



CITY OF KENNEDALE
PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE
MASTER PLAN
2016-2026

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Executive Summary

Parks, green spaces, and recreational opportunities are crucial elements to providing a high standard of living and encouraging the use of alternative modes of transportation by all citizens. The City of Kennedale has seen its population and economy grow since the previous parks master plan was adopted in 2005 and is implementing a new plan in order to accommodate the influx of new residents and businesses. The City of Kennedale's 2016 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan provides a framework for the creation and adaptation of parks and green spaces in order to provide necessary amenities for the future. It is intended to be a guide for the residents of the City as well as for the City Council and staff.

This Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan uses an inclusive approach when setting its goals and is designed to be adaptable to the future changes and demands that the City will experience during the plan's event horizon. The goals of this Master Plan are as follows:

1. Preserve and maintain a viable and balanced open space network
2. Promote a healthy green community
3. Provide leisure opportunities for all ages
4. Expand recreational opportunities in the floodplains of the Trinity River / Village Creek watershed
5. Build and enhance community partnerships
6. Preserve and enhance the City's natural, historical, and cultural resources
7. Improve and ensure park safety and security
8. Ensure that park and open space needs of the City are met currently as well as in the future

The implementation strategy for these goals include:

- a. Land acquisition
- b. Park land dedication ordinance
- c. Conservation easements
- d. Financing and maintenance
- e. Joint use facilities

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan is an ambitious but achievable vision for Kennedale's community. Through careful planning, management, and citizen participation, this vision has the potential to become a great reality.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Kennedale is a small community in North Texas that is located between two of the largest cities in the region, Dallas and Fort Worth. With the rising influx of new residents to the region and the continued growth of North Texas as a national economic center, Kennedale finds itself in a valuable strategic position to continue its growth. A well-designed and extensive parks system will be a major contributing factor in the coming decade to providing Kennedale with a competitive advantage to the other small towns just outside these large urban centers.

The primary functions of this Master Plan are to assess the current state of Kennedale's parks, recreation, and open space system; define the needs and deficiencies in the system; establish goals and priorities for improving the system; and work toward realizing the vision. In addition to performing these primary functions, the Master Plan also identifies changing trends locally, regionally, and nationally and identifies residents' desires.

Previous Park and Green Areas Master Plan

The former Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan for the City of Kennedale was designed to encompass a ten-year time range (from 2005 to 2015). The plan recommended an increase in developed park land from 3.6 acres for every 1,000 residents to 12 acres for every 1,000 residents by the end of the year 2015. If the entirety of the plan were to be implemented, the level of service in 2005 would have increased three fold by 2015.

The previous master plan outlined the existing conditions of the park system of Kennedale and calculated the needs of the community through a needs assessment. The assessment used a combination of three planning approaches: standard-based, resource-based, and demand-based. One of the greatest strengths of the previous plan was its emphasis on community participation through community surveys and citizen involvement. Moreover, the previous master plan was a remarkable information resource, including the geographical constraints of the park system and the ecological value of the City and floodplains. Consequently, the former master plan has been used as a reference and guide when creating the new master plan. Other remarkable features of the previous master plan are indicated below:

- Promoted active green spaces and explained their economic value
- Limited development in natural open spaces in order to minimize adverse effects on the ecosystem
- Promoted a trail and green belt system along the Village Creek corridor and suggested connecting this creek corridor with neighborhood parks, schools, and public spaces
- Encouraged the local youth sports organizations to aid in the provision of athletic facilities for organized youth baseball and softball

- Considered residents with disabilities and recommended that the entire park system meet the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Planned to expand Sonora Park from 25 acres to between 40 and 150 acres in area by incorporating undeveloped acreage adjacent to the west end of the park
- Encouraged the City to focus on the acquisition of the Village Creek Corridor from Interstate 20 southwest to the city limits
- Encouraged cooperation with Kennedale Independent School District to allow public use of the various schools' outdoor recreational facilities during non-school hours

Although the previous master plan had several notable features, it also had some limitations. To establish a sustainable and innovative parks system for Kennedale over the next ten years, the following items that were missing in the former master plan have been considered during the planning process of the new master plan:

- A linear park system plan
- Establishment of an environmentally-friendly green community
- Innovative park designs
- Introduction of new plants and trees
- Biking and walking initiatives
- Increased community awareness of the importance of environmental protection



Vision Statement

“You’re here, your home – a serene environment to engage the senses and build relations – to preserve, conserve, and inspire our community.”

As Kennedale progresses towards further growth and expansion, it is important to ensure that the City’s Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan supports the City’s objective to provide a quality, safe, enjoyable, and accessible green network system. This, in turn, encourages a sense of community through the availability of open spaces and recreational activities for its residents. Listed below are the core principles for the development of this Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan:

- Protect Kennedale’s natural and historic value
- Meet the community’s current and future desires and needs for green space
- Better the quality of life for the City’s residents and visitors alike
- Provide opportunities for passive and active recreation
- Establish an enhanced sense of community
- Increase accessibility throughout the City
- Promote health and wellness
- Promote recreational and leisure activities along the riparian corridors and floodplain of the Trinity River and its tributaries
- Integrate natural floodplain areas into the green space network
- Promote a sense of safety
- Establish green areas within neighborhoods
- Promote economic growth opportunities



Chapter 2: Community Profile

Demographic Statistics

The following demographic information provides a snapshot of Kennedale’s residents.

Table 1. Population, Household, and Employment History and Forecast 1970 – 2030

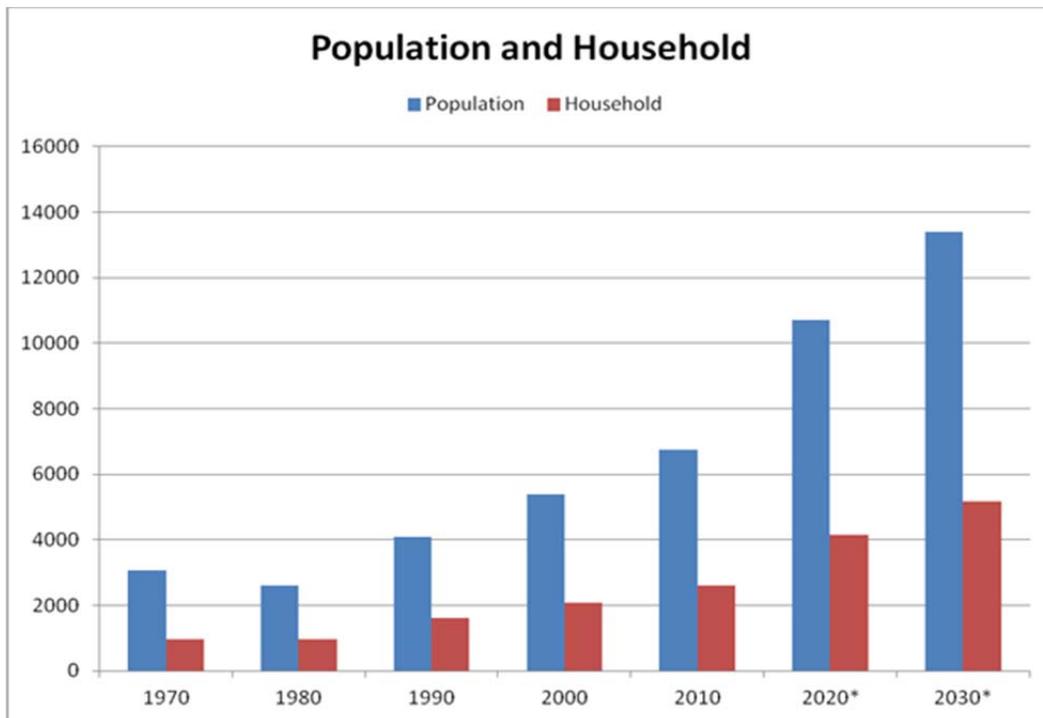
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020*	2030*
Population	3076	2594	4096	5381	6763	10,720	13,412
Household	966	971	1623	2089	2617	4143	5176
Employment*				2720	3160	3527	3527

Sources: 1970-1990 data provided by U.S. Census Bureau.

*2000, 2020-2030 data and 2000-2030 employment data provided by the NCTCOG.

**U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

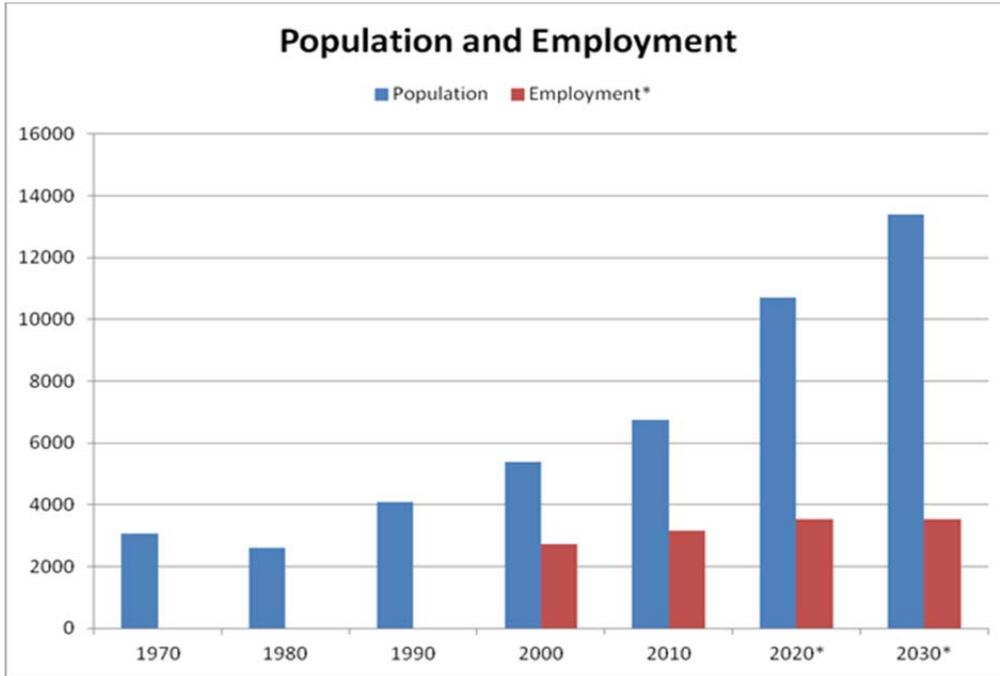
Figure 1. Population and Household Numbers



Sources: 1970-1990 data provided by U.S. Census Bureau.

*2000, 2020-2030 data provided by the NCTCOG.

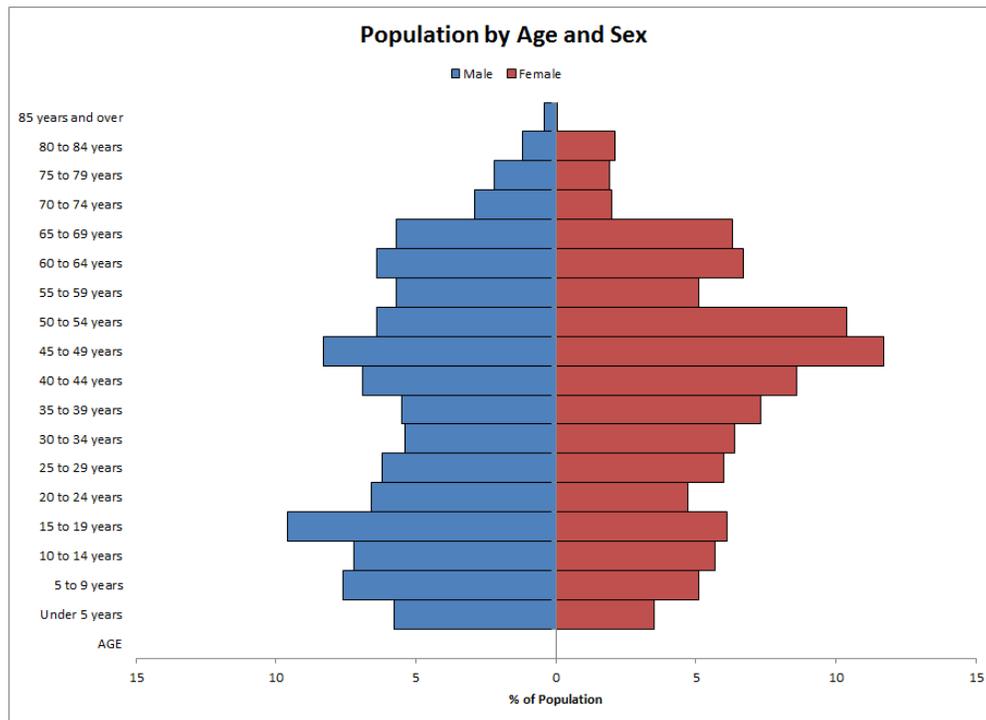
Figure 2. Population and Employment Numbers



Sources: 1970-1990 data provided by U.S. Census Bureau.

