5
BUILDING A CITY IN A PARK

OUR ACTION PLAN: THE GREEN IMPRINT

Cedar Hill's *Green Imprint* represents the city's commitment to preserving nature while fostering a thriving and connected community. Central to this effort is the active involvement of Cedar Hill residents, whose input has shaped the vision and goals of the 2025 Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan. Through surveys, focus groups, public meetings, and online feedback platforms, the community has played a pivotal role in shaping the vision and goals, and identifying priorities of the Green Imprint. This chapter outlines how the Master Plan will serve as the roadmap for achieving Cedar Hill's vision. Building on the principles of Nature/Urban Interface, City Within a Park, the 25% Open Space Goal and community input, this Plan seeks to meet recreation demands and a strengthening of environmental stewardship to ensure a park legacy that future generations can enjoy.

A VISION ROOTED IN NATURE

The Green Imprint embodies Cedar Hill's commitment to blending natural preservation with thoughtful park development. From cherished community parks like Crawford Park and Virginia Weaver Park to regional parklands like Cedar Hill State Park and Cedar Ridge Preserve, the city's green spaces are more than recreational assets—they create a sense of place, enhance connectivity, and strengthen the bond between the community and its environment. Cedar Hill's efforts to create a "city in a park" have made it a green oasis within the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. With nature-oriented destinations such as Joe Pool Lake and the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, the city has prioritized preserving its natural areas. Furthermore, new projects like Signature Park and Trail illustrate the seamless integration of urban and natural environments, showcasing Cedar Hill's innovative approach to a high quality of life, setting the stage for the city's next decade of growth.

GOALS THAT SHAPE THE FUTURE

The following goals, listed in no particular order, outline Cedar Hill's strategic priorities, ensuring that the Green Imprint's vision is translated into actionable steps for a thriving, sustainable future:

1 Enhance Indoor Recreation Opportunities

2 Improve Access & Address Gaps in the Trail Network

3 Invest in Park & Facility Improvements

4 Develop Natural Areas & Plan for Future Park Properties

5 Promote Environmental Stewardship & Preservation

6 Expand Parkland & Protect Open Space

7 Leverage Technology for Efficiency & Innovation

8 Foster Engagement at Community & Neighborhood Parks

9 Activate Social Connections through Programming & Public Spaces

10 Enhance Community Outreach & Inclusivity

GOAL 1 ENHANCE INDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES & AWARENESS

Indoor recreational facilities are an essential part of a comprehensive parks and recreation system. The City currently offers two popular indoor spaces - the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center and the Senior Activity Center - which are heavily used and central to community life. Feedback highlights a strong desire for more fitness activities, cooking classes, and arts and culture programs. Renovating and expanding indoor community centers is vital for the city's future growth, requiring thoughtful planning and capital investment. Priorities for the Parks and Recreation Department will include relocating senior programs to the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, a reserve study for the Senior Activity Center and a feasibility study to expand the footprint of the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center. *Recommended Actions can be found on Page 79.*

GOAL 2 IMPROVE ACCESS & ADDRESS GAPS IN THE TRAIL NETWORK

A connected and accessible trail network is essential for enhancing mobility and recreation within the community. A critical aspect of this goal is addressing gaps in the trail network, focusing on constructing trail phases that link neighborhoods, parks, and vital destinations like the Great Greenway. Community feedback emphasized desire for more opportunities to explore the outdoors and connect with nature along the trails. Collaborating with the Planning and Public Works Departments to create a GIS-based Trail Connectivity Assessment Tool to help identify critical gaps and high-traffic areas will prioritize trail development and aim to ensure that the trail system is not only expanded but also optimized for safety and accessibility. These efforts work to create a trail network that encourages outdoor activity, supports healthy lifestyles, and increases connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists alike. *Recommended Actions can be found on Pages 79-80.*

MULTI-USE TRAILS

Multi-use trails provide active and passive recreation opportunities as well as access to recreational areas, parks, schools, neighborhoods and other community destinations.

Multi-use trail facilities and corridors may be located within public rights-of-way or easements. A complete and seamless multi-use trail system should serve both recreational and transportation needs.

GOAL 3 INVEST IN PARK & FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Investing in parks and recreational facilities is essential for creating safe, inclusive, and sustainable spaces for the community. Key actions include conducting a reserve study to accurately forecast future expenditures and ensure adequate capital improvement cost allocation for all future improvements at key facilities. These evaluations will guide proactive repairs and maintenance, ensuring the longevity of these facilities. The parks and trails conditions assessment identified key areas for continued improvement at various parks including Virginia Weaver, Parkerville, Community Center Park , Crawford, and several others. The assessment highlighted opportunities for redevelopment and identified additional enhancements, like updating playgrounds and expanding fitness features, that will support healthier lifestyles and improve the park experience. A long-term maintenance strategy, including preventive measures and safety considerations, will ensure sustainability. Additionally, transitioning to energy-efficient lighting, including LED installations, by 2030 will further reduce operational costs and environmental impact. These initiatives aim to enhance park spaces, ensure they meet the evolving needs of the community, and support the physical and mental well-being of all residents. *Recommended Actions can be found on Pages 80-81.*

IMPROVING PARK CONDITIONS

The results of the park conditions assessment highlight needed improvements or recommended enhancements for the assessed parks based on a variety of categories. Scores for the categories at each park can be used to prioritize what actions are needed most.

Across the park system, the categories that received a score of lower than 3.5 include: Sport Fields, Public Gathering Spaces, Structured Play, General Fencing & Retaining Walls, Additional Site Amenities, and Site Lighting. Many of these scores are due to lack of amenities at specific parks, as opposed to low-quality amenities throughout.

