WESLACO
PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE
MASTER PLAN
2016-2026

City of Weslaco

"The City on the Grow"

David Suarez, Mayor
Olga M. Noriega, Mayor Pro-Tem, District 3
Leo Muñoz, Commissioner, District 1
Greg Kerr, Commissioner, District 2
Gerardo "Jerry" Tafolla, Commissioner, District 4
Letty Lopez, Commissioner, District 5
Fidel L. Peña, III, Commissioner, District 6

Mike R. Perez, City Manager

July 8, 2016

Mr. Tim Hogsett
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Recreation Grants
4200 Smith School Rd.
Austin, Texas 78744

Dear Mr. Hogsett,

Weslaco is at the heart of the Rio Grande Valley and serves as an example to neighboring cities on park development. In 2016, the City was able to complete two parks funded through Texas Parks and Wildlife that had laid dormant for several years. The City is submitting the 2016-2026 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan for review. This plan has been compiled from citizen surveys, focus groups, meetings with the Park Board and presentation to City Commission. The plan identifies issues, concerns and future park development the City plans to address over the ten year period.

The City Commission met on July 5, 2016 and approved the submission of the plan and the priority listing for future park development. The City will be identifying Capital Improvement Funds on an annual basis to begin the improvements to the park system. With the completion of the two park projects and the submission of the update Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, the City will be developing new park grant applications.

If there is anything the City needs to comply with please notify Mike Perez, City Manager, at 956-973-3110. The City of Weslaco looks forward to a great partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife in the future.

Sincerely,

David Suarez
Mayor

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO
CITY OF WESLACO **RESOLUTION 2016-50**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WESLACO, TEXAS ADOPTING THE YEAR 2016-2026 PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN; FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS RESOLUTION WAS PASSED WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Weslaco recognizes the need for a Year 2016-2026 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan "the Plan" to provide goals, assessments, standards, recommendations and strategies for implementation over a ten (10) year period in an effort to provide for and continually improve park and recreational facilities, provide trail opportunities, preserve open spaces and rehabilitate existing parks in the City of Weslaco; and

WHEREAS, the primary objective of "the Plan" is to provide recreational services desired by the citizens of Weslaco, acquire needed open spaces and preserve natural resources; and

WHEREAS, in order to address recreational needs in the future, the City of Weslaco has sought input from the citizens of Weslaco through surveys, public input meetings, the Weslaco Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation staff; and that input has been incorporated into "the Plan"; and

WHEREAS, "the Plan" complies with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department master plan guidelines which require parks and recreation needs to be prioritize and addressed in an action plan format; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission, having taken into consideration the results of the in-depth study conducted by P,R and S, LLC for the City of Weslaco, determines that "the Plan" is reasonable;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WESLACO, TEXAS:

I.

That the 2016-2026 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for the City of Weslaco, Texas, is hereby officially adopted, and incorporated herein for all intents and purposes.

II.

A ten year priority list of park amenities has been developed to guide the rehabilitation of existing parks, provide for guidance in the application of funding, and suggest alternative funding opportunities. Adoption of the 2016-2026 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan shall not commit the City of Weslaco to specific funding levels or implementation strategies, but shall provide guidance for the City's vision for availability and growth of park and recreational services.

PRESENTED AND PASSED on this 5th day of July, 2016 by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays at a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Weslaco, Texas.

CITY OF WESLACO

David Suarez, MAYOR

ATTEST:

WCC 07/05/16

Elizabeth M. Walker, **CITY SECRETARY**

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Juan E. Gonzalez, **CITY ATTORNEY**

Acknowledgements

The following individuals are being recognized for their significant contributions to the preparation of the 2016 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for Weslaco.

Mayor and City Commission:

David Suarez, Mayor
Olga M. Noriega, Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner, District 3
Leo Muñoz, Commissioner, District 1
Greg Kerr, Commissioner, District 2
Gerardo "Jerry" Tafolla, Commissioner, District 4
Letty Lopez, Commissioner, District 5
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City Staff:

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Additional Assistance:

Martha Noell, President/CEO, Weslaco Chamber of Commerce
Michael Uhrbrock, Senior VP for UTRGV, Research, Innovation and Economic Development

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Weslaco is located in the Rio Grande Valley, 15 miles west of Harlingen and 17 miles east of McAllen, in Hidalgo County. The City previously had a Parks and Open Space Master Plan (2007) which expires in 2017. To meet the ten (10) year requirement for Texas Parks and Wildlife Master Plan and grant process a new Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was required. This document is the culmination of the park planning effort and is intended to guide staff and elected officials of the city as they decide how to best meet the park priorities of a growing city during the next ten (10) years.

Plan Time Frame – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department looks at park master plans as having a ten (10) year life span with an evaluation at the completion of five (5) years. The Weslaco Plan expires in 2017 which requires a new plan to be developed and approved by the City Commission. This document will serve as the major planning document to meet the City's need in parks, recreation and open space.

Goals of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan – Goals have been developed to meet the needs of the City Commission, citizens, boards and staff of Weslaco. These goals provide the philosophy the City Commission and City management will use to evaluate the need for park, recreation and open space improvements within the community. These goals will also be used in determining grant applications for the City.

The goals listed are based on the input received from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, citizen groups and an online survey.

1. To remain as one of the premier park systems in the Rio Grande Valley and the park hub for the central Rio Grande Valley with adequate staffing and funding.
2. To develop a matrix for the development of park facilities within the community.
3. To expand the development of neighborhood parks, community and regional parks to become focal points within the community.
4. To utilize natural open spaces, floodplain corridors, and irrigation corridors to develop linear parks within the community. To provide hike and bike trails along these corridors to provide connectivity throughout the community.
5. To develop partnerships with other public, semi-public, and private entities to efficiently utilize funding for the development of parks and open space. City should include the school district in the development of city/school parks and the Knapp Community Care Foundation to expand funding opportunities.

Population Growth – Weslaco has seen a substantial growth from the original master plan in 2007 to date. The growth in Hidalgo County has also been substantial. The Rio Grande Valley is one of the fastest growing areas in the state.

Hidalgo County's population is relatively young. Over 34.7% of the population is under the age of 19 which is above the state average of 30.4%. The elder population reflects the state average of 15.5%.

Existing Park System Size –Weslaco current park system is comprised of seven (7) parks for a total acreage of 175.93. The City plans to implement a hike and bike trail that will connect the city in 2016.

Citizen Input – The recommendations of the 2016 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan are designed to reflect the needs and desires of the citizens of Weslaco. Citizen input helped determine which current facilities are used, where there is a deficit of facilities and programs, and the amenities the citizens of Weslaco would like to see developed over the next ten (10) years.

The planning process generate citizen input by presentations to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, a focus group comprised of park uses, and a presentation to the Lions Club. An online survey available to everyone in the community was conducted. A detailed summary of all citizen input is available in Section 3.

Master Plan Recommendations

The Master Plan Recommendations are comprised from the citizen survey, focus group recommendations and online survey. The items represent the highest priority based on citizen recommendations. As the City prepares to design and construct each project final cost estimates will have to be determined. No cost estimates are included in this report as there are too many variable factors that would have to be considered.

