



To determine the need for future planning efforts, there must be an understanding of the current park system. As such, the City's existing park and recreation system is thoroughly analyzed in this chapter, including the levels and types of use; facility and site conditions; accessibility by drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists; and the system's community context and surrounding uses. This comprehensive assessment allows for a better understanding of the opportunities and constraints of the overall system and becomes the foundation of the needs analysis and plan recommendations found in subsequent chapters of this Plan.

The City's parks and recreation system is comprised of a variety of different types and scales of parks serving both the residents of Sugar Land and the greater region. Understanding that each park serves different areas and functions helps identify gaps and overlap in the overall system. This, in turn, helps to determine whether or not existing facilities are addressing the current park, recreation, and open space needs of the City. It also helps to determine how and where the City needs to expand or redevelop its parks system in the future.

### Park Classifications

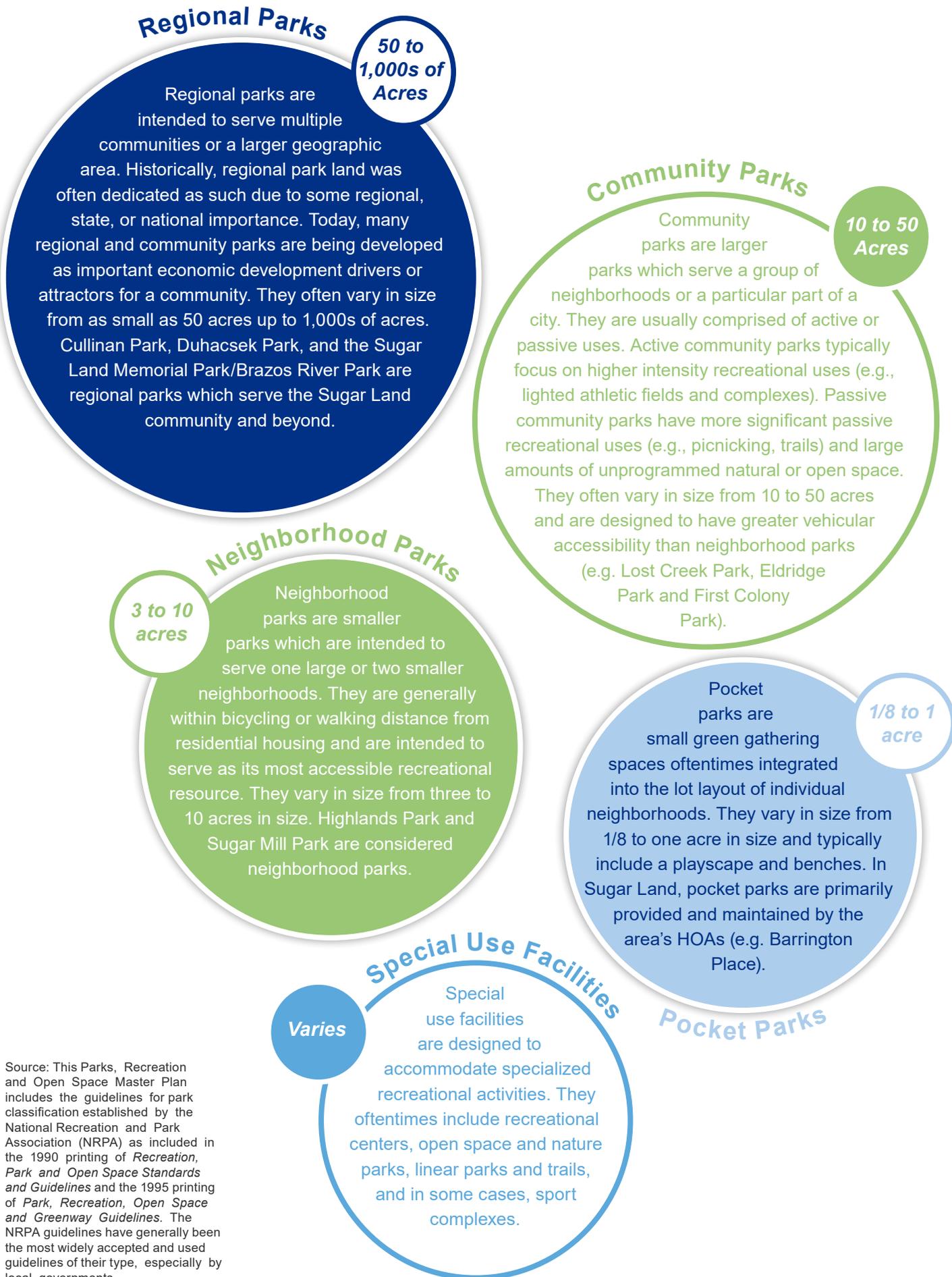
This Plan acknowledges that the Sugar Land parks and recreation system is comprised of a variety of different types of parks, including:

- Regional Parks;
- Community Parks;
- Neighborhood Parks;
- Pocket Parks (most frequently provided by HOAs); and
- Special Use Parks.

While some parks in the system could meet the criteria of multiple park classifications, it is generally helpful to understand the inherent different purposes intended for various park types. At a minimum, it helps to provide context regarding park distribution and accessibility. It can also identify gaps and overlaps in the system, which can lead to a more efficient allocation of limited resources (see Figure 3.1, *Parks Classifications*, on the next page). While typical size ranges are illustrated on the next page, parks are generally classified based on their uses rather than size. This means that while some parks may not be within the typical size ranges listed, they have been classified based on their intended purpose.



Sugar Lakes Park is a great example of a neighborhood park. It is conveniently located in walkable and bikeable proximity to the adjacent neighborhood, it has no off-street parking, and it provides a mixture of passive recreation and open space suitable for general use.



Source: This Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan includes the guidelines for park classification established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) as included in the 1990 printing of *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines* and the 1995 printing of *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*. The NRPA guidelines have generally been the most widely accepted and used guidelines of their type, especially by local governments.

## Overview of Sugar Land's Parks and Recreation System

Sugar Land residents are fortunate in their opportunities to access and enjoy a significant amount of high quality parks and recreation assets. This is anchored by approximately 2,234 acres of City-owned parks and recreation assets which serve both local needs and the greater region (see Table 3.1, *Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System*, on the next page; and Map 3.1, *Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System*, on page 71). Approximately 40 percent of the total City-owned parkland is currently developed. It is supported by approximately 235 acres of highly accessible homeowner association (HOA) parks, trails, and recreational programs. Additionally, the Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD) and Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (LCISD) provide conveniently located recreational amenities such as playscapes, sports courts and fields, and walking tracks and trails. Combined, these park and recreation resources provide Sugar Land residents and visitors a highly accessible and diversified system of active and passive facilities and amenities which are all predominantly maintained to a superior quality.

Currently, Sugar Land is served by a broad range of developed parks and recreational facilities that allow for both active (e.g., sports courts and fields) and passive recreation (e.g., picnic facilities and trails) (see Table 3.1, *Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System*, on the next page; and Map 3.1, *Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System*, on page 71). The City also has several large undeveloped properties which are in various phases of planning. In total, Sugar Land residents are served by thousands of acres of some of the best developed and undeveloped park property in the region.

*Sugar Land residents are served by thousands of acres of City, HOA, and school park and recreation assets.*



Sugar Land residents are served by some of the best developed and undeveloped park property in the region.

**Table 3.1, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System**

MAP NUMBER	PARK NAME	PLAYSCAPES	SPORT COURTS	SPORTS FIELDS	PASSIVE REC - AREAS	PICNIC FACILITIES	MULTI-USE / WALKING TRAILS	COMMUNITY BUILDING	DOG PARK	SWIMMING POOL	SPLASH PAD	FISHING PIER OR ACCESS	OTHER - SEE INVENTORY	ADDRESS OR LOCATION	ACREAGE (DEVELOPED)	ACREAGE (UNDEVELOPED)
City														Total City:	919.61	1314.30
Regional Parks														Total Acreage:	623.10	1192.90
1	Cullinan Park				X	X	X						X	12414 Highway 6 S	300.00	455.80
2	Gannoway Lake Park															51.60
3	Brazos River - Undeveloped Areas						X									685.50
4	Duhacsek Park		X		X	X		X					X	17034 Old Richmond Rd	54.10	
5	Brazos River Park				X	X	X						X	18427 Southwest Freeway	67.00	
6	Festival Site						X							18355 Southwest Freeway	52.00	
7	Sugar Land Memorial Park	X			X	X	X		X				X	15300 University Blvd	150.00	
Community Parks														Total Acreage:	243.36	118.80
8	City Park	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	225 7th St	20.42	
9	65-Acre Community Park															65.40
10	Eldridge Park	X		X	X	X	X	X					X	2511 Eldridge Rd	41.24	
11	First Colony Park	X		X	X	X		X					X	3232 Austin Pkwy	21.30	
12	Imperial Park	X		X	X	X	X	X					X	230 Matlage Way	44.00	
13	Lost Creek Park	X		X	X	X	X	X					X	3703 Lost Creek Blvd	21.00	37.30
14	Oyster Creek Park and Trail				X	X	X						X	12414 Highway 6 S	95.40	16.10
Neighborhood Parks														Total Acreage:	48.25	2.60
15	Colony Bend Park	X	X	X	X	X	X							2806 Planters St	5.00	
16	Covington West Park	X	X		X	X								13944 Oakwood Ln	0.50	
17	Highlands Park	X	X		X	X	X							2018 Colonist Park Dr	4.85	
18	Lonnie Green Park	X			X	X								131 First St	2.02	
19	Mayfield Park	X	X		X	X	X							106 Avenue D	1.70	2.60
20	Meadow Lake Park	X	X	X	X	X	X							1600 Great Oak	5.70	
21	Mesquite Park	X												2710 Mesquite Dr	2.44	

**Table 3.1, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System (cont.)**

MAP NUMBER	PARK NAME	PLAYSCAPES	SPORT COURTS	SPORTS FIELDS	PASSIVE REC. AREAS	PICNIC FACILITIES	MULTI-USE / WALKING TRAILS	COMMUNITY BUILDING	DOG PARK	SWIMMING POOL	SPLASH PAD	FISHING PIER OR ACCESS	OTHER - SEE INVENTORY	ADDRESS OR LOCATION	ACREAGE
City (cont.)															
Neighborhood Parks (cont.)															
22	Park at the Levee in RiverPark	X		X	X	X								2205 River Lodge Lane	2.87
23	River Gable Park in RiverPark				X	X								River Gable Court	0.29
24	Ron Slockett Memorial Park	X	X		X	X	X							12821 Nantucket Dr	8.60
25	Settlers Way Park			X	X	X							X	3268 Sam Houston Dr	5.00
26	Splash Pad at RiverPark										X			5875 Summit Creek	0.10
27	Sugar Lakes Park	X	X		X	X	X							120 Bay View Dr	3.69
28	Sugar Mill Park	X	X		X	X	X					X	X	13800 Hidden Lake Lane	4.93
29	Thomas L. James Park											X		201 Venice St	0.56
City-Owned Recreation Centers														Total Acreage:	1.10
30	Imperial Park Recreation Center							X					X	234 Matlage Way	0.50
31	T.E. Harman Senior Center							X					X	226 Matlage Way	0.60
Special Used Facilities														Total Acreage:	3.80
32	Sugar Land Town Square Plaza												X	2711 Town Center Blvd	1.40
33	TIRZ No. 4 Plaza									X			X	18111 Lexington Blvd	2.40
HOA														Total HOA:	234.93
Community Parks														Total Acreage:	119.55
34	Aquatic Park And Center	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	4350 Austin Pkwy	8.09
35	Cunningham Creek Recreation Center	X	X	X		X	X			X	X			300 Cunningham Creek Blvd	11.69
36	Ellis Recreation Center	X	X		X	X	X			X			X	6101 Homeward Way	10.53
37	Shadow Bend Greatwood Rec. Center 3	X	X		X	X	X	X		X			X	Winding Brook W Dr. and Shadow Bend Dr	7.33
38	New Territory Sports Complex	X		X	X	X	X						X	5950 New Territory Blvd	38.33
39	Pecan Park	X			X	X	X						X	Pecan Orchard Blvd	26.63
40	The Club at Riverstone	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	18353 University Blvd	16.95

**Table 3.1, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System (cont.)**

MAP NUMBER	PARK NAME	PLAYSCAPES	SPORT COURTS	SPORTS FIELDS	PASSIVE REC. AREAS	PICNIC FACILITIES	MULTI-USE / WALKING TRAILS	COMMUNITY BUILDING	DOG PARK	SWIMMING POOL	SPLASH PAD	FISHING PIER OR ACCESS	OTHER - SEE INVENTORY	ADDRESS OR LOCATION	ACREAGE
HOA (cont.)															
HOA Neighborhood Parks														Total Acreage:	104.98
41	Alcorn Oaks Park				X	X				X			X	2828 Alcorn Oaks Drive	3.45
42	Anderson Park Pool					X				X				4910 New Territory Boulevard	1.49
43 - 45	Ashford Hollow						X							Ashford Lane & Ashford Road	11.96
46	Austin Meadow Park	X			X	X								1600 Great Oak Ln	1.66
47	Austin Park					X				X				3502 Mesquite Dr	1.18
48	Avalon Pool & Clubhouse	X	X		X	X	X	X		X			X	1 Avalon Pl	5.35
49	West Sugar Land Jr/Sr Field (Baseball Field)	X	X	X	X									4809 New Territory Blvd	3.93
50	Brazos Landing	X	X		X	X	X			X				University Blvd	1.57
51	Bridgewater Park (and Trail)	X	X		X	X	X			X	X		X	Briarwood Dr. and Avondale Dr	3.27
52	Chimneystone Neighborhood Park		X			X	X			X			X	2730-2734 Chimneystone Cir	1.53
53	Colony Grant Pool And Tennis Center	X	X		X	X	X			X			X	1200 Walker School Rd	4.30
54	Commonwealth Neighborhood Park	X	X		X	X				X			X	4330 Knightsbridge	4.79
55	Crescent Lakes Pool And Trail	X			X	X	X			X			X	4777 Oxbow	1.49
56	Glen Laurel Park	X			X	X	X			X				14118 Bracebridge Ct	1.85
57	Greatwood Knoll	X			X		X							920 Knoll Forest Dr	3.57
58	Greatwood Neighborhood Park 1						X							Winding Brook E Dr. and Powerline Corridor	1.02
	Greatwood Neighborhood Park 4					X	X							1810 Forest Gate Cir	1.20
59	Piscina Greatwood Recreation Center 1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	8802 Greatwood Pkwy	2.77
60	Greatwood Recreation Center 2	X	X		X	X	X	X		X			X	7225 Greatwood Pkwy	3.58

\*HOA parks which do not include a map number are not mapped in the City's HOA parks data.

**Table 3.1, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System (cont.)**

MAP NUMBER	PARK NAME	PLAYSCAPES	SPORT COURTS	SPORTS FIELDS	PASSIVE REC. AREAS	PICNIC FACILITIES	MULTI-USE / WALKING TRAILS	COMMUNITY BUILDING	DOG PARK	SWIMMING POOL	SPLASH PAD	FISHING PIER OR ACCESS	OTHER - SEE INVENTORY	ADDRESS OR LOCATION	ACREAGE
HOA (cont.)															
HOA Neighborhood Parks (cont.)															
61	Highlands Neighborhood Park 1	X	X			X				X			X	1910 Williams Trace Blvd	2.38
62	Lakefield Park	X			X	X								Lakefield Way & Great Lakes Ave	2.06
63	Lakes Of Austin Tot Lot	X			X	X								3695 Lakefield Blvd	1.34
64	Lakes Of Edgewater Park	X			X	X	X							3200-3298 Vista Lake Dr	3.25
66	Oyster Point Park	X	X		X	X				X			X	1510 Oyster Point Drive	1.70
67	Riverbend North Park	X			X	X								Nails Creek Dr	3.24
68	Riverpark Pool And Park	X			X			X		X			X	5875 Summit Creek	2.99
69	Searls Park	X	X	X	X	X				X			X	730 Merrick	2.55
70	Settlers Park And Pool	X	X		X	X				X			X	Settlers Way Blvd	2.88
71	New Territory Sandhill Field (Soccer Fields)			X										Cunningham Creek Blvd & Sandhill Dr	2.47
72	Sugar Mill Green	X	X		X	X				X			X	Rolling Mill Dr.	1.28
73	Sugar Mill Lake Center		X			X				X			X	Lake Estates Ct.	2.02
74	Sugarwoods Neighborhood Park		X		X	X				X			X	Colonist Park Dr	1.14
75	Sutton Park	X			X	X	X							Heatherwilde St	6.63
76	The Lakes				X		X			X			X	Meadow Lakes Dr. and First Colony Blvd	2.21
77	Sugar Lakes - The Landing	X	X		X	X				X			X	930 Sugar Lakes Dr	3.66
78	Woodstream Pool And Tennis Center	X	X		X	X				X			X	3301 Larkwood	3.23
HOA Pocket Parks														Total Acreage:	10.40
79	Barrington Place				X	X	X			X			X	2306 Burkdale Dr	0.49
80	Colony Meadows Park 1	X			X		X							Colony Oaks Dr	0.61
81	Colony Meadows Park 2	X			X									Colony Glen Ct	0.56

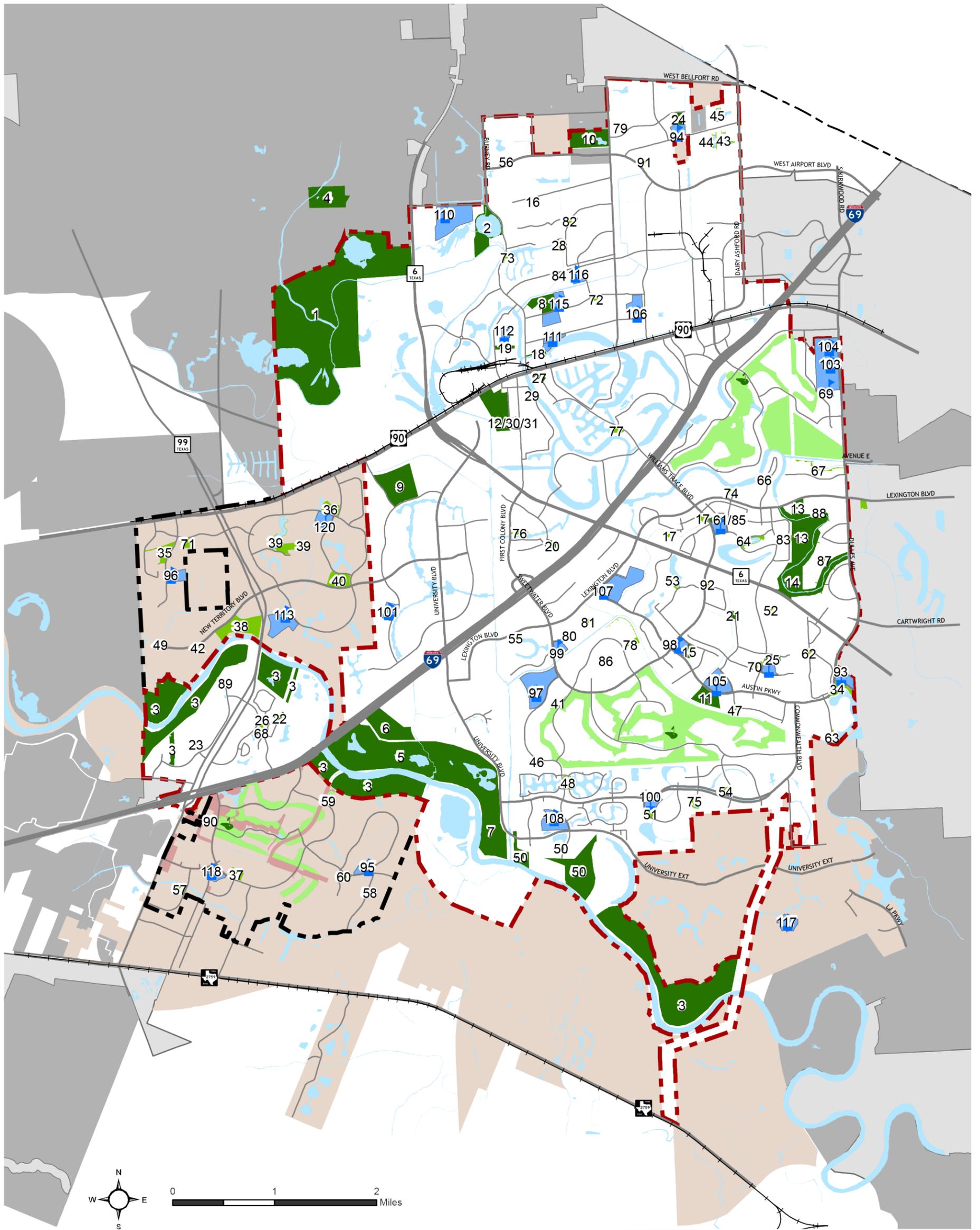
Table 3.1, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System (cont.)

MAP NUMBER	PARK NAME	PLAYSCAPES	SPORT COURTS	SPORTS FIELDS	PASSIVE REC. AREAS	PICNIC FACILITIES	MULTI-USE / WALKING TRAILS	COMMUNITY BUILDING	DOG PARK	SWIMMING POOL	SPLASH PAD	FISHING PIER OR ACCESS	OTHER - SEE INVENTORY	ADDRESS OR LOCATION	ACREAGE
HOA (cont.)															
HOA Pocket Parks (cont.)															
82	Covington Woods Park And Pool	X	X		X	X				X			X	13743 Woodchester Dr	0.98
83	Creekshire Park		X			X				X			X	1907 Creekshire	0.61
84	Estates Of Sugar Mill	X	X		X	X	X							Jess Pirtle Blvd and Drainage	1.08
	Greatwood Neighborhood Park 2	X				X	X			X				8018 Agora Cir	0.66
	Greatwood Neighborhood Park 3	X				X								1928 Birnam Glen Dr	0.71
85	Highlands Neighborhood Park 2		X			X				X			X	Planters Row	0.58
86	Oaks Of Alcorn Park				X	X								Woodlawn Terrace Court	1.26
87	Plantation Bend Park	X			X	X								Plantation Run Dr. and Cypress Run Dr	0.22
88	Riverbend South Park					X								S. end of River Bend Crossing	0.20
89	Riverpark Neighborhood Park	X												River Bend Trail	0.25
90	Scenic Place Pocket Park				X		X							1823 Teal Brook Ln	0.46
91	Summerfield Park	X			X	X								Stancliff Oaks St. and Barronett Bend	0.52
92	Williams Grant Park	X			X	X	X							William Trace Blvd and Williams Grant	1.22
School-Only															
														Total School:	516.22
93	Austin Parkway Elementary School	X	X	X	X		X							4400 Austin Pkwy	11.53
94	Barrington Place Elementary School	X	X	X	X	X								2100 Squire Dobbins Dr	10.10
95	Bess Campbell Elementary School	X	X	X										1000 Shadow Bend Dr	12.00
96	Brazos Bend Elementary School	X	X	X										621 Cunningham Creek Blvd	12.80
97	Clements High School		X	X										4200 Elkins Dr	49.21
98	Colony Bend Elementary School	X		X										2720 Planters St	10.08

\*HOA parks which do not include a map number are not mapped in the City's HOA parks data.

**Table 3.1, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System (cont.)**

MAP NUMBER	PARK NAME	PLAYSCAPES	SPORT COURTS	SPORTS FIELDS	PASSIVE REC. AREAS	PICNIC FACILITIES	MULTI-USE / WALKING TRAILS	COMMUNITY BUILDING	DOG PARK	SWIMMING POOL	SPLASH PAD	FISHING PIER OR ACCESS	OTHER - SEE INVENTORY	ADDRESS OR LOCATION	ACREAGE
School-Only (cont.)															
99	Colony Meadows Elementary School	X	X	X	X	X								4510 Sweetwater Blvd	8.73
100	Commonwealth Elementary School	X	X	X	X	X								4909 Commonwealth Blvd	10.71
101	Cornerstone Academy	X												2140 First Colony Blvd	12.01
102	Dulles Elementary School	X	X	X	X	X								630 Dulles Ave	
103	Dulles High School		X	X										550 Dulles Ave	73.20
104	Dulles Middle School		X	X	X	X								500 Dulles Ave	
105	First Colony Middle School		X	X										3225 Austin Pkwy	26.00
106	Fort Bend Baptist Academy		X	X										1250 Seventh Street	18.10
107	Fort Bend ISD Administration Offices			X										16431 Lexington Blvd	44.29
108	Fort Settlement Middle School		X	X										5440 Elkins Rd	26.14
109	Highlands Elementary School	X	X	X	X	X								2022 Colonist Park Dr	9.74
110	Kempner High School		X	X	X	X								14777 Voss Rd	54.71
111	Lakeview Elementary School	X	X		X	X								314 Lakeview Dr	10.93
112	M.R. Wood High School													139 Avenue E	3.65
113	Sartartia Middle School		X	X										8125 Homeward Way	30.46
114	Settlers Way Elementary School	X	X		X	X								3015 Settlers Way Dr	9.35
115	Sugar Land Middle School			X	X	X								321 Seventh St	25.23
116	Sugar Mill Elementary School	X	X	X	X	X	X							13707 Jess Pirtle	9.85
117	Sullivan Elementary School	X	X	X	X	X								17828 Winding Waters Lane	14.84
118	Susanna Dickinson Elementary School	X	X	X										7110 Greatwood pkwy	11.74
119	Technical Education High School			X										540 Dulles Ave	
120	Walker Station Elementary School	X	X	X	X	X								6200 Homeward Way Blvd	10.82



**Map 3.1, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System**

**Legend**

- |                        |  |             |
|------------------------|--|-------------|
| Golf Club              | Sugar Land Limited Purpose Annexation (2017) | Major Roads |
| City Parks             | Nearby City Limits                           | Minor Roads |
| HOA Parks              | Sugar Land ETJ                               | Railroads   |
| Schools                | Nearby City ETJs                             |             |
| Sugar Land City Limits | Counties                                     |             |
| City Limits 2018       | Lakes, Streams, Creeks                       |             |

## The City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System

Sugar Land offers a wide variety of parks, recreation, and facilities for passive and active recreation. The total area of City-owned parks and recreation facilities is around 2,234 acres (Table 3.2, *Existing City Parks and Recreation Facilities* and Map 3.2, *Existing City Parks and Recreation Facilities*). This includes regional, community, and neighborhood parks, in addition to recreation centers and special use facilities. Serving the entire community, Sugar Land Memorial Park and Cullinan Park are the largest developed City-owned parks in the system. Sugar Land Memorial Park includes amenities such as a dog park and playground.

Cullinan Park is a large park at 756 acres with mainly passive recreational opportunities. This park includes passive recreation areas, picnic facilities, multi-use/walking trails and a fishing pier. Other similarly sized parks in this region include Seabourne Creek Nature Park, located in the nearby City of Rosenberg, Texas, and the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center. Similar to Cullinan Park, these large regional parks include such elements as varied ecosystems (e.g., wetlands, prairies), nature observation areas (e.g., bird sanctuary, butterfly garden), and multi-use trails.

There are currently three connected regional parks along the Brazos River in Sugar Land. These include Brazos River Park, Sugar Land Memorial Park, and the Festival Site. Additional undeveloped parkland along the Brazos River includes Brazos Landing, Greatwood, RiverPark, the Water Plant Area, and Riverstone. Each of the properties along the Brazos River have the opportunity to be developed cohesively to provide over nine miles of parks and recreation along the Brazos River corridor within the City of Sugar Land.

The City-owned community parks total over 360 acres. The largest community park in the system is Oyster Creek Park and Trail at about 112 acres. This park includes picnic areas, an amphitheater, and a well-used trail. At a much smaller scale, the City-owned neighborhood parks total approximately 51 acres. The largest neighborhood park is Ron Slockett Memorial Park at 8.6 acres. This park includes a playscape and sports courts. The smallest neighborhood park is a 0.1-acre Splash Pad at River Park. While the Splash Pad at River park is a small park, it offers neighborhood-scale amenities and is thus categorized as a neighborhood park. Many neighborhood parks offer similar amenities as the community parks but on a smaller scale.

With the majority of the City's parkland remaining undeveloped, the City has great opportunities to continue developing a high-quality parks system to serve both residents and visitors.



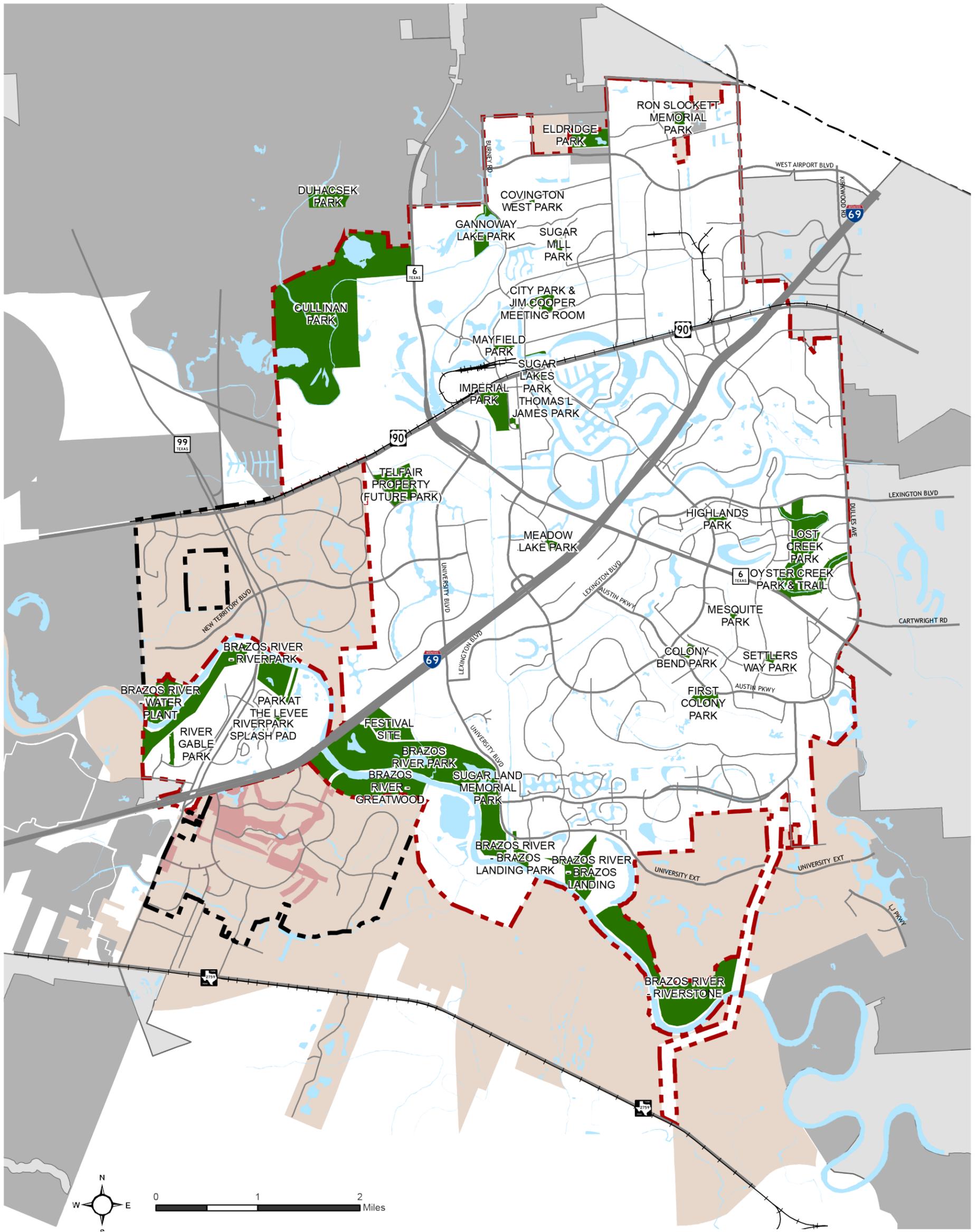
*The City of  
Sugar Land's  
parks and recreation  
system is comprised of  
approximately 2,234  
acres of park and  
recreation assets.*

Table 3.2, Existing City Parks and Open Spaces

PARK NAME	ADDRESS	ACREAGE (DEVELOPED)	POWERLINE EASEMENT	ACREAGE (UNDEVELOPED)	TOTAL	ACTIVE FACILITIES										WATER RECREATION				PASSIVE FACILITIES							MISC.													
						BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL FIELD	SOCCER	FOOTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	TENNIS COURT	VOLLEYBALL COURT	CONCESSION STAND	SKATE PARK	BMX TRAIL	COMMUNITY BUILDING	FISHING PIER OR ACCESS	CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH	SWIMMING POOL	SPLASH PAD	AMPHITHEATER	WALKING/BIKING TRAIL (MILES)	DISC GOLF	PLAYGROUND	HORSESHOE PITS	TABLE/PICNIC TABLE	BBQ GRILL	PICNIC SHELTER/ PAVILION	ART	RESTROOMS											
City-Owned Regional Parks																																								
Cullinan Park	12414 Highway 6 S.	300.0		455.8	755.8												1							3.5				16	10	1										
Gannoway Lake Park		0.0		51.6	51.6																																			
Brazos River - Brazos Landing		0.0		93.2	93.2																																			
Brazos River - Greatwood		0.0		112.3	112.3																																			
Brazos River - River Park		0.0		175.6	175.6																			2.3																
Brazos River - Water Plant Area		0.0		44.7	44.7																																			
Brazos River - Riverstone		0.0		259.7	259.7																																			
Duhacsek Park	17034 Old Richmond Rd.	54.1			54.1						2				1												10	2	1			3								
Brazos River Park	18427 Southwest Freeway	67.0			67.0																			3.3			5	5						1						
Festival Site	18355 Southwest Freeway	52.0			52.0															1				0.6																
Sugar Land Memorial Park	15300 University Blvd.	150.0			150.0												1	1					3.6		1			7	2					2						
Subtotal (11 total)		623.1		1,192.9	1,816.0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	13.2	0	1	0	31	24	4	0	6											
City-Owned Community Parks																																								
City Park	225 Seventh St.	20.4			20.4	5		2		4	1	3	1		1								0.1		1		16	1	1					2						
Telfair Parkland		0.0		65.4	65.4																																			
Eldridge Park	2511 Eldridge Rd.	41.2			41.2		11					1			1	1							1.2		1		14	3	1						1					
First Colony Park	3233 Austin Pkwy.	21.3			21.3	10						3			1											1		18	3	2					3					
Imperial Park	230 Matlage Way	44.0			44.0	9	0					2											1.3	1	1		6									2				
Lost Creek Park	3703 Lost Creek Blvd.	21.0	37.3		58.3		10					1		1	1								0.3		1		15	4	1							1				
Oyster Creek Park and Trail	4033 Highway 6 S.	95.4	16.1		111.5															1			3.2				5	5					5			1				
Subtotal (7 total)		243.4	53.4	65.4	362.2	24	21	2	0	4	1	10	1	1	4	1	0	1	0	1	6.0	1	5	0	74	16	5	5	5	10										
City-Owned Neighborhood Parks/Pocket Parks																																								
Colony Bend Park	2806 Planters St.	5.0			5.0		3				1												0.3		2		4		2											
Covington West Park	13944 Oakwood Ln.	0.5			0.5																					1		1		2										
Highlands Park	2018 Colonist Park Dr.	4.9			4.9						1												0.3		1	4	7	2	2	1										
Lonnie Green Park	130 First St.	2.0			2.0																				1		2													
Mayfield Park	106 Avenue D	1.7		2.6	4.3						1		1										0.5		1		3	2	1											
Meadow Lake Park	1600 Great Oak	5.7			5.7	1	1				2												0.2		1		4	1	1											
Mesquite Park	2710 Mesquite Dr.	2.4			2.4																					1														
Park at the Levee in River Park	2205 River Lodge Lane	3.0			3.0		1																			1		4		1										
River Gable Park in RiverPark	River Gable Court at Stone River Lane	0.3			0.3																						3		1											
Ron Slockett Memorial Park	12821 Nantucket Dr.	8.6			8.6					1	1												0.4		1		7		3											
Settlers Way Park	3268 Sam Houston Drive	5.0			5.0		5							1													4											1		
Splash Pad at River Park	5875 Summit Creek	0.1			0.1																				1															
Sugar Lakes Park	120 Bayview Dr.	3.7			3.7						1												0.3		1		5		1											
Sugar Mill Park	13800 Hidden Lake Lane	4.9			4.9						1												0.3		1	2	6	3	1											
Thomas L. James Park	201 Venice St.	0.5			0.5																																			
Subtotal (15 total)		48.3	0	2.6	50.9	1	10	0	1.5	1	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2.2	0	12	6	50	8	15	1	1											
Total Parkland Acreage		914.8	53.4	1,260.9	2,229.1																		21.5																	

**Table 3.2, Existing City Parks and Open Spaces (cont.)**

PARK NAME	ADDRESS	ACREAGE (DEVELOPED)	POWER LINE EASEMENT	ACREAGE (UNDEVELOPED)	TOTAL	ACTIVE FACILITIES										WATER RECREATION				PASSIVE FACILITIES							MISC.		
						BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL FIELD	SOCCER	FOOTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	TENNIS COURT	VOLLEYBALL COURT	CONCESSION STAND	SKATE PARK	BMX TRAIL	COMMUNITY BUILDING	FISHING PIER OR ACCESS	CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH	SWIMMING POOL	SPLASH PAD	AMPHITHEATER	WALKING/BIKING TRAIL (MILES)	DISC GOLF	PLAYGROUND	HORSESHOE PITTS	TABLE/PICNIC TABLE	B.B.Q. GRILL	PICNIC SHELTER/ PAVILION	ART	RESTROOMS
City-Owned Recreation Centers																													
Imperial Park Recreation Center	234 Matlage Way	0.5													1														1
T.E. Harman Senior Center	226 Matlage Way	0.6													1														1
Subtotal		1.1				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Special Used Facilities																													
Sugar Land Town Square Plaza	2711 Town Center Blvd.	1.4																											1
TIRZ No. 4 Plaza	18111 Lexington Blvd	2.4																	1										1
Subtotal		3.8																	1										
<b>CITY-OWNED TOTAL</b>		<b>919.7</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>1,260.9</b>	<b>2,234.0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>



**Map 3.2, Existing City Parks and Recreation Facilities**

## Existing HOA Parks and Recreation Facilities

The City of Sugar Land has a large amount of HOA parks and recreation facilities which are privately owned and can only be used by members of the HOA. These parks are located within the neighborhoods under the management of specific HOAs. Some amenities are similar to the those provided in public parks, while others are not. In general, the HOA parks tend to provide more tennis courts, swimming pools, and splash pads. Through the details shown in Table 3.3, *Existing HOA Parks and Recreation Facilities* and Map 3.3, *Existing HOA Parks and Recreation Facilities*, the needs for City park facilities can be determined for the future. Amenities that are widely available in the HOA parks will not need to be duplicated in public park facilities.

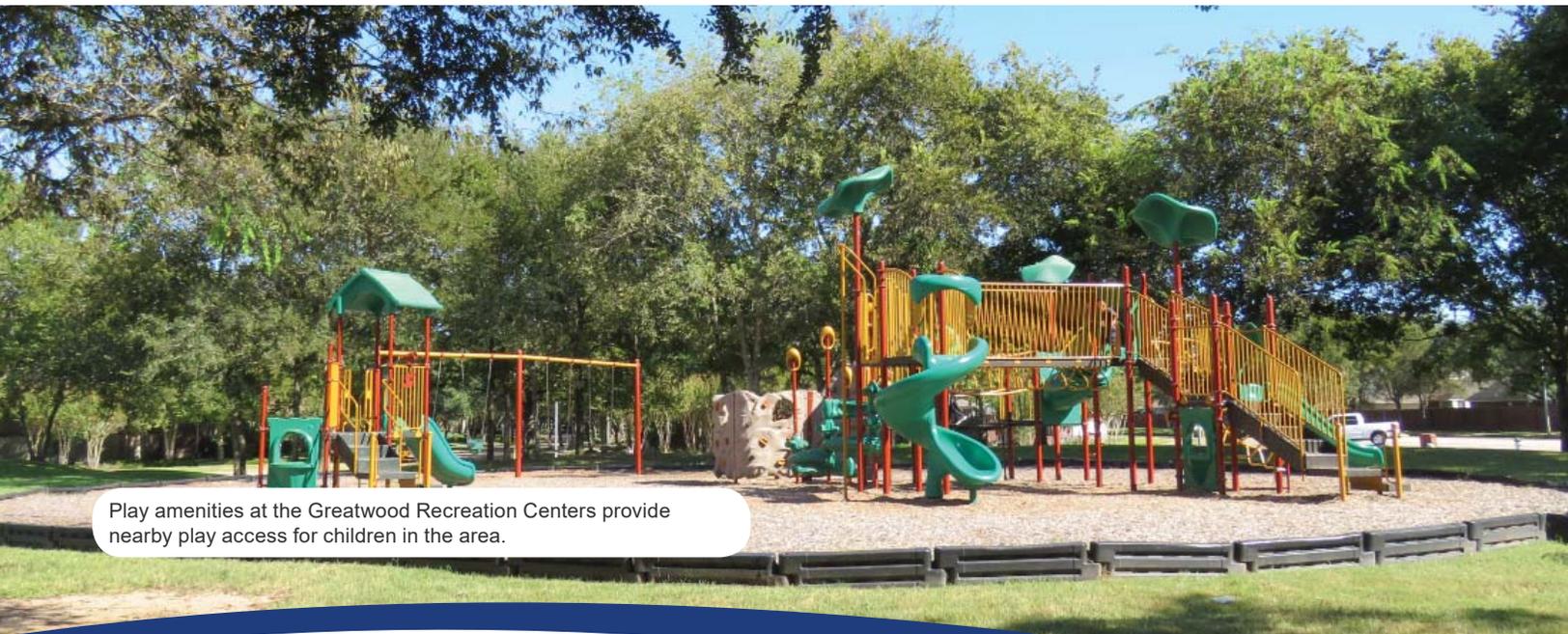
South of Highway 59/Interstate 69, there is a heavy concentration of HOA parks. Since First Colony is one of the larger subdivisions in the City, it contains the majority of the private parks in this area. The HOA park system is mainly composed of neighborhood parks and pocket parks with a handful of community parks such as New Territory Sports Complex, Cunningham Creek Recreation Center, etc.

HOA community parks total around 120 acres. New Territory Sports Complex is the largest park in this category with an area of almost 40 acres. Some of the amenities offered at this park include baseball and soccer fields, as well as a walking trail, playground, and picnic amenities.

The 56 HOA neighborhood parks total approximately 105 acres. Ashford Hollow is the largest HOA neighborhood park at approximately 12 acres. This park is minimally developed with a walking trail and unprogrammed open space.

The 16 HOA pocket parks total a much smaller area at approximately 10 acres and range in size from 0.2 acres to 1.3 acres.

*The HOA parks and recreation facilities total approximately 235 acres.*



Play amenities at the Greatwood Recreation Centers provide nearby play access for children in the area.

