City of Kyle

**Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan**

# TOGETHER WE PLAY!

# Acknowledgments

# Contents

# Letter From The Parks Director

Parks, Recreation, and open spaces are indicators of quality of life in any community. If they are healthy, the community tends to be healthy. People want to live near parks for their leisure, fitness, and aesthetic benefits. Businesses are attracted to communities with quality parks and trails because they not only draw and retain customers but are also enticing for their employees who want to live near them. In his book, For the Love of Cities, Peter Kageyama describes parks as engaging places in our communities that can move us from apathy to love for our city.

Our most precious assets require continued evaluation, care, and investment. From the moment the ribbon is cut for a new facility, the useful life clock begins, and a good maintenance program is needed to ensure the quality of the asset from day-one through its estimated life. Programs and events special events require ongoing evaluation to determine if they are still relevant and meeting customer needs. As the city experiences inevitable growth, it is imperative that the growing parks and recreation needs are planned responsibly in a financially and environmentally sustainable manner.

The Parks and Recreation Open Space Master Plan will serve as a 10-year guiding document. It was developed by measuring the existing system against community needs, national standards, and growth projections. This plan looks at the parks and recreation assets and services through various lenses to identify where gaps in health, wellness, access, and conservation exist. The gaps become opportunities for improvement where parks and programming can solve for current and future needs in quality of life. This 10-year plan will have an impact for even more decades as some investments informed by this plan will service the community for 20 to 30 years beyond their construction.

Achieving a practical and effective master plan for the future of parks and recreation in Kyle was truly a group effort. It required due diligence and service not only from staff and Stantec, our consultants, but also the community members who filled out surveys, attended public meetings, and engaged during several pop-up events. You were seen and heard. Thank you for your commitment to the future and ensuring the City of Kyle remains a place for all to live, work, and PLAY!


Together we play,

David Lopez, CPRP


> " *As the city experiences inevitable growth, it is imperative that the growing parks and recreation needs are planned responsibly in a financially and environmentally sustainable manner.* "

# Executive Summary

As one of the fastest-growing cities in the nation, Kyle, Texas, is at a pivotal moment to shape its future park system. The **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan** provides a forward-thinking, community-driven roadmap to meet the evolving needs of residents, preserve natural assets, and enhance quality of life through exceptional Parks and Recreation services. **The PROS Master Plan is not just a blueprint, it's a commitment to ensuring that Kyle's parks and open spaces remain vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable for generations to come.**

Rooted in Kyle's unique character and developed through robust community engagement, the plan reflects a shared vision to create a parks and recreation network where nature, recreation, and community flourish together. It builds upon the previous 2016 plan and responds to rapid population growth, shifting priorities, and the need for accessible, inclusive spaces.

The planning process began in August 2024 and unfolded in three phases: Discovery and Foundation Building, Plan Development and Recommendations, and Plan Review and Delivery. Community voices were central throughout, captured through surveys, pop-up events, public meetings, and stakeholder engagement helping shape the plan's vision, mission, goals, and priorities.

A comprehensive Needs Assessment was conducted to evaluate Kyle's park system using five lenses: National Standards Benchmarking, Community Demand, Available Resources, Equity, and Access. This multi-dimensional approach identified service gaps and growth opportunities, guiding system-wide and site-specific recommendations.

The PROS Plan sets a strategic framework through five core goals:

- **Dynamic and Inclusive Community:** Delivering accessible, equitable spaces and programs for all.
- **Balanced and Connected System:** Building a cohesive network of parks, trails, and public spaces.
- **Flourishing Nature Experience:** Protecting ecosystems and integrating nature throughout the system.
- **Vibrant and Prosperous Destination:** Positioning parks as key contributors to economic development and quality of life.
- **Sustainable Resources:** Strengthening management, maintenance, and operational resilience.

Key components of the plan include recommendations for enhancing existing parks, expanding the trail network, creating indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities, and identifying diverse funding mechanisms. The plan aligns with other citywide initiatives to ensure a coordinated approach to growth and community wellbeing.

Informed by this framework, the PROS Master Plan outlines systemwide strategies, park-specific recommendations, and an implementation plan to help the City prioritize investments, identify partnerships, and pursue funding opportunities. The plan concludes with an implementation matrix that clearly outlines the timeframe, budget, and action items associated with each recommendation. Additionally, a funding matrix was developed to align implementation priorities with potential funding resources providing the City with a strategic and actionable roadmap to bring the community's vision to life.

# CHAPTER

# 01

# Introduction

**In This Chapter**

About Kyle

Why Plan?

Benefits of Parks

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Process

Plan at a Glance

Kyle PROS Elements

## Introduction

Parks and Recreation services play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for residents, and the City of Kyle is committed to this mission. As one of the nation's fastest-growing cities, Kyle has developed a visionary Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to guide the expansion and improvement of its park system. This plan not only strengthens existing parks and recreation services but also ensures they evolve to meet the changing needs of a growing community.

This chapter introduces the City of Kyle and explains the importance of a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. Chapter 1 provides a brief overview of Kyle's history and location, the significance of a well-planned park system, and the benefits of high-quality recreational spaces. It also outlines how the plan was developed through a community-driven, data-informed process and breaks down its key components. Additionally, this chapter presents the vision, mission, and goals shaped by community input, which serve as the guiding principles for this forward-thinking master plan.

# About Kyle

Kyle, Texas is located along Interstate Highway 35, approximately eight miles north of San Marcos and twenty miles south of Austin in northeastern Hays County. The city sits at the intersection of the Balcones Escarpment and the Blackland Prairie, with farming to the east and ranching to the west.

Kyle was established on July 24, 1880, when David E. Moore and Fergus Kyle, after whom the city is named, donated 200 acres to the International-Great Northern Railroad for the townsite. The new town attracted residents and businesses from nearby Mountain City, located three miles west, and Blanco, four miles west. Tom Martin opened the first business in Kyle.

By 1882, the population of Kyle had exceeded 500, though it later declined. The city was incorporated in 1928 as a general-law city, governed by a mayor and five council members. In 1937, Mary Kyle Hartson, the daughter of Fergus Kyle, was elected mayor through a write-in vote, leading an all-woman government in the early 1940s.

Kyle, Texas, has grown into a thriving community, now home to thousands of residents. Strategically located along Interstate Highway 35, its central position in the state, making it convenient to most major population centers in Texas.

With its advantageous location near major highways, airports, and rail lines, Kyle has become an attractive place for both living and conducting business. The city continues to expand and develop, offering residents and businesses a dynamic and accessible environment.
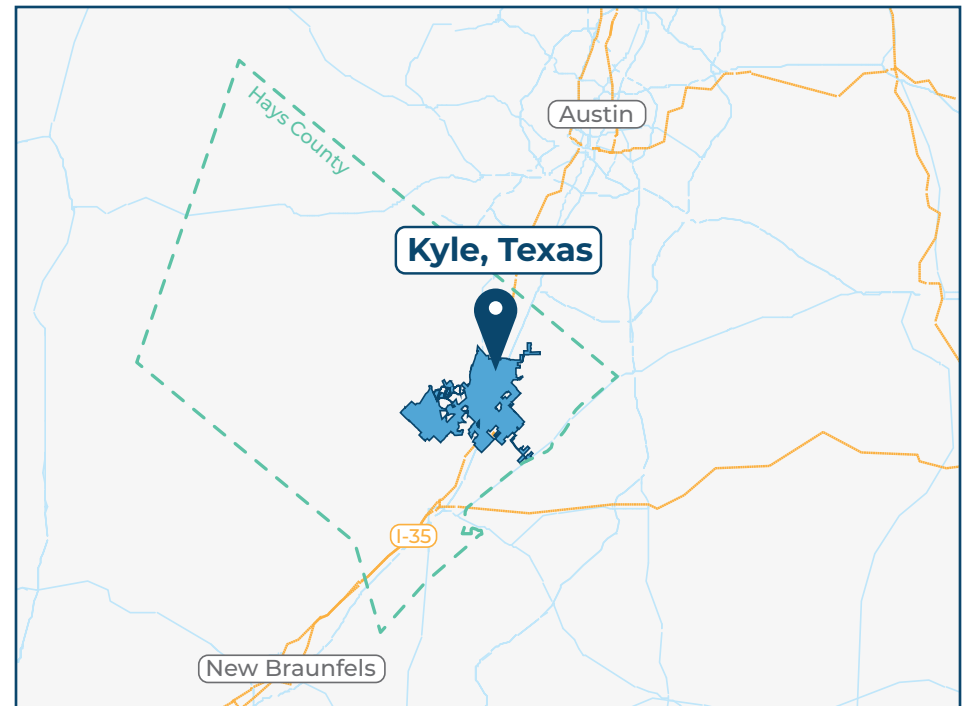
# Why Plan?

Now is the time to shape the future of Kyle's Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces. With a growing population and an evolving community, this moment presents an exciting opportunity to create a visionary plan that ensures Kyle's Parks and Recreation system meets the needs of today and the generations to come.

In 2016, the City of Kyle adopted the Kyle Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Master Plan that provided guidance for the next 10-years. Since then, the city has grown, and the needs of the community have changed over time. To ensure that the city continues to provide best in class Parks and Recreation services, it was determined that it was time for a update to the PROS Master Plan. The PROS Master plan has been designed to fit that purpose through the collaborative efforts of the city officials, city staff, stakeholders and most importantly, the residents of Kyle. This PROS Master Plan will assist the city and its residents by identifying where there are gaps in services to neighborhoods, what the priorities are of the community for their Parks and Recreation system, as well as to ensure that collaborative efforts are taking place between the Parks and Recreation Department and the adopted short- and long-range plans of other departments, agencies, and organizations.

The City of Kyle is focused on meeting the needs of its residents and businesses; thus, this new Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan will provide the valuable guidance to achieve this goal. The PROS Plan aims to achieve its goals by reimagining the Parks and Recreation system through a comprehensive analysis of existing services, community input, and benchmarking against national standards and peer cities. The findings from this analysis will equip the City and the Parks and Recreation Department with valuable insights into service gaps, community needs, and recommended actions. Ultimately, this will help create a Parks and Recreation system that reflects the community's needs and fosters a sense of pride.

# Benefits of Parks

Now, more than ever, we realize that parks are critical to our health, well-being, and overall quality of life. Parks help beautify a community and provide vital ecological services by mitigating stormwater runoff, purifying the air, and providing wildlife habitat in the urban environment. They also offer opportunities for active recreation and connection with nature, which impacts people's physical and mental health.

Finally, parks and recreation programs offer opportunities for social interaction with friends, family, or fellow community members. Increasing the availability of parks and recreation positively impacts the community through the environmental, health, economic, and social benefits that parks provide.
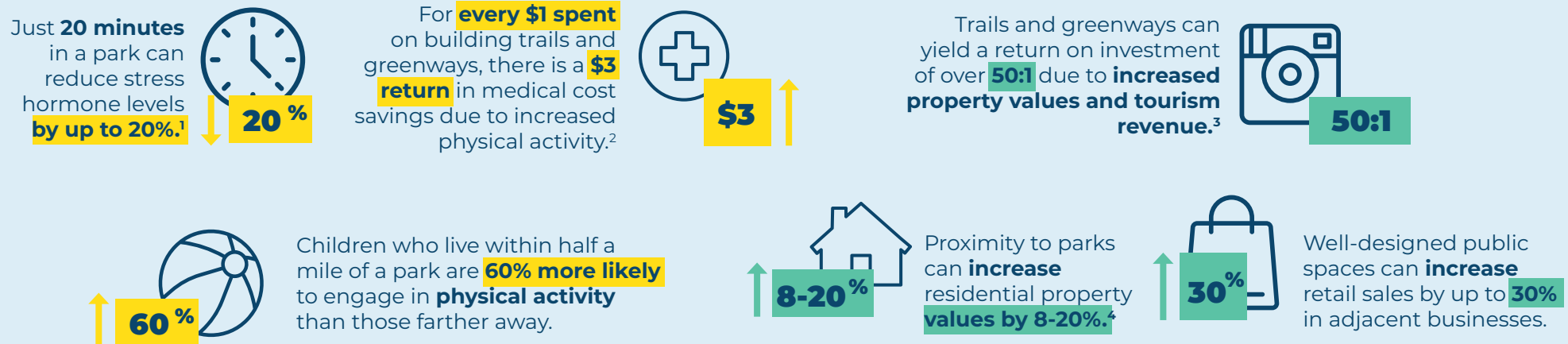
## Health Benefits
Parks and Recreation systems play very important roles in the daily health of their users. When people spend time in parks or participating in recreation programs, their physical health, mental

health, and social well-being improves. Walking on trails, playing with your children at the playground, or even attending programs at the activty center can positively influence an individual's overall health. Parks provide several opportunities for physical activity by providing infrastructure such as exercise equipment, sports fields and courts, and walking/jogging trails. Parks that are accessible to and convenient for residents will encourage users to participate in physical activity. Parks also provide opportunities for social interaction and access to nature. These categories of health - social, physical, and mental - all influence one another, so by providing spaces where people can improve all three at once, parks are an investment in the health and longevity of a city and its people.

## Economic Development
Parks contribute to the economy and help cities grow. They boost economic activity through operations and capital spending, supporting jobs, increasing property values, attracting new businesses, directing employment to businesses, and increasing workforce

Just **20 minutes** in a park can reduce stress hormone levels **by up to 20%.**[1]
**20 %**

For **every $1 spent** on building trails and greenways, there is a **$3 return** in medical cost savings due to increased physical activity.[2]
**$3**

Trails and greenways can yield a return on investment of over **50:1** due to **increased property values and tourism revenue.**[3]
**50:1**

Children who live within half a mile of a park are **60% more likely** to engage in **physical activity** than those farther away.
**60 %**

Proximity to parks can **increase** residential property **values by 8-20%.**[4]
**8-20 %**

Well-designed public spaces can **increase** retail sales by up to **30%** in adjacent businesses.
**30%**

1. Hunter, M. C. R., Gillespie, B. W., & Chen, S. Y.-P. (2019). Urban nature experience reduces stress in the context of daily life based on salivary biomarkers. Frontiers in Psychology.
2. American Trails Staff. (2020). Health benefits of trails. American Trails. https://www.americantrails.org/resources/health-benefits-of-trails
3. HR&A Advisors. (2016). Economic Benefits of Trails and Greenways in the Dallas Park System: Return on Investment Study (1998-2016)
4. Crompton, J. L. (2001). Parks and economic development (PAS Report No. 502). American Planning Association.

opportunities. Although economic development is ultimately the goal for any community, it can also be intimidating when considering cost of living concerns, property taxes, and financial well-being. It's important to keep in mind that parks provide benefits beyond simply boosting the economy. The health, social, and environmental benefits parks provide translate into reduced costs related to healthcare, crime and delinquency, heat island effect, and more. Chapter 4 expands on parks as an economic catalyst and provides strategies to help the City leverage its parks in a way that benefits both the economy and the residents of Kyle.

## Societal Benefits

Social interaction and cohesion is a necessity in any community. Parks are critical components of the City's social infrastructure, providing a place for people to gather and interact with one another. Parks host friends playing soccer after school, the local run club, a weekend neighborhood barbecue, and even community-wide events that encourage residents to interact with friends, family, neighbors, and fellow community members. These interactions create stronger social ties within the city, increasing the overall sense of community.

## Environmental Benefits

Increasing residential and commercial development changes the environment of a city in both good ways and bad. More development often reflects a growing population, which boosts the city's economy but also increases traffic. Environmental impacts can range from increased air and noise pollution to the elimination of natural open space to increased stormwater runoff and the heat island effect, all of which can cascade into more negative effects on the environment. Parks, trails, and open spaces play a vital role in the protection of the natural environment. They help maintain diverse and healthy ecosystems, they purify our air and water resources, they mitigate the heat island effect, and they provide opportunities to conserve natural resources. Parks enhance the natural environment, creating a stronger, more resilient community.

Greening of vacant urban land has been shown to **decrease crime.**[5]

**40%** of Americans suffer from anxiety or depression.[5]
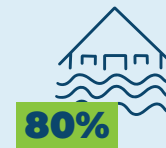
Parks absorb up to **80%** of rainfall, reducing stormwater runoff and lowering flood risks in urban areas.[6]

People who live near parks and green spaces are **44% less likely** to have a **diagnosed anxiety disorder.**[5]

Tree cover lowers asthma risk. Kids in greener areas are **3 times** less likely to have asthma.[5]
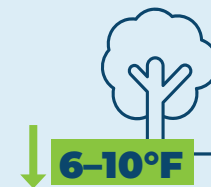
Large, shady parks can reduce urban temperatures by **10–20°F**, while tree cover lowers local temperatures by **6–10°F**.[5]

5. City Parks Alliance. (2019). City Parks: A Smart Investment for America's Health, Economy & Environment.
6. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2017). Green infrastructure in parks: A guide to collaboration, funding, and community engagement.

# Park, Recreation, And Open Space Master Plan Process

The development of the PROS Master Plan began on August 20, 2024, and was built on a strong foundation of community engagement, data analysis, and a clear understanding of Kyle's projected growth. The plan was structured in three key phases: Discovery and Foundation Building, Plan Development and Recommendations, and Plan Review and Delivery.

At the heart of this process was an active feedback loop that ensured the community's voice was reflected at every stage. Residents participated in public meetings, community pop-ups, and surveys, providing insights into existing parks, new park designs, and their vision for the future. Alongside this engagement, a comprehensive analysis of Kyle's park system, facilities, and future growth trends informed the plan's recommendations. By integrating both community input and data-driven assessments, the PROS Master Plan establishes a strategic framework to enhance Kyle's Parks and Recreation system for years to come.

**Phase 1 – Discovery and Foundation Building** – included eight tasks aimed at gathering information to assess the existing park and recreation system's inventory and conditions. This phase also established the vision and goals. The tasks involved project kick-off, creation of public awareness, review of existing conditions and inventory, base mapping of six parks for master planning, development of the vision and goals, current system analysis, needs and gap analysis, stakeholder and community outreach, and implementation of a community survey.

**Phase 2 – Plan Development and Recommendations** – This phase included developing preliminary master plan concepts for six parks, formulating recommendations and strategies for expanding, maintaining, operating, and funding the park system, and creating an action/implementation plan to help the City achieve the overall goals and vision.

**Phase 3 – Plan Review and Delivery** – was the final phase of the project. It resulted in the development of the final Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, which included action steps, preliminary implementation strategies, and funding mechanisms to support recommended projects, programs, and policies. To ensure the plan met the needs and expectations, two meetings were held: one with the Parks Advisory Board and the other with City Council members. Once the final plan was agreed upon, it was delivered to be adopted by the City to ensure the plan met the needs and expectations, the draft was presented to the City Council, Parks Advisory Board, and the public for feedback. Once the final plan was agreed upon, it was delivered to be adopted by the City.

## Phase 1

### Discovery and Foundation Building

- Project Kick-Off to initiate the planning process.
- Public Engagement to gather public feedback.
- Review of Existing Conditions and inventory of the park and recreation system.
- Development of Vision and Goals for the future of the parks system
- Current System Analysis to evaluate strengths and weaknesses.
- Needs and Gap Analysis to identify areas for improvement.

## Phase 2

### Plan Development and Recommendations

- Development of Preliminary Concepts for six parks.
- Outline of Strategies for expansion, maintenance, operations, and funding.
- Creation of an Action Plan to achieve the City's vision and goals.

## Phase 3

### Plan Review and Delivery

- Development of the Final Plan with action steps, implementation strategies, and funding mechanisms.
- Review Meetings with the Parks Advisory Board and City Council.
- Delivery of the Final Plan for City adoption.

## Need Assessment Methodology

The City of Kyle's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan includes a needs assessment with five key components to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the park system. This methodology combines different assessment approaches to analyze the current conditions, demand, resources, equity, and access to Parks and Recreation facilities. Through this process, the master plan aims to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for enhancing Kyle's park and recreation system to better serve the diverse needs of the community.

- **Standard-Based Assessment** benchmarks the system against national standards set by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), The Trust for Public Land (TPL), and peer cities.

- **Demand-Based Assessment** gathers community input through surveys, stakeholder sessions, and committee meetings to identify recreation needs.

- **Resource-Based Assessment** evaluates public and private resources that enhance park offerings.

- **Equity-Based Assessment** ensures fair distribution of parks by considering socioeconomic factors, environmental conditions, and community health.

- **Access-Based Assessment** focuses on physical accessibility, emphasizing Close-to-Home Parks and the 10-minute walk standard to ensure all residents have convenient access to green spaces.

Together, these components provide a well-rounded approach to understanding and improving the city's Parks and Recreation system.

Standard-based Assessment

Demand-based Assessment

Resource-based Assessment

Equity-based Assessment

Access-based Assessment

**Needs Assessment**

# Plan at a Glance

## Plan Structure

The City of Kyle Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Master Plan) is structured to serve both as a strategic guide and as a detailed technical resource, ensuring that decision-makers, City staff, and community members alike can easily access the information they need. The plan provides an actionable roadmap for Kyle's park system, supported by community input, system analysis, and implementation tools.

- **Executive Summary:** Presents a high-level overview of the plan's purpose, vision and key strategies.
- **Chapter 1 Introduction:** Outlines the purpose of the PROS Master Plan, its guiding principles, and the vision for the future of parks, recreation, and open space in Kyle.
- **Chapter 2 Snapshot of Today:** Provides an overview of the current state of Kyle's Parks and Recreation system, including demographics, existing park assets, and key challenges and opportunities.
- **Chapter 3 What We Heard:** Summarizes community input gathered through surveys, public meetings, and stakeholder engagement, highlighting priorities and themes identified by Kyle's residents.

- **Chapter 4 Parks System of Tomorrow:** Presents the future vision for Kyle's Parks and Recreation system, with long-term goals, themes, and system-wide recommendations.
- **Chapter 5 Kyle Parks and Trails of Tomorrow:** Outlines specific recommendations for future park development and trail network expansion to improve connectivity, access, and quality of life.
- **Chapter 6 Implementation and Funding:** Provides a practical roadmap for implementing the plan's recommendations, including strategies, timelines, potential funding sources, and partnerships.

The appendices provide detailed technical information and practical tools that support the development and implementation of the PROS Master Plan recommendations.

- **Appendix A Parks Inventory**
- **Appendix B Needs Assessment**
- **Appendix C Community Engagement Summary**
- **Appendix D Park Assessment Tool**
- **Appendix E Parkland Acquisition and Dedication Policy**
- **Appendix F Design Guidelines**
- **Appendix G Plant List**

# Kyle PROS Elements

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan establishes a clear vision, mission, and goals to guide the future of Kyle's Parks and Recreation system. Developed through community input, data-driven analysis, and a needs assessment, it reflects the city's unique character and evolving needs. Rooted in public priorities, the plan fosters a dynamic and inclusive community, a balanced and connected system, and a flourishing nature experience through environmental stewardship. It positions Kyle as a vibrant and prosperous destination while ensuring sustainable resources for long-term resilience. Serving as a blueprint for growth, the PROS Master Plan enhances existing spaces, expands recreational opportunities, and strengthens community connections.

## Vision

We envision a thriving, inclusive network of Parks and Recreation where nature and community come together to enhance quality of life and establish Kyle as the premier regional standard.

## Mission

To be a premier and sustainable parks and recreation system that builds community, and promotes health, conservation, and inclusivity for all.

## Goals

**Dynamic and Inclusive Community**
Provide a high quality of life for all Kyle residents by supporting their physical, mental, and emotional well-being through innovative and accessible design, programming, and facilities that serve the diverse needs of the entire community.

**Balanced and Connected System**
Create a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Flourishing Nature Experience**
Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

**Vibrant and Prosperous Destination**
Transform Kyle's parks, recreation and open space into a leading destination that contributes to the City's economic development, and quality of life.

**Sustainable Resources**
Elevate the management, operations, and maintenance to ensure organizational, financial, and environmental sustainability.

# CHAPTER
# 02

Steeplechase Park

# Snapshot of Today

## In This Chapter

Demographic Snapshot of Kyle
Kyle Park and Recreation Department
Parks System Today
Kyle Needs Assessment Summary
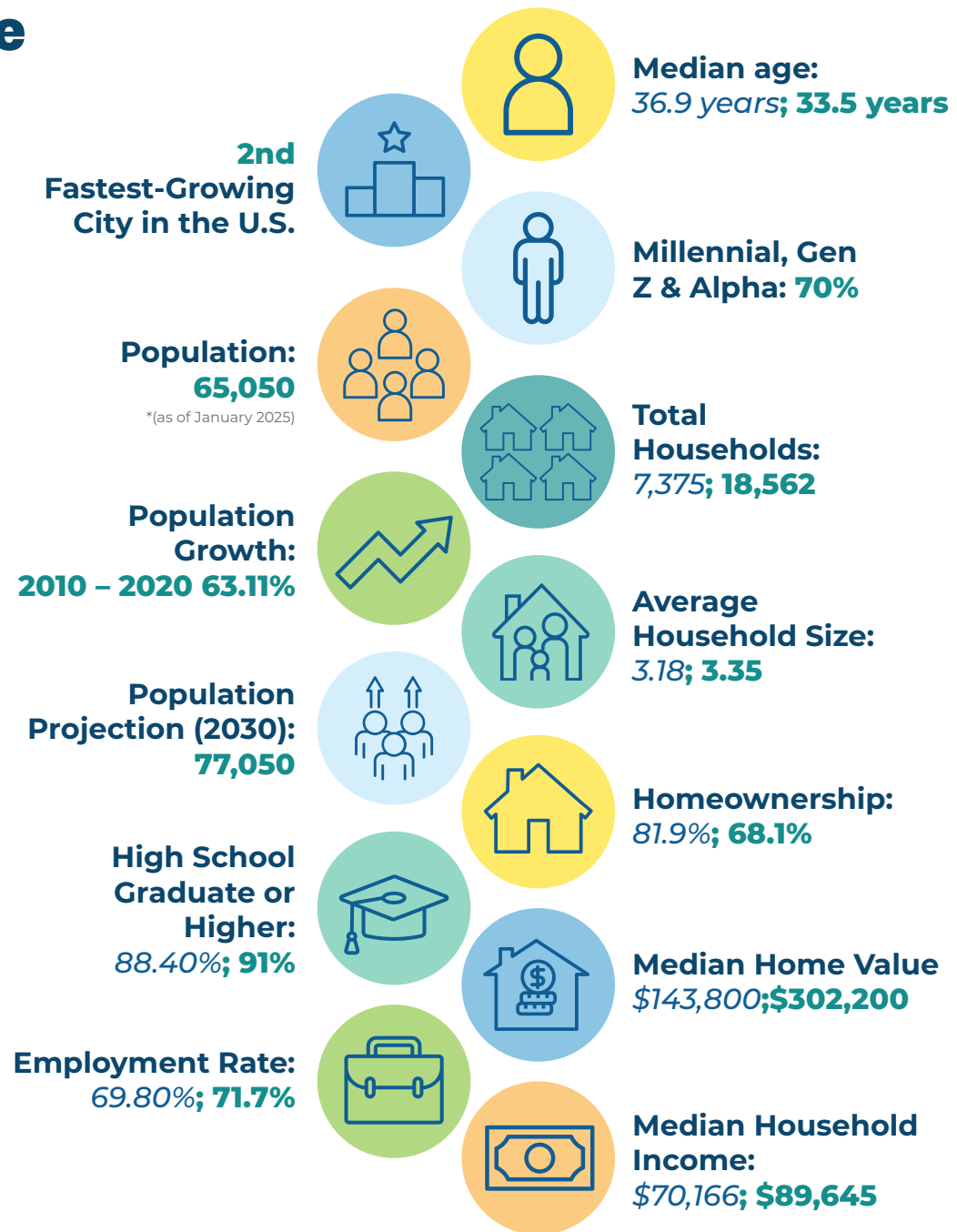Key Findings

## Introduction

Snapshot of Today provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in the City of Kyle. This chapter explores key factors shaping the community and the park system, including demographic trends, the role and operations of the Parks and Recreation Department, and a needs assessment of the park system. It also outlines key findings identified through the analysis of data and input gathered from the community and best practices. By understanding where Kyle stands today, this chapter sets the foundation for creating opportunities to improve and enhance the City's existing Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces as well as to expand the system through the introduction of new parks, facilities and recreation programs to better serve residents now and into the future.

# Demographic Snapshot of Kyle

Between the 2010 and 2020 U.S. Census, Kyle's population grew by 63.11%, bringing both exciting opportunities and new challenges. This rapid growth means more families, children, and seniors who can benefit from parks, playgrounds, and community events. It creates opportunities to expand recreational programs, introduce new sports leagues, and develop more trails and green spaces to keep up with demand. However, it also presents challenges such as increased wear and tear on existing parks, the need for more facilities, and ensuring that all neighborhoods have equal access to quality outdoor spaces. This plan takes a close look at these changes to help create a park system that will grow with the community and remain welcoming to all.

## Key Demographic Highlights:

- Rapid population growth: Kyle's population grew by 63.11% from 2010 to 2020 and is projected to reach 77,050 by 2030 (68.6% increase from 2020). As of January 2025, the City reported its population had reached 65,050 which is an increase of 19,353 residents from the 2020 US decennial census.

- Multi-generational population: 61.2% of Kyle's population is between the Baby Boomer and Millennial generations.

- Economic growth: In the City of Kyle, the median household income is $89,645, and the median home value has doubled, increasing from $143,800 in 2010 to $302,200 in 2023.

- Kyle's demographic makeup reflects a high percentage (42%) of Hispanics or Latinos.

**2nd Fastest-Growing City in the U.S.**

**Median age:** *36.9 years*; **33.5 years**

**Millennial, Gen Z & Alpha: 70%**

**Population: 65,050**
*(as of January 2025)

**Total Households:** *7,375*; **18,562**

**Population Growth: 2010 – 2020 63.11%**

**Average Household Size:** *3.18*; **3.35**

**Population Projection (2030): 77,050**

**Homeownership:** *81.9%*; **68.1%**

**High School Graduate or Higher:** *88.40%*; **91%**

**Median Home Value** *$143,800*; **$302,200**

**Employment Rate:** *69.80%*; **71.7%**

**Median Household Income:** *$70,166*; **$89,645**

*Data Note:*
*For each metric, the first number reflects 2005–2010 ACS data, and the second number reflects 2018–2023 ACS data for comparison.*

# Kyle Parks and Recreation Department

With a team of 62 dedicated full-time employees, the City of Kyle's Parks and Recreation Department is at the heart of what makes Kyle a great place to live, work, and play. Guided by its mission to **"be a premier and sustainable Parks and Recreation system that builds community, and promotes health, conservation, and inclusivity for all,"** the department plays a key role in shaping the city's future. It oversees a growing park system that includes **10 developed parks, 16 undeveloped parks, 749 acres of parkland, 11 miles of trails**, and a variety of amenities designed to bring people together and enhance quality of life for all residents. The department is composed of three divisions:

- **Parks Administration:** This team manages budgeting, staffing, policy development, communications, and coordination across divisions to ensure efficient and high-quality services for the community.

- **Park TEC (Parks, Trails, Environmental, Conservation):** Oversees park maintenance, conservation, beautification, and development by caring for parks and equipment, maintaining trails and native landscapes, managing public space upkeep, and guiding park design and construction.

- **C.A.R.E.S. (Community, Aquatics, Recreation, and Event Services):** Provides diverse recreation, aquatics, athletics, special events, and therapeutic programs for all ages and abilities, fostering community engagement, inclusion, and well-being.

The City of Kyle also has a Parks and Recreation Board, which helps guide the future of parks, trails, and recreation programs. It consists of seven members serving two-year terms and the members are appointed by the City Council. This advisory board works closely with the Parks and Recreation Director, offering recommendations on policies, rules, and regulations that shape the city's public parks and programs. The board also provides input on playgrounds, athletic fields, recreation facilities, and other city-owned park spaces. Additional responsibilities include the recommendation and support in the development of a master plan for the city's park system, as well as ensuring that residents have a voice in shaping the programs, facilities, and green spaces that enhance their community.



*Kyle Parks and Recreation Staff*

City of Kyle's Parks and Recreation Department

- Parks Administration
- Parks, Trails, Environmental, Conservation
- Community, Aquatics, Recreation, and Event Services

# Parks System Today

## Existing Park Inventory

The City of Kyle takes pride in its growing and dynamic Parks and Recreation system, which plays a key role in enriching community well-being and supporting environmental sustainability. The City of Kyle's existing park system includes 10 developed parks and 16 undeveloped parks, for a total of 749 acres. In addition to the parkland, 11 miles of trails contribute to the system's unique character. The City of Kyle categorizes its parks into four classifications: Local "Close-to-Home," Regional, Special Use, and Civic Space. Park types include:

**Pocket Parks:** A type of local park that includes piazza, court yards, squares, small greens, trailheads, and tot-lots that offer amenities such as benches, fountains, and landscaping. Can include a unique feature relevant to the neighborhood it serves.

**Neighborhood Parks:** A type of local park that is typically 1 acre or more in size and provide amenities such as playgrounds, practice sport fields, sport courts, open areas for unorganized play, picnic areas, shaded pavilions and jogging trails.

**Community Parks:** A type of local park that is typically 10 acres or more in size and located need a major intersection for easy vehicular access. Amenities usually include play equipment, active free play area, picnic areas, restrooms, nature trails, lighted sport fields, and recreation centers.

**Regional Parks:** Can vary in size from 10 acres to several thousand. Intended to serve multiple communities or a larger geographic area. Usually has regional, state or national importance.

**Special Use Spaces:** Spaces designated to accommodate a particular or unique recreational activity. Examples include athletic complexes, swimming pools, tennis complexes, skate parks, dog parks, golf courses, natural preservation, and linear parks.

**Civic Spaces:** Function as largely passive parks located within historic city centers or dense urban environments. They do provide an important space for public gatherings and events. These can include greens, squares, and plazas.

The City of Kyle is also home to the VYBE trail system. This is to be an 80+ mile citywide trail system that will connect to the regional Emerald Crown Train and the Great Springs Project. Additionally, a feature of the VYBE trail system is that it will have key trailheads at VYBE Trail Oriented Developments or "Spots" that are to be mixed-use developments.

## Facilities

The City's Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of amenities for residents and visitors, including playgrounds, baseball and softball fields, dog parks, community garden, splash pads, a swimming pool, and a disc golf course. These spaces foster a vibrant, active community where people can connect, play, and enjoy the outdoors.

### Kyle Recreation Facilities by Numbers:

| 10 Playgrounds | 10 Diamond Fields (Baseball/Softball) | 2 Basketball Courts | 3 Rectangular Sport Fields | 1 Performance Amphitheater |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Tennis Courts | 2 Dog Parks | 1 Community Gardens | 1 Swimming Pool | 1 Disc Golf Course |
| 1 Volleyball Courts | 3 Splash Pads | | | |

# Kyle Existing Parks and Trails



**City of Kyle Existing Parks and Trails**

- ⬚⬚ Kyle ETJ
- ▢ Kyle City Limits
- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- ━━ VYBE Trails
- ━━ NatureTrails
- ━━ CAMPO RATP Trails
- ■ Community parks
- ■ Neighborhood Parks
- ■ Pocket Parks
- ■ Regional Parks
- ■ Private Parks
- ■ Other Parks: HOA, Detention

0   0.5   1 Miles

N

# Kyle Needs Assessment Summary

The Needs Assessment was a vital step in evaluating the state of Kyle's Parks and Recreation system and identifying opportunities for improvement. Its goal was to assess existing conditions using five key evaluations: demand-based, standard-based, resource-based, equity-based, and accessibility-based. Once the assessment was complete, it helped identify gaps in service areas, amenities, and facilities, which then informed recommendations for addressing these needs. At the heart of this process was the community, Kyle's residents, who were the true experts in their Parks and Recreation experiences. Their input shaped the vision for the future, ensuring the City's recreational offerings aligned with their needs and aspirations. This chapter summarized the findings of these assessments, highlighting community feedback and how it guided Kyle's path forward.

## Standards-Based Assessment

Examines the City's Parks & Recreation Department services by comparing them to peer cities and national benchmarks established by National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and Trust for Public Land (TPL), both recognized authorities in Parks and Recreation. This analysis of parkland acreage, facilities, budgets, and staffing highlights service gaps and informs recommendations to enhance service delivery.

## Equity-Based Assessment

Analyzes the equitable distribution of park and recreation services in Kyle, offering recommendations to improve access to parks, recreation facilities, and their associated health benefits.

## Accessibility-Based Assessment

Evaluates community access to park and recreation services by analyzing factors like park proximity, trails, sidewalks, air quality, and disease rates.

## Resource-Based Assessment

Highlights natural and man-made resources in the Kyle area, including the Blanco River, creeks, lakes, and attractions like the Texas Pie Company and Texas Old Town, which enhance and support the City's Parks and Recreation system.

## Demand-Based Assessment

Drives the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, summarizing community input on needs and priorities through surveys, engagement efforts, and interviews. This data shaped the vision, goals, and objectives of the plan.

## Standards-Based Assessment

A critical component of the standards-based assessment is evaluating Kyle's existing Parks and Recreation system against national benchmarks set by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Trust for Public Land (TPL), and peer cities.

## Parkland Per Capita

Currently, Kyle provides 11.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, falling below the NRPA's benchmark of 17.4 acres and the peer city average of 16.4 acres per 1,000 residents. To align with national standards and accommodate future growth, the PROS Master Plan aims for 17.4 acres per 1,000 residents. Meeting this goal requires developing 228.2 acres immediately or develop a total of 324.2 acres by 2030 to serve the projected 77,050 residents.

## Staffing Levels

The Kyle Parks and Recreation Department currently employs 62 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs), or 9.53 FTEs per 10,000 residents. While this surpasses the peer city average of 7.85 FTEs, it remains below the NRPA benchmark of 17.1 FTEs. To maintain high-quality services as the population grows, Kyle should work toward increasing staffing to meet this standard.

## Budget Allocation

For FY 2024-25, the Parks and Recreation Department's budget is $8,658,549, which is $4,735,774 below the NRPA's benchmark of $13,394,323. However, Kyle ranks above seven out of ten peer cities, with its budget exceeding the peer average of $7,479,073 (excluding Austin and San Antonio).
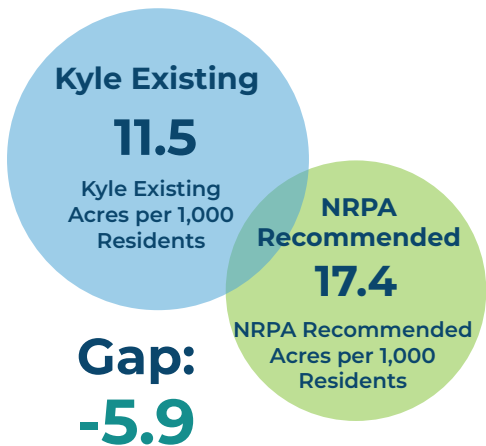
## Recreational Facilities

Kyle has notable gaps between its existing facilities and NRPA's 2024 Agency Performance Review standards. The most significant shortages include:
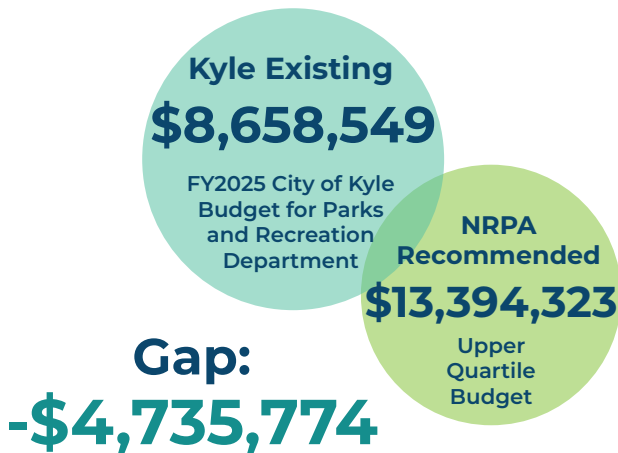
- Rectangular fields: -12
- Tennis courts: -9.7
- Tot lots: -5
- Pickleball & tennis multi-use courts: -4.8

Additionally, Kyle lacks a dedicated indoor recreation center, despite NRPA data indicating that cities of similar size typically have 1.6 recreation centers. Both community members and park staff have emphasized the need for a facility that accommodates fitness rooms, multi-use classrooms, and indoor sport courts.
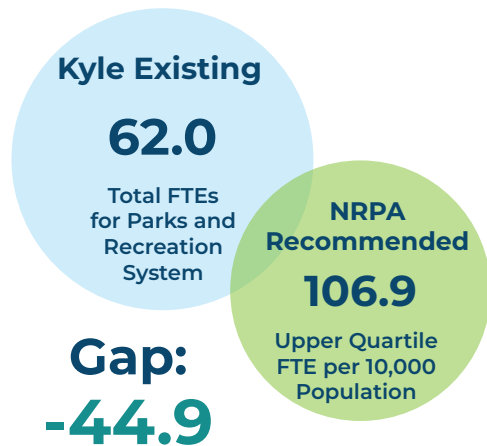
### Parkland Acreage Gap Analysis

**Kyle Existing**
**11.5**
Kyle Existing Acres per 1,000 Residents

**NRPA Recommended**
**17.4**
NRPA Recommended Acres per 1,000 Residents

**Gap: -5.9**

### PARD Operational Budget Analysis

**Kyle Existing**
**$8,658,549**
FY2025 City of Kyle Budget for Parks and Recreation Department

**NRPA Recommended**
**$13,394,323**
Upper Quartile Budget

**Gap: -$4,735,774**

### PARD Staffing Analysis

**Kyle Existing**
**62.0**
Total FTEs for Parks and Recreation System

**NRPA Recommended**
**106.9**
Upper Quartile FTE per 10,000 Population

**Gap: -44.9**

## Equity-Based Assessment

One of the biggest goals for any city to chase is an equitable Park and Recreation system. The equity-based assessment can assist the City to identify where parks, trails, and facilities are needed. Two major factors informed the equity-based assessment: environmental vulnerabilities and socioeconomic vulnerabilities.

Environmental vulnerabilities assess risks to the natural environment by analyzing factors such as urban sprawl, increasing traffic, population growth, the heat island effect, and flood zones.

In Kyle, the areas of greatest concern are the Blanco River, existing creeks, natural drainage ways, and areas of new development, especially along the I-35 corridor. Waterways and new development cause more vulnerability due to the flood zones and heat island effect. However, the City does have opportunities to increase its equitable distribution of parks through the use of its natural environmental features such as the preservation of natural areas as passive parks that can be used for birdwatching and nature hikes. Additionally, the creeks, the Blanco River and the natural drainage ways can be integrated into the park and trail systems as linear parks with trail connections to other destination points throughout the City.

Socioeconomic vulnerabilities assess risks to a community's quality of life and resilience by analyzing factors such as housing type, age, income, race/ethnicity, gender, and vehicular ownership.

In Kyle, the areas of greatest concern are primarily east of I-35. These populations are the most socially and economically vulnerable, which should be considered when planning new park development.
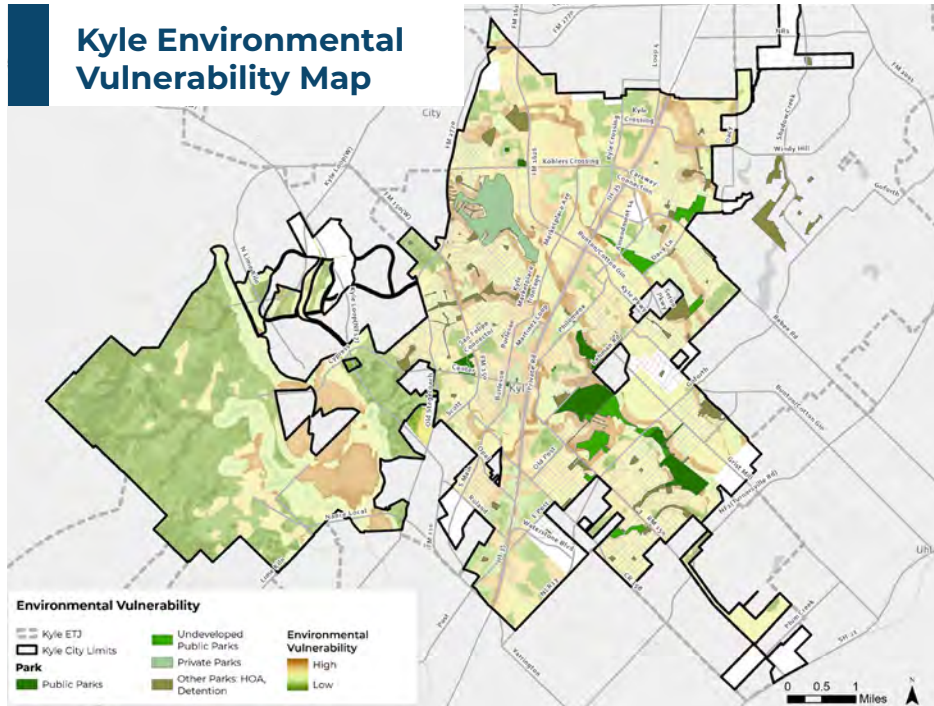
## Accessibility-Based Assessment

Parks should be accessible to every resident, and they should provide services that every resident can enjoy. Accessibility does not only consider the physical distance to the park, it also considers
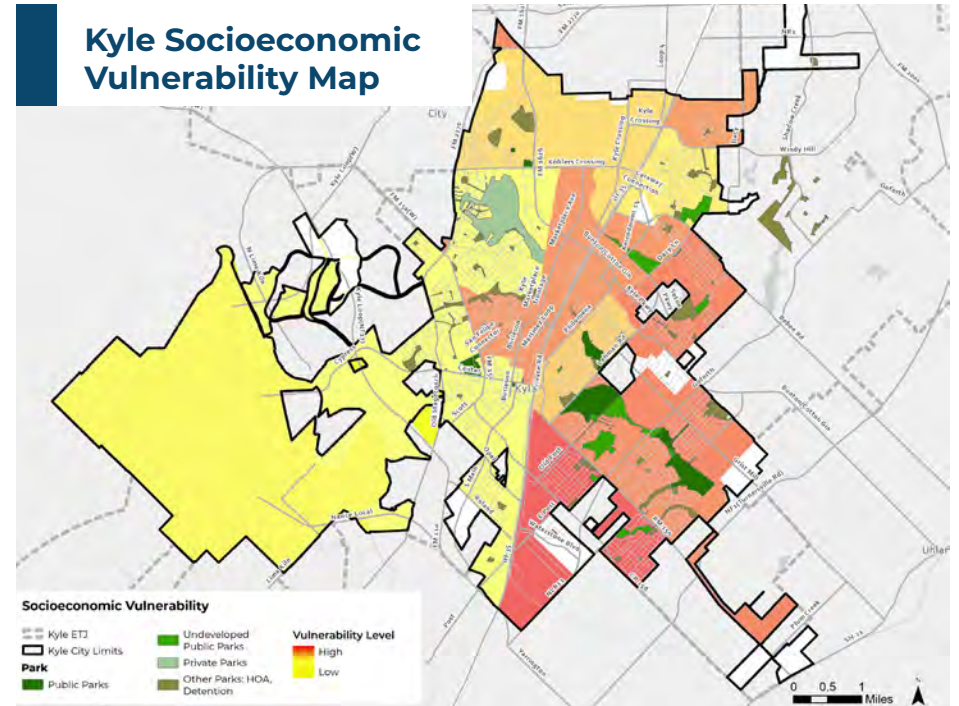
- Pedestrian infrastructure
- Population density, and
- Any obstacles that may disadvantage certain residents from visiting the parks

In Kyle, some areas of concern are the outer edges of the City's limits. Not only is there a lack of parks in these areas, but there is a lack of pedestrian infrastructure as well. While there might not be a large population in the outer edges of the City right now, it is important to consider park location and pedestrian infrastructure for long-term growth and development. As the population continues to grow, these areas of Kyle will need park and recreation services. Accessibility was also found to be an issue for the older, existing residential neighborhoods. In these neighborhoods, it was seen that many were deficient in providing sidewalks to be safely used by pedestrians. This deficiency leads to unsafe conditions for pedestrians as this requires them to walk within the streets that are being used by vehicular traffic. Accessibility was also seen as an issue in providing connections to parks. To comply with the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) 10-minute walk policy, residents must have safe, reliable, connected access to a park that does not require them to cross barriers such as major roadways, railroads, drainage ways and waterways. Applying this policy as part of the analysis, it was found that there were parks that did not meet the 10-minute walk policy due to factors such as walking distance or barriers, examples include, but not limited to, Lake Kyle, Linebarger Lake, Gregg-Clarke Park, and Post Oak Community Gardens.
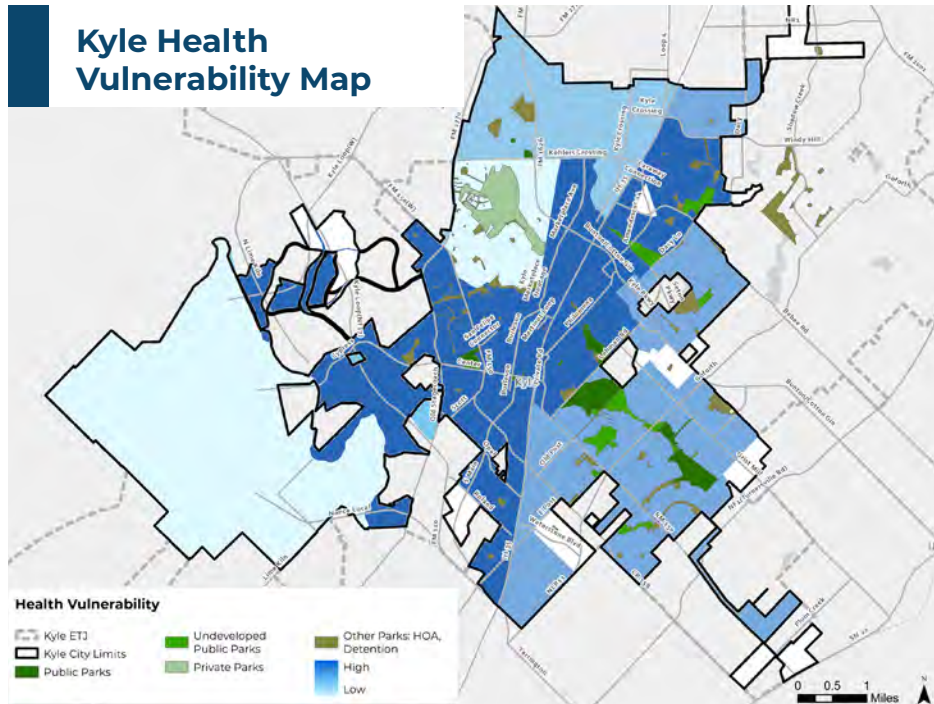
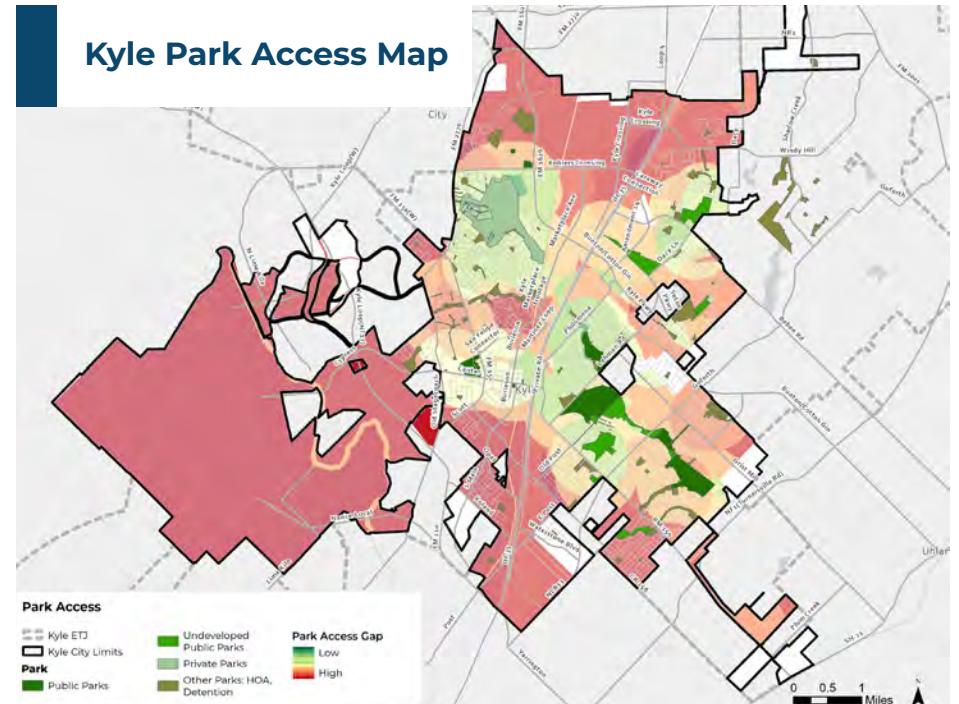**Kyle Environmental Vulnerability Map**

Environmental Vulnerability
- Kyle ETJ
- Kyle City Limits

Park
- Public Parks
- Undeveloped Public Parks
- Private Parks
- Other Parks: HOA, Detention

Environmental Vulnerability
- High
- Low

0   0.5   1 Miles

**Kyle Socioeconomic Vulnerability Map**

Socioeconomic Vulnerability
- Kyle ETJ
- Kyle City Limits

Park
- Public Parks
- Undeveloped Public Parks
- Private Parks
- Other Parks: HOA, Detention

Vulnerability Level
- High
- Low

0   0.5   1 Miles

**Kyle Health Vulnerability Map**

Health Vulnerability
- Kyle ETJ
- Kyle City Limits
- Public Parks
- Undeveloped Public Parks
- Private Parks
- Other Parks: HOA, Detention
- High
- Low

0   0.5   1 Miles

**Kyle Park Access Map**

Park Access
- Kyle ETJ
- Kyle City Limits

Park
- Public Parks
- Undeveloped Public Parks
- Private Parks
- Other Parks: HOA, Detention

Park Access Gap
- Low
- High

0   0.5   1 Miles

## Resource-Based Assessment

One of the most unique aspects to all communities is their resources which cities leverage to improve the quality of its Parks and Recreation system. Many resources occur naturally such as rivers, streams, mountains, valleys and forests, however, man-made features such as amusement parks, private recreation facilities, utility easements and entertainment venues also provide support. The City of Kyle is well-located to take advantage of both natural and man-made resources to supplement the Parks and Recreation system.

Kyle's Parks and Recreation system benefits from both natural and man-made resources that enhance community recreation opportunities.

**Blanco River:** Offers potential for water-based recreation, including fishing, swimming, kayaking, and tubing. It could support a regional paddling trail and a linear park system along its banks.

**Creeks, Greenways, and Drainage Corridors:** Provide opportunities for nature-based parks and trail connections while supporting local ecosystems.

**Lake Kyle:** Home to the Conservation Division, the park features fishing, walking trails, pavilions, an inclusive playground, and diverse wildlife. It has the potential to become an iconic city asset.

**Mary Kyle Hartson City Square Park:** A central gathering space hosting community events, with recent improvements such as ADA access, a promenade, and expanded seating. It plays a key role in the city's park system.

## Demand-Based Assessment

The Demand-Based Assessment is a key part of the PROS Master Plan, ensuring that Kyle's Parks and Recreation system reflects what residents truly envision as the future of the Parks and Recreation System. Community engagement plays a vital role in this process, following three main steps: gathering input, developing plans, and presenting the results. Through ongoing feedback, residents can share their thoughts, making the process transparent and giving the community a real voice in shaping the future of Kyle's parks. More than 4,000 residents contributed insights on current facilities, future needs, service gaps, and accessibility. This valuable input directly influences the PROS Plan's goals and action steps, helping to create a Parks and Recreation system that better serves the community.



| Discovery Phase | Review Feedback from Community | Celebration of Participation |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Phase 1 | Phase 1 | Phase 1 |

## Reaching Out to the Community

The Demand-Based Assessment and community engagement begin with outreach to inform residents about the PROS Master Plan and encourage participation in the planning process. Multiple strategies were used to facilitate communication between residents, local leaders, and organizations, ensuring accessible ways for the community to engage. These strategies included:

- One-on-One Interviews
- Stakeholder, Committee, and Board Meetings
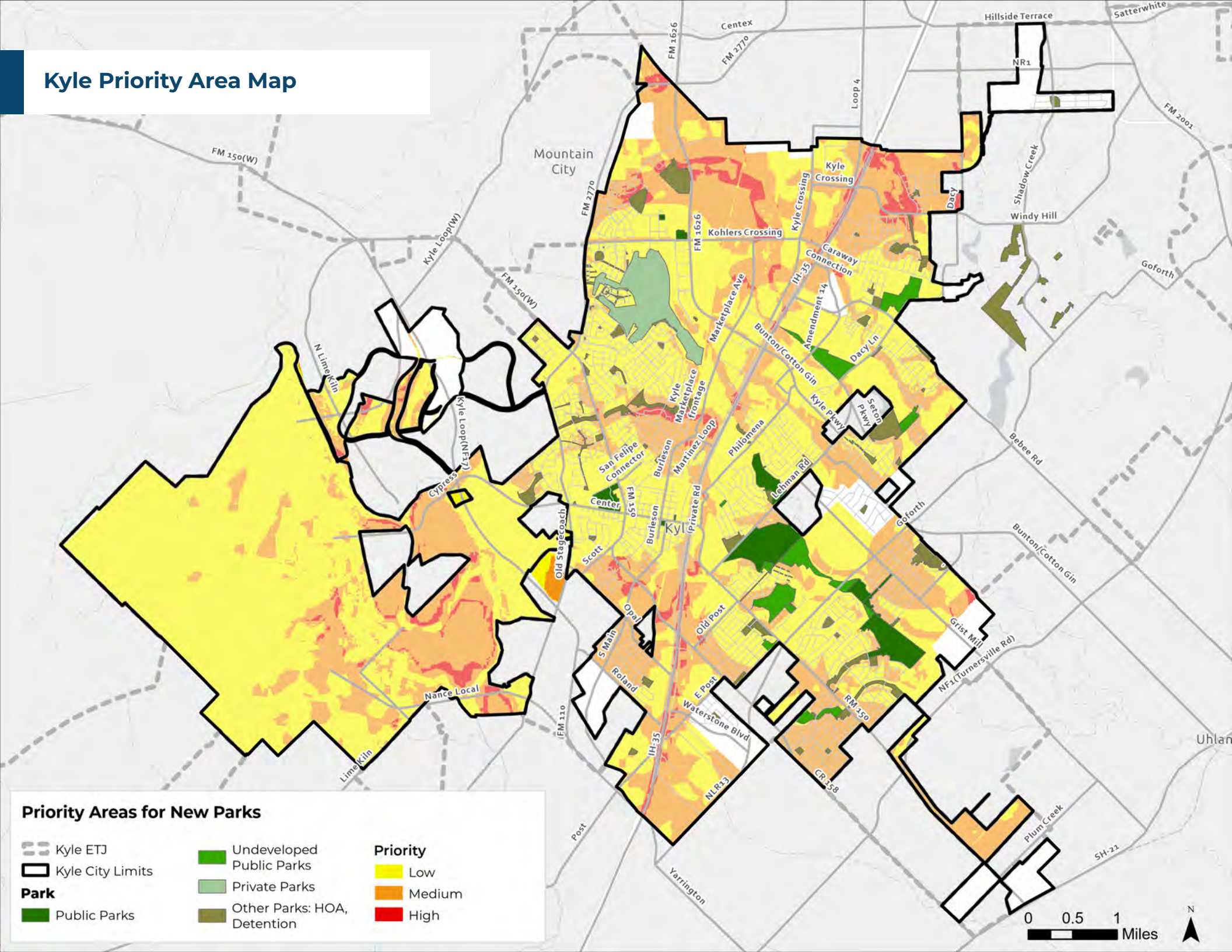- Community Surveys

*Kyle PROS Public Meeting*

# Key Findings

The City of Kyle's Parks and Recreation system is evolving to meet the needs of a growing and dynamic community. Through extensive public engagement, data analysis, and site assessments, several key findings have emerged that highlight both strengths and opportunities for improvement. These findings provide a clear picture of current park conditions, recreational trends, community priorities, and areas where strategic investment can enhance the quality of life for residents. By understanding these insights, the City can make informed decisions that support sustainable growth, equitable access, and diverse recreational experiences for all.

Based upon the analysis conducted, the following key findings were identified:

- Main items identified through the input of residents include upgrading existing parks and facilities; seek more connectivity through improved trails, sidewalks and multi-use paths; more recreational programs such as dance, fitness and art; ensure that new parks are manageable and able to be maintained; value protecting the local environment with emphasis on water resources and open spaces; and urging the City to find new ways to fund the Parks and Recreation system.

- Currently, Kyle's Parks and Recreation system is providing 11.5 parkland acres per 1,000 residents. To meet the benchmarks established by the NRPA and the peer cities a target of 17.4 parkland acres per 1,000 residents should be used as target.

- The Parks and Recreation Department is in need of an additional 44.96 FTEs or 9.53 FTEs per 10,000 residents to meet the national benchmark of 106.96 FTEs (17.10 FTEs per 10,000 residents) for municipalities of similar size. Reaching this will assist in enhancing the operations, management, programming, and maintenance of the Parks and Recreation Department.

- The City needs to explore ways to increase the budget for its Parks and Recreation Department as it is below the national average of $13,394,323. Increasing the budget for the department can create opportunities to hire more staff, acquire more parkland, install more amenities, and provide more recreational programs for the community.

- There are gaps between the NRPA's benchmarks for the number of park facilities with the largest gaps being for rectangular fields (-12), tennis courts (-9.7), tot lots (-5), and pickleball/tennis multi-use courts (-4.8).

- The community is also in need of an indoor recreation center to host various recreational programs for the community as well as fitness rooms, multi-use sport classrooms, and indoor sport courts.

- Additional parkland needs to be acquired and developed for the use and benefit of the residential neighborhoods to the east of I-35 as it was found to have gaps in access to park services.

- The City of Kyle has great opportunities to integrate its natural environment as part of its park and recreation system. Natural areas such as creeks, the Blanco River, and natural drainage ways can be made into linear parks and can include trails to create connections between parks and destination points.

- Opportunities exist in acquiring areas within the floodplains to preserve as natural open spaces that can be used more as passive parks for things such as birdwatching and nature hikes.

- The City of Kyle does have residential areas that display socioeconomic vulnerabilities, primarily to the east of I-35. The vulnerabilities can impact the residents' abilities to access parks due to factors such as not having access to a mode of transportation (personal vehicle, bicycle, etc.). These areas are key for the City to explore for the development of close-to-home parks to improve the residents' quality of life.

- Accessibility is a concern as there are areas within the City of Kyle that are either missing sidewalks or the sidewalks system has gaps, thereby creating a safety issue where pedestrians are required to walk within the streets to travel to parks, recreation facilities and to other destination points.

# Kyle Priority Area Map



**Priority Areas for New Parks**

Kyle ETJ
Kyle City Limits

**Park**

Public Parks
Undeveloped Public Parks
Private Parks
Other Parks: HOA, Detention

**Priority**

Low
Medium
High

0    0.5    1
Miles

N

# CHAPTER

# 03

# What We Heard

**In This Chapter**

Kyle Community Engagement Process & Methods
Facilitation Tools
Top Themes

## Introduction

Community engagement played a central role in shaping the Kyle Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan, ensuring that residents' voices were heard throughout the planning process. Through a variety of outreach methods including public meetings, focus groups, community pop-ups, and surveys, residents provided valuable input on their needs, priorities, and vision for Kyle's parks, trails, and recreational facilities. This chapter summarizes the engagement process, key findings, and overarching themes that emerged from community participation.

# Kyle Community Engagement Process

Community engagement was the center and driving force of the plan development. Community members of Kyle were part of the development of the plan, providing feedback on how they envision the future of parks, recreation, trails, and open spaces. Residents were engaged twice during the listening and learning phase to understand the needs and challenges. The second round of engagement allowed residents to see how their feedback shaped the plan's vision and provided an opportunity for final input before the plan's development.

## Engagement Groups and Methods

To ensure as many residents of Kyle were engaged and that it was a collaborative process, multiple and diverse engagement groups were involved. Additionally, the locations and methods of engagement varied, including public meetings, focus groups, and community pop-ups.

### Core Team

This group was composed of city staff from the Parks and Recreation Department and the Office of the City Manager, county representatives, and city council members. The core team met monthly to review materials and provide guidance and direction on the engagement process.

### Focus Groups

Two focus groups were created to have focused conversations about trails and conservation. The trails focus group included transportation, mobility, and trail advocates, as well as representatives of Kyle Area Youth Advisory Council (K.A.Y.A.C.). This group focused on identifying priority connections and focus areas. The conservation focus group comprised naturalists, conservationists, and members of the birding community, focusing on preserving open and natural spaces, creating pollinator and birding areas.

### Public Meetings

Two open houses were hosted, one on the east side and the other on the west side of Kyle. The open house invited residents to provide their feedback at a large interactive workshop, where they shared their input on funding priorities, preferred facilities, park design, and specific parks in need of improvement.

### Community Pop-Ups

Attendance at community events during the engagement process was maximized to reach residents where they naturally gather. The pop-ups gathered feedback on preferred activities and provided opportunities to complete the survey. Pop-ups were held at community events, community centers, holiday events, movies in the park, and the activity center.

# Engagement by the Numbers

**2** Focus Group Meetings

**4,000** People/Data Points of Feedback

**1** Parks Board

**1,140** Survey Responses

**2** Public Workshops

**6** Staff 1 v 1

**8** Community Pop-Ups
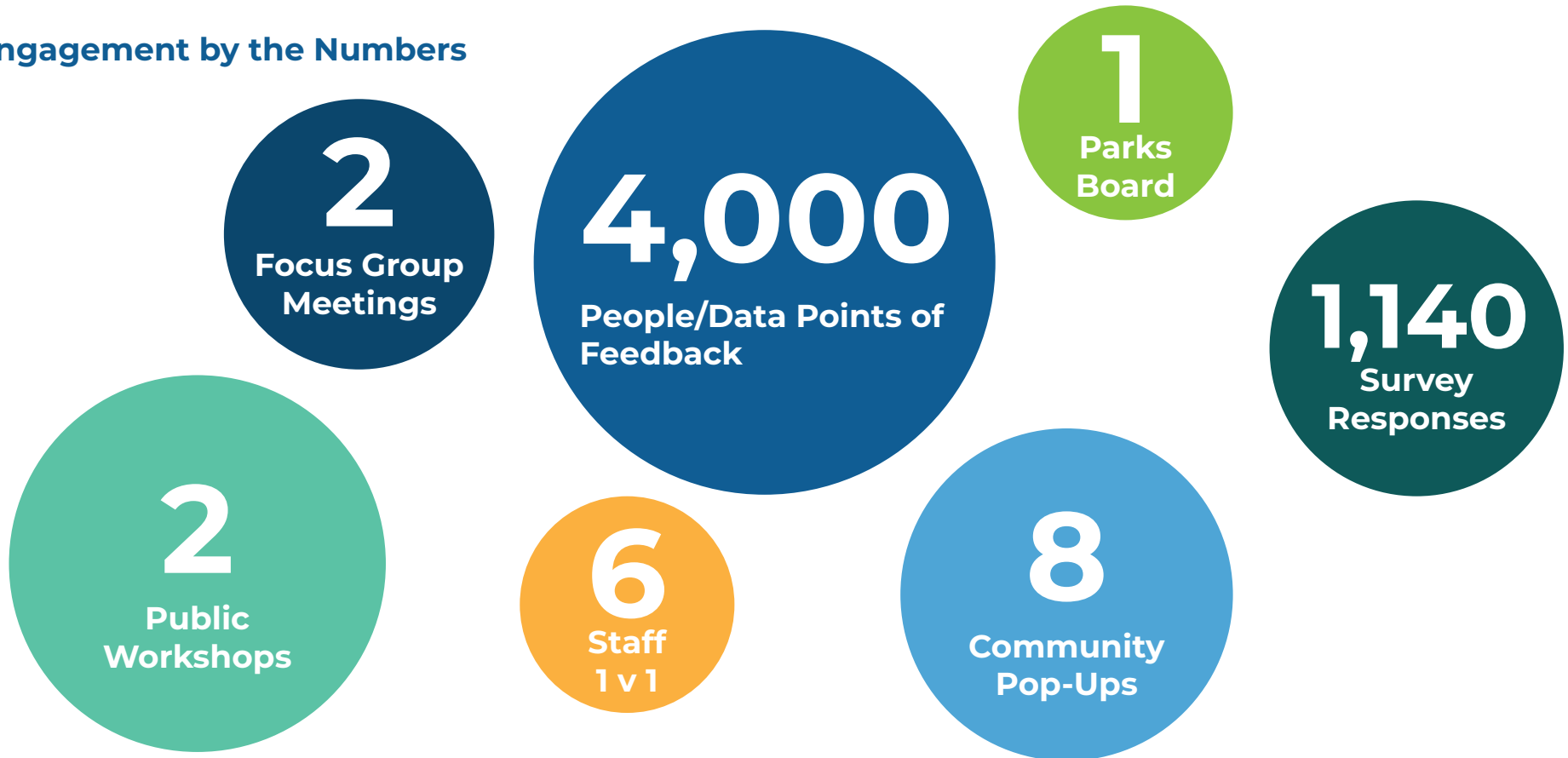
## Outreach

Community engagement begins with outreach. Residents need to know about the PROS Master Plan so they can become involved in the planning process. The Kyle PROS website served as the central hub for all information about the plan, offering an overview of the planning process and providing access to the community survey, plan documents, meeting schedules, event announcements, and FAQs.

To ensure widespread community awareness and encourage participation, a variety of outreach methods were employed, including:

- Email blasts
- Press releases
- Newsletters
- Social media – Facebook, Instagram
- City Council meeting announcements
- Parks Advisory Board meeting announcements
- Flyers
- Yard signs
- Digital Billboards on 1-35

# Facilitation Tools

To ensure meaningful participation, a variety of facilitation tools were used to engage residents in interactive ways. These tools helped capture community preferences, priorities, and ideas for park amenities, funding, and overall vision. By incorporating hands-on activities, surveys, and visual exercises, residents were able to express their opinions in both structured and creative ways, providing valuable insights for the PROS Master Plan.

## One Word

Participants were given a comment card and asked to describe in one word what comes to mind when they think of parks today and another card to describe how they envision the future of Kyle Parks.

When asked to describe Kyle Parks today, residents expressed two polarizing views. Some noted that parks need upgrades and maintenance, lack infrastructure, and do not fully meet residents' needs. Others described them as family-friendly, fun, safe, and peaceful. When asked to describe the future of Kyle parks, residents envisioned memorable, peaceful parks that are accessible, inclusive, and educational. These future parks would have trails, water features, and shade, connecting people with nature.
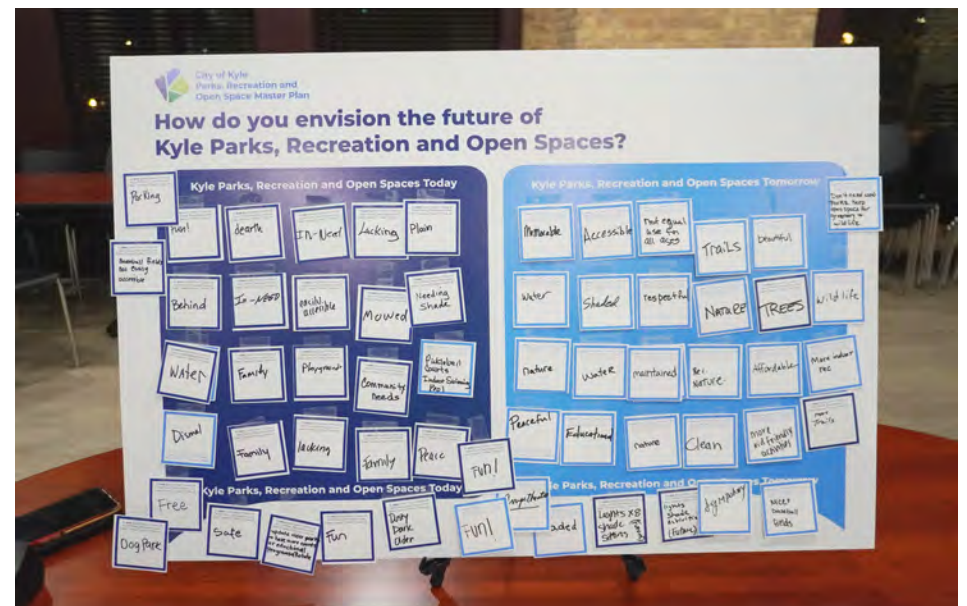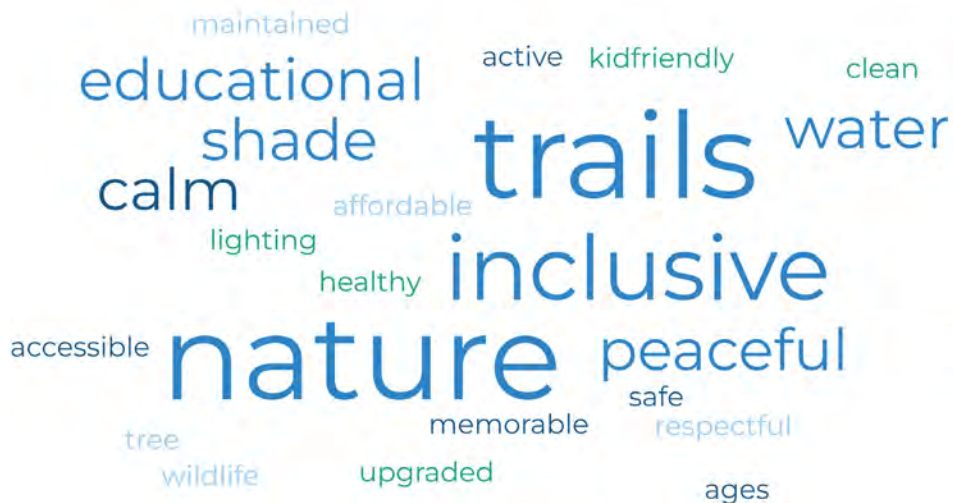
## Preferred Amenities

The amenity boards allowed residents to vote on their preferred park amenities. Participants were given three sticker dots and asked to place them on their top three preferred amenities. Two boards were permanently posted at City Hall and the Public Safety Center during the community engagement phase. The remaining two boards were used at public workshops. The results indicated that, of the provided options, indoor recreation was the most preferred park amenity, followed by trails, preservation/open space areas, outdoor recreation, and a swimming pool.

**1** Indoor Recreation

**2** Trails

**3** Open Space Areas

**4** Outdoor Recreation

**5** Swimming Pool
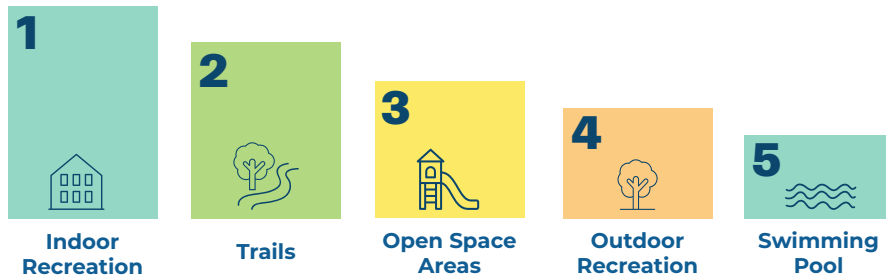
## Ideal Park

Using a digital board with a 5-acre park and a 1-acre park, participants designed their ideal park by selecting and arranging park elements. The goal was for them to design their ideal park and then reduce its size to identify their top priorities.

When designing their own 5-acre neighborhood park, residents of Kyle prioritized playgrounds, followed by restrooms, walking/jogging paths, open lawns, pavilions, picnic areas, and aesthetic landscaping. When the size of the park changed to one acre and space was limited, playgrounds, walking/jogging paths, dog parks, and aesthetic landscaping remained the top priorities.

**Playground**

**Walking & Jogging Paths**

**Dog Parks**

**Aesthetic Landscaping**

## Visual Preference Survey

A total of 667 people participated in the visual preference survey during community pop-up events and workshops. The most desired amenity was an aquatic center, followed by trails, interactive public art, splash pads, and amphitheaters. In general, sports facilities were more desired than other amenities (shade, seating, lighting, etc.), However, community events and performance spaces ranked in the top 10 most desired amenities.

### Most Desired Amenities

**1** Trails

**2** Aquatic Center

**3** Indoor Recreation

**4** Splashpads

**5** Soccer Field
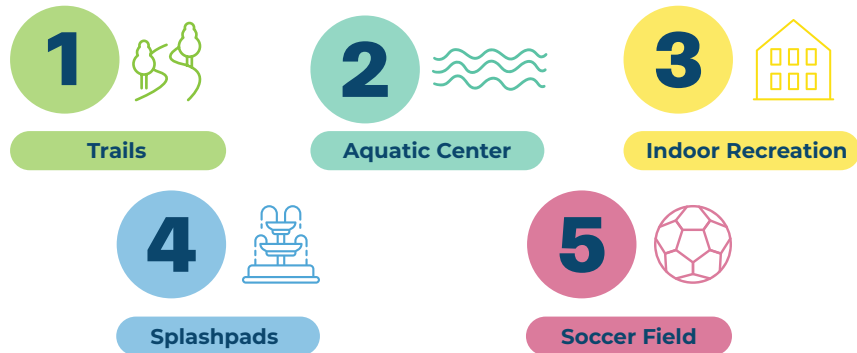
## Funding Priorities

Kyle residents want to prioritize investment in existing parks, specifically upgrading equipment. The second priority is the development and improvement of trails, followed by improved maintenance and operations, and finally, the development of new parks.

**1** Upgrade Existing Amenities

**2** New Trails

**3** Improve Maintenance & Operations

**4** New Facilities

## Community Survey

The community survey for the Kyle Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan received over 1,140 responses and provided valuable insight into current usage patterns, facility needs, and community priorities. A large majority (73%) of respondents reported using Kyle Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) facilities or programs. Those who did not cited lack of time or interest as the primary barrier, followed by a preference for using parks in neighboring cities.

Survey participants identified the **top priorities for the parks system as improving existing parks, adding athletic facilities, increasing maintenance**, meeting the needs of a growing population, and securing funding. **Shade structures were identified as the most needed facility (51%),** followed by additional trails, benches, practice fields, and courts for basketball and volleyball. When asked about playground features, shade was again a top priority, followed by swings, climbing features, and slides. **Nearly three-quarters of respondents expressed the need for an indoor recreation facility in Kyle.**

**Trails are a key interest, with many residents expressing a desire for trails near their homes that connect them to destinations throughout the city. 80% of Kyle Residents mentioned trails as a top priority.** Conversely, riding bicycles on streets and roads was the least favored trail-related statement, and accessing work via trails was not considered important. Participation in recreation programs was generally low, though community events and multi-day events had higher engagement. The most requested programs included farmers markets, food truck events, movies and concerts in the park, and athletic opportunities. Indoor programming preferences focused on sports leagues, fitness and wellness activities, youth programs, and family events.

When it comes to communication and outreach, residents rely primarily on the City website and social media, though many recommended improving information shared at parks and facilities. Looking ahead, community input helped shape a vision for a future sports complex, with high interest in trails, playgrounds, gathering spaces, soccer fields, and basketball courts. Preferred indoor features include a fitness gym, indoor basketball and volleyball courts, aquatics, and indoor soccer. **Overall, the community's feedback underscores the importance of continuing to improve and expand parks and recreation services in line with Kyle's growing and diverse population.**



### Top 5 MOST needed outdoor park facilities according to community survey.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shade/ Covered Areas | Trails | Benches/ Seating Areas | Athletic Practice Fields | Basket & Volleyball Courts |

**73.3%**

**73.3% of respondents said indoor facilities are needed in Kyle.**
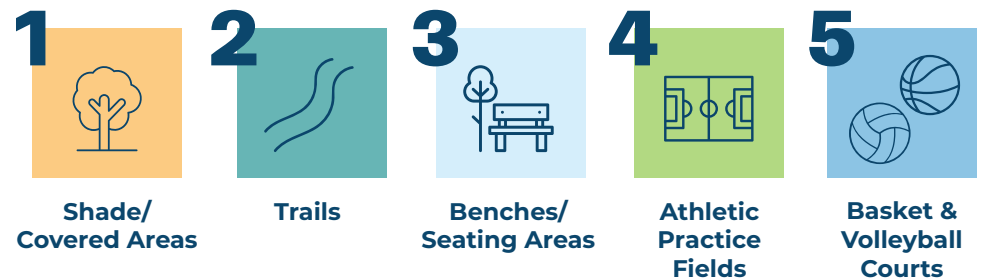
### Top 5 Indoor Recreation Priorities

| 1 Fitness Gym | 2 Indoor Basketball | 3 Volleyball Courts | 4 Aquatics | 3 Indoor Soccer |
|---|---|---|---|---|

# Top Themes

After reviewing the data gathered from all the conversations, interviews, pop-up events, workshops, and survey submissions, the following themes were identified:

**Facilities and Amenities:** The highest priority for residents is upgrading existing facilities. Concerns include outdated play equipment, unpaved parking lots, sports facilities in poor condition, inadequate shade, old restrooms, and parks lacking accessibility. Once existing infrastructure is improved, residents expressed interest in new facilities, including an aquatic center, an indoor recreation facility, more park space, sports fields and courts, interactive public art, splash pads, and amphitheaters.

