

THE GREEN IMPRINT

CEDAR HILL PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Adopted April 2025



WELCOME STATEMENT

It is with great pride and excitement that I introduce The Green Imprint: Cedar Hill's Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan. This plan reaffirms our city's commitment to preserving the natural beauty that defines us while creating spaces that enrich the lives of those who live, work, and play here. Building on the foundation of the 2012 Parks Master Plan and its 2019 update, The Green Imprint reflects our community's vision for more recreational access, more green spaces, and greater social connection.

Cedar Hill residents and visitors alike have long cherished our city's rich natural beauty, expansive parklands, and vibrant community spaces. Cedar Hill stands apart as a green oasis where the harmony of nature and urban life thrives. With The Green Imprint, we are excited to build on this legacy and invite you to join us in shaping a future that reflects our community's unique spirit and shared values.

This plan is more than a document - it is a vision for a sustainable and connected future. It seeks to preserve our city's remarkable natural features, enhance neighborhood connectivity, and create more opportunities for both indoor and outdoor recreation.

The Green Imprint is a call to action for residents, businesses, and community organizations to come together and invest in our shared future. Whether through preserving more green spaces, supporting more gathering places, or building more trails, your involvement is crucial to realizing this vision. This plan highlights goals and actionable recommendations that will guide Cedar Hill toward becoming recreationally connected and committed to green city efforts.

As we move toward implementation, I encourage you to explore this plan and discover the ways you can contribute to Cedar Hill's green legacy. Together, we will ensure that Cedar Hill leaves an enduring green imprint - one that preserves our natural beauty while fostering a healthier, more vibrant, and inclusive community for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Mason', is placed over the teal background.

Mayor Stephen Mason



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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PLANNING FOR PARKS



CEDAR HILL'S GREEN IMPRINT

Imprinting in nature symbolizes a deep, lasting connection to a habitat, as seen in birds or other creatures returning year after year to the same nesting grounds. For Cedar Hill, “green imprinting” embodies the city's commitment to shaping a legacy where the environment, community, and regional connectivity are inextricably linked. As a part of this commitment, Cedar Hill has pledged to conserve 25% of its land for parks, open spaces, and natural preservation, ensuring a lasting connection between people and nature.

This enduring connection to nature and community forms the foundation of The Green Imprint, Cedar Hill's 2025 Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan. Building on the guiding principles introduced in the 2012 Parks Master Plan and updated in 2019, as well as the city's cherished network of parks, trails, and open spaces, The Green Imprint reflects Cedar Hill's continued dedication to protecting nature while growing and prioritizing the needs of its residents.

The development of The Green Imprint was inspired by the community's unwavering support for green spaces and their ongoing commitment to preserving the city's unique natural features. Cedar Hill's parks system, bolstered by regional parklands, state parks, and beloved local parks, serves as the cornerstone of this legacy. The community's enthusiasm for outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship has made Cedar Hill the greenest spot in the DFW area, creating vibrant spaces where residents and visitors can gather, connect, and enjoy

Through The Green Imprint, Cedar Hill reaffirms its dedication to maintaining its distinctive character while reevaluating the needs of existing parks, trails, and open spaces.

The plan prioritizes location-specific enhancements, expanding citywide connectivity, integrating green spaces into urban environments, and preserving natural areas, aligning with the city's ambitious goal of conserving 25% of its land for future generations.. At the same time, it seeks to enhance operational efficiencies, streamline management, and optimize resource use to meet the community's evolving recreation needs.

Cedar Hill's well-established parks network—including the scenic Cedar Hill State Park, which boasts lush landscapes and breathtaking views of the Balcones Escarpment—highlights the city's exceptional green legacy. From amenities like hiking trails, camping areas, and wildlife-watching spots to newer developments such as Signature Park and the Balcones Trail, the city exemplifies the seamless integration of urban and natural spaces.

By fostering a community where health, inclusivity, and sustainability are intertwined, The Green Imprint extends Cedar Hill's green legacy. The plan focuses on enhancing neighborhood parks, connecting the community through trails, supporting gathering spaces, and preserving natural areas. It aligns with the city's comprehensive plan and vision while complementing existing plans such as the Cedar Hill Next and the Dallas County Open Space Plan.

By committing to conserving 25% of its land, Cedar Hill safeguards its natural heritage, reinforcing a future where growth and green space thrive in harmony.

PLAN PURPOSE

This plan reflects Cedar Hill's dedication to preserving natural areas while growing and prioritizing the community's needs. The City's 2012 Parks Master Plan, updated in 2019, introduced three guiding principles that remain central to its vision and goals. To advance the three goals, Cedar Hill has developed *The Green Imprint*, a 10-year roadmap to enhance the city's parks, recreation, trails, and open spaces. Through its implementation, Cedar Hill aims to preserve its unique natural features, maintain its distinctive character, and create vibrant spaces where residents and visitors can gather, connect, and enjoy.

The Green Imprint further reevaluates the needs of existing parks, trails, and open spaces. This process included a comprehensive review of the park system, assessing conditions, amenities, and usability to identify opportunities for improvement. The plan prioritizes location-specific enhancements to aging infrastructure, modernizing amenities, and expanding citywide connectivity through a well-integrated network of trails and greenways. Informed by community input and data-driven analysis, *The Green Imprint* offers actionable recommendations to guide the future of Cedar Hill's park system.

NATURE/URBAN INTERFACE

Cedar Hill aims to enhance areas where nature and urban space meet.

25% OPEN SPACE GOAL

Cedar Hill aims to dedicate 25% of the City's land area to public and private open spaces.

CITY WITHIN A PARK

Cedar Hill aspires to transform from a City that simply has parks, to a city seamlessly integrated in a park-like environment.

WHY PLAN FOR PARKS?

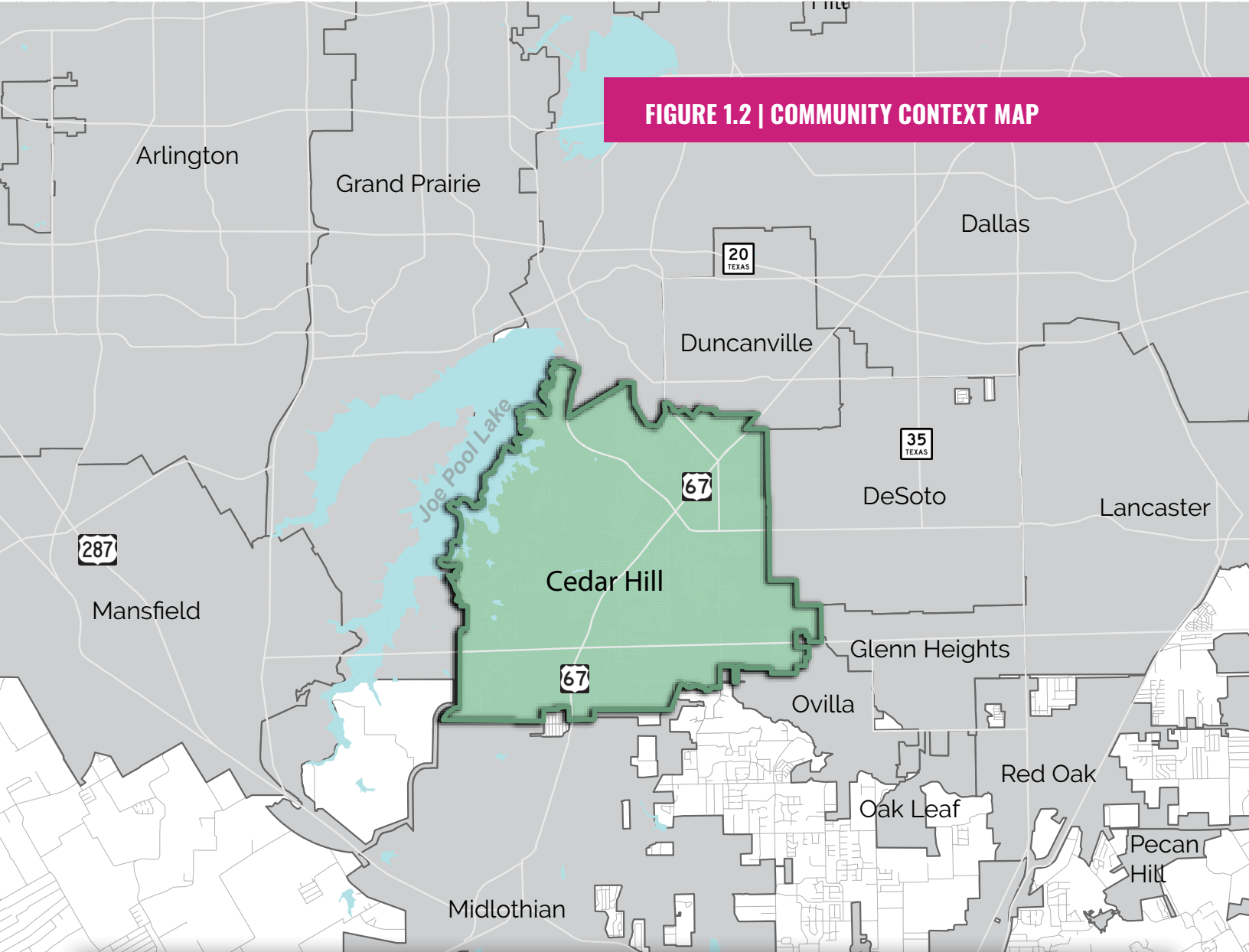
Parks and recreation facilities and programs offer several benefits to a community. They bring family and friends together, provide enrichment and learning opportunities for youth, as well as contribute to conserving natural resources, improving air and water quality, and overall enhancing the community. These benefits are outlined in **Figure 1.1**.

Parks also play a vital role in enhancing what the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) considers to be the three pillars of a community, Health and Wellness, Conservation, and Social Equity. These three pillars guide inclusive decision-making within our park system, shaping everything from the development of new parks to expansion of diverse programming. Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation embodies and supports the NRPA's three Pillars of Recreation.

FIGURE 1.1 | BENEFITS OF PARKS



FIGURE 1.2 | COMMUNITY CONTEXT MAP



COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Cedar Hill, located southwest of Dallas along Joe Pool Lake and positioned in both Ellis and Dallas counties, sits over 300 feet above Dallas, just north of the prominent Balcones Escarpment. This geological feature, visible along FM 1382 and Mansfield Road, stretches from the Red River to Del Rio. Founded in 1846, Cedar Hill grew steadily until the construction of Joe Pool Lake in 1989 triggered a population surge, nearly tripling its size within a decade. By the 2000s, the city was home to 786 businesses and 32,093 residents. **Today, Cedar Hill prides itself as being known as the “greener side” of the Metroplex.** With its scenic landscapes, residents, and visitors, can enjoy a variety of neighborhood and community parks, trails and recreational spaces including the new Signature Park, Balcones Trail, and The Lagoon, an outdoor aquatic facility. Cedar Hill State Park features fishing piers, hiking and biking trails, a swimming area, and 350 developed campsites. Beyond these, Cedar Hill offers an impressive selection of partnership parks, including Cedar Hill State Park, Lester Lorch Park, and Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center. These parks provide opportunities for residents and visitors to explore nature and hike extensive trails contributing to the City's rich natural spaces and recreational offerings.

Maypearl

0 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles

WHO WE SERVE

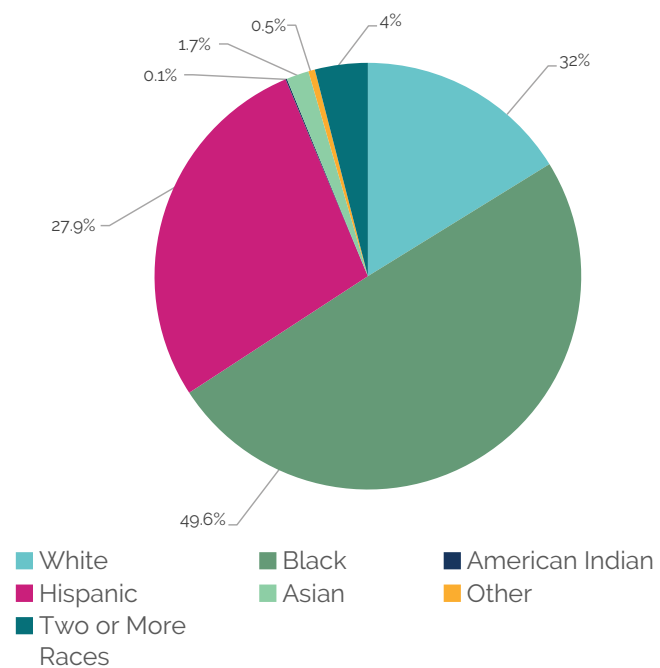
Cedar Hill is home to 49,148 people and covers an area of 35.88 square miles. The City boasts over 3,000 acres of parks, natural spaces, and trails that continues to expand.

The median home value within the city is \$246,300 and the median household income is \$84,132, compared to \$72,284, the median household income for the state.

POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

The community of Cedar Hill is vibrant and diverse. **Figure 1.3** outlines the racial and ethnic makeup of Cedar Hill's population. The majority of the population in Cedar Hill is Black. Over the years, Cedar Hill's population has steadily grown, and this increase reflects the expanding diversity of the community. In particular, the Hispanic population has experienced notable growth and the city has also seen a rise in its multi-racial (two or more races) population. This rich mix of racial and ethnic groups underscores Cedar Hill's status as a dynamic and evolving community, with a broad and inclusive population that continues to shape its cultural and social fabric.

FIGURE 1.3 | CEDAR HILL POPULATION BY RACE & ETHNICITY



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). 2019-2023 Five-Year American Community Survey

35.88

sq mi

49,148

population (2020)

13,531 (28%)

children in households (<18)

\$84,132

median household income

\$246,300

median home value



POPULATION BY AGE & GENDER

As shown in **Figure 1.4**, the largest age group in Cedar Hill consists of children aged 10 to 14, followed by those aged 45 to 49. Cedar Hill has a balanced middle-aged population, while the older population (60+ years) represents a smaller percentage. Notably, females outnumber males in the oldest age groups.

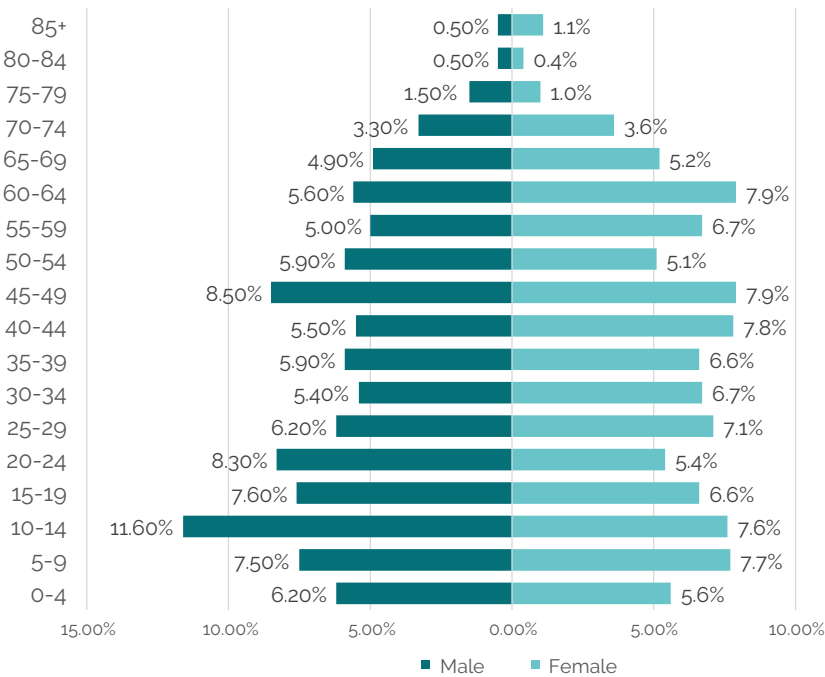
This population pyramid reflects Cedar Hill's family-oriented nature, highlighting both a significant youth presence and a moderately aging population. This demographic profile emphasizes the need to consider both younger residents and the moderately aging population in future park development plans.

POPULATION DENSITY & GROWTH

The population of Cedar Hill is largely concentrated in the northeast portion of the city limits and toward major roadways in close proximity such as Highway 67 and FM 1382, shown in **Figure 1.5**. This reflects a regional pattern of high population density moving toward Dallas' city center.

It will be important to consider levels of population density throughout the City when evaluating community needs and addressing gaps in park access.

FIGURE 1.4 | CEDAR HILL POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). 2018-2022 Five-Year American Community Survey Estimates

FIGURE 1.5 | POPULATION DENSITY OF CEDAR HILL

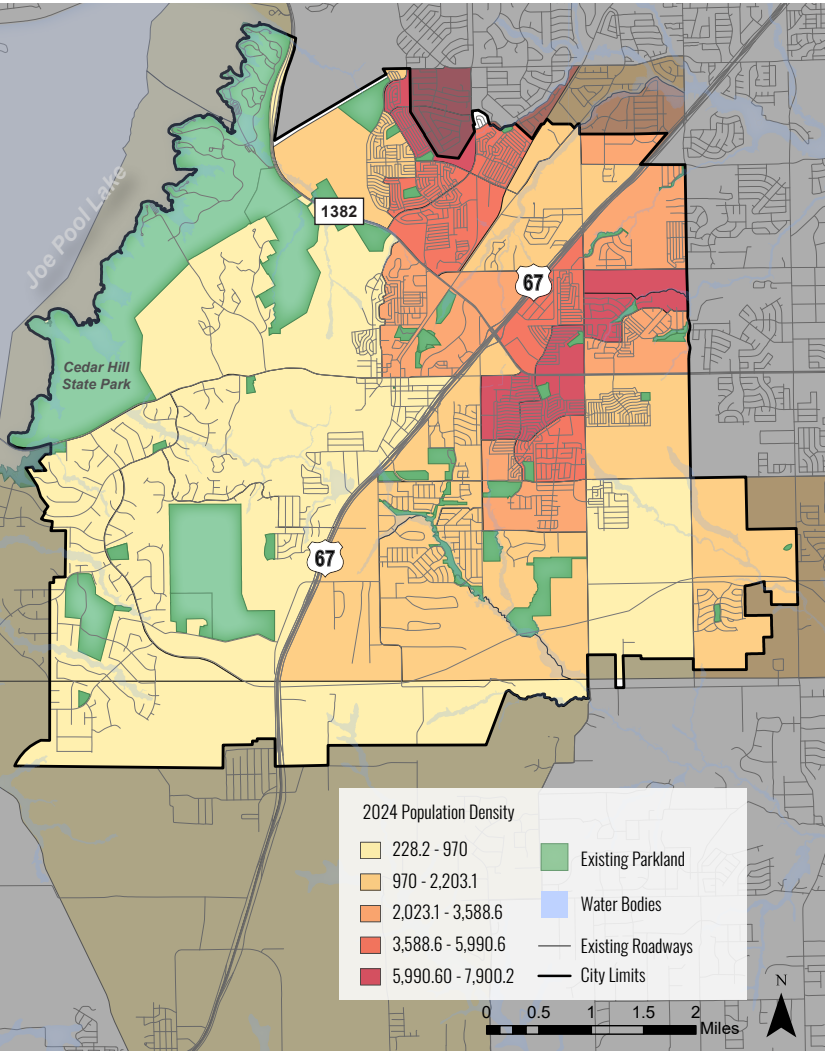
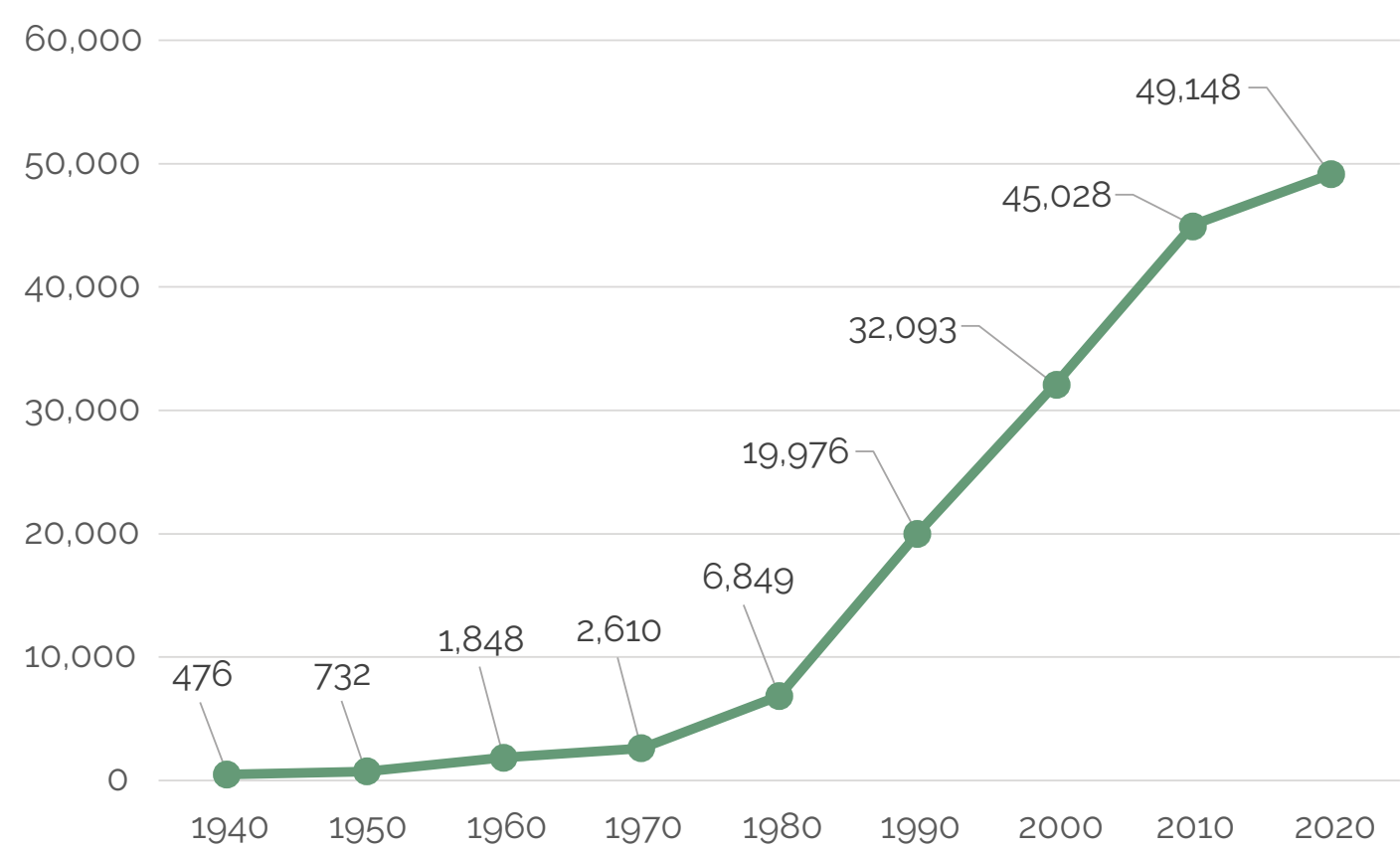


FIGURE 1.6 | CEDAR HILL HISTORIC POPULATION GROWTH



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). 2010-2020 Decennial Census

Figure 1.6 shows the historic population growth of Cedar Hill since 1940. The significant population boom in Cedar Hill during the late 1900s is illustrated on the graph, which can be attributed to the construction of Joe Pool Lake. Since then, the city has experienced steady population growth. According to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), this trend is expected to continue, with a projected increase of approximately 8-9% per decade over the next 60 years.

TABLE 1.1 2026 TWDB REGIONAL WATER PLAN POPULATION PROJECTIONS						
	DALLAS COUNTY	% GROWTH	ELLIS COUNTY	% GROWTH	CEDAR HILL	% GROWTH
2030	2,744,243		241,747		53,645	
2040	2,899,298	5.65%	290,486	20.16%	58,553	9.15%
2050	3,045,184	5.03%	346,554	19.30%	63,911	9.15%
2060	3,162,467	3.85%	397,716	14.76%	69,070	8.07%
2070	3,277,308	3.63%	455,844	14.62%	74,646	8.07%
2080	3,372,187	2.90%	513,797	12.71%	80,672	8.07%

Source: Texas Water Development Board, 2026 Regional Water Plan Board - Adopted Population and Municipal Demand Projections

PLAN APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

In order to assess the city's parks and recreation system and facilities, there were multiple methods used to gain further insight on existing issues in the system and potential solutions. This Plan utilized four techniques addressing park conditions, park access, existing and future park demand, and resources. Access, demand, and resource-based assessments are modeled after methodologies created by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

DEMAND-BASED ASSESSMENT

This technique is a qualitative analysis that utilizes community input in order to determine public perception and desired park usage. The information gathered will help guide what direction park improvements need to move in order to satisfy the unique needs of the community.

STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENT

The access-based assessment analyzes the current quantity and location of parkland and facilities to determine if the needs of the population are being met. This technique uses level-of-service ratios of facilities to population to project future needs as the population grows

RESOURCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

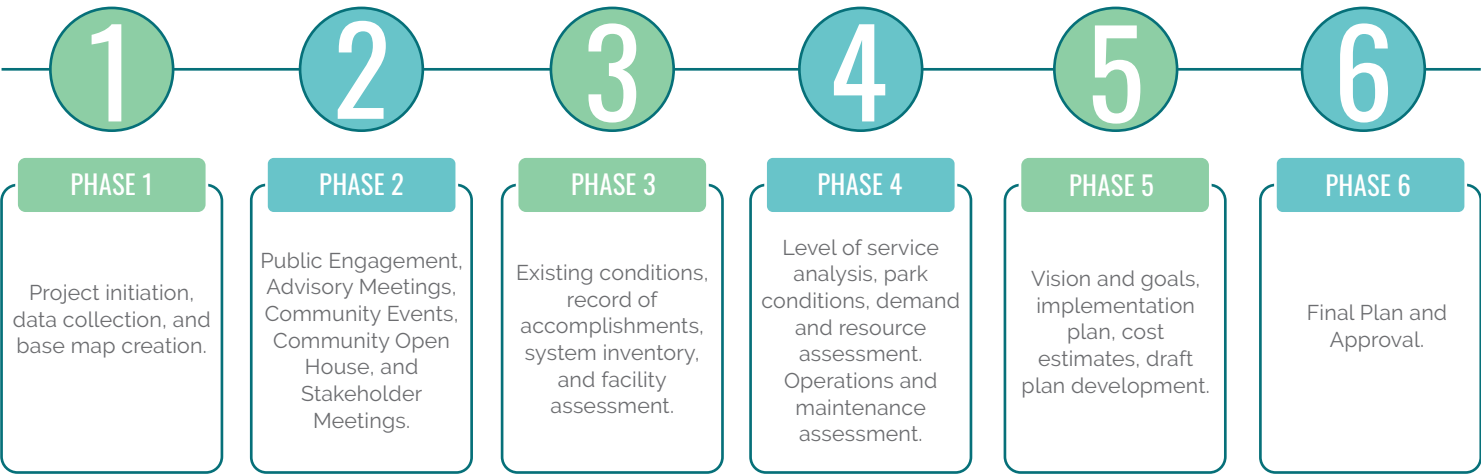
This technique included the evaluation of potential in local man-made and natural resources with expansion and further development in mind, including consideration for the community's ability to attract visitors and support the local economy.

CONDITIONS-BASED ASSESSMENT

This technique involved on-site assessments of parks and amenities to evaluate their current conditions. The conditions-based assessment focuses on the maintenance of park grounds and facilities, using a uniform scoring system to pinpoint where critical maintenance and service enhancements are most needed.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

This Plan was initiated in March 2024 to develop a vision for how the City's system of parks, recreation facilities and programs can meet both current and future needs of its residents and spanned the course of a year. The planning effort is divided into six overlapping phases. Initial phases focus on gathering information and engaging with the community, while later phases are dedicated to analysis and formulating an implementation strategy.



LAND LEGACY

The goals and policies outlined in this Plan remain aligned with those established in the 2019 plan update. These goals aim to create a "City within a Park," with 25% green and open space, and a seamless relationship between the natural-urban interface.

Through the City's partnerships with external organizations and proactive parkland acquisitions, such as those at Willis and Singleton, there has been a significant expansion of the City's park system, contributing to the pursuit of achieving 25% open space. Additionally, recent trail projects have worked to improve natural and urban connections. More information on how the City can continue to work towards these goals can be found in **Chapter 2**.

25%
OPEN SPACE GOAL

BUILDING ON PREVIOUS PLANS

As the City continues to grow, staff and community members will rely on a variety of planning efforts and documents to support future desires and development. This Plan was developed with the knowledge and goals of the previous parks plan and existing City Comprehensive Plan in mind, as well as other recent planning efforts relevant to parks and recreation.

Recent planning efforts in the City and throughout the region are listed below:

- 2012 Cedar Hill Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan and 2019 update
- 2020 Cedar Hill Older Adult Livability Study
- 2020 North Central Texas Council of Governments Veloweb Trail Master Plan
- 2022 Cedar Hill Comprehensive Plan
- 2023 Cedar Hill West Midtown Master Plan
- 2023-2025 Cedar Hill Economic Development Strategy
- 2024 Dallas County Open Space Plan

Not only does this Plan aim to continue the pursuit of the three major goals identified in the previous parks plan, it also aims to establish new goals and standards for the growing community. These goals aim to align with the city's priorities and distinguish Cedar Hill from other Texas cities, particularly in the DFW region, further enhancing its reputation and appeal.

PRIOR PLANNING EFFORTS

2012 CEDAR HILL PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN

The previous Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Master Plan was developed to identify city needs and address recreation opportunities while recognizing the unique natural features within Cedar Hill. This plan was based on three innovative goals:

- To grow as a “city within a park”
- 25% of Cedar Hill's land will be open public and private space (updated from 20% in the 2022 Cedar Hill Comprehensive Plan)
- Celebration of the natural and built interface

Following this plan, the 2019 update was created to celebrate the achievements since the original plan, recognize current needs and desires, and provide direction for future city development.

2020 CEDAR HILL OLDER ADULT LIVABILITY STUDY

The purpose of this study was to assess how well the livability factors identified by AARP are being addressed for older adults in Cedar Hill. The study explored the specific needs and interests of this age group and highlighted needs for additional facilities.

Major conclusions included the following:

- Three of the seven livability aspects require attention: transportation, health and well-being, and socialization
- Development of potential programs list
- Need for additional space to accommodate program requirements
- Availability of volunteers in the community willing to assist

2022 CEDAR HILL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2022, updating the previous version from 2008. The new plan titled “Cedar Hill Next, Preserving the Past. Cultivating the Future,” envisions a reimagined future for the city. It focuses on the overall community, as well as policy framework for zoning, land-use, development, transportation, economic growth, and operating budgets; all of which go towards assisting with citywide decision-making.

2023 CEDAR HILL WEST MIDTOWN MASTER PLAN

The plan for the West Midtown area aims to capitalize on the rolling terrain and central location between downtown and the Government Center to create a cohesive district that aligns with Cedar Hill's vision of fostering natural growth opportunities. The vision is to establish a vibrant cultural hub with diverse housing and economic opportunities, ensuring that these investments complement each other and create a unique, memorable place in Cedar Hill.

2023-25 CEDAR HILL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

This plan set a new economic development strategy for Cedar Hill aimed to promote business attraction, support existing businesses, and foster small business growth. The strategy addresses the current community and business environment and outlines a path to position the city as a location with distinctive character, natural beauty, and excellent amenities in order to attract new residents, businesses and tourists.

2024 DALLAS COUNTY OPEN SPACE PLAN

First established with the 1980 Open Space Plan, the Dallas County Open Space Plan resulted from local interest in preserving the open space within the county as it grows. The plan provides recommendations for operations and maintenance, enhancements and connectivity of its 21 preserves throughout Dallas County.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

In collaboration with City staff and K Strategies, a local public relations firm, a community engagement strategy was developed to effectively engage Cedar Hill residents in the development of this plan using a variety of in-person and online methods.

In-person engagement methods included:

- Advisory Committee Meetings
- Stakeholder Listening Sessions
- Pop-up Community Events
- Public Meetings

Plan project information was made available to the community on the city's website. This site provided an overview of the project, including Master Plan details, a project timeline, opportunities for community involvement, and a resident survey.

In addition to the online survey, a statistically-valid parks and recreation survey was administered by ETC Institute as part of the process. The survey was mailed to a random number of households in the city and participants were asked to mail in their responses or complete the survey online. With a goal of receiving at least 400 complete responses, combined final survey participation totaled at 788 participants.

The final step in the engagement process is documenting and analyzing public input to help identify the community's needs. A summary of all engagement methods and results can be found in the Demand Assessment Memo of the **Appendix**.

KEY THEMES AND TAKEAWAYS

KEY THEMES

- Preservation of open space and natural areas
- High-quality public spaces and facilities
- The "Third Place" - places people can congregate outside of work and home
- Desire to go above and beyond

PARK PRIORITIES

- Shade
- Connections to nature
- Gathering Spaces and Picnic Pavilions
- Special Use Parks:
 - Dog park
 - Adaptive playgrounds
 - Community gardens
 - Aquatic facilities

RECREATION NEEDS

- Indoor facilities
- Trail connections
- Inter-generational needs
- Programming:
 - Nature education
 - Fitness classes
 - Arts & culture events

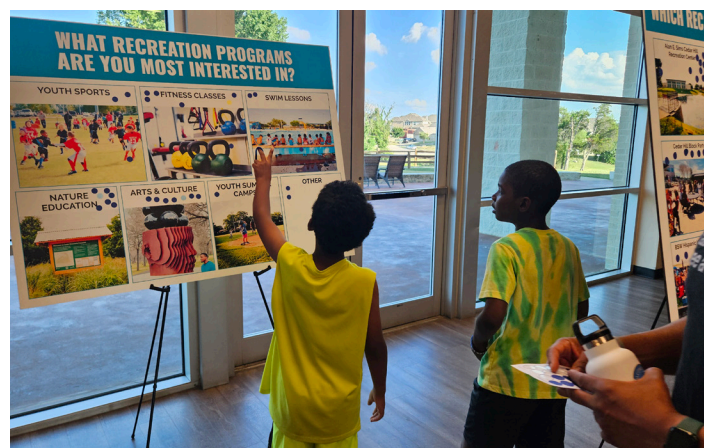
4 OUTREACH
EVENTS

3 ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

3 STAKEHOLDER
LISTENING
SESSIONS

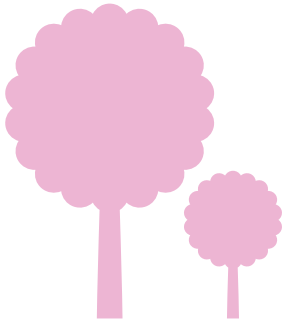
2 COMMUNITY
MEETINGS

2 SURVEYS



VISION STATEMENT & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Community feedback gathered throughout the engagement process creates the foundation for the vision and guiding principles of this plan. Not only does the Cedar Hill community seek high quality recreation amenities such as sports and aquatic facilities, residents also want to prioritize opportunities to interact with nature in the City and the preservation of greenspace. The vision statement shown on the following page and the guiding principles below aim to support future action that is cohesive and reflects the unique desires of the entire community.



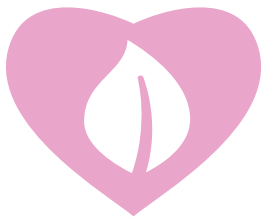
CONSERVING & PRESERVING

Cedar Hill is dedicated to evolving into a city where urban and natural environments are seamlessly integrated. The City is committed to conserving 25% of our land area for public and private natural spaces, enhancing the quality of urban life while preserving vital natural resources. By expanding parks and natural infrastructure, and improving transitional areas between built and natural environments, we aim to connect neighborhoods, public plazas, and existing infrastructure. This approach will transform these spaces into community landmarks, highlighting our natural features, inspiring future design, and promoting an active and healthy community.



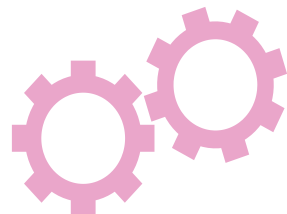
GATHERING & PLACEMAKING

Cedar Hill is focused on creating vibrant, active gathering spaces that foster community engagement and strengthen connections among residents. The City is dedicated to designing well-crafted, inclusive public areas where people can come together to learn, meet their neighbors, and build a strong social fabric, enriching the community experience and enhancing our city's cohesion.



AGES & ABILITIES

Cedar Hill is dedicated to fostering meaningful connections with residents of all ages by creating engaging, educational, and recreational spaces and programs that evolve with the changing needs of families. The City is committed to designing inclusive and accessible parks and public areas that adapt to the needs of residents throughout their lives, from young families to seniors, ensuring that our facilities and programs support and inspire a vibrant, active community.



ENHANCING & MAINTAINING

Cedar Hill is committed to continuously enhancing and maintaining public spaces and infrastructure to ensure they remain vibrant, functional, and welcoming. By investing in ongoing improvements and diligent upkeep, the City aims to provide high-quality environments that meet the evolving needs of our community and support a sustainable, engaging urban experience.

VISION STATEMENT

**CEDAR HILL'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACES
WILL BE VIBRANT HUBS FOR RECREATION,
CONNECTION, AND NATURE.**

**PRIORITIZING INCLUSIVITY,
ACCESSIBILITY, AND CONSERVATION,
OUR PARKS WILL ENHANCE RESIDENTS'
QUALITY OF LIFE, PRESERVE NATURAL
SPACES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, AND
CREATE A DESTINATION WHERE LOCALS
AND VISITORS CAN EXPERIENCE THE
BEAUTY OF THE OUTDOORS.**





2

PARKS & TRAILS SYSTEM

PARK NETWORK

Cedar Hill offers 3,700 acres of parks and natural areas, providing residents and visitors with diverse opportunities to connect with nature, engage in recreational activities, and enjoy events that celebrate the City's cultural heritage. With 52 properties, four community facilities, and over 60 miles of trails, the City boasts an extensive system of green spaces and amenities. These parks host several public events, fostering community connections and offering opportunities for residents to engage with one another.

The environmental benefits of Cedar Hill's parks are vital, preserving natural habitats, supporting biodiversity, and contributing 16% to the City's 25% open space goal. These green spaces enhance air and water quality while offering serene environments for relaxation, exercise, and social interaction. Cedar Hill's parks also boost tourism by drawing visitors to outdoor adventures, cultural attractions, and the city's scenic natural landscapes.

A centerpiece of Cedar Hill's park system is Cedar Hill State Park, an expansive destination that features fishing piers, hiking and biking trails, a swimming area, and 350 developed campsites. This state park attracts residents and visitors alike with its outdoor recreational opportunities. Cedar Hill also benefits from partnership parks with Dallas County, including Lester Lorch Park and the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center. These parks provide extensive hiking trails and opportunities for nature exploration, with the Audubon Center and State Park offering educational workshops and facility rentals.

The City continues to expand its recreational offerings with new attractions like The Lagoon, a water park and outdoor aquatic center featuring water slides, splash zones, and family-friendly pools. Additionally, the newly finished Signature Park and Traphene Hickman Public Library celebrates the integration of nature and the urban environment, offering a space where visitors can enjoy a harmonious

blend of green landscapes and modern amenities. Popular community parks like Virginia Weaver Park serve as gathering spots for family celebrations, with a large picnic pavilion and other amenities. For sports enthusiasts, Valley Ridge Park is a vibrant hub where youth baseball games and other activities bring the community together.

For indoor recreation, the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center provides residents with spaces to work out, take classes, and participate in youth summer camps. This year-round facility fosters fitness, education, and community engagement in a welcoming environment. Similarly, the Cedar Hill Senior Activity Center serves as a hub for older adults, offering fitness classes, educational programs, and social events that keep adults (55+) active and connected.

PARKS SYSTEM CLASSIFICATIONS

A park system is composed of a variety of park types, defined by size, purpose, and specialization. Cedar Hill's park system reflects this approach, with 52 park properties categorized into distinct classifications that cater to a variety of community needs. These classifications were developed using national guidelines and adapted to fit the unique characteristics of Cedar Hill.

Park classifications include large, regional parks like Cedar Hill State Park, as well as smaller neighborhood parks designed for local gatherings and specialized activities. This variety allows the City to meet the diverse needs of its residents, providing parks that are equitably distributed and serve different purposes throughout the community.

The following outlines Cedar Hill's park system classifications, each serving a distinct purpose and contributing to the overall vitality and accessibility of the park network.



REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks are usually large parks designed to serve the entire city or region. They often host major community events and attract visitors from outside city limits. These parks may include extensive natural areas or significant facilities such as sports complexes and event spaces. Examples of regional parks in Cedar Hill that are not owned by the city include Cedar Hill State Park and Lester Lorch Park.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

This classification consists of moderate sized green spaces located near and within residential areas. Common features of neighborhood parks include standard amenities such as playgrounds, walking paths, picnic tables and gathering spaces. Neighborhood parks are the most abundant park classification in Cedar Hill, with 18 parks across the city.



COMMUNITY PARKS

These parks often vary in size, and provide diverse active and passive recreation opportunities to the community. Community parks generally include a variety of amenities such as practice fields, sports courts, public pools and other special facilities. The service area for Community Parks is two to five miles.



POCKET PARKS

Pocket parks are typically compact with minimal amenities, designed as "walk-to" parks to serve the immediate neighborhood. These parks often feature greenspaces that provide areas for relaxation, socialization, and recreation activities. Currently, Cedar Hill has only one pocket park, which serves as a small urban park in historic downtown area.



LINEAR PARKS & TRAILS

Linear parks and trails are designed to connect park spaces and enhance pedestrian access. These corridors often include a mix of vegetated and open space, with occasional amenities such as pavilions and neighborhood playgrounds.



GREENBELTS & NATURAL AREAS

A significant portion of Cedar Hill consists of natural areas, including wildlife corridors, and greenbelts. Generally, these areas have very few amenities and primarily serve environmental purposes. Some greenbelts and natural areas may be undeveloped or have limited public access.



SPECIAL USE PARKS

These parks are for specialized or single-purpose recreation activities. Examples include dog parks, disc golf courses, historic areas or sports arenas.

CEDAR HILL PARKS SYSTEM

This Plan presents a detailed overview of the City's park system, including a map that highlights Cedar Hill's parks and recreational facilities, shown on the following page. This map illustrates the location and classification of each park listed in the park inventory found on page 22. Cedar Hill has the following number of parks in each classification:

- Regional Parks - 6
- Community Parks - 6
- Neighborhood Parks - 18
- Pocket Parks - 1
- Linear Parks & Trails - 8
- Special Use Parks - 2
- Greenbelts & Natural Areas - 11

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities play a vital role in any parks system by offering indoor recreation and programming, and cultivating positive social environments for a variety of ages. Each of the community facilities in Cedar Hill, listed in **Table 2.1**, is co-located with a city park. These facilities range in function and amenities, and are primarily situated near the city center.

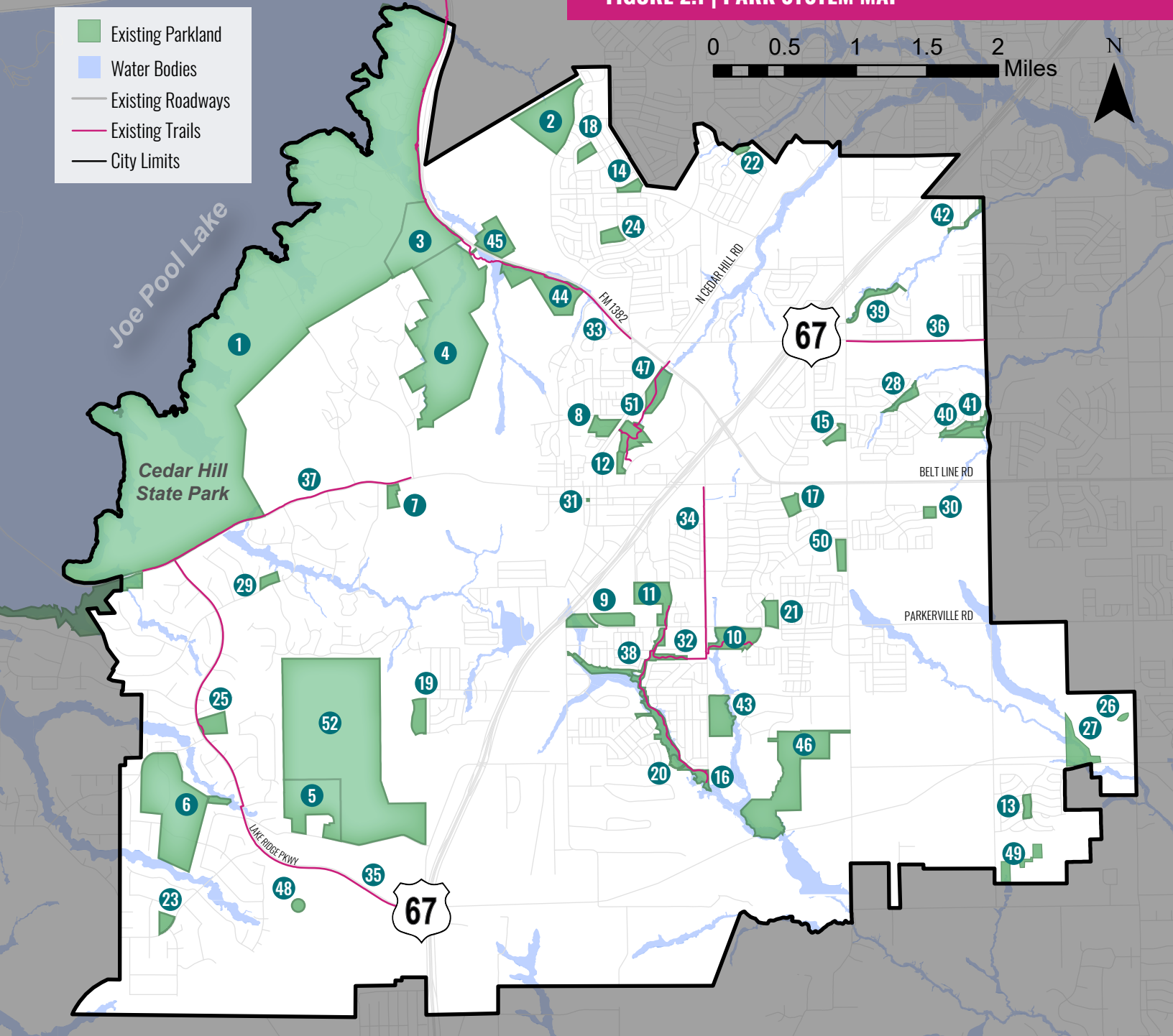
The Alan E. Sims Recreation Center is the only facility that offers indoor sport courts, which can be adjusted based on demand, and have the following potential courts as options:

