

# 2011 CITY OF ROWLETT PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN-SPACE MASTER PLAN

UPDATE OF THE  
2004-2009  
MASTER PLAN





October, 2011

Honorable City Council Members  
City of Rowlett  
4000 Main St..  
Rowlett, TX 75088

Dear Council Members,

This Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master plan has been assembled and updated in cooperation with the students from the University Of North Texas Recreation and Leisure Studies Program, Halff Associates Inc., and La Terra Studio.

The purpose of this document is to provide an updated Master Plan to the 2004 Parks Recreation and Open Space Master plan created by Halff Associates.

This cooperation is necessary to provide the City of Rowlett with a current master plan that will act as a road map to the continued successful growth of the city, its parks and open spaces.

The development, maintenance, and conservation of Rowlett's existing and future parks, recreation, and open space is imperative to the quality of life the city proudly represents. It is our intent to aid the City of Rowlett with the goals and objectives outlined in this master plan. By utilizing this document, it is our hope to continue the vision of Rowlett's Parks department and the citizens:

***"Exploring life's simple pleasures. Your enjoyment is our reward."***

Sincerely,

la terra studio



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chapter 1

# introduction

## introduction

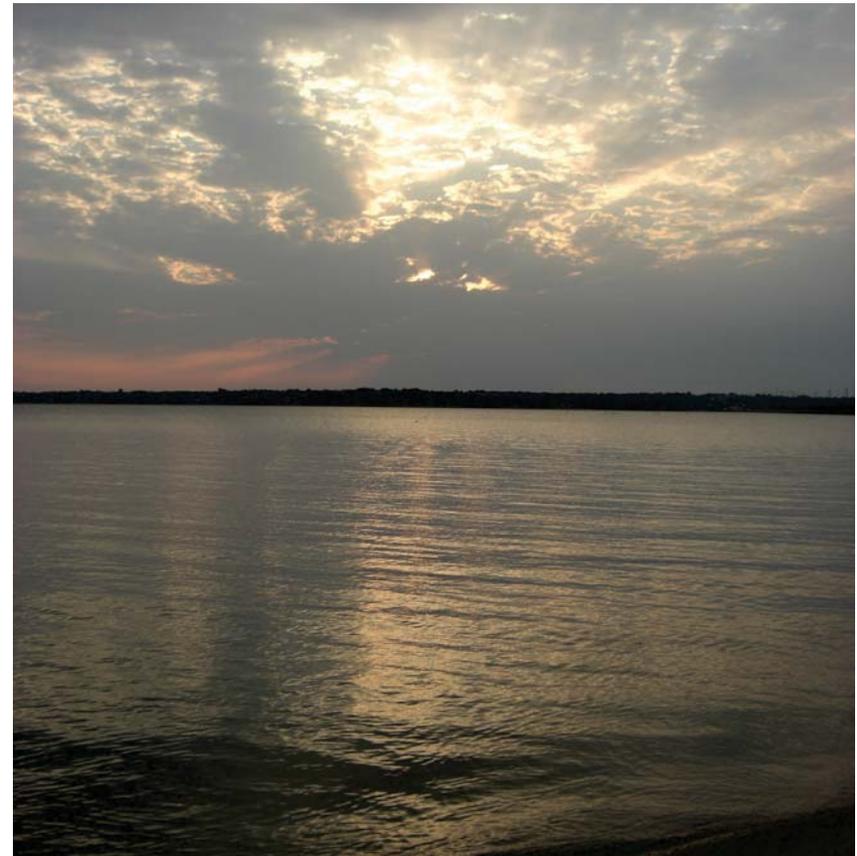


The City of Rowlett is recognized throughout Texas as a highly desirable place to live. Much of that can be attributed to the quality of recreation facilities in the city, the wealth of recreation opportunities in the area and Lake Ray Hubbard which is a unique feature of the City. The leadership of Rowlett has long recognized that recreation plays an important role in the quality of life in Rowlett, and that a strong recreation system provides for a healthier environment, improves the well being of children and young adults, and reduces the potential for crime in the city.

Attractive parks and natural areas are often the first place that visitors view in our communities. Parks are one of the most visible elements of a city government at work, and can instill a strong sense of pride in the residents of a community. A good park system lets both citizens and visitors know that the leadership of the city is interested in providing the best for the citizens of the city. From the neighborhood parks to the athletic fields of the Rowlett Community Park and Herfurth Park, evidence of a diverse and innovative park system is readily apparent.

Rowlett is growing at a steady pace, approaching a population of 56,230 in 2011, and is projected to grow to over 60,000 residents by the year 2014.

The 2011 Rowlett Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is intended to aid the city as this growth occurs. The recommendations of this plan will be implemented by the City of Rowlett to accommodate their needs to continue sustaining and improving the quality of life in Rowlett.



*Planning Sectors* – Route 66 and Muddy Creek form the dividing lines between the four planning sectors of Rowlett. These four sectors are shown in Figure 1.1, and for the purposes of this report are referred to as follows:

- Sector 1 – Southwest Quadrant
- Sector 2 – Southeast Quadrant
- Sector 3 – Northeast Quadrant
- Sector 4 – Northwest Quadrant

Rowlett is the primary governmental entity charged with providing recreational facilities for the citizens of Rowlett. Ancillary recreational facilities may be provided by the State of Texas through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Garland ISD, Rockwall ISD, Dallas County, Rockwall County and the various home owners associations.

The Park Master Plan follows the general guidelines for local park master plans established by TPWD. This document also is intended to meet the requirements of the Department of Interior for the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program.

Per planning requirements issued by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan should be completely updated after a five year period, or before if any major developments occur which significantly alter the recreation needs of the city. In addition, an annual review workshop by the Rowlett Parks and Recreation Board and Parks and Recreation Department staff will be conducted to review progress over the last year, and biannual updates by city staff will also be prepared by the Parks and Recreation staff of Rowlett, or on a more frequent basis if special needs or occurrences require modifications to the plan. In all cases, public involvement through citizen meetings, interviews, and workshops will be included in any updating process.

This 2011 Master Plan Document serves as an update to the 2004-2009 Rowlett Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan.



Figure 1.1 - Planning Sectors

## background



When assessing the recreational needs of a community, it is essential to understand the current context that shapes the community. This includes the history of the community, the local economy, the demographic and population aspects of the citizens of the community, and the physical characteristics of the city. Recreation is an integral part of the picture of the community, and as such is key to the success and health of the entire city.

The area now known as Rowlett was divided between two immigration companies during the mid 1800's. The W.S. Peters Colony held land west of Rowlett Road and the Charles Mercer Colony held the land south of the Peters Colony and east of Rowlett Road. American settlers began moving into this area in the 1840's and included French and German speaking people. By 1846 Dallas County was organized and by 1856, the City of Dallas was founded.

On April 5, 1880 Rowlett's first post office "Morris" was opened named after the first postmaster Austin Morris. The name was later changed to Rowlett, recognizing Rowlett Creek, a major tributary of the east fork of the Trinity River and flowing from Colin County southeast towards the city. Rowlett Creek was named after Daniel Rowlett who led an immigrant company of several families from Kentucky to Texas in 1835.

The Civil War brought new waves of settlers and railroads began to spread westward. By 1889, the Greenville and Dallas Railroad reached Rowlett.

By the turn of the century, Rowlett was a thriving farm community, with many stores and services along with its own school and churches.

In 1921 the Bankhead Highway, the second transcontinental paved highway in America, reached Rowlett. It ran from Washington D.C. to San Diego. This was the primary means of access to Rowlett until the 1960's when Interstate Highway 30 was constructed. The City of Rowlett was incorporated in 1952 by a vote of 84 citizens.

Today a unique and primary feature of the City of Rowlett, Lake Ray Hubbard was constructed in 1971 by the City of Dallas. Developed as a water source for Dallas, this impressive water body crystallized Rowlett into a lake front community.

### Population Analysis

A key part of the master planning process is to understand the size and the characteristics of the population to be served.

The population of Rowlett has grown steadily since incorporation in 1952. The city's greatest growth period was 1980 to 1990 when the population increased by 21,243 residents probably attributed to the attraction of Lake Ray Hubbard. Between 1990 and 2000, Rowlett's population grew with an average annual growth rate in excess of 9%. The population estimate for 2011 is 56,230.

Projections and demographic characteristics contained in this section are derived from population projections and data gathered from the 2010 United States Census (Research & Information services - NCTCOG.org). Using the projections as adopted by the City of Rowlett, the population projections for Rowlett for this Parks Master Plan are as follows:

### Population Projections for Rowlett Present-2020\*

<b>Year 2011 Projected Population</b>	<b>56,230</b>
<b>Year 2014 Projected Population</b>	<b>60,680</b>
<b>Year 2020 Projected Population</b>	<b>67,046</b>

\*Source: City of Rowlett - Insight Research Group

## 2010 Census Population by Race and Hispanic Origin and Occupancy Status for Rowlett, Texas

	Total Population		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	56,199	100.0%	9,285	16.5%	46,914	83.5%
White Alone	40,346	71.8%	5,790	10.3%	34,556	61.5%
Black/ African American alone	7,522	13.4%	125	0.2%	7,397	13.2%
American Indian & Alaska Native alone	328	0.6%	100	0.2%	228	0.4%
Asian alone	3,698	6.6%	49	0.1%	3,649	6.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	16	0.0%	2	0.0%	14	0.0%
Some other race alone	2,774	4.9%	2,690	4.8%	84	0.1%
Two or more races	1,515	2.7%	529	0.9%	986	1.8%
	18-and-Older Population		Hispanic		Non-Hispanic	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	39,897	100.0%	5,594	14.0%	34,303	86.0%
White Alone	29,493	73.9%	3,511	8.8%	25,982	65.1%
Black/ African American alone	5,029	12.6%	50	0.1%	4,979	12.5%
American Indian & Alaska Native alone	224	0.6%	63	0.2%	161	0.4%
Asian alone	2,661	6.7%	21	0.1%	2,640	6.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	11	0.0%	2	0.0%	9	0.0%
Some other race alone	1,770	4.4%	1,728	4.3%	42	0.1%
Two or more races	709	1.8%	219	0.5%	490	1.2%

Note: The U.S. Census Bureau considers race to be separate from ethnicity. Because the two are distinct concepts, persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. The following table summarizes the race of the total population, Hispanic persons, and non-Hispanic persons.



## purpose



Since the last City of Rowlett Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted, many changes have occurred within the community and surrounding areas. This update will result in a detailed “road map” that will identify community priorities for recreation and park facilities, as well as outline a plan of action. Input from local interest groups, community organizations and businesses, public officials and private citizens will be critical to help establish priorities for current and future parks and recreation services, programs and facilities offered within the City of Rowlett.

The purpose of this Master Plan is to guide parks, recreation, open-space and trail development over the next 5, 10 and 20 year periods. As the projected population continues to increase, a well planned approach to meeting the needs of this growing community is very important.

The City of Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for taking the information included in this Master Plan and implementing it over the next several years. This Master Plan will also provide direction for the next 15 years with updates, as required by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, every 5 years. For this Master Plan to function as a living document, annual reassessments are scheduled to evaluate accomplishments, and to reassess priorities.

The purpose of this 2011 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is to update the previous plan prepared in 2004 (which covers the period from 2004 through 2009). This updated master plan reviews the goals and priorities established by the previous plan, and provides an assessment of Rowlett’s park, open space and trail system. Above all, the Park Planning process allows the citizens of Rowlett to determine what their preferred park and recreation priorities should be.

The 2011 Parks Master Plan:

- Points out opportunities and recommends alternatives for improving the park system;
- Looks at the potential growth of the city over the next 5 to 10 years, and assesses where additional facilities will be needed as the city grows, and what types of facilities are most needed;
- Guides city staff in acquiring land to meet current and future park and open space needs;
- Prioritizes key recommendations of the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan so that the most significant deficiencies are addressed as quickly as possible;
- Is intended to guide city staff and city leaders in determining where and how parks funding should be allocated over the next five years.



## components

As a part of the point scoring criteria for local park grant funding, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department requires that a community have a current park Master Plan in place. The minimum requirements established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a Master Plan must include the following components:

- **Introduction** – Discuss unit of government for which the plan is created and include economic data, demographics, population figures, growth patterns, and the government’s role in providing park and recreation opportunities.
  - **Goals and Objectives** – Identify parks and recreation service goals and specific objectives on how each of the goals will be reached. State the time period of the Master Plan.
  - **Plan Development Process** – Identify and prioritize needs, describe who prepared the Master Plan and when the planning process began, identify the planning committee utilized and how public input was received.
  - **Area and Facility Concepts and Standards** – Establish local standards which are influenced by preferences and available economic and natural resources. Source of base data is provided in the *Park, Recreation, Open-space & Greenway Guidelines* published by the National Recreation & Park Association.
  - **Inventory of Areas and Facilities** – Assess existing park, recreation, open-space and trails currently provided by the City as well as school and private facilities open to the public.
  - **Needs Assessment and Identification** – Assess the parks and recreation needs using demand-based, standard-based and resource-based needs. Needs shall be clearly identified and methodology outlined for determining these needs.
- 
- **Trail Plan** – A plan that specifically looks at trails and greenways throughout the city and how best to implement the development and integration of such trails and greenways.
  - **Prioritization of Needs & Plan Implementation** – A priority list of needs should be ranked in order of importance and a time frame established for when these needs will be met. Areas of open-space acquisition and preservation must be identified on a map of the community. If renovation or redevelopment of existing facilities is identified as a need, this should be reflected in the prioritized needs. Resources must be identified for meeting the identified needs.
  - **Illustrations, Maps and Surveys** – City-wide maps shall be included that support the master-planning process. Surveys, charts, graphics and photographs shall also be included to help explain and support the Master Plan.



The background of the slide is a photograph of a lake with reeds in the foreground. A dark horizontal bar is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the chapter title. The text 'chapter 2' is positioned above the bar, and 'goals and objectives' is inside the bar.

**chapter 2**

**goals and objectives**

## goals and objectives

*“Exploring life’s simple pleasures. Your enjoyment is our reward.”*

- City of Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department



Goals and objectives form the basis for the Rowlett Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. They are intended to express the needs and desires of the Rowlett community and reflect what this master plan intends to accomplish. Goals and objectives serve as a guide for continued improvement in the park, recreation, and open space system. Besides providing direction with regard to future decisions, goals and objectives also assist the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council in making necessary decisions directly and indirectly related to the park, recreation, and open space system. A parks master plan that is acceptable to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department requires goals and objectives to be established and included in the master plan.

The eight goals established as part of the Rowlett 2011 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan were:

- Provide a variety of recreation facilities and programs to meet the ultimate recreational needs and desires of the City of Rowlett’s growing population.
- Create a park system that will improve the physical form and appearance of the City of Rowlett.
- Preserve and enhance Rowlett’s open space and natural resources, especially along the edge of Lake Ray Hubbard.
- Provide an open space system which links parks, schools, greenbelts, and open spaces.
- Provide a tool to coordinate multi-jurisdictional efforts with adjacent cities with respect to issues that affect recreational opportunities in the community.
- Continue to maintain all of the Rowlett parks and recreational facilities in a superior condition.
- Develop other funding mechanisms to help supplement the city’s limited funding resources.
- Include a citizen participation process in all ongoing park planning and design, as well as updating of the Parks Master Plan.

Of these goals, it appears that the acquisition of parkland and the enhancement of the image and identity of the community received the greatest attention since the 2004-2009 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.



**Definitions** - The terms “goals” and “objectives,” as used in this report follow the definitions:

- **Goals:** are general statements concerning an aspect of the city’s desired ultimate physical, social and economic environment. Goals address the desired quality of life.
- **Objectives:** express the actions or approach that is necessary to achieve the stated goals, or portions of those goals, without assigning responsibility to any specific actions. Objectives are often expressed as actions that can be measured.

The following are the goals and objectives developed by the Rowlett Parks and Recreation Department staff in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for the 2010 Master Plan.

**Goal 1 - Provide parks and related amenities that will accommodate the current and future needs of the City’s residents.**

**Objective 1:** Develop a long-range plan for development and expansion of Rowlett’s park system.

**Objective 2:** Develop land acquired and dedicated to future parks in a consistent and focused manner.

**Objective 3:** Provide parks that are within walking distance of all homes in the City of Rowlett.

**Objective 4:** Acquire parklands in areas of the city with significant parkland needs.

**Objective 5:** Identify, purchase if necessary, and preserve unique natural and open space areas, habitat, and plant and wildlife within the community.

**Other Thoughts at this time:** Lake shore development

**Goal 2 - Provide facilities related to recreation services that will accommodate the current and future needs of the City’s residents and visitors.**

**Objective 1:** Provide recreational facilities that address the needs of all age groups, young and old, active and passive, and in all socio- economic categories.