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is for a ten (10) year period with a five (5) year review thus the projects listed are for long range development. This plan allows for grant application potential during the time period. If there are major changes within the community such as an increase or decrease in population, addition of a new or expanded businesses the City may opt to review the plan prior to the five (5) year requirement.

Priority actions have been divided into three (3) categories based on the level of need perceived by the community.

1. High Priority Items – community desires for these to be completed in the next five (5) years.
2. Medium Priority Items – completion within the ten (10) year timeframe for the plan.
3. Low Priority items – these are generally indoor facilities and may require multiple year funding.

Top 10 project recommendations:

The Park Board met on May 18, 2016 to review the online survey information and developed the following park development priority list for the City of Weslaco.

1. Trail systems
2. New parks
3. Additional lights at current park sites
4. Splash Park
5. Youth softball/baseball fields
6. Youth soccer/football fields
7. Picnic Areas
8. Indoor Recreation Center
9. Leisure Pool
10. Amphitheater

It should be noted that Trails ranked No. 5 through the point system but due to the ability of trails to bring the community together the Parks Board moved Trails to No. 1. The City Commission agreed with the Parks Board and approved the list with Trail Systems as the number 1 amenity.

The new parks (2) and indoor community center (8) were meant for the north section of town which does not have any services at this time. All the items identified in the survey and by the Parks Board will create a stronger park system for Weslaco and qualify for grant applications.

Section 1

Weslaco Today

Introduction

This chapter will provide a summary of the historical, economic, demographic, and education conditions in Weslaco 2016. Weslaco is located in the Rio Grande Valley, Hidalgo County and is considered the Mid-Valley, between Harlingen and McAllen. Weslaco is approximately 15 miles west of Harlingen, 7 miles north of the Mexican border, and 17 miles east of McAllen. The land was part of a Mexican land grant – Llano Grant in 1790, and from which Estero Llano Grande, the state park derives its name. In 1913 the Rio Grande Land and Irrigation Company purchased a large portion of the land with the intent of building a railroad. In 1917, 30,000 acres was sold to the W.E. Stewart Land Company, which also provided the name to the town (Weslaco). The land was surveyed with home plots selling from $50 to $400 in 1919 and the first post office opened in 1920.

Weslaco previously was generally agriculture being the home of Texas A&M Agriculture Research Center that created the famous 1015 Super Sweet Onion. In current years industrial companies have moved in to the area such as the distribution center for HEB and National Guard Armory.

Weslaco Economy

As noted Weslaco had been primarily an agriculture town, in addition to the 1015 onion there are cotton gins and produce packaging companies. Due to the easy access between Mexico and the U.S., businesses have promoted distribution and manufacturing. There are six (6) bridges that connect the U.S. and Mexico within a thirty minute drive from Weslaco. The Economic Development Corporation of Weslaco works with interested companies in providing economic incentives for the relocation and development of partnerships beneficial for the community.

Tourism for the area has been expanded due in part to the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail which includes Mid-Valley Nature Center, the Frontera Audubon Center, Estero Llano Grande World Birding Center, and Las Palmas Wildlife Management Area. Birding is a multi-million dollar industry throughout the Rio Grande Valley with nine (9) World Birding Center sites for tourist to visit.

Shopping both in the historic downtown area and the newly developed strip-shopping centers along Interstate 2 (Expressway 83) has brought national recognized stores – J.C. Penney's, Longhorn Steak House, Walmart, and Lowes to the area. The historic downtown area promotes small businesses with local flavor of antiques, and clothing. Weslaco has a thriving downtown area.

The Knapp Medical Center became a for-profit medical hospital establishing a Community Care Foundation to assist local communities in promoting health and wellness programs. The Foundation works closely with the City of Weslaco to develop trail systems for the residents. In addition, there are several doctor offices, dentist and nursing homes that contribute to the economic development of the area.

Underserved Areas in Weslaco

Weslaco city area is approximately 13.1 square miles in Hidalgo County at the Intersection of I H 2 (Expressway 83) and Farm Road 88. Park development has been primarily south of I H 2 in the central portions of town. This leaves the area north of I H 2 and the far south sides underserved where residents do not have an easy access to parks. The ETJ, which is included in the Master Plan, provides no park services for the residents.

Demographics for Weslaco and Hidalgo County

Projections and demographic information are derived from the 2000 and 2010 Census and population predictions by the UTRGV Research, Innovation and Economic Development.

Table 1 shows the population for Weslaco and Hidalgo County from 1970 to present.

TABLE 1
Population Growth in Weslaco and Hidalgo County

Year	Weslaco	Percent Change	Hidalgo County	Percent Change
1970	15,313		181,535	
1980	19,331	20.8% from 1970	283,229	35.9% from 1970
1990	21,877	11.6% from 1980	383,545	26% from 1980
2000	26,935	18.7% from 1990	569,463	32.6% from 1990
2010	35,437	24% from 2000	775,857	26.6% from 2000
2020	45,205	21.6% from 2010	987,920	21.5% from 2010
2030	56,132	19.5% from 2020	1,225,227	19.4% from 2020

The population listed does not include the census tracts within the ETJ as there is no way to determine the actual population for a portion of the census track. Data for census from the UTRGV, Research, Innovation and Economic Development Department and documents of the Texas Water Development Board.

The population for Weslaco is relatively young, as shown in Table 2. Over one-third, 34.7% is under the age of 19 which is higher than the Hidalgo County average of 30.4%.

TABLE 2

Year/Age Characteristics of Hidalgo County

Age	Weslaco	Hidalgo County	State of Texas
Under 5	2,550	77,740	1,928,473
5 to 9	2,437	78,206	1,928,234
10 to 14	2,231	75,293	1,881,883
15 to 19	2,158	70,226	1,883,124
20 to 24	1,861	61,945	1,817,079
25 to 34	3,826	108,838	3,613,473
35 to 44	3,162	106,089	3,458,382
45 to 54	2,710	84,426	3,435,336
55 to 59	971	34,919	1,422,924
60 to 64	953	29,377	1,174,767
65 to 74	2,018	44,127	1,472,256
75 to 84	1,447	26,276	824,451
85 years and older	611	8,985	305,179

The largest age group is 25 to 44 in all three categories. This age groups would reflect those individuals who could have families with children.

Schools

Weslaco is an Independent School District in Hidalgo County with 17 campuses and 17,804 students enrolled. There are five private schools including IDEA Public Schools, Mid Valley Christian School, San Martin de Porres Catholic School, Horizon Montessori Public Charter School and the Technology Education Charter High School. Parents also have the option of enrolling their students in the South Texas Independent School District with campuses in Mercedes allowing the students to focus their studies on science and medicine.

There are several colleges for higher learning: South Texas College, UTRGV with campus in Edinburg, a new Texas A&M campus in McAllen, Texas State Technical College in Harlingen, and South Texas Vo-Tech.

Section 2

Existing Park Inventory

Introduction

In order to understand the park planning process it is important to know what facilities are existing, an assessment of their current condition, and if they are addressing the current needs of the community. A comparison of the current facilities and the population served can address the needs for new facilities and determine the location for those facilities.

