

Previous chapters of this Plan have captured the vision for Sugar Lands' parks, recreation, and open space by assessing the needs and preferences of the community and evaluating current conditions and levels of service. Chapter 5, *Recommendations for Tomorrow*, details what needs to be done to achieve the expressed community vision for the future.

This chapter prioritizes the action recommendations into an Implementation Action Plan that details the near-, mid-, and long-term path for moving forward. Though it determines the City's top priorities today, it also provides direction towards reaching its longer-term priorities. These longer-term priorities will most likely need additional prioritization and re-prioritization before implementation.

This chapter further provides an outline for Plan management. It contains recommendations for future Plan updates to ensure the projected vision for the parks and recreation system remains aligned with that of the Sugar Land community.

Finally, this chapter also provides possible funding recommendations and partnership opportunities to maximize the parks and recreation offerings provided in Sugar Land while best leveraging the City's resources.

Coordinated Implementation

A coordinated effort on part of the City and public leaders, such as residents, elected and appointed officials, and outside agencies, is vital to the successful implementation of Plan recommendations. This also includes the recognition that the City has a responsibility to partner with all local, state, and federal entities that can be of assistance in expanding and refining Sugar Land's parks, recreation, and open space system today and in the future. At a minimum, this includes:

- Sugar Land elected and appointed officials;
- City Administration and staff;
- PARCS Board;
- Sugar Land Legacy Foundation;
- Sugar Land Development Corporation;
- Sugar Land 4B Corporation;
- Fort Bend County;
- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT);
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD);
- Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD);
- Adult and youth athletic leagues;
- Abutting local municipalities (on projects that benefit both jurisdictions);
- Area land and business owners and the development community;
- Interested community volunteers and stakeholders; and
- Other affected agencies and entities.



The combination of Parks, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives departments provided strong inter-departmental oversight of this planning process and ensured that park initiatives were coordinated with other City priorities and projects.

An essential element needed for the success and cost-efficiency of implementing the projects recommended in this Plan is creating essential interdepartmental coordination. In this regard, coordinating improvement and work plans between departments (e.g., planning, water or wastewater projects, right-of-way acquisition, drainage improvement, etc.) will decrease total capital expenditures and speed up implementation.

Further, there is a synergistic relationship between high quality parks and trails, visible and accessible greenspace, and strong economic growth. Indeed high-quality, well-distributed and well-maintained parks, recreation, and trail amenities are indicative of economic prosperity and a high quality of life. This is important to the citizens of Sugar Land. But, it also contributes to attraction of new residents and businesses, thus providing possible new funding for parks and recreation through increased sales and property tax revenues.

To capitalize on this mutual relationship, it is highly suggested that the City's PARD continue to coordinate with the Sugar Land Development Corporation and other groups focused on the long-term economic prosperity of the City. These are mutually beneficial relationships that will continue to raise the quality of life for Sugar Lands' residents while supporting further economic development efforts to generate a sustainable, successful economy.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Compliance

One of the additional purposes of this Plan is to function as a parks, recreation, and open space master plan as defined by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). This is because "eligible" plans increase a city's competitiveness when applying for TPWD grant funding.



Reoccurring inter-division coordination between management, operations, programming, and others helps to ensure that the City's parks, recreation, and open space system runs effectively and efficiently and continues to set the bar in the region.

High Priority Needs

Top priorities for parks, recreation, open space, and trails, listed in Table 6.1, *Summary of High Priority Needs in Sugar Land*, are consistent with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) requirements. Priorities have been determined based on public feedback, needs assessments, site visits, and feedback from City staff and elected and appointed officials. An effective set of actions, informed by the recognized needs, have been recommended to improve quality of life in the community for purposes of grant applications. The identified priorities have been categorized into two lists: outdoor facilities/amenities and indoor facilities/amenities.

