

Park Development

Key design points that should guide the design of every existing and future park in the city are as follows:

- Every park should be considered as an urban oasis in Georgetown. Significant amounts of native plants and drought tolerant landscaping should be incorporated.
- Each park should truly celebrate the history and culture of Georgetown by incorporating historical plaques and features that allude to the neighborhoods around the parks or the circumstances that caused the park to be created.
- Every park should include features for a wide variety of park users and levels of activity. Parks should be multi-faceted.
- Parks should incorporate art and should be an example of the sophistication of the Georgetown of today and tomorrow.
- Demand a single loaded road adjacent to all parks for purposes of informal surveillance and to prevent areas that may pose danger for park users.
- Park should be developed and upgraded so as to reduce maintenance. Automatic irrigation systems should be a key component of every park, as should simple features that make every park easier to take care of.
- Shade should be incorporated into many features of every park. Playgrounds and basketball courts should be covered where feasible, and several covered picnic tables should be included in every park, no matter how small the park is.
- All pavilion structures should consist of a double tiered roof system to prevent heated air from being trapped under the roof.
- Community input should be welcomed and included in the design of every park in the city.

Regional Parks

- Planned development of the regional park, Garey Park.
- Enhancements to regional parks around Lake Georgetown.
- Renovation of San Gabriel Park.

Neighborhood Parks - general planning and design approach for neighborhood parks

- Prepare a design concept for each undeveloped neighborhood park that incorporates children's play areas with covered shade structure, walkways, jogging trails, areas for unorganized play, multi-purpose practice fields, picnic facilities, and park pavilion with multi-tiered roof. Seek extensive neighborhood input for each park site.

- Place preference on the application of native plantings including native trees, wildflowers, and native grasses.
- Provide good pedestrian access to all parks including signage and a wide, welcoming gateway.
- Develop parks adjacent to existing and future schools. Not only will this add to the quality of life for the community, but also funding is more likely available through collaborative action.

Linear Parks - these parks are characterized by their linear nature that makes them ideal for the implementation of hike and bike trails, which in essence become the spine of each particular park. Linear parks may be associated with creeks, rivers, railway or utility corridors, and are ideal to create connections between different destination points. Whereas trail development typically includes amenities like trail heads, rest stops, overlooks, benches and light fixtures, linear parks may include additional amenities and facilities e.g. picnic pavilions, playgrounds, basketball and volleyball courts. Chapter 8 includes specific recommendations for linear parks.

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Secure Funding for Garey Park

Garey Park is an amazing gift that has been donated to the City of Georgetown. A master plan for this park has been completed and approved. It is imperative for the city to secure funding now for the development of this 525 acre park.

The potential cost ranges from **\$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000.**

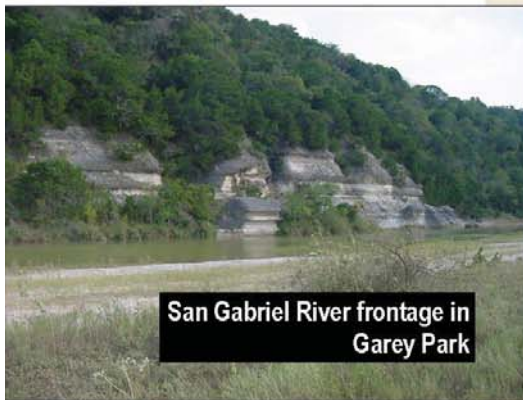
This is a **high priority** item and should be implemented within the next five years.



Meadow Area at Garey Park



Hill Country landscape frames the central meadow at Garey Park



San Gabriel River frontage in Garey Park



Concept Plan for Garey Park shown on this page developed by the BWIM Group



Central pond and garden area



Existing home and gardens will be incorporated into the park



Existing pond area



Develop Downtown Festival Park

One of the components that makes a historic downtown successful is having a festival park to host events, performances, and other festivities. Currently if any events or markets are held in the downtown area, streets are often blocked off to provide the space because there is no alternative. Being able to offer activities in a specific place in the downtown area will draw people to Downtown Georgetown and contribute to a viable historic downtown district.

