

# Chapter 4: The Desired State of Round Rock's Parks and Recreation System

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**"We do not quit playing because we grow old; we grow old because we quit playing"**

Oliver Wendell Holmes, US physician, poet, humorist

# Chapter 4

## Round Rock's Desired State

### Introduction

After discussing the current state of parks and recreation in Round Rock, this chapter seeks to determine the desired state. In order to determine the desired state, previous planning efforts with regards to parks and recreation are first evaluated so as to know what goals were made in the past and what has been achieved.

### Summary of Citywide Strategic Plan, Game On 2060

The City of Round Rock has recently completed the process of developing a citywide strategic master plan which is meant to guide the city staff and elected officials over the next 50 years. In order for Round Rock to achieve its desired vision, the Strategic Plan laid out seven strategies. Of these seven strategies, parks and recreation can have a direct impact in at least five of them: mobility and connectivity, recreation and culture, community and character, natural resources and the environment, and high value governance. Parks and recreation can achieve mobility and connectivity through a citywide hike and bike trail network. Recreation and culture can be achieved by recreation programs, youth and adult athletics, tourism, public art, and special events. The City's community and character can be enhanced through the Parks and Recreation Department by the facilities and the beautification offered by parks and streetscapes. The City's vision of having natural resources and being environmental is achieved through offering an abundant supply of parks,

open space and the City's leading role in environmental stewardship. High value governance can be achieved through the Parks and Recreation Department operations and maintenance procedures.

These five strategies will be continually mentioned throughout this Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan; and the benefits of parks and recreation will be explain which will help in the City achieving them.

### Round Rock's Downtown Master Plan

The purpose of the Round Rock Downtown Master Plan which will be completed in 2009 is to identify issues that make the downtown area more friendly and inviting to non-car users. By creating a walkable downtown district, Round Rock hopes to make the city a more desirable place to live and work, attracting new residents and businesses to the area.

Currently, Round Rock is developing a new municipal center, located in the Southwest portion of downtown. There is need for a pedestrian route to link the historic center to the new government buildings. In addition, walkable corridors are desired along Main Street by separating vehicular traffic from pedestrians, as well as creating a pleasant walking experience by addressing physical comfort issues, such as shade and safety. The Downtown Master Plan recommends developing a set of guidelines that focus on pedestrian and cyclist comfort and safety, and that call for side walks, travel

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lanes and increased safety at intersections.

Creating a citywide trails system will allow for all residents of Round Rock to be connected to downtown. A citywide trails system that connects to the downtown will give people alternate forms of transportation when accessing the shops, restaurants, and businesses that are expected to thrive in Downtown Round Rock.

During previous public input related to Downtown Round Rock, residents indicated that they felt Round Rock lacked a sense of place and that downtown had no public open spaces. Establishing downtown parks and green spaces will address both of these concerns. Developing open spaces for people to gather, as well as offering venues for downtown festivals and events will enhance the vitality of the downtown.

## Coordination with the City's Transportation Plan - Mobility and Connectivity

Mobility and connectivity is a strategic goal of the Game On 2060 Plan. Future road widening and construction projects are one means of providing bike lanes and walkways. The City's Transportation Plan identifies many roadway improvements, and identifies specific roadways along which wide sidewalks or even trail segments can be built. It is essential that every opportunity for trails be used, even if a few additional feet of right of way or additional construction dollars are required. It is very difficult and indeed in most cases impossible to retroactively build trails or acquire additional right-of-way once a roadway project is constructed. However, it is important that an effective review process takes place to ensure that roadway projects, where feasible, provide streetside trails, bike lanes and sidewalks that provide true mobility and connectivity, and meet the standards and guidelines presented in this Master Plan.

## 2004 Round Rock Trails Master Plan

The guiding principles of the 2004 Citywide Trails Master Plan were:

- Building a system - a completely interconnect system that covers all of Round Rock.
- Identity - convey the physical and historical character of Round Rock.
- Connectivity - enhance linkages between parks, neighborhoods, schools, neighborhood services and key civic and community destinations.
- Hierarchy - spine and regional trails should have adequate capacity and

amenities, while smaller trails focus more on connectivity.

- Access - access to the trail system must be maximized as much as possible.
- Learning - provide opportunities for people to learn about the environment.
- Beauty of the city - enhance physical appearance of the city.
- Partnerships - create public and private partnerships that will help build the entire system more quickly.
- Safety - trails allow users to go into or along areas that may have not been previously accessible. Efforts should be made to provide trails that meet established safety criteria.

Priority Trail Segments Recommended by the 2004 Trails Master Plan

- Completion of Brushy Creek Corridor throughout the city
- Dell to Clay Madsen trail upgrade
- Brushy Creek to Old Settlers Park connection
- Chandler Creek Trail from Old Settlers Park to Henry McNeil Park
- Onion Branch Trail from Brushy Creek to the Woods Park
- McNeil Road Trail
- Chandler Creek to HEC Campus
- Chandler Creek to TeraVista



The City's transportation plan should include other modes of transportation such as on-street bike lanes, off-street bikeways, and pedestrian trails.



Previous Planning Efforts



## Needs Assessment

Cities are similar to living beings in that they both evolve over time. Cities increase in size, the direction of growth changes, and populations shift within its boundaries. Round Rock has also changed over the past decade, with growth spreading in all directions of the city. The needs assessment compares the state of the city today with the park and recreation facilities and programs that it currently has. This assessment of what deficiencies exist in the parks system today is vital so that actions can address immediate deficiencies. It is also important to determine future needs and develop a plan of “actions” to address these needs.

The Needs Assessment is effectively the most critical component of the parks master planning effort. It is an analytical way of gauging what facilities are most needed and desired by the citizens of Round Rock, so as to determine which needs are the most critical.

Three techniques were used in evaluating the City of Round Rock’s current and future park needs. These techniques follow general methodologies accepted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for local park master plans and by the Department of the Interior for local park system Recovery Action Plans (RAP). These three methods are:

- Standards based assessment (using locally developed standards for facilities);
- Demand based assessment (using calculated or anticipated growth data); and
- Resource based assessment (using assessment of unique physical features in Round Rock).

All three techniques are important in their own way, but individually do not represent the entire assessment. This assessment, and the recommendations resulting from it, uses findings from all three techniques in a combined manner to determine what types of park and recreation facilities are needed in Round Rock. Ultimately, these needs are reviewed by the citizens of Round Rock and are determined to truly represent the key park and recreational needs of the city.

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## Level of Service Based Approach

Uses target levels of service established by the local jurisdiction, in this case the City of Round Rock, to determine the quantity of park facilities required to meet the city's needs of a given population. These target levels of service usually are expressed as the quantity of park facilities needed to adequately serve every 1,000 citizens of the city, or at a given ratio of each facility to a certain number of residents of Round Rock.

These targets are established to provide the level of service that the particular jurisdiction believes is most responsive to the amount of use and the interests of its citizens. This plan establishes individual city specific standards for Round Rock.

## Demand-Based Approach

Uses participation rates, league usage data, and citizen input to determine how much the population uses and desires different types of recreation facilities.

## Resource-Based Approach

The third method is based on the usefulness of available physical resources to provide recreation opportunities. For example, Brushy Creek provides exceptional opportunities for scenic parkways and nature trails, and in effect should become a key greenbelt spine in Round Rock.

## Level of Service Based Assessment of Needs

Many recreation needs assessments use national guidelines and standards to determine their facility needs. 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 in other park plans, would not necessarily meet the needs of that particular community. These "standards" are typically no longer used to project facility needs, since they are based on a "one size fits all" type of evaluation. Therefore this report does not use or consider national guideline "standards."

Rather, this master plan methodology utilizes the existing level of service in the city as a starting point and determines whether that level of service is adequate, or whether it needs to be increased or decreased. The methodology also takes into account the City's goal of being the Sports Capital of Texas and how that goal relates to a high need for tournament quality playing fields. Extensive public input is used to determine how to adjust the current level of service. Local needs and desires are used as the guiding criteria to mold these guidelines to meet the expectations of the citizens of Round Rock in a realistic manner.

Three types of level of service determinations are made as shown below.

## Spatial or Park Acreage Levels of Service

defines the acres of park land needed, and are usually expressed as a ratio of park acreage to population.

## Facility Levels of Service

defines the number of facilities recommended serving each particular recreation need. Facility standards are usually expressed as a ratio of units of a particular facility per population size. For example, a facility standard for a recreation center might be one square foot for every resident of the city.

## Development Guideline Standards

defines the exact spatial and dimensional requirements for a specific recreation area or facility. A neighborhood park, for example, might be required to have a playground, a basketball court and a picnic pavilion.

The methodology is generally used to determine the appropriate level of service is as follows:

Determine current supply, taking into account the quality of facilities (i.e. number of tennis matches available on all courts per year) or (acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents)

Determine demand (potential number of uses of each type of facility or park on an annual basis)

Determine the minimum population service requirement (basic level of service for that population - i.e. number of people served by each tennis court per year)

Determine the Recommended Level of Service for each key park element (number of tennis courts to serve the current and future population of the city)

## Target Park Acreage Levels of Service for Round Rock

The purpose of spatial levels of service for parks and recreational areas is to ensure that sufficient area is allocated for all the outdoor recreation needs of a community. They allow a city to plan ahead so that park land can be targeted and acquired before it is developed. These spatial standards are expressed as the number of acres of park land per 1,000 residents. The existing spatial levels of service for cities in Texas in general are shown below.

### Home based parks - Typical Levels of Service throughout Texas

- Neighborhood Parks - varies from 0.5 acres for every 1,000 residents to over 4 acres per 1,000 residents in cities that focus extensively on a small park network.
- Community Parks - varies from less than 2 acres for every 1,000 residents to over 8 acres for every 1,000 residents. Typical range in Texas is between 3 and 4 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Total close to home parks - varies from less than 3 acres for every 1,000 residents to over 12 acres per 1,000 population in a few cities. The typical average in Texas is approximately 4 to 5 acres.

### Typical Levels of Service for Other Types of Parks / Open Space

- Metropolitan or Regional Parks - varies from 5 to over 30 acres for every 1,000 residents. In some cities, large greenbelts or open space areas may distort this number.
- Special Purpose Parks - these vary greatly depending on the characteristics of each city, and typically have no general target level of service.
- Linear Parks / Linkage Parks - vary considerably from less than 1 acre for every 1,000 residents to over 20 acres per 1,000.
- Open Space Preserves - vary considerably from less than 1 acre for every 1,000 residents to over 50 acres per 1,000 depending on how open space is classified. For example, the surface area of a lake, while not accessible to anyone without a boat, could alter the ratio of open space in a city.

Typical overall levels of service in Texas - under 4 acres for every 1,000 residents to over 50 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Park acreage currently dedicated as park land, including both developed and undeveloped parks, as well as city-owned and non city-owned, totals 4,018.11 acres. The overall existing level of parks service in Round Rock is approximately 44.19 acres for every 1,000 residents.

## Neighborhood Parks in Round Rock

An acre of neighborhood park typically serves 200 to 1,000 residents. The existing level of service in Round Rock is 2.68 acres for every 1,000 residents when combining all city-owned neighborhood parkland, private amenity centers, HOA neighborhood parks and MUD neighborhood parks.

The recommended target level of service goal is 1.25 acres to 2 acres of neighborhood parks for every 1,000 residents. This target reflects the importance of having nearby parks as centerpieces of neighborhoods. Neighborhood parks should be integrated into their communities in a prominent manner and not layered in as an afterthought.

Round Rock currently has 252.06 acres of land dedicated as neighborhood parks, of which only 86.26 acres is city-owned neighborhood park land. Future neighborhood park needs to meet the target level of service are summarized below.

### Neighborhood Parks Level of Service (Existing)

- Recommended level of service – 1.25 to 2 acres per every 1,000 residents
- City Parks, Amenity Centers, HOAs and MUDs
  - Current acres - 252.06 acres
  - Current Level of Service – 2.68 acres per 1,000 population or one acre for every 373 residents
  - % of Recommended Level of Service - 134% to 214%

### Neighborhood Parks (Surplus or Deficit)

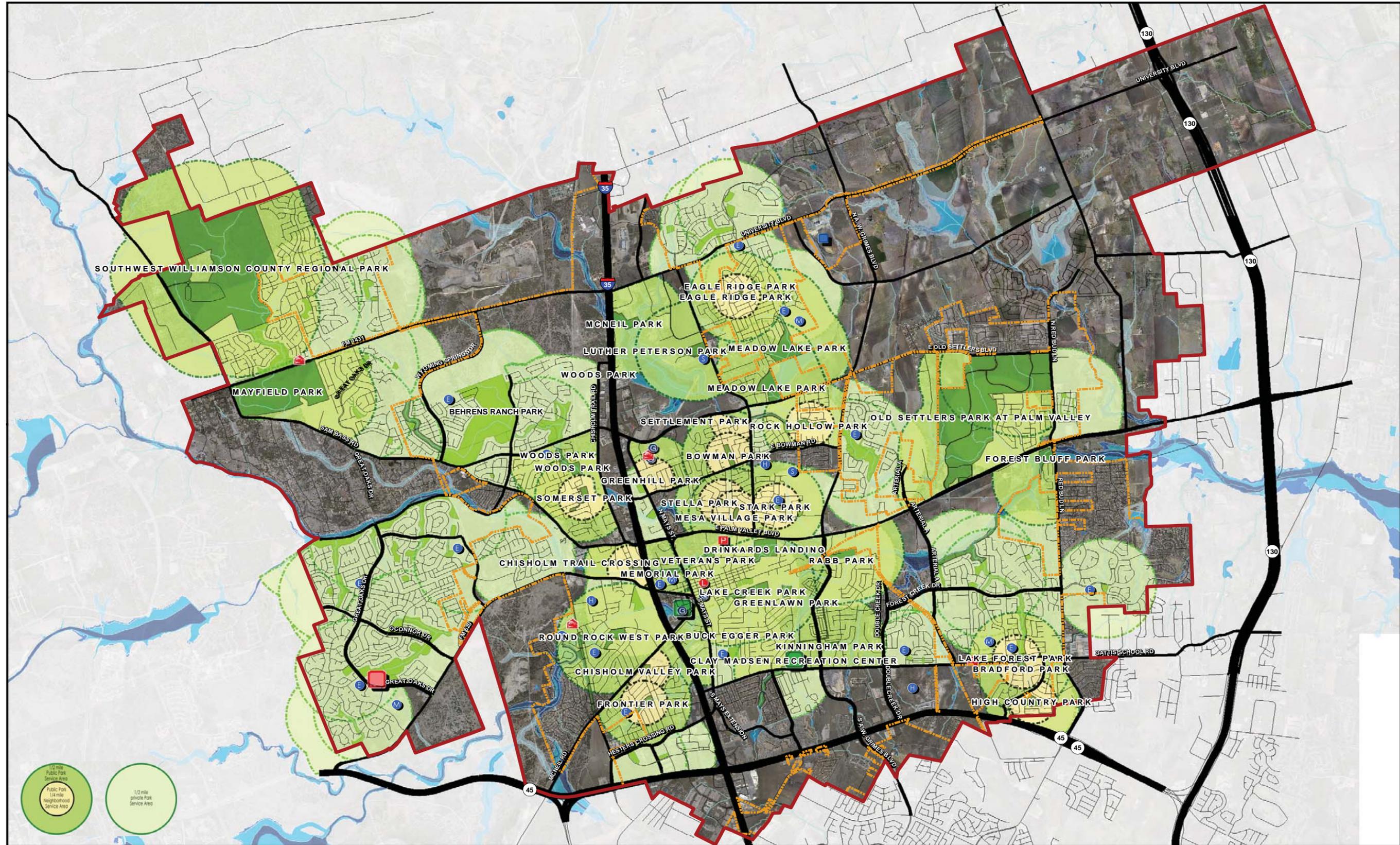
- Recommended level of service – 1.25 to 2 acres per every 1,000 residents (1 acre for every 500 to 800 residents of the city)
- Current 2008 need with 94,026 population – target of 118 to 188 acres, a surplus of 64 acres to 134 acres
- Year 2010 need with 100,815 population – target of 126 to 202 acres, a surplus of 50 acres to 126 acres
- Year 2020 need with 133,264 population – target of 167 to 267 acres, surplus of 85 acres to deficit of 15 acres

*Current Population from Round Rock Planning Department*



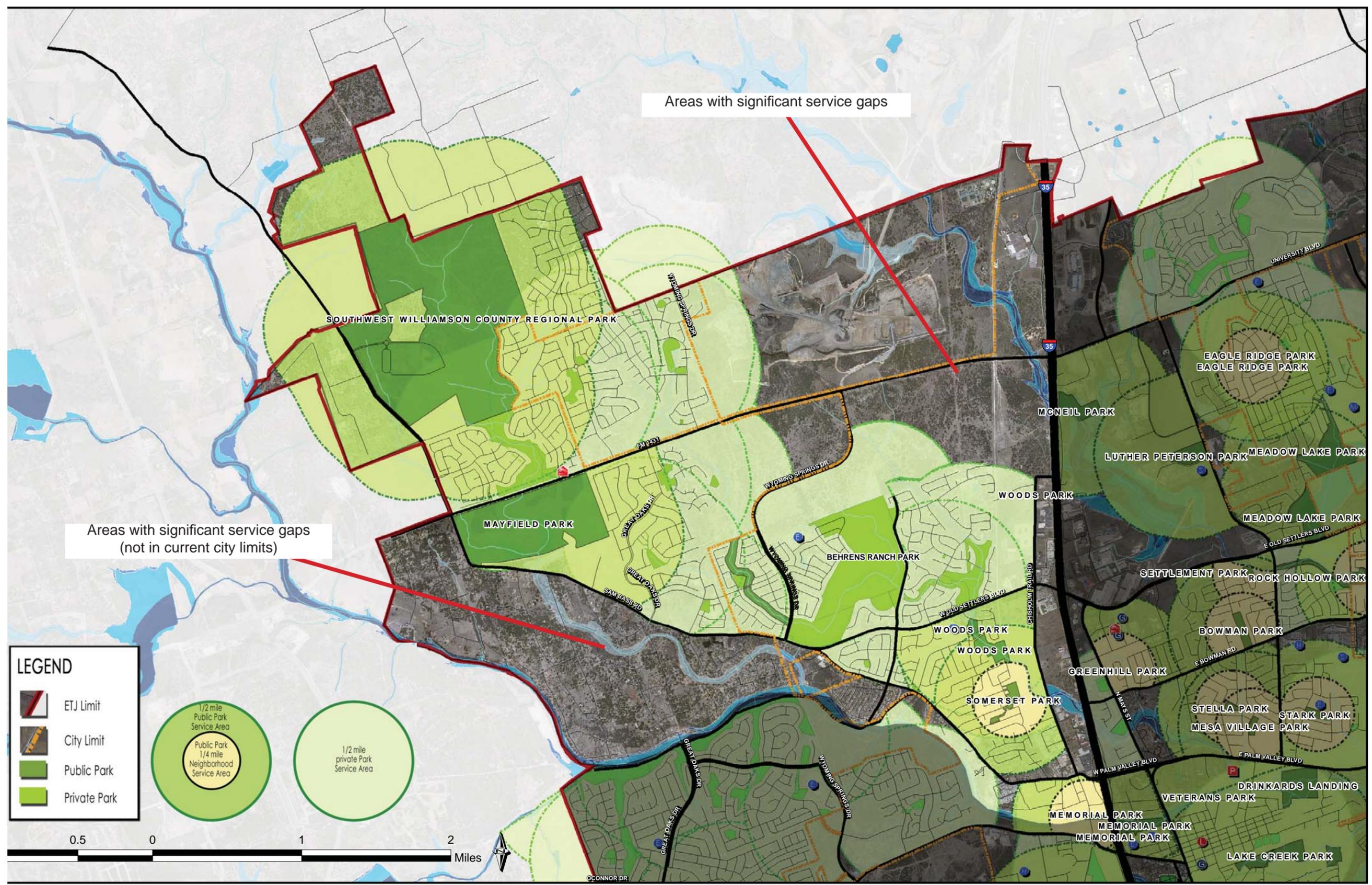
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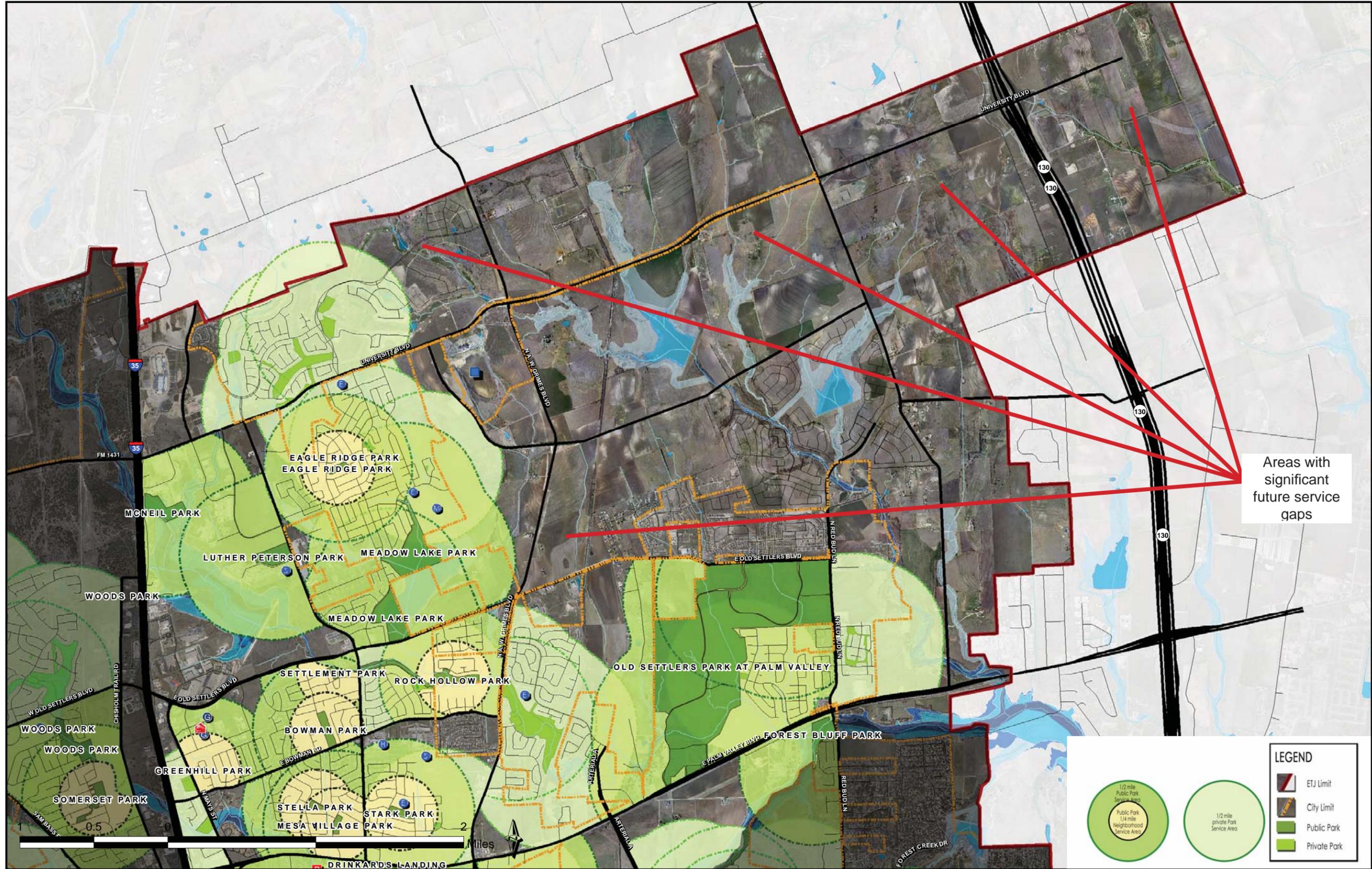
Neighborhood Park Service Areas

