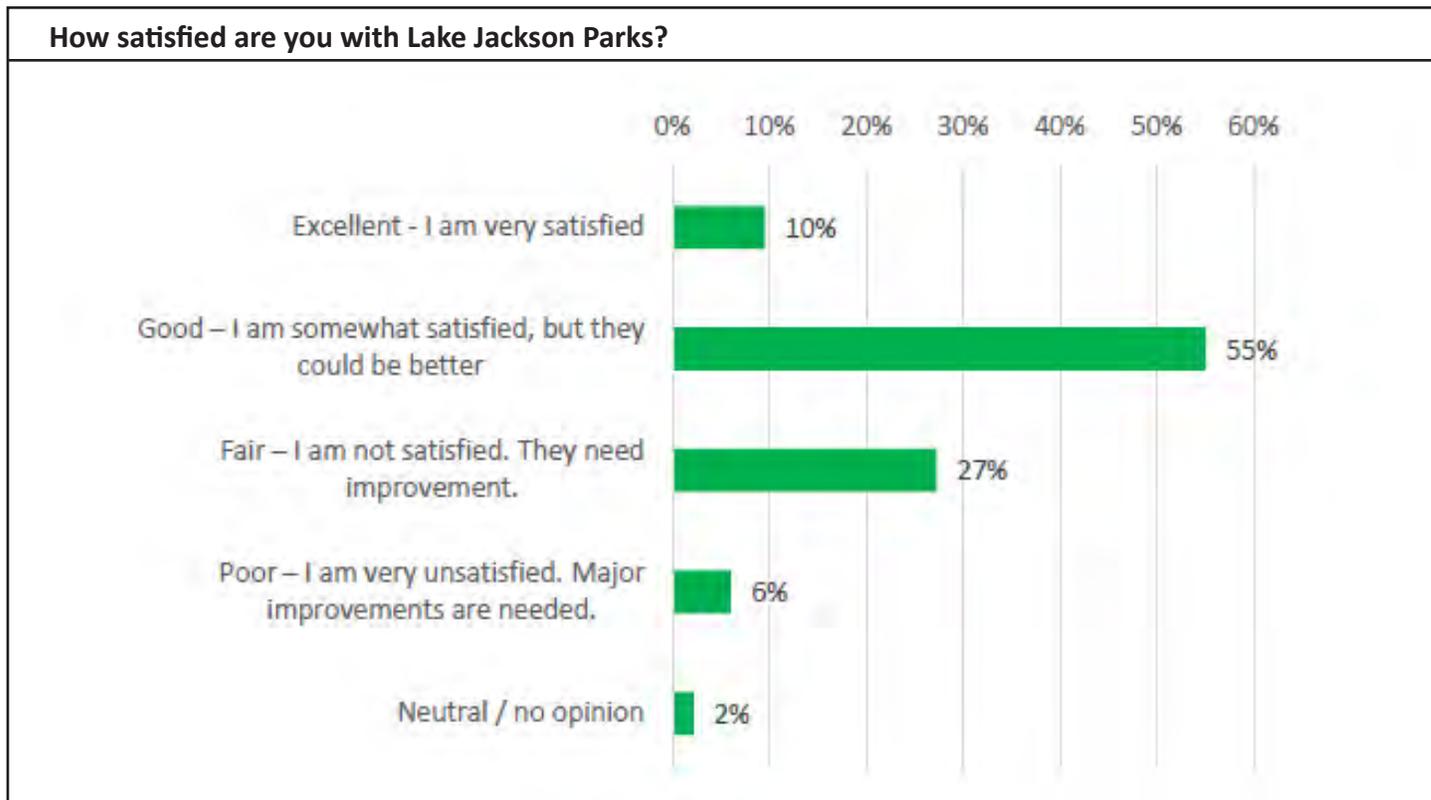
To accurately understand the types of activities respondents currently participate in within City parks, the survey listed multiple types of recreational activities providing both active and passive options. Walking/running/ and cycling was the most popular activity at 70%. Other popular activities include dog walking, utilizing picnic areas, playgrounds and benches, as well as the recreation center and pool. The lowest participation rates according to the survey included American football, racquetball, geocaching and sand volleyball. The following page illustrates survey responses.

Activity participation within Lake Jackson



**PARK SYSTEM SATISFACTION**

In order to gauge each respondents’ overall opinion about the park system, they were given several options to choose from to answer the question “How satisfied are you?” Only 10% of respondents felt that the park system was excellent and they do not desire any changes. 55% of respondents indicated that the park facilities in Lake Jackson are pretty good, but that there could be some improvements. One-third of respondents indicated that they are unsatisfied or even very unsatisfied with the current state of the City’s park system and that improvements are warranted.

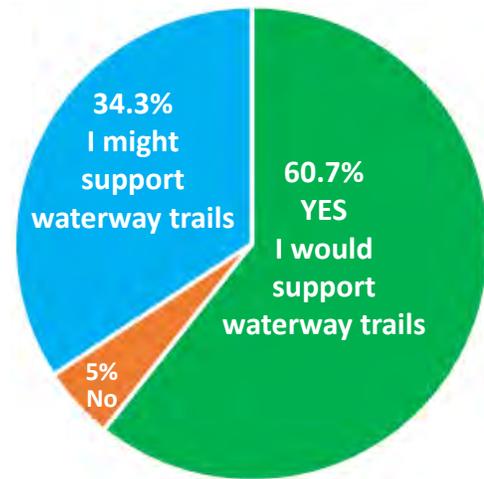


**FUTURE INVESTMENT**

In the 2006 parks survey, respondents were asked their preferences regarding what types of projects the City should consider to be high priority. In that survey, 48% of respondents indicated a desire to develop more smaller parks and 57% to develop larger community parks. The 2016 response was very similar - 56.2% indicating they desire development of new larger parks while 43.8% would like to see improvements to existing smaller parks first.

**SUPPORT FOR WATERWAY TRAILS**

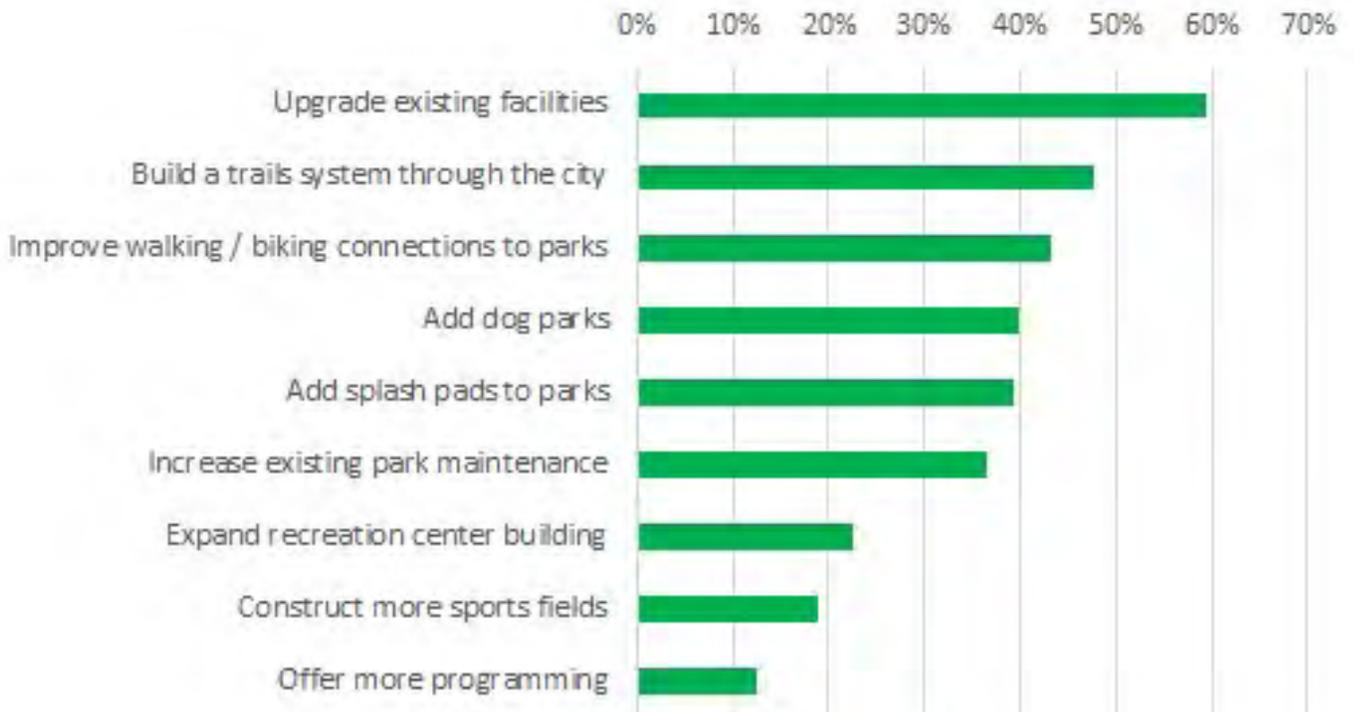
Reinforcing the widespread interest for developing additional trails within the City, respondents demonstrated reasonably strong support for new waterway trails. Only 5% opposed them outright while over 60% indicated they would support waterway trails.



**TOP PARK PRIORITIES**

Respondents indicated that, of the choices provided, upgrades along with increased maintenance to existing facilities should be high priorities for parks and recreation investment. Other high scoring categories for future investment include improving the trails system, adding a dog park and splash pads.

**How should the City prioritize park projects?**



## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### TRENDS

Comparing national guidelines to Lake Jackson's level of service as well as understanding public demands for new or renovated facilities provides a good starting point for determining recommendations for future park development. Cultural shifts such as generational behaviors and access to technology that have been observed and documented over the last several years effect how people choose to recreate. These national, regional and local trends have been explored below.

### PRESERVATION

Growth and development throughout the region has created a public appeal for increased preservation including the protection of natural and environmentally sensitive areas. As cities compete to provide the highest quality of life for their residents, preserving these natural assets becomes imperative. Recently, the preservation of open space for passive use has gained popularity. Whereas environmentally sensitive areas are generally protected from development by local or state regulations, the preservation of open space - or providing undeveloped or minimally developed areas within new developments would rely on either the specific mission of each developer or by local development regulations such as an open space ordinance.

Access to and use of preserved natural or open spaces has become very popular for passive activities including walking, geocaching or birdwatching, as well as more active activities such as hiking, running, kayaking and canoing.

### OUTDOOR RECREATION TRENDS

As national culture becomes driven by instant-gratification, people choose to recreate when they want and how they want. Research shows a higher demand for more passive use of outdoor spaces. Trails continue to be the #1 requested facility indicated by public survey respondents throughout Texas and the nation. People of all ages and abilities can utilize trails, whether they are running, riding bikes or merely walking. Lack of time is a common reason for not participating in more organized activities while utilizing trails can be done at any time. An increased focus on health concerns as well as rising transportation costs have all contributed to the popularity of community-wide trail systems. Active outdoor recreation trends show a continued increase in participation in soccer leagues and a recent interest in lacrosse. Softball and youth football have shown decreases in the last 10 years but continue to be popular. Private league sports and clubs such as Select Baseball have attracted youth but require travel and increased registration fees.

### INDOOR RECREATION TRENDS

There has been a significant shift in the way cities are providing indoor recreational facilities. Moving away from providing several smaller community or recreation centers which can be more costly to maintain and staff, they are now focusing on 1-2 larger, more diverse facilities that serve entire communities. This configuration provides more opportunities at one location, allowing entire families to recreate together.

## OTHER TRENDS

City-wide budget constraints can put additional pressure on park and recreation departments and affect the type of facilities and programming a City is able to offer. Creative partnerships are critical to providing a wide variety of recreational amenities and offset costs.

The desire for more diverse recreational programming and facilities has provided an opportunity for the commercialization of recreation. Facilities such as Top Golf, Big League Dreams and other privately run sportsplexes provide specialized facilities that can help offset some of the budget or land limitations a City may have. Private for-profit recreation event coordinators such as “fun runs” and boot camps have exploded in popularity and can be coordinated or provided in partnership with the City.

Other creative partnerships include developing shared-use park facilities with local school districts and churches and even shared facilities between municipalities. Home-owner associations and/or local business volunteer groups could provide maintenance services or special work days for city facilities. Establishing an adopt-a-park program would encourage local participation and sense of ownership which would be especially beneficial for some of the lesser-known pocket parks throughout Lake Jackson.

Other recreational trends include the desire to incorporate history, art and cultural elements into park space. Parks continue to be a social gathering space and typically some of the few spaces available within a City that can accommodate sizable attendance. Residents are demanding larger civic spaces with open areas for concerts, outdoor movies, etc.

Aquatic facilities have dramatically changed since the era of the rectangular lap pool. Taking cues from the hospitality industry, pool complexes have become multi-functional facilities providing leisure aquatics (spray pads, lazy rivers, zero entry, etc) as well as incorporated play equipment, slides, shade areas and lap pools. Indoor pool facilities or natatoriums have increased in popularity. These large structures can be partnerships with local school districts which can help offset costs and avoid the construction of duplicate facilities.

Non-traditional recreational trends include dog parks and off-leash areas, community gardens, live-action role-playing (LARP), extreme sports including skateboarding, bmx bike tracks and rock-climbing as well as specialty facilities for seniors and the physically challenged.

### RESOURCE BASED NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Analyzing significant natural resources as well as other unique features of Lake Jackson for further development as park and recreation facilities can provide additional value to the City's quality of life. The numerous waterways that flow throughout Lake Jackson, its proximity to the Gulf Coast and its rich history are all opportunities for improving the City's park and open space system.

**WATERWAYS** Multiple waterways flow through and around Lake Jackson, joining the Brazos River, a 1,280 mile major waterway that begins in New Mexico and terminates into the Gulf of Mexico just south of Freeport. Oyster Creek, Bastrop Bayou and Buffalo Camp Bayou all offer potential recreation opportunities for Lake Jackson.

Linear greenways along rivers, streams, bayous and drainage-ways that include park space, pedestrian and bike trails as well as paddle trails are becoming increasingly popular in the region. Although existing property ownership may create obstacles for developing an extensive water based trail system, through education and creative partnerships these types of greenways add immense value to the public park system. Partnerships with local land owners, the Oyster Creek Hike and Bike Committee, Brazoria County and the Brazos River Authority could provide Lake Jackson with unlimited opportunities.

**WILDLIFE AND NATURE PRESERVES** Lake Jackson is located in a unique area of Brazoria County, filled with abundant wildlife and several nature preserves. The Dow Woods Unit of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge is located partially within Lake Jackson's city boundaries on the north-east side. This 338 acre preserve currently contains two nature trails along Bastrop Bayou as well as a covered pavilion, restrooms, and educational signage. Natural assets include dense virgin riparian forest. Other regional preserves within a short drive of Lake Jackson include the Hurst Wildlife Management Area, the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, and the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge.

The City of Lake Jackson is an important stop on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail. Both Dow Centennial Bottomlands and Wilderness Park are official site locations. The Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of birds and their habitats is located adjacent to Wilderness Park. The observatory offers educational programs such as a Summer Bird Camp for youth ages 8-11 and the Flying Wild educational outreach.

**GREENWAYS** Lake Jackson benefits from multiple greenways throughout the City including wide road right-of-ways, drainage corridors and undeveloped small greenspaces throughout its older neighborhoods. Large oak trees (symbolized by the City logo) are found throughout Lake Jackson providing shade and natural beauty. These corridors provide a unique opportunity for additional park and trail development.



**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARK AND OPEN SPACE**

The City of Lake Jackson has an abundance of lands currently dedicated to park use. Residents enjoy over 1,600 acres of public park land and greenspaces located throughout the City which provides a whopping 60.3 acres per 1,000 people, greatly surpassing the national recommendation of between 11-20 acres per 1,000. If the City maintains its existing park acreage, the outlook for the projected population of 2040 would still offer 45.5 total park acres per 1,000 residents. However, once specific park classifications, amenity types, current condition and accessibility are factored in, the current state of park and recreational facilities in Lake Jackson does not seem as optimistic.

**CREATING A REGIONAL DESTINATION FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE**

Responsibly planning for future improvements to Lake Jackson’s park system to meet both current and future demands is summarized into four main categories:

- 1. Land acquisition to meet current and future needs*
- 2. Introduction of new types of park facilities*
- 3. Renovation or redevelopment of existing parks and greenways*
- 4. Improve accessibility and connectivity to parks*

Meeting the needs of Lake Jackson’s residents as well as promoting Lake Jackson as a regional destination for park and open space facilities involves a well balanced approach. Assessing existing conditions and public demands while understanding budget constraints influence the prioritization and phasing of recommended improvements.

**1. LAND ACQUISITION**

The original 5,000 acres of Lake Jackson were built as a master planned community for employees of nearby Dow Chemical. Reviewing the existing parks map on page 21 shows how Alden Dow’s vision for the community played a major role in the location and density of park space within the City’s oldest areas, primarily east of HWY 288 and centralized along HWY 332. Extending from this central heart of the City, the frequency of park space is reduced, with areas to the far east and west of the City and some southern neighborhoods lacking access to public park space.

Utilizing projected population growth data from the City’s recently completed comprehensive master plan, Lake Jackson is expected to gain nearly 9,000 residents over the next 20 years. A surge of over \$30 billion in new construction in the petrochemical industry including the recently completed Dow Research and Development Center may increase the population even more than is currently projected.

Although Lake Jackson’s city limits are primarily restricted from growth due to the adjacent cities of Clute, Richwood, and Brazoria, the undeveloped northern portion of the city is a prime location for new development.

