

# CHAPTER 3

## Round Rock Today

*In order to understand what recommendations are needed to take the City of Round Rock's parks and recreation system into the future, it is important to understand the current state of the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) and the City as a whole. This chapter will discuss the characteristics that make Round Rock unique and explore how those factors have shaped, and will continue to shape, the future of the PARD.*

*This chapter will explain the purpose of a parks and open space inventory, as well as examine the current state of Round Rock's parks and recreation system. It will discuss typical amenities found in different park types, as well as consider the service areas for each type of parkland. A breakdown of the current trail system will also be included in this discussion.*

*Finally, this chapter will discuss the economic benefits of parks and recreation and specifically the parks and recreation in Round Rock. It will explain the proximity principle and how parks and trails increase property values across the City.*



*Take a quiet walk with Mother Nature. It will nurture your mind, body, and soul.*

*~ Anthony Douglas Williams*





*“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”*

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

## Round Rock’s Need for Parks and Recreation

Quality of life is an important factor to the Round Rock community. Quality of life encompasses many areas, including the ability to get good jobs, the ability to get around the City easily, the feeling that the City is a safe place to call home, and the availability of attractive homes and neighborhoods in which to live.

One of the most important aspects of a community’s character is the availability of high quality parks and recreation opportunities in the city. Parks and recreation influence many aspects of our lives. They allow us to experience new activities and encourage us to lead a healthy lifestyle. Attractive parks and natural areas are often the first place that visitors view in a community. Parks provide a visible reminder of the beauty of the land that people choose to live in. Parks are also one of the most visible elements of a city government at work and can instill a strong sense of pride in the residents of a community. A good park and recreation system lets both residents and visitors know that the leadership of the city is interested in the well being of its citizens.

## Purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Round Rock’s original Park and Recreation Master Plan was completed in 2000. The 2000 Plan provided guidance for the City, helping the park system remain viable through a period of considerable change in both Texas and in Round Rock itself. The Master Plan was updated in 2009 (Game Plan 2020: Building an Active Community) to reflect the changing demands of the City. The next decade moving forward will bring new changes and challenges on both a global and local stage. This Plan will be a key guiding tool for City staff and elected and appointed officials during that time.

A good parks and recreation system does not occur randomly, but rather requires a series of orderly steps. It responds to the interests of the citizens it serves. This Plan establishes goals and priorities, and provides an assessment of Round Rock’s park and recreation system in the years 2016-2017. The park and recreation planning process allows the citizens of Round Rock to determine what their preferred park and recreation priorities should be. This Plan:

- Points out deficiencies in the system and recommends alternatives to address and correct those deficiencies;

- Looks at the potential growth of the City over the next five to 10 years, and assesses where additional facilities will be needed as the City grows, and what types of facilities are most desired;
- Guides the City in acquiring land to meet current and future park and open space needs;
- Prioritizes key recommendations of the Plan so that the most significant deficiencies are addressed as quickly as possible; and
- Is intended to guide City staff and leaders in determining where and how parks and recreation funding should be allocated over the next five years.

This will be the “playbook” for the next 10 years to continue Round Rock’s park and recreation system as one of the best in Texas.

## Game Plan 2020: Building an Active Community

In 2009, the City’s *Game Plan 2020: Building an Active Community* was created as a strategic Parks and Recreation Master Plan to provide a framework for future development with consideration of the rapidly growing population in the area. The plan outlined the goals for the community and made recommendations about current and future parks, recreation, and open space development.

### GOALS OF THE 2009 PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN:

- As part of Round Rock’s desire to have mobility and connectivity, provide an open space system which links parks, schools, greenbelts, neighborhoods, places of employment, retail shops, restaurants, and open spaces.
- Provide 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.
- Create a park and recreation system that will improve the physical form and image of the City of Round Rock.
- As part of Round Rock’s environmental stewardship, preserve and protect open space, cultural landscapes and natural resources, especially areas with topography change, indigenous tree cover, prairie land, and land prone to flooding within City limits and its ETJ lands.
- Continue to maintain all of the Round Rock parks and recreational facilities in a superior condition and sustainable manner.



- Coordinate multi-jurisdictional efforts with adjacent cities and the local school district with respect to issues that affect recreational opportunities in the community.
- Develop other funding mechanisms to help supplement the City's limited funding resources.
- Include citizen participation process in all ongoing park and recreation planning and design, as well as updating of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

In addition to the goals outlined by the plan, several recommendations were provided to help PARD reach those goals. A highlight of these recommendations and their status can be found in Figure 3.1, *Status of 2009 Parks and Recreation Recommendations*.

Figure 3.1, Status of 2009 Parks and Recreation Recommendations

| Recommendation   | Status                  | Details  |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| Develop Downtown Area Trails                             | Partially complete      | Heritage Trail and Lake Creek Trail - Funded and under design, Lake Creek Park Trail - Complete.   |
| Trails from Downtown to the University Area              | Planned                 | 10' parkway trail planned along A.W. Grimes Blvd. and Kenney Fort Blvd. from Brushy Creek Trail through University Area.   |
| Brushy Creek Trail - Hairy Man Rd. to Memorial Park      | Funded and under design | Funded in 2013 Williamson County Bond Election. Currently under design.  |
| Trail Connecting Old Settlers Park to Brushy Creek Trail | Partially complete      | 10' parkway trail along Kenney Fort Blvd. ends just south of Old Settlers Park. Extension to be completed in future phase of roadway.  |
| Trail from CMRC to Dell                                  | Partially complete      | Kensington Park Trail renovated in 2012; ends at edge of Dell campus.  |
| Mayfield Park Nature Trails                              | On-going                | Master plan complete. Awaiting future funding.   |
| Behrens Ranch Nature Trails                              | No Progress             | Master plan complete. Awaiting future funding.   |
| Heritage Trail Linear Park                               | Funded and under design | Funded by 2013 GO Bonds. Currently under design. Estimated opening 2019.   |
| Downtown Plaza Park                                      | Partially complete      | Prete Main Street Plaza and Centennial Plaza complete. Larger downtown park planned with Heritage Trail.   |
| Art in Parks and Public Places                           | Complete / on-going     | Numerous art pieces in Prete Plaza, Centennial Plaza, Chisholm Trail Crossing Park, and along Main Street. Work closely with Arts Director to rotate and add art pieces in parks and public spaces.  |
| Freeman Tract Open Space                                 | Complete                | Park acquired as part of Forest Grove Development. Opened in 2015.   |
| Northeast Metropolitan Park and Lake                     | No progress             |  |
| Hairy Man Rd. / Brushy Creek Property                    | Underway                | Parkland to be partially acquired with development of Williamson County Brushy Creek Trail Project.  |
| Mayfield Park  | Planned, no funding     | Park master plan complete. No funding allocated at this time.  |
| Brushy Creek / 620 West Corridor                         | Underway                | Parkland to be acquired with development of Brushy Creek Trail Project (Williamson County) and Heritage Trail Project.   |
| Old Settlers Parkland                                    | Complete                | 75 acres at northwest corner of Old Settlers Park acquired in 2012.  |
| Meadow Lake Park   | Partially complete      | Northwest side of lake developed in 2009/10. Additional improvements to southwest side of lake planned for 2016. North edge of lake to be acquired as part of Avery Center development. East side of lake still under private ownership. Connection of north and south sites by private development 2017/2018. |
| Southeast and Southwest Community Park                   | No progress             |  |
| Play for All Abilities Park                              | Complete and on-going   | Park opened in 2012. Expansion completed in late 2017.   |
| Old Settlers Multipurpose Field Complex                  | Under construction      | Complex to opened in 2017.   |
| Rock'N River Expansion                                   | Complete and on-going   | Phase 2 opened in 2016, Phase 3 and 4 planned but no funding allocated.  |
| Develop Northside Recreation Center                      | No progress             |  |
| West Side Athletic Park                                  | No progress             |  |



## Jurisdiction and Planning Area

The recommendations of this Plan will be considered for implementation by the City of Round Rock. It is intended to cover all of Round Rock as well as the areas included in the City's current extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

### Planning Areas

The planning area has been divided into four main sectors: Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest. Interstate 35 was used as the divider between east and west. Brushy Creek was the divider between north and south. A map of the planning sectors is shown to the right.

### Role of the City of Round Rock in Providing Recreation Opportunities

Round Rock is the primary governmental entity charged with providing recreational facilities for the citizens of Round Rock. Ancillary recreational facilities are provided by the Round Rock Independent School District (RRISD) on many school campuses, homeowner associations (HOAs), municipal utility districts (MUDs), the YMCA, and by Williamson County Parks. The role of HOAs is becoming increasingly important, as they have generally begun providing neighborhood parks as new developments are built.

### Parks and Recreation Master Plan Time Frame

The Plan is formulated to address recommendations and priorities for the next 10 years and beyond.

Many of the recommendations of the Plan are valid for a period of up to fifteen years, but should be reevaluated periodically. Per planning requirements issued by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan should be completely updated after a ten year period, or before, if any major developments occur which significantly alter the recreation needs of the City. In addition, an annual review workshop by the Round Rock PARD team and other City staff should be conducted to review progress each year. Annual updates by City staff will also be prepared. Updates should be prepared on a more frequent basis if special needs or occurrences require modifications to the Plan. In all cases, public involvement through citizen meetings, interviews, and workshops will be included in any updating process.

Map 3.1, Planning Sectors





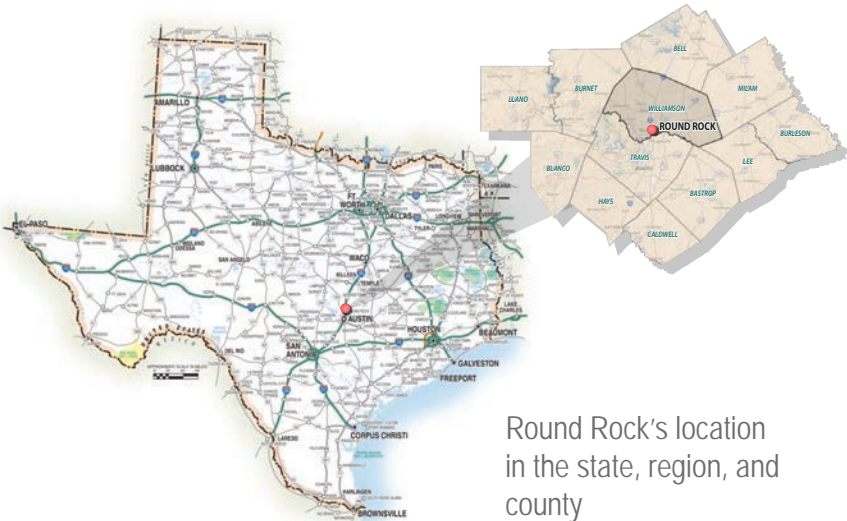


## Round Rock’s History

Round Rock is located within Williamson County in the Texas Hill Country and is just 16 miles north of Austin, Texas. In 1851, a small community was established on the northern banks of Brushy Creek, where a blacksmith named Jacob M. Harrell set up his shop. The community was formed near a large “round rock” located in the middle of Brushy Creek, the town’s namesake. The rock is located in a low water crossing in the middle of Brushy Creek which was used as a crossing for the Chisholm Trail to move cattle from South Texas to Abilene, Kansas. Many of the original buildings located along the trail are still currently located within the historic area of Round Rock which is now referred to as Old Town.

In 1876, the International-Great Northern Railroad was built through Williamson County and laid just east of Round Rock. The City then began to move in a new direction creating a “new” and “old” Round Rock. The town began to prosper due to the railroad and attracted the outlaw Sam Bass. In 1878, he was captured and died after a shoot-out occurred in Downtown Round Rock.

During the first six decades of the 20th century, Round Rock had a population between 1,000 and 1,400 people. During the 1970s, the City began to experience dramatic growth. Nearby, the City of Austin began to expand northward towards the City, which brought large scale development to Round Rock. The population grew from 2,811 to 12,740 between 1970 and 1980. With the addition of computer-related industries and the increase in retail businesses during the 1980s, Round Rock’s population grew more than two and a half times its size to 30,923 by 1990. The population again grew dramatically between 1990 and 2000 as more industries made their home in Round Rock and ultimately surpassed 115,000 by 2015.



Round Rock’s location in the state, region, and county

## The Economy of Round Rock

Many of the early settlers of Round Rock were attracted to the area because of Brushy Creek. Agriculture was a large part of the early economy; however, many of the settlers coming north from Austin brought trades with them. Industries such as gristmills, gins, wood-carving factories, lime plants, and a broom factory were all part of Round Rock’s early economic development.

In 1876, the International-Great Northern Railroad was built just south and east of Round Rock. The City then began developing more towards that region. Hotels, newspapers, and professional offices sprung up in Round Rock within the first year that the railroad was in operation. In 1879, the Round Rock Searchlight Newspaper was established and is still in operation, now known as the Round Rock Leader. Major businesses of the early 20th century included Trinity Lutheran College and the Round Rock Cheese Factory.

Little growth and economic development occurred in Round Rock in the early 20th century. It was not until the 1960s that this changed. The nearby City of Austin was experiencing tremendous growth, and people were beginning to move to the suburbs, such as Round Rock. As shown in Figure 3.3, the population of Round Rock grew substantially from 1980 to 2000. Because of the growth in population, Round Rock became an ideal location for businesses and industries. In the 1980s, Round Rock became the headquarters for Dell, Inc. Round Rock’s economy is now highly dependent on the creative class and technology based business. A list of major employers is shown in Figure 3.2, *Major Employers of Round Rock*.

Figure 3.2, Major Employers of Round Rock

| Employer                              | # of Employees |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Dell                                  | 12,000         |
| Emerson Automation Solutions          | 875            |
| Round Rock Premium Outlets            | 800            |
| Scott & White Healthcare              | 750            |
| St. David’s Round Rock Medical Center | 689            |
| Shop LC                               | 600            |
| Sears Teleserv                        | 600            |
| Wayne                                 | 550            |
| Trellis Company                       | 485            |
| Seton Medical Center Williamson       | 450            |
| Assurant Field Asset Services         | 440            |
| ProPortion Foods                      | 380            |
| AirCo Mechanical                      | 375            |

Source: Round Rock Chamber - 2018

## Round Rock’s Population

The process of developing a long range parks and recreation master plan includes understanding the size and the characteristics of the population to be served. Round Rock’s parks, trails, and open spaces provide recreation facilities for the citizens of the City, as well as other residents of Williamson County. Round Rock’s growth over the past decades has been tremendous. The rapid population growth poses a challenge, as simply keeping up with the needs of the growing population will be difficult enough, much less increasing the proportional size of the system.

Figure 3.3, *Historical Population Growth*, shows that Round Rock’s growth has been high above the county average over the past 30 years. Round Rock is starting to slow its population growth from the boom it experienced from 1970 to 2000. However, the City is not done growing. By the year 2025, Round Rock is projected to have a population of 150,776 as shown in Figure 3.4, *Population Projections for Round Rock*.

