
Park, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan



City of Murphy, Texas

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan

In today's active society and health conscious attitudes, recreation opportunities are becoming more important to all age groups. With urban sprawl and development of rural land, creation of parks and preservation of open space should be major priorities for our cities and communities. Parks and open space also add economic value to local properties and an intangible value to the local quality of life. In order to preserve this open space and create parks, this *Park, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* has been written; it identifies recreation needs, pertinent demographic information, existing and future park needs, park priorities, and funding opportunities. This, in the long term, will provide Murphy citizens the benefits of recreation and preservation of open space.

Plan Development Process

The City employed a private consulting firm (Dunkin Sims Stoffels, Inc.) to prepare the *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*. The consultant worked with the City of Murphy Parks & Recreation Department staff and Parks and Recreation Board to develop this *Master Plan*. Meetings were held with the Murphy Parks & Recreation Department staff to examine collected needs, findings and preliminary recommendations. To obtain a comprehensive and complete analysis of the City's park and recreation needs, and park system, two methodologies were used for this evaluation: public hearings and standards-based analysis. This *Master Plan* provides the City both short-range implementation scheduling for existing parks and long-range planning for future park acquisition and development.

Goals

The following goals were established in the 2002 Parks and Recreation Master Plan; it was determined that all were still viable, and they were therefore reaffirmed for this park planning process. Related objectives can be found beginning on page four of this Plan.

- Goal 1: Establish a premier parks system that is among the best in smaller communities in the Dallas/ Ft. Worth area.
- Goal 2: Create a park system that will improve the physical form and appearance of Murphy.
- Goal 3: Provide a variety of recreation facilities and programs to meet the ultimate needs and desires of Murphy's growing population.
- Goal 4: Preserve and enhance Murphy's open space and natural resources.



- Goal 5: Develop a comprehensive network of pedestrian and bicycle ways for hiking, jogging and cycling throughout as much of Murphy as is feasible.
- Goal 6: Continue to maintain all of the Murphy parks and recreational facilities in a superior condition.
- Goal 7: Create mechanisms to work with public and private entities to provide resources to acquire, develop and maintain parks, recreation facilities, services and open space.
- Goal 8: Include a citizen participation process in all ongoing park planning and design, as well as updating of the Parks Master Plan.

Needs Assessment

The *Needs Assessment* phase of the plan process identifies the recreation needs and desires by using the public hearing process, standard-based analysis, and park land analysis. This process is critical to the success of the *Master Plan*, as it ensures the needs of the citizens are addressed. The City of Murphy held two public hearings to receive citizens' comments on the park and recreational needs within the City. The meetings were attended by approximately 25 to 30 individuals. The public comments varied in all areas of recreation, including conservation of natural resources, preservation of open space and Maxwell Creek, gardening, tree planting, playgrounds, and aquatic facilities. A listing of priorities mentioned at the public hearing can be found on page 21.

Standard-Based Analysis

The *Standard-Based Analysis* approach to assessing future recreational needs follows established and recognized standards for assessing the quantity of park land and the number of facilities that are required to meet the needs of a given population. One source for such standards is the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), which provides a base of input upon which to formulate or calculate local needs. The result of this Standard Based Analysis is provided for the current City population of approximately 14,000 within *Table 4* (page 22), and for the build-out projected populations of 17,000 in *Table 5* (page 23). The former illustrates the level of services provided at 14,000, and the latter illustrates what the projected facilities need would be for a built-out population of 17,000.

Park Land Analysis

Park land analysis is also evaluated on the basis of Murphy's current population, as shown in *Table 6* (page 23). This evaluation is a reliable guide and analysis for park land comparison. The acreage required per 1,000 populations varies for each park classification. For long range planning, this is a useful tool for determining future park land acreage acquisition.



Existing Park Improvements

The focus of this section is on the development of existing parks. Recommended improvements are based on an analysis of existing facilities. Preliminary cost estimates have also been prepared for each park element or improvement. The costs are general for specific elements such as benches, playgrounds, picnic tables, etc. The costs are based on 2008 construction costs. Items such as drainage improvements should be analyzed at the time of the proposed improvements as these items require a detailed site analysis, which is not included in this *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*. Primary recommendations for improvements to existing parks include:

- Aviary Park improvements;
- Completion of a splash pad (in a location to be determined)
- Master planning of Bunny Run Park and Kinney Park
- Development of Phase I of Bunny Run Park
- Development of Phase I of Kinney Park

Future Park Land and Recreation Recommendations

Land acquisition for neighborhood or community class parks will be difficult. Therefore, the City will have to maximize their existing parks and preserve the open space within the Maxwell Creek Corridor.

Neighborhood Parks

The City has neighborhood parks in each planning area which serves the citizens of Murphy. Looking at the neighborhood park in conjunction with homeowners association (H.O.A.) parks, there is adequate open space and park facilities that are in the neighborhood park classification throughout Murphy. Refer to the *Parks Service Area Map* on page 53.

Community Parks

The City is presently working with the Plano Independent School District to acquire or lease 19.1 acres of land south of Murphy Middle School. Because of its central location in Murphy, this property could be a valuable part of Murphy's park system; this 19.1 acre tract could offset the current deficit of needed community park land. During the planning process, it was determined that development of organized lighted athletic fields was not feasible simply because the land was not available. Athletic complexes are generally located away from residential areas because of potential conflicts; however, because Murphy's land use is primarily residential, it would be difficult to avoid a conflict between any new athletic complex and residential property.



Trail Recommendations

Trails are an important component of the future park system, as they serve recreational, transportation and linkage purposes. In Murphy, the transportation and linkage aspects of a City-wide trail system will serve a local and regional purpose. The City has the opportunity to connect trails in Murphy with several adjacent trail systems; to the west through the future Dart Rail Line, the City may one day connect to the six-city trail systems which begin in Frisco and travels south to Garland and Lake Ray Hubbard. The possibility also exists to connect with the Muddy Creek trail system recently completed by the City of Sachse.

Considerations as trails are developed should include:

- The type of trail;
- Trail surface;
- Trail width;
- Necessary vertical clearance;
- Slope limitations; and
- Signage.

Master Plan Priority Recommendations

The culmination of this *Master Plan* is three-fold: *Table 7 – 10-Year Park Priority List*, *Table 8 - 10-Year City Priority List - Outdoor Facilities*, and *Table 9 – 10-Year City Priority List - Indoor Facilities*. The priority of these park improvements is based on the needs assessment and meetings with City staff and Parks and Recreation Board. Annual review of the Master Plan by the City Staff, City Council members, Murphy Parks and Recreation Board members and citizens will allow analysis of each recommendation for acquisition, improvements, and new facilities to enhance the quality of Murphy Parks and Recreation System to maximum effect.



I. INTRODUCTION

Brief Historical Background

The first settlers arrived in Murphy in 1846. Land grants offered by the Peters Colony attracted these early settlers. The original name of the settlement was Old Decatur and later, Maxwell's Branch. In 1888 Williams Murphy provided the land for the St. Louis Southwestern Railway and depot. The town was renamed in his honor.

The first post office was established in 1891. From the late 1800's until the 1950's Murphy served as a shipping point for agricultural and live stock. As the metropolitan area of Dallas expanded in the early 1900's Murphy's importance as an agricultural center diminished and the population decreased to a low of 150 in the mid-1950's.

As Dallas, Richardson and Plano grew in the 1960's and 1970's, Murphy transitioned into a thriving commuter community in Collin County.

Purpose of the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan

In today's active society and health conscious attitudes, recreation opportunities are becoming more important to all age groups. With urban sprawl and development of rural land, creation of parks and preservation of open space should be major priorities for our cities and communities. Parks and open space also add economic value to local properties and an intangible value to the local quality of life.

In order to preserve this open space and create parks, an important component of Murphy's city planning efforts is the *Park, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*. This *Plan* will identify recreation needs, pertinent demographic information, existing and future park needs, park priorities, and funding opportunities. This *Murphy Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan* will assist City staff, the Parks and Recreation Board, and City Council in the selection of property and development of parks in a logical, methodologically based process. This, in the long term, will provide Murphy citizens the benefits of recreation and preservation of open space.

Plan Development Process

The previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared in 2002. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was comprehensive in nature with an emphasis on park land and recreation needs. The Parks and Recreation Department staff, the Park Board, and City Council have acquired park land and developed several parks with the assistance of the Economic Development Corporation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. However, due to current recreational trends and a growing population, there is now a need for a new document to guide park and recreation planning and development, leading to the creation of this *Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan*.

The City Council recognized the need to update the 2002 Park and Recreation Open Space Master Plan for a



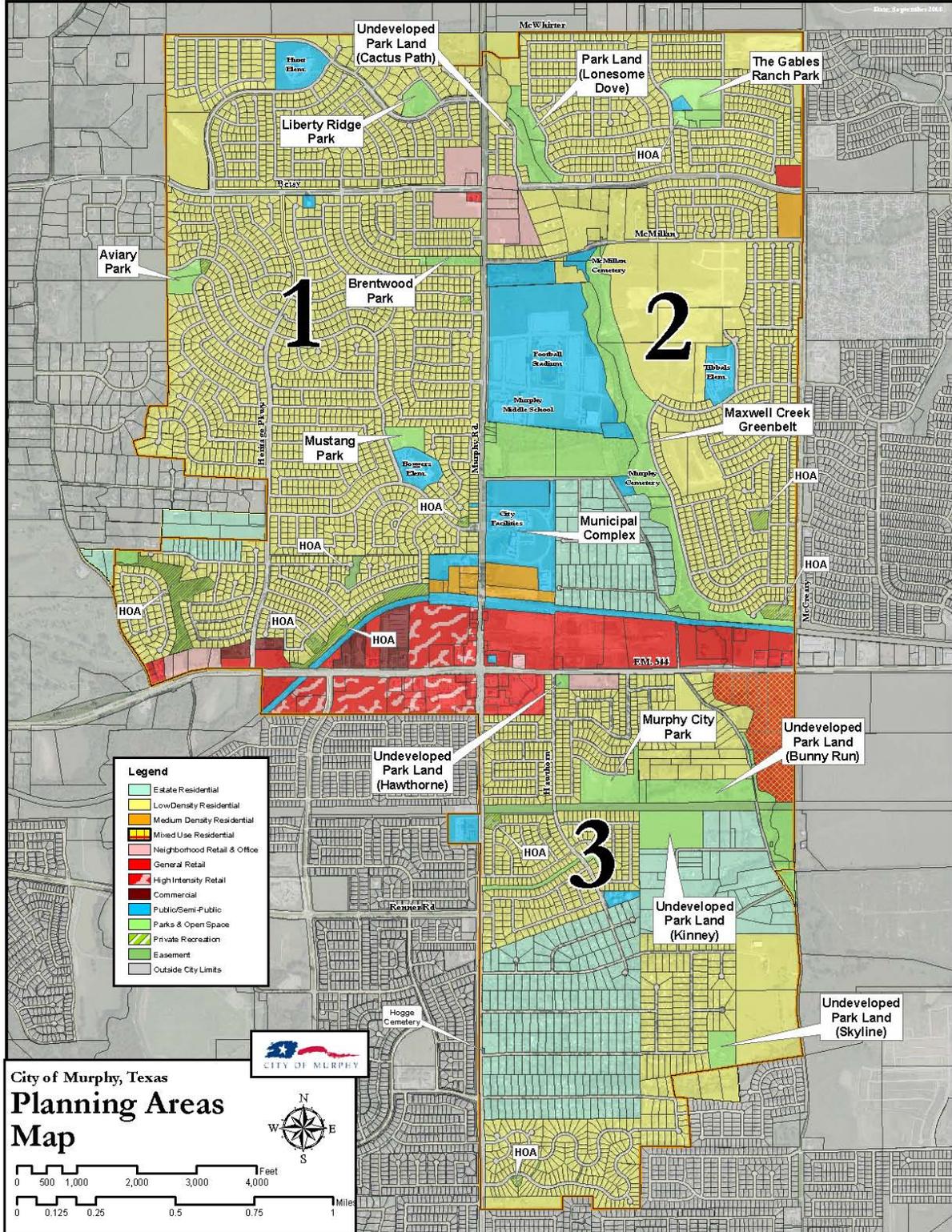
comprehensive analysis of the park system in Murphy. The City employed a private consulting firm (Dunkin Sims Stoffels, Inc.) to prepare the *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*. The consultant worked with the City of Murphy Parks & Recreation Department staff and Parks and Recreation Board to develop this *Master Plan*.

Meetings were held with the Murphy Parks & Recreation Department staff to examine collected needs, findings and preliminary recommendations. A survey conducted by the Survey Research Center at The University of North Texas was also reviewed. To obtain a comprehensive and complete analysis of the City's park and recreation needs, and park system, two methodologies were used for this evaluation: public hearings and standards-based analysis. Children and adults participate in organized leagues in adjacent cities, and therefore there was not available data to prepare a demand-based analysis.

The time period of the financial plan, as set forth in Section IX of this *Master Plan* (specifically within the *Implementation* section) is 10 years. The prioritization listing contained in previous sections, specifically, Section VII and Section VIII, identify certain projections as high priorities for development, with the priorities based on satisfying a stipulated/recognized need. This *Master Plan* provides the City both short-range implementation scheduling for existing parks and long-range planning for future park acquisition and development.

The Park and Recreation Service Area and related geographic size that is addressed in this *Master Plan* is 3.8 square miles. The overall Park and Recreation Service Area is divided into three service areas, all of which are defined by the major thoroughfares which bisect the City. Refer to the *Planning Areas Map* on the following page for a graphic depiction of the service areas.

