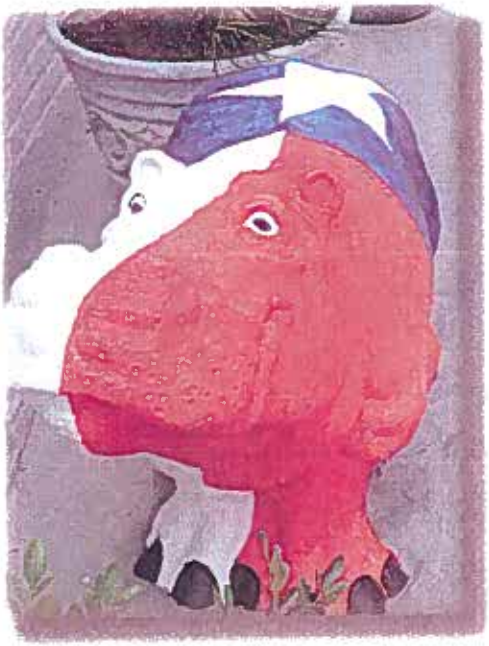
Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan

HUTTO, TEXAS 2006

Hutto
In Parks, We Play!

BWM GROUP



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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan is to guide planning and development of the City's park system through the year 2016. It is recommended that this plan be subsequently updated annually through 2016. At that time, it is recommended that a new parks master plan be initiated to keep it current and within the guidelines of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to allow for the maximum possibility of grant funding for assistance in the development of the City's parks and trails.

The Parks Master Plan was prepared with community input and review through the use of city-wide mail out surveys, public meetings, and citizen focus groups. This input combined with a city wide inventory of existing parks and trails facilities, undeveloped parkland, and an analysis of current recreational trends formed the basis for establishing the goals that guided the development of this master plan. This process identified the following programmatic priorities:

Outdoor Recreation Facilities:

1. Trails
2. Playgrounds
3. Picnic Areas
4. Pavillions
5. Fresh Water Aquatic Recreation
6. Soccer
7. Baseball/Softball
8. Splashpad

Indoor Recreation Facilities:

1. Swimming/Aerobics Pool
2. Senior Activities
3. Exercise Facilities
4. Basketball
5. Badminton
6. Chess/Checkers/Cards
7. Meeting Rooms/Classrooms
8. Yoga/Tai Chi

Park Development Goals

One of the primary purposes of this master plan is to guide the growth and development of Hutto's park and recreation system in light of the City's recent rapid growth. A series of goals and objectives were established to ensure that a guided and focused development occurs that addresses the needs and desires of the citizens of Hutto.

Goal 1: To develop park facilities to serve the existing, as well as the impending growth of the community. (Years 1-5)

Objectives:

a. Develop a dialogue between citizens and city planners to assess the evolving recreational needs in Hutto.
b. Identify parcels of land that could be immediately utilized for parkland within the City's jurisdictional boundaries.
c. Acquire by dedication, or purchase appropriate properties for the development of parks.
d. Develop park facility plans to meet the identified needs of the community. Refer to the Pedestrian Mobilty Plan for guidance in the development of trails and sidewalks.
e. Develop and coordinate programs within the community to help raise funds and build playgrounds within the community parks.

Goal 2: To plan park facilities meeting the projected population growth. (Years 1-20)

Objectives:

a. Acquire and monitor available data to determine reasonable expectations for population growth in Hutto.
b. Establish dialogue within the community between governmental entities to ensure maximum efficiency in planning and development of the community's recreational facilities.
c. Update and enforce the Parkland Dedication Ordinance to acquire appropriate sites for park development and/or accumulate financial resources to purchase such sites.

Goal 3: To determine potential locations for future parkland

Objectives:

a. Conduct a study of potential properties that deserve protection as parkland in the form of open space or developed recreational facilities.
b. Coordinate with real estate developers to ensure appropriate acquisition of parkland through the Parkland Development Ordinance.
c. Identify existing vacant lots in the City for potential development of small neighborhood parks.
d. Designate all floodplain sites within the Hutto's E.T.J. as potential parkland. This would include Cottonwood Creek and Brushy Creek drainage corridors.

Goal 4: To preserve adequate open space for the long-term population growth of Hutto. (Years 5-20)

Objectives:

a. Identify sites to be preserved as open space that are of significant historical, environmental, or aesthetic value to the community.
b. Develop the necessary resources to successfully preserve primary parkland sites within the E.T.J.
c. Negotiate with developers within the City's E.T.J., to adopt the updated parkland dedication guidelines designated in the City's Parkland Dedication Ordinance.

Goal 5: To plan development of recreational facilities with the health safety and well being of the community as a primary consideration. (Years 1-20)

Objectives:

a. Incorporate any community-wide health and safety objectives into the planning of any recreational project. When feasible, design projects that improve the health and safety of the community at large.

b. Engage in an ongoing dialogue between the City and the community regarding any existing or predictable health and safety concerns.

Priorities for Improvement (in phases)

Note: Years given are those projected to implement the activity. Many objectives are open-ended and require continuing action.

Activities to begin within the first year of adoption of this plan:

- Establish a dialogue with citizens/stakeholders and city planners to assess the nature of recreational needs in Hutto.
- Identify property that could be immediately utilized for parkland within the jurisdictional boundaries.
- Acquire by dedication or purchase any appropriate property for parkland development.
- Develop park facility plans to satisfy the identified needs of the community.
- Develop and coordinate programs within the community that generate funds and assist in the development of playgrounds in community parks.
- Acquire all available data to assess reasonable expectations for the population growth in the Hutto area.
- Update and enforce the Parkland Dedication Ordinance to facilitate acquisition of appropriate sites for parks and trails development.
- Establish the financial resources necessary to purchase such sites suitable or targeted for future parkland development.
- Designate floodplain sites within the Hutto E.T.J. as potential parkland. This includes all Cottonwood Creek and Brushy Creek drainage corridors.
- Incorporate any community-wide health and safety objectives into the planning of future recreational facility.
- Develop, when possible, design projects that improve the health, safety, and welfare of the community-at-large.
- Engage with the City and community regarding any existing or predictable health and safety concerns. Determine if adaptable solutions to such concerns can be incorporated into existing or planned recreational facilities.

Activities to begin in the fourth year after adoption

- Acquire by dedication, or purchase any appropriate properties for the development of parks and trails.
- Establish ongoing dialogues with governmental entities to ensure coordinated and efficient planning and development with other recreational facilities.
- Develop intergovernmental participation in developing and operating recreational facilities that can serve the mutual benefit of the participating activities.
- Identify and acquire properties that require protection as parkland in the form of open space or developed recreational facility.
- Identify vacant lots in the City for development of small neighborhood parks.
- Aggressively negotiate with developers within the City E.T.J. to adopt the parkland dedication guidelines designated in the updated Parkland Dedication Ordinance.

Activities to be implemented in the fourth year:

- Identify potential sites to be preserved and acquired as open spaces that are significant for historical, environmental, or aesthetic value to the community. (2006/2007)

Activities to be implemented in the fifth year:

- Target and develop the resources necessary to acquire and/or preserve suitable parkland sites within the E.T.J. for future use.

2 HUTTO TODAY

A Brief History

Before Hutto was settled, the first two stores in Williamson County were located on Brushy Creek in the Shiloh and Rice's Crossing communities, just southeast of present day Hutto. Many of Hutto's early settlers came from that area.

Hutto, Texas was not really established until 1876 when the International & Great Northern Railroad passed through land owned by James Emory Hutto and the fledgling town was named for him. The railroad officials designated the stop Hutto Station and the town of Hutto was born. James Hutto was born in Alabama on June 8, 1824. He came to Texas in 1847 and moved his family into Williamson County in 1855. It was in 1876 that Hutto sold fifty acres to the Texas Land Company of New York for a townsite and railroad right of way. Cheap prison labor was used to build the railroad tracks under the Texas prison lease system that was in effect at that time. Hutto became a wealthy cattleman in Williamson County; however, in 1885 he left Hutto and moved to Waco and entered the hardware business. No direct descendants of the Hutto family live here today. A freed slave, Adam Orgain, was also an early settler in the immediate vicinity and homesteaded earlier in 1854. Indians still abounded in the area. Soon a great many more people, primarily Swedish and German immigrants came to this area to farm, ranch and begin new lives in America.

View of East Street (circa 1890)

The earliest settlers, including the town's founding father James E. Hutto, would line East Street with horse drawn carriages.

A depot was built in 1877 with W.H. Farley, Sr. as the railroad agent and the business area of Hutto was originally located on the south side of the railroad tracks. On June 19, 1886 a severe storm hit the small town and wiped out the south side business district including the first school (built in 1882) and the Baptist Church (built in 1883). It was not until 1890 that a real rebuilding effort took place, this time on the north side of the railroad tracks, and by 1892 two rows of store buildings surrounded East Street, the new main street of downtown Hutto. During the early 1890's, Hutto prospered and grew due to the fertile blackland soil that permitted tremendous cotton production on the surrounding farms; establishment of cotton gins and community activity abounded. Saturdays were an extremely active time in downtown Hutto with people and horse drawn vehicles everywhere. The comment was made by an observant citizen that; "No one had better get in a hurry in Hutto on a Saturday because you just couldn't move fast

through all the crowd in town." It was reported that a merchant once took in $5,000 on a Saturday in his Hutto store.

View of East Street (circa 2005)

Examples of early 20th Century Texas architecture can still be found in historic downtown Hutto along East Street.

By 1898, thanks to the industry of its people and its strong agricultural base, the town of Hutto was bustling and had grown to support six churches, one school, one photography gallery, one confectionery store, one hotel, two drug stores, seven dry good stores, one bank, one tailor shop, one shoe shop, four blacksmiths, eight grocery stores including one meat market, one livery stable, one millinery shop, one lumber yard, one newspaper, two hardware stores, two cotton gins, one grist mill and five doctors.

In 1902, a fire destroyed almost all of the businesses on the east side of East Street in the downtown area. This fire decimated much of the business of downtown Hutto as the north half of the east side on Main Street was destroyed. The fire started when a gasoline stove exploded in the Jackson Restaurant.

On July 17, 1911 the town was officially incorporated and W.D. Holman, a member of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church, served as the first mayor of the City of Hutto. Another Swede, Charles E. Hanstrom, Sr. played an extremely vital role in the development of early Hutto. Hutto might not have incorporated had Hanstrom, along with J.D. Tinning, not installed the Hanstrom & Tinning Water Works in 1910 through his purchase of a drilling rig with which he drilled the first deep water well. This was a phenomenal year for Charles Hanstrom, for in 1910 he also built the first power plant for Hutto installing wires and poles and placing wiring in homes. Additionally, he started the first ice factory and was also partners with Mr. Tinning in a cotton gin. It was this same James D. Tinning that had invented a better cotton planter in 1897 for which he received patent No. 591,613 from the United States Patent Office.

In spite of World War I, the City of Hutto and its surrounding community had a bright future. Cotton was still king until 1929 and the collapse of the stock market. A long, hard depression had begun. The two banks at that time; Farmers and Merchants State Bank and Hutto National Bank, both closed during the Great Depression as did most of the other businesses in the City. Hutto, as a town and community, never fully recovered from this and struggled to the outbreak of, and through, World War II.

How Hutto Became the Hippo Capital of Texas

According to local legend, it was in 1915 that a circus train stopped in Hutto at the depot to take on passengers, pick up mail and possibly take on water and fuel for the steam locomotive. The circus train workers also would have taken this opportunity to care for their animals. At some point during this historic layover, it is said that the hippo got out of the railcar and made its way to the nearby, Cottonwood Creek causing much consternation for the circus workers. Local farmers and merchants watched the commotion in amusement and with interest as unsuccessful efforts were made to extricate the troublesome hippopotamus from the muddy waters of Cottonwood Creek. It is said that the Depot Agent, who at that time would have been Hal Farley, Jr., had to telegraph the communities of Taylor and Round Rock that were eight miles to the east and west of Hutto to the effect of: "Stop trains, hippo loose in Hutto". After much effort the hippo was prodded from the mud and water that resembled its natural habitat and was reloaded back on the train. Soon afterward the Hutto School adopted the hippopotamus as its mascot and as early as 1923 it appeared on the Hutto High School official graduation announcements. Other stories have been told, however, this is the most popular version of the origin of the hippo in Hutto.

