

ADOPTING A MASTER PLAN
FOR PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OVILLA, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE; AND ADOPTING A TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTING A MASTER PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE.

WHEREAS, the City of Ovilla, Texas is a Type A general-law municipality located in Ellis and Dallas Counties, created in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 6 of the Texas Local Government Code and operating pursuant to the enabling legislation of the State of Texas; and

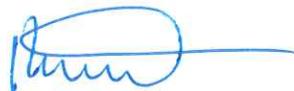
WHEREAS, the City of Ovilla realizes the necessity of having access to suitable recreational opportunities to ensure the mental and physical well-being of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ovilla desires to provide the most aesthetically appealing environment for its citizens to pursue a variety of leisure-time pursuits;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OVILLA:

1. That the City establish specific goals, objectives and priorities that provide for parks, recreational facilities and open space utilization; and
2. That the City adopt a timeline for implementing a master plan for the development, operation, improvement and maintenance of parks, recreational facilities and open space.
3. That the Parks Master Plan is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

RESOLVED, PASSED and APPROVED, this 13 day of AUGUST 2018.

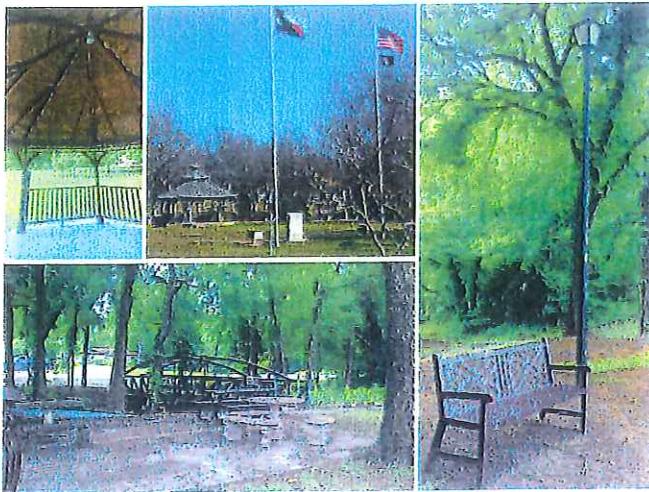


MAYOR Richard A. Dormier

ATTEST:


CITY SECRETARY Pamela Wondall

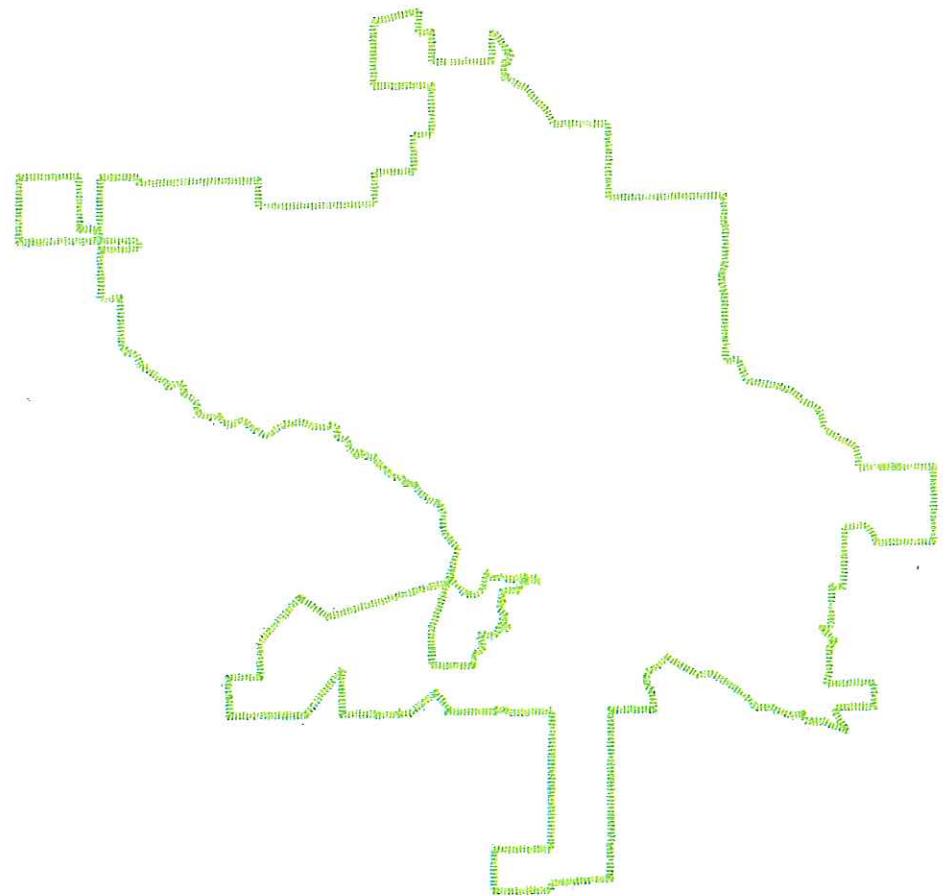




**City
of
Ovilla**
Parks
&
Recreation
Master Plan
2018-2028



City of Ovilla



**Parks & Recreation Master Plan
2018-2028**

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PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The city of Ovilla is located in northwestern Ellis County, approximately 25 miles southwest of Dallas. A portion of the city extends over the boundary with Dallas County to the north. Incorporated in 1960, Ovilla is a Type A General Law City with the council-manager form of government. The city council appoints a city manager to oversee the day-to-day management of the city. Ovilla is in the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG).

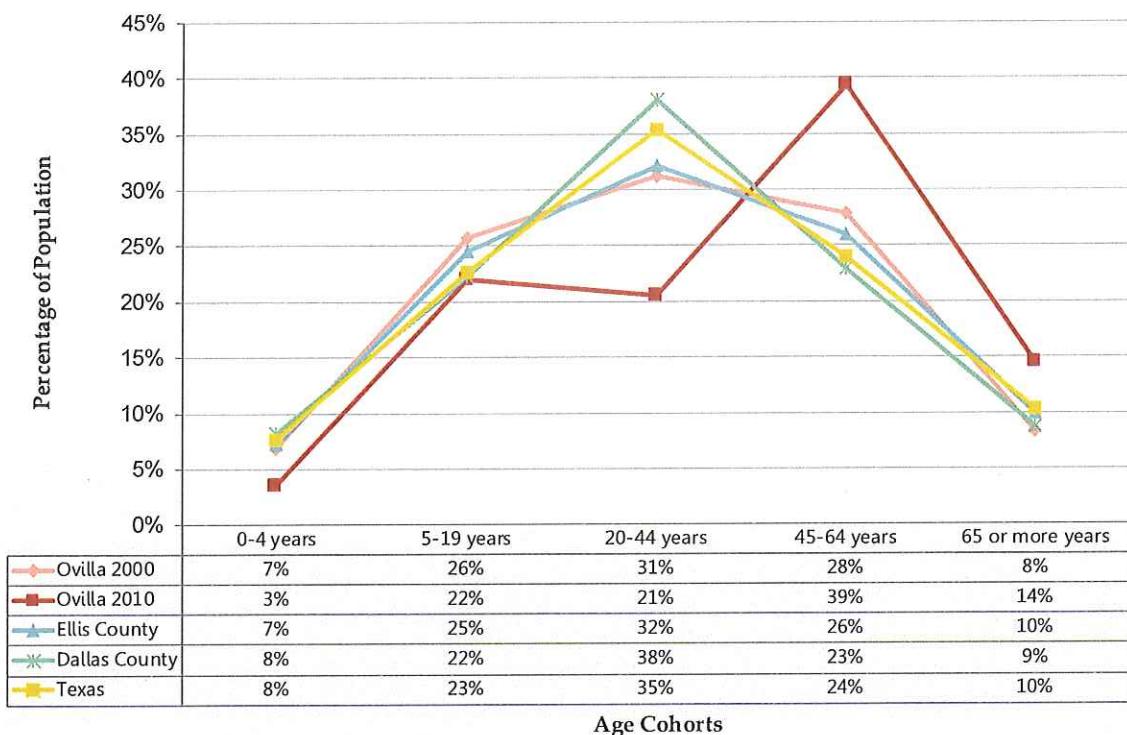
In small communities like Ovilla, recreational areas play a key role not only in the health of the individual, but also in the health of the community as a whole. Parks and recreational areas provide pleasant places for family reunions, friendly competition, exercise, and socializing. To encourage healthy living, every city has the responsibility of providing adequate parks and open space. However, limited funds for these public uses generally require foresight in planning for future development and expansion of parks and open spaces.

To adequately plan for the future, it is important to understand the community's historical background and demographic profile. Several demographic and cultural factors contribute to the increasing demand for parks and recreational facilities in many Texas towns including the city of Ovilla: the increase in life expectancy coupled with earlier retirement ages for many people, the spread of competitive sporting programs to the youngest and oldest age groups, and the understanding that a healthy diet and regular exercise are good for mental and physical well-being.

The oldest town in Ellis county, Ovilla began as an unnamed, fortified settlement during the mid-19th century. The community was eventually named by Mrs. M. M. Molley as a play on the Spanish word *villa*. A thriving farming community developed and, by the early 20th century, a small commercial center. Unlike many Texas communities, the city was not developed along a rail line; both railroads and major highways bypassed Ovilla. Coupled with two fires that destroyed much of the existing downtown in 1918 and 1921, this fact kept Ovilla a smaller community through the 1960s. Ovilla's population began to notably increase in the later 20th century as previous residents of Dallas sought suburban, residential communities. The city's population more than tripled during the 1970s and, though to a lesser extent, continued to increase throughout the 1980s and 1990s (90% and 68% population increase, respectively). The city of Ovilla remains a predominantly suburban, residential community.

Ovilla's population also increased over the last decade, but population growth was less than previous decades; the city's population increased by 3% between 2000 and 2010. The city's population gained middle-aged (44-64) and senior residents (65+) and lost many adult residents (20-44). Comparison of the expected and actual 2010 population by age group indicates that changes in Ovilla's age distribution resulted primarily from a decrease in the number of residents in their 20s and early 30s, as well as natural population change (aging). The City of Ovilla wants to provide recreational activities for all segments of the population regardless of age.

Chart 1: Population by Age Group (2000, 2010)



Source: 2000 and 2010 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing

Ovilla has a smaller minority population than both Ellis County and Dallas County. Hispanic/Latino residents comprise 8% of the population, and non-White residents comprise 13% of the population. Students of all races who attend the following schools were invited to complete a survey about park needs (further discussed below): McCowan Middle School, Perementer Middle School, Red Oak Middle School, Red Oak High School, Walnut Grove Middle School, Ovilla Christian School, and Midlothian Heritage High School.

Table 1: Population by Race & Ethnicity (2000, 2010)

Characteristic	Ovilla				Ellis County		Dallas County	
	2000		2010		2010		2010	
	Number	%	Number	Number	%	%	%	%
Total Population	3,405	100%	3,492	100%	149,610	100%	2,368,139	100%
Race								
White	3,130	92%	3,024	87%	117,662	79%	1,267,861	54%
Black or African American	166	5%	303	9%	13,482	9%	528,200	22%
American Indian, Alaskan Native	12	0%	16	0%	893	1%	17,133	1%
Asian	24	1%	21	1%	851	1%	119,250	5%
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	1	0%	1	0%	95	0%	1,222	0%
Other	24	1%	73	2%	13,344	9%	367,610	16%
Two or More Races	48	1%	54	2%	3,283	2%	66,863	3%
Ethnicity								
Hispanic or Latino	114	3%	282	8%	35,161	24%	905,940	38%
Not Hispanic or Latino	3,291	97%	3,210	92%	114,449	76%	1,462,199	62%

Note: figures may be rounded to next whole number

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

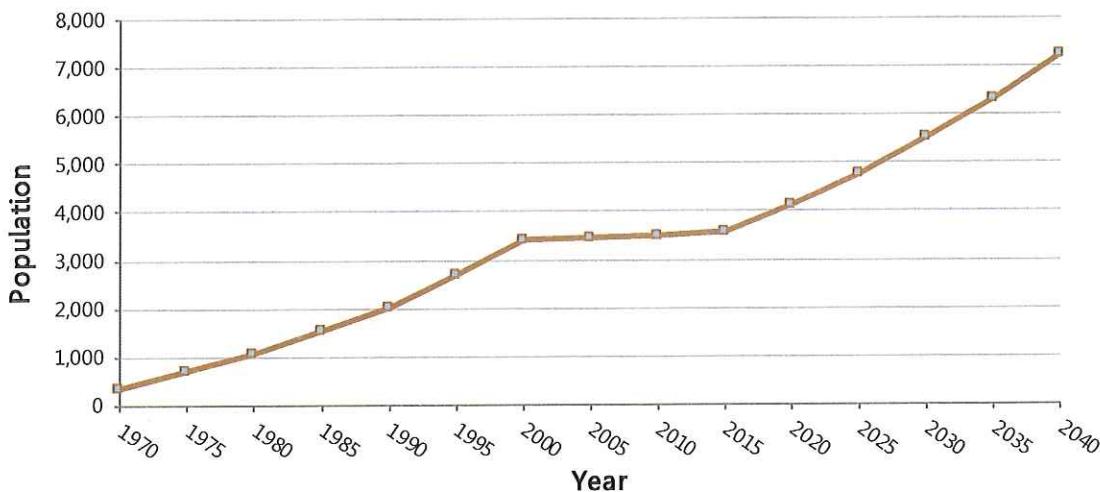
The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) estimates Ovilla's 2018 population to be 4,040 residents.¹ Based on this population estimate, Ovilla's population increased by 16% over the last eight years.

¹ "The NCTCOG produces annual population estimates for all cities and counties in the 16-county region. The NCTCOG derives estimates using a symptomatic method based on the number and types of housing units. Units are assigned differing household sizes and occupancy rates based on housing type (single-family, multifamily, group quarters, etc.) Populations estimates are calculated first by housing type and then combined into a total estimate for each city/county. The population estimates rely heavily on data provided by local governments. For more information see "2018 Population Estimates," North Central Texas Council of Governments, rdc.nctcog.org



Ovilla's population is expected to increase by 1,190 residents over the next 10 years, reaching approximately 5,230 residents by 2028.²

Chart 2: Population (1970 – 2040)



Source: Texas Demographic Center State Population Estimates and data from NCTCOG 2018 population estimate

An estimated 3.7% of Ovilla's residents are below the poverty level.³ The unemployment rate in Ellis County is lower than the total unemployment rate in Texas (11.0% and 16.7%, respectively). However, average weekly wages in the county (\$813) are lower than the state average (\$1,037).⁴ Conversely, the unemployment rate in Dallas County (18.6%) is higher than the total unemployment rate in Texas but average weekly wages are also higher than the state average (\$1,219). Based on these measures, the City of Ovilla could fund recreation facilities through increased taxes, bond issues, or user fees.

In addition to the city's demographic and economic conditions, this plan examines parks and recreation facility gaps in Ovilla from two perspectives: a standards-based analysis and a demand-based analysis. Although existing parks in Ovilla include a good amount of equipment and amenities (detailed in *Inventory & Assessment of Existing Resources*), residents do not have access to the variety of recreational opportunities that allow for quality leisure time pursuits or activities which lead to a healthy lifestyle.

² The projected population is based on the city of Ovilla's historical share of Ellis County's population, updated with the NCTCOG 2018 population estimate, and applied to the Texas Demographic Center TDC 1.0 Growth Scenario population projection for Ellis County. For more information on TDC's projection methods visit <http://txsdc.utsa.edu/Data/TPEPP/Projections/>.

³ From the American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table DP03, Poverty level of "All people", accessible from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/main.html>

⁴ From the Texas Workforce Commission at <http://www.tracer2.com/>

According to the standards-based analysis, residents do not have access to a sufficient number of general use / soccer fields, multiuse paths, light activity areas, or picnic tables/areas. Additionally, existing park and recreation areas lack pedestrian and/or bicycle connections. By the end of the planning period, Ovilla will also require several sport court facilities including a basketball court, a tennis court, and a volleyball court.

The demand-based analysis, based on surveys collected from 198 Ovilla residents, closely matches the standards-based analysis. With few exceptions, the parks and recreation improvements that Ovilla residents want are in line with the standards-based recommendations.

Based on the current Level of Service and expected population growth, the City of Ovilla should move to begin expanding its parks network as soon as possible.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Ovilla's Parks & Recreation Master Plan provides a foundation for development of future park and recreation facilities and guidance for maintenance of existing facilities in the city of Ovilla. To realize this vision for the future, actions suggested in this plan relate to specific goals that the residents of Ovilla hope to accomplish.