Figure 3.3, Historical Population Growth

| Year | Round Rock |          | Williamson County |          |
|------|------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
|      | Population | % Growth | Population        | % Growth |
| 1980 | 12,740     | -        | 76,524            | -        |
| 1990 | 30,923     | 143%     | 139,551           | 82%      |
| 2000 | 61,136     | 98%      | 249,967           | 79%      |
| 2010 | 99,887     | 63%      | 422,679           | 69%      |
| 2014 | 112,196    | 12%      | 489,250           | 16%      |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-yr American Community Survey, S0101 Age and Sex

Figure 3.4, Population Projections for Round Rock

| Year      | Population  | % Growth |
|-----------|-------------|----------|
| 2010      | 99,887      | -        |
| 2015      | 115,567     | 15.7%    |
| 2020      | 133,264     | 15.3%    |
| 2025      | 150,776     | 13.1%    |
| Build-Out | 300,000 +/- | 99.0%    |

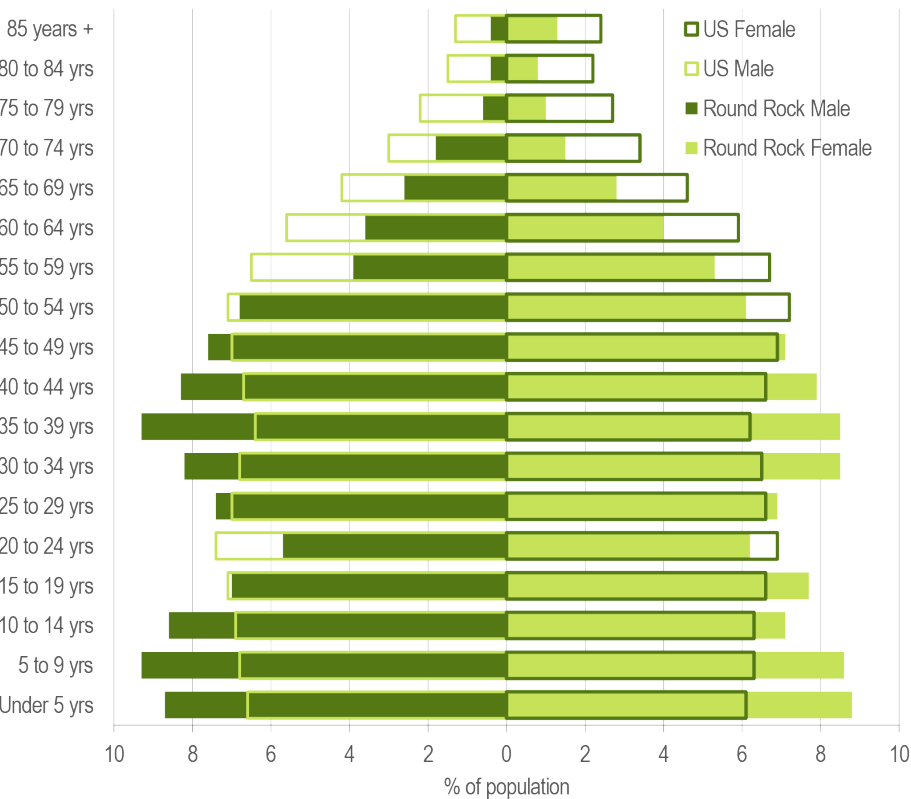
Source: Round Rock Planning Department

## Demographic Characteristics

Key demographic characteristics include age, race and ethnicity, income, and educational attainment.

**Age** - The population of Round Rock is younger than the United States as a whole. Round Rock has a higher amount of younger residents and working families than the national average with the greatest percent of population being 14 and under and ages 25 to 49 (see Figure 3.5, *Age Characteristics of Round Rock and United States*). As the population ages, the City will need to be prepared to provide age-appropriate recreation opportunities.

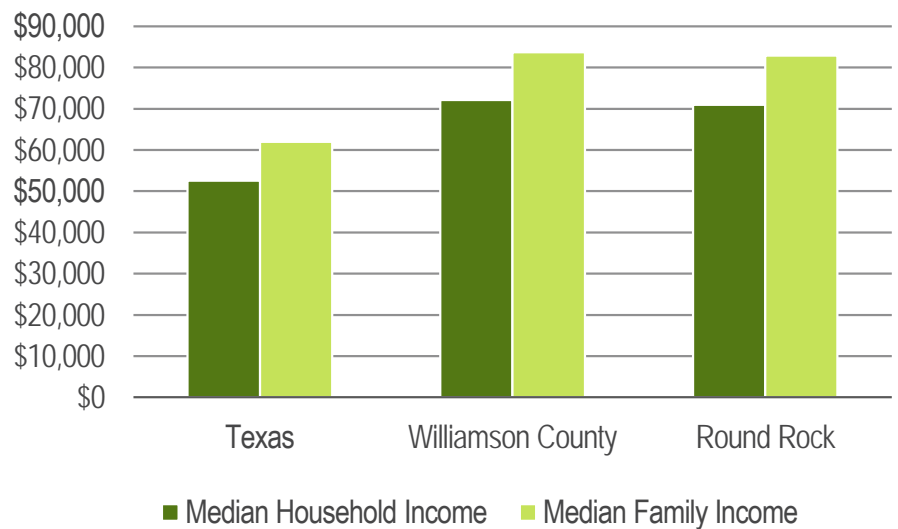
**Figure 3.5, Age Characteristics of Round Rock and United States**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-yr American Community Survey, S0101 Age and Sex

**Income Level and Education** - The income level of the residents of Round Rock is relatively high with the median household income being \$70,952 as shown Figure 3.6, *Median Household and Family Income*. This is high given the young population of Round Rock. However, as shown in Figure 3.7, *Educational Attainment*, nearly 40 percent of the population has attained a bachelors or higher graduate degree, which is well over the state of Texas average.

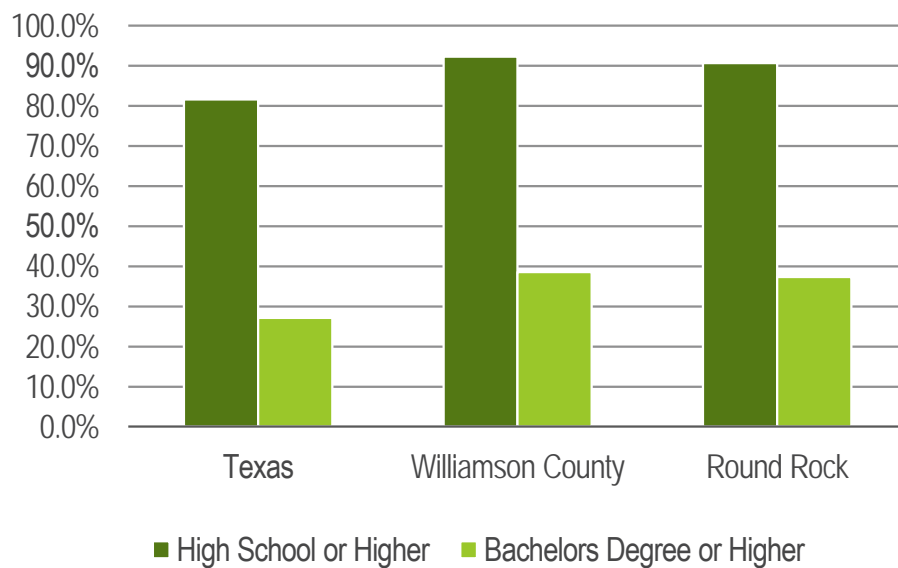
**Figure 3.6, Median Household and Family Income**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-yr American Community Survey, DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, household income includes income from the householder and all other people (whether or not they are related) who are 15 years or older living in the same housing unit. Family income includes income from two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption who are residing together.

**Figure 3.7, Educational Attainment**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-yr American Community Survey, S1501: Educational Attainment

**Race & Ethnicity** - The population of Round Rock is predominately white, but is becoming more diverse. When compared to the population of Williamson County, Round Rock is home to more minority ethnic groups as shown in Figure 3.8, *Race and Ethnicity*.

**Figure 3.8, Race and Ethnicity**

| Race & Ethnicity                         | Williamson County | Round Rock |
|--|-------------------|------------|
| White                                    | 82.6%             | 78.9%      |
| Black or African American                | 6.3%              | 9.4%       |
| American Indian & Alaskan Native         | 0.3%              | 0.5%       |
| Asian                                    | 5.2%              | 5.3%       |
| Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander | 0.1%              | 0.1%       |
| Other                                    | 2.4%              | 2.5%       |
| Two or More Races                        | 3.1%              | 3.3%       |
| Hispanic or Latino Decent                | 23.6%             | 29.9%      |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-yr American Community Survey, DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates

## Key Demographic Characteristic Findings

Based on the demographic information, the City of Round Rock's population is largely young families. This means the City should focus on offering family events such as Movies in the Park and July 4 Frontier Days Celebration. Youth athletic programs, afterschool care, and camps are needed; however, as the children of Round Rock grow older, a strong teen program focus will be of growing importance in future years. The City should consider offering adult instructional classes or fitness classes at the same time as the children's programs so that parents can enjoy activities while waiting for their children. Additionally, as the diversity of Round Rock continues to increase, greater cultural programs and events should be offered.





## Purpose of the Existing Parks and Open Space Inventory

Round Rock has an established network of both neighborhood and larger community park facilities. These parks are well placed within the neighborhoods they serve and are well maintained. However, population shifts within the City over time have resulted in some areas having a significant number of parks, while other areas have few or no parks. A key part of the park and recreation planning process is to understand what parks, recreation buildings, trails, and open space facilities are currently available. The process also evaluates the current condition of those facilities to assess whether or not they are addressing the current park and recreation desires of the community. This inventory serves as the foundation for the needs assessment for new or improved recreational facilities.

### Components of the Existing Parks Inventory

This inventory of existing parks reviews several aspects of each park in the Round Rock system. These include:

- **Classification:** What is the purpose of a given park? Is it intended to serve a local neighborhood around it, giving children and young adults a place to play? Is it intended to serve a much larger population, providing fields for organized league play? This determines whether a park should be classified as a neighborhood, community, metropolitan, regional, special purpose, or linear park. Key issues that are analyzed include:
  - **Location:** Where is the park located in relation to the population that it serves? Is it accessible?
  - **Service area:** What are the limits of the area served by each park? Are there any major thoroughfares or physical features that create barriers to accessing the park?
  - **Size of the park:** How big is the park? Is it large enough to adequately accomplish its intended purpose?
- **Facilities in each park:** What does the park contain? Are the facilities appropriate for the type of park?
- **Layout:** Is the arrangement of facilities in each park appropriate?
- **Condition of the park:** What is the general condition of the facilities in each park?
- **Special considerations:** Does the park provide facilities for people with disabilities that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act?

## Park Types and Standards Included in the Round Rock Parks and Recreation System

### Neighborhood Parks

In Round Rock, as in most cities, neighborhood parks should provide the foundation for recreation. Ideally, they provide facilities and recreation space for the entire family and are within easy walking or bicycling distance of the people they serve. **In Round Rock, much of the neighborhood park need is fulfilled by homeowner associations that own and operate private parks for the residents of those neighborhoods.** This is largely due to the rapid growth of single family housing over the past 15 years.

A neighborhood park typically serves one large or several smaller neighborhoods. The typical neighborhood park in Round Rock, generally three to 10 acres in size, should serve no more than 2,000 to 4,000 residents per park.

- Neighborhood parks should be accessible to residents who live within a one-half mile radius of the park. In some areas of the City, a smaller quarter-mile service radius may be more appropriate.
- Neighborhood parks are frequently located adjacent to elementary schools, so as to share acquisition and development costs with the school district. In the future, where possible, new neighborhood parks should be planned and developed in close coordination with the Round Rock ISD. This can result in significant cost savings and more efficient use of tax dollars by the City, the county, and the school district.
- Neighborhood parks are generally located away from major arterial streets and provide easy access for the users that surround it. A neighborhood park should be accessible without having to cross major arterial streets.

**Size** - The size of a neighborhood park may vary considerably due to physical locations around the park. An ideal size for neighborhood parks should be around three to five acres. However, parks may range in size from less than one acre to over 20 acres and are classified based on the amenities provided and population served.

**Location** - If possible, neighborhood parks should be centrally located in the neighborhood or neighborhoods they serve. An ideal location, for example, is adjacent to an elementary school. The park should be accessible to pedestrian traffic from all parts of the area served and should be located adjacent to local or minor collector streets which do not allow high-speed traffic. Many cities require neighborhood parks have streets on at least two sides of the park.

**Facilities** - Facilities located in neighborhood parks may include the following:

- Age appropriate playground equipment with adequate safety surfacing around the playground
- Unlighted practice fields for baseball, soccer, and football
- Unlighted tennis courts
- Lighted or unlighted multi-purpose courts for basketball and volleyball
- Active areas for unorganized play
- Picnic areas with benches, picnic tables, and cooking grills
- Shaded pavilions and gazebos
- Jogging and exercise trails

**Restrooms** are typically not placed in neighborhood parks because they increase maintenance and provide a location for illegal activities.

**Parking** – Neighborhood parks should have on-street parking only.

See Figure 3.10, *Public Neighborhood Park and Recreation Facilities* and Figure 3.11, *Private Neighborhood Park and Recreation Facilities* for a listing of neighborhood parks in Round Rock.





### Community Parks

Community parks are larger parks that serve a group of neighborhoods or a portion of a city. Community parks are usually reached by automobiles, although residents adjacent to the park and trail users may walk or ride a bicycle to it. A variety of recreational facilities are provided, including in some cases, lighted playing fields for organized sports, hike and bike trails, and sufficient parking to accommodate participants, spectators, and other park users. The park facilities at Lake Creek Park and Round Rock West Park are ideal examples of community park facilities.

**Size** - The typical community park should be large enough to provide a variety of facilities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation and natural areas. The park should also have room for expansion, as new facilities are required. A typical community park varies in size from 10 acres to over 50 acres.

**Location** – Community parks should be located near a major thoroughfare to provide easy access from different parts of the City. Because of the potential for noise and bright lights at night, community parks should be buffered from adjacent residential areas.

**Facilities** - Facilities generally located in community parks may include:

- Play equipment
- Active free play areas
- Picnic areas and pavilion(s)
- Restrooms
- Jogging, bicycle, or nature trails
- Lighted or unlighted athletic fields and courts
- Sufficient off-street parking based on facilities provided and size of park
- Security lighting
- Other facilities, as needed, which can take advantage of the unique characteristics of the site, such as nature trails, fishing ponds, swimming pools, amphitheaters, etc.

**Parking** - This varies based on the facilities provided and the size of park. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommends a minimum of five spaces per acre, plus additional parking for specific facilities within the park, such as pools or ball fields. The specific amount of parking provided in each park should be determined by the facilities provided in that park.

See Figure 3.12, *Public and Private Community Park and Recreation Facilities* for a listing of community parks in Round Rock.







### Metropolitan Parks

Metropolitan parks are large parks that serve an entire sector of the City. Metropolitan parks are reached by automobiles, although residents adjacent to the park and trail users may walk or ride a bicycle to it. Similar to community parks, a metropolitan park will offer a variety of recreational facilities including lighted playing fields for organized sports, hike and bike trails, and sufficient parking to accommodate participants, spectators, and other park users.

**Size** - The typical metropolitan park should be large enough to provide a variety of facilities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation, natural areas, and passive recreation. The park should also have room for expansion, as new facilities are required. A typical metropolitan park varies in size from 100 acres to over 250 acres.

**Location** – Metropolitan parks should be located near a major thoroughfare to provide easy access from different parts of the City.

**Facilities** - Facilities generally located in metropolitan parks may include:

- Play equipment
- Active free play areas
- Picnic areas and pavilion(s)
- Restrooms
- Jogging, bicycle, or nature trails, sometimes lighted for evening use
- Lighted ball fields, suitable for organized competitive events
- Recreation center (if appropriate)
- Sufficient off-street parking based on facilities provided and size of park
- Security lighting
- Multi-purpose recreation fields
- Other facilities, as needed, which can take advantage of the unique characteristics of the site, such as nature trails, fishing ponds, swimming pools, amphitheaters, etc.

**Parking** - This varies based on the facilities provided and the size of park. Similar to a community park, it is recommended that there be a minimum of five spaces per acre, plus additional parking for specific facilities within the park such as pools or ball fields. The specific amount of parking provided in each park should be determined by the facilities provided in that park.

See Figure 3.13, *Public and Private Metropolitan and Regional Park and Recreation Facilities* for a listing of metropolitan parks in Round Rock.



### Regional Parks

Regional parks are massive parks that serve an entire region and cater to people beyond the City. Regional parks are reached by automobiles, although nearby residents and trail users may walk or ride a bicycle to it. Round Rock has two regional parks: Old Settlers Park and the Southwest Williamson County Regional Park (within the ETJ) .

**Size** - The typical regional park is more than 300 acres in size. Both of the regional parks in Round Rock are more than 500 acres in size.

**Location** – Because these parks require a great amount of land, they are often located outside of a city's limits or in the ETJ of a city. Therefore, it is necessary that the park is located adjacent to major thoroughfares to ensure people can adequately reach the park site.

**Facilities** - Facilities generally located in regional parks may include:

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ■ Play equipment   | ■ Equestrian trails                   |
| ■ Active free play areas   | ■ Observatory                         |
| ■ Picnic areas and pavilion(s)   | ■ Botanical gardens                   |
| ■ Restrooms  | ■ Veloway                             |
| ■ Jogging, bicycle or nature trails, sometimes lighted for evening use | ■ Dog park                            |
| ■ Lighted ball fields, suitable for organized competitive events       | ■ Canoe rentals / paddle boat rentals |
| ■ Recreation center (if appropriate)                                   | ■ Putt putt golf                      |
| ■ Security lighting  | ■ Disc golf                           |
| ■ Multi-purpose recreational fields                                    | ■ BMX course                          |
| ■ Fishing ponds, where feasible  | ■ Sculpture garden                    |
| ■ Amphitheaters  | ■ Aquatic complex                     |
|  | ■ Preserved open space                |

**Parking** - It is recommended there be a minimum of five spaces per acre, plus additional parking for specific facilities within the park such as pools or ball fields. The specific amount of parking provided in each park should be determined by the facilities provided in that park.

See Figure 3.13, *Public and Private Metropolitan and Regional Park and Recreation Facilities* for a listing of regional parks in Round Rock.



Linear Parks/Linkages

Linear parks are open park areas that generally follow a natural or man-made feature that is linear in nature, such as creeks, abandoned railroad rights-of-way, power line corridors, or utility corridor easements. In Round Rock, most of the linear park corridors are along natural drainage ways. Properly developed to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel, these parks can serve to link or connect other parks in the local system, as well as schools, neighborhood shopping, libraries, and other major destinations. No specific standards apply to linear/linkage parks other than the park should be large enough to adequately accommodate the resources they contain. They should also serve to help preserve open space.

See Figure 3.14, *Public Linear Park and Recreation Facilities* and Figure 3.15, *Private Linear Park and Recreation Facilities* for a listing of linear parks in Round Rock.

Special Purpose Parks

Special purpose parks are designed to accommodate specialized recreational activities. Because the facility needs for each activity type are different, each special purpose park usually provides for one or a few activities. Examples of special purpose parks include:

- Golf courses
- Athletic fields or complexes
- Nature centers or large natural preserves
- Swimming pool centers
- Tennis complexes

Athletic complexes and golf courses are the most common types of special purpose parks. Athletic complexes seek to provide fields for organized play in a location that can accommodate the traffic and noise that a large number of users can generate. Athletic complexes should include sufficient fields so that leagues can congregate at one facility and not have to spread out in different locations.

See Figure 3.16, *Public and Private Special Purpose Park and Recreation Facilities* for a listing of special purpose parks in Round Rock.

Size of the Park and Recreation System in Round Rock

Currently the Round Rock parks and recreation system includes 197 park sites and amenity centers (City-owned, HOA, MUD, county-owned, etc.) and contains 4,437 acres. City-owned park and amenity sites include only 64 locations and a total of 2,270 acres. Figure 3.9, *Existing Park System in Round Rock*, summarizes the existing park facilities. Map 3.2, *Existing Parks System*, illustrates distribution of parkland throughout the City and ETJ. The numbered parks on the map represent public parks and are cross-referenced on the follow-up figures which summarize the details of the parks and recreation system inventory.

Figure 3.9, Existing Park System in Round Rock

|                                       | Overall Area Parks (including Private and Public)        | City-Owned Facilities Only                          |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Total Number of Parks                 | 197 Park and Amenity Sites                               | 63 Park and Amenity Sites                           |
| Total System Acreage                  | 4,437 acres  | 2,270 acres   |
| Neighborhood Parks                    | 259 acres  | 123 acres   |
| Community Parks                       | 312 acres  | 247 acres   |
| Linear Parks                          | 1293 acres   | 578 acres   |
| Regional Parks                        | 1,452 acres  | 641 acres   |
| Metropolitan Park                     | 469 acres  | 469 acres   |
| Special Purpose Parks                 | 518 acres  | 212 acres   |
| Amenity Centers                       | 134 acres  | 2 sites (Clay Madsen Center & Allen R. Baca Center) |
| School Areas (not included in totals) | 510 acres  | n/a   |
|                                       |  |   |
| Largest Park                          | Southwest Williamson County Regional Park (811.32 acres) | Old Settlers Park (641.14 acres)                    |
| Smallest Park                         | Water Tower Park (0.19 acres)                            | Water Tower Park (0.19 acres)                       |
|                                       |  |   |
| Developed vs. Undeveloped             | 3,502 acres vs. 935 acres                                | 1,529 acres vs. 740 acres                           |



Micki Krebsbach Pool and Forest Creek Golf Course are examples of a Special Purpose Parks in Round Rock.



Map 3.2, Existing Parks System









**Figure 3.11, Private Neighborhood Park and Recreation Facilities**

[illegible]



**Figure 3.11, Private Neighborhood Park and Recreation Facilities (cont.)**

[illegible]







**Figure 3.13, Public and Private Metropolitan and Regional Park and Recreation Facilities**

[illegible]



**Figure 3.14, Public Linear Park and Recreation Facilities**

[illegible]



**Figure 3.15, Private Linear Park and Recreation Facilities**

[illegible]



**Figure 3.15, Private Linear Park and Recreation Facilities (cont.)**

[illegible]

**Figure 3.16, Public and Private Special Purpose Park and Recreation Facilities**

| Map Number      | Page | Park Name                        | Overall Acreage |        | Address                    | Sector | Subdivision         | Owner                           | Trail Distance    | Backstop | Practice Field | Basketball Court | Playscape | Recreation Center | Football Field | Soccer Field | Baseball Field | Softball Field | Tennis Court | Multi-purpose Court | Volleyball Court | Skate Park | Shuffleboard | Cricket | Dog Park | Remote Control Airplanes | Exercise Station | Disc Golf Course | Swimming Pool | Kiddy Swimming Pool | Spray Grounds | Festival Area | Pavilion | Benches | Picnic Table   | BBQ Grill | Drinking Fountain | Water Feature / Pond | Parking | Restroom Building |   |
|-----------------|------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|------------|--------------|---------|----------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|---------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|---------|-------------------|---|
|                 |      | Special Purpose Parks            | Und.            | Dev.   |                            |        |                     |                                 | Active Facilities |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          | Aquatics         |                  |               | Passive Facilities  |               |               |          |         | Infrastructure |           |                   |                      |         |                   |   |
| City Owned      |      |                                  |                 |        |                            |        |                     |                                 |                   |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          |         |                |           |                   |                      |         |                   |   |
| 56              | B.30 | Centennial Plaza                 |                 | 5.31   | 301 West Bagdad            | SE     | Municipal Center    | CORR                            | -                 |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     | 1             | 1             |          | 2       |                |           | X                 | X                    |         |                   |   |
| 57              | B.30 | CORR Recycling Center            |                 | -      | 310 Deep Wood Drive        | SW     | Round Rock West     | CORR                            | -                 |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          |         |                |           |                   | X                    |         |                   |   |
| 58              | B.31 | Dell Diamond (OSP)               |                 | -      | 3400 Harrell Parkway       | NE     | Old Settlers Park   | CORR                            | -                 |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          |         |                |           |                   | X                    |         |                   |   |
| 59              |      | Downtown PARD Yard               |                 | -      | 300 Burnet Street          | SE     | Bradshaw Addition   | CORR                            | -                 |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          |         |                |           |                   | X                    |         |                   |   |
| 60              | B.31 | Forest Creek Golf Course         |                 | 199.80 | 99 Twin Ridge Parkway      | SE     | Forest Creek        | CORR                            | -                 |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          |         |                |           | X                 | 3                    |         |                   |   |
| 61              | B.32 | Micki Krebsbach Pool             |                 | 6.16   | 301 Deep Wood Drive        | SW     | Round Rock West     | CORR                            | -                 |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     | 1                |            |              |         |          |                          |                  | 1                | 1             | 1                   |               |               |          | 7       |                | 2         |                   | X                    | 1       |                   |   |
| 62              | B.32 | Sharon Prete Main Street Plaza   |                 | 0.36   | 221 East Main Street       | SE     | Downtown            | CORR                            | -                 |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               | 1                   |               | 1             |          | 6       |                |           | X                 | X                    |         |                   |   |
|                 |      | Total                            | 0.00            | 211.63 |                            |        |                     |                                 | 0                 | 0        | 0              | 0                | 0         | 1                 | 0              | 0            | 0              | 0              | 0            | 0                   | 1                | 0          | 0            | 0       | 0        | 0                        | 0                | 0                | 1             | 1                   | 2             | 1             | 2        | 0       | 15             | 0         | 2                 | 2                    | 7       | 4                 |   |
| Privately Owned |      |                                  |                 |        |                            |        |                     |                                 |                   |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          |         |                |           |                   |                      |         |                   |   |
|                 |      | Boles Family Sports Complex East |                 | 7.10   | 107 E. Old Bowman Road     | NE     | Onion Creek Village | YMCA                            | 0.11              |          | 1              |                  | 1         |                   | 1              |              | 1              | 3              |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          |         |                | 1         |                   | X                    | 1       |                   |   |
|                 |      | Boles Family Sports Complex West |                 | 4.23   | 1550 North Mays Street     | NE     | Onion Creek Village | YMCA                            | 0.05              |          | 1              |                  | 1         |                   |                | 1            |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          |         | 5              |           | 1                 |                      | X       | 1                 |   |
|                 |      | La Frontera Central Green        |                 | 5.67   | 2651 La Frontera Boulevard | SW     | La Frontera         | La Frontera HOA                 | 0.38              |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          | 10      |                |           |                   |                      |         |                   |   |
|                 |      | La Frontera Lakeside             |                 | 2.27   | 951 Hesters Crossing Road  | SW     | La Frontera         | La Frontera HOA                 | 0.25              |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          | 2       |                |           | X                 |                      |         |                   |   |
|                 |      | Old Settlers Association (OSP)   |                 | 27.37  | 3300 Palm Valley Boulevard | NE     | Old Settlers Park   | Old Settlers Association        |                   |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          |         |                |           |                   | X                    |         |                   |   |
|                 |      | Round Rock Soccer Complex        |                 | 9.68   | 460 School Days Lane       | SE     | Hyr ridge           | Round Rock Association          |                   |          |                |                  |           |                   |                | 6            |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          |         |                |           |                   | X                    | 1       |                   |   |
|                 |      | Sam Bass Hopewell Cemetery       |                 | 10.99  | 1300 Sam Bass Road         | SW     | Old Town Meadows    | Round Rock Cemetery Association |                   |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          |         |                |           |                   | X                    |         |                   |   |
|                 |      | Teravista Golf Course            |                 | 238.97 | 4307 Teravista Club Drive  | NE     | Teravista           | Teravista NLP                   | 7.04              |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                     |               |               |          |         |                |           |                   | X                    | X       |                   |   |
|                 |      | Total                            | 0.00            | 306.27 |                            |        |                     |                                 | 7.83              | 0        | 2              | 0                | 2         | 0                 | 1              | 7            | 1              | 3              | 0            | 0                   | 0                | 0          | 0            | 0       | 0        | 0                        | 0                | 0                | 0             | 0                   | 0             | 0             | 0        | 0       | 12             | 5         | 0                 | 2                    | 2       | 6                 | 3 |



**Figure 3.17, Public and Private Amenity Centers and Recreation Facilities**

| Map Number      |  | Park Name                      | Overall Acreage |       | Address                      | Sector | Subdivision                 | Owner                           | Trail Distance    | Backstop | Practice Field | Basketball Court | Playscape | Recreation Center | Football Field | Soccer Field | Baseball Field | Softball Field | Tennis Court | Multi-purpose Court | Volleyball Court | Skate Park | Shuffleboard | Cricket | Dog Park | Remote Control Airplanes | Exercise Station | Disc Golf Course | Swimming Pool | Kiddie Swimming Pool | Spray Grounds | Festival Area | Pavilion | Benches | Picnic Table   | BBQ Grills | Drinking Fountain | Water Feature / Pond | Parking | Restroom Building |   |  |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|------------|--------------|---------|----------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|---------|----------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------|-------------------|---|--|
|                 |  | Amenity Centers                | Und.            | Dev.  |                              |        |                             |                                 | Active Facilities |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          | Aquatics         |                  |               | Passive Facilities   |               |               |          |         | Infrastructure |            |                   |                      |         |                   |   |  |
| City Owned      |  |                                |                 |       |                              |        |                             |                                 |                   |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         |                   |   |  |
| 18              |  | Clay Madsen Rec. Center & Park |                 | 17.01 | 1600 Gattis School Road      | SE     | Greenslopes at Lakecreek    | CORR                            | GLC               |          | 1              | 2                | 1         | 1                 |                |              |                |                | 2            |                     |                  | 1          |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      | X       | 1                 |   |  |
| 56              |  | Allen R. Baca Center           |                 |       | 301 W. Bagdad Avenue, Bldg 2 | SE     | Municipal Center            | CORR                            |                   |          |                |                  |           | 1                 |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            | X                 | X                    |         |                   |   |  |
|                 |  | Total                          | 0.00            | 17.01 |                              |        |                             |                                 |                   | 0        | 1              | 2                | 1         | 1                 | 0              | 0            | 0              | 0              | 2            | 0                   | 0                | 1          | 0            | 0       | 0        | 0                        | 0                | 0                | 1             | 0                    | 0             | 0             | 0        | 0       | 0              | 0          | 0                 | 0                    | 1       | 1                 |   |  |
| Privately Owned |  |                                |                 |       |                              |        |                             |                                 |                   |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         |                   |   |  |
|                 |  | Behrens Ranch                  |                 | 3.74  | 2503 Arbor Drive             | NW     | Behrens Ranch               | Behrens Ranch HOA               | 0.06              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                | 2            |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          | 1       | 4              |            |                   |                      | X       | 1                 |   |  |
|                 |  | Bent Tree                      |                 | 1.00  | 2101 Red Oak Circle          | NW     | Bent Tree                   | RR Bend Tree HOA                | 0.06              |          |                | 1                | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     | 1                |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             |                      |               |               |          |         | 5              |            |                   |                      | X       |                   |   |  |
|                 |  | Chandler Creek                 |                 | 3.28  | 2112 Agarita Trail           | NE     | Chandler Creek              | Chandler Creek HOA              | 0.23              |          |                | 1                | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                | 2            |                     | 1                |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 | 1 |  |
|                 |  | Estates of Settlement Park     |                 | 1.80  | 3000 Clinton Court           | NE     | Estates of Settlers Park    | Estates of Settlers Park HOA    | 0.14              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          |         | 3              | 3          | 2                 |                      |         | X                 | 1 |  |
|                 |  | Forest Creek                   |                 | 2.70  | 3600 Harvey Penick Drive     | SE     | Forest Creek                | Forest Creek HOA                | 0.06              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                | 2            |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 |   |  |
|                 |  | Forest Ridge                   |                 | 1.42  | 1000 Forest Ridge Blvd       | SE     | Forest Ridge                | Forest Ridge HOA                | 0.03              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             |                      |               |               |          |         | 2              |            |                   |                      |         | X                 |   |  |
|                 |  | Greenlawn Place                |                 | 0.38  | 1404 Zephyr Lane             | SE     | Greenlawn Place             | Greenlawn Place HOA             | 0.01              |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             |                      |               |               |          | 1       |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 |   |  |
|                 |  | Hidden Glen                    |                 | 0.66  | 1300 Hidden Glen Drive       | NW     | Hidden Glen                 | Hidden Glen HOA                 | 0.06              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          |         | 3              | 1          |                   |                      |         | X                 | 1 |  |
|                 |  | Highland Horizon               |                 | 2.30  | 416 Highland Horizon         | SW     | Highland Horizon            | Brushy Creek MUD                | 0.08              |          |                | 1                | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 | 1 |  |
|                 |  | Highlands at Mayfield Ranch    |                 | 2.40  | 3810 Bainbridge Cove         | NW     | Highlands at Mayfield Ranch | Highlands at Mayfield Ranch HOA |                   |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 |   |  |
|                 |  | Jester Farms                   |                 | 3.74  | 3760 Bradley Lane            | NE     | Jester Farms                | Jester Farms HOA                | 0.03              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         |                   | X |  |
|                 |  | Lake Forest                    |                 | 7.05  | 2779 Lake Forest Drive       | SE     | Lake Forest                 | Lake Forest HOA                 | 0.03              |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                | 1            |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      | X       |                   |   |  |
|                 |  | Legends Village                |                 | 3.46  | 2500 St. James Place         | NE     | Legends Village             | Legends Village HOA             | 0.05              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 | 1 |  |
|                 |  | Mayfield Ranch                 |                 | 9.18  | 3801 Blue Ridge Drive        | NW     | Mayfield Ranch              | Mayfield Ranch HOA              | 0.07              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          | 1       |                | 1          |                   |                      |         | X                 | 1 |  |
|                 |  | Oak Brook                      |                 | 2.94  | 16900 Morgan Hill Trail      | SW     | Oak Brook                   | Oak Brook HOA                   | 0.11              |          |                | 1                | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                | 1            |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             |                      |               |               |          | 1       |                | 4          |                   |                      |         |                   |   |  |
|                 |  | Oak Creek                      |                 | 0.94  | 1207 Oaklands Drive          | SW     | Oak Creek                   | Oak Creek HOA                   | 0.05              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         |                   |   |  |
|                 |  | Paloma Lake                    |                 | 1.65  | 2961 Saint Federico Way      | NE     | Paloma Lake                 | Paloma Lake HOA                 | 0.05              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          |         | 3              |            |                   |                      |         | X                 | 1 |  |
|                 |  | Parkside at Mayfield Ranch     |                 | 3.09  | 325 Parkside Parkway         | NW     | Parkside at Mayfield Ranch  | Parkside at Mayfield Ranch HOA  | 0.08              |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 | 1 |  |
|                 |  | Preserve at Stone Oak          |                 | 2.14  | 3831 Mayfield Ranch Blvd     | NW     | Preserve at Stone Oak       | Preserve at Stone Oak HOA       | 0.06              |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          | 1       |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 | 1 |  |
|                 |  | Round Rock Ranch               |                 | 1.53  | 2909 Round Rock Ranch Blvd   | SE     | Round Rock Ranch            | Round Rock Ranch HOA            |                   |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |               | 1                    | 1             |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 | 1 |  |
|                 |  | Ryan's Crossing                |                 | 1.23  | 3400 Rod Carew Drive         | NE     | Ryan's Crossing             | Ryan's Crossing HOA             | 0.04              |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          |         |                | 1          |                   |                      |         | X                 | 1 |  |
|                 |  | Sendero Springs                |                 | 15.01 | 4203 Pasada Lane             | NW     | Sendero Springs             | Brushy Creek MUD                | 0.48              |          |                | 1                | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          | 1       |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 |   |  |
|                 |  | Shadow Brook                   |                 | 10.90 | 1914 Shadowbrook Cir         | SW     | Shadow Brook                | Shadowbrook Club Inc            | 0.26              |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                | 2            |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 | 1 |  |
|                 |  | Siena                          |                 | 6.02  | 5844 Othello Place           | NE     | Siena                       | Siena MUD #2                    | 0.39              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             | 1                    |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 | 1 |  |
|                 |  | Sonoma North                   |                 | 8.91  | 2800 Barefoot Lane           | SE     | Sonoma                      | Sonoma HOA                      | 0.30              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1             |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   | X                    | X       |                   |   |  |