"Henrietta"

A 7 ton concrete hippo placed along East Street by the Hutto Chamber of Commerce to recognize Hutto as the "Official Hippo Capital of Texas."

Other stories about the beginnings of the unique Hutto mascot are as follows: The big Swedish and German boys of Hutto were playing their smaller foes in football and the visiting coach is said to have stated "we can't beat those boys, they're big as hippos". Another story, also based on gridiron lore, was that the Hutto football team in the early twenties had no real jerseys and used feed sacks as their uniforms. The opposing coach allegedly said that the football team looked like a bunch of hippos in their make shift outfits.

Whatever story is the actual basis for the unique mascot, the hippopotamus, Hutto is the only school district and the only community in the United States to have the hippo as its primary identifier. Hutto and Hippo have become synonymous to the degree that when people say that they are from Hutto most often the first response is that of "Oh, the hippos". A yell used by the Hutto cheerleaders goes; "You say Hutto, We say Hippo". Hutto is hippo proud!

In 2003, the Texas Legislature recognized Hutto as the "Official Hippo Capital of Texas." The Hutto Chamber of Commerce arranged for a 7 ton concrete hippo named "Henrietta" to be placed along East Street in 1986. The fast-growing City of Hutto is also home to a bloat of smaller concrete hippos. Further efforts by former Hutto Mayor Mike Fowler and the non-profit Hippos Unlimited, brought scores of smaller 125 pound concrete hippo statues to the city. They stand outside homes, businesses and public buildings as a symbol of community pride. Many are painted to reflect the unique character of the owner or business it represents.

Acknowledgements:
All historical information was gathered from the Hutto Heritage Foundation web site, http://www.hutto-heritage-foundation.org/. Special thanks to Mike Fowler, Keith Hickman, Elizabeth Page, and all those who helped compile the information on the Hutto Heritage Foundation web site.

The Physical Environment

Physical Land Form - Hutto's terrain is generally flat except in areas close to creek corridors which transition to a slightly rolling terrain. The soil in Hutto consists of fertile blackland prairie soil-a great soil for agriculture purposes.

Picture of Brushy Creek just east of FM 685.

Floodplains and Creek Corridors - Brushy Creek is the largest watercourse in Hutto and bisects Hutto west to east in the southern half of Hutto. It drains water from the other major watercourse, Cottonwood Creek, in the southeast sector of the city. Cottonwood Creek is most known for the "hippo escape" in 1915. In addition to serving as scenic and environmental-interest resources, the creeks and their flood plains serve as potential routes for hiking, walking, nature observation, school access, bicycling, and employment and civic facility access. The remaining creeks, Mustang Creek, Pecan Creek Branch, and McNutt Creek are either minor in size or are limited in the amount of corridor located in Hutto's E.T.J.. These creek corridors still have the potential to be used for connectivity, but are not considered major corridors in Hutto.

Lakes - Three broad lakes can be found in Hutto's E.T.J., each of which was created by earthen dam construction by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. All three of these lakes are under the regulation of the Upper Brushy Creek Water Control Improvement District, which oversees all lake shore easements, dams, and spillways. These lakes are:

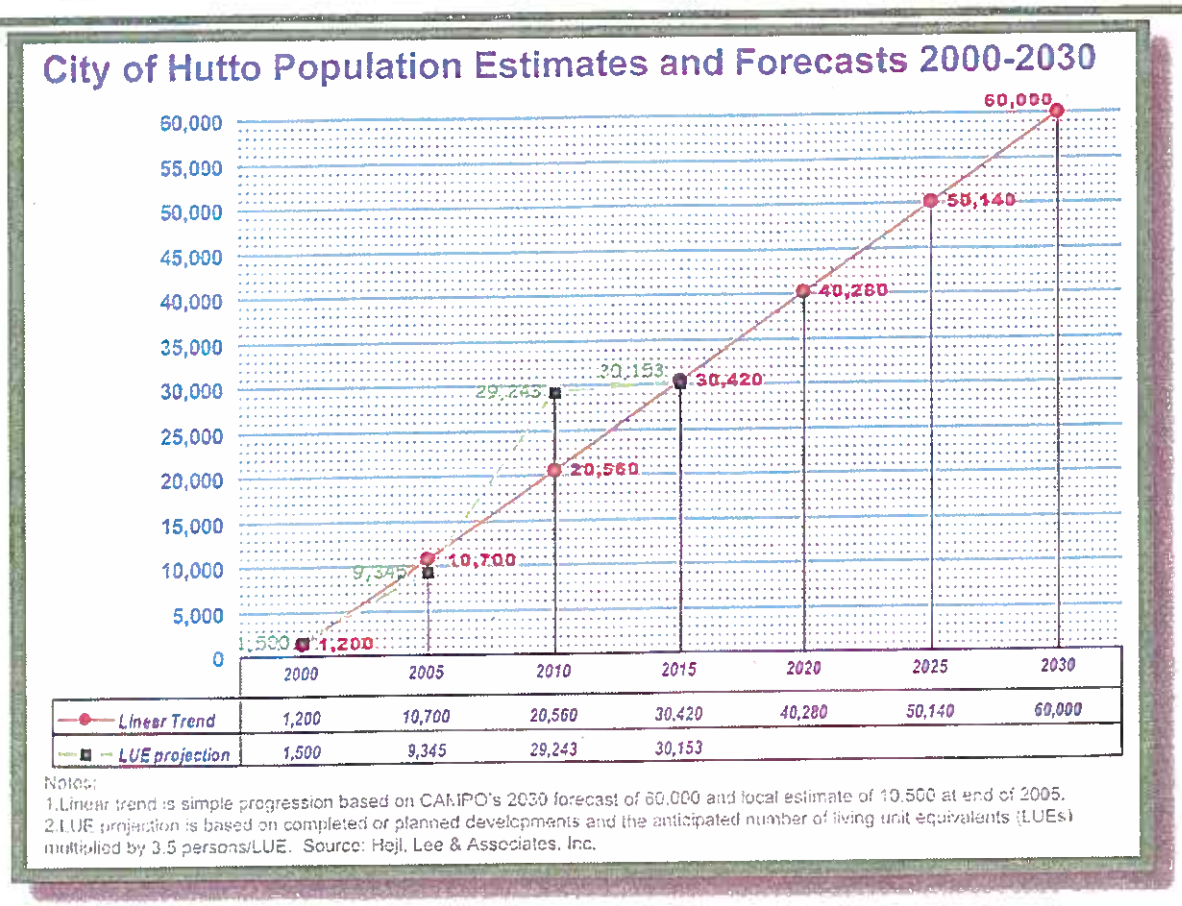
- Avery Lake (W.C.I.D. Dam #18), just west of SH 130 and north of Highway 79, 177 acre feet storage capacity
- Hutto Lake (W.C.I.D. Dam #20), just east of FM 685 and south of Brushy Creek, 81 acre feet storage capacity
- CR 137 Lake (W.C.I.D. Dam #21), just west of CR 137 and south of Brushy Creek, 79 acre feet storage capacity. There are also several small lakes/ponds just south of this lake.

Other Recreational Lands - The former Hutto COOP site, a 14.25 acre site in the center of town, offers a great central location with significant cultural value. This site is currently undeveloped for any recreational or cultural purposes, but still has the old silos and warehouses standing, at this time.

Community Profile

Hutto is a Texas Home Rule City, governed by an elected seven-member city council. The City Manager oversees the activities of all city departments and reports directly to the City Council. The City of Hutto has exploded from a small town of 630 residents in 1990 to an economically vibrant community with a population of approximately 11,500 people. Hutto is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. Officially, it was the second-fastest growing incorporated area in Texas between 2000 and 2005. (H.I.S.D. March 2006 Demographic Study, DeskMap System,Inc.)

Population Growth - The chart on the following page illustrates the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's population growth trend for the City of Hutto since 2000. The population growth is shown from 2000 because that is when Hutto started it's population boom. The orange line on the chart depicts a simplistic linear growth trend from 2005 to 2030 that identifies growth intervals of roughly 10,000 every 5 years. The green line on the chart depicts a growth trend for the projected number of living unit equivalents (L.U.E.) based on completed or planned developments multiplied by 3.5 persons/L.U.E.. As you can see, based on the L.U.E. projection, Hutto will meet their 2015 population in 2010.



Population Growth Trend Chart (City of Hutto 2005 Growth Guidance Plan)

Hutto has shown a rapid increase in population, with a 891 percent change between 2000 and 2005. This is an extreme increase, but is similar to the growth occurring in surrounding communities as well.

Demographic Information - Identifying demographic characteristics of the current population is important in accurately assessing the needs of the City for parks and recreational facilities. The figures in Table 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 depict age, income, and race/ethnicity information based on the 2000 U.S. Census Data.

The 2000 Census identifies the median age in Hutto is 29.4 years and the largest demographic group is 25 to 34 years at 19.8%. The large number of children, 36.8%, helps identify that Hutto is overwhelmingly young families. As new housing continues at a similar pace, this trend will amplify.

Table 2.1 Year 2000 Age Characteristics (Hutto vs. Texas)*		
AGE	PERCENT - HUTTO	PERCENT - TEXAS
0-9	20.8%	24%
10-19	16%	8%
20-34	25.4%	23%
35-54	27.1%	33%
55-64	3.7%	9%
65+	7%	4%

* U.S. Census Bureau - 2000 Census

The 2000 Census identifies the median household income in Hutto to be $53,295. The household incomes mainly range between $35,000 to $75,000 with 50.2% of Hutto's households falling in this range. The median household incomes of Hutto are above those of the State of Texas but on average with those of Central Texas. Table 2.2 depicts income distribution in the City of Hutto.

Table 2.2 Year 2000 Income Distribution*	
HOUSEHOLD INCOME	PERCENT - HUTTO
Less than $24,999	15.5%
$25,000 to $34,999	8.9%
$35,000 to $49,999	21%
$50,000 to $74,999	29.2%
$75,000 to $99,999	13.7%
$100,000 to $149,999	7.7%
$150,000 or more	4.1%

* U.S. Census Bureau - 2000 Census

The 2000 Census identifies Hutto's population as predominately white at 67% with the Hispanic population the second largest at 26.7%. It is reasonable to assume that as new housing opportunities increase in Hutto, the population growth will include more minorities that have the prevailing age and income characteristics that were discussed earlier.

Table 2.3 Year 2000 Race Characteristics*	
RACE/ETHNICITY	PERCENT - HUTTO
White	67%
Hispanic	26.7%
Black	4.7%
Asian	0.3%
American Indian	1%
Other	0.3%

* U.S. Census Bureau - 2000 Census

Education / Schools Profile

Hutto residents are served by Hutto Independent School District, one of the fastest growing school districts in the country, from primary school through high school. Table 2.4 illustrates the tremendous growth rate in Hutto ISD's five campuses.

Table 2.4 HISD Enrollment Growth*		
CAMPUS	05-06 Enrollment	06-07 Enrollment**
Cottonwood Creek E.S.	0	650
Hutto E.S.	841	633
Johnson E.S.	856	690
Hutto M.S.	656	797
Hutto H.S.	774	920
Total	3127	3690

* Hutto ISD Demographic Report 2006 (DeskMap Systems Inc.)
** Enrollment as of 2nd week of school 2006

3 PARKS INVENTORY

A key part of the park planning process is understanding what park and open space facilities are currently available, and to assess the condition of those facilities and determine whether or not they are addressing the recreational needs of the city. The need for new or improved recreational facilities can be determined by comparing the available park and recreational facilities with the number of people that the parks system serves.

A park system typically includes space and provides facilities for multiple functions. These functions may not occur in separate parks, but more often a single park will contain a combination of several functions.

• Recreation – space for traditional park activities such as sports play fields, playscapes, and exercise trails, picnicking and parking.

• Conservation – space to preserve and protect natural resources; for example, floodplains or endangered species habitat. These areas can have recreational functions such as nature study and trail systems.

• Amenity – space to be enjoyed for its aesthetic beauty (landscape, views, etc..), rather than active use.

• Reserve – space should be included in parks to allow room to meet future recreational needs of residents.

• Maintenance – space for storage of maintenance equipment and recreational equipment should be provided.

Hutto has an established network of community parks and greenbelts connecting the community parks. Hutto also has numerous neighborhood parks in the form of private homeowners association parks/amenity centers.

Components of the Existing Parks Inventory

An inventory of existing parks reviews several aspects of each park in the City's park, recreation, open space and trails system. These are:

- **Location** - Where is the park located in relation to the population it serves? Is it accessible and easy to locate?
- **Classification** - What is the purpose of a given park? Is it intended to serve a local neighborhood, the entire city, or an entire region?
- **Service Area** - What are the limits of the area served by each park? Are there any major thoroughfares or physical features that create barriers to accessing the park?
- **Size of the Park** - How big is the park? Is it large enough to adequately accomplish it's intended purpose?
- **Facilities in Each Park** - What does the park contain? Are the facilities appropriate for the type of park? Is the parking adequate to support its use?
- **Layout** - Is the arrangement of facilities in each park appropriate?
- **Condition of the Park** - What is the general condition of the facilities in each park?
- **Special Considerations** - In general, does the park provide facilities for the physically challenged that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Park Classifications

This plan provides for six different types of parks, including those that meet local needs, such as neighborhood parks, amenity centers and community parks; those that meet regional needs, such as regional/metropolitan parks; and those based on some unique characteristics, such as linear parks/greenbelts and special use parks.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks remain the basic unit of the park system and serve as the recreational and social focus of the individual neighborhood. Neighborhood parks provide close-to-home recreational needs. Examples include multi-purpose play fields for baseball and soccer and basketball and tennis courts. Playground equipment is usually provided. More passive uses such as picnicking and walking trails are also provided. The parks should be attractive and an asset to the surrounding neighborhood. Where possible, intrinsic features such as creeks and groves of trees should be incorporated to provide a natural setting.

Neighborhood parks should be easily accessible to the residential areas they serve. Ideally, they are located in the geographic center of a neighborhood, within easy walking or biking distance of residences. They may be developed in conjunction with a school site.

Functional Characteristics

- Size: 3-15 acres.
- Acres/1000 population: 1-2 acres.
- Area served: 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius (major roadways are barriers); serves a single neighborhood.
- Location: at or near neighborhood center along a collector level street; accessible by foot/bicycle.
- Function: unstructured active and passive recreational opportunities.

Basic Concepts

- Park serves local residents only; restroom facilities typically are not provided. May contain a small parking lot. Lighting should be minimal.
- Park should be an attractive amenity to the neighborhood. May contain a pavilion to accommodate small gatherings.
- Leave portion of park as natural area for unstructured play.

Amenity Centers

Amenity centers are becoming a basic element in subdivision developments. Amenity centers are similar in the acreage and facilities as neighborhood parks, but usually include a pool and associated restroom/dressing facility. In most cases, amenity centers serve the same function as a neighborhood park-they serve as the recreational and social focus of the individual neighborhood. Amenity centers provide close-to-home recreational needs. Examples include pools, restrooms, parking, multi-purpose play fields for baseball and soccer and basketball and tennis courts. Playground equipment is usually provided. More passive uses such as picnicking and walking trails are also provided. The amenity centers should be attractive and an asset to the surrounding neighborhood. Where possible, intrinsic features such as creeks and groves of trees should be incorporated to provide a natural setting.

Amenity centers should be easily accessible to the residential areas they serve. Ideally, they are located in the geographic center of a neighborhood, within easy walking or biking distance of residences.

Functional Characteristics

- Size: 3-15 acres.
- Area served: 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius (major roadways are barriers); serves a single neighborhood.
- Location: at or near neighborhood center along a collector level street; accessible by foot/bicycle.
- Function: unstructured active and passive recreational opportunities.

Basic Concepts

- Amenity centers are intended to serve neighborhood residents only; pool, restroom facilities and a relatively small parking lot are typically provided. Lighting should be minimal.
- Amenity center should be an attractive amenity to the neighborhood. May contain a pavilion to accommodate small group gatherings.
- Leave of portion of the park as natural area for unstructured play.

Community Parks

The community park provides recreational opportunities of a size and scale, or degree of specialization, that could not ordinarily be located at the neighborhood level. Community parks serve three or more neighborhoods. Essentially, these are family recreation centers with programs and facilities for all age groups.

Community education and recreation, as well as year round athletic activities, are introduced at the community park level. Facilities for active play include items such as tennis courts, a swimming pool, athletic fields, tot lots and children's play areas. In addition to facilities for active play, natural landscape areas and improved landscaped areas are necessary for passive relaxation to maintain the character of a park.

Functional Characteristics

- Size: as needed to serve the desired users, usually between 20-50 acres. Area served: four or more neighborhoods with a radius of approximately 2 miles.
- Location: accessible to/by major thoroughfare and coordinated with greenbelts where possible.
- Function: provides both indoor and outdoor facilities, active and passive recreational opportunities, design oriented to opportunities that respond to major community recreation facilities and/or open space preservation acquirements.

Basic Concepts

- Park should be sensitive to surrounding community and activities should reflect the character and needs of the community
- Park should emphasize a wide variety of facilities serving a diversity of user groups
- May include revenue-generating facilities
- Access and high visibility are important considerations

Linear Parks / Greenbelts

Greenbelts effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment. Greenbelts are linear parks, or environmental corridors, that can be located along creeks and drainage ways. Utility corridors and street boulevards can also serve as greenbelts. The greenbelt may serve multiple functions: linking separate attractions, serving as an alternate transportation corridor, providing linear buffers throughout the neighborhoods, acting as a transition zone between different land uses, conserving resource values and hydrologic functions of the community drainage system. Greenbelts create an "edge to the open space" which can preserve the scenic amenities of the City. Activities that are conducive to greenbelts and greenways are walking or hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, and running or jogging.

Functional Characteristics

- Size: varies in width and length but needs to be of sufficient width to protect and provide maximum use.
- Location: primarily along creeks and drainage ways: also along streets, railroad or utility corridors or other available public land.
- Function: provides a linear outdoor open space, linking neighborhoods, schools, recreational opportunities and, where possible, other functional areas of the community (museums, shopping centers, major employment centers, etc.).

Basic Concepts

- Greenbelt serves as both a linear park and a transportation corridor.
- Conserves important natural resource values and hydrologic functions of the community drainage system.
- Development usually includes hike and bike trails, horseback riding, as well as nodes for passive activities.
- Focal point of residential areas: gives character, shape and identity.
- Serves as a buffer between urban development and fragile natural environments; preserves habitat corridors.

Regional / Metropolitan Parks

The regional/metropolitan park generally serves the entire population of a community or region. The park is usually located in an area of unique natural beauty, is characterized by unusual cultural attributes, or has particularly good potential for improvements. Emphasis is placed on protection of the most fragile and highest quality landscapes to provide natural settings and the recreational needs of the region.

Function Characteristics

- Size: 200+ acres.
- Area served: entire metropolitan area, 1 hour driving time.
- Acres/1000 Population: 5-10 acres.
- Function: provides specialized recreational areas and facilities of a more regional nature, such as environmental study, hiking, major sports facilities, botanical gardens, etc. This type of park is generally characterized by outstanding natural beauty or unique environmental attributes.

Basic Concepts

- Type of recreational use is usually defined by natural resources attributes. Park may accommodate virtually any type of recreational activity.
- Revenue-generating activities are generally associated with this type of park.

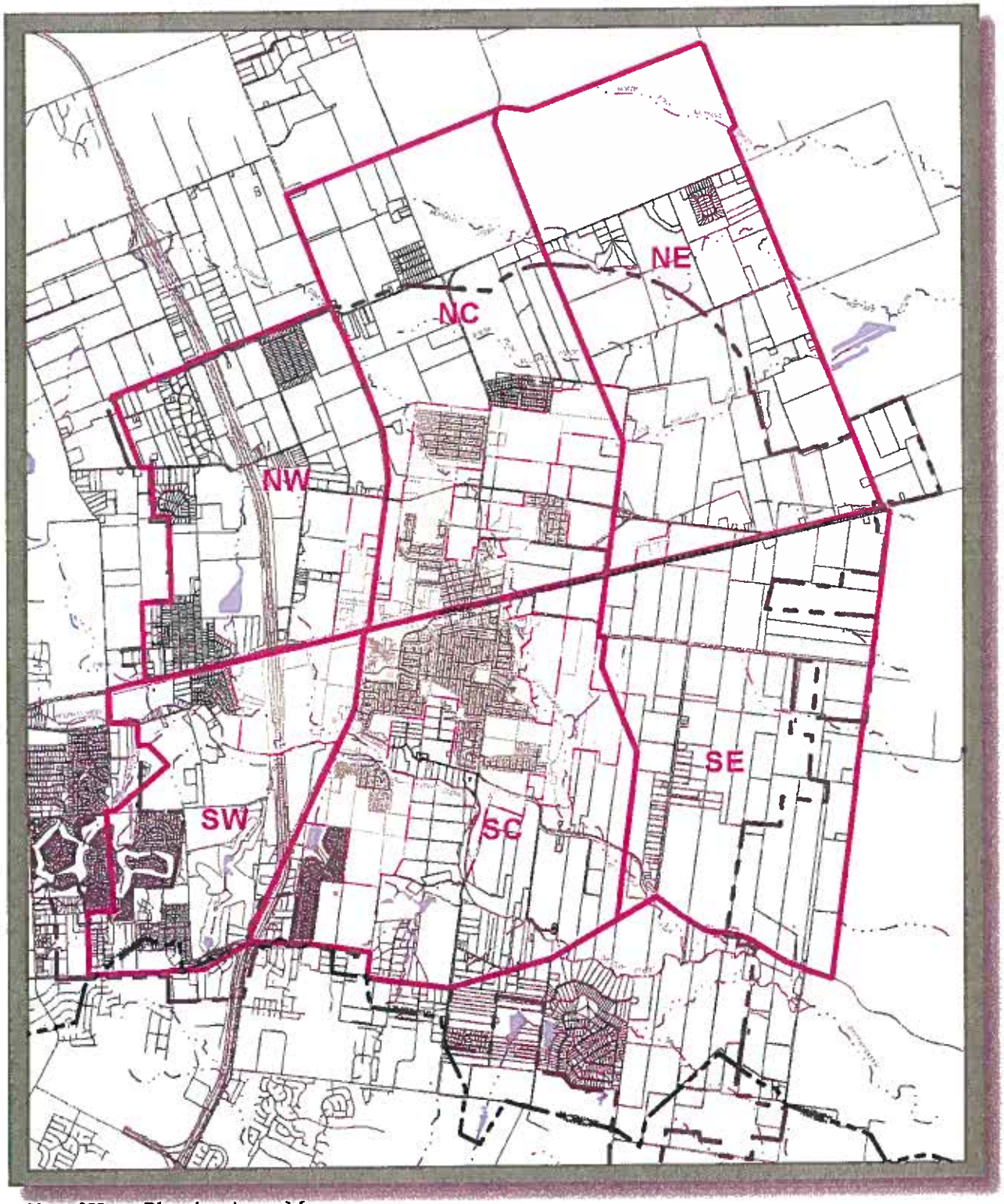
Special Use Parks

Special use parks provide a place for different types of recreation. Activities may be of a single type, such as a golf course, botanical garden, arena, zoo, outdoor theater, or marina. The focus may be on areas of natural, historic, cultural or archeological significance.

This category also includes more urban types of open spaces such as plazas or squares in commercial areas, or along major thoroughfares. These spaces provide informal public gathering spaces and typically provide amenities such as outdoor furnishings and planting.

Functional Characteristics
•Size: varies according to use
•Area served: community wide
•Location: around resource
•Function: provide public access to a unique recreational opportunity or areas of other significance

Basic Concepts
•Design of park should reflect park's basic function
•User fees may be appropriate for some activities
•Management of the resource should be geared to long term protection



City of Hutto Planning Areas Map

Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Inventory for the City of Hutto's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction	Owner	Planning Area	Acreage	Developed (D) or Undeveloped (U)	ACTIVE RECREATION ELEMENTS														STRUCTURES					PASSIVE / MISC. ELEMENTS						
					Baseball/Softball	Multi-purpose Practice Fields	Basketball	Soccer	Football	Tennis	Golf	Sand Volleyball	Indoor Gymnasiums	Swimming Pool	2-5 yr Playground	5-12 yr Playground	Swings	Hard Surface Trails	Soft Surface Trails	Restroom Building	Concession Building	Large Group Pavilion	Small Pavilion / Gazebo	Amenity Center / Restroom	Picnic Tables	Benches	Parking	Pond	Lake	Creek	Natural Areas
Neighborhood Parks																														
Country Estates Park 514 S. Pauley Drive	City of Hutto	SC	1.43	D			1								1	1	2						1		1	3					
Country Estates Pond 106 Elm Cove	City of Hutto	SC	5.77	U																								X			X
Rivers Crossing Park 413 Rio Grande Avenue	Rivers Crossing HOA	NC	3.71	U																								X			X
Legends Greenbelt Lone Star Court	Legends of Hutto HOA	SC	12.20	D		3																									X
Legends of Hutto Park Richards Drive @ Inman Drive	Legends of Hutto HOA	SC	1.13	D			0.5								1				X							4					
Meadows of Creekbend Park Meadow Lark Lane @ Decker Drive	Meadows of Creekbend HOA	SC	1.97	D				1								1		X				1				1					
Amenity Centers																															
Rivers Crossing Amenity Center Red River Drive @ CR 132	Rivers Crossing HOA	NC	2.19	D			1							X		1				1		1	1			1	X				
Hutto Parke Amenity Center 233 Sylvan Street	Hutto Parke HOA	NC	2.05	D		1	0.5					1		X	1	1	4		X					1	2	3	X			X	X
Hutto Towne Center Amenity Center 232 Hylton Street	Hutto Towne Center HOA	NC	2.92	D										X		1	4	X						1	1		X				
Creek Bend Amenity Center 1208 Carl Stern Drive	Creek Bend HOA	SC	2.41	D			1					1		X		1	4	X				1		1		4	X				
Glenwood Amenity Center Stewart Drive	Glenwood HOA	SC	4.10	D			1					1		X		1								1	2		X				
Riverwalk Amenity Center Riverwalk Drive	Riverwalk HOA	SC	1.79	D										X										1			X			X	X
Lakeside Estates Amenity Center 501 Little Lake Road	Lakeside Estates HOA	SC	0.61	D										X										1			X				
Community Parks																															
Fritz Park 309 E. Live Oak Street	City of Hutto	SC	33.03	D	1		1		1			2			1	1		X		1		1			8	4	X			X	X
Creekside Park Meadowside Drive @ Orchard Way	City of Hutto	SC	30.11	D		3										1		X		1					5	2	X			X	X
Hutto Lake Park Estate Drive @ Little Lake Road	City of Hutto	SC	39.49	U																									X		X
Linear Parks / Greenbelts																															
Brushy Creek Greenbelt - Riverwalk Riverwalk Drive and Ed Schmid Drive	City of Hutto	SC	18.29	U														X												X	X
Riverwalk Greenbelt Riverwalk Drive @ FM 685	Riverwalk HOA	SC	39.47	D														X										X			X
Special Use Parks																															
Hutto Youth Soccer Association Complex Riverwalk Drive @ FM 685	Private	SC	17.61	D				5																						X	X
Star Ranch Golf Course 2500 FM 685	Star Golf Partners Limited	SW	180.59	D							18											X		X			X	X	X	X	X
Schools																															
Hutto Elementary School 100 Mager Lane	Hutto ISD	NC	14.85	D	2								2		1	1	4										X			X	X
Cottonwood Creek Elementary School 3160 Limmer Lane	Hutto ISD	NC	22.04	D		1							2		1	1	4										X				
Nadine Johnson Elementary School 955 Carl Stern Drive	Hutto ISD	SC	15.20	D		1							2		1	1	4										X				
Hutto Middle School 1005 Exchange Boulevard	Hutto ISD	NC	27.49	D		1			1																		X				
Hutto High School 101 FM 685	Hutto ISD	SC	79.31	D	2	2			1	4			2														X				

Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Inventory Table for the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction.

Fritz Park

Address: 306 E. Live Oak Street

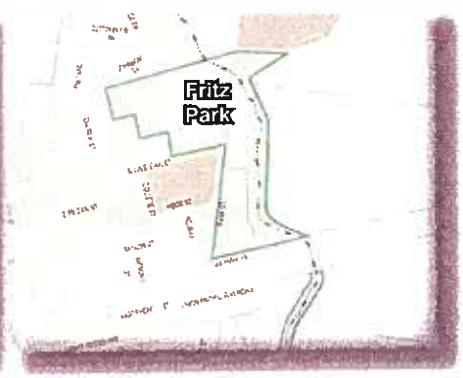
Acreage: 33.03 acres

Classification: Community Park - Public

Planning Area: Area NC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: City of Hutto



Playground
- (1) 2-5 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (1) 5-12 years of age appropriate play equipment

Building / Structures
- (1) Large Pavilion with Picnic Tables
- (1) Restroom Building
- (1) Parks and Recreation Office Building

Trails
- Cottonwood Creek Trail

Athletic Facilities
- (1) Lighted Ballfield (Park Street Field)
- (1) Lighted Football Field (Old Hippo Stadium)
- (1) Full Court Basketball Court
- (2) Sand Volleyball Courts

Benches and Picnic Tables
- (6) Picnic Tables
- (4) Benches

Parking Area
- Flexible Base Parking Lot

Special Features
- Small Pond lined with Limestone Rock and a wooden pedestrian bridge

Comments
- Recently acquired open play area will require improvements

Creekside Park

Address: 305 Orchard Way

Acreage: 30.11 acres

Classification: Community Park - Public

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: City of Hutto

Playground
- (1) 5-12 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (1) 2-5 years of age appropriate play equipment

Building / Structures
- (1) Restroom Building

Trails
- Concrete Trail
- Cottonwood Creek Trail

Athletic Facilities
- (3) Practice Ballfields

Benches and Picnic Tables
- (5) Picnic Tables
- (2) Benches

Parking Area
- Grass Parking Lot

Special Features
- Pedestrian Bridge is an old Williamson County Road Bridge

Comments
- Great connectivity to other parks with connection to the Cottonwood Creek Trail

Legends of Hutto Park

Address: Richards Drive at Inman Drive

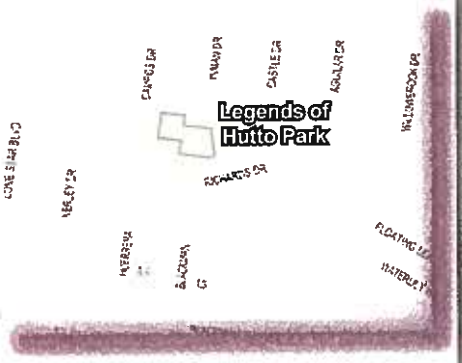
Acreage: 3.21 acres

Classification: Community Park - Public

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Legends of Hutto H.O.A.



Playground
- (1) 2-5 years of age appropriate play equipment

Building / Structures
- None

Trails
- Crushed Granite Trail

Athletic Facilities
- (1) Half Court Basketball Court

Benches and Picnic Tables
- (4) Benches

Parking Area
- On-Street Parking

Special Features
- None

Comments
- Constructed within a LPG pipeline easement

Country Estates Park

Address: 514 S. Pauley Drive

Acreage: 1.43 acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park - Public

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: City of Hutto

Playground
- (1) 2-5 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (1) 5-12 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (2) Bucket Swings

Building / Structures
- (1) Small Pavilion with Picnic Tables

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- (1) Full Court Basketball Court

Benches and Picnic Tables
- (1) Picnic Table
- (3) Benches

Parking Area
- On-Street Parking

Special Features
- None

Comments
- Park was built by Centex Homes and donated to the City of Hutto
- ADA accessibility to park elements should be addressed

Country Estates Pond

Address: 106 Erin Cove

Acreage: 5.77 acres

Classification: Open Space - Public

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Undeveloped

Owner: City of Hutto

Playground
- None

Building / Structures
- None

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- None

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- On-Street Parking

Special Features
- Pond and Wetland Vegetation

Comments
- Potential to build trail around pond with site amenities

Brushy Creek Greenbelt - Enclave at Brushy Creek Section

Address: FM 685 and Riverwalk Drive

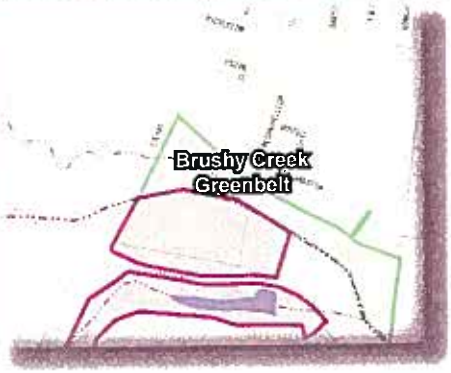
Acreage: 18.29 acres

Classification: Linear Park / Greenbelt - Public

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Partially Developed

Owner: City of Hutto



Playground
- None

Building / Structures
- None

Trails
- Partial Concrete Trail

Athletic Facilities
- None

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- On-Street Parking

Special Features
- Brushy Creek
- Pedestrian Bridge across Brushy Creek

Comments
- The Pedestrian Bridge is also a Utility Crossing
- Current access is from Riverwalk Drive

Hutto Lake Park

Address: Estate Drive at Little Lake Road

Acreage: 39.49 acres

Classification: Community Park - Public

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Undeveloped

Owner: City of Hutto

Playground
- None

Building / Structures
- None

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- None

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- None

Special Features
- Lake

Comments
- W.C.I.D. Dam #20

Rivers Crossing Park

Address: 413 Rio Grande Avenue

Acreage: 3.71 acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park - Private

Planning Area: Area NC

Developed/Undeveloped: Undeveloped

Owner: Rivers Crossing HOA

Playground
- None

Building / Structures
- None

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- None

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- On-street Parking

Special Features
- Pond

Comments
- Potential to build trail around pond with site amenities

Rivers Crossing Amenity Center

Address: Red River Drive at CR 132

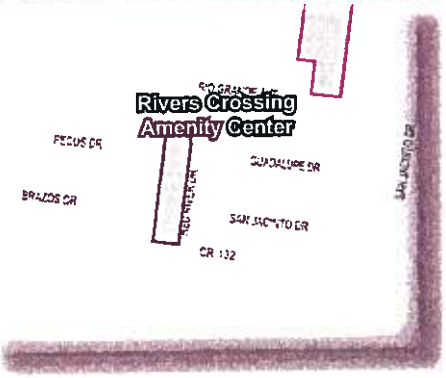
Acreage: 2.19 acres

Classification: Amenity Center - Private

Planning Area: Area NC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Rivers Crossing HOA



Playground
- (1) 5-12 years of age appropriate play equipment

Building / Structures
- (1) Large Pavilion with Picnic Tables
- (1) Small Gazebo
- (1) Restroom Building

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- (1) Full Court Basketball Court

Benches and Picnic Tables
- (1) Bench

Parking Area
- Concrete Parking Spaces
- On-street Parking

Special Features
- Pool

Comments
- None

Hutto Parke Amenity Center

Address: 233 Sylvan Street

Acreage: 2.05 acres

Classification: Amenity Center - Private

Planning Area: Area NC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Hutto Parke HOA

Playground
- (1) 2-5 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (1) 5-12 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (2) Bucket Swings
- (2) Belt Swings

Building / Structures
- (1) Restroom/Dressing Building

Trails
- Decomposed Granite Trail

Athletic Facilities
- (1) Half Court Basketball Court
- (1) Sand Volleyball Court
- (1) Practice Ballfield

Benches and Picnic Tables
- (3) Benches
- (2) Picnic Tables

Parking Area
- Asphalt Parking Lot

Special Features
- Pool

Comments
- Nice amenity center with diverse recreational elements.
- Pool is too close to adjacent house.

