



# PASADENA

## Healthy Parks Plan

### Appendices







# A Detailed Park Assessment Report



# Park Assessments

The final overall priorities map (see Chapter 5, Figure 5-12) indicated geographic areas in Pasadena of moderate to highest need for park investments. From the overall priority scores, ten city-owned parks were selected for further site evaluation, distributed geographically across Pasadena. Park assessments included inventorying amenities, evaluating park quality and function, and documenting access and safety concerns.

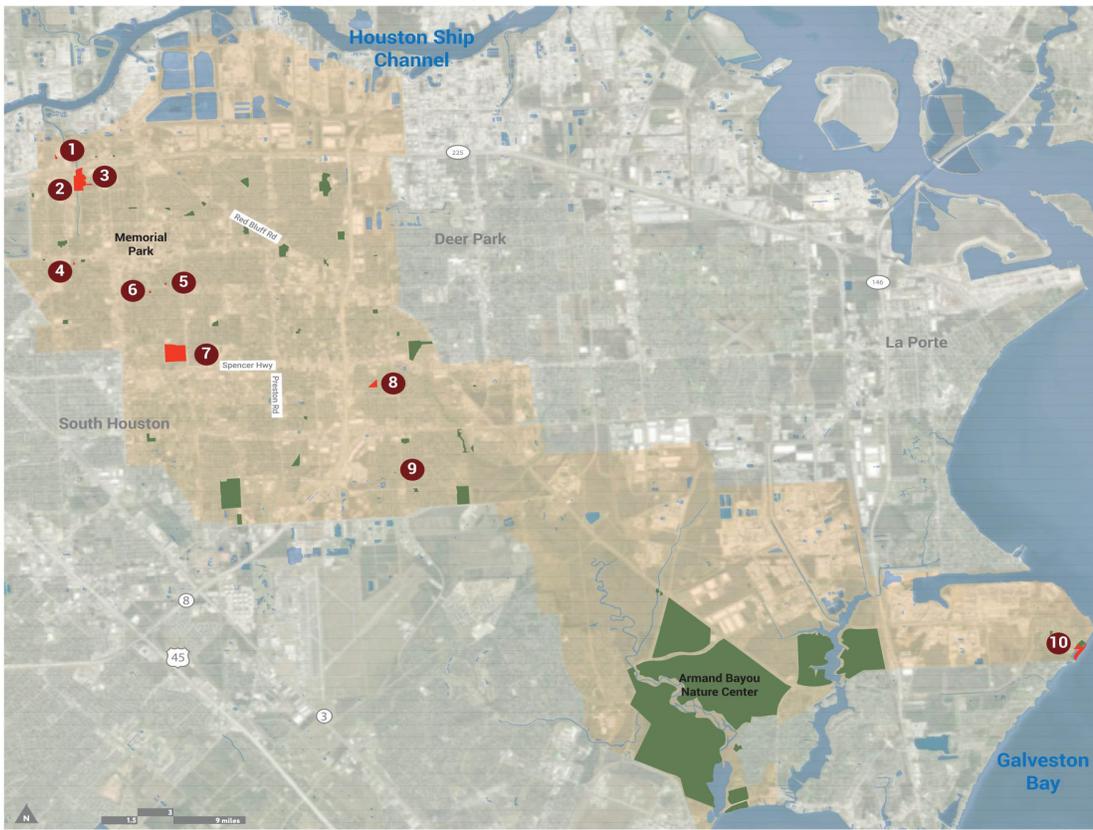
## General Observations

The following seven observations were noted after conducting all ten park assessments:

- Lack of accessibility was evident in all parks.  
There were several examples of this. Many parks did not have built-in infrastructure such as ramps to allow residents to get into parks over curbs, especially in neighborhood and pocket parks. Many parks did not have adjacent sidewalks. If residents who required accessible curbs and sidewalks made it into the park, many of the paths were not accessible or did not reach all destinations. Finally, many parks did not have inclusive playground equipment.
- All parks were well-maintained and had notices regarding their limited use during the Stay Home, Work Safe Harris County Order.
- All parks lacked green infrastructure.
- There was inconsistent park signage across the ten assessed parks.  
Some of the park signs were blue metal, some had the Pasadena seal or logo, and some like Strawberry and Memorial seemed to have their own signs altogether.
- All parks had little to no lighting.  
Although we do understand Pasadena parks are not open after sundown, as a public space, parks should have some form of lighting to instill a sense of safety in its residents.
- Most assessed parks did not have water fountains or public restrooms.  
This was particularly evident in neighborhood or pocket parks, even those with sports fields.
- Most assessed parks did not have any bike infrastructure.  
All the neighborhood and pocket parks that were assessed did not contain any bike racks or bike infrastructure for users.
- Most of the parks contained trash receptacles that were abundant, but an eyesore.  
Save for Memorial Park, the trash receptacles were abundant, but aesthetically displeasing.



Figure A-1 Top 10 Priority Parks Map



**10 Priority Parks**

- 1 Light Company Park
- 2 Memorial Park
- 3 Parklane Play Lot
- 4 Oaks Drive Play Lot
- 5 Tatar Park
- 6 Sherwood Park
- 7 Strawberry Park
- 8 Bliss Meadows Park
- 9 Ghana Park
- 10 El Jardin Beach Park

**LEGEND**

- Priority Parks
- Water
- Park
- City Boundary

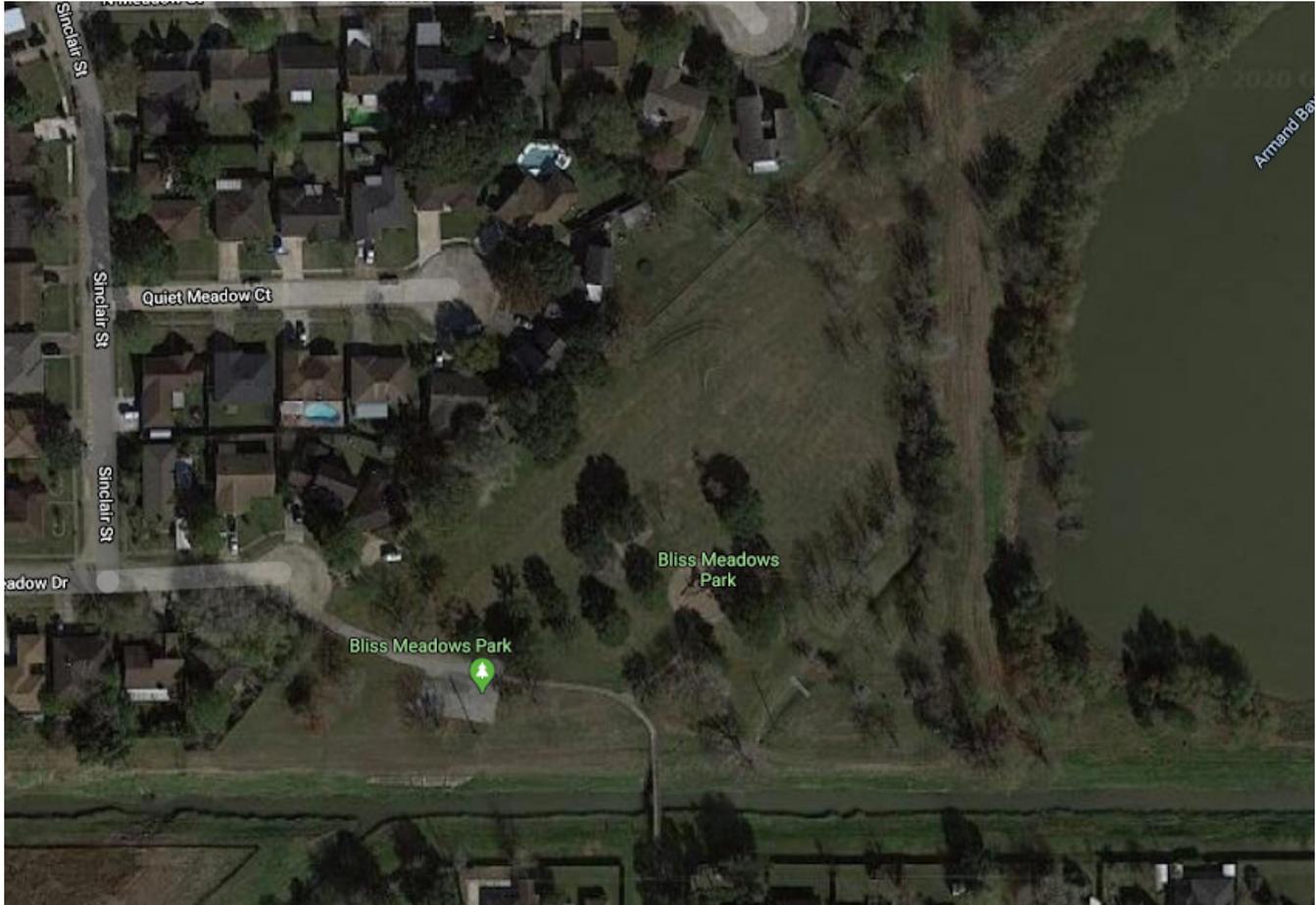


# Individual Park Assessments

## 1. Bliss Meadows

Neighborhood Park

3.49



### Amenities

- Half-moon basketball court
- Picnic area
- Playground
- Backstop

### Observations

#### Positive

- Very calm and serene space
- Diversity of amenities
- Diversity of landscapes

#### Negative

- Entrance to the park seems out of way
- Park design is a little complicated



## Context

Bliss Meadow Park is situated in southeast Houston, just south of Spencer Highway and just east of the Sam Houston Tollway. It is located in a residential neighborhood with one of its sides adjacent to single-family residential parcels and the other two adjacent to a waterway stemming from Armand Bayou and a larger water clearance also part of Armand Bayou. It is 0.5 miles away from the Mae Hilty Memorial Library.

## Park Description

Measuring 5.10 acres, Bliss Meadows Park is a triangle-shaped park with lots of open space and spots to enjoy nature. The park has a playground, a half-moon basketball court, and a backstop. It also has numerous picnic tables and benches throughout the site as well as two pedestrian bridges to cross over to more picnic areas or to get to another side of the neighborhood. The park's hours of operation are from 6 AM until sundown.

## Distinctive Park Elements





## Existing Conditions

### **Park access**                      **Score: 2.94**

Bliss Meadows Park has two entrances where people are able to get to the park. The first is through South Meadow Drive and the second is through a pedestrian bridge that cuts across the waterway and connects to Country Road. The former entrance is very small and is not indicative of the park that lies beyond the entrance. This entrance is designed solely for vehicular traffic with no direct sidewalks into the park. However, the entrance is at the end of a cul-de-sac of a residential street, so traffic is most likely low. The entrance leads to a parking lot with approximately 6 parking spots, including one accessible spot. The pedestrian bridge entrance is only accessible by foot.

There are some concrete trails in the park with the trails leading only to the playground and no other destination.

### **Park features**                      **Score: 4.50**

There are numerous picnic tables and benches made of wood around the park. They are all in good condition, with many of them benefitting from location and adequate shading.

### **Supportive facilities**              **Score: 5.00**

There were many trash receptacles around the park, primarily located close to picnic areas and benches. However, as with most parks, the trash receptacles are visually unappealing and there was no indication of a recycling bin. For a park of its size and variety of amenities, the lack of restrooms and water fountain is particularly noticeable.

### **Safety and maintenance**      **Score: 4.50**

Throughout the park, a visitor is able to maintain safe, long distance visuals, despite the park's unconventional shape. It is relatively easy to find park entrances and exits and to understand the park's layout. However, there are some isolated areas within the park, particularly at edges and corners. The park also does not have any directional signage throughout the park. However, the park shows no sign of vandalism or inappropriate uses. The park and its surrounding environment promotes a sense of security and safety.

### **Aesthetics**                      **Score: 3.62**

Because of Bliss Meadows' incorporation of natural elements throughout the park, including numerous trees throughout the park, it is a very calming and aesthetically pleasing space to be in. There are a number of diversity and uses. However, the park could still benefit from more coordinated furnishings and a more uniform perimeter, especially on the portion of the park adjacent to the residential lots.

### **Health**                      **Score: 3.44**

In terms of physical health, for active transportation, the park has some connections to outside active transport networks. However, some of the paved trails are in poor conditions with large cracks visible. There are plenty of opportunities for fitness for all ages, including the open lawn, the basketball court, the playground, and the backstop. The park is large enough for a person to take longer than a short walk around it. In terms of mental health, the proximity to the waterway and the water clearance provides variety and opportunities to connect with nature. The park is also large enough for larger social gatherings to take place. In terms of environmental health, the park had a variety of different flora, including lots of little flowers in the open lawn by the backstop. There were also a variety of birds that were spotted during the park assessment. However, there was no sign of permeable parking or an air quality monitor. The water channel and the water clearance could serve as a form of stormwater infrastructure.



## **Culture and convenience    Score: 2.08**

The park was welcoming and did not contain any architectural elements that were hostile. However, the playground was not inclusive, despite having a trail that led straight to it. Additionally, there were no artistic or historic elements that were representative of Pasadena.

## **Analysis and Recommendations**

Bliss Meadows Park is a beautiful green space situated in the midst of two major transit corridors, the Sam Houston Tollway and Spencer Highway. It offers its visitor serene views and a pleasant escape from an urban lifestyle. The park has a variety of amenities, but its strongest asset is its dreamlike incorporation of nature, especially through its Armand Bayou views and sounds. The park has done this better than any other park primarily because 2 out of 3 of its sides are adjacent to natural elements as opposed to houses, buildings, streets, or empty lots.

Based off the park assessment and analysis, we recommend the following:

- Improving and clarifying the entrance experience at both park entrances
- Replacing pedestrian bridges, improving internal circulation, and repairing aging and deteriorating walkways
- Creating a more cohesive perimeter on all sides
- Choosing an area of underutilized space to create a habitat zone including the planting of pollinator plants, more diverse species selection, a mechanism for a small pooling of water (for habitat support), and a secluded seating area to enjoy the natural experience
- Connecting the core area of existing Bliss Meadows Park to Armand Bayou detention features to the east and northeast with a loop trail and connection to a larger regional trail system
- Utilizing green infrastructure to improve the natural drainage within the park
- Restoring riparian areas along Armand Bayou



## 2. El Jardin Beach Park

Neighborhood Park

3.50



### Amenities

- Beach
- Picnic area
- Barbecue pits

### Observations

#### Positive

- The green space of the park is a beautiful complement to the beachscape.
- The park is well-maintained and clean.

#### Negative

- Getting to the park is off putting
- Aside from the picnic areas, the park does not offer many amenities
- Parking spots are inadequate given that there is no on-street parking in the neighborhood



## Context

The park is located on the eastern most point of Pasadena. It is located at the end of an HOA community with Palm Street bordering its northwestern perimeter, an HOA park bordering its northeastern perimeter, and El Jardin Beach bordering its southern perimeter. To get to El Jardin Beach Park, load and container terminals, manufacturing and chemical plants, and oil and petrochemical refineries.

## Park Description

Measuring at 4.29 acres, El Jardin Beach Park offers a large green space in close proximity to a beach. There are picnic tables for people to enjoy meals in the park. The park has varying elevations starting at the level of Palm Street and slowly descending to sea level. The park's operating hours according to the sign are 8 AM to 8 PM, but according to the PARD Park Guide are from 6:30 AM until sundown.

## Distinctive Park Elements





## Existing Conditions

### **Park access**                      **Score: 2.41**

Visitors are able to access the park through its open perimeter. There is also a designated parking lot for approximately 20 cars, with 2 accessible spots, but it does not seem that parking is sufficient considering that there is absolutely no on-street parking. There are no bike racks as well. There are several uncoordinated and unappealing signs at the entrance of the park and the beach, making access slightly confusing. Furthermore, the nearby HOA park does not have enough clear signage to indicate that the park is for HOA members only, which could lead to some confusion.

Access is automatically limited because, as one of the signs states, the park requires a valid Texas driver's license. It is unclear whether this is required for entry into the park or the beach. The same sign then states that City of Pasadena residents get free access while all other adults are charged \$10 and all children 12 years old and under are charged \$5. The park was closed during our assessment, however, it is unclear how the admission fee is paid by residents or collected by park staff. The main park entrance isn't well designed or inviting and the park itself is inaccessible.

### **Park features**                      **Score: 3.00**

There are four picnic tables and benches in the park scattered in one area in the park. None of them have shade. Only one of them is accessible by a concrete path from the parking lot. However, the path itself is not ADA-compliant. There are currently no other park features.

### **Supportive facilities**              **Score: 5.00**

There were several trash receptacles in the parking lot, by the picnic area, and on the beach. There was no evidence of a recycling bin. Additionally, the park did not have any drinking fountains or restrooms, making it difficult for someone if he or she wanted to spend the entire day at the beach.

### **Safety and maintenance**      **Score: 4.27**

The beach and park are generally well-maintained and give off an air of safety. The surrounding neighborhood is clean, with no derelict or vacant land. There is no evidence of substance abuse or vandalism in the surrounding neighborhood or the park itself. However, there was evidence of litter and some animal waste on the beach. There is a fair ability to see into and out of the park, but the park's layout, especially with two parks and two beach entrances so close to each other (the other park and beach entrance is for the HOA). However, there isn't a clustering of activities because of the separation between the park and the beach.

### **Aesthetics**                          **Score: 2.81**

El Jardin Beach Park has several aesthetic assets. The complementary colors of the green open space, sand, and blue water create a very pleasant environment. The sound of waves on the beach also contributes to the pleasantness. However, because the parking lot has been designed to be in the center of the park, that creates an unattractive environment, especially considering that the picnic areas all face the parking lot. Additionally, the lack of coordinated signage contributes to the poor design of the park. Finally, the park lacks a sense of style fitting of a beach park.

### **Health**                                **Score: 3.39**

For physical health, the beach provides plenty of opportunities for fitness for all ages. Beachgoers are able to ride their bikes, run, and swim. For mental health, the beach provides a connection with nature and the picnic benches provide opportunities for social connections as well. For environmental health, there is a variety of vegetation at the park and in the surrounding context. However, the parking is not permeable, and there was no evidence of stormwater infrastructure or an air quality monitor. It's important to point out the proximity of the park to the number of factories and refineries, and what that could mean for beach goers who are there when the wind is blowing from the direction of those industrial facilities.



## **Culture and convenience    Score: 4.00**

The park is devoid of any artistic or historical influences. More than half of the signs, however, were in English and Spanish. The beach did not contain any elements of hostile architecture either.

## **Analysis and Recommendations**

El Jardin Beach Park is a great open space adjacent to a beach shoreline in Pasadena. It offers places to sit down and have meals, a space to walk your dog (and amenities to clean up after it), and some greenery. However, the park might be off-putting for some people to visit purely because the drive to the site is isolating and somewhat far. There is an adjacent HOA park that is available to the members of the HOA solely, but given the similar landscaping and use of wooden poles as part of the perimeter, it could be easy to confuse between the two parks.

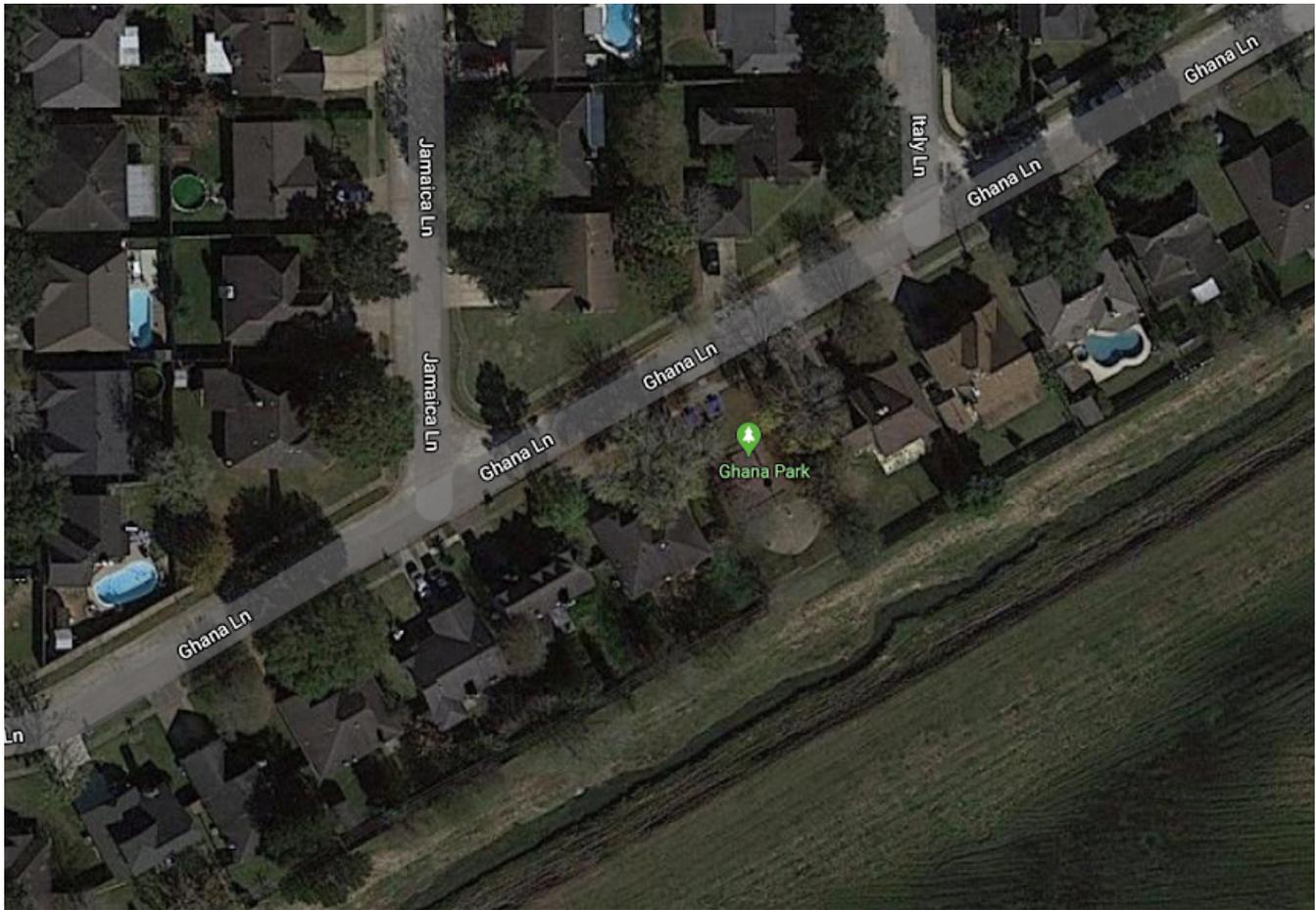
- Based off the park assessment and analysis, we recommend the following:
- Improving the entrance experience for all multi-modal users
- Restoring the diversity and quality of the vegetative buffer between the main park area and beach including enhancing the width, with a specific interest in improving habitat quality and storm surge protection
- Installing bike racks
- Removing and or replacing confusing signage
- Planting salt-tolerant tree species near seating areas to provide more shade and wind protection
- Constructing drinking fountains and restrooms
- Rethinking the location and size of the parking lot - focused on minimizing its presence in the core park areas
- Creating a series of nature- and environment-based programs in the park including youth fishing events, environmental education, birding events, park clean-ups, etc.



### 3. Ghana Play Lot

Pocket Park

3.52



#### Amenities

- Half-moon basketball court
- Picnic area
- Playground

#### Observations

##### Positive

- Park is well manicured
- Lot of amenities
- Plenty of shade also comes from trees on adjacent properties
- Pleasant view to a water channel

##### Negative

- Some graffiti in the park is evident



## Context

Situated in southeast Pasadena, Ghana Play Lot is bounded by Ghana Lane to the north, a water channel to the south, and residential single-family lots to the east and west. The park is 1 mile away from Fairmont Elementary School and 0.3 miles away from Steadfast Academy, a local daycare center.

## Park Description

Measuring 0.14 acres, Ghana Play Lot stays true to its name and offers several amenities for such a small space. There are two picnic tables and benches, a swing set, and a half-moon basketball court. Numerous trees from adjacent properties offer a good amount of shade. Its hours of operation are from 6 AM until sundown.

## Distinctive Park Elements





## Existing Conditions

### **Park access**                      **Score: 3.39**

The park has an open and inviting entrance point from the north. A sign indicating that the park is the Ghana Play Lot is clearly visible. The entrance is aligned with the sidewalk and provides accessibility to the picnic areas (although the rest of the park remains inaccessible). There is on-street parking available, but no bike racks..

### **Park features**                      **Score: 4.00**

The main park features included here are the picnic areas. The tables and benches are in good condition and have plenty of shade.

### **Supportive facilities**              **Score: 4.00**

The park had one large trash receptacle. There was no recycling bin. The park did not have any restrooms or water fountains.

### **Safety and maintenance**      **Score: 4.77**

The park is very well-maintained. There was no evidence of any maintenance concerns aside from the graffiti found at the edge of the eastern periphery. Vegetation was well-maintained and park design was simple to understand. Visibility at all points was great with no isolated areas or trail dead ends. The surrounding neighborhood also contributed to the feeling of safety.

### **Aesthetics**                          **Score: 3.73**

The park has abundant trees in its perimeter, which contributes to the attractiveness of the park. The chain link fence is somewhat of an eyesore. However, it does allow for a more expansive view of the water channel. The picnic area, swingset, and basketball court are all coordinated color-wise. However, given the small space, small touches such as attractive plantings and pops of color would go a long way to make the park more attractive.

### **Health**                                **Score: 2.74**

For physical health, the park offers mainly the half-moon basketball court for people to use, which, because of its size, might not provide rigorous physical activity. For mental health, there are some opportunities for social connections. However, because of its size and location, minimal connections with nature exist. For environmental health, the park does not have a variety of vegetation, vegetated stormwater infrastructure, permeable parking, or an air quality monitor.

### **Culture and convenience**      **Score: 2.42**

The swingset and basketball court are inaccessible. There are no art or historical pieces in the park. Park signs are in English only. However, the park does not contain any hostile architectural elements.



## Analysis and Recommendations

Ghana Play Lot is a cozy, little pocket park that is perfect for families around the neighborhood to be able to take their young children for an hour or two. However, aside from having one or two persons practicing their jump shot, it seems unlikely that teenagers and adults would visit the park without the presence of young children.

Based off the park assessment and analysis, we recommend the following:

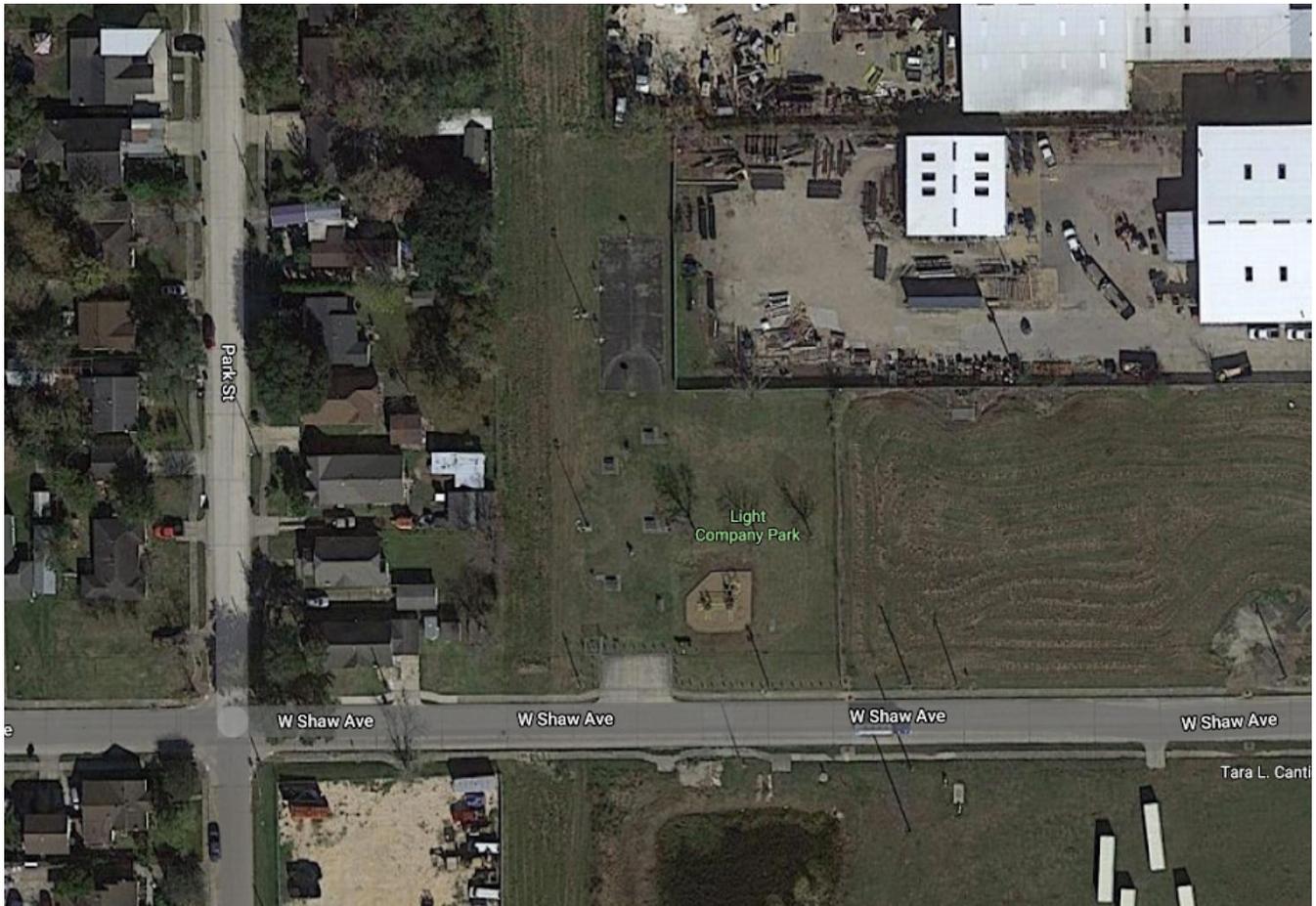
- Replacing fencing that disconnects the park from the Bayou with more aesthetically pleasing option at a lower height
- Installing bike racks
- In collaboration with nearby residents, considering the addition of a community garden in place of the half moon basketball court
- Cleaning up graffiti and working with a local artist to create public art



## 4. Light Company Park

Pocket Park

3.00



### Amenities

- Playground
- Basketball court
- Picnic area
- Open lawn
- Barbecue pits

### Observations

#### Positive

- Several amenities available for use
- Basketball court is full-sized

#### Negative

- Adjacent parcels are derelict
- Pipeline runs through the park
- Park perimeter is not well defined
- Location of the various amenities is not well-planned



## Context

Situated just north of the Pasadena Freeway and west of Vince Bayou and Memorial Park, Light Company Park is bounded by West Shaw Avenue to the south. The western perimeter of the park is surrounded by single-family homes. An empty lot is adjacent to the eastern perimeter, and a construction company site is located to the north of the park. A pipeline runs through the western edge of the park all the way through the train tracks in the north.

## Park Description

Measuring 0.68 acres, Light Company Park offers both passive and active recreational options. This pocket park includes a picnic area, a playground, a basketball court, barbecue pits, and on-site parking. Its hours of operation are from 6 AM until sundown.

## Distinctive Park Elements





## Existing Conditions

### **Park Access**                      **Score: 2.75**

The park has an open perimeter to the south. This is where the small parking area for the park exists. However, there are no accessible parking spots. There are no bicycle racks, but there is sidewalk access to the park. The park is bordered by a pipeline easement to the west and has some utility poles within a chain link fence in the park, adding to an uneasy and unsafe feeling.

### **Park Features**                      **Score: 3.00**

Playground equipment is faded and clearly old, but does not appear to be unsafe. Playground is inaccessible. There is one bench, but it is awkwardly far from the play area and there is no shade. The basketball court is in fair condition, it is lit but has some cracks and weeds growing.

### **Supportive Facilities**              **Score: 5.00**

The park had several large trash receptacles, There was no recycling bin. The park did not have any restrooms or water fountains.

### **Safety and Maintenance**      **Score: 4.12**

The park itself is well maintained. There is no evidence of graffiti, litter, or animal waste. The lawn is also well-maintained with no evident overgrowth. There are two primary issues with safety. First, there are several parcels close to the park that are vacant. Even across the street, all parcels are vacant. Second, the pipeline easement running through the park is cause for concern. Only at the edge of the easement to the south are there signs warning park goers of crossing or walking over the easement. Further north, no signs exist.

### **Aesthetics**                              **Score: 2.40**

Given the park's location to the Pasadena Freeway, highway and traffic noises carry into the park. The park perimeter varies in almost every edge, with open space, wooden fencing, and paneling being some of the materials that have been used. Despite this, there has been no mitigation of unappealing land uses. Finally, a lot of the furniture, picnic tables, barbecue pits, and benches, seem to be strewn around at random with no clear logic as to why they were placed where they were.

### **Health**                                      **Score: 2.23**

For physical health, the park provides a playground, a basketball court, and an open lawn, providing several fitness opportunities for children, teenagers, and adults. The park provides minimal opportunities for connection to larger active transport networks. For mental health, there are opportunities for nature observation, primarily through sitting on a bench and enjoying the park. However, the unattractive surroundings and the unappealing noises from the highway, and potentially from industry, does not bode well for mental health. For environmental health, the park provides a minimal variety of vegetation. It also did not have vegetated stormwater infrastructure or an air quality monitor. The on-site parking was not permeable as well.

### **Culture and Convenience**      **Score: 2.17**

Signs in the park were not bilingual. Both the park and the playground are inaccessible. There is no art or historical markers within the park.



## Analysis and Recommendations

On paper, the park has a lot of amenities that park goers can make use of. A basketball court that's in good condition, barbecue pits that are in good shape, and several benches and picnic tables. However, the overall feel of the park is almost eerie. Its location seems strange given the adjacent parcels, and this was the only park that did not have signage indicating that the parks were operating at a limited capacity because of the Harris County Stay Home-Work Safe order, even though the playground was taped off.

Based off the park assessment and analysis, we recommend the following:

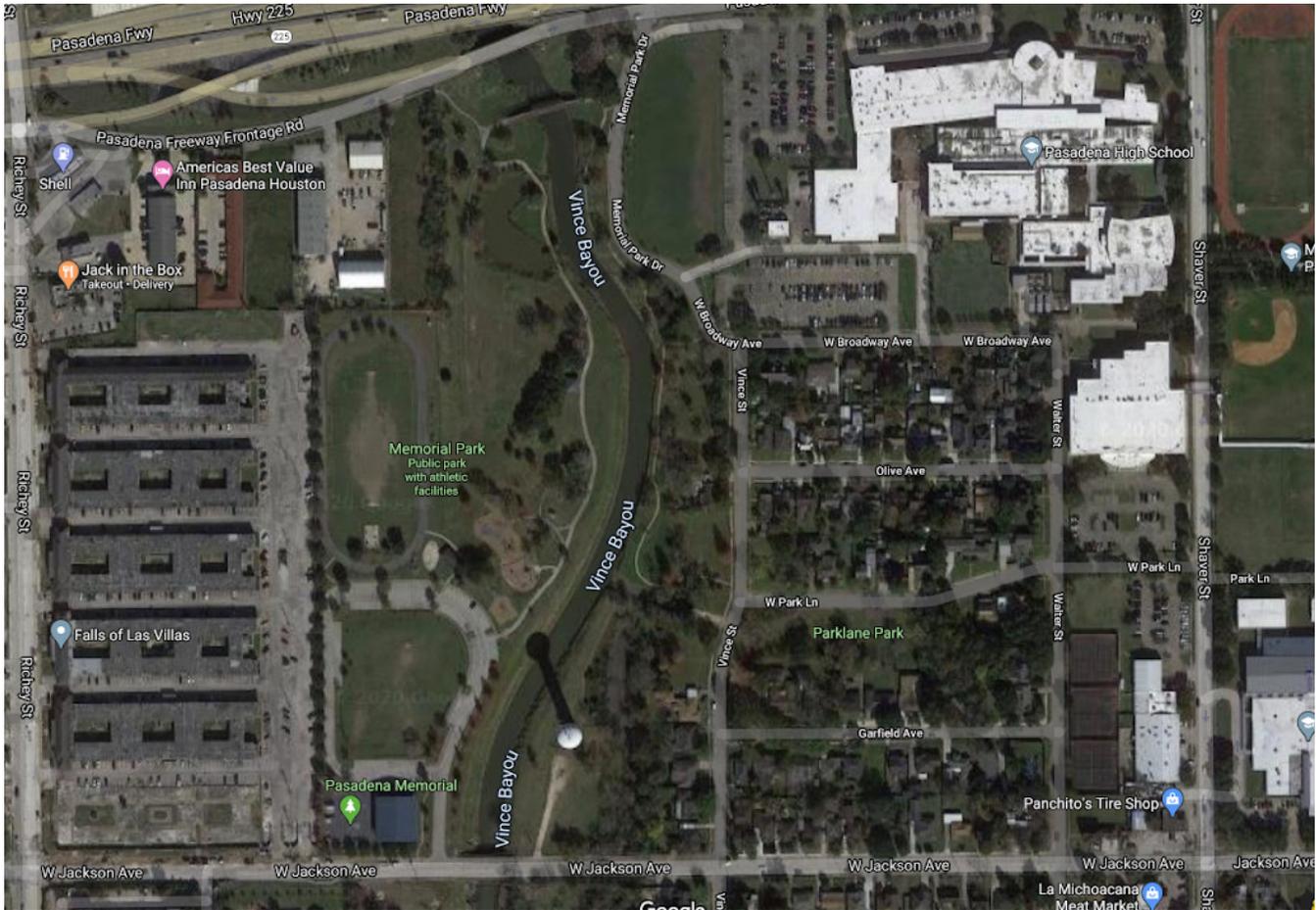
- Creating a more defined, cohesive, and connected perimeter
- Resurfacing and restriping the basketball court
- Updating picnic table and seating features and better orient them to the park use
- Planting trees to provide shade, cooling, and noise abatement near seating areas, and to provide more screening along the park perimeter; providing small structural shade over existing amenities
- Installing air quality monitoring equipment and create a warning system for park users if air quality becomes a risk factor
- Working with the neighborhood residents to integrate local art into the park at a small scale (possibly in collaboration with local youth)
- Restricting access to the pipeline easement on the western edge of the park
- Installing a water fountain and single stall restrooms
- Replacing aging playground equipment, include accessible features in updates



# 5. Memorial Park

## Community Park

4.13



### Amenities

- Splash pad
- Skate park
- Playground
- Picnic area + gazebo
- Park benches
- Soccer fields
- Covered basketball court (six hoops)
- Running track (1/4 mi.)
- Fitness center

### Observations

#### Positive

- The park is large, spacious, and with a diversity of landscapes and natural areas.
- The park is home to many
- The playground is accessible.
- This is the only park in Pasadena with a skate park.

#### Negative

- The park design and layout isn't intuitive.
- The park entrance is misleading.



## Context

Bordering the Pasadena Freeway to the South and Vince Bayou to the east, Memorial Park is bounded by West Jackson Avenue to the south and Memorial Park Drive and Vince Street to the east. The western perimeter of the park is surrounded by multi-family housing as well as an industrial welding company. The park is less than a half mile away from Richey Elementary School.

## Park Description

Measuring at 29.64 acres, the park contains several amenities, including three playgrounds, one gazebo, one splash pad, several picnic tables and benches, and shade for many of them. There is also a basketball court, a soccer field, a skate park and a fitness center, indicating plenty of opportunities for active exercise. Vince Bayou runs through the park, and one bridge crosses over Vince Bayou at the northern edge of the park.

## Distinctive Park Elements





## Existing Conditions

### **Park Access** **Score: 4.01**

You can access Memorial Park from a number of entrances. There is the main entrance off West Jackson Avenue close to the basketball court. There is also another entrance from the Pasadena Freeway Frontage Road and multiple access points from Memorial Park Drive and from Vince Street. However, these entrances aren't as indicative (or indicative at all) of the park as the main one. There is a sidewalk network in good condition adjacent to the park as well as bike racks inside the park. This park, along with many of its trails, is also ADA-accessible. There was plenty of on-site parking and several accessible parking spots.

### **Park Features** **Score: 4.33**

The picnic areas and pavilions were in great condition. Some of the tabletops were painted on with images or games, which gave a great ambience to the park. The skate park and fitness center were large and had plenty of different options for people who would choose to skate or exercise there. The basketball court was covered, the first sports amenity we had seen that was. It also included six hoops. It almost felt like there were too many hoops - if each were occupied - the basketball court would be very crowded. The soccer field did not have any markings, but it did have two goal posts and a set of bleachers (albeit uncovered) for people to sit and watch. The splash plaid was colorful and attractive.

### **Supportive Facilities** **Score: 4.67**

The park had several trash bins. These were different than the trash receptacles we've seen in other parks, less protruding and obvious. Again, there was no recycling bin. There was one restroom facility and three water fountains across the park.

### **Safety and Maintenance** **Score: 4.23**

In terms of safety and maintenance, Memorial Park has done a great job. Almost all facilities in the park are well-maintained. However, one of the playgrounds had some water on the ground, and it looked like that water couldn't drain properly. There is no evidence of substance abuse, homelessness, graffiti, or other derelict uses in the park and in adjacent parcels. The roads within the park curve to allow for cars to slow down, and there are at least two crosswalks in the park.

The park is one of the few with multiple entrances and that can function as shortcuts through neighborhoods. You can also easily see into and out of the park. However, the park design is not intuitive, but the directional signage definitely helps. There is only one bridge that crosses Vince Bayou, and so to head back to the main part of Memorial Park, one would have to turn around and go back from where they came. There isn't a second bridge closer to the south side of the park.

### **Aesthetics** **Score: 4.20**

The park is a very pretty park. All the playgrounds and splash pad were very colorful, and it seemed that there was a uniform theme across the different amenities. The directional signage was rustic, the tables were hand painted, and the man-made shelters that were provided for some of the tables and benches were also pleasant to look at. The park had a great "brand" to it. The one low point was that because of its proximate location to the highway, a lot of highway traffic could be heard within the park.

### **Health** **Score: 4.33**

In terms of physical health, the paved trails were in good shape with minimal cracks. The presence of sidewalks and bike racks show an inclusion of thought into other active transport networks. All the sports fields and courts were in great condition, and there are opportunities for active living for all ages in Memorial Park.

In terms of mental health, because of the size of the park, it can easily become a site for social events. There are also numerous opportunities to connect with nature - from the Vince Bayou and the small lake located in the southwest portion of the park by the bridge. We also saw lots of animals - duck and geese primarily - during our assessment.

In terms of environmental health, there is definitely a variety of vegetation throughout the park. The Bayou can also serve as



part of a vegetated stormwater infrastructure. However, the park has had issues with flooding in the past, so the Bayou might not be enough. The parking is not permeable, and there was no evidence of an air quality monitor.

### **Culture and Convenience Score: 3.50**

There was no presence of separate art structure or historical markers within the park. However, some of the picnic tables were painted with a map of Memorial Park and with a checkerboard. Most signs were inclusive of both English and Spanish, and at least two of the playgrounds were accessible to children with wheelchairs. The park itself is inviting and does not present any hostile architecture.

### **Analysis and Recommendations**

Memorial Park is a well-thought out park. It is aesthetically beautiful and provides a little something for everyone. Even during our assessment we saw several people make use of it, whether it was to have a picnic, skateboard, exercise, or take their children out for a bike ride. Even during the Stay Home-Work Safe order, people were still making the trip to come to Memorial Park and use it. This is something we didn't see in many of the other parks.

Based off the park assessment and analysis, we recommend the following:

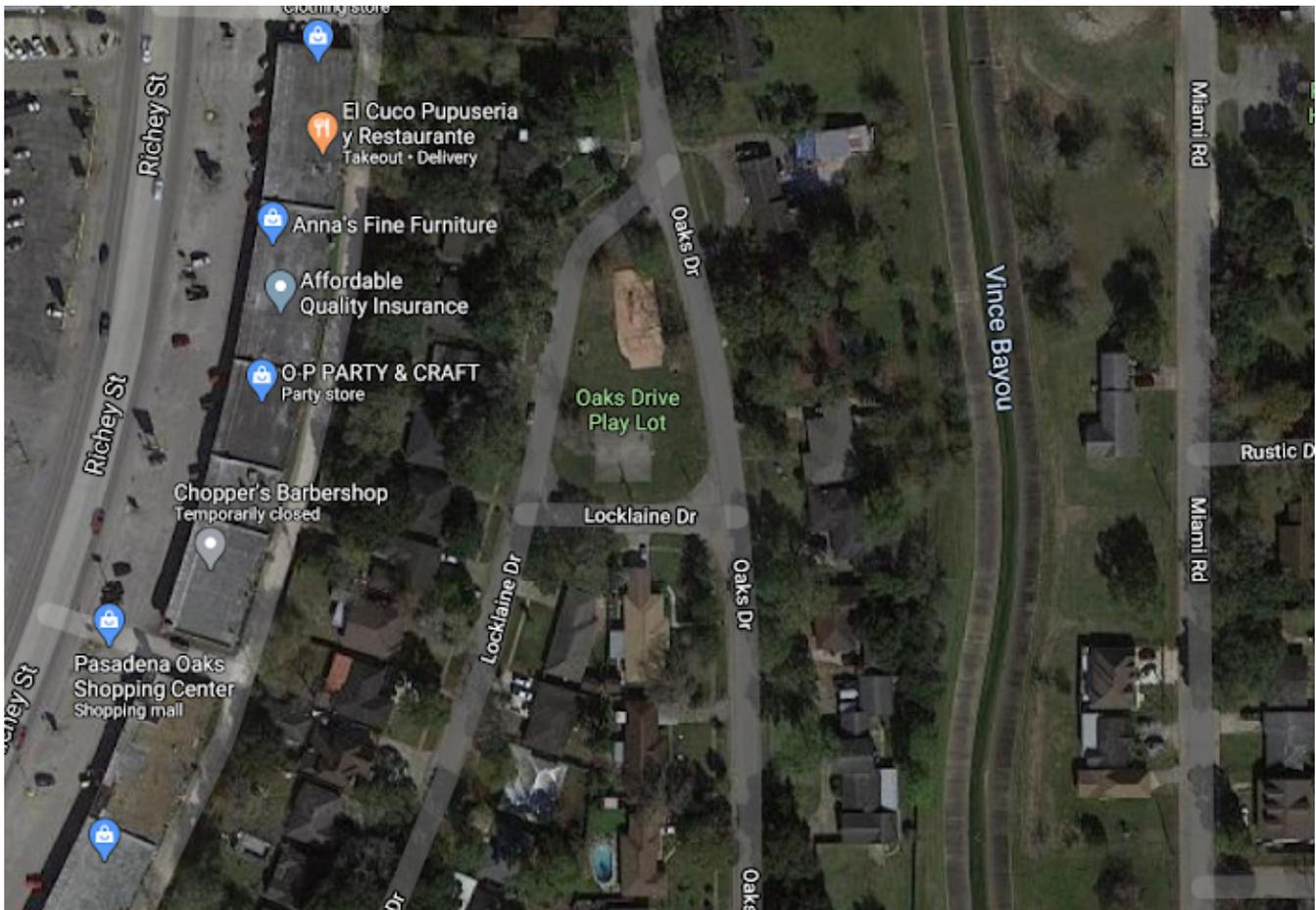
- Constructing a second bridge over Vince Bayou to create a loop trail
- Improving drainage and park riparian ecology by using bioswales planted with native vegetation in drainage problem areas; and, by restoring the riparian zone along Vince Bayou, including limiting mowing
- Planting vegetative buffers along Pasadena Freeway and West Jackson Ave to mitigate noise pollution and help cool the park
- Creating an interpretive program with signage for Memorial Park including historic, cultural, and environmental education
- Creating regular fitness programming
- Creating a large, sheltered gathering space for families and friends to gather



## 6. Oaks Drive Play Lot

Community Park

3.43



### Amenities

- Picnic area
- Playground
- Swings
- Basketball court

### Observations

#### Positive

- The playground is very creative.
- The neighborhood is quiet.
- Basketball court is in good shape with some shade

#### Negative

- The park is completely inaccessible.
- The picnic areas offer no shade.
- There is litter across the perimeter of the park.



## Context

Situated in a northern Pasadena residential neighborhood, Oaks Drive Play Lot is a triangle-shaped park bordered by Locklaine Drive and Oaks Drive. The adjacent parcels to the park are all single-family homes.

## Park Description

Measuring 0.61 acres, Oak Play Lot offers a playground, a basketball court, a set of swings, and an open lawn. Its hours of operation are from 6 AM until sundown.

## Distinctive Park Elements





## Existing Conditions

### **Park Access**                      **Score: 2.82**

The park is highly visible to people driving by and entrances The park is bordered by three residential streets with no sidewalks directly adjacent to the park. The park perimeter is entirely curbed and therefore inaccessible. There are no designated parking spots and no bike racks.

### **Park Features**                      **Score: 3.00**

There are two picnic tables placed somewhat arbitrarily in the park. There is no shade for the picnic area. The playground is new and colorful, easily appealing to young children. The playground offers some shade.

### **Supportive Facilities**              **Score: 5.00**

The park had two large trash receptacles, sufficient for a park of its size. There was no recycling bin. The park did not have any restrooms or water fountains.

### **Safety and Maintenance**      **Score: 4.63**

Oaks Drive Play Lot seems to be a safe and well-maintained park. There was no evidence of derelict land, alcohol or substance abuse, and of unauthorized camping or vagrancy, both in the park and in adjacent parcels. However, the western perimeter of the park had a lot of litter.

As for park design, Oaks Drive Play Lot had a clustering of activity areas, no isolated areas, and no unobstructed sightlines, primarily because of the park's small size. There are active areas close to the edge that encourage people to go into the park as well. However, given its location and shape, the park does not function as a shortcut through the neighborhood.

### **Aesthetics**                              **Score: 3.12**

There are a few diversity of uses in the park. There are also a number of trees placed throughout the park. Despite the playground design being unique and made of high quality materials, the park itself lacks a sense of style. The picnic tables and benches also don't feel coordinated with the rest of the park.

### **Health**                                      **Score: 2.68**

In terms of physical health, the basketball court and playground are both in great condition. However, other than that, there are minimal fitness opportunities in the Oaks Drive Play Lot. In terms of mental health, there are some opportunities for nature observation. However, traffic sounds from nearby roads can be heard within the park. In terms of environmental health, the park does not have a variety of vegetation.

### **Culture and Convenience**      **Score: 3.25**

There is a ramp to get into the playground, which is great, but the park is inaccessible so it's not useful.



## Analysis and Recommendations

Oaks Drive Play Lot feels like a neighborhood park. It is small and offers only street parking, and so the most likely users of the park are people who live nearby.

Based off the park assessment and analysis, we recommend the following:

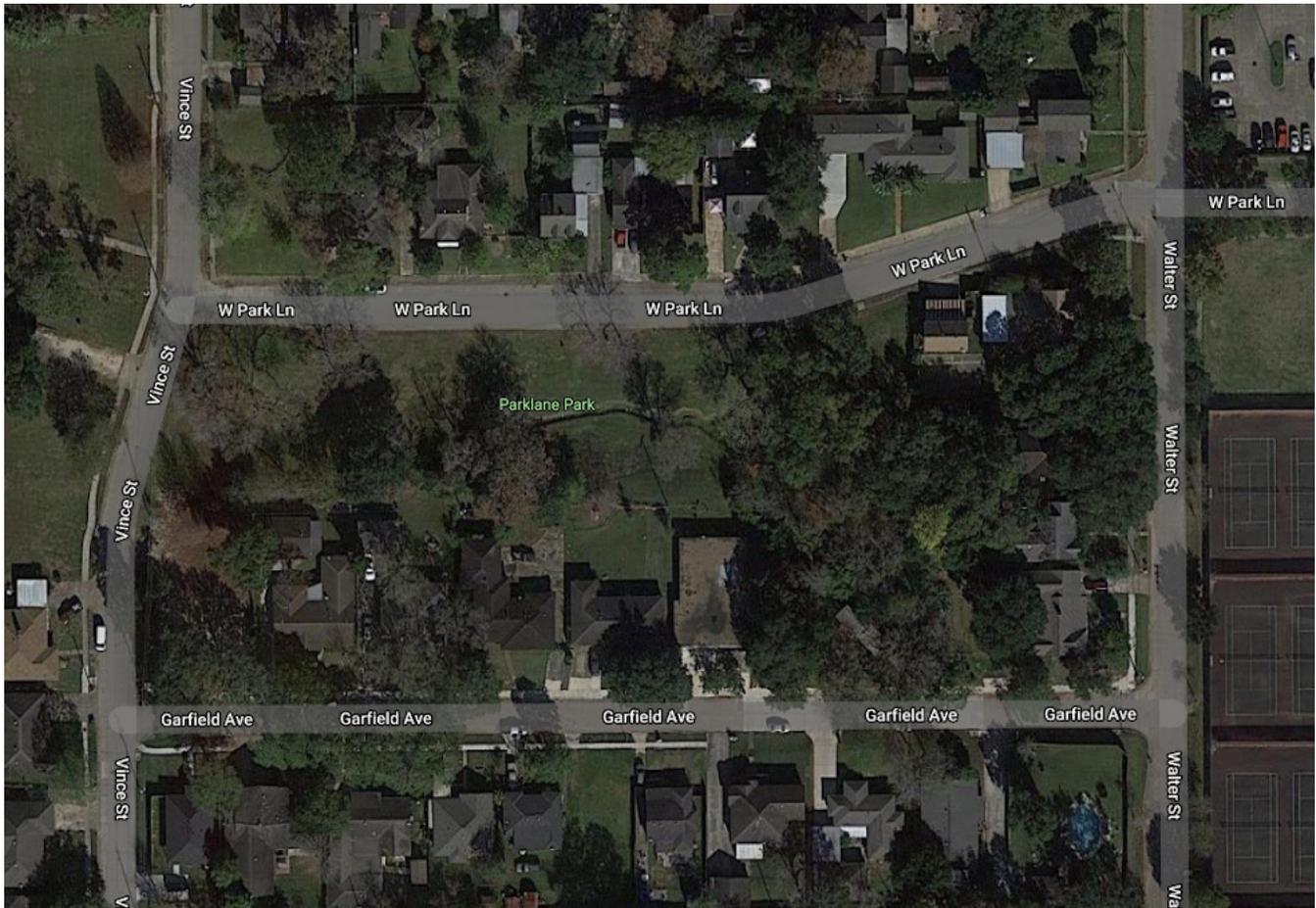
- Updating picnic tables and benches and place in closer proximity to the playground
- Planting trees and provide structural shade over seating areas
- Improving the cohesiveness and definition of the park perimeter
- Removing half moon basketball court
- Creating opportunities for local artists to create culturally relevant art installations
- Engaging the neighborhood in regular park clean up and beautification days



## 7. Parklane Play Lot

Neighborhood Park

2.98



### Amenities

- Open lawn

### Observations

#### Positive

- Well-kept green open space
- Pleasant, small creek running through the park

#### Negative

- Isn't easily identifiable as a park
- Park is sloped all the way across
- Adjacent residential homes very visible from park



## Context

Situated just south of the Pasadena Freeway and just east of Vince Bayou and Memorial Park, Parklane Play Lot is bounded by West Park Lane to the north and Vince Street to the west. All across the southern and eastern perimeters, the park is surrounded by single-family homes. The park is also within a half mile radius of two schools and a daycare facility: De Zavala Middle School, Kruse Elementary School, and In Loving Hands Daycare.

## Park Description

Measuring 1.35 acres, Parklane Play Lot offers a wide open green space. Its hours of operation are from 6 AM until sundown.

## Distinctive Park Elements





## Existing Conditions

### **Park Access**                      **Score: 2.27**

The park's northern and western perimeters are completely open, allowing easy access to people who want to enter or exit the park. However, aside from the identifying park name on the northwest corner it is very difficult to distinguish the Parklane Play Lot as a park. It simply looks like a green, undeveloped open space rather than a public park or play lot. Additionally, there are no designated parking spots, bike racks, or a sidewalk around the street sides of the park.

### **Park Features**                      **Score: N/A**

The park did not contain any of the criteria in this section.

Supportive Facilities                      Score: 3.50

The park had one large trash receptacle. There was no recycling bin. The park did not have any restrooms or water fountains.

### **Safety and Maintenance**      **Score: 4.68**

The park was very well-maintained. The green space was not overgrown and was in great condition. There was no evidence of graffiti, litter, or any drug or alcohol abuse. The neighborhood the park is situated in was a pleasant residential one with no derelict or vacant lots. Additionally, the park design was simple and standard. However, the close proximity to some of the residential lots - we could easily peer into people's backyards - could be construed as uncomfortable for park goers.

### **Aesthetics**                              **Score: 2.20**

The park had an abundant number of well placed trees around the park that provided adequate shade, and because of the creek that runs through the park, the trickling of the water provided for very pleasant sounds. However, the park lacked a diversity of uses, a sense of style, and the park perimeter was not indicative of a park at all. The park just begins and ends with no proper design.

### **Health**                                      **Score: 2.08**

For physical health, the park does not provide any connection to larger active transport networks. Additionally, because the park is sloped, it becomes difficult for park goers to exercise in the park, which is one of the few active activities people can engage in. For mental health, the park is lush and green and the creek does provide a calming presence of water. However, there is no variety to the landscape and park surroundings aren't particularly calming. For environmental health, there was minimal variety of vegetation. However, this was one of the few parks that we assessed that contained vegetated stormwater infrastructure. It almost seems like the park is meant to act as a detention basin for periods of heavy rain.

### **Culture and Convenience**      **Score: N/A**

The park did not contain any of the criteria in this section.



## Analysis and Recommendations

Compared to its grand neighbor, Memorial Park, the Parklane Play Lot seems almost forgotten. The assessors don't understand why it was dubbed a "play lot" as the only thing that exists in the park is open space.

Based off the park assessment and analysis, we recommend the following:

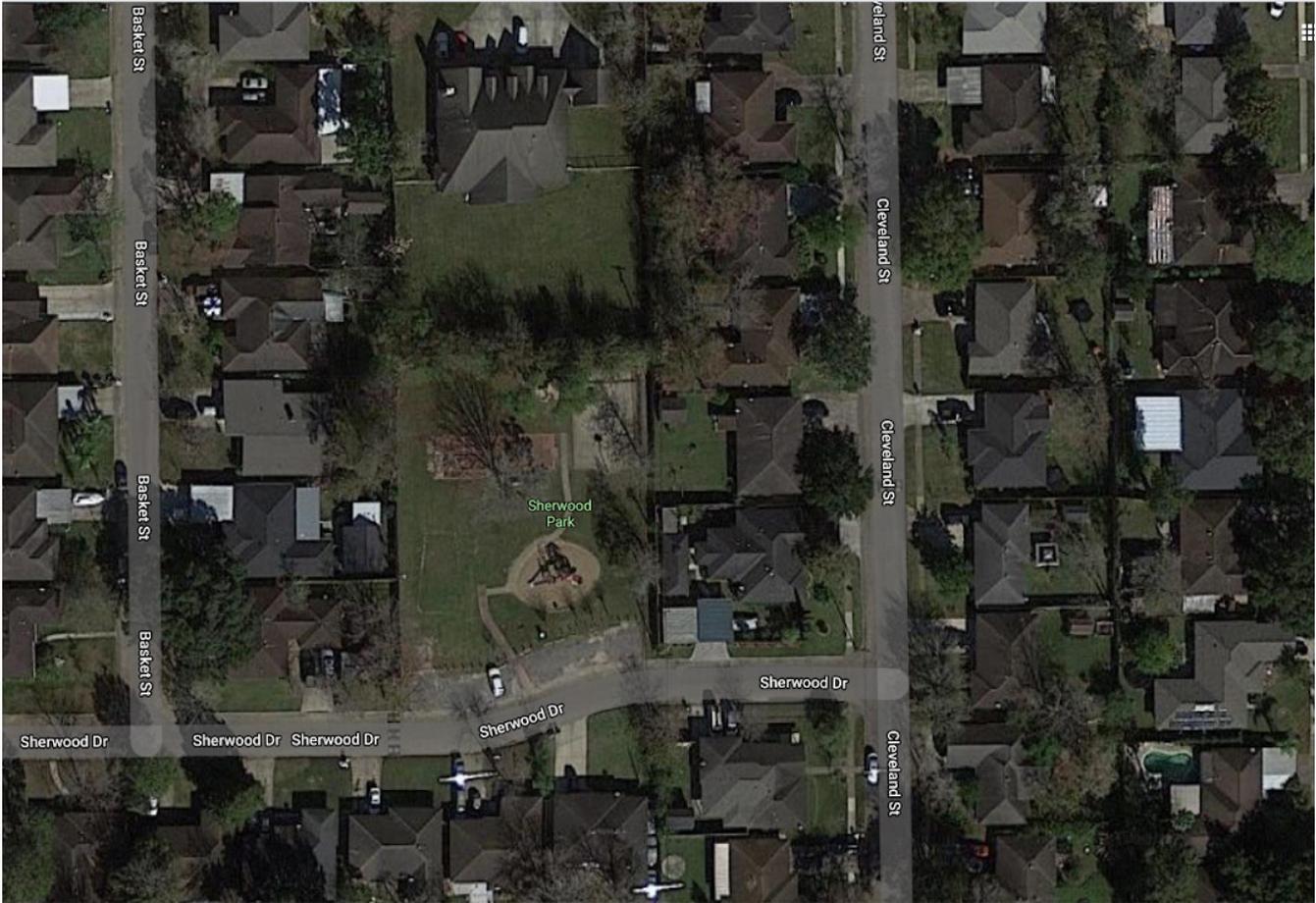
- Creating an ADA-focused park
- Preserving existing tree canopy to retain shade and cooling benefits for the neighborhood
- Ensuring all new investments in Parklane are flood resilient
- Restoring native vegetation along drainage channel and reduce mowing frequency
- Creating a cohesive connection for Parkland Park as a key neighborhood connection to Memorial Park and the future Vince Bayou Greenway, including wayfinding signage
- Installing bike parking
- Creating meditative, passive spaces by adding additional bench seating at key locations
- Installing sidewalks adjacent to the park and clear walking paths within



## 8. Sherwood Park

Community Park

3.18



### Amenities

- Playground
- Basketball court
- Open lawn
- Picnic tables

### Observations

#### Positive

- Good amount of shading
- Quiet neighborhood
- Lots of parking space

#### Negative

- Several cracks exist along the path
- Trash cans are an eyesore
- Litter close to the picnic tables
- Playground equipment can run hot during high temperatures



## Context

Situated in a residential neighborhood in northern Pasadena, Sherwood Park is bounded by Sherwood Drive to the south and residential parcels to the north, east, and west. The park is surrounded by single-family homes.

## Park Description

Measuring 0.63 acres, Sherwood Park offers both passive and active recreational options. This pocket park includes a picnic area, a playground, a basketball court, a large concrete pad (although it's unclear what its purpose is), and on-site parking. Its hours of operation are from 6 AM until sundown.

## Distinctive Park Elements





## Existing Conditions

### **Park Access**                      **Score: 2.91**

The park's entrance is fairly accessible because it has an open perimeter to the south as well as an identifying sign. However, the park remains in a quiet residential neighborhood with no sidewalk access. There is one path that is ADA accessible, but it is cracked and does not lead to a final destination, meaning the picnic area, basketball court, and playground are not ADA-accessible. There is sufficient on-site parking, but no bicycle parking.

### **Park Features**                      **Score: 1.75**

There is the one picnic area. The seats and table are unappealing concrete, and are covered in graffiti. There is litter nearby. However, the area does have adequate shading. Additionally, there is a large paved open space adjacent to the basketball court. It has many cracks and no defined program (no seating nearby or facing and no tables).

### **Supportive Facilities**              **Score: 5.00**

The park had two large trash receptacles, sufficient for a park of its size. However, aesthetically, the receptacles are an eyesore. There was no recycling bin. The park did not have any restrooms or water fountains.

### **Safety & Maintenance**        **Score 4.29**

Sherwood Park seems to be a safe and well-maintained park. There was no evidence of derelict land, alcohol or substance abuse, and of unauthorized camping or vagrancy, both in the park and in adjacent parcels. However, the picnic table did have some graffiti and there was litter in the picnic area.

As for park design, Sherwood park had a clustering of activity areas, no isolated areas, and no unobstructed sightlines, primarily because of the park's small size. However, the park does not function as a shortcut through the neighborhood to encourage presence of people as it is fenced from three sides.

### **Aesthetics**                          **Score 3.00**

Overall, the park has a pleasant ambience. There is a beautiful large tree in the center providing shading to a bench situated underneath as well as a number of trees around the park's perimeter. The playground is colorful, and because of its location, you can't hear the sounds of highway traffic or busy streets. The park has the feel of a residential neighborhood park.

However, the cracks in the concrete pad and the path need to be remedied. Additionally, the basketball court markings have now faded and need to be repainted. The picnic area needs to be upgraded and there is an overall lack of vegetation variety around the site. Finally, uncoordinated signage makes the park seem haphazard.

### **Health**                                **Score 2.50**

For physical health, the park provides a playground, a basketball court, and an open lawn, providing several fitness opportunities for children, teenagers, and adults. However, not as many for seniors. The park does not provide opportunities for connection to larger active transport networks because of the lack of connecting sidewalk and bicycle parking. For mental health, there are minimal opportunities for social connections in the park. The playground has no benches facing it and the park does not host social events, and there are very few opportunities for nature observation. There are also no expansive views from within the park. For environmental health, the park provides a minimal variety of vegetation. It also did not have vegetated stormwater infrastructure or an air quality monitor. The on-site parking was not permeable as well.

### **Culture and Convenience**    **Score 2.83**

Sherwood Park does not have any culture markers on the site. Most signs appear to be in both English and Spanish, including the recent coronavirus quarantine announcement from the Parks and Recreation Department. However, the only playground is not inclusive to children in wheelchairs.



## Analysis and Recommendations

It would seem due to the park's location, most people who would be using this park would be residents of the nearby neighborhood. It seems unlikely that individuals or families would drive to come to Sherwood Park when other larger and more accessible park options exist in Pasadena.

Based off the park assessment and analysis, we recommend the following:

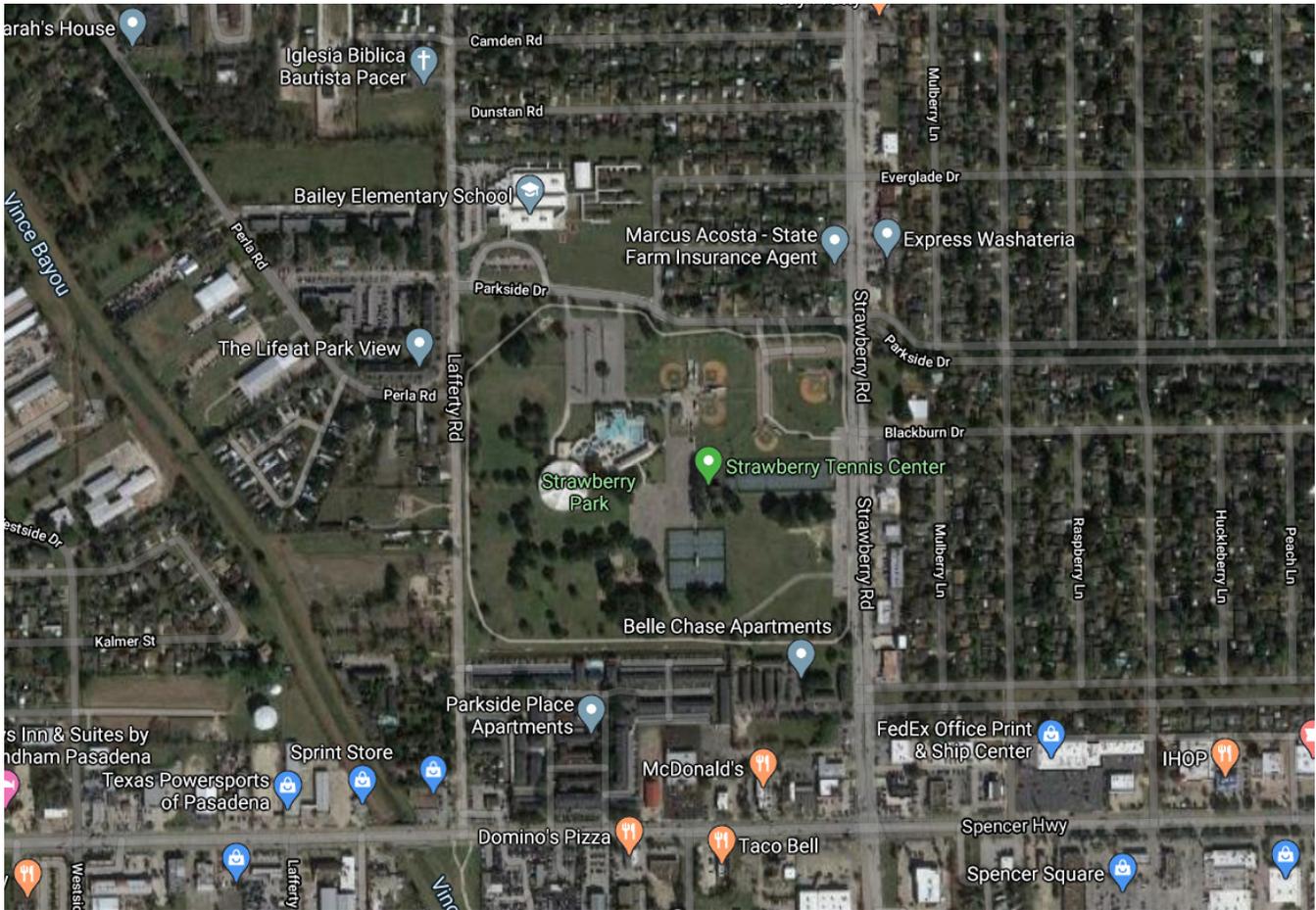
- Resurfacing parking area and repair damaged walkways with actual destinations
- Removing unutilized concrete pad
- Cleaning up graffiti and working with a local artist to create public art
- Evaluating resurfacing the basketball court and restriping
- Installing bike racks
- Creating more social gathering spaces with benches and picnic tables oriented toward the park amenities and shade



# 9. Strawberry Park

Regional Park

3.80



## Amenities

- Playground
- Basketball court
- Open lawn
- Picnic tables
- Tennis Courts
- Baseball Fields
- Water Park
- Performance Pavilion
- Loop trail
- Fitness Station
- BBQ Grills
- Water Fountains
- Restrooms

## Observations

- | Positive  | Negative   |
|---|--|
| • Lots of variety in amenities                                  | • Several cracks exist along the path                        |
| • Good amount of shading  | • Trash cans are not visually appealing                      |
| • Activated perimeter (loop trail)                              | • Water ponding in some areas of sports fields and open lawn |
| • Lots of parking space   | • Entrance designed for vehicles                             |
| • Several playgrounds, some themed to Texas and/or strawberries |  |



## Context

Strawberry Park is located near a commercial spine of Pasadena and serves the region. It is a large park bounded by Lafferty Road to the west, Parkside Drive to the north and Strawberry Road to the east. The southern edge of the park is directly adjacent to Belle Chase Apartments, while the other 3 edges are bordered by a variety of uses including single family residential, retail, education (Bailey Elementary School), and religious (Casa de Vida of CMA).

## Park Description

Measuring 50 acres, Strawberry Park offers many amenities including various athletic fields, passive recreation opportunities, playgrounds, and gathering areas. A highlight of Strawberry Park is the water park area with pools and water slides.

## Distinctive Park Elements





## Existing Conditions

### **Park Access**                      **Score: 3.46**

The park's entrance is fairly accessible because it has an open perimeter as well as an identifying sign. However, the park is situated along busy streets without adequate pedestrian infrastructure. Most paths are in good condition and lead to destinations, but they don't all connect beyond making the connection between a parking lot and a specific amenity. There is sufficient on-site parking, but only a small amount of bicycle parking.

### **Park Features**                      **Score: 4.50**

This park has a great variety of features, all of which are in fair to excellent condition. The variety of features is suited to the park's size and provides many options for users to have diverse experiences.

### **Supportive Facilities**              **Score: 2.67**

There was a drinking fountain, restrooms inside the pool facilities, restrooms under the pavilion, and another set of restrooms on the Strawberry Road side of the walking track. There is an adequate number of trash receptacles, but they are not aesthetically pleasing.

### **Safety and Maintenance**      **Score: 4.15**

Overall, park safety and maintenance appears to be in very good condition. The park is clean, does not exhibit signs of substance abuse or derelict buildings on site or adjacent. There are a few small instances of graffiti on the basketball court and performance area. Due to the park's size, not all areas are easily visible from the perimeter, and the overall park layout may not be clear to all users initially. The park's loop trail is a good activation of the perimeter.

### **Aesthetics**                          **Score: 4.00**

There is a great diversity of use; however, the overall sense of style is a bit lacking and dated, although there are some elements that are themed to Texas or to strawberries which adds a playful touch and speaks a bit to the geographical sense of place. Materials are not the highest quality (trash receptacles are a good example of this) but are in good condition. Entrances are designed for vehicles and therefore lack human scale appeal.

### **Health**                                **Score: 4.00**

Strawberry Park offers many fitness opportunities to all age groups which was a large part of earning its score of 4.00. The facilities overall are in good condition. However, the park does not have good connections to a larger trail or transportation network or to natural amenities other than nice trees and open lawn.

### **Culture and Convenience**      **Score: 3.57**

This park has some connection to its location through Texas themed playground elements. There is a large performance area with a shelter that could be an important cultural amenity. There is also a war memorial, as well as some inclusive playground features and some signage in Spanish which are a step towards a higher level of cultural access.



## Analysis and Recommendations

Based on the size of the park and variety of amenities, this regional park is understood to draw visitors from a broad geographic range.

Based off the park assessment and analysis, we recommend the following:

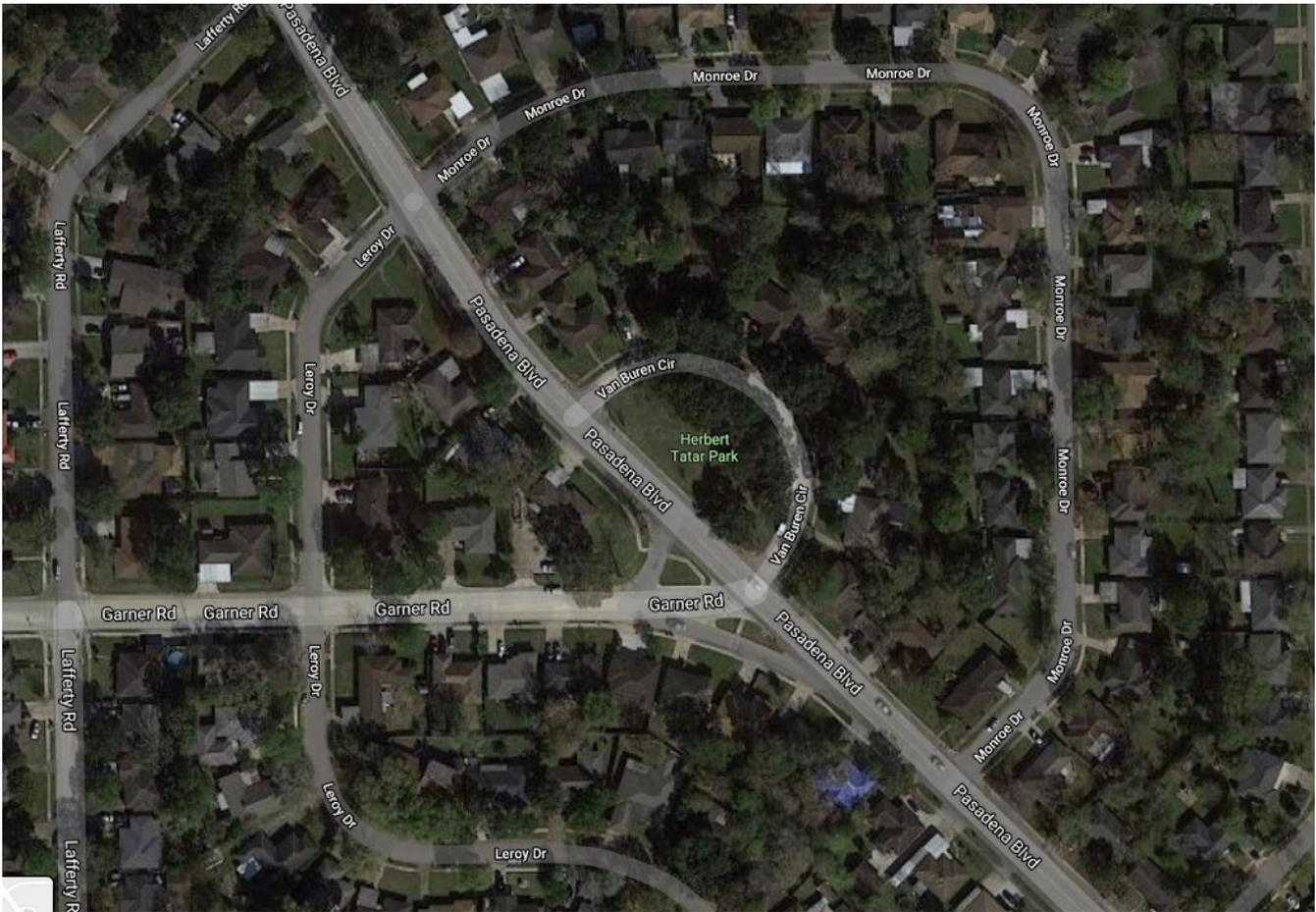
- Repair and/or replace aging pathways to a minimum of 8-10' widths
- Refurbishing and activating the pavilion with regular, free cultural arts and fitness programming
- Resurfacing and restriping the basketball court
- Updating play structures and providing structural shade above play areas and adjacent seating areas
- Targeting key social gathering and activity buffer areas for concentrated tree planting efforts
- Improving internal park connectivity to ensure amenities are well-connected to ADA walkways; improve wayfinding
- Ensuring restroom facilities adequately support the number of park users
- Enhancing key park "gateways" with entrance signage and plantings to improve the pedestrian experience
- Partnering with Bailey Elementary to provide support for after-school programming opportunities; improve the physical connection between



# 10. Tatar Park

Pocket Park

3.35



## Amenities

- Playground
- Picnic area

## Observations

Positive

- Park is located on Pasadena Boulevard

Negative

- Park is completely inaccessible
- Park entrance is designed in a way that doesn't allude that it could be a park
- Very difficult to find parking



## Context

Tatar Park is situated in Northeast Pasadena in a residential neighborhood. Its linear perimeter is on Pasadena Boulevard, one of the largest urban corridors in Pasadena, and its semi-circle perimeter is on Van Buren Circle, across from which is a number of single family lots. It is 0.5 miles away from Sherwood Park and 1 mile away from Pasadena City Hall.

## Park Description

Measuring 0.47 acres, Tatar Park is half-moon shaped with playground equipment and picnic tables. A large open lawn provides opportunities for additional active and passive uses. Its hours of operation are from 6 AM until sundown.

## Distinctive Park Elements





## Existing Conditions

### **Park access**                      **Score: 3.07**

The park has an open perimeter, allowing several entrance points. It also has a large sign indicating that it is a park for the City of Pasadena, adjacent to Pasadena Boulevard and therefore not prominent for pedestrians entering the park. Thus, the park does not give off the impression of a park, but rather an associated green space of the adjacent residential lots.

On-street parking is difficult to find, and there are no bike racks.

The park only has one sidewalk border. It is on Pasadena Boulevard and has a tall curb, making it inaccessible as an entrance. Additionally, the entire park is curbed with no trails or pathways, and therefore inaccessible.

### **Park features**                      **Score: 3.50**

There is one picnic table which is well-maintained and has adequate shading. Playground equipment is old but free of rust and graffiti.

### **Supportive facilities**              **Score: 5.00**

The park had one large trash receptacle. There was no recycling bin. The park did not have any restrooms or water fountains.

### **Safety and maintenance**      **Score: 4.64**

Tatar Park is safe and well-maintained. The surrounding context of residential homes provides a feeling of safety. There was no vandalism, evidence of substance abuse, litter, or animal waste in the surrounding context or in the park itself. There is easy visibility into and out of the park, with no isolated areas within the park. There is a clustering of the picnic areas, and the playground equipment. There are some areas of patchy grass, however.

### **Aesthetics**                          **Score: 2.65**

Aesthetically, the park has a number of well-placed trees across the park. The picnic tables and playground look old and lack color. There is no mitigation of the sound off Pasadena Boulevard. The park overall lacks a sense of style.

### **Health**                                **Score: 2.61**

From a physical health perspective, the park offers some opportunities for being active, mostly focused on children through the playground and open lawn. Aside from benches where a group could sit down and some form of connection to nature, Tatar Park offers minimal mental health benefits. For environmental health, variety of vegetation was minimal and a lack of stormwater infrastructure, permeable paving, or an air quality monitor.

### **Culture and convenience**      **Score: 2.38**

There is one historical marker in the park, but the placement seems arbitrary. The playgrounds are inaccessible. Signs are almost exclusively in English.



## Analysis and Recommendations

It is difficult to assess Tatar Park because of its shape and location. Because the park is shaped in a semicircle with no clear entrance, it almost looks like it could be a common open space for the residential homes rather than a public park. This notion is exacerbated by the lack of space for parking. Furthermore, because of its location directly on Pasadena Boulevard, it makes it difficult for individuals and families to cross the street to get to the park, particularly because of the absence of crosswalks. Tatar Park needs to be better activated if it is to attract more park users. Given its shape and location, the park can be uniquely positioned to be branded in a special way.

Based off the park assessment and analysis, we recommend the following:

- Creating accessible entrances and internal walkways
- Improving and clarifying the entrance experience
- Installing bike racks
- Installing water fountains
- Preserving existing tree canopy to retain shade and cooling benefits for the neighborhood
- Refurbishing historic marker and ensure interpretive element remains relevant
- Creating crosswalks adjacent to the park to improve safety of access





# B Engagement Summaries



# 1. Community Survey Report

## Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan Community Survey Report

### Executive Summary

The Community Survey for the Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan was a central part of the project's overall outreach strategy. Over 1,140 community members participated in the survey between May and August of 2019. The results of and methods used for the survey are summarized below.

### Highlights/Themes

- **Participants visit Pasadena parks frequently, but there are a lot of opportunities to make parks more accessible and welcoming.** Over 70% of participants visit Pasadena parks at least once per month on average, and 37% visit Pasadena parks more than once every week. Respondents use park amenities often--especially playgrounds and walking paths. However, many people expressed serious concerns about safety and lack of well-maintained restrooms and drinking fountains. Participants also indicated that more natural features and wildlife habitat, more shade, and more picnic areas and seating would make parks more welcoming and more relaxing.
- **Most participants are familiar with Pasadena's parks, but there is room for improvement and targeting of outreach.** Two-thirds of survey participants said they were somewhat or very familiar with Pasadena's park system, but 30% indicated that the Parks and Recreation Department was not effective at reaching them with information about parks and recreational opportunities. The most common ways that respondents get information about parks is from social media and word of mouth (both 39%). Hispanic residents were much more likely to get information from schools, and the highest income residents were much more likely than the lowest income residents to get information from program guides (24% versus 5%).
- **Spending time with friends and family is the most common reason for using parks.** Nearly 62% of respondents said that they use parks to spend time with friends and family. Hispanic participants were more likely than white participants to say that they use parks for socializing. Hispanic participants and participants with lower household incomes were most likely to use parks for spending time with friends and family. Picnic areas and seating were among the top priorities for improving parks for social gatherings. These features, along with places to cook, were especially strong priorities for Hispanic participants. The lowest income respondents were much more likely than the highest income participants to use picnic areas and barbeques (28.4% versus 11.8%).



