



Community Parks





Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

Central Park

Type of Park: *Community Park.*

Address: 700 Mary Drive

Size of Park: 17.5 Acres



Comments – Central Park contains the Hurst Recreation Center, the Central Aquatics Center and the Hurst Tennis Center, which are discussed later in this chapter under “Specialized Recreation Centers”. Central Park also includes an open space that is the size of a small neighborhood park and acts as such for the neighboring community. It contains a pavilion, shaded picnic areas, a playground unit and open lawn area. The ground on the open space is undulating, making it unsuitable for ball games, but making it an attractive place to run and play. Most of the trees in the park are relatively old and it is evident that more trees need to be planted even though the park already has a fair amount of shade provided by mature post oak, pecan and hackberry trees. The older trees are an example of the need to invest now for the future, before they begin to die off.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 2 basketball goals
- 1 playground
- 2 pavilions
- 9 picnic units
- 3 barbeque grills
- 3 benches
- 1 drinking fountain



Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

Parking:	Off-Street:	280 spaces
	On-Street:	0 spaces
	Handicap:	13 spaces

Based on the current supply of parking, Central Park is in compliance with the ADA requirement.

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Central Park:

- Unlike what may be expected from a park with the stature and prominence of Central Park, its presence along Pipeline Road is in need of improvement. Set back from the road, it lacks an inviting and welcoming entrance. Central Park needs an entranceway designed and developed to mark the park's presence, welcome visitors and present the promise of fun and excitement.
- Apply the theme of the entranceway design throughout the rest of the park to create a sense of unity.
- Develop and implement a focused tree planting program to ensure the timely and conscientious replacement of dying trees in the future.



The existing park signage is not prominent enough and needs improvement.



Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

Hurst Community Park

Type of Park: Community Park.

Address: 601 Precinct Line Road
Year Built: 1997
Size of Park: 44.9 Acres



Comments – This Community Park is located close to West Hurst Elementary School. It is a well-maintained park with a wide array of recreational amenities that include lighted baseball fields, soccer fields and sand volleyball courts. The four-field baseball ballpark is a large dominant element in this facility. It houses an interesting covered playground, which is a centerpiece of the park. The dynamic shade structure opens above the play unit but shades the surrounding seating areas.

In contrast to the highly programmed part of the park, one corner of the park, known as the Wells Natural Area, is densely wooded with a hike/bike trail that curves through it. The nature walks and picnic areas compliment the active sport amenities in this 45-acre Community Park.

Restrooms are found to be a necessity in many parks. However, restrooms in parks are notorious for inviting unacceptable behavior, being vandalized and an eyesore. Measures to prevent this include location of restrooms in highly visible areas, entryways with a sense of openness and an overall aesthetically pleasing design. The existing screening of the portable restrooms in this park assists in achieving some of this goal.



Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 4 baseball fields - competitive
- 2 soccer fields - competitive
- 1 mile multi-purpose trail
- 2 playground units
- 1 natural area
- 2 sand volleyball courts
- 2 group shelters
- 1 pavilion
- 36 picnic units
- 4 barbeque grills
- 2 benches
- 20 bleachers
- 6 drinking fountains
- 1 concession building
- 1 restroom facility
- 2 portable restrooms

Parking: **Off-Street:** 424 spaces
 On-Street: 0 spaces
 Handicap: 18 spaces

Based on the current supply of parking, Hurst Community Park is in compliance with the ADA requirement.



At Hurst Community Park, this playground is placed at the center of the surrounding shade structure.

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Hurst Community Park:

- Other than the wooded area, the park has an overall lack of trees. It is suggested that a tree-planting plan be developed for implementation over a period of time.
- The park lacks a strong entry feature. It is recommended that a feature be designed and constructed that is inviting and that welcomes visitors to the park, similar to what has been created at the entryways into the Hurst Athletic Complex.
- Consider acquiring additional property along Precinct Line Road in order to provide additional recreational amenities.