**Figure 3.17, Public and Private Amenity Centers and Recreation Facilities (cont.)**

|                         |  | Park Name               | Overall Acreage |        | Address                | Sector | Subdivision           | Owner                    | Trail Distance    | Backstop | Practice Field | Basketball Court | Playscape | Recreation Center | Football Field | Soccer Field | Baseball Field | Softball Field | Tennis Court | Multi-purpose Court | Volleyball Court | Skate Park | Shuffleboard | Cricket | Dog Park | Remote Control Airplanes | Exercise Station | Disc Golf Course | Swimming Pool      | Kiddie Swimming Pool | Spray Grounds | Festival Area | Pavilion | Benches | Picnic Table   | BBQ Grills | Drinking Fountain | Water Feature / Pond | Parking | Restroom Building |  |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------|--------|------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|------------|--------------|---------|----------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|---------|----------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------|-------------------|--|
|                         |  | Amenity Centers         | Und.            | Dev.   |                        |        |                       |                          | Active Facilities |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          | Aquatics         |                  | Passive Facilities |                      |               |               |          |         | Infrastructure |            |                   |                      |         |                   |  |
| Privately Owned (cont.) |  |                         |                 |        |                        |        |                       |                          |                   |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |                    |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         |                   |  |
|                         |  | Stone Canyon            |                 | 4.16   | 8300 Brightwater Blvd  | SW     | Stone Canyon          | Stone Canyon HOA         | 0.35              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1                  |                      |               |               | 1        |         |                |            |                   |                      | X       |                   |  |
|                         |  | Stone Oak South         |                 | 1.80   | 3900 Upper Passage Ln  | NW     | Preserve at Stone Oak | Stone Oak HOA            | 0.05              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1                  | 1                    |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      | X       | 1                 |  |
|                         |  | Sundrop                 |                 | 1.76   | 1100 Sundrop Place     | SE     | Round Rock Ranch      | Round Rock Ranch HOA     | 0.03              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1                  |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      | X       | 1                 |  |
|                         |  | Teravista - The Retreat |                 | 1.28   | 4451 Teravista Club Dr | NE     | Teravista             | Teravista HOA            | 0.11              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1                  |                      |               |               |          | 2       | 2              |            |                   |                      | X       | 1                 |  |
|                         |  | Teravista               |                 | 6.03   | 4211 Teravista Club Dr | NE     | Teravista             | Teravista HOA            | 0.30              |          |                | 2                | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                | 1            |                     | 1                |            | 1            |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1                  |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   | X                    | X       |                   |  |
|                         |  | The Oaklands            |                 | 3.30   | 700 Oak Park Drive     | SW     | The Oaklands          | Oakland HOA              | 0.21              |          |                | 2                | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                | 2            |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1                  |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 |  |
|                         |  | The Woods               |                 | 0.80   | 1812 Woods Boulevard   | NW     | The Woods             | Woods HOA                | 0.04              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1                  | 1                    |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 |  |
|                         |  | Trails at Shady Oaks    | 3.97            |        | 2225 Abilene Land      | NW     | Trails at Shady Oak   | Trails at Shadow Oak HOA |                   |          |                |                  |           |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  |                    |                      |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         |                   |  |
|                         |  | Turtle Creek Village    |                 | 3.57   | 707 Rolling Oak Drive  | SE     | Turtle Creek Village  | Turtle Creek Village     | 0.10              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1                  | 1                    |               |               |          |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 |  |
|                         |  | Vista Oaks              |                 | 4.84   | 3420 Vista Hills Blvd  | NW     | Vista Oaks            | Vista Oaks MUD           | 0.05              |          |                | 1                | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                | 1            |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1                  |                      |               |               | 1        |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 |  |
|                         |  | Walsh Ranch             |                 | 2.42   | 3610 Alexandrite Way   | NW     | Walsh Ranch           | Walsh Ranch MUD          | 0.16              |          |                |                  | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                |              |                     |                  |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1                  | 1                    |               |               | 1        |         |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 |  |
|                         |  | Wood Glen               |                 | 2.16   | 2519 Plantation Drive  | NW     | Wood Glen             | Wood Glen HOA            | 0.04              |          |                | 1                | 1         |                   |                |              |                |                | 1            |                     | 1                |            |              |         |          |                          |                  |                  | 1                  | 1                    |               |               |          | 1       |                |            |                   |                      |         | X                 |  |
|                         |  | Total                   | 3.97            | 129.58 |                        |        |                       |                          | 4.17              | 0        | 0              | 11               | 29        | 0                 | 0              | 0            | 0              | 0              | 15           | 0                   | 4                | 0          | 1            | 0       | 0        | 0                        | 0                | 0                | 34                 | 20                   | 0             | 0             | 8        | 14      | 21             | 3          | 0                 | 3                    | 33      | 17                |  |

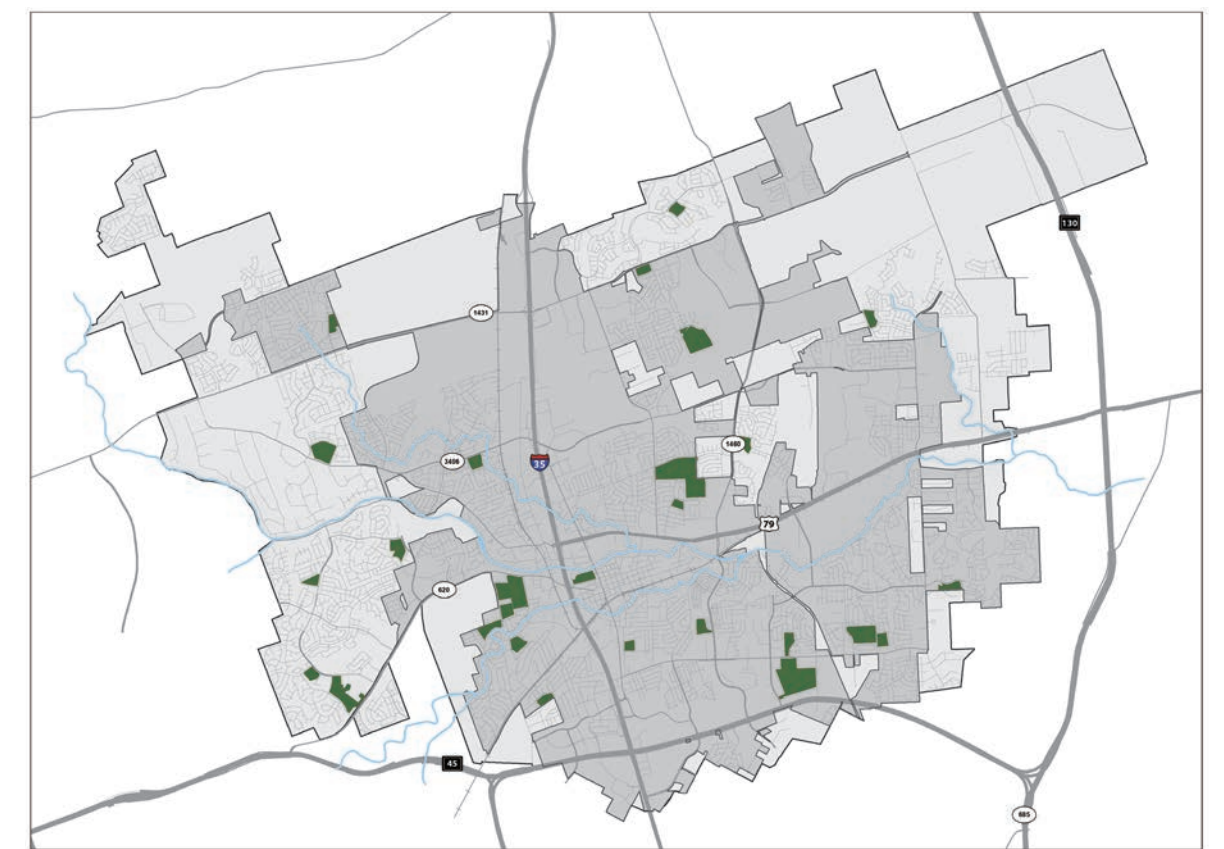
## Round Rock Independent School District

Round Rock ISD has a total of 50 campuses across its 110-square-mile service area. The ISD serves approximately 45,000 students in its 33 elementary schools, 10 middle schools, five high schools, and two alternative education centers. Round Rock ISD encompasses all of Round Rock as well as portions of Austin and Cedar Park (see Map 3.3, *Round Rock ISD School Locations within Round Rock City Limits & ETJ*). With a student-teacher ratio of 14.9 to 1, Round Rock ISD is one of the most award winning school districts in Texas.<sup>1</sup>

An inventory of the recreational amenities available at school campuses located within Round Rock's City limits and its ETJ limits is shown in Figure 3.18, *School Park and Recreation Facilities*.

1 “District Profile,” Round Rock Independent School District, <https://roundrockisd.org/about-rrisd/district-profile/>, 6 April 2017.

**Map 3.3, Round Rock ISD School Locations within Round Rock City Limits & ETJ**





**Figure 3.18, School Park and Recreation Facilities**

[illegible]



The Brushy Creek Trail is a highly used linear/linkage trail.



There are a variety of trail materials used throughout Round Rock.

Existing Trails in Round Rock Today

Round Rock has a total of approximately 133 miles of trails and seven miles of running tracks spread throughout the City today. The existing trails include both linear/linkage trails and trails within parks, as internal walking loops with no external destination or connections.

Figure 3.19, *Existing Trails in Round Rock & ETJ - 2016*, gives a more detailed look at the existing trails in Round Rock and Map 3.4, *Primary and Secondary Trails in Round Rock*, illustrates the locations of existing primary and secondary trails. For the purpose of this discussion, a primary trail is a trail that acts as a major linkage from one sector of the City to another. A good example of this type of trail is the Brushy Creek Regional Trail which, when complete, will span from the westernmost edge of the City to the easternmost edge of the City. A secondary trail is a trail that feeds into a primary trail system. A good example of a secondary trail is the Greater Lake Creek Trail. This trail system ultimately feeds into the Brushy Creek Regional Trail. The final type of trail found in the City is a local trail. A local trail consists of a trail within a park that loops or connects attractions in the park, but does not link up with an external destination or primary/secondary trail.

The City of Round Rock has built three linear/linkage trails, the Brushy Creek Regional Trail, Kensington Trail, and the Greater Lake Creek Trail. As illustrated in Map 3.4, portions of other linkage trails have been built and the City has a goal to fill the gaps in these connections in the near future as trails remain a major request and priority. The other City-built trails are looped trails within parks that do not connect to external destinations or neighborhoods.

The existing trails vary in the type of surfacing including asphalt, concrete, and decomposed granite. At the time of the 2004 Trails Master Plan, asphalt was the preferred trail surface in the City and local runners had expressed a preference for asphalt as their surface of choice. However, expansive soil conditions east of Interstate 35 contributed to the early deterioration of several trail segments leading to ADA accessibility concerns and increasing maintenance costs. In recent years, a move to concrete surfacing for long-term durability or decomposed granite for usability has occurred.