Hutto Towne Center Amenity Center

Address: 232 Hyltin Street

Acreage: 2.92 acres

Classification: Amenity Center - Private

Planning Area: Area NC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Hutto Towne Center HOA

Playground
- (1) 5-12 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (2) Bucket Swings
- (2) Belt Swings

Building / Structures
- (1) Restroom/Dressing Building

Trails
- Concrete Trail

Athletic Facilities
- None

Benches and Picnic Tables
- (1) Picnic Table

Parking Area
- Asphalt Parking Lot

Special Features
- Pool

Comments
- None

Legends Greenbelt

Address: Lone Star Court at Carl Stern Drive

Acreage: 12.20 acres

Classification: Open Space - Private

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Legends of Hutto HOA

Playground
- None

Building / Structures
- None

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- (2) Practice Ballfields
- (1) Practice Soccer Field

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- On-street Parking

Special Features
- None

Comments
- Detention Area

Creek Bend Amenity Center

Address: 1208 Carl Stern Drive

Acreage: 2.41 acres

Classification: Amenity Center - Private

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Creek Bend HOA

Playground
- (1) 5-12 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (2) Bucket Swings
- (2) Belt Swings

Building / Structures
- (1) Restroom/Dressing Building
- (1) Large Pavilion with Picnic Tables

Trails
- Concrete Trail

Athletic Facilities
- (1) Full Court Basketball Court
- (1) Sand Volleyball Court

Benches and Picnic Tables
- (4) Benches

Parking Area
- Asphalt Parking Lot

Special Features
- Pool

Comments
- None

Meadows of Creekbend Park

Address: Meadow Lark Lane at Decker Drive

Acreage: 1.97 acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park - Private

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Meadows of Creekbend HOA

Playground
- (1) 5-12 years of age appropriate play equipment

Building / Structures
- (1) Large Pavilion with Picnic Tables

Trails
- Concrete Sidewalk

Athletic Facilities
- (1) Practice Soccer Field

Benches and Picnic Tables
- (1) Bench

Parking Area
- On-street Parking

Special Features
- None

Comments
- Soccer field in great condition.

Glenwood Amenity Center

Address: Stewart Drive

Acreage: 4.10 acres

Classification: Amenity Center - Private

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Glenwood HOA

Playground
- (1) 5-12 years of age appropriate play equipment

Building / Structures
- (1) Restroom/Dressing Building

Trails
- None

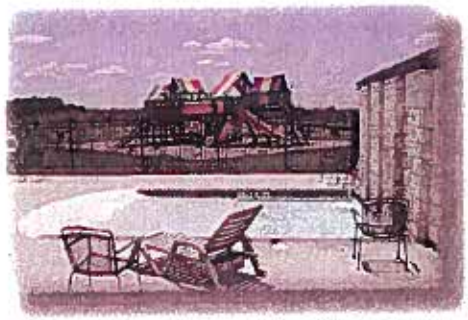
Athletic Facilities
- (1) Full Court Basketball Court
- (1) Sand Volleyball Court

Benches and Picnic Tables
- (2) Picnic Tables

Parking Area
- Asphalt Parking Lot

Special Features
- Pool

Comments
- ADA accessibility to park elements should be addressed.
- Adjoining City of Hutto public splash-pad (10 and under) to be completed for summer 2007 with restroom and shade structure.



Riverwalk Amenity Center

Address: Riverwalk Drive

Acreage: 1.76 acres

Classification: Amenity Center - Private

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Riverwalk HOA

Playground
- None

Building / Structures
- (1) Restroom/Dressing Building

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- None

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- Asphalt Parking Lot

Special Features
- Pool

Comments
- Nice pool and amenity center architecture.

Riverwalk Greenbelt

Address: Riverwalk Drive at FM 685

Acreage: 39.47 acres

Classification: Linear Park / Greenbelt - Private

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Riverwalk HOA

Playground
- None

Building / Structures
- None

Trails
- Concrete Trail

Athletic Facilities
- None

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- On-street Parking

Special Features
- Large Pond

Comments
- Nice use of retention pond and vegetation.

Lakeside Estates Amenity Center

Address: 501 Little Lake Road

Acreage: 0.61 acres

Classification: Amenity Center - Private

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Lakeside Estates HOA

Playground
- None

Building / Structures
- (1) Restroom/Dressing Building

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- None

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- Asphalt Parking Lot

Special Features
- Pool

Comments
- None

Hutto Youth Soccer Association Complex

Address: Riverwalk Drive at FM 685

Acreage: 18.88 acres

Classification: Special Use Park - Private

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: ***Developer Owned***

Playground
- None

Building / Structures
- None

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- 5 Soccer Fields (8 and under)
- 2 of the Fields Are Lighted

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- On-street Parking

Special Features
- None

Comments
- Adjacent to Brushy Creek Greenbelt

Star Ranch Golf Course

Address: 2500 FM 685

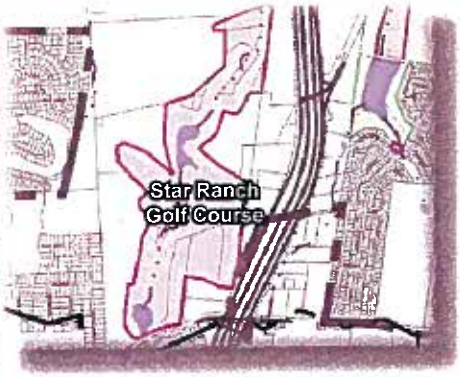
Acreage: 180.59 acres

Classification: Special Use Park - Private

Planning Area: Area SW

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Star Golf Partners Limited



Playground
- None

Building / Structures
- (1) Clubhouse
- (1) Event Pavilion

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- (18) Golf Holes
- (1) Driving Range

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- Asphalt Parking Lot

Special Features
- (2) Irrigation Ponds/Lakes

Comments
- Public Daily-Fee Golf Course

Hutto Elementary School

Address: 100 Mager Lane

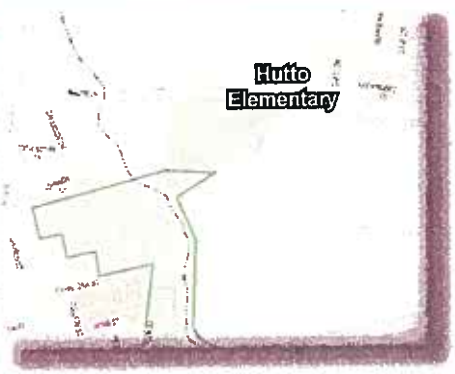
Acreage: 14.65 acres

Classification: School

Planning Area: Area NC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Hutto ISD/City of Hutto



Playground
- (1) 2-5 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (1) 5-12 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (2) Bucket Swings
- (2) Belt Swings

Building / Structures
- Indoor Gymnasium/Full Court Basketball, Goals Adjust to Height 8 1/2'

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- (1) Lighted Softball Field
- (1) Lighted Baseball Field

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- Asphalt Parking Lot

Special Features
- None

Comments
- Adjacent to Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt and Fritz Park via Pedestrian Bridge
- City of Hutto Own and Maintain Ball Fields

Cottonwood Creek Elementary School

Address: 3160 Limmer Lane

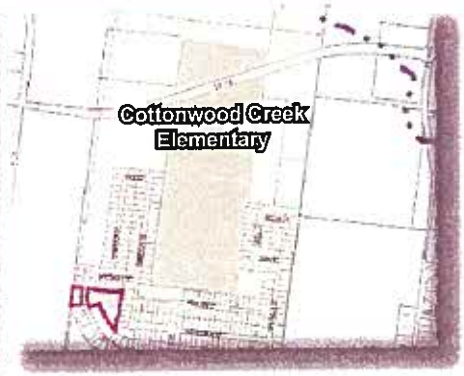
Acreage: 22.04 acres

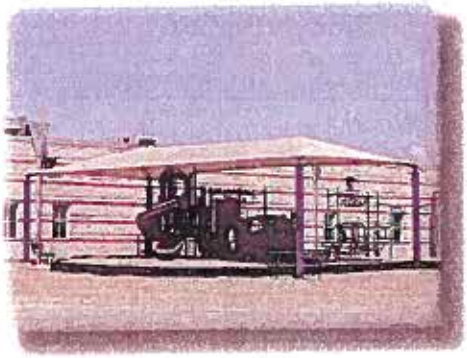
Classification: School

Planning Area: Area NC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Hutto ISD





Playground
- (1) 2-5 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (1) 5-12 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (2) Bucket Swings
- (2) Belt Swings

Building / Structures
- Indoor Gymnasium (Sport Court Surface)

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- (1) Practice Ballfield (Shared with Hutto Middle School)

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- Asphalt Parking Lot

Special Features
- None

Comments
- Adjacent to Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt and Hutto Middle School

Nadine Johnson Elementary School

Address: 955 Carl Stern Drive

Acreage: 15.20 acres

Classification: School

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Hutto ISD

Playground
- (1) 2-5 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (1) 5-12 years of age appropriate play equipment
- (2) Bucket Swings
- (2) Belt Swings

Building / Structures
- Indoor Gymnasium (Sport Court Surface)

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- (1) Practice Ballfield

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- Asphalt Parking Lot

Special Features
- None

Comments
- Adjacent to Cottonwood Trail Phase II and Hutto High School

Hutto Middle School

Address: 1005 Exchange Boulevard

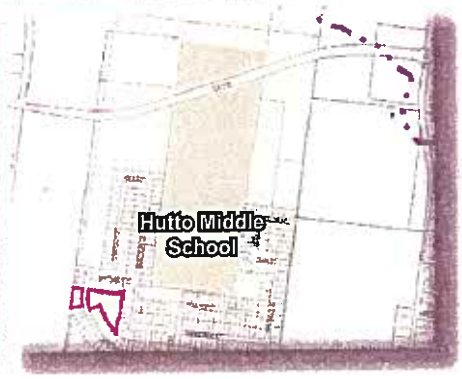
Acreage: 27.49 acres

Classification: School

Planning Area: Area NC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Hutto ISD