The potential cost ranges from **\$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000**.

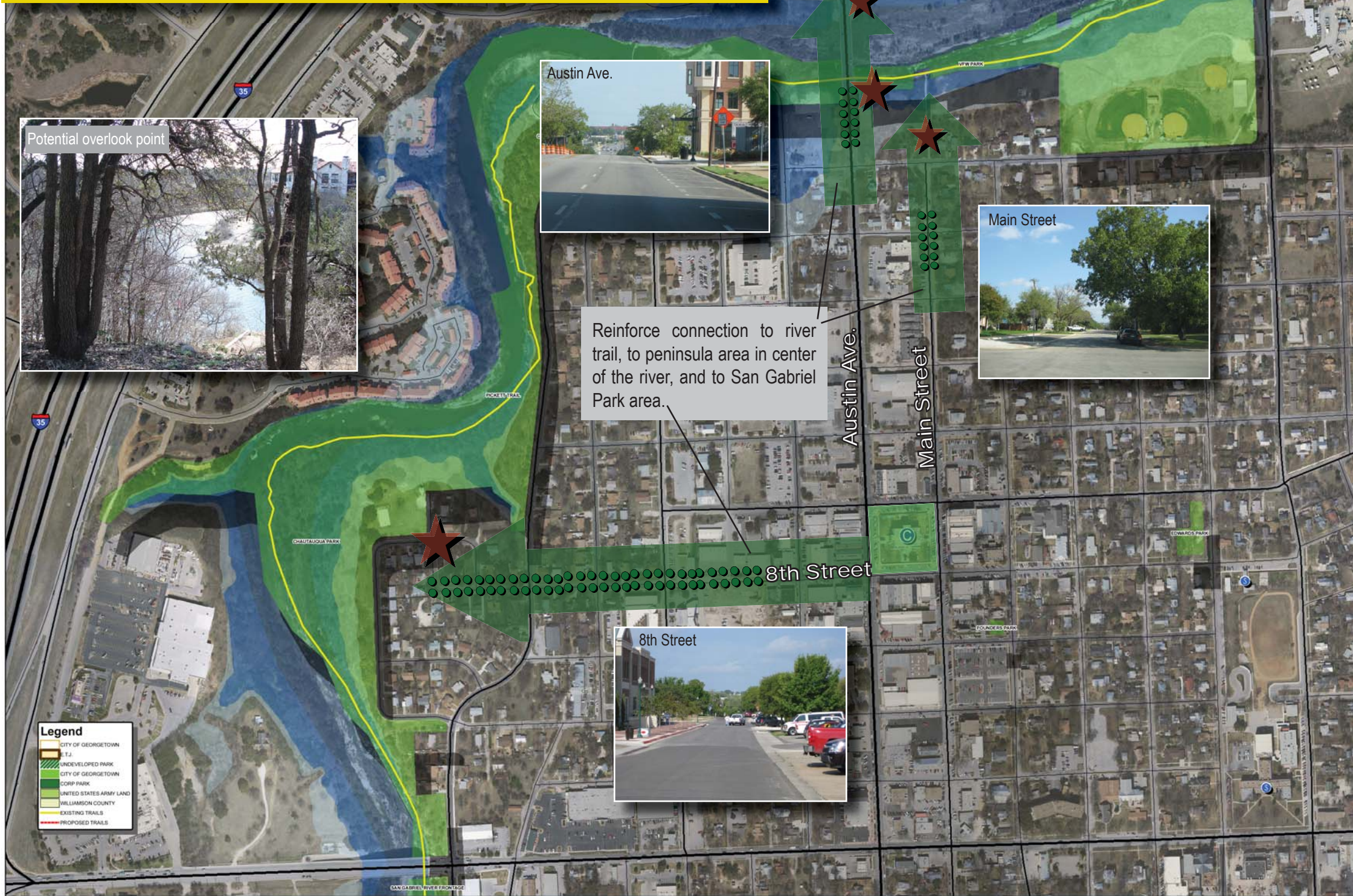
This is a **medium priority** item should be implemented within the next five years to ten years.

Key components of a downtown festival park could include:

- Water features
- Performance stage
- Extensive shade and seating
- Covered pavilions for downtown events
- Art displays, murals, etc. (temporary or permanent)
- Historic kiosks and signs
- Attractive landscaping and seasonal color



Develop Downtown Overlooks and Connections to San Gabriel River



Downtown Georgetown is so close to the San Gabriel River and the trail system however there is no visible connection between the two areas. Having strong pedestrian connections and focal points along the river will build the relationship between the two city assets.

The potential cost ranges from **\$2,500,000 to \$5,000,000**.

This is a **medium priority** item should be implemented within the next five years to fifteen years.

Connections could include:

- Street enhancements along Main Street, Austin Ave. and 8th Street
- Pavement treatments and landscaping, similar to those installed along south Main Street could be used to encourage pedestrian traffic.
- Create gateways at the terminus points overlooking the river thus creating focal points.



Develop Esplanade and Overlook Trail Along Scenic Drive



An esplanade is a large, wide public area used for walking along. An esplanade usually follows along some natural corridor, in this case it would be the San Gabriel River and Scenic Dr. An esplanade should have benches and resting areas that encourage people to sit and enjoy nature.

The potential cost ranges from **\$3,500,000 to \$7,500,000**.

This is a **long term priority** item should be implemented over the next fifteen years.

Key components of a esplanade could include:

- A trail in concrete or brick
- Periodic overlooks
- Lighting for night time walking
- Benches and some landscaping
- Could significantly enhance the neighborhood around it
- Helps link downtown to the city's major natural attraction, the San Gabriel River



Complete Additional Phases for West Side Community Park



By this time the land for a west side sports complex and community park should have been acquired; and the initial phase for the sports complex and park amenities should have been developed. Any additional phases will now need to be constructed so that the west side sports complex and community park is completed.

The potential cost ranges from **\$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000.**

This is a **long term priority** item should be implemented beyond fifteen years.



Develop Far East Side Community Park

The far east side of Georgetown currently has no community parks. As the city grows in this sector, a community park will need to be provided and developed for those residents. This park is not necessarily intended for athletic fields, but its purpose should remain more passive with open space to allow for unstructured games and practice field space for Georgetown's athletic leagues.

The potential cost ranges from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000.

This is a long term priority item should be implemented beyond fifteen years.



Park Improvements

Renovation of existing parks

- Upgrade all facilities to current park design standards.
- Ensure that all improvements meet ADA requirements.
- Increase the shade in all parks by planting more trees where practical.
- For additional landscape improvements, place preference on the application of native plantings including trees, wildflowers and grasses.
- Provide shade structures at the children’s play areas where feasible.

Park Signage

- The existing signs are of a well-conceived and designed theme that adds to the unique identity and character of the City of Georgetown.

Park Maintenance - the parks department plays an important role in the responsible stewardship of the environment of Georgetown. Emphasizing native and naturalized plants that are better adapted to the locale will promote a better looking park with healthier plants.

Wi-Fi Access - access to the internet in parks is popular in many cities. Consider providing Wi-Fi access in community parks. Wi-Fi is short for wireless fidelity, which allows the user to connect to the internet without the need for wires. Wi-Fi enabled computers use radio technologies to send and receive data within the range of a base station or hotspot, which is a connection point for a Wi-Fi network.

Art in Public Places including Parks - Georgetown currently has no works of public art in the city. Working with the Arts and Cultural Board, explore and develop a policy to include environmental and outdoor art in parks and open space. Pursue a percentage for art program, where a portion of the funding for all public projects is dedicated to outdoor art, but also fund at least one major outdoor installation for the next ten years. Place at prominent locations and pursue joint placements with other entities such as the university, the hospital and the lake.

