

Comprehensive Park Plan 2007-2017



City of Sealy, Texas
March 2007

Prepared by
Sebesta and Associates
Grants, Landscape Design, and Planning
Georgetown, Texas

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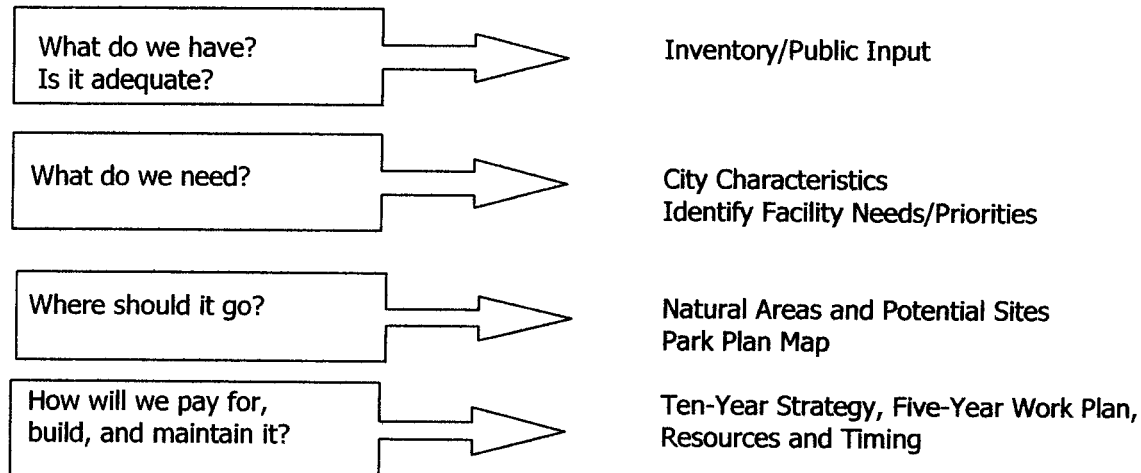
Natural Areas Maps
Existing Parks and Service Areas Map
Park Plan Map

SEALY PARK PLAN SUMMARY

Purposes of a Park Plan

- ☐ Comprehensive planning process for City and Parks Board for the next 10 years
- ☐ Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Grant Scoring (Not an Application)

Steps of a Park Plan



STEP 1 WHAT DO WE HAVE? IS IT ADEQUATE?

Inventory

- ☐ *See Park Plan Map*
- ☐ *Park Needs Based on General Park Standards*
 - Shortage of park acreage for active and passive recreation, and open space
 - Expanded community park facilities for more diverse activities
 - Not enough neighborhood parks
 - Potential for greenbelt/trails along Allens Creek
 - No indoor recreation facility

Public Input/Community Survey

- ☐ *Households Responding to Survey*
 - 163 Surveys representing 433 people (7% of population)
 - Most age groups were adequately represented, except for the 20-34 group
 - 1 person households and larger households were underrepresented
 - 86% lived in Sealy city limits

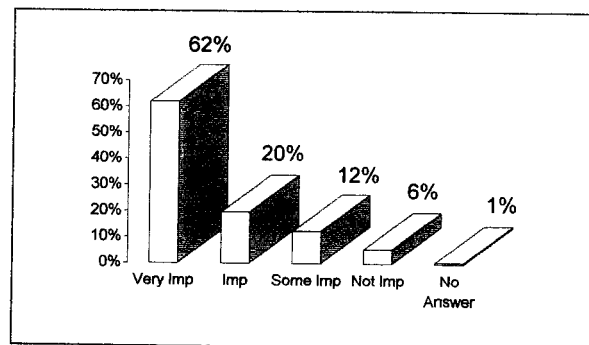
❑ *What Does Your Family Do for Recreation?*

Rank	Activity
1	Walk/Jog/Exercise trail
2	Bicycling
3	Fitness Center
4	Children's playground
5	Swimming at a pool
6	Nature activities
7	Fishing
8	Swimming at lake or beach
9	Youth baseball/softball
10	Golf/driving range

❑ *What are Sealy's Top Park and Recreation Needs?*

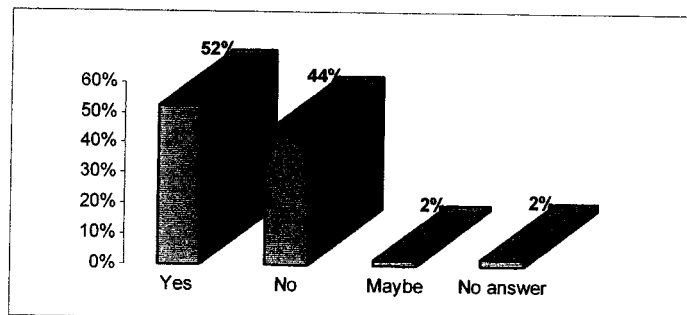
Rank	Outdoor Needs	Indoor Needs
1	Swimming pool	Youth activity room
2	Walk/Jog Trails	Fitness classes
3	Water splash park	Indoor aquatics (Pool)
4	Nature/hiking trails	Arts/crafts activities
5	Skating/bicycling path	Senior activity room
6	Open space/Scenic areas	Computer classes
7	Amphitheater	Fitness equipment room
8	Playground equipment	Adult education
9	Exercise Equipment for Trail	<i>Bowling alley</i>
10	Picnic tables	<i>Movie theater</i>

❑ *Is Open Space Important?*

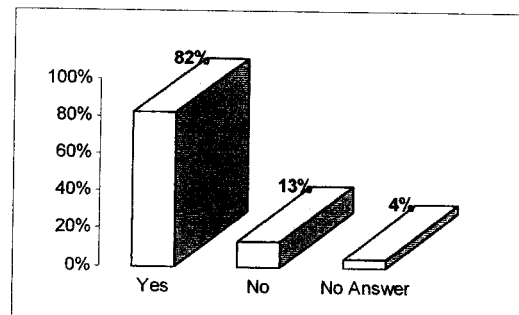


❑ *Paying for Parks*

Additional Taxes?



Entrance Fees?



STEP 2 WHAT DO WE NEED?

Community Characteristics

- ☐ *Population Growth:* Sealy is projected to grow 2% per year over the next 10 years, increasing by 125 people per year.
- ☐ *Age:* In 2000, Sealy's median age was 33; Texas median age was 32. Sealy's percentages of youth and senior citizens, the most frequent users of recreation facilities, were 24% and 13%, respectively.
- ☐ *Income:* In 2000, Sealy's household income was \$34,277; Texas' was \$39,927. Sealy's levels of low income and poverty residents are 14% higher than those of the state.

Identify Needs and Priorities

- ☐ *Most Significant Needs*
 - Additional parkland and open space
 - Additional community park acreage with more diverse facilities
 - Distribution of neighborhood parks
 - Indoor recreation opportunities
- ☐ *Park Facility Priorities*
 - Help in planning future park development
 - Can add up to 15 points to grant application if apply for the top 5 priorities

Priority Rank	Outdoor Priorities	Indoor Priorities
1	Swimming Pool	Youth Activity Room
2	Multi-Purpose Trail	Senior Activity Room
3	Water Splash Pad	Fitness Equipment Room
4	Exercise Equipment for Trail	Fitness Classes
5	Skate Park	Computer Classes
6	Soccer Field	Indoor Pool
7	Softball Field	Sport Courts
8	Open Space/Scenic Areas	Adult Education
9	Amphitheater	Arts/Crafts Room
10	Playground Equipment	Walking Track

STEP 3 WHERE SHOULD IT GO?

- ☐ Map of Natural Areas
- ☐ Plan Map of Existing and Proposed Facilities

STEP 4 HOW WILL WE PAY FOR, BUILD, AND MAINTAIN IT?

Ten-Year Park Goals

- ☐ System of parks – community, neighborhood, greenbelt/trail system
- ☐ Youth activities - non-athletic, indoor, special needs
- ☐ Long-term needs – indoor aquatics, neighborhood parks, regional trail/greenbelt areas, private recreation
- ☐ Administration – Parks Board oversight of parks and cooperative efforts

Five-Year Work Plan

Year 1- 2007

- Initiate parkland acquisition for community, neighborhood and trail/open space uses.
- Raise local matching funds for a grant application for Community Park.
- Submit an application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a Community Park.
- Network with school district, YAC, and other local organizations for future joint activities.
- Develop Parks Board capacity.
- Explore funding for connecting sidewalks through the Safe Routes to Schools Program and the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program.

Year 2 – 2008

- Begin construction of Community Park.
- Develop southeastern neighborhood park.
- Study indoor facility possibilities.
- Explore joint development of neighborhood facilities and soccer/youth football with school district.
- Update park plan per TPWD requirements.

Year 3 – 2009

- Continue acquisition activities (neighborhood, pocket parks, trails, open space, subdivision park dedication sites)
- Program improvements to existing parks.
- Continue trail, open space, and habitat restoration activities.

Year 4 – 2010

- Identify site(s) and facilities for neighborhood parks.
- Seek funding for indoor recreation.
- Continue development of trail/open space system.
- Update the park plan for Years 6-10.

Year 5 – 2011

- Continue ongoing acquisition and improvement activities.

Long-Range Strategy for Years 6-10

- Develop indoor aquatic facility.
- Identify need and sites for other neighborhood park(s).
- Identify future routes for regional greenbelts and trails.
- Promote donation or private conservation of suitable property for trails, open space, or parkland.
- Promote the location of private recreation facilities.

Funding Sources

- ☐ Local contributors (business, individual, community groups)
- ☐ User groups (youth leagues and service organizations)
- ☐ Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Texas Recreation & Parks Account
 - Outdoor Program
 - Small Community Program
 - Indoor Program
 - Trails Grant Program
 - Regional Park Program
- ☐ Private foundations and trusts
- ☐ Related programs (crime, education, youth activities)
- ☐ RC & D, Natural Resource Conservation Service
- ☐ General Operating Fund or Capital Improvements Program
- ☐ General Obligation Bonds or Certificates of Obligation
- ☐ County and School district contributions (cash and in-kind)
- ☐ 4b sales tax revenues

Maintenance Strategies

- ☐ Install facilities that deter vandalism and minimize maintenance.
- ☐ Build multi-use facilities.
- ☐ Utilize volunteers and nonprofit organizations.
- ☐ Set up cooperative agreements with the County, School, and user groups.
- ☐ Establish park maintenance trust fund.
- ☐ Encourage partnerships with law enforcement agencies (prison/correctional/community service labor).
- ☐ Involve citizens in planning parks; conduct periodic public needs assessments.
- ☐ Integrate commercial enterprises in public parks.
- ☐ Promote laws to deter vandalism; use citizen patrols.

Introduction and Background



B&PW Park

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

As this country moves into the 21st Century, communities of all sizes are being challenged to provide responsive, equitable, and high quality park and recreation services. Parks and recreation are now considered to be key elements in the creation of livable communities. They are part of an appealing and wholesome environment in residential neighborhoods, contribute to overall economic well-being, impact the community's physical form, and help to protect special natural features and resources.

A changing environment and the increasing complexity of our society necessitates park and recreation planning that is responsive to local needs with greater participation by citizens and community groups. This plan identifies local needs and actions for the City of Sealy to develop a park system and recreation facilities to serve its citizens over the next ten years.

Community Background

Sealy is a marketing and manufacturing community of about 6,200 people in southern Austin County at the junction of State Highway 36 and Interstate 10, 53 miles west of Houston. Sealy is also located at the junction of the Union Pacific and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroads. Originally established as a railroad stop for the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe railroad in 1879, much of Sealy's history and early prosperity were tied to its function as a main division point between Galveston and Temple. Farming and ranching were also part of the economy once German and Czech immigrants settled in the area.

The area played an important role in the early American settlements and the Texas Revolution. San Felipe, the site of the original capital of the Stephen F. Austin Colony, is about 4 miles east of Sealy. Situated five miles east of the Brazos River, Sealy also saw the steamboat "Yellow Stone" carrying cotton, as well as Sam Houston and his troops heading for the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836. Sealy's commercial activity was boosted with the construction of the Sealy Mattress Factory and Engelking Brothers Broom Factory early in the 20th Century.

Manufacturing and agriculture continue to serve as the economic mainstay of Sealy. More recently, Sealy's growth is tied to the activity of the Houston metropolitan area, with many residents commuting to work in Houston.

Topography, Environmental Features, and Significant Natural Areas

Austin County is located in the West Gulf Coastal Plain of southeast-central Texas, bounded by the Brazos River on the east. Elevation of the County ranges from 120 feet above sea level to 460 feet in the northwestern part of the County.

The County is located at the boundary of the Post Oak Savannah and the Coastal Prairie physiographic regions of Texas. The terrain varies from rolling hills in the northern, western, and central sections to a nearly level coastal prairie in the south. Elevation of the County ranges from 120 feet above sea level in the southeast to 460 feet in the northwestern part of the County. Sealy falls in the Coastal Prairie region. Vegetation consists of wide expanses of grassland surrounded by stands of oak and elm. Dominant grass species include marsh and salt grasses, bluestems, and coarse grasses.

Within Sealy there are unique stands of live oak, other hardwoods, and pine. Sealy is situated at the southwestern limit of the Loblolly Pine-Oak Series plant community, which extends throughout the southeastern United States. Although this is not a rare or endangered vegetative type, it is declining in Austin County due to clear cutting, land conversion, and proximity to the Greater Houston Area sprawl.¹

¹ Information provided by staff of the Wildlife Diversity Program of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2004.

Wildlife in Austin County includes bobwhite, mourning dove, armadillo, numerous songbirds, herons, egrets, and raptors. Ducks and geese winter in marsh and open water areas. Fish found in the Brazos River, streams, lakes, and ponds consist of warm-water species such as black bass, channel catfish, sunfish, crappie, white bass, carp, and gar. Fur-bearing animals of the area comprise white tailed deer, raccoon, coyote, fox, bobcat, opossum, rabbit, squirrel, and skunk.

The most significant natural feature of Sealy is Allen's Creek, which crosses the western third of the city roughly from north to south. There are 100-year floodplains along these waterways, as outlined on the Natural Areas Map.

Sealy is at the periphery of two significant wildlife conservation areas. To the east is the Columbia Bottomlands Conservation Area. This is a network of wetlands, prairies, and bottomland hardwood forests running inland along the floodplains of the Brazos, San Bernard, and Colorado rivers. These are significant as colonial water bird nesting areas and migratory songbird fallout areas, rich wildlife habitat, and flood control properties. Along the western corporate limits of Sealy lies the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge. These areas are identified on maps in the appendices.

According to information from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Wildlife Diversity and Habitat Assessment Program, there are 4 animal species and 4 plant species or plant series that are either rare, endangered, or threatened and that could potentially be located within Sealy and touching a 3 mile buffer from the outskirts of Sealy. Additional species potentially located within Austin County are listed on the Annotated County Lists for Rare Species maintained by TPWD. There could also be plant communities and significant natural features not included in the Program's database. Because of this potential, it is important that a qualified biologist evaluate any potential sites on a project-by-project basis.²

Sealy is designating several categories of natural area for conservation and/or acquisition efforts. Because these features are most frequently on privately owned land, individual tracts are not designated on the Natural Areas Map. Designated natural areas include:

- 100-year floodplains and adjacent creek corridors, primarily Allens Creek
- Trees, either groupings or individual mature trees, especially pine and live oak
- Water features and adjacent land, e.g., Ballinger Creek and tributaries, Upper San Felipe Tributary
- Areas included in the Allens Creek Drainage improvements, where feasible
- Open grassland
- Potential linkages to the proposed Allens Creek Reservoir and to Stephen F. Austin State Park

Demographic Characteristics

Age. As a whole, Sealy's residents are somewhat older than the state:

- Sealy's median age in 2000 was 33 compared to Texas' 32.
- The percentage of residents over 65 is only slightly higher than the state average.
- Sealy's proportion of youth and seniors, the primary users of recreation facilities, is similar to the rest of the state.

^{2a} Given the small proportion of public versus private land in Texas, the NDD [Natural Diversity Database] does not include a representative inventory of rare resources in the state. Although it is based on the best data publicly available to TPWD regarding rare species, these data cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence, absence, or condition of special species, natural communities, or other significant features in any area. Nor can these data substitute for on-site evaluation by qualified biologists. The NDD information is intended to assist the user in avoiding harm to species that may occur." Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Division, Diversity and Habitat Assessment Programs. County Lists of Texas' Special Species. [Austin County, July 20, 2006]. TPWD prefers that the actual lists not be published. For updated information contact TPWD at (512) 912-7011, or see the current County list at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/maps/gis/ris/endangered_species.phtml.

Since 1990:

- Youth under 19 have decreased from 33% to 24%.
- The over-65 age group has decreased from 15% to 13%. Statewide this figure remained the same.

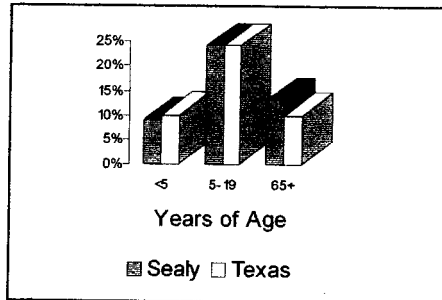


Figure 1 Age Comparisons
Source: 2000 Census data.

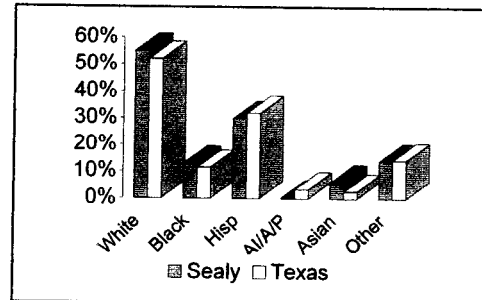


Figure 2 Ethnicity
Source: 2000 Census data.
Hisp – Hispanic (Figures do not total 100% since Hispanics are defined as persons of Hispanic/Latino origin of all racial and ethnic groups.)
AI/A/P – American Indian/Asian/Pacific Islander
Other – Two or more races/Some other race

Race and Ethnicity. Sealy's racial and ethnic composition is similar to the statewide population.