Playground
- None

Building / Structures
- Indoor Gymnasium
- 2 Adjacent Full Courts

Trails
- None

Athletic Facilities
- (1) Practice Ballfield
- (1) Football Field

Benches and Picnic Tables
- Benches in Front of School

Parking Area
- Asphalt Parking Lot

Special Features
- None

Comments
- Adjacent to Cottonwood Creek Elementary

Hutto High School

Address: 101 FM 685

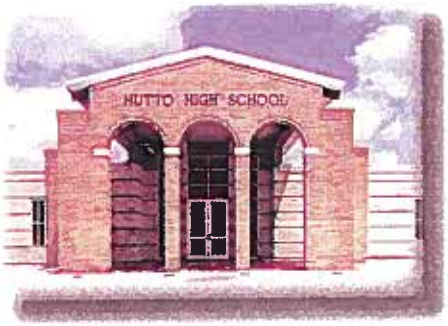
Acreage: 79.31 acres

Classification: School

Planning Area: Area SC

Developed/Undeveloped: Developed

Owner: Hutto ISD



Playground
- None

Building / Structures
- Indoor Gymnasium
- 2 Separate Full Courts

Trails
- None

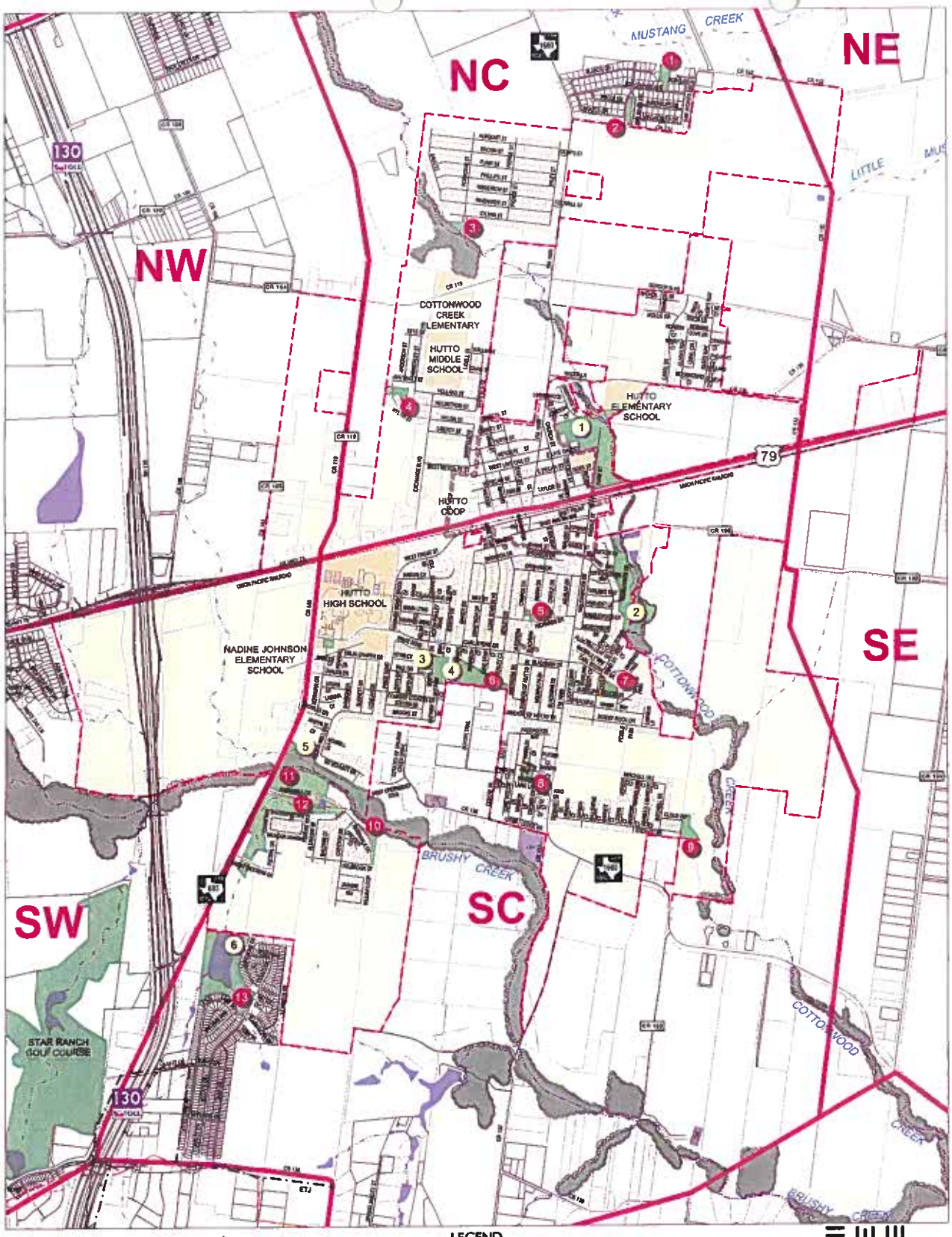
Athletic Facilities
- (2) Practice Football Fields
- (1) Lighted Football Field with Track
- (1) Lighted Baseball Field
- (1) Lighted Softball Field
- (4) Lighted Tennis Courts

Benches and Picnic Tables
- None

Parking Area
- Asphalt Parking Lot

Special Features
- None

Comments
- Adjacent to Nadine Johnson Elementary
- Performing Arts Center under construction



LEGEND

Existing Parks

0 Public Parks

0 Private Parks (AC-Amenity Center)

1 Fritz Park
2 Creekside Park
3 Country Estates Park
4 Country Estates Pond
5 Brushy Creek Greenbelt
6 Hutto Lake
1 Rivers Crossing Park
2 Rivers Crossing AC
3 Hutto Parke AC
4 Hutto Towne Center AC
5 Legends of Hutto Park
6 Legends Greenbelt
7 Creek Bend AC
8 Meadows at Creekbend
9 Glenwood AC
10 Riverwalk AC
11 Hutto Y.S.A. Complex
12 Riverwalk Greenbelt
13 Lakeside Estates AC

Hutto City Limits
Hutto E.T.J.
Hutto Historic Overlay District
County Boundary
H.I.S.D. Boundary
Schools
Existing Parks
Hutto Growth Area
Water Bodies
Creek
Cemetery
Existing Vegetation

NORTH 0 1000 2000 4000 FEET

PARK MASTER PLAN
HUTTO, TEXAS

EXISTING PARKS MAP

4 CITIZEN INPUT

To assess the public needs and demands for recreational programs and facilities and their related priorities. The input process utilized a series of focus groups, public forums and a public survey mail-out to begin a more accurate assessment of public response.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public input into the planning process was obtained early to identify park and recreation preferences and needs, and to identify issues and trends. A three pronged approach using mailed questionnaires, a series of focus group meetings, and an open forum for discussion was used to ensure inclusion of all those who wished to express their views. Information gathered became the basis for establishing goals, objectives, and priorities for the plan.

A city-wide survey was sent to the 3785 Hutto utility customers. It was directed towards assessing the current park and recreational needs and desires of the community. A total of 132 questionnaires were returned-a response rate of 3.5%. Secondarily, it was to assess any current concerns over existing facilities and related programs. (A copy of the questionnaire follows.)

Focus group meetings were held over a two month time span with the following groups:

- Hutto Citizens Group (September 6, 2006)
- Hutto Youth Football, Youth Baseball/Softball, and Youth Soccer Associations (September 9, 2006)
- Hutto Parks Advisory Board (September 13, 2006)
- Hutto City Council (October 14, 2006)
- Hutto Independent School District Administration (October 14, 2006)

Public Hearings were held throughout the process which included:

- Movies in the Park (August 10, 2006)
- Hutto Parks Advisory Board (September 13, 2006)
- Hutto City Council (January 4, 2006)
- Hutto Parks Advisory Board (December 13, 2006)
- City Council Adoption (January 22, 2007)

QUESTIONNAIRE

City of Hutto Parks & Recreation Department's

Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trail Master Plan Update
Community Survey

The City of Hutto is currently updating the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Your input will significantly help shape the future of parks and recreation facilities within your community. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and return it to us by September 15, 2006. Feel free to bring by the Parks & Recreation Department at 306 E. Live Oak or drop it in the City Hall Water Billing Drop Box at 401 W. Front Street.

Citizens of the City of Hutto formed the Parks Advisory Board in 1995 and completed a survey in 1996 that led to the 1999-2009 Parks Master Plan. This plan aided the City of Hutto with the award from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Grant Program to create the City's first official park. Other land acquisition, facility development and projects on the horizon include:

- 2003 Pedestrian Mobility Study identifying a plan for future trails, bicycle paths and pedestrian sidewalks.
- 2003 Cottonwood Trail - Phase II (TEA-21 Grant Project Awarded and currently under review)
- 2004 Fritz Park Project (TPWD, LCRA and City of Hutto joint Grant Project completed)
- 2005 Acquisition of the parking lot area next to Fritz Park, Old Hippo Football Field Stadium, the ball field on Park St. and additional youth ball fields from Hutto ISD
- 2006 Williamson County Pedestrian Bridge Project for Fritz Park over Cottonwood Creek
- 2006 Interlocal Agreement for the development of acreage for athletic fields
- 2006 Acquisition of parkland for future development (Area also known as "Hutto Lake")
- 2006 TX Dot Grant Submission with five entities for a trail project along Brushy Creek and SH130 to connect Hutto to two regional parks.

SURVEY

Please complete the information below as it is used for targeting needs, wants, desires and deficiencies of services and/or facilities in specific areas of Hutto. If you would like to be included in future information regarding Hutto Parks & Recreation programs, projects or information, please complete optional items.

ADDRESS: _____ **SUBDIVISION:** _____

NAME (Optional): _____

PHONE (Optional): _____

EMAIL (Optional): _____

Directions: Please fill in the circle with a solid mark for your responses. Thank you.

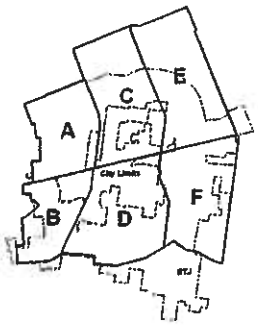
Like this: ● Not like this: ✓ X /

1. Do you live within the City Limits of Hutto?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

2. In what Growth Area do you live?

- ○ A Northwest (North of Hwy 79 and West of CR 199)
- ○ B Southwest (South of Hwy 79 and West of FM 685)
- ○ C North Central (North of Hwy 79, East of CR 199, and West of CR 132 & 133)
- ○ D South Central (South of Hwy 79, East of FM 685, and West of CR 132 & 134)
- ○ E Northeast (North of Hwy 79 and East of CR 132 & 133)
- ○ F Southeast (South of Hwy 79 and East of CR 132 & 134)



3. Do you currently use any of the Hutto park facilities?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

4. How would you describe your household?

- ○ Single, living alone
- ○ Single parent with children
- ○ Single with roommate
- ○ Empty nester couple with grown children
- ○ Couple with no children
- ○ Couple with children
- ○ Multi-generational family living together

5. What is your age?

- ○ 15 years old and under
- ○ 16-22 years old
- ○ 23-35 years old
- ○ 36-50 years old
- ○ 51-64 years old
- ○ 65 years old and older

6. Do you have children in your household and how old are they?
(Check multiple age groups if they apply.)

- O no children
- O 0-3 years old
- O 4-6 years old
- O 7-10 years old
- O 11-14 years old
- O 15-18 years old

7. Are you a participant, member, or supporter of any of the following organizations?

- O HYFCA (Hutto Youth Football and Cheer Association)
- O HYSA (Hutto Youth Soccer Association)
- O HYBSL (Hutto Youth Baseball and Softball League)

8. If not already participating in these youth associations, which organization(s) would you be interested in?

- O HYFCA (Hutto Youth Football and Cheer Association)
- O HYSA (Hutto Youth Soccer Association)
- O HYBSL (Hutto Youth Baseball and Softball League)
- O (Other) _____

9. If yes, how often do you use the following park facilities?

	Fritz Park	**1-3 Times/Month**	**4-6 Times/Month**	**More than 7 Times/Month**
1.	Picnic Pavilion	O	O	O
2.	Picnic Areas	O	O	O
3.	Sand Volleyball Court	O	O	O
4.	Horseshoe	O	O	O
5.	Playscape	O	O	O
6.	Walking Trail	O	O	O
7.	Reflection Pond	O	O	O
8.	Old Hippo Stadium	O	O	O
9.	Baseball/Softball	O	O	O

	Creekside Park (South Park)	**1-3 Times/Month**	**4-6 Times/Month**	**More than 7 Times/Month**
1.	Picnic Area	O	O	O
2.	Practice Fields/Baseball	O	O	O
3.	Practice Fields/Softball	O	O	O
4.	Open Play Area	O	O	O
5.	Playground	O	O	O
6.	Walking Trail	O	O	O

	Country Estates Park	**1-3 Times/Month**	**4-6 Times/Month**	**More than 7 Times/Month**
1.	Small Pavilion	O	O	O
2.	Picnic Areas	O	O	O
3.	Playscape	O	O	O
4.	Tot Playgrounds w/ swings	O	O	O
5.	Mini-Basketball Court	O	O	O
6.	Walking Trail	O	O	O

10. If Hutto had safe pedestrian/bicycle routes connecting neighborhoods, schools, recreation and civic uses, would you use them instead of driving?

