



City of Wimberley

221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas 78676

REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024 - 4:00 PM

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER** April 10, 2024, at 4:00 PM
2. **CALL OF ROLL**
3. **CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS**
This provides an opportunity for the citizens to comment on agenda and non-agenda items in advance of the regular business of the Parks and Recreation Board. Those wishing to speak must sign-in before the meeting begins and observe a three-minute time limit when addressing the Board. Speakers will have one opportunity to speak during the time period. Comments from speakers should not be directed towards any specific member of the Board or City staff. Comments should not be accusatory, derogatory or threatening in nature.
4. **MINUTES**
 - 4.1. Approval of the January 10, 2024 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.
5. **CITY STAFF REPORT**
 - 5.1. Parks Director Report
6. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**
 - 6.1. Discuss and consider a recommendation to the City Council on the Parks Master Plan.
7. **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**
 - 7.1. Announcements
 - 7.2. Future agenda items
8. **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.

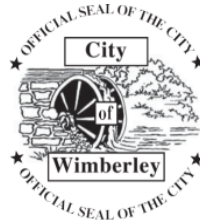
CERTIFICATION

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 Friday, April 5, 2024, by 2:00 p.m., and remained posted for at least 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.





City of Wimberley

221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas 78676

REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

WIMBERLEY CITY HALL – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

221 STILLWATER, WIMBERLEY, TEXAS 78676

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024 - 4:00 PM

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** January 10, 2024, at 4:01 PM

2. **CALL OF ROLL**

Board Members Present: Noland Martin
Amy Crowell
Anthony Deringer
Leah Cuddeback
Lin Weber

Board Members Absent: Lee Ann Linam
Kelley Shand

Staff Members Present: Richard Shaver

3. **CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS**

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No Public comments.

4. **MINUTES**

4.1. Approval of minutes from the Parks and Recreation Board Regular Meeting held December 13, 2023.

- Minutes were corrected – date issue.
- Leah motioned that minutes be adopted with a date change, and Noland second – motion was approved unanimously.

5. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

5.1. Discuss and consider a recommendation to the City Council on the Parks Master Plan (*Richard Shaver, Director of Parks*)

- Edits from WPB were submitted to the firm but were not completed by the meeting.

- Discussion about extending the review process for the Parks Master Plan.

5.2. Discussion regarding the Hays County Owned Parking Lot adjacent to Blue Hole located on FM 3237.

- Noland Martin suggested that park staff request signage from the county to reserve parking for trail use only.

6. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

6.1. Announcements

- Richard provided the parks board with a calendar of events.

6.2. Future agenda items

- Leah called a workshop or special meeting for January 31st to review the new plan.

7. ADJOURNMENT

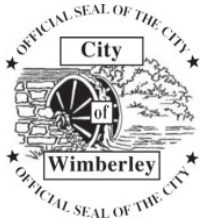
Attendance by Other Elected or Appointed Officials: It is anticipated that members of other governmental bodies, and/or city boards, commissions and/or committees may attend the meeting in numbers that may

Lynn motioned for adjournment at 4:42 and Lee Ann Linam seconded – unanimous approval.

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Board Secretary





AGENDA ITEM:	1. Parks Director Report
SUBMITTED BY:	
DATE SUBMITTED:	03/12/2024
MEETING DATE:	April 10, 2024

AGENDA FORM

ITEM DESCRIPTION/SUMMARY

REQUESTED ACTION

FINANCIAL

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENT/S

None



AGENDA ITEM:	1. Discuss and consider a recommendation to the City Council on the Parks Master Plan.
SUBMITTED BY:	
DATE SUBMITTED:	03/12/2024
MEETING DATE:	April 10, 2024

AGENDA FORM

ITEM DESCRIPTION/SUMMARY

REQUESTED ACTION

FINANCIAL

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENT/S

1. Recommendations & Implementation Schedule



April 03, 2024

Dear Richard and Parks Advisory Committee –

You will find a revised version of the Recommendations and Implementation Chapters from the draft Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan below. The recommendations and implementation schedule are directly linked to the other chapters in the plan, and we want to ensure that you are comfortable using these specific recommendations and implementation to guide the development of the Wimberley Parks System over the next ten years.

The previous iterations of this plan tended to heavily build upon each chapter, and we understand that this led to people feeling information was repeated. To resolve this, we have expanded upon the recommendations by pulling from other chapters, and it now contains elements such as the goals and objectives and action items from the implementation schedule. Please note that in doing so, we plan on reducing content in other chapters, so the information is not duplicated. This should result in a more streamlined plan.

As discussed, we are seeking input on the Recommendations and Implementation Schedule Chapters that we can discuss in more detail at the Parks Board Meeting on April 10th, 2024 . We will then make the necessary revisions and update the entire plan and provide it to you for review and approval.

This is the City's document and should reflect the vision of the residents, City Council, Parks Board, and you. Without your thorough review, we are unable to modify the document as you believe best suits your community. 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



Chapter 7

Future Parks & Recreation System

Goals & Objectives

The City of Wimberley developed a Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2018 that helped guide the direction of the development of the Parks and Recreation System. Parks 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 outlined goals. The recreational desires of the community have not significantly changed over the past five years. The City should continue to develop and enhance parks that support the Department’s vision, which will improve the overall quality of life within Wimberley.

The following Goals and Objectives are based on input from local and visitor survey respondents, focus group meetings, the Parks Advisory Board, city staff, and professional opinion. These provide direction for the future community decision makers regarding parks, open spaces, design standards and the maintenance of public areas within the City of Wimberley.

Parks and Recreation Goal

TO ENSURE the provision of a balanced Parks 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 CAPRA Accreditation.

1.8 TO MAXIMIZE funding from bonds and grants to fund new park developments and existing park enhancements

Open Space Goal

TO IDENTIFY, ACQUIRE, 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 and address natural open space needs when developing recreational facilities.
- 2.3 TO CONSERVE** water through rewilding and preservation of water recharge zones through planting and managing native species and construction of water cisterns.
- 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 systems to provide alternative transportation options and provide new recreational opportunities.

Trail Objectives

- 3.1 TO STRATEGICALLY CONSTRUCT** trails and sidewalks throughout Wimberley to connect parks with schools, neighborhoods, and commercial areas.
- 3.2 TO CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT** of sustainable trails with natural and permeable materials.
- 3.3 TO DEVELOP** the trail system around unique and/or sensitive environmental elements.
- 3.4 TO UTILIZE** the city’s easements, rights-of-way, existing sidewalk and safe street crossing to develop 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.
- 3.6 TO CONSTRUCT** looped trails throughout the parks system for recreational use such as walking, running, biking, and rollerblading.
- 3.7 TO EXPAND** the trail network by incorporating Parks Department plan review into TxDOT and other public work projects.

Design Development Goal

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

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 and result in minimal 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 Parks System that is safe and aesthetically pleasing through continuous maintenance, upkeep, and strategic planning.

Maintenance Objectives

- 5.1 TO CONTINUE** high quality maintenance of the existing Parks System at a high level by ensuring adequate funding as the Parks System expands.
- 5.2 TO CONTINUE TO FORGE** partnerships between public and private organizations for the maintenance of recreational facilities and amenities.
- 5.3 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.

Community Recommendations

These recommendations are provided as a guide for the best development and enhancement of the Wimberley Parks System in order to meet the current and future recreational needs of the community. The Parks Department and Parks Board should consider the implementation of all the general recommendations when updating existing or constructing new parks. Note: not all the items listed are applicable to every project, nor should they be.

Specific recommendations for existing and new parks are provided later in this chapter and identify the individual recommendations to be incorporated into each proposed project. The recommendations below are listed in alphabetical order rather than priority order.



- Accessibility
- Active Habitat Management and Rewilding
- Adult and Youth Athletics
- Aquatics
- Branding
- Conservation and Preservation
- Environmental Design
- Land Acquisition
- Multi-Generational Center
- Open Space
- Park Improvements
- Plans / Studies
- Play Equipment
- Policy Updates
- Programming
- Public Art
- Safety
- Site Furniture
- Trails

Accessibility

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley continue to provide accessible elements and programs when designing and enhancing facilities and hosting programs. Accessibility should be improved through:

- Universal Design
- Unitary Surfacing
- Environments for community members with sensory impairments
- Multilingual signage
- All-inclusive programming

In addition to these improvements, it is recommended that the City continue engagement with minority groups and persons with disabilities. This engagement can result in the adoption of culturally sensitive programs and provide inclusive amenities that go beyond the required ADA requirements.

Programs encouraging the participation of individuals with disabilities such as guided sensory tours and providing adaptive recreational equipment such as specialized bikes and kayaks is recommended to create a welcoming and all-inclusive environment within the parks.

Additional funding sources that can be utilized to improve the accessibility of the Parks System, include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Council for Development Disabilities.

Active Habitat Management and Rewilding

The City of Wimberley should incorporate active habitat management and rewilding when feasible for the preservation and conservation of natural resources. Active habitat management aims to maintain wildlife and vegetation at sustainable levels, and focuses on disease management, habitat enhancement, population control, and conservation through:

- Prescribed burns
- Species inventory
- Animal protection and reintroduction
- Plant protection and reintroduction

The City should monitor the existing vegetation to determine if prescribed burns are needed. Wildfires plays a crucial role in the environment as they can remove old vegetation and allow new plants to thrive. This new vegetation serves as a food source for native wildlife and thus supports the natural balance of plants and animals. Note: It is imperative that the City communicate with residents when a prescribed burn is scheduled to occur.

Through the open spaces of parks, the Wimberly Parks System provides habitats for a wide variety of wildlife and vegetation. An accurate inventory is important to identify the existing species. Once aware of the specific wildlife and vegetation within the parks, protective measures and educational opportunities can be made for the community. Any invasive species should be considered for removal and supplemental native plantings are recommended.

Some species that are native to the Wimberley area include the Bald Eagle, Northern Bobwhite, White-nosed coati, Mountain lion, and the Kit Fox. The City should support programs that raise awareness on protection of wildlife.

Adult and Youth Athletics

Although there is a need to improve the soccer fields with natural or artificial turf, it is not recommended at Blue Hole Regional Park. Blue Hole Regional Park showcases the natural environment, and installing turf would minimize the natural aesthetics of the surrounding areas. Additionally, both natural and artificial turf, although at different quantities, require watering. Watering the fields would be challenging as Wimberley has experienced significant droughts the past several years.

It is recommended that the Parks Department provide safe playing space on the soccer fields at Blue Hole Regional Park. This should be accomplished through:

- Monitoring 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
- Providing medical equipment and first aid kits near athletic facilities
- Installing field number signage to improve field navigation
- Continuing coordination with local organizations to ensure the athletic needs are being met throughout the year

If the City wishes to provide turfed soccer fields, it is recommended to construct these fields at a different location either through the acquisition of new property or by partnering with another organization. This is not recommended as a priority, but it should be considered if the opportunity arises.

Additional funding sources that can be utilized to improve the opportunities for adult and youth athletics include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the U.S. Soccer Foundation.



Aquatics

It is recommended that the City conduct an Aquatics Feasibility Report to determine the best methods of meeting the aquatic needs of the community. Multiple forms of aquatic recreation include, but are not limited to, access to natural swimming areas, swimming pools, and splashpads. Each of these options present unique opportunities as well as challenges. A Feasibility Report will provide information including a market analysis, the amount of space required to construct each type of facility, the estimated cost of construction, and ongoing costs for operation and maintenance. This study will determine which type and form of aquatic facility best meets the needs of the community and is more feasible to construct, operate, and maintain. The findings of the report could vary, but it is imperative that the City pursue relationships with other organizations, private or public, to best meet the needs of the residents.

River Access

The City could expand opportunities to increase river access, specifically along the Blanco River in areas with deeper water. There are several items the City should consider when exploring river access:

- New recreational opportunities
- New tourism opportunities
- New conservation opportunities
- Acquisition of property along the river
- Minimal-to-no opportunities for swim lessons and swim teams

Blue Hole Regional Park is the only river access available to the public in Wimberley and programs are limited. The swimming area can accommodate up to 500 visitors daily. This facility attracts local residents and visitors from the region and is typically fully booked throughout each summer. Additional river access can provide new and unique opportunities for programs. Activities such as paddle sports and fishing could be feasible when there is adequate waterflow. River access can enhance tourism opportunities as the Parks System would be able to serve a larger number of people. This could stimulate the economy as park users will be encouraged to shop and dine locally.

The City will need to acquire property to provide additional river access to the community, as there are no additional city-owned properties along the river. The City will need to coordinate with land owners for the consideration of acquisition through purchase or donation or use of the land through partnerships.

The acquisition of new park space that is adjacent to the river will allow for the restoration of the natural environment. The preservation of these areas will provide opportunities for the community to interact with nature and learn about elements such as natural water systems, native vegetation, and wildlife.

Swimming in a natural body of water provides recreational opportunities but does not provide opportunities, such as swim lessons, swim meets, and team practices as a swimming pool would.

Community Pool

Constructing a community pool would address several of the needs of the community. There are several items to consider when determining the construction of a swimming pool, including:

- Opportunities for swim teams and lessons
- Construction, operation and maintenance costs
- Employment opportunities and challenges

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1 - 4 and is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death for children ages 5 - 14. The CDC estimates there are 11 drowning deaths in the U.S. every day, for a total of 4,000 drowning deaths annually. Wimberley is known for Blue Hole Regional Park, a natural swimming area, but it is not conducive for swim lessons or swim team practices.

Currently there are no city-owned swimming pools in Wimberley that provide adequate space for swim teams or lessons. Many local swimmers and swim teams must travel to surrounding communities for practice, meets and lessons. The construction of a public swimming pool would provide both recreational and technical swimming opportunities in a safe and controlled environment.

Although a swimming pool would meet several needs within the community, it is important to consider the associated costs with constructing a pool. The initial cost of a community pool is expensive and supporting facilities would be needed, such as restrooms, changing rooms, parking, concessions, and possible land acquisition. In addition to the high up-front cost of construction, community pools are expensive to maintain and operate. Staffing, pool equipment, chemicals and general facility upkeep will need to be considered. Figure 40 notes the allocated budget for outdoor swimming

pools in surrounding communities in the fiscal year 2024. These figures were compiled from city budgets using public data on city websites.

Community	Aquatics Budget FY 2023 - 2024
Kyle	\$185,500
Seguin	\$186,020
San Marcos	\$215,000
New Braunfels	\$3,175,000

Figure 40 Fiscal Year Budgets for Pools

When considering staffing, there are both pros and cons. The construction of a city pool would provide several local jobs including an aquatic facility manager, pump and maintenance staff and lifeguards. The pool would create demand for local job opportunities and provide young staff the opportunity to learn skills such as communication, public engagement, medical training and accountability. It is important to note that many communities have experienced staff shortages of lifeguards across the county. According to the American Lifeguard Association, as many as one-third of all community pools either had reduced hours or were closed entirely due to a lack of lifeguards in 2023. If a pool was constructed, the Parks Department must be proactive in hiring staff and providing competitive wages. It is important to note that swimming pools utilize a large amount of water through the initial filling requirements to drain and refill and evaporation.

Splash Pad

The construction of a splashpad is an economical way to satisfy some of the residents’ aquatic needs. There are several items the City should consider when deciding whether or not to construct a splashpad:

- Construction, operation and maintenance costs
- Environmentally friendly design
- Lack of swim lessons and swim team opportunities
- Narrow age appeal

Splashpads are significantly more affordable to construct when compared to a community pool. The initial investment is minimal and most splashpads can be incorporated into existing parks, thus eliminating the need for additional supporting facilities such as restrooms and parking. Lifeguards are not required at splashpads because of the lack of standing or pooling water which minimizes the staffing requirements. It is important to note that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality recommends that the water be tested daily to ensure the water is safe for recreational play.

Environmental design standards can be implemented when constructing a splashpad. Water can be stored and recycled through a UV light system. Smart technology allows the system to be programed to only operate at specific times throughout the day and not be operable during rain events or droughts. These two methods will minimize the amount of water used throughout the lifespan of the splashpad.

While a splashpad may provide an aquatic opportunity to cool off and play, it does not provide swimming opportunities for lessons or competitive swim teams. A splashpad primarily serves children ages 3-12 and although it serves a purpose and satisfies a need, it does not provide opportunities for the entire community, specifically Wimberley, due to the fact that there are fewer children than adults.



Branding

The Parks and Recreation Department should develop the Parks System with a unique but cohesive identity. This can be accomplished through:

- Design standards and park signage

Entry signage should be consistent within the existing system by using native stone materials. Neutral and earth tone color palettes should be incorporated with the design of the park to ensure the signage is visible but blends in with the environment. Consistency through design and signage will allow both, residents and guests, to know they are in and utilizing City park facilities. This branding can promote both the City and the Parks Department as more and more people become familiar, similar to the National Parks System brand.



