

PARK SECTOR 4 SUMMARY

PARK SECTOR 4 PRIORITIES

These priorities were developed by using condition assessment information from site visits, standard-based needs analysis (NRPA standards and data provided by the Trust for Public Land ParkScore™ Project), and public input via an online survey, park user interviews, community events and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) meetings.

1. Revitalize existing parks
2. Develop neighborhood connections to parks and trails
3. Develop new park facilities
4. Preserve environmentally sensitive areas
5. Develop partnerships with the school system and other entities
6. Acquire new park land

RECOMMENDATIONS

The parks in Park Sector 4 that have the highest need for redevelopment are listed from greatest need to least need: Trinity Gardens Park, Gleason Park, Greens Bayou Park, Jasper “Smokey” Frank Park, and Trotter (J.T.) Park.

At the current population, there is sufficient parkland; however, there are gaps in service areas in many areas of the Park Sector. There are large tracts of undeveloped land as well as land classified as agricultural in this Park Sector.

Almost 67% of the population in this Park Sector have incomes considered to be low to moderate. Pursuing Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for park improvements should be a priority. Schools not participating in the SPARK School Park Program (Non-SPARK schools) should be explored as potential future partnerships for park space. In addition, CDBG funding could be considered in partnership with the SPARK program to add park space to the system and provide improvements at Non-Spark Schools. As there is little redevelopment occurring in this sector, this Park Sector should be targeted for CIP and bond funds for future development and land acquisition.

Also, while many amenity needs are met based on the 2010 population, existing amenities should be updated as many are aged or in poor condition. This Park Sector is deficient in volleyball courts and skate parks. There are several parks in this Park Sector that remain undeveloped that could be developed with needed amenities. There are approximately 18 miles of trails planned for the bayous in this Park Sector under the Bayou Greenways 2020 (BG2020 Initiative) program. In the 2014 survey, the top three priorities of residents in Park Sector 4 when asked what recreational needs existed in their neighborhood were: upgraded community centers, hike, bike and walk trails, and gymnasiums. Other services and amenities that residents asked for in the write-in portion of the survey were: community gardens, senior facilities and programming, kayaking facilities, track and field programming, bike safety courses, swim lessons, fishing activities, nutrition and fitness programming, dance and theater programs, flag football leagues, and senior programming. Because of the health profile (obesity, 41.5%, and diabetes, 15.8%, levels higher than the city as a whole of 30.8% and 11.4% respectively) of this Park Sector, partnerships focused on recreational options and programming that promote healthy living should be explored.

Sources: 2010 US Census, 2010 Houston Health Survey, American Community Survey 2013, Houston Parks Board, HPARD 2014 Online Survey, Trust for Public Land ParkScore™ Project and Houston-Galveston Area Council population projections for 2040 by Park Sector.

EXISTING HPARD PARKS

Facility Name	Address	Street	Total Acres	Trail Length
Pocket Parks				
Apache-Elbert Triangle	7000	Elbert	0.81	N/A
Banyan-Camway Triangle	7200	Camway/6900 Banyan	0.78	N/A
Total Pocket Park Acreage			1.59	
Neighborhood Parks				
Busby Park	6700	Hirsch	5.83	N/A
Crooker/Moody Park	400	Westmont/West Canal	11.00	N/A
Darien Park	7100	Darien	1.00	N/A
East Tidwell Park	9300	E. Tidwell	14.34	N/A
Edmonds Park	6400	Hamblen	2.90	N/A
Elbert Park	7400	Banyan	1.00	N/A
Gleason Park	7200	Gleason	3.44	N/A
Grand River Park	8400	Grand River	9.96	N/A
Greens Bayou Park	700	Westmont Dr	3.30	N/A
Greenwood Park	602	Beresford	10.30	N/A
Halls Bayou Park (PB2)	8000	Tidwell @ Halls Bayou	3.49	N/A
Houston Gardens Park	6901	Apache	7.88	0.39
Lake Forest Park	9200	Mesa Dr	9.32	0.43
Lakewood Park	8811	Feland	9.20	0.14
Pelham Park	7500	Fontaine	3.00	N/A
Rosewood Park	8200	Darien	5.72	0.36
Scenic Woods Park	7449	Lakewood	5.16	0.34
Songwood Park	548	Westshire	6.75	0.33
Strickland Park	300	Highridge/Tammarack	6.10	N/A
Trinity Gardens Park	4903	Bennington	5.10	N/A
Uvalde Park	1020	Uvalde	1.03	N/A
Verde Forest Park	8800	Brock Park Blvd.	5.00	0.20
Warren Park	4301	Topping	6.00	N/A
Total HPARD Neighborhood Park Acreage			136.82	
Community Parks				
Dodson Lake Park	9010	Dodson	24.45	0.50
Jasper "Smokey" Frank	13400	River Trail Drive	19.98	N/A
Maxey Park	601	Maxey Rd	41.16	N/A
Taylor (Hobart) Park	8100	Kenton	15.21	0.49
Tidwell Park	9720	Spaulding	85.23	0.30
Trotter (J.T.) Park	7809	East Little York	26.77	N/A
Total HPARD Community Park Acreage			212.80	
Regional Parks				
Brock Park and Golf Course	8201	John Ralston	354.85	0.17
Brown (Herman) Park	400	Mercury Drive	717.35	4.41

