

•CITY OF MARSHALL•

OUTDOOR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

DECEMBER 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

• SECTION 1: Introduction	1
• SECTION 2: Goals and Objectives	5
• SECTION 3: Plan Development Process	6
• SECTION 4: Park Area and Facility Standards	8
• SECTION 5: Inventory of Park Areas and Identification	11
• SECTION: 6 Needs Assessment and Identification	21
• SECTION 7: Prioritization of needs and Plan Implementation	26
• SECTION 8: Accomplished Goals from 2000 Plan	31
• SECTION 9: Illustration	32
• APPENDIX A	34

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL PURPOSE

The purpose of this park master plan is to provide directives and recommendations for park and open space development in Marshall. This plan will provide strategies to accomplish an adequate recreation system for the entire population of Marshall. The plan will not just focus on active recreation, such as tennis and fitness walking, but it also will address passive recreation, such as picnicking and family playground activities. As the population moves through transitions the community as a whole must strive for an adequate parks and recreation system that will continue to improve the quality of life for everyone in Marshall. One objective of this plan is for Marshall to successfully achieve and sustain a desired level of recreational services to its citizens. To obtain this success Marshall should not respond and react to opportunities or events on an ad hoc basis. However, a good plan will leave room for flexibility while establishing a general course. It will be Marshall's responsibility to position itself in a manner to grasp opportunities or events that follow this general course.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MARSHALL

The City of Marshall was founded in 1841, and became the Harrison County seat in 1842. Marshall is located in the coastal plain of Texas and, the terrain is generally characterized as gently rolling to slightly hilly. The city of Marshall is situated within two watersheds. These watersheds are defined by a ridgeline that meanders across the northern portion of the city. Water north of the ridgeline flows into the Mississippi River Watershed via the Red River and Cypress Bayou. Water south of the ridgeline flows into the Sabine River Watershed via Parker Creek and other drainage channels. The total land area of Marshall is approximately 29 square miles or 18,560 acres.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF MARSHALL

The 2000 U.S. Census and the Community and Workforce Development Department are the two sources used to provide population statistics, estimates and projections within this document. The population of Marshall in 2010 was 23,935 according to the 2010 U.S. Census. Using 2000 Census data, the following tables will provide characteristics such as age, education, income and race for Marshall's population.

**TABLE 1-1
AGE OF POPULATION**

Age group	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,629	6.8%
5 to 9	1,708	7.1%
10 to 24	1,744	7.3%
15 to 19	2,252	9.4%
20 to 24	2,124	8.9%
25 to 34	2,760	11.5%
35 to 44	3,137	13.1%
45 to 54	2,929	12.2%
55 to 59	1,039	4.3%
60 to 64	900	3.8%
65 to 74	1,790	7.5%
75 to 84	1,332	5.6%
85 and over	591	2.5%
Total Population	23,935	
Median Age	34.1	

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

**TABLE 1-2
PERCENT OF 2000 POPULATION BASED ON EDUCATION**

Persons 3 years and over enrolled in school				Persons 25 years and over				
Total Preprimary School		Total elementary or high school		Total College		Total	% of total high school graduate or higher	% of total bachelor's degree or higher
Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number		
738	10.3%	4,453	62%	1,987	27.7%	14,414	75.9%	19.9%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

**Table 1-3
HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

Income	Number of households	Percent
Less than \$10,000	1,566	18%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	757	9%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	678	8%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	879	10%
\$25,000 to \$29,999	412	5%
\$30,000 to \$34,999	691	8%
\$35,000 to \$39,999	409	5%
\$40,000 to \$44,999	389	4%
\$45,000 to \$49,999	494	6%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	641	7%
\$60,000 to \$74,999	720	8%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	590	7%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	226	3%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	57	1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	72	1%
\$200,000 or more	114	1%
Total Households	8,695	
Median Income	\$30,335	
Per Capita Income	\$15,491	

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

**Table 1-4
POPULATION BY RACE**

White		Black		Other	
Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
13,082	54.7%	9,237	38.6%	1,616	6.7%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

PLAN OBJECTIVES

Currently the City of Marshall has an existing park system that includes (9) developed parks totaling 265 acres and (1) public swimming pool. There are (12) elementary or middle schools that provide areas of outdoor recreation, and there is also (1) private park in the City of Marshall. This plan is intended to cover a 15 to 20 year period. The objectives of this master park plan are to:

- Identify the goals and objectives to improve the existing park and recreation system.
- Provide a comprehensive inventory of all parks, park facilities and outdoor recreation areas.
- Identify the needs of the community based on supply, demand and available resources.
- Design an implementation plan to address priority needs.
- Develop strategies to implement plan.

This document was produced from the input of citizens, the Parks Board and City staff. This plan is intended to be firm but not limiting and will incorporate updates, as recreation needs change within the community.

SECTION 2

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A proficient master park plan is a plan that can be used as a foundational park plan for the future. Establishing attainable and reachable goals is a crucial component to a functional park plan. The following goals were identified during the early stages of the park plan process. The goals were identified using the knowledge of the existing parks system, input from the Parks Board, and utilizing park and recreational goals set forth in the General Plan.