- **Promoting health and connecting to nature are major priorities.** Participants indicated that improving community health, protecting wildlife, and protecting water quality are the most important benefits of parks.<sup>1</sup> After recreation and fun, access to nature and wildlife and opportunities to improve fitness were considered the most important opportunities provided by parks. Participants said that “more natural beautification” would do the most to make local parks more welcoming for social gatherings. When asked their favorite thing about Pasadena parks, the most common answers were trails for walking and access to nature. “Exercise and fitness” was the second most common reason for using parks (59.4%) after spending time with friends and family.
- **Participants are very concerned about park safety.** Respondents ranked improving safety of existing parks as their number one priority for funding. When asked their biggest concern about Pasadena parks, answers related to safety dwarfed all other responses. (See word cloud for Question 37 below.)
- **Restrooms and water fountains are the highest priority park amenities followed by playgrounds and paved pathways.** When asked to rate the importance of amenities, facilities, and programming on a scale of 1 to 5 (where 5 is extremely important), only restrooms and drinking fountains received an average rating above four. Lack of restrooms was also the top barrier to using parks more often (36.4%). Participants indicated that the most commonly used park amenities, excluding restrooms and drinking fountains, are playgrounds (53%) and paved pathways (48%). Playgrounds were the fourth most common response when participants were asked their favorite thing about Pasadena parks, and playgrounds ranked as most important amenity after restrooms and drinking fountains, followed closely by paved pathways. Playgrounds were also the third biggest priority for spending after community parks and land for new parks.
- **There is a great deal of support for having more large events in Pasadena parks.** More events was the second biggest priority for improving parks for social gatherings. Large events were also ranked highest among park programming options; events ranked nearly as high as restrooms and drinking fountains.
- **The vast majority of people drive to Pasadena parks now, but nearly half would like to use alternative transportation, particularly walking.** Over three-quarters (81.3%) of participants drive to the park now, but 49% would like to use alternative transportation; 28.9% would like to walk and 16.1% would like to be able to bike.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the question that ranked these priorities did not include an option related to fostering social gatherings because it was geared toward the indexes being developed for the project’s mapping analysis.



## Who participated?

There were 1,043 responses to the community survey for the Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan. The survey was available online in both English and Spanish. Most residents participated online, but about 200 surveys were submitted through paper forms that were filled out during community events. Data from the hardcopy surveys was entered by staff from the Pasadena Parks and Recreation Department.

The majority of survey participants (57.9%) were Hispanic/Latino[a]. According to Census data, 67.7% of Pasadena residents are Hispanic/Latino, so these residents are somewhat underrepresented among survey respondents. Participants were allowed to give more than one response to the question that addressed their race and ethnicity. Of the 442 respondents who identified as Hispanic, 67 (15%) also identified as white. Overall, participants who identified as Hispanic were generally younger and lower income than participants who identified as white. Nearly 23% of survey participants said that they primarily speak Spanish at home.

There was strong participation from young people and senior citizens; 22.7% under 18, and 20% were 65 or older. Women were overrepresented among survey participants; over two-thirds of respondents were women. Over 47% of survey respondents said that their annual household income was under \$50,000 (very close to Census numbers). Finally, nearly 45% of participants said they have lived in Pasadena for 20 years or more, and another 24.5% have lived in Pasadena for 11 to 19 years. The highest concentration of responses was from residents in the 77502 zip code in northwest Pasadena.

## Methods

The community survey was online for nearly four months from May 4, 2019 through August 27, 2019. The survey was available in both Spanish and English. Outreach for the survey was conducted through: (1) repeated social media posts by the Pasadena Parks and Recreation Department; (2) postcards and flyers distributed at eight speak-outs and intercept surveys; (3) large signs posted in 30 popular parks in Pasadena in August 2019; and (4) inclusion of information about the survey in residents' June 2019 and July 2019 water bills. In addition, computers available for residents to fill out the survey at the Healthy Parks Plan Community Workshop at the PAL Gym in June 2019 and at the Madison Jobe Senior. Hardcopy surveys were also available at the Madison Jobe Senior Center, and the engagement team and Parks and Recreation Department staff encouraged senior residents to fill out paper versions of the survey at dance for seniors on August 2, 2019. Spanish-speaking engagement staff attended all outreach events to assist with outreach and translation; this included staff from Antena, a Houston-based language justice group.

Where appropriate, responses were analyzed using cross-tabulation of demographic subgroups based on race/ethnicity and income. In particular, differences were examined in responses



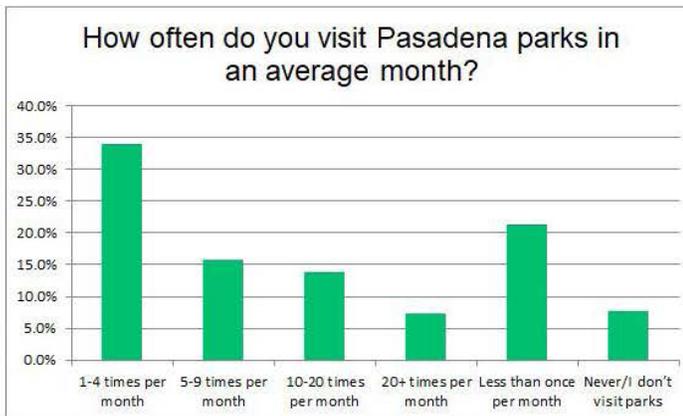
between Hispanic and white participants and between the lowest and highest income participants. The results of this analysis are described below (in “Detailed Survey Results”) when there were differences in responses among demographic subgroups that were both statistically significant and analytically meaningful.

## Detailed Survey Results

### Q1 How often do you visit Pasadena parks in an average month?

Overall, survey participants indicated that they visit parks frequently. Over 70% visit Pasadena parks at least once per month on average, and 37% visit Pasadena parks more than once every week. Question answered by 1,032 participants.

Park Visits per Month	Responses	
1-4 times per month	34.0%	351
5-9 times per month	15.8%	163
10-20 times per month	13.9%	143
20+ times per month	7.4%	76
Less than once per month	21.3%	220
Never/I don't visit parks	7.7%	79

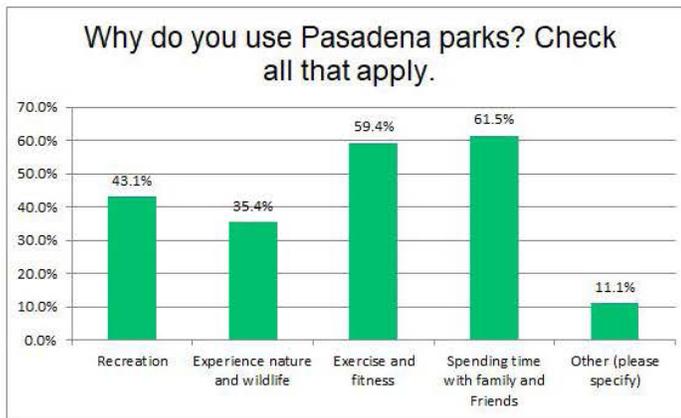


Hispanic/Latino respondents indicated that they were significantly more likely to visit parks 20 or more times per month than white survey participants (7.9% versus 5.6%) and less likely to visit parks less than once per month (17.6% versus 22.6%).



## Q2 Why do you use Pasadena parks?

Participants were asked to check all the answers that applied to them for this question. The most common response (62%) was “spending time with family and friends.” This was followed closely by “exercise and fitness” (59%), then by “recreation” (43%) and “experiencing nature and wildlife” (35%). Question answered by 866.



Reasons for Using Parks	Overall	Hispanic/Latino	White
Spending time with family and Friends	61.5%	62.9%	53.4%
Exercise and fitness	59.4%	54.5%	53.4%
Recreation	43.1%	35.8%	43.0%
Experience nature and wildlife	35.4%	28.7%	36.8%

The answers to this question differed significantly between participants who identified as Hispanic/Latino and those who identified as white. In particular, Hispanic participants were more likely to use parks for spending time with family and friends and less likely to use parks for recreation and experiencing nature and wildlife. The participants with the lowest household incomes were significantly less likely to say that they use parks for exercise and fitness (41.3% versus 58.8%) and significantly more likely to say they use parks to spend time with family and friends (54.1% versus 35.3%).

## Q3 and Q4 How do you currently get to the Pasadena park you visit most frequently? How would you like to get to the Pasadena park you visit most frequently?

Driving is by far the most common way that survey participants travel to the parks they visit. Over 81% indicated that they drive; 14% said they walk; and 3% said they bike. While over 81%



of respondents indicated that they drive to the park (Q3), only 50% would prefer driving to alternative or active transportation options. Nearly one-third (29%) said they would like to walk; 16% said they would like to bike; and nearly 4% said they would like to take the bus. This means 49% would like to use alternative transportation. Question 3 was answered by 886, and Question 4 was answered by 883.

Transit Method	Used Now		Would Like to Use	
	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count
Drive	81.3%	720	49.7%	439
Walk	13.9%	123	28.9%	255
Bike	3.1%	27	16.1%	142
Bus	0.1%	1	4.0%	12

**Q5 Which of the following have you or members of your household used in the past 12 months (in Pasadena parks)?**

By far the most commonly used park amenities were playgrounds (53%) and paved pathways (48%). These were followed by picnic areas and barbeques (29%), splash pads and water features (28%), unpaved trails (also 28%); then by swimming pools (23%), dog parks (21%), outdoor exercise equipment (20%), pavilions/covered spaces for gathering (20%), and basketball courts (19%). The least frequently used were tennis courts (7%), volleyball courts (7%), skateboard parks (6%), and golf and frisbee golf courses (both 3%). Question answered by 878.

Answer Choices	Overall	
	Percentage	Count
Playgrounds	53.4%	469
Paved pathways	48.3%	424
Picnic areas and BBQs	29.3%	257
Splash pads/water features	28.4%	249
Unpaved trails	28.1%	247
Community swimming pools	23.1%	203
Dog Parks	21.3%	187
Outdoor exercise equipment	20.7%	182
Pavilions/covered spaces for gathering	19.6%	172
Basketball courts	18.6%	163
Fishing	15.3%	134
Soccer fields	14.5%	127
Mountain biking trails	14.0%	123
Community centers/senior center	13.9%	122
Softball/baseball fields	11.1%	97
Tennis courts	6.7%	59
Volleyball courts	6.7%	59

Skateboard Parks	5.7%	50
Other (please specify)	3.9%	34
Golf course	3.2%	28
Frisbee golf course	3.0%	26

Hispanic/Latino respondents were much more likely to have used soccer fields (18.3% versus 3.9%), basketball courts (22.9% versus 8.7%), playgrounds (52.7% versus 42.7%), and picnic areas/BBQs (29.2% versus 22.6%) than white respondents. Hispanic respondents were less likely to have used the golf course (1.4% versus 4.0%). The highest income participants were much more likely than the lowest income participants to have used the golf course (11.8% versus 1.0%). The lowest income participants were much more likely to have used picnic areas/BBQs (28.4% versus 11.8%).

**Q6 From the list below, please mark the aspects of visiting parks that you find relaxing (if any). Please check all that apply.**

Shade (72%) was by far the most common response for what makes parks feel relaxing. This was followed by plants and trees (64%), safety (59%), and water features (55%). After these top choices were quiet (49%), places to socialize (49%), seating (48%), and “environment feels natural or wild (like a forest or meadow)” (48%). Interestingly “environment feels natural or wild” was chosen much more frequently than “environment feels designed or manicured (like a garden, developed park, or plaza),” which was chosen by 35%. Question answered by 855.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Shade	72.3%	640
Plants and trees	63.8%	565
Safe	59.3%	525
Water features (fountains, ponds)	55.4%	490
Quiet	49.4%	437
Places to socialize with friends and family	49.2%	435
Seating	48.4%	428
Environment feels natural or wild (like a forest or meadow)	48.3%	427
Colorful vegetation and flowers	45.5%	403
Places for exercise	45.4%	402
Wide open views	44.1%	390
Environment feels designed or manicured (like a garden, developed park, or plaza)	34.9%	309
Artwork (murals or sculptures)	23.3%	206
Other (please specify)	2.3%	20
None of the above	1.1%	10



The lowest income participants were much less likely to indicate that they find water features (39.5% versus 64.7%) and shade (51.4% versus 70.6%) relaxing park features.

**Q7 Which of the following keep you from using parks more often?**

According to survey participants, the biggest barriers to using parks more often are: lack of restrooms (36%), the weather (31%), being too busy (29%), parks not being clean or well-maintained (25%), not feeling safe (25%), and lack of water fountains (24%). These top answers were followed by parks being too far from home (18%), “not enough planned activities (programs and events) I enjoy” (18%), “parks do not have the equipment or facilities I want to use” (17%), and parks are overcrowded (14%). Question answered by 906.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Lack of restrooms	36.4%	330
The weather keeps me from spending time in the park	31.0%	281
I am too busy	29.0%	263
Parks are not kept clean and/or not well-maintained	24.7%	224
I do not feel safe in the park	24.2%	219
Lack of water fountains	24.1%	218
Parks are too far from my home	18.3%	166
There are not enough of the kinds of planned activities (programs and events) I enjoy	18.0%	163
Parks do not have the equipment or facilities that I want to use	16.6%	150
Parks are overcrowded	14.8%	134
Other (please specify)	12.0%	109
Lack of parking	9.2%	83
Getting to parks is difficult or unsafe	8.6%	78
Lack of public transportation to get to park	8.6%	78
I do not have a car to get to the park	7.4%	67
Operating hours are not convenient	5.7%	52
Parks are not accessible to people with disabilities	4.3%	39
Lack of open space	3.6%	33

Hispanic/Latino participants were more likely than white participants to indicate that the following prevent them from using parks: “there are not enough of the kinds of planned activities I enjoy” (19.2% versus 14.3%); “I am too busy” (30.3% versus 26.3%), and “parks are not kept clean” (27.4% versus 20.7%). Fewer Hispanic respondents agreed that “I do not feel safe in the park” (21.3% versus 24.0%). The highest income participants were much more likely than the lowest income participants to indicate they were too busy to visit parks (47.1% versus 23.9%).



**Q8 If you are too busy to use parks, please select the reasons that apply.**

The most common response for why participants are too busy to use parks was family and household duties (48%), followed up work/school schedule conflicts (36%), and other personal commitments (32%). Question answered by 617.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Family and household duties prevent me from going to a park	48.0%	296
My work/school schedule conflicts with park hours of operation	35.8%	221
My non-work hours are filled with other personal commitments (hobbies, volunteering, etc.)	32.1%	198
I prefer to relax someplace other than a park	21.4%	132
The closest park is too far away from me and it takes too long to get there	16.1%	99
Traffic and commuting time keep me from going to a park	12.0%	74
I work more than one job and have too little time	8.3%	51

Hispanic residents were more likely than white respondents to indicate “my work/school schedule conflicts with park hours of operation” (29.0% versus 16.2%); “family and household duties prevent me from going to a park” (38.0% versus 26.8%), and “I prefer to relax someplace other than a park” (18.1% versus 11.2%).

**Q9 How familiar are you with Pasadena’s park system?**

A majority of respondents (66%) are either somewhat (51%) or very (15%) familiar with Pasadena’s park system. Twenty-six percent (26%) were not very familiar or not at all familiar (8%). Question answered by 919.

**Q10 How do you currently get information about Pasadena’s parks and the programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department?**

By far the most common ways for survey participants to get information about Pasadena’s parks and Parks and Recreation Department programming are social media and word of mouth--both 39%. These were followed by the Parks and Recreation Department website (20%), flyers from the Parks and Recreation Department (14%), and schools (14%). Nearly one-quarter (24%) of respondents said that they do not get information about parks and programs. Question answered by 918.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Word of mouth	38.6%	354
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	38.6%	354
Not applicable/I do not get information about parks and programs	23.8%	218
Parks and Recreation Department website	19.5%	179



Flyers from Parks and Recreation Department	14.1%	129
Schools	13.9%	128
Program guides	7.6%	70
Other (please specify)	5.1%	47
Municipal channel	3.6%	33

Hispanic participants were substantially more likely than white residents to get information from schools (19.7% versus 9.2%) or social media (40.7% versus 35.2%) and less likely to get information from the Parks and Recreation Department website (16.3% versus 22.4%).

The highest income participants were much more likely than the lowest income participants to say that they get information about Pasadena’s parks from program guides (23.5% versus 4.6%). The lowest income participants were much more likely than the highest income participants to get their information from flyers (19.3% versus 5.9%), schools (29.4% versus 0%), and social media (35.8% versus 23.5%).

**Q11 How effective is the Pasadena Parks and Recreation Department at reaching you with information about parks and recreational opportunities? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 where “1” is not at all effective and “5” is extremely effective.**

Participants indicated that the Parks and Recreation Department is somewhat effective at reaching them. The most common answer to this question was not at all effective (30%) and the least common answer was extremely effective (7%). The weighted average response was 2.5. Question answered by 895.

**Q12 How important are the following amenities related to sports facilities? (Scale of 1 to 5, where “1” is not at all important and “5” is extremely important.)**

None of the amenities related to sports facilities were given an average rating of 4 or 5 (important to extremely important). According to survey participants the highest priority field and court amenities are increased lighting (3.8 average) and increased parking (3.3 average). Additional basketball courts (2.8 average) ranked slightly above other kinds of courts and fields. Question answered by 874.

Amenity	Average Rating
Increased lighting for fields and courts	3.8
Increased parking for fields and courts	3.3
Additional basketball courts	2.8
Additional volleyball courts	2.6
Additional soccer fields	2.6
Additional softball/baseball fields	2.5
Additional tennis courts	2.4



**Q13 How important are the following park features? (Scale of 1 to 5, where “1” is not at all important and “5” is extremely important.)**

According to survey participants, the highest priority park features overall are restrooms and drinking fountains. Cleaner restrooms had a 4.4 average; better maintained drinking fountains was 4.4; additional restrooms was 4.1; and additional drinking fountains were given an average rating of 3.9. Expanded/enhanced playgrounds also had an average of 3.9. Question answered by 880 participants.

Park Features	Average Rating
Cleaner restrooms	4.4
Better-maintained drinking fountains	4.3
Additional restrooms	4.1
Additional drinking fountains	3.9
Expanded/enhanced playgrounds	3.9
More paved pathways	3.8
More splash pads and water features	3.7
Additional pavilions/covered spaces for gathering	3.6
Additional picnic areas and BBQs	3.6
More unpaved trails	3.4
More outdoor exercise equipment	3.4
Additional dog parks	3.2

**Q14 How important are the following types of recreation center resources? (Scale of 1 to 5, where “1” is not at all important and “5” is extremely important.)**

None of the recreation center related resources were given an average rating above 4 (important to extremely important). The highest rating was for more community swimming pools, which received an average rating of 3.5. This was followed up 3.4 for more adult recreation centers and 3.3 for more facilities for performing arts, more youth recreation centers, and more senior centers. Question answered by 869 participants.

Recreation Center Resources	Average Rating
More community swimming pools	3.5
More adult recreation centers	3.4
More facilities for performing arts	3.3
More youth recreation centers	3.3
More senior centers	3.3
More indoor tracks	3.0



More indoor basketball courts	2.9
More indoor tennis courts	2.4

**Q15 How important are the following types of programming? (Scale of 1 to 5, where “1” is not at all important and “5” is extremely important.)**

None of the programming options received an average rating above 4 (important/very important), but all were rated above an average of 3 (somewhat important). Participants indicated that more special events (3.9), more fitness programming (3.8), more aquatic programs (3.7), and more environmental/outdoor education programming (3.7) were the highest priorities. Question answered by 874.

Programming Type	Average Rating
More special events (concerts, festivals, movies, etc.)	3.9
More fitness programming (aerobics, yoga, etc.)	3.8
More aquatic programs (swim lessons, water aerobics, etc.)	3.7
More environmental/outdoor education programming	3.7
More programming for youth	3.5
More programming for adults	3.5
More arts programming (drama, painting, etc.)	3.4
More programming for seniors	3.4

**Q12-Q15 COMBINED. How important are the following types of amenities, facilities, and programming? (Scale of 1 to 5, where “1” is not at all important and “5” is extremely important.)**

Because the questions 12 through 15 all asked participants to rate options on a scale from 1 to 5, the table below shows the ratings for the top-rated combined amenities, facilities, and programming types. As noted above, only restrooms and drinking fountains were rated about a 4 (important/extremely important).

Amenity/Programming	Average Rating
Cleaner restrooms	4.4
Better-maintained drinking fountains	4.3
Additional restrooms	4.1
More special events (concerts, festivals, movies, etc.)	3.9
Additional drinking fountains	3.9
Expanded/enhanced playgrounds	3.9
More paved pathways	3.8
Increased lighting for fields and courts	3.8

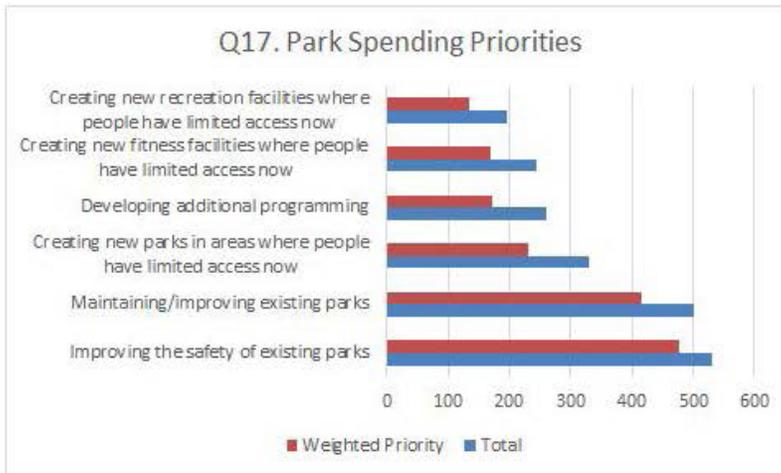




**Q17 There are many different ways to spend funding for parks. Which of the following do you think is most important? (Rank top 3 priorities.)**

By far, the top spending priorities among these options were improving the safety of existing parks, which received 531 priority rankings and maintaining/improving existing parks, which received 501 priority ratings. Creating new parks in areas where people have limited access now received 329 priority votes. Question answered by 795.

Spending Priorities	Priority Rankings	Weighted Priority
Improving the safety of existing parks	531	475.8
Maintaining/improving existing parks	501	414.3
Creating new parks in areas where people have limited access now	329	230.3
Developing additional programming	260	172.8
Creating new fitness facilities where people have limited access now	245	169.3
Creating new recreation facilities where people have limited access	197	133.5



**Q18 If you had \$100 to spend on improvements to Pasadena’s park system, how would you spend it? Please divide \$100 total among the options below.**

On average, participants indicated that they would prefer to spend the most money on improvements to community parks (\$30.78), purchasing new land for parks (\$28.39), and playgrounds (\$27.59). Baseball and soccer fields, tennis courts, and golf course were much lower spending priorities. Question answered by 709 participants.



Improvement Option	Average Investment (of \$100 total)
Community parks	\$30.78
Purchasing new land for parks	\$28.39
Playgrounds	\$27.59
Community recreation centers	\$22.80
Baseball/softball fields	\$12.73
Soccer fields	\$11.58
Tennis courts	\$9.46
Golf course	\$9.00

**Q19 Parks can provide a lot of different benefits. Which of the following benefits of parks do you think are most important? (Rank top 3 priorities.)**

Participants indicated that the most important benefits of parks are (1) Improving community health [392 priority votes]; (2) Protecting wildlife [374 priority votes]; and (3) Protecting water quality [372 priority votes]. When the answers are weighted to give higher priority those ranked as most important and second most important, protecting water quality ranks slightly higher than protecting wildlife. Question answered by 778.

Benefits of Parks	Priority Rankings	Weighted Priority
Improving community health	392	316.5
Protecting wildlife	374	286.5
Protecting water quality	372	301.3
Controlling flooding	330	253.0
Protecting air quality	280	199.8
Reducing extreme heat	264	191.8
Showcasing local history and culture	156	94.0

**Q20 Parks provide residents with many different kinds of opportunities. Which of the following do you think are most important? (Rank top 3 priorities.)**

Respondents indicated that the most important opportunities provided by parks are (1) Opportunities for recreation and fun [540 priority rankings]; (2) Opportunities to access nature and see wildlife [482]; and (3) Opportunities to improve fitness [450]. 774 participants responded to this question.

Priority Opportunities	Priority Rankings	Weighted Priority
Opportunities for recreation and fun	540	428.75
Opportunities to access to nature and see wildlife	482	387



Opportunities to improve fitness	450	364.5
Opportunities for reflection and relaxation	385	248.75
Opportunities for social gatherings	305	207.5

**Q21 Parks can be a good place for meeting up with friends, family, and neighbors. Please check all that apply to the ways you interact with people in your local park/s.**

Nearly 70% of respondents (68.5%) said that they go to the park with a friend or family member. This was by far the most common answer to this question. The second most common answer (44.4%) was “I go to the park to get together with groups of friends or family members.” Question answered by 777 participants.

Ways to Interact in Parks	Responses	
I go to the park with a friend or family member	68.47%	532
I go to the park to get together with groups of friends or family members	44.40%	345
I occasionally see people I know in the park	35.39%	275
I make plans to meet people I know in the park	34.36%	267
I go to the park with my pet	31.66%	246
I occasionally meet new people in the park	21.62%	168
I am usually alone in the park	20.59%	160
I go to the park to see people I know, even when we have not made plans	14.29%	111
I do not use parks	6.44%	50
Other	3.86%	30

Hispanic participants were more likely than white participants to say that they use parks for socializing. The most substantial difference was in going to the park to get together with groups of friends or family members (51.2% versus 34.1%).

**Q22 Are there changes that would make local parks better for getting together with friends, family, and neighbors? Check all that apply.**

The most common answer to this question was “more natural beautification” (438 responses), followed by “more large events” (391 responses). A majority of participants felt that both natural beautification (57.7%) and large events (51.5%) would make parks better for getting together with family, friends, and neighbors. These first two priorities were followed closely by “more picnic areas” (369, 48.6%) and “more seating” (343, 45.1%). Question answered by 760.

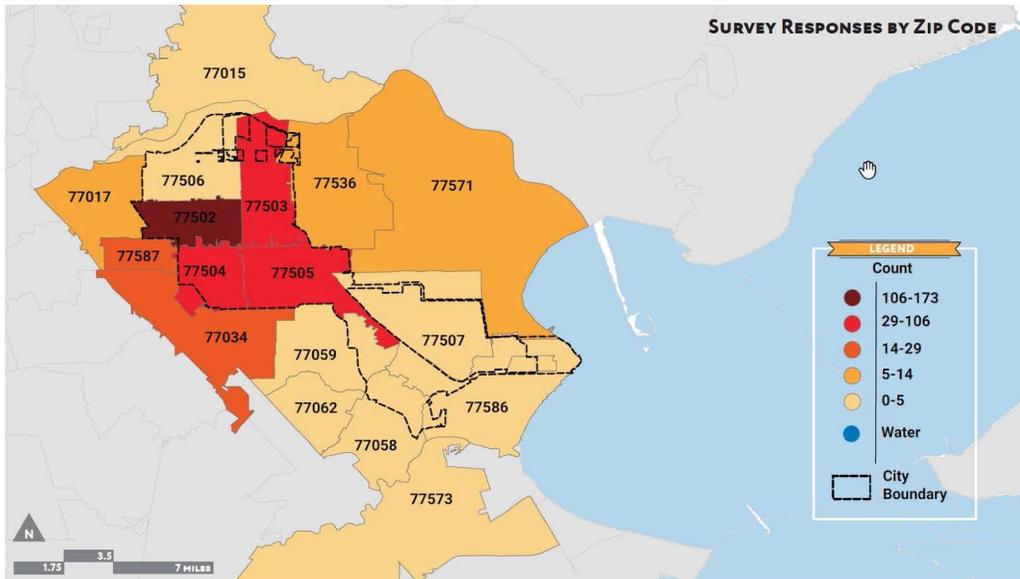
What would make parks better for getting together?	Responses
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More natural beautification (trees and flowers)	57.6%	438
More large events (concerts, festivals, movies)	51.5%	391
More picnic areas	48.6%	369
More seating	45.1%	343
More planned activities (such as classes or sports leagues)	37.4%	284
More places to cook (such as barbecues)	36.1%	274
Improved safety (please specify)	27.6%	210
More art (murals or sculptures)	27.4%	208

A higher percentage of Hispanic participants than white participants indicated that the following features would make parks better for socializing: more seating (47.3% versus 41.9%); more picnic areas (50% versus 42.2%), more places to cook (40.5% versus 29.3%), and more planned activities (38.2% versus 34.1%).

**Q23 What is your zip code?**

Responses to this question are shown visually below. The highest concentration of responses was in the 77502 zip code in northwestern Pasadena. Question answered by 705.



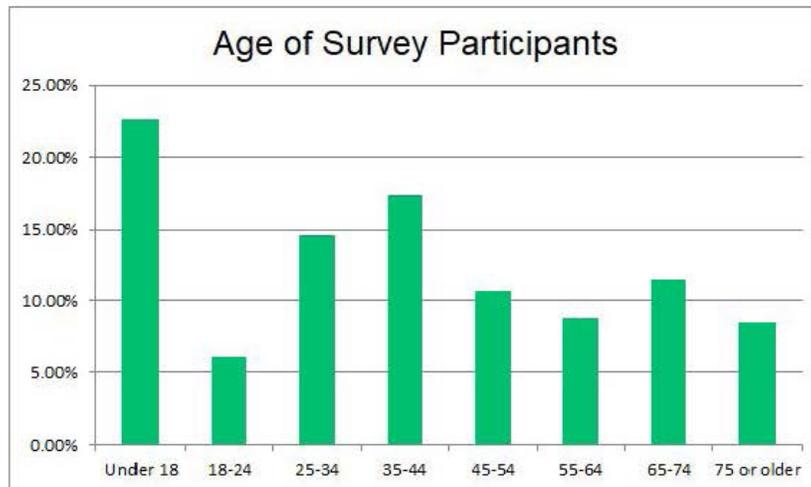
**Q24 Participant Age (Question: How old are you?)**

With the help of staff from Pasadena ISD, this survey had excellent participation from local high school students; 22.7% of respondents indicated that they were under 18. We also had strong engagement from senior citizens; nearly 20% of survey participants were 65 and older.



According to census data, 30.1% of Pasadena residents are under 18, and 9.5% are 65 or older. Question answered by 772 participants.

Age	Responses	
Under 18	22.7%	175
18-24	6.1%	47
25-34	14.6%	113
35-44	17.4%	134
45-54	10.6%	82
55-64	8.8%	68
65-74	11.4%	88
75 or older	8.4%	65



**Q25 Participant Gender (Question: What is your gender?)**

Over 2/3rds of survey participants (67.2%) are women; 32.3% were men, and 0.5% indicated their gender as "other."

**Q26 How long have you lived in Pasadena?**

Most survey participants are long-time Pasadena residents. Nearly 45% said they have lived in Pasadena for 20 years or more, and another 24.5% have lived in Pasadena for 11 to 19 years. Nearly 12% of survey participants said that they are not Pasadena residents. 772 participants responded to this question.

Time as Pasadena Residents	Responses
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Less than 1 year	1.81%	14
1-10 years	17.23%	133
11-19 years	24.48%	189
20+ years	44.82%	346
I do not live in Pasadena	11.66%	90

**Q27 Do you rent or own your residence in Pasadena?**

Fifty-seven percent of respondents said that they own their residence in Pasadena; 19.8% said that they rent, and 23.2% indicated that this question was not applicable. The high percentage of “not applicable” answers is likely because respondents either do not live in Pasadena or because they are under 18 years old. Question answered by 764 participants.

**Q28 Which of the following represents your highest level of education?**

The most common answers to this question were “some college” (29.8%) and “college graduate” (22.2%). According to the Census Bureau, 71.2% of Pasadena residents have at least a high school degree, and 24.8% have a college degree. Among survey respondents, 79.5% have at least a high school degree, and 35.1% have a college degree. These results are somewhat skewed by the large number of survey participants who were still high school students. Question answered by 752.

Level of Education	Responses	
Some high school	20.5%	154
High school graduate	14.6%	110
Some college	29.8%	224
College graduate	22.2%	167
Some post-graduate work	3.5%	26
Post-graduate degree	9.4%	71

**Q29 What is your annual household income?**

Responses were fairly evenly divided among the income choices. The most common response was \$50,000 to \$74,999 (20.8%). Nearly 48% of participants indicated that their household income was under \$50,000 per year, and nearly 21% said it was over \$100,000 per year. The number of respondents indicating a household income under \$50,000 per year (47.5%) is very close to the number of households earning under \$50,000 per year according to survey data (49.9%). Median household income in Pasadena is \$50,207. Question answered by 668.

Annual Income	Responses	
Less than \$20,000	16.3%	109
\$20,000 to \$34,999	15.9%	106



\$35,000 to \$49,999	15.3%	102
\$50,000 to \$74,999	20.8%	139
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11.2%	75
\$100,000 to \$199,999	18.0%	120
\$200,000 or more	2.5%	17

**Q30 Race/Ethnicity (Question: Check all of the following that describe you.)**

The majority of participants (57.9%) identify as Hispanic/Latino[a]. Nearly, 47% of respondents identified as white--some of whom identified as Hispanic as well. Of the 442 respondents who identified as Hispanic, 67 (15%) also identified as white. Only 2.5% of participants who answered this question said that they are Asian or Pacific Islander, and only 1.6% identify as African American or American Indian. According to Census data, 67.7% of Pasadena residents are Hispanic/Latino, so these residents are somewhat underrepresented among survey participants. Asian and American Indian residents were slightly overrepresented among respondents; these groups represent 1.8% and 0.1% of residents respectively according to the Census. Question answered by 763 participants.

Race/Ethnicity	Responses	
	Percentage	Count
Hispanic Latino/a	57.9%	442
White	46.9%	358
Asian or Pacific Islander	2.5%	19
Other	1.8%	14
Black/African American	1.6%	12
American Indian/Native American	1.6%	12

Participants who identified as Hispanic were generally younger and lower income than participants who identified as white. (As noted above, 67 participants were in both of these groups.) These differences were especially significant in the youngest and oldest age categories and the lowest and highest income categories. Nearly 44% of Hispanic participants were under 25, while only 13.1% of white respondents were under 25. Only 16.9% of Hispanic participants were 55 or older, while 38.4% of white participants were 55 or older. Similarly, 41% of Hispanic respondents and only 23.2% of white respondents said their household income was under \$35,000 per year, and 19.7% of Hispanic respondents and 44.1% of white respondents said their household income was \$75,000 or more per year. In the table below, the bold percentages indicate statistically significant differences.

**Age Distribution**

	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 up
Hispanic	<b>34.2%</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	16.9%	15.3%	7.3%	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
White	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	13.1%	20.5%	<b>15.1%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>10.8%</b>



**Income Distribution**

	Less than \$20,000	\$20,000 to \$34,999	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$74,999	\$75,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 to \$199,999	\$200,000 or more
Hispanic	21.0%	20.0%	17.1%	22.1%	7.0%	11.7%	1.0%
White	12.5%	10.6%	12.2%	20.6%	16.4%	24.8%	2.9%

**Q31 What language is predominantly spoken in your home?**

Just over three-quarters of respondents (75.8%) indicated that they mostly speak English at home. Of the remaining one-quarter, nearly all (22.6%) said that they predominantly speak Spanish at home. Question answered by 768.

Language Spoken at Home	Responses	
English	75.8%	582
Spanish	22.6%	174
Vietnamese	0.3%	2
Other (please specify)	1.3%	10

**Q32 How many people live in your household?**

The average (mean) of the responses to this question was 3.6, and the most common answer (mode) was 2. Question answered by 722.

**Q33 How many children (under age 18) live in your household?**

The average (mean) of the responses to this question was 1.2. Just over 40% of participants said that there were no children in their household. Question answered by 703.

**Q34 How many seniors (over age 64) live in your household?**

The average (mean) of the responses to this question was 0.5. Just over 65% of participants said that there were no seniors in their household. Question answered by 688.

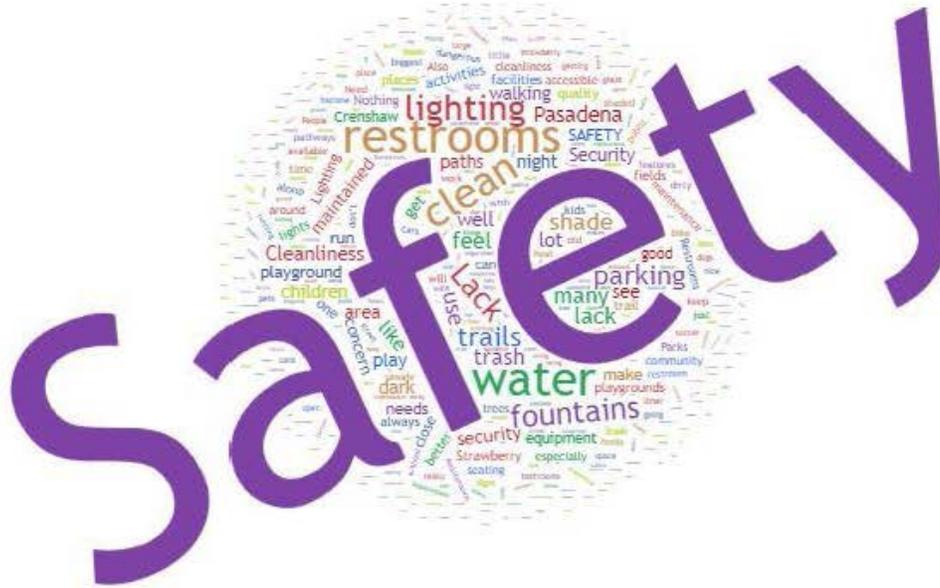
**Q35 Are there people in your household who are disabled or who need of accessible facilities or special accommodations to use parks or recreation facilities?**

Over 13% of participants indicated that members of their household are disabled or need accessible facilities or special accommodations to use parks or recreation facilities. Question answered by 743.

**Q36 What is your favorite thing about Pasadena parks?**

The most common words in the responses to this question were "walking" (71), "trails" (63), "nature" (46), and "playgrounds" (33). The word cloud below displays responses based on the





**Q38 Is there anything else you'd like to add?**

Question answered by 468. A random sample of responses is listed below:

- Please build a new concrete skatepark that will last for many many years.
- Mas seguridad (More safety)
- Pasadena lacks dog parks
- It would be great to have a park for children with disabilities closer to home
- Would like to see more indoor trails or covered walking trail
- I love Pasadena Parks. We are fortunate to have many.
- More flowers along the walking trail
- More bathroom facilities
- I would love to have an urban park in the middle of the city with a local farmers' market
- Maintenance is a big component that should definitely be considered
- Please plant more trees for shade
- Need more free fitness facilities
- I wish Pasadena would send out a "Get to Know Your Parks" pamphlet
- Make parks more colorful
- The water park is expensive and a cheaper pool needs to be built
- Pasadena parks are beautiful but old. With a real effort and push towards revitalization and modernization, the parks could easily become the best thing Pasadena has to offer.
- More trees for shading, water features for natural beautification
- Please keep parks maintained...they look abandoned, especially when the grass is tall



- Consider adding communication PEC boards for those on the autism spectrum
- Would like to see the city hold community meetings to unveil the plan and get citizen input
- Need adult programming and to expand all programming south of Spencer



## 2. Telephone Poll Report

Pasadena Healthy Parks Survey Analysis

November 2019

### METHODS

This survey of 400 Pasadena, Texas residents was conducted October 13 thru 16, 2019 by John Wilson Research. The survey was conducted by telephone and contained both cell phones (75%) and landlines (25%). Interviews were conducted in Spanish as well as English (23% of all interviews and 34% of the Hispanic interviews were conducted in Spanish). Upon completion the data were weighted to known population values for sex within region, race, age and income. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 5% within a 95% confidence interval.

### KEY POINTS SUMMARY

#### Satisfaction Ratings

Satisfaction with the quality (80%) and quantity (77%) of parks and recreational opportunities in Pasadena is high. In fact, 69% are satisfied with BOTH the quality AND quantity of the parks and just 21% are dissatisfied with EITHER the quality OR quantity of the parks and recreational opportunities available to them.

Satisfaction ratings tend to be somewhat higher among Hispanics and in the more Hispanic areas of the city. They are also a little higher among younger residents and those with children at home. But at least 60% of every demographic group expressed satisfaction with the quality and quantity of the parks and recreational opportunities in the City of Pasadena.

#### Park Usage

Park usage is fairly high with a majority of residents saying that they visit the parks and recreational areas Daily, Weekly or Frequently. However, 41% say that they Seldom or Never go.

To some extent park usage parallels the satisfaction ratings. That is, park usage is higher among Hispanics (especially among Hispanic Females) and in the more Hispanic areas of the city. Usage is also higher among younger residents and parents (especially Mothers).

Respondents with children at home report that park usage is very high for their children. In fact, over 75% visit the parks and recreation areas on a Daily, Weekly or Frequent basis, while only 22% Seldom or Never visit.

When asked for the main reasons why they visit the parks in Pasadena Exercise and Fitness topped the list (54%) followed by Spending Time with Family and Friends (40%). A significant number of respondents also gave Recreation (28%) or Experience Nature and Wildlife (24%) as reasons why they visit the parks.

