



City of Wimberley

221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas 78676

WORKSHOP PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

WIMBERLEY CITY HALL – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
221 STILLWATER, WIMBERLEY, TEXAS 78676

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024 - 4:00 PM

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER** January 31, 2024, at 4:00 PM
2. **CALL OF ROLL**
3. **WORKSHOP**
 - 3.1. The Parks and Recreation Board will participate in a workshop to discuss and review the Parks Comprehensive Master Plan.
4. **ADJOURNMENT**

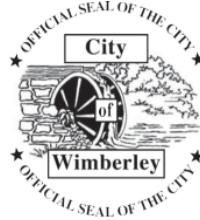
Attendance by Other Elected or Appointed Officials: It is anticipated that members of other governmental bodies, and/or city boards, commissions and/or committees may attend the meeting in numbers that may constitute a quorum of the body, board, commission and/or committee. The members of the boards, commissions and/or committees may be permitted to participate in discussion on the same items listed on the agenda, which occur at the meeting, but no action will be taken by such in attendance unless item and action is specifically provided for on an agenda for that body, board, commission or committee subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above Notice of Meeting was posted on the bulletin board at Wimberley City Hall, a place convenient and readily accessible to the general public at all times, and to the City's website, www.cityofwimberley.com, in compliance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, on Thursday, January 25, 2024, by 12:00 p.m., and remained posted for atleast 72 continuous hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.

Tammy Heller, City Secretary

The City of Wimberley is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Please contact City Secretary Tammy Heller at (512) 847-0025 two business days in advance of the meeting for appropriate arrangements.





AGENDA ITEM:	1. The Parks and Recreation Board will participate in a workshop to discuss and review the Parks Comprehensive Master Plan.
SUBMITTED BY:	
DATE SUBMITTED:	01/23/2024
MEETING DATE:	January 31, 2024

AGENDA FORM

ITEM DESCRIPTION/SUMMARY

REQUESTED ACTION

FINANCIAL

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENT/S

1. 2024-2034 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan



January 19th, 2024

Dear Wimberley Parks and Recreation Board –

I would like to begin this letter with a **Thank You** to the Parks Board and Parks Department Staff for thoroughly reviewing and commenting on the draft Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Wimberley. This is the City's document and should reflect the vision of the residents, City Council, Parks Board, and Parks Staff. Without your thorough review, we are unable to modify the document as you believe best suits your community. I would also like to thank you for the adequate time to coordinate with City Staff and revise the plan accordingly based on everyone's feedback.

In an attached document titled "Comment Response Letter – Wimberley Parks Board Review," you will find information which addresses nearly every comment received outside of grammatical and spelling errors, as those items have all been addressed. The information provided in the black text is direct from members of the Board and/or City Staff. The comments in **the red text** are the responses to those comments and why we came to certain conclusions. The four points below briefly summarize the larger areas of focus during the revisions process.

1. *Introduction Chapter.* Due to the length of the document, the Introduction Chapter will be updated and modified to read as an executive summary of the document. It will be revised to state more clearly the background, process, needs, priorities, and recommendations.
2. *National Standards and Generic Planning Information.* It is industry standard to provide local, State and National Standards in planning documents, so individuals are aware of what other communities, both near and far, are providing in their communities. This is to ensure you do not fall too far behind the curve of what might be the future expectations of your community. In addition, much of this information is critical for future funding opportunities from State and Federal Grant Programs. As you continue to develop the Park System, some of this information will be pertinent to receiving State or National Awards or Accreditations.
3. *Implementation Schedule.* This particular chapter is critical for your community. We are working to redevelop the implementation schedule by:
 - a. Separating the projects into Short-Term, Mid-Term and Long-Term vision casting. Each Term will have an introductory section that explains the differences between the Terms and the importance to the community.
 - b. The Wimberley Implementation Schedule has three themes: Policy/Planning Recommendations, Land Acquisition and Park Development/Redevelopment. Although the approach to implementing each specific project will vary, we will provide a general guide to the process of policy/planning changes, land acquisition, and park development.
 - c. Additional detail will be provided on specific line items to ensure the Board, City Council and City Staff have a clear understanding of general project recommendations in the future.
 - d. Notations will be provided that provide direct correlations from the Implementation Schedule recommendations to the Objectives and Standards.

4. *Chapter Arrangement.* The “Objectives & Standards” and the “NRPA Standards” chapters will be moved to provide more continuity within the document. The “Objectives and Standards” will be placed between the “Future Parks & Recreation System” and the “Implementation Schedule” chapters. The “NRPA Standards” chapter will be placed between the “Our Parks and Recreation System” and the “Public Input & Key Findings” chapters.

Richard Shaver, Parks Director, will provide the Comment Response Letter and revised Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan to the Parks Board for review. As you read through the plan, please know that we are continually reviewing this document internally alongside you to ensure all your comments are addressed; specifically, throughout the Implementation Schedule as there have been several big changes in a limited time.

We anticipate presenting the plan to the City Council on February 1st, 2024 for adoption pending additional questions and comments from the Board. We have enjoyed the opportunity to partner with you through this project and appreciate your feedback. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,



Hunter N Rush
Senior Planner & Partner

January 19th, 2024

Comment Response Letter
Wimberley Parks Board Review

Below are the comments from the initial review of the Parks Master Plan. Nearly every comment provided to us is shown below; excluding specific comments regarding grammar and spelling as all the items that were noted have been addressed. The information provided in the black text is direct from members of the Board and/or City Staff. The comments in **the red text** are the responses to those comments and why we came to certain conclusions. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments while reviewing this information.

General Comments:

- All comments regarding grammatical and spelling errors have been addressed.
- What's with the boot [referencing the page number]? *The boot symbol was left in the plan to add uniqueness to the plan per city direction.*

Cover:

- Not very readable. *The cover has been updated to be more legible.*

Title Page:

- Is it standard to list more than just one person under the "Team" here? Maybe worth including the Parks Board below Richard. *This has been revised to state "Contact".*

Acknowledgements:

- I would suggest alphabetical order [referencing the various groups] *This has been revised.*
- New officers: Leah Cuddeback – Chair, Noland Martin, Vice Chair, Anothony Deringer, Secretary. *This has been revised.*

Table of Contents:

- Suggest reorganizing so that NRPA standards chapter comes as Chapter 5 (more broad/extraneous) and Objectives & Standards comes as Chapter 6 since it narrows the focus back to Wimberley *This has been revised.*
- Move community partnerships section to the "Who We Are" part – currently feels out of place *This has been revised. This has been revised.*

Page 14:

- Was the last Master Plan updated in 2018? *That is correct. The previous Parks Master Plan was updated in 2018. To be TPWD approved, Master Plan Updates must be developed as a new plan after 5 years.*

[Type here]

Page 15:

- This page is very redundant – recommend cutting down/removing sections that are indicated with “r”. This introduction reads more like an overview to me. Since the plan is over 150+ pages long, I recommend retitling and adapting this to serve more as an executive summary. I also suggest adding key suggestions and implementation/timeline takeaways for future parks. *The Introduction Chapter has been updated.*

Page 25:

- Blue Hole is called out specifically, but is it possible to also connect this to broader attendance metrics across Wimberley Parks system? Wimberley Parks are more than just BHRP and it’s good to point that out whenever possible, especially in this summary graphic. *This has been revised.*

Page 26:

- Recommend adding a sentence/caveat explaining that survey response feedback was NOT fully representative of the population as a whole, but provides a snapshot/glimpse into respondent’s experiences with the parks system. *This has been revised.*

Page 28:

- This is jargon [referencing the “New Parks” paragraph]. *This paragraph has been revised.*
- Maintain “them”...sentence structure sounds as if you’re maintaining members of the community [referencing the “Existing Parks” paragraph]. *This has been revised.*
- Signage twice in a sentence [referencing the “Existing Parks” paragraph]. *This has been revised.*
- How is trail use “passive”? [referencing the “Trails” paragraph]. *Trails are typically categorized as both passive and active pending the activity.*

Page 29:

- Recommend moving “Priorities” category to fall before Collaboration. *This has been revised.*
- Are these Priorities or Recommendations from the plan? I think Recommendations feel more active and finite than a priority wishlist. I recommend reworking the list and accompanying blurb to be more active – change the title to “Recommendations,” updating the blurb to say these recommendations were all identified as priorities over the next 10 years, and update list language to be more active (i.e. “Increase aquatics opportunities, Create additional trails and trail connectivity, Expand site furniture...”). *This section was lest ‘as-is’ as a priority list is needed for a TPWD Approved Parks Plan. This list will also assist with future funding opportunities.*

Page 32:

- Remove specific business [referencing “Location & Character” paragraph]. *This has been removed.*

Page 33:

- There is no Blackland Prairie in Wimberley. This is all East of I-35. *This has been revised.*

Page 34:

- Can we get data on Hispanic origin for Wimberley? It would also be helpful to know in general how this group views and uses parks. *Hispanic statistics have been added.*

Page 35

- What was the growth rate from 2010-2020 for all of 78676? That data will help us understand the real level of growth in our area. *The census does not currently provide data on the zip code for 2010 but have included the 2020 estimation.*

Page 36:

- From where did the data in that bar chart derive? Why are there no females aged 35-39, 20-24, 10-14, or under 5? Is there a better data set elsewhere? *This data came from the American Community Survey which is conducted by the Census Bureau.*

Page 37:

- This is very poor wording for the heading of this section. *This has been revised.*

Page 38:

- I really don't understand why all of this demographic information is presented here (and in previous pages). It just seems that an awareness of the demographics of Wimberley is fine to have, but to re-state them in a parks plan seems redundant. There is all of this information provided here (and again all the pages) with little to no citations, so none of this is immediately verifiable. If this was one of my students' papers I would be taking off substantially for lack of citations. Lots and lots of information is presented in this report that was not generated by the contractor. *References to data collected from outside sources have been expressed more clearly. This information was incorporated into the plan to assist in current and future recreational needs that are attributed to demographics. This information is also critical for being competitive in different grant funding opportunities, accreditations or awards.*

Page 41:

- This is the first time I've seen this acronym [referencing PARD], and this last sentence seems a poor conclusion to this section. *This has been revised.*

Page 43:

- International Dark Sky Place of the Year, 2023 - Wimberley Valley The Wimberley Valley was designated as the International Dark Sky Place of the Year in 2023. This accolade is granted to honor a recent outstanding accomplishment made by an International Dark Sky. by an International Dark Sky Place or Community? *This has been revised.*

Page 44 – 47 (former page 148-151):

- Native Plant Society of Texas is not included. The Hill Country Chapter has worked at Patsy Glenn Refuge to help select appropriate plants, and has worked with residents to educate them on the importance of using natives. *Native Plant Society of Texas has been added.*
- This page feels more like an acknowledgement – awesome to include but would recommend not keeping it under the “Implementation Schedule” chapter – *This has been revised.*

Page 50 (former page 46):

- May be worth clarifying that “While several neighborhood parks are located within Wimberley, there are currently none located on public property managed by the City and open to the general public.” If this sort of blurb works better in the general “Parks Classification” section feel free to adapt/move, but I think it’s worth mentioning that there are neighborhood parks NOT managed by the City. *This has been revised.*

Page 52 (former page 48):

- Remove the callout for private parks and recreation facilities. *This has been removed.*
- Says who [referencing “There are no standards for characteristics, service area, size, or amount of land per 1,000/population” for a special use park]. *Clarified the source.*

Page 53 (former page 49):

- Having TOTAL ACRES and Developed acres section is unnecessary, as they’re both exactly the same numbers. *Both Developed and Total Acres are in the plan as the Level of Service is determined by the Developed Acres. Currently the Wimberley System is fully developed but if additional property is acquired prior to its development, it will need to be noted. This is a standard practice in Park Planning Documents.*

Pages 54/55 (former pages 50/51):

- These maps need a compass direction on them. *This has been revised.*
- Why are schools shown here but not on accompanying map? May be helpful to also provide a symbol for the Wimberley Square / Downtown area for orientation purposes. Recommend also differentiating between the Blanco River and contributing streams – i.e make Blanco appear thicker and name it – since many contributing streams are ephemeral and often dry. *This has been revised.*
- Confused by the blue highlighted areas – why don’t all the parks get one. *This has been revised.*

Page 63 (former page 59):

- Add “public art space” – this area is often used for art displays. *This has been revised.*

Page 64 (former page 60):

- That isn’t the only purpose. Perhaps just say, “Here, we...” [referencing the trail network inventory]. *This has been revised.*

Page 66 (former page 62):

- It is stated that: "Trail Map Figure 11 identifies the location of existing trails along with trails that have been proposed in previous plans. Ideally, there would be continuous access throughout the city." However, Figure 11 does not include proposed trails and also cuts off significant parts of the City. This map should be revised to reflect the details in the Wimberley Valley Trails Project's proposed trails including the South Loop and any additional proposed trails or connections. I realize it is mentioned in future parts of the plan (pp. 134-35, PDF 78) but a visual that includes proposed trails and connectivity (e.g. a shared-use pedestrian/bike bridge over the river) is important. Speaking of pedestrian/bike bridges and connectivity, I would also like to suggest the addition of that phrase (or similar) in the paragraph on pp. 134-35. *This has been revised.*

Page 68 (former page 64):

- Is it reasonable to talk about recommended level of service based only on the population of 2,877 who live within City limits? I know that the purview of the City is the City boundaries; however, the boundaries are convoluted and not logical from a community perspective. All of the 13,000 people in 78676 are likely to use City parks. Based on 13,000 people in 78676, Wimberley only provides 11 acres/1,000 residents. *Typically, the LOS is based on the current tax-paying residents of a specific park system.*

Page 69 (former page 65):

- This is a confusing metric [referencing the Level of Service], because I would imagine most of the users in the park do not reside in the city proper. Thus a lot of the usage comes from nearby residents and out of towners. This should be acknowledged in the text. *The has been revised to clarify this.*
- There is no Y-axis here, so no way to read this figure [referencing the Level of Service chart]. *This has been clarified by labeling each segment of the chart with the acres per capita.*

Page 70 (former page 66):

- This map is confusing to me – why are the areas with existing parkland shown as no priority? Is this weighted for density of population? Agreed on the high priority section – that would be good for building connectivity – but the orange, medium priority section also lacks any parkland and is on the Blanco River. *This has been revised.*

Page 72 (former page 68):

- No figure legends. *This has been revised.*

Page 73 (former page 69):

- Sample size makes a big difference in the validity of graphs such as the one found on this page. How many black residents were actually surveyed. If the sample size is insignificant, so is this graph, and it should be deleted. *This information was developed*

and provided by the Trust for Public Land. Data such as this is often utilized for future funding opportunities.

Page 81 (former page 99):

- This chapter is great general info and ties our work back to the national effort for parks – recommend moving it to be more introductory/background on the park.

This is an inappropriate title [referencing Chapter 6. National Recreation & Parks Association Standards]. It looks like you're re-visiting national standards, when in fact you're seeking to use national standards to inform our own local desires. *This chapter was requested by city staff. The NRPA Standards Chapter is one of the first steps in becoming a CAPRA Park System (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies.) Texas currently has the most CAPRA communities across the nation and many cities are pursuing this accreditation. In addition, this information is critical for future funding opportunities.*

Page 84 (former page 102):

- This is a fact. This is not a standard. [referencing "According to the Trust for Public Land, 75% of U.S. residents have a park or green space within a 10-minute walk of home."] *This has been revised.*
- This bullet point says nothing. [referencing "Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (HEPA) standards"]. *This has been revised.*

Page 85 (former page 103):

- This comes out of nowhere. "Aging in Place". *It was important to note the importance of supporting aging in place policies as the Wimberley community has an older population, as noted in the demographics. By being proactive in supporting these policies the City can help plan for future community needs.*
- Why are we introducing these acronyms? Are we using them later? [referencing Walking With Ease (WWE), Active Living Every Day (ALED), and Fit & Strong! (F&S!)]. *This has been revised.*

Page 88 (former page 106):

- I doubt that 19 listed threatened or endangered species occur in Blue Hole. I think that they should probably be described as 19 rare species or 19 species of conservation concern. Endangered and threatened are specific legal categories. For example, the chatterbox orchid is considered to be a species of conservation concern, but it is not listed as threatened or endangered. *This information was provided by city staff via the SITES Certified Award provided to the City of Wimberley.*
- Another success is the collaboration with UT to manage Raspberry crazy ants at Blue Hole.
- I would like to add two more recommendations:
 - Work with wildlife agencies and volunteers to conduct regular biological inventories of all park properties. *This has been revised.*

- Ensure that endangered species habitat is mapped and referenced when any development or maintenance projects are proposed. (For example, PEC conducted clearing in golden-cheeked warbler habitat in the park during the breeding season. GCW have not been detected in that area since then.) *This has been revised.*

Page 91 (former page 109):

- The Local Accomplishments section is very vague. I would add another bullet: "-Improve accessibility of trails." *This has been revised.*

Page 96 (former page 78):

- See comments on pg 18 – Update to include language clarifying the population was not fully represented. *This has been revised.*
- Add language about survey deadline extension? *This has been noted.*

Pages 104/105 (former pages 86/87):

- None of these figures have legends. *The necessary information for the figures has been provided.*
- Figure 22 isn't clear what is being measured. No legend. *This has been updated with the numerical number of responses.*
- It is unclear why now a circular chart is used. I think consistency is in order here. *A variety of different charts and tables are used throughout the plan. The circle graphs continue on the following page, however if it is preferred for charts and tables to be consistent, it can be modified.*

Page 106 (former page 88):

- This question was poorly worded [referencing Monthly Contribution to a Bond] – as discussed in joint City Council / Parks Board meeting in fall 2023. May be worth adding language here to spotlight a recent nearby bond – i.e. Kendall County's 2022 Bond that passed generated more than \$20 million while costing the average homeowner just \$2.25 a month. *This has been revised to acknowledge recent bond successes in other communities.*

Page 107 (former page 89):

- I think some interpretation is needed in the text here. Swimming / water play is of high importance. Coordinated sports not so much. Also come clean that you forgot to put "soccer" as an option. *This has been revised to clarify the significance.*

Page 109 (former page 91):

- Something is wrong here. Why would visitors be asked about this? [referencing the programming] By definition – these are singular events, and the vast majority of visitors are not going to be familiar with all of these. *Visitors were asked about this as the most of the programming is open to the entire community. The intent was to best understand*

what events visitors liked to better understand how the City can attract park users and better promote programs that are underutilized or unfamiliar.

- The color contrasts with the blues / like it love it are hard to see. *The two blue colors are similar in shades to vividly compare the positive vs. negative feedback of programs (Love & Like vs Dislike.)*

Page 110 (former page 92):

- No figure legend [referencing the Resident Frequency of Park Visits graphic]. *There is a legend to the side of the graph, was this comment on the wrong graph?*

Page 111 (former page 93):

- The Title " Resident Frequency Of Park Visits is incorrect. A graph would be much more helpful to me than a jumble of words in different sizes. *This has been updated.*
- Not everybody knows what a word cloud is. No figure legend [referencing the Additional Recreational Activities graphic]. *The response narrative has been updated to include ranks for the top requested amenities.*
- Would be more impactful/helpful to also include numbers with these responses in the text write-up (i.e. aquatic facilities (200), plasycap & equipment (50), etc.) so that we have more a clear picture of how many people expressed these interests. *This has been revised to show the number of responses for the top requested amenities.*

Page 114:

- Are these in order? Is there an order? [referencing the Recreational Needs images] *These elements are not intended to be in any particular order.*

Page 117:

- "Brazos River" should be changed to "Cypress Creek." Please insert a note at the end of this paragraph that water conservation will be a key consideration in planning future aquatic recreation projects. *This has been revised.*
- (and throughout the document) - There is frequent reference to the need for parks to be within a 10-minute walk of residents. However, many Wimberley neighborhoods are very dispersed, and this goal will be difficult to meet (especially with the fragmented city boundaries). Can we use some other measure than the 10-minute walk for dispersed neighborhoods? It just doesn't seem feasible for Wimberley. *It is true that Wimberley has sprawl which can make this difficult to achieve, however, this is the standard metric used by communities. This information will be useful for future funding opportunities. The narrative has been revised so the distribution of parkland is not the sole factor for why the majority of the community cannot walk to a park from their house.*
- This isn't exactly true, in the sense that a majority of neighborhoods are simply not "walkable" in the sense that there are little to few sidewalks. I think the walkability is misguided, or if we're going to focus on this we need to acknowledge that simple proximity to a park is not the leading reason we can't walk/bike there. *This has been revised.*

- Please place the need for a pool lower down in this paragraph. The acquisition of new parkland was “the top priority of how PARD should allocate funding.” This should be the “lead.” *This has been revised.*
- May also be good to consider adding suggested neighborhood park language here from page 46 [referencing there are privately-owned neighborhood parks]. *This has been revised.*

Page 118:

- No no no no... population biologist here. The primary way to conserve natural resources is through the acquisition of parklands. Not “re-wilding”. This should not be the conclusion of this paragraph. While there are a couple of areas that could use some restoration within the already-existing parks, the primary mechanism of preservation is the acquisition of new ones. I strongly disagree with concluding with this and having this be what is taken out of the section. *This has been revised.*

Page 119:

- The clarification under multi-generational center is helpful – we don’t need a new center, we need to better utilize the existing center. However that takeaway is not clear in the introduction section talking about “Priorities” – recommend making changes as suggested on page 29 to further clarify. *This section is requested by TPWD for an approved master plan. This information will be critical for future funding opportunities.*
- Would this have not been the purview of this? Why weren’t these facilities assessed in the current plan? [referencing the accessibility of the parks]. *An ADA Accessibility Report of each individual park was not in the scope of this plan. This type of assessment is performed by Registered Accessibility Specialists (RAS).*
- Note that soccer was not specifically asked about [referencing the survey]. *Although soccer was not addressed several times throughout the survey it was referenced on questions 9, 10 and 13.*

Page 120:

- Rewrite [referencing the mentioning of the Trinity aquifer in the Community pool]. *This has been revised.*

Page 121:

- Please place this first. Pool and splashpad second and third [referencing river access] *A large portion of the community feedback revolved around the desire for a community pool or splashpad.*

Page 124:

- This chapter feels disorganized – it seems to go from a close-up look at different recommendation themes (i.e. parks, aquatics, trails) to general priorities, open space and a list of amenity priorities. Recommend reorganizing it so the highest level

takeaways are at the start and then resulting pages can go more in-depth on the types of recommendations. *This has been revised.*

Page 128 (former page 126):

- How much land? I think this should be expressly laid out. How much are we lacking and how much do we need and how many parcels? I want concrete numbers so that future parks board members can evaluate our progress. [referencing the Land Acquisition] *This has been revised.*

Page 129:

- The Title Under Adult and Youth Athletics - if there is no water available for the soccer fields, what maintenance are they suggesting to improve the condition of the fields? *This section has been updated.*
- Page 129 (and many other places) - I am not comfortable with the frequent suggestion of "rewilding" as a goal. It should always be conditioned with the phrase "where ecologically needed." Note that many of our park acres are still dominated by native flora, so plantings may not be needed and could be deleterious if they cause environmental damage. In place of "rewilding," in some places active habitat management needs to be encouraged. Some possible tools include using fencing and brush barriers to reduce browsing by deer and increase plant recruitment, conducting small prescribed burns, selective clearing of juniper outside of golden-cheeked warbler habitat, etc. *Active Habitat Management has been included for some of the parks within the Implementation Schedule.*
- Where specifically would you recommend rewilding right now? Name a parcel. *Several parks identified in the implementation schedule are suited for rewilding or Active Habitat Management.*
- This is absolutely a bad recommendation. The soccer fields are currently not playable no matter the "turf". There is no "maintaining" a dirt / bunchgrass soccer field. It's not possible and made by people that do not play soccer. In order to have playable soccer fields, there must be – by definition – turf. Period. Players play on a turf, so it's silly to say that it's not recommended to "turf the soccer fields." This makes no sense. Yes, natural and artificial turf require watering, but soccer requires turf. So what's the solution? Either we do away with the crappy soccer fields and recognize that same are coming to the bypass – and Wimberley Parks gets out of the business of soccer (and HERE we could do re-wilding). Or we recognize that we need a playable turf. My recommendation is to Just say the soccer fields, if they're going to be there, need artificial turf and this would deal with the water issues and playability issues and move on. It's also disingenuous to equate both artificial and grass turfs as needing equal amounts of water. *This section has been updated. The current recommendation, based on the need from the soccer community and the concern over water usage, is to leave the fields in their current state but continue to monitor the playing surface for safety prior to games and practices. Open communication and coordination should continue between the City and the local soccer organization.*

Page 130:

- Please add some information here on potential pool partnerships that reach beyond the city. Like examples of other city pools or county-supported pools? In-person discussion more explicitly outlined some challenges Wimberley would face (i.e. where funding would be coming from to support such an endeavor) and gave an example of the kind of revenue required – would be good to include a dollar amount. *This information will specifically come from an Aquatics Feasibility Study.*

Pages 130 – 131:

- It would be quite helpful for the authors to provide data about water consumption associated with pools and splash pads. We need this context throughout this document, as it will affect our decision-making about aquatic projects in Wimberley. *This information is not provided as MHS is not an aquatics specialist and this information will be derived from the Aquatics Feasibility Study in the consideration of the construction of a pool in Wimberley.*

Page 133:

- Please place river access first [referencing Aquatic Recommendation] *A large portion of the community feedback revolved around the desire for a community pool or splashpad.*

Page 134:

- My addition in red: “It is recommended that the City of Wimberley expand their trail system. This trail system should be constructed to allow for connection to adjacent neighborhoods, shops, schools, facilities, etc. These trails should be constructed at a minimum of 8’ to allow for parents with strollers, people in wheelchairs, and people walking along side one another the opportunity to comfortably walk or run. *These trails should be integrated into any road construction project in or near Wimberley.* As Wimberley expands and develops, the city should anticipate the need to connect destinations by constructing trails, sidewalks, *pedestrian/bike bridges* and shared-use paths to integrate the trail system in new residential and commercial developments. The City of Wimberley has key destinations as seen in the following images, that should be connected through the trail network.” *This has been revised.*

Page 141 (former page 95):

- This is by far the shortest chapter AND it feels like one of the most important. These goals and objectives should tie directly into implementation and our next steps. Recommend moving this chapter to be Chapter 6 and tee-up with needs and future park suggestions. *This has been relocated and objectives have been directly connected to the implementation schedule.*

Page 143 (former page 97):

- The Under Design Development Goals and Objectives, there is no mention of Dark Sky considerations. Seems to me it should be stated in there. *A new goal has been added to that addresses this.*

Page 145 (*former page 140*):

- This is the section of the master plan I am least happy/comfortable with. As discussed at December 2023 Parks Board meeting, we need clear Goals and objective, needs, and actionable items. I think this would be better if it focused on pulling together takeaways from chapters 5, 7, and 8 (and we should move ch. 5 on objectives so that it is more linear).
- Please synthesize the data here so it is easier to follow and digest –
 - 1. Fuse objectives and standards (from CH. 5) WITH this proposed implementation schedule to create a more tailored table/database of steps to achieve *This has been addressed.*
 - Expand the “implementation schedule” – timeline is useful but not in current form *This has been addressed.*
 - Give examples of a timeline/flow/structure for a suggest project like land acquisition – i.e. step by step guide on what to do when something comes up for sale *This has been addressed.*

Page 153 (*former page 145*):

- I would like to include species inventories as a mid-term goal for Enhancement of Blue Hole Regional Park. *This has been addressed.*

Page 153 (*former page 146*):

- Wildlife feeders should NOT be installed at Patsy Glenn Refuge. The practice of feeding wildlife (other than bird feeders for the purpose of bird viewing) is never a good management practice. *This has been addressed.*

Page 156 (*former page 152*):

- This information is very useful and should be moved up/better tied-in with the “Implementation Schedule” chapter since funding will make suggested changes possible *This has been addressed.*



WIMBERLEY TEXAS



CITY OF
WIMBERLEY

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2024 - 2034
PARKS & RECREATION
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

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2024 – 2034

PARKS & RECREATION

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN



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Rebecca Minnick, *Place One Council Member / Mayor Pro Tem*
Teresa Shell, *Place Two Council Member*
Chris Sheffield, *Place Three Council Member*
Jim Chiles, *Place Four Council Member*
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Noland Martin, *Vice-Chairperson*
Anthony Deringer, *Secretary*
Lee Ann Linam
Kelley Shand
Amy Crowell
Lin Weber

Pop Up Events

Ace Hardware
Blue Hole Nature Camp
Blue Hole Regional Park
Community Pizza
The Learning Pear
Wimberley Cafe

Watercolor Artist

Bruce Grant



Special thanks to the residents of Wimberley for their participation and input during the planning process!

**PLACEHOLDER FOR COUNCIL
ADOPTION RESOLUTION**



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List of Acronyms

ACS: American Community Survey
ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act
BHRP: Blue Hole Regional Park
ETJ: Extraterritorial Jurisdiction
HOA: Homeowner Association
LOS: Level of Service
LWCF: Land and Water Conservation Fund
NPS: National Park Service
NRPA: National Recreation and Parks Association
TPL: Trust for Public Land
TPWD: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TxDOT: Texas Department of Transportation
WYSA: Wimberley Youth Sports Association
WISD: Wimberley Independent School District



Chapter 1

Executive Summary and Introduction



Purpose of the Plan

A Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a document adopted by City Council that outlines how a parks system should best be developed to fulfill the recreational needs of the community. These plans typically identify the development of the parks system over a ten-year period.

The City of Wimberley previously conducted a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2018 which evaluated the Parks System and created a plan for future development. It was important for the city to update this Master Plan as Wimberley has been growing at a steady rate, and the needs of the community change. In addition to the steady growth Wimberley has been experiencing, Central Texas has been growing rapidly, with some of the fastest growing communities in the country being located here. This is important to note as the Wimberley Parks System serves the Wimberley population, as well as visitors from other cities in Texas and other States.

Parks and Recreation Master Plans are intended to be annually reviewed and updated at least every five years to ensure as the community changes, the Parks System develops along with those changes. The 2024 - 2034 City of Wimberley Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan provided information regarding the existing community and identified the recreational gaps. This plan is intended to serve as a guide for City Council and city staff to make decisions on how to best develop Wimberley to meet the current and future recreational needs of the community.

This plan is meant to serve all areas and residents within Wimberley city limits. The intent of this plan is to continue to enhance the quality of life for all residents in Wimberley through parks and recreation. A more detailed analysis of potential projects, scopes of work, costs and timelines are provided through the year 2033. This plan is an informational tool related to parks, trails, and open spaces to help guide City Council, the Parks Board, and City Staff on current and future decisions.

Summary

The City of Wimberley hired MHS Planning & Design in March 2023 to perform an analysis of the overall Parks System and make recommendations for how the Parks System should best be developed over the next ten years to most efficiently meet the recreational needs of the community. This Summary is intended to briefly explain the existing Parks System and create a road map to develop a Parks System that meets the needs of the residents and visitors of Wimberley.

