

# Chapter 7: Plan Summary

## Chapter Contents

- Summary of Gaps Between Current and Desired State
- Summary of Goals of the Game Plan 2020
- Summary of the Recommendations of the Game Plan 2020
- Capital Improvement Plan

**Mobility & Connectivity**  
**Recreation & Culture**  
**Community & Character**  
**Natural Resources & Environment**  
**High Value Governance**





# Chapter 7

## Plan Summary

This section of the Strategic Master Plan is intended to summarize the whole document. It is laid out into three categories that have been previously discussed in detail: (1) gaps between the current state of parks and recreation in Round Rock and the desired state; (2) goals of Game Plan 2020; (3) recommendations of Game Plan 2020.

### Summary of Gaps Between the Current State of Parks and Recreation in Round Rock and the Desired State

In some areas of the parks and recreation system in Round Rock, there are gaps between the current number of facilities and the number needed to meet the target level of service. There are gaps between the citizens' desired recreation and the lack of providing the facilities capable of participating in those activities. Also, there are renovations and improvements that are needed to existing facilities. All of these are summarized below and form the basis of the recommendations of this Strategic Master Plan.

The most notable gap is the lack of balance between recreational fields that can be used by leagues and

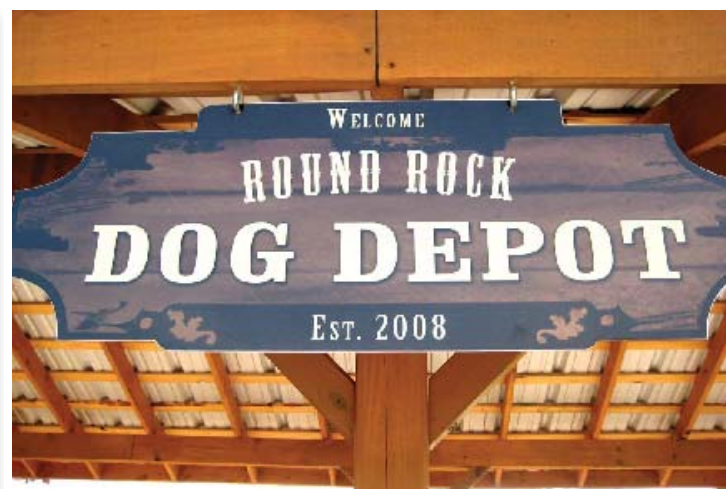
every day use and the number of tournament quality fields for the Sports Capital of Texas. Round Rock needs to invest in several multi-purpose recreational fields that are intended to be used by the residents of Round Rock.

Also Round Rock lacks sports fields beyond baseball that can attract teams and tournaments to the Sports Capital of Texas. Round Rock should upgrade the soccer fields at Old Settlers Park into multi purpose recreational fields so that they can be used for lacrosse, field hockey, cricket, soccer, football, rugby, etc.

There currently is a significant deficit in practice fields. The practice fields found on Round Rock ISD school property are not lighted and the time available to leagues and residents to use those fields is severely limited. Strengthening the partnership with Round Rock ISD so that the fields can be used during more daylight hours when school is not in session is one way to alleviate this deficit. The strengthening of this partnership was discussed in detail at the end of Chapter 4.

During the public input process, the one amenity that residents of Round Rock consistently wanted was more trails. Hike and bike trails are moving from the traditional recreational use to a mode of alternative transportation. Developing more interconnected trails throughout all portions of Round Rock will increase the mobility and connectivity of residents which was one of the strategies of the Game On 2060 Plan.

Fitness trends that are increasing across the nation include Pilates, spinning, and low impact aerobics. It



***"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."***

Mark Twain



# The Round Rock Strategic Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Mobility & Connectivity • Recreation & Culture • Community & Character • Natural Resources & Environment • High Value Governance

Draft for Review and Discussion



is encouraged that Round Rock continue to provide Pilates and low impact aerobics. Also, adding a spinning class at Clay Madsen Recreation Center should be considered.

Similar to fitness, extreme sports are gaining in popularity in the US. Round Rock Parks and Recreation Department should consider the possibility of providing an indoor rock wall for climbing or Ultimate Frisbee leagues and tournaments.

In terms of parkland needed to meet the future target level of service, Round Rock will need to acquire an additional 520 acres of parkland in the next five years; 1,460 acres within the next ten years; and at least 3,500 more acres of parkland by the time the City reaches its ultimate build-out population. Metropolitan parks will need to be added in the northeast and southeast sectors of the city; and the remaining floodplain will need to be preserved for greenbelt corridors where feasible.

There are some gaps in terms of facilities between the current state and the desired state. The Rock 'N River Aquatic Complex has three additional phases planned that will offer water recreation appealing to teens and young adults. The rental facilities at Kinningham and Rabb House are in need of renovation. There is an adaptive playscape planned to be constructed at Rabb House which will be the first adaptive playscape in Round Rock. The construction of a teen center was identified as a need during the Game On 2060 planning process. Finally, there is no large amphitheater in Round Rock that can accommodate performances for 1,000+ people or a downtown park. All the gaps listed above were addressed in the recommendations section of this master plan found in Chapter 6.

## Goals of Game Plan 2020: Building an Active Community

- A list of goals was developed that are specifically meant to be achieved by the year 2020. These goals include:
- Preserving as accessible open space more than 80% of all remaining undeveloped green corridors in Round Rock's city limits and ETJ.
  - Developing a major metropolitan park in each of the four sectors of the city.
  - Acquiring 1,460 acres of additional parkland.
  - Provide a variety of tournament quality sports fields to meet the Sports Capital of Texas goals set by the City.