- Basketball Courts (2)
- Volleyball Courts (4)
- Pickleball Courts (6)

TABLE 2.1 COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN CEDAR HILL	
Facility	Address
Alan E. Sims Recreation Center	310 E Parkerville Rd
Traphene Hickman Library	450 Pioneer Trail
Cedar Hill Government Center	285 Uptown Blvd
Cedar Hill Senior Activity Center	1740 Mansfield Rd



FIGURE 2.1 | PARK SYSTEM MAP



- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1 Cedar Hill State Park | 14 Bradford Park | 27 Stonehill Park | 40 Waterford Oaks East Greenbelt |
| 2 Cedar Ridge Nature Preserve | 15 Calf Pasture Park | 28 Waterford Oaks Park | 41 David Rush Park |
| 3 Cedar Mountain Nature Preserve | 16 Dot Thomas Park | 29 Wildwood Park | 42 Windmill Hill Greenbelt |
| 4 Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center | 17 Highlands South Park | 30 Windsor Park | 43 South Hills Greenbelt |
| 5 Lester Lorch Park | 18 J.W. Williams Park | 31 Pioneer Park | 44 Calabria Nature Preserve |
| 6 Valley Ridge Park | 19 Kingswood Park | 32 Red Oak Creek Trail | 45 Singleton Preserve |
| 7 Community Center Park | 20 Liberty Park | 33 Balcones Trail | 46 Willis Property |
| 8 Crawford Park | 21 Longhorn Park | 34 South Clark Road Trail | 47 Regional Detention Facility |
| 9 Parkerville Park | 22 Meadows Park | 35 Lake Ridge Trail | 48 Balcones Ranch Property |
| 10 Alan E. Sims Recreation Center Park | 23 Prairie View Park | 36 Pleasant Run Trail | 49 Addison Hills Property |
| 11 Virginia Weaver Park | 24 Ramsey Park | 37 Mansfield Road Trail | 50 Weaver/Joe Wilson Property |
| 12 Signature Park | 25 Ridge View Park | 38 Cedar Trails Greenbelt | 51 Crawford's Tornado Graveyard |
| 13 Bear Creek Park | 26 Stonehill HOA Park | 39 Wooded Creek Greenbelt | 52 Mt. Lebanon Camp & Conference Center |

TABLE 2.2 | CEDAR HILL PARK INVENTORY

Facility	Address	Acres	Baseball/Softball Field (#)	Soccer/Cricket Field (#)	Football Field (#)	Multipurpose Practice Field (#)	Basketball Court (#)	Tennis Court (#)	Volleyball Court (#)	Pickleball Court (#)	Concession Stand (#)	Recreation Center (#)
REGIONAL PARKS												
Cedar Hill State Park*	1570 W. FM 1382	1826.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Ridge Nature Preserve*	7171 Mountain Creek Pkwy	73.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Mountain Nature Preserve*	1300 W. FM 1382	123.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center*	1206 W. FM 1382	293.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lester Lorch Park*	1823 Texas Plume Rd	82.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Valley Ridge Park	2850 Park Ridge Dr	164.0	10	13	3	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
COMMUNITY PARKS												
Community Center Park	1740 Mansfield Rd	5.9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crawford Park	401 Straus Rd	10.8	-	1	-	1	3	2	-	1	-	-
Parkerville Park*	501 W. Parkerville Rd	24.1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alan E. Sims Recreation Center	310 E. Parkerville Rd	24.7	-	-	-	-	2**	-	4**	6**	-	1
Virginia Weaver Park	631 Somerset Dr	27.6	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Signature Park	590 N. Cedar Hill Rd	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS												
Bear Creek Park	320 Midlake Dr	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bradford Park	401 W. Wintergreen Rd	5.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calf Pasture Park	335 N. Joe Wilson Rd	10.1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dot Thomas Park	1401 S. Clark Rd	6.5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Highlands South Park	225 Cannady Dr	8.3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
J.W. Williams Park	1605 High Pointe Ln	6.0	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-

*Indicates this property is not City-owned

**Includes indoor amenities

Fishing Pier (#)	Swimming Pool (#)	Splash Pad (#)	Amphitheater (#)	Walking/Biking Trail (miles)	Disc Golf (#)	Playground (#)	Horseshoe Pits (#)	Table/Picnic Table (#)	BBQ Grill (#)	Picnic Shelter/Pavilion (#)	Restroom (#)	Parking (#)
2	-	-	1	28.5	-	-	-	510	390	2	20	645
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	2.5	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	21
1	-	-	1	1.5	-	4	-	8	-	4	8	1037
-	-	-	-	0.3	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	56
-	-	-	-	0.25	-	1	-	10	2	1	4	99
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	121
-	-	-	-	0.6	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	288
-	1	-	-	0.3	-	1	-	7	1	1	8	170
-	-	-	1	1.75	-	-	-	70	-	-	2	20
-	-	-	-	0.3	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-
-	-	-	-	0.5	-	-	-	8	2	1	-	-
-	-	-	-	0.5	-	1	-	3	1	1	-	10
-	-	-	-	0.3	-	1	-	4	1	4	2	38
-	-	-	-	0.4	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	2
-	-	-	-	0.4	-	1	-	9	6	1	-	26

PARK INVENTORY

Cedar Hill's extensive and diverse parks and recreation system requires a detailed and accurate inventory to address potential gaps and ensure that existing properties meet community needs. **Table 2.2** (pages 22 - 27) provides a comprehensive inventory of Cedar Hill's park system and its amenities.

PARTNERSHIPS & MANAGEMENT

The following pages include an inventory of all park properties in the City, including those owned by other entities. Understanding the relationship between outside entities as it relates to the park system is important to consider due to the many benefits that can come from well-maintained partnerships. Some of the largest parks in Cedar Hill are not owned or managed by the City.

Cedar Hill State Park is owned and managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The park features 350 developed campsites, 1,200 acres of trails, lakeside access, and an Agricultural History Center.

The Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, another popular regional park, is owned and managed by the National Audubon Society. This center is connected to an expansive greenbelt with 200+ acres of forested habitat.

Cedar Ridge Nature Preserve is owned by the Dallas Audubon and located primarily in the City of Dallas, with 73.8 acres of the preserve located in Cedar Hill. Additionally, both Lester Lorch Park and Cedar Mountain Nature Preserve are owned by Dallas County but managed by the City. Lester Lorch Park was the first preserve in the County's open space system offering 82 acres of meadows with two disc golf courses.

Cedar Hill also has two leased parks (Pioneer Park and Parkerville Park) and two HOA parks (Stonehill HOA Park and Ridge View Park).

TABLE 2.2 | CEDAR HILL PARK INVENTORY

Facility	Address	Acres	Baseball/Softball Field (#)	Soccer/Cricket Field (#)	Football Field (#)	Multipurpose Practice Field (#)	Basketball Court (#)	Tennis Court (#)	Volleyball Court (#)	Pickleball Court (#)	Concession Stand (#)	Recreation Center (#)
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS (CONT.)												
Kingswood Park	1528 Sharon Dr	12.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liberty Park	301 Capricorn Dr	6.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Longhorn Park	425 E. Parkerville Rd	8.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meadows Park	1563 Hamilton Rd	3.0	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Prairie View Park	2600 Prairie View Blvd	6.6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ramsey Park	1313 High Pointe Ln	6.0	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	-
Ridge View Park*	1150 Lake Ridge Pkwy	15.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stonehill HOA Park*	Boulder Dr & Quartzite St	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stonehill Park	4 Stone Meadow Way	17.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Waterford Oaks Park	320 N. Waterford Oaks Dr	6.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wildwood Park	2415 S. Lakeview Dr	5.6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Windsor Park	200 Lakeside Dr	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
POCKET PARKS												
Pioneer Park	600 Cedar St	.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LINEAR PARKS/TRAILS												
Red Oak Creek Trail	-	4.7	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Balcones Trail	-	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Clark Road Trail	-	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lake Ridge Trail	-	5.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Indicates this property is not City-owned

**Includes indoor amenities

Fishing Pier (#)	Swimming Pool (#)	Splash Pad (#)	Amphitheater (#)	Walking/Biking Trail (miles)	Disc Golf (#)	Playground (#)	Horseshoe Pits (#)	Table/Picnic Table (#)	BBQ Grill (#)	Picnic Shelter/Pavilion (#)	Restroom (#)	Parking (#)
-	-	-	-	0.3	-	1	-	3	1	1	-	10
-	-	-	-	0.2	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-
-	-	-	-	0.5	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	10
-	-	-	-	0.2	-	1	-	3	1	1	-	-
-	-	-	-	0.12	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	11
-	-	-	-	0.3	-	1	-	9	4	1	-	13
-	-	-	-	0.5	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	8
-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	3	2	1	-	-
-	-	-	-	0.25	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	11
-	-	-	-	0.3	-	1	-	5	1	1	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	3.2	-	1	-	3	1	1	-	-
-	-	-	-	1.37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	1.21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	3.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

PARK SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS

Among the park system's unique offerings, a number of properties stand out for their distinctive features, each supporting the diverse needs of the community.

VALLEY RIDGE PARK

Valley Ridge Park is the only Regional Park that is fully owned and operated by the City. This park is a key component in the success of the overall park system and provides a wide range of active recreation opportunities for the community. Often the location for large sports tournaments and public events, Valley Ridge Park attracts residents as well as visitors from the surrounding area.

PIONEER PARK

Pioneer Park is the only pocket park in the City. This park is also unique in location and function as an urban plaza in Historic Downtown.

SIGNATURE PARK

Signature Park is the most recent addition to the park system in Cedar Hill. Co-located with the Traphene Hickman Public Library, this park supports a positive relationship between the built and natural environment, providing valuable programming opportunities and a variety of scenic areas to enjoy nature.

UNDEVELOPED PARKS

Several parks listed in the inventory are recent acquisitions or remain undeveloped and currently inaccessible to the public. These include along with properties such as Singleton, Willis, Weaver/Joe Wilson, Stone Hill Park, Balcones Ranch, and Addison Hills. The last two are identified for future parkland, their status varies based on ownership and parkland dedication and development requirements.

TABLE 2.2 | CEDAR HILL PARK INVENTORY

Facility	Address	Acres	Baseball/Softball Field (#)	Soccer/Cricket Field (#)	Football Field (#)	Multipurpose Practice Field (#)	Basketball Court (#)	Tennis Court (#)	Volleyball Court (#)	Pickleball Court (#)	Concession Stand (#)	Recreation Center (#)
LINEAR PARKS/TRAILS (CONT.)												
Pleasant Run Trail	-	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mansfield Road Trail	-	3.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Trails Greenbelt	940 Black Walnut Trail	15.0	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wooded Creek Greenbelt	955 Wooded Creek Dr.	7.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GREENBELTS & NATURAL AREAS												
Waterford Oaks East Greenbelt	320 N. Waterford Oaks Dr.	6.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
David Rush Park	Waterford Oaks East	8.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Windmill Hill Greenbelt	1310 Watercourse Way	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Hills Greenbelt	1109 S. Clark Rd.	6.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calabria Nature Preserve	750 W. FM 1382	51.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Singleton Preserve	1111 E. FM 1382	30.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Willis Property	1175 S. Joe Wilson	122.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regional Detention Facility	775 N. Cedar Hill Rd.	18.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balcones Ranch	-	131.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Addison Hills	1780 Duncanville Rd	11.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weaver/Joe Wilson	Weaver St & Joe Wilson Rd	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SPECIAL USE PARKS												
Crawford's Tornado Graveyard	700 N. Cedar Hill Rd	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mt. Lebanon Camp & Conference Center*	1701 Texas Plume Rd	526.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		3770.4	23	14	3	7	10	6	4	10	7	1

*Indicates this property is not City-owned

**Includes indoor amenities

Fishing Pier (#)	Swimming Pool (#)	Splash Pad (#)	Amphitheater (#)	Walking/Biking Trail (miles)	Disc Golf (#)	Playground (#)	Horseshoe Pits (#)	Table/Picnic Table (#)	BBQ Grill (#)	Picnic Shelter/Pavilion (#)	Restroom (#)	Parking (#)
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-
-	-	-	-	0.57	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-
-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1	1	3	60.1	3	26	0	678	419	30	49	2597

GENERAL AMENITY GUIDELINES

A comprehensive needs assessment of the amenities present in the park system is detailed in **Chapter 3**. However, the NRPA provides general quantity guidelines for some standard amenities, which are listed below:

- Picnic Tables
 - 2 per acre
- Restrooms
 - Regional Parks - 2 to 3
 - Community Parks - 1
 - Neighborhood Parks - Optional
 - Pocket Parks - None
- Parking
 - Regional Parks - 250+ spaces
 - Community Parks - 10 to 15 spaces
 - Neighborhood & Pocket Parks - On-street

In general, Cedar Hill meets the guidelines outlined above. These guidelines are general benchmarks intended to inform potential needs across different parks. As the City develops more parks and enhances existing ones, it will be necessary to apply individual discretion to address the unique needs and circumstances of each park and the system as a whole.



TRAILS NETWORK

In Cedar Hill, trails with additional greenspace or amenities are categorized as parks under either the Linear Parks & Trails category or the Greenbelts & Natural Areas category. In addition to these, there are many other trails and pathways throughout the city's park system. Many of the trails in Cedar Hill are 10 to 12-foot wide, concrete paths that support multi-modal options. Soft-surface trails are also included in this inventory, which have a lower impact on the environment and can connect users to natural and undeveloped areas. It is crucial to consider these trails and pathways both individually and collectively to ensure that they provide walkable connections within and between park properties. The trail system in Cedar Hill is shown in **Figure 2.2** on the next page.

TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

All trails in the city have been classified as either a Core Trail or a Secondary Trail. By classifying trails into these categories, a parks and recreation master plan can effectively prioritize development, ensure appropriate resource allocation, and provide a cohesive and accessible trail system for various users.



CORE TRAILS

These trails are the primary, high-use trails within a park or connecting recreation areas. They form the backbone of the local trail network and are designed to accommodate high volumes of users. Core Trails are further designated based on the previous plan to address different directional gaps.



SECONDARY TRAILS

Trails in this category are internal trails or supportive routes that supplement core trails by providing additional recreational opportunities and access. They typically handle moderate use and connect smaller or less central areas.

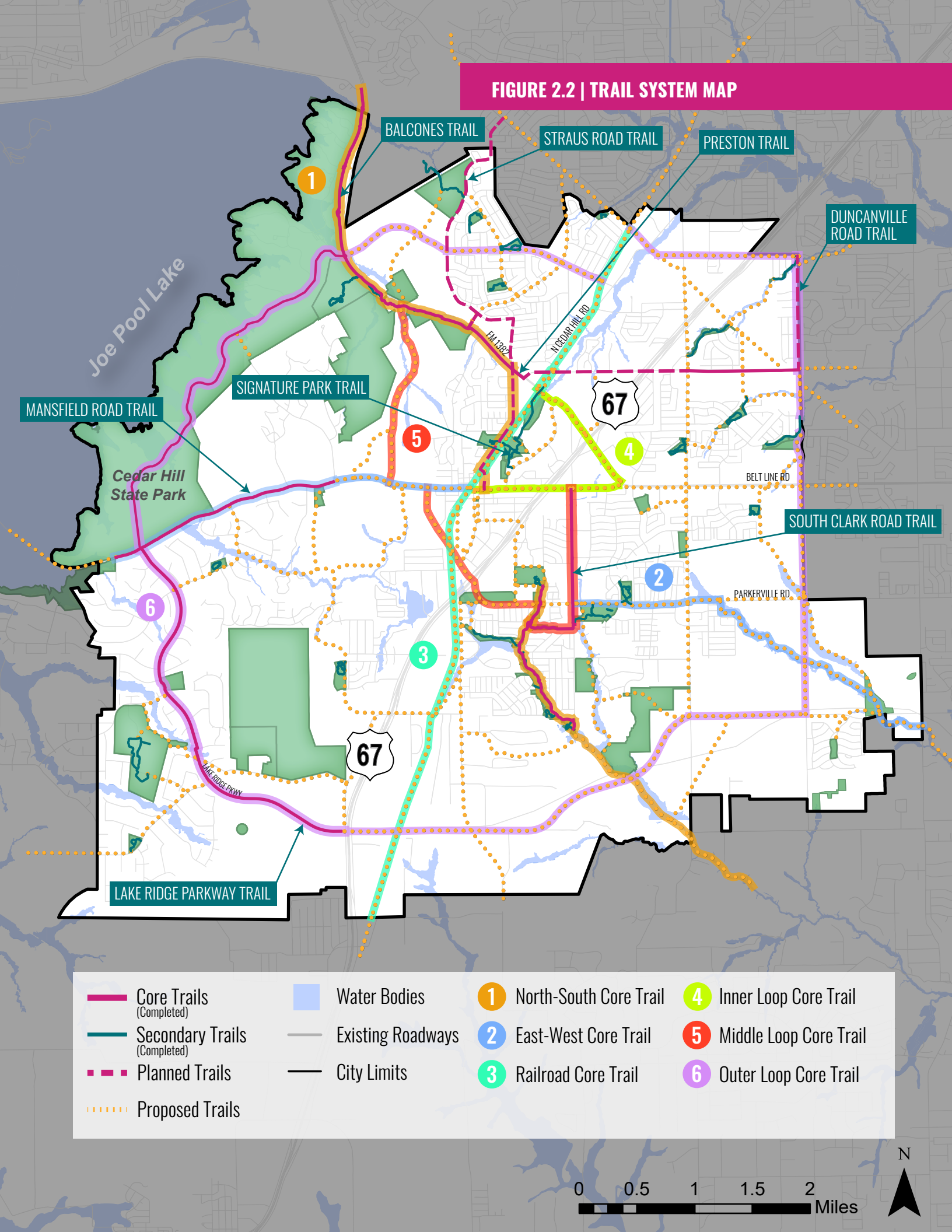
RECENT IMPROVEMENTS & FUTURE TRAILS

The City is actively working to create additional trails that improve pedestrian access to recreation opportunities and to connect to other regional trails. A regional trail, or inter-city trail, is a long-distance trail that connects multiple communities, forming part of a larger network that extends beyond a single municipality. These trails support regional mobility, recreation, and tourism while linking key destinations such as parks, downtowns, and natural areas.

A number of trails were proposed by the previous plan illustrated in **Figure 2.2**. The core trails system, represented on the map by numbers 1 through 6, continues to be a top priority for the city of Cedar Hill. Since the 2019 plan update, the City has completed a number of projects aimed to improve and extend existing trails. Currently, efforts are focused on planning and designing two segments along Straus Road and Duncanville Road.

TABLE 2.3 TRAIL SYSTEM UPDATES (SINCE 2019)	
Project	Status
Balcones Trail	Completed
Preston Trail	Completed
South Clark Road Trail	Completed
Signature Park Trail	Completed
Straus Road Trail	Planning Stage
Duncanville Road Trail	Planning Stage

FIGURE 2.2 | TRAIL SYSTEM MAP



- Core Trails
(Completed)
- Secondary Trails
(Completed)
- - - Planned Trails
- ⋯ Proposed Trails

- Water Bodies
- Existing Roadways
- City Limits

- 1 North-South Core Trail
- 2 East-West Core Trail
- 3 Railroad Core Trail
- 4 Inner Loop Core Trail
- 5 Middle Loop Core Trail
- 6 Outer Loop Core Trail

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



INCREASING ACCESS TO PARKS & TRAILS

In order to meet the needs of the growing community, it's vital for the City to continuously identify and pursue additional opportunities for parks and trails. It will be important to take a closer look at the park system in order to understand the types of park and recreation opportunities that will address more specific gaps in access and provide a level of service that exceeds national standards.

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) provides metrics on how specific park classifications serve the community. For example, according to the NRPA, neighborhood parks are typically accessible to populations that are in a quarter to half mile radius. Community parks typically serve a larger population, within a 1 to 2 mile radius. **Figure 2.3** (pg.31) and **Figure 2.4** (pg. 33) serve to illustrate these service areas and highlight potential areas or neighborhoods that do not have adequate access to neighborhood or residential parks.

IDENTIFYING GAPS IN PARKLAND

The NRPA has established level of service (LOS) benchmarks for parkland and amenities so that parks and recreation departments nationwide can assess their parkland per capita compared to peer cities and national averages. These benchmarks have been adapted to fit Cedar Hill's capacity and aspirations, and used to evaluate the park system. **Table 2.4** (pg. 30) and **Table 2.5** (pg. 32) outline Cedar Hill's LOS of parkland acreage, while an LOS assessment of the park facilities can be found in **Chapter 3**.

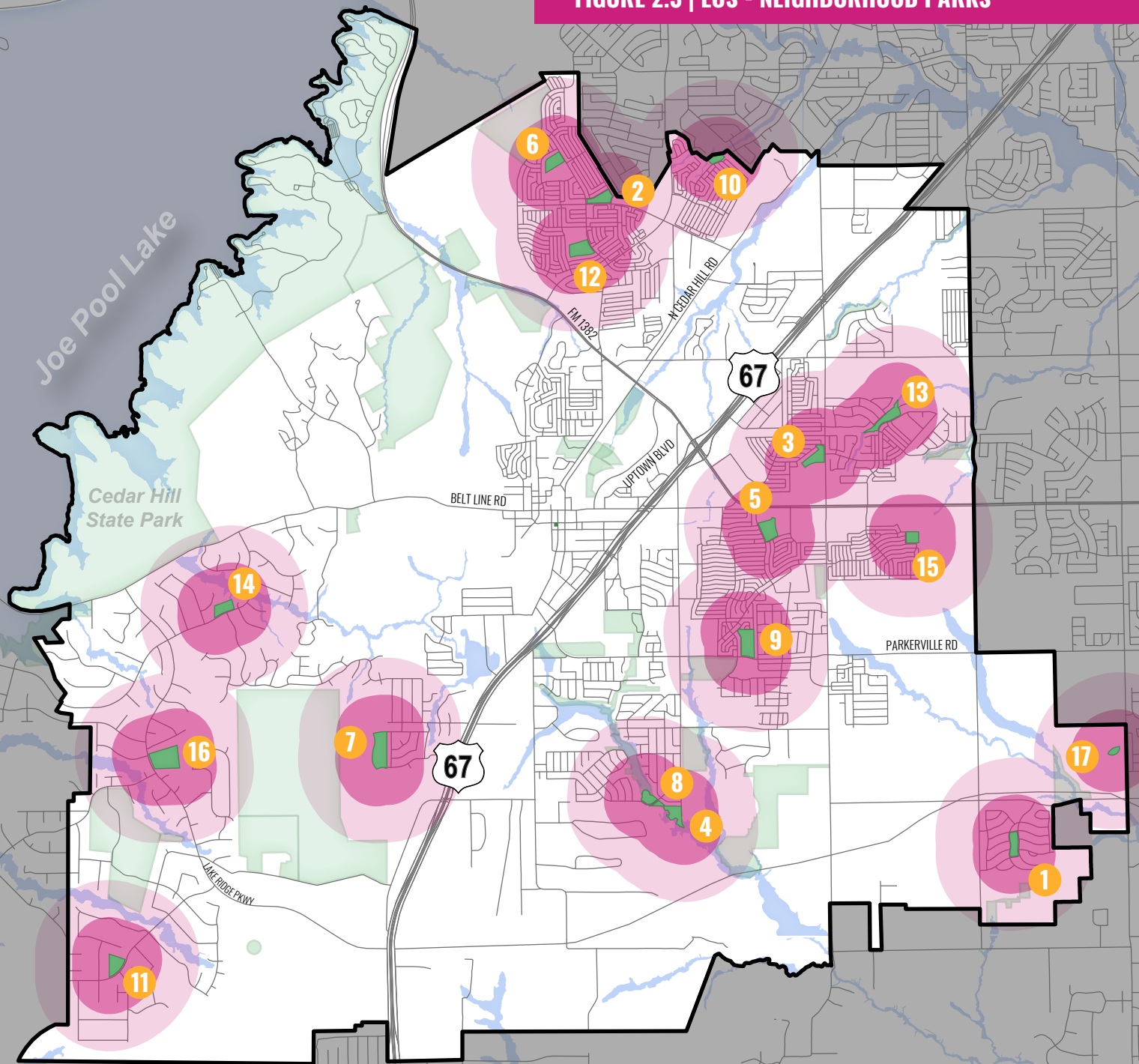
Currently, Cedar Hill's park system aligns with or exceeds the national averages for park acreage, both in total and within individual park classifications. It is important to note that while parks exceed averages today, they may not meet future demand as the city grows.



TABLE 2.4 EXISTING PARKLAND LOS (2024) POPULATION: 49,148					
Park Classification	Existing Acreage	Current LOS (Acres per 1,000 residents)	Recommended LOS (Acres per 1,000 residents)	Recommended Acreage	Surplus or Deficit (2024)
Regional	2562.4	52.14	5 to 8	245 to 392	Surplus
Community	103.1	2.10	2 to 5	98 to 245	-
Neighborhood	135.3	2.75	1 to 2	49 to 98	Surplus
Total*	3770.4	76.72	10 to 25	489 to 1,225	Surplus

*Total listed acreage includes Pocket Parks, Special Use Parks, Linear Parks & Trails, and Greenbelts & Natural Areas

FIGURE 2.3 | LOS - NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Bear Creek Park | 7 Kingswood Park | 13 Waterford Oaks Park | 1/4 Mile Neighborhood Park |
| 2 Bradford Park | 8 Liberty Park | 14 Wildwood Park | 1/2 Mile Neighborhood Park |
| 3 Calf Pasture Park | 9 Longhorn Park | 15 Windsor Park | Existing Parkland |
| 4 Dot Thomas Park | 10 Meadows Park | 16 Ridge View Park | Water Bodies |
| 5 Highlands South Park | 11 Prairie View Park | 17 Stonehill HOA Park | Existing Roadways |
| 6 J. W. Williams Park | 12 Ramsey Park | | City Limits |

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

N

FUTURE GAPS IN PARKLAND

In order to address future needs, the same LOS assessment was completed using the City's 2040 population projection numbers from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). With an anticipated increase of almost 10,000 people over the next fifteen years, and an increase in associated needs for additional acreage, the City will be at a deficit for Community Parks. **Figure 2.4** can be used to identify underserved areas that would benefit from additional Community parkland as the City works to meet future demand.

TABLE 2.5 FUTURE PARKLAND LOS (2040) POPULATION: 58,553					
Park Classification	Existing Acreage	Future LOS (Acres per 1,000 residents)	Recommended LOS (Acres per 1,000 residents)	Recommended Acreage	Surplus or Deficit (2040)
Regional	2562.4	43.76	5 to 8	268 to 429	Surplus
Community	103.1	1.76	2 to 5	107 to 268	Deficit
Neighborhood	135.3	2.31	1 to 2	54 to 107	Surplus
Total*	3770.4	64.39	10 to 25	536 to 1,341	Surplus

*Total listed acreage includes Pocket Parks, Special Use Parks, Linear Parks & Trails, and Greenbelts & Natural Areas

PRIORITIZING GREENSPACE

One of the major priorities for the community of Cedar Hill is environmental stewardship and increasing connections to nature. Despite generally exceeding national standards, Cedar Hill is still working towards its unique goal of achieving 25% of land designated as parks and open space. At the time of this Plan's creation, the City is made up of 16.4% parks and open space.

In order to maintain progress toward this goal, the City will not only need to prioritize additional parkland acquisitions, but also work to preserve and acquire more of the existing green and open space within the City including institutional spaces and even yard space.

CEDAR HILL STATE PARK & METRICS

Due to the size of Cedar Hill State Park, conclusions drawn from spatial analyses can be skewed. Throughout the process, many have wondered, how would we stack up without the State Park's contribution?

In the context of achieving 25% open space, removing the State Park drops the open space percentage from 16.4% to 8.46%, illustrating the vast size of the park compared to the rest of the properties in Cedar Hill.

The LOS for Regional parks without the State Park is 14.9 acres per 1,000 residents, compared to 52.14 acres per 1,000 residents with the park included. **Even without the State Park acreage included, the City is still at a surplus based on national standards.**

FIGURE 2.4 | LOS MAP - COMMUNITY PARKS

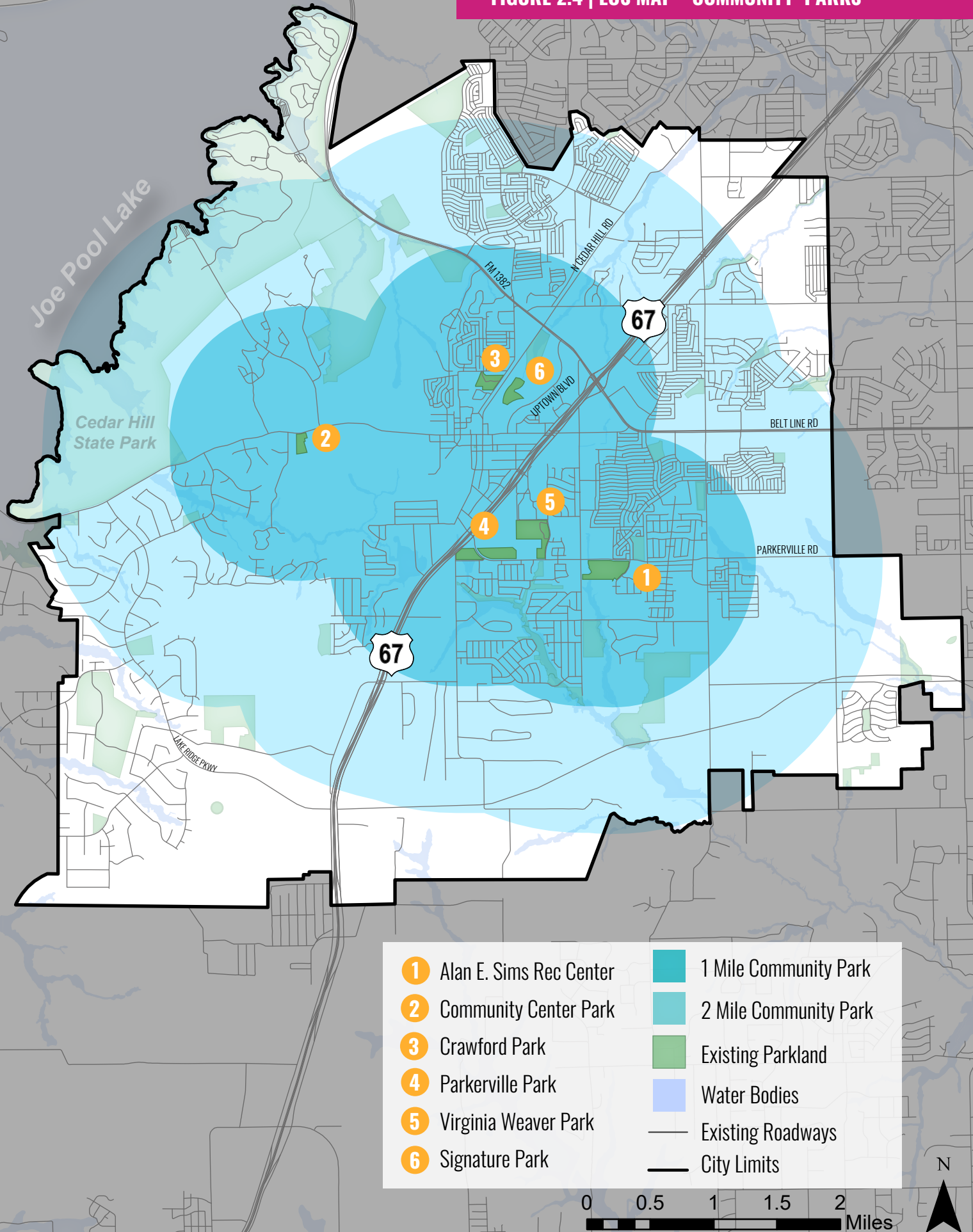
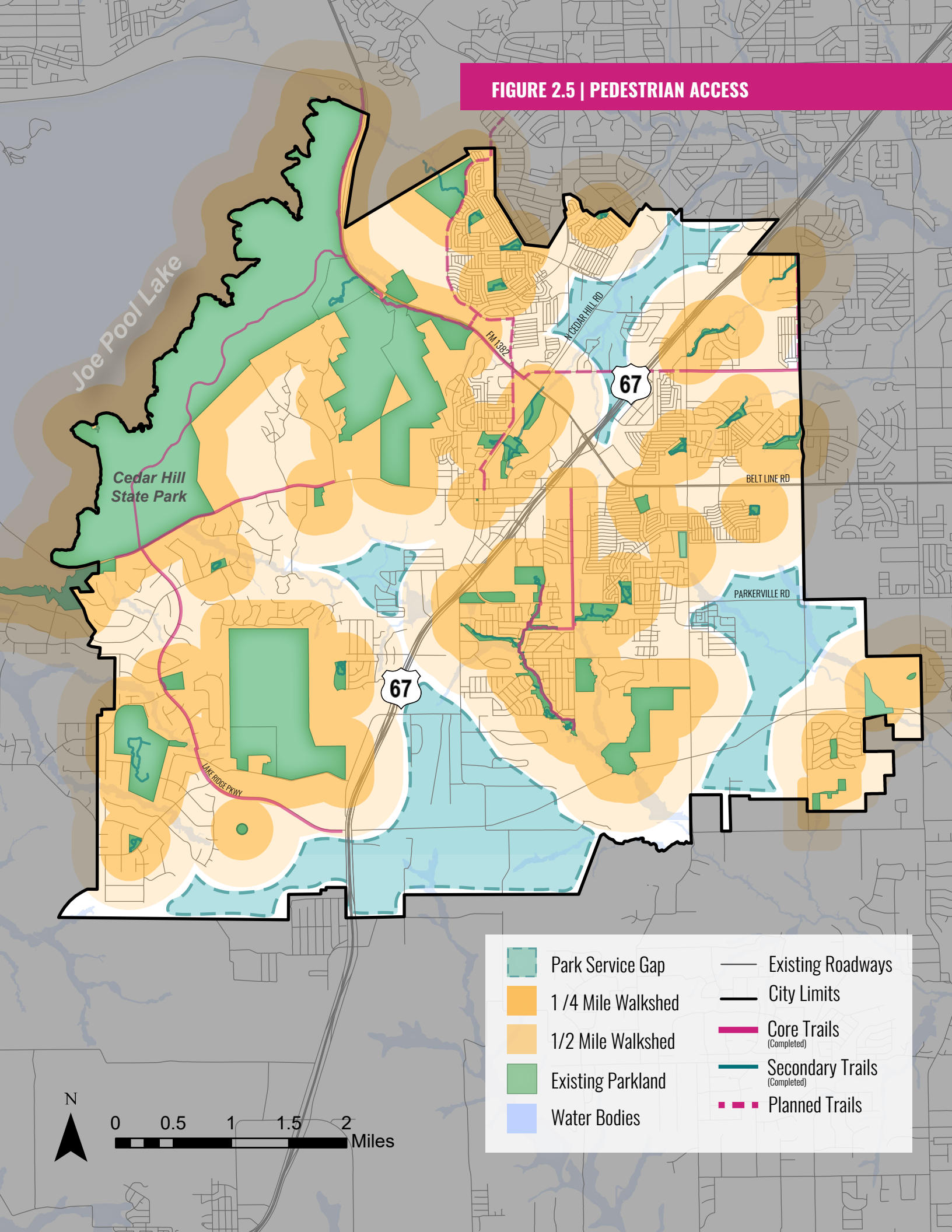












FIGURE 2.5 | PEDESTRIAN ACCESS



- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|---------------------------------|
|  | Park Service Gap |  | Existing Roadways |
|  | 1 / 4 Mile Walkshed |  | City Limits |
|  | 1/2 Mile Walkshed |  | Core Trails
(Completed) |
|  | Existing Parkland |  | Secondary Trails
(Completed) |
|  | Water Bodies |  | Planned Trails |

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

Ensuring that all people have walkable access to a park near their home is essential to creating an equitable park system. Many communities have committed to increasing park access through the Trust for Public Land's 10-Minute Walk Initiative. The 10-minute walk metric—equivalent to approximately a quarter to a half-mile for an able-bodied person—is the average distance most people are willing to walk to reach a destination. This standard helps us examine the number of opportunities and resources a person has close to home. Safe access and quality spaces are central to achieving park equity. **Figure 2.5** illustrates pedestrian access to the park system based on a 10-minute walkshed and highlights areas outside of that range.

Currently, parks and neighborhoods in the southeast portion of the city limits are experiencing the largest gaps in pedestrian access, as well as smaller areas along North Cedar Hill Road and the southern portion of Highway 67. Future planning should consider additional connections, including linking parks to downtown, extending southward, and bridging the trail from Dot Thomas Park to the newly acquired Willis Park. Additional considerations include connections to Bear Creek Road and an extension along Belt Line Road to the east into Desoto.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

Cedar Hill has done a commendable job balancing the distribution of parks and trails, but as new developments emerge and the community grows, additional opportunities will be required to meet future demand. While a majority of the city currently has access to community parks, there are significant gaps in access to neighborhood parks, particularly in areas that lack pedestrian access to nearby parks and trails. The recent addition of Signature Park and the trail adjacent to the Traphene Hickman Public Library demonstrates how improving connectivity can enhance access to green spaces and provide new recreational opportunities for residents.

Due to recent development in the area, the City would benefit from enhancing and adding more connections to downtown, as well as to Mansfield. Other recommended improvements include re-prioritizing Straus Road and Pleasant Run/Duncanville Trails as key connectors, as well as re-prioritizing Uptown Blvd Trail as part of the inner trail loop to provide seamless connection to Signature Park. These trails will close gaps in the trail network, enhancing connectivity between parks, downtown, and the Balcones Trail, as well as the Cedar Trail Greenbelt.

Re-prioritization will also create new mobility options and offer greater recreational opportunities for residents.

While Cedar Hill offers specialized amenities such as The Lagoon at Virginia Weaver Park, there is potential to expand special-use parks. Currently, the city has only two special-use parks: a historic cemetery and Mt. Lebanon Camp, a privately owned campground and retreat. Community feedback indicates strong demand for specialized parks, such as skate parks, interactive parks, and all-ability parks. Expanding specialized parks could better address the diverse recreational needs of the city's growing population.

The community would benefit from additional pocket parks, with Pioneer Park in Historic Downtown as the city's only example. Located in Historic Downtown, serving as an urban plaza, it highlights how pocket parks offer valuable recreational space in dense areas. Expanding these parks would improve green space access and outdoor opportunities.





3

RECREATION

OUR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Recreation is a vital element of community life, providing individuals and families with opportunities to engage in physical, social, and cultural activities that promote well-being and quality of life. In a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, recreation encompasses a wide range of activities and programs, from organized sports to leisure pursuits. Well-designed recreational spaces and programs support health, wellness, and social connections within the community, while also encouraging lifelong learning and creativity. This chapter explores the recreation facilities and programming in Cedar Hill, highlighting how strategic planning can ensure equitable access to recreational opportunities for all residents.

FACILITIES

The City of Cedar Hill owns and operates a host of facilities that include indoor and outdoor recreation structures and amenities. Recreational facilities such as parks, trails, pools, sports fields, recreation and senior centers, support a wide range of passive and active recreation opportunities. This chapter reviews and explores existing facility conditions, the community's demand for certain facilities, and targeted levels of service for recreation facilities.

PROGRAMS

The Parks and Recreation Department oversees and supports over 90 special events that cater to various age groups and interests. As the City grows and changes, a priority for the Parks and Recreation Department will be to understand the needs of the community and work to offer programs that facilitate those needs. In addition to facilities, this chapter reviews community demand for recreational programs and the variety of recreational programs available for residents.



“I GREW UP IN CEDAR HILL... I HAVE THE BEST MEMORIES OF PLAYING SOFTBALL [AT THE PARK]”

- Survey Respondent

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

NEEDS & PRIORITIES

As part of the planning process, a statistically valid community survey was conducted to assess the importance of over 27 specific recreational facilities (indoor and outdoor) and to identify the most needed or desired amenities. Residents highlighted several park and recreation facilities based on their needs and priorities. The facilities with the highest **unmet needs** included an indoor recreation center, event picnic pavilions, and an indoor pool/aquatic facility. When considering **overall importance**, residents ranked an indoor pool/aquatic facility, dog park, all-ability or adaptive playgrounds, and event picnic pavilions as their top choices.

By combining **unmet needs** and **importance** using the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the highest-priority facilities for investment emerged as an indoor pool/aquatic facility, a dog park, an indoor court facility, event picnic pavilions, art centers/studios, historic museums, pickleball courts, and outdoor exercise courses. These priorities underscore a strong community demand for recreational spaces that promote inclusivity, cultural engagement, and diverse activities.

Feedback from the in-person community meeting strongly aligns with the survey results, reinforcing the shared community desire for additional indoor facilities and spaces. Among the ideas presented in the survey, the most popular options included an indoor playground, an e-sports room, and expanded fitness and teen spaces. These preferences indicate a clear need for modern, multi-generational indoor spaces designed to serve a wide range of age groups and interests.

The community's programming interests include demand for arts and culture programs, nature education, and fitness classes, further emphasizing the need for versatile indoor facilities.

These activities require dedicated, climate-controlled spaces to support year-round use, highlighting the importance of investing in adaptable indoor environments that meet the diverse needs of residents.

HIGH PRIORITY INVESTMENTS

Parks & Recreation Community Survey (2024)



**INDOOR
AQUATIC
FACILITY**



**ART CENTERS/
STUDIOS**



**DOG
PARK**



**HISTORIC
MUSEUMS**



**INDOOR
COURT
FACILITY**



**PICKLEBALL
COURTS**



**EVENT PICNIC
PAVILIONS**



**OUTDOOR
EXERCISE
COURSES**

INCLUSIVE RECREATION

Also known as adaptive or accessible recreation, inclusive recreation provides individuals with disabilities the opportunity to participate in recreational activities. This can be accomplished with modifications to equipment, adaptations, or support if needed. Examples of adaptation include reduced noise levels, providing accessible equipment, or providing assistive devices. By creating an inclusive environment, the City can foster connections and encourage friendships between all individuals regardless of ability.

FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)

COMMUNITY COMPARISON

The Recreational Facility Level of Service (LOS) Comparison table compares Cedar Hill's provision of recreational facilities to other park systems. It includes comparisons to two categories:

1. All agencies participating in the NRPA's Park Metrics database, and
2. Communities with a similar population size (50,000 – 99,999).

The 50,000–99,999 population range from NRPA was used because Cedar Hill's population is nearing the 50,000 benchmark, and anticipated near-term growth supports utilizing the next population range for planning purposes.

The Facility LOS for Cedar Hill is calculated by determining how many people in the community each existing facility serves. Because cities vary in size, demographics, geography, and economics, the results in the table should not be viewed as definitive comparisons. However, **Table 3.1** serves as a useful guide when assessing Cedar Hill's need for additional facilities.

In almost all facility types, Cedar Hill performs better than the communities in the comparison. However, the table also highlights areas where Cedar Hill may need to invest in additional special facilities, such as a skate park or dog park.

TABLE 3.1 | RECREATIONAL FACILITY LOS COMPARISON*

FACILITY	CURRENT # OF FACILITIES	CEDAR HILL LOS (FACILITY PER # OF PEOPLE)	AVERAGE LOS - ALL COMMUNITIES (FACILITY PER # OF PEOPLE)	AVERAGE LOS - POPULATION: 50,000 TO 99,999 (FACILITY PER # OF PEOPLE)
Recreation Center	1	1 per 49,148	1 per 32,786	1 per 39,886
Senior Center	1	1 per 49,148	1 per 62,201	1 per 67,190
Diamond Fields (Baseball, Softball)	23	1 per 2,137	1 per 4,063	1 per 3,675
Multipurpose Practice Fields	23	1 per 2,137	1 per 5,000	1 per 4,070
Basketball Courts	10	1 per 4,915	1 per 8,000	1 per 8,790
Pickleball Courts	10	1 per 4,915	1 per 13,922	1 per 11,150
Tennis Courts	6	1 per 8,191	1 per 6,003	1 per 5,865
Multipurpose Courts (Indoor)	4	1 per 12,287	1 per 17,475	1 per 22,960
Disc Golf Courses	3	1 per 16,383	1 per 76,780	1 per 35,000
Swimming Pools	1	1 per 49,148	1 per 38,365	1 per 43,100
Splash Pad	0	0 per 49,148	1 per 54,010	1 per 54,100
Playground Units	26	1 per 1,890	1 per 3,750	1 per 3,707
Skate Park	0	0 per 49,148	1 per 54,750	1 per 60,904
Dog Park	0	0 per 49,148	1 per 46,917	1 per 55,135
Community Gardens	2	1 per 24,547	1 per 34,105	1 per 56,150

Source: NRPA Performance Agency Review, 2024

*Current Population: 49,148

FUTURE FACILITY LOS

The metrics for Facility LOS were determined by cross-referencing the NRPA's national averages with data from park systems in cities of similar population sizes. Recommended Facility LOS metrics outline the ideal number of people each facility should serve within a community. These metrics are listed in **Table 3.2** below, taking into account both the existing and projected future populations for Cedar Hill.

Currently, the park system is meeting or exceeding demand for all facilities except for football fields and sand volleyball courts. The system has one recreation center and one public pool, which aligns with the national average. However, with Cedar Hill's projected population growth by 2040, additional facilities will be needed to meet future demand.



TABLE 3.2 | RECREATIONAL FACILITY LOS*

FACILITY	CURRENT # OF FACILITIES	CURRENT LOS (FACILITY PER # OF PEOPLE)	FUTURE LOS (FACILITY PER # OF PEOPLE)	RECOMMENDED LOS (FACILITY PER # OF PEOPLE)	FUTURE RECOMMENDED # OF FACILITIES	CURRENT NEED	FUTURE NEED (2040)
Recreation Center	1	1 per 49,148	1 per 58,553	1 per 30,000	2	MET	1
Diamond Fields (Baseball, Softball)	23	1 per 2,137	1 per 2,546	1 per 4,000	13	Surplus	Surplus
Soccer Fields	13	1 per 3,781	1 per 4,504	1 per 5,000	10	Surplus	Surplus
Football Fields	3	1 per 16,383	1 per 19,518	1 per 10,000	5	1	2
Multipurpose Practice Fields	7	1 per 7,021	1 per 8,365	1 per 10,000	5	Surplus	Surplus
Basketball Courts	10	1 per 4,915	1 per 5,855	1 per 8,000	7	Surplus	Surplus
Pickleball Courts	10	1 per 4,915	1 per 5,855	1 per 12,500	4	Surplus	Surplus
Tennis Courts	6	1 per 8,191	1 per 9,759	1 per 15,000	3	Surplus	Surplus
Sand Volleyball Courts	0	-	-	1 per 15,000	4	3	4
Volleyball Courts (Indoor)	4	1 per 12,287	1 per 14,638	1 per 20,000	2	Surplus	Surplus
Disc Golf Courses	3	1 per 16,383	1 per 19,518	1 per 50,000	1	Surplus	Surplus
Swimming Pools	1	1 per 49,148	1 per 58,553	1 per 30,000	2	MET	1
Playground Units	26	1 per 1,890	1 per 2,252	1 per 3,750	14	Surplus	Surplus

Source: NRPA Performance Agency Review, 2024
 *Current Population: 49,148 / 2040 Population: 58,553

PROGRAMMING NEEDS & PRIORITIES

In addition to understanding the needs of residents for parks and facilities, the community survey evaluated the importance of 24 specific recreational programs to identify the most needed or desired programming activities. Respondents highlighted several programs based on their **unmet needs** and **priorities**. The programs with the highest **unmet needs** included free/low-cost community events, adult fitness & wellness classes, and outdoor fitness programs.