Throughout the development of this plan, the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department actively sought public input which was used in combination with input from stakeholders, city staff, and professionals to create a needs assessment for the community. Resulting recommendations shown within the plan aim to address the needs of the community and further develop a park system that can be utilized by all community members, regardless of age or ability. This master plan is a guide for how the City of Wimberley should develop the park system over the next ten years, with revision opportunities every five years to ensure the parks system is continuously adapting to meet community needs.

As the city continues to grow, the Parks System will need to grow too. The investment into parks should be a priority for the city due to the fact that parks, trails and open space impact residents and commercial businesses. A high quality parks and recreation system can improve the quality of life for the entire community. Park facilities can improve the health of the community by providing active and passive recreational opportunities. Parks have been attributed to increasing the property values for surrounding property including both, residential and commercial. Additionally, a high quality parks and recreation system can promote tourism which can increase revenue for local businesses.



Mission Statement:

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of current and future citizens of Wimberley by protecting our natural resources, providing safe spaces for recreation, and encouraging environmental stewardship and education through our parks, trails, and open spaces while fostering a creative community through our programs and events.

Vision Statement:

Wimberley Parks and Recreation CARES

- Community
- Accessibility
- Recreation
- Education
- Sustainability



Goals

IDENTIFY community-wide goals, objectives, and needs regarding the Wimberley Parks System.

HELP direct the decision of City Council, the Parks Board, and city staff on current and future decisions.

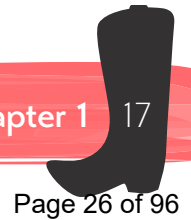
PROVIDE feasible and implementable recommendations regarding the existing and future parks and open space system.

IDENTIFY potential partnerships and provide funding opportunities available to achieve the recommendations.

ENGAGE with community members to ensure community buy-in, consisting of residents and local businesses.

DEVELOP the Parks System with the three E's of Sustainability: Environment, Economy, and Equity.

PROMOTE the usage of alternative modes of transportation including walking and biking, which will improve the sustainability and health of the community.





Existing Plans

There have been multiple plans conducted by the City of Wimberley to better understand the needs of the residents and natural environments to ensure future developments are meaningful and environmentally sustainable. Plans that were utilized in the development of the 2023-2033 Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan have been outlined below.

WIMBERLEY VALLEY TRAILS (2021)

This plan was conducted in 2021 and identified general locations for where trails should be developed throughout the Wimberley Valley area. The goal is to provide a system of hiking and biking trails that will allow community members to connect with nature and link communities together.

CYPRESS CREEK NATURE TRAIL AND PRESERVE MASTER PLAN (2019)

This plan was adopted in 2019 and aims to create a long-term management and development plan for Cypress Creek Nature Preserve. The Preserve is owned by the City of Wimberley while The Watershed Association owns the conservation easement. This plan is important to ensure proper cooperation exists between both parties.

CITY OF WIMBERLEY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN (2018)

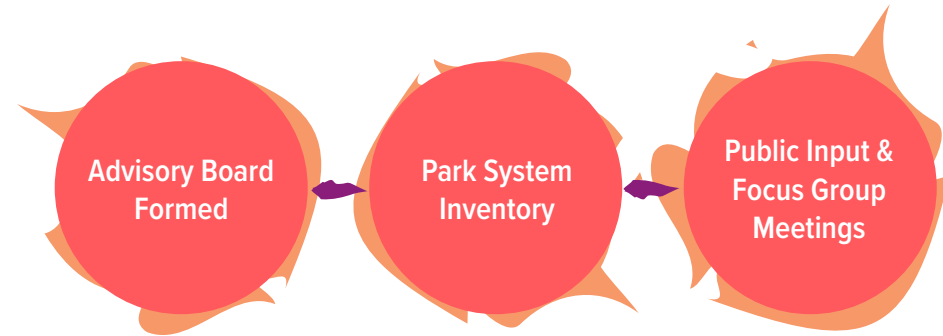
This plan was conducted in 2018 and served as a guide for how the City of Wimberley should develop their Parks System. Prior to this plan, the Wimberley Parks Advisory Board prepared a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that was adopted in 2008. This plan had been updated periodically over the years, however this plan was the first new Master Plan since the adoption of the 2001 plan. This plan focused on conducting an inventory of existing parkland and developed a needs assessment to determine recommendations on how to best develop.

BLUE HOLE REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN (2007)

This plan was adopted in 2007 and was a comprehensive plan on how Blue Hole Regional Park should develop. A letter from the stakeholders states, “This plan is dedicated to future generations who will use the park. We believe it will form a road map for the Village government as the Blue Hole Park continues to grow into the great public resource that it is destined to be.”



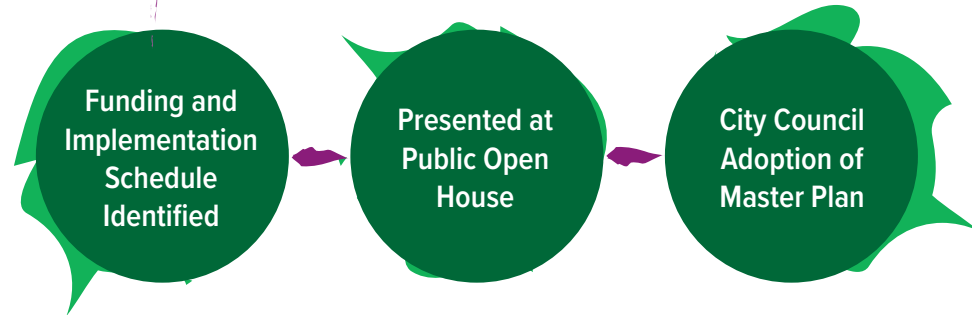
Engage



Analyze



Present



Adopt

The Process & Methodology

The development of the City of Wimberley Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan began in Spring of 2023, when the City of Wimberley contracted with MHS Planning & Design to develop a new parks plan to better suit the changing needs of the community. The Advisory Committee, representing a cross section of the community comprised of the Parks Board and a City Council Liaison, were selected to guide the development of the Parks Master Plan for future parks, trails, and recreational opportunities. The City Council, Advisory Committee, Parks Board, and city staff were involved throughout the planning process and provided the local insight needed to produce a successful community plan to assist in guiding local decision makers through 2033. An order of events for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan can be seen on page 20.



NRPA Pillars

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) is the leading organization in improving communities by expanding and improving park and recreation spaces. They do this through professional development, advocacy, grants and programs research, publications, and more. The mission statement of NRPA is “To advance parks, recreation and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people”, which mirrors the mission statement for the City of Wimberley. NRPA has three pillars of focus: Health and Wellness, Equity, and Conservation.

The public health and well-being is a critical component for a thriving community. The parks system is unique in the fact that a well-planned and developed system can improve the health and wellbeing of a community. A parks system can provide access to recreation and/or outdoor space and improve the health of all people, regardless of age, socio-economic background, and race. The 2024 – 2034 Wimberley Parks and Recreation Master Plan aims to improve the health and well-being of the community by expanding the amount of recreational opportunities within the community, through active and passive recreation, as well as through the expansion of local programs.

A successful parks and recreation system must ensure that all community members, have access to that system. On average minority groups such as people of color, low-income households, and people with disabilities have significantly lower access to public parks. As such it is important to understand the breakdown of the parks system and determine what could be hindering access. Communities can be developed with numerous parks and have a high level of service, and still have park deserts. Park deserts are areas of a community that lack park space for community members, or may have unsafe or uninviting parks, and are usually in areas of the community with a high number of minorities. The 2023 – 2033 Wimberley Parks and Recreation Master Plan aims to improve the equity of the Wimberley Parks System, by identifying critical gaps in the service area of the existing parks system and identifying the best locations for future parks and trails.



Preserving the integrity and natural features of the environment is an important task for Parks and Recreation Departments. The American Farmland Trust conducted a

The 2023 – 2033 City Of Wimberley Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan Aims To Improve Equity Throughout The Parks System

study and found that over the past two decades, 11 million acres of farmland had been lost in the U.S. as a result of urban development. With the environmental problems that arise from expansion of development as well as the threat of climate change, NRPA aims for all communities to conserve the natural environment. The 2023 – 2033 Wimberley Parks and Recreation Master Plan aims to improve conservation measurements by encouraging the sustainable development of outdoor recreation space and improving educational opportunities for the community.

The National Gold Medal Award is a way to honor communities that have demonstrated excellence in long-range planning, resource management, and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices. This is one of the highest honors a Parks and Recreation Agency can be awarded. The NRPA pillars were taken into consideration throughout the development of this plan. One of the goals of this plan is to implement strategies that comply with the Gold Medal standards and to ultimately be a National Gold Medal Award recipient.



144.76
Acres of Parkland

8
Total Parks and Facilities

5.75
Miles of Trails

200,000+
Annual Wimberley Parks Visitors

30+
Programming Events
Annually

Overview of Parks System Inventory

Public Input

The City of Wimberley is committed to understanding the needs of its residents to develop a Parks Master Plan that represents the community. Two surveys were developed and distributed throughout the Wimberley Valley area to gather opinions from the community. There was an extensive promotion conducted for the two surveys throughout the summer of 2023. Yard signs were created and strategically placed throughout the parks system and at various businesses in town. Flyers containing survey information were distributed through the widely circulated Wimberley newspaper, reaching approximately 3,000 residents and businesses. The yard signs and flyers provided detailed information about the surveys, including locations for the respondents to access and complete them, as well as the specified time frame when the surveys could be completed. These promotional efforts aimed to raise awareness and encourage the community to provide their input in the surveys.

It was important to conduct two surveys as the Wimberley Parks System provides recreational opportunities for the residents, and draws in tourists. One survey was conducted that focused on the recreational needs of the residents while the other aimed to identify the needs of visitors. These surveys were available online and in-person which helped ensure all community members could be engaged with. Together these surveys generated a high number of responses, with 364 residents and 62 visitors providing their feedback. It is important to note that the surveys classified residents as community members with a 78676 ZIP code. This ZIP code extends outside the City of Wimberley limits, and thus could potentially capture more than just the residents for this survey.

To engage with the community directly, the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department organized six pop-up events at various locations throughout Wimberley over the course of two days in June. This enabled the city to be proactive in seeking out public input by meeting with community members in their space. These events allowed community members to express their opinions on the Wimberley parks system while also promoting the importance of participating in the surveys. The Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department utilized social media platforms to promote these pop-up events. Over the course of the six pop-up events, the city had the opportunity to interact with approximately 130 community members. The Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department’s commitment to inclusive and accessible engagement methods helped this Master Plan to have a large amount of community involvement which ultimately enriched the planning process.

In addition to the pop-up events, the Parks and Recreation Department conducted 5 focus group meetings to gain a deeper understanding of specific concerns and needs of the community. Focus group members participated in a series of discussions to thoroughly express their needs and concerns. Approximately 20 members from the Wimberley Valley area participated in these meetings, and the participants came with backgrounds in varying areas including environmental specialists, organized athletics, community leaders, parents, and business owners. These meetings provided the city with a detailed list of concerns and needs for the community and also encouraged participants to promote the two surveys within their networks.



Needs Summary

Recreational needs for the community of Wimberley were determined by various means of public engagement, focus group meetings, and city staff input. This information was compiled and analyzed to determine gaps in recreational needs. Below is a summary of the identified recreational needs for the community.

AQUATICS

Waterplay is important for residents and non-residents in Wimberley. The only city-owned swimming facility is located at Blue Hole Regional Park, which is a natural swimming area. There are no public pools or splashpads available for the community. Community members strongly expressed their need for more water-based recreation which can include a community pool, a splashpad, or increased opportunities to river access.



NEW PARKS

The parks system is approaching build-out and new facilities will likely need to be built on new property. Features such as a community pool, playgrounds, looped trail systems, shade, and supporting site furniture should be considered at new parks. Accessibility has been a highly noted theme throughout the development of this Master Plan, and new parks should be designed for users of all ages and abilities. Incorporating sustainable design is necessary for the preservation of the environment and natural resources.

EXISTING PARKS

The existing Parks System is highly rated by community members. To ensure the Parks System remains high-quality, it is imperative to continue to enhance and maintain the system. Inspections should be conducted annually to review the condition of park equipment, playground, and trails, and updates and repairs should be performed as necessary. Existing parks should be enhanced with improved shade and the incorporation of both wayfinding and interpretive signage.

TRAILS

Community members heavily use the trail system for recreation and transportation. New trails should be constructed at parks that will provide opportunities for passive and active recreation. Existing parks should expand their trail system, when possible, and provide for future expansion. The trail system should be a continuous system that provides opportunities for community members to walk and bike from one area to another.

Priorities

The following Priorities list is based on the Needs Summary and recurring themes from the focus groups, public meetings, citizen surveys, city staff input, and the professional consultant’s opinion. City Council and the Advisory Committee reviewed the major themes and worked with city staff to determine the top priorities listed below. It is important to note the following list is intended to be a guide for development of existing and future parks and amenities over the next ten years.

- 1. Aquatics:** Swimming Pool, Splashpad, etc.
- 2. Trails & Trail Connectivity**
- 3. Site Furniture:** Shade, Benches, Picnic Tables, etc.
- 4. Preservation & Conservation of Natural Resource Areas**
- 5. Signage:** Entry, Interpretive, Wayfinding, etc.
- 6. Playgrounds**
- 7. River Access**
- 8. Multi-Generational Center:** Nature, Senior, Recreational, etc.
- 9. Multi-Purpose Fields**
- 10. Public Art**

Implementation

The implementation schedule has been broken down into three separate time periods to help the Parks Board and City staff efficiently plan their park projects. These three time periods include:

- Short-term:** These action items are recommended for the next 1 - 3 years and focus primarily on setting the Parks and Recreation Department up for success by conducting an Aquatics Feasibility Study, adopting new policies, assessing potential land acquisitions. These action items also address immediate needs with the enhancement and redevelopment of existing parks.
- Mid-term:** These action items are recommended for the next 4 - 6 years and aim to address needs recreational needs and improve preservation and conservation of the natural environment. The City should have acquired new property at this point to be developed as parkland.
- Long-term:** These action items are recommended for the next 7 - 10 years and focus primarily on expanding the parks system and ensuring the parks system continues to meet the recreational needs of the community. This is addressed through the development of new parkland and enhancements to the existing parks system.



Chapter 2

Who We Are

Location & Character

Wimberley is located in Hays County, and encompasses 8.954 square miles. Wimberley is approximately 15 miles northwest of San Marcos, 40 miles southwest of Austin, and 60 miles north of San Antonio. Other nearby cities include: Woodcreek, Dripping Springs, and Driftwood. The general vicinity of Wimberley can be seen in Figure 1.

Wimberley has a vibrant community and is focused on a high quality of life by providing amenities for its residents and visitors. The city offers recreation amenities such as but not limited to: swimming, hike and bike trails, sport courts, an amphitheater for live performances, and numerous outdoor and open space areas. The City of Wimberley can be characterized by having a strong sense of identity and a high level of pride among its residents.

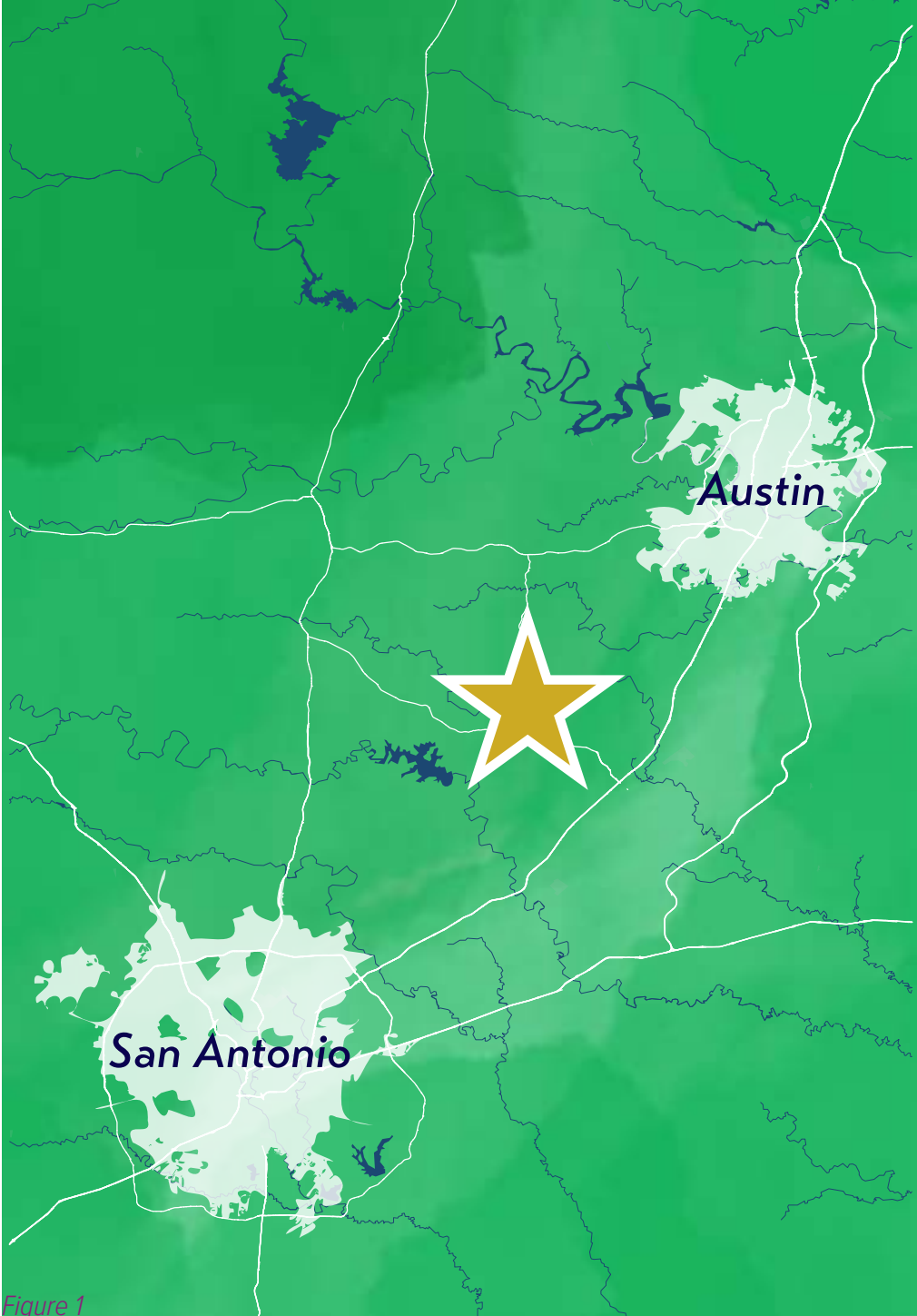


Figure 1

Environmental Resources

Hays County is located within the Edwards Plateau ecoregion. The presence of this region can be seen in Wimberley with land rich in forests and hills.

The soil groups in this region are ranked low to moderate permeability and can have high run-off. Soil characteristics are important to be aware of, as soil that has low permeability and high run-off cannot capture and hold water efficiently. When recommending improvements to the parks system, this will need to be taken into account.

The City of Wimberley is intersected by two different bodies of water: the Blanco River and Cypress Creek. The Blanco River spans approximately 87 miles and flows east from Kendall County through Blanco County and ends in Hays County where it connects with the San Marcos River. Cypress Creek is a tributary of the Blanco River and flows from Jacob’s Well and connects to the Blanco River in Wimberley. Jacob’s Well has been a popular recreational destination for many years, drawing visitors from all over. In the Summer of 2022, low water levels resulted in the closure of Jacob’s Well. Jacob’s Well remained closed for the entire Summer season in 2023. This is important to be aware of as the City of Wimberley’s park system contains water-based recreation, and the low water levels of nearby aquifers are a concern.

Wimberley is in “Flash Flood Alley”, which is an area that stretches from Dallas through Central Texas to Uvalde. This is an area known to be susceptible to flash flooding, as the shallow soil, steep terrain, and heavy rainfall create a perfect environment for flash flooding. In May of 2015

South Central Texas received a significant amount of rainfall and over Memorial Day Weekend Wimberley experienced a severe flooding event. This flooding event resulted in the death of 13 people, and the destruction of 350 homes. The development along the Blanco River contributed to the flooding catastrophe of 2015, as the addition of new roads and houses resulted in more impervious areas where rainfall could not be absorbed. This is important to note as South Central Texas is one of the fastest growing areas in Texas, and the continued development could lead to more events like this if not planned properly.

Demographic Analysis

A crucial component for any Parks and Recreation Master Plan is understanding the overall community. In order to do so the 2020 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) were utilized. The Decennial Census provides a thorough count of demographic information, while the ACS provides yearly estimates for the community. A comprehensive analysis of the profile of a community can help provide understanding on what needs and issues the community may experience in the short and long-term future.

The Demographic Analysis provides an overall snapshot of Wimberley. Elements included in this analysis include population, race and ethnicity, age and sex, income levels, disabilities, housing, and employment. The analysis compares the local profile to that of Hays County, Texas, and the U.S. when applicable.

Census Definitions

The U.S. Census Bureau defines race according to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The OMB requires a minimum of five racial categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian, or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. The OMB also allows for the Census Bureau to use a sixth category: Some Other Race. Respondents may also identify as two or more races. These responses are based on self-identification. It is important to note that the concept of race is separate from the concept of Hispanic Origin.

White: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

Black or African American: A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

American Indian and Alaska Native: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South American (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Asian: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent.

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

Two or More Races: People may choose to provide two or more races.

Community Profile

Population Size and Race

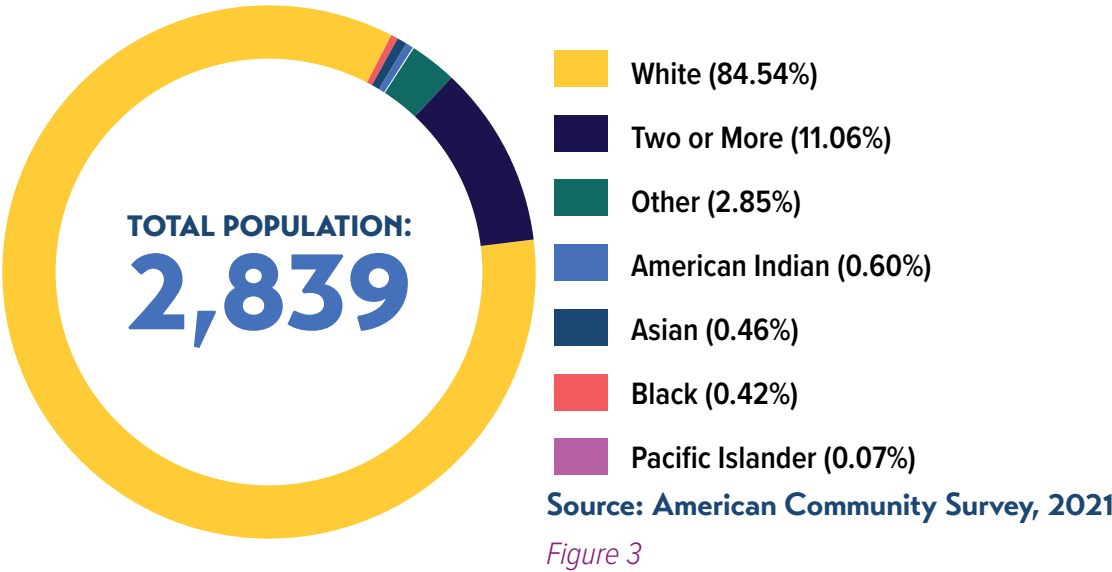
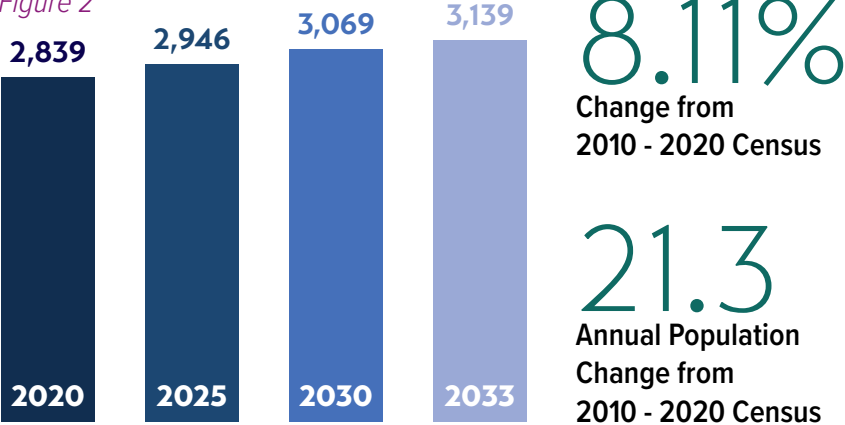
Texas has experienced significant growth in recent years, and Wimberley is following that trend. According to the 2020 Census, the City of Wimberley had a recorded population of 2,839. This is an increase of 213 people since 2010, for a growth rate of 8.11%. Wimberley’s growth rate is higher than the national growth rate for the same time period (7.35%) which has been seen in cities all across Texas (16%), and especially in Central Texas. Assuming Wimberley will continue to grow at the same pace over the next ten years, the estimated population in 2033 will be 3,139. Figure 2 depicts the anticipated growth from 2020 - 2033. It is important to note that the Wimberley Parks System serves more than just the Wimberley residents. The 2020 Census identified 14,713 people with a ZIP Code of 78676. The information portrayed on the following pages notes the breakdown of the residents within the city limits of Wimberley, but does not fully represent the greater Wimberley Valley area.

The city’s racial composition was assessed which can be seen in Figure 3. This breakdown shows a majority of Wimberley residents identify as white (84.54%) with two or more races being the second most common (11.06%). It is important to note in 2020 there were 387 residents that identify as Hispanic or Latino, or approximately 14% of the population.

The 2020 ACS estimated 97.3% of Wimberley residents speak English as the primary language at home. The number of people who speak a language other than English at home increases significantly when looking at the area immediately outside of city limits, as approximately 25% of people report primarily speaking a language other than English at home.

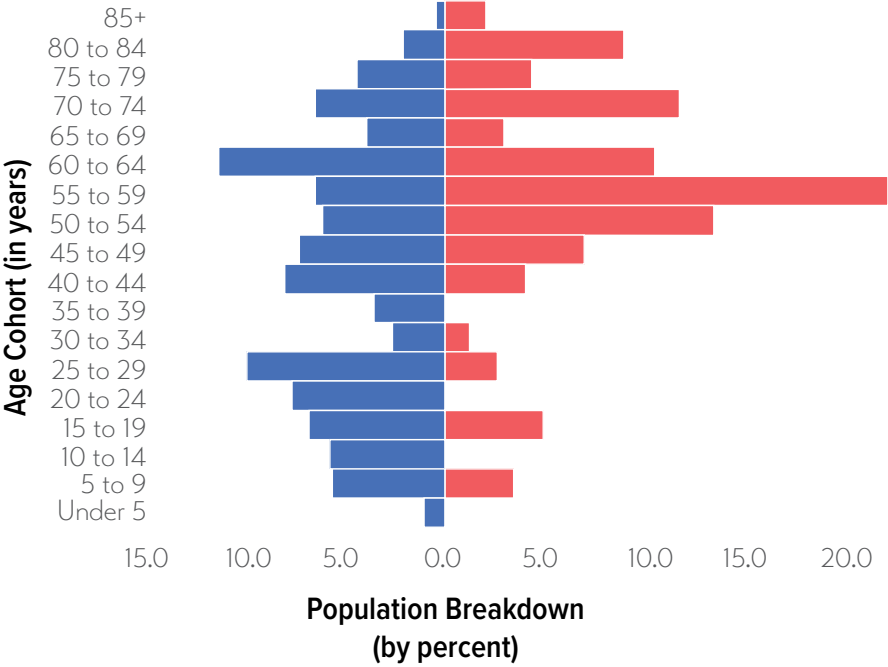
Source: American Community Survey, 2021

Figure 2



Source: American Community Survey, 2021

Figure 4



54.2 Median Overall Age
43.9 Median Male Age
58.8 Median Female Age

♂ 57% ♀ 43%

Age and Sex

The age and sex of the community was analyzed, and the results can be seen in Figure 4. The City of Wimberley is primarily comprised of an older population, with the median age for a resident being 54.2 years old. This median age is higher than Hays County (33.6), Texas (34.8), and the U.S. (38.9). According to the 2021 ACS, 47% of the Wimberley residents are 55 years of age or older. In comparison, Hays County has 21.8% of their residents 55 years or older. This is important to note as older communities have different goals and needs in their parks system than younger communities.

The community is slightly male dominated, with 57% of the population being men. This is unique as Hays County, Texas, and the United States all have more females than males.

Disability

A successful Parks System should be designed to be inclusive to all users. This can be accomplished by understanding the types of disabilities that exist within the community. The ACS classifies a disability by the following:

Hearing difficulty: deaf or having serious difficulty hearing

Vision difficulty: blind or having serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses

Cognitive difficulty: Because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions

Ambulatory difficulty: Having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs

Self-care difficulty: Having difficulty bathing or dressing

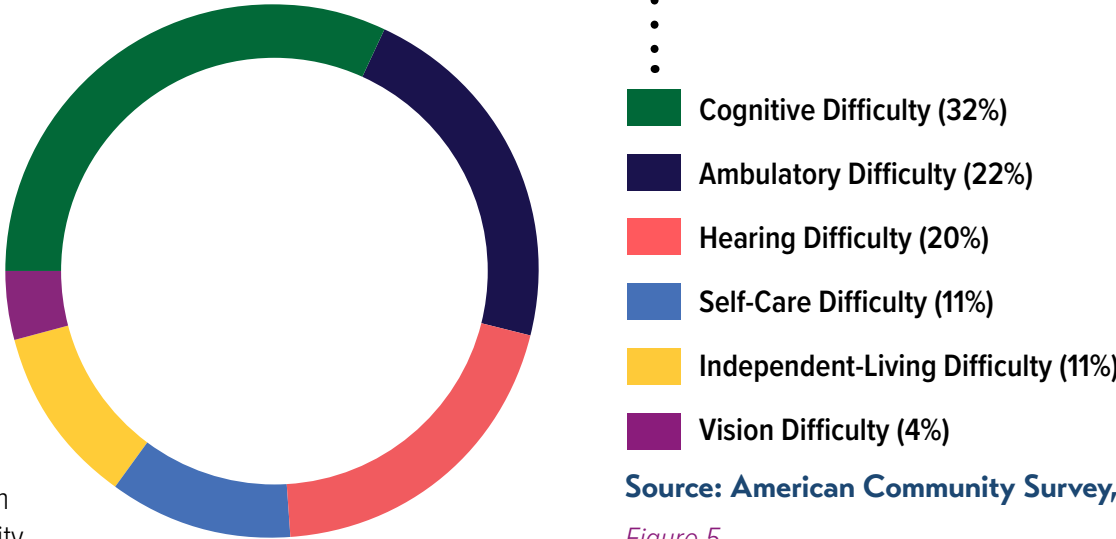
Independent living difficulty: Because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping

According to the 2021 ACS, 1 in 5 Wimberley community members has at least one of the disabilities listed above. Figure 5 depicts the prevalence of disabilities within the community, with the most prevalent disabilities including: cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, and hearing difficulty.

