

ATTACHMENT C:
2018 PARK PLAN

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The following list consists of key points from the 2013 needs analysis:

- The City of Paris needs to focus on top quality upgrades and renovations to existing parks.
- Trails are needed for more connectivity throughout the community and to encourage healthier lifestyles.
- Existing parks and facilities need to continually be upgraded and maintained at a high level in order to keep Paris's park system up to local standards and safe for all users. This includes making public parks and facilities compliant with ADA guidelines.
- A multi-sports practice field with lights needs to be constructed.
- A sprayground/small water park is needed for water-based recreation.
- Additional restrooms are needed throughout town at multiple different parks.
- An indoor recreation center needs to be considered in Paris.
- An indoor swimming facility is desired for both competitive and recreational use.
- Nature trails, playgrounds, pavilions, enhanced landscaping, picnic areas at the parks and multi-use trails all are needed to satisfy senior citizens' recreational needs.
- Additional and upgraded site amenities are needed throughout the park system.
- All new park facilities need to be properly designed, well-built, and maintained at a high level.

The five-year update for 2018-2023 was drafted by a parks work group that met monthly for approximately two years. The city council received public input at two regular, advertised meetings, on April 9 and May 14. In addition, the proposed update was distributed by direct mail to key stakeholders in the community, and was placed for public inspection on the city's website, in the municipal library, and in various social media.

VII. PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table represents the projected recreational facilities priorities for the Paris Park System. These priorities are based on the needs analysis, citizen survey, public input meetings, focus group input, city staff, the City of Paris Citizen Advisory Committee and professional opinion, [including revisions made in 2018 following close review by a city staff parks work group and opportunities for additional citizen input.](#)

Priority	Facility
1	Playgrounds
2	Multi-purpose trails
3	Amphitheater/gathering spaces
4	Picnic shelters/pavilions
5	Picnic areas
6	Restrooms
7	Nature trails
8	Spray ground/Small water park
9	Botanical/flower gardens
10	Lawn areas for general play
11	Indoor recreation center
12	Swimming pool /natatorium
13	Dog park
14	Water features (creeks, small lakes, etc.)
15	Nature areas
16	Tennis courts

Recommendations

The following actions are recommended to be implemented within the next ten years to ensure that the parks and open space system continues to meet the recreational needs of the city. 2018 update in blue.

New Parks

- Acquire and develop land at the southwest corner of Main Street and Graham Street. Property acquired and cleared through an ILA with Lamar County (19 acres).
 - Construct large open green lawn.
 - Plant trees and landscaping.
 - Construct Wagon monument.
- Acquire natural open spaces to be preserved as the opportunities are available. Expanded developed area at Lake Crook.

Existing Parks

- Construct a spray ground. The city worked closely with the First United Methodist Church in 2016 to construct a joint use spray ground on FUMC property in downtown. The park is open to the public, and includes a restroom facility constructed and maintained by the city.
- Provide additional picnicking areas and tables. A picnic area was added to Lake Crook Park in 2016; the picnic area at Oak Park was improved in 2018. Acquired and completed reconstruction of former TXDOT park on US 82W.
- Replace playgrounds (older than 15 years old). Added a new playground to Lake Crook in 2016. Playgrounds at Oak Park and Wade Park were completely replaced in winter/spring 2018, utilizing a combination of voter-approved 2017 park bonds and local fundraising; new playgrounds are ADA compliant and include new accessible equipment.
- Increase level of maintenance. Staff levels in the parks division have been increased by two FTE, effective April 1, 2018. Added safety fencing at 5th Street basketball court; established additional permanent water-creek crossing on archery lanes; finished building archery lanes at Sports Complex property; mowed cleared large open spaces at Lake Crook.
- Construct multi-purpose and walking trails. Constructed new West Paris Trail (1.8 miles) in 2016-17, using a TXDOT grant of \$515,193 and matching city funds. Reconstructed 7,203 linear feet of the Trail de Paris. Completed Trail de Paris extension of 4,224 feet, using TPWD grant of \$200,000 and city matching funds. Created nature trail at Lake Crook (~3 miles round trip).
- Provide additional landscaping including irrigated turf in all parks.