When considering **overall importance**, residents ranked adult fitness & wellness classes, free/low-cost community events, cooking classes, and adult art, dance, and performing arts as their top choices.

By combining **unmet needs** and **importance** through the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the highest-priority programs for investment emerged as free/low-cost community events, adult fitness & wellness classes, cooking classes, water fitness classes, outdoor fitness classes and adult art, dance, and performing arts programs. These priorities highlight a strong community demand for recreational programs that promote health, cultural enrichment, and affordable access.

HIGH PRIORITY INVESTMENTS

Parks & Recreation Community Survey (2024)



FREE/LOW-COST EVENTS



WATER FITNESS CLASSES



ADULT FITNESS & WELLNESS CLASSES



OUTDOOR FITNESS PROGRAMS



COOKING CLASSES



ADULT ART, DANCE, & PERFORMING ARTS



TOP RECREATION PROGRAMS

Public Meeting #1 Feedback (2024)



Based on the survey data, the most requested programs were:

- Arts & Culture
- Nature Education
- Fitness Classes
- Swim Lessons
- Youth Sports

Input from the in-person community meeting strongly supported the survey findings, particularly in the areas of program interest and priority, emphasizing a desire for expanded arts, culture, and nature education programs, along with additional fitness opportunities. This alignment between the survey results and community input highlights a shared priority for diverse and inclusive recreational offerings.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS/PROGRAMS

Cedar Hill's Parks and Recreation offers many ways for youth to get active, including several sports associations, primarily focused on beginner leagues, listed below.

- Cedar Hill Soccer Association
- Cedar Hill Basketball Association
- Cedar Hill Girls Softball Association
- Cedar Hill Baseball Association
- Cedar Hill Football Sports League

For adults, there are currently disc golf and baseball leagues available. Athletic fields are available for rent to adult and youth leagues.

AQUATICS

The City of Cedar Hill features a public pool available through purchase of a season pass or daily admission. "The Lagoon" includes a lazy river, slide, play features, and a separate lap pool. The Parks and Recreation Department provides swim lessons occurring in sessions, held several days a week during open season. Additional available aquatic programs include Aqua Zumba and Float & Sound.

NATURE PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

Nature programs and partnerships are a key part of the City of Cedar Hill's community offerings. In addition to Slow Birding, another primary initiative is the annual Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz, held at Signature Park, in collaboration with the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, TPWD, and Dallas County.

Cedar Hill has also been recognized as a Bird City. This is part of its ongoing efforts to protect and enhance bird habitats in conjunction with the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center. The city also participates in the Christmas Bird Count, further cementing its commitment to wildlife preservation and environmental education.

In addition, Cedar Hill has introduced a new four-part series titled "Backyard Nature," which explores topics such as snakes and urban wildlife. These programs reflect Cedar Hill's dedication to fostering a deeper connection between the community and nature.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation offers an impressive array of 92 special events throughout the year, with the department taking the lead on approximately 34 events and providing support for nearly 60 additional events. The busiest months are June and July, featuring 14 and 12 events respectively. During June, Parks led six major events, including the popular Music in the Park series. In July, Parks hosts seven events, encompassing a variety of celebrations for Parks & Recreation Month and the Independence Day pool parties, while providing support for five additional events.

April and May are similarly active, with 10 events each. In April, Parks led six events, such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Arbor Day, compared to only two led in May. The schedule includes multiple variable events like Slow Birding, Bioblitz, and Party in the Parks, which occur as needed and contribute to the overall workload throughout the year. Events can be broadly categorized into the following themes:

- Seasonal & Holiday
- Cultural & Heritage
- Recreational & Fitness
- Environmental & Nature-Focused
- Senior & ADA-Inclusive
- Community Engagement & Service-Oriented Events
- City-Focused

INDOOR RECREATION & PROGRAMMING

The Cedar Hill Parks & Recreation facilities assessed in this planning process include the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center and the Senior Activity Center. Conducted by Barker Rinker Seacat (BRS), a nationally-recognized architecture firm specializing in parks and recreational facilities, the complete results of this assessment are provided in the Indoor Recreation Facility Assessment of the **Appendix**. The following pages provide an overview of the major challenges and opportunities for these facilities.

ALAN E. SIMS RECREATION CENTER

Opened in 2004, the facility has reached a 20-year mark. It is two-stories and approximately 54,000 SF serving a variety of uses and users within the community.

TABLE 3.3 RECREATION CENTER LOS			
FACILITY	2020 POPULATION	SIZE (SF)	LOS (SF PER RESIDENT)
Alan E. Sims Recreation Center	49,148	54,000	1.1

Located centrally in the city on 24.74 acres, the site provides access to the Red Oak Creek Trailhead and 0.6 miles of paved trail. The facility offers various memberships for all ages including an annual, three-month, one-month, or a day pass. Memberships are available to both Cedar Hill residents and non-residents at the same rate.

The building's exterior, including steel framing and cladding, is in good condition with minor wear and staining. Glazing systems show failure and need replacement, with water infiltration issues from improper flashing requiring further action. The roof needs a certified inspection, and minor site issues (e.g., sidewalk cracks) should be addressed. The facility's interior finishes are aging and will require repair, particularly flooring and ceilings. An accessibility assessment is recommended for compliance, and HVAC and roofing systems should be evaluated for future improvements. For a more detailed review, refer to the Indoor Recreation Facility Assessment in the **Appendix**.



THE INDOOR FACILITY ASSESSMENT CONCLUDED THAT “OVERALL, THE FACILITY IS IN GOOD CONDITION AND APPEARS TO BE WELL USED AND LOVED, WITH ISOLATED CONDITIONS REQUIRING NEAR-TERM ATTENTION.”

PROGRAMMING

- **MULTIPURPOSE GYMNASIUMS (2)** — gyms provide the following: Senior Walk, 55+ Basketball, Pickleball, Home School Activities, Open Play, Special Needs Activities, Pre-school play time, Basketball Skills & Drills, Aerobics, 55+ Fitness
- **AEROBICS STUDIO** — AIKIA Karate (American Independent Karate/Kickboxing Instructors Association); Jay's Swing Dance, LP Dance, Yogalates - first come, first served, 40+ Double Dutch, 55+ Fitness, Kickboxing, Forever Young Line Dance, Step Aerobics/Extreme Hip Hop, Yoga, Xtreme Soul Line Dance Advanced, Sparkz Cheer, Theatre Fitness, Xtreme Soul Line Dance 101, Zumba
- **CHILD WATCH BARNYARD/CHILDCARE** — Included in the annual membership
- **LOCKER ROOMS** — Men's & Women's Locker Rooms are equipped with showers, lockers, toilets, sinks, and benches
- **CLASSROOMS/COMMUNITY SPACES** — 5,400 square feet of multi-use space for recreation classes, camps, and rentals such as wedding ceremonies/receptions, bridal showers, birthday parties, baby showers, church gatherings, and other Cedar Hill-sponsored special events
- **ADMINISTRATION, LOBBY, & SUPPORT SPACES** — Large lobby with seating, vending, control desk, and merchandise
- **ADULT FITNESS** — 3,500 square feet space with various strength and cardio equipment and free weights
- **LUNCH CIRCUIT** — First come, first served; 30 minute, total body bootcamp style class that combines body strength training exercises with short bursts of cardio
- **CHAT YOUTH EMPOWERMENT** — Free after school program providing homework help, food, mentorship, arts & crafts, and games; ages 11-16.



- **PIANO CLASSES** — Piano instruction for students
- **TECHNIQUE & TUMBLE** — Acrobatic tumbling skills for dance, cheer or gymnastics
- **ART IS LIFE** — Art and art appreciation
- **SUMMER CAMPS** — Partnership with Cedar Hill Action Team (CHAT). Activities range from arts & crafts, games, gym activities, educational opportunities, and field trips; Available for youth ages 5 – 13.

CEDAR HILL ACTION TEAM (CHAT)

The Cedar Hill Action Team (CHAT) is an initiative formed by service-hearted citizens of Cedar Hill and its surrounding communities. CHAT is committed to determining and providing for the needs of the citizens of Cedar Hill by partnering with the city, police department, school district, and local, state, and national service organizations to help strengthen families and impact lives, young and old, by fostering growth, creating leaders, and empowering people.

SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

The Cedar Hill Senior Activity Center, built in 1967 and expanded twice, is a beloved but aging facility that has reached the end of its useful life. Situated on a 5.9-acre park, it provides basic amenities such as a multipurpose room, arts and crafts space, and staff workspace. However, the center's size and configuration are insufficient to meet the needs of the growing 55+ population, and there is no room for further expansion at the current site.

TABLE 3.4 SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER LOS			
FACILITY	2020 POPULATION	SIZE (SF)	LOS (SF PER RESIDENT)
Cedar Hill Senior Activity Center	49,148	5,280	<1.0

While the building has served its purpose, it is clear that it requires significant repairs and upgrades, and ongoing maintenance will only temporarily address its issues. Given the extent of the building's wear and the substantial investment needed, **the facility can no longer adequately serve its purpose.** Therefore, the city should consider relocating these services to a more modern and functional space to ensure continued, efficient service to the community.

PROGRAM SPACES

- Lobby and Social Lounge Space
- Arts & Crafts
- Multi-activity Room/Dance



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

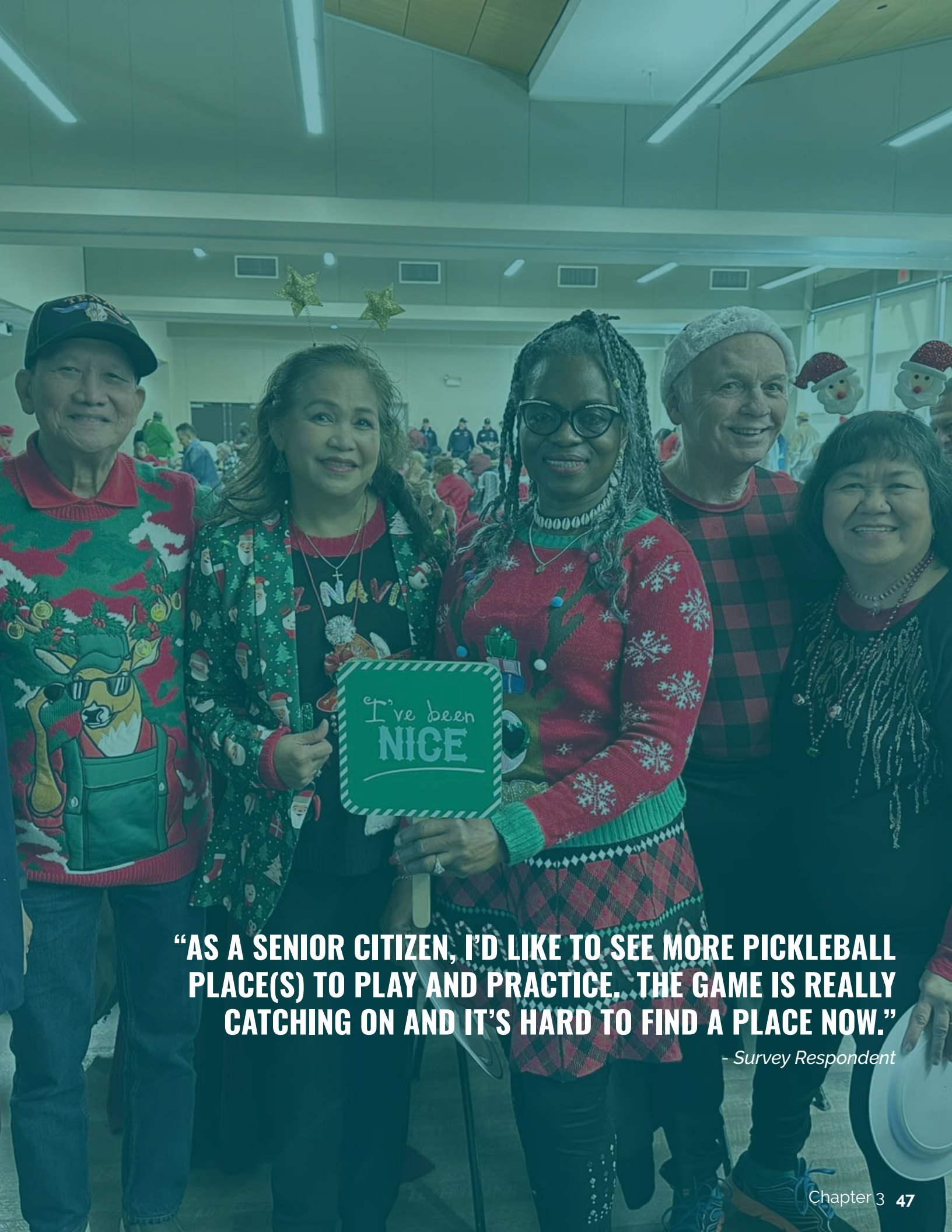
The center provides a diverse range of classes designed to cater to various interests and needs, from wellness programs to social activities. Class sizes are limited to 30 participants, allowing for more personalized engagement and interaction.

In addition to these offerings, an evaluation of the center's level of service highlights the need for more space to enhance programs and facility use. 53% (8,469 households) of survey respondent noted a need for more 55+ fitness and wellness programs. Expanding class availability, adjusting scheduling to meet demand, and exploring new activity options could further enrich the experience for participants.

- Games - Bingo, Social Bridge
- Special Interests - Loom Knitting
- Queen Beaders
- Quilting
- Dance - Country Line Dancing
- Fitness - Chair Volleyball
- Tai Chi for Seniors
- Gold Toning Exercise
- Zumba Gold
- Yoga For Seniors

SENIOR SENATE

Senior Senate is a 501(c)(3) advisory board organized for the benefit of the Cedar Hill Senior Activity Center. Its main function is to raise funds, advise, support, and assist the Senior Activity Center Staff.



“AS A SENIOR CITIZEN, I’D LIKE TO SEE MORE PICKLEBALL PLACE(S) TO PLAY AND PRACTICE. THE GAME IS REALLY CATCHING ON AND IT’S HARD TO FIND A PLACE NOW.”

- Survey Respondent

RECREATION SUMMARY

Cedar Hill's programming aligns with many national trends identified by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) while showcasing unique offerings tailored to its community. Nationally, most agencies prioritize activities that promote health, wellness, equity, and conservation, and Cedar Hill reflects these pillars in its diverse range of programs. For example, NRPA reports that 68% of agencies offer aquatics programming, which aligns with Cedar Hill's recent investment in The Lagoon. Cedar Hill also provides swimming lessons and Aqua Zumba, enhancing accessibility and promoting wellness.

Special events play a central role in Cedar Hill's offerings, with the city hosting 92 events annually—surpassing the national average, where 89% of agencies offer themed events, and 88% provide social recreation events. By combining national best practices with unique local initiatives, Cedar Hill's Parks and Recreation programs effectively meet community needs while emphasizing conservation, health, and inclusive engagement.

Nature programming is another strong focus for both Cedar Hill and national agencies (66% offer natural and cultural history activities). Cedar Hill stands out as a recognized Bird City, one of only ten in Texas, and through its partnerships with organizations like the Dallas County Parks and Open Space Program. There is strong support for initiatives like the Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz and Slow Birding. Programs such as the Christmas Bird Count and the "Backyard Nature" series further highlight the city's dedication to environmental education.

Cedar Hill's athletic programming reflects the national trend of supporting team sports (86%) and fitness activities. Youth leagues in soccer, basketball, and softball are complemented by adult disc golf and baseball leagues. While Cedar Hill mirrors the national focus on inclusivity, it uniquely reserves athletic field rentals for adult leagues, demonstrating a policy tailored to its community's needs.

TABLE 3.5 NRPA PROGRAMMING COMPARISON		
CATEGORY	NRPA DATA*	CEDAR HILL'S FEATURES
Aquatics	68% offer aquatics programming	"The Lagoon" pool with lazy river, slide, lap pool; swim lessons and Aqua Zumba.
Nature & Conservation	66% offer natural and cultural history activities	Bird City recognition, Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz, Christmas Bird Count, "Backyard Nature" series.
Athletics	86% offer team sports; 53% offer running/cycling races	Youth leagues (football, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball); adult leagues (disc golf, baseball).
Special Events	89% offer themed events; 88% offer social recreation events	Hosts 92 annual events, including Music in the Park, Christmas Tree Lighting, and Slow Birding.
Inclusivity	General focus on safe and inclusive spaces	Senior- and ADA-inclusive events explicitly promoted.
Environmental Focus	Partnerships and conservation education	Collaborates with Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center; recognized for bird habitat preservation.
Event Volume	High participation in themed and social events	Leads 34 events and supports 58, exceeding national average participation in diverse event themes.

*Source: NRPA Performance Agency Review, 2024

WHAT WILL WE DO?

This Master Plan outlines key strategies to enhance the long-term success and sustainability of Cedar Hill's facilities, recreational programs, and events. These strategies are designed to address the findings of the assessment and align with the community's needs, preferences, and values.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

ALAN E. SIMS RECREATION CENTER EXPANSION:

- Conduct a feasibility study to determine the best approach for expanding the Alan E. Sims facility. This expansion will include accommodating the relocation of the Senior Activity Center programs and services, focusing on efficient use of space and a phased approach to add a senior expansion wing. For more information on this see the Indoor Recreation Facility Assessment in the **Appendix**.

FACILITY LEVEL OF SERVICE:

- Use level-of-service standards (refer to **Table 3.1** and **Table 3.2** (pages 40-41) as a guide for future recreational facility investments.

SPECIALIZED PARKS & AMENITIES:

- Expand parks with specific purposes, such as a Veteran's memorial park, an all-ability playground, or other specialized amenities.
- Add inclusive and accessible play elements to neighborhood and community parks.
- Naturalize parks with native gardens or landscaping, consider sensory garden elements in existing or new park spaces.
- Develop the first dog park for the city.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING:

- Program Review: Regularly review recreational programs and events using community feedback and Master Plan findings to ensure alignment with current needs.
- Partnerships: Continue to support local partners such as the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, TPWD, ISDs, youth associations, and conservation groups to strengthen programmatic offerings to residents.
- Service Areas: Maintain a flexible inventory of recreational programs to enable continuous updates and improvements to the City's offerings.

NATURAL AREAS:

- Park Planning Role: Create a dedicated position to manage newly acquired parkland and natural areas, focusing on development, preservation, and resource management.
- Continue to preserve natural areas and open space through strategic acquisitions and coordination with City planning and local development projects.





4

ADMINISTRATION

PARKS & RECREATION MANAGEMENT

The administrative and maintenance practices of a parks and recreation agency serve as a determinant to the quality of a city's parks and facilities. A high-level review of the department's practices was performed to provide recommendations to align with agency resources and national best practices.

STAFFING & ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

CORE FUNCTIONS

The Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation Department operates under a vision statement of "Connecting Community through Quality Experiences." The Department's core functions are provided below.

- Administration
- Park Facility Maintenance & Irrigation
- Recreation & Aquatics
- Special Events
- Nature & Open Space

STAFF LEVELS

As of 2024, the Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation Department employs 58.53% (75.18) full-time equivalent (FTE) staff members. **Figure 4.1** and **4.2** provide insight on staff organization in the Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation Department.

- 44 full-time staff (58.53%)
- 13.58 part-time staff (18.06%)
- 17.6 seasonal staff (23.41%)

The Department is overseen by the Parks and Recreation Director, who supports the core functions of the Department through four divisions. This structure offers efficient management of resources and services, facilitating the delivery of quality experiences to the community.

Cedar Hill's current staffing levels may be sufficient to meet demands today, but as the city grows it will need to increase staffing levels to fully meet the demands placed on the department.

The City manages hundreds of acres across the park system with 37.78 maintenance staff. Given the growing service demands and the large park system, additional full-time staff are recommended to ensure the department can effectively maintain the parks and meet operational expectations.

STAFF COMPARED TO RESIDENTS

The Department employs approximately 15.30 staff members for every 10,000 residents (75.18 FTE for a population of 49,148). This figure is at or above the national median for communities of a similar size.