Of the assessed parks, two received a score of 3.0 or lower: Community Center Park and Parkerville Park. Potential improvements for each of these parks are highlighted on the following page.

COMMUNITY CENTER PARK

- Upgrade fencing with durable, weather-resistant materials such as coated steel. Redesign dugouts with enhanced ventilation, shaded seating, and low-maintenance landscaping around the perimeter.

- Incorporate additional seating and gathering space throughout the park, providing natural shade or shade structures where appropriate.

- Remove the playground and introduce outdoor fitness stations that blend into the natural landscape. Use eco-friendly workout equipment and surround the area with natural planting buffers.

- Install mile markers along walking paths using artistic and natural materials like stone or wood and incorporate distance tracking into the park's design through painted or inlaid markers along the path.

PARKERVILLE PARK (NOT OWNED BY THE CITY)

- Explore options for low-maintenance landscaping using native, drought-tolerant species in areas without irrigation. Consider xeriscaping for a visually appealing yet sustainable approach.

- Install sidewalks with stamped or colored concrete that blends into the park's natural setting while meeting ADA standards.

- Consider replacing or removing onsite amenities that no longer function, including the concession stand, restrooms and drinking fountains.

GOAL 4 DEVELOP NATURAL AREAS & PLAN FOR FUTURE PARK PROPERTIES

Developing natural areas and planning for future park properties focuses on balancing ecological preservation with recreation. Key initiatives include developing spaces like a community dog park or adding nature-based play areas to foster outdoor activity and strengthen connections to nature. Master planning for Willis and Singleton parks aims to preserve their natural beauty while offering low-impact recreational opportunities. Strategic studies will identify potential locations for new parkland, such as a Veterans Memorial Park or other natural areas. Continued efforts to expand the Great Greenway and provide connections to existing and future parks and natural areas offer benefits to the community and the environment. Collaboration with the engineering department to integrate natural stormwater management solutions, such as multi-purpose drainage systems, will support flood control and habitat restoration. Quantifying the ecosystem services provided by these areas, including carbon sequestration, water filtration, and habitat creation, highlights the environmental and community benefits of preserving natural landscapes. The integration of native vegetation and nature-inspired designs ensures that future parkland not only serves recreational needs but also contributes to the ecological health of the area. These efforts will protect and enhance the environment while offering community spaces that improve residents' quality of life, health, and sense of connection to nature. *Recommended Actions can be found on Page 81.*

GOAL 5 PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP & PRESERVATION

Promoting environmental stewardship within the parks system is key to ensuring the protection of natural resources for future generations. Strategies such as incorporating rain gardens, biofiltration, and permeable pavements will support sustainable park designs that improve drainage and nurture the environment. Designating "Green Zones" around sensitive ecological areas will protect habitats from disruptive activities, while initiatives like pollinator-friendly parks will foster biodiversity and reduce long-term maintenance costs. Volunteer opportunities, such as tree planting and habitat restoration projects, will encourage community involvement and long-term commitment to sustainability. Additionally, educational programs, including interpretive signage, outdoor classrooms, and guided nature walks, will increase public awareness of local ecosystems and conservation efforts. A "Leave No Trace" campaign will encourage responsible park usage, while rewilding initiatives will restore underutilized spaces into vibrant natural habitats. Together, these efforts will promote environmental preservation, enhance biodiversity, and deepen the community's connection to nature, ensuring a lasting legacy of stewardship for future generations. Establishing a comprehensive green infrastructure plan will integrate floodplains, stormwater management, and wildlife corridors into park development, promoting ecological resilience. By utilizing drainage corridors for multi-functional purposes such as recreational trails and passive areas, the utility of open spaces is maximized while conserving valuable resources. *Recommended Actions can be found on Pages 81-82.*

GOAL 6 EXPAND PARKLAND & PROTECT OPEN SPACE

Expanding parkland and protecting open space is critical to preserving the natural environment and meeting the community's future park needs. Efforts will prioritize addressing gaps identified through the Level of Service (LOS) assessment, emphasizing land acquisition for natural trail areas and community-focused park development. Partnerships with land trusts and conservation organizations will help protect key areas, and incentives for private landowners will encourage participation in land conservation efforts. A parkland suitability assessment, utilizing GIS tools, will help identify and prioritize high-value parcels based on ecological importance, accessibility, and connectivity to existing parklands. In urban areas, expanding pocket parks through redevelopment projects will ensure that green spaces remain accessible even in dense neighborhoods. These strategies will safeguard natural areas while creating vibrant, accessible spaces for the growing community to enjoy. *Recommended Actions can be found on Pages 82-83.*

GOAL 7 LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY FOR EFFICIENCY & INNOVATION

Leveraging technology to improve park operations and visitor experience can significantly enhance efficiency and sustainability. Smart technologies such as automated irrigation systems, waste management solutions, and LED lighting will reduce resource consumption and streamline maintenance processes. Autonomous equipment can assist with routine park tasks, ensuring they are completed efficiently with minimal human oversight. GIS and asset management software will allow park staff to track maintenance needs, prioritize repairs, and allocate resources effectively. Drone technology offers a way to monitor larger parks, assess habitats, and inspect hard-to-reach areas like trails and drainage systems, providing accurate and up-to-date information for decision-making. In addition to operational improvements, integrating technologies like free Wi-Fi and charging stations at popular parks will improve visitor experience, making parks more accessible and user-friendly. Real-time feedback tools, such as QR codes for reporting issues or sharing park experiences, will create a more dynamic approach to park management. These technological innovations will increase operational efficiency, improve user satisfaction, and support the long-term sustainability of park systems, making the parks more enjoyable and accessible for all residents. *Recommended Actions can be found on Page 83.*

BENEFITS OF EFFICIENT MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

Proactive maintenance and streamlined workflows can reduce strain on staff, allow them to complete tasks in less time, and even prevent potential costly repairs or emergencies.

