

Section 9: ~~Parks and Recreation~~Parks, Recreation and Open Space

The Parks and Recreation Element of the comprehensive plan ~~will serve~~ serves as a guide for decision making regarding the number, type, and location of future parks to complete the parks system within McKinney.

This element identifies goals and objectives for the development of the ~~parks and recreation,~~ parks, recreation and open space system in the City of McKinney. It establishes the levels of service (LOS) and standards for each park type and makes recommendations for policies that will help achieve the quality of service expected by the citizens of the community.

The McKinney Comprehensive Plan's ~~Parks and Recreation Element~~ Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element has been created as the link between the ~~adopted Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan May 2003 City of McKinney Parks Strategic Plan~~ and the Land Use Element of the comprehensive plan. ~~The goals, objectives, strategies, and actions identified within the Parks Strategic Plan are applied to the land uses of the future land use plan and its corresponding modules in the Parks and Recreation Element to bring cohesion to the two documents and clear direction of how they should interrelate.~~

9.1 Goals and Objectives

The development of goals and objectives that provide direction for McKinney's park system is necessary to ensure that all aspects of the parks element work toward a common end result.

The following are the goals and objectives ~~set by for the Parks and Recreation Element, Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan,~~ set by for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, which complement the goals and objectives of the ~~comprehensive Comprehensive plan~~ Plan. These goals were developed through the public participation portion of the ~~Parks Strategic Plan~~ Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan process, which included user surveys, focus groups, and phone surveys.

Goal 1. Expand the park system to maintain and enhance the physical form and image of the City of McKinney.

- Parks should be timeless.
- Parks should be unique to McKinney to celebrate its character and qualities.
- Parks should be site specific and integrate well into the urban design and landscape of the surrounding area.
- Open space should be prevalent enough and interspersed to present an image that McKinney has a great amount of open space.
- Image helps economic development, therefore the economy.

Goal 2. Preserve and protect open space, cultural landscapes and natural resources within the City.

- Open space is valuable; use it to preserve, solidify, and announce McKinney's image, as part of the City's systems of portals.
- Use open space to protect creeks, tree covered areas, prairie land and agricultural landscapes.
- Keep McKinney looking like McKinney by not developing everything.
- Plan to protect the creeks and important view sheds.

Goal 3. Provide a system of green infrastructure that links parks, schools, neighborhoods, businesses/retail areas, greenbelts, and open space through physical connections.

- "Green" is appropriate and necessary.
- Plan today for a green, walkable and bikeable community tomorrow.
- Open space benefits both the environment and people, e.g. clean area, clean water, flood protection, carbon sink, etc.
- Green infrastructure promotes healthy activity.
- Provide a sustainable recreational & transportation infrastructure within the City.
- Green infrastructure comprises alternative transportation.
- Green infrastructure ensures a connected community.

Goal 4. Create and provide a variety of opportunities accessible to every citizen meeting the needs of a diverse citizenry and supporting the individual, family, and community health and well-being of all.

- Enhanced well-being leads to improved quality of life.
- Recognizing diversity means understanding individual's desired outcomes and different programs, accessibility, and approaches.
- Adults & children have different needs.
- Varied but coordinated opportunities serving a diverse citizenry will help bring people together as a community.

Goal 5. Optimize the utilization of existing resources across other public, private, nonprofit and commercial entities through shared resources, partnership, etc.

- Create a structure and process for implementing a comprehensive sharing plan.
- Understand and define the criteria that are essential for the City to participate (legal, financial, ethical, etc.).
- Create opportunities for outside assistance with funding.
- Understand the inter-relationship between parks, open space and a healthy economy.
- Connect community through city and non-city cooperation and interaction.

Goal 6. Maintain the character and community feel of the City as it grows and ages.

- During the public input process, the overwhelming message was that the McKinney citizens cherish its “character and community feel.”
- McKinney has never looked like a Dallas suburb; its future vision is to be unique;
- Definable uniqueness is an advantage in economic competition for employers and residents.
- Maintenance of the community feel will enhance the unique image of the community and attract businesses.

~~Goal 1. Provide quality, year-round recreational opportunities for McKinney's citizens.~~

- ~~• Plan and develop new multi-use aquatic facilities in community parks~~
- ~~• Establish a system of user fees that offset the cost of providing recreational and athletic programs for the citizen~~
- ~~• Continue a comprehensive park maintenance and work management program~~

~~Goal 2. Offer a variety of facilities, programs and park areas to meet the recreational needs of a diverse population with various levels of ability and skill.~~

- ~~• Achieve stated standards for park land and recreation facilities as stated in the comprehensive plan~~

- ~~Recognize the special needs of youth, teens, adults, elderly, and handicapped users when designing and providing recreational facilities~~
- ~~Place lighted sports fields in community parks and unlighted practice fields in neighborhood parks~~

~~Goal 3. Require developer participation to help provide an equitable geographic distribution of parks.~~

- ~~Acquire parkland for neighborhood parks, greenbelts, and open space at the time of development review~~
- ~~Require mandatory dedication of parkland, fees in lieu of dedication, or a combination of land and fees for all new residential developments~~
- ~~Cooperate with developers in providing public or semi-public recreational facilities~~

~~Goal 4. Plan for the orderly replacement of aging park and recreational infrastructure to ensure that existing recreational opportunities are not lost.~~

- ~~Develop a program to upgrade parks, athletic facilities, and playgrounds in order to provide a safe open space environment~~
- ~~Bring all playgrounds into compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines~~
- ~~Bring all park facilities into compliance with Texas Accessibility Standards~~
- ~~Provide additional trees and shade cover in various parks and recreational facilities~~

~~Goal 5. Encourage cooperation with the school districts, other governmental agencies, and community organizations to provide cost-effective service and optimize benefits to citizens.~~

- ~~Continue to develop school/park sites with the McKinney Independent School District (MISD). Begin developing school/park sites with other school districts~~
- ~~Seek joint financing of new recreational and athletic facilities with the MISD, and other school districts with campuses in the city~~
- ~~Encourage the redevelopment of existing elementary and designated middle school campuses into school/park sites~~

- ~~Work cooperatively with MISD in the joint usage of existing school district aquatic facilities~~
- ~~Develop partnerships with Collin County and other private sector entities to benefit park projects and programming~~

~~Goal 6. Encourage the establishment of public/private partnerships to provide expanded indoor and outdoor recreational facilities.~~

- ~~Work with public non-profit agencies in the development of special use open space areas or recreational facilities~~
- ~~Work cooperatively with the Grape Myrtle Trails Foundation of McKinney to complete the Grape Myrtle Trail Master Plan~~
- ~~Seek grants, median improvement fees, and alternative funding sources to provide supplemental funding for median improvement projects~~
- ~~Establish a parks foundation composed of professionals who can identify potential park dedications with developers, citizens, and companies in such forms as land trusts and easements, bequests, and donations~~

~~Goal 7. Provide a comprehensive system of pedestrian, bike, and equestrian trails throughout the City of McKinney.~~

- ~~Establish pedestrian and bikeway connections between neighborhood and open space areas and park/school sites~~
- ~~Identify and install hike and bike trail sub-grade crossings under major intersections where possible to increase safety of trail users~~
- ~~Establish equestrian trails in designated floodplain corridors~~
- ~~Require developers to install hike and bike trails within their residential developments connecting school/park sites to the city wide trail system~~
- ~~Establish pedestrian and equestrian trails linking Wilson Creek to Lake Lavon~~
- ~~Jointly plan with neighboring communities to establish hike and bike trail linkages between our communities~~
- ~~Encourage open space areas and linkages that might otherwise be overlooked~~
- ~~Require access to the open space in floodplains and public utility corridors and strive for access improvements to semi-public utility corridors (for example, electric company and~~

