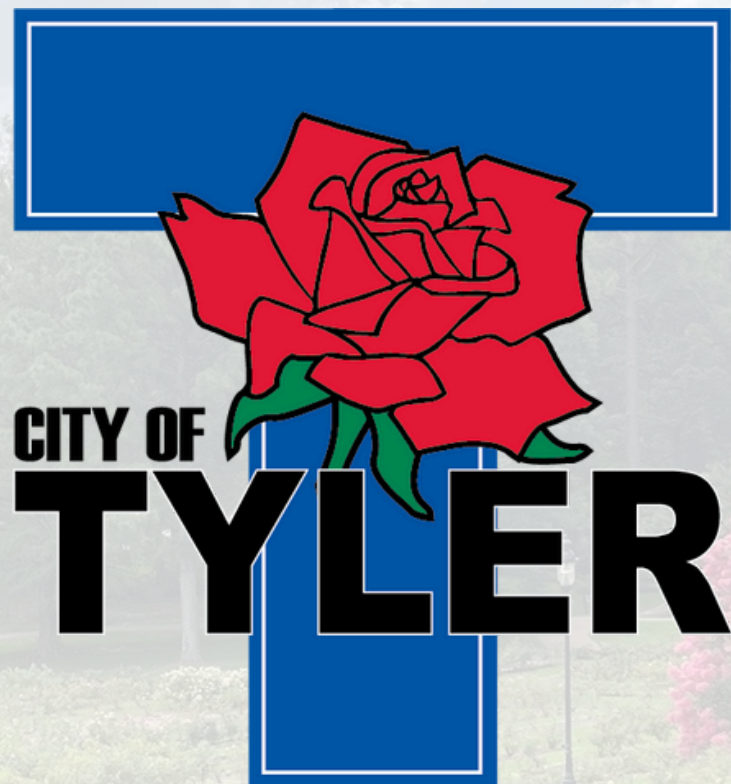

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2025 - 2035



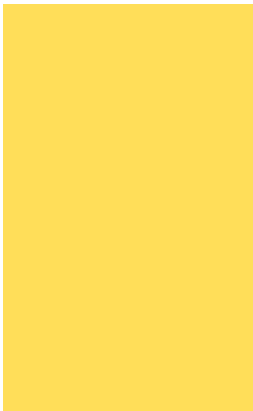
PARKS AND RECREATION

March 2025






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INTRODUCTION

The City of Tyler experienced growth and transition since the original Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was created in 2009. Following the 2020 Master Plan update, the City of Tyler Parks and Recreation Department is once again updating the Master Plan in 2025 to build upon the achievements of previous years and to set a strategic course for future success.

The 2025 City of Tyler Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan serves as a comprehensive guide for city staff, advisory committees, and elected officials in their efforts to enhance the community through exceptional recreational spaces and facilities.

This plan serves as a critical tool to aid in coordination between city departments, non-municipal agencies, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to streamline initiatives and maximize resource efficiency. The City of Tyler will have a competitive advantage in securing grant funding from various regional, state, and federal resources. Additionally, this plan offers a clear framework for decision-making processes that align with long-term community goals and development.

The following pages of the Master Plan contain:

- Tyler's community profile
- Goals and objectives
- The methodology of plan development
- Inventory of existing parks and facilities
- Citizen input
- Local needs
- Implementation Program
- Potential funding sources



COMMUNITY PROFILE



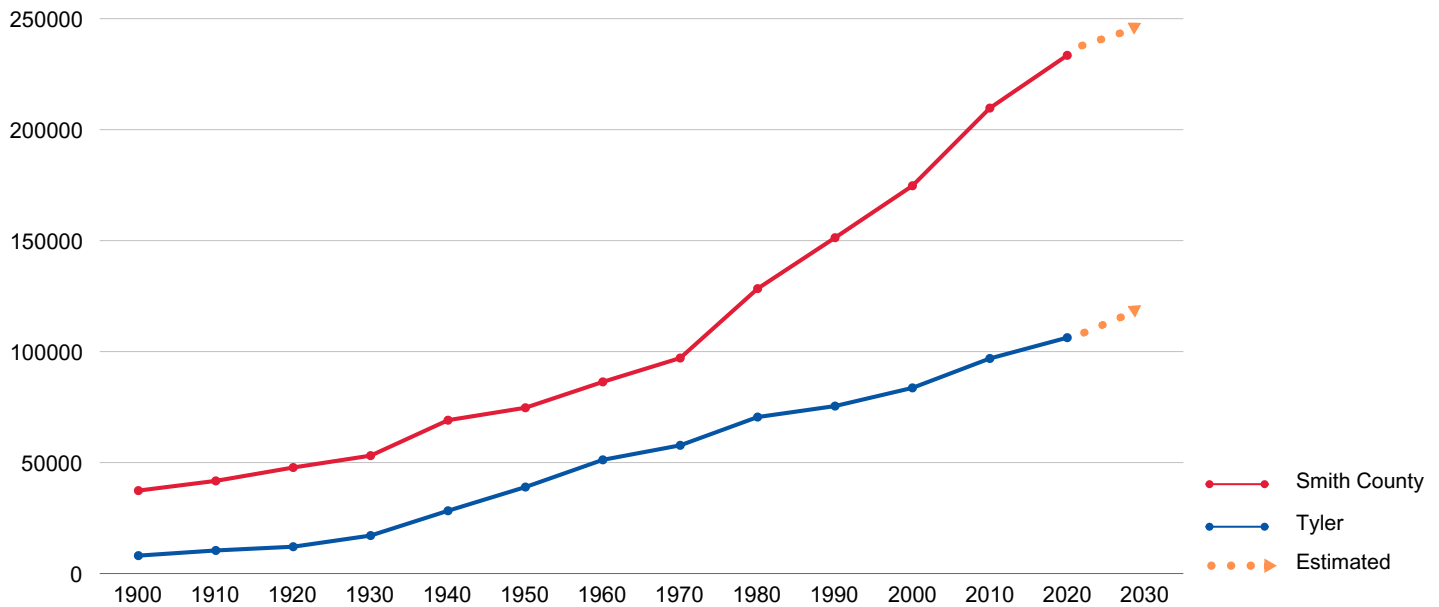
The City of Tyler, Texas is:

- Located in northeast Texas in Smith County
- Approximately 90 miles east of Dallas, Texas, 215 miles northeast of Houston, Texas, and 90 miles west of Shreveport, Louisiana
- Neighbored by Lindale, Jacksonville, Chapel Hill, Flint, and Gresham
- A total of 57.16 square miles
- An average elevation of 544 feet above mean sea level
- Accessed by highways 69, 31, 64, and Loop 323

The climate is generally mild and extreme changes are short in duration.