Adoption of green maintenance practices not only provides environmental benefits and conserves resources, they can also create less work for maintenance teams.

"[WE WANT] INTER-GENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES, THINGS TO GET PEOPLE TOGETHER – BRING COMMUNITY TOGETHER."

- Member of Senior Senate

GOAL 8 FOSTER ENGAGEMENT AT COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Fostering community engagement at parks is essential to ensuring that these spaces are vibrant and meet the needs of all residents. One innovative strategy is piloting mobile recreation units equipped with sports equipment, arts supplies, and technology hubs to bring programming directly to neighborhoods with limited park access. Expanding evening or after-dark activities, such as yoga classes or stargazing events, will make parks more accessible to people with different schedules. Community events like "Movies in the Park" that provide social gathering and family-friendly entertainment should be established as regular events. Additionally, multi-generational programming that includes shared activities like outdoor games and nature walks will encourage interaction across age groups. Expanding programming for older adults, including activities such as car shows, sporting events, and historical tours, will create spaces for adults (55+) to remain active and engaged. Partnering with local organizations to host educational programs, such as sustainability workshops or local history talks, will also enhance community interaction. Strengthening outreach efforts through dedicated staff focused on community engagement and marketing will help increase awareness of park programs and activities, ensuring that parks become dynamic, inclusive spaces for all residents to enjoy. *Recommended Actions can be found on Pages 83-84.*

GOAL 9 ACTIVATE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS THROUGH PROGRAMMING & PUBLIC SPACES

Activating social connections through park programming helps build stronger, more connected communities. One initiative is to create Discovery Stations in neighborhood parks, offering programming and resources that encourage residents to engage in outdoor activities and connect with park amenities. Underutilized parks can be brought to life with pop-up events such as farmers' markets, live performances, and community fairs. These events will not only attract visitors but also provide opportunities for social interaction. Creating inclusive spaces, such as sensory-friendly areas for individuals with autism or accessible playgrounds, will ensure that all residents feel welcomed. Temporary street closures to create pedestrian-only zones for markets or recreational activities will further enhance community participation. Adding amenities like game tables or benches in parks will encourage casual socialization, fostering connections among residents. Partnering with local food trucks or coffee vendors to visit parks regularly will create a lively atmosphere, bringing more visitors and further enhancing the social appeal of parks. These efforts will transform parks into vibrant social hubs that foster stronger community bonds. *Recommended Actions can be found on Pages 84.*

GOAL 10 ENHANCE COMMUNITY OUTREACH & INCLUSIVITY

Enhancing community outreach and inclusivity ensures that all residents feel welcome and supported in park and recreation programming. A key action is collecting data through surveys, focus groups, and user feedback to better understand the diverse needs of the community and develop tailored programs that resonate with various demographic groups. Outreach efforts will include working with local nonprofits, neighborhood organizations, and schools to promote park programs, ensuring that information reaches underrepresented populations. Developing multilingual signage and materials will increase accessibility for residents who speak different languages. Partnerships with local leaders and community groups will also help promote park activities, ensuring that the parks reflect the cultural and social diversity of the community. By hosting inclusive events, such as family nights or cultural festivals, parks can serve as venues for people of all backgrounds to connect and celebrate shared experiences. Additionally, making parks accessible for people with disabilities through ADA-compliant pathways, ramps, and playgrounds will ensure that everyone has equal access to recreational opportunities. These efforts will ensure that parks are not just physical spaces but vibrant, inclusive places where all residents feel valued and engaged. *Recommended Actions can be found on Page 85.*

CULTIVATING FUTURE GENERATIONS

Successful parks and recreation amenities and programs offer safe environments for youth and teenagers to develop valuable skills and build meaningful connections with peers. Leveraging social media and involving younger generations in marketing campaigns will help reach teens more effectively. Additionally, continued partnership with local organizations in addition to providing a variety of programs, from sports leagues to arts and nature activities, can expand participation and increase involvement.

"CEDAR HILL YOUTH MISS OUT ON A LOT OF PARK ACTIVITIES. [WE] RECEIVE INFORMATION VIA WORD OF MOUTH."

- Member of Teen Council

PROJECTS THAT BRING THE VISION TO LIFE

Central to the Green Imprint is a series of transformative projects that address current needs while anticipating future growth. These projects include developing new parks, revitalizing existing spaces, constructing additional trails, and implementing sustainable design practices. From small neighborhood parks to large-scale regional greenways, such as The Great Greenway, each project is a building block in Cedar Hill's vision for a greener, more connected future.