Figure 3.19, Existing Trails in Round Rock & ETJ - 2016

| Trails & Tracks                | Overall Trail Length (including Private, County, & City-Owned) | City-Owned Trails | City-Owned Parkways |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| Primary                        | 26.39  | 5.00              | 14.57               |
| Secondary                      | 51.27  | 4.19              | 23.54               |
| Local                          | 55.91  | 14.00             | -                   |
| Tracks                         | 6.82   | -                 | -                   |
| TOTAL MILES OF TRAILS & TRACKS | 140.39   | 23.19             | 38.11               |



Map 3.4, Primary and Secondary Trails in Round Rock





Figure 3.20, Round Rock Recreation Programs Inventory

| Adult Athletic Programs                      | Youth Athletic Programs       | Swimming / Aquatic Programs   | Instructional Classes     | Special Events                        | Private Amenity Center / YMCA Programs |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Mens Basketball                              | Basketball                    | Water Safety Instructor class | Adult tennis              | Day camps                             | After School Care                      |
| Flag Football                                | Girls Volleyball              | Lifeguard Training            | Youth tennis              | Kids Clubhouse After School           | Summer Camps                           |
| Softball                                     | RR Sertoma (private)          | Swimming Lessons              | Yoga-doodles              | Christmas Family Night                | Kinderdance                            |
| Co-rec Kickball                              | RR Football (private)         | Water aerobics                | Martial Arts              | Christmas tree recycling              | Acrotex                                |
| RR Tennis Assoc (private)                    | Pop Warner Football (private) | RR Dolphins (private)         | Kinderdance               | MLK Commemorative March               | Tennis Lessons                         |
| Double R Disc Golf Club (private)            | Track & Field                 | Aquatex (private) Swim Team   | Kindergym                 | Daddy Daughter Dance                  | Pilates                                |
| Lone Star Aeronauts RC Flying Club (private) | Skateboarding                 | Open Swim                     | Kindertots                | Flashlight Egg Hunt                   | Hathe Yoga Beginner                    |
| RR Model Boat Club (private)                 | Football                      |                               | Adult Yoga                | July 4 Frontier Days                  | Dance Workshops                        |
| Cloud Chasers Kite Group (private)           | Archery                       |                               | Jazzercise (private)      | Movies in the Park                    | Personal Training                      |
| RR Football (private)                        | Soccer Shots                  |                               | Round Rock Fit (private)  | 5K for Clay                           | Prenatal Yoga                          |
| Pop Warner Football (private)                | Racquetball                   |                               | Sportball                 | Spring Break Camp                     | Nutritional Knowledge                  |
|  | Sand Volleyball               |                               | Adult Karate              | Night Rider Family Bike Ride          | Racquetball Training                   |
|  |                               |                               | Teen Karate               | Rock'N Lights                         | Free Weights for Women                 |
|  |                               |                               | Spanish for Fun           | Touch a Truck                         | Flag Football Mini Camp                |
|  |                               |                               | Junior Chefs              | Youth Fishing Derby                   | Volleyball Camp                        |
|  |                               |                               | Boot Camp                 | Family Campout                        | Fit Camp for Kids                      |
|  |                               |                               | Counselor in Training     | Fall Fun Fest                         | Karate                                 |
|  |                               |                               | Yoga Hoop Fusion          | Holiday Bazaar                        | Spanish                                |
|  |                               |                               | Chair Yoga                | Muddy Miler Family Adventure          | KinderMusik                            |
|  |                               |                               | Soccer Shots              | Swim/Run r-Aqua-thon                  | Capital Gymnastics                     |
|  |                               |                               | Cooking with Kids Kitchen | Outlaw Trail Cycling Tour             | Boot Camp                              |
|  |                               |                               | Cordovan Art School       | Trunk or Treat for Special Needs Kids | Boxing Class                           |
|  |                               |                               | Epic Hip Hop              | Juneteenth Rhythm & Ribs Celebration  | Creative Rhythms Dance                 |
|  |                               |                               | Move Kids 2 Music         | Geocaching                            | Cheer / Tumble                         |
|  |                               |                               | Toddler Tree House        | Rock Climbing                         | Young Rembrandts                       |
|  |                               |                               |                           | Turkey Bowl                           | 20 Circuit Training Workout            |
|  |                               |                               |                           | Offshore Fishing                      | Full Aerobics                          |
|  |                               |                               |                           | Trails Challenge                      | Gymboree                               |
|  |                               |                               |                           | Standup Paddling                      | Ballet                                 |
|  |                               |                               |                           |                                       | Bumper Sports                          |







## Round Rock’s Ranking

Round Rock is continually ranked as one of the Best Cities in America in a variety of different magazines and studies. Below is a summary of six studies where Round Rock was ranked towards the top in a positive light. In all the studies and rankings, parks and recreation were in some way factored into the decision.

### One of America’s Safest Cities

The City of Round Rock was ranked as the **fifth safest city in the United States** in a survey released by niche.com in 2017. The ranking is based on data from the FBI and U.S. Census and provides a comprehensive assessment of the overall safety at the City level. It takes into account key indicators of a location’s safety, including violent and property crime rates. Some of the key implementation strategies that assist in keeping Round Rock as one of the safest cities include the City’s philosophy of involving the community in fighting crime and deploying a range of proactive strategies.

### One of the Fastest Growing Cities in America

In July of 2016, Round Rock was named **one of the fastest growing cities in America** by Zippia. Their analysis looked at the growth rates for cities over the last five years, according to the American Community Survey, which is released by the U.S. Census Bureau. After analyzing all of the data, Round Rock was ranked ninth in the study. As prices in Austin continue to rise, people have begun to move to Round Rock for its affordability and quality of life. The PARD contributes to the quality of life in Round Rock. As the population continues to grow, so too does the importance of the PARD and the need to expand the recreational programming and trail system.

### One of the Best Cities to Retire

Bankrate.com ranked the top American cities for retirement, factoring in the cost of living, crime rate (violent and property crimes), walkability, health care quality, state and local tax burden, personal well-being for seniors, weather (temperature and precipitation), and the vitality of the local cultural scene. The study ranked **Round Rock as the 12th best city for retirement**. Round Rock’s trail system helps contribute to the walkability of the City, as well as to seniors’ overall health and activity levels. The PARD also provides several activities geared toward seniors through the Allen R. Baca Center for Senior and Community Activities.

## One of the Best Places to Start a Family

In February of 2017, LendEDU ranked round rock the **third best place to start a family**. The ranking noted excellent school systems, safety, cost of living, and proximity to Austin as reasons for the City’s high rank. Quality of life also plays a role in making Round Rock a desirable place to start a family. PARD contributes to the quality of life through parks, trails, and programming.

### One of the Coolest Suburbs Worth a Visit

Several publications have listed Round Rock as **one of the coolest suburbs worth a visit**. Among these publications are Thrillest in 2015 and Travel and Leisure in 2016. Contributing to the “cool factor” of Round Rock is the burgeoning foodie scene, arts and culture, natural beauty, booming jobs sector, and vibrant social scene. The PARD contributes to the beauty of the City, the social scene, and arts and culture.

### One of the Best Cities in Texas to Raise a Family

In 2016, Livability.com selected Round Rock as the **second best city for families in Texas**. The expansive park and trail system, City-owned waterpark, and sports facilities, combined with family-friendly programming, are just some of the amenities that put Round Rock high on the list. A great downtown, strong economy, low cost of living, and high availability of quality jobs close to home also contribute to the allure of living in Round Rock.

One of the Fastest Growing Cities in America



One of the Best Cities in Texas to Raise a Family



One of the Best Places to Live, Work, and Play





## The Value and Benefits of Parks and Recreation in Round Rock

Developing an excellent park and recreation system demonstrates a local government's commitment to offer a high quality of life for its residents. A superior park and recreation system increases the quality of life in a community because of the many benefits that it offers. Recreation and health benefits of parks and recreation include:

- Access to parks increases the frequency of exercise, especially among children and youth.
- Staying active can help reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity, depression, and other health problems.
- Parks and recreation provide opportunities for all people to be physically active, socially engaged, and cognitively stimulated.

Community and cultural benefits of parks and recreation include:

- Provides opportunities for rest, relaxation, and revitalization
- Preserves and interprets historic community assets
- Provides opportunities for community involvement
- Play is critical for child development
- Provides places for health and well-being that are accessible by people of all ages and abilities
- Provides refuges of safety for at-risk youth which can in turn help reduce juvenile delinquency

Natural resources and environmental benefits of parks and recreation include:

- Protects and preserves vital green spaces
- Protects and preserves critical wildlife habitat
- Educates visitors regarding the appropriate use of natural areas as recreational areas
- Exposure to nature improves psychological and social health
- Contributes to clean air and water
- Makes the city significantly more attractive

Economic benefits of parks and recreation include:

- Increases property value of homes in close proximity to parks
- Stimulates economic development by attracting businesses and keeping residents
- Increases tourism
- Attracts new businesses to a community by improving the standard of living

### Opportunities for Restoration and Relaxation

So many people face increased challenges every day, whether it is from their job, their family life, or any other combination of things. People come to parks to relieve some of their daily stress. Whether it involves kicking a soccer ball, watching children play on the swings, or sitting by a pond feeding ducks, the idea of restoration is that people feel better after they leave a park than when they first arrived. There are some elements of the natural environment that can increase the likelihood of restoration.

- Parks and recreation allow for people to reflect and discover what is on their mind. This can come from fishing, listening to birds, watching a water fountain, enjoying the scenery, or countless other natural occurrences. Placing benches or bridges where people can stop to notice nature increases the opportunities for restoration.
- Parks need to have inviting things to allow the mind to wander. Japanese gardens offer outstanding examples of how small spaces can achieve this. They position viewpoints so the entire garden cannot be seen at once, they have circuitous pathways to make the area seem larger, or they have vegetation that divides larger spaces.
- By providing a slight sense of enclosure, the users of the park feel as if they are somewhere else, away from life's distractions. Enclosure can be achieved by having a tree canopy or planting vegetation along building sides to hide them.

### Opportunities for Community Involvement

Parks and recreation offers opportunities for citizens to become involved in the community through such ways as:

- Allowing residents to be instructors for a recreation program gives them the opportunity to share and teach their skills to other members in the community.

- Organizing work day projects to install a playground or plant new trees lets residents feel a sense of ownership in the park they helped build.

By providing opportunities for residents to become involved in the community, parks and recreation are also providing opportunities for residents to socialize and to meet their neighbors.



Volunteers installing a playground at Bradford Park



Residents planting trees at Lake Creek Park





### Benefits to At Risk Youth and Teenagers

One major benefit of parks and recreation is the impact it can have on at-risk youth. Teenagers are the hardest market to reach; when there is a lack of activities for them, some may engage in juvenile delinquency. By providing activities and recreation programming for this segment of the population, the City is providing a safe place for the youth to go and a usually supervised environment for them to be in. Examples of where recreation programs had an impact on crime rates in communities include:

- There was a 29 percent drop in violent crime in Norfolk, Virginia after new youth athletic leagues were introduced in neighborhoods.
- When Phoenix basketball courts and other recreation facilities are kept open late during the summer, calls to police reporting juvenile crime drop by as much as 55 percent.
- There was a 28 percent decrease in crime in Fort Worth, Texas within a one mile radius of the community centers that offered a midnight basketball program. The community centers that did not offer the program had an average increase in crime of 39 percent.

### Tourism Impacts of Parks and Recreation

People visit a city for the attractions that are offered. Several attractions in a community include the parks and recreational facilities as well as festivals, concerts, and events that take place in those facilities. For example:

- While visiting New York City, people want to go to Central Park, the Highline, and other historical sites, parks, and monuments.
- Millennium Park in Chicago is rapidly becoming the primary tourist attraction in that city.
- People from surrounding communities often drive to Austin just to jog or bike along the trails of Lady Bird Lake.

A large portion of tourism in Round Rock is driven by being the Sports Capital of Texas. Amateur and youth leagues from across the nation come to Round Rock to play in tournaments at the fields, courts, tracks, and gyms in the City. Also, while visiting for a sports tournament, families stay in Round Rock hotels, eat in Round Rock restaurants, and shop in Round Rock stores, thus having a high economic impact in the community.

It was calculated that at the end of 2015, sports events in Round Rock had a total economic impact of \$12,336,661.

A recent study completed by the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University for the National Recreation and Park Association states that in 2013, local and regional public park agencies generated nearly \$140 billion in economic activity and supported nearly one million jobs. Combined with studies on the state and national park systems, that number increased to \$200 billion in economic activity annually.

Parks and recreation are also good for a community's economy because of the impact they can have on other businesses. For example hotels often charge more for a room if it overlooks a park, lake, ocean, garden, or open space as opposed to a parking lot, roof top, or street. By charging more, the hotel/motel tax that a city receives is higher. Other business impacts include the operations that people start in conjunction with a park or trail. For example, people can rent canoes or kayaks at Zilker Park in Austin, and people can rent bicycles along the Cape Cod Rail Trail in Massachusetts. Each creates an attraction, a business opportunity, and possible revenue generation that would not otherwise be there without the park or trail facility.

### Environmental Benefits of Parks and Recreation

Parks and recreation offer several environmental benefits to a community. Parkland, open space, greenbelts, and trails all contribute to ensuring that a community is green and not overrun with concrete. For one, parks and open space can control storm water runoff and reduce the likelihood of flooding. The rain that falls on parkland will seep into the soil. Rain water that falls onto impervious surfaces can be slowed down by planting trees which will impede the fall rate. American Forests, a national conservation organization that promotes forestry, estimates that trees in cities save \$400 billion in stormwater retention facility costs.

Parks, open space, and trees also contribute to cleaner air in a community. Trees can absorb air pollutants that would otherwise increase sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide in the atmosphere. In 1994 in New York City, it was reported that trees removed 1,821 metric tons of air pollution.

Round Rock's own Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance and tree planting program has made a significant impact on the community since its adoption. The Tree Ordinance designates tree species and size that are protected, designates a monarch tree category in which these trees can only be removed by City Council authorization, and requires the mitigation of removed trees to be replaced either at a 1:1 ratio or 3:1 ratio depending on the size of the tree. The Tree Fund along with the City's General Fund has funded the City's tree planting program which has planted approximately 7,000 trees in public parks and right-of-ways since 2000.

Parks and open space protect wildlife habitats as well. Habitats of endangered species and areas specific to migratory patterns are often protected and designated as parkland or open space. Parks and open space contribute to the preservation of land in general as well. The Parks and Recreation Department ensures that not all the land gets developed. It is important to have green space and places of nature within a city. A recent study by the Trust for Public Lands shows that over the past ten years, voter approval for bonds associated with conserving open space and acquiring parkland exceed 75 percent. Parks and greenbelts are the most significantly preserved open spaces in a community.

### Personal Health Benefits of Parks and Recreation

Parks and recreation, at their most basic function, offer places for exercise. With heart disease, diabetes, and child obesity rising to staggering numbers, parks and recreation give us the opportunity to be physical. Whether it is jogging along a trail, playing in a softball league, or swimming at the pool, the most common places for exercise are in our parks and through our recreation programs. Additionally, play is critical for child development. Organized sports, playing on a playground, and unstructured activities such as tag or hide and seek will help children develop muscle strength, coordination, cognitive thinking and reasoning, and develop language skills. Also, play teaches children how to interact with others. One of the key places where children play is once again at a community's parks and recreation facilities.

Parks and recreation have been shown to have psychological benefits as well. Physical exercise helps develop new nerve cells which increase a person's capacity for learning. Being in nature and exercise have both been shown to reduce feelings of stress, depression, and anxiety. Parks and nature conjure a sense of relaxation. Just driving through a park or looking at green space through the window of a building has been shown to be enough to relax the mind.