Table 6.1, Summary of High Priority Facility Needs in Sugar Land

<p>New or additional facilities needed based on <u>citizen input</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trails 2. Shade structures/trees 3. Indoor exercise and fitness facilities 4. Indoor swimming/aquatic center 5. Picnic facilities 	
<p>New or additional facilities needed based on <u>level of service</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recreation center 2. Picnic facilities 3. Splash pad 4. Disc golf (18-hole) 5. Basketball courts 	<p>New or additional facilities needed based on <u>existing condition</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgraded swimming pool 2. Shade structures/trees 3. Adult athletic fields 4. Upgraded, covered playscapes 5. Soccer/multipurpose fields for public use
<p>Top cumulative <u>outdoor facility</u> needs based on above summaries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trails 2. Shade structures/trees 3. Picnic facilities 4. Upgraded swimming pool 5. Adult athletic fields 6. Splash pad 7. Upgraded, covered playscapes 8. Soccer/multipurpose fields for public use 9. Disc golf (18-hole) 10. Basketball courts 	<p>Top cumulative <u>indoor facility</u> needs based on above summaries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Senior Center space 2. Recreation Center space 3. Indoor exercise and fitness facilities 4. Indoor swimming/aquatic center 5. Environmental Education Center

Prioritized Action Plan

Implementation Tools

Suggested actions address a wide range of items from recreational programming, to amenity improvements, improved resources, and higher level policies. Different implementation tools will be essential, based on the type of recommendation (see Figure 6.1, *Types of Implementation Tools*). There are limited kinds of implementation tools which help describe post-adoption actions taken by the City. These include:

- Policies;
- Capital investments;
- Non-capital investments;
- Operational changes;
- Regulatory changes; and
- Further studies.

Figure 6.1, Types of Implementation Tools



Prioritization

The actions of this PROSMP can be additionally defined into three stages of priorities (see Figure 6.2, *Levels of Priorities*). These include:

- High Priorities;
- Moderate Priorities; and
- Longer-Term Priorities.

Prioritization Criteria

Note that the prioritization presented in this Plan is intended to direct staff and Council actions, and any item may be started earlier than suggested if unique conditions or opportunities arise.

Prioritization is derived using the following criteria:

- Level of need created from community feedback (online survey results, stakeholder meetings, public open house, etc.);
- Level of need based on the needs assessment;
- Capacity of the City to fund implementation;
- Capacity of the City to maintain operations; and
- Site assessments of present park amenities in the City.

The City's high, moderate, and longer-term priorities are summarized in Table 6.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan*, beginning on page 220. Elements meeting most of the criteria were categorized as very high priority elements and are to have the highest level of attention over the following one to two years. High and moderate priorities are ranked while longer-term priorities remain unranked as they would be prioritized in future Plan updates.

Actions are listed by their title in Table 6.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan*. See Chapter 5, *Recommendations for Tomorrow*, for descriptions and further details of included elements for each action.

Figure 6.2, Levels of Priority



Prioritization Highlights

Actions addressing parks development, recreation, events, policies, and land acquisition have been recommended to improve and further develop the Sugar Land parks and recreation system. All of the recommended actions have been reviewed and prioritized within each Plan goal by the Sugar Land PARCS Board and City staff (see Table 6.2, *Prioritized Implementation Action Plan*, beginning on the following page). See Figure 6.3, *Top Priority Actions*, below for highlights of the highest priority actions within each goal.

Figure 6.3, Top Priority Actions

Destination Activity Center Actions

Priority Destination Activity Center actions included securing funding and moving forward with planning and development of key undeveloped parkland.

- Parks improvement bond election (65-Acre Community Park, Brazos River Park, Gannoway Lake Park, Imperial Park completion, City Park renovations, First Colony Park renovations)
- 65-Acre Community Park Master Plan and implementation
- Gannoway Lake Park additional land acquisition and implementation of park master plan

Outstanding Cultural Arts, Educational, and Recreational Opportunities Actions

Priority Outstanding Cultural Arts, Educational, and Recreational Opportunities actions included enhancing the cultural value of the City's parks, determining a strategy to provide additional senior recreation space, and diversifying funding for events.