The priority projects are critical components of the Green Imprint, providing a structured approach to enhancing the city's parks, trails, and recreational facilities. These projects are designed to improve safety, sustainability, accessibility, and recreational opportunities across various parks and trails. Key initiatives include:

- **Feasibility Studies and Site Plans:** Conducting comprehensive studies to assess the potential for new parks and the enhancement of existing facilities.
- **Enhancement Initiatives:** Implementing projects aimed at improving the functionality and appeal of parks, such as installing eco-friendly infrastructure like solar lighting and native landscaping.
- **Trail Studies and Natural Area Developments:** Expanding and connecting trail networks to enhance mobility and recreation within the community.
- **Park Acquisitions and Upgrades:** Acquiring new parkland and upgrading existing parks to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Listed below, these fifteen priority projects were developed based on Advisory Committee and community feedback, as well as potential long-term benefits to the community, ensuring that the city's resources are allocated effectively to support future growth. By integrating these projects into the Green Imprint, Cedar Hill can maintain the integrity of its existing infrastructure while addressing the demand for new and upgraded recreational opportunities. Projects that are site specific (1-9) are illustrated in **Figure 5.1** on the following page. Descriptions of the projects can be found in the Priority Project Descriptions of the **Appendix**.
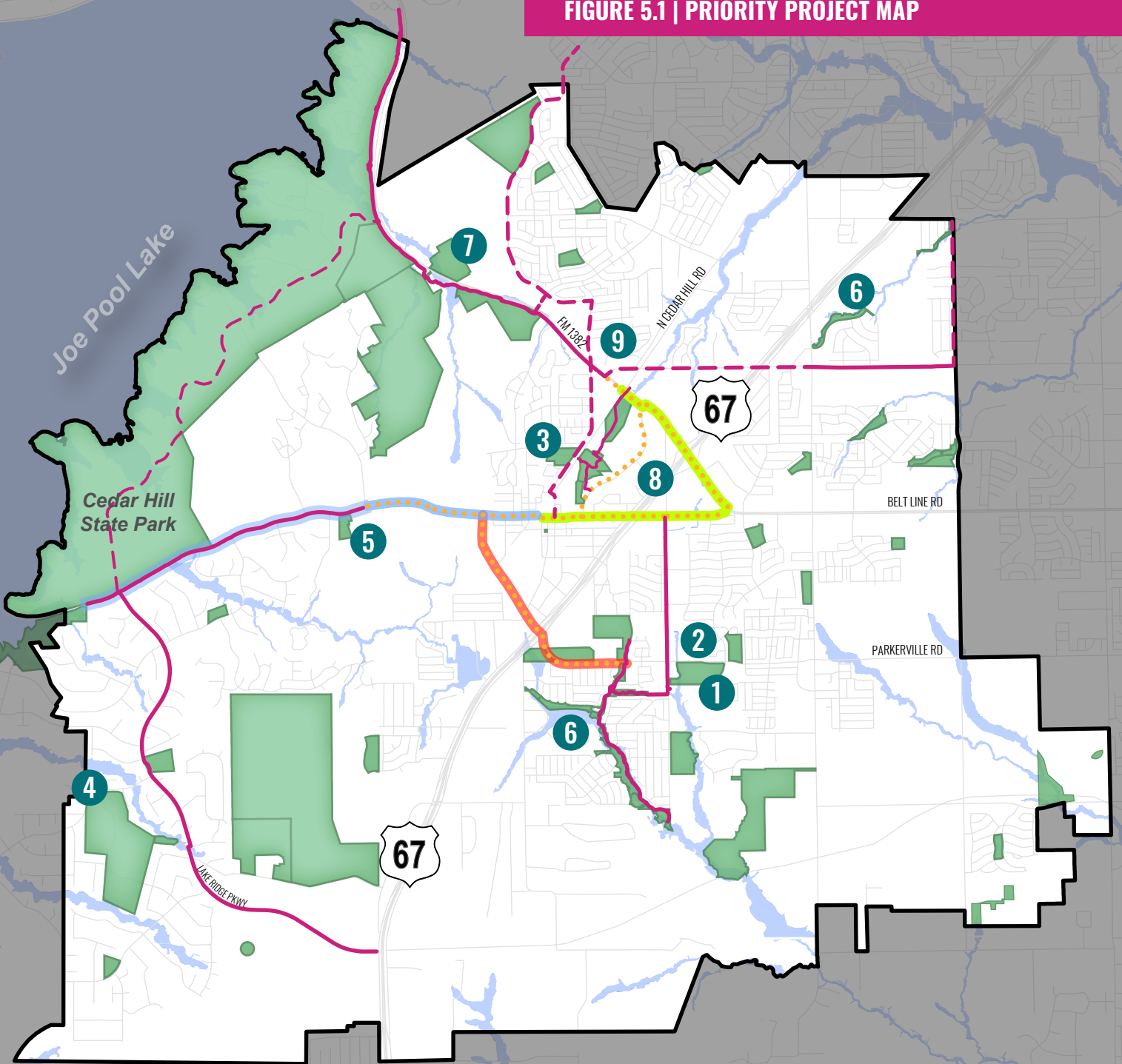
PRIORITY PROJECTS

*Denotes priority within 5 years

1. Alan E. Sims Recreation Center Expansion*
2. Alan E. Sims Recreation Center (55+ Wing)*
3. Crawford Park Phase II Improvements*
4. Valley Ridge Park Enhancements*
5. Community Center Park Enhancements
6. Greenbelt Enhancements
7. Singleton Property Master Plan
8. Intra-City Trail Project
9. Inter-City Trail Projects
10. City Dog Park*
11. Parkland Acquisition
12. Neighborhood Park Enhancements (re-wilding)*
13. Citywide Park Shade Enhancement Plan
14. Natural Areas and Trail Network Development
15. Veterans Memorial Park Study

FIGURE 5.1 | PRIORITY PROJECT MAP

Joe Pool Lake

Cedar Hill State Park

7

6

9

FM 1382

N CEDAR HILL RD

67

3

8

BELT LINE RD

5

2

PARKERVILLE RD

1

6

4

LAKE RIDGE PKWY

67

Legend

- Core Trails (Completed)
- Planned Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Parkland
- Water Bodies
- Existing Roadways
- City Limits
- # Priority Project Location
- East-West Core Trail
- Inner Loop Core Trail
- Middle Loop Core Trail

0   0.5   1   1.5   2 Miles

N

WORK PROGRAM

This master plan outlines 81 strategies to enhance the long-term, community-wide value of the parks and recreation system. These strategies are organized around the guiding principles and the 10 goals that address the findings in this plan. The strategies listed on pages 79 through 85 of the plan are not ranked by priority, and community leaders should remain open to considering future actions or initiatives to improve the Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation system. If a new initiative significantly diverges from the plan's goals or strategies, the city should amend the plan accordingly.

