

II. Statement of Goals and Objectives

Each of the precincts in Harris County should utilize this Master Plan in their decision-making process for planning, managing, and developing the future of the County's park system. The Goals and Objectives have been developed for the county as a whole although they will be implemented on the precinct level. The establishment of the Statement of Goals and Objectives is based on the needs and resources of the county.

General Goal

- Develop and enhance a balanced network of parks and facilities to serve the passive and active needs of the citizens of Harris County. The park system should be developed in a fiscally responsible manner and should not duplicate or compete with parks and recreation facilities of the incorporated municipalities or recreational facilities developed by the private sector.

General Objectives

- Adopt the standards and guidelines for development as found in Section VI of this report to help direct the size, location and facilities found within existing and future parks.
- Improve all parks by ensuring their compliance with all accessibility, safety and maintenance standards.
- Utilize common and shared facilities where possible and create a priority driven maintenance guideline to ensure fiscal responsibility.

Active Recreation

Goals

- Acquire new or develop existing parkland for sports complexes to accommodate current and future needs of the residents of Harris County. Consolidate organized sports activities into larger complexes for more efficient management and maintenance and utilize smaller parks with limited fields as practice facilities.

Objectives

- Develop regional super sports complexes strategically located throughout the county to serve the needs of the established and future leagues. The new regional super sports complexes will help to take the pressure off of overused neighborhood facilities, as well as, increase efficiency of operations and maintenance.
- Actively seek Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grants and sources of private funding whenever possible to supplement county finances.
- Relocate inappropriate facilities from small neighborhood parks. Parks with limited fields should be utilized as practice facilities.

Passive Recreation

Goals

- Develop passive recreation within existing facilities, through acquisition of new land or through interlocal agreements with municipalities or organizations such as the Harris County Flood Control District.

Objectives

- Develop passive park facilities and open space throughout the county to serve the needs of the citizens.
- Incorporate Harris County Flood Control detention basins and floodway easements to utilize as passive parks, open space and greenbelt/trail connections.
- Connect multiple parks and community facilities with a network of hike and bike trails.

Open Space and Natural Environments

Goals

- To continually identify, protect and preserve quality natural open spaces for unstructured recreational activities, inherent aesthetic value and protection of valuable ecosystems.

Objectives

- Work with local organizations such as the Harris County Flood Control District, the Park People, the Katy Prairie Conservancy, the Legacy Land Trust and the Bayou Preservation Association to promote and implement environmental projects that will enhance the community.
- Limit development of environmentally sensitive lands in order to protect valuable ecosystems.
- Identify, acquire and reclaim land to a natural state to increase open green space within the county.