



## Volleyball Courts

**Current Number of Volleyball Courts:** 8 city-owned outdoor volleyball courts.

**Current Level of Service:**  
1 volleyball court per 5,933 residents.

**Target Level of Service:**  
1 court per 5,000 residents.

- Current 2008 need for 47,466 population - 9 courts
- Year 2010 need for 53,412 population - 11 courts
- Year 2020 need for 131,602 population - 26 courts (deficit of 18 courts)

**Key Issues:**

The city's current supply of volleyball courts is just shy of the level of service necessary for the current population. There is a volleyball court planned to be built at the Georgetown Tennis Center. Only 50% of the existing courts are considered to be in good or excellent condition. Finally, nearly all of the volleyball courts are located in the northeast sector of the city, indicating an imbalance in geographic distribution of volleyball facilities.

**Level of Need - Moderate**



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## Tennis Courts

**Current Number of Tennis Courts:** 11 city-owned tennis courts at the Georgetown Tennis Center. There are also an additional 4 courts at the junior high which are available to the public at certain times.

**Current Level of Service:**  
1 city-owned court per 4,315 residents. (Including city and school facilities: 1 tennis court per 3,164 residents.)

**Target Level of Service:**  
1 court per 3,500 residents.

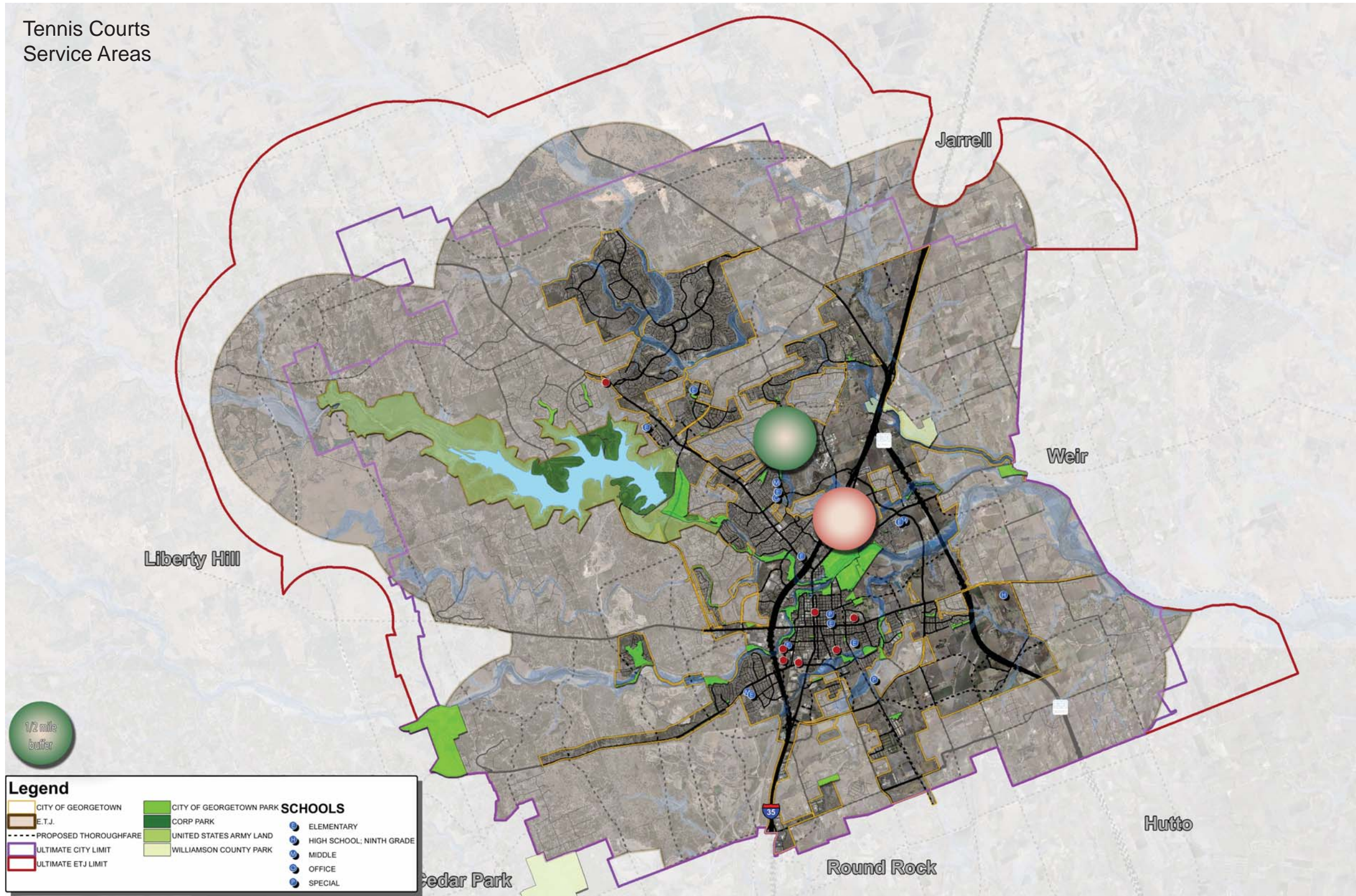
- Current 2008 need for 47,466 population - 14 courts (deficit of 3 courts)
- Year 2010 need for 53,412 population - 15 courts (deficit of 4 courts)
- Year 2020 need for 131,602 population - 38 courts (deficit of 27 courts)

**Key Issues:**  
Total (public and school) supply of tennis courts is meeting the necessary current level of service. As population grows, the city will need to continue to build tennis courts to keep up with the demand for tennis facilities. The four school tennis courts are located at Georgetown Junior High School and operated by the school district. They allow certain times for public access. Because the 11 tennis courts are located at the Georgetown Tennis Center, all of the courts are located in the northwest sector.

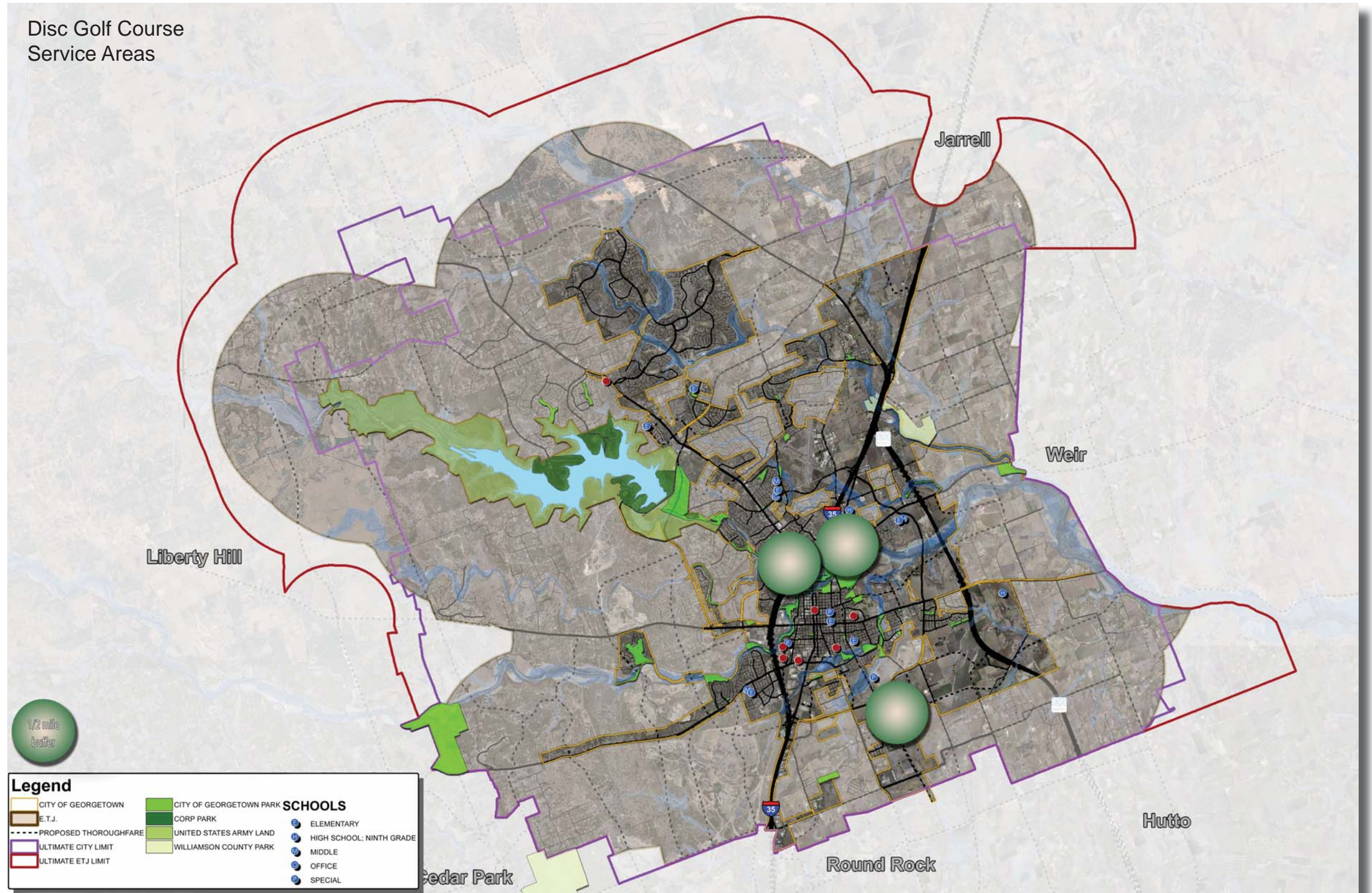
**Level of Need - Moderate**

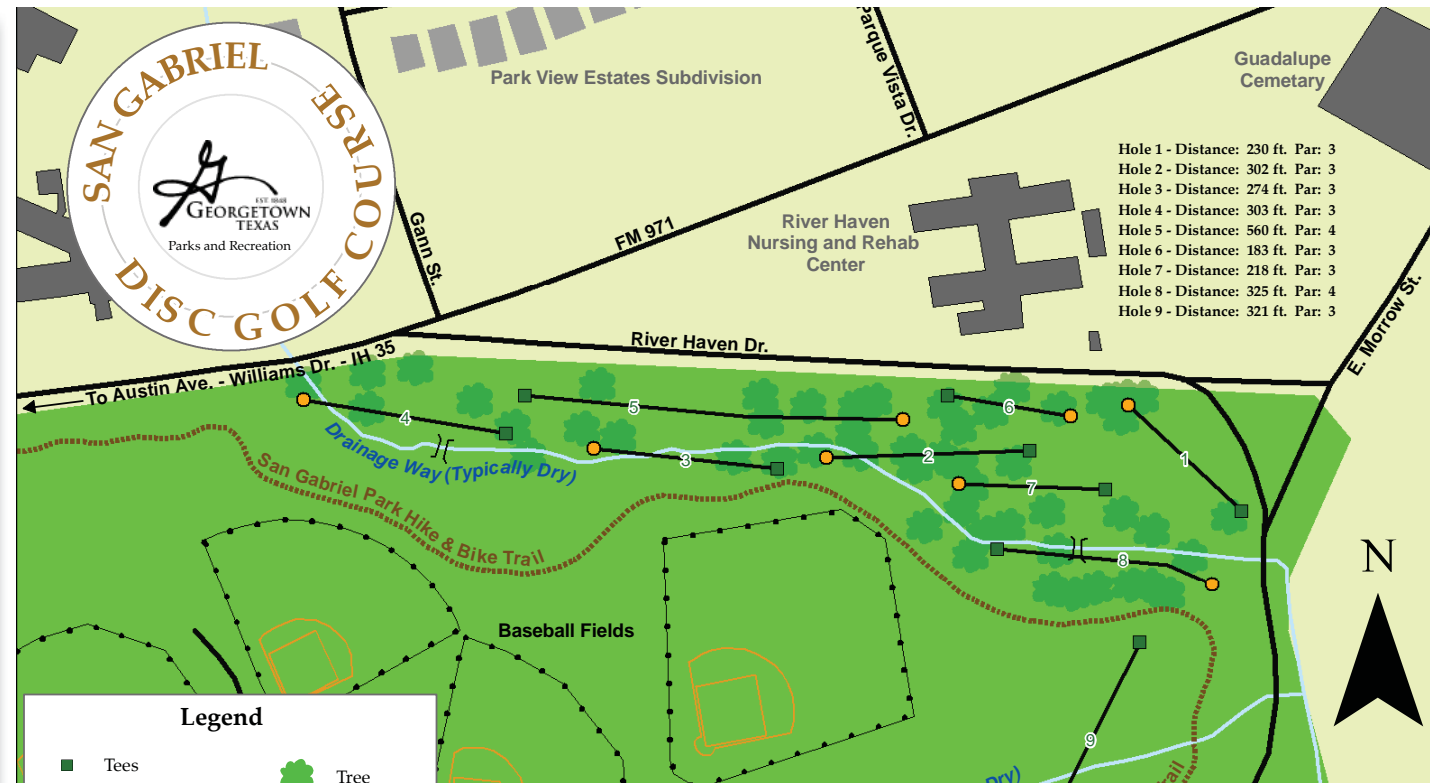


Tennis Courts  
Service Areas



Disc Golf Course  
Service Areas





### Disc Golf Course

**Current Number of Disc Golf Course:** 2 full city-owned disc golf courses: 18 hole course at Rivery Park, 9 hole course at San Gabriel Park, and 9 hole course at Pinnacle Park.

**Current Level of Service:**  
1 course per 23,733 residents.

**Target Level of Service:**  
1 court per 23,000 residents.

- Current 2008 need for 47,466 population - 2 courses
- Year 2010 need for 53,412 population - 2 courses
- Year 2020 need for 131,602 population - 6 courses (deficit of 4 courses)

**Key Issues:**

The current level of service for disc golf courses is good; however, as more residents move to Georgetown, the city will need to build more disc golf courses to keep a strong supply of the facility. The 18-hole disc golf course and the two 9-hole disc golf courses are all in good or excellent condition, and provide good locations of the facility to the community. The 9-hole disc golf course at Pinnacle Park was recently installed in 2008.

**Level of Need - Moderate**





## Recreation Centers

**Current Number of Recreation Centers:** 1 city-owned recreation center (with current expansion recently completed)

**Current Level of Service:**  
1 center per 47,466 residents. With completed expansion of current recreation center, center will be 60,000 square feet. Level of service will be 1.26 square feet per every resident.

**Target Level of Service:**  
1 center per 50,000 residents.

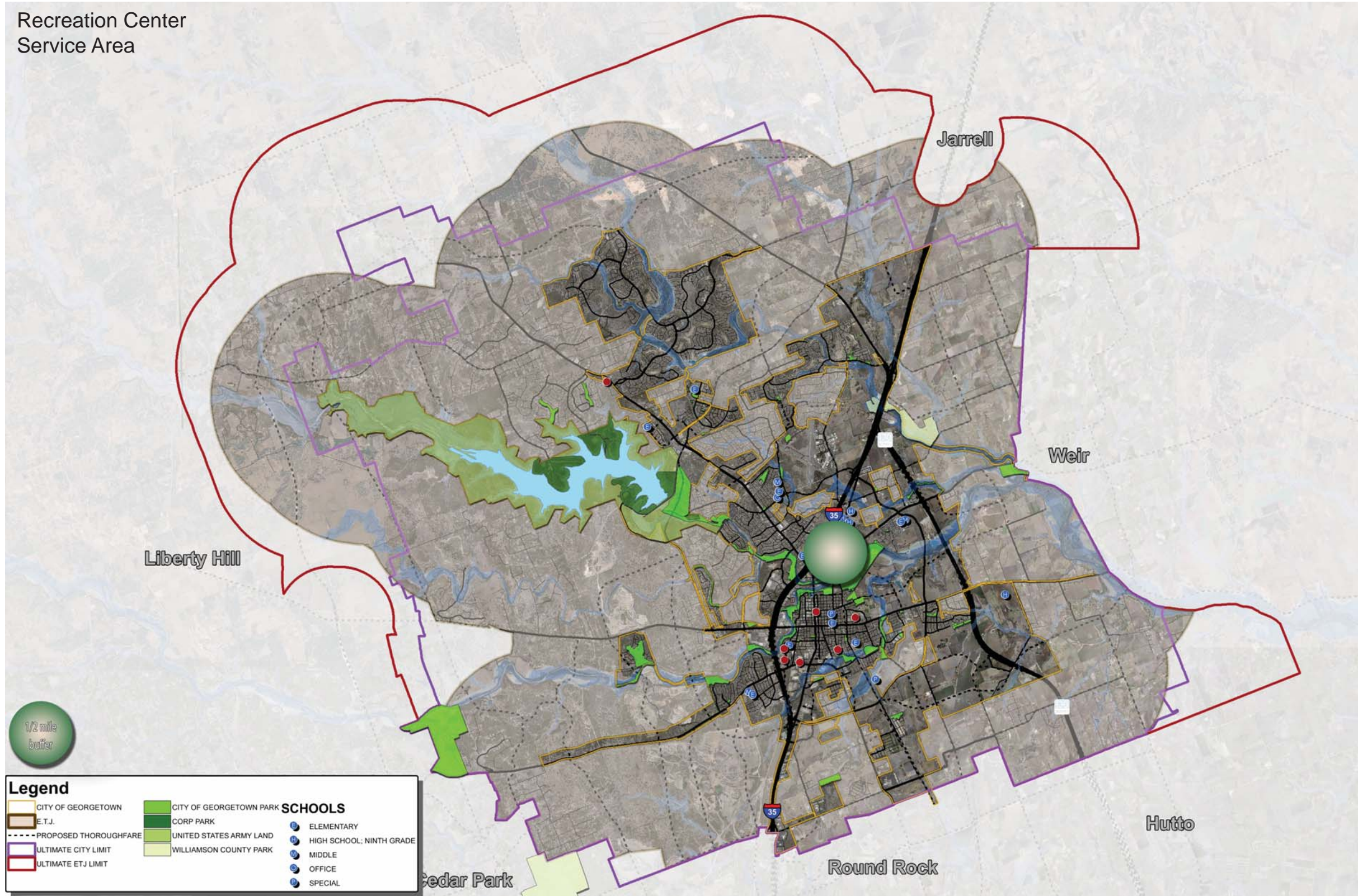
- Current 2008 need for 47,466 population - 1 center.
- Year 2010 need for 53,412 population - 1 center.
- Year 2020 need for 131,602 population - 2 to 3 centers (deficit of 1 to 2 centers)

