



# CITY OF PLANO COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

<b>CITY SECRETARY'S USE ONLY</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory				
Council Meeting Date:		9/23/2013		
Department:		Planning		
Department Head		P Jarrell		
Agenda Coordinator (include phone #): <b>Tammy Stuckey, 7156</b>				
<b>CAPTION</b>				
Public Hearing and consideration of an Ordinance of the City of Plano, Texas, amending the Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement, Bicycle Transportation Plan Map, and the Parks and Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan as originally adopted by Resolution No. 86-11-22(R) and Resolution No. 87-9-4(R); providing procedures approving the utilization of said policy statement, map, and element as revised and amended by the appropriate personnel and departments of the City of Plano for the purpose of guiding future development within the City of Plano, Texas; and providing an effective date.				
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY</b>				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE <input type="checkbox"/> OPERATING EXPENSE <input type="checkbox"/> REVENUE <input type="checkbox"/> CIP				
FISCAL YEAR:	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>Prior Year (CIP Only)</b>	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Future Years</b>
		0	0	0
Budget		0	0	0
Encumbered/Expended Amount		0	0	0
This Item		0	0	0
<b>BALANCE</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>FUND(S):     N/A</b>				
<b>COMMENTS:</b> This item has no fiscal impact.				
STRATEGIC GOAL PLAN: Amending the Bicycle Transportation Policy relates to the City's goals of Safe Large City and Partnering for Community Benefit.				
<b>SUMMARY OF ITEM</b>				
Amendment to the Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement, Bicycle Transportation Plan Map, and the Parks and Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan to include policies and recommendations regarding bicycle transportation as well as parks and recreation services within the City of Plano.				
List of Supporting Documents: <b>Planning &amp; Zoning Commission Follow Up memo</b> <b>Staff report</b> <b>Ordinance</b> <b>Exhibit "A" Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement</b> <b>Exhibit "B" Bicycle Transportation Plan Map</b> <b>Exhibit "C" Parks and Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan</b>			Other Departments, Boards, Commissions or Agencies Parks and Recreation Planning Board Planning & Zoning Commission	

**DATE:** September 4, 2013

**TO:** Honorable Mayor & City Council

**FROM:** Chris Caso, Chairman, Planning & Zoning Commission

**SUBJECT:** Results of Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting of September 3, 2013

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 - PUBLIC HEARING  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT - BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION POLICY  
STATEMENT, BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN MAP, AND THE PARKS  
AND RECREATION ELEMENT  
APPLICANT: CITY OF PLANO**

Request to amend the Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement, Bicycle Transportation Plan Map, and the Parks and Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

**APPROVED:** 7-0 **DENIED:**                      **TABLED:**                     

**STIPULATIONS:**

Approved as submitted.

**FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF:** September 23, 2013 (To view the agenda for this meeting, see [www.planotx.org](http://www.planotx.org))

**PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE**

LS/SS/av

CITY OF PLANO  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

September 3, 2013

**Agenda Item No. 7**

**Public Hearing:** Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement, Bicycle Transportation Plan Map, and the Parks and Recreation Element

**Applicant:** City of Plano

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**DESCRIPTION:**

Request to amend the Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement, Bicycle Transportation Plan Map, and the Parks and Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

**REMARKS:**

**Background**

The Planning & Zoning Commission reviewed and discussed the first draft of the Bicycle Policy Statement, Bicycle Transportation Plan Map, and the amendment of the Parks and Recreation Element on June 17, 2013 with staff. The Commission directed staff to move forward with the project and meet with the Parks and Recreation Planning Board as well as begin the public hearing process.

Staff met with the Parks and Recreation Planning Board on August 6, 2013 for review and discussion of the final draft of the three documents. The Board directed staff to move forward with the project through public hearings with the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council.

**Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement and Transportation Map**

The Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement and Bicycle Transportation Plan Map guide decision makers regarding bicycle transportation issues, project planning, and Community Investment Program (CIP) funding for bicycle transportation improvements in Plano. The current Bicycle Policy Statement was approved by City Council in August 2004 while the Bicycle Transportation Plan Map was adopted in November 2001. Proposed amendments to the policy statement and the transportation plan map are part of the ongoing effort to update the current Comprehensive Plan. These updates will be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan revision with the Park Master Plan that was approved by City Council in 2012.

### *Bicycle Policy Statement*

The policy statement is an update to the currently adopted document that reflects the changes to bicycle transportation in Plano over the last 12 years. Most of the trail system has been completed and the nomenclature for bicycle facilities has changed. The following is a summary of the changes to the policy statement:

- Inclusion of the objectives and strategies from the 2011 and 2012 updates of the Land Use Element and the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan
- New designations of bicycle trail facilities
- Focus of the Analysis section on three major issues
  - Crossing highways within Plano and surrounding the city
  - Trail connections with neighboring cities
  - Available land for expansion of shared use paths
- Update to reflect recent city initiatives regarding bicycle transportation
- Change in focus of policy statements from specific projects to broader, more general goals regarding bicycle transportation in Plano

### *Bicycle Transportation Plan Map*

The transportation plan map proposed for the 2013 update is significantly different than the document approved in November 2001. Much of the trail system has been completed; remaining sections to be built are the more difficult sections of the system and connections to neighboring cities. The route numbering classification has been modified and new route signage has been installed across the city. Map revisions now reflect shared use paths and on street routes, the new route numbering system, as well as possible locations of trail connections with neighboring cities.

The proposed Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement and Bicycle Transportation Plan Map are attached for reference.

## **Parks and Recreation Element**

### *Background*

The objective of the current Comprehensive Plan is to update the Land Use and Transportation Elements every two to three years; other elements are updated every five years or as needed. Recent updates to the Land Use and Transportation Elements were completed in 2012 and 2011, respectively. However, the Parks and Recreation Element was last updated in June 2006.

An amendment to the Parks and Recreation Element is required at this time to keep the document current and demonstrate to accreditation agencies that parks and recreation services are a vital component of Plano's planning efforts. The proposed changes reflect current issues, recent accomplishments, and updated parks and recreation information. The element provides a benchmark for the progression of the Parks and Recreation Department in achieving its goals and objectives for provision of service to the city's residents.

The Parks and Recreation Element stresses the importance of the park system to the quality of life of Plano residents (Theme I). This element serves as a guide to complete the city's park system for future facility development and land acquisition as well as

providing an inventory of existing facilities (Theme II and Appendix). Finally, a summary is provided to show the transition of Plano from a growing to a mature city and the resulting impact of urban issues to the Parks and Recreation Department's ability to provide services (Theme III).

#### *Summary of Amendment*

There are no proposed changes to Theme I and minor changes to Theme II, with the exception of the "Completion of The Parks System" subsection. Two major acquisitions listed in the current text have been completed, including the White Rock Community Park and the South Central Community Park. Issues affecting the completion of the park system include:

- Additional acquisition of private property for trails and parkland
- Limited financial resources to purchase the land
- Service to new residential areas created through rezoning approvals
- Completion of the Rowlett Creek greenbelt trail system
- Connections to trail systems with neighboring cities
- Provision for more landscaping and shade structures at existing park facilities

As stated previously, Theme III discusses the issues stemming from Plano's transition to a maturing inner ring suburban city and the impact on Parks and Recreation services. The following is a summary of issues presented in the proposed text:

- Changing demographics
  - Diversification of population
  - Aging population
- Impact of demographics and national trends on recreation services
- Expansion of Facilities versus Renovation and Maintenance
- Sharing/Privatization/Innovation of park facilities
- Parks and Recreation Tourism
- Water Conservation and Sustainability

A draft of the amendment of the Parks and Recreation Element is attached to the staff report for review and comment. The ~~striketrough~~ text indicates existing text that will be deleted and the **bold, underlined** text represents new or revised information to be included in the amendment of the document.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommended for approval as submitted.

# Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement

## Description

This policy statement provides a description of the bicycle transportation system in Plano along with the major issues affecting bicycle travel. City initiatives to address these issues as well as policies to guide decision makers in the implementation of the Bicycle Transportation Plan are included. The bicycle is considered a component of the multi-modal transportation system found within Plano. As the city matures and neighboring communities continue to develop at a rapid pace, vehicular transportation within Plano could become more congested.

The bicycle is a means of transportation for trips to employment centers, transit stations, schools, libraries, shopping, parks, and recreation facilities. Bicycle transportation can also assist in the region's mandate to improve air quality. Bicycling for recreation is also important because a well-developed bicycle network is a significant contributor to the overall quality of life in a community.

This policy statement addresses the following objectives and strategies found in the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Objective A.1:** Promote regional efforts to improve air quality and address transportation issues in the Metroplex.

**Strategy A.2:** Work closely with federal, state and regional agencies to provide for a range of transportation options to meet the changing needs of Plano residents.

**Objective A.3:** Provide Plano residents with a variety of transportation options.

**Objective B.4:** Promote safe and accessible recreational and destination oriented bicycle use.

**Strategy B.8:** Develop and maintain a system of bicycle routes and recreational trails for destination and recreational use that lead to cultural attractions and employment areas, mass transit facilities, and residential neighborhoods.

**Strategy C.3:** Participate in the development and implementation of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Regional Transportation Plan and other regional coordination programs.

## **Background**

The City of Plano has a Bicycle Transportation Plan that identifies on-street bicycle routes and shared use paths. The plan was first approved by City Council in 1986 with updates in 1993 and 2001. Many of these facilities are in existence today while others are in the planning and engineering stages. There are three types of designations for bicycle facilities found on the Bicycle Transportation Plan Map:

### ***Shared Use Paths***

Shared use paths are paved, off-street paths. While they are an essential component of the bikeway network, these facilities are also used by roller skaters, skateboarders, kick scooters, walkers, runners, wheelchair users, people pushing baby strollers, and walking dogs. The majority of shared use paths are located within parkland, but some are also in the road rights-of-way and on private property via easement agreements. The Bluebonnet, Chisholm, and Preston Ridge Trails are three existing shared use paths that cross major portions of the city. Future plans call for additions to these paths as well as new paths along the Rowlett Creek and White Rock Creek corridors.

### ***On-street Bicycle Routes***

An on-street bicycle route is a road or a series of roads identified for bicycle use due to lower volumes of traffic, lower speed limits, or direct connection to neighboring cities' routes. On-street bicycle routes are identified for their strategic connections to shared use paths, schools, libraries, recreation centers, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) bus and rail transit stops, shopping, and places of employment.

On-street bicycle routes have signage to show bicyclists how to navigate through the city primarily away from major thoroughfares. The signage also lets motorists know that bicyclists will be present on those routes.

### ***Regional Bicycle Network (Regional Veloweb)***

This network, called the Regional Veloweb, is proposed by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and is intended to link bicycle networks from multiple cities throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth region. The Regional Veloweb is a 1,668 mile network of shared use paths and on-street bicycle routes that are being coordinated to provide bicycle connectivity in the region.

Plano's Bluebonnet and Preston Ridge Trails are designated as a part of the Regional Veloweb along with proposed bikeways adjacent to Rowlett Creek and the DART railroad rights of way that follow the Union Pacific and Cotton Belt Railroad alignments. These bikeways are also identified in the Collin County Regional Trails Master Plan and a local regional bicycle network plan known as the Six Cities Trail Plan sponsored by the cities of Allen, Frisco, Garland, McKinney, Plano, and Richardson.

## **Analysis**

One major issue regarding bicycle transportation in Plano is crossing the highway systems surrounding the city. U.S. Highway 75 and the Dallas North Tollway provide access to Plano from the rest of the Dallas-Fort Worth region. However, the expressways pose an east-west barrier to bicyclists due to heavy vehicular traffic and turning movements at major thoroughfare intersections with service roads. Likewise, the Sam Rayburn Tollway and the President George Bush Turnpike also make it difficult for bicyclists trying to connect between bikeways in Plano and adjacent cities to the north and south. In order for the Regional Veloweb to function and for Plano's bikeways to interconnect with those in neighboring cities, barrier issues must be addressed.

Another major issue for bicycle transportation in Plano is the available land space for shared use path construction. Paths are primarily built on parkland, and because parkland is limited, the reach of paths is limited. Recently, the city has added some paths in the road right of way, where possible. The city is also making trail connections across private lands and utility corridors that require owner consent and easement agreements. The process of obtaining easements with owners is often a very long one and can be costly.

## **City Initiatives**

In 2012, the city implemented a project to install signage for the on-street bicycle routes. These bike routes span over 168 miles of roadway and are signed with approximately 2,600 signs.

Improvements for east-west connections of U.S. Highway 75 are underway. A project is currently in the engineering phase for bikeway improvements along 15<sup>th</sup> Street at U.S. Highway 75 to provide an improved connection from the southernmost point of Chisholm Trail along 15<sup>th</sup> Street under U.S. Highway 75 into downtown. Another project being engineered is bikeway improvements of the Park Boulevard overpass at U.S. Highway 75. A connection will be made from Chisholm Trail at Enterprise Drive along the overpass to the Parker Road DART station at Archerwood Lane. Recently, a shared use path connection was completed joining the cities of Plano and Allen, north of Legacy Drive, for a crossing under U.S. Highway 75 at Rowlett Creek. Plano installed the bridge over Rowlett Creek, while the city of Allen installed the tunnel under the DART rail right-of-way.

