



2016

Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Master Plan



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

Due to land development and growth, municipalities are constantly challenged to provide and maintain basic services and amenities for their citizens. In addition to water, sanitary sewer, road improvements, police and fire services, it is also important for cities to provide recreational opportunities for

its citizenry. Ideally, these opportunities should come in many forms and should serve all age groups and areas. From specialized parks for active play to visually appealing passive open spaces, park areas make an important contribution to the quality of life that a city provides.

Weatherford's Mission Statement

"The Weatherford Parks, Recreation and Special Events Department is committed to enriching the quality of life through exceptional programs, parks and facilities while preserving the community's natural environment for the enjoyment of current and future citizens."

The City of Weatherford is a rapidly growing community. This rapid rate of growth necessitates the need for advance planning to ensure that municipal service systems, including parks and recreation, keep pace with increasing demands upon these systems. The existing population of Weatherford is 28,015 and is expected to continue growing to a population of 41,700 by the year 2035. Approximately seventy percent (70%) of the community's land will be devoted to residential use. With this proportion of land area that will be devoted to residential neighborhoods, the acquisition and development of parks and open space areas will be significant factors in maintaining a high quality of life for citizens in Weatherford.

PREVIOUS PLANNING STUDIES

The previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared in 2002. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was comprehensive in nature with an emphasis on immediate park and recreation needs. The Parks, Recreation and Special Events Department staff, the Park and Recreation Board, and City leadership have achieved many of the goals and objectives of that Master Plan document during the previous seven years. However, due to current recreational trends, aging recreational facilities and a growing population, there is now a need for a new document to guide park and recreation planning and development, leading to the creation of this *Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan*.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals provide a statement for achievement or accomplishment. Objectives are a perceived means through which the goal(s) can be partially or fully attained. Identified within this section are the ways and methods of implementing the *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* recommendations. Critical to the implementation of these goals and objectives is the *Five-Year Action Plan*, which should be updated annually by the Weatherford Parks and Recreation Board, working in close association with City staff and the City Council.

The following are the goals and objectives for the Weatherford park system:

Goal: Provide passive and active recreational opportunities for all citizens.

Objectives:

- Increase quality recreational opportunities for Weatherford citizens.
- Offer a wide variety of facilities, programs and park areas to meet the recreational needs of a diverse population with various levels of ability and skill.
- Provide an equitable geographic distribution of parks and recreational facilities.
- Plan for the orderly replacement of an aging park and recreational infrastructure to ensure existing recreational opportunities are not lost.
- Encourage cooperation with other agencies, as well as community organizations, to provide cost-effective services and optimize benefits to citizens.
- Acquire land to provide for future parks and recreational facilities.
- Provide open space to help maintain air and water quality, to act as buffers and visual screens, and as activity centers.
- Enhance access to the greenbelts and major creek corridors by developing a continuous trail system.
- Provide lighted open space for practice areas for youth leagues.

Goal: Preserve and conserve Weatherford's natural areas, greenbelts and open space for the enjoyment and environmental education of current and future citizens.

Objectives:

- Develop a system of greenbelts along the major creek corridors.
- Incorporate significant natural areas into the park system – woodlands and wildlife.
- Provide opportunities to enjoy nature by cooperatively developing outdoor learning areas, and interpretative trails.
- Work with utility easements to provide trails and trail links to parks, schools and retail.
- Preserve and maintain the natural spring at Soldier Spring Park.
- Preserve and protect the wild flowers and native plants – especially those needed for the monarch butterfly migration.

Goal: Pursue regional park and recreation opportunities.

Objectives:

- Evaluate Lake Weatherford as a major recreational opportunity for the City of Weatherford.
- Continue to promote Chandor Gardens as a unique designation.
- Preserve the natural green space at Soldier Spring Park without any future development that would impact the wildlife, native vegetation or forested areas.

Goal: Cooperate with other external entities within Parker County, to provide cost-effective services and optimize benefits to citizens.

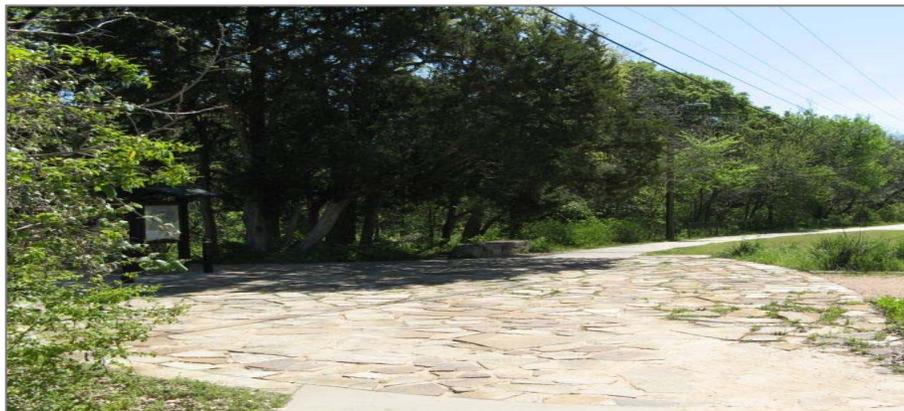
Objectives:

- Create partnerships with WISD in developing joint school/park sites.
- Continue coordination efforts between the City of Weatherford and WISD Staff to provide successful and mutually beneficial recreation programming.
- Explore grant opportunities with WISD in an effort to expand, enhance, or build new parks and facilities within the City and ETJ.
- Create a partnership with Parker County to assist in development of regional parks which would benefit Parker County residents.

Goal: Use public input, senior citizen groups and stakeholders to identify the indoor recreation and aquatic needs of the community.

Objectives:

- Hire a consultant to conduct a feasibility study to determine what the needs are of the Weatherford citizens for a recreation center, senior center, and other related facilities.
- Consider and address the social needs of the community, as well as indoor active recreation such as swimming, basketball, pickleball, racquetball, aerobics, weight training, and indoor aquatic facilities.
- Assess aquatic facilities and plan



POLICIES AND ORDINANCES

The effectiveness of these implementation mechanisms is dependent upon the proper coordination of input from contributing bodies or groups including elected City officials - appointed boards and commissions - City staff, sports groups, and most importantly the citizens of Weatherford. All parties must communicate and work collectively toward common goals. Only this sort of communication and coordination will ensure successful development of the park system. An example of this communication, at the staff level, would be the incorporation of the *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* during review of proposed development plans by the City.



PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The City Council recognized the need for a comprehensive analysis of the park system in Weatherford as part of the comprehensive planning process. The City employed a private consulting firm (Dunkin Sims Stoffels, Inc.) to update the *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*. The consultant worked with the City of Weatherford Parks & Recreation Department staff to develop this *Master Plan*.

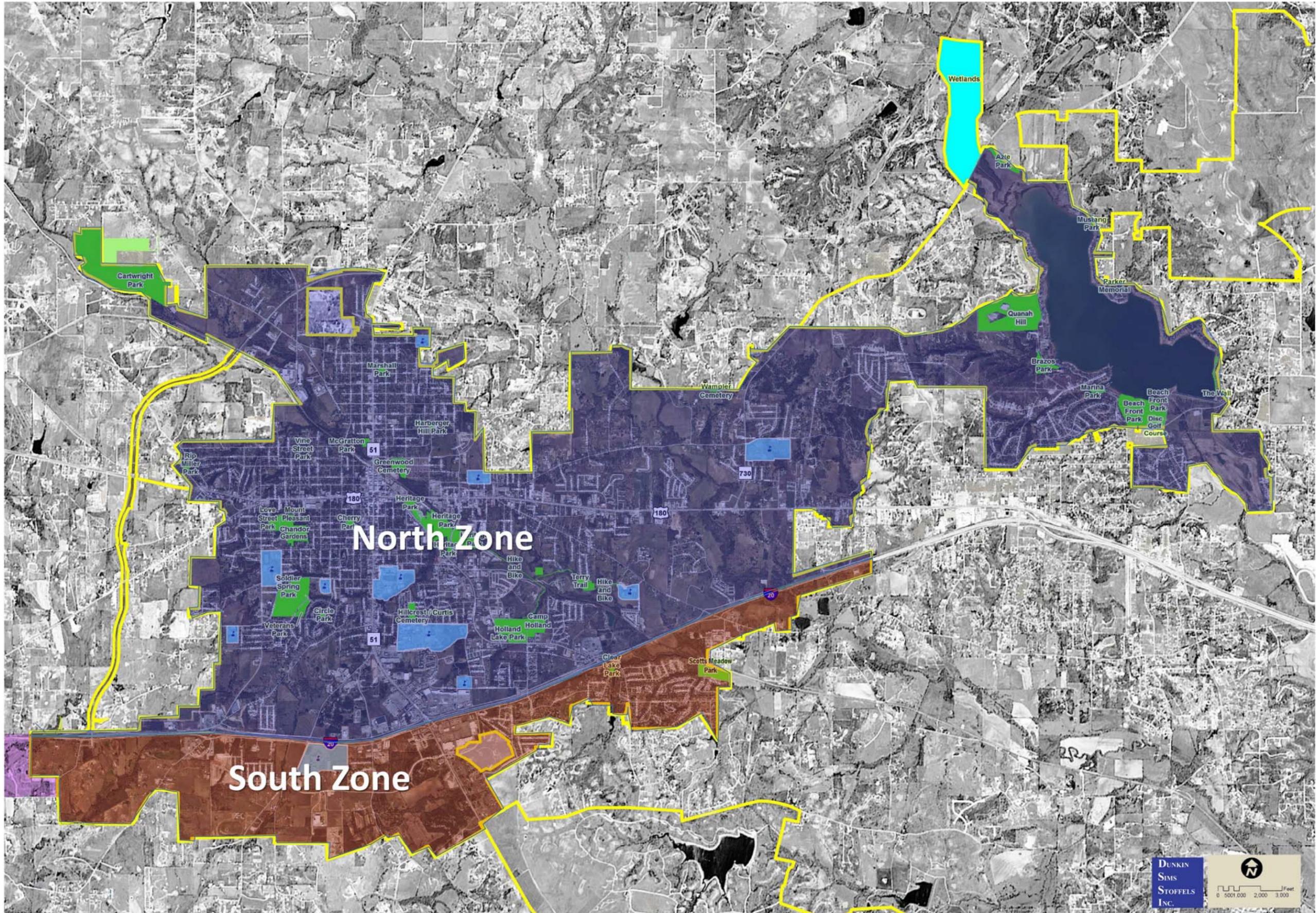
Meetings were held with the Weatherford Parks & Recreation Department staff to examine collected needs, findings and preliminary recommendations. To obtain a comprehensive and complete analysis of the City's park and recreation needs, and park system, three methodologies were used for this evaluation: 1) public hearings, 2) standards-based analysis, and 3) demand-based recreation analysis. Using the public input and these analyses, this *Master Plan* provides the City with long-range park planning priorities (along with funding possibilities) for the next 5 years, until 2021.

PARK SERVICE ZONES

Weatherford is bisected by two major thoroughfares. First is U.S. Highway 180, also known locally as Fort Worth Highway or Palo Pinto Street, which runs east/west through the City. The other is State Highway 171, also known as Main Street, which is a major thoroughfare in the north/south in direction. Interstate Highway 20 also runs east/west in the southern area of Weatherford. These thoroughfares are major constraints for access to park and recreational opportunities for local citizens, and therefore they must be taken into account in examining how the City can meet its recreation needs. The map on the following page illustrates the two service zone areas that have been identified for this purpose. The inventory for each zone will be described in this Plan.

PARK ZONE AREA PLAN

City of Weatherford, Texas



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INC.

0 500 1000 2,000 3,000 Feet



EXISTING INVENTORY OF AREAS & FACILITIES



EXISTING INVENTORY OF AREAS AND FACILITIES

CITY OF WEATHERFORD PARKS

Weatherford has a history of providing its citizenry with parks and recreation opportunities. It is important to document existing park acreage and related facilities; this will help determine what is needed to enhance and improve upon the current park system. This section therefore evaluates Weatherford’s existing parks and recreational facilities, as a precursor to defining a plan that will guide the City as it grows to ensure that a quality park and recreation system becomes an important part of the growth. The list that begins below is an enumeration of the existing parks, their size, and the National Recreation Park Association park classification which best describes their function within the City’s park system.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Circle Park

South Lamar St. and South Hill Drive

Park Size: 0.55 Acres
Park Classification: Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities: Undeveloped



Clear Lake Park

2120 Lake Front Drive

Park Size: 3 Acres
Park Classification: Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities: Undeveloped

Marshall Park

115 East Fifth Street

Park Size: 2.5 Acres

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Facilities: Parking (22 Improved Spaces)
Multi-Purpose Field (UL) 1
Sand Volleyball Court (UL) 1
Playground Units (5)
Swing (1)
Benches (3)
Picnic Table (1)



Miller Park

1501 Ball Street

Park Size: 2.5 Acres

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Facilities: Parking (7 Improved Spaces)
Parking (1 Improved HC Space)
No Restrooms
Basketball Court (UL) 1
1/7 Mile Walking Trail (1)
Playground Units (2)
Swing (1)
Benches (7)
Picnic Tables (4)



Scotts Meadow Park

Scotts Meadow Court

Park Size: 10 Acres

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Facilities: Undeveloped

Vine Street Park

700 Block W Vine Street

Park Size: 1 Acre

Park Classification: Neighborhood

Park Facilities: Parking (On Street)
No Restrooms
Playground Units (4)
Picnic Table (1)



COMMUNITY PARKS

Cartwright Park

204 Cartwright Park Road (including Soccer Fields)

Park Size: 180 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities:

- Parking (Asphalt Lots) 2
- Parking (Gravel Lots) 2
- Restroom (Port-a-Lets) 3
- Restrooms (Improved Facility -Septic) 1
- Softball Field (L) 1
- Soccer Fields (UL) 11
- Boat Ramp (L) 1
- Fishing Pier (L) 1
- Playground Unit (1)
- Swing (1)
- Open Space Areas (2)
- 30-Acre Lake (1)
- Picnic Pavilion (L)
- Benches (3)
- Grills (3)
- Picnic Tables (30)



Cherry Park

313 Davis Street

Park Size: 4.4 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: Parking (77 Improved Spaces)
Parking (7 Improved HC Spaces)
Restroom (Port-a-Lets) 1
Restroom (Improved Facility -Sewer) 2
Multi-Purpose Court (L) 1
Playground Units (4)
Swings (2)
1/4 Mile Walking Trail
Gazebo (L) 1
Picnic Pavilion (L) 1
Community Center (1)
Benches (17)
Grills (15)
Picnic Tables (18)
Porch Swings (2)
Swimming Pool (60' xx 120') 1
Splash Pad



Holland Lake Park

1419 Holland Lake Road

Park Size: 39 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: Parking (151 Improved Spaces)
Parking (11 Improved HC Spaces)
Restrooms
Playground Units (3)
Swing (1)
0.43 Mile Walking Trail (1)
Picnic Pavilion (L) 1
Benches (19)
Stone Grills (2)
Picnic Tables (25)
Fishing Pond (1-Acre) 1



