

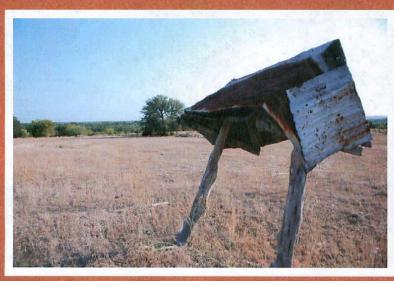
n 2008, 72% of survey respondents told Williamson County that they needed more walking, hiking and biking trails. The same year, the county purchased the 1,011 acre Williams Tract of rolling former ranch land located on the San Gabriel River in western Williamson County to serve these needs of its residents.

The purpose of the Williams Tract Park is a grand passive park – an area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation including studying nature, picking, hiking, fishing, camping and trail uses with limited active play areas such as playgrounds, versatile grassy meadows and community gathering spaces.

The property is bordered by ranchettes on the north, the San Gabriel River on the east, undeveloped land to the south and County Road 282 to the west. The hardwood trees on the property include live oaks, junipers and also a pecan flat on the river. There is also an overabundance of cedars and mesquite. Resources prohibit the ability to do everything that is needed at once. Thus a good phased resource management plan is paramount to the successful longevity of the park.

The future park is home to scores of deer, turkeys, raccoons, opossums, as well as the

endangered golden cheeked warbler and black capped vireo.



Existing structures provide an educational opportunity to share the site's ranching and farming history. Opportunities include a living history farm with farm animals and gardens. The facility would be an important educational resource for area schools, 4H clubs and Future Farmers of America. Infrastructure to the site is currently minimal with residential scale electrical service, well water from existing wells and septic systems. Development of facilities will put more of a strain on the park without consideration of garnering water and waste water services from the current service providers or looking to establish new relationship with other service providers. The sunny central Texas skies provide opportunities to enhance infrastructure demand with active and

passive solar designs. The existing well can also be restored to serve as a water source for horses and also be an educational opportunity.

Access and road frontage is good along CR 282 allowing multiple opportunities for access. Another ingress and egress route worthy of additional exploration is the extension of the site boundary east to access to CR 279 or Bagdad Road. Pedestrian access is an important consideration to adjacent existing and future residential neighborhoods.

Slopes and vegetation are the general constraints to development of facilities but serve as a great opportunity for habitat restoration and water quality protection. The upland plateau is very suitable for development of facilities. Hilltops are advantageous for development to capitalize on the views. The lower meadow area is a significant open space and would be well served to remain generally an open grassland meadow. The lower meadow is ideal for

