

RESOLUTION NO. 17-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHARDSON, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN UPDATE 2017; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 10-21 dated September 13, 2010, the City Council of the City of Richardson, Texas, adopted the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan 2010 and Beyond; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of updating the 2010 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is to ensure the goals, objectives and proposed developments outlined in the 2010 plan still coincide with the park and open space needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed the City of Richardson Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan Update 2017; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the City of Richardson Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan Update 2017 and finds that the same should be adopted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHARDSON, TEXAS:

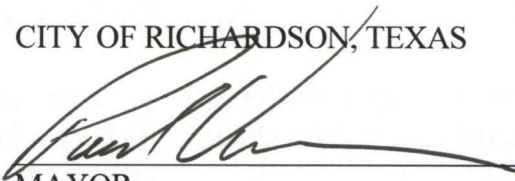
SECTION 1: That the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan Update 2017, attached hereto as Exhibit "A", is hereby approved and adopted in its entirety.

SECTION 2. That all provisions of the Resolutions of the City of Richardson, Texas, in conflict with the provisions of this Resolution be, and the same are hereby, repealed, and all other provisions not in conflict with the provisions of this Resolution shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3: That this Resolution shall become effective immediately from and after its passage.

DULY RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Richardson, Texas, on this the 27th day of March, 2017.


CITY OF RICHARDSON, TEXAS


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


PETER G. SMITH, CITY ATTORNEY
(PGS:3-10-17:TM 84438)



CITY OF RICHARDSON



PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN UPDATE 2017



**NATIONAL
SERVICE
RESEARCH**
MARKET RESEARCH

City of Richardson, Texas

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan Update 2017

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Appendix I – National Service Research Park & Recreation
Needs Assessment Study (November 29, 2016)



I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of updating the 2010 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is to ensure the goals, objectives and proposed developments outlined in the 2010 plan still coincide with the parks and open space needs of the community.

The 2017 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update includes summaries of the following:

- 2017 demographics & projections
- goals and objectives
- park standards
- park inventory
- parks and open space accomplishments since 2010
- new citizen input
- updated needs and priorities
- implementation schedule for future developments



Northrich Park Dedication Ceremony

COMMUNITY

The City of Richardson is located in north central Texas in Dallas and Collin County and is comprised of approximately 28.6 square miles.

2020 Population Projection

- 110,430

(Population projection based on a 1.0% growth rate per year)

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population – 106,123 (2010 Census)

- 72 % - White
- 16 % - Asian
- 09 % - Black
- 03% - Other

-
- 18 % - Hispanic
 - 82 % - Non-Hispanic

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and Objectives are provided to give direction for future community decisions regarding parks, recreation and open spaces specifically in the City of Richardson. The following goals and objectives were established in the 2010 master plan based on input from the City of Richardson residents. These goals and objectives were reaffirmed in the 2016 public input process and remain valid.

PARK AND RECREATION GOAL:

To ensure the provision of a balanced park system that meets the recreational needs of the citizens of Richardson and helps to create a unique community character.

PARK AND RECREATION OBJECTIVES:

- To forge partnerships with public and private organizations for the development, operation and maintenance of the existing and future recreational facilities.
- To acquire and develop public parks throughout the city that are in close proximity to all neighborhoods.
- To upgrade, renovate and rehabilitate existing parks in Richardson.
- To provide new and different recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities throughout the community.
- To provide a trail system that connects parks, residential areas, commercial areas and schools.



Heights Park

OPEN SPACE GOAL:

To identify, protect and preserve quality natural open spaces for unstructured recreational activities, inherent aesthetic value and protection of valuable resources.

OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVES:

- To limit the development within natural open spaces and encourage environmentally responsible private development in order to minimize adverse effects on valuable ecosystems.
- To be proactive in the acquisition and protection of unique natural open spaces throughout Richardson.
- To increase availability and access to valuable lands to the general public
- To continually research the viability of developing trail systems along creeks, flood ways and utility easements that will link public and private recreational facilities, neighborhoods and school campuses.
- To address natural open space needs when developing active recreational facilities to provide citizens with well-balanced recreational experiences that include both active and passive opportunities.



Spring Creek Nature Area

III. PARK STANDARDS AND INVENTORY

PARK STANDARDS

The Richardson Parks network is made up of eight different park types and an indoor recreation center – each having a role in satisfying the recreational needs of the community. It is important to note that the development costs of parkland have significantly increased over the past five years due to increased costs of materials and construction. The following chart defines the characteristics of each park type within the City.

CLASSIFICATION	SERVICE AREA	SIZE (ACRES)	POPULATION SERVED	TYPICAL FACILITIES	DEVELOPMENT COSTS
Pocket/ Ornamental	¼ Mile	5,000 sq.ft. to 2 acres	500-2,500	Landscaping, drinking fountains, sidewalks, & benches	\$75,000 - \$125,000 per acre
Mini-Neighborhood	¼ Mile	1 acre to 4 acres	500-2,500	Paved area, playground apparatus, landscaping, sidewalks, drinking fountains, lawn area, & benches	\$100,000 - \$350,000 per acre
Neighborhood	½ Mile	5 acres to 29 acres	2,000-10,000	Playground apparatus, picnic area(s), pavilion, play courts, play fields, restroom, natural open space, landscaping, & parking	\$85,000 - \$125,000 per acre
Community	2 Miles	30 acres to 150 acres	10,000-50,000	Tennis courts, sports fields, playground apparatus, picnic area(s), pavilions, walking/jogging trails, swimming pools, open space, landscaping, recreation centers, restrooms, & parking	\$70,000 - \$200,000 per acre
Special Use	Varies	Determined by primary use	Varies - Dependent on primary use	Concentration of one or two of the following: Baseball/softball complex, soccer fields, tennis centers, sports stadiums, golf courses, performing arts parks, amphitheaters, & ornamental gardens	Varies - Dependent on primary use

CLASSIFICATION	SERVICE AREA	SIZE (ACRES)	POPULATION SERVED	TYPICAL FACILITIES	DEVELOPMENT COSTS
Regional Park	10 Miles	50 acres minimum	Entire urban area	Sports fields, tennis courts, lakes, swimming complexes, campgrounds, hike/bike trails, golf courses, nature areas, play structures, restrooms, & ample parking	\$2,000,000 & up
Greenbelts	Varies	Varies	5,000 to entire community	Landscaping, multi-purpose trails, benches, information kiosks, telephones, exercise courses, & drinking fountains	\$225,000 - \$750,000 per mile
Natural Areas	Varies	Determined by resource	Entire community	Nature trails, multi-purpose trails, benches, picnic areas, wildlife viewing stations, educational components, information kiosks, interpretive signs, exercise courses, & drinking fountains	Varies
Indoor Recreation Center	Varies	10,000 sq. ft. minimum	20,000 - 30,000	Walking track, fitness rooms, gymnasium, weight room, racquetball/squash courts, indoor swimming pool, meeting/convention facilities, arts and crafts rooms, & day care facilities	\$4,000,000 - \$7,500,000

RICHARDSON PARK INVENTORY

The existing parks in Richardson are classified in the Existing Parks and Open Space Inventory shown in the following table. In order to illustrate the geographic distribution and areas of the city currently served by the park system, the service area of each existing park has been shown on the Existing Parks and Open Space Map and the Existing Community Park Map. Ideally, all developed residential areas of the city of Richardson should fall within the service area of a neighborhood park and a community park.

	NAME	TYPE OF PARK	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	FACILITIES
1	Berkner	Neighborhood	10	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground • Baseball field • Two soccer fields • Multi-purpose trail • Picnic areas • Pavilion • Restroom facility
2	Breckinridge	Regional	200	417.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twelve soccer fields • Two softball fields • Multi-purpose trail • Two Playgrounds • Gazebo • Two pavilions • Picnic areas • Three ponds • Natural open space • Restroom facility
3	Buckingham	Pocket	.25	.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two pavilions
4	Bush Central Barkway	Special Use	8.0	8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Lawn Area • Shaded Areas • Bench/Rest Areas • Restroom • Drinking Fountain
5	Campbell Ridge	Greenbelt	5.4	5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose trail
6	Canyon Creek	Neighborhood	8.98	8.98	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming pool with baby pool • Lighted baseball field • Two tennis courts • Playground • Picnic areas

	NAME	TYPE OF PARK	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	FACILITIES
7	CityLine	Mini-Neighborhood	5.75	5.75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose trails • Benches/Rest Areas • Water fountain • Native landscaping • Playground
8	Collins	Mini-Neighborhood	.87	.87	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose trail • Drinking fountain • Picnic tables • Pavilion
9	Cottonwood	Community	25.31	25.31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming pool with baby pool • Two lighted tennis courts • Sand volleyball court • Multi-purpose trails • Playground • Two pavilions • Two lakes • Picnic areas • Restroom facility
10	Creek Hollow	Neighborhood	7.7	8.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One softball field • One athletic field • Playground • Pavilion • Picnic areas • Multi-use court • Horseshoe pits • One acre preserved natural open space
11	Crowley	Community	10	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two baseball/softball fields • Multi-purpose trail • Large athletic field • Two Playgrounds • Pavilion • Pond with dock • Naturalistic areas • Restroom facility
		Natural Area	15	48.53	

	NAME	TYPE OF PARK	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	FACILITIES
12	Custer	Neighborhood	7.02	7.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball/softball field • Athletic field • Two lighted tennis courts • Playground • Picnic areas • Pavilion • Restroom facility
13	Duck Creek Linear	Greenbelt	26.26	26.26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-use trail(links with Owens Trail) • Plaza with playground • Picnic areas
14	Durham	Pocket	.8	.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground • Pavilion • Multi-purpose trails • Open lawn area
15	Fox Creek Park		11	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground • Pavilion • Multi-purpose trail • Benches • Picnic Areas • Pedestrian bridge • Nature areas
16	Foxboro	Neighborhood	5	8.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naturalistic areas • Playground • Multi-purpose trail (links to Spring Creek Nature Area and to Owens Trail) • Pavilion • Restroom facility
17	Galatyn Woodland Preserve	Mini - Neighborhood	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boardwalk for bird-watching • Wetland ponds • Animal sculpture playground • Picnic areas • Three horseshoe pits • Multi-purpose trails - trail links Spring Creek Nature Area to the north and Galatyn Plaza to the south
		Greenbelt	5	5	
18	Glenville Park	Neighborhood	7.5	7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming Pool • Sprayground • Baseball/softball field • Two athletic fields • Playground • Pavilion • Picnic Areas