Art has a tremendous potential to contribute to additional layers of meaning to the landscape and to encourage contemplation as a manner of passive recreation. It also will set Georgetown apart as a city that appreciates quality of life.

Art in the Parks and Along Trails



Actively promote unique public art in parks and along trails in Georgetown. Adding works of public art to the parks around Georgetown will establish a standard of excellence within the community. Georgetown should adopt guidelines deciding which works of public art are appropriate for city parks.

The potential costs of purchasing and installing public art will vary.

This **high priority** should continue to be implemented throughout the lifetime of the City of Georgetown.



Renovate Five Existing Neighborhood Parks

Even though most of the neighborhood parks around Georgetown are properly maintained, many of the amenities will need to be renovated and upgraded over the life of this master plan. All new amenities installed in neighborhood parks should be ADA accessible. All undeveloped neighborhood parks should have park amenities added to them.

The potential costs for renovating and upgrading five neighborhood parks throughout the City of Georgetown ranges from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000.

Renovation of five neighborhood parks is a high priority item and renovation should occur within the next five years.



Emerald Springs Park



Bedford Park



Old Town Park



San Jose Park



Katy Crossing Park



Kelley Park



Woodlake Park

These are just examples of neighborhood parks in Georgetown. These are not necessarily that parks that are to be renovated. City staff and elected officials must decide which parks are in dire need of repair.



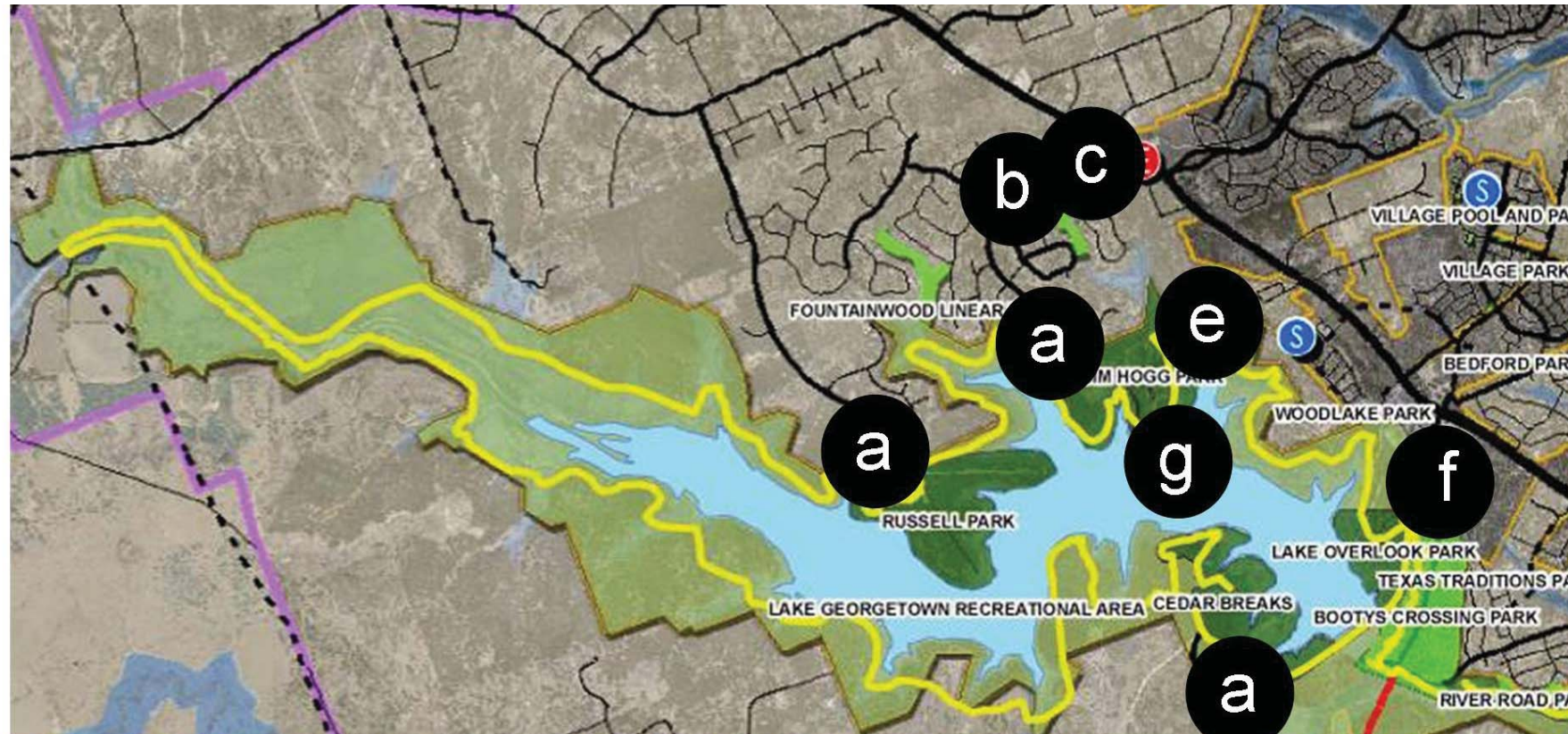
Assist with Enhancements to Lake Georgetown Parks

