

PICTURE OUR PARKS

Your Voices. Our Future.



PROS Plan Update
Arlington Parks & Recreation



PARKS and RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PICTURE OUR PARKS
Your Voices. Our Future.



Serving Arlington Since 1923

Parks constitute a “Margin of Excellence” in the City. Cities with good parks have a high quality of life. Any city can do the ordinary things....the exceptional cities are those that make an extraordinary effort to develop their parks. Parks provide beauty and diversion – these are so necessary ... almost priceless.

Tom Vandergriff, Judge and Mayor

City of Arlington Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan

❖ Plan Last Updated in 2004

- 2008 Supplement
- Respond to Changing Needs
- Identify New Opportunities

❖ TPWD Grant Requirement

❖ 2014 Bond Election



Building on a Legacy of Success

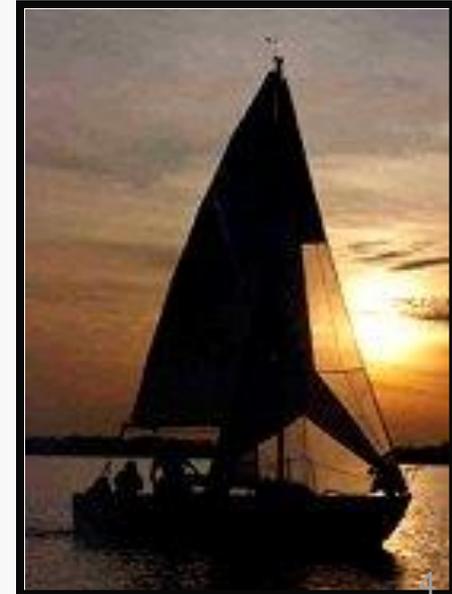
❖ Master Plan Process

❖ Analysis

- How we have grown
- Where we are now
- Issues, challenges, opportunities
- What our stakeholders think

❖ Vision

- Strategies for success
- Plan priorities
- Priority projects/initiatives



Purpose of the Community Meetings

❖ We Want to Identify:

- Park needs and deficiencies
- Recreation opportunities
- Vision for **your** park system



Project Overview

❖ What is a PROS Plan?

