

# 7. PARKS & RECREATION





## CHAPTER SEVEN PARKS & RECREATION

**Chapter 7** of the Bastrop Comprehensive Plan reviews the City's recent park planning and implementation efforts to ensure consistency with public input received during the comprehensive planning process. The Chapter aligns community park and recreation needs with applicable sections of other chapters in this Plan; and, considers methods and partnerships by which the City's parks and recreation system can meet these needs as the City grows.

When compared to basic public services such as the provision of water, sewer, streets, and storm drainage, the condition and availability of public parks and recreational programs is typically viewed as a service

that is not essential to public health and welfare. While there may be some truth to this relative comparison, parks do provide some essential benefits. The quality of life measures embodied by a well-managed public parks system is a barometer of community health which can influence the City's competitiveness for private investment and growth.

This chapter's assessment of park space and natural resources is ultimately intended to ensure that access to, and enjoyment of, green space is an integral component of a growing Bastrop. **A summary list of all Parks and Recreation goals and objectives can be found at the end of this chapter (page 7-29).**



Premiere park systems provide linkages to active recreational spaces, passive open space, and other community destinations.

## PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM.

### SYSTEM OVERVIEW

A great parks system is recognized by its capacity to provide attractive and practical parks, open spaces, and recreation to people of all ages and backgrounds. The system should provide and link active and passive uses, public and private spaces, and urban and rural areas in order to enhance the health and quality of life of the community it serves, and to derive economic benefits from the visitors it attracts.

As evidenced through community input received during the comprehensive planning process, residents of Bastrop understand the advantages of access to a diverse range of park and open space types and opportunities. There is public recognition of the need to strengthen connections between the City's active recreation parks, and local natural resources (best represented by Bastrop State Park, the Colorado River and Lost Pines Preserve). Between the City's inventory of park properties and recreation programs, and those managed by non-profit or other governmental partners, there already exists a foundational park system in Bastrop on which to build.

### PARK PLANNING IN BASTROP

Bastrop's park and recreational planning efforts date back to 2000. Both the City's 2000 comprehensive plan, and 2008 parks and recreation master plan, identified standards and priorities for the development of a comprehensive city-wide parks system. The vision established by these documents has since been re-calibrated by more recent park planning efforts.

### SUSTAINABLE DESIGN ASSESSMENT TEAM REPORT (2011)

Following devastating fires in and around Bastrop in 2011, a report was generated by a Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) assembled by the American Institute of Architects. The purpose of the report was to provide a community vision to help Bastrop overcome "...obstacles to environmental, social, and economic realities."

The SDAT report affirmed goals identified by the City's 2008 parks and recreation master plan, and added new recommendations including: **A)** Establishing linkages between recreational and other uses; and, **B)** Programming the City's Museum and Visitor Center as a parks and recreation amenity with ties to the public library. A place making strategy was also developed to create a "River Loop" of green spaces along both sides of the Colorado River between Highway 71 and Chestnut Street - including a series of vistas, extension of existing trails, and a "quiet garden" at the corner of Chestnut and Water Street.



*Bastrop's recent parks and recreation planning efforts consistently identify bicycle and pedestrian connections as a community priority.*



## PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN UPDATE (2015)

The City of Bastrop's Parks and Open Space Master Plan Update was completed in 2015. The plan identified new park system goals, a list of maintenance needs and capital projects, and suggestions for the development of additional park amenities. Key plan recommendations include:

- *Develop a prioritized list of maintenance needs to ensure adequate funding;*
- *Increase advocacy and outreach to the public regarding maintenance/upkeep issues;*
- *Improve lighting, fencing, and other safety measures in City parks;*
- *Upgrade existing facilities before adding new;*
- *Explore new funding opportunities;*
- *Improve pedestrian/cycling facilities throughout town;*
- *Develop city recreation programming;*
- *Develop an indoor recreation center; and,*
- *Develop additional community gardens.*

**This chapter includes new goals and objectives which align or expand upon those listed in the 2015 park plan.**

## COMMUNITY INPUT

**Chapter 1, Planning Context**, describes methods that were utilized to solicit public input during the comprehensive planning process. Input received through public surveys and open houses regarding parks, recreation, and open space suggests the following:

- **Level of Satisfaction.** *Survey respondents were generally 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with parks, trails, recreation services/programs, senior services/programs, and community events/festivals. In spite of positive feedback in all categories, an equally high proportion of respondents also suggested dissatisfaction with recreation services/programs.*

- **Additional Parks/Trails.** *A high percentage of survey participants reported that: **A)** Providing additional parks or recreation amenities in close proximity to their neighborhood was important or very important; and, **B)** Providing additional trails in close proximity to their neighborhood was important or very important.*
- **Park Priorities.** *Survey participants were asked if the City should prioritize the addition of new park properties, or the enhancement of existing park amenities and activities. Twelve percent replied that new parks should be a priority, 46 percent responded that existing parks should be enhanced, and 42 percent answered that both should be prioritized.*
- **Additional Improvements.** *Data gathered during the first public open house suggests that additional parks and recreational improvements were desired including (in order): **A)** Building a recreation/fitness center **B)** Investing in Lost Pines Nature Trails; **C)** Investing in the Colorado River Refuge; **D)** Building an aquatics complex; and, **E)** Providing a greater number of river access points.*
- *Survey respondents were asked what types of parks are most needed in Bastrop. Answers were weighted from highest to lowest needs with community parks ranked highest, followed by regional parks, trails, and neighborhood parks. The average between all four (4) park types was minimal rendering the answers statistically inconclusive.*



## RECREATIONAL ASSETS.

### PARKS AND TRAILS INVENTORY

The City of Bastrop's Parks Department is responsible for maintaining over 125 acres of park land, trails, and special use areas including both City-owned and privately-owned land. As seen in **Figure 7.1, Bastrop Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Assets** (page 7-5), Bastrop's

existing parks system includes parks of different sizes incorporating an array of amenities, and ownership scenarios. **Map 7-A, Bastrop Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Assets** (page 7-6), illustrates the location of the public and private park land and accessible open spaces presented in **Figure 7.1**.

#### **PARK AND TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS\***

*Many communities continue to define park types according to a classification system previously utilized by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Traditional NRPA park classifications include:*

**Pocket Park:** Pocket parks address specific passive recreation or open space needs, are less than 1 acre in size, and have a service radius of less than 1/4 mile.

**Neighborhood Park:** These parks provide for active and passive recreational and social uses for residential areas, are usually between 5 and 10 acres in size, and have a service radius of 1/2 mile.

**School Park:** School parks generally meet the service level of pocket or neighborhood parks. Bastrop does not currently have any official school parks, although school playground equipment is occasionally used for recreation outside of school hours.

**Community Park:** Much like a neighborhood park, community parks provide for active and passive recreational activities, but for several neighborhoods or large sections of the community. They allow for group activities and other recreation opportunities that are not possible or desired at a neighborhood level. Community parks are generally between 20 and 50 acres, and have a service radius between 1/2 and 3 miles. For the purposes of this plan, the service radius is 1 mile.

**Special Use Park:** These parks provide recreational facilities for a single use, such as a baseball complex, or aquatic center. These special use parks do not have a service radius as their designated use is too specific for the general public.

**Linear Park:** Linear parks are developed areas for one or more varying modes of recreational use such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, canoeing, etc. These parks do not have a service radius as their primary purpose is connectivity.

(\*Note: The definitions provided in this list are not exclusive, but may be used by the City as a starting point to describe the parks and open spaces currently found within Bastrop and the statutory ETJ area.)

### CITY PARKS

Bastrop's 2008 and 2015 parks and recreation master plans rely on classifications originally created by NRPA (and listed above) to describe City-owned and maintained parks. Referencing these categories, **Figure 7.1** (page 7-5) indicates that the City of Bastrop's parks system includes: one (1) pocket park, three (3) neighborhood parks, two (2) community parks, and five (5) special use parks serving residents of the City and the surrounding county. These parks primarily

serve "active" recreational uses such as football, soccer, t-ball, baseball, softball, basketball, tennis and sand volleyball; but, can also serve other pursuits such as walking, boating, fishing, and wildlife viewing. (Many such "passive" activities are also accommodated at local parks and preserves owned and maintained by other entities.) City parks include accessory facilities such as picnic shelters, concessions, restrooms, playgrounds, and other specialized site-specific facilities.