**Objective 2:** Continue to install playground equipment in selected park locations.

**Objective 3:** Permanent meeting space for seniors, environmental education center, dog-park, more practice fields, more space for teens, boat launching ramps, lake side picnic areas

**Goal 3 - Continue to create a trail/greenway system that will provide both recreational and transportation needs for the community.**

**Objective 1:** Develop greenbelt corridors, bicycle and pedestrian trails and routes, and linear parks that can provide a safe secure connection between homes and parks, recreation areas and facilities as well as schools, local businesses and activity centers.

**Objective 2:** Appropriately use floodways, drainage ways, railroad corridors, power line easements and other rights-of-way and easements for the creation of trails, walk ways.

**Objective 3:** Encourage the preservation of open space by individuals, corporations, non-profits and public agencies to enhance the livability, aesthetic value and natural beauty of the City.

**Other Thoughts at this time:** Safe routes to schools; improve connectivity of major trails

**Goal 4 - Provide recreation programs that will accommodate the current and future needs of the City’s residents and visitors.**

**Objective 1:** Establish cooperative agreements and coordinated efforts with other governmental jurisdictions, school districts, and the private sector.

**Objective 2:** Develop outdoor education programs in conjunction with Texas Master Naturalists and school systems

**Objective 3:** Expand the youth recreation programming opportunities.



The background of the slide is a misty, atmospheric photograph of a wetland or marsh. In the foreground, several tall, thin reeds or grasses are visible, some with small seed heads. The water is calm and reflects the light, creating a soft, hazy effect. The overall color palette is muted, with greys, browns, and soft whites.

**chapter 3**

**plan development process**

## plan development process

The development of this updated Master Plan is a collaboration of work done by the University of North Texas, la terra studio, the previous work done by Halff and associates on the 2004-2009 Rowlett Master Plan, and Rowlett's Parks and Recreation Department. In order to sufficiently update this master plan, the following items were addressed:

- Purpose of new Master Plan
- Master Plan goals and objectives
- Current level of park maintenance and future park maintenance objectives
- Current park programming
- Methods to gather public input
- Anticipated schedule
- Action plan items

The University of North Texas Recreation and Leisure Studies Program began much of the process necessary to update this Master Plan. This included:

- October 4, 2010 - Meeting with Rowlett Sport Associations regarding feedback on community needs assessment survey.
- October 12, 2010 - Held city wide public forum regarding the Rowlett Parks and Recreation Master Plan and accompanying community needs assessment survey.
- Developed goals and objectives
- Gathered/collected site inventory information

### Public Feedback

A survey was made accessible to citizens through Rowlett's website. The responses yielded valuable information to assist in the development of this Master Plan.

### City Collaboration

A meeting between the Parks and Recreation Department and Rowlett's Parks Board was held on September 14, 2011. This review session assisted in fine tuning this Master Plan. It is with all this cooperation and information gathered that this document is able to succeed. This development process allows the collaborative efforts mentioned to achieve a successful update to the Rowlett Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.



The background of the slide is a photograph of a natural landscape. It shows a body of water in the foreground, with several tall, thin reeds or grasses growing from the shore. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, suggesting an overcast day. The overall tone is muted and naturalistic.

**chapter 4**

**site and facility inventory**

## site and facility inventory



The City of Rowlett has several existing parks that currently provide outdoor recreation facilities. These parks range in size from 2 acres (Wet Zone Park) to large active recreation parks over 200 acres (Waterview Golf Course). The total acreage of all parks serving the citizens of Rowlett exceeds 600 acres and include 5 Neighborhood Parks, 4 Community Parks, 2 Special Purpose Parks and 1 Linear Park/Open Space.

**Purpose of the Existing Parks and Open Space Inventory** - A key part of the park planning process is to understand what park and open space facilities are currently available, and to assess the current condition of those facilities and whether or not they are addressing the current park and open space needs of the city. By comparing the available park facilities with the number of people that the parks system serves, the need for new or improved recreational facilities can be determined.

**Components of the Existing Parks Inventory** - This “inventory” of existing parks reviews several aspects of each park in the Rowlett system. These are:

- **Classification:** What is the purpose of a given park? Is it intended to serve a local neighborhood around it, giving children and young adults a place to play? Is it intended to serve a much larger population, providing fields for organized league play? How was the park originally classified, and is that classification still warranted today? The answer to these questions determine whether a park should be classified as a neighborhood park, a community park, a special purpose park, or a linear park.
- **Location:** Where is the park located in relation to the population that it serves? Is it accessible?
- **Service Area:** What are the limits of the area served by each park? Are there any major thoroughfares or physical features that create barriers to accessing the park?
- **Size of the Park:** How big is the park? Is it large enough to adequately accomplish its intended purpose?
- **Facilities in each Park:** What does the park contain? Are the facilities appropriate for the type of park? For example, a ball field complex requiring a large amount of parking should not be contained in a neighborhood park, where the noise, traffic and nighttime lighting create a nuisance for residents of that neighborhood.
- **Layout:** Is the arrangement of facilities in each park appropriate?
- **Condition of the Park:** What is the general condition of the facilities in each park?
- **Special Considerations:** Does the park provide facilities for the physically challenged that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act?

These components were taken into consideration when reviewing the existing parks of Rowlett. This inventory was developed from on-site reviews of each individual park by the University Of North Texas Recreation and Leisure Studies Program and assessments conducted by the Parks Department staff.

National and state guidelines identify three broad categories of parks, which are:

**Local Close to Home Space**, usually located within the community served by the facility, which includes mini/pocket parks, neighborhood parks and community parks;

**Regional Space**, usually located within an hour or two driving distance. Parks in this category serve a number of communities, and include regional metropolitan parks and regional park reserves; and

**Unique Space**, which may be either local or regional in nature. These parks can be defined as areas that are unique in some way, whether because of physical features or because of the types of facilities provided. Parks in this category may include linear parks, special use parks, or land conservancies.

Close to home parks are the most important category and are of the greatest immediate concern to the City of Rowlett. Close to home parks address day to day facilities for all ages and activities, and are usually within walking or driving distance from where we live. The two close to home park types currently existing in Rowlett are:

- Neighborhood parks (including mini/pocket parks) e.g. Shorewood Park
- Community parks e.g. Herfurth Park

A description of the general types of parks included in the Rowlett parks system follows:

### **Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood parks provide the foundation for recreation in the **Local Close to Home** park system. Ideally, they provide facilities and recreation space for the entire family, but are within easy walking or cycling distance of the people they serve.

The neighborhood park typically serves one large or several smaller

neighborhoods. The ideal neighborhood park in Rowlett, generally 5 to 10 acres in size, should serve no more than 3,000 to 4,000 residents per park. In Rowlett, Twin Star Park is a good example of a neighborhood park.

- Neighborhood parks should be accessible to residents who live within a one-half mile radius of the park. Ideally neighborhood park facilities should be located within a quarter mile radius of the residents that will use those facilities.
- Neighborhood parks are frequently located adjacent to elementary schools, so as to share acquisition and development costs with the school district. In addition adjacencies of park and school grounds allow for joint use and sharing of facilities. It also lends itself to the community's involvement with the school grounds and vice versa. This often leads to a synergetic result that adds to the quality of life for everyone.
- Neighborhood parks are generally located away from major arterial streets and provide easy access for the users that surround it. A neighborhood park should be accessible without having to cross major arterial streets.

**Size** - The size of a neighborhood park may vary considerably due to physical locations around the park. An ideal size for neighborhood parks in Rowlett should be around five acres. Parks may range in size from a minimum of two acres to a maximum of 10 acres. In general, the size of the existing neighborhood parks in Rowlett is well within the desired range of sizes.

**Location** - If possible, neighborhood parks should be centrally located in neighborhoods they serve. An ideal location, for example, is adjacent to an elementary school. The park should be accessible to pedestrian traffic from all parts of the area served, and should be located adjacent to local or minor collector streets which do not allow high-speed traffic.

**Facilities** - Facilities generally located in neighborhood parks could include the following:

- Playground equipment with adequate safety surfacing around the playground
- Unlighted practice fields for baseball, soccer, football, etc.

- Unlighted tennis courts
- Unlighted multi-purpose courts and fields
- Active areas for unorganized play
- Picnic areas with benches, picnic tables and cooking grills
- Shaded pavilions and gazebos
- Jogging and exercise trails
- Security lighting

**Parking** – Should vary based on the size of the park and facilities provided. A minimum of eight spaces per new neighborhood park is recommended with an additional two handicapped parking spaces per Neighborhood Park. The exact amount of parking needed will vary based on the size of the park, the facilities it contains and the number of users. Although not considered a neighborhood park only because of its linear character, the parking area at Lakeside Park South is a good example of parking unobtrusively integrated into a neighborhood park setting.

### **Community Parks**

Community parks are larger parks that serve a group of neighborhoods or a portion of a city. Community parks are usually reached by automobile, although residents adjacent to the park and trail users may walk or cycle to it. A variety of recreational facilities are provided, including in some cases, lighted playing fields for organized sports, hike/bike trails and sufficient parking to accommodate participants, spectators, and other park users.

Rowlett Community Park is an example of an ideal community park. At 137 acres it is large enough to provide a variety of facilities for active and passive recreation. However, located at the edge of the city it does not have the ideal location for serving the residents of the city.

**Size** – The typical community park should be large enough so it can provide a variety of facilities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation and natural areas. The park should also have room for expansion as new facilities are required. A typical community park varies in size from 10 acres to over 50 acres.

**Location** – Community parks should be located near a major thoroughfare to provide easy access from different parts of the city. Because of the potential for noise and bright lights at night, community parks should be buffered from adjacent residential areas.

**Facilities** – Facilities generally located in community parks may include:

- Play equipment
- Active free play areas
- Picnic areas and pavilion(s)
- Restrooms
- Jogging, bicycle or nature trails
- Lighted ball fields, suitable for organized competitive events
- Recreation center (if appropriate)
- Sufficient off-street parking based on facilities provided and size of park
- Security lighting
- Other facilities as needed which can take advantage of the unique characteristics of the site, such as nature trails or fishing adjacent to ponds, swimming pools, amphitheaters etc.

**Parking** – This varies based on the facilities provided and the size of park. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommend a minimum of five spaces per acre, plus additional parking for specific facilities within the park such as pools or ball fields. The specific amount of parking provided in each park should be determined by the facilities provided in that park.

### **Linear Parks**

Linear parks are open park areas that generally follow some natural or man-made feature that is linear in nature, such as creeks, abandoned railroad rights-of-way or power line or utility corridor easements. Properly developed to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel, these parks can serve to link or connect other parks in the local system, as well as schools, libraries, and other major destinations. No specific standards apply to linear/linkage parks other than to be large enough to adequately accommodate the resources they follow. They can also serve as linear greenbelts, which preserve open space.

### **Special Purpose Parks**

Special purpose parks are designed to accommodate specialized recreational activities. Because the facility needs for each activity type are different, each special purpose park usually provides for one or a few activities. Examples of special purpose parks include:

- Golf courses
- Athletic fields or complexes
- Nature centers or large natural preserves
- Swimming pool centers
- Tennis complexes
- Dog parks
- Skate parks
- Flying fields

Athletic complexes and golf courses are the most common types of special purpose parks. Athletic complexes seek to provide fields for organized play in a location that can accommodate the traffic and noise that a large number of users can generate. Athletic complexes should include sufficient fields so that leagues can congregate at one facility and not have to spread out in different locations. Special purpose parks in Rowlett include the Wet Zone Rowlett's Family Water Park, Kid's Kingdom and the Waterview Golf Course.

### **Pocket Parks**

Pocket parks are small green gathering spaces ranging from 1/8 acre to 1 acre. Due to the size of this type of park, parking is typically not provided. Therefore, pocket parks are accessed by pedestrian and bicycle means. Benches, fountains, landscaping, and other focal features are common items found in these parks. Size is not the key factor of the typical pocket park, but rather the quality of the landscaping and features that go into the park. The future Rowlett Veterans Park is an example of a pocket park.

The parks system in Rowlett includes 12 city-owned developed parks totaling approximately 600 acres of land (including the Waterview Golf Course). The city has about 340 acres of close to home parks. (The Golf Course is not considered a close to home park since it is not accessible other than with the purpose to play golf.) An additional 380 acres of undeveloped land are dedicated to future neighborhood parks (+/- 75 acres), Open Space (+/- 300 acres) and special purpose parks (+/- 5 acres).

Table 4.1 on page 29 summarizes the existing recreation facilities contained in the parks in Rowlett.

### **Neighborhood Parks in Rowlett**

Rowlett has one developed neighborhood park in sector 1 (southwest quadrant). There are two developed and one partially developed neighborhood park concentrated in sector 2 (southeast quadrant). Both sector 3 (northeast quadrant) and sector 4 (northwest quadrant) each have one developed neighborhood park.

Developed neighborhood parks in Rowlett constitute a total of 34.85 acres. Land acquired by the city and dedicated to future neighborhood parks totals 74.27 acres.

### **Community Parks in Rowlett**

Four community parks are provided in Rowlett. Two are located in sector 1 (southwest quadrant) while sector 2 (southeast quadrant) has none. One community park is located in sector 3 (northeast quadrant) and one is located in sector 4 (northwest quadrant). The latter two (Rowlett

Community Park and Springfield Park) are both located at the outer edge of the city, making it less ideal as true community parks. Community parks acreage in Rowlett totals 305 acres.

### ***Linear Parks in Rowlett***

The Nature Trail located in sector 1 (southwest quadrant) is the only linear greenbelt park in Rowlett.

### ***Special Purpose Parks in Rowlett***

The special purpose parks in Rowlett are the 2-acre Wet Zone, Rowlett's Family Water Park (sector 1 - southwest quadrant), and the 200 acre Waterview Golf Club and the partially developed 4.7 acres of the Rowlett Environmental Learning Center. (The latter two are located in sector 3 - northeast quadrant).

### ***Pocket Parks in Rowlett***

Rowlett has one pocket park that is currently under construction. Veterans Park is located in the southwest quadrant (Sector 1).

The information of school grounds and recreation facilities managed by the Garland Independent School District (GISD) is provided in the Appendix D: Miscellaneous.

### ***Small Private Parks***

Nineteen small private parks are found in Rowlett. The majority of these parks are owned by the homeowners associations (HOA). The size of these parks ranges between the 7.5 acre Waterview Swim Club and the 0.19 acre Garrets Park. Twelve of these private parks are less than 1 acre. The acreage of the nineteen parks totals 21.23 acres. The majority of these parks (thirteen out of nineteen) are located in sector 3 (northeast quadrant) concentrated mostly in and around the Waterview area. Sectors 1, 2 and 4 contain two HOA parks each. Facilities provided at these parks are listed in Appendix D: Miscellaneous.

Although all parks and open space contribute to the need for such space in a city, their uneven distribution throughout the city brings at present minimal value to the overall picture of parkland in Rowlett.

### ***Family Parks***

The term “**Family Park**” was coined to describe small half acre to one acre parks with one or two facilities like playgrounds and walking paths. The idea is to provide such a park in relatively short walking distance (+/- 440 yards or ¼ mile) from every home where families can take a stroll for relaxation in the evening and where a mother can walk with a baby in a stroller.

The concept for a “Family Park” is not unlike the private parks owned and managed by some of the homeowner associations. It is also ideal to combine such parks with schools where Garland and Rockwall ISD land may be made available for the construction of Family Parks.

In order to be successful Family Parks need to be beautiful yet simple to keep the need for maintenance down. A Family Park is typically built around one significant element and/or facility e.g. playground, swimming pool, cultural icon or natural feature. Facilities provided at a Family Park should reflect the surrounding demographics and character of the community. The hall mark of Family Parks is flexibility so that it can be adapted to changing demographics.

The following is a description of the existing parks and park land in Rowlett. The City of Rowlett has embarked on an extensive acquisition of parkland over the last number of years. The parkland is earmarked for a variety of open space, neighborhood parks and special purpose parks. Table 4.1 is a summary of park acreage and park facilities per individual park and is followed by a detailed description of each park. The parks and parkland are discussed according to the categories of Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Special Purpose Parks and Regional / Open Space / Linear Parks.



## CEDAR BRIDGE PARK

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park (undeveloped)

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: 7700 Bermuda Drive
- Size of Park: 4.4 Acres
- Located in sector two- southeast quadrant

**Comments** – Open space with a drainage system running in the middle of the park. Area consists of very few, small trees. Space could be used as a middle point for a trail that would connect Lake Highlands Greenbelt to the Peninsula Greenbelt which runs alongside the drainage system.

**Current Amenities:**

- 1 baseball backstop

**Parking:**

Off-Street:	0 spaces
On-Street:	0 spaces
Handicap:	0 spaces

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

This could be a middle point for creating a trail system. There is a lot of area to promote physical activity with trail system and playground.