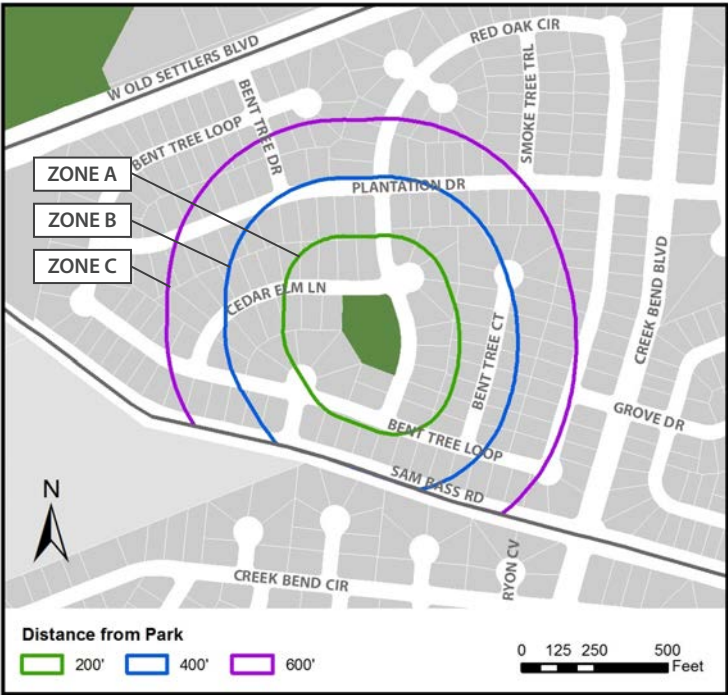
### Upcoming Assessments of Park Areas

In 2018, the Parks and Recreation Department plans to utilize the newly developed SOPARC (System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities) method for assessing park and recreation areas. This method is a validated direct observation tool that determines park users' physical activity levels, gender, types of activities, and estimated age and ethnicity. It also collects information about park accessibility, usability, supervision, maintenance, and organization. This data will help inform park planning and programming, as well as provide a glimpse at the behaviors of the users of the parks and how the parks benefit each individual user.

## Economic Benefits of Parks and Recreation

The *Proximate Principle* developed by Dr. John Crompton of Texas A&M University is the theory that people are willing to pay more for their home when it is close to a park or green space.

- The *Proximate Principle* divides houses within 600 feet of a park or open space into different zones and the zones closest to a park have the highest value. Those living in Zone A (within 200 feet of a park) pay the most for their home, those living in Zone B (within 400 feet of a park) pay less than Zone A but more than Zone C (within 600 feet of a park), and Zone C pays the least.

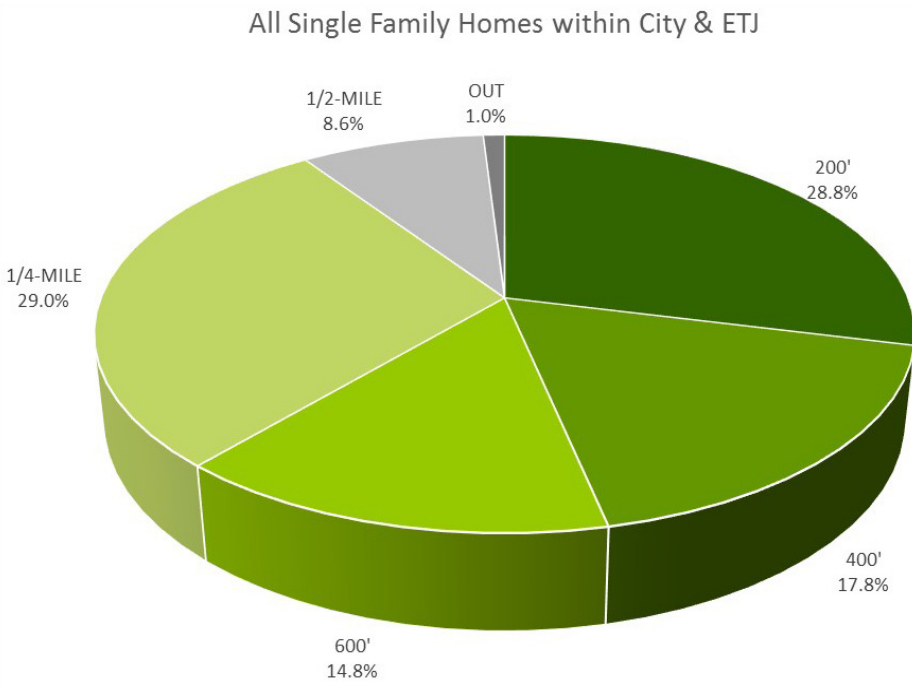


- The higher the property value, the more tax revenue the property produces for the city.
- Additionally, park maintenance typically costs less for a city than providing services to additional homes. For example, if ten additional houses were built on a piece of land instead of a park, it would cost the city more money each year to provide multiple types of services. Providing services such as fire and police protection, water, sewage, and schools for ten houses is more costly than the maintenance of a park per year.

Figure 3.21, Cities Where the Proximity Principle was Proven

| Study Site        | Open Space Type       | Property Value Impact   |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Boston, MA        | 30 acres of greenways | Property value decreased by 6% when distance from park doubles                      |
| Chicago, IL       | 24.6 acre park        | Increased property value by \$100 per square foot                                   |
| Portland, OR      | public parks          | Increased property value 1-3% within 1500 ft. of park                               |
| Portland, OR      | golf courses          | Increased property value 5% within 1500 ft. of course                               |
| Boulder, CO       | greenbelts            | \$4.20 decrease in price of home for every foot removed from greenbelt              |
| Howard County, MD | open space            | Increased property value 3 times  |
| Salo, Finland     | urban forest          | Property value decreased 5.9% for every kilometer in distance from the urban forest |

Figure 3.22, Distribution of Single Family Properties Relative to Parks or Open Space in Round Rock City and ETJ



Source: Williamson County Appraisal District

## Economic Impact of Round Rock’s Parks on Property Values

The *Proximate Principle* was tested on properties in proximity to Round Rock’s parks and open spaces. Based on data collected from the Williamson Central Appraisal District (WCAD) in 2016, approximately 61.4 percent of all developed single-family homes in the City and ETJ of Round Rock were within 600 feet of a park or open space (see Figure 3.22, *Distribution of Single Family Properties Relative to Parks or Open Space in Round Rock City and ETJ*). This is shown graphically on Map 3.5 on the following page. Additionally, 90.4 percent of single-family homes are within walking distance of a park (1/4-mile radius).

A citywide analysis of appraisal values provided by WCAD shows a marked increase (15.9%) in the value of homes within 600 feet of park. This indicates that the *Proximate Principle* does apply to Round Rock; however, this broad-brush analysis does not account for many other factors that affect property values, including lot size, year built, or home size/quality. So, in addition to analyzing appraisal property values at the citywide level, property values were analyzed at the subdivision level. At this level, there is far less variation in the factors that affect property values.

For the subdivision analysis, appraisal property values within and outside of 600 feet of a park were compared within each subdivision. The results of this analysis show that *Proximate Principle* applies to the majority of subdivisions in Round Rock and its ETJ. Approximately 60 percent of subdivisions containing parcels within 600 feet of a park were found to have appraisal values that reflect park proximity. In these subdivisions, the average increase in appraisal value of homes within 600 feet was 6.3 percent within Round Rock and 6.8 percent including the ETJ. The increase in appraisal value becomes even more pronounced for properties within 200 feet of a park, where it was 8.3 percent within Round Rock and 8.8 percent including the ETJ.

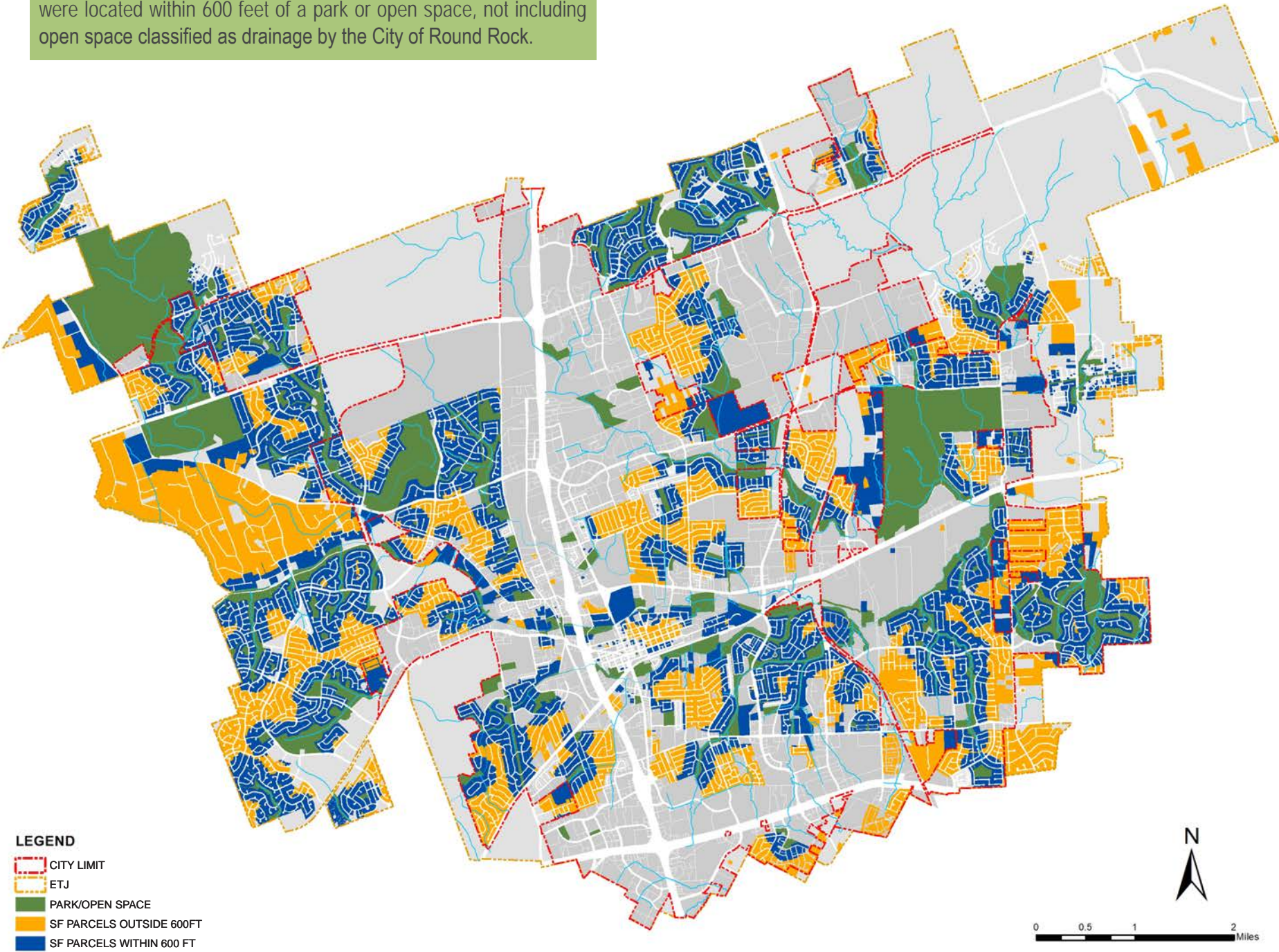
While the *Proximate Principle* applies to most subdivisions, the proximity of parks in older subdivisions appears to have a much lower impact on appraisal property values than the proximity of parks in newer subdivisions. Of the outlier subdivisions (those in which property values did not appear to reflect park proximity), 56 percent are 15 years and older. The subdivision analysis also seems to indicate that undeveloped parks have less of an impact on property values than developed ones. Of the outlier subdivisions, 24 percent have homes that are adjacent to undeveloped parks or open spaces. This supports Dr. Crompton’s finding that the maintenance and quality of a park will affect its influence on property values.





Map 3.5, Single Family Parcels and Park Proximity

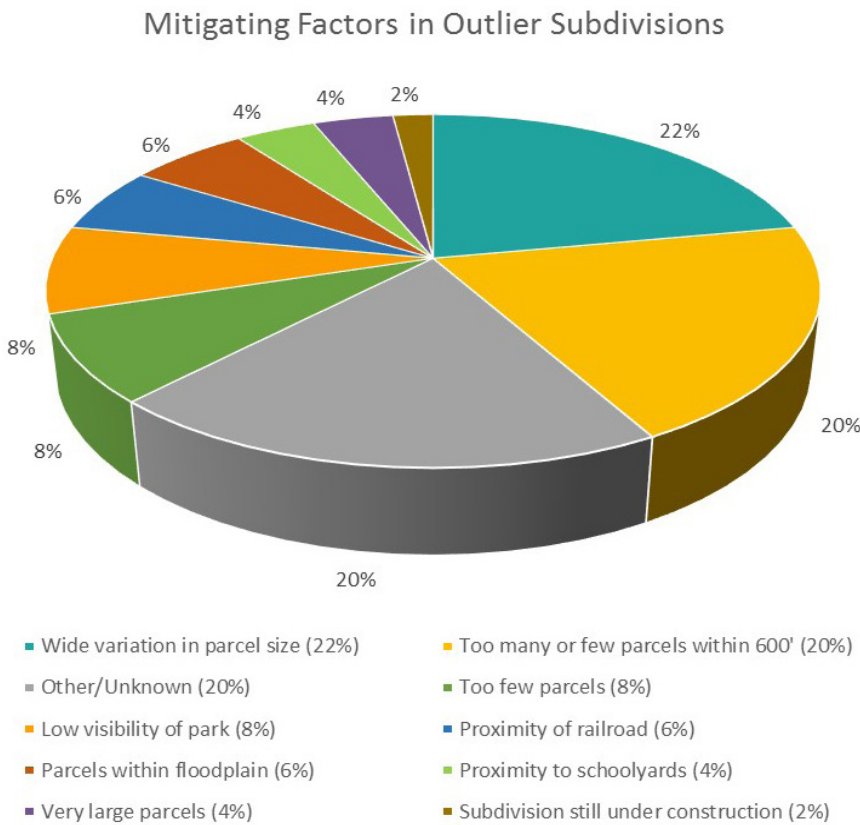
In 2016, approximately 61.4% of developed single-family parcels were located within 600 feet of a park or open space, not including open space classified as drainage by the City of Round Rock.



### Economic Impact of Round Rock's Parks on Property Values

Beyond being in proximity of an older or undeveloped park, 80 percent of the outlier subdivisions were found to be affected by mitigating factors. Some of these factors have a negative correlation with property value and other factors simply make the subdivision difficult to analyze. The most common mitigating factors include: wide variation in parcel size, too many or too few parcels within 600 feet (greater than 90% or less than 10%), very few parcels (less than 25) in a subdivision, low visibility of park, proximity to a railroad, and parcels within the floodplain. Figure 3.23 below provides a breakdown of these factors.

Figure 3.23, Mitigating Factors Affecting Appraisal Values in Outlier Subdivisions



In addition to analyzing appraisal values, market data was also analyzed at the subdivision level and the *Proximate Principle* appears to apply to this data as well. Case studies and tables that illustrate the impact of parks and open spaces on property values are shown on the following pages.