	NAME	TYPE OF PARK	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	FACILITIES
19	Heights	Community	33	33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation center • Swimming pool • Sprayground • Two lighted baseball/softball fields • Two athletic fields • Two lighted tennis courts • Playground • Multi-purpose trail • Two pavilions • Picnic areas
20	Huffhines	Community	45	54.54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation center • Five lighted softball fields • Five athletic fields • Tennis center- ten lighted courts • Two lakes • Multi-purpose trail • Playground • Pavilion • Picnic areas • Concession complex • Restroom facility
21	Lookout	Neighborhood	20	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three athletic fields • Playground • Pavilion • Restroom facility • Multi-purpose trails - trail links with Owens Trail
		Greenbelt	5	5	
22	Mark Twain	Neighborhood	8.95	8.95	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighted baseball field • Athletic field • Two lighted tennis courts • Playground • Pavilion • Picnic areas
23	McKamy Spring	Pocket	1.94	1.94	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground • Trails
24	Memorial	Pocket	.84	.84	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armed Forces personnel memorial
25	Mimosa	Neighborhood	9.41	9.41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighted baseball/softball field • Athletic field • Two lighted tennis courts • Playground • Pavilion • Picnic areas • Restroom facility

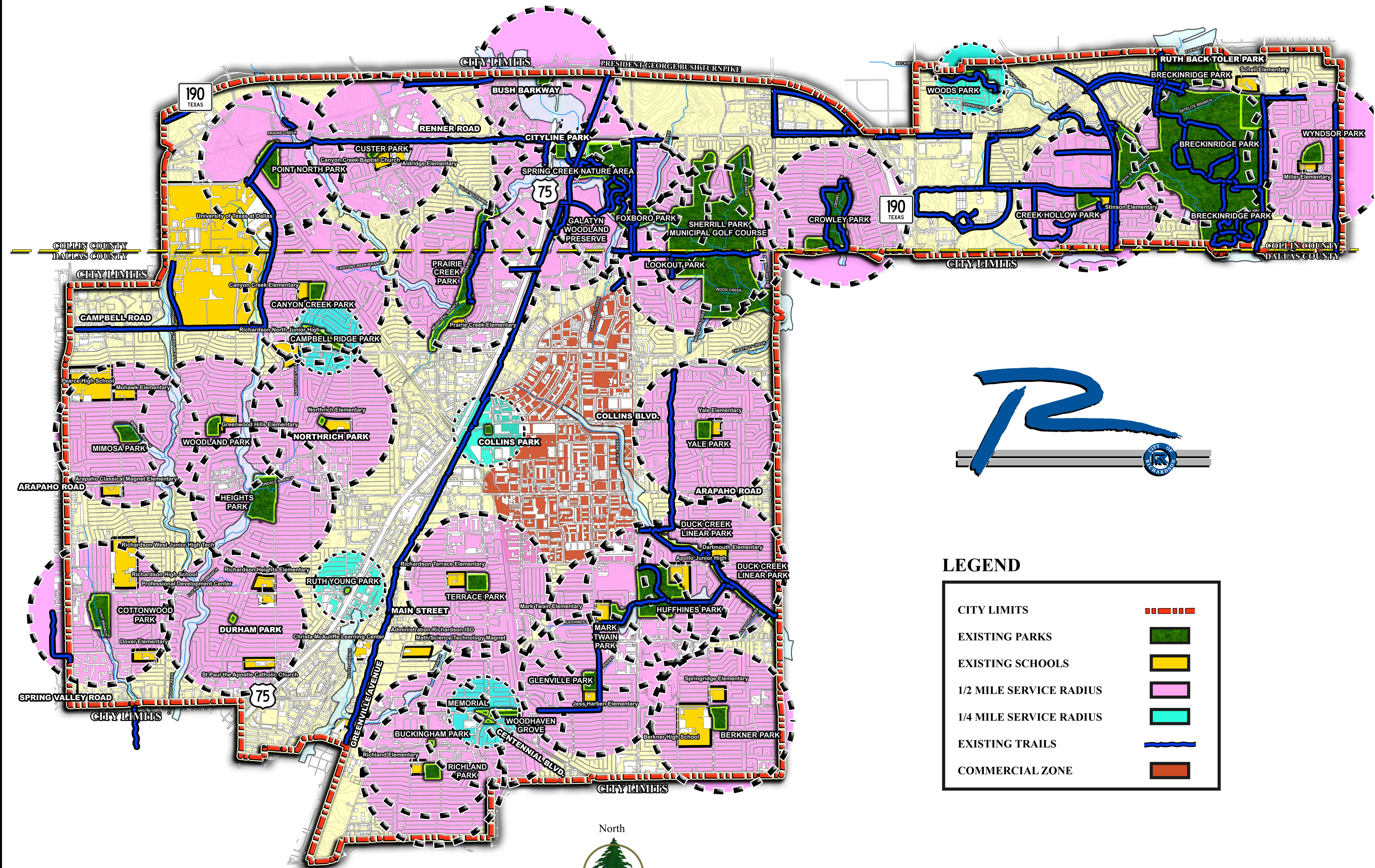
	NAME	TYPE OF PARK	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	FACILITIES
26	Northrich	Pocket	1.0	1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose trails • Pavilion • Picnic areas • Playground • Outdoor classroom • Drinking Fountain
27	Point North	Neighborhood	5.49	5.49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball/softball field • Athletic field • Playground • Pavilion • Picnic areas • Restroom facility
28	Prairie Creek	Natural Area	10	37.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural areas • Multi-purpose trail • Picnic areas
29	Richland	Neighborhood	7.37	7.37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball/softball field • Athletic field • Sand volleyball court • Two tennis courts • Multi-purpose trail • Playground • Pavilion • Picnic areas • Restroom facility
30	Ruth Young	Pocket	.3	.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botanical/Flower garden
31	Ruth Back Toler	Natural Area	3	21.87	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Areas • Trails

	NAME	TYPE OF PARK	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	FACILITIES
32	Sherrill Park Municipal Golf Course	Special Use	296	296	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golf course - 36 holes • Club house
33	Spring Creek Nature Area	Natural Area	15	111	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose trail - trail links with Galatyn Woodland Preserve/Central Trail • Natural areas • Hardwood forest • Picnic areas • Restroom facility
34	Terrace	Neighborhood	10.24	10.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming pool with baby pool • Two lighted baseball/softball fields • Two athletic fields • Two lighted tennis courts • Playground • Multi-purpose trail • Picnic areas • Pavilion • Restroom facility
35	Woods	Mini - Neighborhood	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural areas • Multi-purpose trail along Beck Branch Creek • Playground • Picnic areas • Pavilion
		Greenbelt	3.99	3.99	
36	Woodhaven Grove	Mini - Neighborhood	3.32	3.32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground • Multi-purpose trail • Pavilion • Picnic areas
37	Woodland	Mini-Neighborhood	5.92	5.92	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic Area • Playground • Shelter • Restrooms • Lighted baseball field • Athletic field • Lighted tennis courts • Small backstops

	NAME	TYPE OF PARK	DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	FACILITIES
38	WyndSOR	Neighborhood	10	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball/softball field • Multi-use courts • Open sports field • Playground • Multi-purpose trail • Picnic areas • Pavilion • Restroom facility
39	Yale	Neighborhood	7.5	7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball/softball field • Athletic field • Two tennis courts • Playground • Multi-purpose trail • Picnic areas • Pavilion • Restroom facility
40	Plano Rd. and Apollo Rd. Land	Special-Use	0	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant Land
Total Park Acres				1,297.43	
Total Developed Acres			869.11		

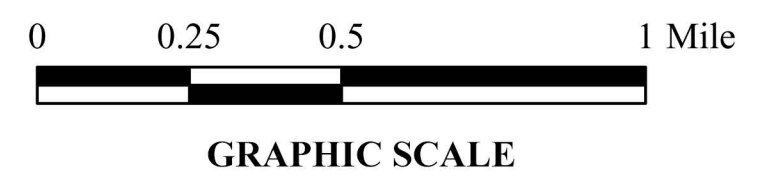
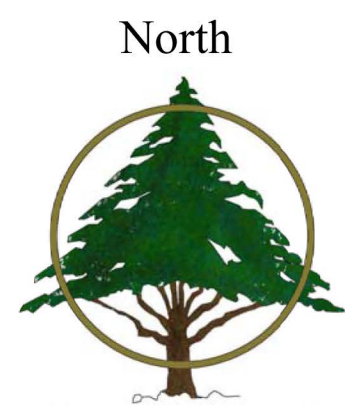
EXISTING PARKS & OPEN SPACES
1/4 & 1/2 MILE SERVICE AREAS
CITY OF RICHARDSON
COLLIN & DALLAS COUNTIES, TEXAS

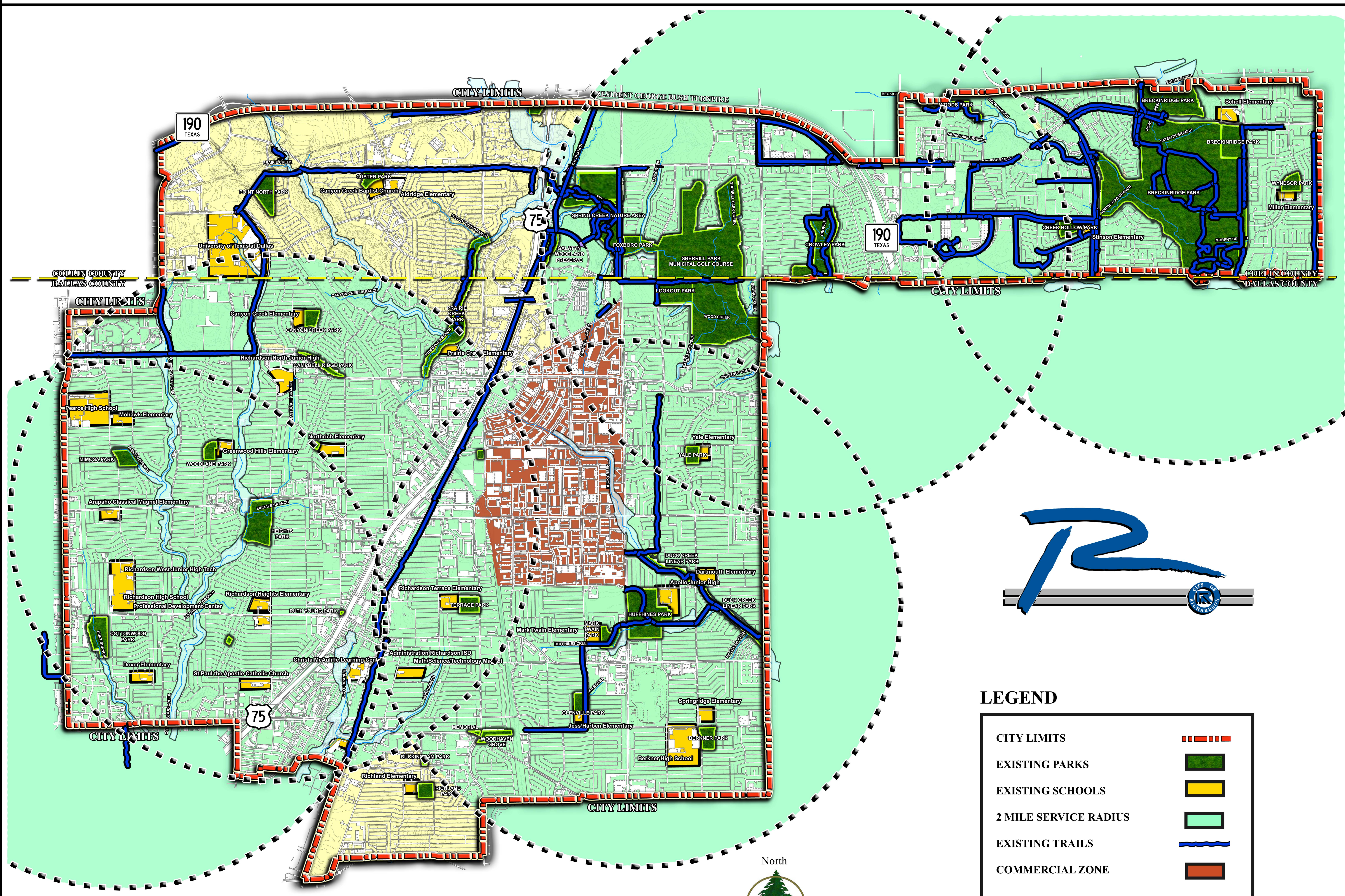
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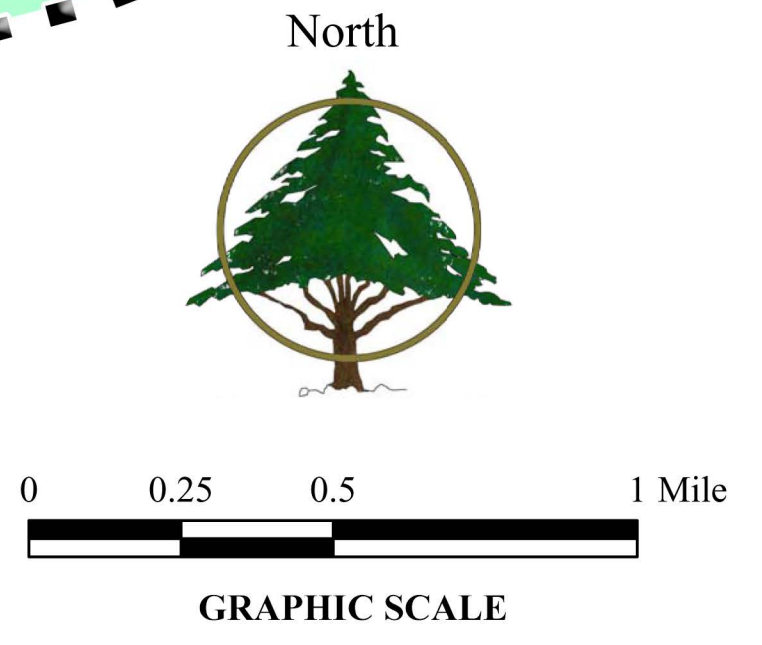
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EXISTING TRAILS	
COMMERCIAL ZONE	