WORK PROGRAM PARAMETERS

This section contains a recommended implementation action plan table. The actions listed within these tables are allocated by three categories of timing and reflects the action's target priority or ongoing nature, as well as the estimated level of investment.

STRATEGY TYPE

The actions recommended within this plan generally fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Operational (O) - Requires a new or modified internal program and/or staffing arrangement.
- Policy (P) - Requires a new or modified process or policy.
- Project (PJ) - New or adjusted capital expenditure.
- Program (PM) - Requires a new or modified community program.
- Study (S) - Requires further analysis or investigation to determine the most appropriate solution.

TIME-FRAME

The strategies listed in the matrix are allocated among four time-frames. Not all strategies can be implemented at the same time, and as priorities shift, the City may determine to initiate certain strategies sooner or later than provided.

- Near-term (NT): 1-3 years
- Mid-term (MT): 3-5 years
- Long-term (LT) : 5 years or beyond
- Ongoing (O): Throughout the Plan horizon

PRIORITY

A priority level is assigned to each recommendation. Factors that help determine the implementation priority include feasibility of implementation, City staff preference, and overall priority based on feedback from the community.

- Low
- Medium
- High

COST

In order for the City to have an understanding of the approximate level of investment each strategy will require, each recommendation is assigned an estimated cost range.

- Low ($) - <$100,000
- Medium ($$) - $100,000 to $999,999
- High ($$$) - >$1M

TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

STRATEGY	TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
GOAL 1: ENHANCE INDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES & AWARENESS				
1.1 Relocate key programs from the Senior Activity Center to the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, optimizing underutilized spaces to better serve older residents.	O	NT	Medium	$$
1.2 Expand the Recreation Center's indoor space. Utilize a feasibility study to explore potential to optimize both indoor and outdoor areas for growing recreational needs, specifically Older Adult programming, as noted in the Senior Livability Study.	S	NT	High	$$$
1.3 Leverage social media platforms to run targeted campaigns promoting classes, events, or facility highlights. Engage the community by sharing user-generated content, such as photos or testimonials, with designated hashtags.	O	O	Medium	$
1.4 Create text alerts for subscribers about new programs, seasonal events, or special promotions.	O	O	High	$
1.5 Target outreach for specific groups including local neighborhood groups, schools, and businesses to offer incentives such as discounted memberships.	O	O	Medium	$$
1.6 Host open house events and facility tours (annual sign-up event e.g. Discover & Join Day or Fit & Fun Open House).	P, O	O	High	$$
1.7 Consider adding or expanding culinary programs through partnerships with local restaurants or bakeries (e.g., Grill Master University, mini-bakers class, tamale workshop, etc.).	O	MT	Medium	$$
1.8 Evaluate optional locations in the AES Recreation Center for senior basketball and pickleball.	S, O	MT	High	$$
GOAL 2: IMPROVE ACCESS AND ADDRESS GAPS IN THE TRAIL NETWORK				
2.1 Fund and construct Inter-City Trail Projects (Straus Rd., Pleasant Run Rd., and Duncanville Rd.).	PJ	NT	High	$$$
2.2 Design, fund and construct Intra-City Phase 1 to add 1.5 miles of trail extending the East-West Core Trail (blue) along Mansfield Road to Inner Loop Core Trail (green) along Belt Line Road, linking to Main Street (Historic Cedar Hill) and ending at Uptown Boulevard.	PJ	MT	High	$$$
2.3 Design, fund and construct Intra-City Phase 2 to add 2.3 miles of trail to connect the East-West Core trail (blue) to the Middle Loop Core Trail (red) exploring connections on Tidwell and Parkerville Road ultimately connecting to Virginia Weaver and Parkerville parks.	PJ	MT	High	$$$
2.4 Design, fund and construct Phase 3 to add 3.0 miles of trail closing the Inner Loop Core Trail (green) linking to the FM 1382 Trail, creating vital connections to the Pleasant Run Trail and Signature Trails (Inter-City Trails Project), enhancing the overall trail network and improving accessibility for users.	PJ	MT	High	$$$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

