



Executive Summary

The City of Hurst has a superior parks and recreation system that instills a strong sense of pride in the residents of the community. The parks system is diverse and innovative as is evident from the quality play equipment, athletic fields and natural areas.

The image of Hurst is characterized by a number of factors:

- Hurst is a “shaded city well covered with trees” which is largely due to the many mature post oak, pecan and other trees that are found throughout the City, which is also the very reason that the parks in Hurst are so well liked and favored over parks in some of the adjacent cities.



It is noteworthy that the post oak trees are remnants of the endangered Cross Timbers vegetation community of the region.

- The topography change along the creeks and certain parts of the southern section of the City is unique and adds to the image of Hurst.



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- The major thoroughfares and shaded residential streets that transect the City further define the image of Hurst. Views from these roads to the surrounding landscape as well as roadside treatments and the marking of major intersections are all contributors to the image of Hurst.
- The system of creeks, drainage ways and utility easements is an essential part of the City of Hurst and contributes to its image.

The manner in which these features are celebrated, protected and respected by the community will essentially determine how the City is perceived in terms of being different and unique compared to other surrounding cities.

Hurst was established in 1870 and incorporated in 1952. In order to do proper planning for parks and recreation in the future, it is essential to understand the demographics of a city. The current population of 37,100 is expected to grow by less than 10% in the next 25 years. An adult population dominates Hurst: 58% of the population is between 21 and 64. Children and teens make up 30% of the population. The residents are well educated with 55% of the population holding a college degree or higher.



The purpose of the Hurst Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan is to replace the previous Master Park Plan Update prepared in 1997 and is formulated to address the time frame from the year 2006 until the year 2015. The objective of this Master Plan is to provide the framework for orderly and consistent planning, development and improvement of the park system.

Eight specific goals are established for Hurst, which are:

1. Provide parkland and a variety of recreation facilities and programs to meet the changing recreational needs and desires of the City of Hurst's population.
2. Continue to maintain and manage the park system to improve the physical form and image of the City of Hurst.
3. Preserve and enhance Hurst's open space and natural resources, especially areas with topography change and/or indigenous tree cover and land prone to flooding.
4. Provide an open space system which links parks, schools, greenbelts and open spaces.



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5. Provide a tool to coordinate multi-jurisdictional efforts with adjacent cities and the local school districts with respect to issues that affect recreational opportunities in the community.
6. Continue to maintain all of the Hurst parks and recreational facilities in a superior condition and sustainable manner.
7. Develop other funding mechanisms to help supplement the City's limited funding resources.
8. Continue the citizen participation process in all ongoing park planning and design, as well as updating of the Parks Master Plan.

The planning process followed with this Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan focuses on the specific recreational needs and issues of the citizens of Hurst. For public participation the methods used to gain citizen input include an extensive and scientifically accurate citywide Attitude (Telephone) Survey and public presentations to the Hurst Parks and Recreation Board.



An inventory of the park system in Hurst revealed that most parks in Hurst are well maintained and well managed. Some parks are in need of improvement, especially the older parks. The inventory also included the City's undeveloped parks for which development ideas are recommended.

The key recreational needs in Hurst for 2005 are based on a standards based assessment, a demand based assessment, and a resource-based assessment.

- According to the standard based needs assessment, the citywide park acreage is at a deficit of 164 acres. Community and special purposes parks meet the target standard; neighborhood parks are at 80% of the target standard and require an additional 15 acres of land; linear parks are a 39% of the target standard and require the acquisition of 65 acres; no land is dedicated to open space for which the acquisition of 55 acres is targeted.
- According to the demand based needs assessment, the top five recreational facilities needed are multi-purpose trails; an additional recreation center; a natatorium; park restrooms; and natural habitat.
- The resource based needs assessment identified major creeks and drainage channels, the TXU utility easements and the Cottonbelt Railway line as the three types of features in the City that should be preserved and/or adapted for recreational use and open space preservation. The protection of native stands of post oaks and other native vegetation also features as a resource based need.



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The recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan fall into four general categories:

1. Land acquisition is recommended for park expansion, new recreation facilities, and open space, including habitat protection where possible.
2. Development of undeveloped parks; Other than the specifics per individual park, general recommendations include an overall design concept for each undeveloped park; preference on the application of native plantings; and good pedestrian access to all parks, including signage and a wide, welcoming gateway.
3. Additional Recreation facilities are recommended according to the needs as expressed during the Attitude Survey and the standard based needs assessment. Trails were among the highest desired facility in the survey and it is recommended that Hurst develop a system of trails that will link parks, schools and other facilities.
4. Improvements to existing parks; In addition to specifics per individual park, citywide recommendations include park signage; a focused tree protection and planting program; creek enhancement to realize their recreation potential; art in parks and open space; and Wi-Fi (internet) access in City parks.

The recommendations are ranked in the category of short term (next five years), medium term (five to ten years) and longer-range implementation. Other recommendations include funding strategies and policy actions.



An entire chapter of the Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan report is dedicated to streetscape beautification and image of the City of Hurst. Support for streetscape beautification and image was solicited in the Attitude Survey whereby residents agree that improved landscaping will help improve the City's image and support the concept of gateways.

The report identifies street sections eligible for beautification and the potential location of gateways and nodes. The choice of streets determined for streetscape beautification is based on the following four factors:

- Visibility and presence in the community;
- Potential for economic boost for business along the street;
- Need for pedestrian connections; and
- Preservation of architectural, historic and/or visual quality.



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Gateways to the City of Hurst are typically identified where the City is entered along these street sections.

Recommendations for streetscape beautification are made in the categories of:

- Major thoroughfares with no direct business access,
- Roads associated with direct business access,
- Roads associated with multi-use, and
- Roads associated with single-family housing.

The recommended gateways for Hurst are categorized in terms of major gateways, intermediate gateways, minor gateways and intersection/node gateways.

The Hurst Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan is comprehensive in its scope, relevant in its content and visually accessible through supporting graphics. It is a valuable tool to assist with strategic as well as day-to-day decisions on issues of parks, trails, recreation and open space within the City.



Dense stand of post oak trees in Echo Hills Park.