

Section 2 Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives within this plan are intended to guide all public and private decision making for the development of the city's parks, recreation, and open space system. To this end, this section streamlines the goals and objectives from the 2001 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan while consolidating the recommendations from the Southlake 2025 Plan.

Previous goals, which concerned the provisions for accessibility and playground safety measures, have been deleted in this plan, since these provisions have more to do with mandated standards than simply expectations. In the place of these previous goals, the goals of enhanced linkages to and from parks and schools and the provision of non-traditional athletic venues for older youth were added. The goals in this plan are based on subject content and community input, however, they are not listed in rank order.

CONNECTIVITY GOAL: Provide and enhance connectivity primarily between parks, schools, and neighborhoods and secondarily between neighborhoods, shopping, and employment areas.

Objectives

- Prioritize pedestrian connectivity between the city's neighborhoods, schools, and parks.
- Prioritize pedestrian and bicycle access along the city's roadways through the city's Mobility Plan and Capital Improvements Planning.
- Encourage the design of new public and private parks and open spaces to be contiguous and linear with connections made to existing parks and open spaces. This would limit open space fragmentation and promote wildlife corridors to be preserved.



Implementation Recommendations:

- Amend development ordinances (subdivision and zoning) to require all development (residential and non-residential) to provide interior sidewalk/trail connections to existing and future trail network.
- Set aside portions of all major construction projects to enhance pedestrian travel to and from parks, schools, and neighborhoods.
- Include pedestrian and bicycle facilities along all roadways in the city's Capital Improvements Plan (as identified in the Mobility Plan and the Pathways Plan).
- Work with other departments, the state, and the region to secure funding for pedestrian access.

DIVERSITY GOAL: Southlake's citizens deserve a robust and diverse menu of parks and recreational opportunities. The provision of atypical amenities and cutting edge programming is required.

Objectives

- Ensure the development of active recreational opportunities
- Ensure the development of natural areas or environmental preserves for passive recreational opportunities
- Ensure the development of facilities sensitive to the needs of physically and mentally disabled park users
- Integrate the design and scale of a range of open spaces from environmental preserves to squares and plazas; all based on the adjoining land use context for new development.

Implementation Recommendations:

- Establish requirements for a range of open spaces to be provided in conjunction with new mixed use development in the Transition 1 & 2 and Employment Center land use designations.
- Purchase and/or lease park land suitable for the development of active recreational improvements and activities.
- Purchase and/or lease park land suitable for natural area preservation and passive recreational opportunities.
- Develop and continuously improve, expand and update recreational programming.
- Develop facilities and programs sensitive to the needs of physically and mentally disabled park users.

INCLUSION GOAL: Seek to provide non-traditional recreational opportunities in the parks system to encourage much greater participation by older youths and young adults.

Objectives

- Work with the school district, youth clubs, or other associations to evaluate options for non-traditional recreational opportunities to offer.
- Maintain close relationship with the Southlake Youth Action Commission (SYAC) to gauge participation levels for various proposed venues.

Implementation Recommendations:

- Concentrate the upcoming years' capital improvements to include special venues for youth who may not participate in organized sports.

PARTICIPATION GOAL: Utilizing such groups as the Southlake Program for the Involvement of Neighborhoods (SPIN), solicit public involvement in every aspect of the development of Southlake parks.

Objectives

- Solicit public and private input through surveys, workshops, ad hoc committees and public meetings
- Encourage inter-departmental communication among Parks and Recreation staff and other city departments
- Enlist public and private assistance with facility development by creating a mechanism for encouraging and organizing volunteerism
- Educate the community as to the state of its park and recreation system by publicizing its opportunities and deficiencies. Educate the community on the value-added benefits of well designed and accessible open space.

Implementation Recommendations:

- Encourage developers of any proposed public or private parks to meet with city staff and neighborhood groups to discuss the park design in conjunction with any development
- Develop public presentations on the status and value-added benefits of open space to be made at a variety of venues.

DEVELOPMENT GOAL: Integrate the design of appropriately scaled open spaces for all new development – both residential and non-residential. Such open spaces should include a range of open spaces from environmental preserves to squares and plazas, all based on the context of adjoining land use and urban design. Open spaces should be designed so as to maximize the value of adjoining development while preserving environmentally sensitive areas on the site.

Objectives:

- Establish design and performance criteria and priorities for private parks and open space by type of park.
- Develop a system of incentives which could include park credits, increased development intensities, and other trade-offs for the protection of environmentally sensitive assets and or appropriately scaled and designed parks on the site.
- Improve the integration of open space design by land use categories by establishing priorities for park design elements by land use category and type of park.

Implementation Recommendations:

- Amend the city's subdivision regulations to allow for more flexibility in providing park dedication credits for parks proposed in conjunction with new development.
- Amend the city's zoning ordinance to provide a range of incentives for the design of new public and private parks in conjunction with proposed development in the city's newly created Transition, Employment Center, and Rural Conservation land use designations.
- Evaluate all new development that proposes public or private parks based on established park design criteria.