Alden Lake, to be located west of Highway 288, and north of Oyster Creek will encompass 987 acres of single family, multi-family, office and retail and potentially add approximately 5,600 more residents. This development may contribute up to 63% of the expected population growth over the next 20 years. Current city development regulations should be evaluated to make certain that this new development maintains the city’s current level of service for park land. The chart below utilizes the estimated population for Alden Lake and applies Lake Jackson’s recommended level-of-service standards per park type. At minimum this new development should be encouraged to provide 137.2 acres of parks and open space. The chart below provides the acreage classified by park types.

RECOMMENDED PARK ACREAGE FOR FUTURE ALDEN LAKE*				
PARK FACILITY	SIZE/ACRES	SERVICE AREA (RADIUS)	ACRES PER 1000	ESTIMATED PARK NEEDS
Mini/Pocket	2,500 sf - 1 ac	1/4 mi	1-2 ac	11.2 ac
Neighborhood	1-15 ac	1/2 mi	1-2 ac	11.2 ac
Community	16-99 ac	1 mi	6-8 ac	44.8 ac
Regional	100-499 ac	35 mi	5-10 ac	56 ac
Special Use	varies	N/A	Variable	N/A
Greenways/Linear	sufficient width to protect the natural resource and provide maximum use	N/A	2.5 ac	14 ac

\* Based upon Lake Jackson level-of-service standards and estimated population

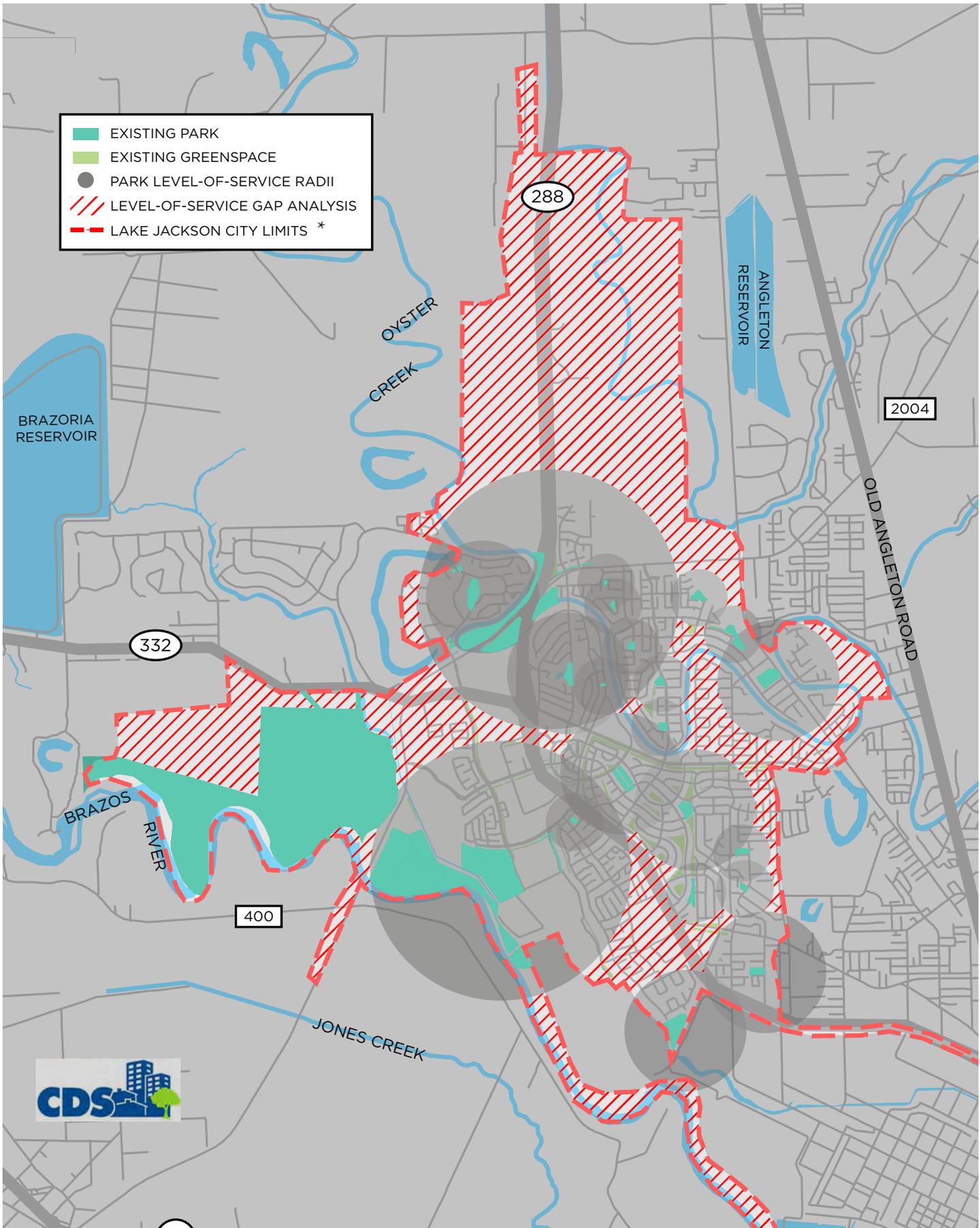
Applying the revised level-of-service standards (page 58) for park acreage identifies the following surplus and deficits in park acreage.

LAKE JACKSON LEVEL-OF-SERVICE					
PARK FACILITY	EXISTING ACRES (ac)	RECOMMENDED 2016*	SURPLUS/DEFICIT 2016*	RECOMMENDED 2040**	SURPLUS/DEFICIT 2040**
Mini/Pocket	30.6 ac	54.45 ac	-23.85 ac	72.2 ac	-41.6 ac
Neighborhood	58.8 ac	54.45 ac	+4.35 ac	72.2 ac	-13.4 ac
Community	117.9 ac	217.8 ac	-100 ac	288.8 ac	-171 ac
Regional	813.5 ac	272.24 ac	+541.26 ac	361 ac	+452.5 ac
Special Use	432.7 ac	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greenways/Linear	189.4 ac	68.06 ac	+121.34 ac	90.25 ac	+99.15

\* Based upon U.S. Census population of 27,224 in 2014

\*\* Based upon expected 2040 population growth of 36,100.

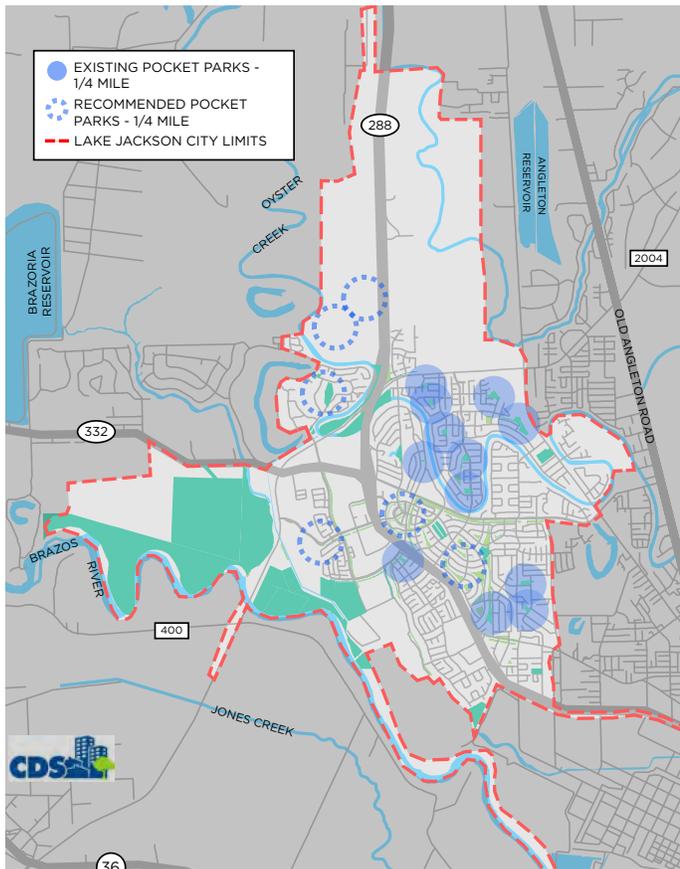
The chart above identifies the types of parks Lake Jackson needs to develop in order to maintain level-of-service standards. The following pages overlay existing park locations and level of service radii for all park types to identify gaps. Developing this analysis based upon existing park types and their recommended level-of-service radii clearly shows areas within Lake Jackson that have little to no access to parks and greenspace. Utilizing NRPA standards for recommended park size and level-of-service radii, potential locations for land acquisition and/or future park development by park type are indicated on individual maps.



\* Regional Parks Level of Service are not indicated on the map due to size

## GAP ANALYSIS - POCKET PARKS

## RECOMMENDATIONS

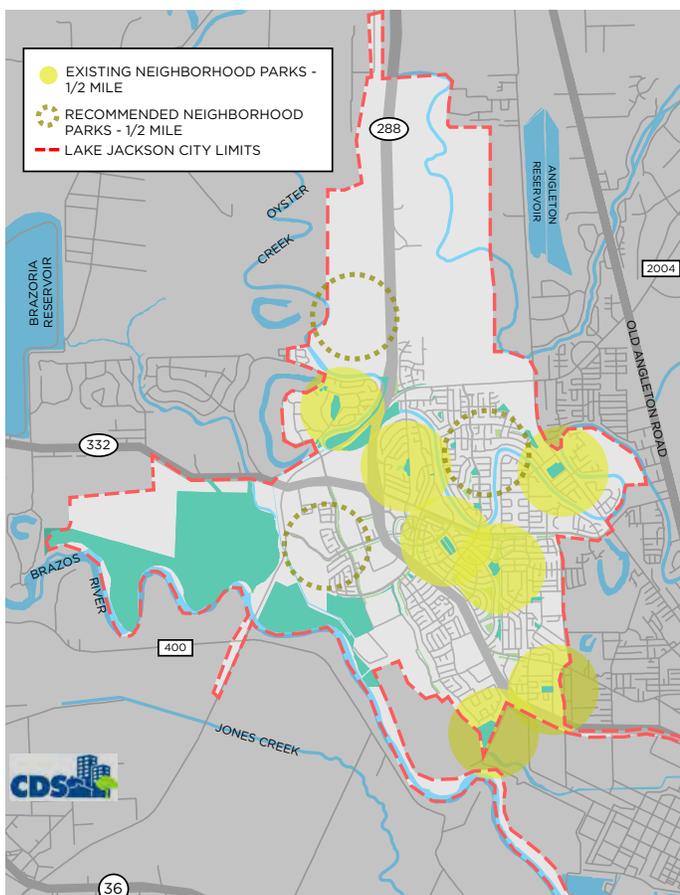


Utilizing level-of-service standards for pocket parks and projected population for 2040 the City of Lake Jackson is currently in need of 41.6 acres of additional pocket park land. This deficit calculates into 20-40 1-2 acre parks. Although incorporating this amount of new park space would be challenging, developing some existing greenspace within the City could increase access to pocket parks.

Analyzing the existing gaps in service for pocket parks, recommended locations for future pocket parks are shown on the map to the left. These locations are ideal for improving coverage for small, local park spaces.

The three proposed locations south of HWY 332 would need to be land acquisitions, while two of the suggested parks north of HWY 332 could be developed in partnership with Alden Lake. A portion of the Timbercreek Complex would also be a great location for a pocket park.

## GAP ANALYSIS - NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



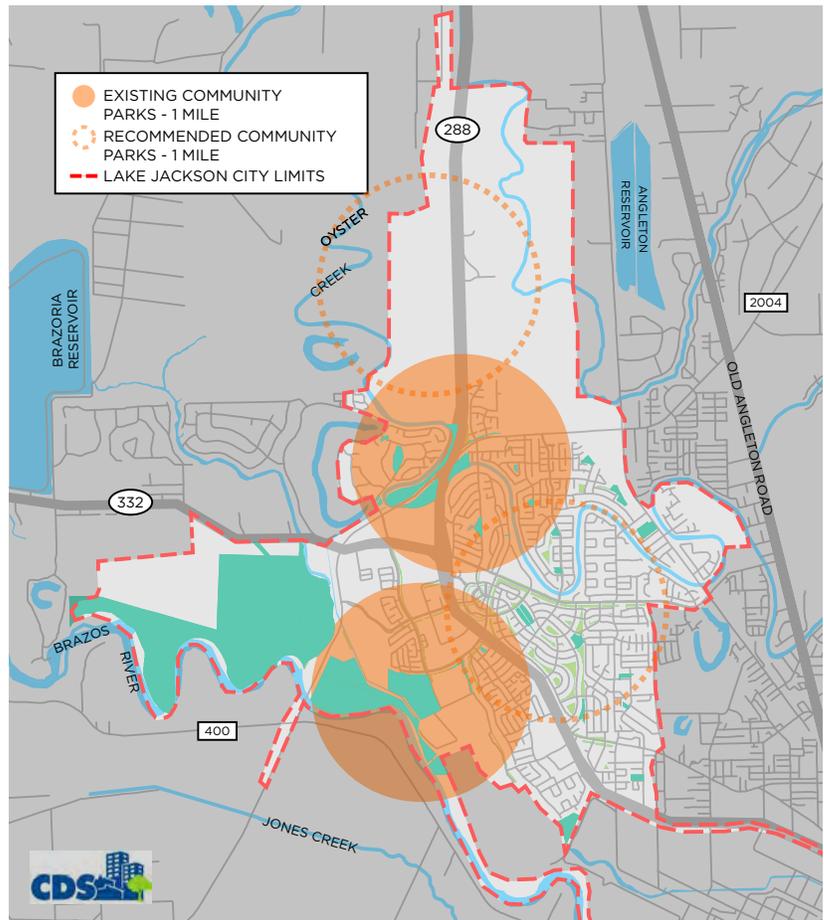
Neighborhood parks in Lake Jackson are located primarily within the central core, or older sections of the City. Existing neighborhood parks vary from limited development within the Timbercreek Complex and James F. Crews Park to highly programmed spaces at Jasmine and Madge Griffith Park.

To improve existing and proposed level-of-service deficits, three neighborhood-type parks are proposed. One park would be located within the future Alden Lake development and could be a partnership between the developer and the City. The other two recommended neighborhood parks all within developed areas of the City and may require land acquisition and/or recreative partnerships.

The largest current and projected deficit in park acreage is with community parks. The two existing community parks, MacLean and Dunbar, provide a good mix of both active and passive amenities. There are currently no community parks located east of Highway 288, and recommend exploring a location in this area. A community park within the central core of Lake Jackson would complement the numerous small pocket and neighborhood parks in that areas.

One option for developing an additional community park is to acquire the lands necessary (16-100 acres) and develop into a park facility. Another option, and perhaps a more feasible one, is to convert Madge Griffith, currently categorized as a neighborhood park due to existing facilities and size, to a community park.

A second location for a community park would be to incorporate a public

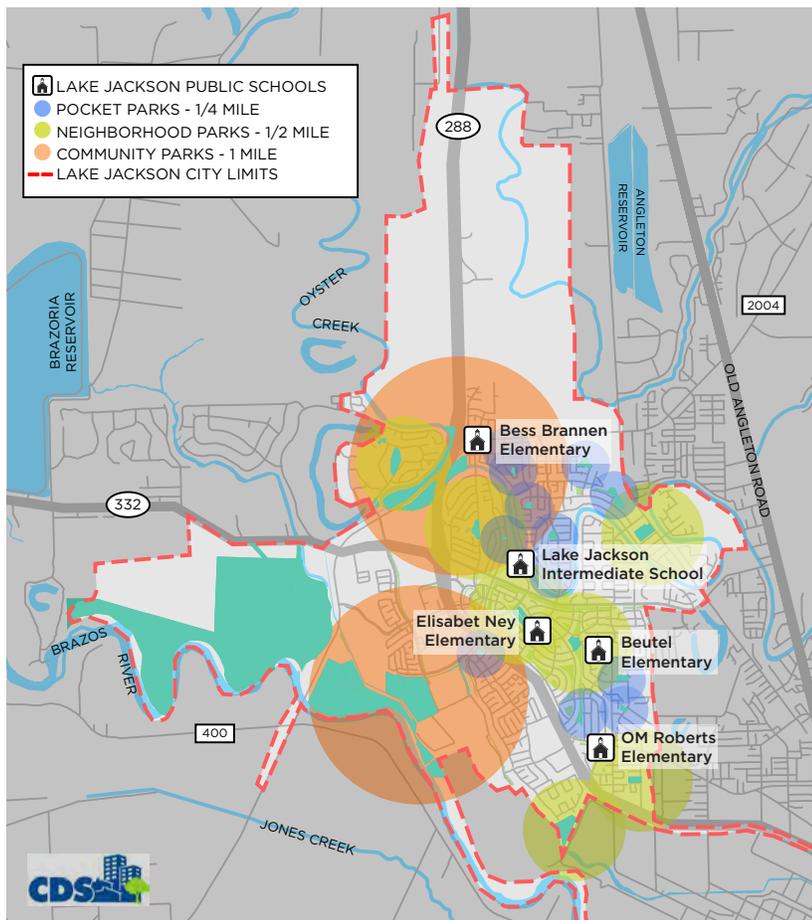


community park within the proposed Alden Lake subdivision. This location could have direct access to Highway 288 which would facilitate heavy traffic for league sports. This would also be an ideal location to develop some new types of park facilities such as a natatorium or outdoor leisure pool.

**PARTNERSHIPS & DUAL-USE**

Another option for expanding Lake Jackson’s park space would be to partner with the Brazosport Independent School District to develop a shared-use of school facilities for public use after school hours. This type of partnership allows the city to utilize other public funding sources to develop on otherwise vacant or undeveloped space. In 1983 the City of Houston developed the Spark Park Program in order to quickly and creatively bridge the gap between the City’s existing facilities and the estimated 5,000 acres needed to meet the current park and recreational needs. Utilizing this unique partnership each school provides \$5,000 towards development of the park as well as construction oversight and future maintenance while the program raises additional funding and provides administrative assistance to create much needed park space for the school and surrounding





neighborhood.

