



Town of Little Elm

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan Update



January 2025



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Town of Little Elm Parks & Recreation Department, along with various staff and leaders, provided invaluable support to the Dunaway Team throughout the master plan process. A special thanks to the following individuals and organizations who participated:

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OUR PURPOSE

The Town of Little Elm Community Services Department is a unified team that includes the Parks, Recreation, Aquatics, Special Events, Little Elm Library, Animal Services, Facilities, Communications, and Tourism divisions.

Together, we are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors by developing parks and open spaces, maintaining Town amenities and facilities, and offering recreational and leisure activities for all ages. Our commitment also extends to ensuring the health and safety of animals, hosting unique special events, and promoting the visibility of Little Elm within the community.





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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Nestled along the scenic shoreline of Lewisville Lake, the Town of Little Elm is rapidly emerging as one of the fastest-growing communities in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Known as the “Town with a Lake Attitude,” Little Elm features over 66 miles of shoreline, offering residents and visitors a unique range of recreational opportunities amidst a beautiful natural backdrop. This exceptional setting and lakefront life appeal has played a key role in drawing new residents to Little Elm, and in driving the significant population growth they have experienced in recent years.

In 2016, with an approximate population of 34,000, the Parks & Recreation Department adopted a new Parks & Open Space Master Plan, prepared by Dunaway Associates, to serve as a guide for planning the future of parks and recreational services provided to residents. This plan has helped guide the stewardship of Town resources and has supported their leaders in creating popular destinations that fulfill action plan initiatives and set the park system apart from others. Since the plan’s adoption, the Town’s population has continued to grow, increasing by nearly 62% to approximately 55,000, with a sustained trend toward future growth. Recognizing the need for ongoing development, the Town once again commissioned Dunaway Associates in early 2024 to engage with community leaders and residents in preparing a comprehensive update to the Master Plan. This update aims to reflect the evolving needs of the community and ensure that Little Elm’s parks and recreation system remains responsive to current community needs and industry trends.

The Dunaway Team proposed a collaborative planning process that incorporates key input from Town staff, the Town Council, leadership groups, and residents to assess park system needs as the community continues its growth trajectory. This updated Master Plan will establish new priorities and action initiatives to guide Town leaders over the next 5 to 10 years as they create and maintain a leading, innovative park system in the DFW region.



Use of the Master Plan Update

This Master Plan provides recommendations for the implementation of identified facility priorities, park expansion & development, future land acquisition, and strategic trail network connections, in particular to surrounding communities.

The following pages represent the documentation of information gathered and actions recommended throughout the master plan process. Section 2 provides a detailed overview of the guiding methodology utilized by the planning team. Sections 3 & 4 include a complete Inventory of current park and recreational facilities in Little Elm, and an overview of the current population and demographic makeup of the Town. Section 5 exhibits comparisons to the Town's current park system to established park industry Standards that can serve as peer agency benchmarks for park facilities provided. Section 6 documents the input received and results derived from the Needs Assessment and community engagement step. Finally, in Sections 7, 8 & 9, recommended priorities and locations for park improvements are identified along with implementation guidelines and potential funding sources for a proposed ten year Action Plan.

This Master Plan update is intended to help the Town continue providing leading-edge recreation and leisure opportunities for its residents. It will serve as a guide for fiscal planning and roadmap for park development over the next five to ten years.



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METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

Throughout the master planning process, the Dunaway team collaborated with Town staff, Council and other leadership in a series of key input meetings for updates and gaining consensus for findings and recommendations as the plan progressed.

The plan was completed using a two-phase approach. Phase I Inventory & Needs Assessment focused on data collection and community engagement, and Phase II Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan included recommendations and guidelines for implementation. A detailed outline is as follows:

PHASE I: Inventory and Needs Assessment



Data Collection & Base Mapping

The team prepared a base map from the GIS data provided by the Town. The base map illustrated information such as existing park sites, schools, town facilities, drainage corridors, streets, etc.



Inventory & Facility Analysis

The team was provided a current inventory of the entire park system. Team members and town staff performed a tour of the existing town parks and recreational facilities available throughout the Town. Each site was documented for its existing conditions and amenities.



Population Analysis & Demographic Trends

The team obtained the latest updates of demographic and population data from U.S. Census Bureau and from Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). This included factors of population, race, housing, employment, income, and future growth.



Standards Analysis

The team utilized some of the published recommendations by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), as well as local DFW guidelines, for evaluating standards for both park acreages and facilities.



Demands Analysis & Needs Assessment

With National Service Research leading this effort, a series of steps were utilized to determine the park and recreation needs of the community. This included focus groups, public open houses, and then an online survey through the Town's website. From the feedback, the team was able to quantify the specific needs or desires of the residents.

PHASE II: Master Planning

Priority Rankings



The team developed a priority criteria system for ranking high, moderate, and lower priority needs. From these criteria, a weighted priority ranking was established based upon input from the Resident Survey, Town Council, Town Staff, CDC, and the Dunaway team.

Action Plan



The team prepared specific recommendations in an Action Plan that outlines renovations and new development of parks and recreational facilities to meet current and future needs within the community.

Implementation Plan



An Implementation Plan was developed for potential projects within the Action Plan. This included funding recommendations that could be utilized over the next 10 years.

Preliminary Master Plan



The team prepared the Preliminary Park Master Plan document outlining the entire process, findings, and recommendations. This included preparing exhibits/maps for the items recommended with the Action Plan.

Final Master Plan



The team prepared the Final Master Plan document. This task included final presentations to the CDC and Town Council.



3

PARKS



INVENTORY

PARKS INVENTORY

Utilizing information provided by Town staff, a complete inventory of existing parks, recreation facilities and open space was compiled. From this inventory, the Dunaway team toured and photographed each site in Little Elm. Acreage and amenity inventories for each of the Town-owned parks were provided. The following pages provide a summary inventory of the existing park & recreational facilities within the Town including location, size and list of amenities per park.

Additional amenities are provided to town residents through partnerships with the Little Elm Independent School District, private amenity centers, and HOA parks that are open to the public. A brief inventory of these facilities is listed on pages 40-41. A map summarizing facilities described above is documented on page 39.



By The Numbers



603+ Park Acres



49+ Trail Miles



2 Dog Park



9 Ballfields



1 Recreation Center



1 Senior Center



2 Performance Stages



1 Water Park



1 Swim Beach



1 Splashpad



1 Boat Ramp

Little Elm Park



Location: 701 W. Eldorado Parkway

Acres: 164.38

Classification: Metropolitan Park

Amenities:

- Amphitheater
- Benches
- Boat Ramp
- Courtesy Dock
- Concession
- Grills
- Horseshoe Pits
- Shower Area
- Pavilion
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Restroom
- Sand Volleyball
- Soccer Fields
- Softball Fields
- Swimming Beach
- Tent Camping
- Trails



Cottonwood Park*



Location: 900 Lobo Lane

Acres: 162.99

Classification: Community Park

Amenities:

- Baseball Fields
- Benches
- Concession
- Drinking Fountain
- Fuel Station
- Marina
- Pavilions
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Restroom
- Trails

* A new master plan for Cottonwood Park was adopted by Town Council in 2019. Completion of Phase 1 Improvements is expected in 2025. See Appendix for master plan graphic.



McCord Park



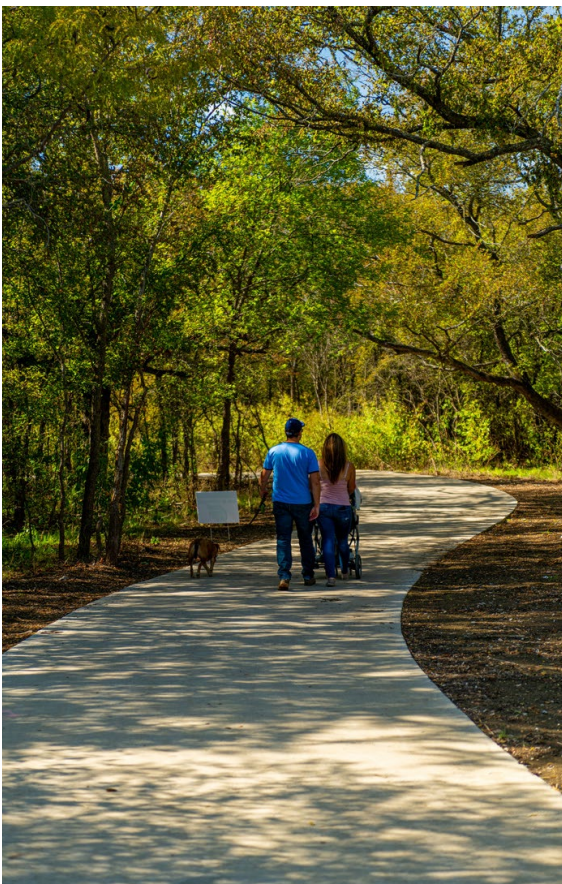
Location: 1800 FM 423

Acres: 63.73

Classification: Community Park

Amenities:

- Disc Golf Course
- Dog Park
- Fishing Dock
- Hiking Trail
- Picnic Area
- Playgrounds
- Splash Pad
- Restroom
- Trails



Union Park



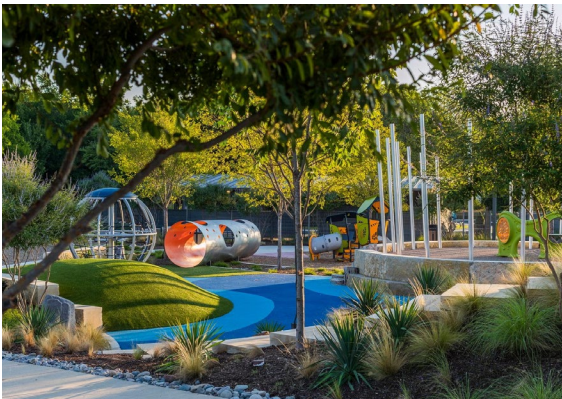
Location: 4795 Union Park Blvd E

Acres: 17.67

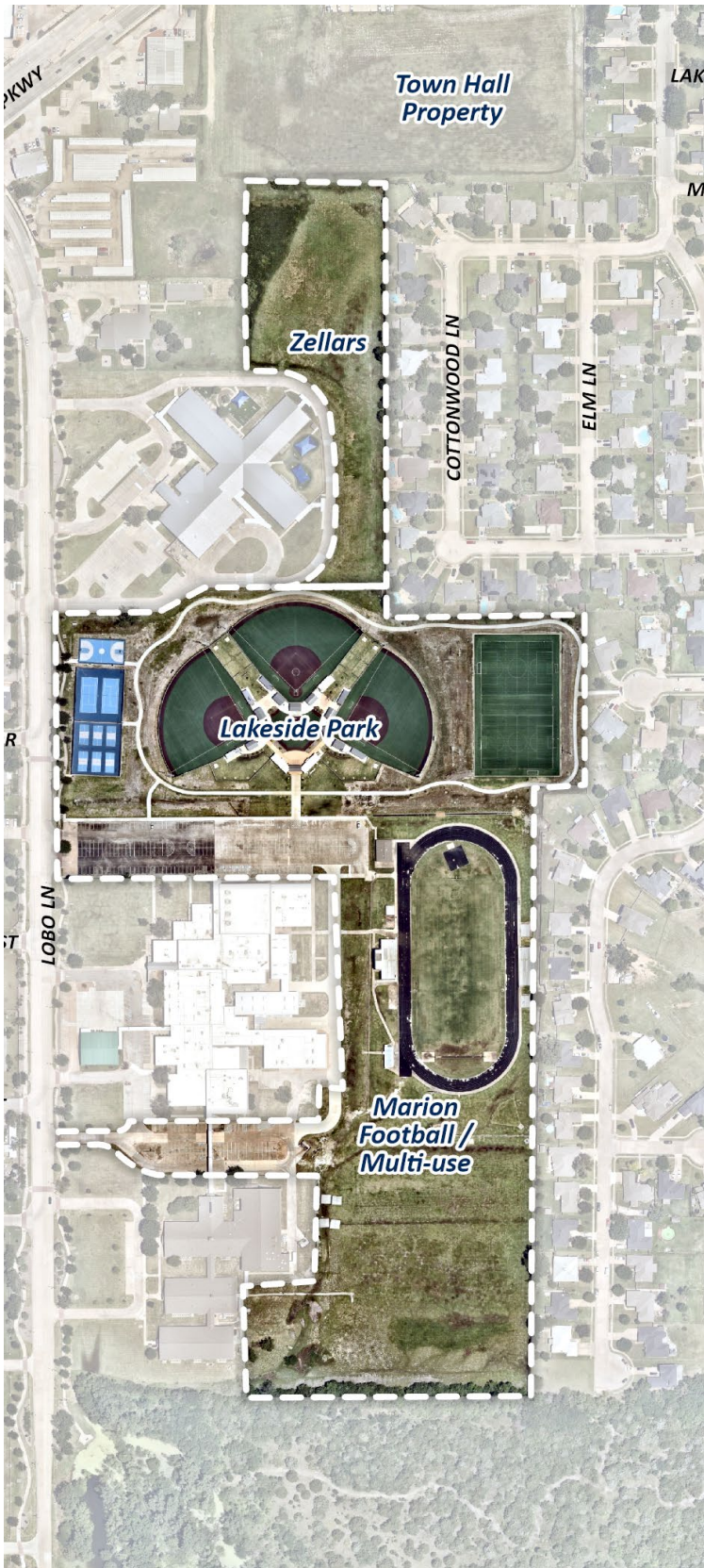
Classification: Community Park

Amenities:

- Fishing Dock
- Pavilion
- Playground
- Pond
- Restroom
- Trails



Lakeside Property*



Location: 108 Lobo Ln

Acres: 34.95

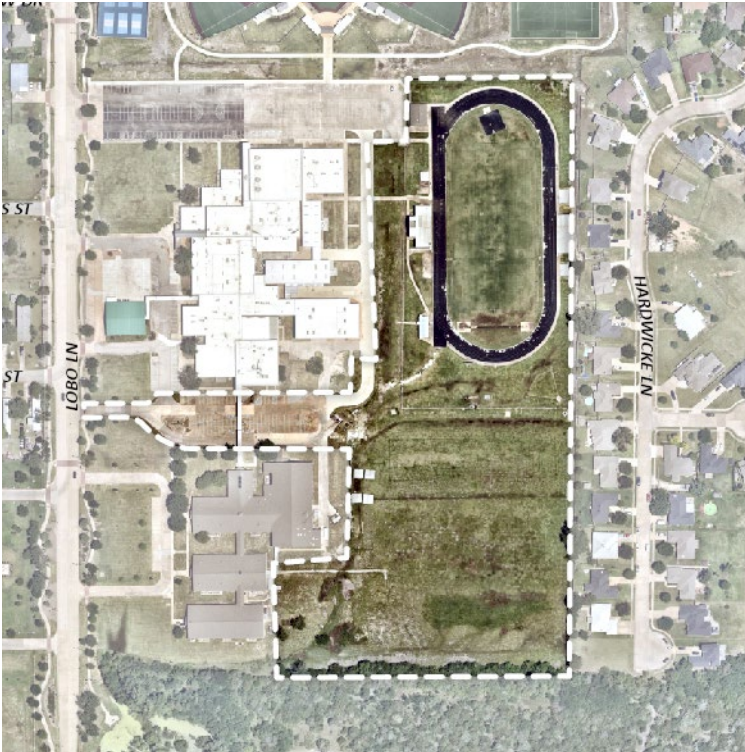
Classification: Community Park/
Undeveloped

Properties:

- Marion Football / Multi-Use
Open Space
- Lakeside Park
- Zellars North Property

* These properties are owned by the Little Elm Independent School District and are currently under lease agreement with the Town. The following pages list individual amenities included in each property.