Additionally, several improvements for north-south connections of the President George Bush Turnpike and the Sam Rayburn Tollway are in the planning phases. One project will connect Chisholm Trail south to Richardson at Alma Drive and the Bush Turnpike. Another project will connect Preston Ridge Trail south to Dallas at Ohio Drive and the Bush Turnpike. Finally, a third project will connect a portion of Plano to Allen and Frisco at Custer Road and the Sam Rayburn Tollway via Rowlett Creek. All three projects involve the acquisition of easements on private land to make the connections.

## **Policy Statements**

The following is a list of policy statements that should be used for implementation of the Bicycle Transportation Plan as described above:

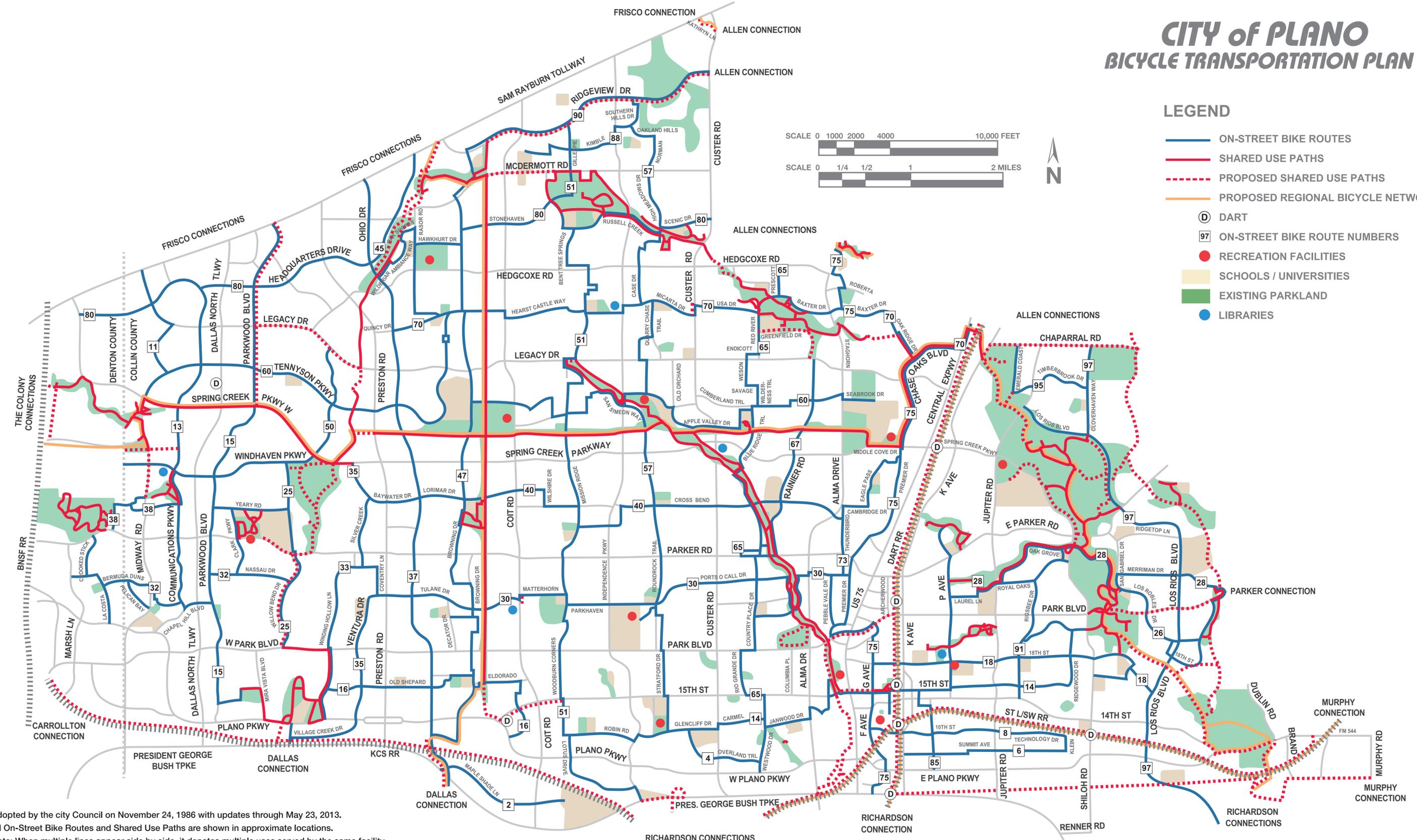
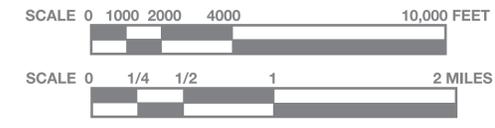
1. Develop and maintain an interconnected network of bikeways, made up of both on-street bicycle routes and shared use paths, as designated on the Bicycle Transportation Plan to provide access to transit, schools, libraries, parks, recreation facilities, shopping, employment, and other cities.
2. Develop and maintain a system of bikeways with appropriate signs, signalization, or grade-separations to ensure safe roadway crossings.
3. Develop and update educational materials that inform motorists and bicyclists about the city's Bicycle Transportation Network and its proper use on a regular basis.
4. Encourage employers to implement trip reduction programs and provide bicycle storage facilities and changing rooms for employees who commute to work by bicycle.
5. Encourage bicycling within the city with a bicycle network map and way finding signage.
6. Encourage the installation of adequate, safe and secure bicycle storage at transit facilities.
7. Designate a law enforcement liaison to the cycling community.
8. Implement enforcement of the Safe Passing Ordinance.
9. Study and evaluate the effectiveness of bikeway crossings of all roadways including highways, and where bikeways interconnect with neighborhoods, transit, education, recreational, commercial and cultural facilities and other bicycle facilities in surrounding cities.
10. Measure the amount of usage taking place on bikeways in the community.

# CITY of PLANO

## BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

### LEGEND

- ON-STREET BIKE ROUTES
- SHARED USE PATHS
- - - PROPOSED SHARED USE PATHS
- PROPOSED REGIONAL BICYCLE NETWORK\*
- D DART
- 97 ON-STREET BIKE ROUTE NUMBERS
- RECREATION FACILITIES
- SCHOOLS / UNIVERSITIES
- EXISTING PARKLAND
- LIBRARIES



Adopted by the city Council on November 24, 1986 with updates through May 23, 2013.  
 All On-Street Bike Routes and Shared Use Paths are shown in approximate locations.  
 Note: When multiple lines appear side by side, it denotes multiple uses served by the same facility.  
 \*North Central Texas Council of Governments Regional Veloweb

# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Element is to provide a general, visionary document to guide decision makers regarding issues related to Parks and Recreation facilities. The element identifies the key factors, trends and issues affecting parks and recreation and establishes objectives and strategies to address them. It also includes a Master Plan for parks that identifies existing properties and facilities and general locations for future facilities.

## MAJOR THEMES

### **Theme I - Livable City**

The City of Plano is nationally recognized for the provision of excellent services and facilities. “Livable City” focuses on the attributes of the parks and recreation system that enhance the quality of life of the city.

### **Theme II - City of Organized Development**

The Parks and Recreation Department has a wide range of properties and facilities throughout the city. The City of Organized Development section defines the components of Plano’s parks and recreation system and establishes a framework for its development.

### **Theme III - City in Transition**

The City in Transition section is all about change. Most of the land in the city has been developed. The composition of Plano’s population is changing. This section of the element will explore how changes in the city’s population and development trends will impact service provision, facility requirements, funding, and property acquisition.

## THEME I - LIVABLE CITY

### ***Recreational Opportunities***

The City of Plano provides a wide range of active and passive recreational facilities for its residents. One can enjoy a scenic nature preserve; hike or bike along an extensive trail system; play in an organized athletic league; or work out in a weight room. Plano’s parks and recreation facilities are designed to support active healthy lifestyles and enhance the community’s visual appearance. The city should continue to explore options to acquire and develop park facilities that are in close proximity to residential areas. These facilities should be consistent with the park hierarchy described in Theme II.

### ***Community Gathering Places***

Social interaction is a critical consideration when developing a city. Parks and recreation facilities near residential areas provide a place for people to gather and interact in formal and informal settings. The recreation centers have rooms that can be used to host formal meetings for organizations. Water features, park benches, picnic

areas and pavilions are amenities that can encourage informal social interaction. The city should emphasize the importance of parks and recreation facilities as “community building” tools that bring people together in a variety of settings.

### ***Open Space***

Abundant open space within a city enhances quality of life. Open spaces such as parks and natural areas provide relief from the built environment. Some of Plano’s parks and natural areas offer scenic vistas for people traveling along the major travel routes of the city. Landscaped medians and right-of-ways often enhance and extend the feeling of open space in the community. Plano’s nature preserves are a source of the city’s heritage and a glimpse of how the area may have appeared before human settlement. They also provide an opportunity to connect with and learn about the natural environment and ecologically sensitive areas. Although opportunities are limited, the city should continue its efforts to acquire and utilize properties that preserve natural features and make them available to the community.

### ***Parks as an Urban Design Component***

The locations of park facilities in Plano have been incorporated into the urban design framework of the city. Linear parks preserve the city’s natural areas adjacent to creek corridors and link schools, recreational facilities, and residential neighborhoods. Trails within linear parks connect with on-street bicycle routes and to trails in adjacent cities to serve as an alternative transportation network within the area. Parks located near schools in the heart of Plano’s residential neighborhoods serve as community gathering places. Nature preserves protect the wooded areas of the city that are located within the floodplains of major creeks.

### ***Objectives for Theme I - Livable City***

- **Objective A.1** Encourage healthy lifestyles through the provision of recreation facilities and activities.
- **Objective A.2** Provide places for social interaction and community gatherings.
- **Objective A.3** Provide for relief from the built environment through the acquisition and maintenance of open areas and natural settings.

### ***Strategies for Theme I - Livable City***

- **Strategy A.1** Develop and maintain a comprehensive system of park, recreational, fitness, athletic, and sports facilities, and programs that keeps pace with the city’s changing demographics.
- **Strategy A.2** Provide for indoor and outdoor facilities that support formal gatherings and organized events.
- **Strategy A.3** Design and locate park facilities that encourage informal gatherings. Elements such as water features, pavilions, seating areas and courtyards can help bring people together.

- **Strategy A.4** Provide open spaces, trails, and other facilities that support informal activities.
- **Strategy A.5** Provide park areas that create scenic vistas from major routes of travel in the city.

## **THEME II - CITY OF ORGANIZED DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Park Hierarchy and System Planning***

Plano's park and open space system consists of five classifications: neighborhood parks, linear parks, community parks, open space preserves, and special use areas. The city also has standards based on population that have been used to determine the amount of parkland, number of park facilities, athletic fields, and recreation facilities required to meet the demand of Plano's projected population.

Appendix A provides a listing of parks by classification. Appendix B is a general list of amenities found within the different classifications of parks.

### ***Neighborhood Parks***

A total of 31 neighborhood parks serve Plano's residential areas with a variety of passive and active recreational places. These parks are typically seven to ten acres in size and serve the typical residential neighborhoods found throughout the city. This neighborhood setting is characterized by a land area of approximately one square mile bounded by six-lane divided thoroughfares with school and park sites near the center, low-density housing on the interior, medium- and high-density housing along the edges, and office and retail operations at the intersections of the major thoroughfares where they serve other neighborhoods, as well.

Wherever possible, neighborhood parks have been combined with elementary schools to maximize the use of both facilities. Combined neighborhood parks and schools provide for shared parking, ball fields, playgrounds and other facilities. This helps the parks better serve as gathering places for the residential neighborhoods.

Neighborhood parks can play an important role in urban design. They function as activity centers and focal points for neighborhoods (see Urban Design element). One of the issues for neighborhood parks is making these facilities more appealing. The Parks and Recreation Department is addressing this issue by continuing to plant large trees to improve shade throughout the park system and studying other ways to make the neighborhood parks more inviting and amenable to serve group activities.

### ***Linear Parks***

The city has 44 **15** linear parks that serve as links between residential areas, schools, libraries and other park facilities. They also provide practical alternatives for land that would otherwise go unused. Linear Parks are located within creek corridors, major utility easements, street right-of-ways and rail corridors. They provide breaks in the urban development pattern, conserve ecologically unique areas, and provide long stretches of open space and recreational trails (see ~~Transportation Element~~). Some greenbelts lack land outside of the flood plain. As a result, they are often unusable during rainy periods and their slopes limit recreational activities within them. Additional

land, where possible, should be acquired along creek corridors to enhance the usability of linear parks.

### ***Community Parks***

There are ~~22~~ **23** community parks in Plano. They are usually 25 or more acres in size and **generally serve a three mile radius** ~~larger geographic area~~ or specific community needs. Community parks have active and passive recreational facilities and may also contain large passive open space areas suited to recreational trails and picnic areas beyond what is found in a neighborhood park. They also provide visual breaks in Plano's urban setting, particularly when located along major thoroughfares. Many community parks are contiguous to linear parks that connect them with residential neighborhoods. Community parks frequently contain major lighted athletic facilities used for scheduled leagues and tournaments. Community parks may also contain recreation centers and are usually located adjacent to senior high schools, high schools, and middle schools. As demand continues to grow for features such as dog parks, skate parks, and other emerging recreation activities, community parks will most likely be used to provide these services. New facilities will need to be carefully located and designed so that they do not conflict with existing uses and facilities at a given park or adjacent development.