Table 3.3, Existing HOA Parks and Recreation Facilities

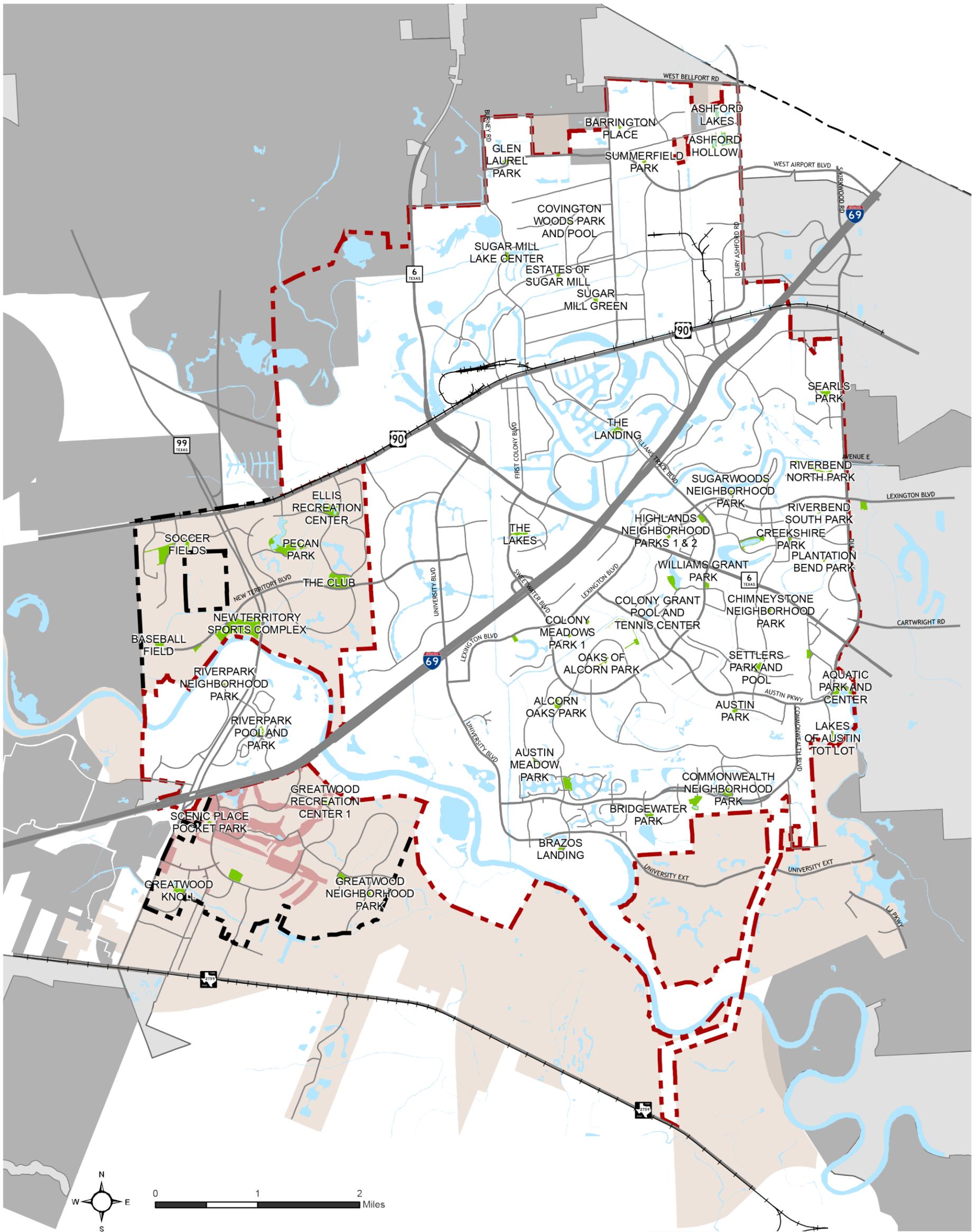
PARK NAME	ADDRESS	ACREAGE	ACTIVE FACILITIES										WATER RECREATION				PASSIVE FACILITIES								
			BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL FIELD	SOCCER/ CRICKET FIELD	FOOTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	TENNIS COURT	VOLLEYBALL COURT	CONCESSION STAND	SKATE PARK	BMX TRAIL	RECREATION CENTER	FISHING PIER	CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH	SWIMMING POOL	SPLASH PAD	AMPHITHEATER	WALKING/BIKING TRAIL (MILES)	DISC GOLF	PLAYGROUND	HORSESHOE PITS	TABLE/PICNIC TABLE (X)	BBQ GRILL	PICNIC SHELTER/ PAVILION	RESTROOMS
HOA Community Parks																									
Aquatic Park and Center	4350 Austin Pkwy	8.1						2				1		2	2	1			2	X	X		1	X	
Cunningham Creek Recreation Center	300 Cunningham Creek Blvd	11.7	1				2								1	1		X	1		X		2	X	
Ellis Recreation Center	6101 Homeward Way	10.5					2	1				1			1			X	2		X	X	1	X	
Shadow Bend Greatwood Recreation Center 3	Winding Brook W Dr. and Shadow Bend Dr	7.3					2					1			2			X	1				1	X	
New Territory Sports Complex	5950 New Territory Blvd	38.3	4	9					1									X	1		X		4	X	
Pecan Park	Pecan Orchard Blvd	26.6										1						X	2		X	X	3	X	
The Club at Riverstone	18353 University Blvd	16.9	1			1	8					1			1	1			1		X		1	X	
Subtotal		119.5	6	9	0	1	14	3	1	0	0	3	2	2	7	3	0	5	0	10	1	6	2	13	7
Neighborhood Parks																									
Alcorn Oaks Park	2828 Alcorn Oaks Dr	3.5													1						X		1	X	
Anderson Park Pool	4910 New Territory Blvd	1.5													1								1	X	
Ashford Hollow	Ashford Lane and Ashford Rd	12.0																X							
Austin Meadow Park	1600 Great Oak Ln	1.7																	2		X		1		
Austin Park	3502 Mesquite Dr	1.2													1								3	X	
Avalon Pool & Clubhouse	1 Avalon Pl	5.3					2					1	1		1			X	2		X		1	X	
West Sugar Land Jr/Sr Field (Baseball Field)	4809 New Territory Blvd	3.9	1					1											1						
Brazos Landing	University Blvd	1.6					2						1		1			X	1		X		2	X	
Bridgewater Park (and Trail)	Briarwood Dr. and Avondale Dr	3.3					2	1							1	1		X	1		X		2	X	
Chimneystone Neighborhood Park	2730-2734 Chimneystone Cir	1.5					2								1			X					1	X	
Colony Grant Pool and Tennis Center	1200 Walker School Rd	4.3					4								2			X	1			X	5	X	
Commonwealth Neighborhood Park	4330 Knightsbridge Blvd	4.8					2								1				1		X		1	X	
Crescent Lakes Pool and Trail	4777 Oxbow	1.5													1			X	1		X		2	X	
Glen Laurel Park	14118 Bracebridge Ct	1.9													1			X	1		X		1	X	
Greatwood Knoll	920 Knoll Forest Dr	3.6																X	1						
Greatwood Neighborhood Park 1	Winding Brook E Dr. and Powerline Corridor	1.0																X							
Greatwood Neighborhood Park 4	1810 Forest Gate Cir	1.2																X					1		
Piscina Greatwood Recreation Center 1	8802 Greatwood Pkwy	2.8	1				4	1				1			1			X	2		X		1	X	
Greatwood Recreation Center 2	7225 Greatwood Pkwy	3.6					2	1				1			1			X	1		X		1	X	
Highlands Neighborhood Park 1	1910 Williams Trace Blvd	2.4					2								1				1		X		1	X	
Lakefield Park	Lakefield Way & Great Lakes Ave	2.1																	1		X	X	1		
Lakes of Austin Tot Lot	3695 Lakefield Blvd	1.3																	1				1		
Lakes of Edgewater Park	3200-3298 Vista Lake Dr	3.3																X	2				1		

\*Trail information was only available for some parks

**Table 3.3, Existing HOA Parks and Recreation Facilities (cont.)**

PARK NAME	ADDRESS	ACREAGE	ACTIVE FACILITIES										WATER RECREATION				PASSIVE FACILITIES								
			BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL FIELD	SOCCER/ CRICKET FIELD	FOOTBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	TENNIS COURT	VOLLEYBALL COURT	CONCESSION STAND	SKATE PARK	BMX TRAIL	RECREATION CENTER	FISHING PIER	CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH	SWIMMING POOL	SPLASH PAD	AMPHITHEATER	WALKING/BIKING TRAIL (MILES)	DISC GOLF	PLAYGROUND	HORSESHOE PITS	TABLE/PICNIC TABLE (X)	BBQ GRILL	PICNIC SHELTER/ PAVILION	RESTROOMS
Neighborhood Parks (cont.)																									
Oyster Point Park	1510 Oyster Point Dr	1.7					2	1							3				1	1	X		3	X	
Riverbend North Park	Nails Creek Dr	3.2																	1		X		2		
Riverpark Pool and Park	5875 Summit Creek	3.0									1			1					2					X	
Searls Park	730 Merrick	2.5	1					1						1					1		X		1	X	
Settlers Park and Pool	Settlers Way Blvd	2.9					3							1					1				2	X	
New Territory Sandhill Field (Soccer Fields)	Cunningham Creek Blvd. & Sandhill Dr.	2.5		1																					
Sugar Mill Green	Rolling Mill Dr.	1.3					1							1					1		X		2	X	
Sugar Mill Lake Center	Lake Estates Ct.	2.0					2						1	1									1	X	
Sugarwoods Neighborhood Park	Colonist Park Dr	1.1					2							1							X		1	X	
Sutton Park	Heatherwilde St	6.6																X	1		X				
The Lakes	Meadow Lakes Dr. and First Colony Blvd	2.2											2	1				X						X	
Sugar Lakes - The Landing	930 Sugar Lakes Dr	3.7				2	2						1	1					1		X		1	X	
Woodstream Pool and Tennis Center	3301 Larkwood	3.2					2							1					1		X		1	X	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>105.0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>24</b>
HOA Pocket Parks																									
Barrington Place	2306 Burkdale Dr	0.5												1				X			X		2	X	
Colony Meadows Park 1	Colony Oaks Dr	0.6																X	1						
Colony Meadows Park 2	Colony Glen Ct	0.6																	1						
Covington Woods Park and Pool	13743 Woodchester Dr	1.0					1							1					1		X		1	X	
Creekshire Park	1907 Creekshire	0.6					1							1							X		2	X	
Estates of Sugar Mill	Jess Pirtle Blvd and Drainage	1.1					2											X	2		X				
Greatwood Neighborhood Park 2	8018 Agora Cir	0.7												1				X	1				1		
Greatwood Neighborhood Park 3	1928 Birnam Glen Dr	0.7																	1		X				
Highlands Neighborhood Park 2	Planters Row	0.6				1								1									1	X	
Oaks of Alcorn Park	Woodlawn Terrace Ct	1.3																			X				
Plantation Bend Park	Plantation Run Dr. and Cypress Run Dr	0.2																	1		X		2		
Riverbend South Park	South end of River Bend Crossing	0.2																					1		
Riverpark Neighborhood Park	River Bend Trail	0.3																	1						
Scenic Place Pocket Park	1823 Teal Brook Ln	0.5																X							
Summerfield Park	Stancliff Oaks St. and Barronett Bend	0.5																	1				1		
Williams Grant Park	William Trace Blvd and Williams Grant	1.2																X	1		X				
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>10.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>234.9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>35</b>

\*Trail information was only available for some parks



**Map 3.3, Existing HOA Parks and Recreation Facilities**

**Legend**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  HOA Parks                                    |  Nearby City ETJs       |
|  Sugar Land City Limits                       |  Counties               |
|  City Limits 2018                             |  Lakes, Streams, Creeks |
|  Sugar Land Limited Purpose Annexation (2017) |  Major Roads            |
|  Nearby City Limits                           |  Minor Roads            |
|  Sugar Land ETJ                               |  Railroads              |

## Existing School Parks and Recreation Facilities

Schools are located throughout the City of Sugar Land with a large void in the center of the City. Some of the school properties are located adjacent to City parks or HOA parks. One advantage of having these next to each other is the ability for the schools and public parks to share facilities. Some of the park and recreation amenities that are located on school property are available to the public during non-school hours. This availability needs to be considered in the planning of new park locations. Overall, there is currently overlap between the amenities provided on school property and in nearby parks.

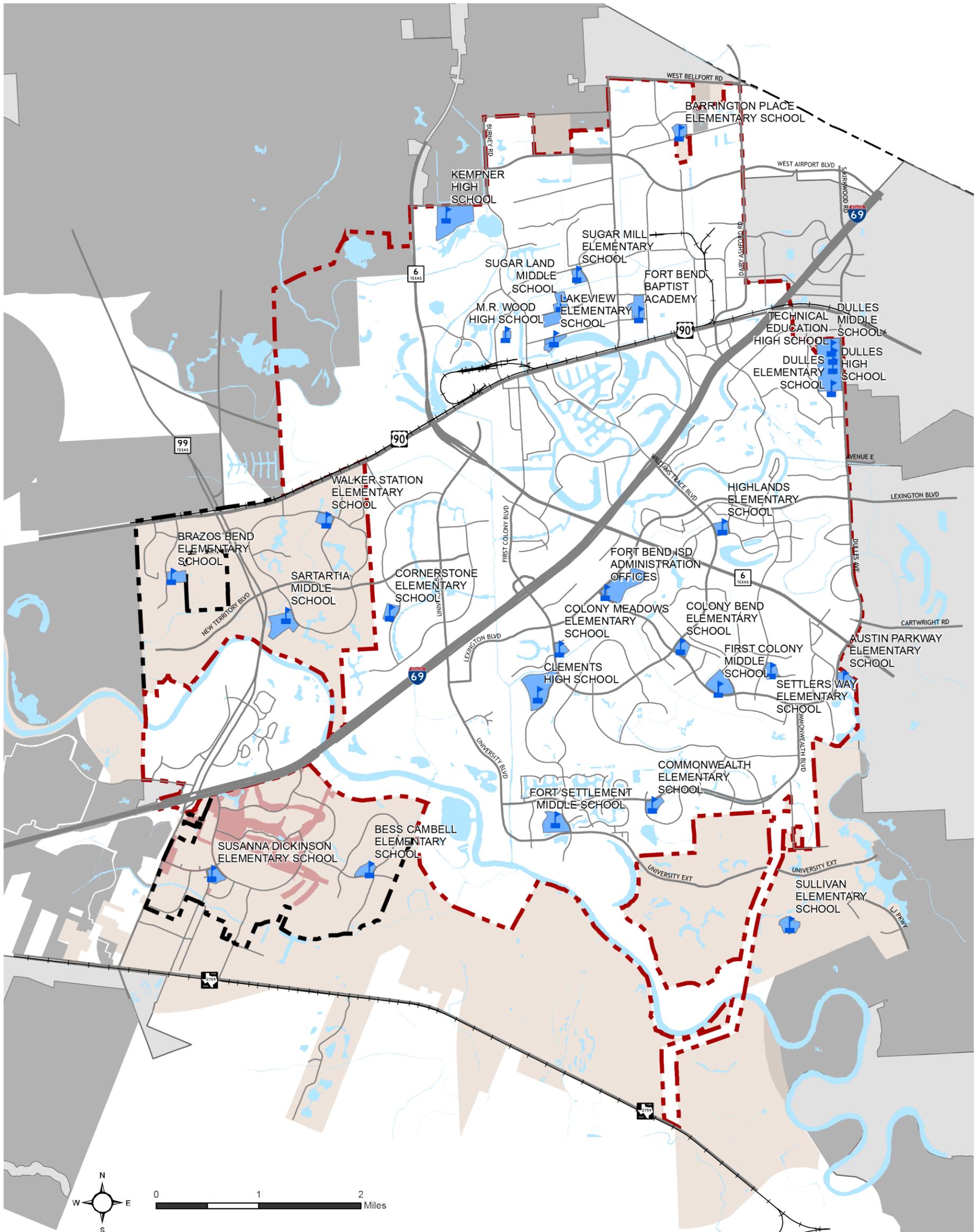
The total area for school properties in Sugar Land is over 515 acres. Included in this total is the entire school property, not only the park and recreation facilities. This includes elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. One of the largest combined areas for school facilities is Dulles Elementary School, Middle School, and High School. This property also includes the Technical Education High School. The total area of these combined schools is almost 75 acres. On this property near Dulles High School, there are baseball fields, soccer fields, football fields, and tennis courts. Near Dulles Middle School there are also football fields, tennis courts, and picnic tables. In addition to these amenities, Dulles Elementary School includes baseball and basketball amenities in addition to playgrounds and a picnic pavilion (see Table 3.4, *Existing School Parks and Recreation Facilities* and Map 3.4, *Existing School Parks and Recreation Facilities*).

*One advantage of having schools and public parks next to each other is the opportunity for shared facilities.*



Amenities can be shared between Settlers Way Park and Settlers Way Elementary School.





**Map 3.4, Existing School Parks and Recreation Facilities**

**Legend**

-  Schools
-  Sugar Land City Limits
-  Sugar Land Limited Purpose Annexation (2017)
-  Nearby City Limits
-  Sugar Land ETJ
-  Nearby City ETJs
-  Counties
-  Lakes, Streams, Creeks
-  Major Roads
-  Minor Roads

## Existing Trail Facilities

Consideration of trails is an important component when planning for parks and recreation in a community. Trails not only provide access to and connectivity between parks and other key destinations, but also provide recreation, fitness, and socialization opportunities for users. In recent years, the desire for trails has continued to grow in the region and across the country. In fact, trail running is one of the most popular outdoor activities nationwide.<sup>1</sup>

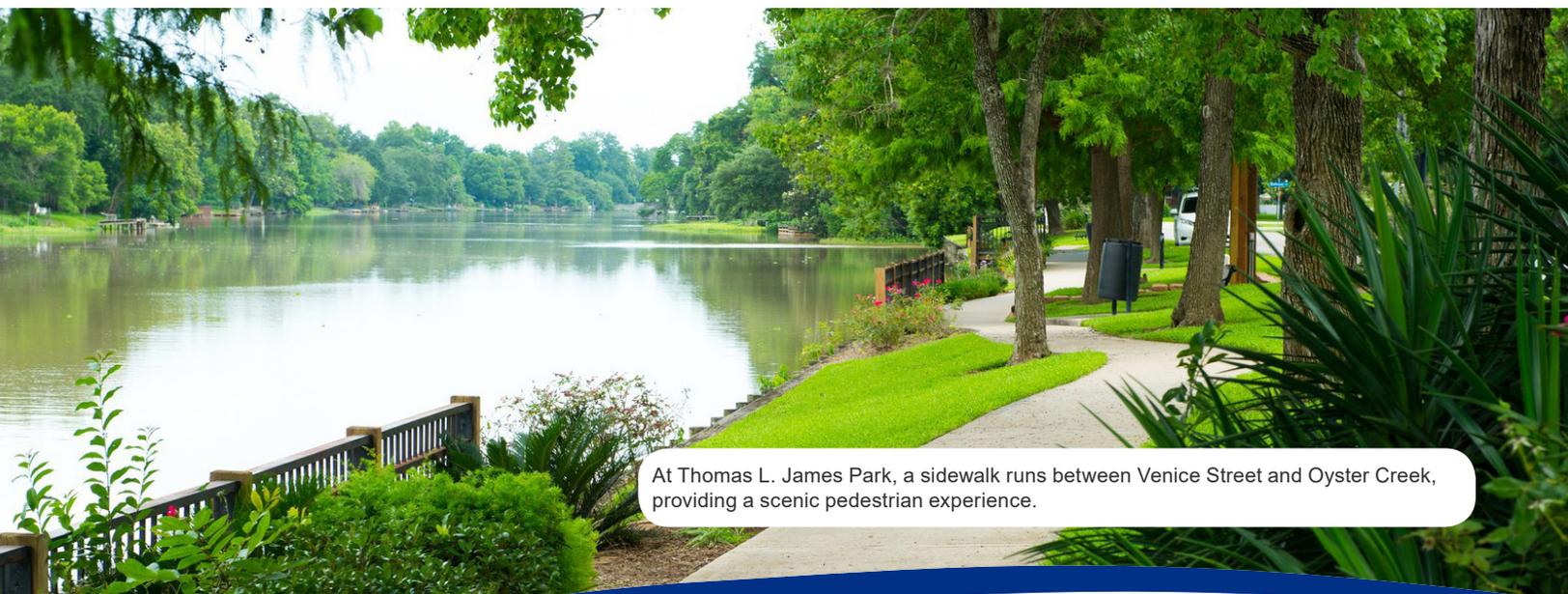
In order to plan for connectivity throughout Sugar Land, the City adopted the Sugar Land Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan in 2013. As a related planning document which, once implemented, will impact parks and recreation in the City, key elements of the plan are summarized below.

As part of the planning effort, several goals were created to increase alternative modes of mobility to supplement the vehicular transportation system. One of these goals was to focus on increased connectivity to link multiple destinations including schools, parks, commercial areas, and other civic facilities. These proposed connections can be utilized for transportation uses or for recreation. The plan also discussed connections to current and future transit to increase the mobility of all citizens. This top priority can be achieved by working with transit providers to encourage adequate accommodations for bicycles.

Overall, the goals and vision of the Sugar Land Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan were to create a network of on-street and off-street corridors that create connections through the City for pedestrians and bicyclists. Proximity to these trails, safety, and aesthetics were also part of the goals and vision. The plan will be implemented over time efficiently and in a cost effective way with design that encourages increased pedestrian and bicycle use. Next to major roadways, off-street and on-street facilities can accommodate users of varying experience levels. Sidepaths should be 10-feet wide and have the ability to accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists.

*In addition to connectivity, trails provide recreation, fitness, and socialization opportunities for residents and visitors.*

<sup>1</sup> Outdoor Participation Report, 2016. The Outdoor Foundation. <http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/pdf/ResearchParticipation2016.pdf>



At Thomas L. James Park, a sidewalk runs between Venice Street and Oyster Creek, providing a scenic pedestrian experience.

Safety is a major concern for the use of on-street bike lanes. By providing safer routes for pedestrians and bicyclists, more users will feel safe and be encouraged to use these transportation routes. The proposed bicycle and pedestrian system is designed for users of all ages. An active lifestyle that can be easily integrated into the everyday life of the citizens of Sugar Land will create a healthy population.