- Foot bridge going over drainage way
- Picnic pavilion
- Picnic tables

- Parking
- Trails
- Trees and other landscape plants
- Lighting



# COLUMBIA PARK

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park (undeveloped)

**Location and essential Information:**

- Address: 6300 Port Aransas
- Size: 3.88 Acres
- Located in Sector 4 (northwest quadrant) of Rowlett

**Park Information and Recommendations**

Park Description: Located along the water’s edge, Columbia Park provides the community with potentially good access to Lake Ray Hubbard. The access road is the high point of the park, which provides excellent views of the water and the land slopes down to a wide basin as it reaches the lakeshore. Due to this change in topography and the openness of the property, much of the development of Columbia Park must be placed out of the floodplain. The land is mostly grassy open space with trees and underbrush along the water’s edge.

**Current Amenities:** none

**Improvement Recommendations:**

Improvements will be done during the development of Wedgewood Park. Suggested amenities for development of this park include:

- A six feet wide concrete trail
- Fishing pier
- Large lighted picnic pavilion
- Outdoor grill locations

- Children’s playground
- Horseshoe playing area
- Lighted sand volleyball court
- Water fountains for playground
- Seating along trail and playground area
- On-Street parking for 10-12 cars
- Irrigation and Indigenous landscaping plantings
- Proper signage and lighting
- Trimming of trees and underbrush located along lakeshore

Given the large open grassy space, Columbia Park would be an ideal location for a family/community outdoor activity area. With the addition of a large pavilion, outdoor grills, a sand volleyball court and a horseshoe area, Columbia Park could develop into an excellent recreation spot for this neighborhood.

**Additional Comments:**

Columbia Park could serve as a future trailhead that would connect with Muddy Creek Nature Preserve and green corridor. However, additional land and/or trail easements along the shore line must be acquired in order to achieve this connection.



View from Port Aransas Dr. looking east towards Lake Ray Hubbard.



## COYLE FARMSTEAD

**Type of Park:** Special Purpose  
(Historic)

### Location and Essential Information:

- Address: 5300 Main St.
- Location: Sector one- southwest quadrant

### Park Information

The Coyle Farmstead is comprised of the farmhouse and several outbuildings, and is located at Pecan Grove Park adjacent to the Rowlett Community Centre where the house was moved in January 2009. The farmstead was originally located to the west of this current location; it was moved to its current location due to the construction of the George Bush Tollway Extension by the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA). This move was the result of Section 106 mitigation as the farmstead has been determined as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

During February and March of 2010, members of the Quimby McCoy Preservation Architecture, LLP met with numerous local non-profit organizations, civic organizations, advisory boards and commissions and selected individuals in the City of Rowlett. These meetings were held to assist the City of Rowlett in planning for the future use of the historic Coyle Farmstead. At each of these meetings, Quimby McCoy solicited thoughts from these community organizations in order to understand public opinion about the historic Coyle Farmstead, and hear recommendations from the public for adaptive re-use of this historic res-use and site.

Public involvement played an important role in developing the various re-use concepts for the Coyle House. The various public meetings held proved productive in generating ideas on the adaptive re-use of the Coyle Farmstead. Quimby McCoy used the input from the meetings to created different re-use options for the building.



### Recommended Park Improvements:

- Pedestrian and vehicular access to the Coyle house.
- Accessibility to the house and site for those individuals with disabilities.
- Restoration/rehabilitation of house interiors.
- Interior modifications to accommodate selected uses.
- Structural implications of various uses (eg: assembly uses)
- Education of the community about Coyle's family history
- Landscape and use of the exterior space
- Living History Center or educational purpose
- House Museum fundraising option
- Grant opportunities for historic preservation



# ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

**Type of Park:** Special Purpose Park  
(partially developed)

The Rowlett Environmental Learning Center is located in the sector 3 (NE quadrant) of Rowlett.

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: 6301 Chiesa Road
- Year Built: 2002/2003
- Size of Park: 4.73 acres

**Current Amenities:**

- 0.2 mile recycled concrete walking path
- Demonstration gardens
- 7 species of native canopy trees
- 10 species of native understory trees
- 4 species of native understory shrubs
- 4 species of native ground covers
- 4 species of native grasses
- 1 entry feature
- 2 sign walls

**Parking:** Off-Street: 0 spaces  
On-Street: 0 spaces  
Handicap: 0 spaces

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

- Parking
- Access from neighborhood
- Name tags for the various trees, plants
- Park signage
- Outdoor classrooms areas – permanent seating, tables, covered areas
- Demonstration composting/worm bins
- Demonstration gardens; established native plants which are identified; seating
- Butterfly garden
- Identification signs of wildlife
- Solar power, rain barrels, etc.
- Verify ADA Guidelines.
- A possible tree/plant farm location to supply existing/upcoming parks and supply the community through a native tree/plant program.
- Move this type of park to the larger green belt location, include a nature center.



# HERFURTH PARK

**Type of Park:** Community Park

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: 4601 Centennial
- Year Built: developed
- Size of Park: 24 Acres

Herfurth Park is located in sector 1 (southwest quadrant) of Rowlett

**Current Amenities:**

- Six competitive baseball fields
- One-half basketball court
- A concession building
- Three barbecue grills
- One in-line hockey rink
- Handicapped parking
- Off-street parking
- One large pavilion
- Three small pavilions with six picnic tables
- Seven uncovered picnic tables
- One playground unit
- Restrooms
- Four tennis courts
- One wiffle ball field

**Parking:** Off-Street: Yes

Handicap: Yes

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

The open area allows for a quality neighborhood park with plenty of room for amenities such as:

- Improve drainage
- Pavilion improvements
- Trails
- Soccer practice fields
- Security lighting
- Horseshoe pits



# ISAAC SCRUGGS PARK

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park (partly developed)

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: 7813 Garner Road
- Year Built: 1996
- Size of Park: 2 Acres developed  
3.45 Acres undeveloped

Isaac Scruggs Park is located in sector 2 (southeast quadrant) of Rowlett

Comments – The park sits next to a neighborhood and has both developed areas and an undeveloped area that is divided by a drainage ditch.

**Current Amenities:**

- 2 basketball half courts
- 1 playground with blue rubber pellets safety material
- 3 picnic units
- 1 barbeque grill
- 4 benches

**Parking:** Off-Street: 5 spaces  
On-Street: 0 spaces  
Handicap: 0 spaces

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

- Lacks ADA accessibility
- Needs trees closer to park for shade- especially in June, July, August heat
- Lining in playground coming up
- Possible football/soccer field in undeveloped site
- Reset benches which moved due to shifting ground
- Signs stating ground rules for playground and basketball court



# KATY RAILROAD PARK

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: University Dr..
- Year Built: developed/undeveloped
- Size of Park: 4 Acres developed, 12 acres undeveloped
- Katy Railroad Park is located in sector 1 (southwest quadrant) of Rowlett

Comments – Katy Railroad sits on 16 acres and has been through a master plan process developing a concept for the build out of the park.



**Current Amenities:**

- Two backstops
- Detention ponds
- Handicapped parking
- Off-street parking
- One practice soccer field
- Open space

**Parking:** Off-Street: Yes  
Handicap: Yes

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

The open area allows for a quality neighborhood park with plenty of room for amenities such as:

- Trails
- Playground
- Exercise stations
- Open space



# KENWOOD HEIGHTS

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: 5701 Kenwood Drive
- Year Built: 2010
- Size of Park: 3.45 Acres

Kenwood Heights is located in sector 4 (northwest quadrant) of Rowlett

**Park Description**

In January of 2004, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. donated 3.4 acres of land to the city of Rowlett. This donation was especially significant in that it would provide vital recreational space to one of Rowlett’s oldest subdivisions, Kenwood Heights. The development serves as an example of what can be accomplished through community partnerships between business and government. The park was named Wedgewood Park. At the time the name of the park reflected the relatively small triangularly shaped lot, located adjacent to a small creek.

In November 2010 the City Council changed the name of Wedgewood Park to Kenwood Heights Park. One of the primary reasons for the change was the opportunity the park has to reflect the neighborhood it serves. A name change is a good way to begin that process.

**Current Amenities:**

- 5 picnic units
- Kaboom Playground



**Parking:** Off-Street: 0 spaces  
On-Street: 0 spaces  
Handicap: 0 spaces

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

Suggested amenities for continued development of this park include:

- Hard surface walking trails
- Large group pavilion
- A parking lot (10-12 Spaces)
- Irrigation and Indigenous landscape planting
- Proper signage and lighting

**Additional Information**

To the south of Kenwood Heights Park on the other side of Kenwood Dr. there is a large plot of undeveloped land, approximately 8 acres in size. If possible the city should pursue the purchase of this land to expand the size of Kenwood Heights Park. If this additional land were purchased, other park amenities such as open play soccer and baseball fields and a lighted basketball court could be developed. These other amenities would expand the recreational potential for the park.

Thanks to the work of Foresters, the City of Rowlett, the Rowlett Partners Foundation and KaBOOM!, children and their families now have this wonderful playground and park for their enjoyment. Partnerships and funding avenues that made Kenwood Heights a successful process should be mimicked and utilized in the future for continued successful development.

## LAKE HIGHLAND GREENBELT

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park (undeveloped)

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: Dalrock and Bridgewater

Comments – Open drainage/low level area that runs to Lake Ray Hubbard. Open space with a scenic view that sits between two neighborhoods with a creek running through it.

**Current Amenities:**

- None

**Parking:** Off-Street: 0 spaces

On-Street: 0 spaces

Handicap: 0 spaces

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

This could be a starting point for creating a trail system from this point extending north through Cedar Bridge Park ending at Peninsula Greenbelt

- Trail connecting Lake Highlands Greenbelt to Cedar Bridge Park
- Possible lighting
- Picnic tables
- Parking
- Gazebo



# LAKESIDE PARK

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park (developed)

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: 6601 Miller Road
- Year Built: 1996
- Size of Park: 1.47 Acres

Located in sector 2 (southeast quadrant) of Rowlett

Comments – South of Paddle Point Park, Lakeside Park is a linear-shaped park consisting of many attractive amenities. The volleyball facility is well kept and all the picnic tables are positioned with a quality view of the water. There is an abundance of shade due to the mature trees and a trail that runs the entire park. A large fishing pier allows enhances park appeal.

**Current Amenities:**

- ½ Mile concrete path
- 1 sand volleyball court
- 1 playground unit
- 1 fishing pier
- 5 picnic units
- barbeque grills
- 2 benches

**Parking:** Off-Street: 0 spaces  
On-Street: 36 spaces  
Handicap: 3 spaces



**Recommended Park Improvements:**

- More intermittent parking which would help avoid congestion
- Possible lighting for safety

## MAYORS PARK

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park (undeveloped)

**Location and essential Information:**

- Address: 8600 Dalrock Rd.
- Size: 5.8 Acres
- Built: Undeveloped

**Park Description:** Mayors Park is the northern most undeveloped park. The park is flat with Pecan Trees which would look really nice once the park is developed to provide users with shade. A main focus in development should be to work around the trees and design the park to incorporate their shade canopies.

**Current Amenities:**

- None

**Park Improvement Recommendations:**

- Hard surface walking trail.
- Play ground
- Pavilion
- Water fountain
- Irrigation for vegetation
- Lush lawn in open space
- Proper grading for drainage
- Benches near playground and along trail



# MUDDY CREEK OPEN SPACE

**Type of Park:** Regional Park

Muddy Creek Open Space is located in sector 3 (NE quadrant) of Rowlett.

## Location and Essential Information:

- Address: Liberty Grove
- Year Build: Undeveloped
- Size of Park: 300 acres

## Park Description

The Muddy Creek Open Space is dedicated as a nature preserve located at the mouth of the Muddy Creek inlet to Lake Ray Hubbard extending north along the various tributaries of Muddy Creek to the Rowlett city limits. The vegetation, wildlife and topography of the park is expansive and the area has the potential to be developed into ecologically friendly park. Most of the parkland is located within the 100 year Flood plain and the dense vegetation provides a roosting home for many birds, making the park an ideal bird watching location. With good design intervention, the open space can become an inviting destination for bird watchers, nature enthusiasts and hikers.

The value of Muddy Creek Open Space is best exemplified in a note prepared by the Park Director at the time of its dedication: "Preserving the Muddy Creek area as a designated City park would retain and preserve a large nature floodplain forest adjacent to Lake Ray Hubbard. A floodplain forest adjacent to a body of water removes air and water pollutants, slows floodwaters, reduces air temperature and adds to scenic and recreational diversity. These benefits are not restricted to adjacent property owners, but extend to any user of water from the lake and any recreational user of the lake. Preservation of the Muddy Creek within Rowlett's geographical boundary will promote the preservation of fish and wildlife resources for use by present and future generations."



**Existing Facilities in the Park:** There are currently no amenities at Muddy Creek Open Space.

**Recommended Park Improvements:** Improvements will be done during the development of Muddy Creek Open Space. Suggested amenities for development of this park include:

- Hard and soft surface walking trails
- An access road and parking for 40 cars
- Large Group Pavilion
- An Environmental interpretative Pavilion or the Rowlett Environmental Learning Center
- Boardwalks and look-out piers
- Bird watching/observation area
- Indigenous landscaping plantings
- Proper lighting and signage

Planning and design options for the Muddy Creek Open Space should be limited to a minimum in order to allow "nature to speak to itself" and to respect the ecology of the park. One of the focal points of the park should be an environmental center to attract those interested in learning more about the natural ecology and ecosystems in the park. Given that the Rowlett Environmental Learning Center (RELC) has not yet been build, the Muddy Creek Open Space may prove to be a better location for the RELC considering the park's variety of wildlife, vegetation and classification as an Open Space Preserve. Other elements many include soft surface walking trails and bird watching hides. Access to the park should be limited to both visitors and vehicles in order to preserve the area.

Given the limited extent of open water within the park, the main focus should be on the plant, bird and animal life within the area. When there is accessible open water, look-outs and boardwalks should be considered. Ultimately, much of the development of Muddy Creek Open Space should be left in its natural state.



## NATURE TRAIL

**Type of Park:** Regional Trail

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: Miller & Dexham
- Size: 66 Acres
- Built: 1985

**Park Description:** It is a linear form park with a trail that runs along the east side of the park property. There is a small stagnate pond that is located at the front of the parking lot. The parking lot is in formal and shares its space with an old compost bin. The trail is approximately 10 feet wide with a fence on one side and a thick wooded area on the other. There is not signage identifying plants or animals you may see along the trail.



**Current Amenities:**

- 1.5 mile 8' decomposed granite walking path
- 1 Bench
- 6 parking spaces

**Park Improvement Recommendations:**

- Link the Nature Trail with existing trail in Springfield Park to provide egress from the surrounding community in to the Nature Trail.
- Place a water fountain at the beginning and end of the trail.
- Install new signage for identifying plants and animals native to the environment.
- Recommend upgrading to a stone sign for the entrance of the park.
- Eliminate the composting bin or rebuild it and maintain it properly.
- Install proper aeration to eliminate stagnation in the pond by the front parking lot.

- Install lighting in the front entrance and along the trail.
- Eliminate the white wooden barrier fencing and integrate a more natural barrier.
- Provide users with defined walk ways around the pond and multiple sitting areas that are installed with a buffer zone between the pond bank and the bench.
- Clear out a 20' buffer zone of brush all the way around the pond and down the west side of the trail. (This will allow the trail to feel more open without losing the natural beauty of the trees. Also for educational purposes it allows people to explore farther in off the trail."



# PADDLE POINT PARK

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park (undeveloped)

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: 6600 Miller Road
- Size of Park: 1.47 Acres

Paddle Point Park is located in sector 2 (southeast quadrant) of Rowlett

**Comments:** The park is set along the shores of Lake Ray Hubbard near Lakeside Park and just south of the railway line. This serves as a fishing site as well as a dock access point for small boats to the lake. There is easy access from Miller Road into the park with a small gravel/dirt parking lot. The boat access is made of wood and only serves small boats.

**Current Amenities:** none

**Parking:** Off-Street: 8 spaces  
On-Street: 0 spaces  
Handicap: 0 spaces

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

- Paved parking
- Paved ramp
- Picnic tables
- Fishing/loading dock



# PECAN GROVE PARK

**Type of Park:** Community Park

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: 5300 Main St..
- Size: 27 acres
- Built: Developed

**Park Information:**

Pecan Grove Park encompasses many recreational amenities. It is adjacent to the Rowlett Community Centre as well as the Wet Zone and is home to the Coyle Farmstead.

**Current Amenities:**

- One competitive soccer field
- One mile of hiking and biking trails
- Kids Kingdom play structure
- Picnic tables
- Open space
- Specimen pecan trees

**Parking:**           Off-Street:       x spaces  
                          On-Street:       0 spaces  
                          Handicap:        x spaces

**Park Improvement Recommendations:**

- Improve Kid’s Kingdom
- Water fountains
- Horseshoe pits
- Trail Improvements
- Benches



# ROWLETT COMMUNITY CENTER

**Type of Park:** Recreation Center

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: 5300 Main St..
- Built: Developed

The Rowlett Community Centre is located at the east end of Main Street, just past Kirby Road and Rowlett High School. The Rowlett Community Centre is next door to Wet Zone Waterpark and Pecan Grove Park.

