



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.

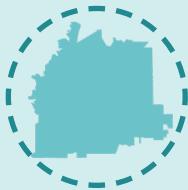
For indoor recreation, the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center provides residents with spaces to work out, take classes, and participate in youth summer camps. This year-round facility fosters fitness, education, and community engagement in a welcoming environment. Similarly, the Cedar Hill Senior Activity 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.



## 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.



## 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.



## 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.



## 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.



## 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.



## 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.

## 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

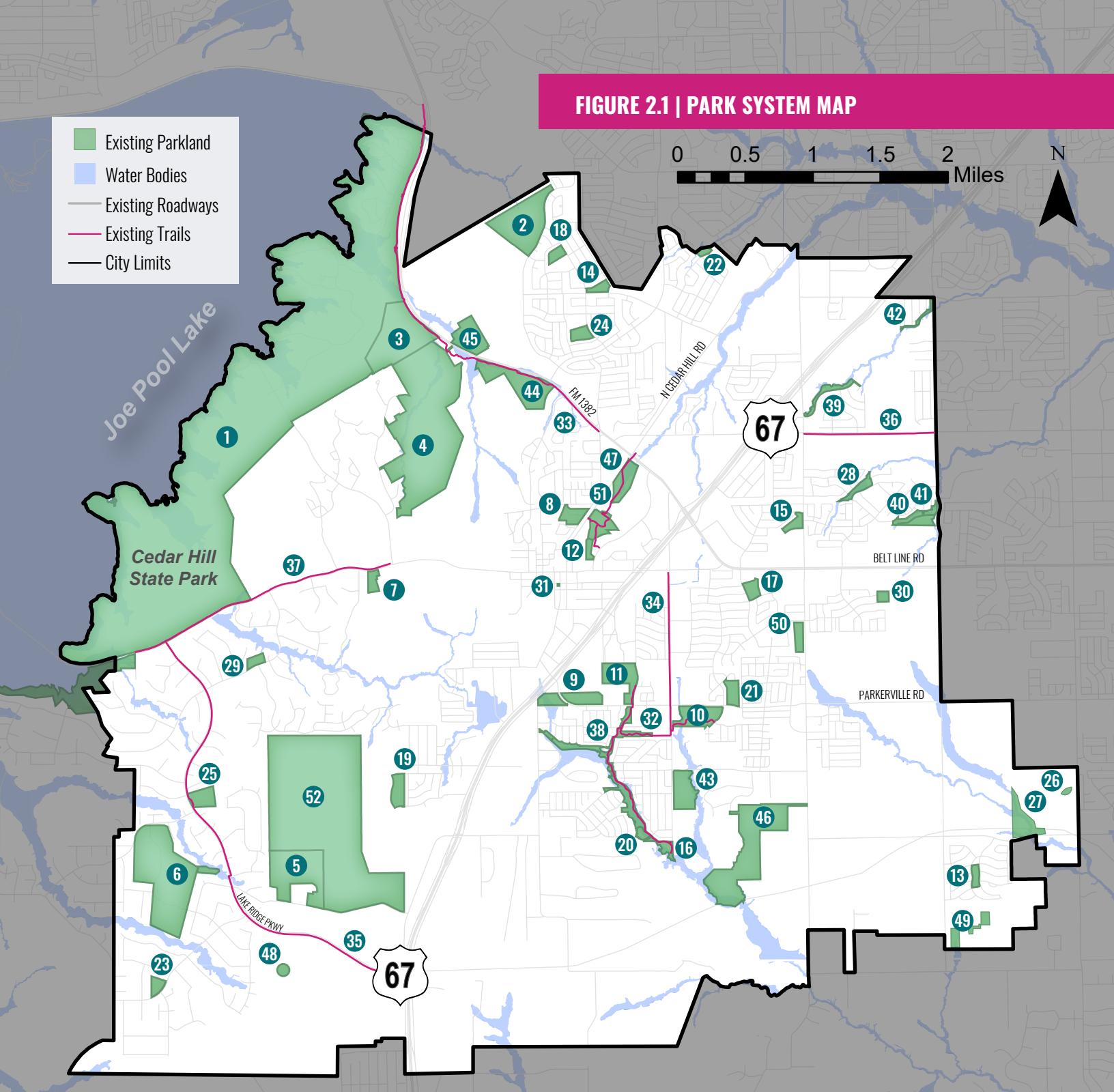
**16%**  
PARKS & OPEN SPACE

**52**  
PARKS & TRAILS

**3,770**  
ACRES OF PARKLAND

**60**  
MILES OF TRAILS

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 (#)
<b>REGIONAL PARKS</b>												
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	-
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>												
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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>												
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