The network of current parks are located in the central and south areas and is a good mix of neighborhood and community parks. However, in the newer parts of the city there has been no park development. Some of the newer areas are also susceptible to flooding so developing parks as part of a Retention Drainage Facility (RDF) to assist with the flooding may be an option. Maintained park equipment is showing age and wear in tear. The City has installed 3 new playgrounds at existing parks, upgrades in landscaping and general maintenance of painting and repairs.

Existing Park Inventory: The park inventory includes the following:

- **Purpose of Park:** Each park has a purpose or a major amenity which determines the classification of the park.
- **Classification of Park:** Park classifications in the master plan include Neighborhood, Community and Regional or Special Use Parks.
- **Location:** Where is the park located, near schools, shopping, is it easy to get to the park, etc. Are there major streets that create a boundary
- **Size of Park:** The acreage of the park and is it large enough for the type of amenities located there.
- **Amenities in Park:** What type of structures are in the park and are they in good condition or do they need to be replaced?
- **Conditions of Park:** Are there conditions in the park i.e. lack of irrigation that need to be identified and/or new equipment that should be identified?
- **Accessibility of Park:** Can individuals reach the park easily and does the park meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements?

Purpose and Classification of Parks

National and state parks have three (3) general classifications of park based on purpose. However, the one which meets Weslaco's needs are the "Local Close to Home" Parks which can be further distinguished by:

Neighborhood – or a park within a half mile of a person's home that is typically 3 to 10 acres and serve approximately 3,000 residents. However, in Weslaco Neighborhood Parks are generally 3 to 5 acres. Residents should not have to cross major roadways to get to this park.

Amenities in a Neighborhood Park can include unlighted playing fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playground equipment, jogging trails, and picnic areas. The park does not require lights due to the close proximity to homes in the area.

In ideal situations the neighborhood parks should be located within a fourth of a mile from a person's home and this is the recommendation in the Master Plan.
Many times neighborhood parks are constructed in conjunction with the school district to have shared space and amenities. This is also a recommendation in the Master Plan.

Community – a larger park which has special amenities that can serve several neighborhoods or the entire community. Typical size ranges from 10 to 50 acres. The park should be large enough to accommodate several types of amenities such as lighted playing fields, lighted trails, restrooms, playgrounds, and pavilions for community use, picnic areas and ample parking for major events. NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) recommends 5 parking spaces per acre. This park can provide a resource by having Movies in the Park, and festivals but should provide a buffer from the lighting and noise to nearby neighborhoods. Ideally, this park would be located near major streets to allow for easy access. An example of this type of park in Weslaco is City Park.

Regional – this might be a community park size but have amenities that draw people from around the region such as ballfields, swimming pools, tennis complex or golf course. The park is used by not only the community but surrounding communities when tournaments or special events are offered. Harlon Block is an excellent example of a Regional Park.

The following pages identify each of the seven (7) parks in the Weslaco system, their size and amenities.

Weslaco Parks & Recreation Department

1.BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELDS
2. SOCCER FIELD
3.RESTROOMS
4. PICNIC SHELTERS
5. BARBEQUE AREAS
6. PLAYGROUNDS
7.VOLLEYBALL COURTS
8. TENNIS COURTS
9. WALK/ JOGGING TRAILS
10. SWIMMING POOL
11. BASKETBALL COURT
12. SKATE PARK

Park Name	ACRES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Cavazos Park	0.39					X	X					X	
City Park	48.66	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Gibson Park	5.82			X	X	X					X	X	
Isaac Rodriguez Park	26.86	X		X	X	X	X						X
Plazita Park	1.80			X	X	X						X	
Harlon Block Sports Complex	88.00	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	
Pecan Grove	4.4						X						

Cavazos Park

Acreage: 0.39 acres

Location: 400 W. Hidalgo

Amenities:

Benches	6
Drinking Fountains	1
Shelters	1
BBQ Pit	2
Tables	2
Playground 5-12	1
Swings	4
Basketball Courts	1

Mayor G. Pena City Park

Acreage: 48.66 acres

Location: 300 N. Airport Drive

Amenities:

Parking Spaces	223
Handicapped	6
Benches	66
Bleachers	6
Drinking Fountains	4
Pavilions	4
Shelters	12
BBQ Pit	15
Tables	76
Restrooms	
Male	2
Female	2
Playground 5-12	4
Swings	4
Basketball Courts	2
Softball Fields	3
Concession Stand	1
Tennis Courts	9
Soccer Fields	3
Volleyball	1
Trails	1

Gibson Park

Acreage: 5.82 acres

Location: 301 S. Border Ave.

Amenities:

Parking Spaces	47
Handicapped	5
Benches	22
Drinking Fountains	2
Pavilions	2
Shelters	4
BBQ Pit	11
Tables	52
Restrooms	
Male	1
Female	1
Playground 5-12	2
Swings	8
Basketball Courts	1
Pools	1
Nature Park	1
Trails	1

Harlon Block Sports Complex

Acreage: 88.00 acres

Location: 1020 W. 18th Street

Amenities:

Parking Spaces	251
Handicapped	13
Benches	16
Bleachers	18
Drinking Fountains	13
Pavilions	2
Shelters	10
BBQ Pit	15
Tables	57
Restrooms	
Male	4
Female	4
Playground 5-12	4
2-5	2
Swings	16
Basketball Courts	2
Softball Fields	3
Baseball Fields	1
Concession Stand	1
Trails	1

Isaac Rodriguez Park

Acreage: 26.86 acres

Location: 1200 E. 6th Street

Amenities:

Parking Spaces	186
Handicapped	13
Benches	24
Bleachers	9
BBQ Pit	8
Tables	28
Restrooms	
Male	1
Female	1
Playground 5-12	1
Swings	6
Baseball Fields	2
Concession Stand	1
Skatepark	1

La Plazita Park

Acreage: 1.80 acres

Location: 310 N. Kansas Ave

Amenities:

Benches	3
Bleachers	5
Pavilions	1
Shelters	2
BBQ Pit	1
Tables	3
Restrooms	
Male	1
Female	1
Playground 5-12	1
Basketball Courts	1

Pecan Grove Park

Acreage: 4.4 acres

Location: 1415 Sports Park Dr.

Amenities:

Playground, 5 to 12 1

Section 3

Needs Assessment and Citizen Input

Introduction

The Needs Assessment results are the most critical component of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. This assessment reflects the needs and desires of the citizens and identifies those that are the most critical. The Needs Assessment addresses the deficiencies in the park system and is used to develop the recommendations for future growth.

Needs Assessment standards are generally based on national demographics and trends and thus need to be modified for the local area in a realistic manner. Those national standards include:

1. **Park Acreage Standards**

Neighborhood Parks

The average for neighborhood park development is 1 to 1.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Weslaco currently exceeds the national average but those parks are classified as community or regional. In actuality there are only 2 acres considered to be neighborhood parks. Future development should address the need for neighborhood parks in areas where younger families are living. In the northeast and northwest sections of town there are no park services in any category.

At the current population park standards would require an additional 34 to 51 acres of park or, 6 to 10 parks and by the year 2020 an additional 2 to 3 parks, based on population.

Summary of Neighborhood Park Needs

- There is a deficit of neighborhood parks in Weslaco
- The largest deficit is in the northeast and northwest areas where there are no existing parks.
- The southeast area lacks existing neighborhood parks but there is a Texas Parks and Wildlife state park and wildlife area.
- The ETJ's both north and south do not have any park facilities.

Community Parks

Community parks are generally 20 acres in size serving a population of 4,000 to 5,000 residents. Weslaco is very close to meeting this standard and the master plan recommendation is to continue this level of development. By the year 2020 the City will have to add an additional 50+ acres of community parks. This could be reflected in a park north of the Expressway.

Regional/Special Need Park

Weslaco has one park in this classification. Harlon Block serves this need. Again, a special need park could be developed north of the Expressway to meet the needs of those residents. Harlon Block focuses on softball and baseball. The Master Plan recommendation would be to develop a regional park focusing on soccer and football. A secondary park could focus on swimming facilities.

Open Space

Open space preservation is one of the crucial needs for all cities in the Rio Grande Valley. Development is progressing and cities need to actively pursue acquiring and preserving land for future generations. Land needs to be conserved before development consumes the remaining large tracts of land. Weslaco has several opportunities for this conservation through the irrigation, drainage canals and in the northern ETJ. Those areas can provide linear or hike and bike trail parks, and a community and regional park site.

The target goal for open space is 10 acres per 1,000 residents. This goal can be reached in cooperation with current non-profits Valley Nature Center, Audubon Preserve and Estero Llano Grande State Park (in the city limits of Mercedes with access through Weslaco).

2. Facility Standards

Facilities are based on standards set by other cities in Texas, defining the number and type based on the needs of the community. There are several classifications:

Athletic Facilities

- Baseball
    a. Fields should be planned for all parks especially in the northern areas.
    b. **Level of Need - HIGH**
- Basketball (outdoors)
    a. Current supply is adequate if school facilities are used.
    b. All new parks should include at least two lighted courts
    c. **Level of Need – HIGH**
- Pavilions
    a. Popular facilities for parties and are important to Weslaco's way of life.
    b. Pavilions in Gibson Park should be replaced due to age.
    c. New pavilions should be added to existing parks and included in all new park designs.
    d. **Level of Need – Medium to High**
- Indoor Recreation Center – currently no facility is available north of IH2
    a. Standard is 1 per 25,000 people, there is a current deficit.
    b. Boys and Girls Club building a facility in City Park (Rodriguez Park) which meets the need south of the Expressway. There will still be deficit for the northern area by 2020.
    c. **Level of Need – HIGH**
- Tennis – currently there are 9 courts, resulting in no deficit at this time
    a. Need to build a complex of 4 courts in the northern section of town.
    b. Negotiate with school district for use of school courts after hours.
    c. **Level of Need – Medium**
- Playgrounds – currently has upgraded playgrounds at parks.
    a. Standard is 1 per 2,500 which means the city has no deficit.
    b. All new parks should have playgrounds and existing playgrounds that have not been updated should be updated in next two years.
    c. **Level of Need – Medium**

- Outdoor Swimming Pool – currently has 2
    a. Year 2020 2 pools but one of those should be a large aquatic facility so there is a deficit of 1 pool.
    b. Need to address new issue of splash pad. Potential of adding to existing parks or pools.
    c. All new pool development should include slides, spray features and zero depth, accessibility and picnic areas.
    d. **Level of Need – HIGH**
- Trails – currently level is primarily within City Park and Harlon Block. Total is approximately 2.3 miles.
    a. Currently there is a deficit and by the year 2020 the city should have 12 to 16 miles of trails.
    b. Trails have been ranked in both the 2007 and 2016 citizen survey as one of the highest items for development.
    c. There are no trails that connect facilities.
    d. Irrigation and drainage canals should be used to develop extensive system of trails that can connect destination sites (schools, churches, parks, businesses).
    e. **Level of Need – VERY HIGH**

In addition to these facilities, other amenities were identified in the citizen participate survey. These are listed in Section 6 Implementation.

3. Development Standards
   Weslaco has several unique development opportunities by providing green space and trails along major corridors, utilization of the irrigation and drainage canals, surplus land and clear zone lands that can be used by youth sports for practice, and the potential for RDF's (Regional Detention Facilities) that can also offset flooding.

   The City should also promote "green" development through the use of sustainable materials and energy. In addition, property that has historical significance, expansion of land masses that would preserve open spaces such as addition to the Valley Nature Center and the Frontera Audubon Park.

Citizen Input

Citizen input is the second most important component of the process for developing a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. Weslaco used several different methods to determine the needs of the community. Those included meetings and interviews with city staff and management, Park Board presentation, citywide public meetings and hearings, and an online citizen survey.

The citizen survey allowed city staff to determine the level of participation in recreational programs as well as assessing the needs of the community. This survey will assist city staff in future budget projects and justifications.
Survey provided the following information:

Location of responders

To be able to identify needs within Weslaco, the City was divided into sections with dividing lines being Texas Ave (FM88), Business 83 and IH2 (Expressway 83) as the dividing areas. The majority of the respondents (48.19%) came from the area south of Business 83. This is the area where the current majority of parks are located.

Level of satisfaction with park system

Respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the park system. The respondents rating of 61.36% as being satisfied or very satisfied with the park system. This rating is very important as it can be used over a period of time to determine improvements to the park system. In the 2007 survey, the ratings for satisfied and very satisfied were 54.2%. The overall rating for the park system has improved by 7.16%.

Reasons for satisfaction with park system

This is an open ended question for respondents to be able express their views about the park system. There were several responses concerning the variety of amenities at Harlon Block and City Park. One area identified were the trails in both of these parks and the need for more trails throughout the city. Sporting fields were identified as not meeting the demands of the community and that more fields should be built. The Valley Nature Center also was recognized as providing nature programs for children and excellent opportunities for bird watching.

Some of the general comments concerning the park were:

Track
Most of the parks are very well kept
I love the parks and would like to see more programs for children after school and summer programs
Thank you for the efforts put into the parks the last two years. They're looking. It would be nice if the walk/running trail at Harlon Block could be resurfaced.
Clean
It is always clean
Although much improved over the past two years we need more parks and different types....dog, soccer, walking, large baseball and softball complex to host tournaments
I like that you can play soccer baseball and the little kids can play on the playground.
I like the Nature Center

Reasons for dissatisfaction with park system

Respondents also had the opportunity to provide answers as to why they were dissatisfied with the park system. Those who were dissatisfied and very dissatisfied were 38.63%, identifying a need for improvement. Those comments included:

Do not want a skate park built
More lighting
Lack of quality jogging trails especially on the east and west side.
The city parks are filled with litter and not very well maintained.
The distance from my house to a park site, to far

Security
Parks are overcrowded. More parks are needed in order to fit every activity for children
Not enough parking spaces
Restrooms are always dirty
Not enough swings

Facilities to be developed next 5 to 10 years

This category allowed the respondents to identify what they would like to see developed over the next ten (10) years. There were seven categories which could be ranked Very Important, Important, Unimportant and Do Not Want. The facilities ranking the highest:
Athletic Facilities 63.64%
Recreation Center 60%
Trails to Link City and Linear Parks and Trail Corridors 58.18%
Large Community Parks 57.27%
Swimming Facilities 52.27%
Nature Preserves, Undeveloped 50.45%

The rankings for the facilities the respondents did not want parallel those ranked important i.e. Small Community Parks ranked the highest and Recreation Center lowest.