The goals and the objectives presented here that will lead to implementation were determined through review of existing documents that establish aspirations for recreational facilities in Ovilla, an online survey of residents, and input from City staff. [In addition, at a joint meeting, the Ovilla Parks Board and the Ovilla Economic Development Corporation reviewed and provided comments on a draft plan.](#)

The following goals reflect a continued yet expanded commitment to the original aims of the City's previous administrations.

Table 2: City of Ovilla Recreation & Open Space Goals & Objectives (2018-2028)

Goals & Objectives	Activity Year(s)			Lead Organization	Cost Estimate	Funding Sources
	2018- 2021	2022- 2025	2026- 2028			
<i>Goal 10.1 Maintain existing recreational facilities in good condition.</i>						
Budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for future facility development.	X	X	X	City	\$45,000± [1]	GEN
Establish "community work day" at parks to accomplish a portion of park development using volunteer labor. Tasks can include site preparation, clean-up, and preliminary construction	X	X	X	City	< \$1,000	GEN; Local

tasks. Seek volunteers from local citizens, City staff, community service workers, schools, local institutions, and civic groups.

Develop a shared-resources plan with local institutions to ensure all available area facilities can be utilized year-round.

X

City

< \$1,000
(legal)

GEN; Local

Conduct biennial review of shared-resources plan with local institutions to ensure all available area facilities can be utilized year-round.

X

X

X

City

< \$1,000
(legal)

GEN; Local

Establish a voluntary park donation fund for maintenance, repair, and upgrade of City parks. Solicitation could be added to City utility bill.

X

City

< \$1,000

GEN

Goal 10.2 Construct new facilities that fulfill residents' expressed needs and bring the city up to standard.

Develop a sidewalk network to connect parks, central Ovilla, and nearby neighborhoods.

X

X

X

City

Variable

GEN; TDA-
DRP; TxDOT-
TA

Establish Community Park Development and Trail System Development as key subjects for further review, study, and recommendation by the Parks Board.

X

City

Staff

GEN

Apply in summer/fall 2019 to TPWD Non-urban Outdoor Recreation Program or to Small Community Recreation Program to further develop Cindy Jones Park.

X

City

Variable

GEN

Revise Park Development Fee standards to ensure sufficient park land serves new subdivisions, given anticipated increased in development and population.

X

City

< \$1,000
(legal)

GEN

Develop policy to educate public regarding benefits of private donation of land to be used for parks, greenbelts, and open space.

X

City

Staff

GEN

Begin negotiations with owner of vacant land adjacent to Heritage Park to acquire land and expand park.

X

City

Staff

GEN

<u>Further develop Cindy Jones Park.</u> Current facility needs include: two (2) general soccer fields; one (1) basketball court; (1) volleyball court; (1) tennis court; group picnic areas; and a multi-use pavilion/outdoor event venue with cooking facilities.	X	City	<u>Up to \$1,000,000</u>	GEN; EDC; TPWD (City contribution would be 50% match)
<u>Install inclusive play activities (such as "scent or sensory garden" and inclusive play equipment that can be enjoyed by children with physical disabilities.</u>	X	City	<u>\$2,000</u>	GEN; Ellis County MGA
<u>Develop activities pursued by elderly residents such as horseshoes, shuffleboard, or domino/card game tables where none currently exist and as needed.</u>	X	City	<u>\$2,000</u>	GEN
Apply to TPWD Small Community Recreation Program in summer/fall 2022 to expand and improve Heritage Park.	X	City	Variable	GEN
Acquire land and construct improvements at Heritage Park including: a repaved/extended walking path; a light activity area; and picnic tables and park benches as appropriate.	X	City	Up to \$150,000	GEN; EDC; TPWD (City contribution would be up to \$75,000 as 50% match)
<u>Apply to TPWD Recreational Trails Fund (January 2025) and/or Tx-DOT-Transportation Alternatives Program to install a nature trail on donated land near Red Oak Creek.</u>	X	City	Variable	GEN
<u>Develop exhibits at park facilities to foster nature appreciation and to educate visitors about local flora, fauna, and geology. This can include community gardens and/or xeriscaped gardens.</u>	X	City	<u>\$2,000</u>	GEN; KTB; Local
<u>Develop native grass and garden areas along Red Oak Creek and/or Little Creek to preserve habitat and encourage wildlife viewing.</u>	X	City	<u>\$2,000</u>	GEN; Ellis County MGA; Local
Encourage development of indoor activities typically operated by private businesses such as a movie theater, bowling alley, roller-skating rink, gymnastics/twirling center, etc.	X	City	Staff	GEN; EDC; Local

Encourage development of other outdoor activities typically operated by private businesses such as a skate park, equestrian facilities, miniature golf, bicycle-motocross, etc.	X	City	Staff	GEN; EDC; Local
<u>Work with TPWD/Tx-DOT to install a nature trail on donated land near Red Oak Creek.</u>	X	City	<u>Up to \$240,000 + TxDOT Funds (variable)</u>	<u>GEN; EDC; TPWD (City contribution would be up to \$40,000 as 20% match); TXDOT-TA (20% match required)</u>
Goal 10.3 Continue ongoing maintenance and improvements to open spaces, highway rights-of-way, and commercial areas to demonstrate local pride and attract visitors, investors; and new residents.				
Continue programming and festivals at public parks like movie night and the Heritage Festival. <i>Festivals and events provide diverse activities not normally available in the park and enhance the usefulness of the facilities. These events can also highlight the community's cultural diversity or offer special events such as kite-flying contests or bike-a-thons.</i> Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	X	X	X	City \$5,000-\$10,000 GEN; EDC; Local
Schedule biennial review of Parks & Recreation Master Plan and update priority list and public input as needed.	X	X	X	City < \$1,000 GEN; Local
Schedule creation of new Parks & Recreation Master Plan for 2028.		X	City	\$10,000 GEN; CDBG

[1] Budget based on median operating expenditures per acre park and non-park sites for parks and recreation agencies servicing a population between 500 to 1,500 residents per square mile from the 2018 National Parks and Recreation Agency Performance Review <https://www.nrpa.org/siteassets/nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf> Per acre spending is \$5,846. Total developed park acres in Ovilla in 2018 is 7.7 acres.

GEN = City of Ovilla municipal funds; EDC = Ovilla Economic Development Corporation; Ellis County MGA = Ellis County Master Gardner Club; KTB = Keep Texas Beautiful grants; Local = donation from private citizens, organizations, and local businesses; OYBA = Ovilla Youth Baseball Association; Staff = City of Ovilla staff time; TDA-DRP = Texas Department of Agriculture Downtown Revitalization Program grants; TPWD = Texas Parks & Wildlife Department grants; TxDOT-TA = Texas Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternatives Program grants

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Previous Studies

The City of Ovilla has two existing documents with recommendations for its parks and recreation strategy: The first, The City of Ovilla Comprehensive Land Use Plan, was adopted in 2000 and updated in 2010 by Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc. The City of Ovilla Comprehensive Land Use Plan Review Committee updated the plan in 2016. The Committee is comprised of residents and representatives from the Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, Planning & Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment, Park Board, and Municipal Services Advisory Committee. Ovilla residents were invited to participate in the plan update process through a series of open meetings completed over several months.

As updated in 2016, the Ovilla Comprehensive Plan includes the following parks and recreation goals and objectives:

1. Promote the preservation of natural vegetation and open spaces that maintain the attractive rural atmosphere of the City of Ovilla. In addition to the policies and procedures, promotion may be accomplished through the proactive communication via channels available to the City.
 - a. Incorporate into the overall parks and open space system areas with large trees, substantial vegetation, creeks, and floodways.
 - b. Discourage development that could be hazardous or noxious to the city residents, mitigating damages to natural areas through perpetual preservation.
 - c. Encourage preservation and expansion of greenbelt areas, especially along creeks throughout the city.
 - d. Encourage the preservation and planting of native trees and vegetation.
2. Develop a variety of parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities compatible with the environment and designed to serve both the active and passive recreational needs of the citizens.
 - a. Encourage the dedication of property for the City's park system by development.
3. Develop a cost-effective system of parks and open space network in a manner which promotes optimum utilization of the system in a safe, clean, and orderly atmosphere by the citizens of Ovilla.

The comprehensive plan also includes the following relevant recommendations to improve bike and pedestrian circulation in the thoroughfares study:

Bikeways and sidewalks will become more important in the future, not only as the marker of quality urban development, but as an alternative mode of transportation. The City of Ovilla should consider developing a bikeway plan that would coordinate the development of a greenbelt hike and bike trail system with a comprehensive system of bikeways throughout the city. Key elements of the bikeway plan should include methods to provide bikeways with right-of-way on major streets as well as separate bikeway facilities, and to encourage developers to provide bike facilities in new developments.

To accommodate pedestrians, the City should require sidewalks in new developments and redevelopments. Specifically, the City should consider the following:

- Require sidewalks along both sides of arterial and collector streets;
- Require sidewalks in residential areas on all streets;
- Encourage the connection of sidewalks in residential areas and to commercial and recreational areas by working with developers as projects are planned;
- Provide pedestrian pathways in public recreation areas;
- Implement a low cost, shared resident/public program to replace older, substandard sidewalks. This could be done in conjunction with the street improvement program; and
- Consider including projects that retrofit older developed areas that do not have sidewalks into a Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for arterial and collector streets.

The second document addressing topics relevant to Ovilla's Parks & Recreation Plan is the City's *Strategic Guide 2013-2018*, [as updated May 14, 2018](#). The Strategic Guide was produced by The Management Connection Inc. based on a Needs Assessment completed with the Ovilla City Council in October 2013, a Strategic Planning Conference with approximately 33 members of the community in November 2013, and a Vision/Mission Workshop with the mayor and City Council members in December 2013.

The Guide includes the following goal statement and related actions steps/tasks:

GOAL STATEMENT II: Create a Master Parks Plan that connects the community by December 2018.

Action Step 1: Develop current Master Parks Plan

1. [Evaluated the needs of Heritage Park and develop improvement plan and budget.](#)
2. [Hold Music in the Park summer concert event.](#)
3. [Movie in the Park](#)
4. [Heritage Park \(install restroom facilities\)](#)

Action Step 2: Create satellite recreation areas around town

1. [Consider Developer's Dedication of Parkland and fit with the Strategic Guide](#)
2. [Evaluate needs of existing satellite parks and develop improvement plan and budget](#)

Action Step 3: Work with ORCS to develop park plan (Ovilla Road Christian School)

Action Step 4: Establish ordinance that promote park/recreation areas in new developments.

1. [Establish Parks Board Ordinance ORD.2014-012](#)
2. [Review and Revise Parkland Dedication Fee](#)
3. [Revise Parks Ordinance ORD.2015-008](#)

Action Step 5: Develop City Park Maintenance Plan

1. Revisit Existing Maintenance Plan
2. Playground Equipment
3. Began using Public Playground Safety Handbook – Recommended by TML

Action Step 6: Explore developing partnership with other community entities for parks and recreation opportunities (churches)

Values of accomplishing this goal:

- Attracts families to the community.
- Encourages the citizens to participate in different activities.
- It supports the characteristics of Ovilla.

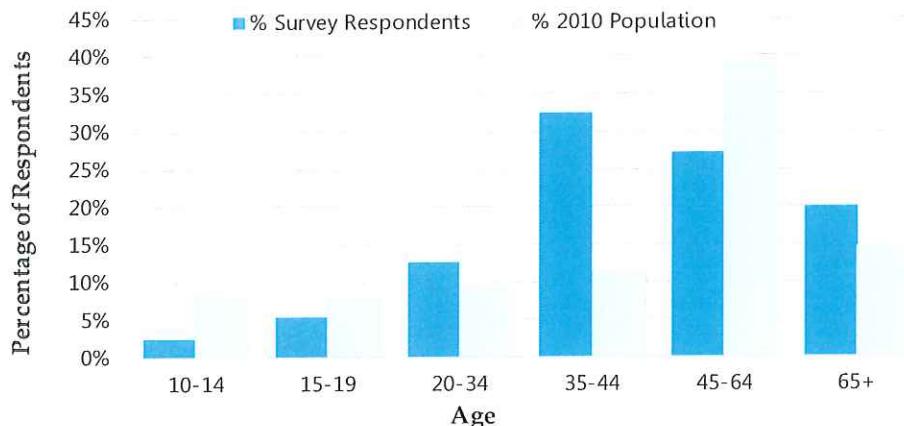
2018-2028 Plan

The development process for this plan began when the City of Ovilla hired a professional planning firm, GrantWorks Inc. of Austin, to create a Parks & Recreation Master Plan. To begin judging the level of interest in park needs, planners consulted with City staff, City officials, and residents of all ages. An online survey was made available to Ovilla residents via posting on the City website and on Nextdoor. The survey was open to all community members. The online survey was also sent to local schools to collect input from students as this group tends to be frequent park and recreational facility users. Most children from Ovilla attend a school outside of the city limits. Therefore, the survey was sent to both local schools within and several schools near to the city of Ovilla. The following schools were invited to participate in the survey: McCowan Middle School, Permenter Middle School, Red Oak Middle School, Red Oak High School, Walnut Grove Middle School, Ovilla Christian School, and Midlothian Heritage High School. Survey responses included students from Midlothian Heritage Highschool, Permenter Middle School, Red Oak Middle School, and Red Oak High School.

Because the survey was available to both Ovilla residents and non-residents, the survey asked respondents to indicate where they live. Seven hundred twenty (720) surveys were completed. One hundred ninety-eight (198) of the respondents reported living in the city of Ovilla. This plan exclusively considers the responses of Ovilla residents as indicated in the survey.

The Ovilla resident respondents represent approximately 4.9% of the city's population based on the estimated 2018 population of 4,040 residents. *Chart 3 (next page)* illustrates the age distribution of the selected survey respondents (respondents from Ovilla). As the chart shows, most of the respondents are adults, and are primarily between the ages of 35 and 44. *Chart 3* also includes the distribution for the same age groups from the 2010 US Census. Compared with Census figures, survey responses overrepresent adults between 20 and 44. However, this may be a key stakeholder group as recent changes in Ovilla's age distribution appear to have resulted in part from a notable decrease in the number of residents in their 20s and early 30s.

Chart 3: Survey Respondent Age Distribution



Survey respondents indicated that trails for hiking/jogging/biking and playground facilities were the most desired improvements. Additional top desired recreational facilities include a recreation center, a swimming pool, and sidewalks.⁵ These results are discussed in the *Needs Assessment & Identification* section of this plan. A copy of the survey form is included at the end of this plan in the *Appendix*.

In addition to community input, this plan evaluates the Ovilla's recreation resources in relation to its existing and projected population and an inventory of existing facilities, a method called Standards-Based Assessment.⁶ The analysis is used to develop a logical and cost-efficient strategy to address the identified needs over a 10-year planning period.

Following adoption of this plan by the City Council, the City's ongoing responsibility will be: to maintain and improve City-managed facilities; to identify funding resources; and to engage in cooperative projects with local volunteer groups and local schools.

Texas Parks and Wildlife recommends that parks and recreation plans be updated every five years to reflect changing realities in recreation trends, participation, area population, and funding. An update would include: revised goals and objectives that raise items of lower priority to higher priority as higher priority items are accomplished; a new facility inventory; and a new survey. In 2028, a new plan will be required.

⁵ Top desired recreational facilities are those facilities receiving a weighted score or equal to 80% of the highest weighted score.

⁶ The Standards-Based Assessment starts on page 28 of the plan.

AREA & FACILITY CONCEPTS & STANDARDS

There are basic principles that guide successful development of parks and recreation opportunities in communities of all sizes and types. These standards and guidelines provide direction to community leaders who know generally what their community's needs are but require more specific information to guide the planning process.

The City's standards for needed recreation and open-space include facility type, facility size, facility service area, and need equipment at the facility. The criteria are based on nationwide standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)⁷ and small-community standards developed by the State of Colorado.⁸ The standards were tailored to the city of Ovilla based on knowledge about financial capacity, popular sports, community activities, and which facilities would provide participation opportunities to the broadest segments of residents.

The City of Ovilla's standards are as follows:

General Standards for all Facility Development

- Residents should have access to a minimum of 5 acres and an ideal 15 acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents.
- When possible, active recreation areas should be separated according to the users' ages, primarily to protect younger children from injury. Some areas should be designated for use by all ages so entire families can enjoy being together.
- Residents of all age groups should have access to recreational facilities.
- Recreational areas should be accessible to the age group they are designed to serve. For example, neighborhood playgrounds usually serve an area with a radius of one-half mile, which is a reasonable distance for a child to walk. Safe pedestrian routes should provide access to those facilities.
- All City park facilities will be made accessible to physically challenged and special needs populations when required by applicable laws. The items mentioned as needed for other categories apply equally to special needs populations. Additional special needs facilities may be developed as warranted by local demand.