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Goals & Objectives 2008 – 2018 - Goals for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

The following goals and objectives were established in the 2002 Parks and Recreation Master Plan prepared by Halff Associates, Inc. After each goal and objective was presented to the park and recreation board ; it was determined that all were still viable, and they were therefore reaffirmed for this park planning process.

Goal 1: Establish a premier parks system that is among the best in smaller communities in the Dallas/ Ft. Worth area.

- 1.1 Establish and follow, where feasible, high standards for park acreage, park facilities, and park distribution throughout the City. These will be set through the Master Planning process, and updated from time to time per the direction of the Parks and Recreation Board and as approved by the City Council.
- 1.2 Allocate adequate funding levels to provide a superior park system.
- 1.3 Select benchmark cities, such as Highland park in Dallas, and attempt to match the facility and service quality provided by those cities.

Goal 2: Create a park system that will improve the physical form and appearance of Murphy.

- 2.1 Acquire park and open space sites that are prominent and highly visible in the neighborhoods that surround them.
- 2.2 Provide adequate landscaping and aesthetic elements in new parks as they are built, such as stone walls and pavement accents, large caliper trees, attractive pavilions and other elements.
- 2.3 Along major roads in the City, construct trail and pedestrian corridors, along with landscaping, trees, attractive lighting and streetscape furniture so as to promote the visual quality of Murphy.
- 2.4 Utilize landscape at key City portals and along selected street medians to create a positive and attractive image of the City.
- 2.5 Encourage tree planting in parks, street frontage, and on private properties.
- 2.6 Develop high quality signage for all parks and major municipals facilities.



Goal 3: Provide a variety of recreation facilities and programs to meet the ultimate needs and desires of Murphy's growing population.

- 3.1 Implement a long-range program for expansion and development of Murphy's parks system based upon the Murphy Park, Trails and Open Space Master Plan and subsequent updates or modifications to the Master Plan.
- 3.2 Provide recreational facilities that address the needs of all age groups, young and old, active and passive, and in all socio economic categories.
- 3.3 Acquire park lands in areas of the City with significant park land needs.
- 3.4 Preserve the ability to respond to unique acquisition or development opportunities as they arise, such as linear parks tracts, provided that they respond to key City-wide needs and goals.
- 3.5 Balance the distribution of park facilities, including neighborhood parks, community parks, athletic facilities, and trail corridors between the north and south sectors of the City.

Goal 4: Preserve and enhance Murphy's open space and natural resources.

- 4.1 Acquire and preserve as much of the floodplain areas of the Maxwell Creek corridor as feasible, recognizing the corridor as the key greenbelt, linear park and open space preserve for the entire City.
- 4.2 Establish policies that encourage private owners to preserve and protect key natural areas with the City.
- 4.3 Through the park planning process, identify and acquire other key natural space corridors and lands with unique natural qualities throughout the City.
- 4.4 Create and preserve green belt linkages in parks and along open spaces, creeks and drainage ways, bikeways, paths, and natural areas throughout the City.
- 4.5 Establish funding mechanisms to acquire open space lands for protection through acquisition, purchase of easements, or outright dedication of floodplain lands where these are deemed to have open space value.
- 4.6 Develop strategies for the preservation and enhancement of known or newly identified historical, archeological, and cultural features throughout the City, such as the cemeteries and older buildings such as the current City hall.

Goal 5: Develop a comprehensive network of pedestrian and bicycle ways for hiking, jogging and cycling throughout as much of Murphy as is feasible.

- 5.1 Link all neighborhoods, schools, parks, major City facilities and retail areas throughout the City with a network of attractive walking and bicycling sidewalks and trails.
- 5.2 Provide recreational hiking, biking and jogging trails primarily through the development of linear parks.
- 5.3 Where appropriate, utilize utility easements and rights-of-way as linear park corridors for trail connections.
- 5.4 As much as feasible, integrate on-street bicycle corridors when planning new thoroughfares or when renovating or expanding current thoroughfares.
- 5.5 Coordinate with other adjacent cities, the Plano and Wylie ISD's, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and other Federal, State and local governmental entities in efforts to preserve and enhance the waterways, green spaces, and natural areas in and around Murphy.

Goal 6: Continue to maintain all of the Murphy parks and recreational facilities in a superior condition.

- 6.1 Provide City parks staff with the manpower and funding resources to maintain all parklands and facilities in a superior manner.
- 6.2 Provide additional operations and maintenance resources as new recreational facilities are developed and added to the Murphy parks system.
- 6.3 Improve the quality of operations and maintenance through:
 - Continued evaluation of the Parks Department's current operations
 - The utilization of private resources where feasible
- 6.4 Implement renovation/improvement master plans for each park as they age over time, and identify a tentative schedule for phasing in improvements.
- 6.5 Promote the use of native plant materials and xeriscape to reduce maintenance and irrigation costs in parks and on City properties.
- 6.6 Continue to explore and implement innovative techniques to partner with other governmental, non-profit or private organizations to reduce the City's park maintenance burden.
- 6.7 Use low-maintenance design techniques for future park properties.

Goal 7: Create mechanisms to work with public and private entities to provide resources to acquire, develop and maintain parks, recreation facilities, services and open space.

- 7.1 Update the Park Dedication and Park Development Ordinance to enhance its ability to help fund land acquisition and park development.
- 7.2 Encourage private cooperation through donations of park-land, labor, and financial contributions.
- 7.3 Establish a program where community and business groups and neighborhood associations can help improve and maintain parks and open space areas.
- 7.4 Consider establishing a general park fund where donations for park improvements may be provided by civic organizations and the private sector.
- 7.5 Encourage the assistance of the private sector in providing landscaping along private and public properties including public rights-of-way and medians.
- 7.6 Continue to foster a close working relationship between the City of Murphy and the Plano and Wylie Independent School Districts.

Goal 8: Include a citizen participation process in all ongoing park planning and design, as well as updating of the Parks Master Plan.

- 8.1 Periodically update the long-range plan and standards to reflect changing conditions in the City and to provide a forum for citizen input.
- 8.2 Encourage and provide multiple opportunities for citizens to provide input in development, maintenance, and operation of the City's parks and open space system. Utilize public meetings, workshops, regular meetings of the Parks Board, the Planning and Zoning Committee and City Council, periodic meetings with all Homeowner's associations, citizen surveys and regular meetings with key user groups.

II. INVENTORY OF AREAS AND FACILITIES

City of Murphy Parks

The following information documents existing park and recreational facilities in Murphy. The listing beginning on the following page is an enumeration of the existing parks, their size and the NRPA park classification which best describes their function within the City's park system.



Aviary Park



Park Size:	5 Acres
Park Location:	Southwest corner of Mustang Ridge Drive & Oriole Drive
Subdivision:	The Aviary
Park Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities:	6 Picnic tables 1 Bench Basketball court 4 Grills 2 Trash receptacles Open play area 1 Drinking fountain 20 Parking spaces

Brentwood Park



Park Size:	3.48 Acres
Park Location:	East end of Brentwood Drive
Subdivision:	Between Stratford Crossing and Daniel Crossing
Park Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities:	2 Picnic tables Mulch trail Trash receptacle 10 Parking spaces

Gables Ranch Park

Park Size:	12 Acres
Park Location:	Southeast Corner of Rodeo Drive and Laredo Street
Subdivision:	Between the Ranch and the Gables at North Hill
Park Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities:	Undeveloped

Undeveloped Park Land (Hawthorne Park)

Park Size:	1.00 Acres
Park Location:	Southeast Corner of F.M. 544 & Hawthorn Drive
Subdivision:	The Timbers
Park Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities:	Undeveloped



Liberty Ridge Park



Park Size: 5.75 Acres
Park Location: Northwest Corner of Rolling Ridge Drive and Parkview
Subdivision: Rolling Ridge Estates
Park Classification: Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities: Pond aerator fountain
Playground
2 Trash receptacles
Open play area
0.37-mile trail
3 Benches

Maxwell Creek Linear Park



Park Size: 59.18
Park Location: Floodplain of Maxwell Creek between McMillian and the Old Cottonbelt Railroad/DART line
Subdivision: N/A
Park Classification: Linear/Greenbelt
Park Facilities: Playground
2 Soccer fields under 6
1 Soccer field under 8
2.3-mile concrete hike & bike trail
0.2-mile decomposed granite trail
Picnic pavilion
Practice backstop
½ Basketball court
Wildflower and native grass area
2 Pedestrian bridges
Outdoor classroom
8 Picnic tables
11 Trash receptacles
11 Benches
1 Drinking fountain

Murphy City Park



- Park Size: 12.42 Acres
Park Location: Pinetop Drive & Raintree Drive
Subdivision: The Timbers
Park Classification: Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities: Playgrounds with shade structure and swings
3 Benches
6 Picnic tables
1 Drinking fountain
1 Pavilion
1 Practice backstop with skinned infield
2 Practice backstops
1 Basketball court with hop scotch
2 Practice soccer fields
Exercise stations
3 Grills
31 Parking spaces
5 Trash receptacles
Pedestrian bridge
0.5-mile hike-and-bike trail

Mustang Park



- Park Size: 5.10 Acres
Park Location: Mustang Drive
Subdivision: Glen Ridge Estates
Park Classification: Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities: Playgrounds with shade structure
Swings
3 Benches
Drinking fountain
Pavilion with electrical outlets
Grill
½ Basketball court
Practice backstop
3 Trash receptacles
4 Picnic tables
0.32-Mile trail
12 Parking spaces

Undeveloped Park Land (Kinney Park)



Park Size: 16.25 Acres
Park Location: Kinney Road
Subdivision: Creekside
Park Classification: Community Park
Park Facilities: Undeveloped

Undeveloped Park Land (Municipal Complex)

Park Size: 30.00 Acres
Park Location: 206 North Murphy Road
Subdivision: N/A
Park Classification: Special Use Park
Park Facilities: Undeveloped

Undeveloped Park Land (Bunny Run Park)



Park Size: 16.96 Acres
Park Location: South of Bunny Run Road
Subdivision: Creekside
Park Classification: Special Use Park
Park Facilities: Undeveloped

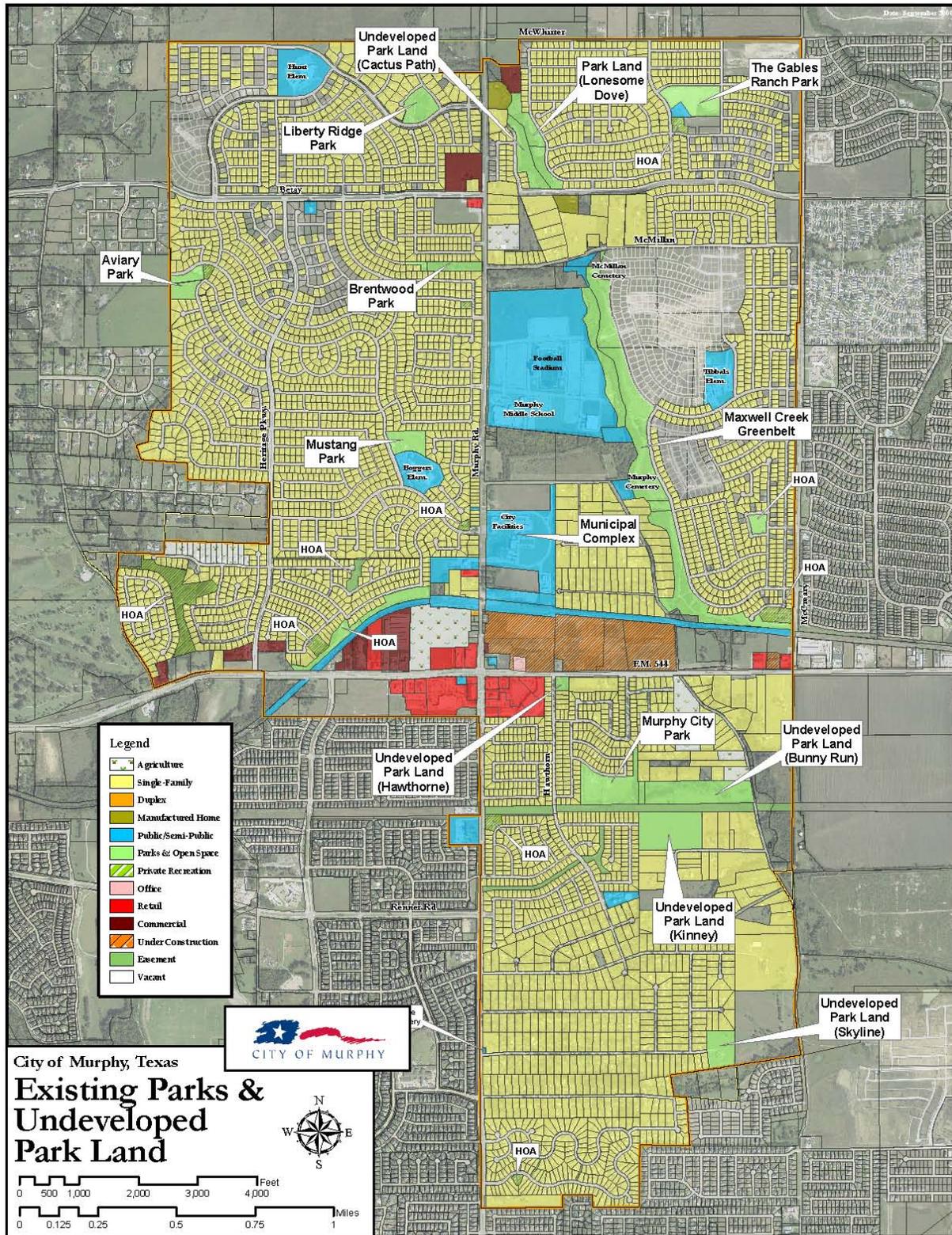
Undeveloped Park Land (Cactus Path)

Park Size:	6.50 Acres
Park Location:	East of Cactus Path Road
Subdivision:	The Ranch
Park Classification:	Greenbelt
Park Facilities:	Undeveloped

Park Land (Lonesome Dove)

Park Size:	5.00 Acres
Park Location:	West of Lonesome Dove Road
Subdivision:	The Ranch
Park Classification:	Greenbelt
Park Facilities:	0.3-mile hike & bike trail





III. FACTORS INFLUENCING PLANNING FOR PARKS

Transportation and Land Use

Murphy's total land area is 3.8 square miles. The City has approximately 57.8 acres of land in its ETJ. Although the final land use for these ETJ parcels has not been determined, they possibly could be designated as park or open space; specifically, the parcel in the southwest section of the Planning Area 1 and the parcel in the southeast of Planning Area 3. In the event the ETJ parcels are developed as residential, this will not have significant impact on the park services provided by the City of Murphy.

