CHAPTER 2

Inventory

Park Classifications



Pocket Parks

Pocket parks provide passive recreational opportunities to a concentrated population within an immediate proximity (e.g., a playground and/or picnic area in a residential area). Hunter Park is a local example of a pocket park.

Typical Size: 1/4 to 1 acre

Service Area: 1/4-mile radius in immediate neighborhoods

Characteristics and Considerations: These parks generally range in size from 2,500 square feet to one acre and usually contain a playground and picnic area. They should be located within close proximity to medium/high density residential areas. They are often located at the street edge and should be safely accessible by pedestrians. These parks are often built by developers and can be operated and maintained by a homeowners association or the City.

Pocket parks can also be found in urban contexts. In these situations, they often include amenities such as shaded seating and gathering areas, enhanced plantings and water features.



Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are the foundation of a well-balanced park system and provide the daily park experiences for residents. They serve as the social centers for residential districts in an active and passive capacity for a wide variety of age groups. C.B. Wood Park is a local example of a neighborhood park.

Typical Size: 3 to 10 acres

Service Area: 1/4- to 1/2-mile radius

Characteristics and Considerations: These parks should be located in the center of neighborhoods with good public access. At least one side of the park should front a residential street. Sites should drain properly and be suitable for a variety of uses such as playgrounds, sports courts, trail access and areas for family functions. Safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle access is important. Locations in flood areas should be avoided.



Community Parks

Community parks are larger in size and serve a broader population than neighborhood parks. They are intended to meet the recreational needs of several neighborhoods. Park development should protect desirable natural amenities and include active and passive activities for all ages. Lon C. Hill Park is a local example of a community park.

Typical Size: 10 to 100 acres

Service Area: 1- to 3-mile radius

Characteristics and Considerations: Whenever possible, these parks should be adjacent to desirable natural resources and have amenities such as athletic fields, pools, playgrounds, sports courts, picnic areas and restrooms. Community parks should be connected to citywide trail networks and be conveniently accessed by cars. Park programming should include adequate space for off-street parking.



Regional Parks

Regional parks are the largest type of park for a typical community's park system. The size varies depending on the purpose and character of the site. Regional parks provide recreational amenities for the entire community and even serve as a hub for surrounding communities. There are currently no regional parks in Harlingen.

Typical Size: Varies from less than 10 acres to several thousand acres

Service Area: Up to 50-mile radius, depending on site features

Characteristics and Considerations: Regional parks often help to protect and showcase valuable natural resources such as habitat preserves or bodies of water. These parks include a very wide range of active and passive recreation opportunities and can be an economic generator through sports tournaments, ecotourism or hosting large events. Typical amenities include destination playgrounds, athletic courts and fields, trail systems, water activities, unprogrammed open space and preserved natural areas. These parks can be located almost anywhere in the community. They should be accessible by car and connected to citywide trail networks.



Greenbelts and Linear Parks

Greenbelts and linear parks are often located along linear natural (e.g., creeks) or man-made (e.g., utility rights-of-way) features. These parks often include hike and bike trails and connect two or more parks or points of interest in a city. They are also used to protect wildlife migration routes and natural processes such as floodways or stormwater drainage. While Harlingen does have the Arroyo Hike and Bike Trail, it is not a dedicated greenbelt or linear park.

Typical Size: Varies based on surrounding environment

Service Area: Varies based on amenities

Characteristics and Considerations: Greenbelts and linear parks include amenities for walking, jogging, bicycling and/or hiking. When property adjacent to creeks and floodplains is developed, floodplain property should be dedicated to the City. The City should not purchase floodplain property unless it provides an opportunity to preserve key natural resources and/or provide a link to another park. The City should also be careful in accepting dedication of linear parks unless they provide trail links or useful recreation. Acquisition of linear parks, if small in size, can burden maintenance budgets.



Special Use Parks

Special use parks can have a wide range of uses but are parks where facilities are oriented toward a single purpose. Skate parks and dog parks are examples of special use parks. Harlingen Rotary Bark Park is a local example of a special use park.