⁷ NRPA-suggested classification system (Berke, Kaiser, Godschalk and Rodriguez, *Urban Land Use Planning*, University of Illinois Press, Fifth Edition.)

⁸ *State of Colorado Small Community Park & Recreation Planning Standards* (2003). RPI Consulting, Inc. and Colorado Heritage Planning Grant program, Office of Smart Growth, Colorado Department of Local Affairs. (Page 16). Accessed at www.dola.state.co.us/osg/docs/Park%20Standards%20Report.pdf

- All facility construction is required to meet the minimums found in the International Building Code.
- Combined municipal and school recreational facilities are recommended. Lack of coordination often leads to the construction of redundant facilities. When possible, school recreational areas, including parking areas, drinking fountains, and restrooms, should remain open on weekends and during the summer months.
- Greenbelts, hike and bike trails, parkways, or paths should be provided to connect large recreational areas to improve access to facilities, scenic views, and recreational opportunities. Vehicular routes should be encouraged only when recreational areas are separated by more than one mile.
- Ideally, each recreation area should include public access to restrooms and water fountains and should be equipped with lighting and trash cans.



Standards for Service Area & Park Types

Table 3 describes the size and service area standards for types of park and recreation areas already located in Ovilla or considered possible as future City recreation areas.

Table 3: Types of Parks: Size & Service Area Standards

Park Type	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Desirable Site Characteristics
Minipark	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens	< 1/4-mile radius	≤ 1 acre	Within neighborhoods and close to apartment complexes, townhouses, housing for the elderly or Central Business District.
Neighborhood Park/ playground	Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, skating, and picnicking; also for wading pool and playground apparatus area	¼- to ½-mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000.	1 to 15+ acres	Suited for intense development; easily accessible to neighborhoods; geographically centered with safe walking and bike access; may be developed as a school-park facility
Community Park	Includes areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools; may be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking viewing, sitting, picnicking.	Several neighborhoods 1- to 2-mile radius	15 to 25+ acres	May include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development; easily accessible to neighborhoods
Linear Park	Area developed for one or more mode of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, canoeing, horseback riding. May include active play areas.	N/A	Variable	Sufficient width to protect the resources and provide maximum use
Special Use	Areas for single-purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, zoos, conservatories, gardens, outdoor theaters. Also, plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, and parkways	N/A	Within city limits	Built on corridors, such as utility right of way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, or roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities such as schools and libraries.
Conservancy	Protection and management of the natural or cultural environment with recreational use as a secondary objective	N/A	Sufficient to protect the resource	Variable, depending on the resource being protected.

Facility Standards

Table 4 presents recommended standards for Ovilla's park equipment and sports fields/courts. The activities and facilities listed are based on existing facilities and feedback from the Parks & Recreation Survey. The service radius and space requirements come from both the National Recreation and Park Association standards and Colorado's small-town standards. In the future, as standards are changed or upgraded, part of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan review process should address any discrepancies. The City's standards should conform to nationally-recognized organizations' most recent standards.

Table 4: Facility Standards

Activity/ Facility	Service Radius	Space Requirements SF = Square feet; Min. = Minimum	Suggested #/ Population	Characteristics
Team Sport Courts & Fields				
General Use / Soccer Field	1- to 2-miles	1.7-to-2.0 acres	1 per 2,000	Usually in school, recreation complex, or neighborhood/community park.
Softball/ Little League Field	1/4- to 1/2-mile	1.5-to-2.0 acres	1 per 1,500	Slight difference in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
Basketball Court	1/4- to 1/2-mile	7,000 SF / 0.16 acres	1 per 3,000	Usually in school, recreation complex, or church. Safe walking or bike access. Outdoor courts in neighborhoods and community parks.
Adult Baseball	1/4- to 1/2-mile	3.0-to-3.85 acres	1 per 6,000	Part of neighborhood park. Lighted field part of community park.
Tennis Court	1/4- to 1/2-mile	Min. 7,200 SF per court (0.17 acres)	1 per 5,000	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in community or neighborhood park or near schools.
Soccer (dedicated)	1- to 2-miles	1.7-to-2.2 acres	1 per 6,000	Part of neighborhood park. Lighted field part of community park.
Softball (dedicated)	1/4- to 1/2-mile	1.5-to-2.0 acres	1 per 6,000	Slight difference in dimensions for 16" slow pitch
Little League (dedicated)	1/4- to 1/2-mile	1.2 acres	1 per 6,000	Part of neighborhood park. Lighted field part of community park.
Volleyball Court	1/4- to 1/2-mile	Min. 3,000 SF	1 per 5,000	Usually in school, recreation, or church facility. Safe walking or bike access. Outdoor courts in neighborhoods and community parks.
Football	1/4- to 1/2-hour travel time	2 acres	1 per 20,000	Usually part of a sports or school complex

Activity/ Facility	Service Radius	Space Requirements	Suggested #/ Population	Characteristics
Individual & Specialty Use				
Small Skate Park	1/4-hour travel time	7,000 SF/ 0.16 acres	1 per 6,300	Part of neighborhood park.
1/4-mile Running Track	1/4-hour travel time	4.3 acres	1 per 20,000	Usually part of a high school or in community park complex.
Dirty/Gravel Multiuse Trail (per mile)	N/A	N/A	Per mile: Unpaved: 430; Paved: 960	Capacity: rural trail – 40 hikers per day per mile; urban trail – 90 hikers per day per mile.
Paved Multiuse Trail (per mile)	N/A	N/A	Per mile: Unpaved: 430; Paved: 960	Capacity: rural trail – 40 hikers per day per mile; urban trail – 90 hikers per day per mile.
Swimming Pool	1/4- to 1/2-hour travel time	Varies with size of pool and amenities. Usually 1/3-to-2-acres	1 per 14,000	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards.
Racquetball/Handball	15-30-minute travel time	800 SF for 4-wall; 1,000 SF for 3-wall	1 per 20,000	Located in community parks or school sites. 4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. 3-wall usually outdoor in park or school setting.
Golf (9-hole)	1/2- to 1-hour travel time	50 acres min.	1 per 25,000	Accommodates 350 people/ day.
Golf (18-hole)	1/2- to 1-hour travel time	90 acres min.	1 per 50,000	Accommodates 500-550 people/ day.
Group & Passive Recreation				
Playground	1/4- to 1/2-mile	3,200 SF	1 per 1,500	Part of neighborhood park.
Family Picnic Area/ Picnic Table	1/4- to 1/2-mile	435 SF	1 per 160	1 garbage can within 150 ft. of every 4 picnic tables; 40 ft. between uncovered picnic tables; Picnic tables within 400 ft. of parking
Group Picnic Area (Covered)	1/4- to 1/2-mile	2 acres	1 per 1,300	Could include facilities for horseshoe pit, shuffleboard, chess, meditation, gardening, or similar activity
Light Activity Area	1/4- to 1/2-mile	Estimated 500 SF	1 per 2,000	

INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING RESOURCES

This section provides information on the availability of recreation facilities to Ovilla's residents and existing organizations that are involved in recreation and open space activities and development. Existing resources are assessed as they relate to opportunities for improvements to each recreation area, Ovilla's demographics, and organizations available to pursue recreation and open space improvements in Ovilla.

Local Outdoor Recreation Areas – Public

Cindy Jones Park (Neighborhood Park)

Cindy Jones Park is Ovilla's largest park (approximately 10 acres). Located behind City Hall off South Cockrell Hill Road between Westlawn Drive and Water Street, the park is primarily a baseball and softball facility. The park contains three fields - one baseball field, one softball field, and one teeball field – as well as two batting cages. All fields must be reserved prior to use by calling the City. The Ovilla Youth Baseball Association regularly reserves the fields for team practice. Additional facilities include a playground with a playscape and several swings, as well as two picnic tables. The City hosts the annual Heritage Day Festival at Cindy Jones Park, which can bring several thousand attendees.

Cindy Jones Improvements

The facilities at Cindy Jones Park are in generally good condition. However, the wood benches, bleachers, and one picnic table are worn and should ideally be replaced. Shaded dugouts could also be added to the teeball field. The park bathrooms are in fair condition but may be insufficient to meet the demand created by users; two portable toilets are located near the playground area. As funds are available, the City should consider replacing/expanding the bathroom facilities.

A large portion of the park remains undeveloped and could be used to develop additional recreational facilities. However, because the area is used as an aerobic spray field for the City buildings fronting South Cockrell Hill Road, the open area in Cindy Jones Park will have to remain undeveloped until the City buildings are added to the wastewater system.

If/when additional land is available for development, Cindy Jones Park may be an appropriate location for construction of a local sports complex. Depending on organization and parking requirements, the land could accommodate several additional sports courts/fields such as a general use/soccer field and/or basketball, volleyball, or tennis courts. The City should also consider adding a large pavilion for group picnics and events as space allows.



Figure 1: Cindy Jones Park

Heritage Park (Neighborhood Park)

Located near the intersection of FM 664 and West Main Street, Heritage Park is the city's central public space. The former site of Ovilla Cotton Gin, the park land was donated to the city in 1996 by the Ovilla Gin Cooperative Association. Park facilities have also been built and maintained primarily from donations. Visitors can access Heritage Park from FM 664 by crossing a custom arch bridge, or through a parking lot off Main Street, and walk or run around the park's perimeter on a lighted, quarter-mile asphalt path. The park also provides opportunities for passive recreation and reflection. Park facilities include benches and picnic tables, as well as a large gazebo with lighting and electrical outlets. The park also includes several memorials, the largest being a Veteran's Memorial in the park's center. The City recently completed construction of restroom facilities at Heritage Park. The City hosts an annual Christmas in the Park event at Heritage Park. The City also hosts one or more movie nights in the park each year.

Heritage Park Improvements

Most of the facilities at Heritage Park are in good condition. However, the asphalt path is cracked and deteriorated in several locations. The park's wooden and concrete picnic tables also have some slight damage and may need to be replaced over the planning period.



Figure 3: Heritage Park

At this point the City should consider making at least two improvements to Heritage Park. The city should repave the asphalt path around the park and extend the path as needed to make connections with other areas, such as the gazebo, to ensure that park facilities are accessible for residents of diverse physical abilities. The City should also expand Heritage Park by purchasing vacant, adjacent land. Particularly if expanded, Heritage Park would be appropriate for additional passive recreation facilities such as additional picnic tables and/or light activity area(s).

Ken & Sara Pritchett Park (Minipark)

Dedicated in 2009, Ken & Sara Pritchett Park is located on small, interior lot in the Ashburne Glen neighborhood. Pedestrian access to the park is available from Ashburne Glen and Forest Edge Lane. The park is available for all city of Ovilla residents but is primarily utilized by Ashburne Glen residents. Park facilities include a playscape playground, as well as a picnic area with two tables, six barbecue grills, and a memorial bench.

Pritchett Park Improvements

Pritchett Park facilities are all in good condition. However, the park's location in subdivision behind existing single-family houses makes it hard to identify as a public space. In addition, the park signs are set far back from the street and do not identify the park as a public space.

The City should install new signs, closer to the street that identify Pritchett Park as a public park. The City should also consider adding wayfinding signs to help less familiar residents navigate to the park from the city center.

Due to the park's size, additional facilities development opportunities are limited. As needed, park improvements should focus on enhancing existing uses such as installing a shade cover for the current picnic area or additional play/picnic facilities.



Figure 4: Pritchett Park

Silver Spur Park (Minipark)

Silver Spur Park is located on the north side of Silver Spur Lane between Buckboard Street and Georgetown Road. The park is located on a small lot within the established Westmoreland Road Estates neighborhood. Park facilities include a playground with low-level play equipment (playscape, spring rider, and concrete crawl pipes) as well as a small basketball court/hoop, and a covered picnic/seating area.

Silver Spur Park Improvements

The facilities at Silver Spur Park are in fair condition. The City should consider replacing the spring rider and the wooden picnic table, which both show wear. In addition, the park's location on a small lot between single-family houses makes it hard to identify as a public space.

The City should install a sign that identifies Silver Spur Park as a public park and include the park on the Ovilla City Parks page of the City of Ovilla website.

Due to the park's size, additional facilities development opportunities are limited. As needed, park improvements should focus on enhancing existing uses such as installing additional low-level and accessible play equipment and/or installing additional picnic facilities.



Figure 5: Silver Spur Park

Local Outdoor Recreation Areas – Private

There are several privately-maintained outdoor facilities associated with local churches. The majority of these facilities are playgrounds and nearly all facilities are fenced. Creating public access to these facilities would go a long way toward satisfying local parks and recreation needs. The City and the appropriate representatives of the privately-maintained facilities should work together to increase public access. An agreement could address hours of availability, shared maintenance costs, and budgeting for upgrades. Negotiating additional access to these facilities should be designed to benefit both parties and eliminate facility redundancy.

Inventory

Table 5: Recreation Facility Inventory

AMENITIES	Total	OPERATION / MAINTENANCE			
		Cindy Jones	Heritage	Pritchett	City
TEAM SPORT COURTS & FIELDS					
Softball / Little League Field	3	3	-	-	-
Basketball Court	0.5	-	-	-	0.5
COURT/FIELD SUPPORTING					
Batting Cage	2	2	-	-	-
Bleachers	6	6	-	-	-
Dugouts	4	4	-	-	-
Flagpole	1	1	-	-	-
Lights	15	15	-	-	-
Scoreboard	2	2	-	-	-
Trashcans	9	9	-	-	-
Uncovered Team Benches	2	2	-	-	-
PLAYGROUND					
Playground	3	1	-	1	1
Playscapes [1]	4	2	-	1	1
See-Saws	3	3	-	-	-
Spring Riders	1	1	-	-	-
Concrete Pipes	2	-	-	-	2
PASSIVE					
Picnic Tables – Uncovered	9	2	5	2	-
Picnic Tables – Covered	1	-	-	-	1
BBQ Grills / Smokers	6	-	-	6	1
Park Bench	13	4	7	1	1
Gazebo	1	-	1	-	-
Pavilion	1	-	-	-	1
ADDITIONAL AMENITIES					
Paved Multiuse Trail (miles)	0.25	-	0.25	-	-
Bike Rack	1	1	-	-	-
Restrooms	2.5	2.5 [2]	-	-	-
Trashcans	7	3	2	1	1
Drinking Fountain [3]	3	1	1.5	-	0.5

Notes: [GEN] Only those facilities that are open to the public on a full or limited basis are included in the City's recreation facility inventory. [1] Playscapes include an average of three swings. [2] The park includes two permanent restrooms and two portable restrooms. [3] 0.5 scores indicate incomplete facility, i.e. a water spigot but not a complete fountain.

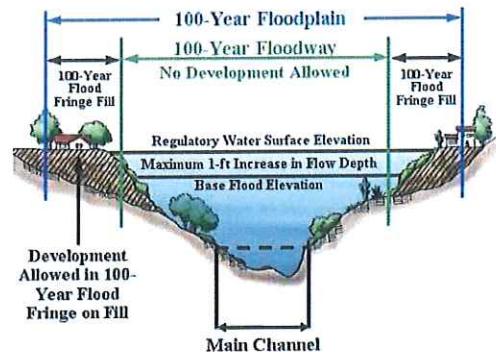
Source: GrantWorks Field Survey, 2018

Additional Local Areas Used for Outdoor Activities

Open Space

A city's park system often includes dedicated open spaces to provide opportunities for passive recreation, to provide habitat for local flora and fauna, to preserve landmarks or vistas, or to ensure no development occurs in areas where potential hazards exists, such as flooding (e.g. land within a FEMA 100-year Floodplain). The city of Ovilla has no dedicated open space areas at this time.

Approximately 134 acres of land within the city limits is located in the FEMA 100-year floodplain. Approximately 53 acres of this land is located in floodway. Although it is rarely practical to entirely prohibit construction in the FEMA 100-year floodplain, it is the policy of the City of Ovilla to discourage floodplain development by educating residents about floodplain locations and the costs of floodplain development. The City participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and has adopted a Flood Hazard Prevention Ordinance that regulates new construction and substantial improvement in the floodplain within the city limits.



Source: <https://www.floodpartners.com/1>

Cemeteries

There are two cemeteries within Ovilla's city limits: Ovilla Cemetery and Shiloh Cemetery. In the 1800s, cemeteries served as areas for relaxation and walking before the institution of public parks in cities. While communities no longer rely on cemeteries to serve that purpose, they are still considered valuable open spaces for walking and for passive activities like reflection and meditation.

