## Chepter


"Let us leave a splendid legacy for our children. Let us turn to them and say, this you inherit: guard it well, for it is far more precious than money, and once destroyed, nature's beauty cannot be repurchased at any price."

Purpose of the Existing Parks and Recreation Inventory

The Excellent Park System notes that knowing what parks are in the system is one of the seven traits of an outstanding park system. Having an up to date inventory is a key part of the park planning process; it helps to understand what park and open space facilities are currently available and to assess the condition of those facilities. It also helps to asses whether or not those facilities are addressing the actual park and open space needs of the city. By comparing the available park acilities with the number of people that the parks system serves, the need for new or improved recreational facilities can be determined.

Georgetown has an established network of both neighborhood and larger community park facilities. These parks are well placed within the neighborhoods they serve and are extremely well maintained. With the help of the city's parkland dedication ordinance, even the newly developed parts of the city have ample parkland.

This inventory begins to identify where park service is lacking

## "Georgetown must balance growth with

 preservation."Georgetown Resident, 2008

## Components of the Existing Park Inventory

This inventory of existing parks reviews several aspects of each park in the Georgetown park system. These include:

- Classification What is the purpose of a given park? Is it intended to serve a local neighborhood around it, giving children and young adults a place to play? Is it intended to serve a much larger population, providing fields for organized league play? This determines whether a park should be classified as a neighborhood park, a community park, a special purpose park, or a linkage park. Key issues that are looked at include:
- Location: Where is the park located in relation to the population that it serves? Is it accessible?
- Service Area: What are the limits of the area served by each park? Are there any major thoroughfares or physical features that create barriers to accessing the park?
- Size of the Park. How big is the park? Is it large enough to adequately accomplish its intended purpose?
- Facilities in each Park What does the park contain? Are the facilities appropriate for the type of park?
- Layout: Is the arrangement of facilities in each park appropriate?
- Condition of the Park What is the general condition of the facilities in each park?
- Special Considerations: Does the park provide facilities for the physically challenged that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act?


## Park Classification

## Long accepted guidelines identify three general categories of parks, which are:

Local Close-to-Home Parks - these parks are located within the community served by the facility, and includes mini-parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks.

These parks are a very important part of any park system, and thus far Georgetown has done an excellent job in providing these types of parks. Close to home parks are usually within walking or driving distance from where residents of the city live and provide day to day facilities for all ages and activities. Close-to-home park types in Georgetown are:

- Neighborhood parks, including mini-parks
- Community parks (also referred to as District Parks)

Special use parks

- Linear parks

Regional Parks - located within 30 minutes to two hours of driving distance Parks in this category serve a number of communities, and can include regional metropolitan parks and regional park reserves

Unique Parks - These parks can be defined as areas that are unique in some way, whether because of physical features or because of the types of facilities provided. Parks in this category may include linear parks, special use parks, or and conservancies. They may be either local or regional in nature.


## Description of Park Types Found in Georgetown Today

Pocket Parks - this type of park is usually less than one acre in size. Pocket parks are access by walking or bicycling; because of their small size parking is not available so therefore vehicle access is not probable. Amenities in pocket parks include benches, fountains, landscaping, and other focal features. Size is not he key factor of the typical pocket park, but rather the quality of the landscaping and features that go into the park. Small green areas in a downtown area are examples of pocket parks.

Because of the higher per acre cost to maintain a pocket park, many cities have adopted policies thatruled out pocketparks as a choice for future parks. Conversely, having easy accessibility to parks all over the city creates an enormous benefit to the residents.


Typical Pocket Park. This park is about $1 / 2$ acre in size and offers amenities such as benches, landscaping and possibly a playground.

Neighborhood Parks - Because neighborhood parks are within easy walking or bicycling distance, they often form the foundation of recreation in most cities like Georgetown. Neighborhood parks provide amenities for an entire family and typically serve one large or several small neighborhoods. Ideally, neighborhood parks in Georgetown should range from 3 acres to 10 acres in size.

- Neighborhood parks should be accessible within a quarter mile to a half mile radius of residents.
- It is cost effective to have neighborhood parks located next to elementary schools because the city and the school district can share acquisition and development costs. In the future, where feasible, new neighborhood parks should be planned and developed in close coordination with the Georgetown Independent School District. This can result in significant cost savings and more efficient use of tax dollars to the city and the school district.
- Neighborhood parks should be accessible without having to cross major arterial streets. They are generally located away from major arterial streets and provide easy access for the users that surround it.

Size - Because of the physical topography, neighborhood park sites can vary in size. An ideal size for neighborhood parks in Georgetown should be around three to ten acres.

Location - An ideal location for neighborhood parks is to be in the center of the neighborhoods it is meant to serve. Also having local or minor collector streets on at least two sides of the park allows for easy pedestrian and bicycle accessibility.
ypical Neighborhood Park Facilities:

- Age appropriate playground equipment with adequate safety surfacing around the playground
- Unlighted practice fields for baseball, softball, soccer, and football
- Unlighted tennis courts
- Lighted or unlighted multi-purpose courts for basketball and volleyball
- Active areas for unorganized play
- Picnic areas with benches, picnic tables and cooking grills
- Shaded pavilions and gazebos
- Jogging and exercise trails

Restrooms - restrooms typically are not placed in neighborhood parks because they increase maintenance and provide a location for illegal activities.

Parking - parking varies based on the size of the park, the availability of safe on street parking, the facilities the park offers and the number of users the park will attract. A minimum of eight spaces per new neighborhood park are recommended with an additional two handicapped parking spaces per each neighborhood park.

An illustration representing typical amenities found in a neighborhood is shown on the following page; however each neighborhood park should be uniquely designed to complement the neighborhood that it serves.


Kelley Park, Summercrest Park, and Chautauपua Park
are just some of the typical neighborhood parks in Georgetonn.


"In the end, we conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."
community Parks-these larger parks are meant to serve a group of neighborhoods or a portion of a city. Community parks are usually reached by automobiles, as well as pedestrian and bicycle access of residents who live near the park.

Size - Community parks vary in size from 10 acres to $50+$ acres. The typical community park should be large enough so it can provide a variety of facilities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation and natural areas The park should also have room for expansion, as new facilities are required to continue to attract users.

Location-Because of the potential for noise and bright lights at night, community parks should be buffered from adjacent residential areas. Since community parks are usually reached by automobiles, it is best to locate a community park near a major thoroughfare to provide easy access from different parts of the city.

Typical Community Park Facilities:

- Play equipment
- Active free play areas
- Picnic areas and pavilion(s)
- Restrooms
- Jogging, bicycle or nature trails, sometimes lighted for evening use
- Lighted ball fields, suitable for organized competitive events
- Recreation center (if appropriate)
- Sufficient off-street parking based on facilities provided and size of park
- Security lighting
- Other facilities as needed which can take advantage of the unique characteristics of the site, such as nature trails, fishing ponds, swimming pools, amphitheaters etc.

Parking - This varies based on the facilities provided and the size of park. Additional parking is needed to accommodate facilities such as athletic fields or swimming pools that can be located in community parks. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommends a minimum of five spaces per acre with additional parking for added facilities. The specific amount of parking provided in each park should be determined by the facilities provided in that park.

The illustration on the following page is an example of a typical community park.

"A thing is right only when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the community; and the community includes the soil, water, fauna and flora, as well as the people."

Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, 1949

Chandler Park, Rivery Park and Trail, and Geneva Park are examples community parks in Georgetom.


BUILDING A LEGACY WITH OUR PARKS - Georgetown Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan

Regional Parks - Regional parks are very large parks that serve an entire region of the city, and very often become the premier park in that area. For example Zilker Park is one of the largest and most loved parks in Austin, and encompasses everything from passive trails and open space to high use athletic facilities.

Georgetown currently has three parks that are considered regional parks. San Gabriel Park is the most well known of the regional parks in Georgetown and many of the visitors come to San Gabriel Park from the surrounding county area. The undeveloped Garey Park is also a egional park, and once developed it will have many unique features and amenities such as equestrian trails and an observatory.