~~railroad easements for the benefit of the community). Utilization of these corridors will provide linear open space and recreational opportunities that do not require major structural development~~

~~Goal 8. Encourage conservation of native habitat, wildlife, stream corridors, and wooded areas so as to enrich the quality of life for McKinney's citizens.~~

- ~~• Seek the donation of land for parks and open space~~
- ~~• Administer development and construction guidelines that result in minimal destruction of native and wildlife habitat and creek corridors~~
- ~~• Require landowners and developers to follow the floodplain guidelines of the McKinney Storm Water Management Ordinance~~
- ~~• Require preservation of high priority flood plains through parkland dedication and/or easements~~
- ~~• Develop the Wilson Creek and the Honey Creek floodplains as the City's major open space and habitat preservation resources~~
- Cooperate with the Collin County Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan recommendations that are consistent with the City of McKinney Strategic Parks Master Plan

9.2 The Planning Process

The ~~Parks and Recreation~~Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element of the ~~comprehensive Comprehensive plan Plan~~ incorporates the public input, data, and results of the ~~2003 City of McKinney Parks Strategic Plan~~adopted City of McKinney Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. This element combines the updated future land use plan and its corresponding future land use plan modules with the standards set forth in the ~~Parks Strategic Plan~~.

During the creation of the ~~Parks Strategic Plan~~Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, critical park issues were identified through workshops, public meetings, user surveys, and focus groups. The purpose of the community meetings and user surveys was to obtain perceptions, opinions, and priorities from the citizens of McKinney about current and future parks and recreation needs. From this, park standards were ~~established~~updated, a needs analysis including prioritization of those needs was prepared, and implementation techniques were developed. These standards, needs, and techniques were incorporated into this section of the ~~comprehensive Comprehensive plan Plan~~. The ~~Parks Strategic Plan~~Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is typically updated every five years, ~~will be updated accordingly with future park and recreational facility information as additional needs develop.~~

9.3 Park Types

Park sites and their facilities are classified in McKinney as ~~mini, neighborhood, community/athletic, regional, special use facility, and greenbelt/open space~~neighborhood, community, special purpose, linear parks, greenbelts and hike and bike trails, regional parks, and natural areas and open space. The multi-purpose nature of these parks allows for a mixture of park facilities within each park as noted below.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are considered the primary focus of municipal park systems because they serve as the focal point of neighborhoods. Ideally, they provide amenities and recreation space for the entire family but are within easy walking or cycling distance of the people they serve.

The neighborhood park typically serves one large or several smaller neighborhoods. The standard size of a neighborhood park in McKinney is approximately 10 to 20 acres. Neighborhood parks should be accessible to residents who live within walking distance of the park. Ideally, neighborhood park facilities should be located within a ½ mile radius (or five to ten minute walk) of the residents who will use those facilities.

Neighborhood parks are generally located away from major arterial streets and provide easy access for the users that surround it. A neighborhood park should be accessible without having to cross major arterial streets.

Neighborhood parks are frequently located adjacent to elementary schools in order to share acquisition and development costs with the school district. Adjacencies of park and school grounds allow for joint use and sharing of facilities. It also lends itself to the community's involvement with the school grounds and vice versa, leading to a synergistic result that adds to the quality of life for everyone.

The spacing of the neighborhood parks is heavily influenced by the location of elementary schools. The residential future land use plan modules have been generally sized based on MISD target elementary school populations.

Typical facilities within a neighborhood park include:

- Playground equipment with adequate safety surfacing around the playground
- Unlighted basketball courts and half courts
- Active areas for unorganized play and practice fields
- Picnic areas with benches, picnic tables and cooking grills
- Shaded pavilions and gazebos
- Jogging and exercise trails
- Unlighted tennis courts

- Security lighting
- Drinking fountains

The overall design and layout of a neighborhood park is important to its final quality and timelessness. These parks should generally be designed with the programmed space – playgrounds, pavilions, basketball courts, etc. – clustered into an “activity zone” within the park. These areas need ample seating and shade to be hospitable year round. Siting these areas near existing stands of trees is strongly recommended as this eliminates the years of waiting for shade trees to mature. The open / unprogrammed space should be visible from this activity area, but should be clearly delineated through plantings and hardscape features such as paved trails and seatwalls. Finally, a loop trail is today considered an essential component of a neighborhood park. It is important to design a neighborhood park that is unique in character, respond to the surrounding environment, and provide unique experiences for the park’s users.

Parking for neighborhood parks will vary based on the size of the park, the facilities it contains, and the number of users. Opportunities to share parking may be beneficial to different yet compatible functions, such as libraries, schools, City buildings and the like.

The Community Park

Community parks are larger parks that serve a group of neighborhoods or a portion of the City. Community parks are usually reached by automobile, although residents adjacent to the park and trail users may walk or cycle to it, rendering them de facto neighborhood parks. A variety of recreational facilities are provided, including, in some cases, lighted playing fields for organized sports, hike and bike trails and sufficient parking to accommodate participants, spectators, and other park users.

There are two typical types of community parks – active and passive. Active community parks typically focus on high-intensity uses such as lighted competitive game fields, recreation centers, and manicured vegetation. Passive community parks, on the other hand, typically have low-intensity uses such as hiking, picnicking, and free play and generally have a large amount of natural and un-programmed space in the park.

The typical community park should be large enough so it can provide a variety of amenities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation, practice space, and natural areas. The park should also have room for expansion, as new facilities are required. The standard size of a community park in McKinney ranges from 40 to 100 acres in size, serving an area 2-3 miles in diameter.

Community parks should be located near a major thoroughfare to provide easy access from different parts of the City. Where possible, care should be taken to provide adequate buffers to adjacent residential streets, minimizing noise and bright lights at night (specifically important for active community parks). A good option to be considered is “cut-off” or “directional” lighting, which allows light patterns to be controlled, thereby avoiding undesired lighted areas. Because

of the requirement for lighted facilities, it is often desirable to have active community parks located adjacent to commercial, retail, and/or light industrial areas, rather than residential neighborhoods.

Depending on community park type, facilities generally located in community parks may include:

- Playground equipment with adequate safety surfacing around the playground
- Active free play areas
- Picnic areas and pavilion(s)
- Unlighted practice fields for baseball, soccer, football, softball, etc.
- Restrooms
- Natural open space
- Jogging, bicycle and nature trails
- Lighted ball fields, suitable for organized competitive events
- Lighted multi-purpose practice fields
- Recreation center (if appropriate)
- Security lighting

Other facilities as needed which can take advantage of the unique characteristics of the site, such as nature trails or fishing adjacent to ponds, swimming pools, skateboard parks, amphitheaters and even community gardens.

Parking for a community park varies based on the facilities provided and the size of the park. Consideration should always be given towards the concept of “shared parking”, whereby parking may be shared with adjacent land uses such as schools, City facilities, etc.