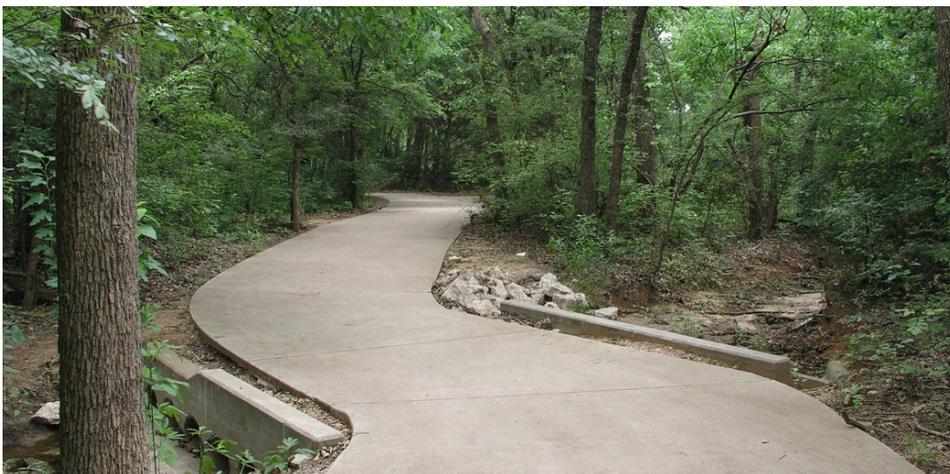
Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan



The inviting park pavilion provides much needed shade.



Simple but effective manner to provide park restroom facilities.



Dense vegetation allows for an exciting trail experience.



Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

Chisholm Park

Type of Park: *Community Park.*

Address: 2200 Norwood Drive

Size of Park: 50 Acres



Comments – Chisholm Park is a major asset to the City and is a park that provides much reason for pride. It plays host to a whole range of activities that cater to a wide variety of people. The pond, playgrounds and Aquatics Center are huge attractions. Spontaneous discussions with a few park users revealed that some were residents of another city that had brought their children to the park to play. They enjoyed the well-shaded play equipment, shaded areas for small children and the easily accessible portable restroom facilities. One fisherman mentioned that he visits the park on a daily basis to fish and finds it extremely relaxing and enjoyable.

This park is regarded as fully built out. It has a number of large picnic areas with large pavilions and picnic units. Old and mature post oak trees are in a declining condition and will need to be mitigated in the future as they provide much needed shade. There is evidence of erosion along a few of the concrete walks in this area and the roots of some trees are undercut. The grove of post oak trees on the northwestern side of the park and at the base of the water tower near the park has a welcoming and sheltered ambiance.

The pond is a huge attraction for visitors to enjoy visually, to walk around and to relax with their fishing rods in hand. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department regularly stocks the pond with catfish and rainbow trout. An open drainage way leads to the pond. This drainage way has the potential to be incorporated as an attractive water feature with pools and



Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

riffles (running water between stones) that will encourage various forms of aquatic life.

The vehicular access through the park has a certain charm to it. The absence of a curb and gutter system and its winding nature creates a rural feel that is pleasing and inviting. All future road upgrades should have the objective to maintain this pleasing effect.

The bollard posts on the side of the roads have the purpose to define the boundary of the road and to keep vehicles within that boundary. While the bollard system contributes to the rural feel of the park setting, they require frequent maintenance.

At the ballpark, a dumpster is located right at the entrance. It is very visible and because it is not adequately enclosed, is unsightly and gives off unpleasant odors. Along the park's perimeter, some adjacent property owners have opted to visually open up their property, which is advantageous to both the park and landowners, since the landowner has pleasant views and, in turn, provides an added element of informal surveillance to the park.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 4 softball fields (competitive)
- 3 basketball goals
- 1 exercise course
- 1.5 miles of pedestrian trails
- 3 playgrounds
- 1 fishing pier
- 1 group shelter
- 3 pavilions
- 78 picnic units
- 42 barbeque grills
- 27 benches
- 8 bleachers
- 5 drinking fountains
- 5 foot bridges
- 1 pond
- 1 concession building
- 1 restroom facility
- 3 portable restrooms

Parking: **Off-Street:** 434 spaces
 On-Street: 0 spaces
 Handicap: 15 spaces

Based on the current supply of parking, Hurst Community Park is in compliance with the ADA requirement.

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Chisholm Park:

- Park visitors use the portable restrooms on the west side of the park and close to the pond and children's play area extensively. However they appear unsightly in the well-developed park setting. It is recommended that a permanent restroom feature be designed and constructed. Extra effort is required in assuring an aesthetically pleasing result that is comfortable, safe and unobtrusive. The



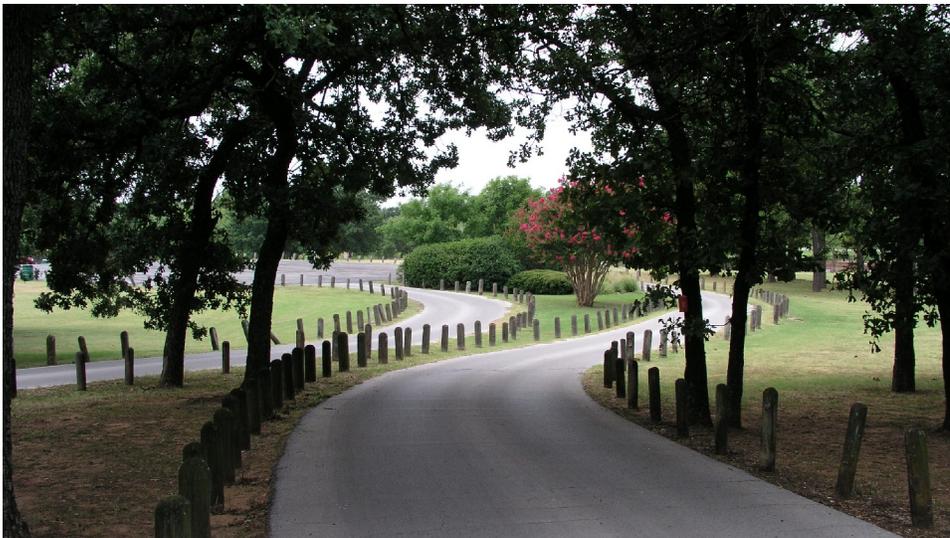
Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

criterion for its location is both physical and visual accessibility. A potential location is in the open area north of the main playground area. Extreme care should be taken to prevent damage to trees during and after construction.



The existing portable restroom facilities are much used but have an unsightly appearance.

- The main roadway that connects the pond area with the ballfield complex on the eastern side of the park has an open drainage way. It provides a pleasing rural setting. However, a multitude of bollards are installed in order to keep vehicles from veering off the road. A solution should be found whereby the natural setting of the park could be maintained while solving the problems with the bollards at the same time.



Beautifully conceived road through Chisholm Park; the freedom of no easement restriction allowed the park designer to create a pleasing experience for the motorist and a roadway that does not distract from the character of the park.



Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

A possible solution is to install a landscape bed with native ornamental grasses along the entire edge of the roadway with large stones (2 to 3 feet high) strategically placed in groups along the road to create the impression that stones are randomly located out of site within the planted bed. The idea is to create the impression that vehicles will encounter stones when an attempt is made to access the areas beyond the road.

- The dumpsters at the ballfields need to be relocated on a concrete pad with a proper live screen. The criteria for its location are visual and olfactory unobtrusiveness and easy access for users as well as for the service vehicle. A possible location is at the far end of the parking area west of the ballfields. In order to have it blend into the park environment, it is important to surround it with a live screen that consists of evergreen shrubs. Another option is to remove the dumpster altogether and dispose of the concession stand trash in the same manner as at the Hurst Athletic Complex that does not have any dumpsters. Small items of trash are disposed of in trash receptacles while the larger items that typically include empty boxes or containers are removed by the maintenance staff after an event.
- Develop a series of pools and riffles (running water between stones) along the drainage way to add character and aquatic interest to the park. Create meanders (winding stream sections) along the stream to increase the stream edge thereby increasing the opportunity for the establishment of interesting aquatic plants; this will also decrease the overall slope, thereby slowing the water to create pools and riffles, which are essential to a healthy aquatic habitat.



The implementation of a natural drainage way will add ecological and visual interest to Chisholm Park.

- Provide pathways between the mature post oak trees and plant indigenous shade-loving grasses (e.g. inland sea oats) to discourage foot traffic between the pathways and to prevent erosion around the tree trunks.



Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan



Many of the mature post oak trees are threatened by erosion due to little ground cover and by compaction of the soil due to excessive foot traffic.

- An aggressive tree-planting plan must be devised to ensure the replacement of old and dying trees.



The pond at Chisholm Park is extremely popular.