Typical Size: Varies

Service Area: Varies

Characteristics and Considerations: Special use parks serve varying user groups based on the programming. The location of the park within the community will vary based on available land and appropriate adjacent uses. Typical examples of special use parks include golf courses, skate parks, aquatic facilities, tennis complexes, ballfield complexes, nature centers or historic sites. These parks can be operated and maintained by the City or a private enterprise.



Open Space or Nature Preserves

Open space or nature preserves typically refer to areas of land that are undeveloped, natural or minimally developed. These areas may include nature parks, nature reserves, meadows, forests, wetlands, riparian zones and other natural landscapes. Open spaces help preserve biodiversity, protect wildlife habitats and maintain ecological balance. They provide an environment for native flora and fauna to flourish, thus, contributing to the overall health and well-being of the ecosystem. The Hugh Ramsey Nature Preserve is a local example.

Typical Size: Varies

Service Area: Varies

Characteristics and Considerations: The location of these areas varies based on available land and appropriate adjacent uses. Typical amenities include natural trails, observation points, picnic areas, restrooms and parking. Other amenities that are sometimes present include educational and safety signage, visitor center, campgrounds and recreational facilities such as fishing, non-motorized boating, wildlife viewing, birdwatching, nature play or exploration, outdoor classrooms, etc. Lighting should be limited so as to preserve the natural darkness to the maximum extent possible, as light has a profound impact on ecosystem function and wildlife. Depending on site programming, safety and security can sometimes be an issue due to low visibility. Measures should be taken to minimize this effect.

Existing Parks and Facilities

Harlingen boasts a diverse parks system with a mix of public parks, recreational facilities and open spaces that collectively enhance the quality of life for its residents (see Figure 7). The City's parks system includes various types of parks, spanning a range of sizes, from small neighborhood parks to larger community parks. They support active and passive recreation activities that cater to the community's needs.

The parks in Harlingen are well-distributed across the City, ensuring accessible recreation options for residents in many neighborhoods. To maximize the use of park facilities, Harlingen may consider partnering with the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District (HCISD) to open school facilities for community use after hours, providing additional recreational spaces without requiring extensive new development.

Harlingen's park facilities offer a range of activities. Active recreation areas support sports like baseball, soccer and tennis, while passive recreation spaces provide settings for relaxation and casual activities, such as walking trails, picnic areas and nature observation. The City's park system also includes specialized facilities like playgrounds, dog parks and splash pads, which add variety and appeal for residents of all ages.

With many parks located close to one another, there is significant potential to connect Harlingen's parks via an on- and off-street trail network, enhancing accessibility and encouraging healthy, active lifestyles. Additionally, the City can explore opportunities to develop programming for its undeveloped parks, expanding Harlingen's offerings to better meet the recreational interests of the community.

Figure 7. Harlingen Existing Parks and Trails

			Active Recreation						Active Recreation (cont.)									Water		Passive Recreation								Misc.		
Map #	Park Name	Acres	Baseball Field	Softball Field	Football Field	Soccer Field	Multipurpose Practice Field		Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Pickleball Court	Concession Stand	Trails (miles)	Disc Golf Course	Pumptrack	Exercise Equipment	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Dog Park	Playground	Horeshoe Pit	Picnic Tables	Benches	Pavilion	Picnic Shelter	Outdoor Event Space	Drinking Fountain	Restroom Building	Parking
Pocket Parks/Plaza																														
2	Bonham Park	2.2															3				1			4				1		42
3	Bowie Park	2.1																												95
5	Centenial Park	0.8												0.1										0						63
7	Gutierrez Park	2.1																			1		6	15	1					43
9	Hunter Park	1.5																			1		1			1		1		9
16	Revere Park	0.6																												0
23	Windsor Park	2.0																			2		10	4	1	1		1		9
25	Lozano Plaza	0.3																						4						6
Subtotal		11.6	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	3	0	0	0	5	0	17	27	2	2	0	3	0	267
Neighborhood Parks																														
4	C.B. Wood Park	7.9												0.3							1		1	5		1		1		8
10	Liberty Gardens	7.0												0.3										3						61
12	McCullough Park	10.4																												
13	Mckelvey Park	12.6												0.2			4				2		4		1			1	1	47
22	Vestal Park	13.6			3																1		1	4		1		1	1	70
Subtotal		51.6	0	0	3	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0.8	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	6	12	1	2	0	3	2	186
Community Parks																														
1	Arroyo Park	54.4		4					1				1	0.5		1	10				2		2	5		1		2	2	142
6	Dixieland Park	22.5													1						2		20	4	1	1			1	75
24	Lake Harlingen	24.1												0.8																12
11	Lon C. Hill	59.2	1						1		1			1.1				1	2		1		13	12	1	6		3	3	468