**Description:**

The Rowlett Community Centre is a state-of-the-art facility offering a wide variety of services for everyone, from preschoolers to senior citizens. The Rowlett Community Centre strives to provide services to the community through our Facility Amenities that include a fitness room, indoor walking track, gyms, racquetball courts, game room and banquet / classrooms.

Many programs and Athletics opportunities are available at the Community Centre.

**Current Amenities:**

- Fitness room
- Two full-size gymnasiums
- Two racquetball courts
- Indoor walking / jogging track
- Game room
- Child’s Play (drop-in childcare)
- Multipurpose / banquet / meeting rooms
- Locker rooms with showers
- Programs for the whole family
- Free wireless internet

**Parking:** Off-Street: Yes (parking lot)

Handicap: Yes

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

- Deck replacement
- Concrete resurfacing
- New basketball goals
- Technology enhancements
- Acoustic improvements



# ROWLETT COMMUNITY PARK

**Type of Park:** Community Park (developed)

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: 8500 St. Andrews
- Year Built: 1993
- Size of Park: 137 acres



Rowlett Community Park is located in sector 3 (north east quadrant) of Rowlett

**Comments** – A well-balance park with athletic areas (softball, soccer, basketball) and passive areas (pavilion, piers) for a variety of recreation. The focus upon entry is the landfill behind the park.

**Current Amenities:**

- 8 softball fields (competitive)
- 3 basketball full courts
- 14 soccer fields (competitive)
- 1.1 mile 6' concrete walkway
- Playgrounds
- Horseshoe pits
- 2 volleyball sand courts
- 2 fishing piers
- 1 large pavilion
- 18 picnic units
- 11 barbeque grills
- 44 benches
- 16 bleachers
- 6 drinking fountains
- 2 foot bridges
- 2 recreation/retention ponds
- 2 concession buildings
- restroom facilities

**Parking:** Off-Street 824 spaces  
 On-Street 0 spaces  
 Handicap 22 spaces

Based on the current supply of parking, Rowlett Community Park is in compliance with the ADA requirement for parking.

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

- General clean up near bridge; trash in the water
- Native landscaping (color)
- Remove portable restrooms; install restrooms near soccer complex
- Aeration for pond
- Additional mulch at playground to decrease foot drop
- 10' stopper fence behind soccer goals
- Water fountain/shade at basketball courts and soccer fields
- Irrigation, native landscaping (color/flowers). The ground is cracked and dry, the trees are suffering.
- Verify ADA Guidelines.



# R. ARNOLD EDWARDS PARK

**Type of Park:** Pocket Park (undeveloped)

Twin Star Park is located in sector 1 (SW quadrant) of Rowlett.

- Address: 5600 Azalea
- Size of Park: 8 acres

## Park Description

R. Arnold Edwards Park is located at Tulip and Azalea Lane. Because of the housing developments and privately owned land surrounding the park it is boxed in to form a linear park. There is a main point of access on Azalea Lane. The topography of the park includes well established trees and 3 existing ponds.

**Existing Facilities in the Park:** none

## Recommended Improvements

Due to the location of the park the following recommendations should be taken into consideration:

- Improved signage
- A small parking lot to accommodate neighborhood traffic
- 8 feet multipurpose walking and biking trails
- Pavilions
- Landscape and irrigation
- Playground

## Additional Information

To help support the community and the look of the neighborhood in the interim of park being built, the City of Rowlett should maintain the front entry to curb the unsightly undergrowth



## SCENIC POINT PARK

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park (undeveloped)

Scenic Point Park is located in sector 3 (NE quadrant) of Rowlett.

### Location and Essential Information:

- Address: Old Highway 67
- Year Built: Undeveloped
- Size of Park: 8.6 acres

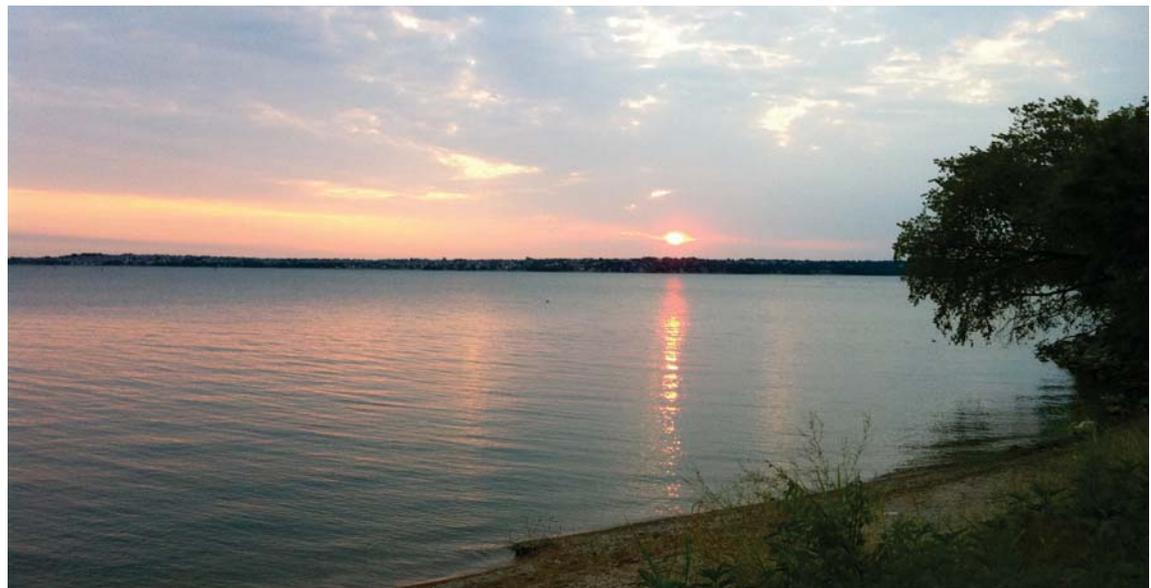
**Comments** – A quiet, secluded park located along the shoreline of Lake Ray Hubbard. Residents have placed temporary seating, benches and boat ramps at this location. It appears that the home developer is selling the unfinished property for residential and commercial.

**Current Amenities:** None

**Parking:** Off-Street: 0 spaces  
On-Street: 0 spaces  
Handicap: 0 spaces

### Recommended Park Improvements:

- Intimate viewing spaces along the shoreline
- Medium-sized pavilion with benches, grill
- Fishing piers
- Landscaping/irrigation from the lake
- Soft surface trail
- Upgrade existing boat ramp
- Parking/access to park
- Fish cleaning station
- ADA Guidelines



# SCHRADE BLUEBONNET PARK

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park (undeveloped)

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: 4701 Sunny Brook
- Year Built: Undeveloped
- Size of Park: 4.9 Acres

Schrade Bluebonnet Park is located in sector 2 (southeast quadrant) of Rowlett

Comments – The park sits next to a neighborhood to the north and a line of trees to the west. Sunny Brook lies on the east of the park with a house to the south. It is flat land that looks as if it were open pasture at one point. There are no trees within the open space.

**Current Amenities:**

- none

**Parking:** Off-Street: 0 spaces  
On-Street: 0 spaces  
Handicap: 0 spaces

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

The open area allows for a quality neighborhood park with plenty of room for amenities such as:

- Parking lot
- Trails
- Playground
- Picnic pavilion
- Basketball court
- Trees/landscape
- Baseball backstop



# SPRINGFIELD PARK

**Type of Park:** Community Park (developed)

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: 5501 Antioch
- Size: 117 Acres
- Located in sector 3 of the northwest quadrant

**Park Information and Recommendations**

Springfield Park was built in a flood plane in 1985; it provides the community with athletic fields as well as open space, fishing ponds and walking/running/biking trails

**Current Amenities:**

- 1 Backstop
- 3 Soccer fields
- 1 Football field
- 1.7 Miles of 6" concrete trail
- 1 Playground
- 7 Benches
- 1 Drinking fountain
- 2 Foot bridges
- 2 Retention ponds
- 1 Restroom facility
- Area for dedicated bat preservation
- Disc golf Course
- 1 Large pavilion and 1 small pavilion
- 2 Covered picnic units and 5 uncovered picnic units
- 4 barbeque grills
- Remote control flying field

<b>Parking:</b> Off-Street:	36 spaces
On-Street:	0 spaces
Handicap:	4 spaces

**Park Improvement Recommendations:**

Due to the location of the park the following recommendations should be taken into consideration:

- Improved signage
- A small parking lot on the north side of the park to accommodate neighborhood traffic
- Change the goal of the park to become an athletic complex
- Additional pavilions close to the ponds
- Landscape and irrigation
- Fenced in playing fields
- Lighting of playing fields and walking trails
- Aeration of the ponds to prevent stagnation
- Fishing docks for ponds
- Additional playing/practice fields north of the ponds
- Additional water fountains every ¼ mile
- Improved/more parking

The north part of the park featured below would make for a great extension of the sports fields. The trees in the background provide a natural wind break which would be beneficial for soccer fields.



# SHOREWOOD PARK

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: Woodlake Dr. and Williams Way
- Year Built: Developed
- Size of Park: 14 Acres

Shorewood Park is located in sector 2 (southeast quadrant) of Rowlett

**Current Amenities:**

- One backstop
- One-half basketball court
- One barbecue grill
- One in-line hockey rink
- Handicapped parking
- Off-street parking
- One small pavilion with one picnic table
- Two uncovered picnic tables
- One playground unit
- Restrooms
- Three practice soccer fields
- 0.5 miles of hiking and biking trails
- Open space

**Parking:** Off-Street: Yes  
Handicap: Yes

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

- Improve/update signage
- Improve/update play equipment and amenities



# SUNSET PARK

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park (undeveloped)

Park is located in sector 3 (NE quadrant) of Rowlett.

- Address: 6301 Montego Dr.
- Year Built: Undeveloped
- Size of Park: 6 acres

## Park Description

Although Sunset Park is somewhat small, the uniqueness of its location and orientation gives the park the potential to be a true neighborhood park. The park has a remarkable view and access to Lake Ray Hubbard and is situated at the end of a cul-de-sac residential street. As the name suggests the park also faces west and will be an ideal location to enjoy a sunset and the scenic view of the lake. The park also gradually slopes down from the access street towards a large grassy opening. This topography provides a dramatic feel to the park and provides an almost unobstructed view of the lake from the top of the park.

## Existing Facilities in the Park

- None

**Parking:** Off-Street: 0 spaces  
 On-Street: 0 spaces  
 Handicap: 0 spaces



## Recommended Park Improvements:

Suggested amenities for development of this park include:

- Hard surface walking trails
- Fishing pier
- Shoreline boardwalk
- Lighted picnic pavilion
- Children’s playground
- Water fountains for playground
- On-Street parking for 10-12 cars
- Irrigation and Indigenous landscaping planting
- Proper signage and lighting
- Trimming of trees and underbrush located along lakeshore
- An outdoor amphitheater and stage
- Seating along the lakeshore
- Seating along the top/road access of the park

Given the natural shape of the park it would be an ideal location to build an outdoor amphitheater. Additionally, the amphitheater seating would also provide an area to watch the sunset at night.

The park improvements for this site include a wooden boardwalk and observation/fishing pier at the water edge. The idea is to provide close contact with the water and shoreline, especially where the immediate water edge is wetland and marsh like.

## Additional Information

There is some overgrowth along the lakeshore that currently obscures part of the view of the lake. There are many large trees and bushes that need to be either trimmed back or cut down in order to have a proper view the lake from the park.

Sunset Park could serve as a future trailhead that would connect with Muddy Creek Open Space. However, additional land must be acquired in order to achieve this connection. It should also be noted that additional park will be necessary if the park is to serve as a trailhead in the future.



# TWIN STAR PARK

**Type of Park:** Neighborhood Park

**Location and Essential Information:**

- Address: 19 Armstrong Lane
- Year Built: 2003
- Size of Park: 5 acres

Twin Star Park is located in sector 3 (NE quadrant) of Rowlett.

A wonderful neighborhood park surrounded by homes. The central star shaped plaza serves as the focal point in the park. Trees include Chinese Pistachio, Cedar Elm and Ginko Biloba.

**Existing Facilities in the Park:**

- 1 in-line hockey rink
- 1 playground with wood chip safety material
- 0.25 mile 6' wide concrete walkway
- 1 picnic unit
- 2 benches

**Parking:** Off-Street: 0 spaces  
On-Street: +/- 10 spaces  
Handicap: 0 spaces

**Recommended Park Improvements:**

- Shade trees with seating near the walkway
- Water fountain
- Benches near the playground (they are near the inline rink)
- Bike rack
- Updated playground
- Shade benches on the perimeter of the star; artistic focus of the park
- Irrigation, native landscaping (color/flowers). The ground is cracked and dry, the trees are suffering. Landscaped beds as you approach the park (the grass area triangles).
- Verify ADA Guidelines.



## VETERANS PARK

**Type of Park:** Pocket Park

Veterans Park is located in sector 1 (SW quadrant) of Rowlett.

- Address: 3944 Main St.
- Year Built: 2003
- Size of Park: 1 acre



### Park Description

Veterans Park is located in the middle of downtown Rowlett. The park not only commemorates and honors U.S. Veterans but it also provides relief to a built-up area. Although the park is small with a relatively narrow configuration, the design of the park allows visitors to quietly and respectfully reflect and pay their respects to veterans. The memorial fountain, which runs the length of the park from Main Street until just past the Rowlett water tower, provides a dramatic element to the park as it guides visitors to the service memorial area with flags from each branch of the armed forces. The Rowlett water tower is also a prominent feature of Veterans Park. It is located centrally within the park and is one of only many community elements, such as the city library, that surround the park.

The topography of the park dramatically changes after the service memorial area, as the land suddenly slopes downward into a large open grassy area.

### Existing Facilities in the Park:

- 1 Bench
- 2 Water fountains
- A service memorial area with a plaque and a flag for each branch of the armed service

Veterans Park currently shares parking amenities with the Public Library. All amenities within Veterans Park meet ADA guidelines.

### Recommended Improvements

Improvements will be done during the development of Veterans Park. Suggested amenities for development of this park include:

- Additional seating along walkway
- A water fountain
- Indigenous landscaping planting
- Planter beds for flowers and seasonal floral vegetation
- Statues or art work
- Outdoor Amphitheater
- Gazebo

Although the development to Veterans Park has been a key improvement to the downtown area, the park has an incomplete feel to it. There are many features that could be added to improve the overall effect of the park. Along the walkway from Main Street to the service memorial area, there is lighting and concrete basins for statues, yet there are no service related or even art work statues.

There are also areas for benches along the same path but for the whole park there is only one bench for visitors to sit and reflect on. The park also abruptly ends after the service memorial area. There is a sidewalk that leads out the south side of the park that ends after only 5 feet.

The addition of an outdoor amphitheater at the south end of the park would provide much need community gathering space for both the park and the city library. The city could use the amphitheater to host the memorial service on Veterans or Memorial Day, while the city library could use the space to host outdoor activities and events. However, additional land may need to be acquired to achieve this feature.

### Additional Information

Veterans Park could serve as a future trailhead that would connect to other parks such as nearby Herfurth Park. However, additional land must be acquired in order to achieve this connection.



# WATERVIEW GOLF COURSE

**Type of Park:** Special Purpose Park

**Location and essential information:**

- Address: 9509 Waterview Pkwy.
- Size: 200 Acres
- Year Built: 2000

**Park Information:**

Waterview was transformed from a pasture into a gently rolling par-72, 7200-yard course. Designed by Gary Panks, Waterview features an exceptional championship layout and the acclaimed Nike Golf Learning Center.

**Current Amenities:**

- An 18-hole golf course
- A practice course
- A driving range
- A pro shop
- A snack bar
- Lakes / ponds
- Handicapped parking
- Off-street parking
- Restrooms

**Park Improvement Recommendations:**

- Update/Maintenance as needed



  
WATERVIEW  
GOLF CLUB

## WET ZONE ROWLETT'S FAMILY WATER PARK

**Type of Park:** Special Purpose Park

**Location and essential information:**

- Address: 5304 Main Street
- Size: 2 Acres
- Built: 2001



**Park Information:**

Wet Zone is a family water park that includes multiple tower slides, a large pool, a small pool, a lazy river, concession area, and a sand volleyball court.

**Current Amenities:**

- 1 large swimming pool
- 1 small swimming pool
- 1 sand volleyball court
- 1 large pavilion/ Birthday party shelter
- 3 small pavilions
- multiple seating areas
- 4 restroom facilities
- A secondary concession area that can accommodate the capacity of the new pavilions.
- Additional attractions that are in line with current aquatic trends.
- Perimeter landscape improvements. (Proper irrigation of turf inside and outside of the park.)