- Additional public art in the parks system
- Seniors facility study
- Grow the sponsorship program

Great Neighborhood Actions

Priority Great Neighborhood actions included enhancing coordination and sharing of resources with the ISDs and homeowner associations and addressing parks and recreation needs in the Sugar Creek neighborhood.

- Update joint use policies with ISDs
- Increase coordination with homeowner associations
- Provide a neighborhood park in the Sugar Creek area

Environmentally Responsible Community Actions

Priority Environmentally Responsible Community actions included integrating recycling, enhanced environmental compatibility and sustainability into the parks system.

- Implement a recycling program in the parks and during events
- Develop environmentally compatible park design and equipment guidelines
- Partner with local advocates/volunteers to establish or enhance habitat and sustainability in parks and open space (example habitat or educational gardens, community gardens, reforestation, etc.)

Beautiful Community Actions

Priority Beautiful Community actions included naturalizing select park areas, increasing access to food, and providing additional monitoring of park activities.

- Beautify and naturalize select areas to reduce maintenance requirements and increase resiliency
- Provide increased food truck access in parks and at events
- Provide support for increased monitoring and enforcement of activities in parks

Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan

RANK	ACTION ID (PG. #)	ACTION	INITIATION TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-10+		
Destination Activity Center Actions							
1	1.3.1 (pg. 182)	Consider approaching the citizens with a bond election to fund identified larger-scale capital improvements for Brazos River Park, the 65-Acre Community Park, Gannoway Lake Park, Imperial Park, City Park, and First Colony Park. 	■			\$100,000 (Budget to hold bond election)	Public Education
2	1.2.3 (pg. 180)	Prepare a revised master plan for the 65-Acre Community Park to include family-friendly, passive (e.g., trails) and active (e.g., athletic fields) recreation amenities supported by the community. 	■			\$75,000 - \$100,000	Study / Capital Investment
3	1.2.2 (pg. 178)	Continue to pursue land acquisition adjacent to Gannoway Lake Park and implement the Gannoway Lake Park Master Plan. 	■			Land donation	Capital Investment
4	1.3.3 (pg. 183)	Evaluate and pursue public-private partnerships for development of parks and recreation facilities. 	■			By Staff	Study / Operational Change
5	1.1.3 (pg. 171)	Prepare a City Park Renovation Master Plan to address the need for maintenance, replacements, retrofits (e.g., adult softball field) and additional facilities (e.g., tennis courts). 	■			\$45,000	Study
6	1.1.1 (pg. 169)	Prepare an update to the Brazos River Corridor Master Plan. 	■			\$75,000 - \$125,000	Study / Capital Investment
7	1.3.4 (pg. 184)	Evaluate and maximize opportunities for the development of revenue-generating amenities in the parks system. 	■			TBD	Study / Capital Investment
8	1.2.4 (pg. 181)	Evaluate opportunities to address facility deficiencies. 	■			\$50,000 - \$60,000	Study / Capital Investment

Project Types:

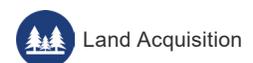


Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

RANK	ACTION ID (PG. #)	ACTION	INITIATION TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-10+		
9	1.1.7 (pg. 174)	Conduct a feasibility study for a high-quality rentable event space at Duhacsek Park. 	■			\$50,000 - \$75,000	Study
10	1.1.9 (pg. 176)	Evaluate feasibility of retrofitting existing athletic fields, or developing new fields, to meet the need for adult sports facilities. 	■			TBD	Capital Investment / Non-Capital Investment
11	1.3.2 (pg. 183)	Evaluate athletic league fees to ensure they are adequately offsetting costs. 	■			By Staff	Study / Policy
12	1.1.5 (pg. 172)	Continue implementation of the Cullinan Park Master Plan to make it a true regional destination park. 	■			\$5,000,000 - \$10,000,000 (private donations)	Capital Investment / Non-Capital Investment
13	1.1.8 (pg. 175)	Evaluate opportunities and implement improvements to Sugar Land Memorial Park. 		■		\$300,000 - \$350,000	Non-Capital Investment
14	1.1.2 (pg. 170)	Evaluate opportunities and implement improvements to Brazos River Park (Mid-lake and North Lake areas). 		■		\$3,000,000 - \$3,500,000	Capital Investment
15	1.1.4 (pg. 172)	Implement renovation improvements to City Park. 		■		Per Renovation Master Plan	Capital Investment / Non-Capital Investment
16	1.1.6 (pg. 173)	Evaluate opportunities to expand and improve Duhacsek Park. 		■		\$2,300,000 - \$3,000,000	Capital Investment / Non-Capital Investment
17	1.2.1 (pg. 178)	Continue to pursue land acquisition in the Brazos River corridor. 		■		Parkland Dedication or Market Value	Capital Investment
18	1.1.10 (pg. 176)	Develop a signage and wayfinding master plan with the Public Works Department to achieve a unified, creative, and unique Sugar Land parks signage and wayfinding system. 		■		\$15,000 - \$25,000	Study