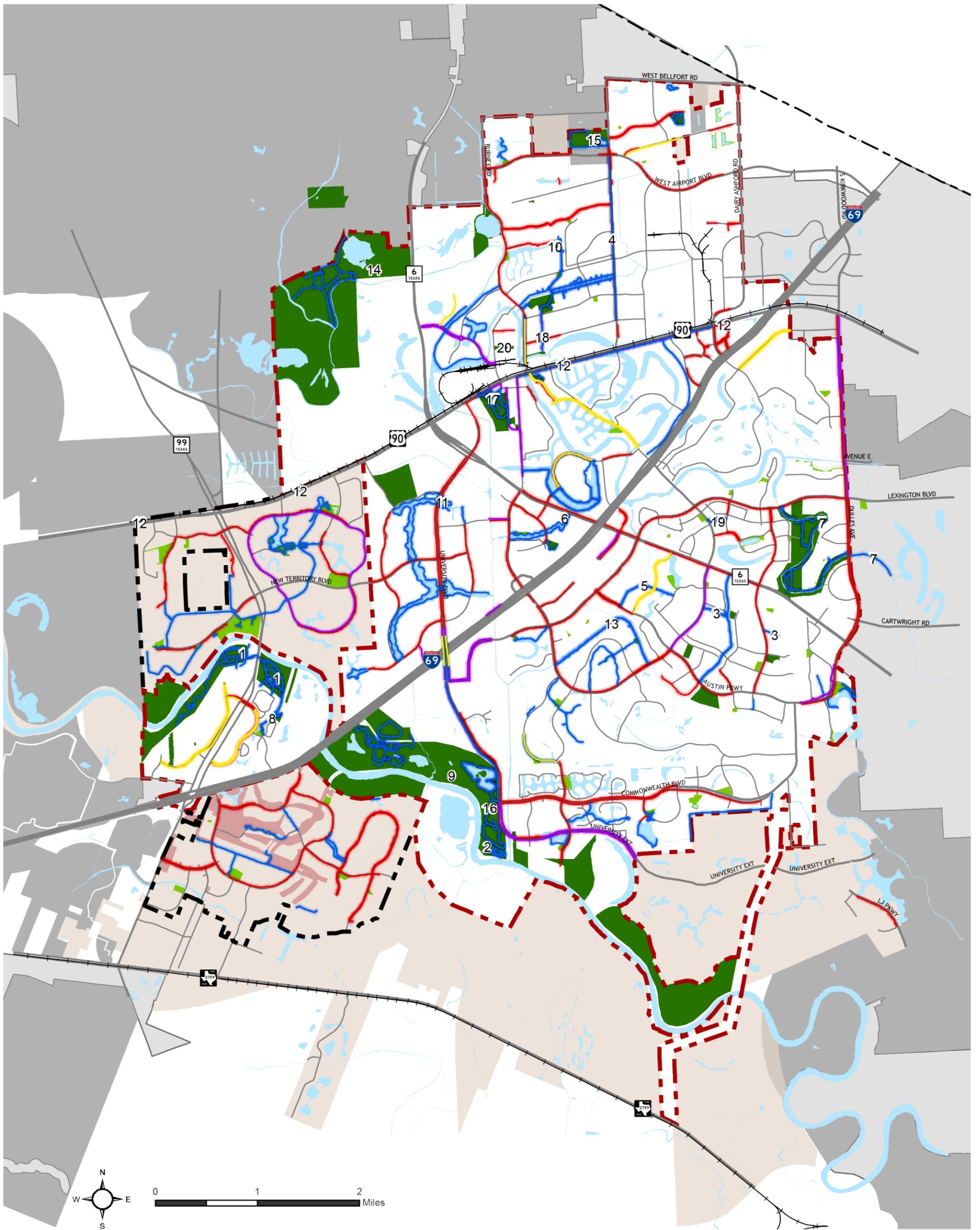
Another goal of the plan was to partner with government entities, homeowner associations, property owners, and developers. By creating a group effort to improve transportation options, the implementation process can be expedited and a better outcome can be achieved. The goal is to have this network completed within a 10-year time frame.

The existing conditions for the pedestrian and bicycle options in the City and ETJ include on-street bike lanes, off-street trails, sidepaths, and sidewalks. Currently, the existing off-street trails do not connect through the entire City (see Map 3.5, *Existing Trail Facilities*). There are small pockets in some neighborhoods with off-street trails including the subdivisions of First Colony, Telfair, New Territory, and New Territory (West).

The 2013 Sugar Land Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan identified 51 miles of existing shared-use paths in the City. Today, approximately 39 miles of trails are maintained by the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments. Some of these trails are located in parks. Additional trails throughout the City are maintained by other departments. Since the 2013 Sugar Land Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan focused largely on citywide connectivity, this Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan will concentrate more heavily on trails within parks.

**Table 3.5, Existing Trails**

TRAIL NUMBER	TRAIL NAME	MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT	MILES
1	Brazos River Park Trail	Parks	3.30
2	Justin Brindley Trail	Parks	1.00
3	Colony Grant Trail	Public Works	1.79
4	Eldridge Road Trail (FM 1876)	Public Works	1.61
5	Grants Lake Trail	Public Works	0.66
6	Lake Pointe Trail	Public Works	2.47
7	Oyster Creek Park/Trail and Lost Creek Park Trail	Parks	3.48
8	Riverpark Trail	Public Works	2.26
9	Riverpark MTB Trail	Parks	2.16
10	Sugar Mill Trail (Part of it is in City Park)	Public Works	4.77
11	University Blvd. Trail (59 to Riverstone)	Public Works	3.00
12	US HWY 90A Trail	Public Works	1.97
13	Woodstream Trail	Public Works	1.57
14	Cullinan Park Trail	Parks	3.50
15	Eldridge Park Trail	Parks	1.16
16	Memorial Park Trail (Excluding Brindley Trail)	Parks	2.56
17	Imperial Park Trail	Parks	1.30
18	City Park Trail	Parks	0.10
19	Highlands Park Trail	Parks	0.30
20	Mayfield Park Trail	Parks	0.50
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>39.46</b>



**Map 3.5, Existing Trail Facilities**

**Legend**

**Existing**

- Bike Lane/Bike Route
- Off-Street Trail
- Sidepath
- Sidewalk

- City Parks
- HOA Parks
- Sugar Land City Limits
- City Limits 2018
- Sugar Land Limited Purpose Annexation (2017)
- Nearby City Limits

- Nearby City ETJs
- Counties
- Lakes, Streams, Creeks
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads
- Railroads

## Park Profiles

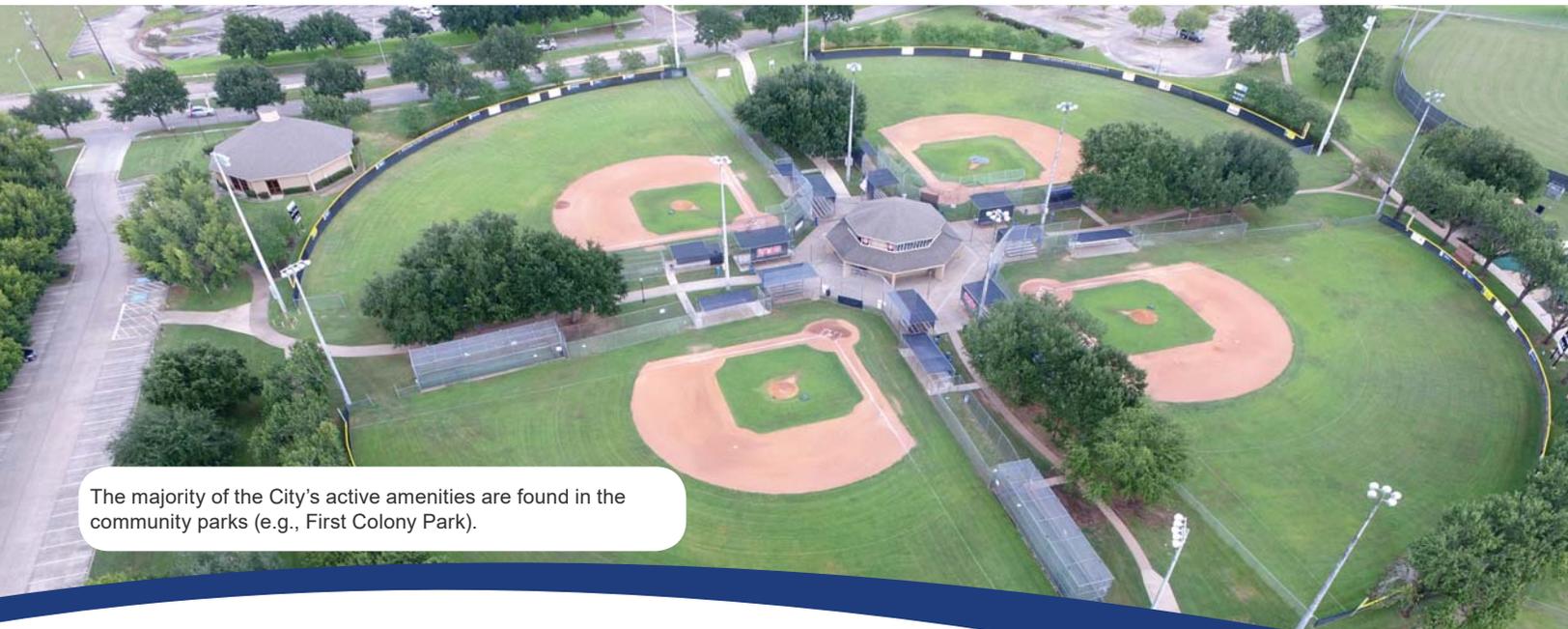
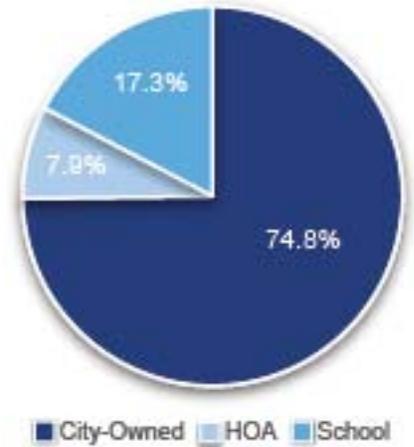
Sugar Land’s parks and recreation network includes nearly 3,000 acres of City-, HOA-, and school-owned parks. The following pages will present a breakdown of the existing conditions in City-owned parks, with the exception of 10 parks. A more in-depth analysis of the existing conditions, issues, and opportunities in those 10 City parks will then follow (beginning with Brazos River Park - Undeveloped Parkland on page 94). The 10 parks were selected based on current demand to update each facility and/or the opportunities which exist for improvement and further development. While some of the issues identified in the 10 parks are a result of unique circumstances, there are a variety of issues which are a common trend among the City’s parks.

Currently, the City of Sugar Land’s park system contains around 920 acres of developed and 1,314 acres of undeveloped City-owned parkland. A breakdown of parkland ownership citywide is illustrated in Figure 3.2, *Parkland Ownership*, and below:

- City-Owned - 74.8 percent or 2,234.0 acres;
- HOA - 7.9 percent or 235.0 acres;
- School - 17.3 percent or 516.2 acres.

Even with the majority of City-owned parkland remaining undeveloped, the existing park system contains a balance between active and passive facilities. Active facilities include elements such as sports courts (e.g., basketball courts) and sports fields (e.g., soccer fields). Passive amenities include such things as unprogrammed open space, playgrounds, picnic facilities, and multi-use trails. Approximately half of the City-owned parks include active amenities and the majority of these amenities are found in the community parks. Although passive recreation opportunities are found in all types of parks in the system, community and regional parks contain the majority of passive amenities and open space. The current park system serves most of the community at the neighborhood level with a few underserved areas along Interstate 69.

Figure 3.2, *Parkland Ownership*



## Regional Parks

### Cullinan Park

Cullinan Park is a 755.8-acre regional park located in the northwest corner of Sugar Land. It is located west of State Highway 6 and has potential connections to Gannoway Park via the Oyster Creek. The land was donated by the Cullinan family and is operated and maintained by the City. In 2016, Sugar Land entered into a maintenance agreement with the City of Houston for this park. The park includes frontage on Oyster Creek and Red Gully, encompasses White Lake and Pumpkin Lake, and offers extensive prairie and woodland acreage. The Cullinan Park Conservancy raises money to fund development of the park. Passive recreation opportunities in Cullinan Park include a 3.5-mile walking and biking trail, a boardwalk and fishing pier providing wonderful opportunities for wildlife observation, picnic areas with barbecue grills, and a pavilion. Entrance to this park is controlled via an automatic gate which opens in the morning and closes in the evening to provide additional security. Concerns have been voiced by the public regarding safety in the park and some undesirable activities. City staff has also highlighted concerns including four wheeler damage and a feral hog population. Due to the size of the woodlands throughout the park, it is relatively easy to get lost on the natural trails throughout the trees.

A master plan was originally created for the park in 1991 and focused on conservation of natural resources and the provision of passive recreation. The master plan was updated in 2012 to evaluate any factors that had changed over time and develop an updated plan of action for the future. The updated master plan includes elements such as additional educational and recreational trails (e.g., forest nature trail), varying ecosystem areas (e.g., wildflower meadows), and additional picnicking amenities. In order to preserve the natural qualities of the site, program development of the park is geared towards nature-based recreation. Improvements currently planned by the City include the installation of trail markings and providing water access for paddling in the Oyster Creek.

### Gannoway Lake Park

Gannoway Lake Park is a 51.6-acre regional park that is located along the northern edge of Sugar Land, west of Burney Road. The park is located adjacent to the City's water treatment plant and east of Cullinan Park. The site remains undeveloped and is currently classified as a natural resource area. It includes prairies, wetlands, floodplain, and Gannoway Lake. Oyster Creek runs through the southern portion of the site. There are concerns about lake water quality, aquatic vegetation, and determining the best access to the site.



Cullinan Park includes a variety of opportunities for observation of nature.



Gannoway Park has potential to provide a variety of environmental education opportunities.

## The System Today

The City stands to gain over 100 acres of land through developer dedication which would expand the park to the west and provide potential linkage opportunities with Cullinan Park. A park master plan and preliminary engineering report were developed for Gannoway Park in 2015. Due to the sensitive environmental resources on the site, program development options are geared towards environmental education. Improvements currently planned for the park include the creation of trails, boardwalks, parking, a playground, picnic areas, and environmental education opportunities.

### [Brazos River Park](#)

Brazos River Park is multi-phased project which is part of the larger Brazos River corridor. A master plan was created for the area in 1997. Development of Sugar Land Memorial Park was the first phase of the project. Phase two is the 67-acre Brazos River Park, located west of Sugar Land Memorial Park and south of the Festival Site. The park can be accessed via Highway 59/Interstate 69 near the Brazos River turnaround. The park includes 3.3 miles of trail, numerous acres of passive open space and natural areas, picnic amenities, and an overlook plaza. Due to its size and location, there are concerns about access and site visibility. The public has also expressed concerns about feral hogs and gas flaring at the adjacent gas pipeline facility.

There are also approximately 685 acres of undeveloped parkland along the Brazos River, some of which are located directly across the river from Brazos River Park. This area would benefit from a more detailed overall master plan to coordinate improvements between all the Brazos River corridor parkland.

### [Festival Site](#)

The Festival Site is located north of Brazos River Park, along Highway 59/Interstate 69. The 52-acre site was recently developed (2016) and is designed to accommodate up to 30,000 people. Development of the site includes festival grounds and parking. The site is part of a multi-faceted plan by the City to increase entertainment and tourism in the City. Large City events which have currently outgrown their current location (e.g., Fourth of July festival at Oyster Creek Park) will be moved to this site. At this point in time, the City is concerned about a lack of sufficient paved parking spaces.

### [Sugar Land Memorial Park](#)

Located along the Brazos River, Sugar Land Memorial Park is a 150-acre regional park. The park is primarily passive, including a large stocked lake and numerous acres of unprogrammed open space. Additional amenities in the park include a large veterans memorial, 3.6 miles of multi-use trails (i.e., walking/running/biking and mountain



The overlook in Brazos River Park creates opportunities for scenic vistas as well as potential performance space.



The Pawm Springs Dog Park is well loved and used by residents.

biking trails), fishing access, playground, two large picnic pavilions with associated amenities (tables, grills), restrooms, and parking. The six-acre Pawn Springs Dog Park is also located in the park. It includes separate enclosed areas for large and small dogs, a shade pavilion, a pond with water feature, and rinse stations. While the dog park is well-loved, it does have high maintenance requirements and users don't always follow the rules. Residents have expressed concerns about negligent dog owners, aggressive dogs, and the water quality in the pond.

The park's location along the Brazos River provides potential opportunities for future trail connectivity to Brazos River Park, the Festival Site, and the greater Brazos River corridor. However, the potential impacts of flooding should be considered in the design of any future park developments.

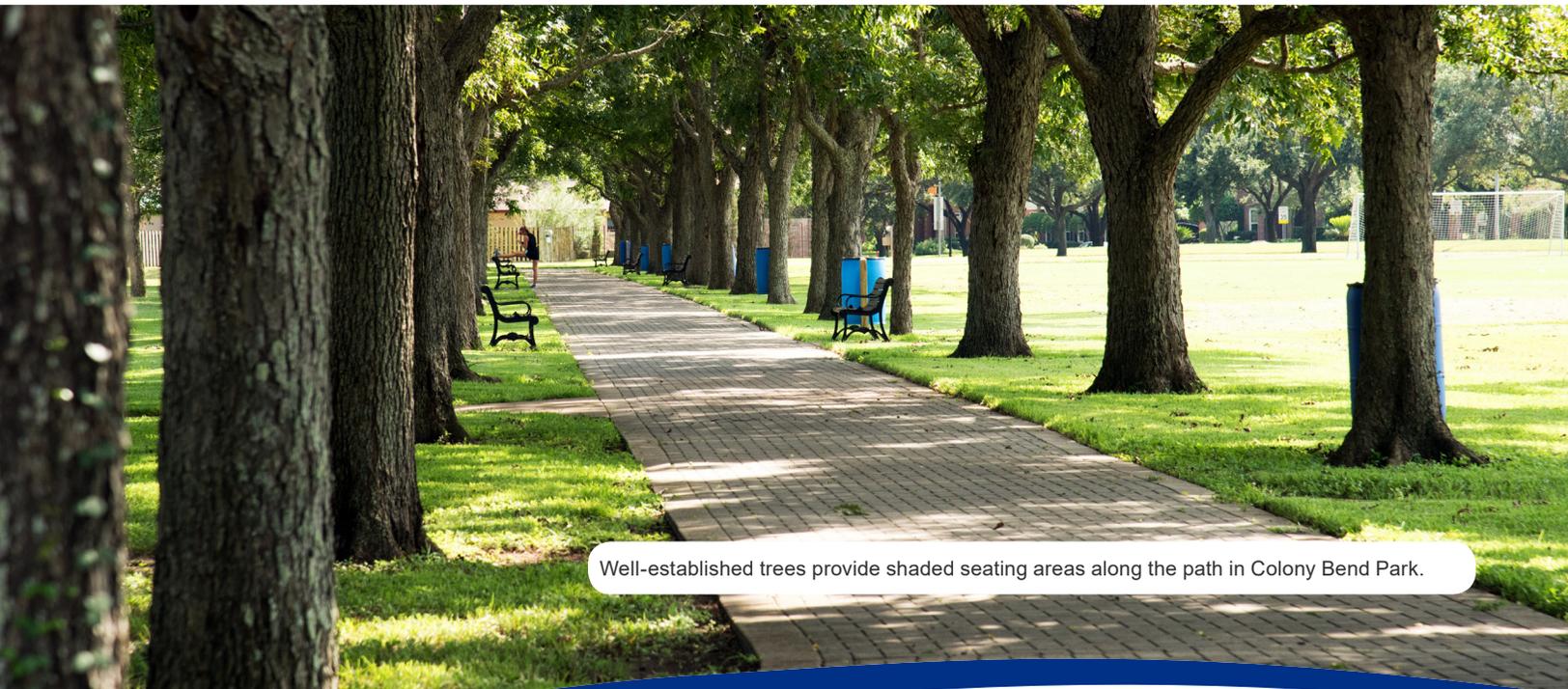
### Neighborhood Parks/Pocket Parks

#### Colony Bend Park

Colony Bend Park is a 5.0-acre park located in southeast Sugar Land, directly adjacent to Colony Bend Elementary School. The park includes both active and passive recreation opportunities including soccer fields, a volleyball court, walking trail, two playgrounds, and two picnic pavilions with tables. The playground facilities in the park were upgraded within the past 10 years and the other facilities are generally in good condition. However, due to age and level of use, one of the two playgrounds will likely need replacing in the next three to five years. As the City considers potential partnership opportunities, consideration could be given to coordinating with the Colony Bend Elementary School on mutually beneficial park improvements.



The location of Sugar Land Memorial Park along the Brazos River created potential connectivity opportunities with other City parks.



Well-established trees provide shaded seating areas along the path in Colony Bend Park.

### [Covington West Park](#)

Covington West Park is a 0.5-acre park located on the north side of Sugar Land at the intersection of Mason Road and Oakwood Lane. A large water tower is located on the parcel directly adjacent to the park. A half-court basketball court is the only active recreation amenity in the park. However, additional passive recreational options include a playground and picnicking amenities. Overall, the park is in fair condition. Renovations within the last 10 years included updating the playground equipment and installing handicap accessible walkways. However, over time pavement has become uneven, thus creating tripping hazards. The basketball court has poor drainage and the picnic pavilion posts need to be repainted. There are no planned upgrades to the park at this time.



Trees around the playground in Covington West Park provide dappled shade and help increase usability of the amenities.