Regional Recreation Areas

Survey respondents provided 24 different parks and recreation facilities they frequent, in addition to the 14 suggested in the survey. Other facilities listed by respondents include public parks/recreation centers in nearby cities, large area parks/preserves with trail networks, and area country clubs/other private facilities. The following is a selection of the recreational facilities outside of Ovilla patronized by residents.

Joe Pool Lake

Joe Pool Lake is a fresh water reservoir approximately 12 miles northwest of Ovilla. The area includes several parks: Britton Park, Lloyd Park, Lynn Creek Park, and Cedar Hill State Park. Park facilities include boat ramps, campsites and cabins, hike/bike trails, a swimming beach, picnic sites, sand volleyball courts, and an amphitheater. The area also includes a public marina (Lynn Creek Marina) and a restaurant. Cedar Hill State Park, off the lake's eastern bank is the closest park to the city of Ovilla.

Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center

Located approximately 11 miles northwest of Ovilla, Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center is an open space preserve that includes over 200 acres of "nearly pristine wildlife" in Dogwood Canyon. Owned and managed by Audubon, the center includes over two miles of trails and is a popular spot for birding.

Bear Creek Nature Park

Bear Creek Nature Park, located approximately 10 miles northwest of Ovilla, includes a butterfly garden, a climbing rock, equestrian trail, fishing pier and pond, hiking and walking trails, a pavilion, tables, and a grill.

City of Waxahachie

The City of Waxahachie, approximately 12 miles south of Ovilla, manages 18 recreational areas spread across the city. Amenities include hike and bike trails; Lake Waxahachie swimming, fishing, and boat access; playgrounds, pavilions, benches, and picnic areas; and paved pathway connections. Recreational facilities also include fields for soccer, softball, baseball, and football, as well as an updated rodeo complex. Descriptions of public parks and other public recreational facilities are available through the City of Waxahachie's website (www.waxahachie.com).

City of Midlothian

Located approximately 10 miles southwest of Ovilla, the City of Midlothian owns and manages 13 recreational areas. Amenities include shaded and landscaped walking paths; hiking trails; playgrounds; pavilions, benches, and picnic areas; a butterfly garden; and a native grass area with bluebird nest boxes. Recreational facilities also include multipurpose fields; fields for soccer, baseball, and football; courts for tennis, basketball, and sand volleyball; and a quarter-mile track. Descriptions of public parks and other public recreational facilities are available through the City of Midlothian's website (www.midlothian.tx.us).

Privately Owned Recreational Facilities

Thorton Tree Country Club, located approximately eight miles north of Ovilla off West Wintergreen Road in Desoto, has an 18-hole golf course, tennis facilities, a swimming pool, and multiple dining opportunities. Membership is open to the public.

Waxahachie Country Club, located approximately 10 miles south of Ovilla off I35 and BUS287 in Waxahachie, has semi-private 18-hole golf course.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT & IDENTIFICATION

This section outlines local recreational needs using a standards-based assessment and a demand-based assessment.

Standards-Based Assessment

The standards-based assessment uses three criteria to determine the city's recreational needs: the current and future population; acreage devoted to parks and open space; and the number households within/outside of a recreational facility service area. The standards-based assessment does not consider residents' desires or a community's capacity to maintain facilities

According to a standards-based assessment, Ovilla needs 2 general use/soccer fields, 15 picnic tables, 3 (covered) group picnic areas, 18 benches, 2 light activity areas, and 4-to-9 miles of multiuse trails. In addition, by the end of the planning period, Ovilla will likely require several sports court facilities including a basketball court, a tennis court, and a volleyball court, as well as an outdoor event venue or multi-use pavilion that can be used for large group gatherings.

Ovilla's facilities include opportunities for several age groups. Several parks include playground equipment for both children and toddlers and seniors can walk and enjoy passive recreation at Heritage Park and watch local ball sports at Cindy Jones Park. However, the city would benefit from developing additional facilities for teenagers and young adults.

Detailed Standards-Based Assessment Data

Facility Needs by Population Size

Table 6 identifies the Ovilla's existing and future needs based upon the population projection and standards for facilities described earlier in the chapter.

Table 6: Facilities Standards & Existing Facilities Comparison

<u>Facility</u>	<u>2018</u>		<u>Additional Facilities Needed</u>	
	<i>Existing within service area</i>	<i>Suggested (#/population)</i>	<i>Currently needed</i>	<i>Total needed by 2028</i>
<i>Facilities needed locally (within 2 miles)</i>				
General-Use / Soccer Field	0	1 per 2,000	2	2-3
Softball / Little League Field	3	1 per 1,500	-	-
Basketball Court	0.5	1 per 3,000	-	1
Adult Baseball	0	1 per 6,000	-	0-1
Tennis Court	0	1 per 5,000	-	1
Soccer Field (dedicated)	0	1 per 6,000	-	0-1

Little League (dedicated)	0	1 per 6,000	-	0-1
Softball (dedicated)	0	1 per 6,000	-	0-1
Volleyball Court	0	1 per 5,000	-	1
Small Skate Park	0	1 per 6,000	-	0-1
1/4-mile Running Track	0	1 per 20,000	-	-
Playground	3	1 per 1,500	-	-
Picnic Tables	10	1 per 160	15	23
Group Picnic Area (Covered)	0	1 per 1,300	3	4
Benches	13	1 per 130	18	27
Light Activity Area	0	1 per 2,000	2	2-3
Multiuse Paths/Trails	Actual Mileage	Pop Per Mile		
Multiuse Trails (Dirt/Gravel)	0	430	9	12
Multiuse Trails (Paved)	0.25	960	4	5
<i>Facilities needed within region (< 30 min. drive time; golf and hike/bike trail < 1hr.)</i>				
Football	0	1 per 20,000	-	-
Swimming Pool [1]	1	1 per 14,000	-	-
Racquetball/Handball	0	1 per 20,000	-	-
Golf (9-hole)	0	1 per 25,000	-	-
Golf (18-hole) [2]	2	1 per 50,000	-	-
Hike / Bike Trails [3]	Numerous	1 system per region	0	0

Notes: [1]: Closest public swimming pool in Waxahachie; [2]: Waxahachie County golf club is semi-private; [3] Hike/bike trails available at Joe Pool Lake (and associated parks), Bear Creek Nature Park, and at public parks in the city of Waxahachie and the city of Midlothian.

Acreage Needs by Population Size

Level of Service (LOS) is the term used to describe the park system's role in the community. The LOS for parks and open space is based on useable space per 1,000 residents; therefore, undeveloped parkland is not included. As expressed in the City's facility standards, Ovilla's residents should have access to a minimum of 5 acres and an ideal 15 acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents. Due to policies restricting the availability of use by the general public, the acreage of private recreational facilities and areas of school campuses not open to the public or open only on a limited basis are not included. ***The city of Ovilla has a LOS of 1.9 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents, which does not meet the standard for acres per person.***

Table 7: Existing Parks, Level of Service

Facility	Park Type	Desirable Acreage	Total Acres	Developed Acres	Service Area (Miles)
Cindy Jones Park	Neighborhood Park	1 – 15	10.14	3.43	1/4 - 1/2
Heritage Park	Neighborhood Park	1 – 15	3.30	3.30	1/4 - 1/2
Silver Spur Park	Minipark	< 1 acre	0.76	0.76	1/4 mile
Ken & Sara Pritchett Park	Minipark	< 1 acre	0.23	0.23	1/4 mile
Total Acreage			14.4	7.7	
Population – 4,040 (est. 2018); 5,230 (est. 2028)					
	<i>Level of Service 2018</i>		3.6	1.9	
	<i>Level of Service 2028</i>		2.8	1.5	

Source: GrantWorks Field Survey, 2018

Acreage Needs by Park Location

The standards-based assessment also determines recreation needs based on park service areas. Service area refers to the area formed by a predetermined radius extending out from the park that would typically serve the surrounding population. The service area of existing parks is described in *Table 7* above and in *Figure 6* below.

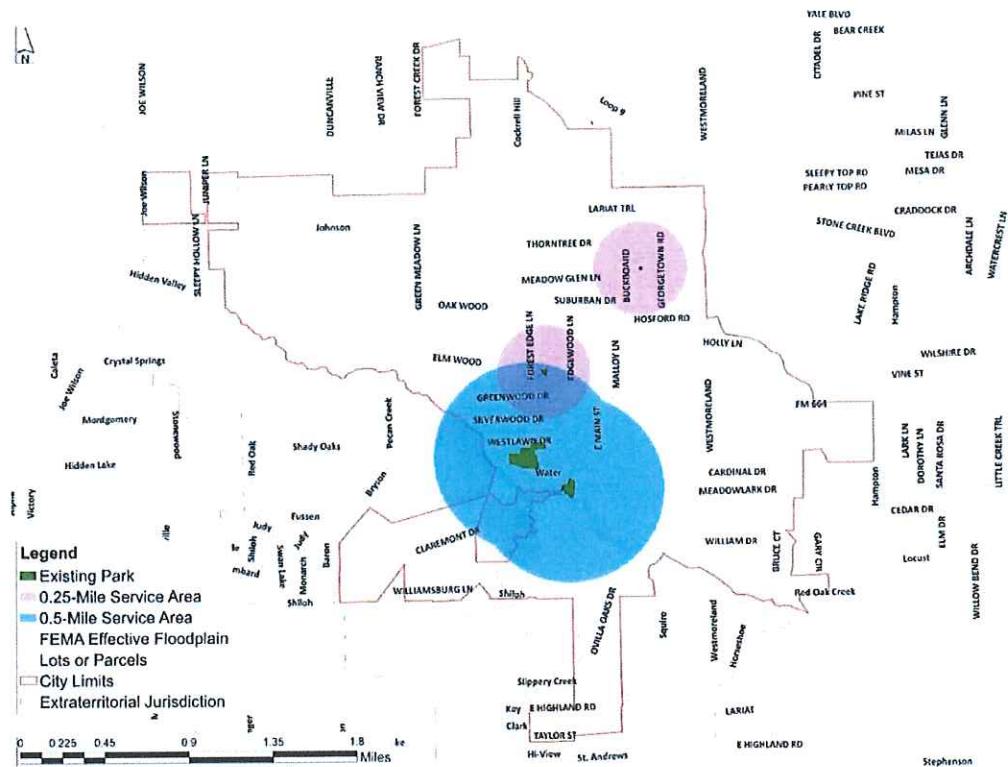


Figure 6: Park Service Areas

Most of Ovilla's residents are not served by at least one outdoor recreational facility *Figure 7* further illustrates areas not currently served by a park.

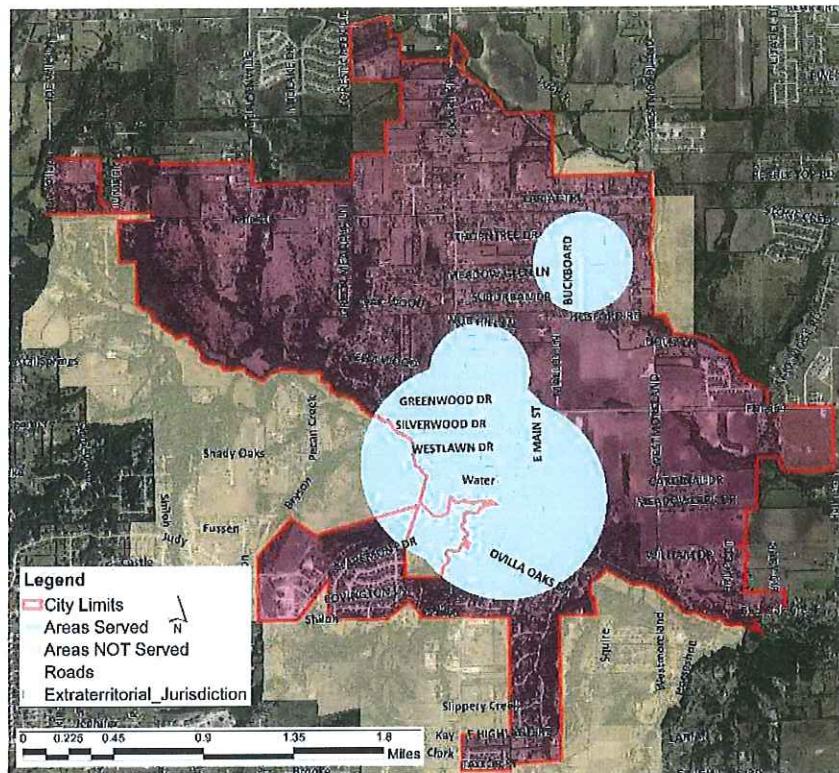


Figure 7: Areas Not Served by Existing Outdoor Parks & Recreation Facilities

Reaching Five Acres of Outdoor Recreation Space Per 1,000 Residents

The city of Ovilla needs 12 to 13 additional acres of park land to meet the recommended minimum LOS standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents. The fastest and simplest step to increase developed park acreage is working out an agreement with local institutions to open those existing recreational facilities to public use. Private recreational facilities in Ovilla include several small playgrounds and a basketball court. Opening the existing outdoor facilities for public use would increase the LOS in Ovilla but would not achieve the minimum standard. In addition, many residents would still live outside of a park service area. Therefore, in addition to pursuing agreements with local institutions, the City will need to develop additional park land.

The City could increase its LOS by further developing existing park land at Cindy Jones Park. Approximately seven acres of the park remains undeveloped. However, the area requires significant investment before recreational development can begin. The land currently serves as an aerobic spray field for the City buildings fronting South Cockrell Hill Road, and will have to remain undeveloped until the City buildings no longer require a septic system. Developing the additional acreage at Cindy Jones Park would notably improve the LOS in Ovilla. Unfortunately, even with interlocal agreements, the LOS would still remain below the minimum standard and many residents would still live outside of a park service area (see *Figure 7*).

The City will need to develop a new park to meet the current LOS and to maintain it over the planning period. Ovilla has approximately 870 semi-developed or open space acres that are located adjacent to or near existing public rights-of-way and may be appropriate for use as park land. *Figures 8 below* illustrates the general location of several potential parks and associated service areas that would improve park service in Ovilla. As the figure shows, minipark (blue) and neighborhood park (purple) development would increase park service areas with some slight gaps.

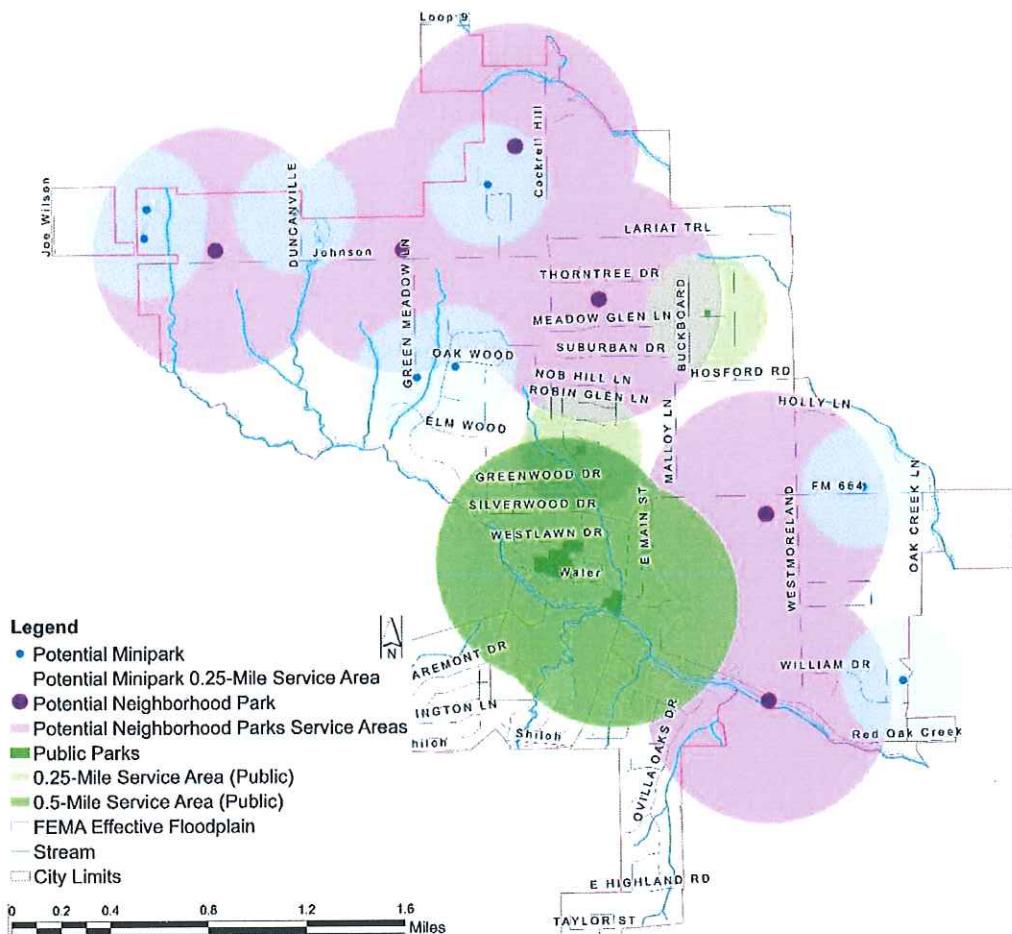


Figure 8: Potential Mini/Neighborhood Park Locations

Alternatively, one centrally placed community park would provide service to the entire city. *Figure 9* illustrates several potential community park locations and associated service areas.