### ***Open Space Preserves***

Open space preserves serve active and passive recreational needs and provide for cultural activities as well. These facilities preserve ecologically sensitive areas and provide opportunities for interaction with the natural environment. Therefore, any improvements at these parks must be carefully integrated into the environment and intensive uses such as athletic facilities should not be included. ~~There are three open space preserves in Plano.~~ Arbor Hills Nature Preserve in western Plano, along with Bob Woodruff Park, and Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve in eastern Plano **serve as the three open space preserves within the city.** In addition to public open spaces, Connemara, a private regional nature preserve, provides permanent open space in north central Plano.

### ***Special Use Areas***

Special Use Areas are varied and unique in size, use and design. These areas include facilities such as museums, cemeteries, memorials and urban plazas. This classification also includes parks that do not readily fit within the other park categories such as tennis centers and facilities located on school property. There are 44 **nine** special use areas in Plano.

### ***Golf Courses***

The provision of municipal public golf courses is common with cities throughout the United States. The City of Plano has two golf courses: **Pecan Hollow and Ridgeview Ranch. Pecan Hollow, an 18 hole course, is owned and operated by the city.** ~~The city owns and operates the 18 hole Pecan Hollow Golf Course.~~ Ridgeview Ranch Golf Course was built on city park land by a private developer and is operated under a long term lease agreement. This relationship allowed the city to provide a second 18 hole golf course to the public without incurring the initial expense of constructing the course.

### ***Completion of the Parks System***

The City of Plano currently has over 3,830 acres of park lands. Acquisition of park land is nearing completion as the city needs an additional 262 acres to serve a population of 270,000 people. This acreage is based on national standards (15 acres per 1,000 population) and community input. However, there are some remaining tracts of land that are critical to the overall park system including two key community park locations.

These facilities will provide open space in areas of Plano that are currently underserved. One of these proposed community parks is approximately 100 acres along White Rock Creek adjacent to the intersection of Spring Creek Parkway and Windhaven Parkway. The second location consists of approximately 60 acres near the intersection of Alma Drive and Park Boulevard. Acquisition of these sites will provide a more balanced distribution of park land throughout the city and should be completed at the earliest possible date. Table 1 on the next page contains park land projections while Table 2 is a projection of needed Parks and Recreation facilities.

**Goals for parks and recreation facilities that were established at the beginning of Plano's rapid growth in the 1960's and 70's have been continuously updated and implemented. Accomplishing these goals has required an ongoing commitment from elected officials, appointed boards and commissions, city staff, and residents. Completion of the Plano's park system requires continued commitment of all the city's recreation stakeholders.**

**Through an ongoing process of community input and benchmarking against other cities around the country, Plano has established a general guideline of providing at least 15 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents. Neighboring cities and Collin County have adopted similar goals and this standard is consistent with best practices of cities around the country. As of January 1, 2013, Plano had a population of 264,910 residents and 4,002 acres of parkland, which meets the goal for acres of park land per 1,000 residents. The additional park sites and facilities included in the 2012 Park Master Plan will be necessary to complete the city's park system and serve a projected population of 280,000 residents.**

**In the last five years, the city has completed acquisition of the 117 acre Windhaven Meadows Park and the 51 acre South Central Community Park Site. These two sites provide open space in previously underserved areas of the city. One large tract of land is required along Rowlett Creek in order to complete Plano's section of the regional Rowlett Creek Greenbelt. In addition, there are many small parcels of land needed in order to complete the city's trail system. Failure to acquire the land will result in gaps in the trail system and missed opportunities to connect to adjacent cities, in accordance with the Six Cities Trail Plan and the Collin County Regional Trail Plan.**

Additional land may also be needed to serve new residential development in areas of the city previously zoned for other uses. Specific details of the proposed development and proximity to existing parks should be studied when the rezoning request is submitted to ensure new residents receive the same quality and availability of facilities as existing residents.

The Parks and Recreation Department shall identify and prioritize projects required to complete the city's park system. Projects receiving the highest priority should be considered for inclusion within the fiscal year budget proposals and future bond elections.

Plano residents approved a bond referendum in 2009, which provided \$48,650,000 in bond authority for park improvements and \$24,100,000 in bond authority for recreation center improvements. Several of those projects have been delayed due to lack of funding to support the staffing, operation and maintenance of those facilities. In 2013, residents approved an additional bond referendum, which provides \$27,000,000 in bond authority for park improvements and \$12,500,000 in bond authority for recreation center improvements. Both of these programs include funding for new facilities as well as funding for renovation or expansion of existing facilities. The projects included in these bond referendums are listed in Appendix C.

In addition to completing land acquisitions and construction of major facilities, it will be important for Plano to move forward with finalizing the development of individual parks within the park system. Additional trees, shade structures, sidewalks, and other amenities are still needed in many parks throughout the city. Rapid growth in previous decades spread resources thin and many parks received only basic improvements. Tables 1 and 2 contain projections for additional park land and facilities, respectively.

**Table 1  
Park Land Projections**

	Current		Projected Needs for Build-out Population of <del>270,000</del> <u>280,000</u>	
	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
Open Space Preserves	3	<del>1,324.13</del> <b><u>1323.87</u></b>	3	1,350.00
Community Parks	<del>22</del> <b><u>23</u></b>	<del>1,120.65</del> <b><u>1280.05</u></b>	<del>23</del> <b><u>24</u></b>	<del>1,275.00</del> <b><u>1487.00</u></b>
Golf Courses	2	461.06	2	461.06
Linear Parks	<del>14</del> <b><u>15</u></b>	<del>629.27</del> <b><u>638.58</u></b>	<del>14</del> <b><u>15</u></b>	<del>700.00</del> <b><u>721.00</u></b>
Neighborhood Parks	31	<del>249.13</del> <b><u>256.07</u></b>	32	<del>260.00</del> <b><u>261.00</u></b>
(Neighborhood Parks within Other Parks)	*(24)	*(168)	*(24)	*(168)
Special Use Parks	<del>11</del> <b><u>9</u></b>	<del>46.57</del> <b><u>42.7</u></b>	<del>11</del> <b><u>9</u></b>	<del>46.57</del> <b><u>42.7</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<del><b>3,830.84</b></del> <b><u>4,002.33</u></b>	<b>85</b>	<del><b>4,092.63</b></del> <b><u>4,322.76</u></b>

Current and projected park land acres exceed 15 acres per 1,000 population.  
 \* These numbers are already included in totals for other parks.

Source: City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department

**Table 2  
Park and Recreation Facility Projections**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Projected Needs for Build-out Population of 270,000-280,000</b>
<i>Amphitheaters</i>	1	1
<i>Athletic Fields:</i>		
<i>Ball Fields</i>	<del>64</del> <u>71</u>	<del>79</del> <u>59</u>
<i>Cricket Pitches</i>	7	<del>8</del> <u>12</u>
<i>Turf Sports Fields*</i>	<del>99</del> <u>110</u>	<del>115</del> <u>112</u>
<i>Championship Youth Ball Parks</i>	1	1
<i>Dog Parks</i>	1	3
<i>Frisbee Golf Holes</i>	9	18
<i>Golf Courses:</i>		
No. of Holes	36	36
<i>Group Camping Area</i>	0	4
<i>Park Centers</i>	0	1
<i>Performance <del>Theaters</del> Venues</i>	2	2
<i>Playgrounds</i>	<del>60</del> <u>72</u>	<del>63</del> <u>76</u>
<i>Recreation Centers:</i>		
School-Based	<del>2</del> <u>0</u>	<del>4</del> <u>0</u>
Stand-Alone	<del>4</del> <u>5</u>	5
<i>Recreational Trail Miles</i>	<del>50</del> <u>70</u>	<del>75</del> <u>95</u>
<i>Reservation Pavilions</i>	<del>40</del> <u>11</u>	14
<i>Sand Volleyball Courts</i>	<del>5</del> <u>8</u>	<del>41</del> <u>14</u>
<i>Senior Recreation Centers</i>	1	1
<i>Skate Parks</i>	0	2
<b><u>Outdoor Spray Grounds</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>
<b><u>Off-Road Bicycle Trails</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>2</u></b>
<i>Swimming Facilities:</i>		
Indoor	<del>3</del> <u>4</u>	5
Outdoor	<del>3</del> <u>4</u>	4
<i>Tennis Facilities:</i>		
Tennis Center Courts	21	21
School Courts Lighted	<del>30</del> <u>21</u>	<del>60</del> <u>21</u>
School Courts Unlighted	<del>54</del> <u>63</u>	<del>24</del> <u>63</u>

\* Turf Sports fields are used for football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, and other similar sports.

Source: City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department

~~The other remaining acquisitions primarily relate to the trail and greenbelt system. Undeveloped land is disappearing quickly. It will be critical to acquire additional creek corridors as development occurs to complete Plano's trail connections. These remaining properties will also facilitate connections to trail systems in adjacent cities.~~

Despite the city's best efforts to plan in advance for the long term recreational needs of the community, unexpected opportunities and challenges will arise. Flexibility will be critical as changing demographics and other trends place unexpected demands on the city's **Plano's** recreational assets. The city should strongly consider opportunities that may arise to acquire land, buildings, or other facilities that will address new recreation demands or further the preservation of open space.

In contrast, the city may be asked to assume ownership and/or maintenance of private amenities such as swimming pools and common areas in residential subdivisions. In most cases, these facilities are not appropriately designed, located, and sized to meet the requirements for public facilities. Although such facilities may be a financial burden to a homeowners' association, the city should not accept such donation merely to relieve another entity of a financial burden.

### ***Objectives for Theme II - City of Organized Development***

- **Objective B.1** Provide for a wide range of passive, active, formal and informal recreation activities in appropriate locations across the city.
- **Objective B.2** Use neighborhood parks as a focal point and activity centers for Plano's residential areas.
- **Objective B.3** Use linear parks to link key public and private activity centers with residential areas.

### ***Strategies for Theme II - City of Organized Development***

- **Strategy B.1** Develop and maintain a comprehensive program of parks and recreation facilities based on the park classification system and master plan that includes current facilities and approximate locations for future facilities.
- **Strategy B.2 Evaluate zoning changes that may affect the location and demand for parks and recreation facilities in areas not previously identified on the Park Master Plan.**
- **Strategy B.3 Identify and prioritize projects required to complete the park system for inclusion in the Community Investment Program (CIP) fiscal year budget and future bond elections.**
- **Strategy B.34** Prevent unnecessary demands on park and recreation resources by refusing private donations of open space or facilities that do not conform to the objectives and strategies of the Comprehensive Plan or address unanticipated gaps and shortages in the system.
- **Strategy B.25** Acquire remaining properties to complete the trail system within Plano and link with systems in other cities.

- **Strategy B.46** Strongly consider the acquisition of land, buildings, and other facilities not specifically identified in the Parks and Recreation Element, if they can meet changing needs of the city.

### THEME III - CITY IN TRANSITION

#### ***Changing Demographics***

Demographic data for Plano from the U. S. Census Bureau indicates that the city's population ~~is changing~~ **continues to change**. The percentage of the population that identified themselves as a member of a minority ethnicity or race has increased from 8.5% in 1980 to ~~27.8%~~ **41.6%** in ~~2000~~ **2010**. Foreign born populations are increasing in Plano and many American suburbs.

Many immigrants now move directly to the suburbs rather than central cities like Dallas to take advantage of the educational and economic opportunities found there. Plano residents born outside of the United States increased from 7.5% in 1990 to ~~47.1%~~ **24.5%** in ~~2000~~ **2010**. Another national trend is an aging population. This trend is also on the rise in Plano where the median age increased from 27.4 years in 1980 to ~~34.4~~ **37.2** years in ~~2000~~ **2010**. It is projected that by 2020, ~~almost 50%~~ **over 45%** of the city's residents could be over the age of 45 years.

The city ~~should~~ **shall** continue to monitor demographic and social trends of its residents as they will ~~impact~~ **affect** the type of facilities and services the Parks and Recreation Department provides. ~~The U.S. Census bureau has created a new demographic tool, the American Community Survey which will provide more up to date demographic information than the current 10 year census counts. Beginning in the fall of 2006, Plano should receive updated demographic data on an annual basis.~~ **Demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey is available for Plano on an annual basis, providing updated population characteristics between decennial censuses.** It ~~will~~ **is** also be important to continue to learn about changing expectations and values of the city's population through local research.

**Changing demographics have an impact on Parks and Recreation programing and facilities. Plano is now providing services and facilities that it did not consider in past decades. Cricket pitches have been added to athletic sites and table tennis and badminton have become popular activities at recreation centers. Passive outdoor spaces are often used for tai chi and other similar activities.**

**The existing Senior Recreation Center is experiencing overcrowding and additional space is needed for a growing number of older senior adults. At the same time, industry trends and research suggest aging baby boomers may not be ready to use the Senior Recreation Center for many years. Their preference to continue using the city's other recreation centers is creating a demand for changing programing and equipment at these facilities to serve residents of all ages.**

**Many people who played youth soccer have now reached adulthood and created a demand for adult soccer opportunities. Changing lifestyles and family dynamics have significantly increased parking demands at athletics sites as parents, grandparents, and other family members may all drive in separate vehicles to watch children participate in sporting events.**

### ***Changing Recreation Needs***

Changing demographics impact Parks and Recreation programming and facilities. Plano is now providing and/or preparing for the provision of services/facilities that it may not have considered ten years ago. Plano now has cricket pitches, a dog park and is planning for an outdoor skate park. There is also a growing demand for table tennis facilities. Soccer fields are now used to host lacrosse and rugby matches. At the same time, interest in traditional athletic activities such as baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball has not waned. The Parks and Recreation Department is trying to provide facilities to accommodate the new sports along with the traditional activities.