- The African American population is only slightly higher than the state black population, but since 1990 this group has declined from 16% to 13% of Sealy's population.
- All non-white groups are roughly comparable those of the state as a whole, with the exception of Asian/American which is slightly higher.
- The Hispanic population in Sealy increased the most dramatically from 1990 to 2000, from 23% to 30%.

Income and Poverty Level. Residents' income serves as an indication of a family's ability to pay for recreation participation, such as membership at fitness centers or participation in sports where fees and equipment are involved. A lack of financial resources can also limit accessibility to recreation areas if a family does not own a car.

Sealy's income levels are lower than the state in all categories, as illustrated in Figure 3 below. Income has increased since 1990. For example, per capita income has increased by about 57%. The percentages of low income and poverty households have decreased from 1990 to 2000, but remain below the state levels, as shown in Figure 4.

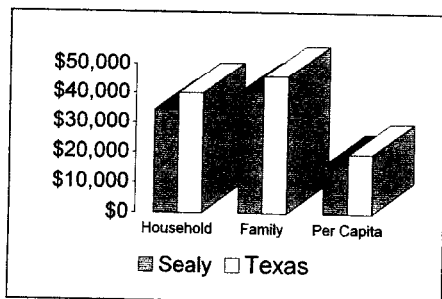


Figure 3 Income Levels
Source: 2000 Census data.

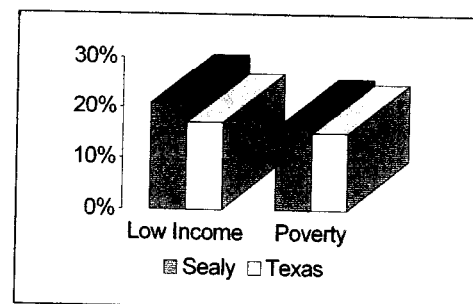


Figure 4 Low Income and Poverty Levels
Source: 2000 Census data.

More recent income information from the Texas Workforce Commission shows Austin County wages compared to the state. (Recent data are not available at the City level.) The County's annual wages show a comparable level in relation to the state wages, that is, about 14% below the state average.

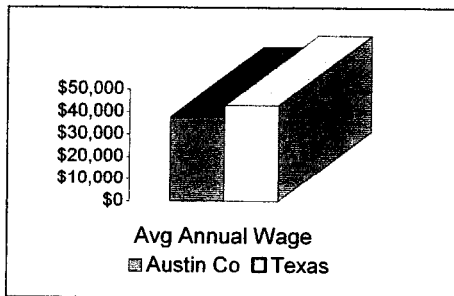


Figure 5 2005 Annual Wage Comparison
Source: Texas Workforce Commission, extrapolated from 4th Quarter average weekly wage; *Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*, http://www.tracer2.com/admin/uploadedPublications/1798_QCEW4qtr05.pdf, accessed 7/14/2006.

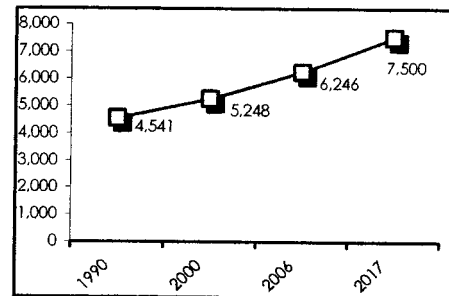


Figure 6 1990-2017 Population
Source: Census data; population projection using 2% annual growth rate.

Population Projections. Since 1990 Sealy's population has increased at a moderate rate of about 1.5% per year. The Texas State Data Center (SDC) estimates Sealy's current population at 6,246. The SDC projections estimate a 3% annual population increase. The Texas Water Development Board used a 1.3% annual growth factor. For the purposes of this study, population projections use the SDC current population figure and a 2% annual population increase over the next ten years. Existing and projected population are illustrated in Figure 6 above.

In the next decade the most critical demographic factor for Sealy's parks will be the projected growth. With an increase of at least 125 people per year, the park system will need to grow to keep pace and continue to provide quality recreational experiences. Most other population characteristics do not seem to be changing dramatically. However, Sealy will need to address the needs of its older residents, and also recognize the demand for recreational facilities by families. Many of Sealy's residents have limited resources and accessibility – in terms of cost and location – to recreation facilities. Sealy will need to plan its park system to meet these needs.

Plan Development Process



Liedertafel Hall

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

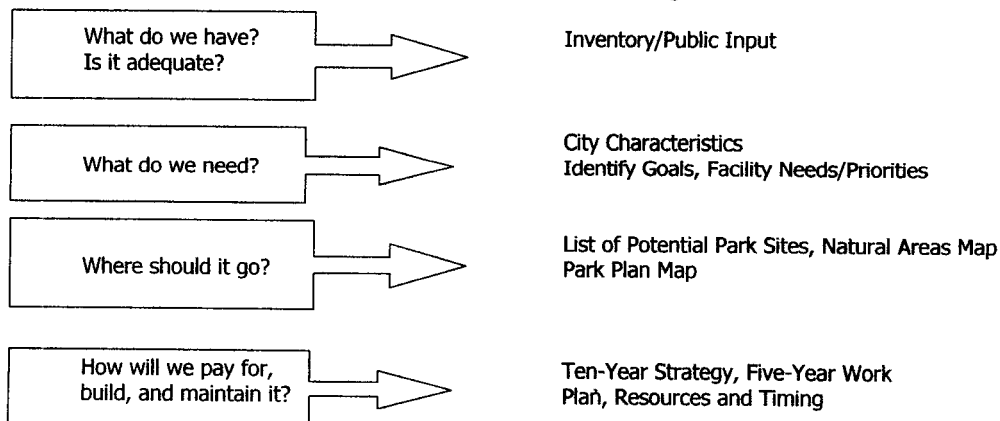
Preparation of the Park Plan began in June 2006. The following schedule of activities was followed for completion of the planning process.

Figure 7 Planning Process

<i>Approximate Date</i>	<i>Planning Activity</i>
<i>June/July</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acceptance of professional services proposal ▪ Research existing planning documents and mapping ▪ Meet with Park Board to discuss planning process, general needs and goals, citizen input process ▪ Inventory and map existing recreational facilities ▪ Compile community data
<i>August</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribute, collect, and tabulate community survey ▪ Identify park and facility standards (for example, <u>Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines</u>, National Recreation and Park Association, and <u>Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan</u>, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) ▪ Consult TPWD technical staff on potential natural areas ▪ Meet with Park Board to prioritize needs
<i>September</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meet with Park Board to identify potential natural areas and park sites ▪ Prepare draft comprehensive plan following TPWD guidelines, including priorities, 10-Year plan, funding alternatives, and map of existing and proposed parks and open space
<i>October</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submit draft plan for review by City and park committee
<i>November-December</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of draft plan by City and park committee
<i>January-February 2007</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare final plan for consideration by City Council ▪ Submit draft plan for initial review by Recreation Grants Branch of TPWD
<i>February</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendation of plan by park committee
<i>March</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Hearing and Adoption of plan by City Council

The planning process examined the following issues:

Figure 8 The Planning Process



Public input included a community survey, which was circulated in July 2006 to obtain citizen input on citywide park needs. The response of 163 surveys represented approximately 433 residents of Sealy, about 7% of the total population. Four meetings were held with Sealy's Parks Board. The consultants met with the Sealy Independent School District superintendent for input from the district's perspective. Four of the City's sports leagues were contacted for current information on participation and concerns of the organization relating to the City's parks and recreation system.

Members of the Park Board included:

Rick Bauman, Chair

Jim Turnbull

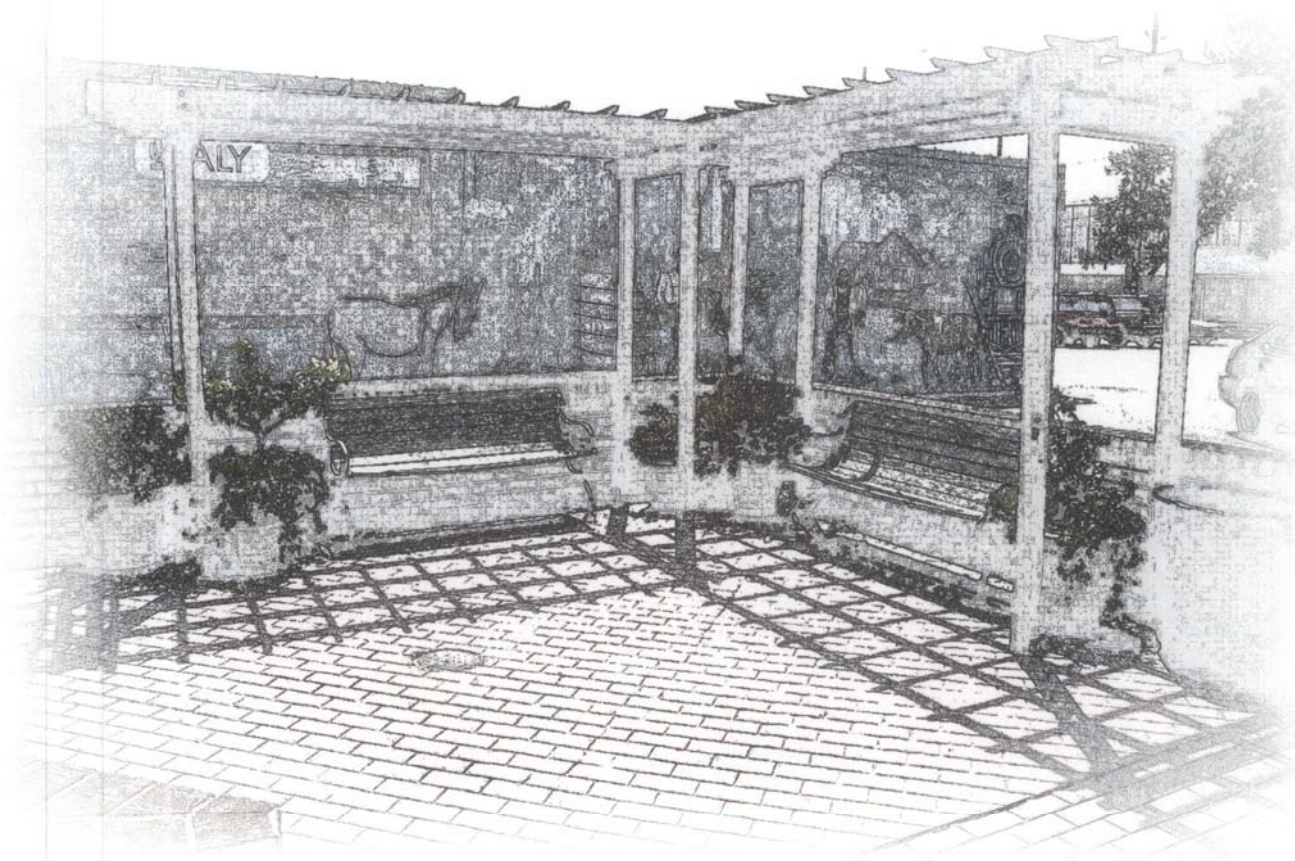
Mandy Cano

Alfreda Cloud

Jason Mackey

Following a public hearing, the Sealy City Council adopted the plan by resolution on March 14, 2007. The resolution of adoption is included as Appendix A.

Sealy Park Inventory



Downtown Pocket Park

SEALY PARK INVENTORY

Park Classification System

This study uses a method of classifying municipal parks using a tiered system with five classifications, based on a scheme of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). (*Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, James D. Mertes and James R. Hall, co-chairs, National Recreation and Park Association, 1995.)

- *Pocket parks* are very small areas used to address limited, isolated or unique recreation needs, such as downtown pedestrian areas or tot lots in a residential neighborhood.
- *Neighborhood parks*, considered to be the "building blocks" of a good park system, serve as the social and recreational focus of the immediate residential area and are within walking or cycling distance. Activities can be both active and passive, but are generally informal (as opposed to community events or organized sports leagues, for example).
- *Community parks* serve the entire town, with diverse facilities that allow for larger gatherings, organized sports, and more intense recreational activities. They also are a means of preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.
- *Athletic complexes* consolidate heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites that are strategically located in the community. Since the BP&W Park serves as both a community park and athletic complex, these categories have been combined.
- *Special use facilities* cover a broad range of park and recreation facilities oriented toward a single-purpose use. These could include indoor recreation or event centers, arboretums, aquatic centers, or sports stadiums.

Existing City Park Facilities

Sealy's park inventory totals about 36 acres. Sealy's existing park facilities are discussed below and tallied in Figure 9. School campuses also provide recreation facilities, but the acreage is not included since it is not City-owned. The school facilities are counted since they are available to the public, even though this availability is limited. Sealy has defined its service area for recreation facilities as its extraterritorial jurisdiction. These are also illustrated on the Park Plan Map.

Figure 9 Sealy Municipal Park Inventory

<i>Park Classification</i>	<i>Park Name</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Service Area</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Pocket Park	Downtown	.1	NA	Landscaped Area	Good	Includes fountain, flagpole, paved and planted area along Main Street.
Neighborhood Parks	Abe and Irene Levine Park <i>Recreation Facilities</i>	2	1/2 mi	Gazebo	Good	Attractive Focal Point
				Group Pavilion	Good	Large metal "industrial" design – Includes Tables
				Picnic Shelters	Fair	Metal – older design
				Playscapes	Good	Both new
				Playground Equipment	Fair	Equipment is older, but well maintained, most with fall zones
				Sand Volleyball	Good	Newly installed
				Restrooms	Poor	Older construction in need of renovation
				Basketball Court	Good	
				Picnic Shelters	Fair	Metal – older design
				Playground	Good	Older equipment, but has fall zones
	Joe Scranton, Jr., Park <i>Recreation Facilities</i>	3	1/2 mi	Softball Field	Good	Not lighted
				Restroom	Good	
				Picnic Shelters	Good	
				Playground Equipment	Good	
				1/2 Basketball Court	Fair	
				Picnic Shelters	Good	Metal, 2 metal picnic tables in each shelter
				Playground Equipment	Poor-Fair	Torn Net
				Security Lights	Good	Older, maintained; most lack fall zones; meet safety guidelines?
	Mark Frederick Memorial Park <i>Recreation Facilities</i>	2	1/2 mi	Picnic Shelters	Good	
				1/2 Basketball Court	Fair	
				Playground Equipment	Poor-Fair	
				Security Lights	Good	
	Support Facilities					

Figure 9 (continued) Sealy Municipal Park Inventory

<i>Park Classification</i>	<i>Park Name</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Service Area</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Community Park/ Athletic Complex	Sealy Business and Professional Women's Park <i>Recreation Facilities</i>	29	City	Barbecue Pit	Good	Large, covered
				Baseball Fields	Good	Recent improvements
				Basketball Court	Good	Usable as full/half-court; 6 goals
				Batting Cages	Good	
				Group Pavilion	Good	Includes restrooms, concession
				Lake/Fishing Pier	Good	Wooden T-pier
				Picnic Tables	Good	
				Playscape	Good	New
				Soccer Area	Poor	Temporary goals – not tallied as fields
				Softball Fields	Good	Recent improvements
				T-Ball Field	Good	Recent improvements
				Tennis Courts	Good	
				Walk/Jog Trail	Good	1/2 and 3/4 mile loops; crushed granite
				Concession	Good	Recently renovated
				Restrooms	Good	
Special Facility	Hill Community Center		City	Indoor Meeting/ Event Center		
					Good	Adjacent to B&PW Park with attractive setting and adequate parking

Figure 10 Park Facility Tally

Feature	City					School			Total
	Downtown	Frederick Park	Levine Park	Scranton Park	B&PW Park/Hill Comm Ctr	Elem School	Inter/Jr High School	High School	
Service Area	City	1/4 mi	1/4 mi		City	NA	NA	NA	36.1acres
Acreage	.1 acre	2 acres	2 acres	3 acres	29 acres	NA	NA	NA	
Ownership	City	City	SISD	City	City	SISD	SISD	SISD	
RECREATION FACILITIES									
Barbeque Pit					1				1
Baseball					3		(1)		3
Basketball Court		1/2		1	1	1			3
Basketball Goals						2			
Batting Cage					2			(2)	2
Benches				X	X				
Football Stadium							(1)		
Group Pavilion			1		1	1			2.5
Indoor Meeting Facility					1				1
Lake/Fishing Pier					1				1
Picnic Shelters		2	2	4		2			9
Picnic Tables		2	1		6	X			8
Playground Equipment		4	3	8		12			21
Playscape			2		1	1	1		4
Practice Field/ Backstop						1	1		1
Practice Football Field							1	1	1
Sand Volleyball			2						2
Softball Field				1	1			(1)	3
T-Ball Field					1				1
Tennis Court					2		6		5
Track							1		.5
Walking/Jogging Trail					3/4 mile				3/4 mile
Weight Room								1	.5
SUPPORT FACILITIES									
Concession Building					X		X	X	
Gazebo			X						
Off-Street Parking			X (H/C Only)		X	X	X	X	
Restrooms			X	X	X				
Security Lights	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

(#) - Limited or no availability to the general public; not included in Total.

¹ School Facilities tallied at 1/2 of value since they are not fully available to the general public.

Business and Professional Women's Park

Location: 1000 block of Main Street at railroad track
Acreage: 29 Acres
Classification: Community Park/Athletic Complex
Setting: Primarily open with athletic fields; includes small lake
Adjacent Uses: Railroad tracks, cemetery, residential



This is Sealy's large community park. It covers approximately 29 acres and is primarily an athletic complex. There are some passive uses, but these are not as well developed and are secondary to the more active ball fields and sports courts. A small lake is located at the rear of the property with a jogging trail that loops around the lake and the southern half of the park. The pavilion includes a restroom/concession area and is available for group events for a fee. The park is adjacent to the Hill Community Center and within about one block of the historic wooden dance hall, the Liedertafel Pavilion.



W. E. Hill Community Center

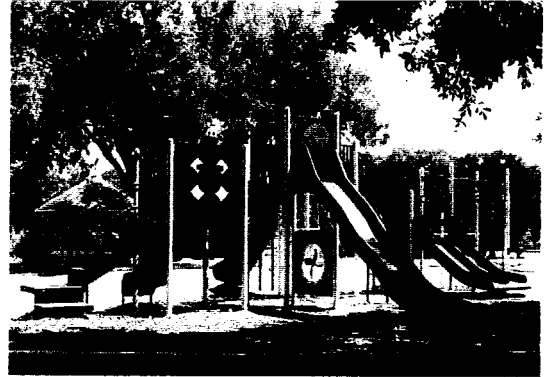
Location: 1000 Main Street
Acreage: Included in B&PW Acreage Above
Classification: Special Facility – Indoor Meeting/Event Center
Setting: Adjacent to B&PW Park, some trees
Adjacent Uses: Railroad tracks, cemetery, residential

This indoor event center is adjacent to the B&PW Park on Main Street. It is available for rent for meetings and events.



Abe and Irene Levine Park

Location: 410 Main Street
Acreage: 2 Acres
Classification: Neighborhood Park
Setting: Large trees with some open space
Adjacent Uses: Single-family residential, City Hall

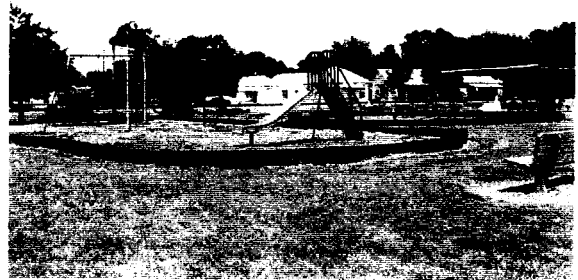


Levine Park was originally maintained by Sealy's Lions Club, but is now under the City's control. The park is situated across from City Hall along a major east/west street connecting downtown with the B&PW Park.

Although Levine Park is classified as a neighborhood park due to its size and facilities, it is heavily used by Sealy's residents and is the site of several citywide events, such as the Christmas Fantasy of Lights activities and outdoor movies. The City has recently made a number of improvements to the park, including new playground facilities, entrance and landscaping, and improvements to the group pavilion. The pavilion is available for rent for group events.

Joe Scranton, Jr., Park

Location: Daniel Street between East Main and Second Streets
Acreage: 3 Acres
Classification: Neighborhood Park
Setting: Adjacent to railroad tracks near downtown and industrial uses; some trees
Adjacent Uses: Commercial, industrial, railroad tracks (Residential across tracks)



This small neighborhood park is located adjacent to lower income neighborhoods of Sealy. Although it is near more intensive uses, the park has an open feeling, due in part to the width of Daniel Street and to the lack of trees on the site. The City has made improvements to the park within the last five years. The park is heavily used by neighborhood residents.

Mark Frederick Memorial Park

Location: Willow and Brookside Streets
Acreage: 2 Acres
Classification: Neighborhood Park
Setting: Attractive passive setting with isolated Access; adjacent to interstate highway; some trees
Adjacent Uses: Single-family residential, Interstate Highway, Allen's Creek (Vacant across the creek)

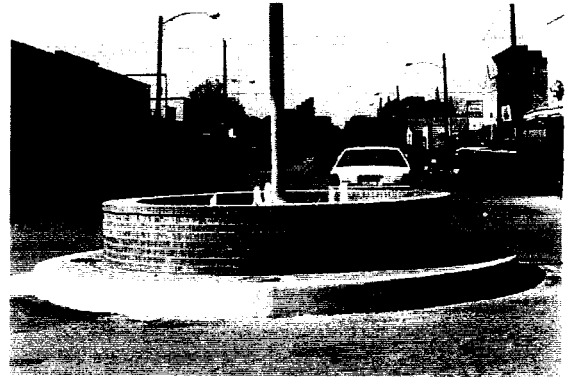


This park is located adjacent to Interstate 10, but its only access is through a looped residential street. The park has older equipment and is underutilized. According to Parks Board members, the use and condition of the park has deteriorated as the adjacent neighborhood has grown older. The park's location adjacent to Allen's Creek and other vacant property offers some potential for future expansion.

Downtown Pocket Park

Location: Main Street
Acreage: About 0.1 acre
Classification: Pocket Park
Setting: Central business district
Adjacent Uses: Retail and commercial uses, parking areas

This downtown enhancement consists of an entry sign at the western end of the central business district, a flagpole and fountain in the center of Main Street, and a small sitting area at Fowlkes Street.



School and Private Park Facilities

Sealy Independent School District. The school district provides additional facilities at the elementary, intermediate/junior high school and high school campuses, some of which are available for public use during non-school hours. These are shown in Figure 10 and the Park Plan Map.

The recreation facilities at Selman Elementary School, located on Highway 90 West in the southwest quadrant of town, include two playground areas with a variety of equipment, and several basketball goals, picnic tables, and practice backstops. Adjacent to the school building is a large metal pavilion with basketball goals built into the structure. The playground areas are fenced.

The intermediate and junior high campuses (previously the high school campus), at 939 Tiger Lane in the center of Sealy, contain a play structure, baseball fields, football practice field and stadium, and 6 tennis courts. A swimming pool located on the site was available to the public. In previous years, the pool was heavily used, especially for private parties. SISD has recently closed the facility and plans to remove it. Concern over the void left by the closing of the pool was a significant factor in initiating the park planning process.

At Sealy High School, located at Championship Drive on Highway 90 West, adjacent to Interstate 10, there is a softball field, football practice field, and batting cages. A weight room at the high school is available to the public after school and is experiencing increasing use.

Sealy ISD's facilities are well maintained. Some are of older design, but are in good condition with adequate fall zones. Since Highway 90 is a major thoroughfare that acts as a barrier, both the elementary and high school campuses are somewhat isolated from most of Sealy's residential neighborhoods and are not as easily accessible by foot or bicycle.

Private Facilities. There are about 4 privately owned horse/nature ranches and farms in the Sealy vicinity. These offer tours, learning and retreat activities, and some overnight accommodations. There is also a race park on Interstate 10, which includes drag racing and several other forms of motor sports. There is one golf course in Sealy that is open to the public.

Sports League Activities

There are a number of sports teams operating in Sealy. These are summarized in Figure 11, with estimates of the number of teams participating.

Figure 11 Sealy Sports Leagues

Type of League	Number Of Teams/Players	Location of Play	Comments
Little League	About 340 players	B&PW Park	Anticipate need for add'l field in 3-4 years
Girls Softball	About 160 players	B&PW Park	
Adult Softball	1 semi-pro team/20	Private complex	---
Youth Soccer	1 team/25 (10-11 year boys only)	Home field - Brenham Practice area - B&PW	Share B&PW playing area with adult teams; Could have more teams with add'l fields and coaches
Adult Soccer	30+ players	B&PW Park	Share playing area with youth teams
Little Dribblers	10 boys, 10 girls/142 (Grades 3-4, 5-6)	Junior High & "Old High School" Gyms	Plan to open registration to all of Austin County next season
Youth Football	None in Sealy	---	Play in Katy Youth Football League

Source: Sports league representatives.

Existing Regional Recreation Facilities

Sealy has many recreation opportunities within a 50-100 mile radius. These include:

- **State Parks and Facilities**
 - Stephen F. Austin State Park and Historic Site - This park is located about 6 miles from Sealy along the Brazos River. (664 acres; facilities include historic replicas, overnight group facilities with dining hall, group pavilion, picnic shelters, tent/RV camping, golf course, hiking, biking, and nature trails, fishing).
 - Brazos Bend, Washington-on-the-Brazos, Varner-Hogg Plantation Historic Site
 - Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail - Sealy is near two loops (Rio Colorado and Katy Prairie) of this bird-viewing trail developed by Texas Parks and Wildlife.
- **National Wildlife Refuges** - Attwater Prairie Chicken, Big Boggy, Brazoria, and San Bernard
- **Other Cities** - Many diverse recreation facilities of the city of Houston (such as Hermann Park Zoo, the Museum of Natural Science, Six Flags Splashtown, major league baseball, and NASA) are within 55 miles. Less urban activities can be found in Brenham, Round Top/Winedale, and Eagle Lake. The Gulf Coast is about 80 miles from Sealy, with numerous recreation and nature destinations.

Comparable Local Park Systems

Figure 12 compares the park systems of several communities in Texas using total park acreage, acres per 1,000 population, number of parks, and availability of selected facilities. The table also shows the top needs for the communities as identified in park plans similar to this one.

Sealy's greatest deficiency compared to these communities is parkland acreage and acres per 1,000 population. The parkland acreage is low compared to most of the other towns and to the state average of 15.5 acres per 1,000. However, Sealy exceeds the other cities in number of ball fields.

Figure 12 Comparison of Local Park Systems

City	2000 Pop	Public Park Acres	Acres/1000 Pop ¹	Community Parks ³	Neighborhood or Pocket Parks	Community (C) or Recreation (R) Center	Swimming Pools	Ball Fields Public School or Private	Golf Holes (Municipal)	Top 3 Park Needs from Plan	Comments/ Special Features
Sealy	5,248	36.1	7	1	3	C	0	6	0	Swimming Pool Multi-Purpose Trail Water Splash Pad	Historic Pavilion; 5-field athletic/ community park
Hempstead	4,691	31.1	7	1	3	C	0	4	0	Water Park Basketball Playground	Seeking TPWD funding for indoor rec center
Hamilton	2,977	46	15	0	3	0	1	1	0	Soccer Baseball Softball	Rec'd 2003 TPWD grant for new community park; Pecan Creek linear greenbelt
Bellville	3,794	50	13	0	3	C	1	2	0	Trails Ball fields Multi-purpose Fields	Rec'd 2005 TPWD grant for new community park
Rockdale	5,439	75	14	0	2	C	1	4	0	Trails Playground Softball Fields	Fairgrounds, 2 ball field complexes
Navasota	6,800	100	15 5 ²	1	6	R	1	2	9	Multi-purpose Building Youth Programs Playgrounds	New Indoor center; RV area; 7-park linear greenbelt

¹Statewide average for communities under 20,000 is 15.5 acres per 1000 population. (Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2002.)
² Acres per 1000 population excluding acreage of a publicly owned golf course.
³ Parks listed are those that meet minimum standards for that category adapted from National Recreation and Parks Association.

Source: Comprehensive Plans and Grant Applications prepared by Sebesta and Associates, 1998-2006.

Park and Open Space Analysis



Joe Scranton Jr. Park

PARK AND OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS

Introduction

Even with limited financial resources, smaller communities feel the need to provide parks and recreational facilities for their residents. Generally Texas Parks and Wildlife Department classifies the methods of determining needs for parks, recreation, and open space as standard-based, demand-based, and resource-based:

- The *standard-based* approach uses established standards to determine the amounts of facilities and park areas needed to meet the needs of a given population size. The standards may be based on studies of demand, or the professional judgment of parks and recreation planners and designers.
- The *demand-based* approach relies on information gathered from surveys, participation rates, and other information that indicates how much of the population wants certain types of facilities.
- The *resource-based* approach examines the assets and resources of the area for open space, parks and recreation facilities, and defines how these resources can be utilized. For example – the availability of a lake or river within an area is a resource that can be utilized in developing a park system.

(From "Preparation Suggestions for Local Park, Recreation & Open Space Master Plans, Texas Recreation & Parks Account Program," Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Recreation Grants Branch, 9/99 Edited Version.)

Sealy used primarily standard- and demand-based assessment methods to analyze its park needs. It also applied resource criteria in examining the potential of the various creek corridors.

First, level of service standards were determined to measure the adequacy of existing facilities from a system-wide standpoint. Secondly, facility needs were identified based on preferences of Sealy's residents and long-range goals of the community.

Level of Service Standards

A classification scheme of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) was used as the basis for determining park standards. This study uses the classification system outlined above to define park standards that are adjusted for a small community. Acreage and service area coverage are the measures for the minimum level of service for each classification. In addition, four other factors – location, accessibility, diversity of facilities, and attractiveness of the setting – determine the adequacy of individual parks. The Park Standards Table below specifies the criteria for each classification of park.

The standards were applied to the City park areas, and the results are shown in Figure 14, Analysis of City Parks Using Park Standards. Service area coverage is illustrated in the Neighborhood Park Service Areas Map.

Figure 13 Sealy Park Standards

Standard	Pocket Park	Neighborhood Park	Community Park	Athletic Complex	Special Facilities
Size	2500SF-1/2Ac	1-10 Ac	20 Ac (minimum) 50+ Ac (optimum)	25 Ac (minimum) 40-100 Ac (optimum)	10 Ac (minimum) Also depends on facility
Service Area	< ¼ mile	¼-½ mile	Communitywide ½ to 3 miles	Community/Region	Community/Region
Location and Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential or downtown setting Pedestrian accessibility important in residential areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uninterrupted by physical barriers or nonresidential roads Ease of access by walk/ bike on trail, sidewalk, or low-volume street is essential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural character of site very important Accessible from major streets Located near nonresidential or buffered from residential areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategically located near nonresidential areas or prior to residential development Accessible by major thoroughfare & outside access route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategically located for entire community Easily accessible from major streets High intensity uses cited away from residential areas or buffered from them
Appropriate Recreation Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball Sand volleyball Children's playground Picnic tables/shelters Community gardens Outdoor event area Benches Decorative elements such as gazebos, monuments, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball ¼ mile walking/jogging trails Practice/open field Sand volleyball Tennis court Children's playground Picnic tables Small group picnic shelter Community gardens Benches Water splash pad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball court 1 ½ mile walking/jogging trails Baseball and softball fields* 1 soccer/multi-purpose field* 1 football or multi-purpose field Practice/open field Multi-purpose building Sand volleyball court Tennis court Children's playground Water park/swimming pool Amphitheater Picnic tables Pavilion/group picnic shelter Community gardens Skate park Natural open space areas, water bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 miles walking/jogging trails Baseball fields* Soccer fields* Football field* Softball fields* Practice/open fields Sand volleyball court Tennis courts Children's playground Pavilion/group picnic shelter Natural open space areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually a single use, determined by local demand, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-purpose building: 1 per 10,000-20,000 population Swimming pool: 1 per city less than 50,000 population
Appropriate Support Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security lights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security lights Restroom facilities 5 parking spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restroom facilities Concession building 50-100 parking spaces Security lights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restroom facilities Concession building 200 parking spaces Security lights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restroom facilities Concession building as appropriate Parking spaces as appropriate Security lights

*Recommended number depends on sports league participation.
Source: Based on standards of the National Recreation and Parks Association.

Figure 14 Analysis of Sealy Recreation Facilities Using Park Standards

Feature	Type of Facility					
	Pocket Park	Neighborhood Parks			Community Park/ Athletic Complex	Special Use Facility
Name of Facility	Downtown	Frederick Park	Levine Park	Scranton Park	B&PW Park	Hill Community Center
Ownership	City	City	City	City	City	City
Acreage/Meets minimum	.1 Acre/Yes	2 Acres/Yes	2 Acres/Yes	3 Acre/Yes	29 Acres/Yes (Minimum)	NA
Service Area	Citywide	1/2 Mile	1/2 Mile, but also used for citywide functions	1/2 Mile	Citywide	Citywide
Location	Serves purpose for specialized downtown enhancement	Serves purpose for immediate neighborhood, but isolated for larger service area	Centrally located for service area	Central to some eastside neighborhoods, but adjacent to railroad, industrial	Not central, but within 1 1/2 miles for most of community	Not central, but within 1 1/2 miles for most of community
Accessibility	Accessible by car or foot by downtown users	Accessible for adjacent neighborhood only	Pedestrian/bike safety affected on Main Street; otherwise good for neighborhood use	Accessible by foot/bicycle/car with some conflict from railroad track	Local vehicular access good; narrow road affects safety of pedestrian/bike access	Local vehicular access good; narrow road affects safety of pedestrian/bike access
Natural Setting/Character	Good for downtown setting	Attractive setting adjoining creek, but also adjacent to freeway	Site has mature trees and some open area	Site is densely developed; could use more trees	Primarily athletic complex with open character Needs enhancement of passive/informal uses	Attractive setting with trees/landscaping
Potential for Future Development	Site is fully developed	Existing site needs further development/ enhancement; creek and vacant land offer potential for expansion	Site is surrounded by existing development with no potential for expansion	Expansion adjoining site not possible; property is vacant across Daniel St.	Site has vacant land to the southwest, but otherwise is landlocked	Possibility for expansion of building at current site
Appropriate Facilities: Existing Facilities/ Possible Facilities	1/7	3/11	6/11	6/11	12/17	NA
Support Facilities: Security lights Concession building Restroom facilities Parking	X On-street	X On-street	X On-street; 2 off-street handicapped spaces	X On-street	X X X X	X NA X X

Summary of Standard-based Issues.

- General. According to minimum calculations based on the state averages for parkland, Sealy would need an additional 89 acres to serve the population projected within the ten-year timeframe of this plan. These are broken down by type of park below.

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Standard (Acres/1000 persons)</i>	<i>Total Acres Needed For 2016 Pop 7,500</i>	<i>Existing Acreage</i>	<i>Acres to Acquire</i>
Pocket Parks	0.5 acres	4 acres	<1	4
Neighborhood Parks	2 acres	15 acres	7	8
Communitwide Park Facilities	8 acres	60 acres	29	31
Natural Areas and Open Space	5 acres	37 acres	0	38
Total	15.5 acres	116 acres	36	80

- Pocket Parks. Sealy could use additional small parks for specialized functions such as beautification, passive recreation, or small neighborhood tot lots.
- Neighborhood Parks. Sealy's neighborhood parks meet the acreage and minimal facility standards. There are some "holes" in service area coverage, especially in several southeastern and, to a lesser extent, northwestern neighborhoods. For the most part, accessibility of existing parks is good for neighborhood use with some safety concerns for pedestrian/bicycle traffic. Some improvements are needed, especially Frederick Park.
- Community Park. Sealy's community park meets the minimum acreage and contains primarily athletic uses (7 of the 12 uses are athletic fields or sports courts). The park is not as centrally located/accessible as it could be for the intensity of uses it includes and is not as accessible for residents from the east side of town. The City needs a park large enough to offer varied citywide recreation functions that will serve the projected population for the next 10 years.
- Natural Areas and Open Space. Sealy does not have land specifically designated as open space, which will be more significant as growth continues to increase development pressures.
- Special Facilities. Hill Community Center seems to be well utilized as a meeting and event facility, but it does not provide indoor recreation opportunities.