**FIGURE 7.1. BASTROP PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATIONAL ASSETS**

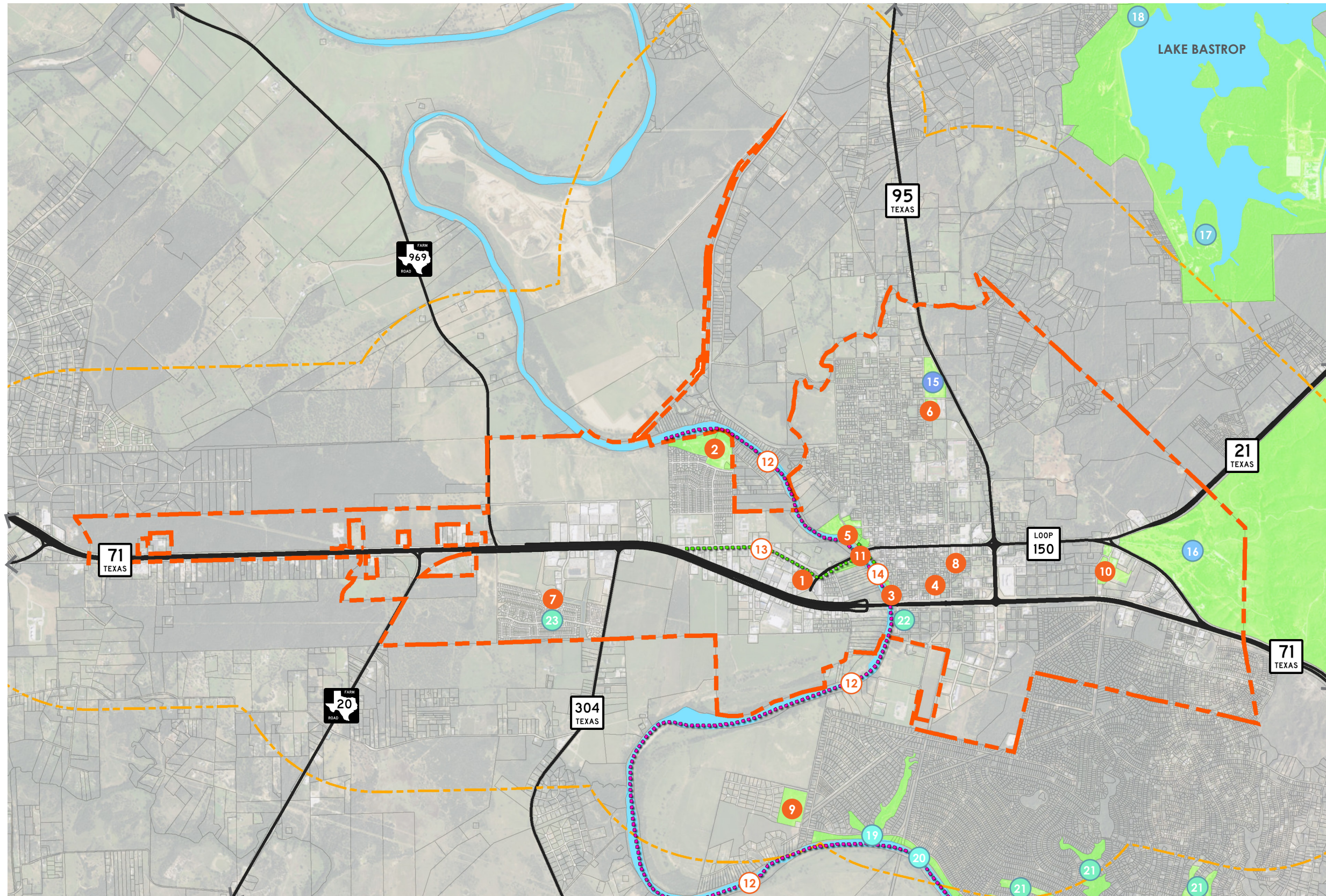
	CORRESPONDING MAP #	SHELTER	PICNIC FACILITIES	PASSIVE SEATING	SPORTS FIELDS	SPORTS COURTS	RESTROOMS	PLAYGROUND	WATER ACCESS	TRAILS/WALKWAYS	CONCESSIONS	SWINGS	POOL	CAMPING	GOLF	OTHER	GENERAL LOCATION	AREA/LENGTH
<b>CITY PARKS</b>																		
Pocket Parks																		
Ferry	3	x	x	x			x	x				x					502 Water Street	<1 ac
Neighborhood Parks																		
Hill Street	6		x	x		x		x				x				x	1209 Linden Street	1.0 ac
Hunter's Crossing	7	x	x		x	x	x	x		x		x				x	301 Hunters Crossing Blvd.	6.6 ac
Kerr Community	8	x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x					1308 Walnut Street	1.39 ac
Community Parks																		
Bob Bryant	2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x				x	600 Charles Blvd.	22.8 ac
Fisherman's	5	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x				x	1500 Willow Street	20.0 ac
Special Use Parks																		
Bastrop Bark Park	1			x												x	104 Grady Tuck Ln.	1.0 ac
Fireman's	4				x												600 Hill Street	2.54 ac
Lovers Lane Fields	9		x		x		x				x						Lovers Lane	25.0 ac
Mayfest	10		x				x									x	25 American Legion Drive	26.74 ac
Rusty Reynolds	15				x		x				x						2400 Hill Street	20.77 ac
Linear Parks																		
El Camino Real Trail	13									x							Highway 71 to Old Iron Bridge	5,013 lf
El Camino Real Paddling Trail <sup>3</sup>	12								x								Colorado River from Fisherman's Park to Lost Pines Nature Trails	6 miles
June Hill Pape Riverwalk Trail	14	x	x	x						x						x	Colorado River between Fisherman's Park and Ferry Park	2,668 lf
Old Iron Bridge	11									x						x	515 Chestnut Street	1,288 lf
<b>OTHER PARKS</b>																		
Bastrop State Park	16	x	x	x			x					x	x			x	100 Park Road 1-A	5,926 ac
Lake Bastrop South Shore	17	x	x			x	x	x	x	x				x		x	375 South Shore Road	25 ac
Lake Bastrop North Shore	18	x	x				x		x	x				x		x	603 FM 1441	25 ac
Pine Forest Golf Club	21														x	x	636 Riverside Drive	N/A
Paul C. Bell Field	22				x												306 Paul C. Bell Street	N/A
Hunter's Crossing Pool	23												x			x	301 Hunter's Crossing Blvd.	N/A
<b>TRAILS</b>																		
Colorado River Refuge	19								x	x							Pines and Prairies Land Trust	60 ac
Lost Pines Nature Trails	20									x							375 Riverside Drive	30 ac

Note: <sup>1</sup>City-leased parks are owned by private entities, but leased by the City for recreational uses.  
<sup>2</sup>Private/Quasi-Public Parks are owned by private entities, but open to the public for fee-based use.  
<sup>3</sup>Part of TPWD operated Texas Paddling Trails network, but City owns and maintains 2 boat launches along trail.



# BASTROP'S PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATIONAL ASSETS

## MAP 7-A:



**LEGEND:**

- CITY LIMITS
  - STATUTORY ETJ
  - MULTI-USE TRAIL
  - PADDLING TRAIL
  - PARK LAND
- CITY-OWNED PARKS**
- BASTROP BARK PARK 1
  - BOB BRYANT PARK 2
  - FERRY PARK 3
  - FIREMAN'S PARK 4
  - FISHERMAN'S PARK 5
  - HILL STREET PARK 6
  - HUNTER'S CROSSING PARK 7
  - KERR COMMUNITY PARK 8
  - LOVERS LANE FIELDS 9
  - MAYFEST PARK 10
  - OLD IRON BRIDGE 11
- CITY-OWNED TRAILS**
- EL CAMINO REAL PADDLING TRAIL<sup>3</sup> 12
  - EL CAMINO REAL TRAIL 13
  - JUNE HILL PAPE RIVERWALK TRAIL 14
- CITY-LEASED PARKS<sup>1</sup>**
- RUSTY REYNOLDS PARK 15
- STATE-OWNED PARKS**
- BASTROP STATE PARK 16
- PRIVATE/QUASI-PUBLIC PARKS<sup>2</sup>**
- LAKE BASTROP SOUTH SHORE PARK 17
  - LAKE BASTROP NORTH SHORE PARK 18
  - COLORADO RIVER REFUGE 19
  - LOST PINES NATURE TRAILS 20
- PRIVATE PARKS**
- PINE FOREST GOLF CLUB 21
  - PAUL C. BELL FIELD 22
  - HUNTER'S CROSSING POOL 23

Notes: <sup>1</sup>City-leased parks are owned by private entities, but leased by the City for recreational uses. <sup>2</sup>Private/Quasi-Public Parks are owned by private entities, but open to the public for fee-based use. <sup>3</sup>Part of TPWD operated Texas Paddling Trails network, but City owns and maintains 2 boat launches along trail.





**FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE**

In addition to the general availability of park spaces, park planning efforts must consider the adequacy and diversity of recreational facilities throughout a community's park system. A comparison of traditional NRPA (resource-based) facility standards to Bastrop's estimated 2015 population suggests no recreational facility deficiency in Bastrop (in terms of **quantity**). Still, when comparing recommended recreational facility **types** to known (demand-based) community priorities, it may be desirable for Bastrop to incorporate the following facilities into the City's park system in the future:

- Aquatic center/swimming pool (the standard is 1 aquatic center per 20,000 people)
- Skate park (no standard quantity per capita)

Regardless of Bastrop's ability to provide a sufficient amount of recreational facilities per capita, investment in park maintenance and upgrades remains a high community priority. The 2015 Parks Master Plan suggests that the following system upgrades and maintenance needs be addressed in the near-term:

- Identify and resolve health and safety issues at all parks;
- Repair water fixtures and drainage in the Bark Park;
- Increase frequency of maintenance;
- Compile an inventory of light fixtures and add lighting where needed to improve visibility and safety;
- Repair, maintain, install, and upgrade fences around play scapes, Bark Park, Splash Pad, and any other appropriate areas;
- Maintain visibility along the El Camino Real Trail through regular landscape maintenance;

- Consider installing more cameras in the parks where appropriate, especially in secluded areas; and,
- Install signage with safety messages.

**QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION**

**Figure 7.2, Bastrop Projected Park Land Needs**, utilizes traditional NRPA standards to project the total amount of parkland that will be necessary in Bastrop to adequately meet the needs of its estimated 2036 population. The figure is derived from the 2015 parks master plan, but has been updated to account for City population projections presented in **Chapter 2, Community Growth**. **Figure 7.2** suggests that Bastrop must add a total of 63.15 acres to the City park system to meet the needs of its projected 2040 population.