It is important to be aware of disabilities as park design can potentially inhibit certain members in the community from accessing a recreational facility. Accessible design can provide opportunities for all community members to participate in recreational opportunities.

20%

Community members are estimated by the ACS to have one of the six listed disabilities.



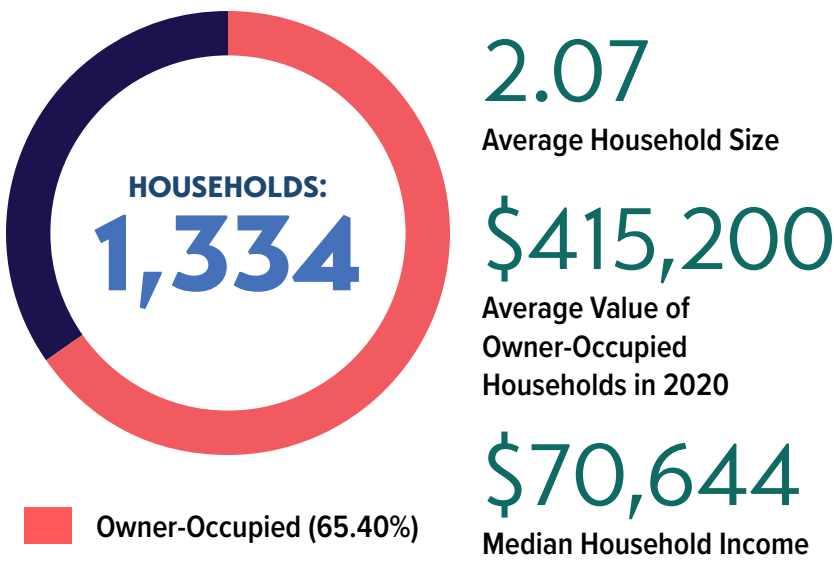
Source: American Community Survey, 2021

Figure 5

Housing & Income

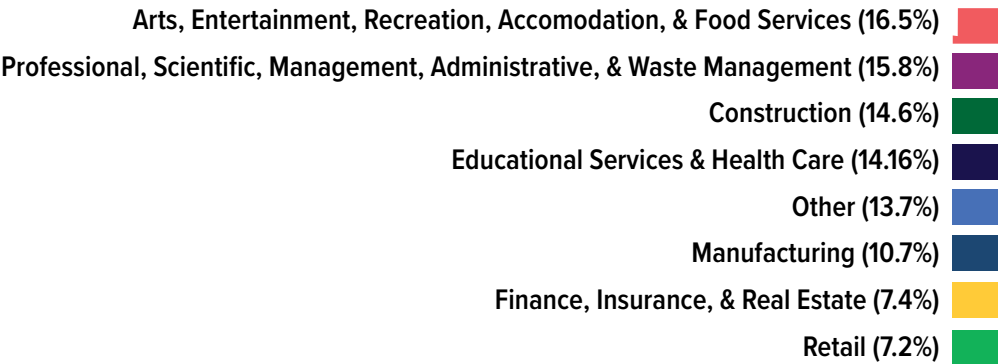
The City of Wimberley is predominately a community where residents own the home that they live in, and not a rental community. Most homes are owner-occupied, with 65% of residents reporting they own the home they are living in. According to the 2021 ACS, Wimberley has 1,334 occupied housing units. The number of owner-occupied houses decreased 94 housing units from 2020. The 2020 median value for owner-occupied household units is \$415,200, which is 105% higher than the average for the state of Texas. The median household income is \$70,644 which is slightly lower than the median household income for Hays County (\$77,511). Figure 6 depicts household information in Wimberley including homeownership rates and median household income.

According to the 2017 Economic Survey, the major economic industries in Wimberley consist of: arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services, professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management, construction, and education and health care services. Wimberley resembles a generalist community, as there are no employment industries that predominately employ the community. Figure 7 notes the breakdown of the various types of employment industries within Wimberley.



Source: American Community Survey, 2021

Figure 6



Source: American Community Survey, 2021

Figure 7



Overview

The Wimberley population grew at a slightly faster rate than the U.S. between 2010 and 2020.

The racial composition of Wimberley is primarily white followed up by two or more races.

English is the primary language spoken at home.

The median age in Wimberley is higher than Hays County, Texas, and the U.S.

There are more males than females in Wimberley, which is different than Hays County, Texas, and the U.S.

Approximately 1 in 5 residents has a disability.

The median household income is \$70,644 while the average value of an owner-occupied house is \$415,200.

The employment industries are diverse with no sector accounting for the majority of employment.

Benefits of Parks, Trails, & Recreation

Across the United States and Texas, there is a trend of building and connecting urban areas through an extensive transportation network. With the increasing pace of urbanization and the challenges posed by climate change, cities are investing in innovative solutions to improve mobility, connectivity, and sustainability. The data and statistics highlighted in this section are national findings and are used to emphasize the impact parks and trails can have on a city and region.

Economic Benefits:

- Private property values increase with a closer proximity to parks. This increase in property value also increases property tax revenues and improves local economies.
- Parks and recreation programs generate revenue directly from fees and provide indirect revenues to local and regional economies from special events and sports tournaments.
- Home prices near parks & trails can be 3% to 5% higher than comparable homes in the area.
- Expenses resulting from conditions related to obesity and overweight totaled \$117 billion in 2000. Increasing the amount of recreation space can decrease overall medical costs.

Health Benefits:

- Studies show reductions in stress, lowered blood pressure, and perceived physical health when citizens visit parks.
- Parks and trails provide mental and physical health benefits to all residents.
- Residents living near trails are 50% more likely to meet the recommended activity guidelines.
- The creation of or enhanced access to places for physical activity combined with informational outreach produced a 48.4% increase in the frequency of physical activity.

Environmental Benefits:

- Preservation of land adjacent to waterbodies and dedication to parkland can help reduce severity and frequency of flooding by reducing runoff.
- Improvements to park maintenance and equipment can increase water conservation.
- More than half of all trips in the U.S. are within a 20-minute bike ride or less, and more than one in four trips are within a 20-minute walk or less. Construction of trails can provide means of transportation for pedestrians and cyclists leading to a healthier environment with less greenhouse gases being emitted from vehicles.

Anchor Institutions:

- Communities typically have anchor institutions. Anchor Institutions are large organizations, typically non-profit, which help foster an environment in which the economy, social needs and public health are positively impacted in a community. These institutions have historically consisted of universities and medical centers, while parks have not typically been included. Recently, there has been significant discussion and support for adding parks into this classification. Parks are a vital component of a community and can improve the economy, social needs, public health and the environment.



Tourism

An important and unique feature of Wimberley is the number of people who travel to Wimberley throughout the year, especially during the summer months. The City is known for their recreational amenities such as Blue Hole Regional Park and Old Baldy, as well as the charm and character of the town. The City of Wimberley has identified as many as 568,000 tourists visiting Wimberley annually. The City estimates 200,000 tourists visit Blue Hole Regional Park annually.

Tourism is an important element for Wimberley as tourists spend money at local shops, restaurants, park facilities and programs, and at bed and breakfasts. As such the parks system needs to meet the needs of the local community, as well as tourists' needs. Tourists come from all over Texas and even outside of the state. Many of the tourists using the parks system at least monthly are Hays County Residents. According to the 2020 Census, Hays County has been growing at a rapid rate, with a population increase of 53% from 2010 to 2020, and a current population of 241,067. This is important to note as the growth of neighboring municipalities will likely lead to an increase in usage of the Wimberley park facilities.

Wimberley is known for hosting several large events for the community throughout the year. These events include: Concerts in the Park, Wimberley Market Days and Wimberley Arts Fest. These events can draw in thousands of people who end up spending their money locally. While the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department does not host every community event, those who attend these events often make use of the parks system.

Accolades

Wimberley has received numerous accolades throughout the past several years, and examples can be seen below:

International Dark Sky Place of the Year, 2023 - Wimberley Valley

The Wimberley Valley was designated as the International Dark Sky Place of the Year in 2023. This accolade is granted to honor a recent outstanding accomplishment made by an International Dark Sky Place.

Recreational Trails Grants, 2023 - Blue Hole Hike and Bike Trail Improvement Project

Wimberley was the recipient of TxDOT grant funding in 2023. TxDOT is providing \$273,900 of funds, which will help construct downtown sidewalk. The construction of this sidewalk will improve safety, connectivity, and the sustainability of the community.

TripAdvisor Travelers Choice, 2023 - Blue Hole Regional Park

Blue Hole Regional Park received the TripAdvisor Travelers Choice award in 2023. This award recognizes communities, businesses, and/or destinations that consistently receive positive reviews and are among the top 10% of listings.

TripAdvisor Travelers Choice, 2022 - Blue Hole Regional Park

Blue Hole Regional Park received the TripAdvisor Travelers Choice award in 2022. This award recognizes communities, businesses, and/or destinations that consistently receive positive reviews and are among the top 10% of listings.

Music Friendly Community, 2022 - City of Wimberley

The City of Wimberley achieved the Music Friendly Community designation in 2022. This designation highlights communities dedicated to attracting and nurturing the music industry, emphasizing their seriousness and commitment in the pursuit.

TripAdvisor Travelers Choice, 2021 - Blue Hole Regional Park

Blue Hole Regional Park received the TripAdvisor Travelers Choice award in 2021. This award recognizes communities, businesses, and/or destinations that consistently receive positive reviews and are among the top 10% of listings.

Film Friendly City, 2019 - City of Wimberley

The City of Wimberley was awarded the status of being a Film Friendly City in 2019. The Film Friendly City designation identifies communities that are ready to embrace opportunities and overcome challenges associated with accommodating media production.

Austin Green Award, 2018 - Blue Hole Regional Park

Blue Hole Regional Park received the Austin Green Award in 2018. This award highlights projects that have an exceptional level of sustainable design.

International Dark Sky Community Designation, 2018 - Wimberley Valley

The Wimberley Valley received the International Dark Sky Community Designation in 2018. This designation is given to communities that have taken significant initiative to minimize light pollution.

Honor Award, Research & Communication, 2016 - Blue Hole Regional Park, Signage and Wayfinding

Blue Hole Regional Park received the Honor Award for Research and Communication in 2016 as a result of the signage, including wayfinding. This award signifies an exceptional level of communication through the signs within the park.

Lone Star Recreation Programming Achievement Award, 2016 - Blue Hole Nature Camp

The City of Wimberley received the Lone Star Recreation Programming Achievement Award in 2016. This is given to communities for innovative and effective recreation programming that have offered a new program for the first time.

Project Excellence Award, 2015 - Blue Hole Regional Park

Blue Hole Regional Park received the Project Excellence Award in 2015. This award acknowledges communities for their remarkable achievements in the field of outdoor recreation as well as their contributions to planning, management, research, and policy.

Excellence Award, 2014 - Blue Hole Regional Park

Blue Hole Regional Park was the recipient of the Project Excellence Award in 2015. This award is given to recognize projects that have innovative strategies that enhance occupant health.

SITES Certified (Pilot Project), 2013 - Blue Hole Regional Park

Blue Hole Regional Park was awarded the SITES Certified status for Blue Hole Regional Park in 2013. SITES-certified projects recognize developments that incorporated exceptional levels of sustainability.

Honor Award, Design (Constructed), 2018 - Blue Hole Regional Park

Blue Hole Regional Park was the recipient of the Honor Award, Design (Constructed) in 2018. This award recognizes projects that have positively contributed to the quality of life for Texas citizens.

Public Works Outstanding Award, 2012 - Blue Hole Regional Park

Blue Hole Regional Park received the Public Works Outstanding Award in 2012 for Blue Hole Regional Park. This award is given to communities that have made exceptional achievements in a variety of categories including: environmental management, planning and land use, transportation, utilities, parks and recreation, and energy resource management.

Honor Award, Design (Unrealized), 2011 - Blue Hole Regional Park

Blue Hole Regional Park was the recipient of the Honor Award, Design (Unrealized) in 2011. This award recognizes excellence in design concepts and methodology for projects that have been designed, but not constructed.

Community Partnerships

The City of Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department provides a large number of diverse recreational programs throughout the year. The city’s programs are thoughtfully coordinated to be inclusive and welcoming to all members of the community, regardless of age, ability, skill level, race, sexual orientation, social demographic, or financial resources. In addition to the city run programs, there are multiple organizations in Wimberley that provide programming and special events for the community. This section highlights various partners and community organizations that offer programs that are supported by the City in various capacities. These organizations contribute to the high quality of life in Wimberley.

Barnabas Connection

The Barnabas Connection aims to improve the lives of the Wimberley Valley community members. They do this by providing health and human services, client advocacy, and community education.

Film Friendly City

Film Friendly City is an organization that recognizes communities that have worked towards ensuring they are equipped to handle the opportunities and challenges that arise from media production.

Friends of Wimberley Parks

Friends of Blue Hole (Wimberley Parks) focuses on protecting, restoring, and developing parks in Wimberley as recreational, educational, and ecological resources for present and future generations.

Keep Wimberley Beautiful

Keep Wimberley Beautiful focuses on improving and maintaining the environmental quality, protection, and beautification of Wimberley. These members assist with numerous projects in Wimberley such as the planting and maintenance of downtown flower beds.

Hays County

The City of Wimberley and Hays County have an exceptional partnership. Hays County and the City have partnered together to identify locations for future trails in the community. In addition, they have worked together to receive grant funding.

Native Plant Society of Texas

The Native Plant Society of Texas strives to promote conservation, research, and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas. The Hill Country Chapter worked at Patsy Glenn Refuge to select appropriate plants and educated residents on the importance of using native species.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides training and education, along with programming to communities pertaining to agriculture, natural resources, and life sciences.

Texas A&M Forest Service

The Texas A&M Forest Service strives to protect and sustain forests, trees, and other related resources. They work to provide leadership and technical assistance to promote the preservation of natural resources.

Texas Master Naturalist

The Texas Master Naturalist program provides education, outreach, and services for the management of natural resources.

Texas Parks and Wildlife

The Texas Parks and Wildlife have provided the City of Wimberley with countless educational and recreational opportunities. This is accomplished through educational events, and grants which allow for the development of parks and recreational spaces.

The EmilyAnn Theater

The EmilyAnn Theater aims to improve and promote the performing arts and beauty of nature and community fellowship.

The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment

The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment has the vision of inspiring research, innovation, and leadership that ensures clean, abundant water for the environment and all humanity.

Watershed Association

The Watershed Association aims to protect water through land conservation and education throughout the community.

Wimberley Athletic Club

The Wimberley Athletic Club aims to promote interest in youth athletics. They provide recreational opportunities for local youth to learn and participate in sports.



Wimberley Birding Society

The Wimberley Birding Society strives to promote the watching, protection, and enjoyment of birds in and around Wimberley. They do this through various educational and other programming activities.

Wimberley Civic Club

The Wimberley Civic Club serves to develop a positive community identity, to raise awareness on the community’s needs and desires, and be inclusive to all community members. They host numerous events throughout the year that assist with fund raising for the community.

Wimberley Independent School District

The Wimberley Independent School District provides educational and recreational opportunities for the community.

Wimberley Lions Club

The Wimberley Lions Club hosts the monthly Wimberley Market Days which raises funds for local projects, organizations, scholarships, and charities.

Wimberley Merchants Association

The Wimberley Merchants Association hosts fund raising events throughout the year for local organizations.

Wimberley Senior Citizens Activities INC

The Wimberley Senior Citizens Activities INC provides programming for Wimberley Valley residents ages 55+. This allows for recreational and social opportunities for the older community.

Wimberley Valley Arts and Cultural Alliance

The Wimberley Valley Arts and Cultural Alliance has a mission to promote a

vibrant cultural arts community - embracing visual, performing, literary, and culinary arts - through appreciation, collaboration, and education. They host several community events throughout the year, and manages the “Bootiful Wimberley” art program.

Wimberley Valley Arts League

The Wimberley Valley Arts League aims to promote, inspire, and supports the visual arts in the Wimberley Valley area. This is accomplished through several events, including monthly meetings, and exhibits.

Wimberley Valley Chamber of Commerce

The Wimberley Valley Chamber of Commerce promotes community and economic prosperity while fostering strong alliance. They host weekly events and provide opportunities to build community relationships.

Wimberley Valley Dark Sky Committee

The Wimberley Valley Dark Sky Committee works to preserve the dark sky. Through the Committee’s work, the Wimberley Valley earned an International Dark Sky Place designation in 2018, and was awarded the International Dark Sky Place of the Year in 2023.

Wimberley Valley Radio

The Wimberley Valley Radio aims to inform, entertain, and connect the Wimberley community. This is accomplished through radio programs and hosting other community events.

Wimberley Valley Youth Sports Association

The Wimberley Valley Youth Sports Association provides recreational opportunities for the local youth.





Chapter 3

Our Parks And Recreation System

Parks Classification

An inventory and assessment of the parks was conducted to better understand the existing conditions of the City of Wimberley’s parks system. The assessment of the parks system included a walk through of each park, interviews with city staff, a review of the annual budget and a community survey. The City of Wimberley has nine park classifications identified, and descriptions can be found on the following pages.



Martha Knies Community Park

POCKET PARK

Specialized facilities that serve limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs for specific groups such as tots or senior citizens. Desirable characteristics include being located within neighborhoods and/or in close proximity to denser housing areas (apartment complexes, townhouses, senior housing, etc.), and commercial development. These parks serve a quarter-mile radius. The desirable size of a pocket park is 1 acre or less. There should ideally be 1/4 to 1/2 acres of pocket parks for every 1,000 population. The City of Wimberley has three pocket parks: Martha Knies Community Park, Oak Park & Welcome Center, and Sunrise Park.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

An area for intense recreational use, such as sport fields, sport courts, playground apparatus, picnicking, etc. Desirable characteristics include easily accessible to neighborhoods, geographically centered with safe walking and biking access. These parks serve a half-mile radius and supports populations up to 5,000. The desirable size of a neighborhood park is a minimum of 5 acres, and ideally 10-14 acres where possible. There should ideally be 1-2 acres of neighborhood parks for every 1,000 population. While Wimberley has several parks located within neighborhoods, there are no city-owned and operated neighborhood parks open to the general public.

COMMUNITY PARK

A park that has been designed to engage families and visitors for a day with multiple and diverse activities and amenities scattered throughout. Desirable characteristics include being located in areas suited for intense development, easily accessible to the servicing community, and may include natural features. These parks serve a 1 to 2 mile-radius, or several neighborhoods. The desirable size of a community park is 25+ acres. There should ideally be 5-8 acres of community parks for every 1,000 residents. The City of Wimberley currently has no designated community Parks. Although Martha Knies Community Park is named a Community Park, this park is classified as a Pocket Park due to its size.

REGIONAL PARK

Large multi-use parks which provide active and passive recreation opportunities with a wide selection of facilities for all ages, and draw in users from the region not necessarily specific to the immediate jurisdiction. Desirable characteristics include natural features such as water bodies or forests, sports fields, preserved areas, or designated areas for large events. There are no standards for service area of amount of land per 1,000 population for a regional park, however the desirable size is 100 at a minimum. The City of Wimberley has one regional park: Blue Hole Regional Park.

LINEAR PARK

An area developed for one or more modes of recreational travel (hiking, biking, horseback riding, etc.) and may include active play areas. Desirable characteristics include natural or built corridors, such as watercourses, bluff lines, utility rights-of-way, vegetation patterns, or other elements that link together other components of the recreation system. There are no standards for service area, size of park, or amount of land per 1,000 population for a linear park. The City of Wimberley currently has no designated linear parks.

NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

Land that has been set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open spaces, visual aesthetics, and buffering, while recreation use is a secondary objective. Desirable characteristics vary depending on the resource being protected. There are no standards for service area, size of property, or amount of land per 1,000 population for a natural area. The City of Wimberley has two natural resource areas: Cypress Creek Nature Preserve and Patsy Glenn Refuge.



Blue Hole Regional Park

PRIVATE PARK

Private land that has been developed for the purpose of recreational activity. While this does not contribute to a community’s recreation level of service, the facilities provided support recreational needs of the community. There are no standards for characteristics, service area, size, or amount of land per 1,000 population as this varies depending on the intent of the park / facility. The City of Wimberley has several private parks / recreation facilities.

PUBLIC INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY

Dedicated space indoors that provides active and/or passive recreational opportunities, and may contain a wide variety of facilities such as a community center, recreation center, etc. Desirable characteristics include being easily accessible to neighborhoods with safe walking and biking access. There are no standards for service area or amount of land per 1,000 population for a public indoor recreation facility, however a minimum of two acres is required. The City of Wimberley has one public indoor recreation facility: Wimberley Community Center.

SPECIAL USE PARK

Areas developed for specialized or single-purpose recreation activities. According to NRPA, there are no standards for characteristics, service area, size, or amount of land per 1,000 population as this varies depending on the intent of the park. The City of Wimberley has one special use park: Old Baldy Park.



Parks & Open Space Inventory

The existing parks in Wimberley are classified in the table shown below. Figure 8 notes the various park facilities offered by the Wimberley PARD, while an inventory of each individual park can be found on the following pages.

	Park Name	Classification Type	Total Acres	Developed Acres
1	Blue Hole Regional Park	Regional Park	126.00	126.00
2	Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve	Natural Resource Area	7.24	7.24
3	Martha Knies Community Park	Pocket Park	1.20	1.20
4	Oak Park & Welcome Center	Pocket Park	0.75	0.75
5	Old Baldy Park	Special Use Park	4.30	4.30
6	Patsy Glenn Refuge	Natural Resource Area	1.80	1.80
7	Sunrise Park	Pocket Park	0.90	0.90
8	Wimberley Community Center	Public Indoor Recreation Facility	2.57	2.57
			144.76 Acres	144.76 Acres

Figure 8

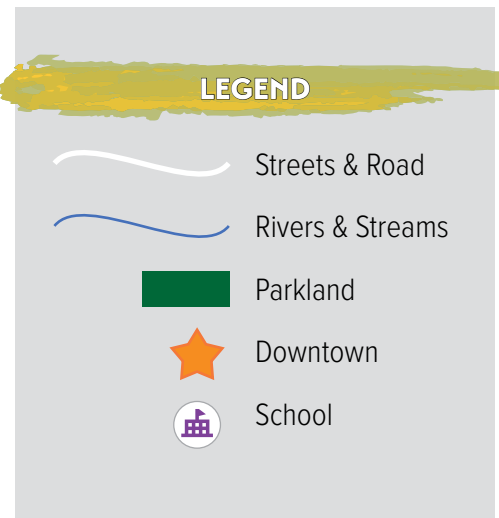
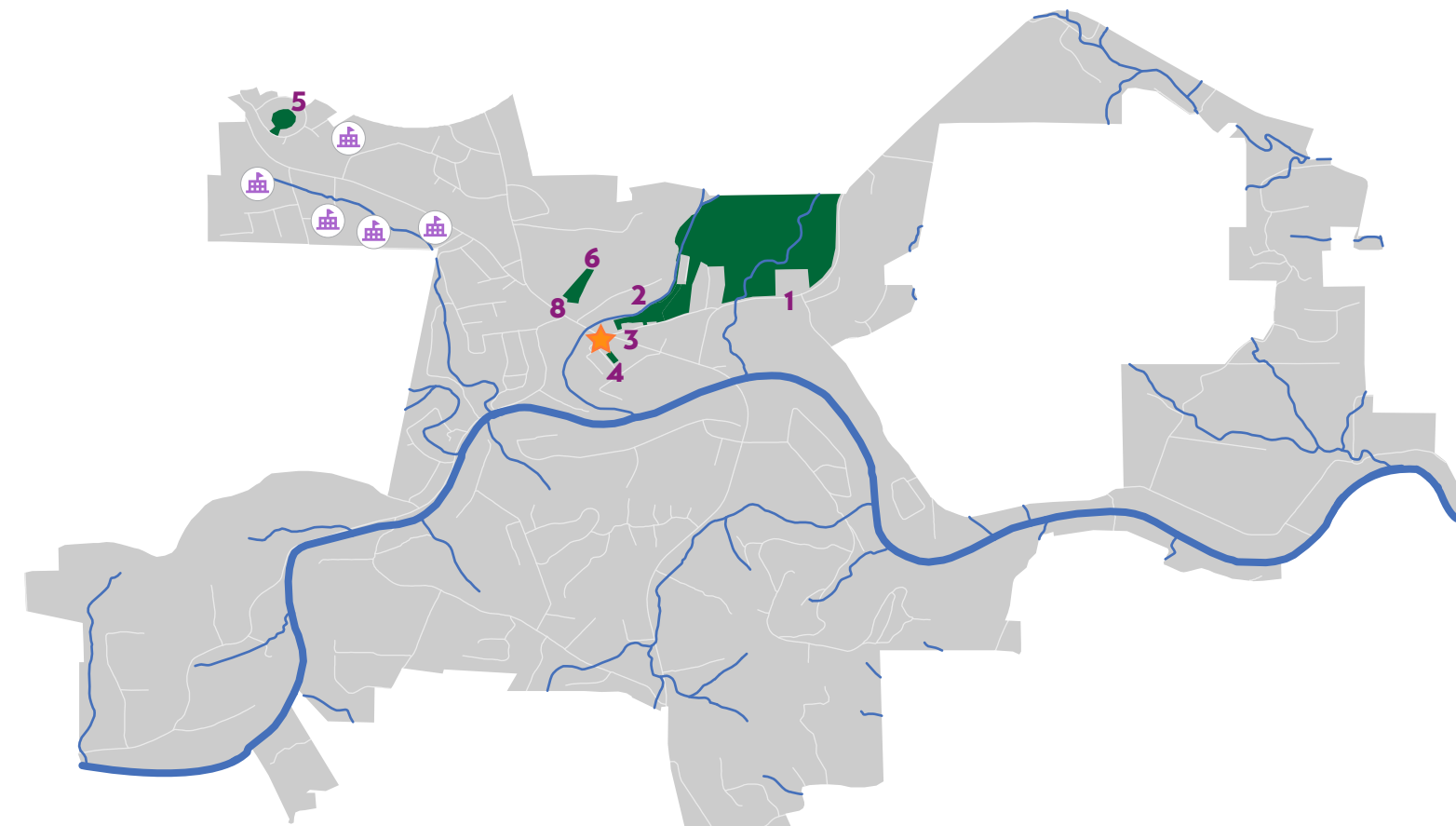
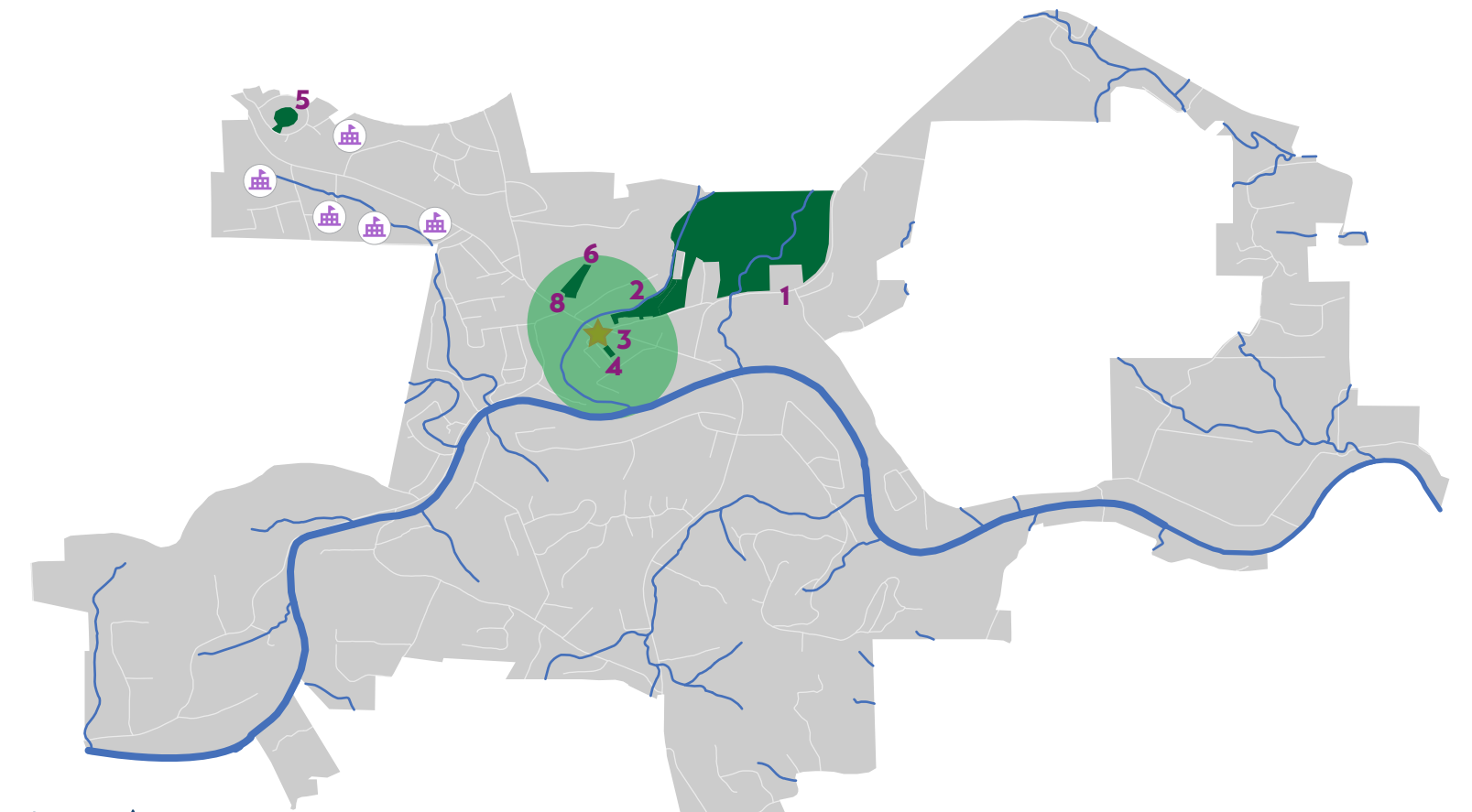


Figure 9

Existing Parks

Figure 9 illustrates the geographic distribution of public parkland within city limits.