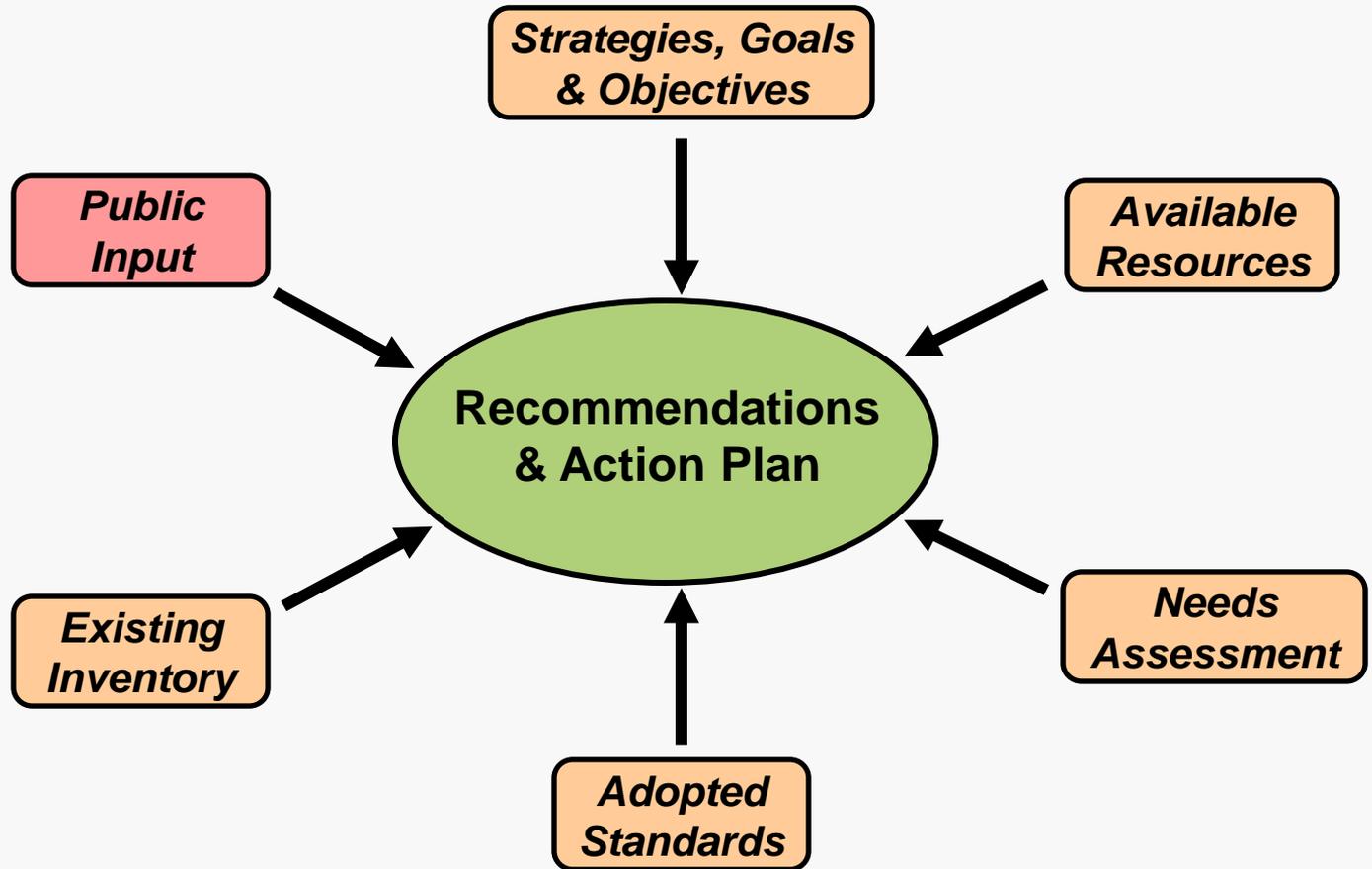
A framework to guide decision-making for future management of park, recreation and open space facilities ...

... which supports **community growth, environmental sustainability** and **future development** while balancing financial capabilities and maintenance responsibilities.

❖ The PROS Plan will provide direction for City-owned parks and facilities by:

- Prioritizing park and facility needs
- Developing specific strategies for the overall system
- Defining sustainable management / maintenance approaches
- Reflecting resident and visitor needs

Master Plan Process



2004 Strategies for Success

- ❖ Community Partnering
- ❖ Environmental Leadership
- ❖ Taking Care of What We Have
- ❖ Invest Wisely – New Facility Development
- ❖ Employee Development & Satisfaction



2004 Master Plan Goals

- ❖ Ensure that existing parks and recreation facilities are **maintained and updated** to provide high quality recreational experiences.
- ❖ Focus **acquisition and development efforts** in areas of the community where parks and recreation facilities and acreage are below adopted standards.
- ❖ Preserve and enhance the City's valuable and **sensitive natural resources**.
- ❖ Develop **collaborative relationships** between the City and other public, non-profit, and private organizations to promote a more effective parks and recreation system.
- ❖ Improve **accessibility** to parks for all citizens.
- ❖ Improve the physical form and appearance of the City as an indicator of **quality of life and a stimulus for economic development**.
- ❖ Preserve and enhance City **historical, archaeological, and cultural resources**.
- ❖ Improve park **safety and security**.