*2000, 2020-2030 data and 2000-2030 employment data provided by the NCTCOG.

Figure 3. Population by Age and Sex



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

Kennedale’s population has a median age of 40 – 44 years. Based on this and the spike in the population aged 19 years and younger, it can be concluded that many of the City’s residents are part of a family unit.

Table 2. Demographic Diversity

Race	Percentage
White	86%
Black or African American	7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.3%
Asian	3.6%
Filipino	1%
Vietnamese	2.6%
Some other race	0.2%
Two or more races	2.6%
Hispanic or Latino	10.2%*

*Hispanic/Latino is considered an ethnicity, not a race. Therefore, this column does not total 100%.

Table 3. School Enrolment

School Enrolment	
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	Percentage
Nursery school, preschool	3.3%
Kindergarten	7.9%
Elementary: grade 1 to grade 8	36.7%
High school: grade 9 to grade 12	25.5%
College or graduate school	26.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

Elementary enrolment, which consists of first through eighth grade, has the highest enrolment in Kennedale. The next highest class of enrolment is college or graduate school. Based on the data provided, parks should meet the needs of an energetic community.

Table 4. Educational Demographics of Residents

Education	Percentage
Less than 9 th grade	4%
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	7.6%
High school graduate (incl. equivalency)	26.4%
Some college, no degree	30.6%
Associate’s degree	7.2%
Bachelor’s degree	16.9%
Graduate or professional degree	7.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

Table 5. Occupations of Residents

Occupation	Percentage
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	32%
Service	19%
Sales and Office	27%
Construction, Extraction, & Maintenance	8%
Production, Transportation, & Material Moving	14%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

Table 6. Industries in Kennedale

Industry	Percentage
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	0.4%
Construction	9.5%
Manufacturing	12.4%
Wholesale trade	2.2%
Retail trade	12.2%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	7.9%
Information	0%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	6%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	10.3%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	19.9%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	13%
Other services, except public administration	4.2%
Public administration	1.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate



Land Use Analysis

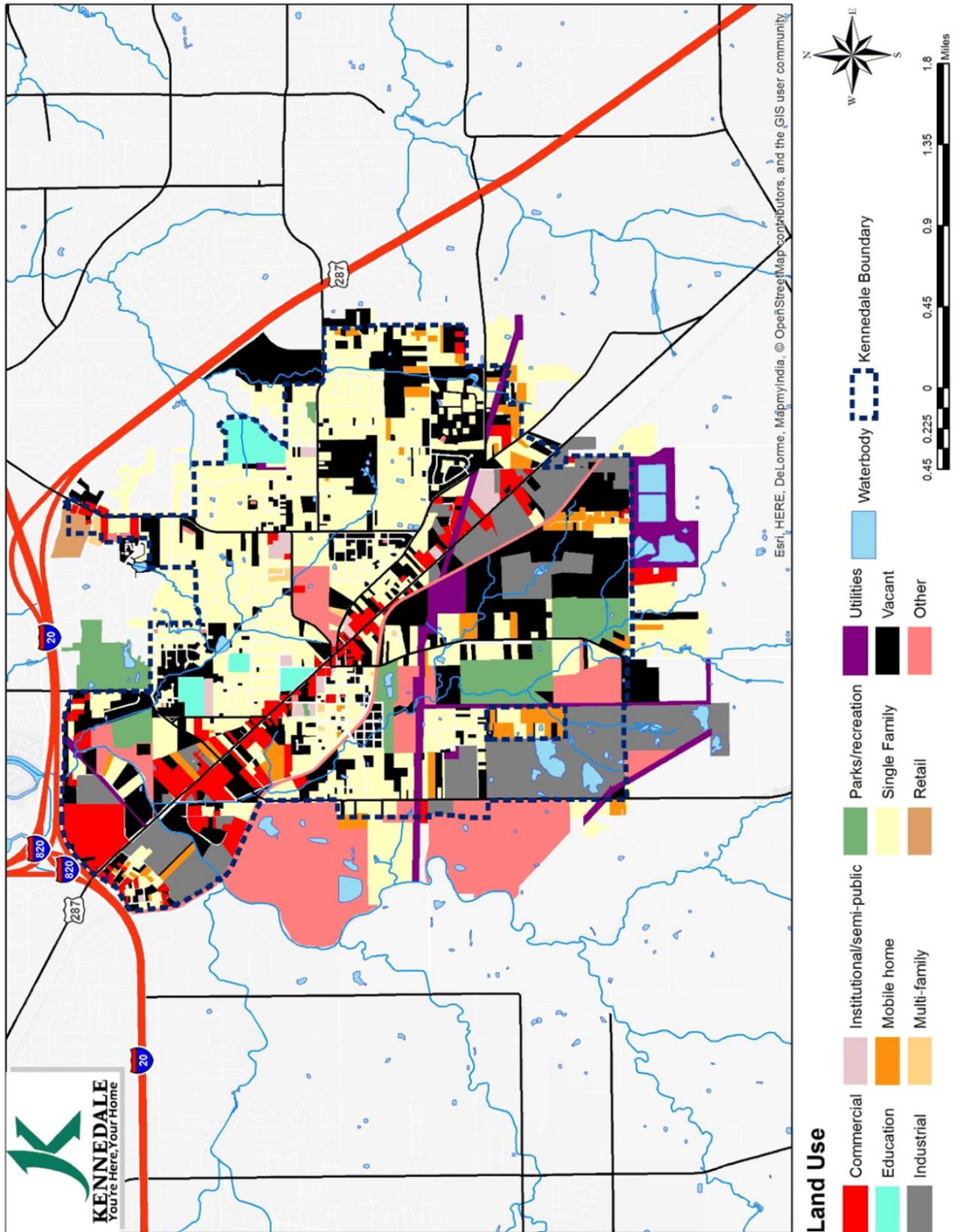
The most dominant land use in the City of Kennedale in 2010 is single-family residential, which constitutes 30 percent of the total area. One of the land use strengths of the City is the availability of vacant lands, with 293 parcels. Another dominant land use is industrial, with about eleven percent of the land area coverage. A complete list of land uses in the City with their parcel count, area, and percentage is provided in Table 7.

Table 7. Land Use Category with Counts and Area

Category	Counts	Acres	Percentage
Cemeteries	2	43.48	0.82%
Commercial	107	281.15	5.32%
Communication	1	0.88	0.02%
Education	4	80.49	1.52%
Group quarters	1	2.71	0.05%
Industrial	29	574.30	10.87%
Institutional/semi-public	14	51.22	0.97%
Landfill	2	496.61	9.40%
Mobile home	50	173.84	3.29%
Multi-family	7	14.54	0.28%
Parks/recreation	7	264.58	5.01%
Railroad	5	44.20	0.84%
Ranch land	15	147.16	2.79%
Residential acreage	3	68.78	1.30%
Retail	1	26.07	0.49%
Single family	264	1629.51	30.85%
Small water bodies	8	18.66	0.35%
Under construction	6	2.82	0.05%
Utilities	20	229.36	4.34%
Vacant	293	1098.35	20.80%
Others	3	32.84	0.62%
Grand Total	842	5281.57	100

Figure 4 shows the locations of particular land uses within Kennedale's city limits.

Figure 4. Land Use in the City of Kennedale

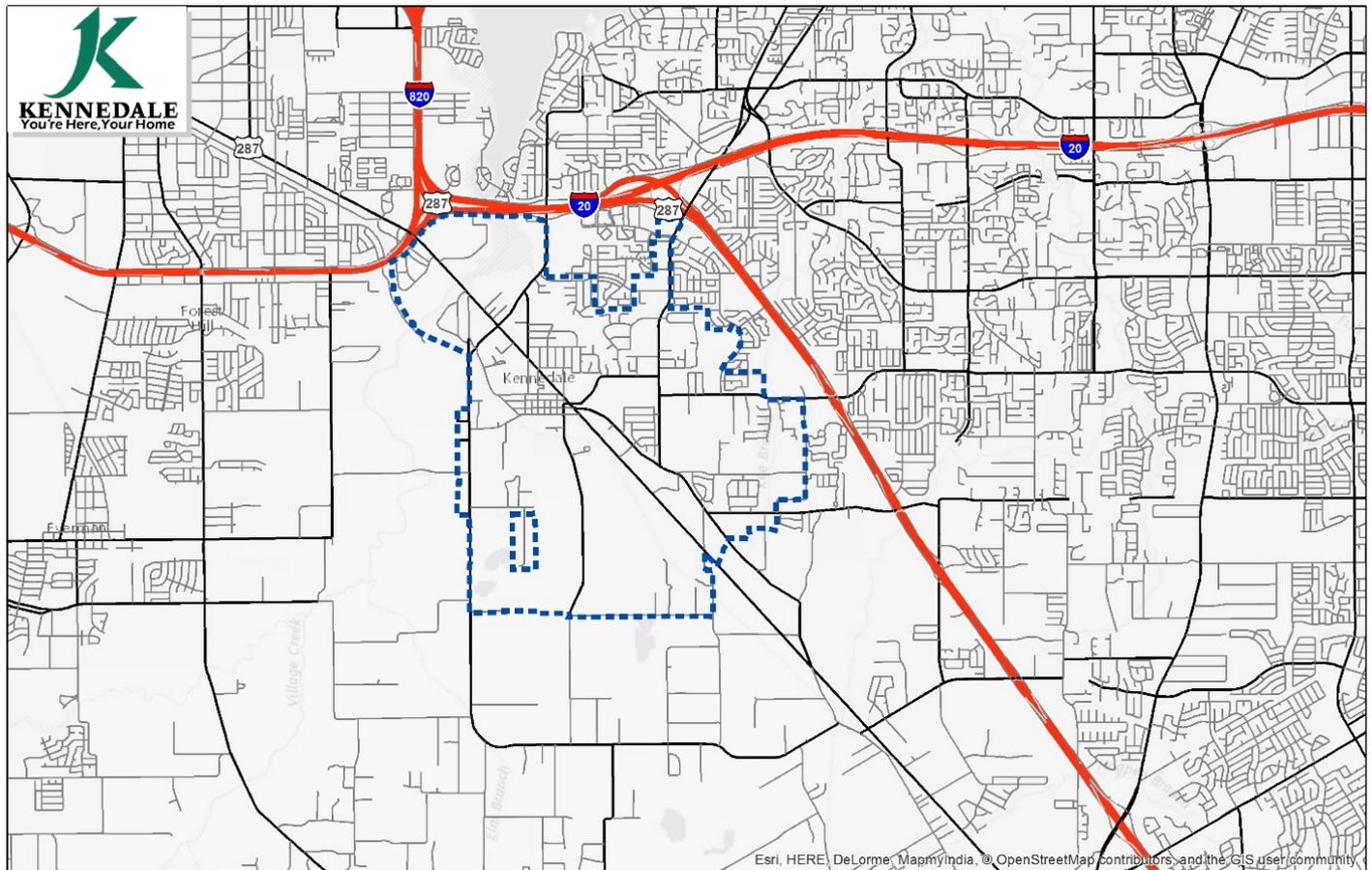


Transportation Analysis

The City of Kennedale is located along the Fort Worth and New Orleans Railway (Union Pacific Railroad) and Mansfield Cardinal Road. Kennedale Parkway (State Highway 287 / SH-287) experiences heavy traffic throughout the day. It is an undivided five lane (four travel lanes and a continuous center turn lane) main arterial. A series of two-lane rural arterials or collectors feeds into the arterial. It runs through the City which results in a high potential to have commercial corridors along it. Moreover, SH-287 connects the City to I-20 in the north, which provides regional connectivity to large cities such as Dallas and Fort Worth. In addition, in areas near the City of Arlington, the roads have an urban avenue character. The racetrack facilities in Kennedale are located along New Hope Road between downtown and Hudson Village Creek Road, and these create traffic congestion on specific event days.