Yes	**No**
O	O

11. Would you be willing to participate or volunteer with any of the following opportunities?

		Yes	No
1.	Special Events	O	O
2.	Building Projects	O	O
3.	Social Events	O	O
4.	Advisory Board	O	O
5.	Environmental	O	O
6.	I would like to be contacted for opportunities	O	O
7.	Other _____	O	O

12. Please review the following suggested passive recreational facilities and, Step 1: select 10 priority items based on the importance and need for each facility; then, Step 2: rank these 10 choices using 1 as the highest priority item and 10 as the lowest priority item:

	Passive Recreation	Step 1: Select 10 items only	Step 2: Rank selected items only, 1-10									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Community/Recreation Center	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
2.	Amphitheatres	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
3.	Arena (equestrian, livestock shows, etc.)	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
4.	Senior Center	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
5.	Chess/Checkers/Backgammon Tables	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
6.	Shuffleboard Courts	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
7.	Indoor Water Fitness	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
8.	Outdoor Recreation Swimming	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
9.	Water Play Park	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
10.	Restrooms/Drinking Fountains	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
11.	Nature Center for classes	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
12.	Outdoor Classroom (nature studies, recitals, etc.)	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
13.	Picnic areas/tables/grills	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
14.	Picnic shelters	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
15.	Walking Trails	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
16.	Fitness Training	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
17.	Bike Trails	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
18.	Jogging Trails	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
19.	Equestrian Trails	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
20.	Off Road Trails/ Motorcycles	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
21.	Nature Trails	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
22.	Open Play Area (kite flying, kickball, etc.)	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
23.	Linear Parks that run along creeks	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
24.	Public Beach on Lake	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
25.	Natural Areas (undisturbed)	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
26.	Botanical Garden	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
27.	Community Garden (plot for use by residents)	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
28.	Bird Watching	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
29.	Goldfish Pond	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
30.	Fishing	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
31.	Camping areas	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
32.	RV Sites	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
33.	Disc Golf Course	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
34.	Golf Course	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
35.	Dog Park	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
36.	Other:_____	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

13. Please review the following suggested active recreational facilities and, Step 1: select 10 priority items based on the importance and need for each facility; then, Step 2: rank these 10 choices using 1 as the highest priority item and 10 as the lowest priority item:

	Active Recreation	Step 1: Select 10 items only	Step 2: Rank selected items only, 1-10									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Youth baseball fields	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
2.	Youth softball fields	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
3.	Adult softball fields	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
4.	Practice Ball fields	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
5.	Indoor basketball courts	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
6.	Outdoor basketball courts	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
7.	Indoor Gymnastics	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
8.	Youth soccer	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
9.	Adult soccer	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
10.	Public Tennis courts	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
11.	Football Fields	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
12.	Sand Volleyball Courts	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
13.	Rollerblade/Hockey Areas	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
14.	Skate Parks	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
15.	Putting green	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
16.	Badminton	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
17.	Horseshoes/Washer Pits	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
18.	Playgrounds	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
19.	Jump rope court	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
20.	Water Skiing	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
21.	Canoeing	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
22.	Other:_____	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

14. How well are these existing facilities meeting your recreational needs?

	Facility	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
1.	Baseball Fields	O	O	O	O	O
2.	Horseshoe Pits	O	O	O	O	O
3.	Open Play Areas	O	O	O	O	O
4.	Pavilions	O	O	O	O	O
5.	Picnic Areas	O	O	O	O	O
6.	Playscapes	O	O	O	O	O
7.	Softball Fields	O	O	O	O	O
8.	Sand Volleyball Courts	O	O	O	O	O
9.	Basketball Courts	O	O	O	O	O
10.	Walking Trails	O	O	O	O	O
11.	Multi-purpose practice field	O	O	O	O	O

15. Do you feel that Hutto's quality of life is enhanced by park facilities, open space and recreation programs?

Yes	No
O	O

16. Are you willing to support an increase in funding to enhance and expand Hutto's park and recreational opportunities?

Yes	No
O	O

17. If yes, please identify at least two, if not more, of the following funding methods:

- O property tax increase
- O voter bond
- O user fees
- O sales tax
- O impact fees

Comments/Suggestions:_____

_____

4

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the community survey analysis are shown on the following pages. The highlights are meant to give a quick look at the results from the community survey and are not meant to show the entire breakdown and analysis of the results. (The complete statistical analysis is located after the highlights.)

BREAKDOWN OF RESPONDENTS

As described earlier, the City of Hutto was broken into six planning areas. The majority of the responses (86%) came from residents in Planning Areas C & D. This is proportionate to where the majority of Hutto's residents currently live. Of those responding, 84% stated that they lived within the city limits of Hutto. A little over half of the respondents described their household as a couple with children while 6% described their household as single with children. The results also showed that 230 children are living in those 75 households with children. With some duplication factored in, this equates to 2.75-3 children between the ages of 0 and 18 per household. The age of the majority of respondents (77%) was between 23 and 50 years old. This is a little higher than the 2000 census showed, but might better reflect the community age make-up of the City now.

Responses by Planning Area	
A - Northwest	2 %
B - Southwest	6 %
C - North Central	24 %
D - South Central	62 %
E - Northeast	4 %
F - Southeast	2 %

Responses by Age:	
Under 15 yrs. old	0 %
16 - 23 yrs. old	1 %
23 - 35 yrs. old	48 %
36 - 50 yrs. old	29 %
51 - 64 yrs. old	15 %
65 yrs. old and over	7 %

CURRENT PARK USERS

The survey shows that currently 51% of the citizens who responded use Hutto park facilities. The majority of the respondents currently use park facilities between 1-3 times per month. The pavilions and playgrounds at three of the City's parks (Fritz Park, Creekside Park, and Country Estates Park) are the main facilities being used 1-3 times per month. Walking trails and practice fields at Fritz Park and Creekside Park are the main facilities being used between 4-6 times per month. This shows a moderate to high use of the existing park facilities in Hutto with the most use of trails and practice facilities.

PASSIVE RECREATION PRIORITIES

The passive recreation facilities most desired by the respondents were trails, a community/recreation center, and an outdoor recreation swimming facility. Of these most desired facilities, a community/recreation center received the most number of "highest priority" votes. The next tier of desired facilities included a water play park and bike trails, followed by indoor water fitness, restrooms/drinking fountains, nature trails, jogging trails, and picnic areas. Noteworthy is the fact that of the top ten passive recreation facilities, 4 were trail facilities and 3 were aquatic facilities.

Priority of Top Ten Passive Recreation Facilities			
1. Walking Trails	67 %	6. Indoor Water Fitness	45 %
2. Community Rec. Center*	66 %	7. Restroom/Drinking Fountain	44 %
3. Outdoor Rec. Swimming	63 %	8. Nature Trails	42 %
T4. Water Play Park	53 %	9. Jogging Trails	40 %
T4. Bike Trails	53 %	10. Picnic Areas	38 %

* Received Highest Number of "Highest Priority" Votes

ACTIVE RECREATION PRIORITIES

The active recreation facilities most desired by the respondents were playgrounds, youth baseball, youth soccer, and tennis. Playgrounds were overwhelmingly the highest priority active recreation facility requested by respondents. The next tier of desired facilities included outdoor basketball, youth softball, and practice fields, followed by football fields, canoeing, and sand volleyball. The majority of the most desired active recreation facilities relates directly to the youth sports organizations that are rapidly growing and in need of additional facilities.

Priority of Top Ten Active Recreation Facilities			
1. Playgrounds*	71 %	6. Youth Softball Fields	46 %
T2. Youth Baseball	55 %	7. Practice Ball Fields	45 %
T2. Public Tennis	55 %	T8. Football Fields	43 %
T2. Youth Soccer	55 %	T8. Canoeing	43 %
5. Outdoor Basketball	48 %	T10. Indoor Basketball Courts	42 %
		T10. Sand Volleyball Courts	42 %

* Received Highest Number of "Highest Priority" Votes

EXISTING FACILITIES

The respondents were asked to rate how well Hutto's existing facilities were meeting their recreational needs. The majority of the facilities were rated as fair or good in meeting the needs of the respondents. The one facility that received a large percentage of excellent rating was pavilions. This speaks to the quantity and quality of the pavilions in the Hutto. A few facilities received a high percentage of poor or very poor ratings. These include walking trails, softball fields, basketball courts, and practice fields. All of these items were rated as high priority needs in questions 12 & 13.

QUALITY OF LIFE AND PARK FUNDING

An overwhelming 94% of respondents stated that the quality of life in Hutto was enhanced by park facilities, open space, and recreation programs. This fact should be re-iterated to city staff throughout the strategic planning process each year. **Parks, open space, and recreation programs are very important to the citizens of Hutto.** When asked about funding, 73% said that they would support an increase in funding for parks and recreational opportunities in Hutto. The majority of respondents would prefer the increase in funding to come from voter bonds, user fees, and sales tax, rather than from property tax or impact fees.