Marion Football / Multi-Use



Location: 108 Lobo Ln

Acres: 15.65

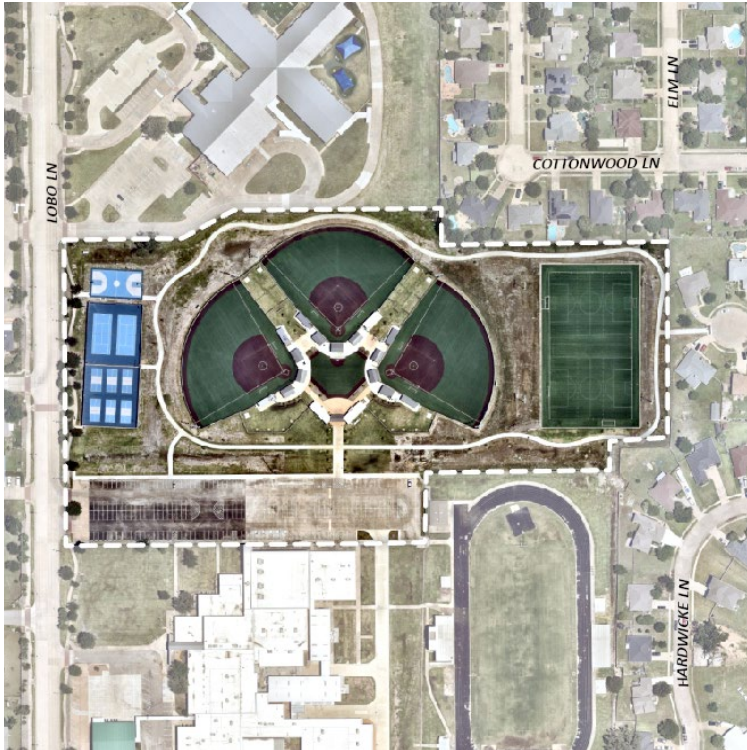
Classification: Community Park

Amenities:

- Multi-Use Fields
 - Football Field*
 - Soccer Field*
- Track
- Open Space



Lakeside Park



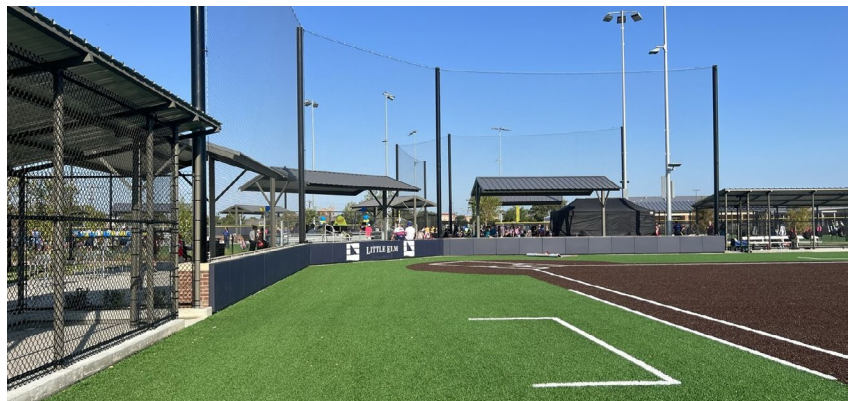
Location: 108 Lobo Ln

Acres: 14.82

Classification: Community Park

Amenities:

- Basketball Court
- Benches
- Concession
- Loop Trail
- Pickleball Courts
- Restroom
- Multi-Use Field
 - Football Field*
 - Soccer Field*
- Softball Fields
- Tennis Courts



Zellars North Property



Location: Lobo Ln

Acres: 4.48

Classification: Undeveloped

Amenities:

- Open Space



Beard Park



Location: 310 E. Eldorado Parkway

Acres: 17.66

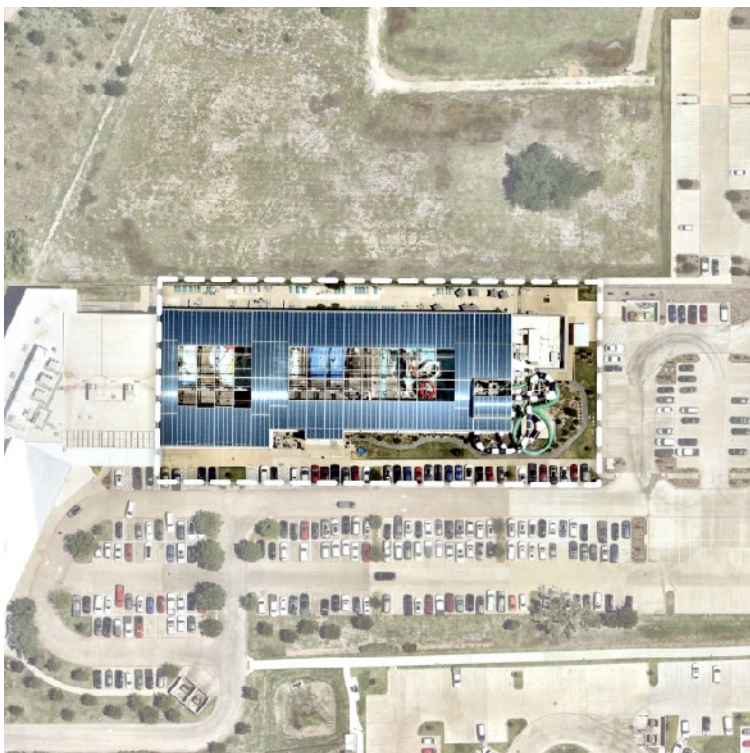
Classification: Community Park

Amenities:

- Benches
- Drinking Fountains
- Wakepark
- Nature Area
- Pavilion
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Parking
- Restaurant
- Restroom
- Trails



The Cove at The Lakefront™

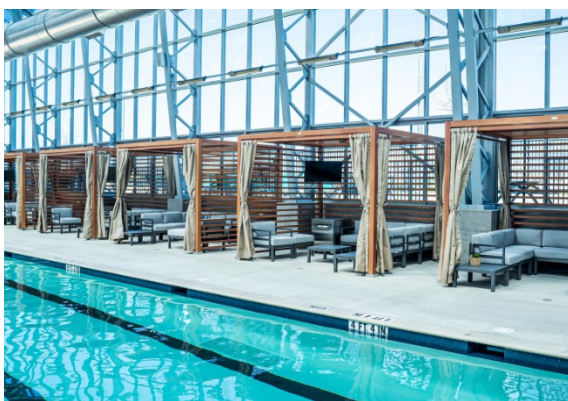


Location: 417 Lakefront Dr

Classification: Special Use

Amenities:

- Indoor / Outdoor Water Park
- FlowRider Double Surf Machine
- Play Pool
- Lazy River
- Rock Ledge
- Lap Pool
- Cabanas
- Party Rooms
- Video Wall
- Spray Ground
- Climbing Wall
- Concessions



The Rec at The Lakefront™



Location: 303 Main St

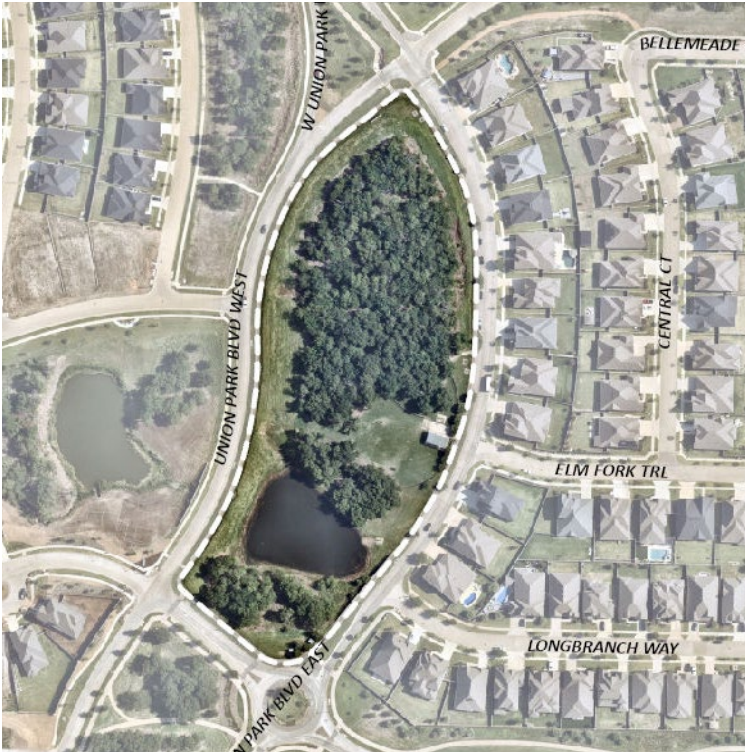
Classification: Special Use

Amenities:

- Multi-Use Courts
- Fitness Area
- Kid Zone
- Game Room
- Locker Rooms w/ Showers
- Classrooms
- Commercial Kitchen
- Group Exercise Rooms



Union Park Dog Park



Location: 7000 Union Park Blvd

Acres: 6.93

Classification: Special Use

Amenities:

- Dog Park
- Pond
- Trails



The Lawn at The Lakefront™



Location: 125 Main St.

Acres: 2.05

Classification: Special Use

Amenities:

- Amphitheater/Stage
- Benches
- Drinking Fountains
- Outdoor Ping Pong
- Pet Waste Station
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Restroom
- Video Board



Honor Park



Location: 102 Eldorado Parkway

Acres: 0.53

Classification: Special Use

Amenities:

- Benches
- Memorial Sculpture
- Shade Structures



Doe Branch Park*



Location: Gammon Rd

Acres: 180.63

Classification: NA

Amenities:

- Boat Ramp
- Natural Trails

* This property is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and is not currently under lease agreement with the Town.



Sunset Pointe Properties



Location: Waterside Ln / Walter Dr

Acres: 112.15 (Town Property)

Classification: Undeveloped

Amenities:

- Open Space



Town Hall Property



Location: 100 W. Eldorado Parkway

Acres: 5.12

Classification: Undeveloped

Amenities:

- Adjacent Town Offices
- Adjacent Public Library
- Adjacent Parking
- Open Space



Hansel Property



Location: University Dr / Doe Creek Rd

Acres: 13.8

Classification: Undeveloped

Amenities:

- Open Space

* This property is not currently owned by the Town of Little Elm.



Community Center



Location: 107 Hardwicke Ln

Amenities:

- Indoor Community Center
- Limited Parking

The Brenda Button Mills Senior Center



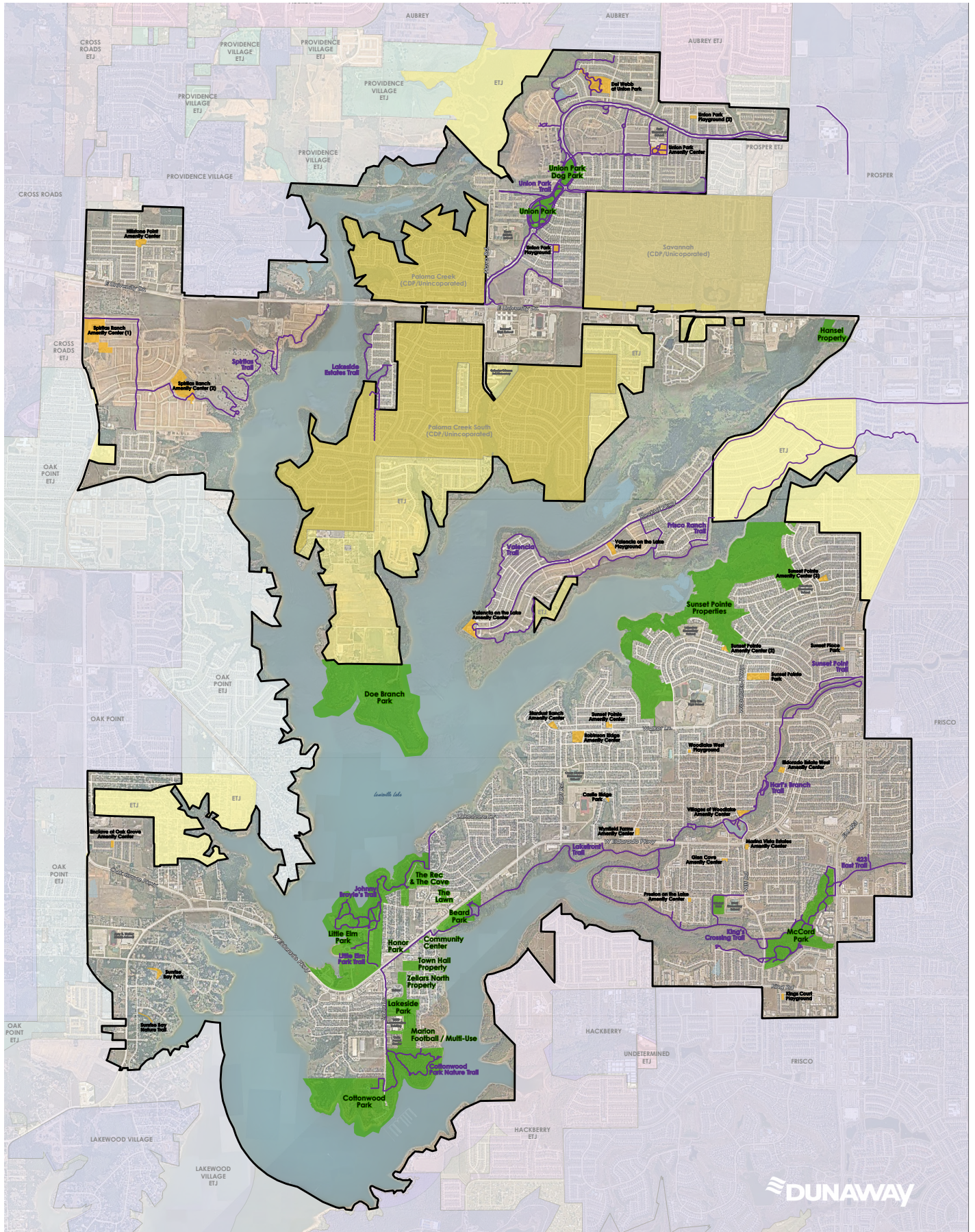
Location: 301 Main St

Amenities:








- Indoor Multi-use Rooms



Existing Parks & Facilities



Legend

-  Park
-  HOA Facility
-  Existing Trails
-  Little Elm ETJ
-  CDP
-  Other Communities
-  Denton County ETJ's

Community Parks

Beard Park
Cottonwood Park
Lakeside Park
Marion Football / Multi-Use
McCord Park
Union Park

Metropolitan Parks

Little Elm Park

Special Use Parks

Honor Park
The Lawn at The Lakefront™
The Rec™
The Cove™
Union Park Dog Park

Undeveloped Properties / Unclassified

Doe Branch Park
Hansel Property
Sunset Pointe Properties
Town Hall Property
Zellars North Property

Trails

Cottonwood Nature Trail 1.34 Miles
FM 423 East Trail 0.57 Miles
Frisco Ranch Trail 3.47 Miles
Harts Branch Trail 2.30 Miles
Johnny Broyles Nature Trail 2.13 Miles
King's Crossing 0.48 Miles
Lakefront Trail 4.99 Miles
Lakeside Estates Trail 1.02 Miles
Little Elm Park Trail 0.64 Miles
Spiritas Trail 1.52 Miles
Sunset Pointe Trail 1.65 Miles
Union Park 15.96 Miles
Valencia 6.30 Miles

INVENTORY

PUBLIC PARKS	ADDRESS	CLASSIFICATION	ACRES
BEARD PARK	310 Eldorado Pkwy	Community	17.66
COTTONWOOD PARK	900 Lobo Ln	Community	162.99
DOE BRANCH PARK*	Gammon Rd	NA	180.63
HONOR PARK	102 Eldorado Pkwy	Special Use	0.53
THE LAWN AT THE LAKEFRONT™	125 Main St	Special Use	2.05
LITTLE ELM PARK	701 W Eldorado Pkwy	Metropolitan	164.38
THE REC™	303 Main St	Special Use	15.34
MCCORD PARK	1800 FM 423	Community	63.73
UNION PARK	4795 Union Park Blvd E	Community	17.67
UNION PARK DOG PARK	7000 Union Park Blvd	Special Use	6.93
LAKESIDE PROPERTY			
ZELLARS NORTH PROPERTY	Lobo Ln	Undeveloped	4.48
LAKESIDE PARK	108 Lobo Ln	Community	14.82
MARION FOOTBALL / MULTI-USE	108 Lobo Ln	Community	15.65
SUNSET POINTE PROPERTIES	Walker Ln / Waterside Dr	Undeveloped	112.15
TOWN HALL PROPERTY	100 W Eldorado Pkwy	Undeveloped	5.12
HANSEL PROPERTY**	University Dr / Doe Creek Rd	Undeveloped	13.8
		TOTAL	603.50

* This property is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and is not currently under lease agreement with the Town.