1. Blue Hole Regional Park
2. Cypress Creek Nature Preserve
3. Martha Knies Community Park
4. Oak Park & Welcome Center
5. Old Baldy Park
6. Patsy Glenn Refuge
7. Sunrise Park
8. Wimberley Community Center



Park Service Area

Figure 10 notes the service area based upon the park classification. The service area designates the ideal carrying capacity for different park classifications. Mini-neighborhood parks typically serve a 1/2-mile radius, while community parks can serve up to a 2-mile radius. The standard set by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) is for all residents to have safe and equal access to parks within a 1/2-mile or 10-minute walk of their house. Ideally, all developed areas of the City and ETJ should fall within the service area of a neighborhood park or a community park. Blue Hole Regional Park, Cypress Creek Nature Trail and Preserve, and Old Baldy are not shown with a service area as Blue Hole Regional Park serves the entire community, and NRPA does not have a set standard for the service area for a natural resource area or a special-use park.

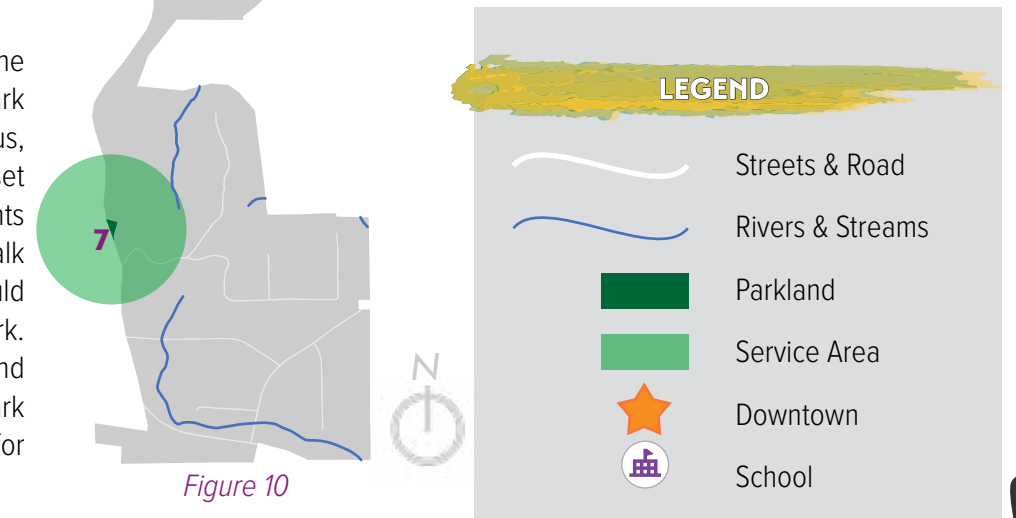


Figure 10



REGIONAL PARK

Blue Hole Regional Park



Location

333 Blue Hole Lane

Size

126 Acres

Amenities:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Amphitheater | Picnic Area | Sand Volleyball Court |
| Basketball Court | Playscape | Soccer Field |
| Community Pavilion | Primitive Camping | Swimming Area |
| Fire Pit | Public Restrooms | Trails |

NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve



Amenities:

Trail

Location

109 Old Kyle Road

Size

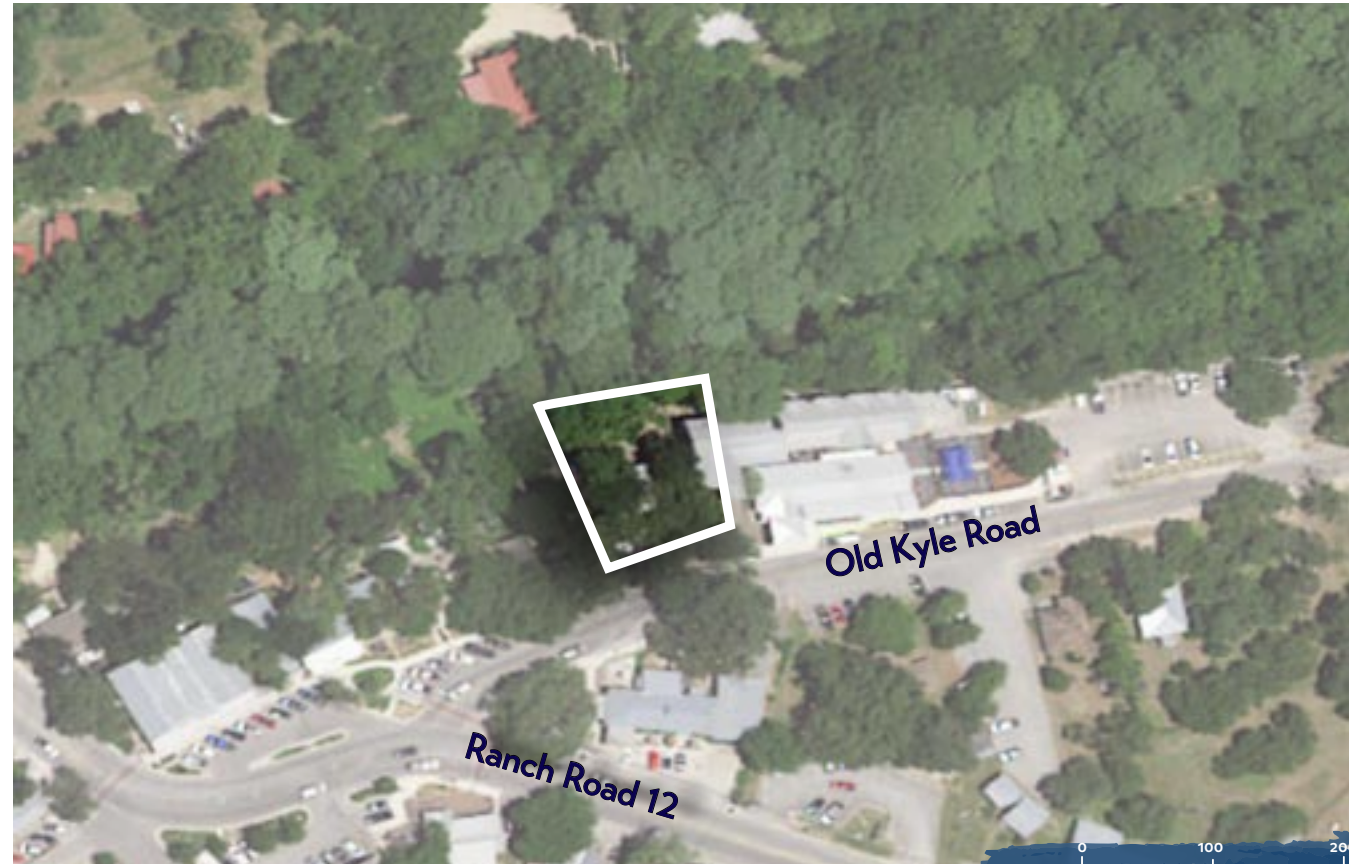
7.24 Acres





POCKET PARK

Martha Knies Community Park



Location

Ranch Road 12 & FM 3237

Size

1.20 Acres

Amenities:

Pavilion
Picnic / Seating Area
Playscape
Public Restrooms
Water Feature

POCKET PARK

Oak Park & Welcome Center



Amenities:

Open Space
Outdoor Games
Picnic Area
Public Art
Public Restrooms

Location

109 Oak Drive

Size

0.75 Acres





SPECIAL USE PARK

Old Baldy Park



Location

31 La Toya Trail

Size

4.30 Acres

Amenities:

- Trail
- Viewing Platform

NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

Patsy Glenn Refuge



Amenities:

- Bird Viewing Station
- Butterfly Garden
- Chimney Swift Tower
- Educational Kiosk
- Outdoor Seating
- Trail
- Wildlife Viewing Platform

Location

14068 Ranch Road 12

Size

1.80 Acres





POCKET PARK

Sunrise Park



Location

10450 Ranch Road 12

Size

0.90 Acres

Amenities:

Picnic Shelters

PUBLIC INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY

Wimberley Community Center



Amenities:

Meeting Rooms
Public Art
Reception Hall

Location

14068 Ranch Road 12

Size

2.57 Acres



Trail Network Inventory

The City of Wimberley has a strong but limited framework for creating a trails system. The City has sidewalks and looped trails. The purpose of this portion of the Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan is to highlight the connections and the gaps in the trail network.



Pedestrians

Trail User Types

There are various types of citizens who utilize the trails in Wimberley. The major reasons for which they use trails fall into three categories: transportation, recreation and exercise. The types of users may include walkers, runners, bicyclists and others. They use the same trails but may require different facilities along the trails. Each user may have a preference on the type of trail and how close it is to vehicular traffic.

PEDESTRIANS include walkers, joggers, and runners and will be the primary users of the trail system, all with varying needs and comfort levels. They will use the trail system for three reasons: connectivity, recreation, and exercise. Walkers will participate at a slower, passive pace which may appeal to more vulnerable populations such as parents with strollers, younger children and older adults. Runners and joggers prefer wider trails which allow them to run in groups and safely pass walkers. Pedestrians typically prefer loop trails that connect to larger trail systems, which allows them to drive and start at a park or trailhead.

BICYCLISTS will primarily use the trails for recreation and for more leisure purposes, rather than commuting. Bicyclists prefer off-street trails, shared-use paths and low-traffic neighborhood roads. Advanced cyclists have experience sharing the roads with cars and maneuvering through traffic. Seniors, families and children are the most vulnerable and their accessibility and lower speed should be considered when creating access points, sight lines and orientation of the trail.

OTHER types of users on the trail include skateboarders, scooters, hoverboarders, in-line skaters and BMX riders. These users will typically utilize concrete trails and be conscious of cracks in the surfacing and fallen debris on the trails.



Loop Trail

Trail Facility Types

Trails are utilized for both recreation and transportation. Different types of trails are constructed to serve these different purposes. The three facility types best suited for Wimberley include loop trails, shared-use paths, and sidepaths or sidewalks. The following images and descriptions are examples of each type.

LOOP TRAILS describe trails that are completely contained within park boundaries. These trails are typically intended for recreation. The surfacing varies, but can include concrete, asphalt, crushed granite or stone, boardwalk, mulch, natural dirt and others. Loop trails are typically 8'-10' wide with a minimum of 6', if 8' cannot be accommodated. Signage typically includes directional signage, mileage markers, warning signs, and gateways. It is imperative to consider accessibility when choosing trail materials.

SHARED-USE (GREENBELT) PATHS are physically separated from the flow of vehicular traffic and are not always parallel or adjacent to the roadway. These paths are for non-motorized traffic such as runners, walkers, bicyclists, skaters, wheelchair users, etc, and are used for recreation and transportation. The paths are typically found along creek corridors, greenbelts, within or adjacent to the utility easements, railroad right-of-ways and road right-of-ways. Shared-use paths are recommended to be 10'-12' wide with a 2' wide shoulder and a suggested 10'-12' of vertical clearance. A center line striping is recommended for a shared-use path with heavy volumes of traffic.

SIDEPATHS are bidirectional trails located adjacent and parallel to roadways. Sidepaths serve recreation and transportation purposes. They are physically separate from the flow of vehicular traffic and typically wider than traditional city-sidewalks to accommodate higher volumes of pedestrians and bicyclists. Sidewalks can be retrofitted to accommodate heavy amounts of traffic by expanding the width or adding an additional sidewalk to the opposite side of the roadway. Wimberley has a growing sidewalk network which can be leveraged to expand the trail system throughout the community. City staff needs to ensure that sidepaths are compliant with ADA standards, have adequate crossing, signage, signals, and crosswalks. Sidepaths are typically 6'-8' wide, minimum 5', depending on intended carrying capacity. They should be separated from the roadway by using a 3'-5' wide buffer of grass, plantings, or vertical delineators.



Sidepath

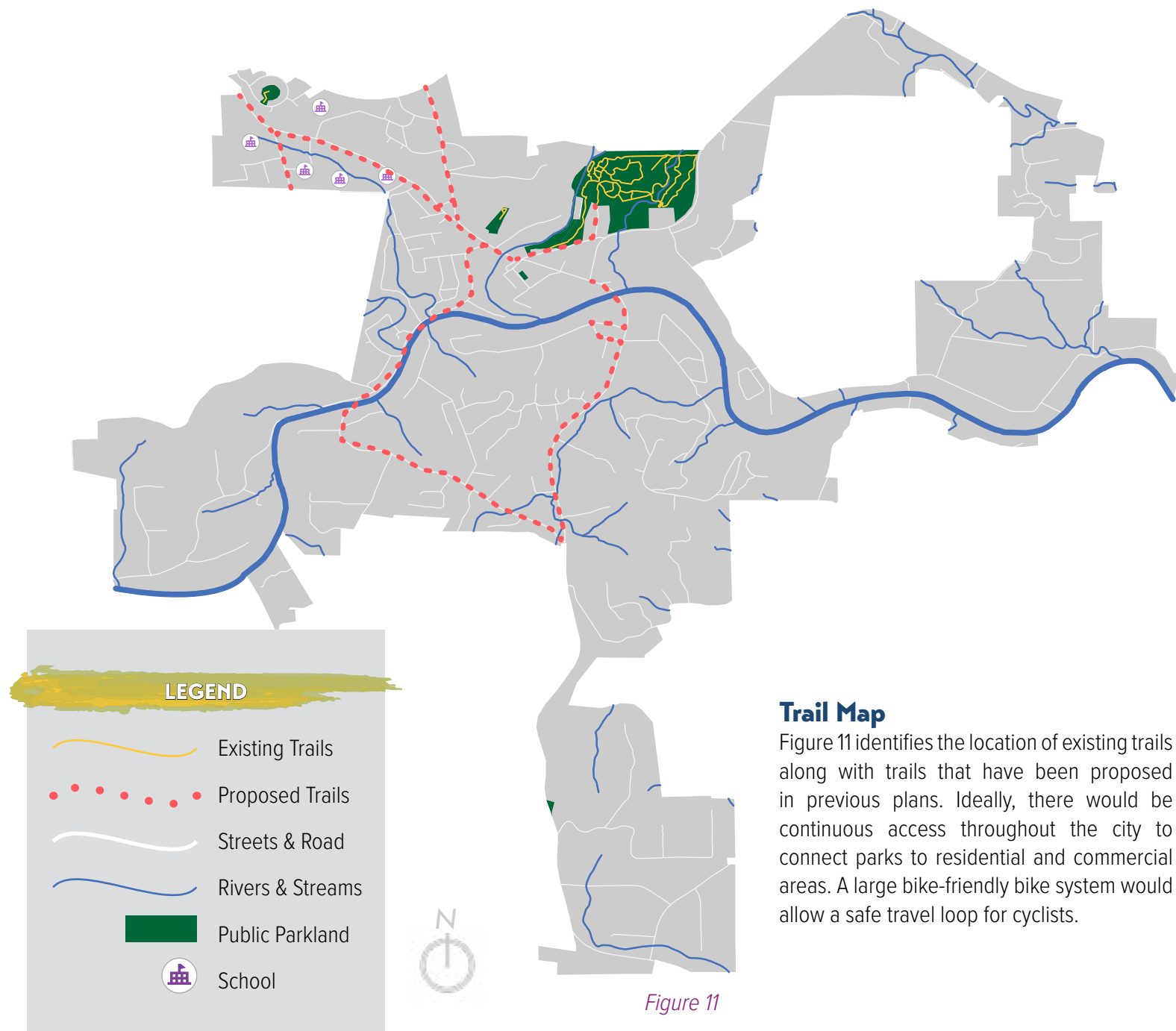


Figure 11

Trail Map

Figure 11 identifies the location of existing trails along with trails that have been proposed in previous plans. Ideally, there would be continuous access throughout the city to connect parks to residential and commercial areas. A large bike-friendly bike system would allow a safe travel loop for cyclists.

Trail at Blue Hole Regional Park



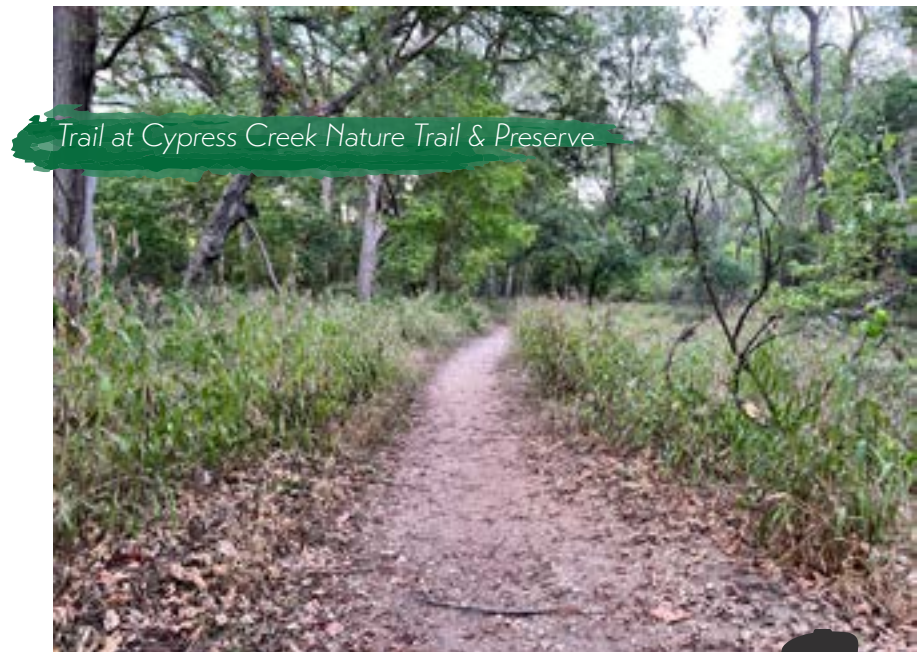
Trail at Blue Hole Regional Park



Trail at Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve



Trail at Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve





Level of Service

The Level of Service (LOS) measures usable park acres per 1,000 residents in a community and serves as a tool for city staff and residents to comprehend the importance of the park system. The LOS will help support essential decisions by government officials regarding parks, open space and trail developments. This analysis can help support investment decisions related to land acquisition, facility improvements and population changes over time. The LOS for parks and open spaces are based on usable parkland, therefore undeveloped or unusable parkland is not factored into the calculation. While private recreational spaces, Home Owner Associations (HOAs) recreational spaces, open space lots, outdoor public school play areas and sports fields are valuable for the community, these facilities are not included in the Level of Service tabulation.

To create a recommended standard, the city was compared to surrounding communities and the NRPA standard of 10.1 acres per 1,000 residents.

Wimberley's Recommended Level of Service

25.0 acres per 1,000 residents.

Wimberley's Existing Level of Service

Total Population: 2,877

Total Developed Park Acres: 144.76

Total Developed Park Acres per 1,000 Population: 50.3

Benchmark Communities

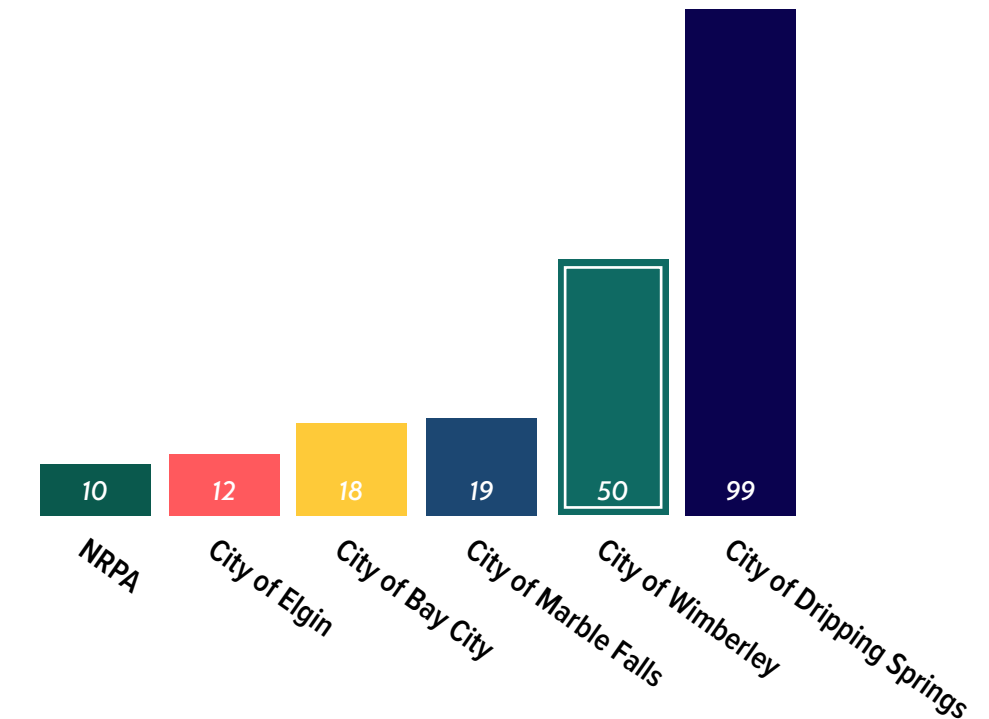
To create a recommended standard for the Level of Service Analysis, Wimberley was compared to surrounding communities and the NRPA benchmark. The NRPA benchmark of 10 acres per 1,000 residents is meant to be a recommended guide, not a specific rule. Each community will set their own community-specific standard based on existing parkland, population, maintenance, and operations abilities, overall quality desired, etc. Wimberley is responsible for determining their own balance of a quantity versus quality parks system. It is important to continue monitoring the Level of Service that best suits Wimberley based on future population projects, available land, and high-quality parks. Figure 12 compares the Level of Service for Wimberley with that of benchmark communities. Wimberley's current Level of Service is 50.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. This Level of Service is comparable to other benchmark communities. It is important to note that although the City of Wimberley has a high Level of Service among its residents, many park users reside outside of city limits. This can result in a lower Level of Service as there are more people using the parkland that it can appear.

The purpose of comparing past, present, and future spatial levels and determining how many park and open space acres per 1,000 residents is available is to ensure that sufficient area is allocated for all the outdoor recreation needs of the community. These comparisons and trends over time give Wimberley the ability to track their progress and plan ahead to provide recreation spaces. It is important to track these changes over time so the city can identify and acquire park land before it is developed. Residents are currently served by various parks with different amenities such as an outdoor natural swimming area, playgrounds, trails, pavilions, athletic fields, etc.

The high Level of Service is largely attributed to Blue Hole Regional Park, which is considered fully developed. The natural areas here are intended to preserve the native land. Naturally preserved land has low maintenance

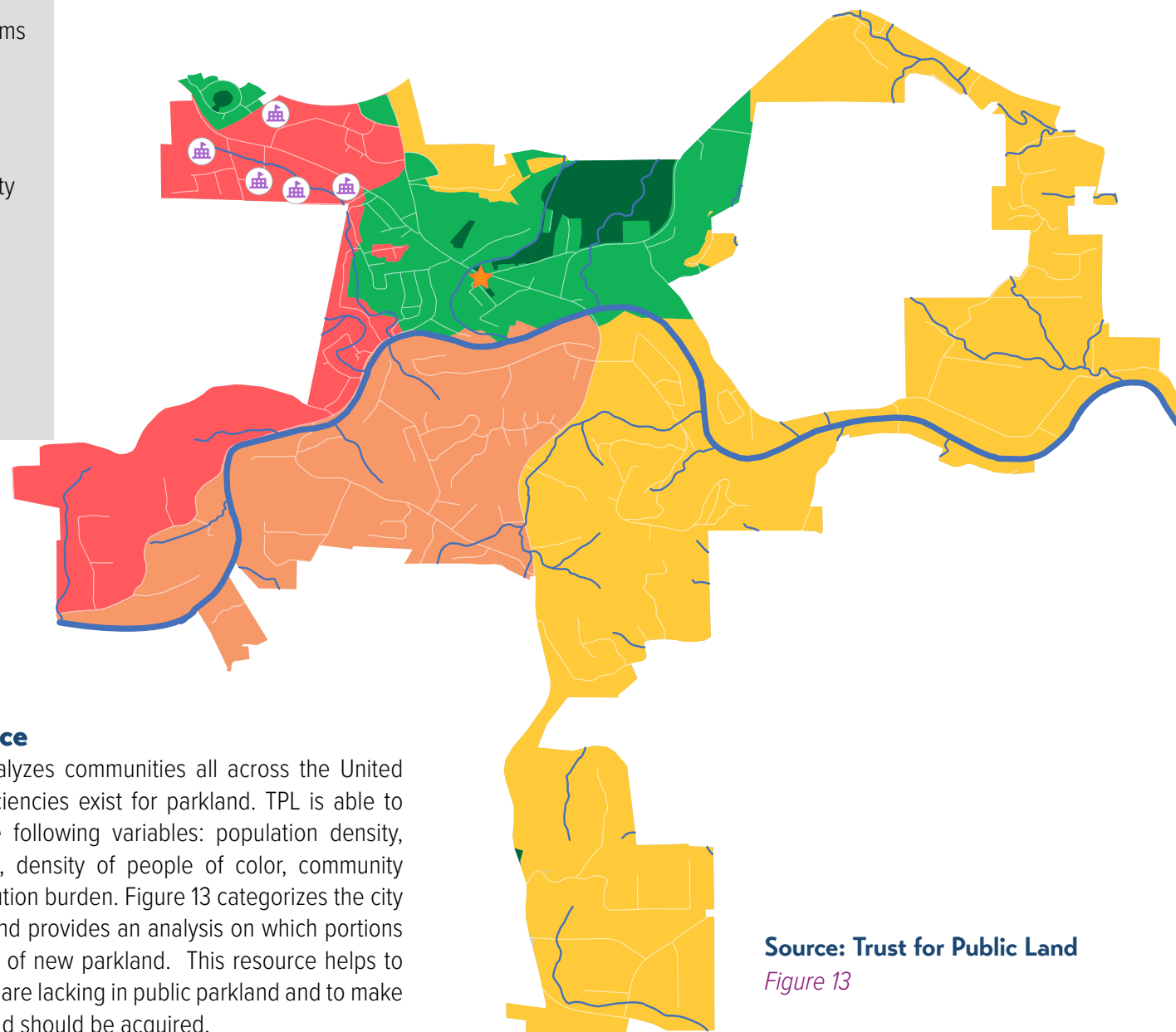
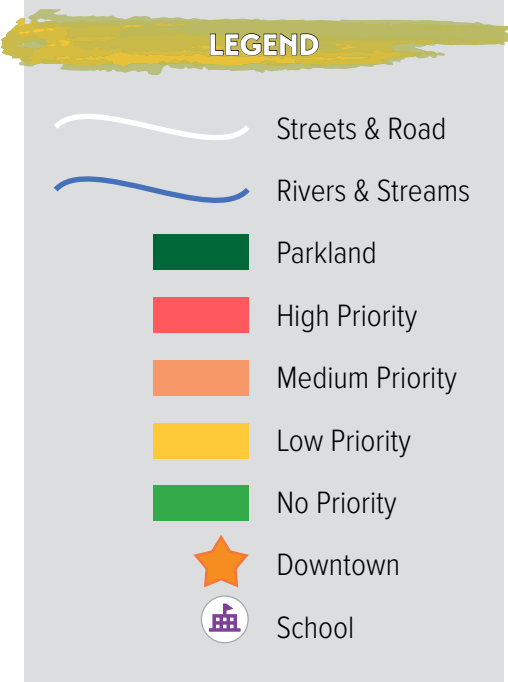
requirements as it does not need to be maintained outside of severe natural events such as storms, floods, freezes, etc. This provides opportunities for hiking and biking, however the amount of land available for programmed recreation is limited.

The city currently has a plethora of acres of usable parkland per 1,000 residents, but should continue to acquire land when available for the preservation and conservation of land. If the city does not expand park services and the population continues to grow, the Level of Service will ultimately be reduced. The city will need to be proactive when it comes to expanding park services.



Source: National Recreation of Parks Association, 2022

Figure 12



Wimberley's Level of Service

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) analyzes communities all across the United States and determines where deficiencies exist for parkland. TPL is able to denote these areas based on the following variables: population density, density of low-income households, density of people of color, community health, urban heat islands, and pollution burden. Figure 13 categorizes the city limits based on the above factors and provides an analysis on which portions of the community are in most need of new parkland. This resource helps to determine which portions of the city are lacking in public parkland and to make recommendations on where parkland should be acquired.

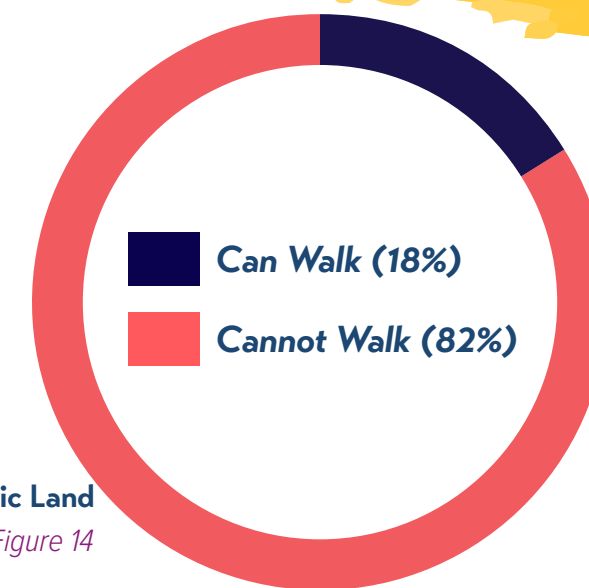
Source: Trust for Public Land
Figure 13

10-Minute Walk

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and Trust for Public Land (TPL) are encouraging cities to improve access to parks and green space by ensuring that every resident has safe and easy access to a park within a 10-minute walk. TPL publishes an annual report with statistics about each city's progress on providing parks within a 10-minute walk of each resident. According to this report, 18% of Wimberley residents have access to a park within a 10-minute walk which is lower than the national of 75% of

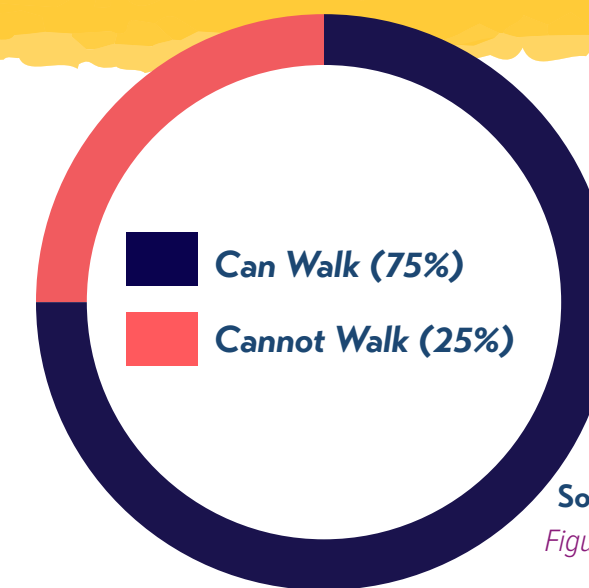
Americans being located within a 10-minute walk to a park. It is important to note this is the U.S. average, and smaller communities typically have similar numbers to Wimberley.