The City of Lake Jackson currently has an agreement for soccer and baseball fields at Rasco Middle School. Other school facilities identified as potential locations for such partnerships are listed below.

### Potential School Partnerships

- Bess Brannen Elementary
- Beutel Elementary
- Elisabet Ney Elementary
- Lake Jackson Intermediate School
- OM Roberts Elementary

## 2. NEW FACILITY TYPES

Comparing the existing facility level-of-service for Lake Jackson to national standards and also including current trends, and factoring in feedback from the public survey and focus groups has identified several new facilities that should be developed within the city in order to promote Lake Jackson as not only the regional hub for retail, commercial and other services but also as the preferred destination for park and recreational opportunities. The following facilities are lacking in Lake Jackson and should be incorporated into the renovation of existing facilities or the development of new park locations.

- Aquatics including leisure pool, lazy river, and larger competitive pool
- Additional splash pads which can be incorporated into existing park space
- Additional soccer fields to meet current and future demands
- A designated football field with lighting and bleachers
- A dog park
- The expansion of the Recreation Center
- A permanent skate park facility
- Specific facilities for Seniors
- Outdoor performance area

### 3. RENOVATION OR REDEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING FACILITIES

#### DESIGN STANDARDS

Before improving existing park facilities, Lake Jackson should consider developing a set of design standards that align with the City's goals to provide and maintain quality park facilities. Design standards can provide guidance for future capital improvement expenditures including renovation, redevelopment and the development of new park and open space facilities. These standards provide consistency across city facilities. Some categories included within typical design standards are listed below:

- The preservation and inventory of trees and a goal for maintaining a minimum tree coverage within parks along with a preferred planting list
- A furnishings list of the preferred bench, litter receptacle, etc including size, material, and color
- The desire to incorporate unique features in parks to create memorable places including artwork and historical references
- The design and hierarchy of wayfinding and educational signage
- Guidelines for special partnerships for funding, programming and maintenance
- Maintenance standards and schedule including an equipment replacement plan

#### GREENSPACES

Throughout Lake Jackson a total of 189.4 acres of undeveloped, preserved greenspaces enhance the aesthetics of City. These areas provide buffers along drainage corridors and roadways and contain multiple large heritage trees. Already owned and maintained by the City these lands are a potential location for incorporating trail systems, nature walks or other passive uses. Connecting several greenspaces could provide adjacent residents with services typically provided in pocket or neighborhood parks. Larger greenspaces could be developed into pocket parks by incorporating unique features such as outdoor exercise equipment or educational signage.

#### EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

As indicated in the individual park profile sheets in the inventory chapter of this plan, several facilities within Lake Jackson contain aging or obsolete infrastructure. As with all facilities, park amenities have a general life expectancy and once it reaches that threshold becomes more and more challenging for staff to maintain which can lead to safety concerns. Life expectancy of the facility can differ depending on manufacturer, location, and usage. If not already utilized, the city should contract with a certified playground inspector to perform an inspection of playground equipment throughout the City. Facilities that have reached or exceeded their maximum usage can provide an opportunity for staff to re-evaluate the facility to determine if replacing it with similar equipment is appropriate. Several factors should be evaluated including previous usage, demographics within the surrounding neighborhoods (have they changed since first installing?), as well as proposing upgrades to improve the existing facility.

Recommendations for each of Lake Jackson's existing parks are explored on the following pages.

**Bluebonnet Park:** The smallest public park in Lake Jackson, Bluebonnet Park is located adjacent to Bess Brennan Elementary. Opportunities should be explored to develop partnerships with the school to incorporate additional park amenities for both public and school use. Open space to the east of the school campus could also be developed into park space. The 575 LF gap in sidewalk on the north side of Anchusa Street should be connected to allow safe pedestrian travel from the neighborhood to the school and from the school to the park space. Bluebonnet Park would be a great location for a native or butterfly garden and partnerships with the Lake Jackson Garden Club should be explored.



**Brazos Oaks Park:** Although small, the existing playground equipment in Brazos Oaks Park is popular with adjacent residents. Recommend a full review by a certified playground inspector. The existing equipment should be expanded upon or replaced and enlarged to better serve the community's needs. Recommend developing a trail system to connect the playground to access points at Hawthorne Street and Plantation Court. Additional trails could connect to other greenspace areas to the north and west of the park including a 3 acre site with access to Magnolia Street and Brazos Oaks Park. Survey respondents indicated an interest in cardiovascular training. Recommend incorporating clustered outdoor fitness stations within Brazos Oaks Park that could also be included along a trail system to Jasmine Park.

**Brazoswood Key Club Park:** Brazoswood Key Club Park is accessible from Daffodil Street and surrounded by single family residential on the other three sides. Recommend adding parking along Daffodil and an internal sidewalk to maximize usage. The existing playground equipment should be reviewed by a certified playground inspector and replaced, if necessary. Additional picnic areas and a smaller picnic pavilion could be incorporated into the park.

**Captain RR Terry Park:** Captain Terry Park is large for a pocket park, but due to its prone to flooding, future development is limited. Two recommended options for the park are as follows: Option #1: Maintain park as a passive pocket park. Develop trails to playground from Forest Oaks Lane and Sycamore Street. Option #2: The location of this park could provide an opportunity to fill a need for a neighborhood park. Invest in site grading to facilitate better drainage throughout the park and incorporate additional playgrounds, picnic pavilions, restrooms and perhaps a splashpad. Further develop trail system along adjacent drainage-way to connect north to Beutel Elementary.



**Cottonwood Park:** Cottonwood Park is actually two separate pieces of land which are both undeveloped. The northern piece is smaller and landlocked and recommend maintaining as greenspace. The southern portion is 1.75 acres and has access from Cottonwood Drive. This area should be developed with park amenities including age appropriate playground equipment, benches, and picnic areas.



**Firemen's Park:** Firemen's Park is an ideal pocket park in regards to size and location. A hard service trail should be constructed from Forest Oaks Lane to the playground and replacement of the current playground equipment should be explored. A large multi-age structure with accessible features could accommodate neighborhood children. Upgraded benches and picnic equipment should be added. Provide signage for historical boulders at east end of the park.

**Huisache Park:** Huisache Park is challenged due to its lack of size and long linear configuration. More appropriate for a greenway space rather than a park, this small piece of land is unfortunately the only dedicated park space within walking distance of over 300 homes. Due to its age, recommend removal of all playground equipment and explore installing more natural looking play items, benches, and perhaps fitness stations. This park space should remain passive due to its close proximity to adjacent homes. Opportunities should be explored to develop a trail system within adjacent drainage-ways to connect east for access to Oyster Creek and west to That Way Street and Lloyd Morrison Park.

**Junior Service League Park:** Junior Service League Park has great visibility from Yaupon Street and the potential for trail connectivity along adjacent drainage-ways which could connect to Oyster Creek and Yaupon Park to the south. This park would be a great location to develop another larger picnic pavilion that could be rented out by the public as well as well as incorporating an adjacent splash pad. Additional parking could be incorporated along Yaupon Street to accommodate these additional features.

**Pecan Park:** Pecan Park is nestled among surrounding single family homes with access to Crocus Street. The existing amenities are appropriate for the park but a hard surface trail should be added from the sidewalk these amenities. The existing playground equipment is older and should be reviewed by a certified playground inspector.

**Plantation Oaks Park:** Plantation Oaks Park is located within the northeastern area of Lake Jackson. It is surrounded by single family residential on the north and south side and by a drainage swale and overhead utility easement on the east side. A hard surface trail is recommended to connect the park to the sidewalk along Sumac Street. The existing playground should be reviewed by a certified playground inspector in order to evaluate the need for replacement. Due to the lack of large trees on the west side of the park, a shade structure is recommended over the play equipment. Additional picnic areas could be incorporated into the park.



**Shadow Glen Park:** Shadow Glen Park is an easily forgotten city park due to its location. The property is surrounded by single family residential on three sides and a drainage swale on the northeast side. Visibility from Oak Drive is poor and access to the park is confusing as the sidewalk from Walnut and Mimosa Streets is directly under an overhead electrical line. Recommend removal of existing dated play equipment and removal of cedar shrubs from northwestern boundary to improve visibility.

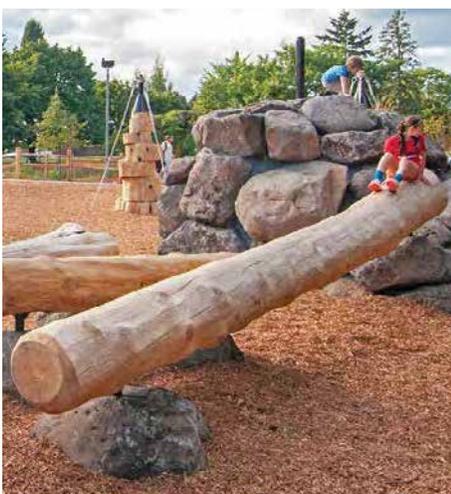


**Yaupon Park:** Yaupon Park has good visibility from Yaupon Street and potential connectivity along adjacent drainage-ways to Banyan Court, Junior Service League Park, and Oyster Creek. Recommend remediating on-site drainage issues along Yaupon with a series of rain-gardens with native planting. Parking should also be incorporated along Yaupon Street in order to maximize use. A large picnic pavilion or multiple smaller pavilions are recommended for this park which could be rented by the public. There is an additional 3.2 acres of greenspace north of the park that could be developed into additional park space.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**Garland Park:** Garland Park is located near numerous multi-family housing complexes, commercial and retail along the east side of Garland Drive and the Plantation Park subdivision. Although it currently has limited amenities, this park has great potential. Although some parking exists along Garland Drive, the space should be enlarged and a hard surface parking lot should be established. A utility corridor on the west side of the park could provide a trail to Plantation Park and The Springs Apartments. The existing sidewalk north of the park should be extended along the road frontage and an internal trail established. There is public demand for more tennis courts within and these existing courts are in disrepair. Recommend full renovation of this park including more parking, refurbishment of tennis courts and potentially adding an additional court, replacement and relocation of play equipment and the addition of a medium sized picnic pavilion and restrooms.



**James F. Crews Park:** James F. Crews Park is one of only two neighborhood parks west of Highway 288. It is located at the southernmost tip of Flagridge Estates subdivision and is surrounded on two sides by drainage-ways. Located less than 1 mile south of Sea Center Texas, trail connections along Flag Ridge ditch should be explored as well as a trail along the drainage-way to the northeast which could potentially connect residents under HWY 288 to OM Roberts Elementary and the Shady Oaks Subdivision. This park has beautiful tree coverage and should remain a passive park by extending the existing trail into a loop system and incorporating outdoor fitness stations, nature themed playground equipment and multiple picnic pavilions.

**Jasmine Park:** Jasmine Park is a true gem of the Lake Jackson parks system. During focus group meetings numerous participants shared memories of their childhood from this park. Many people use the tennis courts and therefore renovation of these courts including resurfacing, lighting, nets and making any necessary repairs to fencing is recommended. The existing parking lot should be resurfaced and spaces reconfigured to maximize occupancy. Playground equipment should be reviewed by a certified inspector and replaced/repared as necessary. A small splashpad could be incorporated in this park near the current playground and additional small picnic pavilions installed under existing trees along Jasmine Street. Frontage along Center Way could be enhanced with additional landscaping and garden space, perhaps partnering with the Lake Jackson Garden Club. Undeveloped greenspaces both north and south of Jasmine Park (primarily drainage corridors) should be developed into a trail system which could connect to Oyster Creek Drive and Brazos Oaks Park.



**Lloyd Morrison Park:** Known to residents as “Shy Pond,” Lloyd Morrison Park is a popular destination, especially for families. The park is surrounded by residential use including single family homes in Shywood as well as the Brentwood and Edgewater apartment complexes. Although public access is restricted on the west side of the pond, trail corridors could be developed within drainage corridors on the east side, both north and south to connect to Oak Drive and Huisache Park, encouraging pedestrian access from nearby subdivisions. Picnicking is very popular here and recommend the addition of 3-4 more covered pavilions. The restroom facility should be evaluated and updated as necessary. A loop trail system within this park would encourage additional use and smaller playground equipment could be incorporated into the north side of the park.

**Madge Griffith Park:** Madge Griffith Park was established in Lake Jackson in 1943, before the city was incorporated the following year. This park has a long history and is very popular among residents. Home to the only public outdoor pool in Lake Jackson, it is located near downtown and directly across from Elisabet Ney Elementary. Given its location, this park could become Lake Jackson’s signature park, filling a gap in much needed community park space in the central core of the City. Recommend removing/relocating some or all of the ball fields (potentially to the north side of Dunbar Park), complete renovation of the pool facility to include leisure aquatics, sprayground, concessions and expanded outdoor covered seating. This park would also be an ideal location for the addition of new features requested within the public survey including outdoor concert space, and a permanent skate park. The park’s small size currently limits use and therefore recommend considering acquisition of adjacent properties to expand park acreage to Center Way and Winding Way. Existing drainage swales currently divide the park into multiple segments, and recommend exploring feasibility of converting these swales to underground pipes or redirecting flow to limit impact. Due to the existing features, Madge Griffith Park also contains the least amount of tree coverage of all Lake Jackson parks. Recommend additional plantings to provide shade and additional playground and picnic areas with shade covers

**Timbercreek Park Complex:** The Timbercreek Park Complex is actually five different parcels spread out within Timbercreek, a large lot single family subdivision on the northwest side of Lake Jackson. The largest parcel, at 11.4 acres, straddles Timbercreek Drive, has great tree coverage and is undeveloped. Recommend the addition of a trail system and potentially a nature themed playground within the southern end. The existing playground along Lake Road appears to be unused but this may be due to a lack of shade or sidewalk from the neighborhood to or within the park. Recommend further observation by City staff to determine actual usage and if a shade structure is a priority. Additional tree plantings within this area as well as the parcels at the intersection of Lake Road and Timbercreek Drive is recommended. Preliminary research identified several parcels along the north side of Oyster Creek as City owned. Potential for developing a long linear park and trail system here.

## COMMUNITY PARKS

**Dunbar Park:** Dunbar Park's boundary is defined by Oyster Creek on three sides as it meanders its way through Lake Jackson. Highway 288 and an expansion of FM2004 has divided the park into three areas. The two park portions to the south are connected via a narrow asphalt one-way drive while the northern portion is accessed from FM2004. The three areas of Dunbar are very distinct and therefore recommendations are outlined for each:



Northwest section: One un-lit football field exists within this park although some leagues utilize the surplus greenspace for additional practice use. Recommend relocating some or baseball fields from Madge Griffith to this site, expand paved parking area, upgrade and expand restrooms, provide concessions area, install field lighting and plant additional trees along Oyster Creek to buffer Timbercreek homes. Due to the family oriented nature of league sports, recommend developing playgrounds and picnic areas within forested west side and providing access to and across Oyster Creek.

Southwest section: A more passive section of the park, this area currently contains multiple picnic areas, a playground, a canoe/kayak launch and disc golf course. Access is currently limited due to the one way nature of the drive with entrance further east off of FM2004. Recommend expanding drive within this section of the park to a 2-way road to allow entrance and exit near water tower. Creating a hike-bike path through the park and utilizing the existing underpass as pedestrian/bicyclist only would reduce vehicular conflicts. Incorporating restrooms is critical to this side of the park, near picnic and playgrounds. Playground equipment should be reviewed by a certified playground inspector but recommend full replacement given park popularity and high usage. Incorporating multiple age-appropriate playgrounds throughout this section or creating a playground complex with zones for different age groups. Existing site furniture should be updated.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

**Southeast Section:** This section of the park is active, containing multiple backstops and greenspace used for football and soccer. This facility has a tired appearance and is in need of renovations. Numerous individuals commented during focus meetings about the poor conditions of the restrooms. This complex has the ability to generate additional funding for the City Parks Department if it was updated to a more attractive facility including new restrooms, resurfaced parking lot, and renovations to both pavilions. Drainage improvements should be made to the field area and potential addition or relocation of ball fields here.

**MacLean Park:** MacLean Park along with the Recreation Center is the most popular public park facility within Lake Jackson according to the public survey. With ballfields, walking trails, a skate park, pavilions, and the recreation center complete with pool facility, this park is the quintessential community park. With over 2,000 current members, the Recreation Center serves as the heart for recreational programming from aquatics to daycare and open gym. The existing aquatic facilities are heavily used but due to existing configuration do not offer leisure pool activities nor allow for major competitions. An expansion of the Recreation Center would allow for additional pool space, either indoor/outdoor or a combination as well as provide more space to enlarge the existing weight room, and incorporate more classroom spaces for community use. This expansion to the south would require removal of the existing skate park which could be relocated as a permanent, larger skate park within Madge Griffith Park.

Existing fields within the park have drainage challenges which limit use after rains therefore, renovation of affected fields is recommended. Soccer fields on the west side of the park are the only facilities within MacLean which are not lit. Retrofitting to LED would provide lighting to these fields, while saving on repair costs, damage to fields and electricity. Lighting would be designed to be sensitive to adjacent homes. The food service building, restrooms and concession stands are recommended to be replaced as well as trail renovations. Existing playground equipment is outdated and recommended to replace features in addition to inspection. Additional small playground areas could be developed throughout the park as near to sport facilities as possible. A dog park is planned for the open space directly west of the Recreation Center. This is a good location for the dog park as noise will not be an issue to nearby properties.

## REGIONAL PARKS

**Dow Centennial Bottomlands Park:** This 240-acre tract of land was donated to the city from the Dow Chemical Company in 1997. Primarily a nature sanctuary, the mile long trail is popular among runners and walkers. Additional trails could be incorporated into the park as well as outdoor classroom space and improved educational signage.