- Tripling the miles of trails and completing the Brushy Creek and Greater Lake Creek trail systems.
- Increasing the department's operating revenue by 20%.
- Creating parks within each neighborhood of Round Rock so that all neighborhoods have ready access to a park that is a centerpiece of that neighborhood.
- Creating a major downtown park.
- Increasing the percentage of homes within 600 feet of park or green space from 48% to 55%.
- Pursuing a cost recovery target of 50%.
- Increasing alternative funding, revenues not from the general fund, to 30%.

Additional goals of this Strategic Master Plan that are intended for the City to continually pursue during and beyond the life of this plan include:

- Providing an open space system which links parks, schools, greenbelts, neighborhoods, places of employment, retail shops, restaurants, and open spaces.
- Providing parkland and a variety of recreation facilities and programs to meet the changing recreational needs and desires of the City of Round Rock's population.
- Creating a park and recreation system that will improve the physical form and image of the City of Round Rock.
- Preserving and protecting open space, cultural landscapes and natural resources, especially areas with topography change, indigenous tree cover, prairie land and land prone to flooding within the city limits and ETJ.
- Continuing to maintain all of Round Rock's parks and recreational facilities in a superior condition and sustainable manner.
- Providing a tool to coordinate multi-jurisdictional efforts with adjacent cities and the local school district with respect to issues that affect recreational opportunities in the community.
- Developing other funding mechanisms to help supplement the City's limited funding resources.
- Including a citizen participation process in all ongoing park and recreation planning and design, as well as updating of the Strategic Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

## Recommendations of Game Plan 2020

Recommendations of this Strategic Parks and Recreation Master Plan were divided into five categories: mobility and connectivity, recreation and culture, community and character, natural resources and environment, and high value governance.

### Mobility and Connectivity - Summary of Recommendations

Cost Range for these recommendations: \$11,350,000 to \$16,550,000

- Development of trails from downtown Round Rock to the University Center.
- Development of downtown area trails.
- Development of Brushy Creek trail from Hairy Man Rd. to Memorial Park.
- Development of trail connecting Old Settlers Park to the Brushy Creek trail system.
- Improvements to trail connecting Clay Madsen Recreation Center to Dell, Inc. employment.
- Development of Mayfield Park nature trails.
- Development of Behrens Ranch nature trails.

### Recreation and Culture - Summary of Recommendations

Cost Range for these recommendations: \$29,500,000 to \$53,500,000

- Enhancement of Old Settlers Park Soccer Complex.
- Develop University Area Commons Park.
- Development of west side athletic park.
- Development of west side recreation center.
- Development of north side recreation center.
- Development of the second phase of Rock 'N River Aquatic Center.
- Development of the third phase of Rock 'N River Aquatic Center.

### Community and Character - Summary of Recommendations

Cost Range for these recommendations: \$12,000,000 to \$25,500,000

- Development of a downtown plaza park.

- Development of Heritage Trail Linear Park.
- Installation of art in public places, in parks and along trails.

### Natural Resources and Environment - Summary of Recommendations

Cost Range for these recommendations: \$25,750,000 to \$62,025,000

- Acquire Freeman tract of land for open space.
- Acquire land for a northeast metropolitan park around lake areas.
- Acquire Hairy Man Rd. / South Property.
- Acquire park site along Hairy Man Rd. / Brushy Creek property.
- Development of Mayfield Park as a passive park.
- Acquire Brushy Creek corridor along 620 West corridor.
- Development of Behrens Ranch site as a passive park.
- Acquire adjacent Old Settlers Parklands.
- Acquire Meadow Lake Parkland.
- Development of Meadow Lake Park.
- Development of East Brushy Creek Linear Park corridor.
- Acquire site for southeast community park.
- Development of southeast community park as a passive park.
- Acquire land for a Southwest Community Park / Athletic Complex.
- Acquire Brushy Creek corridor east and west of Arterial A.

### High Value Governance - Summary of Recommendations

- Pursue the development of a stronger partnership with Round Rock ISD for joint use of the practice facilities and indoor gymnasium space for league programs during non-school hours and on weekends.
- Pursue alternative funding sources such as grants, sponsorships, 4B Tax, bond funds, or a TIF district specifically for parks and recreation.
- tReduce maintenance by only planting native species and allowing some areas of large metropolitan and regional parks to remain more natural.

## Capital Improvement Plan

It is the responsibility of the City to not only provide new park and recreation amenities but to also maintain and upgrade existing amenities. The Capital Improvement Plan includes both the deferred maintenance needs addressed in Chapter 3 as well as the recommendations for new facilities addressed in Chapter 6. The projected expenses of the necessary deferred maintenance and the recommendations are shown in Table 7.1 below. Also it is recommended that the City review current maintenance standards and make any necessary changes. For example, during the public input process it was noted that an average of 90.5% of the residents of Round Rock would support allowing some areas of large parks and open spaces to remain in a more natural state. Therefore, some areas of parks can be designated as natural open space and the frequency of mowing those areas can be greatly reduced.

Table 7.1 Expenses of the Capital Improvement Plan		
Item	Low Cost Range	High Cost Range
Deferred Maintenance	\$4,493,570	\$4,493,570
Mobility & Connectivity Recommendations	\$11,350,000	\$16,550,000
Recreation & Culture Recommendations	\$29,500,000	\$53,500,000
Community & Character Recommendations	\$12,000,000	\$25,500,000
Natural Resources & Environmental Recommendations	\$25,750,000	\$62,025,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$83,093,570</b>	<b>\$162,068,570</b>