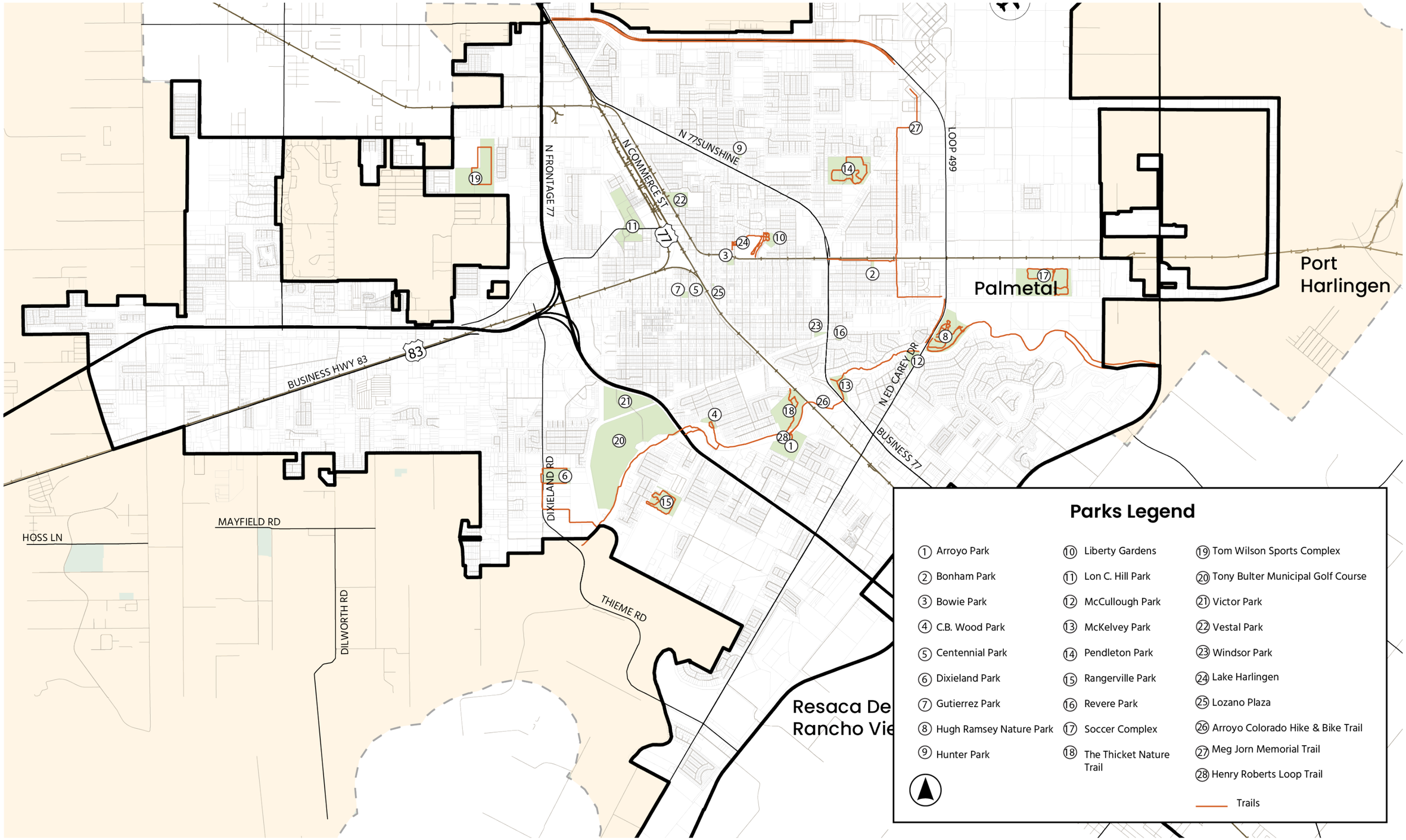






Figure 7. Harlingen Existing Parks and Trails (cont.)