**Wilderness Park:** Wilderness Park is located adjacent to the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory and Buffalo Camp Bayou to the east and enjoys nearly 4 miles of frontage along the Brazos River. Primarily undeveloped the park contains a parking lot, boat ramp and natural trails. Recommend providing more prominent signage along Highway 332 to increase awareness, as well as surface improvements to existing parking lot and trails. Additional trails should be developed within the site along with educational signage and rest areas. A primitive restroom could be installed to encourage park use.

**Lake Jackson Youth Sports Complex:** The Lake Jackson Youth Sports Complex is a partnership between Brazoria ISD and the City. Comprised of numerous sports fields for both practice and competition, installing lights at some fields could increase usage, especially in winter months. Parking is limited and although visitors can utilize parking at the Recreation Center, developing additional parking on-site should be explored.

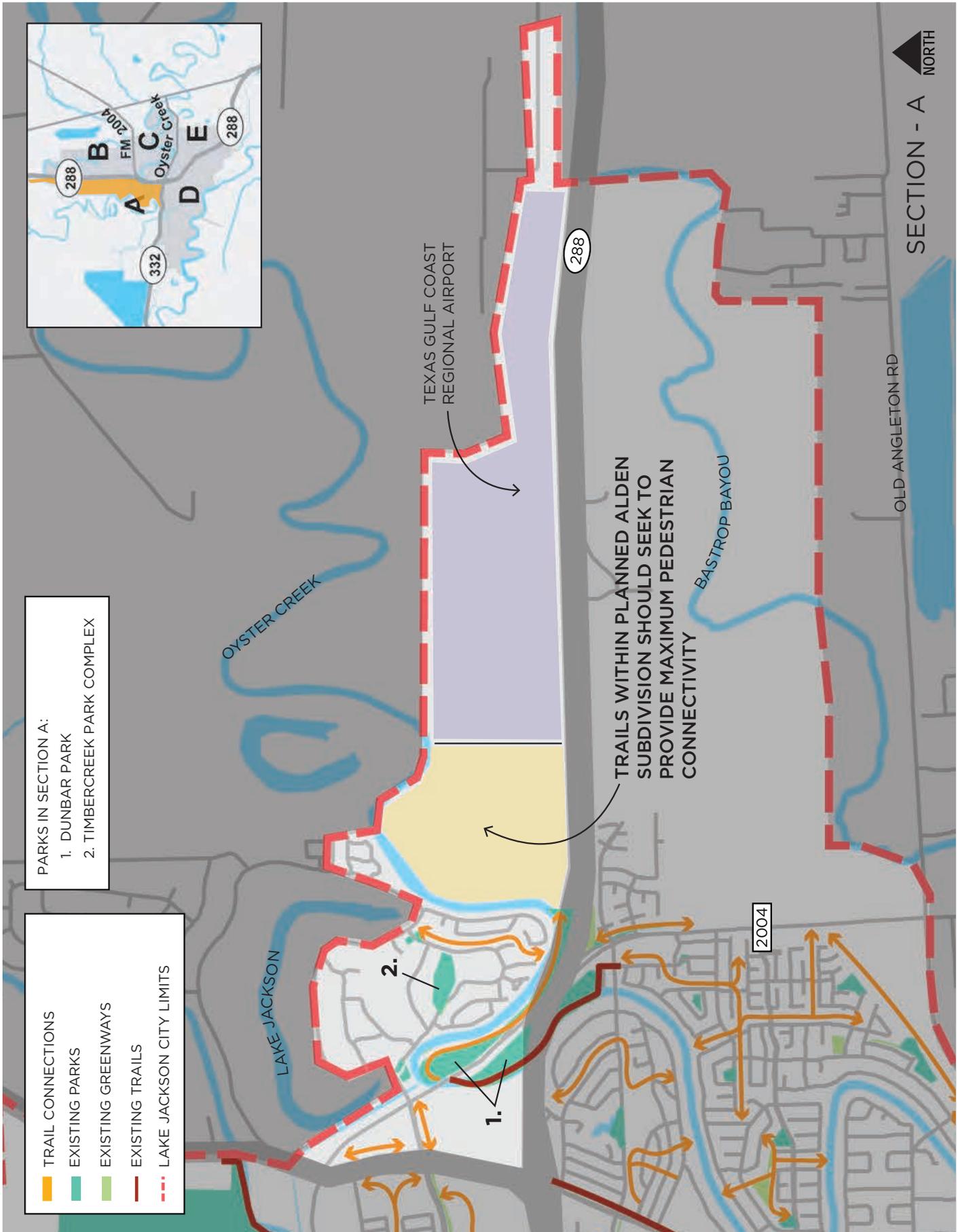
**Suggs Park:** Suggs Park is heavily used by youth baseball associated with the Babe Ruth League. Recommend converting existing field lighting to LED, improving on-site drainage and incorporating a small playground for family use.

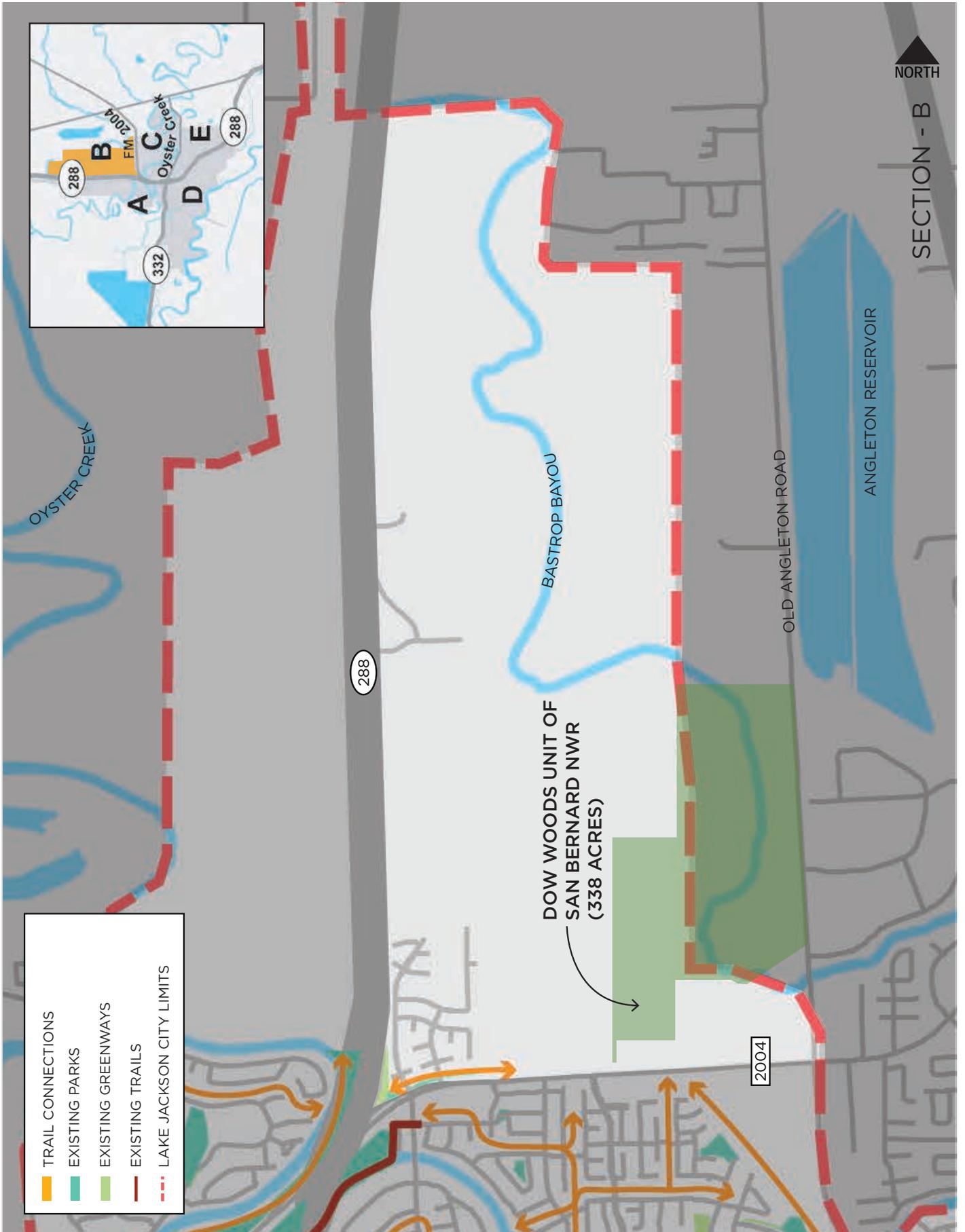
**Wilderness Golf Course:** There are no recommendations for improvements at this time.

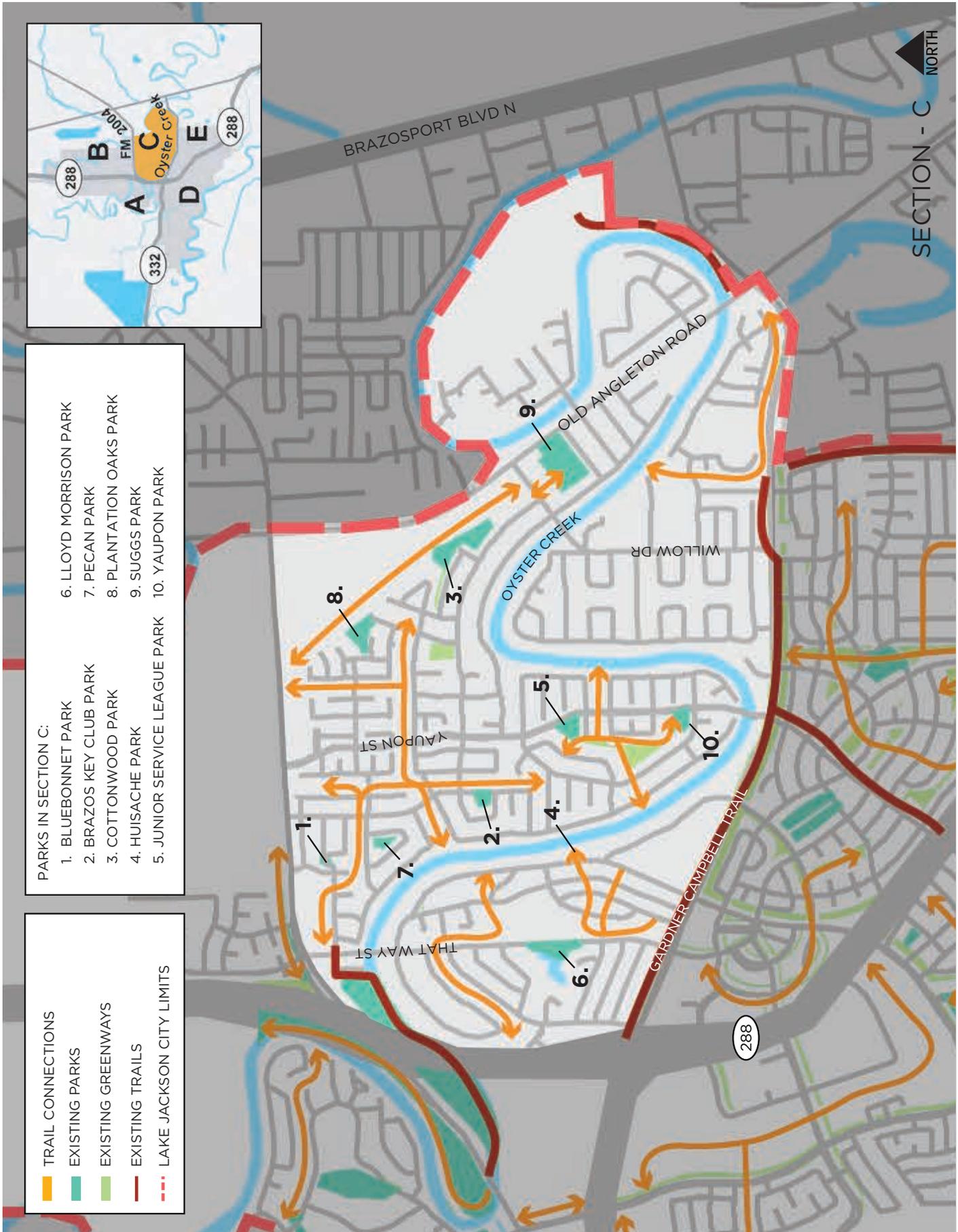
#### 4. IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY TO PARKS

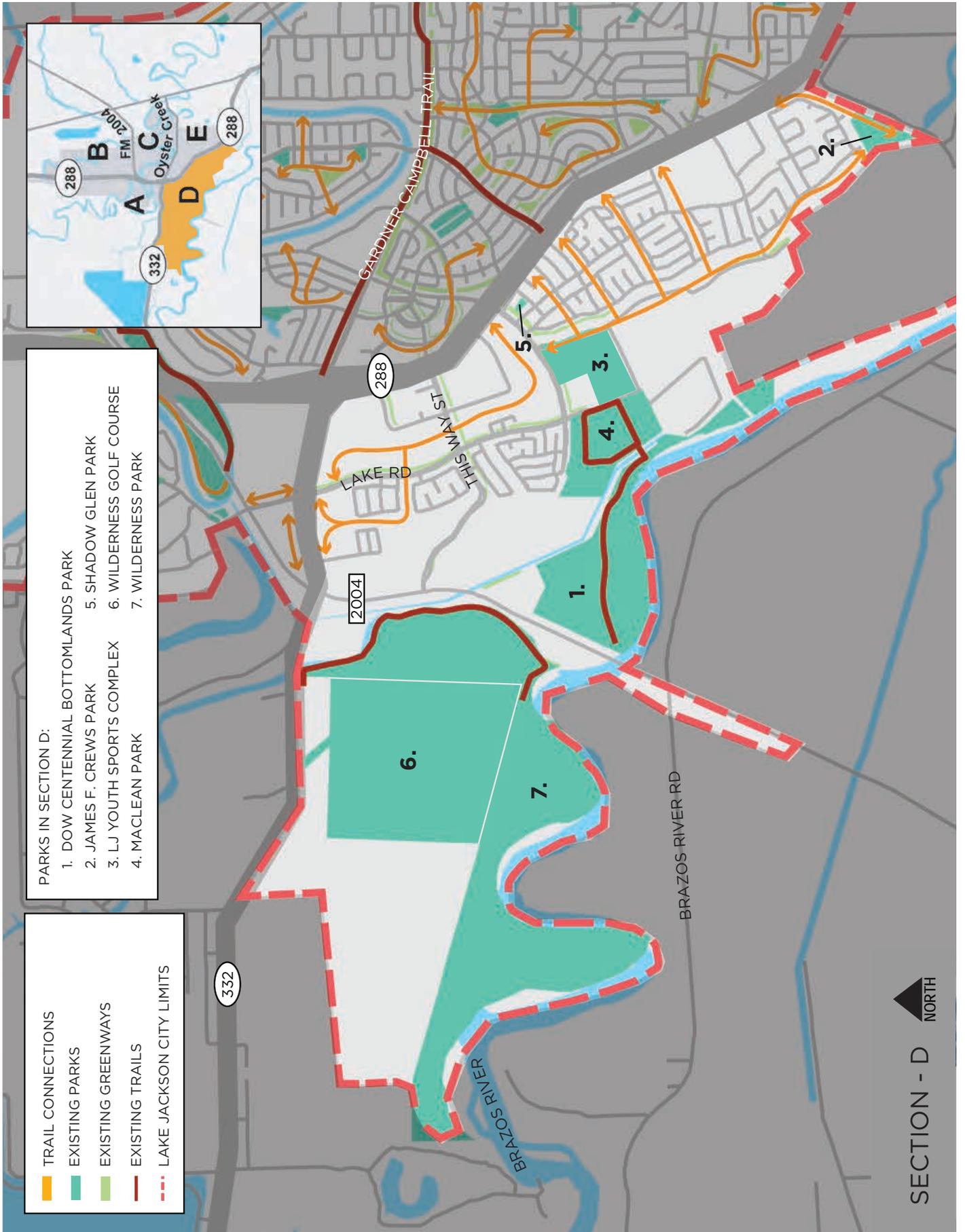
Since the development of the 2011 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan the City of Lake Jackson has placed a priority on developing high quality trail systems to connect public facilities and provide linear recreation opportunities for residents. The Gardner Campbell Trail along Oyster Creek Drive is very popular and provides a wide hard surface path. This trail begins near downtown, and connects to the city's eastern boundary. Major trail systems, such as this one provide high-use corridors and provide an alternative to vehicular travel. The wide rights-of-ways along many of Lake Jackson's streets could be developed into additional major trails while existing utility and drainage corridors could be used for minor trail connections. Greenspaces throughout the City could be further developed into off-road trail corridors, providing connectivity from residential areas to park space, retail, and even to the downtown shopping district. The exhibits on the following pages illustrate preliminary recommendations for additional trail corridors throughout the City.



