



PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

January 11, 2021

Executive Summary





PEARLAND PARKS AND RECREATION

OUR VISION

We're building a healthy, connected, and vibrant community that enriches lives through exceptional experiences.

OUR STORY

The City of Pearland's Parks and Recreation Department is the cornerstone of health and wellness, exceptional experiences, and purposeful programming that unites our community through cultural, diverse, and inclusive efforts.

What we do makes a difference.

OUR PILLARS



Health and Wellness. *We provide exceptional opportunities to improve the physical, social, and emotional well being of the community.*



Cultivate Experiences. *We are dedicated to creating experiences that engage and connect the community.*



Environmental Stewardship. *We assume responsibility for protecting open spaces, connecting people to nature and engaging people in conservation.*



Social Equity. *We are committed to ensuring all people have access to the benefits of Parks and Recreation.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **2020 Pearland Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan** creates the foundation for the identification and implementation of capital projects, operational changes, and policy considerations that will further establish a cohesive parks and recreation system for the City. The comprehensive community planning approach this plan undertakes ensures the plan follows a community vision and is aligned with best practices in parks and recreation facilities.

Specific steps in the *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan* include:

- evaluating and analyzing **existing conditions**;
- developing appropriate **goals and objectives**;
- identifying **local resources and partnership opportunities**;
- analyzing **needs based on population change and community input**; and
- identifying **strategies and actions** through which to implement the Master Plan's recommendations and priorities.

PEARLAND'S GROWTH

Pearland has experienced a steady growth in its population over the last five decades and sharply accelerated growth of 142 percent between 2000 and 2010. Pearland's current population is estimated to grow between nine percent and 14 percent in the next two decades. Assuming an average rate of growth between 10 and 14 percent, the City is expected to add over 53,000 residents by 2040.

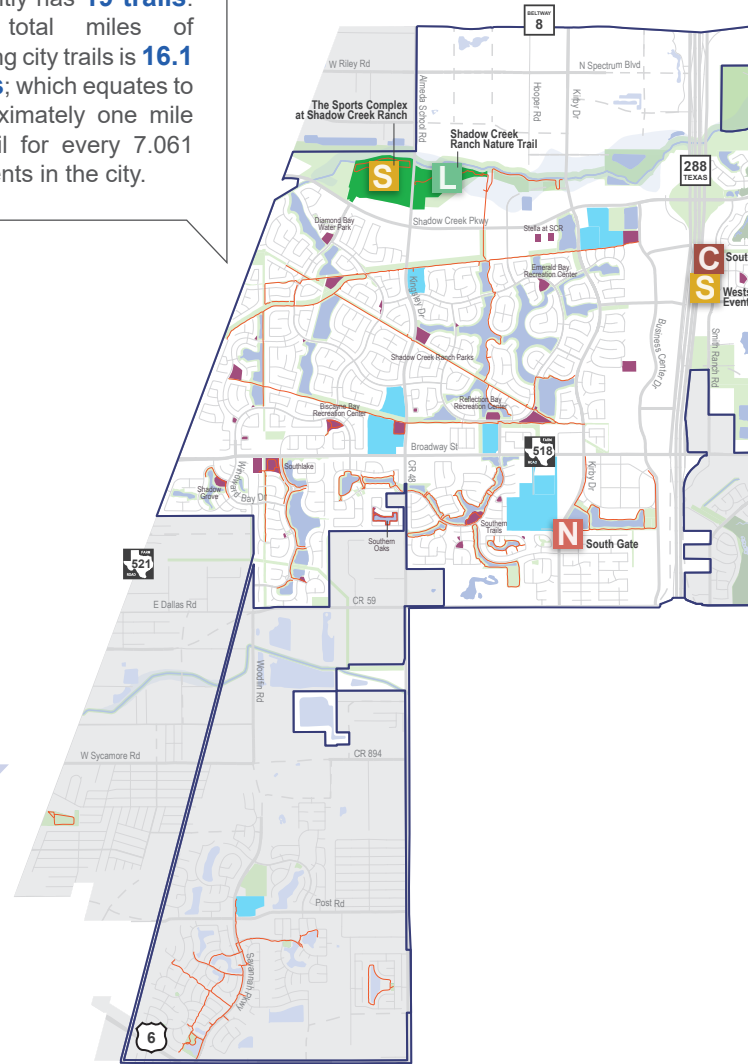


Pearland's population expected to grow by 41% between 2018 and 2040.

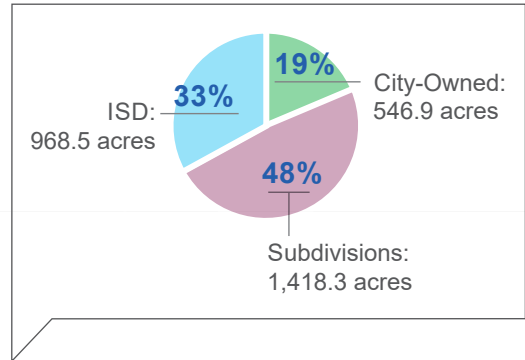
PARK SYSTEM SNAPSHOT

The City owns and operates 26 parks and facilities that exceed 546 acres.

The City of Pearland currently has **19 trails**. The total miles of existing city trails is **16.1 miles**; which equates to approximately one mile of trail for every 7.061 residents in the city.



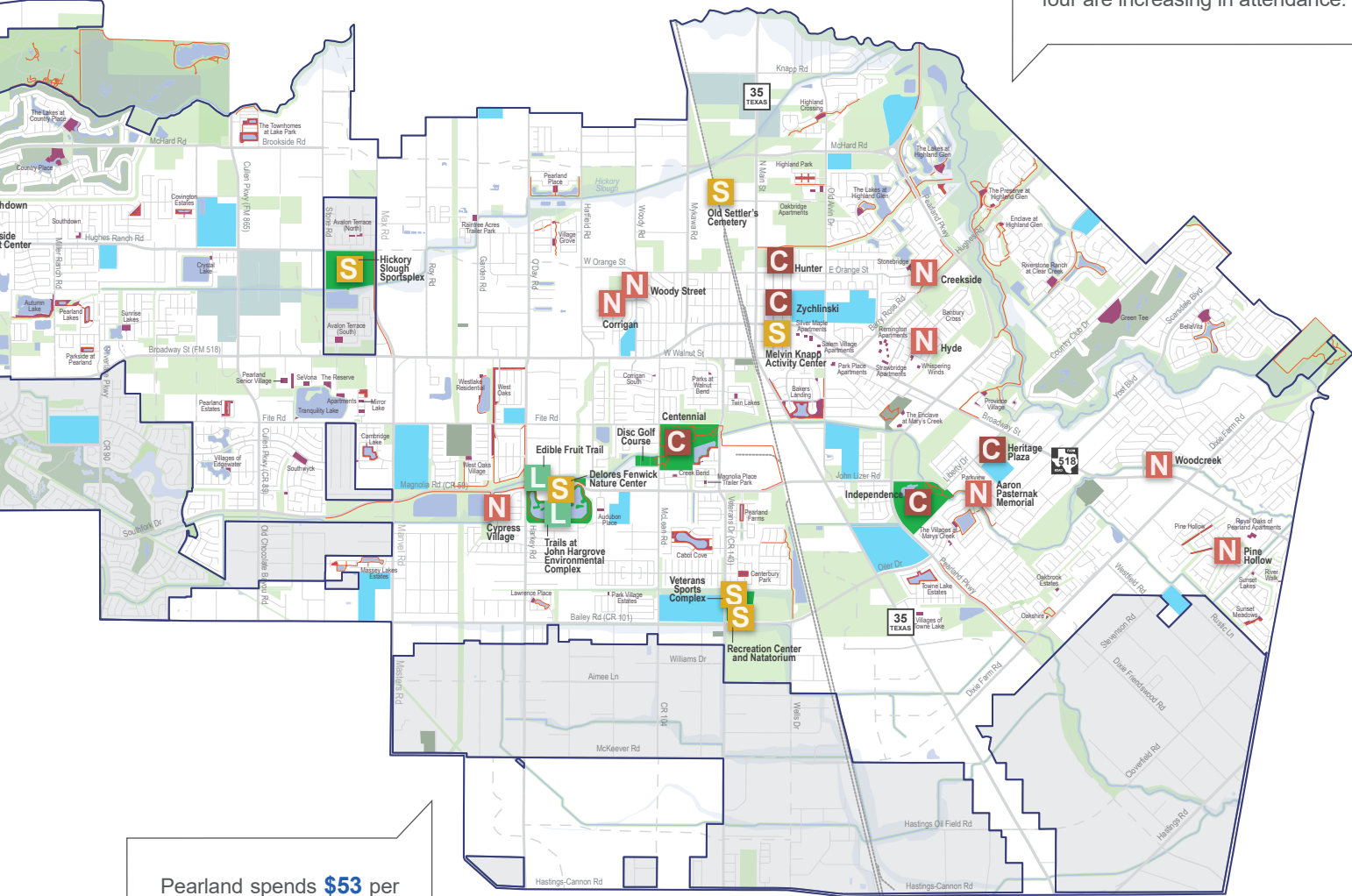
Pearland offers a variety of recreational programs and events that provide year-round activities for residents of all ages. A number of programs are decreasing in participation, overall the total participation for all recreation programs is down **26 percent**.