Map #	Park Name	Acres	Active Recreation						Active Recreation (cont.)									Water		Passive Recreation								Misc.		
			Baseball Field	Softball Field	Football Field	Soccer Field	Multipurpose Practice Field		Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Pickleball Court	Concession Stand	Trails (miles)	Disc Golf Course	Pumptrack	Exercise Equipment	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Dog Park	Playground	Horeshoe Pit	Picnic Tables	Benches	Pavilion	Picnic Shelter	Outdoor Event Space	Drinking Fountain	Restroom Building	Parking
14	Pendleton Park	57.3	6				1		1	14			1	1.5			4	1			3	1	14	18	1	2		2	3	387
15	Rangerville Park	23.1												0.9			4				1		10	7	2	3		1	1	107
21	Victor Park	38.1	4		3					6			2					1		1	1		18	10	1	3		4	3	417
Subtotal		278.6	11	4	3	0	1		3	20	1	0	4	4.7	1	1	18	3	2	1	10	1	77	56	6	16	0	12	13	1608
Special Use/Sports Complex																														
17	Soccer Complex	76.9				10							1	1.2							1		8	8	1			1	1	635
19	Wilson Sports Complex	27.5		4	2		2		2				1	1			3				1		30	7	1	2		3	2	501
19	Tom Wilson Sports Complex	47.5	8										1											5				1	1	244
Subtotal		151.9	8	4	2	10	2		2	0	0	0	3	2.2	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	38	20	2	2	0	5	4	1380
Nature Preserves																														
8	Hugh Ramsey	48.9												1.5									6	6	1			1	1	45
18	Thicket Nature Park	45.5												1.5									2	3	1			1	1	20
Subtotal		94.4	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	9	2	0	0	2	2	65
Hike and Bike Trails																														
26	Arroyo Colorado Hike & Bike Trail													4.6																6
27	Meg Jorn Memorial Trail													4.1										5		1		1		
28	Henry Roberts Loop													6																
Subtotal		588.1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	14.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	1	0	6
Grand Total		1176.2	19	8	8	10	3		5	20	1	0	7	25.5	1	1	28	3	2	1	21	1	146	129	13	23	0	26	21	3512



Map 5. Harlingen Parks

Pocket Parks/Plazas



Bonham Park

Existing Conditions: Bonham Park is a 2.2-acre park at the intersection of E Jefferson Ave and N 21st St with close proximity to Bonham Elementary School. The park includes a playground and outdoor exercise equipment in addition to ample open green space for recreational activities. In a concept plan released by the City, potential improvements to the park include the construction of two basketball courts, a restroom and a large covered pavilion.

Notable Opportunities:

- Implement a shading structure over the park's playground.
- Install more prominent signage to differentiate the park from Bonham Elementary School.



Bowie Park

Existing Conditions: Bowie Park is a 2.1-acre park between E Jefferson Ave and E Madison Ave. The park includes the Harlingen Community Center and the Casa Del Sol event space, in addition to green space which is gated near the northeast perimeter. Potential improvements identified by the City for this park include the construction of eight pickleball courts.

Notable Opportunities:

- Enhance signage to increase visibility and community use.
- Improve park access to boost availability for the community.



Centennial Park

Existing Conditions: Centennial Park is a 0.8-acre park located in Downtown Harlingen between S West St and the railroad. The park's most prominent feature is the History of Mexico and Mankind Mural near the north perimeter of the park.

Notable Opportunities:

- Due to the constrained size of the park, incorporate benches, picnic tables or a small covered pavilion onsite.



Gutierrez Park

Existing Conditions: Gutierrez Park, also known as the Lt. George Gutierrez Junior Park, is a 2.1-acre park located in Downtown Harlingen between W Van Buren Ave and W Harrison Ave. The park features a playground, benches, picnic tables and a gated pavilion. According to a concept plan released by the City, planned enhancements for the park include improved lighting, upgraded sidewalks and the renovation of electrical utilities.

Notable Opportunities:

- Increase security and maintenance of park grounds.
- Implement a shading structure for the playground.
- Add an additional pavilion and long wheelchair accessible picnic tables.
- Install crisis resource boards for community awareness.



