

I. Introduction

Lufkin Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs Master Plan

Purpose

Parks and recreation facilities and programs are an essential part of a healthy, quality environment. They provide very necessary components in human existence for activities beyond home, school and work. Whether passive or active, parks and recreation should be a part of everyday life. Therefore like roads, water or sewer lines and drainage, parks and related facilities should be considered an integral part of the infrastructure of a political entity. With an increasing population, planning for infrastructure and recreational systems must consider the needs and desires of the residents of City of Lufkin. The natural beauty and resources must be preserved and enhanced for the future generations, as well as for the present one. A well planned, funded, and operated Parks and Recreation System will serve to continue to attract quality growth, sustain the high quality of life of all citizens and preserve the character of the environment.

There has been increasing interest in the development of parks and recreation facilities to further enhance the quality of life. This interest, however, is tempered by the concern for conservative fiscal responsibility.

The City of Lufkin Parks and Recreation and Facilities Master Plan (the Plan) is intended to clearly define the role of the City in providing parks and recreation facilities for its citizens for the next twenty years. The City recognizes the importance of the contribution of these facilities to the quality of life and the need for a comprehensive plan. The Plan is designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Identify the needs and desires of the residents for parks and recreational facilities.
- Identify ways the City can address those needs.
- Prioritize the desired improvements and developments.

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- Establish park and recreation facilities standards.
- Continue the process of developing various types and levels of parks.
- Look for innovative ways to fund new facilities and improve existing recreational sites.
- Define the future role of City of Lufkin Parks and Recreation Department in leisure, senior, and youth programs and facilities.
- Establish criteria for equipment, maintenance, staffing, budgeting and infrastructure to guide the park and recreation investments of the City for the next ten to twenty years.
- Provide the framework for public/private and public/public efforts to share in the development and maintenance of facilities.

In defining the future role of City of Lufkin, this Plan provides recommendations for implementing actions to effectively and efficiently achieve the desired results. It establishes the basis for the development of parks and recreation. The Plan identifies the population and the need to develop a park and recreation system and share the cost with other entities.

This Parks and Recreation and Facilities Master Plan is a community-wide effort that encourages the development of specific park and recreation initiatives to target the needs of the citizens. Local initiatives can involve City/community partnerships and cooperation. Within the framework of the Plan the City, the community-based sports, recreation, homeowner organizations, and the general public are encouraged to evaluate needs and share resources so that a coordinated system of programs and facilities can be planned, designed and constructed. As needs and opportunities are discovered by these entities in the future, initiatives can be incorporated into the City's comprehensive planning process and Capital Improvements Program.

The following Plan is divided into sections that follow the guidelines of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Grants-In-Aid Division for the preparation of master plans.

Overview of the City and Surrounding Area

The Location

Located in east Texas in Angelina County, the City of Lufkin is 166 miles southeast of Dallas, 120 miles north of Houston and 110 miles southwest of Shreveport. Neighboring cities include Nacogdoches, Livingston, Burke, Diboll, Huntington and Zavalla. The City encompasses a total of 26.9 square miles within the city limits and an additional 62.9 square miles in the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). The land elevation in the City and surrounding area ranges from 149 feet to 394 feet above sea level, with an average elevation of approximately 271.5 feet above mean sea level.

US 59 provides north/south access while US 69 runs northwest to southeast through the City. State Highways 94 103, and 339 as well as Loop 287 (John Redditt and Medford and Ellen Trout Drives) provide regional access to the City.

Climate

The growing season ranges from 214 to 305 days depending on the crop. The average annual rainfall of 58.54" inches. The average first freeze date in the fall is November 5, and the average last freeze date in the spring is March 15. Temperatures range from a mean minimum in January of 38° to a mean maximum in July of 94°. The generally mild climate is favorable to a variety of outdoor recreational pursuits for most of the year. Extremes in climatic changes are usually short in duration and do not pose significant barriers to outdoor activities.

The terrain is comprised of gently rolling hills and flat land. The basic soil types are sandy loam and clay.

**The Community
and Population**

City of Lufkin is recognized as a good place to live, work and visit. The population of the City in January 1998 was estimated to be approximately 34,425. This is an increase from the 1990 Census that indicated a population of 30,206. The population is increasing with the construction of new homes and subdivisions. The 1996 population of Angelina County estimated to be in excess of 75, 000 persons.

City of Lufkin has experienced steady growth rate in the last 35 years. Past population growth in the County is shown in the following table.

Table 1-1
City of Lufkin Population
Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs Master Plan
City of Lufkin, Texas

Year	Population
1960	19,600
1980	23,049
1990	30,206
1997	33,783
1998	34,425

Sources: Census Bureau 1990 and
Texas State Data Center

Projections by the Texas State Data Center show increasing population growth continuing through the year 2020 in each of their standard scenarios.

Table 1-2
City of Lufkin and Angelina County Projected Growth
Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs Master Plan
City of Lufkin, Texas

Year	City of Lufkin	Angelina County
2000	35,492	76,641
2010	40,993	83,312
2020	47,347	90,355

Sources: Texas State Data Center and WSA estimates

The following population distribution table shows the population to be fairly distributed with 29.3 percent in the 18 years and under categories, 20.5 in the 30-44 group and 19.7 percent over 60 years of age.

Table 1-3
City of Lufkin Population by Age
Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs Master Plan
City of Lufkin, Texas

Age	Population	Percent
0-5 Yrs.	3,221	10.6
6-13 Yrs.	3,283	10.9
14-18 Yrs.	2,346	7.8
19-29 Yrs.	5,101	16.9
30-44 Yrs.	6,209	20.5
45-59 Yrs.	4,096	13.6
60+ Yrs.	5,950	19.7
Total	30,206	100.0

Source: 1990 Census

The population of the City by age is fairly distributed with 8850 persons under the age of 18. The relocation to Lufkin and Texas as a whole is expected to continue. In the foreseeable future and for the purposes of this Plan, the age distribution should be assumed to be essentially the same. Families are moving to

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Lufkin to take advantage of the quality of life provided by the City, County and school districts. As the baby boomers get older, an increase in the over 60 age group is expected to occur. This will need to be monitored closely with the information that will become available with the next census.

Household income for the City of Lufkin for the 1990 Census is displayed in the following table. The distribution for the income categories is assumed to be basically the same for the current population with some growth anticipated in the mid range income.

Table 1-4
City of Lufkin Household Income
Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs Master Plan
City of Lufkin, Texas

Income	Households	Percent
<\$10,000	2,472	22.2
\$10,000 to \$19,999	2,607	23.5
\$20,000 to \$29,999	1,940	17.5
\$30,000 to \$39,999	1,408	12.7
\$40,000 to \$59,999	1,567	14.1
\$60,000+	1,122	10.0
Total	11,116	100.0

Source: 1990 Census

The race and ethnic population distribution is from the 1990 Census. The distribution is assumed to remain approximately the same throughout the time frame of the Plan. The following table shows the racial and ethnic distribution of the population. Although the source is the 1990 Census, the distribution is valid for the purposes of the Plan. Given the in migration trends in Texas, the City may expect increase in the Hispanic and Asian (other) ethnic groups.

Table 1-5
Population by Race and Origin
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City of Lufkin, Texas

Not of Hispanic Origin	
White	19,000
Black	8,110
Other	285
Hispanic Origin	2,911
Total	30,306

Source: 1990 Census

Historic and Cultural Resources

Lufkin's beginnings can be traced to the arrival of the H.E.& W.T Railroad in 1882. By 1888, lots had been sold and there were 20 different business firms. The City was a shipping center for logs and lumber from the sawmills in the nearby forests. In 1890 an election was held to incorporate the City. Lufkin became the county seat of Angelina County in 1892. The population in 1895 was estimated at 1,000. World War I saw many young men from Angelina County join Captain Kit McConnico in Company M.

The first city hall was constructed on Cotton Square in 1910. By 1922 the City had a new city hall and a Council-manager form of government. Businesses thrived during the following decades. The Twenties saw the construction of Ellen Trout Lake and other civic improvements. The first Police Department was organized in 1937. In the late sixties new fire stations were constructed on South John Redditt Drive and North Kurth Drive, followed by the construction of the new Kurth Memorial Library in 1971. The Civic Center was built in 1975. When the current city hall was constructed in 1986, the old city hall was converted into the police and Municipal Court Building.

**Community
Facilities and
Attractions**

Citizens and visitors enjoy a number of opportunities to celebrate their historical and cultural heritage, including Lufkin Pitser Garrison Civic Center, located in downtown Lufkin, the Kurth Memorial Library, which, houses the Ora McMullen Genealogical collection, the Ellen Trout Zoo, an impressive, accredited zoo facility. Angelina County Exposition Center, the Museum of East Texas, the Texas Forestry Museum, the Medford Collection of Western Art, Cotton Square Heritage Park, and the Downtown Historic Walking Tour with 22 site markers in downtown Lufkin.

Natural Resources

The City of Lufkin is located in a prime forestry region. The climate and soils are major contributing factor to the forestry and agricultural industry in area. Native trees include short and long leaf pine, cypress, hickory, oak, gum and magnolia.

A combination of recreational and natural resources is found in the nearby Angelina National Forest, the Davy Crockett National Forest and Lake Sam Rayburn with camping, fishing and boating opportunities.

The Economy

Forestry and forest products, agriculture, petrochemicals, manufacturing and technology industries are major businesses in City of Lufkin and Angelina County. The following table shows employment by industry sector.

Table 1-6
Employment by Industry Sector—Angelina County
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City of Lufkin, Texas

Industry Sector	Number of Establishments	Number of Jobs
Manufacturing	122	8300
Wholesale	101	1005
Retail	402	4805
Professional and Related Services	455	4089

Source: 1992 Economic Census—Area Profile

**Role of the City in
Providing Park
and Recreation
Opportunities**

The major industries and employers in the Lufkin-Angelina area are Temple Inland, Donohue Industries, Texas Foundries, Lufkin Industries and Texas Smokehouse Foods.

The City is expected to grow in commercial and retail developments. As the Texas economy grows, more companies are beginning to consider the City of Lufkin a place to locate their offices, as well as manufacturing and distribution facilities.

The role of Texas cities in the provision of parks and recreational facilities varies considerably from centralized control and management of these facilities to almost no City involvement. The City of Lufkin has had a city-wide Parks and Recreation Department since 1971. The City of Lufkin has a Council-Manager form of government. The City Council appoints citizens to a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. They provide planning research, recommendations and support for selected parks and recreation issues. They are the liaison between the citizens and the city council on parks and recreations issues.

The City places top priority on increasing the quantity (in real and functional terms) of developed recreation lands. The City should consider resource protection options for sensitive areas including conservation easements, open space regulations, voluntary land use restrictions, land leasing, and land acquisition. Land acquisition should be targeted in areas where the distribution of undeveloped recreation land is poor. The City should encourage direct volunteer and non-profit groups' efforts to initiate and develop both long and short-term projects that have significant and visible results. Joint-use or lease agreements could be established with other governmental entities, individuals, homeowners' associations, developers, sports associations, school districts, universities, state agencies, railroads, and special districts to maximize recreational use of land.