F.M. 544 is the major east/west arterial which bisects the City into north/south planning areas. Murphy Road is the major north/south thoroughfare which provides primary vehicular ingress/egress for citizens of Murphy. Murphy Road also bisects the City into east/west planning areas. A majority of Murphy's retail and commercial development is adjacent to F.M. 544. The remaining land use in Murphy is nonresidential with the exception of the Murphy Municipal Complex, Plano and Wylie Independent School District schools, and Tom Kimbrough Stadium.

Demographic Profile

The 2000 U.S. Census documented the population of Murphy to be 3,019. The City has experienced a high rate of growth since the 2000 Census, and the City of Murphy has estimated the population to be 14,000 in January 2008. The City is anticipated to continue experiencing rapid growth, making the provision of park and recreational services even more important to address in the short and long terms.

Race & Age Composition

Table 1 illustrates the race and ethnic composition of the City of Murphy according to the City of Murphy. The table illustrates the diversity of the local population. The *White/Caucasian* group comprises the largest percentage, with the *Asian/Pacific Islander* category representing the second largest and the *African American* category the third largest.

Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent ⁽¹⁾
White/Caucasian	9,412	67.23%
African American	1,747	12.48%
American Indian	150	1.07%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,875	13.39%
Other ⁽²⁾	357	2.55%
Two or More Races	459	3.28%
Total	14,000⁽²⁾	100.00%
Hispanic/Spanish Origin ⁽³⁾	459	3.28%

Note: The number column is calculated by using 2005 percentages and multiplying by 14,000 residents.
Source: City of Murphy

⁽¹⁾ All percentages are 2005 Estimates (Source: 2005 Buxton Demographic Detail)
⁽²⁾ 2008 City Population = 14,000 Residents (Source: 2008 Comprehensive Plan)
⁽³⁾ Hispanic/Spanish Origin may be of any race and may be included in any category. It is therefore not included in the total, but is separately included.

The age composition of the population within a city can also provide insight into the types of park and recreation facilities and services the City may need to provide. As reflected in *Table 2*, 9.8 percent of Murphy's population is under 4 years of age and 17.7 percent are between 5-14 years of age. This data can assist the City's park planning efforts by programming specific recreation elements of each age group in the park system. Murphy also has a high percentage of people in the Prime Labor Force (35-54 years old); people in this age group can play organized adult sports. The *Older Labor Force* and the *Elderly* groups also together comprise a significant percentage of the City's population at 15 percent; these groups tend to utilize hike-and bike trails and passive open space areas. Clearly, groups of all ages have recreational needs.

Age Groups	Number	Percent ⁽¹⁾
School Age Children (0-4 years old)	1,372	9.8%
School Age Children (5-14 years old)	2,478	17.7%
School Age Children & Young Adults (15-20 years old)	1,050	7.5%
College/New Family (21-34 years old)	2,520	18.0%
Prime Labor Force (35-54 years old)	4,410	31.5%
Older Labor Force (55-64 years old)	1,330	9.5%
Elderly (65 + years old)	840	6.0%
Total	14,000⁽²⁾	100.00%

Note: The number column is calculated by using 2005 percentages and multiplying by 14,000 residents. Minor adjustments have been made to the "School Aged Children" categories for clarification.

Source: City of Murphy
⁽¹⁾ Percentages based on 2005 Estimates (Source: 2005 Buxton Demographic Detail)
⁽²⁾ 2008 City Population = 14,000 Residents (Source: 2008 Comprehensive Plan)

Household Income

Household income for Murphy is illustrated in *Table 3*. Approximately 4.6 percent of the households in Murphy were in the range of \$24,999 or less. However, the highest percentage of households in Murphy in 2008 was within the \$100,000.00 to \$149,000.00 income category.

Income Level	Number	Percentage ⁽¹⁾
Less than \$14,999	80	1.71%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	137	2.95%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	150	3.23%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	423	9.09%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	832	17.89%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	914	19.66%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,403	30.17%
\$150,000 or more	712	15.30%
Total	4,651⁽²⁾	100.00%

Note: The number column is calculated by using 2005 percentages and multiplying by 4,651 households (14,000 residents / 3.01 persons per household).

Source: City of Murphy
⁽¹⁾ All percentages are 2005 Estimates (Source: 2005 Buxton Demographic Detail)
⁽²⁾ 2008 Household = 4,651 Households (Source: 2008 Comprehensive Plan)

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Classification

To deliver a variety of recreational features in an efficient manner, some type of relationship defining system must be established among those facilities used for recreation. Guidelines and standards recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) have been followed by cities for many years to define a hierarchy for their park systems. The NRPA made major revisions to their recommendations for delivering park and recreation services in the publication, Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, published in December 1995. The classification system has been changed slightly to more closely define a park space in relationship to its proposed use.

The following analysis identifies the NRPA classification of parks, their description, location criteria within the community and criteria for size. Only the park classifications selected specifically for Murphy are defined in this section. Once established, these guidelines are then applicable for structuring the Murphy park system in an orderly manner responsive to the recreational demands being generated by the present and future population.

Neighborhood Park

The neighborhood park is considered to be the most important feature of a park system and is one of the major cohesive elements in neighborhood design. Its primary function is the provision of recreational space for the entire neighborhood which surrounds it. Space in the neighborhood park should be distributed between active and passive uses.

- a) The neighborhood park should be located near the center of a neighborhood area/park planning area and have a service area of approximately one-half mile to one-quarter mile.
- b) The size should be related to the service area population and the menu of activities chosen for placement in the park. Five (5) to ten (10) acres is the optimal size for this park.
- c) Safe and convenient pedestrian access is considered important to a neighborhood park location.
- d) Generally, the location should not be adjacent to a heavily traveled major or minor thoroughfare.
- e) When it is possible to combine an elementary or middle school with this type of park, the two features further enhance the identity of the neighborhood by providing a central location for recreation and education and a significant open space feature within the neighborhood.
- f) Facilities normally provided at a neighborhood park consist of:
 1. Playground equipment for small children.
 2. A multiple purpose hard surfaced play area.
 3. Space for court games, such as basketball, tennis, volleyball and in-line hockey in addition to walking/jogging trails.
 4. Playfield space for non-organized competitive games such as baseball, football and soccer.
 5. Passive space possibly for a pavilion with tables and grills, restrooms, drinking fountains and sitting areas.
 6. Off-street parking is a consideration if users are beyond an acceptable walking distance or if users need to drive to access the park.



7. Splash pads or spray park.
8. Decorative water features.
9. It is not desirable to light athletic facilities in a neighborhood environment since lighting is often objectionable to nearby residents; however, some lighting for security purposes should be incorporated into the park.
10. The allocation of space in the neighborhood park should be approximately 50 percent passive area and 50 percent active area. The above facilities are those generally considered for active space. The passive space should be used to develop the character of the park by creating an open landscaped setting with trails, sitting area, and picnic space. This park becomes an integral part of the neighborhood.

Community Park

A community park is larger in size than a neighborhood park and provides service to several neighborhoods or specific sections of the community. The community park is oriented primarily toward providing recreational opportunities not feasible in a neighborhood park. This type of park should be developed for both active and passive use.

- a) A community park serves several neighborhood areas, and should therefore be conveniently accessible by automobile and include provisions for off-street parking.
- b) The optimal size for the community park is between 40 and 150 acres. This size should be based on its intended use and the population residing in the service area. Natural features such as terrain, tree cover, flood prone areas, and water features are all factors to be used in selecting and sizing this type of park.
- c) Activities provided should include both active and passive space.
- d) Space for active uses associated with neighborhood parks including field and court games.
- e) Passive spaces more extensive than the neighborhood park for trails, natural areas, picnicking, and ornamental or natural landscape areas.
- f) Facilities for cultural activities such as plays or concerts; possibly provide an amphitheater.
- g) Lighted or unlighted athletic fields or facilities may be placed in community parks provided careful thought is given to their design and location.
- h) A community park should be well removed from the residential environment due to the traffic, noise, and lights associated with the sports complex.



- i) Based on use, accessibility and other requirements, the community park should be located in a non-residential area served by major thoroughfares.
- j) Although community parks are designed primarily for competitive play by both young people and adults, other features should be included in the complex. Among these are play apparatus, court game space, picnicking facilities, and trails.
- k) Support facilities in a sports complex include restrooms, concessions, multi-purpose building(s), and maintenance facilities.
- l) Parking is a major consideration for the sports complex. Spaces should be allocated to accommodate those currently participating, those lingering following the previous games and those arriving to participate in the next scheduled game.

Special Use Park

These parks or recreational spaces are identified by a single use, and fall into three categories:

- a) *Historical/Cultural/Social Sites* - which offer recreational opportunities because of their unique characteristics; possibly the former City Hall could be designated as a historical building in Murphy. The Murphy Municipal Complex is classified as a special use park.
- b) *Recreational Facilities* - single purpose facilities such as a senior center, community center, golf course, or marina.
- c) *Outdoor Recreational Facilities* - uses such as a tennis center, stadium, or possibly a special type of sports complex designed specifically for a single sport. A regulation size baseball field was mentioned in the public hearing plan development process.

Open Space/Greenbelts

This classification applies to types of land which have characteristics either identifying them as undevelopable land or suitable for use as a component linking other park areas.

- a) These spaces are generally natural corridors along creeks/flood prone areas or along easements containing a man-made feature. Maxwell Creek is the primary greenbelt in Murphy.
- b) There is no specific size for these spaces; however, establishing a minimum width is important to the function of the greenway, particularly if used as a location for a trail. This width should not be less than 50 feet. Where the greenway is on either side of a natural drainage course, a minimum of fifteen feet shall be provided for foot traffic or motorized vehicles performing maintenance along the greenway.



IV. NEEDS ASSESSMENT & IDENTIFICATION

General Assessment

The Needs Assessment phase of the plan process identifies the recreation needs and desires by using the public hearing process, standard-based analysis, and park land analysis. This process is critical to the success of the Master Plan, as it ensures the needs of the citizens are addressed. The City of Murphy currently provides park and recreational facilities in neighborhood parks and the Maxwell Creek Corridor, which also provide unique recreational opportunities to residents of Murphy. During the plan development process it was determined that the City would not be able to provide a large community park for active athletic fields and play. Children and adults in Murphy generally participate in leagues and athletic organizations in adjacent cities.

Public Hearings

The City of Murphy held two public hearings on October 4, 2007 and October 10, 2007 to receive citizens' comments on the park and recreational needs within the City. The meetings were attended by approximately 25 to 30 individuals. Their ages ranged from the early twenties to senior citizens. Participants were given the opportunity to complete questionnaires and to verbally express their concerns, needs, and vision for the Murphy park system.

The public comments varied in all areas of recreation. Conservation of natural resources and preservation of open space and Maxwell Creek were discussed as valuable recreation features in the park system. Gardening, tree planting and playgrounds were also topics discussed during the hearings. Aquatic facilities were mentioned as needed facilities.

The following is a listing of priorities of recreational elements mentioned at the public hearing.

1. *Walking Trails*
2. *Picnic Tables*
3. *Practice Fields*
4. *Swimming Pool*
5. *Splash Park*
6. *Bathrooms*
7. *Special Use Park*
8. *Dog Park*
9. *Garden Center, Xeriscaping, Tree Preservation*
10. *Playgrounds*
11. *Recreation Center, Community Center*
12. *Fishing Pond*
13. *Water Fountains*
14. *Horseshoe Pits*
15. *Gazebos*
16. *Amphitheater*
17. *Park Benches*

Standard-Based Analysis

This approach is used to assist in assessing the future recreational needs, and follows established and recognized standards for assessing the quantity of park land and the number of facilities that are required to meet the needs of a given population.

Facility-Recreation Standard

One source is the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The NRPA has functioned as a source of guidance for park standards and development for a number of years. The NRPA's standards are suggested to be a guide for determining park and open space needs. From community to community, differences will be found in the socio-economic and cultural characteristics, and in climatic conditions. Therefore, the range of demands and preferences for recreational activities will vary with these differences. Obviously, these variances will directly influence a uniform standard for all locations. NRPA is very specific to point out that their data is to be used only as a guide to the development of local standards. Therefore, the NRPA provides input to the formation of local needs.