**Park Improvement Recommendations:**

- Additional Pavilions that can accommodate large parties (i.e. local schools, large child care facilities, and local summer camps.)
- Green space to provide additional areas for patrons to sprawl.
- Evaluation of filtration and circulation system to ensure it is compliant with current federal and local health codes.



The background of the slide is a photograph of a lake. In the foreground, there are several tall, thin reeds or grasses. In the middle ground, a body of water reflects the sky. In the background, a bird is captured in flight against a hazy, overcast sky. The overall color palette is muted, with greys, browns, and soft blues.

**chapter 5**

**needs assessment**

## needs assessment

In order to prepare this Master Plan, the needs of the community should be determined. This is a critical step in the Master planning process. The following approaches were used to determine the park, trail, open-space and recreation needs for Rowlett:

- **Demand-Based Needs** – uses information gathered from the public, as well as elected and appointed officials, to determine what the community demands/wants/needs to meet their recreational needs.
- **Standards-Based Needs** – uses standards established by NRPA to determine the needs of a given population.
- **Resource-Based Needs** – uses current resources and existing area-wide conditions to determine needs for a particular section or area of the community.

Each of these approaches is important in determining the needs of the community, but it represents only a part of the puzzle. Combining these approaches will help determine how the City will move forward in preparing their action plan for future park, trail, open-space and recreational development.

### demand-based needs

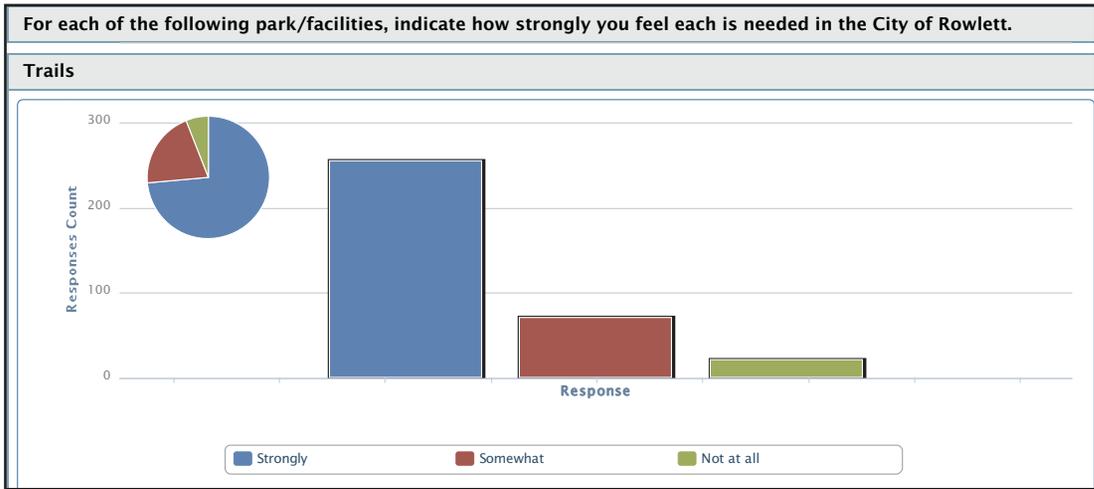
Demand-based needs are based on input from the public. Public feedback was gathered from public presentations, on-line surveys, and Park Development Board meetings.

The importance of public demand can not be stressed enough. Observing trends and knowing what the people want to see in regards to recreational items is a valuable



pulse to keep while continuing development of parks and recreation venues. The following graphs and charts exhibit some of the demand based needs derived from the survey results. As you will see, parks and trails are among the most important and most visited areas. While the public will gladly endorse improvements to trails, they made clear that a skate park is not necessarily a priority in their eyes. The following provide a snapshot into the public demand:

On average, which of the following do you visit at least once a month:		
Rowlett Community Centre	133 42.22%	<div style="width: 42.22%;"></div>
a Rowlett Park	194 61.59%	<div style="width: 61.59%;"></div>
a Rowlett Trail	90 28.57%	<div style="width: 28.57%;"></div>
a Rowlett Athletic field	43 13.65%	<div style="width: 13.65%;"></div>
Wet Zone Waterpark	53 16.83%	<div style="width: 16.83%;"></div>
Waterview Golf Club	19 6.03%	<div style="width: 6.03%;"></div>
*Survey results based on 315 responses		



As shown to the left, trails were strongly supported as a recreational item needed in the City of Rowlett. In comparison to other recreational items, trails ranked high in the percentage of support from the public.

The bar graph displayed on the previous page and the graph to the right both indicate parks are a popular recreation site for the public. While over 60% of respondents visit a park at least once a month, it appears Rowlett Community Park is the most popular one to visit.

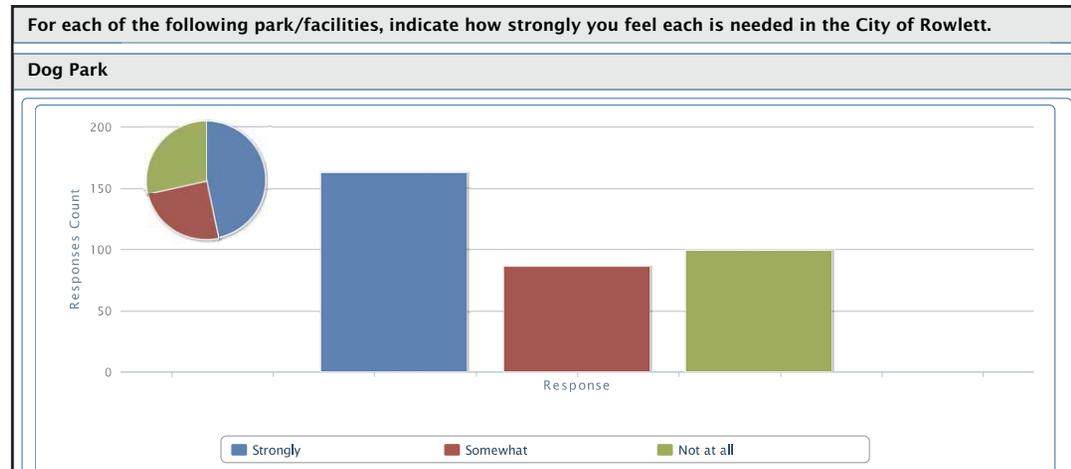
**Indicate all of the park and recreation sites you or someone in your household has used/visited within the past year, indicate all that apply:**

Herfurth Park	87	25.29%	<div style="width: 25.29%;"></div>
Isaac Scruggs Park	6	1.74%	<div style="width: 1.74%;"></div>
Katy Railroad Park	21	6.10%	<div style="width: 6.10%;"></div>
Lakes of Springfield Park	141	40.99%	<div style="width: 40.99%;"></div>
Paddle Point Park	26	7.56%	<div style="width: 7.56%;"></div>
Pecan Grove Park	147	42.73%	<div style="width: 42.73%;"></div>
Rowlett Community Park	205	59.59%	<div style="width: 59.59%;"></div>
Rowlett Nature Trail	119	34.59%	<div style="width: 34.59%;"></div>
Shorewood Park	28	8.14%	<div style="width: 8.14%;"></div>
Twin Star Park	25	7.27%	<div style="width: 7.27%;"></div>
Veteran's Park	40	11.63%	<div style="width: 11.63%;"></div>
Waterview Golf Course	53	15.41%	<div style="width: 15.41%;"></div>
None	20	5.81%	<div style="width: 5.81%;"></div>

\*Survey results based on 315 responses

Along with trails, the graph to the right indicates a strong public demand for a dog park. Approximately 72% either strongly or somewhat see a need for a dog park (47% of that response being strongly).

Other facilities that received strong votes as needed in Rowlett included additional playgrounds, athletic fields, and parks.



Indicate all the recreation programs that you or other adults in your household would participate if offered:

Basketball	50	15.67%
Softball	58	18.18%
Soccer	43	13.48%
In-line Hockey	11	3.45%
Disc Golf	49	15.36%
Volleyball	49	15.36%
Sand Volleyball	36	11.29%
Tennis	58	18.18%
Swim Lessons	83	26.02%
Walking	167	52.35%
Fitness Classes	165	51.72%
Dance Classes	110	34.48%
Arts & Craft Classes	91	28.53%
Health/Wellness Classes	98	30.72%
Nature/Outdoor Classes	120	37.62%
Trips	69	21.63%
Other	36	11.29%

\*Survey results based on 315 responses

The graph to the left shows recreation programs the public would like to see offered. It reiterates the sentiment for new or improved trails as the top recreation is walking. Close behind is fitness classes and third highest response is nature/outdoor classes.

## standard-based needs

The second criteria for evaluation of park and recreation needs are standards used across the United States. These standards have been established by the National Recreation and Parks Association in their *Park, Recreation, Open-space and Greenway Guidelines*. NRPA has established park-land standards for neighborhood, community, regional, linear/special-use parks and nature preserves based on acreage per 1000 population. NRPA has also established standards for a variety of park and recreation improvements based on facilities per population size. These standards established for park land and facilities were established as a guideline or target for communities to use in establishing their own standards based on local needs and requirements.

These standards were based on the current estimated population of 56,230 and population projections. Using the NRPA target standards as a guide, a target standard was established for Rowlett. **Table 5.5** identifies the Standards-Based needs Analysis for Park Acreage.



# ROWLETT 2011 PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN-SPACE MASTER PLAN

**Table 5.5 - Major Recreation Facility Standards**

Facility Type	Existing	Target NRPA Standard (1)	Target Rowlett Standard (2)	2009 (55,376 pop.)	2011 (56,230 pop.)	2014 (60,680 pop.)	2020 (67,046 pop.)
<b>Competitive Facilities</b>							
Baseball	10 fields	1 / 5,000 pop.	1 / 4,000 pop.	14 Fields (deficit of 4 fields) (28% deficit)	14 Fields (deficit of 4 fields) (28% deficit)	15 Fields (deficit of 5 fields) (33% deficit)	17 Fields (deficit of 7 fields) (41% deficit)
Softball	4 fields	1 / 5,000 pop.	1 / 5,000 pop.	11 Fields (deficit of 7 fields) 63% deficit	11 Fields (deficit of 7 fields) 63% deficit	12 Fields (deficit of 8 field) 67% deficit	13 Fields (deficit of 9 fields) (69% deficit)
Soccer	12 fields	1 / 10,000 pop.	1 / 3,000 pop.	18 fields (deficit of 6 fields) (33% deficit)	18 fields (deficit of 6 field) (33% deficit)	20 Fields (deficit of 8 field) (40% deficit)	22 Fields (deficit of 8 fields) (36% deficit)
Football	1 field +1 school	1 / 20,000 pop.	1 / 25,000 pop.	2 Fields (no deficit)	2 Fields (no deficit)	2 Fields (no deficit)	3 Fields (deficit of 1 fields) (33% deficit)
<b>Practice Facilities</b>							
Baseball/Softball	4 city + 3 schools		1 / 4,000 pop.	14 Fields (deficit of 7 fields) (50% deficit)	14 Fields (deficit of 7 fields) (50% deficit)	15 Fields (deficit of 8 fields) (53% deficit)	17 Fields (deficit of 10 fields) (59% deficit)
Soccer	7 city + 2 schools		1 / 3,000 pop.	18 Fields (deficit of 11 fields) (61% deficit)	19 Fields (deficit of 10 fields) (53% deficit)	20 Fields (deficit of 11 fields) (55% deficit)	22 Fields (deficit of 13 fields) (59% deficit)
Football	2 city + 4 schools		1 / 10,000	6 Fields (no deficit)	6 Fields (no deficit)	6 Fields (no deficit)	7 Fields (deficit of 1 field)

Note: Based on population projections for Rowlett as Stated on NCTCOG.org

- (1) Source: National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA); J. Mertes and J. Hall; Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines; 1995 and Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines; 1983.
- (2) General goals for comparison purposes only. Standard allow city to establish general target service levels.

## Other Recreation Facilities

Basketball (Outdoor)	8 city (3 full, 10 half ct.) + 7.5 schools (3 full, 9 half ct.) Total = 15.5 courts	1 / 5,000 pop.	1 / 3,000 pop.	18 Courts (deficit of 2.5 courts) (14% deficit)	19 Courts (deficit of 3.5 courts) (18% deficit)	20 Courts (deficit of 4.5 courts) (23% deficit)	22 Courts (deficit of 6.5 courts) (20% deficit)
Sand Volleyball (Outdoor)	4 city	1 / 5,000 pop.	1 / 8,000 pop.	7 Courts (deficit of 3 courts) (43% deficit)	7 Courts (deficit of 3 courts) (43% deficit)	8 Courts (deficit of 4 courts) (50% deficit)	8 Courts (deficit of 4 courts) (50% deficit)
Tennis Courts	4 city (unlit) + 6 at High School (3 lit)	1 / 2,000 pop.	1 / 3,000 pop.	18 Courts (deficit of 8 courts) (44% deficit)	18 Courts (deficit of 8 courts) (44% deficit)	20 Courts (deficit of 10 courts) (50% deficit)	22 Courts (deficit of 12 courts) (56% deficit)
In-Line Hockey	3 city (unlit)	1 / 20,000 pop.	1 / 20,000 pop.	3 Rink (no deficit)	3 Rink (no deficit)	3 Rink (no deficit)	3 Rink (no deficit)
Golf Courses	1 city		18 holes / 25,000	2 x 18 holes (deficit of 1 x 18 holes) (50 % deficit)	2 x 18 holes (deficit of 1 x 18 holes) (50 % deficit)	2 x 18 holes (deficit of 1 x 18 holes) (50 % deficit)	3 x 18 holes (deficit of 2 x 18 holes) (66% deficit)
Swimming Pools	1.5 city (unlit)	1 / 20,000 pop.	1 / 20,000 pop.	3 Pools (deficit of 1.5 pool) (50% deficit)			
Recreation Center	1 city	1 / 20,000 pop.	1 / 25,000 pop.	2 Centers (deficit of 1 center) (50 % deficit)	2 Centers (deficit of 1 center) (50 % deficit)	2 Centers (deficit of 1 center) (50 % deficit)	3 Centers (deficit of 2 center) (66% deficit)
Paved Trails	6.3 miles	1 mile / 10,000 pop.	1 mile / 2,000 pop.	28 miles (deficit of 21.7 miles) (78% deficit)	28 miles (deficit of 21.7 miles) (78% deficit)	30 miles (deficit of 23.7 miles) (79% deficit)	34 miles (deficit of 27.7 miles) (81% deficit)
Playgrounds	10 city + 14 School + 6 HOA	1 / 1,000 pop.	1 / 1,000 pop.	55 Playgrounds (deficit of 25 playgrounds) (45% deficit)	56 Playgrounds (deficit of 25 playgrounds) (45% deficit)	61 Playgrounds (deficit of 31 playgrounds) (51% deficit)	67 Playgrounds (deficit of 37 playgrounds) (55% deficit)
Large Pavilions/ Picnic Shelter	4 city	1 / 2,000 pop.	1 / 4,000 pop.	14 Pavilions (deficit of 10 pavilions) (71% deficit)	14 Pavilions (deficit of 10 pavilions) (71% deficit)	15 Pavilions (deficit of 11 pavilions) (73% deficit)	17 Pavilions (deficit of 13 pavilions) (76% deficit)

### resource-based needs

The City of Rowlett has three unique features that should be preserved and adapted for recreational use and open space preservation where feasible. These are the shores of Lake Ray Hubbard, the major creeks in the city and the railroad right-of-way (R.O.W.)

Lake Ray Hubbard – This man-made feature is the single most important visual, environmental and recreational element in the City of Rowlett. It provides Rowlett with a unique identity making visitors want to enjoy vistas over the water surface and close contact with the water edge. It is significant and encouraging noting that the second goal of the City of Rowlett Goals for the fiscal year 2003-2004 as adopted by Resolution 8-19-03J, reads: “Enhance Shoreline Opportunities”

Citizens approached the City during 1999 to secure a sub-lease agreement for the use of the land between the City of Dallas’ take line and shoreline of Lake Ray Hubbard. An inter-local agreement was subsequently established. The implication of this agreement is that it places a limitation on direct public access to the water edge. In addition it prohibits public access along continuous stretches of shoreline. Most of the shoreline is now dedicated to sub-leasing and available for their exclusive use if the abutting landowners choose to sub-lease pre-defined sections of the area between the take line and shoreline.

Certain areas along the shoreline have not been made available for sub-leasing. If not done so already, it is suggested that the City take action to secure these areas for future public use.

It is also suggested that at crucial locations the City partners with the landowners to allow limited public access especially on the sub-leased areas for the purpose of hike and bike trails.

It is further recommended that the City acquires land for the creation of Shoreline Parks categorized as Special Purpose Parks. Not only will the above actions secure public access and enjoyment of Lake Ray Hubbard, it will also add significantly to the outside perception of Rowlett as a city desirable to visit, work and live.



The City’s vision for the future waterfront commercial and entertainment districts will add significant public access to Lake Ray Hubbard. From this it is clear that the City realizes the potential of the water edge and shoreline to add to the unique character of Rowlett.