- Provide restroom facilities in high use parks. Constructed new restrooms downtown and at city-owned fairgrounds. Enhanced restrooms at Lake Crook and Market Square.
- Upgrade existing tennis courts—new surfaces, nets, windbreaks, etc. Five existing tennis courts at Culbertson Park were refurbished in 2017. Backstop refurbished. One court to be converted to basketball in 2018.
- Construct lighted lawn areas for sports practice areas within existing parks. Soccer goals added at Wise Field in 2017; also soccer field, softball backstop, and basketball goals at police & courts building.
- Provide and install attractive lighting at parks for safety.
- Improved Market Square grounds; added shade shelter at contiguous Skate Park.
- Improved historic Plaza: now ADA compliant; repaired historic fountain; upgraded electricity and lighting.
- Upgraded lights and improved landscaping at Gateway Park.
- Improved Bywaters Park, including safety and electrical enhancements.

Athletic Facilities

- The City of Paris needs to work closely with the Optimist Club to provide even more and better baseball opportunities for the youth. Began providing grant funds to club in 2017.
- Construct an indoor swimming pool for both competitive and recreation use. Upgraded deteriorating issues at existing outdoor pool; installed new fencing and sidewalks; pumps and filter to be replaced in 2018. Meeting with NPO regarding possible joint operation of a recreation facility with an indoor pool.
- Established in-house girls' softball program in 2015; added Field #7 to Sports Complex for softball.

Natural Open Space

- Preserve the most valuable and aesthetically pleasing natural open spaces. Provided better access to open spaces at Lake Crook and encouraging multiple uses.

Indoor Recreation Center

- Construct an indoor recreation center at the Sports Complex for multiple recreational opportunities. Financial resources may not allow the city to construct and operate such a facility. Therefore, the city will seek opportunities to partner with other jurisdictions and non-profits to more efficiently offer these much-needed recreational opportunities. Existing facilities may also be the most efficient way to create a functioning center. Work has begun to develop this sort of facility re-use(s) and joint programming at two possible locations.

Senior Citizens

- Provide facilities such as: multi-use trails, nature trails, playgrounds, botanical gardens, picnic shelters/pavilions, benches and picnic areas for senior citizens at all new and upgraded parks. The city assumed control of the former fair association exhibit hall in 2015, and began passive programming for seniors in 2017. Bench swings were added at Lake Crook. Plan to add a garden photo spot at or near Love Civic Center; need a non-profit partner to plant and manage. Planning pickle ball within an existing facility. Developing new programming in conjunction with the library.

Maintenance

The City of Paris currently has one maintenance employee for approximately every 25 developed park acres. In addition, this same staff maintains all the rights-of-way, medians, ditches and trees on public land inside the city limits. The staffing levels have slowly been falling behind and need to increase in order to keep the maintenance of parks and facilities at a high level. The following two bullets are necessary in order for the city to provide well maintained areas at an efficient cost:

- Prepare and adopt a statistically-based maintenance study that will increase the maintenance staff and budget as the park system continues to grow. Staff levels in the parks division have been increased by two FTE, effective April 1, 2018, reducing park acres/employee to approximately 21.
- Develop parks that are not overly maintenance intensive by including more natural areas, native plantings and natural play (play opportunities with limited or no playground equipment). Staff has adopted an internal policy to always tie added staffing to any new programs, services, schedules, or responsibilities. Emphasizing xeriscaping with new plantings.

Trails

- Develop trail linkages throughout Paris to connect schools, residential areas, commercial areas, parks and adjacent communities. Completed two grant-funded Safe Routes to School projects, including bike lanes.

- Construct minor trail and sidewalk connections in order to connect large segments of trails for better access throughout the community. Used pavement markings and signage to connect West Paris trail and Trail de Paris along existing paved roadways.
- Sidewalks are to be used in conjunction with trails to connect different nodes throughout the community. Constructed 5,300 feet of new sidewalk on Graham; connection to West Paris Trail scheduled for 2018.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The following table depicts the project priorities with suggested completion dates. It is important to note that the following schedule is intended to be a flexible guide for the development of parks and recreational facilities over the next ten years for the City of Paris. The city should evaluate and take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities that may arise that are not identified in the schedule or change the order of implementation if necessary. The information below is organized based on specific needs from the City of Paris citizens, [and revised in 2018](#). The general idea is to create one great and easily accessible park in each of four major areas of the city. This will allow all residents the opportunity to recreate at a large redeveloped park within the community. The four specific parks, Wade Park, [Market Square Park](#), Oak Park, and the [Sports Complex/Dragon Park](#), were chosen based on their locations within the city, size, accessibility, and community usage.