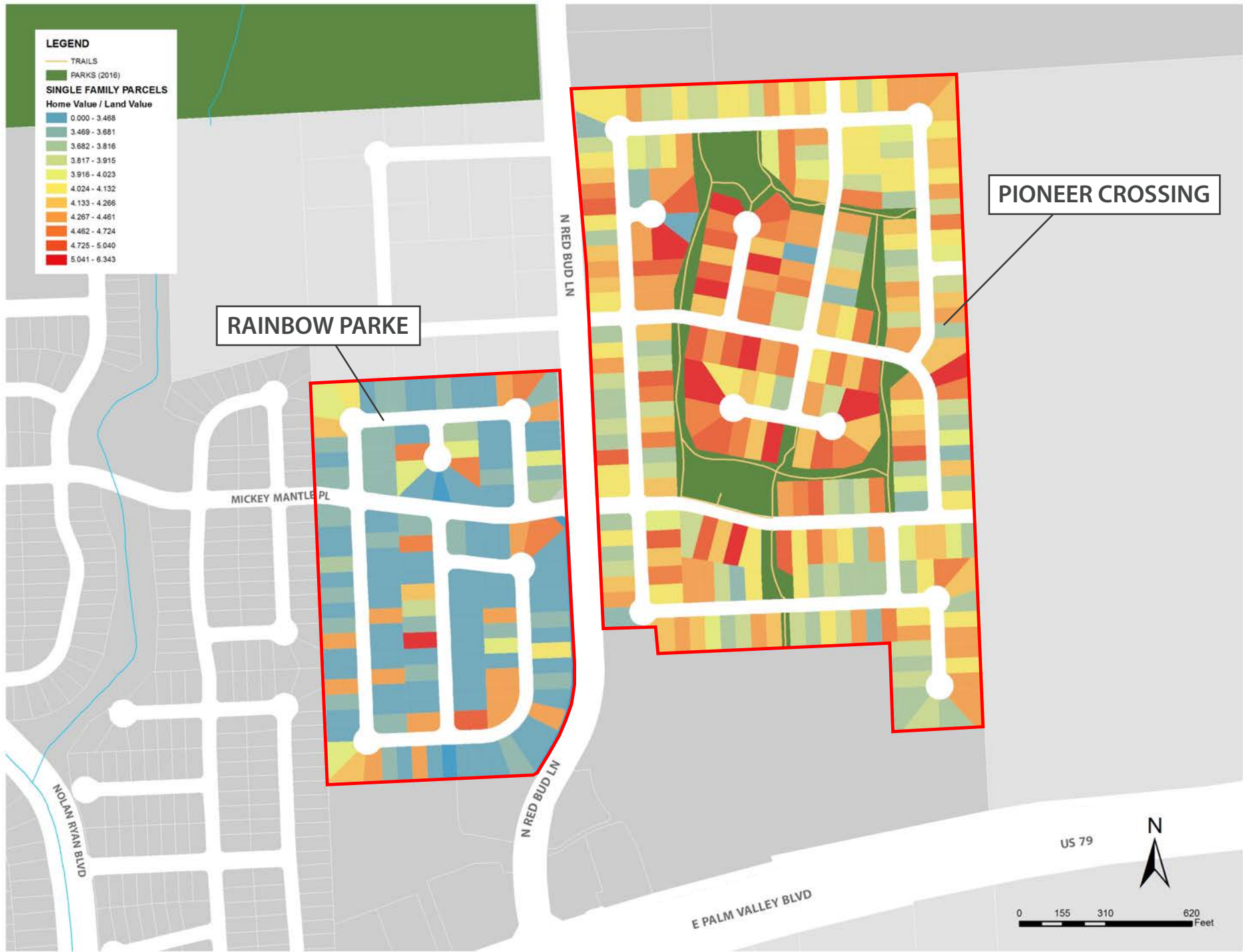
### Case Study 1: Integrated Park Subdivision vs. Traditional Subdivision

This case study shows the impact that a well-integrated park and walking loop can have on the property values within a subdivision. These two subdivisions are located very close to each other, only separated by Red Bud Lane. The homes in both subdivisions are of similar quality and were built at approximately the same time. While the median square footage of homes in Rainbow Parke is roughly 200 feet larger than that in Pioneer Crossing, when the size of the home is controlled for, the median value per square foot is seven percent higher in Pioneer Crossing.

Figure 3.24, Case Study 1 Comparison

|                      | RAINBOW PARKE | PIONEER CROSSING |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Median Year Built    | 2007          | 2006             |
| Median SF            | 1,969         | 1,755            |
| Median Value         | \$196,074     | \$188,651        |
| Value / SF           | \$100         | \$107            |
| Parcels within 600'  | 16%           | 100%             |
| Increased Value / SF | -             | +7%              |

Map 3.6, Rainbow Parke & Pioneer Crossing Neighborhoods



Source: Williamson County Appraisal District





Case Study 2: Master-Planned Community vs. Traditional Subdivision

In this case study, the impact of park proximity on property values is quite pronounced due to the great differences in the design of these subdivisions. Teravista is a master-planned golf course community with an extensive trail and open space system woven throughout. Eagle Ridge is a nearby subdivision with similar quality homes, but without any parks or trails within its boundaries. The market data analysis reveals that the median value per square foot is 17.2 percent higher in Teravista.

Figure 3.25, Case Study 2 Overall Comparison

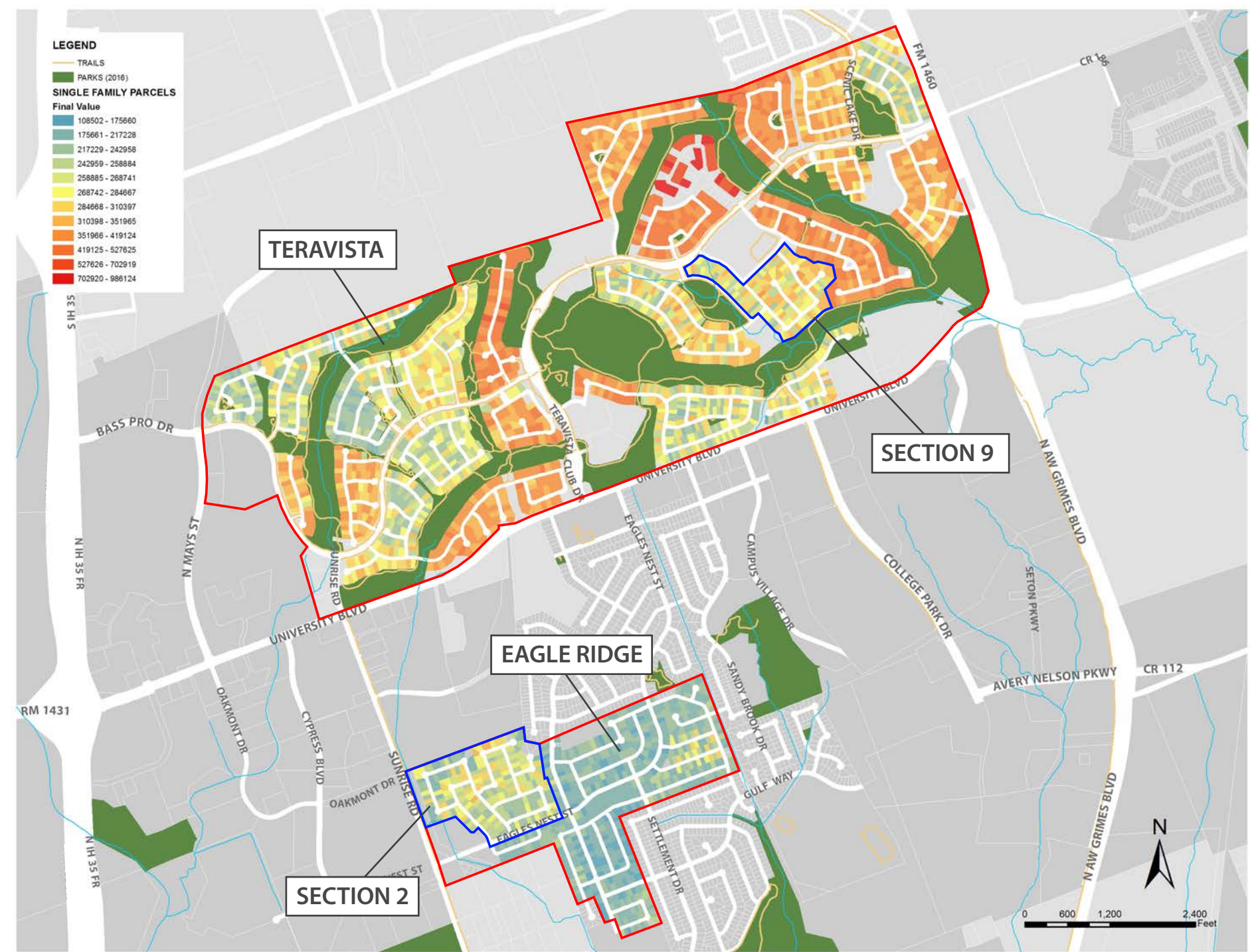
|                      | TERAVISTA | EAGLE RIDGE |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Median Year Built    | 2008      | 2004        |
| Median SF            | 2,960     | 2,317       |
| Median Value         | \$343,867 | \$230,148   |
| Value / SF           | \$116     | \$99        |
| Parcels within 600'  | 99%       | 12%         |
| Increased Value / SF | +17.2%    | -           |

However, Teravista is a much larger subdivision with a wider range of home and lot sizes than Eagle Ridge. In order to make a more precise comparison between these two subdivisions, similar sections were chosen from each. The homes in section nine of Teravista and section two of Eagle Ridge were constructed at the same time and with nearly the exact same square footage. Yet, the *Proximate Principle* holds and property values per square foot in Teravista are still 10 percent higher than those in Eagle Ridge.

Figure 3.26, Case Study 2 Section Comparison

|                      | TERAVISTA<br>(Section 9) | EAGLE RIDGE<br>(Section 2) |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Median Year Built    | 2007                     | 2007                       |
| Median SF            | 2,550                    | 2,564                      |
| Median Value         | \$284,005                | \$259,301                  |
| Value / SF           | \$111                    | \$101                      |
| Parcels within 600'  | 100%                     | 0%                         |
| Increased Value / SF | +10%                     | -                          |

Map 3.7, Teravista & Eagle Ridge Neighborhoods



Source: Williamson County Appraisal District



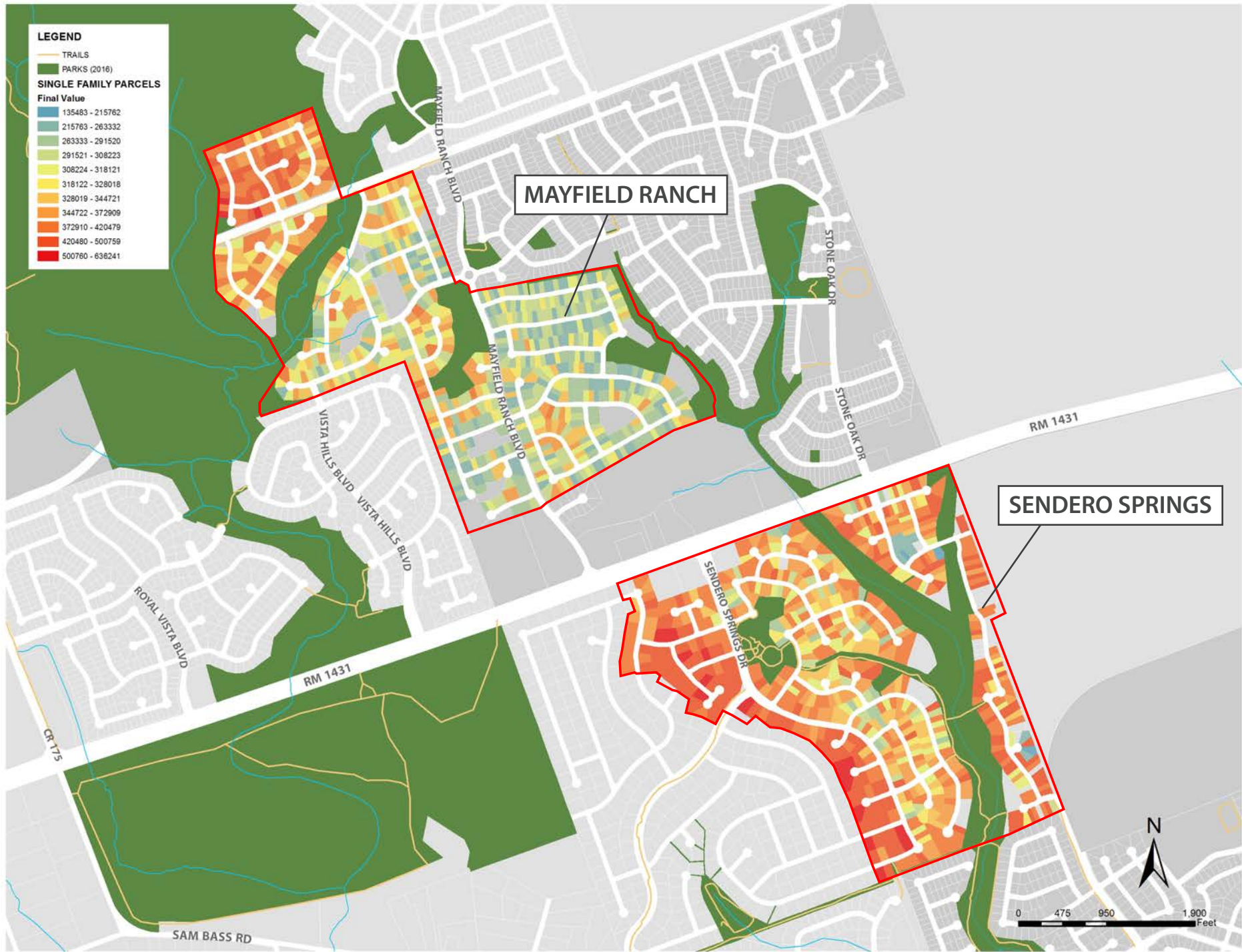
### Case Study 3: Proximity to Developed vs. Undeveloped Parks

In this case study, both subdivisions have well-integrated parks and greenbelts. However, the greenbelt in Sendero Springs has a trail system that connects different parts of the subdivision to the community's amenity center, while the greenbelts in Mayfield Ranch remain largely undeveloped. Given that the homes in both subdivisions are approximately the same size and age, the 9.6 percent increase in property value per square foot in Sendero Springs seems to indicate the positive affect that a developed park can have on a subdivision.

Figure 3.27, Case Study 3 Comparison

|                      | MAYFIELD RANCH | SENDERO SPRINGS |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Median Year Built    | 2007           | 2008            |
| Median SF            | 2,889          | 3,072           |
| Median Value         | \$331,489      | \$386,208       |
| Value / SF           | \$115          | \$126           |
| Parcels within 600'  | 83%            | 92%             |
| Increased Value / SF | -              | +9.6%           |

Map 3.8, Mayfield Ranch & Sendero Springs Neighborhoods



Source: Williamson County Appraisal District





Figure 3.28, 2016 Economic Analysis of Parks in Round Rock

|   | Citywide Analysis | Subdivision Analysis | Average of Analyses |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Total Value inside Round Rock                                       | \$6,441,616,204   | \$6,441,616,204      | \$6,441,616,204     |
| Value of properties within 600'                                     | \$4,016,625,285   | \$4,016,625,285      | \$4,016,625,285     |
| Assumed average of a park   | 15.9%             | 6.3%                 | 11.1%               |
| Value of properties attributed to parks                             | \$638,643,420     | \$253,047,393        | \$445,845,407       |
| Effective annual residential tax rate                               | 0.00425           | 0.00425              | 0.00425             |
| Annual property tax capture from value of property tax due to parks | \$2,714,235       | \$1,075,451          | \$1,894,843         |

### Aggregate Economic Analysis

After reviewing the results of the citywide and subdivision level analyses, it is clear that the total economic impact of Round Rock’s parks and open spaces on property values falls somewhere in between these estimates. The citywide analysis shows a strong correlation (15.9%) between appraisal property values and proximity to a park; however, it does not account for many other factors that affect property values, including lot size, year built, or home size/quality. The subdivision analysis of appraisal values also shows a correlation (6.3%) between property values and park proximity; and there is far less variation in the factors that affect property value. However, some subdivisions are difficult to analyze. Of the outlier subdivisions, 56 percent were affected by factors that made analysis very difficult. The market data case studies confirm that the average increase in property value per square foot (10.9%) is higher than that found in the subdivision appraisal value analysis. Therefore, it is believed that an aggregate of the citywide and subdivision analyses will yield the most accurate estimate of property value that can be attributed to park proximity.

Using the total appraisal value of properties within 600 feet of a park (\$4,016,625,285), we applied the average increase of 11.1 percent to arrive at a total increase of \$445,845,407 in property value that can be attributed to the proximity of parks and open spaces. Applying the current effective annual residential tax rate (0.00425) to this increase in property value results in a total annual tax capture of \$1,894,843 for the City of Round Rock. *This accounts for nearly 20 percent of the Parks and Recreation Department’s annual budget.*

### Conclusion - Parks Add Value to Round Rock

Based on the various analyses performed at both the citywide and subdivision level, the *Proximate Principle* appears to apply to Round Rock and its ETJ. The data indicates that proximity to parks and open space generally has a positive impact on the property values. The majority of subdivisions containing homes within 600 feet of a park were found to have appraisal and market values that reflect that proximity. Using an aggregate of the analyses, the average increase in appraisal property value is 11.1 percent. The degree to which property values increase appears to be related to the quality of the park. It is typically higher when the park is relatively new, has high visibility within the subdivision, or has been developed with a trail system or other amenities. This supports John Crompton’s finding that quality, maintenance, and street visibility are qualities of a park that will affect its influence on property values.