Senior centers offer programs and facilities that are uniquely designed for mature adults. However, industry trends and feedback from older residents suggest that they no longer desire a facility separate from the general population. They wish to recreate in facilities that serve all ages of the community. Due to this trend a second recreation facility dedicated solely to senior citizens is no longer planned. Instead, facilities and programs for seniors will be integrated into existing recreation centers throughout the city.

City residents have expressed the desire to incorporate high tech facilities at the city's parks. They want technological capabilities that would allow them to access the Internet or do work on their laptop computer while visiting a city park. Technology should be carefully integrated into parks so that it does not have an adverse impact on nature or other park uses.

**Demographics are not the only change that can affect recreational demands; local, regional, and national recreation trends continue to have an impact on requested activities and facilities. In the most recent community survey, residents identified outdoor special events and water sports as the activities they would most like to see added to Plano's parks and recreation programing. Participation in running events such as 5k and 10k races has increased dramatically in recent years. Bicycling for exercise and recreation also continues to grow in popularity despite increased traffic and congestion on the city's roadways.**

**Many residents now expect high quality facilities for casual pickup games for outdoor sports such as soccer and football in the same way they have in the past for activities such as basketball or volleyball. Expectations for higher quality practice spaces have created additional demands on athletic facilities and practice areas in neighborhood parks. Demand for shade at playgrounds and over spectator seating at athletic facilities continues to grow along with the desire for additional skate parks, dog parks, spray grounds, BMX parks, fitness trails, off road bicycle trails, soft surface jogging trails, and spaces for fitness**

boot camps. Demands for multiuse trails near employment centers have also increased in recent years.

Another major trend that is affecting Plano's parks is the large number of non-residents using the city's athletic facilities. Over the last several decades, Plano has constructed many high quality athletic facilities to serve a growing number of youth sports participants within the city. In recent years, the percentage of non-resident users has increased dramatically. This may be attributed to rapid growth in neighboring cities and the inability of these communities to provide facilities for their residents along with the regional nature of many sports organizations and leagues.

Technology continues to change the way we live, work and play. Bicycle routes are now identified on Google Maps and community input forums are available on-line. Face Book, Twitter and other social media provide new opportunities for communications with the public. Signs with Quick Response (QR) codes provide interactive data that can be accessed by cell phones and other mobile devices while meetings and classes can be attended without leaving the home or office. Parks and recreation facilities, programming and equipment will need to continuously adapt to technological innovations.

Parks and recreation facilities also contribute to quality of life through preservation of health. People of all ages tend to lead a more sedentary lifestyle than in past years. The provision of recreation facilities, parklands, and trails provides Plano residents an opportunity to embrace a healthier lifestyle through engaging in physical activities and exercise.

The Parks and Recreation Department shall research trends and participate in a variety of public feedback exercises to determine services and programs desired by city residents. These activities will be ongoing for the department to plan and fund modifications to services and facilities as customer demand changes. Alterations to facilities and programs should be assessed and prioritized to respond to the highest recreation demand.

#### **Expansion versus Maintenance** **Expansion versus Renovation and Maintenance**

~~Plano is transitioning from a growing city to a maturing city. Though most of the city has been developed, there is still more park facilities needed. This creates a tension for funding to maintain existing parks and providing new facilities. Additional facilities such as two community parks, athletic fields, and lighted tennis courts are still needed. A new recreation center will soon be under construction. The 800 acre Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve will also be developed in the near future with trails, picnic areas, and a park center that will contain a visitor center, recreation classrooms and retreat facilities.~~

~~Older facilities are in need of maintenance and renovation. A program should be developed that identifies and prioritizes needs of the existing parks and recreation facilities. These facilities must be updated to adapt to the changing service needs of the city's population. Work is required to enhance older park facilities and make them attractive for use by future generations. Existing parks and facilities are experiencing~~

~~significantly more use due to increased population which generates the need for more maintenance. New construction within existing parks and new recreation programs and events will also generate new maintenance and operational demands that cannot be met with existing resources. This is due to increased costs to maintain and operate more facilities.~~

**Plano has transitioned from rapid growth to a more established city. Although private development within the city has slowed, the parks system is still not complete. Slower growth and decreased revenues have made it difficult to fund the operating cost of new facilities. Major improvements still needed to meet the community's recreational demand include: development of two new community parks, an indoor pool, expansion of the Senior Recreation Center, skate parks, additional dog parks, athletic facilities, recreational trails, and facilities at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve.**

**A number of existing parks and recreation facilities have been in use for over 30 years and need maintenance and renovation. A few examples of some sites in need of updating in the near future include Carpenter Park, Jack Carter Pool, and High Point Tennis Center. The demand for new facilities and the need for renovation of existing facilities create a tension in funding priorities. It will be important for the city to continue to plan for the maintenance and renovation of existing assets while at the same time completing development of new facilities.**

**Maintenance and improvements of existing facilities shall be reviewed and prioritized for inclusion in the city's budget and future bond elections. Resident feedback should be a factor to identify facilities in need of updating and amenities necessary to improve existing facilities. Proposed improvements must be examined to determine if funding is available for staffing, operations, and future maintenance costs before projects are selected and recommended for fiscal year budgeting, future bond elections, and implementation.**

### ***Sharing/Privatization/Innovation***

~~As Plano matures, revenues will begin to level off due to a reduction in new development activity. This will make it more difficult to secure funding to maintain and expand parks and recreation facilities. It will be important to explore the possibility of sharing facilities with other local government entities and to examine public/private partnerships that can increase efficiency while still providing high quality services and facilities. Adaptive reuse of public and private facilities should be considered to meet emerging recreation needs.~~

~~The city has had a policy of sharing both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities with local school districts for many years. Collin County is also beginning to provide for some recreational needs of Plano residents through the Collin County Youth Camp. There are also some private organizations that specialize in the provision of recreational activities. It will be important to inventory other public and private recreation facilities to determine if duplication is occurring. Partnerships with other public and private organizations and the identification and utilization of innovative funding and service techniques should be considered to offset limited resources in the future.~~

As Plano continues to mature, revenues may not be available to support new facilities and programs. It will be important to continue to look for opportunities to share facilities with other government agencies, non-profit organizations and private businesses. The city has shared facilities and land with Plano Independent School District (PISD) and Collin County has provided funding for a number of park improvements within the City. Plano has also partnered with other recreation service vendors such as Plano Sports Authority (PSA) to construct two large indoor recreation facilities on public park land and the Boys and Girls Clubs, which now operates the Douglass Community Center.

The Parks and Recreation Department shall maintain an inventory of current services and compare the list with programs and activities offered by other public entities and private businesses in the city. The department will place emphasis on items that are deemed a part of its core business when determining what services should be added. This review will include: analysis of current market conditions, other providers or competition, and financial viability. From this assessment, a decision can be made as to investment in service provision, partnership with another agency to provide the service, or divesting of a service to ensure the most efficient use of limited resources in the future.

#### **Park Facilities as Revenue Sources Parks and Recreation Tourism**

~~There has been a growing interest in looking at ways to use our parks and recreation facilities to generate revenues. Using current facilities to host more major athletic tournaments and special events is under consideration.~~

~~Another possibility is to construct facilities specifically designed for certain types of special activities such as equestrian competition. These events could attract participants and fans from outside of Plano and generate direct revenues for the city from registration fees and ticket sales. Indirect revenues could result from sales and hotel/motel tax receipts.~~

Parks and recreation facilities have been recognized for many years for their potential to generate tourism, which provides significant economic benefits. There continues to be an interest in finding ways to use Plano's parks and recreation facilities to attract visitors to the city. The city currently hosts many regional and national athletic tournaments.

The Plano Balloon Festival at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve attracts thousands of visitors each year. A large music festival is also being considered for Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve. Large running events such as half and full marathons are also being discussed. These types of events have the potential to generate customers for local businesses and additional tax revenues for the city, create an identity for Plano as a destination place, contribute to its image as a good place to live, and attract new residents to the city.

**However,** there are challenges in using park facilities for tourism such as major special events, national athletic tournaments and other potential revenue generating activities. First, the facility may require renovation to host a major event. More seating and parking to accommodate people may be required along with other facility improvements.

Second, these facilities may not be available to taxpaying residents during some of these events.

~~It will be important for the city to carefully evaluate the economic benefits derived from using local facilities for regional and national events. The revenue gained by these activities should outweigh the cost required to provide facilities and the inconvenience to those who regularly use the facilities. Revenues should also exceed the cost of additional staffing and the maintenance required to support these events.~~

**The department shall evaluate the use of parks and recreation facilities for regional and national events and identify sites appropriate for particular activities. Potential revenues for the city shall be compared with the cost associated for upgrading the site and hosting the event. During the assessment process, the expenditures required to provide the facilities and the potential loss of service for other citizens shall be considered.**

#### **Water Conservation and Sustainability**

**Recent droughts and disruptions to the public water supply have increased awareness of the need to conserve limited water resources. Continued growth in North Texas will intensify this issue in the future. The Parks and Recreation Department has begun to upgrade irrigation controls and systems to improve their efficiency.**

**Pecan Hollow Golf Course is using recycled water from the adjacent sewage treatment plant for irrigation, thereby eliminating the need to use the City's potable water supply. Alternative sources of water should be considered whenever possible and financially feasible. Collection of storm water runoff and the use of deep water wells have been considered and may provide some limited possibilities in this area.**

**Other alternatives, such as on-site recycling of black water, should be explored as population growth in the area will increase the amount of this resource available for reuse. More efficient use of the existing water sources is the most practical step available at this time. Continued rethinking of the types of plants, trees, and ground covers used in many parks also provides opportunities to reduce water consumption as new sites are developed or renovation occurs.**

**Significant improvements in energy efficiency have been made in the past five years at recreation centers, swimming pools, park structures, and with security and athletic field lighting. More sustainable landscapes are being planned at parks, medians, and at public buildings. A program is being developed to begin recycling of the large volumes of litter that is generated at athletic fields and other park facilities. Maintenance practices using Conservation Buffer Zone (CBZ) concepts in floodways and natural areas have been implemented to help reduce erosion and encourage native plant growth. The Parks and Recreation Department must continue to capitalize on evolving industry knowledge and sustainable practices in a fiscally responsible manner.**

### ***Objectives for Theme III - City in Transition***

- **Objective C.1** Provide for park and recreation opportunities that reflect the diverse needs of the community.
- **Objective C.2** Ensure that a balance exists between the maintenance of existing facilities and system expansion.
- **Objective C.3** Ensure long term financial stability of the city's parks and recreation facilities.

### ***Strategies for Theme III - City in Transition***

- **Strategy C.1** Examine the impact of changing demographics and changing recreation needs ~~and the impact they~~ on parks and recreation facilities and programming through research of trends and gathering public feedback. ~~Use this information to identify adjustments in the operation and design of new or updated facilities.~~
- **Strategy C.2** Identify and prioritize the needs of existing facilities versus those of proposed facilities through the annual Community Investment Program **(CIP)** budget process. Long term operations and maintenance costs should be factored into both.
- **Strategy C.3** ~~Explore improvements to the~~ Improve efficiency and cost effectiveness of providing certain programs and facilities through privatization, public/private partnerships and joint operations with other public entities. Opportunities to combine resources and create regional facilities should ~~also~~ be explored.
- **Strategy C.4** ~~Study the provision of facilities and special events that generate revenue to the city. Determine how these activities will impact the provision of programs for residents.~~ Evaluate current facilities in terms of hosting regional and national events which could attract visitors to the city and determine the costs required to complete the necessary improvements. Analyze the benefits derived from the proposed improvements and develop an operations plan to mitigate disruption of service during events.
- **Strategy C.5** Explore alternative water sources and more efficient use of existing water resources. Identify sustainable practices that can be applied to the development, maintenance, and operation of parks and recreation facilities.