Urban Trails/Shared Use Paths/Greenways	
Halls Bayou	2.40
Total HPARD Park Acreage	351.21
Total HPARD Trail Length	10.50

EXISTING COMMUNITY CENTERS AND POOLS

Community Centers and Pool Facilities	Address	Zip Code	Agency Responsible
Greenwood Park Pool	602 Beresford	77015	HPARD
Lakewood Community Center	8811 Feland	77028	HPARD
Taylor (Hobart) Community Center and Pool	8100 Kenton	77028	HPARD
Tidwell Community Center and Pool	9720 Spaulding	77016	HPARD

PARK SERVICE AREAS

The Park Service Area map was produced using data provided by the Trust for Public Land ParkScore™ Project to show areas of park need. The green areas represent a ½ mile service area of public parks (city or county) and SPARK Parks (school parks open to the public after school) or other publicly accessible non-HPARD Parks.

The orange and red represent areas where there is not access to a park within a ½ mile. The degree of need (red is very high need and orange is high need) is based on population density, household income (less than \$35,000), and presence of youth (19 yrs or younger). The office and industrial land uses are represented in grey, to specifically highlight residential and commercial areas of need. Roughly 31% of the live/play areas in this Park Sector are not served by a park, significantly lower than that of the entire city (55%). Non-SPARK schools are indicated on the map as black flags to explore as potential future partnerships for park space.

PARK SECTOR FACTS

- This Park Sector contains 1,432 acres of parkland (Harris County, HPARD & other providers). Of the 26,888 acres in this Park Sector, 5% of this acreage is parkland.
- There are approximately 95,000 residents, 51% African-American and there is a high percentage of youth and seniors.
- Based on the standard of acreage of parkland per 1,000 residents, this Park Sector has sufficient parkland; however, as seen on the map there are gaps in park land in some areas.
- H-GAC population projections estimate that this area will add roughly 20,000 residents by 2040.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR AMENITIES IN PARK SECTOR

The table below shows the total existing amenities (including, HPARD, County and SPARK Parks) as of 2015, the target goal per amenity, and the amenities needed based on population standards for each amenity using 2010 US Census Population. The last row shows the estimated number of amenities needed based on the H-GAC population projections for 2040 and standards used in the 2007 Parks Master Plan.

AMENITY	PLAYGROUNDS	PICNIC SHELTERS	TRAILS (MILES)	OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS	TENNIS	VOLLEYBALL	DOG PARKS	SKATE PARKS	COMMUNITY CENTERS	SWIMMING POOLS	OUTDOOR SPRAYGROUNDS	BASEBALL (LIT and UNIT)	SOFTBALL (LIT and UNIT)	SOCCER (LIT and UNIT)
2015 Goal	30	13	34	16	16	2	1	1	3	3	2	20	9	10
2015 Existing	30	13	34*	16	16	0	1	0	3	3	2	20	9	10
2015 Needed	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2040 Needed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

* This number includes miles of trails currently planned along Greens Bayou (9 miles), Halls Bayou (5 miles) and Hunting Bayou (4 miles) under the Bayou Greenways (BG2020 Initiative).

GUIDE FOR ESTIMATED COST OF NEW AMENITIES, PARK LAND, AMENITY RENOVATIONS AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR PARK SECTOR

The table below contains costs estimates (in 2015 dollars) based on the needs assessment using 2010 US Census population and population projections provided by H-GAC per Park Sector for 2040, for both amenities and land in this Park Sector. In addition, the cost estimates (in 2015 dollars) for renovation of existing facilities and operation and maintenance are listed. A general explanation of each figure and its source is listed below:

1. **Cost of New System Amenities:** This is the estimated cost for amenities based on the needs assessment above. Costs are estimated for 2015 and 2040 based on costs of 2014 HPARD projects. These costs are a guide and do not include site specific constraints such as utility extensions, flood mitigation or the purchase of land if expansion of the park was needed for these amenities.
2. **Cost of Park Land:** This is the land needed to meet the park land standards for 2015 and 2040 based on the 2010 US Census and the H-GAC estimated population projections respectively. Land costs are based on land values by Park Sector, provided by H-GAC, from 2014 HCAD values for properties greater than 5,000 sqft in size and with no structures.
3. **Cost of HPARD Amenity Renovation:** The 2015 cost estimate is based on the assessment that 30% of the existing facilities in this Park Sector need renovation. The 2040 cost estimate is based on the assessment that the remaining 2/3 of the facilities from 2015 and 30% of the new facilities will need renovation to meet the population growth. Costs are estimated for 2015 and 2040 based on costs of 2014 HPARD projects.
4. **Annual Operation and Maintenance:** This figure is based on the national average for parks and recreation operational spending amount (\$63) per resident in 2013 according the Trust for Public Land publication "2014 City Park Facts." Houston spent \$29 per resident on parks and recreation per resident in 2013. This figure shows what the cost of spending this average amount per resident would be based on the current population and the projected population in 2040.

	1	2	3	4
	COST OF NEW SYSTEM AMENITIES	COST OF NEW PARK LAND	COST OF HPARD EXISTING AMENITY RENOVATION	ANNUAL COST OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
2015	\$5,000,000	0 Acres \$0	\$30,000,000	\$6,000,000
2040	\$9,000,000	0 Acres \$0	\$64,000,000	\$1,000,000
TOTAL 2040	\$14,000,000	0 Acres \$0	\$94,000,000	\$7,000,000

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