**Trails:** Residents want more trails for walking, jogging, and biking, as well as a comprehensive network throughout the city. Current trails are short and disconnected, limiting usability. There is strong interest in alternative transportation, reducing car dependency, and expanding recreational trail opportunities.

**Recreation Programs and Activities:** Residents expressed a desire for more recreational programming, particularly non-sports-related classes such as dance, fitness, art, and music.

**Maintenance and Operations:** Residents emphasized the need for ongoing maintenance. They worry that if the City cannot maintain current parks, it will struggle to manage new developments. Improving existing parks should be the priority before expanding the system.

**Environmental Stewardship:** Residents value sustainability and conservation. They support water management efforts, more open spaces, native habitats, and opportunities to connect with nature. Restoration, preservation, and conservation projects are highly desired.

**Funding:** While funding was not a primary discussion topic among residents, those who mentioned it expressed concern about potential tax increases. The City should explore supplemental funding sources that align with community goals.

**Marketing:** Residents generally seem unaware of everything the Parks Department currently offers. Additionally, they do not have a clear way to communicate maintenance issues, concerns, or suggestions with the City. Improved marketing and communication strategies are needed.

*Kyle PROS - Public Engagement - Public Workshop*

# CHAPTER

# 04

# Kyle Parks System of Tomorrow

## In This Chapter

## Introduction

This chapter introduces the Goals, Objectives, and Strategies that anchor the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, a blueprint for turning shared aspirations into tangible outcomes. These guiding principles offer a strategic path forward, ensuring that every initiative supports a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient park system for current and future generations.

# Introduction

Picture a city where children's laughter echoes from vibrant playgrounds, where families gather beneath the shade of sprawling oaks, and where seniors and young professionals alike find respite along scenic trails. Imagine a Kyle where parks inspire, trails connect, and recreation energizes, where every resident, regardless of age, ability, or background, can experience the health, social, and economic benefits of a world-class park system.

Kyle is at a turning point. As one of the fastest-growing cities in Texas, the decisions we make today will define the quality of life for generations to come. The Kyle Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan is more than a vision, it's a call to action. Through strategic investment, bold planning, and strong community partnerships, we will create a dynamic, inclusive, and sustainable park system that meets the needs of today while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow.

Through strategic investment, thoughtful design, and strong community partnerships, Kyle's parks will become a cornerstone of livability and a catalyst for economic and environmental resilience. Elevating our city into a destination where parks don't just exist but actively enhance our daily lives supporting health, strengthening community ties, and driving economic vitality.

But a vision without action remains just a dream. Now is the time to commit, to advocate for bold investments, to champion equitable access, and to reimagine how parks can shape the identity of Kyle. The future isn't something we wait for, it's something we create.

## Let's build it together. The future of Kyle starts now—and it starts with us.

**Balanced and Connected System**

**Dynamic and Inclusive Community**

**Flourishing Nature Experience**

**Vibrant and Prosperous Destination**

**Sustainable Resources**

## Guiding the Future of Kyle's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
### Turning Vision into Action

The Goals, Objectives, and Strategies outlined in this document serve as the foundation for Kyle's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, providing a clear roadmap for action. These guiding principles ensure that every decision, investment, and policy aligns with the vision of a dynamic park system that enhances quality of life, strengthens community bonds, and preserves Kyle's unique natural and cultural assets.

Each goal defines a key priority for the future of Kyle's parks, while the supporting objectives and strategies provide specific, measurable steps to achieve that vision. From expanding access to recreational opportunities and strengthening environmental sustainability to fostering economic vitality and ensuring long-term operational resilience, this framework is designed to drive meaningful change.

But a plan is only as powerful as its execution. Success depends on commitment—from city leaders, stakeholders, and the community as a whole. Whether through policy development, strategic partnerships, or community engagement, this document empowers Kyle to take decisive steps toward a future where parks, trails, and recreation spaces are not just amenities, but essential elements of a thriving and connected city.

**Goal #1**

# Balanced and Connected System

**Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.**

A well-connected parks system is essential for fostering active lifestyles, social interaction, and environmental resilience. Parks, trails, and open spaces should not exist in isolation they should be seamlessly integrated into the city's infrastructure, ensuring that residents can easily and safely access outdoor recreation opportunities.

This goal focuses on ensuring that Kyle's parks system is integrated into the broader transportation network, equitably distributed across all neighborhoods, and designed to support multiple forms of mobility.

Key priorities include:
- Creating a seamless, multi-modal network of trails, parks, and public spaces.
- Expanding greenway and trail systems to connect neighborhoods with parks and recreation facilities.
- Ensuring equitable park distribution, so all residents—regardless of location—have access to high-quality outdoor spaces.
- Strengthening pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to make parks safer and easier to access.
- By investing in a balanced and connected parks system, Kyle can promote healthier lifestyles, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance community cohesion.

## Objective 1: Establish a seamlessly integrated and well-connected system of parks, trails, and community spaces- enhancing connectivity and access for all.

A well-planned parks system should be integrated into the city's transportation and infrastructure network to create a seamless user experience. Parks, trails, and public spaces should be easy to access, highly visible, and strategically located to support active lifestyles, social engagement, and environmental resilience.

### Strategy 1.1.1 Establish a Seamless, Multi-Modal Network of Parks, Trails, and Public Spaces

**Action Item: Develop a Comprehensive Trail Network Master Plan**
Kyle should develop a long-term, citywide master plan for trails and greenways, identifying:
- Missing trail connections and gaps in accessibility.
- Opportunities for trail expansion based on population growth and land availability.
- Potential partnerships with adjacent municipalities to create regional trail networks.

## Best Practice Example

**Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System, San Antonio, Texas**

A well-connected greenway system transforms urban mobility, recreation, and environmental sustainability. San Antonio's Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System is a model for integrating trails with natural corridors, linking neighborhoods to parks while preserving waterways and wildlife habitats. With over 80 miles of trails, this system enhances active transportation, reduces urban heat islands, and supports eco-tourism. Key Features of the Greenway trail system; 80+ miles of continuous trails connecting parks, schools, and neighborhoods, follows creek corridors, supporting stormwater management and biodiversity, ADA-accessible design, wayfinding signage and digital maps for navigation and safety, Integrated bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly crossings

*Source: San Antonio Greenway Trails System*

**Action Item: Prioritize Multimodal Access and Integrate Trails into Existing Infrastructure**
Trails should be incorporated into road projects, stormwater management corridors, and utility easements to create a multi-functional, interconnected network.

**Action Item: Provide Trailhead Facilities**
To improve access, trailheads should include amenities such as parking, restrooms, hydration stations, and interpretive signage to encourage greater usage.

**Action Item: Implement a Citywide Wayfinding and Signage Program**
Wayfinding signage is essential for connectivity, accessibility, and user experience. A well-designed wayfinding system will:
- Help trail users navigate safely and efficiently.
- Provide clear connections between parks, public spaces, and transit hubs.
- Improve inclusivity with ADA-accessible signage, multilingual directions, and digital enhancements.
- Encourage tourism and economic development by making parks more welcoming and visitor-friendly.

## Strategy 1.1.2 Ensure Connectivity Between Parks, Neighborhoods, Public Spaces, Schools and Retail
To increase accessibility, parks must be embedded into the city's urban design, ensuring easy and direct access from neighborhoods, commercial areas, and community hubs.

**Action Item: Integrate Park Access Points**
New and existing parks should include direct pedestrian and bicycle connections to neighborhoods.

**Action Item: Integrating parks into neighborhoods**
Design parks as extensions of neighborhoods by aligning entrances, amenities, and pathways with surrounding streets and land uses.

**Action Item: Develop mobility-friendly connections between parks and transit hubs.**
Enhance first- and last-mile connections by providing sidewalks, bike lanes, and safe crossings that link parks to nearby public transportation.

## Strategy 1.1.3 Expand Regional Connectivity Through Greenways and Multi-Jurisdictional Partnerships
Kyle's parks and trails should not exist in isolation, they should be part of a larger regional network that connects to neighboring cities, county parks, and regional trail systems. Expanding connectivity at a regional level will increase mobility, promote eco-tourism, and enhance recreational opportunities for residents.

# Best Practice Example

**Atlanta's BeltLine Wayfinding System**

Effective wayfinding transforms a disconnected system into a seamless experience for residents and visitors alike. The Atlanta BeltLine Wayfinding System is a best-practice model that integrates digital navigation, interactive kiosks, and multilingual signage to enhance trail accessibility and connectivity. By incorporating QR codes, real-time maps, and accessibility features, the system not only improves navigation but also supports economic development and tourism by making the city's parks and trails more user-friendly. Kyle can adopt a similar approach by implementing a citywide wayfinding program that connects parks, trails, and public spaces through modern, accessible signage solutions.

*Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (2023). Atlanta BeltLine Wayfinding and Signage Plan. Retrieved from https://beltline.org*

**Action Item: Develop Regional Trail Connections to Nearby Cities**
Coordinate with Hays County and regional partners to develop a regional trail system (Violet Crown and Great Springs) that links Kyle to nearby destinations such as Buda, San Marcos, and Austin.

**Action Item: Enhance Greenway Corridors for Nature Connectivity**
Prioritize greenway corridors along creeks, floodplains, and utility easements to provide natural connections between parks and neighborhoods while supporting habitat conservation

**Action Item: Connect Trails to Transit for Seamless Access**
Work with transportation agencies to integrate trails with transit infrastructure, ensuring seamless connections between parks, trailheads, and transit stops.

**Action Item: Create Recreational Blueways Along Local Waterways**
Develop an interconnected blueway system along the Blanco and Plum Creek waterways to support canoeing, kayaking, and nature-based recreation (e.g. fishing, fitness classes along waterways, tubbing).

## Strategy 1.1.4 Implement a Citywide Wayfinding and Smart Navigation System

An integrated wayfinding system will help residents and visitors navigate Kyle's parks, trails, and public spaces more easily while encouraging greater park usage and active transportation. The system should include emergency wayfinding elements, such as clear markers, location signage, and access points for first responders, to enhance safety and support rapid emergency response. Digital enhancements can further improve accessibility and engagement.

**Action Item: Add Consistent Signage at Key Locations**
Install standardized wayfinding signage at all major park entrances, trailheads, and key intersections.

**Action Item: Offer Real-Time Trail Info via Apps**
Use QR codes and mobile apps to provide real-time navigation, trail conditions and park events.

**Action Item: Include ADA and Multilingual Signage Features**
Incorporate ADA-accessible signage and multilingual directions to improve usability for all residents.

**Action Item: Establish Citywide Branded Signage System**
Create a branded signage program that aligns with the city's identity, ensuring a consistent look and feel across all parks and public spaces.

## Strategy 1.1.5 Improve Safe and Equitable Access to Parks and Trails Through Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure Enhancements

Ensuring safe, comfortable, and equitable access to Kyle's parks and trails requires improved pedestrian, bicycle, and multimodal infrastructure. Well-designed streetscapes and crossings will encourage more residents to walk or bike to parks while reducing safety concerns.

### Action Item: Improve Crosswalks and Bike Lanes Near Parks
Upgrade crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and bike lanes near parks and trailheads to improve safety and accessibility.

### Action Item: Enhance Park Access with Safety Measures
Implement traffic-calming measures such as raised crosswalks, pedestrian refuges, and curb extensions to enhance park access in high-traffic areas.

### Action Item: Launch Safe Routes to Parks Program
Develop Safe Routes to Parks initiatives that prioritize sidewalk and bike lane improvements leading to parks.

### Action Item: Provide ADA-Compliant, Well-Lit Park Pathways
Ensure that all parks and trails have well-lit, ADA-compliant pathways to accommodate users of all ages and abilities.

## Objective 2: Ensure a Well-Distributed and Balanced Park System that Plans for Future Growth

Kyle is rapidly growing, and if parks are not planned in advance, future residents may face limited access to recreational opportunities. A balanced and well-distributed park system ensures that all neighborhoods—both existing and developing—have equitable access to high-quality parks, green spaces, and recreation facilities. Strategic land acquisition will prevent parkland shortages, preserve key environmental areas, and create a cohesive network of parks that supports long-term sustainability.

## Strategy 1.2.1 Develop Parkland Acquisition and Expansion Plan and Establish an Annual Parkland Acquisition Review Process

Regular updates to the Parkland Acquisition and Expansion Plan will ensure that land acquisition efforts align with evolving growth patterns and community needs.

### Action Item: Assess Parkland Needs Annually for Growth
Conduct an annual parkland needs assessment to evaluate changes in population density, housing development, and park access gaps.

## Did you Know?

**Including Parks in a development project can create a win–win scenario for the community and the developer's return on investment.**

Developer support can help bridge the gap between community needs and available public resources for parks and open spaces, especially for highly programmed parks in urban areas with intensive capital and operational demands.

Including open space and parks as part of a development project creates a win–win scenario for the community and the developer's return on investment. Oftentimes, well-used gathering spaces can be added in small or underutilized project areas and can be relatively inexpensive in the overall project context.

When combined with sustained public funding and efforts to ensure that investments in high-quality parks and open spaces are equitably distributed, private sector contributions to the creation and operation of these spaces can deliver results that benefit communities and developers alike.

*Source: Urban Land Institute. The Case for Open Space: Why the Real Estate Industry Should Invest in Parks and Open Spaces. Washington, DC: Urban Land Institute, 2018.*

The Case for Developer-Supported Open Space

**1** By investing in equitable access to parks and open space, developers can help improve community health and wellness, boost economic development, and enhance a project's financial success

**2** Developer-supported parks and open space can help mitigate the impact of insufficient public resources for parks, thereby providing communities with access to beneficial open space while enhancing long-term real estate value.

**3** Community-driven programming supported by the private sector and activate open spaces, foster social interaction, and strengthen the overall value and marketability of associated projects.

**4** Creating or funding parks and open spaces can help developers secure community buy-in, public sector support, and valuable zoning incentives in communities where these incentives are available.

**Action Item: Use GIS to Identify Priority Park Sites**
Update GIS mapping and data analysis to prioritize new park locations based on walkability, park access gaps, and environmental factors.

**Action Item: Coordinate Parkland Goals with City Plans**
Align land acquisition priorities with the City's Comprehensive Growth Plan and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

**Action Item: Implement a Proactive Land Banking Program**
Land banking is an effective way to acquire and hold parcels for future park development before land values increase. Kyle should:

- Establish a dedicated Parkland Acquisition Fund to purchase land in targeted growth areas.
- Partner with land trusts and conservation organizations to preserve key properties.
- Use right-of-first-refusal agreements to secure priority sites when properties become available.

**Action Item: Strengthen Parkland Dedication Policies to Ensure Equitable Growth**
A strong Parkland Dedication Policy ensures that new developments contribute to parkland expansion, reducing the financial burden on the city. The City should consider:

- Require residential and commercial developers to dedicate parkland or pay into a Parkland Dedication Fund.
- Adjust parkland dedication fees annually based on land valuation trends.
- Ensure that dedicated parkland meets city standards for accessibility, size, and connectivity.
- Create incentives for developers who go beyond minimum requirements, such as expedited permitting for projects that include publicly accessible green spaces.

## Strategy 1.2.2 Continue to Align Park Expansion with Future Growth and Development Patterns

As Kyle continues to grow, it's essential that parks are planned alongside residential and commercial development, not after the fact. Embedding parks into the early stages of development ensures they are centrally located, accessible, and designed to meet the specific needs of each neighborhood.

## Strategy 1.2.3 Enhance and Leverage Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) to Expand and Enhance Parkland

Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) could strengthen the City of Kyle's approach to stretch public resources by partnering with developers, nonprofits, and institutions to co-create or

co-maintain parks. Parks and open spaces provide substantial benefits for individuals and communities, yet public resources to create and operate these spaces are limited. Increasingly, owners and developers are filling the gap by building, operating, or funding open spaces—with positive implications for community health, environmental sustainability, and real estate project success. These partnerships can accelerate park development while ensuring high-quality design and shared stewardship.

**Action Item: Create a Public-Private Partnership (P3) Policy for Parks**
City of Kyle should consider developing a formal policy to identify partnership types, responsibilities, and expectations for park co-development and maintenance. Include guidelines for naming rights, cost-sharing, and community benefit requirements.

**Action Item: Identify Partnership Opportunities in New Developments**
Coordinate with developers during the planning and permitting process to explore opportunities for joint development, funding, or dedication of parkland and recreational amenities.

# Objective 3: Elevate the Everyday Park Experience Through Comfort, Safety, and Design Excellence

As Kyle grows, so does the community's expectation for parks that are not only functional but exceptional in quality, comfort, and safety. Parks are among the most visible and widely used public assets, and their design plays a major role in how residents interact with the outdoors on a daily basis. By focusing on everyday experiences—shade on a summer day, safe walking paths, restrooms, seating, and inclusive play—Kyle can transform its parks into truly beloved spaces that serve people of all ages and abilities.

Incorporating high-quality materials, thoughtful amenities, and culturally reflective design elements also helps strengthen the city's identity and pride of place. Investing in safe, well-designed, and universally accessible parks is not just an aesthetic decision—it's a commitment to health, inclusion, and long-term livability for everyone in Kyle.

## Strategy 1.3.1 Establish Minimum Design and Comfort Standards for All Parks

When parks provide basic amenities—like seating, shade, hydration, and restrooms—they become more usable and welcoming to a wider range of residents. Without these elements, even the most beautiful parks can feel underutilized or inaccessible. Standardizing design elements ensures consistency across the system and reduces inequities in park quality.

**Action Item: Develop a "Kyle Parks Design and Comfort Standards Manual**
A strong Design and Comfort Standards Manual should provide clear benchmarks for amenities in all parks based on park classifications. These standards may include:

## Best Practice Example

**Designing for Extreme Heat–Phoenix's Shade & Comfort Standards**

In cities with intense summer climates, comfort features aren't just a luxury—they're essential for health and usability. Phoenix, AZ has become a national model by requiring that at least 50% of all playground and gathering areas be shaded and that restrooms and drinking fountains are standard features in all community parks. These design guidelines help ensure safe, year-round use of public spaces, especially for children, older adults, and low-income families who may rely on parks for daily recreation

*City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department. (2022). Park Design Standards Manual. Retrieved from https://www.phoenix.gov/parks*

- 50% shaded seating/play areas
- ADA-compliant pathways and restrooms
- Picnic tables, benches, and trash/recycling stations
- Water fountains/hydration stations
- Native landscaping and tree canopy goals

**Action Item: Conduct a Systemwide Comfort Audit**
Evaluating existing parks to assess compliance with new standards and Prioritize upgrades based on usage, location, and community input.

**Action Item: Incorporate Comfort Standards into All Renovations and New Builds**
City of Kyle should consider requiring all capital improvement projects to meet the minimum standard baseline, with optional enhancements in high-use areas.

## Strategy 1.3.2 Integrate Public Art, Cultural Signage, and Local Identity into Park Design

Parks are important cultural landscapes that can celebrate local history, community identity, and the spirit of place. When residents see themselves reflected in public spaces, it strengthens community ownership, pride, and inclusion.



*Source: Landscape Performance Series. Landscape Architecture Foundation. Images by Billy Hustace*

## Action Item: Launch a "Parks as Cultural Canvas" Program

Transform parks into living galleries that reflect the cultural diversity and creative spirit of Kyle. This program will commission local artists and engage the public to co-create installations that tell the city's story and spark joy and reflection. Additional action items may include:

- Partner with local schools, youth programs, and cultural organizations to generate ideas and co-create community murals, mosaic paths, storytelling fences, or poetry walls.
- Pilot the program in one regional or neighborhood park and scale to other locations based on community feedback and funding.

## Action Item: Install Cultural and Interpretive Signage

Interpretive signage helps residents and visitors understand the meaning, history, and ecology of a place. It gives context, honors community stories, and creates a deeper connection between people and their parks. Additional action items may include:

- Install bilingual signs (e.g., English/Spanish) in areas with diverse populations.
- Use QR codes linked to oral histories, interactive maps, or augmented reality stories to bring history and heritage to life.
- Collaborate with historians, tribal representatives, and longtime residents to develop inclusive narratives that represent all segments of Kyle's past and present.

## Action Item: Develop a Park Identity Design Toolkit

A consistent yet flexible visual identity strengthens Kyle's brand while allowing each park to reflect its unique neighborhood and character. This toolkit ensures that every park communicates clearly, is easy to navigate, and feels like part of a unified system. City of Kyle should also consider the following:

- Develop brand standards for signage design, fonts, color palettes, and wayfinding icons that reflect Kyle's identity.
- Create templates for interpretive signs, entry signs, community bulletin boards, and public art plaques.
- Allow for site-specific design customization to reflect local history, themes (e.g., music, nature, agriculture), or cultural stories.

## Action Item: Develop an Arts and Culture Master Plan

Create a citywide Arts and Culture Master Plan to guide the integration of public art, cultural programming, and creative placemaking in parks and public spaces. The plan should identify goals, funding strategies, partnerships, and priority locations to celebrate local heritage, support artists, and enhance community identity.

## Best Practice Example

**Boston's ParkARTS program uses art, music, and festivals to activate underused parks and engage diverse communities[6].**

Boston's ParkARTS program is a national model for using arts and cultural programming to revitalize underused parks and bring communities together. Launched in 1996, the initiative blends visual arts, music, theater, and public workshops to transform parks into vibrant cultural spaces. By offering free concerts, murals, puppet shows, art exhibitions, and community paint nights, ParkARTS helps residents connect with public spaces in new and creative ways especially in neighborhoods historically lacking in public investment.

The program is also activates parks as platforms for youth development, local storytelling, and civic pride, and plays a crucial role in increasing park use, visibility, and stewardship.

*Boston Parks & Recreation Department. (2023). ParkARTS Program Overview. Retrieved from https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/parkarts*

## Did you Know?

### Culturally Reflective Parks Build Civic Pride and Community Stewardship

When parks reflect the history, identity, and voices of the neighborhoods they serve, they become more than places for play—they become places of belonging. Culturally reflective parks foster neighborhood pride, civic participation, and deeper emotional connections between residents and public space. In Kyle, incorporating community art, local stories, and bilingual interpretive signage can elevate trust, improve stewardship, and activate community-led programming and care.

Neighborhoods with culturally relevant **parks see up to 50% greater participation** in volunteer events and community maintenance initiatives.

A study by Trust for Public Land found that parks designed with local cultural input are rated as "very welcoming" by 2x as many users compared to generic or non-contextual parks.

*3 Trust for Public Land. (2022). Parks and Equity: Culturally Relevant Design for Community Engagement. Retrieved from https://www.tpl.org/parkscore-report-2022-equity*

## Strategy 1.3.3 Apply CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Principles to Improve Perceived and Actual Safety

Perceptions of safety are critical to park usability, especially for families, seniors, and women. CPTED improves both actual and perceived safety by designing spaces that promote visibility, activity, and natural surveillance without over-relying on law enforcement or fences.

### Action Item: Train City Staff in CPTED Best Practices
Provide training for parks, planning, and public works staff to incorporate CPTED principles in the design, maintenance, and programming of parks and public spaces.

### Action Item: Incorporate Safety Enhancements in Design Standards
Update park and streetscape design guidelines to include lighting, sightlines, and access control measures that support natural surveillance and safe user experiences.

### Action Item: Conduct Safety Audits of High-Use and Underserved Parks
Regularly evaluate parks with high traffic or low usage to identify safety concerns and prioritize improvements that increase visibility, lighting, and community presence.

## Objective 4: Strengthen Parks as Community Connectors with Integrated Everyday Destinations

As Kyle grows, parks must evolve beyond recreation—they must become everyday destinations that connect residents to schools, libraries, transit, and health services. When parks are designed as civic anchors, they support not only physical activity but also community identity, public gathering, and access to essential services.

Co-locating parks with community assets, programming them with local events, and connecting them via trails to employment and education hubs helps ensure equitable access, particularly for transit-reliant and underserved populations. These efforts turn green spaces into multifunctional, accessible hubs that reflect the values of inclusion, health, and sustainability.

## Strategy 1.4.1 Co-Locate Parks with Schools, Libraries, Wellness Hubs, and Transit Nodes

Placing parks next to everyday destinations makes them more visible, more used, and more central to community life. Co-location also allows for shared infrastructure and programming, saving resources and increasing impact.

### Action Item: Identify Co-Location Opportunities with Public Partners
Map opportunities for co-location with Hays CISD schools, public libraries, and transit corridors.

**Action Item: Establish and Update Joint-Use Agreements**
Develop joint-use agreements for fields, gymnasiums, and community facilities as needed. If the joint-use agreement already exists, revisit every 36 months and update as needed.

**Action Item: Prioritize locations near multimodal transit stops or proposed mobility hubs.**
Locating parks near multimodal transportation options, such as bus routes, park-and-ride lots, bike-share stations, or future transit corridors, significantly increases accessibility and daily use, especially for residents who rely on public transportation or walk/bike as their primary mode of travel. This approach aligns with equity-focused planning, ensuring that low-income and transit-dependent populations can access parks without needing a car.

As Kyle continues to grow and adopt more multi-modal infrastructure, integrating parks with these nodes ensures they serve as active community hubs where recreation, mobility, and daily needs intersect. It also supports climate resilience and sustainability goals by reducing vehicle trips and promoting active transportation.

For example, when selecting future park sites or upgrading existing ones, City of Kyle could give preference to parcels within a quarter-mile (5-minute walk) of:

- Proposed VYBE Trail connections
- Existing or planned CapMetro or CARTS stops
- Areas slated for transit-oriented development (TOD)

Additionally, the City of Kyle could include park features that support transit users, such as:

- Bike parking or repair stations
- Shaded seating/pavilions near trailheads or mobility hubs
- Signage showing trail and bus route connections
- Restrooms or hydration stations that serve cyclists, pedestrians, and commuters


*Center Street Trick-or-Treat Mary Kyle Hartson Park*

## Best Practice Example

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*Boston Parks & Recreation Department. (2023). ParkARTS Program Overview. Retrieved from https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/parkarts*

*Boyle Heights Resilience Hub*

## Strategy 1.4.2 Program Parks as Spaces for Local Events, Markets, and Civic Life

Parks should serve as community living rooms, places where residents gather, celebrate, and engage socially. Regular programming activates public space and builds a stronger community connection.

### Action Item: Promote Seasonal and Recurring Park Events

Continue to promote the citywide Parks Programming Calendar with seasonal and recurring events.

### Action Item: Build Event Infrastructure Across City Parks

Create infrastructure to support programming, such as event pavilions, sound systems, and vendor spaces at various parks and public spaces that are equitably distributed throughout the city.

### Action Item: Partner for Neighborhood-Based Community Events

Continue to partner with local organizations, schools, and creatives to curate neighborhood-based events.

## Strategy 1.4.3 Promote Parks as Civic Infrastructure Through Emergency and Climate Resilience Planning

Parks play a vital role in disaster preparedness, emergency response, and public health resilience. They can function as cooling centers, food and water distribution sites, or temporary shelters.

### Action Item: Establish Park Facilities as Emergency Resilience Hubs

Designate large parks as resilience hubs with backup power, water access, and staging areas.

### Action Item: Add Cooling Features in Key Parks

Incorporate shade structures, splash pads, and misting areas in key parks to serve as cooling centers.

### Action Item: Integrate Parks into Emergency Planning

Collaborate with Hays County Emergency Management and City of Kyle Police Department to integrate parks into disaster response protocols.

## Goal #2

# Dynamic and Inclusive Community

Enhance the quality of life for all Kyle residents by fostering an equitable, innovative, and accessible park system that prioritizes physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Through thoughtful design, diverse programming, and high-quality facilities, ensure that every resident regardless of age, ability, or background has the opportunity to connect, play, and thrive in a vibrant, inclusive community.

## Objective 1: Enhance Play, Recreation, and Access Opportunities for All

### Strategy 2.1.1 Ensure equitable Access to parks and programming to all residents

**Action Item: Achieve 100% Access To All Residents By 2040**
Work with the Public Works and Transportation Department to identify and coordinate the funding and construction of missing sidewalks. Create connections to all parks and recreation facilities using sidewalks, trails, multi-use paths, and roadways.

**Action Item: Adopt A 10-Min Walk Campaign As An Official City Program**
Amend dedication process to include wording emphasizing the placement of Parks and Recreation facilities are to be within a 10-minute walk of all residential houses. Program shall also include that 10-minute walk must be free of any physical barriers such as major roadways, railroad tracks, waterways, and topographical features that prevent safe passage to the parks and public spaces.

**Action Item: Conduct Citywide Analysis**
Conduct a citywide analysis to evaluate the distribution of public investments, ensuring that new parks, sidewalks, trails, and facilities are thoughtfully placed to serve all neighborhoods and community needs.

### Strategy 2.1.2 Expand Access to Parks and Facilities

Creating a park and recreation system that is accessible to all residents, regardless of age, ability, or location, promotes a more active, healthy lifestyle. This can be achieved by improving sidewalks, trails, and paths, and by bringing parks and programs directly to underserved areas.

**Action Item: Provide an Indoor Facility**
In a community survey, 73.3% of residents agreed that Kyle would benefit from an indoor facility. Parks and Recreation staff echoed this, noting that most current programs are held outdoors. However, extreme heat in summer and cold winters often make outdoor activities uncomfortable or unsafe, reducing participation in programs and events. The design of the indoor facility should support flexible space for sports leagues, fitness classes, fitness gym, and community events. It should feature convertible courts, class/meeting rooms, locker rooms, lounge areas, and concession stands to support a variety of activities and interests.

**Action Item: Enhance Existing Parks And Facilities**
Enhancing existing parks with features like inclusive playgrounds, shady trees, athletic fields, canopies, public art, wild flower meadows, and clear wayfinding signage can create more inviting and vibrant spaces. Strengthening connections with sidewalks, trails, and pathways will make parks easier to reach and enjoy, inspiring more frequent visits from people of all ages and abilities.

## Did you Know?

Community Feedback on Indoor Facilities
When asked what residents would like to see in an indoor facility, community members expressed:

**64.5%**
want indoor sports leagues

**54.1%**
prioritize fitness & wellness programs

**45.7%**
support youth programs

**44.4%**
want family-friendly events (game nights, movies),

**43.7%**
are interested in arts & crafts programs,

**37.5%**
value cultural & educational workshops,

**37.1%** seek aquatic programs.

**Other comments:**
The community envisions a versatile facility that meets diverse needs with flexible, multi-purpose courts & fields for various sports, adaptable meeting spaces for classes, meetings, & events.

**Action Item: Offer Low-Cost or Free Recreational Programs**
Partnering with local businesses, healthcare providers, and nonprofits can help fund and expand these offerings through sponsorships, grants and donations. Additionally, offer tiered pricing or fee waivers based on income, and ensure programs are accessible by providing them in neighborhoods with limited existing recreation opportunities.

**Action Item: Host Pop-Up Events and Mobile Recreation**
Pop-up events can be temporarily hosted in vacant lots, city rights-of-way, and neighborhood schools to create a park-like atmosphere. These events might include seating areas, shaded canopies, mobile playground equipment (e.g., inflatable slides, obstacle courses), sports gear, group exercise classes, live music, mobile fitness stations, and food trucks. To enhance the environment in less green spaces like parking lots or streets, the Parks and Recreation Department can partner with home improvement stores or nurseries to borrow potted trees and plants.

Pop-ups can also be tailored for specific neighborhoods or expanded into city-wide events. One innovative option for Kyle is to launch a Mobile Recreation Unit (MRU). Used successfully in cities like Brownsville, Elgin, Lewisville, Denton, and El Cajon, MRUs vans or trailers stocked with recreational gear, games, and arts and crafts, bring activities directly to underserved areas.

**Action Item: Provide Water Based Facilities and Recreation** (Splash Pads, Pools, Lazy Rivers)
The water-based features can include the activation of the existing creeks, river and lakes by adding access points, piers, and picnic areas where residents can access the water as places to enjoy time in the water swimming, paddling, kayaking and fishing.

## Strategy 2.1.3 Provide and inclusive spaces for all abilities and ages
Providing inclusive spaces for all abilities and ages in parks ensures equal access to recreational opportunities, promoting community well-being and fostering a sense of belonging for everyone.

**Action Item: Build A Regional All Abilities Playground**
It should also include sensory elements like musical instruments, textured panels, and interactive water features for children with sensory processing disorders, as well as quiet zones for those needing a break from sensory overload. The play equipment should have various height options to accommodate children of all abilities, and universal design principles should be applied throughout, with inclusive seating, tactile guides, and interactive displays to ensure all users, regardless of age or ability, can engage with the space.

**Action Item: Develop Multi-Generational Spaces**
Parks are a key to bringing our generations together. By implementing features such as playscapes that accommodate not just children, but adults and seniors will allow for beneficial interaction between groups. Additional features that can be installed at parks, recreation

### Best Practice Example

**Brownsville Mobile Recreation Units**

The City of Brownsville launched its MRU in 2016 to provide children in underserved areas with opportunities to play, exercise, and socialize, particularly during the summer months when school is out. The program schedules pop-up events at designated times and locations, promoting them in advance to ensure strong community participation. Brownsville's MRU initially featured a large inflatable water slide, bikes, and balls but has since expanded to include activities such as miniature golf, ring toss, giant Connect Four game board, and even snacks.

### Passive Recreation and Nature-Based Wellbeing

People who walk in natural settings experience a 20% improvement in attention span and memory compared to those who walk in urban areas.[1]

Parks with birdwatching and wildlife viewing attract up to 30% more return visits than those without.[2]

80% of Americans say they seek quiet, passive recreation experiences like walking or relaxing in nature to boost mental health.[3]

### Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusive Programming

Over 61 million Americans live with a disability, yet only a fraction have access to adapted recreation opportunities.[4]

Art therapy and nature-based therapy have been shown to reduce anxiety and depression symptoms by up to 40%.[5]

*Source: [1] University of Michigan – "Nature Walks and Brain Function"*
*[2] National Audubon Society*
*[3] NRPA – Parks and Health Poll*
*[4] CDC – Disability and Health Data System*
*[5] American Art Therapy Association*

facilities and along trails to create multi-generational space can include game board areas, story-time spaces, seating areas, community gardens, outdoor fitness stations, and interactive educational displays.

## Strategy 2.1.4 Promote Community Partnerships to expand recreation opportunities

Collaborating with local schools, nonprofits, health providers, and other community organizations can help expand access to recreational programming, increase participation, and improve resource sharing across the city.

### Action Item: Develop Partnerships with Schools, Nonprofits, and Local Organizations

Work with community partners to co-host events, share facilities, offer joint programming, and support inclusive, low-cost recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities.

# Objective 2: Promote Physical and Mental Well–Being through Active Recreation

## Strategy 2.2.1 Expand Recreation Programing

### Action Item: Expand Passive Recreation Programming

Create walking paths and trails through open spaces that are kept in their natural condition. Install educational wayfinding signage at passive recreation sites that provide information on local wildlife and plant life that can be observed at the site. Create sitting and viewing areas where visitors can participate in hobbies such as birdwatching or just to sit and relax in nature.

### Action Item: Expand Therapeutic Recreation

Develop a greater number of inclusive recreational opportunities for populations in need of special services through partnering with local healthcare providers, schools and nonprofit agencies to implement such programs as art therapy, more adaptive sports, and nature-based therapy. Increase staffing for Recreation Division to help in the management, operations and maintenance of these recreational programs. Include training for existing and future staff in therapeutic recreation practices and inclusive customer services.

### Action Item: Expand Sports and Recreation Leagues

Community indicated that among the top five activities sought are more athletic programs. While the City currently offers some sports leagues, there is an opportunity to expand and diversify offerings, such as:

- Youth sports leagues in soccer, flag football, baseball, and volleyball
- Expanded adult leagues, including soccer, basketball, and sand volleyball
- Inclusive sports programs, such as Little League Challenger Division, adaptive golf, sitting volleyball and wheelchair-based tennis/basketball/football, for individuals with disabilities

- Seasonal tournaments such as baseball, Pop Warner Youth Football, soccer and 3-on-3 Basketball, to encourage community participation
- Skills clinics and training camps to introduce new sports (e.g. pickleball, cricket, disc golf, short mat bowling, e-sports) and develop local talent

To help expand its leagues, the City is encouraged to partner with nonprofit sports organizations that can offer expertise and staffing support to operate, manage, and maintain programs. The City should also seek additional funding specifically designated for hiring recreation staff and purchasing necessary equipment.

## Strategy 2.2.2 Develop and Promote Mental and Health Friendly Parks

### Action Item: Implement Outdoor Fitness Stations
Install outdoor fitness equipment to promote accessible exercise, social connections, and multigenerational use. Fitness stations should be located along trails, walking paths and near playgrounds to encourage use residents are using the paths or enjoying the playgrounds "Family fit zones" or fitness parks with equipment for all ages can make outdoor activity more engaging while supporting overall health and wellness.

### Action Item: Nature based wellness programming (Yoga, Healing Trails)
Create a nature-based wellness program, choose a natural, accessible location such as a park or trail. Plan activities like guided walks, outdoor yoga, meditation, or gardening that promote relaxation and well-being. Partner with local wellness professionals or nature educators to help lead sessions. Promote the program through social media, flyers, and community networks. Begin with a small pilot program to test interest, then gather feedback to improve and expand over time.

### Action Item: Develop a Nature Rx Program
Work with local doctors, parks staff, and community groups to create a program where healthcare providers can "prescribe" time in nature to boost health. The City can map out safe, accessible parks and trails for these activities. Provide doctors with simple tools like park prescription pads, maps, and brochures that they can hand out to patients as part of the Nature Rx Program. To support the program, offer nature based activities such as self-guided nature walks, outdoor mindfulness classes, or outdoor fitness sessions.

### Action Item: Host Outdoor Fitness Classes and Activities
Offer regular outdoor fitness classes such as Zumba, tai chi, group exercise or bootcamps in parks to encourage community physical activity and social engagement.

### Action Item: Develop Healing Trails
Choose a quiet, natural area with shade and minimal noise such as a along a creek or the river. Design an easy, accessible path with benches, signs, and resting spots. Add calming features like flowers, native plants, birdhouses, or water elements to help visitors to take their minds

# Best Practice Example

## Outdoor Fitness Stations Installed at San Antonio Parks

The City of San Antonio's Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, launched a project to install outdoor fitness stations typically consisting of fixed mechanical stations designed to target aerobic fitness, strength, flexibility, and balance at 14 city parks. These stations were strategically placed along designated trails or at parks, with the goal of leverage the usage of the parks and trails by residents of San Antonio. Following the successful initial implementation of the program, the City received positive feedback from the community and has expanded it to over 30 parks. The initiative has also garnered political support through the Mayor's Fitness Council.

away from stressors. Include wellness touches such as meditation areas with QR codes that can be scanned for videos on guided meditation or simple stretch stations.

### Action Item: Develop Sensory and Mindfulness Garden
Create a calming garden space that includes textured plants, fragrant flowers, natural sounds, and interactive elements designed to support mental well-being, sensory stimulation, and mindfulness practices.

### Action Item: Partner with mental health professionals
Collaborate with local therapists, counselors, and wellness organizations to co-host events, workshops, or support groups in parks that promote mental health and emotional resilience.

# Objective 3: Create Safe, Welcoming, and Comfortable Public Spaces

## Strategy 2.3.1 Celebrate all Kyle's Cultural Identity through Parks
### Action Item: Host Cultural and Community Celebrations
Partner with neighborhoods to celebrate their diversity by offering opportunities to host events at their nearby parks. Music concerts, cultural heritage days, and food festivals can create meaningful opportunities for residents to connect and share their traditions with the rest of the community. Additionally, hosting these types of events in the City's parks can help attract visitors from across the region, inviting them to experience the rich cultural diversity of Kyle.

### Action Item: Promote Public Art and Expression
Create attractive, welcoming public spaces with community-driven art, such as murals, sculptures, and interactive installations. Unique features like sculpture gardens, adventure play areas, and water play elements can attract attention, while digital art programmed by local artists can share residents' stories. Public art along trails and at park entrances, created in collaboration with local artists, should reflect the identities of the surrounding neighborhoods. Hosting community art workshops and outdoor galleries to foster self-expression and community pride.

## Strategy 2.3.2 Ensure residents feel safe, and comfortable at parks and facilities
### Action Item: Ensure Adequate Lighting
Install lighting throughout parks, especially in activity zones like playgrounds, sports fields, and courts, as well as along trails, near restrooms, at gathering areas such as pavilions and gazebos, and in parking lots to enhance safety and comfort for visitors. Lights along trails and pathways should be placed at pedestrian level, while higher overhead lighting is ideal for activity zones and parking areas. This lighting will not only support residents who are unable to visit the

park during the day due to work commitments but also improve accessibility, especially for individuals with sight disabilities. Ideally and where possible, lighting should be DarkSky compliant.

### Action Item: Design for Safety and Emergency Access

Design and construct emergency access routes in and out of all parks and public spaces to ensure that first responders can reach any area quickly in case of an emergency. Install emergency call boxes or clearly visible phone numbers in remote areas.

- Coordinate with emergency responders to create an emergency action plan to be used system wide.
- Include emergency responders in the planning and designing of park, open spaces, and recreation facilities to assist in identifying where to best place emergency access points.
- Incorporate CPTED principles in all park plans to help maximize visual and physical access in and out of spaces during emergencies, while ensuring that efforts to remove visibility obstructions do not compromise native habitats.

### Action Item: Include Shade and Cooling Features

Enhance the park experience by incorporating pergolas, covered seating, shaded play areas, and native trees for natural shade and better air quality. Install water features like fountains and splash pads, along with drinking fountains for people and pets. Upgrade shelters and pavilions with heating, cooling, and weather-resistant materials for year-round use.

### Action Item: Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

By focusing on design elements such as better lighting, clear sightlines, and open areas, CPTED helps reduce opportunities for crime. It also promotes natural surveillance, where visitors to the parks, trails, and public spaces can easily observe their surroundings. Features like well-planned pathways and eliminating hidden spaces discourage unwanted activity; however, these strategies must be balanced with conservation needs to ensure understory vegetation and habitat are preserved.

- Lighting and Visibility: Install well-placed lighting along pathways, entry points, and high-traffic areas like playgrounds and sports courts to enhance visibility and safety, especially during evening hours. Incorporate strategic landscaping to maintain clear sightlines and avoid creating hidden or obstructed spaces.
- Natural Surveillance and Activity Zones: Encourage consistent activity by including open spaces, seating areas, and diverse activity zones such as playgrounds, fitness trails, and sports fields. Increased use naturally promotes casu al monitoring by park users.
- Territorial Reinforcement and Access Control: Use landscaping, signage, and pathways to clearly define boundaries, guide movement, and discourage unauthorized access. Ensure entry and exit points are well-marked and strategically placed.

## Best Practice Example

### Lower Kinnear Park in Seattle, WA – Thoughtful Design over Harsh Security Measures

Seattle's Lower Kinnear Park is a great example of how CPTED can improve safety and revitalize spaces. The park is divided into an upper and lower portion. While the upper portion of this historic park remained well-maintained and active, the lower portion had fallen into decline, making it a hotspot for illegal activity. In response, the FOLKpark community organization led an effort to restore the area through trimming vegetation to improve sightlines, making entrances more welcoming, creating accessible pathways to reduce isolated areas, and adding amenities to encourage positive activity. As a result, Lower Kinnear Park saw a decrease in crime, demonstrating the power of thoughtful design over harsher security measures.

**Action Item: Create Restful Spaces for Comfort**
Enhance visitor comfort and accessibility by adding shaded seating (e.g., benches, hammocks), upgrading and increasing restrooms, installing hydration stations, and ensuring all amenities meet ADA and TAS standards—prioritizing high-traffic and pedestrian-heavy areas.

# Objective 4: Strengthen Community Engagement and Participation

## Strategy 2.4.1 Create Volunteer Opportunities

**Action Item: Support Youth Leadership Development**
Create youth-focused programs such as leadership training, advisory councils, and peer mentorships by partnering with schools, colleges, and professionals; promote through community channels; and provide hands-on opportunities for youth to co-develop and lead Parks and Recreation initiatives.

**Action Item: Host Regular Community Forums**
Identify local community organization partners to help involve residents in the park planning process. Select strategic locations across the City to ensure equitable access to community forums for all residents. Develop a well-publicized schedule of meetings, including times, dates, and locations, to be shared publicly through social media, print media, and partner networks.

## Strategy 2.4.2 Foster a Sense of Ownership and Stewardship

**Action Item: Develop Community Garden Spaces**
Implement community gardens to enhance parks and activate underutilized urban spaces by providing residents with opportunities to grow vegetables, fruits, and flowers. These gardens foster community engagement, promote healthy living, and improve neighborhood aesthetics. However, it is critical to conduct a thorough conservation and existing ecosystem analysis before selecting sites, as vacant land is often mistakenly assumed to be available, while in reality it may support valuable native habitats or ecosystems. Where appropriate, prioritize areas that do not compromise natural resources to ensure both community benefits and ecological preservation.

**Action Item: Develop "Friendship Trails"**
Design and implement "Friendship Trails" as inclusive, accessible, and well-connected walking and biking routes that encourage social interaction and community cohesion. These trails should be thoughtfully integrated with parks, schools, neighborhoods, and key community destinations to foster safe and enjoyable outdoor experiences for people of all ages and abilities. Incorporate amenities such as rest areas, wayfinding signage, public art, and gathering spots that encourage residents to meet, interact, and build relationships. Partner with local groups, schools, and community organizations to host events and programs along the trails that celebrate local culture, promote wellness, and encourage stewardship of the trail network.

**Goal #3**

# Flourishing Nature Experience

Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

# Objective 1: Manage and Conserve Natural Ecosystems within Parks and Public Spaces

## Strategy 3.1.1 Design Nature Reserves and Conservation Areas Implement Habitat Restoration Projects

### Action Item: Control Invasive Species
Implement monitoring systems to detect invasive species early to prevent them from establishment in the landscapes. Conduct public awareness campaigns and educational programs to inform the community about invasive species and encourage participation in control efforts.

### Action Item: Develop Riparian Buffers
Establish buffer zones around wetlands and riparian areas that establish guidelines such as
- Maintaining of native habitat and plant life along creeks
- Limit access to areas for things such as passive recreation and environment monitoring
- Require use of native vegetation in landscaping near wetland and riparian areas
- Encourage the use of green infrastructure (e.g. rain gardens, bioswales) to prevent pollutants from entering sensitive wetlands

### Action Item: Create Buffer Zones Around Sensitive Areas
Amend the City's development code to include requirements that require buffers be established between development and natural sensitive areas.
- Create a minimum distance between the development and the natural area.
- Set landscaping requirements to serve as the buffer transitioning from the development to the natural area. Landscaping should be kept to native plant life.
- Buffer can be designed for passive recreation that allows for things such as nature hike, birdwatching, and outdoor learning environments.

### Action Item: Implement Ecological Monitoring Programs
Install ecological monitoring stations in parks and along trails that can be used to gather data on items such as air quality, water quality, and capture pictures of wildlife.

### Action Item: Restore Ecological Processes
Implement the use of green practices such as the installation of green infrastructure as part of park construction projects. Include features such as rain gardens and bioswales. Restore native habitats as part of park projects to provide ecosystem services to the community.

## Best Practice Example

### Minneapolis Development Code Buffer Requirements

Minneapolis mandates development setbacks and vegetative buffers for all projects near wetlands and natural areas. Buffers must use native vegetation and can incorporate trails for passive recreation. This approach supports biodiversity, reduces human impact, and allows developers to integrate green infrastructure into site designs. Minneapolis's code has become a model for sustainable urban growth and resilience.

*Source: City of Minneapolis, Zoning Code § 551.100*
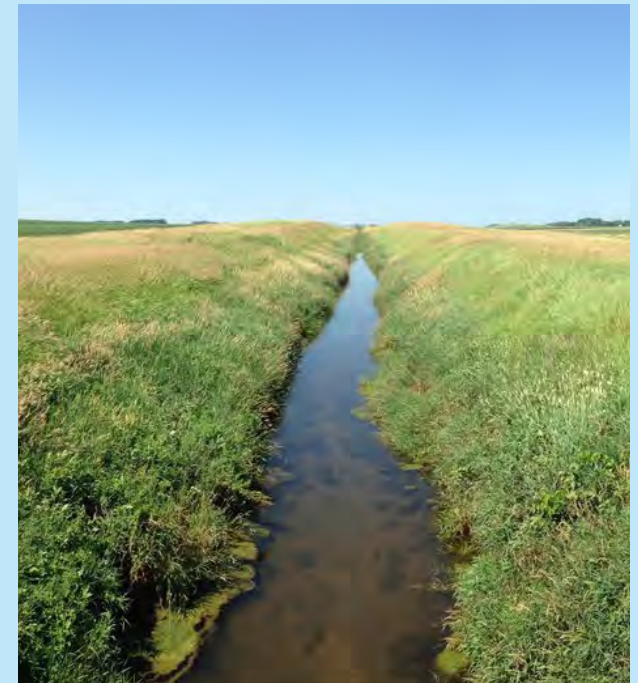
## Strategy 3.1.2 Build Ecosystem Resilience Through Climate-Adaptation Strategies

### Action Item: Develop a Conservation Master Plan

Create a comprehensive Conservation Master Plan to guide the long-term stewardship of Kyle's natural resources and ecosystems. The plan should identify and inventory sensitive habitats, native vegetation, wildlife corridors, and ecological assets. It should also include strategies for habitat restoration, land management, dark sky protection, and water conservation. Establish conservation priorities and implementation steps that address climate resilience, ecological health, and equitable public access to nature.

### Action Item: Promote Planting of Native Climate-Resilient Species

Continue to enforce the City's landscaping requirements as set by Article V of the City's Code of Ordinances. Amend the landscaping requirements to specifically require that only native trees and plants be used as part of any type of development and/or project. Prioritize the selection of drought-tolerant, pollinator-supporting, and climate-adapted species to reduce maintenance and irrigation needs.

### Action Item: Strengthen Tree Preservation and Become a Tree City USA

Update the City's landscape ordinance to enhance tree preservation standards and promote the use of large-canopy native species. Strengthen penalties for unauthorized tree removal and encourage tree planting as a condition of development approval. Establish goals and policies



*Kyle Train Depot*
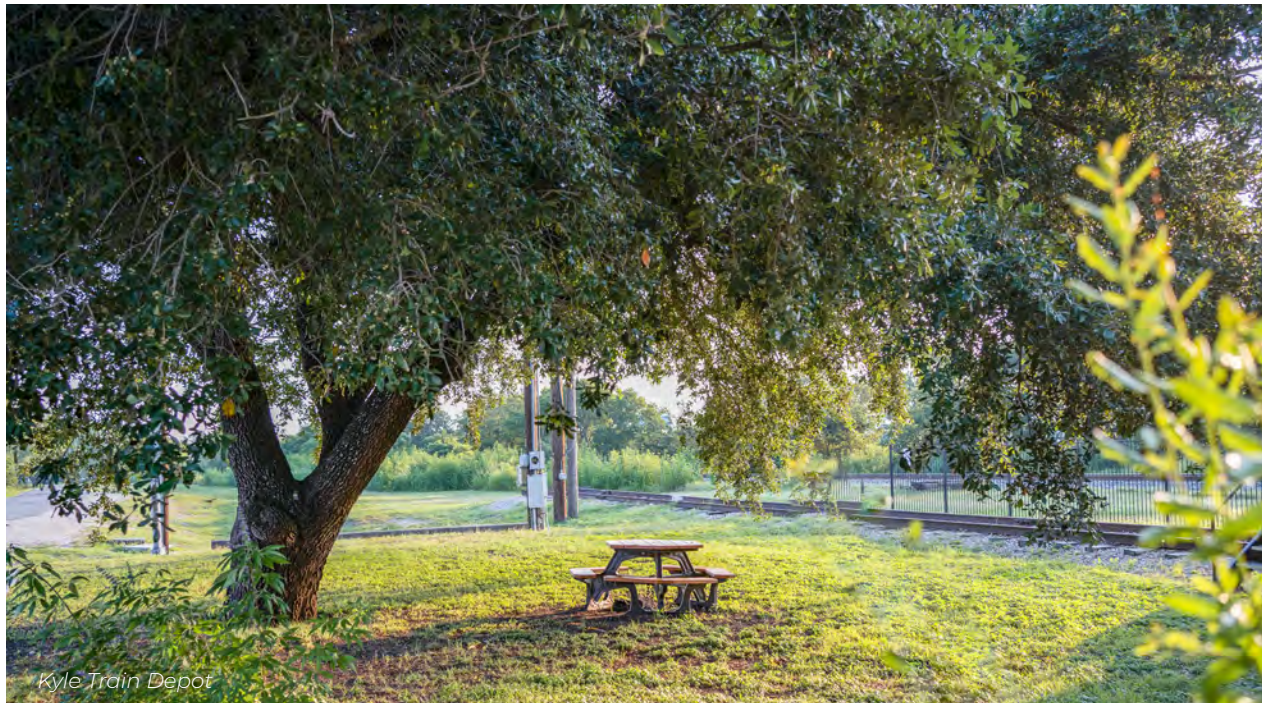
### Tree City USA – Enhancing Urban Forestry

Since 1976, over 3,500 communities have earned the Tree City USA designation by meeting standards for urban forestry management. This commitment leads to increased tree canopies, providing benefits like improved air quality, reduced urban heat islands, and enhanced property values. For instance, every dollar invested in community trees yields returns of $5.55 in Indianapolis and $5.60 in New York City.

*Source: Texas A&M Forestry Service*

### Flagstaff, Arizona – Pioneering Dark Sky Preservation

Flagstaff became the world's first International Dark Sky City in 2001, setting a precedent for light pollution control. Through stringent lighting ordinances and community education, the city has preserved its night skies, promoting both ecological health and astro-tourism. This initiative has inspired over 230 Dark Sky Places globally, covering more than 160,000 square kilometers across 22 countries.

*Source: Great Lakes Now*

## Did you Know?

### Green Infrastructure Can Reduce Urban Flooding by Up to 80%

Rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavements significantly reduce stormwater runoff and improve groundwater recharge. Cities that have adopted green infrastructure like Philadelphia's Green City, Clean Waters program report up to 80% reduction in localized flooding and millions saved in gray infrastructure costs.

*Source: American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Green Infrastructure Performance Measures*

### Riparian Buffers Improve Water Quality by 30–60%

Establishing riparian buffers zones of native vegetation along waterways can reduce nitrogen runoff by 30–60% and sediment by 50–75%. These areas also stabilize streambanks, reduce flooding, and create habitat for wildlife. Cities like Austin and Raleigh have integrated riparian buffer policies into their development codes to protect sensitive ecosystems and enhance resilience.

*Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Riparian Buffer Systems*

**Action Item: Use Permeable Surfaces**
In the construction of park lots, trails, pathways, sport courts, and foundations for large pavilions, implement the use of permeable materials such as permeable asphalt, porous concrete, interlocking pavers, or gravel surfaces. The use of such materials will not only help to create amenities and connections to parks, but will also help in the filtering and capturing of rainwater to irrigate trees and landscaping and recharge the groundwater.

**Action Item: Incorporate Water Management Systems**
As part of all City projects, implement the use of green infrastructure such as bioswales, rainwater harvesting systems, green roofs, and permeable paving to help in the filtering and capturing of water. These features will help reduce stormwater runoff, mitigate flooding, and support long-term water conservation goals.

**Action Item: Adopt a Dark Sky Ordinance**
Amend the City's development and lighting ordinances to incorporate dark sky compliance standards. Set limits on brightness (lumens) and color temperature (preferably below 3000K for warmth and wildlife protection). Require automatic timers, motion sensors, or dimming for public and private outdoor lighting

**Action Item: Enhance Urban Heat Island Mitigation**
Locate and acquire vacant, underutilized, or blighted lots within the existing urban areas of Kyle and transform them into green spaces with native habitats. Coordinate with the Public Works and Transportation Department in the design of new roadway projects or reconstruction projects to include landscaped parkways and medians with native shade trees.

## Strategy 3.1.3 Support Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health

### Action Item: Create Pollinator Gardens and Habitats
Protect and install native plants and wildflowers as part of the enhancement of parks and public spaces. Use Integrated Pest Management strategies and encourage the least toxic approach to managing pest species. Work with local experts to effectively locate these gardens throughout the parks and along trails to support natural migration and pollinator routes.

### Action Item: Install Bird and Bat Habitats
Expand the City's existing practice of building and installing wildlife habitats such as the bat habitats in Bunton Creek. Install habitats in areas being kept as natural open spaces to minimize impacts by human development. Use sites as outdoor learning and viewing areas.

### Action Item: Restore Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Identify and rehabilitate degraded wetlands and riparian areas to improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat, and enhance ecosystem resilience.

### Action Item: Promote Sustainable Land Management Practices
Adopt and encourage land management techniques that conserve soil, water, and native vegetation while minimizing chemical use and promoting ecological balance across all parklands and open spaces.

### Action Item: Implement Rewilding Programs
Collaborate with local and regional plant and wildlife experts to identify areas best suited for rewilding with native species. Develop educational programs, through partnerships with local school districts and area universities, that engage the community and encourage active participation in rewilding efforts.

# Objective 2: Promote Environmental Education and Awareness

## Strategy 3.2.1 Develop Environmental Education Programs

### Action Item: Host Nature-Themed Events and Workshops
Establish regular volunteer opportunities focused on habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and environmental monitoring to engage the community in hands-on stewardship activities.

## Best Practice Example

**Chicago's Pollinator Habitat Program**

Chicago's Department of Environment launched a pollinator garden initiative across parklands, libraries, and schools. The program banned pesticide use and partnered with the Field Museum to train volunteers in native planting and habitat maintenance. Today, over 150 pollinator gardens support migratory butterflies, native bees, and birds. This effort also inspired the city's Bee City USA designation.

*Source: Chicago Park District and Bee City USA*
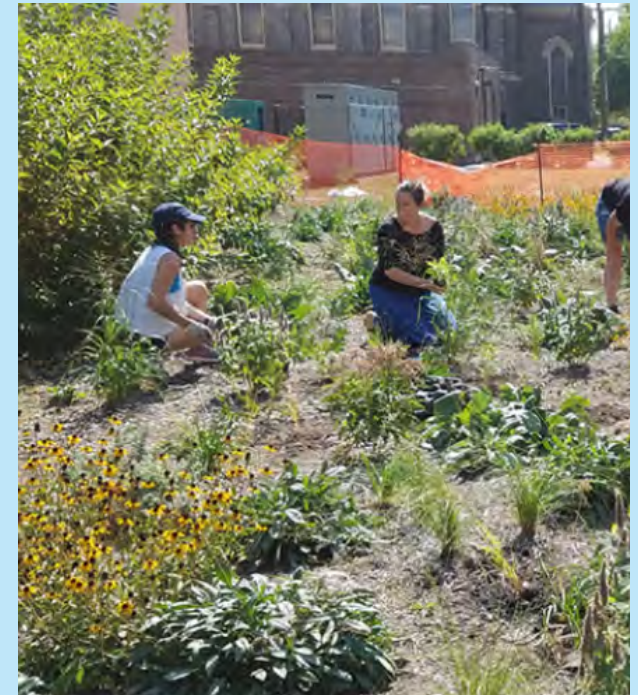
**Action Item: Create Outdoor Classrooms**
Develop outdoor seating areas that will accommodate 16-25 students in parks and natural areas. Areas should include features such interpretive signage (e.g. history, culture, wildlife, plant life and the natural environment), interactive features (e.g. nature-based art stations, musical elements, sensory paths) and environmental features (e.g. trees, pollinator gardens, environmental monitoring stations) for school groups, nature enthusiasts, and local community members.

**Action Item: Host Volunteer Conservation Programs**
Establish regular volunteer opportunities focused on habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and environmental monitoring to engage the community in hands-on stewardship activities.

## Strategy 3.2.2 Create Nature Centers and Interpretation Hubs
**Action Item: Establish Nature Centers and Interpretation Hubs**
Develop small-scale nature centers or interpretation hubs in key parks and natural areas that serve as educational focal points. These centers should offer interactive exhibits, informational materials, and programming spaces to foster deeper connections between the community and local ecosystems.

## Strategy 3.2.3 Offer Citizen Science Programs
**Action Item: Launch Citizen Science Initiatives**
Implement citizen science programs that invite community members to participate in data collection and monitoring projects, such as bird counts, water quality testing, and plant phenology tracking, to support environmental research and community engagement

**Goal #4**

# Vibrant and Prosperous Destination

**Transform Kyle's parks, recreation and open space into a leading destination that contributes to the City's economic development, and quality of life.**

# Objective 1: Foster Economic Development through Parks and Recreation

## Strategy 4.1.1 Leverage Parks for Economic Revitalization

### Action Item: Attract Private Investment and Partnerships

Create partnerships with local businesses and developers to integrate mixed-use developments, restaurants, retail, and recreational facilities within or near parks. To maximize this impact, parks should be developed in harmony with surrounding businesses, attractions, and neighborhoods, ensuring that these partnerships benefit both the City and local businesses by drawing visitors who will spend time and money in the area.

### Action Item: Create a Park Revenue Generation Plan

Develop a strategic framework to identify potential areas of revenue generation such as facility rentals, program fees, special event fees, concessions and vending, sponsorships, advertising, and merchandising.

### Action Item: Develop a Sports or Athletic Complex

Construct a sports or athletic complex to help make the City of Kyle a draw for sports tourism. Design with flexibility in the use of space for things such as sports, fitness classes, and events. Also include features such as convertible courts, class/meeting rooms, locker rooms, lounge areas, and concession stands to support a variety of activities and interests. Ensure the complex is accessible and welcoming to all residents of Kyle, regardless of age, ability, or background, by incorporating universal design principles and affordable programming options. Partner with businesses and the hospitality industry to create marketing packages.



*Concept of Kyle sports complex developed as a potential use of existing site*

**Let's Go Camping! City of Chicago, IL.**

The City of Chicago's Camping Gear Library, created by the Chicago Park District, offers a unique park experience by allowing residents to rent camping equipment such as tents, stoves, bedding, and cold-weather gear. This innovative program makes outdoor adventures more accessible, especially for those who may not have their own gear. Additionally, the Park District offers a Family Camping program, where participants can spend a night camping in a Chicago park. The experience includes camping equipment, cooking over a campfire, and enjoying a light breakfast, creating lasting memories for families while enhancing the city's recreational offerings.

*Source Camping | Chicago Park District*

**Action Item: Host Regional Events**

Partner with businesses and event promoters to encourage the use of the city parks and public spaces for regional events. Emphasize the advantages of holding events in Kyle, such as Kyle's proximity to a number of other cities as well as to its connections to the highly active I-35 corridor.

**Action Item: Host Regional Sport Competitions**

Collaborate with local and regional sporting leagues and organizations to hold tournaments at complex and city parks.

## Strategy 4.1.2 Support Eco-Tourism and Nature-Based Tourism

**Action Item: Develop Recreational Rentals and Services**

Rent out items such as sports equipment, kayaks, paddling boards, bicycles, cookout equipment, and fishing equipment to residents and visitors to enhance their experiences at the parks.

**Action Item: Promote Eco-Friendly Tourism**

Work with local environmental groups and nature groups to promote and advertise Kyle's natural features, wildlife and plant life. Create eco-tourism programs such as birdwatching at Lake Kyle or guided nature hikes along the creeks and the Blanco River to learn about local plant life.


*Concept of Plum Creek Preserve*

# Best Practice Example

**The Fairweather Visitors Guide 2024 – Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve**

The Fairweather Visitors Guide, used by the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, is a great example of a visitor's guide as it is comprehensive and includes digital interactive elements. Visitors can use the guide to obtain information on a wide range of topics from general park information and wildlife, to identifying specific activities for various user types. The guide is also offered in a digital format (accessed through a QR code on the PDF or hardcopy) that can be tailored to offer recommendations to different visitor's interests such as families or adventure seekers. Additionally, the digital format provides photos, videos, and audio guides to enhance visitor experiences.
*(The Fairweather Visitor Guide 2024)*

# Objective 2: Promote Kyle's Parks and Recreation System as a Regional Destination

## Strategy 4.2.1 Position Kyle as A Recreation Destination

### Action Item: Launch a City-Wide Branding Campaign

Create a dynamic rebranding initiative featuring fresh logos, catchy slogans, and messaging that celebrates Kyle's vibrant culture and diverse parks and recreational offerings, complemented by clear, eye-catching signage to help visitors easily identify parks, trails, and open spaces.

### Action Item: Enhance your programing and events website

Update the City's parks and recreation website to feature a user-friendly calendar, detailed program descriptions, registration options, and interactive features that encourage community participation and visitor engagement.

### Action Item: Develop a Visitor's Guide and Digital Platform

The Visitor's Guide should be designed as an all-inclusive resource that offers readers valuable information about the City of Kyle. It should highlight the city's local history and include an overall map identifying key locations such as parks, trailheads, retail areas, entertainment venues, lodging, and recreation sites.

### Action Item: Develop a Mobile Park App

App should be developed to include maps identifying the locations of parks, trails, trailheads, recreational facilities and open spaces. Guide should also include information on amenities, calendar of events, "Did you know?" information, and contact information. To help in funding, provide sponsorship opportunities that can be purchased by area businesses.

## Strategy 4.2.2 Leverage local and Regional Partners to expand awareness of Kyle's Recreation and Facilities

### Action Item: Collaborate with Local Businesses and Tourism Agencies

Work closely with chambers of commerce, tourism boards, and hospitality industry to create marketing campaigns that highlights the Kyle parks and recreational spaces. Collaborate with partners to create brochures, social media content, and special tourism packages (e.g. hotel discounts, event tickets, special guided-tours)

### Action Item: Participate in Regional Tourism Initiatives

Engage actively with regional tourism councils and collaborative marketing efforts to promote Kyle's parks and recreation offerings through shared campaigns, cross-promotion, and joint events.

### Action Item: Participate in National Tourism Events

Represent Kyle's parks and recreation system at national tourism and recreation conferences and expos to increase visibility, attract visitors, and build partnerships that support tourism growth.

**Goal #5**

# Sustainable Resources

**Elevate the management, operations, and maintenance to ensure organizational sustainability.**

# Objective 1: Elevate operations and support management

## Strategy 5.1.1 Enhance Operational Efficiency through Sustainable Practices

### Action Item: Adopt Sustainable Maintenance Practices

Prioritize the planting of native vegetation to reduce water and mowing needs, transition to electric maintenance equipment, and prioritizing irrigation in high-use areas.

### Action Item: Conduct Regular Efficiency Audits

Establish annual audits of energy, water, and resource usage can help identify ways to further reduce consumption and improve efficiency.

### Action Item: Install High-Quality Recreation Equipment

Install modern playgrounds featuring innovative play elements like augmented reality for immersive experiences, outdoor fitness stations that encourage physical activity for adults and children, and well-maintained sports courts and fields to attract sports enthusiasts and local or regional leagues. Amenities and recreational equipment should be distributed throughout the City's park and recreation system to support equitable use and access.


*Kyle Parks and Recreation Maintenance and Operations Vehicle*



## Did you Know?

### Denver Parks Resource Management Plan Strategy

Denver's Department of Parks and Recreation launched a Resource Management Plan in 2020 to track and reduce resource consumption across its 6,000-acre system. Annual audits assess energy use, irrigation, equipment needs, and maintenance cycles.

Key Results:

- Identified 20% potential water savings through smart irrigation retrofits
- Reduced utility expenses by $1.2 million annually
- Data-driven decisions informed budget allocation and maintenance prioritization
- Efficiency audits created accountability and provided tangible benchmarks for sustainability improvements

*Source: Denver Parks and Recreation Strategic Operations Plan*

**Action Item: Improve Park Maintenance and Cleanliness**
Develop and implement a comprehensive maintenance schedule and quality standards to ensure parks remain clean, safe, and inviting for all users year-round.

## Strategy 5.1.2 Promote Staff Development and Sustainable Workforce Practices

**Action Item: Invest in Staff Training**
Offer staff training opportunities that will assisting in the development of their professional skills as well as in their career advancement. Support cross-training and mentorship programs among staff members that will foster professional growth, knowledge sharing, and a stronger sense of teamwork across the department.

**Action Item: Foster Collaboration Across Departments**
Establish monthly meetings with representatives from each department to share updates, ideas, and collaborate on projects. Leverage each department's strengths to deliver quality results and work together to address environmental, equity, and accessibility challenges—building a greener, more sustainable Kyle.

## Strategy 5.1.3 Strengthen Staffing Capacity to Meet NRPA Standards

**Action Item: Increase Staffing Levels**
To align with upper quartile staffing levels based on NRPA standards, Kyle should increase its parks and recreation staff to 107 full-time employees. Adequate staffing is essential to efficiently manage, administer, and operate the Kyle Parks system, ensuring high-quality service delivery, timely maintenance, and responsive programming that meets the growing needs of the community.

# Objective 2: Secure Long-Term Financial Sustainability

## Strategy 5.2.1 Diversify Funding Sources

**Action Item: Implement Sponsorship and Naming Rights Programs**
Develop tiered sponsorship opportunities for businesses, ranging from small contributions—such as sponsoring park benches—to major partnerships for events or facilities. Offer naming rights to boost business visibility and foster community engagement.

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## Did you Know?

**Staffing, Training, and Workforce Development**

Agencies that invest in ongoing staff training see a **24% improvement in employee retention and a 30% increase in internal promotions.**[1]

**Cross-training staff leads to 20% more efficient project completion**, according to APPA workforce studies.[2]

Parks departments in the upper quartile of **NRPA standards employ 10–12 FTEs per 10,000 residents, leading to higher-quality maintenance and programming.**[3]

**Quality Amenities and Maintenance**

Communities with upgraded parks and outdoor fitness equipment report a **48% increase in adult park use and 28% increase in youth activity levels.**[4]

Parks that offer high-quality recreation facilities can attract **regional sports tourism,** generating **millions in local revenue annually.**[5]

*Source: [1] NRPA Workforce Development Toolkit*
*[2]APPA Leadership in Educational Facilities Survey*
*[3]NRPA 2023 Agency Performance Review*
*[4] Trust for Public Land (2019) – Fitness in Parks Report*
*[5] Sports Facilities Advisory Group (SFA) – Economic Impact Reports*

## Best Practice Example

### Plano Parks Foundation Sponsorship & Naming Rights Program

Plano, TX launched a tiered sponsorship and naming rights program to support park improvements and events. Local companies sponsor benches, playgrounds, and sports leagues, while major donors secure naming rights for pavilions and splash pads.

Outcomes:
- Raised $1.5M in 3 years
- Enabled construction of new amenities without using general funds
- Strengthened business-community relationships
- This flexible model allows businesses of all sizes to contribute meaningfully.

*Source: Plano Parks and Recreation Foundation Sponsorship Guide*



### Action Item: Establish an Endowment Fund

Create a long-term investment fund supported by public, private, and philanthropic contributions to provide consistent, sustainable funding for park improvements, programming, and maintenance.

### Action Item: Incorporate Public-Private Partnerships

Team up with local businesses, event organizers, gyms, health providers and community groups to leverage their skills and abilities in the maintenance and operations of parks and recreational programs. Additionally, create joint marketing campaigns with these partners to boost the visibility of the parks and businesses, attracting more visitors and encouraging greater community engagement.

# CHAPTER

# 05

*Rendering of Plum Creek Preserve*

# Kyle Parks, Trails, and Land Reimagined

## In This Chapter

Park Recommendations
Trail Recommendations
Conservation Strategies

## Introduction

The City of Kyle is ready to take its Parks and Recreation System to the next level by investing in new development and the improvement of existing facilities. Less than 45% of Kyle's parkland is developed, and Kyle residents have expressed a strong need for improvements at these parks. The remaining undeveloped land can be used to fill the gaps in service identified in the system assessments. This section provides recommendations on park and trail development, existing park improvements, and conservation strategies that will transform the City into the gold standard for parks and recreation.

# Kyle Park Recommendations

This section proposes improvements to Kyle's parkland, beginning with developed parks and trail facilities, and concluding with undeveloped parkland. Each developed park includes site-specific recommendations based on community feedback, site analysis, and observed conditions. Additionally, this chapter includes recommendations to improve both developed and undeveloped park facilities, along with a citywide trail network strategy that identifies priority connections and trailhead locations.

## Recommended Park Classification System

The Kyle Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan recommends updating the City's park classification system to better align with community needs, park functions, and future growth. The revised classification system has been designed to align with Kyle's Ecosystem Service Areas to support greater conservation and preservation throughout the City's parks. This new system also helps guide planning, programming, and investment by clarifying the intended purpose, scale, and service area of each type of park.

### Close-to-Home Parks

**Pocket Parks:** are the smallest category of parks and are intended to serve the immediate surrounding neighborhood. These parks are typically under one acre in size and are often tucked into residential areas and would likely only include Tier 1 Ecosystem Service Areas. They provide localized recreational or passive uses based on neighborhood needs. Because of their close proximity to residents, community input, especially from those living nearby, is critical in the design and programming of pocket parks.

**Neighborhood Parks:** are mid-sized parks designed to serve the broader needs of an entire neighborhood. These parks should include a mix of passive and active recreation amenities that reflect the interests and demographics of the surrounding community. They are typically larger than pocket parks and may include walking trails, playgrounds, pavilions, small sport courts, and some combination of Tier 1 and Tier 2 Ecosystem Service Areas. Resident engagement is strongly recommended during the planning and design phases to ensure neighborhood voices are incorporated.

**Community Parks:** are the largest type of Close-to-Home park and are designed to serve multiple neighborhoods or larger districts within the city. These parks often act as activity hubs and offer a wide range of programming, including multiple sports facilities, playgrounds, community gathering areas, and flexible open spaces for events and classes. As these parks are larger, they may include any of the three types of Ecosystem Service Areas. Community parks should be planned with robust public engagement to ensure they serve diverse needs and maximize their potential as community anchors.

### Ecosystem Service Areas

Conservation is not an afterthought in the City of Kyle's parks system. It is a core principle embedded in every aspect of park planning, design, and management. Each site will include designated Ecosystem Service Areas (ESAs) as a foundational component, not as an add-on, to ensure that conservation is woven into the park's identity from the outset. The three types of Ecosystem Service Areas are:

**Ecosystem Service Area Tier 1:** highly visible, small-scale native landscape areas formally designed to demonstrate conservation principles in public, high-traffic settings. These sites are intentionally planned and receive the highest level of ongoing maintenance.

**Ecosystem Service Area Tier 2:** transitional zones between Tier 1 and Tier 3 areas, offering a balance between ecological function and intentional design. Tier 2 areas will feature landscape elements that emulate natural habitats in both form and function, while still reflecting a subtle sense of purposeful design.

**Ecosystem Service Area Tier 3:** the most ecologically focused areas emphasizing habitat restoration, biodiversity support, and long-term ecosystem resilience. These areas provide critical space for native flora and fauna to thrive and serve as benchmarks for healthy, functioning ecosystems.

## Citywide Parks

**Regional Parks:** are typically the largest parks in a city's system. They serve citywide and even regional audiences, drawing users from outside the city limits. These parks may support a variety of recreational functions from large sports complexes and aquatic facilities to destination trails. Due to the variety in function, these parks may include Tier 1, 2, and/or 3 Ecosystem Service Areas. The defining characteristic of a regional park is its scale and potential to offer either diverse or specialized experiences that are not typically available in smaller parks.

**Specific Use Parks:** are designed around a single use or theme. These parks can vary in size but should be no smaller than one-quarter acre. Due to their specialized nature, they often serve residents citywide and may attract visitors from beyond city limits. Examples include dog parks, skate parks, botanical gardens, tennis centers, and natatoriums. Specific use parks can also be integrated into other park classifications (e.g. a dog park within a community park), but generally speaking, these parks are defined by their focus on a particular program or user group. Specific Use Parks will most commonly integrate Tier 1 Ecosystem Service Areas.

**Linear Parks:** are typically established along natural or manmade corridors such as creeks, rivers, easements, utility corridors, or former rail lines. These parks are long and narrow in form and are designed to connect neighborhoods, parks, schools, and other destinations. They often support active transportation and mobility, with amenities such as trails, rest areas, and interpretive signage. Linear parks may also include ecological restoration components such as Tier 1 and 2 Ecosystem Service Areas and provide access to nature in various settings.

**Conservatories:** provide space for wildlife habitat, flood control, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity support, and places for passive recreation. These parks can vary greatly in size depending on the resources available, but should not be smaller than 5 acres. Due to the nature-based programming, it's important that these parks allow the landscape can function with minimal disturbance.

## Undeveloped Parkland and Open Space

**Open Space:** consists of land that has not yet been significantly programmed with a specific use or purpose. It may vary in size and is often preserved for future park development or environmental conservation. Open space can play an important role in preserving ecosystems, providing buffers, and serving as future green infrastructure.

**Urban Infill:** are opportunities to transform vacant or underutilized properties within developed areas into functional green spaces. These spaces help expand access to parks in higher-density or underserved neighborhoods and may offer flexible programming, from small play spaces to community gardens or gathering spaces.

**Brownfields:** are former industrial or commercial sites that may be environmentally contaminated. These sites can offer significant acreage for park development and are often located on the outskirts of urban areas. With proper remediation, brownfields can be repurposed into community assets, offering space for unique programming and contributing to environmental restoration goals.

A table summarizing the new classification system and corresponding criteria is included below:

## Concept Park Master Plans

### Kyle PROS Park Classification Table

| Park Type | Size Range | Ecosystem Service Area | Minimum Dimensions |
|---|---|---|---|
| Close-to-Home | | | |
| Pocket Park | 1/4 - 1 Acre | 1 | Frontage: 40' Depth: 100' |
| Neighborhood Park | 1.01 - 5 Acres | 1 and/or 2 | Frontage: 100' Depth: 100' |
| Community Park | 5.01 - 40 Acres | 1, 2, and/or 3 | Frontage: 450' Depth: 450' |
| Citywide | | | |
| Regional Park | 40.01+ Acres | 1, 2, and/or 3 | Frontage: 1,000' Depth: 1,000' |
| Specific Use Park | 1/4+ Acres | 1 | Frontage: 40' Depth: 100' |
| Linear Park | 1/4+ Acres | 1 and/or 2 | Width: 20' Length: 1/4 Mi. |
| Conservatory | 5+ Acres | 3 | Frontage: 450' Depth: 450' |
| Undeveloped | | | |
| Open Space | 1/4+ Acres | N/A | Frontage: 40' Depth: 100' |
| Urban Infill | 1/4+ Acres | N/A | Frontage: 40' Depth: 100' |
| Brownfield | 1/4+ Acres | N/A | Frontage: 40' Depth: 100' |

Kyle residents expressed a strong need for improvements to existing parks. The community also shared concerns about managing the Parks and Recreation System's growth in a way that remains sustainable and realistic. A common theme emerged throughout the public input process: while the community wants and needs additional facilities, residents believe the City should prioritize caring for and enhancing existing parks before investing in too many new ones. Quality, sustainability, and ongoing maintenance are more important to the community than quantity.

Six undeveloped park properties have been master planned due to their strategic locations, natural features, and potential to serve as important hubs within the Kyle Parks and Recreation System. These concept plans include site renderings and proposed amenity layouts to guide future development and funding opportunities. For other undeveloped parkland, this plan provides general recommendations that support long-term planning, allowing the City to be flexible and responsive to future growth, demographic shifts, and community preferences.

Six Concept Park Master Plan

- Kyle Vista Park
- Post Oak Park
- Linebarger Park / Oso Oro
- Four Seasons Park
- Plum Creek Preserve
- Seton Park and Trail

A table in the following pages outlines the current inventory of amenities and highlights gaps between Kyle's Parks and Recreation System and national standards, such as those provided by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This comparison helps demonstrate how strategic improvements to existing facilities can move Kyle closer to meeting these standards and better serve its growing population.

## What We Heard: Community Survey Funding Priorities

A vital component in the operation of a Parks and Recreation System is funding allocation. Limited funds require that the City carefully divide resources among the development of new facilities, upgrading existing facilities, land acquisition, and operations and maintenance.

Residents were asked what the City should prioritize its funding, and the results were clear. The community believes that up-grading existing amenities should take priority over investment in new facilities. Although new facilities are needed, residents expressed concern for a system that wouldn't be able to maintain its existing assets.

**53%** Upgrade Existing Amenities

**46%** Invest in New Facilities
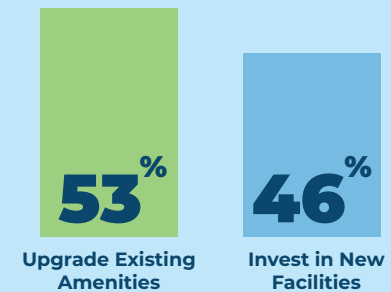


*Residents gave input on funding priorities at public workshops and in the community survey*

## Kyle Facility Types and Gaps

| Facility Types | NRPA Standards | Existing Kyle Number of Facilities | Current Gap | Number of Facilities after PROS | Gap after Kyle PROS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities** | | | | | |
| **Playgrounds** | 16.9 | 10 | 6.9 | 17 | 0.1 |
| **Diamond Fields** | 17.0 | 10 | 6.0 | 10 | 6.0 |
| **Basketball Courts (standalone)** | 7.5 | 4 | 3.5 | 7 | 0.5 |
| **Rectangular Fields** | 15.4 | 2 | 13.4 | 24 | 8.6 |
| **Tennis Courts** | 10.7 | 1 | 9.7 | 1 | 9.7 |
| **Dog Parks** | 1.1 | 2 | 0.9 | 4 | 2.9 |
| **Tot Lots** | 5.0 | 1 | 4.0 | 3 | 2.0 |
| **Community Gardens** | 1.1 | 1 | 0.1 | 1 | 0.1 |
| **Swimming Pools** | 1.3 | 1 | 0.3 | 2 | 0.7 |
| **Skateboard Parks** | 1.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 2 | 1.0 |
| **Multi-use Courts (Basketball, Volleyball, Etc.)** | 2.5 | 0 | 2.5 | 0 | 2.5 |
| **Pickleball** | 6.0 | 0 | 6.0 | 2 | 4.0 |
| **Multi-use Courts (Tennis, Pickleball)** | 4.8 | 0 | 4.8 | 2 | 2.8 |
| **18-Hole Golf Courses** | 0.9 | 0 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.9 |
| **9-Hole Golf Courses** | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| **Synthetic Rectangular Fields** | 1.7 | 0 | 1.7 | 0 | 1.7 |
| **Volleyball Courts (standalone)** | 2.4 | 1 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.6 |
| **Splash pads** | 1.2 | 3 | 1.8 | 5 | 3.8 |
| **Fitness zones/ Exercise Stations** | 1.8 | 0 | 1.8 | 2 | 0.2 |
| **Walking Loops/Running Tracks** | 3.0 | 0 | 3.0 | 1 | 2.0 |
| **Racquetball/Handball/Squash Courts** | 1.4 | 0 | 1.4 | 0 | 1.4 |
| **Disc Golf Courses** | 1.1 | 1 | 0.1 | 1 | 0.1 |
| **Water parks** | 0.8 | 0 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.8 |

| Facility Types | NRPA Standards | City of Kyle Number of Facilities | Current Gap | Number of Facilities after PROS | Gap after Kyle PROS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Indoor Park and Recreation Facilities** | | | | | |
| **Competitive Swimming Pools** | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| **Pools Designed Exclusively for Leisure** | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| **Pickleball** | 3.6 | 0 | 3.6 | 0 | 3.6 |
| **Multi-use Courts (Basketball, Volleyball, Etc.)** | 2.6 | 0 | 2.6 | 0 | 2.6 |
| **Basketball Courts (standalone)** | 2.4 | 0 | 2.4 | 0 | 2.4 |
| **Multi-use Courts (Tennis, Pickleball)** | 4.1 | 0 | 4.1 | 0 | 4.1 |
| **Walking Loops/Running Tracks** | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| **Racquetball/Handball/Squash Courts** | 1.6 | 0 | 1.6 | 0 | 1.6 |
| **Tennis Courts** | 5.9 | 0 | 5.9 | 0 | 5.9 |
| **Activity-Based Facilities** | | | | | |
| **Recreation Centers** | 1.6 | 0 | 1.6 | 1 | 0.6 |
| **Community Centers** | 1.2 | 0 | 1.2 | 1 | 0.2 |
| **Senior Centers** | 0.9 | 1 | 0.1 | 1 | 0.1 |
| **Performance Amphitheaters** | 1.1 | 1 | 0.1 | 2 | 0.9 |
| **Nature Centers** | 0.9 | 0 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.9 |
| **Aquatic Centers** | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| **Permanent and Semi-permanent Restrooms** | 11.3 | 8 | 3.3 | 12 | 0.7 |
| **Stadiums** | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| **Teen Centers** | 1.1 | 0 | 1.1 | 0 | 1.1 |
| **Arenas** | 0.9 | 0 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.9 |

## Public Parks

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 La Verde | 9 Bunton Creek | 17 Brookside Access |
| 2 Heroes Memorial Park | 10 Bunton Creek Reserve | 18 Four Seasons Farm |
| 3 Kyle Vista Park | 11 Waterleaf Park | 19 Brookside |
| 4 Kensington Trails | 12 Cool Springs Lot 2F | 20 Kyle Train Depot |
| 5 Seton Park & Trail | 13 Cool Springs Lot 31E | 21 Masonwood Park |
| 6 Steeplechase Park | 14 Post Oak Water Tank | 22 Mary Kyle Hartson |
| 7 Lake Kyle | 15 Linebarger Lake | 23 Gregg-Clarke Park |
| 8 Plum Creek Preserve | 16 Oso Oro | 24 Hometown Trails |

## City of Kyle Parks

- Kyle ETJ
- Kyle City Limits

**Park**
- Public Parks
- Undeveloped Public Parks
- Private Parks
- Other Parks: HOA, Detention

0    0.5    1 Miles

# Kyle Vista Park

**Potential Cost Range:** $39,000,000-$40,000,000
**Note:** Does Not Include Annual Recurring Maintenance Costs.



PARKING
95-100 parking spaces

TRAIL
1/4 mile loop

INDOOR FACILITY
Alternative Program Options:
Community Center
Skate Park
Indoor basketball
Gym

DETENTION POND

POLLINATOR NO MOW ZONES

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND PAVILION

CIRCUIT TRAIL W/ EXERCISE STATIONS

SHADED PICNIC AREAS

PLAYGROUND
2-5 yrs
5-12 yrs
restrooms

PRACTICE FIELDS

PARKING
50 parking spaces

PARKING
50 parking spaces

OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE
Alternative Program Options:
Farmers Market
Food Truck
Outdoor Event Space

MULTI-USE SPORTS FIELDS

RESTROOMS/PAVILION

SWIMMING POOL & SPLASH PAD

PARKING
90 spaces

SOFT SURFACE TRAIL
exercise stations

BIO SWALE

OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER
Outdoor Stage
Open Markets

PLAYGROUND
2-5 yrs
5-12 yrs
restrooms

REGIONAL DOG PARK

PARKING
95-100 parking spaces

205

*Site plans are conceptual only. Subject to change.*

- 11 proposed multi-use sports fields, 6 practice fields, and 3 basketball courts, complete with shaded seating and lighting for nighttime play.
- Proposed 26,000 square foot indoor facility with programming options including a community center, skate park, indoor basketball, and a gym.
- 4 proposed parking lots, totaling 440 parking spaces.

- Proposed outdoor event space with programming options including farmers markets, food trucks, and outdoor fitness classes.
- Proposed playgrounds, regional dog park, outdoor amphitheater, soft paved loop trail with fitness stations, swimming pool, and splash pad.

## Kyle Vista Park - Outdoor Stage



*Renderings are conceptual only. Subject to change.*

*Renderings are conceptual only. Subject to change.*

# Linebarger Lake / Oso Oro Park

**Potential Cost Range:** $39,000,000-$40,000,000
**Note:** Does Not Include Annual Recurring Maintenance Costs.



NEIGHBORHOOD ACCESS PATH
Connects to Plum Creek Preserve/Trail via Arbor Knot Dr and Ferrule Dr
Connects to Four Seasons Farm/Park and Lake Kyle via Arbor Knot Dr and Ferrule Dr

ARBOR KNOT DR

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AREA

FISHING PIER, TYP.

WILDFLOWER MEADOWS
Fitness Nodes
Interpretive/Educational Signage

POND AERATOR

VYBE TRAIL CONNECTION
TO PLUM CREEK TRAIL

LOOP TRAIL (1 mile+, paved)
Fitness Nodes
Interpretive/Educational Signage

SHADE STRUCTURE, TYP.
Informal Turf and Trees Adjacent

Spillway

Earthen Dam

Linebarger Lake

DRAINAGE CROSSING, TYP.

NATIVE GRASSES AND TREES, TYP.

EDUCATIONAL BOARDWALK

100 PARKING SPACES

NATURE PROGRAMS
Nature Themed Playground
Fairy Garden Play Trail
Forest Plantings

DROP-OFF/TURNAROUND

RESTROOM

RESTROOMS/PAVILION

30 PARKING SPACES

SHARED USE AMENITIES AREA
Multi-sport courts
Shaded pavilion

SHADED PLAYGROUNDS
Age 2-5
Age 5-12

WILDFLOWER MEADOWS

Tobias Elementary

EDUCATION CENTER AND OUTDOOR CLASSROOM (6000 SF)

NON-MOTORIZED BOAT/FLOAT LAUNCH

PED/BIKE CONNECTION TO POST OAK PARK

E FM 15

*Site plans are conceptual only. Subject to change.*

- Two proposed practice soccer fields, one youth soccer field, and two basketball courts, with benches and lighting for nighttime play.
- Proposed 6000 square foot nature center with an outdoor classroom overlooking Linebarger Lake.
- Two proposed parking lots with a combined total of 130 parking spaces.

- Proposed Linebarger Lake shoreline improvements including three fishing piers, five picnic pavilions, and an educational boardwalk.
- Proposed soft pavement nature trails with fitness stations, and two nature themed playground areas.

**Linebarger Lake -** Educational Boardwalk



*Renderings are conceptual only. Subject to change.*

*Renderings are conceptual only. Subject to change.*

# Four Season Farm

**Potential Cost Range:** $7,000,000-$8,000,000
**Note:** Does Not Include Annual Recurring Maintenance Costs.



PATHS TO LAKE KYLE PENINSULAS

*Views to Lake Kyle*

LAKE KYLE ACCESS PATH

LAKE KYLE VIEW TERRACE

*Sunset Views*

*6:1 Slope*

*Earthen Dam*

SUNSET VIEW NODES

VYBE TRAIL CONNECTION TO PLUM CREEK TRAIL

INFORMAL LAWN PLAY AREAS (1.3 Acres)

SMALL DOG PARK
Alternative Program Options:
Skate Plaza
Community Garden
Bocce Ball
Basketball
Fitness Area
Labyrinth

SPLASH PAD

SHADED PLAYGROUND (AGES 2-5)

STAIR ACCESS

PICNIC SHELTER WITH BBQ

RESTROOMS

SHADED PLAYGROUND (AGES 5-12)

SEAT WALLS W 'FOUR SEASONS' TREES
Evergreen Tree (Winter)
Early Showy Flowering Tree (Spring)
Large Leaf Shade Tree (Summer)
Vibrant or Classic Autumn Color Tree (Fall)

NEIGHBORHOOD ACCESS PATHS

NEIGHBORHOOD ACCESS PATH

*Site plans are conceptual only. Subject to change.*

ARBOR KNOT DRIVE

- Proposed informal lawn play area including a splash pad, new tree plantings, and benches.

- Proposed paved plaza with seating and new tree plantings, positioned for users to enjoy views of Lake Kyle.

- Proposed dog park area with alternate programming options including a skate plaza, community garden, basketball, and a fitness area.

- Two proposed shaded playground areas complete with a pavilion and picnic area.

- Proposed concrete trail connections to Lake Kyle Park, the Vybe Trail, Estival Circle, and Ferrule Drive.

- The proposed park offers a variety of outdoor activities, beautiful vistas, and neighborhood connections.

*Renderings are conceptual only. Subject to change.*

# Plum Creek Preserve

**Potential Cost Range:** $11,000,000-$12,000,000
**Note:** Does Not Include Annual Recurring Maintenance Costs.



*Lake Kyle Park*

*Spillway*

*Lake Kyle*

*Plum Creek*

*Earthen Dam*

*Vybe Spot*
28.4 ac

(E) PLUM CREEK TRAIL CONNECTION TO LAKE KYLE

9 ACRE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AREA
Native Trees and Shrubs
Pollinator Species
Bat boxes

1 ACRE FITNESS AREA
Group fitness equipment area
Linear Obstacle Course
Individual Stations

CREEK CROSSING, TYP.

VYBE TRAIL FROM FOUR SEASONS FARM

VYBE TRAIL TO OSO ORO PARK

SHADED PLAYGROUND (AGES 5-12)

RESTROOMS

5 ACRE NO MOW WILDFLOWER AREA W/ SOFT SURFACE TRAILS

SOFT TRAIL WITH BIRD WATCHING BLINDS

*Four Seasons Farm*

*ARBOR KNOT DR*

*FERRULE DR*

*VIOLET LN*

*Plum Creek*

*City-Owned Open Space*

*Oro Oro Park*

(E) PLUM CREEK TRAIL CONNECTION TO OPEN SPACE

*Site plans are conceptual only. Subject to change.*

- Proposed group fitness area including fitness stations and an obstacle course.
- Proposed restroom building.
- Proposed shaded playground.
- Proposed 9 acre habitat improvement area including new native trees and shrubs, pollinator species, and bat boxes.

- Proposed soft pavement trail along creekside for leisure natural exploration, complete with a 5 acre wildflower meadow and bird watching blinds.
- The proposed park offers outdoor activities, habitat improvements, scenic trails, and neighborhood connections.

*Renderings are conceptual only. Subject to change.*

# Seton Park and Trail

I-35

FRONTAGE RD

Vybe Spot

VYBE TRAIL CONNECTION

Lowe's

NATURE TRAILS

Hobby Lobby

Academy

MAINTENANCE ACCESS PATH

BUNTON BRANCH CROSSING, TYP.

OFFROAD BIKE TRAILS

NATURE TRAILS

EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

VYBE TRAIL

Walgreens

PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE ACCESS

KYLE PKWY

SETON PKWY

SETON PKWY

Stormwater Basin

Bunton Branch

DACY LANE

Walmart

PARKOUR/CHALLENGE COURSE AND FITNESS AREA

YOUTH SPORTS FIELD

SHADED PICKLEBALL COURTS

NATURE PLAYGROUND (CLIMBING WEB + TOT LOT)

Shade Canopy

PARKING (90 STALLS)

RESTROOMS

City-Owned Open Space

Seton Medical Center

*Site plans are conceptual only. Subject to change.*
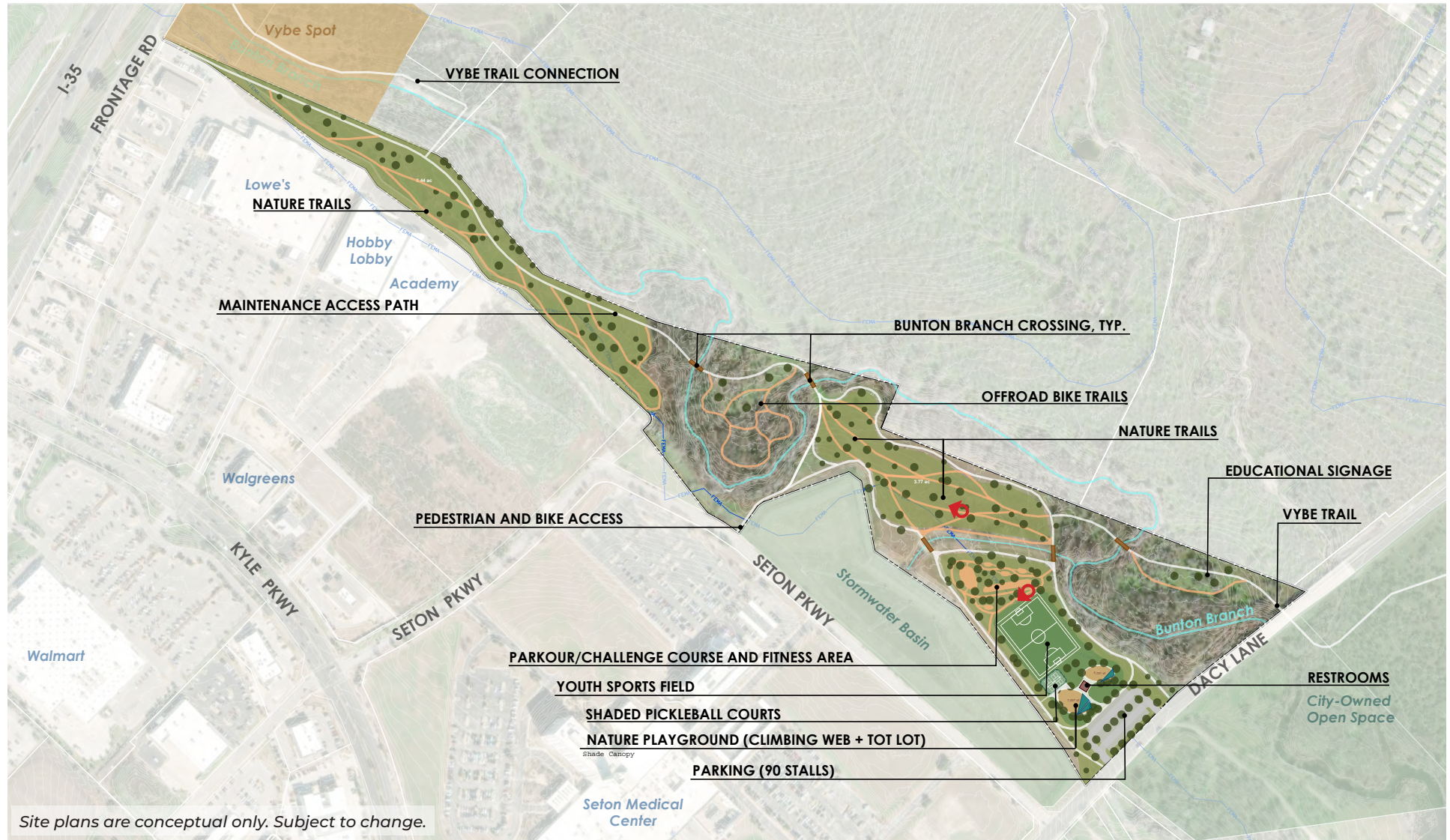
- A proposed youth soccer field, two shaded pickleball courts, and a parkour challenge course and fitness area, including benches and lighting for nighttime play.
- Two proposed nature themed, shaded playground areas and a new restroom building.
- The proposed park offers outdoor activities, habitat improvements, scenic trails, and neighborhood connections.

- Proposed soft pavement trail along creekside for leisure natural exploration, complete with a 5 acre wildflower meadow and bird watching blinds.
- Proposed 90 vehicle parking lot along Dacy Lane.
- Proposed scenic concrete trail for improved pedestrian and bicycle access with connections to Dacy Lane, Seton Parkway, and I-35 Frontage Road.

**Seton Park and Trail -** Outdoor Fitness Station



*Renderings are conceptual only. Subject to change.*

**Seton Park and Trail -** Nature Education Trails



Renderings are conceptual only. Subject to change.

# Bunton Creek



Bunton Creek Park includes a shaded playground, 0.9-mile loop trail, and connection to Plum Creek Trail. This park emphasizes environmental programming through elements like the wildflower meadow, educational signage, and bat boxes. A combination of paved and informal paths connect Bunton Creek and Waterleaf Parks. Areas surrounding the playground are ADA accessible, but the equipment is not.

## Recommended Actions:

- Provide universal and multi-generational opportunities for play
- Develop an accessible soft-surface trail for the Wildflower Loop to increase accessibility
- Formally connect Bunton Creek and Waterleaf Parks through soft-surface or paved pathways
- Install wayfinding signage along paths that identifies the Wildflower Loop, Plum Creek Trail, and Waterleaf Park
- Plant shade trees along trails/pathways and open areas with significant sun exposure
- Evaluate maintenance and operations schedule to proactively address routine concerns (overflowing trashcans, thinning turf, playground maintenance, etc.)
- Explore additional program opportunities at the park ranging from new facilities/amenities to wildlife habitat and nature programming

# Gregg-Clarke Park



Gregg-Clarke Park provides space for softball, football, soccer, basketball, tennis, and swimming. Additional amenities include Ash Pavilion, a splash pad, playgrounds, picnic tables, walking trails, and open space. To bring the park back to a baseline quality, the facilities and amenities need routine upgrades and ongoing maintenance. Additional actions can be taken to activate and elevate Gregg-Clarke Park, creating a hub of recreation for the community.

## Recommended Actions:

- Upgrade play areas including the equipment, fall surfacing, and overhead shade structures. Provide inclusive and multi-generational opportunities for play
- Upgrade diamond field infrastructure by reseeding the outfield, replacing warped fencing, and installing shade structures over spectator seating
- Reseed/resod thinning turf throughout the park. Provide paved or soft-surface paths where people desire to walk
- Update the tennis court surfacing, net, and exterior fencing
- Plant shade trees throughout the park, specifically along the loop trail, around the soccer fields, and near gathering spaces
- Improve appeal by planting native plants along major paths, next to parking lots, and near buildings
- Enhance accessibility and provide paved pathways that connect the park's amenities
- Resume construction of the skate park to continue development and respond to community interest in active recreation for teens and young adults
- Resurface and restripe parking lots

# Heroes Memorial Park



Heroes Memorial Park is a relatively new park in the Brick and Mortar District. Generally speaking, the park is in excellent condition, however there is a severe lack of shade throughout the park. As the park's trees continue to grow, they will provide shade over the paths but the current condition decreases the park's usability. Additionally, road noise distracts from the reflective nature of the park and pedestrian safety could be improved in the surrounding area.

## Recommended Actions:

- Investigate noise-reducing strategies such as landscape mounding or buffering along the FM1626 and Kohlers Crossing edges of the park
- Install shade structures that can be removed once trees reach a mature height and spread. Strategically place shade structures near seating/tables and along pathways.
- Provide public restrooms
- Incorporate nature-based educational programming by installing plant identification signage
- Provide additional water fountains and trash receptacles. Install these amenities in strategic locations that are frequent, visible, and easily accessible.

# Kyle Train Depot



The Kyle Train Depot was renovated in 2016 to honor the history of the railroad industry and Kyle Station. The Heritage Center houses a museum, and visitors can view a restored train car. The outdoor space next to the train car has a picnic table and bench under the shade of oak trees. The Train Depot is located within walking distance to downtown, and there are sidewalks and crosswalks that adequately support pedestrian connectivity.

## Recommended Actions:

- Incorporate environmental programming by installing plant identification signage and pollinator exhibits
- Sustain the landscape by pruning trees, replacing dead/dying plant material, and maintaining open grass areas
- Activate the space by increasing visitation. Strategies to increase visitation may include expanding museum hours and/or partnering with school groups for field trips
- Expand educational programming by installing interpretive signage outside the museum. These educational exhibits could cover topics such as the design of the train car, how the depot was used, the lifestyle of the people who worked on the trains, etc.
- Invest in public realm improvements at Kyle Train Depot and along W Center Street to create a cohesive downtown. Improvements could include landscaping, lighting, or City-branded monument and wayfinding signage. It may be beneficial to develop a downtown plant and material palette based on Mary Kyle Hartson Park to create a distinct downtown identity and visually connect the two parks.

# La Verde Park



La Verde Park is a 1.6-acre park located in the Brick and Mortar District. This park includes a splash pad, volleyball court, dog park, and all abilities play ground. A major feature of La Verde Park is the pavilion and event lawn. The park is fairly new and in excellent condition. In addition to the existing sidewalk network, there are opportunities to expand connectivity as construction continues east of La Verde's current footprint.

## Recommended Actions:

- Activate the park by hosting various events ranging from local to community-wide.
- Expand the pedestrian connectivity of the park as the Brick and Mortar District continues to develop
- Incorporate educational programming by installing plant identification signage and pollinator exhibits
- Sustain the landscape by pruning trees, replacing dead/dying plant material, and maintaining open grass areas
- Provide more opportunities for active recreation such as walking trails, fitness stations, and/or space for sport

# Lake Kyle Park



At 119 acres, Lake Kyle is the City's largest public park. Amenities include a covered playground and picnic area, walking paths, the 12.5-acre lake, the PARD administration office, a fishing dock, and access to the Plum Creek Trail. The site lacks shade along the pathways and near the lake. Additionally, Plum Creek Trail is difficult to find and follow due to a lack of effective signage. Lake Kyle Park has a significant amount of space for additional programming.

## Recommended Actions:

- Plant shade trees along trails/pathways and open areas with significant sun exposure
- Install shade structures in strategic locations along paths and near the lake. Remove these structures when trees have matured to provide shade independently
- Install wayfinding signage along paths and at trail intersections
- Strategically relocate the Plum Creek Trailhead sign so visitors can clearly identify where the trail begins
- Develop a formal pathway for Plum Creek Trail. This can be accomplished by paving the path, installing a soft-surface trail, and/or installing a type of edging to define the path
- Explore additional program opportunities at the park ranging from new facilities/amenities to community events and recreation programs
- Expand parking to accommodate more visitors

# Mary Kyle Hartson Park



Mary Kyle Hartson Square is a hub for the community in Downtown Kyle. Since the park was recently renovated, the amenities are in excellent condition. The landscaping is neat and diverse. There are opportunities to incorporate educational and recreational programming in the park. Additionally, wayfinding signage would be very impactful at this location as it is a popular spot for community members and tourists.

## Recommended Actions:

- Incorporate educational programming by installing plant identification signage and pollinator exhibits
- Continue to activate the space by hosting recreational programs such as yoga in the park or chess tournaments
- Install wayfinding signage that guides visitors to nearby points of interest
- Sustain the landscape by pruning trees, replacing dead/dying plant material, and maintaining open grass areas
- Expand the pedestrian network in the neighborhoods surrounding the park so nearby residents can safely walk, run, or bike downtown
- Upgrade the fountain to be in working condition
- Conduct a feasibility study on the Krug Center to identify opportunities for improved programming and services
- Provide public restrooms for daily use and community events
- Invest in public realm improvements along W Center Street to create a cohesive downtown. Improvements could include landscaping, lighting, or City-branded monument and wayfinding signage. It may be beneficial to develop a downtown plant and material palette to create a distinct downtown identity.

# Steeplechase Park



Steeplechase Park provides a range of recreational opportunities. Key facilities at this park include sports fields and courts, a playground, a splash pad, and a 0.5+ mile walking path. There is a general lack of shade, and the park would benefit from routine maintenance on the walking path, playground, ballfields, and parking lot. More recreational facilities as well as monument and wayfinding signage could significantly elevate this park.

## Recommended Actions:

- Plant shade trees and/or install shade structures near ballfields, the basketball court, soccer field, dog park, and picnic areas.
- Update the walking path
- Expand seating options near the diamond ballfields for spectators and perform routine maintenance on fields
- Expand and resurface the parking lot
- Plant shade trees and native plants along the parking lot boundary to improve aesthetics and biodiversity
- Upgrade the playground and provide inclusive and multi-generational opportunities to play
- Expand recreational opportunities by building a skate park or volleyball courts
- Install monument signage at the park entrance
- Install wayfinding signage throughout
- Upgrade and maintain the disc golf course
- Upgrade and maintain athletic fields
- Install security lighting to improve park safety

# Waterleaf Park



Waterleaf Park provides space for active recreation - softball and soccer fields, play equipment, and a loop trail. Generally speaking, there is a lack of shade and seating, and the facilities at need upgrades and maintenance. Less than a quarter of the site is developed. Waterleaf Park provides access to Bunton Creek Park and Plum Creek Trail, but a lack of signage and development creates confusion regarding these connection.

## Recommended Actions:

- Plant shade trees near the ballfields, soccer fields, picnic areas, and along walking paths
- Install bleacher or bench seating near the ballfields and soccer fields. Add overhead shade structures to create a more comfortable environment
- Upgrade play areas including the equipment, fall surfacing, and overhead shade structures. Provide inclusive and multi-generational opportunities for play
- Install wayfinding signage along paths and at trail intersections. Install trail maps for Plum Creek Trail at trailhead locations
- Develop a formal pathway for Plum Creek Trail and formally connect Bunton Creek and Waterleaf Parks
- Expand programming in alignment with the community's needs outlined in the demand-based assessment
- Conduct routine maintenance and upgrades on all park facilities
- Evaluate mountain bike trails on a regular basis and implement necessary improvements to provide a high-quality trail system

# Plum Creek Trail



Plum Creek Trail spans roughly four miles, connecting Lake Kyle Park through the undeveloped Plum Creek Preserve property, through the undeveloped portion of Bunton Creek Park, and to Waterleaf Park. The trail is mostly developed, but there is ample opportunity to create a better user experience.

## Recommended Actions:

- Develop a trailhead sign that details the route, difficulty, hazards, access points, rules, regulations, and other necessary information
- Ensure trailhead signage is placed in a strategic location that guides visitors to the trail
- Design visually appealing trailhead signage that reflects the department's brand
- Develop trails to be more accessible and intuitive by upgrading trail surfacing and/or creating more defined pathways
- Install wayfinding signage along the trail, especially at intersections or where the Plum Creek Trail is difficult to follow
- Keep plant life along the trail well maintained by regularly pruning/trimming trees

# Cool Springs



Cool Springs Park & Trail is nearly 24 acres with fishing ponds, natural landscaping, 1.86 miles of trails, restrooms, picnic tables, benches, and a 5-hole disc golf course. Existing infrastructure is in good condition, but the park has several minor issues that, if addressed, could greatly enhance the visitor experience - the official address for the park does not bring visitors to the trailhead sign, there are no trail maps or wayfinding signs, and aesthetics can be improved.

## Recommended Actions:

- Develop trails to be soft-surface (e.g. decomposed granite) or paved to improve accessibility
- Program the address to bring visitors to the park's trailhead sign/ formal entrance.
- Paint crosswalk markings near trail entrances to increase pedestrian safety
- Install map signage along the trail near the trailhead, restrooms, and community pool. Include rules and regulations relevant to the park
- Install wayfinding signage at the trail's entrances, intersections, and road crossings
- Incorporate educational programming along the trail
- Keep plant life well maintained by regularly pruning/trimming trees
- Install planting beds near key features such as the trailhead or restrooms to beautify the park and increase biodiversity

# Lake Kensington



Lake Kensington is located off Dacy Lane, bordering the Kensington Trails neighborhood to the southwest. It is currently undeveloped, but the 105.5 acres of land includes a reservoir and a mixture of wooded and open habitat.

## Recommended Actions:

- Following the recommended park classifications in this plan, officially classify the park as an undeveloped open space until it is developed
- Leverage the property's size and provide a wide variety of programming and amenities that addresses the gaps identified in the standard-based and demand-based assessments of this plan
- Leverage the lake/pond to provide water recreation that is unique from the programming offered at Lake Kyle and Linebarger Lake (e.g. mountain biking)
- Establish trail, sidewalk, and bike path connections throughout the site, across the road to Seton Park, and throughout the surrounding neighborhoods. Ensure pedestrian safety by implementing sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic calming measures in the surrounding area
- Prioritize the protection of existing trees and habitat throughout the design and construction processes by minimizing the development footprint
- Balance the needs of the nearby residents with the programming opportunities surrounding the lake and natural habitats

# Masonwood



Masonwood is wedged between the Oaks of Kyle Apartments and single family homes in The Trails subdivision. Located on Masonwood Drive, the property is mostly flat and open turf with some shrubs and trees.

## Recommended Actions:

- Following the recommended park classifications in this plan, officially classify Masonwood as an undeveloped open space until it is developed
- Programming and design should respond to the surrounding neighborhood's needs. Engage with the immediate community prior to master planning the parkland
- Prioritize pedestrian and bicycle access within the neighborhood by providing appropriate infrastructure (e.g. comprehensive sidewalk network, crosswalks, and traffic calming measures)
- Expand the pedestrian network to connect Masonwood, Lake Kyle, and Steeplechase Parks
- Incorporate wayfinding signage that directs visitors to the nearby parks (Lake Kyle and Steeplechase)

# Sunset Ridge



Sunset Ridge sits on the southwestern border of an undeveloped section of Bunton Creek. The Sunset Ridge subdivision is in the process of expanding residential development toward the southern edge of the park property's border. The parkland consists of dense tree and shrub vegetation.

## Recommended Actions:

- Following the recommended park classifications in this plan, officially classify Sunset Ridge as an undeveloped open space until it is developed
- Prioritize pedestrian and bicycle access within the neighborhood by providing appropriate infrastructure (e.g. comprehensive sidewalk network, crosswalks, and traffic calming measures)
- Expand the pedestrian network to connect Sunset Ridge to Bunton Creek. Connecting to Bunton Creek would also provide pedestrian access to Lake Kyle, Plum Creek Preserve, and Waterleaf Park
- Incorporate wayfinding signage that directs visitors to the nearby parks

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# Kyle Trail Recommendations

The City of Kyle recognizes the increasing demand for a comprehensive and connected trail system that supports both recreation and active transportation. Building on the 2021 Trails Master Plan, this updated framework incorporates recent community input, evolving priorities, and regional initiatives to propose a cohesive and implementable citywide trail network.

This plan is informed by several key efforts:

- **The Vybe Kyle initiative**, which envisions a vibrant, locally connected trail system linking parks, neighborhoods, and community destinations through safe and accessible routes.
- **The 2045 Regional Active Transportation Plan (RATP)** by CAMPO, which outlines a network of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure across six counties, including Hays County.
- **The Great Springs Project**, a visionary trail corridor connecting Austin to San Antonio, positioning Kyle as a critical link in a regionally significant greenway.
- **The Violet Crown Trail System**, a regional trail network connecting the City of Austin to Hays County, increasing Kyle's geographic importance in the region
- **Community-Identified Priorities**, which emerged through extensive public engagement

## Existing Trail Network

The existing parks and trails map illustrates a growing, but still fragmented, system. The VYBE Trail, Kyle's signature multi-use path, currently consists of disconnected segments concentrated in the central and southeastern areas, many of which follow greenbelts and creek corridors near Lake Kyle and Cool Springs Park.

The network also includes nature trails and CAMPO-identified segments from the RATP, aligning local efforts with broader regional goals. However, key gaps remain—particularly in the city's western and northern areas and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ)—which offer opportunities for future trail and park expansion.

Major roads like I-35 and FM 150 pose barriers to connectivity, limiting safe east-west movement. While some planned trails follow natural corridors, many proposed segments remain unbuilt. Addressing these gaps with strategic connections and safe crossings is vital.

# City of Kyle Existing and Planned Trails



**City of Kyle Existing and Planned Trails**

- Kyle ETJ
- Kyle City Limits

**Park**
- Public Parks
- Undeveloped Public Parks
- Private Parks
- Other Parks: HOA, Detention
- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard

**Existing Trails**
- VYBE Trails
- NatureTrails
- CAMPO RATP Trails

**Planned Trails**
- VYBE Trails
- Proposed Emerald Crown Trail
- CAMPO RATP Trails

0   0.5   1 Miles

The VYBE Trail, designed as a 12-foot-wide multiuse path for pedestrians, cyclists, golf carts, and neighborhood electric vehicles, integrates trail-oriented placemaking through "Vybes"—community hubs that connect the trail to parks, civic sites, and retail. Together with partners like CAMPO and the Great Springs Project, Kyle is advancing a vision for an integrated, regionally connected trail system.

## Community-Identified Priorities

Through a robust engagement process involving over 4,000 data points—surveys, pop-ups, workshops, and focus groups—Kyle residents identified trails as one of the top priorities for future investment. Over 80% of survey respondents emphasized the need for trails close to home that connect to parks, schools, downtown, and commercial areas.

Residents highlighted the importance of trails for both recreation and transportation, noting the value of safe, sustainable options for getting around town without a car. Key trail features identified include lighting, shade, seating, trees, and waste receptacles to enhance comfort and usability.

Community members also expressed interest in supportive amenities like interactive art, shaded gathering areas, and inclusive, accessible design. Their vision is a trail system that is inviting, peaceful, and integrated with nature—serving people of all ages and abilities.

During the December 2024 Trail Workshop, participants reaffirmed several key priorities:
- **Connectivity**: Develop continuous east-west and north-south corridors, especially along FM 150, Center Street, and Bunton Creek Road.
- **Access to Key Destinations:** Ensure safe routes to schools, parks, and downtown.
- Safe Crossings: Provide bridges or culverts across major roads like FM 150 and Dacy Lane.
- **Regional Links**: Strengthen connections to the Great Springs Project and CAMPO trail network.
- **Wayfinding and Education**: Add signage, trailheads, and interpretive features.
- **Partnerships**: Collaborate with agencies, developers, and community organizations to expand and maintain the trail network.

### What We heard from Kyle Residents

1. Trails close to home that connect to destinations
2. Furnished trails (lighting, trees, waste receptacles, shade, etc.)
3. Trails as alternative modes of transportation

**80%**
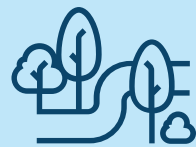
Of Kyle Residents placed trails as a top priority for Kyle

# Trail Recommendations
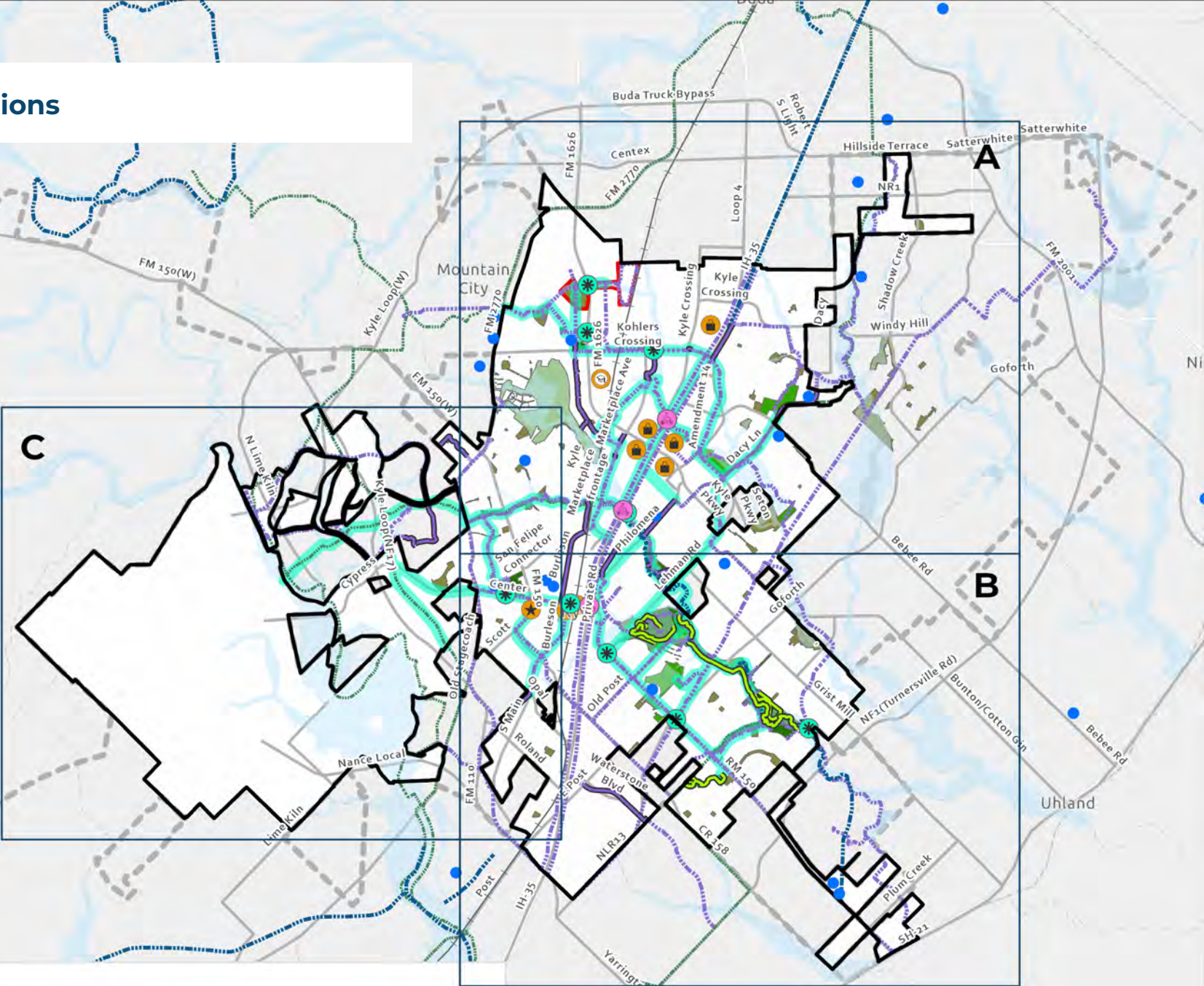


**Trail Recommendations**

- Kyle ETJ
- Kyle City Limits

**Park**
- Public Parks
- Undeveloped Public Parks
- Private Parks

- Other Parks: HOA, Detention
- Texas Railroads
- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard

**Existing Trails**
- VYBE Trails
- NatureTrails

**Planned Trails**
- VYBE Trails
- Proposed Emerald Crown Trail
- CAMPO RATP Trails

**Future Trail Connections**
- NewTrail

- Proposed Trailhead
- Proposed Bike/Ped Bridge

**Destinations**
- Commercial Hub
- Community Landmark

- Downtown
- Community College
- Proposed Sport Complex
- Publicl Schools

# Trail Recommendations

Aligned with Goal #2: Balanced and Connected System, this plan presents a strategic framework to create a citywide trail network that links parks, neighborhoods, schools, retail, downtown, and regional destinations. The proposed network builds on the VYBE Trail Master Plan and incorporates key components of the CAMPO RATP and the Great Springs Project.

## Develop a Comprehensive Trail Network

The recommended network includes off-street and nature trails, on-street connectors, and greenway corridors. These routes prioritize connections to major destinations such as Lake Kyle, Waterleaf Park, Cool Springs Park, downtown, and the future Sportsplex, supporting equity, recreation, and mobility across Kyle.

## Integrate Trails into the Transportation System

Corridors like FM 150, Bunton Creek Road, and Center Street are key to integrating trails with bike lanes, sidewalks, and public transit—creating safe, multi-modal connections between neighborhoods and employment, civic, and retail centers.

## Provide Well-Equipped Trailheads

Trailheads are recommended at major access points throughout the system. These facilities should include parking, restrooms, shaded seating, signage, and kiosks, improving user experience and encouraging trail use. Their placement aligns with the VYBE Trail and Great Springs Project to enhance visibility and accessibility.

## Bridge Barriers and Improve Crossings

To ensure seamless travel, pedestrian and bicycle bridges are recommended over barriers such as I-35. Enhanced creek and drainageway crossings will also support safe, environmentally sensitive access between neighborhoods and destinations.

The accompanying map illustrates the recommended trail network, highlighting planned connections, destinations, and key features like trailheads and crossings to improve safety and access. To provide more detail, the city has been divided into three focus areas—A, B, and C— with closer views of each shown in the following pages to better guide implementation at the neighborhood scale.

**Legend**

Kyle ETJ
Kyle City Limits

**Park**
Public Parks
Undeveloped Public Parks
Private Parks
Other Parks: HOA, Detention

**Existing Trails**
VYBE Trails
NatureTrails

**Planned Trails**
VYBE Trails
Proposed Emerald Crown Trail
CAMPO RATP Trails

**Future Trail Connections**
NewTrail
Proposed Trailhead
Proposed Bike/Ped Bridge

**Destinations**
Commercial Hub
Community Landmark
Downtown
Community College
Proposed Sport Complex
Public Schools

## Legend

**Kyle ETJ**
**Kyle City Limits**

**Park**
- Public Parks
- Undeveloped Public Parks
- Private Parks
- Other Parks: HOA, Detention

**Existing Trails**
- VYBE Trails
- NatureTrails

**Planned Trails**
- VYBE Trails
- Proposed Emerald Crown Trail
- CAMPO RATP Trails

**Future Trail Connections**
- NewTrail
- ⊛ Proposed Trailhead
- Proposed Bike/Ped Bridge

**Destinations**
- Commercial Hub
- ★ Community Landmark
- Downtown
- Community College
- Proposed Sport Complex
- ● Publicl Schools

Kyle ETJ
Kyle City Limits

**Park**
Public Parks
Undeveloped Public Parks
Private Parks
Other Parks: HOA, Detention

**Existing Trails**
VYBE Trails
NatureTrails

**Planned Trails**
VYBE Trails
Proposed Emerald Crown Trail
CAMPO RATP Trails

**Future Trail Connections**
NewTrail
Proposed Trailhead
Proposed Bike/Ped Bridge

**Destinations**
Commercial Hub
Community Landmark
Downtown
Community College
Proposed Sport Complex
Public Schools

# CHAPTER

# 06

Mary Kyle Hartson Park - Farmers Market

# Implementation and Funding Matrixes

## In This Chapter

Implementation Matrixes
Funding Matrixes

## Introduction

The vision, goals, and objectives provide a "destination" for the City of Kyle's newly imagined park and recreation system, but without an implementation plan this new system is merely just a dream. This chapter details the action steps, timeline, responsible parties, and potential costs it will take to bring the community's vision to life. The framework outlined in the following pages should be used as a roadmap to guide project implementation and department growth in order to meet the needs of the community. Furthermore, this chapter can be used by the City of Kyle's administration, staff, and elected officials in the annual budget process to ensure goals are being pursued strategically.

# Implementation Matrixes

| Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System |
|---|
| Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents. |
| **Objective 1:** Establish a seamlessly integrated and well-connected system of parks, trails, and community spaces- enhancing connectivity and access for all. |
| **Strategy 1.1.1:** Establish a Seamless, Multi-Modal Network of Parks, Trails, and Public Spaces |

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Develop a Comprehensive Trail Network Master Plan for trails and greenways, identifying:<br>· Missing trail connections and gaps in accessibility.<br>· Opportunities for trail expansion based on population growth and land availability.<br>· Potential partnerships with adjacent municipalities to create regional trail networks. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Parks and Recreation Board<br>· Public Works and Transportation<br>· Planning Dept. | $$ | Short-term | |
| | Prioritize multi-modal access and integrate trails into existing Infrastructure<br>· Trails should be incorporated into road projects, stormwater management corridors, and utility easements to create a multi-functional, interconnected network. | · Public Works and Transportation<br>· Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Planning Dept.<br>· Water Utilities<br>· TxDOT<br>· Utility Easement<br>· Owners | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Provide trailhead facilities<br>· To improve access, trailheads should include amenities such as parking, restrooms, hydration stations, and interpretive signage to encourage greater usage. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. | $$$ | Ongoing | |
| | Implement a citywide wayfinding and signage program as wayfinding signage is essential for connectivity, accessibility, and user experience.<br>· Help trail users navigate safely and efficiently.<br>· Provide clear connections between parks, public spaces, and transit hubs.<br>· Improve inclusivity with ADA-accessible signage, multilingual directions, and digital enhancements.<br>· Encourage tourism and economic development by making parks more welcoming and visitor-friendly. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Communications Dept.<br>· Planning Dept. | $$ | Short-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

Short-term (0 to 5 years)   Long-term (11+ years)
Medium-term (5 to 10years)   Ongoing

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 1:** Establish a seamlessly integrated and well-connected system of parks, trails, and community spaces- enhancing connectivity and access for all.

**Strategy 1.1.2:** Ensure Connectivity Between Parks, Neighborhoods and Public Spaces

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Integrate park access points**<br>• New and existing parks should include direct pedestrian and bicycle connections to neighborhoods. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept. | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Integrate parks into neighborhoods | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept. | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Embed parks into neighborhood design subdivision and zoning policies should be updated to require green spaces within new residential developments. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept. | $ | Short-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000  $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000  $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)  **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)  **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 1:** Establish a seamlessly integrated and well-connected system of parks, trails, and community spaces- enhancing connectivity and access for all.

**Strategy 1.1.3** Expand Regional Connectivity Through Greenways and Multi-Jurisdictional Partnerships

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Coordinate with Hays County and regional partners to develop a regional trail system that links Kyle to nearby destinations such as Buda, San Marcos, and Austin. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· City Council<br>· County Commissioners<br>· Great Springs Project | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | Prioritize greenway corridors along creeks, floodplains, and utility easements to provide natural connections between parks and neighborhoods while supporting habitat conservation. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Utility Easement Owners<br>· FEMA | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |
| | Work with transportation agencies to integrate trails with transit infrastructure, ensuring seamless connections between parks, trailheads, and transit stops. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)<br>· Public Works and Transportation | $$ | Short-term | |
| | Develop an interconnected blueway system along the Blanco River and Plum Creek waterways to support canoeing, kayaking, and nature-based recreation. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· FEMA<br>· Property Owners along River and Creeks | $$ | Short-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000  $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000  $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10 years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 1:** Establish a seamlessly integrated and well-connected system of parks, trails, and community spaces- enhancing connectivity and access for all.

**Strategy 1.1.4** Implement a Citywide Wayfinding and Smart Navigation System

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Install standardized wayfinding signage at all major park entrances, trailheads, and key intersections. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Communications Dept.<br>· Planning Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | Use QR codes and mobile apps to provide real-time navigation, trail conditions, and park events. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Information Technology<br>· Communications Dept.<br>· Planning Dept. | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Incorporate ADA-accessible signage and multilingual directions to improve usability for all residents. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Communications Dept.<br>· Planning Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | Create a branded signage program that aligns with the city's identity, ensuring a consistent look and feel across all parks and public spaces. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Communications Dept.<br>· Planning Dept. | $$ | Short-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10 years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 1:** Establish a seamlessly integrated and well-connected system of parks, trails, and community spaces- enhancing connectivity and access for all.

**Strategy 1.1.5** Improve Safe and Equitable Access to Parks and Trails Through Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure Enhancements

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Upgrade crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and bike lanes near parks and trailheads to improve safety and accessibility. | · Public Works and Transportation | $$ | Medium-term | |
| | Implement traffic-calming measures such as raised crosswalks, pedestrian refuges, and curb extensions to enhance park access in high-traffic areas. | · Public Works and Transportation | $$ | Medium-term | |
| | Develop Safe Routes to Parks initiatives that prioritize sidewalk and bike lane improvements leading to parks. | · Public Works and Transportation<br>· Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | Ensure that all parks and trails have well-lit, ADA-compliant pathways to accommodate users of all ages and abilities. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Public Works and Transportation | $$ | Short-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**
**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)
**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

**6.6** | Kyle Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 2:** Ensure a Well-Distributed and Balanced Park System that Plans for Future Growth

**Strategy 1.2.1** Develop Parkland Acquisition and Expansion Plan and Establish an Annual Parkland Acquisition Review Process

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Conduct an annual parkland needs assessment to evaluate changes in population density, housing development, and park access gaps. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Parks and Recreation Board | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Update GIS mapping and data analysis regularly to prioritize new park locations based on walkability, park access gaps, and environmental factors. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | Align land acquisition priorities with the City's Comprehensive Growth Plan and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Parks and Recreation Board<br>• Planning Dept.<br>• Engineering and Capital Improvement Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | Implement a proactive land banking program<br>• Establish a dedicated Parkland Acquisition Fund to purchase land in targeted growth areas.<br>• Partner with land trusts and conservation organizations to preserve key properties.<br>• Use right-of-first-refusal agreements to secure priority sites when properties become available. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• City Council<br>• Finance Dept.<br>• Engineering and Capital Improvement Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | Strengthen parkland dedication policies to ensure equitable growth<br>• Require residential and commercial developers to dedicate parkland or pay into a Parkland Dedication Fund.<br>• Adjust parkland dedication fees annually based on land valuation trends.<br>• Ensure that dedicated parkland meets city standards for accessibility, size, and connectivity.<br>• Create incentives for developers who go beyond minimum requirements, such as expedited permitting for projects that include publicly accessible green spaces. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept. | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**
Short-term (0 to 5 years)
Medium-term (5 to 10years)
Long-term (11+ years)
Ongoing

**Easy Win**
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System

Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 2:** Ensure a Well-Distributed and Balanced Park System that Plans for Future Growth

**Strategy 1.2.2** Continue to Align Park Expansion with Future Growth and Development Patterns

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Map future growth areas**<br>• Coordinate with the Planning Department to identify areas of high residential growth throughout Kyle.<br>• Use findings from coordination, along with Level of Service maps to identify gaps that would benefit from the development of a public park and/or open space. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept. | **$** | Ongoing | |
| | **Collaborate with developers early in the design process**<br>• Encourage developers to meet early with Parks and Recreation staff to identify park needs in the area where the proposed development will be constructed. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept.<br>• Private Developers | **$** | Ongoing | |
| | **Regularly review and adjust expansion priorities**<br>• Establish a yearly meeting with the Planning Department to identify any changes in development patterns.<br>• Using this information, adjust the plans for the acquisition and the development of potential public parks and open spaces to align with new development pattern to prevent incorrect placement of parks where they are not needed. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept.<br>• Private Developers | **$** | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000  **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000  **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)  **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)  **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 2:** Ensure a Well-Distributed and Balanced Park System that Plans for Future Growth

**Strategy 1.2.3** Enhance and Leverage Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) to Expand and Enhance Parkland

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Create a public-private partnership (P3) policy for parks with a formal policy to identify partnership types, responsibilities, and expectations for park co-development and maintenance. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Communications Dept.<br>· Planning Dept. | $$ | Medium-term | |
| | Identify partnership opportunities in new developments. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)   **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)   **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 3:** Elevate the Everyday Park Experience Through Comfort, Safety, and Design Excellence

**Strategy 1.3.1** Establish Minimum Design and Comfort Standards for All Parks

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Develop a "Kyle Parks Design and Comfort Standards Manual." <br><br> These standards may include: <br> • 50% shaded seating/play areas. <br> • ADA-compliant pathways and restrooms. <br> • Picnic tables, benches, and trash/recycling stations. <br> • Water fountains/hydration stations. <br> • Native landscaping and tree canopy goals. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br> • Planning Dept. <br> • Engineering and Capital Improvement Dept. | $$ | Short-term | |
| | Conduct a system-wide comfort audit. <br> • Evaluating existing parks to assess compliance with new standards and prioritize upgrades based on usage, location, and community input. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $$ | Short-term | |
| | Incorporate comfort standards into all renovations and new builds. Require all capital improvement projects to meet the minimum standard baseline, with optional enhancements in high-use areas. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br> • Engineering and Capital Improvement Dept. | $$ | Medium-term | |

### Legend

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)   **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10 years)   **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 3:** Elevate the Everyday Park Experience Through Comfort, Safety, and Design Excellence

**Strategy 1.3.2 Integrate Public Art, Cultural Signage, and Local Identity into Park Design**

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Launch a "Parks as Cultural Canvas" program. This program can commission local artists and engage the public to co-create installations that tell the City's story and spark joy and reflection.<br>• Establish a City of Kyle Public Art in Parks Committee to select themes, artists, and project locations.<br>• Partner with local schools, youth programs, and cultural organizations to generate ideas and co-create community murals, mosaic paths, storytelling fences, or poetry walls.<br>• Pilot the program in one regional or community park and scale to other locations based on community feedback and funding. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Arts and Cultural Board<br>• Parks and Recreation Board<br>• Local Artists | $ | Short-term | |
| | Install cultural and interpretive signage to understand the meaning, history, and ecology of a place.<br>• Install bilingual signs (e.g., English/Spanish) in areas with diverse populations.<br>• Use QR codes linked to oral histories, interactive maps, or augmented reality stories to bring history and heritage to life.<br>• Collaborate with historians, tribal representatives, and longtime residents to develop inclusive narratives that represent all segments of Kyle's past and present. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Arts and Cultural Board<br>• Local Historians<br>• Kyle Public Library<br>• Local Schools and Colleges | $$ | Ongoing | |
| | Develop a Park Identity Design Toolkit<br>• Develop brand standards for signage design, fonts, color palettes, and wayfinding icons that reflect Kyle's identity.<br>• Create templates for interpretive signs, entry signs, community bulletin boards, and public art plaques.<br>• Allow for site-specific design customization to reflect local history, themes (e.g., music, nature, agriculture), or cultural stories. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Arts and Cultural Board<br>• Local Historians<br>• Kyle Public Library<br>• Local Schools and Colleges | $$ | Short-term | |
| | Develop a Park Identity Design Toolkit<br>• Create a citywide Arts and Culture Master Plan to guide the integration of public art, cultural programming, and creative placemaking in parks and public spaces.<br>• The plan should identify goals, funding strategies, partnerships, and priority locations to celebrate local heritage, support artists, and enhance community identity. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Arts and Cultural Board<br>• Community Development Department | $ | Short-term | |

## Legend

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

Short-term (0 to 5 years)   Long-term (11+ years)
Medium-term (5 to 10years)   Ongoing

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 3:** Elevate the Everyday Park Experience Through Comfort, Safety, and Design Excellence

**Strategy 1.3.3** Apply CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Principles to Improve Perceived and Actual Safety

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Train city staff in CPTED Best Practices. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Police Dept. | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Incorporate safety enhancements in design standards. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | Conduct safety audits of high-use and underserved parks. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Police Dept. | $ | Short-term |  |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000  $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000  $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**
Short-term (0 to 5 years)
Medium-term (5 to 10 years)
Long-term (11+ years)
Ongoing

**Easy Win**
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

**6.12** | Kyle Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 4:** Strengthen Parks as Community Connectors with Integrated Everyday Destinations

**Strategy 1.4.1** Co-Locate Parks with Schools, Libraries, Wellness Hubs, and Transit Nodes

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Map opportunities for co-location with Hays CISD schools, public libraries, and transit corridors. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept.<br>• Hays CISD<br>• Public Library<br>• CapMetro and CARTS | $ | Short-term | |
| | Develop joint-use agreements for fields, gymnasiums, and community facilities as needed. If the joint-use agreement already exists, revisit every 36 months and update as needed. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays CISD<br>• Private HOAs | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Prioritize locations near multi-modal transit stops or proposed mobility hubs such as bus routes, park-and-ride lots, bike-share stations, or future transit corridors. Include park features that support transit users, such as:<br>• Shaded seating/pavilions near trailheads or mobility hubs.<br>• Signage showing trail and bus route connections.<br>• Restrooms or hydration stations that serve cyclists, pedestrians, and commuters. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Public Works and Transportation<br>• CapMetro and CARTS | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |

## Legend
**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)        **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)    **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 4:** Strengthen Parks as Community Connectors with Integrated Everyday Destinations

**Strategy 1.4.2 Program Parks as Spaces for Local Events, Markets, and Civic Life**

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Continue to promote the citywide Parks Programming Calendar with seasonal and recurring events. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Police Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | Create infrastructure to support programming, such as event pavilions, sound systems, and vendor spaces at various parks and public spaces that are equitably distributed throughout the city. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Engineering and Capital Improvement Dept. | $$ | Ongoing | |
| | Continue to partner with local organizations, schools, and creatives to curate neighborhood-based events. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 4:** Strengthen Parks as Community Connectors with Integrated Everyday Destinations

**Strategy 1.4.1** Co-Locate Parks with Schools, Libraries, Wellness Hubs, and Transit Nodes

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Designate large parks as resilience hubs with backup power, water access, and staging areas. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Engineering and Capital Improvements Dept.<br>• Police Dept.<br>• Fire Dept.<br>• Local Hospitals | **$$** | Medium-term | |
| | Incorporate shade structures, splash pads, and misting areas in key parks to serve as cooling centers. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | **$** | Short-term | |
| | Collaborate with Hays County Emergency Management to integrate parks into disaster response protocols. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays County Emergency Management<br>• Police Dept.<br>• Fire Dept.<br>• County Sheriff | **$** | Short-term | 🏆 |

## Legend
**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**
**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)   **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)   **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 2: Dynamic and Inclusive Community
Enhance the quality of life for all Kyle residents by fostering an equitable, innovative, and accessible park system that prioritizes physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

**Objective 3:** Create Safe, Welcoming, and Comfortable Public Spaces

**Strategy 2.3.1** Celebrate all Kyle's Cultural Identity through Parks

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Host cultural and community celebrations.**<br>· Partner with neighborhoods to celebrate their diversity by offering opportunities to host events at their nearby parks.<br>· Create meaningful opportunities for residents to connect and share their traditions with the rest of the community.<br>· Attract visitors from across the region, inviting them to experience the rich cultural diversity of Kyle. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Parks and Recreation Board<br>· Homeowners Associations<br>· Communications Dept. | **$** | Ongoing | |
| | **Promote public art and expression.**<br>· Create attractive, welcoming public spaces with community-driven art, such as murals, sculptures, and interactive installations.<br>· Install sculpture gardens, adventure play areas, and water play elements.<br>· Install digital art that can be programmed by local artists to share residents' stories.<br>· Host community art workshops and outdoor galleries to foster self-expression and community pride. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Parks and Recreation Board<br>· Arts and Culture Board<br>· Local Artists | **$** | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)   **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)   **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 2: Dynamic and Inclusive Community
Enhance the quality of life for all Kyle residents by fostering an equitable, innovative, and accessible park system that prioritizes physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

**Objective 3:** Create Safe, Welcoming, and Comfortable Public Spaces

**Strategy 2.3.2** Ensure residents feel safe, and comfortable at parks and facilities

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Ensure adequate lighting.**<br>• Install lighting in activity zones like playgrounds, sports fields, and courts, as well as along trails, near restrooms, at gathering areas such as pavilions and gazebos, and in parking lots. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Public Works and Transportation | $$ | Short-term | |
| | **Design for safety and emergency access.**<br>• Construct emergency access routes in and out of all parks and public spaces to ensure that first responders can reach any area quickly in case of an emergency.<br>• Install emergency call boxes or clearly visible phone numbers in remote areas.<br>• Coordinate with emergency responders to create an emergency action plan to be used system-wide.<br>• Include emergency responders in the planning and designing of park, open spaces, and recreation facilities to assist in identifying where to best place emergency access points.<br>• Incorporate CPTED principles in all park plans to help in maximizing visual and physical access in and out of spaces in moments of emergencies. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Police Dept.<br>• Fire Dept.<br>• Hays County Emergency Management | $$ | Ongoing | |
| | **Include Shade and Cooling Features.**<br>• Add pergolas, covered seating, shaded play areas, and native trees.<br>• Install water features like fountains and splash pads, along with drinking fountains for people and pets.<br>• Upgrade shelters and pavilions with heating, cooling, and weather-resistant materials. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $$ | Short-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000    $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000    $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)    **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)    **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 2: Dynamic and Inclusive Community
Enhance the quality of life for all Kyle residents by fostering an equitable, innovative, and accessible park system that prioritizes physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

**Objective 3:** Create Safe, Welcoming, and Comfortable Public Spaces

**(Continued) Strategy 2.3.2** Ensure residents feel safe, and comfortable at parks and facilities

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Incorporate crime prevention through environmental design that promotes natural surveillance, where visitors to the parks, trails and public spaces can easily observe their surroundings.<br>· Install well-placed lighting along pathways, entry points, and high-traffic areas like playgrounds and sports courts to enhance visibility and safety.<br>· Incorporate and maintain strategic landscaping to provide clear sightlines and avoid creating hidden or obstructed spaces.<br>· Encourage consistent activity by including open spaces, seating areas, and diverse activity zones such as playgrounds, fitness trails, and sports fields.<br>· Use landscaping, signage, and pathways to clearly define boundaries, guide movement, and discourage unauthorized access. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Police Dept. | $$ | Ongoing | |
| | Create Restful Spaces for Comfort.<br>· Add shaded seating (e.g., benches, hammocks), upgrade and increase restrooms, install hydration stations, and ensure all amenities meet ADA and TAS standards—prioritizing high-traffic and pedestrian-heavy areas. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
Ongoing

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 2: Dynamic and Inclusive Community
Enhance the quality of life for all Kyle residents by fostering an equitable, innovative, and accessible park system that prioritizes physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

**Objective 4:** Strengthen Community Engagement and Participation

**Strategy 2.4.1** Create Volunteer Opportunities

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Support youth leadership development.**<br>• Create youth-focused programs such as leadership training, advisory councils, and peer mentorships<br>• Partner with schools, colleges, and professionals.<br>• Provide hands-on opportunities for youth to co-develop and lead Parks and Recreation initiatives. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays CISD<br>• Regional Colleges/ Universities<br>• Economic Development<br>• Other City Departments | $ | Ongoing | |
| | **Host regular community forums.**<br>• Identify local community organization partners to help involve residents in the park planning process.<br>• Select strategic locations across the City to ensure equitable access.<br>• Develop a well-publicized schedule of meetings, including times, dates, and locations. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Homeowners Associations<br>• City Council Parks and Recreation Board | $ | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)    **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10 years)    **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 2: Dynamic and Inclusive Community
Enhance the quality of life for all Kyle residents by fostering an equitable, innovative, and accessible park system that prioritizes physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

**Objective 4:** Strengthen Community Engagement and Participation

**Strategy 2.4.2** Foster a Sense of Ownership and Stewardship

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Develop community garden spaces.<br>• Create dedicated spaces in parks and along trails for the community to grow vegetables, fruits and flowers.<br>• Host workshops for organizations and individuals interested in starting their own programs. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays County<br>• Master Naturalist Organization<br>• Hays County Master Gardener Organization | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Develop "Friendship Trails." | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Short-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000  $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000  $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)  **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)  **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 3: Flourishing Nature Experience
Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

**Objective 1:** Manage and Conserve Natural Ecosystems within Parks and Public Spaces

**Strategy 3.1.1** Design Nature Reserves and Conservation Areas Implement Habitat Restoration Projects

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Control Invasive Species**<br>• Implement monitoring systems to detect invasive species early to prevent them from establishment in the landscapes.<br>• Conduct public awareness campaigns and educational programs to inform the community about invasive species and encourage participation in control efforts. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | Ongoing | |
| | **Develop Riparian Buffers**<br>Establish buffer zones around wetlands and riparian areas that establish guidelines such as:<br>• Maintaining of native habitat and plant life along creeks<br>• Limit access to areas for things such as passive recreation and environment monitoring<br>• Require use of native vegetation in landscaping near wetland and riparian areas<br>• Encourage the use of green infrastructure to prevent pollutants from entering sensitive wetlands | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | | |
| | **Create Buffer Zones Around Sensitive Areas**<br>Amend the City's development code to include requirements that require buffers be established between development and natural sensitive areas.<br>• Create a minimum distance between the development and the natural area.Set landscaping requirements to serve as the buffer transitioning from the development to the natural area. Landscaping should be kept to native plant life.<br>• Buffer can be designed for passive recreation that allows for things such as nature hike, birdwatching, and outdoor learning environments. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays CISD<br>• Regional Colleges/ Universities<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | | |
| | **Implement Ecological Monitoring Programs**<br>Install ecological monitoring stations in parks and along trails that can be used to gather data on items such as air quality, water quality, and capture pictures of wildlife. Programs can be created whereby volunteers or neighborhoods can adopt the stations and provide reports on findings. | | | | |
| | **Restore Ecological Processes**<br>Implement the use of green practices such as the installation of green infrastructure as part of park construction projects. Include features such as rain gardens and bioswales. Restore native habitats as part of park projects to provide ecosystem services to the community. | | | | |

## Legend

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000  $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000  $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)  **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10 years)  Ongoing

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 3: Flourishing Nature Experience

Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

**Objective 1:** Manage and Conserve Natural Ecosystems within Parks and Public Spaces

**Strategy 3.2.1** Build Ecosystem Resilience Through Climate-Adaptation Strategies

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Develop a Conservation Master Plan** <br>• Inventory sensitive habitats, native vegetation, and wildlife corridors. Identify ecological assets and prioritize conservation areas <br>• Establish implementation steps for climate resilience and equitable access | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $$ | Ongoing | |
| | **Planting of Native Climate-Resilient Species** <br>• Enforce and update landscaping requirements to mandate native plants | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br>• Public Works Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | **Strengthen Tree Preservation and Become a Tree City USA** <br>• Update ordinance to enhance tree preservation and promote large-canopy natives. Align goals with Tree City USA program and pursue certification <br>**Dark Sky Compliance** <br>• Amend ordinances to include dark sky standards <br>• Limit park lighting to shielded, low-intensity fixtures | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |
| | **Use Permeable Surfaces** <br>• Use permeable materials for park lots, trails, sport courts, and pavilions | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br>• Audubon Society <br>• Hays County Master Naturalists | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |
| | **Incorporate Water Management** <br>• Implement bioswales, rainwater harvesting, green roofs, and permeable paving <br>• Reduce runoff, mitigate flooding, and support water conservation | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br>• Public Works Dept. | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |
| | **Enhance Urban Heat Island Mitigation** <br>• Convert vacant or blighted lots into green spaces with native habitat <br>• Integrate shaded landscaping into roadway projects and medians | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br>• Audubon Society <br>• Hays County Master Naturalists | $ | Short-term | |

## Legend

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)   **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)   **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 3: Flourishing Nature Experience
Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

**Objective 1:** Manage and Conserve Natural Ecosystems within Parks and Public Spaces

**Strategy 3.1.3 Support Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health**

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Create Pollinator Gardens and Habitats**<br>• Protect and install native plants and wildflowers as part of the enhancement of parks and public spaces.<br>• Use Integrated Pest Management strategies and encourage the least toxic approach to managing pest species.<br>• Work with local experts to effectively locate these gardens throughout the parks and along trails to support natural migration and pollinator routes. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $$ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | **Install Bird and Bat Habitats**<br>• Expand the City's existing practice of building and installing wildlife habitats such as the bat habitats in Bunton Creek. Install habitats in areas being kept as natural open spaces to minimize impacts by human development.<br>• Use sites as outdoor learning and viewing areas. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | **Restore Wetlands and Riparian Zones**<br>• Identify and rehabilitate degraded wetlands and riparian areas to improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat, and enhance ecosystem resilience. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $$ | Ongoing | |
| | **Promote Sustainable Land Management Practices**<br>• Adopt and encourage land management techniques that conserve soil, water, and native vegetation while minimizing chemical use and promoting ecological balance across all parklands and open spaces. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | **Implement Rewilding Programs**<br>• Collaborate with local and regional plant and wildlife experts to identify areas best suited for rewilding with native species.<br>• Develop educational programs, through partnerships with<br>• local school districts and area universities, that engage the community and encourage active participation in rewilding efforts. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)   **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)   **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 3: Flourishing Nature Experience
Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

**Objective 2:** Promote Environmental Education and Awareness

**Strategy 3.2.1** Develop Environmental Education Programs

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Host nature-themed events and Workshops.**<br>• Establish regular volunteer opportunities focused on habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and environmental monitoring to engage the community in hands-on stewardship activities. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | **Create outdoor classrooms.**<br>• Develop outdoor seating areas that will accommodate 16-25 students in parks and natural areas.<br>• Include features such interpretive signage (e.g. history, culture, wildlife, plant life and the natural environment), interactive features (e.g. nature-based art stations, musical elements, sensory paths) and environmental features (e.g. trees, pollinator gardens, environmental monitoring stations). | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays CISD<br>• Regional Colleges/ Universities<br>• Nature-based Organizations | $ | Ongoing | |
| | **Host volunteer conservation programs.**<br>• Establish regular volunteer opportunities focused on habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and environmental monitoring to engage the community in hands-on stewardship activities. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |

## Legend

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)   **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)   **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 3: Flourishing Nature Experience
Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

**Objective 2:** Promote Environmental Education and Awareness

**Strategy 3.2.2** Create Nature Centers and Interpretation Hubs

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Establish Nature Centers and Interpretation Hubs** <br> • Develop small-scale nature centers or interpretation hubs in key parks and natural areas that serve as educational focal points. These centers should offer interactive exhibits, informational materials, and programming spaces to foster deeper connections between the community and local ecosystems. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br> • Hays CISD <br> • Regional Colleges/ Universities" | **$** | Ongoing | |

## Legend
**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000  **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000  **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 3: Flourishing Nature Experience
Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

**Objective 2:** Promote Environmental Education and Awareness

**Strategy 3.2.3** Offer Citizen Science Programs

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Launch Citizen Science Initiatives<br>• Implement citizen science programs that invite community members to participate in data collection and monitoring projects, such as bird counts, water quality testing, and plant phenology tracking, to support environmental research and community engagement | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays CISD<br>• Regional Colleges/ Universities<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | Short-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**
Short-term (0 to 5 years)   Long-term (11+ years)
Medium-term (5 to 10years)   Ongoing

**Easy Win**
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 4: Vibrant and Prosperous Destination

Transform Kyle's parks, recreation and open space into a leading destination that contributes to the City's economic development, and quality of life.

**Objective 1:** Foster Economic Development through Parks and Recreation

**Strategy 4.1.1** Leverage Parks for Economic Revitalization

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Attract private investment and partnerships.** <br>• Create partnerships with local businesses and developers to integrate mixed-use developments, restaurants, retail, and recreational facilities within or near parks. <br>• Developed parks in harmony with surrounding businesses, attractions, and neighborhoods, ensuring that these partnerships benefit both the City and local businesses. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br>• Planning Dept. <br>• Economic Development <br>• Chamber of Commerce | **$$** | Ongoing | |
| | **Create a Park Revenue Generation Plan.** <br>• Identify potential areas of revenue generation such as facility rentals, program fees, special event fees, concessions and vending, sponsorships, advertising, and merchandising. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br>• Finance Dept. | **$** | Short-term | |
| | **Develop a sports or athletic complex.** <br>• Construct a sports or athletic complex to help make the City of Kyle a draw for sports tourism. <br>• Design flexible space for sports leagues, fitness classes, and community events. <br>• Include features such as convertible courts, class/meeting rooms, locker rooms, lounge areas, and concession stands to support a variety of activities and interests. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br>• City Council Parks and Recreation Board <br>• Engineering and Capital Improvement Dept. <br>• Economic Development <br>• Residents | **$$$** | Medium-term | |

## Legend

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000    **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000    **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)    **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)    Ongoing

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 4: Vibrant and Prosperous Destination
Transform Kyle's parks, recreation and open space into a leading destination that contributes to the City's economic development, and quality of life.

**Objective 1:** Foster Economic Development through Parks and Recreation

**(Continued) Strategy 4.1.1** Leverage Parks for Economic Revitalization

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Host regional events.**<br>· Partner with businesses and event promoters to encourage the use of the city parks and public spaces for regional events. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Economic Development<br>· Chamber of Commerce<br>· Tourism Board | **$$** | Ongoing | |
| | **Host regional sport competitions.**<br>· Collaborate with local and regional sporting leagues and organizations to hold tournaments at complex and city parks. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Economic Development<br>· Chamber of Commerce<br>· Tourism Board<br>· Local and Regional<br>· Sport Leagues<br>· Local and Regional School Districts | **$$** | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10 years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 4: Vibrant and Prosperous Destination
Transform Kyle's parks, recreation and open space into a leading destination that contributes to the City's economic development, and quality of life.

**Objective 1:** Foster Economic Development through Parks and Recreation

**Strategy 4.1.2** Support Eco-Tourism and Nature-Based Tourism

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Develop recreational rentals and services.**<br>· Rent out items such as sports equipment, kayaks, paddling boards, bicycles, cookout equipment, and fishing equipment to residents and visitors to enhance their experiences at the parks. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Finance Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | **Promote eco-friendly tourism.**<br>· Promote and advertise Kyle's natural features, wildlife and plant life.<br>· Create eco-tourism programs such as birdwatching at Lake Kyle or guided nature hikes along the creeks and the Blanco River to learn about local plant life. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Nature Based Organizations<br>· Economic Development<br>· Chamber of Commerce | $ | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)      **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)   **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 4: Vibrant and Prosperous Destination
Transform Kyle's parks, recreation and open space into a leading destination that contributes to the City's economic development, and quality of life.

**Objective 2:** Promote Kyle's Parks and Recreation System as a Regional Destination

**Strategy 4.2.1** Position Kyle as A Recreation Destination

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Launch a city-wide branding campaign.**<br>• Create a dynamic re-branding initiative featuring fresh logos, catchy slogans, and messaging that celebrates Kyle's vibrant culture and diverse parks and recreational offerings.<br>• Create eye-catching signage to help visitors easily identify parks, trails, and open spaces. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Communications Dept.<br>• Parks and Recreation Board<br>• Economic Development | $$ | Short-term | |
| | Enhance the programing and events website. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Information Technologies | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | **Develop a visitor's guide and digital platform.**<br>• Create an all-inclusive guide that provides the reader with valuable information about Kyle such as:<br>  • Local history.<br>  • Overall map of the City identifying key locations such as parks, trailheads, retail areas, entertainment venues, lodging and recreation sites.<br>  • Information about upcoming events and programs being hosted in Kyle.<br>  • Information about attractions in Kyle such as Lake Kyle, the Brick-and-Mortar District, and Downtown Kyle.<br>  • Contact information for City Departments (e.g. Parks and Recreation, Economic Development).<br>  • Ads and contact information for sponsors (e.g. hotels, restaurants, retail shops). | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Information Technologies<br>• Public Library<br>• Hays CISD<br>• Economic Development<br>• Chamber of Commerce<br>• Communications Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | **Develop a Mobile Park App.**<br>• Include maps identifying the locations of parks, trails, trailheads, recreational facilities and open spaces.<br>• Include information on amenities, calendar of events.<br>• Incorporate "Did you know?" information and contact information.<br>• Provide sponsorship opportunities that can be purchased by area businesses to fund app. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Information Technologies<br>• Public Library<br>• Hays CISD<br>• Economic Development<br>• Chamber of Commerce<br>• Communications Dept. | $ | Short-term | |

## Legend

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)   **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10 years)   **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 4: Vibrant and Prosperous Destination
Transform Kyle's parks, recreation and open space into a leading destination that contributes to the City's economic development, and quality of life.

**Objective 2:** Promote Kyle's Parks and Recreation System as a Regional Destination

**Strategy 4.2.2** Leverage local and Regional Partners to expand awareness of Kyle's Recreation and Facilities

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Collaborate with local businesses and tourism agencies.<br>• Work with chambers of commerce, tourism boards, and hospitality industry to create marketing campaigns that highlights the Kyle parks and recreational spaces.<br>• Create brochures, social media content, and special tourism packages (e.g. hotel discounts, event tickets, special guided-tours). | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Economic Development<br>• Chamber of Commerce<br>• Tourism Board | $ | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000  $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000  $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 5: Sustainable Resources
Elevate the management, operations, and maintenance to ensure organizational sustainability.

**Objective 1:** Elevate operations and support management

**Strategy 5.1.1** Enhance Operational Efficiency through Sustainable Practices

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Adopt sustainable maintenance practices.**<br>• Prioritize the planting of native trees and grasses to reduce water and mowing needs.<br>• Transition to electric maintenance equipment. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Public Works and Transportation | **$** | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | **Conduct regular efficiency audits.**<br>• Establish annual audits of energy, water, and resource usage to help identify ways to further reduce consumption and improve efficiency. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | **$$** | Ongoing | |
| | **Install high-quality recreation equipment.**<br>• Install modern playgrounds featuring innovative play elements like augmented reality for immersive experiences, outdoor fitness stations that encourage physical activity for adults and children, and well-maintained sports courts and fields to attract sports enthusiasts and local or regional leagues. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | **$** | Medium-term | |
| | **Improve park maintenance and cleanliness.** | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | **$** | Ongoing | 🏆 |

## Legend

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000  **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000  **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10 years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 5: Sustainable Resources
Elevate the management, operations, and maintenance to ensure organizational sustainability.

**Objective 1:** Elevate operations and support management

**Strategy 5.1.2** Promote Staff Development and Sustainable Workforce Practices

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Invest in staff training.**<br>· Offer staff training opportunities that will assist in the development of their professional skills.<br>· Support cross-training and mentorship programs.<br>· Foster professional growth, knowledge sharing, and a stronger sense of teamwork across the department. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Human Resources | $ | Ongoing | |
| | **Foster collaboration across departments.**<br>· Establish monthly meetings with representatives from each department to share updates, ideas, and collaborate on projects.<br>· Leverage each department's strengths to deliver quality results.<br>· Work across departments to address environmental, equity and accessibility challenges - building a greener, more sustainable Kyle. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Human Resources | $ | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)     **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10 years)    Ongoing

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 5: Sustainable Resources
Elevate the management, operations, and maintenance to ensure organizational sustainability.