Most important type of facility to build

Respondents were asked to rank the facilities they felt were the most important for the park system. The two areas ranked highest were upgrading the maintenance at the parks (68.64%) and adding lighting to the parks (64.55%). These were areas that the focus group and park board had requested to be added to the survey. There was a tie for the top facilities, Indoor Recreation Center and Trails (57.73%), a tie for the second ranking, Splash Park and Picnic Areas (56.36%), and third was Playgrounds (55.45%). There was a total of five (5) facilities that could be ranked the highest.

The top 3 facilities to be built

Respondents were asked to rank their top three priorities of the original list. This was done to establish the direction the citizens want the Parks and Recreation Department to pursue. This question confirms the top facilities needed for the city. Rather than a percentage a total number of responses was used. The top item was Upgrade Maintenance of City Parks (73), Splash Park (57), Indoor Recreation Center (56), Add lights at current parks (54), and Trails (52). The next items listed were in the range of 30 responses so there is a distinct gap between the highest ranking items and the remainder of the amenities. Two of these items could be considered during the budget process.

Facilities most lacking in the city

This question allowed respondents to identify what recreational amenities are missing in their geographic area. Ranking the highest with 23 responses was a three way tie – Indoor Recreation Center, Splash Park, and Trails. The next ranking at 20 points was Dog Park. The third ranking at 12 points is a Dog Park. After this the rankings are relatively low.

Those with children

Of the respondents 57% had children under the age of 18.

Sources of information concerning Parks and Recreation

This question allows the department to learn where people acquire their information about the Parks and Recreation Department and the City. The highest response (50.72%) was from the City Web Site/Internet. The next two items Word of Mouth (49.28%) and Facebook (46.38%) comprised the bulk of information received by citizens. In the 2007 survey newspapers were the highest ranking source of information at 78.1%. Weslaco residents are adept at using the Internet for their choice of information.

Other needs not addressed

The last survey question was open ended so residents could express what they would like to see in their parks. The question had similar responses as the previous questions with request for new soccer and baseball fields, more basketball courts, trails, Dog Park and Splash Park. The question addressed many of the same maintenance issues from Question 3.

New and improved lighting
Security
Improved maintenance
Clean restrooms
Improved landscaping
Parking
Clean restrooms

Community and Advisory Board Meetings

A meeting was held with the Parks Advisory Board to discuss their ideas for future development and then they took the citizen survey.

A second meeting was held with those individuals who currently use the parks. This was a public meeting held on March 9, 2016 with all residents invited. Those attending were shown the survey and expressed the following concerns:

1. Survey should list items for which the city could reasonably afford to build.
2. Survey should have a question concerning maintenance issues.
3. Survey should have a question concerning more lighting in the parks.
4. Survey should be available to everyone.
5. A partnership should be developed with the Weslaco school system.

Once all the surveys were analyzed the Parks Board, the Board met on May 18, 2016 to discuss the recommendation for the top 10 priorities for the community. The Park Board recommendation was submitted to the City Commission on July 5, 2016 for their approval prior to submitting the Master Plan to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Section 4

Goals for the Weslaco Park System

Goals for the Weslaco Park System

It is important to establish goals as part of the park planning process. These goals express the views and desires of the community through survey, focus groups, meeting with city management, Park Board and City Commission. The goals will be used by the decision makers in determining priorities, funding and development of partnerships.

Goal #1	**Maintain Weslaco's park system as one of the premier park systems in the Rio Grande Valley**
1.1	Implement a long-range plan for park development based on the recommendations of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.
1.2	Identify park planning areas with the greatest need for park development, pursue the acquisition of land and develop facilities as needed.
1.3	Provide adequate maintenance funds and staff for existing parks prior to building new ones.
Goal #2	**Develop an even and adequate distribution of park facilities citywide.**
2.1	Maintain a strong system and larger community park throughout the city.
2.2	Focus on both indoor and outdoor park systems.
2.3	Plan for park development in future park growth areas of the city.
2.4	Provide adequate funding for new park development.
2.5	Develop a plan with the school district to develop joint use parks.
2.6	Provide opportunities for the citizens to participate in planning, developing, maintaining the City's parks.
Goal #3	**Develop parks so they become focal points in the city.**
3.1	Incorporate unique designs and amenities in all future neighborhood parks so it reflects the neighborhood around it.
3.2	Provide city staff with sufficient manpower and funding sources to maintain all parkland and facilities in a superior manner. Develop budgets for new recreational amenities to insure there is sufficient funding for maintenance once those amenities open.
3.3	Utilize native plant material and low water plants where appropriate to reduce maintenance and irrigation.
3.4	Develop a pedestrian and bikeway corridors and trails to connect all parts of the City such as neighborhoods, parks, schools, civic facilities, and businesses.

Goal #4	**Protect the natural areas within the city and ETJ to include natural open spaces, drainage corridors and flood plain corridors.**
4.1	Develop green spaces preservation as a Commission objective, so that the city can be known for the greenbelts and open spaces.
4.2	Develop criteria for the development of green and open spaces throughout the City and ETJ.
4.3	Prioritize areas of preservation in conjunction with conservation partners.
4.4	Encourage educational institutions, semi-private land trusts, and other non-profits organizations to acquire, manage and maintain natural and open space conservations areas within the City and ETJ.
Goal #5	**Develop partnerships with private, non-profits, public and semi-public organizations to promote efficient use of public funds for parks and open space.**
5.1	Assist in strengthening local organizations that can assist with developing park and recreation facilities and programs for the residents.
5.2	Actively pursue partnerships to help build or fund parks and recreation facilities.
5.3	Consider joint development of school and park sites to adequately fulfill the needs of the community.
5.4	Pursue the beautification corridors into the City and nature sites.

Section 5

Master Plan Recommendations

Introduction

The recommendations for implementing the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan have been developed from the community meetings and online survey. The improvements to Weslaco's park system should include a trail system linking the various sections of the City, a splash park, a dog park, and indoor recreation center. The Boys and Girls Club expansion can serve as the Indoor Recreation Center for the south side but there is a deficit north of IH2.

The City should also look at land acquisition in the north areas and the far south. Development is taking place rapidly in those areas and available land will become non-existent. Maintenance and security are areas the residents feel should be addressed. These can be addressed through the budget process. One respondent noted that no new facilities should be discussed until adequate maintenance is provided for those already established.

Park development can fall into four (4) categories:

1. Development of new recreational amenities: Trails, Indoor Recreation Center, Athletic Fields
2. Development of new parks: Splash Park, Dog Park, parks north of IH2
3. Improvements to existing parks: Lighting, additional athletic fields, upgrade maintenance levels
4. Land acquisition: north of IH2, City-school agreements, far south ETJ

The 2007 Master Plan identified improvements for each park. Many of these improvements have been accomplished with new playground equipment at Harlon Block Park, and Rodriguez Park, expansion of the Valley Nature Center, re-design of Cavazos Park, and a new dog park amenity at Harlon Block Park.