The recommended metroplex standard is an analysis of approximately twenty cities in the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex. The standard is based on a city's population compared to their number of recreation facilities. These levels of service or ratios of population are generally accepted to meet the demand for a given recreation facility. Therefore, Tables 4 and 5 illustrate an actual level of recreational service, in North Texas, based on population.

The standard analysis has been prepared for the current City population of approximately 14,000 within *Table 4*, and for the build-out projected populations of 17,000 in *Table 5*. This is a standard comparison which illustrates the level of services provided at 14,000 and what the projected facilities need would be for a built-out population of 17,000.

TABLE 4
Park Facility Standard Analysis Ratio Using Existing Population of 14,000
City of Murphy, Texas

Facility	NRPA Standards	Current Murphy Inventory	Recommendation Metroplex Standard ⁽²⁾
Basketball	1/5,000	4	1/4,000=4
Tennis Courts	1/2,000	0	1/4,000=4
Youth Baseball	1/20,000	0	1/5,000=3
Youth Softball	1/5,000	0	1/5,000=3
Football	1/20,000	0	1/65,000=1
Youth Soccer	1/10,000	3	1/5,000=3
Playgrounds ⁽¹⁾	NS	4	(1)
Picnic Tables	NS	28	1/300=47
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	0	1/30,000=1
Trails	NS	3.69 miles	As many as possible*
Recreation Center	1/20,000	0	1/30,000=1

Game/Regulation Only Fields
Table assumes lighted facilities
NS = No Standard
NRPA = National Recreation and Parks Association
* As many as possible in order to provide a comprehensive system of pedestrian trails that connect residential areas to parks, schools and open space
⁽¹⁾ One playground should be installed in each neighborhood, community and regional park.
⁽²⁾ The term "Metroplex" represents cities in the Dallas/Ft. Worth region.

Park Land Analysis

Park land analysis is also evaluated on the basis of Murphy's current population, as shown in *Table 6* (next page). This is a city-wide analysis of park land within the City limits and the existing and built-out population.

Murphy's land use is primarily residential. A majority of the land is either existing residential or planned residential; with the exception of possible ETJ land being used for parks or the possibility of the acquisition or lease of the Plano I.S.D. or the 5.5 acres in the southeast corner of the city. The City is unable to acquire any additional neighborhood park land in the City. This evaluation is a reliable guide and analysis for park land comparison. The acreage required per 1,000 populations varies for each park classification. For long range planning, this is a useful tool for determining future park land acreage acquisition.

Facility	NRPA Standards	Current Murphy Inventory	Recommendation Metroplex Standard ⁽²⁾
Basketball	1/5,000	4	1/4,000=5
Tennis Courts	1/2,000	0	1/4,000=5
Youth Baseball	1/20,000	0	1/5,000=4
Youth Softball	1/5,000	0	1/5,000=4
Adult Softball	1/5,000	0	1/5,000=4
Football	1/20,000	0	1/65,000=1
Youth Soccer	1/10,000	3	1/5,000=4
Playgrounds ⁽¹⁾	NS	4	(1)
Picnic Tables	NS	28	1/300=56
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	0	1/30,000=1
Trails	NS	3.69 miles	As many as possible*
Recreation Center	1/20,000	0	1/30,000=1

Game/Regulation Only Fields
Table assumes lighted facilities
NS = No Standard
NRPA = National Recreation and Parks Association
* As many as possible in order to provide a comprehensive system of pedestrian trails that connect residential areas to parks, schools and open space
⁽¹⁾ One playground should be installed in each neighborhood, community and regional park.
⁽²⁾ The term "Metroplex" represents cities in the Dallas/Ft. Worth region.

As mentioned previously, the neighborhood park is an important aspect to the overall municipal park system. The ratio of 2.5 acres per 1000 population should not be confused with the minimum acreage size. The minimum acreage for a neighborhood park should be five acres for several important reasons. A minimum of five acres provides enough land to develop playgrounds, small pavilions, etc. A smaller tract will limit the facilities and the recreational opportunities available to citizens. In the event that the City accepts smaller tracts of land, in the one acre to three acre range, the man-hours and equipment needed to maintain these parks will be time consuming and would also require an increase the City's maintenance budget. If possible, a minimum of five-acre tracts is therefore recommended for neighborhood park development.

TABLE 6
Park Land Acreage Analysis
City of Murphy, Texas

Park Type	Recommended Acres per 1,000 Persons	Existing Murphy Parks	Acreage for Existing 14,000 Population	Acreage for 17,000 People at Build-Out
Neighborhood	2.5 acres	51.35 acres	35 acres	42.5 acres
Community	5 acres	16.25 acres	70 acres	85 acres
Special	2 acres	30.0 acres	28 acres	34 acres
Open Space/Greenbelts	6-8 acres	87.64 acres	112 acres	136 acres
Acres	17.5 acres	185.24 acres	245.00 acres	297.50 acres

V. FUTURE PARK IMPROVEMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing Park Improvements

The focus of this section will be the development of existing parks. The improvements are based on an analysis of existing facilities. Descriptions of these parks and related recommendations begin on the following page.

Preliminary cost estimates have also been prepared for each park element or improvement. The costs are general for specific elements such as benches, playgrounds, picnic tables, etc. The costs are based on 2008 construction costs. Items such as drainage improvements should be analyzed at the time of the proposed improvements as these items require a detail site analysis which is not included in this *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*.



Aviary Park

Park Size:	5 Acres
Park Location:	Southwest corner of Mustang Ridge Drive & Oriole Drive
Subdivision:	The Aviary
Park Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities:	6 Picnic tables 1 Bench Basketball court 4 Grills 2 Trash receptacles Open play area 1 Drinking fountain 20 Parking spaces

(Also see aerial image on following page.)

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

▪ Playground structure	\$65,000.00
With shade structure	\$40,000.00
▪ Additional trees (40, 4" caliper)	\$30,000.00
▪ Park signage	\$ 7,500.00
▪ Walking trail	\$50,000.00
▪ Pavilion with electrical outlets	\$50,000.00
▪ Drinking fountain	\$ 5,000.00
▪ Practice field	\$15,000.00
▪ Splash pad	\$250,000.00



Aerial Image of Aviary Park



Brentwood Park

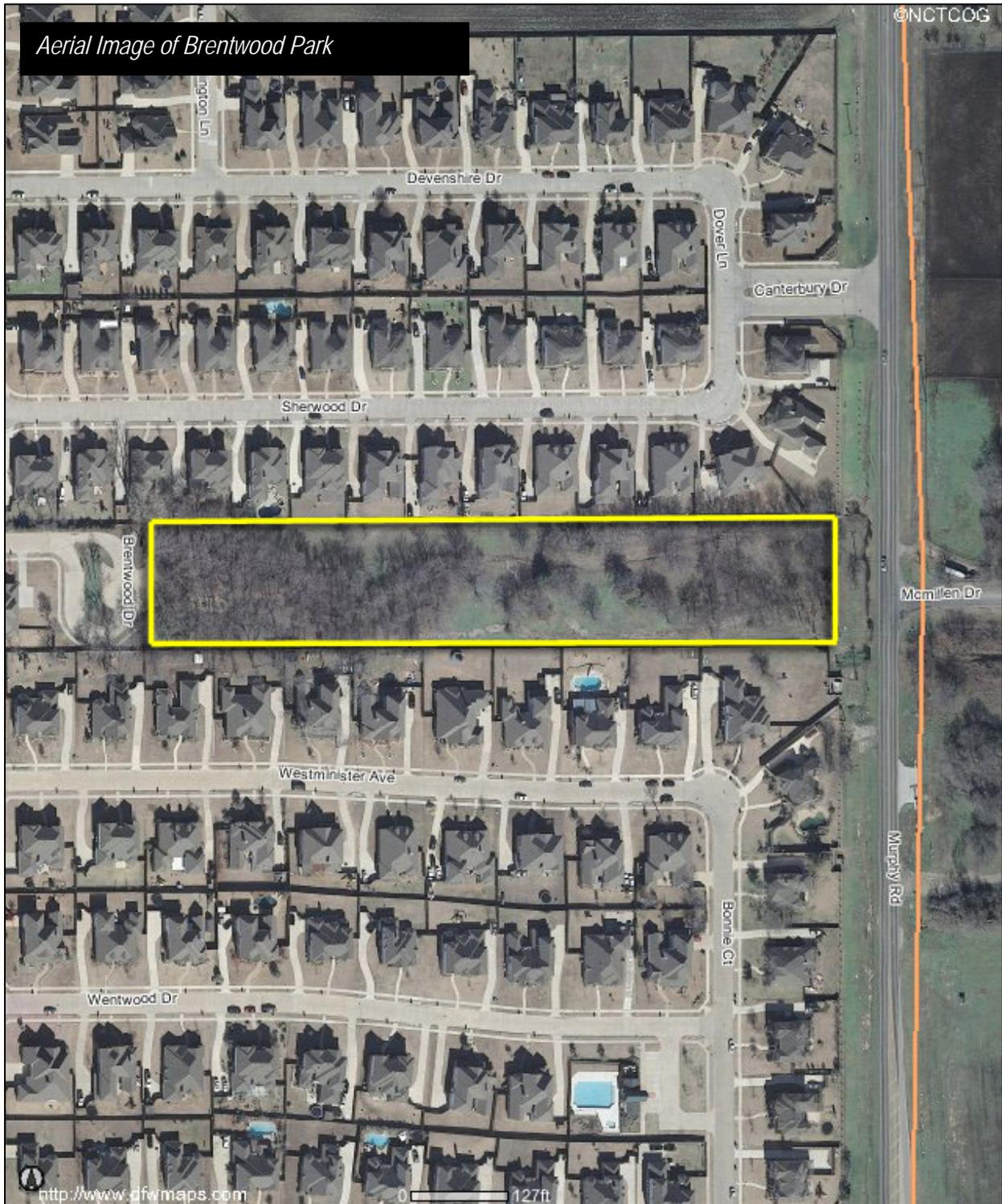
Park Size:	3.48 Acres
Park Location:	East end of Brentwood Drive
Subdivision:	Between Stratford Crossing and Daniel Crossing
Park Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities:	2 Picnic tables Mulch trail Trash receptacle 10 Parking spaces

(Also see aerial image on following page.)

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

▪ Picnic tables	\$ 4,000.00
▪ Benches (2)	\$ 1,500.00
▪ Drinking fountain	\$ 5,000.00
▪ Small pavilion with electrical outlets	\$30,000.00
▪ Walking trail	\$50,000.00





Gables Ranch Park

Park Size:	12 Acres
Park Location:	Southeast Corner of Rodeo Drive and Laredo Street
Subdivision:	Between the Ranch and the Gables at North Hill
Park Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities:	Undeveloped

(Also see aerial image on following page.)

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

▪ Playground	\$ 60,000.00
▪ Backstop	\$ 10,000.00
▪ Drinking fountain	\$ 5,000.00
▪ Trails/Sidewalks	\$ 75,000.00





Undeveloped Park Land (Hawthorne Park)

Park Size:	1.00 Acres
Park Location:	F.M. 544 & Hawthorn Drive
Subdivision:	The Timbers
Park Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities:	Undeveloped

(Also see aerial image on following page.)

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

None at this time





Liberty Ridge Park

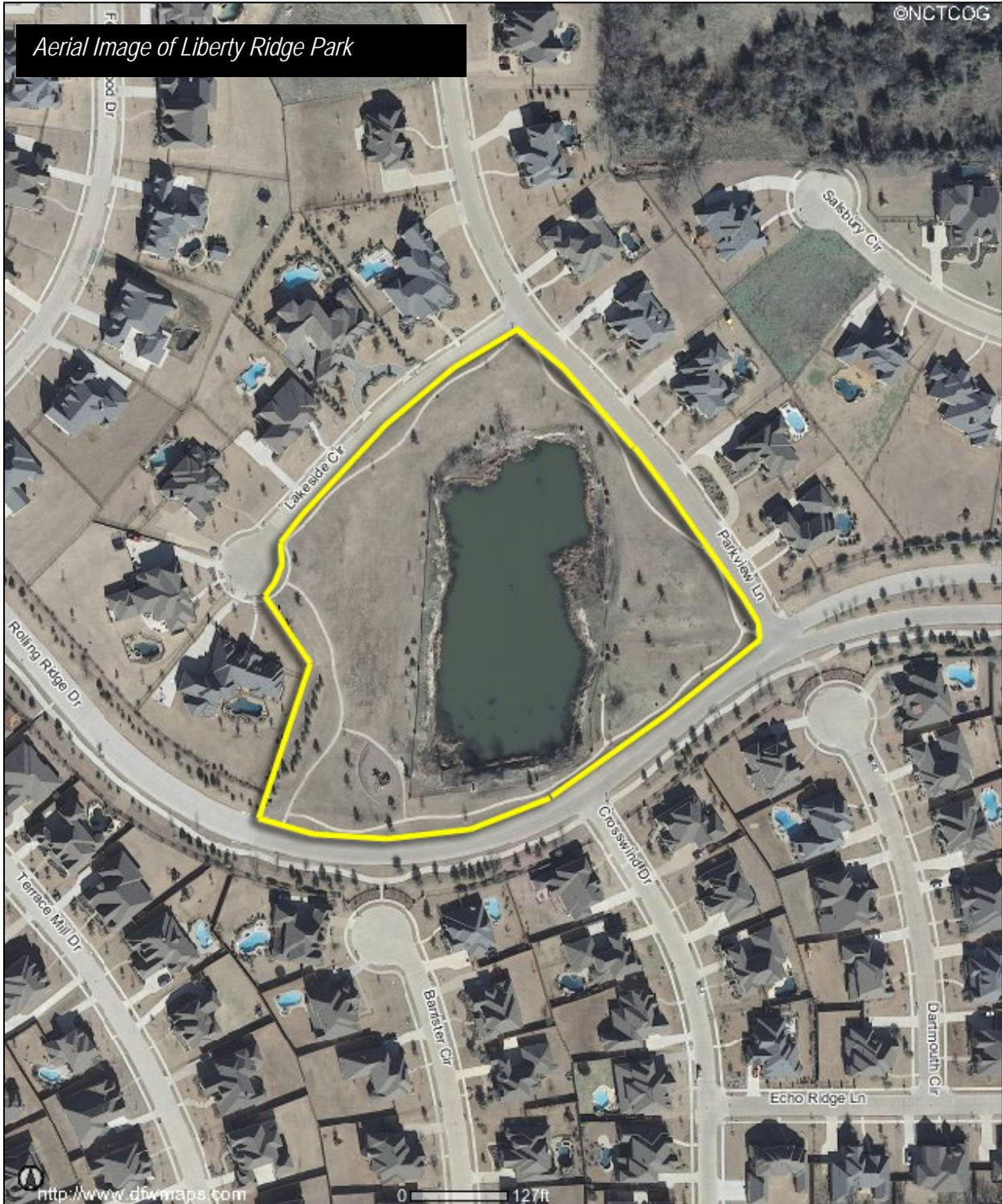
Park Size:	5.75 Acres
Park Location:	Northwest Corner of Rolling Ridge Drive and Parkview
Subdivision:	Rolling Ridge Estates
Park Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities:	Pond aerator fountain Playground 2 Trash receptacles Open play area Pond .37 Mile trail 3 Benches