Northwest Neighborhood Park Service Areas



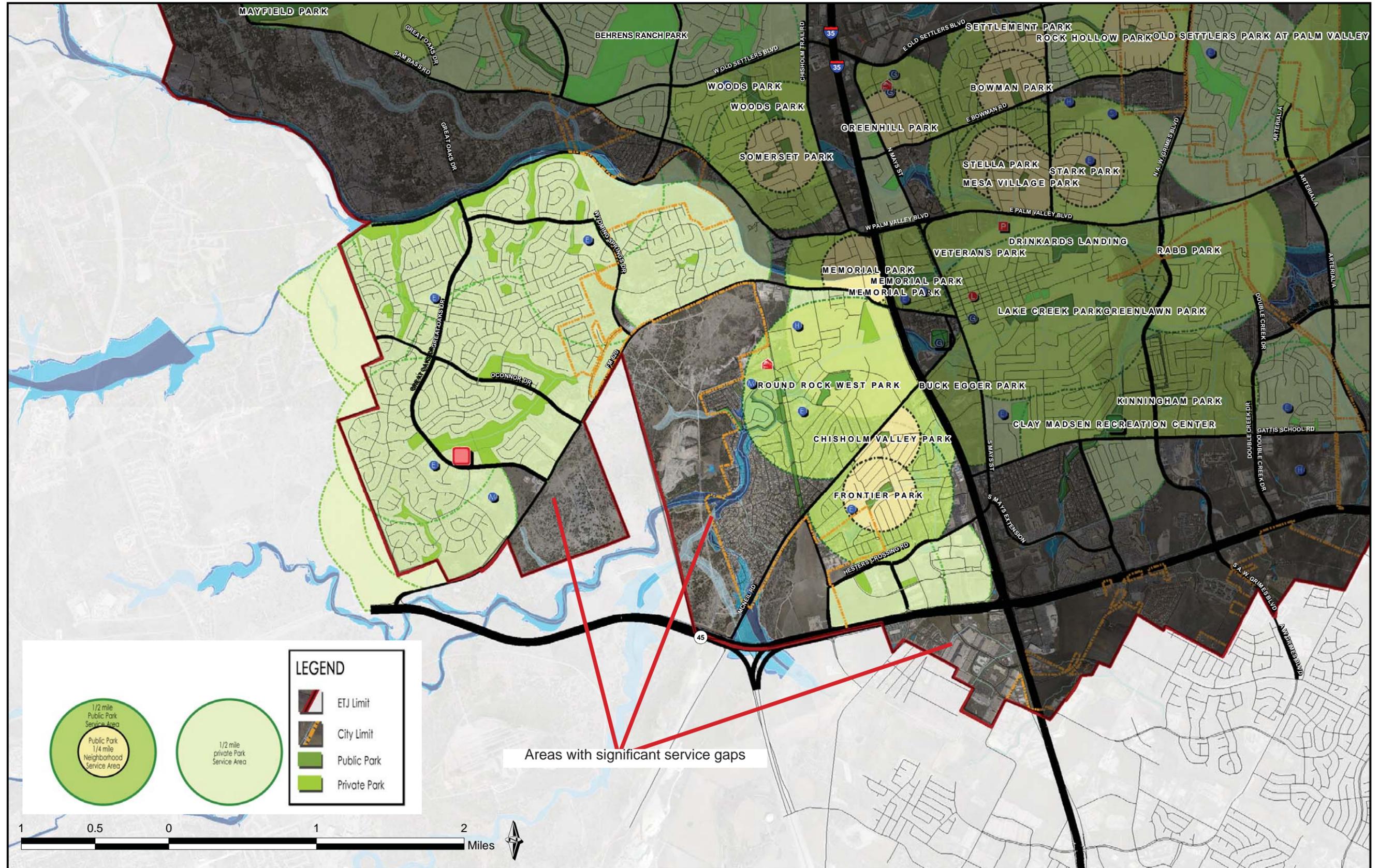
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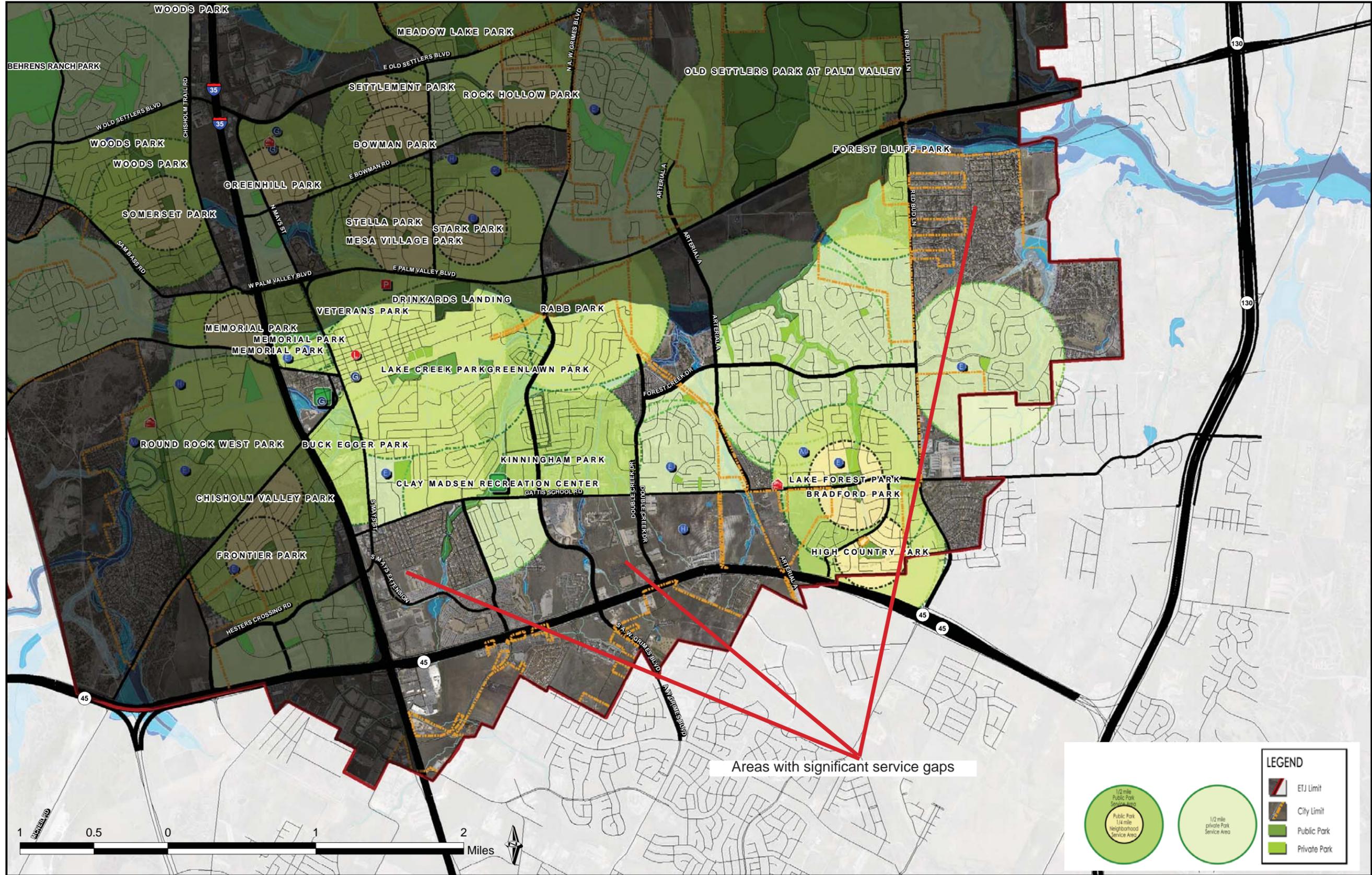
## Northeast Neighborhood Park Service Areas