FIGURE 4.1 | PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFFING

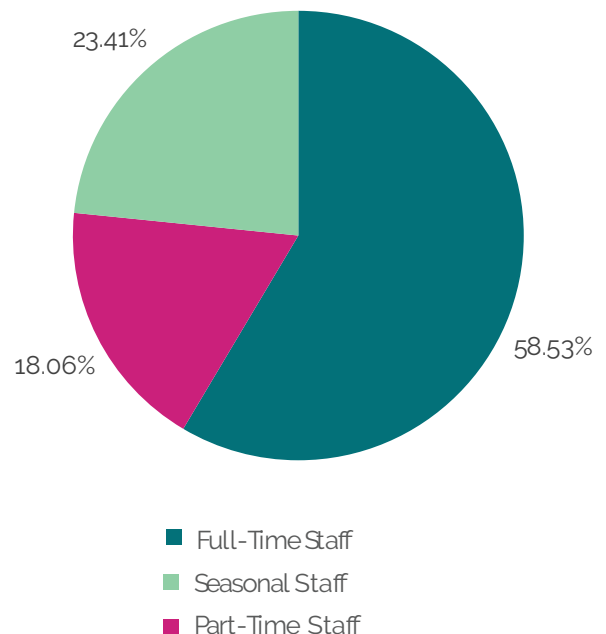
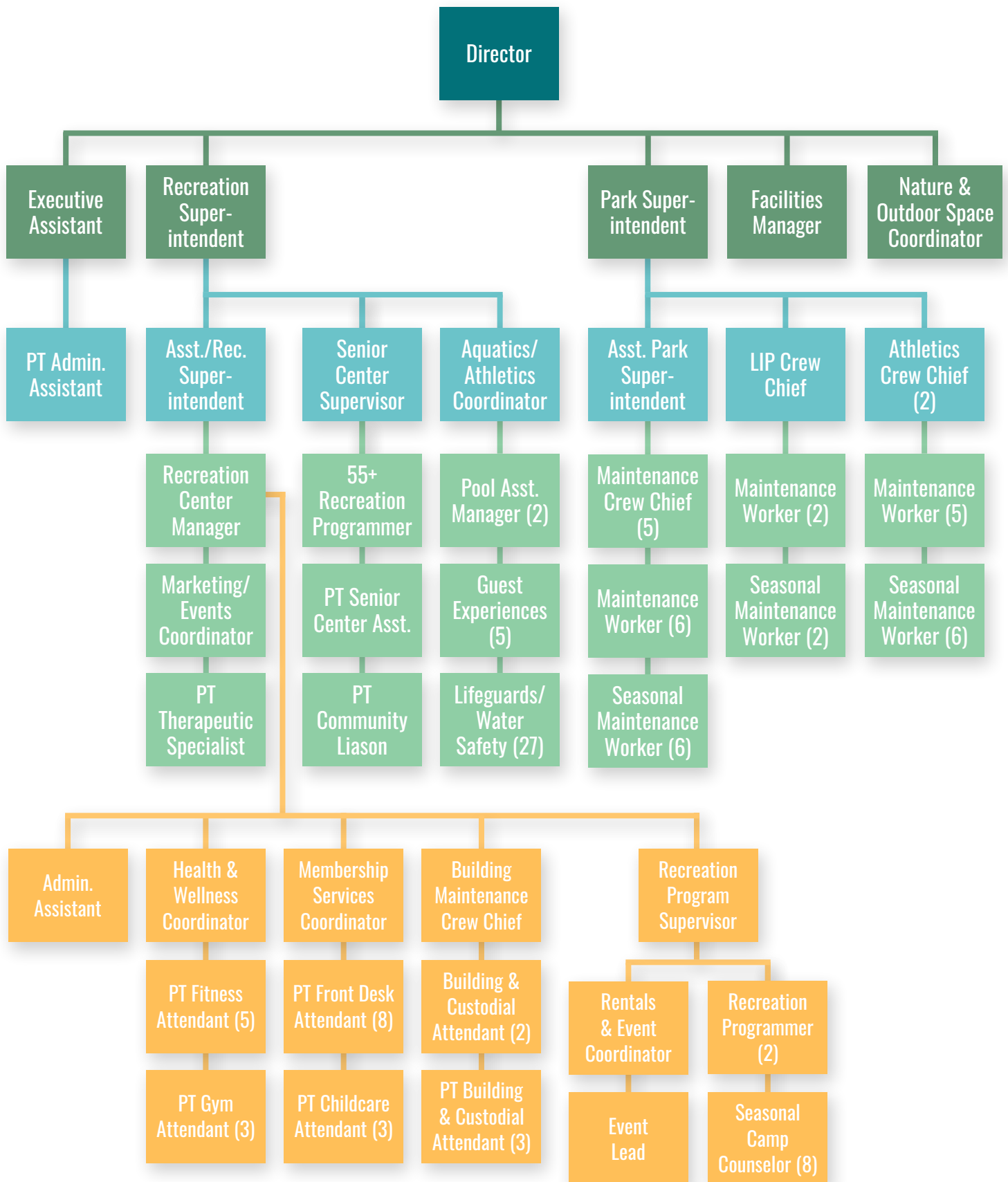


FIGURE 4.2 | CEDAR HILL STAFF ORGANIZATION CHART



PARKS & RECREATION BUDGET

The Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation Department budget for fiscal year 2024 (FY24) totals \$5,350,148. The operating budget is divided into parks budget, recreation budget and capital.

- \$3,620,177 (Maintenance)
- \$1,158,971 (Recreation)
- \$571,000 (Operating Capital Costs)

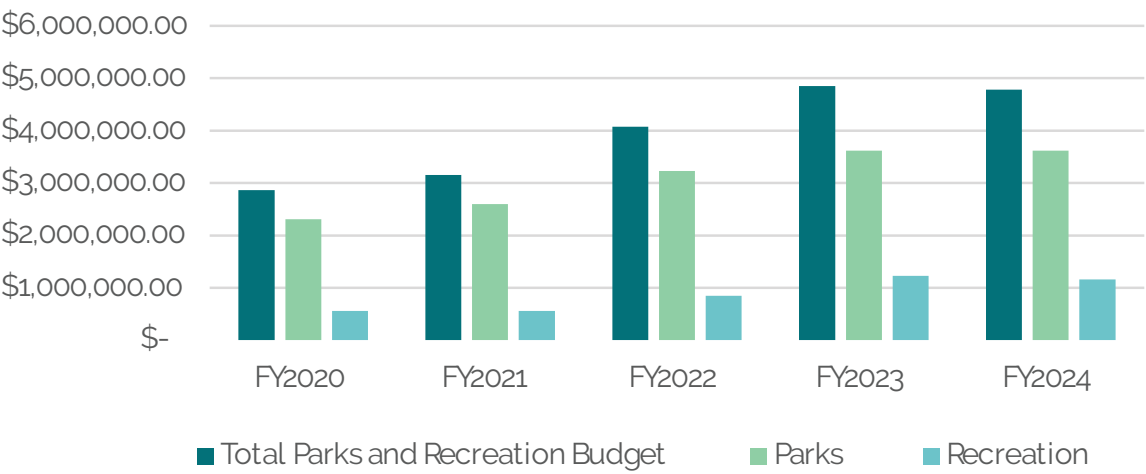
According to the 2024 NRPA park metrics, Cedar Hill's budget is on par with the median for communities of a similar size, sitting on the lower end of the population range, as shown in **Table 4.1**. The Department's operating expenditures for FY24 were \$108.86 per capita—not too far below the median for similar sized communities (\$120.72).

TABLE 4.1 NRPA PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2024 COMPARISON					
	POPULATION	TOTAL ACRES	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL FTES	LEVEL OF SERVICE
CEDAR HILL FY 2024*	49,158	1,947.2	\$5,350,148	75.18	34.45
NRPA 2024	50,000 - 99,999	N/A	\$7,710,000	70.30	10.20

*Total identified from select 2024 Capital Improvements

Demonstrated in **Figure 4.3**, there is a steady increase in the overall Parks and Recreation budget from FY2020 to FY2023, growing from \$2,866,531 in FY2020 to a peak of \$4,848,925 in FY2023. However, in FY2024, there is a slight decrease to \$4,779,148, due to 3% decreases across all citywide departments. Both Parks and Recreation budgets appear to stabilize in FY2024 after several years of growth, aligning with the completion of major initiatives such as the Lagoon and Signature Park. This stabilization suggests a shift toward maintaining and refining existing programs and facilities. However, the city's long-term vision remains ambitious, with the plan calling for continued expansion to meet the goal of conserving 25% of land for parks and open space. While immediate budget priorities may focus on sustainability and efficiency, strategic investments will be necessary to achieve this high standard for parkland dedication and future growth. Overall, this historical budget data shows a period of growth, especially in recreation, followed by a period of stabilization, indicating a maturation of the department's initiatives.

FIGURE 4.3 | PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET



RECREATION BUDGET

The total Recreation budget for FY24 is \$1,158,971 and it includes all parks and recreation staff for the Cedar Hill Senior Activity Center, Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, and The Lagoon at Virginia Weaver Park. Staff are dedicated to serving the Senior Activity Center, as well as the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, athletics, and aquatics. A few noted specialized positions include two staff for Health and Wellness, a marketing and events coordinator, and one membership services coordinator. Due to the seasonal nature of many recreation programs, such as summer camps and events at the The Lagoon, an additional 42 seasonal staff are brought in to support recreation services during the summer months.

FUNDING SOURCES

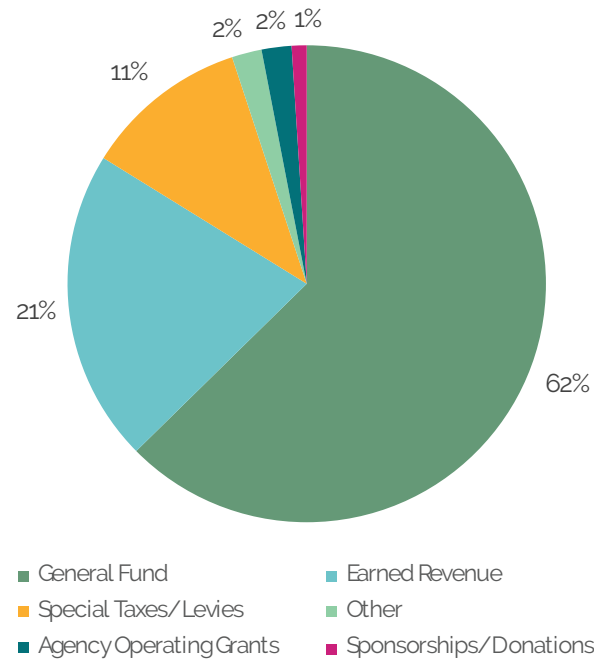
Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation is funded through a diverse range of sources, including general funds, 4B sales tax revenue, park development funds, and general obligation (GO) bonds. The 4B funds support major initiatives such as the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, Valley Ridge Park, trail maintenance, and capital improvement projects. A unique feature of the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center is that the Community Development Corporation (CDC) provides operations funding. No general funds are used to support the recreation center. GO bonds help finance larger-scale capital projects, ensuring that the City can continue to develop and maintain its parks and recreational spaces effectively.

MAINTENANCE BUDGET

In order to ensure the proper upkeep and functionality of its parks and recreational facilities, Cedar Hill allocates specific budget items toward maintenance and equipment care. These allocations cover various aspects of facility maintenance, contracts, and equipment management. Below is a breakdown of the key maintenance expenses for the upcoming fiscal year (2024-2025):

- Building/Park Maintenance: \$600,315 (funded by Community Development Corporation (CDC) and General Fund)
- Maintenance Contracts: \$525,000 (funded by CDC and General Fund)
- Equipment Maintenance: \$100,000 for motorized equipment (funded by General Fund)

FIGURE 4.4 | NRPA SOURCES OF OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES (ALL COMMUNITIES)



Source: 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review

CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

In order to understand the potential needs of the park system, it is essential to assess the existing conditions of Cedar Hill's parks. A conditions assessment measures whether a park space and associated facilities are maintained in a condition that is safe and enticing to users.

Due to the size and quantity of parks in Cedar Hill, only 10 parks were assessed during the conditions assessment based on park classification, popularity, size, number of amenities and guidance from City staff. The results of the assessment highlight needed improvements or recommended enhancements by category.

Categories used to assess park conditions in Cedar Hill are listed below:

- Sport Courts
- Athletic Fields
- Pathways & Trails
- Public Gathering Spaces
- Structured Play
- Open Play Areas
- Parking
- Fencing & Retaining Walls
- General Site Facilities
- Additional Site Amenities
- Planting & Trees
- Turf
- Signage
- Site Lighting
- Park Accessibility
- Shoreline (Any pond, creek, or drainage area)



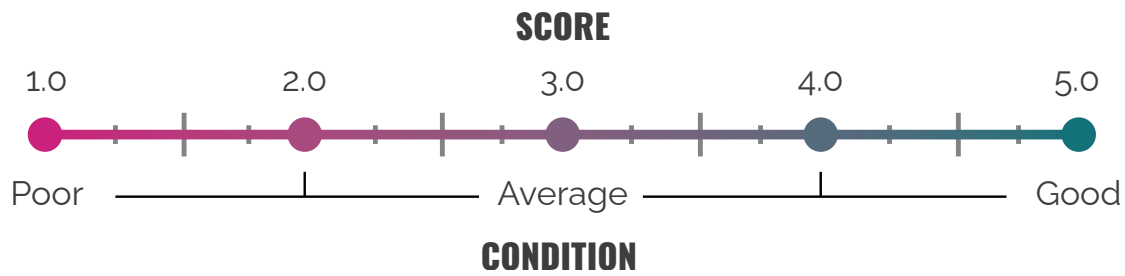
Parkerville Park (Lowest Scoring Park)

PUBLIC PERCEPTION

Community feedback has reflected a generally positive perception of Cedar Hill's parks, with residents appreciating the well-maintained green spaces and recreational amenities available throughout the City. The parks are seen as hubs for outdoor activities, providing areas for sports, family gatherings, and passive recreation.

When parks are in poor condition—such as having damaged infrastructure, litter, or overgrown areas—community attendance at parks tends to decline, diminishing their positive impact. A park system that is perceived as accessible, inviting, and well-maintained not only attracts visitors but also contributes to improved community health, social cohesion, and overall quality of life. For example, Valley Ridge Park, which scored the second highest overall in the conditions assessment, is the most favored park in the system according to survey results.

The Parks Department's commitment to maintaining the parks in excellent condition helps foster a sense of pride and strengthens the community's connection to these vital public spaces.



PARK CONDITIONS

Park properties were assigned a score from 1 to 5 for each of the 16 categories assessed – with “1” representing a negative score and “5” representing a positive score. Each park is assigned an average score based on the cumulative results of all categories assessed – where an assessment feature is non-existent or not applicable, a score of “0” is assigned, and the category is excluded from the average score of the applicable park property. A score of 1.0 to 1.99 is considered “poor;” 2.0 to 3.99 is considered “average;” and, a score of 4.0 or greater is considered “good.”

TABLE 4.2 | PARK CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT SCORES

#1	Red Oak Creek Trail	4.67
#2	Valley Ridge Park	3.87
#3	Virginia Weaver Park	3.87
#4	Wooded Creek Greenbelt	3.83
#5	Prairie View Park	3.82
#6	Cedar Trails Greenbelt	3.75
#7	Singleton Preserve	3.67
#8	Crawford Park	3.5
#9	Community Center Park	3.08
#10	Parkerville Park	2.00

LOW SCORING PARKS

Only one park that was assessed received a score below 3.0 (see **Table 4.2**). There are two general reasons parks receive lower scores:

- Facility features are insufficient, outdated or need repair
- Limitations in ownership or lease agreements, which restrict the city's ability to invest in upgrades and enhancements.
- Infrequent use reduces demand for continued investment and maintenance prioritization

While many parks had high quality amenities such as wayfinding, trash receptacles and seating areas, the quantity of the amenities present at some parks is not enough to support potential or future use. Another overall common characteristic of parks was lack of shade. Strong outliers that contributed to lower scores also include minimal walking paths at Parkerville Park and sports field conditions at Community Center Park and Parkerville Park.

HIGH SCORING PARKS

Generally, parks that receive high conditions scores have one or both of the following characteristics:

- Recent investments and upgrades
- The park is more popular and is a component of shared community-wide pride

Common elements of high scoring parks in Cedar Hill include healthy vegetation and turf, presence of amenities and gathering spaces, and high-quality walking trails. Some of the highest scoring amenities at these parks include structured play at Valley Ridge Park and trail conditions at Red Oak Creek Trail and Wooded Creek Greenbelt.

TABLE 4.3 | PARK CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT SCORES BY CATEGORY

Park Name	Park Classification	Acres	Sport Courts	Sport Fields	Park Pathways Trails	Public Gathering Spaces	Structured Play	Open Play Areas	Parking	General Fencing & Retaining Walls	General Site Facilities	Additional Site Amenities	Planting & Trees	Turf	Signage	Site Lighting	Park Accessibility	Shoreline (Any pond, creek, or drainage area)	Ranked Categories	Weighted Average
Valley Ridge Park	Regional	164.0	-	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	15	3.87
Prairie View Park	Neighborhood	6.6	-	-	3	3	3	3	4	-	4	4	4	4	5	-	5	-	11	3.82
Community Center Park	Community	5.1	-	2	4	3	3		3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	-	13	3.08
Crawford Park	Community	10.8	4	3	3	4	3	4	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	2	16	3.50
Wooded Creek Greenbelt	Linear Parks & Trails	7.0	-	-	5	4	3	-	3	5	4	3	5	4	1	-	4	5	12	3.83
Cedar Trails Greenbelt	Linear Parks & Trails	15.0	3	-	4	3	3	-	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	-	3	-	12	3.75
Parkerville Park*	Community	24.1	-	2	1	2		3	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3		13	2.00
Virginia Weaver Park	Community	27.6	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	-	15	3.87
Red Oak Creek Trail	Linear Parks & Trails	4.7	-	-	5	3	-	-	5	-	-	4	5	5	5		5	5	9	4.67
Singleton Preserve	Greenbelts & Preservation	30	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	4	4	-	-	3	-	6	3.67
Ranked Categories	-	-	3	5	10	9	7	5	9	8	9	9	10	10	9	5	10	4	-	-
Weighted Average	-	-	3.7	3.0	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.3	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.0	3.8	4.0	-	3.60

*Leased property, City managed

PARK SYSTEM AVERAGES

The total average score for the evaluated parks in the park system is slightly above average, at 3.6. As shown in **Table 4.3** on page 58, a majority of the average amenity scores were between 3.5 and 4.0. Similarly, a majority of the assessed parks received a score between 3.5 and 4.0. This signifies that while there is some room for improvement, Cedar Hill's park system is in good condition overall.

A few outliers in the system brought average scores down slightly. These outliers include a lack amenities at Parkerville Park, as well as lack of signage at Wooded Creek Greenbelt and the condition of the creek shoreline/retaining wall at Crawford Park. One simple way to improve overall scores would be to update signage at parks that do not have the standard entryway monumentation or wayfinding.

Positive outliers in the evaluated system include a majority of the plantings and trees in evaluated parks, and structured play at Valley Ridge Park. Landscaping and pathways at Wooded Creek Greenbelt and Red Oak Creek Trail were in excellent condition.

Some scores were more significantly affected by outlier scores due to the total number of amenities present in the evaluated systems. The smaller the amount of amenities evaluated in a category or park, the more of an effect outliers have on the average score.

UNEVALUATED PARKS & FACILITIES

There are many other parks in Cedar Hill that vary in function, size, and condition. Newer additions to the park system such as Signature Park would likely receive high average conditions scores compared to others. Special facilities such as The Lagoon at Virginia Weaver Park and the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center require special consideration outside of the conditions assessment.



Trail and Gathering Space at Community Center Park



Trailhead Amenities at Red Oak Creek Trail



Sport Fields at Valley Ridge Park



MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Well-maintained parks and recreational facilities are essential for delivering high-quality programs and services. The quality of maintenance significantly affects user perceptions of safety, overall park usage, and community pride in the parks system. According to the community survey conducted during the planning process, respondents identified the parks and facilities they visited most frequently, with Virginia Weaver Park (43%), Crawford Park (41%), and Valley Ridge Park (39%) topping the list. Similarly, trail usage was highlighted, with Lake Ridge Trail (54%), Red Oak Creek Trail (33%), and Pleasant Run Trail (30%) being the most visited.

Given that these parks and trails experience the highest frequency of attendance and host numerous events, they likely require more attention and resources for maintenance to ensure they remain safe, clean, and enjoyable for all users. The community survey indicated positive ratings for the parks and facilities, with 30% of respondents rating them as “excellent” and 58% as “good.” For the trails, 29% rated them as “excellent,” and 61% rated them as “good.” This positive feedback underscores the importance of maintaining these popular spaces to continue fostering community engagement and pride. It is the Parks and Recreation Department's responsibility to ensure all properties are properly maintained, whether through direct maintenance by Department staff, by volunteers, or through agreements with contractors.

To track and manage the various maintenance responsibilities, many recreation providers will establish a maintenance plan that details a maintenance schedule by park, amenity, or facility type. The Maintenance Division does have a documented standard operating procedures manual – Operational Plan and Maintenance Standards Manual (SOP).



PARK MAINTENANCE

Park properties are subject to a comprehensive maintenance program to ensure safety, cleanliness, and aesthetic appeal. Regardless of the maintenance frequency category, parks are visited daily for the removal of litter, debris, hazards, and graffiti. Any discovered damage or graffiti is documented, reported to the Cedar Hill Police Department, and repaired immediately after proper documentation.

SPECIAL EVENTS SUPPORTED BY PARK MAINTENANCE

In addition to day-to-day operations, the maintenance team plays a crucial role in supporting various special events throughout the year. Park Maintenance staff served as primary logistics leads for 13 events that required maintenance assistance to ensure a successful and clean experience for attendees. This can include responsibilities such as:

- Setup & Logistics
- Trash Management
- Post-Event Cleanup
- Venue Preparation
- Operational Support

GENERAL WEATHERIZATION PLAN

Given Texas' unpredictable and often abrupt winter conditions, it is essential that park maintenance staff carefully review and prioritize weatherization tasks. Being prepared in advance helps the department act swiftly when temperatures drop unexpectedly, minimizing damage and ensuring smooth operations. Prioritizing these tasks will increase staff efficiency, protect assets, and allow the Parks and Recreation Department to continue providing safe, well-maintained spaces for the community year-round. By addressing the needs of both facilities and the public, the department will enhance long-term sustainability and the enjoyment of the city's parks and recreational spaces for all seasons.

STEPS TOWARDS SUCCESS

This plan recommends several strategies to improve the short and long-term success of the City of Cedar Hill's parks and recreational practices. The strategies below have been selected to address key findings of this assessment and align with community needs.

POLICIES AND INVESTMENTS

ORGANIZATIONAL

ENHANCED STAFF TRAINING:

- Continuous Education on Best Practices - Stay updated with best practices in park maintenance and operations through workshops, webinars, or conferences.
- Cross-Training Employees - Provide training to staff in multiple areas (e.g., horticulture, landscaping, facilities management) to create a versatile workforce that can adapt to varying demands and reduce overtime costs.
- Promote Professional Development Opportunities that Strengthen Staff Skills - The Department should continue to identify and fund select accreditation and certification for staff members, as determined by City administration.



CAPRA ACCREDITATION:

- Pursue CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies) accreditation from the National Recreation and Parks Association. A CAPRA accreditation affirms that a parks and recreation agency is providing its community with the highest level of service. CAPRA accreditation is organized into 10 major categories, which represent the key areas of focus for park and recreation agencies. These standards guide agencies in achieving national accreditation and serve as a benchmark for operational excellence. A total of 154 standards must be met to assess performance and demonstrate evidence of best practices. These standards help agencies improve their operations, guide planning processes, and deliver high-quality services to the community. Currently, only 213 agencies in the nation are CAPRA accredited and 28 in Texas.

STRENGTHEN INTERDEPARTMENTAL COLLABORATION:

- To further enhance collaboration, the city can formalize cross-departmental roles, create a centralized event coordination framework, and establish clear processes for resource allocation. Additionally, leveraging data and community feedback from past events can help refine planning strategies, boost participation, and ensure events align with broader city goals.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

- Develop a program that coordinates, manages, and tracks all volunteers for the department. The program will focus on recruiting, training, evaluating, and recognizing volunteers, with an emphasis on outreach to individuals and partner organizations. A key component of the program will be tracking volunteer hours and quantifying contributions, which will be essential for budgeting and future grant requests. This program will help expand the Department's capacity by engaging community members, building strong partnerships, and ensuring volunteers feel valued and supported.

TARGETED MARKETING:

- Collaborate with the Cedar Hill Communications team to develop and implement targeted marketing campaigns that promote municipal parks and recreational programs. A key focus will be placed on engaging teens and young adults through relevant platforms and content. The community survey revealed that 58% of residents hear about events through word of mouth and 40% rely on the city website, social media, and street banners. Although only 28% currently hear about events through email, a majority of residents would prefer this method of communication. Develop a targeted email strategy aimed at increasing engagement and click-through rates. This will involve crafting compelling subject lines, incorporating visually appealing content, and creating clear calls to action that resonate with the specific audiences.