Conservation and Preservation

It is recommended that the City continue to conserve and protect the natural environment, which can be accomplished through:

- Land acquisition and parkland dedication
- Sustainable elements
- Educational programming

Wimberley is a leader in sustainability, as made apparent through the numerous accolades received over the years. The Parks and Recreation Department should continue the practice of sustainability through improvements to the System.

One of the most effective ways to preserve the environment is to protect it from being developed. The City must be proactive in the acquisition of new parkland. The City can promote biodiversity, maintain ecosystems, and mitigate impacts of climate change by keeping land in its native state. A large amount of land in Wimberley has been developed for residential or commercial uses and it is imperative to conserve properties when available. The City is currently developing Parkland Dedication Ordinances and these practices should be followed to ensure park land is provided as the area continues to develop.

Sustainable elements - such as recycling bins, green parking lots, water cisterns, and signage - should be incorporated into the Parks System when feasible. Recycling bins, along with educational opportunities, such as 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/or parking islands. Pervious surfacing allows for the infiltration of water and reduces stormwater runoff, which can help reduce frequency and severity of flooding. Additional cisterns should be installed when feasible in order for rainwater to be utilized as a resource instead

of pulling from the Trinity Aquifer. Signage is important as it can educate community members on conservation practices and provide opportunities for the community members to incorporate best practices while at the park and at home.

The City should expand their programming with environmentally friendly and sustainable practices through educational opportunities. The City should offer classes and/or guided hikes with instructors to educate community members on topics such as wildlife management, recycling and composting, native and invasive species, water conservation efforts, and other best practices.

Additional funding sources that can be utilized to improve the opportunities for conservation and preservation include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Natural Resources Conservation Services, and The Horizon Foundation.



Environmental Design

The Parks Department should incorporate best environmental design standards into existing and new parks, including but not limited to:

- Native plantings
- Invasive species removal
- Water cisterns

Incorporating the best environmental design standards into the Parks System will increase the environmental and economic sustainability of the community. Native plantings will increase water filtration, reduce stormwater runoff, and improve the overall water quality. These plantings provide much needed habitats for insects, birds, and wildlife. Installation and observation of native flora and fauna could also provide learning opportunities through signage and educational classes.

Invasive species can be damaging to the natural environment. as they compete with existing wildlife and vegetation and often surpass them in numbers. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department published The Dangers of Invasive Species in 2003, and noted invasive species have been responsible for changing the water flow and quality of lakes, the nature and quality of terrestrial habitats, and have contributed to the decline of certain native species. The City protects a variety of wildlife and vegetation through their Parks System, and it is necessary to continue monitoring and eliminating invasive species when possible.

Water cisterns, like the ones at Blue Hole Regional Park, recapture rainwater which can be used for irrigation and restrooms. This can reduce the strain of the aquifer and reduce stormwater runoff. If structures with rooflines are constructed within the Parks System, cisterns should be considered in the design of the facilities.



Land Acquisition

It is recommended that the City be proactive in the acquisition of new parkland. Municipalities typically acquire parkland through parkland dedication, purchasing new property, or through donation. A parkland dedication ordinance is being developed at the time of this plan. In addition to utilizing ordinances, the City should be proactive in meeting with landowners to discuss the opportunity for property purchase or donations. New parkland in Wimberley should primarily serve at least one of the following purposes:

- Land to be developed as neighborhood parks
- Conservation and preservation of the natural environment
- Additional river access

Although there is a need for additional parkland throughout the entire system, there is a specific need for new parkland on the western side of Ranch Road 12. This area largely consists of single-family housing, and the amount of existing recreational space available is limited. A neighborhood park, with a minimum of ten acres, should be developed in this area and provide amenities, such as a playground, trails, shade, picnic areas, benches, bike racks, and drinking fountains.

The environment should be protected by dedicating land for parks and recreational purposes. It has been noted throughout this plan that the amount of land available to the City for park purposes is limited. Dedicating property for parkland limits the amount of commercial and residential developments in the community and provides benefits such as water infiltration, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat.

The City should acquire new property along Cypress Creek or the Blanco River. This plan has identified the importance that the Blue Hole Regional Park swimming area has for the residents and visitors. Additional land along

the river will allow more residents access to water-based recreation and increase tourism.

Additional funding sources that can be utilized to acquire parkland include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Natural Resources Conservation Services, and The Horizon Foundation.

Land Acquisition Selection Criteria

When considering different tracts of land for park development or conservation, it is important to ensure the property meets the needs of the City and its intended purpose. While some properties may be more affordable or more easily attainable, it does not mean it is the most practical location for development. The following is a list of recommendations to consider when pursuing land acquisition; specifically to verify if the property:

- is located within Wimberley city limits or the ETJ.
- is consistent with the policies, ordinances, goals and objections of other City of Wimberley Plans.
- has agricultural, developable, historical, natural, or scenic values.
- is accessible via existing transportation infrastructure, making it convenient for residents and visitors to visit.
- has access to essential utilities such as water, electricity, and sewage.
- is cost-effective to acquire and develop, with reasonable acquisition costs and minimal environmental remediation requirements.
- allows for park space or could be reasonably amended through zoning changes
- has undergone preliminary site assessments or feasibility studies that indicate its suitability for park development and identify potential challenges or opportunities.