- Temperatures range from a mean minimum in January of 34 degrees Fahrenheit to a mean maximum in July of 96 degrees Fahrenheit.
- The average first freeze is mid-November and the average last freeze is mid-March.
- The average rainfall between 2020 - 2024 was 42.75 inches per year.
- The basic soil type is sandy loam, with some clays.
- Flora and fauna is comprised of pine trees, oak, elm, and a variety of native trees, plants, shrubs, and vines. Tyler is known as the “Rose Capital of America.”

COMMUNITY PROFILE



The City of Tyler is:

- Population estimate: 110,327
- Ethnic breakdown:
 - 47% White, non-Hispanic
 - 23.4% African-American, non-Hispanic
 - 23.6% Hispanic
 - 6% Other, non-Hispanic
- Median household income: \$68,441
- Median age: 34.9
- Senior citizen population (Aged 65+): 15.1%

(Source: U.S. Census 2023 estimates)



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives are designed to guide for future community decisions regarding parks, recreation and open spaces, as well as facilities. These goals and objectives were established based on input from the City of Tyler residents and the Tyler 1st Comprehensive Plan.

Park and Recreation Goal:

To ensure the provision of a balanced park and open space system that meets the recreational needs of the citizens of Tyler and helps to create a unique community character.

Objectives:

- Provide new and diverse recreational opportunities and programming for all ages and abilities throughout the community.
- Ensure public parks are accessible throughout the city, with options in proximity to all neighborhoods.
- Forge partnerships with public and private organizations for the development, operation and maintenance of future recreational needs.
- Provide and further develop a trail system that connects parks, residential areas, commercial areas, schools, and historic downtown Tyler.
- Proactively acquire land for developing parks and recreational facilities.
- Continuously renovate and enhance the existing park system as the city and demographics evolve.
- Partner with local youth organizations to provide athletic facilities for organized youth baseball, softball, football, and soccer.
- Provide and further develop superior facilities that meet high standards of quality, safety, and accessibility, ensuring an exceptional experience for all users.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Open Space Goal:

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

Objectives:

- Continually research the viability of developing trail systems along creeks, flood ways, and utility easements that will link recreational facilities, neighborhoods and schools.
- Be proactive in the protection of unique natural open spaces throughout the City of Tyler.
- Encourage environmentally responsible private development in order to minimize adverse effects on valuable ecosystems.
- Address natural open space needs by providing citizens with well-balanced recreational experiences that include active, passive, and primitive opportunities.
- Utilize the Keep Tyler Beautiful and Urban Forestry teams to enhance environmental responsibility, ensuring sustainable practices, education, and the preservation of natural beauty.



METHODOLOGY

The planning process officially began in 2009 when the City of Tyler began to address the parks and open space opportunities throughout the city. The Parks Board, representing a cross-section of the community, guided the development of the Master Plan. The Parks Board played a crucial role in each major step of the planning process, providing local insight needed to produce a successful Master Plan. Following the 2020 Master Plan update, the City of Tyler Parks and Recreation Department is updating the Master Plan in 2025 to build upon the achievements of previous years and to set a strategic course for future success.

Several steps were taken in order to create a successful and realistic Master Plan:

- The initial step involved inventorying and evaluating existing parks, open spaces, facilities, and recreational resources in Tyler.
- Developed park acreage was compared to the existing population to establish the current level of service.
- Online surveys were conducted, with 1,094 survey responses received and tabulated.
- Public Input meetings were held to gather feedback from the general public.
- The existing parks were evaluated against national standards published by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to allow for an objective review of the park system.

Based on the citizen input, existing inventory, available resources, and professional opinion, potential park projects were developed that included additional parks and recreational facilities for the City of Tyler. The Parks Board reviewed these projects based on local demand and provided input. Budget estimates were generated for each project and possible funding sources were identified.

Professional staff of the City of Tyler was involved throughout the planning process to ensure the plan resulted in a feasible and balanced park program.

PARK CLASSIFICATION AND INVENTORY

The following terms provide a brief description of park classifications based on the standards set by the National Park and Recreation Association.

Pocket/Ornamental Park

A pocket or ornamental park is a small (usually less than two acres) park developed for passive recreation.

Mini Park

A mini-park is a site of approximately one to four acres located within the city limits and serves the area with a one-quarter mile radius with both active and passive recreational opportunities.

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks are the basic unit of the park system serving as a recreational and social focus of their neighborhood. A neighborhood park size ranges from five acres to ten acres, but varies according to circumstance and many are much smaller. An ideal neighborhood park is centrally located with a service area of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. These distances may vary depending on development diversity.

School Park

A school park is when a site used by the school is combined with a park. It is a partnership with the city to allow public use on school property. School sites not open to the public should not count as a school park. A school park can fulfill the space requirements of other classes of parks such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special uses.

Community Park

Community parks provide a large variety of outdoor activities, opportunities for environmental education and encourage social community activities. An optimal community park is about 20 to 50 acres, although its actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate desired uses. A community park should serve two or more neighborhoods. The service area for this type of park should be 0.5 to 3.0 miles in radius.

PARK CLASSIFICATION AND INVENTORY

Large Urban Park

Regional parks typically are a minimum of 50 acres and serve a larger area than the community alone. Regional parks typically have the same type of amenities as community parks and focus of community based recreation but are much larger in size. Regional parks typically have land set aside to preserve as unique landscapes or natural open space.

Greenways

Greenways tie park components together to form a cohesive park, recreation, and open space system. They allow for uninterrupted and safe pedestrian movement between parks throughout the community.

Sport Complex

Sports Complex is a classification for heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities. A sports complex should be a minimum of 40 acres, with 80 to 150 acres being optimal.

Special Use Park

The Special Use Park classification covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities such as historic/cultural/social sites, recreation facilities and outdoor recreation facilities. Facility space requirements are the primary determinants of site size and location. For example, a golf course may require 150 acres, whereas a community center with parking may only require 10 or 15 acres. Special Use Parks provide areas for specific activities to allow groups with common interests to participate together.

Private Park/Recreation Facility

Private Park/Recreation Facility classification recognizes the contributions of private providers to the community park and recreation system.



	CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION CRITERIA	SIZE CRITERIA	LOS
	POCKET PARK	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs	Less than a ¼ mile distance in residential setting	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size	Yes
	MINI PARK	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs	Less than a ¼ mile distance in residential setting	1 to 5 acres	Yes
	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	Serves as the social and recreational focus	¼ to ½ mile distance uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers	5 to 10 acres (optimal)	Yes
	COMMUNITY PARK	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, preserving unique landscapes	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance	30 and 50 acres	Yes
	SCHOOL PARK	Depending on the circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks	Determined by location of school district property	Variable, depends on function	Yes-does not count school only uses
	LARGE URBAN PARK	Serves when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community	Determined by quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community	50 and 75 acres	Yes
	GREENWAYS	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable	Yes
	SPORTS COMPLEX	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community	Strategically located community-wide facilities	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal	Yes
	SPECIAL USE	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use	Variable-Dependent on specific use	Variable	Depends on use
	PRIVATE PARK/RECREATION FACILITY	Privately owned facilities that contribute to the public park system	Variable	Variable	Depends on use

NAME	CLASSIFICATION	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	AMENITIES
3RD AND OUTER PARK	POCKET	.50	.50	Median
9TH AND OLD JACKSONVILLE PARK	POCKET	.50	.50	Median
ARP ISLAND	POCKET	.50	.50	Median
BELLWOOD LAKE PARK	SPECIAL USE	92.5	185	Picnic areas
BERGFELD PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	8.3	8.3	Ampitheater, splash pad, tennis courts, playground, picnic areas, restroom
CHILDREN'S PARK	SPECIAL USE	1	1	Botanical flower garden, story ampitheater, picnic areas, restrooms
CITY PARK	MINI PARK	1.85	1.85	Basketball courts, playground, picnic areas
CRESCENT PARK	MINI PARK	1.3	1.3	Playground, picnic areas
DOUGLAS PARK	MINI PARK	2.5	2.5	Park benches, picnic areas
EMMETT J. SCOTT PARK	MINI PARK	2.75	2.75	Baseball field, basketball court, playground, picnic areas, restrooms
FAULKNER PARK	LARGE URBAN PARK	180	180	Baseball fields, Inclusive field, tennis courts, playgrounds, sprayground, skate park, hike/bike trail, fishing pond, picnic areas, restrooms
FUN FOREST PARK	COMMUNITY	31.72	31.72	Swimming pool, baseball fields, tennis courts, soccer field, Senior Center, playgrounds, picnic areas, restrooms
GASSAWAY PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	6.7	6.7	Playground, basketball, picnic areas
GLENWOOD AND GENTRY ISLAND	POCKET	.75	.75	Median
GOLDEN ROAD PARK	SPORTS COMPLEX	30	30	Baseball fields, soccer field, playground, picnic areas, restrooms

NAME	CLASSIFICATION	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	AMENITIES
GOODMAN-LEGRAND PARK	SPECIAL USE	8.35	8.35	Goodman Museum, rose garden, event venue, picnic areas, restrooms
GRANDE BLVD ISLAND	POCKET	2.5	2.5	Median
HERNDON HILLS PARK	MINI PARK	2	2	Basketball court, playground, picnic areas
HILLSIDE PARK	MINI PARK	3.5	3.5	Soccer field, basketball court, playground, pavilion, picnic areas, restrooms
LEGACY TRAIL	GREENWAY	22.9	22.9	Multi-use trail
LINDSEY PARK	LARGE URBAN PARK	204	204	Soccer fields, softball fields, disc golf courses, pavilion, picnic areas, restrooms, hike/bike trail
NOBLE E. YOUNG PARK	COMMUNITY	25	25	Basketball court, hike/bike trail, playground, picnic areas, disc golf course, restrooms, childrens bike park
NORTHSIDE PARK	SPECIAL USE	0	60	Remote control airplane fly area
OAK GROVE PARK	MINI PARK	3.83	3.83	Playground, basketball court
P.T. COLE PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	4.68	4.68	Playground, basketball court, soccer field, pavilion, picnic areas, sprayground, restrooms
POLLARD PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	9.17	9.17	Playground, basketball court, multi-use fields, picnic areas, tennis court, pickleball courts, dog run, restrooms
ROSE COMPLEX PARK	MINI PARK	3.3	3.3	Benches, picnic areas
ROSE RUDMAN PARK	GREENWAY	30	30	Picnic areas, multi-use trail, pavilion
SOUTH TYLER PARK	GREENWAY	14	14	Multi-use trail, pavilion
SOUTHSIDE PARK	COMMUNITY	15	42	Multi-use trail, pavilion, inclusive playground, picnic areas, restrooms

NAME	CLASSIFICATION	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	AMENITIES
STEWART PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	0	9.009	Nature area
SUNNYBROOK AND GREEN LANE PARK	POCKET	1	1	Median
TATUM PARK	POCKET	.25	.25	Benches
T.R. GRIFFITH PARK	MINI PARK	2.56	2.56	Basketball court, playground, pavilion, picnic areas, multi-use trail
TYLER ROSE GARDEN	SPECIAL USE	14	14	Historic rose garden, pavilions, benches, walking trails
W.E. WINTERS PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	17.5	17.5	Basketball courts, playground, walking trails, picnic areas, pavilion
WINDSOR GROVE NATURE PARK	MINI PARK	1.5	1.5	Hike/bike trail, picnic areas
WOLDERT PARK	COMMUNITY	52.2	52.2	Glass Recreation Center, basketball courts, playgrounds, walking trails, picnic areas, restrooms, pond, tennis court, baseball field

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level of service is the term used to describe the importance or the role of a park system in a community expressed in acres of usable parkland per 1,000 persons. According to the 2024 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review, the targeted level of service for communities nationwide is 10.6 developed acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. The current City of Tyler population is 110,327 residents, so the resultant level of service of developed parkland is 7.24 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

As there is no one-size-fits-all solution for maintaining and improving a park and recreation agency, this report indicates for populations between 100,000-200,000 the ideal level of service should be based on the unique characteristics, culture, and needs of each community.