	STRATEGY	TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
2.5	Work with Public Works and the Traffic Safety Committee to track bicyclist and pedestrian crash sites to identify locations for infrastructure improvements around parks.	O	NT	Low	$
2.6	Continue to collaborate with the Public Works Department to support a citywide sidewalk plan that ensures neighborhoods have safe and equitable access to parks and trails, prioritizing investments in underserved areas and neighborhoods with limited pedestrian infrastructure.	O	MT	Medium	$$
2.7	Establish a design standard for trailheads with Low-Impact-Development (LID) features (i.e., use permeable surfaces like gravel or pavers to manage stormwater runoff), seating, water fountains, trash receptacles, signage, and safety features (e.g., map kiosk and location markers) along major trails to enhance access, improve connectivity, and ensure safety.	O	MT	Medium	$
2.8	Leverage private development to expand trail networks by integrating connections into site plans, utilizing easements and rights-of-way, and collaborating with developers to enhance community access and mobility.	O	O	Medium	$
2.9	Leverage underutilized spaces for trail expansion through partnerships with local utilities, railroads, or other stakeholders to utilize easements, rights-of-way, or vacant land for trail connections that fill network gaps.	O	O	Medium	$$
2.10	Develop a Trail Connectivity Assessment Tool using GIS mapping and community engagement to identify critical connectivity gaps in the trail network and prioritize segments.	O	NT	Medium	$
GOAL 3: INVEST IN PARK AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS					
3.1	Conduct a Reserve Study for the Senior Activity Center to forecast expenditures for all future improvements/replacements.	S	NT	High	$$
3.2	Complete the recommended general minimum improvements/actions identified the Indoor Assessment Report at the Alan E Sims Recreation Center. Ensure all spaces meet ADA standards, including, but not limited to, elevators, wide doorways, and restrooms.	O	NT	High	$$
3.3	Conduct roofing and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning assessments for the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center.	O	NT	High	$$
3.4	Work with a landscape architecture firm to create a redevelopment plan for the Crawford Park pool area.	S	NT	Medium	$$
3.5	Develop a citywide shade enhancement implementation strategy that includes shade structures and tree plantings.	S	MT	High	$$$
3.6	Improve parks and trails by addressing maintenance needs, including replacing non-compliant playground equipment and prioritizing funding to upgrade Community Center and Parkerville parks from "average" to "good" by 2030.	O	O	Medium	$$$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

	TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE				
	STRATEGY	TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
3.7	Regularly review park maintenance needs, ensuring staffing levels align with parkland acreage and establishing performance metrics for parks staff and facilities.	O	O	Medium	$
3.8	Develop a sustainability strategy that identifies specific goals and targets for the parks (e.g., transition to LED lighting at all parks by 2035, annual training for parks staff on sustainable practices, update preventative maintenance schedules).	O	O	Medium	$
3.9	Develop a safety committee to create a safety plan that aligns with the overall city and department goals to outline strategies, protocols, and any needed resource allocation dedicated to safety enhancement.	S, O	O	Medium	$
3.10	Evaluate community and neighborhood parks for fitness enhancements.	O	O	Medium	$$
GOAL 4: DEVELOP NATURAL AREAS AND PLAN FOR FUTURE PARK PROPERTIES					
4.1	Design and construct a community dog park.	PJ	NT	High	$$
4.2	Develop a master plan for Willis and Singleton to be developed into natural areas.	S	MT	Medium	$$
4.3	Conduct a study to identify a suitable location for a Veterans Memorial Park.	S	NT	High	$
4.4	Create and install plans for new parkland designed as nature preserves, incorporating low-impact recreational activities that foster ecological stewardship.	PJ	O	Medium	$$
4.5	Work with Public Works Department to develop drainage standards that could incorporate passive recreation or native landscaping.	O	O	Medium	$
4.6	Create nature-based play areas, playgrounds or activity zones that use natural materials and mimic natural landscapes, encouraging creative and active outdoor play for children.	PJ	O	High	$$
4.7	Conduct studies to quantify the ecosystem services provided by natural areas, such as carbon sequestration, water filtration, habitat creation, and percentage of native vegetation.	S	O	Medium	$
GOAL 5: PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND PRESERVATION					
5.1	Incorporate nature-based solutions like rain gardens, biofiltration, and permeable pavements to improve drainage and enhance park sustainability.	PJ	O	Medium	$$
5.2	Work with non-profit, local businesses, and the Chamber of Commerce to sponsor park events, offer educational resources, or provide services that support land conservation, such as recycling programs litter abatement, and/or sustainable product donations.	O	O	Medium	$$
5.3	Designate "Green Zones" around sensitive areas to protect local habitats and resources, curbing disruptive activities in these spaces.	O	O	Medium	$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

	STRATEGY	TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
5.4	Create standardized volunteer opportunities that align with park needs and seasonal activities, such as tree planting, trail maintenance, and habitat restoration.	O	O	Medium	$
5.5	Establish structured volunteer programs for schools, businesses, and neighborhood groups to support long-term stewardship in neighborhood parks and citywide, including projects such as adding pollinator-friendly features with native plants and gardens to enhance biodiversity, provide education, and reduce maintenance.	PM	O	Medium	$
5.6	Develop interpretive programming in natural areas that create opportunities for environmental education by incorporating signage, guided tours, and outdoor classrooms that highlight local ecosystems, wildlife, and conservation efforts.	PM	O	Medium	$
5.7	Create a "Leave No Trace" Program to promote responsible park use through campaigns and educational initiatives that emphasize waste reduction, wildlife protection, and sustainable recreation practices.	PM	O	Medium	$
5.8	Adopt a "Rewilding" strategy to convert grass/turf areas, underutilized park spaces or degraded lands into restored natural habitats to promote biodiversity and resilience.	O	O	High	$$
GOAL 6: EXPAND PARKLAND AND PROTECT OPEN SPACE					
6.1	Expand parkland in areas identified as gaps through the Level of Service (LOS) assessment, specifically focusing on natural areas and community parkland to meet future population needs.	P	O	High	$$$
6.2	Establish a green infrastructure plan that integrates natural areas, floodplain, stormwater management and wildlife corridors into parkland development.	S	O	High	$
6.3	Leverage drainage infrastructure for multi-use recreation by incorporating multi-functional greenways along drainage areas for trails, passive recreation, and habitat preservation.	O	O	Low	$$
6.4	Partner with conservation organizations to secure land for preservation and offer incentives for private landowners to contribute land to conservation efforts.	P	O	Medium	$
6.5	Develop a crowdsourcing campaign to encourage residents and other property owners to catalog their green spaces for inclusion in the city's green space count, fostering community-driven conservation efforts.	PM	O	Medium	$
6.6	In collaboration with planning and GIS personnel, conduct a parkland suitability assessment/analysis that identifies and prioritizes parcels for acquisition or preservation based on ecological value, community accessibility and connectivity to existing parkland or trails.	S	O	Medium	$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

	STRATEGY	TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
6.7	Expand pocket parks in denser urban areas by working with the Planning Department to identify opportunities for green spaces as redevelopment occurs.	O	O	High	$
6.8	Partner with land trusts and county conservation groups to protect additional parkland and provide incentives for private landowners to engage in conservation efforts.	PM	O	High	$
GOAL 7: LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY FOR EFFICIENCY AND INNOVATION					
7.1	Implement technology to improve maintenance efficiency, such as smart waste management, irrigation systems, automated lighting controls, and other autonomous equipment.	O	MT	Medium	$$
7.2	Leverage GIS technology and asset management software to guide decision-making, track maintenance, and allocate resources more effectively.	O	NT	High	$
7.3	Use drone technology for park maintenance and to monitor larger park areas, assess natural habitats, or inspect hard to reach areas like drainage, trails or roofs.	O	NT	Medium	$
7.4	Explore the feasibility of adding accessible technology like free Wi-Fi and charging stations in popular parks to enhance the visitor experience.	O	MT	Medium	$
7.5	Integrate real-time feedback systems such as QR codes at parks or trails that allow visitors to provide feedback on experiences or maintenance.	O	NT	Medium	$
7.6	Enhance park staff capacity by hiring a team member with GIS expertise to improve the management of natural areas, parkland, and undeveloped properties.	O	NT	High	$
7.8	Develop an enhanced online map for park users that highlights park amenities, programs, and features, improving accessibility and user experience.	O	NT	High	$
GOAL 8: FOSTER ENGAGEMENT AT COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS					
8.1	Pilot mobile recreation units equipped with sports gear, art supplies, or tech hubs that can be deployed to neighborhoods with limited park access to provide programming on a rotating basis.	PM	NT	High	$$
8.2	Enhance evening or after dark programming to expand park access to accommodate residents such as yoga, stargazing events, or nighttime wildlife observation tours.	PM	NT	High	$
8.3	Host an annual Movies in the Park event each spring or summer.	PM	NT	High	$
8.4	Develop more multi-generational gatherings to engage with the community through shared experiences such as outdoor games, nature walks, or art installations that reflect local culture.	PM	NT	High	$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

	STRATEGY	TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
8.5	Expand older adult programming to attract more male participants by introducing activities like sporting events, car shows, and military/historical site tours, in response to feedback showing a gap in participation from this group.	PM	NT	Medium	$
8.6	Collaborate with local organizations and nonprofits to activate spaces in neighborhoods to create a 'Park Dialogues' series that host regular, casual discussion sessions on topics like sustainability, local history, or cultural heritage to engage the community in shared learning and storytelling.	PM	NT	High	$
8.7	Expand parks staff by creating a dedicated position focused on community engagement and marketing to enhance outreach, promote park programs, and strengthen connections with the community.	O	NT	High	$
GOAL 9: ACTIVATE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS THROUGH PROGRAMMING AND PUBLIC SPACES					
9.1	Organize targeted community outreach and engagement through "Discovery Stations" at neighborhood parks, featuring programming that encourages participation in outdoor activities and connects residents to resources and park-specific content.	PM	NT	High	$
9.2	Activate underutilized parks with pop-up events, farmers' markets, and inclusive spaces tailored to community needs, such as sensory-friendly areas for individuals with autism, accessible playgrounds for children with disabilities, and spaces reflecting the cultural diversity of the community.	PJ	NT	High	$$
9.3	Increase youth-focused events, such as summits or sports activities, to engage younger residents.	PM	NT	High	$
9.4.	Host pop-up registration events in accessible locations, such as apartment complexes, to encourage enrollment in new or underperforming programs.	O	NT	High	$
9.5	Develop a community art installation program where the art community can collaborate on creating art for parks, such as murals, sculptures, or interactive exhibits, fostering a sense of ownership and pride.	PM, O	MT	High	$
9.6	Pilot shared spaces, specifically with temporary street closures for pedestrian-only zones that allow open markets or recreation activities.	PM, O	MT	High	$
9.7	Install game tables (chess, checkers, or ping-pong) at other neighborhood or community parks that encourages group interaction.	O	NT	High	$
9.8	Partner with coffee/food trucks to offer time/space at underutilized parks monthly to encourage more use and community interaction at the park.	PM	NT	High	$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

TABLE 5.1 | IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

STRATEGY		TYPE	TIME-FRAME	PRIORITY	COST
GOAL 10: ENHANCE COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND INCLUSIVITY					
10.1	Collect data to better understand the needs for intergenerational programming and use this data to develop activities such as family fitness nights and community sports challenges that encourage multi-generational participation.	O	NT	High	$
10.2	Promote accessibility and inclusivity by offering sensory-friendly programming and accommodations at all events and promoting the information on the parks webpages. This may include on-site assistance, and specialized and sensory-friendly staff training to ensure inclusive park experiences.	PM	NT	High	$
10.3	Establish dedicated senior-friendly hours at The Lagoon, offering early morning access for seniors to enjoy a quiet, less crowded environment.	PM, O	NT	High	$
10.4	Continue to develop targeted outreach strategies to engage underrepresented communities, including language access services, culturally relevant programming, and partnerships with local community groups.	PM	O	High	$
10.5	Create an online program guide to provide easy access to all available programs, events, and services. Ensure the guide is regularly updated and available in multiple formats, including a downloadable PDF and an interactive webpage.	O	O	Medium	$
10.6	Partner with local schools, businesses, and civic organizations to promote membership benefits and special events, offering incentives such as discounted memberships and exclusive program access for early sign-ups (e.g., engage with the CHISD Teacher Perks Program to provide benefits for local educators).	P	NT	High	$
10.7	Share park successes with the community annually with an impact report detailing the number of admissions to The Lagoon, memberships, kids programs, seniors programs, trails/parks built or improved, and trees planted, etc. to share the impact parks have on resident's daily life.	O	O	High	$