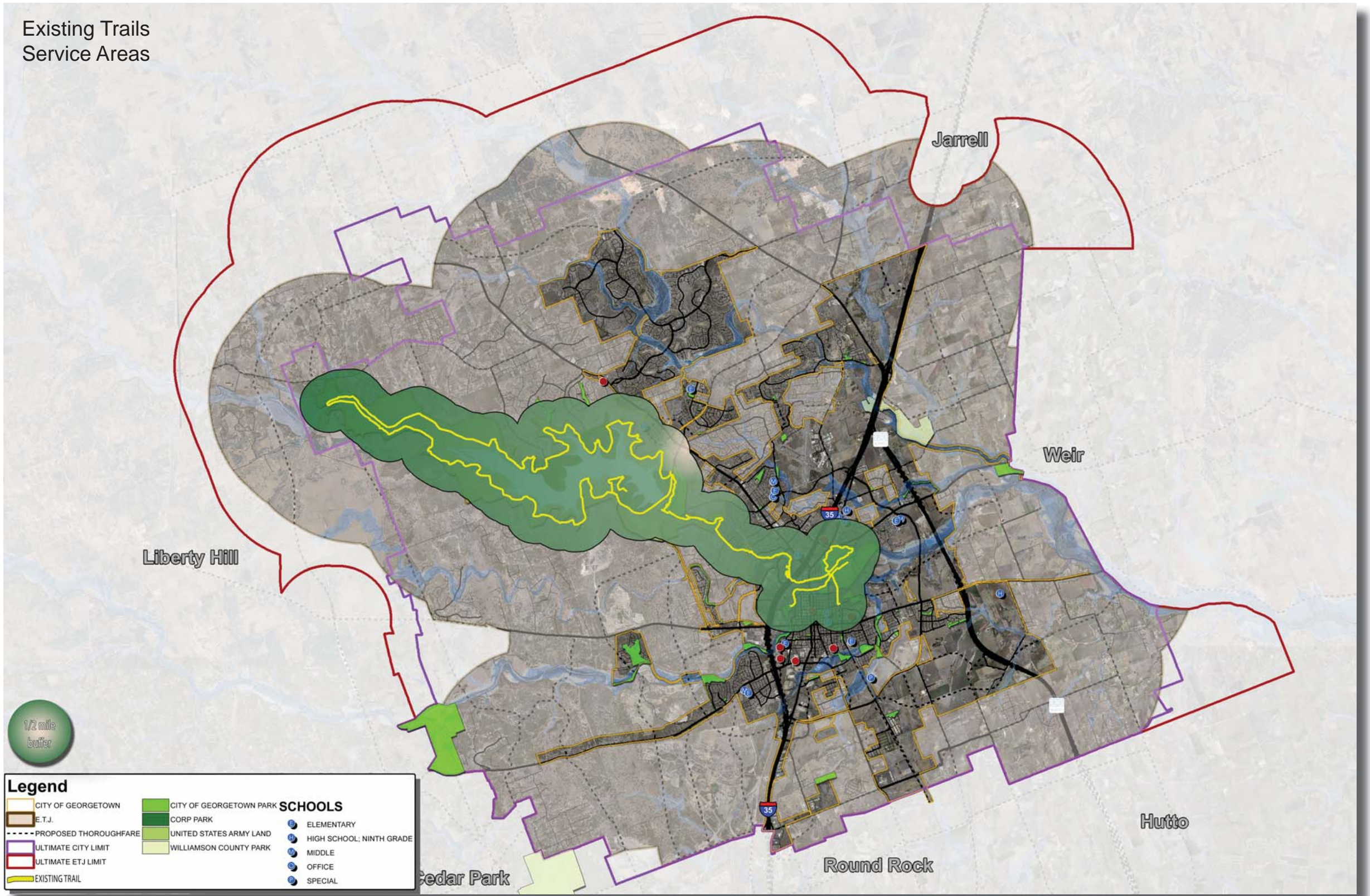
**Key Issues:**  
The City currently has one recreation center, which it is expanding to approximately 60,000 square feet. The recreation center is located in San Gabriel Park in the northeast sector.

**Level of Need - Moderate.** Start to plan for a second center on the west side. Long-term, plan for a third center.



Recreation Center  
Service Area









## Trails

**Current Miles of Trails:** 6.4 miles of city-owned trails; 31.33 miles of all trails (including trail facilities that loop entirely around Lake Georgetown).

**Current Level of Service (city-owned only):**  
1 mile per 7,417 residents.

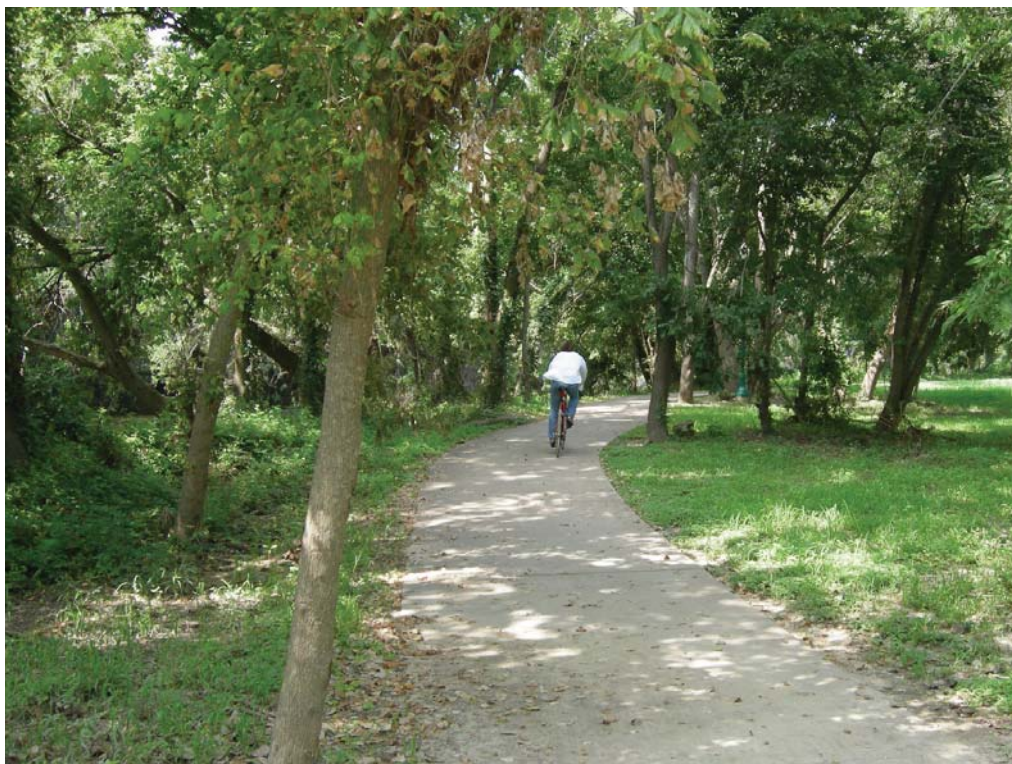
**Target Level of Service:**  
1 to 2 miles per 5,000 residents.

- Current 2008 need for 47,466 population - 9.5 miles to 19.0 miles.
- Year 2010 need for 53,412 population - 10.7 miles to 21.4 miles.
- Year 2020 need for 131,602 population - 26.3 miles to 52.6 miles (deficit of 20 miles to 46 miles of trails)

**Key Issues:**

The City of Georgetown's 31.3 miles of trails is meeting the demand of the current and projected population through 2020; however, the majority of those trails encircle Lake Georgetown. There are 6.4 miles of readily accessible trails in throughout the City of Georgetown. Therefore, Georgetown is currently not meeting the target level of service in regards to miles of trails.