Park Facility Classifications

Park Type	Qty	Service Area	Size
Neighborhood	42	½ - mile radius	10-30 acres
Community	13	3-mile radius	50-200 acres
City	12	Entire city	Varies
Linear	17	1-mile radius	Varies
Natural Area	6	Entire city	Varies



Neighborhood Parks

- ❖ Located on residential streets inside neighborhoods
- ❖ Average 10 to 30 acres in size
- ❖ Amenities: trails, playgrounds, basketball courts, picnic areas and multi-purpose fields



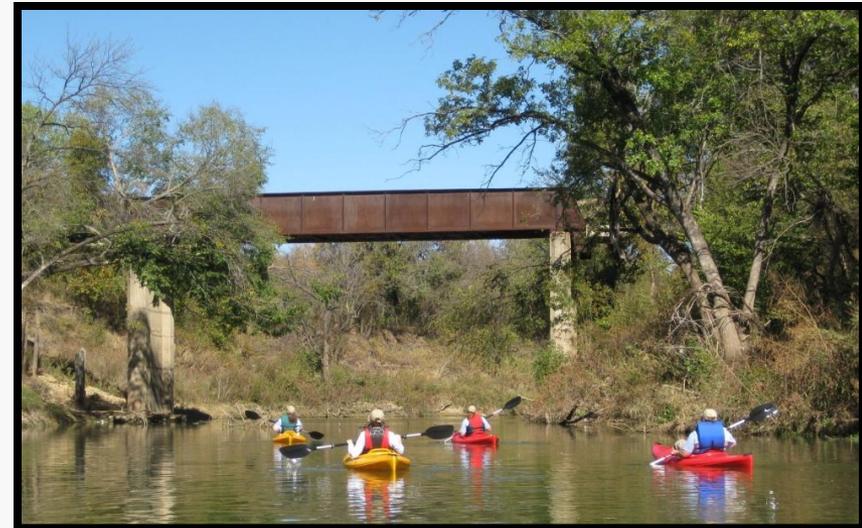
Community Parks

- ❖ Intended to serve a larger population within 3-mile radius
- ❖ Generally 50 to 200 acres in size
- ❖ Provide more recreational and athletic amenities than neighborhood parks
- ❖ Amenities: swimming pools, recreation centers, or unique features like the J. W. Dunlop creative playground



City Parks

- ❖ Typically provides one predominant facility or amenity that is unique to Arlington
- ❖ Typically serves the entire city or metro-wide population
- ❖ May preserve a significant natural resource
- ❖ River Legacy Parks is a prime example of a city park



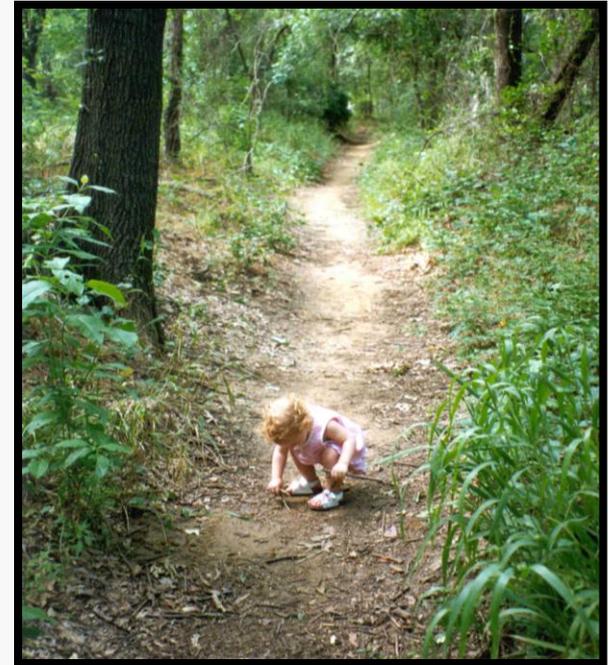
Linear Parks

- ❖ Generally are long and narrow following creeks, rights-of-way and utility easements
- ❖ Preserve the environmental integrity of the 100 year flood plain
- ❖ Create wildlife and natural landscape corridors
- ❖ Provide green belt buffers around business and residential centers
- ❖ Provide recreational opportunities for jogging, hiking or biking
- ❖ Provide linkages between parks, residential areas, schools, etc.