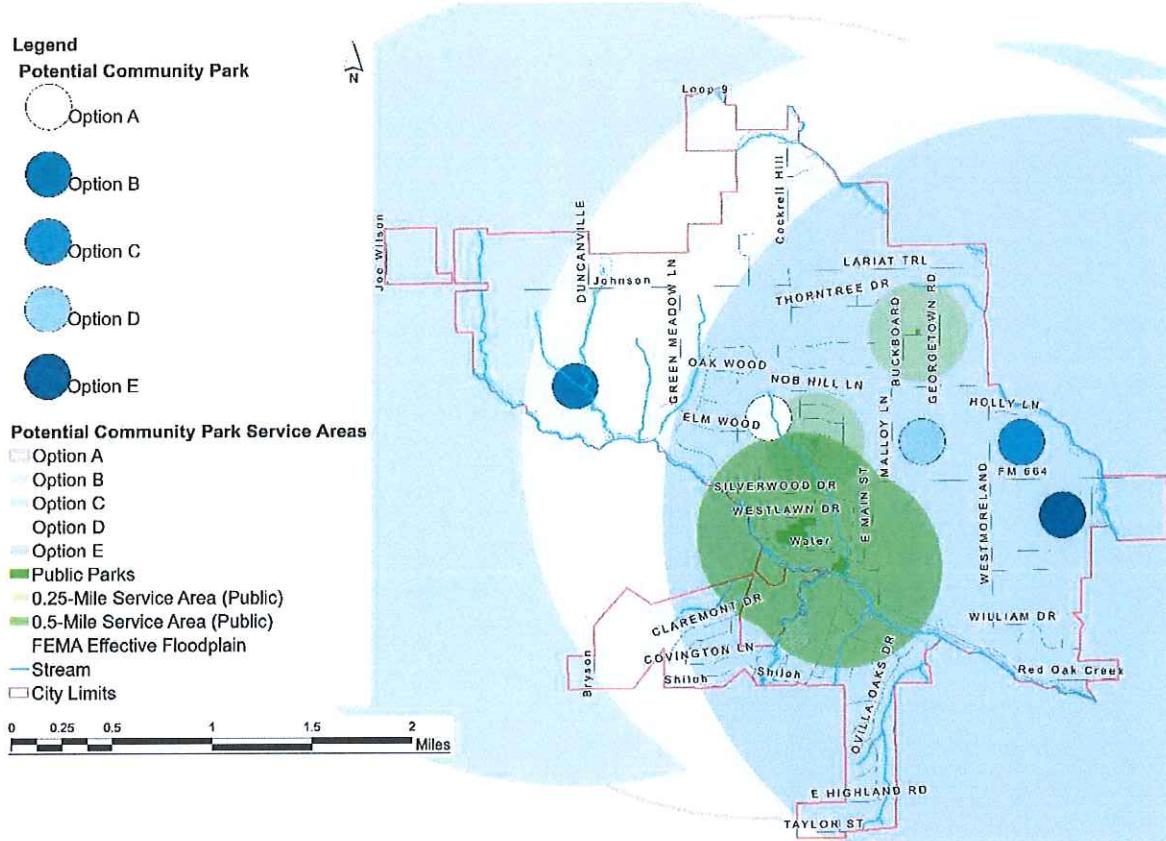


Figure 9: Potential Community Park Locations

All potential park land in Ovilla is privately owned. According to recent real estate sales, Ovilla should expect to spend roughly \$0.46 to \$0.92 per square foot or between \$20,000 – \$49,916 per acre to acquire new park land. Depending on future interlocal agreements between the City and local institutions, the City will need to add at least 18 acres of park land between now and 2028. The estimated expected cost to acquire future park land is between \$360,000 – \$898,488.

The City may be able to reduce acquisition costs by targeting floodplain land. Approximately 134 acres of land within the Ovilla city limits are located within the FEMA 100-year floodplain. Land in the floodplain should ideally remain as natural open space to ensure its proper function. However, particularly in areas experiencing development pressure, promoting other low intensity uses such as recreational areas, playgrounds, gardens, etc. may be a positive way to ensure limited impact on the floodplain and its functions.

Over the long term, constructing a new community park and connecting residents to the park via pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure would likely be the most efficient approach to addressing Ovilla's park acreage and service area needs. However, due to acquisition costs, developing a new community park may not be feasible during the current planning period (see *Maintaining a Sufficient Level of Service*). While acquisition and construction may not be feasible during the current planning period, the City can take important steps begin the process including identifying and selecting a preferred location and initiating negotiations.

Until a community park can be developed, the City should focus on expanding existing parks and developing at least one additional neighborhood park. Significant public investment in new miniparks is not recommended at this time as these areas provide less opportunity for amenity development and are relatively expensive to maintain in terms of cost per user. For example, sending a crew to maintain smaller parks across the city may not be justified by the relatively low level of use.

Maintaining a Sufficient Level of Service

As the city grows, desire for access to quality parks and recreation facilities will too. Survey responses demonstrate that many residents already visit municipal parks in the surrounding area to fulfill their parks and recreation needs (see *Demand-based Assessment*). Existing and future residents may eventually be drawn to live in nearby cities, if they feel like their recreation needs cannot be met in Ovilla.

In recognition of the importance of park land for resident health, safety, and welfare and of the additional demand placed on existing park facilities by population growth, many cities in Texas have adopted park land dedication requirements for new development. The requirements mandate that a developer of a new subdivision provide land for a park (usually public) and/or pay a fee-in-lieu to be used for public park acquisition/development. Dedication requirements are often included as part of a subdivision ordinance or developed in an individual ordinance.

To be constitutional, park land dedication requirements must be proportionate to the need created by the new development. Cities are required to prove the proportionality, usually through a specified formula. Importantly, dedication requirements are intended only to address new demand created by new development; park land dedication requirements must not be used to address existing demand/deficiency. For this reason, the requirements for new development/residents should not exceed the current standards for existing residents. In the case of fees, a time limit for using said fees should be established.

Article 1.09, Division 3 of the Ovilla Municipal Code establishes a park development fee. Many of the standards meet the general legal requirements. However, the standards were last updated 1989. As a result, requirements likely no longer sufficiently account for the impact(s) of new development and may include some legal weakness.

The City of Ovilla should review and update its park development fee requirements. In particular, the City should consider the following aspects:

Consider Park Land Dedication Requirement. The City of Ovilla does not have a park land dedication requirement. Developers must pay a park development fee or, at the City's discretion, a developer may dedicate park land and/or construct park facilities in exchange for a reimbursement against development fees. Relying on fees for park acquisition/development may present several challenges. Depending on the requirements and rapidity of new development, the City may not have access to adequate park land by the time sufficient funds are available or, where sufficient land is available, increasing land prices may make acquisition expensive or too expensive. Based on the projected population growth from 2018 to 2028, Ovilla will need at least two acres of park land to accommodate new residents at the *current* LOS. Ovilla will need approximately six acres of park land to accommodate meet the *minimum* LOS standard of five acres per 1,000 residents.

Consider Reimbursement Clause (for the City)

Many cities avoid some of the challenges associated with fee-based park development by including a reimbursement clause. In principal, this clause enables a City to acquire and construct parks prior to development and to reimburse itself later from the fees-in-lieu (proportional to demand on the park created by new development in the same area). It allows the city to set park development priorities at its own pace, negotiate with land owners, take advantage of lower costs and/or ideal land, etc. City-led park development with reimbursement from fees can also increases a city's options for park dedication/fee requirements. As a city develops more public park land, the current standard increases and as the current standard increases, the city has a justification for requiring increased dedication/fees. Without larger dedications/fees from developers, providing sufficient park land/facilities for new residents would likely require funding through public bond approval.

Clarify Fee, Ensure Empirical Basis. Ovilla's standards establish a basis for park development fee calculation, but the empirical basis for fees is out of date or is no longer clear in the absence of previous supporting documents associated with the 2000 Comprehensive Plan (the benefit area map and the park improvement plans). In addition, the fee calculation standards are somewhat complicated and may be interpreted to contradict. For example, §1.09.084(c) establishes that the "development fee" is based in part on the number of proposed lots in a building permit application but also establishes that the "park development fee" is based in part on the expected number of households to be served. The definitions do not distinguish between a development fee and a park development fee, so the language suggests two different methods of calculating the same fee in the same provision. Multiple demand indicators (lots or households) is an important problem because requirements could differ depending on the method. For example, a single lot could potentially accommodate multiple households. The set fee of \$334.52 per dwelling unit (until changed by council) established in §1.09.091 adds further potential confusion.

Professor John Crompton's study "Parkland Dedication Ordinances in Texas: A Missed Opportunity?" is an excellent resource for Texas communities considering draft/updating a park land dedication ordinance. Published by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the study includes specific examples and identifies best practices related to fee type, calculation, and use; ordinance maintenance; and criteria for park land acceptance. The report is available online at <http://rpts.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2015/05/Parkland-Dedication-Ordinances-in-Texas-A-Missed-Opportunity.pdf>

Demand-Based Assessment

An online survey was made available to Ovilla residents via posting on the City website and on Nextdoor.com. The survey was open to all community members. The online survey was also sent to local schools to collect input from students as this group tends to be frequent park and recreational facility users. Most children from Ovilla attend a school outside of the city limits. Therefore, the survey was sent to both local schools within and several schools near to the city of Ovilla. Because the survey was available to both Ovilla residents and non-residents, the survey asked respondents to indicate where they live. This demand-based assessment exclusively considers the responses of Ovilla residents as indicated in the survey.

Ovilla residents completed one hundred ninety-eight (198) surveys. Data gathered from the surveys identified common recreational activities of adults and children; favorite parks and needed improvements; and desired additional recreational facilities. The summary results of the assessment are as follows:

Table 8: Top Four: Activities, Residents' Facility Desires, Activity Locations

Top 4:	Children's Activities	Adults' Activities	Resident Priority Facilities	Locations for Activities
1.	Walking	Walking	Hike / Jogging / Bike Trail	Home/Friend's Home
2.	Swimming	Swimming	Playground	Other Cities
3.	Basketball	Fishing	Recreation Center	Around Neighborhood
4.	Fishing	Hiking	Swimming Pool	School / Church

Survey respondents indicated that Hike/Jogging/Bike Trail and playground facilities were the most desired improvements. Additional top desired recreational facilities include a recreation center, a swimming pool, and sidewalks.⁹

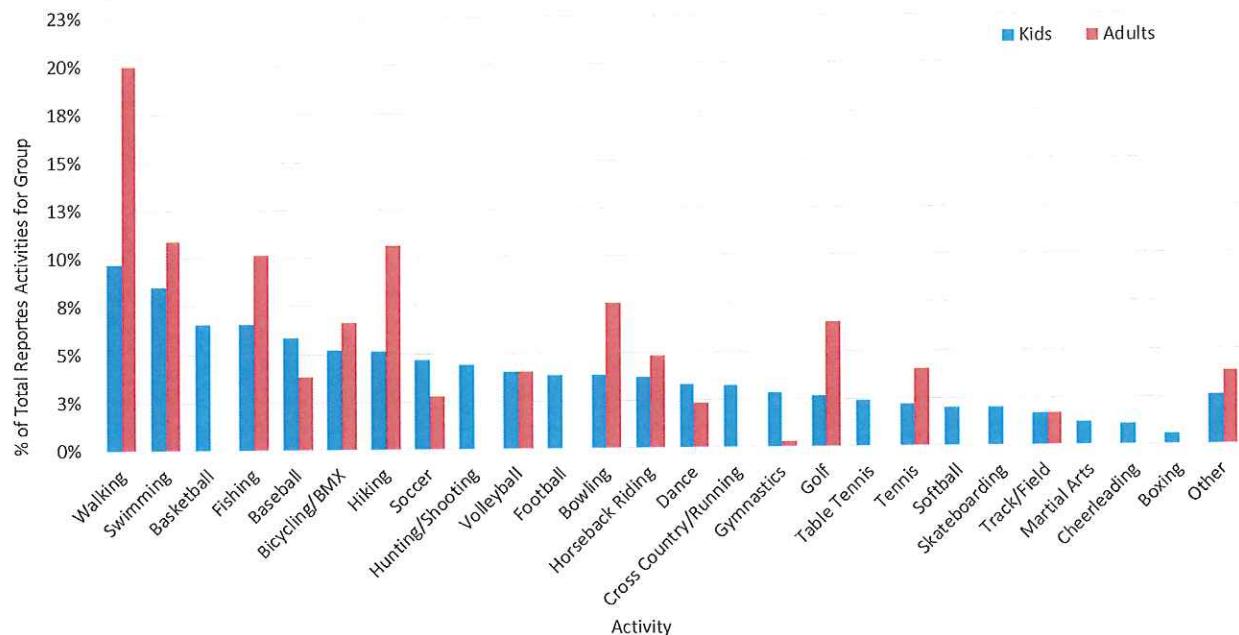
⁹ Top desired recreational facilities are those facilities receiving a weighted score above or equal to 80% of the highest weighted score.

Detailed Demand-Based Assessment Data

Resident Activities & Activity Locations

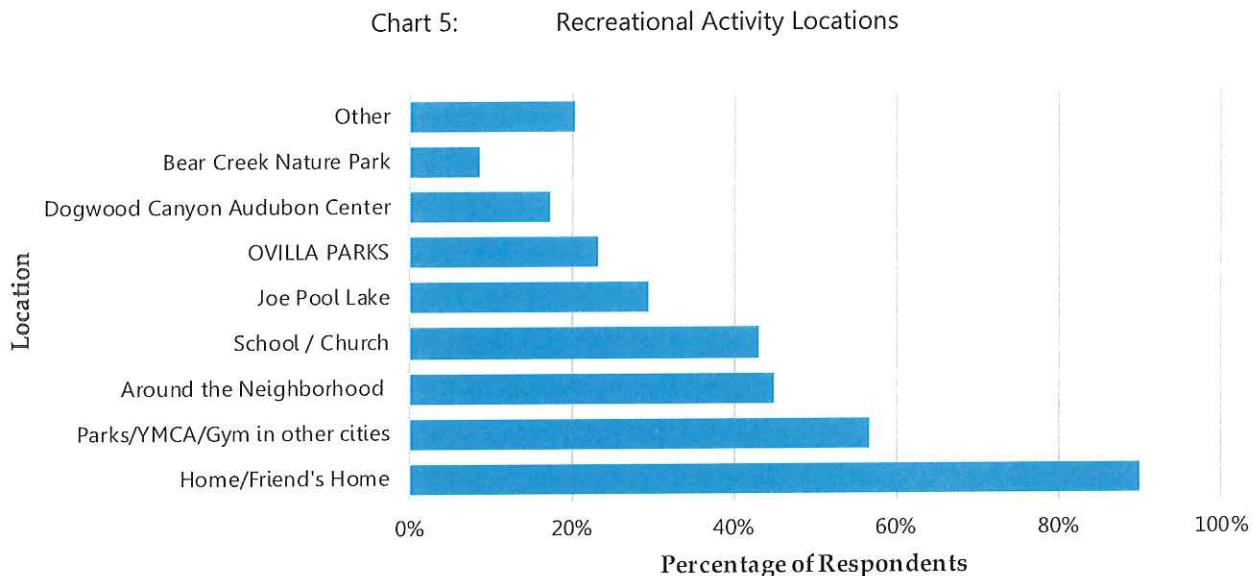
The survey asked respondents to share the recreational activities of children and adults in household and where those activities take place. As *Chart 4: Top Activities for Children & Adults* show, walking, swimming, basketball, and fishing are the most popular recreational activities among Ovilla youth. Walking, swimming, fishing, and hiking are the most popular adult activities. The most popular youth team sports are basketball, baseball, soccer, and volleyball.