*Descriptions of each implementation parameter (type, time-frame, priority, and cost) can be found on page 78.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for administering this master plan. As the plan administrator, the department will oversee all day-to-day activities, including coordination, monitoring, education, and amendments. The Parks and Recreation Department will take the lead in operating, maintaining, and expanding parks and recreation offerings. Ultimately, the success of this plan will depend on a community-wide effort, with ongoing evaluations determining the outcomes.

COORDINATION

The department will oversee plan implementation, lead individual initiatives, and facilitate the actions of partnering agencies.

MONITORING

The department will monitor the application of plan policies and activities, report on accomplishments, document outcomes, and measure success.

AMENDMENTS

The department will amend the plan throughout its lifecycle to reflect changes in community conditions, values, and characteristics.

EDUCATION

The department will update residents and local organizations about the plan's importance, promote the plan's vision and guiding principles, advertise successes, and continue gathering public input.

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Before the start of each yearly budget process, department staff should create and present a progress report to the Parks Board on the status of the actions in the Parks and Recreation work program and other relevant topics. Staff will also collaborate with elected and appointed officials to determine if any amendments to the work program are necessary.

PLAN UPDATES
FIVE-YEAR UPDATE

A comprehensive five-year update should be conducted to reevaluate and refresh system priorities, parkland/facility inventories, and any parkland dedication or development fees established through the parkland dedication ordinance. This update also offers an opportunity to gather additional public input on recreational preferences and service levels. Additionally, it helps the City stay competitive in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) grants process, as a five-year update is essential to achieve strong scores in the grant application point system.

TEN-YEAR UPDATE

Toward the end of this plan's time horizon, it is recommended that the City prepare a new master plan, including an assessment of facilities and priorities. While neither the five-year nor the ten-year update is a strict requirement for continued qualification for grant funding, TPWD places higher value on submitting a new plan every ten years.

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE: HOW PARKS SYSTEMS GAIN RECOGNITION

The City of Cedar Hill has worked hard to develop, program, and maintain a park system that is recognized by the community and visitors as a valuable asset that improves quality of life and stands above the rest. In addition to community recognition, two considerations for highlighting the excellence of Cedar Hill's park system include pursuing CAPRA Accreditation and applying for the NRPA Gold Medal Award.

NRPA's Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accredits parks and recreation agencies for excellence in community service and operational efficiency. CAPRA accreditation affirms that a parks and recreation agency provides its community with the highest level of service. This accreditation also indicates that the city has committed to providing its staff with the resources necessary to operate and maintain the parks and recreation system efficiently.

The NRPA Gold Medal Award is a national award that recognizes park systems, based on population size, that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Cedar Hill funds its Parks and Recreation Department through a combination of public funding sources that are typical for municipalities. This mix of funding sources ensures that Cedar Hill's Parks and Recreation Department can sustain and grow its park system, maintain facilities, and offer a range of recreational programs to residents.

GENERAL FUND

A significant portion of the budget for Parks and Recreation is derived from the city's general fund. This includes revenues from property taxes, sales taxes, and other general municipal income sources, which are allocated annually to various city departments, including Parks and Recreation.

BONDS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS (CIP)

Cedar Hill may use bond issuances and capital improvement programs to fund large-scale park projects, such as new park developments, infrastructure improvements, or major renovations. These bonds are voter-approved and repaid over time.

GRANTS

The city likely pursues state and federal grants to supplement funding for parks and recreation. For example, they may apply for Texas Parks & Wildlife Department grants, federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants, or other recreational and environmental grants to support park expansions, trail projects, or nature-based programming.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS & SPONSORSHIPS

Partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, and community organizations can provide additional funding or resources. Cedar Hill's partnerships, such as with the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center or other local entities, may help fund specific programs, events, or facility improvements.

DEVELOPMENT FEES & PARK DEDICATIONS

Cedar Hill has the ability to utilize developer impact fees or park dedication ordinances, which require developers to either dedicate land for parks or contribute funds for the development of parks and recreational facilities as part of the city's planning process. This funding mechanism helps ensure that new developments are contributing to park infrastructure.

REVENUE FROM PROGRAMS & FACILITIES

The Parks and Recreation Department likely generates some revenue through user fees, facility rentals, memberships, and special events. This can include fees for recreational programs, leagues, aquatics, and facility use, which help offset operational costs.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Cedar Hill also has dedicated special revenue funds, such as a dedicated sales tax or special district revenues, specifically earmarked for park maintenance and improvements. For example, sales tax revenue from the Cedar Hill Community Development Corporation (CDC) is used to fund community development projects, including parks and recreation.

"[I] LOVE OUR PARKS. PLEASE KEEP ALLOCATING RESOURCES TO MAKE
THEM THRIVE. THAT'S WHAT MAKES OURCOMMUNITY SPECIAL!"

- *Survey Response*