- Work to upgrade and enhance each of our existing parks to make our community friendlier and more inviting to families and children residing within or visiting our area. Address each park's specific needs, one park at a time, to make necessary and requested changes.
- Improve playground amenities at existing parks and provide playground amenities in newer parks.
- Contribute further to the sense of community by linking existing parks by a trail system.
- Continue the effort on upkeep and upgrade of park facilities and park grounds in existing parks.
- Establish a "Friends of The Parks" charitable organization as a means of providing a vehicle for funds to be received from public and private donors who wish to see their donations go directly to improving our area parks. This type of fund should make it easier to accomplish the goals stated in this plan.

The importance of achieving these goals directly impacts the quality of life in Marshall. These goals are attainable and are not to be construed as unreachable goals. As these goals come to fruition the outcome will be a parks system that will serve the varying outdoor interests of the entire community.

SECTION 3

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

This Outdoor Parks and Recreation Plan was developed in several steps. They are as follows:

- Review parks and recreation issues and goals in City's General Plan.

The City of Marshall has an adopted long-range plan that guides the growth and development of the city. The General Plan is a comprehensive plan for the city. This Outdoor Parks and Recreation Plan is considered to be a continuation of the planning effort that produced the General Plan.

The current planning process under which the City of Marshall is operating began in 1980 when the City contracted with a consultant, Wayne Snyder and Associates, to develop a comprehensive plan for the city. The plan was completed and approved in 1981, and it included a section on Parks and Recreation. This plan was used extensively for land use decisions.

An extended effort to update the 1981 plan was begun in 1990 and culminated in 1996 with the adoption of the current General Plan under which the City is operating. This effort was accomplished by City staff with extensive review, input, and oversight by the Marshall Planning and Zoning Commission, with input from other boards and commissions. The City's Parks Board developed goals for the Parks and Recreation section of the General Plan. The effort also incorporated an extensive citizen participation process in which 20 meetings were held in 1994 that were attended by a total of over 300 people.

The General Plan serves as an overall guideline for development in the community. It contains goals for Parks and Recreation. One of the premises of the 1996 General Plan is that it is anticipated that implementation plans will be developed for the various areas of concern addressed in the plan. This Outdoor Parks and Recreation Plan is considered to be an implementation plan of the General Plan. The Outdoor Recreation Plan effort was accomplished by City staff with review and input by the Marshall Parks Board. The documents were written by the City Planning Department staff.

In mid-2010 a reactivated Parks Board appointed a committee to review and update the existing 2000 Outdoor Parks and Recreation Plan. The members of this committee met on various occasions to divide up duties. Each park was inventoried and analyzed by the members of the committee. They then discussed and assessed the needs of each park and developed the 2010 Outdoor Parks and Recreation Plan.

- Update inventory of existing parks. Each of the City's existing parks was visited to update the inventory of each park and to assess needs in the park system.
- Analyze City's parks and park facilities and prepare needs assessment based on the findings from this analysis.

To assure that the goals for outdoor recreation remain fresh for this implementation plan, the review committee and the City staff conducted a needs assessment in late 2010. The City's parks and park facilities were compared with national standards prepared by the National Parks and Recreation Association. The existing demand was analyzed using participation rates provided by the Parks Department staff and sports associations. A survey of existing resources was also made to determine resources available to improve the parks system. An analysis of 2000 Census data provided information on the potential demand based on the population in various age categories and assumptions on the needs of these age groups. Examples of the resources surveyed are streams, drainage channels, ponds, and abandoned rights-of-way. A needs assessment was prepared based on the analysis.

- Parks Board reviews findings from needs assessment and updates parks and recreation goals in General Plan.

The City Parks Board is a board appointed by the Marshall City Commission to represent the citizens of the community on matters concerning the City's parks and recreation system. The Parks Board reviewed the results of the needs assessment and updated goals were developed by the Parks Board in November 2010. Following this review, the Parks Board adopted the updated goals and forwarded them to the City Commission for final approval. These updated goals became the foundation upon which this plan and the priorities contained in this plan were developed. The goals are incorporated into this plan in Section 2.

- Priorities established and implementation plan prepared.

The Parks Board, the review committee, and the City Parks and Recreation staff worked together to prioritize the needs identified through the needs assessment. At this time a framework for implementation of the plan was prepared. This process took into consideration the long-range goals for the parks system as identified in the General Plan and repeated in Section 2 of this plan. The plan document was written and prepared for approval through a cooperative effort of the City Parks and Recreation staff and members of the review committee.

- Plan presented to Marshall City Commission.

The plan was presented to the Marshall City Commission for adoption at their regular meeting on December 15, 2010.

SECTION 4

PARK AREA AND FACILITY STANDARDS

In developing a park master plan the analysis of the existing facilities, community demands, and community resources are important factors. An assessment of the community's needs provides the basis for an adequate park system. This section will provide National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration industry standards for an adequate park system in the City of Marshall. These standards will then be applied to Marshall's existing parkland and facilities to pinpoint specific needs of the community.

