

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS
Resolution No. _____

**ADOPTING THE AMENDMENT OF THE HIDALGO COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN (2004-2008) -
AMENDMENT 01/07 – COUNTY OF HIDALGO PRIORITIZATION – FIVE YEAR PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Hidalgo, hereafter referred to as "County" previously adopted the Hidalgo County Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update, Hereafter referred to as "Plan" as the County's Official Parks and Recreation Planning Guide; and

WHEREAS, the existing prioritization – five year plan does not support the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission's approved changes related to the Texas Recreation and Parks Account grant programs grant application submission deadlines; and

WHEREAS, the "County" shall only submit one outdoor and one indoor park grant application to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on July 31st of each year and follow the prioritization – five year plan schedule; and

WHEREAS, the "County" recognizes the need for a completed review and update to Hidalgo County's Prioritization – Five Year Plan for the targeted years of 2006 - 2010, to provide for and continually improve parks and recreational facilities, open space and recreational opportunities is being submitted for the County's adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF HIDALGO, THAT:

SECTION 1: The recommended changes to the Hidalgo County Parks Master Plan are adopted.

SECTION 2: This resolution is effective immediately upon passage.

Signed this 23 day of January, 2007.

County of Hidalgo

Attested by:

By: _____

Arturo Guajardo, Jr.
Hidalgo County Clerk

By: _____

J.D. Salinas
Hidalgo County Judge

Prioritization of Needs and Plan Implementation

Prioritization of Needs

The purpose of this section is to prioritize the needs that have been identified and formulate a plan of action. In order to create a workable plan that can be used and applied, it is necessary to determine the greatest needs with the County and prioritize those needs to ensure that the most urgent are addressed with the first available funds.

Outdoor Priorities

July 31 st , 2007 Precinct 1	July 31 st , 2008 Precinct 3
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.- Jogging Trail 2.- Restrooms 3.- Open Pavilions 4.- BBQ Pits 5.- Playground 6.- Soccer Field 7.- Parking lot 8.- Landscaping 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.- Trails 2.- Baseball Field 3.- Basketball Field 4.- Playground 5.- BBQ Pits 6.- Restrooms 7.- Landscaping
July 31 st , 2009 Precinct 2	July 31 st , 2010 Precinct 4
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.- Baseball field 2.- Picnic Facilities 3.- Playgrounds 4.- Trails 5.- Basketball Court 6.- Soccer Field 7.- Landscaping 8.- Parking lot 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.- Sand Volleyball Court 2.- Baseball Field 3.- Basketball Courts 4.- Sand Box 5.- Fitness Station 6.- Lighted Trail 7.- Open Pavilions

Indoor Priorities

July 31 st , 2007 Precinct 4	July 31 st , 2008 Precinct 1
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.- Game Room 2.- Classrooms 3.- Aerobics 4.- Dance 5.- Music 6.- Quilting 7.- Arts and Crafts 8.- Restrooms 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.- Restrooms 2.- Food Preparation Area 3.- Classrooms 4.- Game Room 5.- Arts and Crafts 6.- Exhibit Space 7.- Dance 8.- Music
July 31 st , 2009 Precinct 3	July 31 st , 2010 Precinct 2
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.-After School Tutoring Room 2.- Game Room 3.- Restrooms 4.- Arts and Crafts Room 5.- Daycare Room 6.- Meeting Room 7.- Food Preparation Area 8.- Aerobics 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.- Classrooms 2.- Aerobics 3.- Dance 4.- Storage 5.- Restrooms 6.- Quilting 7.- Offices 8.- Food Preparation Area

Trails Priorities

June 1 st , 2008 – County Wide	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. - Trails 2. - Trail restoration 3. - Trail side and Trail head facilities 4. - Signs and displays 5. - Restrooms 6. - Parking areas 7. - Drinking water (water fountains) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. - Bike racks 9. - Benches and picnic tables 10. - Fencing

Plan Implementation

The County of Hidalgo Park system will be accessible to all citizens and will involve several parks throughout the County. To begin, the County of Hidalgo will establish a land acquisition fund, and leverage these funds by partnering with entities such as Texas Parks and Wildlife, private foundations, non-profit organizations, and private donors.

During our planning process, the County was able to identify a prioritized list of projects based on a realistic development goal set by each precinct and to select which projects should be accomplished within the next five years.