LEGEND

CITY LIMITS	
EXISTING PARKS	
EXISTING SCHOOLS	
2 MILE SERVICE RADIUS	
EXISTING TRAILS	
COMMERCIAL ZONE	



NATIONAL
SERVICE
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MHS
PLANNING & DESIGN, LLC

EXISTING COMMUNITY PARKS
2 MILE SERVICE AREA
CITY OF RICHARDSON
COLLIN & DALLAS COUNTIES, TEXAS

DRAWN: HNR
CHECKED: MHS
DATE: FEB 2017
SCALE: AS SHOWN
JOB NO.: 16-002

OF

IV. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

One of the main objectives of this master plan update is to address the accomplishments within the existing park system made since the 2010 plan. The City of Richardson has made significant progress in updating and developing the existing park system. It is important to address the City's accomplishments in order to focus on what the city needs to accomplish in the upcoming years.

RECONSTRUCTION OF HEIGHTS AQUATIC CENTER (FORMERLY ARAPAHO POOL)



Heights Aquatic Center

The reconstruction of Arapaho Pool, now known as The Heights Family Aquatic Center, was a high priority in the 2010 master plan. The aquatic center opened in the summer of 2013 and has been one of the most successful projects in the city. In addition, the city was awarded the Texas Recreation and Parks Society Facility Design Excellence Award for the aquatic center.



RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HEIGHTS INDOOR RECREATION CENTER



The Heights Indoor Recreation Center was a priority in the 2010 master plan and was reconstructed in 2012. The Heights Recreation Center offers a variety of amenities such as: a full regulation-sized basketball court, a dedicated game room, fitness and cardio areas with new equipment, updated locker rooms, larger classroom space, a preschool room, an aerobics studio and WiFi Internet access.



CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHARDSON GYMNASTICS CENTER



The Richardson Gymnastic Center opened in January of 2013.



The Gymnastic Center is a 16,000 square foot stand alone facility and became Silver Leed Certified in December 2013.

ACQUISITION OF LAND AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHRICH PARK



Northrich Park, developed in 2015, is a one acre park located at 527 Malden Drive. The park consists of multi-purpose trails, a pavilion, picnic tables, a playground, an outdoor classroom and drinking fountain.

ACQUISITION OF LAND AND DEVELOPMENT OF DURHAM PARK



Durham park is .8 acres located at 400 Weathered Drive. The new park was acquired and developed in 2012 and consists of a pavilion, drinking fountain, playground, butterfly garden, open lawn area and walking trails.

ACQUISITION OF LAND AND DEVELOPMENT OF COLLINS PARK

Collins Park was acquired and developed in accordance with Transit Oriented Development objectives in 2016. The .87 acre pocket park has a pavilion, benches, drinking fountain, rest area, multi-purpose trail and enhanced landscaping.



ACQUISITION OF LAND AND DEVELOPMENT OF CITYLINE PARK



CityLine Park is approximately 5.75 acres located at the northwest corner of Renner Road and Routh Creek Parkway. The Central Trail provides a connection to the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) station at the CityLine Development.

The park consists of a pavilion, playground, drinking fountain, trails, benches and native landscaping.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUSH CENTRAL BARKWAY DOG PARK



Dog parks ranked as the fourth highest priority in the City of Richardson in the 2010 master plan. The new Bush Central Barkway Dog Park consists of areas for large and small dogs as well as shaded areas, restrooms and seating areas. The park was opened to the public in August of 2015.



CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MULTI-PURPOSE TRAILS & SOFT SURFACED TRAILS



Spring Creek Nature Area



CityLine Park

Multi-purpose trails ranked as the number one priority in the 2010 parks and open space master plan. The City of Richardson has successfully constructed several miles of trails in the past year – including connections to the City of Plano, Murphy and the Six Cities Trail.

In addition, the city has completed the Ruth Back Toler Trail, and the Glenville Trail, which connects four parks and three Richardson ISD schools.



CityLine Park

RENOVATIONS AND UPGRADES OF EXISTING PARKS



Lookout Park Playground

The City of Richardson has not only grown and developed the existing park system over the past five years, the city has successfully updated, renovated and enhanced multiple parks throughout the entire park system that needed some attention.



Tennis Center



Glenville Park Playground

The City remodeled pavilions at five different parks, replaced dilapidated playgrounds at Custer Park, Glenville Park, Lookout Park, Mimosa Park and Yale Park and resurfaced and lighted 22 tennis courts. The City continually repaired both major and minor maintenance issues throughout the entire park system. In addition, the city completed various improvements throughout the entire park system to reach full compliance with the State Accessibilities Requirements.

The City acquired an addition 60 acres at the Spring Creek Nature Area to increase the total acreage to 111 acres.

Fox Creek Park is currently under construction and is proposed to open in Autumn 2017.

V. CITIZEN INPUT

In order to develop a park system that will be highly supported and used by the residents of Richardson, the City has committed to using a citizen-driven needs based approach to park planning. In order to better understand the needs of the community, National Service Research mailed 7,000 surveys and provided an online survey to the residents of Richardson in the Fall of 2016. A total of 1,351 residents responded with valuable data regarding the existing and future needs of the park system. The response rate of surveys sent was 19%, which is a very high rate of participation! The mailed survey was similar to the survey used in 2010 in order to compare the changes over the past five years.

In addition to the survey, National Service Research conducted a public meeting and two focus group meetings in September of 2016.



Public Meeting

Overall, it is apparent that the City of Richardson has a successful park system and is continually progressing. Many of the respondents feel that the City needs to continue moving in the same direction as identified in the 2010 master plan.

The following pages are a summary of the key responses regarding the City of Richardson's park system. The complete survey results and public input data can be found in Appendix I.

FOCUS GROUP INPUT - HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CURRENT PARK SYSTEM

- Natural areas
- Multi-purpose trails
- Rich variety of programs
- Gymnastics center
- Aquatics Facilities & Programs
- Mature trees, natural open space and creek corridors
- High quality of maintenance



Richardson Gymnastics Center

FOCUS GROUP INPUT - NEEDS & VISIONS OF THE EXISTING PARK SYSTEM

- Links to the regional trail system
- Natural open spaces
- Signature park – the nucleus of Richardson
- Educational elements in parks
- Indoor aquatic facility
- Programming (Very successful! Citizens just want more!)
- Tournament quality sports fields
- Bike lanes
- Natural gathering areas
- Art in the parks
- Increased connectivity of park components



SURVEY DATA

According to the survey results, the frequency of park visitation and trail use has increased over the past five years in the City of Richardson.

PARKS	WEEKLY USE	MONTHLY USE
2016	45%	24%
2009	40%	22%

TRAILS	WEEKLY USE	MONTHLY USE
2016	28%	18%
2009	25%	16%

Program participation increased by 15% among all age groups since 2009 and the interest in participation in programs increased from the 2010 survey.

According to the citizen survey respondents, it is apparent the City of Richardson provides a high quality park system with an emphasis on a high quality of maintenance. Majority of the citizens who participated in the survey rated the facilities in Richardson as ‘excellent’ or ‘good.’

A total of **97%** of the respondents stated that the **Gymnastic Center** is ‘excellent’ or ‘good!’

A total of **91%** of the respondents stated that the **Recreation Centers** are ‘excellent’ or ‘good!’



A total of **86%** of the respondents stated that the **Parks** are ‘excellent’ or ‘good!’

A total of **85%** of the respondents stated that the **Trails and Greenbelts** are ‘excellent’ or ‘good!’

Although the Senior Center, City Pools and the Tennis Center all ranked more positively than negatively; these three facilities are ranked as needing the most improvements.

2016 CITIZEN SURVEY RECREATIONAL

RANK	FACILITY
1	Multi-Purpose Trails
2	Nature Trails & Greenbelt Corridors
3	Indoor Aquatic Center
4	Natural Open Spaces
5	Botanical Gardens
6	Spraygrounds
7	Seating Areas & Benches
8	Dog Parks
9	Playgrounds
10	Pavilions & Picnic Shelters

FUTURE FUNDING?

The number one priority for funding according to the survey respondents is Trail Connections.

HOW TO FUND TRAILS?

The number one supported funding option according to the survey respondents is Bonds.

2016 ACTIVITY PRIORITIES

RANK	ACTIVITY
1	Festivals & Events
2	Walking & Hiking
3	Fitness Classes
4	Arts & Crafts
5	Health/Wellness Classes
6	Aquatic Programs
7	Biking
8	Senior Programs
9	Music/Dance/Drama Programs
10	Nature & Interpretive Programs

INTERESTING FACT:

The demand for every organized sport dropped in the 2016 survey compared to the 2009 survey, however, the decreasing demand for organized athletics is a national trend.