Special Purpose Parks

Special purpose parks are designed to accommodate specialized recreational activities. Because the facility needs for each activity type are different, each special purpose park usually provides for one or a few activities. Examples of special purpose parks include:

- Golf courses
- Athletic fields or complexes
- Nature centers or large natural preserves

- Botanical Gardens/arboretums
- Swimming pool centers
- Aquatic Parks
- Pocket Parks
- Recreation Centers
- Senior Citizen Centers
- Tennis complexes
- Dog parks
- Skate parks/BMX tracks
- Cemeteries

Linear Parks, Greenbelts and Hike and Bike Trails

Linear parks and greenbelts are open park areas that generally follow some natural or man-made feature that is linear in nature, such as creeks, abandoned railroad rights-of-way or power line or utility corridor easements. Properly developed to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel, these parks can serve to link or connect other parks in the local system, as well as schools, libraries, and other major destinations. No specific standards apply to linear/linkage parks other than to be large enough to adequately accommodate the trail and provide a connection between each end. Linear parks can also serve as effective linear greenbelts, which preserve open space and provide trail connections along a natural or landscaped man made feature.

Hike and bike trails, often found in linear parks, serve to provide active and passive recreation as well as connections between parks and other destinations within the City. A trails system should be established to serve both recreation needs and as a means to alternative transportation choices and connections throughout the City. In a few instances, a typical off-street trail through a greenbelt is not a possibility due to lack of right-of-way or other constraints. In such instances, trails along streets within existing right-of-way are options for achieving a connected, city-wide trail system. Such a system should provide each resident with quick and easy access to parks, schools, retail, and employment areas.

The Regional Park

Because of regional importance and relevance, regional parks serve the entire City of McKinney as well as other surrounding cities. This may be due to their natural characteristics including habitat, geological formations, and/or aesthetic beauty. Other reasons may be the role that a

particular site plays in issues of regional importance such as historical memorial, habitat protection or ecological service (including water conservation and flood protection).

The size of a regional park can vary from less than one hundred acres to several thousand acres, depending on the purpose and character of the site. Regional parks are often under single ownership and under the control of county and state government. Major thoroughfares should be located adjacent to regional parks in order to accommodate the large number of visitors that may be expected to arrive by automobile.

Nature Areas and Open Space

The benefit and inclusion of places that are nature areas or un-programmed open space has been largely overlooked in the context of typical parks master plans. Conservation and preservation are especially valuable as, over time, natural resources disappear in our cities and natural habitat is wiped out. The value of walking through historic and natural places that have been left untouched is immeasurable. Such opportunities are rapidly becoming rare, and the identification and protection of such areas is urgently needed in most cities today. Cities that marshal the will and act quickly to conserve natural resources demonstrate the foresight and resolve necessary to ensure that future generations may enjoy something of beauty and timelessness.

Nature areas and open space are part of a city's resources and are its "natural gems." The value of such land may have visual, historic, and cultural appeal that imprints upon the visitor and creates a sense of place as well as of lasting memories. Wilderness, creeks, lakes, prairies, and particular geologic formations or topographic change may all be considered elements worthy of protection, public access, and celebration. As un-programmed space, there is the added benefit of these areas as "self-maintaining". There may be the occasional need to check for hazards, but maintenance is generally not a significant factor. Other than recreational and aesthetic opportunities afforded by natural areas, they also have huge economic value to society in terms of ecological services provided - functions like water and air purification, carbon sequestration, flood attenuation, pollination, air cooling, and positively effecting human health and well-being.

The East Fork of the Trinity River, Wilson Creek, Honey Creek, Rowlett Creek and all of their tributaries provide unique natural beauty and memorable recreation for the citizens of McKinney. The aesthetics and recreational value of natural water features available to the public is immeasurable. The protection of both riparian vegetation and habitat is essential to water quality and wild life diversity and ultimately to all citizens of McKinney.

Figure 9.1: Preservation Plan graphically depicts flood-prone land that possesses, to varying degrees, environmental, cultural, and/or visual assets worthy of acquisition and preservation. These high priority areas should be preserved through parkland dedication or easements, preserving the open space and providing public access. The Parks, Recreation and Open

Space Master Plan is in full support of this vision and regards the Preservation Plan as a foundation for the protection of open space and natural areas in McKinney.

Other opportunities for open space land dedication include:

- Creek corridors that include a buffer area beyond the 100 year flood line depending on unique site features.
- Secondary tributary streams or swales that can create linkage “fingers” to adjacent neighborhoods by means of trail connections.
- Land identified as possessing natural and cultural importance including wetlands and their buffers; moderate and steep slopes; groundwater resources and their recharge areas; woodlands; heritage farmland; significant wildlife habitat; historic and archaeological features; and scenic view sheds.

The Mini-Park

A mini-park is a small green space, typically less than three (3) acres that provides open space within dense urban and historic neighborhoods. In urban areas these parks offset the lack of personal green space in communities with a high percentage of multi-family or small lot single family homes. Mini-parks can take the form of a community green, courtyard, open space, or neighborhood park depending on the design and amenities.

The size standard adopted for mini-parks located within McKinney is one to four acres. Typical mini-park facilities include small picnic shelters or gazebos with picnic tables, benches, paths, playgrounds, informal play areas, basketball courts, picnic tables with grills, and special landscaping.

The Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks are considered the primary focus of municipal park systems, because they serve as the focal point of neighborhoods by providing attractive open space within easy walking or biking distance for most residents. The neighborhood park also has a variety of amenities that make it a place where varied age groups can relax and enjoy both passive and active recreation.

The standard size of a neighborhood park in McKinney is eight (8) to fifteen (15) acres. When adjacent to an elementary school the park may be smaller, as many amenities may be shared, but should be at least six acres in order to accommodate the typical amenities of a neighborhood park and to provide ample open space for practice sports fields.

In McKinney, the neighborhood park serves residents within the surrounding neighborhoods. As the City develops, many of the new neighborhood park locations will be dictated by the

location of the school. Because of their small service area and intended use, neighborhood parks are generally not appropriate in commercial and industrial areas. A breakdown of residential future land use plan modules is included in Figure 9.1: Neighborhood and Community Parks, including module population and the estimated acres of neighborhood parks at build-out.

Community, regional, and greenbelt parks often provide neighborhood park services. Typical facilities within a neighborhood park include:

- Playgrounds with resilient play surfaces, perimeter edging, play structures, and seating areas
- Level, open spaces for team practice and neighborhood pick-up games of baseball, softball, football, and soccer. Such fields are usually not lighted in residential areas
- Tennis courts and multi-purpose courts for basketball, volleyball, and badminton. Such courts may be lighted if adjacent residences are not adversely impacted
- Picnic areas with tables, cooking grills, and litter receptacles
- Landscape development and beautification including color beds, screening, shade, benches, sidewalks, signage, and security lighting.
- Other facilities may include drinking fountains, picnic shelters, and multi-purpose paved jogging trails
- Limited parking, usually no more than ten to 15 spaces, or as needed for facilities

The spacing of the neighborhood parks is heavily influenced by the location of elementary schools. The residential future land use plan modules have been generally sized based on MISD target elementary school populations. The proposed population and estimated acreages of neighborhood parks are shown in Figure 9.1: Neighborhood and Community Parks.

The Community Park

The typical community park provides more specialized and elaborate facilities than the neighborhood park, but the community park can also provide neighborhood park amenities for residents immediately adjacent to it.

A primary function of the park is to provide facilities for organized, competitive sports such as tennis, soccer, football, softball, volleyball, swimming, and baseball. These sports are usually sponsored or co-sponsored by the City. Such facilities require a fairly open site of adequate size and gentle gradient. Lighted athletic fields and parking areas should be sited for minimum disturbance to any adjacent residential areas.

