



PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

CITY OF CENTER, TEXAS



2019 - 2030



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I. INTRODUCTION

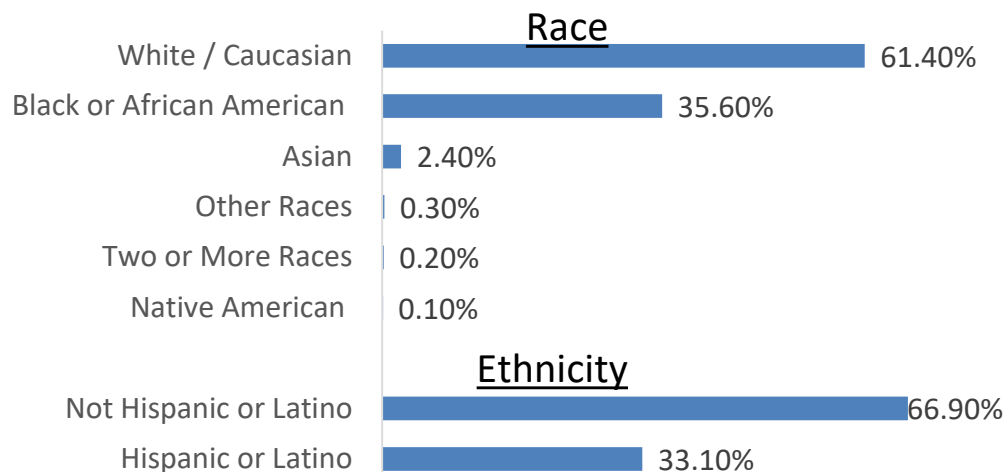
The City of Center's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2019 has been developed in order to guide the City towards a growing and enhanced Park System. This plan intends to share the community goals & objectives, park & open space needs and recommended projects with the citizens of Center.

This plan includes summaries of the following:

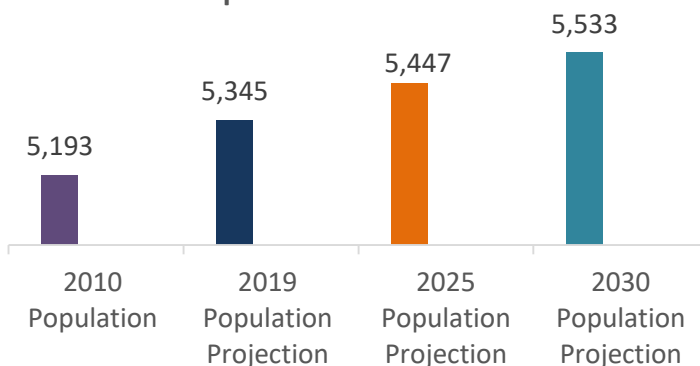
- 2019 demographics & population projections
- methodology
- goals and objectives
- park standards & park inventory
- citizen input
- needs and priorities
- implementation schedule for future developments

The City of Center is a total of 6.2 square miles. Center is located in Shelby County, and approximately 32 miles east of Nacogdoches, 60 miles southwest of Shreveport and 85 miles southeast of Tyler. The City of Center is neighbored by Joaquin, Timpson and unincorporated Shelbyville.

RACE & ETHNICITY



Population Estimates



Mean Household Income

➤ \$ 24,718

Number of Households

➤ 2,109

- All population projections are from [Texas Demographic Center](https://demographics.texas.gov/Resources/TPEPP/Estimates/2018/2018_txpoest_place.pdf)
https://demographics.texas.gov/Resources/TPEPP/Estimates/2018/2018_txpoest_place.pdf
- Population projections are based on an average percent change of .32% per year from the years 2010 – 2019
- Demographic data is from [American Fact Finder](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF)
<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

II. METHODOLOGY

The intent of this plan is to help guide the City of Center in the development and maintenance of its existing and future Park System. In addition to coordinating with City Staff, several steps were taken to ensure a successful and realistic master plan:

- Inventory the existing park and open space system.
- Establish the Level of Service based on the developed park acreage compared to the current population.
- Conduct Focus Group Meetings to obtain information from specific groups within the community.
- Develop and distribute a citizen survey to residents of Center to better understand the needs for the existing and future park system.

Based on citizen input, the existing park inventory, available online resources and professional opinion, potential park projects have been developed that include mostly updated and renovated parks throughout the community. Once the master project list was identified and developed, the projects for the City were prioritized based on local demand their perception of needs. Budget estimates and funding options have been provided for each project to better assist the City in budgeting for the upcoming years.



III. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and Objectives are provided to give direction for future community decisions regarding parks, recreation and open spaces specifically in the City of Center. The following goals and objectives were established based on input from the City of Center residents, City Staff and professional opinion.

PARK AND RECREATION GOAL:

To ensure the provision of a balanced park and open space system that meets the recreational needs of the citizens of Center and helps to create a unique community character.

PARK AND RECREATION OBJECTIVES:

- To renovate, rehabilitate and upgrade existing parks in Center.
- To maintain the existing park system at a high level and increase maintenance as new facilities are developed.
- To provide new and different recreational opportunities for all age groups.
- To develop and provide public parks throughout the city that are in close proximity to all neighborhoods.
- To forge partnerships with the school district and other public or private organizations for the development, operation and maintenance of future recreational facilities.
- To continue to develop a trail system that connects parks, residential and commercial areas and schools.
- To be proactive in developing existing properties to include recreational facilities.



OPEN SPACE GOAL: *To identify, protect and preserve quality natural open spaces for the protection of valuable ecosystems, unstructured recreational activities and inherent aesthetic value.*

OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVES:

- To limit development in natural open spaces in order to minimize adverse effects on valuable ecosystems.
- To address natural open space needs when developing active recreational facilities to provide citizens with well balanced recreational experiences that include both active and passive opportunities.
- To continually research the viability of developing trail systems along creeks, floodways, and utility easements that will link public and private recreational facilities, neighborhoods and school campuses.
- To be proactive in the acquisition and protection of unique natural open spaces throughout the City of Center.



IV. PARK STANDARDS AND INVENTORY

PARK STANDARDS

The Center Parks network is made up of five different park types – each having a role in satisfying the specific recreational needs of the City of Center. It is important to note that the development costs of parkland have significantly increased over the past 5 - 8 years due to increased costs of materials and construction. The following chart defines the characteristics of each park type within the City.

Classification	Service Area	Size	Population Served	Typical Facilities	Development Cost
Neighborhood Park	1/2 Mile	5 acres to 10 acres	2,000-10,000	Playground apparatus, picnic area(s), pavilion, play courts, play fields, restroom, natural open space landscaping & parking	\$80,000 - \$120,000 per acre
Community Park	2 Miles	40 acres to 150 acres	10,000-50,000	Tennis courts, sports fields, playground apparatus, picnic area(s), pavilions, walking/jogging trails, swimming pools, open space, landscaping, recreation centers, restrooms & parking	\$30,000 - \$50,000 per acre
Special Use Park / Facility	Varies	Determined by primary use	Varies - Dependent on primary use	Concentration of one or two of the following: Baseball/softball complex, soccer fields, tennis centers, sports stadiums, golf courses, performing arts parks, amphitheaters, ornamental gardens, Senior Centers, Indoor Recreation Centers & Aquatic Centers	Varies - Dependent on primary use
Greenbelts / Trails (10' Wide Useable Space)	Varies	Varies	5,000 to Entire Community	Landscaping, multi- purpose trails, benches, information kiosks, telephones, exercise courses & drinking fountains	\$125,000- 175,000 per mile
Natural Areas	Varies	Determined by resource	Entire Community	Nature trails, multi-purpose trails, benches, picnic areas, wildlife viewing stations, educational components, information kiosks, interpretive signs, exercise courses & drinking fountains	Varies

* All costs exclude land and are based on 2019 dollars.

Existing Parks and Open Space

The existing five parks in Center are classified and shown in the following table. In order to illustrate the geographic distribution and areas of the City currently served by the park system, the service area of each existing park has been shown on the Existing Parks and Open Space Map on the following page. Ideally, all developed areas of the city should fall within the service area of a neighborhood park and a community park (Appendix I - Park Photos).

NAME	TYPE OF PARK	DEVELOP ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	FACILITIES
American Legion Park	Natural Open Space	2.0	9.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One baseball field • Natural open space • Community House
Center Boardwalk	Trail / Greenbelt	4.5 (3.69 Mi.)	4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose trail • Benches • Boardwalk • Landscaping • Trail Lighting
Center Park	Community Park	44.6	65.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five baseball fields • One softball field • Soccer fields • Playground • Pond with dock • Two Pavilions • Picnic areas • Multi-purpose trail • Concession/Restroom
Center Senior Center	Special Use Facility	1.3	2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi – Purpose Room • Game Room • Kitchenette • Fitness / Exercise Equipment • Offices • Storage Room
Center Softball Complex	Community Park	20.8	20.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Tournament Quality Softball Field • Two Softball Fields • Concession / Restroom • Nature Trail
Community Park (Under Renovation 2019-2020)	Special Use Park	12.4	21.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Soccer Fields • Concession facility • Restroom facility

NAME	TYPE OF PARK	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	FACILITIES
Portacool Park	Community Park	7.5	7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Playground• Play equipment• Picnic areas• Sprayground• Pavilions (2)• Open lawn area• Soccer Field• Walking Trail• Large Covered Basketball Courts/Volleyball Court• Portacool Cooling Stations• Restrooms (2)
Perry Sampson Park	Neighborhood Park	3.6	3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play equipment• One baseball field• Two basketball courts/ four half basketball courts• Pavilion• Picnicking areas• Restroom building
Total Park Acres			135.5	
Total Developed Park Acres		96.7		
			18.1 ACRES / 1,000 RESIDENTS	
EXTERNAL INFLUENCES				
Lake Center	Special Use Park	0.0	253.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural Boat Ramp
Pinkston Reservoir	Special Use Park	0.0	589.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural Boat Ramp• Concrete Boat Ramp
Total Acres			842.0	

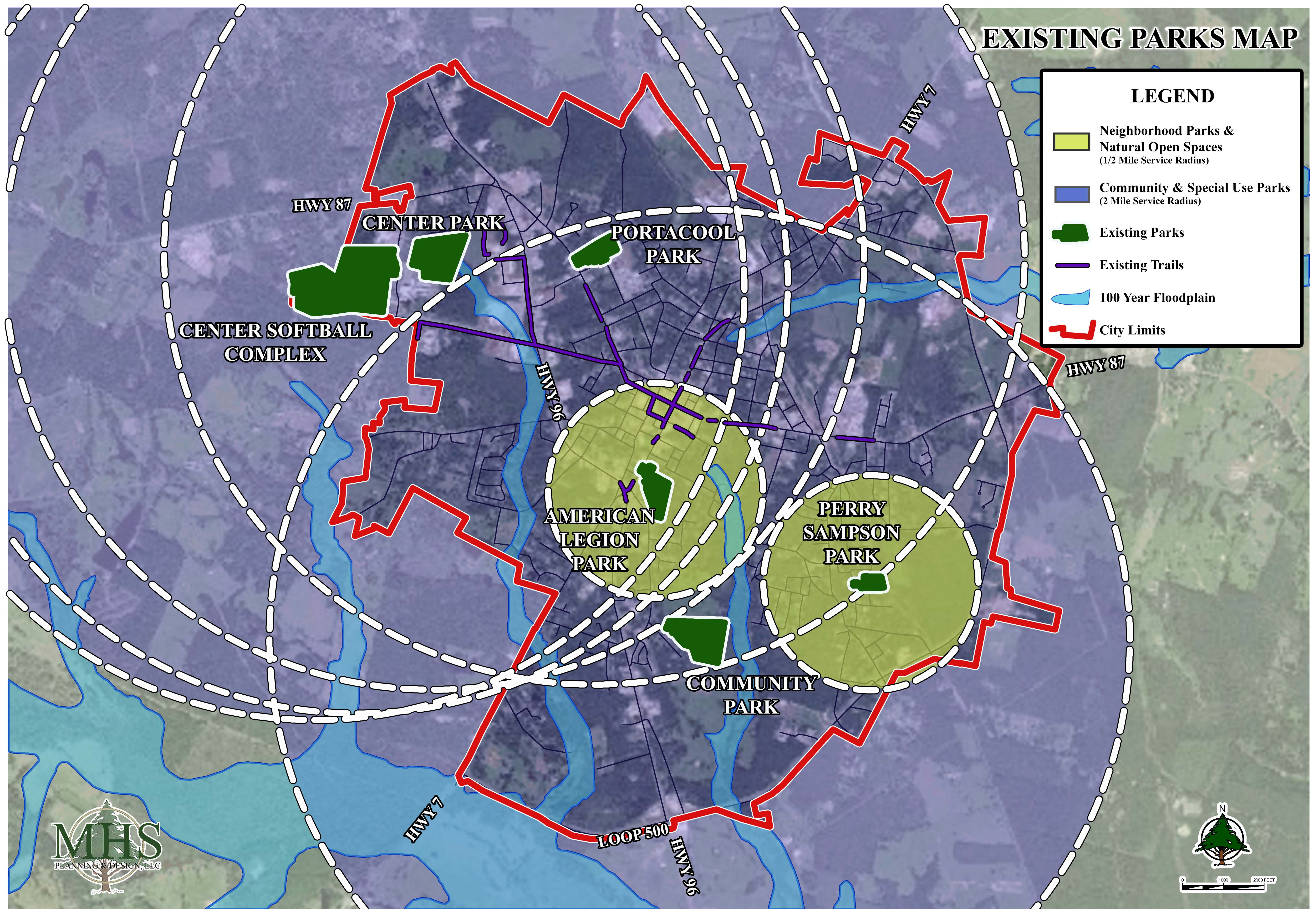
External Influences

External Influences are recreational amenities that are typically located outside of the City Limits. Lake Center and Pinkston Reservoir are both owned by the City of Center but do not play a large recreational role outside of the three boat ramps.