VI. NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

The needs and priorities of the City of Richardson are based on the citizens of Richardson's input, city staff recommendations and professional opinion. The following needs and priorities have been identified as important areas of focus for the next five years in the City of Richardson.

NEW PARK NEEDS

The City of Richardson has been successful in the past five years by acquiring and developing additional new parks within the city. As build-out continues and land is becoming less available, it is imperative the city focus on acquiring vacant land for additional parks to serve areas of the community that are not currently served, such as the southwestern and central portions of the city.

After several public meetings with community leaders, key staff members and the general public, it is apparent that the City of Richardson needs a community park in the central portion of town that can serve as the central hub of recreation for the entire community. This centrally located community park could serve the entire community and consist of: trails, pavilions, lawn areas, multi-purpose trails, a sprayground and public art, just to name a few.



Cottonwood Park

EXISTING PARK NEEDS

As the City of Richardson continues to grow, it is essential that the city maintains, updates and renovates existing parks. The city has primarily focused on acquiring and developing land over the past five years and should continue to do so as the city becomes closer to build-out. With that being said, the city must continually focus on existing parks and open spaces over the next five years. The 2010 master plan recommended to focus on defining the true needs of ten 'cookie cutter' neighborhood parks throughout the park system. Some of the parks received minor updates over the years but it is necessary to address the existing park system in the upcoming years.



Yale Park Playground

ATHLETIC FACILITY NEEDS

Every community has different athletic needs based on population, demographics and geographic location. The City of Richardson has always put an emphasis on athletic facilities within the community. The city has had an active community base over the past five years and the trend is growing. The demand for organized athletics nationwide has steadily dropped for every sport over the past five years and the City of Richardson is beginning to see that trend according to the citizen survey. It is important to note that there is a demand for tournament quality fields and additional lighted facilities within the community. This data suggests that much of the demand is satisfied except for the top of the line tournament facilities and the ability to play or practice after dark. The city needs to focus on high quality, top of the line athletic facilities and field lighting.



TRAIL NEEDS

The City of Richardson has focused heavily over the past five years on the development of additional trails to create more connectivity throughout the community. Hiking / Biking / Jogging Trails ranked number one on the citizen survey and Nature Trails/Greenbelt Corridors ranked number two. It is apparent that additional trails are needed within the city. It is imperative to construct trails that connect parks, schools, residential areas, employment centers, commercial areas and mass transit hubs. In addition to the functionality of the trail itself, it is important to focus on the aesthetics of the trail for the trail users. Kiosks, signage, rest areas, shade, landscaping and similar amenities can have a major impact on the trail users experience.

AQUATIC NEEDS

The concept of swimming pools and aquatics in general have always been a priority in the City of Richardson. The city reconstructed the Heights Family Aquatic Center (formerly Arapaho Pool) in 2012 and it has been a huge success for the entire community. In addition to this newly reconstructed aquatic center, the City owns and operates an additional four swimming pools. Canyon Creek, Cottonwood, Glenville and Terrace pools are all over 40 years old. The city has been very successful in keeping the pools open, operational and well maintained, however, the average life span of a pool is approximately 30-40 years.

Even with the newly renovated Heights Family Aquatic Center and four additional swimming pools, the citizen survey, focus groups and general public all suggested a need for aquatic facilities – specifically an indoor aquatic facility.



CityLine Park

NATURAL OPEN SPACE NEEDS

As the City of Richardson and surrounding communities continue to grow and build out, the amount of natural open space begins to diminish. The need for acquisition and preservation of natural open space was evident in the focus group meetings. Many of the citizens expressed the need for open spaces, creek corridors and preservation of mature trees. In addition, open spaces and nature trails ranked as the number four priority on the citizen survey. It is imperative, especially as the city continues to grow, to focus on preserving the most valuable environmental assets, such as wooded lots, natural open spaces, creek corridors and riparian areas.



URBAN BEAUTIFICATION

The concept of urban beautification is a growing trend both in the City of Richardson and throughout the State. Botanical Gardens ranked as the number five priority in the citizen survey and suggests that citizens desire a higher level of landscaping and beautification throughout the park system. Enhanced landscaping at parks and aesthetic treatments along trail corridors are needed throughout the entire city.

INDOOR RECREATION NEEDS

In 2013, the City of Richardson completed the renovation of the Heights Recreation Center. In addition, the city completed the construction of an Indoor Gymnastics Center in 2012. It is obvious, based on the citizen input that these developments satisfied a large need in the community, however, there is still a need to construct an indoor recreation center at Breckinridge Park.



PRIORITIES

The following Parks and Recreational Facility Priorities are based on results from the focus group meetings, public meetings, citizen survey, city staff, the needs analysis and professional opinion. The following list is depicted in order of priority, has been adopted and should be pursued as recreational priorities within the city.

RANK	FACILITY
1	Multi-Use Trails/Nature Trails/Greenbelt Corridors
2	Indoor Aquatic Center
3	Natural Open Spaces
4	Spraygrounds
5	Seating Areas / Benches
6	Enhanced Urban Beautification (Botanical Gardens)
7	Playgrounds
8	Pavilions / Picnic Shelters
9	Indoor Recreation Center
10	Dog Parks
11	Outdoor Aquatic Center
12	Senior Center
13	Amphitheater
14	Disc Golf Course
15	Tournament Quality Sports Complex (lighted)
16	Skate Park
17	Multi-Purpose Lighted Sports Practice Area
18	Basketball Courts
19	Tennis Courts
20	BMX Track

RECOMMENDATIONS

New Parks:

- Develop property around the City core as a community park and recreational hub.
- Develop +/- 25 acres as multi-purpose field sports complex (lighted).

Existing Park Upgrades:

- Continue to renovate existing neighborhood parks such as: Custer, Mark Twain, Mimosa and Terrace Parks.
- Continue recreational developments within Breckinridge and Prairie Creek Parks in accordance with the adopted site master plans.

Athletics:

- Develop a fully lighted, multi-purpose field sports complex.

Aquatics:

- Continue to monitor and assess of Cottonwood, Canyon Creek, Glenville, and Terrace Pools and Heights Aquatic Center.
- Construct indoor aquatics center.
- Construct spraygrounds in existing and future parks

Trails:

- Continue to construct trails throughout the community to connect parks, schools, residential areas, commercial areas, mass public transit areas and employment centers. It is critical to construct trail segments that result in meaningful connectivity.

Natural Open Space:

- Acquire, preserve and develop key remaining natural areas for passive recreational opportunities as well as for natural habitats and trail corridors.

Urban Beautification:

- Enhance existing rights-of-way with identification treatments and landscaping to improve the aesthetic appeal of Richardson and enhance key entry portals and gateways.
- Increase and enhance the level of landscaping within the park system.

Indoor Recreation Center:

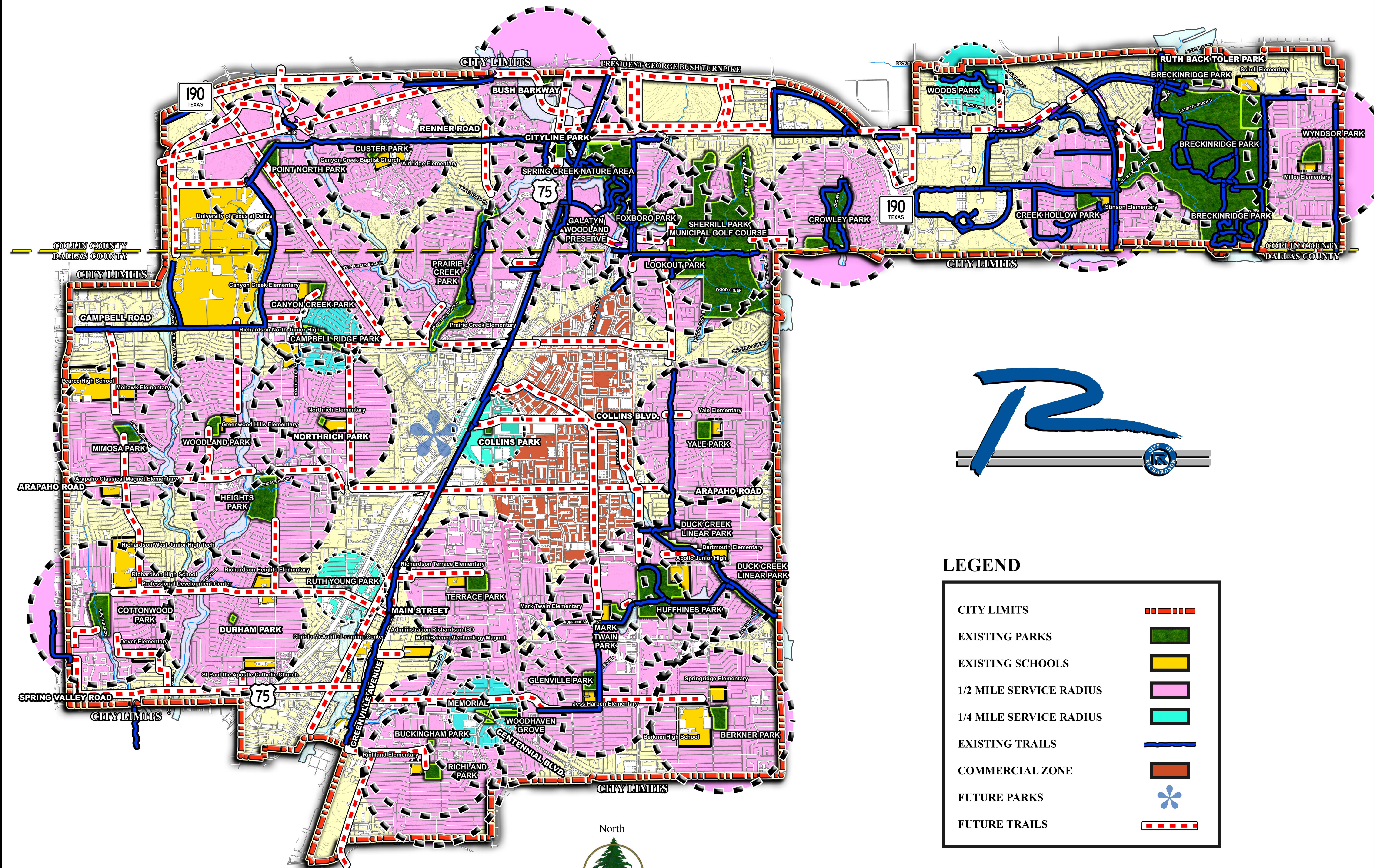
- Construct an indoor recreation center at Breckinridge Park in accordance to the master plan.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The following table depicts the updated project list for the City of Richardson for the next five years and beyond. It is important to note that the following schedule is intended to be a flexible guide for the development of parks, recreational facilities and open spaces over the next five to ten years. The city should evaluate and take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities that may arise that are not identified in this implementation schedule as long it meets the goals and objectives of this plan. The city should continually and actively pursue partnerships and non-traditional funding sources to expedite implementation where possible to alleviate some of the burden of implementation expenses on residents.