## Appendix A - Park Facilities and Classification System

<u>Neighborhood Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Community Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Arrowhead Park .....	6.84	Archgate Park (8)	49.26
Blue Ridge Park .....	5.02	Carpenter Park* (8)	106.73
Buckhorn Park .....	8.00	Cheyenne Park* (5)	24.78
Caddo Park .....	7.72	Enfield Park* (8)	50.00
Capstone Park .....	8.85	Harrington Park	16.08
Clearview Park .....	7.50	Heritage Yards at Plano* (8)	63.90
Copper Creek Park .....	4.00	High Point (North)	23.78
Coyote Creek Park .....	13.34	High Point (South)	31.63
Douglass Park Site .....	0.38	Hoblitzelle Park* (6)	147.66
Eldorado Park .....	6.87	Jack Carter Park* (8)	72.61
Evans Park .....	11.00	Liberty Park* (10)	17.00
Frank W. Beverly Park .....	10.34	Moore Park	119.50
Glen Meadows Park .....	2.91	Oak Point Center	23.92
Hackberry Park .....	5.00	Old Shepard Place Park	20.67
Hidden Meadow Park .....	6.78	Preston Meadow Park* (7)	22.85
Indian Creek Park .....	5.31	Russell Creek Park* (10)	192.19
Lt. Russell A. Steindam Park .....	8.29	Schell Park* (5)	31.37
Lone Star Park .....	8.27	Sgt. Mike McCreary Sports Field	4.77
Longhorn Park .....	7.00	Shawnee Park* (8)	43.87
Parkwood Green Park .....	4.13	South Central Community Park Site	51.10
Prairie Meadow Park .....	8.14	White Rock Community Park Site	117.30
W. H. "Buzz" Rasor Park .....	6.28	Willowcreek Park* (8)	21.74
Ridgeview Park .....	7.56	Windhaven Park* (10)	27.34
Shoshoni Park .....	3.11	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1280.05</b>
Steeplechase Park .....	18.75	<u>City-Wide Open Space Preserves</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Stoney Hollow Park .....	31.02	Arbor Hills Nature Preserve* (8)	201.12
Sunset Park .....	15.18	Bob Woodruff Park* (8) (8)	321.45
Tejas Park .....	10.97	Oak Point Park & Nature Preserve * (8)	801.30
Timber Brook Park .....	8.57	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1323.87</b>
Wagon Wheel Park .....	4.94	<u>Special Use Facilities</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Westwood Park .....	4.00	Bowman Cemetery	3.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>256.07</b>	Douglass Community Center (leased)	1.50
<u>Linear Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>	Haggard Park* (2)	6.43
Big Lake Park* (3)	13.04	Heritage Farmstead Site	3.91
Bluebonnet Trail .....	98.83	High Point Tennis Center	6.75
Chisholm Trail* (5) .....	84.09	Horseshoe Park* (7)	9.00
Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt* (4) .....	84.53	Memorial Park	8.50
FM 544/Rowlett Creek Site .....	20.66	Plano Aquatic Center (leased site)	2.00
Legacy Trail* .....	94.11	Rowlinson Natatorium (leased site)	1.00
Overland Trail .....	7.00	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42.70</b>
Preston Ridge Trail .....	87.58	<u>Golf Courses</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Russell Creek Greenbelt Site .....	24.16	Pecan Hollow Golf Course	258.98
Rustic Park .....	1.84	Ridgeview Ranch Golf Club	202.08
Santa Fe Trail* (6) .....	19.02	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>461.06</b>
Shady Brook Trail .....	43.79		
Southeast Trail Site .....	5.91		
Suncreek Park Site .....	13.64		
White Rock Trail Park .....	40.38		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>638.58</b>	<b>TOTAL PARK ACRES</b>	<b>4,002.33</b>

\* Indicates that a neighborhood park is contained within the facility. The number of acres devoted to the neighborhood park(s) is indicated in parentheses.

## **Appendix B Typical Park Features by Classification**

### Neighborhood Parks

- Service area - 1 square mile
- 7.5 to 10.0 acres in size
- Playground
- Picnic tables and shelters
- Unlighted athletic practice fields
- Multi-use courts
- Walking/jogging trails
- Park benches
- Adjacent to elementary schools where possible

### Linear Parks

- No designated service area
- No standard size
- Recreational trails - 10 to 12 feet wide concrete
- Benches, picnic tables and drinking fountains
- Security lighting in selected locations
- May contain playgrounds and picnic shelters
- Link other parks, residential neighborhoods, schools, libraries and other facilities
- Connect to adjacent cities and to on-street bicycle routes
- Developed along creek corridors, utility easements, street right-of-ways, rail right-of-ways and other available land corridors

### Community Parks

- Service area - varies, address specific community needs
- Over 25 acres in size
- Athletic facilities
- Swimming pools
- Recreation centers
- May contain dog parks, skate parks, spray grounds, disc golf courses, and other unique recreation facilities
- Passive open spaces areas
- Recreational trails
- Picnic areas with additional amenities
- May be adjacent to senior high schools, high schools and middle schools

### Typical Park Features by Classification - Community Parks

- Connected to linear parks whenever possible
- Typically located on major thoroughfares

## Appendix B (continued)

### Open Space Preserves

- Serves the entire City
- Over 50 acres
- Located on major thoroughfares
- Focused on open space and natural resources
- May provide both indoor and outdoor facilities
- **May support large community gatherings and outdoor festivals**
- Uses and facilities that are not compatible with the environment are prohibited

### Special Use Parks

- No specific size or service area
- Historic sites
- Cemeteries
- Memorials
- Facilities not located within parks
- Unique parks that do not readily fit within other park classifications

### Golf Courses

- Public golf courses and associated facilities

## Appendix C - Parks and Recreation Bond Authority Approved in 2009 and 2013

### 2009 Bond Program

#### Park Improvements \$48,650,000

- White Rock Creek Community Park Development- \$5,000,000
- Oak Point Park Development - \$5,000,000
- Trail Connections - \$4,000,000
- Athletic Field Renovations - \$5,000,000
- Park Improvements - \$3,000,000
- Land Acquisitions - \$15,250,000
- Athletic Field Improvements - \$3,000,000
- Arbor Hills Nature Preserve - \$400,000
- Pecan Hollow Golf Course - \$7,000,000
- Maintenance Facility Expansion - \$1,000,000

#### Recreation Centers \$24,100,000

- Aquatic Center Renovation - \$3,500,000
- Carpenter Park Recreation Center Expansion - \$6,000,000
- Senior Center/Wellness Center Expansion - \$7,500,000
- Oak Point Recreation Center Expansion - \$6,600,000
- Douglass Community Center - \$500,000

### 2013 Bond Program

#### Park Improvements \$27,000,000

- Recreation trails - \$8,000,000
- Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve - \$6,000,000
- Park improvements - \$7,000,000
- Carpenter Park renovation - \$6,000,000

#### Recreation Center Improvements: \$12,500,000

- Jack Carter Pool renovations - \$7,500,000
- High Point Tennis Center renovations - \$2,500,000
- Liberty Park Recreation Center expansion and renovations - \$2,500,000

**An Ordinance of the City of Plano, Texas, amending the Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement, Bicycle Transportation Plan Map, and the “Parks and Recreation” Element of the Comprehensive Plan as originally adopted by Resolution No. 86-11-22(R) and Resolution No. 87-9-4(R); providing procedures approving the utilization of said policy statement, map, and element as revised and amended by the appropriate personnel and departments of the City of Plano for the purpose of guiding future development within the City of Plano, Texas; and providing an effective date.**

**WHEREAS**, the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Plano provides for regular monitoring and updating as needed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Element was last updated on June 12, 2006 (Ordinance No. 2006-6-15); and

**WHEREAS**, The Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement was last updated on August 9, 2004 (Ordinance 2004-8-49), and the Bicycle Transportation Plan Map was last updated on November 12, 2001 (Ordinance No. 2001-11-12); and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning & Zoning Commission has reviewed the Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement, Bicycle Transportation Plan Map, and the “Parks and Recreation” Element of the Comprehensive Plan on September 3, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has provided an opportunity for public review and input on the proposed update to the Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement, Bicycle Transportation Plan Map, and the “Parks and Recreation” Element of the Comprehensive Plan as a tool to provide guidance; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council held a public hearing on September 23, 2013, open to all persons wishing to comment on the proposed update; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council, having been presented the proposed policy statement, chapter update, and map amendment, upon full review and consideration thereof, and all matters attendant and related thereto, is of the opinion that the Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement, Bicycle Transportation Plan Map, and the “Parks and Recreation” Element of the Comprehensive Plan should be approved, adopted and utilized by the City of Plano;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PLANO, TEXAS, THAT:**

**Section I.** The Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement, Bicycle Transportation Plan Map, and the “Parks and Recreation” Element of the

Comprehensive Plan, copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, Exhibit” B”, and Exhibit “C” respectively, and incorporated herein by reference, having been reviewed by the City Council of the City of Plano and found to be acceptable and in the best interest of the City of Plano and its citizens, is hereby approved and adopted.

**Section II.** The Comprehensive Plan provides a general framework of objectives and strategies for the long range development of the City. It provides a basis for establishing requirements for the development and redevelopment of public and private property, including land uses, streets, and public facilities.

**Section III.** Development regulations and their application should be generally consistent with the Comprehensive Plan as they relate to overall city standards and specific area or project requirements. In determining whether or not a regulation or its application is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, the City Council, the Planning & Zoning Commission, or other City body should consider:

1. The Comprehensive Plan in its entirety;
2. Immediate or near-term constraints affecting the timing or phasing of development or redevelopment of a property in accordance with the plan;
3. The existing and planned capacities of public infrastructure and facilities serving a given site or location; and
4. Unanticipated changes in conditions or new information occurring since the last update of the plan or one of its elements or policy statements.

**Section IV.** This Comprehensive Plan does not constitute zoning regulations nor does it establish zoning district boundaries. In addition, adoption of the plan as attached does not require the City to rezone property or amend development standards.

**Section V.** The Comprehensive Plan does not obligate the City to expend funds on any of the recommendations for possible activities, projects or studies.

**Section VI.** The City Council may amend the Comprehensive Plan following a public hearing held before the City Council and receipt of a report and recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission pertaining to the amendment. The Planning & Zoning Commission shall conduct a public hearing before making its report and recommendation to the City Council. Notice of a public hearing pertaining to consideration of an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan shall be given in a newspaper of general circulation not less than ten days prior to the hearing.

**Section VII.** City staff is permitted to add to or modify the literary and exhibit contents of the Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement, Bicycle Transportation Plan Map, and Parks and Recreation Element with such materials as graphs, tables, indexes, maps, background materials, additional policy statements, etc., so long as they are

consistent with the policies and recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan, without the need for further City Council approval.

**Section VIII.** This ordinance shall become effective immediately from and after its passage.

**DULY PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2013.**

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Harry LaRosiliere MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Diane Zucco, CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Diane C. Wetherbee, CITY ATTORNEY

# Bicycle Transportation Policy Statement

## Description

This policy statement provides a description of the bicycle transportation system in Plano along with the major issues affecting bicycle travel. City initiatives to address these issues as well as policies to guide decision makers in the implementation of the Bicycle Transportation Plan are included. The bicycle is considered a component of the multi-modal transportation system found within Plano. As the city matures and neighboring communities continue to develop at a rapid pace, vehicular transportation within Plano could become more congested.

The bicycle is a means of transportation for trips to employment centers, transit stations, schools, libraries, shopping, parks, and recreation facilities. Bicycle transportation can also assist in the region's mandate to improve air quality. Bicycling for recreation is also important because a well-developed bicycle network is a significant contributor to the overall quality of life in a community.

This policy statement addresses the following objectives and strategies found in the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Objective A.1:** Promote regional efforts to improve air quality and address transportation issues in the Metroplex.

**Strategy A.2:** Work closely with federal, state and regional agencies to provide for a range of transportation options to meet the changing needs of Plano residents.

**Objective A.3:** Provide Plano residents with a variety of transportation options.

**Objective B.4:** Promote safe and accessible recreational and destination oriented bicycle use.

**Strategy B.8:** Develop and maintain a system of bicycle routes and recreational trails for destination and recreational use that lead to cultural attractions and employment areas, mass transit facilities, and residential neighborhoods.

**Strategy C.3:** Participate in the development and implementation of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Regional Transportation Plan and other regional coordination programs.

## **Background**

The City of Plano has a Bicycle Transportation Plan that identifies on-street bicycle routes and shared use paths. The plan was first approved by City Council in 1986 with updates in 1993 and 2001. Many of these facilities are in existence today while others are in the planning and engineering stages. There are three types of designations for bicycle facilities found on the Bicycle Transportation Plan Map:

### ***Shared Use Paths***

Shared use paths are paved, off-street paths. While they are an essential component of the bikeway network, these facilities are also used by roller skaters, skateboarders, kick scooters, walkers, runners, wheelchair users, people pushing baby strollers, and walking dogs. The majority of shared use paths are located within parkland, but some are also in the road rights-of-way and on private property via easement agreements. The Bluebonnet, Chisholm, and Preston Ridge Trails are three existing shared use paths that cross major portions of the city. Future plans call for additions to these paths as well as new paths along the Rowlett Creek and White Rock Creek corridors.

### ***On-street Bicycle Routes***

An on-street bicycle route is a road or a series of roads identified for bicycle use due to lower volumes of traffic, lower speed limits, or direct connection to neighboring cities' routes. On-street bicycle routes are identified for their strategic connections to shared use paths, schools, libraries, recreation centers, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) bus and rail transit stops, shopping, and places of employment.

On-street bicycle routes have signage to show bicyclists how to navigate through the city primarily away from major thoroughfares. The signage also lets motorists know that bicyclists will be present on those routes.

### ***Regional Bicycle Network (Regional Veloweb)***

This network, called the Regional Veloweb, is proposed by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and is intended to link bicycle networks from multiple cities throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth region. The Regional Veloweb is a 1,668 mile network of shared use paths and on-street bicycle routes that are being coordinated to provide bicycle connectivity in the region.

Plano's Bluebonnet and Preston Ridge Trails are designated as a part of the Regional Veloweb along with proposed bikeways adjacent to Rowlett Creek and the DART railroad rights of way that follow the Union Pacific and Cotton Belt Railroad alignments. These bikeways are also identified in the Collin County Regional Trails Master Plan and a local regional bicycle network plan known as the Six Cities Trail Plan sponsored by the cities of Allen, Frisco, Garland, McKinney, Plano, and Richardson.

## **Analysis**

One major issue regarding bicycle transportation in Plano is crossing the highway systems surrounding the city. U.S. Highway 75 and the Dallas North Tollway provide access to Plano from the rest of the Dallas-Fort Worth region. However, the expressways pose an east-west barrier to bicyclists due to heavy vehicular traffic and turning movements at major thoroughfare intersections with service roads. Likewise, the Sam Rayburn Tollway and the President George Bush Turnpike also make it difficult for bicyclists trying to connect between bikeways in Plano and adjacent cities to the north and south. In order for the Regional Veloweb to function and for Plano's bikeways to interconnect with those in neighboring cities, barrier issues must be addressed.