Utilizing the shoreline of Lake Ray Hubbard more effectively will assist in answering the need for both Special Purpose Parks and Linear Parks.

The Creek and Drainage System – The creek and drainage system of the City of Rowlett is unique in that all empty into Lake Ray Hubbard. Hiking or biking downstream along a tree-covered waterway that suddenly opens up towards the expanse of the lake water can only be described as spectacular and thrilling. It is an opportunity that should be utilized and encouraged to its utmost.

The nature of creek and drainage systems is that they are linear and thus ideal corridors for activities like hiking, jogging and biking. The city should make serious effort to secure functional corridors along all creeks and drainage systems.

The key corridor criteria should be:

- Acquire development rights to the 100-year floodplain to prevent unrestricted encroachment on the creek and destruction of the forested areas along the creek. Outright purchase of property is not required, but rather donation as un-developable or the purchase of development rights is recommended. The implication is that the City becomes the custodians of the land by holding the development rights in perpetuity with an agreement that it will never be developed. The model of the Texas Nature Conservancy may be followed in acquiring these development rights.
- Also preserve where possible secondary tributary streams or swales that can create linkage “fingers” to adjacent neighborhoods.
- Work with development interests to create linear vehicular and pedestrian parkways along the edges of the floodplain, rather than backing lots up to the wooded areas. Parkway open the creek area up for the benefit and enjoyment of all, and not just a few residents. Ultimately, the monetary gain by selling a few creek lots is offset by a higher potential sales price for all lots because of the creek amenity.
- Create “node” parks at key intersection of the creek and tributaries that feed into it.
- Create linear trail segments in phases.

Developing creeks and drainage corridors will assist in answering the need for linear parks in the city as well as provide the opportunity for the development of hike and bike trail which rates as second on the telephone survey list of importance.

Rail right-of-way – Two characteristics of a rail right-of-way make it ideal as a hike and bike trail: its linear nature and gentle topography change. An added aesthetic value of a rail right-of-way is that trees along its length often provide special character and natural interest.

The City of Rowlett is fortunate to have a railroad that stretches across the entire width city from east to west. Its use as a freight line and future DART line places limitations on the use of the right-of-way. However it has been negotiated successfully with rail authorities at other places in the State of Texas – specifically in around the City of Dallas. DART has published a policy with reference to the use of rail right-of-ways under their jurisdiction (see Appendix D: Miscellaneous).

The minimum distance allowed between rail track centerline and edge of trail is often set at 25 feet. Should it pose an obstacle in Rowlett, the city should consider acquiring easements along the rail right-of-way. Most properties have their backs turned to the rail right-of-way, which are typically regarded as the less desirable part of these properties – physically as well as economically – to the benefit of the city, should they pursue acquiring such land.

Developing the rail right-of-way may assist in answering the need for linear parks in the city.







chapter 6

**trail plan**

## trail plan



The goal of the Rowlett trail plan is to identify a connected system of potential corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists in order to provide recreational opportunity as well as transportation choices, enhancing the quality of life available to all Rowlett residents.

The primary objective of this study has been the identification of potential connections from residential neighborhoods to local schools, parks, the future DART station and other key destinations such as shopping, work, or simply visiting friends and family.

This citywide trail plan intends to provide greenway connections with present and future development wherever possible. Creek corridors, roadway rights-of-way, and utility easements in both developed and undeveloped areas have been considered.

### Existing Trails in Rowlett Today

Existing trails in Rowlett today include the following segments (excluding walkways less than 0.5 miles):

- Lake Side Park South – 0.5 mile trail segment internal and along the edge of Lake Ray Hubbard
- Shorewood Park – 0.5 mile internal concrete trail
- Pecan Grove Park – 1 mile internal concrete trail
- Rowlett Community Park – 1.1 mile internal concrete trail
- Springfield Park – 1.7 mile concrete trail segment internal and along side Rowlett Creek
- Nature Trail – 1.5 mile decomposed granite trail

These segments constitute a total of 6.3 miles.

### Need Assessment of Trails

As highlighted in the needs assessment, the survey response indicated the use and desire for more trails was popular among those surveyed. The standard base needs also show a large deficit in paved trails based on the current and projected population. It is important that both public and standard needs are met. This plan is to help implementation of such projects to meet those needs.

### Proposed Trail Segments for Rowlett

Rowlett has many potential trail corridors associated with the following situations:

- Streams, creeks and drainage ways
- Shoreline trails
- Utility right of ways
- Streets and roads

Key corridors for trail development include Rowlett Creek as a connection between the Nature Trail and Springfield Park and a connection between Rowlett Community Park and Sunset Park via Muddy Creek Open Space.

The proposed segments are ranked to reflect potential public use of the corridors, linkage from residential neighborhoods to parks, schools, and other key destinations, potential trail interconnections, present and potential development patterns and the degree of public interest in particular trail segments. Rankings are divided into three categories:

- Near Term (1st priority) – anticipated construction within the next 5 years;
- Mid-Term (2nd priority) – anticipated construction within a 5 to 10-year timeframe; and
- Long Term (3rd priority) – anticipated construction in more than 10 years.

## Trails along Creeks and Drainage Ways

### ***Near term***

- Downtown loop - Main street from Herfurth Park west; down the creek west of Rowlett Road to Rowlett/Miller intersection; via sacred heart cemetery to Main Street
- Connection between Nature Trail and Springfield Park along Rowlett Creek

### ***Mid-term***

- Trail system along drainage ways in the Rowlett Extra Terrestrial Jurisdiction
- Creek from Kirby road to Miller/Rowlett intersection
- West side of Muddy Creek Open Space Creek along the northside of R. Arnold Edwards Park to Lake Ray Hubbard
- Inter-jurisdictional Connection between Muddy Creek and Sachse
- Main street to Springfield park via Wedgewood Park and Dorsey Elementary school
- Creek from Hefurth Park under future HWY190, south of Rowlett High School to Lake Ray Hubbard
- Drainage way via Cedar Bridge Park

### ***Long term***

- Creek from the trailer park to Parsons Elementary School
- Drainage way via Cullins/Lake Pointe Elementary School
- Creek between Hickox road and Lake Ray Hubbard

## Trails along the Shoreline

### ***Near term***

- Trail along Scenic Point Park
- Trail along Lakeside Park North
- Connection between Rowlett Community Park and Sunset Park via Muddy Creek with connections to Rowlett Environmental Learning Center, Steadham Elementary, Schrade Middle and Keely Elementary Schools

### ***Mid-term***

- Trail in and around the Waterfront Commercial district
- Trail in and around the Waterfront Entertainment district
- Trail along the entire Rowlett Extra Terrestrial Jurisdiction shoreline

## Trails along Roads

### ***Near term***

- Frontage roads along the future HWY 190 sectors
- Mid-term
- Chiesa Road between Liberty Grove and Route 66
- Connection from Rowlett Road to Nature Trail via Rowlett Elementary
- Connection between Herfurth and Pecan Grove Park over HWY 190
- Miller road from Dalrock Road to Nature Trail with inter-jurisdictional connection to Garland
- Chiesa road between Route 66 and Robertson Park
- Liberty Grove Road between the future HWY190 and Schrade Road; up to Rowlett Community Park via Waterview Golf Course
- Connection between Muddy Creek and Springfield Park via Liberty Grove and Hickox via James Back Elementary School
- Connection between Main street and Miller road along Stephens elementary school
- Connection between Herfurth Park and Sacred heart cemetery
- Rowlett road from Miller intersection to Lake Ray Hubbard and inter-jurisdictional connection with Garland
- Lakeside Park South to Miller road via Garner and Windward Roads
- Chaha road from Nature Trail to Lake Ray Hubbard
- Connection between Main Street and Dexham road via Katy Railroad Park
- Connection between Rail ROW and Dalrock road via Garner Park
- Dalrock road between Miller Road and Liberty Grove

## **Long term**

- Schrade road Connection between Chiesa and Dalrock
- Connection between Chiesa and Dalrock via Parsons Elementary School
- Connection between Keely Elementary School and Rowlett Community Park
- Trails to connect to the future school and potential athletic field complex in sector 4
- Completion of loop between Liberty Grove and future Community Park via Toler road
- Inter-jurisdictional connection between Miller Road and Sachse via Dexham and Castle Roads
- Short connection between Miller road and the Nature Trail

## **Trails along existing and newly acquired Easements and R.O.W.'s**

### **Near term**

- Rail ROW connecting the City from east to west
- Lakeside Park North to Chiesa road

### **Long term**

- Shorewood Park to Lake Ray Hubbard across Dalrock road



## **Trail Prioritization Criteria**

The prioritization of the various trail segments are based on the following criteria.

- Key corridor link
- Links to school, park, or other key destinations
- Links multiple jurisdictions (Dallas County, Rockwall County, Garland, Sachse or Rockwall)
- Connects with other existing or proposed trails
- Links with the Six Cities Trail
- Links with a Lake Cities Trail that connects all cities that fronts on Lake Ray Hubbard
- Extent of “public use” – floodplain, roadway right of way, utility easement, rail right of way
- Potential for development with private development
- Riparian habitat or scenic value
- Lake Ray Hubbard shoreline

## **Trail Plan Recommendations**

The following trail recommendations are made to begin to implement a city-wide trail system in Rowlett.

**Target construction goal** - Construct a minimum of 5 to 10 miles of linear greenbelt trail corridors over the next 5 years. At \$500,000 to 650,000 per mile for a major concrete trail, the estimated cost of 4 to 8 miles of new trails ranges from 2.5 million to 6.5 million US dollars. Trails should be one of the highest facility priorities throughout the city.

**Funding** - Allocate annual “in-place” funding that permits the opportunistic acquisition of land or easements for trail development.

**Partnerships** - Pursue joint development trail projects with Garland ISD, Rockwall ISD, Dallas County, Rockwall County and the cities of Garland, Sachse and Rockwall – joint projects will create stronger grant opportunities and permit pursuing larger dollar amounts. Work with developers and other governmental entities to pursue trail construction.

**Use creative construction** – other cities have elected to set up “in-house” trail construction teams that permit the city to build trails more cost effectively and quickly. Such a team could build trails at 60 to 75% of the cost of contractor labor, and could greatly speed up the construction of trails in the city.

**Construction by developers** - Achieve the target goal of 25 miles of trails in the next 5 years by requiring developers to construct at least 50% of the required miles of trails.

**Consider the aesthetics and visual appeal of trails** – use trail corridors as visual parts of the city. Well-designed trails have the ability to significantly transform the aesthetic appeal of a city.

### Implementation Strategies

Trails seldom lead from door to door. However, residents should be able to anticipate accessing trails from their homes as pedestrians along sidewalks, and along roadways that accommodate bicycle traffic, or multi-use trails that accommodate both. Given safe facilities in attractive surroundings, studies show that people will generally walk up to a mile to a destination such as trail access, or bicycle 3-5 miles to get to a destination - a journey of usually less than 20 minutes.

The key objective of this trail plan is to make access possible from neighborhoods to the city’s parks, schools and other everyday destinations for Rowlett residents of all ages and abilities, to the extent feasible in the context of an off-road trail plan.

The City of Rowlett parkland dedication ordinance (Article 13-4; F) states: “All parkland offered for dedication or purchased under this section shall meet the requirements for location outlined in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan adopted by the City.” This language should enable the preservation of trail corridors in future development, fostering the orderly development of trails.

Alignments of the greenway trail segments in undeveloped areas should be viewed as flexible, and city staff and leadership should remain receptive to adjustments in alignments, provided the connectivity they provide is maintained. Flood levels and sensitive natural areas must be carefully assessed and potential trail impacts on natural, historic and archeological resources must be considered before deciding the final alignments. The intent of this plan is to increase opportunities for recreation and non-motorized access and mobility to routine destinations throughout the city.

Alternatives beneficial to the overall objectives of this plan and reflective of the community’s desires should be anticipated, encouraged, and accommodated.

In light of the growth trends in Rowlett, opportunities to create elements in this community-building, human-powered network are quickly disappearing. Critical connections that seem obvious one day may become suddenly blocked by neighborhood site plans the next. This plan makes it easier for land planners and developers to access information necessary to address these quality of life and transportation choice issues confronting Rowlett.

The current pace of development in Rowlett increases the need for ongoing vigilance to ensure appropriate implementation of these trail opportunities. This plan should be made widely available to residents and developers alike. Modifications to some greenway trail alignments in this plan may become necessary – and should be anticipated and accommodated – as site plans are developed. The impacts of any modifications should be considered in the context of, and in relation to, the rest of the system, keeping in mind the interconnectivity of the system and how any realignment relates to the overall plan’s goal of connectivity for utility and recreation non-motorized trips.

Implementing this plan will require a range of strategies including the creation of partnerships with developers, property owners and neighborhood groups to assemble sufficient right-of-way, and dedicate adjacent space where necessary for the creation of a given trail. It is also essential to pursue a variety of funding opportunities to ensure adequate financing.

It is important that each city sector / quadrant embraces its segments as opportunities for gateways and trails from their neighborhoods to community resources – parks, schools, employment, and commercial and city center. Support demonstrated for creating these trails in a given neighborhood should result, over time, in action to develop that project. However, citizens will need to be aware that the process often takes years from vision to reality on the ground.

Implementation of this plan can be accomplished by approaching it from several fronts. Trails in undeveloped areas can be established through consistent application of Rowlett’s parkland dedication ordinance, with updated guidelines provided in this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. Developers should also have added incentives because of higher property values with closer proximity to multi-use trails and footpaths. This value added can go a long way in convincing potential funders of the worth of the investment. Nearby businesses, especially retailers and service providers will benefit greatly from the neighborhood’s newfound access as well.



Increased collaboration with developers and neighborhood organizations can foster development of trails. Rowlett has many opportunities to develop trails in conjunction with future development. However, in the already built-out parts of the city, few opportunities remain. Developing a trail along the Rail Right of Way is one of the key remaining opportunities within the already developed part of the city. However, due to its current heavy freight use, agreement for use as a rail-with-trail would require considerable negotiation. Other opportunities in built-up areas include creeks, drainage ways and the shoreline of Lake Ray Hubbard.

The shoreline of Lake Ray Hubbard is for the most part inaccessible to the community, due to a sublease agreement between Rowlett (who leases the entire Rowlett shoreline from the City of Dallas) and the respective landowners with property on the water's edge.

While achieving a mechanism to assure space for trails in newly developing areas may be difficult, the rewards for doing so will be great. Special places invariably have created pedestrian friendly public corridors and spaces. Attractive public space is one of the most compelling reasons to live, work, visit or play in a community. Rowlett is in the position of having many opportunities for trails within future developments, but must begin now to set the necessary mechanisms in place.

### **Greenways along Single Loaded Streets**

Rowlett should require residential developers to create single-loaded streets in subdivisions along greenway trail corridors. Single loading is a development term used to describe streets having houses constructed on one side only. When houses are built along both sides of a street, greenways end up behind houses and hidden from view, reducing the value to the neighborhood while increasing security concerns. This design approach can result in trail development opportunities proven to be of value in both land conservation and real estate marketing.

By creating trails between the single-loaded street and undevelopable land parcels such as flood plains, the sense of security for trail users is enhanced by placing them in view of residents and street users. Back yard privacy is also maintained.

This concept is discussed at some length in Randall Arendt's Conservation Design for Subdivisions. Arendt suggests that lots be trimmed down in width throughout the development without increasing average house lot to street length ratios, in order to reserve street lengths along greenways. Sales records in such subdivisions show that houses along these single-loaded streets sell faster and at a premium, while providing all subdivision residents views of the greenway as they drive, bike, or walk along it, increasing everyone's quality of life and property values.

### **Nature Trails**

A primary aim with nature trails, is to design it to be in harmony with the surrounding environment. Care should be taken to fit the trail to the terrain, while taking advantage of scenic vistas, and considering the drainage characteristics during minor and major storm events. Erosion can be reduced by avoiding sharp angular turns, and by crossing slopes at an angle. If possible, expose wet areas to sun, and dry areas to shade. Switchbacks should be avoided unless slope is 20% or more, or when needed for ADA access. Design should minimize excavation and cut-bank exposure.

### **Trail Development along Creeks**

In many ways, greenway trails can prove a positive benefit to adjacent residents. Subdivision drainage-way routes allow residents to benefit from multi-objective partnerships with the city to create connected trails that can double as maintenance access as well as neighborhood security

“surveillance corridors.” In the report *Flooding and its Effect on Trees*, USDA researchers assert that access for inspection and flood fighting can be safeguarded by designing creek corridors, to accommodate both trees and travel. According to the National Arbor Day Foundation, the benefits of riparian corridor management include improved wildlife habitat, increased recreation (and local travel) opportunities, and more effective storm water management.