**Level of Need - Very High.** Trails have consistently been the top ranked priority among citizens.





## Playgrounds & Playscapes

**Current Number of Playscapes:** 31 city-owned playscapes.

**Current Level of Service:**  
1 playscape per 1,531 residents.

**Target Level of Service:**  
1 playscape per 2,000 residents.

- Current 2008 need for 47,466 population - 23 playscapes
- Year 2010 need for 53,412 population - 27 playscapes
- Year 2020 need for 131,602 population - 66 playscapes (deficit of 35 playscapes)

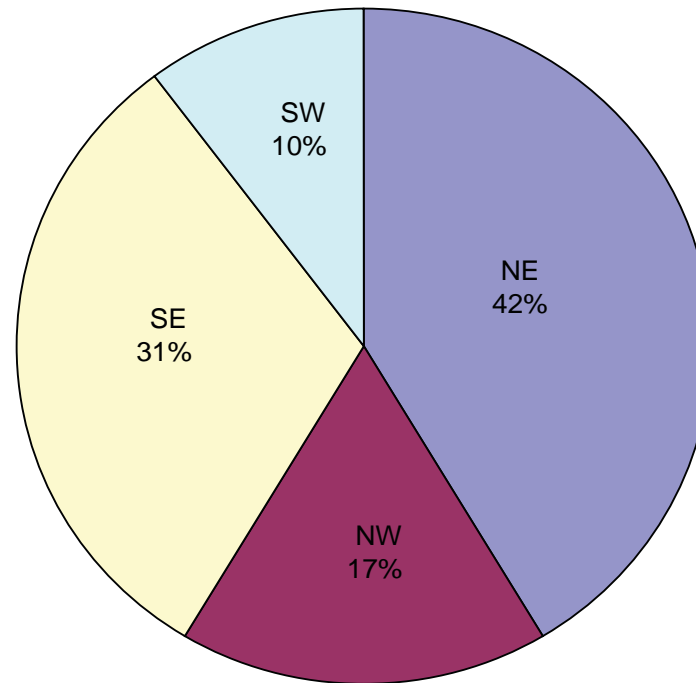
**Key Issues:**

The City of Georgetown's has 31 playscapes, of which a majority (93%) are in good or excellent condition. Each sector has at least one playscape, but they are more heavily distributed toward the northeast and southeast sectors. As the population continues to increase, the City will need to ensure continued provision of playscapes throughout the city.

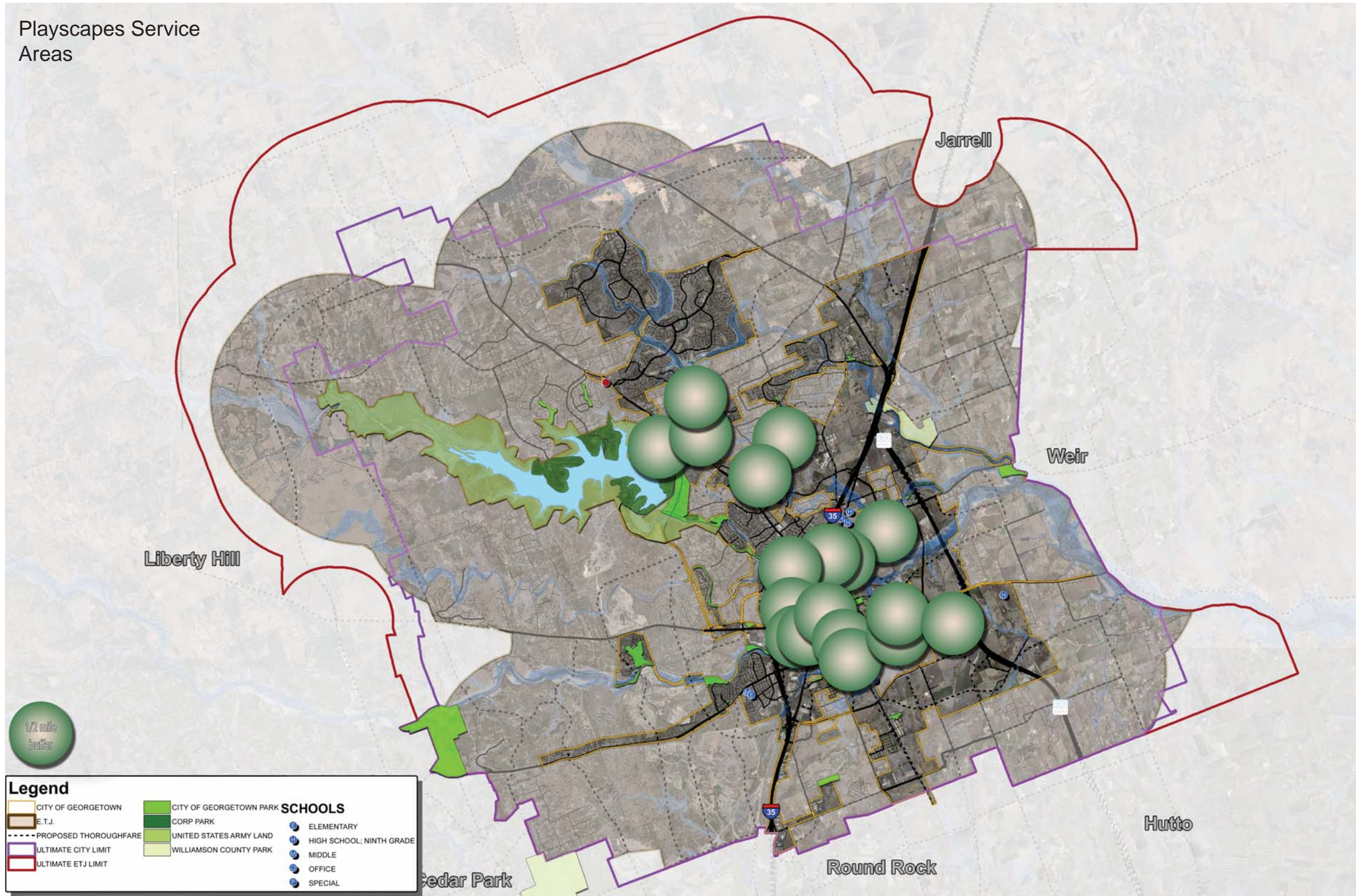
**Level of Need - Moderate.** Consider partnering with Georgetown ISD to develop neighborhood parks next to elementary schools. It will help ensure the minimum amount of playscapes are constructed in the future, are accessible to the public, and meet the target level of service.



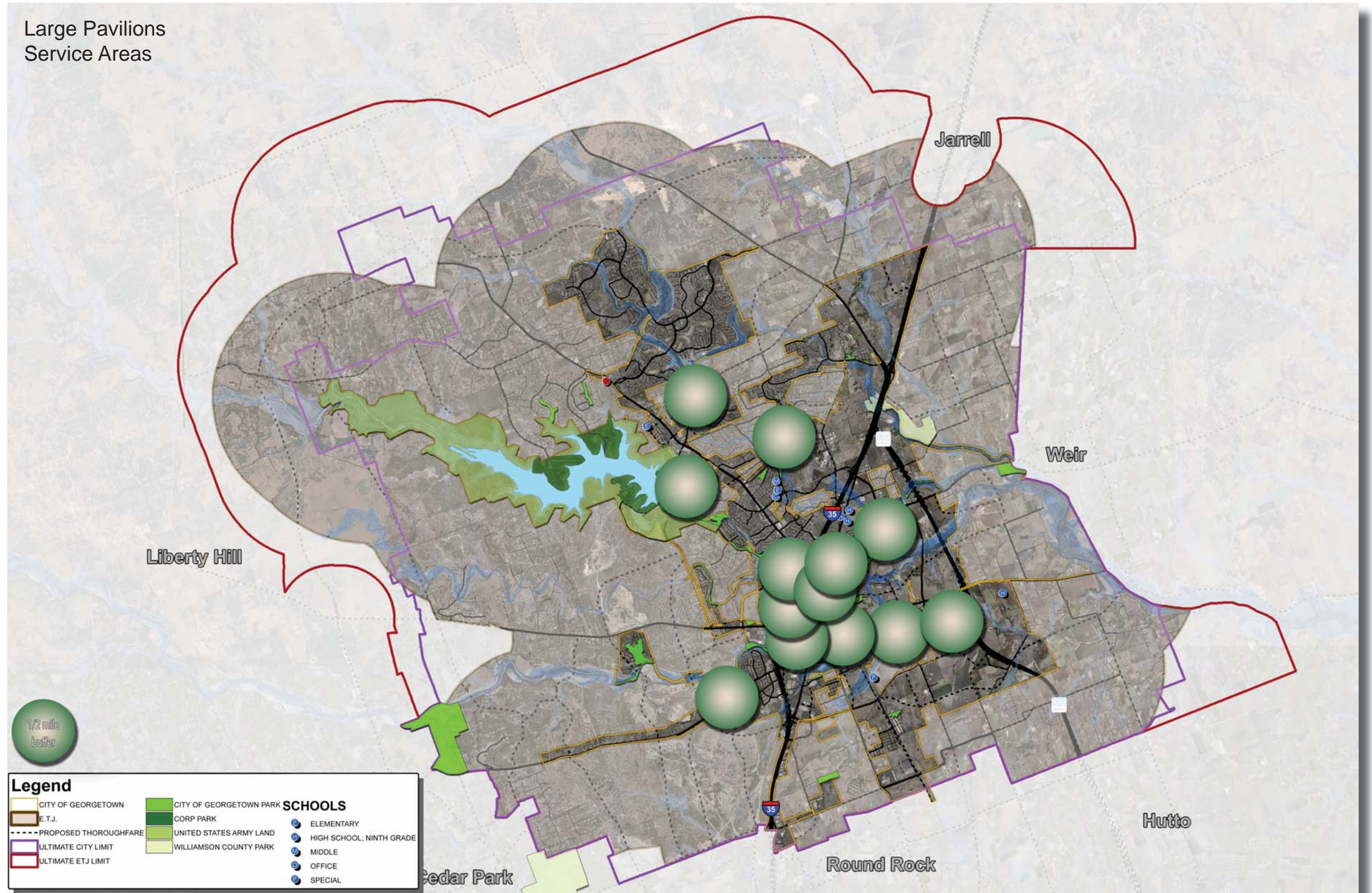
**Sector Distribution: Playscapes**



Playscapes Service Areas



Large Pavilions  
Service Areas





## Large Rental Pavilions

**Current Number of Large Pavilions:** 26 total pavilions: 8 city-owned large pavilions, and 18 medium-size pavilions for parties, reunions, and rentals.

**Current Level of Service:**  
1 pavilion per 1,826 residents.

**Target Level of Service:**  
1 pavilion per 2,000 residents.

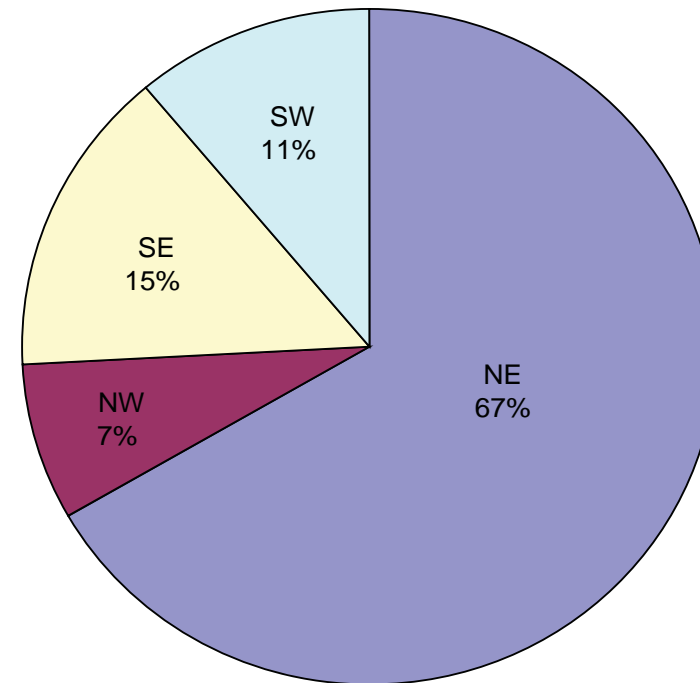
- Current 2008 need for 47,466 population - 23 large pavilions
- Year 2010 need for 53,412 population - 27 large pavilions
- Year 2020 need for 131,602 population - 66 large pavilions (deficit of 40 pavilions)

**Key Issues:**  
The City of Georgetown's has 8 large reunion pavilions. San Gabriel Park has three large pavilions and 9 medium pavilions, causing a majority of the pavilions to be located in the northeast sector. Currently, the pavilions are serving the needs of the community, given the recommended level of service; however by 2020 there will be a huge deficit in pavilions and the growing population will not be served.

**Level of Need - Very High**



Sector Distribution: Pavilions





## Picnicking Facilities

**Current Number of Picnicking Facilities:**

Picnic Tables: 101 picnic tables in 17 city-owned parks; 212 additional picnic tables at Cedar Breaks and Jim Hogg regional parks (Lake Georgetown CORPS Parks). Total of 313 picnic tables at 19 parks.

BBQ Grills: 45 BBQ grills at 13 city-owned parks. An additional 212 BBQ grills at Cedar Breaks and Jim Hogg regional parks. Total of 257 BBQ grills.

**Assumptions:**

- Picnic facilities should be at all parks.

**Current Level of Service:**

17 of the city's 64 parks (26.6%) have picnic tables and 13 (20.3%) have BBQ grills. Of non city-owned parks, only 2 (22.2%) have picnic tables and grills.

**Target Level of Service:**

Plan for picnic facilities, including tables, shade, and outdoor grills at all parks.

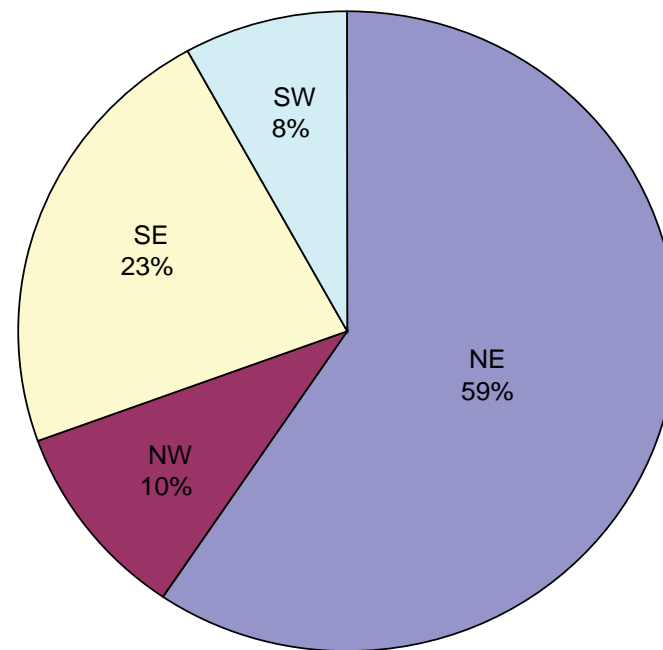
**Key Issues:**

The existing picnic facilities are unevenly distributed among the sectors. The northeast sector contains a significant majority of city-owned picnic tables and BBQ grills, however the southwest sector contains the majority of non city-owned picnic facilities (at Lake Georgetown).

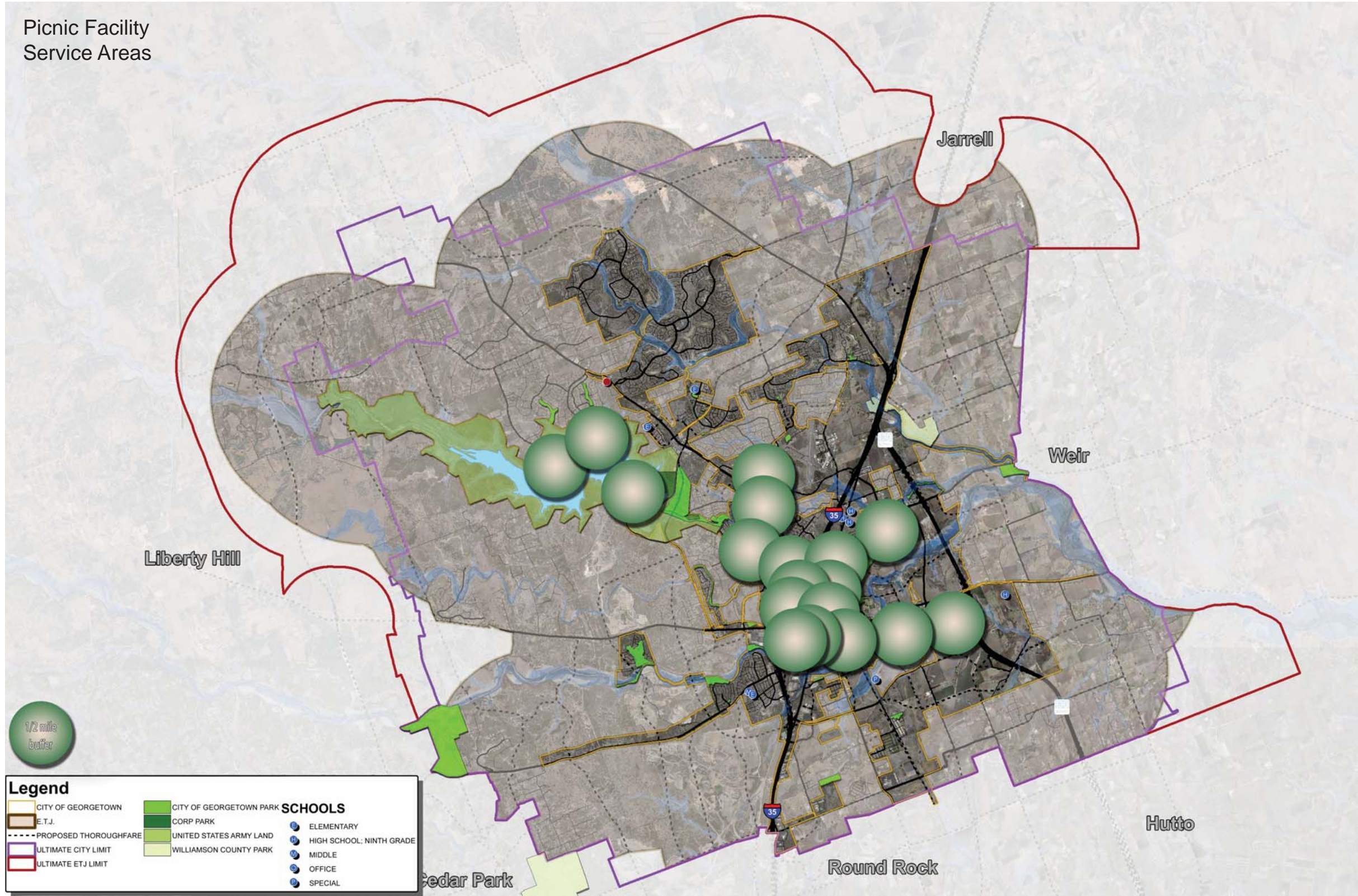
**Level of Need - Very High**



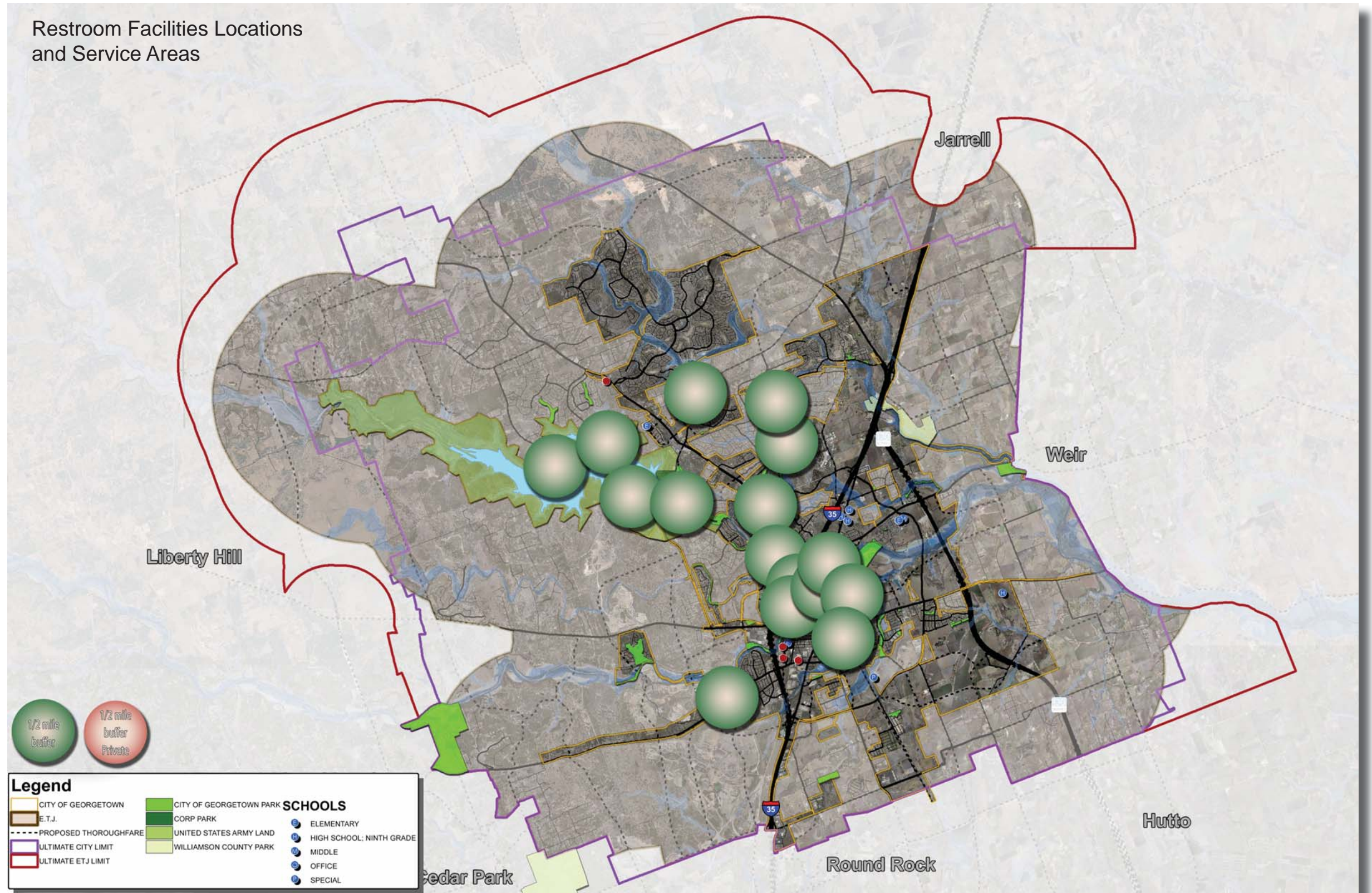
**Sector Distribution: City-Owned Picnic Facilities**



Picnic Facility Service Areas



Restroom Facilities Locations  
and Service Areas







## Park Support Facilities

**Park Support Facilities include:** parking, restrooms, drinking fountains, and bicycle racks.

**Current Number of Support Facilities:**

**Parking:** Six of the city's 64 parks (9.4%) have parking. Four additional non city-owned parks have parking.

**Restrooms:** There are 18 restroom facilities at 11 city-owned parks. Three non city-owned parks have 3 restroom facilities.

**Bicycle racks:** There are eight bicycle racks at six city-owned parks and none at non-city parks.

**Drinking fountains:** There are 24 drinking fountains at 10 city parks and no additional fountains at non-city parks.

**Assumptions:**

- Park support facilities should be place in all parks where feasible.

**Current Level of Service (city-owned only):**

9.4% of city parks have parking; 17.2% have restrooms; 9.4% have bicycle parking; and 15.6% have drinking fountains.

**Target Level of Service:**

Varies per park. Plan for park support facilities at all parks.

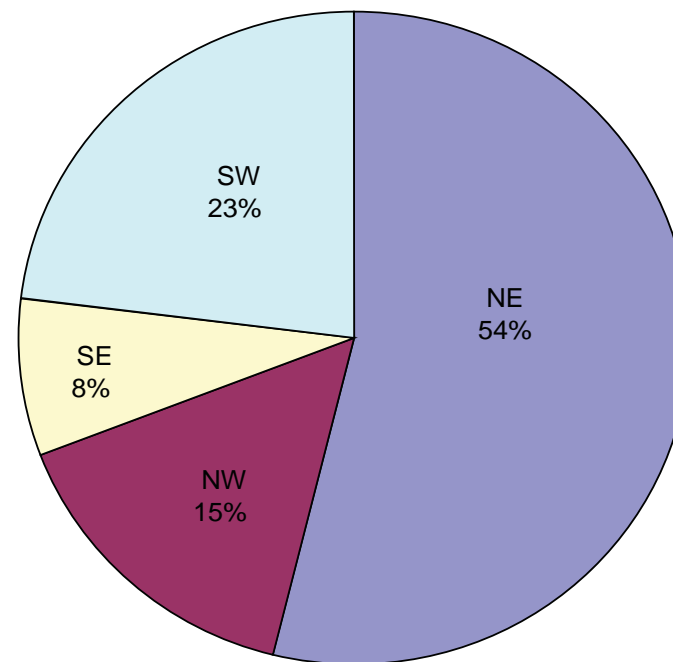
**Key Issues:**

Over 80% of city parks do not contain any support facilities (restrooms, drinking fountains, or parking for cars or bicycles). Geographically, the parks that do have these facilities are located primarily in one sector, the northeast sector.

**Level of Need - Very High**



**Sector Distribution: Support Facilities (Restrooms)**





*Picnicking and park support facilities at Chandler Park*



*Large pavilion at Katy Crossing Park*

| Table 6.1<br>Summary of Facility Needs by 2020 (in alphabetical order) |                |                                      |               |
|--|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Facility   | Current Amount | 2020 Need Based on Future Population | Level of Need |
| Baseball Fields  | 8              | 33                                   | High          |
| Basketball Courts  | 11             | 19                                   | High          |
| Disc Golf Course   | 2              | 6                                    | Moderate      |
| Large Pavilions  | 26             | 66                                   | Very High     |
| Picnicking Facilities  | Varies         | Varies                               | Very High     |
| Playscapes   | 31             | 66                                   | Moderate      |
| Practice Fields  | 4              | 26                                   | Very High     |
| Recreation Center  | 1              | 2-3                                  | Moderate      |
| Softball Fields  | 7              | 15                                   | High          |
| Soccer Fields  | 10             | 26                                   | High          |
| Spraygrounds   | 0              | 5                                    | Very High     |
| Swimming Pools   | 5              | 6                                    | Low           |
| Support Facilities   | Varies         | Varies                               | Very High     |
| Tennis Courts  | 11             | 38                                   | Moderate      |
| Trails   | 6.4 miles      | 26.3 miles                           | Very High     |
| Volleyball Courts  | 8              | 26                                   | Moderate      |



*Practice field at San Jose Park*



*Trail at University Park*



## Demand Based Needs Assessment

Demand was also used to determine what additional facilities are needed in Georgetown. Demand is based both on actual participation in organized activities and in use of the parks, as well as by the level of use and preferences expressed by citizens through stakeholder interviews, the citizen telephone survey, and public meetings.