Public Input

Survey Composition. Direct input from the citizens and city officials is needed to reflect Sealy's preferences and goals. In August of 2006, a survey was distributed throughout the community, as a way of identifying and prioritizing park needs. (See Appendix B.) The survey was distributed through a mail-out to city utility customers. 163 responses were tallied. This represents 433 residents, 7% of the estimated current population.

As illustrated in Figure 15 to the right, 86% of the responses were from residents who lived within the Sealy city limits.

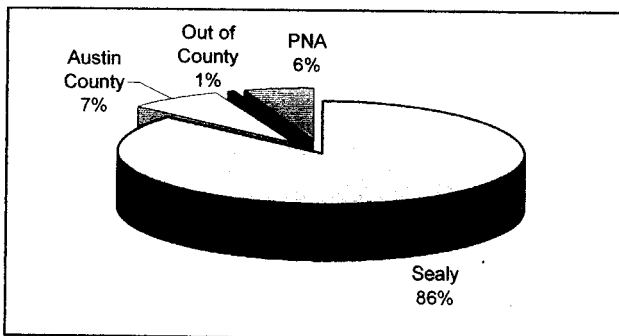


Figure 15 Place of Residence
Source: Sealy Community Survey, 2006.

Ages of household members from the survey responses are shown below, plotted with the 2000 Census figures. There was under representation of the 20-34 age group, and over representation in the 55-64 age group. Otherwise, the survey sample seems to be roughly comparable to the Census age distribution.

Figure 16

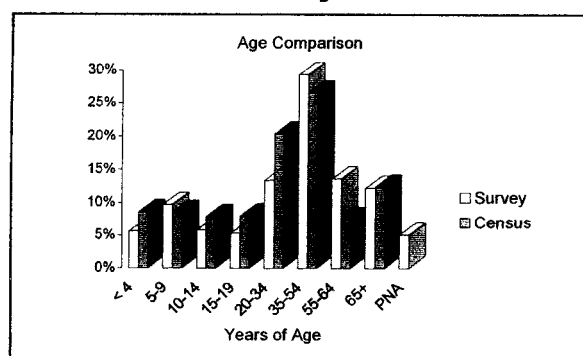
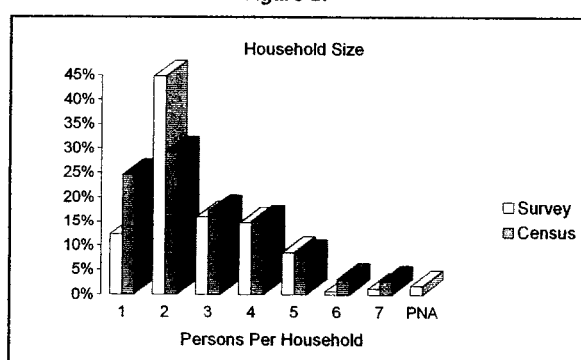


Figure 17



Source: 2000 Census data, Sealy Community Survey, 2006.

As illustrated in Figure 17, 1-person households and larger households were under-represented in the survey, compared to the census breakdown. Two person households were significantly overrepresented in the survey.

Recreation Participation. Residents were asked to respond to a number of issues relating to parks and recreation. First they were asked to indicate activities they currently participate in, and the frequency of that participation. According to the table below walking and jogging were the most popular activities by a large margin, both in terms of frequency and number of participants. The remainder of the top 5 activities reflected a variety of interests – bicycling, fitness center, children’s playground, and swimming at a pool. The complete list of activities is included in the Appendices.

Input on recreation needs was separated into outdoor and indoor facility categories, and was split into 3 questions:

- Is there a need for additional facilities?
- What do you feel are the top 5 needed facilities?
- How often would you use these 5 facilities?

Figure 18 Community Survey – Top Twenty Activities

Rank	Activity	Frequency	Number
1	Walk/jog/exercise trail	9742	109
2	Bicycling	3608	73
3	Fitness Center	2985	55
4	Children's playground	2214	68
5	Swimming at a pool	2078	79
6	Nature activities	1413	46
7	Fishing	1362	80
8	Swimming at lake or beach	1227	65
9	Youth baseball/softball	981	36
10	Golf/driving range	927	39
11	Basketball	907	34
12	Picnic	581	56
13	RV Camping	552	51
14	Football	473	14
15	Pavilion or group shelter	447	49
16	Soccer	367	13
17	Tennis	341	21
18	Adult baseball/softball	340	21
19	Skateboarding	310	9
20	<i>Theater</i>	100	1

Notes: "Frequency" indicates the total number of times during the past year that anyone from a responding household participated in that activity. "Number" is the total number of surveys (out of 163) that checked that activity. Italicized activity was a "write-in."

Source: Sealy Community Survey, 2006.

Outdoor Parks and Recreation. Respondents were asked about the importance of preserving natural open space. There was significant support for conservation efforts, with 82% feeling that it was either very important or important. For outdoor facilities, 71% of those responding felt there was a need for additional facilities. 20% felt there were no outdoor recreation needs; 9% did not answer the question.

Figure 19 Preserve Open Space?

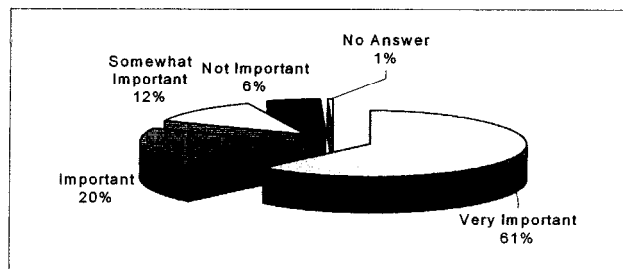
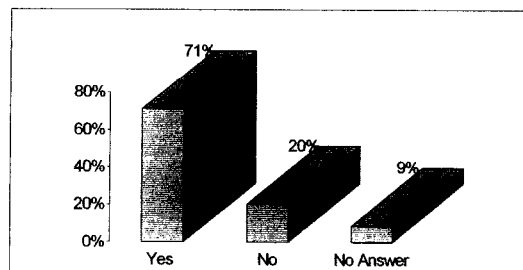


Figure 20 Need Additional Outdoor Facilities?



Source: Sealy Community Survey, 2006.

Figure 21 tallies the outdoor recreation facility priorities. The top priority, swimming pool, reflects residents' concern since the closing of the school pool. Along the second ranked trails, these two facilities ranked significantly higher than the third facility, water splash pad. Generally, the rankings reflect residents' activity preferences – swimming, walking/jogging, bicycling. It is significant to note two "nature" facilities, nature/hiking trails and open space/scenic areas ranked within the top 6 needs. The complete table of needs is included in the Appendices.

Respondents indicated how often they would use their top-ranked facilities, with trails surpassing all other facilities for total number of times, or events, that it would be used. Some facilities that did not rank within the top 5 showed significant potential use, such as open space and exercise equipment. With the exception of trails, with the heaviest use on a daily basis, the top five facilities were most often categorized as weekly activities. Open space, amphitheater, picnicking, and fishing were generally listed as monthly activities. A complete list of these responses is contained in the Appendices. The top ten facilities, in terms of potential use, are represented graphically in Figure 22.

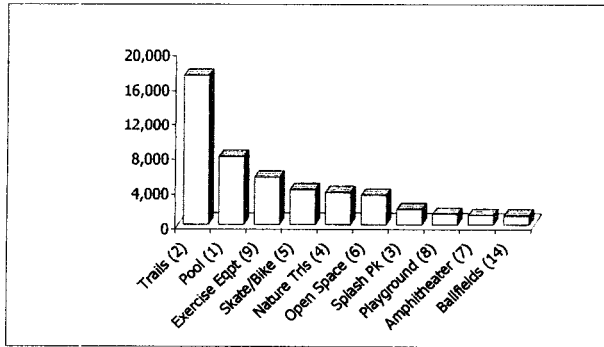
Figure 21 What are Sealy's Top Outdoor Recreation Needs?

Rank	Facility	Weighted Score	Number
1	Swimming pool	402	96
2	Walk/Jog Trails	325	92
3	Water splash park	193	57
4	Nature/hiking trails	146	50
5	Skating/bicycling path	141	48
6	Open space/Scenic areas	135	48
7	Amphitheater	112	42
8	Playground equipment	109	37
9	Exercise Equipment for Trail	102	33
10	Picnic tables	98	32
11	Pond/fishing area	94	37
12	Pavilion/group shelter	93	33
13	Community garden	82	31
14	Little League/Softball Fields	69	26
15	Basketball court	54	20
16	RV camping	53	19
17	Sand volleyball court	46	19
18	Soccer field	44	18
19	Tennis court	41	15
20	Golf driving range	38	17

Notes: "Weighted Score" represents the total score using the rankings (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) of all surveys. "Number" is the number of surveys (out of 163) that included the activity as a need.

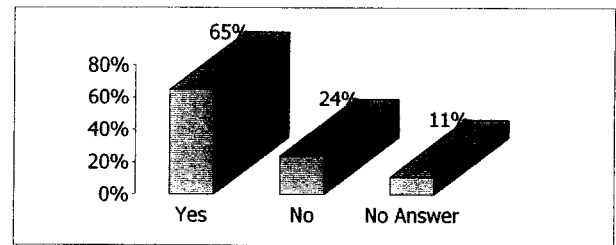
Source: Sealy Community Survey, 2006.

Figure 22 How Often Would You Use New Facilities?



Note: Graph represents number of "events" or times facility would be used, based on survey responses. Rank of the facility is shown in parentheses.

Figure 23 Does Sealy Need Indoor Facilities?



Source: Sealy Community Survey, 2006.

Indoor Recreation. When asked about the need for indoor facilities, residents were supportive, but not as strongly as for outdoor uses. 65% felt that there was such a need, while 24% felt that indoor facilities were not needed. 11% did not answer this question.

The indoor facility rankings, based on the survey, are shown in Figure 24. The top three facilities were close in rank and number of responses. For example, a youth activity room had the highest weighted score, but an indoor pool was listed by more surveys as a need.

Figure 24 What are Sealy's Top Indoor Recreation Needs?

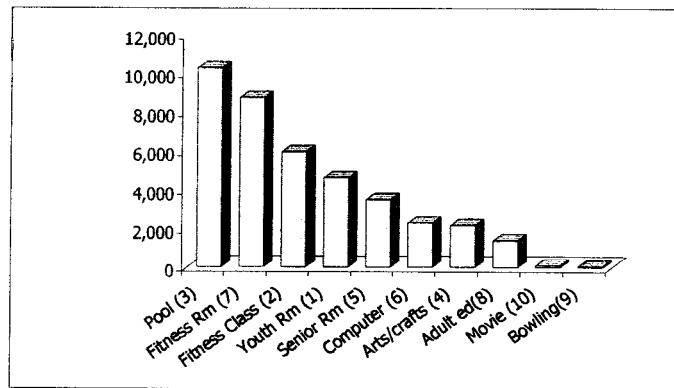
Rank	Facility	Weighted Score	Number
1	Youth activity room	232	82
2	Fitness classes	223	75
3	Indoor aquatics (Pool)	219	87
4	Arts/crafts activities	213	61
5	Senior activity room	201	68
6	Computer classes	173	60
7	Fitness equipment room	167	59
8	Adult education	141	50
9	<i>Bowling alley</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>
10	<i>Movie theater</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>
11	<i>Child care for parent users</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>
12	<i>Walking track</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>
13	<i>Senior yoga/tai chi</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>
14	<i>Aquatic therapy</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>
15	<i>Indoor basketball</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>
16	<i>Pool table/dominos</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>
17	<i>Roller rink</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>

Notes: "Weighted Score" - the total score using the rankings (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) of all surveys. "Number" - the total number of surveys (out of 163) that ranked that activity. Italicized activities were "write-ins."

Source: Sealy Community Survey, 2006.

Frequency of use of the indoor facilities is shown in Figure 25. An indoor pool had a significantly higher count than all other types of facilities, with the highest frequencies for weekly and daily use. A fitness room was the second highest total, while the youth activity room and fitness classes scored third and fourth, respectively, at considerably lower totals. The ten highest scoring facilities are shown in Figure 25 below.

Figure 25 How Often Would You Use New Indoor Facilities?



Note: Graph represents number of "events" or times facility would be used, based on survey responses. Rank of the facility is shown in parentheses.

Source: Sealy Community Survey, 2006

Funding Parks. The next set of survey questions concerned financing park improvements. Residents were first asked if they would be willing to pay additional taxes to fund Sealy's parks. The results, shown below, indicate mixed support for this means of financing. Some residents indicated on their surveys that their willingness to pay additional taxes would depend on what was proposed.

Sealy residents were much more willing for facilities to be funded by user fees. 82% were willing to pay entrance fees to use, for example, a pool or indoor recreation center.

Figure 26 Pay Additional Taxes?

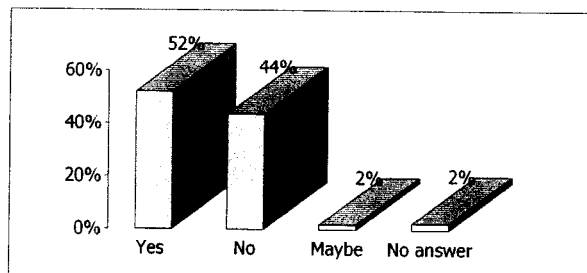
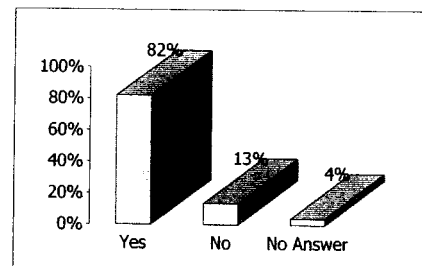


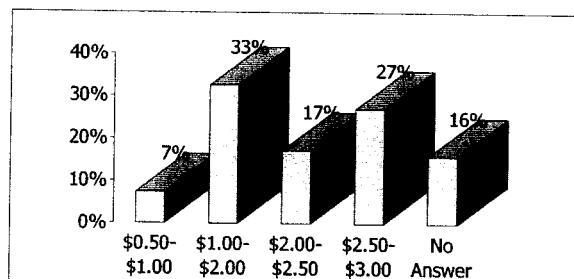
Figure 27 Pay Entrance Fees?



Source: Sealy Community Survey, 2006

Finally, residents were asked to indicate how much they would be willing to pay per visit. Over three-fourths of those responding felt comfortable with a fee of \$1.00-\$3.00.

Figure 28 How Much Entrance Fee?



Source: Sealy Community Survey, 2006

School District Input

School districts can be key partners in the development, maintenance, and programming of park and recreation facilities. For this reason, the City felt it would be beneficial to incorporate the district's views during the planning process. Sealy Independent School District offered the following input:

- Sealy's primary need is for a recreation center with activities for youth. With the growth in Sealy, youth need positive activities and influences.
- Sisd is interested in a range of cooperative efforts from land acquisition to development, maintenance, and programming. They are considering options for offering school-owned property as potential park sites to the City, and may consider increasing access to playground areas at the elementary and intermediate school campuses.
- There is no school construction proposed at this time that might offer the opportunity for joint school/park development, but future plans/needs for programming include extending hours for the weight room at the high school, a homework program, and computer lab.

Park and Recreation Needs

System-wide Needs. Sealy's most important needs from a system-wide viewpoint are:

- An additional 89 acres to serve the projected population of 7,500 by 2016
- Another community park, or a larger one (whether at the current site or another site) to serve active and passive, outdoor and indoor citywide recreation functions and to accommodate growth
- Neighborhood facilities within a ½ mile radius for the all of the City, especially in southeastern neighborhoods, and in future residential growth areas to the north and west
- Enhancement of existing parks
- Potential greenbelt/trail/parks along Allen's Creek
- Indoor recreation opportunities

Outdoor Facility Priorities. The prioritization of needs by the City of Sealy is based on:

- Needs expressed in the community survey - All of the survey's top 5 facilities are included. (Multi-purpose trails combine walking/jogging, skating/bicycling, and nature trails)
- Facilities that are not available in Sealy's parks.
- Facilities that serve youth.
- Input from sports leagues.

Figure 29 Outdoor Facility Priorities

Priority Rank	Outdoor Facility
1	Swimming Pool
2	Multi-purpose Trail
3	Water Splash Pad
4	Exercise Equipment for Trail
5	Skate Park
6	Soccer Fields
7	Softball Fields
8	Open Space/Scenic Areas
9	Amphitheater
10	Playground Equipment

Note: The top 5 facilities qualify for scoring points if included in a TPWD grant application under the revised guidelines for the Outdoor Program.

Providing a swimming facility was unquestionably the top priority. Sealy's residents rated it higher as a need, in terms of both the weighted score and number of responses. Construction of a pool has been a source of concern for city officials since the existing pool was closed. The pool provided activities for youth and was a heavily used, especially as an "event" facility for parties and other gatherings during the warmer months.

The other significant need is trails. Three types of trails – walking/jogging, nature, and skating/bicycling – ranked within the top 5 needs in the community survey, and trails were the facilities that residents felt they would use most often.

Indoor Facility Priorities. Historically communities have focused on providing neighborhood- and community-level outdoor recreation opportunities first since these are more obtainable with limited resources. Indoor recreation and the ongoing programming necessary to operate such a facility required a commitment of resources that many communities felt they could not undertake.

However, recent trends point the increased interest in providing indoor recreation opportunities:

- Growing concern for fitness and health
- Recreation buildings as a significant element of a community's social fabric
- Public recreation facilities as an expression of community pride and quality of life
- Innovative financing and partnering approaches that make indoor recreation more attainable

The indoor programming priorities determined by the Parks Board are as follows. As with outdoor priorities, these needs focus principally on providing activities for youth.

Figure 30 Indoor Facility Priorities

<i>Priority Rank</i>	<i>Indoor Facility</i>
1	Youth Activity Room
2	Senior Activity Room
3	Fitness Equipment Room
4	Fitness Classes
5	Computer Classes
6	Indoor Pool
7	Sports Courts (esp. Basketball)
8	Adult Education
9	Arts/Crafts Room
10	Walking Track

Note: The top 5 facilities qualify for scoring points if included in a TPWD grant application under the revised guidelines for the Indoor Program.