**Objective 1:** Elevate operations and support management

**Strategy 5.1.3** Strengthen Staffing Capacity to Meet NRPA Standards

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Increase Staffing Levels.<br>• Align with upper quartile staffing levels based on NRPA standards. To do so, Kyle should increase its parks and recreation staff to 107 full-time employees.<br>• Staffing is essential to efficiently manage, administer, and operate the Kyle Parks system, ensuring high-quality service delivery, timely maintenance, and responsive programming that meets the growing needs of the community. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Human Resources | $$ | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000  **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000  **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)  **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)  **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 5: Sustainable Resources
Elevate the management, operations, and maintenance to ensure organizational sustainability.

**Objective 2:** Secure Long-Term Financial Sustainability

**Strategy 5.2.1** Diversify Funding Sources

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Implement sponsorship and naming rights programs.**<br>· Develop tiered sponsorship opportunities for businesses, ranging from small contributions to major partnerships.<br>· Offer naming rights to boost business visibility and foster community engagement. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Finance Dept.<br>· Economic Development | $ | Short-term | |
| | **Establish an endowment fund.** | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Finance Dept. | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |
| | **Incorporate public-private partnerships.**<br>· Leverage their skills and abilities in the maintenance and operations of parks and recreational programs.<br>· Create joint marketing campaigns with these partners to boost the visibility of the parks and businesses. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Finance Dept.<br>· Economic Development<br>· Chamber of Commerce<br>· Tourism Board<br>· Communications Dept. | $ | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000  $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000  $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)  **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)  Ongoing

**Easy Win**

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# Funding Matrixes

| Funding Sources for Brownfields | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Funding Type** | **Program** | **Agency** | **Purpose / Goals** | **Eligible Applicants** | |
| State | Brownfield Site Assessment Program | Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) | The Brownfields program supports communities by assessing and assisting with the redevelopment and revitalization of these properties, broadly referred to as Brownfields. | State, local and tribal governments; nonprofits; councils of governments, and economic development corporations. | |
| Federal | Brownfields Assessment Grant | United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) | "To empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields." | County, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (whether or not incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under state law), any other regional or interstate government entity, or any agency or instrumentality of a local government. | |
| Federal | Brownfields Clean Up Grants | U.S EPA | To empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. | County, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (whether or not incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under state law), any other regional or interstate government entity, or any agency or instrumentality of a local government. | |
| State | RRC Brownfields Response Program | Railroad Commission of Texas | Created as an additional means to incentivize the remediation of properties in Texas contaminated by oil and gas-related activities. | Local governments, non-profit organizations, tribes, universities, school districts and economic development corporations. | |

| Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Records review; site reconnaissance; interviews with past and current owners, operators, neighbors, governmental officials; sampling performed under TCEQ contract. | No set amount, sites are chosen on a case by case review of application. | The site must meet one of the following criteria:<br>· owned or plan to be owned by the applying local government;<br>· property taxes must be owed to the local government on the site and foreclosure for failure to pay those taxes; or<br>· redevelopment and/or long-term beneficial use by the local government or non-profit organization. | Ongoing | brownfields@tceq.texas.gov<br>(833) 436-3271 |
| Provides funding to inventory, characterize, assess, conduct a range of planning activities, develop site-specific cleanup plans, and conduct community involvement related to brownfield sites. | Grants up to $500,000; no match required. | Must address eligible contamination: hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants (including hazardous substances comingled with petroleum), and/or petroleum. | Annually, typically in the fall. | Althea Foster<br>Foster.Althea@epa.gov<br>(214) 665-2268<br>(US EPA Region 6) |
| To carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites owned by the applicant. Funds may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and/or hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances comingled with petroleum). Can address either a single brownfield site or multiple brownfield sites within the same application. | Grant up to $500,000; 20% non-federal match required. | An applicant must own the site for which it is requesting funding. The performance period for these grants is three years. | Annually, typically in the fall. | Althea Foster<br>Foster.Althea@epa.gov<br>(214) 665-2268<br>(US EPA Region 6) |
| Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs), cleanups on qualified sites, coordinate the approach to site assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment through the RRC's Voluntary Cleanup Program.<br><br>Coordinate the approach to site assessment, cleanup and redevelopment through the RRC's Voluntary Cleanup Program. | No set amount, sites are chosen on a case by case review of application. | The site does not need to be owned by applicant and can have a developer involved. | Ongoing | SR-VCP-BRP@rrc.texas.gov<br>(512) 463-6765 |

## Funding Sources for Events/Programming

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | 2025 Funding Opportunities | St. David's Foundation | Focus on removing barriers to better living today and changing systems and conditions to improve outcomes for a healthier community tomorrow. | Local governments and nonprofits in the Central Texas region. | |
| State | Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) | To engage the target under-represented audiences in outdoor recreation, environmental education and conservation. | Tax-exempt organizations such as local government, Universities, school districts and non-profit organizations. | |
| Foundation / Private | Our Town | National Endowment for the Arts | Supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes. | Partnerships required between governmental, nonprofit, and private sector leadership. These partnerships must involve two primary partners, as defined by these guidelines: Nonprofit organization; Local government entity; and one of these two primary partners must be a cultural (arts or design) organization. | |
| Foundation / Private | Power Up Grant | Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) | The program's mission is to accumulate funds and reinvest the money in our communities by providing bill-pay assistance to qualified GVEC members and community grants to local nonprofit groups and civic organizations for community development and improvement projects. | Nonprofit groups and civic organizations located in GVEC's service areas. | |

| | Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Time-sensitive and topic-specific needs.<br><br>Projects should align with the Foundation's Strategic Plan 2024-2030: https://stdavidsfoundation.org/how-we-work/strategic-plan/ | Small one-time" grants. | New funding mechanism launching in the summer of 2025. | Ongoing basis, beginning summer 2025. | questions@ stdavidsfoundation. org |
| | Programming for outdoor recreation, environmental education, and / or conservation. Eligible expenses include: Personnel, Food and Travel, Training, Participant liability insurance, Fees (Park, Program, and Lodging fees), Outdoor service project expenses, Supplies and equipment.<br><br>Funds cannot be used for facility construction projects, gazebos, ponds, benches, trail building, etc. The CO-OP grant is to be used to fund programs, not construction projects. | Grants range from $5,000 - $100,000; no match required. | Target demographics include female, ethnic minority, low income, and individuals with a disability.  Projects can serve other audiences, however, proposals who serve the target audience will be more competitive in the scoring evaluation process. | Annually, November 1. | Rena Beyer rena.beyer@tpwd. texas.gov (737) 701-4769 |
| | Projects may include activities such as:<br>• Arts Engagement: Artist residency, Arts festivals, Community co-creation of art, Performances, Public art;<br>• Cultural Planning: Creating a cultural plan, or integrating plans and policies around arts and culture as part of a city master planning process, Cultural district planning, Creative asset mapping, Public art planning;<br>• Design: Artist/designer-facilitated community planning, Design of artist space, Design of cultural facilities i.e. design processes to support the creation of a dedicated building or space for creating and/or showcasing arts and culture, Public space design i.e. The process of designing elements of public infrastructure, or spaces where people congregate (e.g., parks, plazas, landscapes, neighborhoods, districts, infrastructure, and artist-produced elements of streetscapes).<br>• Artist and Creative Industry Support: Creative business development, Professional artist development. | Grants range from $25,000 - $150,000 with 50% non-federal match required. | Project may be subject to the  National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). | Annual program, typically in August. | OT@arts.gov |
| | Approximately 80% of Power Up funds are distributed through community grants to nonprofit groups and civic organizations involved in community development and improvement projects in the GVEC service area with a focus on education, youth programs, health care, community development, civic and community outreach, and public safety/service | No maximum grant amount or matching requirements listed | Must be located within GVEC service area. The people, organizations and locations of the community projects do not have to be served by GVEC to be eligible, but the projects must lie within the outer geographical boundary lines of the GVEC service area or have overlapping service areas. | There are two funding cycles a year; application deadlines are February 15 for the April distribution and August 15 for the October distribution. | Seguin, TX office: (830)-379-2114 |

## Funding Sources for Historical Sites

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | Community Challenge | AARP | To improve housing, transportation, public space, technology ("smart cities"), civic engagement and more. | 501(C)(3), 501(C)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits, government entities, other types of organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. | |
| Federal | Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit | Texas by the National Park Service (NPS) in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) | To encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation and re-use of historic buildings. | Private owners of income producing and historic buildings. | |
| Foundation / Private | Our Town | National Endowment for the Arts | Supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes. | Partnerships required between governmental, nonprofit, and private sector leadership. These partnerships must involve two primary partners, as defined by these guidelines: Nonprofit organization; Local government entity; and one of these two primary partners must be a cultural (arts or design) organization. | |

| | Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Prioritize projects that aim to achieve the following outcomes:<br>• Increasing civic engagement with innovative and tangible projects that bring residents and local leaders together to address challenges and facilitate a greater sense of community inclusion and diversity.<br>• Create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.<br>• Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements.<br>• Support the availability of a range of housing that increases accessible and affordable housing options.<br>• Demonstrate the tangible value of "Smart Cities" with programs that engage residents in accessing, understanding and using data, and participating in decision-making to increase the quality of life for all.<br>• Other community improvements: In addition to the five areas of focus, AARP wants to hear about local needs and new, innovative ideas for addressing them. | Grants can range from several hundred dollars for smaller, short-term activities to several thousand or tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. | Planning activities not eligible. | Annually, typically in March. | Livable@AARP.org. |
| | Rehabilitation of historic, income-producing buildings that are listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. | 20 percent income tax credit | May be used in conjunction with the state tax credit program.<br><br>An application for tax credits must be submitted before the project is completed, although work may begin prior to the application or approval. Ideally, the application should be submitted during the planning stages of the work so the owner can receive the necessary guidance to ensure that the project meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and therefore may qualify for the credits. | Ongoing, prior to completion of the project. | Alyssa Gerszewski Judy.George-Garza@thc.texas.gov 512.475-3122. |
| | Projects may include activities such as:<br>• Arts Engagement: Artist residency, Arts festivals, Community co-creation of art, Performances, Public art;<br>• Cultural Planning: Creating a cultural plan, or integrating plans and policies around arts and culture as part of a city master planning process, Cultural district planning, Creative asset mapping, Public art planning;<br>• Design: Artist/designer-facilitated community planning, Design of artist space, Design of cultural facilities i.e. design processes to support the creation of a dedicated building or space for creating and/or showcasing arts and culture, Public space design i.e. The process of designing elements of public infrastructure, or spaces where people congregate (e.g., parks, plazas, landscapes, neighborhoods, districts, infrastructure, and artist-produced elements of streetscapes).<br>• Artist and Creative Industry Support: Creative business development, Professional artist development. | Grants range from $25,000 - $150,000 with 50% non-federal match required. | Project may be subject to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). | Annual program, typically in August. | OT@arts.gov |

## (Continued) Funding Sources for Historical Sites

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| State | Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit | Texas Historical Commission | To encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation and re-use of historic buildings. | Private owners of income producing or used by official non-profit organizations; in both cases, must be historic buildings. | |
| State | Texas Main Street Program | Texas Historical Commission | To provide technical expertise, resources and support for Texas communities in the preservation and revitalization of historic downtowns and commercial neighborhood districts in accord with the National Main Street Four Point Approach® of organization, economic vitality, design and promotion. | Main Street Cities | |
| State | Texas Preservation Trust Fund | Texas Historical Commission | To save and protect Texas' threatened historic resources. | Any public or private entity that is the owner, manager, lessee, maintainer, potential purchaser of an eligible property: sites that have, or be determined eligible for, one of the following historic designations to qualify for funding: National Register of Historic Places, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, State Antiquities Landmark, or Held-In-Trust Collection. | |
| | Transportation Alternatives Program | Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) (funding from Federal Highway Administration) | To plan for and construct a variety of alternative transportation projects that improve safety and mobility for non-motorized travelers and mitigate congestion by providing safe alternatives to motor vehicle transport. | State, local and tribal governments; regional transportation authorities; transit agencies; other agencies with transportation oversight. | |

| | Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rehabilitation of historic, income-producing or non-profit use buildings. | 25 percent tax credit<br><br>This credit can be sold, and may be used against Texas Business Franchise Tax OR Texas Insurance Premium Tax. | May be used in conjunction with the federal tax credit program.<br><br>An application for tax credits must be submitted before the project is completed, although work may begin prior to the application or approval. Ideally, the application should be submitted during the planning stages of the work so the owner can receive the necessary guidance to ensure that the project meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and therefore may qualify for the credits. | Ongoing, prior to completion of the project. | Alyssa Gerszewski Judy.George-Garza@thc.texas.gov 512.475-3122 |
| | A program's work should be structured around the Four Points under the Main Street Approach:<br>• Organization: Partnerships are essential for successful preservation-based downtown revitalization. Through a solid Main Street structure, many groups that share an interest in the health of downtown come together to work toward an agreed-upon vision for downtown and thus, for the community.<br>• Promotion: This aspect of the Approach is utilized to market a unified, quality image of the business district as the center of activities, goods and services.<br>• Design: Capitalizing on the downtown's unique physical assets and heritage, design activities such as building rehabilitations, utilization of preservation-based tools and ordinances and effective planning practices help to create an active district and maintain its authenticity.<br>• Economic Vitality: In this area, a targeted program is developed to identify new market opportunities for the commercial district, find new uses for historic commercial buildings, and stimulate investment in property. | Provides free education and networking services to communities interested in the revitalization of historic commercial districts. | Must first register with the First Street Initiative.<br><br>Nominal fee charged by the Texas Main Street Program and requires a full time manager. | Annually, typically in the fall. | Amy Hammons amy.hammons@thc.texas.gov (512) 463-5758 |
| | Acquisition, survey, restoration, preservation, planning, and heritage education activities leading to the preservation of historic architectural and archeological properties and associated collections of the State of Texas. | Grants range from $10,000 - $50,000 and require a 50% match. | Two-step application process.<br><br>Applications are scored in four areas: endangerment, significance, project viability, and special considerations. | Annually, typically in February. | tptfgrant@thc.texas.gov |
| | Pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements including historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity. | Up to 80% of project costs, no maximum but limited by total appropriations. | Oversight provided by TxDOT. | Annually, typically in December. | funding@campotexas.org |

## Funding Sources for Arts/Culture

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2025 Funding Opportunities | St. David's Foundation | Focus on removing barriers to better living today and changing systems and conditions to improve outcomes for a healthier community tomorrow. | Local governments and nonprofits in the Central Texas region. | |
| Foundation / Private | Asphalt Art Initiative | Bloomberg Philanthropies | Using art to reimagine roadways and vertical infrastructure, improving street safety, revitalizing public spaces, and bringing communities together. | US, Canada and Mexico cities with populations >50,000. | |
| Foundation / Private | Community Challenge | AARP | To improve housing, transportation, public space, technology ("smart cities"), civic engagement and more. | 501(C)(3), 501(C)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits, government entities, other types of organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. | |

| | Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Time-sensitive and topic-specific needs. Projects should align with the Foundation's Strategic Plan 2024-2030: https://stdavidsfoundation.org/how-we-work/strategic-plan/ | "Small one-time" grants. | New funding mechanism launching in the summer of 2025. | Ongoing basis, beginning summer 2025. | questions@ stdavidsfoundation. org |
| | Ambitious arts-driven street designs with the goal of catalytic improvements to a key location in the city. Improving road safety, especially for pedestrians and cyclists, must be a component of all proposals. Each application must have a site (publicly owned and open) identified for the proposed asphalt art project (or sites, if multiple are feasible within the budget). Eligible sites should be on or adjacent to active roadways, have the potential for active pedestrian usage, and may include crosswalks, intersections, vehicle/parking lanes, pedestrian plazas, sidewalks, or highway underpasses. | $100,000 grant, and on-call technical assistance. | Examples:<br>• Culver City, CA – 36 painted curb extensions, new crosswalks, protected bike lanes, bus lanes and new pedestrians spaces along a 1.3 mile corridor.<br>• Mexico City, Mexico – Large new painted pedestrian plazas around the grand Zocalo central square with seating, shade and safer connections to surrounding streets.<br>• New York, NY – Large new painted pedestrian plazas, public space activations, and traffic safety improvements in world-famous Times Square.<br>• Reno, NV – Painting and activation of a block-long concrete cap over a railway bed to create a downtown hub for public events.<br>• Toronto, Canada – Painting, activation, and creation of new public spaces along the Bentway under a downtown elevated freeway.<br>• Mazatlán, Mexico – New crosswalks, curb extensions, and a neighborhood plaza for community events and local businesses. | Annually, typically in January | arts@bloomberg.org |
| | Prioritize projects that aim to achieve the following outcomes:<br>• Increasing civic engagement with innovative and tangible projects that bring residents and local leaders together to address challenges and facilitate a greater sense of community inclusion and diversity.<br>• Create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.<br>• Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements.<br>• Support the availability of a range of housing that increases accessible and affordable housing options.<br>• Demonstrate the tangible value of "Smart Cities" with programs that engage residents in accessing, understanding and using data, and participating in decision-making to increase the quality of life for all.<br>• Other community improvements: In addition to the five areas of focus, AARP wants to hear about local needs and new, innovative ideas for addressing them. " | Grants can range from several hundred dollars for smaller, short-term activities to several thousand or tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. | Planning activities not eligible. | Annually, typically in March. | Livable@AARP.org. |

## (Continued) Funding Sources for Arts/Culture

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | Forever Austin Fund | Austin Community Foundation | To invest in Central Texas' most pressing needs and greatest opportunities. | 501(c)(3) nonprofits, religious organizations, and governmental entities that are serving the Central Texas region (counties of Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, or Williamson) | |
| State | Governor's Community Achievement Awards | Keep Texas Beautiful in partnership with Texas Department of Transportation | To award Texas communities for their outstanding overall efforts to keep their communities beautiful. | All Texas communities | |
| Foundation / Private | Our Town | National Endowment for the Arts | Supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes. | Partnerships required between governmental, nonprofit, and private sector leadership. These partnerships must involve two primary partners, as defined by these guidelines: Nonprofit organization; Local government entity; and one of these two primary partners must be a cultural (arts or design) organization. | |
| Foundation / Private | Power Up Grant | Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) | The program's mission is to accumulate funds and reinvest the money in our communities by providing bill-pay assistance to qualified GVEC members and community grants to local nonprofit groups and civic organizations for community development and improvement projects. | Nonprofit groups and civic organizations located in GVEC's service areas. | |
| State | Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) | Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) | Investing in a creative Texas. | Any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of Texas undertaking a public construction project estimated to cost more than $250k | |

| | Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | In 2025, the grants will focus on the following areas:<br>• Economic Mobility: Housing Stability, Career Pathways & Resources, Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Addressing Systemic Barriers<br>• Health and Humanities: Health & Wellness, Arts & Culture<br>• Nurturing Our Region: Environmental Sustainability, Green Spaces (e.g. parks, trails, preserves), Animal Welfare. | Grants between $5,000 – $50,000. | | April 25, 2025 (annual program) | (512) 472-4483 |
| | The funds are to be used for landscaping projects along local rights-of-way. A community's environmental program is judged on achievements in seven areas: community leadership and coordination, public awareness, education, beautification and community improvement, litter prevention and cleanup, solid waste management, litter law and illegal dumping enforcement. | Ten winning communities will split $2 million with the amount awarded based on population size. Ranges from category 1 (<3,000 population) receiving $90k through category 10 (>180,000 population) receiving $310K. | $25 application fee.<br><br>After being awarded an applicant is not eligible for four years. | Annually, typically January - February | Christine Canul (512) 961-5260 programs@ktb.org |
| | Projects may include activities such as:<br>Arts Engagement: Artist residency, Arts festivals, Community co-creation of art, Performances, Public art;<br>Cultural Planning: Creating a cultural plan, or integrating plans and policies around arts and culture as part of a city master planning process, Cultural district planning, Creative asset mapping, Public art planning;<br>Design: Artist/designer-facilitated community planning, Design of artist space, Design of cultural facilities i.e. design processes to support the creation of a dedicated building or space for creating and/or showcasing arts and culture, Public space design i.e. The process of designing elements of public infrastructure, or spaces where people congregate (e.g., parks, plazas, landscapes, neighborhoods, districts, infrastructure, and artist-produced elements of streetscapes).<br>Artist and Creative Industry Support: Creative business development, Professional artist development. | Grants range from $25,000 - $150,000 with 50% non-federal match required. | Project may be subject to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). | Annual program, typically in August. | OT@arts.gov |
| | Approximately 80% of Power Up funds are distributed through community grants to nonprofit groups and civic organizations involved in community development and improvement projects in the GVEC service area with a focus on education, youth programs, health care, community development, civic and community outreach, and public safety/service | No maximum grant amount or matching requirements listed | Must be located within GVEC service area. The people, organizations and locations of the community projects do not have to be served by GVEC to be eligible, but the projects must lie within the outer geographical boundary lines of the GVEC service area or have overlapping service areas. | There are two funding cycles a year; application deadlines are February 15 for the April distribution and August 15 for the October distribution. | Seguin, TX office: (830)-379-2114 |
| | Staff are available to advise on conducting a public art project ranging from scoping the project, developing the RFP, identifying committee members, developing a review process, intellectual property rights, conservation, etc. | No maximum grant amount or matching requirements listed | A percent not to exceed one percent of the cost of the construction project shall be used for fine arts projects. | No cycles listed. | Laura Wiegand (512)-936-6565 laura@arts.texas.gov |

## Funding Sources for Parks

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | 2025 Funding Opportunities | St. David's Foundation | Focus on removing barriers to better living today and changing systems and conditions to improve outcomes for a healthier community tomorrow. | Focus on removing barriers to better living today and changing systems and conditions to improve outcomes for a healthier community tomorrow. | |
| Foundation / Private | Asphalt Art Initiative | Bloomberg Philanthropies | Using art to reimagine roadways and vertical infrastructure, improving street safety, revitalizing public spaces, and bringing communities together. | Using art to reimagine roadways and vertical infrastructure, improving street safety, revitalizing public spaces, and bringing communities together. | |
| Foundation / Private | Blue Impact Grants (formerly Healthy Kids, Healthy Families®) | Blue Cross Blue Shield of TX | To support the health and well-being of the children and families across the states in which we operate. | To support the health and well-being of the children and families across the states in which we operate. | |
| State | Boating Access Grant | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) | To provide public access to public waters for recreational boating. | To provide public access to public waters for recreational boating. | |

| Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Time-sensitive and topic-specific needs.<br><br>Projects should align with the Foundation's Strategic Plan 2024-2030: https://stdavidsfoundation.org/how-we-work/strategic-plan/ | "Small one-time" grants. | New funding mechanism launching in the summer of 2025. | Ongoing basis, beginning summer 2025. | questions@ stdavidsfoundation.org |
| Ambitious arts-driven street designs with the goal of catalytic improvements to a key location in the city. Improving road safety, especially for pedestrians and cyclists, must be a component of all proposals.<br><br>Each application must have a site (publicly owned and open) identified for the proposed asphalt art project (or sites, if multiple are feasible within the budget). Eligible sites should be on or adjacent to active roadways, have the potential for active pedestrian usage, and may include crosswalks, intersections, vehicle/parking lanes, pedestrian plazas, sidewalks, or highway underpasses. | $100,000 grant, and on-call technical assistance. | Examples:<br>• Culver City, CA – 36 painted curb extensions, new crosswalks, protected bike lanes, bus lanes and new pedestrians spaces along a 1.3 mile corridor.<br>• Mexico City, Mexico – Large new painted pedestrian plazas around the grand Zocalo central square with seating, shade and safer connections to surrounding streets.<br>• New York, NY – Large new painted pedestrian plazas, public space activations, and traffic safety improvements in world-famous Times Square.<br>• Reno, NV – Painting and activation of a block-long concrete cap over a railway bed to create a downtown hub for public events.<br>• Toronto, Canada – Painting, activation, and creation of new public spaces along the Bentway under a downtown elevated freeway.<br>• Mazatlán, Mexico – New crosswalks, curb extensions, and a neighborhood plaza for community events and local businesses. | Annually, typically in January | arts@bloomberg.org |
| The areas of focus are<br>• Economic Opportunity and Stability: Addressing issues such as poverty, removing barriers to employment, providing good jobs, and upskilling.<br>• Nutrition: Supporting efforts to decrease hunger and increase access to nutritional food.<br>• Neighborhood and Built Environment: Focusing on affordable healthy housing, access to transportation, and access to physical activity.<br>• Locally Defined Health Solutions: Addressing hyperlocal health and human service needs.<br>• Optimal Health Outcomes: Helping close gaps in care, specifically around six priority areas: immunizations, diabetes care, cardiovascular care, behavioral health, early detection cancer screening, and maternal & infant health. | Between $25,000 - $75,000 | | Letters of Intent were due February 10, 2025 and full applications (if invited) are due March 28, 2025 (annual program). | healthykidshealthyfamilies @hcsc.net |
| Phase I – Planning Grant:<br>• Plans and specifications<br>• Environmental /cultural permits<br>• Texas Historical Commission permit<br>• USACE Permit<br>• Texas Department of Licensing Permit<br>• Other professional fees required to begin construction of eligible costs<br><br>Phase II – Construction Grant:<br>• Breakwaters<br>• Launching facilities such as ramps and boat lifts<br>• Loading docks<br>• Fish cleaning stations<br>• Restrooms | Will fund 75% of project costs, up to $250,000. | New applicants must complete a Phase I Planning grant before applying for a Phase II Construction grant. | Annually, February 1. | Julie Dillard julie.dillard@tpwd.texas.gov (512) 389-8773 |

## Funding Sources for Parks

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | Community Challenge | AARP | To improve housing, transportation, public space, technology ("smart cities"), civic engagement and more. | To improve housing, transportation, public space, technology ("smart cities"), civic engagement and more. | |
| Foundation / Private | Community Grants | People for Bikes | To build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. | To build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. | |
| Foundation / Private | Forever Austin Fund | Austin Community Foundation | To invest in Central Texas' most pressing needs and greatest opportunities. | To invest in Central Texas' most pressing needs and greatest opportunities. | |
| Foundation / Private | Globe Life Texas Rangers Baseball and Softball Grant Program | Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation | To support the growth of the sport and making sure that every child is afforded the opportunity to experience joy and community through baseball and softball. | To support the growth of the sport and making sure that every child is afforded the opportunity to experience joy and community through baseball and softball. | |
| State | Governor's Community Achievement Awards | Keep Texas Beautiful in partnership with Texas Department of Transportation | To award Texas communities for their outstanding overall efforts to keep their communities beautiful. | To award Texas communities for their outstanding overall efforts to keep their communities beautiful. | |
| State | Habitat and Angler Access Program | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) | To enhance freshwater fish habitats and expand bank and shoreline-based angler access on public water bodies throughout the state. | State and local governmental entities, tribal governments, river authorities, and non-profit [e.g., 501(c)(3) organizations] non-governmental organizations. | |

| Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Prioritize projects that aim to achieve the following outcomes:<br>• Increasing civic engagement with innovative and tangible projects that bring residents and local leaders together to address challenges and facilitate a greater sense of community inclusion and diversity.<br>• Create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.<br>• Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements.<br>• Support the availability of a range of housing that increases accessible and affordable housing options.<br>• Demonstrate the tangible value of "Smart Cities" with programs that engage residents in accessing, understanding and using data, and participating in decision-making to increase the quality of life for all.<br>• Other community improvements: In addition to the five areas of focus, AARP wants to hear about local needs and new, innovative ideas for addressing them. | Grants can range from several hundred dollars for smaller, short-term activities to several thousand or tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. | Planning activities not eligible. | Annually, typically in March. | Livable@AARP.org. |
| Development of permanent bike infrastructure, including trails, shared-use paths, bike parks, pump tracks, bicycle playgrounds, neighborhood greenways/bike boulevards, and protected bike lanes. | Grant, 50% up to $10,000 | Two-step application process:<br>1, Letter of Interest<br>2. Full Application: PFB will request a full project application from a short list of qualified applicants. | 2025 funding round TBD, anticipate opening in the early fall. | infrastructure@ peopleforbikes.org |
| "In 2025, the grants will focus on the following areas:<br>• Economic Mobility: Housing Stability, Career Pathways & Resources, Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Addressing Systemic Barriers<br>• Health and Humanities: Health & Wellness, Arts & Culture<br>• Nurturing Our Region: Environmental Sustainability, Green Spaces (e.g. parks, trails, preserves), Animal Welfare." | Grants between $5,000 – $50,000. | | April 25, 2025 (annual program) | (512) 472-4483 |
| Cannot be used to supplement team travel expenses and/or tournament fees. Project should advance the Foundation's mission of affording youth 18 and younger growth in baseball or softball. The Foundation has funded field construction, field renovation, equipment, and league development. | No maximum grant amount or matching requirements listed | If awarded a grant, applicant agrees to participate in public relations activities associated with receipt of grant and will display Rangers Foundation signage acknowledging grant. | June 27, 2025, 6 PM CST (annual program) | foundation@ texasrangers.com (817) 533-1513 |
| The funds are to be used for landscaping projects along local rights-of-way. A community's environmental program is judged on achievements in seven areas: community leadership and coordination, public awareness, education, beautification and community improvement, litter prevention and cleanup, solid waste management, litter law and illegal dumping enforcement. | Ten winning communities will split $2 million with the amount awarded based on population size. Ranges from category 1 (<3,000 population) receiving $90k through category 10 (>180,000 population) receiving $310K. | $25 application fee.<br><br>After being awarded an applicant is not eligible for four years. | Annually, typically January - February | Christine Canul (512) 961-5260 programs@ktb.org |
| Projects that include on-the-ground enhancement or restoration of public stream, river, or reservoir habitats or enhancement of bank and shoreline-based angling access. | Up to $50,000; no match is required but would make the application more competitive. | Projects must be completed no later than August 31, 2025.<br><br>Projects must comply with local, state, and federal environmental and cultural resources regulations. | March 31, 2025 (annually program). | Michael Homer Jr. (325) 692-0921 FishGrants@tpwd. texas.gov |

## Funding Sources for Parks

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| State | Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) | To assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. | Eligible applicants includes 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. For this program, community must be 500,000 or less in population. | |
| State | Local Parks: Non-Urban Indoor Recreation | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department | To assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. | Eligible applicants includes 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. For this program, community must be 500,000 or less in population. | |
| Federal | National Parks Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) | National Parks Service (NPS) | The main focus areas of this program are building healthy communities, conservation, engaging youth in outdoor recreation, and facilitating support between NPS and communities to achieve shared goals. | State and local governments, tribes, nonprofits, or citizen organizations. | |
| Federal | National Recreational Trails Fund | Federal Highway Administration, administered by Texas Parks & Wildlife | To fund motorized and non-motorized trail projects. | Local Governments | |
| State | National Recreational Trails Fund | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) (funding from Federal Highway Administration) | To fund motorized and non-motorized trail projects. | Local Governments | |

| Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities. Points may be received through the applicable "Project Priority Scoring System" for projects which meet priorities identified in Department-accepted, locally-endorsed parks, recreation, and open space master plans. A jurisdiction wide master plan is NOT required to participate in the grant program, nor does Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's acceptance of a plan guarantee that points will be awarded for any project. There are no points in the Small Community scoring criteria for having a master plan. Master Plans must be submitted to TPWD at least 60 days prior to the grant deadline in which you wish to participate in order to be considered for points. | Will fund 50% of project costs, up to $750,000. | All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.<br><br>All applicants must hold at least one public hearing prior to submission. | Annually, August 1. | Dan Reece dan.reece@tpwd.texas.gov (512) 389-4656 |
| Acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities. Points may be received through the applicable "Project Priority Scoring System" for projects which meet priorities identified in Department-accepted, locally-endorsed parks, recreation, and open space master plans. A jurisdiction wide master plan is NOT required to participate in the grant program, nor does Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's acceptance of a plan guarantee that points will be awarded for any project. Master Plans must be submitted to TPWD at least 60 days prior to the grant deadline in which you wish to participate in order to be considered for points. | Will fund 50% of project costs, up to $1M. | All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.<br><br>All applicants must hold at least one public hearing prior to submission. | TBD | Dan Reece dan.reece@tpwd.texas.gov (512) 389-4656 |
| This program provides technical assistance to community led conservation and outdoor recreation projects throughout the country. The types of assistance NPS provides includes: community outreach strategies, developing concept plans for trails and parks, creating project management and action plans, engaging collaborative partners and stakeholders, and other consulting services that can be tailored towards the needs of the project. | This is a nonmonetary grant program. NPS assists communities by providing a broad range of services and support. They are also helpful in bringing funding partners to the table. | NPS recommends applicants consult with a staff member at least 30 days prior to the application deadline. | This program is offered on an annual basis. The application deadline is June 30. NPS will notify applicants of decisions before Nov. 1. | David Thomson, mwr_rtca@nps.gov |
| 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. | 80% of project costs, up to $200,000 for non-motorized trail grants and a maximum award of $400,000 for motorized (off-highway vehicle) trail grants. | Thirty percent of the total NRTF grants must be spent on motorized recreational trails, while another 30 percent must be spent on nonmotorized trail projects. The remaining 40 percent is discretionary. | Annual solicitation, February 1 deadline. | Trey Cooksey, (512) 389-8743 trey.cooksey@tpwd.texas.gov |
| 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. | 80% of project costs, up to $300,000 for non-motorized trail grants and a maximum award of $500,000 for motorized (off-highway vehicle) trail grants. | Thirty percent of the total NRTF grants must be spent on motorized recreational trails, while another 30 percent must be spent on nonmotorized trail projects. The remaining 40 percent is discretionary. | Annually, February 1. | Chris Sheffield chris.sheffield@tpwd.texas.gov (512) 389-8749 |

## Funding Sources for Parks

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | Our Town | National Endowment for the Arts | Supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes. | Partnerships required between governmental, nonprofit, and private sector leadership. These partnerships must involve two primary partners, as defined by these guidelines: Nonprofit organization; Local government entity; and one of these two primary partners must be a cultural (arts or design) organization. | |
| Foundation / Private | Power Up Grant | Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) | The program's mission is to accumulate funds and reinvest the money in our communities by providing bill-pay assistance to qualified GVEC members and community grants to local nonprofit groups and civic organizations for community development and improvement projects. | Nonprofit groups and civic organizations located in GVEC's service areas. | |
| Foundation / Private | Skatepark Construction Grants | The Skatepark Project | To help underserved communities create safe and inclusive public skateparks for youth. | Private non-profit or a state or local agency, including public school systems. | |

| | Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Projects may include activities such as:<br>• Arts Engagement: Artist residency, Arts festivals, Community co-creation of art, Performances, Public art;<br>• Cultural Planning: Creating a cultural plan, or integrating plans and policies around arts and culture as part of a city master planning process, Cultural district planning, Creative asset mapping, Public art planning;<br>• Design: Artist/designer-facilitated community planning, Design of artist space, Design of cultural facilities i.e. design processes to support the creation of a dedicated building or space for creating and/or showcasing arts and culture, Public space design i.e. The process of designing elements of public infrastructure, or spaces where people congregate (e.g., parks, plazas, landscapes, neighborhoods, districts, infrastructure, and artist-produced elements of streetscapes).<br>• Artist and Creative Industry Support: Creative business development, Professional artist development. | Grants range from $25,000 - $150,000 with 50% non-federal match required. | Project may be subject to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). | Annual program, typically in August. | OT@arts.gov |
| | Approximately 80% of Power Up funds are distributed through community grants to nonprofit groups and civic organizations involved in community development and improvement projects in the GVEC service area with a focus on education, youth programs, health care, community development, civic and community outreach, and public safety/service. | No maximum grant amount or matching requirements listed | Must be located within GVEC service area. The people, organizations and locations of the community projects do not have to be served by GVEC to be eligible, but the projects must lie within the outer geographical boundary lines of the GVEC service area or have overlapping service areas. | There are two funding cycles a year; application deadlines are February 15 for the April distribution and August 15 for the October distribution. | "Seguin, TX office: (830)-379-2114" |
| | New Skatepark Construction<br>• New Skate Spot Construction<br>• Skateable Art Sculptures<br>• Active City Space Conversion (legalizing skateboarding in shared spaces)<br>• Accessibility Improvements/Repairs | Grants up to $25,000 | Can also provide technical assistance as requested.<br><br>"Underserved" can be defined as communities marginalized by poverty, geography, or racial, gender and other forms of social inequality or discrimination. | Letters of Inquiry are accepted on a rolling basis. | contact@skatepark.org |

## Funding Sources for Trails/Sidewalks

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | Eligible Use of Funds | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | 2025 Funding Opportunities | St. David's Foundation | Focus on removing barriers to better living today and changing systems and conditions to improve outcomes for a healthier community tomorrow. | Local governments and nonprofits in the Central Texas region. | Time-sensitive and topic-specific needs.<br><br>Projects should align with the Foundation's Strategic Plan 2024-2030: https://stdavidsfoundation.org/how-we-work/strategic-plan/ | |
| Foundation / Private | Asphalt Art Initiative | Bloomberg Philanthropies | Using art to reimagine roadways and vertical infrastructure, improving street safety, revitalizing public spaces, and bringing communities together. | US, Canada and Mexico cities with populations >50,000. | Ambitious arts-driven street designs with the goal of catalytic improvements to a key location in the city. Improving road safety, especially for pedestrians and cyclists, must be a component of all proposals.<br><br>Each application must have a site (publicly owned and open) identified for the proposed asphalt art project (or sites, if multiple are feasible within the budget). Eligible sites should be on or adjacent to active roadways, have the potential for active pedestrian usage, and may include crosswalks, intersections, vehicle/parking lanes, pedestrian plazas, sidewalks, or highway underpasses. | |
| Foundation / Private | Blue Impact Grants (formerly Healthy Kids, Healthy Families®) | Blue Cross Blue Shield of TX | To support the health and well-being of the children and families across the states in which we operate. | Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)3 IRS status or government, civic and cultural organizations in Texas. | The areas of focus are:<br>• Economic Opportunity and Stability: Addressing issues such as poverty, removing barriers to employment, providing good jobs, and upskilling.<br>• Nutrition: Supporting efforts to decrease hunger and increase access to nutritional food.<br>• Neighborhood and Built Environment: Focusing on affordable healthy housing, access to transportation, and access to physical activity.<br>• Locally Defined Health Solutions: Addressing hyperlocal health and human service needs.<br>• Optimal Health Outcomes: Helping close gaps in care, specifically around six priority areas: immunizations, diabetes care, cardiovascular care, behavioral health, early detection cancer screening, and maternal & infant health. | |
| Foundation / Private | Community Challenge | AARP | To improve housing, transportation, public space, technology ("smart cities"), civic engagement and more. | 501(C)(3), 501(C)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits, government entities, other types of organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. | Prioritize projects that aim to achieve the following outcomes:<br>• Increasing civic engagement with innovative and tangible projects that bring residents and local leaders together to address challenges and facilitate a greater sense of community inclusion and diversity.<br>• Create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.<br>• Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements.<br>• Support the availability of a range of housing that increases accessible and affordable housing options.<br>• Demonstrate the tangible value of "Smart Cities" with programs that engage residents in accessing, understanding and using data, and participating in decision-making to increase the quality of life for all.<br>• Other community improvements: In addition to the five areas of focus, AARP wants to hear about local needs and new, innovative ideas for addressing them. | |

| Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|
| "Small one-time" grants. | New funding mechanism launching in the summer of 2025. | Ongoing basis, beginning summer 2025. | questions@ stdavidsfoundation.org |
| $100,000 grant, and on-call technical assistance. | Examples:<br>• Culver City, CA – 36 painted curb extensions, new crosswalks, protected bike lanes, bus lanes and new pedestrians spaces along a 1.3 mile corridor.<br>• Mexico City, Mexico – Large new painted pedestrian plazas around the grand Zocalo central square with seating, shade and safer connections to surrounding streets.<br>• New York, NY – Large new painted pedestrian plazas, public space activations, and traffic safety improvements in world-famous Times Square.<br>• Reno, NV – Painting and activation of a block-long concrete cap over a railway bed to create a downtown hub for public events.<br>• Toronto, Canada – Painting, activation, and creation of new public spaces along the Bentway under a downtown elevated freeway.<br>• Mazatlán, Mexico – New crosswalks, curb extensions, and a neighborhood plaza for community events and local businesses. | Annually, typically in January | arts@bloomberg.org |
| Between $25,000 - $75,000 | | Letters of Intent were due February 10, 2025 and full applications (if invited) are due March 28, 2025 (annual program). | healthykidshealthyfamilies @hcsc.net |
| Grants can range from several hundred dollars for smaller, short-term activities to several thousand or tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. | Planning activities not eligible. | Annually, typically in March. | Livable@AARP.org. |

## (Continued) Funding Sources for Trails/Sidewalks

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Federal | Community Development Block Grant | City of Kyle (funding from Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)) | The primary goal of this program is to develop viable communities by providing affordable housing or expanding economic opportunities for communities of low- to moderate-income. | | |
| Foundation / Private | Community Grants | People for Bikes | To build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. | Non-profit organizations; city or county agencies or departments; state or federal agencies working locally; and small businesses, such as bicycle retailers and community-oriented businesses serving disadvantaged communities. | |
| Foundation / Private | Forever Austin Fund | Austin Community Foundation | To invest in Central Texas' most pressing needs and greatest opportunities. | 501(c)(3) nonprofits, religious organizations, and governmental entities that are serving the Central Texas region (counties of Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, or Williamson) | |
| Foundation / Private | Industry Community Grants | People for Bikes | To build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. | Non-profit organizations, city or county agencies or departments, state or federal agencies working locally, and small businesses, such as bicycle retailers and community-oriented businesses serving disadvantaged communities. | |
| State | Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) | To assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. | Eligible applicants includes 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. For this program, community must be 500,000 or less in population. | |

| Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| As an Entitlement City, Kyle must submit to HUD a 5-Year Consolidate Plan and Annual Action Plans that outline potential projects that can be funded with CDBG money to improve the community. In FY2025, the City identified improving sidewalks, especially in areas with low to moderate income, as a focus area. | The City's total allocation for FY2025 was $266,144. | City staff are currently identifying sections of sidewalk that are either missing or in need of repair or replacement in eligible neighborhoods. | NA | Kaela Sharp CDBG@ cityofkyle.com |
| Development of permanent bike infrastructure, including trails, shared-use paths, bike parks, pump tracks, bicycle playgrounds, neighborhood greenways/bike boulevards, and protected bike lanes. | Grant, 50% up to $10,000 | Two-step application process: 1, Letter of Interest 2. Full Application: PFB will request a full project application from a short list of qualified applicants. | 2025 funding round TBD, anticipate opening in the early fall. | infrastructure@ peopleforbikes.org |
| In 2025, the grants will focus on the following areas: • Economic Mobility: Housing Stability, Career Pathways & Resources, Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Addressing Systemic Barriers • Health and Humanities: Health & Wellness, Arts & Culture • Nurturing Our Region: Environmental Sustainability, Green Spaces (e.g. parks, trails, preserves), Animal Welfare. | Grants between $5,000 – $50,000. | | April 25, 2025 (annual program) | (512) 472-4483 |
| Costs related to the development of permanent bike infrastructure, including trails, shared-use paths, bike parks, pump tracks, bicycle playgrounds, neighborhood greenways/bike boulevards, and protected bike lanes. | Grant, 50% up to $10,000 | Two-step application process: 1. Letter of Interest 2. Full Application: PFB will request a full project application from a short list of qualified applicants. | Annually, typically in September. | infrastructure@ peopleforbikes.org. |
| Acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities. Points may be received through the applicable "Project Priority Scoring System" for projects which meet priorities identified in Department-accepted, locally-endorsed parks, recreation, and open space master plans. A jurisdiction wide master plan is NOT required to participate in the grant program, nor does Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's acceptance of a plan guarantee that points will be awarded for any project. There are no points in the Small Community scoring criteria for having a master plan. Master Plans must be submitted to TPWD at least 60 days prior to the grant deadline in which you wish to participate in order to be considered for points. | Will fund 50% of project costs, up to $750,000. | All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.<br><br>All applicants must hold at least one public hearing prior to submission. | Annually, August 1. | "Dan Reece dan.reece@tpwd.texas.gov (512) 389-4656" |

## (Continued) Funding Sources for Trails/Sidewalks

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Federal | National Parks Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) | National Parks Service (NPS) | The main focus areas of this program are building healthy communities, conservation, engaging youth in outdoor recreation, and facilitating support between NPS and communities to achieve shared goals. | State and local governments, tribes, nonprofits, or citizen organizations. | |
| Federal | National Recreational Trails Fund | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)(funding from Federal Highway Administration) | To fund motorized and non-motorized trail projects. | Local Governments. | |
| Federal | Transportation Alternatives Program | Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) (funding from Federal Highway Administration) | To plan for and construct a variety of alternative transportation projects that improve safety and mobility for non-motorized travelers and mitigate congestion by providing safe alternatives to motor vehicle transport. | State, local and tribal governments; regional transportation authorities; transit agencies; other agencies with transportation oversight. | |

| Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| This program provides technical assistance to community led conservation and outdoor recreation projects throughout the country. The types of assistance NPS provides includes: community outreach strategies, developing concept plans for trails and parks, creating project management and action plans, engaging collaborative partners and stakeholders, and other consulting services that can be tailored towards the needs of the project. | This is a nonmonetary grant program. NPS assists communities by providing a range of services and support. They are also helpful in bringing funding partners to the table. | NPS recommends applicants consult with a staff member at least 30 days prior to the application deadline. | Annually, typically in June. | David Thomson, mwr_rtca@nps.gov |
| 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. | 80% of project costs, up to $300,000 for non-motorized trail grants and a maximum award of $500,000 for motorized (off-highway vehicle) trail grants. | Thirty percent of the total NRTF grants must be spent on motorized recreational trails, while another 30 percent must be spent on nonmotorized trail projects. The remaining 40 percent is discretionary. | Annually, February 1. | "Chris Sheffield chris.sheffield@tpwd.texas.gov (512) 389-8749 " |
| Pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements including historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity. | Up to 80% of project costs, no maximum but limited by total appropriations. | Oversight provided by TxDOT. | Annually, typically in December. | funding@campotexas.org |

# CHAPTER

# 06

*Mary Kyle Hartson Park - Farmers Market*

# Implementation and Funding Matrixes

## In This Chapter

Implementation Matrixes
Funding Matrixes

## Introduction

The vision, goals, and objectives provide a "destination" for the City of Kyle's newly imagined park and recreation system, but without an implementation plan this new system is merely just a dream. This chapter details the action steps, timeline, responsible parties, and potential costs it will take to bring the community's vision to life. The framework outlined in the following pages should be used as a roadmap to guide project implementation and department growth in order to meet the needs of the community. Furthermore, this chapter can be used by the City of Kyle's administration, staff, and elected officials in the annual budget process to ensure goals are being pursued strategically.

# Implementation Matrixes

| | |
|---|---|
| **Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System** | |
| Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents. | |

**Objective 1:** Establish a seamlessly integrated and well-connected system of parks, trails, and community spaces- enhancing connectivity and access for all.

**Strategy 1.1.1:** Establish a Seamless, Multi-Modal Network of Parks, Trails, and Public Spaces

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Develop a Comprehensive Trail Network Master Plan for trails and greenways, identifying:<br>· Missing trail connections and gaps in accessibility.<br>· Opportunities for trail expansion based on population growth and land availability.<br>· Potential partnerships with adjacent municipalities to create regional trail networks. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Parks and Recreation Board<br>· Public Works and Transportation<br>· Planning Dept. | **$$** | Short-term | |
| | Prioritize multi-modal access and integrate trails into existing Infrastructure<br>· Trails should be incorporated into road projects, stormwater management corridors, and utility easements to create a multi-functional, interconnected network. | · Public Works and Transportation<br>· Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Planning Dept.<br>· Water Utilities<br>· TxDOT<br>· Utility Easement<br>· Owners | **$** | Ongoing | |
| | Provide trailhead facilities<br>· To improve access, trailheads should include amenities such as parking, restrooms, hydration stations, and interpretive signage to encourage greater usage. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. | **$$$** | Ongoing | |
| | Implement a citywide wayfinding and signage program as wayfinding signage is essential for connectivity, accessibility, and user experience.<br>· Help trail users navigate safely and efficiently.<br>· Provide clear connections between parks, public spaces, and transit hubs.<br>· Improve inclusivity with ADA-accessible signage, multilingual directions, and digital enhancements.<br>· Encourage tourism and economic development by making parks more welcoming and visitor-friendly. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Communications Dept.<br>· Planning Dept. | **$$** | Short-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**
**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)
**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 1:** Establish a seamlessly integrated and well-connected system of parks, trails, and community spaces- enhancing connectivity and access for all.

**Strategy 1.1.2:** Ensure Connectivity Between Parks, Neighborhoods and Public Spaces

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Integrate park access points**<br>• New and existing parks should include direct pedestrian and bicycle connections to neighborhoods. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | **Integrate parks into neighborhoods** | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | **Embed parks into neighborhood design** subdivision and zoning policies should be updated to require green spaces within new residential developments. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept. | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)      **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)   Ongoing

**Easy Win**

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**Objective 1:** Establish a seamlessly integrated and well-connected system of parks, trails, and community spaces- enhancing connectivity and access for all.

**Strategy 1.1.3** Expand Regional Connectivity Through Greenways and Multi-Jurisdictional Partnerships

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Coordinate with Hays County and regional partners to develop a regional trail system that links Kyle to nearby destinations such as Buda, San Marcos, and Austin. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· City Council<br>· County Commissioners<br>· Great Springs Project | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | Prioritize greenway corridors along creeks, floodplains, and utility easements to provide natural connections between parks and neighborhoods while supporting habitat conservation. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Utility Easement Owners<br>· FEMA | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |
| | Work with transportation agencies to integrate trails with transit infrastructure, ensuring seamless connections between parks, trailheads, and transit stops. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)<br>· Public Works and Transportation | $$ | Short-term | |
| | Develop an interconnected blueway system along the Blanco River and Plum Creek waterways to support canoeing, kayaking, and nature-based recreation. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· FEMA<br>· Property Owners along River and Creeks | $$ | Short-term | |

## Legend
**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)       **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)    **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
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**Objective 1:** Establish a seamlessly integrated and well-connected system of parks, trails, and community spaces- enhancing connectivity and access for all.

**Strategy 1.1.4** Implement a Citywide Wayfinding and Smart Navigation System

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Install standardized wayfinding signage at all major park entrances, trailheads, and key intersections. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Communications Dept.<br>· Planning Dept. | **$** | Short-term | |
| | Use QR codes and mobile apps to provide real-time navigation, trail conditions, and park events. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Information Technology<br>· Communications Dept.<br>· Planning Dept. | **$** | Ongoing | |
| | Incorporate ADA-accessible signage and multilingual directions to improve usability for all residents. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Communications Dept.<br>· Planning Dept. | **$** | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | Create a branded signage program that aligns with the city's identity, ensuring a consistent look and feel across all parks and public spaces. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Communications Dept.<br>· Planning Dept. | **$$** | Short-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000  **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000  **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 1:** Establish a seamlessly integrated and well-connected system of parks, trails, and community spaces- enhancing connectivity and access for all.

**Strategy 1.1.5** Improve Safe and Equitable Access to Parks and Trails Through Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure Enhancements

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Upgrade crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and bike lanes near parks and trailheads to improve safety and accessibility. | · Public Works and Transportation | $$ | Medium-term | |
| | Implement traffic-calming measures such as raised crosswalks, pedestrian refuges, and curb extensions to enhance park access in high-traffic areas. | · Public Works and Transportation | $$ | Medium-term | |
| | Develop Safe Routes to Parks initiatives that prioritize sidewalk and bike lane improvements leading to parks. | · Public Works and Transportation<br>· Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | Ensure that all parks and trails have well-lit, ADA-compliant pathways to accommodate users of all ages and abilities. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Public Works and Transportation | $$ | Short-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000    **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000    **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**
**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)       **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)      **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 2:** Ensure a Well-Distributed and Balanced Park System that Plans for Future Growth

**Strategy 1.2.1** Develop Parkland Acquisition and Expansion Plan and Establish an Annual Parkland Acquisition Review Process

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Conduct an annual parkland needs assessment to evaluate changes in population density, housing development, and park access gaps. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Parks and Recreation Board | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Update GIS mapping and data analysis regularly to prioritize new park locations based on walkability, park access gaps, and environmental factors. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | Align land acquisition priorities with the City's Comprehensive Growth Plan and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Parks and Recreation Board<br>• Planning Dept.<br>• Engineering and Capital Improvement Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | Implement a proactive land banking program<br>• Establish a dedicated Parkland Acquisition Fund to purchase land in targeted growth areas.<br>• Partner with land trusts and conservation organizations to preserve key properties.<br>• Use right-of-first-refusal agreements to secure priority sites when properties become available. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• City Council<br>• Finance Dept.<br>• Engineering and Capital Improvement Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | Strengthen parkland dedication policies to ensure equitable growth<br>• Require residential and commercial developers to dedicate parkland or pay into a Parkland Dedication Fund.<br>• Adjust parkland dedication fees annually based on land valuation trends.<br>• Ensure that dedicated parkland meets city standards for accessibility, size, and connectivity.<br>• Create incentives for developers who go beyond minimum requirements, such as expedited permitting for projects that include publicly accessible green spaces. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept. | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |

## Legend

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000    $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000    $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**
Short-term (0 to 5 years)
Medium-term (5 to 10years)
Long-term (11+ years)
Ongoing

**Easy Win**
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## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 2:** Ensure a Well-Distributed and Balanced Park System that Plans for Future Growth

**Strategy 1.2.2** Continue to Align Park Expansion with Future Growth and Development Patterns

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Map future growth areas**<br>• Coordinate with the Planning Department to identify areas of high residential growth throughout Kyle.<br>• Use findings from coordination, along with Level of Service maps to identify gaps that would benefit from the development of a public park and/or open space. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept. | $ | Ongoing | |
| | **Collaborate with developers early in the design process**<br>• Encourage developers to meet early with Parks and Recreation staff to identify park needs in the area where the proposed development will be constructed. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept.<br>• Private Developers | $ | Ongoing | |
| | **Regularly review and adjust expansion priorities**<br>• Establish a yearly meeting with the Planning Department to identify any changes in development patterns.<br>• Using this information, adjust the plans for the acquisition and the development of potential public parks and open spaces to align with new development pattern to prevent incorrect placement of parks where they are not needed. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept.<br>• Private Developers | $ | Ongoing | |

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 2:** Ensure a Well-Distributed and Balanced Park System that Plans for Future Growth

**Strategy 1.2.3** Enhance and Leverage Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) to Expand and Enhance Parkland

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Create a public-private partnership (P3) policy for parks with a formal policy to identify partnership types, responsibilities, and expectations for park co-development and maintenance. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Communications Dept.<br>· Planning Dept. | $$ | Medium-term | |
| | Identify partnership opportunities in new developments. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000  $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000  $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**
**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10 years)
**Long-term** (11+ years)
Ongoing

**Easy Win**
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Chapter 6 Implementation and Funding | **6.9**

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System

Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 3:** Elevate the Everyday Park Experience Through Comfort, Safety, and Design Excellence

**Strategy 1.3.1** Establish Minimum Design and Comfort Standards for All Parks

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Develop a "Kyle Parks Design and Comfort Standards Manual." These standards may include:<br>• 50% shaded seating/play areas.<br>• ADA-compliant pathways and restrooms.<br>• Picnic tables, benches, and trash/recycling stations.<br>• Water fountains/hydration stations.<br>• Native landscaping and tree canopy goals. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept.<br>• Engineering and Capital Improvement Dept. | $$ | Short-term | |
| | Conduct a system-wide comfort audit.<br>• Evaluating existing parks to assess compliance with new standards and prioritize upgrades based on usage, location, and community input. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $$ | Short-term | |
| | Incorporate comfort standards into all renovations and new builds. Require all capital improvement projects to meet the minimum standard baseline, with optional enhancements in high-use areas. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Engineering and Capital Improvement Dept. | $$ | Medium-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

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## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 3:** Elevate the Everyday Park Experience Through Comfort, Safety, and Design Excellence

**Strategy 1.3.2 Integrate Public Art, Cultural Signage, and Local Identity into Park Design**

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Launch a "Parks as Cultural Canvas" program. This program can commission local artists and engage the public to co-create installations that tell the City's story and spark joy and reflection. <br>• Establish a City of Kyle Public Art in Parks Committee to select themes, artists, and project locations. <br>• Partner with local schools, youth programs, and cultural organizations to generate ideas and co-create community murals, mosaic paths, storytelling fences, or poetry walls. <br>• Pilot the program in one regional or community park and scale to other locations based on community feedback and funding. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br>• Arts and Cultural Board <br>• Parks and Recreation Board <br>• Local Artists | $ | Short-term | |
| | Install cultural and interpretive signage to understand the meaning, history, and ecology of a place. <br>• Install bilingual signs (e.g., English/Spanish) in areas with diverse populations. <br>• Use QR codes linked to oral histories, interactive maps, or augmented reality stories to bring history and heritage to life. <br>• Collaborate with historians, tribal representatives, and longtime residents to develop inclusive narratives that represent all segments of Kyle's past and present. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br>• Arts and Cultural Board <br>• Local Historians <br>• Kyle Public Library <br>• Local Schools and Colleges | $$ | Ongoing | |
| | Develop a Park Identity Design Toolkit <br>• Develop brand standards for signage design, fonts, color palettes, and wayfinding icons that reflect Kyle's identity. <br>• Create templates for interpretive signs, entry signs, community bulletin boards, and public art plaques. <br>• Allow for site-specific design customization to reflect local history, themes (e.g., music, nature, agriculture), or cultural stories. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br>• Arts and Cultural Board <br>• Local Historians <br>• Kyle Public Library <br>• Local Schools and Colleges | $$ | Short-term | |
| | Develop a Park Identity Design Toolkit <br>• Create a citywide Arts and Culture Master Plan to guide the integration of public art, cultural programming, and creative placemaking in parks and public spaces. <br>• The plan should identify goals, funding strategies, partnerships, and priority locations to celebrate local heritage, support artists, and enhance community identity. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. <br>• Arts and Cultural Board <br>• Community Development Department | $ | Short-term | |

## Legend

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000    $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000    $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)    **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)    **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

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## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
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**Objective 3:** Elevate the Everyday Park Experience Through Comfort, Safety, and Design Excellence

**Strategy 1.3.3** Apply CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Principles to Improve Perceived and Actual Safety

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Train city staff in CPTED Best Practices. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Police Dept. | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Incorporate safety enhancements in design standards. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | Conduct safety audits of high-use and underserved parks. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Police Dept. | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10 years)
**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

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## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 4:** Strengthen Parks as Community Connectors with Integrated Everyday Destinations

**Strategy 1.4.1** Co-Locate Parks with Schools, Libraries, Wellness Hubs, and Transit Nodes

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Map opportunities for co-location with Hays CISD schools, public libraries, and transit corridors. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. <br> · Planning Dept. <br> · Hays CISD <br> · Public Library <br> · CapMetro and CARTS | $ | Short-term | |
| | Develop joint-use agreements for fields, gymnasiums, and community facilities as needed. If the joint-use agreement already exists, revisit every 36 months and update as needed. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. <br> · Hays CISD <br> · Private HOAs | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Prioritize locations near multi-modal transit stops or proposed mobility hubs such as bus routes, park-and-ride lots, bike-share stations, or future transit corridors. Include park features that support transit users, such as: <br> · Shaded seating/pavilions near trailheads or mobility hubs. <br> · Signage showing trail and bus route connections. <br> · Restrooms or hydration stations that serve cyclists, pedestrians, and commuters. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. <br> · Public Works and Transportation <br> · CapMetro and CARTS | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000 **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000 **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

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## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System
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**Objective 4:** Strengthen Parks as Community Connectors with Integrated Everyday Destinations

**Strategy 1.4.2 Program Parks as Spaces for Local Events, Markets, and Civic Life**

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Continue to promote the citywide Parks Programming Calendar with seasonal and recurring events. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. <br>· Police Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | Create infrastructure to support programming, such as event pavilions, sound systems, and vendor spaces at various parks and public spaces that are equitably distributed throughout the city. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. <br>· Engineering and Capital Improvement Dept. | $$ | Ongoing | |
| | Continue to partner with local organizations, schools, and creatives to curate neighborhood-based events. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |

## Goal 1: Balanced and Connected System

Establish a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, facilities, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Kyle residents.

**Objective 4:** Strengthen Parks as Community Connectors with Integrated Everyday Destinations

**Strategy 1.4.1** Co-Locate Parks with Schools, Libraries, Wellness Hubs, and Transit Nodes

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Designate large parks as resilience hubs with backup power, water access, and staging areas. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Engineering and Capital Improvements Dept.<br>• Police Dept.<br>• Fire Dept.<br>• Local Hospitals | $$ | Medium-term | |
| | Incorporate shade structures, splash pads, and misting areas in key parks to serve as cooling centers. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | Collaborate with Hays County Emergency Management to integrate parks into disaster response protocols. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays County Emergency Management<br>• Police Dept.<br>• Fire Dept.<br>• County Sheriff | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

Short-term (0 to 5 years)     Long-term (11+ years)
Medium-term (5 to 10years)   Ongoing

**Easy Win**

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## Goal 2: Dynamic and Inclusive Community
Enhance the quality of life for all Kyle residents by fostering an equitable, innovative, and accessible park system that prioritizes physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

**Objective 3:** Create Safe, Welcoming, and Comfortable Public Spaces

**Strategy 2.3.1** Celebrate all Kyle's Cultural Identity through Parks

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Host cultural and community celebrations.<br>• Partner with neighborhoods to celebrate their diversity by offering opportunities to host events at their nearby parks.<br>• Create meaningful opportunities for residents to connect and share their traditions with the rest of the community.<br>• Attract visitors from across the region, inviting them to experience the rich cultural diversity of Kyle. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Parks and Recreation Board<br>• Homeowners Associations<br>• Communications Dept. | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Promote public art and expression.<br>• Create attractive, welcoming public spaces with community-driven art, such as murals, sculptures, and interactive installations.<br>• Install sculpture gardens, adventure play areas, and water play elements.<br>• Install digital art that can be programmed by local artists to share residents' stories.<br>• Host community art workshops and outdoor galleries to foster self-expression and community pride. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Parks and Recreation Board<br>• Arts and Culture Board<br>• Local Artists | $ | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

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## Goal 2: Dynamic and Inclusive Community
Enhance the quality of life for all Kyle residents by fostering an equitable, innovative, and accessible park system that prioritizes physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

**Objective 3:** Create Safe, Welcoming, and Comfortable Public Spaces

**Strategy 2.3.2** Ensure residents feel safe, and comfortable at parks and facilities

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Ensure adequate lighting.**<br>• Install lighting in activity zones like playgrounds, sports fields, and courts, as well as along trails, near restrooms, at gathering areas such as pavilions and gazebos, and in parking lots. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Public Works and Transportation | $$ | Short-term | |
| | **Design for safety and emergency access.**<br>• Construct emergency access routes in and out of all parks and public spaces to ensure that first responders can reach any area quickly in case of an emergency.<br>• Install emergency call boxes or clearly visible phone numbers in remote areas.<br>• Coordinate with emergency responders to create an emergency action plan to be used system-wide.<br>• Include emergency responders in the planning and designing of park, open spaces, and recreation facilities to assist in identifying where to best place emergency access points.<br>• Incorporate CPTED principles in all park plans to help in maximizing visual and physical access in and out of spaces in moments of emergencies. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Police Dept.<br>• Fire Dept.<br>• Hays County Emergency Management | $$ | Ongoing | |
| | **Include Shade and Cooling Features.**<br>• Add pergolas, covered seating, shaded play areas, and native trees.<br>• Install water features like fountains and splash pads, along with drinking fountains for people and pets.<br>• Upgrade shelters and pavilions with heating, cooling, and weather-resistant materials. | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $$ | Short-term | |

## Legend
### Cost
**$** Less than $250,000  **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000  **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**
**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)
**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**
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## Goal 2: Dynamic and Inclusive Community
Enhance the quality of life for all Kyle residents by fostering an equitable, innovative, and accessible park system that prioritizes physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

**Objective 3:** Create Safe, Welcoming, and Comfortable Public Spaces

**(Continued) Strategy 2.3.2** Ensure residents feel safe, and comfortable at parks and facilities

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Incorporate crime prevention through environmental design that promotes natural surveillance, where visitors to the parks, trails and public spaces can easily observe their surroundings.<br>· Install well-placed lighting along pathways, entry points, and high-traffic areas like playgrounds and sports courts to enhance visibility and safety.<br>· Incorporate and maintain strategic landscaping to provide clear sightlines and avoid creating hidden or obstructed spaces.<br>· Encourage consistent activity by including open spaces, seating areas, and diverse activity zones such as playgrounds, fitness trails, and sports fields.<br>· Use landscaping, signage, and pathways to clearly define boundaries, guide movement, and discourage unauthorized access. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Police Dept. | $$ | Ongoing | |
| | Create Restful Spaces for Comfort.<br>· Add shaded seating (e.g., benches, hammocks), upgrade and increase restrooms, install hydration stations, and ensure all amenities meet ADA and TAS standards—prioritizing high-traffic and pedestrian-heavy areas. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**
**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)
**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

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## Goal 2: Dynamic and Inclusive Community
Enhance the quality of life for all Kyle residents by fostering an equitable, innovative, and accessible park system that prioritizes physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

**Objective 4:** Strengthen Community Engagement and Participation

**Strategy 2.4.1** Create Volunteer Opportunities

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Support youth leadership development.<br>• Create youth-focused programs such as leadership training, advisory councils, and peer mentorships<br>• Partner with schools, colleges, and professionals.<br>• Provide hands-on opportunities for youth to co-develop and lead Parks and Recreation initiatives. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays CISD<br>• Regional Colleges/ Universities<br>• Economic Development<br>• Other City Departments | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Host regular community forums.<br>• Identify local community organization partners to help involve residents in the park planning process.<br>• Select strategic locations across the City to ensure equitable access.<br>• Develop a well-publicized schedule of meetings, including times, dates, and locations. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Homeowners Associations<br>• City Council<br>• Parks and Recreation Board | $ | Ongoing | |

## Legend
**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000    $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000    $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)          **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)      **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

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## Goal 2: Dynamic and Inclusive Community
Enhance the quality of life for all Kyle residents by fostering an equitable, innovative, and accessible park system that prioritizes physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

**Objective 4:** Strengthen Community Engagement and Participation

**Strategy 2.4.2** Foster a Sense of Ownership and Stewardship

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Develop community garden spaces.**<br>• Create dedicated spaces in parks and along trails for the community to grow vegetables, fruits and flowers.<br>• Host workshops for organizations and individuals interested in starting their own programs. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays County<br>• Master Naturalist Organization<br>• Hays County Master Gardener Organization | $ | Ongoing | |
| | Develop "Friendship Trails." | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Short-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)   **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)   **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

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## Goal 3: Flourishing Nature Experience
Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

**Objective 1:** Manage and Conserve Natural Ecosystems within Parks and Public Spaces

**Strategy 3.1.1** Design Nature Reserves and Conservation Areas Implement Habitat Restoration Projects

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Control Invasive Species**<br>• Implement monitoring systems to detect invasive species early to prevent them from establishment in the landscapes.<br>• Conduct public awareness campaigns and educational programs to inform the community about invasive species and encourage participation in control efforts. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | Ongoing | |
| | **Develop Riparian Buffers**<br>Establish buffer zones around wetlands and riparian areas that establish guidelines such as:<br>• Maintaining of native habitat and plant life along creeks<br>• Limit access to areas for things such as passive recreation and environment monitoring<br>• Require use of native vegetation in landscaping near wetland and riparian areas<br>• Encourage the use of green infrastructure to prevent pollutants from entering sensitive wetlands | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | | |
| | **Create Buffer Zones Around Sensitive Areas**<br>Amend the City's development code to include requirements that require buffers be established between development and natural sensitive areas.<br>• Create a minimum distance between the development and the natural area.Set landscaping requirements to serve as the buffer transitioning from the development to the natural area. Landscaping should be kept to native plant life.<br>• Buffer can be designed for passive recreation that allows for things such as nature hike, birdwatching, and outdoor learning environments. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays CISD<br>• Regional Colleges/Universities<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | | |
| | **Implement Ecological Monitoring Programs**<br>Install ecological monitoring stations in parks and along trails that can be used to gather data on items such as air quality, water quality, and capture pictures of wildlife. Programs can be created whereby volunteers or neighborhoods can adopt the stations and provide reports on findings. | | | | |
| | **Restore Ecological Processes**<br>Implement the use of green practices such as the installation of green infrastructure as part of park construction projects. Include features such as rain gardens and bioswales. Restore native habitats as part of park projects to provide ecosystem services to the community. | | | | |

## Legend

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000    $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000    $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)    **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)    **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

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## Goal 3: Flourishing Nature Experience

Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

**Objective 1:** Manage and Conserve Natural Ecosystems within Parks and Public Spaces

**Strategy 3.2.1** Build Ecosystem Resilience Through Climate-Adaptation Strategies

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Develop a Conservation Master Plan**<br>• Inventory sensitive habitats, native vegetation, and wildlife corridors. Identify ecological assets and prioritize conservation areas<br>• Establish implementation steps for climate resilience and equitable access | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $$ | Ongoing | |
| | **Planting of Native Climate-Resilient Species**<br>• Enforce and update landscaping requirements to mandate native plants | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Public Works Dept. | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | **Strengthen Tree Preservation and Become a Tree City USA**<br>• Update ordinance to enhance tree preservation and promote large-canopy natives. Align goals with Tree City USA program and pursue certification<br>**Dark Sky Compliance**<br>• Amend ordinances to include dark sky standards<br>• Limit park lighting to shielded, low-intensity fixtures | • Parks and Recreation Dept. | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |
| | **Use Permeable Surfaces**<br>• Use permeable materials for park lots, trails, sport courts, and pavilions | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |
| | **Incorporate Water Management**<br>• Implement bioswales, rainwater harvesting, green roofs, and permeable paving<br>• Reduce runoff, mitigate flooding, and support water conservation | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Public Works Dept. | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |
| | **Enhance Urban Heat Island Mitigation**<br>• Convert vacant or blighted lots into green spaces with native habitat<br>• Integrate shaded landscaping into roadway projects and medians | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists | $ | Short-term | |

## Legend

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

Short-term (0 to 5 years)     Long-term (11+ years)
Medium-term (5 to 10 years)   Ongoing

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 3: Flourishing Nature Experience
Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

**Objective 1:** Manage and Conserve Natural Ecosystems within Parks and Public Spaces

**Strategy 3.1.3 Support Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health**

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Create Pollinator Gardens and Habitats<br>• Protect and install native plants and wildflowers as part of the enhancement of parks and public spaces.<br>• Use Integrated Pest Management strategies and encourage the least toxic approach to managing pest species.<br>• Work with local experts to effectively locate these gardens throughout the parks and along trails to support natural migration and pollinator routes. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $$ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | Install Bird and Bat Habitats<br>• Expand the City's existing practice of building and installing wildlife habitats such as the bat habitats in Bunton Creek. Install habitats in areas being kept as natural open spaces to minimize impacts by human development.<br>• Use sites as outdoor learning and viewing areas. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | Restore Wetlands and Riparian Zones<br>• Identify and rehabilitate degraded wetlands and riparian areas to improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat, and enhance ecosystem resilience. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $$ | Ongoing | |
| | Promote Sustainable Land Management Practices<br>• Adopt and encourage land management techniques that conserve soil, water, and native vegetation while minimizing chemical use and promoting ecological balance across all parklands and open spaces. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | Implement Rewilding Programs<br>• Collaborate with local and regional plant and wildlife experts to identify areas best suited for rewilding with native species.<br>• Develop educational programs, through partnerships with<br>• local school districts and area universities, that engage the community and encourage active participation in rewilding efforts. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | Short-term | 🏆 |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 3: Flourishing Nature Experience
Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

**Objective 2:** Promote Environmental Education and Awareness

**Strategy 3.2.1** Develop Environmental Education Programs

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Host nature-themed events and Workshops.**<br>· Establish regular volunteer opportunities focused on habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and environmental monitoring to engage the community in hands-on stewardship activities. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. | **$** | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | **Create outdoor classrooms.**<br>· Develop outdoor seating areas that will accommodate 16-25 students in parks and natural areas.<br>· Include features such interpretive signage (e.g. history, culture, wildlife, plant life and the natural environment), interactive features (e.g. nature-based art stations, musical elements, sensory paths) and environmental features (e.g. trees, pollinator gardens, environmental monitoring stations). | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Hays CISD<br>· Regional Colleges/ Universities<br>· Nature-based Organizations | **$** | Ongoing | |
| | **Host volunteer conservation programs.**<br>· Establish regular volunteer opportunities focused on habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and environmental monitoring to engage the community in hands-on stewardship activities. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. | **$** | Ongoing | 🏆 |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)   **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)   **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 3: Flourishing Nature Experience
Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

**Objective 2:** Promote Environmental Education and Awareness

**Strategy 3.2.2** Create Nature Centers and Interpretation Hubs

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Establish Nature Centers and Interpretation Hubs**<br>• Develop small-scale nature centers or interpretation hubs in key parks and natural areas that serve as educational focal points. These centers should offer interactive exhibits, informational materials, and programming spaces to foster deeper connections between the community and local ecosystems. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays CISD<br>• Regional Colleges/ Universities" | $ | Ongoing | |

## Legend
### Cost
**$** Less than $250,000  **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000  **$$$** $2,000,000+

### Time frame
**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

### Easy Win
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 3: Flourishing Nature Experience
Cultivate natural spaces that preserve, protect, and enhance ecosystems, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Kyle's park and recreation system.

**Objective 2:** Promote Environmental Education and Awareness

**Strategy 3.2.3** Offer Citizen Science Programs

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Launch Citizen Science Initiatives<br>• Implement citizen science programs that invite community members to participate in data collection and monitoring projects, such as bird counts, water quality testing, and plant phenology tracking, to support environmental research and community engagement | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Hays CISD<br>• Regional Colleges/Universities<br>• Audubon Society<br>• Hays County Master Naturalists<br>• TCEQ<br>• TPWD | $ | Short-term | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000    $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000    $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)    **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)    **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 4: Vibrant and Prosperous Destination
Transform Kyle's parks, recreation and open space into a leading destination that contributes to the City's economic development, and quality of life.

**Objective 1:** Foster Economic Development through Parks and Recreation

**Strategy 4.1.1** Leverage Parks for Economic Revitalization

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Attract private investment and partnerships.**<br>• Create partnerships with local businesses and developers to integrate mixed-use developments, restaurants, retail, and recreational facilities within or near parks.<br>• Developed parks in harmony with surrounding businesses, attractions, and neighborhoods, ensuring that these partnerships benefit both the City and local businesses. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Planning Dept.<br>• Economic Development<br>• Chamber of Commerce | $$ | Ongoing | |
| | **Create a Park Revenue Generation Plan.**<br>• Identify potential areas of revenue generation such as facility rentals, program fees, special event fees, concessions and vending, sponsorships, advertising, and merchandising. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Finance Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | **Develop a sports or athletic complex.**<br>• Construct a sports or athletic complex to help make the City of Kyle a draw for sports tourism.<br>• Design flexible space for sports leagues, fitness classes, and community events.<br>• Include features such as convertible courts, class/meeting rooms, locker rooms, lounge areas, and concession stands to support a variety of activities and interests. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• City Council Parks and Recreation Board<br>• Engineering and Capital Improvement Dept.<br>• Economic Development<br>• Residents | $$$ | Medium-term | |

## Legend
**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000    $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000    $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**
**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)    **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)    **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 4: Vibrant and Prosperous Destination
Transform Kyle's parks, recreation and open space into a leading destination that contributes to the City's economic development, and quality of life.

**Objective 1:** Foster Economic Development through Parks and Recreation

**(Continued) Strategy 4.1.1** Leverage Parks for Economic Revitalization

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Host regional events.**<br>· Partner with businesses and event promoters to encourage the use of the city parks and public spaces for regional events. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Economic Development<br>· Chamber of Commerce<br>· Tourism Board | **$$** | Ongoing | |
| | **Host regional sport competitions.**<br>· Collaborate with local and regional sporting leagues and organizations to hold tournaments at complex and city parks. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Economic Development<br>· Chamber of Commerce<br>· Tourism Board<br>· Local and Regional<br>· Sport Leagues<br>· Local and Regional School Districts | **$$** | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000  **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000  **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 4: Vibrant and Prosperous Destination
Transform Kyle's parks, recreation and open space into a leading destination that contributes to the City's economic development, and quality of life.

**Objective 1:** Foster Economic Development through Parks and Recreation

**Strategy 4.1.2** Support Eco-Tourism and Nature-Based Tourism

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Develop recreational rentals and services.**<br>• Rent out items such as sports equipment, kayaks, paddling boards, bicycles, cookout equipment, and fishing equipment to residents and visitors to enhance their experiences at the parks. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Finance Dept. | **$** | Short-term | |
| | **Promote eco-friendly tourism.**<br>• Promote and advertise Kyle's natural features, wildlife and plant life.<br>• Create eco-tourism programs such as birdwatching at Lake Kyle or guided nature hikes along the creeks and the Blanco River to learn about local plant life. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Nature Based Organizations<br>• Economic Development<br>• Chamber of Commerce | **$** | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)      **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10 years)    **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 4: Vibrant and Prosperous Destination
Transform Kyle's parks, recreation and open space into a leading destination that contributes to the City's economic development, and quality of life.

**Objective 2:** Promote Kyle's Parks and Recreation System as a Regional Destination

**Strategy 4.2.1** Position Kyle as A Recreation Destination

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Launch a city-wide branding campaign.**<br>· Create a dynamic re-branding initiative featuring fresh logos, catchy slogans, and messaging that celebrates Kyle's vibrant culture and diverse parks and recreational offerings.<br>· Create eye-catching signage to help visitors easily identify parks, trails, and open spaces. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Communications Dept.<br>· Parks and Recreation Board<br>· Economic Development | $$ | Short-term | |
| | Enhance the programing and events website. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Information Technologies | $ | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | **Develop a visitor's guide and digital platform.**<br>· Create an all-inclusive guide that provides the reader with valuable information about Kyle such as:<br>  · Local history.<br>  · Overall map of the City identifying key locations such as parks, trailheads, retail areas, entertainment venues, lodging and recreation sites.<br>  · Information about upcoming events and programs being hosted in Kyle.<br>  · Information about attractions in Kyle such as Lake Kyle, the Brick-and-Mortar District, and Downtown Kyle.<br>  · Contact information for City Departments (e.g. Parks and Recreation, Economic Development).<br>  · Ads and contact information for sponsors (e.g. hotels, restaurants, retail shops). | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Information Technologies<br>· Public Library<br>· Hays CISD<br>· Economic Development<br>· Chamber of Commerce<br>· Communications Dept. | $ | Short-term | |
| | **Develop a Mobile Park App.**<br>· Include maps identifying the locations of parks, trails, trailheads, recreational facilities and open spaces.<br>· Include information on amenities, calendar of events.<br>· Incorporate "Did you know?" information and contact information.<br>· Provide sponsorship opportunities that can be purchased by area businesses to fund app. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Information Technologies<br>· Public Library<br>· Hays CISD<br>· Economic Development<br>· Chamber of Commerce<br>· Communications Dept. | $ | Short-term | |

## Legend

**Cost**

$ Less than $250,000   $$ $250,000 - $2,000,000   $$$ $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)   **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)   **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 4: Vibrant and Prosperous Destination
Transform Kyle's parks, recreation and open space into a leading destination that contributes to the City's economic development, and quality of life.

**Objective 2:** Promote Kyle's Parks and Recreation System as a Regional Destination

**Strategy 4.2.2** Leverage local and Regional Partners to expand awareness of Kyle's Recreation and Facilities

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Collaborate with local businesses and tourism agencies.<br>• Work with chambers of commerce, tourism boards, and hospitality industry to create marketing campaigns that highlights the Kyle parks and recreational spaces.<br>• Create brochures, social media content, and special tourism packages (e.g. hotel discounts, event tickets, special guided-tours). | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Economic Development<br>• Chamber of Commerce<br>• Tourism Board | $ | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000  **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000  **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**
**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)
**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 5: Sustainable Resources
Elevate the management, operations, and maintenance to ensure organizational sustainability.

**Objective 1:** Elevate operations and support management

**Strategy 5.1.1** Enhance Operational Efficiency through Sustainable Practices

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Adopt sustainable maintenance practices.**<br>· Prioritize the planting of native trees and grasses to reduce water and mowing needs.<br>· Transition to electric maintenance equipment. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Public Works and Transportation | **$** | Ongoing | 🏆 |
| | **Conduct regular efficiency audits.**<br>· Establish annual audits of energy, water, and resource usage to help identify ways to further reduce consumption and improve efficiency. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. | **$$** | Ongoing | |
| | **Install high-quality recreation equipment.**<br>· Install modern playgrounds featuring innovative play elements like augmented reality for immersive experiences, outdoor fitness stations that encourage physical activity for adults and children, and well-maintained sports courts and fields to attract sports enthusiasts and local or regional leagues. | · Parks and Recreation Dept. | **$** | Medium-term | |
| | **Improve park maintenance and cleanliness.** | · Parks and Recreation Dept. | **$** | Ongoing | 🏆 |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)   **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10 years)   **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**
Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 5: Sustainable Resources
Elevate the management, operations, and maintenance to ensure organizational sustainability.