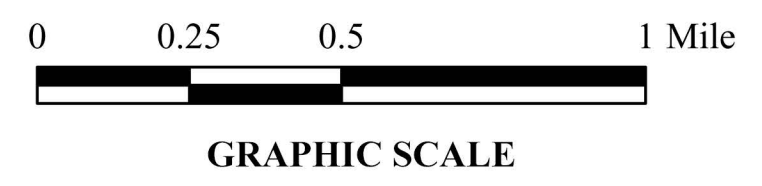
The following list is NOT in priority order

PROJECT	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
Develop a centrally located community park to include: open lawn areas, multi-use trails, pavilions, seating areas, sprayground, enhanced landscaping, etc	TPWD Outdoor Grant General Fund General Obligation Bond
Continue the development of multi-use trails and soft surfaced trails throughout the city	TPWD Recreational Trails Grant TxDOT Enhancement Grant General Fund General Obligation Bond
Construct an indoor aquatic facility	TPWD Indoor Grant General Fund General Obligation Bond
Continue to master plan, renovate, rehabilitate and upgrade existing parks	TPWD Outdoor Grant General Fund General Obligation Bond
Develop Breckinridge and Prairie Creek Parks in accordance to their master plans	TPWD Outdoor Grant General Fund General Obligation Bond
Construct an outdoor aquatics facility and sprayground in the northeastern quadrant of Richardson	TPWD Outdoor Grant General Fund General Obligation Bond
Capital improvement projects for parks and open space should contain a public art element equivalent to two percent of the project budget	General Fund General Obligation Bond
Continue to work closely with Transit Oriented Development, and Public, Private Partnerships in order to acquire and develop parkland	TPWD Grants General Fund General Obligation Bond



LEGEND

CITY LIMITS	
EXISTING PARKS	
EXISTING SCHOOLS	
1/2 MILE SERVICE RADIUS	
1/4 MILE SERVICE RADIUS	
EXISTING TRAILS	
COMMERCIAL ZONE	
FUTURE PARKS	
FUTURE TRAILS	



VIII. SUMMARY

Based on all the received data, it is apparent that the citizens of Richardson are very satisfied, and not only invested in the existing park system, but looking towards the future. The City of Richardson has made incredible progress in the parks system with additions of the Heights Family Aquatic Center, Richardson Gymnastics Center, acquisition of additional park land, development of new parks, renovations of existing parks and the continual development of the overall trail system. In addition, the city has continually maintained the existing park system at a high level of service. It is imperative to continue this high level of maintenance as the city acquires and develops additional park land. A successful management program of the city's park system, especially the natural areas, will ensure that the city will stay ahead of the curve as the park system continues to develop and grow.

The main objectives of this updated plan are to continue to acquire and develop land as it becomes available, primarily with a focus on the preservation of natural open spaces. In addition, continue to renovate and upgrade the aging parks within the system in regards to the high priority facilities as the population and demographics change in the community. It is also apparent that a centrally located community park and an indoor aquatic facility are needed. The demand for multi-use and nature trails continues to grow and the city needs to pursue the construction of trail segments that create a larger trail network to connect residential areas with commercial areas, parks and schools.

This master plan update is to be utilized as a guideline which should be reviewed annually and updated every five years to reflect the unique recreational needs of the changing population and demographics of the city. The city should take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities not identified in the plan that may arise, such as donations of land and/or facilities as long as the actions meet the intent of the goals, objectives and recommendations of this plan

The proposed improvements contained in this plan will enhance the quality of life throughout the entire community. The resulting benefits include tourism potential, economic value, increasing property values, civic pride and most importantly, an increased quality of life for the residents of the City of Richardson.



APPENDIX I

National Service Research
Park & Recreation Needs Assessment Study
November 29, 2016



**PARKS
& TRAILS**



**City of Richardson
Park & Recreation
Needs Assessment Study**

November 29, 2016
REVISED March 7, 2017

Prepared by:
National Service Research



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Introduction & Methodology



- **National Service Research (NSR)** completed a comprehensive research study for the City of Richardson, Texas as part of the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan update. An important aspect of the Master Plan was to conduct a demand and needs assessment which involved citizen input. The purpose of the needs assessment study was to provide a foundation for the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan that will provide guidance based upon citizen needs and priorities. NSR worked closely with MHS Planning and Design and the City of Richardson staff throughout the research process.
- In order to complete this study effort, National Service Research and MHS Planning and Design conducted a public meeting on September 15, 2016 and two focus groups on September 20 to understand the needs of the citizens. The results of these discussions assisted in the design of the survey document. NSR mailed 7,000 surveys proportionately to five sectors in Richardson. A total of 364 mail surveys were returned and computer processed. NSR also provided an online survey link to the City of Richardson which was posted on their web site. A total of 987 survey responses were received via the online survey for a total of 1,351 surveys. The margin of error of this sample size at a 95% confidence level is plus or minus 2.9%.

Summary of Focus Groups/Public Meeting



Respondents commented that Richardson values its park system and provided several comments they like about it;

- Open areas and natural areas
- Trails for walking/hiking
- Active and passive areas
- Good use of creek/flood areas
- Parks are in almost every neighborhood
- Mature trees in parks
- A rich variety of programs for all ages
- Special events
- Gymnastic center and aquatic center
- Good safety and maintenance

Needs/Vision of the current park & open space system:

- Trails that connect to a regional system
- Natural areas/open areas (nature interpretation/marked wildlife habitat areas/nature walks)
- Indoor aquatic center
- Further development of Breckinridge Park (recreation center/natatorium)
- A signature project or “central park” that is the nucleus of Richardson
- Create educational elements in parks

Summary of Focus Groups/Public Meeting



- Expand programming (outdoor learning environments)
- Tournament quality sports fields
- More mixed use lighted sports fields
- Bike lanes
- More art festivals, fresh food markets, music festivals
- Art in parks
- Natural gathering places
- Skate park
- Expand handicapped access to parks

Citizen Survey Summary – Key Findings



Maintenance

- Respondents feel the trails and parks are well maintained with most respondents rating maintenance as excellent or good.
- The pools and the senior center need some improvements as noted by the respondents.

Recreation Programs

- There is interest for recreation programs among youth (age 10 and under) and adults. The programs of most interest are; festivals/events, walking/hiking, fitness classes, arts and crafts, health/wellness classes and aquatic programs.

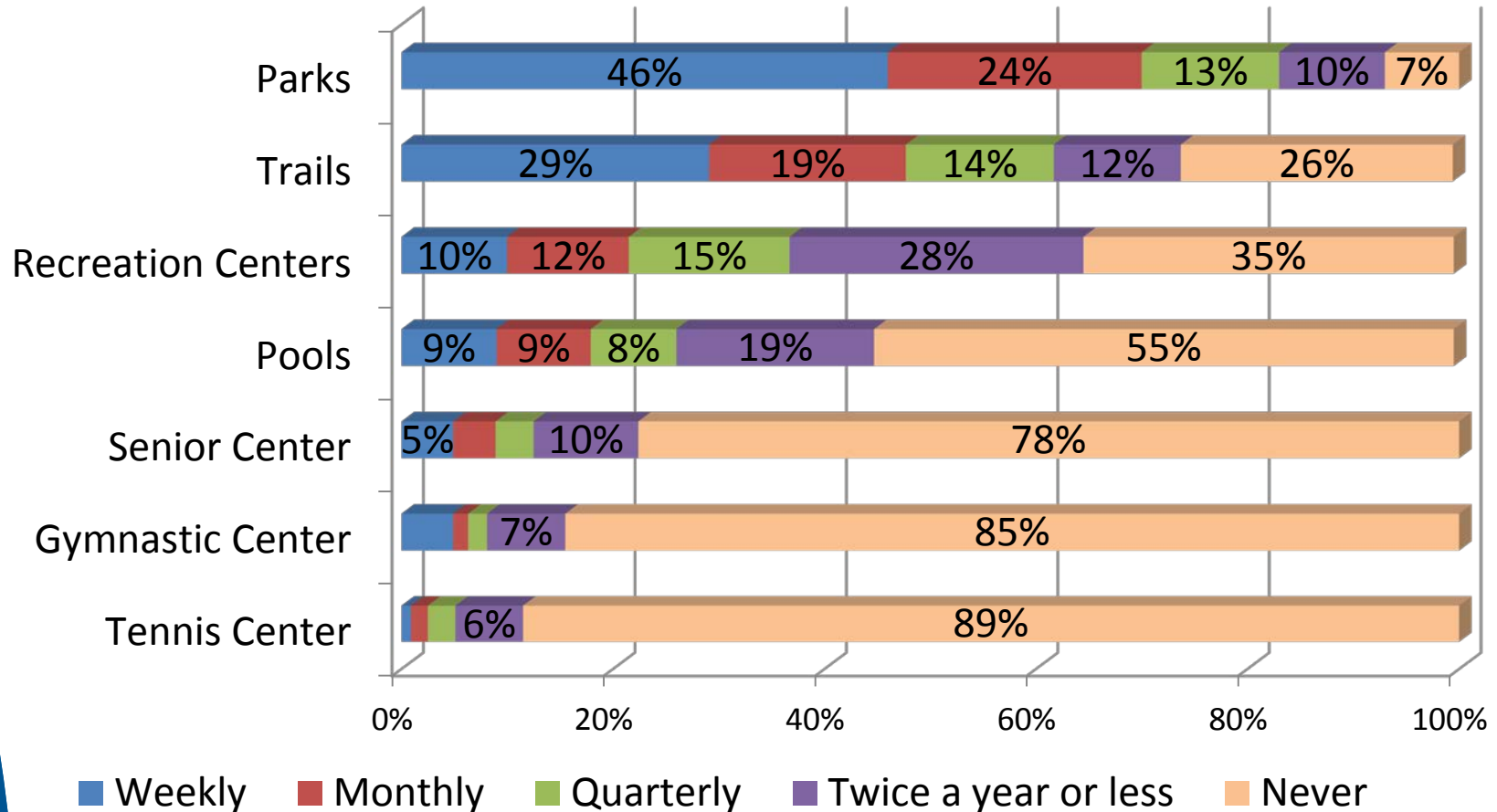
Park Facility Priorities

- It is clear citizens want additional trail connections throughout the city with nature trails, greenway corridors and open spaces/natural areas also being a priority.
- Other top priorities were (in order of priority); a new indoor aquatic center, botanic gardens, spray grounds, additional benches/seating areas, dog park and additional playgrounds.

Frequency of Facility Use



- Parks and trails are used most frequently, followed by recreation centers and pools.