These standards available in the *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, 1995* and the *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, 1983*. These publications both from the NRPA are to be utilized as a guide to help communities in the planning, acquisition, and development of parks and open space for recreation purposes. The NRPA defines its standards by the following criteria:

- A national expression of minimum acceptable facilities for the citizens of urban and rural communities.
- A guideline to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation areas and facilities.
- A basis for relating recreation needs to spatial analysis within a community wide park system and open space areas.
- A major structuring element that can be used to guide and assist regional development.
- An instrument to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land use pattern of a community or region.

The guidelines and standards set forth by the NRPA will help the City of Marshall achieve the minimum goals for park acreage and recreational facilities. The main objective for the city is to provide an adequate park system for the community. The availability of economic resources, land availability, and community support are important factors to reaching established goals.

NRPA PARK ACREAGE STANDARDS

The NRPA standards provide a minimum and maximum acreage amount for each type of park. The total park acreage per 1000 population can range from a minimum of 6.5 acres to a maximum of 10.0 acres according to NRPA recommendations. Table 4-1 is a compilation of the NRPA park acreage standards.

Table 4-1
NRPA PARK ACREAGE STANDARDS

Type	Size/Acres	Service Area	Acres per 1,000 Population
Mini Park	2,500 SF. – 1 ac.	Less than ¼ mile from neighborhood	0.25 – 0.5 ac.
Neighborhood Park	5 – 10 ac.	One neighborhood ½ mile radius	1.25 – 1.5 ac.
Community Park	As needed for desired uses, usually between 30 – 50 ac	Several neighborhoods ½ to 3 mile radius	5.0 – 8.0 ac.
Sports Complex	Minimum of 25 ac., with an optimal size of 40 – 80 ac.	1 hour driving time	Variable
Special Use Areas	Varies	No applicable standard	Variable
Greenways/Linear Park	Sufficient width to protect the Natural resource and provide maximum use for community	No applicable standard	Variable
Natural Resource Areas	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable	Variable
School Park	Variable – depends on function	Variable	Variable
Total			6.5 – 10.0 ac.

Source: *Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines, 1995, p. 94*
Recreation, park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, 1983, p. 56-57

NRPA FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The NRPA lists fourteen types of facilities that may be present in a city recreation system. The number of facilities is determined by dividing the total population of a community by the population standard set by the NRPA. Table 4-2 provides the population standard for a specific facility.

TABLE 4-2
NRPA FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

FACILITY	RECOMMENDED FACILITY PER POPULATION
Baseball Fields	1 per 5,000
Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	1 per 5,000
Football Fields	1 per 20,000
Pavilion/Picnic Shelter	1 per 2,000
Picnic Tables	1 per 300
Playgrounds	1 per 1,000
Roller Hockey Rinks	1 per 20,000
Recreation Center	1 per 20,000-30,000
Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000
Softball Fields	1 per 5,000
Swimming Pools (Outdoor)	1 per 20,000
Tennis Courts	1 court per 2,000
Trails	½ - 1 mile per 10,000
Volleyball Areas (Outdoor)	1 acre per 5,000

Source: *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, 1983*

SUMMARY

Utilizing these national standards will help Marshall identify the strengths and weaknesses of the existing park system. Marshall will then be able to focus on areas in which improvements can be made to enhance the overall park system. Marshall will also be able to determine what type of parks or facilities are lacking in specific areas of the city. The master plan will provide opportunities to address specific needs, which will be determined by using demand, standard and resource based approaches. To assist in determining these needs the following section provides a comprehensive inventory of park areas and facilities in the City of Marshall.

SECTION 5

INVENTORY OF PARK AREAS AND FACILITIES

This section will include an inventory of Marshall's park recreation system. The recreation system will be categorized by using the NRPA's definitions and standards for a park or recreation area. The following are NRPA definitions of park types and recreation areas.

- Mini-Park

A mini-park ranges from 2,500 square feet to one acre in size. A mini-park serves a population within a ¼ mile radius. A mini-park should have good pedestrian access and is generally utilized for passive recreational needs of the immediate neighborhood. The NRPA standard for a mini-park is 0.25 – 0.5 acres per 1,000 population. This standard equates to a range of 6.3 – 12.6 acres for Marshall's 2000 population. A mini-park is currently under construction on North Washington Street in downtown Marshall.

- Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park is the foundation of a local park and recreation system because of its location to the user. A neighborhood park serves a population within a ¼ to ½ mile radius. The park should be large enough to provide for a variety of activities. This park can vary in size from 5 – 10 acres. The ideal neighborhood park acreage is 10 acres when it is separate or 5 – 7 acres when combined with an elementary school. This park should have a geographic location that permits pedestrian access from all parts of a neighborhood. Active uses should utilize 50% of the park and the remainder should serve passive recreation. A neighborhood park should add to the neighborhood and should not contain activities that would disrupt the surrounding residences. The NRPA standard for a neighborhood park is 1.25 – 1.5 acres per 1000 population. This standard equates to a range of 31.4 – 37.7 acres for Marshall's 2000 population. The City of Marshall has (5) neighborhood parks totaling 26 acres.