**Objective 1:** Elevate operations and support management

**Strategy 5.1.2** Promote Staff Development and Sustainable Workforce Practices

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Invest in staff training.**<br>· Offer staff training opportunities that will assist in the development of their professional skills.<br>· Support cross-training and mentorship programs.<br>· Foster professional growth, knowledge sharing, and a stronger sense of teamwork across the department. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Human Resources | **$** | Ongoing | |
| | **Foster collaboration across departments.**<br>· Establish monthly meetings with representatives from each department to share updates, ideas, and collaborate on projects.<br>· Leverage each department's strengths to deliver quality results.<br>· Work across departments to address environmental, equity and accessibility challenges - building a greener, more sustainable Kyle. | · Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>· Human Resources | **$** | Ongoing | |

## Legend

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000  **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000  **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)    **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)   Ongoing

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 5: Sustainable Resources
Elevate the management, operations, and maintenance to ensure organizational sustainability.

**Objective 1:** Elevate operations and support management

**Strategy 5.1.3** Strengthen Staffing Capacity to Meet NRPA Standards

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Increase Staffing Levels.<br>• Align with upper quartile staffing levels based on NRPA standards. To do so, Kyle should increase its parks and recreation staff to 107 full-time employees.<br>• Staffing is essential to efficiently manage, administer, and operate the Kyle Parks system, ensuring high-quality service delivery, timely maintenance, and responsive programming that meets the growing needs of the community. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Human Resources | $$ | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000   **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000   **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)

**Long-term** (11+ years)
**Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

## Goal 5: Sustainable Resources
Elevate the management, operations, and maintenance to ensure organizational sustainability.

**Objective 2:** Secure Long-Term Financial Sustainability

**Strategy 5.2.1** Diversify Funding Sources

| Engagement Themes | Action Steps | Responsible Parties | Cost | Time Frame | Easy Wins |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Implement sponsorship and naming rights programs.**<br>• Develop tiered sponsorship opportunities for businesses, ranging from small contributions to major partnerships.<br>• Offer naming rights to boost business visibility and foster community engagement. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Finance Dept.<br>• Economic Development | **$** | Short-term | |
| | **Establish an endowment fund.** | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Finance Dept. | **$** | Short-term | 🏆 |
| | **Incorporate public-private partnerships.**<br>• Leverage their skills and abilities in the maintenance and operations of parks and recreational programs.<br>• Create joint marketing campaigns with these partners to boost the visibility of the parks and businesses. | • Parks and Recreation Dept.<br>• Finance Dept.<br>• Economic Development<br>• Chamber of Commerce<br>• Tourism Board<br>• Communications Dept. | **$** | Ongoing | |

**Legend**

**Cost**

**$** Less than $250,000  **$$** $250,000 - $2,000,000  **$$$** $2,000,000+

**Time frame**

**Short-term** (0 to 5 years)  **Long-term** (11+ years)
**Medium-term** (5 to 10years)  **Ongoing**

**Easy Win**

Easy wins are low-cost, low-effort actions that can be done within a year and show clear benefits, helping build momentum and public support for the parks master plan.

# Funding Matrixes

| Funding Sources for Brownfields | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Funding Type** | **Program** | **Agency** | **Purpose / Goals** | **Eligible Applicants** | |
| State | Brownfield Site Assessment Program | Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) | The Brownfields program supports communities by assessing and assisting with the redevelopment and revitalization of these properties, broadly referred to as Brownfields. | State, local and tribal governments; nonprofits; councils of governments, and economic development corporations. | |
| Federal | Brownfields Assessment Grant | United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) | "To empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields." | County, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (whether or not incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under state law), any other regional or interstate government entity, or any agency or instrumentality of a local government. | |
| Federal | Brownfields Clean Up Grants | U.S EPA | To empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. | County, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (whether or not incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under state law), any other regional or interstate government entity, or any agency or instrumentality of a local government. | |
| State | RRC Brownfields Response Program | Railroad Commission of Texas | Created as an additional means to incentivize the remediation of properties in Texas contaminated by oil and gas-related activities. | Local governments, non-profit organizations, tribes, universities, school districts and economic development corporations. | |

| Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Records review; site reconnaissance; interviews with past and current owners, operators, neighbors, governmental officials; sampling performed under TCEQ contract. | No set amount, sites are chosen on a case by case review of application. | The site must meet one of the following criteria:<br>• owned or plan to be owned by the applying local government;<br>• property taxes must be owed to the local government on the site and foreclosure for failure to pay those taxes; or<br>• redevelopment and/or long-term beneficial use by the local government or non-profit organization. | Ongoing | brownfields@tceq.texas.gov<br>(833) 436-3271 |
| Provides funding to inventory, characterize, assess, conduct a range of planning activities, develop site-specific cleanup plans, and conduct community involvement related to brownfield sites. | Grants up to $500,000; no match required. | Must address eligible contamination: hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants (including hazardous substances comingled with petroleum), and/or petroleum. | Annually, typically in the fall. | Althea Foster<br>Foster.Althea@epa.gov<br>(214) 665-2268<br>(US EPA Region 6) |
| To carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites owned by the applicant. Funds may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and/or hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances comingled with petroleum). Can address either a single brownfield site or multiple brownfield sites within the same application. | Grant up to $500,000; 20% non-federal match required. | An applicant must own the site for which it is requesting funding. The performance period for these grants is three years. | Annually, typically in the fall. | Althea Foster<br>Foster.Althea@epa.gov<br>(214) 665-2268<br>(US EPA Region 6) |
| Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs), cleanups on qualified sites, coordinate the approach to site assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment through the RRC's Voluntary Cleanup Program.<br><br>Coordinate the approach to site assessment, cleanup and redevelopment through the RRC's Voluntary Cleanup Program. | No set amount, sites are chosen on a case by case review of application. | The site does not need to be owned by applicant and can have a developer involved. | Ongoing | SR-VCP-BRP@rrc.texas.gov<br>(512) 463-6765 |

## Funding Sources for Events/Programming

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | 2025 Funding Opportunities | St. David's Foundation | Focus on removing barriers to better living today and changing systems and conditions to improve outcomes for a healthier community tomorrow. | Local governments and nonprofits in the Central Texas region. | |
| State | Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) | To engage the target under-represented audiences in outdoor recreation, environmental education and conservation. | Tax-exempt organizations such as local government, Universities, school districts and non-profit organizations. | |
| Foundation / Private | Our Town | National Endowment for the Arts | Supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes. | Partnerships required between governmental, nonprofit, and private sector leadership. These partnerships must involve two primary partners, as defined by these guidelines: Nonprofit organization; Local government entity; and one of these two primary partners must be a cultural (arts or design) organization. | |
| Foundation / Private | Power Up Grant | Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) | The program's mission is to accumulate funds and reinvest the money in our communities by providing bill-pay assistance to qualified GVEC members and community grants to local nonprofit groups and civic organizations for community development and improvement projects. | Nonprofit groups and civic organizations located in GVEC's service areas. | |

| | Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Time-sensitive and topic-specific needs.<br><br>Projects should align with the Foundation's Strategic Plan 2024-2030: https://stdavidsfoundation.org/how-we-work/strategic-plan/ | Small one-time" grants. | New funding mechanism launching in the summer of 2025. | Ongoing basis, beginning summer 2025. | questions@ stdavidsfoundation. org |
| | Programming for outdoor recreation, environmental education, and / or conservation. Eligible expenses include: Personnel, Food and Travel, Training, Participant liability insurance, Fees (Park, Program, and Lodging fees), Outdoor service project expenses, Supplies and equipment.<br><br>Funds cannot be used for facility construction projects, gazebos, ponds, benches, trail building, etc. The CO-OP grant is to be used to fund programs, not construction projects. | Grants range from $5,000 - $100,000; no match required. | Target demographics include female, ethnic minority, low income, and individuals with a disability. Projects can serve other audiences, however, proposals who serve the target audience will be more competitive in the scoring evaluation process. | Annually, November 1. | Rena Beyer rena.beyer@tpwd. texas.gov (737) 701-4769 |
| | Projects may include activities such as:<br>• Arts Engagement: Artist residency, Arts festivals, Community co-creation of art, Performances, Public art;<br>• Cultural Planning: Creating a cultural plan, or integrating plans and policies around arts and culture as part of a city master planning process, Cultural district planning, Creative asset mapping, Public art planning;<br>• Design: Artist/designer-facilitated community planning, Design of artist space, Design of cultural facilities i.e. design processes to support the creation of a dedicated building or space for creating and/or showcasing arts and culture, Public space design i.e. The process of designing elements of public infrastructure, or spaces where people congregate (e.g., parks, plazas, landscapes, neighborhoods, districts, infrastructure, and artist-produced elements of streetscapes).<br>• Artist and Creative Industry Support: Creative business development, Professional artist development. | Grants range from $25,000 - $150,000 with 50% non-federal match required. | Project may be subject to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). | Annual program, typically in August. | OT@arts.gov |
| | Approximately 80% of Power Up funds are distributed through community grants to nonprofit groups and civic organizations involved in community development and improvement projects in the GVEC service area with a focus on education, youth programs, health care, community development, civic and community outreach, and public safety/service | No maximum grant amount or matching requirements listed | Must be located within GVEC service area. The people, organizations and locations of the community projects do not have to be served by GVEC to be eligible, but the projects must lie within the outer geographical boundary lines of the GVEC service area or have overlapping service areas. | There are two funding cycles a year; application deadlines are February 15 for the April distribution and August 15 for the October distribution. | Seguin, TX office: (830)-379-2114 |

## Funding Sources for Historical Sites

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | Community Challenge | AARP | To improve housing, transportation, public space, technology ("smart cities"), civic engagement and more. | 501(C)(3), 501(C)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits, government entities, other types of organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. | |
| Federal | Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit | Texas by the National Park Service (NPS) in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) | To encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation and re-use of historic buildings. | Private owners of income producing and historic buildings. | |
| Foundation / Private | Our Town | National Endowment for the Arts | Supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes. | Partnerships required between governmental, nonprofit, and private sector leadership. These partnerships must involve two primary partners, as defined by these guidelines: Nonprofit organization; Local government entity; and one of these two primary partners must be a cultural (arts or design) organization. | |

| | Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Prioritize projects that aim to achieve the following outcomes:<br>• Increasing civic engagement with innovative and tangible projects that bring residents and local leaders together to address challenges and facilitate a greater sense of community inclusion and diversity.<br>• Create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.<br>• Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements.<br>• Support the availability of a range of housing that increases accessible and affordable housing options.<br>• Demonstrate the tangible value of "Smart Cities" with programs that engage residents in accessing, understanding and using data, and participating in decision-making to increase the quality of life for all.<br>• Other community improvements: In addition to the five areas of focus, AARP wants to hear about local needs and new, innovative ideas for addressing them. | Grants can range from several hundred dollars for smaller, short-term activities to several thousand or tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. | Planning activities not eligible. | Annually, typically in March. | Livable@AARP.org. |
| | Rehabilitation of historic, income-producing buildings that are listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. | 20 percent income tax credit | May be used in conjunction with the state tax credit program.<br><br>An application for tax credits must be submitted before the project is completed, although work may begin prior to the application or approval. Ideally, the application should be submitted during the planning stages of the work so the owner can receive the necessary guidance to ensure that the project meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and therefore may qualify for the credits. | Ongoing, prior to completion of the project. | Alyssa Gerszewski Judy.George-Garza@thc.texas.gov 512.475-3122. |
| | Projects may include activities such as:<br>• Arts Engagement: Artist residency, Arts festivals, Community co-creation of art, Performances, Public art;<br>• Cultural Planning: Creating a cultural plan, or integrating plans and policies around arts and culture as part of a city master planning process, Cultural district planning, Creative asset mapping, Public art planning;<br>• Design: Artist/designer-facilitated community planning, Design of artist space, Design of cultural facilities i.e. design processes to support the creation of a dedicated building or space for creating and/or showcasing arts and culture, Public space design i.e. The process of designing elements of public infrastructure, or spaces where people congregate (e.g., parks, plazas, landscapes, neighborhoods, districts, infrastructure, and artist-produced elements of streetscapes).<br>• Artist and Creative Industry Support: Creative business development, Professional artist development. | Grants range from $25,000 - $150,000 with 50% non-federal match required. | Project may be subject to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). | Annual program, typically in August. | OT@arts.gov |

## (Continued) Funding Sources for Historical Sites

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| State | Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit | Texas Historical Commission | To encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation and re-use of historic buildings. | Private owners of income producing or used by official non-profit organizations; in both cases, must be historic buildings. | |
| State | Texas Main Street Program | Texas Historical Commission | To provide technical expertise, resources and support for Texas communities in the preservation and revitalization of historic downtowns and commercial neighborhood districts in accord with the National Main Street Four Point Approach® of organization, economic vitality, design and promotion. | Main Street Cities | |
| State | Texas Preservation Trust Fund | Texas Historical Commission | To save and protect Texas' threatened historic resources. | Any public or private entity that is the owner, manager, lessee, maintainer, potential purchaser of an eligible property: sites that have, or be determined eligible for, one of the following historic designations to qualify for funding: National Register of Historic Places, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, State Antiquities Landmark, or Held-In-Trust Collection. | |
| | Transportation Alternatives Program | Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) (funding from Federal Highway Administration) | To plan for and construct a variety of alternative transportation projects that improve safety and mobility for non-motorized travelers and mitigate congestion by providing safe alternatives to motor vehicle transport. | State, local and tribal governments; regional transportation authorities; transit agencies; other agencies with transportation oversight. | |

| | Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rehabilitation of historic, income-producing or non-profit use buildings. | 25 percent tax credit<br><br>This credit can be sold, and may be used against Texas Business Franchise Tax OR Texas Insurance Premium Tax. | May be used in conjunction with the federal tax credit program.<br><br>An application for tax credits must be submitted before the project is completed, although work may begin prior to the application or approval. Ideally, the application should be submitted during the planning stages of the work so the owner can receive the necessary guidance to ensure that the project meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and therefore may qualify for the credits. | Ongoing, prior to completion of the project. | Alyssa Gerszewski Judy.George-Garza@thc.texas.gov 512.475-3122 |
| | A program's work should be structured around the Four Points under the Main Street Approach:<br>• Organization: Partnerships are essential for successful preservation-based downtown revitalization. Through a solid Main Street structure, many groups that share an interest in the health of downtown come together to work toward an agreed-upon vision for downtown and thus, for the community.<br>• Promotion: This aspect of the Approach is utilized to market a unified, quality image of the business district as the center of activities, goods and services.<br>• Design: Capitalizing on the downtown's unique physical assets and heritage, design activities such as building rehabilitations, utilization of preservation-based tools and ordinances and effective planning practices help to create an active district and maintain its authenticity.<br>• Economic Vitality: In this area, a targeted program is developed to identify new market opportunities for the commercial district, find new uses for historic commercial buildings, and stimulate investment in property. | Provides free education and networking services to communities interested in the revitalization of historic commercial districts. | Must first register with the First Street Initiative.<br><br>Nominal fee charged by the Texas Main Street Program and requires a full time manager. | Annually, typically in the fall. | Amy Hammons amy.hammons@thc.texas.gov (512) 463-5758 |
| | Acquisition, survey, restoration, preservation, planning, and heritage education activities leading to the preservation of historic architectural and archeological properties and associated collections of the State of Texas. | Grants range from $10,000 - $50,000 and require a 50% match. | Two-step application process.<br><br>Applications are scored in four areas: endangerment, significance, project viability, and special considerations. | Annually, typically in February. | tptfgrant@thc.texas.gov |
| | Pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements including historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity. | Up to 80% of project costs, no maximum but limited by total appropriations. | Oversight provided by TxDOT. | Annually, typically in December. | funding@campotexas.org |

## Funding Sources for Arts/Culture

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2025 Funding Opportunities | St. David's Foundation | Focus on removing barriers to better living today and changing systems and conditions to improve outcomes for a healthier community tomorrow. | Local governments and nonprofits in the Central Texas region. | |
| Foundation / Private | Asphalt Art Initiative | Bloomberg Philanthropies | Using art to reimagine roadways and vertical infrastructure, improving street safety, revitalizing public spaces, and bringing communities together. | US, Canada and Mexico cities with populations >50,000. | |
| Foundation / Private | Community Challenge | AARP | To improve housing, transportation, public space, technology ("smart cities"), civic engagement and more. | 501(C)(3), 501(C)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits, government entities, other types of organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. | |

| Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Time-sensitive and topic-specific needs.<br><br>Projects should align with the Foundation's Strategic Plan 2024-2030: https://stdavidsfoundation.org/how-we-work/strategic-plan/ | "Small one-time" grants. | New funding mechanism launching in the summer of 2025. | Ongoing basis, beginning summer 2025. | questions@ stdavidsfoundation. org |
| Ambitious arts-driven street designs with the goal of catalytic improvements to a key location in the city. Improving road safety, especially for pedestrians and cyclists, must be a component of all proposals.<br><br>Each application must have a site (publicly owned and open) identified for the proposed asphalt art project (or sites, if multiple are feasible within the budget). Eligible sites should be on or adjacent to active roadways, have the potential for active pedestrian usage, and may include crosswalks, intersections, vehicle/parking lanes, pedestrian plazas, sidewalks, or highway underpasses. | $100,000 grant, and on-call technical assistance. | Examples:<br>• Culver City, CA – 36 painted curb extensions, new crosswalks, protected bike lanes, bus lanes and new pedestrians spaces along a 1.3 mile corridor.<br>• Mexico City, Mexico – Large new painted pedestrian plazas around the grand Zocalo central square with seating, shade and safer connections to surrounding streets.<br>• New York, NY – Large new painted pedestrian plazas, public space activations, and traffic safety improvements in world-famous Times Square.<br>• Reno, NV – Painting and activation of a block-long concrete cap over a railway bed to create a downtown hub for public events.<br>• Toronto, Canada – Painting, activation, and creation of new public spaces along the Bentway under a downtown elevated freeway.<br>• Mazatlán, Mexico – New crosswalks, curb extensions, and a neighborhood plaza for community events and local businesses. | Annually, typically in January | arts@bloomberg.org |
| Prioritize projects that aim to achieve the following outcomes:<br>• Increasing civic engagement with innovative and tangible projects that bring residents and local leaders together to address challenges and facilitate a greater sense of community inclusion and diversity.<br>• Create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.<br>• Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements.<br>• Support the availability of a range of housing that increases accessible and affordable housing options.<br>• Demonstrate the tangible value of "Smart Cities" with programs that engage residents in accessing, understanding and using data, and participating in decision-making to increase the quality of life for all.<br>• Other community improvements: In addition to the five areas of focus, AARP wants to hear about local needs and new, innovative ideas for addressing them. " | Grants can range from several hundred dollars for smaller, short-term activities to several thousand or tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. | Planning activities not eligible. | Annually, typically in March. | Livable@AARP.org. |

## (Continued) Funding Sources for Arts/Culture

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | Forever Austin Fund | Austin Community Foundation | To invest in Central Texas' most pressing needs and greatest opportunities. | 501(c)(3) nonprofits, religious organizations, and governmental entities that are serving the Central Texas region (counties of Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, or Williamson) | |
| State | Governor's Community Achievement Awards | Keep Texas Beautiful in partnership with Texas Department of Transportation | To award Texas communities for their outstanding overall efforts to keep their communities beautiful. | All Texas communities | |
| Foundation / Private | Our Town | National Endowment for the Arts | Supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes. | Partnerships required between governmental, nonprofit, and private sector leadership. These partnerships must involve two primary partners, as defined by these guidelines: Nonprofit organization; Local government entity; and one of these two primary partners must be a cultural (arts or design) organization. | |
| Foundation / Private | Power Up Grant | Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) | The program's mission is to accumulate funds and reinvest the money in our communities by providing bill-pay assistance to qualified GVEC members and community grants to local nonprofit groups and civic organizations for community development and improvement projects. | Nonprofit groups and civic organizations located in GVEC's service areas. | |
| State | Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) | Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) | Investing in a creative Texas. | Any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of Texas undertaking a public construction project estimated to cost more than $250k | |

| | Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | In 2025, the grants will focus on the following areas:<br>• Economic Mobility: Housing Stability, Career Pathways & Resources, Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Addressing Systemic Barriers<br>• Health and Humanities: Health & Wellness, Arts & Culture<br>• Nurturing Our Region: Environmental Sustainability, Green Spaces (e.g. parks, trails, preserves), Animal Welfare. | Grants between $5,000 – $50,000. | | April 25, 2025 (annual program) | (512) 472-4483 |
| | The funds are to be used for landscaping projects along local rights-of-way. A community's environmental program is judged on achievements in seven areas: community leadership and coordination, public awareness, education, beautification and community improvement, litter prevention and cleanup, solid waste management, litter law and illegal dumping enforcement. | Ten winning communities will split $2 million with the amount awarded based on population size. Ranges from category 1 (<3,000 population) receiving $90k through category 10 (>180,000 population) receiving $310K. | $25 application fee.<br><br>After being awarded an applicant is not eligible for four years. | Annually, typically January - February | Christine Canul (512) 961-5260 programs@ktb.org |
| | Projects may include activities such as:<br>Arts Engagement: Artist residency, Arts festivals, Community co-creation of art, Performances, Public art;<br>Cultural Planning: Creating a cultural plan, or integrating plans and policies around arts and culture as part of a city master planning process, Cultural district planning, Creative asset mapping, Public art planning;<br>Design: Artist/designer-facilitated community planning, Design of artist space, Design of cultural facilities i.e. design processes to support the creation of a dedicated building or space for creating and/or showcasing arts and culture, Public space design i.e. The process of designing elements of public infrastructure, or spaces where people congregate (e.g., parks, plazas, landscapes, neighborhoods, districts, infrastructure, and artist-produced elements of streetscapes).<br>Artist and Creative Industry Support: Creative business development, Professional artist development. | Grants range from $25,000 - $150,000 with 50% non-federal match required. | Project may be subject to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). | Annual program, typically in August. | OT@arts.gov |
| | Approximately 80% of Power Up funds are distributed through community grants to nonprofit groups and civic organizations involved in community development and improvement projects in the GVEC service area with a focus on education, youth programs, health care, community development, civic and community outreach, and public safety/service | No maximum grant amount or matching requirements listed | Must be located within GVEC service area. The people, organizations and locations of the community projects do not have to be served by GVEC to be eligible, but the projects must lie within the outer geographical boundary lines of the GVEC service area or have overlapping service areas. | There are two funding cycles a year; application deadlines are February 15 for the April distribution and August 15 for the October distribution. | Seguin, TX office: (830)-379-2114 |
| | Staff are available to advise on conducting a public art project ranging from scoping the project, developing the RFP, identifying committee members, developing a review process, intellectual property rights, conservation, etc. | No maximum grant amount or matching requirements listed | A percent not to exceed one percent of the cost of the construction project shall be used for fine arts projects. | No cycles listed. | Laura Wiegand (512)-936-6565 laura@arts.texas.gov |

## Funding Sources for Parks

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | 2025 Funding Opportunities | St. David's Foundation | Focus on removing barriers to better living today and changing systems and conditions to improve outcomes for a healthier community tomorrow. | Focus on removing barriers to better living today and changing systems and conditions to improve outcomes for a healthier community tomorrow. | |
| Foundation / Private | Asphalt Art Initiative | Bloomberg Philanthropies | Using art to reimagine roadways and vertical infrastructure, improving street safety, revitalizing public spaces, and bringing communities together. | Using art to reimagine roadways and vertical infrastructure, improving street safety, revitalizing public spaces, and bringing communities together. | |
| Foundation / Private | Blue Impact Grants (formerly Healthy Kids, Healthy Families®) | Blue Cross Blue Shield of TX | To support the health and well-being of the children and families across the states in which we operate. | To support the health and well-being of the children and families across the states in which we operate. | |
| State | Boating Access Grant | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) | To provide public access to public waters for recreational boating. | To provide public access to public waters for recreational boating. | |

| | Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Time-sensitive and topic-specific needs.<br><br>Projects should align with the Foundation's Strategic Plan 2024-2030: https://stdavidsfoundation.org/how-we-work/strategic-plan/ | "Small one-time" grants. | New funding mechanism launching in the summer of 2025. | Ongoing basis, beginning summer 2025. | questions@ stdavidsfoundation.org |
| | Ambitious arts-driven street designs with the goal of catalytic improvements to a key location in the city. Improving road safety, especially for pedestrians and cyclists, must be a component of all proposals.<br><br>Each application must have a site (publicly owned and open) identified for the proposed asphalt art project (or sites, if multiple are feasible within the budget). Eligible sites should be on or adjacent to active roadways, have the potential for active pedestrian usage, and may include crosswalks, intersections, vehicle/parking lanes, pedestrian plazas, sidewalks, or highway underpasses. | $100,000 grant, and on-call technical assistance. | Examples:<br>• Culver City, CA – 36 painted curb extensions, new crosswalks, protected bike lanes, bus lanes and new pedestrians spaces along a 1.3 mile corridor.<br>• Mexico City, Mexico – Large new painted pedestrian plazas around the grand Zocalo central square with seating, shade and safer connections to surrounding streets.<br>• New York, NY – Large new painted pedestrian plazas, public space activations, and traffic safety improvements in world-famous Times Square.<br>• Reno, NV – Painting and activation of a block-long concrete cap over a railway bed to create a downtown hub for public events.<br>• Toronto, Canada – Painting, activation, and creation of new public spaces along the Bentway under a downtown elevated freeway.<br>• Mazatlán, Mexico – New crosswalks, curb extensions, and a neighborhood plaza for community events and local businesses. | Annually, typically in January | arts@bloomberg.org |
| | The areas of focus are<br>• Economic Opportunity and Stability: Addressing issues such as poverty, removing barriers to employment, providing good jobs, and upskilling.<br>• Nutrition: Supporting efforts to decrease hunger and increase access to nutritional food.<br>• Neighborhood and Built Environment: Focusing on affordable healthy housing, access to transportation, and access to physical activity.<br>• Locally Defined Health Solutions: Addressing hyperlocal health and human service needs.<br>• Optimal Health Outcomes: Helping close gaps in care, specifically around six priority areas: immunizations, diabetes care, cardiovascular care, behavioral health, early detection cancer screening, and maternal & infant health. | Between $25,000 - $75,000 | | Letters of Intent were due February 10, 2025 and full applications (if invited) are due March 28, 2025 (annual program). | healthykidshealthyfamilies @hcsc.net |
| | Phase I – Planning Grant:<br>• Plans and specifications<br>• Environmental /cultural permits<br>• Texas Historical Commission permit<br>• USACE Permit<br>• Texas Department of Licensing Permit<br>• Other professional fees required to begin construction of eligible costs<br><br>Phase II – Construction Grant:<br>• Breakwaters<br>• Launching facilities such as ramps and boat lifts<br>• Loading docks<br>• Fish cleaning stations<br>• Restrooms | Will fund 75% of project costs, up to $250,000. | New applicants must complete a Phase I Planning grant before applying for a Phase II Construction grant. | Annually, February 1. | Julie Dillard<br>julie.dillard@tpwd.texas.gov<br>(512) 389-8773 |

## Funding Sources for Parks

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | Community Challenge | AARP | To improve housing, transportation, public space, technology ("smart cities"), civic engagement and more. | To improve housing, transportation, public space, technology ("smart cities"), civic engagement and more. | |
| Foundation / Private | Community Grants | People for Bikes | To build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. | To build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. | |
| Foundation / Private | Forever Austin Fund | Austin Community Foundation | To invest in Central Texas' most pressing needs and greatest opportunities. | To invest in Central Texas' most pressing needs and greatest opportunities. | |
| Foundation / Private | Globe Life Texas Rangers Baseball and Softball Grant Program | Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation | To support the growth of the sport and making sure that every child is afforded the opportunity to experience joy and community through baseball and softball. | To support the growth of the sport and making sure that every child is afforded the opportunity to experience joy and community through baseball and softball. | |
| State | Governor's Community Achievement Awards | Keep Texas Beautiful in partnership with Texas Department of Transportation | To award Texas communities for their outstanding overall efforts to keep their communities beautiful. | To award Texas communities for their outstanding overall efforts to keep their communities beautiful. | |
| State | Habitat and Angler Access Program | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) | To enhance freshwater fish habitats and expand bank and shoreline-based angler access on public water bodies throughout the state. | State and local governmental entities, tribal governments, river authorities, and non-profit [e.g., 501(c)(3) organizations] non-governmental organizations. | |

| Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Prioritize projects that aim to achieve the following outcomes:<br>• Increasing civic engagement with innovative and tangible projects that bring residents and local leaders together to address challenges and facilitate a greater sense of community inclusion and diversity.<br>• Create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.<br>• Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements.<br>• Support the availability of a range of housing that increases accessible and affordable housing options.<br>• Demonstrate the tangible value of "Smart Cities" with programs that engage residents in accessing, understanding and using data, and participating in decision-making to increase the quality of life for all.<br>• Other community improvements: In addition to the five areas of focus, AARP wants to hear about local needs and new, innovative ideas for addressing them. | Grants can range from several hundred dollars for smaller, short-term activities to several thousand or tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. | Planning activities not eligible. | Annually, typically in March. | Livable@AARP.org. |
| Development of permanent bike infrastructure, including trails, shared-use paths, bike parks, pump tracks, bicycle playgrounds, neighborhood greenways/bike boulevards, and protected bike lanes. | Grant, 50% up to $10,000 | Two-step application process:<br>1, Letter of Interest<br>2. Full Application: PFB will request a full project application from a short list of qualified applicants. | 2025 funding round TBD, anticipate opening in the early fall. | infrastructure@ peopleforbikes.org |
| "In 2025, the grants will focus on the following areas:<br>• Economic Mobility: Housing Stability, Career Pathways & Resources, Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Addressing Systemic Barriers<br>• Health and Humanities: Health & Wellness, Arts & Culture<br>• Nurturing Our Region: Environmental Sustainability, Green Spaces (e.g. parks, trails, preserves), Animal Welfare." | Grants between $5,000 – $50,000. | | April 25, 2025 (annual program) | (512) 472-4483 |
| Cannot be used to supplement team travel expenses and/or tournament fees. Project should advance the Foundation's mission of affording youth 18 and younger growth in baseball or softball. The Foundation has funded field construction, field renovation, equipment, and league development. | No maximum grant amount or matching requirements listed | If awarded a grant, applicant agrees to participate in public relations activities associated with receipt of grant and will display Rangers Foundation signage acknowledging grant. | June 27, 2025, 6 PM CST (annual program) | foundation@ texasrangers.com (817) 533-1513 |
| The funds are to be used for landscaping projects along local rights-of-way. A community's environmental program is judged on achievements in seven areas: community leadership and coordination, public awareness, education, beautification and community improvement, litter prevention and cleanup, solid waste management, litter law and illegal dumping enforcement. | Ten winning communities will split $2 million with the amount awarded based on population size. Ranges from category 1 (<3,000 population) receiving $90k through category 10 (>180,000 population) receiving $310K. | $25 application fee.<br><br>After being awarded an applicant is not eligible for four years. | Annually, typically January - February | Christine Canul (512) 961-5260 programs@ktb.org |
| Projects that include on-the-ground enhancement or restoration of public stream, river, or reservoir habitats or enhancement of bank and shoreline-based angling access. | Up to $50,000; no match is required but would make the application more competitive. | Projects must be completed no later than August 31, 2025.<br><br>Projects must comply with local, state, and federal environmental and cultural resources regulations. | March 31, 2025 (annually program). | Michael Homer Jr. (325) 692-0921 FishGrants@tpwd. texas.gov |

## Funding Sources for Parks

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| State | Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) | To assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. | Eligible applicants includes 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. For this program, community must be 500,000 or less in population. | |
| State | Local Parks: Non-Urban Indoor Recreation | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department | To assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. | Eligible applicants includes 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. For this program, community must be 500,000 or less in population. | |
| Federal | National Parks Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) | National Parks Service (NPS) | The main focus areas of this program are building healthy communities, conservation, engaging youth in outdoor recreation, and facilitating support between NPS and communities to achieve shared goals. | State and local governments, tribes, nonprofits, or citizen organizations. | |
| Federal | National Recreational Trails Fund | Federal Highway Administration, administered by Texas Parks & Wildlife | To fund motorized and non-motorized trail projects. | Local Governments | |
| State | National Recreational Trails Fund | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) (funding from Federal Highway Administration) | To fund motorized and non-motorized trail projects. | Local Governments | |

| Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities. Points may be received through the applicable "Project Priority Scoring System" for projects which meet priorities identified in Department-accepted, locally-endorsed parks, recreation, and open space master plans. A jurisdiction wide master plan is NOT required to participate in the grant program, nor does Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's acceptance of a plan guarantee that points will be awarded for any project. There are no points in the Small Community scoring criteria for having a master plan. Master Plans must be submitted to TPWD at least 60 days prior to the grant deadline in which you wish to participate in order to be considered for points. | Will fund 50% of project costs, up to $750,000. | All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.<br><br>All applicants must hold at least one public hearing prior to submission. | Annually, August 1. | Dan Reece dan.reece@tpwd.texas.gov (512) 389-4656 |
| Acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities. Points may be received through the applicable "Project Priority Scoring System" for projects which meet priorities identified in Department-accepted, locally-endorsed parks, recreation, and open space master plans. A jurisdiction wide master plan is NOT required to participate in the grant program, nor does Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's acceptance of a plan guarantee that points will be awarded for any project. Master Plans must be submitted to TPWD at least 60 days prior to the grant deadline in which you wish to participate in order to be considered for points. | Will fund 50% of project costs, up to $1M. | All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.<br><br>All applicants must hold at least one public hearing prior to submission. | TBD | Dan Reece dan.reece@tpwd.texas.gov (512) 389-4656 |
| This program provides technical assistance to community led conservation and outdoor recreation projects throughout the country. The types of assistance NPS provides includes: community outreach strategies, developing concept plans for trails and parks, creating project management and action plans, engaging collaborative partners and stakeholders, and other consulting services that can be tailored towards the needs of the project. | This is a nonmonetary grant program. NPS assists communities by providing a broad range of services and support. They are also helpful in bringing funding partners to the table. | NPS recommends applicants consult with a staff member at least 30 days prior to the application deadline. | This program is offered on an annual basis. The application deadline is June 30. NPS will notify applicants of decisions before Nov. 1. | David Thomson, mwr_rtca@nps.gov |
| 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. | 80% of project costs, up to $200,000 for non-motorized trail grants and a maximum award of $400,000 for motorized (off-highway vehicle) trail grants. | Thirty percent of the total NRTF grants must be spent on motorized recreational trails, while another 30 percent must be spent on nonmotorized trail projects. The remaining 40 percent is discretionary. | Annual solicitation, February 1 deadline. | Trey Cooksey, (512) 389-8743 trey.cooksey@tpwd.texas.gov |
| 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. | 80% of project costs, up to $300,000 for non-motorized trail grants and a maximum award of $500,000 for motorized (off-highway vehicle) trail grants. | Thirty percent of the total NRTF grants must be spent on motorized recreational trails, while another 30 percent must be spent on nonmotorized trail projects. The remaining 40 percent is discretionary. | Annually, February 1. | Chris Sheffield chris.sheffield@tpwd.texas.gov (512) 389-8749 |

## Funding Sources for Parks

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | Our Town | National Endowment for the Arts | Supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes. | Partnerships required between governmental, nonprofit, and private sector leadership. These partnerships must involve two primary partners, as defined by these guidelines: Nonprofit organization; Local government entity; and one of these two primary partners must be a cultural (arts or design) organization. | |
| Foundation / Private | Power Up Grant | Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) | The program's mission is to accumulate funds and reinvest the money in our communities by providing bill-pay assistance to qualified GVEC members and community grants to local nonprofit groups and civic organizations for community development and improvement projects. | Nonprofit groups and civic organizations located in GVEC's service areas. | |
| Foundation / Private | Skatepark Construction Grants | The Skatepark Project | To help underserved communities create safe and inclusive public skateparks for youth. | Private non-profit or a state or local agency, including public school systems. | |

| | Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Projects may include activities such as:<br>• Arts Engagement: Artist residency, Arts festivals, Community co-creation of art, Performances, Public art;<br>• Cultural Planning: Creating a cultural plan, or integrating plans and policies around arts and culture as part of a city master planning process, Cultural district planning, Creative asset mapping, Public art planning;<br>• Design: Artist/designer-facilitated community planning, Design of artist space, Design of cultural facilities i.e. design processes to support the creation of a dedicated building or space for creating and/or showcasing arts and culture, Public space design i.e. The process of designing elements of public infrastructure, or spaces where people congregate (e.g., parks, plazas, landscapes, neighborhoods, districts, infrastructure, and artist-produced elements of streetscapes).<br>• Artist and Creative Industry Support: Creative business development, Professional artist development. | Grants range from $25,000 - $150,000 with 50% non-federal match required. | Project may be subject to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). | Annual program, typically in August. | OT@arts.gov |
| | Approximately 80% of Power Up funds are distributed through community grants to nonprofit groups and civic organizations involved in community development and improvement projects in the GVEC service area with a focus on education, youth programs, health care, community development, civic and community outreach, and public safety/service. | No maximum grant amount or matching requirements listed | Must be located within GVEC service area. The people, organizations and locations of the community projects do not have to be served by GVEC to be eligible, but the projects must lie within the outer geographical boundary lines of the GVEC service area or have overlapping service areas. | There are two funding cycles a year; application deadlines are February 15 for the April distribution and August 15 for the October distribution. | "Seguin, TX office: (830)-379-2114" |
| | New Skatepark Construction<br>• New Skate Spot Construction<br>• Skateable Art Sculptures<br>• Active City Space Conversion (legalizing skateboarding in shared spaces)<br>• Accessibility Improvements/Repairs | Grants up to $25,000 | Can also provide technical assistance as requested.<br><br>"Underserved" can be defined as communities marginalized by poverty, geography, or racial, gender and other forms of social inequality or discrimination. | Letters of Inquiry are accepted on a rolling basis. | contact@skatepark. org |

## Funding Sources for Trails/Sidewalks

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | Eligible Use of Funds | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foundation / Private | 2025 Funding Opportunities | St. David's Foundation | Focus on removing barriers to better living today and changing systems and conditions to improve outcomes for a healthier community tomorrow. | Local governments and nonprofits in the Central Texas region. | Time-sensitive and topic-specific needs.<br><br>Projects should align with the Foundation's Strategic Plan 2024-2030: https://stdavidsfoundation.org/how-we-work/strategic-plan/ | |
| Foundation / Private | Asphalt Art Initiative | Bloomberg Philanthropies | Using art to reimagine roadways and vertical infrastructure, improving street safety, revitalizing public spaces, and bringing communities together. | US, Canada and Mexico cities with populations >50,000. | Ambitious arts-driven street designs with the goal of catalytic improvements to a key location in the city. Improving road safety, especially for pedestrians and cyclists, must be a component of all proposals.<br><br>Each application must have a site (publicly owned and open) identified for the proposed asphalt art project (or sites, if multiple are feasible within the budget). Eligible sites should be on or adjacent to active roadways, have the potential for active pedestrian usage, and may include crosswalks, intersections, vehicle/parking lanes, pedestrian plazas, sidewalks, or highway underpasses. | |
| Foundation / Private | Blue Impact Grants (formerly Healthy Kids, Healthy Families®) | Blue Cross Blue Shield of TX | To support the health and well-being of the children and families across the states in which we operate. | Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)3 IRS status or government, civic and cultural organizations in Texas. | The areas of focus are:<br>• Economic Opportunity and Stability: Addressing issues such as poverty, removing barriers to employment, providing good jobs, and upskilling.<br>• Nutrition: Supporting efforts to decrease hunger and increase access to nutritional food.<br>• Neighborhood and Built Environment: Focusing on affordable healthy housing, access to transportation, and access to physical activity.<br>• Locally Defined Health Solutions: Addressing hyperlocal health and human service needs.<br>• Optimal Health Outcomes: Helping close gaps in care, specifically around six priority areas: immunizations, diabetes care, cardiovascular care, behavioral health, early detection cancer screening, and maternal & infant health. | |
| Foundation / Private | Community Challenge | AARP | To improve housing, transportation, public space, technology ("smart cities"), civic engagement and more. | 501(C)(3), 501(C)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits, government entities, other types of organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. | Prioritize projects that aim to achieve the following outcomes:<br>• Increasing civic engagement with innovative and tangible projects that bring residents and local leaders together to address challenges and facilitate a greater sense of community inclusion and diversity.<br>• Create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.<br>• Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements.<br>• Support the availability of a range of housing that increases accessible and affordable housing options.<br>• Demonstrate the tangible value of "Smart Cities" with programs that engage residents in accessing, understanding and using data, and participating in decision-making to increase the quality of life for all.<br>• Other community improvements: In addition to the five areas of focus, AARP wants to hear about local needs and new, innovative ideas for addressing them. | |

| Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|
| "Small one-time" grants. | New funding mechanism launching in the summer of 2025. | Ongoing basis, beginning summer 2025. | questions@ stdavidsfoundation.org |
| $100,000 grant, and on-call technical assistance. | Examples:<br>• Culver City, CA – 36 painted curb extensions, new crosswalks, protected bike lanes, bus lanes and new pedestrians spaces along a 1.3 mile corridor.<br>• Mexico City, Mexico – Large new painted pedestrian plazas around the grand Zocalo central square with seating, shade and safer connections to surrounding streets.<br>• New York, NY – Large new painted pedestrian plazas, public space activations, and traffic safety improvements in world-famous Times Square.<br>• Reno, NV – Painting and activation of a block-long concrete cap over a railway bed to create a downtown hub for public events.<br>• Toronto, Canada – Painting, activation, and creation of new public spaces along the Bentway under a downtown elevated freeway.<br>• Mazatlán, Mexico – New crosswalks, curb extensions, and a neighborhood plaza for community events and local businesses. | Annually, typically in January | arts@bloomberg.org |
| Between $25,000 - $75,000 | | Letters of Intent were due February 10, 2025 and full applications (if invited) are due March 28, 2025 (annual program). | healthykidshealthyfamilies @hcsc.net |
| Grants can range from several hundred dollars for smaller, short-term activities to several thousand or tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. | Planning activities not eligible. | Annually, typically in March. | Livable@AARP.org. |

## (Continued) Funding Sources for Trails/Sidewalks

| Funding Type | Program | Agency | Purpose / Goals | Eligible Applicants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Federal | Community Development Block Grant | City of Kyle (funding from Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)) | The primary goal of this program is to develop viable communities by providing affordable housing or expanding economic opportunities for communities of low- to moderate-income. | | |
| Foundation / Private | Community Grants | People for Bikes | To build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. | Non-profit organizations; city or county agencies or departments; state or federal agencies working locally; and small businesses, such as bicycle retailers and community-oriented businesses serving disadvantaged communities. | |
| Foundation / Private | Forever Austin Fund | Austin Community Foundation | To invest in Central Texas' most pressing needs and greatest opportunities. | 501(c)(3) nonprofits, religious organizations, and governmental entities that are serving the Central Texas region (counties of Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, or Williamson) | |
| Foundation / Private | Industry Community Grants | People for Bikes | To build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. | Non-profit organizations, city or county agencies or departments, state or federal agencies working locally, and small businesses, such as bicycle retailers and community-oriented businesses serving disadvantaged communities. | |
| State | Local Parks Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) | To assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. | Eligible applicants includes 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. For this program, community must be 500,000 or less in population. | |

| Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| As an Entitlement City, Kyle must submit to HUD a 5-Year Consolidate Plan and Annual Action Plans that outline potential projects that can be funded with CDBG money to improve the community. In FY2025, the City identified improving sidewalks, especially in areas with low to moderate income, as a focus area. | The City's total allocation for FY2025 was $266,144. | City staff are currently identifying sections of sidewalk that are either missing or in need of repair or replacement in eligible neighborhoods. | NA | Kaela Sharp CDBG@ cityofkyle.com |
| Development of permanent bike infrastructure, including trails, shared-use paths, bike parks, pump tracks, bicycle playgrounds, neighborhood greenways/bike boulevards, and protected bike lanes. | Grant, 50% up to $10,000 | Two-step application process:<br>1, Letter of Interest<br>2. Full Application: PFB will request a full project application from a short list of qualified applicants. | 2025 funding round TBD, anticipate opening in the early fall. | infrastructure@ peopleforbikes.org |
| In 2025, the grants will focus on the following areas:<br>• Economic Mobility: Housing Stability, Career Pathways & Resources, Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Addressing Systemic Barriers<br>• Health and Humanities: Health & Wellness, Arts & Culture<br>• Nurturing Our Region: Environmental Sustainability, Green Spaces (e.g. parks, trails, preserves), Animal Welfare. | Grants between $5,000 – $50,000. | | April 25, 2025 (annual program) | (512) 472-4483 |
| Costs related to the development of permanent bike infrastructure, including trails, shared-use paths, bike parks, pump tracks, bicycle playgrounds, neighborhood greenways/bike boulevards, and protected bike lanes. | Grant, 50% up to $10,000 | Two-step application process:<br>1. Letter of Interest<br>2. Full Application: PFB will request a full project application from a short list of qualified applicants. | Annually, typically in September. | infrastructure@ peopleforbikes.org. |
| Acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities. Points may be received through the applicable "Project Priority Scoring System" for projects which meet priorities identified in Department-accepted, locally-endorsed parks, recreation, and open space master plans. A jurisdiction wide master plan is NOT required to participate in the grant program, nor does Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's acceptance of a plan guarantee that points will be awarded for any project. There are no points in the Small Community scoring criteria for having a master plan. Master Plans must be submitted to TPWD at least 60 days prior to the grant deadline in which you wish to participate in order to be considered for points. | Will fund 50% of project costs, up to $750,000. | All grant assisted sites must be dedicated as parkland in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.<br><br>All applicants must hold at least one public hearing prior to submission. | Annually, August 1. | "Dan Reece dan.reece@tpwd.texas.gov (512) 389-4656" |

| (Continued) Funding Sources for Trails/Sidewalks | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Funding Type** | **Program** | **Agency** | **Purpose / Goals** | **Eligible Applicants** | |
| Federal | National Parks Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) | National Parks Service (NPS) | The main focus areas of this program are building healthy communities, conservation, engaging youth in outdoor recreation, and facilitating support between NPS and communities to achieve shared goals. | State and local governments, tribes, nonprofits, or citizen organizations. | |
| Federal | National Recreational Trails Fund | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)(funding from Federal Highway Administration) | To fund motorized and non-motorized trail projects. | Local Governments. | |
| Federal | Transportation Alternatives Program | Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) (funding from Federal Highway Administration) | To plan for and construct a variety of alternative transportation projects that improve safety and mobility for non-motorized travelers and mitigate congestion by providing safe alternatives to motor vehicle transport. | State, local and tribal governments; regional transportation authorities; transit agencies; other agencies with transportation oversight. | |

| Eligible Use of Funds | Loan or Grant Maximum | Additional Notes on Program | Funding Cycle | Contact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| This program provides technical assistance to community led conservation and outdoor recreation projects throughout the country. The types of assistance NPS provides includes: community outreach strategies, developing concept plans for trails and parks, creating project management and action plans, engaging collaborative partners and stakeholders, and other consulting services that can be tailored towards the needs of the project. | This is a nonmonetary grant program. NPS assists communities by providing a range of services and support. They are also helpful in bringing funding partners to the table. | NPS recommends applicants consult with a staff member at least 30 days prior to the application deadline. | Annually, typically in June. | David Thomson, mwr_rtca@nps.gov |
| 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. | 80% of project costs, up to $300,000 for non-motorized trail grants and a maximum award of $500,000 for motorized (off-highway vehicle) trail grants. | Thirty percent of the total NRTF grants must be spent on motorized recreational trails, while another 30 percent must be spent on nonmotorized trail projects. The remaining 40 percent is discretionary. | Annually, February 1. | "Chris Sheffield chris.sheffield@tpwd.texas.gov (512) 389-8749 " |
| Pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements including historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity. | Up to 80% of project costs, no maximum but limited by total appropriations. | Oversight provided by TxDOT. | Annually, typically in December. | funding@campotexas.org |

# APPENDIX

# A

Picnic Area at Lake Kyle Park

# Park Inventory

## In This Chapter

Kyle's Park System

## Introduction

Kyle's park system is larger than meets the eye. The City owns about 750 acres, but only 42% of the City's parkland is considered developed. Ten developed parks provide facilities like sports fields, courts, walking paths, picnic areas, splash pads, and gathering spaces for the community to enjoy. Kyle also has four trails throughout the City that total to a combined distance of 11 miles. This chapter provides an inventory of the properties owned by Kyle's Parks and Recreation Department.

# Kyle's Park System

Many of Kyle's parks provide valuable facilities and outdoor space for the community. While most of the parks provide general amenities like playgrounds, sports courts, or picnic areas, each park has its own unique characteristics. The City owns several properties that have not yet been developed, which provides space for future development and expansion. If a strategic approach is taken, and the City invests in both upgrading existing parks and developing new parks, Kyle's park system could not only meet the needs of the community but be a source of pride for residents.

**749.4**
Acres of Parkland

**22**
Total Parks

**11**
Acres of Parkland

**11**
Developed Parks

**436.2**
Acres of Undeveloped Parkland

**313.2**
Acres of Developed Parkland

*Walking to Lake Kyle*

# Existing Park Inventory & Classifications

| Park Name | Address | Developed Acres | Undeveloped Acres | Total Acreage | Classification* | Type* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bunton Creek Park** | 980 Bunton Reserve Blvd. | 0.5 | 25.1 | 25.6 | Special Use | Linear |
| Gregg-Clarke Park | 1100 W. Center St. | 28.1 | 0 | 28.1 | Close to Home | Community |
| Heroes Memorial Park | 4100 S. FM 1626 | 5.5 | 0 | 5.5 | Special Use | Special Interest |
| Kyle Train Depot | 101 N. Front St. | 0.5 | 0 | 0.5 | Special Use | Special Interest |
| La Verde Park | 3901 Burnham | 1.7 | 0 | 1.7 | Close to Home | Neigborhood |
| Lake Kyle Park | 700 Lehman Rd. | 118.4 | 0 | 118.4 | Close to Home | Community |
| Mary Kyle Hartson Park | 111 S. Burleson Rd. | 1.4 | 0 | 1.4 | Civic | Square |
| Steeplechase Park | 295 Hallie Dr. | 39.6 | 0 | 39.6 | Close to Home | Community |
| Waterleaf Park | 570 Abundance Ln. | 92.0 | 0 | 92.0 | Close to Home | Community |
| Cool Springs | 100 Silver Springs Bend | 19.3 | 0 | 19.3 | Special Use | Linear |
| Post Oak** | 201 Goddard | 6.2 | 6.2 | 12.4 | Close to Home | Neighborhood |
| Brookside** | Ferrule Dr. & E. Railroad 150 | 0 | 4.3 | 4.3 | Undeveloped | Open Space |
| Four Seasons Farm | Estival Cir. | 0 | 4.6 | 4.6 | Undeveloped | Open Space |
| Kyle Sportsplex | S. FM 1626 | 0 | 106.5 | 106.5 | Undeveloped | Open Space |
| Kyle Vista | Sunflower Cir. | 0 | 39.7 | 39.7 | Undeveloped | Open Space |
| Lake Kensington** | 2400 Dacy Ln. | 0 | 105.5 | 105.5 | Undeveloped | Open Space |
| Linebarger Lake | Arbor Knot Dr. | 0 | 45.7 | 45.7 | Undeveloped | Open Space |
| Masonwood | 236 Masonwood Dr. | 0 | 1.2 | 1.2 | Undeveloped | Open Space |
| Oso Oro | Creekside Trl. | 0 | 3.9 | 3.9 | Undeveloped | Open Space |
| Plum Creek Preserve | Isabel Ln. | 0 | 48.3 | 48.3 | Undeveloped | Open Space |
| Seton Park and Trail | 2001 Dacy Ln. | 0 | 44.9 | 44.9 | Undeveloped | Open Space |
| Sunset Ridge | Split Rail Pkwy. | 0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | Undeveloped | Open Space |
| Total Parkland: | | 313.2 | 436.2 | 749.4 | | |

*Based on park classifications and typology from 2016 Kyle Parks and Recreation Master Plan
**Existing parcels were combined into one park due to their geographic proximity

# Bunton Creek Park

📍 980 Bunton Reserve Blvd     ⤢ 25.6 Acres     ⚙ Special Use     🌲 Linear





## Park Observations

- There is limited street-side parking, restricted to the cul-de-sac and residential street
- Thinning turf areas on the Wildflower Trail due to foot traffic
- Playground and surrounding area is in good condition
- General lack of shade trees

## Existing Amenities

- Shaded Playground
- Plum Creek Trailhead
- Bat Boxes
- Bird Blind
- Wildflower Trail (1 mi.)
- Water Fountain
- Dog Waste Station
- Trash Receptacle
- Passive Seating
- Educational Signage

Bunton Creek Park is located at the corner of Bunton Reserve Blvd. and Satsuma Lane. Half an acre is developed at the park which provides a covered playground accompanied by conservation features including a wildflower field, a bird blind, and bat homes. The remaining 25.1 acres extend toward the northwest boundary of the neighborhood with some of the property expanding toward Grist Mill Road between Treeta Trail and Twin Cove.

## Accessibility Observations

The sidewalk network around Bunton Creek Park adequately connects residents of the neighborhood to the park. The park also provides access to the Plum Creek Trail, directly connecting Bunton Creek to Waterleaf Park. As this park becomes more developed, it's size will likely lead it to function like a community park, therefore parking and accessibility standards should be re-evaluated to ensure the park is able to properly serve the neighborhood and surrounding community.

Among the existing infrastructure, the playground and surrounding paved paths are ADA compliant, but areas with thinning turf and uneven surfaces along the Wildflower Trail are not accessible for all individuals.

# Gregg-Clarke Park

📍 1100 W. Center Street    ⤢ 28.1 Acres    ⚙ Close to Home    🌳 Community





Gregg-Clarke Park is a 28.1-acre community park located at the intersection of W Center Street and Veterans Drive. The complex includes space for softball, football, soccer, basketball, tennis, and swimming. Ash Pavilion provides covered space for a wide variety of uses, including regularly scheduled street hockey. Additional features include the splash pad, playgrounds, picnic tables, a walking trail, and open space.

## Accessibility Observations

West Center Street has a sidewalk on the west-bound side of the road next to Gregg-Clarke Park but not on the east-bound side near the residential neighborhood. Additionally, there is a lack of pedestrian crossings between the park and neighborhood. Wallace Elementary School is directly west of the park on Ranger Drive, but there is no sidewalk network on either side of the street. Any residential expansion to the north of the park would benefit from sidewalk connections and crosswalks to the park. Expanding the sidewalk network around Gregg-Clarke's border and into the surrounding area would improve pedestrian access and connectivity to the park.

Circulation within the park is largely influenced by the main driveway as there is no comprehensive sidewalk network. Pedestrians must walk along the road or through grass fields to reach various amenities. This reduces accessibility from an ADA standpoint as it limits which amenities are accessible to those that are directly along a paved path.

## Park Observations

- Thinned turf areas due to heavy foot traffic, especially near the bleachers and ballfields
- Lack of shade along the loop trail
- Ballfields need routine maintenance and updates
- Tennis court needs routine maintenance and updates
- Playgrounds are usable but worn out, faded, and outdated
- Parking needs updates, restriping, and curb appeal improvements
- 3 of the restroom facilities are usable but dated

## Existing Amenities

- James Adkins Pool
- Ash Pavilion
- Splash Pad
- Miles of Jogging/Walking Trail (0.32 mi.)
- Playgrounds (2)
- Ballfields w/ Dugouts & Spectator Seating
- Concession Facility
- Basketball Courts
- Tennis Court (1)
- Soccer Field
- Restroom Facilities
- Picnic Tables
- BBQ Pits
- Trash Receptacles
- Passive Seating
- Dog Waste Stations
- Large Shade Pavilion
- Small Shade Structures
- Bike Racks
- Water Fountains
- Adopt a Park

# Heroes Memorial Park

📍 4100 South FM 1626   ⤢ 5.5 Acres   ⚙ Special Use   🌲 Special Interest





## Park Observations

- General lack of shade, especially over picnic areas and passive seating
- Public currently uses the Hays Performing Arts Center for parking
- The road noise from FM 1626 distracts from the reflective and contemplative nature of the park
- The only water fountain in the park is not visible from the main path

## Existing Amenities

- Climbing Net Play Feature
- Picnic Areas
- Flag Retirement Box
- Water Features
- Educational Memorial Wall
- Memorial Totem
- Heroes Walk
- Memorial Garden
- Activity Lawn
- Missing Man Table
- Pond
- Bike Racks
- Drinking Fountain
- Passive Seating
- Trash Receptacles
- Dog Waste Station

Heroes Memorial Park is a relatively new park in the Brick and Mortar District. It pays tribute to U.S. military veterans and first responders through education, reflection, celebration, and contemplation. This park can host public gatherings and ceremonies. A highlight of Heroes Memorial Park is the Memorial Garden, which features an honor wall, remembrance totem, and time capsule. The park is teeming with native plants and provides the community with space to slow down and reflect.

## Accessibility Observations

While there is a pedestrian connection with FM 1626, the atmosphere does not encourage pedestrian use due to the incomplete sidewalk network and busy street traffic.

Within the park, circulation is ADA compliant and paths are in excellent condition. The lack of shade on the path and next to benches may make the park less accessible and enjoyable during periods of high temperatures. There is an opportunity to extend the sidewalk toward the Hays CISD Performing Arts Center, providing a direct pedestrian connection between the Center and the park.

The parking lot used by visitors is shared with the Hays Performing Arts Center. Access to the park requires crossing Cromwell Street

# Kyle Train Depot

📍 101 N. Front Street     ⬔ 0.5 Acres     ⚙ Special Use     🌲 Special Interest





## Park Observations

- Amenities are maintained and in good condition
- Landscaping is neat and diverse
- Signage does not align with Parks and Recreation Department branding
- Greater connection to Mary Kyle Hartson Park is needed

## Existing Amenities

- Heritage Center Museum
- Restored Train Car
- Passive Seating
- Picnic Table
- Mini Library
- Trash Receptacles

The Kyle Train Depot was renovated in 2016 to honor the history of the railroad industry and Kyle Station. The Heritage Center houses a museum, and visitors can view a restored train car while sitting under the shade of old oak trees.

## Accessibility Observations

An adequate sidewalk network with marked crosswalks connects the Train Depot to Downtown Kyle. The amenities in and around the park are ADA compliant.

# La Verde Park

📍 3901 Burnham     ⤢ 1.7 Acres     ⚙ Close to Home     🌲 Neighborhood





La Verde Park is a 1.7-acre park located in the Brick and Mortar District along Burnham Road. One of the main attractions at La Verde Park is the performance pavilion and event lawn that can hold gatherings of up to 2,200 people. Additional amenities include interactive water features, a world-class all abilities playground, and low impact development features. This park is part of the first phase of the Brick and Mortar District, a 138-acre pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use development.

## Accessibility Observations

The park has a good sidewalk network providing access to and from surrounding residential units. There are several opportunities for an expanded path network as construction to the east of the park continues to develop.

## Park Observations

- Amenities are maintained and in good condition
- Landscaping is neat and diverse

## Existing Amenities

- All Abilities Playground
- Pergola
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Splash Pad
- Dog Park
- Event Lawn (Accommodates +/- 2,200 People)
- Performance Pavilion
- Market Spaces
- BBQ Grills
- Bike Racks
- Drinking Fountains
- Passive Seating
- Picnic Tables
- Restrooms
- Shade Structures
- Trash Receptacles
- Dog Waste Stations

# Lake Kyle Park

📍 700 Lehman Rd.　　　⤢ 118.4 Acres　　⚙ Close to Home　　🌲 Community



Lake Kyle Park is located on Lehman Road near the Four Seasons Farm neighborhood. At 118.4 acres, it is Kyle's largest developed park. The 12.5 acre lake provides opportunities for water recreation such as fishing. In addition to more than a quarter-mile of walking paths, Lake Kyle Park provides access to the Plum Creek Trail. Other amenities include a playground and a covered picnic pavilion. The City of Kyle Parks and Recreations Headquarters are also located at this park.

## Accessibility Observations

The sidewalk network surrounding Lake Kyle Park is lacking continuity. Four Seasons Farm Phase 1 Subdivision does not have direct sidewalk access to the park, and while residents living in the Prairie on the Creek Subdivision have marked crosswalks, they must cross a busy street with no means to stop oncoming traffic. Additionally, these sidewalks lack shade, which could discourage nearby residents from walking to the park.

Circulation within the park is ADA compliant, although the connection to Plum Creek Trail is not obvious and additional paths and signage would be beneficial.

## Park Observations

- Amenities adjacent to the main building are well shaded, but there is a lack of shade throughout the rest of the park.
- Plum Creek Trailhead signage is misleading and the trailhead is difficult to find.
- Educational signage is concentrated near the main building. It could be integrated along pathways and/or near the lake.
- Additional parking may be needed depending on usage.
- More shade is needed, especially over picnic tables located close to the lake.

## Existing Amenities

- Shaded All Abilities Inclusive Playground
- Walking Trails (0.31 mi.)
- Pavilion
- Plum Creek Trailhead
- Lake
- Picnic Tables
- PARD Administration Office
- Fishing Dock
- Dog Waste Stations
- Passive Seating
- Trash Receptacles
- Bike Racks
- Horseshoe Courts
- Drinking Fountains
- Restrooms

# Mary Kyle Hartson Park

📍 101 S. Burleson     ⤢ 1.4 Acres     ⚙ Civic     🌲 Square





Mary Kyle Hartson Park is a 1.4-acre square at the corner of Main Street and W. Center Street. Large shade trees, green space, benches, pavilions, and picnic tables support a variety of social gatherings ranging from a family picnic to Kyle Market Days. The Krug Activity Center is also located within the park, which serves as a community center and houses the Kyle Area Senior Zone.

## Park Observations

- Amenities are maintained and in good condition
- Landscaping is neat and diverse
- Could benefit from wayfinding signage directly in/adjacent to the park to show visitors where nearby attractions, services, and amenities are located

## Existing Amenities

- Playground
- Passive Seating
- Fountain
- Trash Receptacles
- Shade Pavilion
- Picnic Tables
- Bike Rack
- Dog Waste Stations

## Accessibility Observations

Although it is well-connected to the downtown area, the park could be more accessible to the surrounding residential neighborhoods. Implementing a sidewalk network in nearby residential areas could encourage more pedestrian traffic to the park.

The park has ADA compliant access and internal circulation with flat, wide paths and a ramp leading up to the gazebo.

# Steeplechase Park

📍 295 Hallie Dr.          ⬚ 39.6 Acres          ⚙ Close to Home          🌲 Community





Steeplechase Park sits at the corner of Lehman Road and Hallie Drive, between the Prairie on the Creek and Steeplechase neighborhoods. Nearly 40 acres of park space offer a variety of fields and courts, a championship disc golf course, a splash pad, and a shaded playground. The park is also right down the street from Steeplechase Dog Park.

## Accessibility Observations

A sidewalk is being constructed to connect the dog park to the main park entrance, but this network could be expanded to directly connect to the adjacent neighborhood.

Circulation within the park is influenced by the park road and the single path at the back of the park. Amenities such as the ballfields, basketball court, and soccer field must be accessed by crossing grass fields which may impact accessibility.

## Park Observations

- General lack of shade throughout the park including around the ballfields, basketball court, soccer field, and picnic areas
- Sections of the walking path are cracked and uneven
- Ballfields are lacking seating of any kind and need routine maintenance and updates
- Lack of monument signage and wayfinding signage
- Playground is usable but outdated, faded, worn out, and needs replacement
- Parking lot needs improvements and expansion
- Disc golf course needs upgrades to baskets and launch pads
- Dog park needs more shade and play equipment

## Existing Amenities

- Shaded Playground
- Picnic Areas
- Basketball Court
- Championship Disc Golf Course
- Dog Park
- Splash Pad
- Soccer Field
- Ballfields
- Large Pavilion
- Trails/Walking Paths (0.57 mi.)
- Restroom Facilities
- BBQ Grills
- Bleacher Seating
- Passive Seating
- Trash Receptacles
- Dog Waste Stations

# Waterleaf Park

📍 628 Abundance Lane     ⤢ 92 Acres     ⚙ Close to Home     🌲 Community





Waterleaf Park is a 92 acre park which sits on Abundance Lane in the back of the Waterleaf Community. The park provides three softball fields, wide open space, and soccer goals to meet the community's recreation needs. Additional amenities include the shaded play structure and a dirt loop trail encircling the main features of the park. Currently, only 20 acres of the park are considered developed, and the remaining 72 acres are undeveloped open space which provides flexibility of use.

## Accessibility Observations

The surrounding sidewalk network is adequate, providing residents of the neighborhood with safe access to the park.

A loop trail with a distance just under 0.70 miles circles the park and links to a short 0.17-mile spur trail that connects the park to Tower Drive, providing access to additional sections of the neighborhood.

Sidewalks and trails are ADA compliant, though the ballfields and soccer fields are only accessible by traversing through grass which may be difficult for some individuals.

The connection point to Plum Creek Trail is unclear, and the Trailhead sign is misleading as it is located near the park entry rather than being next to the trail.

## Park Observations

- General lack of shade throughout the park including near the ballfields, soccer fields, picnic areas, and paths
- General lack of seating throughout the park including near the ballfields and soccer fields
- Playground is usable but needs replacement to address outdated, faded, and worn out equipment
- Parking lot is an unpaved mixture of grass and dirt
- Soccer fields need to be resodded and leveled and would benefit from lighting, bleacher, and shade upgrades
- Ballfields need routine maintenance and updates

## Existing Amenities

- Covered Playground
- Picnic Table
- Trailhead
- Soccer Field (1)
- Ballfields (3)
- Restroom Facilities
- Passive Seating
- Trash Receptacles
- Dog Waste Station
- Drinking Fountain
- Plum Creek Trailhead

# Cool Springs

📍 100 Silver Springs Bend    ⤢ 19.3 Acres    ⚙ Special Use    🌲 Linear





## Park Observations

- The trail address is listed as 100 Silver Bend, but this brings visitors to the end of the trail rather than the beginning
- The restroom facilities are lacking clear trail signage

## Existing Amenities

- Natural Trails (1.86 mi.)
- Aerated Catch and Release Ponds
- Frisbee Golf Practice Holes
- Picnic Tables
- Passive Seating
- Restroom Facility

Cool Springs is located in the Cool Springs subdivision. Over 19 acres provide three fishing ponds, natural landscaping, and over 1.75 miles of trails. Picnic tables and park benches provide opportunities for rest among the natural scenery, and a 5-hole disc golf course provides an opportunity for active recreation.

## Accessibility Observations

The Cool Springs neighborhood has a sidewalk network that connects residents to the trail in various locations. Parallel parking near the trailhead is available for visitors accessing the park by car. A significant barrier to accessibility for residents and visitors who are not familiar with Cool Springs may be related to the park address. The City lists 100 Silver Springs Bend as the park's address, but this brings visitors to the restroom facilities rather than the trailhead. Clarifying the address for visitors and investing in trail and wayfinding signage could greatly improve the visitor experience for this park.

Additional concerns relate to the ADA accessibility of the trail which is primarily turf. Thinning turf and uneven surfaces may prevent some visitors from being able to enjoy the trail.

# Plum Creek Trail

📍 Waterleaf to Lake Kyle    ⤢ 4 Miles    ⚙ Special Use    🌲 Linear



Plum Creek Trail is a linear park which will span four miles. The trail, which travels through Lake Kyle, Plum Creek Preserve, Bunton Creek, and Waterleaf is not continuous from Lake Kyle to Bunton Creek, but it does provide a direct connection between Plum Creek Preserve, Bunton Creek, and Waterleaf Park. When fully developed, Plum Creek Trail will stretch from the City of Uhland to the Blanco River with access to many of the city's neighborhoods.

## Accessibility Observations

Residents and visitors can access Plum Creek Trail through one of the parks listed above, however, the trail route may not be intuitive for people unfamiliar with its path. Trailheads include a map, but because of the trail's natural surfacing, it can easily blend into its surroundings making it difficult for people to follow without additional signage. Trailheads like the one at Waterleaf Park do not adequately indicate the location of the trail, and generally speaking, the trail lacks a clear starting and destination point at both the Lake Kyle and Waterleaf sites. Concrete paths are located near the trailheads, but the natural surface portions of the trail may not be accessible to all users due to uneven surfaces.

## Park Observations

- The trail is disjointed which could cause confusion for users
- Trailhead signage is not placed appropriately in some park locations including Waterleaf and Lake Kyle
- The trail lacks important amenities in some areas due to ongoing development of parkland such as Plum Creek Preserve
- Natural surface trails are primarily turf. This creates a nature-based experience, however, it can also create uncertainty around the exact route of the trail

## Existing Amenities

- Natural Trails (4 mi.)
- Access to multiple parks
- Plum Creek

# Post Oak

📍 201 Goddard      ⤢ 12.4 Acres      ⚙ Close to Home      🌳 Neighborhood



Post Oak is a half-developed, half-undeveloped park in the Post Oak neighborhood. Currently, the property has a community garden for the neighborhood with planting beds, picnic tables, and an equipment shed as well as a restroom facility. A water tower sits directly adjacent to the park, acting as a landmark for the property.

## Accessibility Observations

Accessing Post Oak requires visitors to drive through the neighborhood. The property's driveway is rough, but there is a paved parking lot with ADA parking and a paved pedestrian pathway to the garden. This park has ongoing construction which may limit accessibility for some individuals.

## Existing Amenities

- Restroom Facility
- Community Garden

# Brookside

📍 Ferrule Drive, E Railroad 150      ⤢ 4.3 Acres      ⚙ Undeveloped      🌳 Open Space



Brookside is an undeveloped park located at an empty lot in the back of the Four Seasons Farm neighborhood. The boundary is nestled between residential lots and streets and extends along an easement to E FM150. Brookside sits adjacent to other PARD properties including Four Seasons Farm, which is undeveloped, and Lake Kyle Park.

## Accessibility Observations

Access to Brookside may be difficult to provide for Kyle residents who do not live within walking distance to the park. Due to its location on the street, parking will be limited unless a parking lot is constructed. Brookside is best suited for serving the immediate neighborhood in which there is already an established sidewalk network. The adjacency to other park properties could be leveraged by creating an interior sidewalk or trail network between Four Seasons Farm, Lake Kyle, and Brookside.

# Four Seasons Farm

◉ Estival Circle     ⤢ 4.6 Acres     ⚙ Undeveloped     🌲 Open Space



Four Seasons Farm is located in the back of the Four Seasons Farm subdivision and can be accessed on Estival Circle. The land is situated behind residential homes, and it shares boundaries with Brookside and Lake Kyle Park. This park is undeveloped, and the land is primarily short turf grass with some shrubs and trees.

## Accessibility Observations

Access to Four Seasons Farm may be difficult to provide for Kyle residents who do not live within walking distance to the park. Due to its location on the street, parking will be limited unless a parking lot is constructed. Four Seasons Farm is best suited for serving the immediate neighborhood in which there is already an established sidewalk network. The adjacency to other park properties could be leveraged by creating an interior sidewalk or trail network between Brookside, Lake Kyle, and Four Seasons Farm.

# Kyle Sportsplex

◉ South FM 1626     ⤢ 106.5 Acres     ⚙ Undeveloped     🌲 Open Space



Kyle Sportsplex is located in the Brick and Mortar District. Just under 50 acres of the property lies on the west side of FM1626 and the remaining 60 acres lie on the east side of the road. The property is currently bordered by minimal residential development, but more residential development is expected around the sportsplex boundary.

## Accessibility Observations

Vehicular access to the sportsplex is currently limited to the bordering roadways - Rikardson, Plum Creek Meadows, and FM1626. Rikardson and Plum Creek Meadows have sidewalks that border the property, but FM 1626 does not. Once the park is developed, existing sidewalks should be merged with the park's pedestrian network. FM 1626 is not an enjoyable environment for pedestrians due to high volumes of traffic and driving speeds, however, there is an opportunity to develop a sidewalk on FM 1626 that extends south to connect the sportsplex to Heroes Memorial Park. Due to the geography of the sportsplex, a pedestrian connection will need to be made between the west and east sides of the property.

# Kyle Vista

📍 Sunflower Circle    ⤢ 39.7 Acres    ⚙ Undeveloped    🌲 Open Space



Kyle Vista is located off Dacy Lane and spans across the west and east side of Sunflower Circle. It borders Chapa Middle School to the west and has some low-density, single family, and multi-family residential development in the immediate area including Sunset Hills, Science Hall Apartments, and the Amberwood development.

## Accessibility Observations

Given its proximity to the middle school and residential developments, pedestrian-oriented accessibility will be vital for this park. Sunflower Circle is not a paved road and does not have sidewalks, however, Dacy Lane has sidewalks along the park's boundary. Once the park is designed and developed, pedestrian connections can be made between the school, surrounding neighborhoods, and the park.

# Lake Kensington

📍 2400 Dacy Lane    ⤢ 105.5 Acres    ⚙ Undeveloped    🌲 Open Space



Lake Kensington is located off Dacy Lane, bordering the Kensington Trails neighborhood to the southwest. It is currently undeveloped, but the 105.5 acres of land includes a reservoir and wooded habitat.

## Accessibility Observations

Two existing driveways provide vehicular access to the property, one at the far north corner and one on the northwest side of the site. Darcy Lane has a sidewalk along the same side of the street as the park property which provides a pedestrian connection. There are several lots that connect the neighborhood to the park including two along Covent Drive and one at the end of Westminster Drive. Another undeveloped PARD property, Seton Park & Trail, is across the street from Lake Kensington, so there will be opportunities for connectivity between the two parks.

# Linebarger Lake

◎ Arbor Knot Drive    ⤢ 45.7 Acres    ⚙ Undeveloped    🌲 Open Space



Linebarger Lake is an undeveloped park located southeast of and adjacent to the Four Seasons Farm neighborhood. Most of the park's property sits behind the homes along the street. The site includes a reservoir and a significant amount of open space with grasses and minimal trees. Rosalio Tobias Elementary School borders the property as well.

## Accessibility Observations

There are two potential access points to the property along Arbor Knot Drive. The existing sidewalk network in the neighborhood would provide pedestrian access to the park. Other undeveloped PARD properties are located in the same neighborhood including Brookside and Four Seasons Farm. These parks could be connected by trail, but wayfinding signage would be essential for visitors.

# Masonwood

◎ 236 Masonwood Drive    ⤢ 1.2 Acres    ⚙ Undeveloped    🌲 Open Space



Masonwood is wedged between the Oaks of Kyle Apartments and single family homes in The Trails subdivision. Located on Masonwood Drive, the property is mostly flat and open turf with some shrubs and trees.

## Accessibility Observations

This park will primarily serve the surrounding residential units, so pedestrian connectivity will be an important component of the design. The Trails neighborhood has an established sidewalk network that connects to the park property, but a pedestrian connection would need to be made with the adjacent apartment complex.

# Oso Oro

📍 Creekside Trail     ⤢ 3.9 Acres     ⚙ Undeveloped     🌲 Open Space



Oso Oro sits next to the Linebarger Lake property along Creekside Trail. The residential homes in this are primarily low density with some multi-family units located down the road from the park property. The landscape is not as open as other PARD properties with taller grasses and areas of dense tree and shrub vegetation.

## Accessibility Observations

Oso Oro can serve the nearby residents, but it could also be an extension of Linebarger Lake. Regardless of the programming in each park, a strong pedestrian connection should be established between the two. Vehicular accessibility may be limited by on-street parking unless a parking lot is developed on the property.

# Plum Creek Preserve

📍 Isabel Lane     ⤢ 3.6 Acres     ⚙ Undeveloped     🌲 Open Space



Plum Creek Preserve is located behind the Four Seasons Farm subdivision. The property connects Lake Kyle to the Bunton Creek park property. This park is undeveloped, and the landscape consists of dense tree and shrub vegetation. A significant feature of the land is Plum Creek, which influences the vegetation and flood plain within the boundary of the site.

## Accessibility Observations

There is no existing road network that allows people to access the property by vehicle. Extending Plum Creek Trail from Bunton Creek through the property to Lake Kyle would provide pedestrian access and a continuous park network for the nearby neighborhoods with a potential to also connect additional PARD properties such as Waterleaf, Four Seasons Farm, Brookside, Linebarger Lake, and Oso Oro.

# Seton Park & Trail

📍 2001 Dacy Lane  ⤢ 44.9 Acres  ⚙ Undeveloped  🌲 Open Space



Seton Park and Trail is located at the corner of Dacy Lane and Seton Parkway and extends northwest to the I-35 service road. It's across from the Lake Kensington property and adjacent to a medical center and commercial development. The landscape includes both open grassland and dense vegetation, and the property is adjacent to a branch of Bunton Creek.

## Accessibility Observations

There is no existing infrastructure to support vehicular or pedestrian access, though there are opportunities to provide vehicular access from Seton Parkway or Dacy Lane. Pedestrian connections could be made to Lake Kensington, but pedestrian infrastructure would need to be implemented to allow safe crossing of the 4-lane, 45 mile-per-hour street. There is not a sidewalk on Dacy Lane along the property's border, but Seton Parkway does have a sidewalk.

# Sunset Ridge

📍 Split Rail Parkway  ⤢ 0.3 Acres  ⚙ Undeveloped  🌲 Open Space



Sunset Ridge sits on the southwestern border of an undeveloped section of Bunton Creek. The Sunset Ridge subdivision is in the process of expanding residential development toward the southern edge of the park property's border. The parkland consists of dense tree and shrub vegetation.

## Accessibility Observations

There is no existing infrastructure to support vehicular or pedestrian access to the property. Once development is complete in the adjacent Sunset Ridge neighborhood, pedestrian access could be established between the neighborhood and the park. Additionally, this property could connect pedestrians to the Bunton Creek park property and other PARD properties such as Plum Creek Preserve, Lake Kyle, Brookside, Four Seasons Farm, Linebarger Lake, and Oso Oro through an extended trail network.

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# APPENDIX

# B

La Verde Park

# Needs Assessment

## In This Chapter

## Introduction

As Kyle continues to grow, so does the need for high-quality parks, open spaces, and recreation opportunities. This Needs Assessment identifies service gaps, evaluates existing amenities, and anticipates future demands on the City's Park and Recreation System. Additionally, it analyzes Kyle's demographics, community input, and park access to provide a clear road map for enhancing recreation, fostering inclusivity, and promoting environmental stewardship. These findings will guide the development of a more connected, accessible, and vibrant park system—ensuring all residents can enjoy the benefits of parks for generations to come.

# Needs Assessment Methodology

The development of the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan involved assessing five key areas: Standards-Based, Resource-Based, Demand-Based, Access-Based, and Equity-Based needs. These assessments evaluated the current state of the Parks and Recreation System, analyzing factors like available resources, community needs, and service accessibility. This analysis aimed to understand factors such as usage patterns, demand for specific activities, and any barriers preventing full access to parks. By evaluating the factors, the plan sought to improve park access, enhance facilities, and ensure equitable distribution of resources to underserved communities, ensuring the system could meet the community's evolving needs.

## Demand-Based Assessment

The Demand-Based Assessment is the main driver to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. This section contains information on the input provided by the community identifying their needs, wants, demands, and desires for the City's Parks and Recreation Rystem. Details on community engagement effort, responses to community surveys, and input provided through contributor interviews are provided in this section. The data contained in this section was used in the development of the vision, goals, and objectives of this PROS Master Plan.

## Standards-Based Assessment

The Standards-Based Assessment is used to compare existing services provided by the City's Parks & Recreation Department to peer cities, national standards, and benchmarks. The standards and benchmarks used in the comparisons came from studies, surveys, reports, and data from the National Recreation and Parks Associations (NRPA) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL). Each of these organizations is nationally recognized as an expert in parks, recreation, and open space. The project team compared items such as parkland acreage, facilities, operational budgets, and staffing levels to the standards and benchmarks. By doing so, gaps were identified and recommendations were developed to assist in the enhancement of service delivery.

## Resource-Based Assessment

The Resource-Based Assessment section examines key physical, man-made, and natural resources within the Kyle area that can provide supplemental support to the City's Parks and Recreation System. This supplemental support can come in the form of state/county parks, natural features such as the Blanco River, its creeks, natural drainage ways, areas lakes, and man-made attractions such as the Texas Pie Company, Texas Old Town and County Line Polo Club.