Only 15% of Wimberley resident survey respondents stated they live within a 10-minute walk to a park



Source: Trust for Public Land
Figure 14

Wimberley residents within a 10-minute walk to a park determined by NRPA

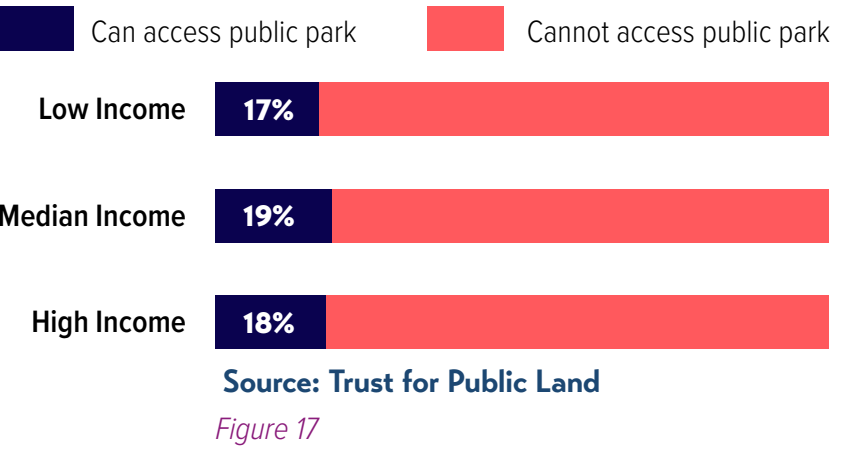
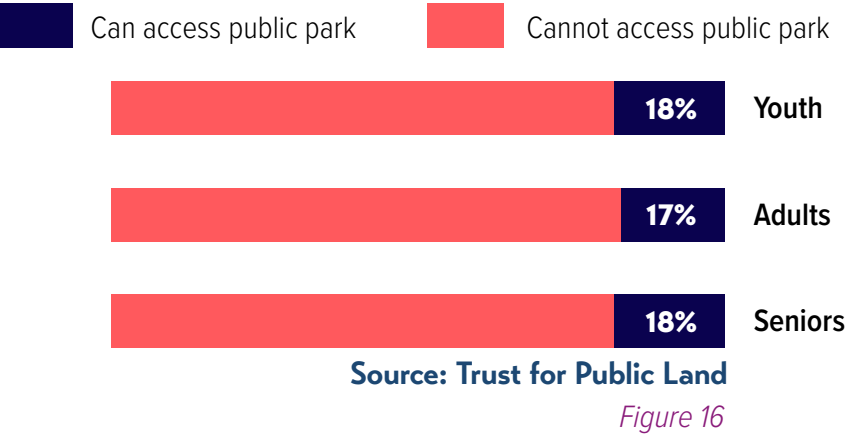


Source: Trust for Public Land
Figure 15

U.S. residents within a 10-minute walk to a park determined by NRPA

Percentage of residents within a 10-minute walk by age

Figure 16 compares the distribution of parkland based upon age of community members. The residents in Wimberley overwhelmingly do not have safe access to a park within a 10-minute walk from their house. In fact, less than 20% of all youth, adults, and seniors in Wimberley can walk to a park within 10-minutes from their house. This statistic is alarming as ideally all residents should have safe and reasonable access to a park. The breakdown of what age groups have access to parks for Wimberley is nearly identical to that of the benchmark city Dripping Springs, however Wimberley’s numbers are slightly better. However when looking at the other benchmark cities, Wimberley is significantly lower. On average the other benchmark cities have approximately 50% of their youth, adults, and seniors within a 10-minute walk to a park. In order for the City of Wimberley to be comparable with the other benchmark cities, they will need to look at acquiring additional property to be developed as parkland.

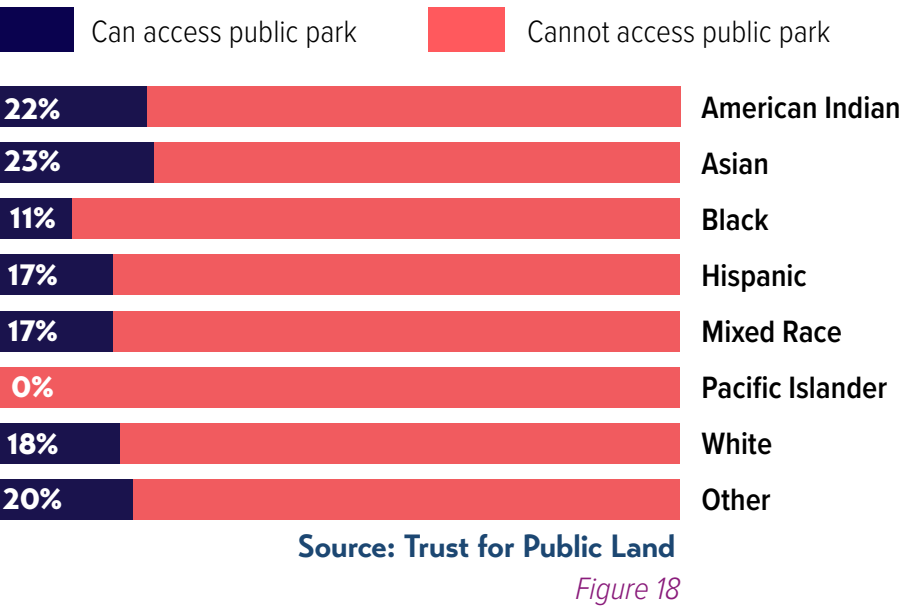


Percentage of residents within a 10-minute walk by income

Figure 17 compares the distribution of parkland based upon household income levels. In an ideal world, communities would have equal distribution of parkland for people, regardless of income. Unfortunately what is typically seen is parkland largely conglomerated in areas of high income. Wimberley does not appear to follow this trend, as parkland distribution is consistent among varying income levels. While it is good that distribution of parkland is not skewed by income levels, the percentage of residents within a 10-minute walk to a park is low. The distribution of parkland by income brackets is significantly lower in Wimberley than most of the other benchmark communities. These communities average around 50% of their residents with low, medium, and high income having access to a park within a 10-minute walk to their home. Wimberley is on average ranking worse than the benchmark communities in this category, however it is on track with Dripping Springs.

Race / ethnicity of residents within a 10-minute walk to a park

Figure 18 compares park distribution along with the race and ethnicity of residents. Park distribution does not appear to be biased based upon the race and/or ethnicity of the community. This is important as a lack of bias can lead to equitable access. Unfortunately the absence of bias here does not ultimately result in equitable access. The outcome of the existing parkland is that in general, most people do not have access to a public park within a 10-minute walk from their home, regardless of race or ethnicity. Wimberley is following the trend identified on the previous page of ranking worse than most of the benchmark communities when it comes to the distribution of parkland based upon race and ethnicity. On average the benchmark communities are hovering at around 50% of their racial and ethnic groups having access to public parkland within a 10-minute walk from their house. However, Wimberley is on par with Dripping Springs.





Department Programs & Special Events

The Wimberley PARD hosts more than 30 recreational programs and events throughout the year. City staff does an exceptional job at providing a wide variety of programming and events for community members. The events hosted by the Wimberley PARD provide recreational opportunities to thousands of people annually. This section highlights the various recreation and athletic programs and special events the Department offers.

Recurring Special Events:

Blue Hole Nature Camp Weekly: A 10 week day camp program that the City of Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department provides to the nature-conscious youth of the community.

Boo! Hole Halloween: A 30-stop trick-or-treat trail which includes a haunted hayride, large carnival games, a movie on an outdoor screen, a costume contest, live music, food trucks, and more.

Concerts in the Park: Concert series every Friday in April from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Movies in the Park: Movies shown in the Parks including Christmas, Halloween, Memorial Day, Nature Documentaries, etc.

Family Campout: Camping in the Blue Hole Swim Area and includes activities such as hiking, geocaching, a guided night hike, specialty programs, and more.

Hill Country Migratory Bird Seminar: The first ever Hill Country Migratory Birding Seminary sponsored by the Wimberley Birding Society. A seminar with speakers discussing protecting birds, how to cultivate bird-friendly habitats.

Howl at the Moon: Wimberley PARD partners with the Wimberley Dark Sky Committee and host a moonlight dance and howl on the basketball court at the Blue Hole Regional Park.

Memorial Day Movie in the Parks at Blue Hole: Movie in the Park program on the Friday before Memorial Day, including movies such as Jurassic Park, Jaws, and Jumanji.

Polar Bear Plunge and 5K: A 5K fun run throughout downtown Wimberley with start and end at Blue Hole, fire at the fire pit, hot drinks, craft beer, and live music.

Shakespeare in the Park: A live performance of Shakespeare at Blue Hole Regional Park.

Spring Break Camp: Nature Education day-camp modeled after Blue Hole Nature Camp where participants will explore topics like botany, ecology, entomology, geology, herpetology, limnology, and ornithology.

Star Party: Bi-annual events to learn about and observe the stars.

Wimberley Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Event takes place at the Wimberley Community Center and serves a Thanksgiving dinner to the less fortunate in the community on Thanksgiving Day.

Wimberley Nights: The Blue Hole Swim Area is open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the swim season for Wimberley residents only.

Recreation Programs / Activities

Yoga: Yoga classes held Tuesday and Thursday at the Wimberley Community Center.

Zumba: A dance workout class for all ages held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Wimberley Community Center for Zumba.





Small Programs

Band Performance: Concert at Oak Park featuring the band, Night Shift Radio.

Crazy for Cactus: Participants will learn all about the common Texas Cacti, their role in the environment, how you can cultivate this resilient species and explore Blue Hole Regional Park in search of Cacti.

Guided Hikes: Hiking and educational tour of the Blue Hole Regional Park and Cypress Creek Nature Preserve on the first and third Saturdays from February through April.

Guided Night Hikes: A Parks and Recreation staff member will lead a guided night hike of the world-renowned Blue Hole Regional Park.

Knee High Naturalist: Hike, play games, and investigate nature with your 3- to 5-year-old with activities like pattern recognition and insect investigation.

Painting with Parks: An outdoor painting program lead by an expert artist.

Plant and Paint: The Wimberley Community Center hosts this the first Friday of each month where they teach how to take care of plants and paint flowerpots.

The World of Crystals: Program where participants will learn all about the Texas Hill Country's unique limestone features, common crystals, and minerals, and how you can identify these core components of Earth in your own backyard.

Tie-dye Day with Parks and Rec: Participants will tie-dye t-shirts for the 4th of July.

Nature Education Programs

Birds and Brew March: Birding hikes for expert or novice birders while sipping on local coffee.

Botanical Buddies: Participants will learn about native flora and fauna in the Texas Hill Country and what they can grow in their own backyards.

Firefly Watch: Program participants will learn about fireflies native to Central Texas and will interact with hundreds of fireflies that show up at Blue Hole every night April through June.

Fox Families: Program that includes a nature hike, learning how to set up a game-cam, and information about Central Texas native fox species.

Guided Plant Tours: Participants will go on a guided hike and learn about Ivy, Oak, Juniper, Grasses, and more plant species.

Oak Wilt Talk: Expert Arborist Scott George gives a presentation and tree trek discussing what oak wilt is, how to prevent it, and various treatment methods.

Oak Wilt Tour with Texas A&M Forest Service: Presentation on oak wilt from Karl Flocke with the Texas A&M Forest Service, and a walking tour of an area of the park that is being afflicted with the oak wilt disease.

Our Resilient Riparian: Participants learn about the multitude of benefits riparian areas provide.

Owl Prowl: A night hike searching for owls, a classroom style learning section with the opportunity to dissect owl pellet and education on how to make owl calls.

Previous Events:

The Wimberley PARD hosts numerous events for the community. Unfortunately some must be discontinued due to various reasons. The follow are a list of programs that previously were offered by the Wimberley PARD however have since been discontinued.

- Additional Nature Education Programs
- Blue Christmas
- Classic Movies in the Park
- Halloween Movie Series





Community Programs & Special Events

The City of Wimberley citizens, local organizations and other agencies host programs and events throughout the year. The Parks and Recreation Department supports these events by assisting with set-up, clean up, logistics, grounds maintenance, and provides lighting. Below are some programs and events hosted by organizations other than the City that can attract visitors to the Parks System.

Community Programs:

Butterfly Festival: An art and cultural celebration, where thousands of butterflies are released into the wild.

Wimberley Arts Fest: An art exhibition featuring 100+ artists with live music and food trucks.

Wimberley Market Days: The Texas Hill County’s largest outdoor market, featuring hundreds of booths with 100% of the net income going to the Wimberley Lions Club to support local programs, non-profits, and activities.

Wings Over Wimberley: A city-wide cultural event with music, art, food, and fun, celebrating the thousands of free-tailed Mexican bats that call Wimberley home.

Athletic Partnership Events

The City of Wimberley provides athletic facilities for local recreation. With these facilities many local associations and organizations use them for events and tournaments. The Parks and Recreation Department supports these associations and organizations by providing grounds maintenance, set up, clean up and logistics. The following information highlights some of the events and programs that occur at the City’s athletic facilities.

Wimberley Sports Complex Partners & Events

- Wimberley Independent School District
- Wimberley Youth Athletic Club
- Wimberley Youth Sports Association





Chapter 4

NRPA Standards



NRPA Three Pillars

There are numerous benefits that are provided with parks, trails, and open spaces. Many residents within the City of Wimberley participate in some form of recreation that is provided by parks, trails, and open spaces; whether it be walking to or in a park, observing local wildlife, swimming in Cypress Creek, or enjoying concerts in the park. It is crucial that all community members, regardless of age, ability, skill level, race, sexual orientation, social demographic, or financial resources have access to public spaces.

To encourage cities across the nation to promote healthy lifestyles, conserve natural resources, and provide safe accessibility for all citizens, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed the Three Pillars: Health and Wellness, Conservation, and Social Equity. The following pages explore the three pillars, noting the importance for the pillars, national standards, how they have been accomplished locally, and recommendations that the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department can incorporate.

It is important to be aware of national standards as the Wimberley Parks System is a high-quality system that attracts people from all over. Decision makers and other city staff can help ensure the Parks System meets best practices, provides recreational opportunities to the community, and continues to be a competitive tourist attraction through the identification of these pillars. The incorporation of these pillars into the Parks System will help with the organization becoming accredited and obtaining various designations.



HEALTH & WELLNESS



CONSERVATION



SOCIAL EQUITY



Health and Wellness

The first initiative in the NRPA’s “Three Pillars” is Health and Wellness. It can be summarized as “Leading the nation to improved health and wellness through parks and recreation.” NRPA further believes that:

“Parks and recreation professionals are key to a fully integrated public health system and play a vital role in meeting the evolving health needs of their communities. They are uniquely positioned to create, in partnership with the community, public health leaders and other local organizations, upstream solutions that catalyze and transform their systems into holistic and people-centered community wellness hubs. In serving as community wellness hubs, parks and recreation connects community members to comprehensive programs, services and spaces that dismantle systemic barriers to health, especially for people of color and low-income communities, while investing in efforts that support and advance health and well-being holistically.”

NRPA has three specific initiatives that are targeted at improving the Health and Wellness of communities:

COMMUNITY WELLNESS HUBS

COMMIT TO HEALTH

HEALTHY AGING IN PLACE

National Standards

- It is encouraged for all communities to provide parks within a safe and reasonable 10-minute walk from their household. According to the Trust for Public Land, 75% of U.S. residents have a park or green space meeting this standard.
- It is encouraged that communities are active through diet and exercise. The Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (HEPA) standards educate community members on how to eat healthy and how they can be physically active.
- It is encouraged for the aging population to be active through recreational activities. Dedicated facilities, activities, and programming for older adults should be incorporated into the Parks System.

Local Accomplishments

2024: Hosted the 8th annual Polar Bear Plunge and 5K.

2024: Introduced new adult programming including kickball, cornhole, and dodgeball.

2023: Introduced a free community workout on the second Saturday of every month at Oak Park & Welcome Center

2023: Maintained a close working relationship with the Wimberley Senior Citizen Activities Inc, including providing an Alzheimer’s support group, meals on wheels, table games, etc.

2023: Increased health and wellness programs at the Community Center with Zumba 3 days a week, yoga classes twice a week, and several exercise classes.

2023: The 13th year of hosting Concerts in the Park every Friday in April helping to build community and improve mental health.

2023: Introduced an adult volleyball program.

Local Standards

Within the City of Wimberley, 18% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. The Parks and Recreation Department is able to provide exceptional parks and recreational opportunities through strategic planning and programming, despite the low percentage.

The City of Wimberley Park’s and Recreation Department aims to improve the Health and Wellness of the Community through multiple initiatives including but not limited to the development of trails and athletic facilities, partnering with local organizations, and hosting community events. The City of Wimberley was awarded a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 2022 to renovate existing trails. Additionally, Hays County was awarded \$970,000 in grant funding from the Texas Transportation Commission. This funding will assist with constructing sidewalks that will connect Wimberley High School, Danforth Junior High School, Wimberley Market Days, and the Wimberley Village. The Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department partners with the Wimberley Youth Soccer Association to provide recreational opportunities for local youth. Several community events are hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department that improve the health of the community. These programs include: Concerts in the Park, Polar Bear Plunge and 5K, and fitness classes such as Zumba.

Local Recommendations

Identify key physical, financial, and social barriers which may hinder the ability of Wimberley residents to participate in and enjoy the full parks and recreation system.

- Identify potential partnerships and establish a Community Wellness Hub to assist with improving the health of the local community.
- Provide educational opportunities for nutrition through local partnerships or community gardening.
- Support policies that encourage Aging in Place including expanding the trails system and transit systems.
- Provide programs that encourage Healthy Aging such as Walking With Ease, Active Living Every Day, and Fit & Strong!.
- Encourage physical and mental activity through community walks, structured and unstructured play, and educational programs.
- Incorporate supporting facilities that promote park usage, including but not limited to shade structures, bike racks, benches, and drinking stations.



Conservation

The second initiative in the NRPA’s “Three Pillars” is Conservation. This Pillar can be summarized as protecting the environment and natural resources. Parks and Recreation Agencies are key leaders when it comes to conservation. According to NRPA:

“Parks and recreation professionals, who serve nearly every community in the United States, are essential in combating the causes and impacts of climate change. They provide critical green spaces in communities that connect people to the outdoors and create healthy places that support the plants and animals that are beneficial to our environment. As leaders in building community resilience, park and recreation professionals connect community members to environmental programming, ensure healthy ecosystems, advocate for the benefits of nature and implement sustainability practices. These efforts must focus on communities most impacted by poor environment conditions and the effects of climate change, including people of color and people living in low-income communities, and invest in efforts that support holistic community resiliency.”

NRPA has four specific initiatives that are targeted at improving the Conservation of communities:

GREENER PARKS

PARKS FOR POLLINATORS

CLIMATE RESILIENT PARKS

WILDLIFE EXPLORERS

National Standards

NRPA conducted a report in 2017 analyzing the sustainability initiatives within cities across the United States. This report published fundings from surveys collected from over 350 parks and recreation agencies across the country. The top five ways these agencies are taking action on climate change include:

- Offering transportation alternatives that reduce carbon footprint
- Protecting watersheds by adopting natural resource management practices
- Improving air quality by increasing tree canopy
- Educating the public on sustainability practices
- Reducing storm water runoff and flooding through green infrastructure



The widely cited sustainability activities implemented by park and recreation agencies include:

- Providing opportunities for healthy activity in nature
- Protecting and managing wildlife and wildlife habitats
- Management of natural land
- Reducing landfill waste
- Following environmentally friendly building practices
- Fostering public engagement and education
- Implementing green infrastructure practices

Conservation and sustainability efforts can be significantly enhanced through public engagement. Five ways Parks and Recreation agencies seek to increase their impact through public engagement include:

- Offering environmental education opportunities
- Setting up educational kiosks, displays, and bulletin boards in public areas
- Entering public/private partnerships that promote sustainable practices
- Hosting adult classes
- Training of the youth workforce

Local Accomplishments

2023: The Wimberley Valley was awarded the International Dark Sky Place of the Year designation

2023: The City of Wimberley was awarded \$273,900 in TxDOT funds to construct downtown sidewalks

2023: The City of Wimberley hosted a tree folks initiative which resulted in the planting of 600 saplings to revegetate the riparian areas near the swim lawn at Blue Hole Regional Park.

2021: The City of Wimberley was awarded \$971,000 in TxDOT funds to construct sidewalks to connect Wimberley High School, Danforth Junior High School, Wimberley Market Days, and the Wimberley Village Library.

2020: City Council adopted Migratory Bird Day

2018: The Wimberley Valley was awarded the International Dark Sky Place designation

2013: Blue Hole Regional Park was designated as SITES Certified

SITES Certifications recognize projects that have excelled at incorporating sustainable design practices and Wimberley has proven to be a leader in sustainability. Blue Hole Regional Park was awarded the SITES Certification in 2018, becoming just one of 26 projects world-wide to achieve this

“Blue Hole Regional Park balances ecological sensitivity with community needs and economic viability - successfully preserving a treasured resource for generations to come.”

certification, and is the largest SITE certified park in the nation. Blue Hole Regional Park preserves 126 acres of delicate ecosystem saved from development, and protects 19 endangered and threatened species' habitats. Water conservation efforts have been heavily emphasized as well, with several best environmental designs and water programs introduced. Rainwater cisterns have been constructed at several parks to efficiently capture and retain stormwater. This allows for water to be reused and reduces the City's demand of the Middle Trinity Aquifer.

The Parks and Recreation Department, in addition to its day-to-day work and planning is involved in various conservancy initiatives such as the International Dark Sky Communities, migratory bird migration, Plant Your Park, and water conservation.

The International Dark Sky Places program certifies various communities that have excelled at preserving and protecting dark places. Attaining an International Dark Sky Places designation is a great honor for a community. There are just over 200 communities recognized internationally, with Wimberley being one of seven International Dark Sky Places designated in Texas. The Wimberley PARD have worked with the Wimberley Valley Dark Sky Committee over the past several years and have committed to the conservation of the night sky. Limiting light pollution and preserving the dark sky is important for numerous reasons; especially for bird migration. As the majority of bird migration occurs at night, light pollution can significantly hinder the migratory process for birds. The importance of the bird migration process is further acknowledged as the City Council adopted the Migratory Bird Day designation on the second Saturday of May. City leaders and community members alike have taken exceptional steps to ensure the Dark Sky is protected and migratory birds can thrive. Several programs have been introduced by the Parks and Recreation Department including Guided Night Hikes, Star Party, and Hill Country Migratory Bird Seminar. These programs provide educational opportunities to the community allowing the community to learn about conservation issues.

The Plant Your Park initiative is hosted by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department. This program allows community members to plant trees at Blue Hole Regional Park to increase conservation efforts. In 2022 there were 35 one gallon trees planted at the park. Programs like this are important as they provide habitats for birds and wildlife which increases the biodiversity and improves the air quality. This also provides opportunities for community members to learn about the importance of trees and native vegetation. Several programs have been introduced that educate the community on the importance of the natural vegetation including: Crazy for Cactus, Botanical Buddies, and Guided Plant Tours.

Local Recommendations

- Develop an Urban Forestry Initiative to encourage the preservation of trees and plants
- Identify and observe Arbor Day through Council proclamation
- Adopt policies and programs to become a Tree City USA Community
- Identify areas of the community that can incorporate rewilding
- Establish programs that encourage rewilding of private properties
- Strive for environmentally-friendly building practices, the construction of green and sustainable infrastructure, and the use of resource-efficient construction processes and materials
- Increase locations of recycling bins
- Promote policies that encourage zero-waste
- Work with wildlife agencies and volunteers to conduct regular biological inventories of all park properties.
- Map out locations of endangered species habitats



Social Equity

The third initiative in the NRPA’s “Three Pillars” is Social Equity. This Pillar can be summarized as ensuring parks and recreation services are equally accessible and available to all people, regardless of income level, ethnicity, gender, ability, or age. Parks provide recreational spaces for some of the most vulnerable communities, and as such, it is crucial that everyone has a safe space to recreate. NRPA notes that:

“Public parks, recreation services and recreation programs including the maintenance, safety, and accessibility of parks and facilities, should be provided on an equitable basis to all citizens of communities served by public agencies. Social equity is a critical responsibility borne by every public park and recreation agency and the professionals that operate them. It is a right, not just a privilege, for people nationwide to have safe healthful access to parks and recreation. NRPA believes park and recreation agencies, through the provision of equal access to parks and recreation, should cultivate community ties through programs and services for all which produces benefits by connecting people more deeply to the fabric of the community.”

NRPA has four specific initiatives that are targeted at improving the Social Equity of the Parks and Recreation System:

- PARK ACCESS**
- MENTORING IN PARKS AND REC**
- PARKS FOR INCLUSION**
- HEART YOUR PARK**

National Standards

NRPA published the Park and Recreation Inclusion Report to better understand how Parks and Recreation agencies promote social equity. A summary of which demographic groups Parks and Recreation agencies specifically design and market programming and activities toward are as follows:

- 74%** provide programming for individuals with physical disabilities
- 71%** provide programming for members of multicultural / racial / ethnic communities
- 62%** provide programming for individuals with cognitive disabilities
- 30%** provide programming for members of the LGBTQ community
- 27%** provide programming for members of refugee / immigrant communities

Partnerships are essential for a successful Parks and Recreation agency. NRPA identified the most frequent partnerships that Parks and Recreation agencies enter to ensure programming and activities are inclusive to all members of their community, which can be seen below:

1. Schools
2. Non-profit organizations
3. Agencies on aging and disabilities
4. Local law enforcement
5. Hospital / healthcare services
6. Faith-based organizations
7. Transit agencies
8. State offices of refugee resettlement

Local Accomplishments

The City of Wimberley and the Parks and Recreation Department are committed to inclusive, citywide recreational opportunities. The City and Parks and Recreation Department offer multiple special programs and events. They have also brought outreach programs directly to the under-served communities in the City. Through several partnerships, the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department has been able to improve social equity.



“The City of Wimberley is committed to providing inclusive and welcoming recreational opportunities for all community members - regardless of age, ability, skill level, race, sexual orientation, social demographic, or financial resources.”

Local Recommendations

- Create and adopt a formal Parks and Recreation Inclusion Policy
- Engage with multicultural, racial, and/or ethnic community members by recognizing and celebrating their heritage and holidays, being aware of culturally-sensitive program hours and policies, and provide opportunities for civic engagement and social connections.
- Incorporate multiple languages in Parks and Recreation resources.
- Continue to and seek additional partnerships with local organizations that support under-represented populations or under-served communities.
- Ensure all community voices are heard, acknowledged, and addressed.
- Support policies that improve access to Parks and Recreation facilities.
- Improve accessibility of trails

CAPRA Accreditation

The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) is a program through NRPA. CAPRA is the only national accreditation for Parks and Recreation Departments, and is one of the highest honors a Parks and Recreation agency can be awarded. Through achieving CAPRA accreditation, a Parks and Recreation agency provides assurance to the community that the Department provides a top tier system. There are countless benefits for being CAPRA accredited, which include:

- Demonstrates the Parks and Recreation Department meets national standards of best practice
- Recognizes the community as a great place to live
- Assists with securing funding
- Ensures the Parks and Recreation Department is accountable to the public
- Provides staff with training to ensure they provide exceptional customer service
- Provides public and political recognition
- Increases credibility
- Enhances department performance and efficiency
- Boosts staff morale
- Creates an environment for regular review of operations, policies and procedures, and promotes continual improvement



CAPRA Accreditation Process

Achieving CAPRA accreditation is not an easy task, with only 193 accredited park and recreation agencies throughout the nation. CAPRA has identified 154 national standards. 36 of these are fundamental standards, and 118 are non-fundamental standards. In order for an agency to achieve CAPRA accreditation, the department must comply with all 36 fundamental and 106 of the 118 non-fundamental standards. As Wimberley is a leader in sustainable park design, it is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Department attain CAPRA accreditation.

To attain CAPRA accreditation, agencies must:

- Attend CAPRA approved training
- Complete an application and self-assessment report
- Host on-site or virtual CAPRA site inspections
- Attend a final CAPRA hearing



There are ten areas that agencies must have policies and/or plans in place to attain CAPRA accreditation:

- Agency Authority, Role, and Responsibility
- Planning
- Organization and Administration
- Human Resources
- Financial Management
- Programs and Services Management
- Facility and Land Use Management
- Public Safety, Law Enforcement, and Security
- Risk Management
- Evaluation, Assessment, and Research





Chapter 5

Public Input & Key Findings

Community Survey

MHS and city staff worked closely to conduct a comprehensive research study as part of the update to the Parks Master Plan. An essential element of the planning process was to develop a Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment was created by significant research and communication with the community. As community input is the foundation of a great master plan, the Wimberley PARD utilized multiple types of engagement and public meetings. The discussions and input from the community helped identify the highlights of the parks system along with the recreational gaps.

The community survey was offered in-person and online. The survey was available in English and Spanish as it was identified that approximately 25% of Hays County residents speak a language other than English at home, with this primarily being Spanish. This helped ensure that language would not be a barrier when collecting public input and exclude members of the community from having their voice and needs heard. As Wimberley is



known for its tourism, survey questions were asked to both residents and non-residents. Residents consisted of all of the members in the community with a 78676 ZIP code, while non-residents were classified as people with a different ZIP code. Different questions were asked depending on the whether the survey participant was a resident or not. This helped identify the highlights and gaps of Wimberley residents along with those of tourists. It is important to note that the classification of residents by ZIP code was not fully representative of the Wimberley residents. The 78676 ZIP code extends beyond city limits and as such people that did not reside in Wimberley could respond as a resident. Physical copies of the survey were provided at the Wimberley PARD’s office as well as at The Wimberley Community Center, while the online version was posted on the Wimberley PARD’s website and promoted via social media and QR codes.

To better promote the update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the public surveys, MHS designed flyers and yard signs. These flyers were included in the local Wimberley newspaper, and were distributed to approximately 3,000 different residents and businesses in the Wimberley Valley area. The yard signs were placed in high-traffic areas throughout the city and in the park system. The flyers and yard signs provided information regarding the community survey and how the participants could access the survey.

After promoting the survey on multiple platforms, hosting various pop-up events, and extending the response timeline one week, a total of 425 survey responses were collected from residents and non-residents. The survey helped determine what recreational gaps and needs existed for residents and non-residents. This information was compiled and helped form the recreational demand and needs assessment. A breakdown of the survey findings can be found on pages 86-93, while an in-depth break of the survey can be found in the appendix.