Natural Areas

- ❖ Biological communities in a natural or nearly undisturbed state
- ❖ Offer unique scenic, geologic or ecological value
- ❖ Often located in conjunction with a significant feature/amenity such as a river, lake, or woodland
- ❖ Provide passive recreational opportunities (soft surface trail, educational kiosks, interpretive signage, compost toilets)



Where We Are Now

- ❖ Arlington has over **7.4 square miles** of park land
- ❖ Arlington's parks comprise 7.5% of city area, which is **below** the national average (8.4%) for intermediate-low density cities
- ❖ Arlington has 12.3 park land acres per 1,000 persons, **below** national average (14.1) for intermediate-low density cities



Parks & Recreation Facilities 1987 vs. Present

	1987	2003	Present
Number of Parks	46	82	90
Total Park Acres	1,784	4,530	4,750
Linear Park Acres	371	1,750	1,830
Linear Park Trail Miles	0	24	49
Playgrounds	24	38	49
Recreation Centers	4	7	6
Event / Rental Centers	1	1	2
Outdoor Basketball Courts	6	18	26
Tennis Courts	18	49	51
Spraygrounds / Splash Pads	0	2	4
Off-Leash Dog Parks	0	0	1
Skate Parks	0	0	1

Major Facilities

- **3 Recreation Centers & 1 Athletic Center:**
 - Cliff Nelson, Dottie Lynn, Hugh Smith and Elzie Odom Athletic Center
- **2 Senior Adult Centers:** SRC-Eunice, SRC-New York
- **2 Event/Rental Centers**
 - Bob Duncan Center and Meadowbrook
- **4 Golf Courses:**
 - C.W. Ditto, Lake Arlington, Meadowbrook, Tierra Verde
- **6 Outdoor Pools:**
 - Woodland West, Helen Wessler, Allen Bolden, Howard Moore
 - Bad Königshofen Family Aquatic Center
 - Randol Mill Family Aquatic Center
- **Hugh Smith Indoor Pool**
- **Lake Arlington** (2,250 surface acres)
- **Arlington Tennis Center** (USTA National Facility of the Year)
- **Living Science Center** (opened in 1996; operated by the River Legacy Foundation)

Other Amenities

- 82 Sports Fields (Youth and Adult)
- 51 Tennis Courts
- 41 Practice Multi-Purpose Fields
- 26 Basketball Courts
- 49 Playgrounds
- 49 Miles Walking/Jogging Trails
- 30 Picnic Pavilions
- 10 Sand Volleyball Courts
- 1 Disc Golf Course
- 4 Spraygrounds
- 1 Dog Park
- 2 Paddling Trails



Park Standards

	NRPA Standard 1 per:	Arlington Standard 1 per:	2013 Inventory	Required	Build- Out Needs
Aquatic Facilities	20,000	50,000	7	9	2
Recreation Centers	25,000	70,000	5	6	1
Senior Centers	117,000	125,000	2	3	1
Golf Courses	105,000	125,000	3.5	4	0.5
Trails (miles)	10,000	7,000	49	61	12
Playgrounds	4,400	7,500	49	57	8
Picnic Pavilions	60,000	40,000	33	40	7
Baseball Fields	5,000	10,000	40	43	3
Softball Fields	30,000	50,000	10	9	0
Soccer Fields	10,000	12,000	32	36	4
Football fields	20,000	45,000	6	10	4
Basketball Courts	5,000	12,000	26	36	10
Tennis Courts	4,800	7,000	51	61	10

Major Issues

- ❖ **Available funding has decreased**
 - Slowing economy
 - Maintenance and Operations funding
 - Limitations on debt issuance
 - Declining park fees and grant opportunities

- ❖ **City population continues to grow – how can new parkland keep pace?**
 - Fewer available parcels suitable for parks
 - Suitable land increasingly expensive
 - Needs especially acute south of I-20

- ❖ **\$35 Million Capital Maintenance Backlog**
 - Significant, but manageable
 - Other cities are struggling with this (regionally/nationally)
 - To preserve what we have, maintenance and renovation must be a priority

Challenges

- ❖ Need healthy balance of reinvestment, acquisitions and new development
- ❖ Citizens continue to ask for more from the Department – need to manage expectations
- ❖ Department must be ready to demonstrate its value to the community – in dollars and cents