Project Types:



Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

RANK	ACTION ID (PG. #)	ACTION	INITIATION TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-10+		
Outstanding Cultural Arts, Educational, and Recreational Opportunities Actions							
1	2.1.9 (pg. 191)	Pursue further additions of public art in the City's parks system to further define Sugar Land as a culturally engaging destination city. 	■			TBD	Non-Capital Investment
2	2.1.5 (pg. 190)	Perform a study of the T.E. Harman Senior Center facility to determine if it can be enlarged or expanded to increase space and programming opportunities. 	■			\$75,000 - \$100,000	Study / Capital Investment / Non-Capital Investment / Policy
3	2.3.8 (pg. 194)	Identify opportunities to grow the Sponsorship Program for special events. 	■			By Staff	Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment
4	2.1.1 (pg. 187)	Evaluate the feasibility of discontinuing non-resident memberships, as attendance increases and space decreases, in the City's recreation and senior centers. 	■			By Staff	Study / Operational Change / Policy
5	2.1.2 (pg. 188)	Review current program offerings at the recreation and senior centers to determine appropriate future programming to best meet demands and use of resources. 	■			By Staff	Study / Operational Change
6	2.3.10 (pg. 195)	Continue to evaluate additional opportunities for community events in the City's parks and event facilities. 	■			By Staff	Operational Change
7	2.1.7 (pg. 190)	Continue to support leagues and their economic impact on the City. 	■			By Staff	Policy
8	2.3.4 (pg. 193)	Evaluate the New Year's Eve special event. 	■			TBD	Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment

Project Types:

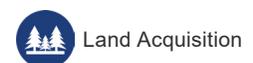


Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

RANK	ACTION ID (PG. #)	ACTION	INITIATION TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-10+		
9	2.1.4 (pg. 189)	Consider altering the Imperial Park Recreation Center membership fee structure to allow for greater revenue while still providing a cost-effective recreation option for users. 	■			By Staff	Study / Operational Change / Policy
10	2.3.1 (pg. 192)	Evaluate and implement opportunities to improve the iFest Live special event. 	■			TBD	Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment
11	2.3.3 (pg. 193)	Evaluate opportunities for the Star Spangled Spectacular special event. 	■			TBD	Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment
12	2.1.6 (pg. 190)	Identify opportunities to streamline the recreation reservation process. 	■			By Staff	Study / Operational Change
13	2.1.8 (pg. 191)	Initiate discussions with local youth sports leagues to reevaluate partnership responsibilities. 	■			By Staff	Policy / Operational Change
14	2.3.2 (pg. 193)	Evaluate opportunities and implement improvements to the Cultural Kite Festival special event. 	■			TBD	Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment
15	2.3.5 (pg. 194)	Evaluate opportunities and implement improvements to the Eggstravaganza special event. 	■			TBD	Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment
16	2.3.6 (pg. 194)	Evaluate opportunities and implement improvements to the Halloween Town special event. 	■			TBD	Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment
17	2.1.3 (pg. 188)	Evaluate opportunities to increase recreation space and improve amenities at the Imperial Park Recreation Center. 		■		TBD	Study / Capital Investment / Non-Capital Investment

