

FOREWORD

The Comprehensive Parks Master Plan is a living document that provides an assessment of past actions, existing conditions, and future steps towards the achievement of long-range goals. Williamson County has a strong heritage, rich natural resources, and a burgeoning population seeking enjoyment of parks and open spaces. Chapters one and two examine the places, people, and parks that make the County what it is today. It is in that thread that this parks master plan carries forward the vision of Williamson County residents for quality trails, parks, and preserves for future generations.

This update to the County's continuing master planning efforts was built on public input and stakeholder contributions, found in *Chapter 3* and *Appendix A*. A citizen survey and series of public open houses were held where participants expressed a variety of desires for the parks and trails system. Community interest groups and City representatives participated to find a common ground and pool resources in order to efficiently achieve common goals. The feedback from citizens created the foundation on which a future vision and implementation actions could be established.

The plan focuses on four key implementation focus areas:

1. Regional Trail Plan
2. Park System Expansion
3. Parkland Improvements
4. Operations and Maintenance

Within these focus areas are 10 goals that encompass over 50 recommended actions that the County can take over the next 10 years to meet the needs of the population. These actions, described in *Chapter 4*, include steps to connect a regional trail system, considering the next County park location, centering park facilities and programs around conservation and educational themes, and ensuring sound and cost-effective maintenance of park facilities.

The goals and actions in the parks master plan are designed to provide a 10-year roadmap for the Commissioner's Court and Parks Department. The plan implementation steps, expressed in *Chapter 5*, includes a prioritization of needs that serves as guide for budget allocations, additional study, and annual operational requirements for the Court and the Staff. The planning efforts completed during this process will allow for cost-sharing opportunities, partnerships, and cross-collaboration with local communities. In time, the plan will need to be monitored and re-assessed as a long-term outlook should include continued public engagement to ensure relevance and citizen support.