- is suitable for funding sources such as grants, public-private partnerships, or dedicated park funds, ensuring financial sustainability for acquisition, development, and ongoing maintenance.
- offers opportunities for environmental education, providing learning experiences for visitors about local ecosystems and conservation efforts.
- contains cultural or historical landmarks that can be preserved or integrated into the park design.
- enhances community resilience to climate change impacts, such as providing green infrastructure to mitigate heat island effects and absorb stormwater runoff.
- supports local agriculture or horticulture initiatives, potentially serving as a community garden, orchard, or demonstration site for sustainable landscaping practices.
- fosters social cohesion and community engagement through the provision of gathering spaces for events, festivals, and recreational activities.
- contributes to air quality improvement and carbon sequestration, acting as a carbon sink and enhancing the overall environmental health of the city.
- promotes sustainable transportation options, such as bike lanes or pedestrian pathways.
- offers opportunities for volunteerism and stewardship, engaging residents in park maintenance, restoration, and conservation efforts.
- serves as a buffer against urban sprawl and development pressures, preserving green spaces and wildlife habitats.

Multi-Generational Center

Programs of the Wimberley Community Center should be expanded to increase facility usage, and it is recommended to:

- Determine the desired programming
- Renovate the interior to diversify programming

The Wimberley Community Center is currently used for meeting spaces, the Seniors Group, social events, and small programming opportunities. The Parks Department should conduct an analysis of the existing programming uses and potential future programming uses of the indoor facility. This data will allow staff to reprogram the space and host new and different events. If deemed necessary, based on the programming needs, the City should renovate the Wimberley Community Center to better serve the community.

Open Space

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley dedicate property as natural open space. Natural resource areas and open spaces are essential elements to Parks Systems that serve environmental and recreational opportunities. These areas can also provide educational opportunities regarding the local flora and fauna and are typically low maintenance areas.

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, bird watching, photography, picnicking, reading, and relaxing. These natural areas provide several environmental benefits (Refer to Conservation and Preservation section).

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

Plans and Studies

It is recommended for the City of Wimberley to continue to develop plans and studies targeting improvements to the Wimberley Parks System. Based on community engagement it became apparent that additional plans and studies are needed to determine specific needs within the community and improve opportunities for recreation, safety, and transportation. The City should conduct the following plans and studies:

- Aquatics Feasibility Study
- Fire Management Plan
- Trails Master Plan

It is recommended to conduct an Aquatics Feasibility Study to better understand what facilities are needed to satisfy the aquatic needs of the community. A market analysis should be performed to consider the need for river access, a community pool, and a splashpad. Each aquatic opportunity has specific benefits, challenges, and associated costs which will need to be studied in detail. This study will help guide future decisions on how to meet the aquatic needs while considering the initial construction costs, maintenance and operating budgets, and the available water resources. (See Aquatics Recommendations)

It is recommended for the City to develop a Fire Management Plan to ensure the residents, existing structures, and the environment are protected during potential wildfires. Wildfires have become more prevalent over the last several years and the neighboring community of San Marcos experienced a wildfire in 2023. This wildfire encompassed approximately 400 acres, destroyed one home, and damaged several buildings. Wimberley needs to be prepared with a Fire Management Plan that would include elements such as fire protocol emergencies and prescribed burns to minimize the threat of wildfires.

The City of Wimberley should develop a Trails Master Plan to identify specific locations for future trail construction. This plan generally identifies future trails and connectivity; however, a Trails Master Plan provides details on specific proposed trail locations, trail types, design standards, and provides estimated costs and schedules of implementation.

Park Equipment

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley provide play equipment and site furniture for park users when appropriate, such as, but not limited to:

- Playgrounds
- Swings
- Climbing equipment
- Ropes courses
- Slides
- Musical instruments
- Benches
- Bike racks
- Picnic tables
- Table games
- Pavilions / shade equipment
- Water filling stations

Playground equipment provides more than play opportunities - it provides children with the opportunity to develop physical strength through climbing and swinging, motor skills through collaboration, and social skills through sharing. Playground equipment should be all-inclusive to ensure all community members, regardless of age or ability, are able to participate. It is also recommended that the existing play equipment be routinely evaluated to ensure all equipment is current to the ASTM Standards.

It is recommended that site furniture be upgraded and enhanced throughout the Parks System. Site furniture such as benches, picnic tables and shade encourages park users to stay at parks for longer hours. All site furniture should meet ADA Standards and be placed near areas of high activity for parents and grandparents to rest as well as in areas of solitude for those desiring to rest and enjoy the outdoors passively. Drinking fountains and water filling stations should be installed throughout the Parks System to ensure the community has access to water while visiting the parks.

Policy Updates

There are numerous policies that are recommended that will improve the Parks Department. Policies that are recommended to be developed and considered for adoption include:

- Arbor Day Proclamation - will assist the city with being recognized as a Tree City USA Community and also becoming CAPRA Accredited.
- Endangered Species Day - will raise awareness of the importance of endangered species and how to protect them. This supports Blue Hole’s current certification through the Sustainable SITES Initiative and protects 19 endangered and threatened species habitats.
- Equipment Maintenance Policy - will assist in the management of equipment through maintenance and a replacement program which can reduce the overall costs of maintenance through budgeting.
- Parkland Dedication Ordinance (currently in development) - will assist in the acquisition and dedication of parkland as the city continues to develop.
- Parks and Recreation Inclusion Policy - will ensure the Parks System is welcoming and engaging to all residents and visitors regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ability.
- Sign Design Standards - will create a cohesive brand for the Parks System through the use of specific colors, materials and fonts.

Partnerships

The City currently successfully partners with several organizations to host local events throughout the year, and it is well received by the community. The Parks Department should expand their programming by partnering with other various local public and private organizations. Partnerships will allow the City to offer new programs while sharing resources with outside organizations. New programming opportunities could include, but are not limited to, events such as pickleball, fitness classes, portable parks, and cultural and art events.

Promotion of Programs

It is critical for the City to promote the parks and programs. The Parks Department should utilize emails and social media to promote their events and encourage community members to sign up for the monthly newsletter. The Parks Department should continue to provide newsletters with events throughout the year; however, a more condensed, program specific and regularly published newsletter should be available to the community via email based on the survey respondents feedback. Promotional materials should be multilingual to allow all community members the opportunity to participate.