The closest public airport to Kennedale is the Fort Worth Spinks Airport, which is located 14 miles away. Additional airport services are located 29 miles away at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Figure 5. Roadways in and around Kennedale



Transportation

- Kennedale Boundary
- HIGHWAYS
- MAJOR ARTERIAL
- MINOR ARTERIAL
- OTHER



Chapter 3: Inventory of Parks and Facilities

In order to meet Kennedale’s current and future park and recreation needs and to ensure adequate park distribution, an analysis of Kennedale’s current park system, park locations, and park inventory has been conducted. This study aids in determining what standards for parks and recreation have been met, and which standards need to be achieved over the next few years. Factors evaluated include park classification, location, service area, size, amenities, condition, and natural areas.

Park Inventory

The City of Kennedale currently maintains three neighborhood parks and one community park. Railroad Park is still under the conceptual design phase, but the other parks are built and their facilities are listed below:

Table 8. Rodgers Park Inventory

Asset Component	Initial Quantity	Useful Life (Years)	Overall Condition Rating
Playground Equipment / Benches / Tables	1	15	New
Fence (Wood)	1	10	New
Basketball Court	1	25	New
Concrete Trail	1	25	New
Decorative Signage	1	20	New
Drinking Fountain	1	15	New
Monument Plaques	1	20	New
Sanitation Station	1	15	New
Trash Cans	5	15	New



Table 9. Town Center Park Inventory

Asset Component	Initial Quantity	Useful Life (Years)	Overall Condition Rating	Asset Component	Initial Quantity	Useful Life (Years)	Overall Condition Rating
Pavilion	1	25	New	Lighting	6	25	New
Marquee Sign	1	20	New	Drinking Fountain	1	15	New
Flag poles	2	25	New	Sound System	1	10	New
Light Poles	6	25	New	Fountain (Decorative)	1	20	New
Fence Wrought Iron	N/A	25	New	Concrete Trail	1	25	New
Benches	12	15	New	Decorative Signage	1	20	New
Trash Receptacles	11	15	New	Monument Plaques	2	20	New
Picnic Tables	8	15	New	Playground (5-12yr old)	1	10	New
Clock Tower	1	25	New	Playground (2-5yr old)	1	10	New
				Public Art	3	15	New

Table 10.1 Sonora Park Inventory (224 S New Hope Rd)

Asset Component	Initial Quantity	Useful Life (Years)	Overall Condition Rating	Asset Component	Initial Quantity	Useful Life (Years)	Overall Condition Rating
Restroom Facility	1	25	New	Decorative Signage	3	20	Good
Walking Trail	1	25	New	Metal Railing	1	15	Good
Benches (For Trail)	6	15	New	Metal Railing	1	15	Good
Low Water Crossing for Trail	1	25	New	Monument Plaques	1	20	Good
Pavilion	1	25	New	Park Benches	6	15	New
Spray Park	1	25	New	Picnic Tables	8	15	New
Fishing Pier	1	25	New	Picnic Tables	8	15	Good
Horseshoe Pit / Washer Court / Disc	1	20	Good	Pond Fountain (Decorative)	2	10	Good
Playground	1	15	New	Trail Bridge	1	25	New
Benches	2	15	Good				

Table 11. Sonora Park Inventory (Ballpark at (200 Village St)

Asset Component	Initial Quantity	Useful Life (Years)	Overall Condition Rating
Ball Fields / Fence / Backstop	3	20	Good
Concession / Restroom	1	25	Poor
Score Boards	3	20	Poor
Bleachers	6	20	Good
Dugout Benches	6	15	Good
Dumpster Pad	1	25	Good
Field Lighting	17	25	Poor
Maintenance Building	1	25	Poor
Picnic Tables	2	15	Good
Score Keepers Stand	3	20	Poor
Restroom facility	1	25	Good

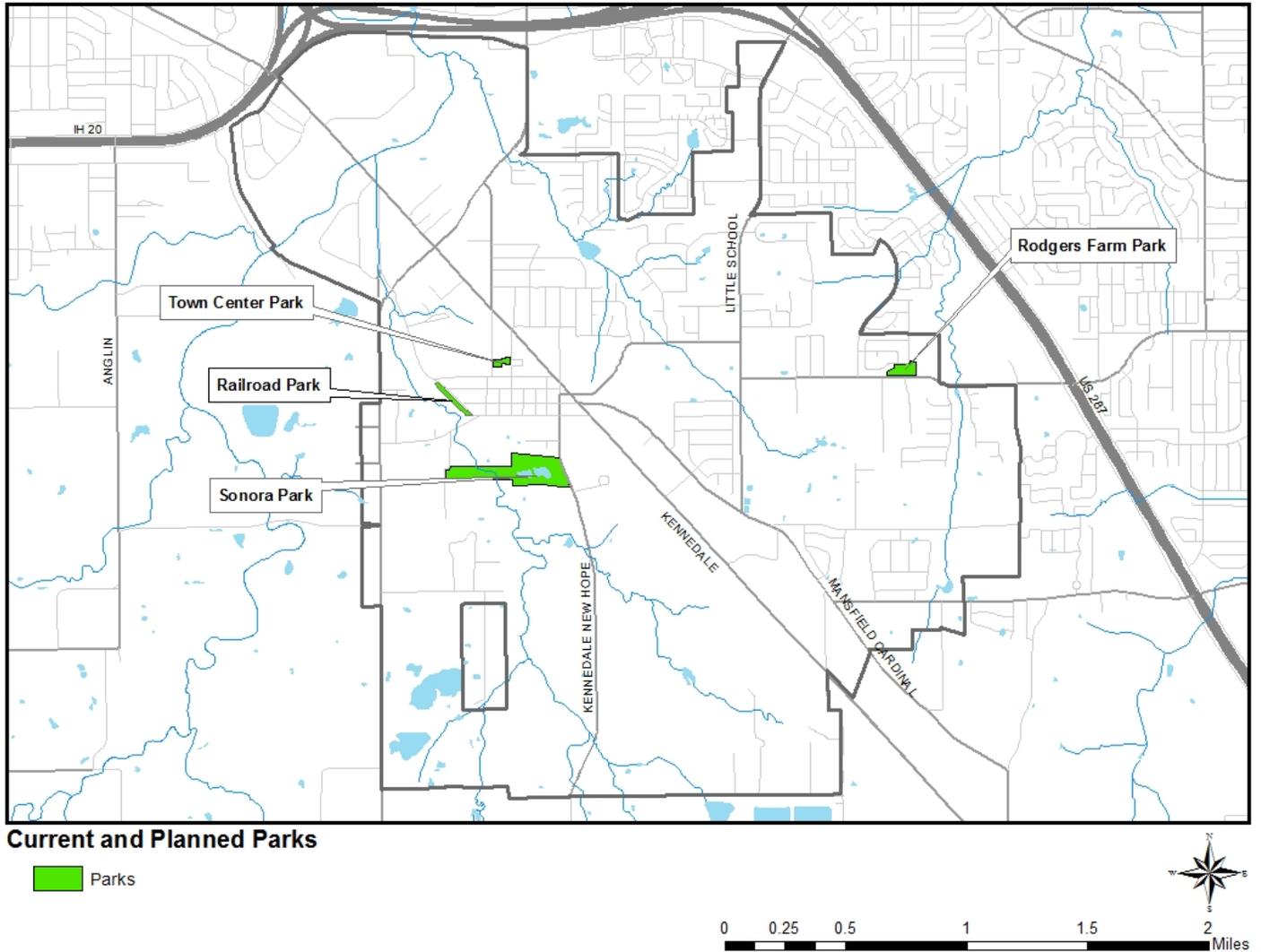
Facility Inventory

The table on the following page shows the type and quantity of park and recreation facilities developed and maintained by the City of Kennedale. It should be noted that some facilities (noted with an asterisk) are located on Kennedale High School Grounds, and may be considered as semi-public. The City of Kennedale may need to consider this limitation when implementing the needs assessment standards.

Table 12. Facility Inventory

Facility Inventory	
Facility type	Existing facilities
1/4 mile running track	0*
Amphitheater	0
Ball field (baseball, youth)	1*
Ball field (softball, youth)	1*
Ball field (t-ball)	1
BMX track (standard ABA certified)	0
Court (badminton)	0
Court (basketball, full court)	0.5*
Court (basketball, half court)	1*
Court (handball)	0
Court (horseshoe)	1
Court (multipurpose)	0*
Court (racquetball)	0
Court (shuffleboard)	0
Court (tennis)	0*
Court (volleyball)	0*
Court (washer)	1
Disc golf course	1
Dog park	0
Field (football)	0*
Field (multi-use)	0*
Field (soccer)	0
Fishing piers / wildlife viewing station	1
Gymnasium	0*
Outdoor fitness / exercise equipment	0
Park bench	26
Picnic shelter (pavilion, large)	2
Picnic table (sheltered)	12
Picnic table	14
Playground	4
Pool (outdoor)	0
Recreation center	0
Restrooms	2
Rock climbing wall	0
Senior center	1
Skate park (full-sized, 17,000+ sq. ft. footprint)	0
Skate park (small, 7000 sq. ft. footprint)	0
Splash pad	1
Trail (natural surface, per mile)	0
Trail (paved, per mile)	1.36
Water features	3
*Other facilities may exist at a Kennedale school, but may not be open to the public or user preference goes to students.	

Figure 6. Current and Planned Park Locations



Chapter 4: Analysis of Parks, Trails and Facilities

Introduction

This chapter contains the park classification, inventory, standards, and needs assessment upon which the recommendations of this Parks Master Plan are based.

Parks Classification

A successful and sustainable park system is made up of many different kinds of parks, which vary greatly in size and in function. It is important to be able to classify and inventory these different parks in order to assess whether community needs are being met. The following descriptions are based on an oft-cited report by the National Recreation and Park Association, “Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines” (1995).

Mini Park

Mini parks are the smallest of all the types of parks, typically ranging in size from 2,500 square feet to one acre. These parks are located within a ¼ mile walking distance of the area they service, and provide limited recreational needs. Due to their small size, they are usually nestled closely into developed areas with little buffering between uses.

A typical mini park may include the following facilities:

- Playground
- ½ basketball courts
- Open play area
- Picnic tables
- Grills
- Benches



Figure 7. A Typical Mini Park

Source: Chapel Hill Comprehensive Parks Plan

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks are the basic unit of the park system. They range in size from approximately 5 to 10 acres, and serve a ¼ to ½ mile radius – still a walkable distance. Ideally, all residential areas within the City should fall within one of these radii. Neighborhood parks provide a range of activities of interest to multiple age groups. Although the park size is still somewhat small, the NRPA suggests keeping half of the site undisturbed to act as a buffer zone between the park and other uses.

A typical neighborhood park may include the following facilities:

- Playground
- Court games
- Informal playing field
- Trails / walkways
- Picnic shelters
- Picnic tables
- Grills
- Benches
- Parking



Figure 8. A Typical Neighborhood Park

Source: Chapel Hill Comprehensive Parks Plan

Community Park

Community parks provide recreation activities for several neighborhoods or sections of the community. The range of facilities may even support tournament competitions as well as passive recreation. These parks usually range in size from approximately 20 to 50 acres and serve a radius of one to two miles. The NRPA suggests that half of the park site be developed for passive recreation, and this area doubles as a buffer mechanism around the park and between active site facilities. These parks should also have a varied topography and vegetation, some cleared spaces for active recreation, and preferably be located near a body of water such as a lake, river, or creek.

A typical community park may include the following facilities:

- Basketball courts
- Tennis court
- Baseball / softball field
- Multipurpose field / Soccer field
- Amphitheater
- Picnic shelters
- Picnic tables
- Grills
- Benches
- Nature trails
- Restrooms / concessions
- Parking
- Playgrounds
- Disc golf
- Paddle boat / canoe harbor
- Fishing pier / boat dock



Figure 9. A Typical Community Park

Source: Chapel Hill Comprehensive Parks Plan

Regional Park

Regional parks are the largest park classification, ranging in size from approximately 50 to 1,000 acres. They can serve several communities or the entire county, and are typically located on land chosen as nature preserves and where there are natural water features. There are therefore diverse land formations and a wide range of activities provided. The NRPA suggests that the majority of the park site be reserved for passive recreation.

A typical regional park may contain the following facilities:

- Environmental center
- Primitive camping
- Nature trails
- Observation deck
- Picnic shelters
- Picnic tables
- Grills
- Restrooms / vending
- Beach
- Swimming
- Fishing piers / boat docks
- Parking



Figure 10. A Typical Regional Park

Source: Chapel Hill Comprehensive Parks Plan

Linear Park

Linear parks, or greenways, are areas developed for one or more modes of non-motorized, recreational travel, such as bicycling, walking, and hiking. Also known as greenways, linear parks should be at least 10 to 12 feet wide, and may be constructed of paved or a more natural surface. These parks are generally left in a natural state, and usually follow built or natural corridors such as utility rights-of-way, roads, rail corridors, or rivers and streams. Ideally, linear parks should link other components of the park and recreation system, such as other parks, recreation centers, or public gathering spaces.

Greenway Trails

Greenway trails are to be the key feature of the trail network system. By utilizing the floodplain areas of local tributaries, the greenway trail system can act as a safe and scenic way to walk from nearly anywhere in the City to another. A key component of this trail network is to connect with other trail networks in the area, including Arlington's and possibly Fort Worth's.



Figure 11. Example of a Greenway Trail

Source: Leon Creek Greenway, San Antonio, Texas

Trail Support Facilities

Trailheads

Trailhead facilities include parking areas, toilets, water (if available) and a trailhead kiosk sign. The kiosk is a place trail users can pick up literature and find the rules and regulations for the area.

Trail Signs

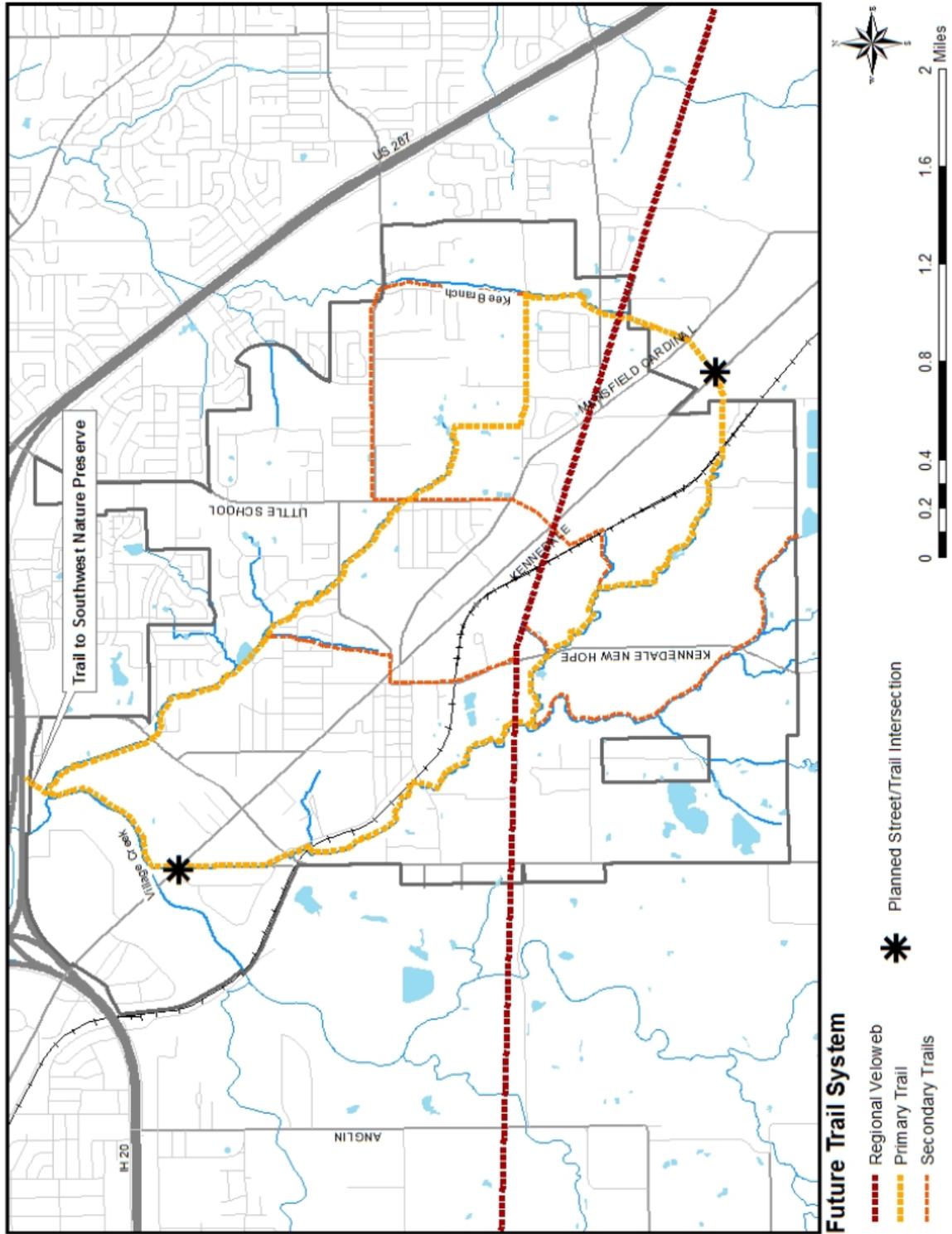
Trail signs provide direction, mileage or educational information. The trail should be measured in order to determine the length of the trail and any side trails. Distances should be rounded to the next tenths of a mile. Standard highway signage identifying the trailhead must conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Trail user groups need to work with the managing government agency for approval of federal or state highway signage.

Trail signs found in the backcountry providing location, direction and mileage should have 1.0-inch tall letters and numbers. Trail junction signs should have 1.5- to 2-inch tall letters. These signs are generally made of treated wood or decay resistant western red cedar or redwood. Letters and numbers are routed into the boards and the board stained or painted. Names, mileage and directional arrows can be painted white or color-coded to match the paint blazes found on a particular trail. Boards are generally 2" x 6" (2 lines) or 2" x 8" (3 lines) wide and 4' – 6' long.

Trail Bridges

Trail crossings of streams involve a wide variety of opportunities. From placing large rocks in wet areas to building elaborate boardwalks, streams provide opportunities for the trail builder to be creative. However, any bridge that is built must be structurally sound and able to hold the weight of the bridge materials as well as the trail users crossing the bridges. Most trail bridges are built from pressure treated lumber but others have been built of steel and there is now a trend using prefabricated fiberglass bridges that can be carried to the bridge site and the pieces bolted together. Trail builders must work with the land managing agency and follow their regulations and specifications for bridges.

Figure 12. Proposed Trail System



Standards for Parks and Recreation

There have been many studies undertaken to ascertain specific standards for park and recreation service levels, since these can give planners and policy-makers an idea as to what proper service standards are. Well-researched standards provide decision-makers with a starting point as they attempt to ameliorate residents' quality of life.

The standards used for this Parks Master Plan include the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines, the Colorado Small Community Park and Recreation Standards, and the Arlington Park and Recreation Standards. These standards should not be adopted in whole by Kennedale and are simply guidelines. Instead, they should each be adjusted according to the resources and needs of Kennedale.

National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) published a widely-referenced report named "Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines" (1995). It is important to note that the classifications and standards used are guidelines and have not been used by the NRPA itself as policy. The NRPA also recommend that each city take into account its own unique context and resources when using their guidelines. Many cities have now shifted to using resident surveys in order to better understand local needs.

Colorado Small Community Park and Recreation Standards

In 2003, this study for the state of Colorado created a new methodology for developing park and recreation standards, since the NRPA standards are recognized as being based on urban models and not necessarily being appropriate for smaller communities of 10,000 residents or less (such as Kennedale currently). The Colorado Small Community Park and Recreation Standards study uses actual levels of resident demand for parks and facilities in order to develop their standards, and this type of methodology can be useful as we contextualize the NRPA standards to Kennedale.

Arlington Park, Recreation and Open Space Standards

The City of Arlington, which borders Kennedale to the north, updated its Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan in 2004. In this updated plan, a methodology similar to that used in the Colorado study was employed, using information gathered through resident surveys and other municipalities in Texas. Because Kennedale does not have a similarly detailed database of park and facility demand within its city limits, the Arlington surveys and standards are useful to gauge local resident desires.

Needs Assessment

The needs assessment establishes the type and quantity of park land or facilities required to meet the needs of the City of Kennedale currently as well as in the future, when Kennedale reaches build-out population. This section further explains the methods used to ascertain resident demand for park land or facilities in Kennedale.

Demand

The City of Kennedale’s 2005 Parks Master Plan included the results of a citizen’s survey which was tabulated in 2005. This survey asked residents to identify which additional park and recreation facilities they would like to have in Kennedale, and their answers divulge information about resident demand. Since the survey results are now 11 years old, final demand calculations were tempered by considering the new facilities provided by the City of Kennedale between 2005 and 2016 that were a response to resident demand. For example, although restrooms were in very high demand in 2005, the City built a restroom facility in Sonora Park in 2007, so demand for a restroom in 2016 would be below very high.

The drawback of this survey is that residents were not asked to provide information about how often people in their household do or would use these facilities, so the methodology used in the Colorado study cannot be used for Kennedale.

Table 13. Kennedale Survey Summary

Kennedale Park Survey Summary:	
What additional facilities would you like to have in Kennedale?	
Facility	Percentage "yes" responses
Adult softball fields	5.4%
Amphitheaters	8.1%
Areas for general play	27.9%
Baseball fields	7.2%
Basketball courts	13.5%
Fishing piers / wildlife viewing station	19.8%
Football fields	0.9%
Horseshoe courts	3.6%
In-line hockey rink / skate park	6.3%
Multi-use paved trails	51.4%
Nature areas	32.4%
Picnic areas	34.2%
Picnic shelters / pavilions	45.9%
Playgrounds	40.5%
Recreation center	37.8%
Recreational vehicle camp sites	1.8%
Restrooms	40.5%

Rock climbing walls	4.5%
Soccer fields	4.5%
Sports practice fields	9.9%
Swimming pools / small water park	29.7%
Tennis courts	10.8%
Volleyball courts	2.7%
Water features	31.5%
Youth softball fields	3.6%

In 2002, the City of Arlington conducted a citizen’s survey, of which one question concerned the importance of certain park and recreation facilities to resident households. The City of Arlington and the City of Kennedale border each other, and since the survey results were very similar in citizen demands, his information is a valid source to develop information on possible citizen demands in Kennedale.