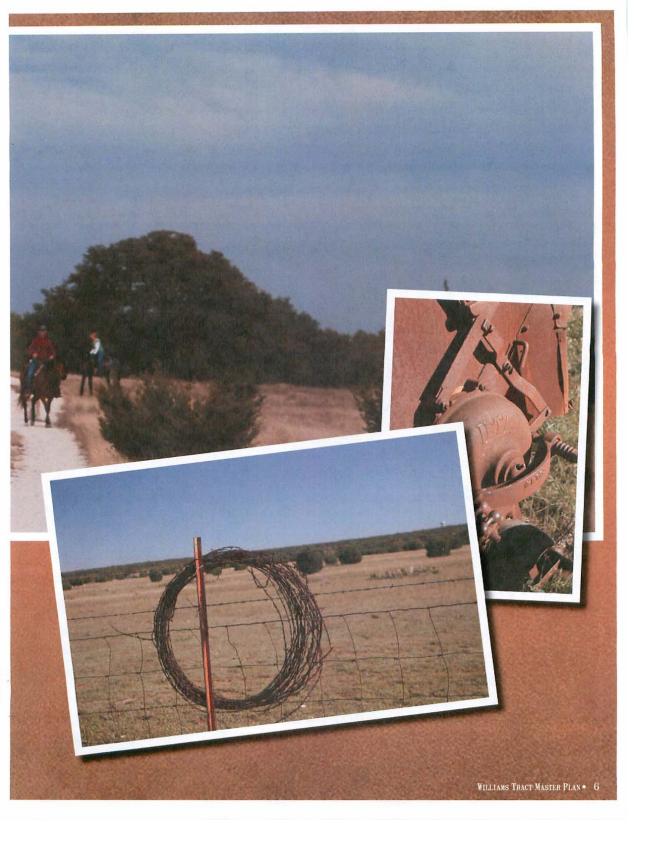


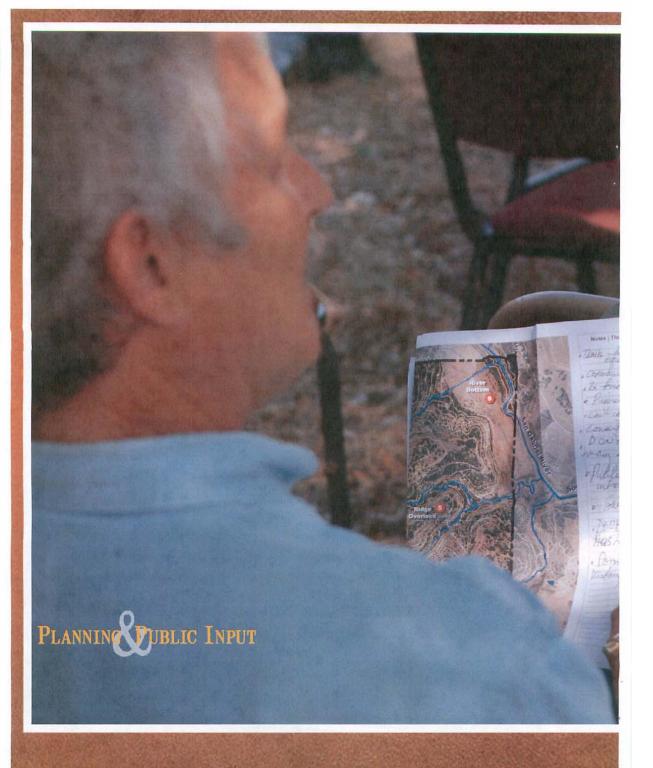
grassland restoration. It also provides an opportunity for trails to encompass its perimeter, especially along the riparian edge over looking the south fork of the San Gabriel. The river's edge is aesthetically and ecologically significant as most of the bank is elevated, steep and in some areas erosive.

The San Gabriel River serves as a natural resource occasionally allowing for fishing. Three existing ponds on the property can hold water. Two toward the western side of the property are more significant and allow the possibility to expand to provide recreational catch and release fishing opportunities.

The large 1,011 acre park has great health benefits for improved water quality. The undeveloped land with thick native grass serves as a natural filtration device cleaning the water that flows to the river and consequently Williamson County's drinking sources. Clean water entering our water treatment plants consequently has huge economic benefits.

The Williams Tract Park will meet the needs of the residents for trail use and provide for improved water quality as well as outdoor classrooms for studying nature and history. The park will also offer recreation and leisure activities such as fishing, camping and picnicking – as well as non-programmed spaces to gather and play.







he foundation of the Williams Tract Park is to meet the needs of the Williamson County community. The Williamson County Commissioners approved the purchase of the park to meet these needs. With the base established, the Williamson County Parks and Recreational Department went to the community to receive additional input for the park.

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The master plan process included multiple stake holder public input sessions. In order keep the process transparent, the meetings and their results are published online in the Williams Tract blog; http://williamstract.blogspot.com/.

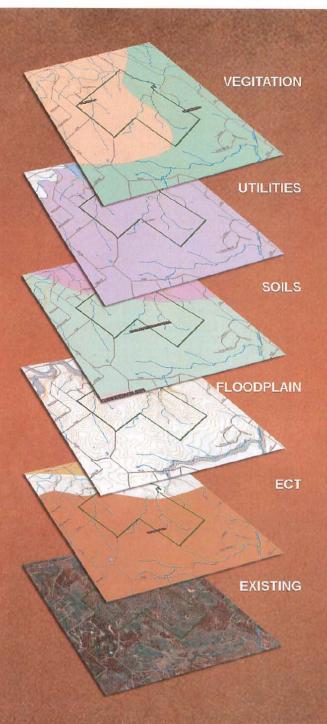
The first session included the Williamson County municipal park directors and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department park planners, as well as the neighboring Travis County park director. The input session included a site tour and brainstorming session. The group of park professionals concluded the site is an exceptional location for trails, in need of restoration, and should be kept as open as possible and free of too many improvements.