(Also see aerial image on following page.)

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

▪ Secondary playground structure	\$50,000.00
With shade structure	\$40,000.00
▪ Additional trees (40, 4" caliper)	\$30,000.00
▪ Park benches (5)	\$ 3,750.00
▪ Grills with picnic tables (5)	\$ 6,500.00
▪ Pavilion (25')	\$30,000.00
▪ Drinking Fountain	\$ 5,000.00



Maxwell Creek Linear Park

Park Size: 59.18
Park Location: Floodplain of Maxwell Creek between McMillian and the Old Cottonbelt Railroad/DART line
Subdivision: N/A
Park Classification: Linear/Greenbelt
Park Facilities:



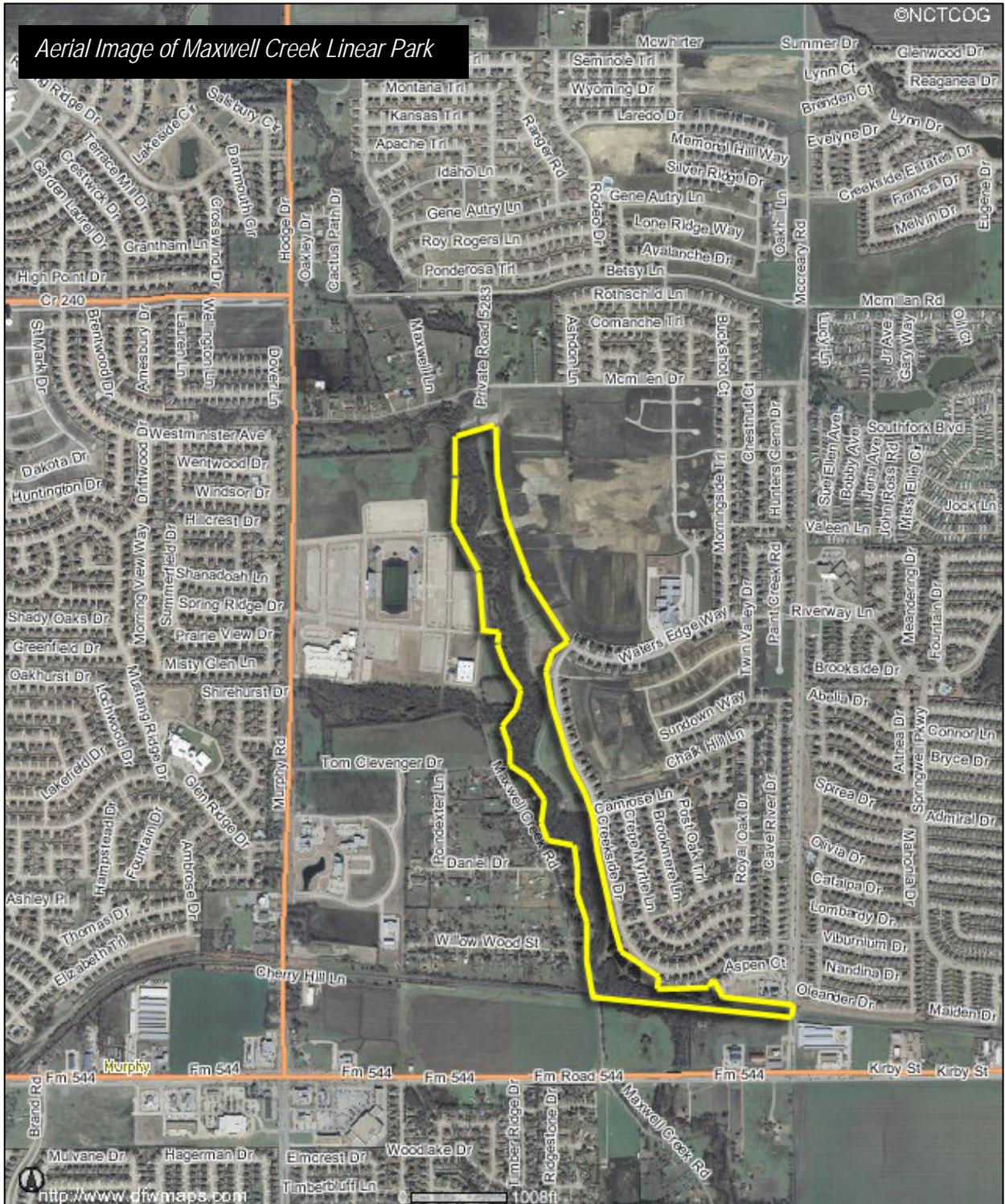
Playground
2 Soccer fields
2.3-mile concrete hike & bike trail
0.2-mile decomposed granite trail
Picnic pavilion
Practice backstop
½ Basketball court
Wildflower and native grass area
2 Pedestrian bridges
Outdoor classroom
8 Picnic tables
11 Trash receptacles
11 Benches
1 Drinking fountain

(Also see aerial image on following page.)

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS:

- Additional pedestrian bridge \$100,000.00
- Playground with shade structure \$ 65,000.00
- Wildflower plantings \$ 5,000.00
- Drinking fountain \$ 5,000.00
- Electrical outlets \$ 2,000.00

Aerial Image of Maxwell Creek Linear Park



Murphy City Park

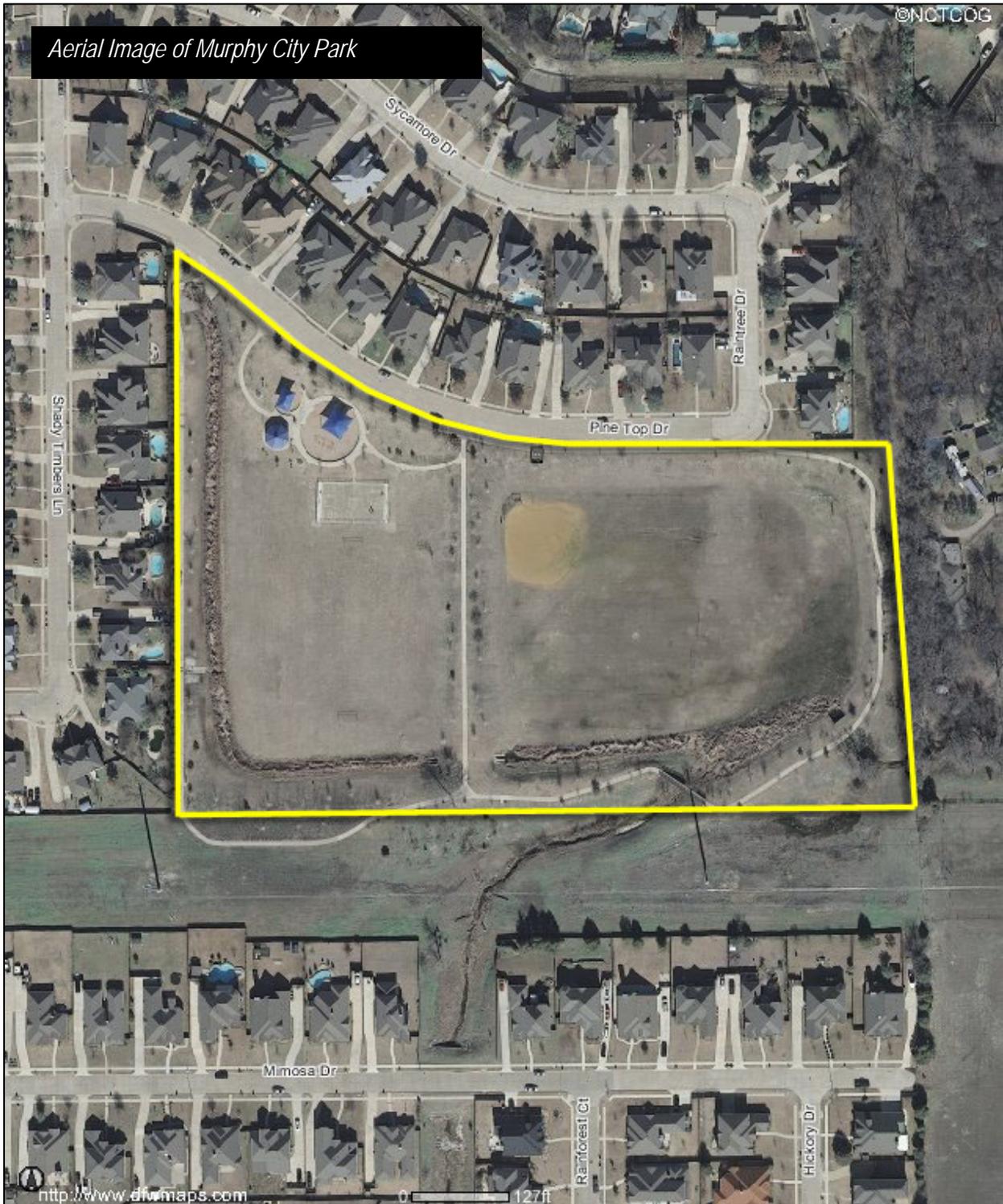
Park Size:	12.42 Acres
Park Location:	Pinetop Drive & Raintree Drive
Subdivision:	The Timbers
Park Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities:	Playgrounds with shade and swings 3 Benches 6 Picnic tables Drinking fountain 1 Pavilion 1 Practice backstop with skinned infield 1 Basketball court with hop scotch 2 Practice soccer fields Exercise stations 3 Grills 31 Parking spaces 5 Trash receptacles Pedestrian bridge 0.5-mile hike-and-bike trail



(Also see aerial image on following page.)

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Complete a Drainage Study \$ 30,000.00
- Analyze Murphy City Park with Bunny Run Park and Kinney Park
- Picnic pavilion \$ 30,000.00
- Picnic tables (4) \$ 4,000.00
- Benches (2) \$ 1,500.00
- Add electricity to pavilion \$ 20,000.00



Mustang Park

Park Size:	5.10 Acres
Park Location:	Mustang Drive
Subdivision:	Glen Ridge Estates
Park Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities:	Playgrounds with slide structure Swings 3 Benches Drinking fountain Pavilion with electrical outlets Grill ½ Basketball court Practice backstop 3 Trash receptacles 4 Picnic tables 0.32-mile trail 12 Parking spaces



(Also see aerial image on following page.)