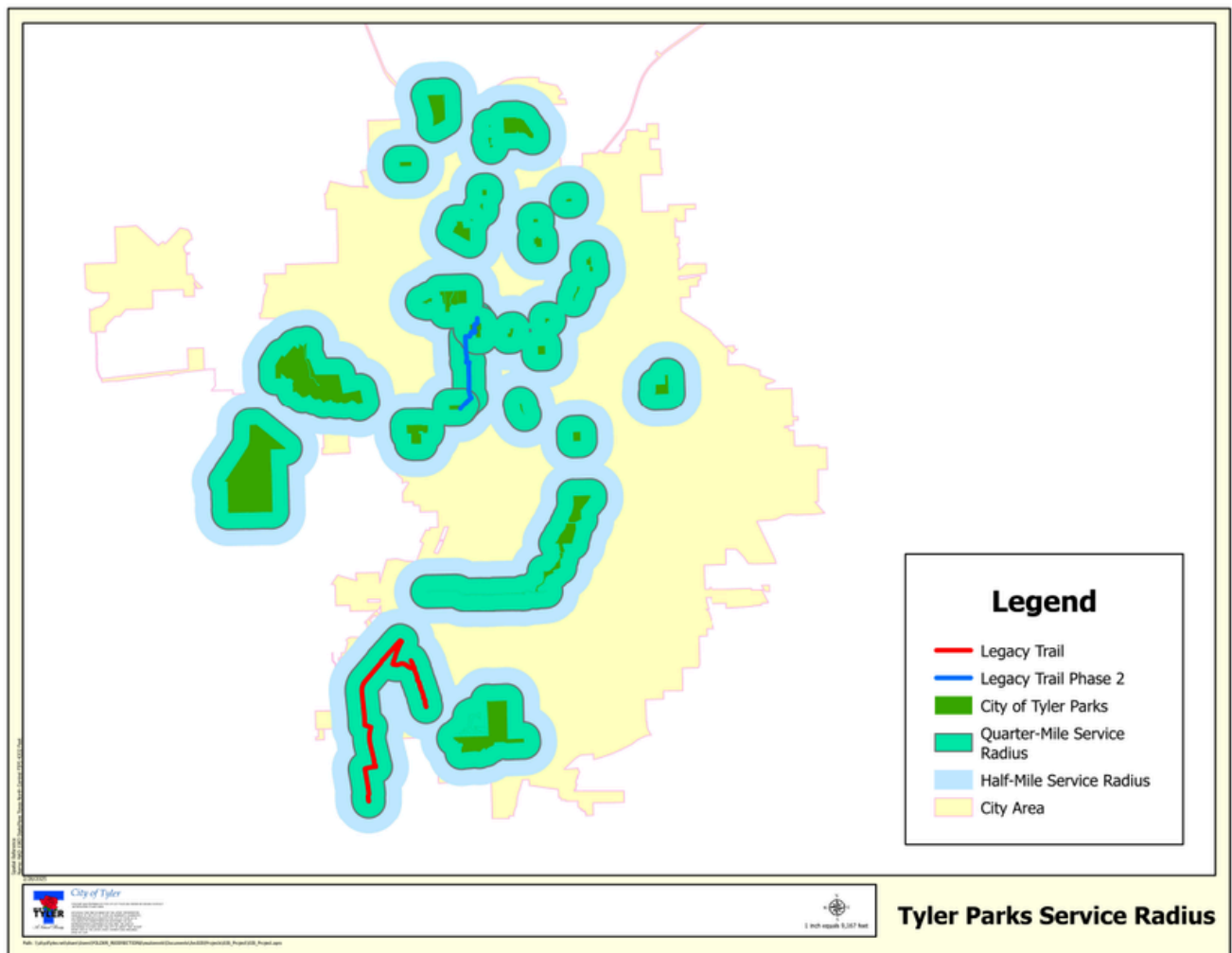
It is important to note that the level of service for parks and open space is based on usable space and, therefore, undeveloped or unusable parkland should not be a factor in the level of service calculation.



The following table shows the total park acres and developed park acres for each different type of park classification in Tyler.

CLASSIFICATION	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES
POCKET PARK	6	6
MINI PARK	25.09	25.09
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	46.35	46.53
COMMUNITY PARK	124.22	171.22
SCHOOL PARK	0	0
LARGE URBAN PARK	384	634
GREENWAYS	67.3	77.8
SPORTS COMPLEX	30	30
SPECIAL USE	115.85	268.35
TOTAL	798.81	1258.99

The following map shows the developed park acres service radius in Tyler.



ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS AND CONCLUSIONS

Recreational needs are determined using the following planning approaches:

Demand Based - what the citizens desire

Standard Based - what the park standards call for

Resource Based - what the local natural resources can offer

Capacity Based - what facilities can accommodate

The assessment of needs will provide citizens with the opportunity to express their desires for recreational activities within their city.

The needs assessment integrates both supply and demand. The supply represents the existing parks, recreation facilities, and the natural resources of the area. The demand is identified through the stated goals, objectives, level of service concept, national standards, and importantly, input from local citizens.

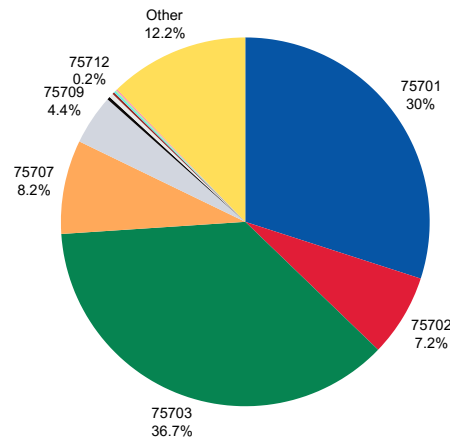
Citizen input obtained through public meetings, online surveys, contributions from elected officials, city staff, and the Parks Board result in a balanced analysis that reflects park and recreation needs and desires of Tyler residents through 2030.



CITIZEN ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

In September 2024, a survey was released online for citizens to have the opportunity to express their needs for the future of the City of Tyler Parks and Recreation Department park system and facilities. 1,094 people responded to the survey which was available online and in paper form. The results provided valuable insight into the citizens' opinions on existing conditions of the parks and facilities. The following paragraphs will provide an explanation of the total results.

IN WHAT AREA OF TYLER DO YOU RESIDE?