**FIGURE 7.2. BASTROP PROJECTED PARK LAND NEEDS**

PARK LAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS OF BASTROP (GOAL OF 10 ACRES / 1,000)			
	Existing Acreage	Existing for 2016 est. of 8,694	Estimated for 2036 est. of 19,199
All Parks <sup>1</sup>	128.84 ac	14.82 ac / 1,000	63.15 acres to be added to achieve 10 acres / 1,000
Pocket, Neighborhood and Community Parks <sup>2</sup>	52.79 ac	6.07 ac / 1,000 Deficit of approx. 34.17 ac	139.20 acres to be added to achieve 10 acres / 1,000

Note: <sup>1</sup>Acreage for All Parks includes all Pocket Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Special Use Parks, as listed in **Figure 7.1, Bastrop Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Assets**.  
<sup>2</sup>Applicable parks listed in **Figure 7.1, Bastrop Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Assets**.

**It is important to note that the existing and estimated park acreage needs in Figure 7.2 refer solely to City-owned or maintained properties.** Some communities will selectively incorporate parks which are owned or maintained by other entities to measure their long-term park land and open space acreage goals.

**Map 7-B, Park Land Service Areas: Community Parks,** and **Map 7-C, Park Land Service Areas: Neighborhood Parks,** (pages 7-10 and 7-11) depict an updated version of the park land service areas that were originally identified as part of the 2000 comprehensive plan. Service area boundaries have been modified slightly to correspond with areas of projected residential growth as identified in the *Bastrop Community Growth Program* (Chapter 2), and the *Future Land Use Plan* (Chapter 5). The total number of service areas has also decreased from 11 to 10 total. These updated service area boundaries will guide park land dedication fee expenditures as provided in Chapter 10, § 8.20 (Park Land Dedication) of Bastrop City Code.

**Maps 7-B** and **7-C** also depict the possible spacing of future community and neighborhood parks in and around Bastrop. *The spacing of proposed parkland service radii are hypothetical scenarios only, but they illustrate how the projected park land needs presented in **Figure 7.2** can be met through the equitable distribution of park land in proximity to existing and projected residential development.*

Unlike the service area boundaries illustrated in both maps, the suggested community and neighborhood park coverage areas may vary considerably in on-the-ground application.

### SUMMARY

Like many communities around the nation, Bastrop has utilized the National Recreation and Parks Association's (NRPA) "Suggested Outdoor Facility Standards" to establish expected levels of service for parks. It is important to note however, that the NRPA no longer endorses these standards and has developed a new system, the Parks and Recreation Operating Ratio and GIS system (PRORAGIS), to assist parks and recreation agencies in the management and planning of resources and facilities by comparing themselves to similar recreation agencies of the same size, geographic location, etc. Bastrop has submitted initial operational information to PRORAGIS, allowing the City to gauge its strengths, weaknesses, and improvement opportunities as it moves into the future. Annual updates to the City's PRORAGIS inputs will be necessary.



Maintenance and upgrades to existing City parks is a higher community priority than the establishment of new park land.





Specialized park categories should be established which can be applied to densely built areas such as downtown. City park distribution goals and service area funding procedures should support areas of community-wide significance such as downtown or Colorado River frontage.

The NRPA's abandonment of the "Suggested Outdoor Facility Standards" was due in large part to the perception that "one size does **not** fit all." Park systems will vary greatly depending on community preferences, economics, geography, environment, size, and more. A range of unique factors will determine acceptable amounts of park land, types of parks, and types of recreational facilities in which each individual community will want to invest. In continuing to develop its municipal park system, Bastrop should consider:

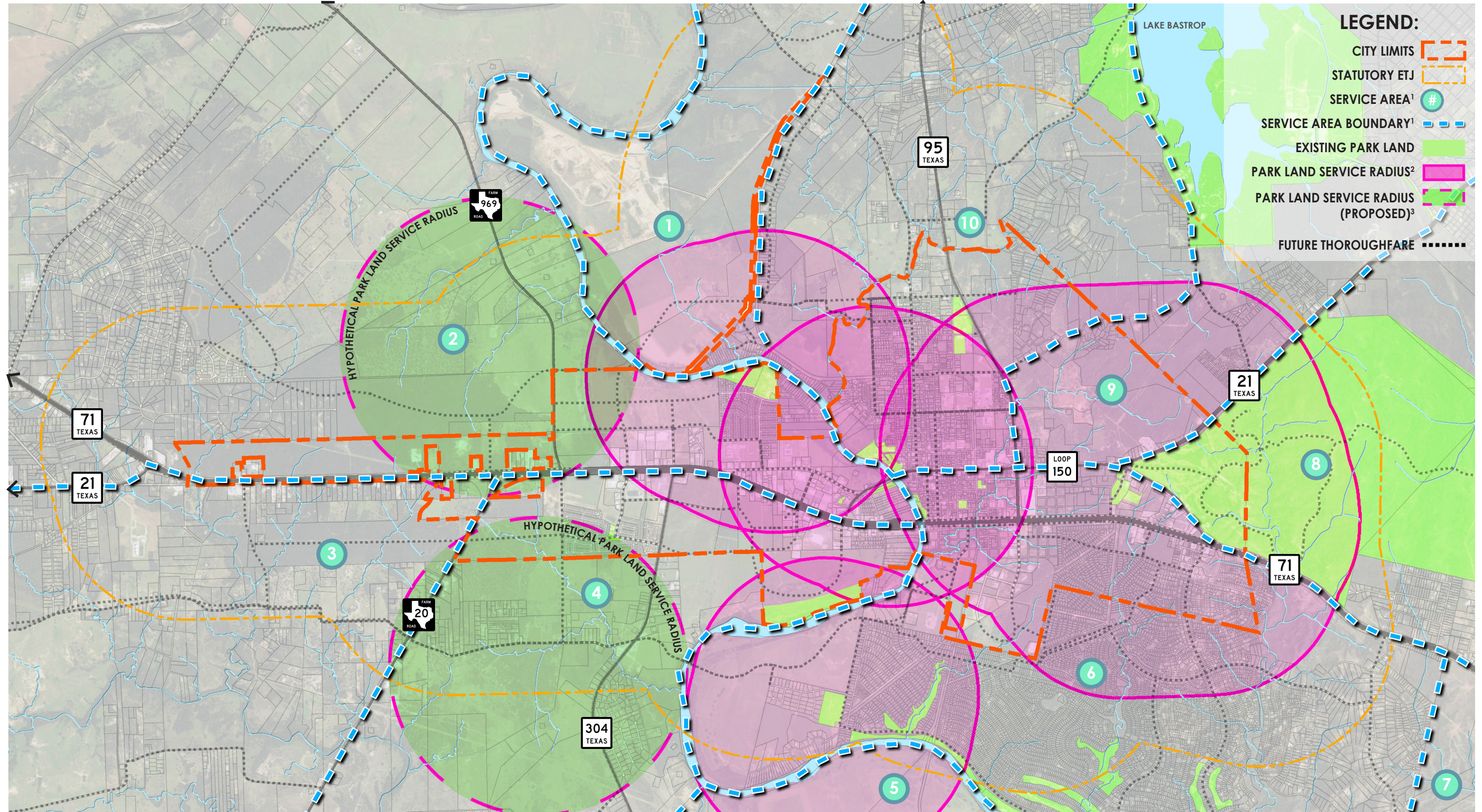
- **Park Categories.** NRPA's original park land types and definitions should be used as a starting point to define municipal parks. Expanded definitions should be adopted by the City which define principal uses and facilities within each park type. Distinctions should be made between recreational parks, and passive parks, open space, and conservation areas.
- **Level of Service.** Bastrop's park land level of service calculations should be modified to better reflect re-defined park categories, local preferences, and comparisons with other communities in the region. Separate park land goals should be established for special park types or locations (i.e. conservation land, downtown). Facility standards should also be revised to better reflect community preferences.
- **Service Area Boundaries.** Exceptions to Special Park Fund expenditures based on the City's Park Land Service Areas should be made for regional parks, or other parks that can serve as unique community gathering spaces (i.e. downtown, Colorado River frontage).
- **Park Land Distribution.** The City should refine park land coverage area projections to account for varying park types and associated facility needs in each geographic service area. The boundaries of proposed coverage areas should be modified to reflect physical barriers such as rivers, highways, or lack of bicycle or pedestrian access.
- **New Parks.** Municipal park and recreation expenditures should favor park maintenance, and the development of existing City park properties (i.e. Pecan Park, Laura Hoffman Park) as opposed to acquiring new parks. Exceptions should be made for linear parks and multi-use trails, when park land is dedicated as part of new development, or when the acquisition expenditure serves as matching funds for a grant or donation.
- **Maintenance.** Many of the maintenance and upgrade projects listed in the 2015 parks and recreation master plan are general and not substantial enough to individually incorporate into a capital improvements program (CIP). Bastrop should determine how best to group priority maintenance and upgrade projects (by facility type or park location) in order for them to score competitively in a CIP.