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS:

- Additional Trees (40, 4" caliper) \$30,000.00



Undeveloped Park Land (Kinney Park)

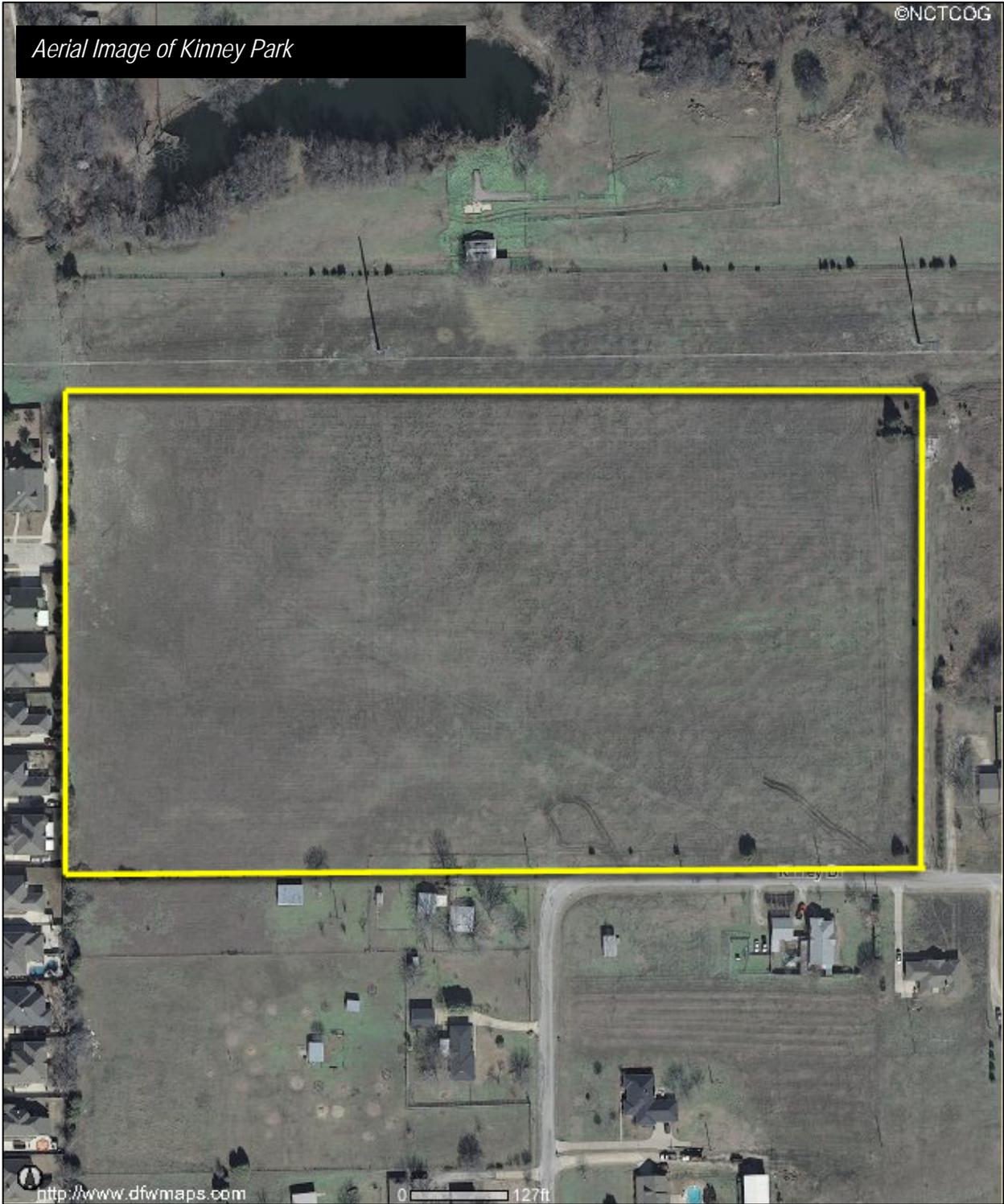
Park Size: 16.25 Acres
Park Location: Kinney Road
Subdivision: Creekside
Park Classification: Community Park
Park Facilities: Undeveloped

(Also see aerial image on following page.)



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

To be developed in accordance with a master plan for this site.



Undeveloped Park Land (Municipal Complex)

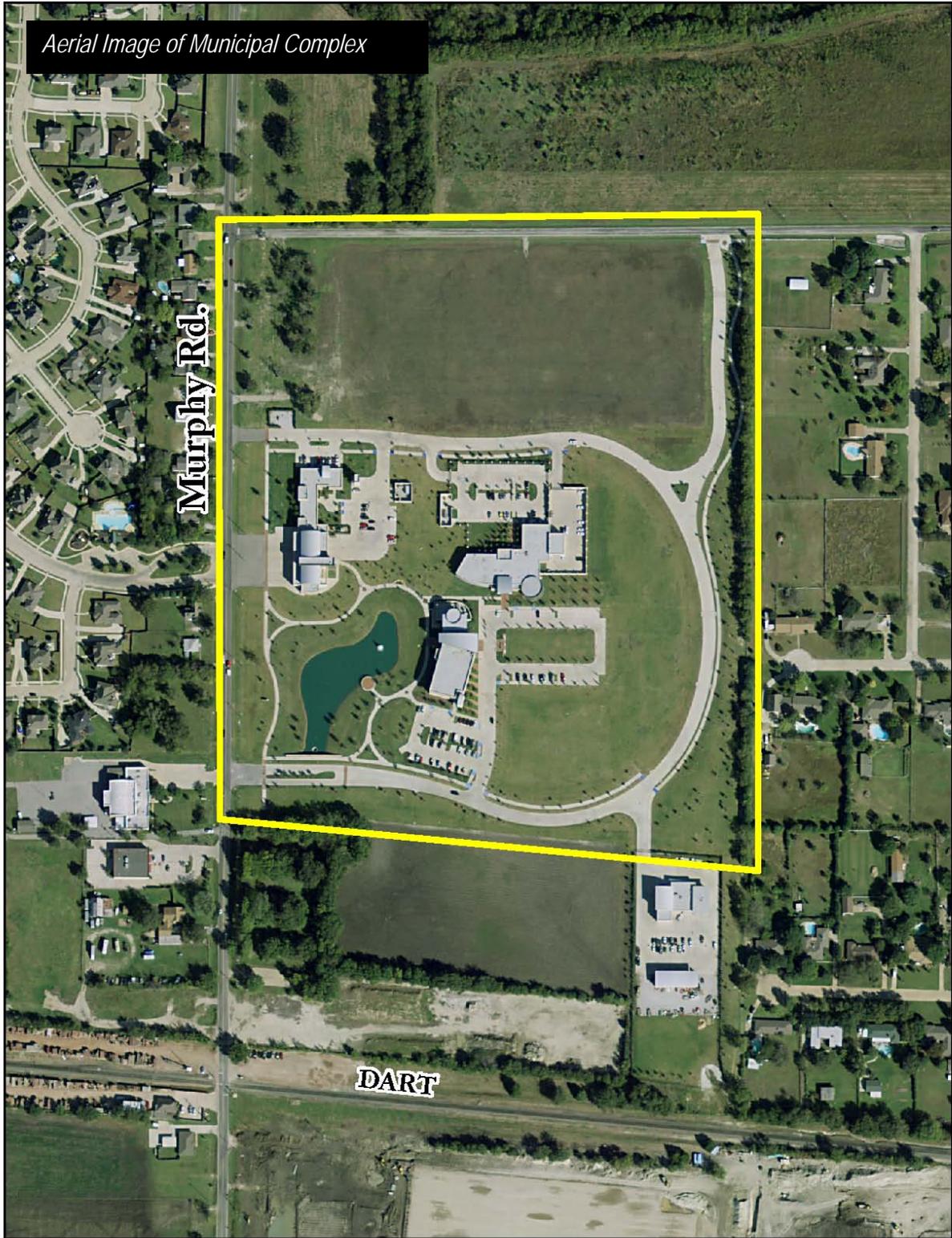
Park Size:	30.00 Acres
Park Location:	206 North Murphy Road
Subdivision:	N/A
Park Classification:	Special Use Park
Park Facilities:	Undeveloped

(Also see aerial image on following page.)

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

None at this time





Undeveloped Park Land (Bunny Run Park)

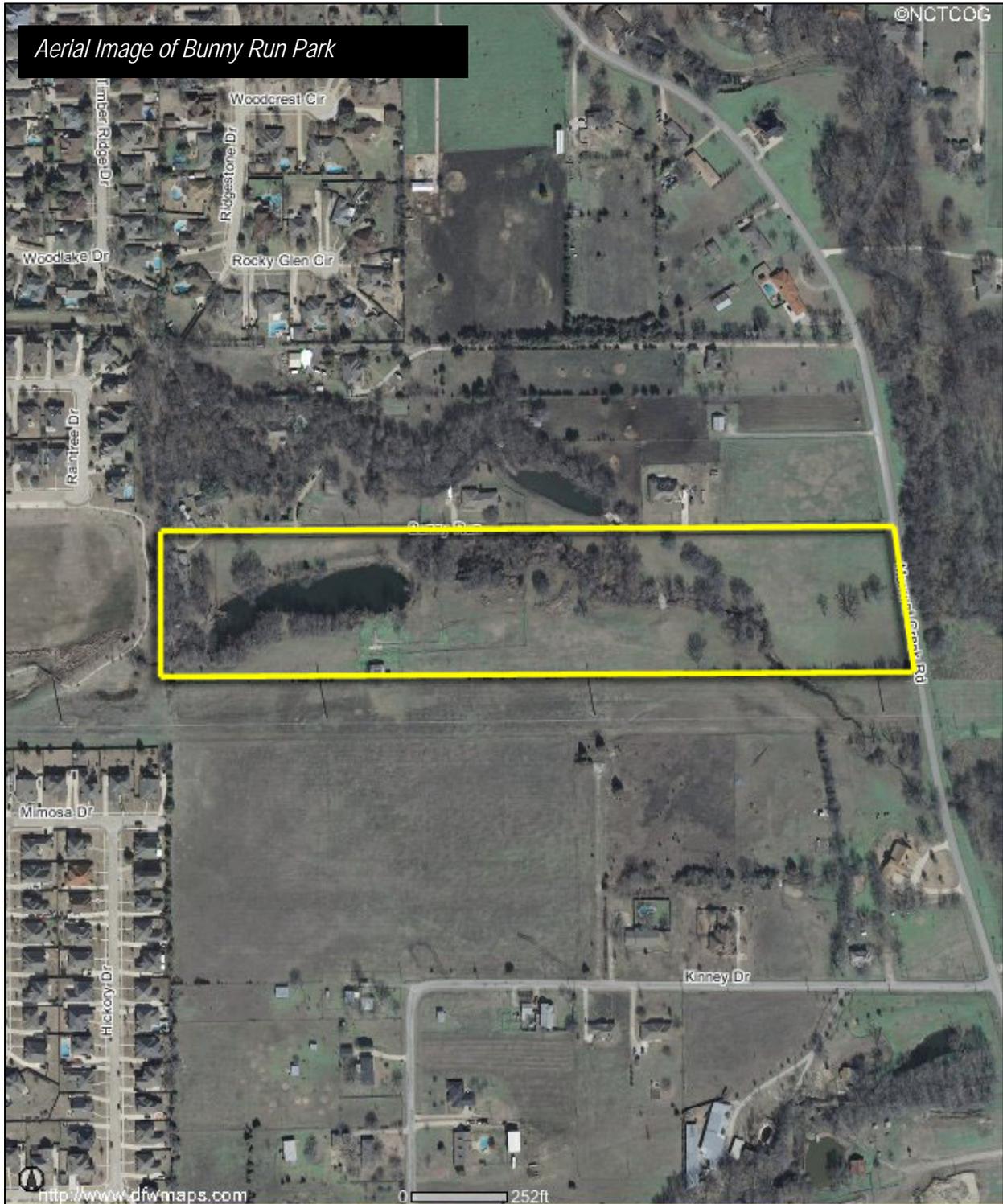
Park Size:	16.96 Acres
Park Location:	South of Bunny Run Road
Subdivision:	Creekside
Park Classification:	Special Use Park
Park Facilities:	Undeveloped

(Also see aerial image on following page.)



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

To be developed in accordance with a master plan for this site.



Undeveloped Park Land (Cactus Path)

Park Size:	6.50 Acres
Park Location:	East of Cactus Path Road
Subdivision:	The Ranch
Park Classification:	Greenbelt
Park Facilities:	Undeveloped

(Also see aerial image on following page.)

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Hike & Bike Trail \$ 50,000.00
- Park benches \$ 1,500.00
- Trash receptacles \$ 1,000.00





Park Land (Lonesome Dove)

Park Size:	5.00 Acres
Park Location:	West of Lonesome Dove Road
Subdivision:	The Ranch
Park Classification:	Greenbelt
Park Facilities:	0.3-mile hike & bike trail

(Also see aerial image on following page.)

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Benches \$ 1,500.00
- Trash receptacles \$ 1,000.00





Undeveloped Park Land (Skyline Park)

Park Size:	6.6 Acres
Park Location:	East end of Skyline Road
Subdivision:	N/A
Park Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Park Facilities:	Undeveloped

(Also see aerial image on following page.)

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Playground \$ 65,000.00
- Shade structure \$ 20,000.00
- Drinking fountain \$ 5,000.00
- Pavilion \$ 30,000.00
- Park bench \$ 1,500.00
- Trash receptacle \$ 1,000.00





Future Park Land and Recreation Recommendations

As stated in the *Factors Influencing Planning for Parks* section, the City of Murphy is land locked with limited ETJ. The City is also approximately 95 percent built-out or the remaining land is already planned for future residential or retail. Land acquisition for neighborhood or community class parks will be difficult. Therefore, the City will have to maximize its existing parks and preserve the open space within the Maxwell Creek Corridor.

Neighborhood Parks

According to *Table 6, Parkland Acreage Analysis* (page 24), the City has 51.35 acres of neighborhood park land. The City has recently acquired a 6.6 acre tract of land in the southeast section of the City, Planning Area 3. This will be developed into a neighborhood park for this planning area. Looking at the neighborhood parks in conjunction with H.O.A. parks, there is open space and park facilities throughout Murphy for citizens to enjoy. Refer to the *Parks Service Area Map* on page 56.

Community Parks

Table 6 also illustrates a need for an additional 70 acres of land of community park land for a built-out population of 17,000. As previously stated, the City's existing and future land use patterns will make it difficult to acquire this additional 70 acres. The City is presently working with the Plano Independent School District to acquire or lease 19.1 acres of land south of Murphy Middle School. Because of its central location in Murphy, this property could be a valuable part of Murphy's park system. This 19.1 acre tract could offset the current deficit of 70 acres of needed community park land.