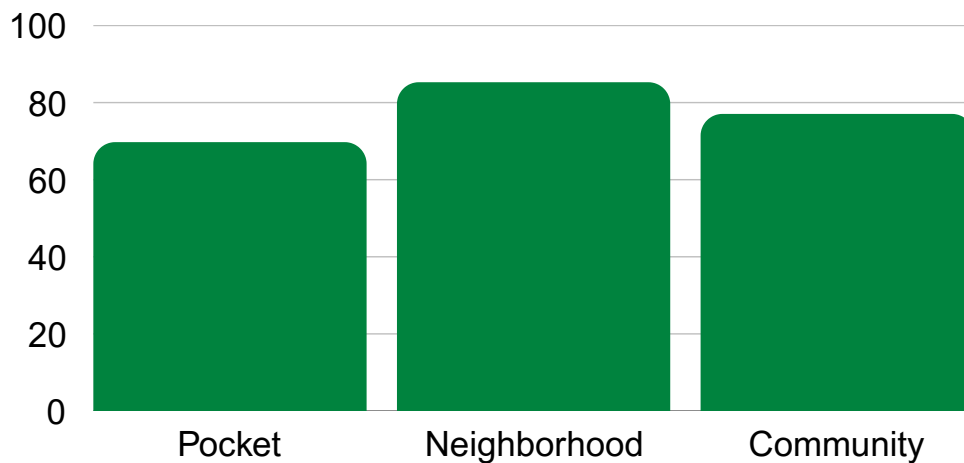
Listed below are highlights obtained from the collected survey data:

- Over fifty-seven percent (57.77%) of respondents were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” when asked how they felt about existing parks and facilities in Tyler.
- Over fifty-seven percent (57.03%) of respondents selected “excellent” or “good” when asked to rate the level of maintenance of parks and recreational activities in Tyler.
- Over ninety-four percent (94.24%) of respondents “strongly agree” or “agree” when asked if they feel that parks and recreation are well worth the cost to taxpayers.
- Over eighty-six percent (86.93%) of respondents “strongly agree” or “agree” when asked if they feel that residential neighborhoods, schools and parks should be connected with linear parks such as trails along creeks and other corridors.
- Over sixty-six percent (66.73%) of respondents reported they were unable to reasonably and safely walk to a park from their home.

The acquisition of parkland, maintenance, and development of park facilities is expensive. In addition to state grants, respondents selected where they feel future park funding should come from.

RANK	
1	Park Bond Program
2	Donations
3	Sales Tax
4	Park User Fees

The following chart represents the percentage of respondents who “strongly agree” or “agree” that more pocket, neighborhood, and community parks are needed.



The online survey indicated respondents believe the City of Tyler needs more parks. Parks are essential to the physical, social, environmental, and economic health of a community. Over 66% of respondents indicated that they could were unable to reasonably and safely walk to a park from their home. According to the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Planning Association, park access should be measured by a safe half mile or 10-minute walk to a quality park or green space.

Survey respondents indicated their most important consideration regarding future parks in Tyler:

- Over thirty-three percent (33.82%) of respondents selected maintenance of facilities after construction.
- Over twenty-nine percent (29.71%) of respondents selected quality of facilities in design and construction.
- Over twenty percent (20.75%) of respondents selected preservation of natural areas.
- Over eleven percent (11.15%) of respondents selected other (includes responses for all of the above of more than one of the above).



In addition to the survey data, the feedback provided by survey respondents highlighted several key areas within the Tyler park system to consider in future projects, renovations, and enhancements:

- Upgraded bathroom facilities and water fountains
- Shade structures over playgrounds
- Fenced playgrounds
- Increased accessibility and connectivity
- Disability-friendly and inclusive design
- Additional and upgraded parking in key locations
- Improved sport fields and facilities
- Additional sport fields and facilities
- Upgraded lighting

The survey asked respondents to prioritize what facilities they wanted added to the Tyler park system. Twenty-eight suggestions were listed, and each respondent was asked to choose their top five choices and rank them, with one being the highest and five being the lowest. Each number was then awarded points to create a weighted score.

If a one was chosen, it was worth five points; if a rank of two was chosen, it was worth four points; if a rank of three was chosen, it was worth three points, and so on. The following table represents the rank and weighted scores of the facility priorities desired by respondents.

Rank	Facilities	Weighted Score
1	Nature Trails	2017
2	Playgrounds	1493
3	Multi-Use Paved Trails	1437
4	Indoor recreation center	1141
5	Spray ground/Small water park	1138
6	Soccer Fields	979
7	Swimming Pools	940
8	Nature areas	813
9	Botanical/Flower Garden	731
10	Water features (Creeks, Small lakes, etc.)	725
11	Sport practice fields	706
12	Pickleball courts	521
13	Dog park	456
14	Picnic shelters/pavilions	481
15	Lawn areas for general play	459
16	Playgrounds for handicap use	390
17	Sand volleyball court	268
18	Picnicking areas	248
19	Skate park	228
20	Baseball fields	214
21	Basketball courts	196
22	Tennis courts	188
23	Band stand/amphitheater	159
24	Disc golf courses	132
25	Youth softball fields	107
26	Adult softball fields	91
27	Football fields	83
28	Horseshoe/washer courts	69

PARK NEEDS

New Parks

According to feedback from the citizen survey, there is a clear demand for new parks in the City of Tyler. Parks play a crucial role in enhancing the physical, social, environmental, and economic health well-being of a community.

To attract more residents and visitors to the community while supporting future growth, the City must prioritize residential development patterns across the community. Strategic planning will allow the City to adopt a proactive approach in developing and maintaining parks that incorporate the desired natural open space and physical attributes.

Existing Parks

The City of Tyler Parks and Recreation Department maintains over 30 public parks, multiple facilities, three cemeteries, and over 130 medians. It is imperative to continue to upgrade, maintain existing parks and facilities. Each neighborhood has individual characteristics and needs, and each park should reflect those requirements.

Over forty-one percent (41.31%) of survey respondents expressed a need for existing parks to be upgraded or improved. Additionally, each park and park playground should have regular inspections to ensure compliance with the current safety guidelines established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the American Society for Testing and Materials International (ASTM). All existing park facilities should meet the accessibility standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and City of Tyler established standards.

The citizens of Tyler desire a high-quality park system with superior maintenance rather than simply a large number of facilities. The focus should be on upgrading and enhancing existing parks and facilities.



PARK NEEDS

Athletic Fields

Since athletic organizations have different recreational needs than the general public, a carrying capacity analysis was used to determine the actual needs of the various sports associations. The carrying capacity is the number of games one athletic field can accommodate each week. All current leagues were given a survey to fill out to project their future needs. Also, it's important to note some of the leagues use additional privately-owned athletic fields to meet the needs of their association.

Youth Baseball

Rose Capital West Little League plays on seven fields at Faulkner Park on weekdays. All seven fields have lights and allow a total of three games per field per night. At this rate, a total of fifteen games per week can play on a single field.