** This property is not currently owned by the Town of Little Elm.

AMPHITHEATER	BASEBALL FIELDS	BASKETBALL COURTS	BENCHES	BOAT RAMP	CONCESSION	DISC GOLF COURSE	DOG PARK	FISHING DOCK	HORSESHOE PITS	MEMORIAL	MULTI-USE FIELDS	OUTDOOR SHOWER AREA	PAVILION	PICKLEBALL COURTS	PICNIC TABLES	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOM	SAND VOLLEYBALL	SOCCER FIELDS	SOFTBALL FIELDS	SPLASHPAD	SWIM BEACH	TENNIS COURTS	TRACK
			12										1		8	2	1							
	4		2		1										6	1	1							
				1																				
			8							1														
1			10												23	1	1							
1			9	1	2				4			2	5		16	1	4	12	10	2		1		
			12			1	1	1					8		7	2	1				1			
								1					1			1	1							
							1																	
		1	2		1						1			6			1			3			2	
											1						1							1
2	4	1	55	2	4	1	2	2	4	1	2	2	15	6	60	8	11	12	10	5	1	1	2	1

PRIVATE PARKS	ACRES	ADDRESS
CASTLE RIDGE PARK	0.24	1412 MISTY WAY
DEL WEBB AT UNION PARK	11.15	7600 DEL WEBB BLVD
ELDORADO ESTATE WEST AMENITY CENTER	0.81	2504 STILL SPRINGS DR
ENCLAVE AT OAK GROVE AMENITY CENTER	0.57	WILLOW GARDEN DR & WYATT WAY
GLEN COVE AMENITY CENTER	0.42	2038 LAKE FORK LN
HILLSTONE POINT AMENITY CENTER	1.85	EVENING STONE DR & HIDDENITE RD
KINGS COURT PLAYGROUND	0.42	KIT KING DR & PETERS COLONY DR
MARINA VISTA ESTATES AMENITY CENTER	0.54	TISBURY WAY & HAMPTON DR
PRESTON ON THE LAKE AMENITY CENTER	0.36	1800 PRESTON ON THE LAKE BLVD
ROBINSON RIDGE AMENITY CENTER	3.56	1600 CORAL WAY
SPIRITAS RANCH AMENITY CENTER (1) (FUTURE)	14.75	FM 720
SPIRITAS RANCH AMENITY CENTER (2) (FUTURE)	11.84	SOLEBAY CT
STARDUST RANCH AMENITY CENTER	0.79	STARDUST TRL & STALLION DR
SUNRISE BAY NATURE TRAIL	0.62	SHORELINE DR
SUNRISE BAY PARK	1.79	SUNRISE CT
SUNSET PLACE PARK	0.32	2927 STUNNING DR
SUNSET POINTE AMENITY CENTER (1)	0.85	BAHIA RIO DR & SUN BREEZE DR
SUNSET POINTE AMENITY CENTER (2)	0.71	3076 SEABROOK DR
SUNSET POINTE AMENITY CENTER (3)	1.23	2601 LEISURE LN
SUNSET POINTE PARK	4.36	MORNING DEW DR & DEW DROP DR
UNION PARK AMENITY CENTER	4.35	LONG MEADOW DR & WILLOW THORNE DR
UNION PARK PLAYGROUND (1)	1.22	736 BOARDWALK WAY
UNION PARK PLAYGROUND (2)	0.57	WINDY MEADOW DR & TRAILWOOD
VALENCIA ON THE LAKE AMENITY CENTER	4.05	ROCKHILL PKWY
VALENCIA ON THE LAKE PLAYGROUND	1.82	COTANDA RD & ROCKHILL PKWY
VILLAGES OF WOODLAKE AMENITY CENTER	1.50	WOODLAKE PKWY & WILLOW DR
WOODLAKE WEST PLAYGROUND	0.24	BRADFORD PEAR DR & BRADFORD PEAR SQ
WYNFIELD FARMS AMENITY CENTER	0.87	1556 CHIVALRY LN
TOTAL	71.8	

SCHOOL PROPERTY	ADDRESS	PARTNERSHIP
JERRY R WALKER MIDDLE SCHOOL	633 FRENCH SETTLEMENT RD	
LEISD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	400 LOBO LN	
CESAR CHAVEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	2600 HART RD	
LITTLE ELM HIGH SCHOOL	1900 WALKER LN	
OAK POINT ELEMENTARY	401 SHAHAN PRAIRIE RD	
DENNIS H. BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	500 WITT RD	
LAKEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1800 WATERSIDE DR	
ROBERTSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	2501 WOODLAKE PKWY	
PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	7301 FIELDWOOD WY	
NAVO MIDDLE SCHOOL	1701 NAVO RD	
BRASWELL HIGH SCHOOL	26750 E UNIVERSITY DR	
CATHERINE COLEMAN BELL ELEMENTARY	601 VILLA PALOMA BLVD	



4

POPULATION



& DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS

Overview

Understanding the population of a community can be useful to park system planning in a variety of ways including physically and financially. The design and provision of public facilities is influenced in part by the consumption patterns of residents. Therefore, the location, size, and amenities of parks should be determined by the density and distribution of the population that will utilize these services.

According to data provided by the Town Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and other public information sources including the United States Census Bureau and the North Central Texas Council of Governments, growth over the past seven years in Little Elm has followed a similar Compound Aggregate Growth Rate (CAGR) to the growth predicted (5.29%). Therefore, a future ten-year rate of 5.0% CAGR seems to be a likely scenario. With this growth rate, Little Elm's population is projected to be around 90,000 in the next ten years with a total build-out population estimated to reach just over 107,000.

To assist in forecasting future park and recreation needs throughout Little Elm, this section provides information on specific characteristics of this population over the past five to ten years.



Growth Rate Scenarios

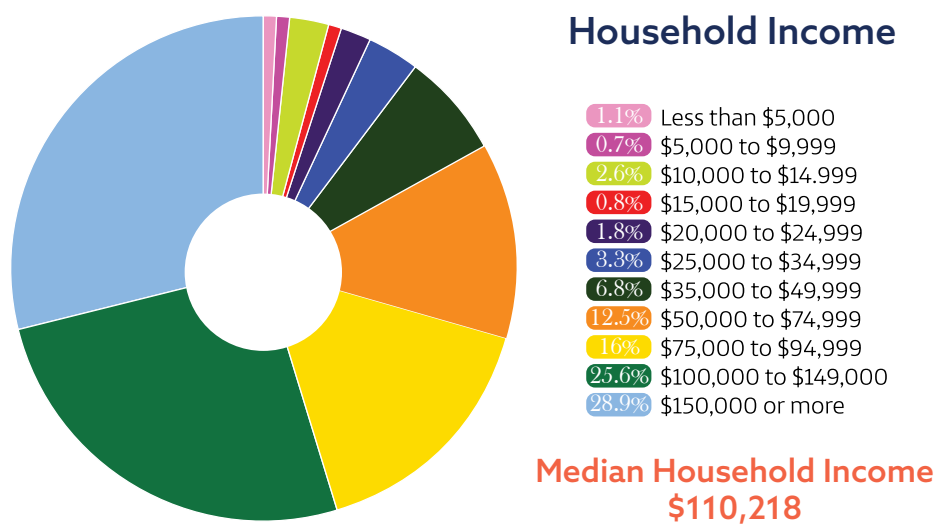
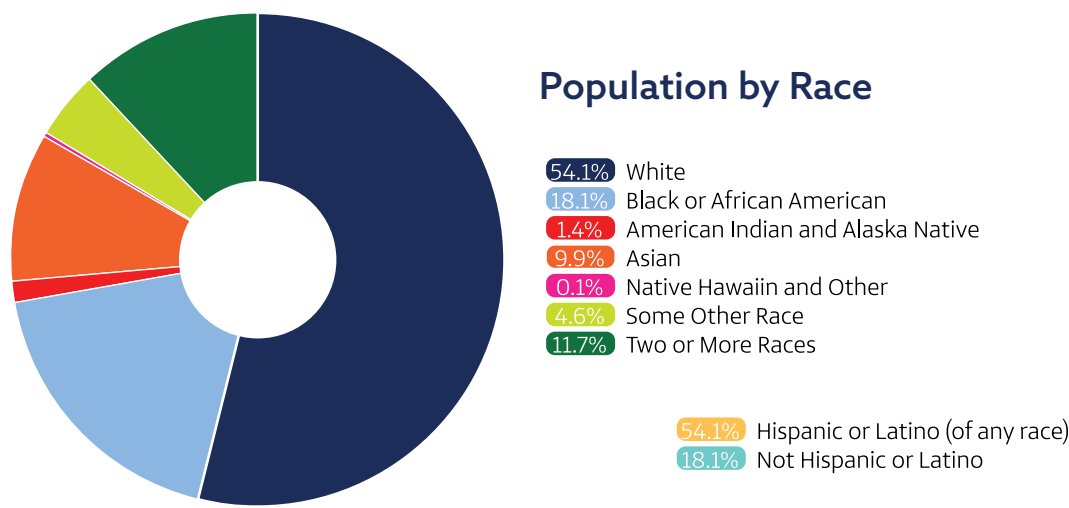
1.5%		2.5%		5.0%		10.0%	
YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION
2025	56,524	2025	57,644	2025	57,644	2025	66,388
2026	57,372	2026	59,085	2026	63,514	2026	73,027
2027	58,233	2027	60,562	2027	66,690	2027	80,329
2028	59,106	2028	62,076	2028	70,024	2028	88,362
2029	59,993	2029	63,628	2029	73,526	2029	97,198
2030	60,803	2030	65,218	2030	77,202	2030	BUILDOUT
2031	61,806	2031	66,849	2031	81,062		
2032	62,733	2032	68,520	2032	85,115		
2033	63,674	2033	70,233	2033	89,371		

Past Growth Rate

YEAR	POPULATION	POPULATION CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
1980	926		
1990	1,255	329	35%
2000	3,646	2,391	190.5%
2010	22,200	18,554	508.5%
2020	46,453	24,253	109.2%
2024	57,882	11,429	240.6%

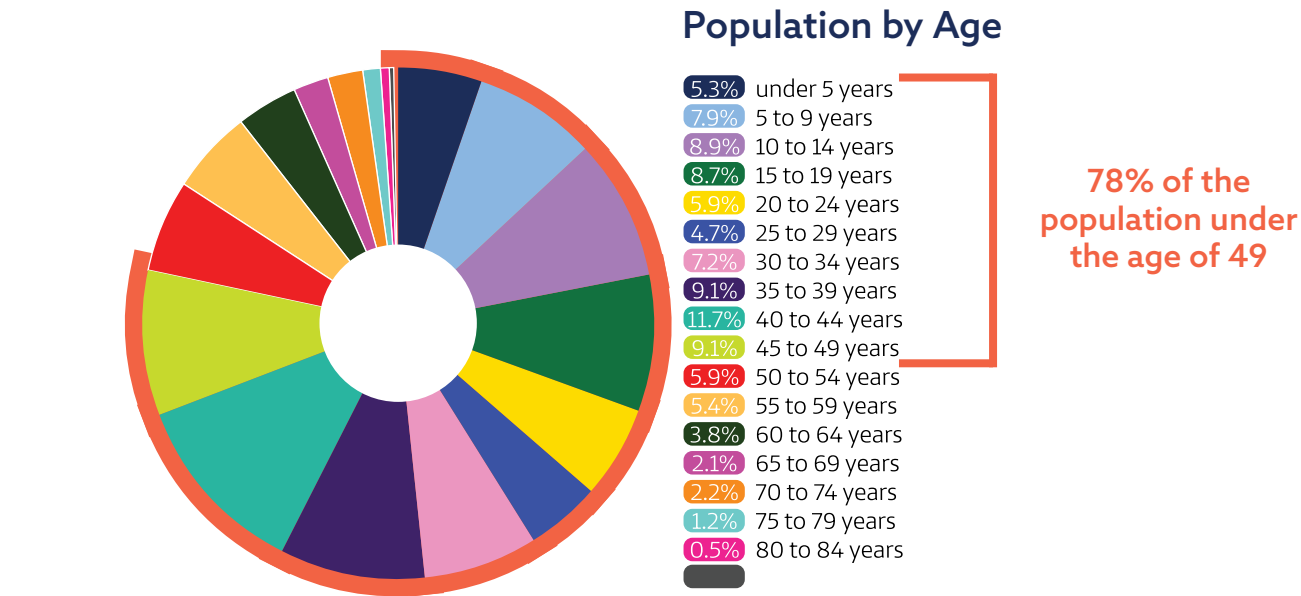
Diversity

With its sharp increase in population the Town of Little Elm has also experienced a shift in demographics in recent years. To serve this community, the Town’s park and recreation opportunities need to offer a wide range of activities, from sports to cultural events, that cater to all user groups. The following graphics represent the current population characteristics of Little Elm and were compiled using US Census data in conjunction with the Town of Little Elm Economic Development Coporation.



The analysis of current demographic data in comparison to the 2016 Master Plan indicates that the Town, even with its rapid population increase, is still a relatively young community. Approximately 78% of residents are under the age of 49, as illustrated in the figure below.

This trend is significant for Town staff as they consider park programming needs as younger individuals and families often require specific community resources. The demand for playgrounds, youth sport facilities, splashpads, fitness classes and trails is typically expected to be higher in these demographics. In Little Elm, however, the emphasis on active living among all levels of demographics highlights the necessity for a wide range of facilities that support active lifestyles and special community events.



Vehicle Availability

	Count	%
No Vehicles Available	530	3.2%
1 Vehicle Available	4,676	27.9%
2 Vehicle Available	7,999	47.7%
3 Vehicle Available	3,547	21.2%

Education Attainment

Population 25 Years and Older	%
High School or equivalent degree	21.5%
Some College, No Degree	20.7%
Associates Degree	10.7%
Bachelor's Degree	24.0%
Graduate or Professional Degree	14.7%

Further detail of current the population shows that over 70% of Little Elm residents 25 years old and over have completed some college, and nearly 40% of residents have completed a Bachelor's or Advanced Degree. Vehicular accessibility may be of note since there are parts of Town, especially residents in the northern sector of Town, that may be slightly further than a 10 minute walk from a park (see page 58).



5



STANDARDS

STANDARDS

As the team evaluated the current park system in Little Elm, it was important to understand the range of parks, facilities, and open space areas utilized for recreation. A key part of this evaluation was comparing the needs of the present population, as well as considering future growth expected. This Master Plan Update includes traditional national standards established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) for facility development as applicable to rapidly growing communities like Little Elm. These standards have traditionally been key in NRPA's support of the park & recreation industry by serving as:

- *A national expression of minimum acceptable facilities for the citizens of urban and rural communities*
- *A guideline to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation areas and facilities*
- *A basis for relating recreation needs to spatial analysis within a community wide system of parks and open spaces*
- *A means to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land use pattern of a region or community*

The purpose of these standards is to present guidelines for park and recreation space that are applicable for the planning, acquisition, and in the development of park systems. These traditional standards serve as a reference and may include variations to reflect the unique social and geographical conditions of a community.

In recent years, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has enhanced its offerings by providing a specific database of Park Metrics, which serves as a comprehensive source of peer agency review data. This information helps park professionals across the United States benchmark their park systems for a diversity of offerings. A selected excerpt from NRPA's Annual Agency Performance Review is included on page 60. While the Town of Little Elm takes pride in not only meeting standard expectations for its park system but also in striving to exceed and innovate beyond these minimums, these metrics provide a valuable comparison for establishing a diversity of offerings for Little Elm's residents and visitors.

This section summarizes a comparison of Little Elm's park system to national metrics in terms of acreage per population, recreational facilities per population, and other equity standards. These standards should be used in conjunction with the expertise of park planners when evaluating the community to which they are applied.

Park Classification System

The following traditional park classifications were identified by the planning team in describing Little Elm's park system. Each classification includes a standard for park type, size, area of service, and number of acres per 1,000 population. These each help inform a summary Service Area Map as shown on page xx.

Size:

1 - 15 Acres

Service Area:

1/4 to 1/2 Mile Radius

**Acres per
1,000 Population:**

1.0 - 2.0

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks serve a variety of age groups within a limited area or "neighborhood". They range in size from 1-15 acres and generally serve residents within a 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius. The neighborhood park is an area for active recreation such as field games, court games, playgrounds, picnicking, etc. Facilities are generally unlighted and there is limited parking, if any, on site. NRPA standards for these parks are 1 to 2 acres per 1,000 population.

Size:

16 - 99 Acres

Service Area:

2 Miles Radius

**Acres per
1,000 Population:**

5.0 - 8.0

Community Park

Community parks are larger than neighborhood parks and serve several neighborhoods. They range in size from 16-99 acres and serve the entire town. The community park may be a natural area or developed area for a variety of outdoor recreation such as ballfields, playgrounds, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, and trail systems. NRPA standards for these parks are 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 population.

Size:

100 - 499 Acres

Service Area:

Several Communities
Within 1 Hour Driving

**Acres per
1,000 Population:**

Variable

Metropolitan Park

Metropolitan parks are large park facilities that serve the entire town and several communities. These parks range in size from 100-499 acres and can be a developed or natural area. Amenities may include ballfields, playgrounds, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, and trail systems. NRPA standards for these parks are 5 to 10 acres per 1,000 population.