EXISTING PARKS MAP

LEGEND

-  Neighborhood Parks & Natural Open Spaces (1/2 Mile Service Radius)
-  Community & Special Use Parks (2 Mile Service Radius)
-  Existing Parks
-  Existing Trails
-  100 Year Floodplain
-  City Limits



V. LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level of service is a term used to describe the importance or the role of a park system within a community. Level of Service is expressed in acres of useable park land per 1,000 residents within a city. Based on the specific needs of a community, levels of service ranging from five to 15 acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents is typically targeted. It is important to note that the level of service is based on useable space and, therefore, undeveloped or unusable park land is not factored into the level of service calculation.

The City of Center currently owns 135.5 total park acres and a total of 96.7 acres are developed and useable. The current level of service for the City of Center is 18.1 acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents.

The following table shows the total park acres, developed park acres and the level of service for each different type of park classification in the City of Center.

PARK CLASSIFICATION	TOTAL DEVELOPED PARK ACRES	TOTAL PARK ACRES	LEVEL OF SERVICE (developed park acres per 1,000 residents)
Neighborhood Parks	3.6	3.6	.68
Community Parks	72.9	94.1	13.8
Special Use Parks	13.7	23.6	2.6
Greenbelts / Trails	4.5	4.5	.85
Natural Areas	2.0	9.7	.38
TOTAL ACRES	96.7	135.5	18.3

VI. CITIZEN INPUT

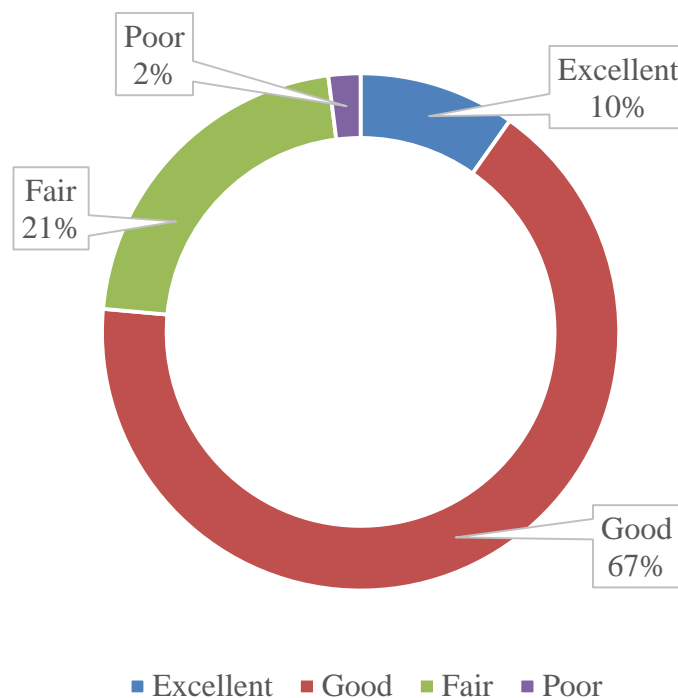
To better understand the needs of the residents of Center, the City decided to use a citizen driven needs based approach to park planning. In order to continue to develop a growing park system, the City invited the public to participate in an online survey and hosted two focus group meetings with community leaders and athletic groups.

After conducting meetings and reviewing all the survey data, it is apparent the citizens of Center are satisfied with the overall park system and very pleased with the improvements that the City has implemented over the past ten years. Many of the residents expressed a need for additional maintenance and upkeep of the parks as the system continues to grow.

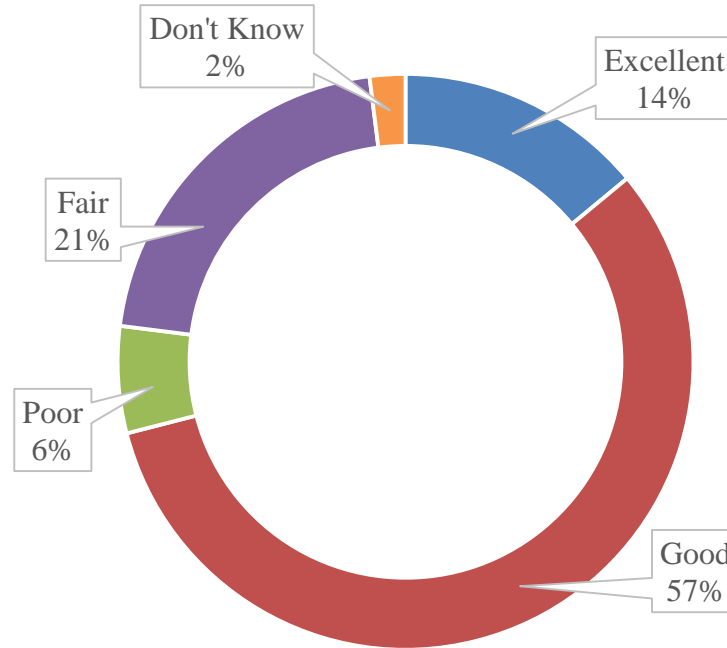
CITIZEN SURVEY INPUT

A citizen survey was provided online and was open to the public for comments. After tabulating and reviewing the results, the majority of the received surveys suggested that the existing parks need to be upgraded, enhanced and maintained at a higher level in lieu of additional parks. The City of Center has successfully developed new parks over the past ten years, and it is apparent that the community recognizes these improvements after reviewing the survey results and conducting focus groups.