Southwest Neighborhood Park Service Areas



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Southwest Neighborhood Park Service Areas

## Community Parks in Round Rock

Round Rock has several excellent community parks that are prominently placed within the areas they serve. These parks provide a central gathering place for community events, sports and activities. Round Rock West Park is an excellent example of a community park in Round Rock.

Community parks contain many popular facilities, and as a result these parks are highly utilized. Since these parks also serve as neighborhood parks for the areas around them, they are heavily used and could potentially deteriorate from overuse. In fact, some of the facilities within them show signs of old age and over use. The Round Rock Parks and Recreation Department has conducted an in-depth assessment of each amenity found in community parks, and the results of the assessment for each park can be found in the Parks and Recreation Department office.

The community parks cover much of the central part of the city. However, new development is expected to occur in the far northeast portion of the city and there are currently no community parks to serve this population.

Round Rock currently has 469.41 acres of total community park land. Based on the recommended standard of up to 8 acres per 1,000 residents for community parks, the city is close to meeting this recommended standard with a current level of service of 4.99 acres of all community park land for every 1,000 residents. Of that, only 268 acres is city-owned community park land, representing a level of service of 3.73 acres for every 1,000 residents. Future community park spatial needs are summarized below.

### Community Parks Level of Service (Existing)

- Recommended level of service – 4 to 8 acres per every 1,000 residents (1 acre for every 125 to 250 residents of the city)

#### City-owned Community Parks in Round Rock (excluding regional parks)

- Current acres – 268 acres
- Current Level of Service – 3.73 acres per 1,000 population
- % of Recommended Level of Service - 33 to 67%

#### City Parks and Private Parks (excluding regional parks)

- Current acres - 469.41 acres
- Current Level of Service - 4.99 acres per 1,000 population
- % of Recommended Level of Service - 62 to 125%



*Buck Eggar Park, Clay Madsen Park and Round Rock West Park are some examples of community parks in Round Rock.*

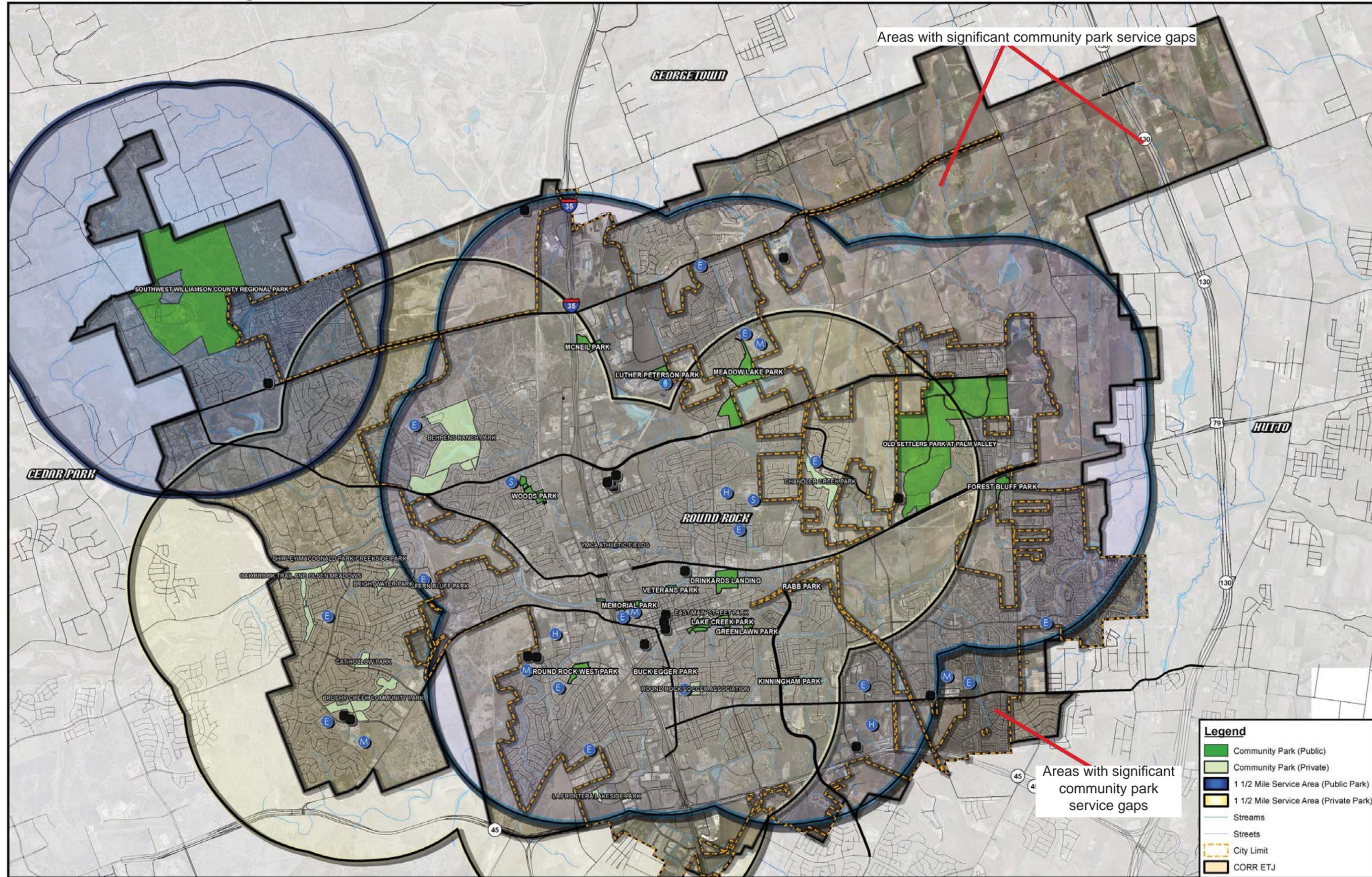
### Community Parks (Surplus or Deficit)

- Recommended level of service – 4 to 8 acres per every 1,000 residents (1 acre for every 125 to 250 residents of the city)
- Current 2008 need with 94,026 population – target of 376 to 752 acres, a surplus of 93 acres to deficit of 283 acres.
- Year 2010 need with 100,815 population – target of 403 to 806 acres, a surplus of 66 acres to deficit of 337 acres.
- Year 2020 need with 133,264 population – target of 533 to 1,066 acres, deficit of 64 acres to 597 acres.

Key service area gaps exist in the far southeast, far southwest and the northeast sectors of the city.



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**Legend**

- Community Park (Public)
- Community Park (Private)
- 1/2 Mile Service Area (Public Park)
- 1/2 Mile Service Area (Private Park)
- Streams
- Streets
- City Limit
- CORR ETJ

Community Park Service Areas

**Other Park Types in Round Rock**

Other types of parks that respond to specific physical conditions in the city or to specific needs are also part of the park system. These include special purpose parks, such as golf courses, linear or linkage parks, regional parks, and open space or natural preserves.

**Special Purpose Parks in Round Rock**

There are four facilities within Round Rock that are considered Special Purpose Parks. Two are the undeveloped areas of Bathing Beach and Water Tower Park. One is the Forest Creek Golf Course with 18 holes totaling 183.18 acres. The final Special Purpose Park is the Micki Krebsbach Pool.

There is one type of Special Purpose Park that Round Rock is significantly lacking and that is a Downtown Plaza/Park. Downtown Plazas/Parks offer unique gathering areas in highly urban districts such as Round Rock's Downtown. These plazas/parks can be used for special events, markets, or performances. However, they are often used daily by the people living and working in the downtown area for places to eat lunch, relax, or to have a quiet moment during a work day. One of the major recommendations of this master plan is for Round Rock to develop a signature downtown plaza/park area.

**Regional and Metropolitan Parks in Round Rock**

There are two regional parks within Round Rock, one is Old Settlers Park and the other is a county-owned park, the Southwest Williamson County Regional Park. There are two metropolitan parks in Round Rock as well, Mayfield Park and Behrens Ranch. Both are city-owned and are undeveloped. Behrens Ranch Park is 223 acres and is planned to be a passive nature park. Mayfield Park is 245 acres and is also planned to be a passive park. Both parks are located in the Northwest sector of the city. The map on the previous page (4.13) illustrates the service areas of the regional and metropolitan parks.

A metropolitan park is recommended in each sector of the city.

Based on the recommended standard of 10 to 20 acres per 1,000 residents, it appears that Round Rock might currently have a small surplus to a small deficit of regional parkland. However because Round Rock is designated as the Sports Capital of Texas, the City will need to continue to acquire and invest in regional and metropolitan parkland so that the sports facilities can sufficiently accommodate the goals of being the Sports Capital of Texas.

*Old Settlers Park and Williamson County Regional Park are the two regional parks in Round Rock.*



**Regional Parks Level of Service (Existing)**

- Recommended level of service – 10 to 20 acres per every 1,000 residents

**Regional Parks in Round Rock City-owned**

- Current acres – 570.00 acres
- Current Level of Service – 6.06 acres per 1,000 population
- % of Recommended Level of Service - 30 to 61% of target

**Regional Parks in Round Rock (all facilities)**

- Current acres – 1,359.16 acres
- Current Level of Service – 14.46 acres per 1,000 population
- % of Recommended Level of Service - 72% to 145% of target

**Regional Parks (Surplus or Deficit)**

- Recommended level of service – 10 to 20 acres per every 1,000 residents
- Current 2008 need with 94,026 population – target of 940 to 1,880 acres, surplus of 419 acres to deficit of 520 acres.
- Year 2010 need with 100,815 population – target of 1,008 to 2,016 acres, surplus of 351 acres to deficit of 656 acres.
- Year 2020 need with 133,264 population – target of 1,333 to 2,665 acres, surplus of 26 acres to deficit of 1306 acres.

**Metropolitan Parks Level of Service (Existing)**

- Recommended level of service – 5 to 10 acres per every 1,000 residents (1 acre for every 100 to 200 residents of the city)

**Metropolitan Parks in Round Rock (Mayfield Park and Behrens Ranch both city-owned)**

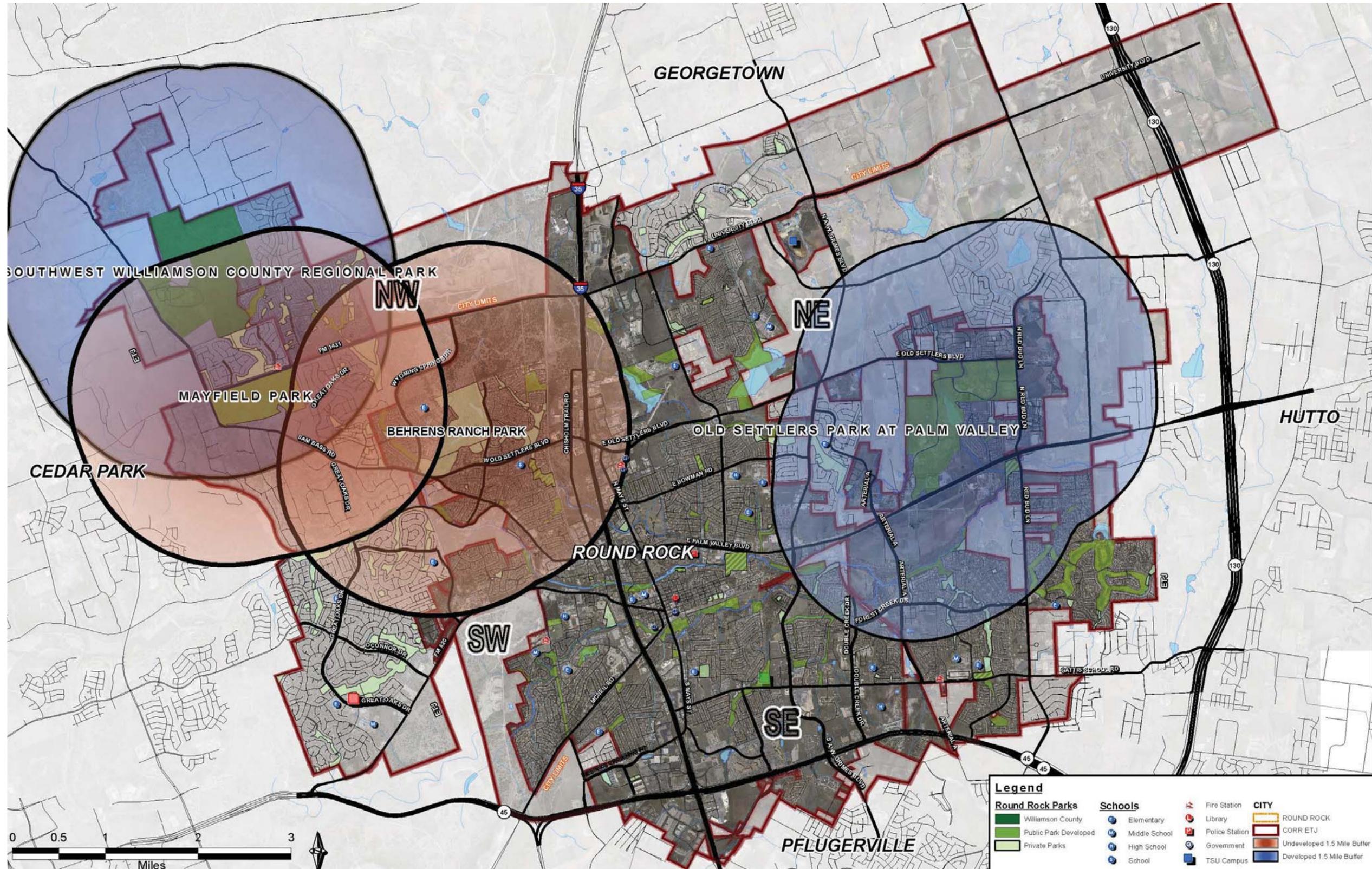
- Current acres – 468 acres
- Current Level of Service – 4.56 acres per 1,000 population
- % of Recommended Level of Service - 46% to 91% of target

**Metropolitan Parks (Surplus or Deficit)**

- Recommended level of service – 5 to 10 acres per every 1,000 residents (1 acre for every 125 to 250 residents of the city)
- Current 2008 need with 94,026 population – target of 470 to 940 acres, deficit of 41 acres to 511 acres.
- Year 2010 need with 100,815 population – target of 504 to 1,008 acres, deficit of 76 acres to 579 acres.
- Year 2020 need with 133,264 population – target of 666 to 1,333 acres, deficit of 237 acres to 904 acres.

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Regional & Metropolitan Parks Service Areas

### Linear Parks in Round Rock

Round Rock currently has many specific city linear parks and designated greenbelts. The best area example of a linear park is the Brushy Creek Greenbelt. Portions of it are developed by HOAs or MUDs, and other portions are developed by the City of Round Rock. However, regardless of who developed the trails and other amenities, the Brushy Creek corridor can be considered a linear park.

Round Rock will benefit from linear parks especially if these are associated with creeks and can fulfill the purpose of flood protection and open space / habitat preservation as well as provide opportunities for trails. These opportunities for linear parks exist along creeks, drainage corridors, utility corridors and right-of-ways that traverse the city. Linear parks can connect parks and key areas of the city such as schools, and are relatively inexpensive to develop. An excellent example of a potential linear park is along Brushy Creek connecting Bathing Beach, Veterans Park, Memorial Park, Downtown Round Rock and Drinkards Landing.

The recommended beginning level of service for linear parks is 5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

### Linear Parks Level of Service (Existing)

- Recommended level of service – 5 acres per every 1,000 residents (1 acre for every 200 residents of the city)

#### Linear Parks in Round Rock City-owned

- Current acres – 262.16 acres
- Current Level of Service – 2.79 acres per 1,000 population
- % of Recommended Level of Service - 56% of target

#### Linear Parks in Round Rock (all facilities)

- Current acres – 651.81 acres
- Current Level of Service – 6.93 acres per 1,000 population
- % of Recommended Level of Service - 139% of target

### Linear Parks (Surplus or Deficit)

- Recommended level of service – 5 acres per every 1,000 residents (1 acre for every 200 residents of the city)
- Current 2008 need with 94,026 population – target of 470 acres, surplus of 182 acres.
- Year 2010 need with 100,815 population – target of 504 acres, surplus of 148 acres.
- Year 2020 need with 133,264 population – target of 666 acres, deficit of 14 acres.



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## Open Space in Round Rock

Open space is defined as land which is not programmed for any specific active recreation purpose. However, its value may typically be defined as visual, ecological, providing compensation for impermeable surfaces including parking lots and roofs as well as for bio-filtering and buffering between incompatible land uses.

Much of the city's current amount of park acreage could be classified as open space. This includes the undeveloped metropolitan parks of Mayfield Park and Behrens Ranch Park. Significant parts of the acreage of Old Settlers Park could also be considered open space. Currently only 7% of the total land area within the city limits of Round Rock is permanent open space or dedicated parkland. The City should have 14% of total land as open space at a minimum.

Unique types of open space in Round Rock include creek channels, farmlands and seasonally wet areas along Brushy Creek. As the city grows in the northeast, steep hillsides as well as the small area lakes can also be preserved as open space.

## Open Space Level of Service (Existing)

- Recommended level of service – 20 to 30 acres per every 1,000 residents

### Open Space in Round Rock

- Current acres – 991.05 acres
- Current Level of Service – 9.48 acres per 1,000 population
- % of Recommended Level of Service - 32% to 47% of target

## Open Space Level of Service (Surplus or Deficit)

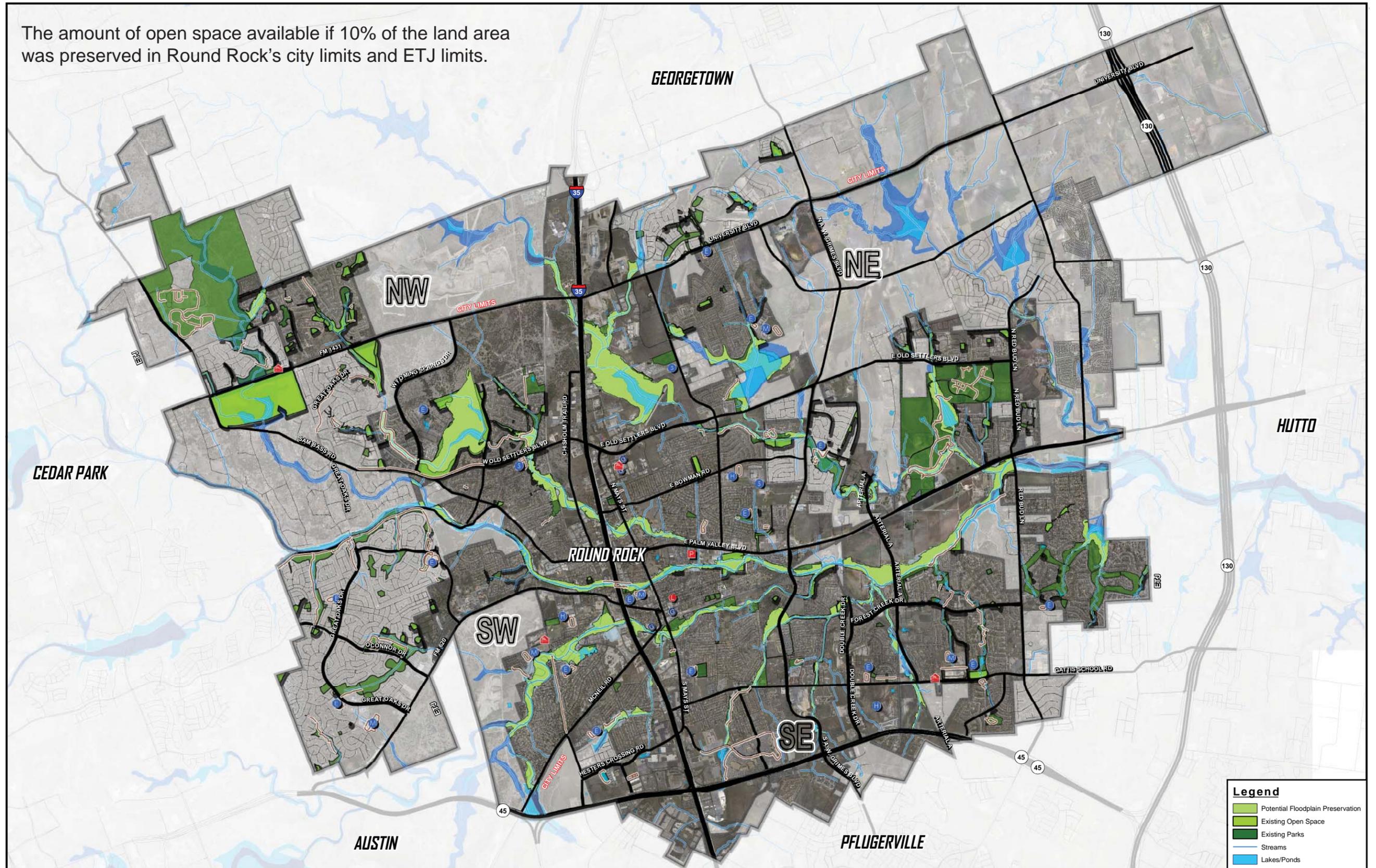
- Recommended level of service – 20 to 30 acres per every 1,000 residents
- Current 2008 need with 94,026 population – target of 1,880 acres to 2,820 acres. Deficit of 889 to 1,829 acres
- Year 2010 need with 100,815 population – target of 2,016 acres to 3,025 acres. Deficit of 1,025 to 2,034 acres
- Year 2020 need with 133,264 population – target of 2,665 acres to 3,998 acres. Deficit of 1,674 to 3,007 acres
- At ultimate build-out with 300,000 population - target of 6,000 acres to 9,000 acres. Deficit of 5,009 to 8,009 acres



Open Space in Round Rock

10% Open Space Preservation

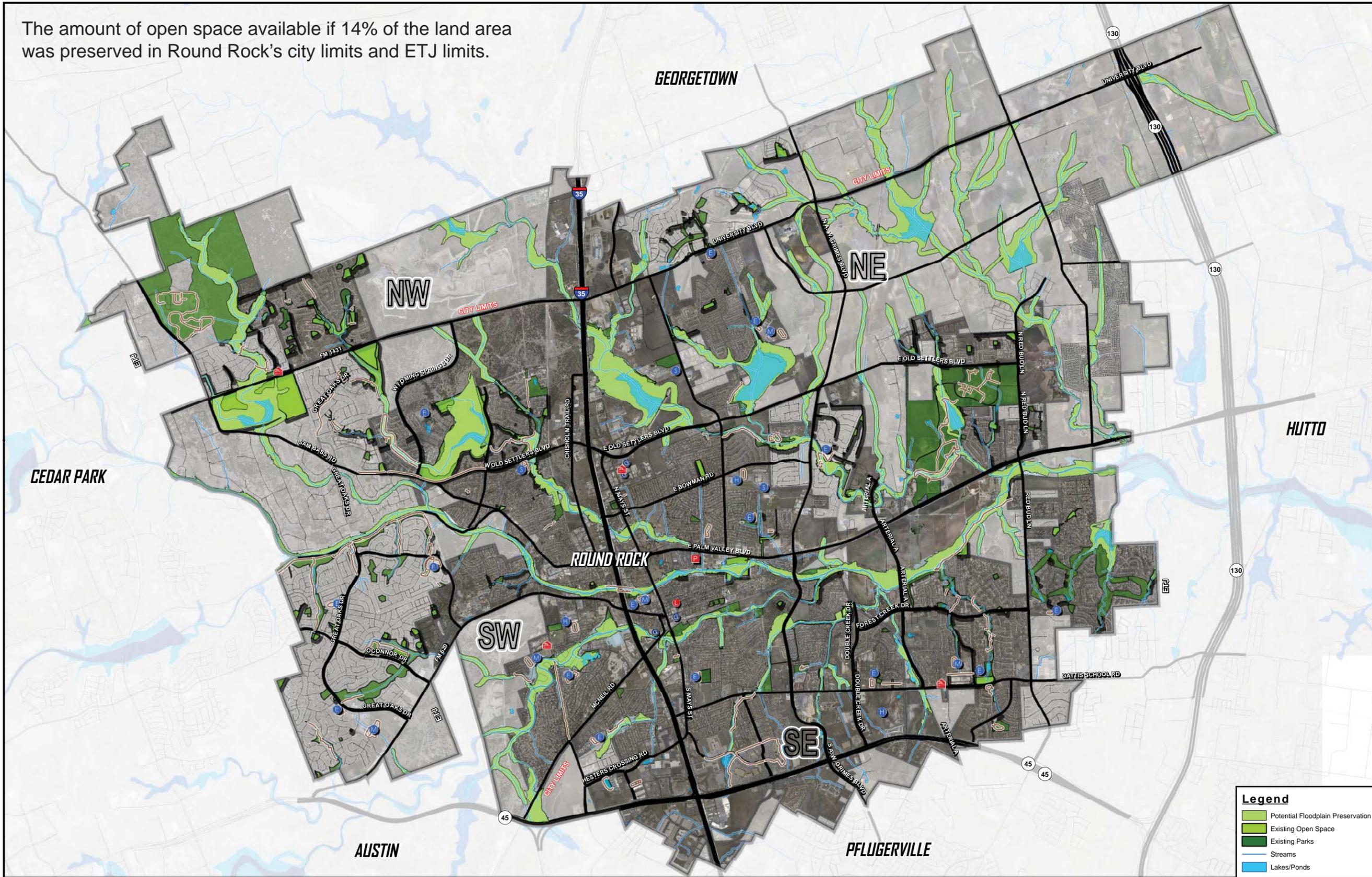
The amount of open space available if 10% of the land area was preserved in Round Rock's city limits and ETJ limits.



# The Round Rock Strategic Parks and Recreation Master Plan



The amount of open space available if 14% of the land area was preserved in Round Rock's city limits and ETJ limits.



**Legend**

- Potential Floodplain Preservation
- Existing Open Space
- Existing Parks
- Streams
- Lakes/Ponds

**14% Open Space Preservation**

### Planning for Future Park Land Needs in Round Rock

It is imperative that land banking be considered crucial and a program put in place to ensure the acquisition of parkland in a consistent and goal oriented manner. Based upon park acreage standards developed from this master plan, the steps needed to ensure that the adequate amount of parkland is acquired is as follows:

- Within the next five years, acquire an additional 520 acres of parkland.
- By the year 2020, acquire an additional 1,460 acres of parkland.
- By the time Round Rock reaches its build-out population of 300,000 a minimum of 3,500 acres of additional parkland needs to be acquired.

Although large areas of Round Rock are still undeveloped, development is happening and a rigorous effort should be made to acquire sufficient land for future park needs. Various options are available to acquire land including existing vacant land, land subject to flooding along the creeks and drainage channels, and land dedicated to parks as a requirement of developers to fulfill the City's Park Land Dedication Ordinance. The City should also invest in a Floodplain Preservation Ordinance which will preserve all 100 year floodplains as permanent open space, wildlife habitat, or water protection. Not all land will be suitable though; the proposed criteria for suitable land for parks includes size, location, and potential connectivity to schools, other parks, places of employment, and retail.

### Summary of Park Spatial Needs

Table 4.1 to the right summarizes the key spatial needs for the next five to ten years for Round Rock. Key findings of the spatial analysis are shown in the table, and these form a crucial part of the park master plan recommendations in Chapter 6.

Table 4.1 Summary of Key Acreage Needs  
for 2008 to 2020

#### Neighborhood Parks

- Current acres are 134% to 214% of the target standard.
- Neighborhood parks are a key enhancement feature of older neighborhoods, and should be factored into redevelopment plans for each neighborhood.
- New neighborhoods should be encouraged to integrate small homeowner maintained parks as a permanent feature to help maintain neighborhood vitality.
- There is a partnership opportunity with Round Rock ISD so that school play areas can become neighborhood parks and practice facilities for the residents in those areas.

#### Community Parks

- Current acres are 62% to 125% of the target standard.
- Need to acquire additional land of 64 to 597 acres to meet target standard of 2020.
- Northeastern, Southeastern and Western areas of the city need community parks.
- Renovation or re-development of existing community parks will be key need.
- There is a need in Round Rock for both active and passive community parks.

#### Regional and Metropolitan Parks

- Current acreage meets recommended target standard.
- One goal of this Master Plan is to have a metropolitan park in each sector of the city.
- Key need is to develop portions of the existing regional park acreage and the two undeveloped metropolitan parks.

#### Linear Parks

- Brushy Creek is currently being developed as a linear park.
- Portions of Lake Creek could also be developed as an urban linear park, and could significantly enhance the neighborhoods around them.
- Current acreage meets recommended target standard, however almost 100 acres of linear parkland is undeveloped.

#### Open Space

- Significant areas around Paloma Lake and the other conservation lakes in the northeast sector should be preserved as open space. The preservation of this land would be a significant addition to passive recreational open space.

#### Citywide Acreage Needs

- Sum of all target level of service goals recommends 25.25 acres to 45 acres per 1,000 population.