Size:

Varies

Service Area:

Not Applicable

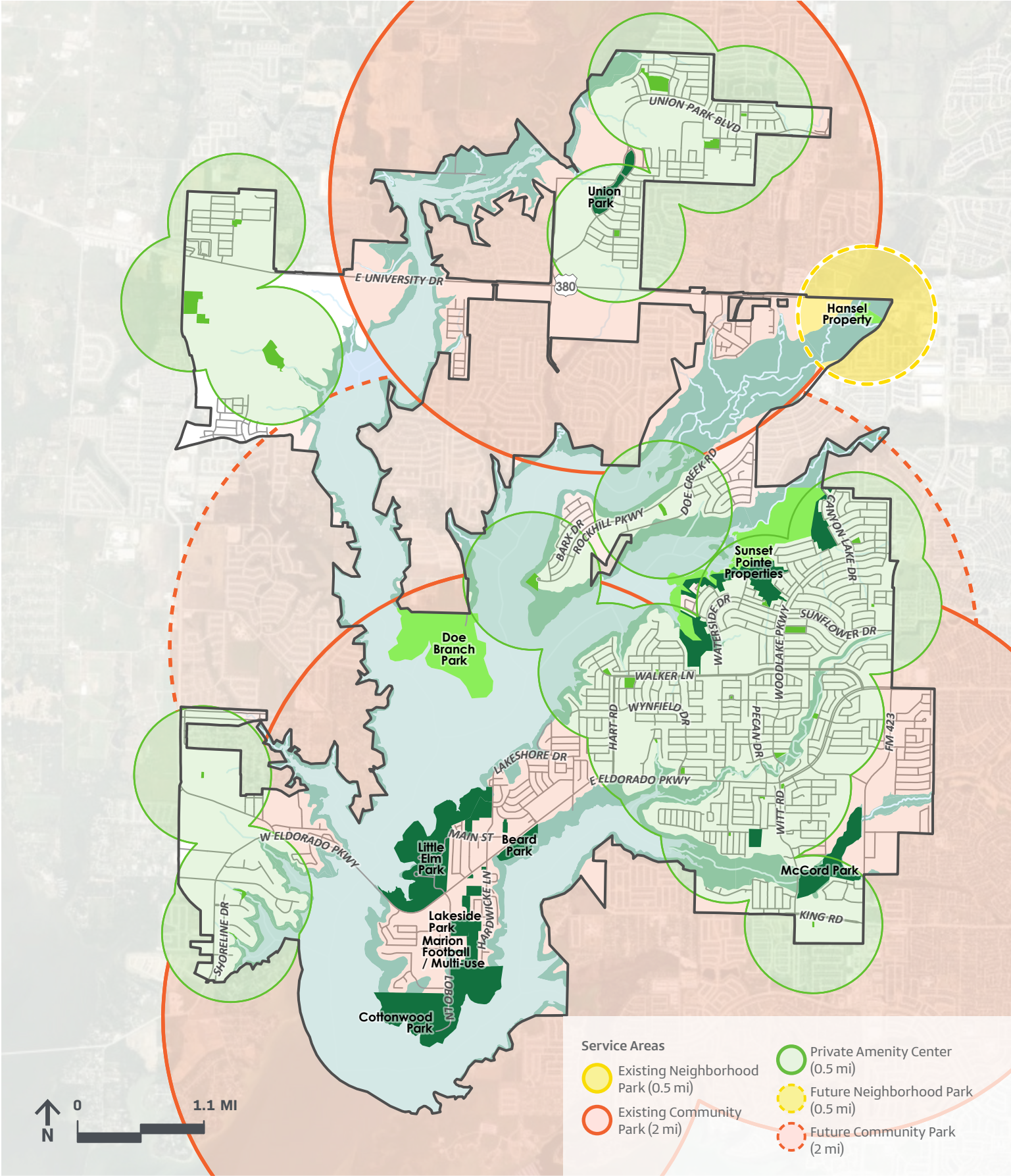
**Acres per
1,000 Population:**

Variable

Special Use Areas

Special use areas and parks are for specialized or single purpose recreation activities. NRPA defines these areas such as historical areas, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboretums, arenas, amphitheaters, plazas or community squares. There are no specific standards for size or acreage since each community will vary.

Park Service Areas



NRPA Park Acreage Guidelines Compared to Current Population

Classification	Existing Acreage	NRPA Guidelines for 2024 Population of 57,882	Difference Between NRPA Guidelines and Existing Little Elm Parks
		Range	Range
Neighborhood Park	0	57.882 - 115.764	(57.882) - (115.764)
Community Park	274.86	289.41 - 463.056	149.83 - (23.816)
Metropolitan Parks	164.38	289.41 - 578.82	(125) - (414.44)
Special Use Park	24.85	n/a	n/a
Undeveloped	121.75	n/a	n/a
Total:	603.5		

For the current population of 57,882 in Little Elm, the total park acreage provided is below standard guidelines. The neighborhood park acreage deficit is supplemented by acreage provided by private HOAs/providers. See next page for further detail.

NRPA Park Acreage Guidelines Compared to Future Population (Build-Out)

Classification	Existing Acreage	NRPA Guidelines for Future Population of 107,286	Difference Between NRPA Guidelines and Existing Little Elm Parks
		Range	Range
Neighborhood Park	0	107.286 - 214.572	(107.286) - (214.572)
Community Park	274.86	536.43 - 858.29	(97.189) - (419.048)
Metropolitan Parks	164.38	536.43 - 1,072.86	(372.05) - (908.48)
Special Use Park	24.85	n/a	n/a
Undeveloped	121.75	n/a	n/a
Total:	603.5		

For the projected build-out population of 107,286 in Little Elm, the Town would overall be in a deficit and should plan on acquiring park land to meet the Town's needs. The deficit seen in neighborhood parks will continue to be assisted in future developments and their private park.

- 100-Yr Flood Zone
- Town Park
- Non-Town Owned Park
- Private Amenity Center

Park Land Considerations

With nearly 500 acres of developed park land, a strong history in developing strategic joint-use agreements with the Little Elm Independent School District (LEISD), entering into lease agreements with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and in creating successful public-private partnerships that support revenue-generating resources, the Town of Little Elm has taken great strides in leveraging its current park system for maximum recreational & leisure use for its rapidly growing community.

For the current population in Little Elm, the Town is meeting the general standards for park provision. The deficit observed in neighborhood parks is offset by the availability of HOA and private parks throughout the community. For the projected build-out population of 107,286 in Little Elm, deficit in neighborhood parks will continue to be supplemented by the availability of HOA and private parks. However, the Town may anticipate an overall deficit in parkland acreage and will need to plan for acquiring additional property through acquisition or strategic partnerships to meet the community's needs.

The following pages provide a detailed comparison of standard guidelines and as applied to the current Town of Little Elm population and its projected build out population.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

There are currently no parks provided by the Town that would be classified as a Neighborhood Park. However, this deficit is supplemented by numerous HOA parks and private facilities which contribute nearly 72 acres to the Town's overall park acreage. This positions Little Elm's level of service in the neighborhood park classification to the upper range recommended for a community of its size, effectively bridging any service gap. As Little Elm continues to grow with new single-family developments, this trend is expected to continue meeting neighborhood park guidelines.

COMMUNITY PARKS

The Town currently has over 292 acres of Community Parks, which makes it a 137% increase in park acreage since the previous master plan. This park type makes up the most acreage and number of parks in the Town. These parks include Beard Park, Cottonwood Park, Lakeside Park, Marion Soccer Fields, McCord Park, Union Park, and Dog Park. The recent turnover of Union Park and the Union Park Dog Park to the Town helps round out the Level of Service in community parks for residents in the northern sector of Town. As this area of Town continues to expand, additional Community Park land should be considered for development. Potential partnerships with the US Army Corps of Engineers on Doe Branch Park and with Little Elm ISD near the high school are centralized properties that may meet this need.

METROPOLITAN PARK

Little Elm Park, the Town's only Metropolitan Park, spans nearly 165 acres in the heart of the community. With its scenic lake setting, the park features ballfields, playgrounds, an amphitheater, a boat ramp, a swimming beach, competition sand volleyball, picnicking areas, camping, and trails. This diverse range of amenities makes it a popular destination for residents and nearby communities. Although there is no established standard for Level of Service in this park classification, Little Elm Park effectively meets the community's needs.

SPECIAL USE PARKS

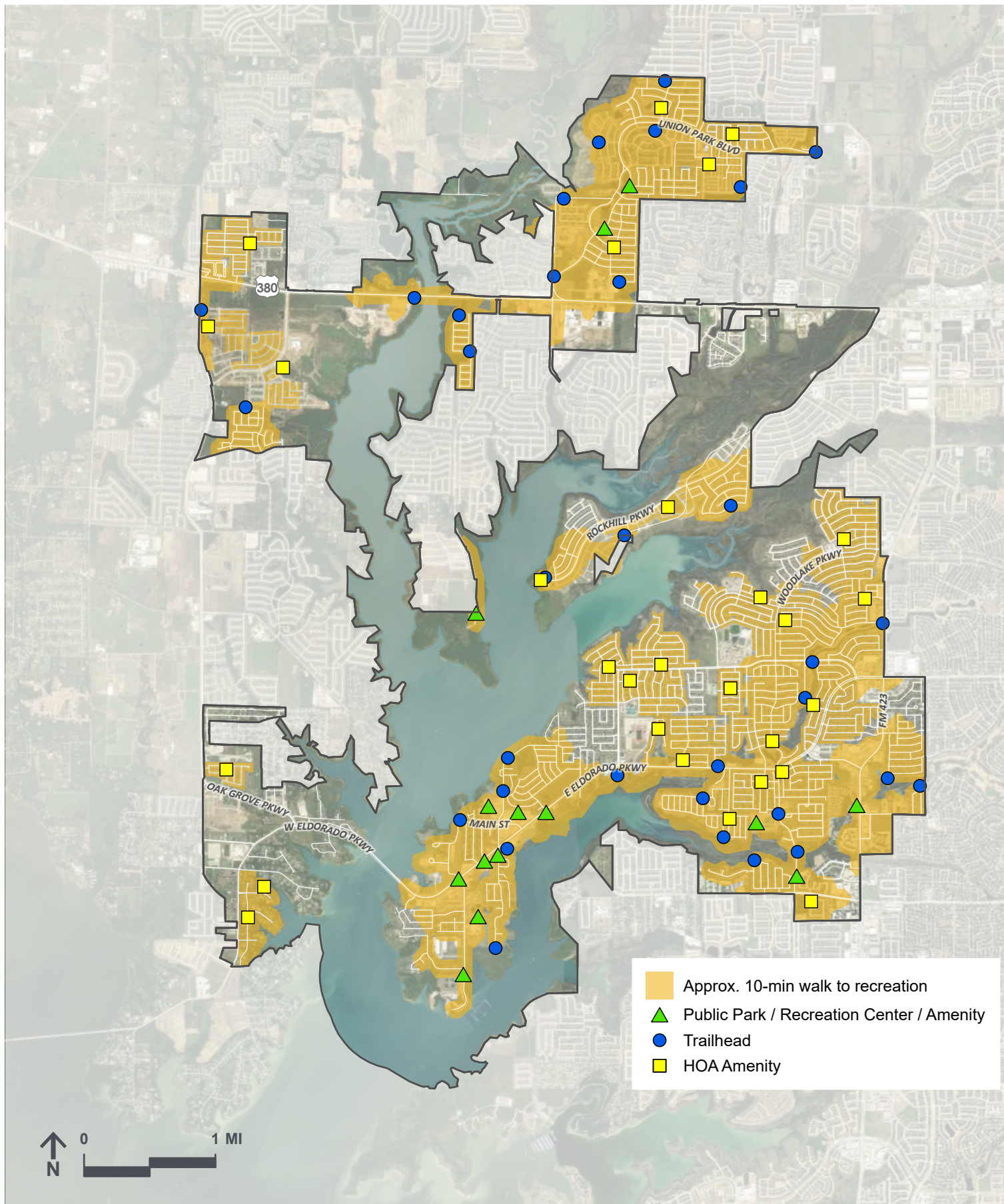
The Town currently has just over 24 acres of park land classified as Special Use Parks including Honor Park, The Lawn at The Lakefront™, and others. There is not a set NRPA guideline for park acreage in this category. If desired by Town leaders, certain priority facilities as identified in the Action Plan found later in this document (skate park, pump track, dog park, etc.) may be implemented as new Special Use facilities in the Town's park system.

The previous Master Plan made recommendations addressing the potential future need for a larger Metropolitan / Regional Park as the Town's population moved beyond 50,000. With a current population of nearly 58,000 and build-out projection of over 107,000, Town leaders may consider pursuing a potential lease agreement with the USACE on the Doe Branch Park property in the northern sector of Town. The location of this property and its currently permissible partial recreational programming (according to the USACE Lewisville Lake Master Plan Land Classification Map, February 2020) would close a large acreage gap in Little Elm's park land totals. Its location on a northern peninsula of the lake could afford residents in this rapidly growing sector of Town with access to a valuable natural resource within a much shorter bike ride, walk or drive than what is currently required to reach the larger community parks in the heart of the Lakefront District™.

The previous plan also encouraged the development of a diverse trail network as a form of Linear Park. The implementation of the Lakefront Trail has become a popular asset since then, and it continues to expand with town planning efforts. Town staff will continue to develop a connected trail network and mobility system as the community grows. A need for acquisition of park land to be dedicated as Linear Park is not specifically recommended as part of this planning effort. However, the need for continued trail network expansion and evaluation of strategic connections with town limits and across boundaries to neighboring communities is high. The Trail Network Considerations section of this document's Action Plan provides additional detail on these types of connections.

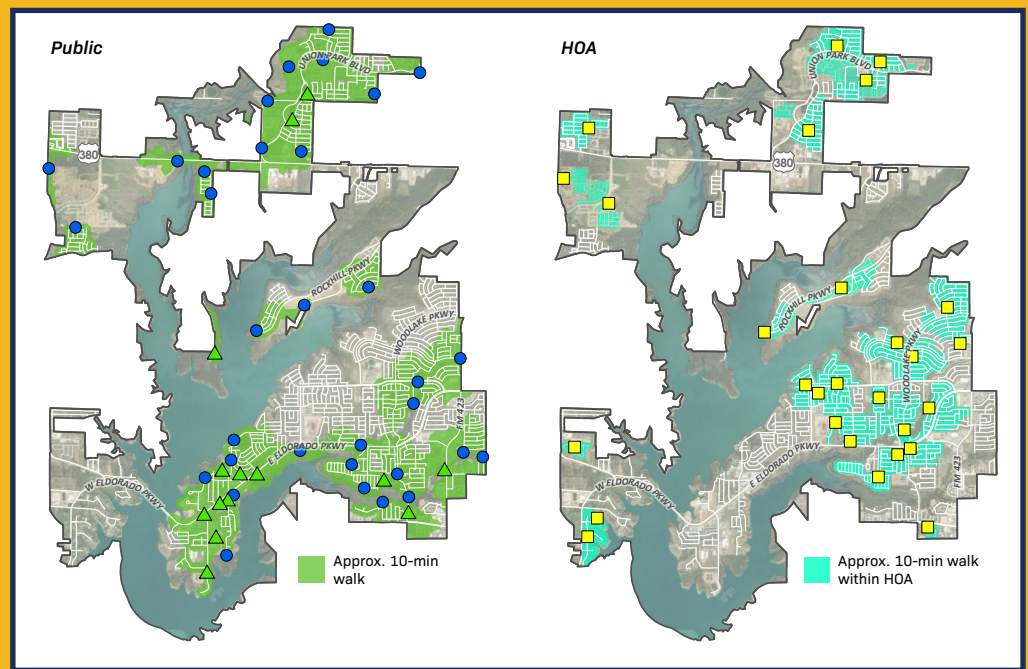


10-Minute Walk to Recreation





Launched in 2017, the “10-Minute Walk” initiative by the Trust for Public Land (TPL), National Park & Recreation Association (NRPA), and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) aims to support municipalities in ensuring equitable access to quality recreation. The initiative emphasizes that residents should be within a 10-minute walk, or approximately half a mile, from a recreational facility, reflecting the average distance people are willing to walk to reach such destinations. This is a general standard that helps us examine the number of opportunities and resources a person has close to home within a community. Below are illustrations showing proximity of park facilities provided by the Town as well as supplemental amenities offered by HOA neighborhoods.



Given the sprawling nature of the town limits along the Lewisville Lake shoreline and major roadways that cross the community, the Town of Little Elm has made significant efforts to ensure equitable access to recreational services for all residents. As shown below, approximately 85% of residents are within a 10-minute walk of a public park, indoor recreation facility, trailhead, or HOA amenity center (private provider).

NRPA 2024 Agency Performance Review Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities

Types of Facilities	Median Number of Residents per Facility			
	Population of Jurisdiction			
	Percent of Agencies	All Agencies	50,000 to 99,000	100,000 to 250,000
Playgrounds or Play Structures	93%	3,750	3,707	5,016
Diamond Fields	85%	4,063	3,675	6,821
Basketball Courts	84%	8,000	8,363	9,643
Rectangular Fields	83%	5,000	4,070	7,375
Tennis Courts	72%	6,003	5,865	8,731
Dog Parks	68%	46,917	55,135	74,504
Community Gardens	52%	34,105	56,150	55,326
Swimming Pools	49%	45,919	46,353	65,697
Skateboard Parks	46%	54,750	60,904	105,567
Pickleball	42%	12,597	10,500	20,244
Volleyball Courts	23%	27,640	26,612	46,517
Splashpads	23%	54,010	54,100	67,685
Disc Golf Courses	20%	76,780	58,603	118,723

This data was part of the 2024 National Recreation and Park Association Agency Performance Review.

Facility Development Standards Applied to Little Elm

Activity/Facility	Recommended Guidelines: Facilities Per Population	Existing Facilities in Little Elm Public Parks	Existing Facilities in Little Elm Private/ HOAs	Recommended Guidelines: Facilities for 2024 Population of 57,882	Recommended Guidelines: Facilities for Projected Build-Out Population of 107,286
Baseball Fields	1 per 4,000 ¹	4	NA	14	26
Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	1 per 5,000 ²	1	2	11	21
Football Fields	1 per 20,000 ²	2	NA	2	5
Pavilion/Picnic Shelter	1 per 3,000 ¹	15	13	19	35
Picnic Tables	1 per 300 ¹	60	NA	192	357
Playgrounds	1 area per 1,000 ²	8	19	57	107
Recreation Center (square footage)	1 sf per person ¹	70,000	NA	57,882	107,286
Soccer Fields (League)	1 per 4,000 ¹	10	1	14	26
Softball Fields	1 per 4,000 ¹	5	NA	14	26
Swimming Pool (Outdoor)	1 per 20,000 ²	0	14	2	5
Tennis Courts	1 court per 2,000 ²	2	2	28	53
Trails	1 mile per 4,000 ²	49.4	Varies	14	26
Volleyball Courts (Outdoor)	1 per 5,000 ²	12	NA	11	21

¹ Dunaway recommendation for high use by Youth Sports.