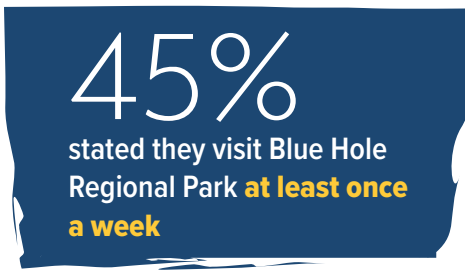
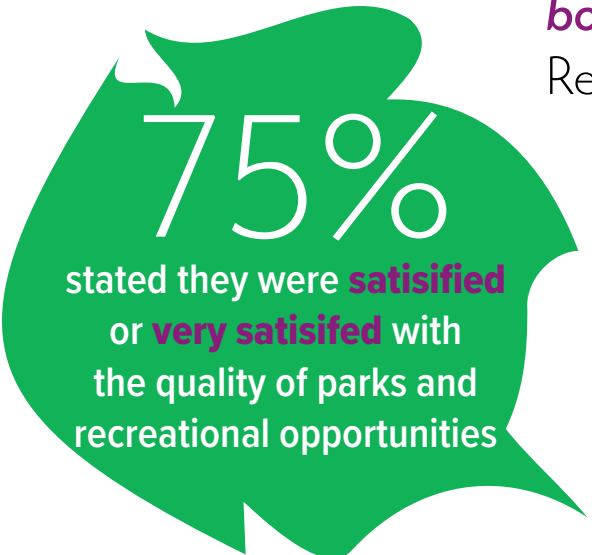
Community Survey Findings Summary



stated trails are *important* or *very important*



stated they *would support a bond* to increase the Parks and Recreation Department funding



Focus Group Findings

To further understand the needs and gaps of recreational opportunities within the community, Focus Group Meetings were conducted. A total of five meetings were held at the Wimberley Community Center to discuss the parks system. These meetings were held with key members in the community who had a diverse range of backgrounds and knowledge. Participants mostly included groups such as: Environmentalists, Friends of Wimberley Parks, Clubs, Associations, Non-Profits, Tourism, Development, and Community Leaders, and Business Owners. These meetings were moderated by MHS staff which provided an unbiased audience to collect the feedback. While these meetings were moderated by MHS, they were predominately left up to the community members to discuss what they saw as the needs for the parks system. It was important to meet with representatives from the groups below to understand the ins-and-outs of the existing park system, and what the priorities should be in the future. A summary of the highlights and community needs are provided on the next page.

Focus Group Meeting Participants & Groups

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| - City of Wimberley Administration | - Keep Wimberley Beautiful | - Wimberley Inn & 7A Ranch |
| - City Council | - Friends of Wimberley Parks | - Meadow Center for Water and the Environment |
| - Parks & Recreation Department | - Wimberley Valley Watershed Association | - Apothecary 222 |
| - Parks and Recreation Board | - Wimberley Youth Sports Association (WYSA) | - Wimberley Valley Arts & Cultural Alliance |
| - Hays County Master Naturalist | - The Barnabas Connection | |



Highlights Of The Park System

- High quality park system
- Large amount of dedicated open space
- Developed trail system within Blue Hole Regional Park
- Excel at incorporating sustainable design into the Parks System
- Blue Hole Regional Park and Old Baldy are large tourist attractions
- Great leadership within the Parks and Recreation Department, City Council, and City Staff
- Programming and events are at a top tier quality

“Conservation of water must be taken into consideration.”

“Local partnerships are essential for the Wimberley community.”

Community Needs In The Park

- Additional land is necessary to develop for recreational purposes
- Continue incorporating best environmental practices
- New aquatic amenities are desired
- Trail system should be expanded and connect throughout the city
- Promote education on environmental issues and conservation
- Inclusiveness is needed throughout the entire community
- Increased budget for expansion, enhancements, and maintenance of the parks system
- Enhanced signage should be provided throughout the parks system



2

Full days of **pop-up events** hosted to collect **public feedback** and promote the **Community Survey**

6

Places of business and parks hosted pop-up events

100+

Community members, both **residents** and **non-residents**, were engaged with during the pop-up events

Pop-Up Events

The Wimberley PARD hosted pop-up events over a two-day period at various businesses and parks throughout town, to promote the survey and collect public input. Locations of the pop-up events included: Blue Hole Regional Park, Ace Hardware, Wimberley Cafe, The Leaning Pear, Blue Hole Nature Camp, and Community Pizza. By conducting the pop-up events, MHS and city staff were able to meet directly with members of the community and hear the needs of the residents and non-residents. These pop-up events provided valuable public input and encouraged residents and non-residents to participate in the survey.

What recreational amenities would you like to see in the parks system?

Children at the Blue Hole Nature Camp were asked what elements they would like to see in the Wimberley park system. The responses were a variety of items, however the most prevalent items mentioned were: waterplay (29%), natureplay (19%), sports (19%), and swings (13%). These results can be seen in Figure 19.

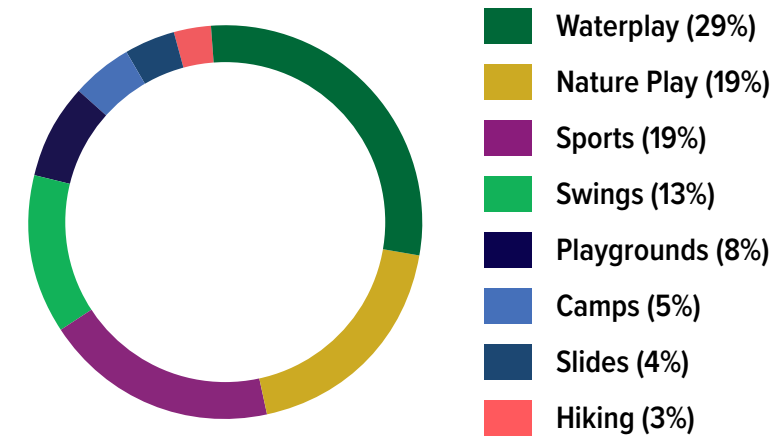
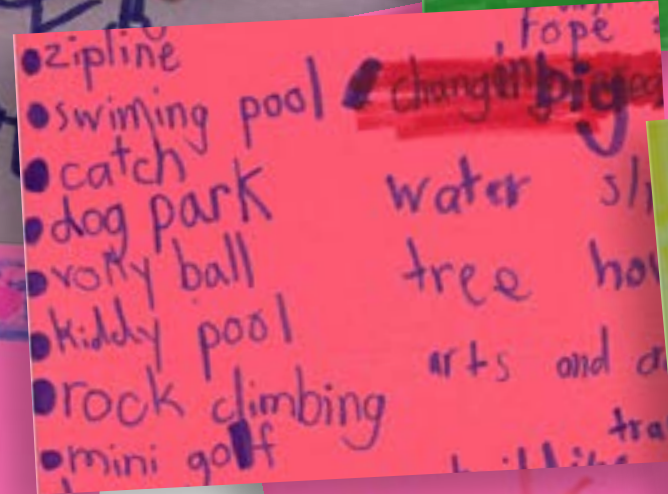
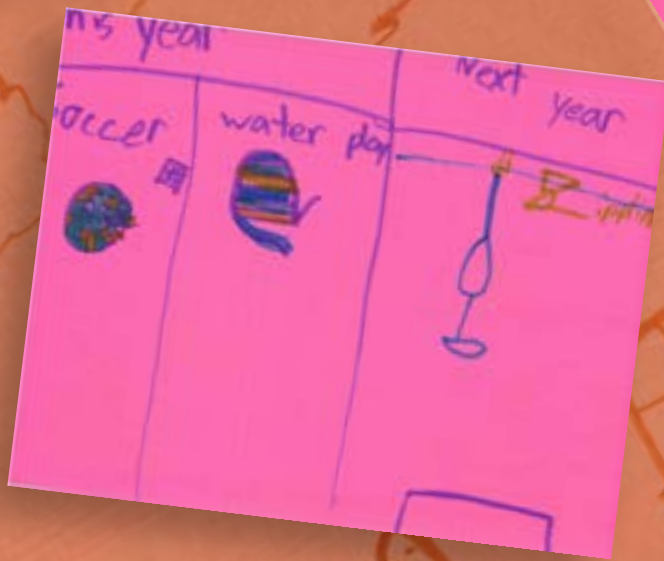


Figure 19



Blue Hole Nature Camp

Along with the questions asked at Blue Hole Nature Camp, campers were encouraged to express their wants and needs within the park system through the creative outlet of drawing. Presented below are several concepts imagined by the campers.





Community Survey Data

Quality Of Parks & Recreation Opportunities

Question: How would you rate the quality of parks and recreational opportunities in the City of Wimberley?

Results: A majority (75%) of resident respondents stated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of park and recreation opportunities. When asked what could be improved, prevalent responses included: access to water recreation (swimming pools, splashpads, and river access), increased connectivity (multi-purpose and nature trails), enhancements to existing facilities, and improvements to sport courts and sport fields. These results can be seen in Figure 20.

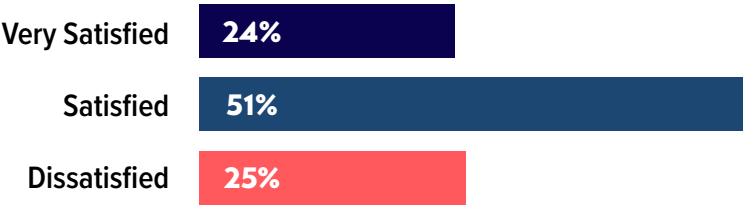


Figure 20

Quantity Of Parks & Recreation Opportunities

Question: How would you rate the quantity of parks and recreational opportunities in the City of Wimberley?

Results: A slight majority (62%) of survey respondents stated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quantity of park and recreation opportunities. These results can be seen in Figure 21.

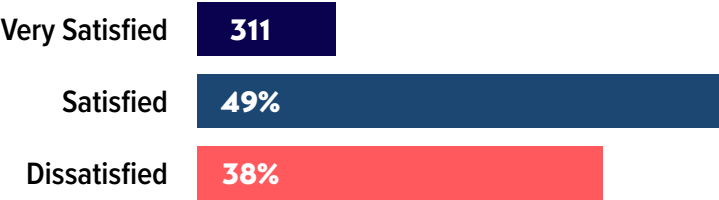


Figure 21

Awareness Of Parks, Recreation Facilities, And Programs

Question: How do you find out about parks, facilities, and programs in Wimberley? (Select all that apply)

Response: Residents and visitors predominately hear about parks, recreation facilities and programming via social media, with 74% of all respondents seeing promotion on social media. These results can be seen in Figure 22.

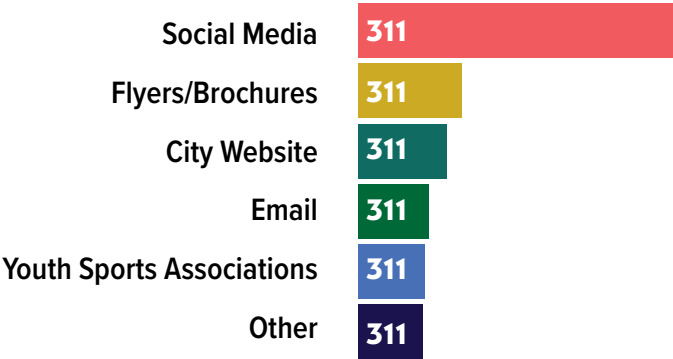


Figure 22

Preferred Method Of Communication

Question: Which communication channels do you prefer for receiving information about park updates, events, and activities?

Response: A very slight majority (52%) of survey respondents noted social media was their preferred method of communication, followed by email (33%). Mail (3%) was the least preferred method for residents to receive Wimberley PARD information. These results can be seen in Figure 23.

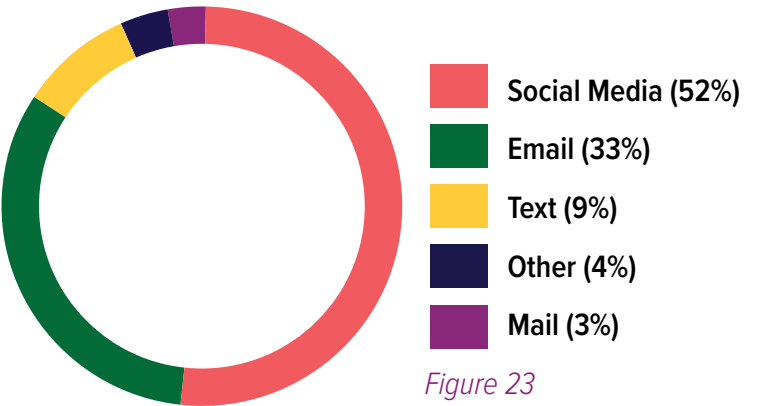


Figure 23

Bond Support

Question: Would you be in support of a bond to increase the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department funding?

Response: Residents heavily noted their support of a bond to increase funding for the Parks and Recreation Department to be utilized for the acquisition, enhancement, and maintenance of parkland. It is important to note that 12% of residents stated their opposition to a bond. While a significant amount of residents stated their support for a bond (88%) for the Wimberley PARD, it is important to note that a bond would need to go to the public to vote on. These results can be seen in Figure 24.

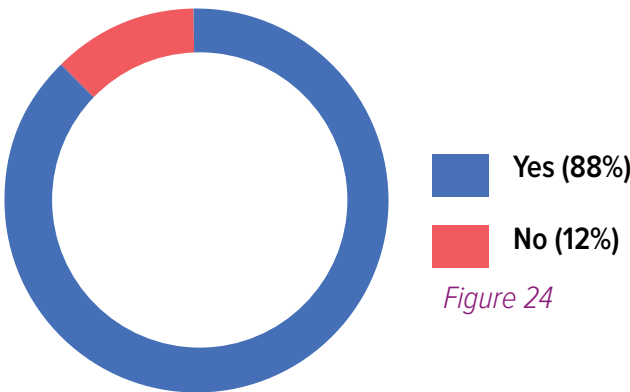


Figure 24

Monthly Contribution To A Bond

Question: If the City of Wimberley were to pass a bond for the acquisition, improvement, and maintenance of the park system, how much would you be willing to contribute per month?

Response: A majority (67%) of resident survey respondents stated they would be willing to spend \$1 - \$50 per month for a bond that would be used by the Parks and Recreation Department for the acquisition, enhancement, and maintenance of parkland. It is important to note that 10% of the resident respondents stated they would not be willing to support this bond. These results can be seen in Figure 25. It is important to note that recently there have been bonds in neighboring communities that were passed to fund park projects. For example in Kendall County a bond was passed in 2022 that helped provide more than \$20 million while costing the average homeowner just \$2.25 a month.

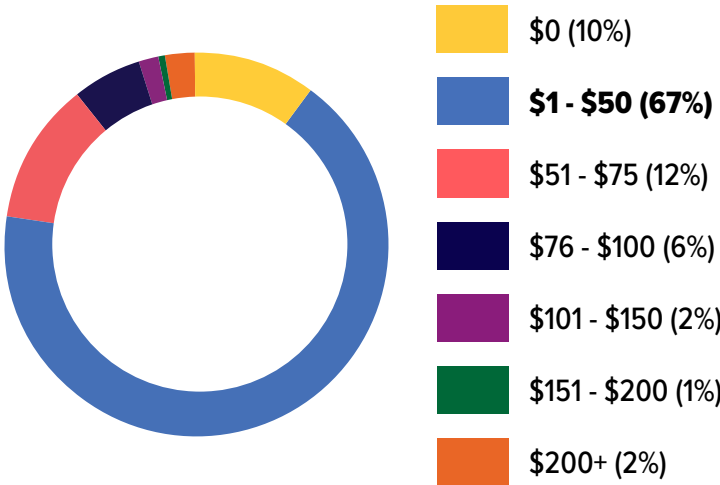


Figure 25

Importance & Satisfaction of Parks and Recreation

Question: How satisfied are you or someone in your household with the quantity of the following amenities, and how important is it to create new opportunities for these amenities?

Residents were asked to rank the importance of recreational activities as well as their satisfaction with opportunities to participate in these activities. The categories for satisfaction included: Dissatisfied, Somewhat Satisfied, Satisfied, or Very Satisfied. This was important to distinguish as a recreational activity could be important to the community while also having a high satisfaction rating for opportunities to participate in that activity. If that is the case, then the recreational activity is important to the community,

however there would not be a need for additional facilities. For example, swimming was listed as a high need for more opportunities and of high importance. This helps note that swimming is important to the community and they want more opportunities to swim. In comparison, there was a need for more fishing tournaments identified, however the importance ranked last. This can help support the claim that the community may want more opportunities for this, however this is not a priority for the overall community. For visual clarity purposes, the category “satisfaction of opportunities” has been renamed to “high need” and “low need”. These results can be seen in Figure 26.



Figure 26

Resident Programming

Question: How do you feel about the following programs offered by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department?

Response: Wimberley residents overwhelmingly like or love the programs offered by the Wimberley PARD. The five most popular programs identified by residents included: Concert in the Park, Movie in the Park, Boo! Hole Halloween, Star Party, and Nature Education Camps. Residents on average were 65% familiar with all programs offered by the PARD. These results can be seen in Figure 27.

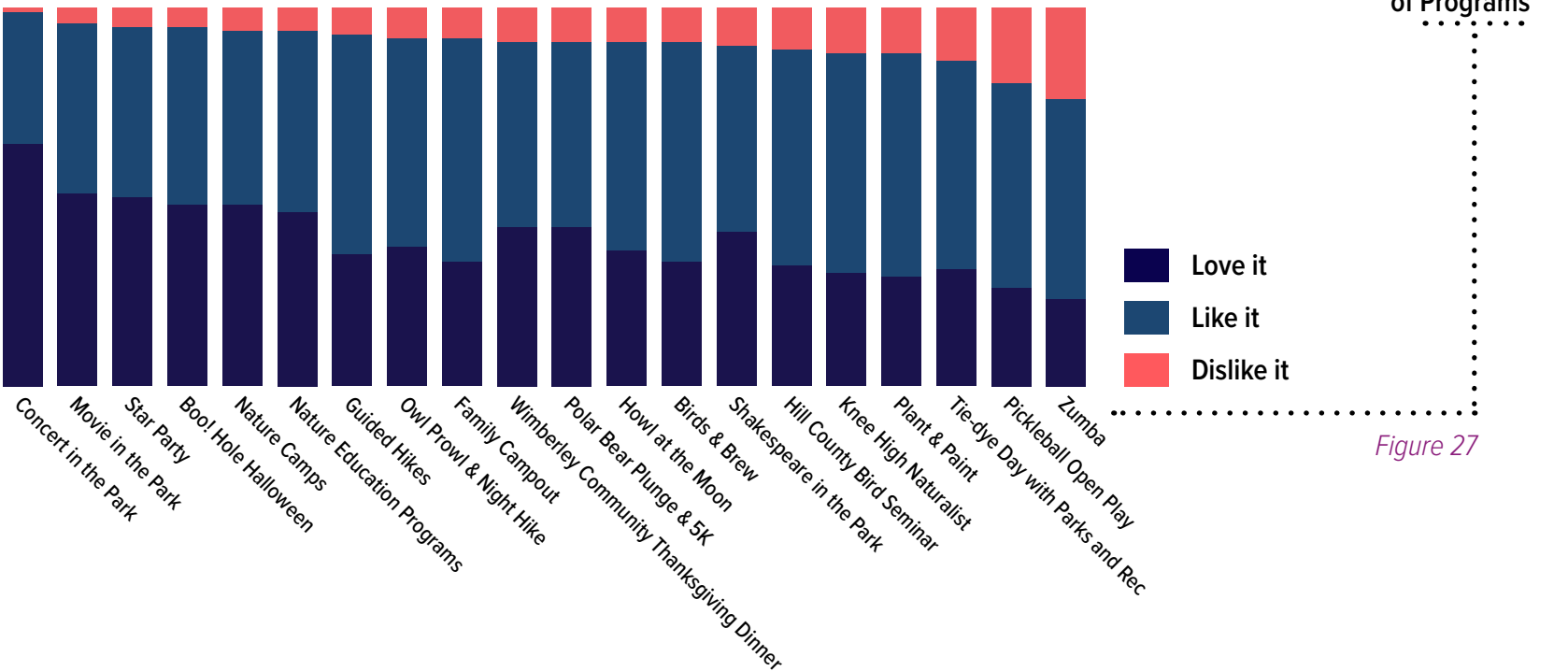


Figure 27

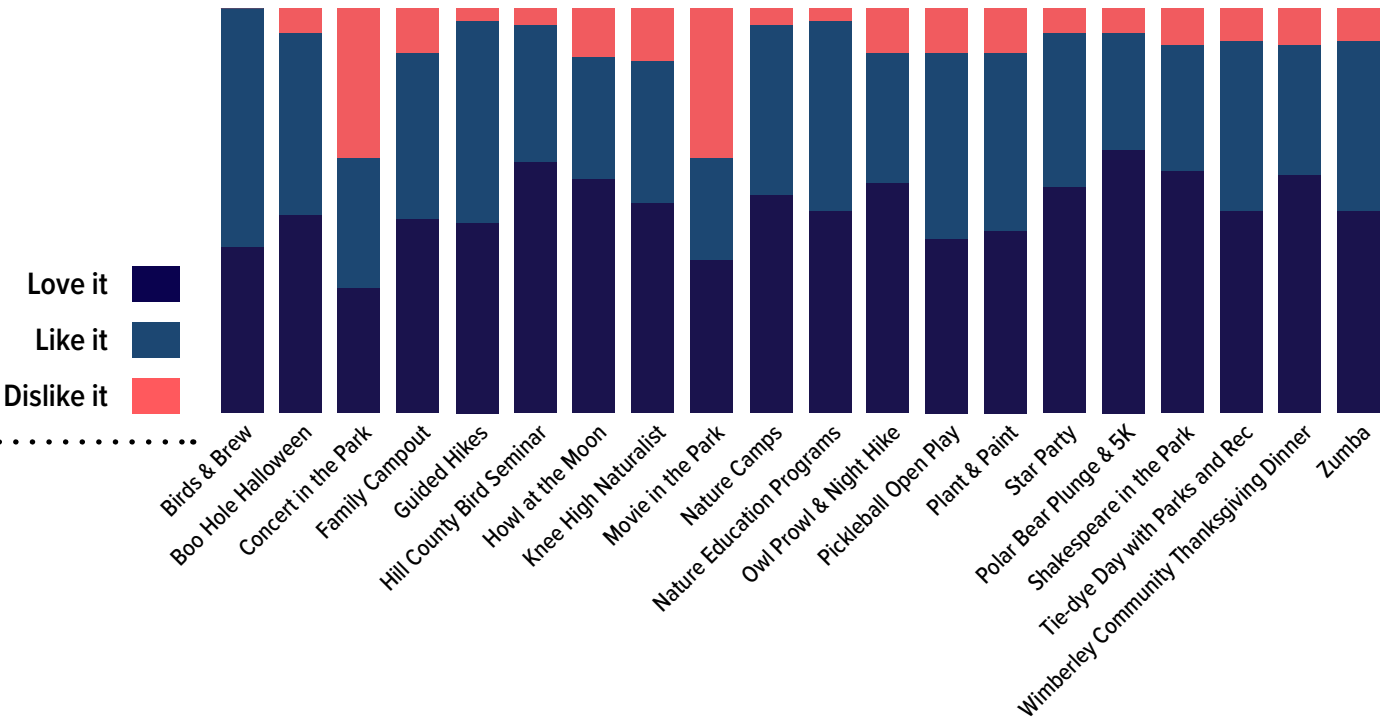


Figure 28

Visitor Programming

Question: How do you feel about the following programs offered by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department?

Response: Visitors travel throughout Texas to experience the Wimberley parks system. The five most popular programs identified by visitors included: Birds & Brew, Nature Camp, Guided Hikes, Nature Education Programs, and Star Party. Visitors on average were 50% familiar with all programs offered by the PARD. These results can be seen in Figure 28.



Resident Frequency Of Park Visits

Question: Within the past year, how often have you or someone from your household visited the parks below?

Response: Blue Hole Regional Park and Cypress Creek Nature Preserve were the two most frequently visited parks. Approximately 45% of residents reported visiting Blue Hole Regional Park at least once a week.

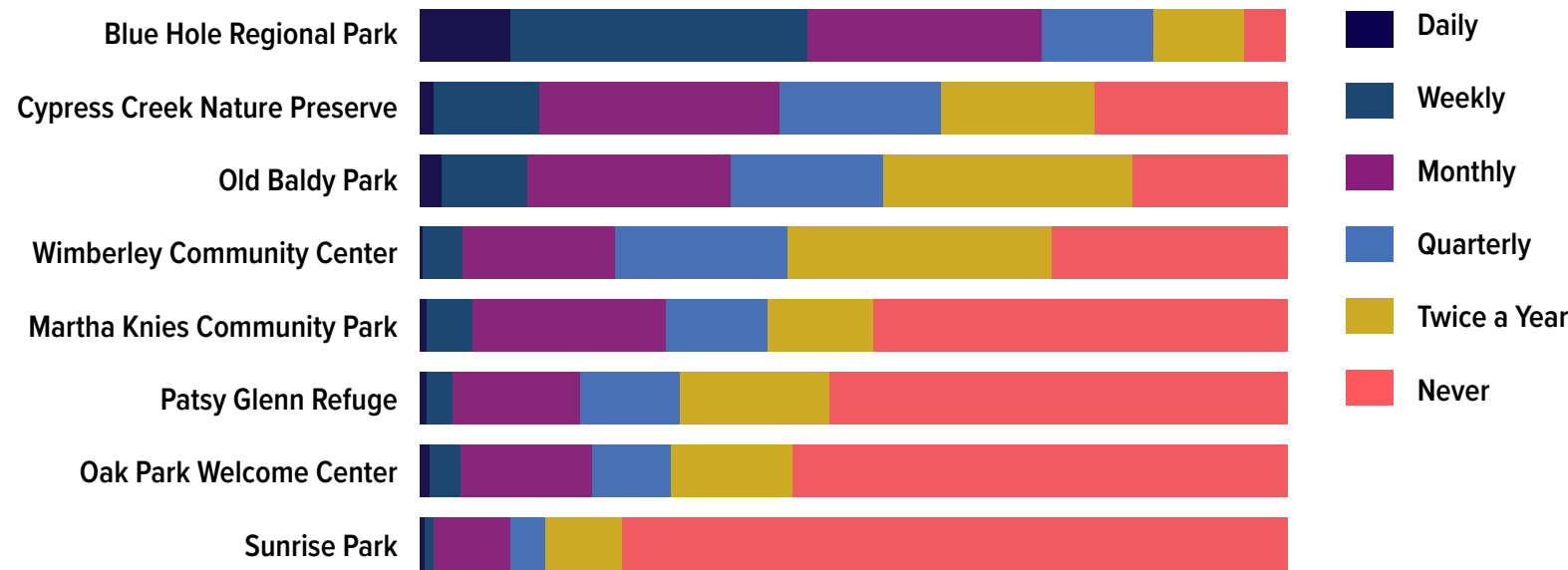


Figure 30

Other Desired Amenities

Question: Are there any other recreational activities that you would like to see in the City of Wimberley?

Response: The most common responses included aquatic facilities (87), playscape and equipment (44), river access (39), and trails (38).



Figure 30



Chapter 6

Needs Assessment

Recreational Needs

The Needs Analysis is based on the compilation of many different forms of input including community engagement, focus group meetings, community surveys, NRPA metrics, and the Parks Advisory Board, city staff, and professional opinion. The needs of the residents and visitors have been identified on the following pages.



Trails



Shade



New Parkland



Water Access



Conservation



Signage



New Park Needs

The City of Wimberley has continued to develop their park system over the last five years, and the existing system is nearly fully developed. The existing Parks System meets many of the community’s needs; however, there are critical gaps that have been identified in the community, and new amenities are necessary to fulfill the recreational desires of the community. The following categories should be considered when considering the acquisition of new parkland.

New Parkland / Conservation of Natural Resource Areas

As the population is expected to increase, additional property will need to be acquired to be developed/conserved as parkland and public use. In addition, the need for preservation and conservation ranked high among citizens. The acquisition of land for the purpose of preservation and conservation is needed, especially as residential growth continues in the area. Additional land will need to be acquired in order to provide adequate space for specific new recreational facilities and continued land conservation/preservation. The residents have endorsed this idea, as the community survey noted the acquisition of new parkland was the top priority for how the Wimberley

PARD should allocate funding. Areas designated for new parkland should be focused on the western side of town, specifically property west of Ranch Road 12, as well as property adjacent to Cypress Creek and Blanco River. Survey respondents were asked whether they lived within a safe and reasonable 10-minute walk to a park, of which 85% of respondents noted they do not. One of the contributing factors to the lack of walk-ability is the location of parkland. The existing parkland is predominately located within the northern portion of Wimberley, and adding new parkland elsewhere can help provide residents a park within a 10-minute walk from their home. While the existing parks system is primarily located within the northern portion of Wimberley, the city should continue to look at acquiring property along Cypress Creek and the Blanco River to dedicate it as open space for the conservation of the natural environment and the protection of water resources. As water is a vital natural resource, the preservation of land that is located in the recharge zone of Cypress Creek and the Blanco River is critical. If land becomes available, it should be evaluated and considered for acquisition as parkland by the City.



Neighborhood Parks

The City of Wimberley does not provide a traditional neighborhood park within city limits. Neighborhood parks provide recreational spaces for individual neighborhoods and typically include elements such as playgrounds, trails, pavilions, and supporting facilities such as site furniture. It is important to note that while there are no City-owned neighborhood parks, there are privately-owned neighborhood parks within city limits; however, these are not available to the general public. Neighborhood parks are intended to be utilized by the nearby residents and typically serve areas within a reasonable 10-minute walk. Many of the public comments noted throughout this Master Plan process can be resolved through the development of neighborhood parks. Community members noted that the Parks Department does an excellent job at providing recreational opportunities for tourists; however, resident recreational opportunities could be enhanced. Community members largely expressed they cannot walk to a park from their home. Additionally, numerous public comments arose noting the need for playground equipment for the youth. The development of neighborhood parks can provide recreational space for play equipment for the youth, and increase access to parks.

Aquatic Recreation

Over the course of the public engagement process, a large number of comments arose regarding the need for aquatic-based recreation. The only aquatic recreation the Parks and Recreation Department provides is with Cypress Creek during the summer, at Blue Hole Regional Park. There are no city-owned pools or splashpads, which can make it difficult for the community to cool off in the summer. Blue Hole Regional Park closed early in 2023, and Jacob’s Well, a natural body swimming area approximately 5 miles northwest of Wimberley, closed early in 2022 and for the entire summer in 2023 due to a shortage of water. As climate change continues to increase the frequency and severity of droughts, the city will need to consider providing a dedicated facility for water-based recreation such as a swimming pool or splashpad. Water conservation will need to be a key consideration in planning future aquatic recreation projects.



Existing Park Needs

As Wimberley continues to grow and attract a large number of visitors, it is critical to continue enhancing and maintaining the existing Parks System. A majority (75%) of survey respondents stated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the parks and recreational facilities. The community has an overwhelming amount of support for the parks system, and it is imperative the City continues providing a high quality park system. Enhancements to and maintenance of the existing Parks System ranked high when the community was asked how the Parks Department should prioritize funding. Nearly every participant at the Focus Group Meetings and Pop-Up Events expressed the importance of a high quality and well maintained park system. The following categories are items the City should consider when redeveloping or improving existing parks.