The second session was with the elected officials. The officials all expressed the desire to preserve the rural open space feel due to the rapid urbanization of Williamson County. While wanting to offer services and amenities to park users, the officials did not want to compete with private enterprise or existing municipal park services. Passive, safe and low noise activities were favored by all.

The third type of input sessions occurred with known special interest groups including the Williamson County Historical Museum, Williamson Count Road and Bridge, Williamson County Equestrian Club, Austin Ridge Riders Club and the Texas Horseshoe Pitchers Association [ascertain this is the correct group before final publication].

The final public input session was afternoon and evening open house at the Williamson County Courthouse. The planning team interviewed and spoke with interested parties. The team garnered input with a dot voting system. The two favorites were natural preservation and trails.





PARK ELEMENTS

- PASSIVE ELEMENTS:

 Walking, Hiking and Biking Trails

 Picnic Shelters
- Nature Trails with Interpretive Signage
- Horseshoe Complex
- Remote Camping
 RV Camping
 Cabins

- Stargazing
 Amphitheater

- Access to San Gabriel
 Heritage Center
 Observation Decks/Platforms
 Treehouse

- Firepits
 Open Play Areas

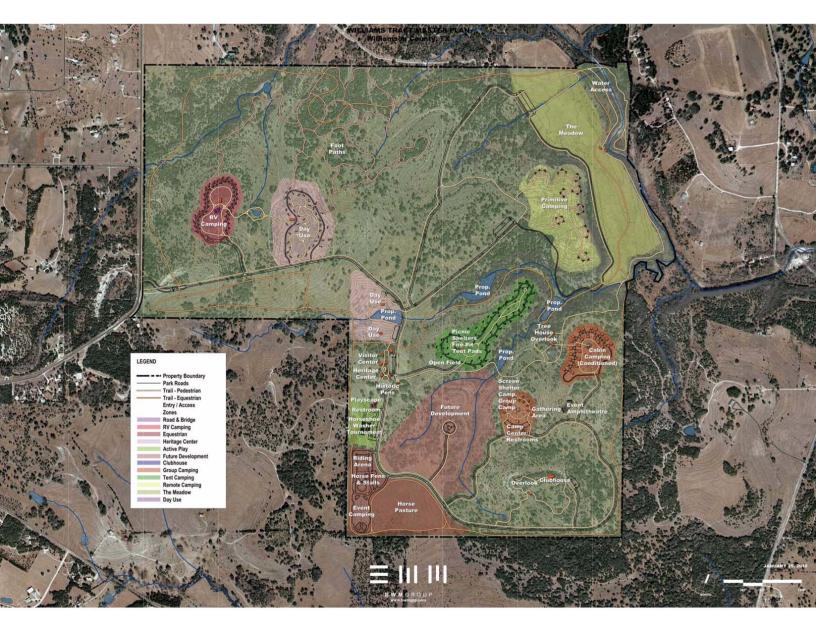
- ACTIVE ELEMENTS:

 Mountain Biking

 Equestrian Genter

 Equestrian Trails

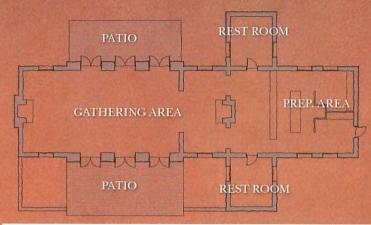
 Dog Park

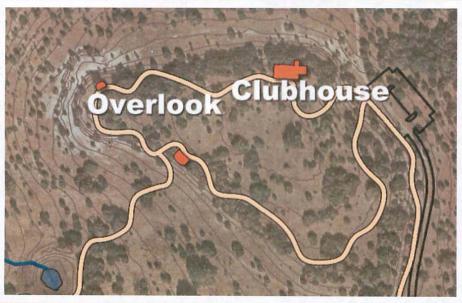


CLUBHOUSE

The clubhouse is to serve as as a gathering venue for both large and small events.