Community parks are generally used for organized youth and adult sports. During the planning process, it was determined that development of organized lighted athletic fields was not feasible simply because the land was not available for this type of use and park. Athletic complexes are generally located away from residential areas because of traffic impacts, field lighting, and noise. Because Murphy's land use is primarily residential, it would be difficult to avoid a conflict between any new athletic complex and residential property.

Special Use Parks

During the public hearings, citizens expressed a desire for specific park uses, such as amphitheaters, garden centers, decorative water or spray fountains, and splash pads. Typically these park amenities are found in a special use park. The aquatic facilities listed could also be found in neighborhood parks, but it is important to ensure that such facilities are designed to fit with the design of the neighborhood park. The City has land around and adjacent to the municipal complex which is designated for a special use park. The amenities listed could be built in the municipal complex. It is recommended the City prepare a master plan for the municipal complex to provide recommendations and cost of the proposed facilities.

Open Space and Greenbelts

The City is fortunate to have the Maxwell Creek Floodplain. This corridor provides valuable open space in the park system. The City is acquiring land within the floodplain of Maxwell Creek as adjacent property develops. The greenbelt should be left in its natural state to preserve the flora and fauna. The primary recreation activity would be development of hike-and-bike trails to open the greenbelts and provide access to pedestrians. The City currently has 87.64 acres in the open space and greenbelt park classification. Although the recommendation for build-out is 136 acres, the City should acquire both east and west sides of Maxwell's Creek for permanent open space, south of the DART rail line. The estimated acreage for this floodplain is 50 to 60 acres. This will be the primary trail corridor in the City. It is recommended that future trails within the City connect to the Maxwell Creek greenbelt.

Private Parks and Open Space

The Parks Recreation and Open Space Master Plan evaluates public parks and public open space and does not evaluate H.O.A parks because they are not owned by the City. The City has numerous private parks and open areas within the City limits and neighborhood areas. These parks do provide recreational opportunities for Murphy citizens. However, they are private and maintained by the related Homeowners Association (HOA). Any future HOA parks should be reviewed by City staff for land area and recreational amenities. The City should adopt the same park development standards for HOA parks as are required for City park development.

Indoor Recreation Centers

The City of Murphy has several needs at this time in terms of its parks system. An indoor recreation center is one of these needs. Typically, cities provide indoor recreational opportunities in the form of a recreation center. These facilities provide for organized work out programs such as aerobic exercise, weight lifting, and stationary low-impact bikes and treadmills. Basketball and racquetball also cultivate recreation opportunities. These facilities range in cost between \$8,000,000 to \$14,000,000. This cost is based on the final square footage and the amenities in the center. The City should plan on construction of this facility within the next five to 10 years.

Aquatic Facilities

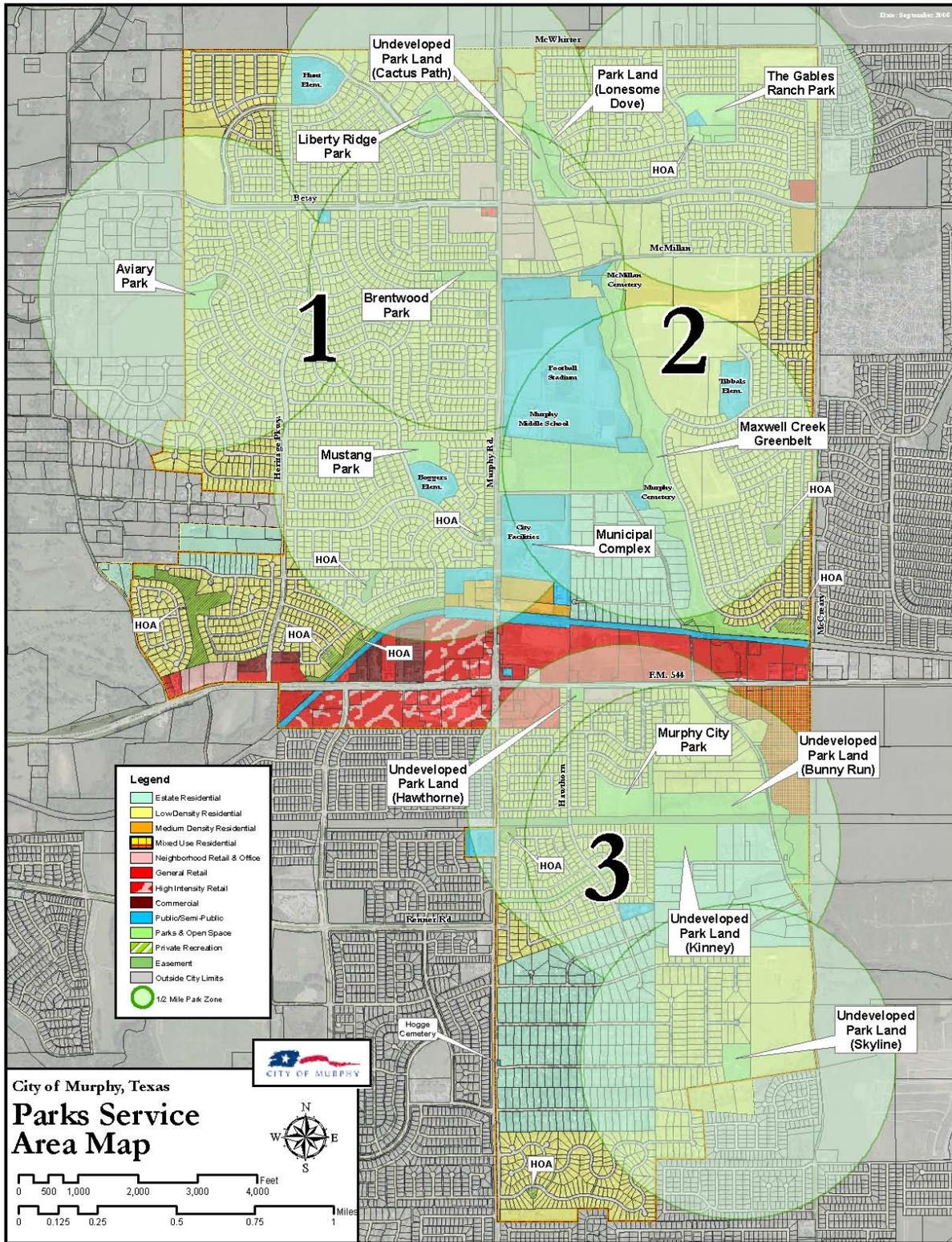
The City should consider building spray parks or splash parks. The budget for these parks can range between \$200,000 to \$500,000, depending on amenities. A spray or splash park is a hard surface area with water jets, sprays and water toys which spray up from the surface. There is no pooling or containment of water. The water drains to a central location and into the sewer or on-site treatment facility. Through the planning process it was recommended a splash park be constructed in each planning service area in order to provide water recreation opportunities.



Community Swimming Pool

The City could support a community swimming pool. This pool typically provides aquatic recreation for all age groups including lap swimming, water aerobics, a small wading pool for children 5 years of age and under, and potentially a water playground area for children between the ages of 5 and 12. The estimated cost for a community pool could range between \$2,500,000 to \$5,000,000.





VI. CITY-WIDE TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN

Trails are an important component of the future park system, as they serve recreational, transportation and linkage purposes. As identified by the public hearing in the Needs Assessment Survey, trails were the number one requested facility. In Murphy, the transportation and linkage aspects of a City-wide trail system will serve a local and regional purpose. The City has the opportunity to connect trails to several adjacent cities. They are as follows:

Six City Trail System

Future connection to this extensive trail system will provide trail access to McKinney/Frisco to the north and Rowlett and Lake Ray Hubbard to the south. This can be accomplished by the following corridors.

1. F.M. 544 right-of-way west of Murphy
2. The electrical easement in southeast Murphy, west through Richardson.
3. The right-of-way of Betsy Lane west into Bob Woodruff Park and the City of Plano.
4. The Dart/Commercial property line from west Murphy into the trail system.

Connection to the following cities will provide trail opportunities and connection to other municipal trail systems for Murphy residents.

The City of Richardson Connection by the Oncor easement, the Dart/Commercial Line and F.M. 544.

The City of Sachse The Maxwell Creek trail can possibly connect to the Muddy Creek trail in east Sachse, as well as, the Oncor electric easement east into Sachse.

The City of Parker Connection to Parker will be through the Maxwell Creek corridor.

The City of Wylie Trails in the F.M. 544 right-of-way and Oncor easement can one day connect to Wylie.



Inter-City Trail/Sidewalk Connection

Through Murphy's Development Codes and Subdivision Ordinance, the City has provided for a network of sidewalks/trails within their subdivisions and adjacent to thoroughfares. This network allows citizens the opportunity to walk from their residence to parks, retail areas, and other amenities in Murphy. The Trail Master Plan illustrates some of the typical routes pedestrians may use to access parks and other public/private amenities in Murphy.

Purpose of the Trail System Plan

First and foremost, the City-Wide Trail System Plan will serve as a planning tool for Parks and Recreation Staff and the Murphy 4B Community Development Corporation. It will also serve to create a vision for a City-wide trails and greenway network and assist public and private entities who wish to contribute funds or resources to the development of the system. Another key purpose of the Trail Plan is to serve as a basis for coordinating with other City departments, to reduce conflicts with their development activities including utility installation, transportation, water quality, storm water runoff, planning services and other activities.

Design Considerations

The following is a general discussion of the parameters associated with trail design and construction. The conclusion of this section contains recommendations for the design and construction of the proposed Murphy Trail System.

Types of Trails

- Separated Trails – Separate trails and trail systems are provided for each type of trail user, e.g. bicyclist, pedestrian, skaters.
- Multi-Use Trails – All trail user groups occupy the same trail or trail corridor. The physical design of the trail must be modified accordingly, to accommodate the demands of the expected user groups.

Trail Surfaces*

- Natural Surface – Are mostly restricted to natural or native parks. Typically this type of trail is limited in use due to weather or wet conditions.

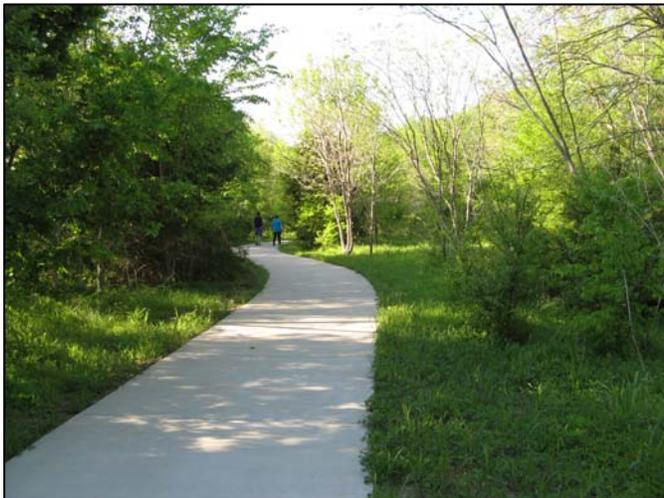


Decomposed Granite - Decomposed Granite is the surface at Maxwell Creek Park within the native area (see illustration below, right). The approximate length is 0.2 miles. The surface is soft and excellent for walking and jogging. The surface should be in a self contained park or neighborhood parks. This type of trail within a neighborhood park is an excellent use for decomposed granite.



Asphalt –

Hot mix asphalt can be cost effective to install, but in areas of full sun, decomposition is accelerated by maintenance vehicle traffic. Edges require containment for stability and long term viability. Surface is softer for walking or jogging. Cold-mix asphalt is suitable for patching but is labor intensive. Asphalt is easy to patch or expand, but care should be taken to ensure an even surface for road bicyclists and wheelchair users. The maintenance required for this trail does not outweigh the initial cost savings.



Concrete –

While initially more expensive than other material choices, concrete is the longest lasting trail surface (see local example in illustration, right) with an expected life span of 25 years or more. It requires the least maintenance of any trail surface material. Only saw cut expansion joints should be used to avoid differential settling due to freeze/thaw and wet/dry cycles. Concrete is suitable for poor sub-soil conditions, but is more expensive to repair. Non-skid medium broom finish is ideal for bicycle traffic. Concrete is less desirable for jogging paths.

Trail Widths

The recommended trail width varies and depends on the location and type of trail.

Maxwell Creek Corridor – The minimum trail width for trails in this corridor should be 10 feet.

Neighborhood Parks – The minimum trail width for trails in neighborhood parks should be six feet. Oftentimes the trails are self-contained within the boundaries of the park; therefore, a six-foot minimum width is adequate. Although some of the existing trails in Mustang Park and Liberty Ridge Park are less than six feet, they still provide walking and jogging opportunities.

Thoroughfare Trails – Existing trails in the right-of-way of Murphy Road, Betsy Lane, McCreary Road, and FM 544 should be a minimum of 10 feet in width. Not all of the trails are 10 feet in width; however, the trails still provide walking and jogging opportunities.

Vertical Clearance

The absolute minimum vertical clearance for multi-use trails is 8.2 feet, 9.5 feet is the minimum comfortable height. The vertical clearance may need to be greater to permit passage of maintenance vehicles. Clearance under crossings and tunnels should be 10 feet for adequate vertical shy distance.