SPECIAL EVENTS SPECIALIST/LIAISON:

- Add a new staff position to coordinate special events for the city and community groups. This position would be dedicated to coordinating and managing special events, sponsorships, and vendor contracts for the Department. This role will streamline the planning and execution of events by serving as the central point of contact for all external groups, ensuring efficient communication and consistency across all events. In addition to managing events, the Special Events Specialist/Liaison will oversee vendor contracts, enhancing vendor relations and ensuring seamless operations across all department activities involving outside partners. This strategy aims to boost event quality, increase community engagement, and strengthen partnerships with sponsors and vendors.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

INCLUSIVITY & DIVERSITY:

- Expand Inclusivity and Diversity in Events - Continue to enhance Cedar Hill's event lineup by expanding diversity-related celebrations and ensuring ADA-inclusive events. By focusing on a range of culturally significant celebrations, the city can strengthen community engagement and foster a more inclusive environment for all residents.
- Increase Youth-Focused Events - Address the potential gap in direct engagement with younger residents by increasing the number of youth-specific events, such as a Youth Summit or Kids Triathlon. This strategy aims to provide more opportunities for youth participation and involvement in community activities, promoting a sense of belonging and connection.

SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

- Promote Sustainability and Environmental Awareness - Continue to leverage Cedar Hill's proximity to natural areas to expand environmentally-focused events and educational workshops on sustainability. Introduce an annual joint nature pass that grants membership to the Dogwood Audubon Center and access to various park events. This initiative will encourage deeper engagement with Cedar Hill's natural spaces and foster environmental stewardship through hands-on learning and active participation in city-led nature programs.

ACTIVE & OLDER ADULT (55+) PROGRAMS:

- Build on existing active and older adult (55+) programs to strengthen connection within the community - Per the Older Adult Livability Study, transition all references of "senior programs and center" to potential alternatives such as Active and Older Adult (55+) to be more inclusive, including staff titles like Active and Older Adult Activity Center Supervisor and Assistant.

PARK MAINTENANCE

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES:

- Native Plant Landscaping - For community and neighborhood parks, work with conservation staff and stakeholders to identify locations where there is opportunity to replace non-native grass and plants with native species that require less water and maintenance, reducing irrigation costs and enhancing biodiversity.
- Rain Gardens and Green Infrastructure - Work with conservation staff and stakeholders to pilot rain gardens or permeable surfaces in neighborhood parks to manage stormwater, promote sustainability, and reduce maintenance on traditional lawns.



VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS:

- Regular Volunteer Days - Organize community clean-up or planting days to foster community pride and reduce maintenance burdens. Coordinate with conservation and recreation staff to recruit and track volunteers and activities.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS:

- Routine Inspections and Maintenance - Update the preventive maintenance schedule for park facilities, equipment, and landscaping to identify and address issues before they escalate, thus reducing long-term costs.

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION:

- Maintenance & Asset Management - Utilize software solutions for communication among maintenance staff, tracking maintenance activities, scheduling tasks, and managing park assets efficiently. Integrate with GIS where possible.
- Smart Systems - Enhance existing smart technologies for irrigation systems that adjust watering schedules based on weather conditions to conserve water and reduce costs. Additionally, explore smart technology for mowing schedules, lighting systems, and security measures to enhance operational efficiency and improve safety across the parks. Smart mowing systems can optimize cutting frequency based on grass growth and usage patterns, while smart lighting can adjust based on occupancy or time of day to improve energy efficiency. Enhanced security measures in partnership with public safety, such as surveillance cameras or motion sensors, can provide real-time monitoring and increase safety for park visitors.



DATA-DRIVEN DECISION-MAKING:

- Utilize GIS Technology - Implement Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for mapping and analyzing park usage patterns, helping inform maintenance schedules, resource allocation, and planning for new amenities.
- Integrate Asset Management into GIS - Incorporate asset management data into GIS to visualize and manage park facilities, maintenance needs, and resource allocation more effectively, enabling better decision-making and prioritization of projects.
- Visitor Tracking and Feedback - Collect visitor data and feedback, enabling tailored services and improving user experience. This could be done with QR codes at entrances, aerial photography, and manual or automated counters.







BUILDING A CITY IN A PARK

OUR ACTION PLAN: THE GREEN IMPRINT

Cedar Hill's *Green Imprint* represents the city's commitment to preserving nature while fostering a thriving and connected community. Central to this effort is the active involvement of Cedar Hill residents, whose input has shaped the vision and goals of the 2025 Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan. Through surveys, focus groups, public meetings, and online feedback platforms, the community has played a pivotal role in shaping the vision and goals, and identifying priorities of the Green Imprint. This chapter outlines how the Master Plan will serve as the roadmap for achieving Cedar Hill's vision. Building on the principles of Nature/Urban Interface, City Within a Park, the 25% Open Space Goal and community input, this Plan seeks to meet recreation demands and a strengthening of environmental stewardship to ensure a park legacy that future generations can enjoy.

A VISION ROOTED IN NATURE

The Green Imprint embodies Cedar Hill's commitment to blending natural preservation with thoughtful park development. From cherished community parks like Crawford Park and Virginia Weaver Park to regional parklands like Cedar Hill State Park and Cedar Ridge Preserve, the city's green spaces are more than recreational assets—they create a sense of place, enhance connectivity, and strengthen the bond between the community and its environment. Cedar Hill's efforts to create a "city in a park" have made it a green oasis within the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. With nature-oriented destinations such as Joe Pool Lake and the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, the city has prioritized preserving its natural areas. Furthermore, new projects like Signature Park and Trail illustrate the seamless integration of urban and natural environments, showcasing Cedar Hill's innovative approach to a high quality of life, setting the stage for the city's next decade of growth.

GOALS THAT SHAPE THE FUTURE

The following goals, listed in no particular order, outline Cedar Hill's strategic priorities, ensuring that the Green Imprint's vision is translated into actionable steps for a thriving, sustainable future:

- 1 Enhance Indoor Recreation Opportunities**
- 2 Improve Access & Address Gaps in the Trail Network**
- 3 Invest in Park & Facility Improvements**
- 4 Develop Natural Areas & Plan for Future Park Properties**
- 5 Promote Environmental Stewardship & Preservation**
- 6 Expand Parkland & Protect Open Space**
- 7 Leverage Technology for Efficiency & Innovation**
- 8 Foster Engagement at Community & Neighborhood Parks**
- 9 Activate Social Connections through Programming & Public Spaces**
- 10 Enhance Community Outreach & Inclusivity**

GOAL 1 **ENHANCE INDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES & AWARENESS**

Indoor recreational facilities are an essential part of a comprehensive parks and recreation system. The City currently offers two popular indoor spaces - the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center and the Senior Activity Center - which are heavily used and central to community life. Feedback highlights a strong desire for more fitness activities, cooking classes, and arts and culture programs. Renovating and expanding indoor community centers is vital for the city's future growth, requiring thoughtful planning and capital investment. Priorities for the Parks and Recreation Department will include relocating senior programs to the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, a reserve study for the Senior Activity Center and a feasibility study to expand the footprint of the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center. *Recommended Actions can be found on Page 79.*

GOAL 2 **IMPROVE ACCESS & ADDRESS GAPS IN THE TRAIL NETWORK**

A connected and accessible trail network is essential for enhancing mobility and recreation within the community. A critical aspect of this goal is addressing gaps in the trail network, focusing on constructing trail phases that link neighborhoods, parks, and vital destinations like the Great Greenway. Community feedback emphasized desire for more opportunities to explore the outdoors and connect with nature along the trails. Collaborating with the Planning and Public Works Departments to create a GIS-based Trail Connectivity Assessment Tool to help identify critical gaps and high-traffic areas will prioritize trail development and aim to ensure that the trail system is not only expanded but also optimized for safety and accessibility. These efforts work to create a trail network that encourages outdoor activity, supports healthy lifestyles, and increases connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists alike. *Recommended Actions can be found on Pages 79-80.*



MULTI-USE TRAILS

Multi-use trails provide active and passive recreation opportunities as well as access to recreational areas, parks, schools, neighborhoods and other community destinations.

Multi-use trail facilities and corridors may be located within public rights-of-way or easements. A complete and seamless multi-use trail system should serve both recreational and transportation needs.

GOAL 3 INVEST IN PARK & FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Investing in parks and recreational facilities is essential for creating safe, inclusive, and sustainable spaces for the community. Key actions include conducting a reserve study to accurately forecast future expenditures and ensure adequate capital improvement cost allocation for all future improvements at key facilities. These evaluations will guide proactive repairs and maintenance, ensuring the longevity of these facilities. The parks and trails conditions assessment identified key areas for continued improvement at various parks including Virginia Weaver, Parkerville, Community Center Park, Crawford, and several others. The assessment highlighted opportunities for redevelopment and identified additional enhancements, like updating playgrounds and expanding fitness features, that will support healthier lifestyles and improve the park experience. A long-term maintenance strategy, including preventive measures and safety considerations, will ensure sustainability. Additionally, transitioning to energy-efficient lighting, including LED installations, by 2030 will further reduce operational costs and environmental impact. These initiatives aim to enhance park spaces, ensure they meet the evolving needs of the community, and support the physical and mental well-being of all residents. *Recommended Actions can be found on Pages 80-81.*



IMPROVING PARK CONDITIONS

The results of the park conditions assessment highlight needed improvements or recommended enhancements for the assessed parks based on a variety of categories. Scores for the categories at each park can be used to prioritize what actions are needed most.

Across the park system, the categories that received a score of lower than 3.5 include: Sport Fields, Public Gathering Spaces, Structured Play, General Fencing & Retaining Walls, Additional Site Amenities, and Site Lighting. Many of these scores are due to lack of amenities at specific parks, as opposed to low-quality amenities throughout.

Of the assessed parks, two received a score of 3.0 or lower: Community Center Park and Parkerville Park. Potential improvements for each of these parks are highlighted on the following page.



COMMUNITY CENTER PARK

- Upgrade fencing with durable, weather-resistant materials such as coated steel. Redesign dugouts with enhanced ventilation, shaded seating, and low-maintenance landscaping around the perimeter.
- Incorporate additional seating and gathering space throughout the park, providing natural shade or shade structures where appropriate.
- Remove the playground and introduce outdoor fitness stations that blend into the natural landscape. Use eco-friendly workout equipment and surround the area with natural planting buffers.
- Install mile markers along walking paths using artistic and natural materials like stone or wood and incorporate distance tracking into the park's design through painted or inlaid markers along the path.



PARKERVILLE PARK (NOT OWNED BY THE CITY)

- Explore options for low-maintenance landscaping using native, drought-tolerant species in areas without irrigation. Consider xeriscaping for a visually appealing yet sustainable approach.
- Install sidewalks with stamped or colored concrete that blends into the park's natural setting while meeting ADA standards.
- Consider replacing or removing onsite amenities that no longer function, including the concession stand, restrooms and drinking fountains.

GOAL 4 DEVELOP NATURAL AREAS & PLAN FOR FUTURE PARK PROPERTIES

Developing natural areas and planning for future park properties focuses on balancing ecological preservation with recreation. Key initiatives include developing spaces like a community dog park or adding nature-based play areas to foster outdoor activity and strengthen connections to nature. Master planning for Willis and Singleton parks aims to preserve their natural beauty while offering low-impact recreational opportunities. Strategic studies will identify potential locations for new parkland, such as a Veterans Memorial Park or other natural areas. Continued efforts to expand the Great Greenway and provide connections to existing and future parks and natural areas offer benefits to the community and the environment. Collaboration with the engineering department to integrate natural stormwater management solutions, such as multi-purpose drainage systems, will support flood control and habitat restoration. Quantifying the ecosystem services provided by these areas, including carbon sequestration, water filtration, and habitat creation, highlights the environmental and community benefits of preserving natural landscapes. The integration of native vegetation and nature-inspired designs ensures that future parkland not only serves recreational needs but also contributes to the ecological health of the area. These efforts will protect and enhance the environment while offering community spaces that improve residents' quality of life, health, and sense of connection to nature. *Recommended Actions can be found on Page 81.*

GOAL 5 PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP & PRESERVATION

Promoting environmental stewardship within the parks system is key to ensuring the protection of natural resources for future generations. Strategies such as incorporating rain gardens, biofiltration, and permeable pavements will support sustainable park designs that improve drainage and nurture the environment. Designating "Green Zones" around sensitive ecological areas will protect habitats from disruptive activities, while initiatives like pollinator-friendly parks will foster biodiversity and reduce long-term maintenance costs. Volunteer opportunities, such as tree planting and habitat restoration projects, will encourage community involvement and long-term commitment to sustainability. Additionally, educational programs, including interpretive signage, outdoor classrooms, and guided nature walks, will increase public awareness of local ecosystems and conservation efforts. A "Leave No Trace" campaign will encourage responsible park usage, while rewilding initiatives will restore underutilized spaces into vibrant natural habitats. Together, these efforts will promote environmental preservation, enhance biodiversity, and deepen the community's connection to nature, ensuring a lasting legacy of stewardship for future generations. Establishing a comprehensive green infrastructure plan will integrate floodplains, stormwater management, and wildlife corridors into park development, promoting ecological resilience. By utilizing drainage corridors for multi-functional purposes such as recreational trails and passive areas, the utility of open spaces is maximized while conserving valuable resources. *Recommended Actions can be found on Pages 81-82.*

GOAL 6 EXPAND PARKLAND & PROTECT OPEN SPACE

Expanding parkland and protecting open space is critical to preserving the natural environment and meeting the community's future park needs. Efforts will prioritize addressing gaps identified through the Level of Service (LOS) assessment, emphasizing land acquisition for natural trail areas and community-focused park development. Partnerships with land trusts and conservation organizations will help protect key areas, and incentives for private landowners will encourage participation in land conservation efforts. A parkland suitability assessment, utilizing GIS tools, will help identify and prioritize high-value parcels based on ecological importance, accessibility, and connectivity to existing parklands. In urban areas, expanding pocket parks through redevelopment projects will ensure that green spaces remain accessible even in dense neighborhoods. These strategies will safeguard natural areas while creating vibrant, accessible spaces for the growing community to enjoy. *Recommended Actions can be found on Pages 82-83.*

GOAL 7 LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY FOR EFFICIENCY & INNOVATION

Leveraging technology to improve park operations and visitor experience can significantly enhance efficiency and sustainability. Smart technologies such as automated irrigation systems, waste management solutions, and LED lighting will reduce resource consumption and streamline maintenance processes. Autonomous equipment can assist with routine park tasks, ensuring they are completed efficiently with minimal human oversight. GIS and asset management software will allow park staff to track maintenance needs, prioritize repairs, and allocate resources effectively. Drone technology offers a way to monitor larger parks, assess habitats, and inspect hard-to-reach areas like trails and drainage systems, providing accurate and up-to-date information for decision-making. In addition to operational improvements, integrating technologies like free Wi-Fi and charging stations at popular parks will improve visitor experience, making parks more accessible and user-friendly. Real-time feedback tools, such as QR codes for reporting issues or sharing park experiences, will create a more dynamic approach to park management. These technological innovations will increase operational efficiency, improve user satisfaction, and support the long-term sustainability of park systems, making the parks more enjoyable and accessible for all residents. *Recommended Actions can be found on Page 83.*



BENEFITS OF EFFICIENT MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

Proactive maintenance and streamlined workflows can reduce strain on staff, allow them to complete tasks in less time, and even prevent potential costly repairs or emergencies.

Adoption of green maintenance practices not only provides environmental benefits and conserves resources, they can also create less work for maintenance teams.



**“[WE WANT] INTER-
GENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES,
THINGS TO GET PEOPLE
TOGETHER – BRING COMMUNITY
TOGETHER.”**

- Member of Senior Senate

GOAL 8 FOSTER ENGAGEMENT AT COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Fostering community engagement at parks is essential to ensuring that these spaces are vibrant and meet the needs of all residents. One innovative strategy is piloting mobile recreation units equipped with sports equipment, arts supplies, and technology hubs to bring programming directly to neighborhoods with limited park access. Expanding evening or after-dark activities, such as yoga classes or stargazing events, will make parks more accessible to people with different schedules. Community events like “Movies in the Park” that provide social gathering and family-friendly entertainment should be established as regular events. Additionally, multi-generational programming that includes shared activities like outdoor games and nature walks will encourage interaction across age groups. Expanding programming for older adults, including activities such as car shows, sporting events, and historical tours, will create spaces for adults (55+) to remain active and engaged. Partnering with local organizations to host educational programs, such as sustainability workshops or local history talks, will also enhance community interaction. Strengthening outreach efforts through dedicated staff focused on community engagement and marketing will help increase awareness of park programs and activities, ensuring that parks become dynamic, inclusive spaces for all residents to enjoy. *Recommended Actions can be found on Pages 83-84.*

GOAL 9 ACTIVATE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS THROUGH PROGRAMMING & PUBLIC SPACES

Activating social connections through park programming helps build stronger, more connected communities. One initiative is to create Discovery Stations in neighborhood parks, offering programming and resources that encourage residents to engage in outdoor activities and connect with park amenities. Underutilized parks can be brought to life with pop-up events such as farmers' markets, live performances, and community fairs. These events will not only attract visitors but also provide opportunities for social interaction. Creating inclusive spaces, such as sensory-friendly areas for individuals with autism or accessible playgrounds, will ensure that all residents feel welcomed. Temporary street closures to create pedestrian-only zones for markets or recreational activities will further enhance community participation. Adding amenities like game tables or benches in parks will encourage casual socialization, fostering connections among residents. Partnering with local food trucks or coffee vendors to visit parks regularly will create a lively atmosphere, bringing more visitors and further enhancing the social appeal of parks. These efforts will transform parks into vibrant social hubs that foster stronger community bonds. *Recommended Actions can be found on Pages 84.*

GOAL 10 **ENHANCE COMMUNITY OUTREACH & INCLUSIVITY**

Enhancing community outreach and inclusivity ensures that all residents feel welcome and supported in park and recreation programming. A key action is collecting data through surveys, focus groups, and user feedback to better understand the diverse needs of the community and develop tailored programs that resonate with various demographic groups. Outreach efforts will include working with local nonprofits, neighborhood organizations, and schools to promote park programs, ensuring that information reaches underrepresented populations. Developing multilingual signage and materials will increase accessibility for residents who speak different languages. Partnerships with local leaders and community groups will also help promote park activities, ensuring that the parks reflect the cultural and social diversity of the community. By hosting inclusive events, such as family nights or cultural festivals, parks can serve as venues for people of all backgrounds to connect and celebrate shared experiences. Additionally, making parks accessible for people with disabilities through ADA-compliant pathways, ramps, and playgrounds will ensure that everyone has equal access to recreational opportunities. These efforts will ensure that parks are not just physical spaces but vibrant, inclusive places where all residents feel valued and engaged. *Recommended Actions can be found on Page 85.*



CULTIVATING FUTURE GENERATIONS

Successful parks and recreation amenities and programs offer safe environments for youth and teenagers to develop valuable skills and build meaningful connections with peers. Leveraging social media and involving younger generations in marketing campaigns will help reach teens more effectively. Additionally, continued partnership with local organizations in addition to providing a variety of programs, from sports leagues to arts and nature activities, can expand participation and increase involvement.

“CEDAR HILL YOUTH MISS OUT ON A LOT OF PARK ACTIVITIES. [WE] RECEIVE INFORMATION VIA WORD OF MOUTH.”

- Member of Teen Council

PROJECTS THAT BRING THE VISION TO LIFE

Central to the Green Imprint is a series of transformative projects that address current needs while anticipating future growth. These projects include developing new parks, revitalizing existing spaces, constructing additional trails, and implementing sustainable design practices. From small neighborhood parks to large-scale regional greenways, such as The Great Greenway, each project is a building block in Cedar Hill's vision for a greener, more connected future.

The priority projects are critical components of the Green Imprint, providing a structured approach to enhancing the city's parks, trails, and recreational facilities. These projects are designed to improve safety, sustainability, accessibility, and recreational opportunities across various parks and trails. Key initiatives include:

- **Feasibility Studies and Site Plans:** Conducting comprehensive studies to assess the potential for new parks and the enhancement of existing facilities.
- **Enhancement Initiatives:** Implementing projects aimed at improving the functionality and appeal of parks, such as installing eco-friendly infrastructure like solar lighting and native landscaping.
- **Trail Studies and Natural Area Developments:** Expanding and connecting trail networks to enhance mobility and recreation within the community.
- **Park Acquisitions and Upgrades:** Acquiring new parkland and upgrading existing parks to meet the evolving needs of the community.

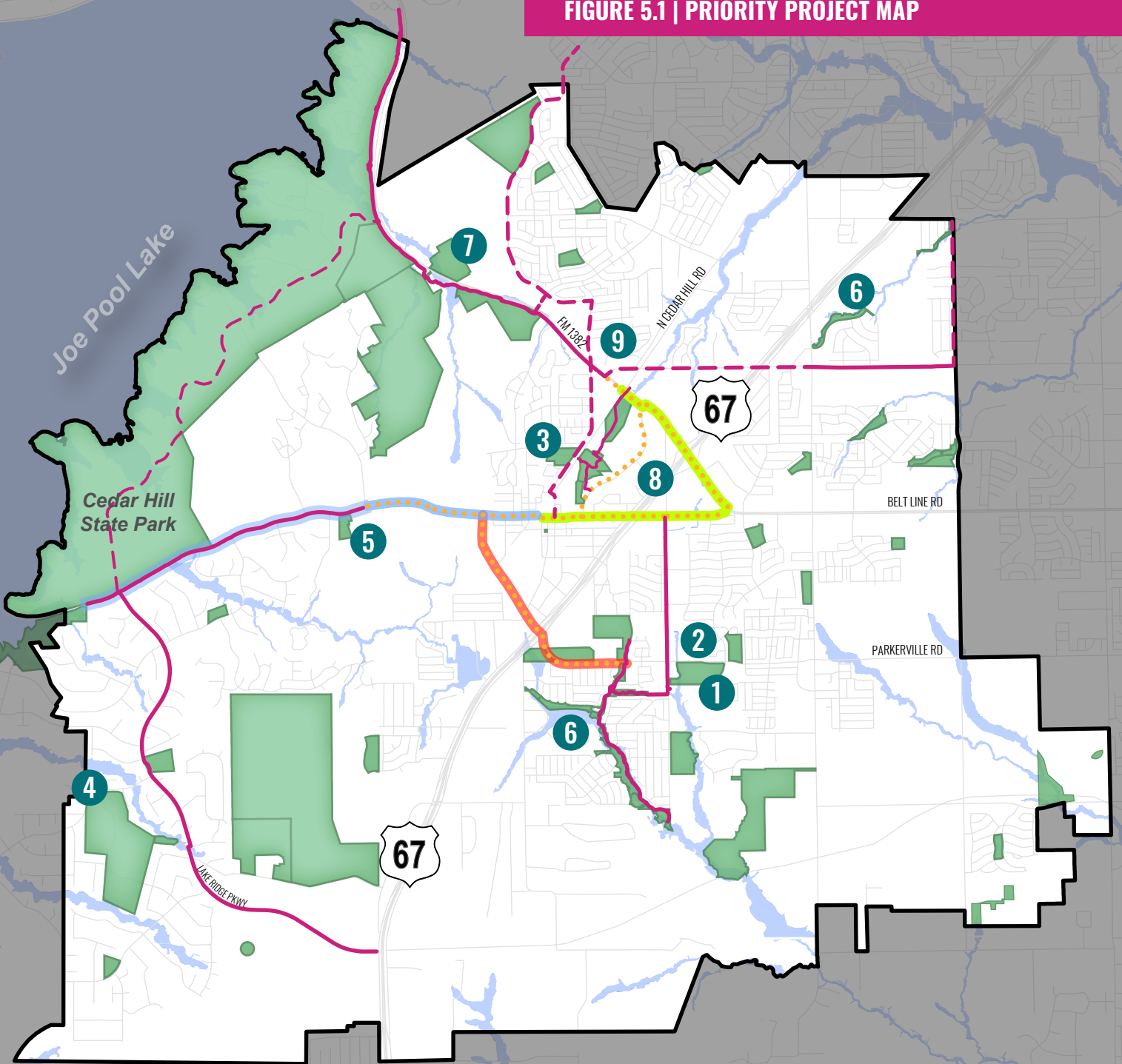
Listed below, these fifteen priority projects were developed based on Advisory Committee and community feedback, as well as potential long-term benefits to the community, ensuring that the city's resources are allocated effectively to support future growth. By integrating these projects into the Green Imprint, Cedar Hill can maintain the integrity of its existing infrastructure while addressing the demand for new and upgraded recreational opportunities. Projects that are site specific (1-9) are illustrated in **Figure 5.1** on the following page. Descriptions of the projects can be found in the Priority Project Descriptions of the **Appendix**.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

*Denotes priority within 5 years

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Alan E. Sims Recreation Center Expansion* | 10. City Dog Park* |
| 2. Alan E. Sims Recreation Center (55+ Wing)* | 11. Parkland Acquisition |
| 3. Crawford Park Phase II Improvements* | 12. Neighborhood Park Enhancements (re-wilding)* |
| 4. Valley Ridge Park Enhancements* | 13. Citywide Park Shade Enhancement Plan |
| 5. Community Center Park Enhancements | 14. Natural Areas and Trail Network Development |
| 6. Greenbelt Enhancements | 15. Veterans Memorial Park Study |
| 7. Singleton Property Master Plan | |
| 8. Intra-City Trail Project | |
| 9. Inter-City Trail Projects | |

FIGURE 5.1 | PRIORITY PROJECT MAP



- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Core Trails
(Completed) | Parkland | Priority Project Location |
| Planned Trails | Water Bodies | East-West Core Trail |
| Proposed Trails | Existing Roadways | Inner Loop Core Trail |
| | City Limits | Middle Loop Core Trail |

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



WORK PROGRAM

This master plan outlines 81 strategies to enhance the long-term, community-wide value of the parks and recreation system. These strategies are organized around the guiding principles and the 10 goals that address the findings in this plan. The strategies listed on pages 79 through 85 of the plan are not ranked by priority, and community leaders should remain open to considering future actions or initiatives to improve the Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation system. If a new initiative significantly diverges from the plan's goals or strategies, the city should amend the plan accordingly.