## 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).

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

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 (#)
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS (CONT.)</b>												
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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>POCKET PARKS</b>												
Pioneer Park	600 Cedar St	.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>LINEAR PARKS/TRAILS</b>												
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

## 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.

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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 (#)
<b>LINEAR PARKS/TRAILS (CONT.)</b>												
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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>GREENBELTS &amp; NATURAL AREAS</b>												
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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>SPECIAL USE PARKS</b>												
Crawford's Tornado Graveyard	700 N. Cedar Hill Rd	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mt. Lebanon Camp & Conference Center*	1701 Texas Plume Rd	526.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals</b>		3770.4	23	14	3	7	10	6	4	10	7	1

\*Indicates this property is not City-owned

\*\*Includes indoor amenities

## 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.



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

# 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

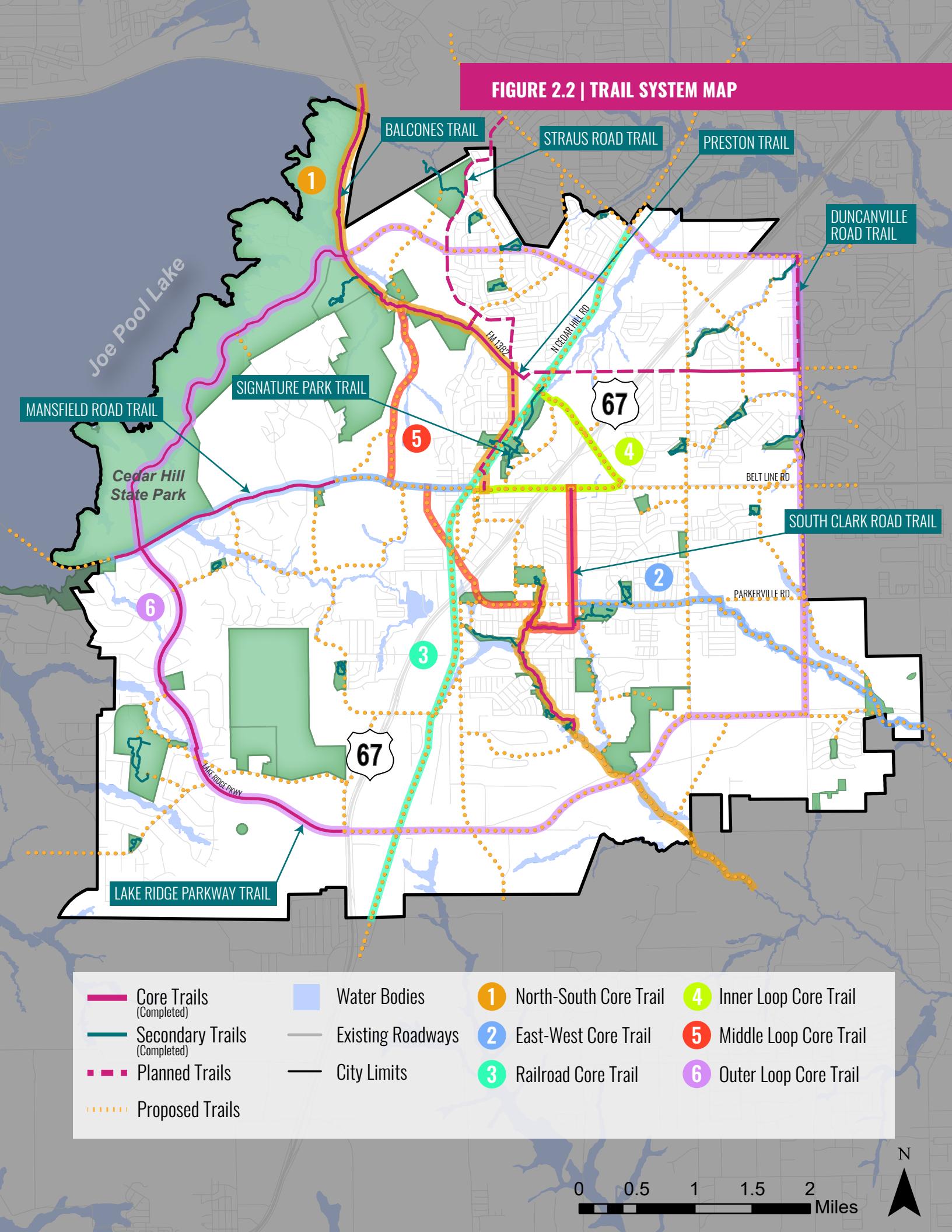
The City is actively working to create additional trails that improve pedestrian access to recreation opportunities and to connect to other regional trails. A regional trail, or inter-city trail, is a long-distance trail that connects multiple communities, forming part of a larger network that extends 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