Chart 4: Top Activities for Children & Adults



Source: GrantWorks Parks & Recreation Survey, 2018

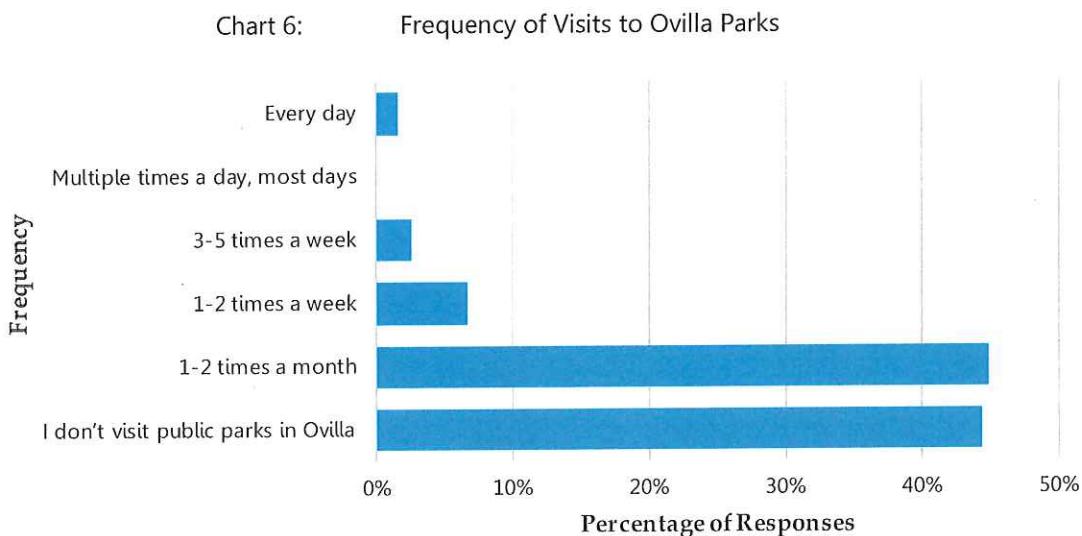
As *Chart 5: Recreational Activity Locations* show, most of the activities that children and adults participate in are based at home, at facilities in other cities, or around their neighborhood. Approximately 23% of respondents report visiting an Ovilla city park for recreation.



Note: Percentage indicates percent of total respondents that report going to the location for sports/other activities.

Source: GrantWorks Parks & Recreation Survey, 2018

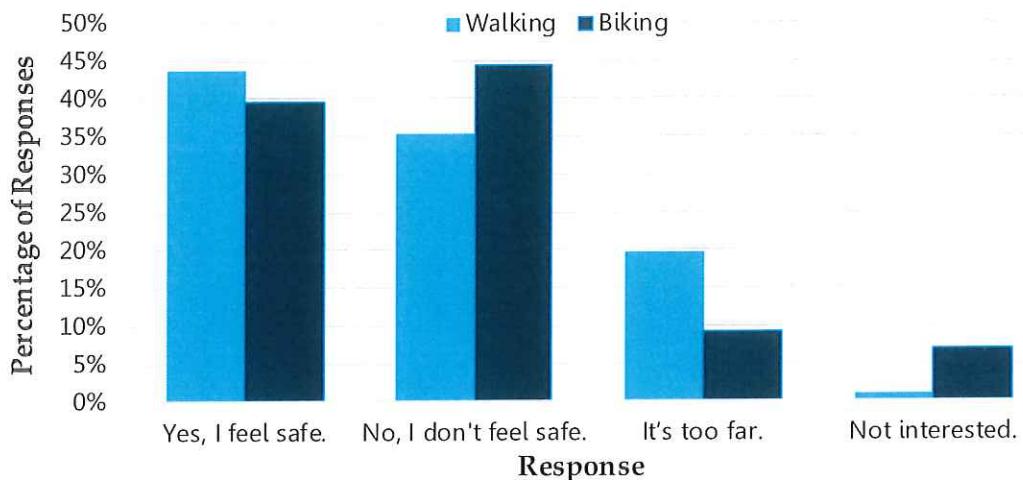
Of the respondents who report visiting a public Ovilla park, most visit once or twice a month. Approximately 11% of respondents visit public park in Ovilla one or more times a week (see *Chart 6*).



Source: GrantWorks Parks & Recreation Survey, 2018

Park proximity and perceived safety of non-motorized access to parks likely plays a role in the lesser frequency of visits to Ovilla's public parks. As *Chart 7* shows, over one-third of respondents do not feel safe walking to the nearest public park and another 20% indicated that a walk to the nearest park is too far. Even fewer respondents feel safe riding a bike; 44% of respondents do not feel safe riding a bike to the nearest park.

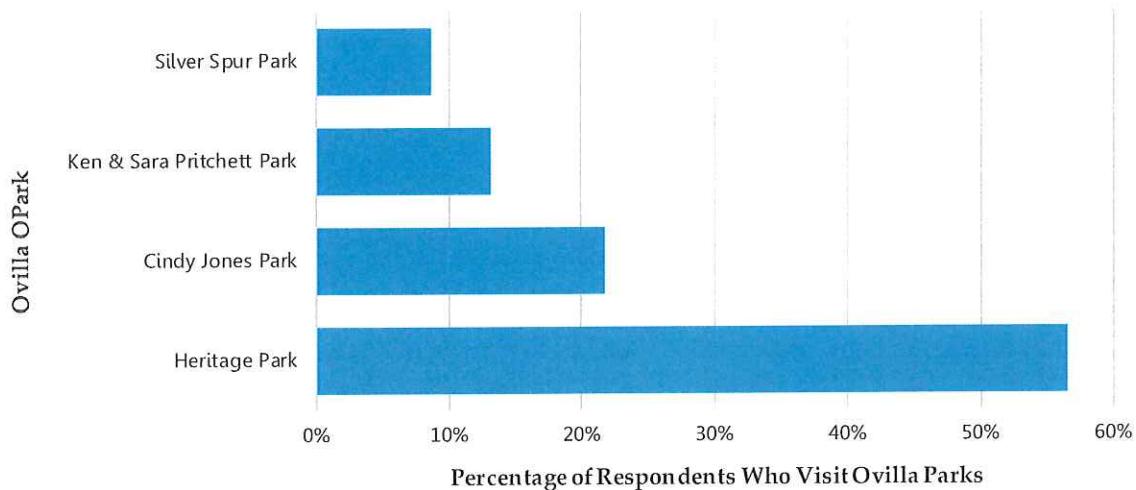
. Chart 7: Do you feel that you can safely walk or bike to nearest park in Ovilla?



Source: *GrantWorks Parks & Recreation Survey, 2018*

Heritage Park is the most commonly visited Ovilla park among survey respondents (see *Chart 8*).

Chart 8: Visitors to Ovilla Parks



Source: *GrantWorks Parks & Recreation Survey, 2018*

Park Improvements

The survey also asked respondents to consider whether existing parks in Ovilla should be updated. As *Table 9* shows, the majority of survey respondents (69%) agree that existing park facilities in Ovilla need to be upgraded; just over one-quarter of survey respondents indicated that they were not sure.

Table 9: In your opinion, should existing parks/recreation spaces in Ovilla be updated?

Yes	No	Not Sure
69% (135)	4% (8)	27% (52)

Source: *GrantWorks Parks & Recreation Survey, 2018*

The survey also asked respondents to consider what, if anything, would lead them to visit a public park in Ovilla more often. *Table 10* summarizes the comments according to common themes. Themes may be related such as a larger playground and expanded parks. As *Table 10* shows, trails and paths are a major theme in the comments.

Table 10: What would lead you to visit a public park in Ovilla more often?

<u>Improvement</u>	<u>% of write-in comments</u>	<u>Sample of Comments</u>
Trails-Paths / Sidewalks	44%	"Walking trail and kids park in the same area"; "walking trails connecting the city's parks would be super"; "some type of nature trail"; "I would love nice, safe, and fun walking, running, and bicycle trails"; "hiking trails would be awesome"; "bicycling paths and walking paths to parks"; "a hiking trail (with) workout stations along the path"; "extensive hiking/walking/running trails"; "nature trail longer than 200 ft"; "designated areas for walking, running, cycling"; "walking track"
Activities-Amenities / Events	25%	"Sidewalks down Water St that would provide access to both the baseball park playground and to Heritage.... Cars go entirely too fast and there is little to no shoulder to walk on to get safely to the parks"; "sidewalks to make access to parks safer"
Pool / Water Feature	13%	"more things for adults/teens to do"; "more things to do at the park"; "more activities"; "different activities available"; "provide multiple types of activity"; "variety"

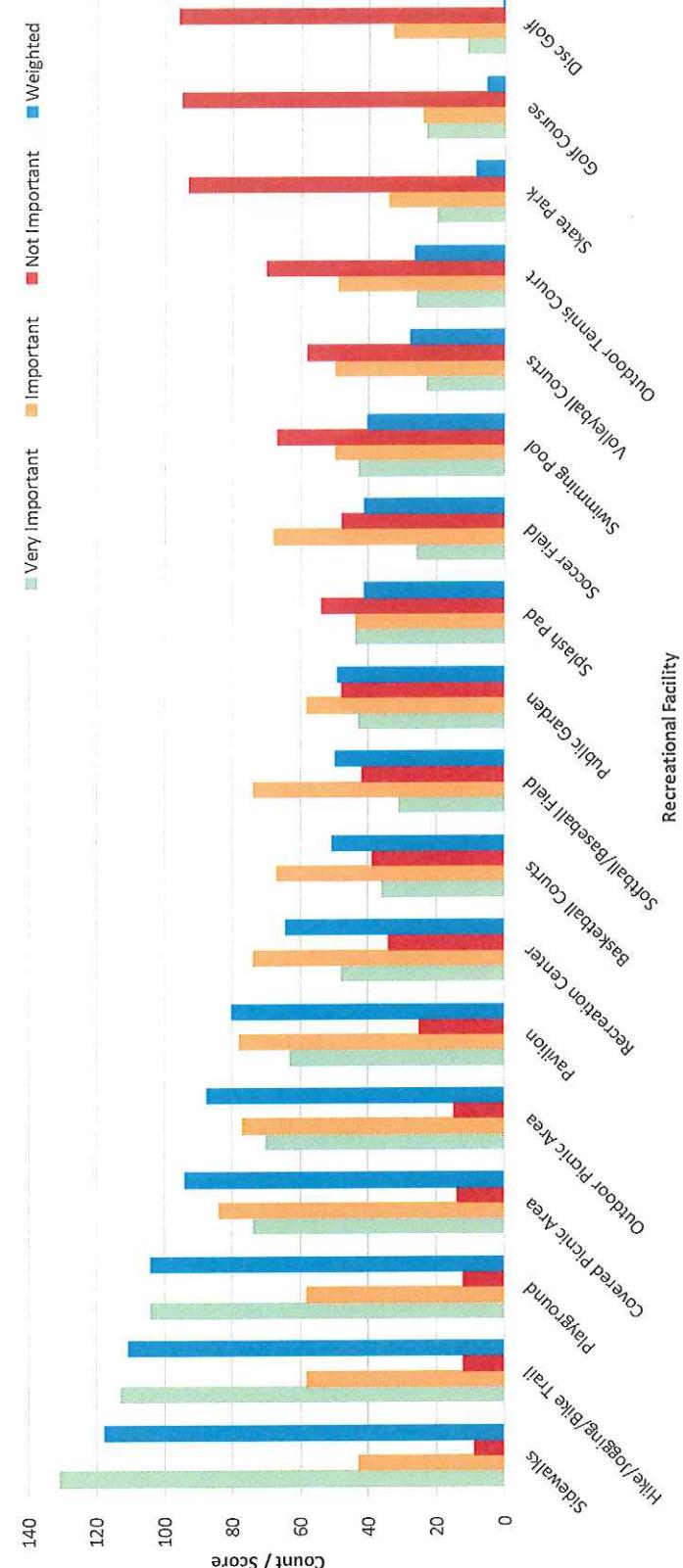
New Playground / Improvements	11%	"more for kids to play on"; "better play (meaning) more diverse playground equipment than what currently exists; "a larger playground"; "more stuff on the playground"; "those spider web climbing structures for kids"; "a merry go round & monkey bars ... (these are my 7yr old girl's suggestions"
Sport Court/Field	9%	"basketball courts to give older children something to do besides the playground"; "a basketball court or volleyball court"; "tennis and basketball courts"; "well-lit and safe place to play tennis in the evenings"; "pickleball court"; "racquetball"
Maintenance / Safety	9%	"Safety" and shade in the summer"; "no stickers in the grass"; "clean playground equipment"; "cleanliness, safety"; "clean, well-lit bathroom facilities"
Passive Recreation / Landscaping	8%	"picnic tables"; "trees and flowers"; "pavilion to sit under and hold family events"; "better scenery"; "shaded areas to sit"
Expand Parks / Better Proximity	7%	"larger"; "bigger"; "something close to home"; "it's a shame we don't have bigger parks planned for our future. We need a place where kids can go to after school to have fun and be safe. We need to get our kids active in their home town"
Restrooms / Water Fountains	6%	"Water fountains would be nice"; "restroom facilities with handwashing stations"; "bathrooms"
Other New Facilities	7%	"dog park"; "skateboard area"; "workout stations";
Misc.	7%	"senior fitness"; "advertising"; "Tai chi"; "; "more focused activity areas"; "if my kids wanted to do go"; "If I could bring my dog"; "cooler weather"; "parking"

Source: GrantWorks Parks & Recreation Survey, 2018

Additional Facilities Wanted

Final questions in the survey asked respondents to identify and rank additional recreational facilities in terms of important and priority. Question 12 asked respondents to review a list of potential new facilities and specify its perceived importance: "very important", "somewhat important", or "not important." The responses were weighted; "very important" facilities received three points, "somewhat important" facilities received two points, and "not important" facilities received one point. *Chart 8* shows the resulting scores.

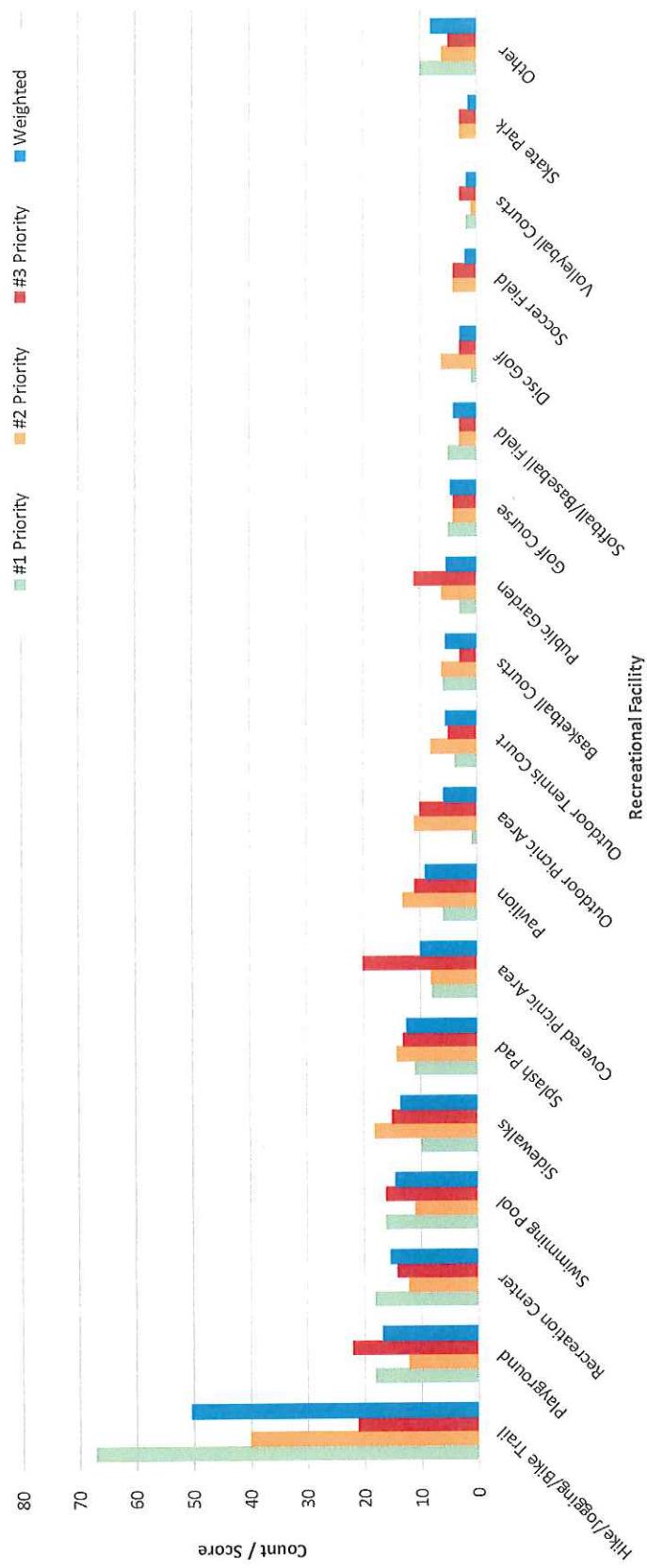
Chart 8: Additional Facilities by Importance & Weighted



Source: *GrantWorks Parks & Recreation Survey, 2018*

Questions 13-15 asked respondents to specify their #1, #2, and #3 priority for an additional recreational facility in Ovilla. Respondents could select from a list of the facilities in questions 11 or write in a new facility. The responses were weighted; #1-rated facilities received three points, #2-rated facilities received two points, and #3-rated facilities received one point. Chart 9 shows the resulting scores.