Frequency of Facility Use

2016 Compared to 2009



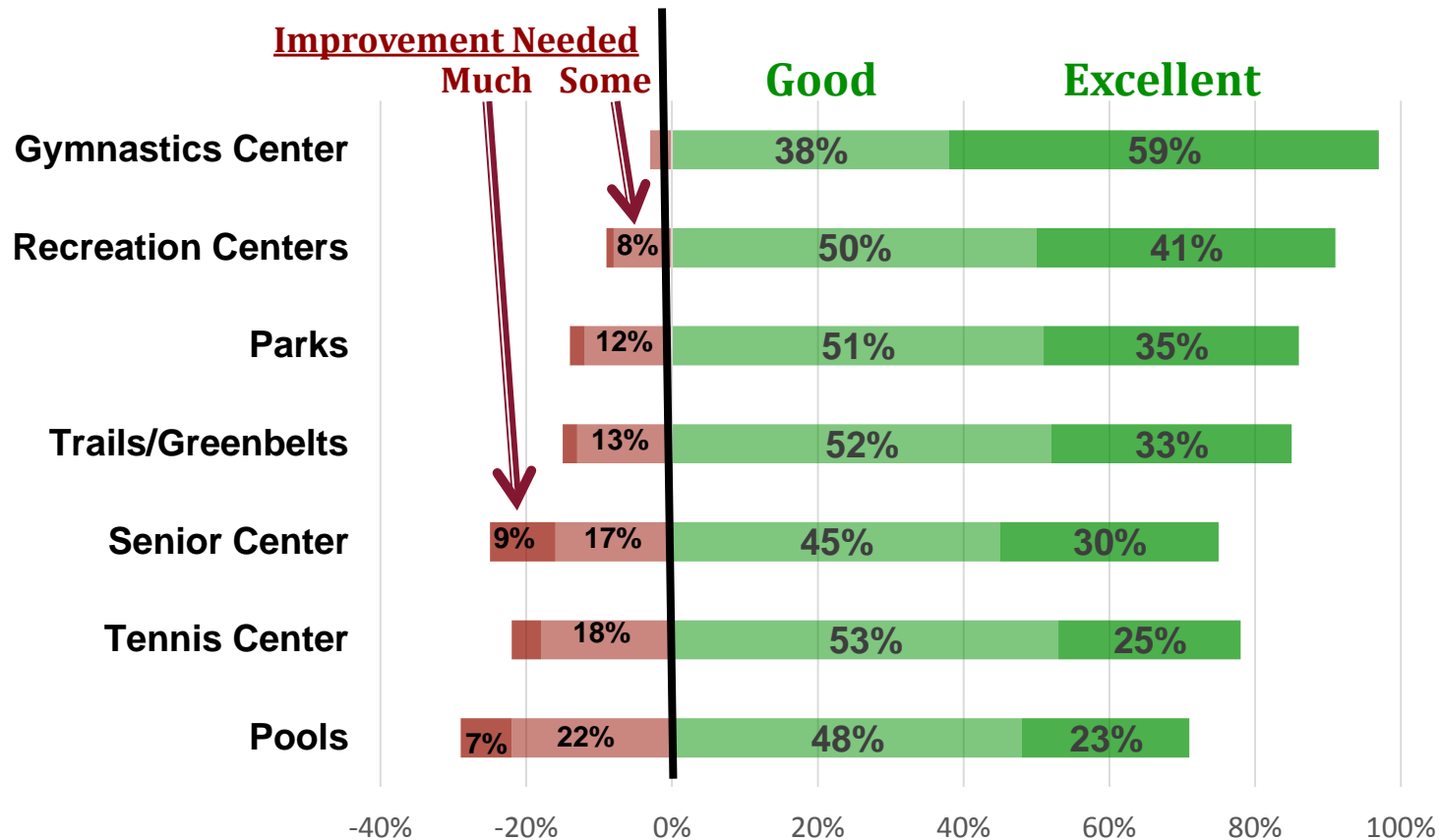
- Frequency of park and trail use have increased since 2009.

Facility	At least weekly	At least monthly	At least quarterly	Twice a year or less	Never
2016 - Parks	45%	24%	13%	10%	7%
2009 – Parks	40%	22%	13%	12%	10%
2016 – Trails	28%	18%	14%	12%	25%
2009 – Trails	25%	16%	12%	9%	33%
2016 -Pools	9%	9%	8%	18%	53%
2009 - Pools	11%	7%	5%	14%	57%
2016 - Recreation Center	9%	11%	15%	26%	34%
2009 - Recreation Center	10%	11%	15%	27%	35%
2016 – Senior Center	5%	4%	4%	10%	75%
2009 – Senior Center	6%	5%	5%	11%	68%
2016 – Tennis Center	1%	2%	2%	6%	84%
2009 – Tennis Center	1%	2%	4%	7%	80%

Maintenance Rating of Facilities in Richardson



- * Most survey respondents rated facilities in Richardson as good or excellent.
- * Some improvement is needed in parks (12%), trails (13%) and tennis center (18%).
- * 9% felt the senior center and 7% reported the pools need much improvement.



Percentages exclude "no answer" responses

Maintenance Rating of Facilities in Richardson 2016 Compared to 2009

- Improvements in maintenance ratings are seen mainly among trails, the recreation centers, pools and the tennis center.

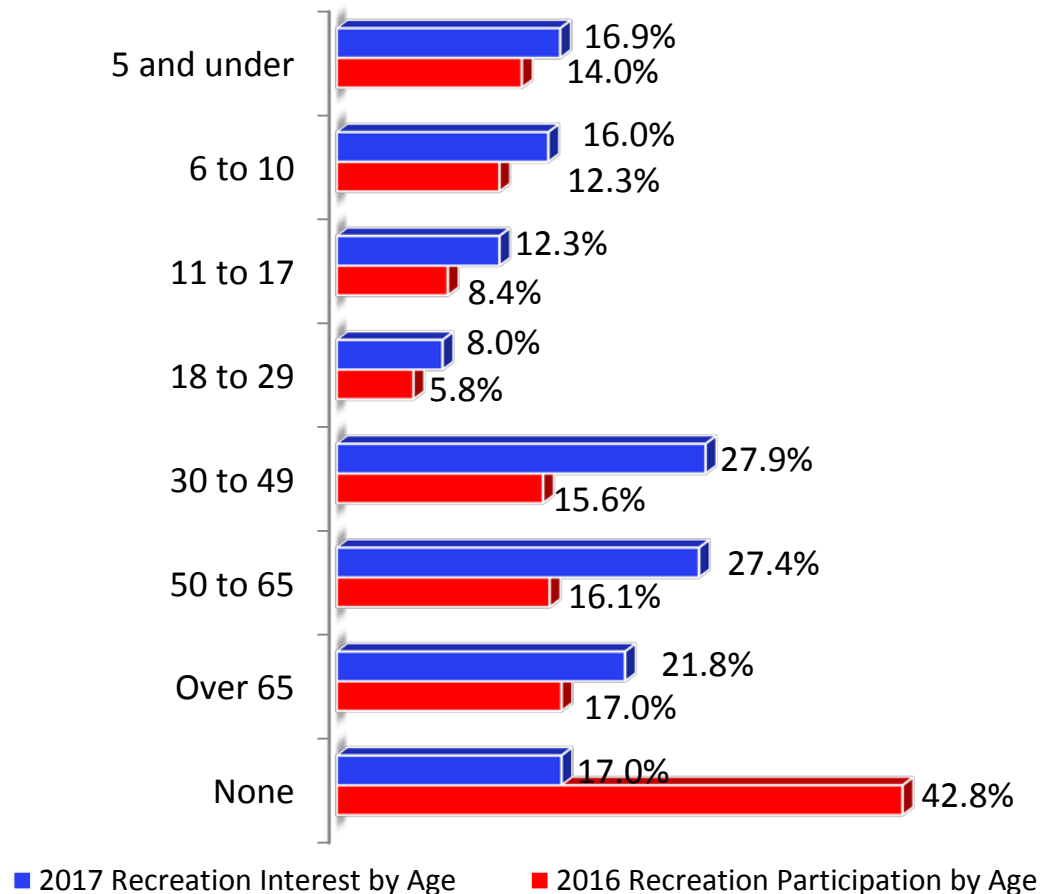
Facility	Excellent	Good	Needs Some Improvement	Needs Much Improvement
2016 - Parks	35%	50%	12%	2%
2009 – Parks	35%	53%	11%	1%
2016 – Trails	33%	52%	13%	2%
2009 – Trails	27%	58%	14%	2%
2016 -Pools	23%	48%	22%	7%
2009 - Pools	20%	53%	21%	7%
2016 - Recreation Center	41%	49%	8%	1%
2009 - Recreation Center	10%	49%	29%	12%
2016 – Senior Center	30%	45%	17%	9%
2009 – Senior Center	34%	48%	13%	4%
2016 – Tennis Center	25%	53%	19%	4%
2009 – Tennis Center	13%	62%	22%	3%

Recreation Program Participation Past Year

Recreation Program Interest by Age



- There is more interest in programs in all age groups compared to the actual program participation within the past year.
- This indicates there will be demand for programs among all age groups.
- Program participation increased 15% among all age groups since 2009.



Recreation Programs of Most Interest

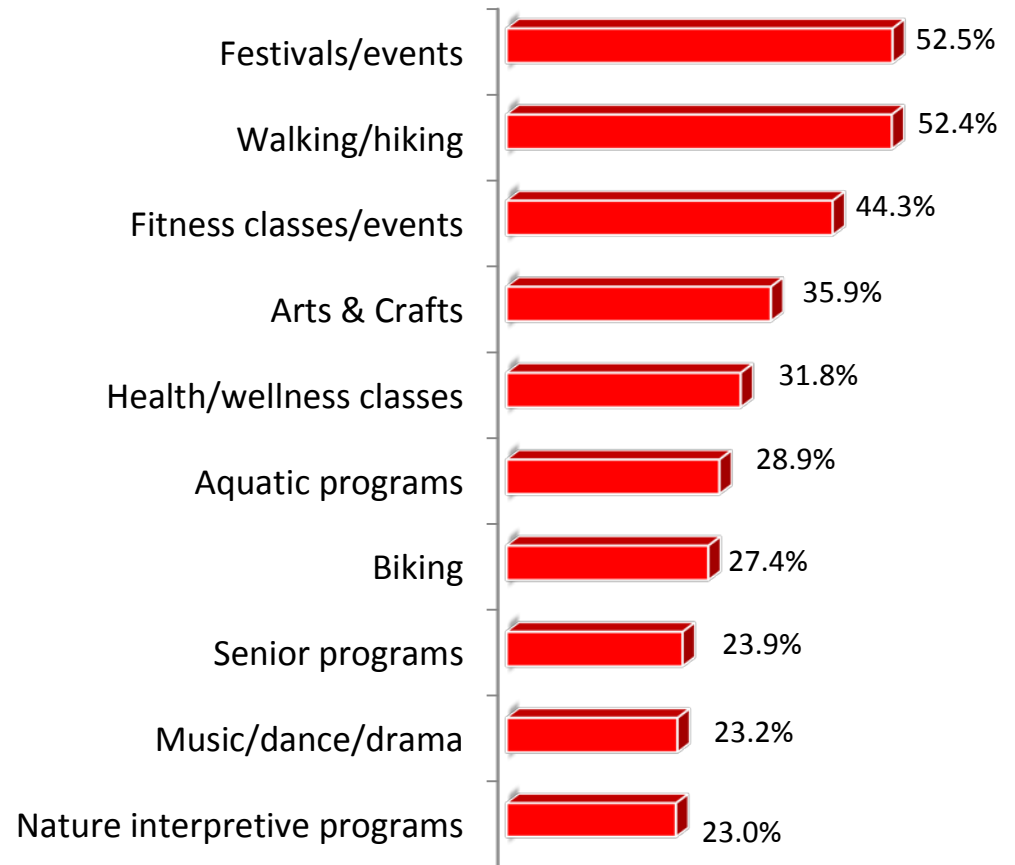


Top programs that were mentioned in 2009; exercise classes, aquatic programs, arts & crafts, volleyball, and senior programs,

- The top ten programs of interest among survey respondents is depicted in the chart.