There are **968.5 Acres** of ISD Park Facilities in 28 Schools in Pearland.

The City's park system is also supported by approximately **1,417 acres** of subdivision and home owner associations (HOA) parks, facilities, golf courses and trails.

Out of the **10** special events that PARD sponsors and supports four are increasing in attendance.



Pearland spends **\$53** per capita in delivering parks and recreational services to its residents.

The Parks and Recreation Department has:

52 full time and **76** part time employees

employees employees

Pearland's Parks and Recreation Department is accredited through CAPRA and is renewed every five years with the next site visit is in **2023**. PARD demonstrates compliance with **150** out of 151 standards.

STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES

GOAL 1 EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF PARKS. A balanced and diverse distribution of parkland and facilities throughout the City that serve the recreational needs of a diverse community constituency.

OBJECTIVES:

- **1.1:** Assure an even geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities to provide equitable access and opportunity for all of Pearland's citizens.
- **1.2:** Plan for the recreation and open space needs of a community with evolving demographic characteristics and interests.
- **1.3:** Ensure that Pearland's parks and open space areas are designed and maintained to be safe and inclusive social gathering places within the community.
- **1.4:** Ensure that Pearland's sports and athletic facilities fulfill the needs of area youth and remain programmatically competitive in order to continue to draw regional and state tournaments.

GOAL 2 RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE. A diverse and equitable range of recreational programs and activities for the enjoyment of Pearland residents.

OBJECTIVES:

- **2.1:** Ensure that recreation programs meet the interests and needs of a variety of ages and abilities.
- **2.2:** Continue to provide, promote, and encourage the development of recreational programs and community events that provide access to a variety of cultural arts opportunities.

GOAL 3 SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS. Safe active transportation access from points of origin (e.g., neighborhoods and residential subdivisions) to key destinations (e.g., parks, schools, employment centers and commercial districts) throughout Pearland.

OBJECTIVES:

- **3.1:** Ensure a safe and connected system of off-street pedestrian facilities (sidewalks and recreational trails) throughout Pearland and beyond.
- **3.2:** Improve vehicular and active transportation wayfinding legibility and access to Pearland's parks and recreation facilities.