Site Furniture

It was evident during the public engagement process that the need for improved site furniture was a top priority, including elements such as shade, benches, drinking fountains, bike racks, etc. Wimberley residents enjoy their time outdoors, and having an insufficient amount of these elements can negatively impact a park user’s experience. Residents were asked what elements in parks should be a priority for the Parks and Recreation Department to fund, and the third highest ranked answer was incorporating shade to the parks system. Shade can be provided in many forms such as pavilions, sails, trees, etc. Benches provide areas to gather and/or rest for park users. Drinking fountains were another widely discussed topic. For community members to comfortably access the outdoors, they need access to hydration. The addition of bike racks can encourage users to bike within the park, and to the park.

Preservation & Conservation

The conservation and preservation of natural resource areas was emphasized heavily throughout the public engagement process. Native environments provide habitats for birds and various wildlife, along with educational opportunities to learn about the local flora and fauna. The conservation and preservation of natural resource areas will help protect the environment and ultimately enhance the sustainability of Wimberley. The City of Wimberley will need to be proactive in achieving the conservation and preservation of natural resource areas. This can be achieved through the acquisition and dedication of land for native space and/or parkland. Another way to achieve this is through rewilding, which is a form of ecological restoration that involves the planting of native species. Rewilding specific areas of existing parks will create animal habitat, reduce maintenance and water requirements, and provide aesthetically pleasing environments.

Play Apparatus

After conducting an inventory of the existing Parks System and engaging with community members, it was apparent that there is a lack of playgrounds, both ages 2-5 and 5-12, in Wimberley. There are two playgrounds provided by the Wimberley PARD, one at Blue Hole Regional Park and the other at Martha Knies Community Park. The playground at Blue Hole Regional Park is in good condition and offers recreational opportunities for children. Martha Knies Community Park is in need of new and innovative play spaces that fit the unique character of Wimberley. Community members consistently mentioned the lack of recreational amenities for young children, and stated they visit the surrounding communities for playgrounds. Community members were asked their opinions on the playgrounds provided by the city, and just under 60% of respondents stated they were dissatisfied by the quantity and quality of the playground equipment.

Adult and Youth Athletics

The City of Wimberley provides opportunities for athletics at Blue Hole Regional Park. As the Wimberley ISD provides recreational opportunities as well, the primary athletics the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department handles is soccer. Community members stated their needs regarding the soccer fields at Blue Hole Regional Park during the community survey and focus group meetings. Community members expressed a need for the enhancement of the soccer fields, and noted that teams refuse to play on these fields because the surfacing and grading create unsafe environments for recreation. The specific needs identified for the soccer fields include regrading and resurfacing the fields - preferably with artificial turf, and better communication between the Parks and Recreation Department and the local sports organizations.

Multi-Generational Center

The City of Wimberley currently provides one multi-generational center - the Wimberley Community Center. This facility provides gathering space for members of the community to participate in various events, including celebrations, meetings, recreational classes such as yoga and Zumba, etc. Throughout the development of this plan, a common concern was determining how the City can utilize the multi-generational center more efficiently. Community leaders expressed the need to increase the number of members using the facility, and to diversify programming.

Accessibility

Significant discussion was held over the importance for accessibility throughout the parks system. It was made evident that the community values accessibility so that parks may be enjoyed by all people. To improve park safety and accessibility, each playground and recreational amenity should be evaluated for compliance to meet the current safety guidelines, and latest ADA standards established under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Accessible design considers the park as a whole and identifies if it is space that is uninviting or prohibits park users from participating in the park. While accessibility in a park is typically associated with mobility impairment, accessible design accounts for all impairments. Accessible design must be considered when proposing park improvements.

Signage

Community members reported being satisfied with the quality of signage in the existing parks system. However, after speaking with the community at the pop-up events and focus group meetings, a consistent theme that current signage could be improved was identified. Community members noted they got lost within the trail system due a lack of wayfinding signage and trail makers. Community members wanted more interpretive signage and reference maps.

“There is not equal access for people with disabilities, especially children. As a resident I have an extremely hard time accessing Blue Hole for my kids.”

Aquatic Needs

The need for aquatic recreation was discussed at length throughout all public meetings and apparent from the survey respondents. Aquatic recreation can consist of a variety of recreational facilities, such as a community pool, splashpad, and/or river access. The following subcategories are all desired by the residents of Wimberley. Each category plays a different role in the community, and information regarding the aquatic needs of the community can be found below.

Community Pool

A vast majority of community members stated the need for access to water recreation, and they specifically expressed the desire for a community pool. This need was not a surprise to community leaders. In the early 2000’s, community members grouped together and formed what was known as “Swimberley,” an organized group of citizens that identified the need for a community pool. Swimberley had identified the need for a community pool and attempted to address this need through raising donations for the construction of a community pool. While this group has since largely dissipated, the need for a community pool remains. While there are pools in Wimberley at private residences and places of business, there are no pools that are open to the general public.

Focus group members believed that the construction of a city-owned public pool would satisfy the recreational needs of the community more than the construction of a splashpad or additional river access. Aquatic recreation is a challenging concept as there are numerous factors to consider. The environmental sustainability of the community is a core value to the residents and leaders. The construction of a city-owned swimming pool would increase the strain on the Trinity Aquifer. The increase in development around this aquifer and the impacts of climate change have resulted in the Trinity Aquifer being strained. The impacts of this can be seen by the

community already as both swimming areas at Blue Hole Regional Park and Jacobs Well were closed prematurely due to a water shortage. Even with the careful consideration of how the construction of a city-owned swimming pool could impact the natural resources of the community, this facility is still something the community desires.



Splashpad

Many residents expressed their need for new and unique aquatic recreational opportunities. While swimming was important to the community, many members noted they would be satisfied with the construction of a splash pad. Swimming was not the specific need - their need was providing water to cool off during the summer. Splashpads allow for families to briefly cool off in the summer and give the youth an activity to participate in. There are no existing splashpads in Wimberley, and if community members want to access one, they must travel to another community.

The idea of a splashpad was explored through the various focus group meetings. Focus group members noted that while splashpads may help address the recreational needs of some community members, they were concerned that a splashpad alone would not sufficiently meet the recreational needs of the entire community. Instead, they thought a splashpad in conjunction with a swimming pool or additional river access would best meet the needs of the community.

River Access

The City of Wimberley is known for their open-to-the-public, aquatic recreational opportunity. The City currently provides a natural swimming facility at Blue Hole Regional Park. This is a heavily used facility by both residents and visitors, and the swimming area is typically fully booked throughout the summer. As such, community members have continuously expressed their need for additional river access.

Additional river access can provide new and unique recreational opportunities for the City. Due to the size of the Blue Hole Regional Park swimming area, the City is limited in what aquatic recreational opportunities can be provided. With additional swimming areas, the City can look at expanding programming opportunities and could include elements such as paddlesports.

Providing additional river access can also improve conservation and preservation efforts. The dedication of land to be developed as park space will allow the natural environment to remain intact, and not be subject to urbanization. As the conservation and preservation of the environment is crucial to the Wimberley community, additional river access can help address both aquatic and environmental needs.

“While the playscape at Blue Hole is fun and useful, it’s not enough for our growing community, since there are no water play options. We’d love to see at the least a splashpad.”

Trail & Connectivity Needs

Hiking and biking trails were some of the most desired park elements discussed while conducting public engagement and focus group meetings. It is clear that Wimberley residents and visitors are enthusiastic about trails and desire a connected trail system which can link the parks system to downtown shops, schools, and neighborhoods. Trails are multi-purpose amenities that can serve the community’s recreational needs and provide alternate modes of transportation. The following subcategories address the different needs and benefits for a community wide trail system.

Park Access

The overwhelming majority of Wimberley residents are not able to safely or reasonably walk to a park from their house based on the responses from the community survey. A total of 15% responded they can safely or reasonably walk to a park within 10-minutes from their house. According to the Trust for Public Land, 75% of U.S. residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. Wimberley is significantly behind the national average of residents that can walk to a park. One of the factors that contributes to this deficit is the minimal points of accessibility, specifically the lack of sidewalks and trails from residential areas to park facilities. There is a need to construct trails within parks to the outer boundary of the properties in strategic locations. This will create future connections to sidewalks and

trails that will be constructed by developers or the City; thus creating one large continuous system. When residents were asked how they travel to a park, the large majority of residents stated they drive to parks. Although the development of trails will not ensure locals will solely walk or bike to a park, it will provide the opportunity for alternative forms of transportation. The need for trails and trailheads are apparent in the city to provide safe and reasonable access to parks for all park users.



The top trail need in the City of Wimberley is:

a continuous trail system linking the community together

Hiking & Biking Trails

The community has stated their support for additional trails. Wimberley residents enjoy hiking in the natural environment, and the only locations where community members can currently do so is at Blue Hole Regional Park, Cypress Creek Nature Preserve, and Patsy Glenn Nature Refuge. Hiking and biking trails provide opportunity for passive and active recreation and allow community members to exercise in nature. As these trails promote physical activity, they can help promote healthy lifestyles in the community. Multipurpose looped trails provide accessible and inclusive exercise opportunities for parents with strollers, people with wheelchairs, runners, walkers, etc. These trails create comforting environments where community members feel safe and can engage with the natural environment.

Trails don’t only serve recreational purposes, but can also be an effective way to inform the community on sustainable practices and conservation

through the inclusion of interpretive signage. The construction of trails allows community members to interact with the environment, which can help community members understand the importance of the environment. This can encourage community members to incorporate sustainable practices into their everyday lives, and support initiatives and policies pertaining to conservation.

A need for new trails has been identified throughout the public engagement process. 85% of respondents from the community survey stated that it is important for the City to continue developing hiking and biking trails. The Wimberley Valley Trails initiative conducted a study in 2021 that identified the most important locations for trails to provide continuous access in Wimberley and the surrounding communities in Hays County.

Trail Locations

To extend and connect existing trails and implement future trails, the City should consider building trails in utility/pipeline easements, along road rights-of-ways and drainage canals, and on former railroads. The city should continue to plan for future trail opportunities by retrofitting and incorporating trails into the existing system. One way this can be accomplished is for the City to coordinate with HOAs and future developers to construct trails and include trail easements. Citizens urged the importance of walking and biking trails that are accessible to all community members, regardless of age or abilities. Trails should be designed and upgraded to ensure they are fully accessible and can easily be navigated with ADA accessibility and appropriate wayfinding along the trails. Wayfinding may include pavement markings, directional signage, map kiosks, and mile markers.

“I would love to see the parks better connected with trails.”



Chapter 7

Future Parks & Recreation System

General Community Recommendations

The following recommendations are a guide on how the City of Wimberley should develop and enhance their parks system to best meet the recreational needs of the community. These recommendations were developed by the residents of Wimberley with assistance and direction by the Advisory Committee, city staff, and professional opinion. The recommendations are not listed in priority order and should be used to guide future developments over the course of the next five to ten years. These recommendations are guided by the Goals and Objectives of this plan and will ensure the recreational needs of the growing community are met . These recommendations are the foundation for the Implementation Schedule, which contains the specific park recommends, and can be found in Chapter 9. The City Council, Parks Advisory Board, and city staff provided valuable insight about the needs of the community to ensure the following recommendations benefit the City of Wimberley.



General Recommendations

It is recommended that all parks, existing and new, should have basic recreational supporting amenities such as: benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, shade, etc. Support facilities are park amenities that are not specifically recreational based but instead provide basic, community needs at local parks. These types of amenities are benches, bike racks, drinking fountains / water bottle refill stations, grilling and picnic areas, parking lots, restrooms, shade, and wayfinding. Shade can be provided through trees or man-made elements such as shade canopies, sails, umbrellas, and pavilions.

Conservation and Preservation

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley continue conserving and protecting the natural environment. Wimberley is a leader in sustainability, as made apparent through the numerous accolades received over the years, and the Parks and Recreation Department should continue enhancing the sustainability. As noted earlier in this chapter, the City of Wimberley should incorporate rewilding when feasible. It is important to install sustainable elements, including things such as recycling bins, green parking lots, water cisterns, and signage. Recycling bins along with educational opportunities including, signage and programming, can reduce the amount of waste that goes to the local landfill. Green parking lots consist of parking with permeable pavers, pervious concrete, and plants. They allow for the infiltration of water. This reduces stormwater runoff, which can help reduce frequency and severity of flooding. There are numerous water cisterns in Wimberley, and additional cisterns should be added when feasible. This will allow the City to use rainwater as a resource, instead of drawing on the Trinity Aquifer. Signage is important for conservation and preservation as it can inform community members of the importance of it, and provide opportunities for the community members to incorporate practices into their lives.

Safety

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley incorporate safety features throughout the parks system. Safety elements include items such as lighting and medical equipment. Lighting is an important component when it comes to safety in public space. This creates an environment where park users feel safe to spend time in. As Wimberley is a Dark Sky Community, it is crucial for any lighting that is installed to be shielded, to prevent light pollution. There should be medical equipment provided throughout the Parks System, which includes items such as AED units at sports courts, and first aid kits.

Accessibility

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley continue providing accessible elements and programs when designing and enhancing facilities, and hosting programs. Accessibility can be improved through the incorporation of universal design, usage of unitary surfacing, creation of environments for community members with sensory impairments, and signage that is multi-lingual. In addition to these improvements, it is recommended for the City to continue engagement with persons with disabilities and minority groups. This engagement can result in the adoption of culturally-sensitive programs and incorporation of ADA compliant amenities throughout the parks system.

Programming

It is recommended that the Wimberley PARD partner with various local public and private organizations to help provide new programming opportunities. Throughout the planning process, the topic of special events and programs were discussed numerous times. The Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department does an excellent job of offering a wide variety of programming that allow all members in the community to find something that suits their needs. While the community at large is satisfied with the types of programs

offered, two types of programs were consistently mentioned when looking at new opportunities. These programs included fitness classes and events, along with seasonal events. The Wimberley PARD currently offers two fitness classes / events consisting of Zumba and pickleball. Seasonal events are offered during Halloween and Thanksgiving.

Promotion

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley properly and efficiently promote their programming. While the Parks and Recreation Department does an exceptional job at offering programming opportunities to the community, it is crucial that these programs are promoted effectively. Through the public engagement process, it was identified that a slight majority of the community prefers to hear news about parks and recreation opportunities through social media, although nearly a third of community members prefer to receive information via email. It is recommended that the Wimberley PARD conduct a promotional campaign to identify promotional strategies that work for the community.

Continuous Updates

As the parks system continues to improve and expand, it is important for Wimberley parks to reflect the desires and needs of the community. It is recommended that the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department continuously evaluate the existing Parks System to determine if elements of the park are no longer meeting recreational needs of the community.



Existing Park Recommendations

The Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department provides exceptional opportunities for recreation through the existing Parks System. However, there are multiple needs of the community that can be addressed through the enhancement of the existing system. It is important to be aware that each park serves a different purpose. However, these recommendations pertain to the overall system. Each park will need to be assessed individually to see if these recommendations are feasible for them.

Play Apparatus

It is recommended that existing parks provide recreational opportunities in the form of play apparatus for the local youth when appropriate. Play apparatus includes elements such as playgrounds, climbing equipment, ropes, etc. This will provide opportunities for the local youth to play outside while developing their motor skills.

Site Furniture

It is recommended that site furniture be enhanced throughout the existing Parks System. The opportunity for recreational activity is crucial for any park. However, just as important is the installation of supporting site furniture. Site furniture encourages park usage by providing amenities for people using the park. This includes elements such as benches, picnic tables, water filling stations, bike racks, etc. Installation of seating areas including benches and picnic tables is crucial for park space as it provides opportunities for people to gather and/or rest. Water filling stations allow park users access to drinking water when recreating outside. Installation of bike racks can encourage park users to travel to the park via a bike, and/or to use the bike at the park for recreational purposes.

Signage

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley upgrade the signage to ensure there is cohesion throughout the Parks System. Overall, the City does a great job at ensuring there is aesthetic cohesion throughout the Parks System, which is largely accomplished through signage and the design of the park. The City should ensure all types of signage are consistent throughout the entire system. This includes ensuring consistency between entry, wayfinding, interpretive signage.

Public Art

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley install public art throughout the parks system, to give a unique but cohesive identity to each park. The community in Wimberley is very artistic, and the City does an excellent job at providing programming opportunities pertaining to arts and crafts. Art is entwined with the community, with the various murals and the Wimberley Boots. With the help of local partnerships, Patsy Glenn Nature Refuge was able to install an art piece in 2023. This art piece consists of lumber that was harvested from tree debris from a snow-storm earlier in the year. This

was designed and installed with the assistance from local organizations, including a student from the Wimberley ISD. Art is an important element as it can serve as a visual focal piece to a park. Utilizing community partnerships can help ensure community buy-in for each park.

Active Habitat Management and Rewilding

To enhance the preservation and conservation of the natural resources, it is recommended that the City of Wimberley incorporate active habitat management and rewilding when feasible. Active wildlife management aims to balance wildlife and vegetation levels. Many of the goals include disease management, habitat enhancement, population control, and conservation. Methods such as fencing, controlled burns, and species reintroduction should be used to ensure certain parks in Wimberley remain native. Rewilding is the planting of native flora to resemble more of the natural environment. Rewilding provides numerous environmental benefits, and includes things such as improving water filtration, reducing runoff, increasing biodiversity, providing educational opportunities, etc. The Parks System should be planted with native flora which will provide habitats to native insects, birds, and other wildlife. Rewilding will provide educational opportunities as it can serve as an example for how community members can incorporate best environmental design practices at their home. The existing parks system should be annually evaluated, and if invasive species are found to be present, they should be removed.

Multi-Generational Center

The Wimberley Community Center could be enhanced to increase facility usage, and it is recommended that the City approach this in two phases. The first phase should be conducting an analysis on the programming to determine how the existing programming opportunities could be diversified. This will allow programs to be held at the Wimberley Community Center that were previously held elsewhere. It is also recommended that the City renovate the facility to provide better recreational opportunities. The facility is currently structured to allow meeting rooms and small programming opportunities. With renovations, this facility could allow for indoor recreation opportunities for summer camps and other various events.

Adult and Youth Athletics

It is recommended that the Parks Department routinely monitor the soccer fields to ensure debris such as rocks and large cracks in the soil do not provide an unsafe playing surface for games and practices. The soccer facilities are functional, however there are elements that can improve the conditions of the fields. After an analysis of the conditions of the fields, it is not recommended to turf the soccer fields. Natural and artificial turf, although at different quantities, both require watering, which can be challenging as Wimberley has experienced significant droughts the past several years. Based on this information, it is recommended for the Parks Department to continue to monitor and maintain the fields for safety. Additionally, the Parks Department should install field number signage to improve field navigation. The Parks and Recreation Department should continue to coordinate with local organizations to ensure all needs are being met throughout the year.

New Park Recommendations

The City of Wimberley can meet several recreational needs of the community through the development of new parks. Nearly all city-owned property is developed, resulting in the City being limited on developing new parks. As a result of this, it is imperative that the City of Wimberley be proactive in acquiring new property that can be dedicated and developed as parkland.

Land Acquisition

It is recommended that the City acquire property for the development of parkland. This addresses recreational and environmental needs. There are

several locations where future parks should be located. However, there is a specific need for new parkland on the western side of Ranch Road 12. This area of the community largely consists of single-family housing, and the amount of recreational space available to them is limited. An ideal park for this area of the community would be a neighborhood park, which can provide recreational space for the surrounding neighborhoods. At a minimum, the neighborhood park should be five acres to allow amenities such as play apparatus for the local youth, trails for recreational and transportation opportunities, and the supporting site amenities, including things such as shade, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, etc. The City should also acquire property along the Blanco River and/or Cypress Creek.

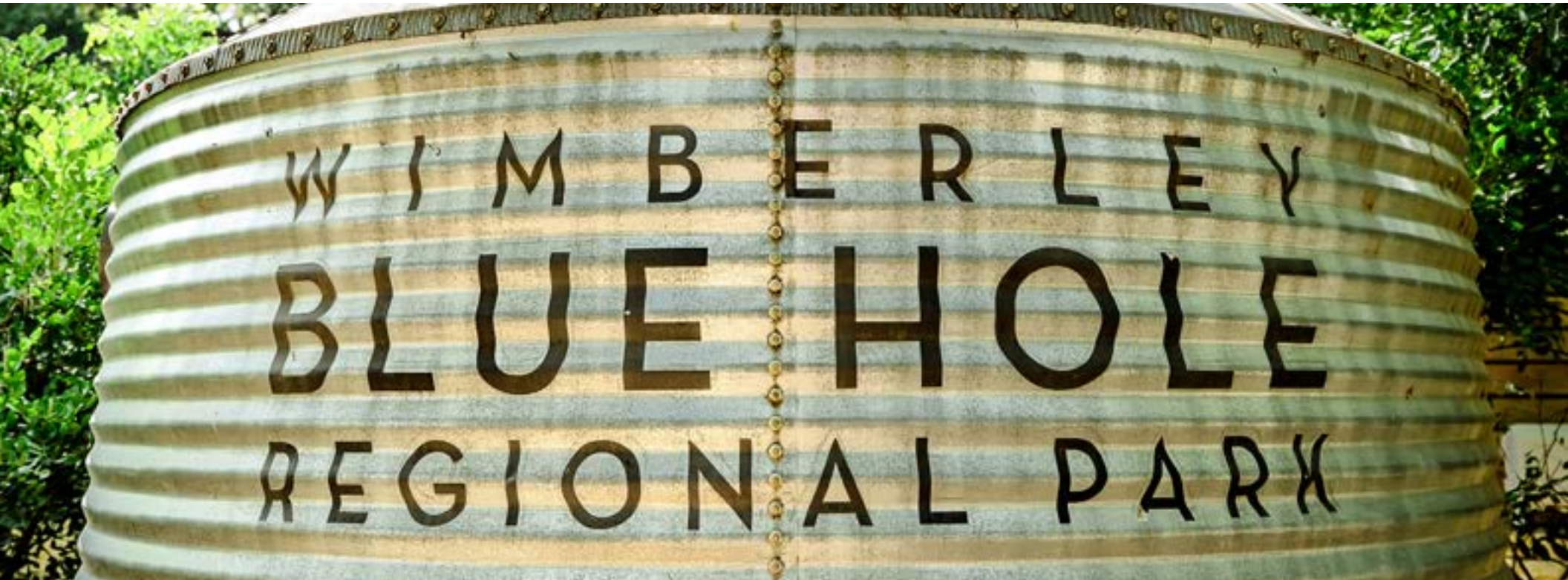
The protection of the natural environment is crucial for the community, and this includes water resources. If property becomes available, the City should seek to acquire the property and dedicate it as parkland. This will create new aquatic recreation opportunities for the community, and will also preserve the natural environment.

Best Environmental Design

It is recommended that new parks are developed with best environmental designs. New parkland should be installed with native plantings, and any invasive species found on site should be removed. Native plantings increase water filtration, reduce stormwater runoff, and improve the overall water quality. These plantings also provide much needed habitats to the local insects, birds, and wildlife. This will allow for community members to observe the natural plantings and wildlife in real environments and provide learning opportunities. The design of future parks should incorporate as much of the natural environment as possible, including terrain changes, water features, existing vegetation, etc.

Branding

It is recommended that new parks develop a cohesive but unique identity. The City of Wimberley has done an exceptional job of ensuring there is cohesion throughout the Parks System. This has been accomplished through strategic planning and design, and new parks should continue this. Entry signage should be consistent with the existing system, by using the native stone material. Neutral/earthy color palettes should be incorporated with the design of the park to ensure the park blends in with the environment.





Wimberley High School



Old Baldy Park



Wimberley Village Library

Trail Recommendations

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley expand their trail system. This trail system should be constructed to allow for connection to adjacent neighborhoods, shops, schools, facilities, etc. These trails should be constructed at a minimum of 8' to allow for parents with strollers, people in wheelchairs, and people walking along side one another with the opportunity to comfortably walk or run. These trails should be integrated into any road construction project in or near Wimberley. As Wimberley expands and develops, the city should anticipate the need to connect destinations by constructing trails, sidewalks, pedestrian/bike bridges, and shared-used paths, to integrate the trail system in new residential and commercial developments. The City of Wimberley has key destinations (as seen in the following images) that should be connected through the trail network.

Trails should be equipped with proper signage, informing the users of the necessary information. This includes directional signage, mile markers, crosswalks, etc. Equipping trails with the necessary signage can provide education to the trail users, allowing them to navigate efficiently and effectively.

The existing trail system offers recreational opportunities, however the transportation aspects of trails is limited in Wimberley. The City of Wimberley should expand their trail system through a couple of different means. The City should ensure trails extend to the edge of the property lines, to allow for future connections. Additionally, the City should construct trails in locations that are not being efficiently utilized, such as easements and/or utility rights-of-way. The trail system should be constructed to allow for connection to adjacent

neighborhoods, shops, schools, facilities, etc. This enhancement of the trail system will provide opportunities for community members to walk or bike throughout the community.

The following recommendations are based on city staff input, the existing needs, opportunities and constraints, and the desires of the Wimberley residents. Wimberley residents desire connectivity to parks, schools, residential, and commercial areas with a balance of active and passive recreational opportunities. These can be achieved through the development of the trails system. To begin identifying and constructing a continuous trails system, it is advised for the City to utilize the existing infrastructure and park loop trails. This can be accomplished through installing directional and confirmation signage, mile markers, crosswalks, and ADA compliant facilities.



Wimberley Community Center



Downtown Wimberley



City Hall



Blue Hole Regional Park



Sunrise Park

Aquatic Recommendation

After exploring a multitude of recreational opportunities of Wimberley, it is evident that there is a community-wide desire for additional aquatic recreation. After conducting the public engagement and discussing with City Council, Parks and Recreation Board, and city staff, there are several recommendations that can address these needs. The pros, cons, challenges, and overall recommendation for the aquatic facilities can be seen below.

Community Pool

Constructing and operating a community pool is not an easy task. There are several variables that must be considered by the City prior to construction. The benefits of constructing a community pool include:

- Dedicated safe and controlled space for swimming lessons
- New opportunities for local swim teams
- Work experience for the local youth

Community pools provide a safe and controlled space to host swimming lessons. This is a crucial element that the City of Wimberley does not currently provide. Wimberley is known for their natural swimming area at Blue Hole Regional Park; however, not every member of the community has access to swimming lessons. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1 - 4, and it is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death for children ages 5 - 14. It is important to note that while children are the most susceptible to drowning, anyone, regardless of age or ability, can drown. The CDC estimates that there are 11 drowning deaths in the U.S. every day, for a total of 4,000 drowning deaths annually. As the community is largely known for Blue Hole Regional Park, it is crucial that the City provide environments where community members can learn to swim.

Community pools can create opportunities for local swim teams to form and practice. Currently, there are no city-owned swimming pools, and community members must practice swimming at a private pool or in another community. As not all kids in Wimberley are provided environments to practice swimming, they are not able to enhance their swimming skills. Even if they participate on a swim team in another community, they are likely to be weaker swimmers than members who have access to a pool. The construction of a swimming pool can create a new recreational activity for the local youth, and the City could potentially partner with the ISD or another organization to create a local swimming team.

Community pools require staff for operations and maintenance, and provide job opportunities for the youth. The youth employed at swimming pools learn real-world experience that can help them develop professionally. These skills include communication skills with team members and members of the public, medical skills with the training regarding things such as CPR, and accountability through a structured schedule.

In addition to the benefits that come from constructing a community pool, it is important to be aware of the challenges that arise from this. Challenges of constructing a community pool include:

- High initial cost of construction
- National staffing shortages
- High expense to maintain and operate

Community pools are expensive to construct., and there are additional facilities and infrastructure that are required with a pool. This includes things such as restrooms and changing rooms, parking, concessions, and cost of preparing the site for construction. These costs are not always considered when initial talks of constructing a pool are brought up; however, it is

imperative that the City knows the estimated cost of constructing a pool.

Community pools require lifeguards on duty during hours of operation. While this is a requirement, there has been a shortage of lifeguards across the country. It is estimated that as many as one-third of all community pools either had reduced hours or were closed entirely as a result of a lack of lifeguards. The City needs to be aware of this, and if they construct a community pool, they must be proactive in acquiring sufficient staffing. This includes supporting policies for full and part-time staff such as benefits and/or competitive wages.

In addition to the high up-front cost of construction along with the staffing requirements, community pools are expensive to maintain and operate. The City must provide regular maintenance, which requires training and staff. Additionally, the pool equipment and chemicals will need to be regularly monitored and purchased.

Splashpad

The construction of a splashpad can help meet many residents’ needs for aquatic recreation; however, there are pros and cons for constructing this. The pros for constructing a splashpad include:

- Affordable to construct
- Minimal maintenance and operation costs compared to a pool
- Environmentally friendly elements can be incorporated

Splashpads are much more affordable to construct when compared to a pool. For a splashpad, the City must ensure infrastructure lines are on-site and large enough to supply the necessary amount of water. They must prepare the site for construction, and purchase and install the splashpad. A splashpad can be a small element at an existing park, and would not necessarily require additional parking.

Splashpads do not require the constant supervision that a community pool does. While the cost of staffing may increase with the construction of a splashpad, the cost should be less than the anticipated cost to operate a community pool.

Splashpads can incorporate best environmental design standards, such as the reuse of water and smart technology to limit water usage. Tanks can be installed underneath the splashpad to hold water used, which can be cleaned and reused. This recycling of water reduces the overall amount of water that would be required to operate a splashpad. Additionally, smart technology can be utilized to efficiently program the splashpad. The equipment can be set to operate at specific intervals of the day, and operate

A community pool will provide opportunities for swim lessons, creation of swimming teams, and provide work experience for the local youth.

on certain days. This can allow for the splashpad to not be in operation during rain events.

There are several challenges that arise from constructing a splashpad. These challenges include:

- The inability for swim lessons or swim teams
- Limited job opportunities for local youth
- Potential utilization of large amounts of water

The construction of a splashpad will provide access to water for community members. Unfortunately, while this access may provide an opportunity to briefly cool off and play, it does not create swimming opportunities. Thus, there are no opportunities to host swim lessons or to form a local swimming team.

Splashpads do not require the same amount of staffing necessary for a community pool. As such, the number of new personnel to be employed will be minimal.

Splashpads may incorporate elements of sustainability, however this comes at a price. Standard splashpads do not reuse water, but upgraded

splashpads can include this process. Even if the water is reused on the splashpad, there are several environmentally-unfriendly elements with splashpads. Splashpads consume a large amount of water. While water can be captured and recycled, a portion of it is lost due to over-spraying and/or evaporation. The loss of water requires the need to pull resources from a waterline to maintain a constant supply of water.