Rose Capital East Little League plays on six fields at Golden Road Park on weekdays. All six fields have lights and allow at a total of three games per field per night.

North Tyler Baseball and Girls Softball Association plays on between one and three fields at Fun Forest Park.

All three baseball leagues have requested field upgrades, general infrastructure improvements, and lighting improvements.



PARK NEEDS

Adult Softball

USA Softball District 25 is an adult league that uses the five adult softball fields at Lindsey Park. A total of 90 teams are participating in the spring season. Adult softball games are currently played Monday –Thursday with Friday left available for a rain-out game day. If four games are played on each of the five fields each night on four nights a week, the fields can accommodate a total of 80 games per week. Four of the five fields are in regular use.

USA Softball has requested field upgrades, general infrastructure improvements, and lighting improvements.



Youth Soccer

Tyler Soccer Association (TSA) currently plays seasonal games on 12 large fields at Lindsey Park on weekends. Two of the large fields are broken down into smaller fields for the younger participants. One large field is divided into five soccer fields for U5 - U6 players and another large field is divided into two fields for U7 participants. After dividing the larger fields into multiple fields, Lindsey Park can support a total of 17 fields.

TSA has requested field upgrades, additional fields, general infrastructure improvements, and lighting improvements.

PARK NEEDS

Youth Soccer

FC Dallas uses four fields for practice purposes during spring and fall soccer seasons on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

FC Dallas has requested field upgrades, additional fields, general infrastructure improvements, and lighting improvements.

Adult Soccer

Liga Latina utilizes the fields for regular season games. The City of Tyler needs additional fields for practice use and games over the next ten years. The City provides two fields for adult soccer use located at Hillside Park and Fun Forest Park.

Liga Latina has requested field upgrades, additional fields, general infrastructure improvements, and lighting improvements.



PARK NEEDS

Swimming Pools

The City of Tyler has one public swimming pool at Fun Forest Park. The pool was constructed in 1938. Swimming pools have a lifespan of approximately 30-40 years. After 82 years of service, the Fun Forest Park pool was renovated in 2020. The survey indicates pools are within the top ten priorities of respondents.

According to the World Waterpark Association, “the development of aquatic centers and municipal water parks is one of the fastest growing segments in the water leisure industry within the United States.”



Indoor Recreation Center

The City of Tyler currently operates the Glass Recreation Center, located at Woldert Park. The Glass Recreation Center has limited capacity and is located in far north Tyler, highlighting the need for a larger, more centrally located indoor recreation center.

Indoor recreation center ranked number four on the citizen survey. To address this, the City of Tyler must first identify a suitable location, whether on existing or acquired parkland. Alternatively, the City may consider purchasing existing facilities for conversion into a recreation center. A key factor in the success of such a facility is the incorporation of flexible design elements, allowing the space to accommodate multiple activities.

PARK NEEDS

Trails

The City of Tyler needs additional multi-purpose paved and nature trails. This need will continue to grow as the population increases over time. Nature trails ranked number one on the citizen survey, and multi-purpose trails ranked as number three. According to the survey, over eighty-six percent (86.93%) of respondents “strongly agree” or “agree” when asked if they feel that residential neighborhoods, schools and parks should be connected with linear parks such as trails along creeks and other corridors.

The City has worked on meeting this need by the development and completion of the first two phases of the Legacy Trails system, in addition to the Rose Rudman and South Tyler Trails. The trails system connects neighborhoods, parks, commercial properties, and communities. The citizens of Tyler need additional multi-purpose paved and nature trails.

Nature Open Space

The City of Tyler needs to preserve natural open spaces for primitive recreation. Nature areas ranked number eight in the citizen survey. Water features - such as creeks, small lakes, etc., ranked number ten on the citizen survey. Natural areas and water features are essential to the citizens of Tyler and need to be preserved - especially along Mud Creek, Blackfork Creek, Stoneleigh Creek, and their tributaries. Future recreational development should maintain valuable environmental assets, such as water features and natural open space.



PARK NEEDS

Senior Citizens

The majority of the senior citizens expressed the need to expand the existing senior center for more space, the opportunity for more programming, and multi-use walking trails for exercise. Many expressed other needs for benches, picnic areas, picnic shelters, enhanced landscaping, athletic fields, and playgrounds for their grandchildren to have safe places to play.

Senior citizens have specific needs in different areas throughout the City of Tyler. It is essential to notice the top priorities of senior citizens all closely match the City's overall priorities, because by providing specific needs for senior citizens, the City of Tyler is also creating areas that are appealing and available to the entire community. Senior citizens are a growing population and use the park system in Tyler. Their needs should be considered when upgrading and/or constructing parks and outdoor spaces.



Maintenance

It is vital to keep parks and public facilities well maintained and safe. According to the citizen survey, over fifty-seven percent (57.03%) of respondents selected "excellent" or "good" when asked to rate the level of maintenance of parks and recreational activities in Tyler. As Tyler's population and park system continue to grow, it is necessary for maintenance crews and the budget to increase proportionally so outdoor public spaces are safe and aesthetically pleasing to all residents and park visitors.

PARK NEEDS

Other Needs

The City of Tyler and the Tyler Independent School District should coordinate in an effort to share multi-use facilities. Many T.I.S.D sports fields and playgrounds should be available to the general public during non-school hours and the City of Tyler and the school district should work together for that to happen.

These types of partnerships could help increase the level of service for the community. There are currently partnerships in place with Tyler Independent School District such as using the T.I.S.D Aquatic Center for the summer due to the Fun Forest Pool closed for repair.











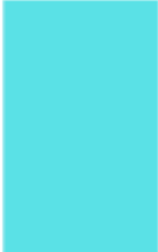
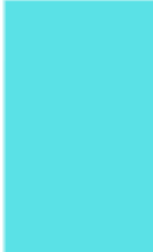

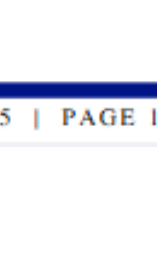
PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although the City of Tyler has a good park system, more park acreage is needed to increase the level of service and many of the older parks need to be upgraded to better provide for the citizens. The following recommendations are to be implemented within the next ten years to ensure that the parks and open space system continues to meet the recreational needs of Tyler's residents. Projects recommended for 2025 - 2035 are shown in the implementation schedule on page 30 - 40.



IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

After a thorough analysis of available funds through the 2024-2025 fiscal year and already completed projects from the current Master Plan, a revised list of projects and their estimated cost was created. These projects apply to the priorities and needs of the community laid out in the current Master Plan.