### [Highlands Park](#)

Highlands Park is a 4.9-acre park located in eastern Sugar Land between Williams Trace Boulevard and Colonist Park Drive. The Highlands Elementary School is located directly south of the park. The park includes a volleyball court and several passive amenities including a playground, 0.3 miles of walking trail with exercise stations, horseshoe pits, picnicking amenities (pavilions, tables, and grills), and an art element. Renovations in the past 10 years included updating the playground equipment and fitness stations, and the facilities remain in good condition. One concern expressed by community members is tree growth along a neighboring property line.

### [Lonnie Green Park](#)

Lonnie Green Park is a 2.0-acre park located in northern Sugar Land. The park is situated between First Street and Oyster Creek. This passive neighborhood park contains a playground and picnic tables. Due to aging playground equipment and the overall appearance of the park, it was



The shade structure in Lonnie Green Park provides daily access to picnic amenities for nearby residents.

renovated in 2016 with two new play structures, decorative fencing, sidewalks, a paved picnic area, gazebo, and site furnishings. Park improvements include play structure and fall surface replacement, fencing, sidewalks, a paved picnic area, gazebo, and site furnishings.

[Mayfield Park](#)

Mayfield Park is a 1.7-acre neighborhood park located in northern Sugar Land at Avenue D and Ulrich Street. The park contains several active and passive recreation opportunities including a basketball court, volleyball court, playground, picnic pavilion, picnic tables, and barbecue grills. The park is currently in poor condition and there are occasional security issues. The 2017 improvements for the park include the total renovation and expansion of the park to 4.3 acres.

[Meadow Lake Park](#)

Meadow Lake Park includes 5.7 acres in central Sugar Land. It is situated along Great Oaks Lane. This neighborhood park offers a variety of recreational amenities including a baseball practice backstop, soccer field, volleyball court, 0.2-mile walking trail, playground, and picnicking facilities (pavilion, tables, and grills). The park is currently in good condition. However, the playground lacks a defined edge, so the safety surfacing often washes out during heavy rain events. Due to the age of the amenities, the playground should be replaced within the next 10 years. The site is also bisected by a large berm which creates access and viewshed challenges. The park would be enhanced by partially removing the berm. This would also allow the extension of the existing trail to complete a walking loop.

[Park at the Levee in RiverPark](#)

Park at the Levee is a 3.0-acre park located in the RiverPark subdivision in western Sugar Land. It was established in 2010 and includes a playground, picnic pavilion and tables, soccer field, and a walking trail with exercise stations. Park users can access the greater RiverPark Trail via a bridge across a drainage ditch to the west. The park is located behind a number of houses and is accessed via a narrow path leading between two residences. As such, the community has voiced concerns about visibility, access, and overall security in the park. Past renovations included updates to the playground equipment and landscaping. Today, the park remains in relatively good condition. There are, however, concerns with feral hog damage in the park.



The location of the picnic pavilion in Mayfield Park allows parents to enjoy the shaded seating area while their children play.



Park users can access the greater RiverPark Trail from Park at the Levee.

### [River Gable Park in RiverPark](#)

River Gable Park is another City-owned park within the RiverPark subdivision. It was acquired through annexation in 2010. It is located in a central island at the intersection of River Gable Court and Stone River Lane. As a 0.3-acre park, it is minimally developed to include a walking trail and picnic facilities. The park remains in good condition. The addition of benches along the trail would provide additional seating for nearby residents.

### [Ron Slockett Memorial Park](#)

Ron Slockett Memorial Park is a neighborhood park located south of Nantucket Drive in the northern portion of Sugar Land. The park was dedicated in the memory of Sergeant Ron Slockett, a police officer killed in the line of duty in 1987. The park encompasses 8.6 acres and includes active and passive amenities such as a tennis court, volleyball court, 0.4-mile walking trail, playground, and picnic facilities (pavilion and tables). During the last 10 years the playground equipment and picnic pavilion were renovated. Although the park remains in relatively good condition, there are drainage issues in this park.



A pergola covered with vegetation in Ron Slockett Memorial Park provides a shaded area for users to relax.

### [Settlers Way Park](#)

In southeast Sugar Land, Settlers Way Park is located at the intersection of Sam Houston Drive and Settlers Way Boulevard. The park is directly adjacent to the Settlers Way Elementary School. The park was established in 2005 but was recently renovated in 2016. At 5.0-acres, this neighborhood park offers several soccer fields, a community building and restrooms, picnic tables, and a trail with fitness stations. While the park remains in excellent condition, there have been instances of vandalism in the restrooms. The installation of security cameras near the restrooms may be warranted to help discourage vandalism.



The fitness stations along the trail in Settlers Way Park provide opportunities for users to diversify and enhance their exercise in the park.

### [Splash Pad at RiverPark](#)

The Splash Pad in the RiverPark subdivision was acquired through annexation in 2010. It is situated at the intersection of Summit Creek and Clawson Falls. This 0.1-acre park is located next to the RiverPark recreation center, which is an HOA facility that includes a pool, playground, and parking. The park includes the splash pad and perimeter sidewalks with benches and shade trees. The splash pad is operated by the City and open to the public, while the other adjacent amenities are owned by the HOA and thus restricted to RiverPark residents. Unfortunately, poor initial construction of the splash pad has led to high maintenance and repair needs. As such, repairs and upgrades were made in 2012. Even still, users have expressed concern about mold/mildew on the surfaces in the splash pad.

### [Sugar Lakes Park](#)

Sugar Lakes Park is located near the intersection of Highway 90 and Oyster Creek Drive in central Sugar Land. This 3.7-acre park has a volleyball court, 0.3-mile trail, playground, picnic pavilion, and tables. Though a brick fence column was recently replaced due to the collapse of a pipe under the footing, there is concern that the column may fail again. Other than that, the park is in good condition. Future improvements planned by the City include the annual topping of the playground safety surfacing. As an older playground, the equipment should be replaced within the next 10 years.

### [Sugar Mill Park](#)

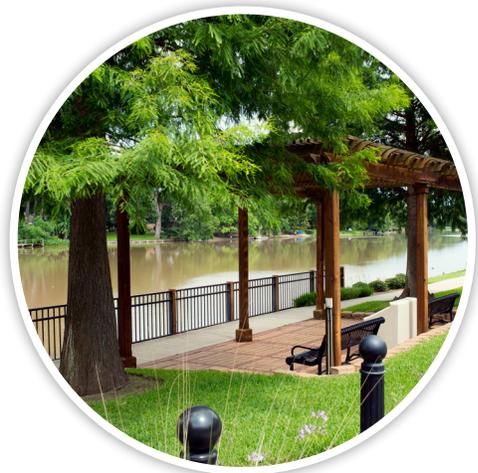
Sugar Mill Park is a 4.9-acre neighborhood park situated at the intersection of Hidden Lake Lane and Drakewood Drive in northern Sugar Land. The park includes active and passive amenities including a volleyball court, 0.3-mile trail, playground, horseshoe pits, and picnic amenities (pavilion, tables, grills). The last time that this park was renovated was in 2002. There are concerns about issues with occasional vandalism in the park. While the park is currently in good condition, the playground equipment should be replaced within the next three to five years due to its age.

### [Thomas L. James Park](#)

Thomas L. James Park is located in central Sugar Land at the intersection of Venice and Guenther Streets. This neighborhood park is a creekside park paralleling Oyster Creek. The park includes a walking trail, benches, and shaded overlooks. While it was last renovated in 2005, the park remains in good condition. Rather than mowing directly to the creek's edge, the City could consider establishing low maintenance, drought tolerant plant material along the creek edge to provide aesthetic and ecological benefits, and minimize maintenance requirements in this small park.



Sugar Lakes Park includes strategically located trees to help shade the playground and seating areas.



A shaded overlook in Thomas L. James Park provides a relaxing fishing location along Oyster Creek.

## Detailed Park Profile: Brazos River Park - Undeveloped Parkland

### Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- Open space
- Brazos River

### Accessibility

Currently, the only access to this area of undeveloped parkland along the Brazos River is by vehicle through a private road. The road contains bike lanes in both directions and a sidewalk on the east side. It enters the site on the far northwest corner. Since this parkland is undeveloped, there are no parking facilities currently on the site.

A ridge along a drainageway, accessible at the end of the private road, provides accessibility for maintenance vehicles to the entire north side of the site.

### Description

There are over 685 acres of undeveloped parkland in Brazos River Park. The following description and analysis of issues and opportunities is one example of undeveloped parkland along the corridor. While some of the existing conditions, issues, and opportunities may be unique to this specific area, many of them pertain to the entirety of the areas of undeveloped parkland in Brazos River Park.

The area pictured below is currently a 259.7-acre undeveloped site along the Brazos River. The property was deeded to the City as part of the development of the Riverstone subdivision. Over time, this area will be developed as part of the City's greater Brazos River corridor. Although the site was not part of the City's previous master planning efforts for the Brazos River corridor, it is protected by a conservation easement and designated in the regional 2015 Fort Bend Green Brazos River Recreation Master Plan.

The Brazos River, which runs along the south side of the site, is the main natural feature of parkland. The site is heavily wooded with large trees, but contains a few open



grassy areas. The area is not currently used by the general public. Instead, it provides protected open space and habitat for the deer, hogs, and other wildlife which live in the vicinity.

### Issues & Opportunities

One of the identified issues with this parkland is the over-population of feral hogs. Moving forward, selective removal of this species may be warranted prior to opening this park for public use.

Periodic flooding of the Brazos River is another issue that impacts the potential uses of this park. In particular, design and construction of waterfront or water-based amenities will need to provide accessibility while at the same time accommodating and bouncing back from flood events. Naturally, this parkland is also an ideal location for another canoe/kayak launch within the City. However, for those who are unexperienced, the swiftness of the river makes entering and exiting the river more difficult. As such, this necessitates proper design and construction of the canoe/kayak launch to ensure it is a family-friendly amenity for residents and visitors to Sugar Land.

The site is also largely heavily wooded. While this minimizes the potential to add sports courts and fields, it does provide great opportunity for protection of the Brazos River corridor and unique passive recreational amenities. This could include natural surfaced walking and biking multi-use trails which are intended to serve larger groups of people interested in easier passive recreation activities. Developing this type of trail would create a great opportunity to connect this parkland to Sugar Land Memorial Park, the new Festival Site, and the greater Brazos River corridor. The site's heavily wooded areas also provide opportunity to develop more technical single-track trails intended to serve more advanced and specialized users (e.g., mountain bikers and hikers). All trails and amenities should be designed and constructed in a manner that works with the mature tree canopy that exists on the site (e.g., establishing meandering trails in and around large trees).

This site also provides a great opportunity to incorporate an educational element into the park system. Site visitors could learn about native wildlife and vegetation, flooding causes and mitigation strategies, and what they could do to help prevent flood events from occurring.

Moving forward, the Brazos River Park will need a detailed master plan to determine the location, scale, and breadth of amenities that could be developed on this and other sites along the corridor. Currently, the City is considering such things as trails and a trailhead, parking, a pavilion, restrooms, and a canoe launch in this specific area.



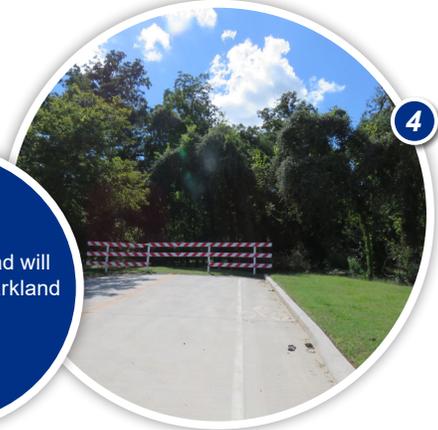
1  
The Brazos River runs along the south side of the site and could provide additional recreation opportunities.



2  
The site is predominantly covered with a mature tree canopy, interspersed with small areas of grassland.



3  
The subdivision of Riverstone is located to the east of the site.



4  
This dead end road will connect into the parkland in the future.

## Detailed Park Profile: Duhacsek Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- Natural areas

### Accessibility

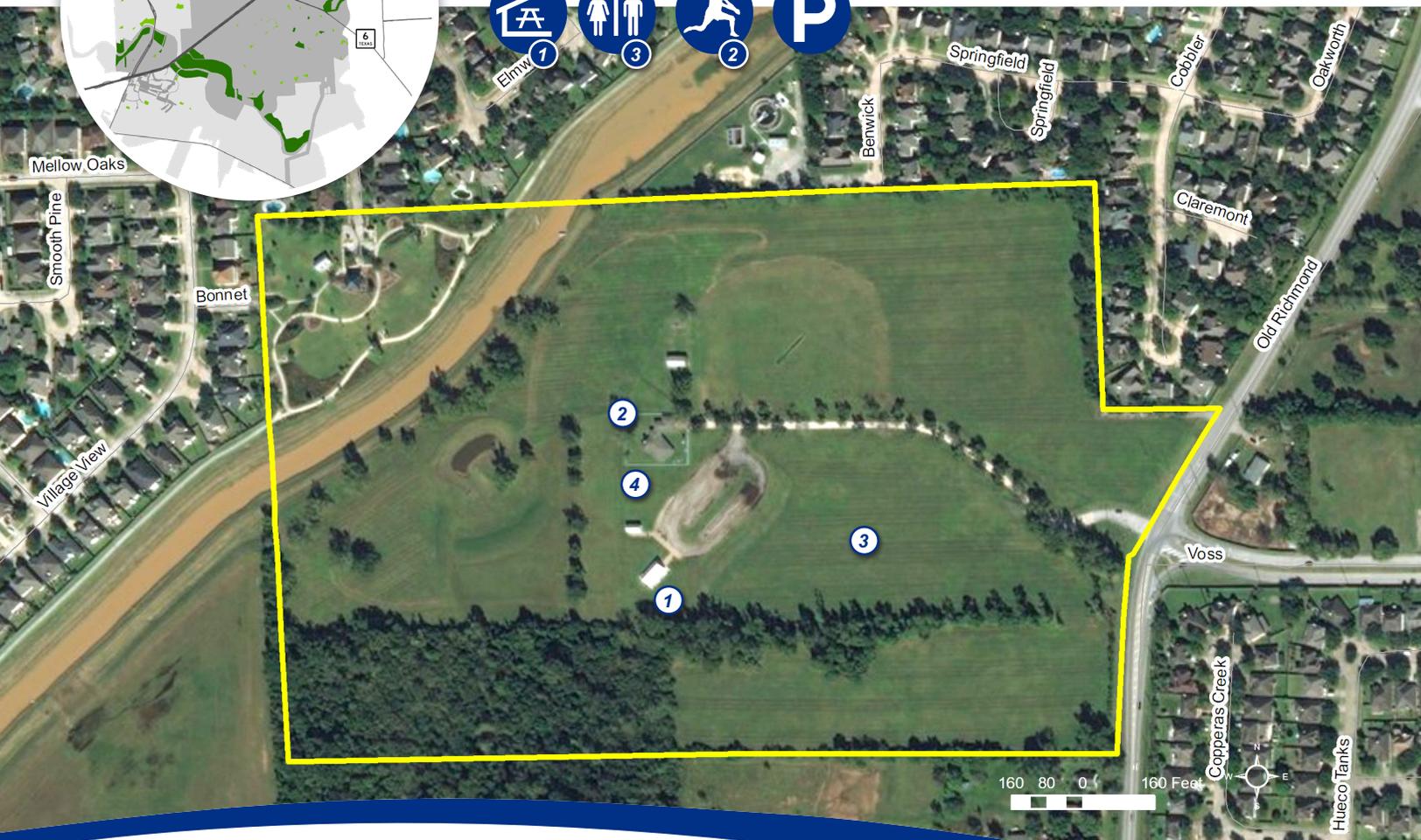
The entrance to Duhacsek Park is located off of Old Richmond Road, on the east side of the park. A trail runs along the drainageway on the northwest side of the park, but does not provide access to the remainder of the park. Characteristic of the historically rural character of this area, on-street bike lanes, paths, or sidewalks were not developed in proximity to the park. This means that there is not a safe way for pedestrians or bicyclists to access this park from abutting neighborhoods or the greater community.

### Description

Duhacsek Park is a 54.1-acre regional park established in 2001. It is currently located outside of Sugar Land’s City limits. The park remains locked and is only available by reservation. It is reserved most weekends as it provides a peaceful setting ideal for group gatherings such as weddings and family reunions. The parkland was donated by the land owner and includes an authentic 1950’s house. The house can also be rented for events.

Currently, this park is largely used for passive recreation with a pavilion, restrooms, and large unprogrammed open spaces. A large heavily wooded area which is partially within the park boundaries, is located in the southwest corner of the park. A youth cricket leagues also practices in the park.

### Amenities



## Issues & Opportunities

Since the park is not located within the City limits or ETJ, it creates a challenge to get the citizens of Sugar Land to use this park. If high quality, unique amenities are offered here, Sugar Land residents may be encouraged to travel further to experience this park. Public outreach to the community may help to educate citizens about Duhacsek Park and the amenities that it offers.

The property itself holds great potential but is currently underutilized. Opportunities exist for a dedicated youth cricket field. Since the park is predominantly surrounded by single-family detached residential, additional active amenities would need to be centrally located away from the residential areas, or at a minimum, buffered. Providing additional play amenities in the vicinity of the existing pavilion could diversify recreation opportunities for children in the park. A small, gravel parking lot is centrally located near the pavilion, house, and restroom facilities. As additional amenities are added to the park, the number and quality of parking spaces may need attention.

In the large open space area between the house and Red Gully drainageway, a potential prairie restoration project has been discussed. This could provide a unique opportunity to develop an associated educational element about prairie ecosystems and restoration. This educational element could also be continued inside of the house, thereby better utilizing the existing space. An art gallery or an animal services facility are other options that have been discussed regarding the house.

Across Red Gully, there is a small area that serves as an amenity to the surrounding neighborhood, Village of Oak Lake (MUD 41). It includes a playscape, pavilion, internal loop trail with exercise equipment, and a linear trail along the drainageway connecting the greater area. Currently there is no connection across the drainageway to the remainder of Duhacsek Park.

While the park's entrance is defined by an allée of tree, opportunities exist for further aesthetic enhancements.



The pavilion is available for rental and is ideal for large group gatherings.



Existing signage encourages users to help protect wildlife.



Large open spaces are ideal for additional active recreation opportunities.



The existing house could be used as an educational amenity, art gallery, or animal services facility.

## Detailed Park Profile: City Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- Sugar Land Middle School
- St. Theresa Catholic Church and School
- Knights of Columbus

### Accessibility

City Park is accessible by car via Seventh Street or Burney Road. On the north side there is a drainage channel with single-family residential on the opposite side. Sugar Land Middle School is to the east and St. Theresa Catholic Church and School are to the south. The Knights of Columbus are to the west. A bridge for pedestrians or bicyclists is located on the northeast corner of the park and connects to the neighborhood. Sidewalks along Seventh Street and Burney Road provide additional connections to the park.

### Description

City Park is a 20.4-acre community park and was established in 1964 as the first park in Sugar Land. Over the years, many enhancements have been made to this park resulting in the City spending more money here than on any other park in the system.

City Park is an active park and includes five lighted baseball fields which serve the Sugar Land Little League. The only City-owned pool is located in City Park and is home to the Sugar Land Sharks swim team. There is also a heavily used skate park with flexible skating facilities that were installed in 2002 and can be reconfigured by City staff.

This park contains the only lighted tennis courts in the Sugar Land parks system and the lighting is currently being updated. City Park also includes a pavilion with picnic tables, playground, restrooms, and concessions. The park includes many areas that are shaded by large trees.



### Amenities



## Issues & Opportunities

The aging facilities of this park create constraints moving forward due to the need for additional funds for repairs. For example, the ball field lighting and bleachers will need to be updated soon and the pool is frequently in need of repairs. To move forward on improvements with clear direction, a renovation master plan could help plan for the best potential use of the site and help the City move incrementally in that direction.

Opportunities to make the park more user-friendly include parking improvements, sidewalk upgrades, a playground shade structure, and a new pavilion. Additional accessibility and passive recreation opportunities could be created through the provision of trails to and throughout the park.

Due to the significant amount of unprogrammed space between the ball fields and throughout the site, there may be additional opportunities for new amenities on the site such as replacing the pool, providing a combined splash pad and playground area, and developing a poured concrete skate park.

While new trees have been planted near the playground and large areas of the park are already shaded (e.g., the space adjacent to the swimming pool), there are additional opportunities for overall landscaping and drainage improvements. The provision of supplemental shade would create additional usable spaces throughout the park.

Since Sugar Land Middle School is nearby, there may be partnership opportunities between the City and the school district on such elements as outdoor education spaces or tennis court expansion.



The Sugar Land Public Swimming Pool is the only City-owned pool in the park system.



Flexible facilities (i.e., facilities which can be moved and reconfigured if the City so chose) currently exist in the skate park.



A drainage area is located on the north side of the park creating the potential for more connectivity options.



A pavilion with picnic benches provides a gathering space for larger groups.

## Detailed Park Profile: Eldridge Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Southwest Storage facility
- Commercial uses
- Single-family residential
- Alston Road Church of Christ

### Accessibility

Eldridge Park is accessible by car from an entrance along Eldridge Road. A large parking lot is available in the northeast corner of the park. A sidewalk connects the park to the commercial area to the south and crosswalks provide pedestrian access across Eldridge Road to the neighborhood to the east. There are no pedestrian or bicycle connections to areas north.

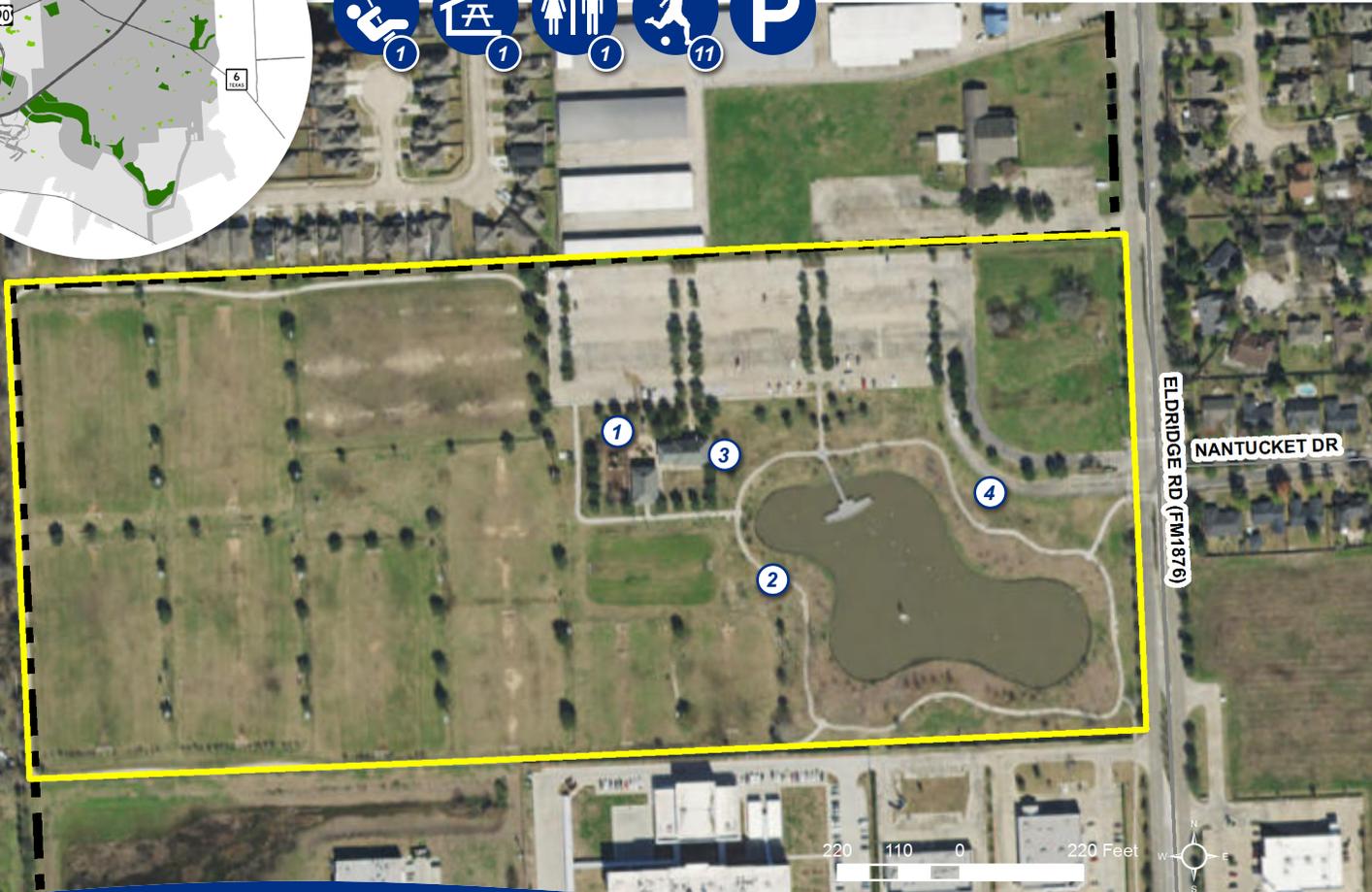
### Description

Eldridge Park is a 41.2-acre community park established in 1997. The park is heavily used as an active recreation facility with 11 soccer fields. A lake surrounded by a loop trail is located near the park entrance. An additional loop trail surrounds the soccer fields, providing connectivity throughout the entire park. A fishing pier, pavilion, concession stand, and lighted playscape are additional amenities that serve the entire park. While the area surrounding the playground is heavily shaded, the rest of the park, including the parking lot, only has a few scattered trees. A detention area in the northeast corner of the park, the lake, and the parking lot capture the drainage from the entire park.

A number of City events are held in the park throughout the year including Eggstravaganza and Kid Fish. The heavily used lighted fields are used by the Sugar Land Soccer Club and Fun-Fair-Positive Soccer.



### Amenities



## Issues & Opportunities

One of the general concerns regarding this park is the use of the soccer fields by people and groups who do not have authorization to do so. There may be an opportunity to address this issue by designating one or two soccer fields for non-league, unprogrammed use by the general community. Due to the continued popularity of soccer, public access and league use of fields may have to be combined with additional soccer field access at other parks within the Sugar Land park system. Beyond use and availability, there are also maintenance concerns with the soccer fields due to the heavy use that they receive. Repairs to the fields, or field rotation, may be needed to ensure their long-term durability and quality. As a supporting amenity to the soccer fields, additional play amenities and gathering areas could be added for children and families who are not playing soccer or for pre- and post-game activities.

Vandalism is another general concern in Eldridge Park. As such, functioning security cameras may be warranted in high target areas throughout the park.

To the north of the park, an existing storage building creates an unpleasing view. A landscape screen could be added between the storage facility and the park to enhance the visual quality of the area. Additionally, providing enhanced tree cover and landscaping throughout the park and naturalizing the pond edge and select other areas would have a number of aesthetic and ecological benefits.

In an effort to increase use by nearby residential areas, the City could consider providing additional amenities along the trail.

Due to its age and heavy level of use, the existing playground will need to be replaced within the next three to five years. A replacement playscape should include integrated shade protection.



## Detailed Park Profile: First Colony Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- Sweetwater Golf Course
- First Colony Middle School
- Christ Church Sugar Land

### Accessibility

There are two primary entrances to First Colony Park. The first provides access to a linear parking lot off of Austin Parkway in the northwest corner of the park. The second access point, also off of Austin Parkway, provides access to a more centrally located parking lot. A sidewalk exists along Austin Parkway and a crosswalk connects the park to First Colony Middle School. A bridge connection on the south side of the park provides vehicular access over Steep Bank Creek to Sweetwater Golf course.

### Description

First Colony Park is a 21.3-acre community park established in 1986. The park contains mostly active recreation uses including 10 baseball fields serving the First Colony Little League and the Greater Sugar Land Pony Colt League. A 3,000-square-foot conference center is located in the northwest corner of the park which can be reserved for private events. A variety of Sugar Land recreation programs are offered out of the conference center.

Overall, park visitors benefit greatly from a mature tree canopy that provides shade opportunities on walkways, over spectator bleachers, and near the centrally located all abilities playground. Additional amenities include two concession stands located near the ball fields, informal picnic areas, internal sidewalks, barbecue grills, and benches. Unlike other parks in the system, First Colony Park provides visitors with recycling bins. This is a pilot program to study the challenges in implementing a system-wide program.



### Amenities



## Issues & Opportunities

Over the past few years, several improvements have been made to First Colony Park. These improvements include new lighting and fencing at ballfields number one and two, a universally accessible playground, and a concession restroom building.

Funding is needed for the second phase of improvements, for which a design is already complete. The planned improvements include ball field lighting and fence updates for fields three, four, and five. In addition, walkway paving will be replaced and security lighting will be added to the walkway and parking lot.

Overall, the park and its facilities are in fair condition. However, due to the age of First Colony Park, additional enhancements may be warranted. These could include updating and replacing the press boxes and widening internal loop trails and sidewalks (e.g., to accommodate maintenance vehicles). Overall aesthetic and safety improvements could be made to the park including entrance enhancements, landscaping improvements to reduce maintenance requirements, and utility enclosures. The provision of additional shade for the athletes (e.g., in the pitching warm-up area) would increase user comfort and provide protection from the strong Texas sun.

In its current state, the park includes a number of different amenity styles. For example, there are two different types of lighting poles; one style in the parking lot and the other along the sidewalks. A consistent lighting standard could be developed to match the look and feel of the trash receptacles and other site amenities and provide visual continuity throughout the park.

While the park is highly developed, opportunities may exist for further diversification of amenities and access enhancements including such elements as a splash pad or water features and trail connections to the greater community to attract greater usage of this park outside athletic events.



## Detailed Park Profile: Imperial Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Commercial
- Single-family residential
- The Crescent (nursing home)
- Sugar Land Bible Church

### Accessibility

Imperial Park is located south of U.S. Highway 90 and west of Matlage Way. Parking is predominantly located in the northwest corner of the park, although additional parking is available at the T.E. Harman Senior Center and the Imperial Park Recreation Center. Several new segments of sidewalks (e.g., along U.S. Highway 90 heading west, and along Matlage Way) have been added, but a perimeter sidewalk system is not complete.

### Description

Imperial Park is 44.4-acre community park established in 2000. This active recreation park primarily consists of lighted girls softball fields with shaded bleachers. Wayfinding signage is located along the sidewalks between the softball fields.

The park also includes a nine-hole disc golf course. Overflow parking is provided along the southwest side of the park.

A creek runs east-west through the middle of the park with a pedestrian bridge providing connections to each side. Another creek runs along the west side of the park with an additional pedestrian bridge connecting the parking lot to the softball fields. Several small trees are located along the creek. A well-shaded playground is located in the middle of the southern group of softball fields. A welcoming picnic area is located between the playground and a concession stand.



### Amenities



## Issues & Opportunities

Overall, Imperial Park is currently in good condition. In the last few years, an internal loop trail and walkway extension have been added connecting the park to the parking lot of the T.E. Harman Senior Center and Imperial Park Recreation Center. Moving forward, a master plan has been created for Imperial Park. It details the construction of two more softball fields for league and tournament play, and associated parking. However, funding for implementation of these improvements has not been included in the City's capital improvement plan.

City staff have expressed concern about the shared parking lot between Imperial Park Recreation Center and the T.E. Harman Senior Center. The size of the current parking lot is not adequate for both centers and may need to be expanded in the near future. Citizens have expressed concern about auto break-ins and the proximity of the softball fields to the parking lot. They feel that the distance from the softball fields to the parking area may need to be shorter.

As the Imperial area continues to develop, improved access may be needed along and across U.S. Highway 90. Currently, the lack of continuous sidewalks and the high speed and volume of traffic is a deterrent to bicycle and pedestrian users, particularly those trying to access the park from the north side.

Overall, improvements to the park's landscaping could be made by incorporating native, drought tolerant plant material that would provide visual appeal throughout the year. Additionally, almost all of Imperial Park is highly manicured turf grass. The City could evaluate opportunities to introduce a more naturalized look to appropriate areas within the park by converting unused open spaces to natural areas (e.g., minimally maintained wildflower meadows). This would decrease maintenance requirements and have a number of aesthetic and ecological benefits.

There are also additional opportunities to improve the park through increased shade, access, and amenities.



The lighted fields are home to girls softball.



This park includes a nine-hole disc golf course.



A pedestrian bridge connects the parking lot to the softball fields and greater park area.



Recently installed internal loop trails connect the softball fields to the parking area and provide access to the site.

## Detailed Park Profile: Lost Creek Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Natural area
- Single-family residential
- Utility easement

### Accessibility

Lost Creek Park is predominately surrounded by residential subdivisions. It has a large linear parking lot which is accessible from Lost Creek Boulevard. Pedestrians and bicyclists access the park along Oyster Creek Trail, through formal and informal connections to the abutting residential neighborhoods, and from Oyster Creek Park (which is located directly south of Lost Creek Park).

### Description

Lost Creek Park is a 58.3-acre community park which was established in 1996. The park connects to Oyster Creek Park via the Oyster Creek Trail and is partially located under a large power line easement. The Oyster Creek Trail runs through Lost Creek Park and provides pedestrian and bicycle access to the greater area.

Currently, the predominant use of this park is for soccer. While Eclipse Soccer is a heavy user of the park's 10 soccer fields, there are two fields reserved for general public use. Additionally, the park contains a pavilion, restrooms, and a concession stand which support the soccer program throughout the year. Beyond soccer, a centrally located playscape and a well-used BMX track provide non-soccer playing users with additional amenities.



### Amenities



## Issues & Opportunities

Lost Creek Park is currently in good condition and has benefited from upgraded sports field lighting in the last few years. Currently, there are no additional improvements planned for this park.

Maintenance of the existing BMX track has created challenges for City staff. Although volunteers are currently responsible for its maintenance, there is oftentimes not enough manpower to maintain the track and keep up with its heavy use. Additionally, similar to other parks in the City, there is an issue with non-authorized use of the soccer fields which are reserved for league use. As such, security cameras may be warranted in key areas in the park.

Moving forward, there are opportunities to improve this park. Installation of a decorative fence and landscaping between the soccer fields and parking lot would both improve the visual appearance of the park and provide a protective barrier for children who may be playing in and around the field during busy league games.

Additional park improvement opportunities could include enhanced and supplemental picnicking facilities, providing more trail-related amenities, and increasing shaded seating areas throughout the park.



The Oyster Creek Trail connects Lost Creek Park to Oyster Creek Park.



The playground includes two climbing areas, two slides, and swings.



There are soccer fields for both league play and general public use.



The BMX track is maintained by volunteers and is heavily used.

## Detailed Park Profile: Oyster Creek Park and Trail

### Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- Commercial

### Accessibility

Oyster Creek Park is located north of Highway 6, which is a heavily traveled six-lane highway. The main entrance provides vehicular access to a linear parking lot just north of the highway. Bicyclists and pedestrians can access the park via a sidewalk that runs along Highway 6 towards Town Square. There is not currently a sidewalk providing access to areas east, nor is there a safe bicycle or pedestrian connection across Highway 6. Non-vehicular access to the park is provided via pedestrian bridge, access points from abutting residential neighborhoods along Oyster Creek Trail, or from Lost Creek Park.

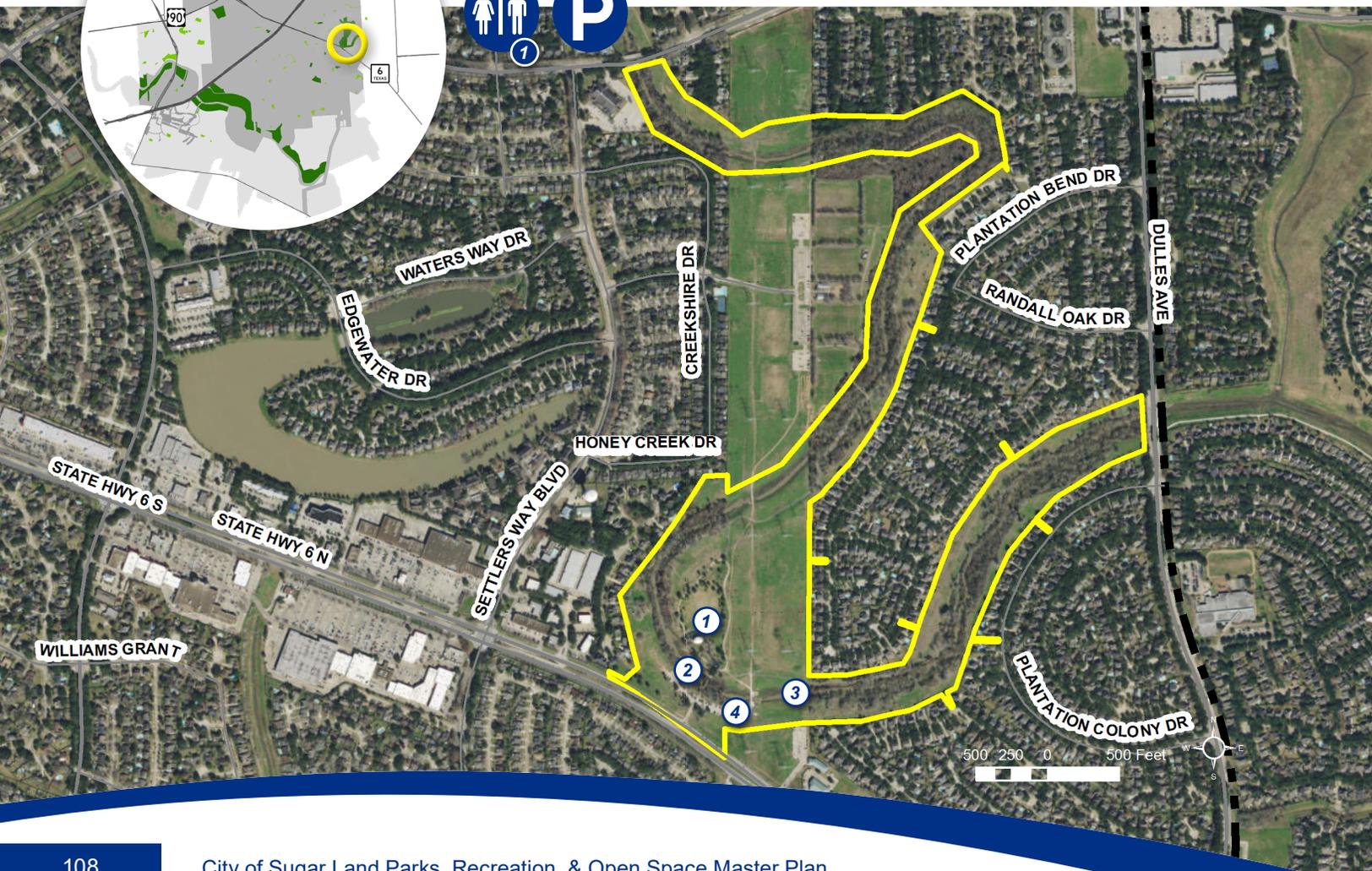
### Description

Oyster Creek Park is a 111.5-acre community park established in 1999. It includes a sculpture park, two ponds with fountains connected by a stream, and a shaded performance space. The performance area previously hosted the City's outdoor concert events, but is infrequently used today since the concert series was moved to the Town Square area when it opened.

Oyster Creek runs through the entire park and separates the parking area from the remainder of the park. The Oyster Creek Trail loops through the center of the park and is used by both pedestrians and bicyclists. At this end of the trail, it includes several heavily shaded areas, benches, and a water fountain for people and dogs.



### Amenities



## Issues & Opportunities

The park is currently in good condition and has no planned improvements at this time. A number of public art sculptures were installed in the last few years and are currently in fair condition.

Some of the concerns expressed by City staff include a need for re-decking the pedestrian bridge across Oyster Creek and the significantly increased number of unsanctioned fitness classes being held in the park.

Another issue is safe access for bicyclists and pedestrians from Highway 6. Since this road is heavily traveled, it creates an unsafe environment for non-vehicular users. Moving forward, improved sidewalk connections along Highway 6 (towards the southeast) or direct connections to the abutting neighborhoods would improve bicycle and pedestrian accessibility. Over the longer term, Oyster Creek Trail could be connected over Highway 6 to a greater citywide trail system following the power line easement (as set out in the City's 2013 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan).

Beyond improving access, there are additional opportunities that could be considered to improve the park, including adding a playground or splash pad, adding more shade trees to the parking area and open spaces, creating additional picnicking areas, periodically updating on-site art exhibits, monitoring and enforcing unsanctioned fitness classes, and re-establishing a concert series or special event(s). The quality and use of ADA parking spaces could be evaluated to determine if additional accessibility is needed.

The landscaping throughout the entire park could also be improved. Due to the large amount of open space, the City could consider transitioning select areas in the park to more natural, less maintained areas to improve the overall aesthetic character of the park and reduce maintenance costs. Oyster Creek could also be periodically cleaned to remove trash and debris, provide a healthy habitat for local wildlife and improve the appearance of the creek.



Water features provide opportunities for park users to relax in nature.



Public art enhances the quality of the park and differentiates it from other parks in the system.



Oyster Creek gives park users the ability to experience nature close to home.



A loop trail is enjoyed by both pedestrians and bicyclists.

## Detailed Park Profile: 65-Acre Community Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential
- Commercial

### Accessibility

The 65-Acre Community Park is a highly accessible historic undeveloped park located between the residential and commercial parts of the Telfair subdivision. It is bounded by, and has vehicular access from, Easton Avenue to the west and Chatham Avenue to the south. Both streets contain a six-foot sidewalk providing pedestrian connection to U.S. Highway 90A and University Boulevard. To the south, the park will have direct access to the Telfair subdivision trail system. To the north, it will be connected to the LID 17 Trail corridor which provides access underneath University Boulevard to the developing Ditch H Trail and the greater citywide trail system.

### Description

Currently, the 65-Acre Community Park consists of 65.4 acres of undeveloped land owned by the City. Additional abutting acreage is owned by the Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD).

Overall the park is relatively flat with few trees. An old prison cemetery is located on the west side of the site and is designated as a historic landmark. The north side of the site is bounded by the LID 17 drainage ditch.

The park was master planned and included in the 2013 bond election. While it was a close vote, it did not pass by less than 200 votes. In general, there was an expressed concern about the types, scale, and configuration of certain proposed amenities.



## Issues & Opportunities

Once the new park is developed, it will be classified as a community park. This means that it will need to provide larger community-scale recreational facilities and amenities serving the larger City, but it will also help to provide neighborhood-scale amenities to the abutting Telfair subdivision.

In the redesign of the master plan for this park, greater attention will need to be placed on determining the highest and best use of the area. Preliminary feedback from the overall citywide survey indicates greatest demand for picnic shelters, pavilions, and restrooms; internal and external bicycle and pedestrian connectivity; protection of the historic cemetery; playscapes and spray grounds, unprogrammed open space; public art; and soccer and cricket fields to serve both youth and adult needs.

This feedback provides an opportunity to develop a proposed plan of action that combines both active and passive recreation facilities and amenities, maximizing the potential of the existing historic cemetery and providing both internal and external connectivity in and from the park to the greater region. Since the site is largely devoid of tree canopy (and shade opportunities), the proposed redesign should include a robust tree planting plan and designated areas of open space and natural areas (e.g., minimally maintained wildflower meadows). This could decrease maintenance costs (by removing areas of the park from weekly maintenance), improve the plant and wildlife ecosystem, and improve the visual appeal of the overall park.

One major constraint that needs to be considered in the development of this property is the proximity to the Sugar Land Regional Airport. The airport is located directly to the north of this property, across Highway 90. Since the site is directly in the flight path, limitations exist on the height of the structures that can be placed on this property.

Moving forward, the 65-Acre Community Park could benefit from a redesigned master plan. Most likely, the proposed park amenities will be taken back to voters during the next bond election.



A historic cemetery provides an opportunity to add an educational element about the history of the area as part of the new park design.



Existing landscaping is located on the southwest corner of the site near the pedestrian crosswalk.



A drainage area adds topography and provides potential connection to the greater Sugar Land citywide trail system.



Few trees currently exist on the site which gives the opportunity for additional shade to be provided.

## Detailed Park Profile: Mesquite Park

### Surrounding Uses

- Single-family residential

### Accessibility

Mesquite Park is located in the Settlers Park subdivision. It is bounded by Mesquite Drive to the east, residential houses to the north and south, and a drainage ditch to the west. There is an opportunity for on-street vehicular parking, although most access to this park is from bicyclists and pedestrians from the immediate neighborhood. A spur internal loop trail provides access to the abutting drainage channel, but there is no formal trail along the east side of the drainage channel, directly adjacent to the park. Although the hard surfaced Mesquite Park Trail is located on the west side of the drainage channel, there is no current connection available.

### Description

Mesquite Park is a 2.4-acre neighborhood park acquired from an HOA in 2005. There are several large trees on the west side of the site which shade the playscape and trail from the hot western sun during the summer months. The playscape includes several swings, two slides, and climbing structures.

A small internal loop trail frames the playscape area and is encompassed by a slightly larger internal loop trail near the perimeter of the park. There are a few shaded benches located along the trail.

### Amenities



## Issues & Opportunities

There are several opportunities for improvements to this park. Due to its age and condition, within the next three to five years the existing playscape equipment should be replaced. This creates an opportunity to upgrade the fall surface and to develop an accessible playground for all children to enjoy. Additional playscape enhancements, such as a shade structure, would also improve usability of the amenity. The sidewalks could also be improved to provide safe accessibility throughout the park for all users.

Another opportunity is proximity to the drainage channel that runs along the west side of the park. In the absence of developing a new trail along the park side of the channel, a pedestrian and bicycle bridge could be added to improve access to this park from the single-family residences on the far west side of the channel. This bridge would also provide the opportunity for residents on the park side of the channel to access the existing Mesquite Park Trail.

Other improvement opportunities in the park could include the addition of more benches around the internal loop trails and near the playscape, a protective barrier between the playscape area and the street, adding a park entrance monument sign with landscaping, enhanced lighting, and the addition of amenities that serve an older age group (e.g., a half-court basketball area). Finally, additional areas near the perimeter of the park could be transitioned to mulched beds with more trees, shrubs, and ground covers. In this regard, it would provide better screening between the more active uses in the park and the adjacent residential houses, and lessen maintenance time and costs by removing areas from weekly maintenance.



An existing internal trail loops around this park between several large shade trees.



The playground equipment and fall surface should be updated in the next three to five years.



Existing shaded benches provide seating for users near the playground area.



An existing drainage channel runs along the west side of the park.

## Recreation

During the 2005 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROSMP) planning process, it was identified that there was an immediate need for 50,000 square feet of indoor recreation space. This was based on a national standard target level of service of 1.0 square foot of indoor space per citizen. To meet the community need, City leadership wanted to take a balanced approach to the provision of recreation in order to best serve residents' needs. In other words, they wanted to fulfill the existing need without duplicating what was already being provided by the area's HOAs and private businesses.

Today, Sugar Land residents are provided a wide variety of recreational opportunities provided by the City, independent athletic leagues, HOAs, schools, and private businesses.

### City Recreation

The City's provision of recreational offerings has expanded over the past decade, but still holds true to the original intent of providing a balanced approach. This means that the City focuses on providing high quality recreational facilities and programs without duplicating what is already being adequately provided by others. Recreational programming is largely provided by the City out of two venues, the Imperial Park Recreation Center and the T.E. Harman Senior Center. However, some classes are also held in meeting rooms at First Colony Park, Eldridge Park, and Lost Creek Park.

#### [Imperial Park Recreation Center](#)

The Imperial Park Recreation Center was established in 2011 as a high priority implementation action stemming from the 1999 Bond Election and 2005 PROSMP. It consists of more than 17,000 square feet of recreation space including a full gymnasium, an exercise room, two multipurpose rooms, video game room, a kitchen, and a beautiful patio/garden. It is located at 234 Matlage Way in Imperial Park and is named after the Imperial Sugar Mill located nearby.

*"Times will  
change and we  
must make room for  
progress."*

*-T.E. Harman  
(1st mayor of Sugar  
Land)*



The Sugar Land Imperial Park Recreation Center was established in 2011 and consists of more than 17,000 square feet of recreation space.

Currently, the facility is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. A facility usage card is required to participate in recreation activities, including leagues, classes, and special programs. In 2017, annual rates are set at \$10 for residents (residency is specified as within the current corporate annexed limits of the City), \$58 for non-residents, and children ages 10 and younger are free.

Since opening in 2011, membership at the Imperial Park Recreation Center initially significantly increased (up 27% overall during the second year of operation) and then leveled off with a slight decrease in membership over the next several years (see Table 3.6, *Imperial Park Recreation Center Membership Numbers (2011-2016)*). In 2016, resident numbers continued to decrease slightly (down 7% from 2015) but the overall memberships were still greater than in 2011 (up 19% since the facility opened).

**Table 3.6, Imperial Park Recreation Center Membership Numbers (2011-2016)**

YEAR	# OF RESIDENT MEMBERSHIPS	# OF NON-RESIDENT MEMBERSHIPS	TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS	% RESIDENT CHANGE	% NON-RESIDENT CHANGE	% CHANGE
2011	1,348	348	1,696			
2012	1,574	582	2,156	17%	67%	27%
2013	1,697	557	2,254	8%	-4%	5%
2014	1,669	560	2,229	-2%	1%	-1%
2015	1,629	502	2,131	-2%	-10%	-4%
2016	1,516	506	2,022	-7%	1%	-5%
			<b>6 YEAR GROWTH</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>19%</b>

In previous years, those who were only interested in participating in a select few number of activities were able to access the Recreation Center using day passes. Day pass registration numbers from 2011 to 2016 can be seen in Table 3.7, *Imperial Park Recreation Center Day Passes (2011-2016)*. As of 2017, the City has decided to eliminate this program.

Recreational program offerings have also changed since the facility opened. Currently, the City's program offerings consist of a series of classes from martial arts to dance to basketball and volleyball (see Table 3.8, *Imperial Park Recreational Program Offerings (2012-2016)*, on the next full page of text).

In some cases, certain programs have increased exponentially. For example, Tae Kwon Do attendance has grown approximately 215 percent over the past five years (from 175 students in 2012 to 551 students in 2016). Some of this growth may be attributed to students moving from the Karate class (down 79% since 2012) to the Tae Kwon Do class and the addition of a new Judo Self Defense class which started in 2016. Dance and fitness classes have also seen significant increases in attendance, with the Line Dance class and the Restore the Core class increasing approximately 124 and 54 percent respectively (see Table 3.8, *Imperial Park Recreational Program Offerings (2012-2016)*).

**Table 3.7, Imperial Park Recreation Center Day Passes (2011-2016)**

YEAR	# OF DAY PASSES ISSUED	% CHANGE
2011	738	-
2012	2,771	275%
2013	2,647	-4%
2014	3,622	37%
2015	4,427	22%
2016	3,879	-12%



Fitness classes, like Restore the Core, have grown 54 percent in attendance since the facility opened in 2011.

Athletic league and camps have also seen significant increases in attendance over the past five years. For example, The Fall basketball league has grown over 80 percent since 2012. Similarly, both the basketball camps and volleyball camps/league attendance have each grown 63 percent since 2012.

Despite participation increases in some programs, certain classes have seen declining attendance, and some have been discontinued. For example, attendance at special events at the Imperial Park Recreation Center has seen a 38 percent decrease in attendance since 2012. Spring 3on3 Bball was added in 2014, and while still a strong program, has seen a 36 percent decrease in participation over the past three years. The Pitch, Hit, Run Event had seen varying attendance levels over the years and was discontinued after the 2014 program.

Moving forward, the City will need to do a better job advertising the Imperial Park Recreation Center, as many people do not even know it exists and it is the only non-private gym in the City. Previously, the City used to contract out an informational brochure (three times a year) about the facility. Program participation rates were highest at this point.

Additionally, the current capacity of the fitness room (only 26 people) is limiting. Consequently, programs are held at additional locations (e.g., Jazzercise holds 28 classes at the First Colony Recreation Center and only five classes at the Imperial Park Recreation Center) and other programs cannot expand (e.g., Zumba instructors would like to add a kids class). Finally, there has been a consistent call from Recreation Center customers for fitness equipment over the last five years. The greatest requests have been for a cardio weight room (1,225 requests), a pool (457 requests), and a track (114 requests) (see also Table 2.2, *Recreation Center Amenity Requests* in Chapter 2).



Adult leisure classes (e.g., Line Dancing) have seen significant increases in attendance over the past five years.

**Table 3.8, Imperial Park Recreational Program Offerings (2012-2016)**

PROGRAM TYPE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% CHANGE (2012-2016)
Tae Kwon Do	175	414	589	650	551	215%
Tai Chi	164	199	204	240	147	-10%
Special Events	128	205	156	186	80	-38%
Judo Self Defense	-	-	-	-	100	-
Karate	345	242	148	126	72	-79%
Line Dance	37	118	185	127	83	124%
Restore the Core	37	74	54	77	57	54%
Zumba	288	332	317	422	259	-10%
Day Camp	1,195	1,174	1,279	1,456	1,133	-5%
Basketball Camps	256	248	262	398	416	63%
Volleyball Camps/League	60	116	123	127	98	63%
Spring Basketball League	88	136	12	196	158	80%
Summer Basketball League	-	175	165	185	-	6%
Fall Basketball League	100	143	176	192	180	80%
Disc Golf Event	72	76	78	81	89	24%
Spring 3on3 Bball	-	-	162	126	104	-36%
Pitch, Hit, Run Event	46	20	42	-	-	-9%
Skate Jam- City Park	-	64	83	105	75	17%
Badminton Tour	-	-	-	52	-	-
Summer 3on3 Bball	-	-	-	-	144	-

T.E. Harman Senior Center

The T.E. Harman Senior Center was established in the 1980s and underwent a full renovation and remodel in 2011. It serves Sugar Land’s senior adult population, ages 50 and up, and primarily consists of social amenities (e.g., pool and shuffleboard tables, board games, etc.) and group activities (e.g., teaching kitchen; exercise, fitness, dance, knitting, crocheting, jewelry, and art classes). It also provides seniors with a place to enjoy coffee, tea, and hot chocolate; puzzles, kindles, books, and magazines; as well as day and overnight trips. It is located at 226 Matlage Way in Imperial Park and is named after T.E. Harman who was the first elected Mayor of Sugar Land back in 1959.

Currently, the facility is open Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and is closed on both Saturday and Sunday. It can also be reserved for private events outside of normal operating hours. Participation in classes and activities at the Center requires an annual membership fee of \$10 for residents (residency is specified as within the current corporate annexed limits of the City) and \$58 for non-residents. Beyond an annual membership, registration is required for all classes and must be renewed per class each month. Special events (e.g., field trips) require an additional fee.

Since 2011, membership at the T.E. Harman Senior Center has continually increased. Membership has consistently grown each year, with the greatest overall growth being from non-resident memberships (up 305% since 2011) (see Table 3.9, *T.E. Harman Senior Center Membership Numbers (2011-2016)*). That being said, residents still make up the majority of memberships (nearly 70%).

Attendance at senior programs has also seen significant increases over the past several years. Currently, the City’s senior program offerings consist of a series of classes from arts and crafts, to board games/games, dance classes, health and fitness classes, language

**Table 3.9, T.E. Harman Senior Center Membership Numbers (2011-2016)**

YEAR	# OF RESIDENT MEMBERSHIPS	# OF NON-RESIDENT MEMBERSHIPS	TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS	% RESIDENT CHANGE	% NON-RESIDENT CHANGE	% CHANGE
2011	363	133	529			
2012	518	205	755	43%	54%	43%
2013	602	267	908	16%	30%	20%
2014	731	324	1,080	21%	21%	19%
2015	1,010	375	1,423	38%	16%	32%
2016	1,254	538	1,792	24%	43%	26%
			<b>6 YEAR GROWTH</b>	<b>245%</b>	<b>305%</b>	<b>239%</b>



Fitness classes at the T.E. Harman Center serve Sugar Land's senior population and provide opportunity for social gathering and physical fitness.

classes, trips, and other special events and activities (see Table 3.10, *T.E. Harman Senior Center Recreational Program Offerings (2012-2016)*).

In almost every case, senior program participation has increased exponentially. The arts and crafts and board games/games programs have seen the greatest percentage of growth, both increasing by at least 1,200 percent (1,228% and 1,200%, respectively) over the past five years. Similarly, other programs have seen significant growth over the past five years, including participation rates for language classes (487% growth), and special activities (424% growth). While only growing 46 percent over the past five years, health and fitness programs serve the greatest number of seniors, by far (over 11,500 participants in 2016).

In total, memberships have grown from about 500 to nearly 1,800 and the number of participants in T.E. Harman Senior Center programs has doubled from about 10,000 to over 20,000 over the past five years. Much of this growth includes programs which occur during the early morning and mid-afternoon time frame. In many cases, this results in overcrowded conditions for certain programs. As Sugar Land’s population continues to age, additional resources for senior programs and space will be warranted. At a minimum this will warrant additional staffing to maintain and/or expand the current program offerings. This could also include expansion of the existing senior center or the addition of a new one.

*On average, usage of programs at the T.E. Harman Senior Center has doubled over the past five years.*

**Table 3.10, T.E. Harman Senior Center Recreational Program Offerings (2012-2016)**

PROGRAM TYPE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% CHANGE (2012-2016)
Arts & Crafts	83	1,112	1,259	1,407	1,102	1228%
Board Games/Games	40	526	383	412	520	1200%
Dances	529	872	1,086	1,141	859	62%
Health & Fitness	7,883	8,925	11,824	13,982	11,529	46%
Language	62	156	344	398	364	487%
Special Activities	915	4,120	4,959	5,932	4,798	424%
Special Events	-	-	734	634	1,281	75%
Special Interests	-	85	403	572	242	185%
Trips	195	214	232	359	456	134%

Additional issues that need to be addressed include consideration of raising membership fees (only \$10 per year for City residents) or requiring program fees (to reduce overcrowding and no-shows), requiring participants to sign up for classes a week in advance (deemed problematic by seniors), and whether instructors should be paid. Currently, instructors are volunteers and, as such, serve at will. In many cases, this has resulted in frequent last minute cancellation of classes.

## Events

The City's Parks and Recreation Department also sponsors and supports a series of special events in parks and in other areas throughout the City. These events are widely attended by residents and many others throughout the region. They directly contribute to the quality of life within Sugar Land and are a component of the City's overall economic development efforts.

There are countless smaller special events and activities sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, including ribbon cuttings, ground breakings, and other ceremonial activities. While these are extremely important to the City, a few larger, signature events generally account for the largest share of attendance in the City. These larger events include the following:

- **Cultural Kite Festival.** The Cultural Kite Festival is the first large special event held in Sugar Land each year. It is held at the newly established Festival Site in Brazos River Park and includes a kite contest, chalk art contest, cultural performances, kite-making workshops, and cultural food and beverages. The event is open to the public and free, with food and beverages available for purchase. In 2017, it was the ninth time this event has been held.
- **EGGStravaganza.** The EGGStravaganza Egg Hunt is an Easter season event held annually at Eldridge Park. It includes egg hunts, carnival games, a petting zoo, pictures with the Easter Bunny (for the first 200 families), and more. The event is open to the public and free, with food and beverages available for purchase. In 2017, it was the 33rd time this event has been held.
- **Memorial Day Ceremony.** The Memorial Day Ceremony is an annual event held at Sugar Land Memorial Park. It is intended to honor the brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces for their selfless service. The event includes patriotic music, educational and commemorative activities, on-site military exhibits, and a flag ceremony. The event is open to the public and free, with food and beverages available for purchase. In 2017, it was the ninth time this event has been held.
- **Star Spangled Spectacular.** The Star Spangled Spectacular is an annual event held at the Festival Site in Brazos River Park. The event is intended to celebrate America's birthday and includes patriotic music and entertainment, activity booths, and a grand fireworks finale. The event is open to the public and free, with food and beverages available for purchase. Over the event's 25 year history, it has also been held at Mercer Stadium, Oyster Creek Park, and Constellation Field.



Cultural  
Kite  
Festival



Eggstrava-  
ganza



Memorial  
Day  
Ceremony



Star  
Spangled  
Spectacular

- **Halloween Town.** Halloween Town is an annual event held in the Sugar Land Town Square at City Hall. The event includes a costume contest, special entertainment, activity stations, and a pumpkin patch. The event is open to the public and free, with food and beverages available for purchase. In 2017, it was the fourth time this event has been held.
- **Christmas Tree Lighting.** The Christmas Tree Lighting is an annual event held in the Sugar Land Town Square at City Hall. The event involves holiday crafts and activities, face painting, performances by local artists and choirs, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and culminates with the lighting of the 40-foot Christmas tree in the middle of the Town Square plaza. The event is open to the public and free, with food and beverages available for purchase.
- **New Year's Eve Celebration.** The New Year's Eve Celebration is an annual event also held in the Sugar Land Town Square at City Hall. The event includes a children's celebration, live music, walk around entertainment, activity booths, and a 3D midnight show with fireworks finale. The event is open to the public and free, with food and beverages available for purchase. The event had to be cancelled for FY17/18 due to budget constrains. The future of this event will be evaluated along with other events in a 2018 strategic project.

In summary, similar to recreation programs, attendance at special events has also seen significant increases over the past five years. The Cultural Kite Festival grew moderately over the past five years, but saw a doubling of attendance in 2016 (to almost 12,000 attendees); this was an increase in attendance of about 140 percent since 2012 (see Table 3.11, *Special Event Attendance (2012-2016)*, on the next page).

Similarly, attendance at the EGGStravaganza and Halloween Town events doubled in since 2012 (growing each to 10,000 participants). The City's New Year's Eve Celebration event also doubled in attendance since 2012, increasing by over 15,000 participants since 2015 and reaching over 50,000 people total.

The KidsFish event has also seen a great amount of growth since 2012 (400%). However, the event has now been transformed to a private organization with City support, and is no longer a City event.

Not surprisingly, the City has invested a lot of time, money, and effort in growing its tourism base through special events. As part of this growth, the City used voter approved bond money to expand Brazos River Park to create the 52-acre Festival Site that will accommodate multi-day music festivals, cultural celebrations, and large-scale events like the City's annual Fourth of July celebration. The site was completed in phases and opened in early 2017.



Halloween Town



Christmas Tree Lighting



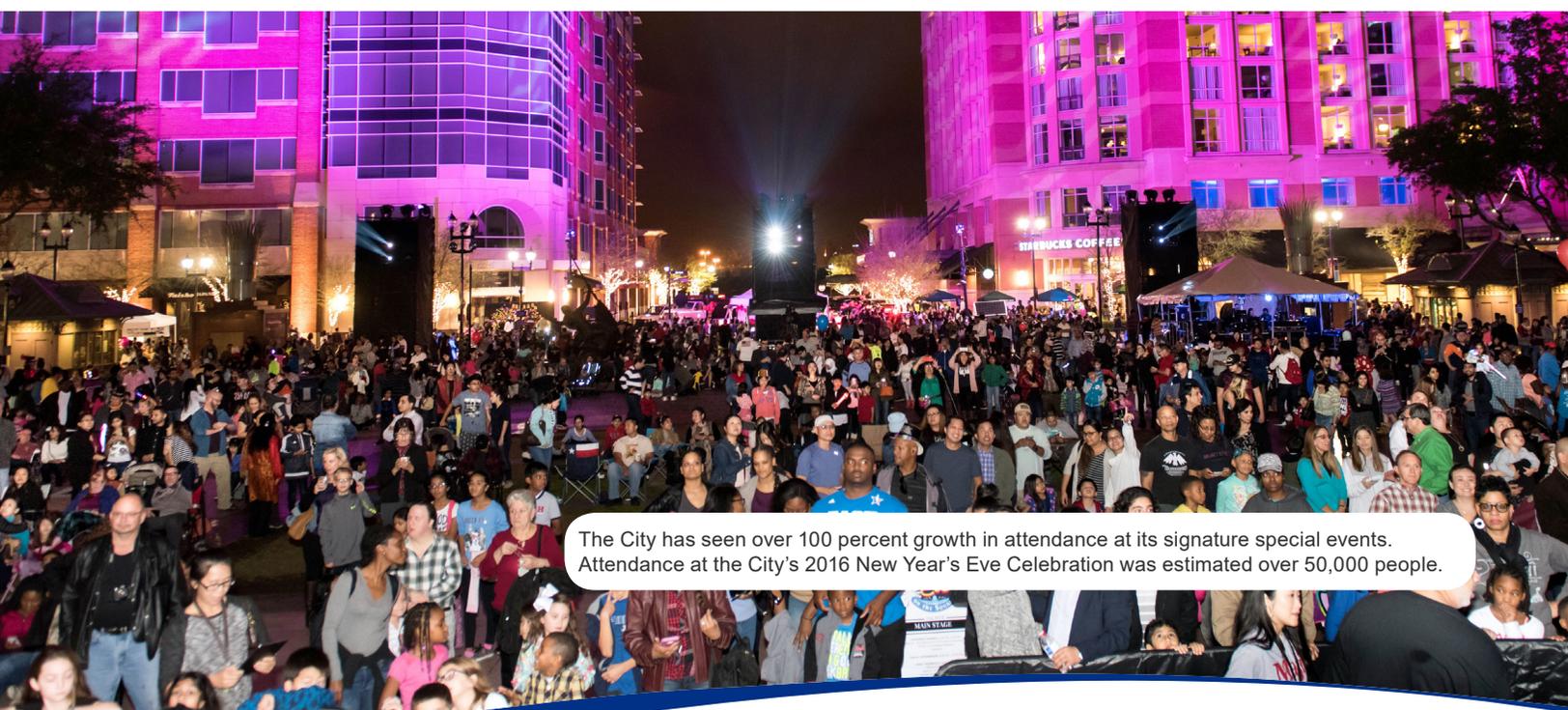
New Year's Eve

**Table 3.11, Special Event Estimated Attendance (2012-2016)**

EVENT / ESTIMATED # OF PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% CHANGE (2012-2016)
Cultural Kite Festival	5,000	5,000	6,000	6,000	12,000	140%
EGGStravaganza	5,000	5,000	8,000	8,000 to 10,000	10,000	100%
KidsFish	100	400	300	500+	500+	400%
Memorial Day Ceremony	500-700	700	1,200	1,200-1,500	Cancelled	114%
Star Spangled Spectacular	Event Created	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	stable
Halloween Town	10,000	10,000	10,000 to 12,000	Cancelled	18,000 to 20,000	100%
Christmas Tree Lighting	10,000	10,000	8,000	8,000 to 10,000	8,000 to 10,000	stable
New Year's Eve Celebration	25,000	30,000	30,000	35,000	50,000+	100%
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>55,800</b>	<b>71,100</b>	<b>75,500</b>	<b>73,000</b>	<b>112,500</b>	<b>102%</b>

Beyond internal special events, the City's Parks and Recreation Department serves as a liaison for other citywide community events such as the Wellness Expo, Employee Banquet, International Festival, Employee Day at Constellation Field, among many others.

A strategic project for 2018 will evaluate all City special events to determine ways to enhance events or determine if changes to events are desired.



The City has seen over 100 percent growth in attendance at its signature special events. Attendance at the City's 2016 New Year's Eve Celebration was estimated over 50,000 people.

## Independent Athletic Leagues

Nationally and throughout Texas, participation in organized athletics is changing. For some sports like youth baseball and football, participation is declining. For other sports like soccer and cricket, participation is increasing. In Sugar Land, much of the youth and adult organized athletic programs are being offered through independent athletic leagues. In this regard, the City’s primary involvement is as a field provider. Currently, independent athletic leagues are providing primary youth sport opportunities for youth baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, swimming, and tennis (see Table 3.12, *Independent League Associations*).

**Table 3.12, Independent League Associations**

ORGANIZATION	AGES	INFORMATION NUMBERS
<b>Youth Baseball Associations</b>		
First Colony Little League	5-12	www.fcll.net
Greater Sugar Land Pony / Colt Baseball	13-14	www.gslpony.com
Sugar Land Little League Baseball	5-16	www.slll.org
West Sugar Land Little League	5-16	www.wslll.com
<b>Youth Basketball Associations</b>		
First Colony Youth Basketball	5-7	www.fcyba.com
<b>Youth Football Associations</b>		
Sugar Land Cowboy Football	7-12	www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=sugarlandcowboys
Fort Bend Gridiron Football	7-12	www.fortbendgridironfootball.com
<b>Youth &amp; Adult Soccer Associations</b>		
Eclipse Soccer Club	4-19	www.eclipsesoccerclub.com
Fort Bend Adult Soccer Association	Over 20 (Men and Women)	www.fbasa.com
Fun, Fair, Positive Soccer	4-18	www.ffps.org
Sugar Land Soccer Club	4-18	www.sugarlandsoccer.org
New Territory Boys and Girl Soccer	Pre-K-8	www.newterritory.org
<b>Youth Softball Associations</b>		
Sugar Land Girls Softball Association	4-18	www.eteamz.active.com/slgsa
<b>Youth Swimming Associations</b>		
First Colony Swim Team	4-99	www.firstcolonyswimming.com
Sugar Land Sharks Swim Team	4-18	www.sugarlandsharks.org
Sugar Creek Gators Swim Team	4-18	www.scgators.com
Covington Woods Swim Team	4-18	cwstingrays.com/
<b>Tennis</b>		
National Jr. Tennis League *Beginner	8-14	
S.W. Jr. Team Tennis	9-18	
<b>Cricket</b>		
Sugar Land Youth Cricket Club	6-16	www.slycc.org

## HOA Recreation Facilities

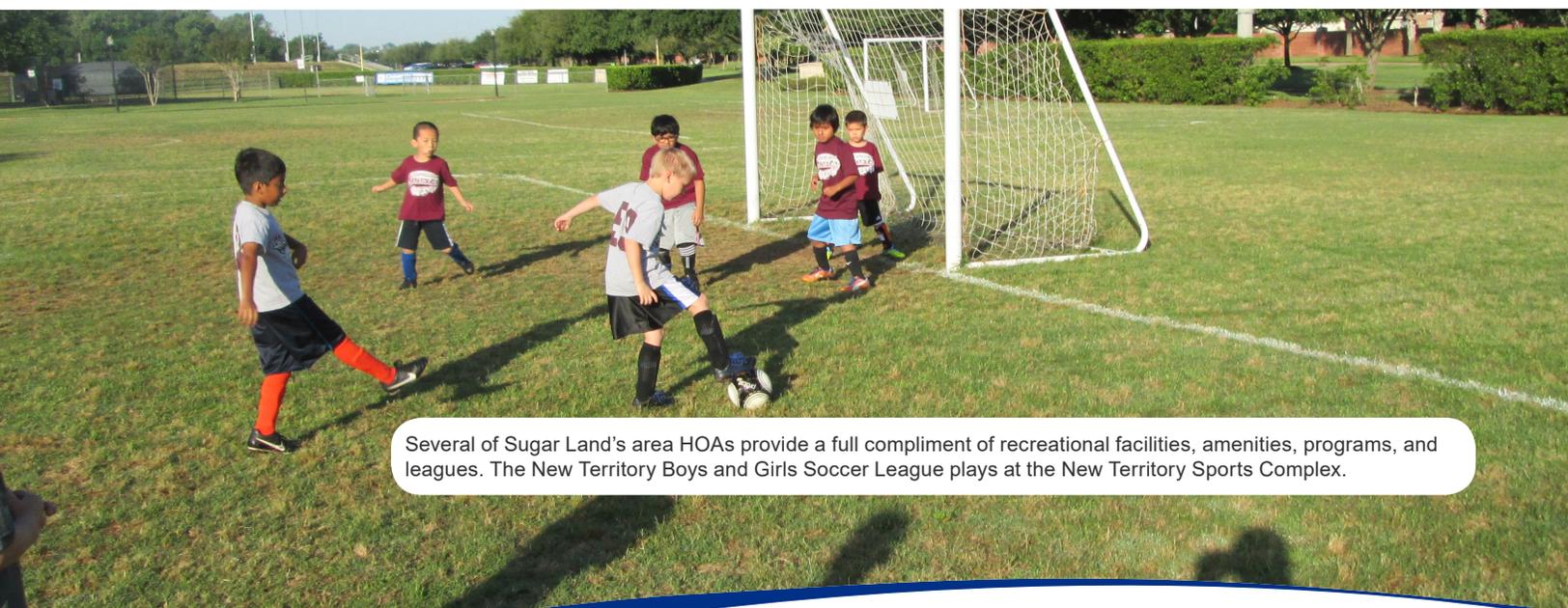
The provision of quality parks and recreation in Sugar Land is an essential element of what sets the City apart from all the other jurisdictions around it. One contributing factor to this is the amount of neighborhood park and recreation resources provided by the area's homeowner associations (HOAs). Many HOAs provide such things as quality neighborhood parks and pools; more easily accessible pocket parks; and in many cases, recreational centers and programs, sports complexes, and trail networks. In this regard, it allows the City to focus greater attention on larger scale community-serving parks and recreation resources.

From the standpoint of recreation, several HOAs provide a strong contingent of recreation resources serving youth, adults, and seniors. These include Avalon, Commonwealth, First Colony, Greatwood, New Territory, River Park, Riverstone, Sugar Lake, Telfair, Covington Woods, and Park Point. See Table C-1, *HOA Existing Recreation Facilities*, in Appendix C, for a full summary of HOA existing recreational facilities which serve both City residents and those within the City's ETJ.

By way of example, New Territory's HOA manages one clubhouse, four swimming pools, one splashpad, tennis courts, an entire sports complex, and a community-wide trail system. In addition, it owns and operates a full compliment of community-, neighborhood-, and pocket park-scale park facilities. It also has a total of four recreation centers, with the largest being a centrally-located 18,000-square-foot facility which includes a tennis pro shop, a full size gymnasium, weight/fitness room, locker rooms, and meeting/multi-purpose rooms. Similar to the City's recreation center, the facility is open to the general public, although HOA residents receive a discounted rate over non-HOA. Recreational offerings include a variety of cardio classes, yoga, boot camp, zumba, pilates, open gym (for basketball, volleyball, badminton), and more. The HOA even manages its own recreational leagues.



Greatwood  
Recreation  
Center



Several of Sugar Land's area HOAs provide a full compliment of recreational facilities, amenities, programs, and leagues. The New Territory Boys and Girls Soccer League plays at the New Territory Sports Complex.

## Public Schools

Throughout Texas and the country, schools also oftentimes contribute to a City's overall parks and recreation offerings. In Sugar Land, these additional resources are being provided by both Fort Bend Independent School District (ISD) and Lamar Consolidated ISD.

For the most part, these additional resources are being provided by area elementary schools. In the Lamar Consolidated ISD, both Bess Campbell and Susanna Dickinson Elementary Schools provide playgrounds, basketball courts, baseball fields, and other recreational amenities. Similarly, 11 elementary schools in Fort Bend ISD provide the same types of recreational facilities. While these facilities are typically not available during school operating hours, they do generally allow the general public access otherwise. See Table C-2, *Existing Public School Recreation Facilities*, in Appendix C, for a full summary of existing public school recreational facilities which serve both City residents and those within the City's ETJ.

In Sugar Land, Fort Bend ISD also provides additional recreational facility offerings as part of their middle and high schools. In particular, there are two high schools and four middle schools which provide similar facilities as elementary schools, while offering additional facilities as well, including tennis courts, a greater breadth of baseball and softball fields, football fields, running tracks, natatoriums, and more. For middle and high schools, the facilities may or may not be open to the public, depending on the school.

While they don't completely meet recreational needs, all of these school facilities help to supplement the City's recreational provisions for Sugar Land's youth. Certain facilities (e.g., running tracks) provide recreational resources for adults and seniors as well.

## Private Schools

Private schools also provide some recreational offerings to City residents, including childcare services and oftentimes a playscape. Different from public schools, however, these facilities are typically not open to the public even outside of normal school operating hours. Larger schools, such as the Honor Roll School off of Sweetwater Boulevard, offer a full compliment of recreational facilities and programs including basketball, volleyball, soccer, among others. See Table C-3, *Existing Private School Recreation Facilities*, in Appendix C, for a full summary of existing private school recreational facilities which serve both City residents and those within the City's ETJ.

## Churches

Churches also provide some recreational facilities and programs. These oftentimes include playscapes, basketball courts, and limited sports fields. One such facility is the Sugar Land First United Methodist Church which has a gymnasium and offers faith-based youth and adult basketball and volleyball, and summer youth camps. Another facility is the St. Laurence Catholic Church which has a gymnasium and open volleyball courts.

Sometimes, churches offer unique amenities not offered elsewhere. For example, the Sugar Creek Baptist Church has a large indoor playscape located within its facility. Throughout the year, it is open to the public on a varying schedule. See Table C-4, *Existing Church Recreation Facilities*, in Appendix C, for a full summary of existing church recreational facilities provided by churches which serve both City residents and those within the City's ETJ.



The Sugar Creek Baptist Church in Sugar Land offers a large 30 element indoor playscape from foam animals to a Gator Pit to the two-story slide. It is free and open to the public at various times throughout the year. It is also available for party rentals.

Photo courtesy: <http://thinklittle.com>

### Private Business

Private businesses provide a significant amount of recreational offerings in Sugar Land. This is typical for most larger cities. However, in Sugar Land, the provision of privately provided recreational offerings was front and center during early discussions and decisions related to the establishment of the City’s only recreation center. Indeed, when the Imperial Park Recreation Center was under consideration, City leadership requested that it not compete with similar private recreation offerings. This philosophy still carries forth today. The key is understanding what is being provided by private business and then filling in the gaps.

To accomplish this, City staff conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the private business offerings in and around Sugar Land. Information was compiled for various recreational categories, including music and art, yoga, dancing, private fitness and gymnasiums, martial arts, entertainment and events, golf courses, and a catch-all miscellaneous category. Each program was evaluated to identify which age group it served (i.e., youth, adults, and/or seniors). See Table C-5, *Private Business Recreation Offerings*, in Appendix C, for a full summary of existing private business recreational offerings which serve both City residents and those within the City’s ETJ.

In some cases, it is clear that private businesses are comprehensively providing recreational offerings for music and art, yoga, private fitness and gymnasiums for all age groups. To the contrary, there are opportunities for the City to provide additional programming for adult and senior dancing, martial arts, as well as for miscellaneous program activities (see Table 3.13, *Existing Business Recreational Offerings Summary*).

In this regard, the City can provide additional programming in those areas which are not fully being provided by private business, and in some cases, provide entry level programs for residents to affordably try certain program types (e.g., youth martial arts, adult cardio fitness and weight training, etc.).



Photo courtesy: <http://cdn2.sportingin.com>

Even though cardio fitness and weight equipment are adequately provided by private business (e.g., Lifetime Fitness), there is opportunity for the City to provide cost-effective facilities and equipment for those who would like to start a fitness program at a low cost to see if they would or could progress to a full service fitness provider.

**Table 3.13, Existing Business Recreational Offerings Summary**

PROGRAM TYPE	AGE GROUP		
	YOUTH	ADULTS	SENIORS
Music and Art	●	●	●
Yoga	●	●	●
Dancing	●	◐	○
Private Fitness & Gymnasium	●	●	●
Martial Arts	●	●	○
Entertainment and Events	●	●	◐
Miscellaneous	●	●	◐

● = program offerings adequate | ◐ = program offerings could be improved | ○ = programs not sufficiently being provided

## Volunteerism

While parks are well known as a gathering place for active and passive recreation activities and programs, they are also a social gathering place for City residents. In this regard, parks provide significant opportunities for social interaction and community building and enhancement. One of the ways this occurs is through City sponsored volunteering events. Some of the more prominent volunteer projects in Sugar Land include:

- **Adopt-A-Spot Program.** The Keep Sugar Land Beautiful (KSLB) Adopt-A-Spot Program creates an opportunity to engage community residents, businesses, and other organized groups to show pride in Sugar Land by volunteering to adopt a public area for the purpose of litter reduction and beautification. Volunteers groups agree to a minimum of one clean-up per quarter annually. Youth groups are required to have a minimum of one adult chaperone for every 10 youths. After each clean-up, groups are required to submit a summary report. Currently, KSLB administers 23 Adopt-A-Spot programs in partnership with the City of Sugar Land. Many of these are located within City parks.
- **Trees Across Sugar Land.** Another volunteer program that benefits City parks is the Trees Across Sugar Land event. This annual event is sponsored by KSLB. The annual event started in 2007 with the development of Sugar Land Memorial Park. The tree planting has included seedlings and five-gallon native hardwood trees for reforestation. 2017 was the seventh time this event was held.



Sugar Land residents, businesses, and other volunteer groups often participate in volunteer events (e.g., this 2016 volunteer planting event at Sugar Land Memorial Park).

- **Eagle Scout Projects.** The City encourages Sugar Land Boy and Girl Scout volunteer projects (for scouts 14 to 18 years of age) in City parks. An official program was established to allow scouts to take responsibility for the project. While it is up to the individual scout to propose a project, staff from the Parks and Recreation Department identify various park projects which could be good prospects for scout consideration. In 2017, some of these include establishing trail markers, trail maps, bat boxes, a trail bridge, and more for Cullinan Park; various trail construction and maintenance projects; fence reconstruction; among many more.
- **Tree City USA.** Sugar Land is one of only 85 communities in Texas recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA community. To be recognized, a city must meet four criteria, including having an established tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, a community forestry program with annual expenditures of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. Sugar Land has been recognized as a Tree City USA community for the past five years.
- **Memorial Tree, Bench, and Paver Program.** The City's Parks and Recreation Department established a Memorial Tree, Bench, and Paver Program for those who want to honor or remember a loved one while at the same time contributing to the long-term beauty of the park system.

### Parkland Dedication

Although the City is nearing its build-out capacity, there are still some areas available for new larger-scale residential developments. As such, it is still important to maintain the City's parkland dedication ordinance.

As currently configured, parkland acreage is required to be dedicated at a ratio of one acre per every 350 persons. Areas to be dedicated need to meet minimum standards for area, shape, and terrain so that they are suitable for intended park uses and have access to a public street. The highest priorities are for neighborhood park sites of at least 10 acres which are centrally located and accessible by foot. Additional incentives are provided to encourage joint school/park sites (i.e., public park area is reduced to five acres if the property is coordinated with adjacent school recreation facilities). Rather than acceptance of actual parkland, the City Council may elect to accept money as an alternative (i.e., fee in lieu) under certain conditions.

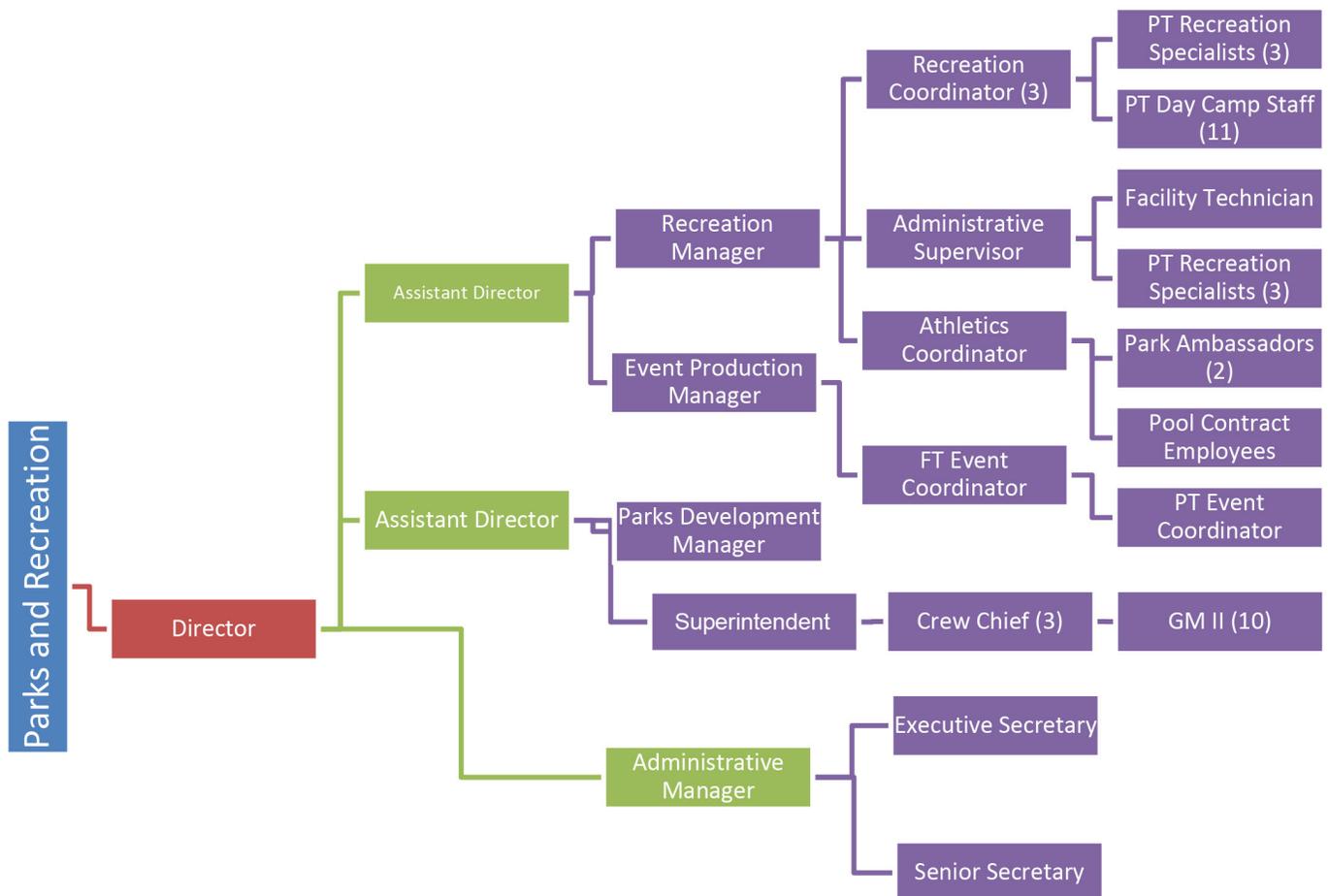
Development of a park site is intended to include such things as playgrounds, swimming pools, tennis courts, or similar recreational amenities. If the area has fulfilled the commitment for neighborhood park space, the City allows a 100 percent credit for the original cost of the improvements to the public park as money in lieu of land and shall allow a 50 percent credit for the original cost of the improvements to private parks as money in lieu of land. Although some feel that the City's parkland dedication provisions could be strengthened, the City has historically benefited from good long-range planning and developers who have pursued large master planned communities with high quality amenities.

## Parks and Recreation Department

Currently, there are three divisions within the Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department (PARC). They include Administration, Park Development and Operations, and Recreation/Special Events. These divisions are managed by two assistant directors and an administrative manager. The entire department is managed by a director (see Figure 3.3, *Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department Organization Chart*).

Historically, the City's PARC has provided excellent service, maintained superior facilities, and set the bar for the region. As additional facilities have been added and service levels increased, the City's PARC must grow concurrently. This is particularly true for the City's recent and projected exponential growth in providing signature community events; especially with the new Festival Site near opening. Moving forward, an evaluation of the budget for equipment, staffing, and other operating expenditures will be necessary.

**Figure 3.3, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department Organization Chart**



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