GOAL 4 DEVELOPMENT IN HARMONY WITH THE ENVIRONMENT. Pearland's built environment is in harmony with the resources and amenities that compose its natural environment.

OBJECTIVES:

- **4.1:** Conserve, manage, restore, and enhance the ecological functions of Pearland's biotic communities and green infrastructure systems.
- **4.2:** Preserve, maintain and enhance Pearland's urban forest canopy as a significant amenity and natural resource.
- **4.3:** Promote Pearland's unique natural resources.

GOAL 5 ACCOUNTABLE IMPLEMENTATION. Fiscally sustainable and resilient operation, maintenance, and administration of Pearland's parks, recreational facilities, trails, and open space resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- **5.1:** Evaluate a range of opportunities through which to fund improvements to Pearland's parks system.
- **5.2:** Ensure that the Parks Department is fully equipped with the resources it needs to effectively operate and maintain Pearland's parks, recreational facilities and programs, and open space resources.
- **5.3:** As a CAPRA-accredited agency, continue to optimize departmental best practices and resources to grow with the open space and recreational needs and aspirations of the community.

3.0 STRATEGIC PLAN



Table 3.1: GOAL 1 Implementation Action Plan

GOAL 1: EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF PARKS

OBJECTIVE 1.1: Assure an even geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities to provide equitable access and opportunity for all of Pearland's residents.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: Plan for the recreation and open space needs of a community with evolving demographic characteristics and trends.

Strategy	Year	Priority	Lead Agency	Responsible Dept.	Cost (\$)
STRATEGY 1.1.C: Evaluate existing parks and recreation facilities and determine if additional parks and recreation facilities are needed within the city.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.1.D: Increase the number of parks and recreation facilities in underserved areas.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.1.E: Prepare a comprehensive plan for the location and acquisition of properties to serve as potential parks.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.1.F: Develop a community-based program through which temporary acquisition and development projects can occur within the City. (Department of Community Development)	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.1.G: Partner with local independent school districts for the use of school-relocated facilities after school hours.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.1.H: Increase the amount of open, forested areas in Pearland by installing forested parks and providing existing city-owned parks.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.A: Develop and implement a plan for the location and acquisition of properties to serve as potential parks.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.B: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.C: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.D: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.E: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.F: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.G: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.H: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.I: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.J: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.K: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.L: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.M: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.N: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.O: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.P: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.Q: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.R: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.S: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.T: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.U: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.V: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.W: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.X: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.Y: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00
STRATEGY 1.2.Z: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's residents.	2020-2025	High	PEARL	PEARL	0.00

See **PRIMARY IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES** sidebar on facing page.

Chapter 3.0, *Strategic Plan*, provides an *Implementation Action Plan*, regarding the prioritization of Master Plan strategies and recommendations. The *Implementation Action Plan*, categorizes Plan recommendations in terms of ongoing, short-term (1-3 years), mid-term (3-10 years), and long-term (10+ years) strategies and actions. The *Implementation Action Plan* specifies the type of actions warranted, including whether the action is considered a capital project (requires funding to complete); whether the action requires modifications to existing (or new) policies and programs; the principal, secondary, and tertiary Action Leaders required to take the lead on implementing the specific action; whether the action requires revisions or amendments to municipal regulations (Unified Development Code, Pearland Engineering Design Criteria Manual); and whether the action requires additional planning or design before it can be implemented. The *Implementation Action Plan* also includes order-of-magnitude costs associated with prioritized strategies and actions; all of which can be incorporated into the City of Pearland's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

ORDER OF MAGNITUDE COSTS

In order to develop an improvement program for Pearland's park and trail system and increase the level of service, development costs for remedial recommendations were compiled. Construction and material costs for current (2020) projects within Pearland and the Houston metropolitan area were used to determine order of magnitude (planning level) construction costs for the City's network of parks and trails. Capital Improvement Project costs for future phases of parks (e.g., Independence Park and John Hargrove Environmental Complex) were also included.