- Other programs of interest:

- Family Programs	19.9%
- Races	18.3
- Soccer	17.1
- Summer youth programs	15.1
- Preschool/toddler programs	13.8
- Tennis	13.1
- Archery range	13.0
- Parent/child programs	12.7
- Youth camps	11.1
- Basketball	10.7
- Disc golf	9.3
- Softball	8.6
- Baseball	8.4
- Sand volleyball	8.0
- Indoor volleyball	7.9
- Fishing derby	6.9
- Kickball	6.0
- None/not interested	6.0
- Flag football	5.9
- Racquetball	5.5
- Horseshoes	4.7
- Lacrosse	1.9
- Rugby	1.3
- Cricket	1.3

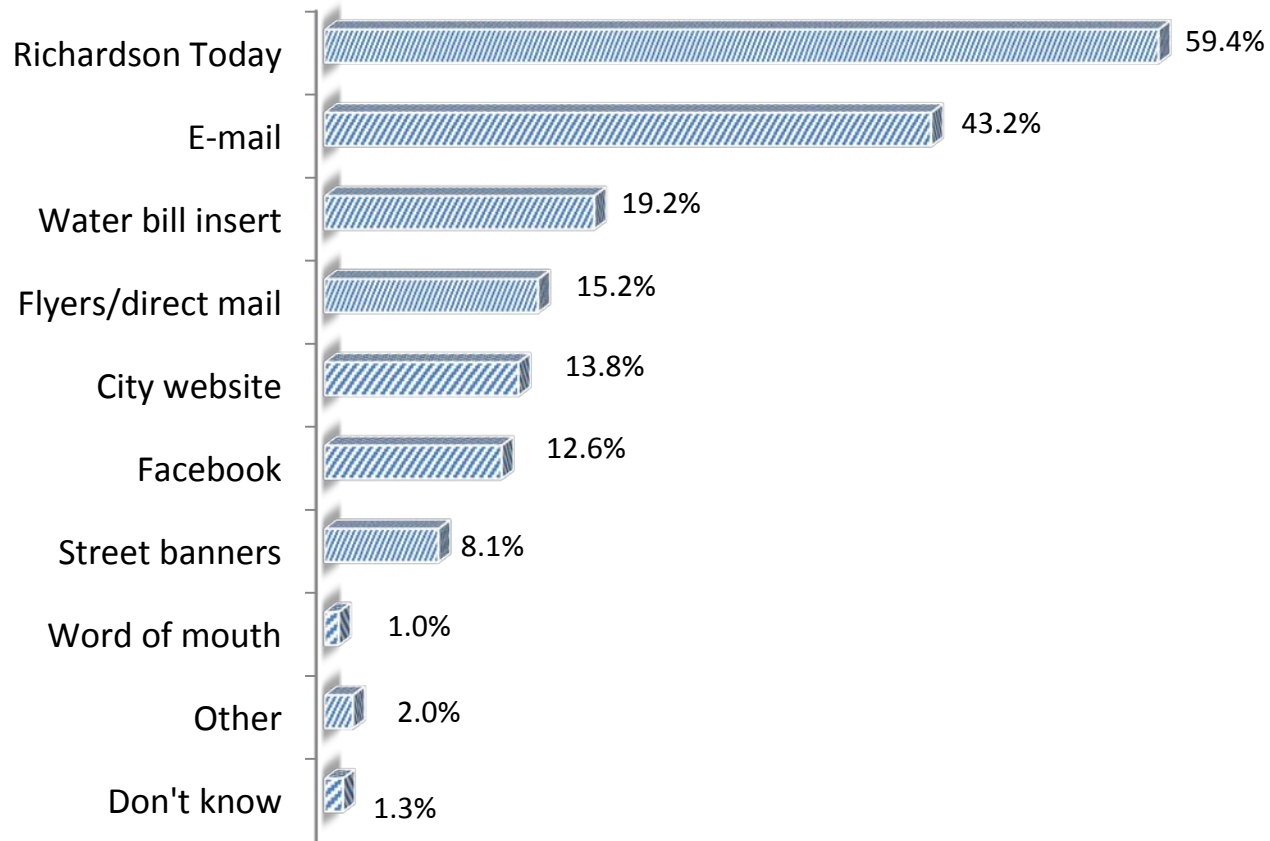


■ 2016 Top Ten Programs of Interest

Preferred Communication Methods



- The primary ways residents prefer to receive information related to Park and Recreation activities and programs is Richardson Today, e-mail and water bill inserts.
- Other mentions included; Nextdoor.com, Week in Review and City Newsletter.



■ 2016 Preferred Communication Method

Most Needed Recreation Facilities in Richardson



<u>Facility</u>	<u>2016 Priority Score</u>	<u>2009 Priority Score</u>
1. Additional hike/bike/jog trails with connections in the City	14.12	14.57
2. Additional nature trails/greenway corridors	10.80	9.42
3. New indoor aquatic center	10.45	9.60
4. Additional open space/nature trails	7.57	6.00
5. Botanical gardens	5.83	5.33
6. New spray ground	4.51	4.37
7. Additional benches/seating areas	4.47	4.17
8. Additional dog park	3.47	7.48
9. Additional playgrounds	2.93	1.75
10. Additional picnic shelters/pavilions	2.91	2.85
11. New outdoor aquatic center	2.91	3.64
12. Additional senior center	2.71	3.40
13. New amphitheater	2.54	2.44
14. Additional recreation center	2.42	2.22
15. New disc golf course	1.48	1.54
16. New skate park	1.40	1.68
17. Additional basketball courts	0.96	1.45

Respondents were asked to rate in rank order the recreation facilities most needed in Richardson.

NSR calculated a weighted score for each facility rated. A #1 or most important received a weight of 40%
 #2 most important a weight of 25%
 #3 most important 20%,
 #4 most important 10%
 #5 most important 5%.

The table at left shows the priority of facilities in rank order that are most needed with comparisons to 2009.

Most Needed Recreation Facilities in Richardson (Continued)

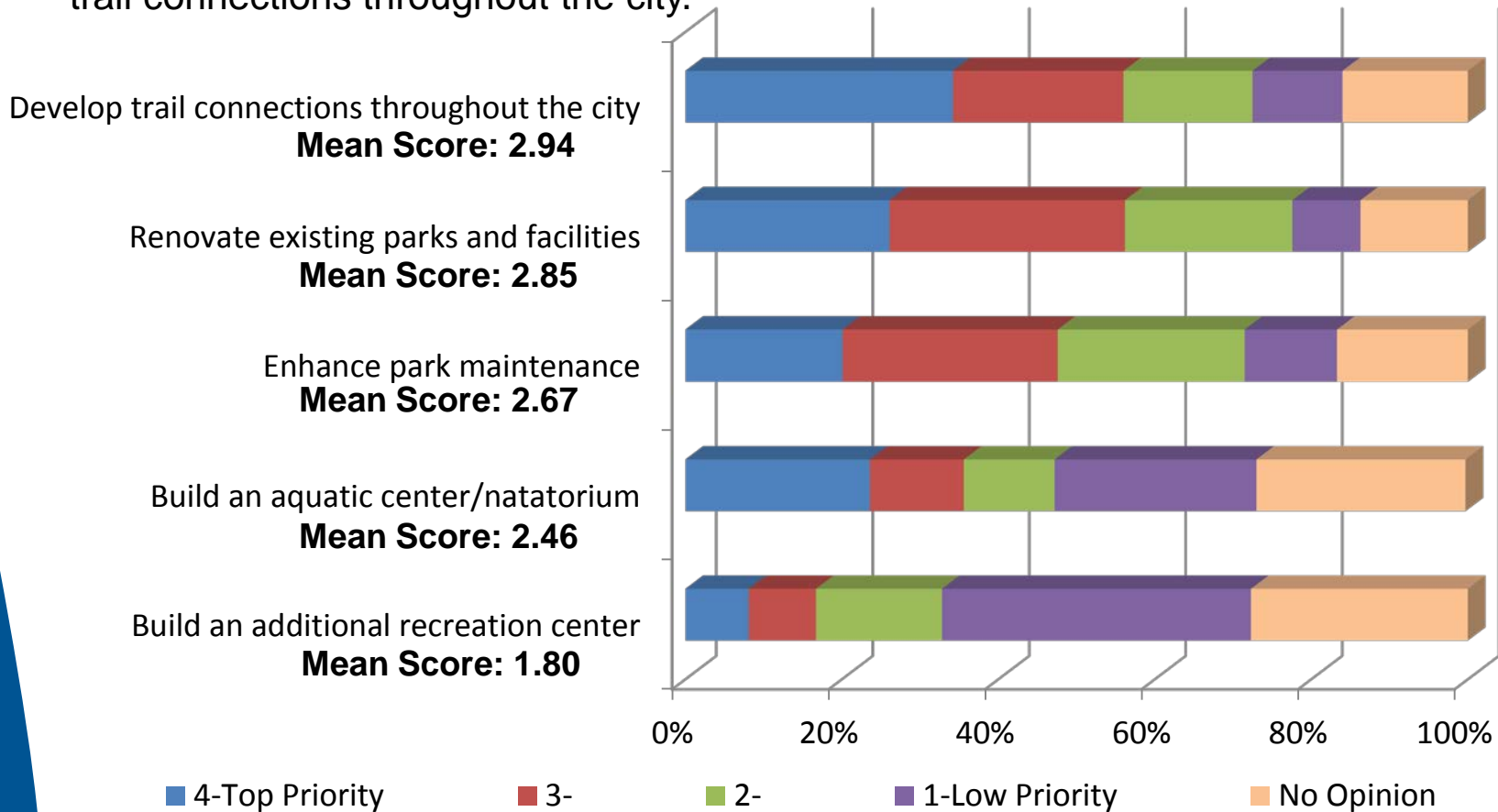


<u>Facility</u>	<u>2016 Priority Score</u>	<u>2009 Priority Score</u>
18. Additional tennis courts	0.90	1.41
19. Additional baseball fields	0.70	1.72
20. Additional soccer fields	0.64	1.57
21. Additional football fields	0.41	0.55
22. New BMX track	0.33	0.80
23. Cricket fields	0.25	0.39
24. Additional softball fields	0.21	0.61
25. Lacrosse fields	0.14	0.37
26. Rugby fields	0.11	0.18

Future Funding Priorities



- The top three funding priorities among residents are trail connections, renovate existing parks and facilities and enhance park maintenance.
- This validates the number one ranking presented on page 12 for developing additional trail connections throughout the city.