**Goals and objectives that are associated with these considerations begin on page 7-19.**



# PARK LAND SERVICE AREAS: COMMUNITY PARKS

# MAP 7-B:

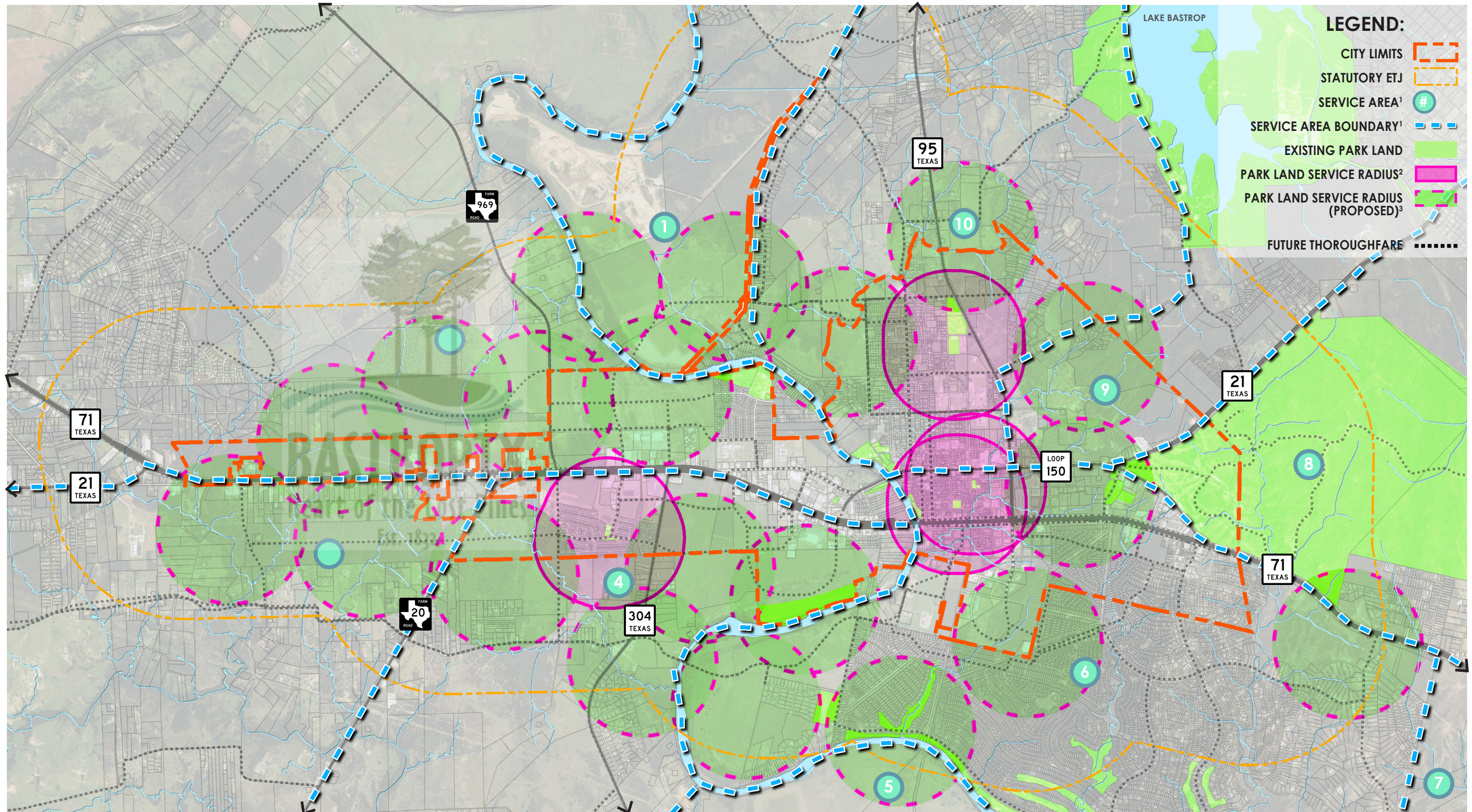


Note: <sup>1</sup>Service area boundaries are depicted for purposes of park land dedication and the expenditure of special park funds as provided by City Ordinance. <sup>2</sup>Park land service radii are depicted for demonstration purposes only. <sup>3</sup>This map assumes the addition of two (2) community parks to meet the City's 2036 projected park land needs (Figure 7.2, page 7-7). Proposed parks and accompanying service areas (used in conjunction with neighborhood parks depicted on Map 7-B) are hypothetical. Final park land distribution targets should be determined through amendments to the City's parks and recreation master plan (see Goal 7.1.1, page 7-19).



# PARK LAND SERVICE AREAS: NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

# MAP 7-C:



Note: <sup>1</sup>Service area boundaries are depicted for purposes of park land dedication and the expenditure of special park funds as provided by City Ordinance. <sup>2</sup>Park land service radii are depicted for demonstration purposes only. <sup>3</sup>This map assumes the addition of sixteen (16) community parks to meet the City's 2036 projected park land needs (Figure 7.2, page 7-7). Proposed parks and accompanying service areas (used in conjunction with neighborhood parks depicted on Map 7-B) are hypothetical. Final park land distribution targets should be determined through amendments to the City's parks and recreation master plan (see Goal 7.1.1, page 7-19).



### LINEAR PARKS/TRAILS

An increasingly popular way to achieve combined community-wide economic, health, recreation, and transportation benefits through a single facility is through the establishment of a multi-use trail network. Multi-use trails are often located in linear park or greenway corridors, but are distinct facilities - frequently being located in public street-rights-of-way or utility corridors. Trail networks in Bastrop include both multi-use trails (also referred to as shared use paths or greenway trails) catering to walkers, joggers, and bicyclists; and, a paddling trail following the Colorado River. Collectively, these facilities provide access to community activity centers and natural assets in a way that is difficult to achieve with fixed-site parks.

### MULTI-USE TRAILS IN BASTROP

There are currently over 2.6 miles of multi-use trails in Bastrop supporting pedestrians and bicyclists. This total includes “side paths,” which are trail facilities within a public road right of way (as opposed to a linear park or other greenway corridor). Bastrop’s existing multi-use trails are primarily found in the downtown area, and connect city-owned and private/quasi-public parks to surrounding uses. An inventory of Bastrop’s multi-use trail network is included under Linear Parks in **Figure 7.1, Bastrop Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Assets** (page 7-5).

Additional linear parks and trails may be found along the Colorado River and Riverside Drive in the Tahitian Village neighborhood (the Colorado River Refuge and Lost Pines Nature Trails). Although access to these privately-owned natural areas is free to the public, and they contain a significant network of internal walking and hiking trails, they are not inventoried or mapped independently in this chapter. Unlike the multi-use trails listed in **Figure 7.1**, Colorado River Refuge and Lost Pines Nature Trails are not currently designed to serve a dual recreation/transportation purpose - although both sites should be incorporated into a community-wide multi-use trail network in the future.



*Multi-use trails serve a dual recreation/transportation purpose. To effectively meet both needs, multi-use trails can often be found outside of linear park corridors, such as the side path along Old Austin Highway (above).*





Increased access to the Colorado River is a community priority. This view across the Colorado River from Fisherman's Park shows City-owned property where additional paddling launch facilities could be constructed.

### PADDLING TRAILS IN BASTROP

The El Camino Real Paddling Trail – extending within the Colorado River in Bastrop - is part of the Texas Paddling Trails network. The Texas Paddling Trails program is administered by the TPWD with the goal to providing accessible day trips in variable settings to paddlers of all experience levels. In order to construct safe and enticing paddling trail networks, TPWD promotes the development of basic facilities including: boat launches, signage (both on water and on land), and amenities such as parking, restrooms, trash receptacles, and potable water.

The El Camino Real Paddling Trail is a small portion of a much broader network on the Colorado River which connects the Willbarger Paddling Trail (at Fisherman's Park) to the Red Bluffs Paddling Trail – six (6) miles downstream at Lost Pines Nature Trails. Bastrop owns and maintains boat launches - at Bob Bryant Park and Fisherman's Park, both of which provide amenities to support a paddling trail network. Users of the paddling trail may also load/unload canoes and kayaks at the parking area on the Lost Pines Nature Trails property.

