

# TOM GREEN COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2017 – 2027

Prepared for:



Tom Green County  
TEXAS

Prepared by:



**Naismith Engineering, Inc**

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgments .....ii

1.0 INTRODUCTION ..... 1

    1.1 Background..... 1

    1.2 Challenges..... 1

2.0 EXISTING PARK AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES AND INVENTORY .....3

    2.1 Inventory of Existing Recreational Resources.....3

3.0 POPULATION AND SERVICE AREA ..... 17

    3.1 Service Area..... 17

    3.2 Tom Green County Socio-Economic and Demographic Characteristics ..... 17

4.0 PLANNING PROCESS, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES ..... 19

    4.1 Planning Process ..... 19

    4.2 Goals, Objectives, Implementation Strategies ..... 19

        4.2.1 Goal Statements..... 19

        4.2.2 Objectives ..... 20

        4.2.3 Implementation Strategies ..... 20

5.0 NEEDS ASSESSMENT ..... 22

    5.1 Pugh Park..... 22

    5.2 Harper/Water Valley Park ..... 22

    5.3 Foster Park ..... 22

    5.4 Veribest Park..... 23

    5.5 Mereta Park..... 23

    5.6 Christoval City Park..... 23

    5.7 Carlsbad Loop Park ..... 23

    5.8 Mullins Crossing Park ..... 24

    5.9 Mineral Wells Park ..... 24

    5.10 Suggested Rules ..... 24

    5.11 New Park for Grape Creek Community ..... 25

    5.12 Capital Needs and Operations and Maintenance Needs ..... 25

6.0 AREA FACILITY CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS ..... 26

7.0 ADDRESSING THE IDENTIFIED NEEDS ..... 27

    7.1 Results of Dot Voting ..... 27

8.0 Sources of Funding for Park and Recreation Improvements..... 31

    8.1 TPWD Outdoor Recreation Grant ..... 31

    8.2 TPWD Small Communities Grant ..... 32

    8.3 TPWD Trail Grant ..... 33

    8.4 TPWD Boat Ramp Program ..... 33

    8.5 Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP)..... 34

    8.6 TXDOT Transportation Alternatives Program ..... 35

Attachment 1 – Park Site Plans and Typical Features

Attachment 2 – Park Committee Meeting Sign-in Sheets

## Acknowledgments

NEI would like to thank the members of the Tom Green County Park Committee for their assistance and support:

Jimmy Barton  
Hillary Bueker  
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Sylvia Pate  
James Peiser  
Cheryl Schovajsa  
Ross Schroeder  
Dana Tipton  
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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

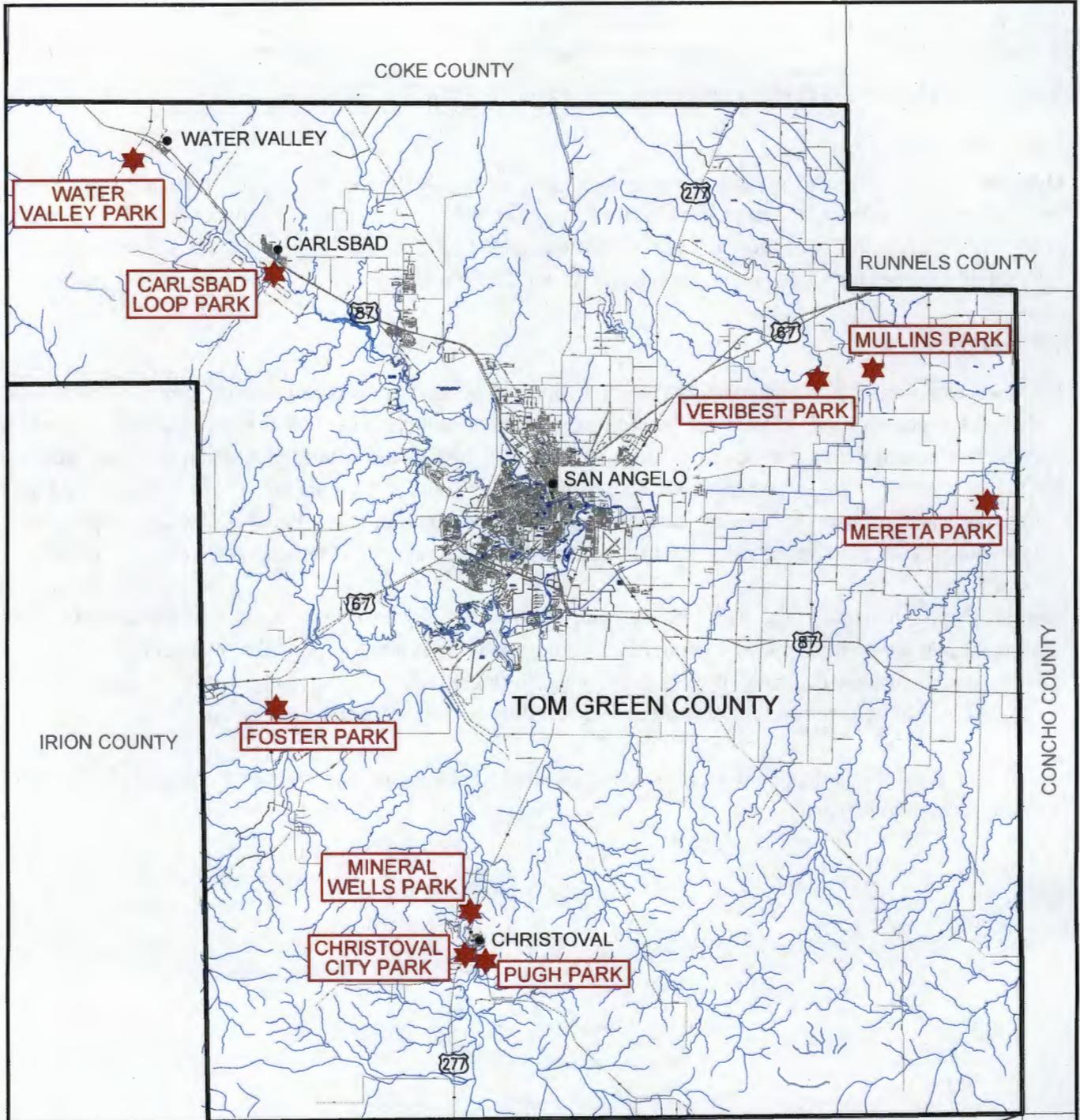
Over the years Tom Green County has acquired property, primarily through private donations, for parks and open space. The larger parks are located along water features including the South and North Concho Rivers and local creeks that have been impounded to form swimming areas. Using federal, state and local resources these parks were developed and have been maintained by the County for public use.

### **1.2 Challenges**

While several of the smaller county parks have continued to be used by local residents the larger, more developed parks have experienced significant use by both local residents and visitors. Foster Park, Harper Park, and Pugh Park have received heavy use due to the location on water bodies and having picnic and camping areas. This usage has accelerated the depreciation of the existing facilities and improvements. This has required additional maintenance and resources to keep the facilities in a reasonable condition. Pugh Park has also experienced security issues with park users violating rules and participating in unsafe behaviors that jeopardize users of the park.

The existing equipment in the parks are showing the results of use and are in need of being replaced with equipment that meets current safety standards. Upgrades to utilities are also needed to meet current codes and to meet the needs of park patrons. There is also a need to upgrade facilities to bring them into compliance with current ADA requirements and make them more accessible for special needs populations.

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing the County is how to fund capital improvements and provide for ongoing operations and maintenance.



IRION COUNTY

COKE COUNTY

RUNNELS COUNTY

TOM GREEN COUNTY

CONCHO COUNTY

SCHLEICHER COUNTY



0 6  
SCALE IN MILES



TOM GREEN COUTNY

COUNTY LOCATION



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**SITE LOCATION MAP  
OF PARKS  
TOM GREEN COUNTY, TEXAS**

Drawn By: RPS	Appr. By: TB	Scale: 1" = 6 Miles	Dwg. NO.: 9649A01	Sheet
Checked By: TB	Project No.: 9649	Date: 08/25/16	Rev.: 08/25/16	or

**2.0 EXISTING PARK AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES AND INVENTORY**

**2.1 Inventory of Existing Recreational Resources**

**CARLSBAD LOOP PARK  
West Carlsbad Loop  
3 Acres on North Concho River**

ITEM	NUMBER	CONDITION
Concrete Picnic Table	1	Good
Individual BBQ	1	Dilapidated
Trash Can	1	Good
Swing Set	1	Poor
Teeter Totter	1	Poor
Exercise Bars	1	Poor
Bench	1	Fair

Notes: No ADA Fall zones or access



CHRISTOVAL CITY PARK

ITEM	NUMBER	CONDITION
Concrete stage	1	Fair
Large group BBQ pit	1	Poor
Picnic tables without benches (Concrete)	3	Good
Picnic tables with benches (Concrete)	9	Good

Notes: Beautiful setting with oak trees  
Historical park



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**FOSTER PARK**

**10550 South FM 2335/2 miles South of Hwy. 67  
23 Acres Located on both sides of Spring Creek**

ITEM	NUMBER	CONDITION
<b>South Park</b>		
Restroom	1	Fair
Community Building	1	Fair
Picnic Tables (metal)	5	Excellent
Trash Cans	7	Good
Dam across creek	1	NA
<b>North Park</b>		
Picnic Tables (Concrete)	7	Fair/Poor
Picnic Tables (Metal)	11	Fair
Trash Cans	16	Good
Individual BBQ	7	Fair/Poor
Swing Set	1	Fair
Teeter Totter	1	Fair
Rope Swing	1	Poor

Notes: No ADA fall zones or access



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**HARPER PARK  
WATER VALLEY PARK  
FM 2034 3 Miles southwest of Hwy. 87  
21 Acres on North Concho River**

ITEM	NUMBER	CONDITION
Picnic Tables	27	Fair/Good
Individual BBQ	17	Fair/Good
Group BBQ	1	Good
Trash Cans	14	Fair/Good
RV Hook ups	27	Fair
Swing Sets	4	Fair
Teeter Totter	1	Poor
Stone Buildings	2	Fair
Rest Room	1	Fair
Dump Station	1	Fair/Good

Notes: Picnic Areas are nicely spread out  
 Additional trash cans are needed  
 RV sites appear to need upgrades to water and electric  
 No ADA accessible picnic tables or fall zones

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**MERETA CITY PARK**  
**GRAND AVE. PARK**  
7 Acres

ITEM	NUMBER	CONDITION
Little League Field	1	Good
Swing Set	1	Good
Trash Cans	3	Good
Pavilion (Small)	1	Fair
Picnic Tables (Concrete)	4	Fair
Picnic Table (Metal)	1	Fair
Group BBQ	1	Good
Community Building/Security Lighting	1	Fair/Good

Notes: Residents built and maintain the Baseball Field  
Residents installed playground equipment  
Not ADA accessible



**MINERAL WELLS CROSSING PARK**  
**MINERAL WELLS RD. ¼ MILE WEST OF 299**  
**3 Acres on South Concho River**

ITEM	NUMBER	CONDITION
Picnic Tables (Concrete)	2	Fair/Good
Trash Cans	4	Good

Notes: No ADA accessibility



**MULLINS CROSSING PARK  
MULLINS CROSSING ROAD  
5 Acres at New Mullins Crossing Bridge on the Concho River**

ITEM	NUMBER	CONDITION
Picnic Tables (Concrete)	1	Poor
Picnic Tables (Wood)	3	Good
Trash Cans	5	Good
Group BBQ	1	Poor

Notes: Small Dam located on the property  
Raw water intake on opposite side of the bank of the river  
No ADA accessibility



**PUGH PARK**  
**FM 2084/TOE NAIL TRAIL**  
**64 Acres on South Concho River**

ITEM	NUMBER	CONDITION
Baseball Field (Toe Nail Trail)	1	Poor
Little League Fields	2	Excellent
Picnic Tables (Concrete)	8	Good/Poor
Picnic Tables (Metal)	15	Good/Poor
BBQ (Individual)	8	Poor
Hike and Bike Trail	1.5 mi. (approximate)	Poor
Trash Cans	20	Good
Boat Ramp	1	Excellent

Notes: Heavily used park  
Vandalism a major problem







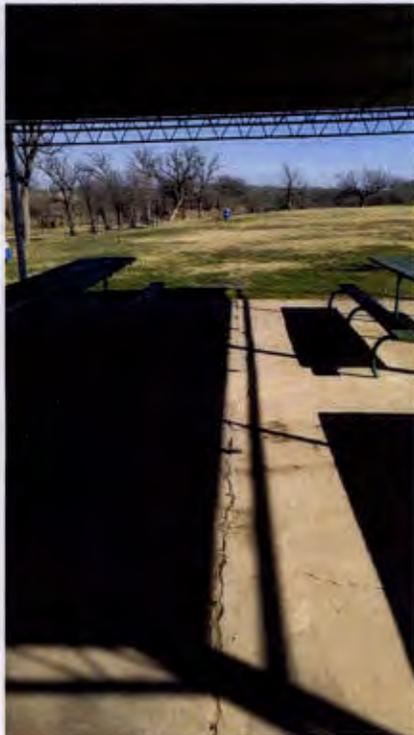
**VERIBEST PARK  
VERIBEST PARK ROAD 3.5 MILES N. OF FM 380  
10 Acres on the Concho River**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>
Pavilion	1	Poor
Picnic Tables (wooden w/o slab)	8	Fair/Poor
Picnic Tables (wooden w/slab)	4	Poor
Picnic Tables (aluminum w/slab)	2	Good
BBQ (group)	1	Fair
BBQ (individual)	3	Good/Poor
Trash Cans	3	Good
Teeter Totter	1	Poor

Notes: 1 Porta Potty  
 Pavilion slab has large crack down the middle of the structure  
 No ADA accessibility

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## Tom Green County Parks and Open Space Master Plan 2017-2027



Tom Green County Parks have been in service for many years and are used by both local residents and visitors. The park facilities, for the most part, are reaching the end of their useful life. The facilities are showing signs of wear and in some instances are damaged beyond repair and must be replaced. Additionally, the Committee felt strongly that any improvements should provide for ADA accessibility. Water accessibility is available at all of the parks but Carlsbad Loop, Mereta and City Parks. Based on input at the Committee meetings there was a consensus that the park system could be divided into two types of parks, regional parks and local parks. The designation of the regional park was based on the acreage of the park and if visitation were from both local users and visitor use. The regional parks were considered to be Pugh Park, Foster Park, Water Valley Park and Veribest Park. Local parks based on the smaller acreages and were considered to be Mereta Park, Christoval City Park, Mineral Wells Park, Mullins Crossing Park and Carlsbad Loop Park.

### **3.0 POPULATION AND SERVICE AREA**

#### **3.1 Service Area**

Tom Green County covers approximately 1,540 square miles in west central Texas. The Concho River is the principal river in the county, which is formed by the convergence of the North, Middle and South Concho Rivers. Tom Green County was officially established by the Texas Legislature on March 13, 1874 from Bexar County and was named in honor of Confederate Brigadier General Thomas Green. Due to an omission of a northern boundary in the enabling legislation Tom Green County contained more than 60,000 square miles. In 1876 the legislature fixed the northern boundary however the remaining area was still larger than Massachusetts and Connecticut combined and stretched to the New Mexico border. The confirmation election was held on January 5, 1875, when voters elected officials and chose the town of Ben Ficklin, instead of San Angelo, as the location for the county seat. By 1880 there were four post offices established in the county, Ben Ficklin, Fort Concho, Knickerbocker and San Angelo. In 1882 the community of Ben Ficklin was destroyed by a flood and the county seat was moved to San Angelo where a courthouse was built in 1884.

After the annexation of Texas into the United States in 1845 a series of forts were built to protect the western frontier. One of the key forts in west Texas was Fort Concho. Fort Concho remained a focal point of settlement within the region and protected settlers, stage coaches and cattle drives from attack. In 1889 the fort was closed due to the reduction of hostilities and the area became a center for cattle and sheep raising. The first irrigated farm in West Texas was established by Jake Marshall in 1868, three miles south of the fort on the South Concho River and provided most of the food for the fort. The same year Bartholomew J. Dewitt, from San Antonio, bought a large tract of land on the north side of the North Concho River from Fort Concho. The small community was first called Over the River, but was later named Santa Angela. This was changed by the post office to San Angelo since there was already a community named Santa Angela, Texas.

With the arrival of the railroad in 1888 a direct access to markets for cattle, sheep, goats and wool made San Angelo and Tom Green County the largest range cattle shipping station in the United States. This growth extended to the small communities located along the South Concho, North Concho and Concho Rivers. These communities were supported by the agricultural economy and during the 20<sup>th</sup> century had population fluctuations that reflected the local economic conditions.

As the population expanded there was a demand for park and recreation amenities within the city of San Angelo and for the rural communities located outside of San Angelo.

#### **3.2 Tom Green County Socio-Economic and Demographic Characteristics**

The 2014 estimate of total population for Tom Green County was 110,224. The Census estimated that the city of San Angelo had a population of 96,177 in 2014. The following tables represent selected Socio-Economic, Demographic and Population Projections for Tom Green County.

**Table 1**  
**Selected Socio-Economic Data for Tom Green County-2010**

Category	Tom Green County
% of persons in labor force	63.6%
Median Household Income (2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)	\$45,114
Median Family Income (2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)	\$58,342
Per Capita Income (2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)	\$24,443
Families Below the Poverty Level	12%
Individuals Below the Poverty Level	16%
Population 25 and Older with High School Graduate or Higher	31.4%
Population 25 or Older with Bachelor's Degree or Higher	14.6%

Source: 2010 Census of Population; 2014 American Community Survey

**Table 2**  
**Demographic Data on Texas and Tom Green County-2010**

Category	Tom Green County	%
Total Households	42,331	100%
Average Household Size	2.48	x
Average Family Size	3.05	x
Male Population	53,976	49%
Female Population	56,248	51%
Median Age	36.4	x
Population <5 years	7,726	7%
Population 5-19	22,893	20.7%
Population 20-34	25,352	23%
Population 35-64	38,988	35.4%
Population 65+	15,265	13.8%
Total Population	110,224	100%
White	90,069	81.7%
African American	4,445	4%
American Indian	877	0.8%
Asian	1,118	1%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	100	0.1%
Other Race	10,484	9.5%
Hispanic or Latino	39,315	35.7%

Source: 2010 Census of Population

**Table 3**  
**Population Projections for Tom Green County**

Year	2010	2015	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Population	110,224	118,105	123,052	137,486	145,685	154,230	163,215	172,642

Source: 2010 Census of Population; 2015 Census Estimate; 2020-2070 Texas Water Development Board

## **4.0 PLANNING PROCESS, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

### **4.1 Planning Process**

The development of this Park and Open Space Master Plan was initiated by the Tom Green County Commissioners Court. The plan is designed to identify needs within the County park system, establish priorities for park development and identify how the plan will be updated. The plan should reflect the needs and desires of the communities that are served and identify existing and potential resources that are needed to implement the plan. The plan is designed to be a living document where standards are developed to measure the effectiveness of the plan. The following are actions that the Commissioners Court took implement the planning process:

- Tom Green County Commissioners Court appointed an advisory committee to assist the consultant in the development of a Parks and Open Space Master Plan for the County.
- The committee met in open session to review the progress of the plan and uses a consensus based decision model.
- Key elements that are developed in this process include the development of goals, objectives, implementation strategies, and recommend priorities to the Commissioners Court.
- A draft plan will be submitted to the Commissioners Court for their review and consideration.
- The plan will be updated on an annual basis by the Commissioners Court.

### **4.2 Goals, Objectives, Implementation Strategies**

#### **4.2.1 Goal Statements**

*A goal is an expression of what Tom Green County wishes to achieve for its parks, recreational facilities. Goal statements should be general in nature and should reflect what is needed for the planning period.*

- Provide park amenities that are appropriate for each park.
- Park improvements should be designed so that they are easily maintained.
- Assure ADA accessibility in each park.
- Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities in larger parks including water access where appropriate and facilities that encourage family use.
- Maintain a clean, safe and secure park environment for park users.
- Respect the park like your home.
- Outreach to other public and private entities to establish partnerships for education, park development and maintenance.

- Protect the park environment through protection of open space, the use of riparian restoration along river and stream banks, use of native plants and conservation measures.
- Provide water and restrooms for each park.

#### **4.2.2 Objectives**

***Objectives can be described as milestones that need to be accomplished in order to realize the goals and whose results are measurable.***

- Minimize maintenance requirements on park improvements.
- Provide camping areas at appropriate parks.
- Develop working partnerships with local school districts, non-profits and private interests to assist in developing diverse activities for local residents and visitors. These activities could be educational, family venues, and community events.
- Provide adequate parking, lighting and security at heavily used parks.
- Identify facilities that will provide a venue for sponsored local events, family use, and a diversity of users for the park system.
- Provide adequate support facilities, such as restrooms, water availability, and parking based on park usage and possible public/private partnerships.
- Remove mesquite trees where replacement tree is available.
- Identify what capital improvements that would be necessary to entice private investment in operations and maintenance of the park system.

#### **4.2.3 Implementation Strategies**

***Implementation strategies are specific actions that can accomplish the objectives.***

- Identify sources of funding for capital improvements including grants from, state and federal agencies, private foundations, and local interests
- Work with private interests to develop public/private partnerships that can provide support facilities and revenues to help support the park system
- Work with local groups to identify potential events and group activities if adequate facilities were available. Local events could be establishing a local farmers market, art shows, and community festivals.

## **Tom Green County Parks and Open Space Master Plan 2017-2027**

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- Work with local universities, schools and organizations to assess the potential opportunities for expanding the educational and environmental programs supported by these groups
- Develop a working relationships with local school districts, trade schools and service organizations for the fabrication of shelters, picnic areas, pavilions, etc.
- Consider working with local groups to establish a non-profit Parks and Recreation Foundation that can assist in fund raising from foundations and private sources. This group could assist in raising funds for park improvements including matching funds for any state or federal grants that the county may apply for in the future.

## 5.0 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Committee's approach in assessing the needs for the parks was a mixture of demand based and a resource based approach. Since all of the parks have some of their acreage within the 100 year floodplain the committee was sensitive to assure that the needs assessment did not negatively affect the floodplain. The following are the needs identified for each park by the Committee.

### Regional Parks

#### 5.1 Pugh Park

- New UIL baseball field
- Lighting
- Restrooms
- Upgrade picnic areas/BBQ
- Camping areas – RV/primitive camping
- ADA accessible tables
- Sports courts
- Playground equipment
- Event sites
- Pavilion with group BBQ
- Attractive entrance
- Traffic control/ security gates
- Trails
- Road/parking improvements
- Security Gates

#### 5.2 Harper/Water Valley Park

- Upgrade old picnic tables/BBQ
- Traffic control
- Concrete pads for RV park space
- Upgrade utility connections to RV spaces
- Lighting
- Upgrade restroom facilities
- Playground equipment
- Security gates
- Road/parking improvements

#### 5.3 Foster Park

- Upgrade playground equipment
- Traffic Control
- Lighting
- Restroom upgrades
- Security gates

- Road/parking improvements

**5.4 Veribest Park**

- Boat ramp
- Playground equipment
- Lighting
- Repair/replace pavilion group BBQ
- Additional 2 pavilions
- Restrooms
- Traffic control
- New trees/trim trees
- Take out old building
- Trash
- Road/parking improvements

**Local Parks**

**5.5 Mereta Park**

- Pavilion upgrade
- New group BBQ pit
- Additional picnic tables/BBQ
- Upgrade playground equipment
- Baseball field upgrades
- Road/parking improvements

**5.6 Christoval City Park**

- Restrooms
- Trash disposal
- Parking
- Playground equipment
- Dog park
- Pavilion
- Entrance
- Picnic area upgrades
- Repair group BBQ
- Road/parking improvements

**5.7 Carlsbad Loop Park**

- New playground equipment
- Picnic tables/BBQ
- Road/parking improvements

### 5.8 Mullins Crossing Park

- Upgrade picnic areas to include new tables and BBQ
- Additional trees
- Kayak ramp/dock
- Restroom/porta-potty
- Road/parking improvements
- Dock

### 5.9 Mineral Wells Park

- Restroom
- Trash disposal
- Defined parking
- Traffic control
- Bank stabilization
- Protection of surrounding neighbors
- Additional picnic tables
- Kayak ingress/egress
- Road/parking improvements

The Committee identified that new and repaired picnic areas would be a great asset to the parks. The Committee felt strongly that all picnic tables should be covered or placed under shade trees. When the existing parks were developed the County had the foresight to place picnic tables and individual BBQ pits on concrete pads. For the most part these pads are in good shape and can be used for new tables. Another need that the Committee identified for all the parks was greater security, including gates and established times of use. This discussion led into the need for the County to establish rules for each of the parks. The following are general rules that the Committee felt were appropriate to the Tom Green County Park System. The Committee recognizes that the Commissioners Court will have to evaluate the need for rules at each park and offer the following as an example of what other Texas counties have adopted:

### 5.10 Suggested Rules

- **Establish hours of use** for the parks such as dawn to dusk or specific times the parks will be open and closed.
- **Soliciting** - No soliciting is allowed. No one may rent or sell any item or service except under an approved concession contract.
- **Noise Limit** - Visitors will not create excessive noise, excessive being a level which disturbs other visitors or adjacent residents. All generators and/or amplified music must be turned off between the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.
- **Minors** - Adults are responsible for their minor children's actions.
- **Pets** – All pets must be kept under the owner's direct control and attached to a person or fixed object at all times by a leash not to exceed six feet in length, and shall not be left unattended or constitute a nuisance.

Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets and disposing of waste in a proper receptacle. Noisy, vicious, or dangerous animals are not permitted.

- **Weapons, Firearms, and Fireworks** - No person, in any county park may, except as permitted by State Law, possess a firearm; or discharge a weapon or firearm.
- **Glass Containers** - No person shall bring into or use glass containers in any area of or within any Tom Green County Park.
- **Swimming** - All swimming is at your own risk. No lifeguards are provided.
- **Natural Materials** - No person shall destroy, disturb, or remove from county parkland any timber, shrubs, other vegetation, rock, sand, gravel, caliche, or other similar substance, material, or geologic feature. Plants may not be brought into the parks. The cutting and/or gathering of firewood is prohibited.
- **Property** - Visitors are prohibited from carving, painting, or otherwise marking any tree, fence, rock, building, etc. Visitors are prohibited from altering any barrier, fence, traffic control device, or other county property.
- **Solid Waste** - No garbage or other solid waste may be dumped or littered in the parks. Garbage associated with park use must be deposited in containers provided.
- **Pavilion Rules**- The pavilions are open to the public on a first come first served basis unless the pavilion has been reserved for an event through the Tom Green County Parks Department.
- **Fires** - Fires are permitted in camp stoves, grills, or fireplaces. Ground fires are permitted in designated areas only and must be maintained in a safe and controlled manner at all times.
- **Vehicles** - Motorized vehicles are confined to designated roadways and parking areas and must comply with speed limits. Vehicles which are not licensed for street use are prohibited. Only two vehicles are allowed per designated campsite.
- **Abandoned Vehicles** - Any vehicle, boat, trailer, or other property abandoned in a county park is in violation of state laws and/or county rules and may be removed and stored at the owner's expense.

### 5.11 New Park for Grape Creek Community

It was recognized by the Committee that there is a significant need for park and open space within the Grape Creek community. This community is located outside the San Angelo city limits and there are no public parks or open space for local residents. It is reported that the local school district has over 1,000 students and there is a local demand for park and recreational services. The Committee recommends that the Commissioners Court begin the process of acquiring land through local donation and develop the park based on the available property.

### 5.12 Capital Needs and Operations and Maintenance Needs

Throughout the planning process the Committee was able to identify both capital improvements and operation and maintenance needs for each of the parks. The capital improvements generally include new picnic areas, restrooms, playground updates, additional landscaping, improved camping areas, boat ramps and pavilions. Operation and maintenance issues can be grouped into better security, lighting, trash pickup, parking and traffic control.

**6.0 AREA FACILITY CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS**

Determining the need for park and recreation facilities requires defining the area and population to be served by the facilities. It was determined that the National Recreation and Park Association standards would be used as a guide for planning purposes. Table 5 lists park standards as developed by the NRPA and compared to the existing parks and open space owned and/or operated by Tom Green County. While these are desired standards the parks owned and operated by Tom Green County reflect park and recreational resources available in existing properties.

**Table 4 – National Recreation and Park Association Standards**

Park Type	Description	Service Area	Recommended Size	Acres/ 1000 Pop	Desirable Location
Pocket Park (a.k.a., Mini-Park)	Small area with special focus, such as serving tots, handicapped, or senior citizens	Less than ¼ mile from users	1 ac. or less	Depends on special population, approx. 1/4 -1/2 acre	Near served population
Neighborhood	Area for active recreational uses such as play fields, sport courts, plays capes, picnic areas, etc...	¼ - ½ mile radius (walking distance), up to a population of 5,000	< 15 ac.	1 – 2 ac.	Centered within neighborhood; near schools; safe walking & bike access
Community	Intense recreational uses, such as athletic complexes, swimming pools	1 – 2 mile radius; population 5,000-10,000	25 – 40 acres or larger	5 – 8 ac.	On collector or arterial level roads; away from neighborhoods
Special Use	Natural resources based area	Community wide	Varies	n/a	At unique natural resource (e.g., karst)
Greenbelt	System for recreational travel; links parks, neighborhoods, schools, etc...	Varies	Width is critical	Varies	Along creeks, utility easements, or other public land
Regional/ Metropolitan Park	Large facility with variety of recreational opportunities, both organized and otherwise	Several communities (up to 1 hour drive)	200+ acres	5 – 10 ac.	Contiguous to natural resources

## 7.0 ADDRESSING THE IDENTIFIED NEEDS

As noted in Section 5 needs for each of the parks were identified by the Committee. Once the needs were identified each of the Committee members were asked to identify which needs should be prioritized using a “dot” voting system. The dot voting system is based on giving each participant a number of stickers for each park. They then divide the available dots among their individual preferences. Using this voting method the members of the Committee can prioritize the needs for each category and reflect their individual preferences.

### 7.1 Results of Dot Voting

The results of the dot voting for each park is listed in Table 4. It must be noted that the capital and operations and maintenance needs were grouped together. In general the regional parks focused on camping areas, pavilions, picnic areas with BBQ pits, playground equipment, boat access and restrooms. The local park voting results were primarily focused on picnic areas, playground equipment and pavilions. The operations and maintenance priorities were security, lighting, and trash pickup.

**Table 5  
Dot Voting Results from August 9, 2016 Committee Meeting**

	% of Votes	Votes
<b>CARLSBAD LOOP</b>		
New playground equipment	36%	18
Picnic tables/ BBQ	36%	18
Road/parking improvements	28%	14
<b>CHRISTOVAL CITY PARK</b>		
Pavilion	27%	13
Restrooms	24%	12
Playground equipment	14%	7
Entrance	12%	6
Road/parking improvements	12%	6
Trash disposal	8%	4
Dog park	2%	1
<b>FOSTER PARK</b>		
Lighting	21%	29
Upgrade old equipment	20%	27
Road/parking improvements	16%	22
Upgrade facility	14%	20
Playground equipment	14%	19
Security gates	10%	14
Traffic control	5%	7

**Tom Green County Parks and Open Space Master Plan 2017-2027**

	% of Votes	Votes
<b>HARPER/WATER VALLEY</b>		
Playground equipment	23%	30
Lighting	19%	25
Road/parking improvements	15%	20
Upgrade old equipment	13%	17
Cement pads for RV park space	11%	15
50-amp breaker	11%	14
Security gates	5%	6
Traffic control	2%	3
Upgrade facility	2%	3
<b>MERETA PARK</b>		
Upgrade playscapes	28%	14
Pavilion upgrade	22%	11
Road/parking improvements	20%	10
Baseball field upgrades	18%	9
Additional picnic tables	12%	6
<b>MINERAL WELLS PARK</b>		
Restroom	26%	11
Kayak ingress/egress	26%	11
Road/parking improvements	24%	10
Trash disposal	19%	8
Traffic control	2%	1
Protection of surrounding neighbors	2%	1
Defined parking	0%	
Bank stabilization	0%	
Additional picnic tables	0%	
<b>MULLINS PARK</b>		
Restroom/porta-potty	30%	15
Kayak ramp/dock	24%	12
Upgrade picnic	22%	11
Road/parking improvements	16%	8
Additional trees	8%	4

**Tom Green County Parks and Open Space Master Plan 2017-2027**

	% of Votes	Votes
<b>PUGH PARK</b>		
Camping areas - RV/ camp	11%	16
Pavilion	11%	16
Trails	11%	16
Playground equipment	10%	15
Restrooms	10%	14
New UIL baseball field	9%	13
Lighting	9%	13
Road/parking improvements	8%	12
Attractive entrance	6%	9
ADA tables	6%	8
Traffic control/security gates	5%	7
Sports courts	3%	4
Event sites	1%	2
<b>VERIBEST PARK</b>		
Repair/replace pavilion group BBQ/2 additional pavilions	14%	21
Lighting	13%	20
Restrooms	13%	19
Boat ramp	11%	17
Playground equipment	11%	17
Take out old building	11%	17
Trash	9%	14
New trees/trim trees	9%	13
Road/parking improvements	7%	10
Traffic control	1%	2

The results of this voting can be separated into the capital improvements and operations and maintenance improvements. Capital improvements are considered to be one-time costs for equipment or improvements. Operations and maintenance costs are considered on-going costs associated with operating the park system. Based on this approach the following are system priorities based on the dot voting. Please see Table 5 on the following page.

**Table 6**  
**Park System Priorities Based on Dot Voting**

	Carlsbad Loop	City Park	Foster Park	Water Valley	Mereta	Mineral Wells	Mullins	Pugh	Veribest	Total
Playground Equipment	18	7	19	30	14	0	0	15	17	120
Picnic Tables/BBQ	18	0	27	17	6	0	11	8	0	87
Pavilions	0	13	0	0	11	0	0	16	21	61
Restrooms	0	12	0	0	0	11	15	14	19	71
Road/Parking/Traffic Control	14	6	29	23	10	11	8	19	12	132
Security Gates/Entrance	0	6	14	6	0	0	0	16	0	42
Lighting	0	0	29	25	0	0	0	13	20	87
RV/Camping	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	16	0	45
Boat Ramp/Kayak Access	0	0	0	0	0	11	12	0	17	40
New/Upgrade Baseball Field	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	13	0	22
Trash Disposal	0	4	0	0	0	8	0	0	14	26
Additional Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	13	17
Other	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	20	17	38

**Capital Improvements**

1. Playground Equipment
2. Picnic Tables/BBQ
3. Restrooms
4. Pavilions
5. Camping
6. Boat Ramp/Kayak/Canoe ramps
7. Baseball Fields new and upgraded
8. Additional Trees
9. Trails/Other

**Operations and Maintenance**

1. Road Improvements/Parking/Traffic Control
2. Lighting
3. Entrance/Security Gates
4. Trash Disposal

One of the problems facing some of the parks is that there is not an available water supply to operate traditional restrooms. In these cases other facilities must be considered to provide the service.

General site plans for each park are included in Attachment 1.

## **8.0 Sources of Funding for Park and Recreation Improvements**

The following is a brief description of funding sources from public agencies that are available to Tom Green County. It must be noted that these funding sources often require a local match either in the form of cash or in-kind contributions.

### **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**

TPWD has five major recreational grant programs:

#### **8.1 TPWD Outdoor Recreation Grant**

- Can award up to \$500,000
- Must be at least a dollar for dollar match
- Matching funds can come from a variety of sources including bonds, local appropriations, private donations or foundation grants
- Program is very competitive and applications are judged on a point system
- Points are allocated based on source of matching funds, if priorities from an approved Park and Open Space Master Plan are being implemented, and new and diverse activities.
- Amount of grant funds being used for direct recreational improvements

#### Eligible Activities:

- **BALLFIELDS:** Including, but not limited to site preparation/grading, lighting, fencing, irrigation, turf establishment, dugouts, bleachers, goals, bases, scoreboards, and scorekeeper booths.
- **BOATING, FISHING, AND HUNTING FACILITIES:** Including, but not limited to boat ramps, breakwaters, docks, piers, sewage pumping facilities, buoys, channels, mechanical launching devices, fish cleaning facilities, lighting, stream improvements, clearing and planting for food/cover, Skeet/trap/rifle/pistol/archery ranges, wildlife management areas and trails. Prior to consideration of funding for boating access facilities, sponsors must attempt to secure funding from the Department under the State Boat Ramp Program or State Pumpout Program. To request assistance for these types of facilities through the Local Park Grant Program, the application must include documentation confirming the efforts to secure the alternative source of assistance.
- **PICNIC FACILITIES:** Including, but not limited to pavilions, tables, shelters, grills, concrete pads, area lighting, and trash receptacles.
- **PLAYGROUNDS:** Including, but not limited to surfacing, borders, equipment, benches, and lighting.
- **AQUATIC FACILITIES:** Including, but not limited to swimming/wading/wave/spray pools, beaches, bathhouses, service/mechanical buildings, heaters, lifeguard towers, showers, fencing, deck areas, and lighting.

## Tom Green County Parks and Open Space Master Plan 2017-2027

- **TRAILS:** Including, but not limited to jogging and exercise trails, nature and hiking trails, bicycle, motorcycle and multiple purpose trails, observation stations, overlooks, bridges, low-water crossings, boardwalks, exercise stations, interpretive and directional signage, sidewalks vehicular barriers, free access ways to other areas/facilities.
- **COMMUNITY GARDENS:** Including, but not limited to fencing, storage bins and sheds, irrigation, composting areas, benches, sidewalks, parking, and restrooms.
- **SPORT COURTS:** Including, but not limited to basketball, tennis, volleyball, badminton, and related lighting, fencing, surfacing, nets, goals, windbreaks, and bleachers.
- **CULTURAL AND EXHIBIT FACILITIES:** Only small amphitheaters, bandstands, rodeo arenas, and exhibit or interpretive facilities are eligible. This includes small demonstration arboretums, nature exhibits and interpretive centers. Assistance will not be provided if these facilities function primarily for professional, semi-professional, academic, historic, economic, or other non-recreational uses.
- **RENOVATIONS AND REDEVELOPMENT** Projects involving the renovation or redevelopment of recreation facilities may be eligible for assistance..
- **GOLF COURSES:** Including, but not limited to construction, irrigation, landscaping, roads, parking, utilities, moderate clubhouse and maintenance facilities, and cart paths.

Eligible Support Activities include:

- Restrooms
- Parking
- Area lighting
- Utilities essential to support facilities
- Irrigation
- Land acquisition

**Submission Deadline: October 1**

### **8.2 TPWD Small Communities Grant**

- Can award up to \$75,000
- Must be at least a dollar for dollar match
- Matching funds can come from a variety of sources including bonds, local appropriations, private donations or foundation grants
- Applications are judged on a point system

## **Tom Green County Parks and Open Space Master Plan 2017-2027**

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- Points are allocated based on source of matching funds, if priorities from an approved Park and Open Space Master Plan are being implemented, and new and diverse activities.
- Amount of grant funds being used for direct recreational improvements

Eligible Activities are the same as the Outdoor Recreation Grant Program

**Submission Deadline- October 1**

### **8.3 TPWD Trail Grant**

- Can apply for up to \$200,000
- 20% match required
- Matching funds can come from a variety of sources including bonds, local appropriations, private donations or foundation grants

Eligible Activities:

- Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects.
- Construction of new recreational trails
- Improve existing trails
- Develop trailheads or trailside facilities, and
- Acquire trail corridors.
- Development of trail-side and trail-head facilities

Ineligible Activities:

- Facilities that support other recreation activities (e.g. camping areas, boat ramps, swimming areas, etc.)
- Landscaping
- Sidewalk
- Other Buildings (fee booth, offices, etc.)
- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission will authorize funding for selected projects based on the recommendations of the Texas Trails Advisory Board

**Submission Deadline: February 1**

### **8.4 TPWD Boat Ramp Program**

- Can award up to \$500,000
- Must have a 25% matching share which can come from:

- Local appropriations;
  - The value of donated land, cash, labor, equipment, or materials;
  - In-kind labor, equipment and materials to be provided by the applicant or another governmental/ educational entity;
  - Other state grant funds or programs which are not administratively prohibited.

**Eligible Activities:**

- Launching facilities, such as ramps and boat lifts;
- Breakwaters;
- Loading docks;
- Land acquisition;
- Fish cleaning stations;
- Restrooms, sewage treatment facilities, showers, potable water, security lights;
- Parking areas associated with the access facilities;
- Camping facilities at areas accessible only by boat (must be accessible to motorboats);
- Access roads, bridges, signals, and other requirements to provide the public access to boating facilities;
- Engineering (planning and design), and environmental clearance and permit costs;
- Retaining walls to protect integrity of boat ramps and associated parking lots (limited to 200 feet on either side of constructed facilities);
- Dredging, stump removal, and aquatic weed control when activity can be shown to clear lanes to make water body more accessible primarily for recreational motorboats as opposed to general navigation;
- Navigational aids in the immediate area of access facilities;
- Signage for effective use of access facilities and recognition of the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

**Submission Deadline: October 31**

**8.5 Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP)**

- Grants are available to tax-exempt organizations and local governments introducing non-traditional constituents to TPWD related outdoor recreation, conservation and environmental education programs. The success of this program lies in the partnerships created between TPWD and grass-roots organizations who have already established a relationship with these identified

targeted audiences; females, physically/mentally challenged, ethnic minorities, low income and youth.

- CO-OP provides grants to tax-exempt organizations ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000. This is a reimbursement grant program. Recipients must purchase eligible items and submit proper documentation before being reimbursed. Eligible organizations can apply to use these funds for programming expenses such as equipment, leasing transportation, staff, liability insurance, food, program materials, etc.

**Submission Deadline: February 1**

## **8.6 TXDOT Transportation Alternatives Program**

Eligible Sponsors:

- Project sponsors and projects from nonurban areas with populations of 5,000 or less and urban areas with populations of 5,001 to 200,000 that are outside 2010 U.S. Census Urbanized Area.
- This is an 80% grant with a 20% match. Funding availability is set for each fiscal year.
- The local funding match is a cash match or an approved in-kind contribution provided by or through the project sponsor.
- TAP funding can only be used for construction. All other costs are not eligible for reimbursement.

Eligible Project Activities

- Construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting, and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;
- Construction of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs;
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users; and
- Construction of infrastructure-related projects to improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school, including sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and speed reduction improvements, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements, on-street bicycle facilities, off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, secure bicycle parking facilities, and traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools.

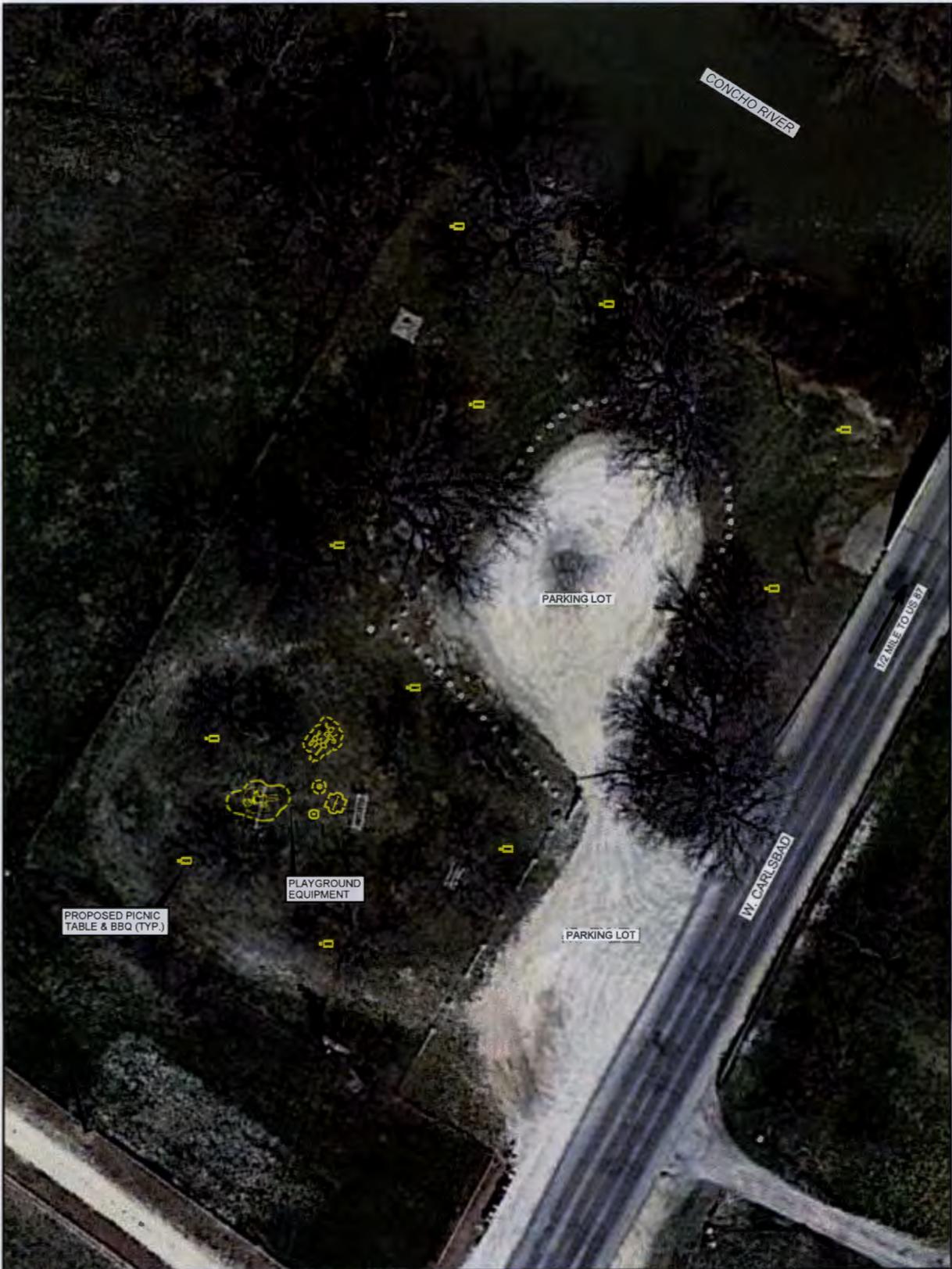
Project Emphasis Areas:

- Within eligible project categories, the department is particularly interested in those projects that reflect a high degree of collaboration and community consensus while directly contributing to the department's safety and connectivity goals.
- Projects that enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety, provide access to or between existing community investments in bicycle and pedestrian facilities, public transportation, or other mobility options, propose a direct connection to important community destinations (such as schools, employment, shopping and

recreational areas), or contribute as an individual project to a larger investment consistent with Complete Streets design are strongly encouraged.

- Complete streets are designed and operated to enable access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

**Attachment 1**  
**Park Site Plans and Typical Features**



Map Source: Google Earth, Imagery Date 03/27/2015.

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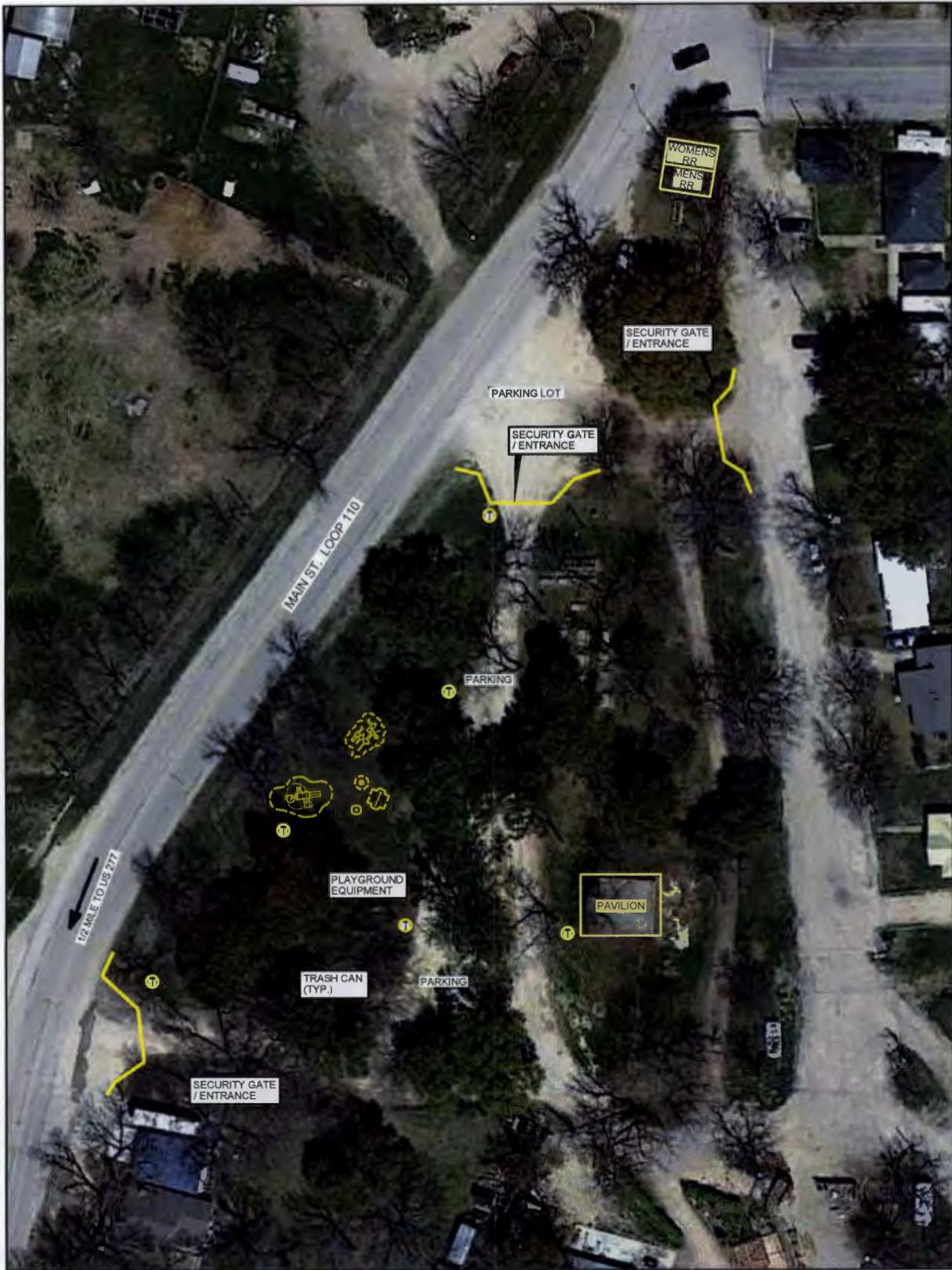
**CARLSBAD LOOP PARK**  
 TOM GREEN COUNTY, TEXAS



- LEGEND**
- PICNIC TABLE / BBQ
  - PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
  - ROAD / PARKING / TRAFFIC CONTROL



Drawn By	RPS	Appr. By	TB	Scale AS SHOWN	Drawn No.	9648922	Sheet
Checked By	TB	Project No.	9648	Date	08/15/16	Issue	08/24/16



Map Source: Google Earth, Imagery Date 03/27/2015.

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**CHRISTOVAL CITY PARK**  
 TOM GREEN COUNTY, TEXAS

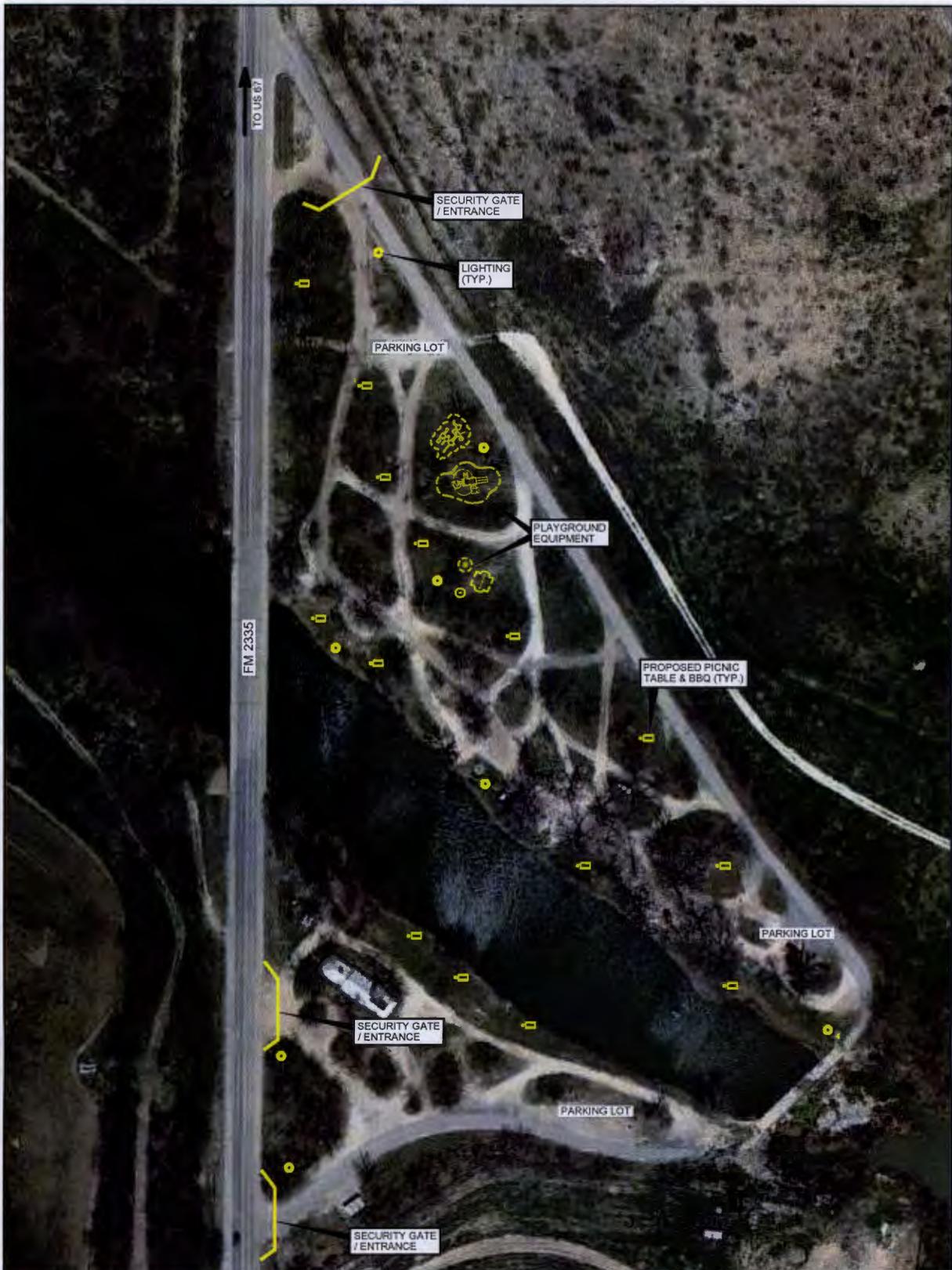
**LEGEND**

- PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
- PAVILION
- RESTROOMS
- TRASH DISPOSAL
- ROAD / PARKING / TRAFFIC CONTROL
- SECURITY GATES / ENTRANCE

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TOM GREEN COUNTY  
 COUNTY LOCATION

Drawn By	RPS	Appr. By	TB	Scale	AS SHOWN	Drawn By	0649903	Sheet
Checked By	TB	Project No.	0649	Date	06/19/16	Drawn	06/19/16	of



Map Source: Google Earth, Imagery Date 03/27/2015.



- LEGEND**
- PICNIC TABLE / BBQ
  - PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
  - ROAD / PARKING / TRAFFIC CONTROL
  - SECURITY GATES / ENTRANCE
  - LIGHTING



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**FOSTER PARK**  
TOM GREEN COUNTY, TEXAS

Drawn By	RPS	Appr. By	TB	Scale	AS SHOWN	Draw. No.	9048004	Sheet	
Checked By	TB	Project No.	9640	Date	05/19/16	Revised	05/19/16	of	1



Map Source: Google Earth, Imagery Date 03/27/2015.



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**LEGEND**

-  PICNIC TABLE / BBQ
-  PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
-  ROAD / PARKING / TRAFFIC CONTROL
-  SECURITY GATES / ENTRANCE
-  LIGHTING
-  RV / CAMPING



TOM GREEN COUNTY  
COUNTY LOCATION



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**WATER VALLEY PARK**  
TOM GREEN COUNTY, TEXAS

Drawn By	RPB	Appr. By	TB	Scale	AS SHOWN	Draw No.	9048905	Sheet	
Checked By	TB	Project No.	9049	Date	08/19/18	Rev.	08/09/18		



Map Source: Google Earth, Imagery Date 03/27/2015.



- LEGEND**
-  PICNIC TABLE / BBQ
  -  PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
  -  PAVILION
  -  ROAD / PARKING / TRAFFIC CONTROL
  -  NEW / UPGRADE BASEBALL FIELD



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**MERETA PARK**  
TOM GREEN COUNTY, TEXAS

Drawn By	RPS	Appr. By	TB	Scale	AS SHOWN	Drawn No.	9048000	Sheet	
Checked By	TB	Project No.	9649	Date	08/19/16	Rev.	05/19/16	of	



Map Source: Google Earth, Imagery Date 03/27/2015.

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- LEGEND**
- RR RESTROOMS
  - T TRASH DISPOSAL
  - ROAD / PARKING / TRAFFIC CONTROL
  - BOAT RAMP / KAYAK ACCESS



**MINERAL WELLS PARK**  
 TOM GREEN COUNTY, TEXAS

Drawn By	RPS	App. No.	TB	Scale	AS SHOWN	Proj. No.	9549	Sheet	05/19/16	Rev.	05/19/16
Checked By	TB	Project No.	9549	Date	05/19/16	Rev.	05/19/16				



Map Source: Google Earth, Imagery Date 03/27/2015.

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**MULLINS PARK**  
 TOM GREEN COUNTY, TEXAS

- LEGEND**
- PICNIC TABLE / BBQ
  - RESTROOMS
  - ROAD / PARKING / TRAFFIC CONTROL
  - BOAT RAMP / KAYAK ACCESS
  - ADDITIONAL TREES



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Checked By	TB	Project No.	9648	Date	06/19/16	Rev	06/19/16





Map Source: Google Earth, Imagery Date 03/27/2015.



- LEGEND**
- PICNIC TABLE / BBQ
  - PAVILION
  - RESTROOMS
  - ROAD / PARKING / TRAFFIC CONTROL
  - SECURITY GATES / ENTRANCE
  - LIGHTING
  - RV / CAMPING
  - NEW BASEBALL FIELD



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**PUGH PARK**  
 TOM GREEN COUNTY, TEXAS

Drawn By	RPB	Appr. By	TB	Scale	AS SHOWN	Drawn No.	0649009
Checked By	TB	Project No.	9649	Date	08/19/18	Rev.	08/19/18



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Map Source: Google Earth, Imagery Date 03/27/2015.



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SCALE IN FEET

**LEGEND**

-  PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
-  PAVILION
-  RESTROOMS
-  ROAD / PARKING / TRAFFIC CONTROL
-  LIGHTING
-  BOAT RAMP / KAYAK ACCESS
-  TRASH DISPOSAL
-  ADDITIONAL TREES



TOM GREEN COUNTY  
COUNTY LOCATION

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**VERIBEST PARK**  
TOM GREEN COUNTY, TEXAS

Drawn By: GPS	Appr. By: TB	Scale: AS SHOWN	Draw. No.: 0840810	Sheet:
Checked By: TB	Project No.: 9649	Date: 08/19/16	Rev: 08/09/16	of

## TYPICAL PARK FEATURES

Covered picnic tables



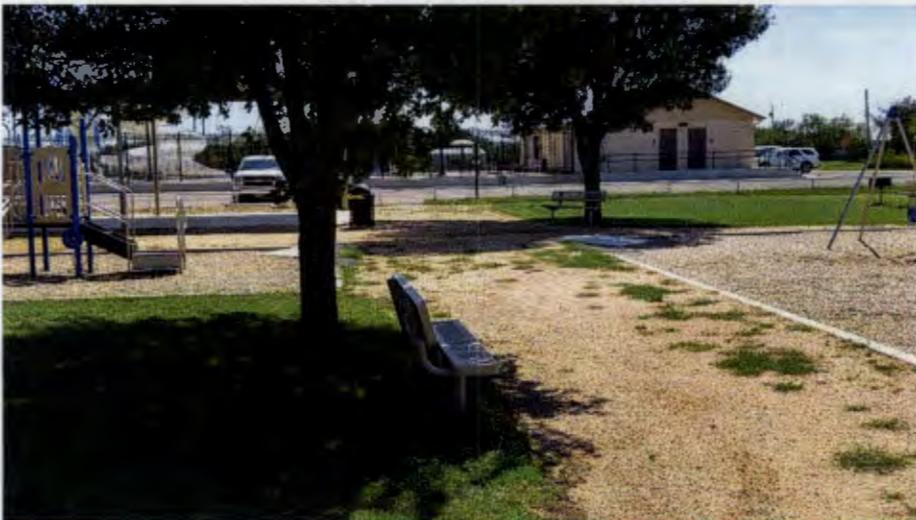
**Pavilion**



**Barbeque**



**Bench**



Play equipment



**Play equipment**



Entry gate



**Attachment 2**  
**Park Committee Meeting Sign-in Sheets**

TOM GREEN COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Christoval Community Center  
Wednesday, June 2, 2016  
6:00 p.m.

Name	Address	Phone Number	E-mail
Kevin Coates			
Northa Sullivan			
Susan Kerbow			
Jim Kerbow (325) 234-3115			
Alvin Michalewicz			
Adam Michalewicz			
Carl White			
Kendall Green			

GARY H. COCHRAN  
ANNE A. FEELY (

TOM GREEN COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Christoval Community Center  
Wednesday, June 2, 2016  
6:00 p.m.

Name	Address	Phone Number	E-mail
Pashda Khom			
Adam Michalewicz			
Zaara Michalewicz			
Alvin Michalewicz			
Nolan Benable			
Chris Krapp			
Anne A. REEB			
Sylvia Pate			

**TOM GREEN COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
 Christoval Community Center  
 Wednesday, June 2, 2016  
 6:00 p.m. 14

Name	Address	Phone Number	E-mail
Jimmy Barton			
Rusty HERNANDEZ			
Lou Brown			
KAY & JAM			
CRUSE			
Nolan Venable			
Kathy Capron			
Chris Knappe			

Sylvia Pate

TOM GREEN COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING

Christoval Community Center

Wednesday, June 2, 2016

6:00 p.m. *June 2*

Name	Address	Phone Number	E-mail
<i>Martia A. Cortez</i>			
<i>GEORGE + Rita Coleman</i>			
<i>Ann Johnson</i>			
<i>JAN CHANDLER</i>			
<i>B.W. Kennedy</i>			
<i>Judy Coates</i>			
<i>Clifton Brown</i>			
<i>Michael Harris</i>			

**TOM GREEN COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Sugg Conference Room**

**Tom Green County Library**

**August 1, 2016**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Public Attendees**

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL
BEN SARGENT			
JANE K. HANE			

TOM GREEN COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING

Sugg Conference Room

Tom Green County Library

August 1, 2016

6:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SIGN IN SHEET

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL
DANA TIPTON			
Sylvia Pate			
GARE Cochran			
James Padon			
Rusty HERMAN			
Jimmy Barton			
Alma Camacho			
Hillary Bueker			
Chris Kruppe			
Ralph Hoelscher			

TOM GREEN COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING

Sugg Conference Room

Tom Green County Library

August 9, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Committee Members

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL
James Peiser			
Anne Flippin			
Vickie Buttery			
Sylvia Pate			
Nolan Venable			
John Kellemeier			
GARY COCHRAN			
GEORGE COLEMAN			
Rita COLEMAN			
Alma Camarillo			
Cheryl Schwanja			
Rusty HENDON			

**TOM GREEN COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Sugg Conference Room**

**Tom Green County Library**

**August 9, 2016**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members**

*Hillary Buckner*

*Bull Ford*

*Jimmy Barton*

**TOM GREEN COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Sugg Conference Room  
Tom Green County Library

August 22, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Committee Members

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL
Hellaug, Bruce			
Justa HETZELSON			
Alma Camarillo			
Nolan Venable			
Rick Bacon			
Jimmy Barton			
Chris Knapp			
Cheryl Schoraja			