Hunter Park

Existing Conditions: Hunter Park is a 1.5-acre park located off N 3rd St. The park features a sheltered picnic table and an updated playground. According to a City concept plan, proposed improvements for the park include the addition of a lighted basketball court and a large covered pavilion.

Notable Opportunities:

- Incorporate a multi-purpose field on the northern perimeter of the park.



Revere Park

Existing Conditions: Revere Park is a 0.6-acre park located off N Parkwood Dr. Nestled in the middle of a neighborhood, the park includes open green space and opportunities for shading.

Notable Opportunities:

- Add prominent Harlingen Parks & Recreation Department signage to the park.
- Incorporate recreational amenities suitable for its size and residential location, such as a playground, picnic tables, benches or a dog park.

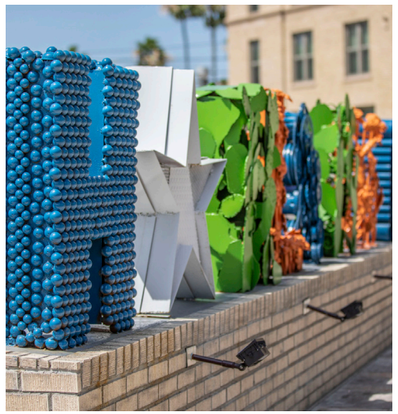


Windsor Park

Existing Conditions: Windsor Park is a 2-acre park located on E Filmore Ave, featuring an irrigation canal near its southern perimeter. The park offers local access to a pavilion, several picnic tables, and two playgrounds. Enhancements identified by the City for this park include the construction of a lighted basketball court and additional small picnic pavilions.

Notable Opportunities:

- Add sidewalks along E Filmore Ave to ensure safe access for local youth and individuals with disabilities.
- Construct a lighted pickle ball court on northern perimeter of park.



Lozano Plaza

Existing Conditions: Lozano Plaza is a 0.3-acre plaza off Jackson Ave, located on the former site of the Santos Lozano Building, which was the oldest brick building in Harlingen. The plaza includes open green space and a sign on its northwest corner. The City has identified potential uses for the site, including the construction of a covered stage and restrooms.

Notable Opportunities:

- Located in the heart of Downtown Harlingen, utilize Lozano Plaza for citywide events and in collaboration with local businesses.
- Host small-scale farmers or pop-up markets, community gatherings and fitness classes in the plaza.

Neighborhood Parks



C.B. Wood Park

Existing Conditions: C.B. Wood Park is a 7.9-acre park bordered by Harding Ave to the east and the Arroyo Colorado to the west. The park features a sheltered pavilion, a playground and a connection to the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail. Enhancements identified by the City for this park include expanding onsite parking, constructing a restroom, adding additional pavilions and creating a bird and butterfly habitat garden.

Notable Opportunities:

- Increase irrigation of the open green spaces.
- Construct a multi-purpose field near the northern perimeter.



Liberty Gardens

Existing Conditions: Liberty Gardens is a 7-acre park off 76 Dr, located near several local amenities, including Lake Harlingen, the Harlingen Cultural Arts Center, and the Harlingen Public Library. The park features benches, shaded green spaces and a pergola for relaxation and gatherings.

Notable Opportunities:

- Improve pedestrian crossings between Lake Harlingen and Liberty Gardens.
- Incorporate picnic tables onsite.
- Install prominent signage along 76 Dr.



McCullough Park

Existing Conditions: McCullough Park is a 10.4-acre park located off N Ed Carey Dr. While the park is currently a blank canvas with unmarked dirt roads at its entrance, it offers great potential for future development and amenities.

Notable Opportunities:

- McCullough Park is in close proximity to several residential areas. Developing official park amenities, such as trails, public recreation spaces and a playground, will serve the local populations while also considering the park's limited topography.
- Install prominent signage along N Ed Carey Dr to draw in Harlingen residents from farther away.



McKelvey Park

Existing Conditions: McKelvey Park is a 12.6-acre park off S 77 Sunshine Strip, conveniently located near commercial centers and the Arroyo Hike and Bike Trail. The park features two playgrounds, exercise equipment and a pavilion. McKelvey Park is highly popular with residents and hosts numerous City events, including the Lighting of the Arroyo. A concept plan of enhancements for McKelvey Park, released by the City, includes the construction of additional parking, a permanent stage and a dog park.