Quality of Life Enhanced:	
Yes	94 %
No	6 %

Increase Funding By:	
Property Tax Increase	12 %
Voter Bond	45 %
User Fees	44 %
Sales Tax	36 %
Impact Fees	15 %

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

City of Hutto Parks & Recreation Department's

Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan Update

Community Survey

CUMULATIVE RESULTS

1. Do you live within the City Limits of Hutto?

Yes	84%
No	16%

2. In what Growth Area do you live?

A - Northwest	2%
B - Southwest	6%
C - North Central	24%
D - South Central	62%
E - Northeast	4%
F - Southeast	2%

3. Do you currently use any of the Hutto park facilities?

Yes	51%
No	49%

4. How would you describe your household?

Single, living alone	3%
Single Parent with Children	6%
Single with Roommate	1%
Empty Nester Couple	11%
Couple with No Children	14%
Couple with Children	51%
Multi-generational Family	4%

5. What is your age?

15 years old and under	0%
16 - 22 years old	1%
23 - 35 years old	48%
36 - 50 years old	29%
51 - 64 years old	15%
65 years old and over	7%

6. Do you have children in your household and how old are they? (Check multiple age groups if they apply.)

No Children	54 or 41%
0 - 3 years old	61 or 46%
4 - 6 years old	51 or 39%
7 - 10 years old	42 or 32%
11-14 years old	34 or 26%
15-18 years old	42 or 32%

7. Are you a participant, member, or supporter of the following organizations?

HYFCA (Hutto Youth Football and Cheer Assoc.)	20 or 15%
HYSA (Hutto Youth Soccer Association)	11 or 8%
HYBSL (Hutto Youth Baseball and Softball League)	12 or 9%

8. If not already participating in these youth associations, which organization(s) would you be interested in?

HYFCA (Hutto Youth Football and Cheer Assoc.)	33 or 25%
HYSA (Hutto Youth Soccer Association)	17 or 13%
HYBSL (Hutto Youth Baseball and Softball League)	22 or 17%

9. How often do you use the following park facilities?

Fritz Park	**1-3 Times/Month**	**4-6 Times/Month**	**7+ Times/Month**
1. Picnic Pavilion	24 or 18%	1 or 0.7%	1 or 0.7%
2. Picnic Areas	18 or 14%	2 or 1.5%	0 or 0%
3. Sand Volleyball	8 or 6%	2 or 1.5%	0 or 0%
4. Horseshoe	4 or 3%	0 or 0%	0 or 0%
5. Playscape	25 or 19%	6 or 4.5%	2 or 1.5%
6. Walking Trail	12 or 9%	9 or 7%	7 or 5%
7. Reflection Pond	15 or 11%	7 or 5%	2 or 1.5%
8. Old Hippo Stadium	6 or 4.5%	6 or 4.5%	2 or 1.5%
9. Baseball/Softball	5 or 4%	3 or 2%	4 or 3%

Creekside Park	**1-3 Times/Month**	**4-6 Times/Month**	**7+ Times/Month**
1. Picnic Area	6 or 4.5%	1 or 0.7%	0 or 0%
2. Practice Baseball	3 or 2%	1 or 0.7%	3 or 2%
3. Practice Softball	2 or 1.5%	0 or 0%	3 or 2%
4. Open Play Area	3 or 2%	3 or 2%	3 or 2%
5. Playground	4 or 3%	3 or 2%	4 or 3%
6. Walking Trail	1 or 0.7%	5 or 4%	6 or 4.5%

Country Estates Park	1-3 Times/Month	4-6 Times/Month	7+ Times/Month
1. Small Pavilion	8 or 6%	0 or 0%	0 or 0%
2. Picnic Areas	5 or 4%	0 or 0%	0 or 0%
3. Playscape	12 or 9%	5 or 4%	5 or 4%
4. Tot Playground	6 or 4.5%	3 or 2%	4 or 3%
5. Mini-Basketball	5 or 4%	2 or 1.5%	1 or 0.7%
6. Walking Trail	1 or 0.7%	2 or 1.5%	3 or 2%

10. If Hutto had safe pedestrian/bicycle routes connecting neighborhoods, schools, recreation and civic uses, would you use them instead of driving?

Yes	81%
No	19%

11. Would you be willing to participate or volunteer with any of the following opportunities?

	Yes	No
1. Special Events	61%	39%
2. Building Projects	35%	65%
3. Social Events	54%	46%
4. Advisory Board	49%	51%
5. Environmental	46%	54%
6. I would like to be contacted for opportunities	55%	45%

12. Please review the following suggested passive recreational facilities and prioritize the items based on importance and need?

Rank	Recreational Facility	% Total Votes	Highest Priority Votes
1	Walking Trails	67%	14
2	Community/Rec Center	66%	31
3	Outdoor Recreation Swimming	63%	19
T4	Water Play Park	53%	18
T4	Bike Trails	53%	9
6	Indoor Water Fitness	45%	12
7	Restroom/Drinking Fountain	44%	14
8	Nature Trails	42%	7
9	Jogging Trails	40%	9
10	Picnic Areas/Tables/Grills	38%	4
11	Fishing	36%	8
T12	Picnic Shelters	32%	4
T12	Linear Parks along Creeks	32%	3
14	Public Beach on Lake	31%	4

(Question 12 Continued)

Rank	Recreational Facility	% Total Votes	Highest Priority Votes
15	Dog Park	28%	6
T16	Fitness Training	27%	3
T16	Senior Center	27%	11
18	Open Play Area	26%	1
19	Natural Areas (undisturbed)	23%	7
20	Botanical Gardens	20%	3
21	Camping Areas	18%	2
22	Golf Course	17%	3
23	Nature Center for Classes	16%	1
24	Amphitheater	14%	1
T25	Outdoor Classroom	9.5%	3
T25	RV Sites	9.5%	2
T27	Community Garden	9%	1
T27	Arena (equestrian, livestock,etc.)	9%	1
T29	Off Road Trails / Motorcycles	8%	0
T29	Goldfish Pond	8%	1
T29	Disc Golf Course	8%	0
32	Bird Watching	5%	4
33	Equestrian Trails	3%	0
34	Chess/Checkers Tables	2%	0
35	Shuffleboard Courts	1%	0

13. Please review the following suggested active recreational facilities and prioritize the items based on importance and need?

Rank	Recreational Facility	% Total Votes	Highest Priority Votes
1	Playgrounds	71%	32
T2	Youth Baseball Fields	55%	15
T2	Public Tennis Courts	55%	10
T2	Youth Soccer Fields	55%	13
5	Outdoor Basketball Courts	48%	5
6	Youth Softball Fields	46%	13
7	Practice Ball Fields	45%	5
T8	Football Fields	43%	14
T8	Canoeing	43%	5
T10	Indoor Basketball Courts	42%	6
T10	Sand Volleyball Courts	42%	8
12	Skate Parks	38%	12
13	Adult Softball Fields	37%	6
14	Putting Green	36%	2

Question 13 Continued)

Rank	Recreational Facility	% Total Votes	Highest Priority Votes
15	Indoor Gymnastics	30%	5
16	Rollerblade / Hockey Areas	27%	5
17	Adult Soccer Fields	23%	3
18	Water Skiing	20%	7
19	Horseshoes / Washer Pits	14%	1
20	Badminton	7%	3
21	Jump Rope Court	5%	1

14. How well are these existing facilities meeting your recreational needs?

Facility	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
1. Baseball Fields	1%	23%	37%	31%	8%
2. Horseshoe Pits	8%	27%	28%	27%	10%
3. Open Play Areas	8%	22%	34%	19%	17%
4. Pavilions	21%	32%	33%	8%	6%
5. Picnic Areas	11%	25%	44%	14%	6%
6. Playscapes	13%	23%	36%	16%	12%
7. Softball Fields	1%	16%	31%	19%	33%
8. Sand Volleyball	6%	30%	32%	16%	16%
9. Basketball Courts	8%	21%	26%	24%	21%
10. Walking Trails	5%	19%	22%	31%	23%
11. Practice Fields	3%	18%	38%	23%	18%

15. Do you feel that Hutto's quality of life is enhanced by park facilities, open space and recreation programs?

Yes	94%
No	6%

16. Are you willing to support an increase in funding to enhance and expand Hutto's park and recreational opportunities?

Yes	73%
No	27%

17. If yes, please identify at least two, if not more, of the following funding methods?

Property Tax Increase	12%
Voter Bond	45%
User Fees	44%
Sales Tax	36%
Impact Fees	15%

FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

The following is a summary of information that was compiled during the focus group meetings. The focus groups were shown a series of slides and asked their likes and dislikes of each slide to get an idea of what each group feels about the current parks and recreation system and what they would like the system to look like in the future.

GENERAL PARK SYSTEM COMMENTS

Overall, a majority of participants felt the parks and recreation system has been satisfactory to this point. As the City continues it's rapid growth, it was said the City will need to improve the parks and recreation system. The groups thought that the parks should include additional aesthetic landscape features to enhance the image of the parks; large trees planted throughout the parks; enhancement of the natural features (i.e. creeks, lakes, ponds, etc.) to make them more aesthetic; and building observation areas along those natural features to allow residents to enjoy the natural beauty in Hutto.

Focus group participants also felt an amphitheater or hillside seating in Fritz Park would be a great asset to the City and provide a place for community concerts, movies, and theater productions. They also indicated that neighborhood amenity centers are great, but the fact that they are private and only serve the recreation needs of that neighborhood diminish their impact. One focus group voiced their concern about proper buffering/distance between park elements and adjacent houses to insure that parks do not become a potential for negative impact within the community.

Other themes that were prevalent throughout the focus groups is the need to: (1) upgrade the maintenance level of the parks system, (2) improve the development standards of parks, (3) insure all parks are as safe as possible, (4) and insure that the entire parks and recreation system is accessible to persons with disabilities or impairments. Another focus group expressed the idea of including art and cultural elements, for example the inclusion of hippo statues in the parks system should be a priority to inform the users of the unique history and culture of Hutto. The majority of the groups, when shown a picture of the COOP site, stated that the site would make a great central park/town center. They felt that by creating a park or facility in that location, and leaving the historical and cultural elements of the site, it would become an icon element within the City of Hutto and be of tremendous value to it's citizens.

TRAIL SYSTEM COMMENTS

Trails were a high priority in all of the focus group meetings. Comments regarding the trail system included utilizing corridors for trails, including benches and lighting along trails for safer and more enjoyable use of the trails, and developing loop trails within individual parks as well as within the overall parks system. These focus groups thought it was critical to provide connectivity between schools, parks, and neighborhoods by way of park/greenbelt trails, parkway trails, and sidewalks.

The majority of the focus group participants felt that Hutto needed more trails and that developers of new subdivisions should be required, at a minimum, to dedicate corridors to provide connectivity throughout the City. Participants also felt connecting Hutto's trails to major regional trails, such as the Brushy Creek Trail, should be a priority in the trails plan. Participants expressed as well the desire for the City to better utilize drainage corridors and require developers to develop these corridors not just for drainage, but for trails as well. The focus groups felt that as Hutto continues to grow, the trails and their connectivity would be one of the biggest issues facing the parks and recreation system.

ATHLETIC COMPLEX COMMENTS

The majority of focus group participants felt the community has a strong need for the development of a centralized sports complex to address various youth sports needs. The sports organization focus group meeting specifically addressed more of the detailed needs of that complex which include: the need for multiuse fields (i.e. soccer/football fields, multi-sport practice fields, etc.); shade elements around the sports fields for spectators; a higher level of maintenance on the athletic fields; and a sports complex that is located where it can be easily accessed by the entire community. While the majority of the groups expressed the need for a centralized sports complex, one of the focus groups stated that practice areas should be spread out around town, possibly at school sites. More detailed information of the needs of the youth sports associations is in the "Sports Association Survey" that was filled out by the youth soccer, youth football, and youth baseball & softball associations. (See appendix.)

SCHOOL FACILITY COMMENTS

The majority of the focus groups participants felt the City of Hutto and Hutto Independent School District should form partnerships whenever possible to maximize cost efficiencies and avoid the typical and costly duplication of services between them. They also felt that developing joint-use parks adjacent to schools, including such things as playgrounds, play courts, and ball fields, would be a very good use of tax dollars, land, and resources. This would create a centralized location to play, learn, and interact with your neighbors. While the majority felt strongly this way, one group identified a common concern for potential use conflicts if joint-use facilities were developed. These included such conflicts as playgrounds could not be used by the general public during the school day as well as controlling who is accessing the park elements. The group did say that if those potential use conflicts were addressed then joint-use facilities would be a great component of the parks and recreation system. Lastly, an idea was expressed by one of the focus groups. Participants identified the potential opportunity to address a need by utilizing the school gymnasiums and weight rooms to serve as recreation centers until the City can develop an indoor recreation center.

RECREATION CENTER COMMENTS

Among the participants, a variety of comments regarding City recreation centers were expressed. Some of which included: the need to do one or two large centralized indoor recreation centers so the community was not divided; doing multiple small recreation centers, possibility one in each planning area for easier and quicker access; and one or two large centralized recreation centers with joint-use of school gymnasiums around town. The specific topic of recreation centers, their locations and needs gave way to a suggestion that they be addressed in a subsequent and separate feasibility and needs assessment.

Focus group meetings provided an immense and diverse amount of input regarding the current parks and recreation system, as well as what the citizens envision the parks and recreation system to look like in the future. The reaction from the participants consistently was one of appreciation for not only allowing them to comment on the current system and what the future parks and recreation system will look like, but for seeking their input.