When asked why they don't visit the parks more often a plurality said it was because they were "too busy". About one in ten said that their age or health kept them from visiting more often. Only 13% said that they didn't visit more often because they were not interested.

It is significant that park usage does NOT correlate with respondents' satisfaction with the quality or quantity of the parks. Among those who are satisfied with the quality AND quantity of the parks 60% visit Daily, Weekly or Frequently, while 36% Seldom or Never go. And among those who are DISSATISFIED with EITHER the quality OR quantity of the parks park usage is almost identical (59% visit Daily, Weekly or Frequently / 41% Seldom or Never Visit).

#### Park Information Sources



Almost 80% of Pasadena residents say that they are Very or Somewhat familiar with the parks, while just 20% say that they are not.

Their most common source of information is ‘word or mouth’ but ‘social media’ follows close behind. The Park & Recreation website, Flyers and Program guides were also given as a source of information by about one in five respondents. Schools are also an important source of information especially for Women 18 to 49 and Mothers – but not Fathers. Interestingly, Hispanic Women are far more likely than White Women to cite Schools as a source of information.

It is also significant that Social Media usage is MUCH higher among Hispanics from households in which English is the most commonly spoken language than it is among Hispanics from households in which Spanish is the most commonly spoken language.

### **Park Improvements**

Respondents were given a list of twenty-nine things that could be done to improve the parks and recreational opportunities available in Pasadena. A majority felt that **all of them were at least somewhat important**

Looking at just the Very Important ratings helps to focus on which improvements respondents feel are **most important**. We can see that there are just four improvements that get a Very Important Rating of 80% or more and there are nine more with a Very Important Rating of 70% to 79%.

Further analysis suggest that these improvements can be grouped into seven categories. **Ranked in terms of importance to residents**, these categories are as follows:

- Improved safety and lighting
- Better maintenance of the basic amenities and trails
- More paved and unpaved trails for walking, hiking and biking
- More basic, traditional park amenities such as restrooms, drinking fountains, picnic tables, barbeques, and shelters
- More playgrounds and programs for children
- More programs for adults
- Facilities, equipment and other capital improvements

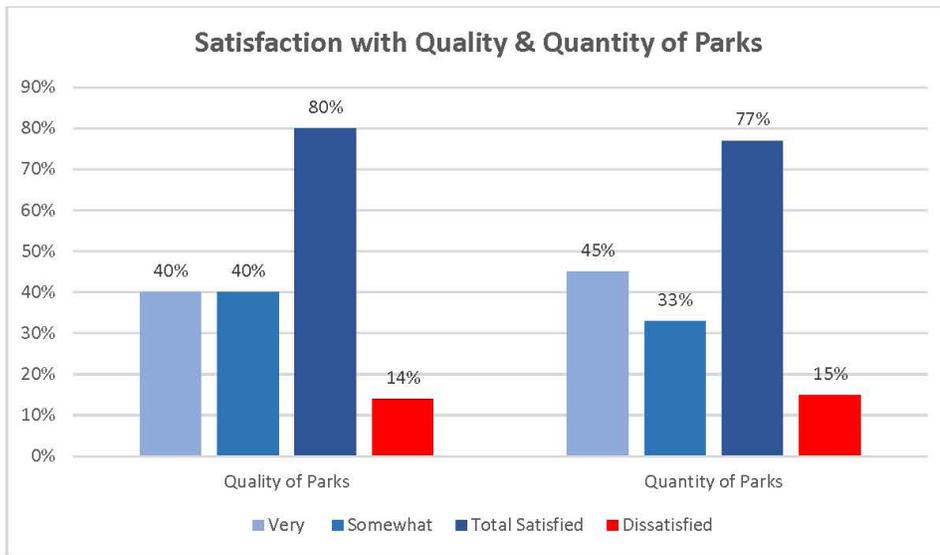




### PASADENA PARKS AND RECREATION SATISFACTION RATINGS

Satisfaction with both the *quality and quantity* of parks and recreation opportunities in Pasadena is fairly high. Overall, 80% are satisfied with the *quality* of parks and recreation opportunities and 40% are Very Satisfied. Similarly, 77% are satisfied with the *quantity* of parks and recreational opportunities and 45% are Very Satisfied. Conversely, only 14% are dissatisfied with the quality of the parks and recreation opportunities and 15% are dissatisfied with the quantity.

Then too, 69% are satisfied with BOTH the quality AND quantity of the parks and just 21% are dissatisfied with EITHER the quality OR quantity of the parks and recreational opportunities available to them.



Not only is satisfaction fairly high it is also fairly broad with a strong majority of respondents from every demographic group expressing satisfaction with the quantity **and** quality of park and recreation opportunities that are available.

Having said that, it is worth noting that satisfaction levels are very high in the Central Area (74%) and somewhat lower in the North Area (70%) and lowest in the South & East area (64%).

Predictably, satisfaction is highest among respondents 18 to 34 years old and declines with age. But even among respondents age 65+ 67% are satisfied with BOTH the quality and quantity of park and recreation opportunities in Pasadena while only 17% are dissatisfied with EITHER.

Finally, satisfaction levels are somewhat higher among Hispanic respondents (74% Satisfied with Both) than among White respondents (60% Satisfied with Both). These lower satisfaction levels among White Respondents are, of course, reflected in the lower satisfaction levels in the South & East Area and vice versa.

## SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF PARKS IN PASADENA

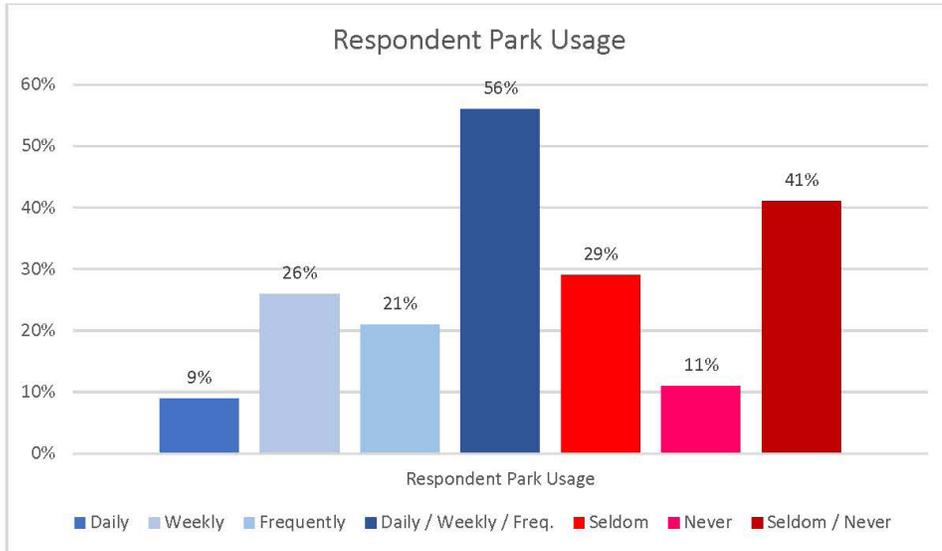
	Quality of Parks		Quantity of Parks		Combinations	
	Satisfied	Dis-satisfied	Satisfied	Dis-satisfied	Satisfied With Both	Dis-Satisfied Either
<b>TOTAL</b>	80%	14%	77%	15%	69%	21%
<b>REGIONS</b>						
North	80%	15%	79%	15%	70%	22%
Central	88%	9%	80%	14%	74%	18%
South & East	72%	18%	75%	14%	64%	23%
<b>SEX</b>						
Male	81%	14%	77%	14%	66%	22%
Female	80%	15%	77%	16%	72%	21%
<b>AGE</b>						
18-34	89%	11%	78%	16%	71%	22%
35-49	79%	14%	78%	14%	71%	19%
50-64	74%	19%	74%	19%	66%	26%
65+	73%	14%	83%	8%	67%	17%
<b>SEX / AGE</b>						
Men 18-49	84%	14%	75%	16%	64%	26%
Women 18-49	86%	11%	80%	15%	79%	16%
Men 50+	74%	15%	79%	12%	69%	18%
Women 50+	73%	20%	75%	18%	64%	27%
<b>RACE</b>						
White	69%	21%	69%	21%	60%	27%
Hispanic	86%	11%	82%	13%	74%	19%
<b>CHILDREN</b>						
Yes	83%	14%	79%	13%	73%	19%
No	78%	14%	76%	16%	66%	23%
<b>EDUCATION</b>						
H.S. or Less	83%	13%	82%	12%	72%	19%
V-Tech / Some Coll.	82%	15%	83%	10%	73%	19%
College Grad	76%	15%	65%	24%	61%	27%
<b>INCOME</b>						
Under \$50K	83%	11%	84%	9%	76%	14%
Over \$50K	77%	18%	72%	20%	62%	29%



### PARK USAGE

#### Frequency of Usage

Park usage in Pasadena is fairly high. Overall, 35% visit the parks and recreation areas on a Daily or Weekly basis and another 21% visit Frequently. Only 41% Seldom (29%) or Never (11%) visit. In short, a majority (56%) of the people in Pasadena visit the parks on a regular basis, while 41% do not.



While overall park usage is fairly high, usage varies significantly by demographic group.

Predictably, park usage is very high among residents 18 to 34 years old (72% Daily / Weekly / Frequently) and is fairly high among those 35 to 49 (63%). Among those 50 to 64 only 50% visit on a Daily / Weekly or Frequent basis, while an almost equal number do not (49% Seldom or Never Visit). Among those 65 and over, only 26% visit the parks on a regular basis, while 72% Seldom or Never visit.

Park usage is also higher among Women (60% Daily / Weekly / Frequently) than among Men (51%). And is higher among Women 18 to 49 (75%) than among Men 18-49 (61%). Park usage is equally low among Men and Women age 50 and over (42% Daily / Weekly / Frequently).

Hispanic residents are also much more likely to use the parks (62% Daily / Weekly / Frequently) than are White residents (42%). Attendance is also higher among Hispanic Women (70%) than among Hispanic Men (54%). And it is about equally low for White Men and Women (56% and 59% Seldom / Never).

Given the foregoing it is not surprising to find that park usage is lowest in the South & East Area where 55% Seldom or Never use the parks. In the younger more Hispanic areas park usage is significantly higher. In the North Area 65% use the parks on a Daily, Weekly or Frequent basis and in the Central areas 55% use the parks that often.

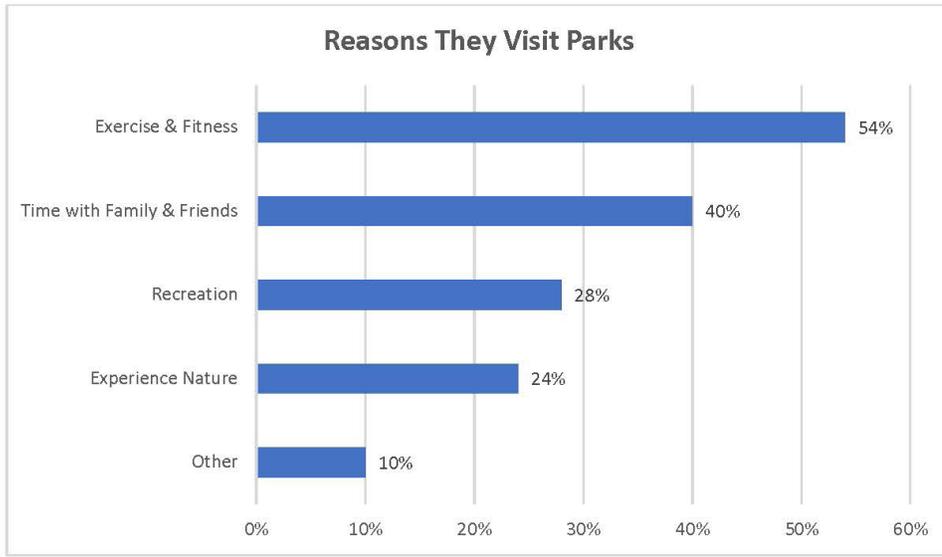
## RESPONDENT PARK USAGE

	Daily / Weekly	Frequently	Daily / Weekly / Frequently	Seldom Never
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>REGIONS</b>				
North	43%	22%	66%	33%
Central	31%	24%	55%	38%
South & East	33%	12%	45%	66%
<b>SEX</b>				
Male	34%	18%	51%	44%
Female	36%	24%	60%	38%
<b>AGE</b>				
18-34	51%	20%	72%	23%
35-49	36%	27%	63%	33%
50-64	29%	21%	50%	49%
65+	11%	15%	26%	72%
<b>SEX / AGE</b>				
Men 18-49	44%	17%	61%	31%
Women 18-49	46%	29%	75%	24%
Men 50+	21%	19%	41%	59%
Women 50+	24%	18%	42%	55%
<b>RACE</b>				
White	23%	19%	42%	57%
Hispanic	39%	23%	62%	33%
<b>SEX / RACE</b>				
White Male	23%	21%	44%	56%
White Female	22%	18%	40%	59%
Hispanic Male	36%	18%	54%	39%
Hispanic Female	43%	27%	70%	28%
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
H. S. or Less	34%	18%	51%	41%
V-Tech / Some Coll.	46%	27%	74%	26%
College Grad.	25%	20%	45%	54%
<b>CHILDREN AT HOME</b>				
Mothers	43%	20%	63%	35%
Fathers	43%	30%	73%	25%
No Children	28%	16%	44%	52%



### Reasons Why People Use the Parks

When asked for the main reasons why they visit the parks in Pasadena Exercise and Fitness topped the list (54%) followed by Spending Time with Family and Friends (40%). A significant number of respondents also gave Recreation (28%) or Experience Nature and Wildlife (24%) as reasons why they visit the parks.



Exercise and Fitness as a reason to visit the parks was given by a majority of respondents from virtually every demographic group. For instance, this response was given by 52% of Males and 57% of Females, 55% of White respondents and 53% of Hispanic respondents. There is also very little difference by Age. Exercise & Fitness was given by 50% of those 18 to 34, by 53% of those 35 to 49, by 64% of those 50 to 64 and even by 49% among those sixty-five and over.

Those who gave Time with Family and Friends as a reason tended to be Men (47%), especially Hispanic Men (57%), younger men (54%) and Fathers (52%).

Those most likely to give Recreation as a reason to visit the parks were distributed evenly among most of the demographic groups. The only exception was among Mothers who gave Recreation 37% of the time. This likely doesn't reflect their OWN recreation, but rather that of their children who they take to the parks.

Visiting the parks to Experience Nature and Wildlife was given by at least 15% of the respondents from every demographic group, but was highest In the South & East area (38%) among White Males (43%) and among College grads (41%).

## REASONS WHY PEOPLE USE THE PARKS

	Recreation	Nature Wildlife	Exercise	Time With Family / Friends
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>REGIONS</b>				
North	29%	15%	48%	45%
Central	26%	21%	61%	38%
South & East	27%	38%	52%	38%
<b>SEX</b>				
Male	28%	25%	52%	47%
Female	28%	23%	57%	33%
<b>AGE</b>				
18-34	27%	19%	50%	53%
35-49	36%	31%	53%	29%
50-64	23%	22%	64%	35%
65+	22%	23%	49%	33%
<b>SEX / AGE</b>				
Men 18-49	30%	26%	43%	54%
Women 18-49	31%	22%	58%	34%
Men 50+	22%	20%	63%	36%
Women 50+	24%	26%	56%	33%
<b>RACE</b>				
White	25%	34%	55%	25%
Hispanic	29%	20%	53%	46%
<b>SEX / RACE</b>				
White Male	21%	43%	65%	22%
White Female	28%	27%	47%	28%
Hispanic Male	30%	19%	46%	57%
Hispanic Female	29%	21%	60%	36%
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
H. S. or Less	19%	16%	51%	38%
V-Tech / Some Coll.	31%	18%	56%	47%
College Grad.	37%	41%	56%	35%
<b>PARENTS</b>				
Fathers	24%	15%	40%	52%
Mothers	37%	20%	53%	40%



**Reasons They Don't Go to the Parks**

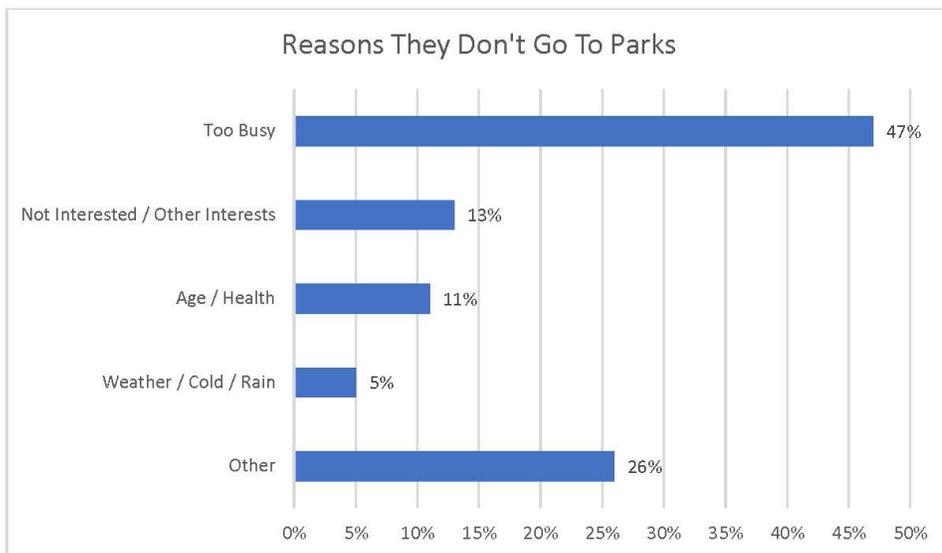
When asked for the main reasons why they Seldom or Never go to the parks most respondents said that it was simply because they were too busy.

Hispanics (58%) are far more likely than White respondents (32%) to say that they don't use the parks because they are too busy. Hispanic Males (66%) are also more likely than Hispanic Females (48%) to give this as a reason not to use the parks. Among respondents from households in which Spanish is the most common language spoken 70% say they are too busy to visit the parks.

Then too, Men (52%), respondents 18 to 34 (76%) and Men 18 to 49 (67%) are all well above average in saying they do not use the parks because they are too busy.

Only 13% said that they don't visit the parks because they are Not Interested (that there is nothing to do at the parks that they enjoy). This reason for not visiting the parks does not appear to vary among any of the demographic including Sex, Race, Education and Income.

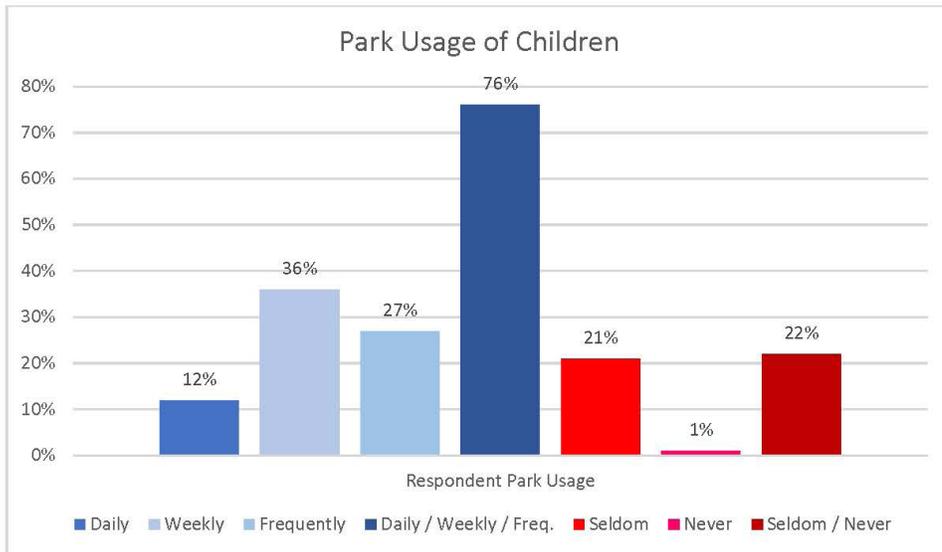
Finally, 11% said that they don't visit the parks because of their health. This is interesting because it was NOT one of the choices provided by the questionnaire, rather it was a volunteered response. Those giving Health as a reason not to visit the parks tended to be sixty-five or older (24%), especially Women over the age of fifty (24%) and White Women (30%).



**Finally, park usage does NOT correlate with respondents' satisfaction with the quality or quantity of the parks.** Among those who are satisfied with the quality AND quantity of the parks 60% visit Daily, Weekly or Frequently, while 36% Seldom or Never go. And among those who are DISSATISFIED with EITHER the quality OR quantity of the parks park usage is almost identical (59% visit Daily, Weekly or Frequently / 41% Seldom or Never Visit.

**Park Usage of Children**

Better than three out of every four parents report that their children use the parks in Pasadena on a regular basis, while just 22% say that they Seldom or Never do.



Reported child park usage is about the same throughout the demographic groups, with one interesting exception. White Men and Hispanic Women report that their children use the parks more than White Women and Hispanic Men. That is, 91% of White Men and 83% of Hispanic Women report that their children visit the parks on a Daily, Weekly or Frequent basis. But among White Women and Hispanic Men only 70% report that their children use the parks that often. The data provides no explanation of this.



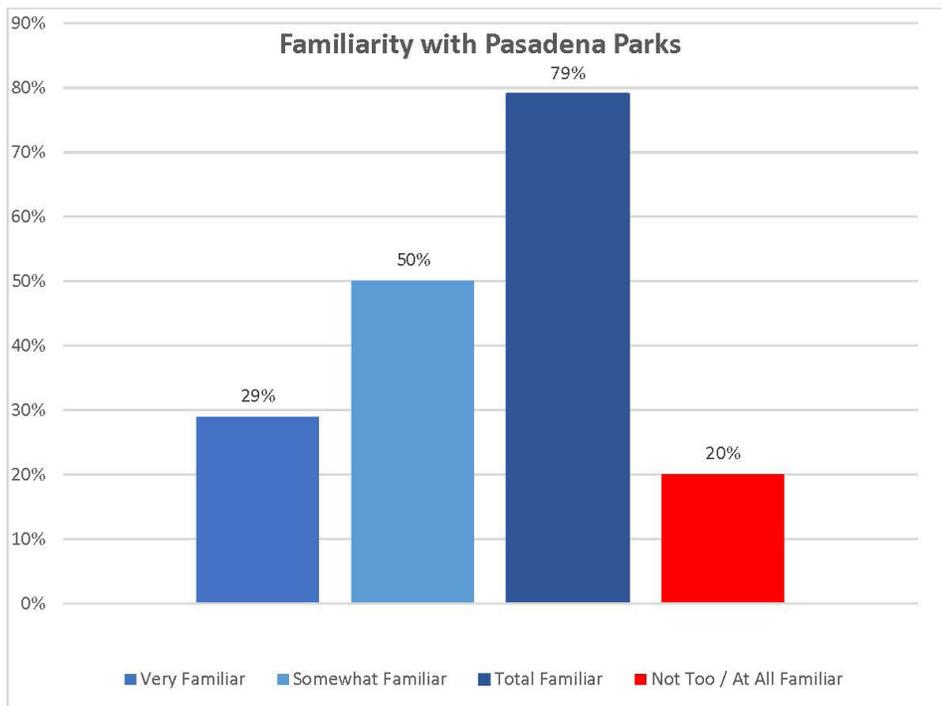
### PARK INFORMATION SOURCES

#### Familiarity with Pasadena Parks

Reported familiarity with the parks in Pasadena is also fairly high. Overall, 79% say that they are Very (29%) or Somewhat (50%) familiar with the parks.

Knowledge of the parks is fairly uniform throughout the demographic groups. Even among those who Seldom or Never visit the parks 67% say that they are Very or Somewhat familiar with them and just 32% say that they are Not Very or Not Familiar at All with them.

Not surprisingly, familiarity with the parks is highest among respondents who often use the parks such as 18 to 34 year olds (88% Very or Somewhat Familiar), Women 18 to 49 (92%), Hispanic Women (90%) and of course Mothers (90%).

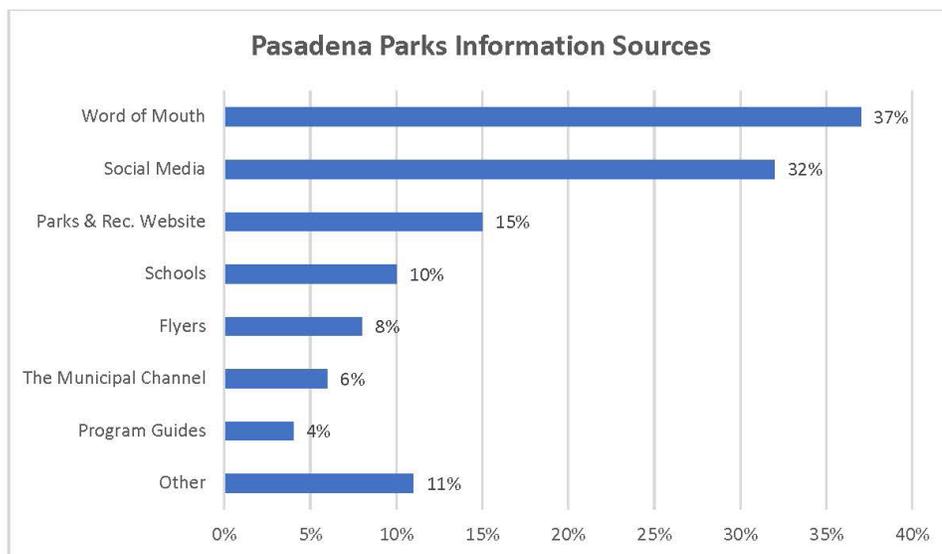


#### Sources of Information About Pasadena Parks

When asked where they get most of their information about Pasadena parks and programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department, Word of Mouth topped the list at (37%) with Social Media (32%) following close behind.

Twenty-one percent also gave the Parks and Recreation Department website (15%), Flyers (8%) or Program Guides (4%).

Schools are another source of information for one in ten residents and another 6% learn about the Parks and Recreation Department from the Municipal Channel.

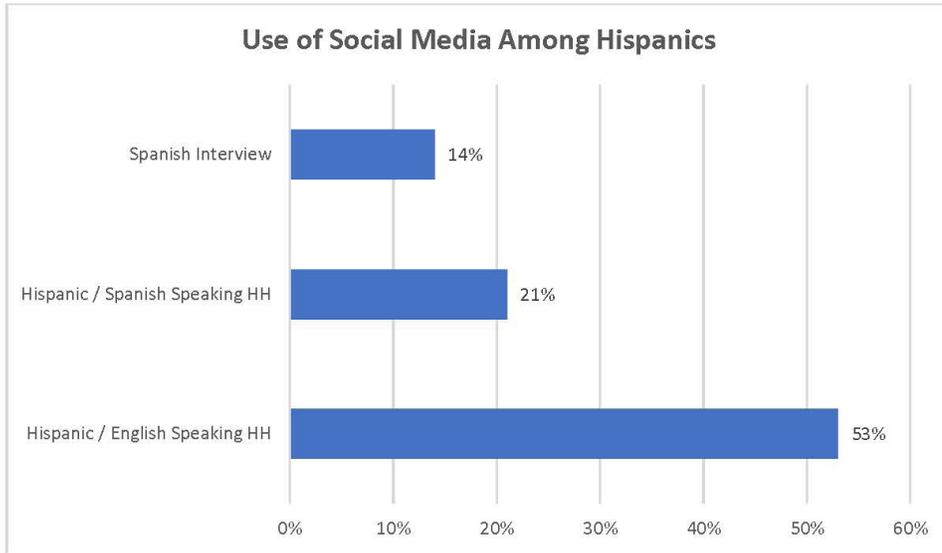


Those giving Word of Mouth as a source of information are fairly evenly distributed among all of the demographic groups.

Those giving Social Media as a source of information tend to be young. Overall 54% of the 18 to 34 years old and 30% of those 35 to 49 years old give Social Media as a source of information. Among those fifty and over Social Media use drops to 18%.

Hispanic respondents (38%) are significantly more likely than White respondents (22%) to give Social Media as a source of information. This difference is reflected in the fact that Social Media is cited more often by respondents in the North (39%) and Central Areas (36%) which are more Hispanic. In the South & East Area only 17% cited Social Media as a source of information.

When respondents say that they receive information from Social Media it is not entirely clear if they are referring to the Parks and Recreation Department's presence on Facebook and Instagram or to social media in general. However, it is significant that Hispanic respondents who are fluent in English are far more likely to list Social Media as a source of information than Hispanic respondents who are not. Specifically, Hispanics who live in households where English is the most commonly spoken language 53% cite Social Media as an information source. However, among Hispanics who live in households where Spanish is the most commonly spoken language only 21% cite Social Media as a source. What's more among the interviews that were conducted in Spanish only 14% cite Social Media as an information source. This underscores the need for the Parks and Recreation Department to make all of its information materials, especially its Social Media in Spanish so that they can reach this underserved population.



Finally, it is not surprising that those who cite Schools as a source of information tend to be Women 18 to 49 (25%) and Mothers (24%) – but not Fathers (7%). Interestingly, Hispanic Women (21%) are far more likely than White Women (6%) to cite Schools as a source of information.

## PARKS AND RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

### In General

Respondents were given a list of twenty-nine things that could be done to improve the parks and recreation opportunities in Pasadena. A majority felt that **all of them were at least somewhat important**. *Safety and Reducing Crime* received the highest Important Rating (97% Important), but even *More Dog Parks* which received the lowest Important Rating was important to 65% of the respondents.

Looking at just the Very Important ratings helps to focus on which improvements respondents feel are **most important**. We can see that there are just four improvements that get a Very Important Rating of 80% or more and there are nine more with a Very Important Rating of 70% to 79%.

### Q. 11 Thru Q. 39 - Park and Recreation Improvements

Rank	Improvement	Very Important
<b>90% To 80% Very Important</b>		
1	Improving safety and reducing crime	90%
2	Improved lighting	86%
3	Improving the maintenance and cleanliness of parks	82%
4	More parking, drinking fountains and restrooms	80%
<b>79% To 70% Very Important</b>		
5	Better maintenance of the trails and park areas	79%
6	More programming for children	75%
7	Improved access for disabled people	75%
8	More paved pathways for walking, hiking and biking	74%
9	More shade	73%
10	Places where families can get together such as picnic areas, barbeques, pavilions and shelters	73%
11	More unpaved trails for walking, hiking and biking	73%
12	Better maintenance of the recreational facilities	72%
13	More playgrounds for children	70%
<b>69% To 50% Very Important</b>		
14	More aquatic programs such as swim lesson and water exercise programs	61%
15	More basketball courts and fields for soccer, baseball, basketball and other sports	59%
16	More no-cost or low-cost recreational programs	58%
17	More programming for seniors	56%
18	More special events such as concerts in the park, festivals, movies and plays	53%
19	More no-cost or low-cost fitness programs	53%
20	More programming for non-senior citizens	52%
<b>Below 50% Very Important</b>		
21	More splash pads and water features	48%
22	More water access for fishing, kayaking and canoeing	47%
23	More swimming pools	46%
24	More opportunities for community gardening	42%
25	More fitness programs such as aerobics and yoga	41%
26	More parks closer to where you live	40%
27	More outdoor fitness equipment	40%
28	More murals and artwork	39%
29	More dog parks	30%



Following the Improvements Section respondents were asked which of the twenty-nine improvements were the **most** important and the top improvements were as follows:

- 19% Improving safety and reducing crime.
- 17% Improved lighting.
- 12% More paved pathways for walking, hiking and biking.
- 11% Improving the maintenance and cleanliness of parks.
- 11% More playgrounds for children.
- 10% More unpaved trails for walking, hiking and biking.
- 8% More amenities such as parking, drinking fountains and restrooms.
- 7% Better maintenance of the recreational facilities.
- 7% More programming for children.

Finally, on Q. 45 respondents were asked “If you could give the Pasadena Parks and Recreation Department one piece of advice about what they should do to improve parks and recreation opportunities, what would it be?” and the top results were:

- 17% More safety/security / Police presence
- 16% More beautification (i.e. clean, plant more trees, etc.)
- 12% Better lighting
- 12% Better maintenance / Provide trash cans
- 6% Provide recreational activities for kids
- 5% More events / Activities / Programs

For the sake of analysis these improvements can be grouped into seven categories. Ranked in terms of importance to residents, these categories are as follows:

- Improved safety and lighting
- Better maintenance of the basic amenities and trails
- More paved and unpaved trails for walking, hiking and biking
- More basic, traditional park amenities such as restrooms, drinking fountains, picnic tables, barbecues, and shelters
- More playgrounds and programs for children
- More programs for adults
- Facilities, equipment and other capital improvements

**Improved Safety & Lighting**

Improved Safety and Lighting are clearly at the top of the priority list.

The open-end question makes it clear that for most respondents Safety and Lighting are intertwined. That is, those who mention Lighting almost always mention Safety as well. Some of the verbatim comments from Q. 45 demonstrate this.

*They should make sure that it is well-lighted and safe. There should have some police presence at least driving by.*

*There could be more lights in the park and more security.*

*They should have security guards watch the parks. People would use the recreation areas to smoke marijuana. If there are no security guards, they would smoke it, and you cannot go with your family since the place stinks like weed. Some parks also have bad lighting. It is dangerous to go past 7PM.*

*The lighting is really important. There is not very good lighting on one side. I would like it to be illuminated because I feel it is unsafe.*

*There could be better lighting and for the people who go to the park early in the morning. That way, they will feel safer.*

*They could have additional lighting for safety.*

*They should improve lighting to make people feel safe at night.*

As was discussed earlier, Safety and Lighting received the highest Very Important Ratings.

**Park and Recreation Improvements**

Rank	Improvement	Very Important
1	Improving safety and reducing crime	90%
2	Improved lighting	86%

And when asked which of the improvements were *most* important Safety and Lighting ranked #1 and #2 respectively.

- 19% Improving safety and reducing crime.
- 17% Improved lighting.

Finally, on Q. 45 asking what advice they would give to the Parks and Recreation Department Safety topped the list and Lighting came in at #3.

- 17% More safety/security / Police presence
- 12% Better lightning



Safety and Lighting are a top concern for virtually every demographic group. For instance, it is given by 31% in the North Area, by 31% in the Central Area and by 35% in the South & East Area. It is also given equally often by Men (32%) and Women (31%).

Safety and Lighting is given a little more often by Hispanics (35%) than among White respondents (27%), but the difference is almost within the margin of error.

Parents are more likely to be concerned about Safety and Lighting (37%) than those without children living at home (26%).

Curiously, respondents age sixty-five and over appear to be the least concerned about Safety and Lighting (23%), but among all other age groups support for more Safety and Lighting averages 33%.

Those who visit the parks and recreation areas on a Daily or Weekly basis were a little *below* average in giving Safety and Lighting improvements as their top priority (27%), but those who visit Frequently were significantly *above* average in giving this response (38%). This may indicate that concerns about safety are a reason why they don't visit more often, but there is no way to know that for sure.



**Better maintenance of the basic amenities and trails**

Better maintenance is obviously another pressing concern for many respondents. “Maintenance Improvements” had the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> highest Very Important Ratings.

**Q. 11 Thru Q. 39 - Park and Recreation Improvements**

Rank	Improvement	Very Important
3	Improving the maintenance and cleanliness of parks	82%
5	Better maintenance of the trails and park areas	79%
12	Better maintenance of the recreational facilities	72%

Similarly, when asked which of the potential improvements were the most important improvements Maintenance Improvements were the 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> most given improvements. Overall, 22% of the respondents gave one or more of these improvements as the most important.

- 11% Improving the maintenance and cleanliness of parks.
- 7% Better maintenance of the recreational facilities.
- 5% Better maintenance of the trails and park areas.

Finally, when asked if they could give the Pasadena Parks and Recreation Department one piece of advice “More Beautification” and “Better Maintenance were the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> highest responses

- 17% More safety/security / Police presence
- 16% More **beautification** (i.e. clean, plant more trees, etc.)
- 12% Better lightning
- 12% Better **maintenance** / Provide trash cans

The verbatim comments from this question suggest that the restrooms may be the most important maintenance improvements for most respondents. Some examples include the following:

*There could be more water fountains and clean rest rooms because they are always dirty.*

*It would be maintenance. They need to update and maintain them. The rest rooms are nasty. The kids don't want to use rest rooms or drinking fountains.*

*I would say that the rest rooms need improvement. They need more of them and keep them cleaner.*

*They should update the bathrooms. The lights are horrible inside. The toilets are nasty, and the stall dividers are painted over and rusted on the bottom. The cleanliness is awful.*

Support for better maintenance is fairly uniform throughout the demographic groups with one exception. In the Central Area concern for maintenance Improvements was 30% - 8% higher than average.



**More Basic, traditional park amenities**

When asked why they go to parks in Pasadena 40% said they go to “Spend time with family and friends.” ranking #2 just behind Exercise and fitness. Given this it is not surprising to see that these three basic park amenities were among the top ten on the Very Important list.

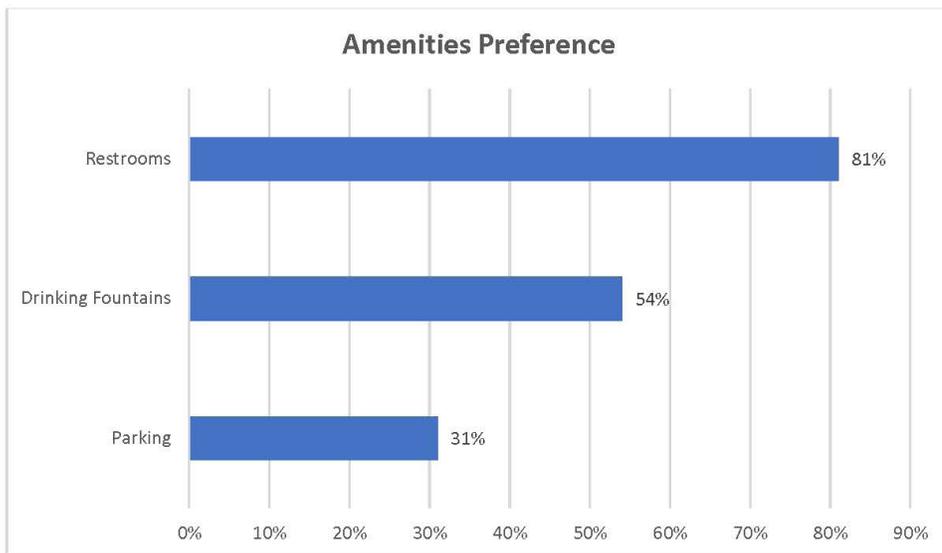
**Q. 11 Thru Q. 39 - Park and Recreation Improvements**

Rank	Improvement	Very Important
4	More parking, drinking fountains and restrooms	80%
9	More shade	73%
10	Places where families can get together such as picnic areas, barbeques, pavilions and shelters	73%

What’s more, when asked which improvements were the most important, 17% gave basic park amenities.

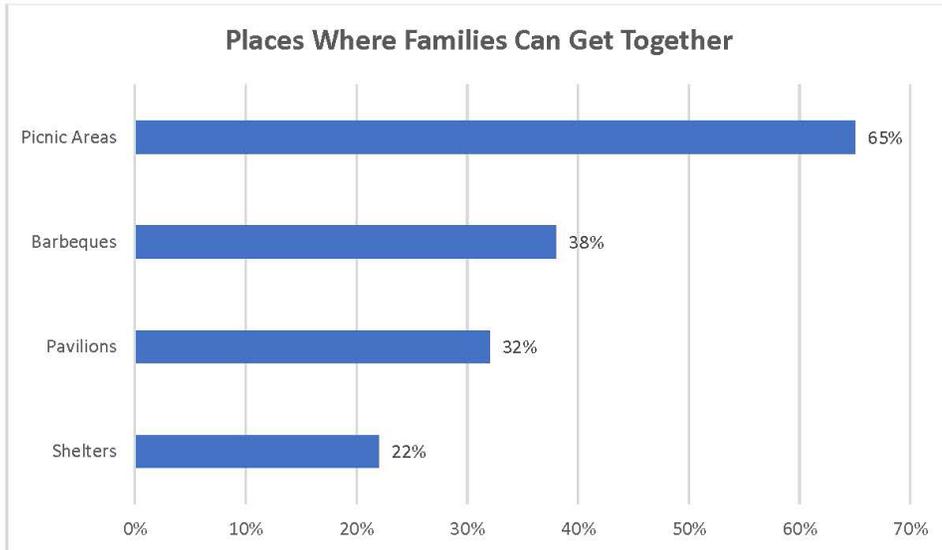
- 8% More amenities such as parking, drinking fountains and restrooms.
- 6% More shade.
- 4% More places where families can get together such as picnic areas, barbeques

Those who gave “More amenities such as parking, drinking fountains and restrooms.” were asked specifically which ones they were referring to and the results are displayed below. Restroom topped the list but it is also important to note that most respondents named more than one of the three as being important (this is why the percentages add up to much more than 100%).





Those who gave “More places where families can get together such as picnic areas, barbeques, pavilions and shelters” were asked specifically which of these they were referring to and the results are displayed below. While Picnic Areas topped the list, many respondents gave more than one improvement once again.



Then too, a majority list Pavilions OR Shelters as one of the things they were referring to.

In addition to Pavilions and Shelters respondents also would like to see more trees – anything that would protect them from the heat and sun. The verbatim comments from Q. 45 give a sense of how they feel in this regard.

*They should add more areas where you can be protected from the sun, like a canopy, trees, water parks, or something. Basically, they could have more shade.*

*It would be nice if there are more trees and green areas, as well as more shade to avoid extreme heat. They should take care of the people's health as well.*

*They should improve the green space and have more green areas with trees and shaded areas.*

*They should provide more shade, so that people can use the parks more. It is too hot.*

Like most improvements this desire for basic park amenities is fairly evenly distributed by demographic group, but it is worth noting that the desire for these types of improvements was highest among Women (23%), those 18 to 34 years old (25%), Women 18-49 (31%), Hispanic Women (29%) and especially Mothers (32%).