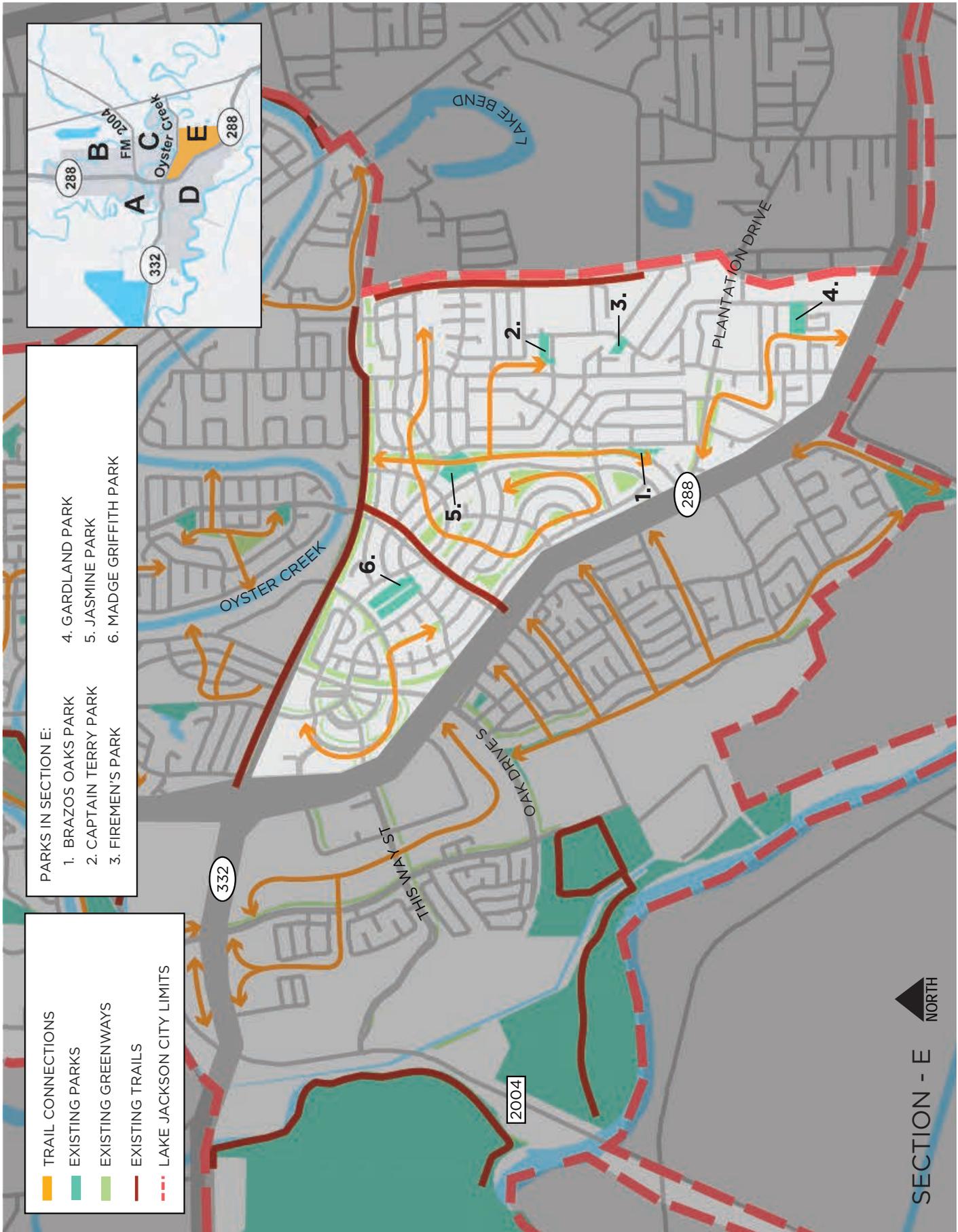


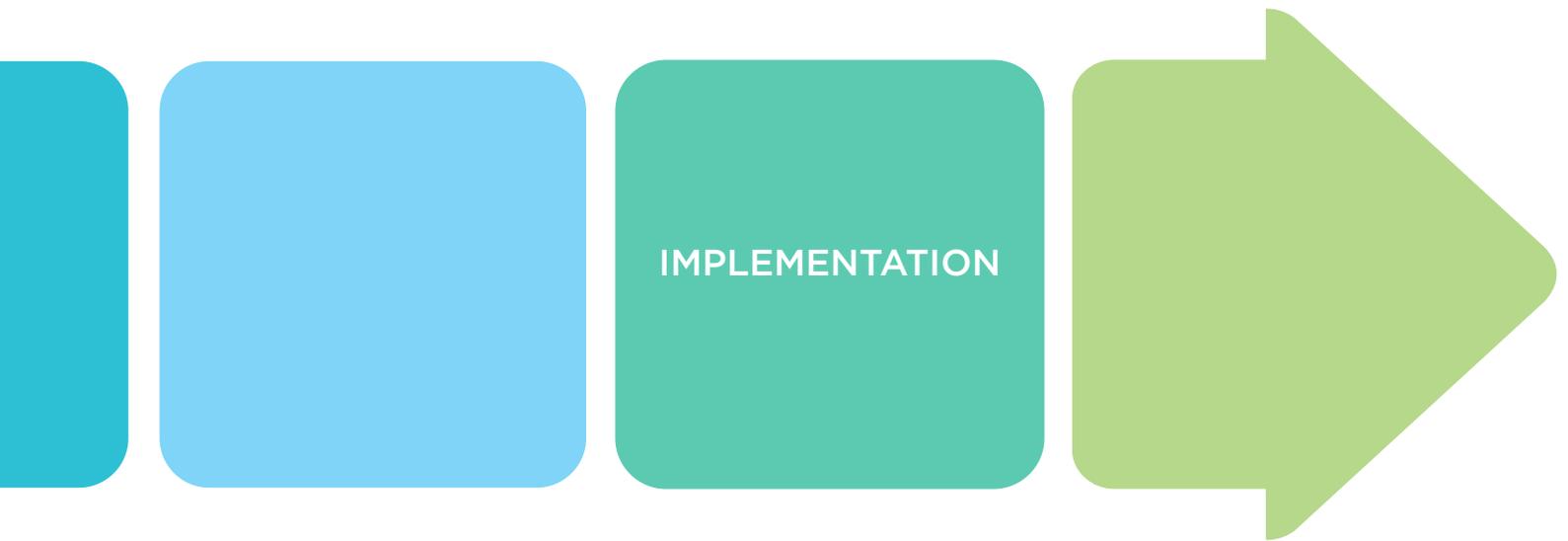






SECTION - D  
 NORTH





**PRIORITIES**

Each of the recommendations outlined in the previous chapter were evaluated by assessing public input and level-of-service goals to identify priority projects. In order to provide a variety of high quality park and recreation facilities for Lake Jackson, the table below summarizes general facility needs for the next 20 years. The following pages outline more specific projects related to these priorities.

LAKE JACKSON PRIORITIES BY FACILITY TYPE
<b>OUTDOOR RECREATION</b>
Trails
Dog Park
Leisure Pool and Competition Pool
Permanent Skate Park
Outdoor Performance Area
Accessible Playgrounds and Facilities
Upgrade/Renovate Restrooms
Lit ballfields
Splashpads
Upgrade Tennis Courts
Preserve Open Space and Natural Areas
<b>INDOOR RECREATION</b>
Expand Recreation Center (Pool, weight room, teen center)
Renovate existing restroom facilities

**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

Although total park acreage in Lake Jackson is sufficient for current and projected populations, the recommendations chapter identified a shortage in acreage for specific park types. Multiple options for incorporating new park space included redevelopment of existing park sites, developing greenspaces into usable park space, partnering with local schools, churches or other entities for shared-use space and also exploring land acquisition. Increasing park acreage through acquisition could include new parks or redevelopment of underutilized land into park space. Lake Jackson’s current ordinance requires developers to dedicate 0.5 acres of park space per every 100 persons planned for the development. This regulation also allows a developer to provide a monetary fee in lieu of dedicating park space. Although the current ordinance assures that ample park space be set aside, it does not, however require the owner to provide any sort of park amenities. In the future this may create a financial burden on the City to not only maintain existing park space but also funding the development of it into usable space for residents. The City may want to re-evaluate their current ordinances to ensure they provide for high quality development.

**PRIORITY PROJECTS**

The following section summarizes priority projects as identified in the recommendations chapter. The first section outlines general needs that the City could undertake quickly. Although they are not actual improvements to parks they will enhance the overall system and provide additional guidance for the implementation of this plan. Each action item has a unique budget and time frame from a 1-5 year or immediate need, to a 5-10 year or future need, and a 10-20 year or long term need.

**GENERAL NEEDS**

**ACTION ITEM #1 - MARKETING LAKE JACKSON'S PARKS**

Results from the public survey showed that respondents were not familiar with the parks around them. Marketing and branding improvements can increase community awareness of existing facilities including social media, online interactive tools, programming and wayfinding signage. Estimated Cost = varies depending on level



Social Media



Special Programming



Online Tools



Wayfinding Signage

**ACTION ITEM #2 - DEVELOP DESIGN STANDARDS**

Developing unique design standards for park facilities will ensure future projects contain high quality design and amenities that reflect the character of Lake Jackson. Guidelines should include accessibility and sidewalks, site furnishings, wayfinding signage, and landscaping. Estimated Design Cost = \$15,000 - \$30,000



Accessibility



Trail width and material



Site Furnishings



Wayfinding Signage

## IMPLEMENTATION

### **ACTION ITEM #3 - PLAYGROUND SAFETY ASSESSMENT**

Perform a full inspection of all city playground facilities. Identify potential issues in existing playgrounds, and prioritize repairs and/or replacement. Some facilities are outdated, broken or unsafe, and may require removal and/or full replacement. Childhood accidents are drastically reduced by yearly safety inspections that identify problems before they can cause injury.

Estimated Inspection Cost = \$5,000



Inadequate Fall Surfaces



Wear and Tear



Entrapment Issues



Broken Equipment

### **ACTION ITEM #4 - TREE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION**

Lake Jackson has a fairly comprehensive tree preservation ordinance which assists with protecting the City's most valuable natural asset. Per Chapter 90, Section 63, any tree with a diameter of 12" or greater is considered a protected tree and cannot be removed without a city approved tree removal permit. Lake Jackson should consider developing a tree registry in order to document the majestic trees the City is known for. Trees can be categorized by age and/or size. The City should also consider hiring a full time arborist to manage the registry and provide assessment and recommendation of legacy trees within city parks and rights-of-ways.

Estimated Cost = staff time



Lake Jackson is known for its trees

**IMMEDIATE NEEDS**

**ACTION ITEM #5- MADGE GRIFFITH PARK**

New amenities requested by citizens through the public input process could be incorporated into a signature park for Lake Jackson. Madge Griffith is located close to downtown and adjacent to Ney Elementary which offers prime access from both residential areas to the south and retail/commercial areas to the north. Many of the existing facilities in the park are older and in need of replacement which provides the ideal opportunity for a complete redevelopment of this park. Relocating some or all of the existing baseball fields to Dunbar park and improving drainage throughout the park would provide space for a performance/event area, a permanent skate park and covered picnic areas. The existing outdoor pool facility should be expanded to include leisure aquatic amenities such as a lazy river or climbing wall. A splash pad could also be developed within this park for year-round use. Estimated Construction Cost= \$3,800,000



Aquatic Complex



Skate Park



Covered Picnic Areas



Event Space

**ACTION ITEM #6 - DUNBAR PARK**

Dunbar Park is divided into three unique sections due to the configuration of Highway 288 and FM 2004. Recommend modifying vehicular circulation to an entrance/exit at both the eastern and western sides of the park, south of FM 2004 and limiting the crossing under Highway 288 to pedestrian/bicyclist only. The pavilions on the east side of the park are the largest picnic facilities available for rent and renovations to the facilities as well as the restrooms are highly needed. The northwest area of the park should be developed to include additional ballfields, potentially relocated from Madge Griffith. Renovated restrooms, field lighting, playground equipment and exploring pedestrian connections across both FM 2004 and Oyster Creek should be explored. Restrooms should be constructed on the southwest side of the park with additional picnic and playground areas.

Estimated Construction Cost= \$3,000,000



New Ballfields



Upgraded Restrooms



More Playgrounds



Connectivity

## IMPLEMENTATION

### ACTION ITEM #7 - MACLEAN PARK

Maclean Park along with the Recreation Center are the most heavily used facilities within Lake Jackson's public park system. Expanding the Recreation Center could provide additional space for a larger weight room and locker facilities, additional gym space and the potential to expand the existing pool's length. The remainder of the park could benefit from some updating including new site furnishings, fencing, and drainage improvements. Other recommendations include retrofitting to LED lighting, replacement of food service building, restroom and concession stands as well as renovations to trails. Additional locations for playground equipment, adjacent to ballfields should be explored. A dog park is currently being considered for Maclean and would complement the existing facilities.

Estimated Construction Cost = \$7,500,000



Dog Park



Gym Expansion



Competitive Pool



Playgrounds

## FUTURE NEEDS

### ACTION ITEM #8 - JASMINE PARK

Jasmine park is an ideal neighborhood park containing both active and passive recreation. Minor updates and new facilities could increase usage. Renovation of the existing tennis courts is budgeted for the near future but other facilities including restrooms and the parking lots would benefit from updates. Given the existing restrooms, this park would be a good location to include a splashpad near the existing playground equipment. Covered picnic areas as well as garden space would also enhance this park. A trail system along the drainage swale could connect Jasmine to Oyster Creek Drive and Brazos Oaks Park.

Estimated Construction Cost = \$1,200,000



Picnic Areas



Splashpad



Trails along Greenspace

**ACTION ITEM #9 - GARLAND PARK**

Garland Park is located in the southeast area of Lake Jackson which has much lower existing park level-of-service than many of the other areas of the City. Adjacent residential including both single and multi-family homes would greatly benefit from a high quality park space. Amenities within Garland Park are older and damaged and should be repaired or replaced. The existing tennis courts should be renovated and potentially an additional court constructed to the west. The existing parking lot should be upgraded and expanded to facilitate additional use. Playground equipment should be replaced and possibly relocated. The western side of the park is unused but large trees provide shade perfect for installing picnic areas and additional playground space. Sidewalks along Gardner Drive should be installed as well as internal park trails.

Estimated Construction Cost= \$1,500,000



Tennis Courts



Unique Playground Space



Covered Picnic Areas

**LONG TERM NEEDS**

**ACTION ITEM #10 - CONNECTIVITY**

Trails continue to be the #1 requested recreational amenity throughout the region. Lake Jackson should continue to explore the expansion of their trail system to include additional trails along road rights-of-way, off-road paths within greenspaces and along drainageways and utility corridors. Developing a paddle trail along Oyster Creek would also provide a unique amenity for area residents. Proposed corridors should be explored for feasibility including land ownership and phased implementation costs be included in the City’s annual capital improvement program budgets.

Estimated Cost = varies



Trails along roadways



Off Road Paths



Paddle Trail

**FUNDING STRATEGIES**

Updating and renovating Lake Jackson’s existing park facilities while also exploring land acquisition opportunities will require a considerable amount of funding and responsible fiscal planning. The chart to the right outlines preliminary cost estimates for the proposed recommendations.

The city’s current operating budget for park facilities is limited but numerous options for offsetting costs are provided below.

**General Fund** Opportunities may exist for special projects to be funded through the City’s general fund. Developing detailed budgets for recommended priorities can provide levels of costs from minor to major that could be funded when there is a surplus.

**Parks and Recreation Department Annual Budget** Although the Department’s budget is limited, small repairs or replacements could be phased. Utilizing city park staff as opposed to an outside contractor could provide savings for these small projects.

**Voter Approved Bonds**

Due to the large amount of renovations and redevelopment that the City needs to consider over the next 20 years a bond referendum could be considered to fund specific park projects.

**4B Economic Development Funds** Lake Jackson voters approved a 1/2 cent sales tax in May 1995 to be used for recreation and infrastructure improvements. Currently this tax generates over \$2M in revenue and the City is projecting over \$3M for the next fiscal year. These funds were used to construct the pool at Madge Griffith, the Recreation Center and the Civic Center. Currently 4B funds are being utilized for the Downtown improvements.

**Alternative Funding Sources** A variety of federal and local grant programs could be utilized to offset costs for park and recreation facilities. The Texas Parks and Wildlife offers cost-share grant programs for trails, outdoor and indoor recreation. The US Fish and Wildlife Service, Land and Water Conservation Fund among others should be explored. Each grant program is unique, with specific submittal requirements, dates and funding allowances. Grant programs can typically extend overall project time to provide for submittal, award and coordination of specific grant requirements. Projects should be identified early for possible grant submittal and award.

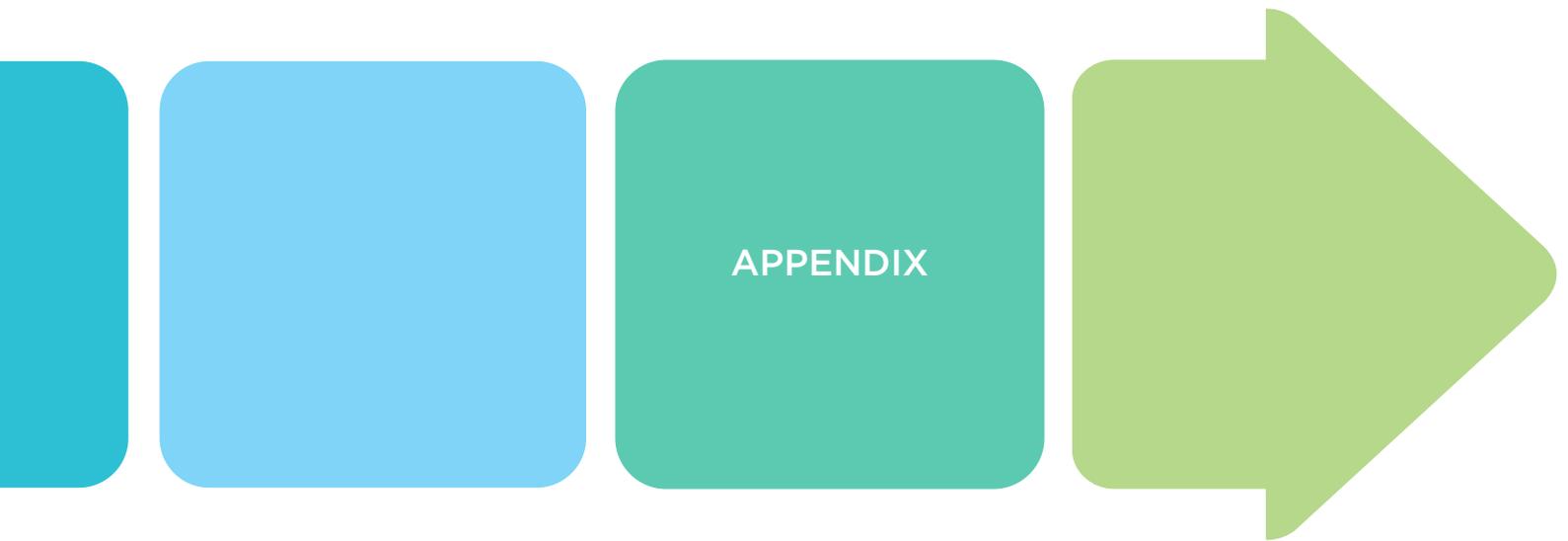
**Partnerships and Sponsorships** Creative partnerships can also help to offset construction or operating costs of city park facilities. Join-use facilities could provide residents with much needed park space while additional development or maintenance of the space could be a partnership between the landowner and the City. Sponsorships whether for an event, or a facility could also provide much needed revenue.