Project Types:



Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

RANK	ACTION ID (PG. #)	ACTION	INITIATION TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-10+		
18	2.3.11 (pg. 195)	Evaluate the need for full- or part-time personnel or contracted services for special events.  		■		By Staff	Non-Capital Investment / Operational Change
19	2.1.10 (pg. 191)	Evaluate additional opportunities to increase multigenerational passive recreation amenities in existing and future City parks. 		■		TBD	Study / Capital Investment / Non-Capital Investment
20	2.1.11 (pg. 191)	Evaluate the need for additional recreational personnel as part of new development or expansion of the recreation and senior centers. 		■		By Staff	Non-Capital Investment / Operational Change
21	2.3.7 (pg. 194)	Consider adding additional special event programming to Oyster Creek Park. 		■		TBD	Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment
22	2.3.9 (pg. 195)	Consider adding special event programming to the Pawm Springs Dog Park. 		■		TBD	Operational Change
	2.2.1 (pg. 192)	Develop an Environmental Education Center. 			■	\$2,500,000 - \$3,500,000	Capital Investment
	2.2.2 (pg. 192)	Develop a Public/Botanic Garden. 			■	\$50,000 - \$75,000	Non-Capital Investment

Project Types:

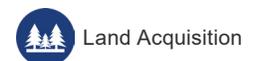


Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

RANK	ACTION ID (PG. #)	ACTION	INITIATION TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-10+		
Great Neighborhood Actions							
1	3.1.3 (pg. 197)	Evaluate and update joint use policies to strengthen the partnership between the City and ISDs. 	■			By Staff	Operational Change / Policy
2	3.1.1 (pg. 196)	Evaluate opportunities for increased communication and sharing of resources with the areas' homeowner associations. 	■			By Staff	Operational Change
3	3.3.3 (pg. 204)	Evaluate opportunities to add a new neighborhood-scale park in the Sugar Creek neighborhood. 	■			\$500,000 - \$750,000	Capital Investment
4	3.3.6 (pg. 206)	Update the City's Park Land Dedication ordinance. 	■			\$10,000	Study / Regulation / Policy
5	3.2.8 (pg. 202)	Develop and implement a phasing plan to upgrade playscapes for those in need of replacement. 	■			\$250,000 - \$350,000	Capital Investment
6	3.3.5 (pg. 205)	Evaluate opportunities to increase community-scale park facilities during master planning for regional parks. 	■			TBD	Study / Capital Investment
7	3.2.9 (pg. 203)	Evaluate each park in the system to increase the use of social gathering space and associated infrastructure for the Sugar Land community. 	■			TBD	Non-Capital Investment
8	3.3.2 (pg. 204)	Evaluate opportunities for land acquisition to meet community parkland needs for the Greatwood area. 	■			Donation or Market Value	Capital Investment

Project Types:



Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

RANK	ACTION ID (PG. #)	ACTION	INITIATION TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-10+		
9	3.3.4 (pg. 205)	Identify opportunities to cross-utilize existing City property for recreational facilities and programming.  	■			\$50,000 - \$75,000	Study / Capital Investment
10	3.2.2 (pg. 199)	Continue to implement the Imperial Park Master Plan. 		■		\$2,000,000 - \$2,500,000	Capital Investment / Non-Capital Investment
11	3.1.2 (pg. 196)	Evaluate opportunities to make Sugar Land parks more technologically engaging. 		■		TBD	Operational Change / Non-Capital Investment
12	3.2.5 (pg. 200)	Evaluate opportunities and implement improvements to Mesquite Park. 		■		\$500,000 - \$750,000	Non-Capital Investment
13	3.2.3 (pg. 200)	Evaluate opportunities and implement improvements to Lost Creek Park. 		■		\$1,500,000 - \$2,000,000	Capital Investment / Non-Capital Investment
14	3.2.1 (pg. 198)	Evaluate opportunities and implement improvements to First Colony Park. 		■		\$1,750,000 - \$2,000,000	Capital Investment / Non-Capital Investment
15	3.3.1 (pg. 204)	Evaluate opportunities for land acquisition in the southeastern portion of the City to help meet community parkland needs. 		■		Donation or Market Value	Capital Investment
16	3.2.6 (pg. 201)	Evaluate opportunities and implement improvements to Oyster Creek Park. 		■		\$750,000 - \$1,000,000	Capital Investment / Non-Capital Investment
17	3.2.7 (pg. 202)	Improve the Splash Pad at RiverPark. 		■		\$75,000 - \$100,000	Capital Investment
	3.2.4 (pg. 200)	Evaluate opportunities and implement historic elements to Mayfield Park. 			■	\$500,000 - \$1,000,000	Capital Investment / Non-Capital Investment