- Community Park

A community park serves 3 to 5 neighborhoods and includes a wide range of activities. A community park can range in size 30- 50 acres and serve a population within a one to two mile radius. A community park includes areas for intense recreation activities. These activities can be organized sports, recreational swimming, tennis, volleyball, etc. A community park also includes facilities such as, benches, picnic tables, and walking tracks. The NRPA standard for a community park is 5 – 8 acres per 1000 population. This standard equates to a range of 125- 201 acres for Marshall's 2000 population. The City of Marshall has (1) community park totaling 17 acres.

- Private Park

The private park is a new classification to the NRPA system. It recognizes the contribution of private providers to community park and recreation system. It also encourages greater cooperation between the private and public sector toward meeting growing park and recreation needs. The location will usually be determined by a private developer or enterprise, with cooperation from the city. The optimal size is determined by its intended use. The City of Marshall has (1) private park totaling 26 acres.

- Special Use

Special use areas are for specialized or designated recreation activities. The NRPA considers arboretums, amphitheaters, arenas, community squares, historical parks, nature centers, marinas, zoos, or golf courses as special use areas. The NRPA has no specific standards for a special use area. Currently the City of Marshall has (4) special use areas totaling 205 acres.

- School Park

The school park is a new addition to the NRPA park classification system. The location and size define a school park. A school park that does not encroach on an existing park and provides 5 – 7 acres for recreation could be considered a neighborhood park. It is beneficial and economical for the community when a joint use exists between the city and local school district. Currently the City of Marshall has no joint use agreements with the Marshall Independent School District (MISD). The following locations meet the criteria for a neighborhood park.

- Carver Elementary
- Crockett Elementary
- Moore Elementary
- Travis Elementary
- West End Park (Private)

The following are other MISD locations that serve as outdoor recreation areas.

- Marshall High School
- Marshall Jr. High School
- Lee Elementary
- Price T. Young Middle School
- Sam Houston Middle School
- South Marshall Elementary
- St. Joseph's Elementary
- Washington Early Childhood

- *Sports Complex*

The sports complex is a facility that is focused around organized athletic programs. These types of programs include baseball fields, basketball courts, softball fields, soccer fields, volleyball courts, and racquetball courts. The types of programs that are in demand by a community determine the size of a sports complex. A 25-acre sports complex is considered the minimum size for a community. A sports complex ranging from 40 – 80 acres would be ideal for a community. The City of Marshall has (1) sports complex totaling 57 acres.

Table 5-1 identifies each neighborhood park and provides an inventory of facilities.

**TABLE 5-1
INVENTORY OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARK FACILITIES IN MARSHALL**

Park Name	Bath-Miller	Bella Wyatt	Coker Field	Lions	Smith Park	
Park Number	1	2	3	4	5	
Inventory						Total
Acres	3	5	6	7	5	26
Baseball fields		1		1		2
Basketball courts		1		1	1	3
Benches	5	1			10	16
Concessions						
Drinking fountains						
Multi-use courts						
Picnic shelters		1		1	1	3
Picnic tables		1		3	3	7
Playgrounds	1	1	1	1	1	5
Practice fields						
Restrooms						
Soccer fields						
Softball fields		1	1		1	3
Special use facility				1	1	2
Swimming pools						
Stadiums						
Tennis courts						
Trails (miles)						
Volleyball courts	1					1

Table 5-2 identifies the community park in Marshall and provides an inventory of facilities.

**TABLE 5-2
INVENTORY OF COMMUNITY PARK FACILITIES IN MARSHALL**

Park Name	City Park	
Park Number	6	
Inventory		Total
Acres	17	17
Baseball fields		
Basketball courts	2	2
Benches	9	9
Concessions		
Drinking fountains	1	1
Multi-use courts		
Picnic shelters	1	1
Picnic tables	6	6
Playgrounds	1	1
Practice fields		
Restrooms	1	1
Soccer fields		
Softball fields	2	2
Special use facility		
Swimming pools		
Stadiums		
Tennis courts	3	3
Trails (miles)		
Volleyball courts	1	1

Table 5-3 identifies special use areas in Marshall and an inventory of facilities.

**TABLE 5-3
INVENTORY OF SPECIAL USE AREAS IN MARSHALL**

Park Name	City Arena	Oak Trails Park	Public Pool	Golf Course	
Park Number	7	8	10	11	
Inventory					Total
Acres	75	30	1	99	205
Baseball fields					
Basketball courts					
Benches				3	3
Concessions	1		1	1	3
Drinking fountains	2		1		3
Meeting rooms	1			1	2
Multi-use courts					
Picnic shelters					
Picnic tables					
Playgrounds					
Practice fields				1	1
Restrooms	1		1	1	3
Soccer fields					
Softball fields					
Special use facility	1500 seats				1
Swimming pools					
Stadiums					
Tennis courts					
Trails (miles)			2		2
Volleyball courts					

Table 5-4 is an inventory of facilities in the sports complex in Marshall.