Location - Regional parks should be located near major highways and thoroughfares to provide easy access from most of the city. Because of the potential for traffic, noise, and bright lights at night, regional parks should ideally be buffered from adjacent residential areas.

Facilities that are typically included in a regional park are as follows:


## Typical Regional Park Facilities

acilities generally located in regional parks may include:

- Large lake or pond for water based activities
- Recreation centers
- Indoor or outdoor pools
- Large natural habitat for wildlife and bird observation
- Multi-use trail system
- Nature or interpretive center
- Large picnic shelter with grills and tables
- Several individual picnic shelters
- Large shaded playground

Restrooms
Large open space areas

- Sports facilities
- Parking areas for each of the facilities listed above

Open Space Preserves and Natural Area Parks - open space preserves are a critical part of the land use system in any large metropolitan area. The CORP of Engineers Lake located within the city limits of Georgetown is a great provider of open space preserve. As with any CORP lake, Lake Georgetown is intended for flood control. The lake and the land surrounding it is meant to remain in natural state so that its purpose can be fulfilled. Very little development around the lake has been done. There is a trail that encompasses the entire lake, and there are a few park sites towards the south end of the lake. However, even the amenities provided at the park sites are limited in their development. Very few communities have a lake within their city, and even fewer have one that is to remain in a more natural state. Georgetown is fortunate to have such a great asset of open space preserved within the city.
"It is not enough to understand the natural world; the point is to defend and preserve it."


San Gabriel Park is the most well knoun and largest developed regional park in Georgetoun
inear Parks-are open park areas that generally follow some natural or man-made eature that is linear in nature, such as creeks, abandoned railroad rights-of-way, or power line or utility corridor easements. In Georgetown, most of the linear park corridors are along the river and creek system. Properly developed to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel, these parks can serve to link or connect other parks in the local system, as well as schools, neighborhood shopping, libraries, and other major destinations. No specific standards apply to linear/linkage parks othe than the park should be large enough to adequately accommodate the resources they contain. They should also serve to help preserve open space

Special Purpose Parks - are designed to accommodate specialized recreationa activities. Because the facility needs for each activity type are different, each special purpose park usually provides for one or a few activities. Examples of special purpose parks include:

- Golf courses

Athletic fields or complexes

- Nature centers or large natural preserves
- Swimming pool centers
- Tennis complexes

Athletic complexes and golf courses are the most common types of special purpose parks. Athletic complexes seek to provide fields for organized play in a ocation that can accommodate the traffic and noise that a large number of users can generate. Athletic complexes should include sufficient fields so that leagues can congregate at one facility and not have to spread out in different locations.


The Georgetoun Tennis Center is an example of a special purpose facility in Georgetoun.


The Size of the Park System in Georgetown
Currently the Georgetown Park System includes 55 park sites and contains a total of 1,360.21 acres. Table 3-1 below summarizes the existing park facilities. The tables on the following pages gives a description of the different types of parks in Georgetown.

## Table 3-1

The 2008 Parks System in Georgetown

## Total Number of Parks

55

| Total Acreage | $1,360.21$ acres city-owned |
| :--- | :---: |
| Neighborhood Parks | 29 Parks totaling 129.84 acres |
| Community Parks | 10 Parks totaling 246.65 acres |
| Linear Parks and Trails | 9 Parks totaling 172.54 acres |
| Regional Parks | 3 Parks totaling 738.95 acres |
| Special Purpose - Sports Complex | 2 Parks totaling 53.42 acres |
| Open Space | 2 Parks totaling 18.81 acres |
|  |  |
| Largest Developed Park | San Gabriel Park, 177.95 acres |
| Smallest Developed Park | Founders Park, 0.09 acres |
|  |  |
| Developed vs. Undeveloped Acreage | 472.84 acres vs. 887.37 acres* |
| *Note that 525 undeveloped acres is Garey Park |  |

Also within the city limits of Georgetown there is an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lake, Lake Georgetown, with four park sites and additional open space tha surround it. There is also a county park, Berry Springs Park and Preserve, within Georgetown. Finally there are four private parks in Georgetown; the Shadow Canyon Preserve, Texas Traditions Park, the Georgetown Soccer Association Sports Complex, and the Village Pocket Parks. These nine park sites and open space contribute an additional $3,463.32$ acres of open space to the residents of Georgetown that is not city owned. 2,446.85 acres of that additional parkland is undeveloped Army Corps of Engineers designated open space surrounding Lake Georgetown.