Many of the greenway trails proposed in this plan through mostly undeveloped areas rely on the floodplain resources for available right-of-way. Trails here will allow closer inspection by qualified city staff, facilitating the opportunity to reduce erosion and potential for flooding due to debris build up. City staff should be alert to possibilities for jointly coordinated projects with the city’s public works department as the city strives to resolve development-aggravated drainage problems while implementing this plan.

### **Trails through Undeveloped Properties**

Where potential critical linkages are currently privately held, it may be necessary to acquire pedestrian access easements. City ordinances should be clear and coordinated to ensure that the codes contain provisions – and even incentives – to allow the city to grant access privileges on a temporary but renewable basis, such as every year or few years or permanently.

These “term easements” or “access agreements” allow developers (and ultimately the homeowners’ association) to retain continuing control over a corridor while granting access along certain critical sections through future subdivisions. If problems arise, they could withhold a renewal unless these problems are corrected. Clearly it is in the best interests of all parties to strive to avoid and/or correct problems that arise. Everyone benefits when trails in different subdivisions are connected with common destinations and with one another, providing longer, more useful and interesting walking or bicycling opportunities both for people in the proposed subdivision and those in adjoining neighborhoods.

Prior to any major investment in construction costs i.e. concrete for trails, etc., it may be in the best interest of the City to negotiate permanent access through easements, to ensure a perpetual benefit to the public.

### **National and State Guidance**

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) provides the most current federal guidance for the development of trails in its 1999 *Guide For The Development Of Bicycle Facilities*. The Texas Department of Transportation has adopted “the current version” of this guidance as the State standard for all projects involving state or federal funding. This plan does not attempt to define these standards, but recommends that they be utilized whenever facilities for pedestrians or bicyclists are involved.

### **Accessibility for the Mobility Impaired**

Accessible curb ramps are useful not only for people with disabilities, but also for all wheeled users, joggers, runners, and where transitions between the roadway and trail environment occur – bicyclists. Typical intersection ramp configurations meeting TxDOT’s recently adopted ramp standards are outlined in the *Accessible Rights-of-Way: Sidewalks • Street Crossings • Other Pedestrian Facilities, A Design Guide*, a November 1999 publication of the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (The Access Board). The information in this guide is not regulatory except in TxDOT ROW projects, but is intended as a reference tool. *Off-Road Bicycles*

Off-road bicyclists and children on BMX bikes can use almost any kind of trail, although the most desirable facilities for each are distinctively different. Determining locations for these types of uses should be included in the park programming process, which falls outside the scope of this project.



At issue are the sensitivity of the area, and the willingness of surrounding property owners to accept these types of activities. Previously disturbed areas may be more adaptable to this kind of trail development, usually with potentially less impact on wildlife habitat. Volunteers often create and maintain off-road bicycle trails, usually through partnering agreements with the local entity. Valid areas of activity should be well demarcated at all boundaries, and posted with clear, concise signage to prevent intrusion on adjacent lands or into off-limit areas.

In areas with limited sight lines or narrow trail tread, signs should be posted to warn bicyclists to slow down. Signage can be used to teach bicyclists approaching from the rear to announce “passing on your left.” Specific locations for these kinds of signs were not identified in this plan process.

### **At-Grade Intersections for Trails**

Since this plan recommends creating non-motorized access trails connecting neighborhoods to schools, parks, and commercial areas, there will necessarily be at-grade crossings of streets. Trail and sidewalk design should focus on these critical intersections. A key element in the plan’s implementation should be bicycle and pedestrian street friendly crossings, which should be achievable through appropriate design treatments, in conjunction with the grade separated creek and drainage way crossings.

Intersection enhancements involve either “active” motor vehicle traffic controls, such as stop signs or signals, or passive treatments, such as warning signs, and perhaps flashing lights. Each intersection must be carefully reviewed prior to any modification from current status.

Where trails and sidewalks cross roadways – medians, ADA curb ramps, curb extensions and bulb-outs can all be effective design treatments. Median refuges are essential for roadways with pavement widths wider than about 45 feet. Any longer crossing should allow a refuge part way, for slower moving pedestrians. An angled walkway across the median, as shown in figure at right, forces trail users to face oncoming traffic as they cross. This is especially effective for mid-block crossings, but can sometimes work at intersections. This configuration also provides additional room on the median for queuing of students, parents with baby joggers, and parents on bikes with trailers in tow.

### **Signage**

Way finding, warning and regulatory signs are as important to trails as they are to the road system. Warning signs should be used only where special

regulations apply, at specific places or at specific times only, or where hazards are not self-evident. The use of warning signs should be kept to a minimum to avoid losing effectiveness. Trails that are less than 8’ wide should not be signed as hike and bike trails.

### **Trail User Safety and Security Concerns**

While most citizens expressed support for trail projects, some citizens will have security and privacy concerns. It is generally recognized that concerns of this nature can be addressed effectively by adhering to sound trail design principles related to view sheds. These may include moving the trail further away from properties, or involve landscaping to assure residents’ privacy.

Frequently used trails help ensure trail safety. Another key way to minimize the potential for crime is through volunteer or professional trail patrols, in addition to good trail design. Removing overgrown vegetation and tall shrubs near the trail eliminates potential hiding places and provides longer sight lines for users. This is an important element in establishing a sense of safety. However, it is also important to maintain or create vegetative screening at strategic locations to ensure privacy for nearby residents.

Other strategies that increase security include signage, lighting and call boxes. Posting trail rules at trailheads with reminders along the trail lets people know what is expected. Strategic lighting, especially at trailheads and in parking lots, may be needed. Generally, all roadway/trail intersections should be lighted to enhance safety. The need for emergency call boxes and emergency access should be considered during trail design.

In recognition of trail user safety concerns, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program issued a 1998 report, Rail-Trails and Safe Communities, showing that an individual’s chances of being the victim of an assault, burglary or rape are two to three times higher when on the street or in a parking facility than in a park or on a trail. The report also states that while the national rate of suburban burglary is 820 incidents per 100,000 inhabitants, only one suburban trail reported a break-in to adjacent property in 1996. This survey found that 67% of suburban rail-trails are patrolled in some way. Trail patrols range from informal clean-up and maintenance volunteers to daily police patrols.

## Maintenance

Trails should all be well maintained to ensure the safety and functionality of pedestrian and bicycle flow. Periodic refurbishing and debris removal will be necessary to assure ongoing serviceability. The degree of maintenance provided has a direct impact on facility service life, level of use, liability and community image. Inadequate facility maintenance conveys a feeling of lack of security or usability, resulting in fear for personal safety, and leading to decreased facility usage. A strong maintenance regimen is essential to the security and safety of users.

- A trail maintenance program should include:
- inspection of and repair or replacement of signs and bollards
- removal of debris
- repair of damage from seasonal washouts
- cleaning of drainage structures
- cleaning and upkeep of lighting where used
- maintenance of support facilities such as benches, drinking fountains, etc.
- maintenance of bridges
- inspecting the condition of trail-related structures
- emptying of trash cans

Costs for general spot repair of paved concrete surfaces where damaged pavement must be removed and replaced is approximately \$10 for removal and \$50 for placement. Generally, about \$3,000 to \$5,000 per linear mile of trail should be budgeted annually for general maintenance including trash pickup, mowing, tree trimming and inspections. This does not include the cost of equipment.

## Six Cities Trail Plan

Developed by Halff Associates in 2001, the Six Cities Trail Plan is a collaborative effort between the six cities: Garland, Richardson, Alan,

Plano, Frisco and McKinney. The Rowlett Creek Trail Corridor, which stretches over a distance of more than 24 miles, terminates at the Rowlett Creek Reserve that is located in the City of Garland adjacent to the City of Rowlett. With various potential access points along the western boundary of Rowlett, hikers and bikers from six different cities are led towards Rowlett and Lake Ray Hubbard.

## Rowlett Creek Trail Corridor

The Rowlett Creek Trail Corridor, at 24 mi.+/- in length, serves as the backbone of the Six Cities Trail Plan. It ties together the six participating cities and their individual trail systems to form an inter-jurisdictional trail network that can serve to enhance recreational opportunities as well as provide an alternative mode of transportation to help alleviate general automobile traffic congestion.

The Rowlett Creek Trail Corridor affords great opportunities to link Lake Ray Hubbard with a multitude of recreational facilities including Rowlett Creek Preserve, Breckinridge Park, Bob Woodruff Park, Oak Point Park & Nature Preserve, Connemara Nature Conservancy, and the proposed regional park east of the intersection of Custer Road and Hwy. 121 in McKinney & Allen. There are some constraints to overcome if this corridor is to be viable. Currently portions of the creek's edge are privately owned so individual municipalities might have to acquire land to accommodate a public right-of-way for a trail or align the trail along existing street right-of-ways.

## City-to-City Crossing

The transition points from one city to another along major trails should be easily identifiable and celebrated. Signage denoting city limits as well as periodic "You Are Here" locator maps will add to the convenience and character of the trail corridor and will help guide trail users along the proposed trail network. These signs can become features that help unify the varied trails that are a part of the Six Cities Trail Plan.



# ROWLETT 2011 PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN-SPACE MASTER PLAN

## Conclusion

Rowlett has many opportunities to create trails, especially in conjunction with future development. Each of the recommended trail segments is a key linkage in the citywide system. Investment in the development of these trails will foster the creation of a greater sense of place for Rowlett. Quality of life and the visual appearance of the city will be greatly enhanced.

The plan's vision is to provide recreation opportunities while fostering greater non-motorized accessibility for Rowlett residents throughout the city. Implementing this plan will help alleviate traffic congestion and air pollution, thereby enhancing opportunities for residents to participate in a healthy, active lifestyle.

While this plan provides for a network of trails throughout the city, specific alignments should be viewed as flexible, and adjusted as needed to achieve the objectives of residents, businesses and developers. Further detailed study is also recommended to assess which roadways could accommodate on-street bicycle lanes in a reasonable manner.

By implementing this plan fully, Rowlett can provide safer, more secure transportation choices and recreational opportunities throughout the city, making Rowlett a more attractive place to live, work and visit.



\* The Trails And Greenways Master Plan to the right is an update to the original 2004 Map created by Halff Associates. The update in particular addresses potential connection to the Rockwall Bike Plan.



chapter 7

**prioritization of needs  
& action plan**

## prioritization of needs & action plan

The importance of a **Parks, Recreation Open-Space and Trail Master Plan** reaches fruition at the point of implementation. These priorities and action plan are the response and recommendations based on all the information addressed in the previous chapters. This culmination of criteria is important in identifying and addressing the City of Rowlett's needs. To prioritize these needs, public input, as well as the needs assessment and standards, are taken into consideration.

The recommendations in this action plan were prioritized based on the following criteria:

- Need based on direct citizen input (demand-based)
- Need based on assessments and standards (standard-based)
- Opportunities based on existing conditions (resource-based)
- Industry trends/experience of consultants

### Strategy

The implementation strategy is utilized to address the highest priority actions within the next five years. Once the action items are prioritized, it is then determined which category each recommendation falls under:

- **Short-Term Implementation** – highest priority recommendations to be initiated or completed over the next 1-5 years
- **Medium-Term Implementation** – recommendations to be initiated over the next 5-10 years
- **Long-Term implementation** – recommendations to be initiated in 10 years or longer

By following this strategy, recommendations can be addressed and implemented as funding and support become available.

Some key areas of interest in compiling the action items include:

1. Trails
2. Nature Preserve
3. Mountain Biking Trails
4. Playgrounds
5. Dog Parks
6. Open Space

Taking each and every bit of information gathered in this assessment of the City of Rowlett, we can now prioritize recommendations to continue the strong development of Rowlett's parks, recreation, open space and trails.

## action plan: short-term implementation (0-5 years)

PRIORITY	LOCATION ESTIMATED PROJECT COST*	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE GRAPHIC	COMPLETION DATE
1	<u>Scenic Point Park</u> \$800,000	Phase 1 Improvements - Begin development of amenities such as pavilion, nature trail, and boardwalk.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
2	<u>Katy Railroad Park</u> \$550,000	Development Phase 1: Begin implementing park designs: Build playgrounds, exercise stations, trails, to compliment open space areas.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
3	<u>Herfurth Park</u> \$800,000	Opportunity to improve drainage, update pavilion, tennis court resurfacing, trail improvements, add soccer practice fields, add horseshoe pits, and security lighting.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>

\*Estimated project cost is based on 2011 typical project cost for items used. Additional information and design would be required for a more accurate cost estimate. Estimated project cost could be higher or lower than what is listed.

## action plan: short-term implementation (0-5 years)

PRIORITY	LOCATION ESTIMATED PROJECT COST*	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE GRAPHIC	COMPLETION DATE
4	<u>Rowlett Community Park</u> \$250,000	Opportunity for trail improvements, enhanced open space, pavilion improvements, and archery course.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
5	<u>Rowlett Community Centre</u> \$50,000	Opportunity for deck replacement, front concrete resurfacing, new basketball goals, and addition of gym divider.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
6	<u>Rowlett Community Centre</u> \$70,000	Enhance Technology - bring all technology equipment up to date to include projectors in all meeting rooms, sound system throughout the building for announcements and music, Laptop station with 10 laptops and yearly maintenance agreement for sound/technology equipment. Address acoustics in meeting rooms.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
7	<u>Lakeside Park</u> \$85,000	Opportunity for improvements to shoreline, erosion control, pavilions, benches, tables, sand volleyball, and security lighting.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>

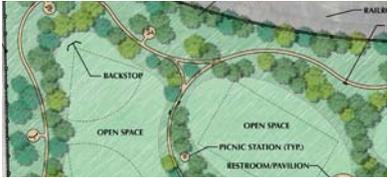
## action plan: short-term implementation (0-5 years)

PRIORITY	LOCATION ESTIMATED PROJECT COST*	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE GRAPHIC	COMPLETION DATE
8	<u>Veteran's Park</u> \$30,000	Small memorial park could benefit from beautification additions such as landscaping, statues and artwork.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
9	<u>Springfield Park</u> \$1,000,000	Opportunities to widen trail, parking lot additions, shoreline improvements, and disc golf improvements/ replacement of baskets.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
10	<u>Wet Zone Water Park</u> \$175,000	Improvements to include resurfacing pool floor, minor repairs due to deterioration, and addition of new features.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
11	<u>Dog Park</u> \$15,000	Determine ideal locations for small dog park (community park) and begin development/construction.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
12	<u>Pecan Grove Park</u> \$200,000	Opportunity to improve upon Kid's Kingdom. Other updates could include benches, horseshoe pits, trail improvements, and water fountains.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>

## action plan: mid-term implementation (5-10 years)

PRIORITY	LOCATION ESTIMATED PROJECT COST*	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE GRAPHIC	COMPLETION DATE
1	<u>Scenic Point Park</u> \$800,000	Phase 2 Improvements		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
2	<u>Shoreline Improvements</u> \$750,000	Develop shorelines at Scenic Point Park, Pecan Grove Park, and Lakeside to increase waterfront access marking Lake Ray Hubbard as Rowlett's playground/outdoor education center.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
3	<u>Twin Star Improvements</u> \$500,000	Opportunities to improve parking, playground, security lighting, pavilions, trails, picnic tables, and landscaping enhancements.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
4	<u>Wet Zone Water Park</u> \$250,000	Improvements to include park expansion and ongoing maintenance		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>

## action plan: mid-term implementation (5-10 years)

PRIORITY	LOCATION ESTIMATED PROJECT COST*	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE GRAPHIC	COMPLETION DATE
5	<u>Shorewood Park</u> \$500,000	Opportunities to improve parking, playground, larger pavilion trails, lighting, picnic tables, landscaping enhancements.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
6	<u>Rowlett Community Park</u> \$500,000	In need of irrigation improvements, restrooms, and building improvements.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
7	<u>Katy Railroad Park</u> \$550,000	Development Phase 2		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
8	<u>Kenwood Park</u> \$500,000	Improvements such as additional benches, landscape enhancement, half court basketball, deck games, pavilions.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
9	<u>Rowlett Community Centre</u> \$500,000	Opportunity for improvements. Add wing for seniors to use available parking at Pecan Grove with limited hours and lower free weight room for all patrons.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>

## action plan: long-term implementation (10-15 years)

PRIORITY	LOCATION ESTIMATED PROJECT COST*	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE GRAPHIC	COMPLETION DATE
1	<u>Comprehensive Development Plan</u> To be determined	Focus on undeveloped parks and prioritize development into a comprehensive plan.		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
2	<u>Rowlett Community Park</u> To be determined	Opportunity for sports complex improvements		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
3	<u>Isaac Scruggs Park</u> To be determined	Development of disc golf, playground, trail development, parking, and restrooms		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
4	<u>Environmental Learning Center</u> To be determined	Explore development opportunities to include environmental center, trails, benches		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>
5	<u>Coyle House</u> To be determined	Utilization Plan		_____ <input type="checkbox"/>

## Operation & Maintenance Cost

With the recommendations of additional parks, open space and trails, it should be recognized that additional manpower would be needed for the required maintenance of these various projects. The number of additional staff needed to attend to these proposed facilities will vary depending on the use of these facilities. However, positive support and the provision of adequate staffing must be included as each facility is developed, or the facility should not be built.