**TABLE 5-4
INVENTORY OF SPORTS COMPLEX FACILITIES IN MARSHALL**

Park Name	Airport Park	
Park Number	9	
Inventory		Total
Acres	57	57
Baseball fields	7	7
Batting cages	2	2
Basketball courts		
Benches	6	6
Concessions	2	2
Drinking fountains		
Football fields	1	1
Multi-use courts		
Picnic shelters		
Picnic tables	2	2
Playgrounds	2	2
Practice fields		
Restrooms	2	2
Soccer fields		
Softball fields	3	3
Special use facility	1	1
Swimming pools		
Stadiums		
Tennis courts		
Trails (miles)		
Volleyball courts		

Table 5-5 is an inventory of private park facilities in Marshall.

**TABLE 5-5
INVENTORY OF PRIVATE PARK FACILITIES IN MARSHALL**

Park Name	West End Park	
Park Number	11	
Inventory		Total
Acres	26	26
Baseball fields	1	1
Basketball courts	5	5
Benches	3	3
Concessions		
Drinking fountains		
Football fields	1	1
Multi-use courts	1	1
Picnic shelters		
Picnic tables	2	2
Playgrounds	1	1
Practice fields		
Restrooms		
Soccer fields	2	2
Softball fields	1	1
Special use facility		
Swimming pools		
Stadiums		
Tennis courts		
Trails (miles)	1	1
Volleyball courts		

Table 5-6 includes an overview of all parks, special use areas, sports complex, and private park facilities in the city.

**TABLE 5-6
TOTAL PARK AND AREA INVENTORY**

Park Name	Bath-Miller	Bella Wyatt	Coker Field	Lions	Smith Park	City Park	City Arena	Oak Trails Park	Airport Park	Public Pool	West End Park	Golf Course	
Park Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Inventory													Total
Acres	3	5	8	7	5	17	75	30	57	2	26	99	334
Baseball fields		1		1					7		1		10
Batting cages									2				2
Basketball courts		1		1	1	2					5		10
Benches	5	1			10	9			6		3		34
Concessions							1		2	1		1	5
Drinking fountains						1	2			1			4
Football fields									1		1		2
Meeting rooms							1					1	2
Multi-use courts											1		1
Picnic shelters		1		1	1	1			1				5
Picnic tables				3	3	6			2		2		16
Playgrounds	1	1	1	1	1	1			2		1		9
Practice fields													
Restrooms						1	1		2	1		1	6
Soccer fields											2		2
Softball fields		1	1		1	2			3		1		9
Special use facility				1	1		1						3
Swimming pools										1			1
Stadiums													
Tennis courts						3							3
Trails (miles)											1		1
Volleyball courts	1					1							2

SUMMARY

The results of this park areas and facility inventory shows that Marshall has (5) neighborhood parks, (1) community park, (4) special use areas, and (1) sports complex. These (11) developed parks and one public swimming pool include 334 acres of land area. The results of the inventory conclude that Marshall has the following facilities. Baseball fields (10), basketball courts (10), benches (34), concessions (5), drinking fountains (4), football fields (2), meeting rooms (2), picnic shelters (5), picnic tables (16), playgrounds (9), restrooms (6), softball fields (9), special use facilities (3), swimming pools (1), tennis courts (3), and volleyball courts (1). Based on this inventory the Section 6 will provide an outdoor recreational need assessment for Marshall.

SECTION 6

NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

Three approaches were used in this master plan to determine the parks and recreational needs for Marshall. The use of these three approaches allows for a broader view of the parks and recreational needs of the city. One approach, demand-based, analyzes participation rates from the Parks and Recreation Department and community sports associations, and input received from individuals in the community. A second approach, standards-based, utilized standards established by the NRPA. These standards were then applied to the existing park and recreation system in Marshall to pinpoint needs. The third approach, resource-based, allows the city to study how established areas in the city can be made into recreational opportunities. This approach also examined practical uses for opportunities available to the city that should not be overlooked but utilized to develop a complete park system. In the summary of this section the results of each of these methods are combined with conclusions made about the parks and recreational needs of Marshall.

- *Demand-based Issues*

Demand-based issues were based on participation figures provided by the Parks and Recreation Department and local recreational associations including Marshall Youth Baseball, Marshall Little League Football, Marshall Youth Soccer, Men's Softball, Women's Softball, Marshall Youth Softball, Marshall Community Tennis Associations and Adult Soccer. Table 6-1 provides a breakdown of participants in the following outdoor sports; baseball, football, soccer, softball, swimming and tennis.

The results of Table 6-1 show that approximately one-fourth of Marshall's 2000 population is involved in one or another outdoor, sport activity. Not shown in this table are the approximately 300 baseball participants that partake each year in tournament play outside the league system. According to the 2010 Census, individuals that are 44 years and younger account for 66 percent of the total population. A finding presented by Table 6-1 shows 23 percent of the total population partakes in some type of outdoor recreational activity. According to the 2000 Census figures approximately 30 percent of our population is under the age of 18 which ensures the need for adequate playground facilities for picnics, field trips or birthday parties.