Opportunities

- ❖ Improve recreational opportunities throughout the park system
- ❖ Integrate more linear parks and natural areas
- ❖ Improve connectivity between parks and residential areas
- ❖ Promote active and healthy lifestyles
- ❖ Provide leadership on environmental and sustainability issues
- ❖ Partner with school districts to address open space gaps
- ❖ Partner with the community to improve service delivery and cut costs



Youth Recreation Trends



Participation is highest in:

- ❖ Swimming
- ❖ Bicycle Riding
- ❖ Basketball
- ❖ Soccer



Participation has increased over 40% in:

- ❖ Tennis
- ❖ Skateboarding
- ❖ Running/Jogging
- ❖ In-Line Roller Skating

Adult Recreation Trends

Participation is highest in:

- ❖ Exercise Walking
- ❖ Hiking
- ❖ Swimming
- ❖ Bicycle Riding
- ❖ Golf



Participation has increased over 50% in:

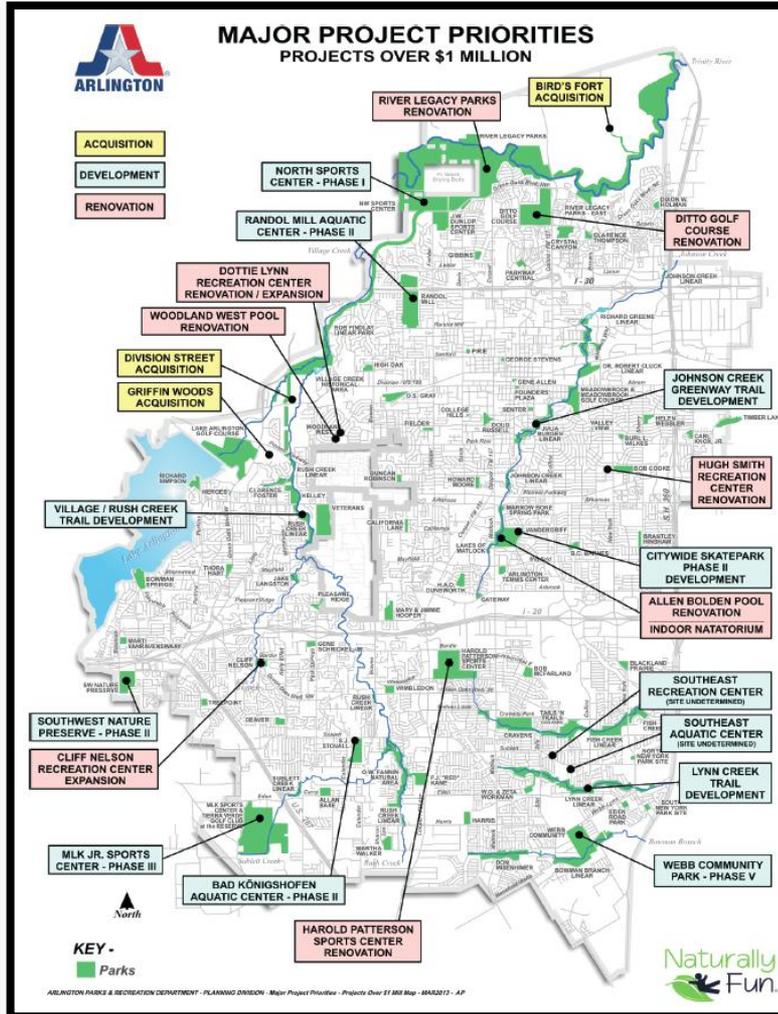
- ❖ Kayaking
- ❖ Hiking
- ❖ Exercise Walking
- ❖ Bicycle Riding
- ❖ Running/Jogging



Trends



The Big Projects: Acquisitions



- ❖ Bird's Fort
- ❖ Griffin Woods
- ❖ Village Creek Expansion/Restoration



The Big Projects: Renovations

- ❖ Harold Patterson Sports Center
- ❖ C.W. Ditto Golf Course
- ❖ River Legacy Parks
- ❖ Hugh Smith Recreation Center
- ❖ Indoor Natatorium
- ❖ Allen Bolden Pool
- ❖ Woodland West Pool
- ❖ Dottie Lynn Recreation Center
- ❖ Cliff Nelson Recreation Center
- ❖ Bob Duncan Center