Project Types:

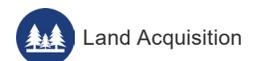


Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

RANK	ACTION ID (PG. #)	ACTION	INITIATION TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-10+		
Environmentally Responsible Community Actions							
1	4.1.2 (pg. 208)	Consider establishing and implementing a recycling program and associated amenities in the City's park system and during special events.  	■			TBD	Policy / Operational Change
2	4.1.1 (pg. 207)	Establish or expand existing park design and equipment guidelines to improve environmental compatibility. 		■		By Staff	Policy
3	4.1.3 (pg. 208)	Partner with local advocates/volunteers to establish or enhance habitat and sustainability in parks and open space.  		■		TBD	Policy / Non-Capital Investment
4	4.1.4 (pg. 208)	Evaluate design solutions to improve the resiliency of the canoe/kayak launch located underneath Highway 59/Interstate 69 along the Brazos River. 		■		\$150,000 - \$200,000	Capital Investment

Project Types:

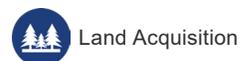
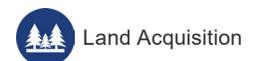


Table 6.2, Prioritized Implementation Action Plan (cont.)

RANK	ACTION ID (PG. #)	ACTION	INITIATION TIME FRAME			POTENTIAL COST RANGE	ACTION TYPE
			1-3	4-6	7-10+		
Beautiful Community Actions							
1	5.2.2 (pg. 212)	Evaluate opportunities for the beautification and naturalization of existing park areas to reduce continual long-term maintenance burdens on staff.  	■			TBD	Policy / Operational Change
2	5.1.2 (pg. 210)	Evaluate opportunities to increase food access and safety in parks and during special events.   	■			TBD	Policy / Operational Change
3	5.1.3 (pg. 210)	Consider additional operational support for the monitoring and enforcement of park activity.  	■			By Staff	Operational Change
4	5.2.1 (pg. 212)	Evaluate the need for additional maintenance personnel and resources.  	■			By Staff	Non-Capital Investment
5	5.1.6 (pg. 211)	Consider acquisition of additional equipment to increase efficiencies with regard to park maintenance operations. 	■			TBD	Capital Investment
6	5.1.1 (pg. 209)	Evaluate opportunities to create visually appealing park amenity areas, entrances, parking, and other publicly accessible areas at all City parks. 		■		TBD	Non-Capital Investment
7	5.1.4 (pg. 211)	Consider adding a park forester or horticulturist to improve the diversity and quality of the City's plant species. 		■		TBD	Operational Change
8	5.1.5 (pg. 211)	Consider upgrades to the City's park maintenance facilities. 		■		TBD	Non-Capital Investment

Project Types:



Plan Update

A long-term vision for the City, which contains a 10-year plan of prioritized implementation actions, was created during a vigorous community engagement process. If executed, the City will reach its desired future. Implementation by level of priority and importance guarantees that the City is responding incrementally to the public's needs and desires.