Holland Lake Sports Complex

1419 Holland Lake Road

Park Size: 10.4 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: 3-Field Softball Complex (L)
Restroom/Concession
Parking

Love Street Park

309 Love Street

Park Size: 14 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: Parking (58 Improved Spaces)
Parking (4 Improved HC Spaces)
Restrooms
Basketball Court (L) 1
1/4" Mile Walking Trail (1)
Playground Units (10)
Swings (2)
Splash Pad (1)
Benches (17)
Picnic Tables (12)
Fishing Pond (1)
Fishing Pier (1)
Horseshoe Pits (12)



McGratton Park

600 Block N. Main Street

Park Size: 3.5 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: Parking (28 Spaces)
Parking (2 HC Spaces)
Restrooms (Port-a-Let) 1
Multi-Purpose Field (L) 1
Softball Field (L) 1
Multi-Purpose Courts (L) 2
Skate Park (L) 1
Swings (2)
1/6 Mile Walking Trail (1)
Benches (9)
Picnic Tables (10)
Grill (1)



Soldier Spring Sports Complex

Charles Street

Park Size: 17 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: Parking (4 Asphalt Lots) L
Parking (3 Gravel Lots) L
Restrooms (Improved Facility – Sewer) 3
Restroom/Concession
Youth Baseball Fields (L) 3
Youth Softball Fields (L) 2
Baseball Fields (UL) 2
Tennis Courts (L) 7
Batting Cages (4)
Playground units (5)
1 Mile Walking Trail (1)
Benches (4)
Picnic Table (15)



LAKE FRONT PARK DISTRICT

Azle Park

2864 East Lake Drive

Park Size: 9 Acres

Park Classification: Lake Front Park

Park Facilities: Fishing Piers (2)
Picnic Tables (5)

Brazos Park

538 West Lake Drive

Park Size: 1.5 Acres

Park Classification: Lake Front Park

Park Facilities: Picnic Tables (3)

Marina Park

210 West Lake Drive

Park Size: 2.5 Acres

Park Classification: Lake Front Park

Park Facilities: Picnic Tables (3)

Mustang Cove

2149 East Lake Drive

Park Size: 1.1 Acres

Park Classification: Lake Front Park

Park Facilities: Swimming Access

The Wall

900 East Lake Drive

Park Size: 1.5 Acres

Park Classification: Lake Front Park

Park Facilities: Fishing Access

SPECIAL USE PARKS

Harberger Hill

701 Narrow Street

Park Size: 2.5 Acres

Park Classification: Special Use Park

Park Facilities: Rental Building
Meeting Space

Lake Weatherford Disc Golf Course

700 East Lake Drive

Park Size: 31 Acres

Park Classification: Special Use Park

Park Facilities: Parking (7 Improved Spaces)
Parking (1 Improved HC Space)
18-Hole Disc Golf Course (1)
Benches (7)
Picnic Table (1)

Mount Pleasant

312 Raymond George Way

Park Size: 2.3 Acres

Park Classification: Special Use Park (Rental Facility)

Park Facilities: Meeting Space
Restored Colored School with
Historical Memorabilia

Patsy Hooks Dog Park

379 Jack Borden Way

Park Size: 3 Acres

Park Classification: Special Use Park

Park Facilities: Dog Park



Quanah Hill

White Settlement / West Lake Drive

Park Size: 75

Park Classification: Special Use Park

Park Facilities: Undeveloped

Veterans Memorial at Soldier Spring Park

Thrush Street

Park Size: 6 Acres

Park Classification: Special Use Park

Park Facilities: Memorial
Prayer Garden
Walk of Honor
Spring Viewing Area
(Under Construction by City Staff)

REGIONAL PARKS

Camp Holland

1421 Holland Lake Drive

Park Size: 4 Acres

Park Classification: Regional Park

Park Facilities: Located within the borders of Holland Lake Park.
Available for special event usage.
Historic Cabins
Camping Sites

Chandor Gardens

711 West Lee Street

Park Size: 17 Acres

Park Classification: Regional Park

Park Facilities: English/Oriental Garden
Wedding Venue
Meeting Space
Tours



Heritage Park

200 Santa Fe Drive

Park Size: 17.4 Acres

Park Classification: Regional Park

Park Facilities: Amphitheater
Hike and Bike Trail
Event Grounds
Food Park
Parking Lot
Rental Grounds
Dog Park
All Inclusive Playground
(Under Construction)



OPEN SPACE / GREENBELTS

Town Creek Hike and Bike Trail

Park Size: 7 Acres

Park Classification: Open Space / Greenbelt

Park Facilities: 3.15 Miles of Trail

Trailhead Locations: 801 Sante Fe Drive
401 Fort Worth Highway
1419 Holland Lake Road
100 IKard Lane



Soldier Spring Park Trail and Nature Area

Thrush Street

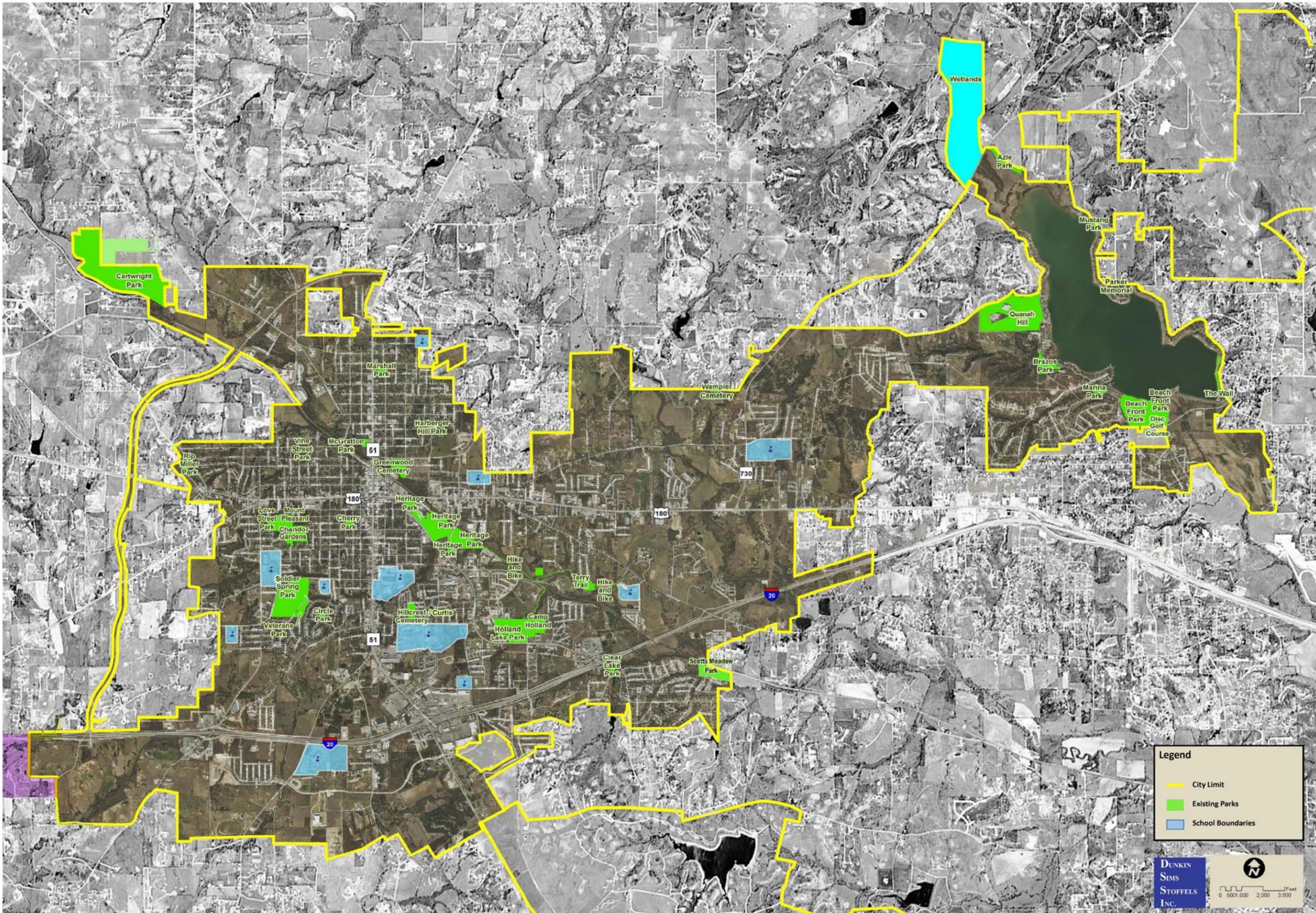
Park Size: 32 Acres

Park Classification: Open Space / Greenbelt

Park Facilities: 1.1 Miles of Trail

Trailhead Locations: 961 Charles Street
200 Thrush Street
907 Russell Street
101 Thrush Street





FACTORS INFLUENCING PLANNING FOR PARKS



FACTORS INFLUENCING PLANNING FOR PARKS

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES & THOROUGHFARES

As previously described within this *Master Plan*, Weatherford is fortunate to have several major thoroughfares that provide opportunities for the development of property within the City limits and ETJ. The City of Weatherford is located at the intersections of U.S. Highways 180 and 80, approximately 30 miles west of the City of Fort Worth and approximately 60 miles west of the City of Dallas. Much retail and commercial development has already occurred along these highways. This trend is likely to continue as the City becomes increasingly populated and the need for retail and commercial development increases. These retail sales tax dollars represent an opportunity for funding for the park and recreation services that Weatherford will need to support its growing number of citizens.



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

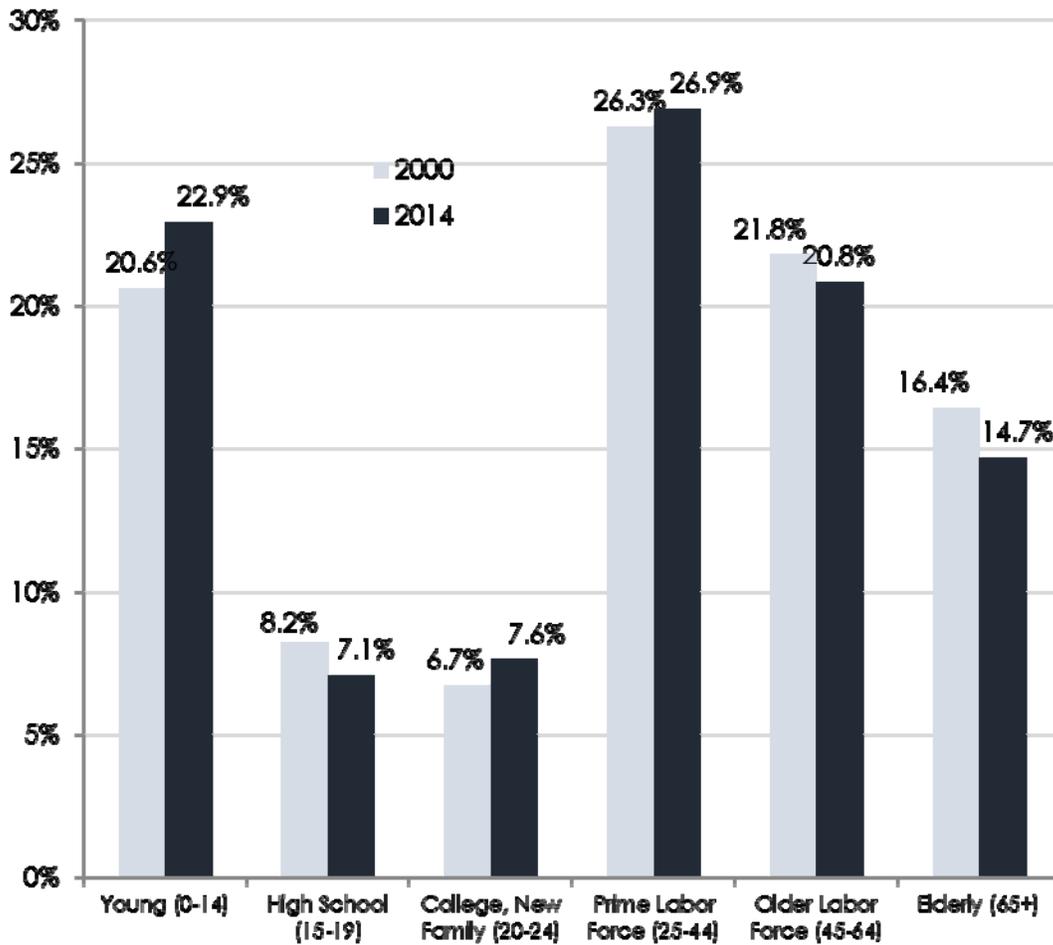
Population Characteristics

The population of Weatherford has steadily grown since 1980, from 12,049 people to an estimated 26,490 in 2014. From 2000 to 2010 the City grew by 6,250 people, while the county grew by 28,432—meaning that Weatherford captured close to 22 percent of the county’s overall growth. From 2000 to 2010 the City’s compound annual growth rate (CAGR) maintained a high rate of 2.88 percent, just above Parker County’s 2.83 percent growth rate. The CAGR for both the county and Weatherford are predicted to decline into 2014, but maintain a slow and steady rate.