	Projects 2024 - 2025	Priorities Met	
	Winters Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail improvements Basketball court renovations Add tennis/pickleball court Additional amenities 	2, 3, 8, 12, 14, 15, 18, 21, *	
	Stewart Park Master Plan design updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pavilions Playground Trail Environmental learning space Preservation of historic features 	1, 2, 3, 8, 14, 15, 23, *	
	Legacy Trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase II 	3	
	Faulkner Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis court resurfacing (grant funded) 	22	
	Parks Master Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey residents & make updates 	*Improving quality of existing park	

* means improving quality of existing park, see page 20 in 2025-2035 Master Plan for reference
 Projects subject to change based on priority and funding.



UPDATE: FEBRUARY 01, 2025 | PAGE 1

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

After a thorough analysis of available funds through the 2025-2026 fiscal year and already completed projects from the current Master Plan, a revised list of projects and their estimated cost was created. These projects apply to the priorities and needs of the community laid out in the current Master Plan.

	Projects 2025 - 2026	Priorities Met	
	Faulkner Park	20, 25, *	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miracle Field take over 		
	Hillside Park	6, 11, 21, *	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soccer field renovation Basketball court renovations 		
	Golden Road Park	*Improving quality of existing park	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General infrastructure updates 		
	Fun Forest Park	*Improving quality of existing park	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General infrastructure updates 		
	Athletic field analysis	6, 11, 20, 25, 26, 27, *	



* means improving quality of existing park, see page 20 in 2025-2035 Master Plan for reference
Projects subject to change based on priority and funding.

UPDATE: FEBRUARY 01, 2025 | PAGE 2



IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

After a thorough analysis of available funds through the 2026-2027 fiscal year and already completed projects from the current Master Plan, a revised list of projects and their estimated cost was created. These projects apply to the priorities and needs of the community laid out in the current Master Plan.

	Projects 2026 - 2027	Priorities Met	
	Oak Grove Park • General infrastructure updates	2, 21, *	
	Lindsey Park • Master plan design • Field drainage study	1, 6, 11, 14, 21, 24, 26, *	
	Rose Rudman Trail • Mud Creek stabilization study	*Improving quality of existing park	
	Woldert Park • Court renovation (pickleball) • Soccer field • Playground drainage • Wrapped column art • Pond assessment	2, 6, 10, 21, 22, *	



* means improving quality of existing park, see page 20 in 2025-2035 Master Plan for reference
Projects subject to change based on priority and funding.

UPDATE: FEBRUARY 01, 2025 | PAGE 3

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

After a thorough analysis of available funds through the 2027-2028 fiscal year and already completed projects from the current Master Plan, a revised list of projects and their estimated cost was created. These projects apply to the priorities and needs of the community laid out in the current Master Plan.

	Projects 2027 - 2028	Priorities Met	
	City Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General infrastructure updates 	2, 14, 15, 21, *	
	Crescent Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General infrastructure updates 	2, *	
	Rose Rudman Trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mud Creek stabilization - Phase I 	*Improving quality of existing park	
	Faulkner Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restroom renovation Bridge renovations Trail signage Bike trail improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with Tyler Bike Club 	1, *	

* means improving quality of existing park, see page 20 in 2025-2035 Master Plan for reference
Projects subject to change based on priority and funding.





UPDATE: FEBRUARY 01, 2025 | PAGE 4



IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

After a thorough analysis of available funds through the 2028–2029 fiscal year and already completed projects from the current Master Plan, a revised list of projects and their estimated cost was created. These projects apply to the priorities and needs of the community laid out in the current Master Plan.

	Projects 2028 – 2029	Priorities Met	
	Rose Rudman Trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mud Creek stabilization – Phase II 	*Improving quality of existing park	
	Children's Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General infrastructure updates • Water feature improvements 	2, 10, 15, *	
	Lindsey Park Phase I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage improvement • Parking lot renovation 	1, 2, 6, 8, 14, 26, *	



** means improving quality of existing park, see page 20 in 2025-2035 Master Plan for reference
Projects subject to change based on priority and funding.*

UPDATE: FEBRUARY 01, 2025 | PAGE 5

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

After a thorough analysis of available funds through the 2029-2030 fiscal year and already completed projects from the current Master Plan, a revised list of projects and their estimated cost was created. These projects apply to the priorities and needs of the community laid out in the current Master Plan.

	Projects 2029 - 2030	Priorities Met	
	Herndon Hills Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General infrastructure updates 	2, 21, *	
	Athletic Field Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of study 	9, 11	
	Windsor Grove Nature Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General infrastructure updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tie into Rose Complex Master Plan 	1, 3, 8, *	
	2030-2040 Master Plan	*Improving quality of existing park	














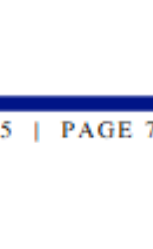


* means improving quality of existing park, see page 20 in 2025-2035 Master Plan for reference
Projects subject to change based on priority and funding.

UPDATE: FEBRUARY 01, 2025 | PAGE 6



IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

After a thorough analysis of available funds through the 2030-2031 fiscal year and already completed projects from the current Master Plan, a revised list of projects and their estimated cost was created. These projects apply to the priorities and needs of the community laid out in the current Master Plan.

	Projects 2030 - 2031	Priorities Met	
	Northside Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrooms General infrastructure updates 	*Improving quality of existing park	
	Glass Recreation Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General infrastructure updates 	*Improving quality of existing location	
	Tyler Senior Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General infrastructure updates 	*Improving quality of existing location	
	Fun Forest Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramey Gym (TISD funds) 	*Improving quality of existing park	
	Tourism facility grading	*Improving quality of existing location	
			



* means improving quality of existing park, see page 20 in 2025-2035 Master Plan for reference
Projects subject to change based on priority and funding.

UPDATE: FEBRUARY 01, 2025 | PAGE 7



IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

After a thorough analysis of available funds through the 2031-2032 fiscal year and already completed projects from the current Master Plan, a revised list of projects and their estimated cost was created. These projects apply to the priorities and needs of the community laid out in the current Master Plan.

	Projects 2031 - 2032	Priorities Met	
	Gassaway Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavilion • Restrooms 	*Improving quality of existing park	
	Legacy Trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase III 	3	
	Lindsey Park Phase II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve nature areas • Adult soccer field • Pavilion, concessions & restroom renovation • Field lighting • ATV Trail 	1, 2, 6, 8, 14, 26, *	



* means improving quality of existing park, see page 20 in 2025-2035 Master Plan for reference
Projects subject to change based on priority and funding.