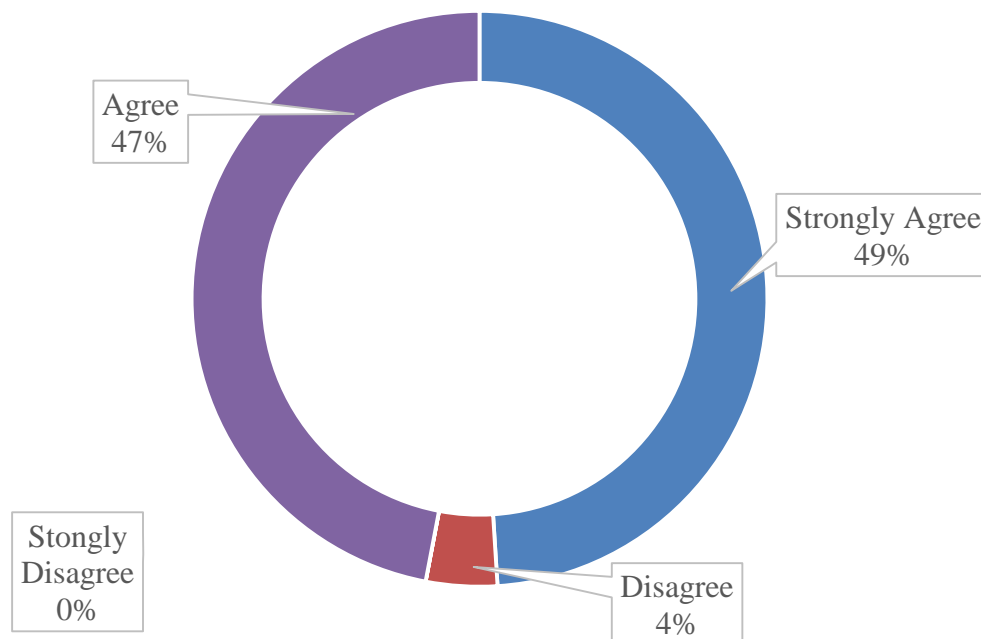
How would you rate the existing parks and recreation facilities in Center?



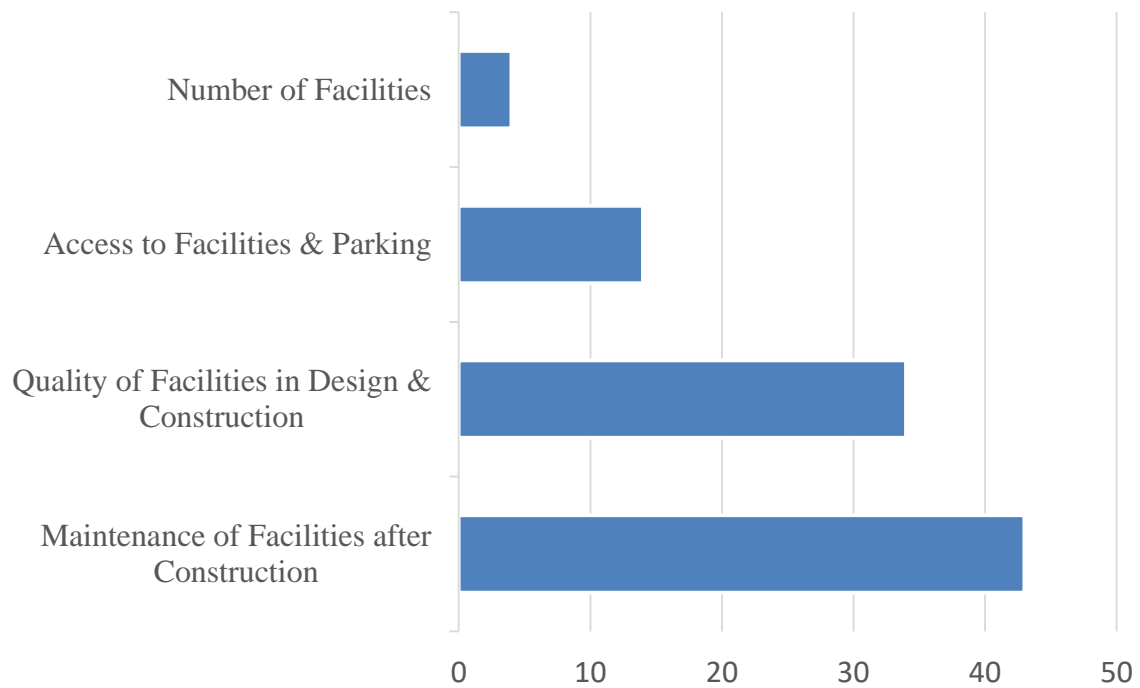
How would you rate the level of maintenance of parks and recreational facilities in Center?



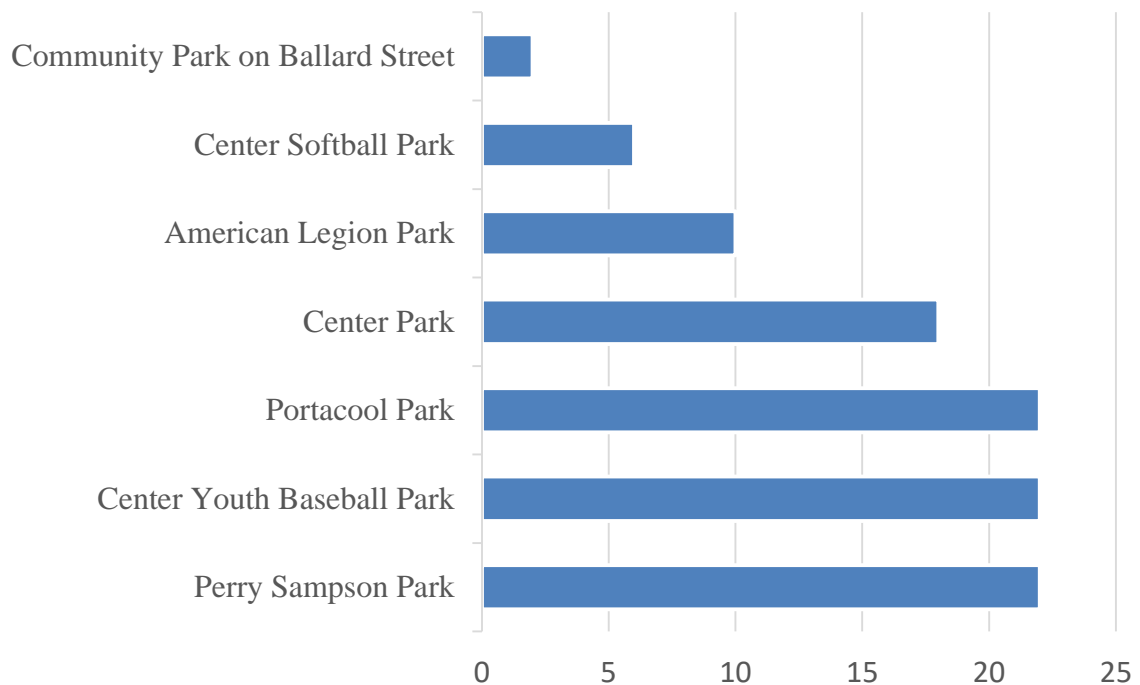
Existing parks in Center should be upgraded and/or improved to include additional facilities.