WORK PROGRAM PARAMETERS

This section contains a recommended implementation action plan table. The actions listed within these tables are allocated by three categories of timing and reflects the action's target priority or ongoing nature, as well as the estimated level of investment.

STRATEGY TYPE

The actions recommended within this plan generally fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Operational (O) - Requires a new or modified internal program and/or staffing arrangement.
- Policy (P) - Requires a new or modified process or policy.
- Project (PJ) - New or adjusted capital expenditure.
- Program (PM) - Requires a new or modified community program.
- Study (S) - Requires further analysis or investigation to determine the most appropriate solution.

TIME-FRAME

The strategies listed in the matrix are allocated among four time-frames. Not all strategies can be implemented at the same time, and as priorities shift, the City may determine to initiate certain strategies sooner or later than provided.

- Near-term (NT): 1-3 years
- Mid-term (MT): 3-5 years
- Long-term (LT) : 5 years or beyond
- Ongoing (O): Throughout the Plan horizon

PRIORITY

A priority level is assigned to each recommendation. Factors that help determine the implementation priority include feasibility of implementation, City staff preference, and overall priority based on feedback from the community.

- Low
- Medium
- High

COST

In order for the City to have an understanding of the approximate level of investment each strategy will require, each recommendation is assigned an estimated cost range.

- Low (\$) - <\$100,000
- Medium (\$\$) - \$100,000 to \$999,999
- High (\$\$\$) - >\$1M

TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

STRATEGY		TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
GOAL 1: ENHANCE INDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES & AWARENESS					
1.1	Relocate key programs from the Senior Activity Center to the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, optimizing underutilized spaces to better serve older residents.	O	NT	Medium	\$\$
1.2	Expand the Recreation Center's indoor space. Utilize a feasibility study to explore potential to optimize both indoor and outdoor areas for growing recreational needs, specifically Older Adult programming, as noted in the Senior Livability Study.	S	NT	High	\$\$\$
1.3	Leverage social media platforms to run targeted campaigns promoting classes, events, or facility highlights. Engage the community by sharing user-generated content, such as photos or testimonials, with designated hashtags.	O	O	Medium	\$
1.4	Create text alerts for subscribers about new programs, seasonal events, or special promotions.	O	O	High	\$
1.5	Target outreach for specific groups including local neighborhood groups, schools, and businesses to offer incentives such as discounted memberships.	O	O	Medium	\$\$
1.6	Host open house events and facility tours (annual sign-up event e.g. Discover & Join Day or Fit & Fun Open House).	P, O	O	High	\$\$
1.7	Consider adding or expanding culinary programs through partnerships with local restaurants or bakeries (e.g., Grill Master University, mini-bakers class, tamale workshop, etc.).	O	MT	Medium	\$\$
1.8	Evaluate optional locations in the AES Recreation Center for senior basketball and pickleball.	S, O	MT	High	\$\$
GOAL 2: IMPROVE ACCESS AND ADDRESS GAPS IN THE TRAIL NETWORK					
2.1	Fund and construct Inter-City Trail Projects (Straus Rd., Pleasant Run Rd., and Duncanville Rd.).	PJ	NT	High	\$\$\$
2.2	Design, fund and construct Intra-City Phase 1 to add 1.5 miles of trail extending the East-West Core Trail (blue) along Mansfield Road to Inner Loop Core Trail (green) along Belt Line Road, linking to Main Street (Historic Cedar Hill) and ending at Uptown Boulevard.	PJ	MT	High	\$\$\$
2.3	Design, fund and construct Intra-City Phase 2 to add 2.3 miles of trail to connect the East-West Core trail (blue) to the Middle Loop Core Trail (red) exploring connections on Tidwell and Parkerville Road ultimately connecting to Virginia Weaver and Parkerville parks.	PJ	MT	High	\$\$\$
2.4	Design, fund and construct Phase 3 to add 3.0 miles of trail closing the Inner Loop Core Trail (green) linking to the FM 1382 Trail, creating vital connections to the Pleasant Run Trail and Signature Trails (Inter-City Trails Project), enhancing the overall trail network and improving accessibility for users.	PJ	MT	High	\$\$\$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

STRATEGY		TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
2.5	Work with Public Works and the Traffic Safety Committee to track bicyclist and pedestrian crash sites to identify locations for infrastructure improvements around parks.	O	NT	Low	\$
2.6	Continue to collaborate with the Public Works Department to support a citywide sidewalk plan that ensures neighborhoods have safe and equitable access to parks and trails, prioritizing investments in underserved areas and neighborhoods with limited pedestrian infrastructure.	O	MT	Medium	\$\$
2.7	Establish a design standard for trailheads with Low-Impact-Development (LID) features (i.e., use permeable surfaces like gravel or pavers to manage stormwater runoff), seating, water fountains, trash receptacles, signage, and safety features (e.g., map kiosk and location markers) along major trails to enhance access, improve connectivity, and ensure safety.	O	MT	Medium	\$
2.8	Leverage private development to expand trail networks by integrating connections into site plans, utilizing easements and rights-of-way, and collaborating with developers to enhance community access and mobility.	O	O	Medium	\$
2.9	Leverage underutilized spaces for trail expansion through partnerships with local utilities, railroads, or other stakeholders to utilize easements, rights-of-way, or vacant land for trail connections that fill network gaps.	O	O	Medium	\$\$
2.10	Develop a Trail Connectivity Assessment Tool using GIS mapping and community engagement to identify critical connectivity gaps in the trail network and prioritize segments.	O	NT	Medium	\$
GOAL 3: INVEST IN PARK AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS					
3.1	Conduct a Reserve Study for the Senior Activity Center to forecast expenditures for all future improvements/replacements.	S	NT	High	\$\$
3.2	Complete the recommended general minimum improvements/actions identified the Indoor Assessment Report at the Alan E Sims Recreation Center. Ensure all spaces meet ADA standards, including, but not limited to, elevators, wide doorways, and restrooms.	O	NT	High	\$\$
3.3	Conduct roofing and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning assessments for the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center.	O	NT	High	\$\$
3.4	Work with a landscape architecture firm to create a redevelopment plan for the Crawford Park pool area.	S	NT	Medium	\$\$
3.5	Develop a citywide shade enhancement implementation strategy that includes shade structures and tree plantings.	S	MT	High	\$\$\$
3.6	Improve parks and trails by addressing maintenance needs, including replacing non-compliant playground equipment and prioritizing funding to upgrade Community Center and Parkerville parks from "average" to "good" by 2030.	O	O	Medium	\$\$\$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

STRATEGY		TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
3.7	Regularly review park maintenance needs, ensuring staffing levels align with parkland acreage and establishing performance metrics for parks staff and facilities.	O	O	Medium	\$
3.8	Develop a sustainability strategy that identifies specific goals and targets for the parks (e.g., transition to LED lighting at all parks by 2035, annual training for parks staff on sustainable practices, update preventative maintenance schedules).	O	O	Medium	\$
3.9	Develop a safety committee to create a safety plan that aligns with the overall city and department goals to outline strategies, protocols, and any needed resource allocation dedicated to safety enhancement.	S, O	O	Medium	\$
3.10	Evaluate community and neighborhood parks for fitness enhancements.	O	O	Medium	\$\$
GOAL 4: DEVELOP NATURAL AREAS AND PLAN FOR FUTURE PARK PROPERTIES					
4.1	Design and construct a community dog park.	PJ	NT	High	\$\$
4.2	Develop a master plan for Willis and Singleton to be developed into natural areas.	S	MT	Medium	\$\$
4.3	Conduct a study to identify a suitable location for a Veterans Memorial Park.	S	NT	High	\$
4.4	Create and install plans for new parkland designed as nature preserves, incorporating low-impact recreational activities that foster ecological stewardship.	PJ	O	Medium	\$\$
4.5	Work with Public Works Department to develop drainage standards that could incorporate passive recreation or native landscaping.	O	O	Medium	\$
4.6	Create nature-based play areas, playgrounds or activity zones that use natural materials and mimic natural landscapes, encouraging creative and active outdoor play for children.	PJ	O	High	\$\$
4.7	Conduct studies to quantify the ecosystem services provided by natural areas, such as carbon sequestration, water filtration, habitat creation, and percentage of native vegetation.	S	O	Medium	\$
GOAL 5: PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND PRESERVATION					
5.1	Incorporate nature-based solutions like rain gardens, biofiltration, and permeable pavements to improve drainage and enhance park sustainability.	PJ	O	Medium	\$\$
5.2	Work with non-profit, local businesses, and the Chamber of Commerce to sponsor park events, offer educational resources, or provide services that support land conservation, such as recycling programs litter abatement, and/or sustainable product donations.	O	O	Medium	\$\$
5.3	Designate "Green Zones" around sensitive areas to protect local habitats and resources, curbing disruptive activities in these spaces.	O	O	Medium	\$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

STRATEGY		TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
5.4	Create standardized volunteer opportunities that align with park needs and seasonal activities, such as tree planting, trail maintenance, and habitat restoration.	O	O	Medium	\$
5.5	Establish structured volunteer programs for schools, businesses, and neighborhood groups to support long-term stewardship in neighborhood parks and citywide, including projects such as adding pollinator-friendly features with native plants and gardens to enhance biodiversity, provide education, and reduce maintenance.	PM	O	Medium	\$
5.6	Develop interpretive programming in natural areas that create opportunities for environmental education by incorporating signage, guided tours, and outdoor classrooms that highlight local ecosystems, wildlife, and conservation efforts.	PM	O	Medium	\$
5.7	Create a "Leave No Trace" Program to promote responsible park use through campaigns and educational initiatives that emphasize waste reduction, wildlife protection, and sustainable recreation practices.	PM	O	Medium	\$
5.8	Adopt a "Rewilding" strategy to convert grass/turf areas, underutilized park spaces or degraded lands into restored natural habitats to promote biodiversity and resilience.	O	O	High	\$\$
GOAL 6: EXPAND PARKLAND AND PROTECT OPEN SPACE					
6.1	Expand parkland in areas identified as gaps through the Level of Service (LOS) assessment, specifically focusing on natural areas and community parkland to meet future population needs.	P	O	High	\$\$\$
6.2	Establish a green infrastructure plan that integrates natural areas, floodplain, stormwater management and wildlife corridors into parkland development.	S	O	High	\$
6.3	Leverage drainage infrastructure for multi-use recreation by incorporating multi-functional greenways along drainage areas for trails, passive recreation, and habitat preservation.	O	O	Low	\$\$
6.4	Partner with conservation organizations to secure land for preservation and offer incentives for private landowners to contribute land to conservation efforts.	P	O	Medium	\$
6.5	Develop a crowdsourcing campaign to encourage residents and other property owners to catalog their green spaces for inclusion in the city's green space count, fostering community-driven conservation efforts.	PM	O	Medium	\$
6.6	In collaboration with planning and GIS personnel, conduct a parkland suitability assessment/analysis that identifies and prioritizes parcels for acquisition or preservation based on ecological value, community accessibility and connectivity to existing parkland or trails.	S	O	Medium	\$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

STRATEGY		TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
6.7	Expand pocket parks in denser urban areas by working with the Planning Department to identify opportunities for green spaces as redevelopment occurs.	O	O	High	\$
6.8	Partner with land trusts and county conservation groups to protect additional parkland and provide incentives for private landowners to engage in conservation efforts.	PM	O	High	\$
GOAL 7: LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY FOR EFFICIENCY AND INNOVATION					
7.1	Implement technology to improve maintenance efficiency, such as smart waste management, irrigation systems, automated lighting controls, and other autonomous equipment.	O	MT	Medium	\$\$
7.2	Leverage GIS technology and asset management software to guide decision-making, track maintenance, and allocate resources more effectively.	O	NT	High	\$
7.3	Use drone technology for park maintenance and to monitor larger park areas, assess natural habitats, or inspect hard to reach areas like drainage, trails or roofs.	O	NT	Medium	\$
7.4	Explore the feasibility of adding accessible technology like free Wi-Fi and charging stations in popular parks to enhance the visitor experience.	O	MT	Medium	\$
7.5	Integrate real-time feedback systems such as QR codes at parks or trails that allow visitors to provide feedback on experiences or maintenance.	O	NT	Medium	\$
7.6	Enhance park staff capacity by hiring a team member with GIS expertise to improve the management of natural areas, parkland, and undeveloped properties.	O	NT	High	\$
7.8	Develop an enhanced online map for park users that highlights park amenities, programs, and features, improving accessibility and user experience.	O	NT	High	\$
GOAL 8: FOSTER ENGAGEMENT AT COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS					
8.1	Pilot mobile recreation units equipped with sports gear, art supplies, or tech hubs that can be deployed to neighborhoods with limited park access to provide programming on a rotating basis.	PM	NT	High	\$\$
8.2	Enhance evening or after dark programming to expand park access to accommodate residents such as yoga, stargazing events, or nighttime wildlife observation tours.	PM	NT	High	\$
8.3	Host an annual Movies in the Park event each spring or summer.	PM	NT	High	\$
8.4	Develop more multi-generational gatherings to engage with the community through shared experiences such as outdoor games, nature walks, or art installations that reflect local culture.	PM	NT	High	\$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

STRATEGY		TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
8.5	Expand older adult programming to attract more male participants by introducing activities like sporting events, car shows, and military/historical site tours, in response to feedback showing a gap in participation from this group.	PM	NT	Medium	\$
8.6	Collaborate with local organizations and nonprofits to activate spaces in neighborhoods to create a 'Park Dialogues' series that host regular, casual discussion sessions on topics like sustainability, local history, or cultural heritage to engage the community in shared learning and storytelling.	PM	NT	High	\$
8.7	Expand parks staff by creating a dedicated position focused on community engagement and marketing to enhance outreach, promote park programs, and strengthen connections with the community.	O	NT	High	\$
GOAL 9: ACTIVATE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS THROUGH PROGRAMMING AND PUBLIC SPACES					
9.1	Organize targeted community outreach and engagement through "Discovery Stations" at neighborhood parks, featuring programming that encourages participation in outdoor activities and connects residents to resources and park-specific content.	PM	NT	High	\$
9.2	Activate underutilized parks with pop-up events, farmers' markets, and inclusive spaces tailored to community needs, such as sensory-friendly areas for individuals with autism, accessible playgrounds for children with disabilities, and spaces reflecting the cultural diversity of the community.	PJ	NT	High	\$\$
9.3	Increase youth-focused events, such as summits or sports activities, to engage younger residents.	PM	NT	High	\$
9.4	Host pop-up registration events in accessible locations, such as apartment complexes, to encourage enrollment in new or underperforming programs.	O	NT	High	\$
9.5	Develop a community art installation program where the art community can collaborate on creating art for parks, such as murals, sculptures, or interactive exhibits, fostering a sense of ownership and pride.	PM, O	MT	High	\$
9.6	Pilot shared spaces, specifically with temporary street closures for pedestrian-only zones that allow open markets or recreation activities.	PM, O	MT	High	\$
9.7	Install game tables (chess, checkers, or ping-pong) at other neighborhood or community parks that encourages group interaction.	O	NT	High	\$
9.8	Partner with coffee/food trucks to offer time/space at underutilized parks monthly to encourage more use and community interaction at the park.	PM	NT	High	\$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

STRATEGY		TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
GOAL 10: ENHANCE COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND INCLUSIVITY					
10.1	Collect data to better understand the needs for intergenerational programming and use this data to develop activities such as family fitness nights and community sports challenges that encourage multi-generational participation.	O	NT	High	\$
10.2	Promote accessibility and inclusivity by offering sensory-friendly programming and accommodations at all events and promoting the information on the parks webpages. This may include on-site assistance, and specialized and sensory-friendly staff training to ensure inclusive park experiences.	PM	NT	High	\$
10.3	Establish dedicated senior-friendly hours at The Lagoon, offering early morning access for seniors to enjoy a quiet, less crowded environment.	PM, O	NT	High	\$
10.4	Continue to develop targeted outreach strategies to engage underrepresented communities, including language access services, culturally relevant programming, and partnerships with local community groups.	PM	O	High	\$
10.5	Create an online program guide to provide easy access to all available programs, events, and services. Ensure the guide is regularly updated and available in multiple formats, including a downloadable PDF and an interactive webpage.	O	O	Medium	\$
10.6	Partner with local schools, businesses, and civic organizations to promote membership benefits and special events, offering incentives such as discounted memberships and exclusive program access for early sign-ups (e.g., engage with the CHISD Teacher Perks Program to provide benefits for local educators).	P	NT	High	\$
10.7	Share park successes with the community annually with an impact report detailing the number of admissions to The Lagoon, memberships, kids programs, seniors programs, trails/parks built or improved, and trees planted, etc. to share the impact parks have on resident's daily life.	O	O	High	\$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for administering this master plan. As the plan administrator, the department will oversee all day-to-day activities, including coordination, monitoring, education, and amendments. The Parks and Recreation Department will take the lead in operating, maintaining, and expanding parks and recreation offerings. Ultimately, the success of this plan will depend on a community-wide effort, with ongoing evaluations determining the outcomes.

COORDINATION

The department will oversee plan implementation, lead individual initiatives, and facilitate the actions of partnering agencies.

MONITORING

The department will monitor the application of plan policies and activities, report on accomplishments, document outcomes, and measure success.

AMENDMENTS

The department will amend the plan throughout its lifecycle to reflect changes in community conditions, values, and characteristics.

PLAN UPDATES

FIVE-YEAR UPDATE

A comprehensive five-year update should be conducted to reevaluate and refresh system priorities, parkland/facility inventories, and any parkland dedication or development fees established through the parkland dedication ordinance. This update also offers an opportunity to gather additional public input on recreational preferences and service levels. Additionally, it helps the City stay competitive in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) grants process, as a five-year update is essential to achieve strong scores in the grant application point system.

EDUCATION

The department will update residents and local organizations about the plan's importance, promote the plan's vision and guiding principles, advertise successes, and continue gathering public input.

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Before the start of each yearly budget process, department staff should create and present a progress report to the Parks Board on the status of the actions in the Parks and Recreation work program and other relevant topics. Staff will also collaborate with elected and appointed officials to determine if any amendments to the work program are necessary.

TEN-YEAR UPDATE

Toward the end of this plan's time horizon, it is recommended that the City prepare a new master plan, including an assessment of facilities and priorities. While neither the five-year nor the ten-year update is a strict requirement for continued qualification for grant funding, TPWD places higher value on submitting a new plan every ten years.



ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE: HOW PARKS SYSTEMS GAIN RECOGNITION

The City of Cedar Hill has worked hard to develop, program, and maintain a park system that is recognized by the community and visitors as a valuable asset that improves quality of life and stands above the rest. In addition to community recognition, two considerations for highlighting the excellence of Cedar Hill's park system include pursuing CAPRA Accreditation and applying for the NRPA Gold Medal Award.

NRPA's Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accredits parks and recreation agencies for excellence in community service and operational efficiency. CAPRA accreditation affirms that a parks and recreation agency provides its community with the highest level of service. This accreditation also indicates that the city has committed to providing its staff with the resources necessary to operate and maintain the parks and recreation system efficiently.

The NRPA Gold Medal Award is a national award that recognizes park systems, based on population size, that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Cedar Hill funds its Parks and Recreation Department through a combination of public funding sources that are typical for municipalities. This mix of funding sources ensures that Cedar Hill's Parks and Recreation Department can sustain and grow its park system, maintain facilities, and offer a range of recreational programs to residents.

GENERAL FUND

A significant portion of the budget for Parks and Recreation is derived from the city's general fund. This includes revenues from property taxes, sales taxes, and other general municipal income sources, which are allocated annually to various city departments, including Parks and Recreation.

BONDS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS (CIP)

Cedar Hill may use bond issuances and capital improvement programs to fund large-scale park projects, such as new park developments, infrastructure improvements, or major renovations. These bonds are voter-approved and repaid over time.

GRANTS

The city likely pursues state and federal grants to supplement funding for parks and recreation. For example, they may apply for Texas Parks & Wildlife Department grants, federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants, or other recreational and environmental grants to support park expansions, trail projects, or nature-based programming.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS & SPONSORSHIPS

Partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, and community organizations can provide additional funding or resources. Cedar Hill's partnerships, such as with the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center or other local entities, may help fund specific programs, events, or facility improvements.

DEVELOPMENT FEES & PARK DEDICATIONS

Cedar Hill has the ability to utilize developer impact fees or park dedication ordinances, which require developers to either dedicate land for parks or contribute funds for the development of parks and recreational facilities as part of the city's planning process. This funding mechanism helps ensure that new developments are contributing to park infrastructure.

REVENUE FROM PROGRAMS & FACILITIES

The Parks and Recreation Department likely generates some revenue through user fees, facility rentals, memberships, and special events. This can include fees for recreational programs, leagues, aquatics, and facility use, which help offset operational costs.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Cedar Hill also has dedicated special revenue funds, such as a dedicated sales tax or special district revenues, specifically earmarked for park maintenance and improvements. For example, sales tax revenue from the Cedar Hill Community Development Corporation (CDC) is used to fund community development projects, including parks and recreation.



“[I] LOVE OUR PARKS. PLEASE KEEP ALLOCATING RESOURCES TO MAKE THEM THRIVE. THAT’S WHAT MAKES OUR COMMUNITY SPECIAL!”

- Survey Response



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