Provide greater access and a larger variety of facilities in Lake Georgetown parks, either through partnerships with the US Army Corps of Engineers or through agreements that allow the City to manage those parks. Discussions among city staff and Corps personal have begun to determine if there is a possibility of the city controlling the recreational parks. Further feasibility reviews are recommended to identify both expenses and income opportunities that may be a part of operating Lake Georgetown Parks. If feasible, consider a more active City role in developing community park facilities on one or two of the Corps Lake Parks.

Lake Georgetown's primary purpose is flood control and preservation. However, improvements can be done to the recreation facilities offered at the lake while keeping with its mission. Because Lake Georgetown is such a unique asset to the residents of the community, the City of Georgetown should assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with recreation improvements and trail improvements.

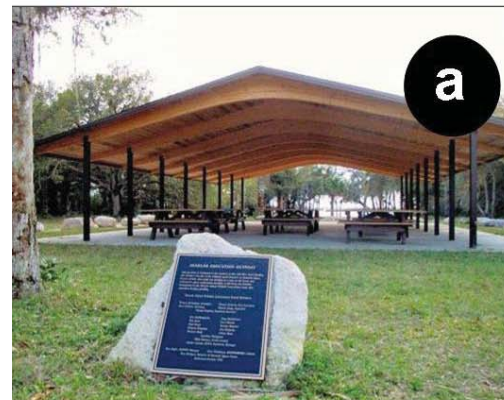
The potential costs for enhancing the lakeside parks and trail ranges from **\$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000**.

This **medium priority** item should occur over the next five to ten years.



Existing facilities at Lake Georgetown

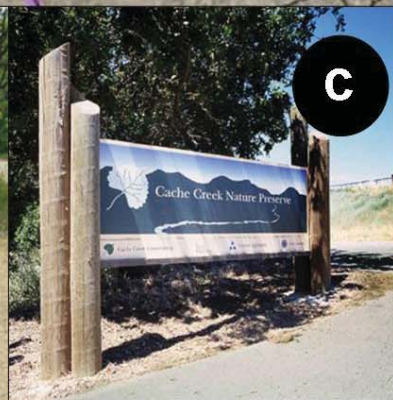
Recommendations for Lake Georgetown (by assisting the Army Corps of Engineers)



Provide modern pleasant group pavilions overlooking the lake in each lake park.



Improve walking and biking access to the lake.



Celebrate the presence of the lake from Williams Dr. with new entry features.



Assist in restoring native planting areas along key drives into the lake.



Designate areas for non-motorized boating at the lake.



Enhance interpretive signage at the lake's most popular parks.



Provide non-motorized boat storage and rental facilities at the lake.



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The potential costs for renovating and upgrading five neighborhood parks throughout the City of Georgetown ranges from **\$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000**.

This **medium priority** item should occur within the next five to fifteen years.