**More paved and unpaved trails**

Question #4 indicated that 54% go to the parks for “Exercise and Fitness” and 24% go to the parks to “Experience Nature and Wildlife” so it doesn’t come as a surprise to find that the Very Important responses for more paved and unpaved trails rank as #8 and #11.

**Q. 11 Thru Q. 39 - Park and Recreation Improvements**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Very Important</b>
8	More paved pathways for walking, hiking and biking	74%
11	More unpaved trails for walking, hiking and biking	73%

Similarly, when asked for the MOST important improvements Paved Pathways came in at #3 and unpaved pathways came in at #6. Overall, 20% gave one or both of these two improvements as the most important.

- 12% More paved pathways for walking, hiking and biking.
- 10% More unpaved trails for walking, hiking and biking.

As with most improvements, supporters of paved pathways and unpaved trails are fairly evenly distributed demographically. However, it is worth noting that support for these two improvements are statistically higher than average among respondents from the South & East area (29%), among 50 to 64 years old (27%) and among White Males (36%).



**More playgrounds and programs for children.**

Because almost half of the respondents in this survey have children (49%) and because 76% of those children visit the parks and recreation areas Daily or Weekly (49%) or Frequently (27%) it comes as no surprise that Programming for Children and Playgrounds for Children are considered to be Very Important by many respondents. In fact, they rank #6 and #13 respectively.

**Q. 11 Thru Q. 39 - Park and Recreation Improvements**

Rank	Improvement	Very Important
6	More programming for children	75%
13	More playgrounds for children	70%

And when asked for the most important proposed improvement 16% gave Playgrounds for Children (11%) and/or Programming for Children (7%) as the most important improvement that the Parks and Recreation Department could make.

11% More playgrounds for children.

7% More programming for children.

Geographically, support for playgrounds and programming for children was highest in the North Area (24%) followed by the Central Areas (15%). Support for these types of improvements was lowest in the South & East Area (8%), but this is at least partially due to the fact that residents there are less likely to have children.

Looking at the verbatim comments from Q. 45 it appears that most respondents aren't very specific about what types of improvements should be made for children, but a sampling of their comments follows:

*They should do more for the kids in the summer. There are lots of kids who are running around all day, and could do more about that. It would improve the community and the park. Right now, they don't have anything going on.*

*They should have more kid-oriented things. They should have more programs for kids and family.*

*There could be more areas or park space for the children.*

*They could add more activities surrounding kids that they could participate in.*

*There could be more activities for children.*

*It would be for the kids to have toys.*



*That would be making it a more kid-friendly. More drinks should be available for the kids.*

*There could be more free programs for children and adults. Equipment is broken.*

*Here could be more activities for the children after school.*

*What I would love is having a water sprinkler or a water pad for the children. They would love that.*

*They are boring. There is no equipment and playgrounds for children.*

*I would like more exercise, and stuff that children could play with in the park.*

*They should add more playing areas and more activities for the kids to do such as rides.*

*They could put in a playground for the children.*

The comments are almost all general. It would be interesting to see what actual kids would say and what ideas they might have.

### More Programs

The list of Improvements included seven programs. With one exception all of them were considered to be Very Important by at least a majority of respondents. However, none of these programs ranked very high compared to the other Improvements tested.

#### Q. 11 Thru Q. 39 - Park and Recreation Improvements

Rank	Improvement	Very Important
14	More aquatic programs such as swim lessons and water exercise programs	61%
16	More no-cost or low-cost recreational programs	58%
17	More programming for seniors	56%
18	More special events such as concerts in the park, festivals, movies and plays	53%
19	More no-cost or low-cost fitness programs	53%
20	More programming for non-senior citizens	52%
25	More fitness programs such as aerobics and yoga	41%

Then too, when asked for the most important improvements 21% listed one or more programs, but it is clear that there isn't any consensus as to which programs would be the most desirable.

- 5% More programming for seniors.
- 4% More no cost or low-cost recreational programs.
- 4% More no cost or low-cost fitness programs.
- 4% More special events such as concerts in the park, festivals, movies and plays.
- 3% More fitness programs such as aerobics and yoga.
- 3% More programming for non-senior adults.
- 3% More aquatic programs such as swim lessons and water exercise programs.

Then too those who gave one or more programs as one of the most important improvements also gave other improvements as being important. For instance, among those who gave one or more programs as one of the most important improvements 16% also said that Safety & Lighting was also one of the most important improvements. Similarly, 13% said that Maintenance and 12% said that Basic Amenities and 15% said that Trails and 22% said that Children's activities and 30% said that More Facilities and Capital Improvements were among the most important potential improvements that the Parks and Recreation Department could make.

Once again, those giving Programs as one of the most important improvements were fairly evenly distributed among the demographic groups with a few minor exceptions. For instance, Women (26%), especially Hispanic Women (29%) and Mothers (27%) were a little above average in giving one or more programs as one of the most important improvements. Conversely, among White Men only 8% had one or more programs on their list.



**More Facilities, Equipment and Capital Improvements**

The survey tested ten improvements that involved more facilities, equipment and capital improvements such as swimming pools, sports facilities and dog parks. With the exception of Improved Access for Disabled People and More Basketball Courts, etc. none of them received a Very Important rating above 50%. In fact, eight were in the bottom third of the Improvement rankings.

**Q. 11 Thru Q. 39 - Park and Recreation Improvements**

Rank	Improvement	Very Important
7	Improved access for disabled people	75%
15	More basketball courts and fields for soccer, baseball, basketball and other sports	59%
21	More splash pads and water features	48%
22	More water access for fishing, kayaking and canoeing	47%
23	More swimming pools	46%
24	More opportunities for community gardening	42%
26	More parks closer to where you live	40%
27	More outdoor fitness equipment	40%
28	More murals and artwork	39%
29	More dog parks	30%

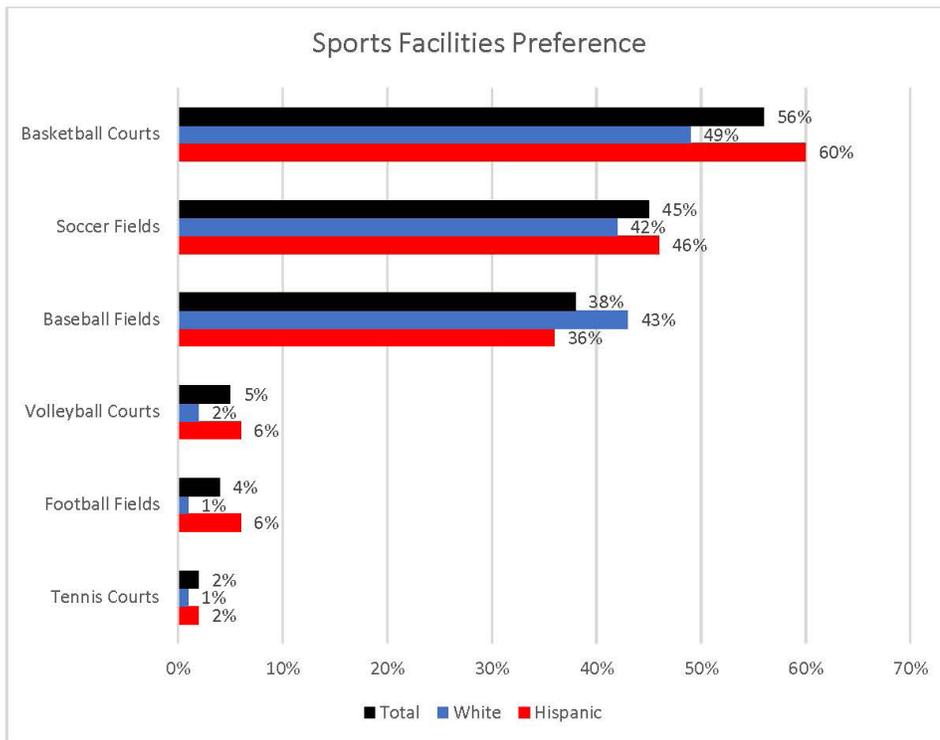
As was the case with Program Improvements there is once again no consensus on which Facilities, Equipment and Capital Improvements would be the most important.

- 7% More parks closer to where you live.
- 6% More water access for fishing, kayaking and canoeing.
- 5% More splash pads and water features.
- 5% More outdoor fitness equipment
- 5% More swimming pools.
- 5% Improved access for disabled people.
- 4% More basketball courts and fields for soccer, baseball, basketball and other sports.
- 4% More dog parks.
- 2% More murals and artwork.
- 1% More opportunities for community gardening.

Also, as was the case with Program Improvements those who gave Facilities, Equipment and Capital Improvements were very likely to also give other improvements as being among the most important. For instance, 36% also gave Safety & Lighting, 23% gave Maintenance and 28% gave Basic Amenities.

Demographically, those most likely to give Facilities, Equipment and Capital Improvements as the most important potential improvements tended to be respondents age 18-49 (38%) especially Women 18-49 (48%) and Hispanic Women (45%) and Mothers (40%). Those least likely to give Facilities and Capital Improvements tended to be from the South & East area (22%) White respondents (17%) especially White Men (13%).

Finally, those who felt that “More basketball courts and fields for soccer, baseball, basketball and other sports” would be Very Important were asked what specifically they were referring to and the results were as follows.







# 3. Community Workshop #1 Results

## WHAT IS THE PASADENA HEALTHY PARKS PLAN?

The Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan is an update to the City's Parks Master 1996 Plan. The goal is to ensure that Pasadena continues to thrive by making its park system healthy, welcoming, and accessible to all. Access to high-quality parks attracts businesses and workers, improves air and water quality, reduces excessive heat, and absorbs flood waters.

Through extensive community engagement and rigorous data analysis, the Healthy Parks Plan identifies the best opportunities for new parks, park improvements, park programming, park funding, and park maintenance.

This projects community engagement is "equity-driven". This process focuses on minimizing barriers to participation, with particular attention to reaching underrepresented and underserved residents. Community engagement is conducted in both Spanish and English and includes community workshops, interviews, focus groups, intercept surveys, "speak-outs," an online survey, and a demographically representative telephone poll.

This report summarizes the first community workshop as follows:

- General outreach goals and principles
- Engagement map
- Workshop one details and station layout
- Emerging themes and station feedback

Carried out on June 25, 2019 at the PAL gymnasium. See the engagement map on the following page for its location in Pasadena.





## GENERAL ENGAGEMENT GOALS

Gather information about barriers to using current parks and aspirations for future parks

- Reduce barriers to participation by underserved and underrepresented residents and ensure that community members reached reflect local demographics as closely as possible
- Conduct engagement in both Spanish and English, including all workshop activities.
- Go to places where it will be easy for people to participate and make participation fun
- Reach at least 3,000 community members through a combination of engagement strategies

## EQUITY-DRIVEN ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

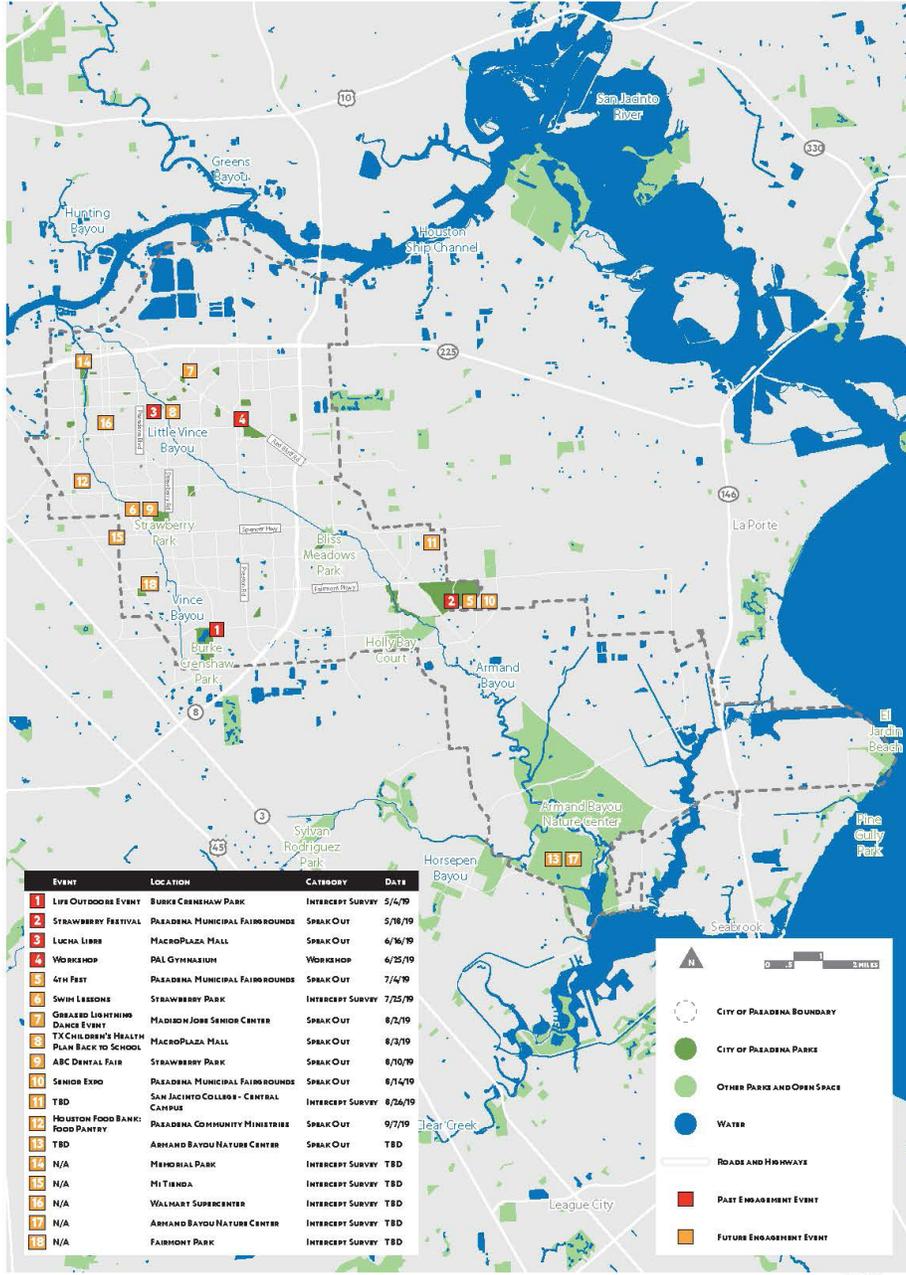
- Transparency, accountability, empathy, and humility are critical
- Community members are experts on their own needs
- It is our responsibility to identify and reduce barriers to participation
- We need to acknowledge our own implicit biases and the limits of our cultural competency
- It is important to share decision-making and leadership
- We need to have (and set) flexible and realistic expectations
- Coalition-building, collaboration, and partnerships are key
- We must continually evaluate process and be willing to change course
- Big picture goal: Engagement should help empower community members and build healthier, more resilient communities





# PASADENA HEALTHY PARKS PLAN

## ENGAGEMENT MAP

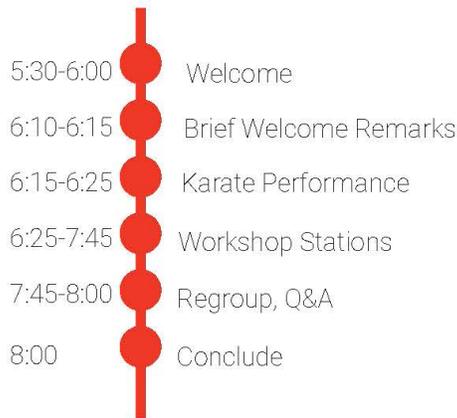




## WORKSHOP #1 ABOUT AND SUMMARY

The first public workshop was held on Tuesday, June 25 at the PAL Gymnasium (see map of meeting location). The workshop was a bilingual, open-house format meeting that hosted approximately 45 community members, ranging from children to seniors. Included here is an agenda of the Workshop and a description of the different stations where participants provided input.

### Workshop One Agenda



### STATION 1: BASIC NEEDS TO BIG IDEAS

This station was designed to gather input and insight from participants about their perceptions of the many elements needed to make successful parks. The graphic encourages participant responses along a spectrum that starts with "basic needs" and ending with "big ideas".

### STATION 2: EVERYDAY HEALTH

This station is designed to draw from people's everyday experiences active living and well-being. This station was also useful in sparking conversations between workshop attendees

on the prompts, supported by the sitting arrangement which was a break from the other stations where most activities could be completed by standing.

List of Questions:

1. What does a healthy community mean to you?
2. What are the places and institutions that make your neighborhood stronger?
3. What changes would improve your neighborhood most?
4. How do parks help you be healthier?
5. How does the environment in your neighborhood affect your life?

How could parks enhance your neighborhood

### STATION 3: PARK PROGRAMMING

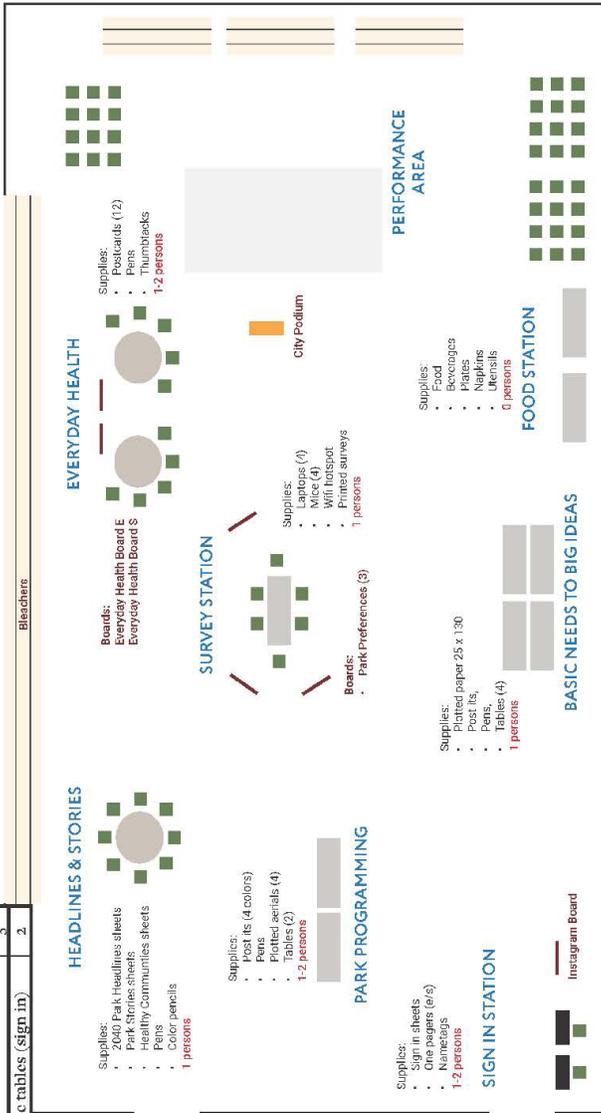
This station was designed to gather insight from participants about their perceptions of existing park programming, and what programming would influence their use of parks and facilities increased or healthier.

### STATION 4: HEADLINES, STORIES, AND SKETCHES

This station combined three activities to tap into people's creative thinking. Headlines asked participants to create their own newspaper headlines on the local paper in the year 2040. Stories prompted participants to record written short stories / poems / memories about parks and greenspace. Sketches were designed to gather creative insight from participants about the characteristics a healthy community would have -- specifically by asking people to draw what they think of when prompted about a healthy community.



TOTAL COUNTS	
Rectangular tables	9
Chairs	57
Tables	5
Round tables	3
Small rectangle tables (sign in)	2





## ORGANIZING INPUT

Responses from each station were coded into five broad categories: programming, recreation amenities, park amenities, site furnishings and park condition. These categories reflect the main need types of respondents. Programming includes classes, live music, food vendors, events, and venues. Recreation amenities includes exercise equipment, playgrounds, sports, and trails. Park amenities include shade, bathrooms, and nature (water features, landscapes, and trees). Site furnishings include benches, lighting, and picnic tables. Park Condition includes safety, cleanliness, and maintenance.

## SUMMARY OF EMERGING THEMES

During this workshop, we heard from the public that:

### **The lack of recreation and park amenities create barriers to using parks.**

- The heat and sun are barriers to prolonged and frequent visits to parks. Shade was a frequently requested park amenity.
- Site furnishings, like benches, lighting, and picnic tables, were desired to create safe and welcoming parks.
- Playgrounds, trails, and exercise equipment were cited as the top recreation amenities that would encourage individuals become active in parks.

### **“Healthy Parks” should offer both clean, safe gathering places, and natural park amenities like water and trees.**

- “With sports, beautiful community gardens, trainers, and peaceful nature trails it’s no mystery why [children are choosing to put

down their phones and spend more time in parks]!”- response from news headline activity

- Water, trees, and natural landscapes help the community to relax, unwind, and find peace within parks.

### **Residents see parks as a tool to strengthen communities**

- Parks should include a variety of amenities for all ages and abilities. Improvements specifically for elderly and adults were requested.
- Terms like “Welcoming to all people”, “All walks of life”, and “Diversity and representation” were used to describe the ideal park.

### **It is important to have park programming that serves the needs of residents of all ages**

- Programming that reflects the varied ages in a community enable community members to engage within and across age groups
- Providing spaces for older populations to sit and talk enables them to check in on one another.
- Programming, like fitness classes, public events, and live music encourage community gatherings and increased visits.

	Questions
<b>Basic Needs</b>	1. What do you need in a park to feel safe?
	2. What do you need in a park to feel comfortable?
	3. What makes a park safe for families?
	4. What would make you visit a park everyday?
	5. What do you need in a park to encourage you to be more active?
	6. What do you need in a park to encourage you to be healthy?
	7. What brings you joy and peace in a park?
	8. What makes a park feel like YOUR park?
	9. What about your park would make you feel proud?
	10. What about a park would make you want to take out-of-town guests for a visit?
	11. What do you want to see in your park that would make it unique?
	12. What makes a park iconic?
	13. What would make your park a citywide destination?
<b>Big Ideas</b>	14. What should your work look like in 50 years?

	Questions
<b>Basic Needs</b>	1. ¿Qué necesitas en un parque para sentirte seguro?
	2. ¿Qué necesitas en un parque para sentirte cómodo?
	3. ¿Qué características hacen un parque seguro para familias?
	4. ¿Qué haría que visites un parque a diario?
	5. ¿Qué necesitas en un parque para alentarte a ser más activo?
	6. ¿Qué necesitas en un parque para alentarte a ser más saludable?
	7. ¿Qué te brinda paz y alegría en un parque?
	8. ¿Qué hace que un parque se sienta como TU parque?
	9. ¿Qué características de tu parque te brindan orgullo?
	10. ¿Qué características de un parque te animarían a llevar huéspedes de fuera a visitar?
	11. ¿Qué te gustaría ver en tu parque que lo haría único?
	12. ¿Qué establece a un parque de prestigio?
	13. ¿Qué haría de tu parque un destino para toda la ciudad?
<b>Big Ideas</b>	14. ¿Qué aspiraciones tienes para tu parque en 50 años?



## APPENDIX

### STATION 1: BASIC NEEDS TO BIG IDEAS

#### Station Design



	Count
Recreation Amenity	36
Programming	22
Park Amenity	18
Site Furnishing	14
Park Condition	13

#### Station Results Summary

Participants identified the need for recreation and amenities, lighting, trails, and shade as their main concerns for basic needs. Beyond these were concerns about the parks being accessible for everyone, including older populations. When asked about their big ideas, participants focused on nature and wildlife, programming, and ensuring the parks reflect residents and feel welcoming. In addition, there were concerns about cleanliness.

#### Station Detailed Results

##### 1. What do you need in a park to feel safe?

- Lighting-(4 responses)
- Sidewalks
- Parking in good repair
- People of all ages engaging in different activities in numbers
- More police presence
- Soft grass and safe equipment
- Mat

##### 2. What do you need in a park to feel comfortable?

- Lighting-(3 responses)
- Shady areas for activities-(4 responses)
- Comfortable bench seating-(2 responses)
- Ergonomics for older populations
- Safety-(2 responses)

##### 3. What makes a park safe for families?

- Playground for all ages including adults
- Playground
- Shaded playgrounds
- Other families

- Picnic tables-(2 responses)
- Variety of food being sold
- Events for everyone
- Somewhere to cool off-(2 responses)
- Clean bathrooms

**4. What would make you visit a park everyday?**

- Natural Beauty-landscaping water features
- Better lighting
- More security after dark
- Kids events
- Ninja warrior course
- Large place to play sports
- Trails
- Rock climbing
- Soccer Goals-(2 responses)
- Pool
- Dog Parks
- Virtual Hologram of Cristiano Ronaldo to chase around while kids play
- Que Hubiera seguridad bien ambiente familiar y actividades familiares

**5. What do you need in a park to encourage you to be more active?**

- Ice skating rink
- Soccer goal-(2 responses)
- Trail-(2 responses)
- Mas actividades para los ninos y para la familia
- Music
- Soft walking trails
- Running
- Food
- Exercise equipment

**6. What do you need in a park to encourage you to be healthy?**

- Indoor soccer center
- Exercise area-(2 responses)
- Walking trail-(2 responses)
- Track to run
- Soccer goals
- Covered playgrounds
- Partnerships with trainers
- Community vegetable garden
- Zumba aparatos de ejercicios buena area para caminar

**7. What brings you joy and peace in a park?**

- Nature,trees, and water features-(3 responses)
- Water-(2 responses)
- Safety
- Clean bathrooms
- Playing

**8. What makes a park feel like YOUR park?**

- Diversity and representation- (2 responses)
- Getting along with others
- A big unicorn to take pictures on
- Everything
- Big heart
- Includes our neighbors impact for design and use
- Que haya seguridad y buen ambiente familiar

**9. What about your park would make you feel proud?**

- Cleanliness-(2 responses)
- Nice trees-(3 responses)
- When it is used by many people



- Well known for how much fun it is
- To be known as a great park
- Green

**10. What about a park would make you want to take out of town guests for a visit?**

- Shade and Bench-(3 responses)
- Things to do all the time
- Something different. Cute or unusual, history exhibit?
- Water/light show
- Beauty
- Safety
- Que este seguro familiar y iluminacion

**11. What do you want to see in your park that would make it unique?**

- Nature playground
- Art
- Indoor playground
- Cooling stations
- A place to be hot hot and to play
- Colorful lighting

**12. What makes a park iconic?**

- How it makes you feel-amazing entrance/ quiet spaces
- Entrance
- Nature trails-(2 responses)
- Public art-(2 responses)
- Helps define community, sense of place
- Nature
- Historically representative
- What would make your park a citywide destination?
- Updated to 2019
- Venue for events-(4 responses)

- Everyone from all walks of life are welcome
- Senior center with lots of fun
- Seasonal music festivals
- Fishing

**13. What would make your park a citywide destination?**

- Updated to 2019
- Venue for events-(4 responses)
- Everyone from all walks of life are welcome
- Senior center with lots of fun
- Seasonal music festivals
- Fishing

**14. What should your park look like in 50 years?**

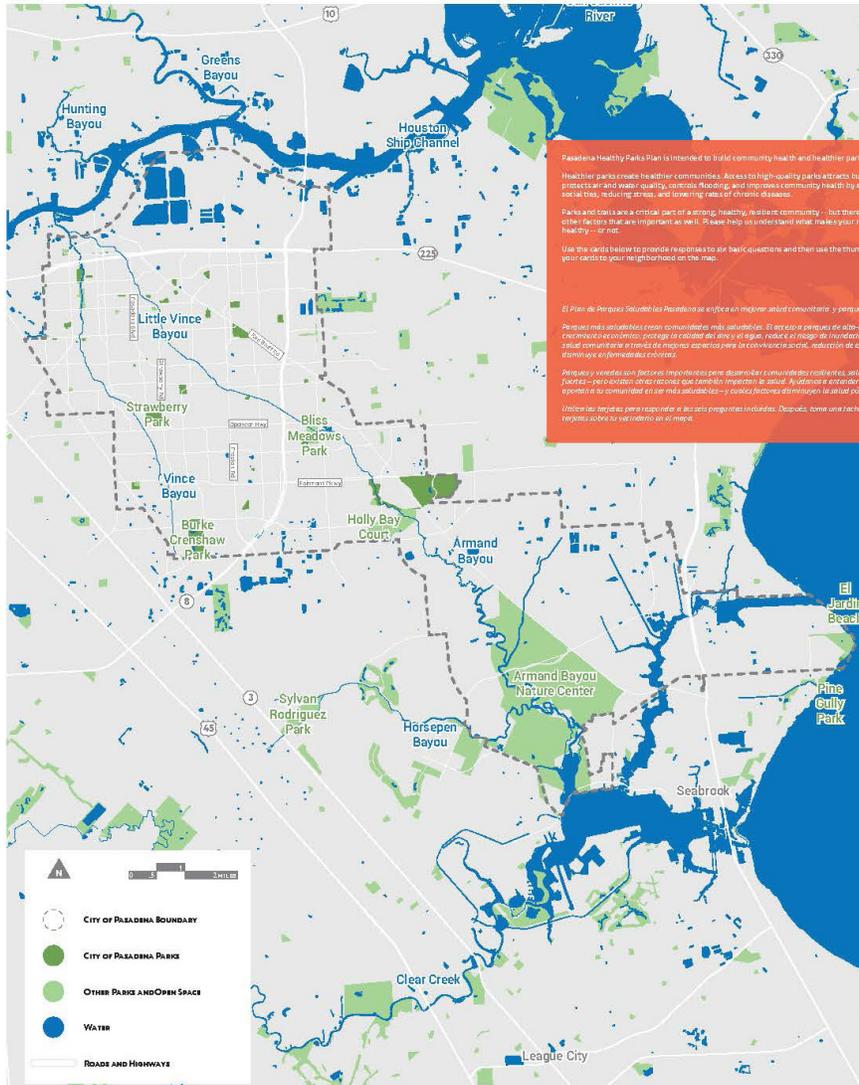
- Magical
- Up to date
- Green
- Well maintained-(2 responses)
- Kids play area
- Beautiful
- Cool looking
- Green-(2 responses)
- Amenities-(2 responses)
- Clean
- Safe
- Diverse
- Inclusive-Special needs park-(2 responses)
- Same or better condition
- Modern contemporary look/look that makes you think of the future



## STATION 2: EVERYDAY HEALTH

### Station Design

# EVERYDAY HEALTH



Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan is intended to build community health and healthier parks.

Healthier parks create healthier communities. Access to high-quality parks attracts businesses, protects air and water quality, controls flooding, and improves community health by strengthening social ties, reducing stress, and lowering rates of chronic diseases.

Parks and trails are a critical part of a strong, healthy, resilient community, but there are many other factors that are important as well. Please help us understand what makes your neighborhood healthy or not.

Use the cards below to provide responses to the basic questions and then use the thumb tacks to pin your cards to your neighborhood on the map.

*El Plan de Parques Saludables Pasadena se enfoca en mejorar salud comunitaria y parques saludables.*

*Parques más saludables crean comunidades más saludables. El acceso a parques de alta calidad atrae crecimiento económico, protege la calidad del aire y el agua, reduce el riesgo de inundación, y mejora la salud comunitaria al reducir el estrés, fortalecer la convivencia social, reducir el estrés, y disminuir enfermedades crónicas.*

*Parques y senderos son partes importantes para desarrollar comunidades resilientes, saludables y fuertes – pero existen otras razones que también impactan la salud. Ayúdenos a entender cuáles factores afectan a su comunidad o a ser más saludables y cómo mejorarlos en su vida cotidiana.*

*Utilice las tarjetas para responder a las preguntas básicas. Después, tome una tachuela y coloque las tarjetas sobre su vecindario en el mapa.*

- What does a healthy community mean to you?  
*¿Qué significado conlleva una comunidad saludable para ti?*
- What are the places and institutions that make your neighborhood stronger?  
*¿Cuáles sitios e instituciones fortalecen a tu vecindario?*
- What changes would improve your neighborhood most?  
*¿Cuáles cambios mejorarían a tu vecindario?*
- How do parks help you be healthier?  
*¿De qué manera te ayudan los parques a ser más saludable?*
- How does the environment in your neighborhood affect your life?  
*¿Cómo impacta tu vida el entorno de tu vecindario?*
- How could parks enhance your neighborhood?  
*¿Cómo podría mejorar tu vecindario por medio de parques?*



## STATION 2: EVERYDAY HEALTH

### Station Results Summary

Participants when asked about their everyday experience in parks as well as ways their neighborhoods can be strengthened had the most responses about park programming and park conditions. Participants identified Madison Jobe Senior Center as well as recreation centers and libraries as important institutions. Beyond these were concerns of safety for residents in parks and recreational amenities. Residents also mentioned wanting opportunities to simply engage with one another across ages and cultures as well as opportunities to get to know their neighbors.

### Station Detailed Results

1. What does a healthy community mean to you?

- Availability and location of exercise and wellbeing. Walking trails and good sidewalks around neighborhoods. Good air quality and quality of life available to all citizens including special needs children and adults.
- A community that has activities for maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Awareness of community issues and events

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- Awareness of community issues and events



	Count
Programming	26
Park Condition	17
Recreation Amenity	13
Park Amenity	9

- Participation in community events
- Knowing your neighbor
- Helping each other
- Attention to physical and mental health
- Education, art, and music
- A community that has the institutions that will draw new residents like active senior center, police, fire, library, and a city that has low unemployment and active programs.
- Lots of green spaces, safety, peacefulness and tranquility, playgrounds for children,

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  - Helping each other
  - Attention to physical and mental health
  - Education, art, and music
  - A community that has the institutions that will draw new residents like active senior center, police, fire, library, and a city that has low unemployment and active programs.
  - Lots of green spaces, safety, peacefulness and tranquility, playgrounds for children, biking and walking trails, bodies of water add to attraction
  - A community that will stay younger and healthy
  - Safe, plan for health and wellness, diversity of activities, public transportation, and value all citizens
  - Families enjoy a stroll out together, children playing.
  - Good healthcare options, what we have now is ridiculous, people enjoying nature, walking, and eating healthing, more community gardens.
  - More code enforcement to clean up neighborhoods, making improvements to beautify our parks.
  - A community that feels that they are in control of their own health and has equitable opportunity to choose healthy behaviors.
  - Healthy food, more water fountains, more sports opportunities, more people walking or biking
2. What changes would improve your neighborhood most?



- Improved sidewalks
  - More lighting on streets
  - Make walking trails out of softer material so it won't be hard on my knees
  - Rose Campbell Park- walking trail all around the park, lighting, more picnic tables, covered basketball court for young adults.
  - Opportunity to engage with each other
  - By keeping Madison Jobe staffed and funded. We sincerely appreciate all the efforts made by Madison Jobe staff
  - Fix bad streets and sidewalks. Do not put sidewalks at the curb, they feel less safe that way. Need residences cleaned up, combination of code enforcement and helping people who can't maintain things themselves. Enforce having PISD clean up their pre closed properties(they tend to do nothing, let them get overgrown)
  - Better streets/better communication with city, sidewalks, bike lanes, more police presence. Too many business to homes 18 wheelers.
  - If the city connected better with residents, beautify city, help crime rate reduce, reduce 18 wheelers.
  - Beautify and improve safety of the parks. Keep out bad element by taking back our parks.
  - Code enforcement, public transit, bike lanes, complete sidewalk network, and cleaned up abandoned buildings.
  - Bike trails, proper lighting, adequate sidewalks, access to parks
3. How does the environment in your neighborhood affect your life?
- I love the outdoors. The birds that visit my backyards. There was a large hawk this morning.
- Affects ability to walk, bike, and breathe clean air
  - If a community has gang activities the neighborhood will show bars on houses. No one outside and bad streets because the city taxes will not fund the upkeep or attract.
  - A beautiful garden makes you feel happy
  - It does affect our lives with improved environments will improve ones life
  - Too much pollution, too many loose/lost dogs, seriously bad drivers, and crime is stressful
  - Stress relief, opportunity to exercise, maintain good mental health
  - Cracked sidewalks make it hard to walk and create standing water when it rains and trees are nice for shade
  - Keeps us safe and networked to our community
4. How could parks enhance your neighborhood?
- If a neighborhood had inviting safe parks the area will prosper. Nice lighted walking trails that are patrol by security. Tennis courts, community gardens, and picnic areas.
  - By having activities for different age groups schedules where people are walking to make them aware of recreation schedules and classes. Offer classes in English and Spanish.
  - Park department could make pans for the community to learn how to improve healthy eating for both children and adults and seniors.
  - By having soccer and baseball fields for children and by having pool tables in the recreation centers and all kinds of great equipment that relate



5. What are the places and institutions that make your neighborhood stronger?

- Neighborhood associations, city events, library, good parks, and city atmosphere.
- Bringing the community together through activities in the parks that encourage all cultures to participate
- Roller rinks, places to let children play. A happy fun inviting place for seniors to enjoy. Medical centers.
- Award winning school system with teachers that care
- Churches, schools, cities, and community organizations
- Community gardens, parks, and recreation center
- Civic club, Madison Jobe center, churches, and safe parks
- Madison Jobe-soccer field on preston, kyle chapman building, and convention center.
- We need more security and safety in all our parks because we often do not feel confident or safe to go there alone. Bicycle trails need police traveling on the trails on bikes to help people feel more secure.
- Fire stations, senior activities center, great recreation centers, staff being sensitive to the needs of seniors and or children depends on which recreation center.
- Community involvement, we have a very active and involved mayor and city hall, police and firefighters are strong, community centers, churches
- Parks, pools, police, libraries, and neighborhoods

6. How do parks help you be healthier?

- trees , workout areas, and sports facility

### STATION 3: PARK PROGRAMMING

#### Station Design



WHAT ACTIVITIES OR FEATURES IN THIS PARK INFLUENCE YOUR HEALTH?

WHAT ARE ASPECTS OF THIS PARK WOULD YOU FIND BEING ASKED?

HOW CAN THIS PARK BE BETTER FOR YOU TO BE ACTIVE?

HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS THE NEED FOR YOUR COMMUNITY IN THIS PARK?



	Count
Recreation Amenity	25
Park Amenity	14
Programming	9
Site Furnishing	5



### Station Results Summary

Participants identified the ability to have shade, nature, and water features as aspects of a park they would find relaxing across all of the parks. Satsuma and Fairmont Parks were identified as needing amenities such as picnic tables in order for participants to feel relaxed. When asked about what activities would influence health, participants identified improvements to existing infrastructure and trails in Fairmont and Strawberry Park. All participants identified the need for a walking trail at Sunset Park. In responding to the question of how a park can be improved to increase activity, participants mentioned sports and amenities. Natural landscape features were mentioned for every park with the exception of Strawberry Park. Participants also mentioned safety, shade, and programming as things that would make them more active. Finally, when asked about how they would connect with their community in the park, participants identified nature, programming, water features, and sports as ways that they would engage with their community. There was also mention of a desire for adult classes like yoga and gardening clubs.

### Station Detailed Results

#### Fairmont Park

##### What activities or features in this park influence your health?

- Parking lot too small for events at neighborhood centers, crossing fairmont to park isn't safe

##### What aspect of this park would you find relaxing?

- Garden

- Playground and shaded picnic area, good mix of space amenities, and activities

##### How can this park be better for you to be active?

- Shade structure over playground
- Covered basketball court
- Change sport type to soccer
- Natural shade trees (also great for our lungs)

##### How would you connect with your community in this park?

- Community garden
- Adult yoga classes: yoga, zumba, running/jogging
- Make the garden a community garden w/ classes/cooking demos
- Community garden

#### Satsuma Park

##### What activities or features in this park influence your health?

##### What aspect of this park would you find relaxing?

- Picnic area trail and playground not open field

##### How can this park be better for you to be active?

- Bigger picnic space to be with friends
- Splash pad, more playground stuff, more shade restrooms
- Soccer goals
- Safer bad neighborhood
- Bathroom improvements
- More natural areas for hiking, wooded areas
- Handicap swings

**How would you connect with your community in this park?**

- Connection at main road not through neighborhood

**Strawberry Park**

**What activities or features in this park influence your health?**

- Trail exercise-tennis picklesale
- Walking trail improvements
- Keep up walking trails
- No dogs without a leash, no dogs on trails
- Baseball

**What aspect of this park would you find relaxing?**

- Pool needs natural water area
- The water
- Water feature ponds

**How can this park be better for you to be active?**

- Open pavilion, senior dances
- Soccer goals
- Lights around the park evenly
- To dark to walk at dusk and dawn
- Would come here to use good exercise equipment, don't move everything around; too expansive(previous plan). Wasted money on water parks, concession were poorly designed.

**How would you connect with your community in this park?**

- Nutrias along fairmont and preston drainage witches
- Baseball swimming track and playground
- Splash pad around the park
- Garden clubs

- Soccer fields
- Better policies (crime areas)

**Sunset Park**

**What activities or features in this park influence your health?**

- Swimming and walking trails
- Walking for health
- Good walking trails

**What aspect of this park would you find relaxing?**

- Sitting area in greenspace water feature
- Sitting area more relaxing, more color in landscaping

**How can this park be better for you to be active?**

- Hilly trails and sitting trails
- Better basketball or more courts across parks
- More natural landscape
- Dog park more trees
- Need grading, drainage and non muddy surface(more cinders?)

**How would you connect with your community in this park?**

- Nature water fishing
- Rose garden with water feature



## STATION 4: HEADLINES, STORIES, AND SKETCHES

### Station Design

**MY HEADLINE FOR 2040**  
If the vision of the Pasadena Health Parks Plan is successfully implemented, what do you hope the newspaper headlines will say about the city in 2040?  
Write your own headline in the HEADLINE box. On the lines provided you may write down more details about what you think would be included in this news story from a 2040 newspaper.