**PLAN UPDATES**

The Lake Jackson Parks and Space Master Plan 2016 provides a guide for updating, renovating and re-imagining parks and open space within the City over the next 20 years. This plan should be reviewed and reviewed every five years in order to gauge success and re-evaluate priorities.

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATES	
CATEGORY	BUDGET
<b>ACQUISITION*</b>	
Pocket	\$760,000
Neighborhood	\$240,000
Community	\$3M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4M</b>
<b>REDEVELOPMENT</b>	
Pocket	\$5M
Neighborhood	\$6.5M
Community	\$10.5M
Regional	\$1.5M
Special Use	\$0.5M
Greenways/Trails	\$7.5M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31.5M</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35.5M</b>

\*Estimated \$18,250 per acre



## COMMUNITY SURVEY

During winter and spring of 2016, the Lake Jackson community had the opportunity to participate in a survey regarding the City's parks and trails system. This survey is a continuation and expansion of a survey performed in 2006 as part of the previous parks planning effort. Several of the questions in the new survey allow comparison of results to the 2006 survey.

The Clark Condon team created this survey primarily for online deployment, though a hard copy version was also available to respondents. After draft surveys were reviewed by City of Lake Jackson staff, the team deployed the survey in February 2016, starting with the first public meeting of the current Master Plan effort. The City worked with its community contacts and park user groups, plus provided general outreach about the survey, to ensure maximum participation. The survey stayed open to respondents until May 31, 2016. The hard copy version of the survey instrument is included at the conclusion of this report.

### Survey Sample

The survey outreach effort was successful, with 1,119 respondents beginning the survey and most questions intended for all respondents achieving approximately 800 responses or more (some demographic questions had a lower response rate). Given Lake Jackson's population of approximately 27,000 to 28,000, this represents a sampling rate of roughly 2.8% to 4.0% depending upon the level of response to each survey question. This provides a margin of error, at a 95% confidence level, of approximately 3.0% to 3.5% for most questions. For questions where responses are filtered for subgroups of respondents, margins of error are higher.

The survey included a series of demographic questions to allow for filtered analysis of specific population groups and to understand how representative a sample was achieved (targeted sampling quotas are difficult when using online surveys). This can be compared to recent demographic information from the Bureau of the Census (2014 5-Year American Community Survey or ACS) to identify over- or under-representation of these groups.

### Age of Respondents

#### Age Distribution Comparison

Survey Respondents		5-Year ACS Estimate	
Age Group	Share	Age Group	Share
Under 18	4.3%	Under 20	27.5%
18 - 24	6.4%	20 - 24	6.6%
25 - 34	24.4%	25 - 34	14.5%
35 - 44	23.9%	35 - 44	13.5%
45 - 54	21.2%	45 - 54	14.1%
55 - 64	11.8%	55 - 64	11.4%
65 or older	7.9%	65 or older	12.4%

Survey n=794

Above is a comparison of the age distribution of survey respondents and the Census estimate. Note that due to differences in the delineation in age categories, the youth populations are not exactly mirrored between the two sources.

The survey sample somewhat over-represented the age groups between age 25 and 54 in comparison to the total population. However, this is at least partly due to the fact that many parents took the survey as representatives of households with children, rather than children taking the survey directly. This report will provide breakouts of results from respondents living in households with pre-school aged and school-aged children for several survey questions.

Seniors (age 65 and older) were slightly under-represented. Generally however, the distribution of adult survey respondents reasonably reflected the distribution of those groups in the total population, well enough that no major adjustments to sampling results are necessary.

## Ethnicity

### Ethnicity Distribution Comparison

Ethnic Category	Survey Sample Share	5-Year ACS Estimated Share
Hispanic or Latino	11.1%	23.2%
Black / African-American, not Hispanic or Latino	1.1%	7.0%
White, not Hispanic or Latino	80.3%	64.1%
Asian	1.4%	3.8%
Two or more ethnicities / races	3.6%	1.6%
Other	2.4%	0.3%

Survey n=783

Compared to Census estimates of the total population, the survey over-represented the White non-Hispanic / Latino population and under-represented other groups, particularly the Hispanic / Latino and Black / African-American populations. It should be noted that a survey respondent may be of a particular ethnicity that is different from other members of their household whose interests would be represented in survey answers.

## Household Income

### Household Income Distribution Comparison

Household Income Category	Survey Sample Share	5-Year ACS Estimated Share
Less than \$25,000	5.7%	13.0%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	5.0%	9.0%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	4.9%	14.8%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	13.1%	14.5%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	17.9%	17.3%
\$100,000 - \$149,000	26.8%	17.1%
\$150,000 and above	26.7%	14.3%

Survey n=761

While the survey sample represented middle income ranges (between \$50,000 and \$100,000) in proportions similar their proportion as estimated by the ACS, it over-represented higher income groups at the expense of lower income households. This report will provide breakouts of results from lower income households for several survey questions to examine potential differences in preferences that might otherwise be masked in the overall sample.

## Gender

### Gender Split Comparison

Gender	Survey Sample Share	5-Year ACS Estimated Share
Female	64.8%	51.8%
Male	35.2%	48.2%

Survey n=790

The survey sample significantly over-represented female respondents. Again, it should be noted that the respondents may have represented the preferences of household members of the opposite gender in their answers.

## Housing Tenure

### Tenure Split Comparison

Gender	Survey Sample Share	5-Year ACS Estimated Share
Renter	15.0%	32.7%
Owner	85.0%	67.3%

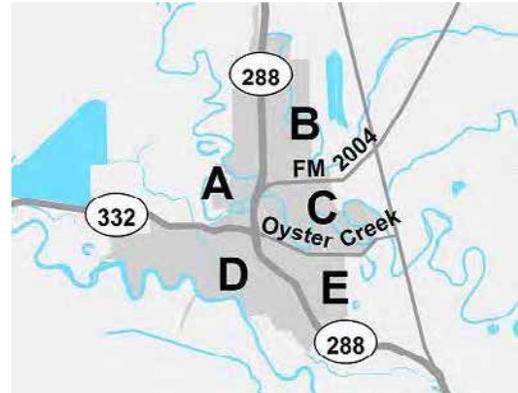
Survey n=790

Lastly, the survey inquired as to the housing occupancy tenure (form of residency) of the respondents. The survey sample significantly over-represented homeowners. This is not atypical of community surveys conducted for public agency planning purposes; the renter community can be difficult to reach and may not be as motivated to respond.

## Survey Results

### Where Respondents Live and Work

The survey asked respondents in what part of Lake Jackson they lived, as defined by the sector map to the right. It also asked if they worked or attended school in these sectors.



### Where in Lake Jackson Respondents Live and Go to Work / School

Ethnic Category	Q1 Where do You Live in LJ?	Q3 Work or School in LJ?
Sector A	9.8%	3.8%
Sector B	7.1%	3.8%
Sector C	29.4%	14.8%
Sector D	17.0%	14.3%
Sector E	15.9%	14.7%
Does not live (Q1), go to work/school (Q3) in LJ	20.8%	48.6%

n=1,108 (Q1), 1,109 (Q3)

Those who did not live in Lake Jackson were asked to provide their home ZIP code. These are summarized as follows:

### Where in Lake Jackson Respondents Live and Go to Work / School

ZIP Code	Location	# Respondents
77515	Angleton	56
77531	Clute / Richwood	49
77541	Freeport / coast	30
77422	Brazoria	28
77566	Lake Jackson	8
77480	Sweeny / Danciger	7
All others		52

n=230

Respondents who do live in Lake Jackson were asked for how long they have lived there.

### How Long Have Respondents Lived in Lake Jackson (Q2)

Length of Time	% Share
Less than one year	3.0%
1 - 5 years	17.7%
6 - 10 years	13.6%
11 - 20 years	24.0%
More than 20 years	41.6%

n=932

## Park Usage and Frequency

### Frequency of Visits to Specific Parks

The survey provided a list of Lake Jackson’s municipal park facilities for respondents to indicate their frequency of respective visits. The vast majority of parks and recreation facilities are visited very rarely or not at all by very high share of respondents. However, some parks did stand out for being more frequently visited. The summary below provides a list of parks that are visited at least once a month by 20% or more of the overall respondent sample and each of three respondent subgroups: respondents with children in the household under age 6, respondents with school-aged children aged 6 to 17, and respondents who identified themselves as over age 55.

### Park Facilities Visited at Least Once a Month by 20%+ of Respondent Group (Q4)

Park Name	All Respondents	HH with Children Aged 0-5	HH with Children Aged 6-17	Respondent Aged 55+
Dunbar Park	X	X	X	
Lloyd Morrison Park (Shy Pond)	X	X	X	
MacLean Park	X	X	X	X
Recreation Center	X	X	X	X

n=901, 204, 376, 157

In the overall respondent sample, Jasmine Park was also indicated as a facility that has been visited at least once but not more frequently (30% of respondents); 18% visited it at least once a month.

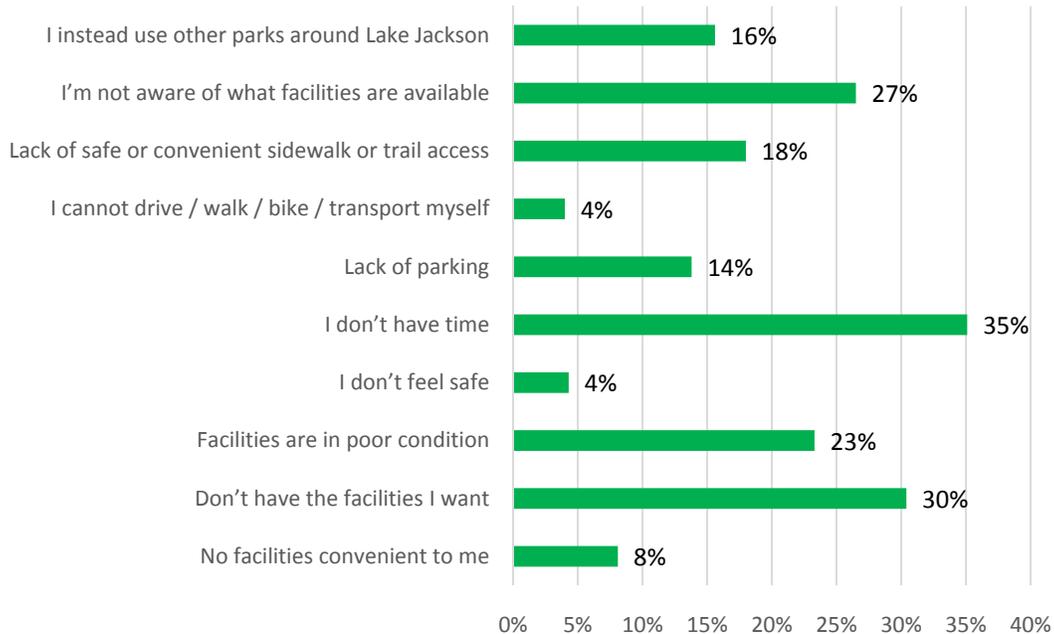
MacLean Park is by far the most visited by respondents. Two-thirds (67%) indicate they visit it at least once a month. For respondents in households with school-aged children, that share is 77%. For respondents aged 55 and over, it drops to 51%.

The Recreation Center is also popular, with 43% visiting at least once a month. That results rises to 50% for respondents in households with school-aged children.

The 2006 survey included two questions asking about the frequency of park usage, but did not ask for each park facility as the 2016 does. The sample size was also much smaller (n=115). Respondents indicated general park usage (across the system) on a fairly frequent basis, with 81% reporting usage at least once a month. As with the current survey, MacLean was by far the most popular park – 53% of respondents indicated that they visit it the most. Morrison and Dunbar parks were reported at 21% and 20% respectively.

## Why Not Visiting (Q5)

Respondents indicated a wide variety of reasons why they do not visit park facilities more frequently. The top reasons were “I don’t have time” (35%), “Don’t have the facilities I want” (30%), and “I’m not aware of what facilities are available” (27%).



## What Keeps Respondents from More Frequent Park Usage

n=901

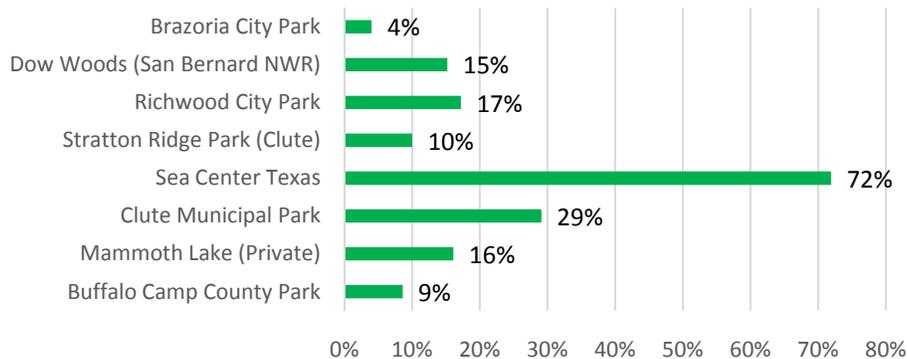
These results generally did not differ dramatically for the subgroups analyzed in Question 4, other than the following findings:

- Respondents from households with small children more frequently chose “Lack of parking” (20%) and “Facilities in poor condition” (35%).
- Only 6.4% of those age 55 and over chose “Lack of parking”, and they were also less likely to choose “Facilities are in poor condition” (19%).

Another subgroup was also analyzed for this question: respondents who indicated their household had income below \$50,000 annually. They were less likely to indicate “Lack of safe or convenient sidewalk or trail access” (11%), but more likely to indicate “Don’t have the facilities I want” (36%). *Sample size for this subgroup: 118.*

## Other Park Facilities Visited (Q6, Q7)

The survey listed some nearby park and recreation facilities not part of the City of Lake Jackson system to inquire whether respondents visited them. Sea Center Texas was by far the most popular.



## Other Park Facilities Visited Outside Lake Jackson Parks System

n=652

Respondents were also invited to list other parks they visit that were not provided in the survey's list. The following is a verbatim list of these park and recreation facilities, presented in alphabetical order.

?? park on 2004 near Oyster Creek that passes under 288	Angleton dog park	BP college tennis courts
Abner Jackson Park	Angleton dog park	Brazes Bend
Alvin	Angleton pool	Brazoria County
alvinskatepark	Angleton rec	Brazoria national wildlife refuge
alvinskatepark	Angleton Rec Center	Brazos Bend
Alvin skatepark	Angleton Rec Center	Brazos bend
Alvin skatepark	Angleton Rec center	brazos bend
Angelton Park	Angleton Rec center and parks	Brazos Bend
Angelton recreation center	bar x	Brazos Bend State Park
Angleton	Bates (Angleton)	Brazos Bend State Park
Angleton	Bates dickey park Angleton tx	Brazos Bend State Park
Angleton City Parks - They have fabulous playground equipment	Bates dickey park in angleton	Brazos Bend State Park
Angleton dog park	Bates Park	Brazos River County Park
Angleton Dog Park	Bates Park	brazosrover park
Angleton Dog Park	Bates Park in Angleton	Brazosbend State Park
Angleton Dog Park	Bates/Dickey park in Angleton	Brazosbend state park
Angleton dog park	Bay Forest Tennis Courts	Brazosbend State Park
Angleton Dog Park	Bayou Bend Tennis Facilities	Brazosport college
Angleton dog park	Bayou tennis facility - angleton	Brazosport college
Angleton dog park	Beutel elementary	Brazosport College
Angleton dog park	Big Bend State Park	brazosport college courts
Angleton Dog Park	Bobby Ford Park	Brazosport college running trail

Brazosport college tennis courts  
Brazosport College tennis courts  
Brazosport College Trail  
Brazosport College trails  
Brazosport college trails  
Brazosport College walking trail  
Brazosport College walking trail  
Brazosport College walking trail and tennis courts  
Brazosport College Walking/Biking Track  
Brazoswood high school  
Brazoswood High School  
Brazoswood high school tennis courts  
Brazoswood High School Tennis Courts when available  
BRAZOSWOOD HS TENNIS COURTS  
Bryan Beach  
buffalo bayou park  
Bwood High school tennis courts  
City bike trail  
Civic Center Plaza  
Clute pool  
College tennis courts  
College trail  
Cornerstone church  
Cornerstone Church  
Cornerstone church disc golf  
Denbar Park  
Denvor Park  
Discovery Green  
Dog Park Angleton  
Dog Park in Angleton  
Dog Park in Richwood  
Dow Centennial Trail at MacLean  
Dow Fishing and Hunting Club  
Dow Nature Trail  
Dow Park