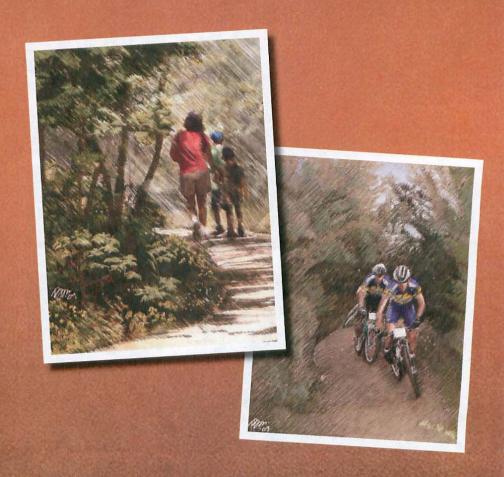
Not only can the Clubhouse be used for educational purposes for displaying information pertaining to the park but may also play host to special occasions such as weddings, reunions and many more occasions.





TRAILS

A variety of trail systems make their way through the park. Trails range from passive walking trails for the day hiker to more rugged trails used by mountain bikers and horseback riders. Points of interests will be delineated along the trail to educate users on the wildlife, vegetation and views of the site.

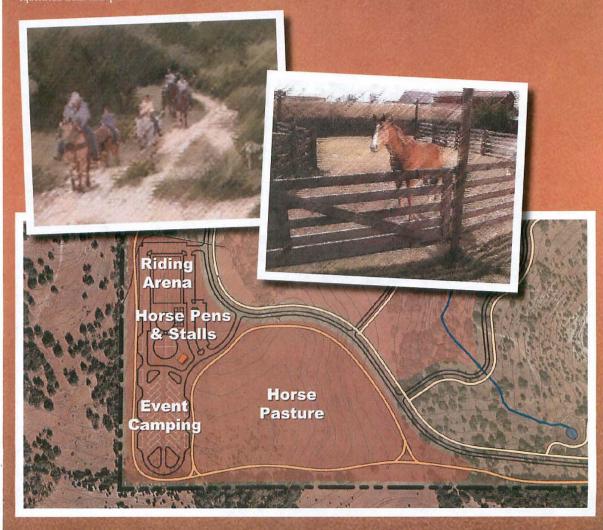


EQUESTRIAN AREA

An equestrian facility and trails will serve as a opportunity to explore the land on horseback.

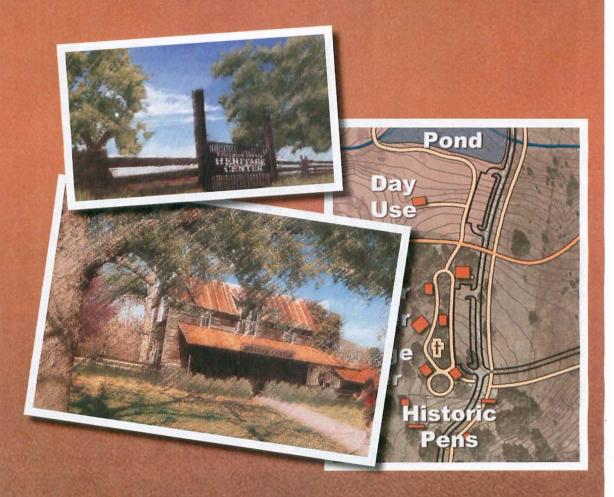
Truck and trailer parking, holding pens, watering facilities and riding areas enhance the equestrian experience.

These facilities are for both daily access to equestrian trails and special events.



HERITAGE/ CONFERENCE CENTER

Serves to host a variety of meetings, organized events and a destination point once arriving to the park.