**MY HEADLINE FOR 2040**  
If the vision of the Pasadena Health Parks Plan is successfully implemented, what do you hope the newspaper headlines will say about the city in 2040?  
Write your own headline in the HEADLINE box. On the lines provided, you may write down more details about what you think would be included in this news story from a 2040 newspaper.

**STAY INFORMED [SPANISH TRANSLATION]**  
pasadenahelpfulparks.com | @CityofPasadenaTSParks | @pasadenatransferencias

**HEALTHY COMMUNITIES [HEALTHY COMMUNITIES]**

**PASADENA HEALTHY PARKS PLAN**

*"What does a healthy community look like to you?"  
[What does a healthy community look like to you?]*

Directions: Please draw the traits healthy communities share or write-in a description or word that captures your vision of a healthy community in Pasadena.

Directions: Please draw the traits healthy communities share or write-in a description or word that captures your vision of a healthy community in Pasadena.

### Station Results Summary

Participants wrote about the parks being a place to stay in shape, connect the community, and a way to get children to put their phones down and go outdoors. Participants also wrote about the aspiration of their parks being voted safest and cleanest in Harris County and removing the association with the term "Stinkadena" with the city through exemplary parks.

### Station Detailed Results

#### Headline 1-Pasadena Parks has Great Ways to Connect the Community

"I hope the news will say that Pasadena has great ways to keep the community connected by upgrading the Hiking and Bicycling trails. People would have better access to get on and get to where they need. Pasadena used to keep up the trail but it doesn't seem maintained."

#### Headline 2-Pasadena Parks will Blow Your Socks Off!

"The City of Pasadena has made great investments in their public parks. You will find everything you need to entertain your friends and family."

#### Headline 3-Pasadena Parks continue to Excel

"Pasadena Parks Continues to excel in giving its citizens the best possible resources to stay in shape while having fun! If you haven't been for a stroll lately check out they beach, ability park, or a cool walk under the trees."

#### Headline 4-Pasadena Parks Voted Safest and Cleanest Park in Harris County

"With many parks to choose from, Pasadena has been voted to have the safest and cleanest parks in all of all Harris County. From Native Trails to water park, the variety offers the citizens a chance to enjoy the outdoors without having to drive far away. The city has taken extra measure to keep the parks clean and safe."

#### Headline 5-Kids Choose Parks over Phones

"In a new digital age, children of Pasadena have chosen to spend more time in parks than on their phones. With sports, beautiful community gardens, trainers, and peaceful nature trails it's no mystery why. Cities have been reaching out



	Count
Recreation Amenity	13
Park Amenity	8
Site Furnishing	4
Park Condition	2

to see how so many kids love the parks. We tell them, we put what they wanted in our parks.”

**Headline 6- [blank]**

“What I’m looking for isn’t a headline. It’s something that could be helped by parks, but requires other changes in the appearance of the city, and in the way the city does business. It is to never hear the term “Stinkadena” again.

- Jogging–“I come to jog here. Mostly I feel safe but sometimes there’s suspicious people.”
- I love the swim lessons for kids
- Activity and fun things with my kids-(2 responses)
- Soccer field at airline, we like it

- I love kickball, soccer, baseball. Sports for my kids.
- Classes for seniors. I like it, Can either do laps or river walk.
- Getting quality time with my kids

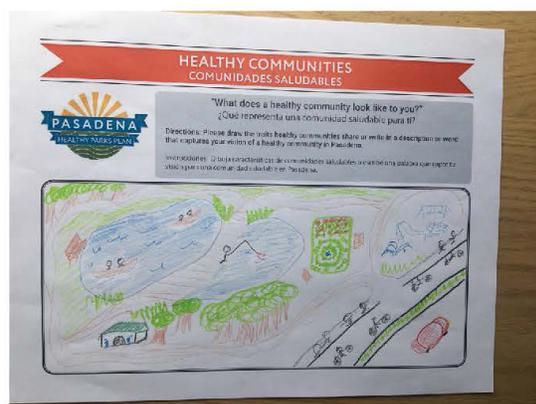
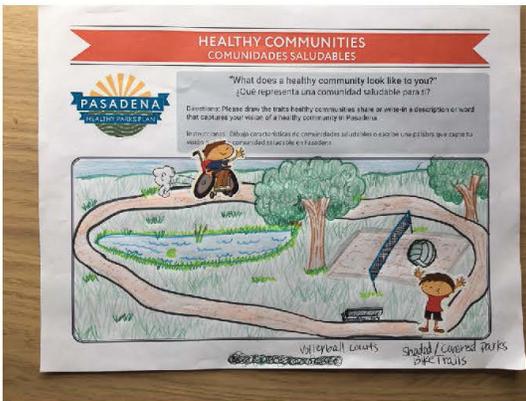
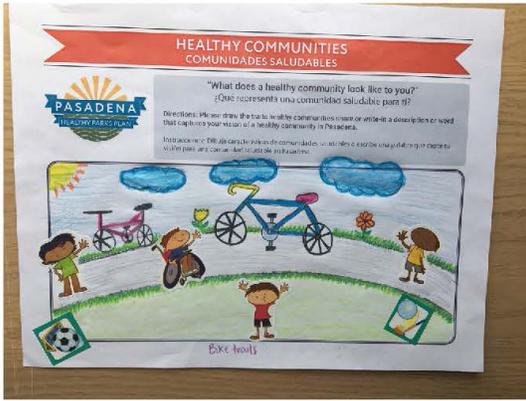
**2. What do you like most about Pasadena’s parks? What do you like least about Pasadena’s parks?**

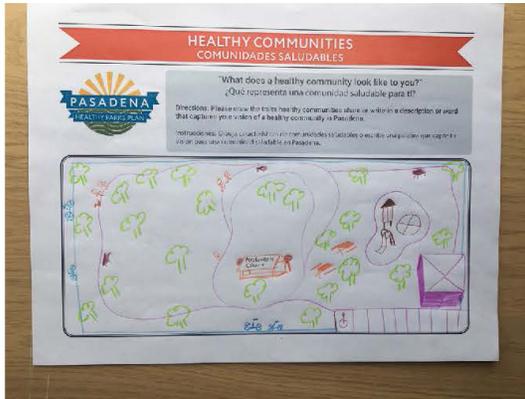
Most:

- Range of activities-(4 responses)
- Shade
- Safety of playgrounds
- Pool-(2 responses)
- Playgrounds-(4 responses)
- Cleanliness
- I feel safe here, I would like more activities
- Baseball
- We come and get swim lessons-(2 responses)
- I feel safe at park, no issues at all

Least:

- Not enough shade at some parks
- There is a lot of crime, you hear gunshots, cars racing near my house
- There’s no speed humps, they go fast
- Need to have stricter rules to prevent littering, trash, etc.
- 2 days ago (June 23rd), there was a police chase, 6 cops scary
- I like park, but it floods/muddy when it rains, makes it impossible to jog.
- Jungle gym needs repair, sometimes dirty
- Another park at Richie Hes pool, but I get scared due to gangs at South Houston





- I live at 225, too much violence. Jackson park and Ri\_\_\_\_. Near Sharen Park is too dangerous/ I don't go

**3. What are your favorite things to do at the park? Do you feel that there are enough opportunities in parks for all ages?**

- Biking
- Trails
- Dog-related activities
- Yes, each area is suitable for all ages
- Frisbee
- Yes, all ages are accounted for
- All activities, more swimming, kids love water
- Yeah, there's enough stuff to do. The park has changed a lot in 10 years.
- My kids love the playground
- "I come to jog here. Jog/exercise, everyday"
- "Sometimes I don't feel safe at park. Strange men lurking. 1 month ago I saw kids fighting. I got scared and left."
- Yes
- Activities for kids and special ed daughter
- Yes, good activities for kids

- Swimming lessons. I do the playground near house, because it is closer.
- We haven't been in a while to public pools, but I love swim lessons. Either here in day time, or another pool at night
- Swimming

**4. What would encourage you to visit local parks more often?**

- Variety of things to do
- Shade
- Access to parks more frequently
- The amenities
- Community events
- Having a pool in my local park. I live close to a school, but it's only jungle gym.
- Feeling safer at the park with my kids-(2 responses)
- More games for kids
- Piedritas to "I really like the type of chapopote dirt they lay along the jogging path at other parks. It's less impact on my knees and handles flooding better."
- N/A-I feel like everything is fine-(3 responses)
- I wish I wasn't so scared to visit local park
- Feeling safer with my kids
- More classes for kids/free

**5. What would encourage you to walk or bike to parks?**

- Close to house
- Crenshaw and strawberry connected
- The quality of the parks
- Proximity to neighborhood
- Safer streets for kids, they don't even ride bikes



- More security. I don't come to parks frequently because I don't always feel safe-(2 responses)
- "Taking measures to prevent flooding around walk path"
- Slight repairs to kids area
- "Security guard, better safety" There's too much crime/gang activity-(2 responses)
- N/A-(2 responses)

#### **6. How do Pasadena's parks impact your family's health or your community's health?**

- Yes, nature inspires outdoor activity
- Yes, the kids enjoy activity, makes them more active
- Parks are not clean, people throw trash anywhere. I called the city to report mosquitoes, no help.
- Keeps people active-push them to come out
- Good impact, less screen time.
- Only I work out in my family, nobody else comes with me
- Great activities, I come two times a month
- We like to come, walk the trail. Two times per week.
- Good instead of tablets, video games
- Good alternative to being at home
- It's nice to have parks to do activities instead of just staying in summer
- We get to meet new people. We have our own little club family time.
- I like keeping kids active instead of staying inside all day on screens

#### **7. Have you visited parks you loved outside of Pasadena, if so, what did you love about them?**

- Glenbrook was nice and safe, rubberized material, but no shade
- Memorial Park, Seabrook Park, Bay Area Park
- Masen, large park with land tong trails, disk golf, and baseball
- Park near wayside. I don't like it because it's just for walking, we'd love to swim.
- "I like the bootcamp workout style"
- "Gene Green park" had non electric workout equipment
- Avenue A Park, South Houston a lot of games for kids
- Strawberry too far. "I really enjoyed visiting Strawberry Park, but it's too far and I don't drive."
- No
- Not really- don't go out of Pasadena-(3 responses)
- I heard about people getting hurt. I had a family member get hurt near park.
- I was robbed at Wilson Park. Car got broken in. I was gunna have a b-day party. I was so upset, I cancelled it.
- Discovering green, water sports, free kids activities

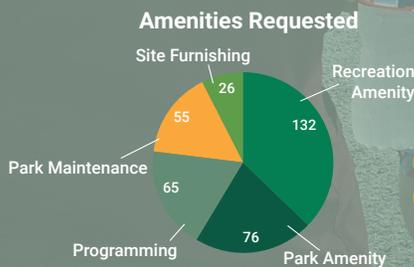


# 4. Phase 1 Infographic

## WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Through intercept surveys and events across Pasadena, designed to gather community input in a variety of formats, we were able to gather the responses below. Comments are from Phase 1 engagement, May through September of 2019.

### BY THE NUMBERS



**214 SURVEYS**  
**DISTRIBUTED**  
**555 POSTCARDS**  
**DISTRIBUTED**



### CORE THEMES

#### PROGRAMMING

Family centered events as well as music events were highly requested for programming.



#### RECREATION AMENITIES

Trails and playgrounds, especially those accessible to all children, were highly requested recreation amenities.



#### PARK AMENITIES

Shade was a highly requested amenity as well as water fountains.



#### SITE FURNISHING

Lighting was a top priority for residents along with accessibility for all ages within



#### PARK MAINTENANCE

Safety throughout the park and cleanliness of bathrooms came up often as an important issue for residents.



### SPEAKOUTS



"Lots of trees, trails, and better lighting"

"Playground for children of all abilities"

"More butterflies and flowers"

#### LOCATIONS

- 1 Strawberry Festival
- 2 Lucha Libre
- 3 4th Fest
- 4 Greased Lightning
- 5 Texas Children's Health Plan Back to School
- 6 ABC Dental Fair
- 7 Senior Expo
- 8 Houston Food Bank: Food Pantry

**790 PEOPLE**  
**REACHED**



### WHATS NEXT?

We'll see you in the new year for another series of engagement events!  
Stay up to date at [www.pasadenahealthyparks.com](http://www.pasadenahealthyparks.com)



# 5. Community Engagement Phase 2 Report

## Introduction

Phase 2 of community engagement for the Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan took place during the four months of March, April, May, and June of 2020. Phase 2 was originally designed to include speak-outs, intercept surveys, and an in-person workshop similar to Phase 1. However, Phase 2 had to be redesigned as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the need for social distancing, Phase 2 was conducted completely remotely. The engagement team focused on online map-based and text-based engagement. Additionally, two focus groups and the community workshop all took place using online communications platforms (Zoom and Facebook Live).

In spite of this approach, the following goals were still met during Phase 2:

- Gathering information about barriers to using current parks and aspirations for future parks
- Reducing barriers to participation by underserved and underrepresented residents and ensure that community members reached reflect local demographics as closely as possible
- Conducting engagement in both Spanish and English
- Focusing on the four themes that were extrapolated from Phase 1 engagement:
  1. Safety and access
  2. Connecting to nature
  3. Programming (specifically special events)
  4. Parks as centers of the community

## Engagement Numbers

- 42 comments on the project's Interactive Map over a 6-week period
- 222 responses to key questions from Phase 2 engagement via texting and participation in the Facebook Live Community Workshop
- 79 separate accounts logged in to participate in a Community Workshop via Facebook Live in May 2020 (many accounts represented several family members); there have been 2,700 and 2,000 views of two videos posted from the workshop



## Map-Based Engagement

For this strategy, a map of Pasadena was uploaded on a platform called coUrbanize. Participants were able to leave comments on the map based on five different categories:

- I love this park
- I want to do X at this park
- I can't access this park
- I wish there was a park here
- Other comments

Once a location and category were chosen, participants could leave comments. People could also support other comments made on the map, a feature similar to "liking" a comment on Facebook. coUrbanize had a translate button that easily adapted the platform to another language of choice. The coUrbanize Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan website was advertised on the Healthy Parks Plan website, the Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) Facebook page, and the City of Pasadena Facebook page. In addition, the engagement team emailed all of the participants from Phase 1 engagement who had provided their contact information.

Most of the comments received indicated a desire for more park space in Pasadena, specifically for trails or a "Bayou Greenway" that runs along Vince Bayou and Little Vince Bayou. Additionally, a desire for more trees as a natural feature to "relax under" was mentioned and supported by several participants. Finally, although there were no comments under the "I can't access this park" category, several participants expressed a desire to be able to walk or bike to a certain park.

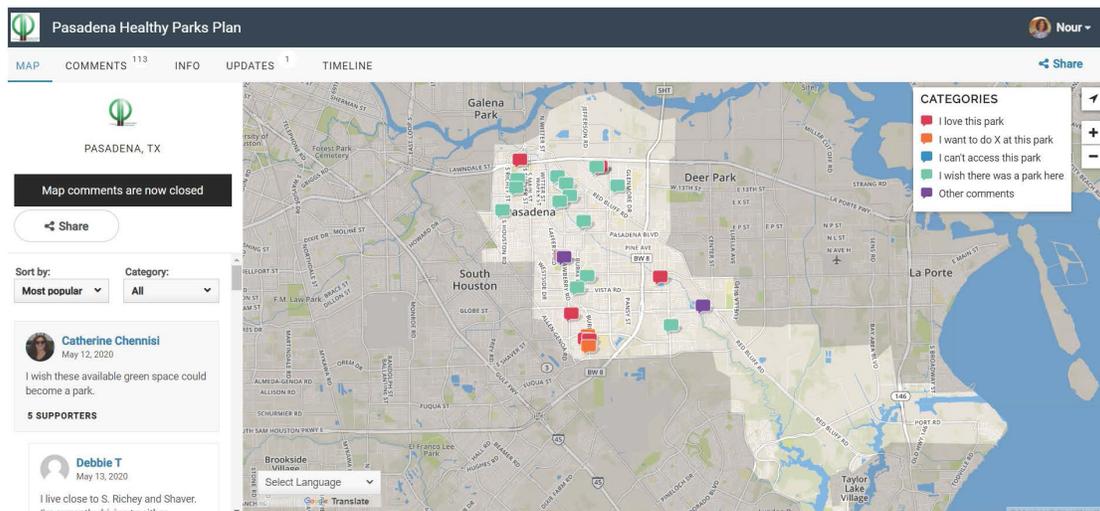


Image 1 - coUrbanize platform used for map-based engagement

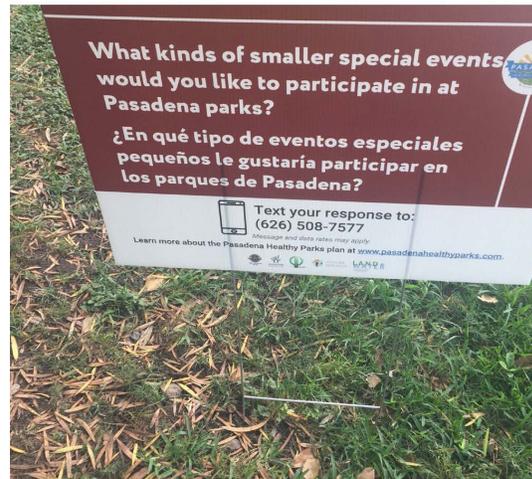


### Text-Based Engagement

The text-based engagement focused on four questions addressing the four key themes identified during Phase 1. The four questions were each associated with phone numbers that participants could text a response to. The questions were:

- What makes you feel safe in a park?
- What kinds of natural features do the most to help you feel relaxed in the park?
- What kinds of smaller special events would you like to participate in Pasadena parks?
- What makes it most enjoyable for you to spend time with friends and family in the park?

These questions were advertised on the Healthy Parks Plan website, and City of Pasadena, and PARD Facebook and Instagram pages. Posters were also installed at Memorial Park, Strawberry Park, Burke Crenshaw Park, and Holly Bay Court.



Images 2, 3 - Yard signs in English and Spanish placed in Strawberry Park

Regarding safety, over 85% of responses mentioned the need for lighting when it's dark outside. Other comments focused on the presence of other people in the park, specifically police. For natural features, most respondents felt that trees and water features helped them feel most relaxed. As for special events, there were diverse ideas ranging from movies in the park and animal fairs to music festivals and gardening lessons. Finally, participants found that having places, like picnic areas or benches, where they could gather with friends and family makes such an outing most enjoyable. Other comments also highlighted the need for more water fountains and hand-washing stations.



### At-Home Children's Activities

The engagement team also wanted to involve children in Phase 2. Because schools in Harris County were not in session, the team designed an activity where children could draw what they wanted to see in a park. Drawings were featured on the PARD Facebook page, and winners (of gift cards for local restaurants) were announced during the community workshop.



Bella, age 8



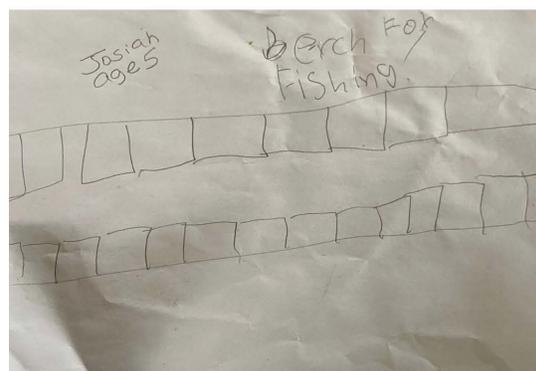
Abby, age 7



Karysa, age 8



Isaiah, age 8



Josiah, age 5



## Community Workshop

The second community workshop took place as a live-streamed event on the PARD Facebook page on a Thursday from 6-7:30 PM. Workshop advertising highlighted that a local DJ would perform before the formal activities and that several participants would receive fifty dollar gift cards to local Pasadena restaurants to ensure that the community workshop was accessible to the large Spanish-speaking population in Pasadena, participants were able to dial in to listen to a live Spanish audio translation. DC Consultant Shame started the workshop off with a very upbeat set of dance music that participants expressed a lot of enthusiasm about. Attendees began submitting comments about their favorite parks and park activities right away. Later Pasadena Mayor Jeff Wagner said a few words about the importance of Pasadena parks and the progress that the plan has made (via a pre-recorded video).



Image 4 - Mayor Jeff Wagner's video during the community workshop

The community workshop had three interactive activities. The first activity centered on the questions asked during the text-based engagement. The second activity involved the map-based engagement via ColUrbanize. The results of these two activities were combined with the results described above for the text-based and map-based engagement for analysis purposes.

During the third activity, Ted Aplaca (PARD Director) asked participants to submit Facebook comments about what they wanted to see in Memorial Park. The results of this last activity are being used to inform the conceptual design being created for Memorial Park. Recommendations included connecting Memorial Park to the Bayou Greenway, bringing back a swimming pool, and having movies in the park. Many of the same comments were reiterated throughout the entire engagement process across multiple platforms.









# C GIS Data Analysis Background



# 1. Socioeconomic Vulnerability

Layer Name	Source	Description
Low income households	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable populations based on the percent low income households in a census tract.
Less than high school education	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable populations based on the percent of people age 25 and older in a census tract that do not have a high school diploma.
People of color	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable populations based on the percent of total population in a tract that are not white, plus are Hispanic or Latino of any race.
Linguistic Isolation	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable populations based on the percent of people in a block group living in linguistically isolated households. A linguistically isolated household is a household in which all members age 18 years and over speak a language other than English and also speak English less than "very well".
Disabled population	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable populations based on the percent of total civilian non-institutionalized population in a tract that have a disability.
Households without cars	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable populations based on the percent of occupied housing units with no car available.
Population under age 5	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable populations based on percent of people in a census tract under the age of 5.
Population under age 19	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable populations based on percent of people in a census tract under the age of 19.
Population over age 64	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable populations based on percent of people in a census tract over the age of 65.
Foreign Born	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable population based on the percent of populations who are foreign born in a census tract.
Homeownership	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable populations based on the percent of renter households in a census tract.
Single Parent Households	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable populations based on percent of single parent families (with own children under the age of 18) in a census tract.
Disconnected Youth	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable population based on the percent of youth (16-19) who do not have a high school diploma, and are unemployed and not in the labor force in a census tract.



## 2. Community Health

Layer Name	Source	Description
Asthma	2019 Center for Disease Control (CDC)	Annual prevalence of asthma among adults
High Blood Pressure	2019 CDC	Biennial prevalence of high blood pressure
Cancer (Except Skin)	2019 CDC	Biennial prevalence of non-skin cancer
High Cholesterol	2019 CDC	Biennial prevalence of people with high cholesterol of all people who reported having their cholesterol checked in the past five years
Chronic Kidney Disease	2019 CDC	Annual prevalence of chronic kidney disease among adults
COPD	2019 CDC	Annual prevalence among adults of those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema, or chronic bronchitis.
Coronary Heart Disease	2019 CDC	Annual prevalence among adults with angina or coronary heart disease
Diabetes	2019 CDC	Annual prevalence of adults with diabetes
Mental Health	2019 CDC	Annual prevalence of adults who report 14 or more days during the past 30 days during which their mental health was not good.
Stroke	2019 CDC	Annual prevalence of adults who have had a stroke
Health Insurance	2019 CDC	Adults who reported having health insurance
Binge Drinking	2019 CDC	Annual prevalence of adults who report having five or more drinks (men) or four or more drinks (women) on an occasion in the past 30 days.
Current Smoking	2019 CDC	Annual prevalence of adults who report having smoked $\geq 100$ cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke every day or some days.
Obesity	2019 CDC	"Annual prevalence of adults who have a body mass index (BMI) $\geq 30.0$ kg/m <sup>2</sup> calculated from self-reported weight and height.
Sleep <7 Hours	2019 CDC	Annual prevalence of adults who report usually getting insufficient sleep
Food Access	2015 US Department of Agriculture	Identifies vulnerable areas based on areas that fall beyond .5 - 1 mile away from a supermarket.
Vacant Lot Density	2019 City of Pasadena	Identifies vulnerable populations based on proximity to a high density of vacant land, prioritized based on land uses.
Heat Exposure	2010 National Center for Atmospheric Research	Identifies areas based on the number of days that the heat index was higher than 108 by census tract.
Running and Cycling Data	2018 Strava through TxDOT	Identify drops in pedestrian and bicycle trips per day as temperatures increase, indicating a behavior change correlated with heat.
Air Quality	2017 Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Justice Screening	Identifies areas based on census tracts with high ozone and pm25.

# 3. Environmental Vulnerability

Layer Name	Source	Description
<b>Environmental Risk</b>		
Flood Zone	2015 Federal Emergency Management Agency National Flood Hazard Layer	Identifies areas that are in floodways, the 100-year floodplain, and the 100-year floodplain estimates based on FEMA flood zone classifications.
Truck routes and highways	2014 Houston Area Council District	Identified areas that are within a 200 foot buffer around truck routes
Poor Water Quality	Texas Water Development Board	Identifies areas that have been found to have reduced water quality.
Truck routes and highways	2014 Houston Area Council District	Identified areas that are within a 200 foot buffer around truck routes
Superfund Sites	2019 Superfund Sites TCEQ	Identifies areas that are within a 500 foot buffer of a superfund site
Soil Contamination	2019 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Sites with soil and groundwater contamination from industrial and municipal hazardous and industrial non-hazardous wastes.
Heat Islands	2017 Landsat 8 OLI/TIRS C1 Level-1 United States Geological Survey	Identifies sites that are higher in temperature than the average temperature of the study area.
Erosion Potential	2018 Natural Resources Conservation Service	Identifies areas of high erosion potential based on current degree of erosion
Sea Level	2018 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Sea level projection data that identifies which places in Pasadena will become inundated with water.
Industrial Facilities	2015 Houston Galveston Area Council	Identifies areas that are within a 500 foot buffer of industrial facilities
<b>Environmental Value</b>		
Tree Canopy Cover	2019 Houston-Galveston Area Council	Identifies sites that have a high density of tree canopy .
Wetlands	2019 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Wetlands	Identifies areas that are within a 200 foot buffer of wetlands.
Streams and Bayous	2015 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Stream Segments and City of Houston	Identifies areas that are within a 200 foot buffer of streams and bayous .
Species Richness	iNaturalist Data	Identifies areas of Pasadena with high biodiversity.
Light Pollution	2013 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Identifies sources of light pollution
Habitat Map	2015 Houston Galveston Area Council 2019 City of Pasadena Public Works 2019 Forestry Data Houston Galveston Area Council	Identifies vulnerable habitats.



# 4. Park Access

Layer Name	Source	Description
Walking: All Public Parks	2019 City of Pasadena 2019 Houston Parks Board	Half-mile walkshed generated regardless of park type.
Walking: School Parks	School spark parks: ISD & ArcGIS	All school parks located in Pasadena
Walking: HOA Parks	Pasadena Parks & Recreation Dept.	All homeowner's association parks located in Pasadena
Walking and driving	2019 City of Pasadena 2019 Houston Parks Board	Half mile walkshed generated for pocket and neighborhood parks. Driving for community, regional, and regional+.  -Pocket parks: are <1 acre and have a service area of 0.25 miles -Neighborhood parks: are 1-15 acres and have a service area of 0.5 miles -Community parks: are 15-30 acres and have a service area of 2 miles -Regional parks: are 30-200 acres and have a service area of 5 miles -Regional+ parks: are >200 acres and have a service area of 10 miles
Sidewalk Availability	2019 Houston-Galveston Area Council	Used as part of network to determine gaps in access
Population Density	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Population data that is clipped to residential parcels to determine density and then normalized across data
Road Classifications	2019 TxDOT	Identifies the different road classifications, with arterial, collector, and local roads ranked from worst to best.
Low income households	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable populations based on the percent low income households in a census tract.
Population under age 19	US Census American Community Survey 2013-2017 5 year data	Identifies vulnerable populations based on percent of people in a census tract under the age of 19.
Amenities	Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan online survey and telephone poll	Amenities have been included based off the top 4 amenities (pavilions, playgrounds, restrooms, and pathways) indicated on the online survey and telephone poll.





# D Finance Feasibility Report



## Executive Summary

This park finance study for the City of Pasadena examines several options for funding parks and recreation at the city, state, and federal government levels. The most common way for local governments in Texas to fund parks is with general obligation bonds, which must be approved by voters. Additionally, many cities in Texas have enacted parkland dedication ordinances, which require developers to either dedicate land, or pay a fee in lieu of dedication, to be used for public parks and open space. Parkland ordinances do not require voter approval. Therefore, a parkland dedication ordinance may be a strategy the city can undertake to begin collecting funds in the near term while planning for a bond measure in the future.



## General Obligation Bonds

Pasadena issues general obligation bonds and certificates of obligation to provide funds for the construction and improvement of the city’s infrastructure (i.e., streets, drainage, water and sewer systems, public safety, recreation, and culture facilities).<sup>1</sup> Generally bonds can only be used for capital expenses, rather than ongoing expenses such as operations and maintenance.

State statutes limit the amount of general obligation debt a governmental entity may issue up to 10% of its total assessed valuation. At September 30, 2018, the city’s legal debt margin was \$797,945,135, which equates to 10% of the city’s property taxable value, totaling \$871,940,174, less \$73,995,039 (the amount of bonded debt outstanding netted with the amount available in the debt service fund).<sup>2</sup> The city has ample capacity to issue additional debt for parks and recreation.

Pasadena Legal Debt Margin	
<b>Debt limit</b>	
Assessed value	\$8,719,401,740
10% of assessed value	<b>\$871,940,174</b>
<b>Less: net debt applicable to limit</b>	
Debt to be repaid from ad valorem tax	\$76,334,804
Less: amount available in debt service fund	(\$2,339,765)
	<b>\$73,995,039</b>
<b>Legal Debt Margin</b>	<b>\$797,945,135</b>
Total net debt applicable to the limit as a % of debt limit	8.49%

Source: City of Pasadena, Texas Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

The city’s underlying bond ratings for tax-supported debt are “AA” from Standard & Poor’s and “AA” from Fitch Ratings.<sup>3</sup>

Pasadena could issue general obligation bonds to fund parks and recreation in the city. The table below provides estimates of the annual debt service and additional property tax required to pay the principal and interest on the bonds, as well as the annual cost for the median household in the city. For example, a \$30 million bond would add \$2.2 million to the city’s annual debt service requirements, requiring an increase of \$0.025 per \$100 in the property tax rate, and would cost the median homeowner \$28 per year in additional property taxes.<sup>4</sup> Voter approval is required.

The city will be retiring a 2012 general obligation bond issue in February 2023, and the annual debt service payments will drop from \$9.16 million to \$7.96 million.<sup>5</sup> The city could issue a bond for parks at that time and, depending on the amount, could do so without raising property taxes.

### Pasadena Bond Financing Estimates

<sup>1</sup> City of Pasadena, Texas Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> City of Pasadena, Texas Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> City of Pasadena, Texas Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> These estimates assume the entire debt amount is issued in the first year and payments are equal until maturity. In reality, the entire amount may not be issued all at once. The estimates do not consider growth in the tax base over the life of the bonds. Pasadena’s financial advisors and bond counsel would establish the actual terms of any bond.

<sup>5</sup> City of Pasadena, Texas Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018



Bond Issue	Interest Rate	Maturity (Years)	Annual Debt Service	Assessed Value*	Tax Required	Median Home Value**	Annual Cost for Median Household
\$10,000,000	4%	20	\$735,818	\$8,719,401,740	0.008	\$108,700	\$9
\$15,000,000	4%	20	\$1,103,726	\$8,719,401,740	0.013	\$108,700	\$14
\$20,000,000	4%	20	\$1,471,635	\$8,719,401,740	0.017	\$108,700	\$18
\$25,000,000	4%	20	\$1,839,544	\$8,719,401,740	0.021	\$108,700	\$23
\$30,000,000	4%	20	\$2,207,453	\$8,719,401,740	0.025	\$108,700	\$28
\$35,000,000	4%	20	\$2,575,361	\$8,719,401,740	0.030	\$108,700	\$32
\$40,000,000	4%	20	\$2,943,270	\$8,719,401,740	0.034	\$108,700	\$37
\$45,000,000	4%	20	\$3,311,179	\$8,719,401,740	0.038	\$108,700	\$41
\$50,000,000	4%	20	\$3,679,088	\$8,719,401,740	0.042	\$108,700	\$46

\*City of Pasadena, Texas Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

\*\*U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts

A municipality may not issue bonds that are to be paid from ad valorem taxes unless the issuance is first approved by the qualified voters of the municipality in an election. The proposition submitted in the election must distinctly state:

1. the purpose for which the bonds are to be issued;
2. the amount of the bonds;
3. the rate of interest;
4. the imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the annual interest on the bonds and to provide a sinking fund to redeem the bonds at maturity; and
5. the maturity date of the bonds or that the bonds may be issued to mature serially over a specified number of years not to exceed 40.<sup>6</sup>

Bonds must also be approved by the Texas Attorney General.<sup>7</sup>

According to The Trust for Public Land, several municipalities in Texas, including Pasadena, have passed bond measures for parks and open space.<sup>8</sup> Some municipal bond measures have failed (6 out of 59 since 2000) however the overall passage rate is 90 percent, and the average approval rate is 65 percent support.

Texas Municipal Bonds for Parks and Open Space, 2000-present					
Municipality	Election Date	Description	Total Funds Approved	Status	% Yes
Allen	5/12/2007	Bond for parks and recreation including parkland acquisition	\$17,250,000	Pass	71 %
Allen	5/7/2016	Bond for parks and recreation	\$27,000,000	Pass	80 %
Alvin	11/6/2001	Bond for land acquisition and improvement, parks and historical preservation	\$3,150,000	Pass	63 %
Arlington	5/7/2005	Bond to acquire, develop, renovate and improve parks and open spaces	\$13,600,000	Pass	59 %

<sup>6</sup> Texas Government Code Sec. 1251.001 and Sec. 1251.002.

<sup>7</sup> Texas Government Code Sec. 1202.003.

<sup>8</sup> The Trust for Public Land, LandVote®, 2019, www.landvote.org.



Arlington	11/4/2008	Bond for parks and recreation	\$15,500,000	Pass	58 %
Arlington	11/4/2014	Bond for parks and recreation	\$60,000,000	Pass	67 %
Austin	11/7/2000	Bond issue for open space acquisition	\$13,400,000	Pass	65 %
Austin	11/7/2006	Proposition 3, Bond for park land acquisition and park improvements	\$84,700,000	Pass	73 %
Austin	11/7/2006	Proposition 2, Bond for drainage and water quality protection	\$145,000,000	Pass	69 %
Austin	11/6/2012	Bond for open space and watershed protection	\$30,000,000	Pass	56 %
Austin	11/6/2018	Bond for open space acquisition and flood prevention	\$184,000,000	Pass	84 %
Austin	11/6/2018	Bond for parks and recreation	\$149,000,000	Pass	81 %
Bee Cave	11/7/2006	Bond for the development and acquisition of parks and open space	\$7,000,000	Pass	77 %
Buda	11/4/2014	Bond for parks and recreation	\$8,000,000	Pass	59 %
Cedar Park	11/6/2001	Bond for parks and recreation	\$10,600,000	Pass	59 %
Cedar Park	11/6/2007	Bond for parks and recreation purposes including park and trail acquisition	\$17,980,000	Pass	58 %
Dallas	5/3/2003	Proposition 2, Bond for neighborhood and community parks, playground, recreational facilities.	\$57,265,686	Pass	82 %
Dallas	5/3/2003	Proposition 11, Bond for citywide parks, recreation facilities	\$43,229,106	Pass	77 %
Dallas	11/7/2006	Proposition 3, Bond for park and recreation facilities	\$343,230,000	Pass	81 %
Dallas	11/7/2017	Bond for parks and recreation	\$261,807,000	Pass	73 %
Denton	2/5/2005	Proposition 3, Bond for park system improvements	\$10,700,000	Pass	54 %
Denton	11/5/2019	Bond for park acquisition	\$5,000,000	Pass	65 %
El Paso	5/6/2000	Portion of bond issue for parks and recreation	\$75,000,000	Pass	64 %
El Paso	2/7/2004	Proposition 1, Park and recreation improvements and acquisitions bond	\$4,560,000	Pass	64 %
El Paso	11/6/2012	Bond for parks, recreation and open space	\$245,000,000	Pass	75 %
Fort Worth	5/5/2018	Bond for parks and recreation	\$84,180,600	Pass	74 %
Frisco	9/14/2002	Bond for parks, hiking and biking trails	\$15,500,000	Pass	81 %
Frisco	5/13/2006	Bond for the acquisition and initial development of Grand Park	\$22,500,000	Pass	72 %
Frisco	5/9/2015	Bond for park acquisition and recreational facilities	\$32,000,000	Pass	77 %
Frisco	5/4/2019	Bond for open space, parks and recreation	\$53,500,000	Pass	68 %
Georgetown	11/4/2008	Bond for parks, recreation and open space acquisition	\$35,500,000	Pass	58 %
Harlingen	9/13/2003	Proposition 2, Bond for acquiring, constructing, improving city parks		Fail	44 %
Highland Village	5/4/2002	Bond for Open Space		Fail	38 %
Highland Village	5/4/2002	Bond for park expansion		Fail	40 %
Highland Village	5/4/2002	Bond for Open Space		Fail	38 %
Highland Village	5/4/2002	Bond for the acquisition of parkland		Fail	45 %
Hutto	11/3/2009	Bond for parkland acquisition and improvements	\$3,300,000	Pass	51 %



Irving	11/7/2006	Bond for park improvements including funding for some parkland acquisition	\$56,475,000	Pass	69 %
Leander	5/6/2017	Bond for parks	\$26,650,000	Pass	61 %
Lubbock	5/15/2004	Proposition No. 3, Bond for park acquisition, improvements	\$6,395,000	Pass	71 %
McKinney	5/8/2010	Bond for parks, recreation, and open space	\$12,500,000	Pass	72 %
McKinney	5/4/2019	Bond for parks and recreation	\$91,000,000	Pass	63 %
Missouri City	9/13/2003	Proposition 2, Bond for acquiring, improving, studying parks	\$15,550,000	Pass	65 %
Missouri City	11/4/2008	Bond for park acquisition and improvements	\$17,500,000	Pass	72 %
Murphy	11/4/2008	Bond for parks, trails and open space	\$7,500,000	Pass	65 %
Pasadena	8/1/2002	Bond for parks and recreation	\$13,500,000	Pass	71 %
Plano	5/7/2005	Proposition 4, Bonds for parks and recreation facilities	\$57,775,000	Pass	73 %
Plano	5/9/2009	Bond for park improvements and acquisition	\$48,700,000	Pass	59 %
Plano	5/6/2017	Bond for parks and recreation	\$78,850,000	Pass	64 %
Richardson	5/8/2010	Bond for parks, trails and recreational facilities	\$22,645,000	Pass	57 %
Rockwall	11/8/2005	Bond for the creation of new trails and parks throughout the city	\$5,955,000	Pass	59 %
Round Rock	11/6/2001	Proposition 2; Bond for city parks	\$17,300,000	Pass	68 %
Rowlett	5/4/2002	Bond for land acquisition	\$520,000	Pass	67 %
Rowlett	5/13/2006	Bond for park and trail acquisition and recreational facilities		Fail	38 %
San Antonio	11/4/2003	Proposition 4, Bond for acquisition and improvement of parks, recreation	\$27,200,000	Pass	60 %
San Antonio	5/12/2007	Prop 3, Bond for park improvements including some open space and park acquisitions	\$79,125,292	Pass	69 %
San Antonio	5/6/2017	Bond for parks, recreation and open space	\$187,313,000	Pass	70 %
San Marcos	11/8/2005	Bond for the purchase of green space in the Rogers Ridge area in the Spring Lake watershed	\$2,000,000	Pass	68 %
Seabrook	11/6/2007	Bond for the purchase of land to expand Pine Gully Park	\$2,500,000	Pass	60 %



## Property Tax

The property tax is the single largest revenue source for many local jurisdictions in Texas and the proceeds may be expended for parks and open space. However, property taxes cannot be dedicated to specific purposes and therefore funding would be subject to the annual budgeting process and appropriations made by the City Council (except in the case of a Charter Amendment, which is explained in more detail below).

In Pasadena’s FY 2019 Adopted Budget, total property taxes (including penalties and interest) are budgeted at \$54,545,877 and represent 27.9% of total revenues. Property tax revenues are expected to increase by \$6,067,034 or 12.5% over the FY 2018 projected amount. Property (ad valorem) taxes are assessed or levied on real and personal property as of January 1 of each year. Pasadena’s City Council adopted a property tax rate of \$0.615446 per \$100 assessed value for the 2018 tax year, which is higher than the 2017 property tax rate of \$0.575388 per \$100 assessed value.<sup>9</sup> For 2019 the effective tax rate is \$0.570342 per \$100.<sup>10</sup>

The tax rate is comprised of a “maintenance and operations” (M&O) component (\$0.480529 or 78.08% of the total rate) which is allocated to the general fund and a “debt service” component (\$0.134917 or 21.92% of the total rate) which is allocated to the debt service fund.<sup>11</sup>

For all home rule cities, the maximum property tax rate levy is \$2.50 per \$100 of taxable value.<sup>12</sup> Thus Pasadena has ample capacity to levy an additional property tax to fund parks and recreation. However, the funding cannot be permanently dedicated to any purpose, and the City Council would need to allocate funding to parks in the budgeting process each year.

The table below provides estimates of annual revenue and cost to the median homeowner for various levels of property tax increase. For example, an increase of \$0.03 per \$100 assessed value would generate roughly \$2.6 million per year at a cost of \$33 per year for the median homeowner.

Pasadena Property Tax Revenue and Cost Estimates				
Tax Increase	Assessed Value*	Annual Revenue	Median Home Value**	Annual Cost for Median Household
0.010	\$8,719,401,740	\$871,940	\$108,700	\$11
0.015	\$8,719,401,740	\$1,307,910	\$108,700	\$16
0.020	\$8,719,401,740	\$1,743,880	\$108,700	\$22
0.025	\$8,719,401,740	\$2,179,850	\$108,700	\$27
0.030	\$8,719,401,740	\$2,615,821	\$108,700	\$33
0.035	\$8,719,401,740	\$3,051,791	\$108,700	\$38
0.040	\$8,719,401,740	\$3,487,761	\$108,700	\$43
0.045	\$8,719,401,740	\$3,923,731	\$108,700	\$49
0.050	\$8,719,401,740	\$4,359,701	\$108,700	\$54

\*City of Pasadena, Texas Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018

\*\*U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts

<sup>9</sup> City of Pasadena, Texas Fiscal Year 2019 Adopted Budget.

<sup>10</sup> Notice of 2019 Tax Year Proposed Property Tax Rate for City of Pasadena (<https://www.pasadenatx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2988/2019-Tax-Year-Proposed-Property-Tax-Rate-PDF>)

<sup>11</sup> City of Pasadena, Texas Fiscal Year 2019 Adopted Budget.

<sup>12</sup> Texas Constitution, Article XI, Section 5.



In June 2019, Governor Abbott signed Senate Bill 2, the Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act of 2019, which makes numerous changes to the process for adopting property tax rates and takes effect January 1, 2020. Most notably, the bill lowers the city property tax rollback rate (now called the “voter-approval rate”) to 3.5 percent, with an automatic election required to exceed that percentage. The election must be held at the regular November general election.<sup>13</sup> Therefore, if Pasadena wanted to raise property taxes more than 3.5 percent, the increase would have to be approved by voters.

#### Charter Amendment

Some cities have held elections to dedicate property taxes to specific purposes via a charter amendment. Generally, municipal property tax rates are adopted each year as part of the budget process and there is no statutory provision for cities to dedicate a property tax. However, home rule cities may allow for such a provision in their charters. Still, the City Council is not bound to implement the dedication. As an example, in 2016, voters in Corpus Christi approved a charter amendment dedicating a property tax increase to residential street construction, but the City Council voted unanimously the following year not to include the increase in the city’s budget.

Additionally, the Texas Municipal League advises that citizen approval of the adoption of property taxes is neither required, nor is it permitted:

“According to the Texas Tax Code: ‘The governing body of each taxing unit...shall adopt a tax rate for the current tax year and shall notify the assessor for the unit of the rate adopted.’ Nothing in Chapter 25 of the Tax Code speaks to voter approval of tax rates, hence none is required.

Even if a city wanted to submit property taxes to the voters, it could not do so. When a state statute comprehensively covers an area of the law, as the Tax Code does with property taxes, local governments are preempted from changing the law locally. Because the Tax Code speaks in detail about the procedures for adoption of city property tax rates, a court would likely find that voter referenda on property tax adoption are preempted by the Tax Code.

Cities are not prohibited from gauging the will of the public when it comes to property taxes, or any other issue. A city could conduct a non-binding poll or survey to find out whether the public supports imposition of property taxes. Some cities conduct such polls through inserts in utility bills, for instance.”<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Texas Municipal League Legislative Update 23 (<https://www.tml.org/601/June-7-2019-Number-23>).

<sup>14</sup> Texas Municipal League, Revenue Manual for Texas Cities.



## Sales Tax

Pasadena's sales tax revenue comes from three sources: a 1% tax that comes to the City of Pasadena's General Fund, a 1/2% tax that goes to the Crime Control and Prevention District, and an additional 1/2% tax is garnered by the Pasadena Second Century Corporation.<sup>15</sup> Together these three portions of sales tax total 2% of retail sales for local purposes. The State of Texas receives income from a 6.25% sales tax on retail sales in Pasadena, bringing the total tax rate to 8.25%.<sup>16</sup>

Sales tax revenue is the second largest source of income for the City (22%). Total sales tax collections for FY 2019 are anticipated to be \$42,925,000, an increase of 1.54% above FY 2018. The city's revenues from its general sales tax are anticipated to increase to \$22,000,000 in FY19 over \$21,700,000 in FY18.<sup>17</sup>

There is no express limitation to how many different sales taxes a city may adopt. However, the total combined sales tax rate within the city may not exceed two percent.<sup>18</sup> Thus Pasadena does not have capacity to levy an additional sales tax for parks.

The City Council could direct some of the general sales tax revenue to parks on an annual basis through the budgeting process. Alternatively, Pasadena could hold an election to reduce or repeal one of its current sales taxes in order to adopt a new dedicated sales tax for parks. Cities are allowed to repeal or lower one sales tax and raise or adopt a different sales tax with one combined ballot proposition.<sup>19</sup> The city can increase or decrease its general revenue sales tax in any increment of 1/8<sup>th</sup> of 1 percent. For example, Pasadena could hold an election to reduce the general revenue sales tax to 7/8ths of 1 percent and dedicate a new sales tax of 1/8<sup>th</sup> of 1 percent to parks. The city would receive the same amount of revenue each year, but 1/8<sup>th</sup> of 1 percent would be dedicated to parks.

A dedicated sales tax may be adopted only by a vote of the citizens at an election. An election to adopt a dedicated sales tax generally cannot be held earlier than one year after the date of any previous sales tax election in the city.<sup>20</sup>

According to The Trust for Public Land, three municipalities in Texas have successfully dedicated a sales tax to parks and open space: Grand Prairie, Highland Village, and San Antonio.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> The two 0.5% taxes were approved by voters in November 1998.

<sup>16</sup> City of Pasadena, Texas Fiscal Year 2019 Adopted Budget.

<sup>17</sup> City of Pasadena, Texas Fiscal Year 2019 Adopted Budget.

<sup>18</sup> Texas Local Government Code Sec. 363.055(a) and Texas Tax Code Sec. 321.101(f).

<sup>19</sup> Texas Tax Code Sec. 321.409.

<sup>20</sup> Texas Tax Code Sec. 321.406.

<sup>21</sup> The Trust for Public Land, LandVote®, 2019, [www.landvote.org](http://www.landvote.org).



Successful Texas Municipal Sales Taxes for Parks and Open Space, 1999-present					
Jurisdiction Name	Date	Description	Total Funds Approved	Status	% Yes
Grand Prairie	11/2/1999	Proposition 1, .25 percent sales tax for parks, recreation acquisition and improvement	\$75,907,860	Pass	67%
Highland Village	11/2/2004	1/2 cent sales tax for the promotion of recreational facilities, public parks, and open space improvements	\$5,000,000	Pass	61%
San Antonio	5/6/2000	4-year, 1/8-cent, sales tax increase for drinking water and watershed protection	\$65,000,000	Pass	56%
San Antonio	5/7/2005	1/8 of one percent sales tax to permanently protect significant portions of watershed that contribute to Edwards Aquifer to protect the city's drinking water. Land will also be protected for wildlife habitat.	\$90,000,000	Pass	55%
San Antonio	5/7/2005	1/8 of one percent sales tax to fund the acquisition of open space and linear parks	\$45,000,000	Pass	54%
San Antonio	11/2/2010	5-year, extension of 1/8 of 1 percent sales tax for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Project	\$90,000,000	Pass	66%
San Antonio	11/2/2010	5-year extension of 1/8 of 1 percent sales tax for the Parks Development and Expansion Venue Project	\$45,000,000	Pass	67%
San Antonio	5/9/2015	5-year extension of 1/8 of 1 percent sales tax for the Linear Creekway Parks Development Program	\$80,000,000	Pass	75%
San Antonio	5/9/2015	5-year extension of 1/8 of 1 percent sales tax for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program	\$100,000,000	Pass	78%



## Parkland Dedication

Local governments may require subdivision developers or builders to dedicate land for a park and/or pay a fee that the local government may use to acquire and develop park facilities. These parkland dedications allow local governments to provide park facilities in newly developed areas without burdening the existing population. The intent is that the new residents should pay for the cost of new parks because they are increasing the demand for those amenities.<sup>22</sup>

Cities must demonstrate a “roughly proportional” quantitative relationship between dedication requirements imposed on a developer and the increased demands of the proposed development on their parks systems.<sup>23</sup> In other words, the developer’s portion of the costs may not exceed the amount required for infrastructure improvements that are roughly proportionate to the proposed development.<sup>24</sup>

The city must use the dedicated land or fees collected to benefit the subdivision from which they originated. Additionally, any fees collected must be spent in a “reasonable timeframe;” however, what is considered a “reasonable timeframe” is left for the city to decide. Several cities have specified a limit of 10 years in their parkland dedication ordinances.<sup>25</sup>

Many cities in Texas have adopted parkland dedication ordinances, including nearby Houston, Pearland, and Rosenberg.

Parkland Dedication Examples		
City	Acreage Formula	Fee in Lieu
Deer Park	1 acre per 100 DUs	\$700 per DU
Houston	10 x # DUs x 1.8 / 1000	\$700 per DU
Pearland	Land may be donated at discretion of City	SF \$1517 per DU, MF \$1114 per DU
Rosenberg	# DUs / 53.33	\$1700 per DU

\*DU = Dwelling Unit

Pasadena could consider adopting a parkland dedication ordinance in order to help defray the costs of new park facilities. The city would need to conduct a study in order to determine an appropriate parkland dedication requirement and fee in lieu of dedication. The revenue that could be generated would depend on the fee and how much growth the city experiences.

From 2009 to 2019, the city received approximately 2,777 building permits for additional dwelling units.<sup>26</sup> If Pasadena had a parkland dedication ordinance in place which required 1 acre per 100 dwelling units, or \$1,000 per dwelling unit as a fee in lieu, the city could potentially have an additional 27.77 acres or \$2,777,000 in collected fees.

<sup>22</sup> John L. Crompton, “An Analysis of Parkland Dedication Ordinances in Texas.” Journal of Park and Recreation Administration, Spring 2010, Volume 28, Number 1, pp. 70-102.

<sup>23</sup> John L. Crompton, “An Analysis of Parkland Dedication Ordinances in Texas.” Journal of Park and Recreation Administration, Spring 2010, Volume 28, Number 1, pp. 70-102.

<sup>24</sup> Texas Local Government Code Sec. 212.904.

<sup>25</sup> John L. Crompton, “An Analysis of Parkland Dedication Ordinances in Texas.” Journal of Park and Recreation Administration, Spring 2010, Volume 28, Number 1, pp. 70-102.

<sup>26</sup> City of Pasadena Planning Department



Census tract data shows that from 2000 to 2010, the greatest population growth occurred in the middle to southern part of the city. Parkland dedication would be best suited to help create new parks in that area.

Census Tract	Pop % Change 2000-2010
3420.0 2	64.64
3212	56.58
3240	45.65
3236	28.81
3413.0 1	22.15
3430	18.35
3216	15.80
3239	13.34
3234	10.68
3238.0 1	8.43
3235	8.25
3226	8.25
3238.0 2	7.29
3232	7.16
3421	7.08
3402.0 3	6.49
3424	5.11
3237.0 2	4.31
3420.0 1	4.22
3416	3.74
3423	3.47
3237.0 1	3.15
3219	2.54
3425	2.40
3221	2.01
3233	1.98
3229	1.65
3227	-0.56
3228	-1.46
3437	-2.22
3418	-2.44
3412.0 2	-2.48
3402.0 2	-2.62
3414	-4.45
3231	-5.45
3429	-7.25
3222	-7.30
3436	-8.52
3230	-11.33
3241	-12.19
3242	-12.30



3422	-15.20
3417	-18.25
3220	-29.56



## Hotel Occupancy Tax<sup>27</sup>

The Texas Legislature has authorized municipalities and some counties to levy and collect local hotel occupancy taxes (HOT). The statute governing the maximum city hotel tax rate caps the tax at 7 percent, 8.5 percent or 9 percent, depending on factors such as the city's population and its proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, the state of Louisiana, Lake Palestine or a coastal barrier island. The City of Pasadena is currently levying the hotel occupancy tax at the maximum of 7 percent, which generated more than \$1.7 million in FY 2018.<sup>28</sup>

A hotel occupancy tax must be levied by ordinance. No election or other approval of the citizens is required.

A city with a population under 35,000 may extend the application of its hotel occupancy tax by ordinance to the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of the city. However, a city under 35,000 population may not apply its hotel occupancy tax in the ETJ if, as a result of the adoption of the city tax, the combined rate of state, county, and city hotel taxes would exceed fifteen percent at hotels in the ETJ.

Expenditures of local HOT revenues are restricted to certain categories of projects. The Texas Municipal League calls this a two-part test. The first element of the two-part test is this: Every expenditure of hotel taxes must put "heads in beds." What this means is that every funded project must attract overnight tourists to the city's hotels and motels, thus promoting the city's hotel industry.

Every expenditure of hotel taxes must also fit into one of nine statutorily authorized categories. These are the nine categories: (1) convention and visitor centers; (2) convention registration; (3) advertising the city; (4) promotion of the arts; (5) historical restoration and preservation; (6) sporting events in a county under one million in population; (7) enhancing or upgrading existing sports facilities or sports fields (only in certain cities); (8) tourist transportation systems; and (9) signage directing the public to sights and attractions that are visited frequently by hotel guests in the city.

A city may levy a hotel occupancy tax at a rate not to exceed two percent on all hotels in the city to fund certain venue projects (if approved by voters), except that a city may not propose a hotel occupancy tax rate that would cause the combined hotel occupancy tax rate imposed from all sources at any location in the city to exceed 17 percent of the price of a room. Revenue generated by the venue hotel occupancy tax may not be spent on park and recreation systems, watershed protection and preservation projects.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Bill Longley, The Hotel Tax "Two-Step," Texas Municipal League.

<sup>28</sup> City of Pasadena, Texas Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018.

<sup>29</sup> Bill Longley, Legal Q&A, TML Legislative Counsel. <https://www.tml.org/DocumentCenter/View/231/Venue-Taxes---2015-06-PDF?bidId=>, accessed on 10/12/19.



## Public Improvement Districts

The Public Improvement District Assessment Act (Texas Local Government Code Chapter 372) gives cities the power to create public improvement districts. A municipality may initiate or receive a petition requesting the establishment of a public improvement district. If the governing body of a municipality finds that it promotes the interests of the municipality, the governing body may undertake an improvement project that confers a special benefit on a definable part of the municipality or the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction. A project may be undertaken in the municipality or the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction. A public improvement project may include the establishment or improvement of parks, among other projects.

The petition is sufficient if signed by:

1. owners of taxable real property representing more than 50 percent of the appraised value of taxable real property liable for assessment under the proposal; and
2. record owners of real property liable for assessment under the proposal who:
  - a. constitute more than 50 percent of all record owners of property that is liable for assessment under the proposal; or
  - b. own taxable real property that constitutes more than 50 percent of the area of all taxable real property that is liable for assessment under the proposal.

If a valid petition is filed, the governing body of the municipality may make findings by resolution as to the advisability of the proposed improvement, its estimated cost, the method of assessment, and the apportionment of cost between the proposed improvement district and the municipality as a whole. After receiving a valid petition, the governing body of the municipality may appoint an advisory body with the responsibility of developing and recommending an improvement plan to the governing body.

A public improvement district may be established and improvements provided by the district may be financed only after the governing body of the municipality holds a public hearing on the advisability of the improvement. Notice of the hearing must be given in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality. The final publication of notice must be made before the 15th day before the date of the hearing. Additionally, written notice must be mailed to the affected property owners before the 15th day before the date of the hearing.

During the six-month period after the date of the final adjournment of the hearing, the governing body of the municipality may authorize an improvement district if, by majority vote of all members of the governing body, the members adopt a resolution authorizing the district in accordance with its finding as to the advisability of the improvement. An authorization takes effect when it has been published one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 372.



Several cities in Texas have used PIDs to fund park projects. For example, the City of Fort Worth has several PIDs which include parks and open spaces as one of the services to be provided.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> City of Fort Worth (<http://fortworthtexas.gov/pid/>).



## Municipal Management District

Many major cities in Texas, including Houston and Dallas, have multiple Municipal Management Districts. The districts require state approval to be created. Once created, the districts can levy assessments and issue bonds to support the district's activities.

Before a Municipal Management District may be created, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality must receive a petition requesting creation of the district. The petition must be signed by the owners of a majority of the assessed value of the real property in the proposed district that would be subject to assessment by the district. The commission then holds a hearing to consider the petition, at which citizens can testify for or against the petition. If the commission grants the petition, the commission in the order creating the district shall state the specific purposes for which the district is created and shall appoint the initial directors.

A district may incur liabilities, borrow money on terms and conditions the board determines, and issue notes, bonds, or other obligations. A district may also establish and maintain reasonable and nondiscriminatory rates, fares, tolls, charges, rents, or other fees or compensation for the use of the improvements constructed, operated, or maintained by the district.

The board of a district may undertake improvement projects and services that confer a special benefit on all or a definable part of the district. The board may levy and collect special assessments on property in that area, based on the benefit conferred by the improvement project or services, to pay all or part of the cost of the project and services.

An improvement project or services provided by the district may include the construction, acquisition, improvement, relocation, operation, maintenance, or provision of:

1. landscaping; lighting, banners, and signs; streets and sidewalks; pedestrian skywalks, crosswalks, and tunnels; seawalls; marinas; drainage and navigation improvements; pedestrian malls; solid waste, water, sewer, and power facilities, including electrical, gas, steam, cogeneration, and chilled water facilities; parks, plazas, lakes, rivers, bayous, ponds, and recreation and scenic areas; historic areas; fountains; works of art; off-street parking facilities, bus terminals, heliports, and mass transit systems; theatres, studios, exhibition halls, production facilities and ancillary facilities in support of the foregoing; and the cost of any demolition in connection with providing any of the improvement projects;
2. other improvements similar to those described in Subdivision (1);
3. the acquisition of real property or any interest in real property in connection with an improvement, project, or services;
4. special supplemental services for advertising, economic development, promoting the area in the district, health and sanitation, public safety, maintenance, security, business recruitment, development, elimination or relief of traffic congestion, recreation, and cultural enhancement; and
5. expenses incurred in the establishment, administration, maintenance, and operation of the district or any of its improvements, projects, or services.

A district must obtain the approval of the governing body of the municipality in which it is located for bond issues for an improvement project and the plans and specifications of an



improvement project financed by the bond issue before those bonds may be issued. Instead of approval of bonds by the municipality, the district may obtain approval from the governing body of the municipality of a capital improvements budget for a period not to exceed five years. If a district obtains approval of a capital improvements budget, it may finance the capital improvements and issue bonds specified in the budget without further approval from the municipality. A district must obtain approval from the municipality of the plans and specifications of any improvement project that involves the use of the rights-of-way of streets, roads, or highways or the use of municipal land or any easements granted by the municipality.

The board may not call a bond election unless a written petition has been filed with the board requesting an election signed by the owners of a majority of the assessed value of the property subject to assessment or taxation by the district. Bonds payable in whole or in part from taxes may not be issued unless approved by a majority or any larger percentage if required by the constitution of the qualified voters in the district voting at an election held for that purpose. Bonds payable from sources other than taxes may be issued by the board, and assessments may be levied without approval at an election.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 375.



## Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ)<sup>33</sup>

Tax Increment Finance (TIF) is a tool that incentivizes economic development. It is governed by Tax Code, Chapter 311. Cities, alone or in partnership with other taxing units, can use tax increment financing to pay for improvements to a zone so it will attract new development. A TIRZ is the real property that is taxed to fund the TIF project.

A TIRZ can:

- construct needed public infrastructure in areas with little development or lacking adequate development to attract businesses;
- encourage development, thereby increasing property values and long-term property tax collections; and
- reduce the cost of private development by providing reimbursement for eligible public improvements.

TIF does not impose a new tax. Instead, it uses improvements to spur development and raise property values within a zone. Then it funnels some of the tax collected on that increase in value into a fund that pays for the improvements.

Each TIF project requires:

- a TIRZ that includes taxable real property;
- a project plan that describes the improvements that will be made;
- a financing plan that describes how the improvements will be paid for;
- a board of directors to manage the project; and
- a tax increment fund to collect revenue and make payments.

A TIF project jumpstarts development so it can start generating additional tax revenue for the local government. The local governments that participate in a TIF project make an up-front commitment to creating public improvements within the zone. These improvements encourage private investment in the zone, such as new business growth, that increases property values and generates new tax revenues.

A city may use the funds to acquire, construct, reconstruct or install public works, facilities or sites or other public improvements, including:

- utilities;
- streets;
- street lights;
- water and sewer facilities;
- pedestrian malls and walkways;
- parks;
- flood and drainage facilities; and
- parking facilities.

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<sup>33</sup> Texas Tax Code Chapter 311 and Texas Comptroller, "Chapter 311 Frequently Asked Questions" (<https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/local/ch311/faq.php>).



A TIRZ is created when a city passes an ordinance designating it. The governing body of a municipality by ordinance may designate a contiguous or noncontiguous geographic area that is in the corporate limits of the municipality, in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the municipality, or in both to be a reinvestment zone to promote development or redevelopment of the area if the governing body determines that development or redevelopment would not occur solely through private investment in the reasonably foreseeable future. The governing body of a city must prepare a preliminary financing plan and hold a public hearing on the creation of the zone and its suggested benefits.

The city can sell tax increment bonds or notes to raise revenue to pay for project costs. The principal and interest from tax increment bonds and notes may only be paid from money in the tax increment fund. The bonds do not need voter approval. A city may issue tax increment bonds or notes by passing an ordinance approving the sale.



## SPARK Parks

The SPARK School Program works with schools and neighborhoods to develop community parks on public school grounds. In the past 30 years, SPARK has built over 200 community parks throughout the Houston/Harris County area. Each park is unique, with its design based on ideas and needs of the school and surrounding neighborhoods. While all of the parks are different, a typical park consists of modular playground equipment, a walking trail, benches, picnic tables, trees, an outdoor classroom, and a public art component. SPARK Parks are available for public use after the school day (including after-school programs) has ended and on weekends.<sup>34</sup>

To apply, the principal of the school should send a request on school letterhead to SPARK asking to be considered as a site selection. In January or February of each year, the SPARK staff makes a site visit to all schools that have applied in the past year to discuss the request with the principal and other interested parties. Site visits by SPARK staff confirm existing relationships between school and community—through churches, businesses, and civic clubs. The neighborhood must demonstrate a willingness to help plan and fund the park. In March, the SPARK Board will consider all applications and make site selections for the coming year. In May the SPARK staff meets with principals of selected schools to outline the park construction process. The goal is for parks to be completed within 12–18 months.<sup>35</sup>

SPARK has worked with over 200 schools in 17 school districts in the Houston and Harris County area to build their own specially designed parks, including eight elementary schools in the Pasadena school district: Parks Elementary (completed in 2007), Matthys Elementary (2010), Freeman Elementary (2012), Kruse Elementary (2013), Bailey Elementary (2017), Hancock Elementary (2017), Jessup Elementary (2017), and Meador Elementary (2018).

A new “Park Desert” initiative, which focuses efforts on park underserved areas, was borne in partnership with Houston Endowment and the Kinder Foundation and funded with a combined \$5 million from the foundations. The initiative includes an additional \$450,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds from the City of Houston and support from other local funders, including the Powell Foundation. Plans include the construction of 25 new SPARK parks on school campuses across greater Houston and renovation of another five existing parks.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Largely excerpted from <http://sparkpark.org/wordpress/>

<sup>35</sup> Largely excerpted from <http://sparkpark.org/wordpress/about/#apply>

<sup>36</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://www.houstonendowment.org/feature/spark/>



## Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Recreation Grants

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department administers the following recreational grant programs: Boating Access Grants, Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Grants, CO-OP Grants, Local Parks Grants, Recreational Trails Grants, and Target Range Grants. The maximum grant amounts and annual deadlines are listed in the table below.

Recreational Grant Deadlines		
Grant Program	Grant Ceiling	Annual Deadline
Boating Access	\$500,000	October 1
CVA/Boat Sewage Pump-out	Competitive	Anytime
Community Outdoor Outreach Program	\$50,000	December 4
Local Parks Urban Outdoor Recreation	\$1.5 million	December 4
Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation	\$750,000	December 4
Local Parks Small Community Recreation	\$150,000	December 4
Local Parks Urban Indoor Recreation	\$1.5 million	TBD
Local Parks Non-Urban Indoor Recreation	\$1 million	TBD
Recreational Trails	\$200,000	February 1
Target Range Program	Competitive	TBD

### Boating Access Grants

The Boating Access Grant Program provides 75% matching fund grant assistance to construct new, or renovate existing, public boat ramps that provide public access to public waters for recreational boating. The State Boating Access Program receives funding from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. Funds for the federal program are derived from the federal gasoline tax generated by sales of gasoline for recreational motorboats and a federal excise tax on the sales of fishing tackle and trolling motors. Fifteen percent of the state’s annual apportionment from this federal program must be used to provide public recreational boating access.

Local government sponsors must make an application, provide the land, provide access to the proposed boat ramp, supply 25% of the development costs, and accept operation and maintenance responsibilities for a minimum 25-year period. Program assistance will be in the form of a one-time grant, and the local sponsor must be willing to assume all maintenance responsibilities, including grass mowing and weed control, litter/refuse pick-up and removal, signage maintenance, security surveillance, plus necessary repairs and renovations, as needed, to insure public use and safety.

This program funds:

- Launching facilities, such as ramps and boat lifts
- Breakwaters
- Loading docks
- Land acquisition
- Fish cleaning stations
- Restrooms, sewage treatment facilities, showers, potable water, security lights
- Parking areas associated with the access facilities
- Camping facilities at areas accessible only by boat (must be accessible to motorboats)



- Access roads, bridges, signals, and other requirements to provide the public access to boating facilities
- Engineering (planning and design), and environmental clearance and permit costs
- Retaining walls to protect integrity of boat ramps and associated parking lots (limited to 200 feet on either side of constructed facilities)
- Dredging, stump removal, and aquatic weed control when activity can be shown to clear lanes to make water body more accessible primarily for recreational motorboats as opposed to general navigation
- Navigational aids in the immediate area of access facilities
- Signage for effective use of access facilities and recognition of the Sport Fish Restoration Program

Funds are allocated annually through the federal Sport Fish Restoration Act. The deadline for this program is October 1st each year. All applications are reviewed and scored by an internal committee consisting of Inland Fisheries, Coastal Fisheries, and State Parks.

Sponsors requesting assistance for new boating access facilities must submit an application to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and have it approved prior to any construction activities for which assistance is requested. The maximum amount which may be requested for assistance is \$500,000 in matching grant funds. Recommendations to fund individual projects are typically announced sometime during May of each year. This is a reimbursement program; the sponsor is required to initially pay for project expenditures which later are to be reimbursed by the State.<sup>37</sup>

#### Clean Vessel Act/Boat Sewage Pumpout Grants

Federal funds through the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 allow private marinas and local governments to receive grants to install boat sewage pumpout stations in Texas. Pumpout Grants can constitute up to 75% of all approved project costs. These grants provide funds for the construction and/or renovation, operation and maintenance of pumpout and portable toilet dump stations.<sup>38</sup>

There is no grant ceiling and applications may be submitted at any time throughout the year.

#### Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) Grants

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) grant provides funding to local governments and nonprofit organizations for programming that introduces under-served populations to environmental and conservation programs as well as TPWD mission oriented outdoor activities.

Grants are available to tax-exempt organizations and local governments introducing non-traditional constituents to TPWD related outdoor recreation, conservation and environmental education programs. The success of this program lies in the partnerships created between TPWD and grass-roots organizations who have already established a relationship with these identified

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<sup>37</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/boating-access>

<sup>38</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/boat-sewage-pumpout>



targeted audiences: females, physically/mentally challenged, ethnic minorities, low income and youth.

CO-OP provides grants to tax-exempt organizations ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000. This is a reimbursement grant program. Recipients must purchase eligible items and submit proper documentation before being reimbursed. Eligible organizations can apply to use these funds for programming expenses such as equipment, leasing transportation, staff, liability insurance, food, program materials, etc. CO-OP grants are funded annually following the application deadline of December 4th each year.<sup>39</sup>

The following grants were awarded in 2019 to organizations in the Houston area:

- Forest Lawn Missionary Baptist Church - \$49,990 - FLMBC's program exposes 250 participants from underserved communities to natural resources in the Houston and surrounding areas. All age groups will experience camping, fishing, equestrian programs and other community outdoor activities.
- Houston Independent School District - \$47,874 - Project Adventures provides fun outdoor learning experiences for students in Pk-12. Participating schools will implement the archery, angler, kayaking and family camping education programs through their Physical Education curriculum and teachers will receive extensive professional development certifications through TPWD to teach these skills.
- Nature Heritage Society - \$47,994 - Offers nature hikes, fish events, archery events, field trips and camping experiences to economically disadvantaged residents in South Houston. The experiences teach the skills and attitudes that promote protection, conservation and preservation of our natural resources while enjoying nature.
- Precinct2gether, Inc. - \$49,948 - A Summer Day Camp serving 400 youth, grades 2-12, providing a special programming expansion for outdoor recreation field trips to local State Parks and other natural resource attractions. This includes a Texas Outdoor Family camping experience and a senior citizen service project at Sheldon Lake State Park.
- The Woods Project - \$50,000 - Supports afterschool clubs and weekend trips to engage youth in outdoor awareness and skills such as pitching tents, using cook stoves, basic first aid and character-building activities. Weekend trips provide students the opportunity to spend two nights in wilderness areas near Houston to backpack, mountain bike, fish and kayak.
- University of Houston, Clear Lake - \$43,168 - The Environmental Institute of Houston provides a variety of opportunities to engage youth in STEM activities, archery, fishing and birding. Programs include Becoming an Outdoors Girl trainings, three-day summer camps for girls, monthly youth birding clubs and field trips to local State Parks and Historic Sites.<sup>40</sup>

#### Local Park Grants

The Local Park Grant Program consists of five individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement

<sup>39</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/community-outdoor-outreach-program-co-op-grants>

<sup>40</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20190503a&nrttype=all&nrspace=2019&nrssearch=>



basis to eligible applicants. All grant-assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.

Eligible applicants include political subdivisions of the State of Texas legally responsible for providing public recreation services to their citizens. This includes cities, counties, river authorities, municipal utility districts, and other special districts.

Local Parks Grants are funded annually following the October 1st application deadline each year. Applications will be accepted through Recreation Grants Online. Paper applications will not be accepted. Complete applications are evaluated using the Priority Scoring System. Funding recommendations are presented to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission makes all final decisions regarding awards of program funds.

Funding for the Local Park Grant Program comes from a portion of the state sales tax on sporting goods through the Texas Recreation and Parks Account and the Texas Large County & Municipality Recreation & Parks Account. Additional funds come from off-shore gas royalties through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.<sup>41</sup>

The following grants were awarded in 2019 to local governments in the Houston area:

- The city of Bay City will receive a \$200,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its dreamscape project of LeTulle Park. Proposed developments include an all-abilities playground equipment and surfacing, and site amenities.
- Brazoria County is the recipient of a \$487,655 non-urban outdoor grant for its Hanson Riverside County Park project. Proposed developments include a pedestrian trail, footbridges, parking, composting restroom, interpretive signage, pavilion, native landscaping and an observation deck.
- Clear Lake City Water Authority will receive a \$500,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its Exploration Green project. Proposed developments include pedestrian trails, site furnishings, landscape and site restoration, and irrigation.
- Fort Bend County MUD 131 is the recipient of a \$500,000 non-urban outdoor grant for its Southern Colony Recreation Center Park. Proposed developments include a splashpad, native landscaping, cistern, pedestrian trails, dog park, sand volleyball, horseshoe and washer pits, bocce ball, playground equipment, LED lighting, and a garden trellis.
- The city of Houston will receive a \$1 million dollar urban outdoor grant for its Edgewood Park project. Proposed developments include playground equipment, picnic facilities, seating plaza, sprayground, pedestrian trails with shaded exercise stations, native landscaping, fencing, sitework and utilities.
- The city of West Columbia is the recipient of a \$70,495 small community grant for its Downtown Detour Pocket Park project. Proposed developments include a pedestrian plaza, fencing, outdoor seating, pergola, native landscaping and fountain restoration.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/about-local-parks-grants>

<sup>42</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20190320b&nrttype=all&nrspace=2019&nsearch=>



## Recreational Trails Grants

TPWD administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration. This federally funded program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles. The reimbursable grants can be up to 80% of project cost with a maximum of \$200,000 for non-motorized trail grants and a maximum award of \$400,000 for motorized (off-highway vehicle) trail grants. Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects such as the construction of new recreational trails, to improve existing trails, to develop trailheads or trailside facilities, and to acquire trail corridors.<sup>43</sup>

In 2019, The Memorial Park Conservancy in Harris County received a \$66,200 grant for the Memorial Park North West Trail Rehabilitation. The project includes renovation of 1.1 miles of natural surface trail, including the elevation and crowning of multi-use trails, footbridge replacement and improvements to stormwater management. Also, the Rio Bravo Adventure Park in Harris County were the recipients of a \$397,500 grant for the Rio Bravo Adventure Park Improvements - Phase 1. The project includes the renovation of 8 miles of trail, drainage culverts, a bridge, fencing, transformer for electrical service, lighting and rental of trail maintenance equipment.<sup>44</sup>

## Target Range Grants

The Target Range Grant Program supports the development of public, safe, accessible shooting facilities that align with TPWD hunter education activities and programs. Benefits of participation include partnership opportunities within the target range community, recreational opportunities for shooting sports, and regional locations for hunters to practice their skills.

The program provides opportunities for construction, development and improvement of firearm and archery range facilities. The goal of the program is to teach hunter education students to be responsible and conservation-minded, to provide instruction in safe firearm operations, to instill ethics, and to add awareness and understanding of hunting laws.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, individuals and groups such as commercial target range operators, shooting clubs and local governmental agencies that provide public target range access and offer hunter education classes. Preference points are awarded to non-commercial operations. Eligible persons or entities applying for target range funding must sign a term contract (Target Range Agreement, TRA) with the department if approved.

Awardees take on the costs to develop, construct and submit eligible receipts for reimbursement. A maximum of 75% of eligible costs incurred on the project are admissible for reimbursement. Specific terms and conditions of the project are included in the TRA.

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<sup>43</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/recreational-trails-grants>

<sup>44</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20190522a&nrttype=all&nrspace=2019&nsearch=>



Applicants must match at least 25% of total project costs through documented cash expenditures, donated materials and labor or other pre-approved in-kind activities. Matches based on federal funding sources are not eligible. The minimum request is \$50,000 and there is no maximum.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/hunter-education/shooting-sports-opportunities/targetrangers>



## Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants

FEMA has three Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs to support states, tribal governments, and local communities in implementing acquisition projects. All three HMA programs share the purpose of protecting communities from natural disasters, but they have different periods of funding availability.

**Before a disaster** – The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program is a competitive national program that annually provides funds to States and communities, including tribal governments, to manage risk by implementing hazard mitigation planning and mitigation projects before a disaster.

**After a disaster** – The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funds to states, tribes, and local communities after a Presidential disaster declaration to protect public or private property through various mitigation measures based on state/tribal priorities.

**Every year** – The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program is another competitive national program that annually provides funds to states and local communities for projects that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, homes, and other structures that are insured under FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program.

Participation in FEMA’s acquisition programs is strictly voluntary and property owners are not required to participate. FEMA has two types of acquisitions: (1) property acquisition and structure demolition, and (2) property acquisition and structure relocation. Property acquisition and structure demolition allows the community to purchase the structure and the land, while property acquisition and structure relocation allows the community to purchase only the land and assist the property owner with relocating the structure to an area outside the flood zone. Property owners are paid fair market value for their property.

Generally, FEMA pays up to 75 percent for hazard mitigation projects. The remaining 25 percent is the responsibility of the applicant. FEMA may contribute up to 90 percent for PDM projects and up to 100 percent for FMA projects that meet certain criteria.

After a property is acquired, it must be dedicated and maintained in perpetuity as open space for the conservation of natural floodplain functions. However, the following land uses are allowed:

- Parks for outdoor recreational activities
- Wetlands management
- Nature reserves, cultivation, grazing, and camping (except where adequate warning time is not available to allow evacuation)
- Unimproved, unpaved parking lots
- Buffer zones
- Other uses FEMA determines compatible.

The application process begins with individuals or communities meeting with the local floodplain or housing manager to start an application. The application requires input and information from the community and all interested property owners. The community sends the application to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO), who will review it for eligibility,



prioritize it among other eligible applications received, and submit the prioritized applications to FEMA for approval.

FEMA then reviews applications to ensure they meet HMA program requirements, are cost-effective and feasible, and address environmental/historic/cultural resource issues. Once approved, FEMA awards mitigation grant funds to the state, which disburses those funds to communities. Once the funding is received, the community will purchase the property, remove or demolish the structure, and deed restrict the land as open space.<sup>46</sup>

In Texas, the Division of Emergency Management<sup>47</sup> administers the HMGP and PDM programs. The Texas Water Development Board<sup>48</sup> administers the FMA program.

#### Flood Control Projects in Pasadena

In the Harris County Flood Control District's list of 2018 Bond Projects, there is significant funding for home buyouts in the Armand Bayou watershed. The project list proposes the purchase of approximately 30 buildings with \$4.65 million coming from FEMA and \$1.55 million from county bond funding.

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<sup>46</sup> FEMA Frequently Asked Questions – Property Acquisitions for Open Space ([https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1487973067729-d34bd451527229a45bad0ef5ac6ddf93/508\\_FIMA\\_Acq\\_FAQs\\_2\\_24\\_17\\_Final.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1487973067729-d34bd451527229a45bad0ef5ac6ddf93/508_FIMA_Acq_FAQs_2_24_17_Final.pdf)).

<sup>47</sup> Visit [www.dps.texas.gov/dem/](http://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/) for more information.

<sup>48</sup> Visit [www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/index.asp](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/index.asp) for more information.



## New Market Tax Credit (NMTC)

Historically, low-income communities experience a lack of investment, as evidenced by vacant commercial properties, outdated manufacturing facilities, and inadequate access to education and healthcare service providers. The New Market Tax Credit Program (NMTC Program) aims to break this cycle of disinvestment by attracting the private investment necessary to reinvigorate struggling local economies.

The NMTC Program attracts private capital into low-income communities by permitting individual and corporate investors to receive a tax credit against their federal income tax in exchange for making equity investments in specialized financial intermediaries called Community Development Entities (CDEs). The credit totals 39 percent of the original investment amount and is claimed over a period of seven years.<sup>49</sup>

The NMTC Program provides an incentive for investment in “Low-Income Communities” (LICs). LICs are census tracts:

- Where the poverty rate is at least 20%; or
- Where the median family income does not exceed 80% of the area median family income; or
- Where the median family income does not exceed 85% of the area median family income provided the census tract is located in a high migration rural county; or
- Where the census tract has a population of less than 2,000 and is contained within a Federally designated Empowerment Zone and is contiguous to at least one other LIC.

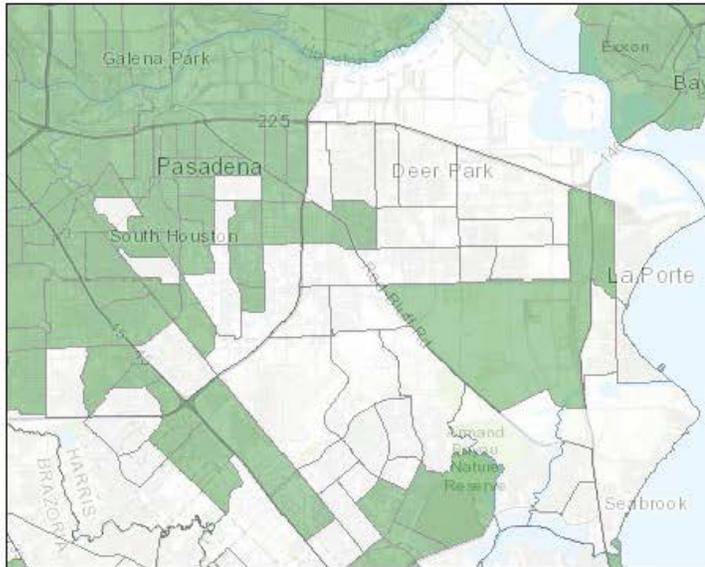
The NMTC Program is jointly administered by the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). In the 14 application rounds to date, the program has made 1,105 allocation awards totaling \$54 billion in tax credit authority. The NMTC program is highly competitive. Demand for NMTCs far outpaces supply. Just under 30 percent of applications have been awarded since the program’s inception.<sup>50</sup> The deadline for the current application round is October 28, 2019, with award announcements expected in the summer of 2020.

The CDFI Information Mapping System indicates whether a census tract qualifies as an LIC. The map below shows qualifying census tracts in the Pasadena area in green.

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<sup>49</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://www.cdfifund.gov/programs-training/Programs/new-markets-tax-credit/Pages/default.aspx>

<sup>50</sup> Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, “Introduction to the New Markets Tax Credit Program” (<https://www.cdfifund.gov/Documents/2018%20Introduction%20to%20the%20NMTC%20Program%20-%20FINAL.PDF>), prepared May 1, 2018.



Source: CDFI Fund CIMS Mapping Tool.

According to the Urban Institute, NMTCs have been successfully used for a few park and recreation projects, including:

- In the south side of Chicago, a community development entity called the National Community Investment Fund provided \$4.5 million in a New Markets Tax Credit Allocation and a \$1 million loan to help finance the Pullman Community Center, an indoor sports and community facility. Ultimately, the facility will be co-owned by the Chicago Park District and a local nonprofit.
- Over half of the cost for the Eastside Community Center in Tacoma, Washington, was funded by sources other than the city's 2014 park bond, including New Markets Tax Credits. Other sources included the City of Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools, Tacoma Housing Authority, the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, and the Greater Metro Parks Foundation.
- Rock Hill, South Carolina's Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism funded an \$11 million outdoor recreation center using New Markets Tax Credits and a blend of hospitality taxes, sponsorships, and other federal resources. Blending funding in this way enabled Rock Hill to add amenities to the project for minimal additional local cost.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>51</sup> The Urban Institute, "Investing in Equitable Urban Parks Systems: Emerging Funding Strategies and Tools," July 2019.



## U.S. Department of Transportation BUILD Grants

The Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development, or BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Previously known as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grants, Congress has dedicated nearly \$7.1 billion for ten rounds of National Infrastructure Investments to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact.

The eligibility requirements of BUILD allow project sponsors at the state and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs. BUILD can provide capital funding directly to any public entity, including municipalities and counties.

Since 2009, the program has awarded nearly \$2.4 billion in federal funding to 233 rural projects across the nation, leveraging an estimated \$3.9 billion in non-BUILD/TIGER funding. In 2019, BUILD awarded 91 capital projects across 49 states and the District of Columbia.<sup>52</sup> Texas received two grants, one in Houston and one in Beaumont.

The Houston project reconstructs and improves two, four-lane parallel urban principal arterial roadways and six streets that connect them. The project will install ADA-accessible sidewalks, ramps, and crossings and bicycle facilities, turn bays/lanes, and new turn lanes. The project also includes pavement markings, clear sight lines, access management, updated intersection signalization and signage, and enhanced “clear zone” areas to the project limits, upgraded accessibility to transit stops, storm water management infrastructure, water supply, and wastewater lines.

The project removes a vehicle travel lane to decrease crossing distance, which will reduce the incidence of sideswipe crashes and calm traffic, as well as provide space for new vegetated buffer strips, bicycle lanes, and wider sidewalks. The roadway is past its serviceable life and will be replaced. Roadway improvements from this project will enhance travel time reliability for both passenger auto and freight trips, in part by helping to reduce crashes, and will reduce emissions and help improve air quality by increasing mobility, encouraging mode shift, displacing automobile trips, and reducing vehicle travel delays.

The total project cost is \$50 million with BUILD providing half of the funding.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/about>

<sup>53</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/subdoc/906/build-fact-sheet2019.pdf>



## U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program

The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program provides assistance to project sponsors and individuals in implementing emergency recovery measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster that causes a sudden impairment of a watershed. Assistance is available only when public or private landowners, land managers, land users, or others document that they have exhausted or have insufficient funding or other resources available to provide adequate relief from applicable hazards.

EWP technical and financial assistance may be made available, dependent upon funding, when a declaration of the following:

- A federal emergency is declared by the President
- A local or state emergency is declared by the State Conservationist<sup>55</sup>
- In drought situations when the Secretary of Agriculture has declared a drought emergency

Project sponsors must apply for EWP assistance to the State Conservationist by written request. The request must consist of the following:

- A discussion of the problems encountered.
- Assistance needed, including the following:
  - Nature of the problem
  - Location
  - Scope of the problem
- Commitment by the sponsor to assume the following responsibilities:
  - Provide local cost-share
  - Land rights acquisition
  - Permits
  - Responsibility for O&M, if required
- A statement indicating that funds have either been exhausted or are insufficient to provide adequate relief from the applicable hazards
- Detailed information is not required at the time of the initial request

Project sponsors must submit a request for assistance within 60 days following the date of the natural occurrence that caused the watershed impairment, or after access to the site becomes available.

Eligible entities include legal subdivisions of the state government or a state agency, including cities and counties.

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<sup>55</sup> This could be initiated as a result of a declaration by a governor of a state, followed by appropriate action taken by the State Conservationist followed by assistance from a qualified sponsor.



### Emergency Watershed Protection Program Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE)

Floodplain easements provide landowners with another option for frequently flooded properties such as agricultural fields, forested land, fallow land, pasture and in certain situations residential areas in cooperation with a qualified sponsor.

Through the EWP-FPE program, eligible applicants voluntarily agree to sell a permanent conservation easement to the United States through NRCS. EPW-FPE is administered in locations where a Presidential Disaster Declaration has been made or areas identified and funded through Congressional legislation. For eligibility, the applicant must have documented evidence of flooding which occurred at least once within the previous calendar year or at least twice within the previous 10 years. Lands also inundated or damaged because of dam breach also qualify. Compensation is based on fair market value.

A major goal of EWP-FPE is to restore the floodplain functions and values to the greatest extent practicable. Structures, including buildings, fences, pipes, etc., within the floodplain easement must be demolished and/or removed, or relocated outside the affected floodplain area. The costs of all restoration practices are also paid for through the program and the landowner can participate in the restoration efforts.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/planning/ewpp/>



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<sup>56</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/planning/ewpp/>



## Other Options Considered

### Local Cigarette Tax

It is unclear whether local governments in Texas have authority to enact their own cigarette taxes in addition to the state tax. No municipalities or counties in Texas currently have an additional tax on cigarettes, for any purpose.<sup>57</sup> Therefore the cigarette tax is not explored further in this study.

### U.S. EPA Brownfields Grants

A brownfield is a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. It is estimated that there are more than 450,000 brownfields in the U.S. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, takes development pressures off of undeveloped, open land, and both improves and protects the environment.<sup>58</sup> Brownfields sites can be turned into green space, including community parks, trails, sports fields and facilities, open space, and other recreational or conservation lands.

Brownfields grants support revitalization efforts by funding environmental assessment, cleanup, and job training activities.

- Brownfields Assessment Grants provide funding for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach.
- Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants provide funding to capitalize loans that are used to clean up brownfield sites.
- Brownfields Cleanup Grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites owned by the applicant.
- Multipurpose (MP) Grants provide funding to conduct a range of eligible assessment and cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites in a target area.
- Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants provide environmental training for residents impacted by brownfield sites in their communities.
- Technical Assistance, Training, and Research Grants provide funding to organizations to conduct research and to provide training and technical assistance to communities to help address their brownfields challenges.
- State and Tribal Response Program Grants provide non-competitive funding to establish or enhance State and Tribal Brownfields response programs.

Note: Brownfields grants will help assess and/or clean up a contaminated property; however, the grants do not fund redevelopment of the property, such as park development.

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<sup>57</sup> Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Local Government Cigarette Tax Rates & Fees

<sup>58</sup> Largely excerpted from <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/overview-epas-brownfields-program>



## Election Analysis

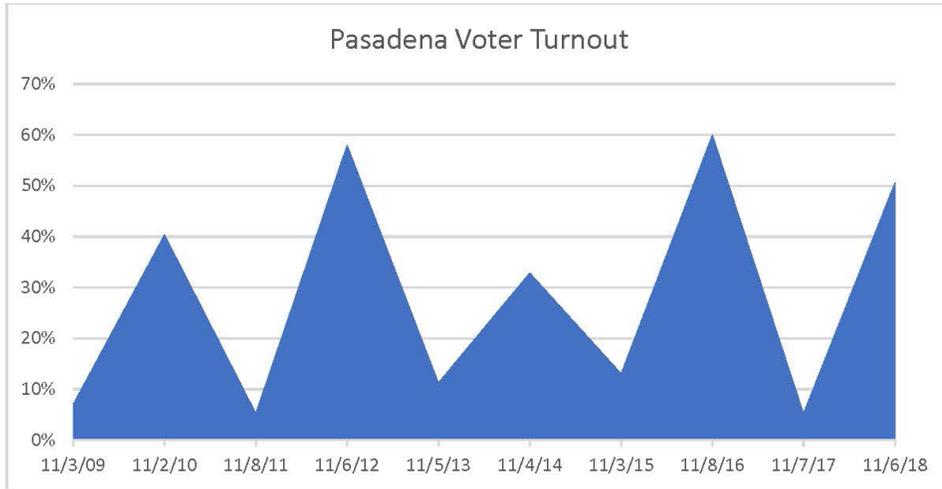
Because many of the funding options presented above would require voter approval, it can be helpful to look at previous ballot measure history. The table below contains a summary of recent ballot propositions for various purposes that have come before Pasadena voters, as well as all conservation and parks-related measures from LandVote.<sup>59</sup> A majority of Pasadena voters supported all of the propositions except a 2007 Harris County bond for park acquisition and improvements, which may have been affected by the financial crisis of 2007-2008.

Recent Pasadena Ballot Measures					
Jurisdiction	Year	Description	Status	% Yes	% Yes Pasadena
Harris County	2001	\$60 million bond for acquisition and development of parkland	Passed	63%	53%
Harris County	2007	\$95 million bond for park acquisition and improvements	Passed	52%	46%
Harris County	2015	\$60 million bond for parks and recreation	Passed	63%	58%
Harris County	2015	\$700 million bond for roads	Passed	73%	70%
Harris County	2015	\$24 million bond for animal shelter	Passed	62%	60%
Harris County Flood Control District	2015	\$64 million bond for flood control projects	Passed	74%	72%
Harris County Flood Control District	2018	\$2.5 billion bond for flood control projects	Passed	86%	82%
Pasadena	2002	\$13.5 million bond for parks and recreation	Passed	71%	71%
Pasadena Independent School District	2014	\$175.55 million bond	Passed	74%	74%
Pasadena Independent School District	2017	\$135 million bond	Passed	78%	80%
Pasadena Independent School District	2017	M&O tax increase	Passed	67%	70%

Sources: Harris County, TX Clerk's Office, Election Results Archive, and The Trust for Public Land, LandVote®, 2019, [www.landvote.org](http://www.landvote.org).

The tables and chart below detail voter registration and turnout for recent general elections in Pasadena. The highest voter turnout in recent history occurred at the November 2016 general election (60%). Pasadena had more than 101,000 registered voters as of the November 2018 general election.

<sup>59</sup> The Trust for Public Land, LandVote®, 2019, [www.landvote.org](http://www.landvote.org).



Pasadena Voter Turnout	
11/3/2009	7%
11/2/2010	40%
11/8/2011	5%
11/6/2012	58%
11/5/2013	11%
11/4/2014	33%
11/3/2015	13%
11/8/2016	60%
11/7/2017	5%
11/6/2018	51%

Source: Harris County, TX Clerk's Office, Election Results Archive

Pasadena Registered Voters		
Democrat	48,326	47%
Republican	38,787	38%
Other	14,758	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101,871</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Harris County, TX Clerk's Office, Election Results Archive, and L2 Political Printable Reports







# E Planning Context



# Pasadena Planning Context

This section outlines additional plans and reports that are relevant to the Healthy Parks Plan. The plans and reports are divided into five sections: (1) City-wide park and trails plans; (2) Additional Park-related Pasadena Plans; (3) Site-specific Park and Open Space Plans; (4) Additional Pasadena Plans; and (5) Park-related Regional Plans. For each plan and report, there is a brief note included about how it is being addressed in the Healthy Parks Plan process.

## City-wide Park and Trails Plans

### Pasadena Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan (1998)

The 1998 PROS plan was prepared by Clark Condon Associates. It outlines strategies for accommodating the recreation needs of Pasadena residents. The objectives of the plan included: (1) Connect parks and community facilities with a network of hike and bike trails; (2) Utilize greenways and utility easements for recreation; (3) Create a water connection between the north portion of the city and Armand Bayou in the southern section of the city; (4) Identify, acquire, and protect any other historically significant feature within the city and any ties that may be made to other nearby sites. In a survey conducted for the PROS plan, residents indicated that trail development was their highest priority for improving park amenities.

- The 1998 PROS plan informed many of the questions asked and issues addressed as part of the Healthy Parks Plan. Table 2-5 at the end of this section shows all the goals in the 1998 PROS plan along with how much progress has been made toward the goals—or whether they are no longer applicable.

### Pasadena Bayou/Greenbelt Trails Master Plan (2001)

The 2001 Pasadena Bayou/Greenbelt Trails Master Plan was prepared by Alta Transportation Consulting, Livable Communities Consulting, and SLA Studio Land. The plan recommends design and development of an interconnected system of multi-use trails—shared use paths that can be used by a variety of users including people biking, hiking, running, or using wheelchairs (including motorized). The plan recommends linking to and between the city's existing trails (loop in Strawberry Park, trails in Crenshaw and Memorial Park, shared use path on Bay Area Boulevard, and walking paths in the Armand Bayou Nature Center), parks, neighborhoods, and other community destinations. The goals of the plan were to (1) provide a perimeter trail around the entire city; (2) utilize as many aesthetically pleasing, natural settings as possible, especially bayous and utility corridors; (3) provide an effective management and maintenance plan that promotes responsible use of the trail system; and (4) develop an effective funding and implementation plan.

- The 2001 Bayou/Greenbelt Trails Master Plan informed many of the questions asked and issues addressed as part of the Healthy Parks Plan. There has not been a great deal of progress made on the recommendations of this plan since 2001, but the Healthy Parks Plan builds the recommendations from the 2001 plan into the connectivity recommendations outlined in Chapter 9.



# Additional Park-Related Pasadena Plans

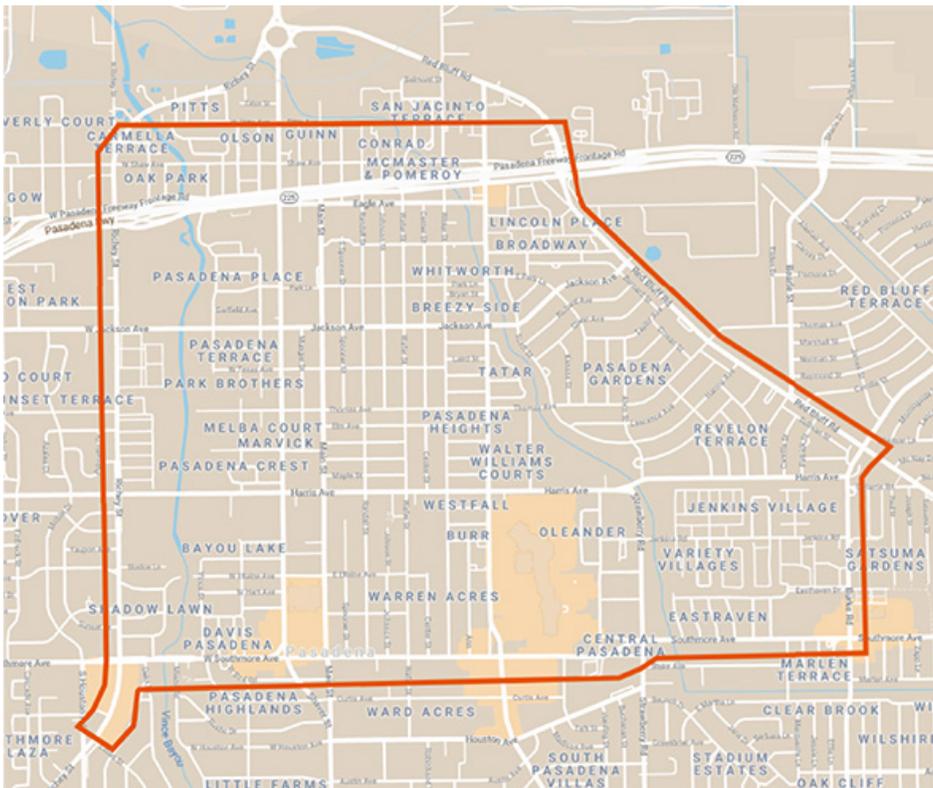
## City of Pasadena Livable Centers (2020)

Livable Centers are places where people can live, work, and play with less reliance on their cars. The program, led by the Houston-Galveston Area Council, works with local communities to become more walkable, connected, and accessible. Livable Centers studies consider improvements to the mobility network and land use planning practices which can provide residents and businesses access to quality services and amenities. Pasadena’s Livable Centers study began in early 2020 and will be completed later this year. The study focuses on the historical center of Pasadena between Shaw Avenue (north), Red Bluff Road (east), Richey Avenue (west), and Southmore (south). The Livable Centers study is a needs assessment that will look at options for connectivity, alternative transportation, and redevelopment. The goal of

the study is to tie together existing plans, build upon past and current infrastructure improvements, improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure, and blend greenspace amenities along with housing and economic development into a unified vision and implementation plan.

- The Healthy Parks Plan team has collaborated closely with the Livable Centers team. The Healthy Parks Plan builds on preliminary results from the Livable Centers Study and makes specific recommendations for priority parks in the Livable Centers area.

## Pasadena Livable Centers Study Area





## **Building a More Walkable Pasadena (2019)**

The “Building a More Walkable Pasadena” report was prepared by the YMCA of Greater Houston based on a walkability workshop and leadership presentation with Mark Fenton, a national public health, transportation, and planning expert. The report recommends several infrastructure projects and policy changes to improve walkability in Pasadena. The infrastructure projects include Harris Avenue/ Strawberry Road roundabout, Ginn Drive safety improvement, and neighborhood road diet (selecting a four-lane road near a school and creating protected bike lanes). The policy recommendations are to pass ordinances for redevelopment to require improved best practices in design; adopt a Complete Streets policy; launch a neighborhood traffic-calming program; and establish a formalized mechanism of public input on code and ordinance updates.

- Many of the participants in the walkability workshop and leadership presentation were also members of the Advisory Committee for the Healthy Parks Plan.

## **Keeping Our Kids and Communities Safe: Safe Routes to Schools Action Plan for Pasadena (2018)**

The development of the “Keeping Our Kids and Communities Safe: Safe Routes to Schools Action Plan for Pasadena” was led by Harris County Public Health, Healthy Living Matters, City of Pasadena, Pasadena Vibrant Community, and Pasadena Independent School District. The plan focuses on recommendations for priority elementary schools with no/limited bus service, high rates of free/reduced cost lunch, and readiness of school administration to participate in walk/bike to school events. Tier 1 priority schools are Gardens Elementary, Parks Elementary, Pomeroy Elementary, Red Bluff Elementary, Richey Elementary, South Shaver Elementary, and Sparks Elementary. The plan solicited public input through a survey of parents, outreach at walk-and bike-to-school events, and engagement at community health fairs and related community events. Distance and safety were identified as the biggest community concerns. Recommendations were made for lighting, sidewalks and signalized crossings; continued community education and events, and evaluation of outcomes.

- The Healthy Parks Plan Advisory Committee included representatives from all of the organizations and agencies who contributed to the Safe Routes to Schools Action Plan. The Healthy Parks Plan’s detailed goals and objectives and connectivity analysis build on the key findings of the Safe Routes to Schools Action Plan.

## **Healthy Planning in Pasadena: A Health Impact Assessment (2016)**

The Health Impact Assessment was prepared by the Harris County Department of Public Health in partnership with the Pasadena Planning Department. Recommendations in the Health Impact Assessment are intended to help minimize concentrating low-income residents in one area, reduce vacant lots, and reduce barriers to developers. The report recommends constructing housing away from environmental hazards and including community members in the planning process. Key issues identified by community members include traffic and unsafe streets, lack of public transportation, need for recycling and play space at apartment complexes, lack of green space and trees in the city, need for more jobs, and perception of safety in community parks.

- Several representatives of the Harris County Department of Public Health served on the Healthy Parks Plan Advisory Committee. These representatives, along with the analysis in the Health Impact Assessment, provided guidance for the Healthy Parks Plan’s Community Profile and for the Community Health Index. The need for more green space and trees and the perception of safety in community parks are both explicitly addressed in the Healthy Parks Plan.



# Site-specific Park and Open Space Plans

## Armand Bayou Watershed Plan (2006)

The Armand Bayou Watershed Plan was prepared by the Coastal Coordination Council. The Armand Bayou Watershed encompasses 59 square miles (37,822 acres) in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes ecoregion. The City of Houston, City of Pasadena, City of La Porte, City of Deer Park, City of Taylor Lake Village, and Harris County all have jurisdiction in portions of the Armand Bayou Watershed. The mission of the Armand Bayou Watershed Partnership is “to protect, preserve, and enhance the ecological integrity of the Armand Bayou watershed while improving the quality of life in our communities.”

- The Armand Bayou Watershed Plan provided important context for the Healthy Parks Plan, particularly related to the history of local water quality issues and watershed health.

## Armand Bayou Greenprint (2006)

The Armand Bayou Greenprint was prepared by The Trust for Public Land in partnership with Armand Bayou Nature Center, and the City of Pasadena. The goals of the greenprint are to protect habitat, improve water quality, reduce flood damage, and provide public access and recreation. Building on stakeholder-driven mapping of priority areas, The Trust for Public Land organized a stewardship exchange to bring together interdisciplinary professionals who have developed successful watershed programs to share their expertise. Participants in the stewardship exchange addressed opportunities for nature tourism, need for public support for open space protection, local funding opportunities, local policies, and strategies for flood management.

- The Armand Bayou Greenprint provided context for the Healthy Parks Plan, particularly related to stewardship of Armand Bayou.

## Middle Armand Bayou Master Plan

The Middle Armand Bayou Master Plan was prepared by Glenn Laird with the Harris County Flood Control Department in 2016 as part of a RESTORE Act submittal. The Middle Armand Bayou area is northwest of the Armand Bayou Nature Center. The master plan includes restoration of coastal flatwoods, coastal tall grass prairie, and prairie pothole habitat in addition to opportunities for active and passive recreation.

- The Healthy Parks Plan makes some key recommendations for acquisition to support the connectivity through Middle Armand Bayou.

## Strawberry Park Master Plan (2008)

Clark Condon Associates developed the Strawberry Park Master Plan in 2008. The master plan proposes almost \$28 million in improvements for Strawberry Park over four phases. The recommended improvements included a baseball complex, aquatic center, tennis courts, skate park, playground, and picnic pavilion. In keeping with this Master Plan, the Baseball Complex was renovated in 2010; the water park renovated and upgraded in 2013; tennis courts were resurfaced in 2013; and the playground was replaced in 2015. No skate park or pavilion has been added at Strawberry Park.

- The Healthy Parks Plan makes 5 key recommendations for the park and multiple recommendations for greenway trail connections to Strawberry Park.



## Additional Pasadena Plans

### City of Pasadena Strategic Plan (2020)

The City-wide Strategic Plan is intended to be a collaborative vision for Pasadena that will shape and inform development for years to come. Typically, a strategic plan is the big-picture document that serves as a city's roadmap and is used to prioritize initiatives, resources, goals, and department operations and projects. The City of Pasadena's strategic planning process began in early 2020, but public outreach was interrupted by COVID-19.

- The Healthy Parks Plan team has collaborated closely with the City-wide Strategic Plan team. The final Healthy Parks Plan will be integrated into the overall City-wide Strategic Plan.

### Economic Development Strategic Plan (2018)

Pasadena's Economic Development Strategic Plan was prepared by the Pasadena Economic Development Corporation. The plan outlines six goals related to (1) marketing and image, (2) business development, (3) workforce, (4) catalyst projects, (5) tourism and retail, and (6) support structures for economic development.

- In keeping with the priorities outlined in the Economic Development Strategic Plan, the Healthy Parks Plan identifies opportunities for park system improvements to increase local quality of life and to draw more visitors to Pasadena.

### North Pasadena Redevelopment Plan (2009)

The North Pasadena Redevelopment Plan was prepared by Wilbur Smith Associates in 2009. It outlines opportunities for improving quality of life in the North Pasadena area, including proposing transportation improvements and highlighting the proposed hike and bike trails from the 2001 Bayou/Greenbelt Trails Master Plan.

- Because the Healthy Parks Plan is equity-driven, much of the analysis and many of the recommendations are focused on the areas in North Pasadena where there are the highest levels of socioeconomic vulnerability and health inequity.

### Shaw Street (2013) and Southmore (2014) Redevelopment Studies

The redevelopment studies for the Shaw Street and Southmore areas of Pasadena were prepared by Community Development Strategies Market Research. Both of these areas are in northern Pasadena. The redevelopment studies highlight recommendations that are "intended to be attainable and meaningful, improving the odds of achieving aesthetic, financial, organizational, and emotional progress in an area of town that was once the heart of Pasadena, but has been forgotten for some time." Neither plan specifically addresses parks, but both are focused on reinvestment in northern Pasadena.

- Because the Healthy Parks Plan is equity-driven, much of the analysis and many of the recommendations are focused on the areas in North Pasadena where there are the highest levels of socioeconomic vulnerability and health inequity.



# Regional Plans

## Our Great Region 2040

Houston-Galveston Area Council's high-level Our Great Region 2040 Plan examines trends in the 13-county H-GAC region to propose broad goals and strategies for meeting long-term objectives related to economic development, the environment, healthy communities, housing, transportation, and resilience. The plan incorporates public input, assesses existing conditions within the H-GAC area, and incorporates growth projections related to the region's anticipated 3.7 million person population increase by 2040. The plan is accompanied by a strategy playbook describing more than 80 voluntary strategies governments, organizations, and individuals can utilize to implement this vision.

- The Our Great Region 2040 Plan provides general context for the Healthy Parks Plan.

## Bayou Greenways 2020 (2012)

Bayou Greenways 2020 is the region's largest greenway project. Led by the Houston Parks Board and the City of Houston, it opens over 3,000 acres of public greenspace and creates 150 miles of trails along nine of the city's major bayous through a \$220 million public-private partnership. The goal is to create a connected network of parks and trails throughout the city to improve park access and active transportation circulation, reduce flood impacts, and enhance the natural environment. The inspiration for the plan came in part from a 1912 plan for Houston (from planner Arthur Comey), which called for the creation of linear parks along Brays, Buffalo, and White Oak Bayous. When completed, 60 percent of Houston's population will reside within 1.5 miles of one of Houston's Bayou Greenways.

- Bayou Greenways 2020 is focused on the City of Houston, but its focus on using bayou greenways to create multibenefit parks and trails has informed the Healthy Parks Plan.

## Beyond the Bayous (2017)

Beyond the Bayous plan is led by the Houston Parks Board. The plan creates a framework for continued improvement of parks, trails, open space, and communities overall. Similar to Bayou Greenways 2020, Beyond the Bayous looks to create equitable open space access, increase connectivity, and enhance urban ecosystems. The plan does include some recommendations for bayou enhancement, such as Bayou Greenways 2020's expansion to secondary bayous and bayous outside the Houston city limits, as well as the creation of connections between existing bayous. However, the plan also examines non-bayou opportunities to meet these objectives, such as retrofitting street right of ways, preserving/reclaiming floodplains, acquiring vacant land, and improving existing parks. The report makes a series of neighborhood-level policy and implementation recommendations. These include increased collaboration between public and private agencies and the identification of potential partners and funding sources. The plan also emphasizes a "complete communities" approach that goes beyond parks to incorporate a broader reinvestment strategy including jobs, walkable streets, affordable housing, social services, and transit. The plan utilizes GIS analysis in order to assess vulnerability and incorporate data related to socioeconomic status, flood risk, park access, and many other datasets into final recommendations. Additional stakeholder outreach, community participation, cost estimates, maintenance plans, and benefits analysis are all recommended as next steps.

- The Healthy Parks Plan is closely tied to the recommendations of Beyond the Bayous. In particular, the Healthy Parks Plan identifies opportunities to use improvements to the park system, including connectivity, to create equitable open space access and enhance urban ecosystems.





# **F** Priority Projects and Capital Improvements



# 1. Memorial Park

Project	Map Score	PA Score (If applicable)	Scale
Construct a 2nd bridge over Vince Bayou to create a loop trail	3.96	4.13	Site
Improve drainage and park riparian ecology by using bioswales planted with native vegetation in drainage problem areas; and, by restoring the riparian zone along Vince Bayou, including limiting mowing	3.96	4.13	Site
Plant vegetative buffers along Pasadena Freeway and W Jackson Ave to mitigate noise pollution and help cool the park	3.96	4.13	Site
Create an interpretive program with signage for Memorial Park including historic, cultural, and environmental education	3.96	4.13	Site
Create a large, sheltered gathering space for families and friends to gather	3.96	4.13	Site

*\*Low and High Costs indicated are for construction cost only. They do not include any design, permitting, or contingency costs. Add 30-40% to*



Park Type	Top 10 Priority Park	Livable Centers	Low Cost*	High Cost*	Calculations
Community	Yes	Yes	\$1,000,000	\$1,300,000	
Community	Yes	Yes	\$75,000	\$150,000	Riparian Edge along Vince Bayou length: 2010 feet (L), 40' (W)
Community	Yes	Yes	\$50,000	\$75,000	Considering a rate of \$3/sq ft for vegetation, vegetative buffer 300 ft (L) X 10 ft (W) - 3,000 sq ft = \$9,000; 30 trees as 60' off center, \$1,200/tree = \$36,000
Community	Yes	Yes	\$100,000	\$150,000	Considering 10 signs and a rate of \$10,000/sign
Community	Yes	Yes	\$100,000	\$150,000	Considering \$100,000/shelter

construction cost to estimate total project costs.

## 2. Parklane Play Lot

Project	Map Score	PA Score (If applicable)	Scale
Create an ADA-focused park	4.23	2.98	Site
Preserve existing tree canopy to retain shade and cooling benefits for the neighborhood	4.23	2.98	Site
Ensure all new investments in Parklane are flood resilient	4.23	2.98	Site
Restore native vegetation along drainage channel and reduce mowing frequency	4.23	2.98	Site
Create a cohesive connection for Parkland Park as a key neighborhood connection to Memorial Park and the future Vince Bayou Greenway, including wayfinding signage	4.23	2.98	Site
Install bike parking	4.23	2.98	Site
Create meditative, passive spaces by adding additional bench seating at key locations	4.23	2.98	Site
Install sidewalks adjacent to the park and clear walking paths within	4.23	2.98	Site

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Park Type	Top 10 Priority Park	Livable Centers	Low Cost*	High Cost*	Calculations
Neighborhood	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	We have already considered adding sidewalks and pathways below, which will be ADA accessible
Neighborhood	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Assuming no major construction needed
Neighborhood	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	
Neighborhood	Yes	Yes	\$35,000	\$50,000	Native vegetation 550 ft (L) X 20 ft (W) - 11,000 sq ft; considering a rate of \$3/sq ft.
Neighborhood	Yes	Yes	\$25,000	\$50,000	Connection to Vince Bayou: 250 ft
Neighborhood	Yes	Yes	\$10,000	\$25,000	
Neighborhood	Yes	Yes	\$20,000	\$30,000	Bench / \$2,500, Considering 8 nos.
Neighborhood	Yes	Yes	\$125,000	\$150,000	Sidewalk length - 1,700 ft, 8 ft width, 1,550 sq yards, Considering \$80/sq yard

construction cost to estimate total project costs.



## 3. Light Company Park

Project	Map Score	PA Score (If applicable)	Scale
Create a more defined, cohesive, and connected perimeter	3.2	3	Site
Planting trees to provide shade, cooling, and noise abatement near seating areas, and to provide more screening along the park perimeter	3.2	3	Site
Providing small structural shade over existing amenities	3.2	3	Site
Installing air quality monitoring equipment and create a warning system for park users if air quality becomes a risk factor	3.2	3	Site

## 4. Strawberry Park

Project	Map Score	PA Score (If applicable)	Scale
Refurbishing and activating the pavilion	3.76	3.8	Site
Targeting key social gathering and activity buffer areas for concentrated tree planting efforts	3.76	3.8	Site
Improve internal park connectivity to ensure amenities are well-connected to ADA walkways; improve wayfinding	3.76	3.8	Site
Enhance key park "gateways" with entrance signage and plantings to improve the pedestrian experience	3.76	3.8	Site
Partnering with Bailey Elementary to improve the physical connection between the school and park	3.76	3.8	Site



Park Type	Top 10 Priority Park	Livable Centers	Low Cost*	High Cost*	Calculations
Pocket	Yes	Nearby	\$50,000	\$300,000	
Pocket	Yes	Nearby	\$30,000	\$50,000	Perimeter of park: 1,020 ft, considering 25 trees and \$1,200/tree
Pocket	Yes	Nearby	\$100,000	\$150,000	Considering \$100,000/shelter
Pocket	Yes	Nearby	\$25,000	\$100,000	

Park Type	Top 10 Priority Park	Livable Centers	Low Cost*	High Cost*	Calculations
Regional	Yes	No	\$50,000	\$500,000	Pavilion will need to be assessed to determine refurbishing needs.
Regional	Yes	No	\$45,000	\$60,000	Considering 35 trees and \$1,200/tree
Regional	Yes	No	\$100,000	\$200,000	Considering 10 signs and a rate of \$2,500/sign, Additional walkway - 1,000 sq yard, considering \$80/sq yard
Regional	Yes	No	\$100,000	\$200,000	Considering 5 signs and a rate of \$20,000/sign
Regional	Yes	No	\$150,000	\$300,000	Crosswalks (75-150k) plus pathway 700 ft (L), 8 ft (W) - 650 sq yards, considering \$115/sq yards



## 5. Ghana Play Lot

Project	Map Score	PA Score (If applicable)	Scale
A re-envisioning of the connection to the adjacent channel as a natural asset and a potential long-term connection downstream to Holly Bay and a future regional greenway trail system	2.15	3.52	Site
Integration of local public art in the park	2.15	3.52	Site

## 6. El Jardin Beach

Project	Map Score	PA Score (If applicable)	Scale
Restoring the diversity and quality of the vegetative buffer/dune system between the main park area and beach including enhancing the width, with a specific interest in improving habitat quality and storm surge protection	2.14	3.5	Site
Plant salt-tolerant tree species near seating areas to provide more shade and wind protection	2.14	3.5	Site
Re-locate and re-orient the parking lot with a focus on minimizing its presence in the core park areas	2.14	3.5	Site

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Park Type	Top 10 Priority Park	Livable Centers	Low Cost*	High Cost*	Calculations
Pocket	Yes	No	\$500,000	\$700,000	1 mile length
Pocket	Yes	No	\$10,000	\$50,000	

Park Type	Top 10 Priority Park	Livable Centers	Low Cost*	High Cost*	Calculations
Neighborhood	Yes	No	\$500,000	\$600,000	1,300 ft (L), 125 ft (W) - 162,500 sq ft, considering \$3/sq ft
Neighborhood	Yes	No	\$10,000	\$20,000	Considering 8 trees and \$1,200/tree
Neighborhood	Yes	No	\$60,000	\$100,000	1,500 sq ft area = 165 sq yard, Considering \$150/sq yard, 30 - 50 k demolition

*construction cost to estimate total project costs.*

## 7. Bliss Meadows Park

Project	Map Score	PA Score (If applicable)	Scale
Leveraging underutilized space to create a habitat zone including the planting of pollinator plants, more diverse species selection, a mechanism for a small pooling of water (for habitat support), and a secluded seating area to enjoy the natural experience	2.42	3.49	Site
Utilize green infrastructure to improve the natural drainage within the park	2.42	3.49	Site
Work with Harris County Flood Control District on expansion of park into the adjacent detention basin	2.42	3.49	Site
Connect the core area of existing Bliss Meadows Park to Armand Bayou detention features to the east and northeast with a loop trail and potential connection to a larger regional greenway system	2.42	3.49	Site
Restore riparian areas along detention features and Armand Bayou and utilize the site to and operations standards for these types of spaces	2.42	3.49	Site

## 8. Oaks Drive Play Lot

Project	Map Score	PA Score (If applicable)	Scale
Plant trees and provide structural shade over seating areas	3.23	3.43	Site
Remove half moon basketball court	3.23	3.43	Site
Create opportunities for local artists to create culturally relevant art installations	3.23	3.43	Site
Enhanced community gathering space	3.23	3.43	Site



Park Type	Top 10 Priority Park	Livable Centers	Low Cost*	High Cost*	Calculations
Neighborhood	Yes	No	\$300,000	\$400,000	1,200 ft (L), 75 ft (W) - 90,000 sq ft, Considering \$3/ sf for vegetation, Addition of \$25,000 for water pooling and seating
Neighborhood	Yes	No	\$170,000	\$275,000	Bioswale - 500 ft x 10 ft, considering \$25/ sf; rain garden - 100 ft x 30 ft, considering \$15/ sf
Neighborhood	Yes	No	\$550,000	\$750,000	Trail- 4,300 ft (L) X 10 ft (W), 4,780 sq yards - considering \$80/ sq yard - \$383,000; Vegetation along trails - 4,300 ft x 10 ft, 43,000 sq ft, considering \$3/sf for vegetation, \$129,000
Neighborhood	Yes	No	\$25,000	\$50,000	Sidewalk length - 300 ft, 8 ft width, 265 sq yards, Considering \$80 / sq yard
Neighborhood	Yes	No	\$400,000	\$700,000	Considering riparian edge of 3,500 ft, a rate of \$3/sq ft for vegetation, vegetative buffer 3,500 ft (L) X 30 ft (W) - 105,000 sq ft = \$315,000; 70 trees as 50' off center, \$1,200 /tree = \$84,000

Park Type	Top 10 Priority Park	Livable Centers	Low Cost*	High Cost*	Calculations
Pocket	Yes	Nearby	\$25,000	\$50,000	Considering 5 trees and \$1,200/tree, \$10,000 X 2 structures
Pocket	Yes	Nearby	\$8,000	\$15,000	Area: 265 sq yards, Considering \$30/sq yard
Pocket	Yes	Nearby	\$10,000	\$50,000	
Pocket	Yes	Nearby	\$100,000	\$150,000	Considering adding one shelter

# 9. Tatar Park

Project	Map Score	PA Score (If applicable)	Scale
Add structural and vegetative buffering along the southwestern edge	3.24	3.35	Site
Preserve existing tree canopy to retain shade and cooling benefits for the neighborhood	3.24	3.35	Site
Create crosswalks across Pasadena Blvd to improve safety of access	3.24	3.35	Site

# 10. Sherwood Park

Project	Map Score	PA Score (If applicable)	Scale
Resurface parking area, pathways and court	3.28	3.18	Site
Creating more social gathering spaces with benches and picnic tables	3.28	3.18	Site
Ensuring gathering spaces are oriented toward both key park amenities and shade	3.28	3.18	Site

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Park Type	Top 10 Priority Park	Livable Centers	Low Cost*	High Cost*	Calculations
Pocket	Yes	No	\$30,000	\$50,000	Considering a rate of \$3/sq ft for vegetation, vegetative buffer 250 ft (L) X 10 ft (W) - 2,500 sq ft = \$7,500, For Structural buffer - \$75 / Linear ft, \$18,750
Pocket	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	Assuming no major construction needed
Pocket	Yes	No	\$75,000	\$150,000	

Park Type	Top 10 Priority Park	Livable Centers	Low Cost*	High Cost*	Calculations
Pocket	Yes	No	\$60,000	\$80,000	Parking space - 400 sq yards, Considering \$80/sq yard, court area - 2000 sq ft, 200 ft length for pathway
Pocket	Yes	No	\$30,000	\$50,000	8 Benches at \$2,500/ bench, 2 picnic tables at \$4,000/ table
Pocket	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	

construction cost to estimate total project costs.



## 11. Memorial Park to Strawberry Park

Project	Map Score	PA Score (If applicable)	Scale
Create a hike-and-bike trail that runs along Vince Bayou	N/A	N/A	Regional

## 12. Strawberry Park to Burke Crenshaw Park

Ensure existing trails meet quality and accessibility standards for multi-modal users	N/A	N/A	Regional
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## 13. Burke Crenshaw East Connections

Connections to both Holly Bay Park and northeast to Bliss Meadows Park along an existing Centerpoint Energy Easement	N/A	N/A	Regional
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## 14. Bliss Meadows Park to Armand Bayou National Park

Extend trail systems within Armand Bayou north to both Holly Bay Park and Bliss Meadows	N/A	N/A	Regional
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## 15. Armand Bayou National Park to El Jardin Beach

Create a ROW protected or grade-separated hike-and-bike trail between Armand Bayou and El Jardin Beach	N/A	N/A	Regional
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Park Type	Top 10 Priority Park	Livable Centers	Low Cost*	High Cost*	Calculations
Linear	Yes	Yes	\$1,250,000	\$1,750,000	3.5 miles. 10 ft wide concrete path, 42,000 sq yards, considering \$80/yard. Costs are for basic trail and minor street crossings. Other items that need to be considered during design are land acquisition (if necessary), pedestrian bridges, major road crossings, amenities and landscaping.



Linear	Yes		\$25,000	\$250,000	
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Linear	Yes		\$3,500,000	\$4,000,000	7 miles length, 10 ft wide concrete path, 42,000 sq yards, considering \$80/yard. Costs are for basic trail and minor street crossings. Other items that need to be considered during design are land acquisition (if necessary), pedestrian bridges, major road crossings, amenities and landscaping.
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## ational Park

Linear	No	No	\$1,900,000	\$2,000,000	4 miles length, 10 ft wide concrete path, 42,000 sq yards, considering \$80/yard. Costs are for basic trail and minor street crossings. Other items that need to be considered during design are land acquisition (if necessary), pedestrian bridges, major road crossings, amenities and landscaping.
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## n Beach Park

Linear	No	No	\$3,500,000	\$4,500,000	10 ft wide concrete path, 42000 sq yards, considering \$80/yard. Costs are for basic trail and minor street crossings. Other items that need to be considered during design are land acquisition (if necessary), pedestrian bridges, major road crossings, amenities and landscaping.
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# 16. Multiple

Project	Map Score	PA Score (If applicable)	Scale
Implement connectivity improvements cited in the Pasadena Livable Centers Study	N/A	N/A	Neighborhood
Work with the Public Works Department to install crosswalks at key locations near priority parks as illustrated in the Key Crosswalks Map	N/A	N/A	Neighborhood
Improve key connections between priority parks and community activity centers, schools, and bayous as identified in the Connectivity Recommendations Map, with sidewalk repairs, widened sidewalks where possible, shade provision, protected bike lanes, and enhanced landscape vegetation	N/A	N/A	Neighborhood

*\*Low and High Costs indicated are for construction cost only. They do not include any design, permitting, or contingency costs. Add 30-40% to*



Park Type	Top 10 Priority Park	Livable Centers	Low Cost*	High Cost*	Calculations
N/A	N/A	N/A			
N/A	N/A	N/A			
N/A	N/A	N/A			

*construction cost to estimate total project costs.*