Table 3-3 Community Parks and Recreation Facilities




## Existing Park Reviews

A review of each of the existing parks in Georgetown is shown on this page and on the following pages. The reviews include a summary of the facilities in each park, as well as observations regarding the arrangement and condition of facilities. Key potential improvements to each park are discussed in this section.

"Reading about nature is fine, but if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully, he can learn more than what is in books."

George Washington Carver

## Bedford Park

Type of Park Ownership: Address:
Planning Area:
Size of Park

Neighborhood Park
City of Georgetown
Madrid Dr. at West Sequoia SPUR
Northwest Sector
2.29 acres Developed

## Existing Facilities

- Hike and Bike Trail
- 1 Playscape
- 2 Swings
- 5 Benches

Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:
The benches are in good condition. The playscape and swings are in excellent condition.



## Berry Creek Park

| Type of Park | Neighborhood Park |
| :--- | :--- |
| Ownership: | City of Georgetown |
| Address: | 1101 Shinnecock Hills Dr. |
| Planning Area: | Northwest Sector |
| Size of Park | 2.67 acres Developed |

Type of Park
Onnership:
Planning Area:
Size of Park

Neighborhood Park
City of Georgetown
Northwest Sector
2.67 acres Developed

## Existing Facilities

- 1 Playscape
- Swings

1 Basketball Court

- 4 Benches
- 4 Picnic Tables

Restroom

Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:
The park facilities in this park were recently added and are all in excellent condition.


## Berry Creek Section 5 Park

Type of Park Neighborhood Park
Onnership: City of Georgetown
Address:
Planning Area
Size of Park
SH 195
Northwest Sector
1.01 acres Undeveloped

## Existing Facilities

- Undeveloped

Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:
This park is currently undeveloped and has no existing park facilities


Blue Hole Park
Type of Park Community Park
Ownership: City of Georgetown
Ownership:
Planning Area
Size of Park
100 Blue Hole
Northeast Sector
13.98 acres Developed


Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:
The facilities in this park were recently renovated after being damaged in the flood during the summer of 2007. All park facilities are now in excellen condition.


## Booty's Road Park

Type of Park Regional Park
Ownership:
Address:
Planning Area:
Size of Park

Regional Park
Property is leased from US Army Corps of Engineers Goodwater Trail at Cedar Breaks Rd. Southwest Sector
36.00 acres Developed

## Existing Facilities

Hike and Bike Trail

- 1 Large Pavilion

Challenge Course

- Restroom Building

Located at Lake Georgetown

- Parking

Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:
The pavilion and trail are in excellent condition. The Challenge Course is in good condition.




Churchill Farms Greenbelt

## Type of Park Linear Park

Ownership:
Address:
Planning Area
Size of Park

City of Georgetown Reinhardt Blvd. Southeast Sector 5.86 acres Undeveloped

Existing Facilities

- Undeveloped


## Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:

This park is currently undeveloped and has no existing park facilities.


## Chandler Park

Type of Park Community Park
Ownership:
Address:
Planning Area:
Size of Park

City of Georgetown
108 Spring Valley Rd
Southwest Sector
11.45 acres Developed


- Hike and Bike Trail

Hike and Bike

- 3 BBQ Grills
- 4 Benchs
- 3 Picnic Tables
- 1 Bike Rack
- 2 Drinking Fountains
- Misting Station
- Parking



## La Conterra Blvd. Park

| Type of Park | Neighborhood Park |
| :--- | :--- |
| Ownership: | City of Georgetown |
| Address: | FM 1460 at La Conterra Blvd. |
| Planning Area: | Southeast Sector |
| Size of Park | 9.14 acres Undeveloped |

Existing Facilities

- Undeveloped


## Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:

Neighborhood Park
City of Georgetown
Southeast Sector
9.14 acres Undeveloped

This park is currently undeveloped and has no existing park facilities.