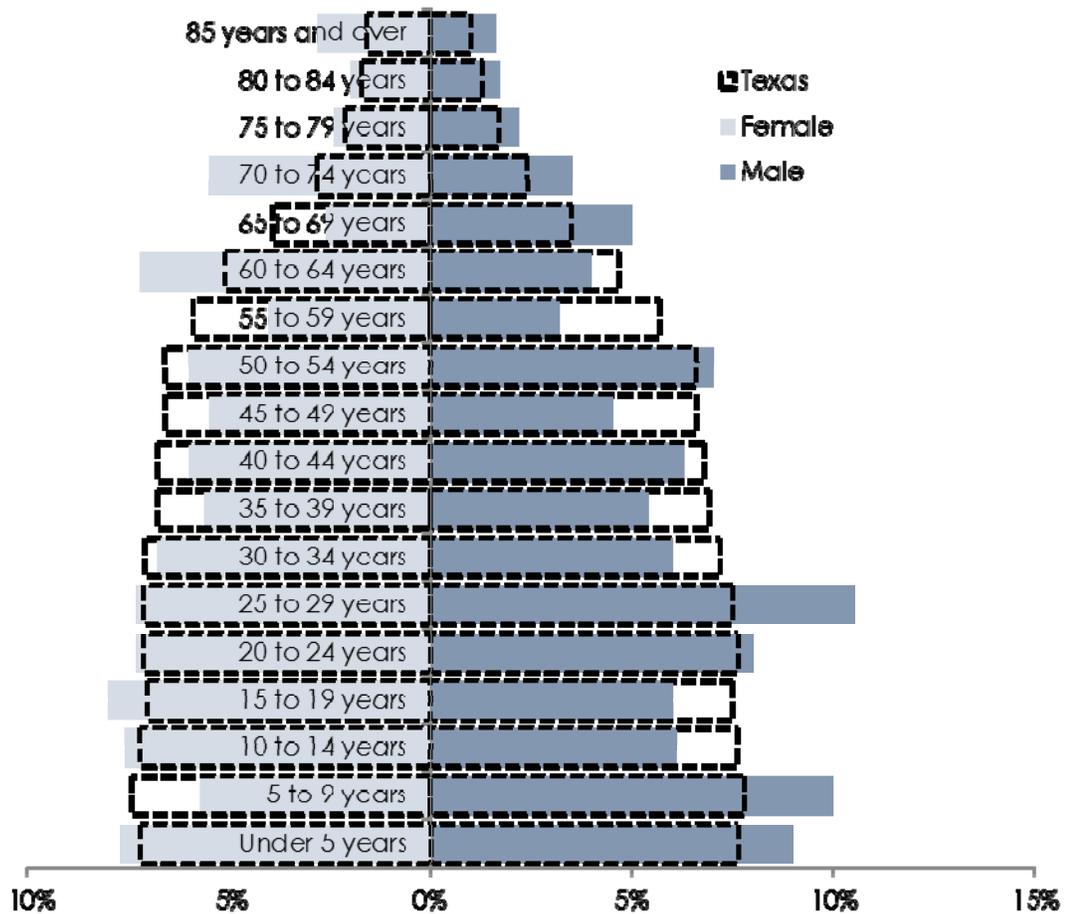
Place	Population Estimate						Growth from 2000 - 2010		Compound Annual Growth Rate	
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2014*	Change	Percent Change	1990 - 2000	2000 - 2010
Weatherford	11,750	12,049	14,804	19,000	25,250	26,490	6,250	2.5%	2.5%	2.88%
Parker County	33,888	44,609	64,785	88,495	116,927	119,784	28,432	2.4%	3.2%	2.83%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010; 2010-2014 ACS 5-Year Estimates

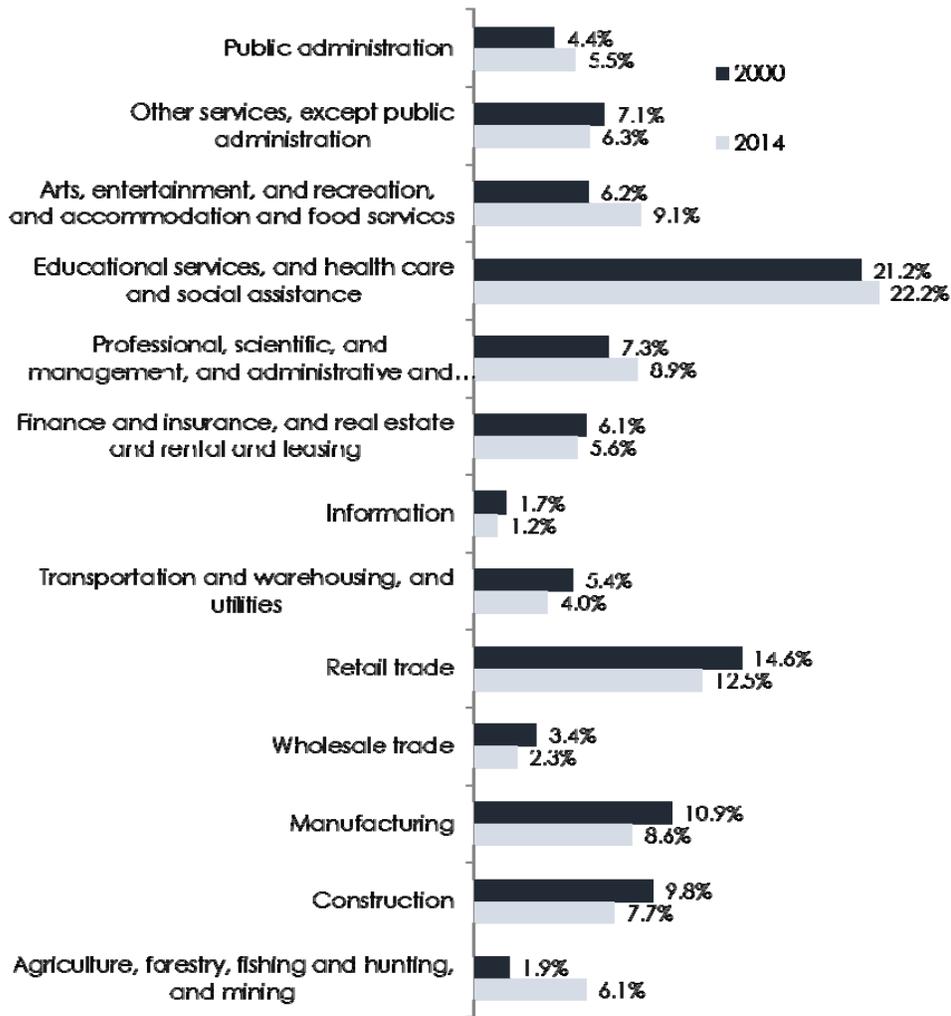
Nearly 27 percent of Weatherford’s population is between the ages of 25 and 44. 23 percent are between the ages of zero and 14 years of age. Weatherford does not have a large proportion of individuals between the ages of 15 and 24. The population of Weatherford is typically older with young children—thus it will be important to consider the needs and desires of families and working individuals.



The population of Weatherford is primarily under the age of 44, with both male and female populations exceeding the state in several age groups—20 to 24, 25 to 29, and under 5. Having such a young population, the City may find it important to encourage and facilitate activities and programs geared toward these age groups. Providing parks for all ages and quality entertainment venues are just a few of the key issues that may be important to discuss in providing for the current and future population of Weatherford.



Weatherford’s primary ethnicity is Caucasian—with over 90.6 percent identifying themselves as such. Though the Hispanic population has increased by six percent since 2000, only 16.8 percent of the population identified themselves as Hispanic. Only 3.3 percent of the population is African-American in Weatherford and 1.1 percent Asian.

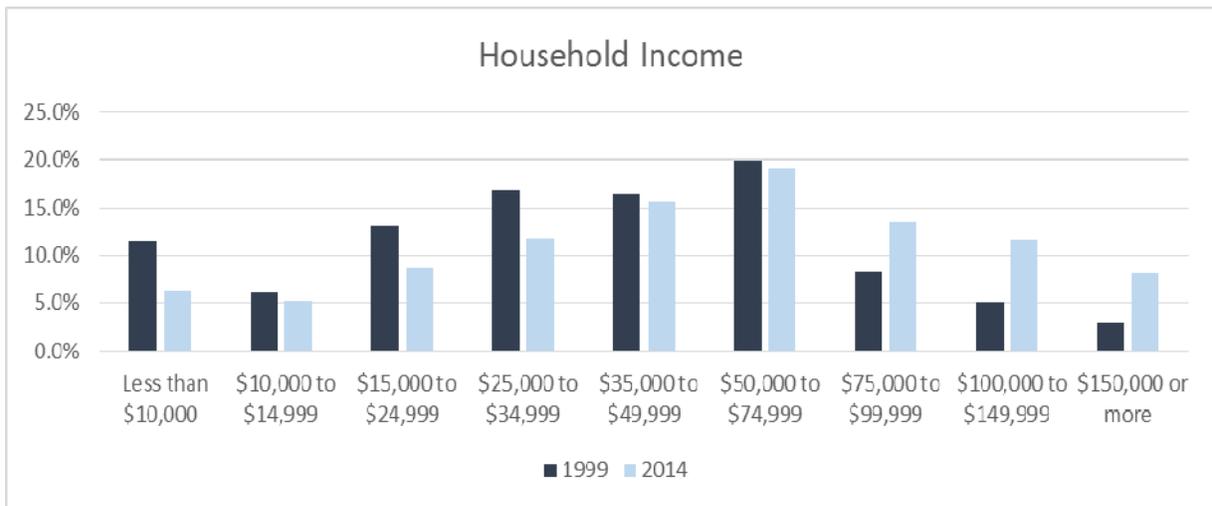


57.3 percent of the population in the labor force is employed, while only 4.5 percent is unemployed. While the majority of Weatherford's population over the age of 16, 62 percent, is in the labor force, it is worth noting that 38 percent of these eligible workers are not in the labor force at all.

Household Income

The median household income in Weatherford, \$52,532, is very close to that of Texas' \$52,576 but still, more than \$12,000 below that of Parker County. Weatherford's median income increased nearly 28 percent from 1999 to 2014, from \$37,714 to \$52,532, an increase of \$14,818. From 1999 to 2014, household incomes over \$75,000 increased from 8.2 percent to 13.5 percent. Incomes over \$100,000 increased from 5.1 percent to 11.6 percent; and incomes over \$150,000 increased from 2.9 percent to 8.1 percent.

Due to the high educational attainment of the population—almost 90 percent of the population over the age of 25 is a high school graduate or more—it is no surprise that the prevalence of professional occupations in Weatherford has also increased. Educational services, and health care and social assistance make up 22 percent of occupations; arts, entertainment and recreation, and accommodation now make up 9 percent of occupations. Public administration and professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services have all increased since 2000.



Nearly 90 percent of the population over 25 years old is a high school graduate or more.

PARK FACILITIES BY CLASSIFICATION

To deliver a variety of recreational features in an efficient manner, parks must be defined by type. This differentiation allows a more exact examination of where a community might be lacking. For example, one large regional park is a wonderful asset to a community and it meets the need for children to play organized sports. However, neighborhood parks with play structures that citizens can walk to for their children to play are also an important part of the overall park system. Another example is the need for trail linkages that many people of all ages can use. These parks combine to create a cohesive park system that is as varied as the people it serves.

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

Guidelines and standards recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) have been followed by cities for many years to define the hierarchy for their park systems. The following describes the NRPA classification of parks, including their respective description, locational criteria within the community, and criteria related to size. Only the park classifications selected specifically for the City of Weatherford are described in the following sections. Once established, the related park classification guidelines are then applicable for structuring the Weatherford park system in an orderly manner – a manner that is responsive to the recreational demands being generated by the present, as well as future, population.

Neighborhood Parks

The neighborhood park is considered to be the most important feature of a park system and is one of the major cohesive elements in neighborhood design. Its primary function is the provision of recreational space for the entire neighborhood which surrounds it. Space in the neighborhood park should be distributed between active and passive uses. Common aspects of neighborhood parks include:

- (a) The neighborhood park should be located near the center of a neighborhood area/park planning area and have a service area of approximately one-half mile to one-quarter mile.
- (b) The size should be related to the service area population and the menu of activities chosen for placement in the park. Five (5) to ten (10) acres is the optimal size for this park.
- (c) Safe and convenient pedestrian access is considered important to a neighborhood park location.
- (d) Generally, the location should not be adjacent to a heavily traveled major or minor thoroughfare.



- (e) When it is possible to combine an elementary or middle school with this type of park, the two features further enhance the identity of the neighborhood by providing a central location for recreation and education and a significant open space feature within the neighborhood.
- (f) Facilities normally provided at a neighborhood park consist of:
 - Playground equipment for small children.
 - A multiple purpose hard surfaced play area.
 - Space for court games, such as basketball, tennis, volleyball and in-line hockey in addition to walking/jogging trails
 - Playfield space for non-organized competitive games such as baseball, football and soccer
 - Passive space possibly for a pavilion with tables and grills, restrooms, drinking fountains and sitting areas.
 - Off-street parking is a consideration if users are beyond an acceptable walking distance or if users need to drive to access the park.
 - It is not desirable to light athletic facilities in a neighborhood environment since lighting is often objectionable to nearby residents; however, some lighting for security purposes should be incorporated into the park.
 - The allocation of space in the neighborhood park should be approximately 50 percent passive area and 50 percent active area. The above facilities are those generally considered for active space. The passive space should be used to develop the character of the park by creating an open landscaped setting with trails, sitting area, and picnic space. This park becomes an integral part of the neighborhood.

TABLE 1: WEATHERFORD NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	ACREAGE
Circle Park	0.55
Lake Park	3
Marshall Park	2.5
Miller Park	2.5
Scotts Meadow Park	10
Vine Street Park	1
Total Acreage for Neighborhood Parks:	19.55

Community Parks

A community park is larger in size than a neighborhood park and provides service to several neighborhoods or specific sections of the community. The community park is oriented primarily toward providing recreational opportunities not feasible in a neighborhood park. This type of park should be developed for both active and passive use. Common aspects of community parks include:



- (a) A community park serves several neighborhood areas, and should therefore be conveniently accessible by automobile and include provisions for off-street parking.
- (b) The optimal size for the community park is between 40 and 150 acres. This size should be based on its intended use and the population residing in the service area. Natural features such as terrain, tree cover, flood prone areas, and water features are all factors to be used in selecting and sizing this type of park.
- (c) Activities provided should include both active and passive space.
- (d) Space for active uses associated with neighborhood parks including field and court games.
- (e) Passive spaces more extensive than the neighborhood park for trails, natural areas, picnicking, and ornamental or natural landscape areas.
- (f) Facilities for cultural activities such as plays or concerts; possibly provide an amphitheater.
- (g) Lighted or unlighted athletic fields or facilities may be placed in community parks provided careful thought is given to their design and location.
- (h) A community park should be well removed from the residential environment due to the traffic, noise, and lights associated with the sports complex.
- (i) Based on use, accessibility and other requirements, the community park should be located in a non-residential area served by major thoroughfares.
- (j) Sites are not recommended to be less than 40 acres with the optimal site ranging upward to 80-150 acres, if demand is present.
- (k) Although community parks are designed primarily for competitive play by both young people and adults, other features should be included in the complex. Among these are play apparatus, court game space, picnicking facilities, and trails.
- (l) Support facilities in a sports complex include restrooms, concessions, multi-purpose building(s), and maintenance facilities.
- (m) Parking is a major consideration for the sports complex. Spaces should be allocated to accommodate those currently participating, those lingering following the previous games and those arriving to participate in the next scheduled game.

TABLE 2: WEATHERFORD COMMUNITY PARKS	ACREAGE
Cartwright Park (including Soccer Fields)	180
Cherry Park	4.4
Holland Lake Park	39
Holland Lake Sports Complex	10.4
Love Street Park	14
McGratton Park	3.5
Soldier Spring Sports Complex	17
Total Acreage for Community Parks:	268.3

Lake Front Park District

This classification is specifically applicable to Weatherford because of Lake Weatherford and the enormous recreational asset that the Lake is and will continue to be for the City. This applies to the following parks: Azle Park, Brazos Park, Marina Park, Mustang Cove and The Wall.

TABLE 3: WEATHERFORD LAKE FRONT PARK DISTRICT	ACREAGE
Azle Park	9
Brazos Park	1.5
Marina Park	2.5
Mustang Cove	1.1
The Wall	1.5
Total Acreage for Lake Front Park District:	15.6

Special Use Parks

These parks or recreational spaces are identified by a single use, and fall into three categories:

- (a) *Historical/cultural/social sites* - which offer recreational opportunities because of their unique characteristics.
- (b) *Recreational facilities* - single purpose facilities such as a recreation center, senior center, community center, golf course, or marina.
- (c) *Outdoor recreational facilities* - uses such as a tennis center, stadium, or possibly a special type of sports complex designed specifically for a single sport.