In McKinney, the size standard for the community park ranges from 40 to 60 acres; however, with the popularity of athletic fields being placed in large regional facilities, the size for community parks can increase. Community parks should be located along major thoroughfares, and when possible, away from residential development so that park traffic and ball field lighting does not intrude upon surrounding neighborhood areas. A desirable location would be adjacent to a middle school or high school so that park users could take advantage of the existing parking areas of these facilities and so that the school district and the city can share joint use facilities. A community park may also be sited in combination with larger school athletic sites.

In addition to neighborhood park facilities, community parks typically have the following facilities:

- Lighted athletic fields and courts that meet competitive standards for baseball, softball, football, soccer, tennis, basketball, and volleyball
- Competitive pools and/or family aquatics centers
- Large lighted parking areas to serve the athletic fields and courts
- Group shelters and/or picnic pavilions with tables, cooking grills, and litter receptacles
- Restrooms, drinking fountains, concession buildings, and security lighting
- Multi-purpose trails for jogging, walking, cycling, skating, and nature study

Regional parks that provide community park facilities, such as Gabe Nesbitt Community Park, meet the community park need for their surrounding neighborhoods and need not be duplicated. The existing and approximate location of future community parks are shown in Figure 9.1: Neighborhood and Community Parks.

The Regional Park

The regional park serves the entire city. It is usually the largest of the parks in a municipal system. This park may provide spacious natural areas and specialized attractions such as botanical gardens, historical areas, or geological features. Sites with a variety of topographic and vegetative conditions are ideal for regional parks. Neighborhood and community park facilities are often found in regional parks as well. Current park planning suggests placing future athletic fields in large regional facilities rather than in community parks.

The size of a regional park in McKinney ranges from 100 acres and up. Such parks are usually located on sites with special natural amenities. Regional parks should be located adjacent to major thoroughfares in order to accommodate the large number of visitors that may be expected to arrive by automobile.

It is desirable to leave much of a regional park site in a natural or minimally developed state. In addition to the types of facilities found in neighborhood and community parks, regional parks could include the following additional facilities:

- Internal road system and parking facilities
- Viewpoints or overlooks
- Nature trails and interpretative areas
- Equestrian trails and associated facilities
- Pond or lake with fishing pier and boating/canoeing
- Amphitheater
- Botanical gardens and zoos

The existing and approximate location of future regional parks are shown in Figure 9.1: Neighborhood and Community Parks.

Greenbelt/Open Space

The backbone of the park system in McKinney are the greenbelts and open space. This classification is envisioned to account for nearly two-thirds of all parkland and open space in the City. Such parks introduce corridors of green into the fabric of urban development and preserve valuable vegetation and habitat, which in turn limits erosion and flooding that has become common in urban environments. Although they may be narrow, the greenbelts' length can provide the appearance of expansive open space particularly when the long axis of the park parallels a street. They establish links between neighborhoods, schools, parks, and other community facilities. Greenbelts associated with creeks and rivers are the spine in a comprehensive system that links together many of the parks within the city.

Linear parks usually follow creeks or utility and drainage easements or rights-of-way. This is one park category for which floodplain land is acceptable and appropriate. Such land is undesirable for residential and commercial construction, and developers are often eager to donate it for park purposes. If a donation of land is unavailable, the cost of acquiring property for greenbelts is usually less than normal land costs in McKinney.

A greenbelt or riparian open space has no particular size requirement or limitation, but its shape is usually long and narrow. It is important that linear parks have adequate street frontage for public access and sight lines. Sight lines are important because they provide view corridors and allow the ability to see a distance into the park for security purposes.

Where floodplains and easements are not available, a linkage park can be developed along existing streets and thoroughfares. A standard sidewalk along the edge of an existing street can be replaced with a ten-foot path that is pulled away from the street for added safety and to allow room for additional landscaping.

The addition of permanent recreation facilities in drainage easements and floodplains is restricted because of the dense vegetation, flood hazard, and the linear nature of the space. Linear parks are especially suited to activities that are linear in nature, therefore the most commonly found improvement in linear parks is the multi-purpose trail. Other facilities suitable for linear and linkage parks include:

- Landscape development and beautification
- Playgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Carefully planned, low-impact multi-purpose athletic practice fields
- Nature trails and centers
- Off street parking in selected areas

The preservation of greenbelts and open space is a high priority for the City of McKinney and its citizens. Open space preservation is key to building a pleasant and livable community. Several creek and river corridors are key to providing linkages between residential communities and park and recreation facilities. The open space provided by these floodplains provides a break in the dense suburban development pattern and preserves the character of McKinney.

The "High Priority" floodplains as shown in Figure 9.2: Preservation Plan possess, to varying degrees, environmental, cultural, and/or visual assets worthy of acquisition and preservation. These high priority areas should be preserved through park land dedication or easements preserving the open space and providing public access (where appropriate) to the property. Floodplains labeled as "Medium Priority" should also be handled carefully, but due to circumstance or location are not vital as park land or trail connections.

The Special Use Facility

The special use facility is usually limited to one or two types of uses. This type of facility is sized, located, and developed to best serve its function. Acreage standards for special use facilities are dictated by the function of the facility. Some examples of special use facilities are a multi-purpose athletic complex, tennis center, BMX track, aquatics center, arboretum, golf course, historic site, nature preserve, in-line skating facility, and recreation center. Depending on its function, this park may serve the entire city. When possible, special use facilities are located on major thoroughfares.

Hike and Bike Trail System

The hike and bike trail system is planned to link neighborhood, community, and regional park sites with the City's residential neighborhoods. The trail system consists of ten-foot wide reinforced concrete paths, with the exception of the Rowlett Creek corridor, which will be twelve feet in width, as part of the Six Cities Trail System. These trails can be located in a linear park or greenbelt, within a neighborhood, community, or regional park, or along thoroughfares.

The Cities of McKinney, Frisco, Allen, Plano, Richardson, and Garland, in cooperation with TxDOT, developed an award-winning regional hike and bike trail plan in the year 2001 that provides a vision for linking the cities while promoting separation between vehicles and the hike and bike trail system. The City of McKinney hike and bike trail plan (Figure 9.3: Hike and Bike Trails Plan) is a detailed component of the Six Cities Trail Plan reflecting the built trail system as well as future planning.

The spine of the hike and bike trail system are the Wilson Creek and East Fork of the Trinity River corridors and the City of Irving water line easement. These corridors provide natural cross town routes for the trail system, directly linking many community and regional parks throughout McKinney. The remainder of the hike and bike trail system provides access to residential communities, neighborhood parks, and school sites. The majority of the trails are planned to be constructed by developers linking their projects to the citywide system, as shown in Figure 9.4: Hike and Bike Trails Plan.

Construction of the hike and bike trail system should generally be completed as development occurs. Trails shown on the Hike and Bike Trail Plan are to be constructed by the developer as part of necessary public improvements. Linkages from neighborhood park/school sites to the Hike and Bike Trail System are to be constructed by the residential developer as deemed necessary by the Parks Department.

Sub-grade crossings of major thoroughfares should be provided at locations shown on the Hike and Bike Trail Master Plan where possible. These include locations where thoroughfares are required to bridge streams, rivers, or other terrain features that allow for adequate vertical clearance to locate the trail. Construction of these sub-grade crossings of thoroughfares in locations where the natural terrain does not provide the necessary clearance is costly and is not required. In such situations the trail can be diverted to a nearby intersection where an at-grade crossing can be safely utilized.

9.4 Existing Conditions

Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities Systems

The City of McKinney ~~Parks and Recreation Department~~Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department is responsible for the programming, maintenance, and planning for park and recreational services in McKinney, and provides most of the traditional public parks and recreational facilities. There are currently 47 park and recreational facilities including~~These park and recreational facilities include 22 existing parks,~~ one recreation center, one community center, one municipal golf course, and one two~~disc golf courses~~ at the time this document was

~~prepared (2003).~~ The City also owns and operates the McKinney Senior Recreation Center, which includes an indoor swimming pool.

McKinney's park and open space system consists of six classifications: neighborhood parks, community parks, special purpose parks, linear parks, greenbelts and hike and bike trails, regional parks, and natural areas and open space. ~~mini parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, greenbelt/open space, and special use facilities.~~ Locations of parks and facilities are shown in Figure 9.4: Existing Park Facilities With Schools. A complete listing of existing parks and facilities is found in Appendix 1 – Summary of Park Land by Park Classifications.

9.5 Analysis

McKinney is situated in rolling terrain, primarily associated with two major floodplains, the East Fork of the Trinity River and Wilson Creek, and their tributaries, which comprise more than 11,000 acres.

The ~~comprehensive~~ Comprehensive plan-Plan identifies areas which are less suitable for development based on natural features, including the FEMA-designated 100-year floodplain, slopes greater than 15%, natural and urban tree cover, and certain soil types. Most of these prohibitive factors occur in conjunction along the 100-year floodplain.

In addition, the ~~comprehensive~~ Comprehensive plan-Plan identifies existing land use, zoning, and visual landmarks that may have an impact on future park locations to serve as natural scenic gateways. Taking advantage of the rolling terrain and natural beauty of McKinney's primary floodplains, the City's community and regional parks should be located primarily along the East Fork of the Trinity River and Wilson Creek.

Neighborhood parks should also take advantage of these natural resources when possible, but the primary purpose of these parks is to provide recreational opportunities within residential developments. ~~The module system of land uses in the comprehensive plan provides a projected population within each land use module, which provides an estimated acreage of neighborhood parks.~~

9.6 Land Standards by Park Type

Since 2003, the City has had an adopted target Level of Service (LOS) of 25 acres per 1,000 residents, which is significantly more than the regional average, and that recommended by the Collin County Open Space Plan (18 acres/1,000). This standard includes both floodplain and open space. This is also the same standard established by Texas Parks & Wildlife. The average standard for parkland in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex is 11 acres per 1,000 residents

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan also follows the park acreage standards set forth by the NRPA (National Recreation and Parks Association).

The NRPA target standard for neighborhood parks is 1-2 acres per 1,000 population and for community parks, 5-8 acres per 1,000 population. More information on the City's parkland and recreational facilities can be found in Tables 6.1 and 6.2 of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

~~Based on McKinney's local needs and the desires of the citizens, it is recommended that McKinney's standard be 25 acres per 1,000 residents, which is significantly more than the regional average, and that recommended by the Collin County Open Space Plan (18 acres/1,000). This recommendation includes both floodplain and open space. The average standard for parkland in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex is 11 acres per 1,000 residents. However, the standard does not reflect the new statewide standard established in the Texas Parks & Wildlife for the 21st Century (TP&W), published in 2001, which is also 25 acres per 1,000 population. Parkland and recreational facility standards for McKinney Parks are depicted in Tables 9.5 and 9.6.~~

McKinney's high standard reflects the determination of the City to preserve as much floodplain land as possible of the East Fork of the Trinity River, Honey Creek, and the Wilson Creek corridor for undeveloped open space. Both private and city owned land could be preserved within the floodplain.

The acreage and facility standards contained in this section are reflective of the local needs, trends, National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standards, demand levels in McKinney, comparative data from other Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex cities, and the experience and observations from a park planning and design consultant with emphasis primarily in north central Texas. More detail on these standards is found in the Parks Strategic Plan Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

Standards and guidelines are useful criteria for quantifying the land and facility requirements of a parks and recreation system. However, these standards should be viewed as guidelines rather than rules. A City's park plan must reflect the unique needs and desires of the community in establishing any local standards and will likely undergo revision as the community builds out.

9.7 Parkland & Recreational Facility Standards

9.7 Future Parkland and Facility Needs 9.8 Future Park and Facility Needs

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan identifies a strong need to acquire parkland and recommends that a concerted, targeted and expedited effort be made toward this end. Acquisition of land should be focused on the provision of neighborhood parks, community

parks, linear parks, special purpose parks, and the protection of habitat, cultural landscapes and open space. Desirable locations for parkland to be acquired are shown in the Existing & Proposed Community & Neighborhood Parks found in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

Neighborhood Parks

About 35 new neighborhood parks are recommended for the entire City at build-out conditions. At a size of 10 to 20 acres per park, this constitutes an average of 525 acres to be acquired over the next 10 to 15 years and beyond. This will bring the City well into the target standard of 2 acres per 1,000 population at build-out. Recommendations for achieving this target are acquiring sites that are easily accessible and that have sufficient land that is useful for multi-purpose ball field development; continuing the practice of park dedication by developers as new communities are built; considering acquisition of land for neighborhood parks in conjunction with the school district's needs in order to ensure the development of parks and schools adjacent to each other; and where possible, acquiring land for neighborhood parks close to creeks in order to provide a trail connection along the creek to other parks and amenities.

Community Parks

Ten additional community parks are recommended at build-out conditions. At a size of 40 to 100 acres per park, this constitutes 400 to 1,000 acres to be acquired over the next 10 to 15 years and beyond. This will bring the City closer to the target standard of 2,325 acres or 6 acres per 1,000 population at build-out. Recommendations for achieving this target are acquiring lands that provide for the practical implementation of ball fields and multi-purpose fields outside of the floodplain for active sports use; acquiring lands within the floodplain for passive community parks; and acquiring land large enough to accommodate future growth in the parks.

Special Purpose Parks

Five types of special purpose parks are recommended:

- City portals – The City's plan to develop 4 city portals to announce McKinney and their locations is largely based on the natural quality of the land in terms of topography, hydrology and habitat. These areas reinforce the City's brand, *Unique by Nature*, by celebrating McKinney's natural character and quality. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan recommends an additional portal along the City's most northern edge along both sides of the future Regional Outer Loop. One of the main features of this proposed portal is a lake which has the length of about half a mile. From the lake the portal stretches to the east and southeast to include Honey Creek and its tributary.
- Trail heads – acquire about 14 areas for seven trail heads between 1 and 3 acres in size to accommodate parking, informational signage and trail gateways.

- Community gardens – identify appropriate land either in existing parks or future park sites considering quality of soil and access to water and irrigation.
- Habitat protection – the confluence of the East Fork of the Trinity River and Wilson Creek is located in the upper reaches of Lake Lavon. Acquire parkland on this beautiful peninsular area.

Land for Linear Parks

Linear parks are typically located adjacent to a linear landscape feature such as a creek and/or utility easement. If land is to be required for a trail only, the following guideline will be helpful to determine the need for land acquisition. A trail surface width of 12 feet within a 15 foot wide pedestrian easement constitutes 1.8 acres per mile.

Land and Easements for Trail Development

Trails are part of all parks and add connectivity to the parks system as a whole. The current City system should be expanded. The City's Hike and Bike Trails Master Plan identifies future trails and connections that will enhance connectivity to parks, schools and neighborhoods as well as cultural landscapes and natural resources within the City. The trail network suggests connections to surrounding cities' trails as well.

~~As previously discussed, level of service standards are based on population; that is, parkland requirements are expressed as number of acres per 1,000 population, and recreational facility needs are expressed as number of facilities per an identified population. By establishing a standard or guideline, as stated previously, the City can apply this to populations projected five to ten years into the future and plan for needed land acquisition and facility development. For example, the projections may be useful in developing action plans and/or planning for bond issues. The following table projects population to 2030 in order to plan for long range park acquisition.~~

~~The parkland standards for the City of McKinney reflect parks that presently exist within the community, the goals and desires of the citizens of McKinney that were stated throughout the planning process, and the document entitled Texas Parks and Wildlife for the 21st Century. The TP&W document proposes a goal of 25 acres of local parkland per 1,000 population, which coincides with the goal adopted in the Parks Strategic Plan. It is significant that the City nearly meets this goal with its current and projected parkland holdings. The City has been aggressive in acquiring both large and small tracts of land and now has 1,725 acres in its parks system, or 23.9 acres per 1,000 population.~~

9.9.9.8 Hike and Bike Trails Master Plan

The hike and bike trail system for McKinney is planned to link neighborhood, community, ~~and regional~~ linear and special purpose park sites with the City's three major creek and river corridors. The following tributaries support Wilson Creek: Gray Branch, Franklin Branch, Stover

Creek, and Jean's Creek. Honey Creek joins in confluence with the East Fork of the Trinity River that has been dammed to form Lake Lavon located southeast of the City. The majority of the hike and bike trail system is planned to be constructed by developers linking their projects in the most efficient routing to the nearest creek or river corridor and school sites as depicted in Figure [9.2 9.4: Hike and Bike Trails Plan, which is considered the official Hike and Bike Trails Master Plan for the City.](#)

[9.9 9.10](#) Priorities, Phasing, Implementation

The priorities, phasing, and implementation of the [Parks and Recreation Parks, Recreation and Open Space](#) Element of the Comprehensive Plan is found in the [2003 Parks Strategic Plan adopted Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan](#). The [Parks Strategic Plan Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan](#) is scheduled for updating every [two-five](#) years, at which time these items can be re-evaluated and modified.

[9.10 9.11](#) Inventory

[The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan contains an overview of the of the parks system in McKinney, listing the location, pictures and description of amenities that each park/facility contains. Please see Chapter 3 of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for more information. 9.11 Public School/Park Facilities](#)

[City Provided Facilities](#)

[Mini Parks](#)

[Central Park](#) _____

[105 W. Hunt St.](#)

[1 acre](#)

[Central Park is a mini park located in historic downtown McKinney adjacent to a parking lot that is utilized by City employees, downtown merchants and downtown shoppers. The park consists of a small gazebo and attractive plantings.](#)

[The addition of additional picnic tables and some benches would make this small site more usable for downtown workers on their lunch hours and other breaks.](#)

[Cottonwood Park](#) _____

212 McMakin St. at McDonald

3 Acres

Cottonwood Park is a mini-park located on the east side of the city. Cottonwood Park is surrounded by older residences, small warehouses, and other commercial enterprises. The playground, swings, basketball court, and pavilion that are located within the park are in good condition. The former Samaritan Inn homeless shelter is centered in the park. The removal of the Samaritan Inn would allow for construction of needed practice fields. Also, the addition of trees and other landscaping would provide shade and improve drive-by appeal.

E. L. (Tinker) Taylor Memorial Park

4301 W. Eldorado Pkwy.

2 Acres

E.L. (Tinker) Taylor Memorial Park is a mini-park located next to a fire station and has attractive tree cover. Located west of US 75, it is directly accessed from the sidewalk along Eldorado Parkway. It is close to surrounding homes but no parking is located on site. Facilities include a trail, lighting, picnic tables, and group grills that are in nice condition.

Fitzhugh Park

700 Fitzhugh at Lindsey

1.2 Acres

Fitzhugh Park is a mini-park located in an older neighborhood in east McKinney, this small site has a playground and a multi-purpose court. Support facilities in the park include storage and a gravel parking lot. Playground equipment is in acceptable condition. The addition of trees, connecting walks, and a few benches and picnic tables would be an added benefit to the park. The parking lot should be paved.

Murphy Park

1601 N. Josephine

1 Acre

Murphy Park is a mini-park located north of historic downtown McKinney on a corner lot, surrounded by residences of varied architecture. A small, rectangular pavilion with one picnic

table and a playground are the only facilities in the park. Like the other mini parks located in the city, Murphy Park provides neighborhood open space and limited recreational facilities.

Neighborhood Parks

E. A. Randles Park

5400 Cedar Elm Dr. at Ash

Cottonwood Creek drainage

19 Acres

E.A. Randles Park is a neighborhood park that is adjacent to Reuben Johnson Elementary School. The park is west of US 75 and completely surrounded by residential development. The park contains a hike and bike trail that connects to Winniford Park to the east, along Cottonwood Creek. Existing facilities within the park are in good condition and are clearly well used by students at the adjacent elementary school. The picnic shelter provides the site's only shade. Although it is accessible, the ballfield was observed to be in unsatisfactory condition, and in November 2003 the fields will not be actively maintained by the Parks Department. Planting of trees would provide additional shade and improve the park's environment.

Falcon Creek Park

301 Peregrine Dr. at Lanners Dr.

Wilson Creek drainage

12 Acres

Falcon Creek Park is a neighborhood park located adjacent to C.T. Eddings Elementary School. This park is an attractive site with both wooded and open areas, a pond, trail, and bridge. A stream that exists in the park is natural and slow running. Falcon Creek has a playground, picnic shelter, picnic tables, softball field, practice soccer field, playground and hike and bike trail with a bridge. Residences back up to the park on the northeast side. The outfield of the ball diamond could be improved by regrading.

Finch Park

302 W. Standifer at Kentucky

Wilson Creek drainage

32 acres

Although three times the size of the standard neighborhood park, Finch Park is classified as a neighborhood park and has the character of this basic unit of a park system. It is located south of downtown and east of US 75. Its facilities include a new large lighted playground, a smaller playground, three picnic shelters (two available for private rental), a picnic area, a multi-use court, restrooms, a service center and wooded and open areas. The Collin County Boys and Girls Club is located across the street. There is vehicular circulation throughout the park, with three parking areas, but no trails. Improvements to Finch Park include a splash pad, a new lighted tennis court, and drainage improvements that are scheduled in the latest Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).

Hill Top Park

1850 Winding Brook Dr.

10 Acres

Hill Top Park is a neighborhood park located adjacent to the new Walker Elementary School and is a fairly new park with nice views to the north. This park has a practice soccer area, a pavilion with picnic tables, playground equipment, and open play areas. There is a connecting sidewalk to the park located along Orchid Street. The park and playground are accessible and the park is unlighted. A hike and bike trail links the park to Hardin Boulevard and Roy Lee Walker Elementary School.

Mary Will Craig Park

2701 Bois d'Arc Rd. at Dowell

10 Acres

Mary Will Craig Park is a neighborhood park located adjacent to Slaughter Elementary School. Park facilities include a playground, picnic shelter, multi-purpose court, two soccer fields and hike and bike trails. The parking lot is lighted. Surrounding the park are an open field with apartments to the east, the Slaughter Elementary School to the south, open space to the north, and residences to the west. The basketball court is in good condition, but there are drainage problems around the swings and on the ball fields, as the infield needs regrading. Accessible parking is near the pavilion and the playground is accessible. The addition of trees and other vegetation would improve the park's appearance and provide shade.

Valley Creek Park

2750 Valley Creek Trail

Wilson Creek drainage

5 Acres

Valley Creek Park is a neighborhood park adjacent to Valley Creek Elementary School. Facilities include a hike and bike trail, playground, picnic pavilion, ball field, and soccer field. Sidewalks within the park link the facilities, which are enhanced by shade trees and informal play areas. The school parking lot provides most of the parking for park users and is accessible by stairs, which limits accessibility.

Wattley Park

912 Charleston

East Fork Trinity River drainage

7 Acres

Wattley Park is a small, secluded neighborhood park located on the eastern edge of the City adjacent to the floodplain of the East Fork of the Trinity River. Outdated playground equipment is scheduled for replacement with CDBG funds. There is a small, rectangular shelter within the park that includes two tables. Other facilities include a soccer field and field with a backstop. Included within the unfunded CIP is to redevelop the park.

W. B. Finney Park

6350 Glen Oaks Dr.

Wilson Creek drainage

13 Acres

W.B. Finney Park is a neighborhood park located upon a hilltop with nice views and adjacent to Glen Oaks Elementary School. Facilities include a hike and bike trail, picnic shelter with an information kiosk, two playgrounds, two youth baseball fields, two practice soccer fields, and an informal play area. Standing water was observed on open playfields and in the bleacher area. Repair of existing barbeque grills and of the drinking fountain would help to maintain this park's quality.

Winniford Park

4900 Highlands Dr.

Cottonwood Creek drainage

15 Acres

Winniford Park is a linearly configured park with neighborhood park services. Its soccer and softball fields, playground, picnic shelter, multi-purpose court and hike and bike trail (which connects to E. A. Randles Park) are located along a drainage channel. This open site has a retention pond with a fountain, and would benefit from trees planted for shade and visual enhancement.

Community Parks

Mouzon Ballfields/Old Settlers Park

1307 E. Greenville

East Fork Trinity River drainage

8 Acres

The Mouzon Ballfields and Old Settlers Park is an older community park located in east McKinney. The west end of the park is wooded and has picnic facilities including a small group shelter, playground, basketball court, and a recreation center. The recreation center has a unique, large covered area with several basketball courts, which is commonly referred to as the sports pavilion. The sports pavilion could also serve other outdoor functions such as flea markets, small festivals, and group picnics. Other facilities include sand volleyball and two (2) tennis courts. The three ballfields are lighted (wooden poles) and are accessible by an asphalt parking lot and drives. A recreational, family-style swimming pool is also located here. A new concession stand, restrooms, parking upgrade at the Mouzon Ballfields, gymnasium and locker rooms at the recreation center are scheduled as part of the CIP.

North Park & Maxfield Swimming Pool

1701 N. McDonald

East Fort Trinity River drainage

15 Acres

North Park and Maxfield Swimming Pool is a community park located east of SH 5 or McDonald Street. The park has two lighted ball fields. One of the ballfields contains outfield fencing. Also located at North Park is a concession building and Maxfield swimming pool that features a zero-depth entry play area. The pool is available for party rental and operates from June through the first weekend in August. Two small pieces of outdated playground equipment should be replaced with a modern, accessible playground. Park redevelopment is scheduled in the unfunded CIP.

~~Ruschhaupt Soccer Complex Phase I & II~~

~~1986 Park View Dr.~~

~~Wilson Creek drainage~~

~~96 Acres + 35 Acres of open space & 61 Acres undeveloped~~

~~Although Ruschhaupt Soccer Complex presently has a single use of soccer, it is likely to become a true community park with the addition of a playground and picnic facilities and perhaps an in-line hockey rink. This would make better use of the park's infrastructure and provide neighborhood park services where none currently exist. Improved pedestrian circulation throughout this park could make the fields accessible and tie into the Wilson Creek hike and bike trail. It is likely that these soccer fields, which are presently used exclusively for games, will become the City's principal soccer practice facility. More lights could be added to extend the hours the fields are available for practice. The inventory shows nine fields, but for the Spring 2003, 20 fields were striped for games. Youth games are usually on Saturdays, and the adult league uses the fields on Sundays. More parking is needed because of the number of games being played on the fields. An in-line hockey rink is planned in the unfunded CIP.~~

~~Regional Parks~~

~~Erwin Park~~

~~4300 CR 1006~~

~~Honey Creek drainage~~

~~212 Acres~~

~~Donated to the City, Erwin Park is a large, rolling, open and wooded regional park that has outstanding vistas and vegetation, a small stream which drains to Honey Creek, and ponds. Park facilities include a park road system, group picnic shelters, restrooms, a playground, an eight-mile off-road biking trail, campsites, and a remote-controlled aircraft area. Two group picnic shelters are available for private rental. The Dallas Off Road Bicycle Association maintains the trail.~~

~~The park is located in the city's ETJ and requires traveling on a series of county roads to reach it. The thoroughfare plan indicates that future major arterials will be contiguous with its north and south boundaries. In the meantime, better directional signage to the park should be provided to make it easier to find.~~

~~This site encompasses the natural environment, open space qualities, and vistas that McKinney residents said were among their highest priorities in the telephone survey conducted in connection with this study. Because of its size, outstanding features, and the northward march~~

of development, the City should undertake a detailed study and development of a master plan for the park and surrounding areas. Particular attention should be paid to adjacent street and lot layout and a second park entrance.

Gabe Nesbitt Community Park

7001 W. Eldorado Pkwy.

On Gray Branch in the Wilson Creek drainage

150 Acres + 127 Acres Undeveloped

The Gabe Nesbitt Community Park is a regional park that has good access from one of the City's major east-west thoroughfares. Existing amenities in the Gabe Nesbitt Community Park includes three lighted ball fields, shaded playground, a concession restroom facility, a hike and bike trail, and paved parking. Shade structures give the park a contemporary appearance. Low spots holding water on fields should be eliminated. Shade cloth structures or other shade system over bleachers, dugouts and scorers stands would be welcome amenities to this park. This park has the potential to be developed as a tournament-level sports complex. A four field softball complex is included within the funded CIP and a baseball field with stadium seating is designated in the unfunded portion of the CIP. Ten soccer fields are identified on a master plan for this park.

Wilson Creek Softball Complex

1401 Wilson Creek Pkwy.

Wilson Creek drainage

20 Acres

Wilson Creek Softball Complex, is a modern softball complex located immediately east of Towne Lake Recreation Area. The two sites share the parking lot located between them. The park includes a restroom concession building, playground, six lighted ball fields, and two picnic pavilions. Large paved areas between the fields could be improved with the addition of shade shelters.

Greenbelt/Open Space

Towne Lake Recreation Area

1405 Wilson Creek Parkway

Wilson Creek drainage

100 Acres + 45 Acres of open space & 63 Acres — undeveloped

Providing attractive vistas from US 75, the Towne Lake Recreation Area, consisting of a greenbelt and open space, provides one of the City's entry portals. The 22-acre lake, fountains and trees create a welcoming scene and a positive image of McKinney. A well-used, lighted walking path that connects to the park's other features encircles the lake. Other features include a concession building, dock with boat rentals, picnic facilities (two available for private rental), lighted horseshoes court, sand volleyball court, and a playground. A parking lot provides vehicular access from Wilson Creek Parkway.

Adjacent facilities complimented by the presence of this park include McKinney High School directly north, the City's community center and nature trail, and the Wilson Creek Softball Complex and Senior Recreation Center directly east. The Towne Lake shoreline retaining wall, hike and bike bridge across Wilson Creek that links the McKinney Community Center with Towne Lake and the hike and bike trail that links Towne Lake with the Heard Museum are all included as part of the Funded CIP.

Special Use Facilities

Alex Clark Memorial Disc Golf Course —————

1986 Park View Dr.

Wilson Creek drainage

18 acres

The Alex Memorial Disc Golf Course is a special use facility that consists of an abundant wooded setting with a creek in the Wilson Creek Greenbelt, west of US 75. This disc golf course is located across the main creek from the Ruschhaupt Soccer Complex. There is a lack of parking that requires users to park at Ruschhaupt and walk across the bridge. Residential development surrounds three sides of this park, and the Valley Creek Trail located here has a sidewalk.

The addition of benches and picnic tables would make this park more user friendly and accessible.

McKinney Community Center & Nature Trail —————

~~2001 S. Central Expressway~~

~~Wilson Creek drainage~~

~~90 Acres + 7 Acres Open Space & 83 Acres undeveloped~~

~~The McKinney Community Center and Nature Trail is a special use facility occupying a very visible site on the US 75 frontage road at Wilson Creek. The building is attractively sited with windows overlooking the wooded grounds. Park facilities include meeting rooms, a kitchen, full court gym, and a lobby/multi-purpose room (all available for private rental). Additional facilities include a weight room, racquetball courts, observation tower and offices. This center handles reservations for park pavilion rentals and overnight camping at Erwin Park, and offers a variety of activities and classes including the "One to Grow On" preschool program.~~

~~Malvern Elementary School is located directly southeast of this site. A trail connecting the school to the community center and nature trail would be useful. Expansion of the community center is included in the CIP.~~

~~McKinney Senior Recreation Center~~

~~1400 S. College St.~~

~~Wilson Creek drainage~~

~~5 Acres~~

~~The McKinney Senior Recreation Center is a special use facility that is a well-planned, architecturally appealing center catering to the City's seniors. This facility includes a reception area, library, gift shop, meeting/activity rooms, dining area, game room, weight room, and large room used for dances and meetings. The building opened in Spring 2002 and the connected indoor pool opened in Winter 2003. Activities include cards, dominoes, bingo, billiards, quilting, health related speakers and opportunities, dance lessons, exercise, and craft classes. The once-a-month dances with live music are one of the center's most popular activities. The center operates six days a week.~~

~~Many of the building's spaces are oriented to wooded areas to the west, which can be viewed through the large windows. Seniors encountered during the master planning process expressed their appreciation for the center, but commented that the parking lot and room where dances are held are too small.~~

~~Oak Hollow Golf Course and Driving Range~~

~~3005 N. McDonald~~

~~East Fork Trinity River drainage~~

147 Acres

~~The Oak Hollow Golf Course and Driving Range is a special-use facility. This is the City's only golf facility and is likely to remain so, given the number of private golf courses existing and planned for McKinney. The course has nice, rolling terrain, water features, and appears to be well-maintained. It has 18 holes and a driving range, and there is an attractive pond at the entrance.~~

9.11 Public School/Park Facilities

~~The City and area school districts consistently engage in cooperative school-park planning. Most new neighborhood parks are being built adjacent to new elementary schools allowing shared use of facilities common to both facilities. Many of the new schools use sustainable building design principles such as cisterns, windmills, vertical sundials, and "day-lighting" of classrooms, all of which make them interesting park neighbors and serve to remind park users and the community of vital environmental issues.~~

~~The previous park plan implemented a joint-use agreement, where the City of McKinney and (MISD) could reduce costs by sharing recreation facilities.~~

~~The City's joint-use agreement with the MISD affords citizens access to certain McKinney High School athletic facilities. The natatorium is no longer available to the public under the new joint use agreement. The joint-use facilities with some schools are among those listed in Table 9.9. The locations of school campuses are also shown in Figure 9.1: Existing Park Facilities With Schools.~~

~~Noteworthy is the cooperative school-park planning between MISD and the City. Most new neighborhood parks are being built adjacent to new elementary schools allowing shared use of facilities common to both facilities. Many of the new schools use sustainable building design principles such as cisterns, windmills, vertical sundials, and "day-lighting" of classrooms, all of which make them interesting park neighbors and serve to remind park users and the community of vital environmental issues.~~

~~Agreements between cities and school districts are common in North Texas. These agreements raise the level of service for the facilities listed in the agreements. The agreements also reduce the need to duplicate facilities and foster a sense of community spirit in such cities. These agreements can be included as part of the implementation of this plan, reducing the need for certain duplicate facilities.~~

Private Facilities

~~Although not available to the general public, private subdivision recreational facilities, apartment pools, country clubs, and private golf courses are included because they are being used by a~~

portion of the City's residents, and to a certain extent, relieve the pressure on publicly provided facilities. These facilities are numerous in McKinney and are listed in Table 9.10.

Major Nearby Facilities

Residents of McKinney have easy access to some other recreational facilities in surrounding communities. Some of these facilities are listed below.

Clymer Meadow Preserve is located in Hunt County near Greenville, and is one of the largest and most diverse remnants of the Blackland Prairie.

Allen's Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium is a joint venture with Allen Independent School District that includes two indoor swimming pools. The 7,000 square foot leisure pool features a flume slide, interactive water play elements, a lazy river and three 25-yard fitness lanes. The 25-yard by 25-meter competitive pool includes two 1-meter diving boards. Other facilities include a 5,000 square foot fitness facility, an aerobics room and a climbing wall.

Frisco Superdrome is a world class cycling facility located at Collin County Community College District. It is open to the public, and hosts prestigious events such as the UCI World Cup of Cycling, the 2000 U. S. Olympic Trials and several National Championships.

Frisco's Alumni Hall Fitness Center is a joint venture between the City of Frisco and Collin County Community College District that includes an indoor swimming pool (Natatorium), an indoor therapeutic pool, a gymnasium, a weight training room, an outdoor running tract, a dance studio and locker room facilities.

Frisco's Dr Pepper/7 UP Ball Park is an 8,800-seat minor league baseball park, the new home of the Frisco Rough Riders, a farm club of the Texas Rangers.

Frisco's Proposed Dr Pepper StarCenter serves as the practice facility to the National Hockey League's, Dallas Stars, as well as home to the Texas Tornado, a Junior Hockey League team. The proposed 208,000 square foot facility includes a 3,750-seat area, 8 team locker rooms, and a 3,500 square foot Star Stuff store.

Frisco's Proposed Soccer Complex is an innovative public-private partnership between the City of Frisco, Frisco Economic Development Corporation, Frisco Community Development Corporation, Collin County, Frisco Independent School District and Hunt Sports Group. The plan is for a state-of-the-art facility that includes a 20,000-seat stadium, home to Major League Soccer's Dallas Burn, 17 soccer fields serving amateur players, and a 600-seat soccer/football stadium for the Frisco Independent School District.

Plano Aquatic Center includes a 25-yard indoor pool with 1-meter diving boards and shallow water training areas. Other facilities include classrooms and locker rooms.

Plano Heritage Yards is a nine-field softball complex. It has a central championship field with a spectator shade structure and concession restroom building. The park also includes two

playgrounds and additional pavilion/restroom buildings. The complex has hosted large national softball tournaments.