- Remedial Recommendations for City Parks **\$3,122,300**
- Remedial Recommendations for City Trails **\$973,725**
- Trail Expansion Program **\$6,838,400**
- Trailhead Improvements **\$6,644,150**
- Parks Capital Improvement Projects **\$24,486,000**

PRIMARY IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

The following list of improvements reflect the City's highest priority projects, meaning they should be planned for incorporation into the annual capital budgeting process. As this plan matures, each of these projects will be further divided into individual projects with their requisite priorities. Based on the prioritization exercise conducted with the Pearland Parks and Recreation Department, the **TOP 20** priority improvements to Pearland's system of parks and recreation facilities include the following:

STRATEGY 1.1.2: Formulate a long-range parkland acquisition program.

STRATEGY 1.2.1: Ensure that the programming of parks and open spaces meets the diverse ethnic needs of the community.

STRATEGY 1.2.4: Develop an Adventure Playground for Pearland's children.

STRATEGY 1.2.5: Develop an Adventure Park recreational program and associated facilities for families, youth, and adults.

STRATEGY 1.3.5: Implement the remedial recommendations identified within the Park Conditions Assessment.

STRATEGY 1.3.6: Implement landscape site work enhancement recommendations for Hunter Park.

STRATEGY 1.3.7: Implement Phase 2 landscape sitework improvements at Independence Park.

STRATEGY 1.3.8: Implement Phase 2 of JHEC Nature Trails.

STRATEGY 1.4.2: Develop dedicated soccer fields to serve Pearland's soccer enthusiasts.

STRATEGY 3.1.1: Provide safe access to Pearland's parks from adjacent neighborhoods through implementing crosswalk improvement standards at principal thoroughfare intersections.

STRATEGY 3.1.2: Ensure that the City's trail system provides respite and refuge for its users.

STRATEGY 3.1.3: Develop a cost-effective and efficient program for providing lighting along primary trails and sidewalks.

STRATEGY 3.1.8: Develop a phased trail expansion program.

STRATEGY 3.2.2: To improve accessibility to trails and widened sidewalks, consider where additional trailheads may be located.

STRATEGY 4.1.4: Consider establishing an acquisition program for ecologically sensitive lands.

STRATEGY 4.2.2: Implement reforestation projects throughout the City of Pearland, including its parks and trails.

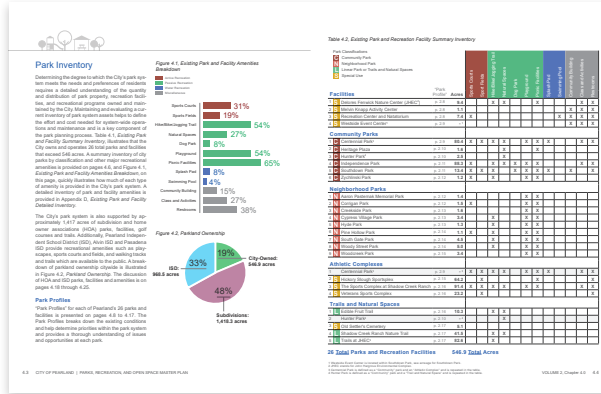
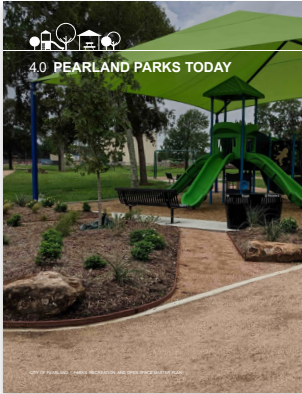
STRATEGY 4.2.4: Consider alternative tree species for streetscape enhancements.

STRATEGY 5.1.4: Continue to develop innovative fund-raising practices such as park and facility naming rights, to raise funds for park operations and maintenance.