² Facility guidelines from NRPA guidelines as well as DFW area standards.



6

NEEDS



ASSESSMENT

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

National Service Research (NSR) led the public engagement process for obtaining clearly defined input for future parks and recreation needs. Key components of this process included:

Public Engagement: NSR organized a public meeting on February 1, 2024, at The Rec at The Lakefront™ to gather community feedback. Additionally, focus groups were held with sports groups on February 26, 2024, and with the CDC on March 6, 2024. These discussions were vital in informing the survey design.

Survey Distribution: To reach a broad audience, postcards were mailed to 8,000 households, directing residents to an online survey that was also promoted on the Town's website and social media. The postcards were sent out on March 25, 2024, and the survey remained open until April 28, 2024. A total of 1,084 responses were collected, yielding a margin of error of $\pm 3.5\%$ at a 95% confidence level.

Priority Ranking: The study included separate rankings of park priorities from the Resident Survey, Town Council, Town Staff, CDC, and the Dunaway team. These rankings were collaboratively reviewed and confirmed in a follow-up meeting, ensuring that the priorities accurately reflect community needs.

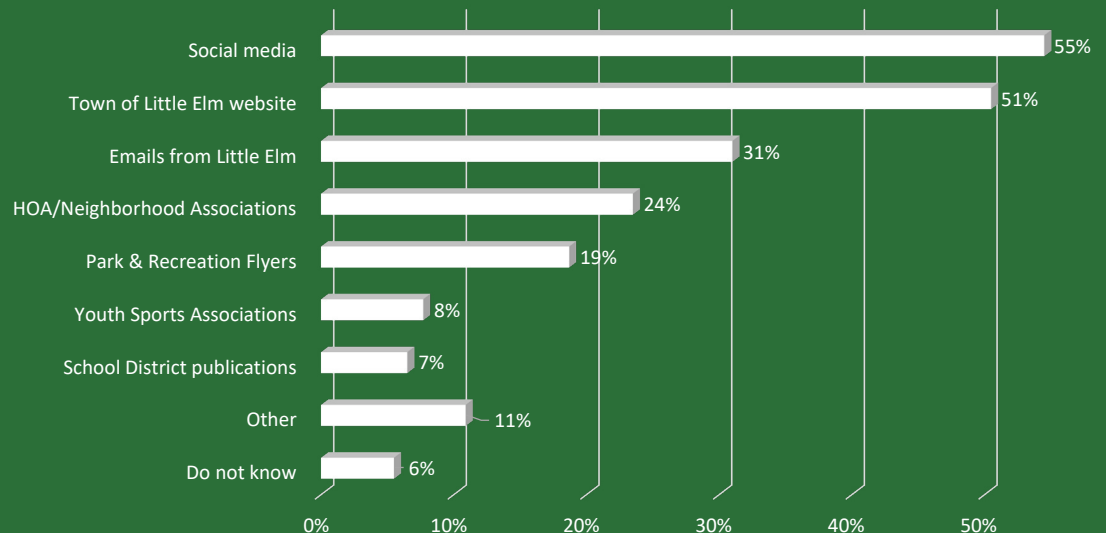
Overall, this structured approach provided a solid foundation for determining the future direction of Little Elm's parks system, aligning it with the community's preferences and requirements over the next five to ten years.

The following pages are the final results from the online survey. The appendix will provide extensive notes taken from the public engagement process, the survey instrument taken by the online survey respondents, and the postcard that was mailed during the survey distribution.

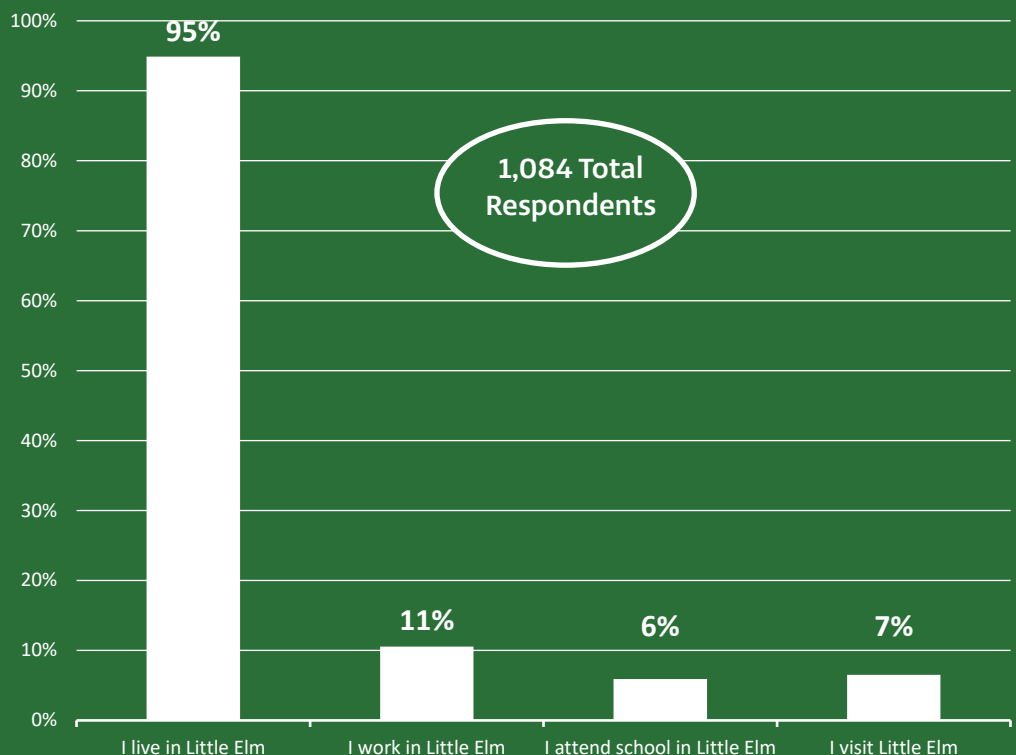


Awareness of Parks, Recreation Facilities and Recreation Programs in Little Elm

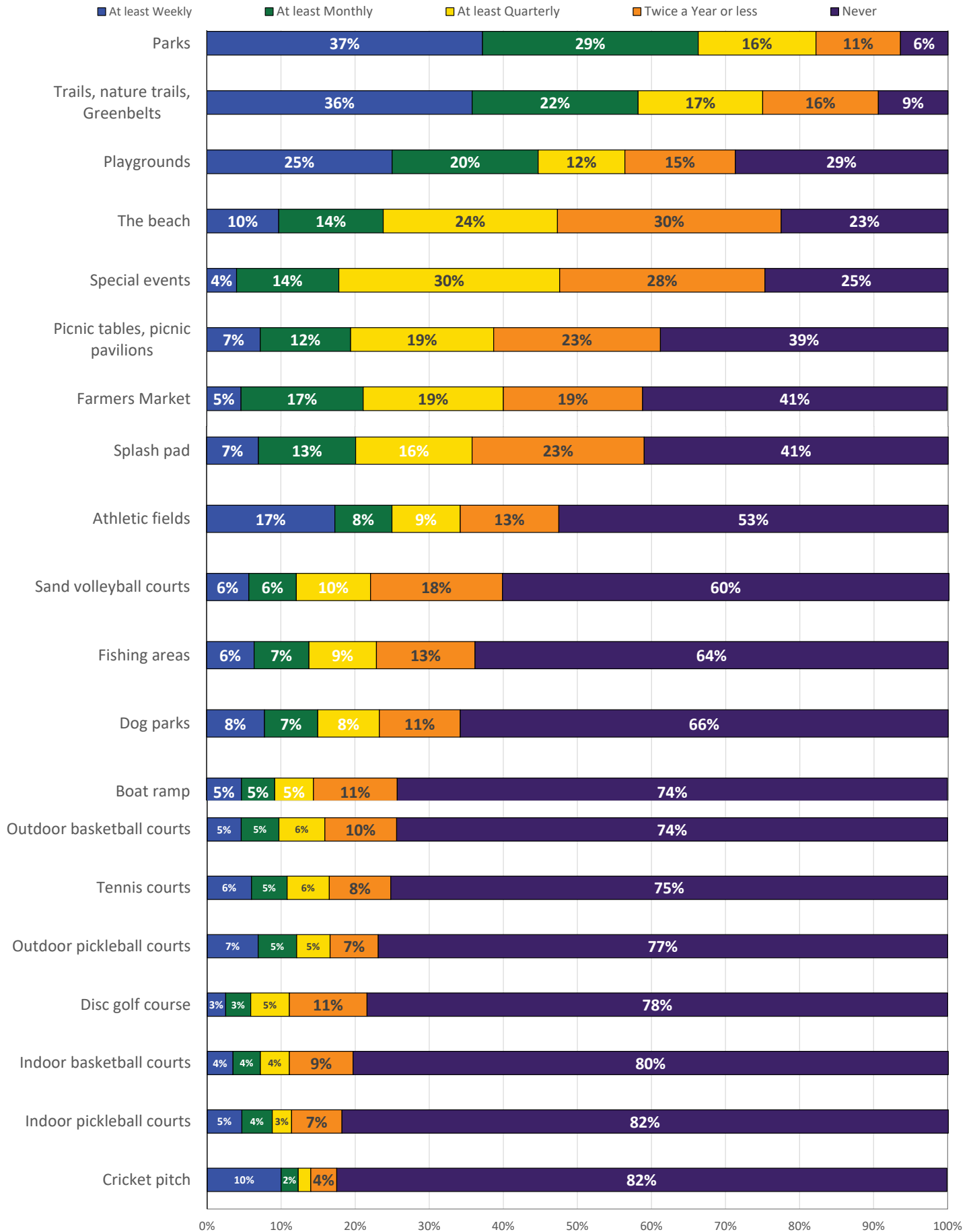
More than half of survey respondents find out about parks, recreation facilities and programs through social media and 51% find out through the Town of Little Elm website.



What is your relation to Little Elm?



Frequency of Use: Town of Little Elm Facilities



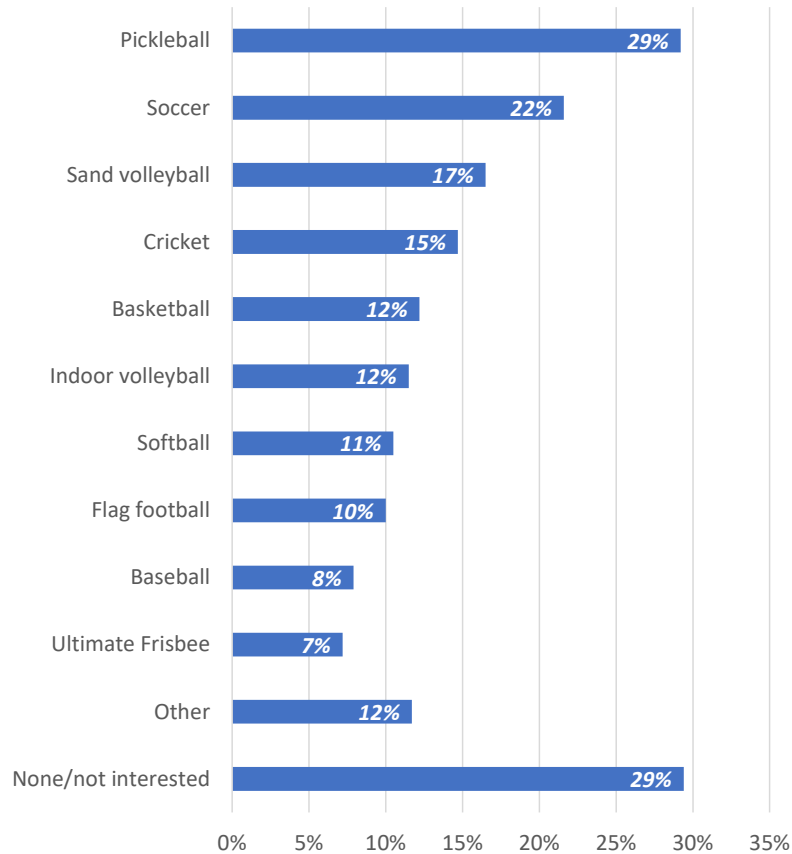
Frequency of Use: Town of Little Elm Parks



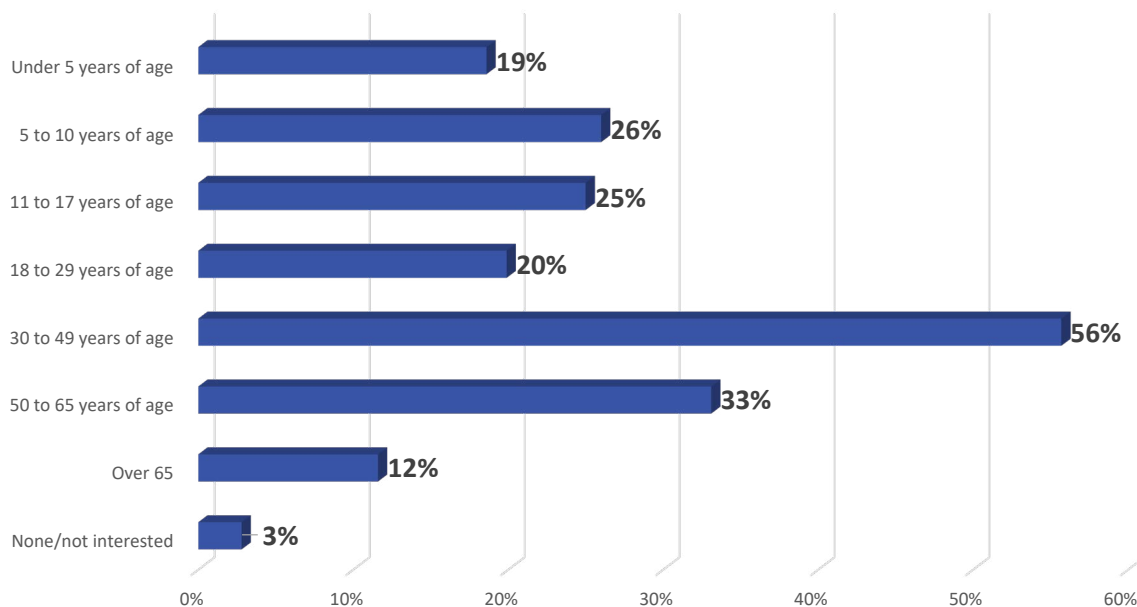
Programs of Interest

Program/Event	%
Farmers Market	59
Art/Music/Food Festivals	57
Yoga	39
Fitness Classes/Events	37
Family Programs	33
Community Gardens	32
Aquatic Programs-All Ages	30
Music/Dance Programs	30
Guided Nature Walks	29
Biking/Cycling Programs	29
Pickleball	28
Town Volunteer Opportunities	27
Fishing	25
Pilates	25
Soccer	25
Races (5K, 10K, etc.)	25
Climbing Wall	24
Parent/Child Programs	23
Youth Programs/Camps	22
Adult Sport Leagues	21
Tennis	20
Senior/Active Adult programs	20
Ropes Course	19
Archery	18
Sand Volleyball	18
Preschool/Toddler Programs	18
Cornhole Tournaments	16
Teen Programs	15
Basketball	15
Cricket	15
Badminton	12
Disc Golf	10
Baseball	10
Horseshoes	10
Skateboarding	10
Football	9
Teen E-Sports Programs	9
Softball	8
Lacrosse	2
Other	7
None/Not Interested	1