Another major issue for bicycle transportation in Plano is the available land space for shared use path construction. Paths are primarily built on parkland, and because parkland is limited, the reach of paths is limited. Recently, the city has added some paths in the road right of way, where possible. The city is also making trail connections across private lands and utility corridors that require owner consent and easement agreements. The process of obtaining easements with owners is often a very long one and can be costly.

## **City Initiatives**

In 2012, the city implemented a project to install signage for the on-street bicycle routes. These bike routes span over 168 miles of roadway and are signed with approximately 2,600 signs.

Improvements for east-west connections of U.S. Highway 75 are underway. A project is currently in the engineering phase for bikeway improvements along 15<sup>th</sup> Street at U.S. Highway 75 to provide an improved connection from the southernmost point of Chisholm Trail along 15<sup>th</sup> Street under U.S. Highway 75 into downtown. Another project being engineered is bikeway improvements of the Park Boulevard overpass at U.S. Highway 75. A connection will be made from Chisholm Trail at Enterprise Drive along the overpass to the Parker Road DART station at Archerwood Lane. Recently, a shared use path connection was completed joining the cities of Plano and Allen, north of Legacy Drive, for a crossing under U.S. Highway 75 at Rowlett Creek. Plano installed the bridge over Rowlett Creek, while the city of Allen installed the tunnel under the DART rail right-of-way.

Additionally, several improvements for north-south connections of the President George Bush Turnpike and the Sam Rayburn Tollway are in the planning phases. One project will connect Chisholm Trail south to Richardson at Alma Drive and the Bush Turnpike. Another project will connect Preston Ridge Trail south to Dallas at Ohio Drive and the Bush Turnpike. Finally, a third project will connect a portion of Plano to Allen and Frisco at Custer Road and the Sam Rayburn Tollway via Rowlett Creek. All three projects involve the acquisition of easements on private land to make the connections.

## **Policy Statements**

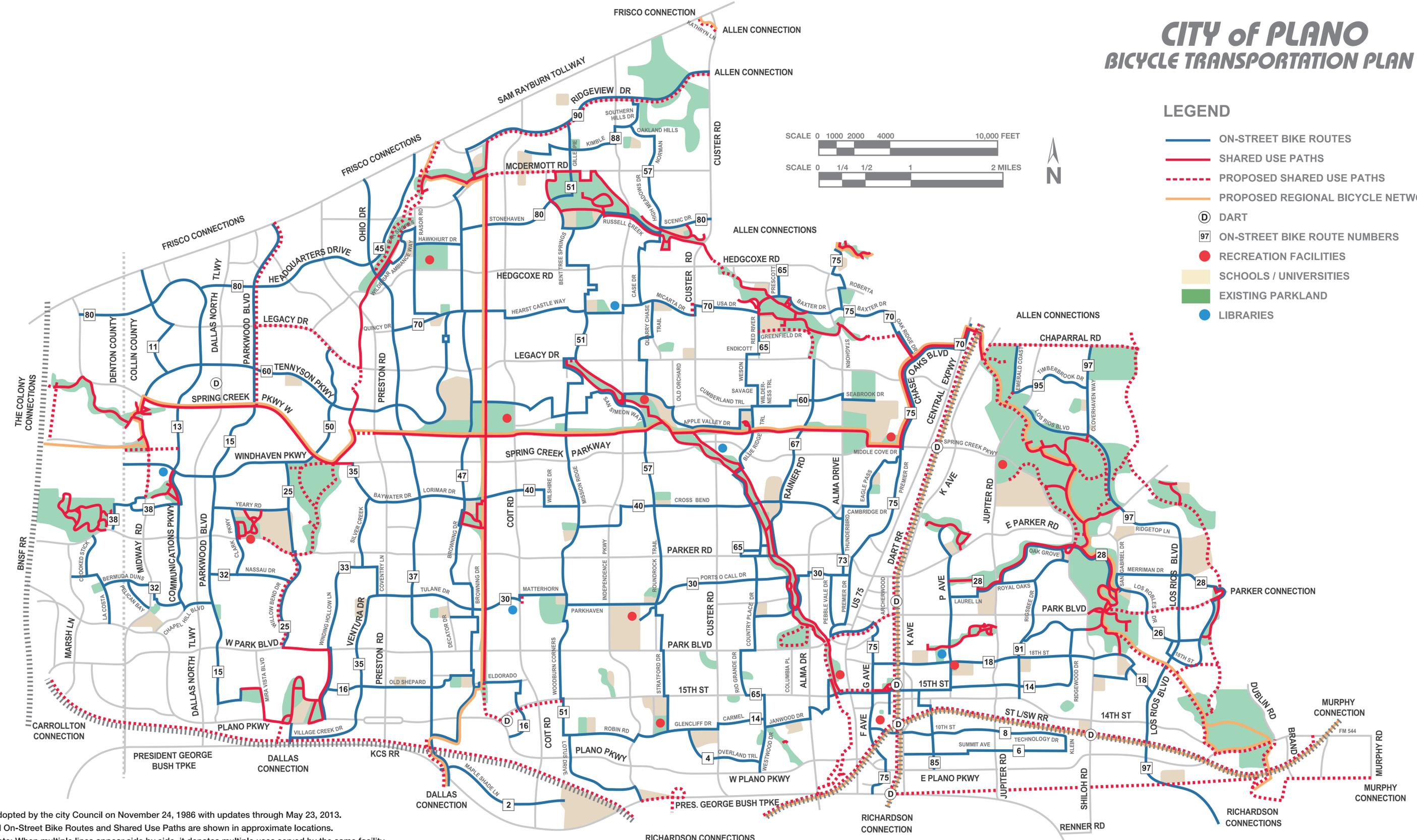
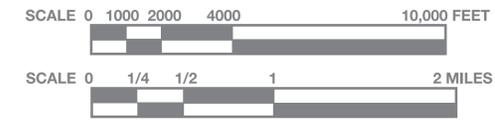
The following is a list of policy statements that should be used for implementation of the Bicycle Transportation Plan as described above:

1. Develop and maintain an interconnected network of bikeways, made up of both on-street bicycle routes and shared use paths, as designated on the Bicycle Transportation Plan to provide access to transit, schools, libraries, parks, recreation facilities, shopping, employment, and other cities.
2. Develop and maintain a system of bikeways with appropriate signs, signalization, or grade-separations to ensure safe roadway crossings.
3. Develop and update educational materials that inform motorists and bicyclists about the city's Bicycle Transportation Network and its proper use on a regular basis.
4. Encourage employers to implement trip reduction programs and provide bicycle storage facilities and changing rooms for employees who commute to work by bicycle.
5. Encourage bicycling within the city with a bicycle network map and way finding signage.
6. Encourage the installation of adequate, safe and secure bicycle storage at transit facilities.
7. Designate a law enforcement liaison to the cycling community.
8. Implement enforcement of the Safe Passing Ordinance.
9. Study and evaluate the effectiveness of bikeway crossings of all roadways including highways, and where bikeways interconnect with neighborhoods, transit, education, recreational, commercial and cultural facilities and other bicycle facilities in surrounding cities.
10. Measure the amount of usage taking place on bikeways in the community.

# CITY of PLANO BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

## LEGEND

- ON-STREET BIKE ROUTES
- SHARED USE PATHS
- - - PROPOSED SHARED USE PATHS
- PROPOSED REGIONAL BICYCLE NETWORK\*
- D DART
- 97 ON-STREET BIKE ROUTE NUMBERS
- RECREATION FACILITIES
- SCHOOLS / UNIVERSITIES
- EXISTING PARKLAND
- LIBRARIES



Adopted by the city Council on November 24, 1986 with updates through May 23, 2013.  
 All On-Street Bike Routes and Shared Use Paths are shown in approximate locations.  
 Note: When multiple lines appear side by side, it denotes multiple uses served by the same facility.  
 \*North Central Texas Council of Governments Regional Veloweb

# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Element is to provide a general, visionary document to guide decision makers regarding issues related to Parks and Recreation facilities. The element identifies the key factors, trends and issues affecting parks and recreation and establishes objectives and strategies to address them. It also includes a Master Plan for parks that identifies existing properties and facilities and general locations for future facilities.

## MAJOR THEMES

### **Theme I - Livable City**

The City of Plano is nationally recognized for the provision of excellent services and facilities. “Livable City” focuses on the attributes of the parks and recreation system that enhance the quality of life of the city.

### **Theme II - City of Organized Development**

The Parks and Recreation Department has a wide range of properties and facilities throughout the city. The City of Organized Development section defines the components of Plano’s parks and recreation system and establishes a framework for its development.

### **Theme III - City in Transition**

The City in Transition section is all about change. Most of the land in the city has been developed. The composition of Plano’s population is changing. This section of the element will explore how changes in the city’s population and development trends will impact service provision, facility requirements, funding, and property acquisition.

## THEME I - LIVABLE CITY

### ***Recreational Opportunities***

The City of Plano provides a wide range of active and passive recreational facilities for its residents. One can enjoy a scenic nature preserve; hike or bike along an extensive trail system; play in an organized athletic league; or work out in a weight room. Plano’s parks and recreation facilities are designed to support active healthy lifestyles and enhance the community’s visual appearance. The city should continue to explore options to acquire and develop park facilities that are in close proximity to residential areas. These facilities should be consistent with the park hierarchy described in Theme II.

### ***Community Gathering Places***

Social interaction is a critical consideration when developing a city. Parks and recreation facilities near residential areas provide a place for people to gather and interact in formal and informal settings. The recreation centers have rooms that can be used to host formal meetings for organizations. Water features, park benches, picnic

areas and pavilions are amenities that can encourage informal social interaction. The city should emphasize the importance of parks and recreation facilities as “community building” tools that bring people together in a variety of settings.

### ***Open Space***

Abundant open space within a city enhances quality of life. Open spaces such as parks and natural areas provide relief from the built environment. Some of Plano’s parks and natural areas offer scenic vistas for people traveling along the major travel routes of the city. Landscaped medians and right-of-ways often enhance and extend the feeling of open space in the community. Plano’s nature preserves are a source of the city’s heritage and a glimpse of how the area may have appeared before human settlement. They also provide an opportunity to connect with and learn about the natural environment and ecologically sensitive areas. Although opportunities are limited, the city should continue its efforts to acquire and utilize properties that preserve natural features and make them available to the community.

### ***Parks as an Urban Design Component***

The locations of park facilities in Plano have been incorporated into the urban design framework of the city. Linear parks preserve the city’s natural areas adjacent to creek corridors and link schools, recreational facilities, and residential neighborhoods. Trails within linear parks connect with on-street bicycle routes and to trails in adjacent cities to serve as an alternative transportation network within the area. Parks located near schools in the heart of Plano’s residential neighborhoods serve as community gathering places. Nature preserves protect the wooded areas of the city that are located within the floodplains of major creeks.

### ***Objectives for Theme I - Livable City***

- **Objective A.1** Encourage healthy lifestyles through the provision of recreation facilities and activities.
- **Objective A.2** Provide places for social interaction and community gatherings.
- **Objective A.3** Provide for relief from the built environment through the acquisition and maintenance of open areas and natural settings.

### ***Strategies for Theme I - Livable City***

- **Strategy A.1** Develop and maintain a comprehensive system of park, recreational, fitness, athletic, and sports facilities, and programs that keeps pace with the city’s changing demographics.
- **Strategy A.2** Provide for indoor and outdoor facilities that support formal gatherings and organized events.
- **Strategy A.3** Design and locate park facilities that encourage informal gatherings. Elements such as water features, pavilions, seating areas and courtyards can help bring people together.

- **Strategy A.4** Provide open spaces, trails, and other facilities that support informal activities.
- **Strategy A.5** Provide park areas that create scenic vistas from major routes of travel in the city.

## **THEME II - CITY OF ORGANIZED DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Park Hierarchy and System Planning***

Plano's park and open space system consists of five classifications: neighborhood parks, linear parks, community parks, open space preserves, and special use areas. The city also has standards based on population that have been used to determine the amount of parkland, number of park facilities, athletic fields, and recreation facilities required to meet the demand of Plano's projected population.

Appendix A provides a listing of parks by classification. Appendix B is a general list of amenities found within the different classifications of parks.

### ***Neighborhood Parks***

A total of 31 neighborhood parks serve Plano's residential areas with a variety of passive and active recreational places. These parks are typically seven to ten acres in size and serve residential neighborhoods found throughout the city. This neighborhood setting is characterized by a land area of approximately one square mile bounded by six-lane divided thoroughfares with school and park sites near the center, low-density housing on the interior, medium- and high-density housing along the edges, and office and retail operations at the intersections of the major thoroughfares where they serve other neighborhoods, as well.

Wherever possible, neighborhood parks have been combined with elementary schools to maximize the use of both facilities. Combined neighborhood parks and schools provide for shared parking, ball fields, playgrounds and other facilities. This helps the parks better serve as gathering places for the residential neighborhoods.

Neighborhood parks can play an important role in urban design. They function as activity centers and focal points for neighborhoods (see Urban Design element). One of the issues for neighborhood parks is making these facilities more appealing. The Parks and Recreation Department is addressing this issue by continuing to plant large trees to improve shade throughout the park system and studying other ways to make the neighborhood parks more inviting and amenable to serve group activities.