STRATEGY 5.2.1: Ensure that the Parks Department is adequately staffed to carry out the Mission of the Department and the goals of this Master Plan.

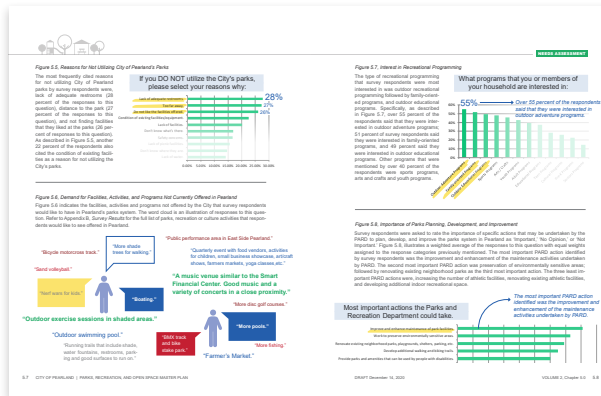
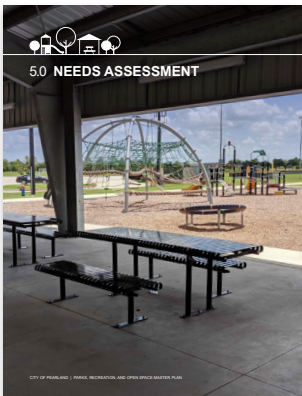
STRATEGY 5.2.4: Consider developing a park asset replacement schedule.

4.0 PEARLAND PARKS TODAY



The Master Plan's fourth chapter, *Pearland Parks Today*, provides a snapshot of existing conditions, with respect to the distribution of PARD-administered assets: parklands, recreational facilities, sports / athletic fields, trails, and open space resources; as well as parks administered by homeowners associations (HOAs). Utilizing the National Recreation and Parks Association's (NRPA) parks classification system, parks are identified and categorized (based on type); recreational assets are summarized, and facilities inventoried. To provide a baseline for subsequent assessments, NRPA facilities and equipment standards are outlined. Recreational programs administered by the PARD are inventoried. Importantly, PARD administration, operations and maintenance activities are summarized.

5.0 NEEDS ASSESSMENT



See **NEEDS ASSESSMENT** sidebar on facing page.

The needs assessments carried out in Chapter 5.0 help determine the adequacy of Pearland's parks, recreation and open space system and identify gaps in parks service areas, facilities, and recreational programming. This needs assessment utilized five types of assessments – demand-based, standards-based, operations-based, condition-based, and resource-based – to describe the system's as well as the community's needs regarding the parks and open spaces in Pearland.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

STANDARDS



Refers to level of service (distribution of parks, facilities, and recreational programs) and condition of Pearland's parks and facilities.

The total acreage in the parks system is 1,972 acres, which translates to 16.7 acres of park-land for every 1,000 residents in Pearland.



According to survey respondents, facilities that were among the most favored elements in parks were bicycling facilities, nature trails, and dog parks.

DEMAND



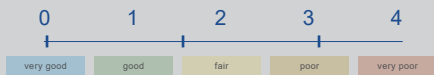
Based on resident and stakeholder input to determine actual and anticipated parks system usage.

CONDITION



Identifies the need for improvements to City-owned parks and facilities in Pearland.

The overall score for Pearland's parks system is **1.3, good condition**.



The operations-based assessment reveals that the PARD's total operating budget has not varied by more than five percent over the past five years.

OPERATIONS



Determines the budgetary, operating, and maintenance needs of the Parks and Recreation Department to provide an optimal mix of facilities and services to community members within resource (capital, other) thresholds.

RESOURCE



Considers unique or prominent physical features and natural resources, and pre-existing local or regional initiatives, that may be leveraged to provide enhanced recreational opportunities.

Key natural resources such as Mary's Creek Corridor and Clear Creek Corridor can provide additional recreational and outdoor activities to Pearland's neighborhoods through trail and open space development.