During the course of this planning process, several stakeholder groups were contacted to give their input. Sixteen different groups gave a detailed discussion on what they felt were the top priority needs for their specific group and interests. Their most highly desired needs are shown in Table 6-2 below.

| Table 6-2<br>Demand Based Needs Assessment by Stakeholder Groups |  |
|--|--|
| Stakeholder Group  | Key Needs  |
| Aquadillos Swimming  | 25 yard USA Swimming competition size, indoor swimming pool  |
| Art Committee  | Art in the Park Program, public art, amphitheater  |
| Georgetown Art Works   | Art Park or Art Center in the downtown   |
| Corps (Lake Georgetown)  | Flood control and preservation. Want to keep the lake natural  |
| Convention and Visitors Bureau                                   | Things to attract people to Georgetown like events, restaurants, the lake, sports, etc.                            |
| Downtown Association   | Downtown festival area to get the events off the street, unique restaurants, things to do downtown                 |
| Economic Development Corporation                                 | Preserve natural elements in Georgetown, offer something for 25-35 year olds to do                                 |
| Farmers Market   | Permanent venue to hold market, preferably in San Gabriel Park   |
| Garden Club  | Lighting in the Sunken Garden, proper drainage to keep run off from coming down the stairs                         |
| Pop Warner Football  | Need use of the existing concession stand if they cannot build their own, bleachers, practice fields               |
| Rowing Club  | Boat storage facility at Lake Georgetown, potential for renting kayaks and boats on the river                      |
| Sheriff's Posse  | Large covered arena, control of both the show barn and the arena, expanded facility                                |
| Georgetown Soccer Association                                    | Practice fields, complex similar to Williamson County Regional Park, light fields in San Gabriel Park for practice |
| Williamson County Museum   | Kiosks and interpretative signs throughout Georgetown  |
| Williamson County Parks Department                               | Passive county parks, maybe add a nature center at Berry Springs Park  |
| Youth Basketball   | Second gym for games and practice, expand league to include teenagers  |

## Demand According to Citizen Expressed Interest

Respondents to the citizen telephone survey and the online survey were asked to indicate which facilities they thought were most needed in the city. According to the citizens, the most highly needed facilities are shown on the following page and include: park restrooms, picnic tables, playgrounds, jogging / biking trails, and natural habitat / nature areas.

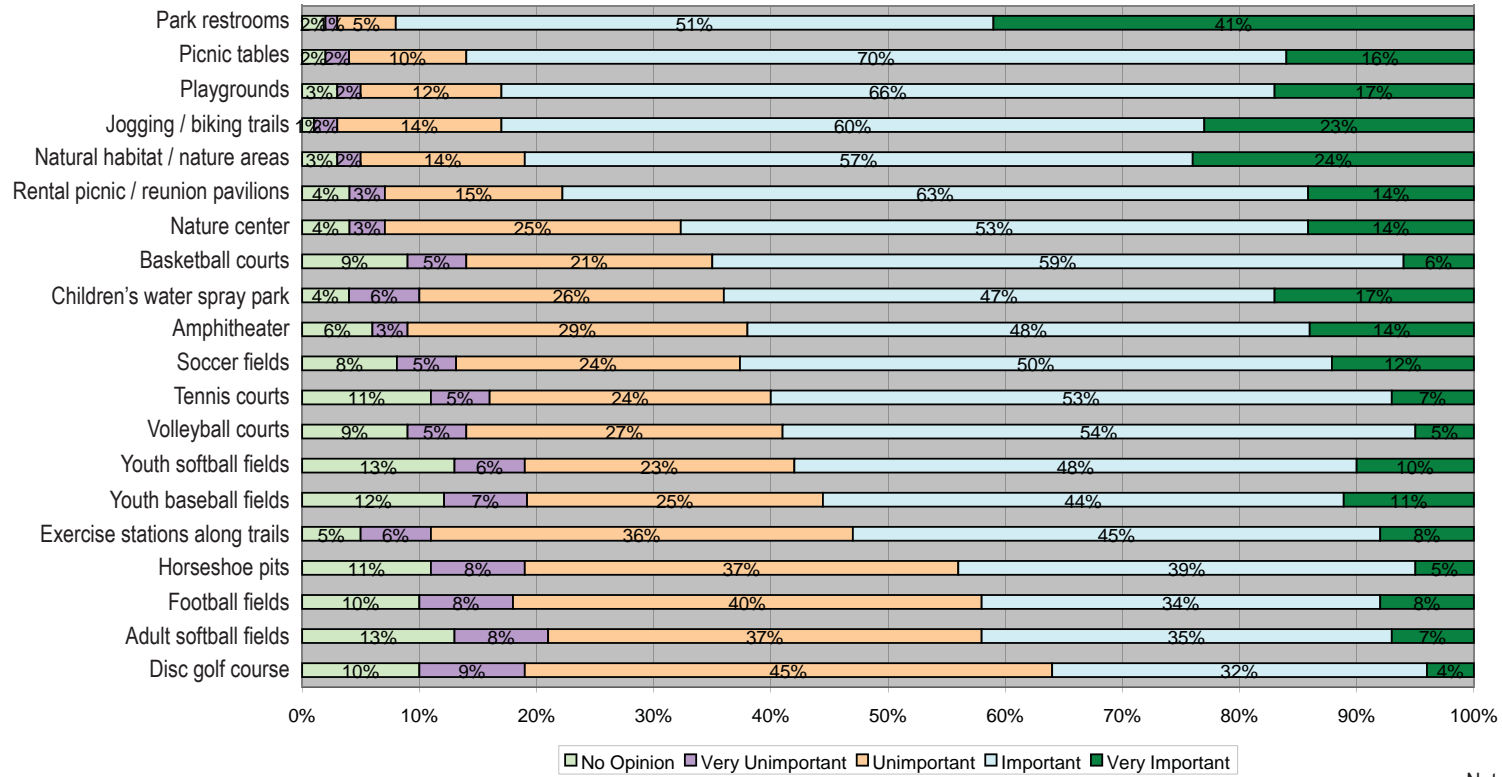
A citywide public input meeting was also held in Georgetown. Residents were shown key needs throughout the community and were asked which three they thought were the most important. The results are shown below and are ranked in order of importance.

The Most Important Priorities for Georgetown to Pursue (community public meeting questionnaire)

1. San Gabriel festival / farmers market venue
2. Trails
3. Downtown festival park
4. Acquire land / acquire land for a northwest park
5. Renovate / enhance San Gabriel Park
6. Preserve land, open space, floodplain
7. Water sprayground parks
8. Enhance Lake Georgetown (rowing, access, trails)