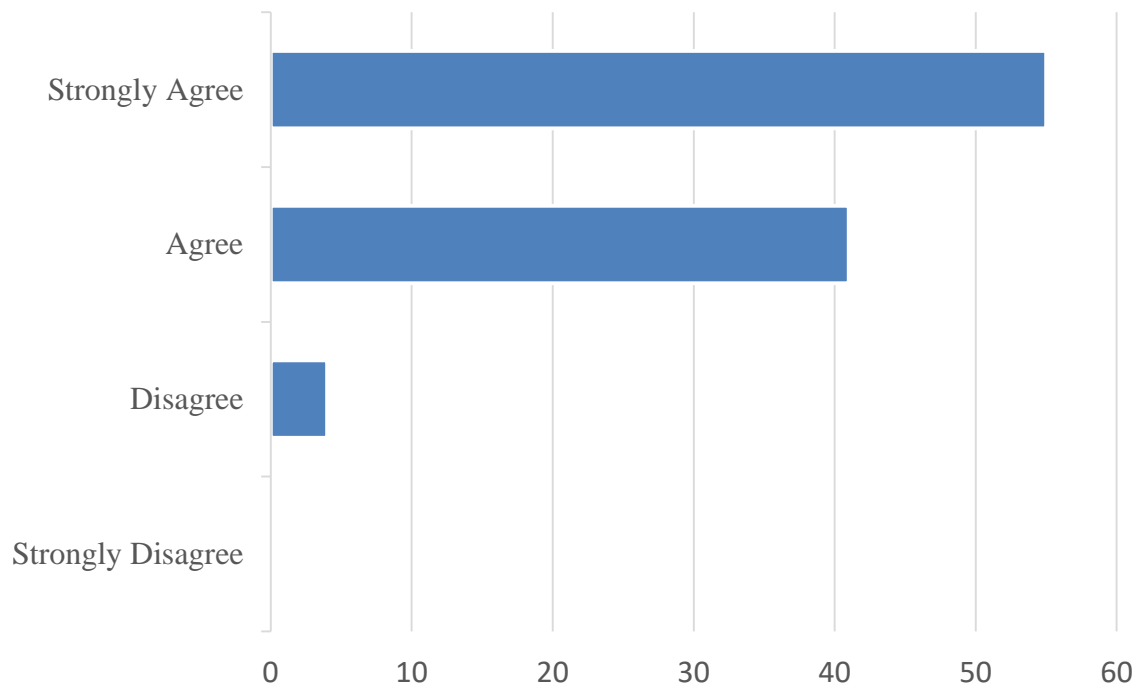
The most important consideration regarding future parks in Center is:



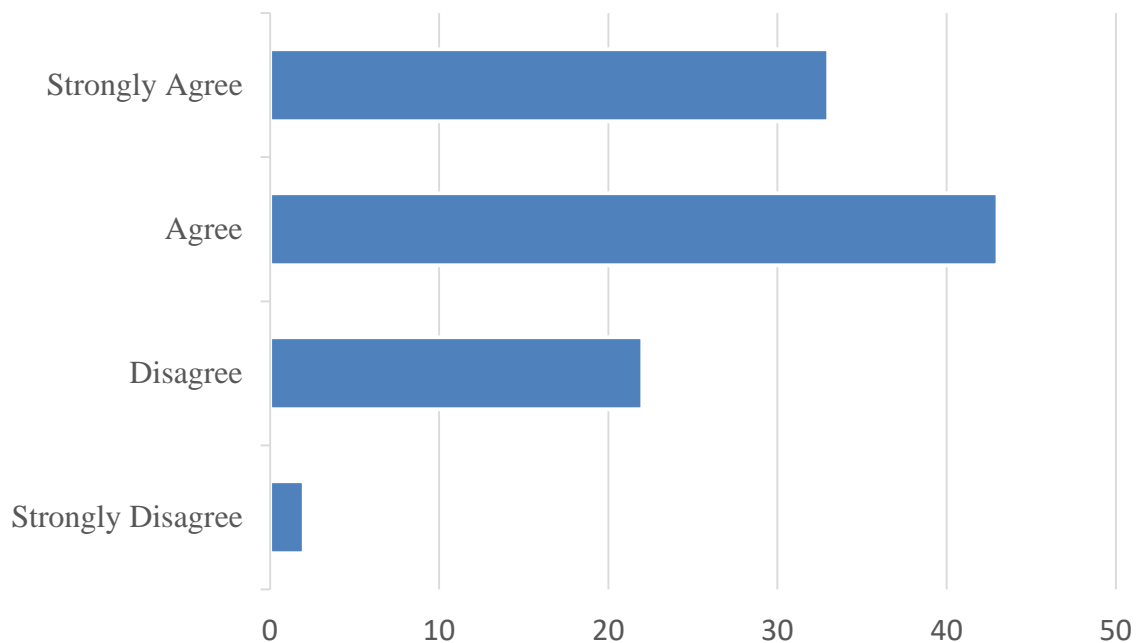
Which park needs/would you like to see further improved and/or upgraded in Center



Parks & recreation facilities are well worth the cost to taxpayers



Municipal Bonds, paid through increased tax revenues, should be used to help fund the development and/or maintenance of City Parks in Center.



FOCUS GROUP INPUT

To truly understand some of the specific needs in the community, the City hosted three Focus Group Meetings. The City invited the organized youth athletics groups, the Perry Sampson Park Board and a met with a group to generally discuss the overall park system. These meetings were imperative to better understand the needs within specific groups. Although each group had specific needs for its organization, many of the participants had similar needs regarding the overall park system.

The following is a list of some of the key findings from the general public:

- **The City needs to focus on the maintenance and renovation of parks before constructing additional facilities**
- **There is a growing Hispanic population in Center and soccer is the fastest growing youth sport in the community**
- **Perry Sampson Park needs to be updated and renovated**
- **Nearly all the sports organizations are happy with the existing facilities but would like the City to focus more on maintenance**
- **The School District and the City should continue to partner with one another to provide recreational opportunities for the residents**
- **Additional trails and trail linkages are desired**
- **The City needs to enhance the boat ramps at the Pinkston Reservoir & Center Lake for recreational access.**
- **Portacool Park is highly used and appreciated by the citizens**
- **High quality outdoor basketball courts are desired at Perry Sampson Park**



VII. NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

The needs and priorities of the City of Center are based on the Focus Group Meetings input, citizen survey input, the goals and objectives, city staff recommendations and professional opinion.

The City of Center's Park System has continually been developing over the past ten years. The City has successfully partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife to use match funds for the development of several parks over the last decade. Due to the fact that the existing Park System is young in the grand scheme of things, the City needs to primarily focus on maintaining the park system and updating the older parks within the community.

The following needs and priorities have been identified as important areas of focus for the parks and recreational system for the City of Center through 2029.

EXISTING PARK NEEDS

The City of Center's Park System has grown substantially over the past few years. Due to the growth and new developments of parks, many of the existing parks have been maintained over the years but no upgrades or enhancements have been made within the City. Many of the existing parks are in need of minor repairs and a few major upgrades. As the City of Center continues to grow, it is essential that the City maintains, updates and renovates the existing parks within the system.