Notable Opportunities:

- Improve local access to the park, with an updated entrance.
- Increase parking availability for high-demand events..



Vestal Park

Existing Conditions: Vestal Park is a 13.6-acre park in close proximity to Zavala Elementary School. The park features extensive open green space with three football fields currently used for youth sports. Additionally, a walking track and playground were constructed onsite for community use. Enhancements identified by the City for Vestal Park include the construction of additional parking, two lighted basketball courts, a concession stand and a dog park.

Notable Opportunities

- Incorporate additional shading structures.
- Construct a sheltered pavilion.
- Install a splash pad to combat the impacts of excessive heat.

Community Parks



Arroyo Park

Existing Conditions: Arroyo Park is a 54.4-acre park at the intersection of E New Hampshire St and Hale Ave. The park offers a basketball court, softball fields, playgrounds, outdoor exercise equipment and Harlingen's only pump track for bicyclists and skateboarders. Additionally, it serves as a connection point to the Henry Roberts Loop Trail. The City's concept plan for the park identifies needed enhancements, including additional parking, renovations to the basketball court and softball fields, and the construction of a restroom.

Notable Opportunities:

- Implement shading structures over the park's outdoor exercise equipment and playgrounds to mitigate the effects of excessive heat.



Dixieland Park

Existing Conditions: Dixieland Park is a 22.5-acre park located on Dixieland St, north of the Dixieland Water Reservoir. The park features Harlingen's only disc golf course, two playgrounds and a pavilion. In a concept plan for Dixieland Park, the City identified the need for pavement upgrades, a restroom renovation, irrigation improvements and the construction of picnic pavilions. (Any existing concept plans for Dixieland Park are provided in the appendix.)

Notable Opportunities:

- Expand the current disc golf course space.
- Construct a lighted basketball or sand volleyball court.



Lake Harlingen

Existing Conditions: Lake Harlingen is a 24-acre park off 76 Dr, conveniently located near several local amenities, including Liberty Gardens, the Harlingen Cultural Arts Center and the Harlingen Public Library. The park features a lake and 0.76 miles of walking trails, offering a peaceful setting for local recreation.

Notable Opportunities:

- Improve the three primary pedestrian crossings between Lake Harlingen and nearby local amenities.
- Upgrade trail pavement around the lake.
- Incorporate additional benches for rest and leisure.



Lon C. Hill Park

Existing Conditions: Lon C. Hill Park is a recently renovated 59.2-acre park located on both sides of Fair Park Blvd. The park offers a baseball field, a playground, basketball and volleyball courts, two splash pads and a swimming pool. Additionally, there are numerous picnic tables and shelters that serve as local gathering places for Harlingen residents.

Notable Opportunities:

- Create safe pedestrian crossings between both sides of the park.
- Add sand volleyball courts near the northwest corner.



Pendleton Park

Existing Conditions: Pendleton Park is a 57.3-acre park off Morgan Blvd. The park offers basketball courts, baseball fields, a swimming pool, outdoor exercise equipment, playgrounds and the HEB Tennis Center. It also includes the Harlingen Veteran's Memorial and the Hometown Heroes walking trail. Improvements identified by the City for Pendleton Park include additional parking, a lighted basketball court, pickleball courts and a championship tennis court.

Notable Opportunities:

- Implement shading structures over the park's outdoor exercise equipment.
- Upgrade trail pavement.
- Add additional multi-purpose fields.



Rangerville Park

Existing Conditions: Rangerville Park is a 23.1-acre park on S Rangerville Rd, located east of Ben Milam Elementary School. The park features a playground, a basketball court and ample open green space for recreational activities. The City's identified enhancements for Rangerville Park include the construction of a canopy for the basketball court, a restroom, a lighted multi-purpose field for youth, additional picnic shelters and a bird and butterfly habitat.

Notable Opportunities:

- Develop additional multi-purpose fields.
- Improve security and maintenance.
- Enhance pavement on roadways and sidewalks.