TABLE 4: WEATHERFORD SPECIAL USE PARKS	ACREAGE
Harberger Hill	2.5
Lake Weatherford Disc Golf Course	31
Mount Pleasant	2.3
Patsy Hooks Dog Park	3
Quanah Hill	75
Veterans Memorial at Soldier Spring Park	6
Total Acreage for Special Use Parks:	119.80

Regional Parks

Regional parks are large parks that serve areas beyond the geographic limits of a city. These parks serve larger areas, like counties or even several surrounding county areas. Regional parks house facilities that are not common within a municipal park system. Not all cities have a regional park, and those cities must rely on neighboring cities to provide this type of park to support the recreational needs of its citizenry.

TABLE 5: WEATHERFORD REGIONAL PARKS	ACREAGE
Camp Holland	4
Chandor Gardens	17
Heritage Park	17.4
Total Acreage for Regional Parks:	38.4

Open Space / Greenbelts

This classification applies to types of land which have characteristics either identifying them as undevelopable land or suitable for use as a component linking other park areas.

- (a) These spaces are generally natural corridors along creeks/flood prone areas or along easements containing a man-made feature.
- (b) There is no specific size for these spaces; however, establishing a minimum width is important to the function of the greenway, particularly if used as a location for a trail. This width should not be less than 50 feet. Where the greenway is on either side of a natural drainage course, a minimum of fifteen feet shall be provided for foot traffic or motorized vehicles performing maintenance along the greenway.



TABLE 6: WEATHERFORD OPEN SPACE / GREENBELTS	ACREAGE
Town Creek Hike and Bike Trail	7
Soldier Spring Park Trail and Nature Area	32
Total Acreage for Open Space / Greenbelts:	39

NEEDS ASSESSMENT & IDENTIFICATION



HOLIDAY IN THE PARK PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following are priority elements documented at the meeting held at Holiday in the Park on *December 11, 2015*.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Parks and Amenities – South side of City | 10. Football |
| 2. Open Space – Passive parks to enjoy nature | 11. Year-Round Swimming |
| 3. Paddleboard | 12. Soft Playing Area |
| 4. Skate Park (Indoor) | 13. Biking Trails |
| 5. Yoga Pavilion | 14. Open Martial Arts |
| 6. Splash Pad | 15. More Swings |
| 7. Quiet Spaces as City grows | 16. Bike Lanes on Main Roads |
| 8. Hiking Trails | 17. Walking Paths |
| 9. Family Gathering/Movie Nights | |



The following is a listing of recreational elements mentioned (in order of priority) at the public hearing held on *February 4, 2016*.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Walking Trails | 10. Youth Soccer |
| 2. Recreation Center/Aquatic Facility | 11. Youth Football |
| 3. Natural Areas | 12. Golf Course |
| 4. Bicycling | 13. Youth Baseball |
| 5. Swimming Pool Indoor/Outdoor | 14. Youth Softball |
| 6. Jogging Trails | 15. Tennis Courts |
| 7. Picnic Areas | 16. Adult Soccer |
| 8. Playgrounds | 17. Basketball Courts |
| 9. Picnic Shelters | 18. Adult Softball |

STATION 1 - COMMENT SUMMARY

Station 1: Vision for Weatherford Parks, My vision and goals for Weatherford's parks are...

- Athletic activities- sports- in south Weatherford
- Trails- bikes, walking
- Family-friendly recreation center with activities
- Playground
- Something similar to Arlington's River Legacy Park- has a teaching center/classes for kiddos
- A balance of recreation with natural areas so children can grow emotionally as well as physically!
- To respect our natural resources of land.
- To draw people because of our history and family events
- Some places that are left alone
- Trails
- Natural habitat- less concrete
- Open air stage for concerts
- Year-round watersports
- Tennis courts that are not taken over by the schools
- Biking trails extended
- Bigger kid park
- An open park(s) all along the creeks. I grew up on a creek. These are all brushy and overgrown
- Open reserves
- Waterfalls
- Natural, open spaces
- Increased open space (kept nice) and "wild" areas for kids to explore safely
- No cars by trails or trains
- Trees and hiking trails
- Native plants
- We love Holland Lake Trail
- Waterfall
- Activity building with games for all ages
- Trees and open space areas for families
- Fix drinking fountains
- Drinking/water fountains
- Not all sports facilities; nature trails for kids and adults to learn plants, flowers, trees, etc. and animal habitats that kids in town don't get privilege of seeing and they miss out.
- Areas local for field trips
- Nature trails without views of traffic
- Love the waterfall
- Fix fountains
- Community garden
- Be creative, think new ways

STATION 2 - COMMENT SUMMARY

Station 2: Design Weatherford Parks

How would you improve existing parks?

- Parking at sunshine lake – Youth sports
- More upkeep
- Keep open space open
- Improve parking maintenance
- Waterfalls!
- More parking at Holland Park – Adult Sports
- Clean seaweed from lakes (fishing)
- More playgrounds friendly to toddlers – All Inclusive at Heritage Park
- More splash pads – Marshall Plan
- Maintain existing parks
- Preserve our open space and plants & wildlife
- Waterfall
- Marshall Park upgrades – Starts in 2017
- Anything teens would enjoy – New programs needed
- Football fields – Cartwright Concept Plan
- Seesaw
- Indoor ice skating
- Preserve the wilderness of Soldier Spring Park
- Upgrade and trim trees at Vine Street Park
- Merry-go-round – New at Cherry Park
- Skate park
- Expand Cherry Park – No room
- Keep swimming pool (wonderful!) through the fall. Find a way - Indoor Pool
- Bouncy maze
- Town Creek Trail needs lavatory/port-a-potty at Ikard school site - Restrooms
- Map and signage at Soldier Spring Park - Kiosk
- More swings
- Native plants/existing trees
- More swing sets and make park bigger
- Improve Soldier Spring Park surface – trail work
- Benches and drinking fountains at Soldier Spring Park
- Expand hours at splash pad at Love Street Park – needs recirculation system

The following were questions relating to new parks, hike and bike trail connection and the **number one** desired amenity.

Where would you build new parks and why?

- Southside/near I-20/schools }
- New development- residential areas- give children open space } All South
- Tin Top Rd near 4-H D.V Country Farm- not much south of town- all north }
- North main- needs expansion
- Park by new high school/west our village
- North of town, in new developments
- Not build new- improve existing
- Off Ric Williams Loop
- Indoor swimming
- North loop
- Put playground equipment on South Hill and Lamar – Circle Park

Where would you build new trails? What would you connect?

- Connect parks; bike trails
- Cartwright to Holland
- City-wide
- Walking trails
- Holland
- Grand rivers
- Holland-Mineral Wells trailway
- Bike on and off street
- Improve surface of trails in Soldier Spring Park

What is your number one recreation need?

- Parks and amenities in south side of the city
- Open space- passive parks to enjoy nature
- Paddleboard
- Skate park (indoor)
- Yoga pavilion
- Splash pad
- Quiet spaces as Weatherford grows
- Hiking trails
- Family gathering/movie nights
- Football
- Year-round swimming
- Soft playing area
- Biking trails
- Open martial arts

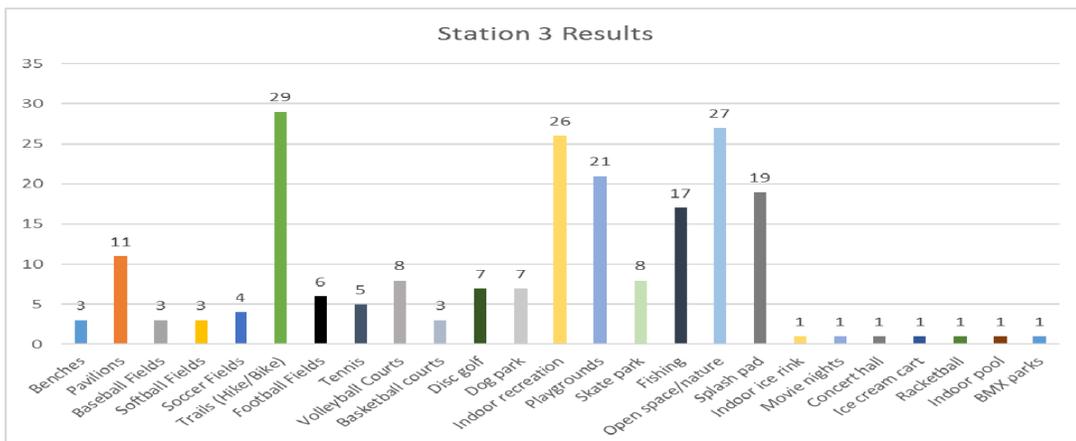
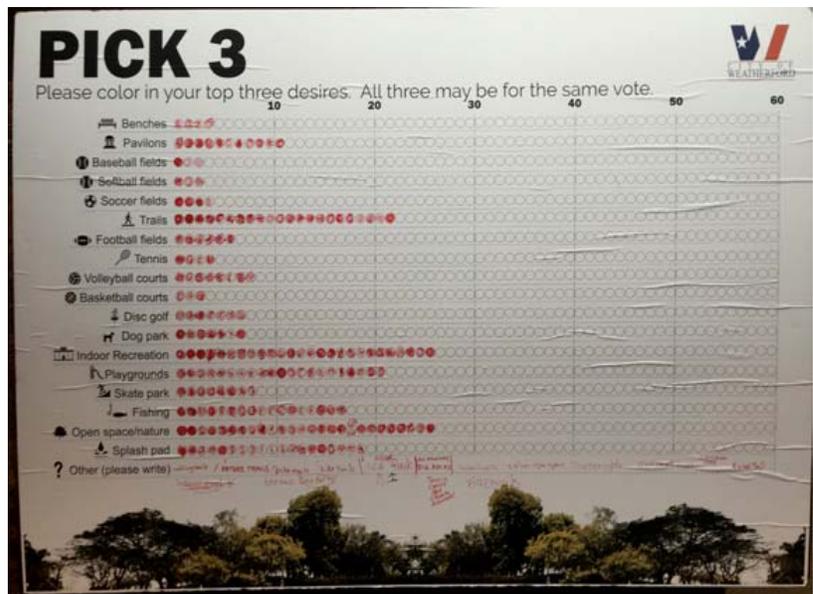
- More swings
- Bike lanes on main roads
- Walking paths

STATION 3 – COMMENT SUMMARY

Station 3: Pick 3 - Please color your top three desires.

Citizens were asked to identify their *top three* recreation needs. The number of responses for each category are listed below:

- Benches- 3
- Pavilions- 11
- Baseball fields- 3
- Softball fields- 3
- Soccer fields- 4
- Football fields- 6
- Tennis- 5
- Volleyball courts- 8
- Basketball courts- 3
- Disc Golf- 7
- Dog park- 7
- Indoor recreation- 26
- Playgrounds- 21
- Skate park- 8
- Fishing- 17
- Open space/nature- 27
- Splash pad- 19
- Other items mentioned: indoor ice rink (1), movie nights (1), concert hall (1), ice cream cart (1), racket ball (1), indoor pool (1), and BMX parks (1). Two additional comments: *No benches instead use big rocks and need tennis courts not close to school.*



STANDARD-BASED ANALYSIS

This approach is used to assist in assessing the future recreational needs for Weatherford, and follows established and recognized standards for assessing the quantity of park land and the number of facilities that are required to meet the needs of a given population.

Facility-Recreation Standard

One source is the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The NRPA has functioned as a source of guidance for park standards and development for a number of years. The NRPA's standards are suggested to be a guide for determining park and open space needs. From community to community, differences will be found in the socio-economic and cultural characteristics, and in climatic conditions. Therefore, the range of demands and preferences for recreational activities will vary with these differences. Obviously, these variances will

directly influence a uniform standard for all locations. NRPA is very specific to point out that their data is to be used only as a guide to the development of local standards. Therefore, the NRPA provides input to the formation of local needs. *Table 7* above shows a standards analysis for the current population of 28,015 people, and *Table 8* on the following page illustrates a standards analysis for Weatherford's population by year 2035 of 41,700 people.

TABLE 7: FACILITY STANDARD ANALYSIS USING EXISTING POPULATION OF 28,015

Facility	NRPA Standards	Current Weatherford Inventory	Recommendation
Basketball	1/5,000	5 ↓	1/4,000 = 7
Tennis Courts	1/2,000	7 =	1/4,000 = 7
Youth Baseball	1/20,000	5 ↓	1/5,000 = 6
Youth Softball	1/5,000	3 ↓	1/5,000 = 6
Adult Softball	1/5,000	3 ↓	1/5,000 = 6
Football	1/20,000	0 ↓	1/65,000 = 1
Youth Soccer	1/10,000	11 ↑	1/5,000 = 6
Playgrounds (1)	NS		(1)
Picnic Tables	NS	99 ↑	1/300 = 93
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1 =	1/30,000 = 1
Trails	NS		As many as possible*
Recreation Center	1/20,000	0 ↓	1/30,000 = 1

(1) One playground should be installed in each neighborhood, community and regional park
 Table assumes lighted facilities
 NS = No Standard
 NRPA = National Recreation and Parks Association
 *As many as possible in order to provide a comprehensive system of pedestrian trails that connect residential areas to parks, schools and open space.
 Recommendation population ratios are based on level of provider by North Central Texas cities.

This is a standard comparison which illustrates the level of services provided at 28,015 and what the projected facilities need would be for the anticipated population of 41,700. Again, it is important to note that these are national standards and the comparison will vary from city-to-city. It is common for larger cities to provide recreational facilities for smaller communities nearby. Often, smaller communities do not have recreational facilities and depend on larger area cities for these resources. However, it should be noted that the Weatherford Parks System also provides recreational opportunities for citizens outside the City limits.

TABLE 8: FACILITY STANDARD ANALYSIS USING POPULATION OF 41,700 BY YEAR 2035			
Facility	NRPA Standards	Current Weatherford Inventory	Recommendation
Basketball	1/5,000	5 ↓	1/4,000 = 11
Tennis Courts	1/2,000	7 ↓	1/4,000 = 11
Youth Baseball	1/20,000	5 ↓	1/5,000 = 9
Youth Softball	1/5,000	3 ↓	1/5,000 = 9
Adult Softball	1/5,000	3 ↓	1/5,000 = 9
Football	1/20,000	0 ↓	1/65,000 = 1
Youth Soccer	1/10,000	11 ↑	1/5,000 = 9
Playgrounds (1)	NS	↓	(1)
Picnic Tables	NS	99 ↓	1/300 = 139
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	1 =	1/30,000 = 1
Trails	NS		As many as possible*
Recreation Center	1/20,000	0 ↓	1/30,000 = 1

(1) One playground should be installed in each neighborhood, community and regional park
 Table assumes lighted facilities
 NS = No Standard
 NRPA = National Recreation and Parks Association
 *As many as possible in order to provide a comprehensive system of pedestrian trails that connect residential areas to parks, schools and open space
 Recommendation population ratios are based on level of provider by North Central Texas cities

DEMAND-BASED ANALYSIS

Sports League Association Interviews

The following Weatherford leagues and associations were interviewed at the Weatherford Park and Recreation Department. League presidents, board members or representatives were questioned and explained their league size, membership, league activities and field use. The following was documented.

