

II. Goals and Objectives

Lufkin Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs Master Plan

Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives for the Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs Master Plan are outlined in this section. Goals and objectives were developed based upon citizen input received in public meetings and workshops held during the planning process. The stated goals and objectives are intended to provide direction for future community decisions regarding the provision and improvement of parks and recreation areas and open space and to identify priorities for development of a comprehensive parks and recreation system.

The ultimate goal for the Master Plan is to identify, protect, and enhance the natural and developed environment as well as the image of Lufkin. This should be accomplished by providing a diverse blend of parks and open spaces, along with opportunities for diverse recreational activities for persons of all ages. The following goals and objectives were derived from the issues that were identified by citizens of Lufkin in the plan development process and through consensus of the Parks Board.

Goal 1.1 Promote the conservation of natural resources through park and recreation land acquisition, open space preservation, and environmentally sensitive planning. Preserve unique natural open spaces and important habitat for endangered species of plants and wildlife

Obj. 1.1a: Identify environmentally sensitive areas, i.e. flood plains, wetlands, wildlife habitats, cultural and areas with topographic conditions or severe soil limitations, and encourage conservation through development incentives, regulations and policies adopted by the City.

Obj. 1.1b: Encourage the preservation of open space by individuals, corporations, non-profits and public agencies to enhance the livability, aesthetic value, and natural beauty of Lufkin.

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- Obj. 1.1.c:** Develop an implementation plan identifying conservation sites to be preserved and protected.
- Obj. 1.1.d** Enhance and preserve the environmental quality of local waterways by protecting and improving the importance for open space, drainage, water quality, habitat for plants and wildlife, outdoor recreation, scenic landscape amenities, and natural areas for Lufkin and the region.
- Obj. 1.1.e** Acquire and maintain sufficient unique natural areas and significant open spaces for public use, with special attention to high quality natural or open space areas.
- Obj. 1.1.f** Plan, coordinate, acquire, and maintain public open space based upon consideration of scenic natural characteristics and important natural functions that the land performs.
- Obj. 1.1.g** Utilize and enforce sound floodplain management practices to maintain the water carrying capacity of drainage-ways, channels and floodplain areas.
- Obj. 1.1.h** Encourage educational institutions and nonprofit organizations to acquire, manage, and operate natural open space conservation areas.

Goal 1.2 Provide a diverse blend of parks and recreation opportunities including neighborhood and community parks, pocket-parks and linear linkages, to adequately accommodate the current and future needs of Lufkin' residents and visitors.

- Obj. 1.2a:** Provide equitable parks and recreation opportunities for all persons, especially low income, elderly, and youth-at-risk citizens, recognizing the importance of accessible public facilities.
- Obj. 1.2b:** Provide an even geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities that will provide equitable opportunity activities and access for all citizens.
- Obj. 1.2c:** Acquire or reserve land in identified future growth areas well in advance of ensuing development to ensure availability, protection, and reasonable acquisition costs.
- Obj. 1.2.d** Develop the recreational resources and opportunities which are inherent in the landscape and outdoor

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environment of the region, including water recreation, golfing, fishing, theme parks, and natural areas.

- Obj. 1.2.e** Provide facilities for a wide range of active and passive recreation activities including baseball, softball, soccer, football, basketball, tennis, swimming, biking, bicycle motor-cross, in-line skating, shuffleboard, horseshoes, fishing, archery, picnicking, hiking, and other popular activities.

Goal 1.3 **Create and maintain an accessible parks and recreation system for enjoyment by both residents and visitors of Lufkin.**

- Obj. 1.3a** Implement a long-range program for expansion and development of Lufkin's parks and recreation system.

- Obj. 1.3b** Establish parks and open space standards and incentives for new development for inclusion in the City of Lufkin Subdivision Ordinance.

- Obj. 1.3c** Continue to provide access to parks and recreation areas and facilities to enable use by disabled persons and to comply with ADA requirements.

- Obj. 1.3d** Provide adequate public funding and to perform necessary maintenance and repairs.

