

Introduction

Purpose of Parks Master Plan

The City of Rosenberg recognizes the importance of maintaining high-quality park and recreation facilities and programs that support healthy, active lifestyles in the community. In May of 2019, Burditt Consultants, LLC was engaged by the City to update the City's *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* to address current and future needs for improvements to existing parks and facilities and to identify opportunities for new parks and amenities desired by residents.

The master planning process seeks create a document that will achieve the following:

Step 1: Document the current conditions and needs within the existing parks, facilities, and community.

Step 2: Listen to and record the community's ideas, needs, concerns and desires for the park.

Step 3: Propose a future vision for the parks and establish priorities for what areas are to be redesigned, renovated, re-imagined, and programmed.

Step 4: Provide implementation guidance by developing conceptual drawings for proposed improvements along with preliminary opinions of probable cost to assist decision-makers during capital improvements, maintenance, and operational planning.

Planning Horizon

The *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* serves as both a visionary document that captures the community's desires and needs for parks and facilities, as well as a Capital Improvements Plan for the parks system over the next five to ten years. While looking at a ten year planning horizon, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) generally recommends updating the plan every five years to check off accomplishments and address needed changes brought upon by current conditions or opportunities.

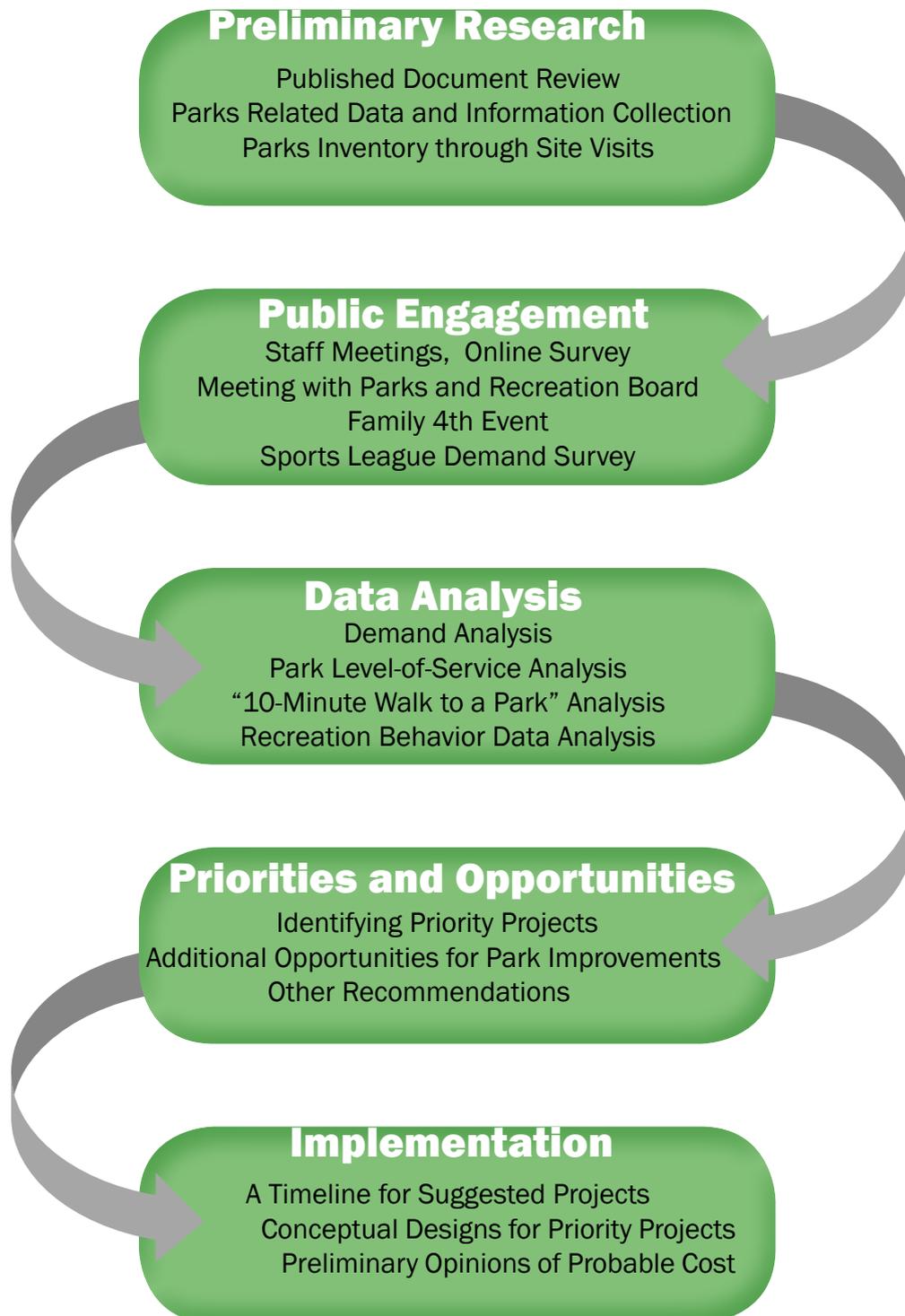
Planning Approach

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed using a three-fold technique that follows general methodologies accepted by TPWD for local park master plans and by the Department of the Interior for local park system Recovery Action Plans (RAP). The following approaches were implemented:

- **Standards-Based Approach** – uses standards established by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) to determine the quantity of park facilities required to meet the City's needs given the current population. Standards are usually expressed as the quantity of park facilities needed to adequately serve every 1,000 citizens of the City. The plan also evaluates the City's park level-of-service as function of a metric developed by the Trust For Public Land and NRPA to determine the distance of resident's homes to park land. The *10-Minute Walk to a Park* concept inspires communities to have safe access to a quality park or green space within a 10-minute walk of home. Other standards and metrics evaluate the available recreation resources provided by other entities within a 30-minute drive radius and compare the City of Rosenberg's performance with national, state average, and comparable Texas communities.
- **Demand-Based Approach** - uses direct public engagement, input from City Staff, elected officials, and boards, participation rates, league usage data, and online surveys to determine how much the population uses and desires certain types of recreation facilities.
- **Resource-Based Approach** - is based on the usefulness of available physical resources to provide recreation opportunities. For example, the City's street rights-of-way, floodplains, and drainage corridors provide opportunities for trail connections.

As national guidelines and standards are based on demographic trends rather than specific local desires, they must be fine-tuned to meet local conditions. It is important to recognize that national standards are simply guidelines or benchmarks that are intended to serve as a starting point for park planning. Each City has its own unique geographic, demographic, and socio-economic composition, and as such, the arbitrary application of national standards, as is often done, would not necessarily meet the needs of Rosenberg.

Development of the Rosenberg Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes the following key processes:



Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives have been derived from guiding principles adopted in the City’s comprehensive plan *Rosenberg: 2035* and intentions derived from stakeholder input:

Goal No. 1

Promote long-term attractiveness to investment by developing community-wide linkages, accessibility, and recreational amenities.

Objective 1.1 Locate parks in the neighborhoods that currently have no access to City parks based on the level-of-service gaps identified in the Master Plan.

Objective 1.2 Provide park amenities and recreation opportunities for people from all age groups.

Objective 1.3 Plan for equitable access to park and recreation facilities in town.

Goal No. 2

Incentivize development that is in harmony with natural resources

Objective 2.1 Preserve environmentally sensitive areas, designating greenbelts and open space for within parks for preservation rather than development.

Objective 2.2 Enhance the natural character of parks by adding natural trails and trees for natural shade and beautification.

Objective 2.3 Use Low Impact Development (LID) strategies to mitigate the impacts of flooding caused by park development.

Goal No.3

Improve quality of life in Rosenberg through the parks and recreation system.

Objective 3.1 Adding recreation facilities to accommodate the trending activities in Rosenberg.

Objective 3.2 Establish a trail network plan to accommodate the growing needs of running, walking and bicycling. Develop a trail network that connects City parks, neighborhoods, schools and public places.

Objective 3.3 Designate both indoor and out door event space for community festivals and family gathering.

Objectives 3.4 Organize more recreation programs for both adult and children.