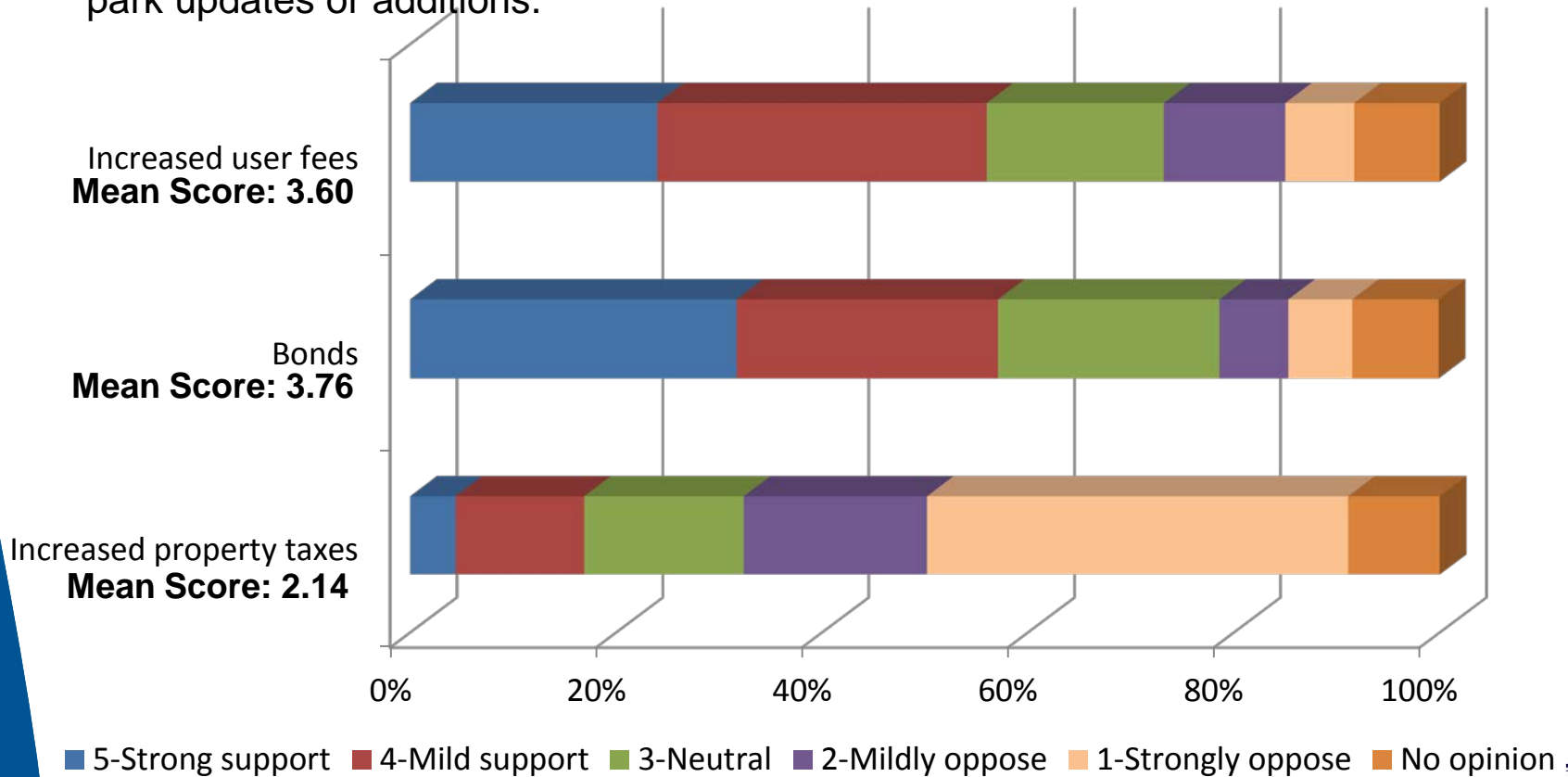


Mean score calculations were made on the 1 to 4 scale excluding those who had no opinion

Future Funding Options



- Residents support increased user fees and bonds to fund park and facility updates and/or expansions.
- Fewer residents supported increased property taxes as an option to pay for future park updates or additions.



Mean score calculations were made on the 1 to 5 scale excluding those who had no opinion

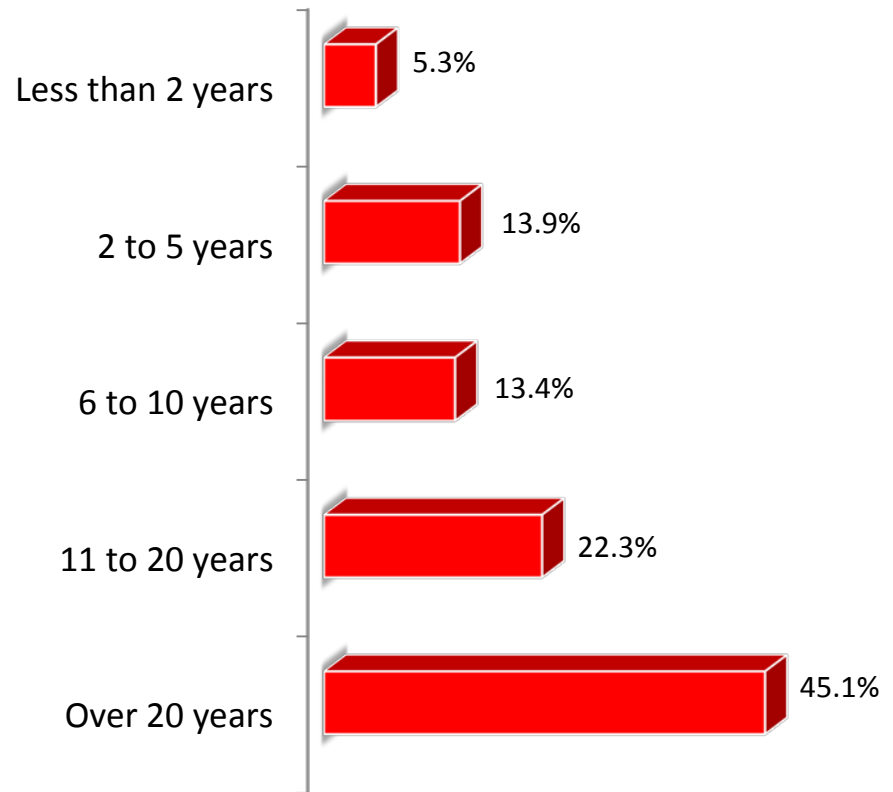
Respondent Demographics



- The typical respondent has lived in Richardson 18 years, has a household size of 2.8 persons and is 53.3 years of age.
- 52% of households have children residing within their household.
- Age groups of children represented in the surveyed households:
 - 0 to 5 years old 17.3%
 - 6 to 10 years old 14.8
 - 11 to 13 years old 9.1
 - 14 to 18 years old 10.7
 - No children in house 48.1
- Head of household age of respondents:
 - Under 35 12.7%
 - 35 to 44 21.5
 - 45 to 54 18.9
 - 55 to 64 20.8
 - 65+ 28.1

The age data is representative of the population of Richardson

- 95% own their home and 5% rent.

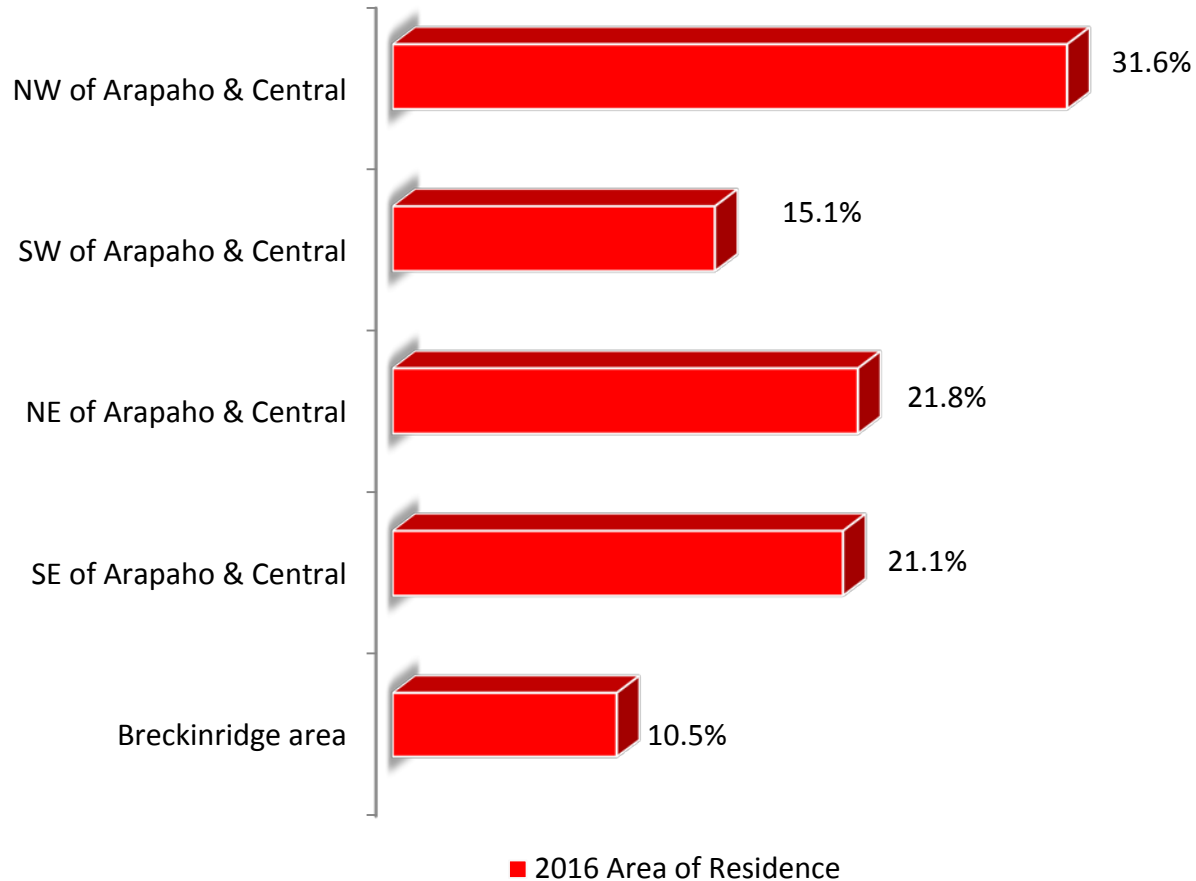


■ 2016 Length Lived in Richardson

Respondent Demographics



- The geographic distribution of the respondents is representative of the city's population.



National Service Research

(Background/Contact Information)

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National Service Research (NSR), founded in 1989, is a full-service market research consulting firm and conducts market studies for the public and private sector. NSR conducts various types of consumer and business research including focus groups and surveys nationwide. NSR's owner and founder, Andrea Thomas, has twenty-two years of professional market research experience.

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