The majority of subdivisions in Round Rock and its ETJ reflect the *Proximate Principle*. Of the subdivisions that do not, 80 percent were found to be affected by mitigating factors. Some of these factors have a negative correlation with property values in and of themselves, such as proximity to a railroad or homes located within a floodplain (24%). Some factors simply make the subdivision difficult to analyze, such as a wide variation in parcel size, too many or few parcels within 600 feet of a park, and subdivisions that are still under construction (56%). Further analysis of market data, rather than appraisal value data, could prove useful in determining why the remaining 20 percent of subdivisions do not reflect the *Proximate Principle*.

Additional research is necessary for this argument to stand up to criticism and speculation among economists and the development community. In both the citywide and subdivision level analyses of appraisal values, there are factors not accounted for which could influence individual property values. In order to minimize these factors, case studies with market data were conducted on similar subdivisions, but the results are not statistically verifiable. Rather, this analysis indicates that there is an apparent correlation between park proximity, qualities, and property values, suggesting a need to conduct further and deeper research.



## The Sports Capital of Texas Designation

Round Rock is designated as the Sports Capital of Texas. Such a designation has a high impact on the City and the economy of Round Rock. As of the end of 2015, tournaments and events brought to Round Rock because it is the Sports Capital of Texas had a total economic impact of \$12,336,661. Being the Sports Capital of Texas also implies certain responsibilities of the City. **In order to continue to attract and recruit tournaments, fields need to be tournament quality and in excellent condition.** Money must be set aside on an annual basis for the purpose of maintaining fields at a tournament quality. Tournament officials will find another host city if the quality of the playing fields and surrounding amenities do not meet their desires. The City of Round Rock must maintain and upgrade its sports facilities in order to meet their goal of being the Sports Capital of Texas.

Also, there needs to be an adequate number of fields to accommodate tournaments and events. The City has made a concerted effort to increase the number and types of fields available for tournament use as part of the Sports Capital of Texas initiative.

Furthermore, for Round Rock to truly be the Sports Capital of Texas, the City needs to appeal to all sports, not just baseball, softball, and soccer. With the construction of the Old Settlers Park Multipurpose Field Complex, a multitude of flat field sports can be accommodated. Softball and baseball tournaments can be held at the existing ballfield complexes at Old Settlers Park. However, other outdoor sports which could be attracted to Round Rock for tournaments, including sand volleyball, tennis, archery, ultimate Frisbee, track running, or BMX biking, cannot currently be accommodated. Indoor sports which could have tournaments in the Sports Capital of Texas could include arena football, indoor soccer, racquetball, and ice hockey or ice skating if an ice rink is available.

The Sports Capital of Texas initiative has done a good job recruiting tournaments for sports tourism; however, it is important to find a balance between tournament fields and fields that the City can provide for local leagues and resident use. It is important to offer both tournament level fields for leagues, but also spaces for practice and resident pick-up games. Currently, fields are over-stressed to accommodate Sports Capital of Texas tournaments, local league play, and local league practices; thus resulting in less rest time for turf rejuvenation. Ultimately, field quality suffers with overuse, so additional fields are needed.







## Repair and Replacement Program

One very important job of a city is to maintain existing facilities and amenities. Often times, after a park is built, it can be seen as less of a priority and the condition of the park consequently suffers. During the previous master plan's public input process, 98 percent of residents stated that better parks would help improve the City's image. As a response to that input, in 2009, PARD completed the initial system-wide inventory assessment as a baseline to track the condition of the Department's assets. Since then, PARD has performed assessments on a biennial basis with the purpose of creating a Repair and Replacement Plan outlining the priority of upgrades across the system. The prioritization of repair/replacement is based on health and safety issues, compliance with current standards, level of use, revenue potential, and age of asset. Implementation of the initial plan was divided over ten years, although the repair and replacement process will be continual even after the initial plan is complete. **Since the inception of the program in 2010, PARD has been able to make updates, improvements, and repairs at over 17 different parks and facilities, with multiple projects at some of the more highly used parks and facilities like Old Settlers Park, Rock'N River, and Clay Madsen Recreation Center (see Figure 3.29, Recent Repair and Replacement Program Projects).**

The Repair and Replacement Program is funded through the General Self-Financed Budget. Each year, City Council has authorized the allocation of \$750,000 to go towards Repair and Replacement Projects to be used across the system. PARD supplements this budget by utilizing Parkland Dedication fees, federal grants, and other funding mechanisms to allow for a larger impact across the City. As a result, this program has been well-received by the residents of Round Rock. During public input meetings, residents have expressed that they thought the City had forgotten about older neighborhoods and they are glad to see the City stepping up and taking care of them. This program has helped curb neighborhood deterioration and adds to the overall value of the surrounding properties.

As Old Settlers Park starts to age, it is becoming more and more important to implement a partner Repair and Replacement/Beautification Program solely for Old Settlers Park. Old Settlers Park is one of the crown jewels of Round Rock. With numerous sports complexes in the park, it generates a considerable amount of revenue both directly (tournament fees) and indirectly (hotels and restaurants). Additionally, Old Settlers Park is one of the most highly used parks for 5K runs, special events, biking and running trails, and fishing. Several assets in the park are approaching 30 years old and are nearing or exceeding their productive life. Because of the high use and visibility of the park, it is important to make annual improvements in the park. By allocating a devoted

\$250,000 annually to an Old Settlers Park Repair and Replacement/Beautification Program, PARD can make improvements in the park, while allowing the \$750,000 for the original Repair and Replacement Program to go towards neighborhood and community parks. Sample projects for the Repair and Replacement/Beautification Program in Old Settlers Park include, but are not limited to pavilion renovations,

Figure 3.29, Recent Repair and Replacement Program Projects

| Year | Location               | Improvements   |
|------|------------------------|--|
| 2011 | Settlement Park        | Replaced pavilion, playground, basketball court, trail and ADA improvements  |
| 2011 | Chisholm Valley Park   | Replaced playground, added shade structure, walking loop, and ADA improvements   |
| 2011 | Mesa Village Park      | Replaced playground  |
| 2011 | Rock Hollow Park       | Installed picnic shade structures, replaced playgrounds, trail improvements  |
| 2011 | Somerset Park          | Replaced pavilion, playground, basketball court, trail and ADA improvements  |
| 2012 | Rock'N River           | Replastered pool   |
| 2012 | Micki Krebsbach Pool   | Replastered pool and replaced water play elements  |
| 2012 | Old Settlers Park      | Improvements at cricket field  |
| 2013 | Kensington Greenbelt   | Replaced pavilion, playground, installed shade structure over picnic area, installed sand volleyball court, trail and ADA improvements |
| 2013 | Lake Creek Pool        | Replumb and replace pool deck  |
| 2013 | Mesa Village Park      | Added picnic grove, replaced pavilion and looping trail  |
| 2014 | Lake Creek Park        | Replaced pavilion, restroom, playground, added gaps of trail, and ADA improvements   |
| 2015 | Veterans Park          | Constructed new pavilion, covered basketball court, restroom, Veterans Memorial Wall, site irrigation, and ADA improvements            |
| 2015 | Old Settlers Park      | Parking improvements at Tennis Complex, additional parking at Multipurpose Field, parking improvements at Triple Crown Complex         |
| 2016 | Stella Park            | Replaced pavilion, playground, basketball court, new backstop fencing, looping trail   |
| 2017 | Joanne Land Playground | Replaced and expanded playground   |
| 2017 | Rock'N River           | Replace rubber in tot pool and beach area, replaster existing pool up to lazy river, replace existing pool toys                        |
| 2017 | Old Settlers Park      | ADA improvements, repair and extension of Lakeview Trail, drainage improvements on Creekside Loop Trail                                |
| 2017 | Lake Creek Pool        | Realigned entry drive, ADA and parking improvements  |
| 2017 | Round Rock West Park   | Replaced pavilion, restroom, tennis fence, playground, irrigation, and ADA improvements  |
| 2017 | Greenhill Park         | ADA improvements and installation of new pavilion  |
| 2017 | Veterans Park          | Replaced Basketball fence, added lighting at new covered basketball court and pavilion, replaced playground                            |

field renovations, fencing repairs, batting cage repairs, concrete upkeep, landscape projects, entry signage, wayfinding signage, pier/dock improvements, and many others (see Figure 3.30, Potential Repair and Replacement / Beautification Projects for Old Settlers Park).

Figure 3.30, Potential Repair and Replacement / Beautification Projects for Old Settlers Park

| OSP Needs   | Estimated Cost                      | Notes   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Batting Cage Nets   | \$35,000.00                         | *replaces netting at all four batting cages   |
| Batting Cage Carpet   | \$50,000.00                         | *replaces carpet and padding at all four batting cages  |
| Batting Cage Fence  | \$75,000.00                         | *replaces fencing at all four batting cages   |
| Conversion of decomposed granite parking islands / tailgate areas | \$110,000.00                        | *convert tailgate islands to concrete at Gold Glove and Hall of Fame  |
| Message Boards  | \$250,000 each                      | *large message centers at park entrances for wayfinding and emergency messaging   |
| Entry sign modifications  | \$100,000.00                        | *includes all four main entry signs to update signage and increase visibility   |
| Old Settlers Park Blvd. median improvements                       | \$250,000 per entry point           | *includes decorative paving, planting at median - possible partner with Transportation Department   |
| Major Amenity / Complex denotation                                | \$75,000 per entry point            | *monument along Harrell Parkway to let people know there is a major amenity or complex (i.e. - Rabb Pavilion, Joanne Land Playground, etc.) |
| Entry sign landscape  | \$75,000.00                         | *update all landscape beds at the four main entrances   |
| Landscape at Aten Loop / Harrell Parkway                          | \$25,000.00                         | *boulevard plantings  |
| Dock / pier improvement   | \$75,000.00                         | *replaces dock and trail approach at Bright Lake  |
| Parkwide Irrigation   | dependent on specified project area | *phasing of parkwide irrigation system, high priority for areas of high use such as cross country courses                                   |
| Pavilion Renovations  | \$250,000.00                        |   |
| Field Enhancements  | \$150,000 annually                  | *includes replacing infield material, poor turf areas, complex repairs, outfield fence wind screen, foul poles, scoreboards, etc.           |
| Site Amenity replacement  | \$10,000 annually                   | *include replacing benches, picnic tables, water fountains, bleachers, etc.   |

Parks and Recreation Service Levels

Maintaining parkland takes time, manpower, and resources. When compared to other park departments in communities with similar populations to Round Rock (see Figure 3.31, *Parks Department Comparisons*), Round Rock is generally average. Staffing levels, revenues per capita, cost recovery, annual operating budgets, and expenditures per full time employee (FTE) are right on par with national levels for park departments in cities of similar size. However, it is important to note that Round Rock far exceeds the national average for acres of parkland with 19.6 acres of City-owned per 1,000 residents (compared to a national average of 7.4 acres per 1,000 residents). Similarly, Round Rock is well below the national average for operating expenditures per acre of park land with \$4,824 spent per acre (compared to \$11,415 spent per acre nationally). Ultimately, this means that Round Rock residents get more “bang for their buck.” As previously discussed, park land is one of the major factors that contributes to quality of life. Even though Round Rock is located in a sprawling metropolitan area, City leaders have made a commitment to preserve green space and make it accessible.

In 2016, the PARD underwent a Staffing Level Study performed by PROS Consulting. This study provided both operational and staffing recommendations to maintain the current level of service expected from the PARD. The organizational recommendations included software upgrades, creating a stand-alone aquatics division, reorganization of scheduling, increasing the amount of contract labor, etc. Many of these recommendations have already been addressed and implemented. In addition to the organizational recommendations, the study provided staffing recommendations. Overall, the consulting team recommended that an additional 15 full-time positions be added to the Department to create a more effective and efficient work environment. In addition to the 15 full-time employees, the study also recommends four to six additional full-time parks maintenance employees when the Adult Recreation Complex is built and two additional maintenance or forestry employees to maintain the trails when the proposed trail sections are completed. Refer to Figure 3.32, *Staffing Recommendations*, for a list of full staffing recommendations from the consulting team.

Figure 3.31, Parks Department Comparisons

| Data Item   | Round Rock   | National Avg. (All Agencies) | National Avg. (100k-250k population) (over 2,500 ppl / sq mile) |
|---|--------------|------------------------------|---|
| Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents (median)                        | 19.6         | 9.5                          | 7.4   |
| (Lower Quartile)  |              | 4.6                          | 3.9   |
| (Upper Quartile)  |              | 16.5                         | 14.9  |
| Staffing : Total PARD Full Time Equivalents (median)                  | 100.88       | 33                           | 80.3  |
| (Lower Quartile)  |              | 11                           | 33.5  |
| (Upper Quartile)  |              | 87.4                         | 181.4   |
| Staffing : PARD FTE's per 10,000 Residents (median)                   | 8.61         | 7.4                          | 5.9   |
| (Lower Quartile)  |              | 3.5                          | 2.9   |
| (Upper Quartile)  |              | 14.8                         | 11.3  |
| Annual PARD Operating Expenditures                                    | \$10,950,434 | \$3,459,846                  | \$10,000,000  |
| PARD Operating Expenditures per Capita (median)                       | \$93.47      | \$76.44                      | \$100.63  |
| (Lower Quartile)  |              | \$38.78                      | \$58.99   |
| (Upper Quartile)  |              | \$138.39                     | \$184.48  |
| PARD Operating Expenditures per Acre of Park Land (median)            | \$4,824      | \$6,476                      | \$11,415  |
| (Lower Quartile)  |              | \$3,129                      | \$5,866   |
| (Upper Quartile)  |              | \$14,939                     | \$27,447  |
| PARD Operating Expenditures per FTE (median)                          | \$108,549    | \$96,055                     | \$108,135   |
| (Lower Quartile)  |              | \$69,090                     | \$74,472  |
| (Upper Quartile)  |              | \$143,038                    | \$174,960   |
| PARD Revenues per Capita (median)                                     | \$29.84      | \$18.22                      | \$29.23   |
| (Lower Quartile)  |              | \$6.47                       | \$9.48  |
| (Upper Quartile)  |              | \$51.18                      | \$73.13   |
| PARD Revenue as a Percentage of Expenditures / Cost Recovery (median) | 31.9%        | 29.0%                        | 31.5%   |
| (Lower Quartile)  |              | 13.3%                        | 14.7%   |
| (Upper Quartile)  |              | 49.2%                        | 49.4%   |

Figure 3.32, Staffing Recommendations

| New Full-Time Staffing Needs                     | Suggested Date of Implementation            | Status                      |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Aquatic Manager                                  | February 2016                               | Position created and filled |
| Assistant Aquatic Manager for Rock'N River       | February 2016                               |                             |
| Aquatic Maintenance Technician for Rock'N River  | February 2016                               |                             |
| Special Event Coordinator                        | May 2016                                    |                             |
| Irrigation Technician for In-Town Crew (2 total) | May 2016                                    |                             |
| Irrigation Technician for OSP                    | May 2016                                    |                             |
| Reservation Specialist                           | October 2016                                | Position created and filled |
| Marketing and Communications Coordinator         | October 2016                                | Position created and filled |
| Park Rangers (3 total)                           | October 2016                                |                             |
| Gardeners (2 total)                              | March 2017                                  |                             |
| Old Settlers Park Maintenance Worker (4-6 total) | Upon completion of Adult Recreation Complex | Pending                     |
| In-Town Maintenance Worker or Forestry (2 total) | Upon completion of trail sections           | Pending                     |