

VII. Plan Implementation Recommendations

Introduction

One aspect of this study is to identify a prioritized list of projects based on a realistic development goal set by each precinct and to select which projects should be accomplished within the next five years. Eighty-seven opportunities for new project development, existing project expansions and renovations and/or land acquisitions were identified during the course of this study.

Prioritized Five Year Plan Projects

From the list of eighty-seven projects thirty-seven were identified as candidates to be included in the list of Prioritized Five Year Plan Projects (Prioritized Projects). Each of these projects were then rated using a Project Priority Rating matrix developed specifically for this study. The rating matrix, a sample of which follows, is based on twelve separate criteria. There are up to four possible scores for each criteria; and each criteria score is weighted depending on an assigned level of importance. The twelve criteria are:

- Availability of Land
- Land Acquisition
- Development Status
- Operating Budget Impact
- Use
- Service Area
- Schedule
- Intensity of Use
- Location
- Economic Impact
- Availability of Funds
- Public Support

Prioritized Projects are listed by precinct with a summary description and a Project Priority Rating score. Following each precinct list is a precinct map with Prioritized Projects located. These maps also indicate which of the following categories apply to each project:

- Projects at existing parks
- Projects at existing county owned but undeveloped sites
- Projects at sites to be acquired by county
- Sites to be acquired by not developed under five-year plan
- Projects at non-county owned sites to be developed via interlocal agreement

Identified Non-Prioritized Future Capital Improvements

Fifty projects not included in the list of Prioritized Projects are listed by precinct along with a brief description of the project scope. These projects are candidates for inclusion on a list of Prioritized Ten Year Plan Projects to be developed in the future or could be included on the List of Prioritized Five Year Plan Projects if the County elects to expand the five year list.

Land Acquisition

Section VI of this study discussed year 2000 acreage requirements and projected year 2005 acreage requirements. Although the scope of this study focuses on the next five years, long range land acquisition strategies are essential and should be responsive to current and perceived future pressures from encroaching development.

When acreage requirements are projected through 2020, the Harris County share of the total deficit is 12,187 acres. A goal has been set to purchase approximately 37% of the deficit or 4,400 acres over the next twenty years. To reach the County's park acreage standard, the balance of the deficit acreage would be acquired via interlocal agreements.

Areas to be targeted for land purchases have been identified on the Land Acquisition Target Zone map. Each target zone is classified according to perceived pressure from development.