

## City Council Work Session Handouts

March 20, 2017

- I. Review and Discuss Update to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan
- II. Review and Discuss the Transparency Stars Program



# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update

Richardson City Council  
March 20, 2017

City of Richardson  
Parks & Recreation Department



# Overview

- Review the purpose and process of master planning.
- Review accomplishments since prior plan adoption.
- Review the citizen input process and feedback.
- Present final results for the 2017 master plan update.
- Identify next steps.



# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update

- A master plan is a comprehensive planning tool used to help guide City Council members and staff when making decisions related to parks, recreation and open space. It is used to assist in the implementation of those decisions and set guidelines for future park and open space development.
- Master Plans are a culmination of citizen input, staff input, current and desired service levels and professional opinion.
- They are typically conducted on ten year cycles with updates every five years to assess the relevance of the plan's goals and if interests or needs remain the same or have changed. Five year updates are also necessary to give the city a competitive advantage for state grants.



# Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update

- Effort was led by Mark Spencer and Hunter Rush, MHS Planning and Design. Surveys were conducted by Andrea Thomas, National Service Research.
- Richardson's current plan was adopted by City Council in September 2010 and approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in October, 2010.
- This update was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission on March 7, 2017 and has been recommended to City Council for adoption.



# Accomplishments

- Heights Recreation Center/Heights Family Aquatic Center (former Arapaho Pool)
- Richardson Gymnastics Center
- Spring Creek Nature Area additional land acquisition
- Bush Central Barkway Dog Park



# Accomplishments

- Acquired land for additional neighborhood parks including: Durham, Northrich, Collins, and CityLine Parks. Fox Creek Park currently under construction
- Added multi-purpose and soft surface trails
- Replaced five playgrounds



# Citizen Input Process





# Citizen Input Process

- Conducted one public meeting on September 15, 2016.
- Conducted two focus group meetings on September 20, 2016.
  - Those invited include: youth sports, local non profits, corporate residents, school district officials, civic groups, business leaders and community and neighborhood leaders.



# Citizen Input Process

- Launched mail-in and online surveys.
  - 7,000 mailed in a random sample format with 364 returned.
  - Received 987 online surveys.
  - Total surveys received was 1,351 which is considered an excellent response.



# Citizen Input – Key Findings

- Goals established in the 2010 plan are still on target.
- High level of satisfaction overall with parks and recreation facilities.
- Priorities are substantially similar to those identified in the 2010 plan. Trails remain the number one priority.
- Frequency in the use of parks and trails has grown since the 2010 plan.



# Citizen Meetings

## Parks and Recreation System Highlights

- Natural areas
- Multipurpose trails
- Gymnastics Center and Heights Family Aquatics Center
- Use of creek corridors
- Overall quality of maintenance
- Variety of programs
- Special events
- Safety



# Citizen Meetings Needs and Vision

- Regional trail system connections
- Natural/open areas/interpretative elements
- Indoor aquatic center
- Breckinridge Park recreation center
- Centrally located “signature” park
- Tournament quality and mixed use lighted sports fields
- Art in parks



# Citizen Surveys

## Park and Recreation System Highlights

Of the 1,351 respondents:

- 97% rate the Gymnastics Center as **excellent** or **good**.
- 91% rate the Recreation Centers as **excellent** or **good**.
- 86% rate the Parks as **excellent** or **good**.
- 85% rate the Trails and Greenbelts as **excellent** or **good**.
- Neighborhood pools and Senior Center need additional attention.



# Citizen Input – Surveys

## Most Needed Recreation Facilities

2016 RANK	FACILITY	2010 RANK
1	Multi-Purpose Trails	1
2	Nature Trails & Greenbelt Corridors	3
3	Indoor Aquatic Center	2
4	Natural Open Spaces	5
5	Botanic Gardens	6
6	Spraygrounds	7
7	Seating Areas & Benches	8
8	Dog Parks	4
9	Playgrounds	15
10	Pavilions & Picnic Shelters	12
11	Outdoor Aquatic Center	9
12	Senior Center	10
13	Amphitheaters	13



# Citizen Input – Surveys

## Most Needed Recreation Facilities

2016 RANK	FACILITY	2010 RANK
14	Recreation Center	14
15	Disc Golf Courses	19
16	Skate Parks	17
17	Basketball Courts	20
18	Tennis Courts	21
19	Baseball Fields	16
20	Soccer Fields	18
21	Football Fields	24
22	BMX Track	22
23	Cricket Fields	25
24	Softball Fields	23
25	Lacrosse Fields	26





# Citizen Input - Top Funding Priorities

## Short Term (up to three years)

- Trail connections
- Renovate existing parks and facilities
- Enhance park maintenance

## Long Term (beyond 2020)

- Indoor aquatic center
- Additional recreation center



# Recommendation Highlights

(In no particular order of priority)

- Continue to improve and renovate existing neighborhood parks.
- Continue to construct trails and trail segments to ensure meaningful connectivity.
- Continue to develop Breckinridge and Prairie Creek parks according to site master plans.
- Develop a fully lighted, multi purpose field sports complex.
- Construct indoor aquatics center, add spraygrounds and continue to monitor and assess neighborhood pools.