The Big Projects: Development

- ❖ Southeast Recreation Center
- ❖ Southeast Aquatic Center
- ❖ Johnson Creek Greenway Trail Development
- ❖ Lynn Creek Trail Development
- ❖ Village/Rush Creek Trail Development
- ❖ Southwest Nature Preserve – phase II
- ❖ Citywide Skatepark – phase II
- ❖ Webb Community Park – phase V
- ❖ MLK Jr. Sports Center – phase III
- ❖ Randol Mill Family Aquatic Center – phase II
- ❖ Bad Königshofen Family Aquatic Center – phase II
- ❖ North Sports Center – phase I

Park Service Areas

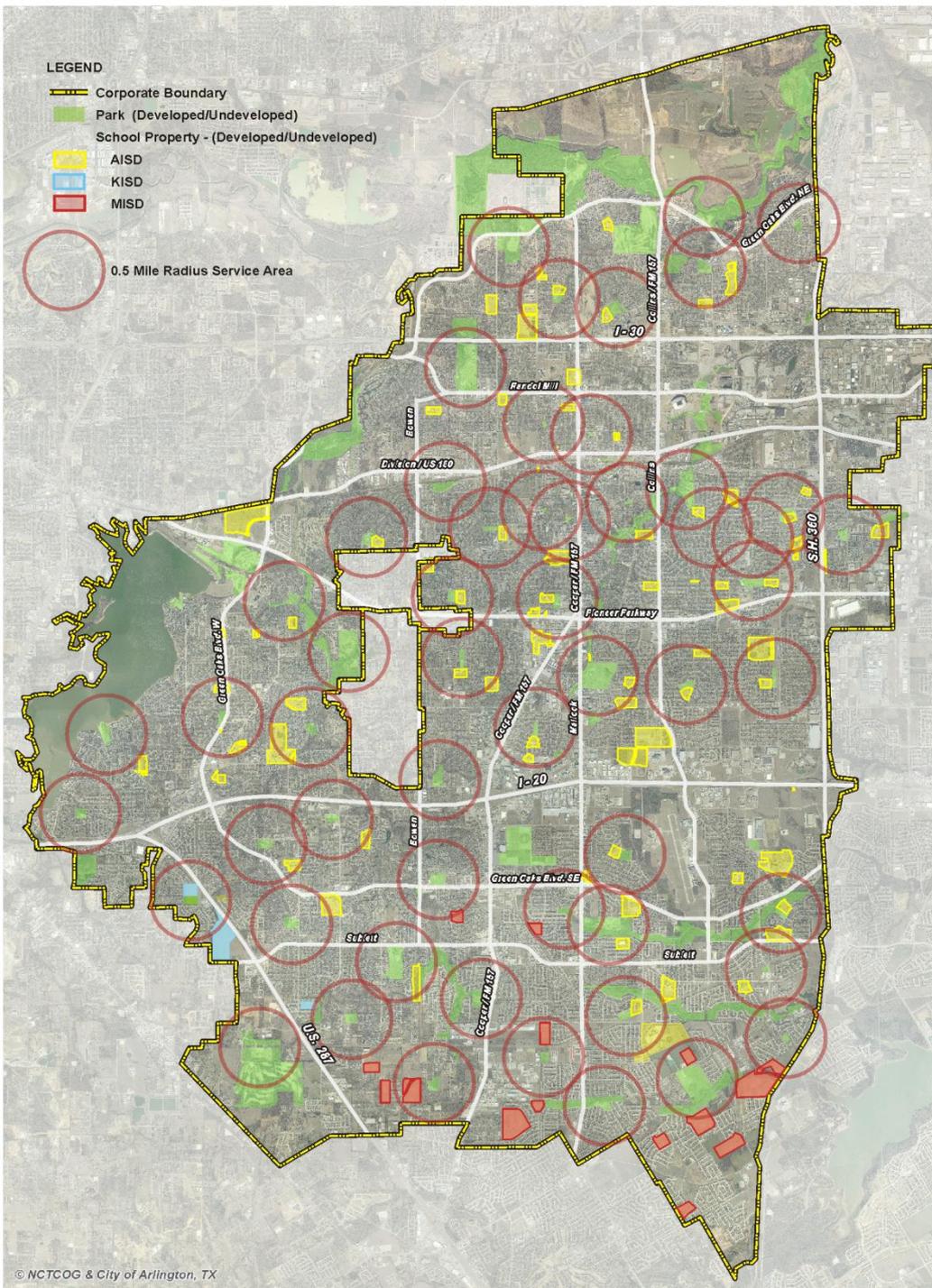
Providing safe and convenient access to parks contributes to healthier lifestyle habits and will improve overall community health.