- Obj. 1.3e** Seek state and national grants and private partnerships. Construct needed improvements at the City's existing and future parks and recreation facilities. Acquire additional park acreage to meet the future projected needs.

Goal 1.4 **Develop a network of pedestrian and bicycle ways throughout the Lufkin area to include an interconnected system of paths, trails, lanes, and routes that are multipurpose, accessible, convenient. Connect to residential areas, parks, schools, workplaces, shopping, major open spaces, and other destinations.**

- Obj. 1.4a:** Identify potential greenbelt corridors, bicycle and pedestrian trails and routes, and linear parks that can provide a safe secure connection between parks, recreation areas and facilities.

- Obj. 1.4b:** Establish policies and regulations regarding the use and development of floodways, drainage ways, abandoned railroad corridors, abandoned power line easements, vacated alleys, and other rights-of-way and easements.

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Obj. 1.4c: Prepare a strategic implementation plan identifying the policies and procedures to acquire recreational easements and/or rights-of-way.

Goal 1.5 **Preserve and enhance the education, appreciation, and preservation of local historic and cultural resources for citizens and tourists.**

Obj. 1.5a: Support historically and culturally significant programs, activities, museums, buildings, and districts through land use and development regulations and adopted public policy.

Obj. 1.5b: Develop a "tourist trail" connecting monuments, museums, and landmarks that are of local significance to the cultural, architecture, and historic value of Lufkin.

Obj. 1.5c: Increase public awareness of local heritage through the incorporation of historic and cultural value into park and recreation activities and programs.

Obj. 1.5d: Provide, operate, and maintain public recreation facilities and programs that promote tourism and cultural activities.

Goal 1.6 **Establish cooperative agreements and coordinated efforts with other governmental jurisdictions, educational bodies, and private sector entities.**

Obj. 1.6a: Develop a mutually beneficial relationship with the Lufkin Independent School District to include joint acquisition of land and effective use of schools, municipal buildings and facilities, which will result in higher quality recreation opportunities at a more reasonable cost to the taxpayer.

Obj. 1.6b: Establish a partnership with Angelina County and the State of Texas to jointly acquire, develop, operate, and manage regional parks and recreation facilities, activities, programs, and conservation areas.

Obj. 1.6c: Encourage private sector participation in the provision of parks and recreation opportunities by permitting innovative land development practices. Create incentives that will result in an efficient utilization of land. Provide greater opportunities for the enjoyment of open space and preservation of the natural environment.

Goal 1.7 **Maintain and operate the parks, recreation and open space system in a cost effective manner.**

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- Obj 1.7a** Provide a safe, clean and orderly environment for parks and recreation users.
- Obj 1.7b** Develop a parks and recreation facility inspection program to identify routine improvement and maintenance needs.
- Obj 1.7c** Establish an "Adopt-A-Park" program to solicit and encourage neighborhood involvement in maintaining and policing the public parks.
- Obj 1.7d** Improve the maintenance of all parks and recreation areas and facilities by initiating preventative maintenance schedules and securing increased funding as necessary.
- Obj. 1.7e** Enhance maintenance activities through education seminars and in-house training.

Goal 1.8 Develop recreation and sports programming with necessary facilities to meet the leisure needs that encourage healthy lifestyles of citizens. Continue to provide recreation and sports opportunities to maximize the utilization of existing facilities.

- Obj. 1.8.a** Acquire/build a Recreation/Community Center that is safe, clean and pleasing for programs and activities.
- Obj. 1.8.b** Encourage and promote new sports and recreation activities, cultural activities, community activities, and special events with adequate volunteer support to assure success.
- Obj. 1.8.c** Provide and maintain public indoor and outdoor meeting facilities.
- Obj. 1.8.d** Develop a joint use aquatic center with the school districts or private developers.
- Obj. 1.8.e** Provide adequate staffing to manage a high quality leisure activities program for Lufkin citizens.
- Obj. 1.8.f:** Encourage and promote sports and recreation activities, cultural activities, community activities, and special events to enhance tourism and visitation in the area.