What follows is a list of improvements the County of Hidalgo Precinct Commissioners wishes to make to their existing park system. Many improvements were identified that would improve the park system's overall efficiency. In the course of planning, it was determined that in addition to improvements needed at existing facilities, the County was in need of expanded park facilities. The current increase in overall residential and industrial development county wide has resulted in a desperate need for additional park and recreation facilities. The projected increases in development also contribute to the need for additional facilities.

The information obtained during the planning process shows a definite need for additional park facilities in the identified growth areas. At this time, specific properties in some of those areas have not been identified. However, need has been established, and as additional properties are identified, they will be added to the plan. Along with the continued maintenance of our existing parks, and the additional development of existing properties, the County has planned to pursue the development of these goals.

Five-year Prioritization Plan

The County of Hidalgo has formulated a pattern so that each precinct in the County is able to submit a grant. When a Precinct is scheduled to submit a grant application they have the option of re-submitting a previous grant application that was not approved.

2006

July 31 – Precinct Four J.R. “Milo” Ponce Community Park
(Outdoor Grant)

July 31 – Precinct Two North San Juan Indoor Recreational Facilities
(Indoor Grant)

2007

July 31 – Submit Precinct One Mercado Delta Community Park
(Outdoor Grant)

July 31 – Submit Precinct Four J.R. “Milo” Ponce Park Indoor Recreational Facilities
(Indoor Grant)

2008

July 31 – Submit Precinct Three La Joya Community Park
(Outdoor Grant)

July 31 – Submit Precinct One Delta Lake Indoor Recreational Facilities
(Indoor Grant)

June 1 – Submit County Wide Walking and Exercising Trails
(Recreational Trails Grant)

2009

July 31 – Submit Precinct Two Las Milpas Community Park
(Outdoor Grant)

July 31 – Submit Precinct Three La Joya Indoor Recreational Facilities
(Indoor Grant)

2010

July 31 – Submit Precinct Four
(Outdoor Grant)

July 31 – Submit Precinct Two Las Milpas Indoor Recreational Facilities
(Indoor Grant)

Jan. 31 - Submit County Wide Walking and exercising trails
(Outdoor Grant)

VIII. Recommendations

Provide More Facilities for Teenagers and Young Adults

Residents identified providing additional facilities for teens and young adults as the highest priority in the telephone survey, and second highest by the participants of the questionnaires.

- Residents placed a relatively low score on the importance of an additional skate park (only 10% rated it a very high priority), however it is noted that a skate park appeared as a priority item for both Residential Community Parks and Urban County Parks on the public questionnaire.
- Other facilities requested by the community include a sand or hard volleyball courts, and basketball courts.
- Perimeter trails, basketball hoops, and sand volleyball courts are amenities that can be added to existing parks to render them more multi-use.

Develop a Community Recreation Center and Develop Facilities for Performing Arts, Lectures and Conventions. A Community Recreation Center was identified as a very high priority by 27% of the telephone survey respondents, and a very high priority (66%) among those with youth at home. This facility could serve a multitude of intergenerational community functions, including providing a location for performing arts, lectures and conventions, which also ranked high in priority level among the survey participants. A recreation center with central community access and well-planned programs could go a long way in supporting the community goal of providing recreational opportunities for youth. The community center may be best received if it included outdoor facilities or was located near outdoor facilities, rendering it as multi-use as possible.

Renovate Existing Parks

Upgrades have and continue to occur to existing park and tot lot playgrounds to replace older equipment with modern equipment that is specifically constructed to comply with national safety standards.

- Thus, it is recommended that additional shade trees be planted near playgrounds, provided that locations are assessed for effectiveness.

COUNTY OF HIDALGO PRIORITIZATION - FIVE YEAR PLAN

Precinct	Project Description	Proposed Location	Target Year				
			2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Precinct One	Community Park Recreational Center	MERCADO DELTA PARK DELTA LAKE INDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES		July 31			
					July 31		
Precinct Two	Recreational Center Community Park Recreational Center	NORTH SAN JUAN INDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES LAS MILPAS COMMUNITY PARK LAS MILPAS INDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	July 31				
						July 31	
							July 31
Precinct Three	Community Park Recreational Center	LA JOYA COMMUNITY PARK LA JOYA INDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES			July 31		
						July 31	
Precinct Four	Community Park Recreational Center Community Park	J.R. "MILO" PONCE COMMUNITY PARK J.R. "MILO" PONCE PARK INDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES OPEN	July 31				
				July 31			
							July 31
County Wide Project	Walking and Exercising Trails	COUNTY WIDE			June 1		

Resources for financing projects:

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Funds
- County Parks Funds
- CDBG Funds
- Other Grants

Legend

Outdoor
Indoor
Trails