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- Demand-Based Assessment
- Standard-Based Assessment
- Resource-Based Assessment
- Equity-Based Assessment
- Access-Based Assessment
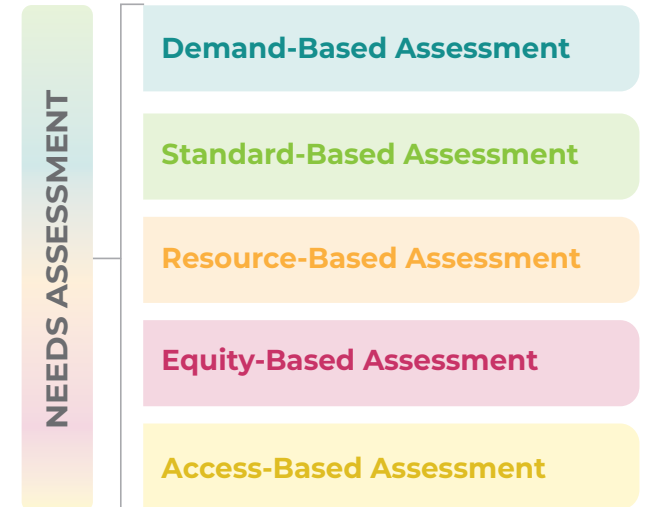
## Equity-Based Assessment

The Equity-Based Assessment section reflects the City of Kyle's commitment to making sure all residents have fair access to parks and recreation services, thus as a vital part in the development of this PROS master plan, the project team reviewed the Parks and Recreation System's level of service through a lens of equity. Items that were reviewed included gaps in park and recreation services being provided, accessibility to and from parks and recreation facilities, as well as the policy used by the City in the acquisition of new parkland and open spaces. Factors that were used in the equitability analysis included the examination of factors such as income levels, senior populations, community diversity, and environmental concerns (heat islands, floodplains, and major roadways). Using the information gathered, recommendations were created to help guide the City in the development of a Parks and Recreation System that is inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the needs of all residents.

## Access-Based Assessment

The Access-Based Assessment section examines how accessible the park and recreation services are to the community. This includes the analysis of factors that influence both accessibility and health such as the proximity of parks to residential areas, the existence of trails/sidewalks, air quality, and rates of various diseases in the area. This data was used to develop the Accessibility and Community Health indexes. Aerial data was also used to analyze the availability of safe and complete pedestrian pathways/sidewalks/trails and barriers to accessing the Parks and Recreation Aystem. As part of the analysis for each of the Park Planning Districts, accessibility was reviewed in detail, and recommendations made for future improvements. The analysis helped identify areas of improvement and informed recommendations for enhancing accessibility.



*Mary Kyle Hartson Park*

# Demand Based Assessment

The Demand Based Assessment is a pillar of the PROS Master Plan as it gives insight into what the residents of Kyle are wanting out of their Parks and Recreation System. A major component of this assessment was community engagement, which drives the overall planning process for the PROS Plan. Community engagement follows the same three steps as the overall planning process – discovery and foundation building, plan development and recommendations, and plan review and delivery – but the community engagement process integrates multiple feedback loops. These feedback loops facilitate a propose-review-revise communication cycle between the public and the City which not only ensures transparency, but it guarantees the community has influence over the future development of Kyle's Parks and Recreation System. The planning and community engagement processes overlap and influence each other, but they have distinctions between them as well.

The goal of community engagement is to facilitate conversations with the public in order to understand how the Parks and Recreation System is currently meeting their needs and more importantly, how the system can better serve them. This information is the foundation of the PROS Plan. Over 4,000 residents of Kyle provided input regarding existing facilities, future wants, gaps in service, accessibility concerns, and more, which directly influences every component of the plan from the assessments to the guiding principles and specific action items.

## Outreach

The Demand Based Assessment, and community engagement, begins with outreach. Residents need to know about the PROS Master Plan so they can become involved in the planning process. The Kyle PROS website served as the central hub for all information about the Plan, offering an overview of the planning process and providing access to the community survey, plan documents, meeting schedules, event announcements, and FAQs.

To ensure widespread community awareness and encourage participation, a variety of outreach methods were employed, including:

- Email blasts
- Press releases
- Newsletters
- Social media – Facebook, Instagram
- City Council meeting announcements
- Parks Advisory Board meeting announcements
- Business Cards
- Flyers
- Yard signs



*City Fest Pop-Up Event*



*Public Workshop*



*Center Street Trick-or-Treat Pop-Up Event*

Once residents were made aware that the PROS Master Plan was being updated, they needed a way to get involved. Communication channels between residents and local governments are not always easy to navigate, but in the case of this plan, multiple strategies were used to facilitate conversation with community members, leaders, and organizations.

**One-on-One Interviews:** One-on-one interviews were conducted with key staff in the City of Kyle Parks and Recreation Department, City Council, and other individual stakeholders. These interviews provided opportunities for in-depth conversations, allowing participants to express their views, ask detailed questions, and provide specific feedback.

**Stakeholder, Committee, and Board Meetings:** These meetings involved targeted group of representatives from organizations who have a vested interest in the PROS Plan such as the Parks Advisory Board. The meetings provided space for detailed discussion, collaboration, and decision-making.

**Community Survey:** The community survey provided an opportunity to reach the broader community to ascertain public needs for parks and recreation. The online platform enabled residents to participate in the PROS planning process if they are unable to attend meetings in person. Participants were able to provide both structured and open-ended feedback regarding existing parks, frequency of use, desired amenities, community needs, recreation programs, etc.

**Public Workshops:** Workshops provided space to facilitate input exercises to help the City understand the community's vision and opportunities for the PROS Master Plan. Engagement activities were designed to elicit conversations about the project vision and identifying key themes and programmatic elements that should be considered for concept development. During the first phase of community engagement, two workshops were held, one at Mary Kyle Hartson Square and the other at the Public Works Headquarters.


*Center Street Trick-or-Treat Pop-Up Event*

**Pop-Up Events:** An important component of community engagement is meeting people where they are. Pop-up events occur during existing community events such as Center Street Trick-or-Treat and Santa's Arrival. The PROS Plan is not the main attraction of the pop-up event, but by attending large community gatherings, the plan gets more exposure to the public. Pop-ups are an opportunity to spark conversation with residents, ask direct questions, educate the public about the plan, and encourage residents to take further action by attending other PROS Plan-related events or participating in the community survey.

In addition to the general public, who provide valuable insight on the good and bad of Kyle's parks and recreation, several key engagement groups were identified due to their expertise and investment in Kyle's Parks and Recreation System.

## Community Engagement Top Themes

After reviewing the data gathered from all the conversations, interviews, pop-up events, workshops, and survey submissions, the following themes were identified:

### Facilities and Amenities:

When it comes to facilities and amenities, the highest priority for residents is upgrading what is existing. The community mentioned outdated play equipment, unpaved parking lots, sports facilities in poor condition, inadequate shade, old restroom facilities, and parks that lack accessible infrastructure due to structural or design issues. After the existing infrastructure is improved, there was clear demand for new facilities and amenities including an aquatic center, an indoor recreation facility, more open and park space, sports fields and courts, interactive public art, splash pads, and amphitheaters.

### Trails:

The community has placed a big emphasis on trails in Kyle. Not only are the residents looking for a greater quantity of walking, jogging, and biking trails, but they are also looking for a comprehensive network that spans throughout the city. In general, the existing trails are short and disjointed, making it difficult to travel from one place to another or go for a jog in the park. There is strong interest among the community in alternative modes of transportation, reducing reliance on cars, and creating more recreational opportunities centered around trails.

### Recreation Programs & Activities:

Community engagement has identified a lack of recreational programs and activities. Residents did not significantly comment on existing programs, rather they pointed to a desire for more. Many of the suggestions regarding recreational programming were centered around various classes – dance, fitness, art, music, etc. – rather than sports teams and leagues.

### Maintenance & Operations:

Building on the need for upgraded facilities and amenities, residents spoke to a strong need for continued maintenance and operations of the parks. The community is concerned that if the City cannot effectively maintain and operate the existing parks, it will not be able to properly manage any new facilities, amenities, or programs. The priority should be to improve the quality of what is existing, then expand the Parks and Recreation System in a way that is sustainable and manageable for the department.

### Environmental Stewardship:

The community values environmental stewardship in many ways. People recognize the need for strategic water management due to city-wide water shortages. There is a strong desire for more open spaces, native habitats, and opportunities to connect with nature. Residents support restoration, preservation, and conservation projects. The engagement process revealed that citizens feel a sense of responsibility toward the natural environment, and they want the City to support this effort of stewardship as well.

### Funding:

A Parks and Recreation System cannot sustain itself without a source of funding. Although it was not prominently mentioned by the general public, when funding was discussed, residents were concerned about increasing taxes to support the new developments in the Parks and Recreation System. From the City's perspective, additional funding is necessary to bring Kyle's parks to a higher standard. To strengthen the Parks and Recreation System's budget, the City should identify supplemental funding sources that align with the plan's goals, while maintaining community support.

### Marketing:

Residents generally seem unaware of everything the Parks and Recreation Department currently offers. Additionally, they do not have a clear way to communicate maintenance issues, concerns, or suggestions with the City. Improved marketing and communication strategies are needed.

*City of Kyle Community Garden at Post Oak Park*

# Standard Based Assessment

No matter their size, all cities have their unique parks and recreation needs. At their core, parks and recreation services share in the fact that they must provide the residents of a neighborhood, community, and city with opportunities to improve their physical, mental, social, and emotional health. This is done through the equitable placement of parks and facilities throughout each local area. Additionally, the inclusion of amenities, features, and programs helps in expanding access to these services. At the heart of this is the question: What amenities and recreation programs should be provided?

This question is best answered in a few ways. First, by conducting a Standard-Based Assessment that will compare what the city is currently providing with what the national benchmarks are. This is done by analyzing national data from groups such as the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL). Then, a comparison is done using information gathered from peer cities. The final step involves asking the residents of the city what they would like to see added to their Parks and Recreation System. This final step will be detailed in the Demand-Based Assessment section.


Heroes Memorial Park

## National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA):

- Non-profit organization focused on developing park and recreation systems to enhance residents' health, equity, and climate-readiness.
- Composed of over 60,000 professionals and advocates.
- Key components include professional development, advocacy, grants, programs, research, and publications
- NRPA's annual survey provides valuable data on park systems, populations, budgets, staffing, amenities, etc., used in the Standard-Based Assessment.

## The Trust for Public Land (TPL):

- Non-profit focused on creating parks and protecting land to ensure healthy, livable communities.
- Emphasizes the importance of quality parks and green spaces for equity, health, and climate.
- Works with parks and recreation systems to develop trends, programming, and close-to-home park development.
- Data from TPL's ParkScore Index was used in the Standard-Based Assessment to compare the City of Kyle's parks to national benchmarks and peer cities.
- The "10-Minute Walk" standard, developed by TPL and NRPA, encourages park development within a 10-minute walk, considering barriers like roadways, railroad tracks, and other obstacles that affect accessibility.

## Peer Cities Comparisons

| City | Parkland Acreage Comparison | | | Budget | FTEs | 10-min Walk |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Existing Parkland Acreage | Population* | Parkland Acreage Per 1,000 Residents | Total Budget FY23-24 | Number of FTEs** | Percent of Population within 10-Minute Walk Park Access*** |
| San Antonio, TX | 32,858 | 1,495,295 | 21.97 | $124,549,667.00 | 580.00 | 52% |
| Austin, TX | 17,343 | 979,882 | 17.70 | $137,382,584.00 | 811.00 | 69% |
| San Marcos, TX | 2,611 | 71,569 | 36.48 | $6,796,380.00 | 66.34 | 64% |
| Round Rock, TX | 2,305 | 130,406 | 17.68 | $20,100,550.00 | 132.88 | 84% |
| Pflugerville, TX | 1,700 | 65,301 | 26.03 | $8,844,734.00 | 55.00 | 82% |
| Cedar Park, TX | 927 | 77,516 | 11.96 | $6,160,738.00 | 49.50 | 83% |
| Kyle, TX | 749 | 62,050 | 11.52 | $4,641,071.00 | 62.00 | 73% |
| New Braunfels, TX | 743 | 110,958 | 6.70 | $7,922,930.00 | 51.40 | 43% |
| Seguin, TX | 450 | 36,013 | 12.51 | $2,838,269.00 | 48.00 | 43% |
| Leander, TX | 431 | 80,067 | 5.38 | $3,880,195.00 | 33.00 | 43% |
| Buda, TX | 378 | 16,030 | 23.57 | $1,848,872.00 | 15.72 | 55% |
| Georgetown, TX | 1,079 | 96,312 | 11.20 | $5,024,319.00 | 33.50 | 51% |

*US Census, Quick Facts, Population Estimates, July 1, 2023 (V2023)*
**Using Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budgets*
***Data obtained from Trust for Public Land ParkServe*

## Peer Cities

As part of the Standard-Based Assessment, the Parks Master Plan include a comparisons review of peer cities. These cities were selected based on their regional proximity as well as sharing similar demographic and geographical make-up. In addition to the regional proximity, it was determined that peer cities with larger populations be part of the list to reflect the exponential growth that the City of Kyle is seeing. This is because the City of Kyle will reach the 100,000-population mark sooner rather than later. By including cities with populations at or above 100,000, the comparisons will provide the city with a road map for growth. Applying data gathered from the peer cities, comparisons were then conducted in the following topics; Parkland Acreage, Residents Per Park, Budget & Per Capita, Number of Full-Time Equivalents, Percent of Population in 10-Minute Walking Distance, Miles of Trails.

The cities that were selected by the City of Kyle and the project team were Austin, TX, Buda, TX, Cedar Park, TX, Georgetown, TX, Leander, TX, New Braunfels, TX, Pflugerville, TX, Round Rock, TX, San Antonio, TX, San Marcos, TX.

# Existing Park Classifications & Typologies

Before conducting a thorough assessment of the City's Parks and Recreation System, it is important to get a understanding of the existing public parks and their acreages. Kyle has 22 parks which are currently classified based on the 2016 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. This classification system includes local "close to home" space, regional space, special use space, and civic space. Within each classification, there are park types. What follows is a briefing of the existing system.

## Local "Close to Home" Space

Local parks are usually located within a specific subdivision or development, and they serve the residents who live in that same development. Park types that fall under this classification include:

### Pocket Parks:

Small green gathering spaces that are less than an acre in size. These parks are usually accessed by walking, cycling, etc. Common features include benches, fountains, landscaping, and other focal features. Size is not the key factor of a typical pocket park but rather the quality of the design. Kyle does not currently have any pocket parks.

### Neighborhood Parks:

The most prevalent type of municipal park ranging from 1 to 15 acres in size. They should be within a 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile to the residents they serve. These parks provide amenities for an entire family and typically serve one large or several small neighborhoods. Typical amenities include parking, playground equipment, practice sport facilities, open areas, picnic areas, pavilions, and jogging or exercise trails. Kyle's existing neighborhood parks include La Verde and Post Oak.

### Community Parks:

Larger parks that serve a group of neighborhoods or a portion of the city. These parks are large enough to provide multiple facilities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation and natural areas. The typical acreage for these parks is between 10 to 50 acres, but they can exceed this range. Typical amenities include parking, play equipment, open areas, picnic areas, pavilions, restrooms, jogging or exercise trails, nature trails, lighted sports facilities, a recreation center, lighting for evening use, and other facilities as needed. The interaction between a community park and the surrounding area is critical to the quality of park experience. Kyle's community parks include Gregg-Clarke, Lake Kyle, Steeplechase, and Waterleaf.

## Regional Space

Regional space is typically located within a one to two hour driving radius to the areas that they serve. Parks in this category serve a number of communities and may include metropolitan, county, state, and even regionally-accessible national parks.

### Regional Parks:

Intended to serve multiple communities or a larger geographic area. The land is often dedicated due to its regional, state, or ecological importance. This may be due to its unique ecological, geographical, historic, or cultural characteristics. The size of a regional park can vary from less than 10 acres to several thousand. Regional parks are often under the ownership and control of a county or state government. Kyle does not currently have any regional parks.


*La Verde Park*


*Gregg-Clarke Park*

## Special Use Space

Special use space may be either local or regional. They are defined as areas that are unique in some way - either because of their physical features or the types of facilities offered.

### Athletic Complexes:

The most common type of special use parks. They provide fields and/or courts for organized play in an area that can accommodate the traffic and noise that a large number of users can generate. Kyle does not currently have any athletic complexes.

### Nature Parks and Preserves:

Provide wildlife habitat, flood control, and places for passive recreation. These parks can vary greatly in size, but they're meant to have a city-wide service radius. As non-programmed space, nature parks and preserves are largely self-maintaining. Kyle does not currently have any nature parks or preserves.

### Linear Parks:

Open park areas that generally follow a natural or man-made corridor such as creeks, drainage corridors, or utility easements. Linear parks are often developed to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel, and they connect significant places throughout the city. Kyle's linear parks include Bunton Creek and Cool Springs.

### Special Interest Parks:

Typically serve a unique use such as a skate park, dog park, or some other park designed to accommodate a special community need. Alternatively, special interest park facilities may be integrated into larger community or regional parks. Kyle's special interest parks include Heroes Memorial and Kyle Train Depot.

## Civic Space

Civic spaces are primarily used as gathering spaces in an urban/suburban context rather than a place for recreation. They are often located within historic city centers or dense urban environments.

### Greens:

Large lawns demarcated with landscaping planted in a strong geometric fashion. They provide space for limited, non-programmed recreation and may contain features such as gazebos, arbors, pavilions, benches, and seat walls. Kyle does not currently have any greens.



*Kyle Train Depot*



*Mary Kyle Hartson Park*

### Squares:

Found at significant junctions and nodes and may provide space for programmed and/or non-programmed recreation. They also provide space for civic purposes such as open air markets, concerts, or even civil assemblies. Kyle has one square, Mary Kyle Hartson Park.

### Plazas:

May be found in civic, commercial, or even residential settings. They can be a dominant, celebrated feature or a peaceful neighborhood gathering space. Kyle does not currently have any plazas.

## Undeveloped/Non-programmed Space

The 2016 PROS plan does not specifically list undeveloped/non-programmed parks as a classification, however, the plan does label several properties as undeveloped/non-programmed. This category references parkland that is owned by the City and does not have development on the property.

### Open Space:

Similar to the classification of "undeveloped/non-programmed," open space is not specifically listed as a park typology, but several properties are referenced to have a park type of open space. Based on this pattern, Kyle's open spaces include Brookside, Four Seasons Farm, Kyle Sportsplex, Kyle Vista, Lake Kensington, Linebarger Lake, Masonwood, Oso Oro, Plum Creek Preserve, Seton Park and Trail, and Sunset Ridge.

## CLOSE-TO-HOME PARKS

| TYPE | PURPOSE | SIZE | SERVICE AREA |
|---|---|---|---|
| POCKET PARKS | Provide smaller green gathering spaces in areas with limited land availability | Less than 1 acre | Not specified |
| NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS | Provide a range of amenities that cater to an entire family | 1 to 15 acres | Serves residents within a quarter (1/4) to half (1/2) mile radius of the park |
| COMMUNITY PARKS | Provide multiple facilities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation and natural areas | 10 to 50 acres | Serves a group of neighborhoods or portion of a city |

## REGIONAL PARKS

| TYPE | PURPOSE | SIZE | SERVICE AREA |
|---|---|---|---|
| REGIONAL PARKS | Protect or preserve sites with regional, state, or national importance due to environmental, historical, and/or cultural significance | Varies | Serves up to a one- to two-hour driving radius |

## SPECIAL USE PARKS

| TYPE | PURPOSE | SIZE | SERVICE AREA |
|---|---|---|---|
| ATHLETIC COMPLEXES | Provide fields and courts for organized play in an area that can accommodate the traffic and noise athletic complexes produce | Varies | Not specified |
| NATURE PARKS & PRESERVES | Provide wildlife habitat, flood control, and places for passive recreation | 15 to 20 acres | City-wide service radius |
| LINEAR PARKS | Facilitate pedestrian/bicycle travel and connect parks, schools, neighborhoods, civic buildings, and other major destinations | Varies | Not specified |
| "SPECIAL INTEREST" PARKS | Provide facilities for unique or niche recreational needs such as skate parks, dog parks, swimming pools, etc. | Varies | City-wide |

## CIVIC PARKS

| TYPE | PURPOSE | SIZE | SERVICE AREA |
|---|---|---|---|
| GREENS | Provide space for limited, non-programmed recreation | Less than 3 acres | Not specified |
| SQUARES | Provide for programmed and/or non-programmed recreation, as well as civic purposes such as open air markets, concerts, or assemblies. | Less than 3 acres | Not specified |
| PLAZAS | Provide critical gathering and event space | Less than 3 acres | Not specified |

# Kyle Parks by Classification
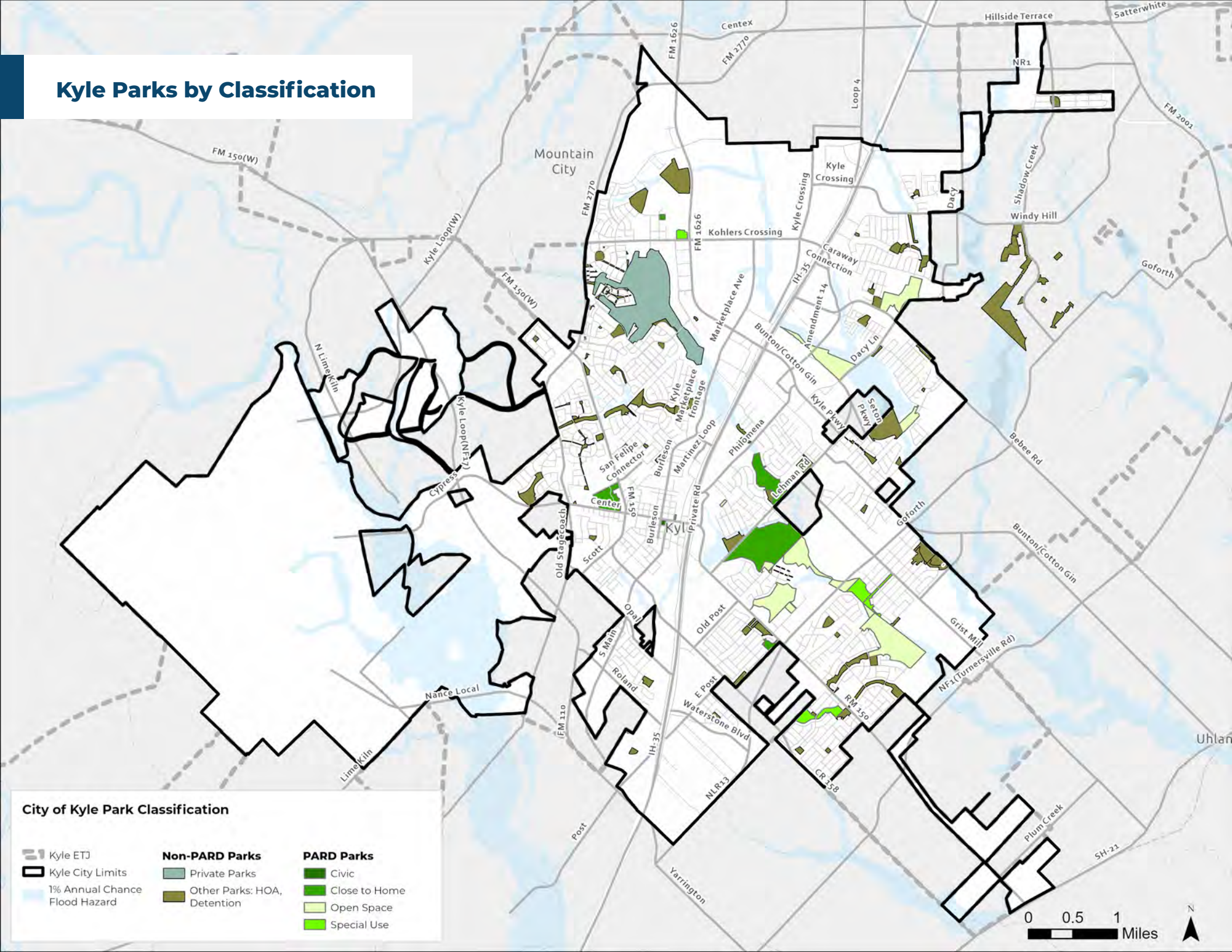


**City of Kyle Park Classification**

- Kyle ETJ
- Kyle City Limits
- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard

**Non-PARD Parks**
- Private Parks
- Other Parks: HOA, Detention

**PARD Parks**
- Civic
- Close to Home
- Open Space
- Special Use

0   0.5   1 Miles

N
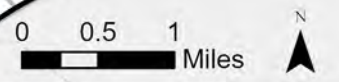
## Existing Park, Recreation, & Open Space Inventory

At the development of this PROS Master Plan, the City of Kyle owns 22 parks totaling 749.4 acres. The parkland includes developed parks and undeveloped open spaces. Each park has different amenities and features such as playgrounds, sport courts, splash pads, amphitheaters, and fishing docks.

The City of Kyle is also home to a series of four independent trails which range in distances from 1 mile to 4 miles in length. The City does currently have a visionary trail plan called "The VYBE". "The VYBE" calls for the development of a trail system that will connect parks and neighborhoods to business, recreation, and entertainment destinations. The City is also part of the "Emerald Crown Trail Master Plan"[3]which is a vision for over 75 miles of connected trails throughout Hays County. The Emerald Crown plan calls for two loop trails to be developed as part of the overall system that links residential and commercial areas. The City of Kyle is to be home for one of these loops.

### Level of Service: Parks

The City of Kyle has a number of parks and open spaces; however, gaps were identified through an analysis of their service areas. Upon reviewing the Level of Service (LOS) Map, much of the area east of I-35 is designated as either a neighborhood park or a community park. However, many of these parks remain undeveloped and, therefore, do not truly provide park and recreation services to the residents of east Kyle. To access the health and recreation benefits offered by parks and recreation facilities, residents in east Kyle must travel farther than the recommended 10-minute walking distance or ½ mile. This creates a deterrent, as residents who need to use personal vehicles may instead choose to visit shopping centers, restaurants, or other cities.

The City is encouraged to take proactive steps to develop these currently undeveloped parks and open spaces in east Kyle, transforming them into accessible, functional, and engaging recreational areas for residents. This may include installing basic infrastructure such as trails, seating areas, and signage, followed by phased enhancements like playgrounds, sports fields, picnic areas, and nature preserves. Additionally, the City should prioritize accessibility by incorporating ADA-compliant pathways and facilities to ensure inclusivity for all residents. Community engagement efforts, such as public input sessions and partnerships with local organizations, can help shape the design and features of these spaces to best meet the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Some areas in western and northern Kyle were found to have park services provided by privately owned Homeowner Association (HOA) parks. However, when examining access to public parks and recreation facilities, it was evident that reaching existing public parks required residents to travel farther than the recommended 10-minute walking distance. From a public benefits perspective, publicly owned parks are preferred over privately owned HOA parks because they are open to everyone, fostering inclusivity and a stronger sense of community. The City is encouraged to discuss the possibilities of entering into partnerships with HOAs whereby public access is granted to HOA-owned parks. Creating such partnerships would increase the number of parks available to the public and provide greater recreational opportunities, improve community connectivity, and enhance overall park accessibility without requiring the immediate development of new public parks. Additionally, these agreements could foster collaboration between the City and HOAs in maintaining and improving park facilities, ensuring they meet the needs of a broader range of residents.

### City of Kyle Park Ownership:



**22** Total Parks

**749.4** Total Acres

**313.2** Acres Developed

**436.2** Acres Undeveloped Open Space
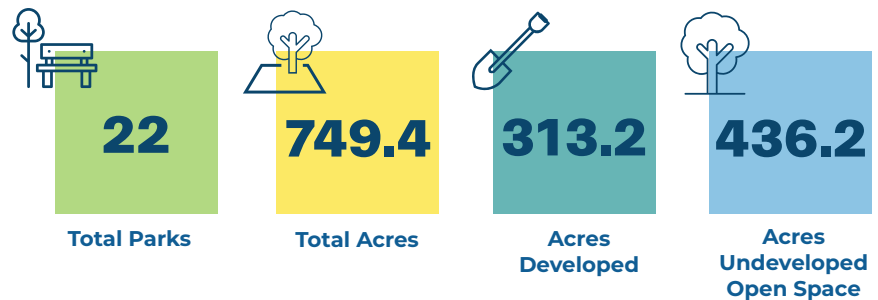
### Top Five Facilities with the greatest service gaps:



**13.4** Gap of Rectangular Fields

**9.7** Gap of Tennis Courts

**6.0** Gap of Diamond Fields

**6.0** Gap of Pickleball Courts

**6.9** Gap of Playgrounds
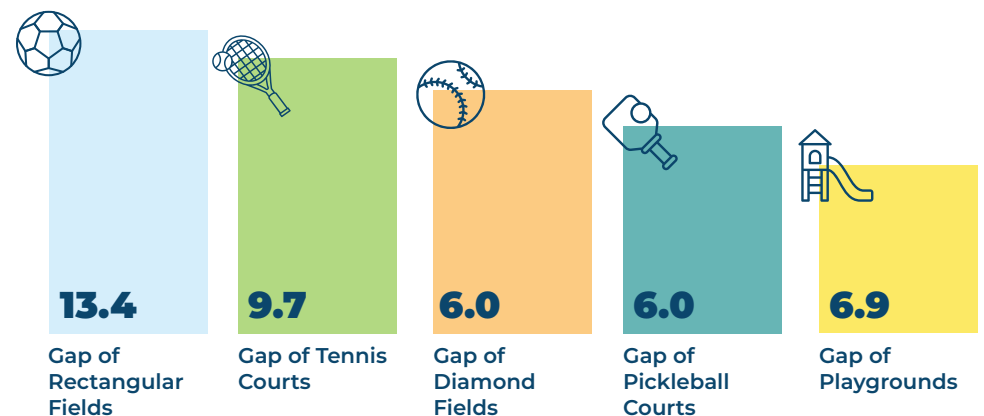
# Kyle Spatial Level of Service



## City of Kyle Park Level of Service

**Legend:**

- Kyle ETJ
- Kyle City Limits
- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard

**Non-PARD Parks**
- Private Parks
- Other Parks: HOA, Detention

**PARD Parks**
- Civic
- Close to Home
- Open Space

- Special Use
- Neighborhood Park 1/2 mile service area
- Community Park 1 mile service area

0    0.5    1    Miles
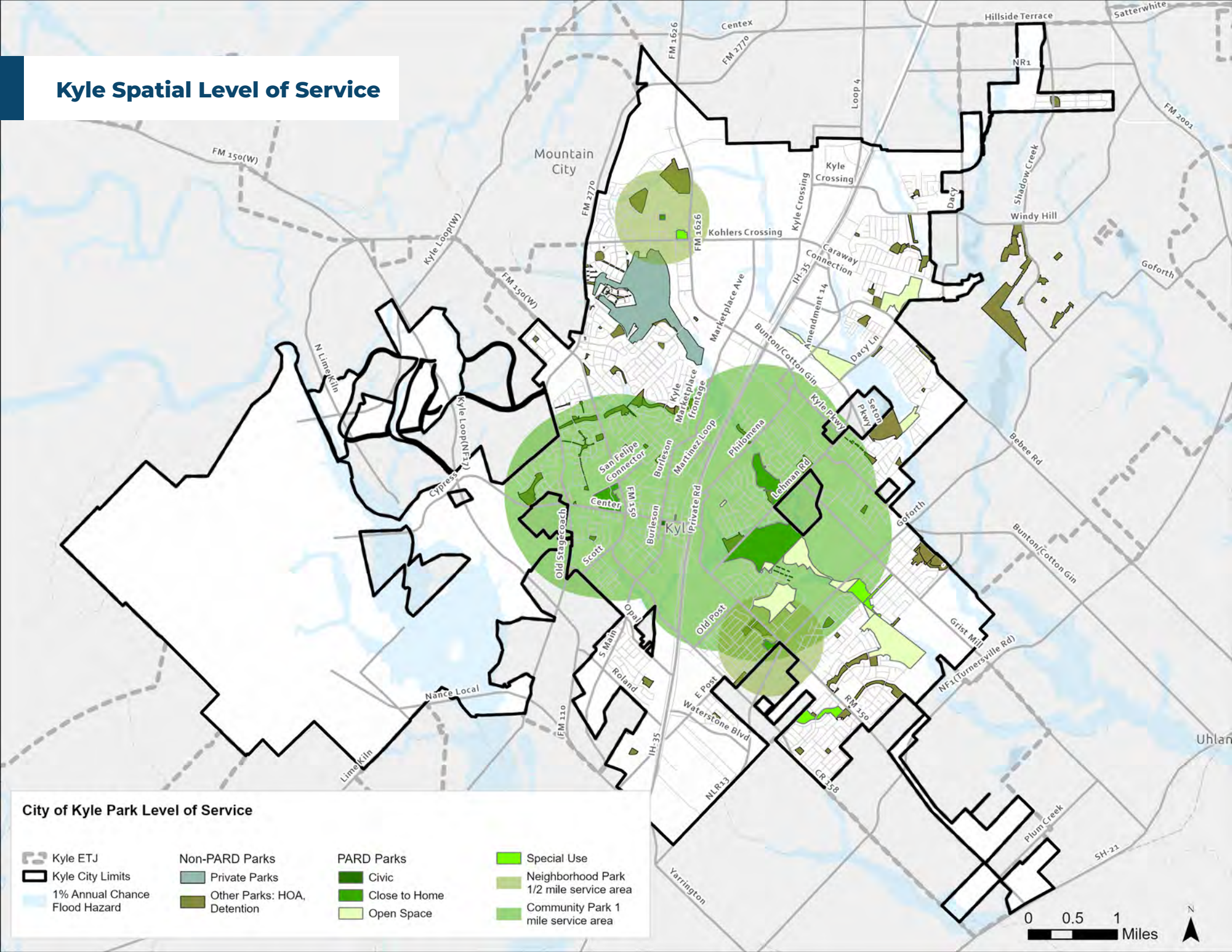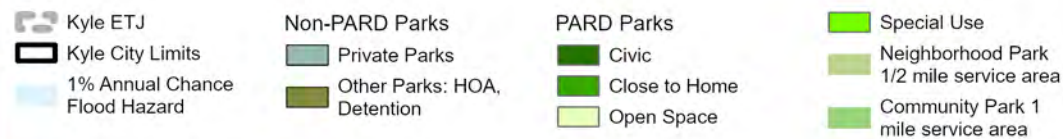
# Level of Service: Facilities Inventory

| Facility Types | NRPA Standards** | City of Kyle Number of Facilities | Current Gap |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities** | | | |
| Playgrounds | 16.9 | 10 | 6.9 |
| Diamond Fields | 17.0 | 10 | 7.0 |
| Basketball Courts (standalone) | 7.5 | 4 | 3.5 |
| Rectangular Fields | 15.4 | 2 | 13.4 |
| Tennis Courts | 10.7 | 1 | 9.7 |
| Dog Parks | 1.1 | 2 | (0.9) |
| Tot Lots | 5.0 | 1 | 4.0 |
| Community Gardens | 1.1 | 1 | 0.1 |
| Swimming Pools | 1.3 | 1 | 0.3 |
| Skateboard Parks | 1.0 | 1 | 0.0 |
| Multi-use Courts (Basketball, Volleyball, Etc.) | 2.5 | 0 | 2.5 |
| Pickleball | 6.0 | 0 | 6.0 |
| Multi-use Courts (Tennis, Pickleball) | 4.8 | 0 | 4.8 |
| 18-Hole Golf Courses | 0.9 | 0 | 0.9 |
| 9-Hole Golf Courses | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Synthetic Rectangular Fields | 1.7 | 0 | 1.7 |
| Volleyball Courts (standalone) | 2.4 | 1 | 1.4 |
| Splash pads | 1.2 | 3 | (1.8) |
| Fitness zones/ Exercise Stations | 1.8 | 0 | 1.8 |
| Walking Loops/Running Tracks | 3.0 | 0 | 3.0 |
| Racquetball/Handball/Squash Courts | 1.4 | 0 | 1.4 |
| Disc Golf Courses | 1.1 | 1 | 0.1 |
| Water parks | 0.8 | 0 | 0.8 |

| Facility Types | NRPA Standards** | City of Kyle Number of Facilities | Current Gap |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Indoor Park and Recreation Facilities** | | | |
| Competitive Swimming Pools | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Pools Designed Exclusively for Leisure | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Pickleball | 3.6 | 0 | 3.6 |
| Multi-use Courts (Basketball, Volleyball, Etc.) | 2.6 | 0 | 2.6 |
| Basketball Courts (standalone) | 2.4 | 0 | 2.4 |
| Multi-use Courts (Tennis, Pickleball) | 4.1 | 0 | 4.1 |
| Walking Loops/Running Tracks | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Racquetball/Handball/Squash Courts | 1.6 | 0 | 1.6 |
| Tennis Courts | 5.9 | 0 | 5.9 |
| **Activity-Based Facilities** | | | |
| Recreation Centers | 1.6 | 0 | 1.6 |
| Community Centers | 1.2 | 0 | 1.2 |
| Senior Centers | 0.9 | 1 | (0.1) |
| Performance Amphitheaters | 1.1 | 1 | 0.1 |
| Nature Centers | 0.9 | 0 | 0.9 |
| Aquatic Centers | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Permanent and Semi-permanent Restrooms | 11.3 | 8 | 3.3 |
| Stadiums | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Teen Centers | 1.1 | 0 | 1.1 |
| Arenas | 0.9 | 0 | 0.9 |

The southwestern part of the City currently lacks access to public parks and recreation services, likely due to limited development in the area. However, as the City continues to grow, the demand for parks and public spaces in this region will increase. To address this need, the City should collaborate with existing property owners to identify potential sites for future parks and open spaces. Strategies may include purchasing land for future development as residential growth occurs, establishing public access agreements that allow Kyle residents to use designated areas for recreation, creating conservation easements to protect natural spaces while permitting low-impact public use, and working with developers and the City's Planning Department to incorporate parks and open spaces into new residential projects.

## Level of Service: Facility Types

In comparing the existing recreation facilities being offered by the City of Kyle to the NRPA benchmarks for jurisdictions of similar size, the city is short on facilities.

The city does offer some features above and beyond what is tracked by the NRPA. These features include fishing docks, trailheads, bird blinds, and bat boxes. Elements such as public bird blinds and bat boxes point out some of the unique recreational characteristics that is the City of Kyle. Currently, the City of Kyle does not offer indoor recreational facilities. Examples of these facilities include recreation centers, community centers, nature centers, and aquatic centers. The city lacks available indoor recreation experiences such as indoor basketball courts, multi-use sport courts, gyms, pickleball/tennis courts, and walking/running loops.

As this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was being developed, the City of Kyle was concurrently conducting a feasibility study on the construction of a sports complex. Initial plans for the sport complex include a gym, indoor/outdoor sport courts, indoor recreation facilities, concessions, office space, and the ability to host indoor and outdoor sport tournaments. With this potential development, the city will be able to expand its recreational offerings to its residents to now include indoor recreation facilities.

## Kyle Recreation Facilities by Numbers:

**10** Playgrounds

**10** Diamond Fields (Baseball/Softball)

**2** Basketball Courts

**1** Tennis Courts

**2** Dog Parks

**1** Disc Golf Course

**1** Community Gardens

**1** Swimming Pool

**3** Rectangular Sport Fields

**1** Volleyball Courts

**3** Splash Pads

**1** Performance Amphitheater

## Parkland Acreage

To adequately provide park services to a community, cities must ensure that they have sufficient land that can be used for public recreation. The overarching goal is to provide all residents with parks and recreation facilities within a 10-minute walk of their homes. This can be accomplished through the placement of Close-To-Home (pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks) within neighborhoods and communities.

A key to the placement of parks and recreation facilities is that they are accessible by all residents. This means that public facilities such accessible sidewalks, trails, and/or paths are available for pedestrian use along with roadways for motorized vehicles. Accessibility will be covered in more detail in the Accessibility Assessment section of this PROS Master Plan.

As part of the park land acreage assessment, the Level of Service (LOS) was also analyzed. The LOS examines the city's current amount of park land acreage per 1,000 residents by each park classification compared to the NRPA's benchmarks to determine if the acreage amounts are sufficient. To supplement the comparisons with national benchmarks, a comparison was also made with peer cities. The peer cities are municipalities selected by the City of Kyle that have similar characteristics (population, natural environments, geographic features, etc.). Doing these peer comparisons helps provide a much more focused assessment on park land acreage.

Among the peer cities, Kyle ranks 9th out of 12 in parkland acreage. Based on the NRPA standards, Kyle should aim to provide 17.4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, however the City currently provides 11.5 acres and has a gap of 5.9 acres per 1,000 residents.
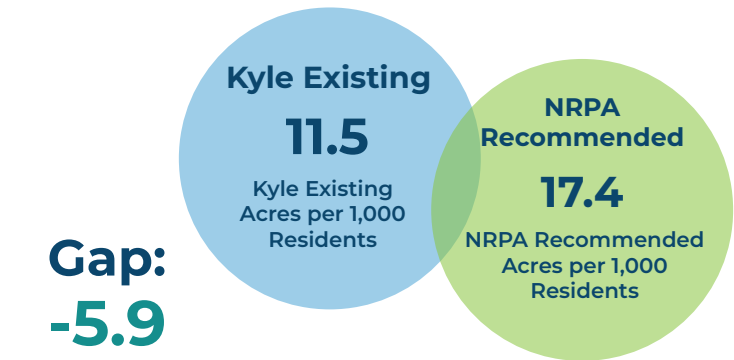
## Peer City Parkland Acreage Comparison

| City | Existing Parkland Acreage | Population* | Parkland Acreage Per 1,000 Residents |
|---|---|---|---|
| San Antonio, TX | 32,858 | 1,495,295 | 21.97 |
| Austin, TX | 17,343 | 979,882 | 17.70 |
| San Marcos, TX | 2,611 | 71,569 | 36.48 |
| Round Rock, TX | 2,305 | 130,406 | 17.68 |
| Pflugerville, TX | 1,700 | 65,301 | 26.03 |
| Cedar Park, TX | 927 | 77,516 | 11.96 |
| Kyle, TX | 749 | 62,050 | 11.52 |
| New Braunfels, TX | 743 | 110,958 | 6.70 |
| Seguin, TX | 450 | 36,013 | 12.51 |
| Leander, TX | 431 | 80,067 | 5.38 |
| Buda, TX | 378 | 16,030 | 23.57 |
| Georgetown, TX | 1,079 | 96,312 | 11.20 |

*US Census, Quick Facts, Population Estimates, July 1, 2023 (V2023)*

## Parkland Acreage Gap Analysis



**Kyle Existing**
**11.5**
Kyle Existing Acres per 1,000 Residents

**NRPA Recommended**
**17.4**
NRPA Recommended Acres per 1,000 Residents

**Gap:**
**-5.9**

# Level of Service: Parkland Acreage

| Park Category | Existing Park Acreage | Current Level of Service* | Target Level of Service* | Target Acres (2025) | Acreage Gap (2025) | Target Acres** (2030) | Acreage Gap** (2030) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Local "Close-to-Home" Space** | | | | | | | |
| Pocket Park | 0 | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Neighborhood Park | 14.1 | 0.22 | 3 | 195.15 | 181.05 | 231.15 | 217.05 |
| Community Park | 278.1 | 4.28 | 5 | 325.25 | 47.15 | 385.25 | 107.15 |
| **Close-to-Home Subtotal** | **292.2** | **4.49** | **8** | **520.4** | **228.2** | **616.4** | **324.2** |
| **Regional Space** | | | | | | | |
| Regional Park | 0 | 0 | No Target Established | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Regional Subtotal** | **50.9** | **0.78** | **No Target Established** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** |
| **Special Use Space** | | | | | | | |
| Athletic Complexes | 0 | 0 | No Target Established | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Nature Parks and Preserves*** | 0 | 0 | 8 | 520.4 | 520.4 | 616.4 | 616.4 |
| Linear Parks | 44.9 | 0.69 | Within a 10-Minute Walk | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Special Interest Parks | 6 | 0.09 | No Target Established | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Special Use Subtotal** | **50.9** | **0.78** | **Varies** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** |
| **Civic Space** | | | | | | | |
| Greens | 0 | 0 | No Target Established | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Squares | 1.4 | 0.02 | No Target Established | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Plazas | 0 | 0 | No Target Established | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Civic Subtotal** | **1.4** | **0.02** | **No Target Established** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** |
| **Undeveloped Space** | | | | | | | |
| Open Space | 404.8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Undeveloped Subtotal** | **404.8** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** | **N/A** |
| **City Parks Total** | **749.4** | **0.08** | **8** | **520.4** | **228.2** | **616.4** | **324.2** |

*Using City of Kyle US Census Population Estimate, July 1, 2023 Est. (V2023): 65,050*
*** Data obtained from Kyle 2030 Comprehensive Plan: 77,050*
**** Target Level of Service provided by Halff Associates in the 2016 PROS Plan, not included in current Gap Analysis*

## Kyle Recreation Programs

To quote the City of Kyle's Park and Recreation Department definition of recreation, it is defined as "having fun" and that is the primary goal of the recreation programming for the city. The City of Kyle offers its residents recreational activities ranging from aquatics to youth and adult sports. Residents and visitors to the City of Kyle can access the most current list of recreational programs and activities through the Parks and Recreation Department's recreation webpage. The programs and activities are offered at various locations throughout the City to include Mary Kyle Hartson Park, Krug Activity Center, and James Adkins Pool.

To manage, operate, and maintain the recreation programming, the Parks and Recreation Department has created the C.A.R.E.S. Division which includes Community, Aquatics, Recreation, Events, and Senior service sections. Each section also incorporates Therapeutic Recreation Services. One Recreation Coordinator is responsible for each section of the C.A.R.E.S Division, each reporting to one of two Recreation Managers who in turn report to the Assistant Director. The limited staffing creates the first challenge for the Recreation Division as each of the coordinators do not have dedicated staff members to provide them with support. However, this does not deter the Park and Recreation Department from trying to provide the community with a number of recreational programs as each recreation event and program is provided with its own specific budget. It was explained by the Recreation staff that this is done to plan ahead for what programs they will offer throughout the year, thereby not having to go back to draw funds from the general Park and Recreation Department budget.

Over the recent years, the Recreation Division has reported that it has worked on expanding its programming. Programs and events such as pickleball tournaments, cornhole tournaments, youth soccer and basketball have been added to the sports offerings. Community events such as summer camps, spring break camps and senior bingo have also been expanded to their offerings. The Recreation Division has also started to pilot new programs such as Kids Chemistry, yoga, Zumba, archery and more youth programs such as tee ball, hockey, basketball (Junior NBA) and soccer (with the support of Lone Star Soccer).

There is still room for growth for the Recreation Division. A major item that the Recreation Division would like to add are more water-based activities that involve the use of the creeks and rivers. Additionally, the staff is also seeking the development of an indoor recreation facility,

just as indicated by the community. This would increase the divisions ability to provide more recreational programs to all ages during the hot summers and cold winters seen in the Hill Country. Another area that the staff would like to grow is its offerings of youth programming. This would include growing the youth basketball program, teaching the youth about the health benefits of staying active, as well as making some of the pilot youth programs, like hockey and tee ball, into permanent City offered programs.

When applying the national benchmarks identified by the NRPA to the types of recreation programs/activities the City of Kyle is providing

**1** Themed Special Events (89% offered)

**2** Social Recreation Events (88% offered)

**3** Team Sports (86% offered)

**4** Fitness Enhancement Classes (82% offered)

**5** Health & Wellness Education (80% offered)

**6** Individual Sports (76% offered)

**7** Safety Training (73% offered)

**8** Aquatics (68% offered)

**9** Natural & Cultural History Activities (66% offered)

**10** Cultural Crafts (63% offered)

*Source: NRPA Agency Performance Review*

to the community, Kyle is closely following the trends. Below lists the top 10 most offered programs/activities offered by park and recreation agencies as per the NRPA:

As mentioned before, the Recreation Division is interested in expanding its services and programs, however, this is impacted by the limited staffing. To help reach this goal, the City can supplement the funding of the Recreation Division through the development of partnerships with local gyms, fitness groups, sports leagues, schools and the residents. The City can look to these partners to create, host and manage recreation programs which the Parks and Recreation Department may not have the staff, equipment or the expertise to develop. Additionally, to increase the availability of funds to create new programs, the Parks and Recreation Department can investigate funding options such as offering sponsorship opportunities to local businesses. Another funding option is to seek grants from government agencies, non-profit groups and philanthropies. These groups can be an excellent source of funding since the grants do not require that they be paid back. The City does need to make sure that when applying for grants to examine if there is a need for matching funds. This can come in the form of a percentage or a specific dollar amount. This is important to be aware of because as the City's funds for recreation programs are very limited. Another possible funding source can come through fundraising opportunities.


*City of Kyle Halloween Boogie*

# Budget & Staffing

## Budget

Comparing the City of Kyle's approved budget to the NRPA's recommended budget for jurisdictions of similar size for the upper quartile indicates a gap of $8,753,252. The upper quartile standard was used as this sets a goal for the city to reach for the stars! Supportive funding opportunities can come through the creation of partnerships, donations from philanthropic groups, and through applying for and receiving grant money. To assist the city in locating sources of funding, a funding matrix has been included with this plan. It provides the city with details of various funding opportunities.

A comparison of the department's budget was also made amongst peer cities. This comparison provides a more focused analysis of the budget as the peer cities were selected to be closer in line with the City of Kyle.

## Staffing

A key component to providing high quality parks and recreation services to the community is to ensure that the Parks and Recreation Department has enough full-time staff to operate, maintain, and manage the services being provided. Currently, the City is indicating a staffing level of 62 FTEs. When compared to the national average of 106.69 FTEs, the City is short 44.96 FTEs. To break this down per 10,000 residents, the City would need to increase from its current 9.53 FTEs to 17.10 FTEs per 10,000 residents.

As the "backbone" to the services and programs, the Parks and Recreation Department utilizes the help of volunteers. As stated on the City's Recreation website, the city is constantly seeking volunteers for its events throughout the year. By actively seeking volunteers, this helps ensure that the staff is provided with much needed support.

### Budget Gap Analysis: City Budget To NRPA Upper Quartile Standard*



-$8,753,252
Existing Gap Between NRPA Recommendations & City of Kyle Budget

$4,641,071
City of Kyle FY2023-2024 Budget for Parks & Recreation Department

$13,394,323
NRPA Recommended Upper Quartile Budget for Cities with Population 50,000-99,999

*Using 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review

| Department | FY 2023-2024 Budgeted FTEs | Kyle Standards* FTEs Per 10,000 Population | NRPA Standards* FTEs per 10,000 Population | NRPA Recommended Number of FTEs | Gap |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parks & Recreation Department | 62.00 | | | | |
| Total FTEs for Parks & Recreation System - Median | 62.00 | 9.53 | 10.50 | 65.68 | -3.68 |
| Total FTEs for Parks & Recreation System - Upper Quartile | 62.00 | 9.53 | 17.10 | 106.96 | -44.96 |

*Using City of Kyle US Census Population Estimate, July 1, 2023 Est. (V2023): 65,050
**2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review for 50,000 to 99,999 Population for Park and Recreation Agency Staffing Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) per 10,000 is 17.1

# Resource Based Assessment

One of the most unique aspects to all communities are their resources that they can draw upon to supplement the services provided by their Parks and Recreation System. Many resources occur naturally. They can be rivers, streams, mountains, valleys and forests, however, man-made features such as amusement parks, private recreation facilities, utility easements and entertainment venues also provide support.

The City of Kyle is well-located to take advantage of both natural and man-made resources to supplement the Parks and Recreation System.

## Blanco River

The Blanco River travels along the southwestern side of Kyle. As a natural resource, it can provide opportunities for water-based recreation such as fishing, swimming, kayaking, tubing, and potentially expand into a regional paddling trail similar to others in the Hill Country such as the Guadalupe River State Park Paddling Trail and the South Llano Paddling Trail. Additionally, the banks of the Blanco River could be created into a linear park system with a mixture of natural open spaces and programmed areas.

## Creeks, Greenways & Drainage Corridors

These natural features can be found throughout the City of Kyle which provides opportunities to be used for trails, linear parks, and natural preserves. Additionally, these features create natural links throughout the city by connecting neighborhoods, commercial/retail areas, parks, and schools. With the addition of these features, city projects such as The VYBE Trail system and the region's Emerald Crown Trail project can become a draw to hikers, walkers, cyclists, and nature lovers. To enhance the Parks and Recreation System, it is encouraged that the City of Kyle invest in acquiring these corridors and partnering with property owners to create conservation/public access easements so that the full potential of these natural features can be used.

## Lake Kyle

Lake Kyle is found in the southeastern part of the City and is currently the home of the Parks Conservation Division. The park features amenities such as fishing, walking trails, covered pavilion, the Plum Creek trailhead, and an all-abilities inclusive playground. As of August 2024, the City installed a new shade structure at the park to improve the usability of the park during the hot summer months. The City has designated fishing at Lake Kyle as catch and release for largemouth bass, channel catfish, or any sunfish species in the lake. The catch and release policy helps to maintain the fish population, but to further support this the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) stocks the lake with various fish to include bluegill sunfish, redear sunfish, catfish, and largemouth bass. The TPWD has additional fishing regulations for Lake Kyle such as gear restrictions, as well as size and bag limitations for species not named above. Lake Kyle is open seven days a week from sunrise to sunset, thus creating opportunities for year-round enjoyment for the public. The Parks Conservation Division Headquarters houses a small tackle supplies and snake store within the office. On the website for Lake Kyle the City has added a fun page named "Lake Kyle Bragging Board". This webpage has been set up to allow fishers to post pictures of their catches.



*Blanco River*

# Kyle Resource-Based Map



**Resource Based Assessment**

Kyle ETJ

Kyle City Limits

**Park**

Public Parks

Undeveloped Public Parks

Private Parks

Other Parks: HOA, Detention

1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard

Stream Centerlines

Blanco River

Water Bodies

0   0.9   2   Miles
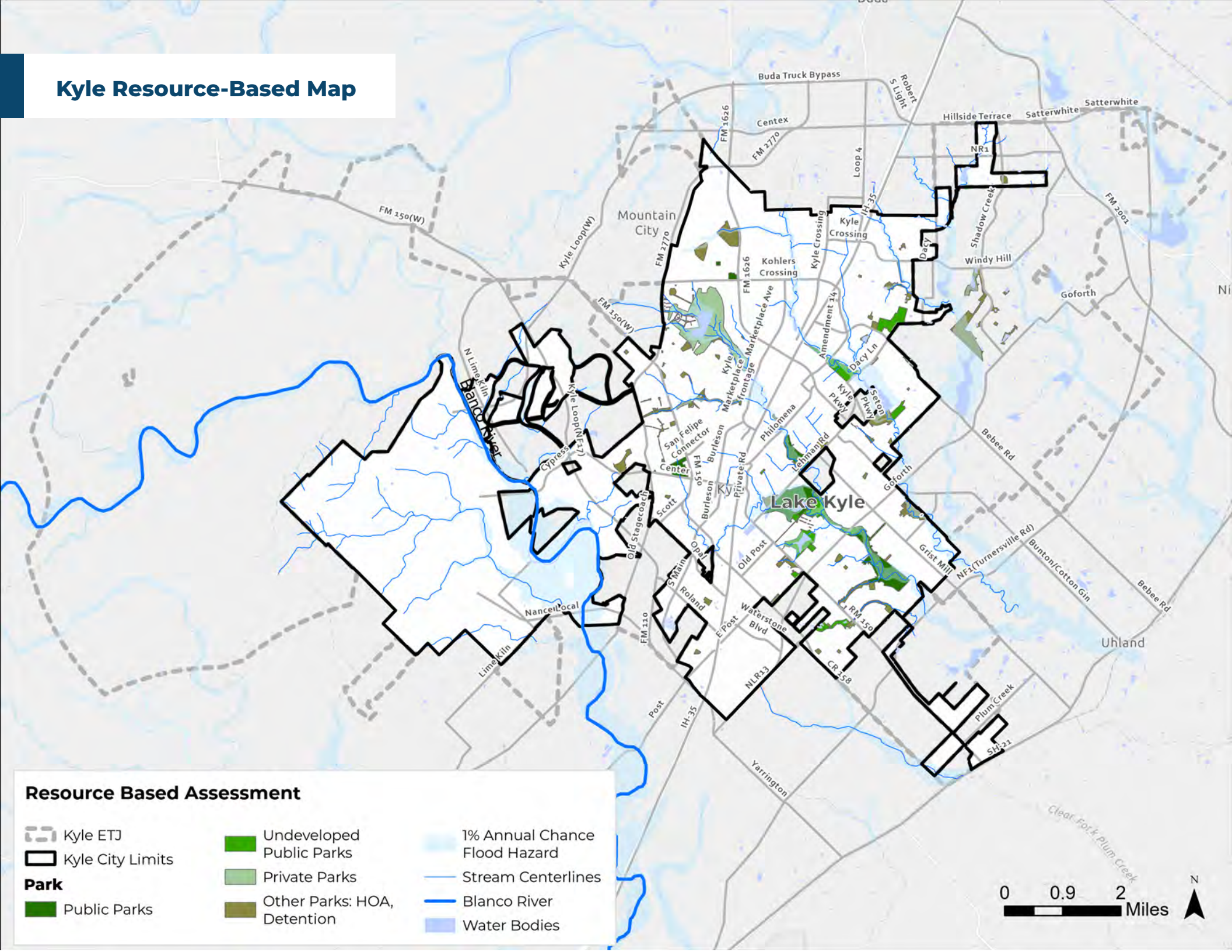
Additionally, Lake Kyle Park is a great place to go and enjoy viewing local wildlife and plant life. Animals such as wild turkeys, red-tailed hawks, rattlesnakes, turtles, beavers and cottontail rabbits can be found freely roaming the park.

## Mary Kyle Hartson Park

Mary Kyle Hartson Park is among the oldest, if not the oldest, public spaces within the City of Kyle. As part of the original 1880 platting of Kyle, 2-acres in the center of the town were designated as Town Center. Eventually, the Krug Activity Center was built in the Town Center and was designated as City Square Park. The park was officially renamed Mary Kyle Hartson Park on May 3, 2011.

Being at the heart of the City, the Mary Kyle Hartson Park is home to many local events such as Kyle Market Days and the Arrival of Santa. Additionally, the City has added improvements to the parks that include improved ADA access, a 20-foot wide promenade, expanded the seating and picnic areas, playground and has an educational rain garden.

The Mary Kyle Hartson Park definitely is a resource provides support to the existing park inventory as it is not only serves as a park for the Town Center, but it is the park that brings the community together.



*Lake Kyle*



*Mary Kyle Hartson Park*

# Equity-Based Assessment

A major part of making sure that the Parks and Recreation System is providing high levels of services is to examine the distribution of its parks and recreation facilities throughout the City in an equitable manner. Equity is defined by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) as providing everyone with fair and just access to quality parks and recreation. To determine the equity levels for the City of Kyle's Parks and Recreation System, the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan) examined the following factors:

•   **Environmental Vulnerabilities:** Environmental factors that may place high levels of risk on the existing natural environment such as heat islands, flood zones, and air quality.
•   **Socioeconomic Vulnerabilities:** Social factors that can weaken how a community response to factors such as poverty, lack of transportation, and housing affordability.

## Environmental Vulnerabilities

In areas of major large cities, the negative impacts to the area's environment through factors such as continuous population growth, urban sprawl, and increasing amounts of traffic, have been a major focal point for many decades. However, these negative impacts are no longer just the concern of large cities. Smaller and rapidly growing cities, such as the City of Kyle, are also seeing their natural environments being impacted.

According to the analysis of the data gathered for the City of Kyle, the greatest areas of concern are the Blanco River, existing creeks, natural drainage ways and in the areas of new development. This is based on the environmental risk factors of heat islands and flood zones being assigned the greatest weights.

First, focusing on the creeks and natural drainageways within the City, these are critical environmental features that must be protected as they are some of the primary conduits for the flow of water through the City as well as areas where water can reenter into the underground water source. Additionally, these are some of the only remaining natural green corridors within the City, thus providing living areas for animals as well as being home to plant and tree life that helps in cleaning and cooling the area. The index has identified these areas as vulnerable due to the surrounding developed areas. Many of the existing creeks and natural drainageways have been built around by residential and non-residential developments, thus increasing the amount of impervious cover in addition to increasing the amount of air pollution from vehicular traffic. Factors such as these place pressures on these remaining vestiges of the natural environment within the City by increasing the amounts of stormwater runoff into the creeks from paved surfaces, pollutants in the stormwater runoff being carried into the creeks, diverting water from entering the creeks through the use of storm drainage systems, and by more and more vehicles being introduced to the area leading to increases in  pollutants into the air. Additionally, as mentioned above, with the increase in impervious cover, more water is being diverted into the creeks and drainageways that would normally be absorbed by the natural surface. This increased amount of stormwater runoff can lead to flooding issues which can cause further damage to the natural and human-made environments by the flowing waters.

The index mapping also identified the areas of new development to the west and the areas of increasing non-residential development along the I-35 corridor as being areas of environmental vulnerability. This is caused by the clearing of the natural vegetation and the increased amounts of impervious cover added as part of the development. These processes eliminate trees and plants that help clean the air and water and reduce the ability of fresh rain waters to seep into the ground, which can lead to flooding concerns. The increased amounts of non-natural surfaces such as buildings, roads, and other infrastructure absorb and re-emit the sun's heat leading to the creation of heat islands. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines heat islands as "...areas that experience higher temperatures than outlying areas." These heat islands retain heat longer in areas, thus negatively impacting the natural environment and the health of those living in the area. Additionally, this increase in impervious surfaces will further add to the environmental concerns caused by flood waters since less of it can be naturally absorbed into the ground.

# Kyle Environmental Vulnerability Map

## Environmental Vulnerability

- ⚏ Kyle ETJ
- ⬚ Kyle City Limits

**Park**
- Public Parks
- Undeveloped Public Parks
- Private Parks
- Other Parks: HOA, Detention

**Environmental Vulnerability**
- High
- Low

0   0.5   1 Miles

N
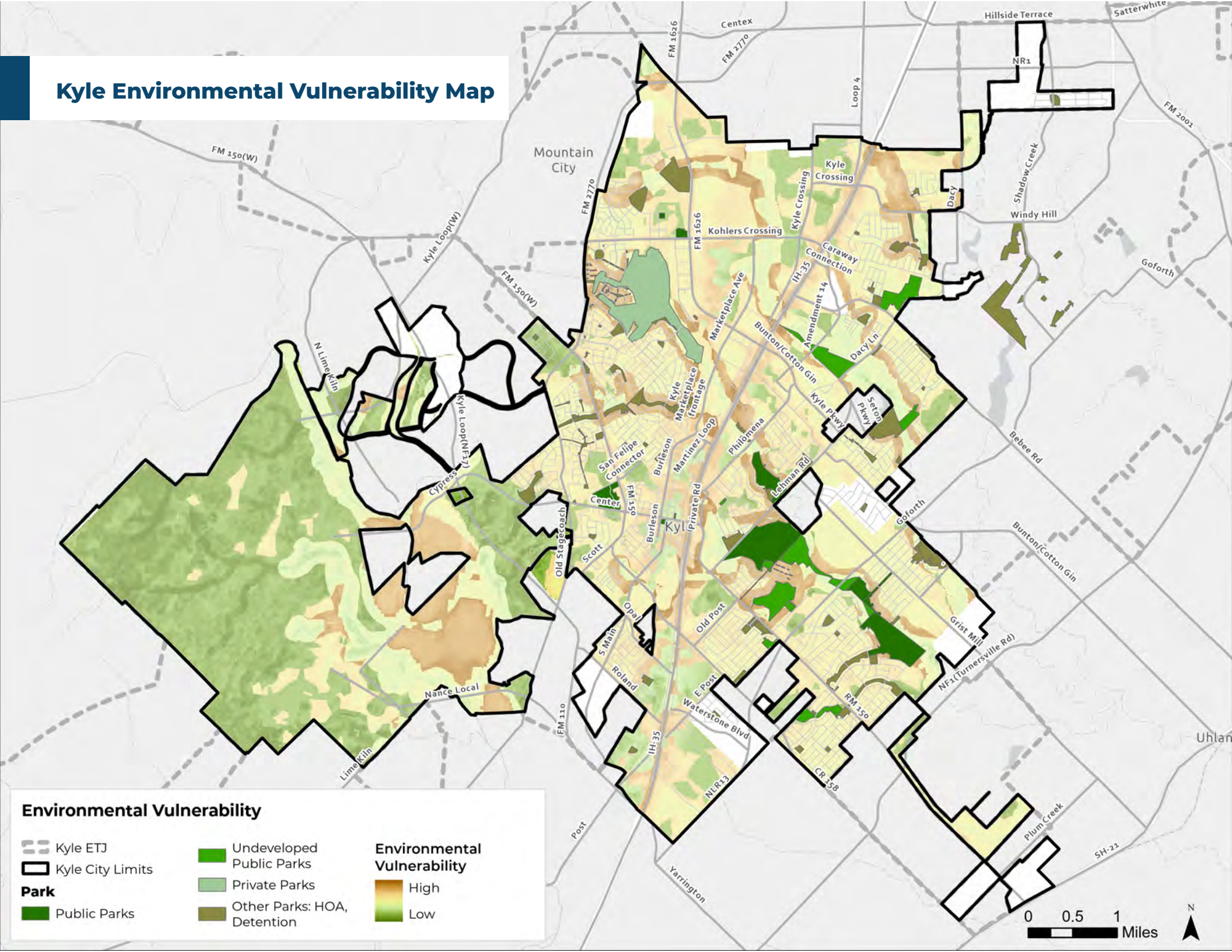
These areas of new residential and non-residential development also create an increase in the amount of motor vehicle traffic that contributes to increased amounts of air pollution. This increases the amount of air pollution then contributes to the negative impacts of greenhouse effects that include rising temperatures, decreased amounts of rainfall, and personal health problems.

The environmental vulnerability assessment also included the identification of the positive environmental factors such as tree canopy cover and wetlands with Kyle. Currently, the data indicates that even though much of the existing areas within the city limits of Kyle have some negative impacts to the natural environment, the overall environmental vulnerability is in the mid-range. This can be due to the older areas of the City having reintroduced trees, grass and landscaping that is now well established. Additionally, the City of Kyle still has large areas to its west (within the city limits) that are undeveloped and in their nature states. These areas aid in boosting the strength of the City's environment, however, much of these areas are under private ownership, thus lies the potential of them being developed. Also, the City of Kyle owns some large parks within the city limits such as Lake Kyle, Waterleaf Park, Seton Park, and Plum Creek Preserve, to name a few, that assist in preserving many acres of the natural environment and wetlands.

## Socioeconomic Vulnerability

A major aspect to equity is how socioeconomics is responded to by cities. For the City of Kyle, the assessment included reviewing factors such as houses without cars, distribution of age populations, housing affordability, areas of low-income households and race. Combining these factors together, with a few others, the socioeconomic vulnerability index map was created. Just as the environmental vulnerability index map identified the areas of environmental concern, the socioeconomic vulnerability index map identified where the highest and lowest areas of vulnerability are located.

Based on the mapping, the areas with high levels of vulnerability were mostly located to the southeast of I-35, with the greatest area of vulnerability located to the south of the I-35/FM-150 intersection. Much of the area that is located to the northeast of the I-35/FM-150 intersection was found to be in the upper mid-range of the vulnerability scale. Much of the housing stock in this portion of Kyle was built in the late 1990s into the present day. This mix of building years does provide a variety of home values; however, this area is also seeing an increase in new residential development and over the

recent years the prices of new homes has dramatically increased, thus making it difficult for first-time home buyers or low-income households to purchase houses in these areas. The lack of affordable houses leads to a disproportionate distribution of households based on income. This disparity, based on affordable housing and household incomes also impacts the socioeconomic environment for minorities and people of color. The area to the south of the I-35/FM-150 intersection shows the highest levels of socioeconomic vulnerability and this is most likely to this being the latest area for new residential developments. As mentioned above, the cost of new residential housing has drastically increased, thus leading to a lack of areas composed of mixed income housing.

Age is also a leading factor in the City of Kyle when it comes to its socioeconomic characteristics. The US. Census ACS 2022 5-Year Estimates for Age, show that 31 percent of the City's population is below the age of 18 years and 13 percent of the City's population is above the age of 64 years. Combined this is 45 percent of the City's population, which is usually affected by the lack of personal income and the lack of personal transportation. Combining age, with the lack of personal income, the potential lack of personal transportation creates a high level of vulnerability in almost half of the City's population.

## Overall Equity

Using the findings from the environmental vulnerability assessment and the socioeconomic vulnerability assessment, the City of Kyle should consider these when implementing the recommendations in this document. The overarching goal of equity when it comes to parks and recreation services is that everyone should be provided with fair and just access to quality parks and recreation. Considering the disparities mentioned above can help guide the City officials, staff and fellow community members to fairly allocate the services where they are needed the most.

# Kyle Socioeconomic Vulnerability Map



**Socioeconomic Vulnerability**

Kyle ETJ

Kyle City Limits

**Park**

Public Parks

Undeveloped Public Parks

Private Parks

Other Parks: HOA, Detention

**Vulnerability Level**

High

Low

0   0.5   1   Miles

N
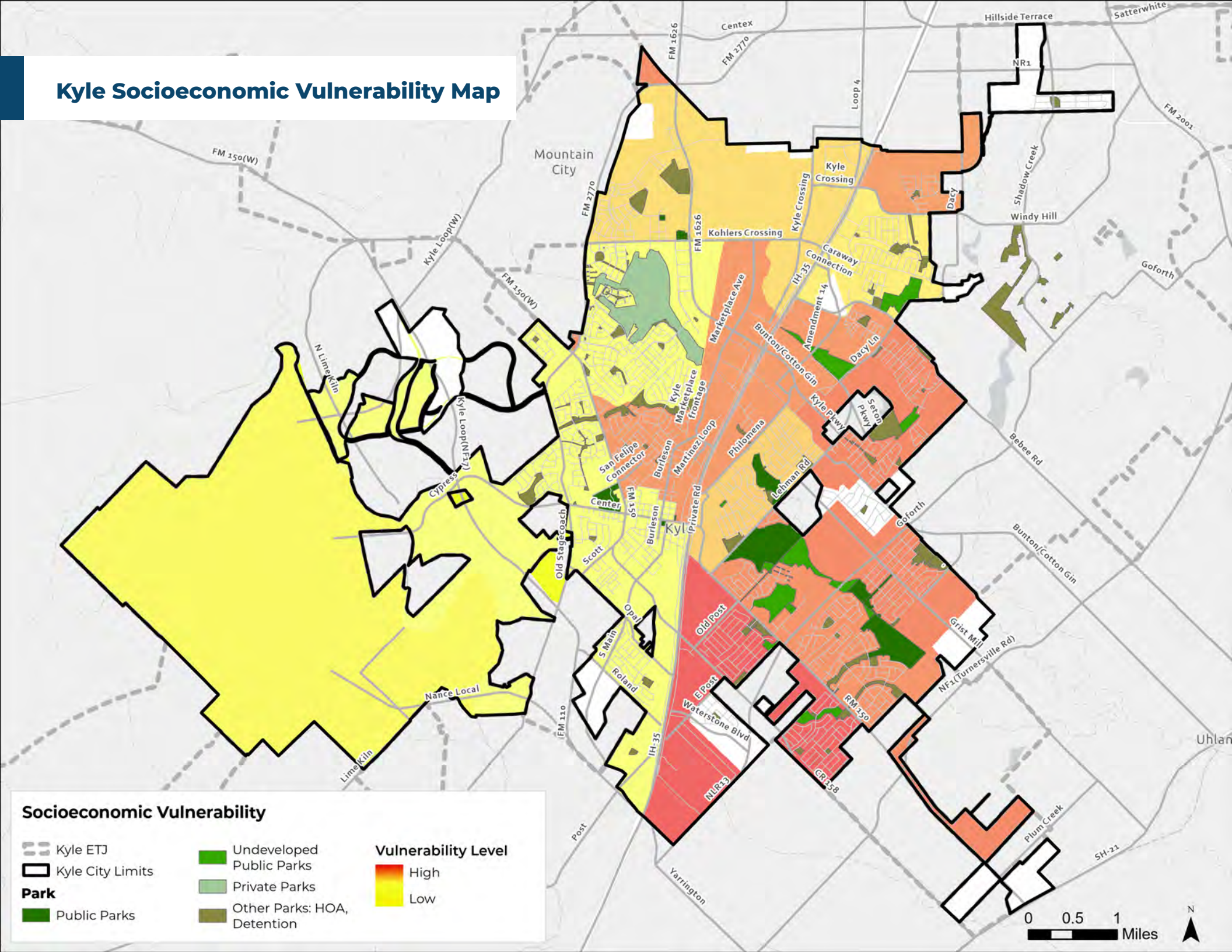
# Accessibility-Based Assessment

Access to parks should be a high priority for every city as this can help create a vibrant environment that will encourage healthy behaviors among the residents as well as create an attractive system that will draw visitors and businesses to the city. In this section of the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan), findings on the equitable access to the existing Parks and Recreation System and the health benefits it provides are covered.

## Access to Park

To have an equitably accessible Parks and Recreation System, a city must provide parks that are close to home and accessible through safe and connected routes. This means parks must be provided to all residents within a 10-minute walk along sidewalks/trails/multi-use paths accessible by everyone that are safe to use. For the City of Kyle, a Park Access Index map was created by analyzing factors that included, but were not limited to, location of parks within a ½ mile walkshed, location of existing parks, population densities, location of trails and barriers to safe accessibility.

The overall findings of the accessibility assessment indicate that currently much of the outer edges of the city limits do not have readily accessible parks or recreation services. An interesting addition to point out is that there is also an existing neighborhood within the center of the city that was also found to be highly lacking accessibility to parks and recreation services. Much of this lack in accessibility for these areas is due to the lack of parks. Using the Level of Service (LOS) map to identify where existing parks are located and their service area does support the findings from the Park Accessibility Index map as many of the public parks are located to the east of I-35, clustered between Bebee Rd. and CR-158. However, much of this parkland is undeveloped meaning that the sites have not been improved to include amenities such as playgrounds, paths, sitting area, or playing fields. There are also a few parks located to the west of I-35, however these existing parks are located away from each other creating a gap in accessible services.

Even though the LOS map shows that there are more public parks located on the east side of I-35, the Park Accessibility Index map indicates that the accessibility to these parks is limited. Even though the LOS map shows a higher concentration of public parkland on the east side of I-35, many of these sites remain undeveloped, which does affect connectivity and accessibility, especially if they lack sidewalks or trails. This lack of improvements at these sites is reflected in the Park Accessibility Index map, which indicates limited access to these parks. This can be due to lack of sidewalks, connections to the parks, and accessibility barriers including features like major roadways, railroads, creeks, rivers, and drainageways. Additionally, when assessing accessibility, the service distance to a park or recreation facility is determined based on the use of accessible routes. When this is considered, areas where the LOS map shows them within the service area of a park may fall outside of using it services. A good example of this are the areas to the far southeast of Kyle. The LOS map shows that most of these areas are covered by the service areas of some existing parks, however, when taking a closer look at accessibility to these parks, the accessibility is very limited due to the lack of publicly available sidewalks, trails, multi-use paths connecting the neighborhoods to the parks.

The areas to the extreme north, south and southwest of Kyle have not yet seen much in development, thus the park accessibility in this area is very low. However, as the population continues to increase and these areas begin to develop, a key focal point should be that safe, barrier free, accessible routes are created and connect to parks that are within the 10-minute walking time or the ½ mile walkshed distance to all residents of the neighborhoods.

# Kyle Park Access Map



**Park Access**

- Kyle ETJ
- Kyle City Limits

**Park**
- Public Parks
- Undeveloped Public Parks
- Private Parks
- Other Parks: HOA, Detention

**Park Access Gap**
- Low
- High

0    0.5    1 Miles
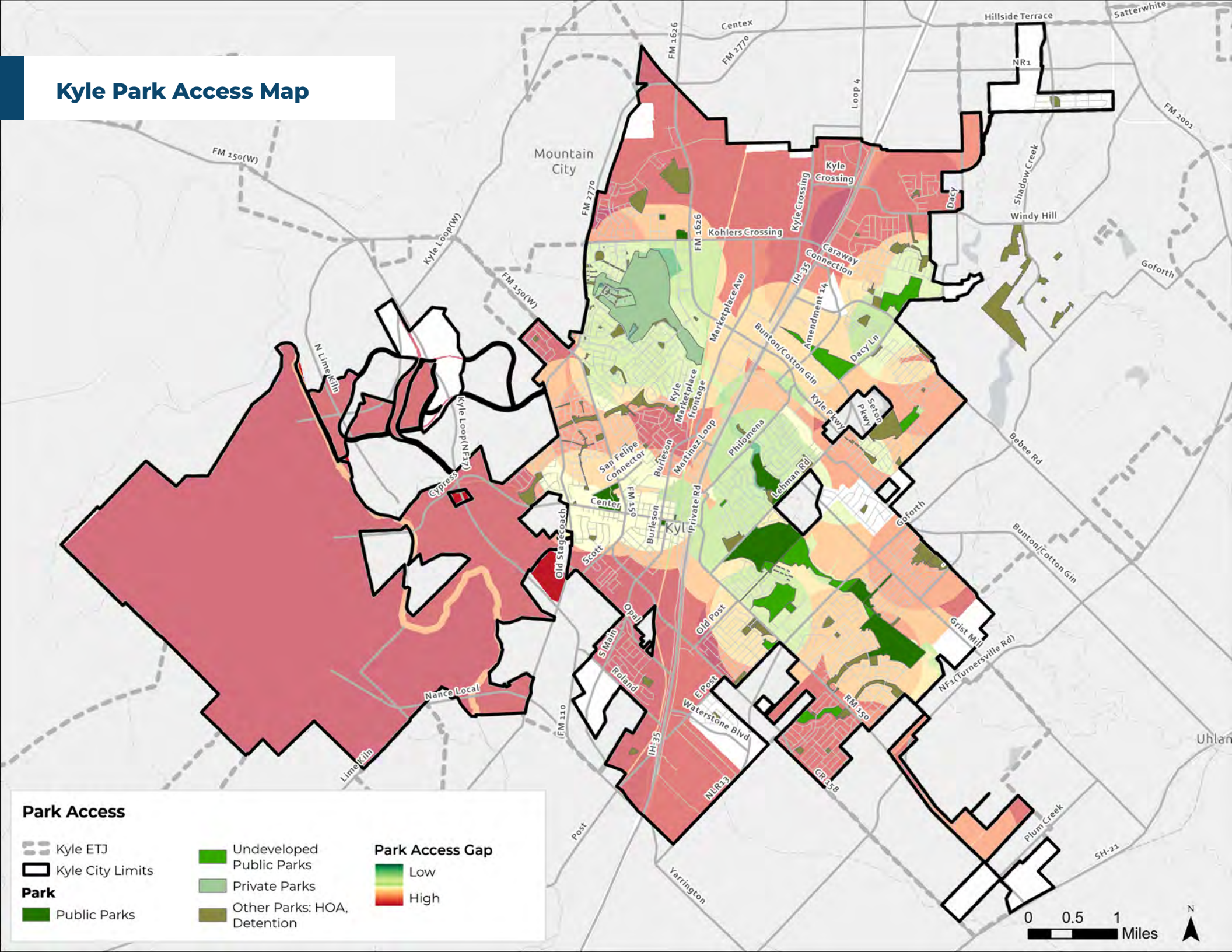
# Health Vulnerability

As part of the equity assessment, the overall health vulnerability of the City was examined. Examples of factors that were used in the analysis included percent of population with disabilities, percent of population with obesity, percent of population with respiratory diseases, percent of population with coronary heart disease.

The highest area found to have health vulnerabilities is the residential area that is located near the intersection of Amberwood St. and I-35. This neighborhood is detached from the rest of Kyle. This detachment has led to the lack of accessibility to any public close-to-home park, thus greatly reducing access to the health benefits of the parks. The remainder of the City was found to fall within the upper middle levels of health vulnerability (except for the large undeveloped area in west Kyle).

The high level of health vulnerability in these areas can be due to preexisting conditions, however, many of the factors that were included in this portion of the equity assessment could be mitigated, if not eliminated, by the persons participating in healthy activities. Studies have shown that when parks are provided within walking distance, are safe, inviting, and provide amenities or recreation programs, people are much more apt to use them regularly, thus encouraging good physical, mental, and social health. As indicated by the assessment of park accessibility, the City of Kyle does provide some parks, however equitable accessibility is limited due to lack of connected paths to parks, barriers to safe access, and lack of equitably distributed public close-to-home parks. These factors thus play a role in the residents reducing their use of parks and recreation facilities to improve their health.