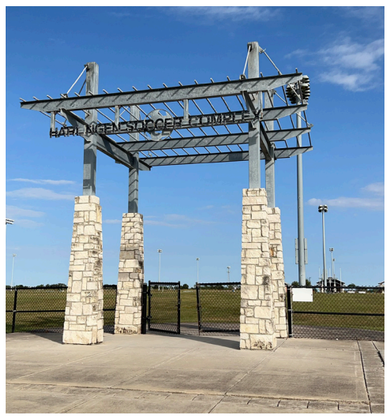
Victor Park

Existing Conditions: Victor Park is a 38.1-acre park just off Interstate 69E. The park features recreational fields for basketball, football and tennis, as well as a dog park, swimming pool and a playground constructed in partnership with Harlingen Consolidated ISD. The City's identified improvements for Victor Park include the renovation of the swimming pool, upgraded parking, lighting upgrades, and the construction of a splash pad, lighted basketball court, concession stand and butterfly garden.

Notable Opportunities:

- Develop a recreation center in partnership with Harlingen Consolidated ISD.
- Improve irrigation and signage.

Special Use Parks/Sports Complexes



Soccer Complex

Existing Conditions: The Harlingen Soccer Complex is a 76.9-acre park off E Harrison Ave. The park offers local access to 10 soccer fields for adult and youth sports leagues, as well as a playground, a pavilion and walking trails for local residents. The City's concept plan for the soccer complex identifies needed enhancements, including upgrades to field topsoil, trail pavement and the construction of additional fields and parking as a part of the Phase II initiative under the 2016 Parks Master Plan.

Notable Opportunities:

- Increase opportunities for shading throughout the complex to mitigate the effects of excessive heat.
- Construct additional restroom facilities.



Tom Wilson Sports Complex

Existing Conditions: The Tom Wilson Sports Complex, also known as the Harlingen Sports Complex, is a 74.9-acre park off Wilson Rd, near Gutierrez Middle School and the Harlingen Consolidated ISD Performing Arts Center. It offers 12 softball and baseball fields for adult and youth sports leagues, two basketball courts, and a fish-stocked lake for recreation. City-identified enhancements for the complex include 372 additional parking spaces, two lighted basketball courts, additional restrooms and renovated walking trails.

Notable Opportunities:

- Improve the highly popular pavilion and lake.
- Construct multi-purpose fields.

Nature Preserves



Hugh Ramsey Nature Park

Existing Conditions: The Hugh Ramsey Nature Park is a 48.9-acre urban forest nature preserve located off S Loop 499. The park provides access for local residents and tourists alike, offering birdwatching and educational programming along its 1.5 miles of trails. The preserve is commonly frequented by local migrating birds. City-identified improvements for the park include the addition of the Arroyo Colorado Hike and Bike Trail along its southern perimeter.

Notable Opportunities:

- Explore opportunities to raise public awareness of the preserve through enhanced signage and a welcome center and partnerships with Harlingen Consolidated ISD (HCISD) and local youth organizations.



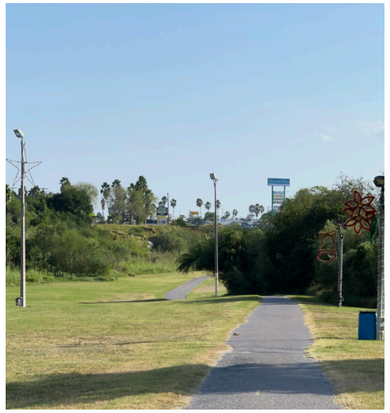
Thicket Nature Park

Existing Conditions: The Thicket Nature Park and Trail is a 45.5-acre urban forest nature preserve located off E Taft Ave, near the Colorado Arroyo on its southeast perimeter. Similar to Hugh Ramsey Nature Park, the Thicket Nature Park offers access for birdwatching and educational programming along its 1.5 miles of trail, as it is commonly used by local migrating birds.

Notable Opportunities:

- Explore opportunities to raise awareness of the park through enhanced signage and partnerships with HCISD and local youth organizations.
- Increase the number of benches and picnic tables to match the offerings of the Hugh Ramsey Nature Park.