This, however, does not mean that this Plan will serve all needs and desires of the community for the entirety of the next 10 years. To the contrary, it is intended to stipulate direction for implementation actions prioritized in the near- and mid-term future. In this respect, the subsequent recommendations are proposed to keep this Plan current and up-to-date:

- **Yearly Progress Report and Update.** Preceding the beginning of the yearly budget process, City staff should organize and present a yearly progress report on the status of the actions acknowledged in the Prioritized Implementation Action Plan. Additionally, they should work with elected and appointed officials to decide which recommendations should move up in prioritization.
- **Five-Year Update.** While not required by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to continue qualification for grant funding, undertaking an official Plan update every five years helps the City to remain competitive in a very competitive grant process as TPWD sets a greater point value (through their grant funding evaluation) on submittals that exhibit a plan update has been completed in the last five years. Similar to the City's 2011 Plan update, it can be prepared and adopted in a short report format and attached as a PROSMP supplement.

Possible Funding Sources

Because funding is the predominant prerequisite essential to implement any of the recommended actions, this Plan identifies a series of possible funding sources which may be useful in achieving the recommended action items in the most cost effective way conceivable. Due to possible restrictions of funding, it is recommended to pursue external sources when possible. External sources include grants, partnerships with public agencies (e.g., FBISD, Sugar Land Development Corporation, Sugar Land Legacy Foundation, etc.), and partnerships with private entities. (see also Appendix F, *Potential Non-City-Generated Funding Sources*).

City Generated Funding Sources

General fund expenses (i.e., non-capital expenses) are generally used for enhancements or repairs to current parks and facilities. Typical general fund expenses are for smaller repair and replacement efforts.

[Municipal Bonds](#)

The most common means to fund park and open space projects is through debt financing through the issuance of municipal bonds. This type of funding is a strategy where a city issues a bond, accepts an immediate cash payment to finance projects, and must repay the bond with interest over a set period of time ranging from a couple of years to many decades. General obligation bonds – the most common form of municipal bond – are the main bond type for park and open space projects.

[Tax Increment Financing/Public Improvement Districts](#)

These linked tools allow a development district to divert a portion of its property taxes to fund infrastructure developments within its area. This can contain plazas, pocket parks, linear parks, and additional kinds of amenities.

[Electric Utility Partnerships](#)

This kind of partnership can be created for the purpose of providing and improving linear parks and trails in utility easements. This partnership usually does not include financial contributions. Although, through use agreements and/or easements, it makes land for trail corridors accessible at little or no cost to the public.

[Park Improvement Fee Funds](#)

For many cities, this funding received from developers is a very helpful income source for park improvements. The requirement for such a fee needs to be written into the City's Park Land Dedication and Development Ordinance.

[Cash in Lieu of Conveyance of Land](#)

As part of many cities' Parkland Dedication and Development Ordinance, subject to exact set conditions, a cash amount may be accepted in lieu of the conveyance of land. The goal is for the city to have the choice to acquire land of an equivalent sum that was to be conveyed, elsewhere in the city.

[Utility Bill Contributions](#)

In many cities, citizens are permitted to electively add a minor amount to their utility collection bills to pay for park enhancements. As an example, the City of Colleyville has a Voluntary Park Fund, which allows residents to contribute \$2.00 per month through their water utility bills. This results in about \$150,000 per year, which is used to fund park enhancements in their community.

[Tree Restoration Funds](#)

The foundation of this type of fund is usually derived from cities that levy fees against developers for removing quality trees for development. The income produced is used to install trees and to irrigate city properties.

Plan Conclusion

The Sugar Land PROSMP was developed over the course of 21 months to reflect and address the parks and recreation needs of the community. Throughout the planning process, over 1,000 people provided input through in-person meetings and interviews, the Sugar Land Online Town Hall, a public survey, two public open houses, and City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings.

At key intervals during Plan development, the findings and recommendations were reviewed by City staff, the PARCS Board, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the City Council. This in-depth review and participatory process has led to the development of a thorough PROSMP which presents a comprehensive understanding of the wants, needs, and aspirations of Sugar Land today and into the future.

The City of Sugar Land is, and will continue to be, known as the premier parks and recreation resource in the region. Through intentional implementation of this Plan, Sugar Land will provide increased active and passive recreation; improved access to trails, culture, history, and nature; support citywide economic development efforts; and continue to provide a high quality of life for its residents and attract regional visitors.