Perry Sampson Park is located in the southeastern region of the city and has not had any updates or renovations in the past twenty years. Many of the park amenities are obsolete, outdated and potentially dangerous to park users. Although some efforts by the local community have tried to make the park a safer play space for the neighborhood, many residents consider it to be a potentially dangerous place.

American Legion Park is just south of being centrally located in town. This park is one of the older parks in town and primarily consists of natural open space and an old, run down baseball field. The park is not in need of a complete redevelopment but some minor improvements such as a community garden, nature trail and a small gathering space would vastly improve the space and encourage more activity within the park. In addition, the existing field should be renovated for youth practice space and recreational play for the community.

It is imperative that the City focuses on redeveloping and enhancing [Perry Sampson Park](#) with recreational amenities such as a renovated pavilion, a refurbished basketball court, a new playground, a walking trail and a new restroom facility.

NEW PARK NEEDS

The City has developed several new parks over the past few years, including a boys baseball complex, a girls softball complex and a community-wide park; Portacool Park. The new park developments have been received well by the community and many of the residents spoke highly of Park System.

Playgrounds ranked as the number one priority in the City and should be considered throughout the community. The City needs to acquire and develop small spaces throughout the community in areas where recreational areas are lacking.

One of the areas recently lacking in the park system is a specific space for youth and adult soccer. Soccer is a growing sport and the City has seen a rise in soccer participation over the past several years. The City is in the process of redeveloping Community Park into a three-field soccer complex with a restroom facility and a concession building. It is anticipated that the City will need additional fields to keep up with the demand of the growing sport. The City needs to focus on continuing to develop this new park over the next year in order to provide a complex that is comparable to the other youth complexes.



ATHLETIC NEEDS

The City of Center has successfully developed a wide array of sports facilities for the residents. Over the past ten years, the City has constructed softball fields, a baseball field, soccer practice spaces and is currently constructing a three-field soccer complex. In order to better understand the needs of the youth sports organizations, focus group meetings were held with representatives from each sport.

Due to the fact the all the organizations have relatively new facilities and enough field space, the needs and desires from each group were not demanding. The number one request from each group was an increased level of maintenance on the fields. In addition, each organization supported the idea of the installation of artificial turf fields. It was noted that the City would be one of the first in East Texas to construct tournament quality, artificial turf fields and could lead the industry in East Texas.

Girls Youth Softball

The City constructed a new three-field Softball Complex several years ago to provide the youth softball program with high quality tournament style fields. At this time, no new fields are required or necessarily desired by the organization, however, the site was designed for the construction of a fourth field when the demand is needed. The number one request by the softball organization was an increased level of maintenance for safer play and to draw more tournaments to the community.



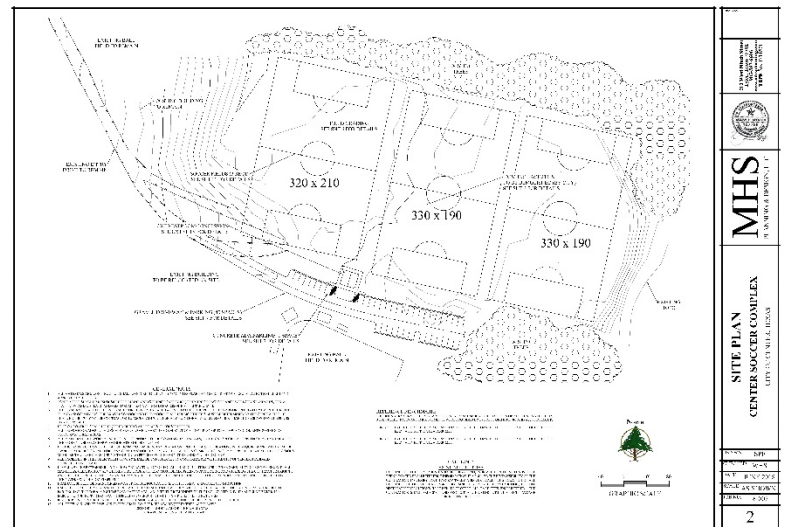
Youth Boys Baseball

The youth baseball program is one of the most consistent and popular sports in the City of Center. The City has constructed several fields over the past few years and no additional fields are needed for the current and expected growth of baseball. In lieu of additional fields, the organization needs score keeping boxes to improve the facilities for potential tournaments. In addition, the City needs to consider installing artificial turf on the infields at the fields to allow for more playable days throughout the year. If installed, the City would be one of the leaders in East Texas to provide artificial turf on recreational fields.



Youth Soccer

The youth soccer program has been continuing to grow over the past several years and is anticipated to continue to grow over time. The City is currently restructuring Community Park (the old girls softball complex) to satisfy the need for additional soccer fields. The soccer organization is thankful for the upcoming fields and requests that the new fields be maintained at a high level for practices, games and tournaments.



Youth Football

The City of Center began a youth league football program within the past five years and it has steadily grown over the years but not at a quick pace. Currently, the City partners with the High School and the youth football games are held at the High School Stadium on Saturdays. There is not one designated practice area for football and open lawn spaces throughout the community are used at a first-come first-serve basis. The biggest need for youth football is available practice spaces.

Youth Basketball

The City of Center does not currently have a facility for indoor basketball. The youth basketball program currently plays games and practices at school gymnasiums. At this time, the City and the school have a successful partnership that benefits the both parties. Even with the continued projected growth of basketball, there is no need for additional basketball courts as long as the schools and other organizations provide access to courts. The City does need to consider additional public basketball courts throughout the community for league practice and recreational use.

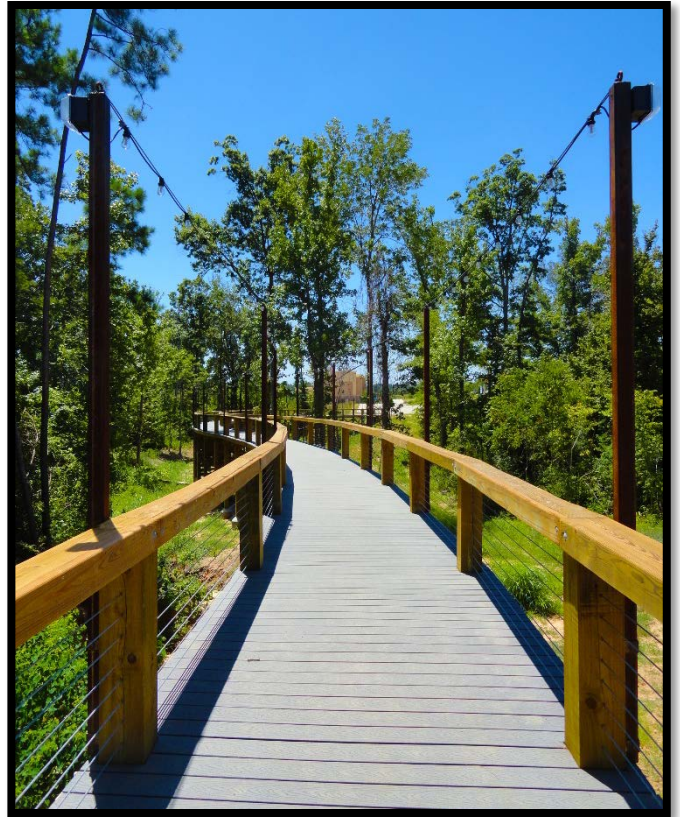


NATURAL AREAS NEEDS

Some citizens expressed the need to preserve and conserve natural areas throughout the community and surrounding areas. Center is located in East Texas and is surrounded by thousands of acres of wooded tracts of land, natural open spaces, rivers, and creeks. Although many of the residents have access to natural areas, it is imperative that the City preserves these areas to ensure that future generations will have access to natural areas and water features.