Table 14. Arlington Survey Summary

Arlington PROS Plan Survey Summary: How important are the following facilities to your household?				
Facility	Not At All	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
Baseball / softball fields	17%	16%	25%	42%
Basketball courts	23%	21%	29%	27%
Disc golf	45%	24%	18%	13%
Fishing	28%	22%	27%	23%
Natural areas	5%	12%	27%	56%
Natural surface trails	6%	13%	32%	48%
Off-leash dog park	32%	16%	20%	32%
Outdoor fitness / exercise equipment	16%	24%	28%	32%
Outdoor swimming pool	17%	16%	26%	41%
Paved trails	7%	14%	33%	46%
Picnic shelters / pavilions	4%	13%	34%	50%
Playgrounds	8%	9%	22%	61%
Recreation center	11%	19%	34%	36%
Sand volleyball	28%	26%	25%	21%
Senior recreation center	34%	18%	26%	22%
Skate park	33%	22%	23%	22%
Soccer / football fields	17%	16%	28%	39%
Splash pads	14%	15%	26%	45%
Tennis courts	26%	20%	27%	27%

The information from both the Kennedale survey and the Arlington Survey are combined in the table below, where Kennedale’s final demand level for each facility type is given.

Table 15. Survey Comparison

Facility	Arlington survey demand	Kennedale survey demand	Kennedale demand
Amphitheaters	N/A	Very Low	Very Low
Areas for general play	N/A	Moderate	Moderate
Ball fields (baseball)	High	Very Low	Moderate
Ball fields (softball, adult)	N/A	Very Low	Very Low
Ball fields (softball, youth)	N/A	Very Low	Moderate
Basketball courts	Moderate	Low	Low - Moderate
Disc golf course	Very Low	N/A	Moderate
Dog park	Moderate	N/A	Moderate
Fields (football)	High	Very Low	Low
Fields (soccer)	High	Very Low	Low
Fields (sports practice)	N/A	Very Low	Very Low
Fishing piers / wildlife viewing station	Very Low	Low	Low
Horseshoe courts	N/A	Very Low	Very Low
Nature areas	Very High	High	High - Very High
Outdoor fitness / exercise equipment	High	N/A	Moderate
Picnic areas	N/A	High	High
Picnic shelters / pavilions	Very High	Very High	High
Playgrounds	Very High	Very High	Very High
Recreation center	High	High	High
Recreational vehicle camp sites	N/A	Very Low	Very Low
Restrooms	N/A	Very High	High
Rock climbing walls	N/A	Very Low	Very Low
Skate park	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Splash pad	Very High	Moderate	Moderate
Swimming pools	High	Moderate	Moderate
Tennis courts	Moderate - High	Low	Low - Moderate
Trails (natural surface)	Very High	N/A	Very High
Trails (paved)	Very High	Very High	Very High
Volleyball courts	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Water features	N/A	High	High

Standards

The tables below show the park land and facility standards from the NRPA, Colorado, and Arlington, as well as the proposed standards for the City of Kennedale, which have been set specifically to meet local demand.

The tables show this demand (total resident demand) as well as need (resident demand minus existing park land or facilities) by the years 2016, 2020, and build-out (approximately 2040). The only type of park land where current need has been met is community park land. Several types of facility needs have been met, but the City of Kennedale still needs substantial increases in many facility types in order to meet current resident needs.

Table 16. Park Needs Assessment

Park Needs Assessment										
Park type	NRPA guidelines (acres per thousand residents)	Arlington standards (acres per thousand residents)	Kennedale standards (acres per thousand residents)	Existing facilities (acres)	Current demand ¹ (acres)	Current need ¹ (acres)	2020 demand ² (acres)	2020 need ² (acres)	Build-out demand ³ (acres)	Build-out need ³ (acres)
Mini	0.25 - 0.5	N/A	0.25	0	1.9	1.9	2.68	2.68	4.25	4.25
Neighborhood	1 - 2	1.31	1	6.73	7.6	0.87	10.72	3.99	17	10.27
Community	3 - 8	3.25	3	26.3	22.8	Met	32.16	5.86	51	24.7
Regional	5 - 10	3.23	3	0	22.8	22.8	32.16	32.16	51	51
Linear	N/A	5.1	3	0	22.8	22.8	32.16	32.16	51	51
Total	10	12.89	10.25	33.03	77.9	44.87	109.88	76.85	174.25	141.22

¹Based on a population of ~7,600 in 2015.
²Based on a projected population of ~10,720 in 2020.
³Based on a build-out population of ~17,000 in 2040.



Small Community Park & Recreation Planning Standards

RPI Consulting Inc., Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs, Office of Smart Growth

Table 17-1. Facility Needs Assessment (Part 1)

Facility Needs Assessment											
Facility Type	NRPA guidelines (facilities / 1000 residents)	Arlington standards (facilities / 1000 residents)	Colorado small community standards (facilities / 1000 residents)	Kennedale standards (facilities / 1000 residents)	Existing facilities	Current demand ¹	Current need ¹	2020 demand ²	2020 need ²	Build-out demand ³	Build-out need ³
1/4 mile running track	0.05	N/A	N/A	0.05	0*	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9
Amphitheater	0.05	N/A	N/A	0.05	0	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9
Ball field (baseball, youth)	0.2	0.1	0.61	0.1	1*	0.8	Met	1.1	0.1	1.7	0.7
Ball field (softball, youth)	0.2	0.1	0.61	0.1	1*	0.8	Met	1.1	0.1	1.7	0.7
Ball field (t-ball)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.05	1	0.4	Met	0.5	Met	0.9	Met
BMX track (standard ABA certified)	N/A	N/A	0.16	0.05	0	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9
Court (badminton)	0.2	N/A	N/A	0.1	0	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.7	1.7
Court (basketball, full court)	0.2	0.08	0.91	0.1	0.5*	0.8	0.3	1.1	0.6	1.7	1.2
Court (basketball, half court)	0.4	N/A	N/A	0.2	1*	1.5	0.5	2.1	1.1	3.4	2.4
Court (handball)	0.05	N/A	N/A	0.02	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Court (horseshoe)	0.15	N/A	N/A	0.05	1	0.4	Met	0.5	Met	0.9	Met
Court (multipurpose)	0.1	N/A	N/A	0.1	0*	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.7	1.7
Court (racquetball)	0.05	N/A	N/A	0.02	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Court (shuffleboard)	0.5	N/A	N/A	0.05	0	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9
Court (tennis)	0.5	0.14	0.97	0.2	0*	1.5	1.5	2.1	2.1	3.4	3.4
Court (volleyball)	0.2	N/A	0.13	0.05	0*	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9
Court (washer)	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.05	1	0.4	Met	0.5	Met	0.9	Met
Disc golf course	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1	1	0.8	Met	1.1	0.1	1.7	0.7
Dog park	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.05	0	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9
Field (football)	0.05	0.02	N/A	0.01	0*	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2

Table continued on next page.

Table 17-2. Facility Needs Assessment (Part 2)

Facility Type	NRPA guidelines (facilities / 1000 residents)	Arlington standards (facilities / 1000 residents)	Colorado small community standards (facilities / 1000 residents)	Kennedale standards (facilities / 1000 residents)	Existing facilities	Current demand ¹	Current need ¹	2020 demand ²	2020 need ²	Build-out demand ³	Build-out need ³
Field (multi-use)	0.1	N/A	0.95	0.1	0*	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.7	1.7
Field (soccer)	0.1	0.08	0.95	0.05	0	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9
Fishing piers / wildlife viewing station	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1	1	0.8	Met	1.1	0.1	1.7	0.7
Gymnasium	0.05	N/A	N/A	0.05	0*	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9
Outdoor fitness / exercise equipment	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	0	1.5	1.5	2.1	2.1	3.4	3.4
Park bench	N/A	N/A	7.69	6	26	46	20	64	38	102	76
Picnic shelter (pavilion, large)	0.02	0.03	N/A	0.1	2	0.8	Met	1.1	Met	1.7	Met
Picnic table (sheltered)	0.5	0.7	0.36	2	12	15.2	3.2	21.4	9.4	34	22
Picnic table	0.9	1.25	6.25	3	14	22.8	8.8	32.2	18.2	51	37
Playground	1	0.13	0.16	1	4	7.6	3.6	10.7	6.7	17	13
Pool (outdoor)	0.05	0.02	0.12	0.02	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Recreation center	0.04	0.01	N/A	0.02	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Restrooms	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	2	2.3	0.3	3.2	1.2	5.1	3.1
Rock climbing wall	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.02	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Senior center	0.01	0.01	N/A	0.01	1	0.1	Met	0.1	Met	0.2	Met
Skate park (full-sized, 17,000+ sq. ft. footprint)	0.01	N/A	0.06	0.005	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Skate park (small, 7000 sq. ft. footprint)	N/A	N/A	0.16	0.01	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Splash pad	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.05	1	0.4	Met	0.5	Met	0.9	Met
Trail (natural surface, per mile)	0.1	0.14	2.33	0.3	0	2.3	0.92	3.22	1.86	5.1	3.74
Trail (paved, per mile)			1.04		1.36						
Water features	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	3	2.3	Met	3.2	0.2	5.1	2.1
¹ Based on a population of ~7,600 in 2015.											
² Based on a projected population of ~10,720 in 2020.											
³ Based on a build-out population of ~17,000 in 2040.											
*Other facilities may exist at a Kennedale school, but may not be open to the public or user preference goes to students.											

Chapter 5: Mission and Goals

VISION: *“You’re here, your home – a serene environment to engage the senses and build relations – to preserve, conserve and inspire our community.”*

The focus of this parks and open space master plan is ultimately to meet the needs of both current and future residents by building on the City’s existing assets and identifying new opportunities. It will serve as a guide for the planning and development of Kennedale’s park and open space system for the next ten years.

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan will provide direction to ensure the existing park system is preserved and protected and the future park system is efficiently and effectively planned. The master plan enables planners to assess priorities and establish strategic resolutions toward maintaining and developing future park services.

Goals

1. **Preserve and maintain a viable and balanced open space network**
2. **Promote a healthy green community**
3. **Provide leisure opportunities for all ages**
4. **Expand recreational opportunities in the floodplains of the Trinity River / Village Creek watershed**
5. **Build and enhance community partnerships**
6. **Preserve and enhance the City’s natural, historical, and cultural resources**
7. **Improve and ensure park safety and security**
8. **Ensure that park and open space needs of the City are met currently as well as in the future**

Strategies

Listed below are strategies to help attain the above goals:

1. **Identify and inventory the existing facilities, programs and opportunities.**
This provides a basis for analysis of the available programs and facilities and identifying current trends through citizen survey data.
2. **Develop and implement programs that encourage public participation in both active and passive recreation programs.**
Public participation programs and educational awareness programs lead to a sense of ownership and stewardship of the land. It engenders a feeling of belonging to a community and thereby the City as a whole. It also encourages social interaction and well-being among citizens.

3. **Develop a system of pedestrian and bike-friendly linkages between neighborhoods and the larger Regional Veloweb plan for the Metroplex.**

Connectivity is the backbone of a successful infrastructure. It can be used to link various sectors of the City such as neighborhoods, school districts, parks and other facilities. Integrating trails and linear park systems within the City and extending them to connect to the larger trail systems within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex is another method to invite partnerships with neighboring cities that encourages economic growth and attracts development.

4. **Preserve and protect the City's natural environment and native ecosystems to the greatest extent possible.**

Identify key areas that have historical, ecological and environmental significance to the City (past, present, and future) to highlight the City's dedication to preserving and maintaining a sustainable community. These can be achieved through inventorying locations of historical significance to the City and the community at large, adopting an approved native plant list to promote water conservation and ecological preservation, and adopting landscape provisions within developments to provide aesthetic yet functional streetscapes. Parks provide further alternatives to promote arts and culture within the community and stimulate community engagement.

5. **Expand economic growth and public health through joint programming.**

Working with developers, investors, and school systems to expand and maintain park facilities through incentives and national, state, and local funding paves the way for the City to achieve a healthy community profile. Parks provide the means for children to learn and grow socially, promote economic development within cities, are a proponent of green infrastructure, encourage physical activity, and contribute to climate management.