River Access

River access can create recreational opportunities for the community that fill a critical gap. There are several benefits that come from providing river access, including:

- Increase tourism
- Conserve and preserve the natural environment
- Increase the amount of opportunities for river access

Expanding river access can be a great goal for the City of Wimberley. They are currently known for their swimming at Blue Hole Regional Park, which provides swimming opportunities to members of the public during the summer. Blue Hole Regional Park can accommodate for 500 daily visitors

at the swimming facility. This facility is typically fully booked throughout summer. New river access will provide opportunities for members of the public to enjoy swimming in the Cypress Creek and/or the Blanco River.

Most of the property surrounding the Cypress Creek and Blanco River are privately owned and developed. The acquisition of parkland adjacent to these water bodies will allow for the restoration of the natural environment. This creates opportunities for community members to interact with nature, and learn about natural systems and native vegetation and wildlife.

New river access can provide new and unique recreational opportunities for the community. This includes things such as paddlesports and fishing. The City of Wimberley currently does not regularly provide programming for paddlesports or fishing, due to the limited size of the spaces, whereas new river access can provide opportunities for these types of programs.

There are several challenges that are a result of river access, including:

- Necessary to acquire property
- Minimal-to-no opportunities for swim lessons and swim teams
- Caters recreation more towards tourists than residents

The City of Wimberley has developed most of their city-owned property. The majority of all property surrounding Cypress Creek and the Blanco River is privately owned and developed. As such, the City will need to either work with private property owners to purchase land, or they will need to wait for someone to donate the land. Purchasing the land will be expensive for the City. There is also no guarantee that a property owner will donate the land to the City.

Swimming in a natural body of water is similar to swimming in a pool, however, they provide different experiences and serve different purposes. There are several different regulations that cities must comply with when operating a

natural body of water and a swimming pool. Special insurances are required for classes in a natural body of water, which makes it more difficult for swim instructors to teach in these environments. Natural swimming areas also do not provide opportunities for local swim teams to meet and or practice.

Blue Hole Regional Park is widely used by the community, however the swimming area is heavily used by tourists. The addition of new river access can encourage tourism, as the Blue Hole Regional Park swimming area is consistently at maximum capacity. While the increase in tourism is beneficial to the local economy, it may impact the residents with the recreational space being occupied by tourists.

Aquatic Recommendation

There are several opportunities to provide aquatic recreation to the community, each with their own opportunities and challenges. As such, it is recommended that the City of Wimberley conduct an Aquatics Feasibility Report to determine the best way to meet the aquatic needs of the community. A Feasibility Report will provide information pertaining to the amount of space required to construct aquatic and supporting facilities, and the estimated cost of construction and ongoing costs for operation and maintenance, which will clarify the amount of funding that will be necessary to support this amenity. This will help determine which aquatic facilities should be developed to best meet the needs of the community. It is important to note that the Aquatics Feasibility Report may state that Wimberley cannot reasonably support a community pool. If this is the case, the City should consider to work with other organizations, private or public, to see if this need can be met elsewhere.



Open Space Recommendations

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley acquire property to be dedicated as natural open space. Natural resource areas and open spaces are essential elements to recreation systems that serve recreational and transportation purposes. Natural resource areas provide educational opportunities regarding the local flora and fauna for all ages and are typically low maintenance areas. They can also be utilized for transportation purposes, by constructing trails that allow members of the community to travel from one area to another.

It is crucial the City of Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department anticipate the population growth of Central Texas by being proactive in the protection and conservation of their existing open space. The City has unique natural and open spaces such as Blue Hole Regional Park, Cypress Creek Nature Preserve, and Patsy Glenn Refuge. Natural open spaces are ideal for passive recreation and primitive activities such as hiking, reading and relaxing, bird watching, photography, and picnicking. These natural areas are important to provide throughout Wimberley because their land conservation and preservation, habitat diversity, water recharge and filtration abilities, stormwater mitigation, and ability to improve air quality.

Properties along or adjacent to the Blanco River and Cypress Creek are ideal because the preservation of these areas can assist and improve water retention and water quality.

Park Amenity Priorities

The following Parks System Amenities Priorities list is based on the recurring themes from the Needs and Recommendations chapters. The Advisory Committee reviewed the major themes and worked with city staff to determine the top priorities list below. It is important to note the following list is intended to be a guide for development for existing and future parks and amenities over the next ten years. These priorities build off the previous plan’s recommendations.

- 1. **Aquatics:** Swimming Pool, Splashpad, etc.
- 2. **Trails & Trail Connectivity**
- 3. **Site Furniture:** Shade, Benches, Picnic Tables, etc.
- 4. **Preservation & Conservation of Natural Resource Areas**
- 5. **Signage:** Interpretive, Informational, Wayfinding, etc.
- 6. **Playgrounds**
- 7. **River Access**
- 8. **Multi-Generational Center:** Nature, Senior, Recreational, etc.
- 9. **Multi-Purpose Fields**
- 10. **Public Art**





Chapter 8

Goals & Objectives

Goals & Objectives

The City of Wimberley developed a Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2018 that helped guide the direction of development of the Parks and Recreation System. Parks and Recreation Master Plans are intended to be updated every five years to ensure the needs of the community are still being reflected in the Parks System, and help ensure progress is being made to achieve the goals outlined. The recreational desires of the community have not significantly changed over the past five years. As such, the City should continue to develop and enhance parks that support the Department’s vision that will continue to enhance the quality of life within Wimberley. The following Goals and Objectives - which were based on input from Wimberley residents and visitors, the Parks Advisory Board, city staff, and the consultants’ professional opinion - provide direction for the future community decision makers regarding parks, open spaces and the maintenance of public areas within the City of Wimberley.

➡ Parks and Recreation Goal

TO ENSURE the provision of a balanced park system that is accessible to all residents, meets the recreational needs of the citizens and visitors of Wimberley, and helps to create a unique community character.

➡ Parks and Recreation Objectives

- 1.1 TO PROVIDE** new, different, and unique recreational opportunities for all, regardless of age or ability.
- 1.2 TO BE PROACTIVE** in acquiring new land to be developed for recreational purposes.
- 1.3 TO RENOVATE, REHABILITATE, AND UPGRADE** existing parks and recreation facilities in Wimberley.
- 1.4 TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE** public parks throughout the City that

will ensure all residents are within a reasonable 10-minute walk to a park.

1.5 TO CONTINUE TO FORGE partnerships with public and private organizations for the development and operation of recreational facilities and programs.

1.6 TO DEVELOP AND INSTALL consistent signage throughout the entire parks system.

1.7 TO IMPLEMENT strategies aimed to attain the NRPA Gold Medal Award.

➡ Open Space Goal

TO IDENTIFY, PROTECT, AND CONSERVE natural open spaces for the preservation of plant and animal habitats and sensitive ecosystems, and provide primitive and passive recreational opportunities for the residents and visitors of Wimberley.

➡ Open Space Objectives

- 2.1 TO BE PROACTIVE** in the acquisition and preservation of natural open spaces throughout the City of Wimberley.
- 2.2 TO LIMIT** development in natural open spaces to minimize adverse effects on valuable and sensitive ecosystems.
- 2.3 TO CONSERVE** water through rewilding and preservation of water recharge zones.
- 2.4 TO ADDRESS** natural open space needs when developing recreational facilities.
- 2.5 TO MINIMIZE** development within the floodplain to reduce flooding risks.

➡ Trail Goal

TO EXPAND the trail and sidewalk system to provide continuous access for pedestrians and cyclists and promote trails for alternative transportation options.

➡ Trail Objectives

- 3.1 TO STRATEGICALLY CONSTRUCT** trails and sidewalks throughout Wimberley to provide recreational and transportation opportunities.
- 3.2 TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP** sustainable trails with natural and permeable materials.
- 3.3 TO INCORPORATE** unique and/or sensitive environmental elements
- 3.4 TO UTILIZE** the city’s easements, rights-of-way, existing sidewalk and safe street crossing to supplement a better trail network.
- 3.5 TO PROVIDE** necessary supporting amenities such as bike racks, benches, rest stations, water fountains, and shaded areas to encourage trail usage and enhance the user experience.

➡ Design Development Goal

TO DESIGN high-quality, first-class public spaces that align with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and are built with sustainable materials to last their expected lifetime use.

➡ Design Development Objectives

- 4.1 TO ESTABLISH** City-approved park and signage design standards that reflect high quality facilities.

4.2 TO ENSURE park improvements are completed with durable materials, in a timely manner, and lead to low maintenance requirements.

4.3 TO PRIORITIZE barrier-free designs to ensure all residents have access to facilities.

4.4 TO TRAIN staff in CPTED principles such as natural surveillance, natural access control, territorial reinforcement, and quality maintenance.

4.5 TO DESIGN, build, and maintain parks with energy conservation components, sustainable building materials, and green infrastructure.

4.6 TO PROTECT and conserve the natural environment and resources.

➡ Maintenance Goal

TO PROVIDE a high quality park system that is safe and aesthetically pleasing through continuous maintenance, upkeep, and strategic planning.

➡ Maintenance Objectives

- 5.1 TO CONTINUE MAINTAINING** the existing park system at a high level and expand maintenance as new facilities are developed.
- 5.2 TO GUARANTEE** funding is available for maintenance
- 5.3 TO CONTINUE FORGING** partnerships between public and private organizations for the maintenance of recreational facilities.
- 5.4 TO ENSURE** all maintenance vehicles, including trucks, tractors, mowers, edgers, blowers, etc. are routinely maintained to prolong the life of each individual piece of equipment.



Chapter 9

Implementation Schedule



Implementation Schedule

The purpose of the Implementation Schedule is to provide framework to expand, improve, and enhance the Wimberley Parks System. This schedule is intended to be a flexible guide for the development of parks and facilities over the next ten years. An anticipated project range has been provided for each project to help the City budget accordingly for the future. Exact costs associated with projects are not feasible without specific elements, designs, and the ever-changing construction market.

The Parks Master Plan is a living document, meaning the city should evaluate and change the order of implementation if necessary, or take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities that may arise that are not identified in this schedule as long as it meets the goals and objectives of this plan. Every five years, the city should evaluate its progress and update the plan to meet future goals.

To successfully accomplish these projects, the City will need a variety of funding sources and should take advantage of potential partnerships - both public and private. There are various types of Local, State, and Federal funding sources available to acquire, develop, and renovate parks in Wimberley. Although not every funding source will be available for every project, it is important to note that more than one funding source may be used per project depending on the scope and size. A list and description of funding sources can be found in this chapter. When reviewing this document and budgeting for the future, it is important to note that land acquisition, design, engineering, and personnel staffing are not included in the projected range of cost. It is important to note TPWD funds are typically awarded one year after the submittal of a grant, so the City should be proactive in the development of grant applications. An implementation schedule can be found on the following pages with projects and action items that are based on the needs, recommendations, and priorities found in this plan.

Goals

The goals of this plan have been identified below as they have been integrated into the implementation schedule. These goals were crucial to ensure the entire scope of the Wimberley Parks System was addressed in the implementation schedule.

Parks and Recreation Goal

TO ENSURE the provision of a balanced park system that is accessible to all residents, meets the recreational needs of the citizens and visitors of Wimberley, and helps to create a unique community character.

Open Space Goal

TO IDENTIFY, PROTECT, AND CONSERVE natural open spaces for the preservation of plant and animal habitats and sensitive ecosystems, and provide primitive and passive recreational opportunities for the residents and visitors of Wimberley.

Trail Goal

TO EXPAND the trail and sidewalk system to provide continuous access for pedestrians and cyclists and promote trails for alternative transportation options.

Design Development Goal

TO DESIGN high-quality, first-class public spaces that align with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and are built with sustainable materials to last their expected lifetime use.

Maintenance Goal

TO PROVIDE a high quality park system that is safe and aesthetically pleasing through continuous maintenance, upkeep, and strategic planning.

Legend

For visual clarity purposes, the Implementation Schedule has been simplified into the following:

Short-Term: Projects taking place within the next one to three years.

Mid-Term: Projects taking place within the next four to six years.

Long-Term: Projects taking place within the next seven to ten years.

Projected Range of Cost:

The projected range of cost below notes the estimated cost for the specific elements within the implementation schedule. This does not include the price for land acquisition, design, engineering, or professional staffing.

\$: \$25,000 - \$250,000

\$\$: \$250,000 - \$500,000

\$\$\$: \$500,000 - \$750,000

\$\$\$\$: \$750,000 - \$1,000,000

\$\$\$\$\$: \$1,000,000+

Themes for Improvement

The Implementation Schedule for the Wimberley Parks and Recreation System generally organizes action items into one of the following categories: land acquisition, parkland development, and policy adoption.

Land Acquisition

The Parks and Recreation Department should consider several things to successfully seek out and acquire new parkland.

The City of Wimberley must be proactive in the acquisition of parkland as land may become available at any time, either for sale or through a donation. While it may be possible for the City to be donated property for parkland, this should not be the default approach to land acquisition. Members of City Council, the Parks Board, and City staff should engage with community members to educate the community on the importance of new parkland and express the importance of the conservation and preservation of land as the community continues to grow.

As land becomes available, the City should conduct a preliminary assessment of the site to see if it would be a good candidate for future parkland. One of the most important factors regarding a site is the intended recreational uses. Specific land types are more suitable for different forms of recreation. Other items to consider, but not limited to, are site access, existing utilities, elevation changes, permitting/deed restrictions, floodplains/flood-ways, and neighboring property uses. The City should consider the cost of the land and the overall develop-ability of the property. Property will become available and if so, whether through purchase or donation, the city should contact a land owner and/or realtor and begin the conversation of acquisition.

Parkland Development

Specifically to the Wimberley Parks System Implementation Schedule, Parkland Development consists of: new development, redevelopment, and enhancements.

From the inventory and assessment of the parks system, it has been identified that the Wimberley Parks System is fully developed. This means that the differing areas of all the parks are serving their intended purpose - whether that be for active recreational opportunities or for conservation efforts.

New park development consists of constructing a park from a raw piece of land or land acquired for recreational space. Once acreage has been acquired and deeded as park space, the city can design and build a new space for its residents. Most commonly, the city should consider different funding sources, consult with landscape architects and engineers for design and put the project to bid for construction. The length of this process will vary depending on the project scope and size but typically take 3-4 years once the decision has been made to develop a new site.

Park redevelopment focuses primarily on repurposing existing park properties. As the community changes and amenities are past their useful life cycle, it is imperative to consider a redevelopment. Specific elements and recreational trends change over time and the City should monitor the park system to update areas that are no longer serving the needs of the community. Park redevelopment is unique as it can pertain to an entire park property or merely specific elements such as adding new athletic facilities, pools or trails. These projects typically utilize grant funding resources and take anywhere from 1-3 years to complete. This implementation schedule identifies three park facilities to redevelop over the next ten years, Martha Knies Community Park, Sunrise Park, and the Wimberley Community Center. While these park facilities are developed there are several improvements

that can be made to them to better serve the community.

The park enhancements category refers to minor improvements to a park facility. This category is one of the more common action items in an implementation schedule because it refers to the low-hanging fruit and minor improvements to the system. This can include constructing new signage, installing new benches or picnic tables, and providing new playground equipment. These projects are typically performed with one or two amenities at a time and through vendors rather than contractors. It is important for the Wimberley Parks Department to routinely perform park enhancements as equipment can deteriorate from time and the weather. By being proactive in performing park enhancements the Wimberley Parks Department can ensure the system is safe and serves the community. These projects are typically complete within several months and are funded through donations or the Parks Department, although grant funding should always be pursued.

Regardless of the type of park development, it is imperative to engage with the public to ensure you are meeting the needs of the residents. In addition, the City should consider a budget and work with vendors, consultants or contractors to determine amenities and associated costs.

Policy Adoption

The Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department has several new policies, standards, and proclamations that are recommended over the next ten years. Several standards and policy change recommendations are to ensure the system continues to grow, remains safe, promotes the opportunity for national, state and local recognition and increases the opportunity for funding. The City should research communities that have supported these policies to better understand what challenges were faced. The City

should then seek out legal consultation. This will provide the City with the preliminary knowledge on whether a policy can be implemented, revised, or removed and the anticipated impacts of that change. Following this the City should engage with the people who will be impacted most by this policy.

The policies in this implementation schedule that are recommended for adoption will help set the framework for the parks system. These policies can help determine design standards to ensure the parks system is cohesive and can promote best practices. Some of the recommended policies will help the City of Wimberley achieve State and National awards or designations, which can provide new funding opportunities and enhance the marketability of Wimberley for tourism.

Summary

Overall there are three primary elements that the City of Wimberley should focus on for the next ten years of the parks system, including land acquisition, park development, and policy adoption. These themes address needs in the community that have been identified throughout the development of this plan. The following pages identify the recommended actions the City takes over the next ten years to efficiently serve the community.

Short-Term

The short-term actions the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department should focus on over the next three years are creating and implementing a revised foundation for the future, addressing immediate needs and low hanging fruit.

Prior to developing new parks, the city should develop standards and policies that will help guide the development in the new vision of the Parks Department. The City should conduct an Aquatics Feasibility Report to determine the best solution for aquatic recreation. Constructing a swimming pool, which is desired by the community, is a complicated task when considering the initial cost, operating and maintenance costs, and water usage while compared to the funding resources available. An Aquatic Feasibility Study will ensure the City has clear direction on the most economical and environmental options. Sign Design Standards are

important because they create cohesion between parks by incorporating branding and provide clarity for park users. An equipment maintenance policy will establish standard operating procedures to provide staff with the necessary resources to ensure Wimberley has a safe parks system.

The Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department should conduct a promotional campaign to efficiently promote their programs. This includes elements such as creating monthly calendars, collecting optional contact information at programs for community members, and ensuring material is accessible to all (e.g. multi-lingual, accessible in-person and online, promoted in multiple formats, etc.)

The City is recommended to enhance and redevelop four parks in the short-term future. The enhancements and redevelopment will improve the safety of the parks system through elements such as installation of AED units and updating aging equipment.

Objectives Achieved	Recommended Action	Term	Estimated Cost
1.1 5.1	Conduct an Aquatics Feasibility Report	Short-Term	\$
1.2 & 1.5 2.1	Engage with community members for the potential acquisition of parkland	Short-Term	\$
4.1	Develop and adopt sign design standards	Short-Term	\$
5.1 & 5.4	Develop and adopt an equipment maintenance policy	Short-Term	\$
1.1, 1.5, & 1.6 5.1 & 5.3	Conduct a Promotional Campaign • Create monthly calendars of events and distribute to the community • Collect optional contact information for promoting programs • Ensure material is inclusive to all (e.g. multi-lingual, physical and digital copies, promoting in various platforms, etc.)	Short-Term	\$
1.5 & 1.7	Improvement of Programming at Wimberley Community Center • Identify programming opportunities • Increase promotion of programs	Short-Term	\$

Objectives Achieved	Recommended Action	Term	Estimated Cost
1.3 3.5 4.5	Enhancement of Blue Hole Regional Park • Provide AED in closer proximity to the soccer fields • Add water filling station • Install benches and picnic tables • Commission public art	Short-Term	\$
1.3 & 1.5	Development of TPWD grant for the enhancement of Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve	Short-Term	\$
1.3, 1.6, & 1.7 2.2, 2.3, & 2.5 3.2, 3.3, & 3.5 4.2, 4.5, & 4.6 5.1	Enhancement of Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve • Improve natural trail • Install signage (entry, wayfinding, and interpretive) • Implement active wildlife management • Install public art	Short-Term	\$\$\$
1.1, 1.3, & 1.6 4.5 & 4.6	Enhancement of Old Baldy Park • Install public art • Install signage (interpretive) • Add benches and seating areas • Add viewing station (telescope)	Short-Term	\$
1.3 & 1.5	Development of TPWD grant for the redevelopment of Martha Knies Community Park	Short-Term	\$
1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, & 1.7 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, & 4.6 5.1, 5.2, & 5.3	Redevelopment of Martha Knies Community Park • Replace playgrounds • Update benches and picnic area • Expand restroom facility • Add water filling station • Install signage (wayfinding and interpretive) • Incorporate elements of music play • Add table games (chess, checkers, ping pong, etc.) • Construct public art • Install bike rack and repair station	Short-Term	\$\$\$\$\$

Mid-Term

The mid-term actions the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department should consider in the next four to six years pertain to items that are needs in the community, but are not immediately needed based on other recreational opportunities within the system. These items primarily focus on more efficient utilization of existing facilities and sustainability and conservation.

The Wimberley Parks System provides a wide variety of recreational opportunities to the community, however, there are several improvements that will meet the needs of the residents. Sunrise Park, due to its location, is disconnected from the Wimberley Parks System. The Parks Department should redevelop Sunrise Park and focus on creating a gathering space for community members. The Wimberley Community Center is not currently utilized to its full potential. The City should consider interior renovations to provide new opportunities, such as fitness classes and events, after-school activities, and community gatherings.

Sustainability and conservation should be continually implemented into the Parks System in multiple avenues. The Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department should implement active wildlife management and rewilding into Sunrise Park and Blue Hole Regional Park which will conserve and create new habitats for flora, insects, birds, and other wildlife. The incorporation of interpretive signage can provide learning opportunities to park users and should be installed throughout the system. It is also recommended the City of Wimberley adopt an Arbor Day proclamation which expresses their commitment to preserving the environment. This will help steer the City of Wimberley toward becoming a Tree City USA Community, which provides greater recognition to the community across the State.

At the mid-point of this plan, the City should have acquired or be in the process of acquiring land that can be developed for a park. This land should ideally be a minimum of five acres for a neighborhood park, however this

may vary depending on the findings from the preliminary site analysis that was conducted during the land acquisition process.

It is also important to note that at the mid-term of this plan, the Parks Board and City staff should reevaluate the plan to ensure the goals are being met, and revise them, if necessary.

One of the items that should have been accomplished during the short-term was to conduct an Aquatics Feasibility Report. It is important to note that the mid-term and long-term implementation items do not address this as the feasibility report will provide several different options for implementation based on cost, location and potential funding sources. Based on the findings from the Aquatics Feasibility Report, the Parks Board and City staff should update the action items for the mid and long-term periods.



Objectives Achieved	Recommended Action	Term	Estimated Cost
1.3 & 1.5	Development of TPWD grant for the redevelopment of Sunrise Park	Mid-Term	\$
1.2 & 1.4 2.1	Acquire property to be developed as a neighborhood park	Mid-Term	N/A
4.6 5.1	Adopt an Arbor Day proclamation Coordinate with Parks Board and City Council to determine language and date	Mid-Term	\$
1.3 & 1.6 2.1 & 2.3 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, & 3.5 4.2, 4.5, & 4.6 5.1	Redevelopment of Sunrise Park - Construct trails - Implement rewilding - Install public art - Install grilling stations - Install signage (interpretive)	Mid-Term	\$\$
1.3 & 1.5	Redevelopment of Wimberley Community Center for new recreational space	Mid-Term	\$
1.1, 1.3, 1.5, & 1.6 2.2 & 2.3 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, & 3.5 4.2, 4.5, & 4.6 5.1	Enhancement of Blue Hole Regional Park - Implement active habitat management and rewilding - Install signage (wayfinding) - Construct mountain bike trails - Install bike rack and repair stations - Upgrade existing trails - Conduct a species inventory	Mid-Term	\$
1.3 & 1.6 4.2, 4.3, & 4.5	Enhancement of Oak Park & Welcome Center - Provide shade canopy - Install signage (interpretive)	Mid-Term	\$
1.3	Enhancement of Patsy Glenn Refuge - Install public art - Implement active wildlife management	Mid-Term	\$

Long-Term

The long-term actions the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department should consider in the next seven to ten years are intended to enhance parks that are in are in great condition now, but will need some improvements in the future. These items primarily address expanding the Parks System and ensuring the Parks System continues to meet the recreational needs of all community members.

At the long-term stage of this plan, the City of Wimberley should have acquired land to be developed and should be starting the design and construction of parks and recreational amenities. It is recommended the City of Wimberley construct a neighborhood park, however, depending on the findings from the preliminary site analysis that was conducted during the land acquisition process, the intent of this park could vary. For a neighborhood park, it is recommended to construct some form of playground/climbing equipment, trails, signage, shade structures, and supporting facilities. One of the goals of the long-term implementation schedule is to ensure the Parks System continues to meet the recreational needs of the community. To achieve this, there are two parks that are recommended to be enhanced and one new park recommended to be constructed.

Park and Recreation agencies serve a unique purpose as they can create opportunities for community members to improve health, protect the environment, and they can draw in users that will support the local economy through purchases. The City of Wimberley should adopt a Parks and Recreation Inclusion Policy to ensure the Parks System is designed for all community members. If the Parks System is inclusive to all community members, then the overall health of the community will be improved. Community members do and will continue to travel to other park system for more inclusive amenities and it is imperative that Wimberley provide a System welcoming to all, specifically due to the high visitation rates. The adoption of this policy will also help lead the City of Wimberley to achieving CAPRA accreditation.



Objectives Achieved	Recommended Action	Term	Estimated Cost
1.7	Adopt a Parks and Recreation Inclusion policy	Long-Term	\$
1.1, 1.2, 1.4, & 1.6 2.1, 2.2, & 2.4 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, & 3.5 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, & 4.6	Develop a neighborhood park on the western side of town. • Install playground / climb equipment • Construct trails • Install signage (wayfinding and interpretive) • Install shade structure • Install supporting facilities (benches, drinking fountains, etc.)	Long-Term	\$
1.3 & 1.6	Enhancement of Oak Park & Welcome Center • Install playground / climb equipment • Install signage (interpretive)	Long-Term	\$\$
1.3 & 1.5	Development of TPWD grant for the enhancement of Patsy Glenn Refuge	Long-Term	\$
2.1 & 2.3 2.3 4.3	Enhancement of Patsy Glenn Refuge • Upgrade trail to decomposed granite • Install signage (interpretive) • Implement rewilding	Long Term	\$\$\$

Funding Opportunities

The City of Wimberley has a variety of different funding opportunities available that can assist with the funding of the proposed projects in this plan. Funding sources typically fall within three different categories: Local Partnership Opportunities, Local City Funding, and State or Federal Funding. There may also be additional funding available which is not listed within this plan. It is imperative for the City of Wimberley to be proactive in the development of grant applications. TPWD grants are typically awarded one year after the submittal of the grant application.

Locally Generated Funds

GENERAL FUND - PAY AS YOU GO funds are typically used for smaller projects such as repairs and replacements at existing park facilities.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS are issued by the city following an election in which the votes authorize their issuance for specific stated purposes, as well as the necessary tax increases to support them. These bonds pledge the property or ad valorem taxing power of the city.

CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION have basically the same effect as general obligation bonds except they do not require an election to authorize them. These certificates are issued on the authorization of the City Council. Repayment is based on the property taxing power of the city, utility system revenues, or a combination of the two.

PARK FEE ORDINANCE fees are typically imposed on developers when they bring new projects into the community. The fees are typically used to ensure that as more development comes to the City, more park land is acquired, developed, or improved. Each community has a specific ordinance, but typically the city can require the developer to provide land for a park, cash in lieu of the required land, or park development fees.

USER FEES require the user of a facility to pay a fee for the use of the facility. Fees to be charged can be established to pay for debt service, maintenance, and operation of the Parks System.

PRIVATE OR CORPORATE DONATIONS from foundations, corporations, and/or private individuals are often used to acquire and develop parks. The city should continuously identify and pursue opportunities to receive such funding for parks. One avenue for receiving donations is through the use of the Texas Parks & Recreation Foundation. This foundation has been developed to help all communities in the State of Texas maximize the benefits of donations of land, property, and money.

DEBT ISSUANCE debt issued in the form of a bond to fund day-to-day obligations and capital projects.

State & Federal Funding

BOATING ACCESS GRANTS are intended for communities to assist in aquatic recreation, including construction of boat ramps and/or supporting facilities that assist with accessing the water. This grant requires a 25/75 match with a ceiling of \$937,500.

LOCAL PARKS SMALL COMMUNITY RECREATION GRANTS are intended for communities with a population less than 25,000 and can be used for the acquisition, development, or the renovation of parks and open spaces. This is a 50/50 matching grant with a ceiling of \$300,000.

LOCAL PARKS NON-URBAN OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANTS are intended for communities with a population of less than 500,000 and can be used for the acquisition, development, or the renovation of parks and open spaces. This is a 50/50 matching grant with a ceiling of \$750,000.

INDOOR RECREATION GRANTS are intended for communities with a population of less than 500,000 and can be used for the construction

of recreation centers, local community centers, nature centers, and other applicable indoor facilities. This grant is a 50/50 matching grant with a ceiling of \$1,500,000.

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR OUTREACH PROGRAM (CO-OP) grants are primarily used to assist non-profits and local governments for recreational programming geared toward underserved populations. The intent of the funding is to introduce the importance of environmental education and conservation and provide TPWD mission oriented outdoor recreational activities. This grant is a TPWD Sponsored grant with a minimum funding requirement of \$5,000 and a ceiling of \$50,000.

RECREATIONAL TRAIL GRANTS are intended for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects including: new trail construction, existing trail improvements, acquisition of trail corridors, trailheads and/or amenities. This program is funded by the Federal Highway Administration and administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This is an 80/20 matching grant with 80 percent of the project being funded through TPWD. There is a ceiling of \$600,000 for motorized (off-highway vehicle) trails, and \$300,000 for non-motorized trails.

TXDOT SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE (SRTS) PROGRAM is a federal grant with no local matching required, administered by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The purpose of the SRTS program is to encourage safe bicycling and walking among schoolchildren. These proposals can be located anywhere in Texas, regardless of the population size. The SRTS projects must be planned to be within public right-of-way within 2 miles of a public, charter, or private school serving K-8th grade students. The types of projects typically funded include bicycle infrastructure improvements, shared use paths, sidewalk improvements and infrastructure-related projects to improve safety for non-motorized transportation.

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) GRANTS are federally funded and administered through TPWD through the Texas Recreation Park Account. Note: If a City applies for an Outdoor Grant, Small Community Grant, or Indoor Recreation Grant, TPWD may choose to fund a successful project directly through LWCF with no additional or separate application.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS PROGRAMS) are primarily used for parks and recreational opportunities and consist of LWCF & Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act (UPARR) dollars. The United States Congress appropriates funds to each state.

PERDENALES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. offers grants up to \$5,000 for capital improvements, technology, and equipment related to energy efficiency.

LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY provides grant opportunities up to \$50,000 for building, renovating, or purchasing equipment that is available to the community and improves capital asset.

KEEP TEXAS BEAUTIFUL offers several grants targeted at improving the environment including improving waterways & water quality, wildlife/ species protection, and recycling.

GOVERNOR'S COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS provides funding to communities that have achieved exceptional work through community leadership and coordination, public awareness and outreach, environmental education and youth engagement, beautification and community improvement, litter prevention and cleanup, solid waste management, and litter law and illegal dumping enforcement.