Chart 9: Additional Facilities by Priority & Weighted



Source: GrantWorks Parks & Recreation Survey, 2018

PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS

A review of public comments, survey results, and established standards clearly indicates the need for the City of Ovilla to expand existing facilities and develop new outdoor and indoor facilities.

Park planners realize that establishing priorities based solely on the public's numerical ranking of activities may not give appropriate consideration to the most logical and efficient use of limited available cash, and it may not provide the widest range of activities to the broadest possible target audience.

For example, development of a swimming pool and a recreational center were top weighted priorities. However, it is unrealistic for the City to spend limited available cash to develop and maintain a pool and/or recreation center when other desired facilities can provide activities to a broader range of residents at a lower cost. Therefore, Ovilla will consider development of a pool and/or recreation facilities at a later date if funding becomes available and interest remains high.

Playgrounds are also highly desired. The City already meets the recommended playground standard. However, there is clearly a demand that is not being met. At this time, it does not make financial sense for the City to develop additional playgrounds. As the City grows, it may make sense to once again close public access to private facilities. For the time being, however, an interlocal agreement is the best possible use of local resources.

The public comments made in the survey mentioned the need for various amenities and facilities that can feasibly be created/started during the planning period with existing resources, grants, and coordination with local institutions and land owners. These facilities include sidewalks; hike/jogging/bike trail; and picnics areas. To jumpstart the process, the City should consider formal interlocal agreements with local churches to ensure public access to recreational facilities.

Sidewalks

Sidewalks may be the most important component of the effort to successfully expand the City's parks network. Based on weighted survey responses, residents selected sidewalks as the most important desired recreational facility (question 12) and ranked it fifth on the priority scale (questions 13-15).

Sidewalks offer unparalleled recreation opportunities in terms of serving the broadest range of Ovilla residents and function in multiple capacities. With a little creativity, the sidewalk network can be an amenity itself by serving as a walking/jogging/biking path while also providing safe routes between parks, central Ovilla, and nearby neighborhoods.

However, to ensure proper design, prioritization, and implementation, the City will likely need to develop a standalone sidewalk plan. The sidewalk plan will need to consider several factors. In particular, if the goal is to link the parks network, the sidewalk plan will need to be designed around planned park expansions. Additionally, the plan will need to consider how new sidewalks may be able to capitalize on and link to existing sidewalks. There will likely need to be a traffic study to ensure that sidewalks are built along the safest routes possible. Finally, the sidewalk plan will need to consider available local and grant funding to help bring the project to fruition. Locating sufficient funding will be challenging because constructing the sidewalks in Ovilla will likely involve more than just constructing sidewalks.

The location of existing drainage ditches and swales makes constructing sidewalks in Ovilla especially tough. The City's options for relocating its drainage infrastructure are limited. The City can consider installing an underground drainage system, or it can work on purchasing easements to build sidewalks adjacent to existing drainage infrastructure. At this time, neither is an easily implementable solution.

The City will also need to consider anticipated improvements to FM 664. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) plans to widen FM 664 from a 2-4 Lane Rural Roadway to a 6 Lane Urban Roadway. Construction of a portion of the roadway in Ovilla is supposed to begin soon, and construction of the remaining portion in Ovilla should begin in the next 5 to 10 years. More information about the project is available at <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/project-tracker.html>.

Trails

Like sidewalks, a trail system can be an important component of the effort to successfully expand the City's parks network and serve a broad range of residents. Based on weighted survey responses, residents selected a hike/jogging/bike trail as the second most important desired recreational facility (question 12) and ranked it first on the priority scale (questions 13-15)

Trail systems are attractive amenities for both residents and visitors but, if properly planned, trail systems can also become an integral part of a City's transportation, recreation, and open space systems. The Trail de Paris in Paris, TX¹⁰, is an excellent example of what is possible. Based on planned expansions, the Trail de Paris will link many of the areas schools, parks, and sports complexes. In addition to connecting local facilities and amenities, the trail also functions as a critical link in the North East Texas Trail that runs between Farmersville and New Boston.

The City of Ovilla's Future Land Use Plan illustrates a large trail network in the floodplain land surrounding Red Oak Creek and Little Creek (see *Previous Studies*). However, establishing a trail system is almost always a piecemeal process. Successful development requires extensive long-term planning for acquisition and construction. To ensure proper design, prioritization, and implementation, the City will likely need to develop a standalone trails plan.

¹⁰ <http://www.traildeparis.org/>

Before building a trail, the City and community members should specify a vision and goals for the overall trail system and for individual trails. The visions and goals should address questions such as what is purpose of the system/trail? Is the trail itself a destination or is it primarily intended to quickly lead from one place to another? How will the trail be used? Should it be developed for single-use (e.g. for pedestrians) or multiuse (e.g. for pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchairs)? What is the anticipated intensity of use? How many anticipated users? When/how often will it be used (e.g. year-round, seasonally, day and nighttime use)?

The City will also need to study potential trail lands to understand design limitations and opportunities. Factors like natural contours and soil drainage/durability will impact trail construction and maintenance. For example, pooling water on the trail caused by poorly draining soil or rapidly rushing water caused by steep trail slopes will lead to erosion and result in more frequent and expensive maintenance. Trail design should also consider potential adverse impacts on wildlife and plants.

The natural characteristics of the land and the community's vision and goals of the system/trail should inform trail design standards. Trail design standards include aspects like trail configuration and length; tread surface and width; clearing width and height; grade; water crossing; and any special requirements. Other factors to consider when planning for a trails system include: potential connections with existing trails (local and/or regional); priority routes; financial viability and funding sources; management and maintenance plans.

The envisioned trails system along Red Oak Creek and Little Creek is a good start for considering trail development in Ovilla. As previously mentioned, recreational development on land in the floodplain may be less cost prohibitive to acquire and, when properly constructed, can ensure a reduced impact on the floodplain and its functions. In addition, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department offers specified funding for recreational trails development (more information available at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/recreational-trails-grants>).

At the time of plan production, a property owner was considering donating land located around Red Oak Creek to the City. Developing a nature trail on this land would support the need/demand for additional recreational space and for trails/path opportunities in Ovilla and provide an opportunity for the City to start engaging with trail development.

Figure 10 (next page) illustrates how Ovilla's sidewalk network might be expanded to link parks, central Ovilla, and how trail development could connect with and further enhance the network.

[The Ovilla Parks Board and the Ovilla Economic Development Corporation discussed prioritizing development of a sidewalk/trail path surrounding and connecting Cindy Jones Park and Heritage Park, and illuminated by decorative lighting.](#)

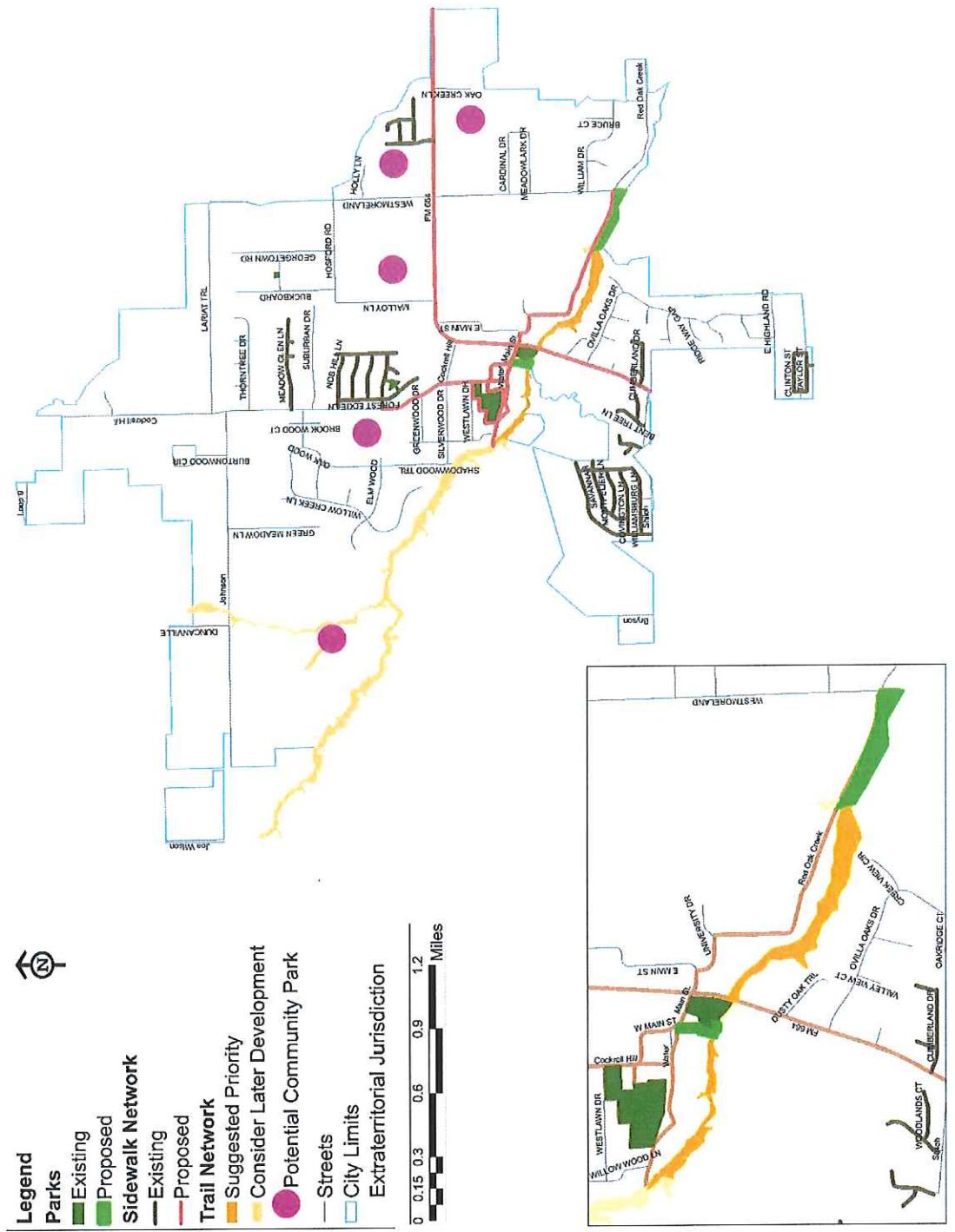


Figure 10: Proposed Sidewalk-Trail Network

Park Priorities by Type

The City of Ovilla has established the following development priorities:

Outdoor construction-related priorities (OC):

Priority 1:	Acquire/develop at least 12 acres of additional park land to meet current minimum Level of Service standard.
Priority 2:	Begin developing a sidewalk network to connect parks, central Ovilla, and nearby neighborhoods.
Priority 3:	<u>Add public buildings to City water/wastewater systems and further develop Cindy Jones Park.</u>
Priority 4:	Work with TPWD to develop a nature trail on donated land along Red Oak Creek.
Priority 5a:	Expand Heritage Park.
Priority 5b:	Repave path around Heritage Park and extend to ensure accessibility to all park features.
Priority 6:	Develop exhibits at park facilities to foster nature appreciation and to educate visitors about local flora, fauna, and geology. This can include community gardens and/or xeriscaped gardens.
Priority 7:	Develop native grass and garden areas along Red Oak Creek and/or Little Creek to preserve habitat and encourage wildlife viewing.
Priority 8:	Construct at least two (2) general use/soccer fields by 2028.
Priority 9:	Construct one (1) basketball court and appurtenances by 2028.
Priority 10:	Construct one (1) volleyball court and appurtenances by 2028.
Priority 11:	Construct one (1) tennis court and appurtenances by 2028.
Priority 12:	Install at least two (2) light activity areas by 2028.
Priority 13:	Construct at least three (3) covered group picnic areas at area parks by 2028.
Priority 14:	Install an additional 23 picnic tables at area parks.
Priority 15:	Install an additional 48 benches, including in areas downtown.
Priority 16:	Develop activities pursued by elderly residents such as horseshoes, shuffleboard, or domino/cards game tables where none currently exist and as needed.
Priority 17:	Install inclusive play activities (such as "sent or sensory garden") and inclusive playground equipment that can be enjoyed by children with physical disabilities.
Priority 18:	Remove deteriorated equipment from all park areas; replace as needed.
Priority 19:	Provide and maintain additional water fountains and restrooms at City parks.
Priority 20:	Develop a multi-use pavilion or outdoor event venue that can be used for large group gatherings as needed. Include community-cooking facilities.
Priority 21:	Encourage development of other outdoor activities typically operated by private businesses such as a skate park, equestrian facilities, miniature golf, bicycle motor-cross, etc.

Indoor construction-related priorities (IC):

Priority 1:	Encourage development of indoor activities typically operated by private businesses such as a movie theater, bowling alley, roller-skating rink, gymnastics/twirling center, etc.
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Ongoing non-construction priorities (NC):

Action Item 1:	Develop a shared-resources plan with local institutions to ensure all available area facilities can be utilized year-round.
Action Item 2:	Continue to budget sufficient funds for on-going facility development.
Action Item 3:	Continue to budget sufficient funds for park maintenance.
Action Item 4:	Establish Community Park Development and Trail System Development as key subjects for further review, study, and recommendation by the Parks Board.
Action Item 5:	Revise Park Development Fee standards to ensure sufficient park land serves new subdivisions, given anticipated increase in development and population; review standards every five (5) years.
Action Item 6:	Develop policy to educate public regarding benefits of private donation of land to be used for parks, greenbelts, and open space.
Action Item 7:	Establish a voluntary park donation fund to maintain, repair, and upgrade City parks. Solicitation could be added to City utility bill.
Action Item 8:	Establish "community work day" at parks to accomplish a portion of park development using volunteer labor. Tasks can include site preparation, clean-up, and preliminary construction tasks. Seek volunteers from local citizens, City staff, community service workers, schools, local institutions, and civic groups.
Action Item 9:	Continue programming and festivals at public parks like movie night and the Heritage Festival. <i>Festivals and events provide diverse activities not normally available in the park and enhance the usefulness of the facilities. These events can also highlight the community's cultural diversity or offer special events such as kite-flying contests or bike-a-thons. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.</i>
Action Item 10:	Schedule biennial reviews of Parks & Recreation Master Plan to update inventory and priority needs lists. Solicit new public input every five years.
Action Item 11:	Schedule creation of new Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN

This plan is designed to be implemented during a 10-year period between 2018 – 2028. The plan addresses the full spectrum of the City's new construction, maintenance, and operation needs to ensure that the highest quality park, recreation, and open space opportunities are available.

The following implementation plan sets forth the most reasonable development timeline assuming funding resources are available. The items are identified as Construction (C) priorities or as non-construction (NC) action items. Outdoor activities are identified as OC. Indoor activities are identified as IC.

Potential methods of funding for these projects are identified. These potential sources include:

- Local general funds;
- General obligation bonds;
- Certificates of obligation (CO's);
- Sales tax revenue;
- Local in-kind labor;
- Donations of land, cash, materials, and labor from private individuals; and
- Grants from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) through the outdoor, indoor, trails, and small community programs, and the TPWD Community Outdoor Outreach Program (COOP).

The following plan outlines projects the City should strive to achieve on a short-term basis within the first five years of the planning period and on a long-term basis. The plan derives from the above analyses: the inventory of existing conditions, including physical and social resources; the standards-based assessment; and the demand-based assessment.

Table 11: Recreation & Open Space Implementation Plan

<u>FY 2018 (10/1/17 to 9/30/18)</u>			
Implementation Item	Action Item	Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)
Develop a shared-resources plan with local churches to ensure all available area facilities can be utilized year-round.	NC 1	< \$1,000 (legal)	GEN; Local
Establish Community Park Development and Trail System Development as key subjects for further review, study, and recommendation by the Parks Board.	NC 4	Staff	GEN
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at public parks like movie night and the Heritage Festival. <i>Festivals and events provide diverse activities not normally available in the park and enhance the usefulness of the facilities. These events can also highlight the community's cultural diversity or offer special events such as kite-flying contests or bike-a-thons.</i> Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 9	\$5,000-\$10,000	GEN; EDC; Local
[1] Annual: Continue to budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for future facility development.	NC 2 NC3	\$45,000 ±	GEN

[1] Budget based on median operating expenditures per acre park and non-park sites for parks and recreation agencies servicing a population between 500 to 1,500 residents per square mile from the 2018 National Parks and Recreation Agency Performance Review <https://www.nrpa.org/siteassets/nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf> Per acre spending is \$5,846. Total developed park acres in Ovilla in 2018 is 7.7 acres.