6. **Proper safety and maintenance of park infrastructure.**

Infrastructure maintenance is an important contributor to quality park facilities. Proper and adequate lighting, emergency call boxes, and trash receptacles at specific locations and along trailhead areas are key to the regular use and functioning of a park system.

Park System

Goals

1. Provide park land and a variety of recreation facilities and programs to meet the changing recreational needs and desires of the City of Kennedale.
2. Continue to maintain and manage the park system to improve the physical form and image of the City of Kennedale.
3. Improve and maintain safety within the park system.

Objectives

- Develop short and long-range programs for expansion and upgrading of Kennedale's park system.

- Provide recreational facilities that address the needs of all age groups, young and old, active and passive, and in all socio-economic categories.
- Acquire park land before the existing vacant land is in its entirety dedicated to development.
- Develop land acquired and dedicated to future parks in a consistent and focused manner.
- Acquire park and open space sites that are prominent and highly visible in the neighborhoods that surround them.
- Utilize landscape design at key City portals and along selected street medians to create an attractive image of the City.

Trail Design

Goals

1. Create a citywide network that is connected to neighboring trail systems.
2. Build accessibility and connectivity for all citizens.
3. Emphasize the character of the City.
4. Improve and maintain safety within the trail system.

Objectives

- Establish an interconnected network of trail systems by connecting various tracts of land to other neighboring trail systems throughout the region.
- Design the trail system to meet national standards for safety and accessibility.
- The trail system shall be designed with the intention to acknowledge the special heritage of the City by giving the trails names that acknowledge notable past citizens of Kennedale.
- The trail system shall be designed by considering safety as its highest priority.

Trail Design Description

Trail design is one of the most important factors to ensure that the trail route offers optimum scenic, geologic, historic, cultural, and biological sites to provide a variety of diverse areas for the trail user to experience. Trail design is the critical component to making the trail sustainable, reducing impacts on the natural environment, and minimizing future trail maintenance.

The National Park Service definition of a sustainable trail is as follows:

- Supports current and future use with minimal impact to the area's natural systems.
- Produces negligible soil loss or movement while allowing vegetation to inhabit the area.
- Recognizes that pruning or removal of certain plants may be necessary for proper trail construction and maintenance.
- Does not adversely affect the area's wildlife.
- Accommodates existing use while allowing only appropriate future use.
- Requires little rerouting and minimal trail maintenance.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1991 provided legislation to improve access to buildings, parks, and trails, as well as many other aspects of life. Complying with ADA legislation includes more than having a trail or walkway be wheelchair accessible. Pedestrian trails are the only trails that are required to be ADA accessible. Trail surfaces generally should not exceed 5% slopes and have a cross slope of greater than 2%. ADA accessible trails also are required to have a firm and stable surface. Most ADA compliant trails have a paved concrete or asphalt surface, but a hard packed dirt surface without obstructions can be an accessible surface.

Lighting and Emergency Call Stations

Trail lighting and emergency call stations can be utilized in order to make citizens feel more secure while on the trail.

The Regional Veloweb Link

The Regional Veloweb is a Regional Transportation Council initiative promoted by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), a part of the *Mobility 2040* plan reviewed in January 2016. It is a trail system that consists of a 1,728 mile network of existing and planned off-street, shared-use paths that are designed for use by bicyclists, pedestrians, and non-motorized forms of active transportation within the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. This network is a means to connect neighboring cities within the DFW region by means of a recreational “interstate”, with planned routes that may be prioritized for future funding grants. The Veloweb trail system is focused on connecting communities, bridging barriers, and also making connections to housing, employment, and entertainment areas within the region.

One of the main benefits of connecting the City’s master plan of trail systems to the Regional Veloweb is the provision of easy access to and green connectivity between neighborhoods, schools, and destination points along the way.

Figure 13, on the following page, is the draft map of the proposed Veloweb network, and Figure 14 is a close-up of it passing through Kennedale to highlight the connectivity benefits.



Figure 13. NCTCOG Veloweb System

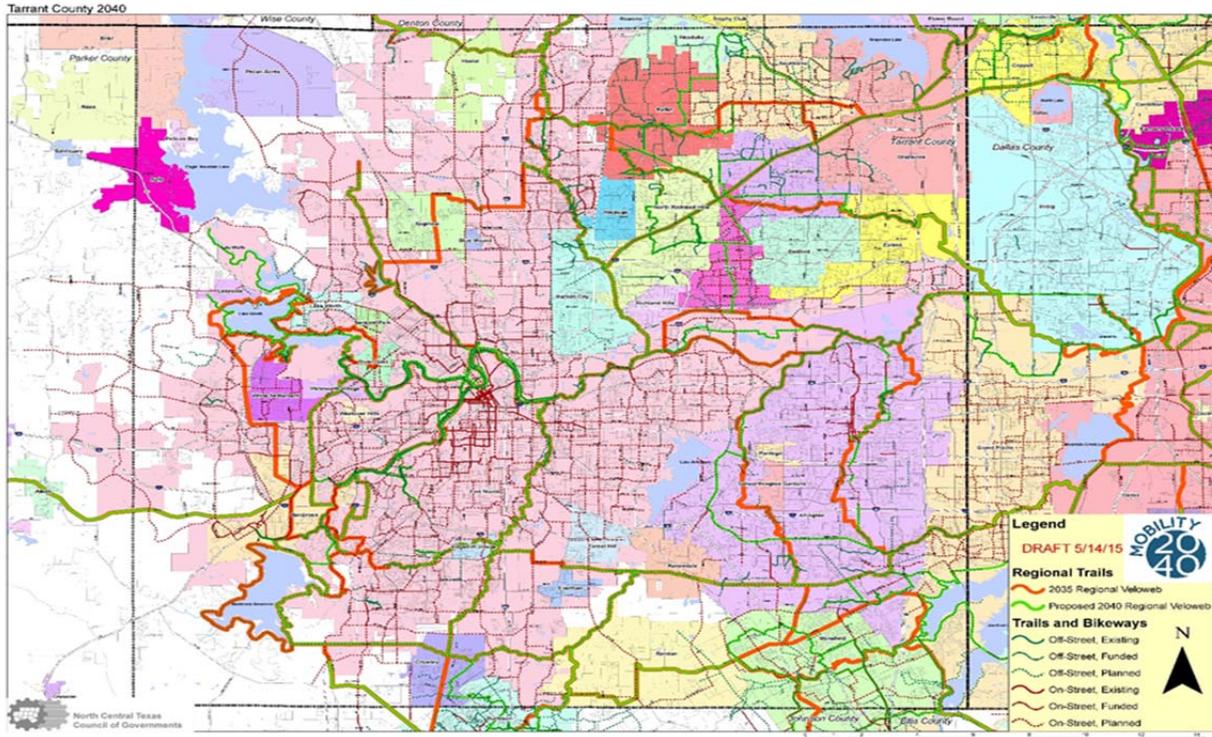
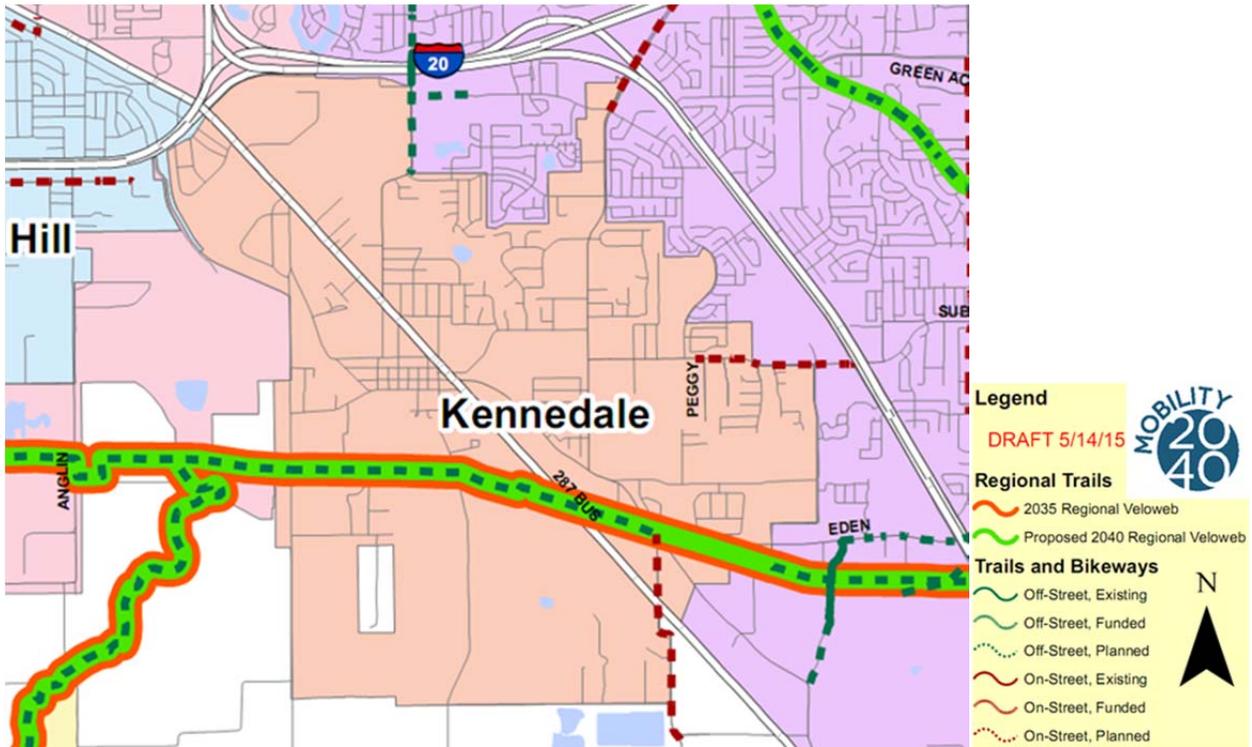


Figure 14. Veloweb through Kennedale



Indoor and Outdoor Recreational Recommendations

The City of Kennedale is ripe with potential in regards to its recreational opportunities. While the current indoor and outdoor facilities are lacking in both size and location to adequately address the current and future needs of Kennedale, the City is in a great position to create policy that will encourage residents and businesses to participate in the movement toward building a better home.

Outdoor Recreational Priorities

The City of Kennedale is primed to have one of the most dynamic park systems across the State of Texas. In order to accomplish this goal, it is important to identify our recreational needs and compare them to external standards. In the previous chapter, these needs were identified in the park and facility needs assessments. In the Park Needs Assessment, it was determined that there is a need for additional park land.

Outdoor Recreational Recommendations

- Acquire park land: The need to acquire park land will always be present within a growing community. As new development occurs, so does the need for more park land for residents. There is a need to acquire park land especially in the western and central portions of the City.
- Develop athletic fields for all sports (game and practice): Additional game and practice fields are a priority in order to meet Kennedale's needs.
- Off leash area: Many cities have devoted park sites for off-leash areas to give pet owners and their domestic animals an area to socialize. The fenced area will primarily be grassy, irrigated open space with room for pets to run around and play with each other while allowing pet owners to supervise without concern of the pets running away. The off leash area can be added to one of the proposed parks.
- Outdoor amphitheater: According to the City of Kennedale standards, there is demand for one amphitheater. The amphitheater can be added to the community park or a regional park.
- Playgrounds: Playgrounds should have a design that is unique to the area, and includes natural components.
- Outdoor exercise equipment: Low-maintenance outdoor exercise equipment should be placed in a linear park with consecutive stations, and should accommodate users with disabilities.

Indoor Recreational Priorities

While there are currently no publicly-owned indoor recreational facilities in Kennedale, there is an opportunity to cooperate with the Kennedale Independent School District (KISD), the Kennedale Youth Association (KYA), and possibly the community center to offer indoor recreational opportunities to residents during the months when weather is not ideal for outdoor activities.

Indoor Recreational Recommendations

- Partner with the KISD to develop more public access to indoor sports facilities such as courts and gymnasiums.
- Partner with the KISD to offer programs during the summer and winter months that will keep the youth active all year long.