The City needs to reconstruct and enhance the boat ramp at Pinkston Reservoir in order to provide water related recreational opportunities.

As the City developments and expands, it is imperative to focus on preserving the most valuable environmental assets such as natural open spaces, wooded lots, creek corridors and riparian areas.



TRAILS NEEDS

Multi-use paved trails and nature trails are both needed throughout the community of Center. Many residents expressed the need for additional walking trails in parks for exercise. Trails benefit all age groups and different levels of ability and need to be constructed within parks.

In addition, many of the residents felt a need for the continuation of trail construction throughout the city for connectivity between parks, schools and residential areas.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships have played an important role in the development of Center's Parks System. Over the past several years, the City has successfully partnered with both private and public organizations. Partnerships can provide the City more realistic park projects and financial decisions and benefit all other entities involved.

It is imperative that the City continues to partner with local and state-wide groups to better maintain and operate facilities within the community.



MAINTENANCE

The City of Center has developed a wide-spread and successful Park System over the past several years. Now that the City of Center has built a Park System that is pleasing to nearly the entire community, it is imperative that the City focus on maintaining each park at a high level. Much of the money spent over the past decade has been used to develop new parks and provide additional recreational facilities to the residents. The City needs to allocate some of the dollars spent on development and focus on maintaining the system at a high level. Maintenance crews and the maintenance budget needs to grow in order to keep up with the existing park system and keep the citizens of Center happy.

PRIORITIES

The following Parks and Recreational Facility Priorities are based on results from the citizen surveys, focus group meetings, public city council meetings, city staff, the needs analysis and professional opinion. The following list is depicted in order of priority and should be pursued as recreational priorities within the City.

RANK	FACILITY
1	Playgrounds (2-5 & 5-12 Year Old)
2	Multi-Use Paved & Nature Trails
3	Enhanced Landscaping (Wildflowers, Pollinators, Tree Plantings)
4	Outdoor Basketball Courts
5	Picnic Shelters / Pavilions
6	Restrooms & Drinking Fountains
7	Recreational Play (Adult Softball, Lawn Games, Sand Volleyball, Disc Golf, etc)
8	Soccer Fields (Youth & Adult)
9	Open Lawn Areas for General Play
10	Fishing Piers / Docks
11	Interpretive Signage
12	Shaded Play Spaces / Courts
13	Outdoor Fitness Equipment
14	Indoor Recreation Center
15	Youth Sports Fields (Baseball, Football, Softball, etc)

The City of Center needs to focus on the needs and priorities that were presented by the residents in the citizen survey and the focus group meetings in order to continue to provide a successful park system. The overall priorities are as follows:

- Renovate and enhance Perry Sampson Park
- Continue to redevelop and enhance the existing park system as it ages
- Allocate additional monies towards the maintenance of the existing park system
- Continue to develop and enhance the soccer complex in order to be comparable to the other youth athletic facilities
- Continue to develop and provide trail linkages throughout the city
- Operate & maintain the future and existing park system at a high level

RECOMMENDATIONS

New Parks:

The City has focused on developing the park system over the past decade. The existing system is young and thriving so no new parks are needed at this time. The City is currently constructing a soccer complex and the focus needs to be on continuing the development of the complex in order to match the quality of the other youth sports parks.

It is recommended that the City acquire and develop small areas throughout the community for the installation of playgrounds.

Existing Park Upgrades:

Continue to enhance and upgrade the park system in order to continually provide a successful park system that meets the ever changing needs of the community. The City needs to specifically focus on installing new playgrounds in the existing parks as they continue to age over the years.

The existing park system is well balanced and supports the demands for most of the resident within the City. Over the years, as the City has focused on acquiring and developing new parks, some of the older parks were not updated or renovated. It is recommended to specifically upgrade and enhance [Perry Sampson Park](#) and [American Legion Park](#).

Trails:

Develop meaningful trail segments that result in logical connectivity throughout the community. It is imperative to continue to construct trails throughout the community to connect parks, schools, residential areas & commercial areas. Trail connections should promote healthy and active lifestyles and provide alternate and safe routes for residents.

Emphasis should be given to providing trails that provide safe routes along streets to schools, parks and homes and trail segments along creek corridors and other natural resources.

Natural Open Space:

Acquire, preserve and develop key natural areas for primitive and passive recreational opportunities as well as for natural habitats and trail corridors.

Park Operations & Maintenance:

In order to maintain the Park System and public spaces at a level that is appreciated and expected by the residents, the City needs to continually review and update the parks operations and maintenance budget. The City has developed an incredible network of parks throughout the City and it is recommended that the City allocates monies each year towards the maintenance of the existing park system.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The following table depicts the City of Center's project list for the next ten years. It is imperative to note that the City of Center has developed a very successful Park System over the past ten years. Due to the size of the community and the existing high quality Park System, the City needs to focus on maintaining and upgrading the parks over the next ten years in lieu of continuing to acquire and develop park land.

The City should evaluate and take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities that may arise that are not identified in this implementation schedule as long as it meets the goals and objectives of this plan. The City should continually and actively pursue partnerships and non-traditional funding sources to expedite implementation where possible to alleviate some of the burden of the development expenses on residents.

It is important to note that the implementation schedule is intended to be a flexible guide for the acquisition, development and enhancements of parks, recreational facilities and open spaces over the next ten years.