GEN = City of Ovilla municipal funds; EDC = Ovilla Economic Development Corporation; Ellis County MGA = Ellis County Master Gardner Club; KTB = Keep Texas Beautiful grants; Local = donation from private citizens, organizations, and local businesses; OYBA = Ovilla Youth Baseball Association; Staff = City of Ovilla staff time; TDA-DRP = Texas Department of Agriculture Downtown Revitalization Program grants; TPWD = Texas Parks & Wildlife Department grants; TxDOT-TA = Texas Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternatives Program grants

FY 2019 (10/1/18 to 9/30/19)

Implementation Item	Action Item	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
<u>Apply in to TPWD Non-urban Outdoor Recreation Program or to TPWD Small Community Recreation Program in summer/fall 2019 to further develop Cindy Jones Park.</u>	<u>OC 1</u> <u>OC 7-14</u> <u>OC 17-19</u>	<u>Variable</u>	<u>GEN</u>
Revise Park Development Fee standards to ensure sufficient park land serves new subdivisions, given anticipated increased in development and population.	NC 5	< \$1,000 (legal)	GEN
Develop policy to educate public regarding benefits of private donation of land to be used for parks, greenbelts, and open space.	NC 6	< \$1,000	GEN
Establish a voluntary park donation fund to maintain, repair, and upgrade City parks. Solicitation could be added to City utility bill.	NC 7	< \$1,000	GEN
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at public parks like movie night and the Heritage Festival. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 9	\$5,000-\$10,000	GEN; EDC; Local
Annual: Continue to budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for future facility development.	NC 2 NC 3	\$45,000 ±	GEN

GEN = City of Ovilla municipal funds; EDC = Ovilla Economic Development Corporation; Ellis County MGA = Ellis County Master Gardner Club; KTB = Keep Texas Beautiful grants; Local = donation from private citizens, organizations, and local businesses; OYBA = Ovilla Youth Baseball Association; Staff = City of Ovilla staff time; TDA-DRP = Texas Department of Agriculture Downtown Revitalization Program grants; TPWD = Texas Parks & Wildlife Department grants; TxDOT-TA = Texas Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternatives Program grants

FY 2020 (10/1/19 to 9/30/20)

Implementation Item	Action Item	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Conduct biennial review of shared-resources plan with local institutions to ensure all available area facilities can be utilized year-round.	NC 10	< \$1,000 (legal)	GEN; Local
Begin developing a sidewalk network to connect parks, central Ovilla, and nearby neighborhoods.	OC 1	Up to \$1,000,000	GEN; TxDOT; TDA-DRP; TxDOT-TA
Begin negotiations with owner of vacant land adjacent to Heritage Park to acquire land and expand park.	OC 1 OC 4	Staff	GEN
Conduct biennial review of Parks & Recreation Master Plan to update inventory and priority needs lists.	NC 10	< \$1,000	GEN
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at public parks like movie night and the Heritage Festival. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 9	\$5,000-\$10,000	GEN; EDC; Local
Annual: Continue to budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for future facility development.	NC 2 NC 3	\$45,000 ±	GEN

GEN = City of Ovilla municipal funds; EDC = Ovilla Economic Development Corporation; Ellis County MGA = Ellis County Master Gardner Club; KTB = Keep Texas Beautiful grants; Local = donation from private citizens, organizations, and local businesses; OYBA = Ovilla Youth Baseball Association; Staff = City of Ovilla staff time; TDA-DRP = Texas Department of Agriculture Downtown Revitalization Program grants; TPWD = Texas Parks & Wildlife Department grants; TxDOT-TA = Texas Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternatives Program grants

FY 2021 (10/1/20 to 9/30/21)

Implementation Item	Action Item	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
<u>Further develop Cindy Jones Park. Current facility needs include: two (2) general soccer fields; one (1) basketball court; (1) volleyball court; (1) tennis court; group picnic areas; and a multi-use pavilion/outdoor event venue with cooking facilities.</u>	<u>OC 1</u> <u>OC 7-14</u> <u>OC 17-19</u>	<u>Up to \$1,000,000</u>	<u>GEN; EDC; TPWD (City contribution would be 50% match)</u>
Establish "community work day" at parks to accomplish a portion of park development using volunteer labor. Tasks can include site preparation, clean-up, and preliminary construction tasks. Seek volunteers from local citizens, City staff, community service workers, schools, local institutions, and civic groups.	NC 8	< \$1,000	GEN; Local
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at public parks like movie night and the Heritage Festival. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 9	\$5,000-\$10,000	GEN; EDC; Local
Annual: Continue to budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for future facility development.	NC 2 NC 3	\$45,000 ±	GEN

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FY 2022 (10/1/21 to 9/30/22)

Implementation Item	Action Item	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Apply to TPWD Small Community Recreation Program in summer/fall 2022 to expand and improve Heritage Park.	OC1 OC 4 OC 11-14 OC 17	Variable	GEN
Conduct biennial review of shared-resources plan with local institutions to ensure all available area facilities can be utilized year-round.	NC 10	< \$1,000 (legal)	GEN; Local
Conduct biennial review of Parks & Recreation Master Plan to update inventory and priority needs lists.	NC 10	< \$1,000	GEN
<u>Install inclusive play activities (such as "scent or sensory garden") and inclusive play equipment that can be enjoyed by children with physical disabilities.</u>	<u>OC 16</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>GEN; Ellis County MGA</u>
<u>Develop activities pursued by elderly residents such as horseshoes, shuffleboard, or domino/card game tables where none currently exist and as needed.</u>	<u>OC 15</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>GEN</u>
Annual: Continue "community work day" at parks to accomplish a portion of development using volunteer labor. Remove debris and dilapidated equipment from all park areas.	NC 8	< \$1,000	GEN; Local
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at public parks like movie night and the Heritage Festival. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 9	\$5,000-\$10,000	GEN; EDC; Local
Annual: Continue to budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for future facility development.	NC 2 NC3	\$45,000 ±	GEN

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FY 2023 (10/1/22 to 9/30/23)

Implementation Item	Action Item	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Annual: Continue "community work day" at parks to accomplish a portion of development using volunteer labor. Remove debris and dilapidated equipment from all park areas.	NC 8	< \$1,000	GEN; Local
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at public parks like movie night and the Heritage Festival. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 9	\$5,000-\$10,000	GEN; EDC; Local
Annual: Continue to budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for future facility development.	NC 2 NC 3	\$45,000 ±	GEN

GEN = City of Ovilla municipal funds; **EDC** = Ovilla Economic Development Corporation; **Ellis County MGA** = Ellis County Master Gardner Club; **KTB** = Keep Texas Beautiful grants; **Local** = donation from private citizens, organizations, and local businesses; **OYBA** = Ovilla Youth Baseball Association; **Staff** = City of Ovilla staff time; **TDA-DRP** = Texas Department of Agriculture Downtown Revitalization Program grants; **TPWD** = Texas Parks & Wildlife Department grants; **TxDOT-TA** = Texas Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternatives Program grants

FY 2024 (10/1/23 to 9/30/24)

Implementation Item	Action Item	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
<u>Acquire land and construct improvements at Heritage Park including: a repaved/extended walking path; a light activity area; and picnic tables and park benches as appropriate.</u>	<u>OC 1</u> <u>OC 4</u> <u>OC 11-14</u> <u>OC 17</u>	<u>Up to \$150,000</u>	<u>GEN; EDC; TPWD (City contribution would be \$75,000 as 50% match)</u>
Conduct biennial review of shared-resources plan with local institutions to ensure all available area facilities can be utilized year-round.	NC 10	< \$1,000 (legal)	GEN; Local
Review Park Development Fee standards ensure sufficient park land serves new subdivisions, given anticipated increased in development and population.	NC 5	< \$1,000	GEN
Review Parks & Recreation Master Plan, solicit new public input, update inventory and priority needs lists.	NC 10	< \$1,000	GEN
Annual: Continue "community work day" at parks to accomplish a portion of development using volunteer labor. Remove debris and dilapidated equipment from all park areas.	NC 8	< \$1,000	GEN; Local
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at public parks like movie night and the Heritage Festival. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 9	\$5,000- \$10,000	GEN; EDC; Local
Annual: Continue to budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for future facility development.	NC 2 NC 3	\$45,000 ±	GEN

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FY 2025 (10/1/24 to 9/30/25)

Implementation Item	Action Item	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
<u>Apply to TPWD Recreational Trails Fund (January 2025) and/or Tx-DOT-Transportation Alternatives Program to install a nature trail on donated land near Red Oak Creek.</u>	<u>OC 1</u> <u>OC 3</u>	<u>Variable</u>	<u>GEN</u>
<u>Develop exhibits at park facilities to foster nature appreciation and to educate visitors about local flora, fauna, and geology. This can include community gardens and/or xeriscaped gardens.</u>	<u>OC 5</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>GEN; KTB; Local</u>
<u>Develop native grass and garden areas along Red Oak Creek and/or Little Creek to preserve habitat and encourage wildlife viewing.</u>	<u>OC 6</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>GEN; Ellis County MGA; Local</u>
Annual: Continue "community work day" at parks to accomplish a portion of development using volunteer labor. Remove debris and dilapidated equipment from all park areas.	NC 8	< \$1,000	GEN; Local
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at public parks like movie night and the Heritage Festival. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 9	\$5,000- \$10,000	GEN; EDC; Local
Annual: Continue to budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for future facility development.	NC 2 NC 3	\$45,000 ±	GEN

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FY 2026 (10/1/25 to 9/30/26)

Implementation Item	Action Item	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Conduct biennial review of shared-resources plan with local institutions to ensure all available area facilities can be utilized year-round.	NC 10	< \$1,000 (legal)	GEN; Local
Conduct biennial review of Parks & Recreation Master Plan to update inventory and priority needs lists.	NC 10	< \$1,000	GEN
Encourage development of indoor activities typically operated by private businesses such as a movie theater, bowling alley, roller-skating rink, gymnastics/twirling center, etc.	IC 1	Staff	GEN; EDC; Local
Encourage development of other outdoor activities typically operated by private businesses such as a skate park, equestrian facilities, miniature golf, bicycle-motocross, etc.	OC 20	Staff	GEN; EDC; Local
Annual: Continue "community work day" at parks to accomplish a portion of development using volunteer labor. Remove debris and dilapidated equipment from all park areas.	NC 8	< \$1,000	GEN; Local
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at public parks like movie night and the Heritage Festival. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 9	\$5,000-\$10,000	GEN; EDC; Local
Annual: Continue to budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for future facility development.	NC 2 NC 3	\$45,000 ±	GEN

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FY 2027 (10/1/26 to 9/30/27)

Implementation Item	Action Item	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
<u>Work with TPWD/Tx-DOT to install a nature trail on donated land near Red Oak Creek.</u>	<u>OC 1</u> <u>OC 3</u>	<u>Up to \$240,000 + TxDOT Funds (variable)</u>	<u>GEN; EDC; TPWD (City contribution would be up to \$40,000 as 20% match); TXDOT-TA (20% match required)</u>
Annual: Continue “community work day” at parks to accomplish a portion of development using volunteer labor. Remove debris and dilapidated equipment from all park areas.	NC 8	< \$1,000	GEN; Local
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at public parks like movie night and the Heritage Festival. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 9	\$5,000- \$10,000	GEN; EDC; Local
Annual: Continue to budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for future facility development.	NC 2 NC 3	\$45,000 ±	GEN

GEN = City of Ovilla municipal funds; EDC = Ovilla Economic Development Corporation; Ellis County MGA = Ellis County Master Gardner Club; KTB = Keep Texas Beautiful grants; Local = donation from private citizens, organizations, and local businesses; OYBA = Ovilla Youth Baseball Association; Staff = City of Ovilla staff time; TDA-DRP = Texas Department of Agriculture Downtown Revitalization Program grants; TPWD = Texas Parks & Wildlife Department grants; TxDOT-TA = Texas Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternatives Program grants

FY 2028 (10/1/27 to 9/30/28)

Implementation Item	Action Item	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Conduct biennial review of shared-resources plan with local institutions to ensure all available area facilities can be utilized year-round.	NC 10	< \$1,000 (legal)	GEN; Local
Schedule creation of new Parks & Recreation Master Plan.	NC 11	\$10,000	GEN; CDBG
Annual: Continue "community work day" at parks to accomplish a portion of development using volunteer labor. Remove debris and dilapidated equipment from all park areas.	NC 8	< \$1,000	GEN; Local
Annual: Continue programming and festivals at public parks like movie night and the Heritage Festival. Earmark any proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.	NC 9	\$5,000- \$10,000	GEN; EDC; Local
Annual: Continue to budget sufficient funds for park maintenance and for future facility development.	NC 2 NC 3	\$45,000 ±	GEN

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APPENDIX

City of Ovilla - Parks Survey (2018)

This survey is intended to gather information from residents for consideration in the development of a "Parks Master Plan" for the City of Ovilla. The Plan will form part of the City's 2018-2028 Comprehensive Plan.

1. Where do you live?

The City of Ovilla
 Ellis County
 Dallas County
 Other (please specify city and state)

2. How many people in your home are in the following age groups, including you?

4 years & younger
5-12 years-old
13-18 years-old
19-50 years-old
51-65 years-old
66+ years-old

3. Please indicate your age

4. Do you attend school? If so, which school do you attend?

5. What types of activities do the children in your family like to do? Select all that apply)

- Basketball
- Cross Country/Running
- Table Tennis
- Hunting/Shooting
- Football
- Swimming
- Martial Arts
- Baseball
- Tennis
- Boxing
- Soccer
- Golf
- Horseback Riding
- Softball
- Skateboarding
- Hiking
- Volleyball
- Gymnastics
- Walking
- Cheerleading
- Dance
- Bowling
- Track/Field
- Bicycling/BMX
- Fishing
- Other (Please describe):

6. What types of activities do the adults in your family like to do? Check the boxes for all that apply.

- Basketball
- Cross Country/Running
- Table Tennis
- Hunting/Shooting
- Aerobic Workouts
- Football
- Swimming
- Martial Arts
- Weight Lifting
- Baseball
- Tennis
- Boxing
- Soccer
- Golf
- Horseback Riding
- Softball
- Skateboarding
- Hiking
- Volleyball
- Gymnastics
- Walking
- Cheerleading
- Dance
- Bowling
- Track/Field
- Bicycling/BMX
- Fishing
- Other (Please describe):

7. Where do you and your family participate in sports and other recreational activities? (Select all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Home	<input type="checkbox"/> Ken & Sara Pritchett Park
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend's Home	<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Spur Park
<input type="checkbox"/> School (fields/playgrounds)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks in other cities
<input type="checkbox"/> Church / Temple / Mosque	<input type="checkbox"/> YMCA/Gym in other cities
<input type="checkbox"/> Around the neighborhood	<input type="checkbox"/> Joe Pool Lake
<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center
<input type="checkbox"/> Cindy Jones Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Bear Creek Nature Park
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe any other parks in the region that you visit):	

8. How often do you visit a park in Ovilla?

9. What, if anything, would lead you to visit a public park in Ovilla more often?

10. Do you feel that you can safely walk or ride a bike to the nearest park in Ovilla?

Walking

Biking

11. In your opinion, should existing parks/recreation spaces in Ovilla be updated?

Yes

No

Not sure

If you answered 'Yes', what kind of improvements are needed?

12. What additional recreational facilities would you like to have in Ovilla? Please rate each facility according to how important you think it is (very, somewhat, or not important).

	Very important	Important	Not important	No opinion
Recreation Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hike/Jogging/Bike Trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disc Golf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Splash Pad	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming Pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pavilion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor Tennis Court	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Softball/Baseball Field	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soccer Field	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Covered Picnic Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor Picnic Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Golf Course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volleyball Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sidewalks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skate Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Garden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe any other recreational facilities that you feel are very important:

13. What is your #1 priority for an additional recreation facility in Ovilla? If your priority is not listed, please select "Other" and list it in the comment box.

14. What is your #2 priority for an additional recreation facility in Ovilla? If your priority is not listed, please select "Other" and list it in the comment box.

15. What is your #3 priority for an additional recreation facility in Ovilla? If your priority is not listed, please select "Other" and list it in the comment box.