Master Plan Listing for Park Development Identified in Online Survey

1. **Trails** – connecting the parks to other areas of the City. These should include access for jogging, running and bicycles. By 2020, Weslaco should 12 to 16 miles of trails. This would be an ongoing project during the ten (10) year period.
2. **Neighborhood Park in northeast side of city** – there are no parks in this area. A cooperative agreement with the school district should be undertaken and the development of City/School Park sites. The planning for this should begin immediately.
3. **Neighborhood Park in northwest side of city** – the same project identification as the northeast side.
4. **Community or Regional Park north of IH2** – this park should include an amenity that would attract tournaments. The facility would address the issue of the lack of football, soccer, baseball and softball fields.
5. **Develop splash parks** –two (2) splash parks should be developed, one on the south side and one in a new park north of IH2.
6. **Develop a dog park** – there is no dog park within the City. One park site centrally located would be used by residents from all over the community. This type of park people will drive to get to.

7. **Harlon Block** – improve lighting and circulation in the park. Additional playing fields could be added.
8. **Rodriguez Park** – this could be a section of the trail system, with improvements to the swimming pool.
9. **Develop a Sports Complex** – cities are developing sport complexes to attract major tournaments for tourism traffic. This would require additional park land of at least 50 acres.
10. **Swimming Complex** – Weslaco has a pool but no real swimming complex. A swimming complex would add the ability to host swim meets and for use by the schools.

Section 6

Implementation Plan

Introduction

The City has several deficiencies in park land and recreational amenities. In the previous pages those needs have been characterized. Based on the citizen input, park standards, and City Commission concerns the following list of priorities have been identified. These priorities can be used for park development.

1. Trails
2. New Parks
3. Additional Lights at Existing Parks
4. Splash Park
5. Youth softball/baseball Fields
6. Youth soccer/football Fields
7. Picnic area
8. Indoor Recreation Center
9. Leisure Pool
10. Amphitheater

Grant Funding Sources:

These are funding sources that would be available to the City of Weslaco to apply for development and programming. Each organization has a different time line for submission and requirements.

Texas Parks and Wildlife

Knapp Community Care Foundation

Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation

National Park Service

TX Dot Enhancement Grants (the name for this program changes regularly)

In addition to these agencies there are other Foundations that assist with specific types of park development such as the Meadows Foundation. Local businesses have the ability to donate monies to specific projects and would receive tax benefits.

WESLACO PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Action Plan 2016-2026

Priority	Action	Type of Development	Potential Funding	Time Frame
High				
1	Develop Citywide Trail Plan	New Development	State Grants, City Funding	2016
2	Develop New Park	New Dev. North of IH2	Bonds, State Grants, City Funding	2017-2018
3	Add. Lights at Parks	Renovation	City Funding, Grants	2016-2018
4	Splash Park	New Dev., 1 north, 1 south	City Funding, State Grants, Donations	2017-2019
5	Youth SB/BB Fields	Ren. And New Dev.	City Funding, Donations, St.Grants	2017-2019
Medium				
6	Youth Soc/FB Fields	Ren. And New Dev.	City Funding, Donations, St. Grants	2017-2020
7	Picnic Areas	Ren. And New Dev.	City Funding, Donations	2016-2020
Low				
8	Indoor Rec. Center	New Dev. North of IH2	State Grants, Grants, Bonds	2020-Beyond
9	Leisure Pool	New Development	State Grants, Grants, Bonds	2020-Beyond
10	Ampitheater	New Development	State Grants, Grants, Donat., Bonds	2020-Beyond

The rankings of the park amenities is based on citizen input. The Low Priority projects are those with a higher cost and will require the city to develop financing strategies prior to final development and site location.

APPENDIX

Map

Online Survey

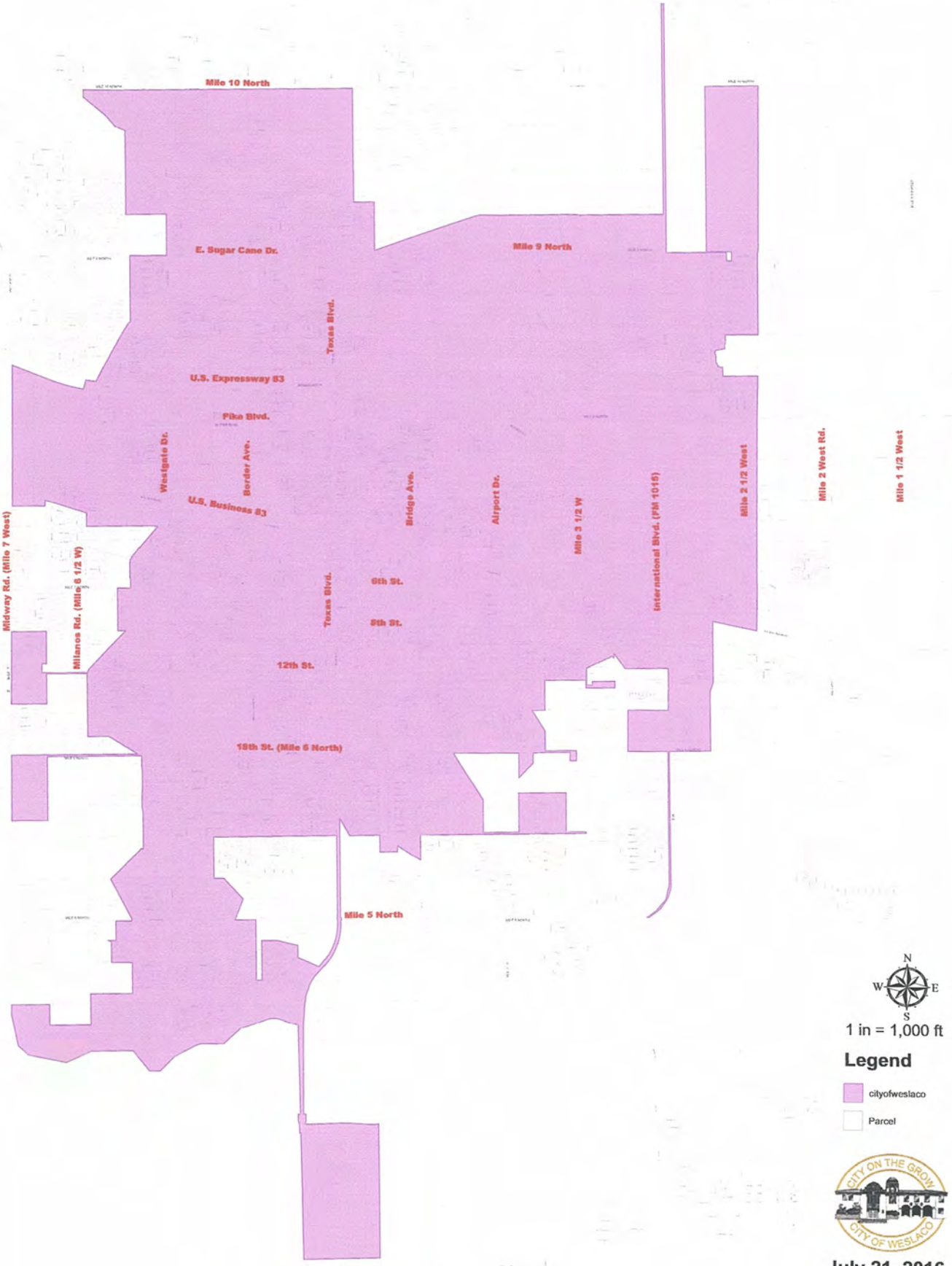
Park Board Posted Meetings

City Commission Posted Meeting

PLANNING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

CITY OF WESLACO

PLANNING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT



July 21, 2016

WESLACO CITY LIMITS

Survey modified for Survey Monkey

2016 CITY OF WESLACO

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Survey

Dear Weslaco Resident:

The City of Weslaco will be updating the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan and would like community input as to how to develop Weslaco's parks and recreation areas over the next 10 years. Your answers are very important, and will help guide the City in future park acquisitions and development. Please provide the answers and comments in the space provided.

Please return the completed survey in your next water bill payment, or mail to: Weslaco PARD -255 S. Kansas - Weslaco, Texas 78596. All surveys to be returned by April 2, 2016.

Questions? Contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 956- 447-3407 – or Weslacotx.gov/Parks-Recreation. Thank you for your assistance.

David Arce, Parks and Recreation Director

1. **WHAT GENERAL AREA OF WESLACO DO YOU LIVE IN? PLEASE CHECK.**

   _____ **NORTH WEST** (North of Expressway 83 & West of Texas Ave.)

   _____ **NORTH EAST** (North of Expressway 83 & East of Texas Ave.)

   _____ **CENTRAL WEST** (Between Expressway 83 and Business 83, West of Texas Ave.)

   _____ **CENTRAL EAST** (Between Expressway 83 and Business 83, East of Texas Ave.)

   _____ **SOUTH WEST** (South of Business 83 and West of Texas Ave.)

   _____ **SOUTH EAST** (South of Business 83 and East of Texas Ave.)

   _____ **OUTSIDE THE CITY BUT IN THE ETJ**

2. **HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN WESLACO?**

   _____ **Very Satisfied**

   _____ **Satisfied**

   _____ **Dissatisfied**

   _____ **Very Dissatisfied**

3. **Explain what you like or dislike about the City of Weslaco Park System.**

_____

_____

_____

4. **HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR THE CITY TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF FACILITIES OVER THE NEXT 5 TO 10 YEARS (1-VERY IMPORTANT, 2-IMPORTANT, 3-UNIMPORTANT, 4-DO NOT WANT)**

_____ **Linear Parks and Trail Corridors**
_____ **Nature Preserves, Undeveloped**
_____ **Large Community Parks**
_____ **Small Community Parks**
_____ **Athletic Facilities**
_____ **Swimming Facilities**
_____ **Recreation Center**
_____ **Trails to Link City**

5. **FROM QUESTION NUMBER 3, WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CHOICE FOR YOU? WRITE ONLY ONE CHOICE BELOW.**

_____

6. **FROM THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES, WHICH ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT TO CONSTRUCT IN WESLACO? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.**

_____ **Youth Softball/Baseball Fields**
_____ **Nature Center**
_____ **Youth Soccer/Football Fields**
_____ **Adult Softball/Baseball Fields**
_____ **Indoor Recreation Center**
_____ **In-Line Hockey Rink**
_____ **Pavilions for Group Activities**
_____ **Basketball Courts**
_____ **Leisure Pool**
_____ **Splash Park**
_____ **Add Lights at Current Parks**
_____ **Upgrade Maintenance at Parks**
_____ **Amphitheater**
_____ **Picnic Areas**
_____ **Skatepark**
_____ **Disc Golf**
_____ **Trails**
_____ **Playgrounds**
_____ **Dog Park**
_____ **Tennis Courts**
_____ **Lap Pool**
_____ **New Parks**
_____ **Motorized Trails**

7. **CHOOSE 3 THAT THAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT TO BUILD?**

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

8. **IN THE AREA IN WHICH YOU LIVE, WHAT ONE RECREATION FACILITY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CONSTRUCTED?**

_____

9. **YOU HAVE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18?** **YES** **NO**

10. **FROM WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SOURCES DO YOU GET INFORMATION ABOUT PARKS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN WESLACO? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)**

_____ **Internet or City Web Site** _____ **Flyers**

_____ **Television** _____ **Word of Mouth**

_____ **Newspapers (Name of Paper)** _____

_____ **Social Media (Types)** _____

_____ **Parks and Recreation Office**

PLEASE LIST ANY OTHER CONCERNS OR NEEDS CONCERNING PARKS AND RECREATION THAT YOU WOULD LIKE THE CITY TO ADDRESS.

_____

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE WESLACO PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
WEDNESDAY MAY 18, 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the PARKS ADVISORY BOARD of the City of Weslaco, Texas will hold a Regular Meeting in the Purchasing Conference Room, located at 255 S. Kansas Ave. on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the following items:

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Certification of Public Notice.
B. Roll Call

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion to vote on top 10 priorities for the Master Plan.

III. REPORTS

A. Status report Dog Park.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Public Comments portion of the meeting promotes a fair and open process for the governance of the City. This Portion of the meeting is not intended to be an extended discussion or a debate and is limited to three minutes for each presenter. The Parks Director and Parks Advisory Board Members do not reply; they listen. Matters under litigation are not to be addressed and comments regarding specific City employees and elected officials may be prohibited. If you are discussing something not included on the agenda, the Parks Advisory Board cannot take any formal action until it is placed on an agenda notice of the meeting is properly posted. Registration for the Public Comments must be submitted to the Weslaco Parks office before the Parks Advisory Board Meeting is called to order. As the Parks Director calls upon those who submitted a registration form with the Weslaco Parks Office, please step forward and state your name and address before beginning your presentation.

V. ADJOURNMENT

I hereby certify this **Notice of a Regular Meeting of the Weslaco Park Advisory Board** was posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act on the outside bulletin board at City Hall of the City of Weslaco, located at the 255 South Kansas Avenue entrance, visible and accessible to the general public during and after regular working hours. This notice was posted on this day of May 13, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. and will remain so posted continuously for at least 72-hours preceding the scheduled time of this meeting in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

NOTE: If any accommodation for a disability is required, please notify the Parks and Recreation Office at (956) 968.3181, Ext. 1701 prior to the meeting date.

_____
David Arce

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE WESLACO PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY MAY 5, 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the PARKS ADVISORY BOARD of the City of Weslaco, Texas will hold a Regular Meeting in the Purchasing Conference Room, located at 255 S. Kansas Ave. on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the following items:

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Certification of Public Notice.

B. Roll Call

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Parks & Recreation open space master plan.