Parks, Recreation Facilities, and Open Space Plan



Mark Frederick Memorial Park

PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Based on the analysis of Sealy's existing facilities and the projected growth in the community, the broad park and recreation goals for the next 10 years are:

- Sealy will create a convenient and coherent park and recreation system to serve citizens of all ages.
- Sealy will plan for future park development and for the preservation of its unique natural resources and features.

Ideally, a park system would consist of:

- One or two community parks to serve all residents
- Smaller neighborhood parks, developed as the city grows, accessible by foot or bicycle
- Special recreational facilities providing citywide opportunities
- Natural areas with minimal development
- A system of trails and paths connecting parks, schools, and other public facilities

Initially, Sealy's principal focus should be on developing a new community park or expanding B&PW Park to meet needs for more diverse facilities. At the same time, the City should actively seek to acquire parkland for additional neighborhood facilities and for open space. The following goals should be at the heart of Sealy's future park planning and development.

Goals and Ten-Year Objectives

Goal 1 Sealy will develop a system of neighborhood and community parks to meet the needs of its growing population.

- Initiate an ongoing program of identifying and acquiring additional land for community, neighborhood, and pocket parks.
- Develop a new community park or expand B&PW Park to diversify outdoor recreation opportunities and to meet future growth.
- Develop sites for future neighborhood parks in underserved (southeast) and new growth areas (north and west).
- Make improvements to the existing community park (B&PW Park) facilities.
- Upgrade existing neighborhood parks.

Goal 2 Sealy will develop recreation areas and activities for youth.

- Establish a strong working relationship with the Sealy Youth Advisory Commission.
- Provide opportunities for youth, such as aquatic facilities, additional non-athletic facilities, and nature/interpretive activities.
- Explore options for indoor recreation with cooperative construction, maintenance and programming with the school district and other relevant organizations.
- Renovate/expand existing athletic facilities as needed, including fields for soccer/football.

Goal 3 Sealy will study long-term open space opportunities to develop a trail system and acquire and preserve natural areas.

- Identify feasible trail or natural area projects, especially along Allens Creek, for implementation, as resources are available.
- Pursue construction of previously identified pedestrian links among parks, downtown, and public facilities.
- Explore opportunities for restoring/enhancing natural habitats, especially features that will optimize Sealy's proximity to major birding areas, particularly along Allens Creek and at the B&PW lake.

Goal 4 Sealy will develop the capacity of its Parks Board to implement the work plan for the planning, development, and maintenance of the City parks.

- Expand the operational framework for carrying out the responsibilities of the Parks Board.
- Develop cooperative relationships with school district, sports leagues, and other community groups, including representation on the Parks Board, and joint development, use and maintenance agreements.
- Provide resources for training, continuing education, and interaction with other Park Boards.

Five-Year Work Plan

Specific objectives for addressing the goals during the first half of the planning period are outlined in the following five-year work plan. The goals addressed by the objective are indicated in parentheses.

Year 1 – 2007

- Establish a parkland acquisition subcommittee of the Parks Board. Identify a site for proposed community park and begin to identify possible trail and open space areas. (1,2)
- Raise local matching funds for a grant application for community park. See funding resources at the end of this section. (1, 2)
- Submit an application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to develop and improve a community park. (1, 2)
- Establish network with school district, YAC, and other local organizations for future joint activities (e.g., representation on Board, joint development, use, maintenance, and programming agreements). (2,4)
- Develop operating guidelines, organizational structure, and member training for the Parks Board. Resources are provided in the appendices. (4)
- Work with the City administration in monitoring the Safe Routes to Schools Program and the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program for a possible program calls over the next two-three years. (2, 3).

Year 2 – 2008

- Depending on the results of the TPWD application, begin construction of improvements to a new/expanded community park. Use youth input for design of the skate park and other youth-oriented facilities. (1, 2)
- Finalize the site and facilities for a neighborhood park in the southeastern area of town, using extensive neighborhood involvement and input. Seek funding locally and/or through TPWD Small Communities Program. (1, 2)
- Set up a sub-group to study indoor facility possibilities. Work with the School District, YAC, and other community groups on plans, including acquisition, construction, maintenance, and programming. (2, 4)
- Explore options for joint development with school district, especially joint use of playground areas for neighborhood residents and providing soccer/youth football facilities. (2, 4)
- Update park plan per TPWD requirements. (1-4)

Year 3 – 2009

- Continue acquisition activities: research potential sites for neighborhood, pocket parks, trails, and open space; review subdivision park dedication sites; keep up to date on other potential sites that may become available; explore easements and other forms of conservation. (1, 2, 3)
- Program improvements to existing parks, using extensive neighborhood involvement for neighborhood parks. Focus on improving Frederick Park first. Funding can include local resources, TPWD Small Communities Program. (1, 2)
- Continue trail, open space, and habitat restoration activities. (3)

Year 4 – 2010

- Continue to identify sites and facilities for additional neighborhood parks. (1, 2)
- Seek funding for indoor recreation. Funding options include TPWD Indoor Recreation Program,

- private service providers (Boys/Girls Club), and local resources. (2, 4)
- Continue development of trail/open space system. (3)
- Update the park plan per TPWD requirements. (1-4)

Year 5 – 2011

- Continue ongoing activities initiated in Years 1-4. (1-4)
- Finalize Work Plan for Years 6-10 according to the Long-Range Strategy, if not completed in Year 4. Submit to TPWD for approval. (1-4)

Strategy for Years 6-10

- Add indoor aquatics to the recreation center. Determine specific needs and plan the pool with local input. Identify funding resources. (1, 2)
- Identify facilities and sites for neighborhood parks in new growth neighborhoods as needed. Work with residents served by the park(s) to determine the facilities needed and explore funding options. As new school facilities are planned, consider joint development and operation of a neighborhood park with the school where feasible. (1, 2, 4)
- Identify natural areas and/or routes for trails extending northeast to Stephen F. Austin State Park and southeast to the proposed Allens Creek Reservoir. Where possible utilize the floodplain/creek corridors, unique areas identified in this plan, utility easements, and drainage ways. This is likely to require intergovernmental cooperation with the county and other entities. Funding options include TPWD, City funds, private donation of rights-of-way or easements, and other state and federal funding (such as the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program). (1, 3)
- Promote donation or private conservation of floodplain for trails, open space, or parkland. Examine the ownership of floodplain, potential open space, and unique natural areas within the city limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction. Promote donation of these areas for trails, open space, or parkland. (1, 3)
- Promote the location of private recreation facilities. As Sealy continues to grow, encourage the development of facilities such as a bowling alley, skating rink, or miniature golf course. (2, 4)

Recreation Facility Priorities

As determined by the needs analysis in Section 4, the specific facility priorities are:

Figure 31 Sealy Recreation Facility Priorities

<i>Priority Rank</i>	<i>Outdoor Priorities</i>	<i>Indoor Priorities</i>
1	Swimming Pool	Youth Activity Room
2	Multi-Purpose Trail	Senior Activity Room
3	Water Splash Pad	Fitness Equipment Room
4	Exercise Equipment for Trail	Fitness Classes
5	Skate Park	Computer Classes
6	Soccer Fields	Indoor Pool
7	Softball Fields	Sports Courts (esp Basketball)
8	Open Space/Scenic Areas	Adult Education
9	Amphitheater	Arts/Crafts Room
10	Playground Equipment	Walking Track

Note: The top 5 facilities qualify for scoring points if included in a TPWD grant application under the guidelines for the Outdoor/Indoor Programs.

Proposed Facility Improvements

Suggested facility improvements in Sealy, based on the priorities identified in the park analysis, are outlined below, and shown on the Park Plan Map. These recommendations should be adjusted as conditions, opportunities, and public preferences warrant.

Community Park. Improvements to the existing uses of B&PW Park are suggested below. The athletic facilities could use some improvements

Figure 32 B&PW Park Improvements - Athletic Facilities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shade canopies for bleachers and playscape ▪ Upgrade existing soccer fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Widen and resurface trail with asphalt or concrete; add exercise stations (incl. adapted equipment if possible)
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B&PW Park Improvements -- Trail and Natural Area

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat restoration for birds, wildlife, native plants ▪ Interpretive exhibit(s) for educational use ▪ Significant tree planting throughout the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trail connection with Allens Creek ▪ Birdwatching area (blind or other observation facility)
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A second area of improvement, summarized above, includes the lake and potential trail connection along Allen's Creek. Development of a native plant/birding area would add a significant new dimension to this underutilized area. This would tie in with Sealy's proximity to the Great Texas Birding Trails and provide an educational, interactive opportunity for all ages. The Natural Resource Conservation Service or other qualified ecologist could assist in designing the habitat and choosing plants. For resources on habitat restoration, contact the TPWD Wildlife District for Austin County (Oak-Prairie District - http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/habitats/oak_prairie/counties/austin/), the local Natural Resource Conservation Service office, and the TPW Wildlife Diversity Program for referrals.

Expanded or Second Community Park. Sealy needs expanded, more diverse facilities to serve citywide recreation needs, and sufficient acreage for future growth. Since the existing park will be built-out, it will be necessary to locate a second site or to acquire additional land southwest of the current site. This will depend upon the availability of a suitable site for either option and upon the resources to acquire, develop, and maintain a new large park. The search for a site for a second community park should focus on vacant land to the northwest, east, and southwest. The City needs to consider the distribution of parkland to improve accessibility for all neighborhoods, including those in the eastern half of Sealy as well new growth areas.

If the City does choose to expand the current park, design of the facilities should be planned carefully. Because of the intensity of existing facilities (primarily athletic fields) and proposed facilities (swimming pool, indoor recreation), the City may want to consider developing the adjoining site with separate access from the southwest to avoid conflict between the uses.

Figure 33 Option 1: Second Community Park

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Swimming Pool/Bathhouse ▪ Multi-Purpose Trail with Exercise Stations ▪ Community Skate Park ▪ Water Splash Pad Area with potential for expansion ▪ Children's Playground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Picnic Units ▪ Indoor Recreation Center ▪ Amphitheater ▪ Other possible facilities: Challenge Course, Special Needs Playground, Game Tables, Butterfly or Community Gardens, Sand Volleyball, Golf Driving Range; Additional Ballfields ▪ Connection to trail system if feasible
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Option 2: Expansion of B&PW Park

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Swimming Pool/Bathhouse ▪ Community Skate Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extension of existing B&PW Trail with Exercise Stations ▪ Multi-Purpose Trails
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- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water Splash Pad Area with potential for expansion ▪ Indoor Recreation Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amphitheater ▪ Other possible facilities: Additional Ballfields, Challenge Course, Special Needs Playground, Game Tables, Butterfly or Community Gardens, Sand Volleyball, Golf Driving Range |
|--|--|

Neighborhood Parks. Sealy's neighborhood parks are generally in good shape, and most of the city has access to a park within ½ mile. The neighborhood level of park development is best handled with local involvement in planning, construction, and maintenance. This results in a park that will be used by residents since it has facilities they choose, and, hopefully, it will be cared for since residents take ownership in the park.

Levine Park has received substantial improvement over the past several years, and is fully developed. This park serves as a community event venue (such as the Christmas Fantasy of Lights and movies in the park) for which it seems adequate at the present time. No additional improvements are proposed at this time.

Scranton Park has also seen some recent improvement; additional enhancements are suggested below. This park is also developed to the capacity of the property, and there is no adjacent vacant property for expansion. Residents should assist in determining the exact improvements to the park.

Figure 34 Joe Scranton, Jr., Park

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Softball field – lights, covered bleachers ▪ Playground – update equipment, shade (trees or canopy) ▪ Cover basketball court for all weather use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update picnic shelters ▪ Cosmetic Improvements – landscaping, trees
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Frederick Park is the most underutilized of the neighborhood parks in Sealy. It is limited by its isolated location, although this could be improved with the addition of a trail along Allens Creek. The proximity to Interstate 10 is also a negative factor. Improvements should be concentrated away from the highway and buffering provided to minimize these impacts. Improvements or other facilities should be planned using neighborhood input as discussed above. Suggested improvements to the existing facilities are listed below.

Figure 35 Mark Frederick Memorial Park

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Playground Equipment ▪ Update picnic shelters ▪ Basketball Court – Expand to full court ▪ Other facilities as determined by residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Solid fence and/or evergreen planting to buffer I-10 ▪ Cosmetic Improvements – Refurbish sign/plaque; additional landscaping, trees ▪ Trail connection to Allens Creek – restrooms, water fountain to serve park and trail users
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Some of the proposed service area coverage for neighborhood parks depends on the use of school playground areas as a neighborhood facility. Of course, this needs to be carefully coordinated with the school district. The joint use of school facilities at the elementary and intermediate schools would maximize resources of both the School and the City. It is recommended that playground areas be improved as self-contained publicly accessible areas that are isolated from the school by distance and fencing or other buffers. This appears most feasible at the elementary school playground located at the front of the property. At the intermediate school, there are two options: use of existing playground and other facilities, or development of a separate park area on vacant school property west of Allens Creek.

Figure 36 Joint Use Neighborhood Parks

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small Playscape or Playground Equipment ▪ Small Group Shelter ▪ Open Playing Field or Backstop ▪ Security Lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Picnic Tables ▪ Walking Trail/Exercise Stations ▪ Gated Fence ▪ Signs, Landscaping and Trees
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Sealy should add at least two neighborhood parks to serve existing residents. The City will also need to add neighborhood parks as it grows. Sites and actual facilities added to the parks should be determined using input from the adjacent neighborhoods. Since the City has a park dedication requirement, development of new neighborhood parks can be incorporated into the initial subdivision layout.

Figure 37 Future Neighborhood Parks

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Playscape or Playground Equipment ▪ Basketball Court ▪ Small Group Shelter ▪ Water Splash Pad ▪ Security Lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Picnic Tables ▪ Community, Butterfly, or Historic Garden ▪ Walking Trail/Exercise Stations ▪ Open Playing Field or Backstop ▪ Sand Volleyball
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Indoor Recreation. There are several options for providing indoor recreation activity in Sealy. Locating a center at the community park site would minimize maintenance and land costs, and provide a variety of activities at one location for youth as well as other age groups. In the design of such a facility, care should be taken to minimize conflicts with other intensive uses, such as the proposed swimming pool.

Another option is to provide smaller neighborhood centers that are closer to residential areas. These would be more "youth friendly" if they are accessible by foot or bicycle. However, because of the initial cost and continuing operating expenses, this type of project is best planned as a joint effort with some other entity, such as a community or church groups, or the school district. This becomes especially important if more than one such center is proposed.

Figure 38 Indoor Recreation Center

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Location options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expansion of B&PW Park ○ New Community Park Site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smaller Centers in Existing Buildings or Neighborhood Sites
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth Activity Room ▪ Senior Activity Room ▪ Fitness Equipment Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Computer Classes/Technology Room ▪ Fitness Classes ▪ Long-Range: Indoor Pool (possible uses include competition/school swim teams, water park features, therapeutic uses)

Pocket Parks and Community Beautification. While beautification and landscaping are not always considered high priorities for limited funding, the appearance of parks and the community as a whole make a significant contribution to the quality of life for its residents. Community appearance can be a major factor in attracting new business and in encouraging private investment in the community. These improvements need not be costly as long as there is citizen involvement, and commitment to undertake beautification efforts and to maintain them. Sealy also has the opportunity to use thematic elements from its history – for example, the railroad or its cultural heritage – to enhance these improvements.

The City's pocket park is attractive and needs no improvement at this time. It is recommended, however, that the Parks Board explore other locations for small beautification projects, especially in the downtown business district and along the major thoroughfare corridors into Sealy. In addition to the City's existing clean-up activities, other beautification efforts could include all visible public areas, such as existing parks and public facilities. Improvements could include murals, tree planting, statuary, landscaping, and/or small pocket parks, with involvement of neighborhood and community groups, youth organizations, schoolchildren, and older residents. Landscaping improvements should also be an integral part of the planning for any new park.

Figure 39 Pocket Parks and Community Beautification

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Downtown area enhancement – landscaping, signs, decorative items ▪ Tree planting, landscaping, community and historic gardens at City Parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highway entrance improvements ▪ Use historic and cultural themes (railroad, German and Czech heritage, etc.)
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Future Open Space and Trails. Sealy has the potential to develop a greenbelt system and trails primarily along Allens Creek. Because of private ownership and existing development along some of this corridor, it may not be possible to develop a greenbelt or trail system along the full length. However, a large portion of this area is vacant and would make a very attractive addition to the community's park system. There is the potential for trail/greenbelt linkages at least from Interstate 10, at Frederick Park, north to Highway 90 and through the school property, with possible extensions along the creek corridor to B&PW Park.

A first step in this process would be to identify possible sites, encourage the donation, conservation easement dedication, or sale of land along the creek for a greenbelt. At the least the City should encourage landowners to keep property along these areas undeveloped if possible. This would not only preserve open space in Sealy, it will also minimize any drainage and flooding problems associated with the floodplain. Designated natural areas include all floodplain, creek corridors, shown on the Natural Areas Map.

Sealy has outlined routes for future sidewalk construction to connect parks, downtown, and public facilities. These are summarized in the appendices. The City may also want to consider additional sidewalks serving the elementary and high school on Highway 90 if feasible. Other than local resources (City or 4b revenues), the most likely funding is through the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program and the Safe Routes to Schools, both administered by the Texas Department of Transportation. Constructing a network of sidewalks along city streets will add other linkages to a trail system.

Future open space and trail development should be coordinated with the City's Drainage Improvement Committee that is considering options for Allens Creek. Any proposed improvements to the creek corridor or detention ponds offer the potential for enhancing the open space, trail system, and natural areas in Sealy, especially if natural-based storm water management practices are used.

Figure 40 Open Space and Trail System

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus along the Allens Creek and other tributaries ▪ Encourage donation or acquire adjacent tracts if available ▪ Develop natural features along trail corridor by restoring habitat (native trees and other plants) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage conservation where public ownership is not feasible ▪ Construct trail(s) that allow use for walking, jogging, and bicycling ▪ Explore long-range options for connection with state park and proposed reservoir
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Implementation Considerations

Assisting the Parks Board in laying the groundwork for its future operations will be an important contribution to the effectiveness of Sealy's park activities. Several resources are presented here; others are listed in the appendices. The Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) offers educational sessions for park board members at its annual Institute as well as other regional events scheduled throughout the year. (Contact TRAPS at PO Box 5188, Jonestown, Texas 78645. Phone: (512) 267-5550. Fax: (512) 267-5557. E-mail: traps@traps.org.)

The Texas Rural Leadership Training Program has been strongly endorsed as an excellent way of giving a community the tools to plan and complete projects on its own. The Texas Rural Development Council can provide additional information on this program. (Texas Rural Development Council – (512) 323-6515; <http://www.trdc.org>)

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department suggests these guidelines for municipalities to consider when implementing their park and recreation goals. Some of these suggestions directly assist in providing outdoor recreation opportunities and some indirectly affect the character and quality of outdoor recreation resources.

- Implement county/city cooperative agreements, especially where region-wide park departments would be more effective and equitable.
- Establish cooperative agreements with other entities, such as school districts, navigation districts, drainage districts, and river authorities to expand the supply of facilities available to the public.
- Emphasize low maintenance facilities and landscaping, and multi-use facilities for greater efficiency of operation.
- Continue to address local public needs for basic urban outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Involve citizen input in planning parks; conduct periodic public needs assessments.
- Utilize volunteers and nonprofit organizations, where practical, to help provide public recreation opportunities.
- Acquire parkland, greenbelts, natural areas, and open spaces.
- Avoid unnecessary competition with the private sector; where practical, consider integrating commercial enterprises in public parks.
- Support the planning and coordination activities of councils of governments.

(Source: 1995 TORP - Assessment and Policy Plan)

Maintenance and Security

A critical consideration, particularly for smaller towns, is the maintenance of facilities once they have been constructed. All communities are concerned about vandalism, a serious problem in maintaining existing park equipment. Security is also a major concern.

As the park system grows, Sealy may need to increase its capacity to maintain additional parks. Although the City may find it necessary to add staff, another way to handle the operations and upkeep of an expanding park system is through cooperative agreements. This is an area that the Parks Board could examine and make recommendations for City Council consideration. The website, <http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Parks/ig-parks.aspx>, (Municipal Research & Services Center - MRSC, an independent organization affiliated with the University of Washington) has information and samples on interlocal agreements. Note that these may need to be revised for use in Texas.

Another useful approach is the involvement of residents, especially youth, in the fundraising, construction, and maintenance of new park facilities. This creates a sense of "ownership" and, in some communities, has been helpful in preventing vandalism and improving maintenance, especially of neighborhood parks.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has suggested strategies that are useful for addressing the maintenance and renovation of park facilities. The actions relevant to Sealy include:

- Address maintenance at the planning stage by employing design solutions for new construction and renovations that are heavy duty, vandal proof, durable, low maintenance facilities using state-of-the-art building materials such as recycled plastics.
- Work for passage of new laws and enforcement of existing laws which have enough teeth to deter vandalism/antiquities destruction, and use citizen patrols to help with security.
- In parks where possible, encourage public-public and public-private partnerships to address maintenance needs, such as using prison/correctional/community service labor, including adult probation and youth-at-risk.
- Develop mutually beneficial programs/liasons between Parks and Recreation Departments/city/county and local court/state judicial system, encouraging public/private sector partnerships.
- Maintenance and renovation should be equal to new acquisition, giving priority to projects that provide ways to mitigate costly upkeep and are environmentally sound.
- Establish a park maintenance trust fund which requires funds to be set aside each year for park maintenance (endowment up front, interest for maintenance and operations).
- Establish and meet maintenance standards for existing facilities before spending on additional facilities.

Source: 1995 TORP - Assessment and Policy Plan, TPWD, 1995.

Funding Sources

Listed below are potential resources in the acquisition and development of recreation facilities. Non-City resources provide additional funds, improve the scoring potential of TPWD grant applications, and promote broad community involvement.

Park Facilities and Development

- Local contributors (major employers, utilities, economic development organizations, community groups, individual donations)
- Contributions from other user groups, such as youth leagues and service organizations, schools
- Related programs (crime, education, youth programs), usually funded at the regional or state levels
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Texas Recreation & Parks Account (Outdoor, small community, indoor programs; trails grant; regional park grant)
- Private foundations and trusts, primarily those within the region
- RC & D, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- General Operating Fund or Capital Improvements Program
- General Obligation Bonds or Certificates of Obligation
- County and School district contributions (cash, in-kind, and joint use arrangements)
- 4b sales tax revenues

Landscaping and Other Beautification

- Texas Department of Transportation (along state maintained roadways)
- Texas Forest Service
- Local garden clubs, Extension Service, University or public school classes

Preservation of Sensitive Environmental, Scenic, or Natural Areas

- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- The Texas Nature Conservancy and other conservation groups
- Texas Department of Transportation – Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program

Donated Labor and Materials

See Figure 41 for suggested resources that could provide materials and/or labor for park development.

Other Resources

Other contacts for information and technical assistance on park and recreation planning, development, and programming include various state and federal agencies as well as regional universities, and those universities with park/recreation programs. Technical assistance is also available at the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments.

Federal Agencies

- Natural Resources Conservation Service - Department of Agriculture (formerly Soil Conservation Service)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

State Agencies

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Local Planning Assistance Program
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744
512-912-7130

Jim Temple - jim.temple@tpwd.state.tx.us

Universities

- Texas A&M University
Recreation, Park, and Tourism
Sciences Extension
212 Francis Hall
2261 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-2261
979-845-5419
a-skadberg@tamu.edu
- University of North Texas
Division of Kinesiology, Health
Promotion and Recreation
P.O. Box 310769
Denton, Texas 76203
940-565-2651
www.unt.edu
- Texas State University
Dept. of Health, Physical Education
and Recreation
601 University Dr.
Jowers Center A116
San Marcos, Texas 78666
Dr. Thomas Gustafson (Recreation Administration)
512-245-2972 - TG08@swt.edu

Park and Recreation Organizations

In addition to the assistance provided by TRAPS, additional guidance and resources are provided in the Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, published by the National Recreation and Park Association. The closest regional service centers are:

- NRPA Southeast Service Center
1285 Parker Road
Conyers, Georgia 30207
Phone: (770) 760-1668
Fax: (770) 760-9427
- NRPA Western Service Center
Eni Jespersen Beach House
619 Prospect Lake Drive
Colorado Springs,
Colorado 80910
Phone: (719) 632-7031
Fax: (719) 632-0709

Figure 41. Sources of Donated Materials and Labor

	Resources																	
	Labor Union	Lumber Yard	Builder	Major Retailer	Real Estate	Landscape	Land Dev.	Advertising	Printer	University, Schools	Fast Food Rest.	Local Retailer	Frat. Org.	Military Res. Unit	Mfg. Firm	Bank	Church	Cham. of Comm.
Needs																		
Wood (Lumber)	X	X	X	X		X	X					X						
Fencing		X	X	X		X	X					X			X			
Land			X	X	X		X								X	X	X	
Plumbing Supplies		X	X	X														
Landscaping		X	X			X	X							X				
Major Earthmoving	X		X			X	X							X				
Cement		X	X	X		X	X											
Asphalt			X				X											
Road & Cement Work	X	X				X	X							X				
Trees & Shrubs		X			X	X	X					X						
Carpentry	X	X	X			X				X			X	X				
Sports Equipment				X				X		X	X	X						
Advertising				X				X	X		X	X				X		X
Printing	X							X	X							X	X	
Surveying			X		X	X	X			X				X			X	
Money																		
Program Sponsorship	X			X				X			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Manpower	X									X			X	X			X	X

Source: Adapted from "Outdoor Recreational Areas and Facilities for Texas Communities of 2,500 or Less," Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., 1985.

Appendices

Appendix A
Resolution of Adoption

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-13

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEALY, TEXAS,
ENDORING AND ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE PARKS PLAN FOR THE
ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND
RECREATION FACILITIES WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY.**

* * * * *

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEALY, TEXAS:

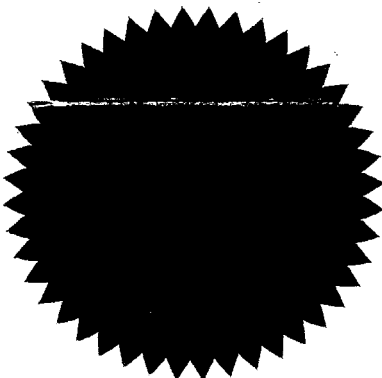
WHEREAS, the City of Sealy has prepared a long-term comprehensive parks plan for the acquisition and development of parks, open space, and recreation facilities within the City; and


WHEREAS, the City of Sealy is capable and desirous of executing this plan, based on criteria and limitations set forth therein; then

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEALY, TEXAS:

That the City Council does hereby endorse and adopt the "Comprehensive Parks Plan, 2007-2017."

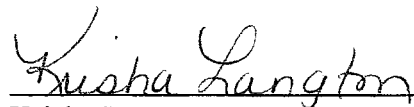
PASSED, APPROVED, AND RESOLVED this 14th day of March 2007.





Russell L. Koym
Mayor

ATTEST:



Krisha Langton
City Secretary

Appendix B

Community Survey

CITY OF SEALY PARK AND RECREATION SURVEY

The City of Sealy is asking for your input on recreation activities and needs for a citywide park study.
Please complete only one survey per household.

1. How many times in the last year has someone in your family participated in any of the following activities?

Fishing	Fitness Center
RV Camping	Golf/driving range
Bicycling	Tennis
Walking, jogging, exercise trail	Adult baseball/softball
Children's playground	Youth baseball/softball
Swimming at a pool	Football
Swimming at lake or beach	Nature activities (birding, hiking, etc.)
Basketball	Soccer
Picnic	Skateboarding
Pavilion or group shelter	Other: _____

2. As Sealy continues to grow, how important is it to preserve natural open space throughout the community?

Very important	Somewhat important
Important	Not important

3. Do you think Sealy needs additional OUTDOOR recreation facilities?

Yes	No
-----	----

Rank the 5 MOST NEEDED outdoor facilities from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important)		How often would you use the 5 MOST NEEDED facilities?				
		1-6 times per year	Monthly	Weekly	Daily	Other
	Basketball court					
	Walking and/or jogging trails					
	Exercise equipment for jogging trail					
	Baseball field					
	Little League and softball fields					
	Soccer field					
	Football field					
	Practice field					
	T-ball field					
	Pavilion/group shelter					
	Picnic tables					
	Sand volleyball court					
	Frisbee golf					
	Tennis court					
	Children's playground equipment					
	Swimming pool					
	Water splash park					
	Amphitheater					
	Pond/fishing area					
	Skating/bicycling path					
	RV camping					
	Nature/hiking trails					
	Community garden					
	Golf driving range					
	Natural open space and scenic areas					
	Other:					

4. Do you think Sealy needs an INDOOR recreation facility?

_____ Yes

_____ No

Rank the 5 MOST NEEDED indoor facilities from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important)	How often would you use the 5 MOST NEEDED facilities?				
	1-6 times per year	Monthly	Weekly	Daily	Other
_____ Fitness equipment room					
_____ Fitness classes					
_____ Youth activity room					
_____ Computer classes					
_____ Arts/crafts activities					
_____ Adult education					
_____ Indoor aquatics (Pool)					
_____ Senior activity room					
_____ Other					

5. Would you be willing to pay additional taxes for improved parks and recreation facilities?

_____ Yes

_____ No

6. Would you be willing to pay entrance fees to recreation facilities, for example, to use a swimming pool?

_____ Yes

_____ No

How much would you be willing to pay?

_____ \$0.50 - \$1.00

_____ \$2.00-\$2.50

_____ \$1.00-\$2.00

_____ \$2.50-\$3.00

7. How many people are there in your household?

How many people in your household are:

_____ Under 4 years old

_____ 35-54 years old

_____ 5-9 years old

_____ 55-64 years old

_____ 10-14 years old

_____ 65 or older

_____ 15-19 years old

_____ Prefer not to answer

_____ 20-34 years old

8. Where do you live?

_____ In Sealy City Limits

_____ Outside of Austin County

_____ In Austin County

_____ Prefer not to answer

(Not in City Limits)

Please return your completed survey to:

_____, by _____. Thanks for your help!

Questions? Call City Hall at 885-3511.

Additional Survey Results

Recreation Activities (Question 1)

Rank	Activity	Frequency	Number	Rank	Activity	Frequency	Number
1	Walk/Jog/Exercise trail	9742	109	16	Soccer	367	13
2	Bicycling	3608	73	17	Tennis Adult	341	21
3	Fitness Center	2985	55	18	baseball/softball	340	21
4	Children's playground	2214	68	19	Skateboarding	310	9
5	Swimming at a pool	2078	79	20	<i>Theater</i>	100	1
6	Nature activities	1413	46	21	<i>Outdoor shows</i>	52	1
7	Fishing	1362	80	22	<i>Roller/Ice Skating</i>	52	1
8	Swimming at lake or beach	1227	65	23	<i>Gardening</i>	35	2
9	Youth baseball/softball	981	36	24	<i>Movie</i>	30	1
10	Golf/driving range	927	39	25	<i>Walking</i>	25	1
11	Basketball	907	34	26	<i>Hunting</i>	25	1
12	Picnic	581	56	27	<i>Dog Park</i>	25	1
13	RV Camping	552	51	28	<i>Aquatic Center</i>	25	1
14	Football	473	14	29	<i>Auto Racing</i>	8	1
15	Pavilion or group shelter	447	49	30	<i>Bowling</i>	5	1
				31	<i>Shooting Range</i>	4	1

Note: "Frequency" indicates the total number of times during the past year that anyone from a responding household participated in that activity. "Number" is the total number of surveys (out of 163) in which that activity was checked.

Outdoor Facility Needs (Question 3)

Rank	Facility	Weighted Score	Number	Rank	Facility	Weighted Score	Number
1	Swimming pool	402	96	21	Baseball field	33	14
2	Walk/Jog Trails	325	92	22	Frisbee golf	25	12
3	Water splash park	193	57	23	T-ball field	22	9
4	Nature/hiking trails	146	50	24	Football field	21	11
5	Skating/bicycling path	141	48	25	<i>Skateboard Park</i>	18	5
6	Open space/Scenic areas	135	48	26	Practice field	16	9
7	Amphitheater	112	42	27	<i>Theater</i>	8	2
8	Playground equipment	109	37	28	<i>Fitness Center</i>	7	2
9	Exercise Equipment for Trail	102	33	29	<i>Safe Walk Path</i>	5	1
10	Picnic tables	98	32	30	<i>Dog Park</i>	4	1
11	Pond/fishing area	94	37	31	<i>Golf Course</i>	4	1
12	Pavilion/group shelter	93	33	32	<i>Roller Rink</i>	4	1
13	Community garden	82	31	33	<i>Nature Park for Birds</i>	3	1
14	Little League/Softball Fields	69	26	34	<i>Pave Streets</i>	1	1
15	Basketball court	54	20				
16	RV camping	53	19				
17	Sand volleyball court	46	19				
18	Soccer field	44	18				
19	Tennis court	41	15				
20	Golf driving range	38	17				

Notes: "Weighted Score" represents the total score using the rankings (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) of all surveys. "Number" is the number of surveys (out of 163) that included the activity as a need. Facilities in italics were "write-in" votes.

Outdoor Facility Frequency of Use (Question 3)

Rank	Facility	1-6 times Per year	Monthly	Weekly	Daily	Other	Total
1	Swimming pool	8	10	42	15	5	80
2	Walk/Jog Trails	7	3	28	43	5	86
3	Water splash park	9	10	17	2	5	43
4	Nature/hiking trails	4	7	20	7	2	40
5	Skating/bicycling path	4	4	20	8	2	38
6	Open space/Scenic areas	6	12	13	7	0	38
7	Amphitheater	9	16	3	2	1	31
8	Playground equipment	5	7	8	2	1	23
9	Exercise Eqpt for Trail	1	1	13	13	2	30
10	Picnic tables	7	10	5	0	0	22
11	Pond/fishing area	7	10	8	0	2	27
12	Pavilion/group shelter	10	6	2	0	2	20
13	Community garden	2	6	10	1	1	20
14	Little League/Softball Fields	3	3	5	2	3	16
15	Basketball court	1	0	5	1	2	9
16	RV camping	4	5	0	0	0	9
17	Sand volleyball court	3	3	6	0	1	13
18	Soccer field	3	0	2	0	1	5
19	Tennis court	1	1	5	0	0	7
20	Golf driving range	0	4	8	0	0	12
21	Baseball field	0	0	3	0	2	5
22	Frisbee golf	2	2	3	0	0	7
23	T-ball field	1	1	0	1	0	3
24	Football field	0	0	3	0	0	3
25	Skateboard Park	0	0	1	2	0	3
26	Practice field	0	0	1	0	1	2
27	Theater	0	0	2	0	0	2
28	Fitness Center	0	0	1	1	0	2
29	Safe Walk Path	0	0	1	1	0	2
30	Dog Park	0	0	0	1	0	1
31	Golf Course	0	0	1	0	0	1
32	Roller Rink	0	0	1	0	0	1

Indoor Facility Needs (Question 4)

Rank	Facility	Weighted Score	Number
1	Youth activity room	232	82
2	Fitness classes	223	75
3	Indoor aquatics (Pool)	219	87
4	Arts/crafts activities	213	61
5	Senior activity room	201	68
6	Computer classes	173	60
7	Fitness equipment room	167	59
8	Adult education	141	50
9	Bowling Alley	11	3
10	Movie Theater	6	2

Rank	Facility	Weighted Score	Number
11	<i>Child care for parents</i>	5	1
12	<i>Walking Track</i>	5	1
13	<i>Senior yoga/tai chi</i>	3	1
14	<i>Aquatic Therapy</i>	3	1
15	<i>Indoor Basketball</i>	3	1
16	<i>Pool table/dominos</i>	2	1
17	<i>Roller Rink</i>	2	1

Notes: "Weighted Score" represents the total score using the rankings (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) of all surveys. "Number" is the number of surveys (out of 163) that included the activity as a need. Facilities in italics were "write-in" votes.