Sports Programs of Interest



Age Groups Interested in Town of Little Elm Recreation or Leisure Programs

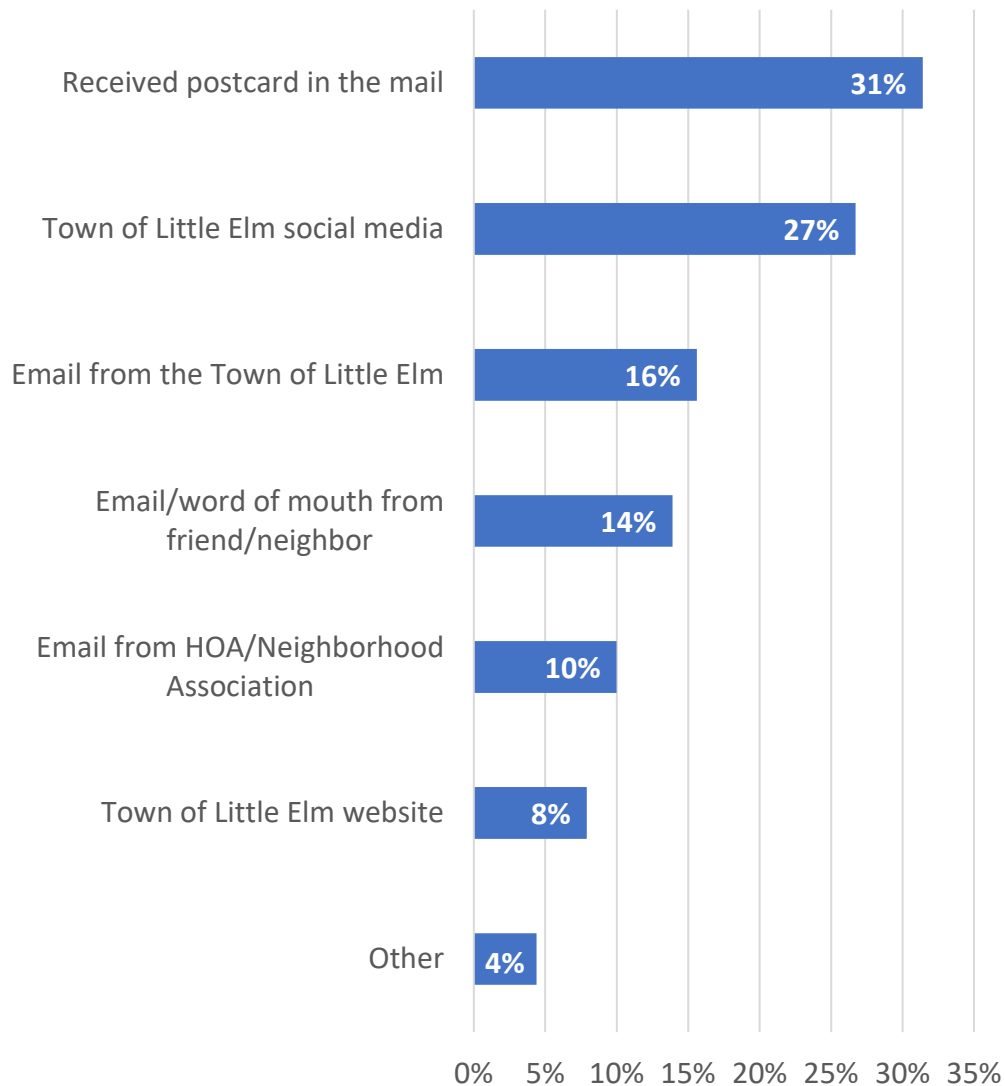


Little Elm Park Facility Priorities

Program/Event	4 - Very Important	3	2	1 - Not Important	No Opinion	Mean Score
Nature Areas/Preserves	63	20	9	4	4	3.46
Additional Hike, Bike, Walk Trails	57	19	12	8	4	3.31
Additional Trail Connections to Adjacent Communities	51	20	11	12	6	3.16
All Inclusive Playground	46	20	14	11	9	3.11
Additional Lake Access Points	42	21	14	12	10	3.04
Additional Kayak / Boat Put In Points Along the Lake	37	18	16	15	14	2.89
Interpretive Signs in Parks/Trails	31	25	21	14	9	2.80
Additional Playgrounds	34	19	16	19	12	2.77
Additional Covered Picnic Shelters/Pavilions	26	26	25	13	10	2.71
Performing Arts Center	26	24	19	17	13	2.69
Additional Camping Locations/Tiny Cabin Rentals	30	19	18	20	13	2.68
Sprayground	29	19	19	21	12	2.65
Outdoor Fitness Training Equipment in Parks/Along Trails	26	24	19	20	11	2.62
Expand The Cove with Outdoor Components	27	23	18	25	6	2.57
Additional Fishing Piers	22	18	21	22	17	2.48
Additional Lighted Outdoor Athletic Fields	24	14	21	24	17	2.47
Additional Outdoor Multi-Use Courts (Basketball, Tennis)	20	20	21	23	16	2.43
Mountain Bike/BMX Pump Track	19	14	18	29	20	2.29
Additional Outdoor Pickleball Courts	17	14	18	29	22	2.24
Additional Multi-Use Fields (Soccer, Football, Lacrosse)	16	15	19	29	21	2.24
Additional Dog Park	17	13	20	32	18	2.17
Skate Park	14	11	20	39	16	2.02
Cricket Pitch	15	4	11	39	31	1.91
1.86Disc Golf Course	8	9	22	36	25	1.86
Additional Baseball Fields	8	9	17	42	24	1.77
Additional Softball	6	8	18	42	26	1.72

How did you find out about this survey?

Most respondents found out about the survey through the postcard they received in the mail and Town of Little Elm social media.





7

PRIORITY



RANKINGS

PRIORITY RANKINGS

Establishing clear priorities for the park system is crucial for developing a balanced Master Plan. This approach enables Town leaders to recognize the significance of annual budgeting and strategies that address the needs of the Little Elm community. The priorities outlined here stem from a thorough assessment of current resources and feedback gathered from the resident survey, which were then ranked based on identified needs.

Rank	Priorities	Higher	Moderate	Lower
1	Additional Hike, Bike, Walk Trails	•		
2	Nature Areas / Preserves	•		
3	Additional Trail Connections to Adjacent Communities	•		
4	All Inclusive Playground	•		
5	Additional Lake Access Points	•		
6	Additional Kayak / Boat Put In Points Along the Lake	•		
7	Expand The Cove with Outdoor Components**	•		
8	Interpretive Signs in Parks / Trails	•		
9	Performing Arts Center	•		
10	Additional Covered Picnic Shelters / Pavilions		•	
11	Additional Fishing Piers		•	
12	Additional Lighted Outdoor Athletic Fields		•	
13	Additional Multi-Use Courts (basketball, tennis, other)		•	
14	Additional Playgrounds		•	
15	Additional Camping Locations / Tiny Cabins		•	
16	Additional Outdoor Pickleball Courts		•	
17	Additional Multi-Use Fields (soccer, football, lacrosse)		•	
18	Sprayground			•
19	Outdoor Fitness Equipment in Parks and Along Trails			•
20	Additional Dog Park			•
21	Mountain Bike BMX Pump Track			•
22	Skate Park			•
23	Cricket Pitch			•
24	Additional Baseball Fields			•
25	Additional Softball Fields			•
26	Disc Golf			•

Ranking Process

After completing the resident survey during the needs assessment phase, a structured method for ranking priorities was employed. This process incorporated insights from the resident survey, Town Council, Town staff, and the Dunaway team, with the following weighted values assigned:

Resident Input / Survey Results (55%)

Reflecting the specific needs and requests of the Little Elm community gathered from the resident survey.

Town Council (20%)

Highlighting the parks and recreation needs identified by the Town Council.

Town Staff (10%)

Based on the insights of park staff regarding recreation programs and resource demands.

Community Development Corporation (10%)

Addressing the specific needs as recognized by the Community Development Corporation related to recreation programs and resource demands.

Dunaway Team (5%)

Offering recommendations based on the Dunaway planning team's assessment of Little Elm's unique needs, current park resources, demographic profile, and future recreational demands.

The resulting priority rankings are categorized into three groups: High Priority, Moderate Priority, and Lower Priority. A summary of these priorities for Little Elm can be found in the table on the following page.



8



IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTATION

Overview

The Town of Little Elm is well-positioned to build on its momentum in developing a vibrant park system that enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors. To implement this Master Plan, a focused strategy is essential, especially in securing funding and adhering to a strategic action plan.

The following pages outline a variety of funding sources that can supplement the Town's financial resources, along with a Proposed Action Plan to guide annual budgeting and facility development. This Action Plan includes prioritizing key trail connections from Little Elm to neighboring communities. These implementation tools should be regularly evaluated by Town staff to assess progress and adjust priorities based on community needs.

Proposed Action Plan

The Proposed Action Plan outlines a path forward for addressing high-priority park facility needs and identifies potential funding sources for future improvements. Strategic implementation by Town leaders, along with annual evaluations of progress, is recommended.

Over the next five to ten years, if additional funding becomes available, the schedule of projects can be adjusted at the Town's discretion to accelerate timelines for certain initiatives. This flexibility will allow for the advancement of projects within the plan as deemed necessary and will also create opportunities to allocate resources toward longer-range improvements

Funding Sources

One of the biggest challenges of town leaders in implementing a park master plan will be prioritizing new capital dollars that will provide for needed park renovations, expansions, and new amenities. To achieve this, town leaders will need to outline an annual strategy for funding capital improvements across the entire park system. To add to the Town's available financial resources, Little Elm has an opportunity to pursue a wide range of other sources that would help fund the various capital improvements prioritized in this plan. Some of the funding sources described on the following pages can be part of an implementation plan by town leaders.

ADVERTISING

This funding source comes from the sale of advertising on park and recreation related items such as the town's program guide, on scoreboards, and other visible products or services.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

This funding source comes from corporations that invest in the development or enhancement of new or existing facilities. Sponsorships are also successfully used for special programs and events.

FEES / CHARGES

This funding source comes from fees for use of a facility or participation in a town sponsored recreational program.

FOUNDATIONS / GIFTS

This funding source comes from tax-exempt organizations who give donations for specific facilities, activities, or programs. These may include capital campaigns, fundraisers, endowments, sales of items, etc.

FRIENDS ASSOCIATIONS

This funding source comes from friends groups that raise money typically for a single focus priority. This may include a park facility or program that will better the community they live in.

GENERAL FUND

This funding source is the primary means in providing for annual capital programs, improvements, and infrastructure upgrades.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

This funding source comes from bond programs approved by the residents for capital improvements within the parks system.

GRANTS – TPWD OUTDOOR PROGRAM

This funding source comes from grants for the acquisition & development of outdoor recreational facilities.

GRANTS – TPWD RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

This funding source comes from grants for the development of new trails or trail extensions.

GRANTS – TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT (NCTCOG / TXDOT)

This funding source comes from grants for the development of new trails or trail extensions.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS

This funding source comes from contractual agreements with other local units of government for the joint-use of indoor or outdoor recreational facilities.

IRREVOCABLE TRUSTS

This funding source comes from individuals who leave a portion of their wealth for a trust fund. The fund grows over a period of time and is available for the Town to use a portion of the interest to support specific park facilities as designated by the trustee.

LAND LEASES

Leases could be utilized where appropriate and include options where developers / agencies lease space from Town-owned land through a subordinate lease that pays out a set dollar amount plus a percentage of gross dollars for recreation enhancements. These could include a golf course, marina, restaurants, driving ranges, sports complexes, equestrian facilities, recreation centers and ice arenas.

NAMING RIGHTS

This funding source comes from leasing or selling naming rights for new indoor facilities or signature parks.

PARK IMPROVEMENT FEE / PARK DEDICATION FEE

This funding source comes from private developers who give land for public parks. This may include land along drainage corridors that can be developed for greenbelts & trails.

PARTNERSHIPS

This funding source comes from public/public, public/private, and public/not-for-profit partnerships.

PRIVATE DONATIONS

This funding source comes from private party contributions including funds, equipment, art, and in-kind services.

RESERVATIONS

This funding source comes from revenue generated from reservations of parks and facilities. The reservation rates are fixed and apply to group shelters, meeting rooms, and sports fields.

REVENUE BONDS

This funding source comes from bonds used for capital projects that will generate revenue for debt services where fees can be set aside to support repayment of the bond.

SALES / 4B TAX (½ CENT)

This funding source comes from a voter approved sales tax that goes toward parks & recreational improvements.



SPECIAL USE PERMITS

Allow individuals to use specific park property for financial gain. The Town either receives a set amount of money or a percentage of the gross service that is being provided.

TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCING (TIF)

Can be used with an established “TIF District” in which incremental increases in property taxes over a 20-25 year period is utilized to pay or reimburse initial development costs. Establishing a TIF district in areas that are anticipated to experience significant economic development and growth over the next 20 years can fund initial park/trail/greenway development that initially serves as a catalyst for that development.

VOLUNTEERISM / IN-KIND DONATIONS

This funding source provides indirect revenue support when groups or individuals donate time to help construct specific park improvements (signs, playgrounds, nature trails, etc.).

Proposed Ten-Year Action Plan

The Proposed Ten-Year Action Plan responds to the high priority items for facility needs and sets up a proposed time table with respect to the potential funding sources. Working in coordination with the Town staff, the plan combines action item recommendations for improvements and new facilities in an effort to enhance the quality of programming and facilities throughout Little Elm.

During the course of the next ten years, if additional funding is received, the schedule of projects may be advanced to move projects up earlier in the Proposed Ten-Year Action Plan, allowing funding for longer range projects.



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

(Possible locations as noted: pending future funding and budgets)

HIGHER PRIORITY ITEMS			PARK FACILITY LOCATIONS									
ACTION PLAN ITEM		Budget Ranges	Beard Park	Cottonwood Park ²	Doe Branch Park ¹	Honor Park	Lakeside Park ⁴	The Lawn at The Lakefront™	Little Elm Park ³	The Rec at The Lakefront	Marion Soccer Fields ⁴	McCord Park
1	Additional Hike, Bike, Walk Trails	\$550,000 - \$1,000,000 per mile		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
2	Nature Areas / Preserves	Varies		✓	✓				✓			✓
3	Additional Trail Connections to Adjacent Communities	\$550,000 - \$1,000,000 per mile							✓			
4	All Inclusive Playground	\$500,000 - \$850,000							✓			✓
5	Additional Lake Access Points	Varies		✓					✓			
6	Additional Kayak / Boat Put In Points Along the Lake	Varies		✓	✓				✓			
7	Expand the Cove with Outdoor Component ⁵	Varies								✓		
8	Interpretive Signs in Parks / Trails	\$1,500 - \$2,500 per sign	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓
9	Performing Arts Center	Varies										

✓ - Recommended Location

¹ This property is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and is not currently under lease agreement with the Town.

² This property is included in the Cottonwood Park Master Plan or the Cottonwood Park Phase 1 construction currently underway.

³ This park is included in the Little Elm Park Primitive Camping Concept currently under design.

⁴ This property is owned by the Little Elm Independent School District and are currently under one lease agreement with the Town.

⁵ This action plan item is being addressed in the Cove Master Plan.

⁶ This property is not currently owned by the Town of Little Elm.

FUNDING SOURCES									
Union Park									
Union Park Dog Park									
Hansel Property (Undeveloped) ⁶	✓								
Zellars North Property (Undeveloped) ⁴	✓								
Sunset Pointe Property (Undeveloped)	✓								
Town Hall Property (Undeveloped)	✓								
Advertising Sales									
Corporate Sponsorships									
Fee / Charges									
Foundations / Gifts									
Friends Associations									
General Obligation Bonds									
General Fund									
Grants - TPWD Outdoor Program									
Grants - TPWD Recreational Trails Program									
Grants - Transportation Enhancement									
Interlocal Agreements									
Irrevocable Trust									
Land Leases									
Naming Rights									
Park Improvement Fees									
Partnerships									
Private Donations									
Reservations									
Revenue Bonds									
Sales / 4B Tax									
Special Use Permits									
Tax Incremental Financing (TIF)									
Volunteerism / In-Kind Donations									

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

(Possible locations as noted: pending future funding and budgets)

MODERATE PRIORITY ITEMS			PARK FACILITY LOCATION											
ACTION PLAN ITEM		Budget Ranges	Beard Park	Cottonwood Park ²	Doe Branch Park	Honor Park	Lakeside Park ⁴	The Lawn at The Lakefront™	Little Elm Park ³	The Rec at The Lakefront	Marion Soccer Fields	McCord Park	Union Park	
10	Additional Covered Picnic Shelters / Pavilions	\$100,000 - \$250,000	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
11	Additional Fishing Piers	\$400,000 range		✓	✓				✓					
12	Additional Lighted Outdoor Athletic Fields	Varies							✓		✓			
13	Additional Multi-Use Courts (basketball, tennis, other)	Varies							✓		✓			
14	Additional Playgrounds	\$450,000 - \$650,000		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		
15	Additional Camping Locations / Tiny Cabins	Varies		✓	✓				✓					
16	Additional Outdoor Pickleball Courts	\$225,000 for four courts							✓	✓				
17	Additional Multi-Use Fields (soccer, football, lacrosse)	\$400,000 - \$500,000 per field \$750,000 - \$1,000,000 (artificial turf)							✓		✓			

✓ - Recommended Location

¹ This property is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and is not currently under lease agreement with the Town.

² This property is included in the Cottonwood Park Master Plan or the Cottonwood Park Phase 1 construction currently underway.

³ This park is included in the Little Elm Park Primitive Camping Concept currently under design.

⁴ This property is owned by the Little Elm Independent School District and are currently under one lease agreement with the Town.

⁶ This property is not currently owned by the Town of Little Elm.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

(Possible locations as noted: pending future funding and budgets)

LOWER PRIORITY ITEMS			PARK FACILITY LOCATIONS									
ACTION PLAN ITEM		Budget Ranges	Beard Park	Cottonwood Park ²	Doe Branch Park ¹	Honor Park	Lakeside Park ⁴	The Lawn at The Lakefront™	Little Elm Park ³	The Rec at The Lakefront	Marion Soccer Fields ⁴	McCord Park
18	Sprayground	\$750,000 - \$1,500,000						✓	✓			
19	Outdoor Fitness Equipment in Parks and Along Trails	\$7,500 - \$15,000 each	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓	
20	Additional Dog Park ⁷	\$500,000 - \$1,000,000										
21	Mountain Bike BMX Pump Track	\$400,000 - \$500,000 per mile		✓					✓		✓	
22	Skate Park	\$3,000,000									✓	
23	Cricket Pitch	\$20,000									✓	
24	Additional Baseball Fields	\$1,500,000 - \$3,00,000 per field		✓					✓			
25	Additional Softball Fields	\$1,500,000 - \$3,00,000 per field		✓					✓			
26	Disc Golf	\$20,000 - \$30,000							✓			

✓ - Recommended Location

¹ This property is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and is not currently under lease agreement with the Town.

² This property is included in the Cottonwood Park Master Plan or the Cottonwood Park Phase I construction currently underway.

³ This park is included in the Little Elm Park Primitive Camping Concept currently under design.

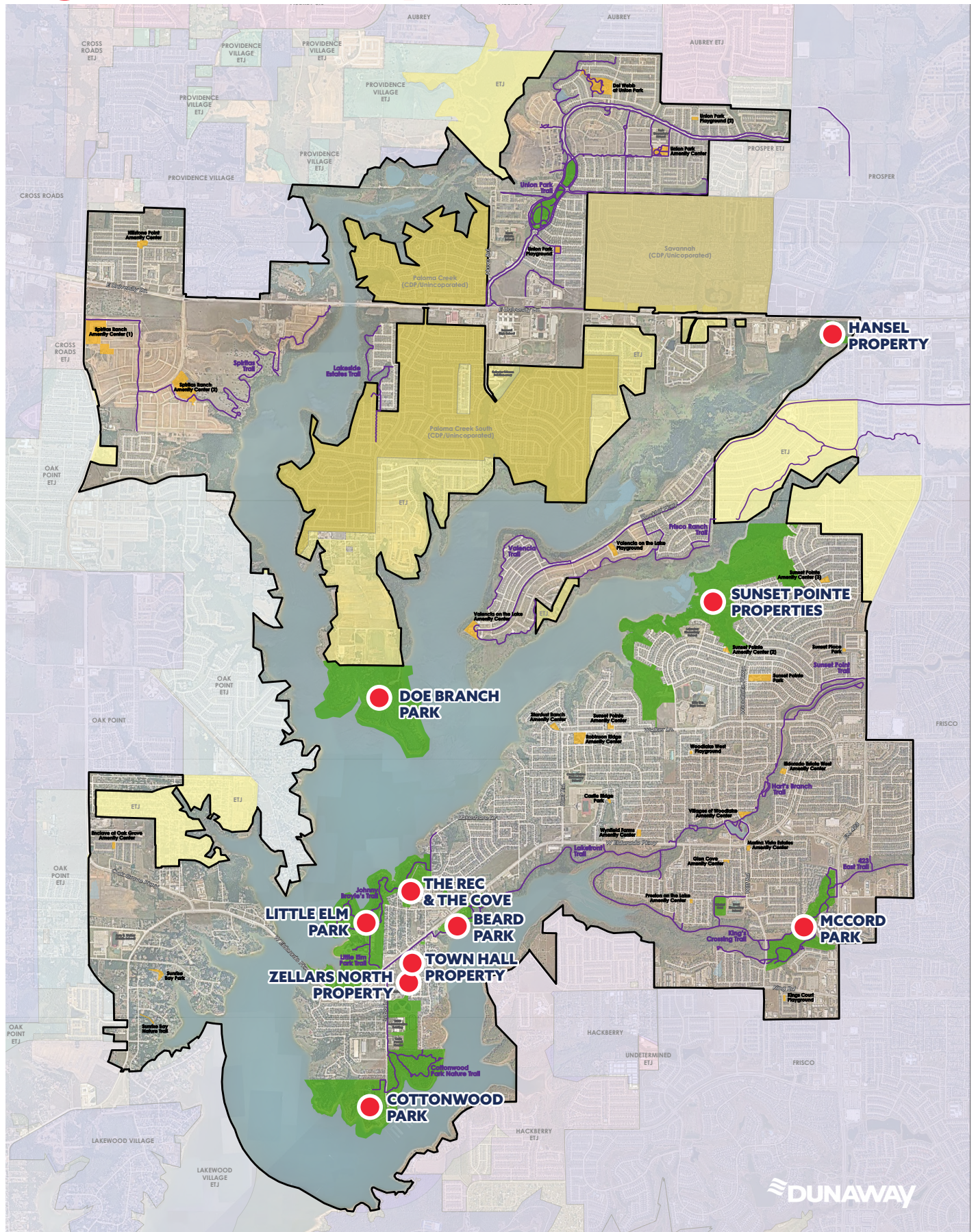
⁴ This property is owned by the Little Elm Independent School District and are currently under one lease agreement with the Town.

⁶ This property is not currently owned by the Town of Little Elm.

⁷ This priority will be addressed with the upcoming transfer of Union Park to Town of Little Elm management.

ATTACHMENTS									
									Union Park
									Union Park Dog Park
									Hansel Property (Undeveloped) ⁶
								✓	Zellars North Property (Undeveloped) ⁴
									Sunset Pointe Property (Undeveloped)
								✓	Town Hall Property (Undeveloped)

High Priorities by Park



This page summarizes the high priorities given to each park in Little Elm.

Some parks may not appear on this page as the planning team did not recommend any high priority items for these parks. These parks include: Honor Park, Lakeside Sports Complex, The Lawn at the Lakefront™, Union Park, and Union Park Dog Park.

1 Additional Hike, Bike, Walk Trails

Cottonwood Park
Doe Branch
Little Elm Park
The Rec at The Lakefront™
McCord Park
Zellars North Property
Marion Football / Multi-Use
Sunset Pointe Property
Town Hall Property
Hansel Property

2 Nature Areas / Preserves

Cottonwood Park
Doe Branch
McCord Park
Hansel Property

3 Additional Trail Connections to Adjacent Communities

Little Elm Park

4 All Inclusive Playground

Little Elm Park
McCord Park
Town Hall Property

5 Additional Lake Access Points

Cottonwood Park
Doe Branch
Little Elm Park

6 Additional Kayak / Boat Put In Points Along the Lake

Cottonwood Park
Doe Branch
Little Elm Park
Hansel Property

7 Expand The Cove™ with Outdoor Components

The Rec at The Lakefront™

8 Interpretive Signs in Parks / Trails

Beard Park
Cottonwood Park
Doe Branch
Little Elm Park
The Rec at The Lakefront™
McCord Park
Sunset Pointe Property
Hansel Property

9 Performing Arts Center

Town Hall Property

Trail Network Considerations

The Town of Little Elm has experienced significant growth in recent years, particularly in the development of new single-family homes and other residential projects. In alignment with this growth, Town ordinances have established requirements for developer partnerships to enhance the community's recreational infrastructure. Today, residents can enjoy a variety of trails within the park system, including the Harts Branch Trail, the popular Lakefront Trail, and nature trails such as the Cottonwood Trail and Johnny Broyles Nature Trail, which connect Little Elm Park to The Rec at The Lakefront™. The Town will continue to advance expansion of their trail network in response to community needs. As part of this Master Plan, strategic connections to neighboring cities have been prioritized for planned implementation.

The following map includes documentation of the Town's existing trails, location of proposed trail routes, proposed routing of the veloweb (see below), and three levels of priority connections for the Town to consider as part of future trail development plans.

REGIONAL VELOWEB

As part of their Mobility 2045 Update, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has outlined a comprehensive regional routing plan for proposed trail connections throughout the DFW Metroplex. The veloweb is defined by NCTCOG as “a 2,165-mile network of off-street shared-use paths designed for multi-use purposes, catering to bicyclists, pedestrians, and other non-motorized forms of transportation”. Within Little Elm, key veloweb connections are identified at Doe Creek Road and Highway 380, linking to the City of Frisco, Town of Prosper, and along the eastern shore of Lewisville Lake extending into Hackberry on the south side of Town. These connections are important for regional mobility and should be prioritized in future trail funding initiatives. Coordination with NCTCOG and neighboring communities will be essential in planning efforts to enhance the Town's trail network alongside regional connectivity efforts.

PRIORITY 1 CONNECTIONS

A few communities around Little Elm are undergoing rapid growth and concurrently expanding their own trail networks toward the Town's borders, in particular, Frisco and Prosper on the eastern border of Little Elm. It is recommended for Town staff to collaborate with staff in Frisco and Prosper to coordinate trail connections at select locations as an immediate to near term priority.

PRIORITY 2 CONNECTIONS

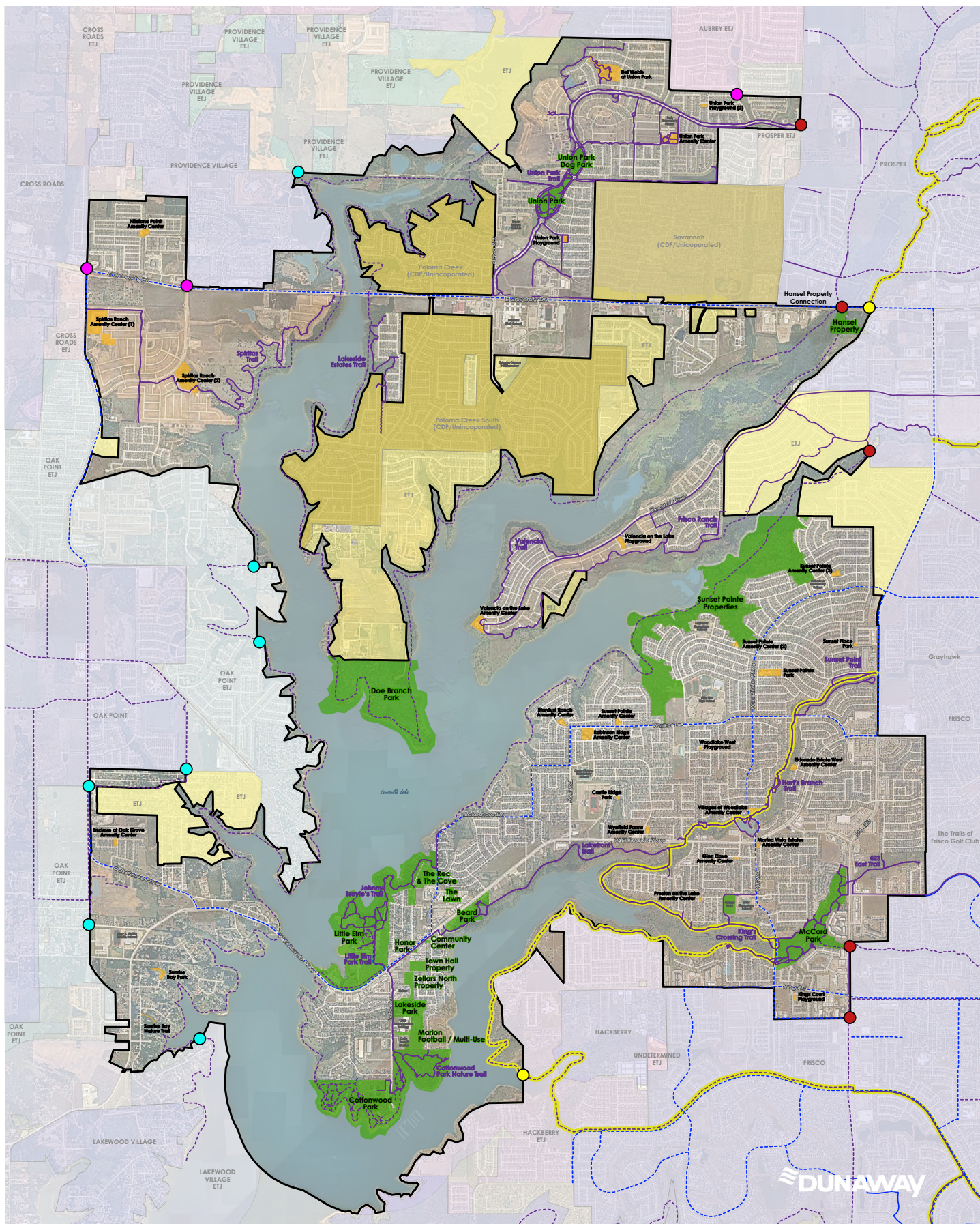
Other communities around Little Elm are also growing quickly, and are still in various initial phases of trail planning and development. Connections to these communities should be considered by the Town of Little Elm for the near to short term planning of connections.

PRIORITY 3 CONNECTIONS

Finally, several communities bordering Little Elm are at varying stages of their planning efforts, and it may take some time before connections with planned Little Elm trails can be established. These potential connections should be considered long-term or future priorities.



Trail Network Considerations



Legend

- Existing Off-Street Trails
- Future Off-Street Trails
- Existing On-Street Trails
- Future On-Street Trails
- Veloweb Connection
- Priority 1 Connection
- Priority 2 Connection
- Priority 3 Connection
- Town Park
- HOA Facility
- Little Elm ETJ
- CDP
- Other Communities
- Denton County ETJ's

Priority 1 Connections

- Existing Union Park Trail at FM 1345 to Town of Prosper
- Proposed underbridge connection at the Hansel Property at Hwy 380 to Prosper
- Existing Rockhill connection to PGA and to the City of Frisco
- Proposed trail along Cottonwood Branch at FM 423 to Community Trail in Frisco
- Proposed trail along FM 423 at Old Witt Road to future veloweb connector on Stonebridge Pkwy in Frisco

Priority 2 Connections

- Union Park along existing drainageway to Aubrey ETJ
- Ryan Spiritas Parkway and Hwy 380 to Providence Village
- FM 720 and Hwy 380 west to Crossroads

Priority 3 Connections

- Running Branch at Fishtrap Rd to Providence Village
- Along the western shoreline of Lewisville Lake near Lloyd's Road to Oak Point
- Along the western shoreline of Lewisville Lake near Wildridge development to Oak Point
- Elm Dr and Cedar Lane north to Oak Point developments
- Oak Grove Pkwy (FM 720) and Cottonwood Trail west to Oak Point
- Hill Lane at French Settlement Rd (Jerry Walker Middle School) to Oak Point
- Along the western shoreline of Lewisville Lake near Sunrise Bay to Lakewood Village



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APPENDIX

APPENDIX



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Cottonwood Park Master Plan

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The Cove at the Lakefront™ Expansion Concept

Visioning Session & Focus Group Meeting Notes

Town Hall Meeting Notes - February 21, 2024

Outdoor Facilities

Tennis Courts (need in east Little Elm)
Pickleball courts (multiple mentions)
Activities for children under 5 (multiple mentions)
More shade in parks
Love the local free concerts
The Lawn Park – super nice
Mini zip line
Taller/bigger swings
More swings
Designated space to roller skate
Add restrooms to cricket field
Special event space for 40 to 300 enclosed (offer at White Rock Lake in Dallas-they are always booked)
Multipurpose practice/training fields for soccer, football, cricket

Lake Access and Activities

Cabana and chair rental at the beach – set up and ready to go
Boating – we want to drive our boat to restaurants – maybe between Hula Hut and Hydrous
Ecological features considered to work with USACE Corps – boardwalk, parking needs
Parking by the launch is working well
Could do party barge pick up and drop over by Hula Hut to alleviate burden on ex. launch
Placemaking mentality – St. Pete's/Clearwater example
Like the features at the ramp, photo opportunity, cleaning station
Designated drone launching area
Add a restaurant at Cottonwood Park/marina
Pedestrian bridge from Beard Park to cemetery
Doe Branch Park – off road vehicles, mountain bike trail, fireworks, watch or launch
More family featured waterfront activities, BBQ pits

Athletics and Sports

Multiuse fields

Level of competition

Roller skating facility

Multi-use field house – public/private

Volleyball with parking

Basketball

Court sports

Badminton

Ping pong

Competitive level cricket (0 teams – local (D6 Little Elm residents required on each team)

Cricket specific practice “net” space

Restroom

Scoreboard

Lights

Shade

Youth

Examples of good cricket fields in DFW area are Russell Creek and Sandy Lake

Pickleball instruction

Paddle sports

The Cove expansion – new gym court sports

Trails and Nature Areas

Safety in Cottonwood Park

RV Park

Worried about wildlife

Preserve natural areas

Harts Branch Trail – extend north Walker Lane

Concrete at Lakefront Trail

Need connection at Sunset Point

Need designated bike lanes

Need more liter and dog receptacles.