DATE	PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
2020 - 2021	Renovate & Enhance Perry Sampson Park <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Resurface and cover existing basketball courts- Construct multi-purpose trail- Construct new playground- Renovate existing playground elements- Renovate existing pavilion- Provide tree plantings & landscaping- Provide picnic areas & benches- Install lighting throughout the park- Install new signage	\$650,000 - \$850,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Donations- TPWD Grants- General Funds- General Obligation Bonds
2022	Acquire and Develop a Small Pocket Park for the Installation of a Playground	\$75,000 - \$115,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Donations- TPWD Grants- General Funds- General Obligation Bonds
2023	Install Artificial Infields at the Baseball Complex	\$35,000 - \$55,000 (per field)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Donations- General Funds- General Obligation Bonds
2024 - 2025	Renovate & American Legion Park <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Construct nature trails- Renovate existing ball field- Provide community garden- Provide tree plantings & landscaping- Provide picnic areas & benches- Install new signage	\$250,000 - \$350,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Donations- TPWD Grants- General Funds- General Obligation Bonds

DATE	PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
2020 - 2030	Increase the quality of maintenance within the park system in order to provide a higher quality of experience for park users	N / A	- Donations - General Funds - General Obligation Bonds
	Develop Trail Connectivity throughout the Community	\$125,000 - \$175,000 per mile	- Donations - TPWD Grants - TxDOT Grants - General Funds - General Obligation Bonds
	Install New Playgrounds within the City to Increase Citizen Accessibility and Continue to Replace Playgrounds as they Age in Existing Parks	\$75,000 - \$115,000 (per playground)	- Donations - TPWD Grants - General Funds - General Obligation Bonds
	Continue to Partner with Center Independent School District in order to share facilities for youth sports programs	Market Value	- Donations - TPWD Grants - TxDOT Grants - General Funds - General Obligation Bonds

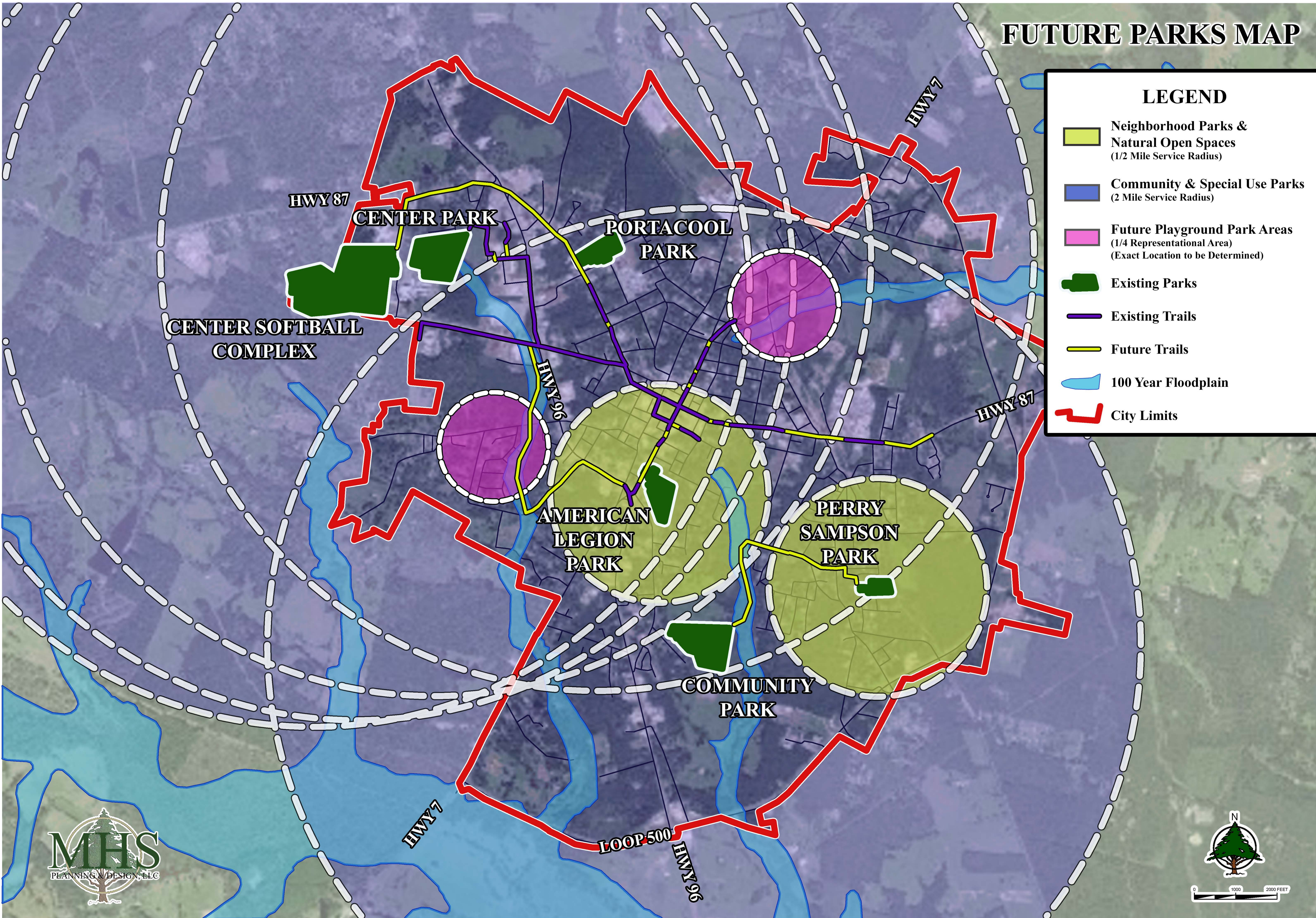
Note: Estimated costs are based on 2019 dollars and do not include land acquisition.



FUTURE PARKS MAP

LEGEND

-  Neighborhood Parks & Natural Open Spaces (1/2 Mile Service Radius)
-  Community & Special Use Parks (2 Mile Service Radius)
-  Future Playground Park Areas (1/4 Representational Area) (Exact Location to be Determined)
-  Existing Parks
-  Existing Trails
-  Future Trails
-  100 Year Floodplain
-  City Limits



IX. SUMMARY

The City of Center gathered public input through a citizen survey, focus group meetings and open to the public City Council Meetings to better understand the needs of the community. Many of the residents are happy with the development and quality of the existing park system. The City has spent the last ten years acquiring and developing a great park system but in the process, some of the older parks, such as Perry Sampson Park and American Legion Park were not upgraded or highly maintained. The City has invested in the development of parks over the past decade and should now shift to maintaining and updating parks throughout the remainder of this planning period.

The main objectives of this Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan are to:

- Renovate and upgrade Perry Sampson Park
- Renovate and upgrade American Legion Park
- Allocate monies each year towards maintaining the existing park system, especially at the sports fields.
- Continue to construct multi-use paved and nature trails throughout the community in order to create a network that connects residential areas with parks, schools and commercial areas
- Continue to partner with private and public organizations to enhance the park system
- Focus on the preservation and conservation of natural open spaces that make Center unique



This master plan update is to be utilized as a guideline which should be reviewed annually and updated every five years to reflect the unique recreational needs of the changing population and demographics of Center. The City should take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities not identified in the plan that may arise, such as donations of land and/or facilities as long as the actions meet the intent of the goals, objectives and recommendations of this plan.

The resulting benefits of the recreational improvements proposed in this plan include tourism potential, economic value, increasing property values, civic pride and most importantly, an increased quality of life for the residents of the City of Center.