# 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.

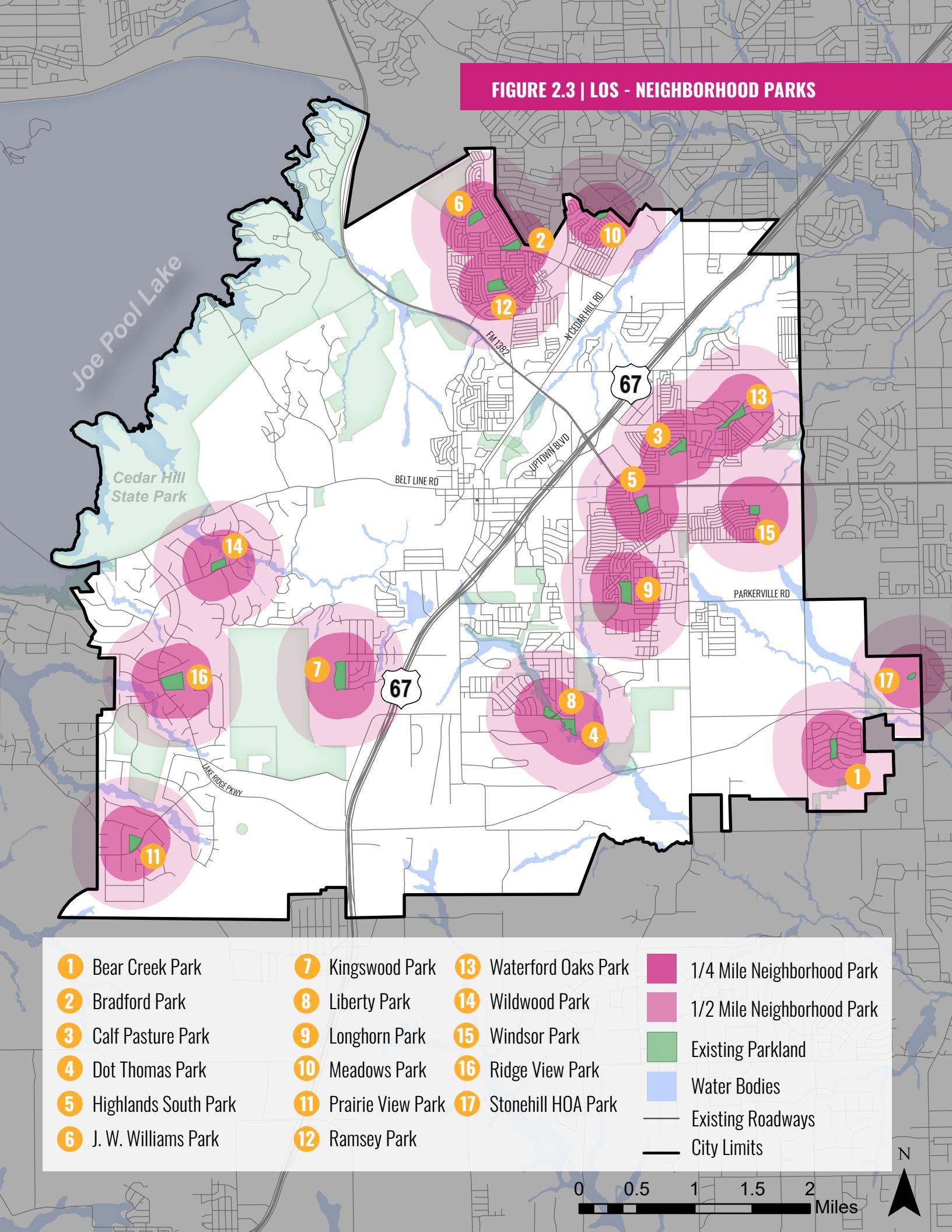


TABLE 2.4 | EXISTING PARKLAND LOS (2024) | POPULATION: 49,148

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
<b>Total*</b>	<b>3770.4</b>	<b>76.72</b>	<b>10 to 25</b>	<b>489 to 1,225</b>	<b>Surplus</b>