- Multi-purpose room: There is no existing city facility which fulfills the need for banquet facilities for large groups. A large room with full-service kitchen facilities is needed within the City to provide a location for banquet-style special events without moving the event beyond city limits.
- Exercise room: This active environment is desirable for many residents, but seniors would prefer a more controlled area. A separate exercise area would be necessary for seniors.

General Recommendations

- Plant additional native trees in parks as necessary for shade, environmental improvement, and aesthetic enhancement.
- Provide park and recreation facilities for all age groups, including teens and seniors.
- Provide a variety of practice fields throughout the park system.
- Improve communication with the public regarding available park facilities and recreation programs.
- Develop a park system maintenance program to improve the equitable distribution of maintenance, renovation of facilities, and addition of new facilities among all parks.
- Implement an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Joint Use of Property between the Town and KISD by allowing public use of existing school property for recreation facilities.



Chapter 6: Implementation and Action Plan

Introduction

Kennedale is a small city in terms of population and geographic area. As the City grows to develop a wider range of neighborhoods, age and density patterns have a potential to vary. Some areas of the City are currently developing, and other areas of the City are assessed for future development. While facility standards and levels of service provide a framework for different types of park and open space development, it is important to recognize that priorities in one area of the City may not be the same as in another area.

In order to address unique conditions in each area, as the City grows, implementation strategies need to be developed in order to coordinate and oversee the facilities and maintenance of various parks and open space systems within the City at build-out. A full scale comprehensive parks master planning endeavor is necessary so that assets and capital projects are efficiently prioritized and allocated.

The needs assessment has been calculated from the data standards established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines, Colorado's Small Community Park Standards, as well as the City of Arlington's standards in order to establish a benchmark for the City of Kennedale. The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan will, through a developed trail system, connect major floodplain areas within the City to serve as a continuous main linear park system. Smaller parks will serve open space needs within residential subdivisions. These will cumulatively serve the City based on population density considerations at build-out.

Based on the needs assessment, it was determined that Kennedale will need one additional regional park in the Village Creek area, one community park in the southwest region, and five neighborhood parks dispersed throughout the city. The Railroad Park was not included in the five additional parks because it is already planned, therefore, the area of this park was calculated as part of the current park inventory. This park system will be connected to a primary trail system; either directly or via secondary trails in Figure 15.



Implementation Strategies

Land Acquisition

Kennedale currently has three neighborhood parks and one community park. Acquisition of land should be focused on the expansion of existing parks, creation of new parks, and protection of natural habitat. Land acquisition may include direct purchasing or the establishment of recreational and/or park land easements. The following recommendations target this type of land acquisition.

Donation of land to the City is considered a tax-deductible charitable donation. Most often the original landowner remains on the property. Once an easement is in place, it stays with the land and cannot be moved. The land can also be donated through a living will / trust, which would give the City the same rights to the land, but without the stipulation of conservation.

A fee simple land purchase transfers full ownership of the property, including the underlying title, to another party. It may also be the result of a donation, with tax benefits for the landowner from the donation. They can also be voluntary transactions between a landowner (seller) and purchaser (buyer) through fee titles transfers for the sole purpose of park and open space development. The party that holds the fee title has a long-term responsibility to administer and monitor the title.

Park Land Dedication Ordinance

The City of Kennedale can offer incentives to developers and property owners through land dedications associated with subdivision development. This encourages a stewardship of the local landscape in addition to increasing the economic value of properties within the City. This promotes a both a positive image for the City and an aesthetic advantage that may result in further economic profits.

Conservation Easements

An easement would allow the developers the ability to set aside percentages of land for conservation reasons, such as the preservation for wildlife and riparian corridors within the floodplain areas.

Financing Operations & Maintenance

One method for financing is to adopt a General Sales Tax Revenue and earmark a portion of the sales tax specifically to fund both park land acquisition and maintenance. This can be an especially effective and dependable mechanism.

Another method of revenue generation is through user fees, which are most appropriate when parks are used for:

- a) special events,
- b) entry controlled facilities such as recreation centers, skate parks, bike tracks, swimming pools, etc., and
- c) ball field facilities with centrally organized league play.

Third, impact fees are a type of one-time charge developers pay to help finance their proportionate share of the cost of the roads, parks, schools and other facilities necessary to serve their new developments. A portion of the funds collected would be applied toward the new parks and trails facilities that are to be developed in order to meet the needs the new developments and the ensuing population density increase engenders. The following criteria should be considered should the City adopt an impact fee for any park and open space facility development:

- Statutory limitations
- Other funding options
- Availability of plans and data
- Current levels of service
- Political support, and
- Revenue potential

The amount of the fee must be clearly linked to the added service cost and maintenance of the facilities. The City must make local policy decisions relating to facilities, methodology, exemptions, offsets, benefit areas, and percent cost recovery. They may be addressed toward benefit districts and assessment districts as the local authority's policy determines.

Joint Use Facilities

Partnerships between public / private entities and the public / school districts for joint-use facilities is an advantageous route to be used to further augment the City's park and recreation facilities. This type of agreement between the City and the school system is advantageous to both parties as it can maximize the efficiency of the operations and maintenance costs of each entity.

Park Improvements

Park improvement is vital to ensure that the facilities accommodate the citizens as well as exceed their wants and needs in a park system.

American Disability Act (ADA)

The City of Kennedale is recommended to design, construct, and operate all buildings and facilities so they are accessible to, and usable by, persons with disabilities to the greatest extent reasonable. This means that all new and altered buildings and facilities should be in conformance with the appropriate design standards. It also means that a sufficient number of existing buildings and facilities should be modified to ensure that programs can be provided in an accessible location.

Signage

A good park signage system performs multiple functions: it provides effective information and direction for people to find their way around the park, encourages learning experiences, helps maintain the image of the park, and communicates park rules.

Signage can meet specific needs, target certain areas, and at the same time be kept to a minimum in the park as a whole. It can also provide a sense of place and local pride by incorporating the history of a specific site in the overall design.

Security

The implementation of rules and regulations is designed to inform and educate visitors on the safest and most enjoyable experiences, while ensuring their own personal safety and security while visiting Kennedale's parks.

Kennedale should partner with local law enforcement to provide a proactive response to suspicious and/or emergency situations. Incorporating a security-focused signage system is also encouraged to remind park visitors of Kennedale's expectations regarding the safety of its citizens. Promoting Park Watch programs within the community will increase safety and a sense of belonging and community among the citizens.

Park View / Lighting

There are multiple creative options for lighting the parks in Kennedale while providing a park view for the citizens, enabling the City to attract long-lived activity in the parks as well as local events, while making people feel safe and welcome.

Aesthetically pleasing solar lighting can function as a sustainable measure to provide safety to citizens utilizing the parks. Using solar lighting is cost effective, since the future energy use is free and will save the City thousands of dollars over traditional park lights when installed in new or existing parks.

Park Development

The City of Kennedale has the potential to acquire additional land to expand and improve their parks. A population projection sourced by The North Texas Council of Government predicts that the population will increase to approximately 10,720 residents by 2020. Based on the demographics and geography, new parks have been proposed in addition to expanding and/or improving the existing parks in the City. In utilizing the City's topography, the proposed parks should be developed along the flood plains, with measures to mitigate possible flooding as well add a natural aesthetical appeal to the open space. Refer to Figure 14 for more detail.

Linear Parks

Recent trends in linear park system design across the U.S. focus on abandoned rail lines, allowing municipalities and local authorities to bring green areas into cities as an ecological and sustainable open space connectivity network. The acquisition of abandoned railway rights-of-way is a feasible option for many municipalities. The City of Kennedale has a rail line passing through its center. Besides that, existing creeks and rivers within the City provide a strong basis for future linear green corridor implementations. In recent years, the importance of linear parks as part of the open space needs in cities has increased, as they offer a number of benefits such as non-motorized transportation corridors, space for sports activities, recreational uses, and locations for social gathering. Linear parks generate a vital aesthetic yet practical and long-lasting impression of the City's image to residents and visitors, adding to a sense of place. Therefore, utilizing existing creeks and rivers for future linear park implementations or taking those areas into consideration of expands of green areas is recommended.

As the City of Kennedale expands, emphasizing principles and standards essential for the design and functioning of the linear park establishes guidelines for future park development. The following principles will define the strategic processes for the development of linear parks for the administrative divisions of the City.

A linear park should be a connector between parks through greenways with natural beauty that appeals to the senses (e.g., sunlight, shade, wind, view sheds). It should link schools, shopping places, workplaces, and neighborhoods through non-motorized modes of transportation such as those used on hike and bike trails. Wherever possible, a linear park should protect natural and historic areas of interest within the City. A basic linear park is constituted by three parts: trails, trailheads, and open space. The minimum width of a linear park system is recommended to be 50 feet.

Figure 16. Linear Park Illustration



Park Concepts

Railroad Historical Park

All city park facilities are accessible to the public; however, Railroad Park may serve as an all-inclusive park which would answer the particular needs for physically challenged populations by incorporating ADA standards. Using the railroad theme, a concrete “railway” pathway can encircle the radius of the playground with turf or another artificial surface underneath the playground equipment for wheelchairs to maneuver. According to the theme, sufficient seating and wide walkways on play equipment can allow children with walkers and crutches access the equipment. ADA-compliant swings can be installed for physically challenged visitors. All-weather historical stands or kiosks regarding the historical background of Kennedale can incorporate Braille or voice for blind visitors.

In addition to additional handicap parking for this park, adequate lighting and emergency phone kiosks should be incorporated due to the special needs of the guests. Due to the special features of this park, federal grants, private foundations, and community funding may be available.



Splash Park and Play Fountains

A splash park features age-specific play areas including a water wall, ground sprays, play structures, a magic touch water gun, spray cannons and power geysers. Six touch buttons allow children to interact with the play features.

At maximum capacity, the Splash Factory can pump 2,000 gallons of re-circulated water per minute, enough to fill an average in-ground backyard swimming pool in 11 minutes. To conserve water, the city can install a swimming filter and chlorination system that re-circulates water through the park. Staff monitors and enforces age requirements for the different play areas. A recommended location is southern Kennedale, in new community where gravel pits are located.



Sports Field or Court as Detention Pond

The purpose of a detention pond is to suppress downstream flooding and erosion by reducing the rate of flow. Facilities designed for a single use that are located in more remote places or in open spaces create an opportunity to design them for multiple uses. Since the facility is not accessible or used during rain or severe weather conditions, the detention facility can be natural or hard surfaced with hard edges or a planted edge.



Funding Sources

There are a wide variety of funding sources available to the City of Kennedale that can aid tremendously in making this Master Plan a feasible one. As the search for funding sources is an important and arguably indispensable step in the implementation of this plan, a list of potential funding sources has been developed and can be found in Appendix A.

Appendix A: Funding and Grant Sources

Federal, State, and Organizational Funding

Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) Grant

The CO-OP grant provides funding to local governments and non-profit organizations for programming that introduces under-served populations to environmental and conservation programs as well as the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) mission-oriented outdoor activities.

Entergy Open Grants

Entergy's Open Grants Program focuses on improving communities as a whole. They provide funds for projects in the areas of arts and culture, community improvement / enrichment, the environment, and healthy families. These grants are available to communities where Entergy has operations.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Training and Technical Assistance for Small Systems

The EPA competitively awards non-profit organizations which provide training and technical assistance to small public water systems, small wastewater systems and private well owners. The funding can help provide water and wastewater system staff and private well owners with training and tools to enhance system operations and management practices, and support EPA's continuing efforts to protect public health and promote sustainability in small communities.

Patagonia Environmental Grants

Patagonia funds environmental work, and is interested in giving grants to organizations that identify and work on the root causes of problems, and that approach issues with a commitment to long-term change. Funding focuses on organizations that build a strong base of citizen support.

Recreational Trails Grants

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This federally funded program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles. The grants can be up to 80% of project cost with a maximum of \$200,000 for non-motorized trail grants. Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects such as the construction of new recreational trails, the improvement of existing trails, the development of trailheads or trailside facilities, and the acquisition of trail corridors.

Local Parks Grants

The Local Park Grant Program consists of 5 individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities throughout the State of Texas. The Program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to eligible applicants. All grant-assisted sites must be dedicated as park land in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public.

The Texas Community Development Block Grant Program

This program uses federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to provide a variety of assistance to smaller communities. This program is administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture's Office of Rural Affairs.

Community Development Program

This fund distributes the majority of Texas CDBG grants. Funds are awarded once every two years through 24 regional competitions for assistance to eligible cities and counties to address public facilities and housing needs. Eligible activities include infrastructure projects such as sewer and water system improvements, street, bridge, and drainage improvements, and housing rehabilitation. Project beneficiaries must be 51 percent low and moderate income. Grants range from \$100,000 to more than \$500,000, depending on the region. Matching funds are typically required.

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation

The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation works to improve the communities and schools they serve. The foundation supports non-profit organizations and public institutions that support public education and community improvement and has grant funds available for playground projects (\$5,000-\$25,000).

Miracle's Grants for America's Children

Up to \$5 million in grant money is available to schools and parks around the country who want to purchase new playground equipment through Miracle's Grants for America's Children program. Miracle, a playground manufacturer for over 80 years, awards grants for purchase of equipment based on an assessment of the current playground equipment proposal, size of project, and amount of grant funding available.

Shade Structure Grant Program

The American Academy of Dermatology's Shade Structure Grant Program awards grants to public schools and non-profit organizations for installing permanent shade structures for outdoor locations that are not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds. Each grant is valued at up to \$8,000, which includes the structure and installation.

National Park Service Land & Water Conservation Fund

States and local governments are eligible to apply for matching grants to fund public outdoor recreation and areas and facilities.

Let's Play Initiative

Dr. Pepper Snapple Group has made a three-year, \$15 million commitment, as part of KaBOOM!'s Let's Play Initiative, to help construct and improve playground areas. Municipalities and non-profit organizations with a playground or outdoor recreational space that is currently unsafe for children can apply for construction grants. The Initiative also offers Let's Play Completion Grants, which can be used toward the completion or improvement of an existing playground. This grant program has an ongoing

deadline. In addition, there are also opportunities for communities to partner with school districts to apply for Joint Use Grants to open school recreation facilities to the public during non-school hours.

Community Facilities Grant Program

The Community Facilities Grant program is funded by the Department of Agriculture (USDA). This program provides grants to communities with fewer than 20,000 residents to construct and renovate facilities used for public service, health care, recreation, community service, and public safety. Funds are also used to purchase equipment that is needed to operate the facilities. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, municipalities, towns, districts and tribal government agencies. Areas with the lowest population and income levels receive higher grant considerations. Up to 75 percent of the project costs are covered by the grant. The amount of funding is dependent on the median income and population of the applicant entity.

Outdoor Recreational Grant Program

The National Park Service (NPS) sponsors the Outdoor Recreational Grant program through the Land & Water Conservation Fund. Grants are used to acquire land and plan and develop recreational areas such as playgrounds, tennis courts, outdoor swimming pools, hiking trails, picnic areas, campgrounds, and boat-launching ramps. Funds are also used to build restrooms, water systems, and other support facilities for the general public. States, cities, counties, and park districts are eligible to apply for these grants, and over the course of NPS's history, more than \$5 billion has been awarded for preservation and recreation grants. Funds are allocated as matching with state grants.

Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) sponsors the state-administered Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Grants from this program are used to acquire real estate property for public use, demolish blighted structures, and construct and renovate public service facilities, recreational facilities, and public and private buildings. Funds are also used to support economic development activities including assisting micro-enterprises. Grants are administered by states to cities and counties with fewer than 50,000 and 200,000 residents respectively. Up to 3 percent of the grant can be allocated to cover technical assistance and administrative expense.

Every Day Capacity Building Grants

The National Environmental Education Foundation will provide Friends Groups with grant funds of up to \$5,000 to help build their capacity to serve public lands.

Safe Places to Play

The U.S. Soccer Foundation is accepting Letters of Inquiry for its Safe Places to Play program, which provides grants to organizations to help them build or enhance a field space in their communities. Grants will be awarded for the installation of field surfaces, lighting, and irrigation.

Arbor Day Foundation

TD Green Streets supports innovative practices in community forestry. Through this grant program, municipalities are eligible to receive one of ten \$20,000 grants in support of local forestry projects in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The Small Grants Program is a competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. These projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds.

National Recreation and Parks Association

A new member benefit for NRPA members, *Fund Your Park* is a crowd funding platform designed exclusively for park and recreation agencies. Selected projects will be profiled on the platform for funding, whether it's for building a new playground or installing trail signs.

Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program

The Exchange Network Grant Program provides funding to states, territories, and federally recognized Indian Tribes to support the development of an Environmental Information Exchange Network. The Exchange Network is an internet- and standards-based, secure information systems network that supports the electronic collection, exchange, and integration of high-quality data. Funding for the grant program has been provided through annual congressional appropriations for the EPA.

Environmental Justice Grants

The purpose of the Environmental Justice Grant Program is for EPA to provide financial assistance to support community-based organizations to collaborate and partner with other stakeholders (e.g., industry, government, academia, etc.) to develop and implement solutions that will significantly address environmental and/or public health issues at the local level.

Environmental Justice through Pollution Prevention

The Environmental Justice through Pollution Prevention (EJP2) grant program supports community-based groups across the nation develop collaborative approaches to achieve environmental justice through pollution prevention.

Clean Water Financing

Includes guidance and information about the following programs:

- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program
- Water Pollution Control Program Grants for states
- Water Quality Cooperative Agreements
- Clean Water Indian Program Grants
- Pollution Prevention (P2)
- Water Grants and Funding
- Watershed Funding

City-Generated Funding Sources

- **General fund expenditures** are primarily used for improvements or repairs to existing parks and facilities. Typically general fund expenditures are for smaller repair and replacement efforts.
- **Bond funds** are primarily targeted toward new facilities.
- **Electric utility partnerships** can be established for utility easement trails. This partnership typically does not involve monetary contributions; however, it does include use agreements for easements held by utility companies.
- **Water utility bill contributions:** Residents of the city can choose to add a small amount to their water collection bills to fund park improvements. In this way, the City of Austin has raised almost \$50,000 for the city's parks and libraries since 2013.
- **Half cent sales tax funds:** Using this source, the City of Mansfield was able to raise \$3.4 million in 2007.
- **Park donations funds** can be used for applicable projects, equipment, and general facility improvements.
- **Park development fee funds:** This type of funding is received from developers for removing quality trees for development. The revenue generated is used to plant trees and to irrigate city properties.



Appendix B: City Policy

Cultural and Natural Landscapes Protection

We recommend the City of Kennedale initiate a Conservation and Development Plan or a Natural Resource Management Ordinance to protect the cultural and natural landscapes. By protecting natural environments and encouraging native landscaping, the City can increase the value of residential and commercial properties within the City, maintain and enhance a positive image for the attraction of new businesses to the City, protect healthy quality trees, and promote the natural and aesthetic qualities of the City.

1. Enforcement of Tree Ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote site planning which furthers the preservation of mature trees and natural areas, to protect trees during construction, to facilitate site design and construction, and to control the removal of trees when necessary.

2. Encouragement of park land dedication

This will promote neighborhood and community parks intended to serve the people in the proximate areas, protect the interest of current residents, and to manage growth.

3. Preserving and planting of native landscaping and drought resistant plants

The purpose is to provide for the orderly and aesthetic development of the City. By requiring a minimum of landscape elements such as trees, shrubs and ground cover with suitable irrigation, landscaping and buffer yards separate land uses from each other to eliminate or minimize potential nuisances such as dirt, litter, noise, glare of lights, signs, and unsightly buildings or parking areas, or provide spacing to reduce adverse impacts, odor or danger.

4. Protecting geological interest and protected animal species

The creation, enhancement and promotion of suitable natural green space is a strategy for buffering or providing appropriate avoidance measures away from sensitive ecological areas. A survey of the City can identify existing and possible conservation areas.

5. Conservation and enforcement of natural resources

Residents and officials can actively participate in conserving and protecting the City's natural resources: green belt watershed, ground and surface water resources, and aquatic habitats. Staff can provide an environmental education center or information classes on how proper maintenance and disposal practices can reduce risks to surface and groundwater resources and promote water conservation.

Park Land and Linear Park Dedication Ordinance

The City of Kennedale imposes a fee in lieu of park development. We recommend the City of Kennedale revise their ordinance to provide a park land dedication. The park land dedication requirement would apply to subdivision developers or builders and would mandate a dedication of land for a park and/or pay a fee to be used by the government entity to acquire and develop park facilities (the choice should be the City’s to make).

Table 20. City Park Land Dedication

CITY ORDINANCE	MANSFIELD	ARLINGTON	BENBROOK
Ordinance	Parkland Dedication Ordinance (2011)	Parkland Dedication	Ord. 1231§1; Ord. 1203§1
Zoning and/or Dedication Guidelines	Section 156 Park Land Dedication & Development Fee	Section 6.7.2. C and D; 10.4.20	16.04.045
Timing of Requirement	Prior to final plat or issuance of building permit	Plat application to city	Filing Plat
Land Requirements	Park land dedication requirements and park development fee assessments are based upon the mathematical formulas and allocations set forth within the plan.	Park land dedication requirements and park development fee assessments are based upon the mathematical formula and Parks & Recreation Director review	Park land shall equal one acre for each one hundred proposed dwelling units
Conveyed	Recorded Land Survey to City	Title or purchase agreement (sale)	General Warranty Deed
Land Assessment	Director of Parks and Recreation	Determined by Parks & Recreation Director	Determined by Planning and Zoning/Community Development
Fee in lieu of land	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fee Assessment	Calculation	Calculation	Calculation
Deposit	Mansfield Park Facilities Development Corporation (MPFDC)	Park Development Fee Ordinance	Park land Dedication Fund

Table continued on next page.

CITY ORDINANCE	MANSFIELD	ARLINGTON	BENBROOK
Additional Requirements	Rare, historic or endangered natural areas priority, outside floodplain, access to public street, no dump site	Outside floodplain, ready access to public street, walkway, public utilities underground	Suitable, ready access to public street, located in flood plain acceptable, drainage areas
Fee usage	Acquire or leasing of park land and development of parks	Maintenance bond for parks	Only for acquisition or park improvement
Comprehensive Plan Standards	Yes	Yes	Yes
Credit for Private Park	Yes, discretion of city	Yes, discretion of city	Yes, discretion of city
Appeal	Planning and Zoning Commission	Parks and Recreation Director	Planning and Zoning Commission
Non-residential park land dedication	No	Yes	No
Park land dedication in ETJ	Yes, subdivision	Yes, subdivision	Yes, subdivision
Updated	Every 3 years	Annually	Every 3 years

Floodplain Protection

Floodplains play an important role in natural flood and erosion control. In water management, floodplains filter nutrients and impurities from runoff and benefit wildlife. We recommend the City of Kennedale review their ordinance to protect the floodplains within the City. Working with the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA), the City can protect life, health, and property in the event of flooding.

Community regulations include the following:

- Adopt and enforce a flood damage prevention ordinance,
- Require permits for all types of development in the floodplain,
- Establish natural areas with native vegetation to enhance the natural function of the floodplain,
- Protect existing vegetation and topography within a floodplain,
- Plant trees in the floodplain,
- Restrict structures on a floodplain or ensure that building sites are reasonably safe,
- Require elevation certificates to document compliance,
- Carefully consider requests for variances,
- Conduct field inspection and cite violations,
- Manage stormwater on-site in upland areas to reduce contributions from run-off, and
- Reserve the floodplain for passive recreation activity use only.

City of Kennedale

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