## Funding Strategies for Recommendations

Different parks and pathways will require different funding strategies. While improvements to existing parks and most sidewalks can be built with local funds, other park, open space and trail projects may be able to contend for federal and state funds. This section provides brief descriptions of these funding implementation assistance opportunities.

**General Fund Expenditures** are primarily used for improvements to existing parks and facilities.

**Bond Funds** are primarily targeted for new facilities.

**Partnering with Developers and Private Land Owners** is frequently possible in Rowlett through the Park Land Dedication ordinance (Article 13-4: Public SITES AND OPEN SPACES and amendment: CITY OF ROWLETT, TEXAS; ORDINANCE NO. 8-3-93A). This ordinance provides a vehicle for development of parks, open space and trails as land is developed in Rowlett.

**“Adopt-a-Park Program”** was developed by the Rowlett Parks and Recreation Board to provide a consistent process for private and commercial donors to contribute to the development of Rowlett parks. The donations would be recognized at the applicable park by methods of signage, plaques or naming rights to a particular donated feature.

**Sponsorship through Businesses** is a means to secure funding through Business operating in the City of Rowlett.

**Partnerships with Interest Groups** that are typically non-profit organizations keenly interested in particular subjects e.g. human interaction with nature, wildlife, native plants and aesthetics of a city environment are often willing to contribute time and energy free of charge for the betterment of parks and open space. An example is the organization Keep Rowlett Beautiful

**TPWD - Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA)** is the primary source for park grants in Texas and in addition provides funding for recreational trails. Up to a 50 percent match can be obtained, up to \$500,000, for new park and trail facilities, as well as for indoor facilities. Grant applications that stress joint funding and support from two or more local entities may have a greater chance in contending for the TRPA grants. The city should take a leadership role in pursuing public cooperation e.g. with the Garland and Rockwall Independent School Districts.

**Outdoor Recreation Grants** provide 50% matching grant funds to acquire and develop parkland or to renovate existing public recreation areas. Local governments must apply, permanently dedicate project areas for public recreational use, and assume responsibility for operation and maintenance. Projects must be completed within three years of approval. Application deadlines are January 31st and July 31st each year. Awards are distributed in August and January respectively.

**Indoor Recreation Grants** are available to local governments for the construction or renovation of indoor recreation facilities. This assistance is in the form of 50% matching grant funds up to \$750,000. Local governments must apply, permanently dedicate the building for public recreational use, and assume responsibility for operation and maintenance. Application deadlines are July 31st each year. Awards are distributed in January of each year.

**Regional Park Grants** provide 50% matching fund grants to local governments in order to create large, intensive-use recreation areas, regional systems of parks, and conservation areas with trail linkages, as well as linear greenways between parks and other community amenities in Texas’ urban areas. These grants encourage partnerships and leverage

development between the private sector, non-profit organizations, and among local governments. Priority is given to a project that has local matching funds from multiple political jurisdictions as well as non-profit organizations/private donations, is listed in local park master plans, will be used in a multiple jurisdictional manner, provides water-based recreation, links multiple jurisdictions with trails or greenbelts, and the project has a direct link to the mission of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. There is no ceiling on match amounts, but grant awards are dependent on the number of applicants and the availability of funds. Past recipients for the Regional Park Grant have ranged from \$750,000 to \$1,200,000. Deadlines are held on January 31st of each year.

**Texas State Boat Ramp Construction Program** provides 75% matching grant funds for the construction of public boat ramp facilities throughout the state. Local government sponsors must make an application, provide the land, provide access to the proposed boat ramp, supply 25% of the development costs, and accept operation and maintenance responsibilities for a minimum 25-year period. These funds are allocated annually through the federal Sport Fish Restoration Act. The deadlines for this program are January 31st and July 31st.

**National Park Service (NPS) Programs** include the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act (UPARR), which provide funds for parks and recreation. Congress appropriates both funds. Typically, the funding sources have supported traditional parks rather than linear systems. Funding for new UPARR grants was eliminated for FY 2003 and 2004. However, funding may be restored in future appropriations.

**Environmental Protection Agency** can provide funding for projects with money collected in pollution settlements.

**Foundation and Company Grants** assist in direct funding for projects, while others exist to help citizen efforts gets established with small seed funds or technical and publicity assistance. Before applying for any grant, it is crucial to review The Foundation Directory and The Foundation Grants Index published by the Foundation Center to learn if a particular project fits the requirements of the foundation.

**Grants for Greenways** is a national listing that provides descriptions of a broad spectrum of both general and specific groups who provide technical and financial support for greenway interests.

**Citywide bond programs** and new developments through the subdivision regulations are important ways to finance pre-identified projects. .

**Partnering with Volunteer Groups** can be helpful when constructing nature, bike and equestrian trails. Their efforts can be used as part of the required match for the Recreational Trails program. There are a variety of sources for volunteers including user groups, local residents, corporate community service initiatives, and business and civic support groups. The Keep Rowlett Beautiful is a good example of partnership between a volunteer group and the City of Rowlett in developing phases 1 and 2 of the Rowlett Environmental Learning Center.

**Electric Utility Partnerships** can be established for utility easement trails.

### Policies and Ordinances

**Ordinance Support for Trail System Development** - Utilize Park Land Dedication Ordinance to assist in the implementation of a citywide trail system. Trail corridors designated on the citywide trail map can be integrated into developments as the development goes through the platting process. Land for trail corridors can be donated in a fashion similar to the dedication of land for traditional parks, and each adjacent development can be required to construct their portion of the overall trail system, or other trails that connect to the main trail network. Flower Mound and Allen, Texas have trail dedication components built into their Park dedication ordinances that can be used as models.

**Park Advisory Board** - City Staff should provide presentation of significant changes in the master plan and provide brief summary of biannual updates to the documentation. This will provide the board with comprehensive information to assist with development decisions.

**Joint Planning with Dallas and Rockwall Counties** - Continue joint planning efforts with Dallas and Rockwall County to provide additional options to address recreation needs in Rowlett.

**Joint Planning with City of Dallas** - Continue joint planning efforts with City of Dallas to provide additional options to address recreation needs in Rowlett, especially at Lake Ray Hubbard.

**Joint Planning with the neighboring Cities of Garland, Sachse and Rockwall** - Continue joint planning efforts with these neighboring cities to provide additional options to address recreation needs in Rowlett.

**Joint Planning with other Lake Ray Hubbard lake front Cities of Garland, Rockwall, Heath and Sunnyvale** - Initiate joint planning efforts with these other lake front cities to provide additional options to lake related recreation needs in Rowlett.

**Joint Planning with Garland and Rockwall ISD** - Establish joint planning review sessions with GISD and RISD to allow for coordination of facilities and possible pooling of resources for a partnership in acquiring land for schools and parks.

### **Specific Policy Actions**

1. Establish a City Ordinance that requires single loaded streets along future neighborhood parks. Single loaded roads allows for accessible parks that are safe and inviting. Safety is generally achieved by the informal surveillance provided by the residents overlooking the park.
2. Adopt policies which emphasize the importance of the preservation and protection of the banks of Lake Ray Hubbard as a natural open space preserve, and trail corridor. Plan ahead to protect and preserve portions of the banks of Lake Ray Hubbard currently leased by residents of Rowlett.
3. Establish a City Ordinance that mandates the donation of floodplain lands along creeks. Such land is not developable yet and provides habitat and corridors of movement for fauna and the opportunity for use as greenways and trails.

4. Establish a formal process and agreements for working directly and continuously with the Garland and Rockwall Independent School Districts, so as to acquire lands for neighborhood and family parks in conjunction with school district property acquisitions.

5. Establish a formal process and agreements for working directly and continuously with the various utility districts and other city departments that can assist in acquiring parks lands or in jointly developing facilities. These include the Water Works Department, schools, private entertainment providers, as well as other City of Rowlett departments.

6. Pro-actively search for park lands to target for acquisition over the next five years. Include Rowlett Extra Terrestrial Jurisdiction in this search.

7. Endorse the park to population ratios established by the master plan to guide the acquisition and development of parks in all sectors of the city. These are 2 to 2.5 acres per 1,000 population for neighborhood parks and 5 acres per 1,000 population for community parks.

8. Create Family Parks in portions of the city where development has taken place previously without the provision of HOA parks.

9. Identify school sites that may be developed jointly with the school district as publicly accessible park lands.

10. Endorse the creation of linear park corridors that bisect and link parts of the city. Use the corridors identified in this plan as the major corridors throughout the city.

11. Establish standards for developing land adjacent to linear park corridors. These include helping to fund linear parks, providing pedestrian connections to the parks, minimum amounts of landscaping along those corridors, and signage regulations adjacent to or within the linear park corridors.

12. Ensure that adequate maintenance personnel are provided to take care of parklands in the city. Expect, and provide, an exceptional level of care for high visibility park corridors.

13. Endorse the need for the acquisition and preservation of open space preserves throughout the city limits. Consider acquiring these lands in conjunction with needed park areas.

14. Direct City staff to pursue alternative methods of funding park system and programming improvement, such as partnerships with non-governmental entities, grant funding sources, establishing "Friends of..." organizations, contracting out programs or operations. Consider these and other methods only where feasible and financially sound.

### Plan Updates

The 2011 Rowlett Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is a guide to be used by the Parks and Recreation Staff to develop the existing system for future needs over the next 5 years. There will be changes that occur during the time frame of this plan:

- Population may increase more rapidly than projected;
- The community may indicate a special need for a facility not listed in the recommendations; and
- Development of recommendations will occur.

A review and update of this master plan by city staff should be conducted every two years or when a significant change does occur. These updates can be published in short report format and attached to this master plan for easy use. Four key areas for focus of these periodic reviews are as follows:

**Facility Inventory** - An inventory of new facilities should be recorded as well as any significant improvements to Garland ISD, Rockwall ISD, Dallas County Parks and City of Dallas (especially at Robertson Park).

**Public Involvement** - As mentioned previously, this master plan reflects current population and attitudes as expressed by the citizens

of Rowlett. However, over time those attitudes and interests may change as the city changes. Periodic surveys are recommended to provide a current account of the attitudes of the citizens and to provide additional direction from the public on issues that may arise. In order to make an accurate comparison of the changes in attitudes and interests, it is recommended that future surveys follow the general format of the citizen survey conducted in this master plan.

**Facility Use** - Facility use is a key factor in determining the need for renovation of additional facilities. Updates on league participation of sports facilities should be prepared each season with data from each association. Changes in participation of those outside the city limits as well as the citizens of Rowlett should be recorded.

**Action Plan** - As items from the action plan are implemented, updates should be made to this prioritized list to provide a current schedule for city staff.



**appendix**

## **appendix**

The following maps and diagrams are the original intellectual property of Halff Associates, Inc. They were created by Halff as part of the 2004-2009 Rowlett Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan. They have been provided here as a reference supplement to this 2011 Update of the 2004-2009 Master Plan.

# Rowlett



September 2004

CITY OF ROWLETT  
 PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN  
**PARK PLANNING SECTORS**



**Half Associates**  
 CONSULTANTS ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Concept plan only. Subject to change. Land use locations and configurations are approximate and may be altered to respond to changing development conditions and requirements. Plan subject to governmental approval.

Aerial Photography ©2004



# Rowlett



September 2004

## CITY OF ROWLETT PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



# DEVELOPED AND UNDEVELOPED NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Concept plan only. Subject to change. Land use locations and configurations are approximate and may be altered to respond to changing development conditions and requirements. Plan subject to governmental approval.





# Rowlett



**PROPOSED PARKS LEGEND**

- Regional Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Parks
- Pocket Parks
- Shoreline Parks
- Special Purpose Parks
- Linear Parks

**EXISTING PARKS LEGEND**

- Existing Parks
- Undeveloped Parks
- Potential Public Use of Shoreline
- Schools

September 2004

## CITY OF ROWLETT PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN PARKS MASTER PLAN



Concept plan only. Subject to change. Land use locations and configurations are approximate and may be altered in response to changing development conditions and requirements. Plan subject to governmental approval.

April 2004



# Rowlett



**PARKS and TRAILS LEGEND**

- 1st Priority Trail
- 2nd Priority Trail
- 3rd Priority Trail
- Existing Trail
- Trail Head
- Potential Public Use of Shoreline
- Undeveloped Parks
- Existing Parks
- Schools

**PROPOSED PARKS LEGEND**

- Regional Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Parks
- Pocket Parks
- Shoreline Parks
- Special Purpose Parks
- Linear Parks

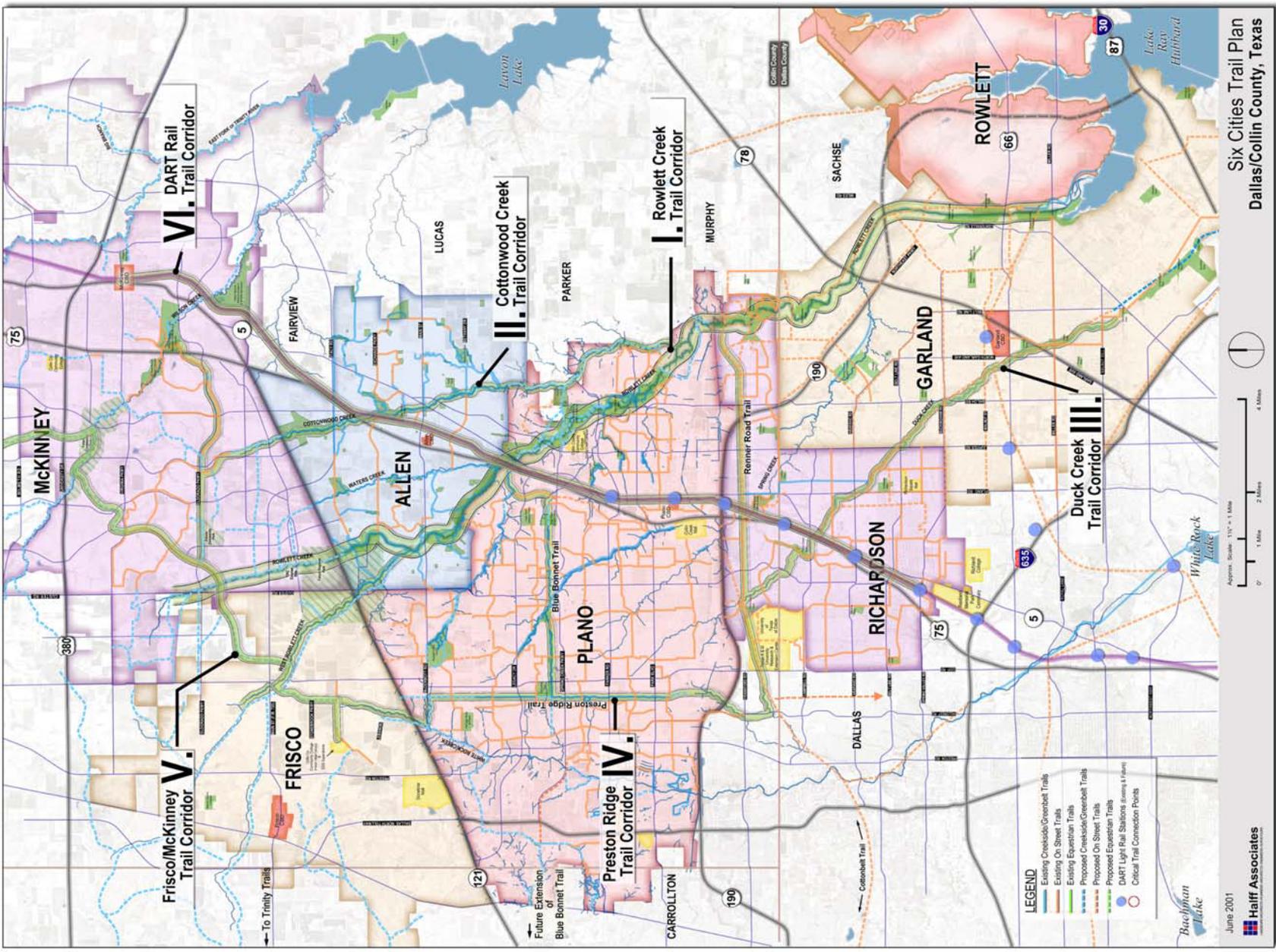
September 2004

CITY OF ROWLETT  
 PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN  
**TRAILS AND GREENWAYS MASTER PLAN**



Concept plan only. Subject to change. Land use locations and configurations are approximate and may be altered in response to changing development conditions and requirements. Plan subject to governmental approval.





February 2004

CITY OF ROWLETT  
 PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

# SIX CITIES TRAIL PLAN



Concept plan only. Subject to change. Land use boundaries and configurations are approximate and may be altered to respond to changing development conditions and requirements. Plan subject to governmental approval.