UPDATE: FEBRUARY 01, 2025 | PAGE 8



IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

After a thorough analysis of available funds through the 2032-2033 fiscal year and already completed projects from the current Master Plan, a revised list of projects and their estimated cost was created. These projects apply to the priorities and needs of the community laid out in the current Master Plan.

	Projects 2032 - 2033	Priorities Met	
	Rose Garden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General infrastructure updates 	*Improving quality of existing park	
	Lindsey Park Phase III <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disc Golf improvements General infrastructure updates 	24, *	
	T.R. Griffith Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball court Pavilion Playground Trail 	2, 3, 14, 15, 21, *	
	Medians Master Plan	*Improving quality of existing park	

* means improving quality of existing park, see page 20 in 2025-2035 Master Plan for reference
Projects subject to change based on priority and funding.

UPDATE: FEBRUARY 01, 2025 | PAGE 9



IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

After a thorough analysis of available funds through the 2033-2034 fiscal year and already completed projects from the current Master Plan, a revised list of projects and their estimated cost was created. These projects apply to the priorities and needs of the community laid out in the current Master Plan.

	Projects 2033 - 2034	Priorities Met	
	Rose Garden Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General infrastructure updates 	*Improving quality of existing location	
	Goodman - LeGrand Museum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse infrastructure updates 	*Improving quality of existing location	
	Lindsey Park Phase IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bike trail improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with Tyler Bike Club 	1, *	











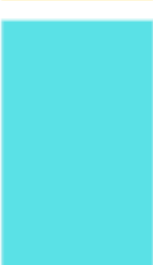

* means improving quality of existing park, see page 20 in 2025-2035 Master Plan for reference
Projects subject to change based on priority and funding.

UPDATE: FEBRUARY 01, 2025 | PAGE 10



IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

After a thorough analysis of available funds through the 2034-2035 fiscal year and already completed projects from the current Master Plan, a revised list of projects and their estimated cost was created. These projects apply to the priorities and needs of the community laid out in the current Master Plan.

	Projects 2034 - 2035	Priorities Met	
	Douglas Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General infrastructure updates 	*Improving quality of existing park	
	Pollard Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase II 	*Improving quality of existing park	
	Children's Bike Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matching funds from Tyler Bike Club 	*Improving quality of existing park	
	New Facility Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation center/senior center located in Central/South Tyler 	4	

* means improving quality of existing park, see page 20 in 2025-2035 Master Plan for reference
 Projects subject to change based on priority and funding.



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EXISTING AND AVAILABLE FUNDING MECHANISMS

To implement this park and open space plan update, there are a variety of funding mechanisms and tools available for use by the City of Tyler. These include:

SENATE BILL 376-4B - SALES TAX REVENUES - Funds generated by this special sales tax can be used for developing and maintaining public recreational facilities.

TEXAS RECREATION & PARKS LOCAL PARKS PROGRAM - This program, administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, is a matching grant program which may be used to aid communities in acquisition and development of parks and open space.

TEXAS RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUND - The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department administers the National Recreational Trail Fund through a provision in the Federal Highway Bill. The National Recreational Trail Grants provides 80% matching funds for both motorized and non-motorized trail projects in local communities for hikers, cyclists, horseback riders, off-road motor vehicles, and nature enthusiasts. Funds can be utilized to construct new recreational trails, improve/maintain existing trails, develop/improve trail heads or trail side facilities, and acquire trail corridors. Eligible sponsors include city and county governments, state agencies, river authorities, water districts, MUDs, school districts, federal land managers, non-profit organizations, and other private organizations.

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION - The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation promotes healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and plants by generating new commerce for conservation. The foundation leverages public dollars with corporate, private, and other non-profit funds. Funds are available on an as-need basis.



KEEP TYLER BEAUTIFUL- Keep Tyler Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful, has the mission of encouraging beautification, waste reduction, and recycling activities in the community by planning, initiating, and coordinating programs for litter control, environmental sustainability and beautification. Activities include litter clean-ups; recycling events; graffiti removal; building restoration; park renovation/construction; community improvement and beautification; park and roadway clean-up and beautification (Adopt-a-Spot); litter-free events; and special promotions.

PAY AS YOU GO - This method of financing park improvements involves budgeting for land acquisition, development, and maintenance of park facilities through the city's annual budget process. Allocations for park improvements are made and spent annually through the standard budget process.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - These bonds are issued by the city following an election in which the voters authorize their issuance for specific stated purposes, as well as the necessary tax increases to support them. These bonds pledge the property or ad valorem taxing power of the city.

CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION - These certificates have basically the same effect as general obligation bonds except they do not require an election to authorize them. An election can be petitioned by five percent of the registered voters of the city. These certificates are issued on the authorization of the City Council. Repayment is based on the property taxing power of the city, utility system revenues, or a combination of the two.



USER FEES - This method of financing requires the eventual user of each park to pay a fee for the use of each facility. Fees to be charged users can be established to pay for debt service, maintenance, and operation of the park system.

PRIVATE OR CORPORATE DONATIONS - Donations from foundations, corporations, and/or private individuals are often used to acquire and develop parks. The city should constantly identify and pursue opportunities to receive such funding for parks. One avenue for receiving donations is through the use of the Texas Parks & Recreation Foundation. This foundation has been developed to help all communities in the State of Texas to maximize the benefits of donations of land, property, and money.



SUMMARY

The City of Tyler owns a total of 1257.31 total park acres, 798.81 of which are developed. When compared to Tyler's existing population of 110,327 residents, the resultant level of service is 7.24 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents.

This Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan provides different projects set for implementation over the next five years. This plan is to serve as a flexible tool which requires review annually as well as a five-year update with input from citizens, city staff, the Parks Board, and City Council to continue to reflect the unique recreational needs of the area.

The City should take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities not identified in the plan that may arise, such as donations of land and/or facilities as long as the actions meet the intent of the goals and recommendations of this plan.

With the proposed improvements to the park system outlined in this plan will come additional maintenance and operational needs to utilize, manage, and care for both the new and existing facilities. The proposed improvements contained in this plan will enhance the quality of life in the region and help ensure that the City of Tyler can keep pace with the growing recreational needs of its citizens and the residents of Smith County. The resulting benefits of this plan include increased quality of life, tourism potential, economic value, increasing property values, and pride in the residents of the area.