The Master Plan includes several appendices that are referenced throughout the plan.

Appendix A, Public Engagement

Appendix A PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The following is a summary of public engagement activities through the course of developing the City of Pearland Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.

Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 1
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 2
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 3
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 4
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 5
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 6
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 7
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 8
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 9
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 10
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 11
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 12
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 13
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 14
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 15
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 16
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 17
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 18
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 19
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 20
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 21
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 22
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 23
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 24
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 25
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 26
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 27
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 28
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 29
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 30
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 31
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 32
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 33
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 34
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 35
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 36
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 37
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 38
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 39
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 40
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 41
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 42
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 43
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 44
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 45
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 46
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 47
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 48
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 49
Public Meeting	Park Board Meeting No. 50

Appendix E, Park Conditions Assessment

Appendix E PARK CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

Introduction

The scores for each facility in an assessment range from 0 to 100. A score of 100 represents a facility in excellent condition, while a score of 0 represents a facility in poor condition. The scores are based on the following criteria:

- 1. Facility Condition: The condition of the facility, including the structure, equipment, and materials.
- 2. Safety: The safety of the facility, including the presence of hazards and the availability of safety equipment.
- 3. Accessibility: The accessibility of the facility, including the presence of ramps, stairs, and other features that allow people with disabilities to use the facility.
- 4. Maintenance: The maintenance of the facility, including the presence of repairs and the availability of replacement parts.

Appendix B, Community Survey Results

Appendix B COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Getting to know you: Do you live in the City of Pearland?

Yes	82%
No	18%

Getting to know you: Do you live in the City of Pearland?

Yes	82%
No	18%

Appendix F, Pedestrian Level of Service (Trails)

Appendix F PEDESTRIAN LEVEL OF SERVICE

Pedestrian Level of Service

Pedestrian Level of Service (PLoS) is defined by the following categories:

- Category 1: Excellent
- Category 2: Good
- Category 3: Fair
- Category 4: Poor
- Category 5: Very Poor

Appendix C, Community Tapestry Segmentation

Appendix C COMMUNITY TAPESTRY SEGMENTATION

Community Tapestry Segmentation is a tool used to identify and understand the different segments of the community. The segments are based on demographic and geographic information, including age, income, education, and location.

Appendix G, Indoor Amateur Sports Facility

Appendix G INDOOR AMATEUR SPORTS FACILITY

Facility Information Overview

This document provides an overview of the Indoor Amateur Sports Facility, including its location, size, and features.

Appendix D, Parks Facilities Inventory

Appendix D PARK FACILITIES INVENTORY


Facility Name	Location	Year	Condition
Park 1	Location 1	2015	Good
Park 2	Location 2	2018	Fair
Park 3	Location 3	2020	Poor
Park 4	Location 4	2022	Excellent

Appendix H, Funding for Implementation

Appendix H FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION

National Park Service

This section lists various funding sources available for the implementation of the Master Plan, including grants from the National Park Service and other organizations.



The **2020 Pearland Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan** represents an ambitious yet achievable undertaking to broaden the provision of parks and recreational opportunities for a growing and increasingly diverse constituency. Through thoughtful tactical and strategic planning the Parks and Recreation Department, with the unwavering support of its partner departments and allied agencies, the City's elected and appointed officials, and most importantly, an informed and engaged citizenry, the majority of this Plan's strategies and recommendations can be accomplished within a five to seven-year timeframe. This will require all parties to be, "on the same page," in working together to achieve key social, environmental, economic, and health-related outcomes, all of which will enhance quality of life and improve the economic well-being of Pearland's residents.

The hallmark of all world-class cities is a robust and diverse system of parks, urban plazas, and open spaces which are woven together through a network of active transportation corridors that connect people to the places where they live, work, and play. Through the implementation of the provisions of this Master Plan, the City of Pearland can achieve the recognition it deserves – a city within a park – and a place that people are proud to call home.