River Ridge Park

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University Park



Meadows of Georgetown

These are just examples of neighborhood parks in Georgetown. These are not necessarily that parks that are to be renovated. City staff and elected officials must decide which parks are in dire need of repair.



Williams Dr. Pool and Park



Summercrest Park



The Village Parks

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Georgetown Parks and Recreation Master Plan Draft Action Plan 2008-2018

Park and Recreation Recommendations

Priority	Action ID	Action	Need for this Action	City Sector	Acres Low	Acres High	Estimated Cost Range Low Range	Estimated Cost Range High Range	Type of Dev.	Potential Funding Mechanisms and Sources	Potential Time Frame
Potential Priorities											
Very High	1	Convert football stadium area of San Gabriel Park into a performance venue	Georgetown lacks an attractive venue for outdoor performances, festivals, and farmers markets.	Citywide	0	0	\$3,500,000	\$7,500,000	Renovation	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, <u>general fund, sale of naming rights</u>	2008-2010
Very High	2	Secure funding for Garey Park	Garey Park is an amazing gift to the city of Georgetown and its residents. It is imperative for the city to secure funding now for the future development of this 525 acre park.	Citywide / Regional	525	525	\$20,000,000	\$25,000,000	Development	Bonds, private donations, foundation assistance, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, general fund, Garey \$5 Million matching fund.	2008-2010
High	3	First Phase Renovation of San Gabriel Park	San Gabriel Park is a jewel in Georgetown. Renovations should include replacing older pavilion and picnic facilities, add more clustered picnic facilities, stabilize bank edges, remove some parking close to river, add trees and walkways around an improved event area.	Citywide	0	0	\$3,000,000	\$6,500,000	Renovation	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, general fund, sale of naming rights	2009-2012
High	4	Add an Art in the Park Program and Install One Piece of Public Art	Having a public art program will set a standard of excellence in Georgetown. Works of art should be added to parks and along trails.	Citywide	0	0			Installation	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, <u>general fund, sale of naming rights</u>	2009-2013
High	5	Convert two swimming pools into spraygrounds	Convert Williams Dr. Pool and the Village Pool into spraygrounds. Spraygrounds were rated high among students as a recreation facility the city should provide. Sprayground also provide a lower cost alternative to water recreation.	Citywide	0	0	\$1,500,000	\$2,500,000	Renovation	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, general fund, sale of naming rights	2010-2013
High	6	Renovate five neighborhood parks	It is important to maintain the park facilities that Georgetown currently has. Monitor neighborhood parks and replace or upgrade amenities such as picnic tables, playgrounds, and walking trails as needed. Ensure all future amenities are ADA accessible.	citywide	0	0	\$3,000,000	\$5,000,000	Renovation	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, general fund, sale of naming rights	2011-2014
Medium	7	Assist with enhancements to Lake Georgetown Parks	Because Lake Georgetown is such a unique asset to the residents of Georgetown, the City should assist the CORPS with recreation improvements and trail improvements.	Citywide	0	0	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000	Renovation	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, general fund, sale of naming rights	2012-2015
Medium	8	Develop Downtown Festival Park	Having a festival area for events and performances will draw people into the Downtown and contribute to a viable historic downtown district.	citywide	2	5	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000	Development	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, general fund, sale of naming rights	2012-2015
Medium	9	Develop Downtown Overlooks and Connections to the San Gabriel River	There currently is no visible connection between Downtown and San Gabriel River and trail system.	Citywide	0	0	\$2,500,000	\$5,000,000	Development and Renovation	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, <u>general fund, sale of naming rights</u>	2013-2015
Medium	10	Develop first phase of the Westside Sports Complex and Community Park	The population in Georgetown is projected to grow in the west and there currently are no larger community parks in this area. Development of the westside park and sports complex is needed.	Westside	20	50	\$7,500,000	\$12,500,000	Development	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, general fund, sale of naming rights	2013-2016
Medium	11	Assist with Show Barn Enhancements and Identifying a New Permanent Central Location for the Williamson County Rodeo	The show barn and rodeo arena in San Gabriel Park are aging facilities in need of repair. Long term, the facilities should be removed from San Gabriel Park to a permanent location that allows for expansion and state of the art facilities.	Citywide	0	0			Renovation	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, general fund, sale of naming rights	2014-2018
Medium	12	Renovate five neighborhood parks	It is important to maintain the park facilities that Georgetown currently has. Monitor neighborhood parks and replace or upgrade amenities such as picnic tables, playgrounds, and walking trails as needed. Ensure all future amenities are ADA accessible.	Citywide	0	0	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000	Renovation	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, general fund, sale of naming rights	2015-2018
Estimated Total					547	580	\$45,000,000	\$73,000,000			