Beyond the plan’s ten year time-frame:

As is true of city planning in general—of which parks, recreation and open spaces planning is a component—this implementation schedule should be evaluated, modified as necessary, and updated to address ten-year periods that begin after 2013. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department suggests ten-year plans should be updated every five years; however, the City of Paris should review the plan annually in order to have a current, meaningful and implementable plan. This will aid the Paris park system to: continually work to achieve the park plan’s Goals and Objectives; allow this plan to remain current with other City of Paris planning efforts; serve to address on-going financial needs; address parks needs in conjunction with future population growth, and keep the users, citizens and businesses continually aware of the city’s commitment to achieve and maintain an outstanding parks, recreation and open space system and program.

	<u>Projects</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated cost</u>	<u>Possible funding source(s)</u>
1	Wade Park New playgrounds Renovate pavilion Soccer field Walking trail Open lawn areas, picnic areas Small pavilion Water feature	2018-22	580,000	TPWD grants General Fund appropriations Private donations Bond proceeds Partnerships
2	Oak Park New playground Renovate pavilion	2018-22	200,000	TPWD grants General Fund appropriations Private donations

	Plan restroom facility			Partnerships
	Tree planting and landscaping			
3	<u>Market Square Park</u>	2017-19	247,000	TPWD grants
	Playground, climbing			General Fund appropriations
	Landscaping			Private donations
	Amphitheater			General Obligation bond proceeds
	Enhanced parking, crosswalks			Partnerships
	Library grounds			
	Downtown restroom			
4	<u>Sports Complex</u>	2019-21	810,000	TPWD grants
	Pump track trail & bike lanes			Partnerships
	Playground			Private donations
	Add lighting to field #7			Bond proceeds
	Signage			General Fund appropriations
	Relocate skate park			
	Creek trail, Dragon to Erickson bridge			
5	<u>Lake Crook</u>	2017-20	NA	General Fund appropriations
	Master plan			Private donations
	Trails development			Bond proceeds
	Relocate disc golf			Partnerships
	Update US 271 signage			TPWD grants
6	<u>Programming into Parks & Rec</u>	2017-19	NA	General Fund appropriations
	Seniors			Private donations
	Special needs children programs			Partnerships
	Library programming			TPWD grants
	Online enhancements			
	Enhanced swimming			
	Improved, expanded sports			
	Spray features & landscaping at pool			
7	<u>Culbertson Park</u>	2017-22	190,000	TPWD grants
	Renovate tennis courts			General Fund appropriations
	Renovate basketball court			Private donations
	Walking trail			Bond proceeds

	Renovate pavilion			Partnerships
	Open lawn area			
	Dog park			
	Landscaping & site amenities			
	New small playground			
	Convert baseball field to soccer			
8	<u>Main & Graham</u>	2019-21	350,000	General Fund appropriations
	Open lawn area			Private donations
	Landscaping, garden			Partnerships
	Courthouse wagon pocket park			
	Picnic area, benches, swings			
	Short trail			
9	<u>Dragon Park</u>	2022	350,000	TPWD grants
	Spray park			General Fund appropriations
	Soccer fields (8)			Private donations
	Trail enhancements			Bond proceeds
	Relocate disc golf			Partnerships
	Bridges, trails			
	Sand volleyball			
10	<u>Trail linkages</u>	2013-23	500,000/mile	TPWD grants
	West Paris Trail			General Fund appropriations
	Creek trail, Dragon to Erickson bridge			TXDOT enhancement grants
	NETT completion			Private donations
	Walking track @ new Fire Station #3			Bond proceeds
	Sidewalks/TDP to downtown, et al			Partnerships
	Schools, neighborhoods, etc.			
	Comprehensive bike & trail plan			
11	<u>Renovate & update Leon Williams</u>	2023-27	500,000	TPWD grants
	Open lawn area			General Fund appropriations
	Expand/update playground			Private donations
	Landscaping			Bond proceeds
	Site amenities			Partnerships
12	<u>Indoor recreation & aquatic center</u>	2019-20	NA	General Fund appropriations

	Feasibility study Partnership			Private donations Partnerships
13	<u>Wise Field</u>	2017	NA	General Fund appropriations