- ❖ Mapped ½-mile radius around each park
- ❖ 10 minute walk
- ❖ 4 minute bike ride

LEGEND

- Corporate Boundary
- Park (Developed/Undeveloped)
- School Property - (Developed/Undeveloped)
- AISD
- KISD
- MISD

0.5 Mile Radius Service Area



Breakout Stations

- ❖ Strategies, Goals and Standards
- ❖ Planning Sub Areas
- ❖ Major Projects
- ❖ Trails & Connections
- ❖ Trends
- ❖ Forestry & Beautification
- ❖ Survey
- ❖ Service Priorities



Service Priorities

- ❖ Renovations/Improvements to existing facilities
- ❖ Development of new parks and facilities
- ❖ Acquisition of land for future parks and conservation
- ❖ Development/Preservation of greenways and natural areas
- ❖ Increase current maintenance levels
- ❖ Forestry & Beautification
- ❖ Park Safety & Security





Complete the Survey!

- ❖ Available TONIGHT
- ❖ Accessible online via the project website

**Survey will be open
Through May 19th!**

PICTURE OUR PARKS PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN COMMENT FORM

NOTE: This form is for your feedback on the draft of Appendix 2 of the plan. Questions and forms should be filled out as you have a moment to fill out the short questions. There are only 18 questions that should take you 10 minutes to complete. Most questions are "yes/no" style, with the last question open-ended for your detailed comments. Your feedback will help to make the future of Arlington's parks and recreation system.

HOUSEHOLD AND ACTIVITY

11) **How often do you use the following programs and activities in your household?**

Program / Activity	1-3 times a week	1-3 times a month	1-3 times a year	Never	No Center
Community events/festivals	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Swim lessons	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Exercise and fitness	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Preschool programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Summer day camp programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
After school programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Teen programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Senior programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Nature programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Arts and crafts	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Cheer	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Ice skating	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Instructional sports	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Team instruction/league	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Golf instruction/league	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Adult dance/league	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Youth sports/league	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>				

12) **How satisfied are you that parks and recreation programs and activities are currently meeting the needs of your household?**

Program / Activity	1-3 times a week	1-3 times a month	1-3 times a year	Never	No Center
Community events/festivals	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Swim lessons	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Exercise and fitness	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Preschool programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Summer day camp programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
After school programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Teen programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Senior programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Nature programs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Arts and crafts	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Cheer	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Ice skating	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Instructional sports	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Team instruction/league	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Golf instruction/league	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Adult dance/league	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Youth sports/league	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>				

13) **In the past five years, do you feel that Arlington Parks and Recreation programs have:**

Improved Remained About the Same
 Declined No Comment

If you would like to stay informed on the progress to update your contact information below. NOTE: This is for those on the interested parties list.

Name _____
 Email Address _____

Please use the space below to make any additional comments.

Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions.
 hpj 1/17

Questions?

- ❖ Email project manager at prosplan@arlingtontx.gov
- ❖ Visit the project website at www.arlingtontx.gov/picture-our-parks



Let's get to Work!

- ❖ Write your comments at each station
- ❖ Discuss your comments with our team members
- ❖ Complete and leave a comment form
- ❖ Spend your service priority money