Public Art

It is recommended that the Parks Department install public art throughout the Parks System to establish a unique but cohesive identity at each park. The City should consider the following when installing public art:

- Utilizing local artists and organizations
- Incorporating natural and/or recycled materials
- Providing educational opportunities

The Wimberley community is passionate about art, and the City should work with local artists to design and construct public art. The Texas Cultural Trust published The Art of Economic Development in 2010 which noted the importance of public-private partnerships for a community. By partnering with local artists, the Parks Department can create opportunities for the community to strengthen and display their artistic talents, both permanently and temporarily. This can encourage community buy-in at parks, as they become places people have personal ties.

Natural and sustainable materials should be used in local art projects when feasible. Doing so can raise awareness on the importance of preserving the environment and utilizing recycling materials. Providing signage with art provides an educational component that expresses the environmental benefits.

Safety

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley continue to incorporate safety features throughout the Parks System, including but not limited to:

- Lighting
- Medical equipment and training

Lighting, even at minimal levels, creates a stronger feeling of security for park users. Lighting also provides the opportunity for residents to utilize the park system in the winter and fall when the sun sets earlier in the evenings and daylight is minimal. Wimberley is a Dark Sky Community, and as such, any lighting that is installed should be shielded to prevent light pollution. LED lighting, photocells, and timers should be considered to minimize utility usage.

Medical equipment should be provided at all facilities throughout the Parks System. The American Heart Association identified that Sudden Cardiac Arrest is the most frequent medical cause of death among athletes. Elements such as AEDs and first aid kits should be provided at sports fields and near highly active and utilized areas. It is crucial for staff to be knowledgeable of the emergency action plans and trained in first aid and CPR.

Trails

It is recommended to expand the trail system to create recreational and alternative transportation opportunities that connect neighborhoods, shops, schools, and parks. The City should be proactive in the development of the trails system and should integrate sidewalks into road construction projects when feasible. The City should consider the following when constructing trails and sidewalks:

- Width and materials
- Directional signage
- Trail purpose - looped or linear

The City should consider the width of the trail based on available space, intent of the trail, and budget. Trails are ideally constructed at a minimum of 8’ wide to allow for parents with strollers, people in wheelchairs, bike riders, runners and people walking adjacent to each other to comfortably use and pass one another. While this is ideal, it is not feasible in all environments and will be dependent upon the actual trail location and design constraints.

There are a wide variety of different materials used to construct trails: natural surface, permeable material such as decomposed granite or compacted stone, asphalt, and/or concrete. Each material has advantages and disadvantages depending on the end user and environment.

- Natural trails are low cost to install; however, they are not typically compliant with ADA regulations.
- Decomposed granite is desired by runners for comfort; however they may wash out after heavy rain events and require high maintenance.
- Asphalt trails are relatively inexpensive; however, they typically require bi-annual repairs and maintenance.

- Concrete trails are typically the most expensive to construct but have low long-term maintenance requirements. In addition, there can be visual disadvantages to concrete as it does not blend into natural environments.

Trails should be equipped with proper signage, informing the users of pertinent information, such as: direction, mile markers, crosswalks, and safety information.

The existing trail system offers recreational opportunities with looped and linear trails. Looped trails are generally within specific parks and primarily serve recreational opportunities for exercise. Linear trails typically serve as alternative transportation routes and connect parks, neighborhoods, shops, schools, etc. Linear trails can also be utilized for recreational purposes and can be located in both specific parks and throughout the Parks System via greenways. The City should consider developing an active transportation network via multi-use paths and bike lanes. The City can expand their trail system through different avenues, such as focusing on stub-out points at existing park boundaries and utilizing easements and utility rights-of-way.

Additional funding sources that can be utilized to improve and expand the trail system, include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Transportation, National Recreation Trails, American Hiking Society’s National Trails Fund, and American Trails.

Existing Park Recommendations

It is recommended that the City update and enhance the following parks to better serve the community and protect the longevity of equipment. All recommendations listed below are in no particular order and should be considered when improving, enhancing or maintaining the parks. It is important to note that each park serves a particular purpose based on its size, location, and amenities and this should be considered when improving specific park sites.



Blue Hole Regional Park

- Plant native vegetation
- Install wayfinding signage
- Install interpretive signage
- Construct multi-purpose and mountain bike trails
- Install benches and picnic tables
- Install bike racks
- Install bike repair stations
- Install water filling stations
- Provide new programming such as accessible hikes through the park and fitness classes
- Provide educational classes on water conservation, wildlife protection, the ecosystem
- Install an AED unit near the soccer fields
- Install public art
- Support policies that encourage the preservation of local wildlife and vegetation
- Conduct a species inventory
- Perform prescribed burns when necessary

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, & 5.1)

Cypress Creek Nature Preserve

- Plant native species
- Update entry signage
- Install wayfinding signage
- Install interpretive signage
- Compact loose materials along walking paths
- Fill low lying areas to minimize muddy areas and pooling of water
- Fix erosion areas
- Install erosion control measures such as check dams and water bars
- Install public art
- Conduct a species inventory
- Support policies that encourage the preservation of local wildlife and vegetation

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.3, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 3.3, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, & 5.1)



Martha Knies Community Park

- Replace existing play equipment
- Replace benches and picnic area
- Expand restroom facility
- Install bike rack and repair station
- Install elements of music play
- Provide table games (chess, checkers, ping pong, etc.)
- Install interpretive and wayfinding signage

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.1, 1.3, 1.6, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, & 5.1)

Oak Park & Welcome Center

Oak Park is the newest park provided by the City and currently meets the needs of the community; however, it is recommended that minor improvements be made over time to continue to enhance the users experience.