Weatherford Little League

Boys baseball and girls softball are governed by the Weatherford Little League Association. In the spring of 2016 the Weatherford Baseball Little League had 600 participants, with approximately twelve (12) children per team; the equals to approximately 50 teams. Each team played two (2) games per week. In order to provide each team two (2) games per week, the league used the fields at Soldier Spring Park three (3) nights per week and all day on Saturday. The league currently has enough field capacity to accommodate these teams and games. However, using the fields five days a week leaves little room for expansion or growth. The baseball league will need additional fields in the near future.



Weatherford Girls Softball Association

The Weatherford Girls Softball Association uses the fields at Soldier Spring Park. In the spring of 2016 the league had 138 members and approximately 12 teams. In the spring league they use Soldier Spring Park fields. In the spring the fourth field is used by the Weatherford High School Girls Softball Team for practice and games. The Girls Softball League uses the fields on Tuesday and Thursday. Currently they do not have a need for additional fields.

Weatherford Soccer Association

The Weatherford Soccer Association uses the 11 soccer fields at Cartwright Park for their league play. The league had approximately 700 members which composed approximately 60 teams. The league played games on Saturday and Sunday. At present, the fields are adequate to serve their needs.



Weatherford Youth Association

The Weatherford Youth Association plays under the North Central Texas Pee Wee Football Association. They currently have thirteen (13) total teams. They practice at Cartwright Park and surrounding areas and play games at Weatherford's Independent School District facilities, Hall and Tison Middle School and Roo Stadium. All their games are played on Saturday. Presently, the City of Weatherford Park Department does not have a game football field in its park inventory and the league is dependent on the school facilities which is reviewed on an annual basis.

Weatherford Optimist Club

The Weatherford Optimist Club has approximately 250 players composing of fourteen (14) teams. They are a self-contained league and also use the Weatherford I.S.D. facilities. They only play on Saturdays and also practice at Cartwright Park.

Weatherford Disc Golf

The Weatherford Disc Golf Association use the course at Lake Weatherford. There is one 18-hole course. On Wednesday nights the course is used by the Weatherford Disc Golf Club. The club has had requests to host tournaments but cannot adequately provide facilities for these tournaments. The Weatherford Disc Golf Association has requested another possible 18-hole course within the City, possibly at Cartwright Park.

Weatherford Mountain Bike Club

The City of Weatherford has worked with the Weatherford Mountain Bike Club to provide a site at Quannah Hill Park. The bikers map, build and maintain the trails. The City has provided a trail head for parking and staging. Future improvement may include small pavilions, locked entrance gate, water source and electrical power.

Weatherford Adult Softball

The Weatherford Adult Softball Association currently uses the three (3) fields at Holland Lake Sports Complex and have games year-round. The league has spring, two summer leagues, and a fall league. The summer leagues have the most teams. In addition to playing one game per week they are able to host weekend tournaments.

PARK LAND ANALYSIS

Park land analysis is also evaluated on the basis of Weatherford’s current population, as shown in Table 9 below. This evaluation is a reliable guide and analysis for park land comparison. The acreage required per 1,000 populations varies for each park classification. For long range planning, this is a useful tool for determining future park land acreage acquisition.

As mentioned previously, the neighborhood park is an important aspect to the overall municipal park system. The minimum acreage for a neighborhood park should be five (5) acres for several important reasons. A minimum of five (5) acres provides enough land to develop playgrounds, small pavilions, etc. A smaller tract will limit the facilities and the recreational opportunities available to citizens. In the event that a city accepts a smaller tract of land, in the one (1) acre to three (3) acre range, maintenance of these parks would be time consuming and would also require an increase in the city’s maintenance budget. A minimum of five (5) acre tracts is therefore recommended for Neighborhood Park development.

Lake Weatherford has a unique recreation opportunity for Weatherford citizens. There are five (5) small parks on the shoreline of Lake Weatherford that can provide water oriented recreational opportunities. Because these individual parks are small a special park category was created for them.

The Park Land Analysis also estimates the park land requirement for the year 2035.

TABLE 9: PARK LAND ACREAGE ANALYSIS					
Park Type	Recommended Acres per 1,000 Persons	Existing Weatherford Parks	Acreage for Existing 28,015 Population	Acreage (+/-)	Acreage for Future 41,700 Population by Year 2035
Neighborhood Parks	2.5 acres	19.55 acres ↓	70 acres	-50.45 acres	104.25
Community Parks	5 acres	268.3 acres ↑	140 acres	+128.3 acres	208.50
Lake Front Park District	NS	15.6 acres ?	NS	NS	NS
Special Use Parks	2 acres	119.80 acres ↑	56 acres	+63.80 acres	83.40
Regional Parks	2-6 acres	38.4 acres ↓	168 acres	-129.60 acres	250.20
Open Space / Greenbelts	6-8 acres	39 acres ↓	224 acres	-185 acres	333.60
Area Per 1,000 Persons:	23.5 acres	500.65 acres ↓	658 acres	-157.35	979.95

NS = No Standard

Field Capacity Analysis

Another way in which to analyze whether park facilities within a municipality are meeting the demands of the population is to assess the number of league teams playing a sport in relation to the number of fields available for the related sport. Table 10 contains this information for Weatherford. The columns within the table are explained in the following:

- **Games Per Week Per Field Capacity** - The number of league games played in a week, as scheduled by the league.
- **Teams Per Field Per Week** - The number of games a single field will support, based upon length of game and age of participant.
- **Existing Teams** - The number of teams each league reports to the City.
- **Existing Number of League Fields** - The number of league fields available in the City of Weatherford’s inventory and adjacent cities in which Weatherford participates.
- **Field Requirement Per Teams** - The number of fields required to serve the number of games per week, based upon existing teams (equivalent to the Existing Teams column divided by Games per Week per Field Capacity column).
- **Number of Fields Needed to Meet Standard** - The number of fields required to meet the field requirements (equivalent to the Field Requirements per Standard column minus the Existing Number of League Fields column).

TABLE 10: RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY FIELD CAPACITY ANALYSIS						
Activity	Games per Week per Field Capacity	Teams per Field per Week	Existing Teams	Existing Number of League Fields	Fields Requirement per Teams	Number of Fields Needed to Meet Standards
Youth Baseball	12	12	50	5	5	0
Youth Fast Pitch Softball	12	12	12	2	2	0
*Football	5	5	17	0	4	4
Soccer	6	12	60	11	11	0

**Immediate Need*

The **Weatherford Youth Association (Football)** plays approximately half of these games in other cities. Their home games are played on Weatherford I.S.D. facilities.

FUTURE PARK IMPROVEMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

EXISTING PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The focus of this section will be the renovation of existing parks. The improvements are based on an analysis of existing facilities. Descriptions of these parks and related recommendations begin on the following page.

Preliminary cost estimates have also been prepared for each park element or improvement. The costs are general for specific elements such as benches, playgrounds, picnic tables, etc. Items such as drainage improvements and field renovation should be analyzed at the time of the proposed improvements as these items require a detail site analysis which is not included in this *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*.

In general, all parks and facilities should consider the senior and physically challenged citizens. These citizens have specific needs which must be considered and accommodated within the design process of any park. Specific recreational opportunities the City should consider are hard surface trails, open play areas, passive uses such as gardens and nature areas. With all this in mind, all recreational activity facilities should be accessible to all age groups and physical capabilities.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Circle Park

South Lamar St. and South Hill Drive

Park Size: 0.55 Acres

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Facilities: Undeveloped



Recommended Improvements:

Park Irrigation.....	\$ 30,000.00
Small Playground.....	\$ 50,000.00
Park Benches.....	\$ 7,500.00
Small Arbor/Picnic Pavilion.....	\$ 35,000.00
Decomposed Granite Trail.....	\$ 40,000.00
Tree Plantings.....	\$ 15,000.00

Total: \$177,500.00

Clear Lake Park

2120 Lake Front Drive

Park Size: 3 Acres

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Facilities: Undeveloped

Recommended Improvements:

- Determine recreation uses for the park.
- Prepare a Master Plan with cost estimates for development

Marshall Park

115 East Fifth Street

Park Size: 2.5 Acres

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Facilities: Parking (22 Improved Spaces)
 Multi-Purpose Field (UL) 1
 Sand Volleyball Court (UL) 1
 Playground Units (5)
 Swing (1)
 Benches (3)
 Picnic Table (1)



Recommended Improvements:

Walking Trail.....	\$ 110,000.00
Playground with Shade Structure.....	\$ 100,000.00
Splash Pad.....	\$ 250,000.00
Picnic Pavilion.....	\$ 60,000.00
Picnic Tables.....	\$ 7,500.00
Parking Lot (42 Spaces).....	\$ 75,000.00
Remove Existing Equipment.....	\$ 5,000.00
Total:	\$607,500.00

Miller Park

1501 Ball Street

Park Size: 2.5 Acres

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Facilities: Parking (7 Improved Spaces)
Parking (1 Improved HC Space)
No Restrooms
Basketball Court (UL) 1
1/7 Mile Walking Trail (1)
Playground Units (2)
Swing (1)
Benches (7)
Picnic Tables (4)



Recommended Improvements:

None at this time

Scotts Meadow Park

Scotts Meadow Court

Park Size: 10 Acres

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Facilities: Undeveloped

Recommended Improvements:

None at this time

Vine Street Park

700 Block W Vine Street

Park Size: 1 Acre

Park Classification: Neighborhood

Park Facilities: Parking (On Street)
No Restrooms
Playground Units (4)
Picnic Table (1)



Recommended Improvements:

Small Picnic Pavilion.....	\$ 30,000.00
Picnic Tables.....	\$ 5,000.00
Walking Trail.....	\$ 75,000.00
Shade Structure for Playground.....	\$ 25,000.00
ADA Improvement.....	\$ 10,000.00
	\$ 145,000.00

COMMUNITY PARKS

Cartwright Park

204 Cartwright Park Road (including Soccer Fields)

Park Size: 180 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: Parking (Asphalt Lots) 2
 Parking (Gravel Lots) 2
 Restroom (Port-a-Lets) 3
 Restrooms (Improved Facility -Septic) 1
 Softball Field (L) 1
 Soccer Fields (UL) 11
 Boat Ramp (L) 1
 Fishing Pier (L) 1
 Playground Unit (1)
 Swing (1)
 Open Space Areas (2)
 30-Acre Lake (1)
 Picnic Pavilion (L)
 Benches (3)
 Grills (3)
 Picnic Tables (30)



Recommended Improvements: / Implement Master Plan

Acquire Additional Park Land.....	\$ Market Value
Improve Soccer Fields.....	\$ 1,500,000.00
Improve Football Fields.....	\$ 500,000.00
Baseball Fields (6).....	\$ 2,000,000.00
Additional Parking / Roads.....	\$ 1,000,000.00
Restroom/Concession Building.....	\$ 500,000.00
Total:	\$ 5,500,000.00

Cherry Park

313 Davis Street

Park Size: 4.4 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: Parking (77 Improved Spaces)
Parking (7 Improved HC Spaces)
Restroom (Port-a-Lets) 1
Restroom (Improved Facility -Sewer) 2
Multi-Purpose Court (L) 1
Playground Units (4)
Swings (2)
1/4 Mile Walking Trail
Gazebo (L) 1
Picnic Pavilion (L) 1
Community Center (1)
Benches (17)
Grills (15)
Picnic Tables (18)
Porch Swings (2)
Swimming Pool (60' x 120') 1
Splash Pad



Recommended Improvements:

None at this time

Holland Lake Park

1419 Holland Lake Road

Park Size: 39 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: Parking (151 Improved Spaces)
Parking (11 Improved HC Spaces)
Restrooms
Playground Units (3)
Swing (1)
0.43 Mile Walking Trail (1)
Picnic Pavilion (L) 1
Benches (19)
Stone Grills (2)
Picnic Tables (25)
Fishing Pond (1-Acre) 1

Recommended Improvements:

None at this time



Holland Lake Sports Complex

1419 Holland Lake Road

Park Size: 10.4 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: 3-Field Softball Complex (L) 1
Restroom/Concession Building
Parking

Recommended Improvements:

None at this time

Love Street Park

309 Love Street

Park Size: 14 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: Parking (58 Improved Spaces)
Parking (4 Improved HC Spaces)
Restrooms
Basketball Court (L) 1
1/4" Mile Walking Trail (1)
Playground Units (10)
Swings (2)
Splash Pad (1)
Benches (17)
Picnic Tables (12)
Fishing Pond (1)
Fishing Pier (1)
Horseshoe Pits (12)



Recommended Improvements:

None at this time

McGratton Park

600 Block N. Main Street

Park Size: 3.5 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: Parking (28 Spaces)
 Parking (2 HC Spaces)
 Restrooms (Port-a-Let) 1
 Multi-Purpose Field (L) 1
 Softball Field (L) 1
 Multi-Purpose Courts (L) 2
 Skate Park (L) 1
 Swings (2)
 1/6 Mile Walking Trail (1)
 Benches (9)
 Picnic Tables (10)
 Grill (1)



Recommended Improvements:

Update Ramps.....	\$ 15,000.00
Resurface Basketball Court.....	\$ 50,000.00
Total:	\$ 65,000.00

Soldier Spring Sports Complex

Charles Street

Park Size: 17 Acres

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Facilities: Parking (4 Asphalt Lots) L
Parking (3 Gravel Lots) L
Restrooms (Improved Facility – Sewer) 3
Restroom/Concession
Youth Baseball Fields (L) 3
Youth Softball Fields (L) 2
Baseball Fields (UL) 2
Tennis Courts (L) 7
Batting Cages (4)
Playground units (5)
1 Mile Walking Trail (1)
Benches (4)
Picnic Table (15)



Recommended Improvements:

- Re-evaluate Use (See Recommended Improvements)

LAKE FRONT PARK DISTRICT

Azle Park

2864 East Lake Drive

Park Size: 9 Acres

Park Classification: Lake Front Park

Park Facilities: Fishing Piers (2)
Picnic Tables (5)

Recommended Improvements:

Prepare master plan for evaluation, development and capital improvement

Brazos Park

538 West Lake Drive

Park Size: 1.5 Acres

Park Classification: Lake Front Park

Park Facilities: Picnic Tables (3)

Recommended Improvements:

Prepare master plan for evaluation, development and capital improvement

Marina Park

210 West Lake Drive

Park Size: 2.5 Acres

Park Classification: Lake Front Park

Park Facilities: Picnic Tables (3)

Recommended Improvements:

Prepare master plan for evaluation, development and capital improvement

Mustang Cove

2149 East Lake Drive

Park Size: 1.1 Acres

Park Classification: Lake Front Park

Park Facilities: Swimming Access

Recommended Improvements:

Prepare master plan for evaluation, development and capital improvement



The Wall

900 East Lake Drive

Park Size: 1.5 Acres

Park Classification: Lake Front Park

Park Facilities: Fishing Access

Recommended Improvements:

Prepare master plan for evaluation, development and capital improvement

SPECIAL USE PARKS

Harberger Hill

701 Narrow Street

Park Size: 2.5 Acres

Park Classification: Special Use Park

Park Facilities: Rental Building
Meeting Space

Recommended Improvements:

None at this time

Lake Weatherford Disc Golf Course

700 East Lake Drive

Park Size: 31 Acres

Park Classification: Special Use Park

Park Facilities: Parking (7 Improved Spaces)
Parking (1 Improved HC Space)
18-Hole Disc Golf Course (1)
Benches (7)
Picnic Table (1)

Recommended Improvements:

Small Picnic Pavilion	\$ 50,000.00
Improve Parking Lot	\$ 25,000.00
Total:	\$ 75,000.00

Mount Pleasant

312 Raymond George Way

Park Size: 2.3 Acres

Park Classification: Special Use Park (Rental Facility)

Park Facilities: Meeting Space
Restored Colored School with
Historical Memorabilia

Recommended Improvements:

None at this time

Patsy Hooks Dog Park

379 Jack Borden Way

Park Size: 3 Acres

Park Classification: Special Use Park

Park Facilities: Dog Park

Recommended Improvements:

None at this time





Quanah Hill

White Settlement / West Lake Drive

Park Size: 75 Acres

Park Classification: Special Use Park

Park Facilities: Undeveloped

Recommended Improvements:

Improve Parking (20 Spaces).....	\$ 40,000.00
Restroom Facilities.....	\$120,000.00
Small Pavilion.....	\$ 40,000.00
Total:	\$200,000.00

Veterans Memorial at Soldier Spring Park

Thrush Street

Park Size: 6 Acres

Park Classification: Special Use Park

Park Facilities: Memorial
Prayer Garden
Walk of Honor
Spring Viewing Area
(Under Construction by City Staff)

Recommended Improvements:

Small Pavilion.....	\$ 40,000.00
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REGIONAL PARKS

Camp Holland

1421 Holland Lake Drive

Park Size: 4 Acres

Park Classification: Regional Park

Park Facilities: Located within the borders of Holland Lake Park.
Available for special event usage.
Historic Cabins
Camping Sites

Recommended Improvements:

ADA Improvements.....\$ 20,000.00

Chandor Gardens

711 West Lee Street

Park Size: 17 Acres

Park Classification: Regional Park

Park Facilities: English/Oriental Garden
Wedding Venue
Meeting Space
Tours



Recommended Improvements:

Refer to Master Plan prepared by Bennett Benner Partners

Heritage Park

200 Santa Fe Drive

Park Size: 17.4 Acres

Park Classification: Regional Park

Park Facilities: Amphitheater
 Hike and Bike Trail
 Event Grounds
 Food Park
 Parking Lot
 Rental Grounds
 Dog Park
 All Inclusive Playground (Under Construction)



Recommended Improvements:

Heritage Park Main Sign and Lot Signage.....	\$ 45,000.00
All-inclusive Playground.....	\$200,000.00
Additional Parking at North Lot.....	\$ 40,000.00
South Lot.....	\$350,000.00
Heritage Plaza.....	\$300,000.00
Total:	\$935,000.00



OPEN SPACE / GREENBELTS

Town Creek Hike and Bike Trail

Park Size: 7 Acres
Park Classification: Open Space / Greenbelt
Park Facilities: 3.15 Miles of Trail
Trailhead Locations: 801 Sante Fe Drive
 401 Fort Worth Highway
 1419 Holland Lake Road
 100 IKard Lane



Recommended Improvements:

Reference Capital Improvement Development Plan
 City of Weatherford



Soldier Spring Park Trail and Nature Area

Thrush Street

Park Size: 32 Acres
Park Classification: Open Space / Greenbelt
Park Facilities: 1.1 Miles of Trail
Trailhead Locations: 961 Charles Street
 200 Thrush Street
 907 Russell Street
 101 Thrush Street



Recommended Improvements:

Trail Improvement.....	\$25,000.00
Kiosk	\$20,000.00
Total:	\$45,000.00

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARK ACQUISITION

The City of Weatherford currently has a good distribution of parks that serve the City well. The various types of park classifications provide differing recreational opportunities, some for neighborhoods, some for organized sports, some for passive play, etc. It is important for a city to have a diverse park system, and thereby provide its citizenry with varying recreational choices.

Not only is a diverse park system important, but also the size and scope of that system is important; the size and scope needs to adequately serve a city's population base. Weatherford is projected to increase in population from its current number of 28,015 people in 2016 to 41,700 by the year 2035. The City is experiencing this growth due to the current upswing in the economy and the recognition of Weatherford as a great place to live. The population that is projected creates a challenge for the City to continually provide adequate park and recreational facilities that meet the needs of citizens in tandem with this growth. Not only will population growth within the City itself need to be considered, but also as the Weatherford City limits expand through the annexation process in its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

For all these reasons, the act of acquiring park land is one of the most important components in park development. Doing so is the only way that a city can meet its obligations to provide a diverse and size-appropriate park system. Key to this is to note that as Weatherford grows and land is developed into residential and commercial uses, the absolute best opportunity for park land acquisition is lost unless park land is acquired concurrently with the new development, both within the City limits and in the ETJ.

FUTURE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK ACQUISITION

The neighborhood park is considered to be the core unit in a municipal park system because it provides recreation opportunities within walking distance of homes. The service area of a neighborhood park, therefore, is considered to be a one-mile radius because most people are able to comfortably walk that distance (or less) to enjoy a park.

The *Future Park Plan* illustrates the generally proposed location of future neighborhood parks, shown as one-mile circles (to represent a radius) on the map. This shows the need for the City to acquire land for and build new neighborhood parks to the north and west, adjacent to Interstate 20. Again, the location of the neighborhood parks as shown on the *Future Park Plan* is generalized and is not intended to identify specific parcels or lots for park land acquisition; the Weatherford Park Department and Planning Department will recommend specific property acquisition to the Parks and Recreation Board when the time is appropriate based on growth and development. The goal is to show where a neighborhood park is anticipated to be needed to serve the citizens within that radius as population growth occurs.

FUTURE COMMUNITY PARKS, GREENBELTS AND SPECIAL USE PARKS

Community Parks

Community parks typically provide organized athletic fields and other associated park facilities such as playgrounds, pavilions, splash pads, trails, etc. The City of Weatherford currently has approximately 268 acres of community park land in the park system. It should be noted that currently, Weatherford services not only its citizens, but also people who live outside the City limits and in Parker County, due to a lack of facilities in those surrounding areas. This creates a need for the City to provide additional park facilities to supplement the additional population that is served.

As part of this park planning process, public hearings and sports association interviews were conducted. Partially as a result of those efforts, it has been determined that there is a shortage of community park facilities, specifically for football. This feedback has been amplified by input from both football organizations that use the Weatherford Independent School District (I.S.D.) facilities. The City does not currently have a football field for youth organizations.

To address current needs and future growth, the City will need to acquire an additional 75 to 100 acres of community park land within the next twenty (20) years. Designing and building a football field (or fields) within a new community park should be a primary goal.

Soldier Spring Park

Soldier Spring Park provides tennis courts, baseball, softball and other active park amenities. Within the park itself, recreation opportunities for baseball and softball are on the west side, adjacent to Charles Street. Passive nature opportunities are on the east side of the park, adjacent to Thrush Street. Having this kind of diversity within a park provides a positive experience for citizens of varying ages and with varying interests.



Active Park Use

The baseball/softball facilities within Soldier Spring Park are the primary fields used for organized league play in Weatherford. There currently is not room for expansion. It appears the fields were added over time, as needed, without the benefit of a master plan, therefore leading to poor vehicular circulation and parking. The Park Staff is continually adding to or repairing the complex as needed. Based on the field capacity analysis (Table 10), the baseball/softball fields are at full capacity. To address this situation the City has two options. One would be for the City to have a Master Plan created for the park, which would evaluate its existing layout and efficiency and establish ways to possibly improve it. The second option would be to concentrate efforts for new fields at a different park location, such as Cartwright Park; the City could acquire more land there and relocate the baseball/softball fields to Cartwright.

Passive Park Use

The east side of Soldier Spring Park has existing walking/hiking trails with native plants and some wildlife. The east end has had an elevation change from approximately 40 feet at the west side (baseball/softball) to Thrush street level; therefore, due to the elevation change, development of this section of Soldier Spring Park would be difficult. Minor improvement such as park signage, benches, and rest areas with views would be compatible with the park but a major redevelopment or alternate use for this section would not be recommended.

Cartwright Park

The City prepared a Master Plan for Cartwright Park in 2008. In addition to Sunshine Lake, the park is home to the Weatherford Soccer Association. There may be an opportunity to explore additional land acquisition at Cartwright Park. The additional land may provide an avenue to address the need for new baseball/softball fields, as discussed in the previous section about Soldier Spring Park. This *2016 Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan* endorses the City exploring the option of creating baseball/softball fields at Cartwright Park.

Hike and Bike Trail Plan

Trails and Hike & Bike Trails were identified by the public as the number one priority and need in Weatherford. Hike and bike trails provide recreation opportunities to all citizens and all age groups. The City has an outstanding trail which runs north east of Santa Fe Drive and west of the Union Pacific Railroad in the Town Creek Floodplain. The City has developed this trail over the last fifteen (15) years and continues to expand the trail to the retail district on Interstate 20.



In 2013, Freese and Nichols prepared a Transportation Plan for the City of Weatherford which included a Bike/Pedestrian Plan recommending connection of parks, schools, and retail areas on Interstate 20 and Downtown Weatherford.

The Bike/Pedestrian Plan was reviewed by City Staff and the Consultant and the following recommendations were added to the Master Plan (shown on the map entitled *Future Trail Network Plan*):

- Connection to Solder Spring Park, to Love Street Park, and Chandor Gardens
- Connection to Clear Lake Park and from the north side of Interstate 20
- Connection to the Mineral Wells State Park to the northwest, and future connection to the Veloweb Trail to the southeast

The Bike/Pedestrian Plan is currently used to guide the City in acquisition of property for trail construction and evaluation of future and existing thoroughfares for on-street bike lanes. Not only is it a valuable asset for the City when determining future trail connections, but it also is valuable in helping the City apply for grant assistance for trail construction. This *2016 Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan* recommends continued use of the Bike/Pedestrian Plan, with the added trail connections listed previously.

Indoor Recreation Centers

As mentioned previously, as part of this park planning process, public hearings were conducted to help determine what citizens identify as being needs in the City's park system. An indoor recreation center was one of the desired amenities mentioned by many Weatherford citizens and is ranked 4th in the overall Ten-Year City Priority List found on Page 84. Typically, cities provide indoor recreational opportunities in the form of a recreation center. These facilities provide for organized work out programs such as aerobic exercise, weight lifting, and stationary low-impact bikes and treadmills. Basketball and racquetball may also be provided. Typically, recreation centers are approximately 20,000 to 35,000 square feet and their cost ranges between \$15,000,000 to \$25,000,000. The cost of course would be determined by the final square footage and the amenities in the center. The City should plan on construction of a facility of this type within the next five to ten years.

Aquatic Facilities

Aquatic facilities were also mentioned as being highly desired park system elements during public hearings. The City already has one pool – the Cherry Park pool provides an excellent water recreation opportunity. Aquatic facilities can be built as full service aquatic parks, which consist of pools, slides, wading pools and water play features. Initial cost for a facility of this type is estimated at \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000. These large multi-million dollar water



Example of Aquatic Facility – Roanoke,

parks often have a service area, larger than the City limits of Weatherford, and are typically classified as a regional facility. The City should look at a marketing study or a feasibility analysis to determine the whether an aquatic facility of this scale is something that it wants and needs to provide.

Another type of aquatic facility is a spray park or splash park. Weatherford's existing spray park at Love Street Park is heavily used from the late spring to early fall, and provides a great recreational benefit to its citizens. A spray park or splash pad can be built with approximately \$250,000 to \$750,000, and the ultimate size of it is largely dependent on the service area. In terms of location, these types of facilities are most often integrated into community parks and not neighborhood parks, because neighborhood parks are not generally large enough to accommodate the infrastructure or parking requirements for a splash pad or spray park. The City should plan to construct another splash park within the next five years.

Greenbelts and Open Space

One of the primary uses of greenbelts and open space is for construction of hike, bike and multi-use trails and preservation of the natural environment. Based on the Needs Assessment survey and the Ten-Year Priority List on Page 84, hike and bike trails or multi-use trails have been identified as the number one requested recreational element in Weatherford. Although trails are developed in neighborhood and community parks, the most optimal location is in the greenbelts and open spaces of creek corridors.

These trails can become destination trails to adjacent cities and internal to Weatherford to provide pedestrian trails to retail areas, and to connect parks to other parks and public areas. When property adjacent to creeks and floodplains is developed, floodplain property, as directed by City Staff, should be dedicated to the City for Open Space and Greenbelts.

The City should accept floodplain areas as a donation and should not purchase the land, unless the City foresees a need for a critical purchase in order to preserve land and/or provide a link to another park. These open spaces preserve trees and native areas and enhance the educational and passive use of floodplains and open space for park patrons.



Special Use Parks

The City has five Special Use Parks: the Lake Weatherford Disc Golf Course, Mount Pleasant, Patsy Hooks Dog Park, Quannah Hill and Veterans Memorial at Soldier Spring Park. The City may acquire/construct additional special use facilities such as a possible tennis center, golf course or aquatic facility, as acquisition and development of special use parks are added.

Historic Structures and Location

The City of Weatherford is fortunate to have historic Soldier Spring Park within the City. Marked by a historical marker, which provides a unique glimpse back into Weatherford's early settlement history, the actual 'Soldier Spring' is a natural water source that both prehistoric animals and indigenous peoples would have used. The native plants, still found in the park, are reminiscent of the plants that would have been found growing prior to the arrival (1850) of European man and his livestock. It also houses one of the five butterfly monarch stations in Parker County. The historic log cabins in Holland Lake Park date back to 1860, and the unique development and history of Chandor Gardens from the early 1930's. The Cherry Park Pool dating back to 1947 and the dedication process of Miller Park are also examples of the historic past of Weatherford. These parks cannot be replaced and the City should maintain their amenities and the historic value of Weatherford's past.

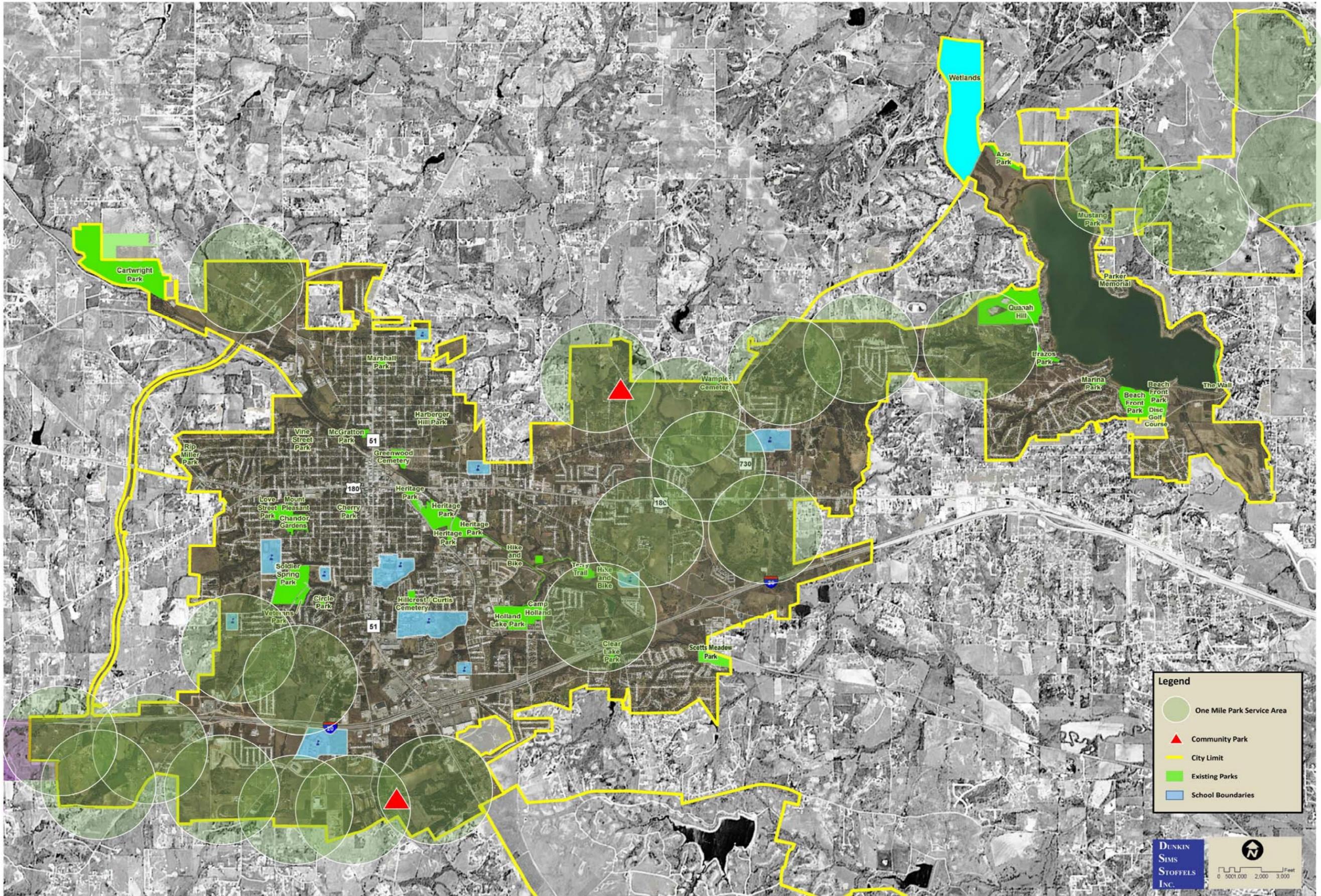


Monument Entry Features

Thoroughfares were evaluated to determine the locations of the entry points/nodes into the City of Weatherford. The Plan established primary, secondary, and territory nodes entry features with the primary node being the most significant and largest scale project. **Primary** entry features are located on Interstate 20, **Secondary** nodes are located on the east and west ends of U.S. 180 and **Territory** entry features are located on Interstate 20 and within entry points to the Downtown area.

The entry features should incorporate similar existing design elements such as stone, metals, signage, etc.; however, the scale of each feature should be designed in relation to the location.





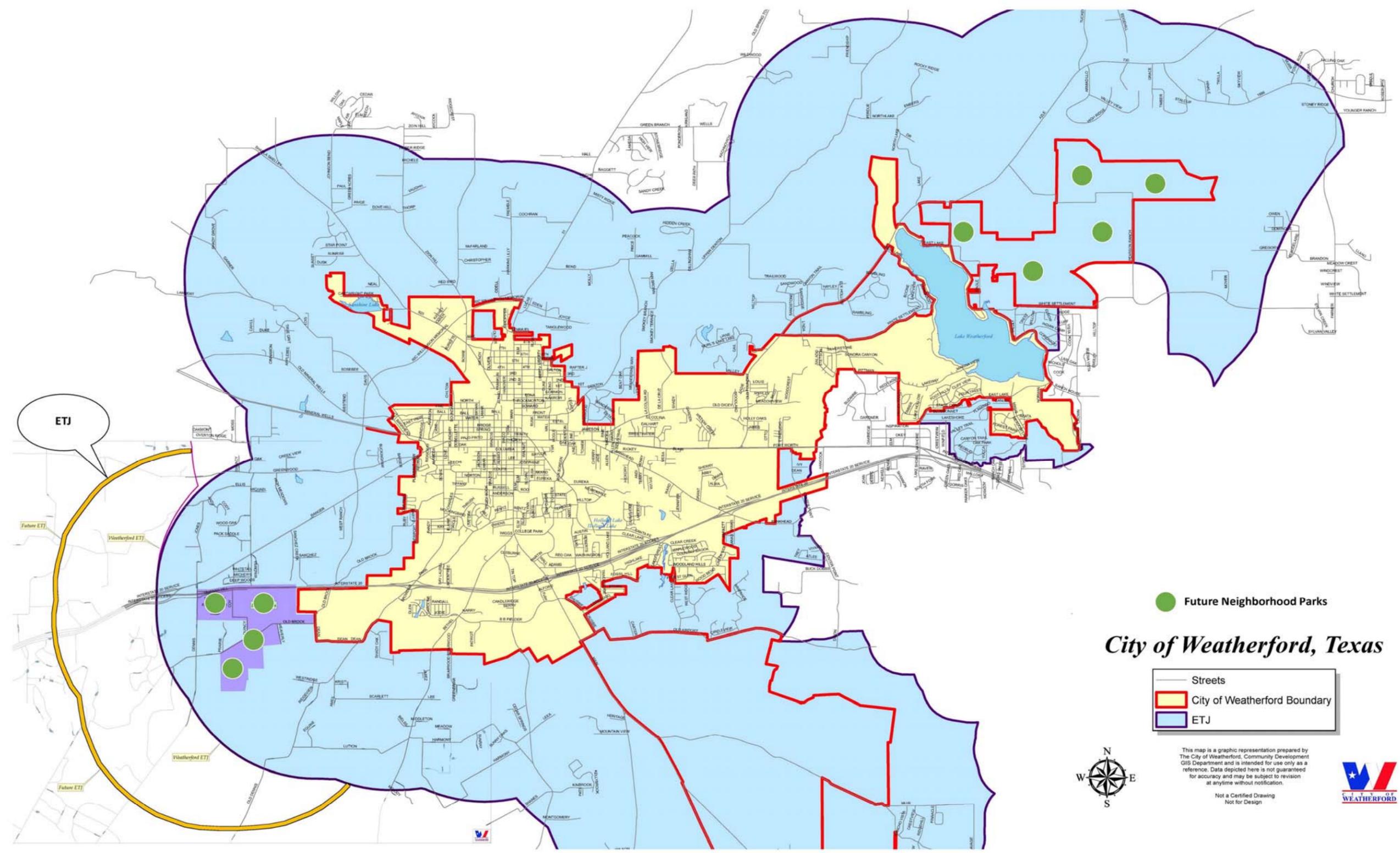
Legend

- One Mile Park Service Area
- Community Park
- City Limit
- Existing Parks
- School Boundaries

**DUNKIN
 SIMS
 STOFFELS
 INC.**

0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 Feet





● Future Neighborhood Parks

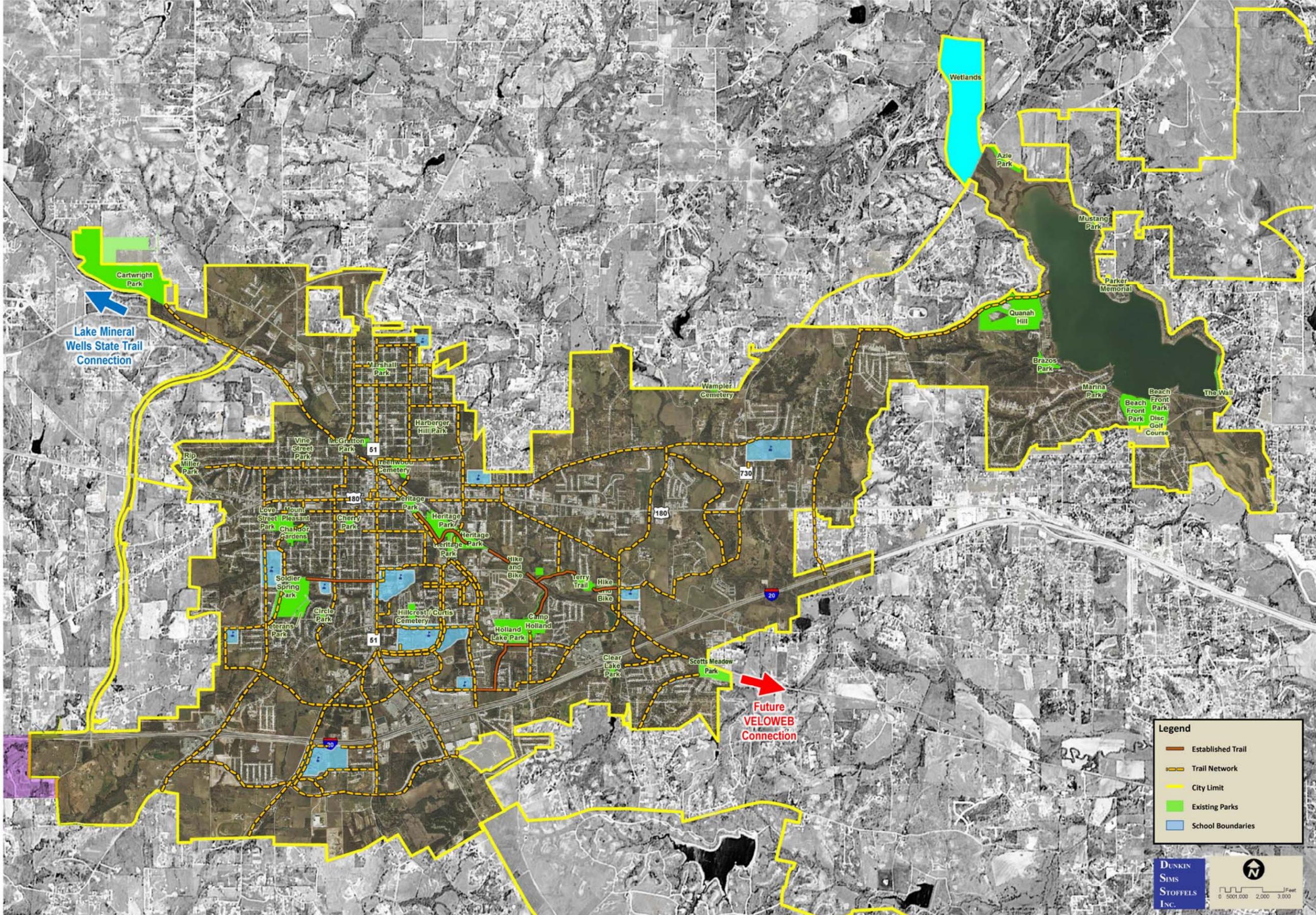
City of Weatherford, Texas

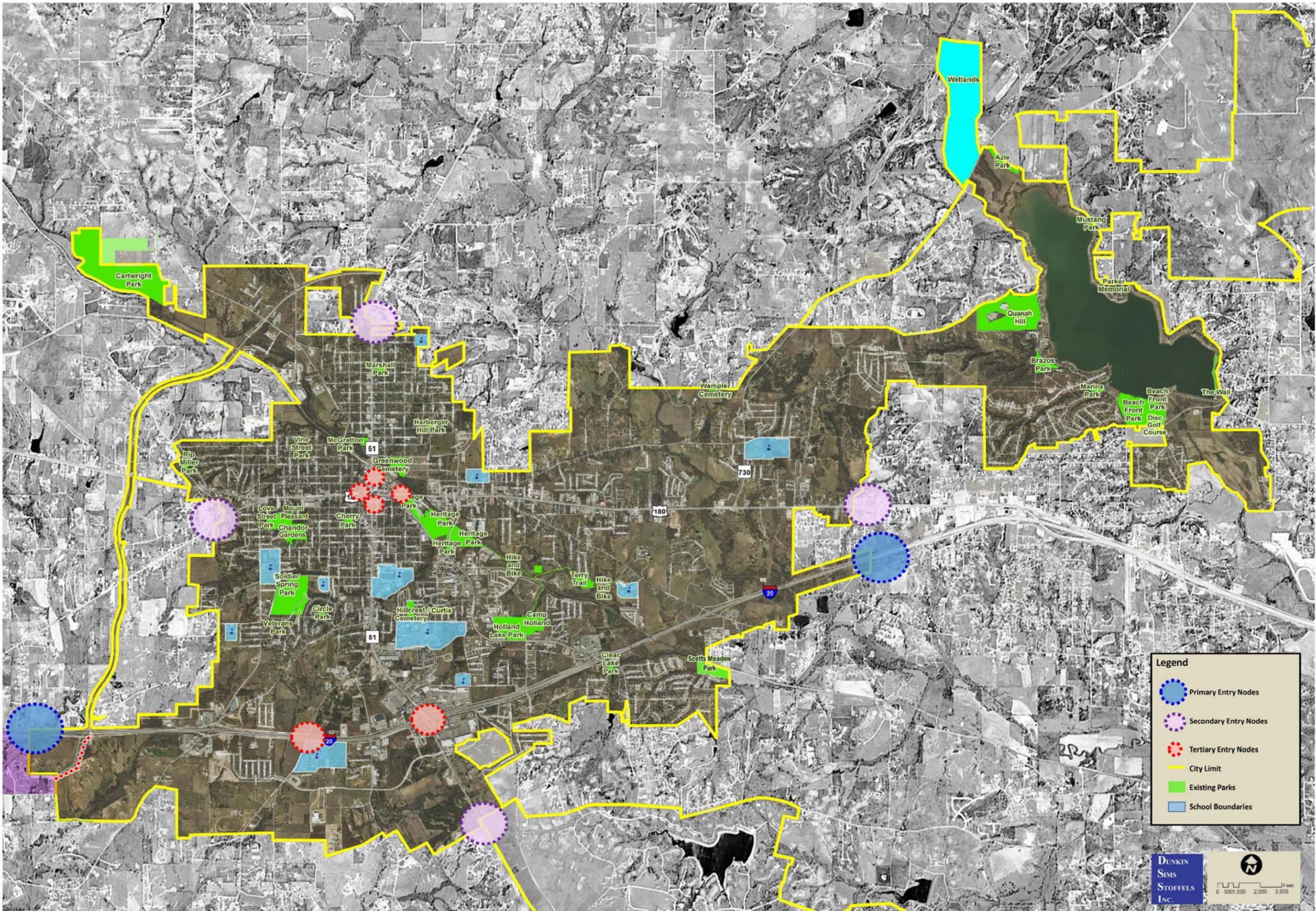
- Streets
- City of Weatherford Boundary
- ETJ



This map is a graphic representation prepared by The City of Weatherford, Community Development GIS Department and is intended for use only as a reference. Data depicted here is not guaranteed for accuracy and may be subject to revision at anytime without notification.
 Not a Certified Drawing
 Not for Design







PARK AND MASTER PLAN MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

The purpose of this section is to provide a general analysis of municipal park maintenance. The following park maintenance standards for the Weatherford park system are classified into four (4) levels of maintenance. The levels are designated by Class A, Class B, Class C and Class D, with Class A serving as the highest level of maintenance in terms of man-hours and cost.