Indoor Facility Frequency of Use (Question 4)

Rank	Facility	1-6 times Per Year	Monthly	Weekly	Daily	Other	Total
1	Youth activity room	8	10	16	10	5	49
2	Fitness classes	5	9	35	11	2	62
3	Indoor aquatics (Pool)	4	8	41	22	5	80
4	Arts/crafts activities	10	24	15	3	1	53
5	Senior activity room	7	8	16	7	7	45
6	Computer classes	16	15	19	3	1	54
7	Fitness equipment room	3	3	27	20	3	56
8	Adult education	8	17	9	2	4	40
9	<i>Bowling Alley</i>	0	0	1	0	1	2
10	<i>Movie Theater</i>	0	0	2	0	0	2
11	<i>Child care for parents</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1
12	<i>Walking Track</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1
13	<i>Senior yoga/tai chi</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	<i>Aquatic Therapy</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1
15	<i>Indoor Basketball</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1
16	<i>Pool table/dominos</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1
17	<i>Roller Rink</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1

Appendix C

Proposed Sidewalk Routes

1. Eastside - E. Main Street from West Front to Daniels; Daniels to San Felipe
Connects: Downtown Sealy, Santa Fe Park Museum, Scranton Park
2. Westside
 - a. Main Street from Highway 36 (Meyer) to Lux Street
Connects: Downtown Sealy, Chamber of Commerce, Levine Park, Silver Lake Retirement Community, Sealy Cemetery, Sealy Catholic Cemetery, Hill Community Center, B&PW Park, Liedertafel Pavilion
 - b. Hardeman Street from Main Street to Circle Street North
Connects: City Hall, Levine Park, Gordon Memorial Library, Selman Intermediate School, Sealy Junior High School

Appendix D

Park Board Resources

SAMPLE PARK BOARD ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

NOTE: Some items may not be relevant to Sealy's size or organizational structure.

Park and Recreation Board Divisions

The Park and Recreation Board is organized into five Divisions, helping to provide comprehensive services and recreational programs to meet the needs of citizens.

- Recreation
- Operations
- Administration
- Development
- Planning

Recreation Division

The Recreation Division is responsible for:

- Comprehensive, year-round recreational programs for all ages
- All neighborhood and community recreation centers
- Playgrounds
- Pools
- Beaches
- Cultural arts
- Environmental programs
- Youth sports leagues
- Adult athletic leagues
- Citywide adult activities
- Special events
- Specialized services for teenage youth
- Recreation Plus+ child care programs

Operations Division

The Operations Division includes three sections, providing year-round personnel to complete the following assignments:

- Maintenance Section:
 - Park maintenance for all recreation buildings and sites, parkways, natural areas, lakeshores, skating rinks and beaches throughout the system
- Forestry Section:
 - Inspection and trimming of trees
 - Removal of diseased elms
 - Reforestation of parks and parkways
 - A citizen education program on overall tree protection and maintenance
- Environmental Section:
 - Monitoring lake quality
 - Horticulture and naturalists' services
 - Public awareness and education on environmental issues

Administration Division

The Administration Division is responsible for:

- Personnel
- Finances
- Payroll
- Budget
- Grants monitoring

- Public information services
- Community relations
- Legislative coordination and lobbying
- Park Police Department, with primary responsibility of protecting park property and its users
- Information technology services
- Volunteer services

Development Division

The Development Division is responsible for:

- Revenue producing special services (i.e., golf courses, indoor ice arena, etc.)
- Private fundraising

Planning Division

The Planning Division is responsible for:

- Setting long-term goals and priorities
- Determining 5-year capital improvement program
- Overseeing the design and construction of park facilities within the system

Roles and Responsibilities

The Park and Recreation Board performs its many duties through the contributions of our elected Commissioners and hired Superintendent. Their actions are guided according to the following roles and responsibilities.

Commissioners

The voters of the City of _____ elect the nine Commissioners during the General Election every four years.

- Three are elected at-large
- Six are elected from geographically based park districts

Commissioners are responsible for:

- Developing park policies; and
- Enacting ordinances governing the use of neighborhood and regional parks, parkways, beaches and lakes, and special use facilities such as pools, ice arenas and municipal golf courses.

Mail for the Commissioners may be sent to: Park and Recreation Board

Superintendent of Parks

- Hired by Board of Commissioners
- Supervises approximately 600 permanent year-round and 1,500 part-time staff.
- Along with staff is responsible for maintaining and developing the park system, providing comprehensive services and recreation programs that meet the needs of all citizens, policing of park properties and maintenance of street trees.
- Appoints five Assistant Superintendents to head the Administration, Development, Recreation, Operations and Planning Divisions.

Board Appointments

An annual meeting of the Park and Recreation Board takes place on the first business day in January of each year. The following business is conducted:

- The Board elects two Commissioners as President and Vice-President and appoints a Secretary who is not a member of the Board.
- Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of an elected Commissioner, the Board fills that vacancy, usually through appointment.
- The President appoints Commissioners to serve on Standing Committees of the Board. Each Committee has five Board members (including the Chair of the Committee), with the Chair of the Committee named first. Standing Committees include:
 - Planning
 - Recreation
 - Operations and Environment
 - Administration & Finance
 - Legislation and Inter-Government
 - Standards and Conduct

Meetings

Park and Recreation Board Commissioners meetings are held regularly according to the following schedule:

Date: First, second and third Wednesdays of each month

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Administrative Offices, Board Room

Schedule of meetings:

1st Wednesday of each month	2nd Wednesday of each month	3rd Wednesday	4th or 5th Wednesday or appointed Saturday
Regular meetings of the full Board, including Recreation and Operations Standing Committees*	Board meets as Committee of the Whole	Regular meetings of the full Board, including the Planning and Administration and Finance Standing Committees*	Special meetings can be called by the Board President

**Each Board/Committee meeting has a time certain to convene; however, the President/Committee Chair has the authority to convene and adjourn any Board and Committee meetings in the interest of time, to hear public comment or to take official action.*

Operational Procedures

All Board and Committee meetings follow Robert's Rule of Order with the following Board approved modifications.

1. Meetings are conducted in an orderly, courteous and disciplined manner.
 - A. The President/Committee Chair conducts all Board/Committee meetings and is in charge of managing the Board/Committee process.
 - B. The President/Committee Chair is responsible for keeping the agenda and discussion focused on the action or issue, proceeding in a deliberate and orderly fashion. Board members are to adhere to the direction given by the President/Committee Chair.
 - C. It is also the President's/Committee Chair's responsibility to, when the discussion goes beyond the scope of the action or issue, respectfully bring the discussion back to focus on the action/issue by deferring the discussion to either:
 1. later contact with the appropriate staff member, or
 2. the discussion portion of the full Board meeting agenda

- D. During Board meeting discussions, Board members may speak to an issue for up to three minutes with up to three minutes for rebuttal.
 - E. At Board/Committees meetings, action items are to be taken first and Study/Report items are to be allowed after the action items have been concluded.
 - F. Board/Committee meetings are restricted to three Wednesdays per month, except in emergencies.
 - G. A time certain will be set for all Board/Committee meetings.
2. During "Open Time" at full Board meetings or during discussion items at Committee meetings, residents may speak to the Board under the following conditions:
 - A. All individuals wishing to speak must sign in.
 - B. Up to three minutes will be allowed for citizen testimony.
 - C. All citizen testimony during "Open Time" will take place at 6:15 p.m.
 - D. During "Open Time" public testimony will be given without debate. Only clarifying questions from the Board are allowed.
 3. A time structure will be set for all Board and Committee meetings. The President/Committee Chair and Superintendent, Board Secretary, or appropriate Assistant Superintendent is responsible for setting a time limit on Study or Report items on the agenda. If an item is not completed during the allotted time frame, it can be deferred to a future Committee meeting. The Secretary will be the timekeeper and any unfinished business will be continued at the next Board meeting.
 4. It is the responsibility of Board members to read agendas and express concern about a preliminary agenda item to the President, Committee Chair, appropriate Assistant Superintendent or Superintendent.
 5. During the New Business section of the Board meeting, a time will be designated for discussion among board members for items not originally identified on the agenda.
 6. All Board members will help the President/Committee Chair by calling for the question, point of order, etc., to expedite the business of the Board.
 7. The President/Committee Chair will conduct the meeting according to Robert's Rules of Order newly revised 1990 edition – 9th edition.

Adapted from Minneapolis, MN Park Board organizational information.

PARK MAINTENANCE AND VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

Maintenance Standards – City of College Station - <http://www.cstx.gov/home/index.asp?page=2352>

Guidelines for Volunteers and Donations – Centre Region, Pennsylvania -
<http://crpr.centreconnect.org/agency/gifts4parks/Donation-policy.html>

Sample Ongoing Park Board Responsibilities

1. Active involvement in Plan update.
 - ☐ Hold one meeting to review draft plan & maps.
 - ☐ Participate in the public review and comment process.
2. Develop Master Plan for any Proposed Park.
 - ☐ All members participate in the Proposed Park Master Plan Task Force.
 - ☐ Meet with Council, interest groups and community to seek input and develop support for project.
 - ☐ Develop a plan to enlist community participation and support.
3. Increase public awareness and participation in park development / maintenance & recreation issues.
 - ☐ Continue to publicize board successes and projects.
 - ☐ Annually present a "State of Parks and Recreation" report to the Council.
 - ☐ Develop Web site for each park.
 - ☐ Conduct a minimum of two (2) meetings at recreation facilities to receive input on recreation & park issues.
 - ☐ Conduct a recreation needs assessment.
 - ☐ Proclaim July as Park & Recreation month.
4. Advise the Council on matters related to park and recreation issues.
 - ☐ Review fee & charge schedule annually.
 - ☐ Review policies related to facility use as necessary.
 - ☐ Participate in the development of master plans for trails, future parks, and recreation facilities.
 - ☐ Review and make recommendations regarding special event uses of parks.
 - ☐ Communicate with City Council (City Manager if applicable) regarding issues of importance.
5. Be knowledgeable about recreation and park issues.
 - ☐ Review materials and information related to issues before the Board.
 - ☐ Annually tour park and recreation facilities and centers.
 - ☐ Attend the majority of meetings and work sessions and be prepared to participate.
6. Review and make recommendations regarding park and recreation projects.
 - ☐ Review and comment on Capital Improvement Plan/ Annual Budget for parks & recreation facilities.
 - ☐ Provide quarterly updates on subdivision activity.
 - ☐ Advocate for all funding alternatives in the Element.
 - ☐ Participate in the planning of future neighborhood and community parks.
7. Coordinate with school, county, economic development, and other groups.
 - ☐ Participate in joint meetings with school district, EDC, and others to identify mutually beneficial projects for consideration.
 - ☐ Meet annually with Youth Committees, Sports Advisory groups, etc. to understand their needs and desires.
 - ☐ Coordinate with other park and recreation activities (service organizations, school, church, private providers, etc.).
8. Continually develop the Park Board
 - ☐ Identify potential members and ask them to work on committees prior to their application for a position.
 - ☐ Continually recruit potential members.

Source: Adapted from <http://www.ci.visalia.ca.us/parks/ParksCommissGoals.htm>

SAMPLE WORK PROGRAM FORMS

NOTE: These forms were developed for local Main Street Committees, but the work program process could also be applied to Park Boards. Source: *Main Street Committee Members Handbook*, National Main Street Center, National Trust for Historic Preservation (Douglas A. Loescher and Teresa Lynch), Washington, D.C. 1996.

Seven Essentials for a Good Work Plan

This type of planning goes by many names, and the jargon can be confusing. We suggest seven simple but important components for your work plan:

Component	Purpose	Design Examples
1. GOALS	State very broadly the end results we seek in this committee.	"To save our community's unique character..." "To preserve our heritage"
2. OBJECTIVES	Serve as instructions for reaching our broad goals.	"To educate others about design" "To provide incentives for rehabilitation"
3. PROJECTS	Define specific initiatives this committee will undertake.	"Develop design assistance program" "Establish a matching grant program" "Install planters and benches"
4. TASKS	Describe individual actions necessary to complete a project.	"Draft regulations for design assistance program" "Contact university architecture department about student design work"
5. TIMETABLE	Sets a realistic start and finish date for each task.	"Jan. 30 - Feb. 15, 1996" "... by February 15, 1996" "Within 30 days of completion of proposal"
6. RESPONSIBILITY	Identifies specific member who will take the lead and be responsible for completion.	"John Winslow" "Chairperson" "Lead: Joe (with assistance by Barbara and staff)"
7. BUDGET	Outlines all costs associated with each task, helping committee and board to set priorities.	"\$150.00 cash" "\$75 cash from committee budget, with \$75 in-kind contribution from contractor"

MainStreet

Design Committee

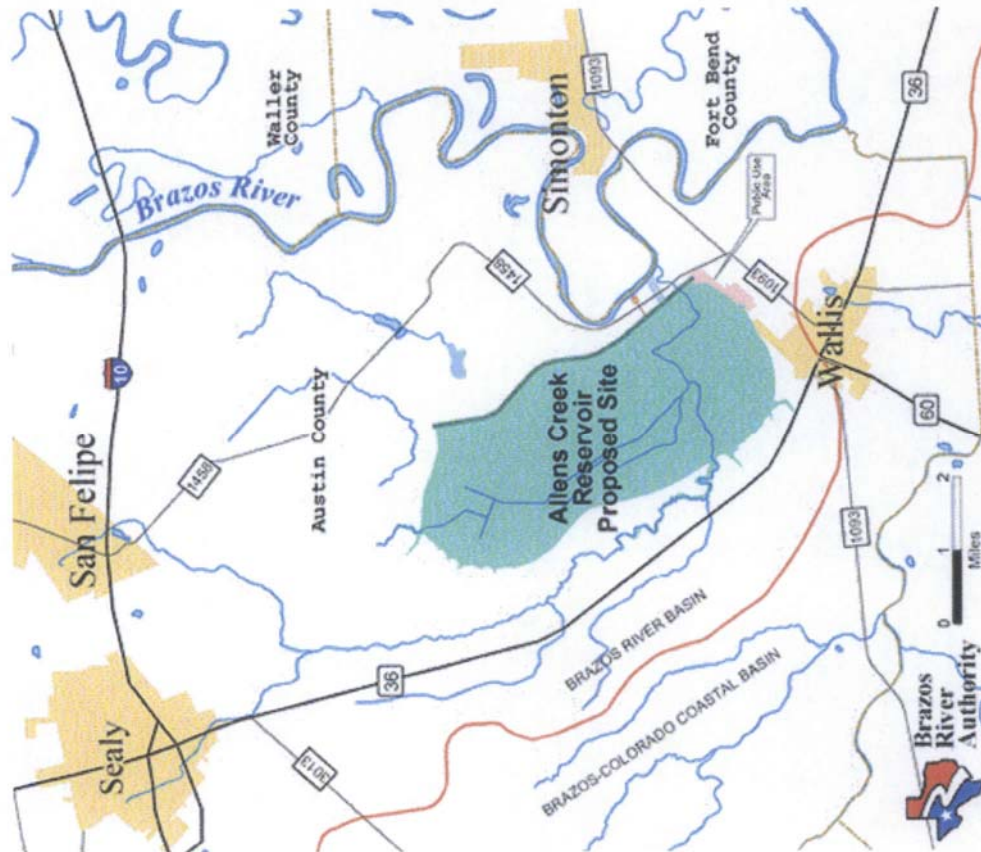
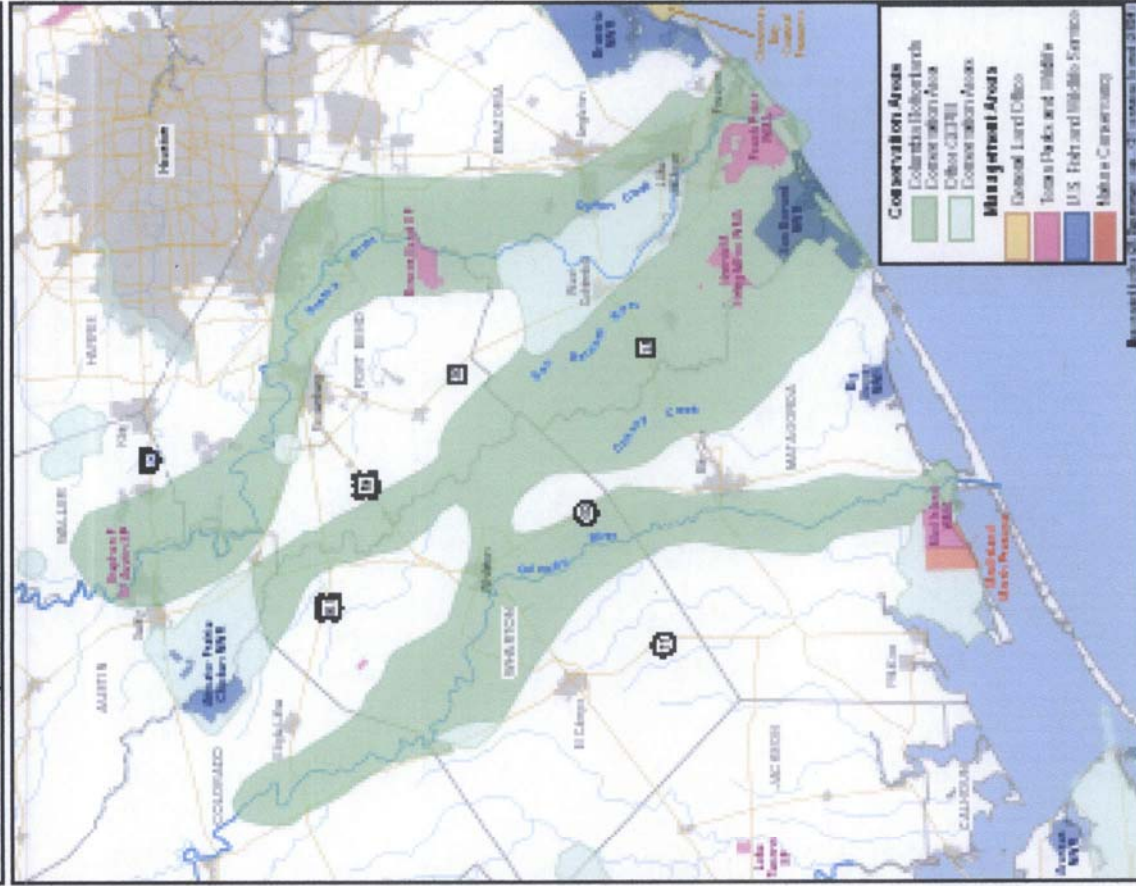
WORK PLAN

