

IX Conclusion

Overview

The proposed strategies and projects outlined in this study will enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Harris County. Improvement and expansion of the park system will enable the County to keep pace with the growing demand for recreational facilities as the population of the County increases. Strategic long range planning will create a more balanced network of facilities. Implementation of the Conceptual Bikeway Plan and development of floodway easements as greenbelt/ trail connectors will result in a greater level of interconnectivity throughout the park system and the community.

Through cooperation with the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) and other entities such as the Katy Prairie Conservancy and the Legacy Land Trust much of the future land acquisition needs for conservation, passive recreation and preservation of open space will be accommodated. This will allow the County to concentrate on acquiring land to be used for active recreation including organized sports.

Future park development should focus primarily on community, regional and greenway parks. As opportunities arise, special use parks should also be developed.

HCFCD will play an essential role in the improvement and expansion of the park system; however, the recent reallocation of tax revenue away from HCFCD will jeopardize the agency's ability to support this Master Plan. The continued support of the HCFCD budget and mission is essential to the County's ability to meet the objectives outlined in this study.

Land Acquisition

In order to accommodate the County's development goal, the land acquisition schedule should proceed in advance of the development schedule. The County should elect to acquire land on an accelerated schedule to take advantage of current land costs and availability.

The County should complete the purchase of 2,000 acres by 2005. An additional 2,400 acres of land should be purchased by 2020. Approximately 8,000 acres should be secured through interlocal agreements with HCFCD and other entities.

Prioritized Projects

Each of the four precincts within the County has unique needs as demographics and geography have provided various demands and opportunities. The five highest rated Priority Projects within each precinct have been identified for development over a five-year period. The following table indicates the proposed development phasing schedule for each project.

Proposed Development Schedule

Project	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
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Precinct 1

1. El Franco Lee Land Acquisition and Development	A & D	C	C		
2. Eisenhower Park Development		D	C	C	
3. Christia V. Adair Tracts II and III Land Acquisition and Development	A	D	C	C	
4. Frankie Carter Randolph Park Land Acquisition and Development			A	D	C
5. Street Olympics Complex Natatorium			D	C	C

Precinct 2

1. East Harris County Soccer Complex Development	D	C	C		
2. Beltway 8 Sports Park – Phase I Development		D	C	C	
3. Rio Villa Development	D	C			
4. Nadolney Park Redevelopment	D & C	C			
5. Northshore Family Park Development	D	C			

Precinct 3

1. Zube Park Land Acquisition and Development	A & D	C	C		
2. Westside Park Chain of Lakes Development		D	C	C	
3. Katy Park Land Acquisition and Development		A	D	C	C
4. Mary Jo Peckham Park Land Acquisition and Development			A	D	C
5. Cypress Creek Park Development			D	C	C

Precinct 4

1. Matzke School Park Development	D	C	C		
2. A.D. Dyess Park Development	D	C	C		
3. Jesse H. Jones Park Land Acquisition and Development		A	D	C	C
4. FM 2920 Area Sports Park Land Acquisition and Development		A		D	C
5. Spring Creek Road Park – Phase 1		D	C	C	

Phasing Designations:

A – Acquisition

D – Design

C – Construction

Phase II Master Plan

We recommend that the County proceed with a Phase II study designed to include the review and analysis of a consolidated inventory of parks, recreational facilities and open space, including those located within the borders of Harris County but not owned by the County. The Phase II study would evaluate opportunities for partnerships in the development of projects, as well as, organize proposed projects and land acquisitions into three additional 5-year phases spanning through 2021.