**Importance of Providing New or Additional Facilities (telephone results)**



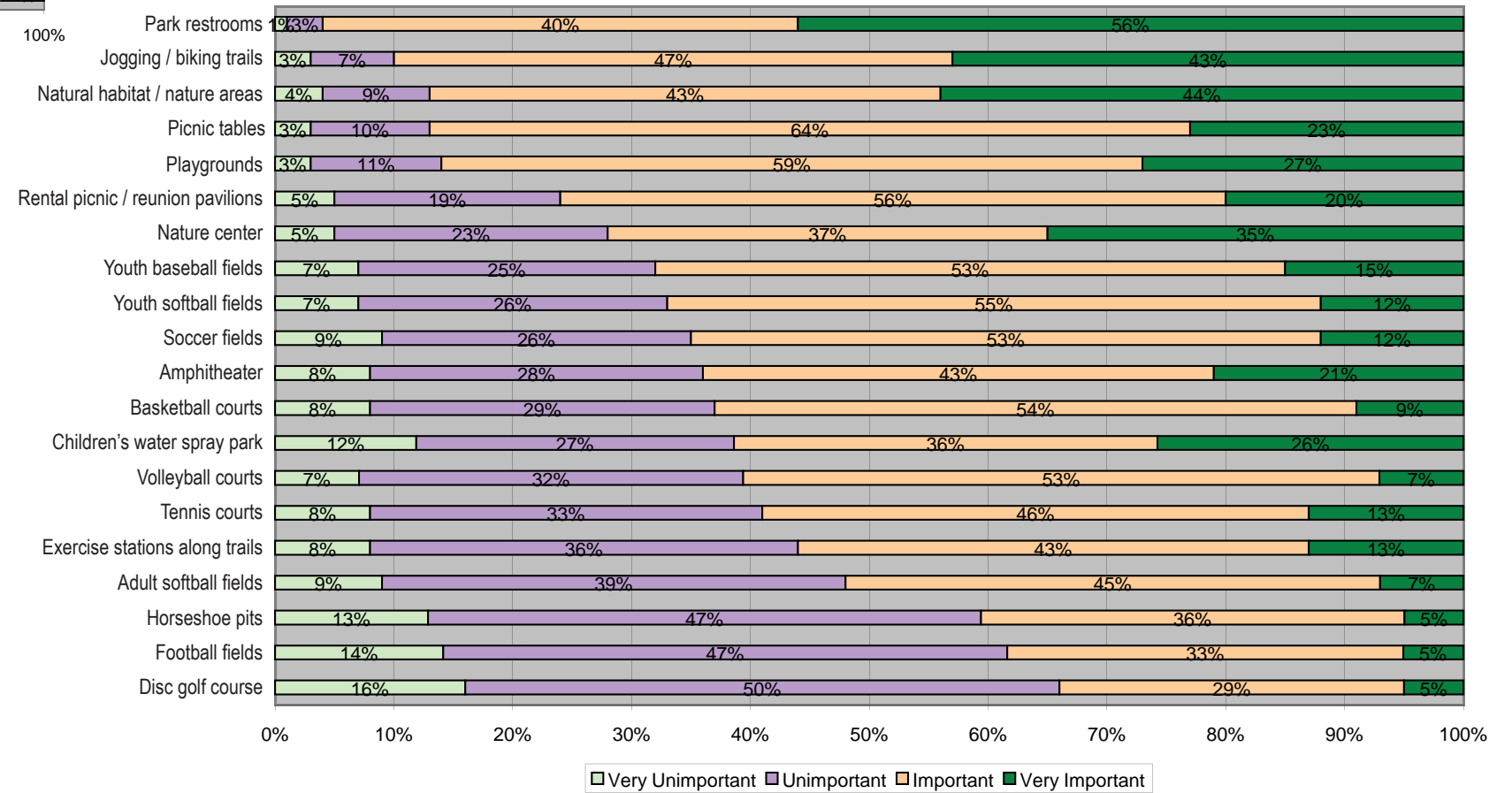
**What New or Additional Facilities are the Most Important to Provide? (top 5 answers shown from the TELEPHONE survey)**

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Park restrooms.....                 | 95% |
| Picnic tables.....                  | 85% |
| Playgrounds.....                    | 83% |
| Jogging / biking trails.....        | 83% |
| Natural habitat / nature areas..... | 81% |

**What New or Additional Facilities are the Most Important to Provide? (top 5 answers shown from the ONLINE survey)**

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Park restrooms.....                 | 96% |
| Jogging / biking trails.....        | 90% |
| Natural habitat / nature areas..... | 87% |
| Picnic tables.....                  | 87% |
| Playgrounds.....                    | 77% |

**Importance of Providing New or Additional Facilities (online results)**



## Resource Based Needs Assessment

In the resource based assessment, key physical features of the city that may be incorporated into recreational opportunities are assessed. Both man-made and natural features can be considered. The City of Georgetown has a number of landscape features that should be preserved and / or adapted for recreational use and open space preservation where feasible. These are the San Gabriel Rivers, Lake Georgetown, rural landscapes, historic / cultural landscapes, utility right-of-ways, and the railroad right-of-way.

## San Gabriel River System

Georgetown has a very extensive creek and river system flowing throughout the city and its ETJ. The three forks of the San Gabriel River meet in the city of Georgetown and there are several creeks that flow into the forks.

The city should make serious effort to secure functional corridors along these creeks and the river system. The key criteria should be:

- Along undeveloped or underdeveloped river areas, preserve the larger of the 100 year floodplain or a 300 foot wide corridor. Along all rivers, creeks, and their tributaries ensure flood control and recreation opportunities by preventing unrestricted encroachment and destruction of the forested areas.
- Acquire and preserve, where feasible, drainage streams that can create linkage to adjacent neighborhoods. Preserve more than just the bare minimum for drainage purposes.
- Work with landowners and homeowners to create linear vehicular and pedestrian parkways along the edges of the floodplain, rather than backing lots up to the wooded areas. Such single loaded parkways open the river and creek areas up to the benefit of informal enjoyment by all and not just a few residents, with the added benefit of informal surveillance. Where feasible this concept should be retrofitted to existing conditions.
- Create linear trail segments in phases. Identify key trail linkages to develop first. With proper city support, funding and marketing, these trails will become the impetus for the development of similar trail connections.
- Acquire land that is regularly subjected to flooding, remove all improvements and restore the flood area to a healthy and functional ecosystem. This means returning the floodplain to the river and creek with the benefit of flood control and recreation access.

Developing rivers, creeks and drainage corridors will assist in answering the need for linear parks in the City. This will also provide the opportunity for the development of hike and bike trails which rated consistently as one of the most important recreational facilities to provide in the City.

## Lake Georgetown

Lake Georgetown's highest priority is flood control of the San Gabriel River. To ensure this, little development has been done surrounding the lake. Lake Georgetown is also the primary water source for Georgetown and other communities in the area. The lake is within the city limits of Georgetown; however the lake and the property surrounding it, including the four recreational park sites, are controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As mentioned, there are four park sites around the lake that are controlled by the Corps. The park sites offer picnicking facilities, RV Camping, boat ramps, swimming beaches, restroom facilities, parking, and a trail that circumnavigates the entire lake. Because the purpose of the lake is first flood control then recreation, the Corps limits the amount of access by monitoring the parking. Once the parking lots become full, the parks are closed for the remainder of the day to further visitors.



Recreation facilities offered at Lake Georgetown



## Landscapes

**Rural Landscapes** - Rural landscapes may be described as areas of natural vegetation, wind row trees established along fence lines, agricultural land with limited cultivation and domestic animals, as well as farmstead with their outbuildings. Visually rural landscapes are defined by long and open vistas, typical of the Texas landscape. Such landscapes may be experienced in various ways, including the use of hike and bike trails and driving along rural roads. To be effective, it requires expansive lands seen over a distance uncluttered by development, signs, and utilities. This may be achieved with winding roads and well defined views. Views of the hill country to the west and north of the city limits and farm land to the east are candidates for preservation of views and a rural character.

A manner in which the rural experience can be maintained without compromising development opportunities is through the protection of floodplains along creeks and rivers, and the preservation of open space by applying principles of Conservation Planning and Design. One of the most basic principles is to demand single loaded roads whereby roads serve as access to developed areas yet at the same time provide rural experiences through views on the surrounding landscapes.

**Cultural Landscapes** - The National Park Service describes Cultural Landscapes as “setting we have created in the natural world. They revive fundamental ties between people and the land - ties based on our need to grow food, give form to our settlements, meet requirements for recreation, and find suitable places to bury our dead. Cultural Landscapes are intertwined patterns of things both natural and constructed: plants and fences, watercourses and buildings. They range from formal gardens to cattle ranches, from cemeteries and pilgrimage routes to village squares. They are special places: expressions of human manipulation and adaptation of the land.”

One area in Georgetown with tremendous cultural value is the downtown historic district. The historic district and surrounding area encompasses a number of historical properties, historical homes, and archaeological sites that represent some important aspects of the early settlement and subsequent development of the Georgetown area. However, the recognition and preservation of individual sites and structures are not enough to ensure the protection of the landscape as a whole, which is essential to evoke the quality and essence of the history of the area. In fact, Georgetown’s historical and cultural heritage is inextricably linked to the natural environment. Once a site or feature is disconnected from its context, a tremendously important part of the cultural experience is lost. Within the context lie visual clues as to the way in which

people from an earlier generation and era related to their environment. It is thus imperative to protect the integrity of the entire landscape in which the cultural features and sites are contained.

However, much of the surrounding area is also rich in history and culture including amongst others various historic homesteads, barns, and outbuildings, river and creek crossing locations, and a variety of historical sites worth preserving.

## Right-of-Ways

**Utility Right-of-Ways** - The linear nature of utility right-of-ways make them ideal as hike and bike trails. Developing trails along utility right-of-ways and other easements should be a top priority over the next 10 years.

**Rail Right-of-Ways** - Two characteristics of a rail right-of-way also make it ideal for trails: its linear nature and its gentle topography change. An added aesthetic value of a rail right-of-way is that trees along its length often provide special character and natural interest.

The City of Georgetown has a railroad tract that follows along FM 971 in the northern portion of Georgetown, then cuts through the city passing by Southwestern University, and follows IH35 once it is south of the city. The City of Georgetown should pursue an option for a trail that runs parallel to the tracks through the center of the city. This trail could be placed against the back of the curb to allay fears of danger from the adjacent tracks. If deemed absolutely necessary, a four foot high fencing could be placed between the trail and the tracks.