B. Discussion and review of parks survey.

III. REPORTS

A. Status report on Harlon Block and Mayor Pablo G. Peña City Park.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Public Comments portion of the meeting promotes a fair and open process for the governance of the City. This Portion of the meeting is not intended to be an extended discussion or a debate and is limited to three minutes for each presenter. The Parks Director and Parks Advisory Board Members do not reply; they listen. Matters under litigation are not to be addressed and comments regarding specific City employees and elected officials may be prohibited. If you are discussing something not included on the agenda, the Parks Advisory Board cannot take any formal action until it is placed on an agenda notice of the meeting is properly posted. Registration for the Public Comments must be submitted to the Weslaco Parks office before the Parks Advisory Board Meeting is called to order. As the Parks Director calls upon those who submitted a registration form with the Weslaco Parks Office, please step forward and state your name and address before beginning your presentation.

V. ADJOURNMENT

I hereby certify this **Notice of a Regular Meeting of the Weslaco Park Advisory Board** was posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act on the outside bulletin board at City Hall of the City of Weslaco, located at the 255 South Kansas Avenue entrance, visible and accessible to the general public during and after regular working hours. This notice was posted on this day of May 2, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. and will remain so posted continuously for at least 72-hours preceding the scheduled time of this meeting in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

NOTE: If any accommodation for a disability is required, please notify the Parks and Recreation Office at (956) 968.3181, Ext. 1701 prior to the meeting date.

David Arce

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE WESLACO PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
WEDNESDAY MARCH 9, 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the PARKS ADVISORY BOARD of the City of Weslaco, Texas will hold a Regular Meeting in the Purchasing Conference Room, located at 255 S. Kansas Ave. on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the following items:

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Certification of Public Notice.
B. Roll Call

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Parks & Recreation open space master plan.

III. REPORTS

A. Status report on Harlon Block and Mayor Pablo G. Peña City Park Basketball Courts.
B. Status report on irrigation system at Harlon Block Sports Complex.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Public Comments portion of the meeting promotes a fair and open process for the governance of the City. This Portion of the meeting is not intended to be an extended discussion or a debate and is limited to three minutes for each presenter. The Parks Director and Parks Advisory Board Members do not reply; they listen. Matters under litigation are not to be addressed and comments regarding specific City employees and elected officials may be prohibited. If you are discussing something not included on the agenda, the Parks Advisory Board cannot take any formal action until it is placed on an agenda notice of the meeting is properly posted. Registration for the Public Comments must be submitted to the Weslaco Parks office before the Parks Advisory Board Meeting is called to order. As the Parks Director calls upon those who submitted a registration form with the Weslaco Parks Office, please step forward and state your name and address before beginning your presentation.

V. ADJOURNMENT

I hereby certify this **Notice of a Regular Meeting of the Weslaco Park Advisory Board** was posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act on the outside bulletin board at City Hall of the City of Weslaco, located at the 255 South Kansas Avenue entrance, visible and accessible to the general public during and after regular working hours. This notice was posted on this day of March 4, 2016 at 4:45 p.m. and will remain so posted continuously for at least 72-hours preceding the scheduled time of this meeting in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

NOTE: If any accommodation for a disability is required, please notify the Parks and Recreation Office at (956) 968.3181, Ext. 1701 prior to the meeting date.

_____
David Arce

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City Commission of the City of Weslaco, Texas will hold a Regular Meeting in the Legislative Chamber of City Hall, located at 255 South Kansas Avenue, on Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 5:30 PM for the purpose of discussing the following items:

NOTE: If during the course of the meeting, any discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in executive or closed session, the Weslaco City Commission will convene in such executive or closed session whether or not such item is posted as an executive session item at any time during the meeting when authorized by the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

I. CALL TO ORDER

	Pages
A. Certification of Public Notice.	1-2
B. Invocation.	
C. Pledge of Allegiance.	
D. Mayoral recognition.	
E. Roll Call.	

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Public Comments portion of the meeting promotes a fair and open process for the governance of the City. This portion of the meeting is not intended to be an extended discussion or a debate and is limited to three minutes for each presenter. Due to the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Mayor and City Commissioners do not reply; they listen. Matters under litigation are not to be addressed and comments regarding specific City employees and elected officials may be prohibited.

If you are discussing something not included on the agenda, the Commission cannot take any formal action until it is placed on an agenda and notice of the meeting is properly posted. Registration for Public Comments must be submitted to the City Secretary before the City Commission meeting is called to order. As the Mayor calls upon those who submitted a registration form with the City Secretary, please step to the podium and state your name and address before beginning your presentation.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are of a routine or administrative nature. The City Commission has been furnished with background and support material on each item, and/or it had been discussed at a previous meeting. All items will be acted upon by one vote without being discussed separately unless requested by one commission member, in which event the item or items will immediately be withdrawn for individual consideration in its normal sequence after the items not requiring separate discussion have been acted upon. The

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and consideration to approve Ordinance 2016-24 disannexing in accordance with the boundary lines affixed by the City of Mercedes settlement agreement and City of Donna Memorandum of Understanding. First reading of Ordinance 2016-24. Possible action. (Staffed by Planning and Code Enforcement Department.) Attachment. 35-39

B. Discussion and consideration to approve Resolution 2016-50 authorizing the submission of the Weslaco Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Possible action. (Staffed by Parks and Recreation.) Attachment. 40-44

C. Discussion and consideration to identify the top ten (10) park priorities for the next ten (10) years. Possible action. (Staffed by Parks and Recreation.) Attachment. 45-46

D. Discussion and consideration to approve the reinvestment of the Booth Endowment Funds through the purchase of a Certificate of Deposit with Rio Bank for the term of 18 months in an amount not to exceed $240,000.00. Possible action. (Staffed by Library Department.) Attachment. 47-54

E. Discussion and consideration to award the bid to the sole respondent for the purchase of a 2016 Ford Transit van for EMS division training in an amount not to exceed $34,000.00 as budgeted. Possible action. (Staffed by Fire Department.) Attachment. 55-65

F. Discussion and consideration to ratify Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for project M1621WESL related to the RAMP grant at the Airport increasing the local contribution in an amount not to exceed $40,000.00 and authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents. Possible action. (Staffed by Airport.) Attachment. 66-70

VII. REPORTS

A. Report by Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce. Attachment. 71

B. Report by Economic Development Corporation of Weslaco.

Governmental Affairs v. City of Weslaco, Texas in the 389th Judicial District Court of Hidalgo County pursuant to §551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

E. Personnel - Discussion regarding the investigation by the Department of Justice into an Americans with Disabilities Act complaint against the Police Department as authorized by §551.074 of the Texas Government Code.

IX. POSSIBLE ACTION ON WHAT IS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

I hereby certify this **Notice of a Regular Meeting of the Weslaco City Commission** was posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act on the outside bulletin board at City Hall of the City of Weslaco, located at the 255 South Kansas Avenue entrance, visible and accessible to the general public during and after regular working hours. This notice was posted on this 1st day of July, 2016 no later than 5:10 p.m. and will remain so posted continuously for at least 72-hours preceding the scheduled time of this meeting in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

/s/ Elizabeth M. Walker, City Secretary

NOTE: If any accommodation for a disability is required, please notify the City Secretary's Office at (956) 968-3181, Ext. 3100 prior to the meeting date.

Removed from Bulletin Board	Date:	Initials: