



1. Introduction

The City of Hurst slogan: “a quality of life city” is truly befitting and becomes apparent to any newcomer that spends some time visiting the City and its well-kept park system. From its serene tree lined residential neighborhoods to its modern recreation facilities, residents of Hurst should feel proud to be part of a community that treasures and seeks to cultivate the health, safety, welfare, and image of the City and its people.

Hurst is ideally located for business and commerce; it lies along main vehicular and rail corridors between the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth and is close to the DFW International Airport. The City of Hurst is also a highly desirable place to live, much of which can be attributed to the quality of recreation facilities in the City, the wealth of recreation opportunities in the area and the extensive tree cover that is a unique feature of the City. The leadership of Hurst has long recognized that recreation plays an important role in the quality of life in Hurst, and that a strong recreation system provides for a healthier environment, improves the well being of children and young adults, and reduces the potential for crime in the City.

Well developed parks and natural areas are often the first place that visitors view in a community. In fact parks are one of the most visible elements of a city government at work, and can instill a strong sense of pride in the residents of a community. A good park system lets both citizens and visitors know that the leadership of the city is interested in

1.1 The Importance of Parks & Recreation Today

Parks are one of the most visible elements of a city government at work.



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providing the best for its citizens. From the play equipment in the neighborhood parks to the athletic fields of the Hurst Athletic Complex and the pond at Chisholm Park, evidence of a diverse and innovative park system is readily apparent.



Ball fields at the Hurst Athletic Complex

Hurst is approaching build-out. Land for new park land is typically limited and renovation of parks becomes an important consideration when studying the City's park system.

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 this 2006 Hurst Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan is to update the previous plan prepared in 1997. This updated master plan reviews the goals and priorities established by the previous plan, and provides an assessment of Hurst's parks, recreation and open space system in the year 2005. The park planning process allows the citizens of Hurst to determine what their preferred park and recreation priorities should be for the next five to ten years.

1.2 Purpose of the Parks Master Plan

The 2006 Parks Master Plan:

- Points out opportunities and recommends alternatives for improving the park system;
- Looks at the location of parks and recreational facilities within the city and recommends measures to ensure a balanced distribution throughout the City;

The Parks Master Plan guides the City in determining where and how parks funding should be allocated over the next five to 10 years.



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- Guides city staff in acquiring land where available to meet current and future park and open space needs;
- Identifies the need for additional recreational facilities;
- Prioritizes key recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan so that the most significant deficiencies are addressed as quickly as possible;
- Is intended to guide city staff and city leaders in determining where and how parks funding should be allocated over the next five to ten years.

1.3 Jurisdictional and Planning Area

The Hurst Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan is intended to cover all of the City of Hurst. The recommendations of this plan will be considered by the City in future deliberations and decisions.

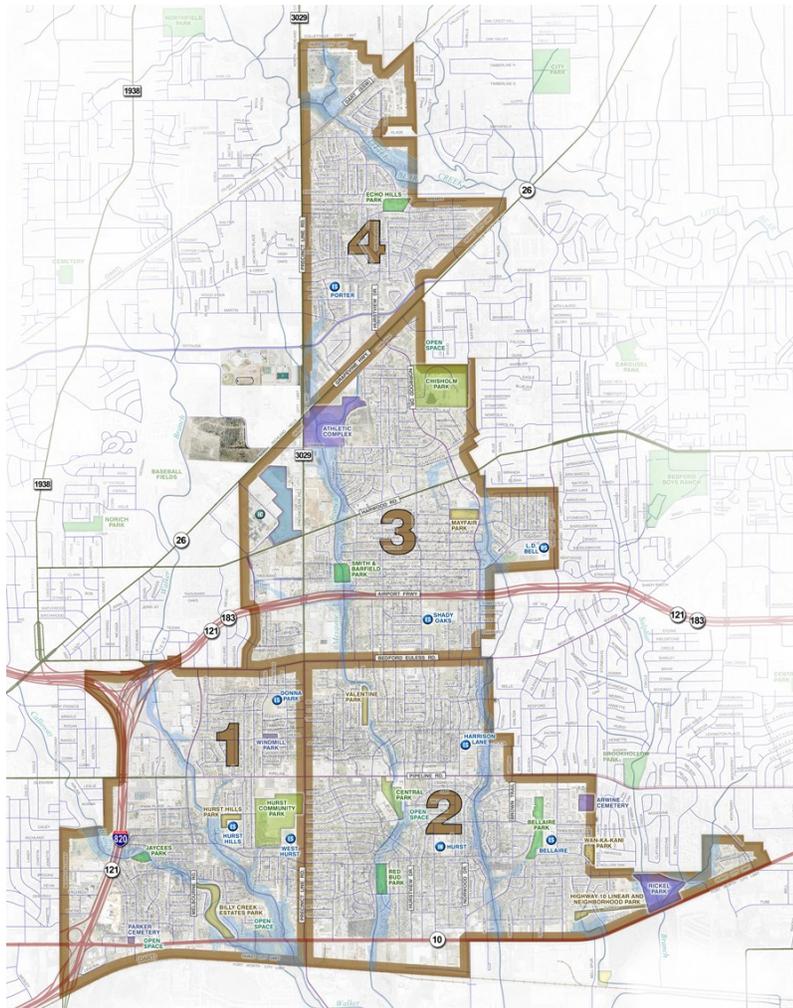


Figure 1.1 Study area of the Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan



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Hurst is the primary governmental entity charged with providing recreational facilities for the citizens of Hurst. Ancillary recreational facilities may be provided by the State of Texas through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Hurst-Euless-Bedford (HEB) Independent School District, HEB Recreation Federation, Tarrant County and various homeowners associations.

The Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan follows the general guidelines for local park master plans established by TPWD. This document also is intended to meet the requirements of the Department of Interior for the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program.



The pond at Chisholm Park is enjoyed by young and old.

The Hurst Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan is formulated to address the time frame from the year 2006 until the year 2015.

Per planning requirements issued by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department January 27, 2005, the Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan should be completely updated after a ten year period or before if any major developments occur which significantly alter the recreation needs of the City. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Board with the City staff continually review their facilities, programs and services within the context of the Master Plan.

1.4 Role of the City of Hurst in providing recreational opportunities

1.5 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Timeframe



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1.6 **Park Master Plan Components**

This master plan includes the components shown in Figure 1.2 and meets the requirements of Park Master Plans as established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Components of the Parks Master Plan

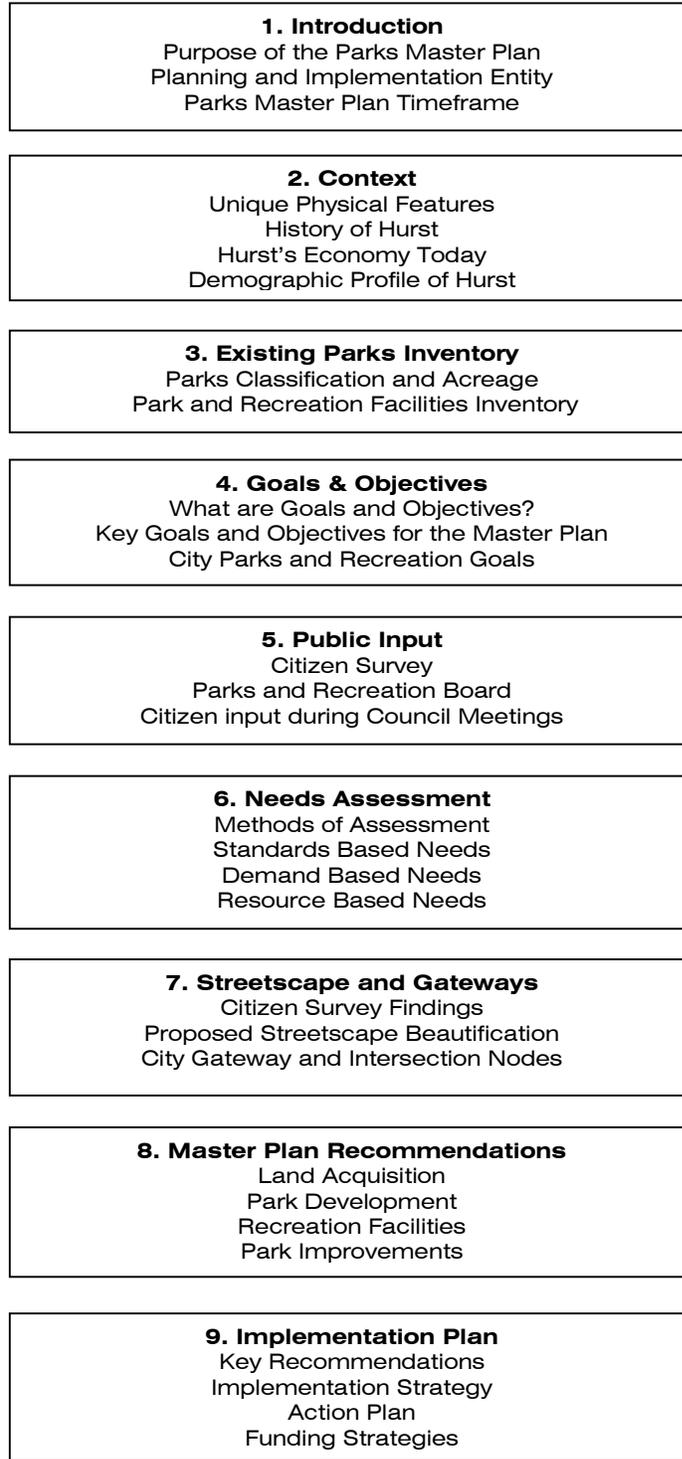


Figure 1.2 Components of the Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan