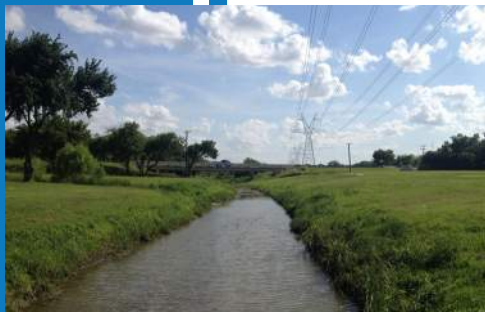




Parks and Trails Master Plan

CROWLEY, TEXAS

2020



Acknowledgments

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Section 01: Introduction

Purpose

Vision

Process

Impact

01: Introduction



Purpose

The purpose of the Crowley Parks and Trails Master Plan is twofold, to guide the City's investment in their parks and trails system and to enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Crowley. A system-wide approach of evaluating existing conditions and looking at potential development enables city leaders to develop a plan of action that implements goals and guidelines according to the community's vision and needs. The master plan ensures that parks and trails remain vital amenities for the community, by identifying and preserving the natural resources in the city and producing a system of quality leisure opportunities.

This Parks and Trails Master Plan follows general guidelines established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (for local parks) and addresses recreation needs for the City by reflecting input from valuable stakeholders including; City Staff, City Council, a steering

committee and the general public. This document provides a framework for city staff to implement guidelines and strategies to assess existing conditions, direct future development of parks and trails within the community and aid in pursuing (and leveraging) various funding resources to assist in the development costs for future development and renovations.

In addition to these primary functions, this document considers regional relationships, both for recreational opportunities and trail network connectivity to surrounding trail systems and regional connections. This master plan is a 5-10 year vision for the development of the Crowley Parks and Trails system, identifying overarching directions that reflect community values.

Vision



The City's vision for the parks and trails system is to highlight and follow four design objectives identified after analyzing public input and existing conditions from the Crowley's parks and trails system.

Identity: Planning designs that provide an identity to Crowley's parks and trails while also meeting the needs of its citizens, both socially and physically.

Suitability: Creating designs that respect and complement existing conditions.

Functionality: Designing parks and trails that are not only aesthetically pleasing but provide a function and promote health, safety and welfare.

Unity: Unifying elements, features, and objects to create a brand for the Parks and Trails system.

Process

The master plan process is broken down into three basic phases – understanding, exploring and decision making. It begins by understanding the existing character and ideals of the city. Establishing the existing as the foundation of the master plan, ensures that future solutions stay true to the reasons people chose to make Crowley their home. Additionally, bringing the community together establishes the people and resources necessary for action to take place. It ensures that solutions come from community feedback and creates a vested interest in those solutions, providing the traction necessary to move forward.

Understanding

(Research, Data & Analysis)

This phase includes an in-depth look at the existing makeup of Crowley, future projections, and the economic engines and drivers as they apply to the Parks and Trails Master Plan.

With the information gathered from a city-wide inventory and analysis of the existing and public survey, the consultants met with City staff and stakeholders to share the results and ask if the information accurately reflects the community's vision. This allowed citizens to provide any additional input before moving on to the next phase.

UNDERSTANDING



EXPLORING



DECISION MAKING



01: Introduction

Examples of data collected in this phase include:

- City of Euless park system tour to understand overall branding efforts, programming, and park maintenance. The tour allowed Crowley staff to have a park-system reference and help in developing the City's overall vision.
- Preliminary opportunities and constraints identified by City staff and community stakeholders, including visioning, goals, concerns, and issues as they relate to existing parks, future parks, trails connections and overall standards.
- Thorough review and analysis of the existing Comprehensive Plan and how it applies to the parks and trails master plan initiative.
- Analyzed GIS data highlighting the community profile through spatial and geographical data. Data analyzed included, land-use, zoning, transportation networks (primary focus on streets and existing trails), topography, trees and other elements as they applied.
- A citizens' survey asked respondents to rate the current parks system and identify areas for growth and improvement.

Exploring

(Existing Conditions + Public Input)

Phase II of the master plan process explores existing conditions and identifies opportunities and constraints for the Crowley Parks and Trails system. This analysis helps direct conversations regarding Crowley's future, while the engagement of stakeholders within the community ensures that the data gathered and solutions produced are in alignment with Crowley's needs.

Social Media and Online Tools

The consultant worked with the City to utilize existing social media outlets, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts owned by the City. This not only allowed the gathering of public input but broadcasted information about the project. The Information included: status updates, public meeting invitations and surveys.

Steering Committee

A steering committee for the City-Wide Parks and Trails Master Plan was utilized from the start. Typically, steering committees are formed from active members of the community impacted by the project. The steering committee's early involvement allowed the consultant to adopt a collaborative approach, achieving buy-in on results and recommendations. Committee members were tasked with returning to their neighborhoods and building support for the project ahead of public meetings.

Public Meeting

Based on the common ground established through the understanding phase the consultant brainstormed with citizens and prioritized the ideas and solutions based on the opportunities and constraints that were established in phase I & II of the process.

Decision Making

(Master Plan Document)

The consultant took the data, input, and ideas gathered from the previous phases and refined them into a working document. The City was provided with exhibits, final drawings, phasing, implementation recommendations, and funding solutions. This document is the final deliverable, demonstrating the entire planning process, decision points, meetings and deliverables for reference and future use.

Implementation

An important part of this portion of the process is breaking down the consultant's summary and recommendations into three sequential types of action. These categories are best described as short-term actions, long-term actions, and on-going actions. This allows the city and economic development committees to harness momentum with the community for the design and planning process and use it as a springboard for steps towards implementation.



Impact

An average of nine out of ten people agree that their community benefits from their local park and trail offerings, according to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). Parks promote healthy and connected communities with economic benefits and living incentives. Parks and trails provide gathering places and areas to exercise, connect with nature and act as a community resource.

As the quality of parks and trails improve in a community, a rise in residents' quality of life and the city's economic benefits are also seen. For example, corporate executives rate quality of life features, such as parks and trail offerings, as key factors when determining future locations for headquarters and other company facilities.

As a community grows, it becomes increasingly important to provide access to quality areas of open space where citizens have opportunities to interact with nature and the outdoors. Sports facilities, trails, and playgrounds enhance the ability to exercise and maintain a healthy lifestyle. When visiting parks, most people seek a secluded, outdoor quiet place that offers scenic views of nature, waterbody access and trails.

On average people visit their local park and recreation facilities twice a month and favorite

activities include: visiting a local park, playground, dog park or other open space, hiking, biking or walking on a trail, visiting a local recreation center or senior center, and playing sports or a game with family and friends. (NRPA)



9 out of 10

people believe their community
benefits from local parks and trails.

on average people visit their parks

2x a MONTH

Section 02: Community

Character of Crowley

History & Background

Demographics

Public Outreach & Input



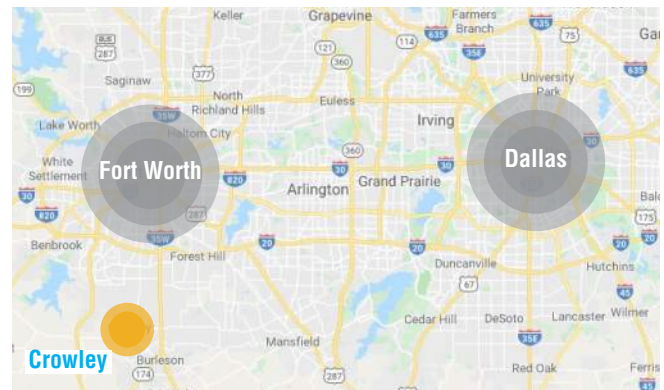
02: Community



Character of Crowley

The City of Crowley is located along Hwy 713 between I 35 & the newly constructed Chisholm Trail Parkway (approximately 15 miles south of Fort Worth's city center). Characterized by floodplains, forested areas and open space, Crowley is located in the Cross Timbers ecoregion of North Central Texas. This area includes a high density of trees, irregular plains, and prairies. Also known as the Osage Plains, it is located south of three tallgrass prairies. It varies from savanna and woodlands to the east and south, to shorter mixed-grass prairies to the west. Before the days of butane, propane and other fuels, the Cross Timbers provided an abundance of wood fuel for the fireplaces and stoves of earlier settlers of Tarrant County.

The soils found in Crowley are primarily sandy to loamy, with rainfall being moderate but somewhat erratic. This causes limited moisture during a part of the growing season. (TPWD)



In addition to the setting described above, Crowley is also within a close driving distance to a variety of popular attractions found within the larger metroplex. These attractions include Pirates Cove Fun Zone, the Fort Worth Zoo, Celebrations Indoor Adventures, Hawaiian Falls and Hurricane Harbor.

The City hosts a series of special events that take place annually. One of the more popular events

is the Celebration of Freedom, which takes place in July, expressing gratitude and support for the military and their families. Additional events throughout the year include Movies in the Park, a Spring Concert Series, Haunted Hayride, an Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas in Crowley.

History and Background

Crowley was originally established in 1848 when pioneers began farming near the Deer Creek area. Shortly after, the settlement moved approximately a mile west to what is today downtown Crowley. The first railroad station depot was built in 1885 when the Santa Fe Railway came through the area. S.H. Crowley was the railroad's master of transportation and became the City's namesake.

The first elected mayor for Crowley was "Chick" Race, who held office from 1953-1957. During the 1960s, a water system, natural gas, and a sewage system were obtained by the town. By 1970 the town had a population of 2,583 and in 1971, the first park board was established to manage 10 acres of land that had been donated to the City. In 1972, the town voted to change Crowley from a town designation to a city (TSHA).

By 2000, the City had a population of 7,467. Since then, growth has continued to diversify and extend the number of opportunities for its citizens. Population, businesses, regional jobs, and attractions are multiplying. The railroad still plays a vital role in the City's makeup, and trains regularly traverse the track (located in downtown Crowley) up to 23 times a day.



02: Community

Demographics

Population

Crowley's population estimate for January 1, 2019, was 15,540 residents according to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) 2019 population estimates. That number increased by 6.0% from the 2018 estimate provided by NCTCOG and 21% from the 2010 census population.



Exhibit 3: Population Growth (2010 Census)

Age

The median age for Crowley is 34 years of age, with the majority of its population being active adults (between the ages of 18-65). The median age is up 2% from the 2010 census average age.

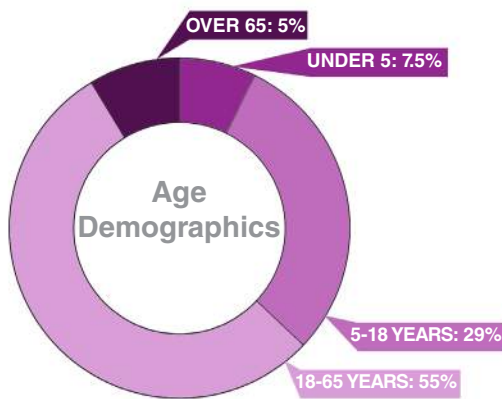


Exhibit 1: Age Demographics (2010 Census)

Ethnicity

The City of Crowley has a predominately white population but is growing with diversity. In 2010, 77% of the population identified as white, 16% identified as African American and 21% identified as Hispanic. All three of these ethnic categories have decreased in the past decade with additional ethnic groups increasing.

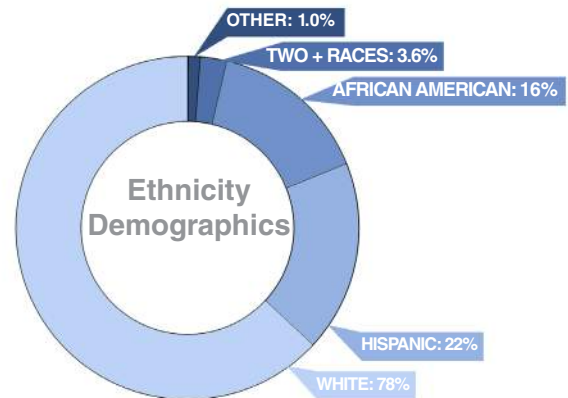


Exhibit 4: Ethnicity Demographics (2010 Census)

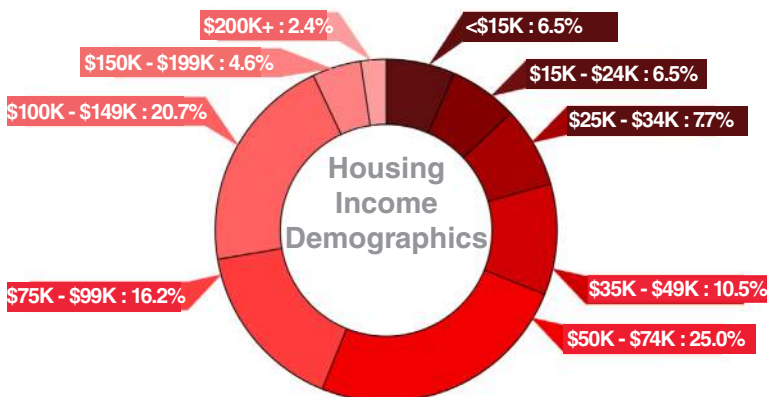


Exhibit 2: House Income Demographics (2010 Census)

Housing & Income

In the United States, the median household income according to the 2010 Census was \$49,445.00. In contrast, Crowley's demographics are above the national average with the percentage majority falling within 50K-149K.

Public Outreach and Input

Part of the understanding phase and one of the first steps in developing a master plan is public outreach. Identifying the stakeholders within the community provides perspective and valuable insights into the history of the City and how the area functions. These stakeholders have a good understanding of the critical issues affecting their community.

A combination of stakeholder meetings and a public survey were used in the initial phase to gain a better understanding of the existing parks and trails system and what citizens saw as functional and areas for improvement.



Steering Committee

To kick off the master plan process an initial meeting was held with City Staff and the Crowley Parks Board on August 13, 2019. During this meeting, a brief overview of the project process was introduced and a schedule outline set for the duration of the master plan. At this meeting, a quick review was also done of the survey results from the park's portion of the Comprehensive Plan. With the City doing both a Comprehensive Plan & Parks and Trails Master Plan simultaneously, at several different junctions, it allowed for an additional layer of collaboration and current information to be exchanged and shared.

Comprehensive Plan Survey Result

Eleven questions on the Comprehensive Plan survey pertained to Crowley's existing parks and trail system and how it should grow. These responses provided context and feedback that was used to help further develop the Parks and Trails Master Plan.

Main takeaways from this survey include:

- **20%** of respondents stated that if the City were to ask for additional property taxes, a portion of it should go towards parks and trails, including equipment. This was the second most popular answer behind public safety which received 22% of respondents answered.
- **35%** of respondents were somewhat satisfied with the number of parks in the City of Crowley
- **38%** of respondents were somewhat satisfied with the maintenance of Crowley's Parks
- **65%** of respondents were neither satisfied or dissatisfied with the field conditions at Dionne Bagsby
- **38%** of respondents were somewhat satisfied with the playground equipment at Bicentennial Park
- **47%** of respondents were neither satisfied or dissatisfied with the playground equipment at Teeter Park

02: Community

Parks & Trails Citizen Survey

In addition to the Comprehensive Plan Survey, a citizen survey was developed uniquely for the Parks and Trails Master Plan and made available through the City's website and inserted in city water bills (reference Appendix I). The responses from this survey gave valuable feedback and information that was used to help develop the Master Plan as well as establish future priorities.

Survey Results

Of the surveys sent out, there were 274 respondents over the course of six weeks that the survey was available for input. The results were compiled in October 2019, and the top responses can be seen on the following pages. For the full survey results, please see Appendix I.

How often have you or someone in your home visited a park system/facility in Crowley in the past 12 months?

11 OR MORE VISITS TO CROWLEY PARKS

Answer Choice:	Responses:
11 or more visits	39.42%
1-5 Visits	35.40%
6-10 Visits	18.25%
Never	4.74%
Don't know	2.19%

Exhibit 5: Sample Question in Citizen Survey (results included)

Which Crowley Parks have you visited in the last year?

BICENTENNIAL PARK

Answer Choice:	Responses:
Bicentennial Park	97.40%
Teeter Park	20.82%
Dionne Bagsby Sport Complex	14.87%
Neighborhood HOA Park	9.29%

Exhibit 6: Sample Question in Citizen Survey (results included)

Reasons that prevent you from using parks, trails & recreational facilities?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS BEING OFFERED

Answer Choice:	Responses:
I do not know what is being offered	27.76%
Program or facilities not offered/facilities do not have right equipment	24.49%
Facilities are not well maintained	22.04%
Other	22.04%
Security is insufficient	16.33%
Too far from our residence	13.06%
Lack of quality programs	12.24%
I do not know locations of facilities	12.24%

Exhibit 7: Sample Question in Citizen Survey (results included)

02: Community

Does your household have a need for the following facilities? (Check all that apply)

MULTI-PURPOSE TRAILS

Answer Choice:	Responses:
Multi-purpose trails	50.75%
Picnic facilities/shelters	38.35%
Children's playgrounds	35.34%
Other (please specify)	34.96%
Off-leash dog park	34.21%
Nature Center	32.71%
Splash pad	31.58%
Gathering Spaces	31.20%
Large Community Parks	27.44%

Exhibit 8: Sample Question in Citizen Survey (results included)

Does the City of Crowley have a need for the following facilities? (Check all that apply)

MULTI-PURPOSE TRAILS

Answer Choice:	Responses:
Multi-purpose trails	52.69%
Off-leash dog park	43.46%
Picnic facilities/shelters	39.23%
Nature Center	35.38%
Other (please specify)	34.23%
Gathering Spaces	31.15%
Mountain bike trails	30.77%
Large Community Parks	30.00%
Splash Pad	29.23%

Exhibit 9: Sample Question in Citizen Survey (results included)

What trail initiatives should the City of Crowley invest in?
Please rank in order of most important.

NATURE TRAILS

Answer Choice:	Score:
Nature Trails	3.13
Multi-purpose off street paved trails	2.92
Bike lanes/trails on street	2.57
Equestrian trails	1.39

Exhibit 10: Sample Question in Citizen Survey (results included)

Which initiatives should the City prioritize for future implementation? Please rank in order of most important.

DEVELOP & IMPROVE EXISTING FACILITIES

Answer Choice:	Responses:
Develop and improve existing facilities	4.54
Develop more passive recreation (picnicking, walking trails, etc.)	4.04
Develop more active recreation (sports fields, playgrounds, etc)	3.46
Acquire land for future development	3.36
Natural areas preservation	3.13
Non-motorized trails	2.60

Exhibit 11: Sample Question in Citizen Survey (results included)

What is your favorite Crowley Park and why?

*open ended responses

BICENTENNIAL



Exhibit 12: Sample Question in Citizen Survey (results included)



If you could design your own park, what amenities would that park include?



Results:

Trails and walking paths appear multiple times in the survey results as a high priority item. Other amenity items mentioned more than once included more gathering spaces, shade, picnic areas, benches, lighting, a dog park and accessible play for all ages. Overall, passive recreation amenities took priority over active recreation opportunities in the survey results.

Section 03: Current Parks System

Classification

**Individual Park Inventory
and Public Access**

Level of Service [Current]

03: Current Parks System



Classification

When discussing the city-wide parks and trails system, it is important to understand the current parks, open space and trail resources that are owned and managed by the City. The programming and design of these facilities determine their current service area and classification within the overall system. Examples of site programming can include such elements as ball fields, picnic areas, restrooms, trails, interpretive areas, and nature preserves.

Park classifications are intended to be helpful guidelines at the local level aiding in the acquisition and design decisions for site selection, types of facilities, and organization of a recreation system that is responsive to the needs of the community. Each park classification category serves a specific purpose and establishes essential elements for parkland determination based generally on the services provided. The features and facilities

in a park should be designed for its intended classification indicated by the number of age segments that park is intended to serve, length of stay, service area and the uses assigned.

This section reviews the different types of park classifications and identifies existing parks maintained by the City of Crowley, and their corresponding classification, according to NRPA standards.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Typically 1-10 acres, a neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and is a social focus of the neighborhood. This classification focuses on informal active and passive recreation and serves those within walking or bicycling distance from the park (NRPA).

When developing a neighborhood park, public input should be utilized. Per the description, Harry S. Teeter Park falls into this category.



HARRY S. TEETER PARK

Service Area: 0.5 mile radius

Site Selection: On a local or collector street

Length of Stay: 1 hour

Land Usage: 85% active / 15% passive

Programming: Limited

Parking: Maximize usable park area

Play Area: Climbing structures, swings or similar elements for a variety of ages

Site Furnishings: Bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, park signage, picnic tables and drinking fountains

COMMUNITY PARK

Typically 16-50 acres, community parks are larger than neighborhood parks and serve multiple neighborhoods. They allow for group activities, meet community-based recreational needs, and preserve unique landscapes and open space. Generally, they include the same activities as a neighborhood park (in addition to the description above (NRPA).

Public involvement should include nearby neighborhood input and city-wide participation. Per the description, Crowley Rec. Center and Veterans Memorial fall into this category.

Service Area: 1 mile radius

Site Selection: On multiple collector streets and near or on an arterial street

Length of Stay: 2 - 3 hours

Land Usage: 65% active / 35% passive

Programming: Specialized uses that may not be feasible to provide in every neighborhood park



CROWLEY REC. CENTER AND
VETERANS MEMORIAL

Parking: 20-80 stalls to support more organized activities

Play Area: Should include activities found in a neighborhood park in addition to group activities and opportunities not found in a neighborhood park

03: Current Parks System

REGIONAL PARK

At a minimum of 50 acres, regional parks serve a broad purpose for the entire community. They often have unique offerings and features and preserve a portion of the land for natural open space or unique landscapes. Regional parks focus on providing community-based needs, attract local citizens and serve the larger surrounding area (NRPA).

Per the description, Bicentennial Park falls into this category.

Service Area: One hour driving distance

Site Selection: On multiple collector streets and near or on an arterial street

Length of Stay: 1-3 hours

Land Usage: Both active & passive

Programming: A wide selection that varies per site, resources and needs



BICENTENNIAL PARK

Parking: Varies per site

Play Area: Climbing structures, swings or similar elements for a variety of ages, plus specialized playgrounds.

Site Furnishings: Should include activities found in community parks as well as opportunities not found in a community parks

SPORTS COMPLEX

Typically 25-80 acres, sports complexes are strategically located in a city where it is best utilized by its citizens. These complexes consist of heavily programmed fields and associated facilities for communal use (NRPA).

Sports complexes are stand alone or designed within community or regional parks and facilitate extreme sports such as skateboarding and BMX.

Per the description, Dionne Bagsby All Sports Complex falls into this category.

Service Area: 1 mile radius

Site Selection: On multiple collector streets and near or on an arterial street

Length of Stay: 2 - 3 hours

Land Usage: 85% active / 15% passive

Programming: Should primarily be for organized sport activities and play for groups



DIONNE BAGSBY ALL SPORTS COMPLEX

Parking: Varies on activities available. Provide enough stalls to support organized activities

Play Area: Should include activities found in a neighborhood park with a focus on supporting group sporting activities

POCKET PARK

Typically between 0.25 and 1 acre, pocket parks are found within urban areas, near commercial buildings or higher density residential homes. These parks are small, urban, open spaces with different uses depending on need. Pocket parks are known for being accessible, social and comfortable (NRPA).



Service Area: 0.5 mile radius

Site Selection: Varies

Length of Stay: 1 hour

Land Usage: 15% active / 85% passive

Programming: Limited

Parking: Maximize usable park

Play Area: Climbing structures, swings or similar elements for a variety of ages

Site Furnishings: Bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, park signage, picnic tables and drinking fountains

SPECIAL USE PARK

These parks usually serve a specific purpose such as historical or cultural sites, golf courses, indoor or outdoor recreational facilities, dog parks, aquatic parks, skateboard parks etc. Special use parks are small, urban, and provide open space with different uses depending on need. They are known for being accessible, engaging, comfortable and sociable (NRPA).



Service Area: Varies

Site Selection: Based on the intended function to serve

Length of Stay: Varies

Land Usage: Depends on the intended use

Programming: Developed to maximize intended use

Parking: Varies

Play Area: Varies

Site Furnishings: Varies

03: Current Parks System

GREENWAYS/TRAILS

Made to connect people to places, greenbelts connect neighborhoods, parks, recreation facilities attractions and natural areas. Greenways and trails are both used to protect and enhance natural areas and provide people a way to enjoy open spaces. Community connectivity is a major component of trails and they should be constructed in locations that provide a network of connections in and around the community.



Service Area: 0.5 mile radius

Site Selection: Trails should be located in open space or next to green-ways whenever possible

Length of Stay: Varies

Land Usage: Passive

Programming: Varies but should be focused on movement and connectivity.

Parking: 2-3 stalls unless a major trail-head location

Play Area: typically not.

Site Furnishings: Bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, park signage and drinking fountains.

OPEN SPACE/NATURAL AREAS

Open space and natural areas vary in size and can be found in undeveloped areas such as grasslands, easements, creek corridors, steep terrain, old or second growth forests, recharge zones and floodplains. They are typically set aside to preserve natural resources and functions. An important goal is to enhance the character of a community by preserving as much of its natural amenities as possible.

They have conservation values if used to protect a wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and protect endangered species.



Service Area: Varies

Site Selection: This depends on areas of natural resources

Length of Stay: Varies

Land Usage: 100% passive

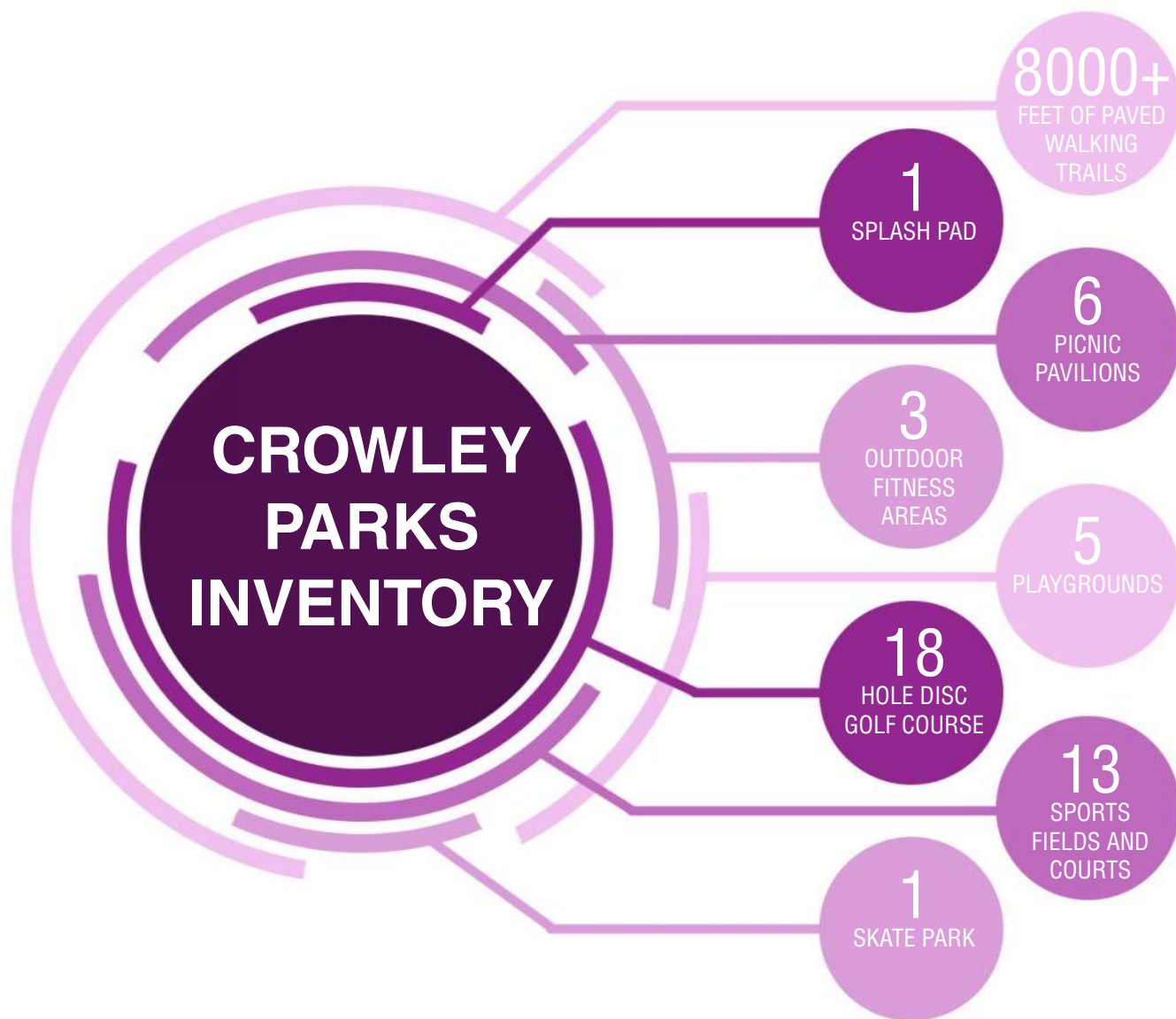
Programming: Varies

Parking: Varies

Play Area: Primarily consists of trails, but can vary - play areas are not critical

Site Furnishings: Bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, park signage, picnic tables and drinking fountains

Source: Info gathered from the NRPA Field Report - Park and Recreation Agency Performance



Individual Park Inventory and Public Access

The current Parks and Trail System, owned and managed by the City of Crowley, contains four parks that are classified under the following categories per their specific purpose, the features and facilities in the park and the area they serve:

- Harry S. Teeter Park - Neighborhood Park
- Crowley Rec Center & Veterans Memorial - Community Park

- Bicentennial - Regional Park
- Dionne Bagsby - Sport Complex

The nature preserve was not included in this assessment due to a lack of infrastructure and the ability to access and utilize the site. Instead it is shown as an area for potential park expansion and future classification.

03: Current Parks System



Size: 8 acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Teeter park is located off of S. Crowley Rd. just north of Deer Creek. Its primary features consist of three lighted softball fields with covered seating, shaded picnic tables, a shaded playground and a restroom facility.

INVENTORY:

- PUBLIC RESTROOMS
- CONCESSION STAND
- LARGE PICNIC PAVILIONS
- GRILL AREAS
- PLAYGROUND
- SHADED PLAYGROUND
- SOFTBALL FIELDS WITH LIGHTING
- COVERED SEATING
- ENTRY SIGNAGE
- NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTION



SOFTBALL FIELDS



ENTRY SIGNAGE



PLAYGROUNDS
FOR ALL AGES



LARGE PICNIC
PAVILIONS



PUBLIC
RESTROOMS



COVERED SEATING



LARGE AMOUNTS
OF HARDSCAPE



NATURAL
VEGETATIVE
BUFFER



HEAVY SLOPE
POTENTIAL
GRADING AND
EROSION ISSUES

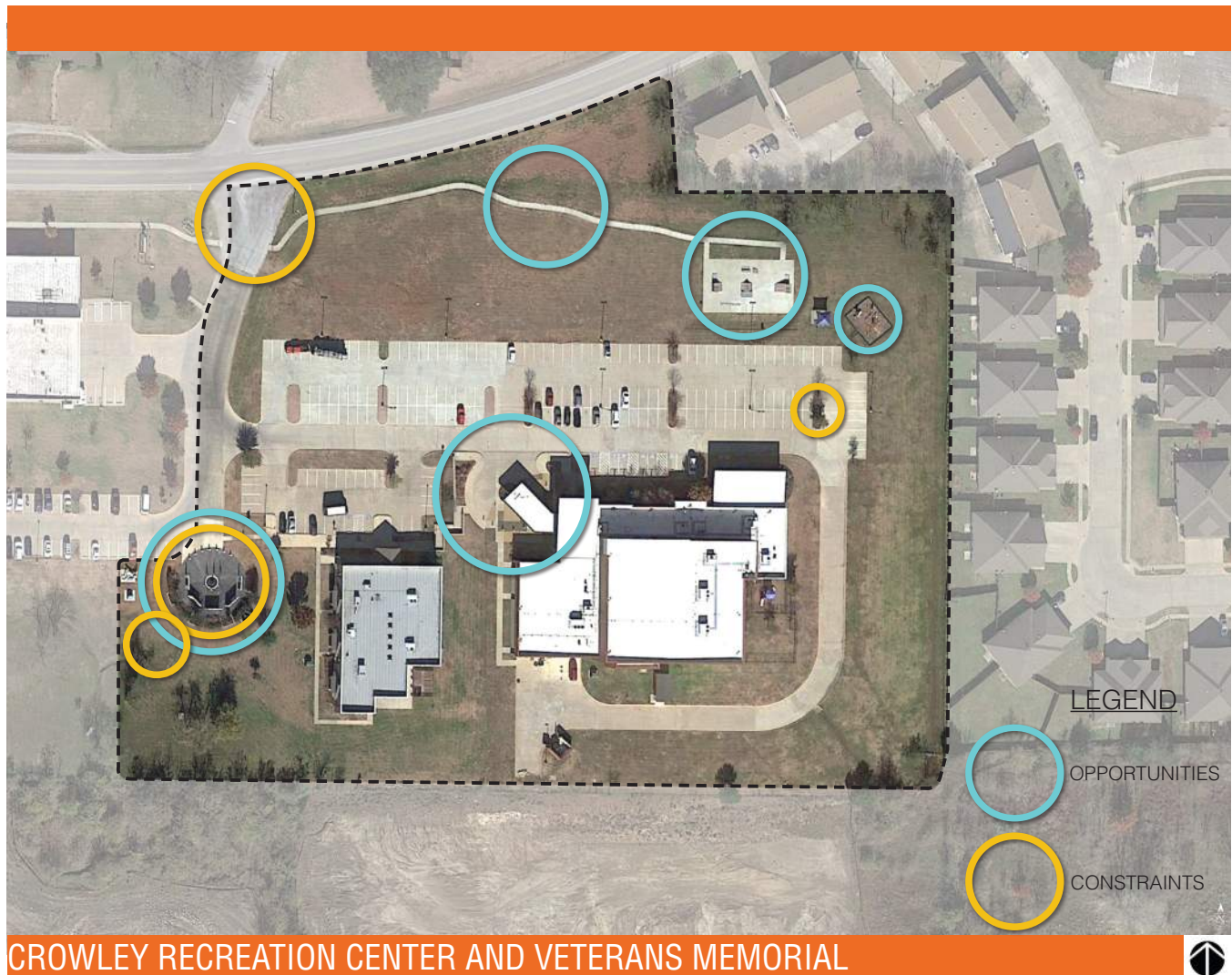


SHADED
PLAYGROUNDS

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

- At the entry of the park, the public is greeted by **park signage** that is generic in design and does not complement Crowley's brand.
- Currently, **pedestrian access** runs along S. Crowley Rd. but does not extend into the park.
- A newly installed playground is adjacent to the entrance with a shade structure and picnic seating. Benches are not installed near the playground. **Furniture** present, is limited, aged and does not follow an aesthetic standard.
- There are three **softball fields** towards the end of the park, with shaded bleacher seating and parking. The adjoining **lighting, concession stand and restrooms** are in good shape. **Slopes** adjacent to the fields have the potential for grading and erosion issues. **Parking** pavement needs resurfacing.
- The **location of this park** is accessible by the surrounding neighborhoods, within walking distance of the downtown, an elementary school, the nature center property, and additional open space that could be used for expansion.

03: Current Parks System



Size: 9.25 acres

Classification: Community Park

The Crowley Recreation Center and Veterans Memorial is a new and updated facility that provides several specialized uses including a veterans memorial and skate park. Located along S. Beverly St. it shares an entrance with Crowley Fire Station 2.

INVENTORY:

- SKATE PARK
- OUTDOOR WORKOUT STATIONS
- ENHANCED PLANTINGS
- WALKING PATH
- VETERANS MEMORIAL
- SHADE STRUCTURE & BENCHES
- GREEN SPACE



NO ENTRY
SIGNAGE



VETERANS
MEMORIAL



EXPOSED
UTILITIES



WELL
MAINTAINED
SIDEWALK



PUBLIC SKATE
PARK



DRAINAGE
PROBLEMS



LACK OF
ADDITIONAL
SEATING



OUTDOOR
WORKOUT



ABSENCE OF
PLANTING IN
ISLANDS

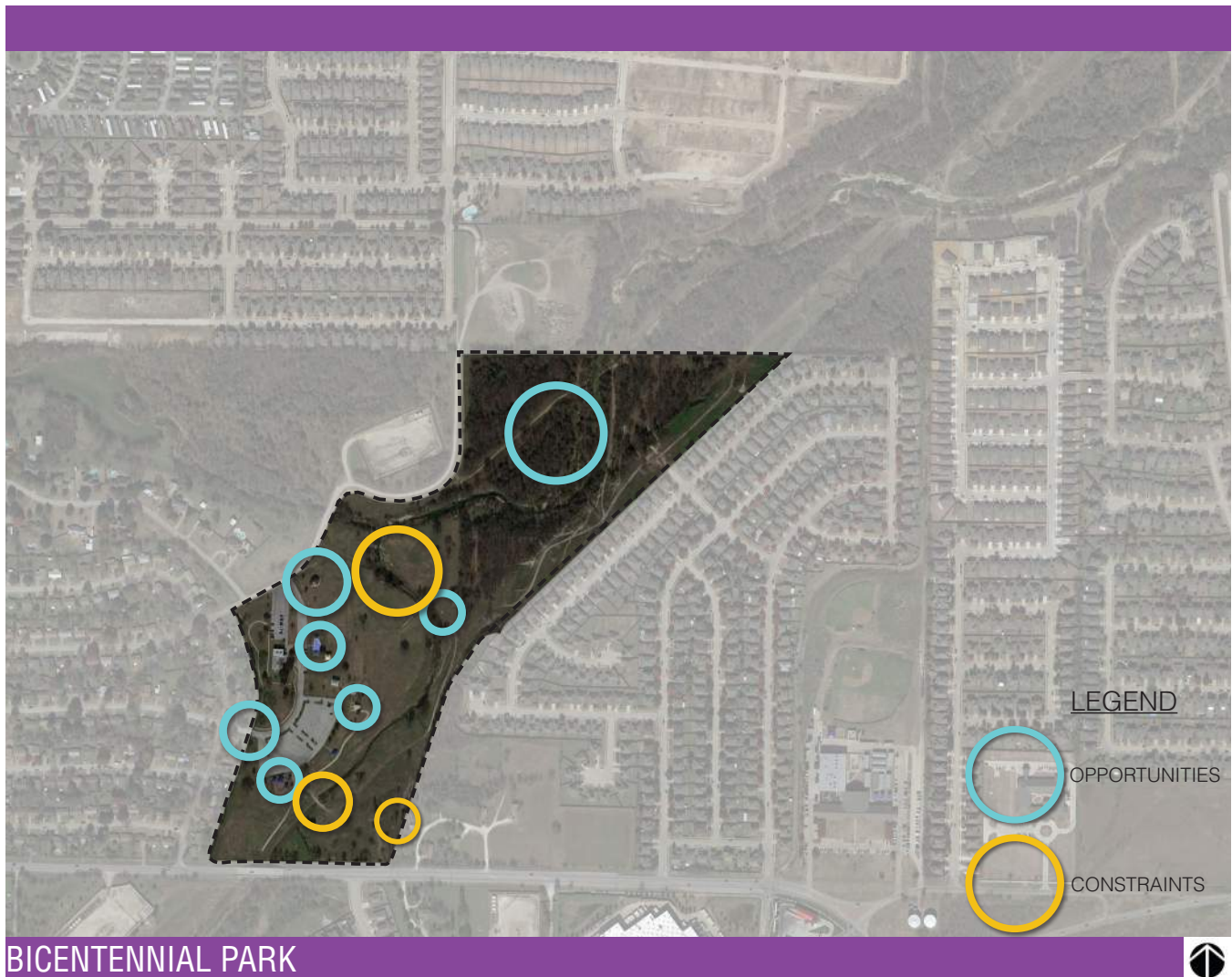


ENHANCED
PLANTING

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

- At the entrance of the facility, there is no entry or way-finding signage. Orientation and identity are lost.
- While **pedestrian access** is well maintained from the neighborhood to the **skate park**, it does not provide access to the remaining amenities or parking. There is an opportunity for connection.
- While a playground is offered adjacent to the **recreation center**, it is fenced in, without public access. There is an opportunity to add an additional playground adjacent to the **outdoor workout stations** for easy access.
- Overall the grounds are **well maintained**. Minor drainage problems were discovered and should be addressed.

03: Current Parks System



Size: 36 acres (55 acres unincorporated)

Classification: Regional Park

Bicentennial Park is a large regional park located in northeast Crowley. It contains several unique landforms including hills, creeks forested areas and open space. With room to expand, this park offers potential for a variety of activities, programming and preservation. One of its most popular features (based on survey results) is the 18 hole disc golf course, in addition to the public city events held there.

INVENTORY

- EVENT PAVILION
- PUBLIC SPLASH PAD
- SHADED PLAYGROUNDS
- PICNIC PAVILIONS
- PUBLIC RESTROOMS
- 18 HOLE DISC GOLF COURSE
- CREEK
- ENTRY SIGNAGE
- WALKING PATH
- COMMUNITY EVENT CENTER
- NATURAL AREA



EVENT PAVILION



PUBLIC
RESTROOMS



18 HOLE DISC
GOLF COURSE



PUBLIC
SPLASH
PAD



FLOODPLAIN
RUNNING THROUGH



ENTRY
SIGNAGE



FURNISHINGS
NOT
WITHSTANDING
THE ELEMENTS



SHADED
PLAYGROUNDS



PICNIC
PAVILIONS

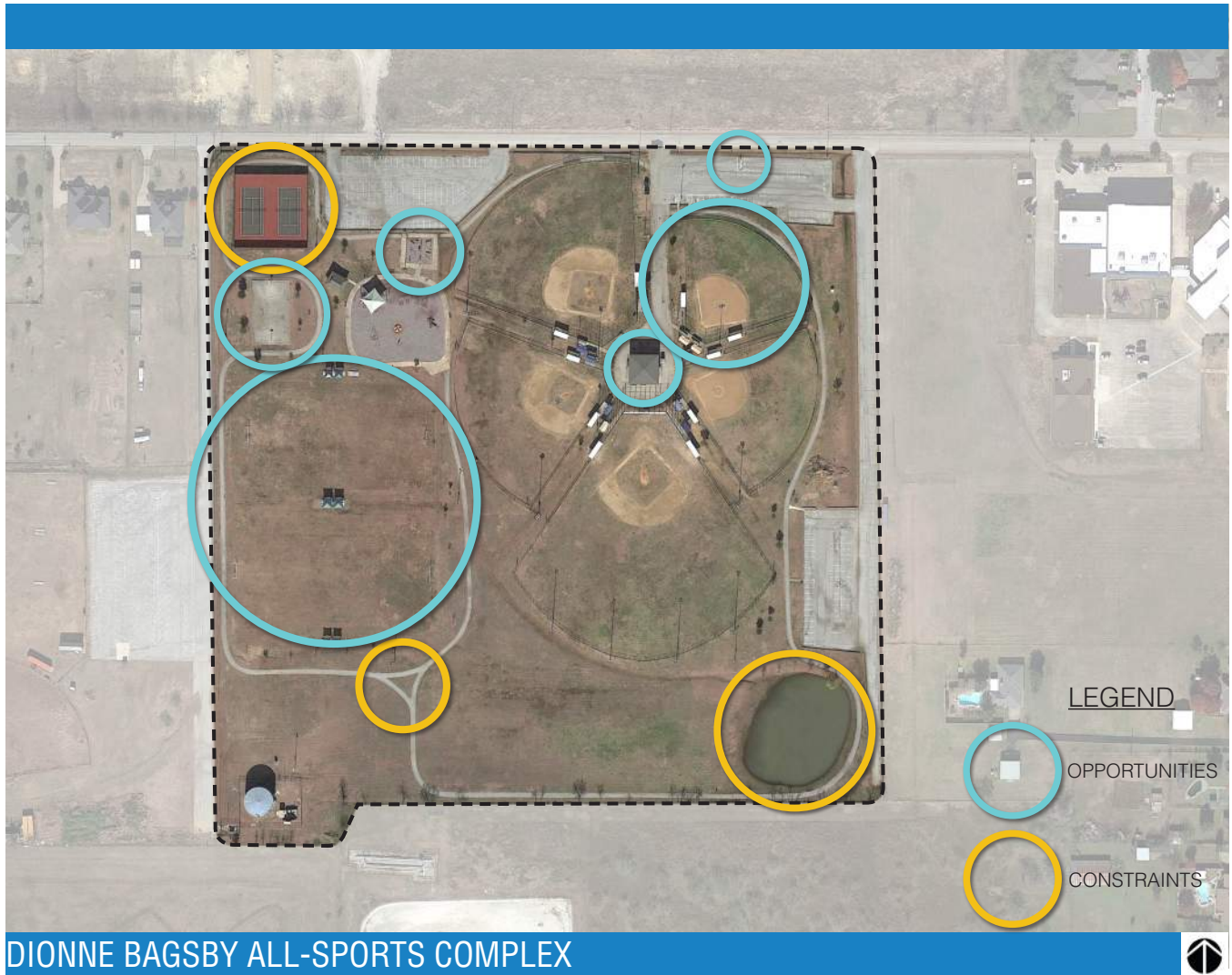


OVERHEAD
EASEMENTS
RUNNING

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

- The 18 hole disc golf course takes advantage of existing terrain and natural features. Furniture (benches) along the way are weathered down, broken and not usable.
- A newly installed playground is located adjacent to the parking lot. Additional playground structures surrounding the playground are older, outdated and weathered. No bench seating is provided immediately adjacent to the playground.
- Pedestrian linkages between existing programmed elements absent. This allows for easy access, ADA compliance, and more defined spaces.
- Bicentennial has the unique opportunity to provide city trail connections to the larger city and regional networks.
- Existing lighting on-site is limited and does not allow for programmed elements to be used past sunset.

03: Current Parks System



Size: 25 acres

Classification: Sport Complex

Dionne Bagsby is a dedicated sports park located on the far west side of Crowley, with baseball, softball and soccer fields. The park also features tennis courts, basketball courts and a playground. For survey respondents who selected Bagsby as their favorite Crowley park, most listed the .8 mile looped walking trail as their favorite feature.

INVENTORY:

- **BASEBALL & SOFTBALL FIELDS**
- **TENNIS COURTS**
- **BASKETBALL COURTS**
- **SOCCER FIELDS**
- **PUBLIC RESTROOMS**
- **SHADED SEATING**
- **OUTDOOR FITNESS STATIONS**
- **PLAYGROUND**
- **WALKING PATH**
- **ENTRY SIGNAGE**
- **CONCESSION STAND & MEETING ROOM**



ENTRY SIGNAGE



OUTDOOR
WORKOUT
STATIONS



GUARDRAIL
OUTDATED, POOR
CONDITION



BASKETBALL
COURTS



SOCCER FIELDS



WALKING PATH
BEGINNING TO
DETERIORATE



BASEBALL FIELDS



SHADED
SPECTATOR
SEATING



PUBLIC
RESTROOMS



DRIED UP
DETENTION POND

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

- At the entry of the park, the public is greeted by [park signage](#) that is generic in design and does not complement Crowley's brand.
- There is [pedestrian access](#) in and around the park, however it is not well maintained and beginning to deteriorate.
- A newly installed [playground](#) and [fitness station](#) is located adjacent to the parking lot. Additional playground structures adjacent to the playground are older, outdated and weathered.
- While there are some newly installed [furniture](#) pieces, overall, furniture is outdated and in poor condition.
- While [public restrooms](#) are available on-site, more may be needed to meet demand.

03: Current Parks System

Level of Service [Current]

A park systems level of service (LOS) is a common measurement used to describe the importance of a park and its recreational opportunities within the community. A City's LOS is expressed in acres of parkland, per 1,000 persons. Over the last several decades the targeted level of service for communities (on a nationwide basis) has been 10 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents.

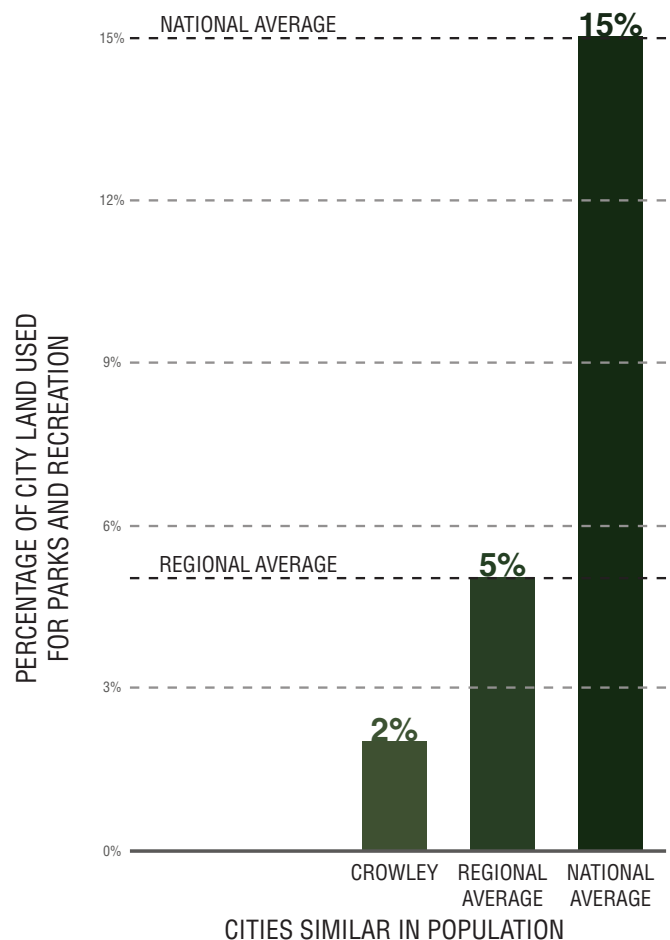
Depending on the specific needs of a community, the level of service ranges from 1.5 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 to 10 acres of parkland developed per 1,000 residents. And while private recreational facilities can be considered when establishing a level of service for the community, those acreages are not factored in the calculation of parkland in this assessment.

In this parks and trails master plan, it is recommended that an array of benchmark measurement tools be used to understand the effectiveness of the existing City of Crowley Parks and Trails system. These forms of measurement include the NRPA standards for the percentage of city land used for Parks and Recreation, the percentage of residents within a 5 and 10- minute walk to a park and results from the citizen opinion survey.

The graphs to the right and on the following pages were developed using information provided by the Trust for Public Land and demonstrate how Crowley compares to its national and regional neighbors in percentage of land dedicated to parks, percentage of residents within a 10-minute walk to a park and residents within a 5-minute walk to a park. The national average of land used for Parks and Recreation is much higher than both the regional average and Crowley's current average.

For the purposes of this master plan, HOA and privately owned and maintained parks were not

Level of service is a common measurement used to describe the importance of a park and its recreational opportunities within the community.



US PARK PERCENTAGE



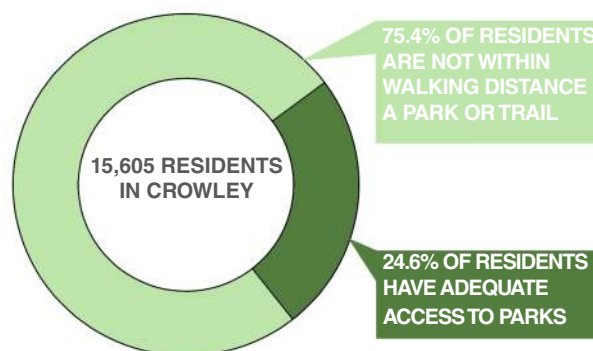
CROWLEY PARK PERCENTAGE

considered as part of this data collection. These parks and facilities are not consistently open to the public nor maintained by the City of Crowley.

Walkability is increasingly used as a form of measurement to determine a City's quality of life and value. This method bases the design scale on a person versus using an automobile as the standard. The goal is to create walkable cities where errands and leisure activities are accomplished by foot/trail.

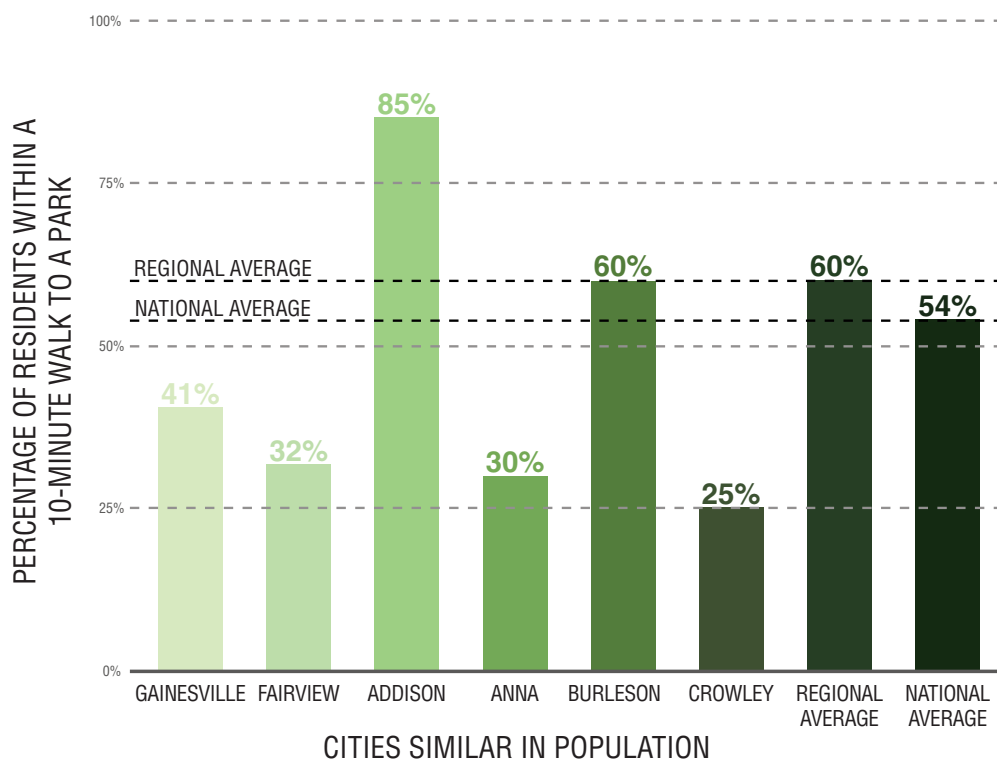
The image to the right is based on a 10-minute walking distance standard. Parks that are farther than a 10-minute walk from residents are not considered accessible due to the extended distance of travel. Regional comparisons are seen in the graph below. Cities similar in size to Crowley were selected to provide a regional comparison.

POPULATION ESTIMATE



*BASED ON NATIONAL STANDARD

Walkability is increasingly used as a form of measurement to determine a City's quality of life and value.



03: Current Parks System

Using this metric, of walkability, the map on the subsequent page represents the four (4) Crowley owned and maintained parks encompassed by a 5-minute walking radius and a 10-minute walking radius (parks managed by HOA not analyzed). The exhibit illustrates that currently, park access is centralized within the city, and as mentioned previously, only 24.6% of residents have easy access to a park (10-minute walk). Large portions of the city's land and neighborhoods to the north and south are limited in their ability to access the city's park resources without a vehicle.

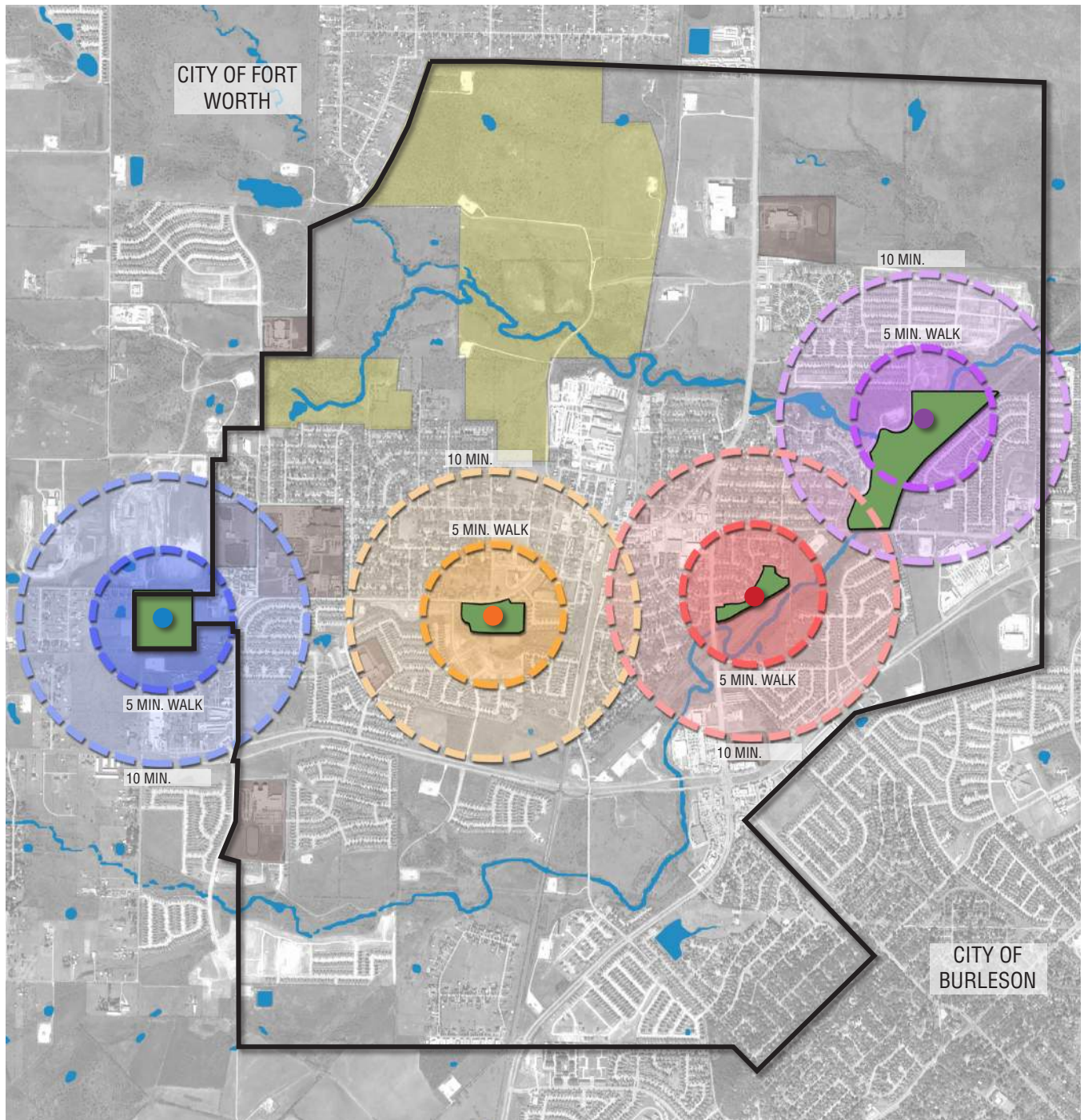
According to the Department of Transportation and the trust for public land (TPL), "Distance from a park is a profoundly important number. It may be more important than counting up the absolute amount of parkland in a city." (Peter Harnik, director of the Trust for Public Land's Center for City Park Excellence). In today's society convenience matters and distance matters. A park that is within walking distance will be better utilized and more preferred than a

park that requires vehicular transportation. Parks are beneficial to both the young and old, and accommodate a wide range of physical abilities.

The future land use map for the City of Crowley calls for preservation of open space in the midst of future development to both the north and south areas of the city. It is the intent of this exhibit to reiterate the underrepresentation of parks in these areas and the importance of parkland dedication as the city continues to grow and expand.

"Distance from a park is a profoundly important number. It may be more important than counting up the absolute amount of parkland in a city."





5-MINUTE AND 10-MINUTE WALKS TO PUBLIC PARKS

- DIONNE BAGSBY ALL SPORTS COMPLEX
- CROWLEY REC. CENTER AND VETERANS MEMORIAL
- HARRY S. TEETER PARK
- BICENTENNIAL

LEGEND

- WATERWAY
- CITY LIMITS

Section 04: Trails & Bikeways

Introduction

Framework

Recommendations

Elements

04: Trails & Bikeways



Introduction

The City of Crowley currently has several small segments of trail spread throughout its community. A wide pedestrian bridge crosses Deer Creek along S. Crowley Rd., providing access to Teeter Park, and another segment runs .15 of a mile in Bicentennial Park but ends with no destination or connection. Similarly, sidewalks and popular walking paths are utilized, but a larger network of connections is not readily available to residents.

Understanding the critical role trails play as cities look to grow and diversify their offerings, Crowley has taken several steps towards developing its alternative modes of transportation via trails. Now under construction along Main Street from 1187 (Beverly Street) heading east to 731 (Crowley Road) is a 5 ft separated bike lane and a varying width (7ft to 11ft) pedestrian path with enhanced intersection crossings and trail amenities such as trees, lighting, trashcans, seating, and bike racks.

Both regionally and nationally, trails have always

been a part of recreation systems, but more recently they are also being recognized as critical components of mobility plans and seamless citywide transportation systems. By giving citizens access to miles of connected trails; parks, schools, recreation programs, natural resources, and social services become accessible for a much larger population. This is accomplished by focusing on the individual's mobility and not that of the automobile. When seen as a whole, the benefits of a trail network are compelling.

These benefits include:

- Health
- Transportation/Livability
- Conservation/Environment
- Economic/Revitalization
- Historic Preservation/Community Identity

**The critical role trails
play as cities look to
grow and diversify their
offerings**



04: Trails & Bikeways

As populations and city density increase, identifying trail routes and access within the urban fabric becomes more complex. This process can be alleviated by combining trail projects with roadway improvements, identifying future connections before an area has been developed and asking developers to invest in the process.

Framework

For the purposes of this master plan, a City Trail is defined as a non-motorized, multi-use pathway used by walkers, runners, and bicyclists for recreation and transportation purposes that make connections to a larger citywide network. The framework used to develop the City's future trail network plan include:

Creating connections to key **destinations**, both current and planned, that are efficient and comfortable to traverse along. Destinations should include:

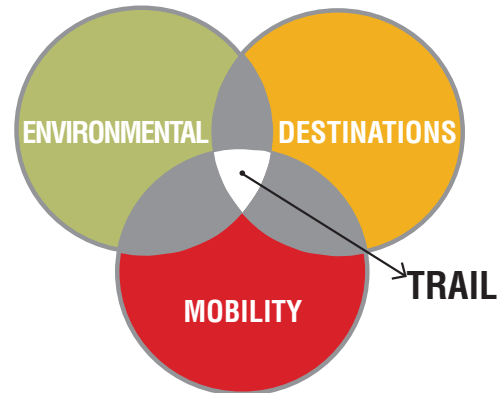
- Schools
- Parks
- Restaurants
- Shopping
- Public Facilities
- Entertainment
- Employment Hubs

Provide citywide **mobility** routes that allow citizens to travel throughout the city and to connect to neighboring communities without an automobile.

Provide routes that capitalize on **environmental** corridors and unique settings to enhance travel and recreational opportunities. This category should include scenic bikeways and locations for mountain biking (off road cycling).

Recommendations

Base on this framework a proposed trail map was developed and can be seen on the next page.

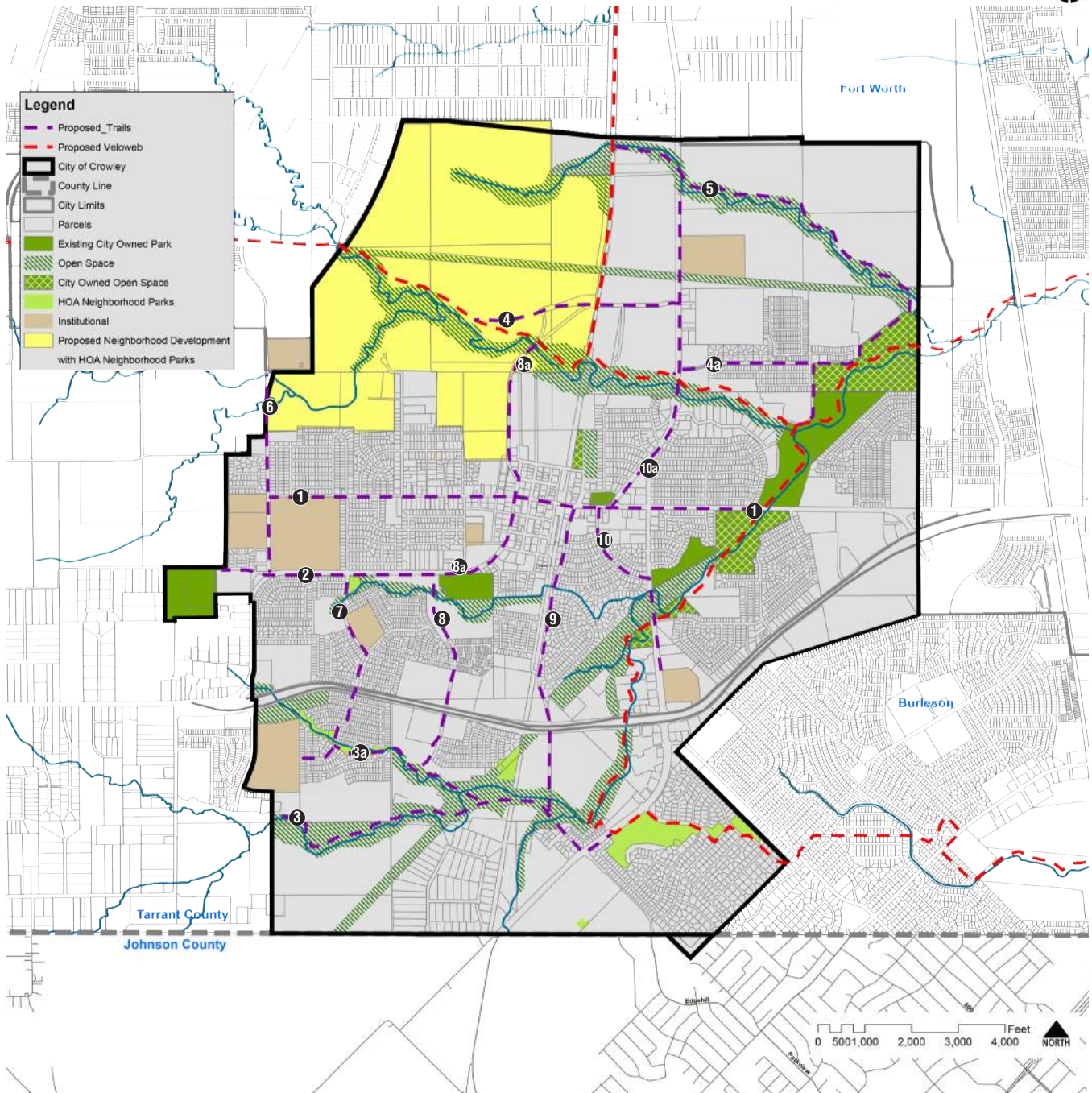


The first layer of this map identifies institutional destinations, existing parks and open space, floodways and the regional veloweb, shown in red. The **regional veloweb** is an off-street highway system for trails developed by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The goal of the veloweb is to provide 12 ft wide concrete trails that connect communities to destination across the Metroplex. The veloweb encourages people to commute alternatively, walking or cycling to school, work, run errands, access transit routes and exercise. It has been adopted by the Regional Transportation Council, and portions of it can be prioritized for funding.

Looking at these initial components, trail routes were laid out. The plan was then reviewed by City Staff, the master plan steering committee and the general public to refine and collect additional information that would evolve the routes selected. It is recommended that trails anticipated to be key routes of the citywide network be no less than 10 ft wide or if a split trail, no less than a 6 ft wide bike lane and a 6 ft wide sidewalk.

10 future trail routes were identified for the Parks and Trails Master Plan, five primary routes running east to west and five routes running north to south. The majority of these trails will be bicycle lanes or shared-use pathways. Soft surface trails are a good option for trail sections within open space and creek corridors providing a recreation alternative. Sidewalk connections were not mapped out for this master plan.

PROPOSED TRAILS: RECOMMENDATIONS



NOTE: PROPOSED TRAILS ARE NOT NAMED. THIS EXHIBIT USES NUMBERED TRAILS AS A PLACEHOLDER.

04: Trails & Bikeways

There are four primary facilities referenced in this section:

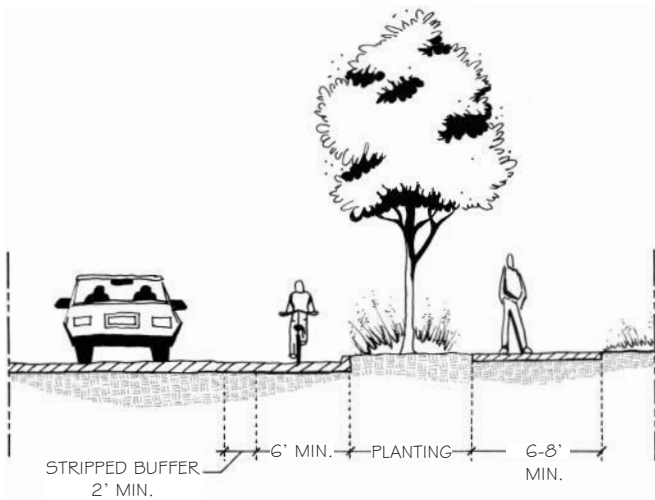
Bicycle Lane

Bicycle lanes are facilities located adjacent to motor vehicle travel lanes. They are 4ft - 6ft wide and designated by white striping, bicycle symbols, and signage. At a minimum, bike lanes should be separated from vehicular travel lanes by a 2 ft stripped buffer. Protected bike lanes, that incorporate posts, curbs and raised domes may be appropriate if additional separation is needed due to traffic volumes or design speeds on a roadway. Bike lanes should be accompanied by a sidewalk, both occurring within the limits of the right-of-way.

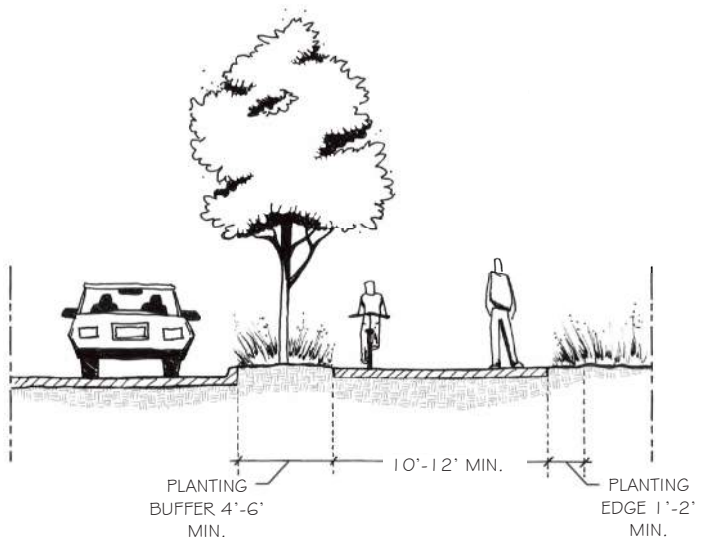
Shared-Use Path

Shared-use paths should be physically separated facilities that encourage walking and bicycling in accordance with the Federal Highway Association (FHWA). An adequate width should accommodate recreation and transportation uses. It is recommended that these trails be no less than 10 ft wide, with 12 ft wide being the standard. Trail amenities and features should also be incorporated along these routes to create a unique and comfortable experience.

ON STREET SHARED BIKE LANE



10'-12' CONCRETE COMMUNITY TRAIL



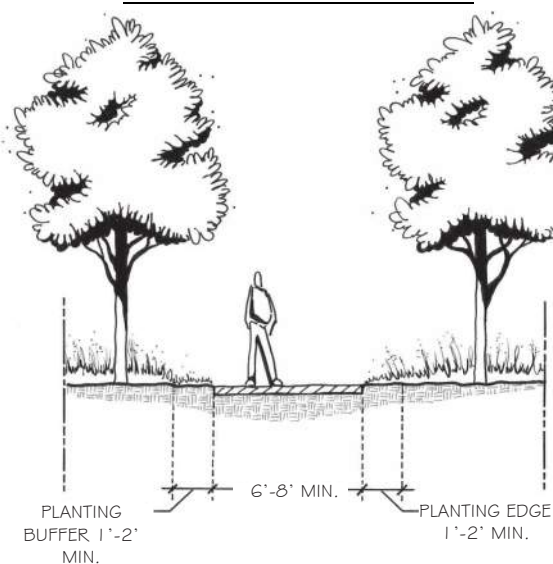
Sidewalks

Sidewalks generally follow along streets and are contained within the street right-of-way. Generous space should be considered for side-paths and minimum width of 6 ft used. When space is available sidewalk widths should be increased to 8 ft to allow two people to walk comfortably side by side and pass other users. Right-of-way widths will not always accommodate 8 ft wide sidewalks.

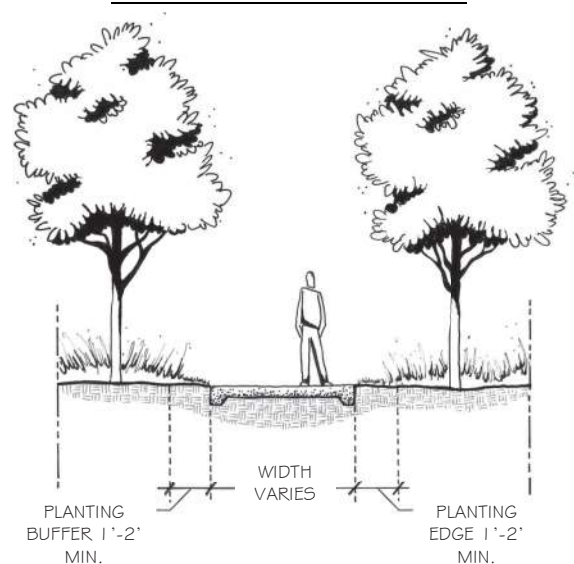
Soft Surface Trails

Soft surface trails should be located in parks, greenways and natural areas/open space. They provide a unique opportunity for recreation and an alternative user experience. Typically 5 ft - 8 ft wide, they are not always part of the larger connected trail network. These trails can be exclusively for foot or bike traffic.

6'-8' CONCRETE SIDEWALK



5'-10' SOFT SURFACE TRAIL



04: Trails & Bikeways

Elements

The elements of a trail include surfacing type, regional or local connectivity, user type, comfort, safety (including potential for vehicular conflict areas), and amenities. The images to the right provide examples of the different elements and how they can be incorporated. Regional or local connectivity determines what elements are used and how frequently.

Prior to the implementation and construction of the 10 proposed trail routes (identified in this chapter), a design concept for each is required. This will aid in determining the right-of-way availability, trail type, signage, aesthetics, opportunities and constraints, and constructibility.

The map on the subsequent page identifies three examples of conflict areas along the proposed trail routes. This map does not indicate each location where a conflict occurs. These types of constraints will need to be identified and designed for in the individual trail design concepts.

Based on the input received from stakeholders, the following three routes are recommended for initial implementation:

- **Trail 8a** - from Beverly up to Karis, making a connection to the regionally proposed veloweb.
- **Trail 1** - starting at the intersection of 731 and Main continuing east to Bicentennial Park
- **Trail 9** - creating an north south connection from Main to 1187, utilizing the bridge crossing on Hampton

The construction of these initial routes creates a mobility alternative for the City of Crowley that starts to connect the northern and southern parts of the City to the downtown core and the City's largest park, Bicentennial.



Comfort and Safety



Surface Type



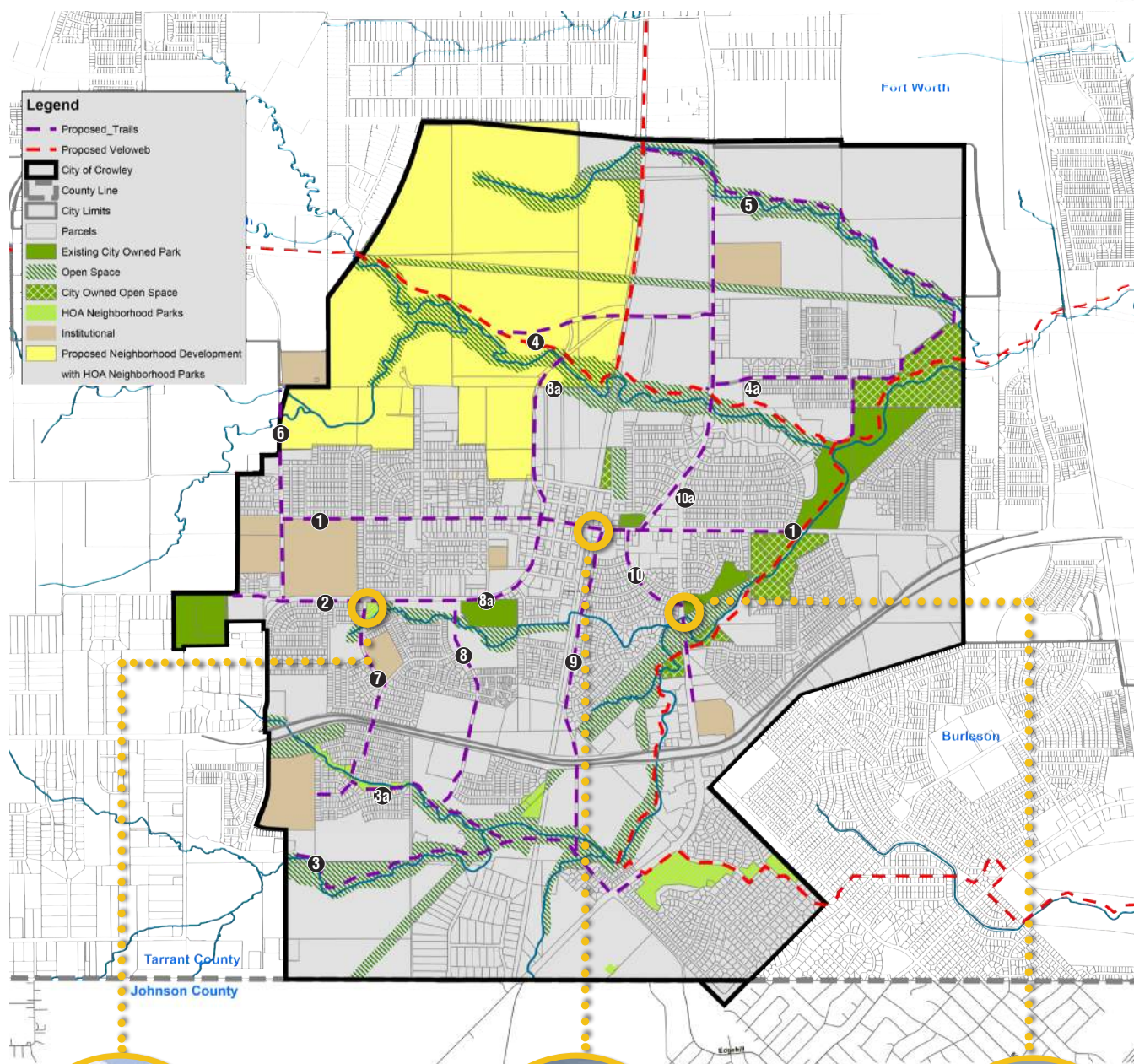
Intersections



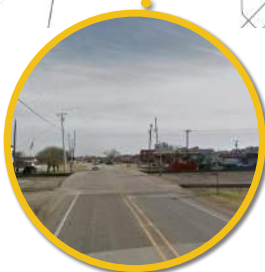
Amenities



PROPOSED TRAILS: CONFLICT AREAS



DIVIDED HIGHWAY



RAILROAD CROSSING



LARGE INTERSECTION

Section 05: Key Findings & Needs Assessment

Level of Service [Future]

Individual Park
Assessment

Visual Preference
Assessment

Key Findings and Needs
Summary

05: Key Findings & Needs Assessments



Level of Service [Future]

Currently, at a population of 15,540 residents, the City of Crowley's Park and Trails systems consist of 78.25 acres. Per the NRPA's targeted level of service of 10 acres per 1000 residents, 155 acres are recommended to meet the target. It is important to note however, that the NRPA recognizes diversity between recreation agencies, and the standard may not be an applicable target for every community.

With today's population, Crowley meets a 5 acres per 1000 residents metric (with 78.25 acres). In alignment with the Comprehensive Plan and the Future Land Use Map for the City of Crowley, it is recommended that at minimum, Crowley continues to meet the 5 acres per 1,000 residents metric moving forward. This standard is in accordance with regional averages as discussed in chapter 3.

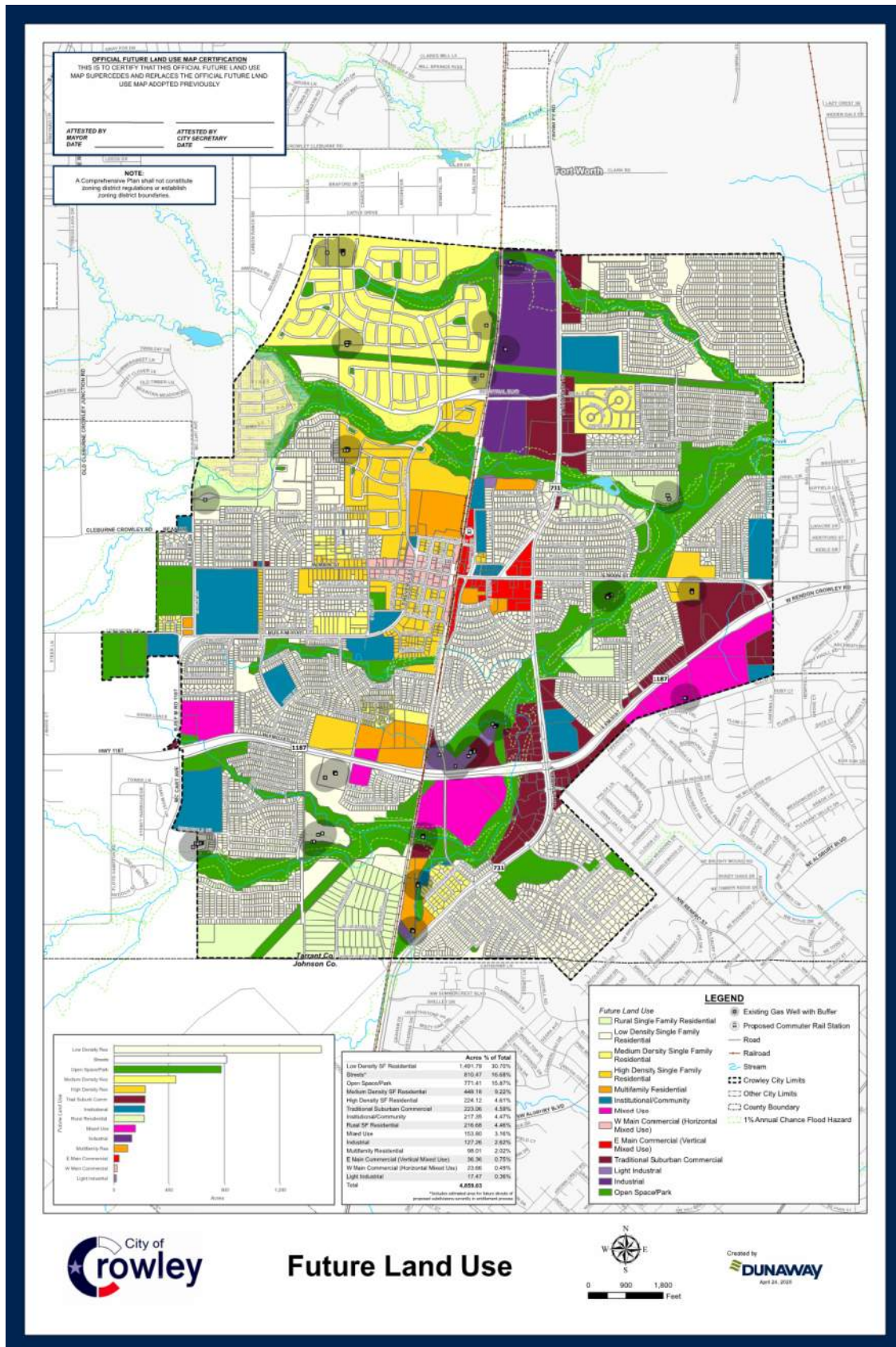
In 2045, it is estimated that Crowley's population will reach 27,359 residents. Per the 5 acre metric,

137 acres of parkland is recommended. At this time, the city will be tasked with re-evaluating existing conditions, access/walkability, and public input to conclude whether this metric is feasible.

Individual Parks Assessment

The parks and trails citizen survey identified 'developing and improving existing facilities as a top priority for future implementation. Therefore, this section focuses on providing recommendations that are aligned with the city's vision, public input, and overall analysis. Recommendations made for each park were categorized for both short and long term initiatives. These recommendations should be further analyzed by a consultant with individual park master plan concepts.

Per the 5 acre metric,
137 acres of parkland is
recommended.



05: Key Findings & Needs Assessments

HARRY S. TEETER PARK



Overall Assessment

Harry S. Teeter Park is identified as a neighborhood park according to NRPA classification standards. Neighborhood parks have little to no programmed elements. However, Harry S. Teeter Park has several programmed elements for citizens to enjoy, including a picnic area, playground, and dedicated softball diamond.

At this park, improvements are recommended per the opportunities and constraints outlined in chapter 3. The following park recommendations are a reflection of the master plan vision, site inventory, analysis, and public input.





RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS - SHORT TERM

SITE FURNITURE (UNITY)

Replace existing site furniture with a city standard that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional. Site furniture should include all trash receptacles, benches, stadium benches, fencing, grills, and picnic tables. All materials should be complementary (similar color and material).

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS (FUNCTIONALITY)

Additional sidewalks and/or paths are needed to allow for linkages between existing programmed elements. This would allow for easy access and ADA compliance.

SIGNAGE (IDENTITY)

Replace existing entry signage to compliment the City of Crowley's branding efforts, while also creating a unique identity marker for Harry S. Teeter Park. New signage shall be constructed of similar materials (at each park) for a cohesive, standard look.

RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS - LONG TERM

VEHICULAR ACCESS (FUNCTIONALITY)

Revisit existing vehicular footprint (layout and material) to reduce pavement and maintenance efforts.

SHADE STRUCTURE (UNITY)

Replace existing shade structure with a city standard that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional. Material should be complementary to overall site furniture.

DRAINAGE (FUNCTIONALITY)

Study existing drainage areas for functionality. Replace existing drainage channel.

DOG PARK (SUITABILITY)

The citizen survey unveiled that an off-leash dog park is desired. This neighborhood park would allow both space and access for this facility. It is recommended the existing programming at this park be reexamined for use and function to determine what should remain, be repaired and invested in vs. re-purposed for a desired alternative use.

PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING (FUNCTIONALITY)

Pedestrian lighting recommended for safety.

05: Key Findings & Needs Assessments

CROWLEY RECREATION CENTER AND VETERANS MEMORIAL



Overall Assessment

Crowley Recreation Center and Veteran's Memorial is identified as a community park according to NRPA classification standards. Community parks have specialized uses that may not be feasible to provide in a neighborhood park. The Recreation Center and Veteran's Memorial are both identified as specialized uses.

Although programmed elements are offered at this park, improvements are recommended per the opportunities and constraints outlined in chapter 3. The following park recommendations are a reflection of the master plan vision, site inventory, analysis, and public input.





RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS - SHORT TERM

SIGNAGE (IDENTITY, UNITY)

Add entry signage to complement the City of Crowley's branding efforts, while also creating a unique identity marker for both the Crowley Recreation Center and the Veteran's Memorial. New signage shall be constructed of similar materials (at each park) for a cohesive, standard look.

Develop a city standard way-finding signage package that is aesthetically pleasing and functional.

SITE FURNITURE (UNITY)

Replace existing site furniture with a city standard that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional. Site furniture should include all trash receptacles, benches, stadium benches, fencing, grills and picnic tables. All materials are to be complementary (similar color and material).

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS (FUNCTIONALITY)

Additional sidewalks and/or paths are needed to allow for linkages between existing programmed elements. This allows for easy access, ADA compliance and more defined spaces.

RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS - LONG TERM

PLAYGROUND (SUITABILITY)

Add a playground with unrestricted access near existing programming.

SHADE STRUCTURE (UNITY)

Add shade structure that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional. Material should be complimentary to overall site furniture. Town standard to be identified for shade structure.

DRAINAGE (FUNCTIONALITY)

Study existing drainage areas for functionality. Drainage improvements are recommended due to visible drainage issues.

05: Key Findings & Needs Assessments

BICENTENNIAL PARK



Overall Assessment

Bicentennial Park is identified as a regional park according to NRPA classification standards. Regional parks have a wide selection of programming that responds to existing conditions and community needs. Bicentennial Park was identified as the ‘favorite park’ in Crowley according to the citizen’s survey due to its variety of amenities, including playgrounds, splash pad, disc golf, trails and gathering spaces.

Although programmed elements are offered at this park, improvements are recommended per the opportunities and constraints outlined in chapter 3. The following park recommendations are a reflection of the site inventory, analysis, and public input.





RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS - SHORT TERM

SIGNAGE (IDENTITY, UNITY)

Develop a city standard way-finding signage package that is aesthetically pleasing and functional.

SITE FURNITURE (UNITY)

Replace existing site furniture with a city standard that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional. Site furniture should include all trash receptacles, benches, stadium benches, fencing, grills and picnic tables. All materials are to be complimentary (similar color and material).

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS (FUNCTIONALITY)

Additional sidewalks and/or paths are needed to allow for linkages between existing programmed elements. This allows for easy access, ADA compliance and more defined spaces. There are opportunities to update the existing pedestrian bridge railing for aesthetic appeal and add nature trails throughout the park.

Bicentennial also has the unique opportunity to provide city trail connections to larger city and regional networks.

RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS - LONG TERM

PLAYGROUND (SUITABILITY)

Although a playground is recorded in the inventory, there is equipment within the park that is outdated and/or aged. It is recommended the pieces be replaced or removed.

DOG PARK & REGIONAL PROGRAMMING (SUITABILITY)

The citizen survey unveiled that an off-leash dog park would be desired. This regional park would allow both space and access for this facility.

The size and unique terrain of Bicentennial Park lends itself to a programming style that would make it both a local and regionally sought after destination. This type of programming could include: specialty playgrounds/dog parks, off-road biking, competition level disc golf, nature center, etc.

SHADE STRUCTURE (UNITY)

Although there is an existing shade structure, it is recommended the city adopt a town standard for all parks. Shade structure to be both aesthetically pleasing and functional. Material shall be complementary to overall site furniture.

VEHICULAR ACCESS (FUNCTIONALITY)

Site access points and entrance visibility should be re-examined for best possible park entry points and vehicular circulation within the park boundaries.

PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING (FUNCTIONALITY)

Pedestrian lighting recommended for safety.

05: Key Findings & Needs Assessments

DIONNE BAGSBY ALL-SPORTS COMPLEX



Overall Assessment

Dionne Bagsby is identified as a sports complex according to NRPA classification standards. Sports Complexes should be organized for sports activities and groups. Dionne Bagsby accomplishes this objective by providing the following sports facilities: baseball and softball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and soccer fields.

Although programmed elements are offered at this park, improvements are recommended per the opportunities and constraints outlined in chapter 3. The following park recommendations are a reflection of the **master plan vision**, site inventory, analysis, and public input.





RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS - SHORT TERM

SIGNAGE (IDENTITY)

Replace existing entry signage to complement the City of Crowley's branding efforts, while also creating a unique identity marker for Dionne Bagsby All-Sporty Complex. New signage shall be constructed of similar materials (at each park) for a cohesive, standard look.

SITE FURNITURE/GUARD RAILS (UNITY)

Replace existing site furniture guard rails with a city standard that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional. Site furniture to include all trash receptacles, benches, stadium benches, fencing, grills and picnic tables. All materials are to be complimentary (similar color and material).

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS (FUNCTIONALITY)

Additional sidewalks and/or paths are needed to allow for linkages between existing programmed elements. This would allow for easy access, ADA compliance and more defined spaces. Existing sidewalk need to be repaved and widened.

RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS - LONG TERM

VEHICULAR ACCESS (FUNCTIONALITY, UNITY)

Existing vehicular footprint should be revisited (layout and material) to reduce pavement and maintenance efforts. Vehicular barriers to be replaced for aesthetic appeal.

SHADE STRUCTURE (UNITY)

Add shade structure that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional. Material shall be complimentary to overall site furniture. City standard to be identified for shade structure.

RESTROOMS (FUNCTIONALITY)

In conjunction with increased demand, expand existing restroom facilities with portable toilets.

PLAYGROUND (SUITABILITY, UNITY)

Shaded playground equipment and exercise equipment are recorded in the inventory. It is recommended the pieces be replaced overtime as they wear to complement the City of Crowley's standard.

05: Key Findings & Needs Assessments

Visual Preference Assessment

On December 10, 2019, the City of Crowley hosted a Town Hall to gather public input for both the Comprehensive Plan and the Parks and Trails Master Plan (both developed concurrently).

In regard to the Parks and Trails Master Plan, the consultant displayed six (6) graphic boards for public review and comment.

Board outline:

Board 1- Benchmarks

- National and regional averages
- Crowley at a glance

Board 2 - Existing Parks and Proximity

- Existing park classifications
- Existing amenities within Crowley parks

Board 3 - Master Plan

- Existing open space - potential parkland
- Connectivity + Linkages

Boards 4-6 - Visual Preference (Dotting Boards)

- 9 Categories for voting (1 Dot per Vote)
- Note: Numbers on subsequent pages represent votes
- Categories based on results from the citizen survey
- Seeking big picture aesthetic preferences

Visual Preference Assessment:

Off-Leash Dog Park Preference:

Shade and Shelter for dog owners

Children's Playground Preference:

Colorful, Unique play structures

Splash Pad Preference:

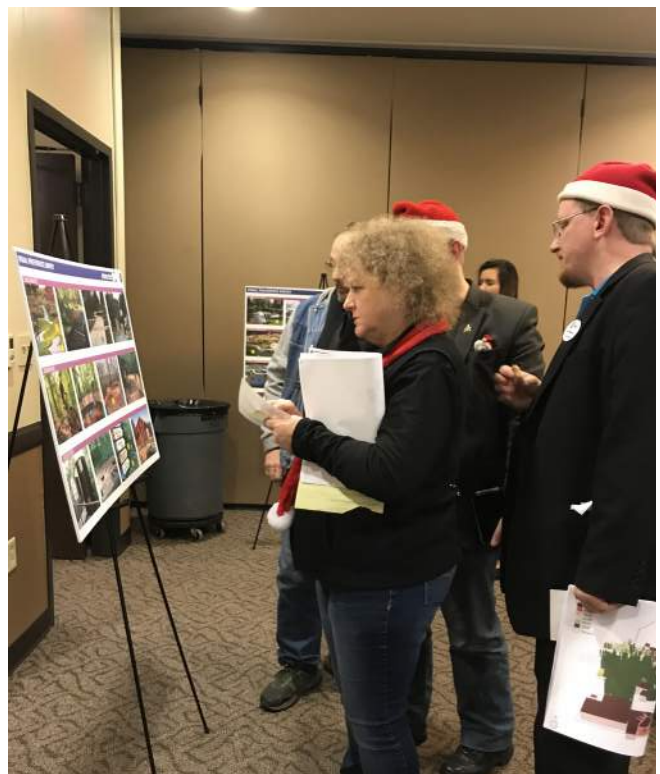
Nature Themed, Changes in elevation

Multi-Purpose Trail Preference:

Blend into surroundings

Mountain Bike Preference:

Changes in surface material and elevation



OFF LEASH DOG PARK



CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND



SPLASH PAD



MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL



MOUNTAIN BIKE



NATURE CENTER



05: Key Findings & Needs Assessments

PICNIC FACILITIES



LARGE COMMUNITY PARK



SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



Visual Preference Assessment Continued:

Nature Center:

Minimalist, Way-finding signage

Picnic Facilities:

Traditional wood frame with stone accents

Large Community Park:

Varied activities, defined spaces, changes in topography

Small Neighborhood Park:

Traditional playground, open space



Key Findings and Needs Summary

This chapter provides recommendations for future level of service and park improvements for both short and long-term initiatives. All observations and recommendations are summarized and categorized per the adopted Park and Trails Master Plan vision, promoting identity, suitability, functionality, and unity.

The vision should help guide both existing and future parks and trails within the city. A summary of each objective (per key findings) is as follows:

Identity:

- Create an identity for existing and future parks by establishing a standard that complements the City's brand and logo. This should be reflected in entry signage, way-finding, furniture, and prefabricated structures.
- Identify spaces for social gathering opportunities. Examples: Enhance picnic areas and add additional amenities to existing parks such as a dedicated dog park.

Suitability:

- Design layouts and programming should blend well with existing conditions.
- It is recommended that a consultant develop a renovation design concept for each existing park.

Functionality:

- Focus on functionality. Address drainage issues as needed
- Work towards developing renovation concepts that address access and reduce maintenance.

Unity:

- Develop an overall standard for entry signage, way-finding, furniture, and prefabricated structures. Materials should complement each other, blend well with the surroundings and create a signature 'look' for Crowley.



Section 06: Implementation

Priorities

Action Plan

Partnerships and Funding

06: Implementation



Priorities

The recommendations made in this master plan are the result of community outreach and data driven analyses. This chapter focuses on implementation by identifying priorities, developing an action plan, and highlighting opportunities for partnerships and funding.

It is the intent of this master plan to implement the goals identified in Chapter 1, (identity, suitability, functionality, and unity), with the subsequent priorities and recommendations identified in this section to help guide city staff in development efforts for Parks and Trails in the City of Crowley.

This master plan is meant to be a 'living document', allowing staff to record accomplishments and plan for new initiatives as they relate to delivering high quality facilities and programming to the citizens of Crowley (young and old).

The citizen survey asked the following question: Which initiatives should the city prioritize for future implementation? Please rank in order of most important. The results are as follows:

1. Develop and improve facilities
2. More passive recreation (picnic areas, walking trails, etc.)
3. More active recreation (sports fields and playgrounds)
4. Acquire land for future development
5. Natural areas preservation
6. Non-motorized trails

The order of importance outlined by public participation, although valued, is only one form of analysis. After reviewing existing conditions, future land use initiatives, and considering city staff feedback, it is recommended that the City of Crowley adopt the revised order of priorities on the subsequent page.

Recommended Order of Priorities:

1. **Develop and improve facilities**
2. **More passive recreation (picnic areas, walking trails, etc.)**
3. **Non-motorized trails**
4. **Natural areas preservation**
5. **Acquire land for future development**
6. **More active recreation (sports fields and playgrounds)**

Develop and Improve Facilities



Recommendation: ‘developing and improving existing facilities’ should remain a top priority as Crowley identifies future initiatives for the Parks and Trails system.

This can be accomplished by coordinating with a consultant to further analyze each park and develop individual design concepts focused on renovation.

Identified by residents as Crowley’s most popular park, it is recommended that a master design concept be developed for Bicentennial Park. The concept should include, some of the top amenities identified in the citizen survey: trails, dog-park, play-equipment, accessibility, covered-picnic-areas and lighting in a capacity that is consistent with regional park standards as described in chapter 3. Circulation, visibility, branding and other key findings identified in chapter 5 should also be addressed in the master plan. Costs, feasibility and funding should be reviewed and analyzed prior to implementation.

Recommendation: city should engage a consultant to develop a design concept and cost opinion for one of the priority trail segments, identified at the end of chapter 4. Consultant and city should discuss potential funding sources for implementation prior to the design concept. Costs and feasibility to be reviewed and analyzed prior to implementation.

Reminder: This document is to serve as a guide

for design development. Suggested master plans are to aide in creating an **identity** for the parks and trails system and to secure funding.

More Passive Recreation



Recommendation: When reviewing opportunities to improve existing facilities, focus on passive recreation. Public input favored passive amenities such as trails, picnic areas and open space for multi-use purposes.

In alignment with recommendations made in chapter 5, provide updates to existing picnic areas with new shelters that are both aesthetically pleasing and **functional**. A standard specification should be approved by the city to emphasize **unity** across city parks.

Similar to priority number one it is recommended that this process begins with Bicentennial Park. After a standard is developed within Bicentennial it can be replicated in other parks based on need and available funding.

Non-motorized Trails



Recommendation: As favored in the citizen survey, incorporate both multi-purpose trails and nature trails where appropriate (passive recreation). According to the organization American Trails, a multi-purpose trail or a ‘shared-use path’ is a circulation system that supports multiple avenues for recreation including walking, bicycling, in-line skating and wheelchairs. These trails are not developed for motorized vehicles and should be **suitable** to existing conditions.

Recommendation for implementation is based on chapter 4, best opportunity for funding and the individual design concepts as they are developed for each park.

06: Implementation

Natural Area Preservation



Recommendation: Use this document as a guide for preserving open space. Park and open space identified in this document are in alignment with the comprehensive plan and future land-use plan. City officials should adopt an open space resolution to require developers design around these areas and dedicate trail easements according to the trail routes developed in chapter 4 of this document.

Acquire Land for Future Development



Recommendation: Acquiring additional land for future park or trail use is projected to be limited in Crowley due to future development plans, existing ownership and ultimate build-out. Reference future land use plan.

Per the recommendation of maintaining a LOS of 5 acres, per 1000 residents for the city, Crowley has an adequate amount of parkland dedicated (78.25 acres), to date. This total, however, will need to almost double, to 137 acres, by 2045 to keep up with the growing population demands. Although this priority ranked number four, opportunities for acquisition should be a high priority as new development enters the city and opportunities for parkland donations and floodplain acquisition become available.

It is recommended the city prioritize implementing open space resolutions (as developers present new plans) that are in alignment with this master plan, the comprehensive plan and the future land use plan. This will ensure parkland, open space, and new trail corridors are preserved.

More Active Recreation



Recommendation: As mentioned, the focus should be placed on developing and improving existing parks. There are opportunities to update existing playground facilities and create an identity that complements Crowley's brand while keeping a unified aesthetic throughout the park system.

Currently, the facilities offered at each park are in-line with the classifications identified by the NRPA (outlined in Chapter 3), but, updates are needed and welcomed.

After analysis of existing conditions and overall needs, it is not recommended the city invest in additional sports facilities in the short term, but rather should focus on updating existing facilities and adding in the priority amenities identified in the citizen survey. However, the need should be reevaluated in 5 to 10 years.

Action Plan

An action plan is a tool that translates the diverse and detailed recommendations within the Parks and Trails Master Plan into actionable items. These action items are grouped in short and long term increments. The action plan is not intended to serve as a business plan or capital improvement plan for the City of Crowley. Rather, the primary goals of the action plan are as follows:



1. Provide guidance for the capital improvement plan
2. Illustrate the City's goals in order to pursue grants and other funding opportunities
3. Act as a plan available in the event of an unforeseen financial gain

In past years, parks and recreation have not had consistent funding. It is recommended this funding effort be revisited as a priority moving forward to ensure quality of life for the citizens of Crowley. Funding for these action items is an overall goal and will be further explained later in this chapter.

Ongoing Initiatives

- Establish an official park and recreation department by hiring staff to focus on implementing the master plan, manage the budget and oversee park and trail maintenance efforts
- Update parkland and open space dedication policies and/or resolutions (to be implemented by city council)
- Engage a consultant to review and implement funding opportunities for park and trail initiatives
- Develop yearly progress reports to track progress and new initiatives

Short Term Initiatives

- Coordinate with a consultant to further analyze each park and develop individual master plans focused on renovation. Costs and feasibility to be reviewed and analyzed prior to implementation. It is recommended this process begin with Bicentennial Park.
- Engage a consultant to develop individual trail feasibility and construction plans according to the priority recommendations identified in chapter 4. Costs, funding and feasibility to be reviewed and analyzed prior to implementation.
- Facilitate a partnership with the ISD to establish

an equitable way for the community to utilize after school sports programs and to satisfy unmet neighborhood park and recreational needs.

Long Term Initiatives

- Revise the position of the current parks coordinator to take on additional responsibility, including overseeing maintenance and operations and providing initial, overall direction using this document as the guide.
- Adopt a maintenance management plan to avoid deferred maintenance and maintain facilities, parks and trails. In conjunction, develop special management plans specifically for natural areas.
- Engage a consultant to implement park renovation projects identified in the master plan.
- Update the Parks and Trails Master Plan every five (5) years to revisit priorities and recommendations, per newly gathered public input. This will allow the city to receive feedback from the public and position itself to be in good standing with grant opportunities, such as grants offered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

Partnerships and Funding

The following are recommendations for partnerships and funding as they relate to this document.

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, several grant reimbursement assistance programs are available to communities for a variety of recreational uses. These include:

06: Implementation

Local Park Grants Program

This grant provides a 50% match of funds to acquire property and/or develop outdoor or indoor recreational facilities. The grant is funded by several sources including the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, Texas Recreation and Parks Account and the Texas Large County and Municipality Recreation and Parks Account. Only local governments can apply, and they must ensure project areas are dedicated to public recreational use.

Community Outdoor Outreach Program

Grants are awarded with a \$50,000 limit, with tax exemption to encourage organizations to introduce programs and facilities offered by the TPWD to underrepresented groups. No match is required. Funding source: Texas Recreation and Parks Account.



Recreational Trails Program

Under this program, local governments are provided an 80% match to construct or improve their recreational trails (public). Non-motorized trails have a \$200,000 cap, while off-highway, vehicle motorized trails have a \$400,000 cap. Funding source: Portion of the federal gas tax generated by off-highway vehicles such as motorcycles and ATVS

A 2020 Transportation Alternatives (TA)

According to NCTCOG, a call for projects for the North Central Texas Region will open towards the beginning of each new year. The eligible

projects will be awarded approximately \$20 million in TA funds for construction activities. Examples of eligible projects include on-and off road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, shared use paths and related pedestrian and bicycle safety countermeasures.

Bonds

Investment needed for large recreational projects can be obtained through a bond referendum and/or vote that seeks approval from the citizens to approve debt financing.

Capital Improvement Programs

A capital improvement program (CIP) is also known as a capital investment plan. The capital investment plan is a plan for expenditures of a government to be incurred each year over a period of years. Capital projects are primarily for expensive project endeavors such as infrastructure, buildings, and land that have a useful life expectancy that exceeds one year. Park acquisition, trail construction and other recreational projects that require funds to be borrowed can be looped into the town's CIP.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) National Scenic Byways Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation's FHWA has the lead responsibility for the National Scenic Byways Program. Grants are made available to States in order to implement projects on highways designated as state scenic byways (and other roads).



Appendix I:

Appendix 1

Citizen Survey - 2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan

What are the ages of those in your household?

Approximately how often have you or someone in your home utilized the existing Crowley park system or facilities in past 12 months?

☐ 1-5 visits

☐ 6-10 visits

☐ 11 or more visits

☐ Don't know.

Please CHECK ALL the reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION FACILITIES in City of Crowley

☐ (01) Facilities are not well maintained ☐ (02) Program or facility not offered ☐ (03) Facilities do not have the right equipment ☐ (04) Security is insufficient ☐ (05) Lack of quality programs ☐ (06) Too far from our residence ☐ (07) Health problems ☐ (08) Use services of other organizations ☐ (09) Poor customer service by staff ☐ (10) I do not know locations of facilities ☐ (11) Availability of parking ☐ (12) I do not know what is being offered ☐ (13) Other: _____

Please indicate if YOU or any member of your HOUSEHOLD has a need for each of the parks and recreational facilities listed below by circling the YES or NO next to the recreational facility.

Does your household have a need for: Yes or No of these facilities? Yes or No

Does City of Crowley Need More

(A) Youth soccer fields	Yes.....	No.....	Yes.....	No.....
(B) Youth baseball and softball fields	Yes.....	No.....	Yes.....	No.....
(C) Youth football fields.....	Yes.....	No.....	Yes.....	No.....
(D) Outdoor tennis courts	Yes.....	No.....	Yes.....	No.....
(E) Adult softball fields	Yes.....	No.....	Yes.....	No.....
(F) Children's playgrounds	Yes.....	No.....	Yes.....	No.....
(G) Off-leash dog park	Yes.....	No.....	Yes.....	No.....
(H) Splash pad	Yes.....	No.....	Yes.....	No.....
(I) Large community parks	Yes.....	No.....	Yes.....	No.....

(J) Small neighborhood parks Yes..... No..... Yes..... No.....
 (K) Basketball Courts..... Yes..... No..... Yes..... No.....
 (L) Multi-purpose trails Yes..... No..... Yes..... No.....
 (M) Mountain bike trails..... Yes..... No..... Yes..... No.....
 (N) Community Commons/Green space Yes..... No..... Yes..... No.....
 (O) Picnic facilities/shelters Yes..... No..... Yes..... No.....
 (P) Rollerblade or inline skating facilities Yes..... No..... Yes..... No.....
 (Q) Nature Center..... Yes..... No..... Yes..... No.....
 (R) Other: _____

What trail initiatives should City of Crowley invest as a priority? Check all that apply:

☐ bike lanes/trails on street
☐ nature trails
☐ equestrian trails
☐ multi-purpose off street paved trails

Which initiatives should City of Crowley prioritize for future implementation? Check all that apply.

☐ Acquire land for future development
☐ Develop and improve existing facilities
☐ Develop more active recreation opportunities (sports fields, playground etc.)
☐ Develop more passive recreation opportunities (walking trails, picnicking, etc.)
☐ Natural areas preservation
☐ Non-motorized trails

Which Crowley parks have you visited in the last year?

_____ Bicentennial Park
 _____ Teeter Park
 _____ Park in your neighborhood (please tell us which neighborhood park
 _____)
 _____ Dione Bagsby Sports Complex

Appendix 1

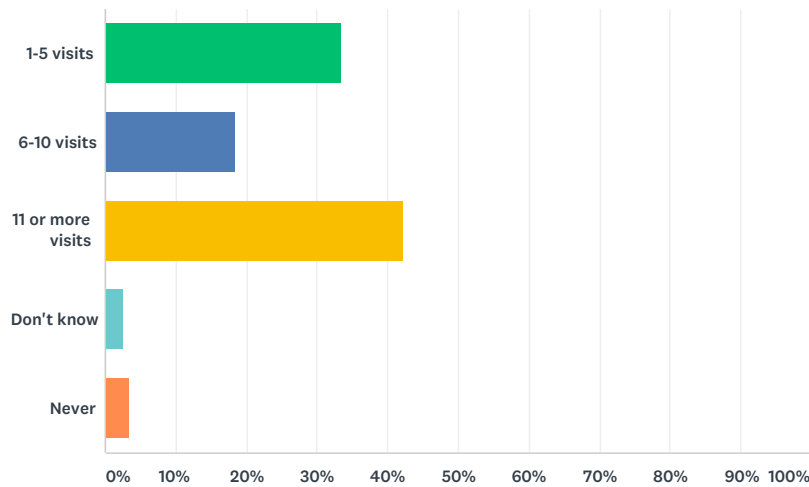
What is your favorite Crowley park and why?

If you could design your own park, what amenities would that park include?

2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

Q1 Approximately how often have you or someone in your home utilized the existing Crowley park system or facilities in past 12 months?

Answered: 206 Skipped: 0



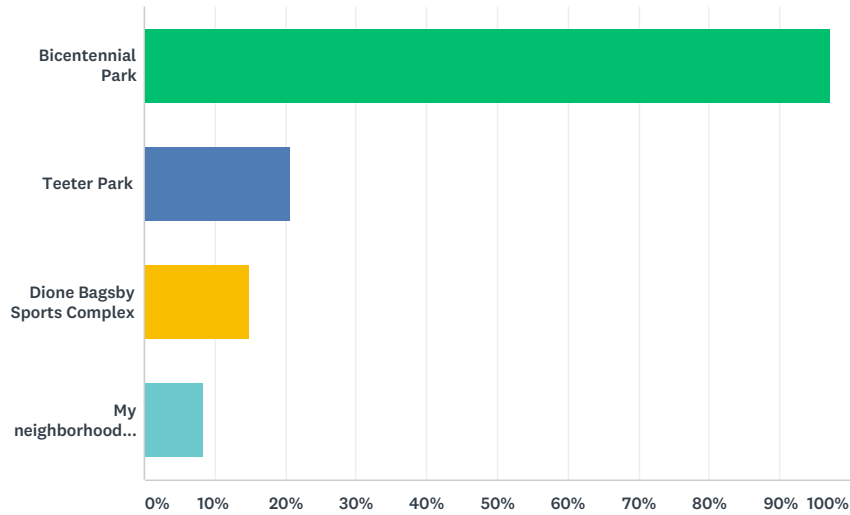
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1-5 visits	33.50%	69
6-10 visits	18.45%	38
11 or more visits	42.23%	87
Don't know	2.43%	5
Never	3.40%	7
TOTAL		206

Appendix 1

2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

Q2 Which Crowley parks have you visited in the last year?

Answered: 203 Skipped: 3

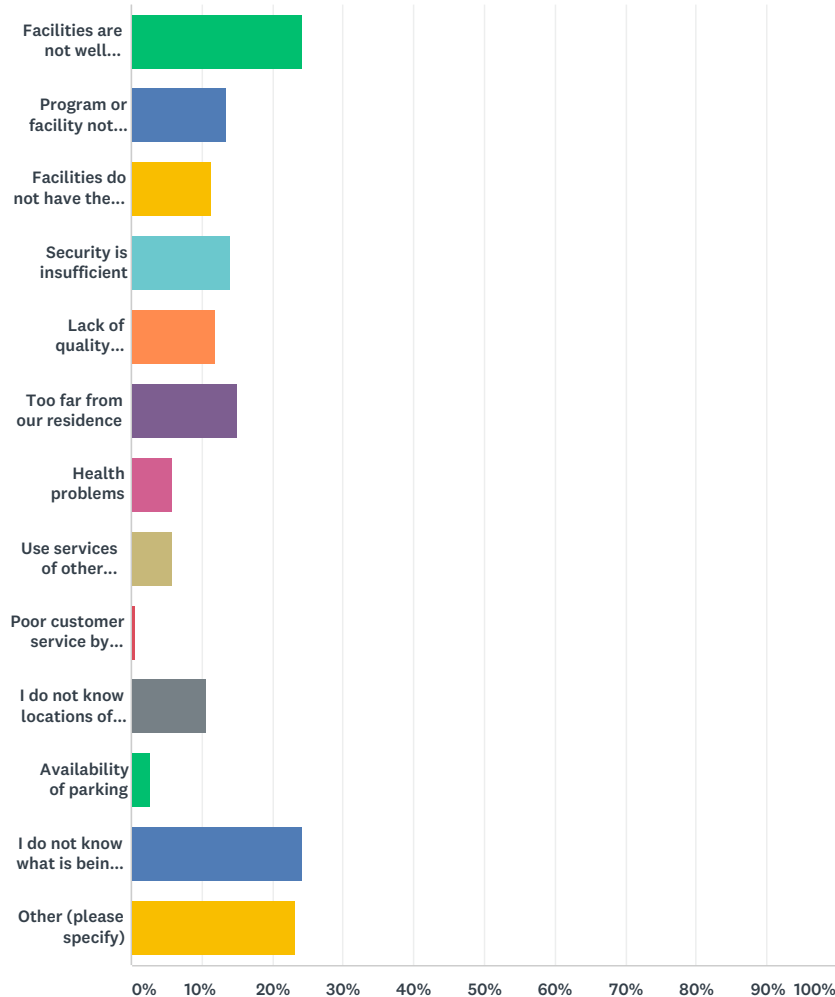


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bicentennial Park	97.04%	197
Teeter Park	20.69%	42
Dione Bagsby Sports Complex	14.78%	30
My neighborhood park (please specify)	8.37%	17
Total Respondents: 203		

2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

Q3 Please check ALL of the following reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using parks, trails, or recreation services in City of Crowley.

Answered: 186 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Facilities are not well maintained	24.19%	45
Program or facility not offered	13.44%	25
Facilities do not have the right equipment	11.29%	21
Security is insufficient	13.98%	26

Appendix 1

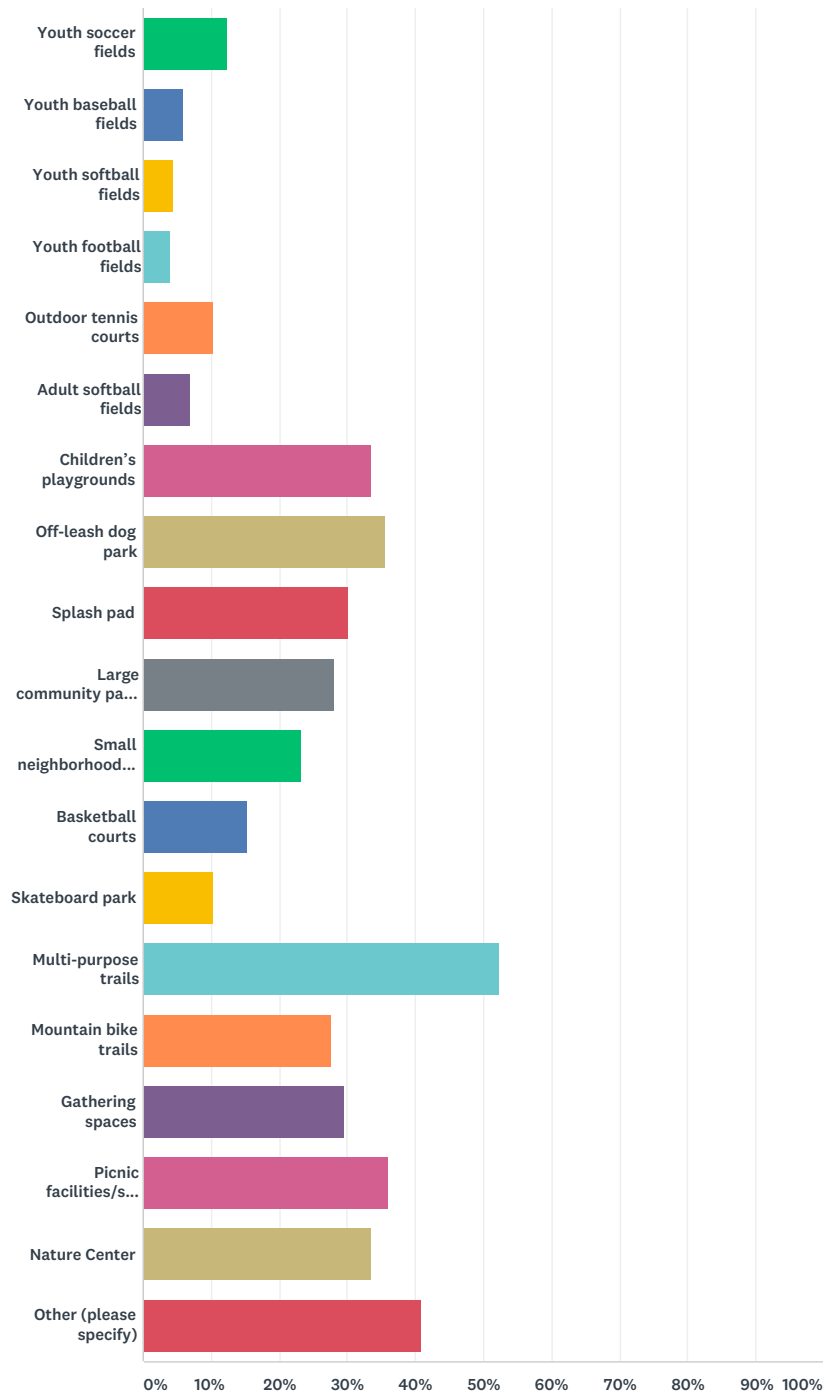
2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

Lack of quality programs	11.83%	22
Too far from our residence	15.05%	28
Health problems	5.91%	11
Use services of other organizations	5.91%	11
Poor customer service by staff	0.54%	1
I do not know locations of facilities	10.75%	20
Availability of parking	2.69%	5
I do not know what is being offered	24.19%	45
Other (please specify)	23.12%	43
Total Respondents: 186		

2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

Q4 Does your household have a need for the following facilities? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 203 Skipped: 3



Appendix 1

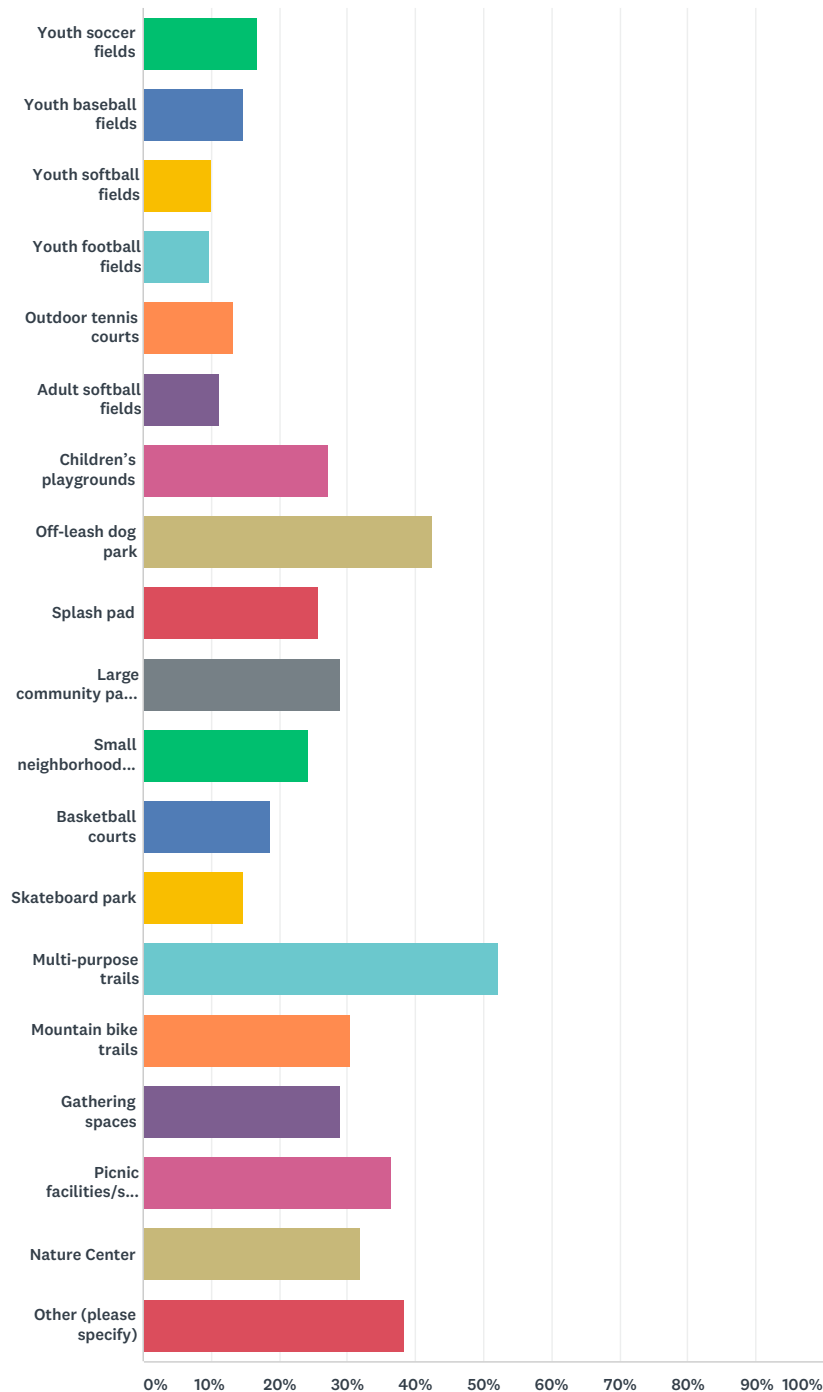
2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Youth soccer fields	12.32%	25
Youth baseball fields	5.91%	12
Youth softball fields	4.43%	9
Youth football fields	3.94%	8
Outdoor tennis courts	10.34%	21
Adult softball fields	6.90%	14
Children's playgrounds	33.50%	68
Off-leash dog park	35.47%	72
Splash pad	30.05%	61
Large community parks	28.08%	57
Small neighborhood parks	23.15%	47
Basketball courts	15.27%	31
Skateboard park	10.34%	21
Multi-purpose trails	52.22%	106
Mountain bike trails	27.59%	56
Gathering spaces	29.56%	60
Picnic facilities/shelters	35.96%	73
Nature Center	33.50%	68
Other (please specify)	40.89%	83
Total Respondents: 203		

2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

Q5 Does the city of Crowley have a need for the following facilities?
(Check all that apply)

Answered: 198 Skipped: 8



Appendix 1

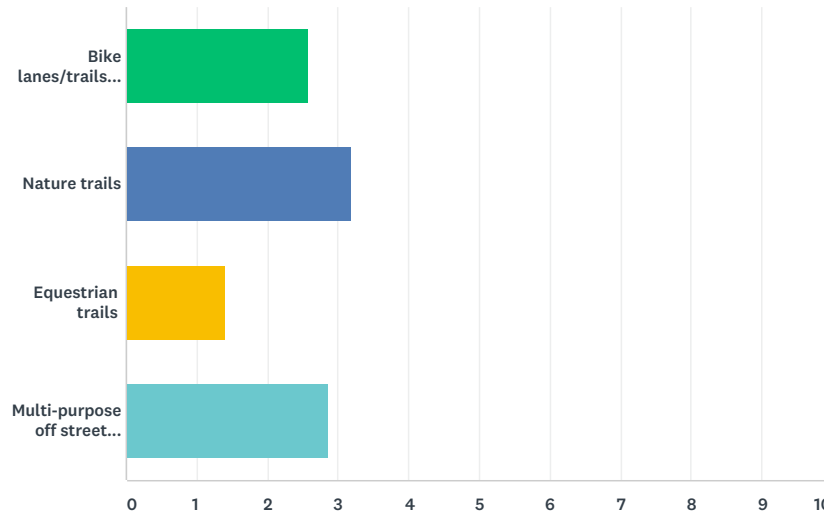
2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Youth soccer fields	16.67%	33
Youth baseball fields	14.65%	29
Youth softball fields	10.10%	20
Youth football fields	9.60%	19
Outdoor tennis courts	13.13%	26
Adult softball fields	11.11%	22
Children's playgrounds	27.27%	54
Off-leash dog park	42.42%	84
Splash pad	25.76%	51
Large community parks	28.79%	57
Small neighborhood parks	24.24%	48
Basketball courts	18.69%	37
Skateboard park	14.65%	29
Multi-purpose trails	52.02%	103
Mountain bike trails	30.30%	60
Gathering spaces	28.79%	57
Picnic facilities/shelters	36.36%	72
Nature Center	31.82%	63
Other (please specify)	38.38%	76
Total Respondents: 198		

2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

Q6 What trail initiatives should City of Crowley invest in as a priority? Please rank the following in order of most importance.

Answered: 196 Skipped: 10



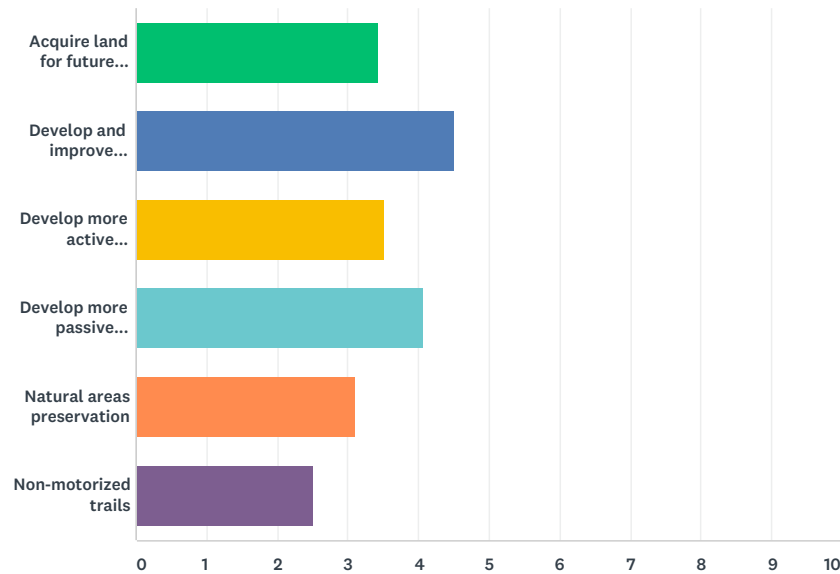
	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Bike lanes/trails on street	23.16% 41	25.99% 46	36.16% 64	14.69% 26	177	2.58
Nature trails	44.39% 83	32.62% 61	18.72% 35	4.28% 8	187	3.17
Equestrian trails	2.84% 5	5.68% 10	19.89% 35	71.59% 126	176	1.40
Multi-purpose off street paved trails	31.58% 60	34.74% 66	22.11% 42	11.58% 22	190	2.86

Appendix 1

2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

Q7 Which initiatives should City of Crowley prioritize for future implementation? Please rank the following in order of most important.

Answered: 199 Skipped: 7

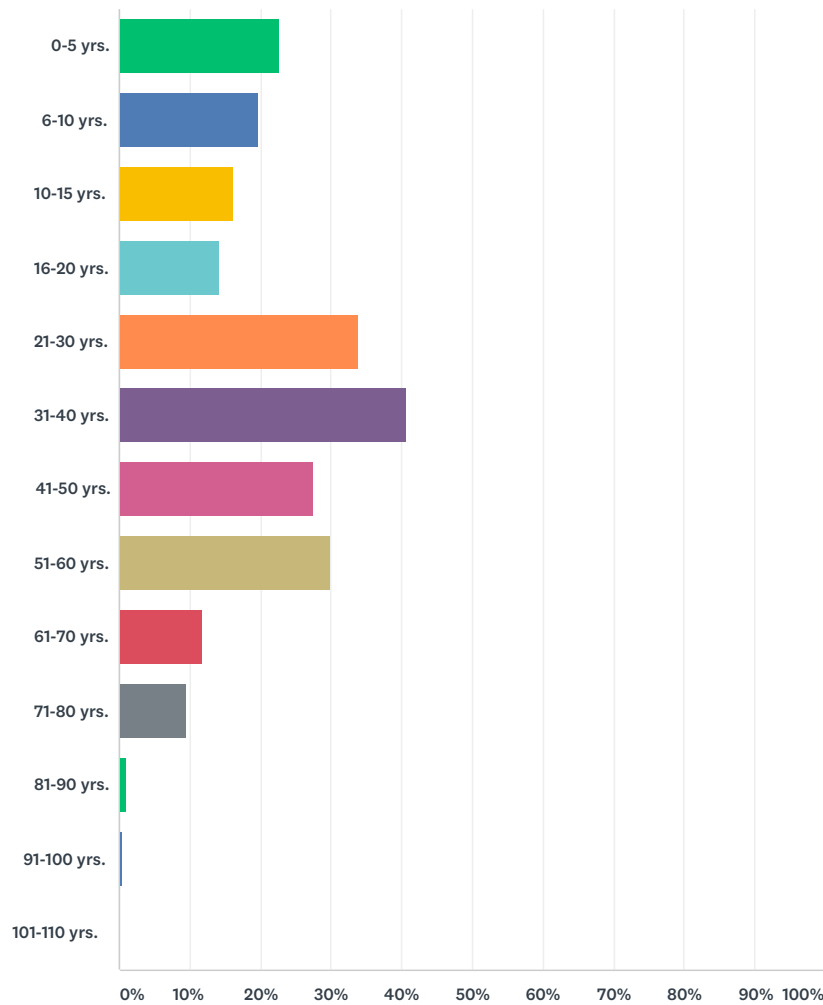


	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
Acquire land for future development	25.41% 46	13.26% 24	10.50% 19	9.94% 18	12.71% 23	28.18% 51	181	3.44
Develop and improve existing facilities	30.32% 57	29.79% 56	16.49% 31	11.70% 22	6.38% 12	5.32% 10	188	4.50
Develop more active recreation (sports fields, playgrounds, etc.)	8.79% 16	19.78% 36	25.82% 47	17.03% 31	17.03% 31	11.54% 21	182	3.52
Develop more passive recreation (picnicking, walking trails, etc.)	21.39% 40	18.18% 34	20.86% 39	27.27% 51	8.56% 16	3.74% 7	187	4.05
Natural areas preservation	10.00% 19	11.58% 22	12.63% 24	21.58% 41	32.63% 62	11.58% 22	190	3.10
Non-motorized trails	6.95% 13	9.09% 17	12.83% 24	10.70% 20	20.32% 38	40.11% 75	187	2.51

2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

**Q8 What are the ages of the people currently residing in your household?
Please check all that apply.**

Answered: 204 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-5 yrs.	22.55%	46
6-10 yrs.	19.61%	40
10-15 yrs.	16.18%	33
16-20 yrs.	14.22%	29
21-30 yrs.	33.82%	69

Appendix 1

2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

31-40 yrs.	40.69%	83
41-50 yrs.	27.45%	56
51-60 yrs.	29.90%	61
61-70 yrs.	11.76%	24
71-80 yrs.	9.31%	19
81-90 yrs.	0.98%	2
91-100 yrs.	0.49%	1
101-110 yrs.	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 204		

2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

Q9 What is your favorite Crowley park and why?

Answered: 199 Skipped: 7

2019 Parks & Trails Master Plan Citizen Survey

Q10 If you could design your own park, what amenities would that park include?

Answered: 197 Skipped: 9