### ***Linear Parks***

The city has 15 linear parks that serve as links between residential areas, schools, libraries and other park facilities. They also provide practical alternatives for land that would otherwise go unused. Linear Parks are located within creek corridors, major utility easements, street right-of-ways and rail corridors. They provide breaks in the urban development pattern, conserve ecologically unique areas, and provide long stretches of open space and recreational trails. Some greenbelts lack land outside of the flood plain. As a result, they are often unusable during rainy periods and their

slopes limit recreational activities within them. Additional land, where possible, should be acquired along creek corridors to enhance the usability of linear parks.

### ***Community Parks***

There are 23 community parks in Plano. They are usually 25 or more acres in size and generally serve a three mile radius or specific community needs. Community parks have active and passive recreational facilities and may also contain large passive open space areas suited to recreational trails and picnic areas beyond what is found in a neighborhood park. They also provide visual breaks in Plano's urban setting, particularly when located along major thoroughfares. Many community parks are contiguous to linear parks that connect them with residential neighborhoods. Community parks frequently contain major lighted athletic facilities used for scheduled leagues and tournaments. Community parks may also contain recreation centers and are usually located adjacent to senior high schools, high schools, and middle schools. As demand continues to grow for features such as dog parks, skate parks, and other emerging recreation activities, community parks will most likely be used to provide these services. New facilities will need to be carefully located and designed so that they do not conflict with existing uses and facilities at a given park or adjacent development.

### ***Open Space Preserves***

Open space preserves serve active and passive recreational needs and provide for cultural activities as well. These facilities preserve ecologically sensitive areas and provide opportunities for interaction with the natural environment. Therefore, any improvements at these parks must be carefully integrated into the environment and intensive uses such as athletic facilities should not be included. Arbor Hills Nature Preserve in western Plano, along with Bob Woodruff Park, and Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve in eastern Plano serve as the three open space preserves within the city. In addition to public open spaces, Connemara, a private regional nature preserve, provides permanent open space in north central Plano.

### ***Special Use Areas***

Special Use Areas are varied and unique in size, use and design. These areas include facilities such as museums, cemeteries, memorials and urban plazas. This classification also includes parks that do not readily fit within the other park categories such as tennis centers and facilities located on school property. There are nine special use areas in Plano.

### ***Golf Courses***

The provision of municipal public golf courses is common with cities throughout the United States. The City of Plano has two golf courses: Pecan Hollow and Ridgeview Ranch. Pecan Hollow, an 18 hole course, is owned and operated by the city. Ridgeview Ranch Golf Course was built on city park land by a private developer and is operated under a long term lease agreement. This relationship allowed the city to provide a second 18 hole golf course to the public without incurring the initial expense of constructing the course.

### ***Completion of the Parks System***

Goals for parks and recreation facilities that were established at the beginning of Plano's rapid growth in the 1960's and 70's have been continuously updated and implemented. Accomplishing these goals has required an ongoing commitment from elected officials, appointed boards and commissions, city staff, and residents. Completion of the Plano's park system requires continued commitment of all the city's recreation stakeholders.

Through an ongoing process of community input and benchmarking against other cities around the country, Plano has established a general guideline of providing at least 15 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents. Neighboring cities and Collin County have adopted similar goals and this standard is consistent with best practices of cities around the country. As of January 1, 2013, Plano had a population of 264,910 residents and 4,002 acres of parkland, which meets the goal for acres of park land per 1,000 residents. The additional park sites and facilities included in the 2012 Park Master Plan will be necessary to complete the city's park system and serve a projected population of 280,000 residents.

In the last five years, the city has completed acquisition of the 117 acre Windhaven Meadows Park and the 51 acre South Central Community Park Site. These two sites provide open space in previously underserved areas of the city. One large tract of land is required along Rowlett Creek in order to complete Plano's section of the regional Rowlett Creek Greenbelt. In addition, there are many small parcels of land needed in order to complete the city's trail system. Failure to acquire the land will result in gaps in the trail system and missed opportunities to connect to adjacent cities, in accordance with the Six Cities Trail Plan and the Collin County Regional Trail Plan.

Additional land may also be needed to serve new residential development in areas of the city previously zoned for other uses. Specific details of the proposed development and proximity to existing parks should be studied when the rezoning request is submitted to ensure new residents receive the same quality and availability of facilities as existing residents.

The Parks and Recreation Department shall identify and prioritize projects required to complete the city's park system. Projects receiving the highest priority should be considered for inclusion within the fiscal year budget proposals and future bond elections.

Plano residents approved a bond referendum in 2009, which provided \$48,650,000 in bond authority for park improvements and \$24,100,000 in bond authority for recreation center improvements. Several of those projects have been delayed due to lack of funding to support the staffing, operation and maintenance of those facilities. In 2013, residents approved an additional bond referendum, which provides \$27,000,000 in bond authority for park improvements and \$12,500,000 in bond authority for recreation center improvements. Both of these programs include funding for new facilities as well as funding for renovation or expansion of existing facilities. The projects included in these bond referendums are listed in Appendix C.

In addition to completing land acquisitions and construction of major facilities, it will be important for Plano to move forward with finalizing the development of individual parks within the park system. Additional trees, shade structures, sidewalks, and other amenities are still needed in many parks throughout the city. Rapid growth in previous decades spread resources thin and many parks received only basic improvements. Tables 1 and 2 contain projections for additional park land and facilities, respectively.

**Table 1  
Park Land Projections**

	Current		Projected Needs for Build-out Population of 280,000	
	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
Open Space Preserves	3	1323.87	3	1,350.00
Community Parks	23	1280.05	24	1487.00
Golf Courses	2	461.06	2	461.06
Linear Parks	15	638.58	15	721.00
Neighborhood Parks	31	256.07	32	261.00
(Neighborhood Parks within Other Parks)	*(24)	*(168)	*(24)	*(168)
Special Use Parks	9	42.7	9	42.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>4,002.33</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>4,322.76</b>

Current and projected park land acres exceed 15 acres per 1,000 population.  
 \* These numbers are already included in totals for other parks.

Source: City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department

**Table 2**  
**Park and Recreation Facility Projections**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Projected Needs for Build-out Population of 280,000</b>
<i>Amphitheaters</i>	1	1
<i>Athletic Fields:</i>		
<i>Ball Fields</i>	71	59
<i>Cricket Pitches</i>	7	12
<i>Turf Sports Fields*</i>	110	112
<i>Championship Youth Ball Parks</i>	1	1
<i>Dog Parks</i>	1	3
<i>Frisbee Golf Holes</i>	9	18
<i>Golf Courses:</i>		
No. of Holes	36	36
<i>Park Centers</i>	0	1
<i>Performance Venues</i>	2	2
<i>Playgrounds</i>	72	76
<i>Recreation Centers:</i>		
School-Based	0	0
Stand-Alone	5	5
<i>Recreational Trail Miles</i>	70	95
<i>Reservation Pavilions</i>	11	14
<i>Sand Volleyball Courts</i>	8	14
<i>Senior Recreation Centers</i>	1	1
<i>Skate Parks</i>	0	2
<i>Outdoor Spray Grounds</i>	0	3
<i>Off-Road Bicycle Trails</i>	1	2
<i>Swimming Facilities:</i>		
Indoor	4	5
Outdoor	4	4
<i>Tennis Facilities:</i>		
Tennis Center Courts	21	21
School Courts Lighted	21	21
School Courts Unlighted	63	63

\* Turf Sports fields are used for football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, and other similar sports.

Source: City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department

Despite the city's best efforts to plan in advance for the long term recreational needs of the community, unexpected opportunities and challenges will arise. Flexibility will be critical as changing demographics and other trends place unexpected demands on the Plano's recreational assets. The city should strongly consider opportunities that may arise to acquire land, buildings, or other facilities that will address new recreation demands or further the preservation of open space.

In contrast, the city may be asked to assume ownership and/or maintenance of private amenities such as swimming pools and common areas in residential subdivisions. In most cases, these facilities are not appropriately designed, located, and sized to meet the requirements for public facilities. Although such facilities may be a financial burden to a homeowners' association, the city should not accept such donation merely to relieve another entity of a financial burden.

### ***Objectives for Theme II - City of Organized Development***

- **Objective B.1** Provide for a wide range of passive, active, formal and informal recreation activities in appropriate locations across the city.
- **Objective B.2** Use neighborhood parks as a focal point and activity centers for Plano's residential areas.
- **Objective B.3** Use linear parks to link key public and private activity centers with residential areas.

### ***Strategies for Theme II - City of Organized Development***

- **Strategy B.1** Develop and maintain a comprehensive program of parks and recreation facilities based on the park classification system and master plan that includes current facilities and approximate locations for future facilities.
- **Strategy B.2** Evaluate zoning changes that may affect the location and demand for parks and recreation facilities in areas not previously identified on the Park Master Plan.
- **Strategy B.3** Identify and prioritize projects required to complete the park system for inclusion in the Community Investment Program (CIP) fiscal year budget and future bond elections.
- **Strategy B.4** Prevent unnecessary demands on park and recreation resources by refusing private donations of open space or facilities that do not conform to the objectives and strategies of the Comprehensive Plan or address unanticipated gaps and shortages in the system.
- **Strategy B.5** Acquire remaining properties to complete the trail system within Plano and link with systems in other cities.
- **Strategy B.6** Strongly consider the acquisition of land, buildings, and other facilities not specifically identified in the Parks and Recreation Element, if they can meet changing needs of the city.

## **THEME III - CITY IN TRANSITION**

### ***Changing Demographics***

Demographic data for Plano from the U. S. Census Bureau indicates that the city's population continues to change. The percentage of the population that identified

themselves as a member of a minority ethnicity or race has increased from 8.5% in 1980 to 41.6% in 2010. Foreign born populations are increasing in Plano and many American suburbs.

Many immigrants now move directly to the suburbs rather than central cities like Dallas to take advantage of the educational and economic opportunities found there. Plano residents born outside of the United States increased from 7.5% in 1990 to 17.1% 24.5% in 2010. Another national trend is an aging population. This trend is also on the rise in Plano where the median age increased from 27.4 years in 1980 to 37.2 years in 2010. It is projected that by 2020, over 45% of the city's residents could be over the age of 45 years.

The city shall continue to monitor demographic and social trends of its residents as they will affect the type of facilities and services the Parks and Recreation Department provides. Demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey is available for Plano on an annual basis, providing updated population characteristics between decennial censuses. It is also important to continue to learn about changing expectations and values of the city's population through local research.

Changing demographics have an impact on Parks and Recreation programming and facilities. Plano is now providing services and facilities that it did not consider in past decades. Cricket pitches have been added to athletic sites and table tennis and badminton have become popular activities at recreation centers. Passive outdoor spaces are often used for tai chi and other similar activities.

The existing Senior Recreation Center is experiencing overcrowding and additional space is needed for a growing number of older senior adults. At the same time, industry trends and research suggest aging baby boomers may not be ready to use the Senior Recreation Center for many years. Their preference to continue using the city's other recreation centers is creating a demand for changing programming and equipment at these facilities to serve residents of all ages.

Many people who played youth soccer have now reached adulthood and created a demand for adult soccer opportunities. Changing lifestyles and family dynamics have significantly increased parking demands at athletics sites as parents, grandparents, and other family members may all drive in separate vehicles to watch children participate in sporting events.

### ***Changing Recreation Needs***

Demographics are not the only change that can affect recreational demands; local, regional, and national recreation trends continue to have an impact on requested activities and facilities. In the most recent community survey, residents identified outdoor special events and water sports as the activities they would most like to see added to Plano's parks and recreation programming. Participation in running events such as 5k and 10k races has increased dramatically in recent years. Bicycling for exercise and recreation also continues to grow in popularity despite increased traffic and congestion on the city's roadways.

Many residents now expect high quality facilities for casual pickup games for outdoor sports such as soccer and football in the same way they have in the past for activities such as basketball or volleyball. Expectations for higher quality practice spaces have created additional demands on athletic facilities and practice areas in neighborhood parks. Demand for shade at playgrounds and over spectator seating at athletic facilities continues to grow along with the desire for additional skate parks, dog parks, spray grounds, BMX parks, fitness trails, off road bicycle trails, soft surface jogging trails, and spaces for fitness boot camps. Demands for multiuse trails near employment centers have also increased in recent years.

Another major trend that is affecting Plano's parks is the large number of non-residents using the city's athletic facilities. Over the last several decades, Plano has constructed many high quality athletic facilities to serve a growing number of youth sports participants within the city. In recent years, the percentage of non-resident users has increased dramatically. This may be attributed to rapid growth in neighboring cities and the inability of these communities to provide facilities for their residents along with the regional nature of many sports organizations and leagues.

Technology continues to change the way we live, work and play. Bicycle routes are now identified on Google Maps and community input forums are available on-line. Face Book, Twitter and other social media provide new opportunities for communications with the public. Signs with Quick Response (QR) codes provide interactive data that can be accessed by cell phones and other mobile devices while meetings and classes can be attended without leaving the home or office. Parks and recreation facilities, programming and equipment will need to continuously adapt to technological innovations.

Parks and recreation facilities also contribute to quality of life through preservation of health. People of all ages tend to lead a more sedentary lifestyle than in past years. The provision of recreation facilities, parklands, and trails provides Plano residents an opportunity to embrace a healthier lifestyle through engaging in physical activities and exercise.