# Recommendation Highlights

(In no particular order of priority)

- Acquire and preserve key natural areas.
- Improve the aesthetics of right-of-ways and parks with enhanced beautification.
- Construct indoor recreation center at Breckinridge Park.
- Develop a signature park in the city's center core.



# Next Steps

- Presentation to City Council on March 20, 2017.
- Seek adoption by resolution on March 27, 2017.





# Transparency Stars Program

City Council Worksession – March 20, 2017

presented by Keith Dagen

City of Richardson  
Finance

# Transparency – Linking to Council Goals & Strategies

- Council Goals
  - To effectively and efficiently manage city resources while maintaining and enhancing city services
- Strategies:
  - Effective and efficient management of city finances
  - Improve communications
  - Improve documentation, processes, structure, and services



# Richardson's Transparency Efforts

- July 2007 – Agenda documents posted online
- August 2009 – Council meetings live-streamed on web site
- October 2010 – Formal Transparency Page debuts
  - Receives State Comptroller's Gold certification
- November 2011 – Council handouts posted online prior to start of meetings
- March 2012 – City Plan Commission live-streamed on web site
- November 2014 – Transparency Page receives Platinum certification



# Comptroller's Leadership Circle

- Created by Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts in December 2009
  - Recognized governments that met a high standard of financial transparency
  - Three initial levels of award: Gold, Silver, and Bronze
- During 2014, the Comptroller increased program requirements and added a Platinum award
- The City's Transparency Page was awarded Gold from 2010 through 2013 and Platinum in 2014
- The program was placed on hiatus in 2015 as part of the transition to a new Comptroller





# Transparency Stars

- Revised program released by Comptroller in spring of 2016, updating medal awards with new star designations
- Five “Stars” available
  - Traditional Finances
  - Debt Obligations
  - Public Pensions
  - Contracts & Procurement
  - Economic Development
- Governments can apply for one or more Stars, but must receive a Traditional Finances Star to qualify for any of the other four Stars



# Traditional Finances

- Primarily elements of the old Leadership Circle program
- Finance Summary as of most recent fiscal year
  - Graphs of Revenues and Expenses per Capita and Tax Rates
- Downloadable Excel format Budget for most recent year
- Three years of check registers
- Links to historical budgets and CAFR's
- Quarterly investment reports
- Pay Plan and Salary data



# Debt Obligations

- Debt Obligations Summary as of most recent fiscal year
  - Graphs of Outstanding Debt and Debt per Capita
- Debt Report in compliance with recent state mandates
- Debt excerpts from approved budget documents
- 2015 Bond Referendum information
- Historical bond election data (1925-present)
- Issue by issue listing of outstanding debt



# Public Pensions

- Public Pensions Summary as of most recent fiscal year
  - Graphs of Funded Ratio and Actuarially Determined Contributions vs Total Contributions
- Copies of full TMRS Actuarial Valuations, Richardson excerpts and financial reporting packages
- Downloadable history of pension fund sources/uses
- Copies of TMRS' contribution rate letters
- Copies of TMRS' CAFR's



# Contracts & Procurement

- Procurement Summary as of most recent fiscal year
  - Graphs of Authorized vs Actual Expenditures and Number of Contracts and Spending by Type
- Bidding opportunities and contract awards for the current year, including supporting documents
  - Links to BidSync electronic bidding system
- Historical bidding opportunities and awards
- City's Procurement Manual
- Information on how to do business with the City



# Economic Development

- Tax Abatement statistics as of most recent fiscal year
  - Various graphs showing economic development activity for Home Improvement Incentive Program (“HIIP”), Tax Abatements, General Economic Development and Tax Increment Financing (“TIF”)
- Copies of all agreements for the Tax Abatement, General Economic Development and TIF programs
- Links to the HIIP information page
- Downloadable data
  - Current year payments, payments to date



# Next Steps

- Finance staff to finalize testing of & new web site will go live within 30 days
- Site will be updated as data elements require (weekly, monthly, annually)
- Based on Comptroller feedback, staff expects to be awarded all five Transparency Stars upon application
  - One of, if not the first, local government to receive all five Stars



Transparency Stars

Recognizing Local Transparency Achievements