### SUMMARY

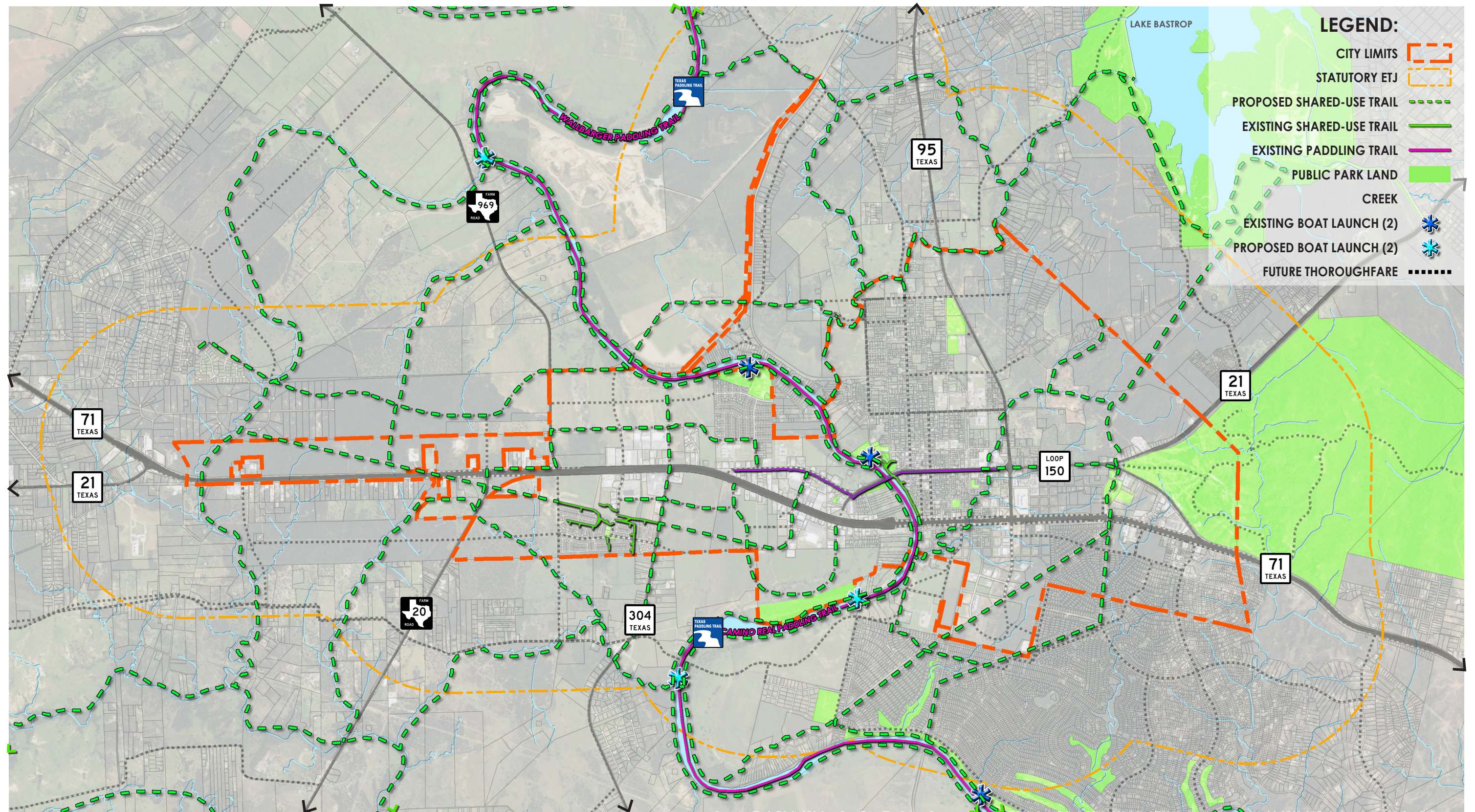
Bastrop's current inventory of linear parks and multi-use trails is limited. For the City to realize the cumulative benefits that these facilities can provide, a more substantial network is necessary. **Map 7-D, Proposed Multi-Use Trail Network**, proposes a trail network exceeding 100 cumulative miles. To achieve this long-term goal, Bastrop should also be guided by the following considerations:

- **Proposed Multi-Use Trail System. Map 7-D, Proposed Multi-Use Trail System**, identifies the general location of Bastrop's proposed (and principal) multi-use trail corridors. This map is not exclusive, and does not prevent the City from identifying other secondary multi-use trail corridors which may be necessary to link future neighborhoods or activity centers to the mapped multi-use trail system.
- **System Development (Multi-use Trails).** Bastrop's "greenway/trail systems" dedication ordinance ensures that trail system development will be an integral part of future development activity. Nonetheless, there is a public desire for more trail connections today. The City should pro-actively develop key segments of the network. Due to the proximity of the City's existing parks lands along the Colorado River in center-city, and priorities identified in previous plans and studies, the City's highest priority should be on developing the River Loop. Other opportunities exist along utility easements.



# PROPOSED MULTI-USE TRAIL NETWORK

# MAP 7-D:



Note: Shared use paths depicted include "greenway" trails (per the City's parkland dedication ordinance provisions) and side paths within public road rights-of-way. The City may opt to include additional sidepaths within major thoroughfare right-of-way which are not otherwise depicted on this map. Paddling trail is part of the Texas Paddling Trails network operated by TPWD. The City owns and maintains 2 boat launches.

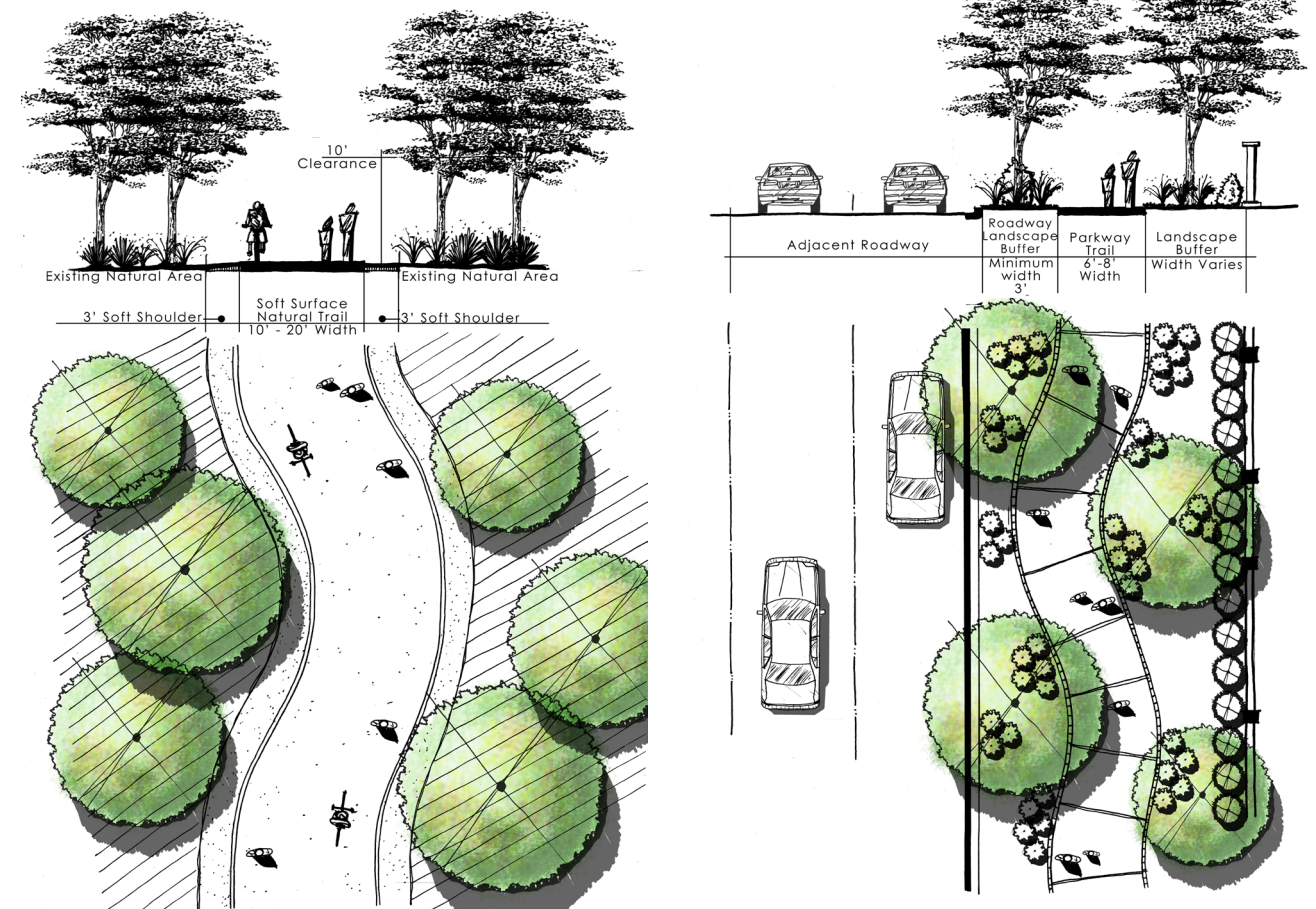




- Facility Design (Multi-use Trails).** It is of particular importance that the City's multi-use trail system be viewed as more than a recreational amenity, and that it links to an on-street bicycle and pedestrian transportation system. Current land development ordinances requiring the provision of "greenways/ trail systems" as part of new development should be amended to include clear design standards, and to formalize requirements for multi-use trails (side paths) in street rights-of-way.
- Paddling Trail Accessibility.** The City's property holdings on the Colorado River place it in a great position to provide greater paddling trail access through the development of new launch sites (even if the public property is not

otherwise programmed to be developed as a park). Not only can amenities such as parking, restrooms, trash receptacles, and more be added to existing sites; accessible launch facilities can be developed at key locations to increase opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. A concerted effort should also be made to improve on-water and off-water way-finding for safety and marketing purposes.

**Goals and objectives that are associated with these considerations begin on page 7-19.**



Multi-use trails (above left) can be constructed according to a variety of dimensional and surfacing standards - depending on conditions. Side paths within the public street-right-of-way (above right) should adhere more closely to AASHTO standards. Bastrop should prepare and adopt standard design guidelines for its proposed multi-use trail network.



### OTHER PARK LAND AND COMMON AREAS

In addition to City owned or maintained parks, Bastrop's residents have access to nearby park land operated by other governmental agencies and public authorities, including Bastrop State Park, Lake Bastrop South Shore Park and North Shore Parks. These parks are principally programmed to provide nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities such as hiking, camping, and fishing, etc. Similar public access opportunities are provided at the adjacent Colorado River Refuge and Lost Pines Nature Trails owned and operated by the Pines and Prairies Land Trust and Keep Bastrop Beautiful.

Private parks found in or near Bastrop's municipal limits include the Pine Forest Golf Club, the ColoVista Golf Club, Paul C. Bell Field (a church owned/operated park), and the Hunter's Crossing Homeowners' Association (HOA) pool. Hunter's Crossing HOA also owns and maintains several pocket parks and trails throughout the neighborhood.

Additional common areas can be found in other HOA neighborhoods as well as some commercial developments.