The Parks and Recreation Department shall research trends and participate in a variety of public feedback exercises to determine services and programs desired by city residents. These activities will be ongoing for the department to plan and fund modifications to services and facilities as customer demand changes. Alterations to facilities and programs should be assessed and prioritized to respond to the highest recreation demand.

### ***Expansion versus Renovation and Maintenance***

Plano has transitioned from rapid growth to a more established city. Although private development within the city has slowed, the parks system is still not complete. Slower growth and decreased revenues have made it difficult to fund the operating cost of new facilities. Major improvements still needed to meet the community's recreational demand include: development of two new community parks, an indoor pool, expansion of the Senior Recreation Center, skate parks, additional dog parks, athletic facilities, recreational trails, and facilities at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve.

A number of existing parks and recreation facilities have been in use for over 30 years and need maintenance and renovation. A few examples of some sites in need of updating in the near future include Carpenter Park, Jack Carter Pool, and High Point Tennis Center. The demand for new facilities and the need for renovation of existing facilities create a tension in funding priorities. It will be important for the city to continue to plan for the maintenance and renovation of existing assets while at the same time completing development of new facilities.

Maintenance and improvements of existing facilities shall be reviewed and prioritized for inclusion in the city's budget and future bond elections. Resident feedback should be a factor to identify facilities in need of updating and amenities necessary to improve existing facilities. Proposed improvements must be examined to determine if funding is available for staffing, operations, and future maintenance costs before projects are selected and recommended for fiscal year budgeting, future bond elections, and implementation.

### ***Sharing/Privatization/Innovation***

As Plano continues to mature, revenues may not be available to support new facilities and programs. It will be important to continue to look for opportunities to share facilities with other government agencies, non-profit organizations and private businesses. The city has shared facilities and land with Plano Independent School District (PISD) and Collin County has provided funding for a number of park improvements within the City. Plano has also partnered with other recreation service vendors such as Plano Sports Authority (PSA) to construct two large indoor recreation facilities on public park land and the Boys and Girls Clubs, which now operates the Douglass Community Center.

The Parks and Recreation Department shall maintain an inventory of current services and compare the list with programs and activities offered by other public entities and private businesses in the city. The department will place emphasis on items that are deemed a part of its core business when determining what services should be added. This review will include: analysis of current market conditions, other providers or competition, and financial viability. From this assessment, a decision can be made as to investment in service provision, partnership with another agency to provide the service, or divesting of a service to ensure the most efficient use of limited resources in the future.

Parks and recreation facilities have been recognized for many years for their potential to generate tourism, which provides significant economic benefits. There continues to be an interest in finding ways to use Plano's parks and recreation facilities to attract visitors to the city. The city currently hosts many regional and national athletic tournaments.

The Plano Balloon Festival at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve attracts thousands of visitors each year. A large music festival is also being considered for Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve. Large running events such as half and full marathons are also being discussed. These types of events have the potential to generate customers for local businesses and additional tax revenues for the city, create an identity for Plano as a destination place, contribute to its image as a good place to live, and attract new residents to the city.

However, there are challenges in using park facilities for tourism such as major special events, national athletic tournaments and other potential revenue generating activities. First, the facility may require renovation to host a major event. More seating and parking to accommodate people may be required along with other facility improvements. Second, these facilities may not be available to taxpaying residents during some of these events.

The department shall evaluate the use of parks and recreation facilities for regional and national events and identify sites appropriate for particular activities. Potential revenues for the city shall be compared with the cost associated for upgrading the site and hosting the event. During the assessment process, the expenditures required to provide the facilities and the potential loss of service for other citizens shall be considered.

#### Water Conservation and Sustainability

Recent droughts and disruptions to the public water supply have increased awareness of the need to conserve limited water resources. Continued growth in North Texas will intensify this issue in the future. The Parks and Recreation Department has begun to upgrade irrigation controls and systems to improve their efficiency.

Pecan Hollow Golf Course is using recycled water from the adjacent sewage treatment plant for irrigation, thereby eliminating the need to use the City's potable water supply. Alternative sources of water should be considered whenever possible and financially feasible. Collection of storm water runoff and the use of deep water wells have been considered and may provide some limited possibilities in this area.

Other alternatives, such as on-site recycling of black water, should be explored as population growth in the area will increase the amount of this resource available for reuse. More efficient use of the existing water sources is the most practical step available at this time. Continued rethinking of the types of plants, trees, and ground covers used in many parks also provides opportunities to reduce water consumption as new sites are developed or renovation occurs.

Significant improvements in energy efficiency have been made in the past five years at recreation centers, swimming pools, park structures, and with security and athletic field lighting. More sustainable landscapes are being planned at parks, medians, and at public buildings. A program is being developed to begin recycling of the large volumes of litter that is generated at athletic fields and other park facilities. Maintenance practices using Conservation Buffer Zone (CBZ) concepts in floodways and natural areas have been implemented to help reduce erosion and encourage native plant growth. The Parks and Recreation Department must continue to capitalize on evolving industry knowledge and sustainable practices in a fiscally responsible manner.

### ***Objectives for Theme III - City in Transition***

- **Objective C.1** Provide for park and recreation opportunities that reflect the diverse needs of the community.
- **Objective C.2** Ensure that a balance exists between the maintenance of existing facilities and system expansion.
- **Objective C.3** Ensure long term financial stability of the city's parks and recreation facilities.

### ***Strategies for Theme III - City in Transition***

- **Strategy C.1** Examine the impact of changing demographics and recreation needs on parks and recreation facilities and programming through research of trends and gathering public feedback.
- **Strategy C.2** Identify and prioritize the needs of existing facilities versus those of proposed facilities through the annual Community Investment Program (CIP) budget process. Long term operations and maintenance costs should be factored into both.
- **Strategy C.3** Improve efficiency and cost effectiveness of providing certain programs and facilities through privatization, public/private partnerships and joint operations with other public entities. Opportunities to combine resources and create regional facilities should ~~also~~ be explored.
- **Strategy C.4** Evaluate current facilities in terms of hosting regional and national events which could attract visitors to the city and determine the costs required to complete the necessary improvements. Analyze the benefits derived from the proposed improvements and develop an operations plan to mitigate disruption of service during events.
- **Strategy C.5** Explore alternative water sources and more efficient use of existing water resources. Identify sustainable practices that can be applied to the development, maintenance, and operation of parks and recreation facilities.

## Appendix A - Park Facilities and Classification System

<u>Neighborhood Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Community Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Arrowhead Park .....	6.84	Archgate Park (8)	49.26
Blue Ridge Park .....	5.02	Carpenter Park* (8)	106.73
Buckhorn Park .....	8.00	Cheyenne Park* (5)	24.78
Caddo Park .....	7.72	Enfield Park* (8)	50.00
Capstone Park .....	8.85	Harrington Park	16.08
Clearview Park .....	7.50	Heritage Yards at Plano* (8)	63.90
Copper Creek Park .....	4.00	High Point (North)	23.78
Coyote Creek Park .....	13.34	High Point (South)	31.63
Douglass Park Site .....	0.38	Hoblitzelle Park* (6)	147.66
Eldorado Park .....	6.87	Jack Carter Park* (8)	72.61
Evans Park .....	11.00	Liberty Park* (10)	17.00
Frank W. Beverly Park .....	10.34	Moore Park	119.50
Glen Meadows Park .....	2.91	Oak Point Center	23.92
Hackberry Park .....	5.00	Old Shepard Place Park	20.67
Hidden Meadow Park .....	6.78	Preston Meadow Park* (7)	22.85
Indian Creek Park .....	5.31	Russell Creek Park* (10)	192.19
Lt. Russell A. Steindam Park .....	8.29	Schell Park* (5)	31.37
Lone Star Park .....	8.27	Sgt. Mike McCreary Sports Field	4.77
Longhorn Park .....	7.00	Shawnee Park* (8)	43.87
Parkwood Green Park .....	4.13	South Central Community Park Site	51.10
Prairie Meadow Park .....	8.14	White Rock Community Park Site	117.30
W. H. "Buzz" Rasor Park .....	6.28	Willowcreek Park* (8)	21.74
Ridgeview Park .....	7.56	Windhaven Park* (10)	27.34
Shoshoni Park .....	3.11	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1280.05</b>
Steeplechase Park .....	18.75	<u>City-Wide Open Space Preserves</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Stoney Hollow Park .....	31.02	Arbor Hills Nature Preserve* (8)	201.12
Sunset Park .....	15.18	Bob Woodruff Park* (8) (8)	321.45
Tejas Park .....	10.97	Oak Point Park & Nature Preserve * (8)	801.30
Timber Brook Park .....	8.57	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1323.87</b>
Wagon Wheel Park .....	4.94	<u>Special Use Facilities</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Westwood Park .....	4.00	Bowman Cemetery	3.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>256.07</b>	Douglass Community Center (leased)	1.50
<u>Linear Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>	Haggard Park* (2)	6.43
Big Lake Park* (3)	13.04	Heritage Farmstead Site	3.91
Bluebonnet Trail .....	98.83	High Point Tennis Center	6.75
Chisholm Trail* (5) .....	84.09	Horseshoe Park* (7)	9.00
Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt* (4) .....	84.53	Memorial Park	8.50
FM 544/Rowlett Creek Site .....	20.66	Plano Aquatic Center (leased site)	2.00
Legacy Trail* .....	94.11	Rowlinson Natatorium (leased site)	1.00
Overland Trail .....	7.00	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42.70</b>
Preston Ridge Trail .....	87.58	<u>Golf Courses</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Russell Creek Greenbelt Site .....	24.16	Pecan Hollow Golf Course	258.98
Rustic Park .....	1.84	Ridgeview Ranch Golf Club	202.08
Santa Fe Trail* (6) .....	19.02	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>461.06</b>
Shady Brook Trail .....	43.79		
Southeast Trail Site .....	5.91		
Suncreek Park Site .....	13.64		
White Rock Trail Park .....	40.38		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>638.58</b>	<b>TOTAL PARK ACRES</b>	<b>4,002.33</b>

\* Indicates that a neighborhood park is contained within the facility. The number of acres devoted to the neighborhood park(s) is indicated in parentheses.

## **Appendix B Typical Park Features by Classification**

### Neighborhood Parks

- Service area - 1 square mile
- 7.5 to 10.0 acres in size
- Playground
- Picnic tables and shelters
- Unlighted athletic practice fields
- Multi-use courts
- Walking/jogging trails
- Park benches
- Adjacent to elementary schools where possible

### Linear Parks

- No designated service area
- No standard size
- Recreational trails - 10 to 12 feet wide concrete
- Benches, picnic tables and drinking fountains
- Security lighting in selected locations
- May contain playgrounds and picnic shelters
- Link other parks, residential neighborhoods, schools, libraries and other facilities
- Connect to adjacent cities and to on-street bicycle routes
- Developed along creek corridors, utility easements, street right-of-ways, rail right-of-ways and other available land corridors

### Community Parks

- Service area - varies, address specific community needs
- Over 25 acres in size
- Athletic facilities
- Swimming pools
- Recreation centers
- May contain dog parks, skate parks, spray grounds, disc golf courses, and other unique recreation facilities
- Passive open spaces areas
- Recreational trails
- Picnic areas with additional amenities
- May be adjacent to senior high schools, high schools and middle schools

### Typical Park Features by Classification - Community Parks

- Connected to linear parks whenever possible
- Typically located on major thoroughfares

## Appendix B (continued)

### Open Space Preserves

- Serves the entire City
- Over 50 acres
- Located on major thoroughfares
- Focused on open space and natural resources
- May provide both indoor and outdoor facilities
- May support large community gatherings and outdoor festivals
- Uses and facilities that are not compatible with the environment are prohibited

### Special Use Parks

- No specific size or service area
- Historic sites
- Cemeteries
- Memorials
- Facilities not located within parks
- Unique parks that do not readily fit within other park classifications

### Golf Courses

- Public golf courses and associated facilities

## **Appendix C - Parks and Recreation Bond Authority Approved in 2009 and 2013**

### 2009 Bond Program

#### *Park Improvements \$48,650,000*

- White Rock Creek Community Park Development- \$5,000,000
- Oak Point Park Development - \$5,000,000
- Trail Connections - \$4,000,000
- Athletic Field Renovations - \$5,000,000
- Park Improvements - \$3,000,000
- Land Acquisitions - \$15,250,000
- Athletic Field Improvements - \$3,000,000
- Arbor Hills Nature Preserve - \$400,000
- Pecan Hollow Golf Course - \$7,000,000
- Maintenance Facility Expansion - \$1,000,000

#### *Recreation Centers \$24,100,000*

- Aquatic Center Renovation - \$3,500,000
- Carpenter Park Recreation Center Expansion - \$6,000,000
- Senior Center/Wellness Center Expansion - \$7,500,000
- Oak Point Recreation Center Expansion - \$6,600,000
- Douglass Community Center - \$500,000

### 2013 Bond Program

#### *Park Improvements \$27,000,000*

- Recreation trails - \$8,000,000
- Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve - \$6,000,000
- Park improvements - \$7,000,000
- Carpenter Park renovation - \$6,000,000

#### *Recreation Center Improvements: \$12,500,000*

- Jack Carter Pool renovations - \$7,500,000
- High Point Tennis Center renovations - \$2,500,000
- Liberty Park Recreation Center expansion and renovations - \$2,500,000