Low	13	Expand aquatic center at San Gabriel Park Recreation Center	For any aquatic center to remain attractive to visitors, they must reinvent themselves every few years by adding new play features, slides and other amenities.	Citywide	0	0	\$1,500,000	\$2,500,000	Expansion	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, general fund, sale of naming rights	Beyond 2018
Low	14	Complete renovations to San Gabriel Park	Renovations to the baseball fields located in San Gabriel Park will be needed in addition to the sports complex on the westside of Georgetown.	citywide	0	0	\$3,000,000	\$6,500,000	Renovation	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, general fund, sale of naming rights	Beyond 2018
Low	15	Develop an Esplanade and Overlook Along Scenic Drive	Developing an Esplanade along Scenic Dr. will give Georgetown residents a unique opportunity to view the bluffs down to the San Gabriel River and enjoy Georgetown's natural resource.	citywide	0	0	\$3,500,000	\$7,500,000	Development	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, general fund, sale of naming rights	Beyond 2018
Low	16	Develop additional phases of the Westside Sports Complex and Community Park	Any additional phases to the westside sports complex and community park should be completed at this time.	Westside	0	0	\$5,000,000	\$10,000,000	Development	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, <u>general fund, sale of naming rights</u>	Beyond 2018
Low	17	Develop a Community Park in the far east side of the city	The far east side of Georgetown currently has no community parkland. In the long term future, as the population grows towards the east, the	Eastside	20	50	\$5,000,000	\$10,000,000	Development	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, <u>general fund, sale of naming rights</u>	Beyond 2018
Low	18	Second Aquatic Complex	As Georgetown grows, a second aquatic center will eventually be needed on the west side of IH-35	Westside	2	10	\$4,500,000	\$6,500,000	Development	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, <u>general fund, sale of naming rights</u>	Beyond 2018
Low	19	Planning for a Westside Recreation Center	Again, as Georgetown grows in population, a second recreation center will be needed on the westside of IH-35.	Westside	2	10			Development	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, <u>general fund, sale of naming rights</u>	Beyond 2018
Low	20	Expansion of the Community Building and the Sunken Garden in San Gabriel Park	Immediately the parking around the community center should be improved. Long term, the community center can be expanded into a key cultural focal point for Georgetown. Improvements to the Sunken Garden should occur within the next five years.	citywide	0	0	\$10,000,000	\$15,000,000	Expansion	Bonds, private donations, in-kind services, TPWD grant funding, certificates of obligation, general fund, sale of naming rights	Beyond 2018
Estimated Total					24	70	\$32,500,000	\$ 58,000,000			
Total Potential Expenditure Range For 2008 to 2018 Planning Timeframe and Beyond - (note that grants and donations may fund portions of the amount shown)					571	650	\$77,500,000	\$131,000,000			
<p>1. Note: Costs shown are order of magnitude estimates prior to any concept or design, and will vary as site selection and more detailed design occurs. List is for guidance in planning, and not all items may be implemented. Grants and donations may reduce the cost of each item. 2. Land costs, if shown, are general estimates intended to establish allowances and will vary. Land costs are estimated to be between \$50,000 and \$75,000 per acre. 3. Cost include an annual 5% escalation factor. All costs shown are rounded to nearest \$50,000. Costs should be updated frequently as additional cost information becomes available.</p>											