**Kyle Health Vulnerability Map**

**Health Vulnerability**

- ⬚ Kyle ETJ
- ☐ Kyle City Limits
- ■ Public Parks
- ■ Undeveloped Public Parks
- ■ Private Parks
- ■ Other Parks: HOA, Detention
- ■ High
- ☐ Low

0    0.5    1    Miles
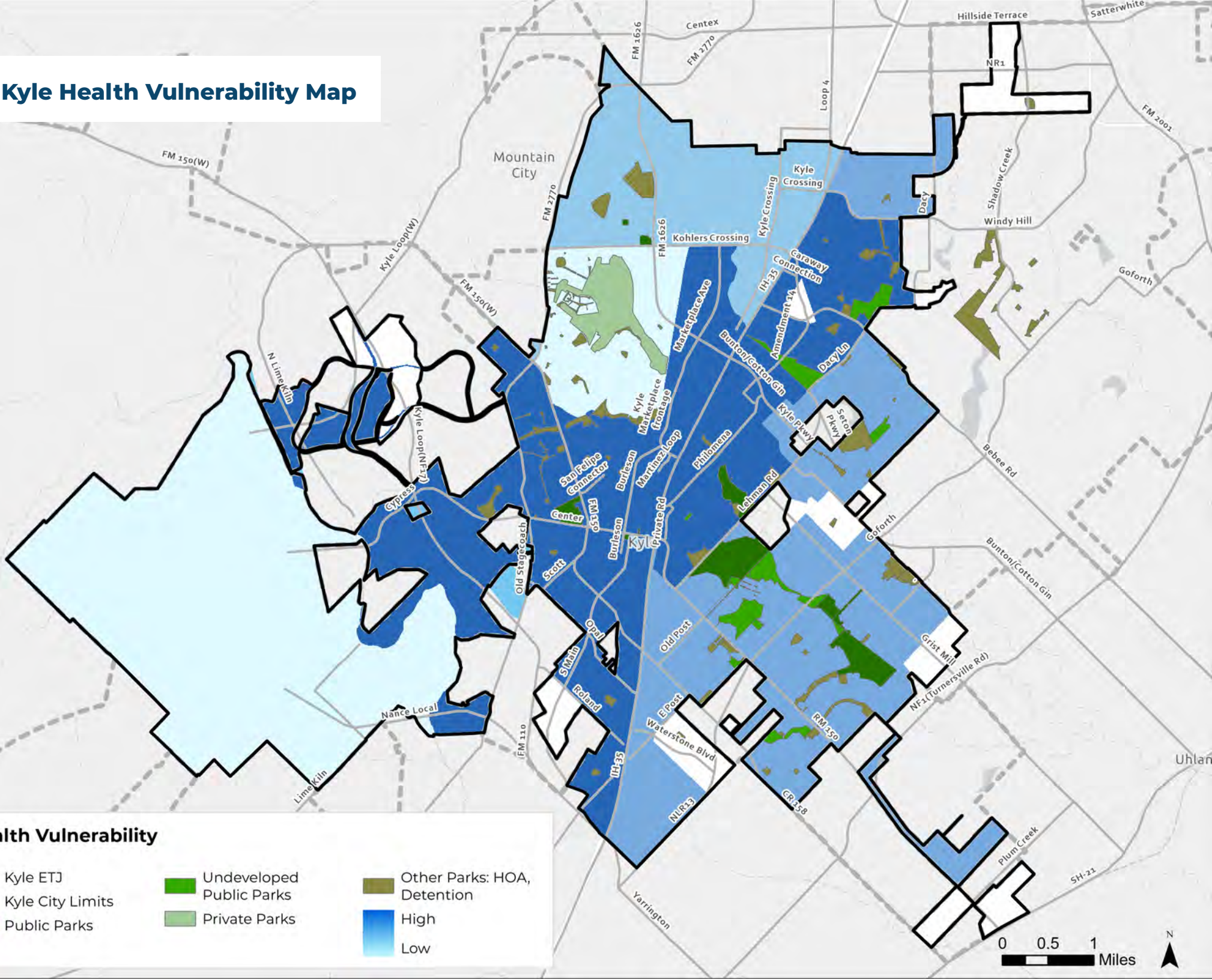
# Overall Needs Assessment

After a comprehensive review and assessment of the City of Kyle's Parks and Recreation System, several key needs were identified. These ranged from upgrading existing parks to conserving green spaces. This section provides a brief overview of these needs.

The analysis revealed three immediate needs: enhancing and maintaining existing parks, creating more parks, and developing a connected trail system. These needs emerged from an evaluation of the park system's level of service, accessibility, and community feedback.

Focusing on existing parks is a primary concern. Meeting the immediate needs of the community starts with improving the current inventory. Upgrading these parks with new amenities and repairing or replacing outdated features can deliver quick wins. These improvements will excite residents, increase park usage, and build support for developing new parks. The need for new parks is particularly pressing on the east side of the city. A key goal for any park system is to ensure that park services are available within a 10-minute walk of every residential home. Addressing this gap could involve acquiring vacant or underutilized land in existing neighborhoods for conversion into public parks. Additionally, partnering with property owners or easement holders to establish public recreation agreements offers another viable solution.

Developing a connected trail system is a key priority for the City of Kyle. Building on the foundation of the VYBE Trail System Master Plan, which envisions a comprehensive network linking various nodes and VYBE "Spots" across the city, there is a pressing need to enhance connectivity between trail segments. To achieve this, the city should focus on extending the trail network by leveraging city-owned properties and integrating trails into planned roadway improvements. Natural corridors, such as greenways, waterways, and drainage areas, present valuable opportunities for further trail expansion. The system should connect major destinations, including Downtown Kyle, parks, schools, neighborhoods, and commercial hubs, while uniting the city's east and west sides. Additionally, ongoing collaboration with the Emerald Crown Trail System and the Great Springs Trail System is essential. Connecting Kyle's trails to these regional networks will not only provide residents with expanded travel options but also create vital pathways for visitors to access Kyle's attractions and services, ultimately strengthening the local economy.

Protecting and enhancing the local environment was another significant need identified. Rapid growth in Kyle is leading to the loss of natural green spaces, impacting local wildlife habitats, water supply, air quality, and tree cover. The PROS Master Plan can support preservation efforts by acquiring land for public parks, green spaces, and conservancies. The Parks and Recreation Department can collaborate with government agencies like Public Works and TxDOT to implement green infrastructure, plant trees, and landscape along roadways as part of enhancement projects. Including undisturbed green spaces in private development projects can further conservation efforts while creating public areas for relaxation, exercise, and socialization.

Enhancing recreational programs was also highlighted as a community need. Additional programs focusing on skills such as dancing, music, and fitness are in demand. Extreme Texas weather conditions also underscore the need for indoor recreational options. Currently, the City does not own an indoor recreation facility. While the old City Hall building in downtown is used for senior recreation, it is insufficient to meet broader community needs. Developing a new indoor recreation facility with spaces for programs, events, exercise rooms, dance studios, indoor sports, and community activities is a crucial step. Identifying a central and accessible location for such a facility should be a priority.

Funding and staffing were two additional areas of need. The Parks and Recreation Department's current budget falls below national benchmarks, however, the department has opportunities to grow its budget to align with national standards and peer cities. With Kyle's population projected to exceed 100,000 sooner than anticipated, there is pressure on city departments to meet growing demands. To increase the department's budget without burdening residents, the city could apply for grants, establish partnerships, and create revenue-generating programs such as corporate sponsorships or naming rights. These measures would enable the department to hire more staff, enhancing the quality of the park, recreation, maintenance, and operation services provided to the community.

# Kyle Priority Areas Map

**Priority Areas for New Parks**

- ⬛ Kyle ETJ
- ⬛ Kyle City Limits

**Park**
- ⬛ Public Parks
- 🟩 Undeveloped Public Parks
- 🟩 Private Parks
- 🟫 Other Parks: HOA, Detention

**Priority**
- 🟨 Low
- 🟧 Medium
- 🟥 High

0   0.5   1 Miles

# APPENDIX

# C

*Kyle PROS - Public Engagement - City Fest Pop Up*

# Community Engagement Summary

## Introduction

Appendix C presents the full survey results collected as part of the Kyle Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. These responses offer valuable insight into community preferences, priorities, and needs, helping to inform recommendations throughout the planning process.

# Community Survey Results

**1. 1. Have you ever used any of the City of Kyle's Parks and Recreation facilities or participated in any of their activities or programs?** Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 15 | Answered: 1,110 (98.7%)
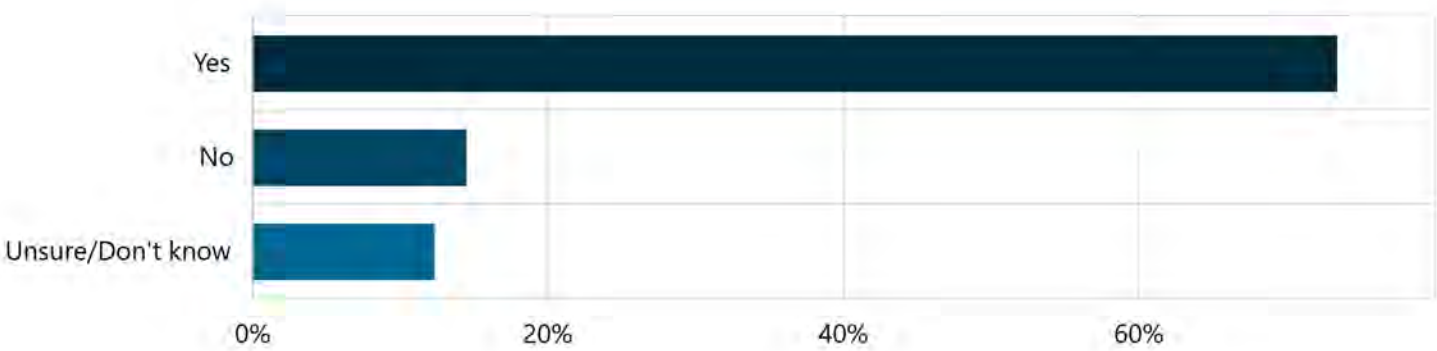


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 73.33% | 814 |
| No | 14.41% | 160 |
| Unsure/Don't know | 12.25% | 136 |
| **Total** | **100.00%** | **1,110** |

**2. 2.If you or your family DO NOT use parks or recreational facilities in Kyle, why don't you? Check all that apply (If you are a user please skip to the next question)** Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 575 | Answered: 550 (48.9%)
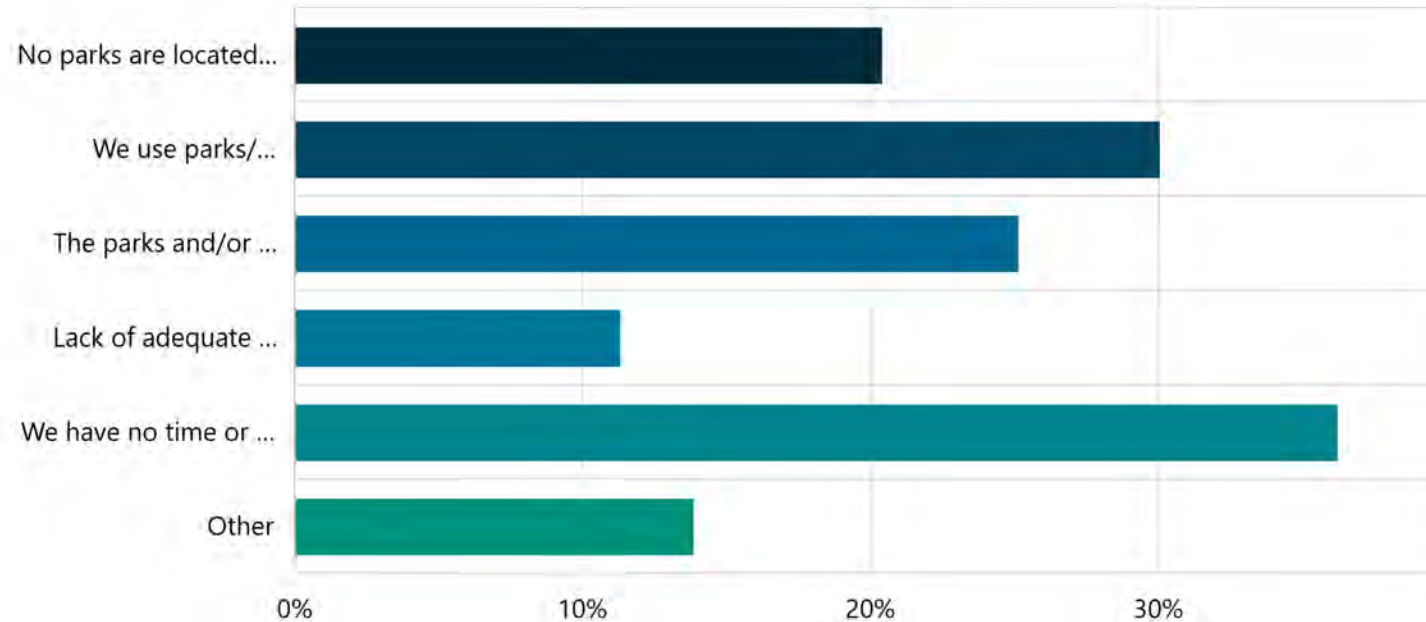


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| No parks are located near us | 20.36% | 112 |
| We use parks/facilities in nearby cities instead | 30.00% | 165 |
| The parks and/or recreational facilities do not meet our needs or interests | 25.09% | 138 |
| Lack of adequate security/ do not feel safe | 11.27% | 62 |
| We have no time or interest | 36.18% | 199 |
| Other | 13.82% | 76 |

## 3. 3.How often do you or other household members use or visit the parks facilities listed below in the city of Kyle? Required

Matrix | Skipped: 18 | Answered: 1,107 (98.4%)
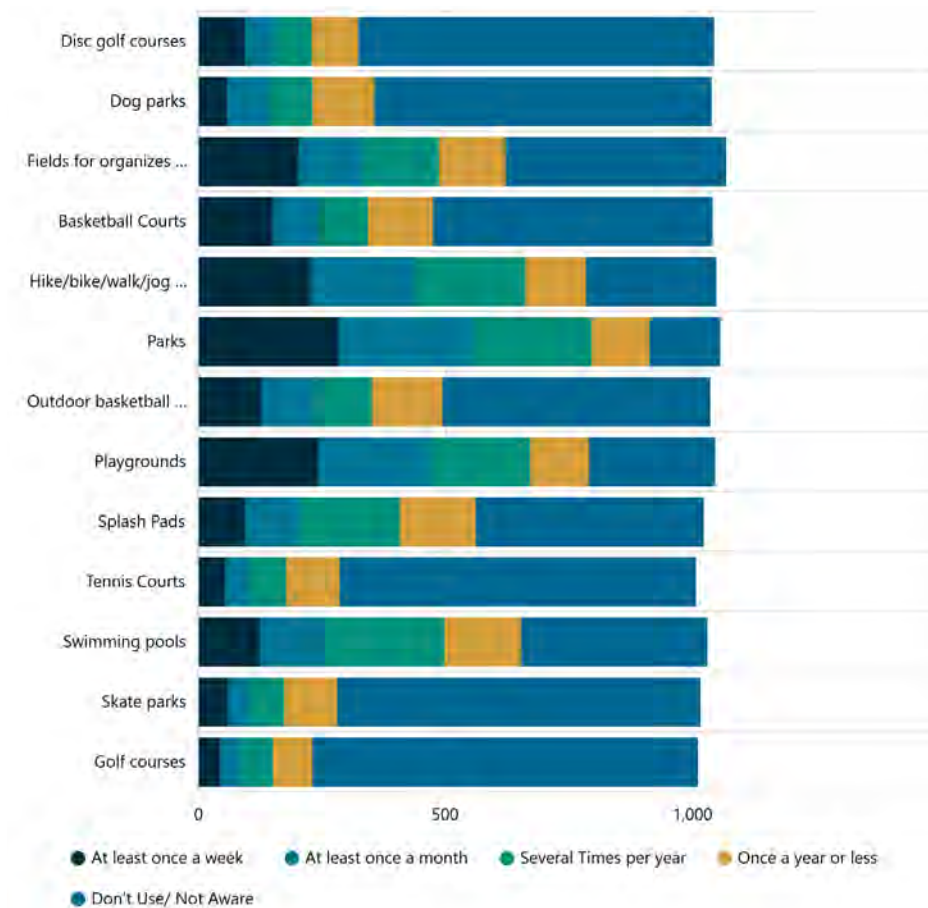


| | At least once a week | At least once a month | Several Times per year | Once a year or less | Don't Use/ Not Aware | Count | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Disc golf courses | 9.02% 94 | 5.85% 61 | 7.20% 75 | 9.02% 94 | 68.91% 718 | 1,042 | 4.23 |
| Dog parks | 5.59% 58 | 8.20% 85 | 8.49% 88 | 12.05% 125 | 65.67% 681 | 1,037 | 4.24 |
| Fields for organizes sports (soccer, football, baseball, softball, etc) | 19.04% 203 | 12.10% 129 | 14.54% 155 | 12.66% 135 | 41.65% 444 | 1,066 | 3.46 |
| Basketball Courts | 14.63% 152 | 8.37% 87 | 10.01% 104 | 12.70% 132 | 54.28% 564 | 1,039 | 3.84 |
| Hike/bike/walk/jog trails | 21.70% 227 | 20.27% 212 | 21.32% 223 | 11.76% 123 | 24.95% 261 | 1,046 | 2.98 |
| Parks | 26.94% 284 | 25.43% 268 | 23.15% 244 | 11.10% 117 | 13.38% 141 | 1,054 | 2.59 |
| Outdoor basketball courts | 12.38% 128 | 10.44% 108 | 11.22% 116 | 13.83% 143 | 52.13% 539 | 1,034 | 3.83 |
| Playgrounds | 23.28% 243 | 21.55% 225 | 19.54% 204 | 11.40% 119 | 24.23% 253 | 1,044 | 2.92 |
| Splash Pads | 9.21% 94 | 10.58% 108 | 20.18% 206 | 15.08% 154 | 44.96% 459 | 1,021 | 3.76 |
| Tennis Courts | 5.37% 54 | 4.88% 49 | 7.46% 75 | 10.75% 108 | 71.54% 719 | 1,005 | 4.38 |
| Swimming pools | 12.16% 125 | 12.45% 128 | 23.83% 245 | 15.08% 155 | 36.48% 375 | 1,028 | 3.51 |
| Skate parks | 5.82% 59 | 4.44% 45 | 6.90% 70 | 10.55% 107 | 72.29% 733 | 1,014 | 4.39 |
| Golf courses | 4.36% 44 | 3.96% 40 | 6.64% 67 | 7.93% 80 | 77.11% 778 | 1,009 | 4.49 |

## 4. 4.How satisfied are you with the quality, appearance, and maintenance of the following parks and recreation elements in Kyle? Required

Matrix | Skipped: 26 | Answered: 1,099 (97.7%)
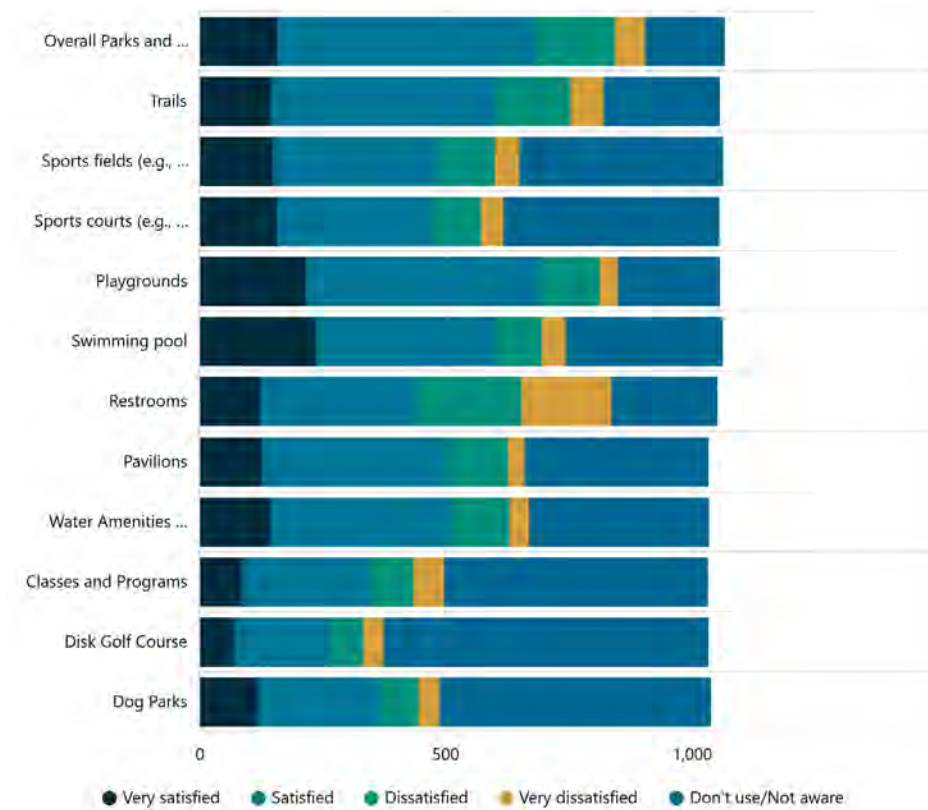


| | Very satisfied | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | Very dissatisfied | Don't use/Not aware | Count | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Overall Parks and Recreation System | 14.85% 158 | 48.97% 521 | 15.41% 164 | 5.73% 61 | 15.04% 160 | 1,064 | 2.57 |
| Trails | 13.76% 145 | 43.36% 457 | 14.33% 151 | 6.36% 67 | 22.20% 234 | 1,054 | 2.80 |
| Sports fields (e.g., baseball, softball) | 14.04% 149 | 31.67% 336 | 10.74% 114 | 4.71% 50 | 38.83% 412 | 1,061 | 3.23 |
| Sports courts (e.g., basketball, tennis) | 14.91% 157 | 29.91% 315 | 9.40% 99 | 4.37% 46 | 41.41% 436 | 1,053 | 3.27 |
| Playgrounds | 20.40% 215 | 45.45% 479 | 11.20% 118 | 3.51% 37 | 19.45% 205 | 1,054 | 2.56 |
| Swimming pool | 22.08% 234 | 34.62% 367 | 8.87% 94 | 4.53% 48 | 29.91% 317 | 1,060 | 2.86 |
| Restrooms | 11.73% 123 | 30.03% 315 | 20.50% 215 | 17.45% 183 | 20.31% 213 | 1,049 | 3.05 |
| Pavilions | 12.32% 127 | 36.47% 376 | 11.93% 123 | 3.30% 34 | 35.98% 371 | 1,031 | 3.14 |
| Water Amenities (splash pads) | 13.86% 143 | 35.27% 364 | 11.82% 122 | 3.88% 40 | 35.17% 363 | 1,032 | 3.11 |
| Classes and Programs | 8.45% 87 | 25.05% 258 | 8.64% 89 | 6.12% 63 | 51.75% 533 | 1,030 | 3.68 |
| Disk Golf Course | 6.60% 68 | 18.91% 195 | 6.69% 69 | 3.98% 41 | 63.82% 658 | 1,031 | 4.00 |
| Dog Parks | 11.39% 118 | 24.23% 251 | 7.24% 75 | 4.15% 43 | 52.99% 549 | 1,036 | 3.63 |

## 6. 5.How often have you or your family participated in the following events/programs in the past year?

Required

Matrix | Skipped: 38 | Answered: 1,087 (96.6%)
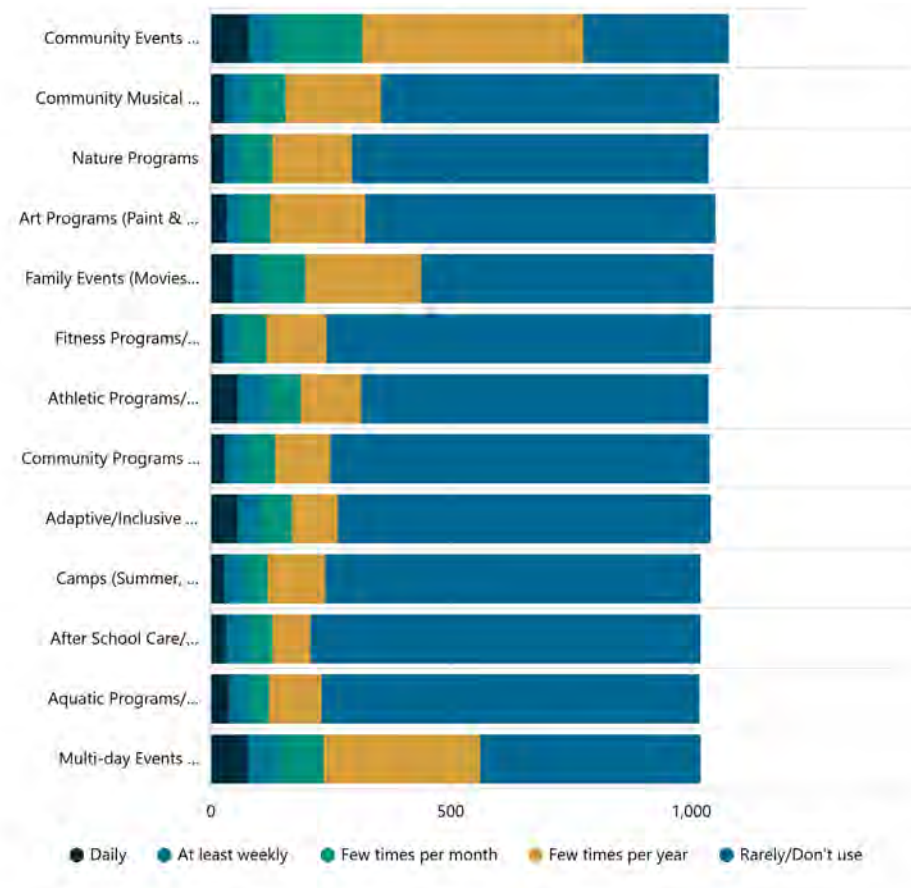


| | Daily | At least weekly | Few times per month | Few times per year | Rarely/Don't use | Count | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Community Events (Kyle Markets, Christmas Events, Halloween, Easter, etc.) | 7.43% 80 | 5.20% 56 | 16.64% 179 | 42.84% 461 | 27.88% 300 | 1,076 | 3.79 |
| Community Musical Events (Jams on the Green) | 2.84% 30 | 4.55% 48 | 7.39% 78 | 18.84% 199 | 66.38% 701 | 1,056 | 4.41 |
| Nature Programs | 2.61% 27 | 3.38% 35 | 6.38% 66 | 16.05% 166 | 71.57% 740 | 1,034 | 4.51 |
| Art Programs (Paint & Sip, Art in the Park, Dance, Public Art) | 3.15% 33 | 2.67% 28 | 6.01% 63 | 18.89% 198 | 69.27% 726 | 1,048 | 4.48 |
| Family Events (Movies in the Park, Skate Nights) | 4.50% 47 | 5.08% 53 | 9.29% 97 | 23.08% 241 | 58.05% 606 | 1,044 | 4.25 |
| Fitness Programs/Events - (Zumba, Yoga, 5k, Tiny Tot Tri-athalon) | 2.50% 26 | 3.08% 32 | 5.58% 58 | 12.03% 125 | 76.80% 798 | 1,039 | 4.58 |
| Athletic Programs/leagues - (Youth/Adult) | 5.42% 56 | 6.19% 64 | 6.48% 67 | 12.19% 126 | 69.73% 721 | 1,034 | 4.35 |
| Community Programs (Adult, Youth, Active Aging) | 2.90% 30 | 4.15% 43 | 5.89% 61 | 11.10% 115 | 75.97% 787 | 1,036 | 4.53 |
| Adaptive/Inclusive Programs/Athletics (Special Olympics Bocce/Swim/Soccer, All Abilities Dances, Social Squad, | 5.39% 56 | 4.34% 45 | 6.55% 68 | 9.25% 96 | 74.47% 773 | 1,038 | 4.43 |
| Camps (Summer, Spring, themed) | 2.85% 29 | 4.33% 44 | 4.42% 45 | 11.80% 120 | 76.60% 779 | 1,017 | 4.55 |
| After School Care/Programs | 3.05% 31 | 4.52% 46 | 5.01% 51 | 7.87% 80 | 79.55% 809 | 1,017 | 4.56 |
| Aquatic Programs/Events (Swim Team, Swim Lessons, Aqua-Fit, Dive-In | 3.84% 39 | 3.74% 38 | 4.33% 44 | 10.84% 110 | 77.24% 784 | 1,015 | 4.54 |

**7. 6.Please select the Top 5 facilities you believe are MOST needed in Kyle's parks to enhance the community's recreation options.** Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 37 | Answered: 1,088 (96.7%)
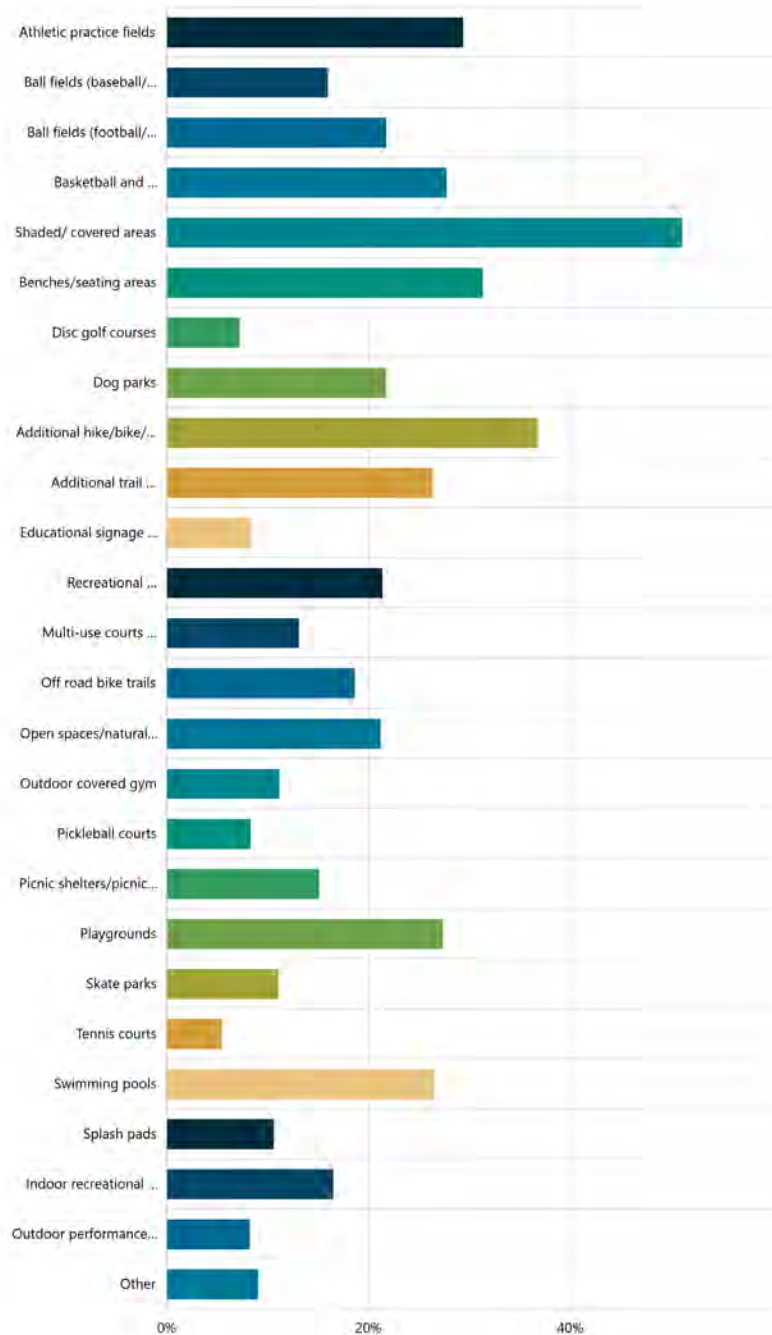


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| Athletic practice fields | 29.32% | 319 |
| Ball fields (baseball/softball) | 15.90% | 173 |
| Ball fields (football/soccer/rugby and field hockey) | 21.69% | 236 |
| Basketball and Volleyball courts | 27.67% | 301 |
| Shaded/ covered areas | 51.01% | 555 |
| Benches/seating areas | 31.25% | 340 |
| Disc golf courses | 7.17% | 78 |
| Dog parks | 21.69% | 236 |
| Additional hike/bike/walking trails | 36.67% | 399 |
| Additional trail connections throughout the city | 26.29% | 286 |
| Educational signage in parks and along trails | 8.36% | 91 |
| Recreational activities along Waterfront/Lake (kayaking, paddleboarding, fishing, paddle boats, etc.) | 21.32% | 232 |
| Multi-use courts (tennis, basketball, pickleball, etc.) | 13.05% | 142 |
| Off road bike trails | 18.57% | 202 |
| Open spaces/natural areas | 21.14% | 230 |
| Outdoor covered gym | 11.12% | 121 |
| Pickleball courts | 8.27% | 90 |
| Picnic shelters/picnic tables/pavilions | 15.07% | 164 |
| Playgrounds | 27.30% | 297 |
| Skate parks | 11.03% | 120 |
| Tennis courts | 5.42% | 59 |
| Swimming pools | 26.47% | 288 |
| Splash pads | 10.57% | 115 |
| Indoor recreational centers | 16.45% | 179 |
| Outdoor performance areas/stage | 8.18% | 89 |
| Other | 9.01% | 98 |

**8. 7.What are the top 5 priorities that the City of Kyle Parks and Recreation Department should focus on? (Please drag and drop in ranking order with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important)**
Required
Ranking | Skipped: 171 | Answered: 954 (84.8%)
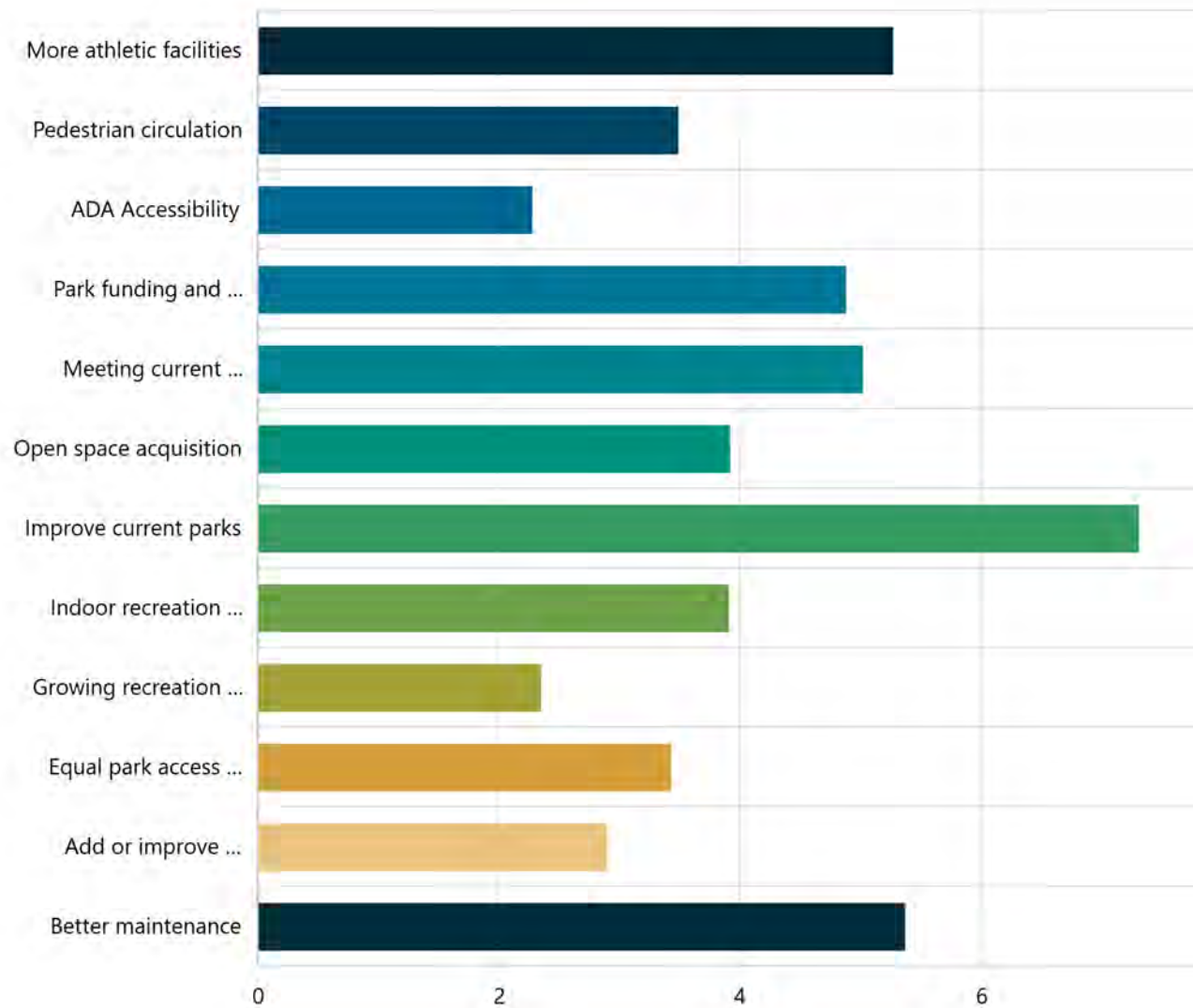
**10. 8.To prioritize the Parks and Recreation Department budget, if the city were to increase spending on parks and recreation services, what would you like to see them prioritize on?** Required

Matrix | Skipped: 62 | Answered: 1,063 (94.5%)
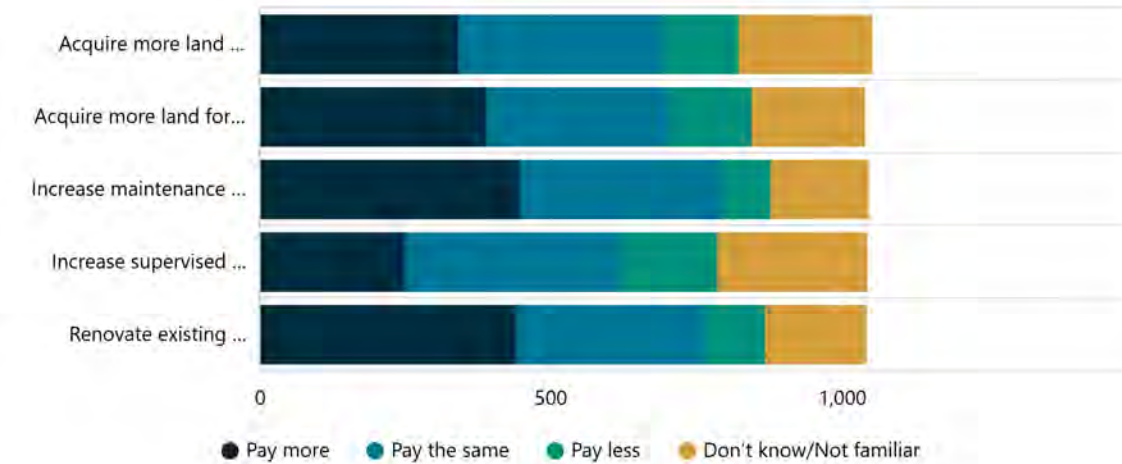


|  | Pay more | Pay the same | Pay less | Don't know/Not familiar | Count | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acquire more land for parks | 32.51% 341 | 33.27% 349 | 12.58% 132 | 21.64% 227 | 1,049 | 2.23 |
| Acquire more land for trails and trail connections | 37.51% 389 | 30.47% 316 | 13.40% 139 | 18.61% 193 | 1,037 | 2.13 |
| Increase maintenance of parks and trails | 42.67% 445 | 33.37% 348 | 8.05% 84 | 15.92% 166 | 1,043 | 1.97 |
| Increase supervised recreational activities/programs | 23.92% 249 | 35.16% 366 | 16.33% 170 | 24.59% 256 | 1,041 | 2.42 |
| Renovate existing parks and facilities | 42.44% 441 | 30.99% 322 | 10.01% 104 | 16.55% 172 | 1,039 | 2.01 |

**11. 9.What types of programs or activities would you like to see more of?** Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 53 | Answered: 1,072 (95.3%)
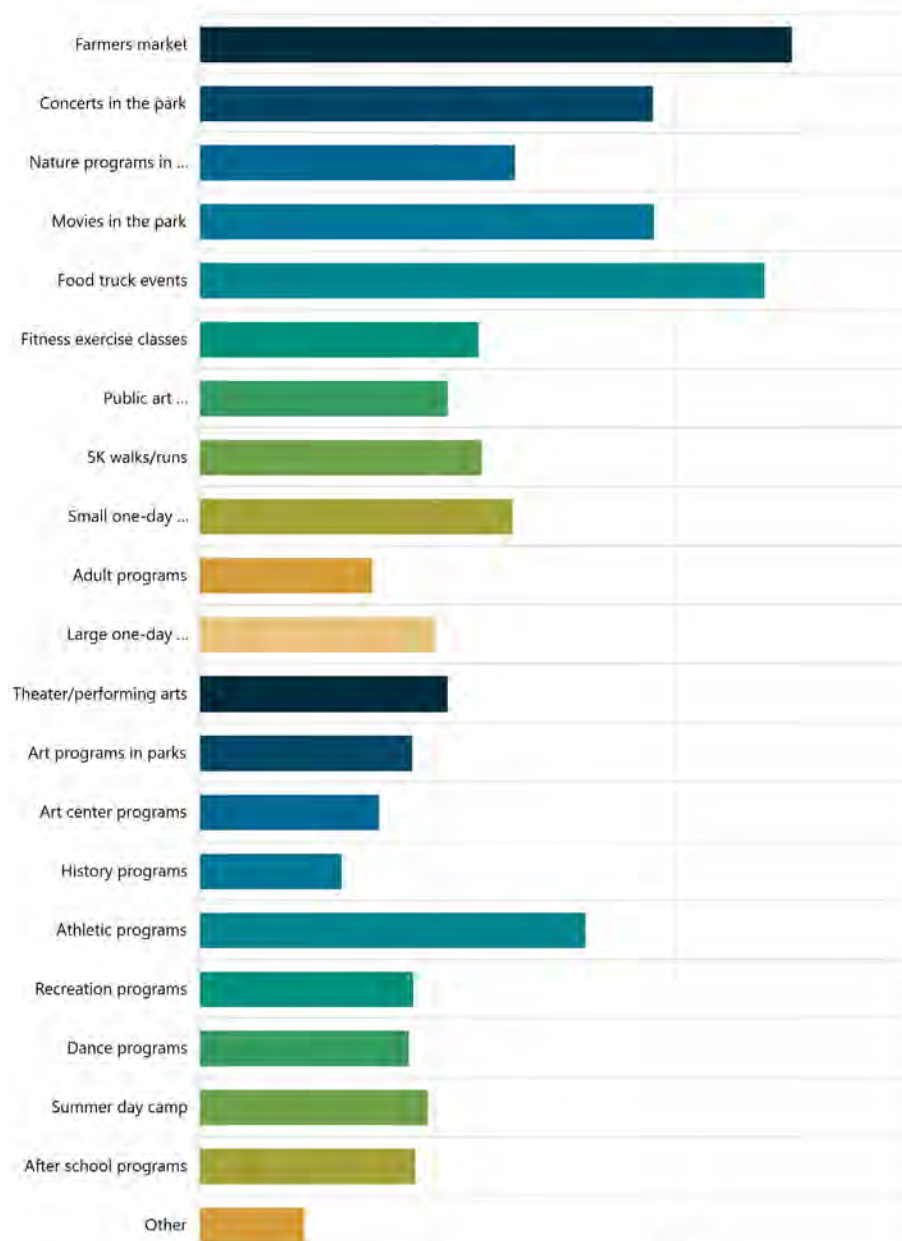


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| Farmers market | 50.00% | 536 |
| Concerts in the park | 38.25% | 410 |
| Nature programs in parks | 26.59% | 285 |
| Movies in the park | 38.34% | 411 |
| Food truck events | 47.67% | 511 |
| Fitness exercise classes | 23.51% | 252 |
| Public art installations in parks | 20.90% | 224 |
| 5K walks/runs | 23.79% | 255 |
| Small one-day special events | 26.40% | 283 |
| Adult programs | 14.55% | 156 |
| Large one-day special events | 19.78% | 212 |
| Theater/performing arts | 20.90% | 224 |
| Art programs in parks | 17.91% | 192 |
| Art center programs | 15.11% | 162 |
| History programs | 11.94% | 128 |
| Athletic programs | 32.56% | 349 |
| Recreation programs | 18.00% | 193 |
| Dance programs | 17.63% | 189 |
| Summer day camp | 19.22% | 206 |
| After school programs | 18.19% | 195 |
| Other | 8.77% | 94 |

## 12. 10. Which features are important to you for playgrounds? (Select all that apply) Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 54 | Answered: 1,071 (95.2%)
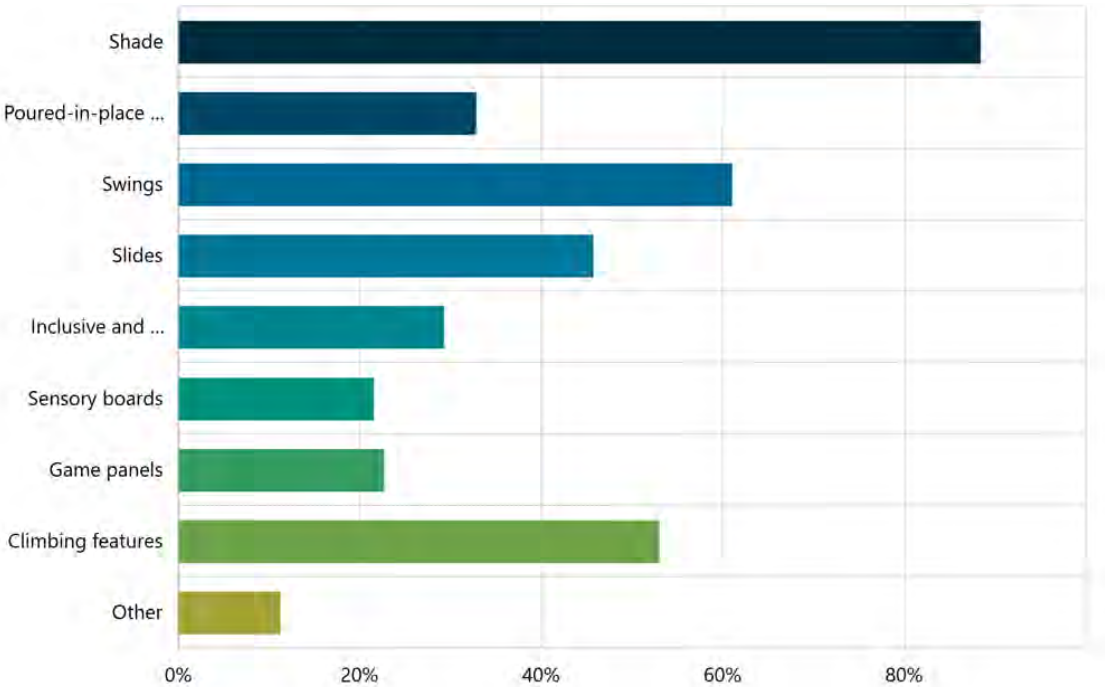


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| Shade | 88.33% | 946 |
| Poured-in-place rubber or artificial turf surfacing | 32.77% | 351 |
| Swings | 60.97% | 653 |
| Slides | 45.66% | 489 |
| Inclusive and adaptive features | 29.23% | 313 |
| Sensory boards | 21.48% | 230 |
| Game panels | 22.60% | 242 |
| Climbing features | 52.94% | 567 |
| Other | 11.20% | 120 |

**13. 11. Please rank the following trail-related statements in order of importance to you, with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important:** Required

Ranking | Skipped: 171 | Answered: 954 (84.8%)
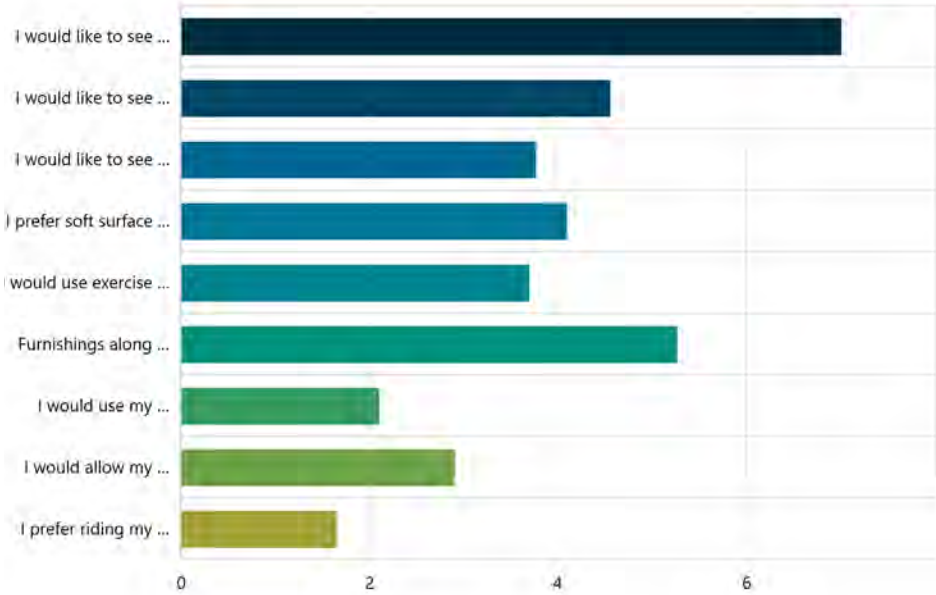
**14. 12 A. Currently the City of Kyle does not have an indoor recreation facility. Do you feel an indoor recreation facility is needed in Kyle?** Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 1,125 (100%)
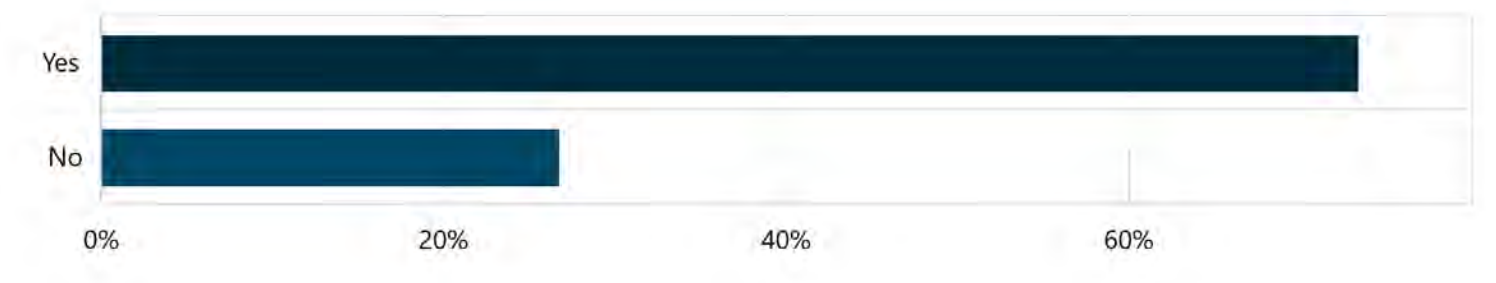


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 73.33% | 825 |
| No | 26.67% | 300 |
| **Total** | **100.00%** | **1,125** |



Indoor Recreation Priority By Age

■ Yes ■ No
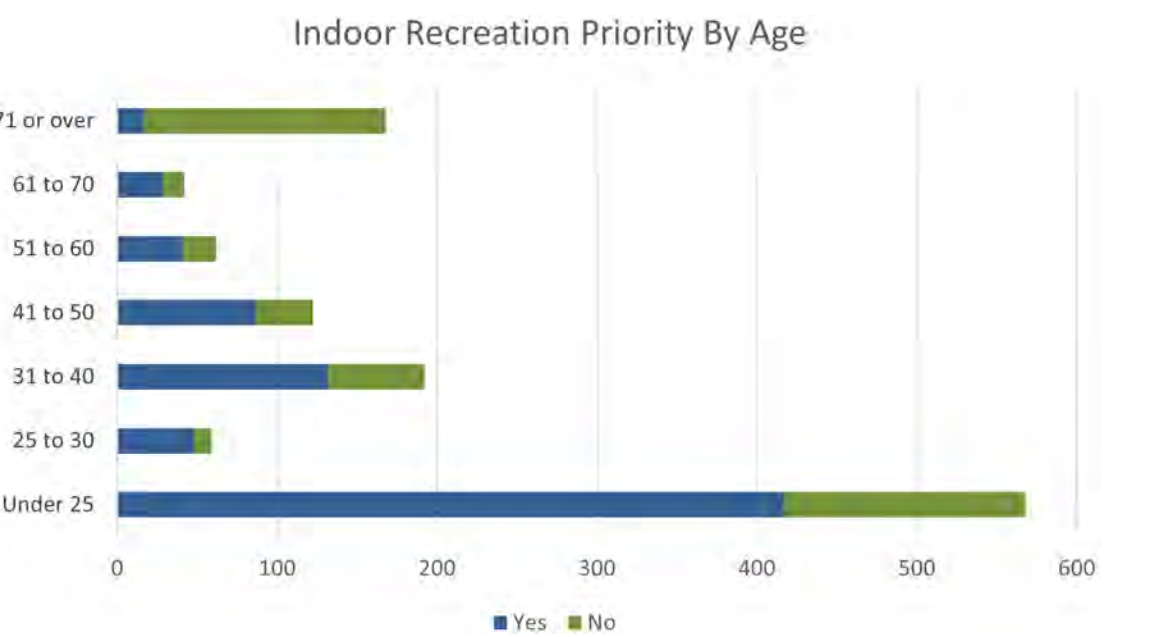
## 15. 12 B. If you responded Yes, what types of activities and programs would you like to see offered? Check all that apply.

Multi Choice | Skipped: 271 | Answered: 854 (75.9%)
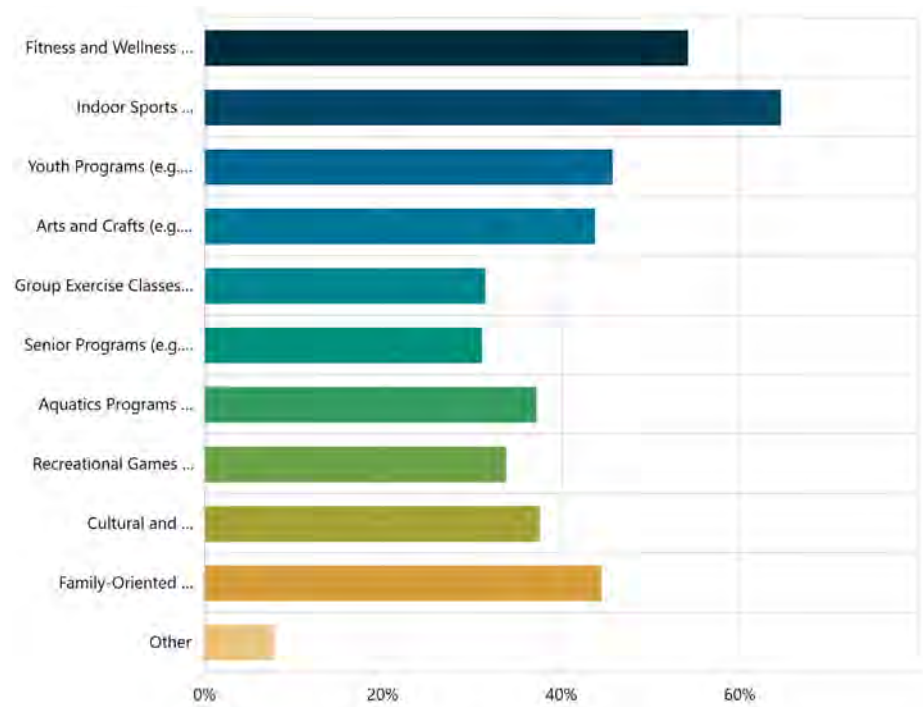


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| Fitness and Wellness Programs (e.g., yoga, Pilates, aerobics, strength training) | 54.10% | 462 |
| Indoor Sports Leagues (e.g., basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, pickleball) | 64.52% | 551 |
| Youth Programs (e.g., after-school activities, summer camps, educational workshops) | 45.67% | 390 |
| Arts and Crafts (e.g., painting, pottery, woodworking, DIY projects) | 43.68% | 373 |
| Group Exercise Classes (e.g., Zumba, spin classes, martial arts) | 31.38% | 268 |
| Senior Programs (e.g., fitness, social clubs, health and wellness workshops) | 31.03% | 265 |
| Aquatics Programs (e.g., swimming lessons, water aerobics, lap swimming) | 37.12% | 317 |
| Recreational Games (e.g., table tennis, billiards, board games) | 33.72% | 288 |
| Cultural and Educational Workshops (e.g., cooking classes, language learning, music lessons) | 37.47% | 320 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Family-Oriented Events (e.g., family game nights, movie nights, community celebrations) | 44.38% | 379 |
| Other | 7.61% | 65 |

**17. 14. In order to develop the parks and recreation improvements you have suggested herein, how strongly would you support each of the funding options listed below** Required

Matrix | Skipped: 114 | Answered: 1,011 (89.9%)
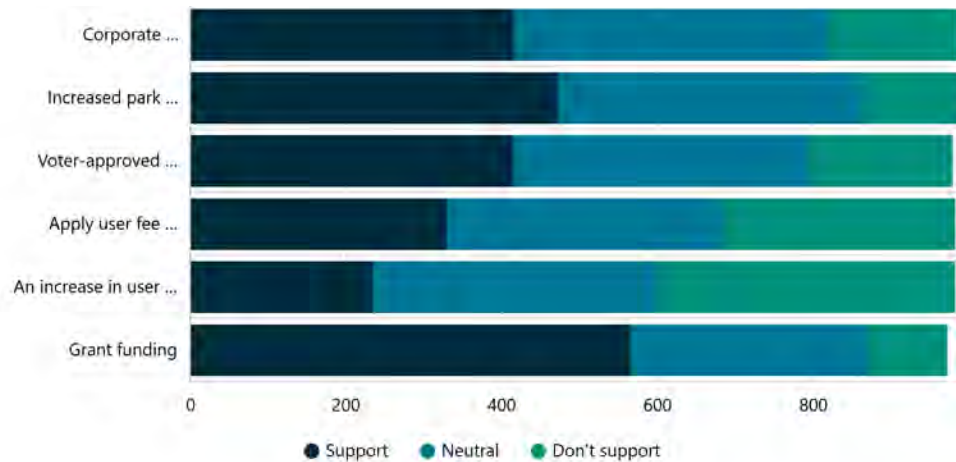


|  | Support | Neutral | Don't support | Count | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corporate advertising/naming rights | 42.23%<br>416 | 40.91%<br>403 | 16.85%<br>166 | 985 | 1.75 |
| Increased park dedication fees for developers | 47.62%<br>471 | 39.64%<br>392 | 12.74%<br>126 | 989 | 1.65 |
| Voter-approved bond programs | 42.48%<br>415 | 38.69%<br>378 | 18.83%<br>184 | 977 | 1.76 |
| Apply user fee revenue to improve parks and recreation | 33.57%<br>329 | 35.92%<br>352 | 30.51%<br>299 | 980 | 1.97 |
| An increase in user fees (paying a fee to use a facility/ program) | 23.88%<br>234 | 37.24%<br>365 | 38.88%<br>381 | 980 | 2.15 |
| Grant funding | 58.14%<br>564 | 31.44%<br>305 | 10.41%<br>101 | 970 | 1.52 |

## Support for funding options distributed by age.

**18. 15. What is your current method of gathering information about Kyle parks, facilities, programs, and events?** Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 111 | Answered: 1,014 (90.1%)
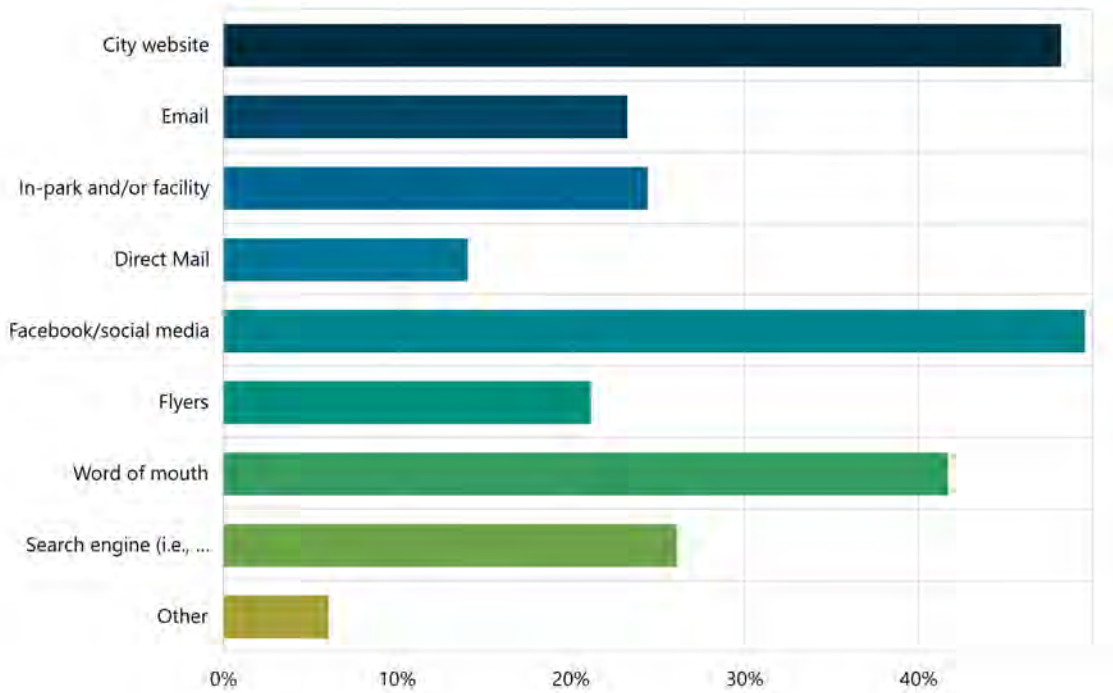


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
| --- | --- | --- |
| City website | 48.13% | 488 |
| Email | 23.18% | 235 |
| In-park and/or facility | 24.36% | 247 |
| Direct Mail | 14.00% | 142 |
| Facebook/social media | 49.51% | 502 |
| Flyers | 21.10% | 214 |
| Word of mouth | 41.62% | 422 |
| Search engine (i.e., Google, Facebook, Bing, etc.) | 26.04% | 264 |
| Other | 6.02% | 61 |

**19. 16 A.Do you or your family participate in any sports leagues, organized sports, or sports tournaments?**
Multi Choice | Skipped: 58 | Answered: 1,067 (94.8%)
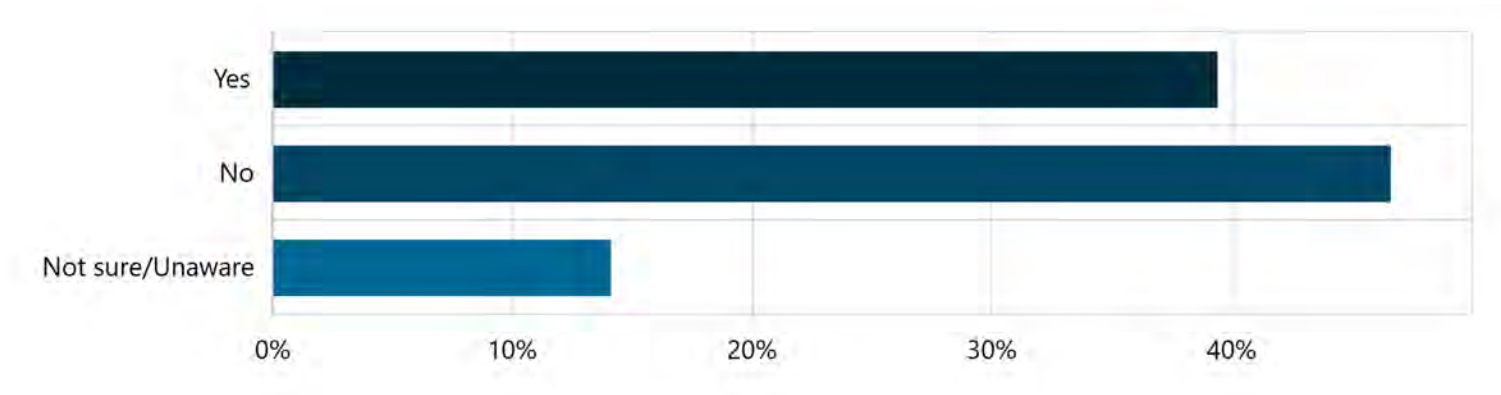


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 39.36% | 420 |
| No | 46.58% | 497 |
| Not sure/Unaware | 14.06% | 150 |
| **Total** | **100.00%** | **1,067** |

**20. 16 B. If not, what is the primary barrier or limitation that prevents you from participating in these events?**
Required
Multi Choice | Skipped: 299 | Answered: 826 (73.4%)
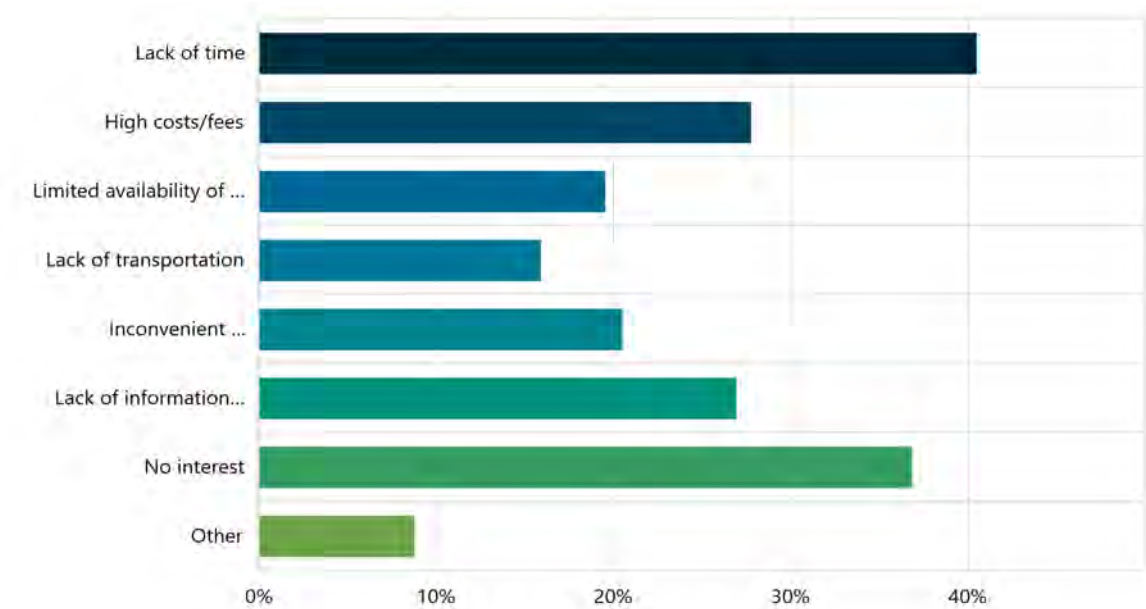


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| Lack of time | 40.44% | 334 |
| High costs/fees | 27.72% | 229 |
| Limited availability of facilities | 19.49% | 161 |
| Lack of transportation | 15.86% | 131 |
| Inconvenient scheduling | 20.46% | 169 |
| Lack of information about programs | 26.88% | 222 |
| No interest | 36.80% | 304 |
| Other | 8.72% | 72 |

**21. 17. What outdoor amenities or features would you like to see offered at the sports complex? check all that apply** Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 86 | Answered: 1,039 (92.4%)
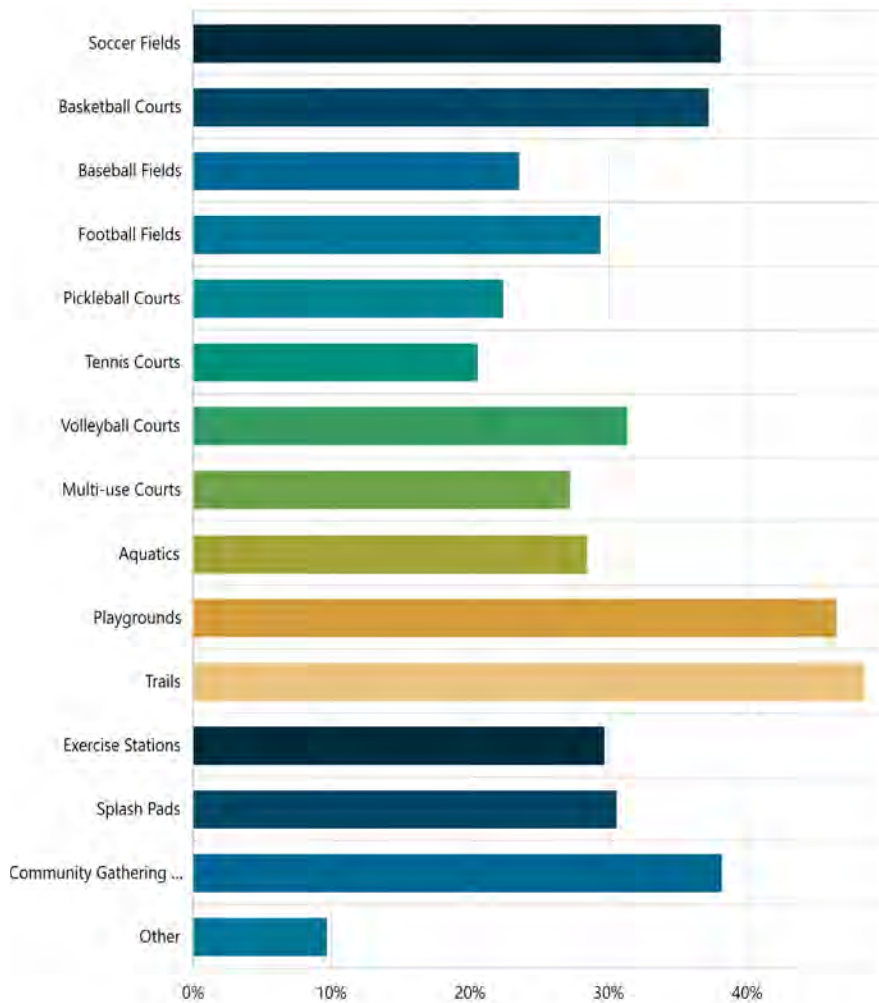


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| Soccer Fields | 38.02% | 395 |
| Basketball Courts | 37.15% | 386 |
| Baseball Fields | 23.48% | 244 |
| Football Fields | 29.36% | 305 |
| Pickleball Courts | 22.33% | 232 |
| Tennis Courts | 20.50% | 213 |
| Volleyball Courts | 31.28% | 325 |
| Multi-use Courts | 27.14% | 282 |
| Aquatics | 28.39% | 295 |
| Playgrounds | 46.39% | 482 |
| Trails | 48.41% | 503 |
| Exercise Stations | 29.64% | 308 |
| Splash Pads | 30.51% | 317 |
| Community Gathering Spaces (plazas, picnic tables, pocket parks | 38.11% | 396 |
| Other | 9.62% | 100 |

## 22. 18. What indoor amenities or features would you like to see offered at the sports complex? check all that apply **Required**

Multi Choice | Skipped: 120 | Answered: 1,005 (89.3%)
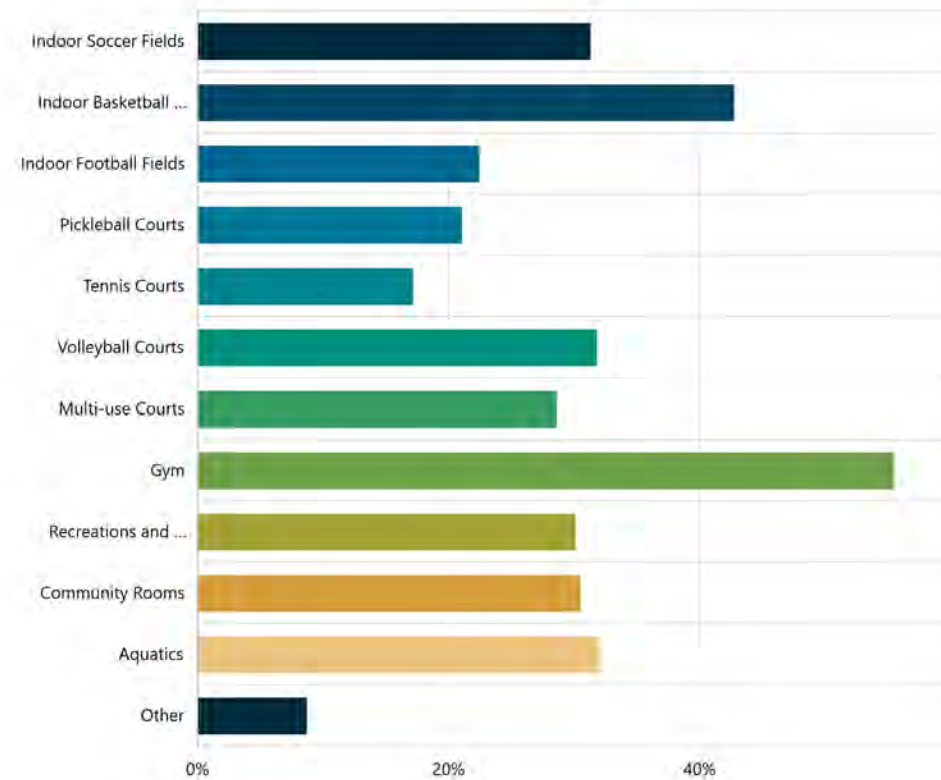


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| Indoor Soccer Fields | 31.24% | 314 |
| Indoor Basketball Courts | 42.69% | 429 |
| Indoor Football Fields | 22.39% | 225 |
| Pickleball Courts | 21.00% | 211 |
| Tennis Courts | 17.11% | 172 |
| Volleyball Courts | 31.74% | 319 |
| Multi-use Courts | 28.56% | 287 |
| Gym | 55.42% | 557 |
| Recreations and Programing Rooms | 30.05% | 302 |
| Community Rooms | 30.45% | 306 |
| Aquatics | 32.04% | 322 |
| Other | 8.66% | 87 |

## 23. 19. If you could choose your top 5 priorities for indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, which ones would you select? Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 113 | Answered: 1,012 (90%)
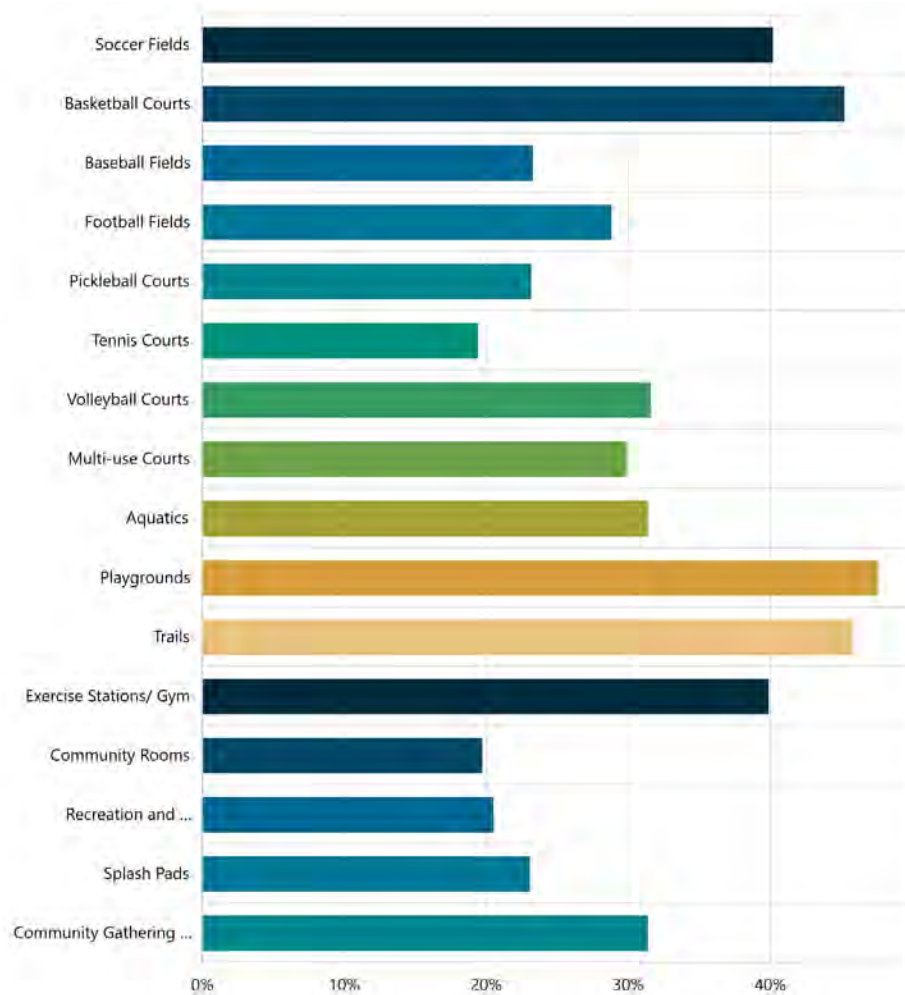


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| Soccer Fields | 40.12% | 406 |
| Basketball Courts | 45.16% | 457 |
| Baseball Fields | 23.22% | 235 |
| Football Fields | 28.75% | 291 |
| Pickleball Courts | 23.12% | 234 |
| Tennis Courts | 19.37% | 196 |
| Volleyball Courts | 31.52% | 319 |
| Multi-use Courts | 29.84% | 302 |
| Aquatics | 31.32% | 317 |
| Playgrounds | 47.53% | 481 |
| Trails | 45.75% | 463 |
| Exercise Stations/ Gym | 39.82% | 403 |
| Community Rooms | 19.66% | 199 |
| Recreation and Programing Rooms | 20.45% | 207 |
| Splash Pads | 23.02% | 233 |
| Community Gathering Spaces (plazas, picnic tables, pocket parks) | 31.32% | 317 |

## 24. 20. What is your age?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 55 | Answered: 1,070 (95.1%)
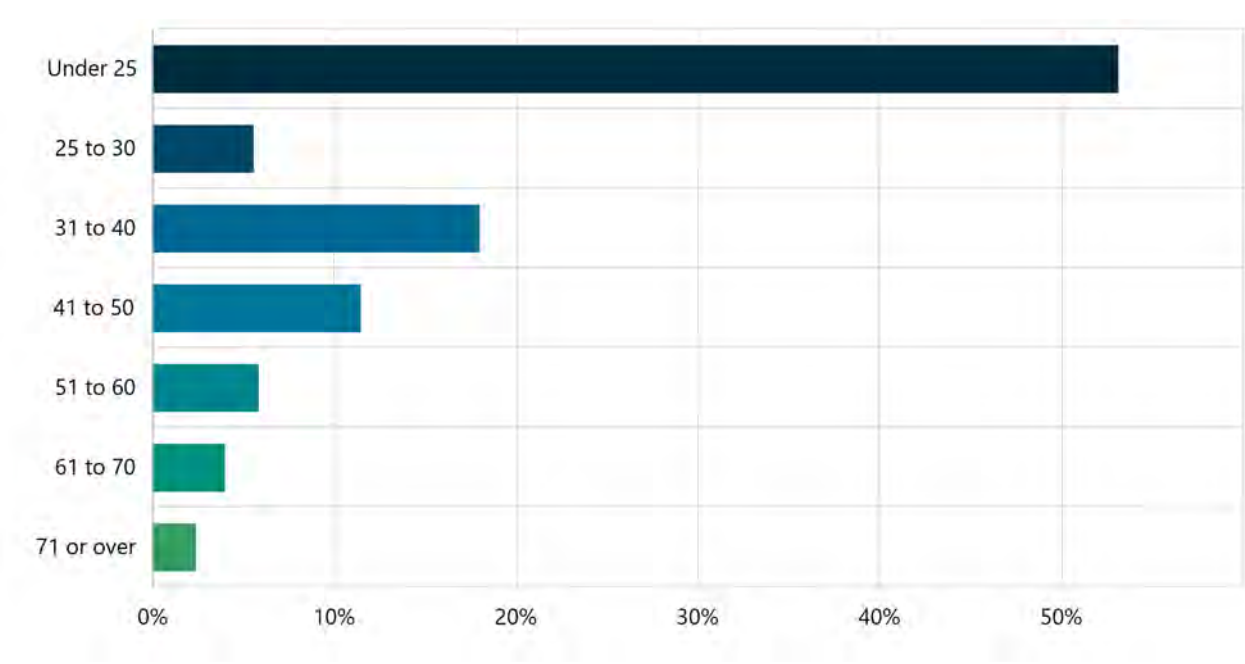


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| Under 25 | 53.08% | 568 |
| 25 to 30 | 5.51% | 59 |
| 31 to 40 | 17.94% | 192 |
| 41 to 50 | 11.40% | 122 |
| 51 to 60 | 5.79% | 62 |
| 61 to 70 | 3.93% | 42 |
| 71 or over | 2.34% | 25 |
| **Total** | **100.00%** | **1,070** |

## 25. 21. Which race/ethnicity do you identify with?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 59 | Answered: 1,066 (94.8%)
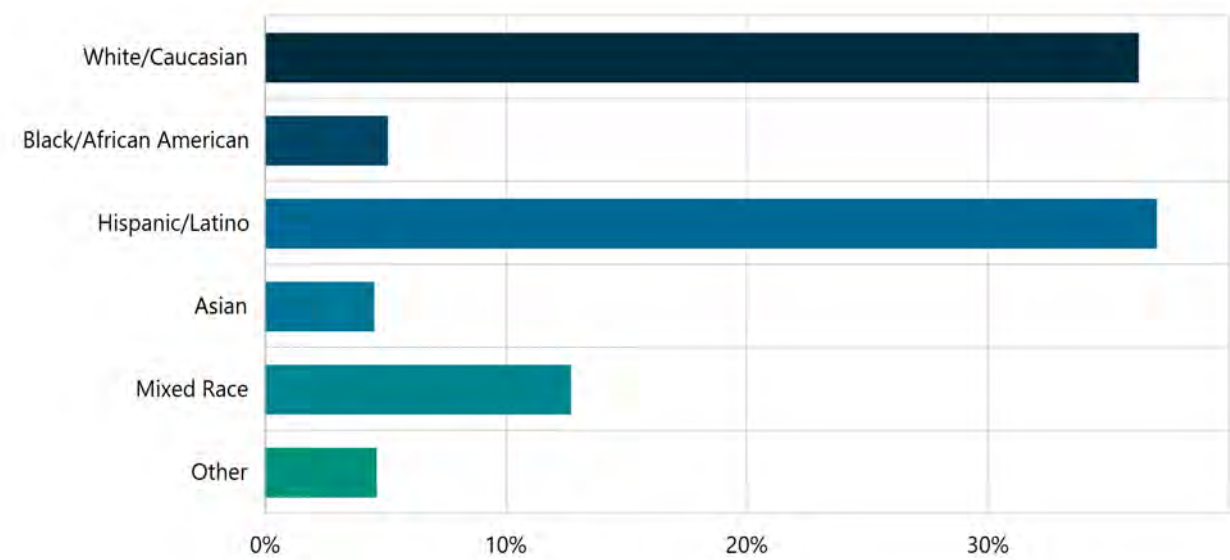


| Answer choices | Percent | Count |
|---|---|---|
| White/Caucasian | 36.21% | 386 |
| Black/African American | 5.07% | 54 |
| Hispanic/Latino | 36.96% | 394 |
| Asian | 4.50% | 48 |
| Mixed Race | 12.66% | 135 |
| Other | 4.60% | 49 |
| **Total** | **100.00%** | **1,066** |

# APPENDIX

# D

La Verde Park

# Park Assessment Tool

## Introduction

The Park Assessment Tool serves as a comprehensive scoring metric for the annual evaluation of parks and park facilities in Kyle. This section outlines a structured, data-driven methodology to assist city staff in identifying areas for improvement and prioritizing investments. It includes a detailed description, usage guidelines, and a template scorecard for park evaluations under seven categories. It is recommended to complete a scorecard for each park in the City annually.

# Kyle Park Assessment Tool
## Introduction

The Park Assessment Tool is designed as a comprehensive scorecard to evaluate parks and park facilities in Kyle on an annual basis. This tool helps ensure that parks remain high-quality, well-maintained, and responsive to community needs over time. By providing a structured, data-driven approach to assessment, it allows city staff, park managers, and stakeholders to track trends, identify areas for improvement, and prioritize investments in parks and recreation facilities.

To ensure equitable distribution of resources, this tool incorporates an Equity Adjustment Factor, which considers parks located in high-need areas as identified in the Priority Areas for New Parks analysis. This ensures that parks in underserved communities receive adequate attention even if they score well in existing conditions.

### How to Use & Score the Assessment Tool

Each applicable item in the assessment should be scored on a 1 to 5 scale, where:

- 5 = Excellent condition, abundant, high quality, strongly agree, no concerns.

- 1 = Poor condition, scarce, low quality, strongly disagree, significant concerns.

All criteria should be evaluated, except for Section 3: Amenities & Programming, where only existing amenities should be scored. Items that do not apply should be marked as "N/A" sparingly to maintain accuracy in scoring.

## Equity Adjustment Factor
### (Incorporating Priority Areas for New Parks)

After scoring all sections, apply the Equity Adjustment Factor based on the park's priority area classification (from the priority map):

| Priority Level (from Map) | Equity Adjustment Factor |
|---|---|
| Low Priority (Yellow) | 1.00 (no adjustment) |
| Medium Priority (Orange) | 0.90 (moderate adjustment) |
| High Priority (Red) | 0.85 (significant adjustment) |

Final Score= Base Score X Equity Adjustment Factor

**Final Score Calculation:**
Parks in high-priority areas (Red) will have their final score adjusted down, signaling the need.

# Needs Assessment Priority Map



## Priority Areas for New Parks

**Kyle ETJ** (dashed line)

**Kyle City Limits** (solid line)

### Park

- Public Parks (dark green)
- Undeveloped Public Parks (bright green)
- Private Parks (light green)
- Other Parks: HOA, Detention (olive/tan)

### Priority

- Low (yellow)
- Medium (orange)
- High (red)

0   0.5   1 Miles

N
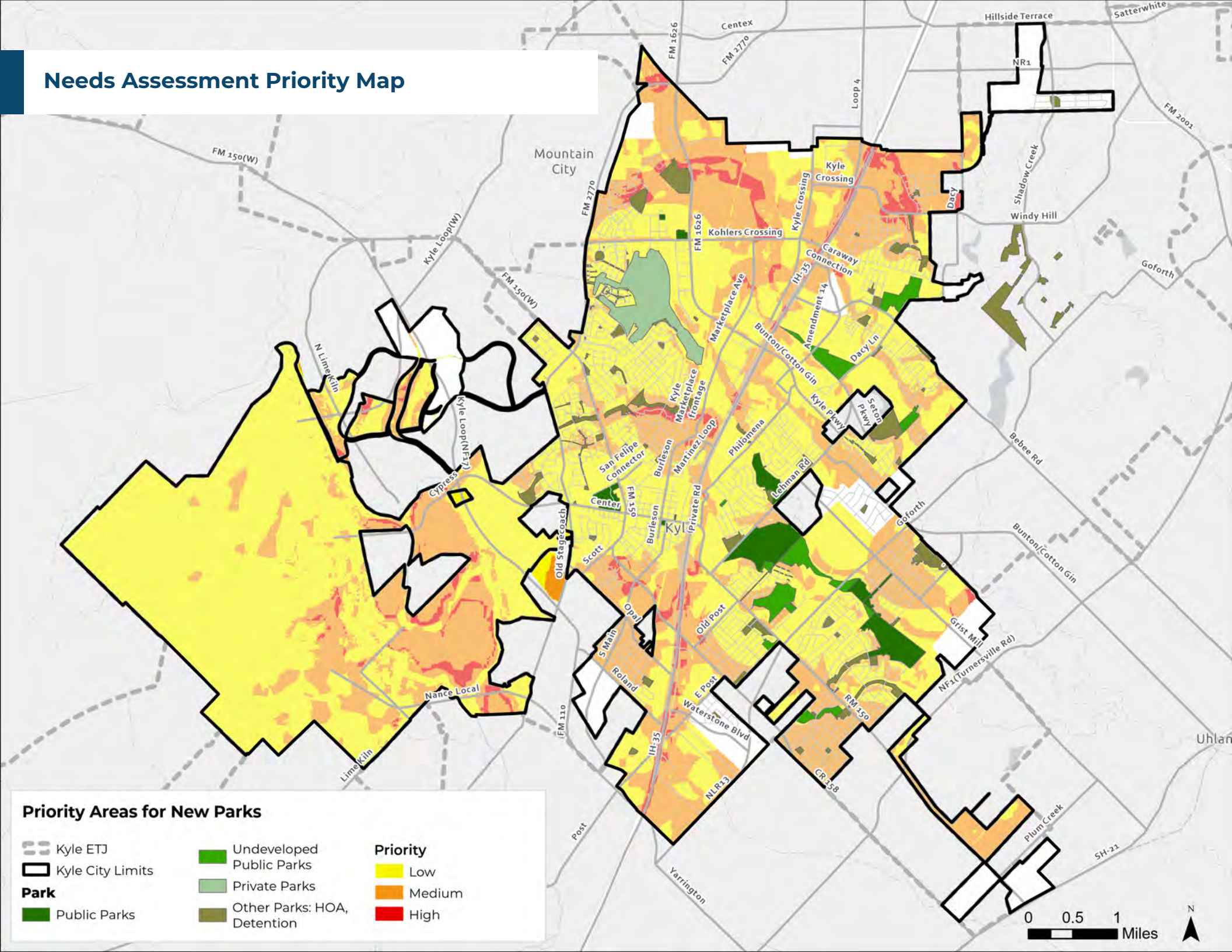
## Timing & Frequency of Evaluations

- The full park assessment should be conducted at least once a year to track changes and improvements.
- Items marked with an asterisk (*) should be assessed more frequently, as their conditions may change seasonally or with high usage (e.g., splash pads, sports fields, landscaping).

- Certain amenities require seasonal or more frequent evaluations, such as:
  - Splash pads (before and after summer)
  - Sports fields/courts (before, during, and after league seasons).
  - Landscaping (spring/early summer, with brief fall/winter checks).
  - Trash receptacles & restrooms (weekly, biweekly, or monthly as needed).
- Evaluations should be conducted under varied conditions (e.g., different times of day, weekdays vs. weekends, different weather conditions) to capture a comprehensive picture of park usage and needs.

## Scoring & Calculating the Park Evaluation

1. Score each section individually, ensuring all applicable items are rated from 1 to 5.
2. Transfer average scores from each section to the first-page scorecard.
3. Multiply the average section score by the assigned weight (weights sum to 1, reflecting the relative importance of each section).
4. Sum all weighted section scores to calculate the Base Park Evaluation Score.
5. Apply the Equity Adjustment Factor based on the park's priority level.
6. Calculate the Final Park Evaluation Score to determine the park's standing and level of investment needed.

This structured approach ensures objective, data-driven decision-making for park improvements and ongoing maintenance, ultimately enhancing the quality of Kyle's parks for the community.

### Example:

| | Average Score | | Weight | | Section Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Section 1: | 4 | x | 0.2 | = | 0.8 |
| Section 2: | 3.5 | x | 0.1 | = | 0.35 |
| Section 3: | 2 | x | 0.1 | = | 0.2 |
| Section 4: | 4.5 | x | 0.1 | = | 0.45 |
| Section 5: | 2.8 | x | 0.15 | = | 0.42 |
| Section 6: | 3.5 | x | 0.15 | = | 0.525 |
| Section 7: | 2.1 | x | 0.2 | = | 0.42 |
| | | | Total = 1 | | |

**Total Base Score:** 3.165

Applying Equity Adjustment Factor (for a park in a high-priority area → Red zone = 0.85 adjustment factor):

**Final Score:** 3.165 X 0.85 = 2.69

The adjusted score highlights that despite decent park conditions, this location should be prioritized for additional investment.

# Kyle Park Assessment Tool

## General Information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Park Name:** | |
| **Park Type:** | |
| **Park Evaluator:** | |
| **Priority Level:** | |
| **Date of Evaluation:** | |
| **Time of Evaluation:** | |

## Park Evaluation Score

Refer to each section for its average score and complete the corresponding boxes below.

| | Average Score | | Weight | | Section Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Section 1: **Park Access & Connectivity** | | X | | = | |
| Section 2: **Park Design** | | X | | = | |
| Section 3: **Amenities & Programming** | | X | | = | |
| Section 4: **Supporting Infrastructure** | | X | | = | |
| Section 5: **Health & Community** | | X | | = | |
| Section 6: **Safety** | | X | | = | |
| Section 7: **Maintenance & Operations** | | X | | = | |

Total = 1

**Total Base Score:**

# Section 1: Park Access & Connectivity

**Keep in mind:** How do people get to the park? How do they get around the park? How is the quality of access and connectivity (e.g. paths easy to navigate, in good condition, safe to travel, etc.)

Only include applicable sections in the calculations:

Sum of the average scores for sections 1.1-1.6:

Total average score for Section 1: Park Access & Connectivity:

**What constitutes ADA Accessibility?**

- Paths should be paved with no obstructions or major structural issues
- Paths should be at least 5' wide
- Ramp access (if necessary) should be no steeper than a 1:12 pitch

**Note:** Items marked with an asterisk (*) should be assessed more frequently, as their conditions may change seasonally or with high usage (e.g., splash pads, sports fields, landscaping).

| 1.1 Park Entrances | |
|---|---|
| **5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating** | **Score** |
| 1.  Are there enough unlocked entrances given the size of the park? (Informal entrances may be an indicator of insufficient access) | |
| 2.  Are the entrances highly visible from the outside of the park? | |
| 3.  Are the entrances easy to locate from the interior of the park? (Rate with a 5 if the park has an open perimeter.) | |
| 4.  Is there at least one ADA-accessible entrance conveniently located in the park? (May not apply for dedicated hiking/biking areas where topography prohibits.) | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 1.1 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 1.2 Access to the Park

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Are there crosswalks and crossing signals providing safe access to the park in areas with higher traffic? | |
| 2. Are there sidewalks along the roads where park entrances are located? | |
| 3. Are the park entrances located in areas that connect to surrounding circulation patterns and activity areas? | |
| 4. Does the park function as a shortcut through the neighborhood to encourage the presence of people? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 1.2 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 1.3 Access Within the Park

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Do paths through the park meet ADA guidelines and provide easy access to major destinations? | |
| 2. Are there multiple, efficient ways to get through the park? | |
| 3. Do paths bring people to the major destinations? | |
| 4. Do the paths have a layout and flow that is easily understood and easy to follow? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 1.3 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 1.4 Building Access

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| If there is more than one building, provide an individual score for each building and note which building you are scoring. | |
| 1. Is the building integrated into its surroundings? | |
| 2. Is the building interior layout functional? | |
| 3. Is the building interior and exterior ADA accessible? Evaluate ramp access, door weight and options for opening, elevator access. | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 1.4 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 1.5 Transportation Access

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Is there sufficient on-site and overflow parking for the intended park uses and available park amenities? | |
| 2. Is there enough on-site accessible parking for the intended park uses and available park amenities? | |
| 3. Is there sufficient bicycle parking in the park or adjacent to the park entrance? | |
| 4. Are there safe biking routes around and connecting to the park to encourage visitors to ride their bikes to the park? | |
| 5. Are there bus stops nearby that connect users to the park? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 1.5 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 1.6 Condition and Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| Circle which word or phrase best represents the condition of the park given the following statements. | |
| 1. The interior path system and park layout is easily and quickly understandable. | |
| 2. Signage indicates where destinations are when their location is not obvious. | |
| 3. The pathways sufficiently connect destinations within the park. | |
| 4. Rate the quality of the park's interior sidewalk network regarding ADA guidelines. Can people of all abilities reach any area of the park? Consider the physical condition using the ADA characteristics described previously. | |
| 5. Rate the quality of the park's surrounding sidewalk network regarding physical connection to the park. Is it easy for people to walk to the park from every direction? Is the pedestrian path safe and enjoyable? | |
| 6. Rate the quality of the park's surrounding sidewalk network regarding the condition of the sidewalk. Are there excessive cracks or structural issues, is the sidewalk wide enough, are there any obstructions in the path, etc. | |
| 7. Rate the condition of the crosswalks and crossing signals. Consider whether signals are operating correctly, if any signage is obstructed or in need of upgrades/maintenance, and if the pedestrian infrastructure and traffic calming measures are in good condition. | |
| 8. Rate the effectiveness of the crosswalks and crossing signals. Are the crosswalks and signals providing a quality, safe route, or are they merely available? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 1.6 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

# Section 2: Park Design

**Keep in mind:** Is the park's design high quality? Does the design add to the visitors' experience rather than detract from it? Consider materials, layout, aesthetics, atmosphere, and visitor experience.

**Only include applicable sections in the calculations:**

Sum of the average scores for sections 2.1 - 2.6: [ ]       Total average score for Section 1: Park Design: [ ]

**Note:** Items marked with an asterisk (*) should be assessed more frequently, as their conditions may change seasonally or with high usage (e.g., splash pads, sports fields, landscaping).

| 2.1 General Design | |
| --- | --- |
| **5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating** | **Score** |
| 1. *Is the park perimeter attractive and inviting? | |
| 2. Does the park demonstrate a sense of style and/or unique character? | |
| 3. *Does the park's design effectively mitigate unpleasant sounds (e.g. heavy traffic, industry, etc.) | |
| 4. *Does the park's design effectively mitigate the sight of unappealing land uses nearby (e.g. industrial facilities, derelict land, infrastructure in disrepair, etc.) | |
| 5. *Does the park's design create a positive atmosphere where people will enjoy spending time? | |
| 6. *Is the overall park layout easy to navigate and aesthetically pleasing? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 2.1 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

What to Consider in terms of Design Quality:

- General attractiveness
- Is it appropriately located throughout the park?

- High quality materials
- Is it coordinated with the other items?
- Is it coordinated with the overall park aesthetic?

## 2.2 The Built Environment

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Are the entrances well designed? Easy to see and have elements such as visually appealing gates, plantings, ground surfaces, and/or signage | |
| 2. Is there art within the park? | |
| 3. Are similar activities grouped together (e.g. sports fields and courts near each other) | |
| 4. Are essential park components (e.g. restrooms, water fountains, shade structures, etc.) located conveniently and appropriately throughout the park? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| Sum of Scores | |
| Number of Items Scored | |
| **Average for Section 2.2 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 2.3 The Natural Environment

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Is there at least one water feature in the park? (e.g. fountain, pond, creek, river, lake, etc.) | |
| 2. If answered yes to the question above, does the water feature need maintenance and/or upgrades? | |
| 3. *Is there ample opportunity for nature observation? (e.g. vistas, overlooks, wildlife observation blinds, pollinator gardens, specialty habitat, etc.) | |
| 4. *Is there a variety of landscape types, environments, and vegetation? Does the vegetation provide year-round interest (flowers in the spring and summer, fall color, evergreens, etc.) | |
| 5. *Is the park properly designed to mitigate flooding? Is this a floodable park that is working correctly, or are there areas that have issues with standing water long after rain has passed? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| Sum of Scores | |
| Number of Items Scored | |
| **Average for Section 2.3 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 2.4 Design Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1.  Rate the design of the light fixtures in the park. | |
| 2.  Rate the design of the furniture (benches, tables, trash receptacles, etc.) in the park. | |
| 3.  Rate the general design of the park signage. | |
| 4.  Rate the general design of the buildings. Is there clear celebration of culture and/or local architecture? | |
| 5.  *Rate the abundance of trees in the park with respect to visual aesthetics. Is there a good variety of species? Is there diverse seasonal interest such as fall colors or blooming flowers? | |
| 6.  *Rate the placement of the trees with respect to their function. Are the trees placed so they provide shade in convenient places such as near benches, tables, playgrounds, along the parking lot, etc.? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| Sum of Scores | |
| Number of Items Scored | |
| Average for Section 2.3 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored) | |

# Section 3: Amenities and Programming

**Keep in mind:** Are the park's amenities high quality? Are they well maintained or in need of upgrades? Does the park provide a diverse range of amenities and programming? Do the amenities and programming support an active and vibrant atmosphere?

Only include applicable sections in the calculations

Sum of the average scores for sections 3.1 - 3.8:

Total average score for Section 3: Amenities & Programming:

**Note:** Items marked with an asterisk (*) should be assessed more frequently, as their conditions may change seasonally or with high usage (e.g., splash pads, sports fields, landscaping).

- 5 could mean abundant, well provided, high quality, very attractive, excellent condition, strongly agree with the statement, no concerns, true, etc.

- 1 could mean scarce, no provision, low quality, very unappealing, terrible condition, unusable, strongly disagree with the statement, very concerning, absolutely not, etc.

- 0 means does not apply.

| 3.1 Amphitheater/Music/Performance/Event Space Condition & Quality | |
|---|---|
| **5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating** | **Score** |
| 1.  Rate the condition of the pavement | |
| 2.  Rate the condition of the seating | |
| 3.  Rate the condition of the stage | |
| 4.  Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. trash receptacles, fencing, shade structures, etc.) | |
| 5.  Rate the condition of any additional features or equipment related to the amphitheater/music/performance/event space | |
| 6.  Rate the overall cleanliness of the area | |
| 7.  *[1] Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 8.  *[2] Rate the overall function of the space. | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 3.1 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

*[1] Is it attractive when it's being used, when it's not being used, at night, during the day, etc.?
*[2] Does the space adequately serve its intended purpose and the people who use it? Is there enough supporting infrastructure?

## 3.2 Paved Open Space/ Plaza Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Rate the condition of the pavement | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the lighting | |
| 3. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. seating and tables, trash receptacles, fencing, shade structures, etc.) | |
| 4. Rate the condition of any additional features related to the paved open space/plaza | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness of the area | |
| 6. *[1] Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 7. *Rate the overall function of the space. | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 3.2 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 3.3 Skate Park Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Rate the condition of the pavement | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the skating infrastructure | |
| 3. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. seating and tables, trash receptacles, fencing, shade structures, water fountains, etc.) | |
| 4. Rate the condition of any additional features related to the skate park | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness of the area | |
| 6. *[1] Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 7. *[2] Rate the overall function of the space. | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 3.3 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 3.4 Dog Park Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Rate the condition of the pavement | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the lawn/soft surface areas | |
| 3. Rate the condition of the dog play equipment | |
| 4. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. seating, trash receptacles, pet waste stations, water fountains, fencing, shade structures, etc.) | |
| 5. Rate the condition of any additional features related to the dog park | |
| 6. Rate the overall cleanliness of the area | |
| 7. *1 Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 8. *2 Rate the overall function of the space. | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| Sum of Scores | |
| Number of Items Scored | |
| Average for Section 3.4 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored) | |

## 3.5 Nature Park Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Rate the condition of the trails | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the lighting | |
| 3. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. seating, trash receptacles, trail signage, etc.) | |
| 4. Rate the condition of any additional features related to the nature park (e.g. bird blinds, observation areas, etc.) | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness of the area | |
| 6. *1 Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 7. *2 Rate the overall function of the space. | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| Sum of Scores | |
| Number of Items Scored | |
| Average for Section 3.5 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored) | |

## 3.6 Splash Pad Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Condition of the water features. Are they working correctly? Are upgrades or refurbishments needed? | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the pavement | |
| 3. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. benches, shade structures, trash receptacles, etc.) | |
| 4. Rate the condition of any additional features related to the splash pad | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness | |
| 6. [1] Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 7. [2] Rate the overall function of the space. | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| Sum of Scores | |
| Number of Items Scored | |
| Average for Section 3.6 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored) | |

## 3.7 Picnic Area Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Rate the condition of the pavement | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the furniture | |
| 3. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. barbecue pits, shade structures, trash receptacles, etc.) | |
| 4. Rate the condition of any additional features related to the picnic area | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness of the area | |
| 6. [1] Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 7. [2] Rate the overall function of the space. | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| Sum of Scores | |
| Number of Items Scored | |
| Average for Section 3.6 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored) | |

## 3.8 Trail/Path Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Rate the condition of the paved trails and pathways. Are the paths free of excessive cracks and obstructions? | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the soft surface (not concrete) trails and paths. Have the paths been affected by erosion? Are they free of obstructions? | |
| 3. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. pathway lighting, trash receptacles, benches, signage, etc.) | |
| 4. Rate the connectivity within the park and to larger active transportation networks Do the trails and paths provide connections to major destinations within the park? Do the trails and paths provide connections to larger trail networks? | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness of the area | |
| 6. *[1]Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 7. *[2] Rate the overall function of the space. | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 3.8 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 3.9 Tennis/Pickleball Court Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| If there is more than one court, evaluate the overall conditions of all the courts and note any concerns related to specific courts. | |
| 1. Rate the condition of the court surfacing and striping | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the netting | |
| 3. Rate the condition of the fencing (if applicable) | |
| 4. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. lighting, benches/bleachers, shade, trash receptacles, etc.) | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness | |
| 6. *[1]Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 7. *[2] Rate the overall function of the space. Are there enough courts to meet community demand? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 3.9 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 3.10 Basketball Court Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| If there is more than one court, evaluate the overall conditions of all the courts and note any concerns related to specific courts. | |
| 1. Rate the condition of the court surfacing and striping | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the goals | |
| 3. Rate the condition of the fencing (if applicable) | |
| 4. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. lighting, benches/bleachers, shade, trash receptacles, etc.) | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness | |
| 6. [*1] Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 7. [*2] Rate the overall function of the space. Are there enough courts to meet community demand? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 3.10 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 3.11 Volleyball Court Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| If there is more than one court, evaluate the overall conditions of all the courts and note any concerns related to specific courts. | |
| 1. Rate the condition of the court surfacing/sand | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the net | |
| 3. Rate the condition of the fencing (if applicable) | |
| 4. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. lighting, benches/bleachers, shade, trash receptacles, etc.) | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness | |
| 6. [*1] Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 7. [*2] Rate the overall function of the space. Are there enough courts to meet community demand? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 3.11 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 3.12 Soccer/ Football/ Field Hockey/ Lacrosse Field Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| If there is more than one court, evaluate the overall conditions of all the courts and note any concerns related to specific courts. | |
| 1. Rate the condition of the turf. Are there any bare areas or areas that are consistently flooded? | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the net | |
| 3. Rate the condition of the fencing (if applicable) | |
| 4. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. lighting, benches/bleachers, shade, trash receptacles, etc.) | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness | |
| 6. *1 Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 7. *2 Rate the overall function of the space. Are there enough courts to meet community demand? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| Sum of Scores | |
| Number of Items Scored | |
| Average for Section 3.12 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored) | |

## 3.13 Swimming Pool Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Rate the condition of the pool. Is the infrastructure in good condition, are the chemicals kept in balance, the temperature consistent, etc. | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the pavement/surfacing surrounding the pool | |
| 3. Rate the condition and cleanliness of the locker rooms | |
| 4. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. lane lines, lifeguard stands, first aid equipment, benches/ bleachers, shade, trash receptacles, etc.) | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness | |
| 6. *1 Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 7. *2 Rate the overall function of the space. | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| Sum of Scores | |
| Number of Items Scored | |
| Average for Section 3.14 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored) | |

## 3.14 Baseball/ Softball Field Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| If there is more than one court, evaluate the overall conditions of all the courts and note any concerns related to specific courts. | |
| 1.  Rate the condition of the infield dirt | |
| 2.  Rate the condition of the outfield turf | |
| 3.  Rate the condition of the bases and pitching mound | |
| 4.  Rate the condition of the dugouts | |
| 5.  Rate the condition of the fencing and backstop | |
| 6.  Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. lighting, benches/bleachers, shade, trash receptacles, etc.) | |
| 7.  Rate the overall cleanliness | |
| 8.  *[1] Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 9.  *[2] Rate the overall function of the space. Are there enough courts to meet community demand? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 3.13 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 3.15 Open Green Space Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. *Rate the condition of the lawn. Are there any bare areas in the lawn? Is it kept mowed to an appropriate length? | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the irrigation system (if applicable) Is everything functioning correctly and does the irrigation system adequately water the entire lawn? | |
| 3. *Rate the health of the trees and natural vegetation | |
| 4. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. benches, shade, trash receptacles, etc.) | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness | |
| 6. *[1] Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic of the area. | |
| 7. *[2] Rate the overall function of the space. | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| Sum of Scores | |
| Number of Items Scored | |
| Average for Section 3.15 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored) | |

## 3.16 Play Equipment Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| If there is more than one set of play equipment, evaluate the overall conditions and note any concerns related to specific pieces of equipment. | |
| 1. Rate the condition of the play equipment. Is it in good visual/working condition or in need of upgrades and maintenance? | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the fall surfaces | |
| 3. Rate the accessibility and all-inclusiveness of the play equipment. Is the equipment designed so that all users can enjoy it, regardless of ability? Are there engaging play opportunities for people of all ages at the park? | |
| 4. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. benches, shade, trash receptacles, etc.) | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness | |
| 6. *[1] Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic. | |
| 7. *[2] Rate the overall function. | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| Sum of Scores | |
| Number of Items Scored | |
| Average for Section 3.16 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored) | |

## 3.17 Fitness Station Condition & Quality

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Rate the condition of the equipment. Is the equipment in good visual/working condition or in need of upgrades and/or maintenance? | |
| 2. Rate the condition of the paving | |
| 3. Rate the accessibility and all-inclusiveness of the fitness equipment. Is the equipment designed for all users, regardless of ability? Are there engaging fitness opportunities for people of all ages at the park? | |
| 4. Rate the condition of the adjacent supporting infrastructure (e.g. water fountains, benches, shade, trash receptacles, etc.) | |
| 5. Rate the overall cleanliness | |
| 6. *1 Rate the overall attractiveness/aesthetic. | |
| 7. *2 Rate the overall function of the fitness equipment. | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 3.17 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 3.18 Atmosphere & Programming Opportunities

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. *Is the park active with visitors throughout the morning, day, and evening? | |
| 2. *Is the park flexible in accommodating multiple uses? | |
| 3. *Is the site meeting the needs of organized programs? | |
| 4. *Are there active areas near the park edge to create an inviting view from the street and encourage people to enter? | |
| 5. Are areas of activity clustered together to encourage greater informal surveillance? | |
| 6. If there are buildings, does the organization of the interior space support the building's intended function? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 3.18 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

# Section 4: Supporting Infrastructure

**Keep in mind:** Supporting infrastructure can include things such as benches, seating, tables, shade structures, signage, drinking fountains, restrooms, trash receptacles, lighting, etc. Does the supporting infrastructure add to the park experience rather than take away from it? Too much supporting infrastructure and too little infrastructure can detract from the park experience.

Only include applicable sections in the calculations

Total average score for Section 4: Supporting Infrastructure

**Note:** Items marked with an asterisk (*) should be assessed more frequently, as their conditions may change seasonally or with high usage (e.g., splash pads, sports fields, landscaping).

| 4.1 General Supporting Infrastructure | |
|---|---|
| **5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating** | **Score** |
| 1.  Are park signs displayed with the park name, hours, user and pet-related rules, relevant maps, etc. in both English and Spanish? | |
| 2.  Are there drinking fountains in the park and are they maintained and functioning? | |
| 3.  *Are there enough comfortable places to sit considering the number of visitors and the park's uses? | |
| 4.  *Are there permanent restrooms that are usable, unlocked, reasonably maintained, and sufficient in size for the scale of the park? | |
| 5.  *Are there a sufficient number of trash and recycling receptacles? | |
| 6.  *Are the trash and recycling receptacles cleaned out on a regular basis to prevent trash overflow? | |
| 7.  If the park contains an extensive trail system, is there clear directional signage that also indicates the direction to exits within the park (in both English and Spanish)? | |
| 8.  Are the sidewalks and paths in good condition, without significant cracks or obstructions? | |
| 9.  Is the parking lot in good conditions, without significant cracks? | |
| 10.  *Is the parking lot a sufficient size considering the number of visitors and the park's uses? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 3.18 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

# Section 5: Health & Community

**Keep in mind:** Does the park promote physical, social, and environmental health in various ways? Are there opportunities to engage in healthy activities regardless of season, ongoing sports leagues, ability, age, and background?

Sum of the average scores for sections 5.1 – 5.4

Total average score for Section 5: Health and Community

**Note:** Items marked with an asterisk (*) should be assessed more frequently, as their conditions may change seasonally or with high usage (e.g., splash pads, sports fields, landscaping).

| 5.1 Physical Health | |
|---|---|
| **5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating** | **Score** |
| 1.  Does the park promote a variety of health and wellness opportunities beyond just walking and running? | |
| 2.  *Are there two to three accessible fitness opportunities for children, regardless of the season and separate from organized leagues? | |
| 3.  *Are there two to three accessible fitness opportunities for teenagers, regardless of the season and separate from organized leagues? | |
| 4.  *Are there two to three accessible fitness opportunities for adults, regardless of the season and separate from organized leagues? | |
| 5.  *Are there two to three accessible fitness opportunities for seniors, regardless of the season and separate from organized leagues? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 5.1 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 5.2 Social Health

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. *Does the park provide a variety of and enough gathering spaces with the infrastructure to support gathering (e.g. man-made shelters, natural shade, paved areas, seating, tables, etc.)? | |
| 2. Does the park promote social equity, meaning the park is high quality and accessible and enjoyable for all users regardless of the park's location or the users' abilities and interests? | |
| 3. Is there "hostile architecture" anywhere in the park? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 5.2 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 5.3 Environmental Health

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. Does the park promote conservation practices? | |
| 2. Does the park promote environmental resilience (e.g. flood mitigation strategies, permeable paving, bioswales or rain gardens, diverse vegetation, etc.)? | |
| 3. Does the park provide various opportunities for people to connect with and learn about nature? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 5.3 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 5.4 Social Health

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. *Does the park provide a variety of and enough gathering spaces with the infrastructure to support gathering (e.g. man-made shelters, natural shade, paved areas, seating, tables, etc.)? | |
| 2. Does the park promote social equity, meaning the park is high quality and accessible and enjoyable for all users regardless of the park's location or the users' abilities and interests? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 5.1 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

# Section 6: Safety

**Keep in mind:** Does the park ensure a safe environment at all times of the day? Does the park put people at ease or create a sense of uneasiness within visitors? Does it encourage visitors to participate in informal surveillance, keeping an eye out for the safety of their community? Are pedestrians safe from vehicular traffic?

Total average score for Section 6: Safety

**Note:** Items marked with an asterisk (*) should be assessed more frequently, as their conditions may change seasonally or with high usage (e.g., splash pads, sports fields, landscaping).

## 6.1 Overall Safety

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1. *Is the park lighted appropriately for use at night? | |
| 2. *Is there appropriate shelter (e.g. pavilions, overhead structures, partially enclosed spaces) in case of bad weather such as rain or thunderstorm events? | |
| 3. Is the surrounding area free of derelict land or buildings? | |
| 4. Are there appropriate traffic calming measures (e.g. narrow streets, speed bumps, planted circles, and/or other obstructions to slow drivers) to ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists where cars are permitted in the park? | |
| 5. Do pedestrians have the ability to see ahead for a generous distance on primary routes? | |
| 6. Do people have the ability to see into and out of the park from most areas and all primary destinations? | |
| 7. Does the park's design minimize isolated areas within the park? | |
| 8. Are the trails continuous and do they lead people to specific destinations opposed to leading to a dead end in a deserted area? | |
| 9. *Is evidence of alcohol/substance abuse in areas adjacent to the park and within the park kept to a minimum? | |
| 10. *Is evidence of unauthorized camping or vagrancy in areas adjacent to the park and within the park kept to a minimum? | |
| 11. *Does the park feel safe at various times throughout the day? | |
| 12. *Is the park regularly active with visitors? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 6.1 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

# Section 7: Park Maintenance & Operations

**Keep in mind:** Is the park well maintained and maintained on a regular basis? Is care and attention given to seasonal maintenance such as ensuring the splash pad works prior to the summer season or the landscaping is taken care of regularly? Is the park easy to maintain and operate?

Sum of the average scores for sections 7.1 – 7.3:

Total average score for Section 7: Park Maintenance & Operations:

**Note:** Items marked with an asterisk (*) should be assessed more frequently, as their conditions may change seasonally or with high usage (e.g., splash pads, sports fields, landscaping).

| 7.1  General Maintenance | |
|---|---|
| **5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating** | **Score** |
| 1.  *Are the entrances well maintained, meaning care and attention is given to gates, plantings, ground surfaces, and/or signage? | |
| 2.  *Is any graffiti or vandalism cleaned in a timely manner? | |
| 3.  *Is the park's equipment, supporting facilities, and amenities repaired in a timely manner? | |
| 4.  *Are the planting beds maintained? Consider neatness, debris, litter, overgrown grass and weeds, and the need for pruning. | |
| 5.  *Is the park free of excessive litter? | |
| 6.  *Is the park free of animal waste? | |
| 7.  *Is the park regularly cleaned and maintained, with appropriate maintenance frequency for weekly needs (e.g. emptying trash receptacles) and seasonal needs (e.g. ensuring the splash pad is ready for the warm season)? | |
| 8.  *Is there visual evidence of regular site management and maintenance? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| **Sum of Scores** | |
| **Number of Items Scored** | |
| **Average for Section 7.1 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored)** | |

## 7.2  General Maintenance

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1.  Is there any obvious need for structural repairs? | |
| 2.  Is there any obvious need for repairs to the building shell? | |
| 3.  Are the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems in working order? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| Sum of Scores | |
| Number of Items Scored | |
| Average for Section 7.1 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored) | |

## 7.3  Operations

| 5 is the highest possible quality rating, 1 is lowest possible quality rating | Score |
|---|---|
| 1.  Does the park exhibit appropriate branding? | |
| 2.  Is the park easy to supervise and manage? | |
| 3.  Is the operation and maintenance system/schedule effective? | |
| 4. Is the park being marketed effectively? | |
| If any items are scored below a 4, please note the condition/concern here: | |
| Sum of Scores | |
| Number of Items Scored | |
| Average for Section 7.1 (Sum of Scores / Number of Items Scored) | |

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# APPENDIX

# E

*Open Space and Trail at Steeplechase Park*

# Parkland Dedication Policy Recommendations

## In This Chapter

Prioritizing Land Dedication
Updating Parkland Standards Expanding Dedication Areas
Enhancing Park Accessibility
Improving Fund Management
Allowing Flexible Land Use

## Introduction

To ensure that the City of Kyle provides the highest quality parks, it is essential to accept only high-quality land for parkland dedication within the City and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). As part of the analysis for this PROS Master Plan, parkland dedication policies from various cities were reviewed, along with best practices in the field. Based on these findings, the following recommendations for updating the City's Parkland Dedication Policy have been developed to align with industry standards and support the City's long-term vision for its Parks and Recreation System.

# Parkland Dedication Policy Recommendations

### Amend Section 41-147 Parkland dedication to prioritize the dedication of parkland over the collection of fees-in-lieu of.

Prioritizing parkland dedication in the City's policy will help prevent gaps in park access and ensure a more connected and accessible Parks and Recreation System. It also aligns with the goals of the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan by promoting strategic, equitable acquisition land to be used for public parks. While the option to pay a fee instead of dedicating parkland should remain, it should be at the discretion of the Parks Director. Currently, these fees fund 80% of all park projects, so reducing collections could limit available resources. To address this, the Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the City's Finance Department, should explore additional funding sources to supplement the existing budget. Keeping the fee-in-lieu option allows flexibility to meet community needs while maintaining the department's financial stability.

### Amend Section 41-147 Parkland Dedication to include new parkland typologies and standards.

To better serve its residents, the City of Kyle should consider adopting an updated set of parkland typologies along with clear standards for dedication and development. Currently, the City's Parks and Recreation System includes six park types outlined in the 2016 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan: pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, special use parks, and civic spaces. However, these typologies are only mentioned in the PROS Master Plan and are not explicitly defined in the parkland dedication ordinance. The closest reference to them is in regards to park improvement that states, "All public park improvements shall meet the minimum requirements set forth in the adopted City parks, recreation, and open space master plan."

To ensure clarity and consistency, it is recommended that the parkland dedication policy include a dedicated section defining park typologies as outlined in the 2025 PROS Master Plan. Alternatively, a reference statement could be added to the policy stating, "Any land dedicated as a public park, open space, recreation facility, or trail shall meet the standards set forth in the City's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan." Additionally, at a minimum, the City should consider incorporating key requirements—similar to those used by peer cities—into Section 41-147, such as:

- A 10-minute walking distance guideline for accessibility
- Minimum accessibility requirements to ensure equitable park access
- Street frontage requirements to improve visibility and safety

Minimum park improvements (e.g., grading, drainage, tree planting, lighting, etc.)
To further streamline the process and make requirements easier to understand, the City
should explore the creation of a Parkland Design Standards Manual. This would provide a clear
reference for developers, ensuring that all dedicated parkland meets high-quality design and
accessibility standards while aligning with the City's long-term vision for parks and recreation.

## Amend Section 41-147(b) & (c) to allow for Parkland dedication in the ETJ.

It is encouraged that the City explore parkland dedications within its extraterritorial jurisdiction
(ETJ). To minimize the need for City staff to maintain these parks, developers should be
required to create private parks that meet the minimum standards for public parks of their
type, whether pocket, neighborhood, or community parks. This ensures that if the area is later
annexed into the City, the park will already meet public standards, avoiding additional costs
for upgrades. Ultimately, this approach helps provide parks in growing communities that may
eventually become part of the City.

## Amend Section 41-147(c)-Parkland dedication in lieu of parkland fee to require signage and wayfinding.

As part of the dedication of parkland, the City should consider amending the parkland
dedication policy to require that signage be included. At a minimum the signage should
include the City's logo, the name of the park, the logo of the Park and Recreation Department,
and be lighted. Additionally, the City should also consider the creation of  Park Sign Design
Standards to be used for signs at the public parks, trails, open spaces and recreation facilities.
This will help to ensure that the signs are consistent (making it easier to identify a public
facility) and high-quality. Wayfinding signs should also be required to assist visitors to the
parks and facilities be aware of the amenities are offered at the park; the rules, regulations and
hours are of the park; the programs and events to be held at the park; and locations of trail
connections. The wayfinding signs can also include information about historic events as well as
the local plant and wildlife.

## Amend Section 41-147(c)(2)(a) to allow for the dedication of public parks that are less than 5 acres in size.

The City's Parkland Dedication policy states, "The council declares the development of an area
smaller than five acres for public park purposes as impractical." However, this contradicts best
practices by limiting the development of smaller parks, such as pocket parks, community
gardens, plazas, and squares. These spaces are essential in urban areas where larger parks

may not be feasible due to land constraints. Encouraging the development of parks under five acres can help ensure that urban areas in need of public green space have access to parks that enhance the community's quality of life. Amending this section would also support the City's vision in the development of the trail-oriented developments (VYBE Spots) and other mixed-use developments as these are typically densely build communities designed to be pedestrian friendly. Allowing the dedication of small public parks can also help the City preserve natural green spaces, mitigate heat island effects, and serve as green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff. Additionally, these spaces can provide vital habitats for local wildlife. The City should also consider removing the wording in Section 41-147(c)(2)(b) that states a variance can be used. The word "variance" is typically applied to land use (zoning) practices. Also, this can create issues to where once a variance is approved, if another similar variance is requested, it may require that the City approve it thus not leaving an option for potential dedication/acquisition.

## Amend Section 41-147(g)-Dedicated fund to allow for the creation of sub-accounts whereby funds can be deposited based on their classification.

Currently, according to the Parkland Dedication policy and Parks Department staff, all parkland and development fees are deposited into a single fund called "parkland dedicated funds." The policy states that these fees may only be used for acquiring, developing, or improving parkland within the city limits or ETJ. The City should consider amending this policy to create separate funds: one for fee-in-lieu of parkland dedication and another for parkland development fees. This change would provide a clearer understanding of available funds, helping with land acquisition planning and project scheduling. Additionally, it would allow the City of Kyle to better identify matching funds for grant applications.

## Amend Section 41-147(h)-Additional Requirements to include sidewalk and/or trail connections

To enhance accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists, Kyle should consider amending Section 41-147(h) to require that all dedicated parkland, open spaces, public spaces, and public facilities include safe and connected sidewalks, trails, and paths. Ensuring these spaces are easily reachable safely by foot or bike will create a more walkable and connected community while promoting active transportation and outdoor recreation. This approach aligns with the Trust for Public Land's 10-Minute Walk Policy, which aims to ensure that every resident has a safe and accessible public park within a 10-minute walk of their home. Prioritizing well-connected access points to and from parks to the surrounding neighborhoods will make the parks and recreational facilities more inclusive for people of all ages and abilities, including seniors, children, and individuals with mobility challenges.

## Amend Section 41-147(h)(1)(a)-Additional Requirements to allow for the dedication of parkland within 100-year floodplains.

The current parkland dedication policy restricts the use of areas within the 100-year floodplain by presuming them unsuitable for public land dedication. The City should consider amending this policy to allow at least up to 25 percent of dedicated parkland to include floodplain areas. This approach is common among the peer cities, many of which permit up to 50 percent of dedicated parkland to be within the 100-year floodplain. Allowing floodplain areas to be incorporated into parkland dedication would help the City preserve valuable natural spaces such as greenbelts, creeks, drainageways, rivers, and streams. Additionally, it would create opportunities for recreation, such as birdwatching, nature trails, outdoor classrooms and scenic walking paths, enhancing the community's connection to nature. Given that Kyle has several creeks and drainageways classified as floodplains, integrating them into the Parks and Recreation System would also support natural flood management while expanding public access to open spaces. This change would align with sustainable land use practices and ensure that more land is available for recreational and conservation purposes.

## Amend Section 41-147(h)(1)(c)-Additional Requirements to allow for the dedication of parkland easements.

The City should consider amending Section 41-147(h)(1)(c) to allow for the dedication and use of easements for public use as these would create more opportunities for connectivity while making use of land that might otherwise remain unused. Easements can serve multiple purposes, enhancing both recreational access and environmental preservation. Public access easements within utility easements would allow trails to pass through private lands, while expanding the City's trail network and providing residents with more walkable and bikeable routes. Additionally, utility easements could be incorporated into the City's VYBE Trail System, turning otherwise restricted areas into functional and accessible pathways for pedestrians and cyclists. By integrating these types of easements, the City can create a more connected, sustainable, and active community while maximizing the use of available land. The City should also consider encouraging the creation of conservation easements that would help protect natural open spaces on privately owned land, preserving important habitats and green spaces while allowing for passive public recreation.

# APPENDIX

# F

_Heroes Memorial Park_

# Design Guidelines

## In This Chapter

## Introduction

Design Guidelines serves as a baseline framework to guide the planning, design, and construction of park development. This appendix provides additional strategies that enhance the City's approach to creating high-quality, connected, and accessible public spaces.

# How to Use This Guide

This document is intended for use by developers, designers, and contractors in the City of Kyle. It aids in the planning, design, and construction process by setting clear expectations for parks, trails, and open space improvements. While these guidelines establish a minimum baseline for development and should be adapted to specific conditions, they do not replace existing standards. Instead, they provide a complementary resource to ensure cohesive and high-quality public realm enhancements. The City of Kyle will not accept maintenance of improvements that do not meet these guidelines and standards, and all standards are subject to change.

Parks provide varying levels of service depending on their size, amenities, and location. As such, the design of each park should reflect its intended level of service. This design manual is aligned with the proposed park typology outlined in the Kyle PROS Plan. It provides guidance based on the following typology categories:

| Classification | Typologies |
|---|---|
| Close-to-Home | Pocket Park<br>Neighborhood Park<br>Community Park |
| City-Wide | Regional Park<br>Specific Use Park<br>Linear Park<br>Conservatory |
| Undeveloped | Open Space<br>Urban In-Fill<br>Brownfield |

*Mary Kyle Hartson Park*

# General Guidelines

Certain design strategies and characteristics are general enough to be applied to most parks throughout the city. These guidelines will help with the development of a cohesive, high-quality Parks and Recreation System that responds to the needs of the community.

**Site Selection and Characteristics:**
- Park location should be compatible with existing and planned land uses as well as other nearby parks and open spaces in the service area
- When appropriate, locate new parks adjacent to other publicly accessible sites (e.g. schools, hospitals, municipal buildings, etc.)
- Ensure street access is available on at least one side of the park's property line
- A site's soils should be adequate to sustain plantings and encourage proper drainage
- Floodplain and riparian areas should be preserved to the greatest extent possible with any uses within these zones being for public necessity

**Layout, Aesthetics, and Design:**
- A park's character should align with the surrounding community's values and aesthetic
- Park design should be compatible with surrounding existing and planned land uses
- Create a sense of place by incorporating community identity into the park design
- Design features that will attract people and make the park an inviting destination
- Incorporate a minimum of one Ecosystem Service Area into each park

**Programming, Facilities, and Amenities:**
- Amenities should respond to the needs of the surrounding community
- Locate amenities in places that maximize accessibility and use
- Provide flexible spaces for a wide range of activities and experiences
- Prioritize intergenerational and universally accessible programming
- Provide amenities that promote a sense of safety and visibility

**Access and Circulation:**
- Walkways, paths, and trails should be clearly identifiable with necessary signage
- When possible, parkland should be connected to one another using pedestrian networks

**Landscape:**
- Plant material should be chosen based on the City of Kyle's recommended plant list which can be referenced in Appendix G
- Practice the principle of "right plant, right place" to ensure longevity of plant material. This means placing plants based on sun, water, spacing, and soil requirements
- Prioritize plants that require minimum maintenance and water
- Aim to increase biodiversity by planting a wide variety of species

**Maintenance and Operations:**
- Administrative requirements, hours of operation, park rules, and any regulations should be visibly posted near entrances to the park
- Establish and execute a routine maintenance schedule for each park

*La Verde Park*

# Close-to-Home Parks

## Pocket Parks

Pocket parks are the smallest type of close-to-home park in Kyle. These parks should be designed to meet the needs of the immediately surrounding community, which may influence programming and design. It is strongly recommended that residents within the service area be given the opportunity to provide input on the park's design.

The determining characteristics of a pocket park are its size and intended function. A park may be less than one acre, but if it serves the entire community it would not be classified as a pocket park whereas a 1/2-acre park nestled in the back of a neighborhood would be considered a pocket park.

### Size & Property Recommendations:

| Area | 1/4 to 1 acre |
|------|---------------|
| Street Frontage | 40 feet minimum |
| Depth | 100 feet minimum |

### Service Area:

- 1/4 mile radius

### Ecosystem Service Areas:

- Tier 1

### Location Considerations:

- Best located centrally to the population it serves, or in quarter mile intervals within residential neighborhoods
- Should be readily accessible to the service area on foot
- Avoid placing these parks along heavily traveled streets

### Design Considerations:

- Provide opportunities for residents to give direct input on new park design
- Parking should be minimal or even restricted to on-street parking since the service area lives within a walkable distance to the park
- Safe pedestrian access should be provided to the park and throughout the park's entire service area including sidewalks and designated crosswalks where necessary
- Install small monument signage to identify the park and inform residents of the park's hours and rules
- Provide protection from the sun throughout the park and along pathways. Prioritize shade trees but use shade structures where appropriate
- Incorporate Tier 1 Ecosystem Service Areas such as small-scale native landscape areas formally designed to demonstrate conservation principles

### Common Amenities:

Pocket parks provide various amenities depending on the community's needs. One neighborhood may prefer a dog park rather than a playground, or perhaps they want a community garden. The following amenities are common in pocket parks, but additional amenities may be required in order to properly serve the community.

- Playgrounds with fall surface, shade structures, and equipment for various age groups
- Hard surface play areas or court games such as basketball, tennis, and/or volleyball (sand or court)
- Small lawn for passive, non-organized activities
- Passive amenities including bike racks, picnic tables, benches, trashcans, water fountains, walking paths, and shade
- Small pavilions for family events or activities
- Gardens or water features
- Monuments, memorials, and educational signage
- Adequate evening/night time lighting
- ADA accessible walkways and amenities

# Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are mid-sized Close-to-Home parks and are designed to serve the needs of an entire neighborhood. These parks should respond to the specific needs and interests of the neighborhood in which they are located, which may influence the park's programming and design. It is strongly recommended that residents living within the service area of a pocket park be given the opportunity to provide direct input on the park's design.

The determining characteristics of a neighborhood park are its size and intended function. Since it serves an entire neighborhood, it will have a greater quantity and diversity of programming elements than what pocket parks provide.

## Size & Property Recommendations:

| Area | 1.01 to 5 acres |
|---|---|
| Street Frontage | 100 feet minimum |
| Depth | 100 feet minimum |

## Service Area:

- 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile radius

## Ecosystem Service Areas:

- Tier 1
- Tier 2

## Location Considerations:

- Best located centrally to the population it serves, or with a maximum spacing interval of a half-mile
- Should be readily accessible to the service area on foot
- Avoid placing these parks along heavily traveled streets

## Design Considerations:

- Provide opportunities for residents to give direct input on new park design
- Parking should be provided but minimized to prioritize pedestrian access
- Safe pedestrian access should be provided to and within the park
- Connect neighborhood parks to one another and nearby pocket parks through trail systems
- Using the City's recommended plant list, incorporate landscape plantings in a way that enhances the park's ecology, function, and aesthetics. Locate plantings near park entrances and major facilities
- Install small monument signage to identify the park and inform residents of the park's hours and rules
- Provide protection from the sun throughout the park and along pathways. Prioritize shade trees but use shade structures where appropriate
- Provide both active and passive recreation opportunities
- Incorporate Tier 1 and/or 2 Ecosystem Service Areas throughout the park

## Common Amenities:

Neighborhood parks provide various amenities for passive and active recreation depending on the specific needs of the neighborhood. The following amenities are common in neighborhood parks, but additional amenities may be required in order to properly serve the community.

- Playgrounds with fall surface, shade structures, and equipment for various age groups
- Hard surface play areas or court games such as basketball, tennis, and/or volleyball (sand or court)
- Limited sports field(s) for informal play or practice
- Splash pad or neighborhood swimming pool
- Small to mid-sized lawn for passive, non-organized activities
- Passive amenities including bike racks, picnic tables, benches, trashcans, water fountains, walking paths, and shade
- Walking paths or loop trails
- Trailhead connections to city-wide trail systems or nearby parks
- Mid-sized pavilions for family events or activities
- Restroom facilities
- Adequate evening/night time lighting
- ADA accessible walkways and amenities

## Community Parks

Community parks are the largest type of Close-to-Home park. These parks often cater to multiple neighborhoods, and their design should incorporate direct community input. Community parks provide a diverse mix of recreational opportunities and act as activity hubs for the area.

The determining characteristics of a community park are its size and diversity of programming and amenities. Compared to pocket and neighborhood parks, community parks will offer the most variety in programming ranging from multiple sports facilities to playgrounds, and even flexible space for recreational classes or community events.

### Size & Property Recommendations:

| Area | 5.01 to 40 acres |
|---|---|
| Street Frontage | 450 feet minimum |
| Depth | 450 feet minimum |

### Service Area:

- 1 mile radius

### Ecosystem Service Areas:

- Tier 1
- Tier 2
- Tier 3

### Location Considerations:

- Best located centrally to the neighborhood populations it serves but without overlapping service areas of other community parks
- Can be located on busier arterial roads but best suited for collector roads
- Physical barriers such as highways and railroads should be avoided within the service areas

### Design Considerations:

- Provide opportunities for residents to give direct input on new park design
- Parking should be required based on the size and function of each individual park
- Safe pedestrian access should be provided to and within the park
- Connections should be made to adjacent trail corridors to form a pedestrian network and provide trail access
- Using the City's recommended plant list, incorporate landscape plantings in a way that enhances the park's ecology, function, and aesthetics. Locate plantings near park entrances and major facilitiesInstall monument signage to identify the park and inform residents of the park's hours and rules
- Incorporate wayfinding signage that identifies pedestrians paths/connections and facility locations
- Provide protection from the sun throughout the park and along pathways
- Incorporate Tier 1, 2, and/or 3 Ecosystem Service Areas throughout the park

### Common Amenities:

Community parks provide the greatest diversity of facilities and amenities. The following amenities are common in community parks, but additional amenities may be required in order to properly serve the community.

- Multiple playgrounds with fall surface, shade structures, and equipment for various age groups
- Sports courts such as basketball, tennis, and/or volleyball (sand or court)
- Sport and practice fields for organized team sports
- Walking loop trails and access to city-wide trails
- Splash pad(s) or swimming pool(s)
- Open lawn space
- Passive amenities including bike racks, picnic tables, benches, trashcans, water fountains, walking paths, and shade
- Large, medium, and small pavilions and/or multi-purpose structures for various uses and functions
- Permanent restroom facilities
- Adequate evening/night time lighting
- Monuments, memorials, and educational signage where appropriate
- ADA accessible walkways and amenities
- Support facilities such as maintenance buildings
- Community center
- Natural or preserved areas such as unique terrain, floodplains, or bodies of water

# City-Wide Parks

## Regional Parks

Regional parks are typically the largest type of park a city develops. These parks not only serve residents throughout the city limits, but they can draw visitors from out of town as well. Regional parks can have diverse functions ranging from sports complexes to water recreation and even nature preserves.

The determining characteristics of a regional park are its large size and intended function. Some regional parks may provide a wide variety of programming, but others may provide more specialized programming. The key is that regional parks will serve the entire city due to either the diversity of amenities offered or the uniqueness of the park's programming.

### Size & Property Recommendations:

| Area | 40.01 acres or larger |
|---|---|
| Street Frontage | 1,000 feet minimum |
| Depth | 1,000 feet minimum |

### Service Area:

- City of Kyle

### Ecosystem Service Areas:

- Tier 1
- Tier 2
- Tier 3

### Location Considerations:

- Location will vary depending on function and available land
- When possible, avoid locating regional parks in close proximity to one another

### Design Considerations:

- Provide a large variety of amenities to accommodate diverse needs, and users
- Parking should be required based on the size and function of the park while considering the need for additional parking for out-of-town visitors
- Programming should focus on natural resource values and recreational diversity
- Utilize existing site topography that may provide buffers to surrounding land use
- Preserve areas with significant slopes and natural habitat
- When appropriate, incorporate water recreation and environmental education
- Safe pedestrian access throughout the park by way of trails and sidewalks
- Create pedestrian connections when the park is adjacent to existing trail corridors
- Using the City's recommended plant list, incorporate landscape plantings in a way that enhances the park's ecology, function, and aesthetics. Locate plantings near park entrances and major facilities
- Include identifiable park monument signage, small monument signage, and necessary trail, wayfinding, and educational signage
- Incorporate Tier 1, 2, and/or 3 Ecosystem Service Areas throughout the park

### Common Amenities:

Regional parks can vary greatly in their programming depending on the intended function of the park. The following amenities are common in regional parks, however a regional park may provide one type of amenity (e.g. sports fields) or a combination of several different amenities.

- Tournament-quality sports facilities with supporting infrastructure such as bleachers, concession stands, shade structures, etc.
- Multiple playgrounds with fall surface, shade structures, and equipment for various age groups
- Stages or small amphitheaters with appropriate electrical connections for stage performances
- Regional multi-use centers
- Large areas of natural open space with opportunities for environmental education
- Water features with opportunities for active and passive recreation
- Passive amenities including bike racks, picnic tables, benches, trashcans, water fountains, walking paths, and shade
- Monuments, memorials, and educational signage
- Adequate evening/night time lighting
- ADA accessible walkways and amenities

# ⭐ Specific Use Parks

Specific use parks are developed for very specific purposes. These parks can vary in size but should be no smaller than a quarter-acre. Due to their specialized nature, they often serve residents across the entire city and may even draw visitors from outside city limits, however, these parks may not accommodate all residents. A specific use park will have one function or program type, but functions will vary from park to park.

The determining characteristic of a specific use park is its specialized or single-type programming. Specific use parks are often developed for a single type of program such as dog parks, zoos, botanical gardens, skate parks, conservancies, or even a single sport like a tennis center or a natatorium.

## Size & Property Recommendations:

| Area | 1/4 acre or larger |
|---|---|
| Street Frontage | 40 feet minimum |
| Depth | 100 feet minimum |

## Service Area:

- City of Kyle

## Ecosystem Service Areas:

- Tier 1

## Location Considerations:

- Location will vary depending on function and available land
- When possible, avoid locating specific use parks with similar functions in close proximity to one another

## Design Considerations:

- Provide a specialized programming that serves a particular purpose for the community (e.g. dog park)
- Parking should be required based on the size and function of each individual park while considering the need for additional parking to accommodate out-of-town visitors
- Safe pedestrian access should be provided to and throughout the park by way of trails and sidewalks
- Create pedestrian connections when the park is adjacent to existing trail corridors
- Incorporate landscape plantings in a way that enhances the park's ecology, function, and aesthetics. Locate plantings near park entrances and major facilities
- Include park monument signage and necessary trail, wayfinding, and educational signage where appropriate
- Incorporate Tier 1 Ecosystem Service Areas such as small-scale native landscape areas formally designed to demonstrate conservation principles

## Common Amenities:

Specific use parks will vary greatly from one another depending on the intended function of the park. The following amenities are common across all types of specific use parks

- Passive amenities including bike racks, picnic tables, benches, trashcans, water fountains, walking paths, and shade
- Restroom facilities
- Monuments, memorials, and educational signage
- Adequate evening/night time lighting
- ADA accessible walkways and amenities

Examples of specific use parks include:

- Dog park
- Skate park
- Bike park
- Zoo
- Botanical garden
- Nature center
- Conservancy
- Tennis center
- Natatorium
- Softball/baseball complex
- Historic site or park
- Rock climbing park
- Sport stadium
- Theme park
- Golf course
- City plaza or square

# Linear Parks

Linear parks are typically centered around existing linear corridors such as creeks, rivers, easements, railroad lines, or old transportation infrastructure. These parks can serve residents throughout the city limits. Although linear parks are often nature-oriented, they can be urban as well.

The determining characteristics of a linear park are its layout and function. Linear parks tend to be longer than they are wide, and they connect various components of the city - neighborhoods, parks, points of interest, landmarks, etc. Programming in these parks is often geared toward mobility such as walking, running, biking, or even skating.

## Size & Property Recommendations:

| Area | Varies |
| --- | --- |
| Property Width | 20 feet minimum |
| Property Length | 1/4 mile minimum |

## Service Area:

- City of Kyle

## Ecosystem Service Areas:

- Tier 1
- Tier 2

## Location Considerations:

- Location will vary depending on available land and geography but should be along/near open spaces, wildlife corridors, streams, or other linear elements
- It is recommended that residents should be within a 1/4 mile of linear park access

## Design Considerations:

- Aim to increase circulation throughout a city for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Provide habitat corridors and connect parks and points of interest
- Incorporate natural features and minimize development
- Parking should depend on location and anticipated visitation. Parking should be concentrated at major trail access points such as formal trailheads or parks
- Utilize natural site topography and preserve areas with significant slopes when possible
- Provide shade through the preservation or planting of trees
- Ensure trail width, layout, and material provides a quality experience and allows for pedestrians and bicyclists to enjoy the trail at the same time
- Balance human and wildlife needs
- Implement flood mitigation design when linear parks are located near water features
- Incorporate necessary trail, wayfinding, and educational signage
- Incorporate Tier 1 and/or 2 Ecosystem Service Areas throughout the park

## Common Amenities:

Linear parks can be located in both natural and developed areas, but they will generally have minimal amenities along the path. The following amenities are common in linear parks with additional amenities being provided at the close-to-home or city-wide parks that are connected through linear parks.

- Linear trails suitable for walking, running, biking, and/or skating
- Flood mitigation using geography, topography, and/or other design solutions
- Natural open spaces or wildlife corridors for passive recreation use
- Regional multi-use centers
- Occasional passive amenities such as bike racks, picnic tables, benches, trashcans, water fountains, and restrooms
- Monuments, memorials, and educational signage
- Adequate evening/night time lighting
- ADA accessible walkways and amenities

# Conservatories

Conservatories are developed to provide space for wildlife habitat, flood control, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity support, and places for passive recreation. These parks can vary greatly in size depending on the resources available, but should not be smaller than 5 acres. Due to the nature-based programming, it's important that these parks allow the landscape can function with minimal disturbance.

The determining characteristic of a conservatory is its nature-based and preservation programming. These sites are intended to protect a variety of native habitat types, such as prairies, savannas, riparian corridors, wetlands, and woodlands.

## Size & Property Recommendations:

| Area | 5 acres or larger |
|---|---|
| Street Frontage | 450 feet minimum |
| Depth | 450 feet minimum |

## Service Area:

- City of Kyle

## Ecosystem Service Areas:

- Tier 3

## Location Considerations:

- Location will vary depending on function and available land
- When possible, avoid locating conservatories where human development will impact preservation goals

## Design Considerations:

- Prioritize low impact development to protect the environment to the greatest extent possible
- Parking should be required based on the size and function of each individual park while considering the need for additional parking to accommodate out-of-town visitors
- Safe pedestrian access should be provided to and throughout the park by way of trails and sidewalks
- Create pedestrian connections when the park is adjacent to existing trail corridors
- Include park monument signage and necessary trail, wayfinding, and educational signage where appropriate
- Incorporate Tier 3 Ecosystem Service Areas, prioritizing minimal disruption to the environment and widespread habitat conservation

## Common Amenities:

Conservatories will vary from one another depending on the intended function of the park. The following amenities and programs are common but not required in conservatories:

- Minimal passive amenities such as bike racks, picnic tables, benches, trashcans, water fountains, and shade structures
- Restroom facilities
- Monuments, memorials, and educational signage
- Native habitat preservation or restoration areas
- Natural surface trails
- Opportunities for passive recreation
- Large-scale ecological restoration efforts such as invasive species removal, erosion control, native plant establishment, and habitat enhancement

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# APPENDIX

# G

*Butterflies at La Verde Park*

# Plant List

## In This Chapter

Trees
Shrubs
Groundcovers
Vines
Cactus/Succulents
Grasses

## Introduction

The City of Kyle's plant list was created to guide the design of the natural environment using plants that are native to the region. These plants were chosen due to the characteristics (e.g. drought tolerance, ease of maintenance, visual appeal, value to wildlife, etc) that make them well-suited to thrive in Kyle's park system. A successful landscape will have the right plant in the right place, meaning each species is planted where its space, sun, and water requirements can be met. This plant list will help the City, developers, business owners, and even private residents design beautiful, cohesive landscapes while supporting the local ecosystem and expanding Kyle's ecological network.

# Trees

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Common Name | Scientific Name |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bigtooth Maple | Acer grandidentatum | Escarpment Black Cherry | Prunus serotina |
| Texas Buckeye | Aesculus glabra | Hop Tree | Ptelea trifoliata |
| Red Buckeye | Aesculus pavia | Wafer Ash | Ptelea trifoliolata |
| Pecan | Carya illinoinensis | Texas Red Oak | Quercus buckleyi |
| Texas Redbud | Cercis canadensis | Canby Oak | Quercus canbyi |
| Desert Willow | Chilopsis linearis | Escarpment Live Oak | Quercus fusiformis |
| Roughleaf Dogwood | Cornus drummondii | Lacey Oak | Quercus laceyi |
| Anacacho Orchid | Cotinus obovatus | Burr Oak | Quercus macrocarpa |
| Texas Persimmon | Diospyros texana | Blackjack Oak | Quercus marilandica |
| American Persimmon | Diospyros virginiana | Chinquapin Oak | Quercus muhlenbergii |
| Anacua (Sandpaper Tree) | Ehretia anacua | Shumard Oak | Quercus shumardii |
| Carolina Buckthorn | Frangula caroliniana | Live Oak | Quercus virginiana |
| Texas Ash | Fraxinus albicans | Prairie Flameleaf Sumac | Rhus lanceolata |
| Texas Honeylocust | Gleditsia triacanthos | Texas Palmetto | Sabal mexicana |
| Eastern Red Cedar | Juniperus virginiana | Black Willow | Salix nigra |
| Goldenball Leadtree | Leucaena retusa | Western Soapberry | Sapindus saponaria |
| Osage Orange (Bois d'arc) | Maclura pomifera | Catclaw Acacia | Senegalia greggii |
| Blanco Crabapple | Malus ioensis var. texana | Wright's Acacia | Senegalia wrightii |
| Texas Mulberry | Morus microphylla | Eve's Necklace | Styphnolobium affine |
| Red Mulberry | Morus rubra | Bald Cypress | Taxodium distichum |
| Retama | Parkinsonia aculeata | Linden Tree | Tilia americana |
| American Sycamore | Platanus occidentalis | American Elm | Ulmus americana |
| Cottonwood | Populus deltoides | Cedar Elm | Ulmus crassifolia |
| Chickasaw Plum | Prunus angustifolia | Mexican Buckeye | Ungnadia speciosa |
| Cherry Laurel | Prunus caroliniana | Huisache | Vachellia farnesiana |
| Mexican Plum | Prunus mexicana | Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum | Viburnum rufidulum |

# Shrubs

| Common Name | Scientific Name |
|---|---|
| White (Fragrant) Mistflower | Ageratina havanensis |
| Whitebush | Aloysia gratissima |
| False Indigo (Amorpha) | Amorpha fruticosa |
| Flame Acanthus | Anisacanthus quadrifidus wrightii |
| American Beautyberry | Callicarpa americana |
| Buttonbush | Cephalanthus occidentalis |
| Damianita | Chrysactinia mexicana |
| Black Dalea | Dalea frutescens |
| Bundleflower | Desmanthus illinoensis |
| Coral Bean | Erythrina herbacea |
| Texas Kidneywood | Eysenhardtia texana |
| Elbow Bush | Forestiera pubescens |
| Mexican Silktassel | Garrya ovata ssp. lindheimeri |
| Halberd-leaf Hibiscus | Hibiscus laevis |
| Swamp Rosemallow | Hibiscus moscheutos |
| Possumhaw | Ilex decidua |
| Texas Lantana | Lantana urticoides |
| Green Texas Sage | Leucophyllum frutescens |
| Mexican Oregano | Lippia graveolens |
| Texas Barberry | Mahonia swaseyi |
| Agarita | Mahonia trifoliolata |
| Turks Cap | Malvaviscus arboreus var. drummondii |
| Fragrant Mimosa | Mimosa borealis |
| Yellow Sensitive Briar | Neptunia lutea |
| Lindheimer's Nolina | Nolina lindheimeriana |
| Rock Rose (Pavonia) | Pavonia lasiopetala |

| Common Name | Scientific Name |
|---|---|
| Rock Penstemon | Penstemon baccharifolius |
| Canyon Mock Orange | Philadelphus texensis |
| Marsh Fleabane | Pluchea odorata |
| Aromatic Sumac | Rhus aromatica |
| Evergreen Sumac | Rhus virens |
| Dwarf Palmetto | Sabal minor |
| Common Elderberry | Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis |
| Lindheimer Senna | Senna Lindheimeriana |
| Two Leaf Senna | Senna roemeriana |
| Coralberry | Symphoricarpos orbiculatus |
| Yellow Bells | Tecoma stans var. angustata |
| Skeleton-leaf Goldeneye | Viguiera stenoloba |
| Orange Zexmenia | Wedelia acapulcensis |
| Zexmenia | Wedelia acapulcensis var. hispida |
| Texas Mountain Laurel | Dermatophyllum secundiflorum |
| Yaupon Holly | Ilex vomitoria |
| American Elderberry | Sambucus nigra |
| Gum Bumelia | Sideroxylon lanuginosum |
| Mountain Laurel | Sophora secundiflora |

# Groundcovers

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Common Name | Scientific Name |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Maidenhair Fern | Adiantum pedatum | Golden Wave Coreopsis | Coreopsis basalis |
| Indian Mallow | Abutilon fruticosum | Lance-leaf Coreopsis | Coreopsis lanceolata |
| White Yarrow | Achillea millefolium | Native Croton | Croton texensis |
| Spotflower | Acmella repens | Golden Dalea | Dalea aurea |
| Featherleaf Desert Peony | Acourtia runcinata | Datura | Datura wrightii |
| Brownfoot | Acourtia wrightii | Green Ponyfoot | Dichondra carolinensis |
| Red Columbine | Aquilegia canadensis | Clasping Coneflower | Dracopis amplexicaulis |
| Red Pricklypoppy | Argemone sanguinea | Snake Herb | Dyschoriste linearis |
| Antelope Horns Milkweed | Asclepias asperula | Narrowleaf Coneflower | Echinacea angustifolia |
| Pink Milkweed | Asclepias incarnata | Engelmann's Daisy | Engelmannia peristenia |
| Zizotes Milkweed | Asclepias oenotheroides | Horsetail Rush | Equisetum hyemale |
| Texas Milkweed | Asclepias texana | Longleaf Buckwheat | Eriogonum longifolium |
| Butterflyweed  Milkweed | Asclepias tuberosa | Leavenworth's Eryngo | Eryngium leavenworthii |
| Spider/Green Milkweed | Asclepias viridis | Rattlesnake Master | Eryngium yuccifolium |
| Chocolate Daisy | Berlandiera lyrata | Texas Bluebell | Eustoma exaltatum |
| False Boneset | Brickellia eupatorioides | Pink Mistflower Thoroughwort | Fleischmannia incarnata |
| Winecup | Callirhoe involucrata | Blanketflower | Gaillardia pulchella |
| Sundrops | Calylophus berlandieri | Pincushion Daisy | Gaillardia suavis |
| Texas Sundrops | Calylophus drummondii | White Avens | Geum canadense |
| Horseherb | Calyptocarpus vialis | Prairie Verbena | Glandularia bipinnatifida |
| Chile Pequin | Capsicum annuum | Gumweed | Grindelia squarrosa |
| Partridge Pea | Chamaecrista fasciculata | False Pennyroyal | Hedeoma reverchonii |
| Spiny Aster | Chloracantha spinosa | Autumn Sneezeweed | Helenium autumnale |
| Whitemouth Dayflower | Commelina erecta | Maximilian Sunflower | Helianthus maximiliani |
| Blue Mistflower | Conoclinium coelestinum | Pennywort | Hydrocotyle umbellata |
| Gregg's Mistflower | Conoclinium greggii | Standing Cypress | Ipomopsis rubra |

# Groundcovers

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Common Name | Scientific Name |
|---|---|---|---|
| American Water-Willow | Justicia americana | Fall Obedient Plant | Physostegia virginiana |
| Gayfeather | Liatris punctata var. mucronata | Pickerelweed | Pontederia cordata |
| Spicebush | Lindera benzoin | Buttercup | Ranunculus macranthus |
| Texas Yellow Star | Lindheimera texana | Mexican Hat | Ratibida columnifera |
| Blue Flax | Linum lewisii | Pigeonberry | Rivina humilis |
| Cardinal Flower | Lobelia cardinalis | Black-eyed Susan | Rudbeckia hirta |
| Water Primrose | Ludwigia octovalvis | Violet Ruellia | Ruellia nudiflora |
| Texas Bluebonnets | Lupinus texensis | Lanceleaf Arrowhead | Sagittaria lancifolia |
| Barbara's Buttons | Marshallia caespitosa | Delta Arrowhead | Sagittaria platyphylla |
| Blackfoot Daisy | Melampodium leucanthum | Pitcher Sage | Salvia azurea |
| Lemon Mint (purple) Beebalm | Monarda citriodora | Tropical (Red) Sage | Salvia coccinea |
| Texas Baby Blue Eyes | Nemophila phacelioides | Engelmann's Sage | Salvia engelmannii |
| Squarebud Primrose Calylophus | Oenothera (Calylophus) berlandieri | Mealy Blue Sage | Salvia farinacea |
| Trumpet Evening Primrose | Oenothera jamesii | Autumn Sage | Salvia greggii |
| Pink Gaura | Oenothera lindheimeri | Lyre Leaf Sage | Salvia lyrata |
| Missouri Primrose | Oenothera macrocarpa missouriensis | Big Red Sage | Salvia penstemonoides |
| Showy (Pink Evening) Primrose | Oenothera speciosa | Cedar Sage | Salvia roemeriana |
| Marbleseed | Onosmodium bejarense | Texas Sage | Salvia texana |
| Golden Groundsel | Packera obovata | Lizard Tail | Saururus cernuus |
| Cobaea Beardtongue | Penstemon cobaea | Heartleaf Skullcap | Scutellaria ovata |
| Hill Country Penstemon | Penstemon triflorus | Dark Pink Skullcap | Scutellaria suffrutescens |
| Blue Curls | Phacelia congesta | Purple Skullcap | Scutellaria wrightii |
| Drummond Phlox | Phlox drummondii | White Rosinweed | Silphium albiflorum |
| Prairie Phlox | Phlox pilosa | Blue Eyed Grass | Sisyrinchium angustifolium |
| Frogfruit | Phyla nodiflora | Tall Goldenrod | Solidago altissima |
| Correl's False Dragonhead | Physostegia correllii | Gray Goldenrod | Solidago nemoralis |

# Groundcovers

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Common Name | Scientific Name |
|---|---|---|---|
| Texas Betony | Stachys coccinea | Frostweed | Verbesina virginica |
| White Heath Aster | Symphyotrichum ericoides | Western Ironweed | Vernonia baldwinii |
| Fall Aster | Symphyotrichum oblongifolium | Guadalupe Ironweed | Vernonia guadalupensis |
| Tall Aster | Symphyotrichum praealtum | Woolly Ironweed | Vernonia lindheimeri |
| Four Nerve Daisy | Tetraneuris scaposa | Missouri Violet | Viola missouriensis |
| American Germander | Teucrium canadense | Clover Fern | Marsilea macropoda |
| Texas Spiderwort | Tradescantia humilis | Swanflower | Aristolochia erecta |
| Spiderwort | Tradescantia occidentalis | Texas Nightshade | Solanum triquetrum |
| Cowpen Daisy | Verbesina encelioides | | |

# Vines

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Common Name | Scientific Name |
|---|---|---|---|
| Berlandier's Trumpet | Acleisanthus obtusa | Purple Vine Milkweed | Matelea biflora |
| Trumpetvine | Campsis radicans | Pearl Vine Milkweed | Matelea reticulata |
| Purple Leatherflower | Clematis pitcheri | Snapdragon Vine | Maurandella antirrhiniflora |
| Red Leatherflower | Clematis texensis | Alamo Vine | Merremia dissecta |
| Twinepod Vine Milkweed | Funastrum cynanchoides | Virginia Creeper | Parthenocissus quinquefolia |
| White Bush Honeysuckle | Lonicera albiflora | Corona de Cristo' Passionflower | Passiflora foetida |
| Coral Honeysuckle | Lonicera sempervirens | | |

# Cactus/Succulents

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Common Name | Scientific Name |
|---|---|---|---|
| Blue Agave (Century Plant) | Agave americana | Buckley's Yucca | Yucca constricta |
| Red Yucca Hesperaloe | Hesperaloe parviflora | Twistleaf Green Yucca | Yucca rupicola |
| Texas Tuberose | Manfreda maculosa | Spanish Dagger | Yucca treculeana |

# Grasses

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Common Name | Scientific Name |
|---|---|---|---|
| Big Bluestem | Andropogon gerardii | Purple Lovegrass | Eragrostis spectabilis |
| Bushy Bluestem | Andropogon glomeratus | Texas Cupgrass | Eriochloa sericea |
| Broomsedge Bluestem | Andropogon virginicus | Rice Cutgrass | Leersia oryzoides |
| Purple Three-Awn | Aristida purpurea | Big (Lindheimer) Muhly | Muhlenbergia lindheimeri |
| Silver Bluestem | Bothriochloa laguroides | Seep Muhly | Muhlenbergia reverchonii |
| Sideoats Grama | Bouteloua curtipendula | Nimblewill Muhly | Muhlenbergia schreberi |
| Buffalo Grass | Bouteloua dactyloides | Aparejo Muhly | Muhlenbergia utilis |
| Blue Grama | Bouteloua gracilis | Texas Sacahuista | Nolina texana |
| Texas Grama | Bouteloua rigidiseta | Switchgrass | Panicum virgatum |
| Wood Sedge | Carex blanda | Texas Bluegrass | Poa arachnifera |
| Cherokee Sedge | Carex cherokeensis | White Topped Sedge | Rhynchospora colorata |
| Emory Sedge | Carex emoryi | Little Bluestem | Schizachyrium scoparium |
| Texas Meadow Sedge | Carex perdentata | Southwestern Bristlegrass | Setaria scheelei |
| Texas Sedge | Carex texensis | Indian Grass | Sorghastrum nutans |
| Inland Sea Oats | Chasmanthium latifolium | White Tridens | Tridens albescens |
| Texas (Green) Sotol | Dasylirion texanum | Eastern Gamagrass | Tripsacum dactyloides |