Dow Reservoir  
Dow Wellness Center  
Dunbar football field  
Dunbar Football fields  
Dunbar Park  
Family Fitness  
Family Fitness  
FREEDOM PARK  
Freedom Park  
Freedom Park  
Freedom Park - Angleton  
Freedom park angleton  
Freedom Park in Angleton  
Freedom park in Angleton  
Freeport  
Freeport City Park  
Freeport parks  
Freeport Wetlands (near intersect HWY288 and HWY36)  
Frisbee Golf Course  
gene greene park  
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory trails (very often)  
High school tennis courts  
Hike and Bike trail along Oyster Creek Drive  
Hike and Bike trails behind the Rec Center.  
Hiking biking trail along Oyster Creek Drive.  
Hospital Fields  
Hospital soccer fields  
Houston  
Houston zoo  
Hudson Woods  
J.T. Suggs Baseball Complex  
Jetty Park  
Jones Creek Park  
Junior service league  
kids splash pad  
Lake Jackson Girls Softball  
Lake Jackson Girls Softball fields  
Lake Jackson Girls Softball Fields

Lake Jackson Girls Softball Fields  
Lake Jackson Girls Softball Fields  
Lake Jackson Little League  
Lake Jackson Little League Baseball Fields  
Lake Jackson outdoor pool  
Lake Jackson Rec Center  
Lake Jackson Rec Center  
Lake Jackson Rec.  
Lake Jackson Recreational Center  
Lake Jackson SKATEPARK  
Lake Jackson Soccer Complex  
Lake Jackson Soccer Fields  
Lake Jackson Softball Field  
lake jackson softball fields  
Lake Jackson softball fields  
Lake Jackson Softball Fields  
Lake Jackson Suggs Baseball fields  
Lake Jackson/McClean Skatepark  
LARP/Amtgard  
Larp/Amtgard  
league city skatepark  
Library  
library  
Library splash pad  
Library/Civic center fountain  
Lion's Den  
Little league fields  
LJ recreation center tennis courts  
LJ Soccer Club Hospital Soccer Complex  
LJ Softball Complex  
Mac Clean Pk  
Maclean  
Maclean Girls Softball Fields  
MacLean Park  
Maclean Park  
Maclean park  
MacLean Soccer Fields  
Mall parking lot  
McLean park

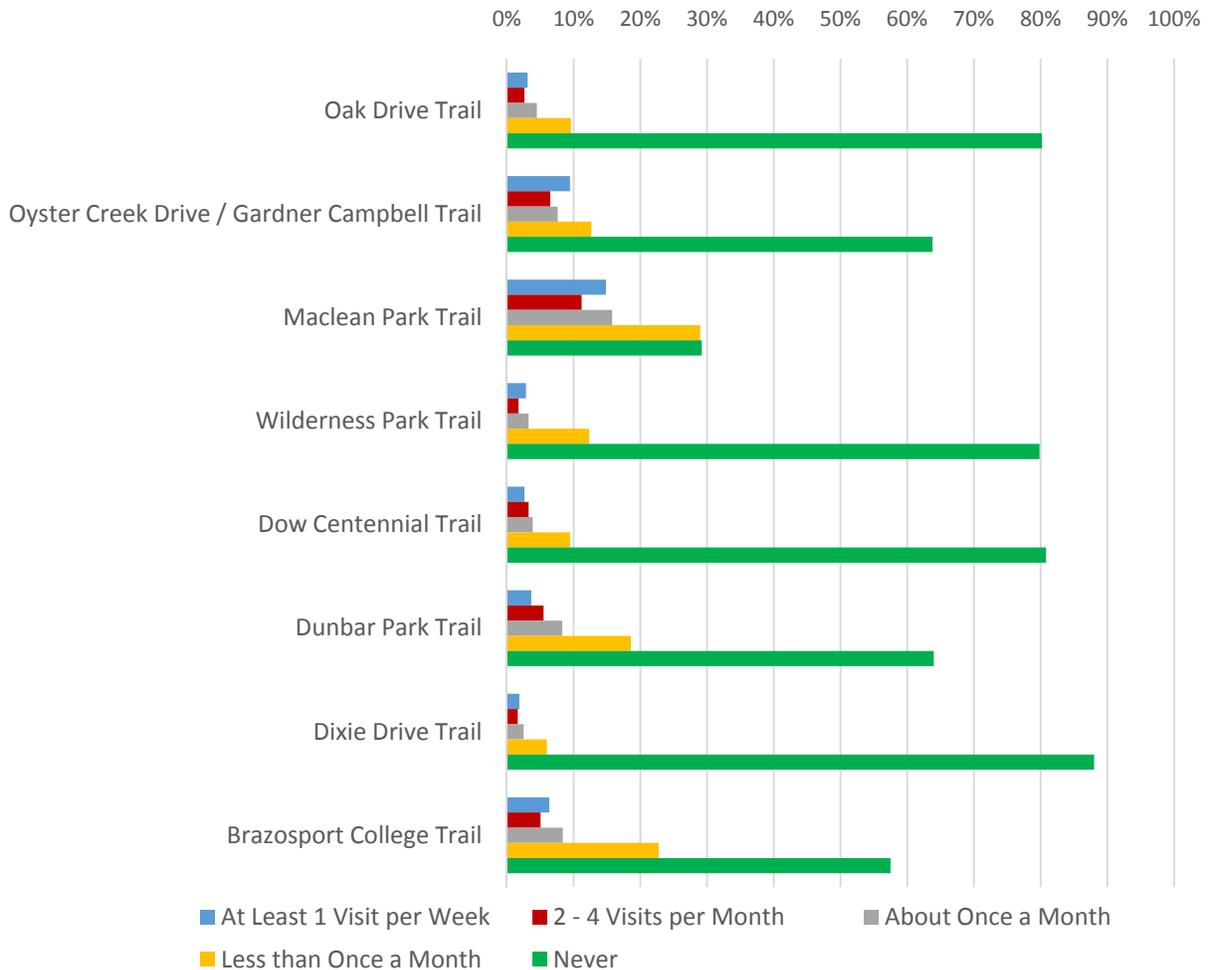
National Wildlife Refuges in the area.  
Nature Center/Planetarium Trail (very often)  
Need skate park  
Ney elementary  
Oak wood shores dog park  
Oakwood Shores Park (private)  
Officer Cash Memorial Dog Park  
Officer Cash Memorial Dog Park  
Once a year  
Once a year  
Outdoor pool  
Outdoor pool in LJ  
Oyster Creek (my house backs to it)  
Oyster Creek (OC)  
Oyster Creek Drive Hike and Bike trail.  
Oyster creek drive running trail  
Oyster Creek large sidewalks  
Oyster Creek Park  
Oyster Creek Park  
Oyster Creek Park  
Oyster creek park  
Oyster Creek Splash Pad  
Oyster Creek Splash Pad  
Oyster Creek Splash Pad  
Oyster Creek Splash Pad  
Park and trails behind the college  
park on yaupon near banyan  
Pearland  
Pearland  
Pearland Dog Park  
Pecan Lake

Pee wee baseball fields  
Pee wee baseball fields  
Pee wee fields  
Plantation Oaks Park  
private tennis courts at friend's home in angleton  
Quintana  
Quintana Beach  
Quintana Bird Sanctuary  
Ray Miller Park (Houston)  
Rec center  
Rec center  
Rec Center  
Rec Room  
Rich wood Splash Pad  
Richwood Park Splash Pad  
San Bernard national wildlife refuge  
San Bernard Wildlife Refuge  
Seaside Beach  
Shy pond  
shy pond  
Shy Pond  
Shy pond  
Shy Pond  
shy pond  
Shy Pond Park  
Skate Park  
Skate Park  
Skate Park  
skate park beside recreation center  
skate parks  
Skatepark  
skatepark  
Skatepark  
Soccer fields  
softball complex  
Softball fields

Softball fields by Maclean park  
Stahlman Park  
Sugar Land Dog Park  
Sugarland Dog Park  
Suggs Field  
surfside  
Surfside Beach  
Surfside Beach  
Surfside Beach  
Surfside Beach Area  
Surfside/Quintana Beaches  
Sweeney high school  
tennis courts at Brazosport college  
Tennis Courts Brazosport College  
Tennis Courts Brazosport High School  
Tennis Courts Brazoswood High School  
texas city skatepark  
Texas city skatepark  
texas city skatepark  
The beach  
The Jetties  
The Lake Jackson Recreation center  
The rec center  
Twice a year  
Walking Paths Along Oyster Creek Drive  
Walking trail behind Brazosport College  
West Columbia Park  
Wilderness  
Wildlife Refuges  
Youth sports complex  
Yupon park

## Usage of Trails (Q8)

The survey inquired as to which of the City's trails the respondents used and how often.



### Frequency of Lake Jackson Trails Usage

n=803 to 835

The MacLean Park trail appears to be the most heavily used. A total of 42% of respondents indicated using that trail at least once a month. The Oyster Creek Drive and Brazosport College trails both also had 20% or more of respondents using them at least once a month.

## Other Trails Used (Q9)

The survey asked respondents to list other trails that they use. The results are listed below verbatim in alphabetical order.

Bravos Bend State Park

Oyster Creek

Dow Woods

Dow woods

Neighborhood- northwood

Dow Woods

Dow Woods Trail

Walk around outside of mall

Camp Mohawk in Alvin

Walk 1-2 times a day in our neighborhood on the streets with dog

Crews Park

Dow Woods

college trail  
 lake road to rec center  
 Angleton Dog Park  
 Jackson Oaks  
 timbercreek  
 Nature Center/Planetarium  
 trail  
 Dow Woods  
 Small trail around Buffalo  
 Camp County Park  
 Buffalo Camp County Park  
 Surfside Beach  
 Dow Woods  
 Yaupon Side walks

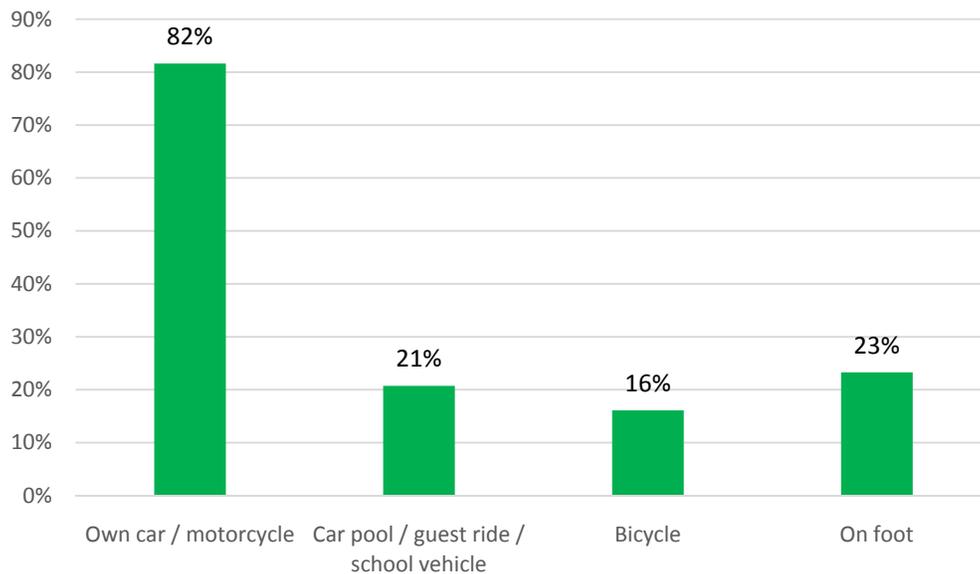
Need skate park  
 none  
 Beutel  
 sidewalks along Oyster Creek  
 Dow Woods  
 Dow Woods  
 Medical way.  
 Lake Road and Timbercreek  
 Drive (not a trail)  
 Are those really called trails?  
 They are large sidewalks.  
 Dow Woods  
 I tend to use great sidewalks  
 in BrazosOaks subdivision

Hudson Woods  
 Would love to have a trail/  
 park area close to home, OM  
 Roberts, Post Oak Road  
 bayou road  
 Gulf Coast Bird Observatory  
 trail  
 Hudson Woods  
 Dixie drive  
 Wide sidewalk This Way  
 (between Lake Rd and  
 FM2004)  
 Wildlife refuges  
 Sycamore Street

### Means of Travel (Q10)

Respondents allocated the share of travel by four different options they use to get to the park and recreation facilities that they visit.

**Means of Travel to Lake Jackson Parks (Average for Each Mode)**



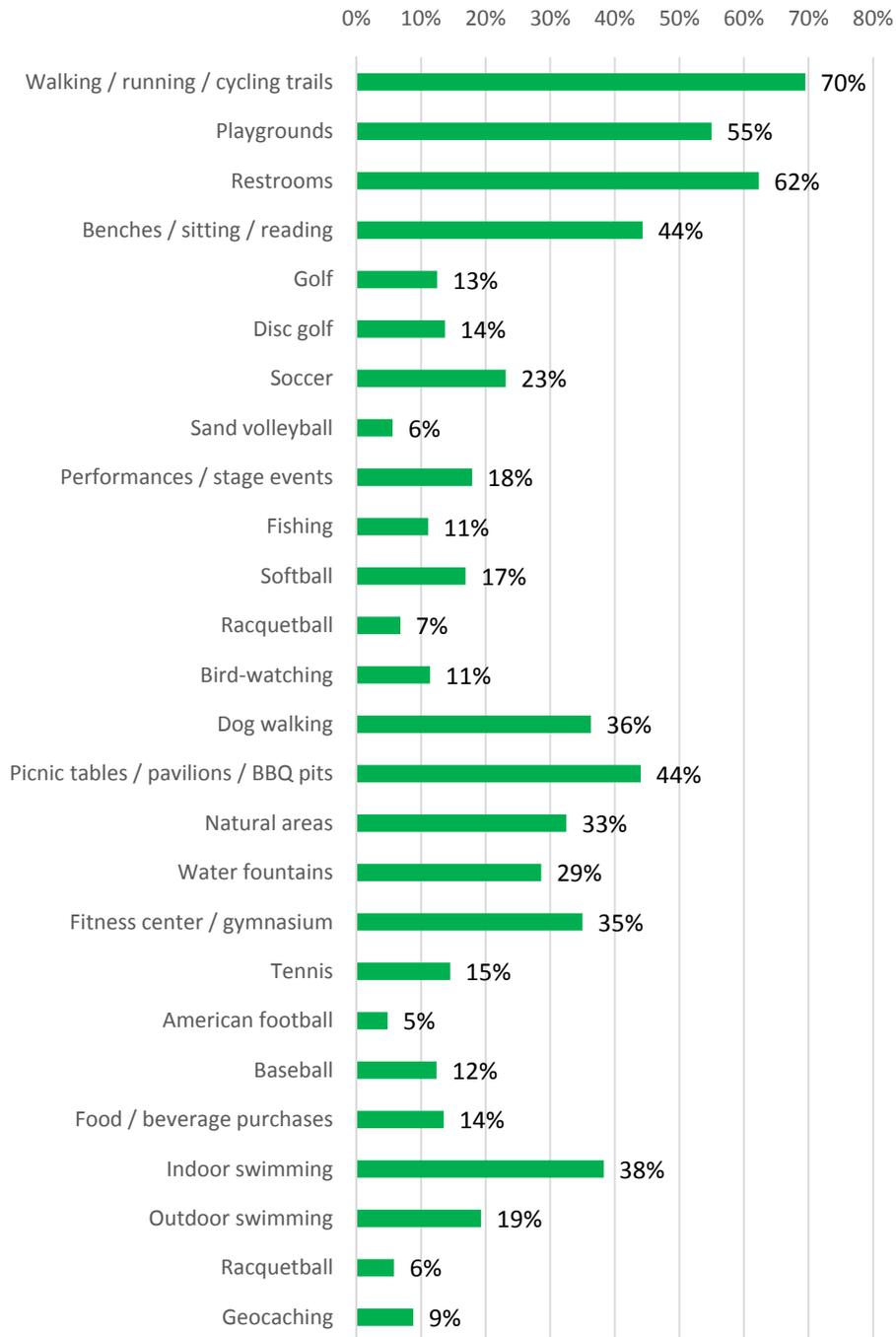
n=786

The average share of travel using their own motor vehicle for respondents was just over 80%. Non-motorized modes, bicycle or on foot, accounted for 16% and 23% respectively on average.

## **Participation in Activities (Q11)**

The survey asked participants in what activities they had partaken at City of Lake Jackson parks and recreation facilities during the last year.

### **Activities at Lake Jackson Parks in Past Year**



With the exception of walking / running / cycling on trails and indoor swimming, the most widely cited activities were non-athletic: playgrounds, restrooms, benches, picnic tables and pavilions. Soccer was the most widely noted field sport.

The other respondent subgroups were also analyzed for differences from the overall total. The most notable include:

- For respondents in households with less than \$50,000 in annual income (n=108):
  - Lower usage of playgrounds (45%)

- Lower participation in golf (4%)
- Lower participation in indoor swimming (29%)
- For respondents in households with small children (under age 6) (n=204):
  - Higher usage of playgrounds (83%)
  - Higher usage of restrooms (75%)
  - Higher usage of picnic tables / pavilions / BBQ pits (53%)
- For respondents in households with school-aged children (aged 6-17) (n=380):
  - Higher usage of playgrounds (70%)
  - Higher usage of restrooms (73%)
  - Much higher participation in soccer (40%)
  - Higher participation in indoor swimming (47%) and outdoor swimming (30%)
- For respondents age 55 or older (n=157):
  - Much lower usage of playgrounds (29%)
  - Much lower usage of restrooms (40%), picnic tables / pavilions / BBQ pits (29%), water fountains (16%)
  - Lower participation in soccer (8%), fishing (5%), softball (7%), indoor swimming (30%), outdoor swimming (8%)
  - Higher participation in bird watching (20%)

### Other Activities at Parks (Q12)

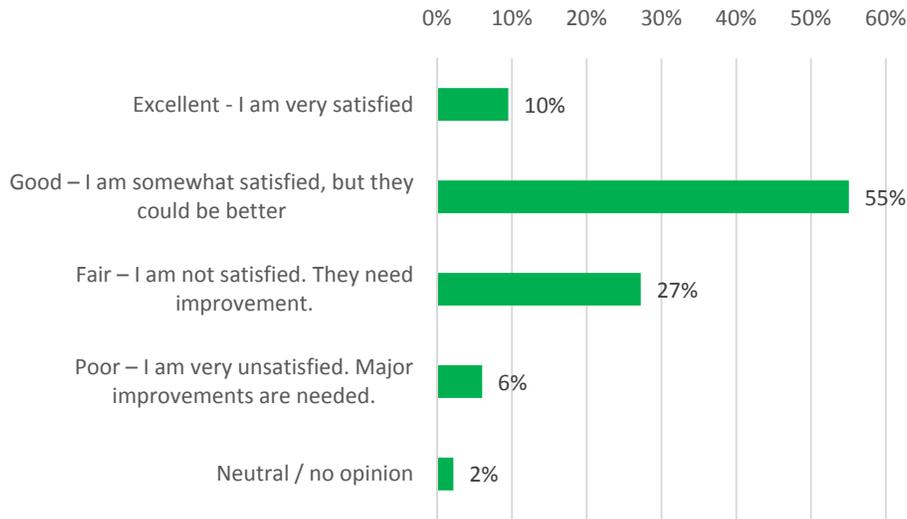
Respondents were asked to list any other activities they do at Lake Jackson parks and recreation facilities that were not included in the survey's list. Their answers are included verbatim below, in alphabetical order.

pickle ball	adventuring	Larping
water aerobics	rollerblading	Amtgard
skating	civic center	Live Action Role Play (LARPing)
skate board	SKATEBOARDING	Paddleboarding
Foraging (blackberries, mulberries, loquats, dewberries, etc)	Fund Raiser	LARP/Amtgard
Weightlifting	SKATEBOARDING	LARPing (live action role play) with Amtgard
Frisbee	SKATEBOARDING	Larp /Amtgard
TRX	SKATEBOARDING	LARP / AMTGUARD
Ultimate Frisbee	Botany	Amtgard
Basketball	LARP	LARP/Amtgard
Roller skating	Amtgard	Bicycling trails
Photography	Amtgard/LARP	Amtgard
biking	amtgard	Live Action Role Playing
Skateboarding	LARP/Amtgard	Amtgard
Skateboarding	skate park	Amtgard
Skateboarding	Skateboarding	Amtgard
Dog park	Skatepark	LARP/Amtgard
running on the trails - OC, Oak, College, Maclean	Skatepark	LARP/Amtgard
Water aroebics	Skateboarding	Larping/amtgard
Festivals	SKATEBOARDING	LARP/Amtgard
As walking biking destinations.	mosquito swatting	Larping
water aerobics	Skateboarding	Live Action Role Playing - Amtgard
SKATEBOARDING	Pickleball	LARP/Amtgard
kayaking	None	LARP - Amtgard
archery	Hiking	SKATEBOARDING
	Cheer	Larping

LARP/Amtgard  
 LARP/Amtgard  
 LARP/Amtgard  
 Amtgard  
 LARPing at MacLean  
 Basketball  
 Volleyball (indoor)  
 none  
 Park Day with homeschool  
 group  
 Feed ducks  
 Needs skate park  
 Skateboarding  
 none  
 Taaf  
 Cycling  
 wildlife photography

Dog Walking  
 Dog playing/running off leash  
 Roller skating  
 canoe/kayak  
 Skateboarding  
 Fishing  
 Football  
 Cycling  
 Basketball  
 family reunion  
 Running dogs  
 Dog Park for my dog  
 Basketball  
 Kickball  
 working out with fitness  
 groups /bootcamp  
 in line skating

Walk my cats  
 Feed ducks  
 Skatepark  
 skateboarding  
 skateparks  
 skateparks  
 Butterfly and Damsely  
 identification  
 Amtgard  
 basketball  
 Canoe  
 Amtgard  
 PE time with homeschool  
 group  
 Biking  
 skateboarding

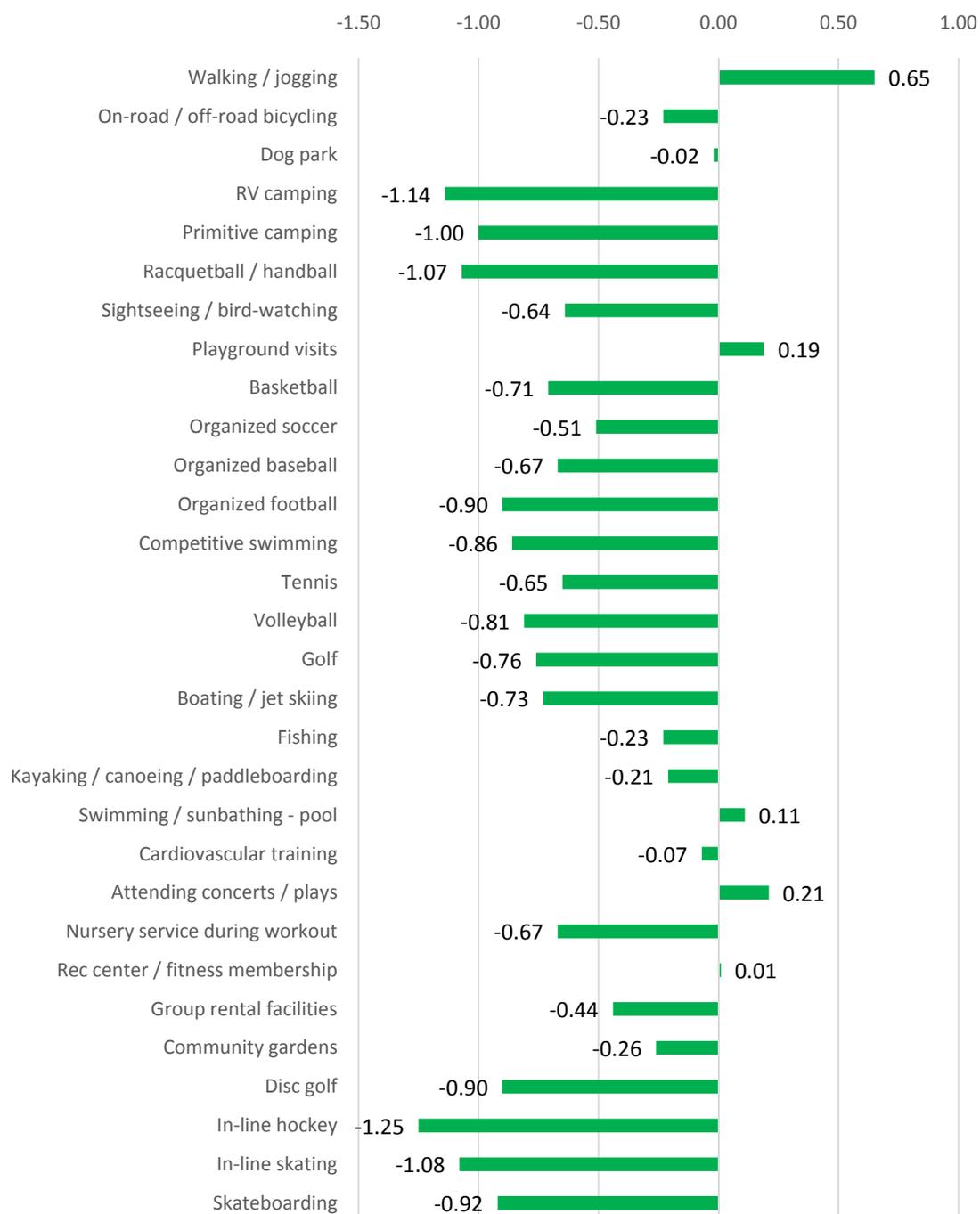


### Satisfaction with Conditions at Parks (Q13)

Respondents generally felt that conditions at Lake Jackson parks and recreation facilities were good or fair, with room for improvement. Only 6% felt that conditions were poor.

### **Priority of Activities (Q14)**

The survey asked respondents what activities they and their families would give the highest priority. The rating scale for each activity was assigned a rating: -2.0 for the lowest priority (“Not a Priority”) to +2.0 for the highest priority (“Very High Priority”). “Neutral” was given a value of 0.



Average Priority Rating: -2="Not a Priority", +2="Very High Priority"

### Average Priority Ratings of Activities

n=805

Very few activities rated as a net priority: walking / jogging, playground visits, pool swimming / sunbathing, and attending concerts and plays. Recreation center / fitness membership averaged to a just barely positive priority rating. Dog parks and cardiovascular training rated just barely low priority.

There were differences in priority preferences among the four analyzed subgroups.

- The average ratings from respondents from households with annual incomes under \$50,000 (n=118) showed only walking / jogging as a net priority, and a relatively moderate one at that (0.20). Dog parks, playground visits, and attending concerts / plays were just below neutral.
- Respondents in households with small children (n=204) gave their highest average rating to playground visits (1.10) over walking / jogging (0.61). Pool swimming and sunbathing (0.42), attending concerts and plays (0.10), nursery service during workout (0.30), and recreation center / fitness membership (0.22) were also rated positively on average. Cardiovascular training (0.03) bicycling (-0.09), dog parks (-0.04), and fishing (-0.03) were very close to neutral.
- Respondents in households with school-aged children (n=376) rated walking / jogging (0.54) and playground visits (0.49) nearly equally. Organized soccer (0.02) achieved its highest average rating with this group, albeit still essentially neutral. Pool swimming / sunbathing (0.24), attending concerts and plays (0.12), and recreation center / fitness memberships (0.19) were the only other net positive average priority ratings.
- For those over 55 (n=157), walking / jogging (0.72) achieved its highest average rating of all groups. This groups only other average positive rating was for attending concerts and plays (0.38).

The 2006 Needs Assessment Survey asked the same question, though some categories have been changed. The following table provides a comparison between the 2006 and 2016 results for those who indicated the activity as High or Very High Priority. Please note that the sample size in 2006 was much smaller (n=109 to 111). For all activities except disc golf and skateboarding,

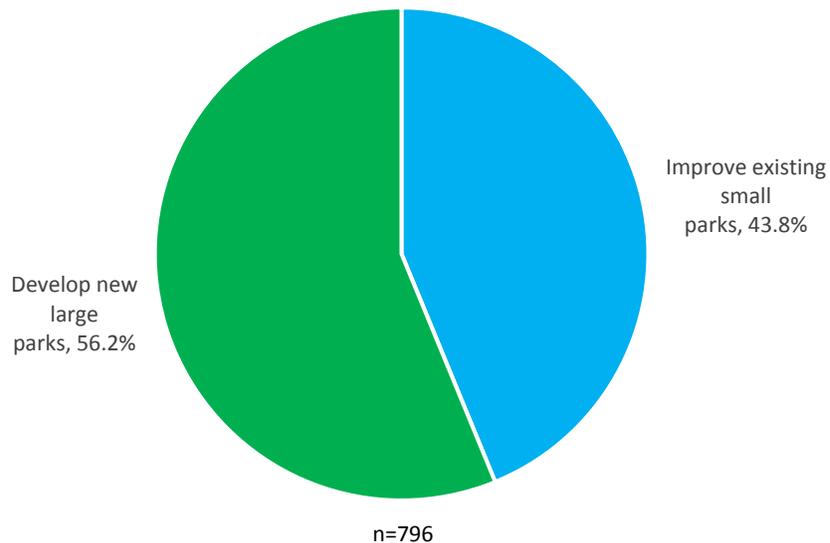
#### 2006 – 2016 Comparison: High or Very High Priority Activities

Activity	Difference from 2006
Walking / jogging	-7.2%
Hiking / bicycling	NA
Camping / RV	-10.3%
Camping - primitive	-3.8%
Racquetball / handball	-18.5%
Sightseeing / birdwatching	-12.8%
Playground visits	-7.3%
Basketball	-11.9%
Organized soccer	-12.0%
Organized softball	NA
Organized baseball	-23.8%
Organized football	-25.9%
Competitive swimming	-15.9%
Tennis	-7.2%
Volleyball	-16.6%
Golf	-17.8%
Boating / jet skiing	-10.3%

Activity	Difference from 2006
Fishing / canoeing	NA
Swimming / sunbathing - pool	-17.2%
Cardiovascular training	-26.5%
Attending concerts / plays	-16.1%
Visiting parks	NA
Nursery service during workout	-15.7%
Rec center / fitness center membership	-24.1%
Family group or company picnic	-32.8%
Disc golf	0.6%
In-line hockey	-1.6%
In-line skating	-11.4%
Skateboarding	0.6%

### Emphasize Small or Large Parks? (Q15)

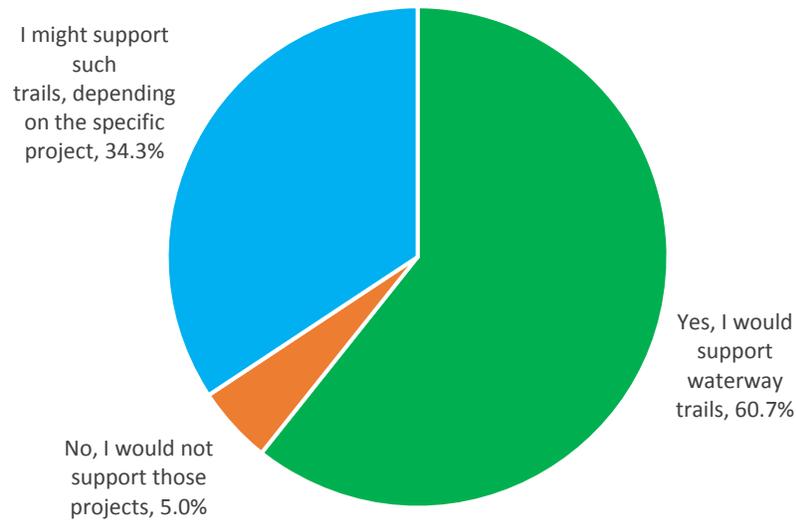
Park Size Investment Priorities



By a small majority, the respondents preferred investment in large new parks.

The 2006 survey asked a similar question, but differently worded: should the parks and recreation board be encouraged to develop more smaller parks that are neighborhood oriented, or develop fewer larger parks that are used by all community residents. The results in that survey (again with a much smaller sample – 111 respondents) were 45% for the former option, 57% for the latter.

## Support for Waterway Trails (Q16)



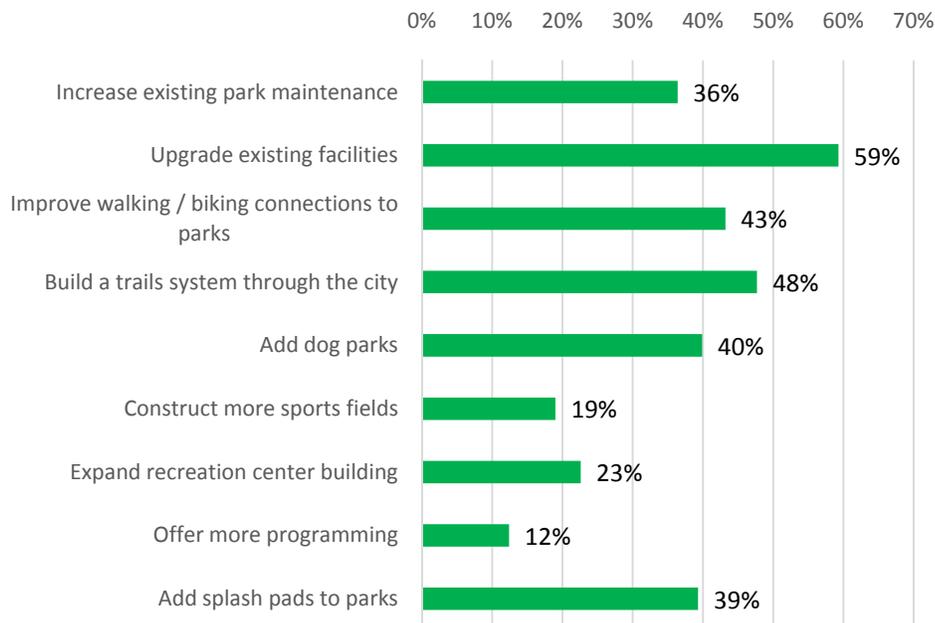
### Would Respondents Support Waterway Trail Investments

n=799

Respondents overall demonstrated reasonably strong support for new waterway trails. Only 5% opposed them outright. It should be noted that respondents from households of less than \$50,000 annual income showed an even split between unqualified support and project-specific support (47.5% apiece).

## Top Parks Investment Priorities (Q17)

### Highest Priority Categories of Investment



n=805

Respondents indicated that, of the choices offered, upgrades to existing facilities were the highest priorities for parks and recreation investment. Additional sports fields, expanding the recreation center, and additional programming garnered the least support.

The five subgroups again showed differences in priorities.

- For respondents in low or moderate income households (n=118), fewer selected improving walking / biking connections (35%) and trails (34%). Support for additional programming a bit higher (20%).
- Similarly, for respondents in small-children households (n=204), support for walking / biking connections (35%) was lower than the overall total. This group, however, showed much higher preference for adding splash pads to parks (67%) – it was the most desired investment priority.
- Respondents in school-aged children households (n=376) indicated much stronger preference for additional sports fields (31%) and somewhat higher for splash pads (48%).
- The over-age-55 respondents (n=157) showed greater preference for walking / biking connections (54%) and trails (54%), while showing much less desire for additional sports fields (10%) and splash pads (22%).
- A check of respondents who identified as younger than 55 but who do not have children in the household (n=141) showed that walking / biking connections (54%), trails (64%), and dog parks (68%) were much higher investment priorities than in other groups.