- Construct shade structure over the lawn area
- Install interpretive signage

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.3, 1.6, 4.2, 4.3, & 4.5)

Old Baldy Park

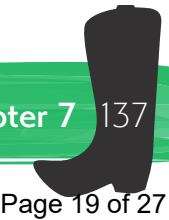
- Install benches and seating areas
- Install viewing station (telescope)
- Install interpretive signage
- Install informational / regulatory signage
- Install public art

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 4.5, & 4.6)

Patsy Glenn Refuge

- Upgrade trail to decomposed granite
- Plant native species
- Install interpretive signage
- Install public art
- Conduct a species inventory
- Support policies that encourage the preservation of local wildlife and vegetation

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.3, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 3.3, 3.6, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, & 5.1)





Sunrise Park

The City of Wimberley is recommended to enhance Sunrise Park to provide a more user-friendly and aesthetic space. The property is on the outskirts of town and there is little draw to the property. The enhancements are intended to encourage residents and travelers to visit the space for small gatherings and picnics.

- Replace and/or install ADA sidewalks for access throughout the park
- Remove invasive species if determined to be onsite
- Plant with native vegetation
- Install interpretive signage
- Install grilling stations
- Update and enhance pavilion structures
- Replace existing picnic tables to be cohesive with other parks

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 4.1, 4.5, 4.6, & 5.1)

Wimberley Community Center

- Renovate the interior to provide new recreational opportunities, including, but not limited to, elements such as computer rooms, fitness areas, art rooms, and multi-purpose courts.

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 5.1, & 5.1)

New Park Recommendations

The City is recommended to develop additional parks throughout the City to serve different purposes. It is recommended to acquire parkland on the west side of Ranch Road 12 to develop a neighborhood park. This land should be a minimum of ten acres to allow for the installation of amenities such as a play equipment, trails, site furniture, and supporting facilities.

It is recommended to acquire additional land to provide access to the river for activities such as swimming, paddle sports and fishing. Although there is not a specified amount of land recommended, the property would need to account for the desired recreational amenities and supporting facilities such as a restroom and parking.

Specific properties should be acquired with the intent of preservation and conservation of the natural environment without the need for active recreational activities. Minimal development, such as trails, picnic areas, signage, and supporting facilities should be considered.





Chapter 8

Implementation Schedule



Implementation Schedule

The purpose of the Implementation Schedule is to provide a framework to expand, improve, and enhance the Wimberley Parks System. This schedule is intended to be a flexible guide and utilized by the Parks Department, City Staff and City Council to make informed decisions regarding improvements to the Wimberley Parks System over the next ten years. An anticipated project cost range has been provided for each project to help the City budget accordingly into the future. Exact costs will vary because there has been no surveying, schematic designs, specific design or engineering.

The Parks Master Plan is a living document, meaning the city should evaluate and change the order of implementation if necessary. This could include taking advantage of any unforeseen opportunities that may arise that are not identified in this schedule if it meets the goals and objectives of this plan. The City should evaluate its progress and update the plan to meet future goals every two years and will need to provide an update to Texas Parks and Wildlife after five years.

To successfully accomplish these projects, it is recommended the City utilize a variety of funding sources and 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, more than one funding source may be used per project depending on the scope, size and funding source. A list and description of funding sources can be found at the end of 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 costs. An implementation schedule can be found on the following pages with projects and action items that are based on the goals, objectives, needs, recommendations, and priorities found in this plan.

Legend

The implementation schedule has been grouped into the following categories:

Policies and Studies

Park Enhancements

Park Redevelopments

New Parks

Timeframes for the implementation schedule generally fall into one of three categories:

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.

The projected estimated costs for specific elements within the implementation schedule are based on recently bid projects in the Central Texas Region and current market values. These costs do not include land acquisition, design, engineering, or professional staffing and will vary at the time of construction based on the project design and engineering. It is recommended to coordinate with professional service contractors to review specific project scopes to provide estimates during annual budget development.

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, or policy adoption.

Land Acquisition

The City of Wimberley must be proactive in the acquisition of parkland as land is becoming more expensive and susceptible to developments. Members of City Council, the Parks Board, and City Staff should engage with community members to educate the community on the importance of parkland and express the need of 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 verify 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, such as hilly terrain for mountain bike trails and relatively flat areas for sports courts. Other items to consider when acquiring land are site access, existing utilities, elevation changes, permitting/deed restrictions, easements, floodplains/floodways, and neighboring property uses. The City should consider the cost of the land and the overall develop-ability of the property. Property may become available through purchase or donation, and the city should contact a landowner and/or realtor to begin the conversation of acquisition if a desirable tract of land becomes available.

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 parks are serving their intended purpose - whether that be for active or passive recreational opportunities or conservation efforts.

New park development consists of constructing a park from a raw piece of land acquired for recreational use. Once acreage has been acquired, the city can design and build a new park 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, funding source and scale but typically takes 3-4 years once the decision has been made to develop a new park.

Park redevelopment focuses primarily on repurposing existing park properties. As the community changes and amenities are past their useful life cycle or no longer utilized by the community, it is imperative to consider 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 specific elements such as adding new athletic facilities, trails, or supporting facilities such as restrooms. These projects typically utilize grant funding resources and take 1-3 years to complete. This implementation schedule identifies three parks to redevelop over the next ten years, Martha Knies Community Park, Sunrise Park, and the Wimberley Community Center. While these parks are developed, there are several improvements that can better serve the community.

Park enhancements refer to minor improvements to a park property or 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 amenity specific vendors or Purchasing Co-Ops rather than going through the design process with architects and engineers. It is important for the Wimberley Parks Department to routinely perform park enhancements as equipment can deteriorate with time due to high use and 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 grants, the Park Department Budget, General Fund and donations.