**TABLE 6-1
PARTICIPANTS BY OUTDOOR SPORT ACTIVITY**

Outdoor Sport Activity	Number of Participants
Marshall Youth Baseball Association-Fall/Spring Leagues	943
Little League Football-Fall League	140
Youth Soccer-Fall/Spring	431
Adult Soccer	392
Men's Softball-Fall, Spring and Church League	485
Women's Softball-Spring League	171
Marshall Youth Softball Association Fast Pitch Women's-Fall/Spring Leagues	625
Learn to Swim Classes at Public Pool	173
Recreational Summer Swim at Public Pool	3,133
Marshall Community Tennis Association Men's Season	39
Marshall Community Tennis Association Women's Season	39
Marshall Community Tennis Association Men's and Women's Season	23
Marshall Community Tennis Association Senior Season	26
Total Participants	6,620

- *Standard-based Issues*

Table 6-2 is an assessment of existing park acreage compared to NRPA. The minimum and maximum park acreage recommendations are calculated using the estimated populations of 1996, 2000, and 2020. This assessment shows that existing park acreage accounts for 26 percent of the minimum recommended acreage. This assessment identifies the need for additional mini-parks and community parks.

**TABLE 6-2
CITY OF MARSHALL PARK ACREAGE ASSESSMENT**

Park/Facility	Existing Acreage	NRPA standards for estimated 1995 population 25,150*		NRPA standards for estimated 2000 population 25,600*		NRPA standards for estimated 2020 population 28,300*	
		Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
		NRPA recommended acreage					
Mini Park	0	6.3	12.6	6.4	12.8	7.1	14.2
Private Park	26						
Neighborhood Park	26	31.4	37.7	32.0	38.4	35.4	42.5
Community Park	17.0	125.7	201.2	128.0	204.8	141.5	226.4
Subtotal	69						
Recommended Totals		163.4	251.5	166.4	256.0	184.0	283.1
Sports Complex	57.0	No NRPA Standards					
Special Use Area	205						
Total	331						

* Population figures provided by City of Marshall Community and Workforce Development

- *Resource-based Issues*

The resource based approach must show some initiative by the City to determine what assets or opportunities are available and can be utilized to develop a desired park and recreation system. This analysis focused on how established activity centers and opportunities for land acquisition or joint use agreements could be utilized as viable resources. This plan identified the following resources:

- Abandoned miniature golf course within City Park could be used as a site for a community built playground.
- Land on Grove Street could be used as a second possible site for a community built playground.
- Abandoned railroad right-of-way starting at West Grand Avenue and extending east beyond South Garrett Street. This could serve as an east/west trail route.
- Smith Park as anchor point for an east/west trail system developed from abandoned railroad right-of-way.
- Grove Street extending from City Park to East Texas Baptist University. These sidewalks and street right-of-way could serve as north/south trail route.
- East Texas Baptist University, a major activity center, as a northern anchor point for a north/south trail.
- City Park as center anchor point for a north/south trail and east/west trail system.
- City right-of-way extending south from Smith Park for a portion of a north/south trail.
- Wiley College, a major activity center, as a southern anchor point for a north/south trail.
- Natural drainage channel extending to Price T. Young Middle School, and potential for a joint-use agreement with school district to develop a neighborhood park on the elementary school grounds.
- Street right-of-way along Warren Drive that could connect Airport Park and a future Oaklawn Community Park and Sports Complex.
- Texas and Pacific Railroad pond could become a community park with recreational fishing, a trail system around pond, pavilions and picnic shelters, and picnic tables, and an athletic practice field that could also be used for non-sports league play.

These resources reflect a realistic way to enhance the park system of Marshall. Acquisition of land should be approached with the most cost-effective method. Acquisition opportunities that will have long-range, recreational benefits for the community should be considered. Major physical features should also be considered as resources in the future. Water features are a civic design component that can serve multiple purposes, including a civic design theme, recreational opportunities, scenic nature options, and flood control. There are numerous creeks, natural drainage channels, ponds, and small lakes in Marshall that are prominent features in parks, neighborhoods, and business areas. These water courses as well as additional unused railroad right-of-ways and power line easements could be converted to attractive civic design features. These features would include opportunities for biking, jogging, walking, and scenic nature trails.

SUMMARY

Combining each of the approaches to develop an overall needs assessment results in these needs:

Upgrade and enhance each of our parks to make our community friendlier and more inviting to families and children residing in or visiting our city.

Add or improve **restroom / drinking fountains** at parks where there is a high level of participation such as at sports complexes and community parks where a large number of people will gather.

Add or improve **parking** at parks where there is a high level of participation such as at sports complexes and community parks where a large number of people will gather. The parking around most of our existing parks is either minimal or in poor condition. Improving our parking would make it easier for people to have access to our parks.

Proper signage is a basic necessity although not specifically addressed through the methods used in this needs assessment. Bright **signs** denoting the name of each park at each park entrance would help to identify each park. Also, anti-litter signs such as “Clean Parks – Clean City” near trash bins could help decrease litter in our parks and make upkeep easier.