The following chart is based on the National Recreation and Park Association’s maintenance labor standards. Although the classification system provides a realistic guide to park maintenance, it should be noted that the labor equipment and materials needed are general in nature and can be used as a starting point to establish park maintenance budgets. Each park superintendent has a different philosophy and approach to park maintenance and alternative ways to achieve their maintenance goals.

These charts and man-hours are only for park maintenance. They do not include hours for preparation of special events, such as parades, concerts, Christmas lighting, etc.

The City currently has 500.65 acres of park land. Based on the standards from the National Recreation and Park Association it takes 118 man-hours to maintain one acre of park land. The 118 hours is an average which consists of all types of park land in the City. Therefore, per acre maintenance costs would be 118 acre hours x \$12.00 per hour (Weatherford average rate) + 75% for equipment and supplies. The maintenance and operation of park cost in Weatherford would be estimated as \$2,478.00 per acre.

The Maintenance Level Costs chart provides a maintenance level with a percentage factor for equipment and supplies.

Maintenance Level	Factor	Cost/Acre/Year
A	+50%	\$3,720.00
B	+20%	\$2,980.00
C	Average	\$2,480.00
D	-10%	\$2,240.00

Identified and described are the four levels of park maintenance classifications and the minimum standards for each class. The existing parks in Weatherford are also designated into each maintenance class, as shown in Table 12.

As a municipal park system evolves and develops, care and maintenance of the parks, open spaces and recreation equipment must be maintained. The maintenance costs identified above is a simple reminder of on-going employee and budget requirements which must be established.

Table 12: Weatherford Park Classifications and Maintenance Standards	
Neighborhood Parks	Acreage
Circle Park	0.55
Clear Lake Park	3
Marshall Park	2.5
Miller Park	2.5
Scotts Meadow Park	10
Vine Street Park	1
Total Acreage for Neighborhood Parks:	19.55
Community Parks	Acreage
Cartwright Park (including Soccer Fields)	180
Cherry Park	4.4
Holland Lake Park	39
Holland Lake Sports Complex	10.4
Love Street Park	14
McGratton Park	3.5
Soldier Spring Sports Complex	17
Total Acreage for Community Parks:	268.3
Lake Front Park District	Acreage
Azle Park	9
Brazos Park	1.5
Marina Park	2.5
Mustang Cove	1.1
The Wall	1.5
Total Acreage for Lake Front Park District:	15.6
Special Use Parks	Acreage
Harberger Hill	2.5
Lake Weatherford Disc Golf Course	31
Mount Pleasant	2.3
Patsy Hooks Dog Park	3
Quanah Hill	75
Veterans Memorial at Soldier Spring Park	6
Total Acreage for Special Use Parks:	119.8
Regional Parks	Acreage
Camp Holland	4
Chandor Gardens (On Contract)	17
Heritage Park	17.4
Total Acreage for Regional Parks:	38.4
Open Space / Greenbelts	Acreage
Town Creek Hike and Bike Trail	7
Soldier Spring Park Trail and Nature Area	32
Total Acreage for Open Space / Greenbelts:	39
Total Acreage for All Parks:	500.65

**Park Classification and Maintenance Standards
Weatherford Parks Department**

General Statement

Class A.....High Maintenance mow once per week

Flower and Shrub Beds

- Circle Park
- Clear Lake Park
- Harberger Hill
- Marshall Park
- Miller Park
- Scotts Meadow Park
- Vine Street Park
- Cartwright Park (including Soccer Fields)
- Cherry Park
- Holland Lake Park
- Holland Lake Sports Complex
- Love Street Park
- McGratton Park
- Soldier Spring Sports Complex
- Patsy Hooks Dog Park
- Veterans Memorial at Soldier Spring Park

Class B.....High Maintenance mow once per week

Limited flower beds, shrub beds are included

- Azle
- Brazos Park
- Marina Park
- Mustang Cove
- The Wall
- Mount Pleasant (Rental Facility)
- Camp Holland
- Heritage Park

Class C.....Medium to Low Maintenance

Mow as needed during the season

No irrigation

- Lake Weatherford Disc Golf Course
- Quanah Hill
- Town Creek Hike and Bike Trail

Class D.....Mow 1 to 2 times annually or as needed

- Soldier Spring Park Trail and Nature Area

On Contract.....Chandor Garden

CLASS A SERVICE LEVEL:

Turf:

- Mowing to be performed one time per week or as needed for special events. Mowing height to be 1 ½ inches high.
- Edging and weed eating to be done one time per week during the active growing season of March through October, and once per month from November through February.
- Weed control to be done as necessary year round for control of warm and cool season weeds in turf.
- Fertilizing to be done a minimum of two times per year for proper health of turf areas. Amount of fertilizing shall be recommended for Bermuda turf and winter Over Seed grass.
- Aerating to be done one time per year and overdressed with soil amendment.

Shrub Beds:

- Pruning of shrubs to be done two times per year as needed depending on species to keep a neatly maintained appearance and size. Native grasses and feather grasses shall be pruned as needed.

Seasonal Color Beds:

- All season color beds shall be maintained with a loose friable high in organic content as needed – depending on annuals/perennials.

Pest Control:

- Pest Control shall be provided as observed and needed. Fire Ant control needs to be done as necessary year round.

Tree Care:

- Trees shall be monitored each year in winter months and pruned by a qualified arborist.

Irrigation:

- Irrigation system should be inspected and repaired on a weekly basis, as needed.

Litter Control:

- As needed on a daily basis.

CLASS B SERVICE LEVEL:

Turf:

- Mowing to be performed one time per week during normal league play and twice for tournament play and during active growing seasons of March through October. Mowing height to be 1 ½" inches high.
- Edging and weed eating to be done one time per week during the active growing season of March through October, and once per month from November through February.
- Weed control to be done as necessary year round for control of warm and cool season weeds in turf.
- Fertilizing to be done a minimum of two times per year for proper health of turf areas. Amount of fertilizing shall be recommended for Bermuda turf and winter Over Seed grass.
- Aerating to be done one time per year and overdressed with soil amendment.

Shrub Beds:

- Pruning of shrubs to be done two times per year as needed depending on species to keep a neatly maintained appearance and size. Native grasses and feather grasses shall be pruned as needed.

Seasonal Color Beds:

- N/A

Pest Control:

- Pest Control shall be provided as observed and needed. Fire Ant control needs to be done as necessary year round.

Tree Care:

- Trees shall be monitored each year in winter months and pruned by a qualified arborist.

Irrigation:

- Irrigation system should be inspected and repaired on a weekly basis, as needed.

Litter Control:

- As needed on a daily basis.

CLASS C SERVICE LEVEL:

Turf:

- Mowing to be performed one or two times per year or as needed for special events.
- Edging and weed eating to be done, as needed around structures or parking areas, one time per week during the active growing season of March through October, and once per month from November through February.
- Weed control to be done as necessary.

Shrub Beds:

- N/A

Seasonal Color Beds:

- N/A

Pest Control:

- Fire Ant control needed around pedestrian areas, restrooms, etc.

Tree Care:

- N/A

Irrigation:

- N/A

Litter Control:

As needed weekly.

CLASS D SERVICE LEVEL

Turf:

- Mowing to be performed one time per year or as needed for safety measures.
- Aerating to be done one time per year and overdressed with soil amendment.

Shrub Beds:

- N/A

Seasonal Color Beds:

- N/A

Pest Control:

- N/A

Tree Care:

- N/A

Irrigation:

- N/A

Litter Control:

- N/A

TEN-YEAR CITY PRIORITY LIST

The Ten-Year Action Plan- Recreational Facility Priority Listing for Outdoor Facilities as outlined in Table 13 below, and the Ten-Year Action Plan – Recreational Facility Priority Listing for Indoor Facilities in Table 14 on the next page, represents the culmination of the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan. It is the synoptic conclusion of the park master planning process. Annual review of the action plan by the City Staff, City Council members, Weatherford Parks and Recreation Board members and citizens will allow analysis of action item recommendations for acquisition, improvements and new facilities to enhance the quality of Weatherford Parks and Recreation System to maximum effect.

TABLE 13: TEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN – RECREATIONAL FACILITY PRIORITY LISTING FOR OUTDOOR FACILITIES				
Priority	Facility	Timing	Estimated Cost	Possible Funding Sources
1.	Hike and Bike Trails	2016 – 2021	\$300,000/Mile	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
2.	Playgrounds	2016 – 2021	\$80,000/Each	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
3.	Park Benches	2016 – 2021	\$750/Each	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
4.	Recreation Centers	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
5.	Multi-Use Courts	2016 – 2021	\$40,000/Each	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
6.	Picnic Pavilion	2016 – 2021	\$25,000 to \$60,000	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
7.	Football Fields	2016 – 2021	\$250,000/Each	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
8.	Practice Open Space	2016 – 2021	\$25,000/Acre	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
9.	Splash Park	2016 – 2021	\$150,000 to \$250,000	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
10.	Tennis Courts	2016 – 2021	\$80,000 Each	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
11.	Sand Volleyball	2016 – 2021	\$20,000 Each	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
12.	Picnic Tables	2016 – 2021	\$1,000/Each	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
13.	Dog Park	2016 – 2021	\$100,000 to \$300,000	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
14.	Open Space Acquisition	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
15.	Youth Baseball Fields	2016 – 2021	\$300,000	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
16.	Youth Softball Field	2016 – 2021	\$275,000	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
17.	Youth Soccer Field	2016 – 2021	\$325,000	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
18.	Adult Softball	2016 – 2021	\$350,000	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
19.	Wetland Interpretive Area	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
20.	Nature Preserve	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
21.	Nature Trail	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
22.	Regional Arboretum	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations

TABLE 14: TEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN – RECREATIONAL FACILITY PRIORITY LISTING FOR INDOOR FACILITIES

Priority	Facility	Timing	Estimated Cost	Possible Funding Sources
1.	Indoor Aquatic	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
2.	Indoor Track	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
3.	Multi-Purpose Court	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
4.	Aerobic Room	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
5.	Arts & Crafts	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
6.	Racquetball	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
7.	Weight Room	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
8.	Computer Game Room	2016 – 2021	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations



FUNDING SOURCES

This *Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* recommends the development of a number of new parks, and further development in some existing parks. Once completed, these recommended improvements represent a substantial public investment in parks and open space as the City grows and develops. The various sources of funds for these improvements are as important as the diversity of those sources. When there are several sources of funds for implementing this *Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*, then no one source is overburdened, and the *Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* has a better probability of successful implementation. The sources discussed below relate to the purchase, development, and/or renovation/expansion of park land and facilities.

Park Dedication Fees

Park Dedication Fees are collected on dwelling units which are approved by the City. Cities should periodically review the land and fee dedicated for park acquisition and development. This review should analyze the cost of land and park development compared to the monetary fee collected in order to ensure the fee and dedication amount is adequate to provide for park development. As a guide, the City may evaluate other cities' fees and dedication. This analysis should compare cities of similar population as Weatherford.

General Fund

This source of funding is supported by ad valorem tax revenues. It is generally the primary source of funds for maintenance and operation of the existing park system. The general fund is also the source for projects requiring smaller amounts of capital investment. Although projects funded by this source make a small annual contribution to the expansion of the park system, analysis over a number of years usually reflects a major accomplishment in improvements to the park system. It is important to include funding for on-going maintenance and staff requirements for new developments and improvements.

Hotel Occupancy Tax

The Hotel Occupancy Tax is a tax levied on hotel rooms and lodging. This tax could be used for certain park developments such as athletic facilities and community parks.

Bonds

Bonds are generally the most common funding source utilized by cities for the purchase of land and for providing development monies. There are two types of bonds which are used for parks, both of which must be approved by referendum.

General Obligation Bond – The General Obligation Bond is amortized using ad valorem taxes and is used for the funding of capital projects which are not supported by a revenue source. These projects include water service, sanitary sewer service, and park acquisition and development. The availability of bonding for parks is often dependent upon the overall municipal needs funded by this source. Capital items, such as purchase of land and physical improvements with a useable life expectancy of 15 to 20 years, can be funded with general obligation bonds.

Revenue Bonds – Revenue bonds fund projects which produce enough revenue to retire their debt, such as golf courses, batting cages, and enterprise-oriented park projects.

Private Donations

This source of financial assistance would usually come from a citizen, an organization, or a business with an interest in assisting with the development of the park system. Land dedication is not an uncommon occurrence when property is being developed. The location of a neighborhood park within a residential development offers additional value to residential units within that neighborhood, especially if the residential development is occupied by younger families with children.

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

Sales Tax Option (4B)

The passage of Senate Bill 376 in 1992 gave cities an economic development tool which provided a sales tax that could be levied for park and recreation purposes.

Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) Program

The TRPA Program is administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The TPWD program allows a city to request matching funds for both the acquisition and construction of park facilities. Currently, funds are available on a fifty percent (50%) cost share basis; the maximum amount for which a grant request can be is \$500,000. The grant is secured through submission of an application which follows a standard format for applicants. All applications received are ranked by a point system designed to evaluate the need for the purchase or construction being requested. Funds are distributed among the applicants having the greater number of points, until all allocated funds are expended.

Applications to the TPWD can be made annually, with a six-month waiting period following the submission date before successful applicants are notified. The number of applications a city may submit at any given time is based on both past performance on grants and TPWD evaluation criteria. This funding source is used by many communities. The competitiveness of the program generally allows cities having bona fide park needs to prevail in obtaining funds.

PLAN SUMMARY

This *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* is a fluid planning tool which will guide the development and acquisition of new park land and recreational facilities. The Master Plan has identified the need for park improvements, recreational athletic fields, facilities, and restoration of existing parks. As with any public or municipal project, the amount of available funding or potential to retire debt is the controlling factor in deciding which project or projects should be completed first.

Based on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, a new parks master plan should be prepared every ten (10) years and updated within five (5) years from the date of adoption. One of the key factors in any park planning process is citizen input, and an extensive process of gathering that input was undertaken. First amount the wants/needs expressed by Weatherford citizens was *Hike and Bike/Walking Trails*, which are highly recommended by this Plan and are listing first on the Ten-Year Action Plan/Priority List.

Water Conservation was also mentioned in the public input phase, as citizens are aware of water usage in the park system. The City strives to conserve water within the park system, one example is the City is planning to recycle the water used at the splash pad in Love Street Park.

As identified, renovation projects for existing parks typically have smaller construction budgets. The renovations specified in this *Master Plan* outline required new construction. These types of projects generally receive money from the City's general fund and/or a bond issue which requires voter approval. Projects of this nature and scope outlined in the *Master Plan* would take approximately 6 to 8 months to complete. The larger renovation projects, such as field renovation or community parks, should allow for 12 to 14 months to complete. This includes development of plans and specifications and construction.

This *Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* should be reviewed annually or after a major project or task has been accomplished.