Regardless of the type of improvement, it is imperative to engage with the public to ensure residents’ needs are met. It is imperative to coordinate with vendors, consultants and contractors to determine a budget and specific needed amenities at the time of design.

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. 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. The City should always seek legal consultation on policy changes and perform public engagement with residents who will be mostly impacted by any changes.

The proposed policies can help determine design standards to ensure the parks system is cohesive and promotes best practices. A few of the recommended policies will improve the City of Wimberley’s opportunities to 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 regarding the Parks System: land acquisition, park development, and policy adoption. These themes address the goals and objectives, needs, and recommendations that have been identified throughout this plan. The following pages identify the recommended actions the City should pursue over the next ten years to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Wimberley through the Parks System.

Policies and Studies

Objectives Achieved	Recommended Action	Term	Estimated Cost
1.1 5.1	Conduct an Aquatics Feasibility Report	Short-Term	\$30,000 - \$50,000
4.1	Develop Sign Design Standards	Short-Term	\$15,000 - \$20,000
5.1 & 5.4	Develop an Equipment Maintenance Policy	Short-Term	\$15,000 - \$20,000
1.1, 1.5, & 1.6 5.1 & 5.3	Conduct a Promotional Campaign	Short-Term	In-House
4.6 5.1	Adopt an Arbor Day Proclamation	Short-Term	In-House
1.7	Adopt a Parks and Recreation Inclusion Policy	Mid-Term	In-House
1.5 & 1.7	Improve the Programming at Wimberley Community Center	Mid-Term	TBD

Figure 41 Implementation Schedule - Policies and Studies

Park Redevelopments

Objectives Achieved	Recommended Action	Term	Estimated Cost
1.3, 1.5, & 1.8	Develop TPWD Grant for Martha Knies Community Park	Short-Term	\$10,000 - \$15,000
1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, & 1.7 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, & 4.6 5.1, 5.2, & 5.3	Redevelop Martha Knies Community Park • Replace playgrounds • Update benches and picnic area • Expand restroom facility • Install water filling station • Install signage (wayfinding and interpretive) • Incorporate elements of music play • Provide table games (chess, checkers, ping pong, etc.) • Construct public art • Install bike rack and repair station	Short-Term	\$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000
1.3, 1.5, & 1.8	Develop TPWD Grant for Sunrise Park	Mid-Term	\$10,000 - \$15,000
1.3 & 1.6 2.1 & 2.3 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, & 3.5 4.2, 4.5, & 4.6 5.1	Redevelop Sunrise Park • Improve walkways to be ADA accessible • Implement native landscaping • Install public art • Install grilling stations • Install signage (interpretive) • Improve and enhance existing pavilions	Mid-Term	\$100,000 - \$200,000
1.3, 1.5, & 1.8	Redevelop Wimberley Community Center	Mid-Term	TBD

Figure 42 Implementation Schedule - Park Redevelopments

Park Enhancements

Objectives Achieved	Recommended Action	Term	Estimated Cost
1.3 3.5 4.5	Enhance Blue Hole Regional Park • Provide AED in closer proximity to the soccer fields • Provide water filling station • Install benches and picnic tables • Commission public art	Short-Term	\$20,000 - \$30,000
1.3, 1.5, & 1.8	Develop TPWD Grant for Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve	Short-Term	\$10,000 - \$15,000
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	Enhance Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve • Improve natural trail • Install signage (entry, wayfinding, and interpretive) • Implement active wildlife management • Install public art	Short-Term	\$50,000 - \$100,000
1.1, 1.3, & 1.6 4.5 & 4.6	Enhance Old Baldy Park • Install public art • Install signage (interpretive) • Install benches and seating areas • Install viewing station (telescope)	Short-Term	\$15,000 - \$25,000
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	Enhance 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	\$75,000 - \$100,000

Figure 43 Implementation Schedule - Park Enhancements Short-Term & Mid-Term

Objectives Achieved	Recommended Action	Term	Estimated Cost
1.3 & 1.6 4.2, 4.3, & 4.5	Enhance Oak Park & Welcome Center • Provide shade canopy • Install signage (interpretive)	Mid-Term	\$50,000 - \$75,000
1.3 & 1.6	Enhance Oak Park & Welcome Center • Install playground / climb equipment • Install signage (interpretive)	Long-Term	\$100,000 - \$120,000
1.3, 1.5, & 1.8	Develop TPWD Grant for Patsy Glenn Refuge	Long-Term	\$10,000 - \$15,000
1.3 2.1 & 2.3 2.3 4.3	Enhance Patsy Glenn Refuge • Install public art • Implement active wildlife management and rewilding • Upgrade trail to decomposed granite • Install signage (interpretive)	Long-Term	\$250,000 - \$350,000

Figure 44 Implementation Schedule - Park Enhancements Mid-Term & Long-Term

New Parks

Objectives Achieved	Recommended Action	Term	Estimated Cost
1.2 & 1.5 2.1	Engage with Community Members to educate the importance of park land acquisition	Short-Term	N/A
1.2 2.1	Acquire Property (west of Ranch Road 12)	Mid-Term	Market Value
1.2 2.1	Acquire Property (along the Blanco River)	Mid-Term	Market Value
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 • Install playground / climb equipment • Construct trails • Install signage (wayfinding and interpretive) • Install shade structure • Install supporting facilities (benches, drinking fountains, etc.)	Long-Term	\$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000
1.1 & 1.4 2.3 & 2.5 4.6	Develop a New Park Along the Blanco River	Long-Term	TBD

Figure 45 Implementation Schedule - New Parks



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 voters 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 \$200,000 for planning, design, and engineering and a \$1,000,000 ceiling for construction.

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.