Chautauqua Park

Type of Park
Ownership:
Address:
Planning Area
Size of Park

Community Park City of Georgetown 602 Rucker Northeast Sector 23.16 acres Developed

Existing Facilities

- 1 Basketball Court
- 1 Playscape

Swings

- 2 BBQ Grills

1 Medium Pavilion

- 1 Small Pavilion
- 4 Picnic Tables
- 1 Drinking Fountain
- Restroom Building
- Parking

Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:
The picnicking facilities range from excellent to poor condition. The poor facilities need to be replaced and the condition of the others needs to be monitored. The playscape and swings were replaced in 2008 and are now in excellent condition. The restrooms are in good condition.


Crystal Knoll Park

Type of Park Neighborhood Park
Ownership:
Address:
Planning Area
Size of Park

City of Georgetown
CR 151 at Northeast Inner Loop
Northeast Sector
1.95 acres Undeveloped

## Existing Facilities

- Undeveloped


## Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:

This park is currently undeveloped and has no existing park facilities


Dove Springs Park
Type of Park
Ownership:
Address:
Planning Area:
Size of Park

Neighborhood Park
Neighborhood Park
Rock Dove Ln. at Covey Ln.
Southeast Sector
10.58 acres Undeveloped

## Edwards Park

Type of Park Neighborhood Park
Ownership: City of Georgetown
Ancrisip:
Planning Area
Size of Park 704 Ash Street Northeast Sector 0.49 acres Developed

Existing Facilities

- 2 Playscapes
- 1 Volleyball Court
- 1 BBQ Grill
- 2 Benches
- 1 Picnic Table


Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:
The two playscapes are in good condition. The picnicking facilities are in good condition also. The volleyball court is in acceptable condition at this time.


Emerald Springs Park
Type of Park $\quad$ Neighborhood Park

Ornership:
ownership:
Planning Area
Size of Park

Neighborhood Park City of Georgetown 3604 Old Mill Rd.
Northwest Sector
12.00 acres Developed

## Existing Facilities

- Hike and Bike Trail
- 1 Backstop
- 1 Playscape
- 2 BBQ Grills

2 Small Pavilions

- 5 Benches

3 Picnic Tables

- 1 Drinking Fountain
- Parking
- Irrigation

Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:
All the picnicking facilities are in good condition. The playscape is in good condition and the backstop is currently in acceptable condition. Much of this park's landscaping is in a more natural state.


Founders Park

| Type of Park | Neighborhood Park |
| :--- | :--- |
| Ownership: | City of Georgetown |
| Address: | S. Church Street at E. 9th Street |
| Planning Area: | Northeast Sector |
| Size of Park | 0.09 acres Developed |

## Existing Facilities

- 2 Benches
- Monument
- Restroom Building
- Parking
- Irrigation


## Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:

The two benches are in excellent condition.


## Fountain Wood Linear Park

Type of Park Linear Park
Ownership:
Address:
Planning Area:
Size of Park
City of Georgetown
Goldridge Dr. at Silverstone Dr.
Southwest Sector
43.46 acres Undeveloped

## Garey Park

Type of Park
Ownership:
Address:
Planning Area
Size of Park

Regional Park
City of Georgetown
RM 2243
Southwest Sector
525 acres Undeveloped

## Existing Facilities

- Undeveloped


## Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:

This park is currently undeveloped and has no existing park facilities.

## Existing Facilities

- Undeveloped
- Master Plan for Garey Park was adopted in 2006

2 Lakes

- Garey House
- Road with Bridge
- Cabin with 2 Bedrooms

Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:
This park is currently undeveloped however there is a completed and approved master plan for this park.


Once built, Garey Park will be one of the most impressive parks in all of Texas.




## Geneva Park

Type of Park
Ownership:
Address:
Planning Area
Size of Park

Neighborhood Park City of Georgetown 1021 Quail Valley Southeast Sector 14.31 acres Developed

## Existing Facilities

- 1 Playscape
- 1 BBQ Grill
- 1 Picnic Table
- 1 Bench

Assessment of Existing Park Facilities:
The playscape is in good condition. The picnic facilities are in excellent condition.