Submitted by Chairperson: Scott Dates: 9/1/96 - 8/30/97
Project Title: "Profitable Streetfront Design" Workshop Project #: _____

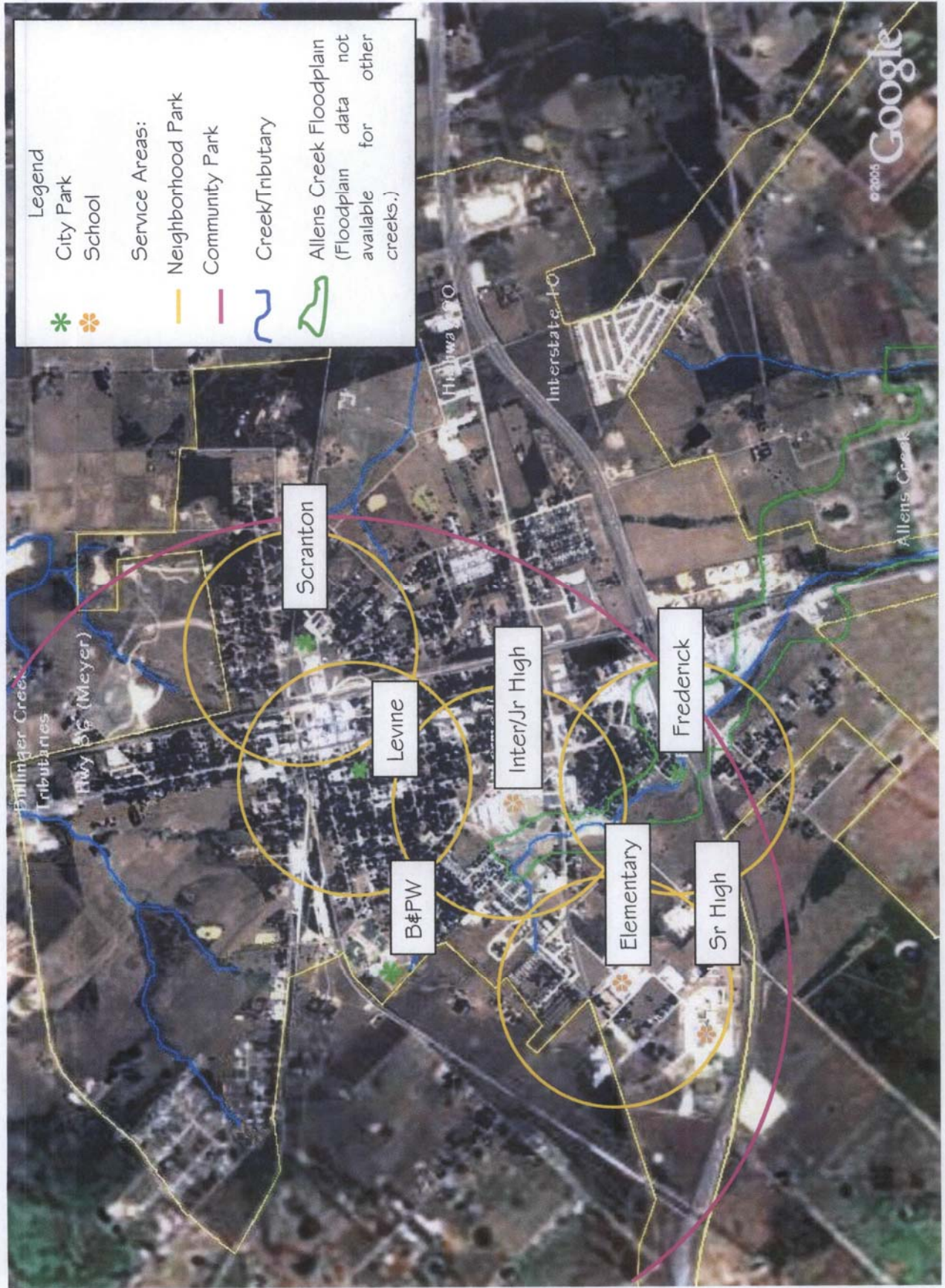
Task	Timetable	Responsibility	Budget
1) Develop course outline	September	Committee	-0-
2) Survey merchants on best time & place	by October meeting	Scott (Steph. Kennedy)	-0-
3) Arrange for meeting space	by October meeting	Steph	-0-
4) Create marketing flyer	10/1/96	Kennedy	\$150
5) Hire up speakers	9/15/96		-0-
- architect		Kennedy	
- business owners (2)		Scott	
- graphics/signmaker		Steph	
6) Hand distribute flyers	11/1/96	Committee	
7) Rent A/V equipment	11/15/96	Scott	\$50
8) Registration at workshop	11/16/96	Kennedy	
Facilitate session	11/16/96	Scott/manager	
TOTAL			\$200.00/100

Maps

The Nature Conservancy
Columbia Bottomlands Conservation Area
Project Boundary



Existing Parks, Schools, and Service Areas



SEALY COMPREHENSIVE PARK PLAN PROPOSED FACILITIES 2007-2017

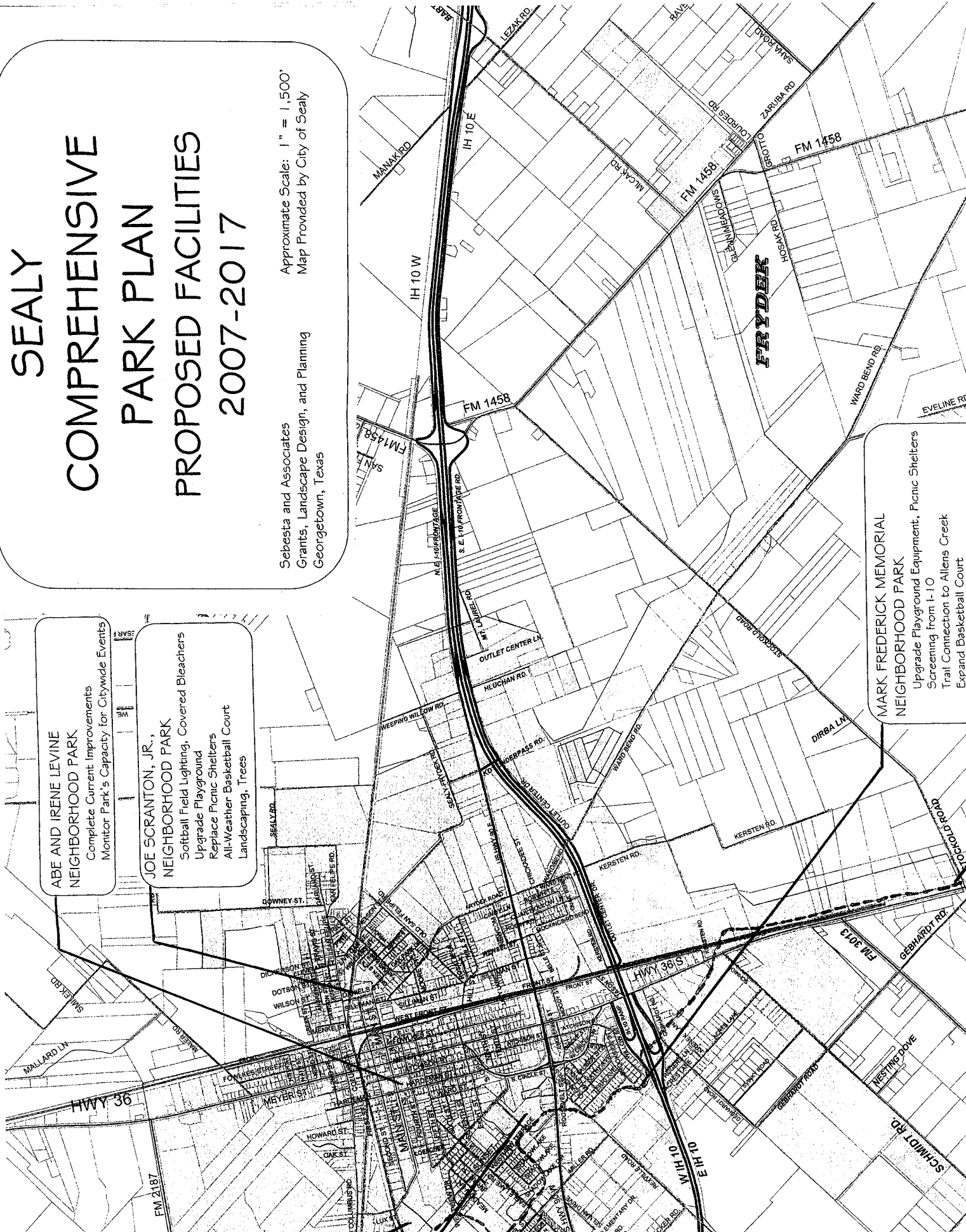
Sebesta and Associates
Grants, Landscape Design, and Planning
Georgetown, Texas

Approximate Scale: 1" = 1,500'
Map Provided by City of Sealy

ABE AND IRENE LEVINE
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
Complete Current Improvements
Monitor Park's Capacity for Citywide Events

JOE SCRANTON, JR.,
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
Softball Field Lighting, Covered Bleachers
Upgrade Playground
Replace Picnic Shelters
All-Weather Basketball Court
Landscaping, Trees

MARK FREDERICK MEMORIAL
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
Upgrade Playground Equipment, Picnic Shelters
Screening from I-10
Trail Connection to Allens Creek
Expand Basketball Court






Sealy Comprehensive Park Plan

2007-2017

City of Sealy, Texas

Sebesta and Associates
Georgetown, Texas



Purposes of a Park Plan

- Deal with immediate needs
- Gives a “vision” of the future and a way to get there
- Sets goals and priorities
- Helps to preserve unique features and open space from development
- Can add points to park grant application

The Planning Process

What do we have?
Is it adequate?

Inventory
Public Input

What do we need?

City Characteristics
Facility Needs/Priorities

Where should it go?

Natural Areas/Park Sites
Park Plan Map

How will we pay for,
build, and maintain it?

Strategy and Work Plan,
Resources and Timing

What do we need?

- General Needs

- Additional park and open space acres
- More diverse citywide facilities
- Better neighborhood park coverage
- Greenbelt/trail potential on Allens Creek
- Indoor recreation opportunities

- Top Facility Needs

Outdoor

- Swimming Pool
- Multi-Purpose Trails
- Splash Pad
- Exercise Stations
- Skate Park

Indoor

- Youth Room
- Senior Room
- Fitness Facilities
- Computer Classes
- Pool



Where and How?

- Short-Range
 - Community Park and Pool
 - Neighborhood Park East
 - Indoor Recreation Possibilities
 - Joint Opportunities with School
 - Improvements to Specific Parks
- Ongoing and Long-Range
 - Parkland Acquisition
 - Local and Regional Greenbelt/Trail
 - Neighborhood Parks for New Growth
 - Expanded Indoor Opportunities
 - Park Planning and Administration



What happens next?

- Plan draft reviewed by Parks Board
- Draft has received preliminary TPW approval
- TPW will give final approval when plan is accepted
- Implementation can begin:
 - Grant application
 - Local activities

SEBESTA AND ASSOCIATES

Grants, Landscape Design, and Planning

January 5, 2007

Ms. Roxanne Eley
Recreation Grants Branch
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

RE: City of Sealy Draft Comprehensive Park Plan

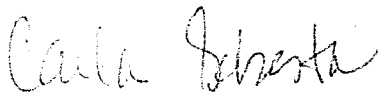
Dear Roxanne:

Please find enclosed the draft narrative and map for the City of Sealy Comprehensive Park Plan. The draft contains all elements except the resolution of adoption. The City intends to submit the plan to the City Council for consideration at its February meeting.

The local contact for this project is:
Mr. John Maresh, City Manager
City of Sealy
P.O. Box 517
Sealy, TX 77474
979.885.3511

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Carla Sebesta
Principal

Enclosure

LC: City of Sealy

RESOLUTION ENDORSING AND ADOPTING
A COMPREHENSIVE PARKS PLAN FOR THE CITY OF SEALY

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEALY, TEXAS, ENDORSING AND ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE PARKS PLAN FOR THE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION FACILITIES WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY.

WHEREAS, the City of Sealy has prepared a long-term comprehensive parks plan for the acquisition and development of parks, open space, and recreation facilities within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sealy is capable and desirous of executing this plan, based on criteria and limitations set forth therein; then

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEALY, TEXAS:

That the City Council does hereby endorse and adopt the "Comprehensive Parks Plan, 2007-2017."

PASSED AND APPROVED by an affirmative vote of the City Council of the City of Sealy, Texas, on this ____ day of _____, 200_.

Russell L. Koym, Mayor

ATTEST:

Krisha Langton, City Secretary

John Maresh

From: Sebesta and Associates [sebesta_associates@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2007 2:27 PM
To: John Maresh
Subject: Park Plan
Attachments: Park Plan Resolution.doc

John,

Depending on the status of the plan with the Parks Board, the next step in adopting the plan is for Council to approve the attached resolution (can be modified to fit the City's format if needed). Some cities choose to hold a public hearing first; others consider the resolution after a presentation summarizing the plan. As you noticed in Roxanne Eley's email, TPWD's only requirement is the proof of adoption before they issue their final approval.

I believe the next Council meeting is Feb. 14? Let me know how you prefer to handle this.

Carla Sebesta, Principal
Sebesta and Associates
P.O. Box 124
Georgetown, TX 78627-0124
Phone: 512.819.9675
Fax: 866.726.2483
sebesta_associates@verizon.net

2/1/2007

SEALY PARK INVENTORY

Park Classification System

This study uses a method of classifying municipal parks using a tiered system with five classifications, based on a scheme of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). (*Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, James D. Mertes and James R. Hall, co-chairs, National Recreation and Park Association, 1995.)

- *Pocket parks* are very small areas used to address limited, isolated or unique recreation needs, such as downtown pedestrian areas or tot lots in a residential neighborhood.
- *Neighborhood parks*, considered to be the “building blocks” of a good park system, serve as the social and recreational focus of the immediate residential area and are within walking or cycling distance. Activities can be both active and passive, but are generally informal (as opposed to community events or organized sports leagues, for example).
- *Community parks* serve the entire town, with diverse facilities that allow for larger gatherings, organized sports, and more intense recreational activities. They also are a means of preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.
- *Athletic complexes* consolidate heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites that are strategically located in the community. Since the BP&W Park serves as both a community park and athletic complex, these categories have been combined.
- *Special use facilities* cover a broad range of park and recreation facilities oriented toward a single-purpose use. These could include indoor recreation or event centers, arboretums, aquatic centers, or sports stadiums.

Existing City Park Facilities

Sealy's park inventory totals about 28 acres. Sealy's existing park facilities are discussed below and tallied in Figure 9. School campuses also provide recreation facilities, but the acreage is not included since it is not City-owned. The school facilities are counted since they are available to the public, even though this availability is limited. Sealy has defined its service area for recreation facilities as its extraterritorial jurisdiction. These are also illustrated on the Park Plan Map.

Trail Connection to Rains Creek
Tree Planting Throughout the Park

JOINT USE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- Existing School Locations
- Small Playscape or Playground Equipment
- Small Group Shelter
- Open Playing Field or Backstop
- Picnic Tables
- Walking Trail/Exercise Stations
- Security Lighting
- Gated Fence
- Signs, Landscaping, Trees

M 2181

COMMUNITY PARK

- Expansion of BAPW or New Site
- Swimming Pool/Bathhouse
- Multi-Purpose Trail with Exercise Stations
- Water Splash Pad (Expansion Potential)
- Community Skate Park
- Large Playscape or Two Age-Appropriate Playscapes
- Indoor Recreation Center
- Amphitheater
- Other Possible Facilities: Challenge Course, Special Needs Play Area, "Nature" Playground, Game Tables, Butcherfry or Community gardens, Sand Volleyball, Golf Driving Range, Additional Ballfields (esp. Softball, Soccer)
- Connection to Greenbelt Trail

**INDOOR RECREATION CENTER
(LOCATED IN COMMUNITY PARK)**

- Youth Activity Room
- Senior Activity Room
- Fitness Equipment
- Computer Classes/Technology Room
- Fitness Classes
- Long Range: Indoor Pool

CITY OF SEALY

Information collected for City of Sealy is collected from many different sources. City of Sealy assumes no responsibility for accuracy.



Landscaping, Trees

MARK F NEIGHB

- Upg
- Scree
- Trail
- Expa
- Sign
- Oth

ALLENS

- Mainta
- Const
- Resto
- Coor
- Long-f

POCKET COMMU

- Downt
- Tree F
- Highw
- Histor

Tree Planting Throughout the Park

JOINT USE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- Existing School Locations
- Small Playscape or Playground Equipment
- Small Group Shelter
- Open Playing Field or Backstop
- Picnic Tables
- Walking Trail/Exercise Stations
- Security Lighting
- Gated Fence
- Signs, Landscaping, Trees

218

COMMUNITY PARK

- Expansion of B&PW or New Site
- Swimming Pool/Bathhouse
- Multi-Purpose Trail with Exercise Stations
- Water Splash Pad (Expansion Potential)
- Community Skate Park
- Large Playscape or Two Age-Appropriate Playscapes
- Indoor Recreation Center
- Amphitheater
- Other Possible Facilities: Challenge Course, Special Needs Play Area, "Nature" Playground, Game Tables, Butterfly or Community gardens, Sand Volleyball, Golf Driving Range, Additional Ballfields (esp. Softball, Soccer)
- Connection to Greenbelt/Trail

INDOOR RECREATION CENTER (LOCATED IN COMMUNITY PARK)

- Youth Activity Room
- Senior Activity Room
- Fitness Equipment
- Computer Classes/Technology Room
- Fitness Classes
- Long Range: Indoor Pool

CITY OF SEELY

Information collected for City of Seely is collected from many different sources. City of Seely assumes no responsibility for accuracy.

Landscaping, Trees



MARK FREED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

- Upgrade
- Screening
- Trail Construction
- Expand
- Signs, L
- Other F

ALLENS CREEK COMMUNITY PARK

- Maintain g
- Construct
- Restore W
- Coordinate
- Long Range

POCKET PARK COMMUNITY PARK

- Downtown
- Tree Plant
- Highway E
- Historic ar