Hike and Bike Trails



Arroyo Colorado Hike & Bike Trail

Existing Conditions: The Arroyo Colorado Hike and Bike Trail is a 10-foot wide, 4.6-mile trail in Central Harlingen that runs along the Arroyo Colorado. The trail is highly frequented by local residents and currently connects to McKelvey Park, Arroyo Park, the Thicket Nature Trail and C.B. Wood Park. According to a concept plan released by the City, the trail is expected to undergo three additional phases of expansion, with future connections to McCullough Park, Hugh Ramsey Nature Park and the Soccer Complex.

Notable Opportunities:

- Incorporate additional lighting and emergency call stations.
- Install hydration stations and rest stops.



Meg Jorn Memorial Trail

Existing Conditions: The Meg Jorn Memorial Trail is a 10-foot wide, 4.1-mile trail that begins at Rio Hondo Rd and runs along N 25th St, ending at the Hugh Ramsey Nature Park. Its residential location offers convenient access for local residents.

Notable Opportunities:

- Developing additional lighting.
- Install hydration stations.
- Create shaded areas to provide respite during days of extreme heat.



Henry Roberts Loop

Existing Conditions: The Henry Roberts Loop is a 10-foot wide, 6-mile trail within Arroyo Park. It offers access for trail running, mountain biking and hiking recreational activities.

Notable Opportunities:

- Explore opportunities to raise public awareness of the trail through enhanced signage.
- Construct an adaptive trail to increase safety and access for people with physical restrictions.



Recreational Programming

The City of Harlingen is dedicated to ensuring that all community members have access to enjoyable and enriching recreational activities. The City offers a variety of seasonal and year-round recreational programs, festivals and sports leagues for the community. More than half of the programs are geared toward children 12 years of age or under. The Lighting of the Arroyo, Trails of Treats and the Easter Egg Hunt were among the most well-attended events of 2023. Harlingen also provides numerous events for teenagers, adults and seniors, including the Lager Jogger St. Patrick's Day Festival and Bachata/Salsa and Country dancing classes. Most events are open to the public either for free or at a nominal fee. McKelvey Park, Lon C. Hill Park, the Harlingen Cultural Arts Center and the Soccer Complex are some of the most utilized parks and facilities in the City. The Harlingen Parks and Recreation Department also oversees a number of youth and adult sports leagues, as well as youth summer programming. Figure 8 lists the recreation programming available to the Harlingen community. Recreational programming must adapt to the evolving needs of the community. The City should routinely evaluate its list of offerings and make adjustments based on demographic trends, participation rates, available funding and the presence of comparable programs offered by other organizations within the community.

Figure 8. Harlingen Parks and Recreation Programming

Event or Program Name *(City run or operated by other vendor on City property)*	Age Group					Location	Season	Fee	Estimated Attendance				
	Age 12 and under	Age 13-18	Adults	Seniors					2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Festivals/Events													
Trails of Treats	x	x	x	x		Lon C. Hill Park	Fall	None				3000	3000
Lighting of the Arroyo	x	x	x	x		McKelvey Park	Winter	None				5000	5000
Lager Jogger St. Patrick's Day Festival	x	x	x	x		Harlingen Field	Spring	$35/person				400	400
Easter Egg Hunt	x	x	x	x		Harlingen Soccer Field	Spring	None				2000	2000
Summer Movie Series	x	x	x	x		Multiple Parks	Summer	None				1000	1200
Recreational Programs													
Acoustic Guitar Lessons	x	x	x	x		Harlingen Cultural Arts Center	Winter/ Spring/Fall	$80/person	30	0	0	3	9
Bachata/ Salsa Class	x	x	x	x		Harlingen Cultural Arts Center	Winter/ Spring/Fall	$40/person				26	54
Baby Ballet	x					Harlingen Cultural Arts Center	Winter/ Spring/Fall	$25/person				53	33
Baby Combo	x					Harlingen Cultural Arts Center	Winter/ Spring/Fall	$50/person			25	77	30
Young Beginner's Ballet	x					Harlingen Cultural Arts Center	Winter/ Spring/Fall	$50/person	31	9	68	36	44
Country Dance	x	x	x	x		Casa De Amistad	Winter/ Spring/Fall	$40/person	14	0			
Valley Fencing Club	x	x	x	x		Casa De Amistad	Winter/ Spring/Fall	$40/person				32	117