Improve current **playground equipment** and add updated playground amenities to enhance our playgrounds. A “Community Built Playground” would be a wonderful way to attract families to our area. One could be located within one of our existing parks and funded by The Friends of the Parks organization.

Additional **pavilions or picnic shelters** would enhance our parks and encourage more use of our parks for outings such as church or family picnics, school field trips, or birthday parties.

Additional **picnic tables** are needed at most of our parks.

Landscaping is an element of parks development that cannot necessarily be assessed through one of the methods used in this needs assessment but should be a priority at each park site to enhance the park and reduce upkeep of the park.

Lighting is another element that can not be assessed through one of the methods used in this needs assessment but is essential in our frequently used parks. Proper lighting enhances the look of a park and makes it more accessible for evening events, such as sports games or practices. Studies show that a well-lit park has less crime and vandalism.

Trails meet the demand for leisure time activities for individuals who no longer participate in organized league sports or for those who enjoy walking or biking as a form of exercise. Resources identified in the resource-based approach such as railroad right-of-way can be best utilized by trails.

Tennis Courts should be a priority for our city as we have several active tennis leagues here. There are tennis courts at City Park that could be first rate with proper surfacing, new nets and improved lighting.

The function of a **Mini-Park** is to meet the needs of concentrated populations and is generally utilized for passive recreational needs. There is currently one mini-park under construction in our downtown area to serve the needs of those visiting our festivals and downtown attractions.

Community parks provide opportunities for leisure time activities such as fishing, picnicking, trails or golfing. Oak Lawn Golf Course, Oak Trails Park, and the Texas and Pacific pond are areas that could be further developed into nice community parks with various forms of activities

“The Friends of the Parks” This is a charitable organization which provides a vehicle for funds to be received from public and private donors who wish to see their donations go directly to improving our area parks.

SECTION 7

PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS AND PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This section of the Parks and Recreation Plan establishes priorities and provides an implementation plan for addressing the priority needs. Available and anticipated resources for meeting the needs are identified. A timeline is established for meeting the needs.

The priorities established in this section flow from the goals and objectives stated in Section 2 and the needs assessment stated in Section 6. It is important to establish priorities because all needs cannot be met at one time. Priorities focus on resources where there is the greatest need.

In order to attract new businesses and new families to our city, our parks need to be updated and revitalized. In order to be competitive with neighboring communities to attract sports tournaments, which increase revenue city wide, we must strive to keep our sports complexes up to date as well.

After visiting and analyzing all of our existing parks, it is our assessment that each one of our parks needs attention. Our parks are outdated and many are in poor condition. We have inventoried our parks and made note of specific changes that are necessary. This plan is designed to help address these changes one park at a time. Table 7-1 is a list of the needs facing our parks.

Table 7-1

The goals listed are established in Sections 2 and 6 of this plan. They are numbered for cross-referencing with the priority listing of projects in Table 7-2.

GOALS:

1. **Upgrade** and enhance each of our parks.
2. Provide or improve **restrooms / drinking fountains**.
3. Add or improve **parking**.
4. Provide proper **signs** at each park.
5. Improve current **playground equipment**.
6. Add or improve **pavilions or picnic shelters**.
7. Additional **picnic tables** are needed at most of our parks.
8. Provide or enhance **landscaping**.
9. Provide proper **lighting**.
10. Provide or improve **trails**.
11. Upgrade **tennis courts**.
12. Maintain new **mini-park** upon completion..
13. Work to provide **community parks**.

The listing in Table 7-2 provides the following:

- Priority number
- Name of park and brief description of specific needs
- The goals needed to be addressed at the park
- Potential sources of funds to attain goals
- A timeline for addressing the needs.

A description of the sources of funds is included as Appendix A.

Table 7-2
PRIORITY LISTING OF PROJECTS

Priority	Park, Goals Addressed, Sources of Funds and Timeline
1	<p>Grove Street Property The land should be used as a site for a community built playground.</p> <p>Goals Addressed: 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9</p> <p>Sources of Funds: General Fund; Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Funds; Texas Recreation and Parks Account; Other State, Federal, Foundation Grants; Private Sector Donations/The Friends of The Parks</p> <p>Timeline: 1-5 years</p>
2	<p>City Park The lighting on softball fields needs repairs due to Hurricane Rita. The tennis courts and basketball courts need repairs and enhancements. Remove old miniature golf course and replace with new playground equipment.</p> <p>Goals Addressed: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9</p> <p>Sources of Funds: General Fund; Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Funds; Texas Recreation and Parks Account; Other State, Federal, Foundation Grants; Private Sector Donations/The Friends of The Parks</p> <p>Timeline: 1-10 years</p>
3	<p>West End Park Lighting is priority. The baseball and football fields need some attention to make them even better. The facility needs a nice concession stand. The walking trail around the sports fields needs new pavement.</p> <p>Goals Addressed: 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10</p> <p>Sources of Funds: General Fund; Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Funds; Texas Recreation and Parks Account; Other State, Federal, Foundation Grants; Private Sector Donations/The Friends of The Parks; Joint Use Agreements.</p> <p>Timeline: 1-5 years</p>

Continued on next page.