*Typically associated with residential development, many communities are now requiring common areas, public gathering spaces, and recreational amenities as part of non-residential development (above).*



**SUMMARY**

State and LCRA operated park facilities requiring access fees are not included in local park land level of service calculations. Likewise, athletic facilities owned and operated by the BISD do not serve to meet local park land goals due to access restrictions. Should Bastrop however, choose to develop park land level of service measures specifically for passive park space, open space, or natural areas, inclusion of properties such as the Colorado River Refuge and Lost Pines Nature Trails may be suitable based on current open public access policies. Bastrop should also consider the following:

- **Residential Common Areas.** *There exist opportunities to meet community park land goals through a mix of dedicated public park land, and private common area. For instance, City land development regulations could require that park land reservations or fees for parks that exceed a certain size, be*

*supplemented by the provision of smaller pocket or mini-parks as part of a subdivision's private amenity package. Programmed facilities in the mini-parks may be selected from a list of options that correspond with City-identified recreational facility deficiencies. Such "private" parks increase park land service areas, and serve immediate residents; but, do not increase the City's maintenance budget. Some communities even require a public access clause for the mini-parks as part of a new development's restrictive covenants.*

- **Non-Residential Common Areas.** *As an additional way to meet demands for accessible public gathering spaces or passive open spaces, there is a growing trend to require common areas as part of non-residential developments. Bastrop may consider applying privately-owned and maintained common areas as part of new retail or office developments which exceed a certain size.*

**Goals and objectives that are associated with these considerations begin on page 7-19.**



Common areas within residential developments can supplement City park land goals by linking multi-use trail networks, and providing accessible recreational facilities. Minimum requirements for common area design, location, and facilities can substitute for the services otherwise provided through public pocket parks or mini-parks.



## SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

A handful of Bastrop's parks may best be described as "special use" parks focused on a facility that provides a singular use (as defined on page 7-4: Park and Trail Classifications). A prime example of a special use park in Bastrop is Mayfest Park, including the City's recently acquired rodeo grounds. This type of specialized facility caters to a user group of limited size.

Similarly, individual parks may also include special use facilities which are not otherwise common in the community. Facilities that might fall into a special use category, and for which Bastrop residents have expressed a high degree of interest include: an indoor recreation center, an aquatics complex, and a skate park. The location, scale, and feasibility of these recreational assets remains undetermined.

### SUMMARY

Aside from guaranteeing that current and future residents have access to a sufficient amount of park space throughout the City, community input suggests a strong desire to expand the range of recreational opportunities that are currently available in Bastrop. Bastrop should consider at least the following:

- **Mayfest Park Rodeo Grounds.** *In acquiring the Mayfest Park rodeo grounds, Bastrop has inherited a significant maintenance responsibility. The site's maintenance needs will continue to demand City resources unless the facility can generate greater revenues. Somewhat counter-intuitively, the revenue potential of the rodeo grounds may require a significant amount of funding to modernize and expand the facility. Determining a suitable fiscal solution for Mayfest Park requires a more detailed business and development plan.*

- **Indoor Recreation and Aquatics.** *As with the rodeo grounds, the potential addition of an indoor recreation center to the City's inventory of capital assets raises the question of how best to offset long-term facility expenses. If the facility is small, it may not have the potential to generate revenue through user fees, but it may be relatively low-cost to maintain. If the facility is bigger, there is the risk that long-term usage may fall short of projections and user fees may not be sufficient to offset operations. Nonetheless, there is sustained community interest in indoor recreation and aquatics. The City should identify a site to meet both needs, and develop a plan for phased construction of a combined facility.*
- **Skate Park.** *This facility has been a community priority for many years. It is also the least expensive of the special use facilities referenced in this section. Funding should be dedicated to constructing the facility.*
- **Staffing Special Use Facilities.** *Depending on the size, projected use, hours, and marketing needs of the existing and potential capital facilities identified in this section, Bastrop may be required to increase funding for recreation staff and other operational expenses. Feasibility studies must consider the relationship of operational costs with projected revenues.*

**Goals and objectives that are associated with these considerations begin on page 7-19.**



## RECREATIONAL ASSETS: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.



**Goal 7.1: Provide a sufficient amount of public park land and open space for current and future residents.**

**Objective 7.1.2:** Increase city-wide bicycle and pedestrian accessibility through the development of a linear park system.

**Objective 7.1.1:** Establish City park and open space targets by type and distribution.

1. *Identify and define the various park types that should comprise the City of Bastrop’s public park system. Determine ideal service areas by park type using criteria such as: radial distances; distances by walking, biking, or driving route; barriers (i.e. rivers, highways, etc.)*
  2. *Re-categorize existing City (and other public) parks according to City park typology. Prepare an existing service area map applying refined service area criteria to existing City parks.*
  3. *Utilize the NRPA’s PRORAGIS system, and a survey of other selected comparison communities, to refine Bastrop’s projected per-capita park land and open space level of service needs.*
  4. *Define various types of passive park space, open space, or natural areas. Establish parallel level of service needs for passive park land that are separate from “active” recreational park space.*
  5. *Determine a preferred combination of park land and open space types by which the City intends to meet its total projected level of service needs.*
  6. *Combine the current service area map with projected level of service needs (by park type) to generate one (1) or more future service area maps for land within the municipal limits and statutory ETJ.*
1. *Prepare design criteria for shared use paths of varying types. Design variations will consider surfacing options depending on conditions, trail widths, vertical and horizontal clear areas, slopes, and construction details. As appropriate, incorporate City design standards into land development ordinances and/or City design manuals.*
  2. *Modify greenway/trail system dedication requirements to correspond with the design criteria for shared-use paths.*
  3. *Define “proximity” criteria in the greenway/trail system dedication requirements for purposes of City Special Trail System Fund expenditures; and, allow for the optional construction of spur trails (which are not mapped in the Comprehensive Plan) where such trails would connect new development to the City’s mapped trail network.*
  4. *Amend City land development ordinances to distinguish between shared-use paths, side paths and sidewalks. Include provisions that allow the required placement of side paths on existing road frontage in lieu of sidewalks where such side path is identified in the Comprehensive Plan or other City policy document.*
  5. *Incorporate walkway access requirements into City land development regulations to ensure sufficient interconnectivity between shared-use paths and adjacent development (residential and non-residential).*
  6. *Prioritize development of riverfront linear park trails and incorporate projects into the City’s capital improvements program, and CAMPO TIP or LRTP where applicable.*
  7. *Augment the City’s Special Trail System Fund with other City funds, and Recreational Trails grants or transportation block grant set-asides, where applicable.*



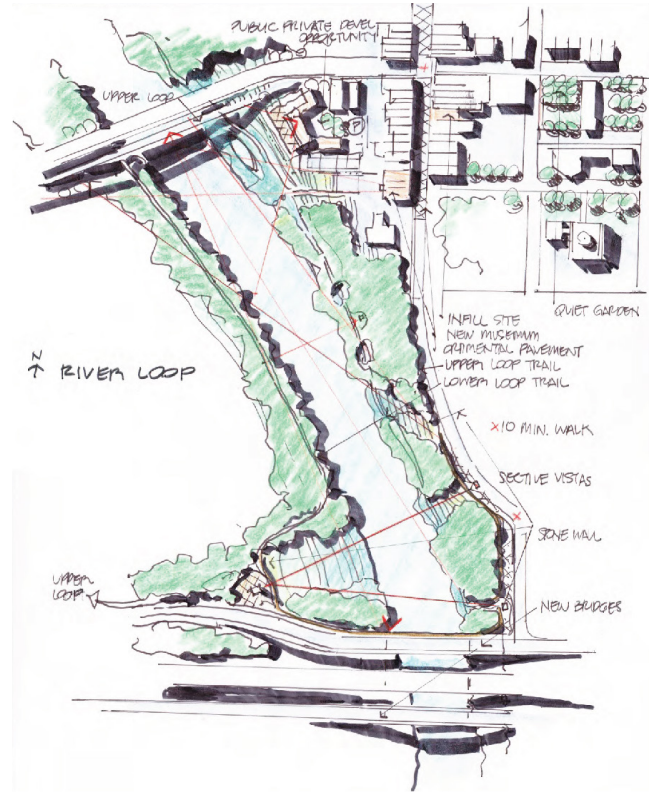


Not all parks must be programmed for active recreation. Through revisions to the City's land development ordinances, Bastrop can require the reservation of not just park land and trails, but also "passive" park land intended for open space preservation and/or restoration of natural habitats.



**Objective 7.1.3:** Create an interconnected center-city park network through the development of the River Loop.

1. Commission a River Loop design study that determines the feasibility of an interconnected multi-use trail network between Fisherman's Park, Ferry Park, proposed parks northwest of the SR71 bridge, and at River's Bend at Pecan Park. The study should: include a variety of potential pathway alignments, identify key properties for acquisition, present options for river crossings, and provide conceptual designs with cost estimates.
2. Require development of the Pecan Park property in accordance with concepts provided in the design study.
3. Acquire linear park property or easements as part of new development proposals and/or through the City's capital improvement program.
4. Seek transportation funding for enhancement/repair of the Old Iron Bridge.
5. Seek funding for the construction of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge at SH71 utilizing Surface Transportation Block grant set-aside funds; or, through other federal funding sources linked to SR71 bridge repair or rehabilitation.



The River Loop<sup>1</sup> (above) envisions a circuitous multi-use trail route linking both sides of the Colorado River in downtown Bastrop. Pro-active development of the River Loop - and a corresponding spur extending south to Pecan Park - should be a multi-use trail system priority.

Source: AIA Communities by Design

<sup>1</sup> AIA Communities by Design, Bastrop, Texas SDAT Report, 2016.



**Objective 7.1.4:** Meet park land and open space targets through a mix of public land and private common area.

1. *Identify smaller City-defined park types (i.e., mini-parks, pocket parks, neighborhood parks, etc.) for which private ownership and maintenance may be desirable on a case-by-case basis.*
2. *Provide a minimum common area requirement for all standard and suburban subdivisions. Distinguish between home-owner maintained common areas, and public parks. Define minimum facility options for common areas which align with those of comparable City-defined park types.*
3. *Establish a minimum open space requirement for all subdivision types major subdivisions which is distinct from common area requirements. Define what constitutes acceptable open space (also: passive park space, natural areas).*
4. *Work with land trusts or other similar entities to tie open space dedication or fee requirements to the establishment or expansion of local preserves.*
5. *Refine “usable open space” requirements in multi-family and other residential zoning districts to distinguish between active recreational open space, and open space set aside for preservation or regeneration. Provide flexibility in meeting refined open space requirements by eliminating requirements for specific facilities such as community buildings or swimming pools.*
6. *Require varying types of common areas or public gathering space for non-residential developments that exceed development thresholds based on building square footage and/or total impervious surface areas. Define on-site location criteria, and provide a suite of facility options.*



**Goal 7.2:** Address current and future recreation needs through the provision and maintenance of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities.

**Objective 7.2.1:** Prepare and implement a master plan for an indoor and outdoor recreation center.

1. *Prepare a building and site design plan for an indoor recreation center. Identify space for athletics, fitness, aquatics (indoor), meetings, general recreation, and offices. Site design may also consider outdoor facilities such as a swimming pool, fields, track, parking, etc.*
2. *Provide costs estimates for facility construction, operations, and maintenance according to a phased schedule.*
3. *Explore opportunities to partner with a vendor to operate the recreation center.*
4. *Consider funding options for phased facility construction (in conjunction with other major facilities such as the rodeo grounds), and adjust capital budgets accordingly.*

**RECREATIONAL FUNDING SOURCES**

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is the most reliable source of parks and recreation development grants in the state. TPWD administers recreation grants for development of recreational facilities and programming for which Bastrop may be eligible. Local Parks Grants, Recreational Trails Grants, and Boating Access Grants are awarded annually to assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas and facilities.

Many of Bastrop’s system-wide maintenance and improvement needs identified in the 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan may be eligible for TPWD funding. Additional information can be found at: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants>.

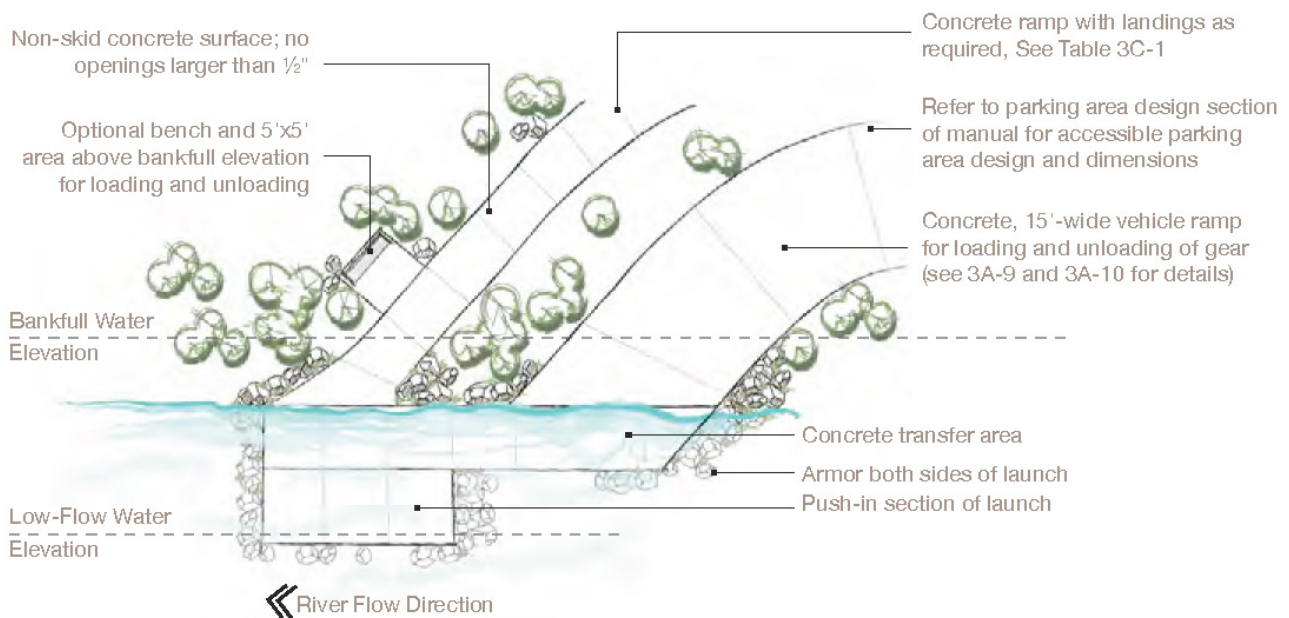


**Objective 7.2.2:** Prepare and implement a business and development plan for Mayfest Park and the rodeo grounds.

1. Incorporate immediate upkeep and maintenance needs for the rodeo grounds into the City's five-year capital improvements program.
2. Fund facility upgrades and additions for portions of Mayfest Park reserved for community recreation (as opposed to areas intend for rodeo activities and operations).
3. Commission a business and development plan for long-term rodeo facility upgrades – and potential expansion. Provide costs estimates for facility construction, operations, and maintenance.
4. Consider funding options for phased facility improvements (in conjunction with other major facilities such as the rodeo grounds).
5. Adjust operational and capital budgets as necessary to meet projected staffing and construction needs necessary to make the rodeo grounds financially solvent.

**Objective 7.2.3:** Increase access to the Colorado River.

1. Work with TPWD to create an on-water and off-water way-finding program for the El Camino Real Paddling Trail. Partner with other governmental and non-profit entities to fund and install way finding features.
2. Prepare conceptual designs for boat launch upgrades at existing launch sites. Design boat launch facilities for additional sites including Laura Hoffman Park, Pecan Park, and the proposed waste water treatment site. Prioritize the construction of at least one (1) site within the next five (5) years based on feasibility and spacing from existing facilities.
3. Construct boat launch facilities at key locations that increase handicapped accessibility, and convenience for other users. Universal launch design features may include: floating frames, tapered ramps with rollers, hand railings, etc.
4. Seek support for launch site retrofits through the TPWD Boating Access Grant program or foundation funding.



Incorporating principles of universal design into El Camino Real Paddling Trail launch sites will increase accessibility and trail awareness. Source: *Developing Water Trails in Iowa; Practical Guidelines and Templates for Planning, Site Design, Signage, and Construction in the State of Iowa*, Iowa DNR (2010)





Multiple events are held each year at the City-owned rodeo facilities at Mayfest Park. Additional study will be necessary to determine how to prioritize facility investments for the long-term financial solvency of the grounds.

## OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

#### CITY STAFF

Operations and maintenance of Bastrop's public parks is the responsibility of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. Department responsibilities are primarily limited to property maintenance and facility upkeep. As necessary, the department also coordinates with other partners and vendors to ensure that Bastrop residents have opportunities to participate in recreational programs and community events – often utilizing City park properties and facilities. The department is the lead sponsor of relatively few recreational activities however, as its role and functions extend from the Public Works Department.

The Parks and Recreation “Department” is currently operated as a division of the Public Works Department, but assumes some operating autonomy. Staff includes: a director, superintendent, administrative assistant, crew leader, equipment operator, five (5) maintenance workers, a maintenance tech, and a cemetery groundskeeper.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Twelve total staff members listed. Will differ from total staff of 10 referenced in **Figure 3.5, Public Works, Staff Projections** (page 3-10), because director and administrative assistant positions are shared among Public Works divisions.

#### PARKS BOARD / PUBLIC TREE ADVISORY BOARD

The Bastrop Parks Board / Public Tree Advisory Board assists the City's elected officials and staff by setting goals, creating policies, and evaluating services to meet the recreational and open space needs of Bastrop's residents. The Board consists of eight (8) regular members and one (1) special member, each appointed by the mayor and confirmed by City Council. Board membership also includes an optional seat for a non-voting youth member selected by the sitting Board members. All Board members - including the youth member - serve terms of three (3) years.

#### PARTNERS, PROGRAMMING, AND EVENTS

The City of Bastrop partners with multiple organizations including: BISS, LCRA, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Bastrop Youth Soccer Association, FC Arsenal, Bastrop Youth Football Association, to provide recreation opportunities and access to park land and open space. Many of the activities sponsored by the City's recreational partners take place on City owned or leased properties. These relationships have allowed the Parks and Recreation Department to focus on its



property maintenance responsibilities; although, there are continual demands on the parks superintendent to coordinate the use of City-owned park facilities for events and third party activities.

Recreational programming for area youth, adults and seniors provided by the YMCA and BISD alone includes:

- Active older adult programming
- Adult programming
- Art and drama
- Child watch
- CPR/First aid
- Dance
- Family programs
- Fitness
- Fitness and nutrition
- Health and wellness
- Parent's night out
- Specialty training classes
- Teen programs
- Training and certification
- Volunteerism
- Youth and teen fitness
- Youth programming
- Youth sports
- Zumba

In addition to the above partners and programs, Keep Bastrop Beautiful and the Pines and Prairies Land Trust provide nature-based events and activities to area youth and adults. Although both entities conduct many of their activities on conservation lands outside of the municipal limits, both fill a valuable niche in the community by exposing area residents to pristine natural habitats.

**SUMMARY**

Community feedback received as part of this planning process (and during the preparation of the 2015 parks and recreation master plan) suggests a desire for more recreational

programming options in Bastrop. This desire is not just limited to athletic programs, but includes non-athletic programming for youth and seniors, and nature programs. Although Bastrop may extend existing partnerships with other entities to meet immediate recreational programming demand, there is no guarantee that all perceived programming voids can be met long term (particularly as the City's park land inventory grows). Beyond the extension of existing partnerships, the City may regularly conduct evaluations of desired recreation programs, and consider options by which self-funding recreational opportunities may be implemented.

Potential City investments in any combination of an indoor recreational center, aquatics center, rodeo facilities, and more, have the potential to place new operational demands on the City's Parks and Recreation Department as well. Even if the City contracts with a vendor to operate these facilities, administrative responsibilities on the department will increase.

An accurate estimate of future parks and recreation staffing needs depends partly on the results of recommended business and development plans for an indoor recreation center and Mayfest Park upgrades. The potential addition of full-time or contract staff to manage such facilities – coupled by the anticipated growth of the Public Works Department in general – may necessitate the eventual separation of the Parks and Recreation Department from Public Works. Regardless, in the short term Bastrop should add a recreation coordinator position to Parks and Recreation Department staff to assist in meeting community demands for programming and



events. Such a position would be responsible for park reservations, vendor contracts, events, and the development of new City-sponsored recreational programs. The recreation coordinator could also oversee volunteer activities conducted in support of the City park system. The position would free the parks superintendent to focus on park land acquisition and development.

**Goals and objectives that are associated with these considerations begin on page 7-28.**

**ORDINANCES**

City ordinances regarding parks oversight and administration are located in Chapter 1, § 1.10 (Parks) of City Code. This article establishes the City’s Parks Board, identifies rules for the use of City parks, and guidelines for the commercial use of public park land. Parks Board responsibilities have been further expanded by Chapter 1, § 1.13 (Public Tree Care) to include a

dual role as the City’s Public Tree Advisory Board.

In addition to the City’s ordinances regarding parks oversight and administration, the City’s land development ordinances include mechanisms to ensure that the municipal parks and recreation system can grow in conjunction with new development. Park land reservation, dedication, and development ordinance are located primarily in Chapter 10, § 8 (Subdivisions, Reservations) of City Code and include the following key provisions:

- **Park Land Dedication.** Reserves the right to require either the dedication of land or a fee-in-lieu whenever a plat is filed with the county. Land dedication occurs at the rate of 1 acre per 100 dwelling units or 5 percent of the total residential platted area (whichever is greater), while the cash payment costs \$250 per dwelling unit.
- **Greenways/Trail System (Linear Park).** Requires the dedication of land and a cash fee in areas proposed for a trail system as identified by the comprehensive plan or otherwise proposed by the City.



*Equitable park land distribution and accessibility refers to more than park location. The utility of park land is diminished when environmental factors inhibit frequent use. Park land acreage lacking shade, or incorporating detention areas (above left) is less desirable than shaded upland spaces (above right). Park dedication ordinances - combined with landscaping ordinances - can encourage the reservation of more desirable park spaces.*





**Detention area embankments offer a prime opportunity for the restoration of native plants, grasses, and trees. The environmental value of establishing mini-habitats is augmented by reduced maintenance needs.**

## **SUMMARY**

Previous sections of this chapter recommend amendments to the City's land development regulations to provide for a greater diversity of park and open space types. Prior recommendations also suggest a greater reliance on private common space to assist in providing greater accessibility to pocket or mini-parks in residential and non-residential areas. Mini-parks (or private common space equivalents) are a particularly important components in meeting the active and passive recreation needs of users with decreased mobility such as children or the elderly.

There are other tools however, for ensuring that the distribution of park land and open space is not only equitable, but usable. Land development regulations can be written so that there is not only an suitable distribution of park land, but of facility types as well. Municipal regulations can also clarify the type of land which is suitable for park land dedication. Similarly, minimum landscaping or tree canopy requirements tied to park space can greatly increase the year-round accessibility of park land for Bastrop's residents.



## OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.



**Goal 7.3:** Meet future recreational demand through adjustments to the City's operational capacity.



**Goal 7.4:** Ensure that residents have access to recreational opportunities through the equitable distribution of park land and open space.

**Objective 7.3.1:** Restructure the Parks and Recreation Department to meet future operational demands.

1. *Hire a recreational program manager to administer City-sponsored (or supported) events; coordinate senior, youth, and outdoor programming; maintain park reservations; and, work with concessionaires.*
2. *Fund full-time or part-time staff for the operation of a City indoor recreation center depending on the scale and accessibility of the facility based on the results of a facility master plan.*
3. *Fund full-time or part-time staff for the operation and maintenance of the rodeo grounds at Mayfest Park based on the result of a business and development plan.*

**Objective 7.3.2:** Establish a “cornerstone” City recreation program designed to address at least one (1) unserved community recreation need.

1. *In conjunction with existing local partners in recreational programming and/or conservation activities, identify a single recreational program that could be established by the City to meet an identified community priority.*
2. *Work with local recreation and conservation partners to determine program costs, location, schedule, and marketing. Base program type and location on existing resources that can be leveraged.*
3. *Incorporate Year 1 program funding in the City's operating budget. As applicable, seek program funding support through TPWD's Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) or other federal, state, or foundation funding source.*

**Objective 7.4.1:** Update land development tools to meet park and open space targets.

1. *Amend City land development and zoning regulations regarding park land types, common space, and “usable” open space as provided in Objective 7.1.4 (page 7-22).*
2. *Incorporate minimum landscaping requirements and/or tree planting standards to be used in conjunction with the types and location of recreational facilities proposed for the park space. Require complimentary landscaping enhancements when detention areas are proposed to be incorporated into park land dedications.*
3. *Allow fee in lieu options of park dedication in each service area where park land, open space, and park facility goals are exceeded.*
4. *Maintain an ongoing inventory of public park land, private common areas, and open space. Incorporate new data into the PRORAGIS system on a recurring basis.*
5. *Establish minimum park facility standards by individual service area.*



## SUMMARY OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (PARKS AND RECREATION).



**Chapter 7, Parks and Recreation**, of the Bastrop Comprehensive Plan examines public park and recreation needs in the City, facility development and maintenance priorities, and methods to incorporate natural lands into the City’s park and open space inventory. The Parks and Recreation chapter goals and objectives have been incorporated into the City’s overall comprehensive plan work program (**Chapter 9, Implementation**).

The three (3) goals and 10 objectives that are recommended throughout this chapter have been compiled into **Figure 7.3** below. Detailed initiatives and actions that correspond to the listed goals and objectives may be found on the page numbers referenced within the figure.

**FIGURE 7.3. PARKS AND RECREATION, SUMMARY OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

GOAL/OBJECTIVE:	PAGE:
<b>GOAL 7.1: PROVIDE A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF PUBLIC PARK LAND AND OPEN SPACE FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS.</b>	7-19
Objective 7.1.1: Establish City park and open space targets by type and distribution.	7-19
Objective 7.1.2: Increase city-wide bicycle and pedestrian accessibility through the development of a linear park system.	7-19
Objective 7.1.3: Create an interconnected center-city park network through the development of the River Loop.	7-21
Objective 7.1.4: Meet park land and open space targets through a mix of public land and private common area.	7-22
<b>GOAL 7.2: ADDRESS CURRENT AND FUTURE RECREATION NEEDS THROUGH THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.</b>	7-22
Objective 7.2.1: Prepare and implement a master plan for an indoor and outdoor recreation center.	7-22
Objective 7.2.2: Prepare and implement a business and development plan for Mayfest Park and the rodeo grounds.	7-23
Objective 7.2.3: Increase access to the Colorado River.	7-23
<b>GOAL 7.3: MEET FUTURE RECREATIONAL DEMAND THROUGH ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CITY'S OPERATIONAL CAPACITY.</b>	7-28
Objective 7.3.1: Restructure the Parks and Recreation Department to meet future operational demands.	7-28
Objective 7.3.2: Establish a "cornerstone" City recreation program designed to address at least one (1) unserved community recreation need.	7-28
<b>GOAL 7.4: Ensure that residents have access to recreational opportunities through the equitable distribution of park land and open space.</b>	7-28
Objective 7.4.1: Update land development tools to meet park and open space targets.	7-28

Many of the goals and objectives identified in this chapter expand upon those recommended in the City's 2015 *Parks and Open Space Master Plan Update*. Other goals and objectives listed herein are unique to this plan. Efforts have been made to ensure that the recommendations in both planning documents align. **Where appropriate, consideration should be given to the 2015 Parks and Open Space Master Plan Update when implementing the recommendations contained in this chapter.**



### IMPLEMENTATION OF PARKS AND RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Implementation of the parks and recreation goals and objectives must occur in coordination with those recommended in other chapters (and the 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update). Goals and objectives - and corresponding actions and initiatives - contained in all seven (7) topic-specific chapters of the Bastrop Comprehensive Plan are important; but, the order of their implementation must consider multiple variables including: **A)** The timing of expected growth and development impacts; **B)** Cost versus revenues; **C)** The availability of grants, loans and other financing methods; **D)** Staffing and other public resources; and, **E)** Dependence on, or completion of, another action or initiative.

In consideration of these inter-related implementation variables, many of the recommendations summarized in **Figure 7.3** have been incorporated into Bastrop's overall comprehensive plan work program contained in **Chapter 9, Implementation**. Please reference **Chapter 9** for a full overview on the methods and timing by which the city of Bastrop's parks and recreation actions and initiatives will be implemented to the benefit of Bastrop's citizens, business owners and property owners.



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