

GOAL 1: Provide parks and common open spaces adequate in size, distribution, and condition to serve all citizens.

Objectives:

- Include within the entire park system, a combination of pocket parks, neighborhood parks, linear parks, community parks, regional parks and metro parks
- Utilize alternative sources of land such as school sites, other City departments' vacant or under-utilized land, existing street rights-of-way and joint City/County purchases or leases to lessen land acquisition costs.
- Develop a visible and accessible linear park system through layout and design of the surrounding roadway network. *(The City should consider participating in construction costs for streets parallel to linear parks.)*
- Work with the Planning and Development Department to coordinate parkland acquisition with long range growth and development planning

GOAL 2: Provide recreational facilities and activities to meet the leisure interests and health needs of Houston citizens.

Objectives:

- Encourage civic participation in the ongoing development, implementation, and evaluation of recreational facilities and programming
- Develop facilities in areas which are underserved and assure their equitable distribution with regard to population characteristics and density
- Coordinate linear park development with the City's Comprehensive Bikeway Plan.

GOAL 3: Use the park system to preserve and protect environmentally significant areas for public enjoyment and education.

Objectives:

- Enhance and expand the linear park system along major bayous, rivers and streams in cooperation with Harris County and the Harris County Flood Control District
- Limit uses within environmentally sensitive areas to passive recreation

GOAL 4: Maintain, secure and manage parks in a manner which encourages their appropriate use.

Objectives:

- Continue restoration of existing parks through the *Parks to Standard Program*
- Ensure that Houston's parks and recreational facilities are safe and accessible for all users
- Redefine the neighborhood park to provide a more even balance of passive and active uses
- Continue established public participation opportunities to assist in park and recreational facility redevelopment activities.
- Recognize that park and recreation needs evolve over time with changes in the population characteristics of surrounding service areas.
- Design parks that are durable, easily maintained and are not detrimental to surrounding uses.

GOAL 5: Maximize public/private partnerships to assist in all aspects of park and recreation planning and development.

Objectives:

- Utilize partnerships, wherever appropriate, to help develop, manage, and maintain parks and recreation facilities.
- Seek new ways to involve communities and organizations in public finance strategies to accelerate park system improvements.
- Encourage sharing of facilities owned by the City, County, school districts, other public agencies, and private institutions and organizations.