Priority	Park, Goals Addressed, Sources of Funds and Timeline
-----------------	---

- 4 Bella Wyatt** Trees and excess brush need to be trimmed and cleared from the perimeter of the park to make it safer. The bridge over the creek needs immediate attention due to erosion.

Goals Addressed: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9

Sources of Funds: General Fund; Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Funds; Texas Recreation and Parks Account; Other State, Federal, Foundation Grants; Private Sector Donations/The Friends of The Parks

Timeline: 1-10 years

- 5 Airport Park** A scoreboard is down and needs electrical repairs due to Hurricane Rita. The backstops need repairs. The Parking lot needs repairs. The bleacher area on field #2 needs a new cover. The picnic shelter, which was designed for picnics and team gatherings, is currently being used to store city equipment. That shelter needs to be cleared so it can be used for its designated purpose and city equipment should be stored in another area.

Goals Addressed: 1,2,3,7,8,9

Sources of Funds: General Fund; Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Funds; Texas Recreation and Parks Account; Other State, Federal, Foundation Grants; Private Sector Donations/The Friends of The Parks

Timeline: 1-5 years

- 6 Smith Park** Basketball courts and ball fields need attention. A drinking fountain would enhance this park.

Goals Addressed: 1,3,4,8

Sources of Funds: General Fund; Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Funds; Texas Recreation and Parks Account; Other State, Federal, Foundation Grants; Private Sector Donations/The Friends of The Parks

Timeline: 1-15 years

Continued on next page.

Priority Park, Goals Addressed, Sources of Funds and Timeline

- 7 Lions Park** Trees need trimming to prevent possible fire hazard and/or power outage as some of the tree limbs are resting on power lines.

Goals Addressed: 1,2,4,5,7,8

Sources of Funds: General Fund; Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Funds; Texas Recreation and Parks Account; Other State, Federal, Foundation Grants; Private Sector Donations/The Friends of The Parks

Timeline: 1-15 years

- 8 Bath Miller Park** The adjacent lots surrounding this park are overgrown and poorly kept. Cleaning these lots would help the feel of this park. A general update of playground equipment and the addition of a picnic shelter with table would enhance this small park as well.

Goals Addressed: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8

Sources of Funds: General Fund; Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Funds; Texas Recreation and Parks Account; Other State, Federal, Foundation Grants; Private Sector Donations/The Friends of The Parks

Timeline: 1-15 years

- 9 City Pool** Tiles around the pool need replacing and the pool needs to be resurfaced.

Goals Addressed: 1,4

Sources of Funds: General Fund; Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Funds; Texas Recreation and Parks Account; Other State, Federal, Foundation Grants; Private Sector Donations/The Friends of The Parks

Timeline: 1-10 years

Section 8

Accomplished Goals from Previous Plan

Our assessment finds that since the 2000 Outdoor Parks and Recreation Plan the following goals and objectives have been achieved.

- A more uniform distribution of parks within the city has been established with the addition of the Oak Lawn Golf Course and the addition and upgrades of West End Park.
- Through Airport Park and West End Park our citizens have access to organized athletic programs such as little league baseball, football and soccer. There are also some organized adult leagues utilizing these parks as well.
- Recreation activities have been made more diverse for the entire family through Oak Lawn Golf Course. Our citizens now have access to the game of golf and a driving range. Tennis courts, basketball courts and baseball/softball fields are also available through our city's parks. We do recognize however, that these courts need work. Those needs have been noted in this new plan and we will strive to make necessary changes and repairs as time and budget allows.

SECTION 9

ILLUSTRATION

OUTDOOR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN MAP

APPENDIX A

RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PARK PLAN

This appendix describes the resources discussed in Section 7-Prioritization of Needs and Plan Implementation.

Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program The City of Marshall is a recipient of community Development Block Grant Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These funds are received annually by the City. The amount received varies depending on HUD appropriations. Capital improvements to parks and recreation facilities are an eligible expenditure under the program. Development of new parks is also an eligible expenditure. Maintenance of parks is not an eligible expense. The projects funded must be located in a low and moderate-income area of the City as determined by U.S. Census statistics.

General Obligation Bonds Project can be funded using General Obligation bonds when the issuance of the bonds has been approved by the voters.

General Fund The City of Marshall budgets funds each year from the General Fund for the administration of the City. In addition, the City will fund projects, as additional funds are available.

Other State, Federal, Foundation Grants Various funding programs may be made available through other funding agencies. Other funding sources should be researched during the time period covered by this plan. Foundation funds may also be sought to assist with projects.

Texas Parks and Recreation Account The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provides matching grants to local communities for eligible outdoor recreation projects. Texas Parks and Recreation Account (TRPA) funds may be used to acquire public parkland and to develop or renovate public recreation areas.

U.S. Department of Transportation TEA 21 This grant program provides grant funds for a variety of transportation-related projects. Trails are an eligible project under the program.

The Friends of the Parks This is a charitable organization which provides a vehicle for funds to be received from public and private donors who wish to see their donations go directly to improving our area parks.