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

FIGURE 2.3 | LOS - NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



## 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
<b>Total*</b>	<b>3770.4</b>	<b>64.39</b>	<b>10 to 25</b>	<b>536 to 1,341</b>	<b>Surplus</b>

\*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

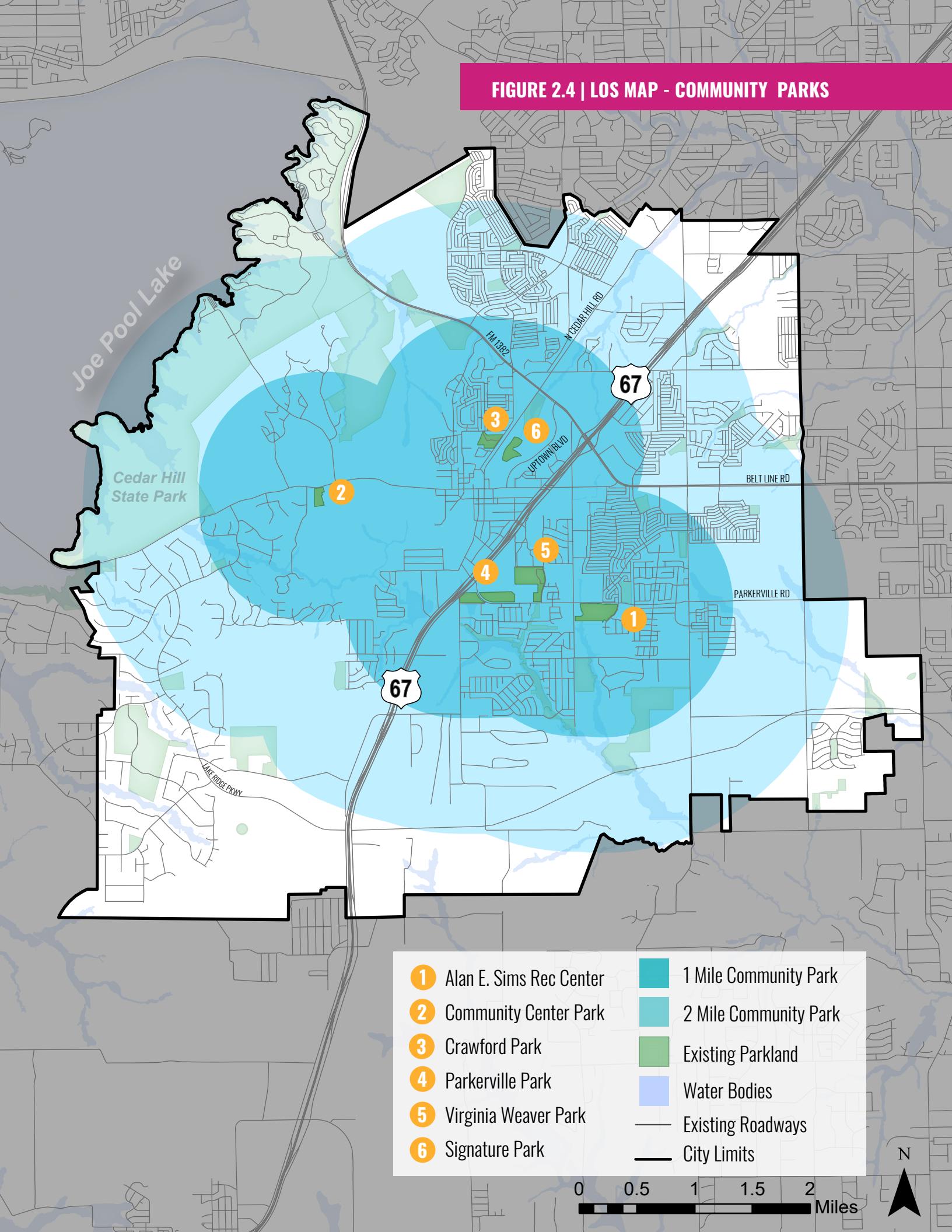
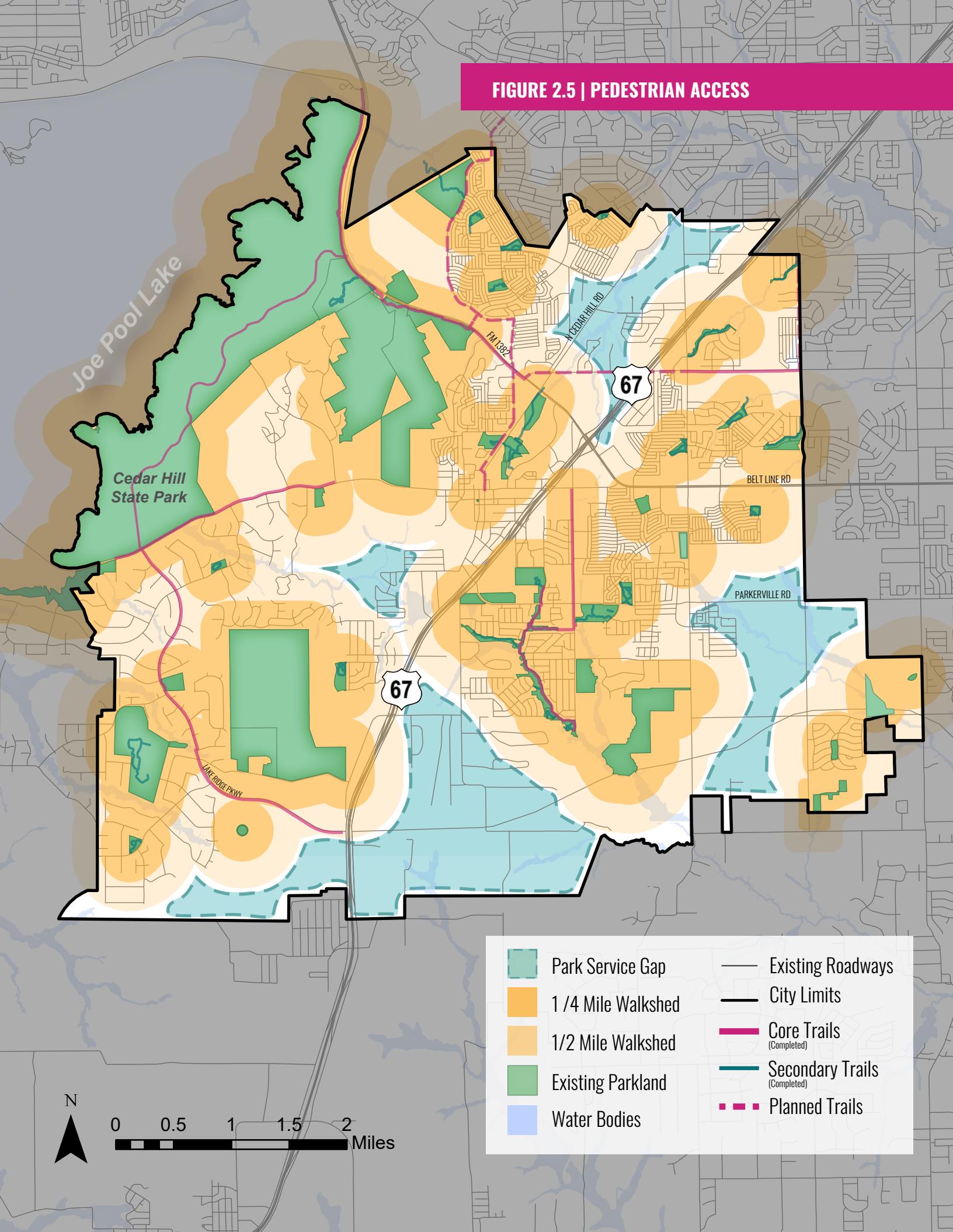


FIGURE 2.5 | PEDESTRIAN ACCESS



## 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.