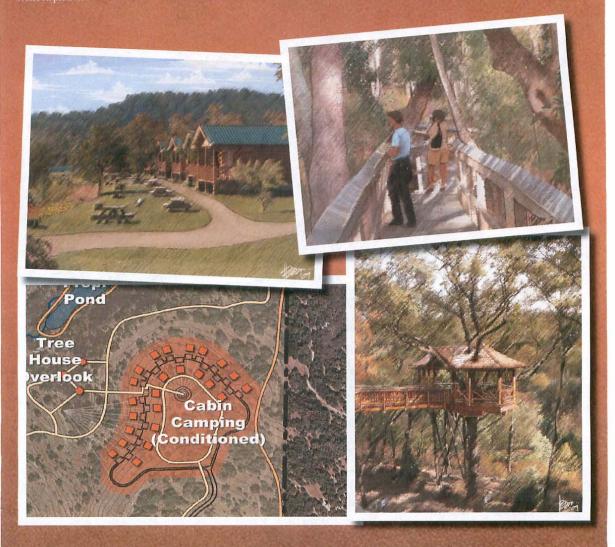


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RETREAT CAMPING

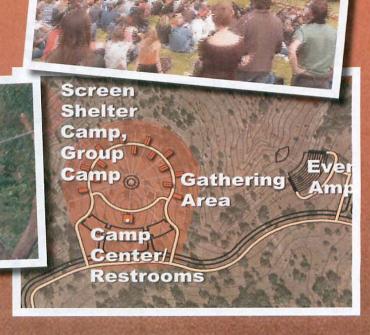
These cabins provide for a secluded area for small group gatherings and overnight stays. Each cabin is climate controlled and includes a restroom.

Additionally unique opportunity is presented within the park to take advantage of the natural terrain through suspended walkways within the trees. These walkways will connect to a covered overlook platform.



GROUP CAMPING

These cabins offer opportunities for organized camps and allow for supervision. The cabins are not climate controlled and a centralized restroom facility is provided.



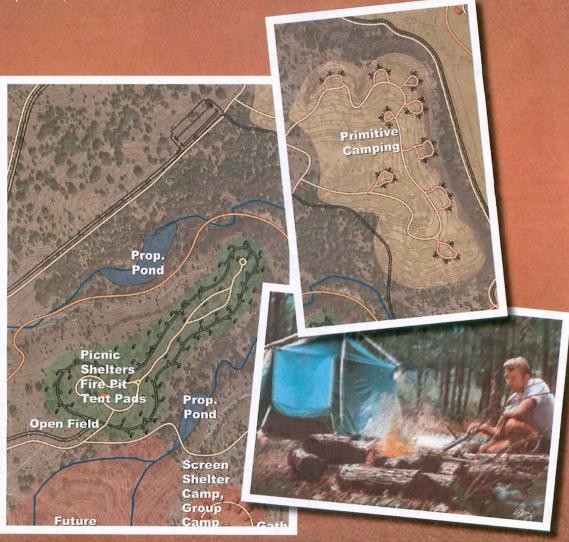
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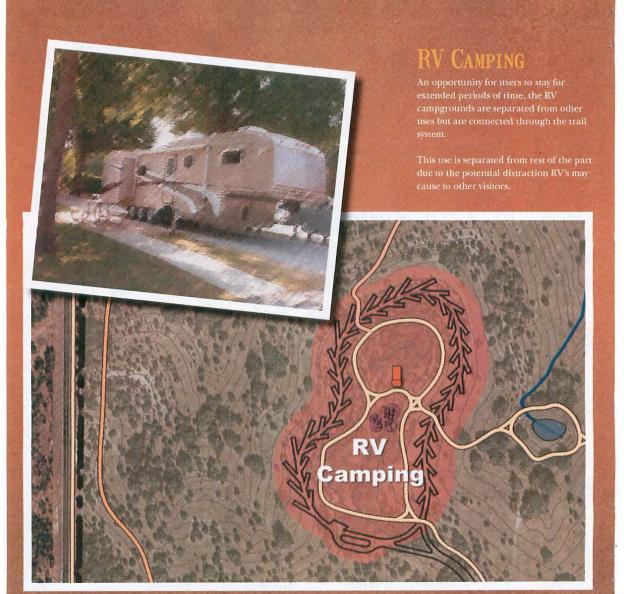
CAMPING

Remote camping allows visitors to park at a centralized location and hike out to campsites.

Tent camping allows visitors to drive directly up to their campsite where pads with hook-ups are available.

All camp grounds are connected through the parks trail system.





ACTIVE PLAY ZONE

This zone is intended for uses which can generate crowds and are vibrant in activity.

- Horseshoes and Washers
 Playground
 Dog Park

image and character of the park.



Playscape Restroom





- Such activities include:

 Swimming and water access

 Picnics

 Group gathering spots

 Open Play areas