Need interactive maps for trails

“You are here”

Overall map

Public art on the trails

Exercise equipment

Speakers/music along trails

More wildflowers/sensory – chocolate flowers smell

Yoga/meditation work out area

Gazebo with views

Bridges with views for events

Flippant at Highland Park

Tree species signage

Better access and parking at McCord Park

Check parks service areas (east and northwest)

Grill areas – McCord Park

Sand volleyball - McCord Park

Permanent lighting for trails at night – like Harry Potter, color changing

Aquatic Facilities

Best splash pad and want more with shade and seating

Large community pool with lessons offered

Lazy river

Rope off area to swim at the lake

McCord Park – swimming pool

Brentwood Community pool

Shade and gazebos close to pool

Swimming beach at Cottonwood Park

Wave river
Master blaster like at NRH20
More adult and/or older kids swimming parks
Bigger Cove facility

EVENTS

Love the Farmers Market
Picture Gallery/art shows – indoor art gallery
Event center for weddings – like Oak Point in Plano
Winery garden – The Domain in Austin
The Lawn – more concerts and movies
Christmas Fest is great – Nacogdoches
Have boats/trailers in Christmas parade
I love what Little Elm does
Cultural gatherings

Leadership Team Focus Group Notes - February 21, 2024

Maintain quality of parks (maintenance standards)

Want to be known for amenities on the lake – boat ramp, lake access

Possible lake access opportunity on other side of bridge

Have an active lifestyle in Little Elm

Would like trail connections to other nearby cities (Prosper, Frisco)

Preserve view corridors and views of the lake

We want unique amenities by using the lake – being a destination and not like other cities

Keep up with current park trends

Are we serving North Little Elm?

Need turf baseball fields (4)

How can we bring people here – economic impact

What is our niche?

One stop entertainment

Ballfields

Lake/beach

Events

Not able to maintain fields because of so much use (games and practice)

May need dedicated fields for Little Elm use versus tournaments versus outside use.

Organized city sports versus select/tournaments.

Doe Branch Park

Hard to access

Is it worth investing in?

Could be connected by paddling trail

We are experiencing changing demographics

Cricket fields

Artificial turf (ballfields, soccer)

Separate batting cages/nets

Multiuse for lawns

Need outdoor component to The Cove (expansion)

Property behind The Rec and Cove

Do we need a natatorium? Performing Arts Center?

School is interested in a partnership

Tourism:

RV Park

Skate Park

Expand the beach

Docks for fishing / another fishing area

E-Sports

Sports Focus Group Notes – Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan February 26, 2024

- Soccer – trouble with availability – site grade and drainage issues plus conflict with events
- Travel teams bring expectations
- Unable to pursue more players due to availability of fields – had 1,000 registrations
- U11 – U16 last month couldn't practice as much
- Turf on Little Elm Park, parking issues, lighting
- Football does not have their own field
- Take football for turf but needs parking too
- Parking for events is a concern
- Turf comes with lots of maintenance and rules but still would prefer it because of drainage
- Old softball fields? Chad submitted to Corps for improvements to concrete drive – no current plan
- Marion Field could be turfed to be football primary and soccer secondary
- Need designated space for football
- Need improvements to existing facilities to make viable; fix goals, turf, lights, fix track – peds and cheer
- Multipurpose practice fields
- Need designated areas for games, tournaments, and events
- Restrooms need repairs, currently sharing softball because the city unlocks them
- School football practices – don't have restrooms
- Streaming services are cool but also need restrooms
- Basketball gym is very busy. Renting out to I-9 on Saturdays but gives priority to residents
- Currently use school gyms/field for volleyball, basketball, and football
- Interlocal agreement with Denton ISD? Could be helpful
- Playgrounds for siblings at softball/baseball like the one at Cottonwood
- Pickleball (indoor) partnership with private vendor
- The Cove – expanding outdoors, lap pool expansion, large outdoor slide with lazy river and surf
- Lake access for youth sailing, yacht club options, currently going to Corinth for this
- More swings
- Splash pads are great for little kids
- Skate parks for scooters, track for bikes too
- Splash pad at soccer area or Little Elm Park
- Interactive trail maps/signage
- Not Harry Potter fans – took fields away from sport groups
- Restrooms at camping – already in progress
- Extend parking at Little Elm Park, only problematic when there are events
- Would like to have something like Frisco Field House – indoor football/basketball – opportunity plus land purchase
- Fences and cameras to protect improvements
- Need electrical outlets back for softball pitching machines

Council/CDC Focus Group Notes – March 6, 2024

Tiny cabins and restaurant at the end

More trails – bypass for events

Trails to connect to Frisco, PCA and other communities

Programming for arts/entertainment

More facilities/program expansion

Target audience – adults (jazz, etc.)

Trails – North to South connection on Hwy 380

Additional lake access – kayak launch, fishing piers, more parking at boat ramp

Doe Branch – 4th of July viewers to serve North Little Elm

Cottonwood – amphitheater, movies in the park

Maintain reputations for trails, beach access, Cove expansion

Athletics – covered skate park, shade, basketball court, miniature golf, permanent cornhole, finish out cricket pitch

Upgrades to turf fields - more lighting, new fields?

Little Elm Park upgrades to expand facilities, comply with CORPS

Acquire new land for parks

Opportunities to grow along Hwy. 380 corridor

Many organizations in surrounding communities – how do we enhance LEAYSA

Opportunities to partner with private organizations

Expand use on expanding facilities (turf/lights)

Spiritas opportunities

Little Elm Community Center – upgrade/expand

DFW surf opportunities at Cottonwood Park

Opportunities for publicly access BLE – features? Open to partnerships

Pickleball – 6 at Lakeside, currently full

Consider residential adjacency noise

Opportunities at The Rec to increase capacity

Pickleball at Spiritas?

Resident Survey Instrument

The following pages are the final survey instrument made available for residence to take from March 25th through April 28th of 2024. The survey was advertised via town website, postcard, and social media.

Dear Little Elm Residents:

The Town of Little Elm is currently updating your Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan and we need your help by filling out this survey! Your input will help guide our **park and recreation planning efforts for the next 5 to 10 years**. Please take a few minutes to complete this important survey. Your answers will remain anonymous. Please complete only one survey per household.

Thank you for taking time to participate in this important survey effort.

Sincerely,

Chad Hyde, Director, Community Services

Little Elm Park System Overview

9 Parks	1 senior center	6 outdoor pickleball courts	1 splash pad
329 acres of parks & green space	2 dog parks	1 indoor water park & event venue	
51 miles of trails	1 fishing pond	13 soccer fields	
7 playgrounds	2 dog parks	1 cricket pitch	
1 recreation center	2 tennis courts	Multiple special events annually	

Town of Little Elm Parks and Recreation Resident Survey

In which neighborhood in Little Elm do you presently reside?

1 ☐ Neighborhood name (or ask for Zip Code) _____ 2 ☐ Live outside Little Elm Town limits

1. How do you find out about parks, recreation facilities and recreation programs in Little Elm? (Check all that apply)

1 ☐ Town of Little Elm website 4 ☐ Emails from Little Elm 7 ☐ Town of Little Elm School District

Publications

2 ☐ Youth Sports Associations 5 ☐ Facebook/social media 8 ☐ Other _____
3 ☐ Park & Recreation Dept. flyers 6 ☐ HOA/Neighborhood Associations 9 ☐ Do not know how to find out

2. Within the past year, how often have you or someone from your household visited or used these Town of Little Elm facilities listed below? (Check one answer for each park/facility)

Little Elm Facilities	At least weekly	At least monthly	At least quarterly	Twice a year or less	Never
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Trails / nature trails / greenbelts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Splash pad/aquatics	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Dog parks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Picnic tables / picnic pavilions	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Fishing areas	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
The beach	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Boat ramps	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Athletic fields (softball, baseball, football)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Sand volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Outdoor basketball courts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Indoor basketball courts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Outdoor Pickleball	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Indoor Pickleball	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Cricket Pitch	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Disc golf course	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Special events	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Farmers Market	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

3. Within the past year, how often have you or someone from your household visited or used these Town of Little Elm parks listed below? (Check one answer for each park/facility)

PARKS, FACILITIES AND EVENTS	At least weekly	At least monthly	At least quarterly	Twice a year or less	Never
Little Elm Park – 701 W. Eldorado Parkway (163 total acres – 100 acres not developed) Playground, amphitheater, pavilion with grill, tent camping, boat ramp, swim beach, athletic fields, trails, picnic areas, sand volleyball courts, Lighthouse Grill concession	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Beard Park – 310 E. Eldorado Parkway (2 acres – 1.46 acres not developed) Large pavilion, open space, playground equipment, restored log cabin, historic Post Office, trails that connect with the lakefront trail system	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Cottonwood Park – 900 Lobo Lane (142 total acres, 125 acres not developed) Picnic tables, fishing, trails, Cottonwood Creek Marina, boat rentals, Cottonwood sports complex	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
McCord Park – 1800 FM 423 (37.5 acres) over a mile of trail, pedestrian bridges, open space, picnic areas, playgrounds, creek, fishing pond, fishing dock, 18-hole disc golf course, dog park, splash pad	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Union Park – 4911 Union Park - N. of U.S. 380 (35 acres) food truck area, open air pavilion, great lawn, fishing pond, dog park, trails, rubber walking trail, Ninja fitness stations, sand volleyball, pickleball	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
The Lawn at Lakefront™ – Under Town's historic water tower (2 acres) performance stage, playground, open lawn programming and special events	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Public Safety Honor Park – 102 W. Eldorado Pkwy. Walkway of engraved bricks, archways, benches, green space, trees	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Town-wide Trail System – Lakefront, Harts Branch, Cottonwood Nature Trail, Johnny Broyles Nature Trail, other					
The Rec at the Lakefront™ – 303 Main St. - 7,000s.f. fitness floor with equipment and weights, full sized basketball gym, open play pickleball & volleyball, kids zone, game room, group exercise rooms, full commercial kitchen, multipurpose room, classroom	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
The Cove at the Lakefront™ – 417 Lakefront Dr. – 42,000s.f. waterpark/event venue – lazy river, cabana rentals, flow rider, climbing wall, spray ground, outdoor patio, play pool with slides, party rooms, swim lessons	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Senior Center – 301 Main St.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Special Events - i.e., Kid Fish, July Jubilee, Autumn Fest, Craft Brew & Que, movies in the park, concerts	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

4. In which of these programs would you and your household members (of any age) be MOST INTERESTED in participating in Little Elm? (Check all that apply)

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS OF MOST INTEREST			
01 <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball	13 <input type="checkbox"/> Pilates	25 <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic programs for all ages	37 <input type="checkbox"/> Community gardens
02 <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball	14 <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding	26 <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing	38 <input type="checkbox"/> Art/ music/food festivals
03 <input type="checkbox"/> Softball	15 <input type="checkbox"/> Sand Volleyball	27 <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness classes/events	39 <input type="checkbox"/> Arts & crafts events
04 <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer	16 <input type="checkbox"/> Pickleball	28 <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool/toddler programs	40 <input type="checkbox"/> Music/dance programs
05 <input type="checkbox"/> Football	17 <input type="checkbox"/> Races (5K, 10K, etc.)	29 <input type="checkbox"/> Teen programs/camps	41 <input type="checkbox"/> Other
06 <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis	18 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult sports leagues	30 <input type="checkbox"/> Teen e-sport programs	42 <input type="checkbox"/> None/not interested
07 <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoes	19 <input type="checkbox"/> Biking/cycling programs	31 <input type="checkbox"/> Youth programs/camps	
08 <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket	20 <input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf	32 <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/child programs	
09 <input type="checkbox"/> Lacrosse	21 <input type="checkbox"/> Ropes course	33 <input type="checkbox"/> Family programs	
10 <input type="checkbox"/> Archery	22 <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing wall	34 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior active adult programs	
11 <input type="checkbox"/> Badminton	23 <input type="checkbox"/> Cornhole tournaments	35 <input type="checkbox"/> Town volunteer opportunities	
12 <input type="checkbox"/> Yoga	24 <input type="checkbox"/> Guided nature walks	36 <input type="checkbox"/> Farmers Market	

5. Which age groups in your household would be interested in participating in a Town of Little Elm recreation or leisure program? (Check all that apply)

- 1 ☐ Under 5 years of age 3 ☐ 11 to 17 5 ☐ 30 to 49 7 ☐ Over 65
 2 ☐ 5 to 10 4 ☐ 18 to 29 6 ☐ 50 to 65 8 ☐ None/not interested

6a. Little Elm Parks and Recreation Department is establishing priorities to help direct future departmental actions. How important is it for Little Elm to consider adding the facilities listed below? (Rate EACH facility on a scale from 1 to 4 with 4 being very important and 1 being not at all important)

	Very Important	Not at all Important	No opinion/ Not
<u>familiar</u>			
A – Additional trail connections to adjacent communities.....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
B – Additional hike/bike/walk trails.....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
C – Nature areas/preserves.....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
D – Skate park.....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
E – Additional baseball fields	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
F – Additional softball fields	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
G – Additional multi-use fields (soccer/football/Lacrosse)	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
H – Additional outdoor multi-use courts (basketball, tennis, other).....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
I – Additional lighted outdoor athletic fields	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
G – Additional outdoor pickleball courts	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
H – Cricket pitch.....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
I – Additional playgrounds	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
J – All-inclusive playground (open & safe space carefully designed to promote play among children of differing abilities, ages, and communities).....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
K – Spray ground/water splash pads.....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
L – Additional fishing piers.....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
M – Additional lake access points (beach areas, kayaking, paddle boarding, etc.).....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
N – Additional kayak / boat put in points along the lake.....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
O – Additional camping locations / tiny cabin rentals	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
P – Mountain bike/BMX pump track.....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
Q – Outdoor fitness training equipment in parks and along trails.....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
R – Interpretive signs in park/trails – plant, bird, tree identification, etc.	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
S – Additional dog park.....	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
T – Additional covered picnic shelters/pavilions (reunions, parties, etc.)	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
U – Disc golf course	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
V – Performing arts center	4.....	3.....	2.....1..... <input type="checkbox"/>

6b. Which THREE facilities/amenities (in rank order 1st, 2nd, 3rd) above are the MOST important to you for the Parks and Recreation Department to focus on in the future?

(Write in the letter from 6a. to the left of the facility in the blanks) 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

7. Which of the following SPORTS programs would you participate in if offered in the Town of Little Elm? (Check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Softball | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Ultimate Frisbee | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Pickleball |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Flag Football | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Volleyball | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Sand Volleyball | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> None/not interested |

8. To assist the Town of Little Elm develop future funding priorities, rank how you feel the funding should be prioritized. (Rate EACH on a scale from 1 to 4 with 4 being a TOP PRIORITY and 1 being a LOW PRIORITY.)

	Top Priority	Low	No opinion/ Priority	Not
<u>familiar</u>				
A – Provide additional recreation programs/classes.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
B – Acquire land for parks, open space, natural areas.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
C – Develop new hike/bike/walk/jog trails.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
D – Expand The Cove with outdoor components.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
E – Athletic/competitive sports.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1..... <input type="checkbox"/>
F – Additional Lake access points.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1..... <input type="checkbox"/>

9. In order to develop and maintain the park and recreation facilities/amenities you have suggested herein, how strongly would you support EACH of the funding options listed below.

(Rate EACH option on a scale from 1 to 4 with 4 being strong support and 1 being low support.)

	Strong	Support	Low	No opinion/ Support	Not
<u>Familiar</u>					
Increased user fees (paying a fee to use a facility/program)	4.....	3.....	2.....	1..... <input type="checkbox"/>	
Voter approved bond programs.....	4.....	3.....	2.....	1..... <input type="checkbox"/>	
Increased park improvement fees for developers	4.....	3.....	2.....	1..... <input type="checkbox"/>	
Increased property taxes	4.....	3.....	2.....	1..... <input type="checkbox"/>	

10. How much more per year in additional property taxes would you be willing to pay to fund the improvement priorities you have suggested in this survey?

- ☐ More than \$200/year ☐ Up to \$100/year ☐ Up to \$50/year
☐ Up to \$200/year ☐ Up to \$75/year ☐ No increase

11. How did you find out about this survey?

- ☐ Town of Little Elm website ☐ Town of Little Elm Facebook, Twitter, Instagram ☐ Other _____
☐ Received postcard in mail ☐ Email or word of mouth from friend/neighbor
☐ Email from Town of Little Elm ☐ Email from HOA/Neighborhood Association

12. What is your relation to Little Elm? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ I live in Little Elm ☐ I attend school in Little Elm
☐ I work in Little Elm ☐ I visit Little Elm

13. How long have you been a resident of Town of Little Elm?

- ☐ Less than 2 years ☐ 2 to 5 years ☐ 6 to 10 years ☐ 11 to 20 years ☐ Over 20 years

14. Which youth age groups are represented in your household? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ 0 to 5 years of age ☐ 11 to 17 years of age ☐ No children in household
☐ 6 to 10 years of age ☐ 18 to 24 years of age

15. How many persons, including yourself, reside within your household?

- ☐ One ☐ Two ☐ Three ☐ Four ☐ Five or more

16. Your age?

- ☐ 19 or under ☐ 25 to 34 ☐ 45 to 54 ☐ 65 to 74
☐ 20 to 24 ☐ 35 to 44 ☐ 55 to 64 ☐ 75 or older

17. Do you own or rent your home?

- ☐ Own ☐ Rent

18. Your race/ethnicity?

- ☐ African American/Black ☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander ☐ Two or more races
☐ Asian ☐ Native American ☐ White/Caucasian ☐ Other _____

19. Your gender?

- ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to answer

20. Do you have additional input about the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan you would like to share.

Map of the Lakefront District™



Cottonwood Park Master Plan



The Cove at The Lakefront™ Outdoor Water Park