Longitudinal Slope (Grade)

Grades on off-street paths should be kept to a minimum, especially on long inclines. Grades greater than five percent are undesirable because the ascents are difficult for many bicyclists and the descents cause some bicyclists to exceed the speeds at which they are competent. ADA guidelines stipulate that anything exceeding five percent (one-foot rise in 20 horizontal feet) is a ramp and must be constructed with handrails, a maximum rise of 30 inches in a maximum length of thirty feet and must have a 60-inch-by-60-inch landing at the base and the top. Therefore, to be in compliance with ADA guidelines, trail ramps cannot exceed an 8.33 percent slope (one-foot rise in 12 horizontal feet).

Signs

Adequate signs and markings are essential on multi-use trails, especially to alert users to potential conflicts and to convey regulatory messages to both users and motorist at street intersections. In addition, guide signs, such as those indicating destination, direction, distance, route numbers and names of cross streets, should be used in the same manner as they are on highways. Warning signs shall consist of the traffic control signage and devices indicated in the design guidelines.

Directional signage is imperative to facilitate user comfort and confidence, thereby, ensuring optimal use of the trail both from the standpoint of participation/occupancy levels and enjoyment level of the participants. At trail intersections signage should be provided that indicates destinations of the various trail branches and a distance



to each destination. The cardinal directions should also be indicated. Consideration should be given to providing a map of the trail system at each intersection of major trail branches.

Within residential neighborhoods, in addition to the aforementioned signage, the pavement surface shall be demarcated in such a manner that trail users will be able to follow the trail routing through the neighborhood without becoming confused and possibly taking a wrong turn.

Spur trails linking neighborhoods to parks and schools shall have a definite indication at the trail terminus so trail users unsuspectingly traveling into the neighborhood are made aware that the trial system ends at that location. Provision of a map indicating the direction to the main branch of the trial would be beneficial at these locations.

Access Points

Although access to the trail will usually be available at every road crossing, the users of the trail should be encouraged to enter the trail at specific access points. By designating specific points of access, there may be an elimination of possible encroachment on private property, as well as, preventing possible congestion at busy road crossings.

Lighting

Lighting of the multi-use trail should be considered, especially if the off-street routes are intended for transportation purposes, many trail commuters may need to travel during poorly lit morning and evening hours. Fixed source lighting reduces conflicts along paths and at intersections. In addition, lighting allows the trail user to see the path direction, surface conditions and obstacles. Lighting should be considered through underpasses or tunnels and when night time security could be a problem. The standard horizontal illumination level is 5 lux (0.5 foot candle) to 22 lux (2 foot candles). Where special security problems exist, height illumination levels may be considered.

Traffic Control Devices

Pedestrian signalization designed to accommodate a one meter (3.2 feet) per second walking speed, should be provided at major streets where traffic volume and speed is high. ADA stipulated that where provided, buttons shall be raised or at least flush and a minimum of 1.9 centimeters (3/4 inch) in the smallest dimension. The force required to activate controls shall be no greater than 22.2 N (5 lbs). Additionally, controls shall be located as close as possible to the curb ramp and, to the maximum extent feasible, shall permit operation from a level area immediately adjacent to the controls and a maximum of 122.7 centimeters (48.3 inches) high.



To provide clear visibility of pedestrians approaching intersection crosswalks at night, the approaches and all street corners should be well illuminated. All intersection lighting should illuminate the crossing and waiting areas and/or create back lighting to make the pedestrian silhouette clearly visible on approach. All commercial, entertainment, school and other pedestrian traffic generating corridors and spaces should be well illuminated. Raised islands in crossings should be cut through level with the street or have curb ramps or other sloped area at both sides. There should be a level area 121.9cm (48 in) long minimum and a minimum of 91.4cm (36 in) wide in the part of the island intersected by the crossings.

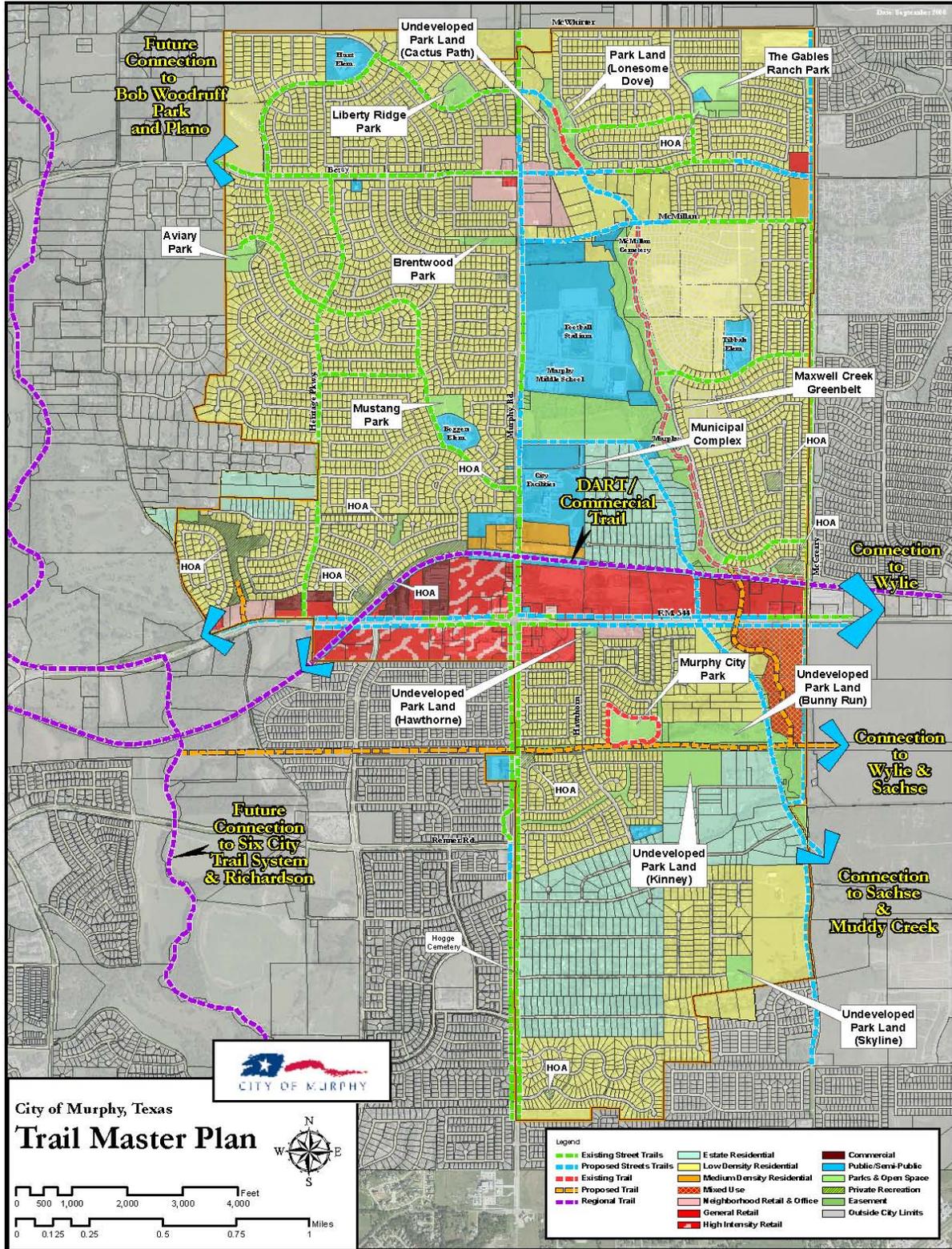
Thoroughfare and Intersection Crossings

There are several methods of crossing collector streets and major thoroughfares; at grade, overhead and below grade. The preferred alternative is to cross any major collector or thoroughfare, such as Murphy Road or FM 544, would be at an at-grade crossing, at a signalized intersection. The traffic signals stop oncoming traffic and allows for a safe crossing for pedestrian and trail users. Spur trails from the main trail should be used as necessary to achieve this. This is the safest and most economical method of crossing at a thoroughfare or collector.

Below Grade or Creek Drainage Structures – Below grade or creek drainage structures may be used for crossing under major thoroughfares. Using drainage structure is feasible provided the trail is elevated above the normal stream flow line. The trail will flood during heavy rain events and clean-up and restoration will be required. There are additional construction costs incurred with this method of crossing. The trail gradient or slope will have to accommodate the design guidelines established by the ADA, therefore adding to the construction cost.

Tunnel Crossings – Tunnel crossings face the same issues as a drainage structures with the exception of drainage and safety. Because the tunnel is generally constructed at a mid-point, drainage is an issue; water will have to be pumped or piped out. The tunnel also is a safety concern since it is concealed and could pose a danger to trail users.

Above Grade or Aerial Crossings - Aerial crossings would be the most expensive of the three crossing alternatives. The crossing would have to provide height clearance for vehicles in traffic lanes and accommodate the disabled. Ramps or elevators would have to be constructed to meet ADA guidelines



VII. 10-YEAR PARK PRIORITY LIST

Listed below are the recommended park improvements for the next 10-year period. The recommendations are identified as Short-Term Priority (2008 to 2011, shown in yellow), Mid-Term Priority (2011 to 2015, shown in green) and Long-Term Priority (2016 to 2018, shown in blue). The priority of these park improvements is based on the needs assessment and meetings with City staff and Parks and Recreation Board.

TABLE 7 10-Year Park Priority List City of Murphy, Texas					
Priority	Park	Amenity	Possible Funding Sources	Timeframe	Estimated Cost
1.	Maxwell Creek Corridor	Trail development	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2008 - 2011	\$1,500,000
2.	Aviary	Playground w/ shade structure, Walking trail (6' wide), Practice field, Water fountain, Landscaping, Pavilion, Splash pad	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2008 - 2011	\$262,500 to \$850,000
3.	Brentwood	Picnic tables, Benches, Drinking fountain, Pavilion, Walking trail	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2008 - 2011	\$100,000
4.	Gables Ranch	Complete 1 st phase of development	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2008 - 2011	\$750,000
5.	City Park System	Park land acquisition	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2008 - 2011	\$1,500,000

Priority	Park	Amenity	Possible Funding Sources	Timeframe	Estimated Cost
6.	Bunny Run	Phase I	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2008 - 2011	\$1,000,000
7.	Kinney Park	Phase I	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2008 - 2011	\$1,000,000
8.	Maxwell Creek	Land acquisition between McMillian and Betsy; Install trail linkage	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2008 - 2011	\$250,000
9.	Maxwell Creek	Complete recommended improvements	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2008 - 2011	\$250,000
10.	Mustang Park	Complete tree planting	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2008 - 2011	\$50,000
11.	Murphy City Park	Study final use of park in conjunction with Bunny Run Park and Kinney Park	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2008 - 2011	\$30,000
12.	Liberty Ridge Park	Complete recommended improvements	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2008-2011	\$200,000 to \$225,000

Priority	Park	Amenity	Possible Funding Sources	Timeframe	Estimated Cost
13.	Skyline Park	Playground, shade structure, water fountain, pavilion	Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2008-2011	\$175,000
Short-Term Priority (2008 to 2011) Sub-Total Cost					\$ 7,067,500 to \$ 7,680,000
14.	Maxwell Creek Trail	Pursue land acquisition in Maxwell Creek corridor for trail development south of FM 544	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2011 - 2015	\$250,000
15.	Municipal Complex	Large community splash pad	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2011-2015	\$1,000,000
Mid-Term Priority (2011 to 2015) Sub-Total Cost					\$ 1,250,000
16.	Municipal Complex	Large community pool	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2016 - 2018	\$2,500,000 to \$5,000,000
17.	Municipal Complex	Recreation center	Bonds, Grants, Park Dedication Fees, Private Donations, General Fund, HOA Partnerships	2016 - 2018	\$8,000,000 to \$14,000,000
Long-Term Priority (2016 to 2018) Sub-Total Cost					\$10,500,000 to \$19,000,000
10-Year Park Priority List Total Cost					\$18,817,500 to \$27,930,000

VIII. 10-YEAR CITY PRIORITY LIST

The 10-Year Action Plan/Priority List as outlined in *Table 8 and Table 9* represents the culmination of the *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*. *Table 8* represents the priority list of outdoor recreational facilities and *Table 9* represents the priority of indoor recreational elements. Both tables are based on the needs assessment and discussion with the Murphy Park and Recreation Board. It is the synoptic conclusion of the park master planning process. Annual review of the Master Plan by the City Staff, City Council members, Murphy Parks and Recreation Board members and citizens will allow analysis of each recommendation for acquisition, improvements, and new facilities to enhance the quality of Murphy Parks and Recreation System to maximum effect.

TABLE 8
10-Year City Priority List - Recreational Outdoor Facility Development Listing
City of Murphy, Texas

Priority	Facility	Timing	Estimated Cost	Possible Funding Sources
1.	Walking Trails	2008 - 2013	\$185,000 per mile	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
2.	Picnic Tables	2008 - 2013	\$1,500 each	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
3.	Playgrounds	2008 - 2013	\$65,000	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
4.	Splash Park	2008 - 2013	\$20,000	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
5.	Special Use Park	2008 - 2013	\$250,000	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations

TABLE 9
10-Year City Priority List - Recreational Indoor Facility Development Listing
City of Murphy, Texas

Priority	Facility	Timing	Estimated Cost	Possible Funding Sources
1.	Indoor Multi-Purpose Courts	2010 - 2015	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
2.	Aerobic Room	2010 - 2015	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
3.	Game Room	2010 - 2015	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
4.	Arts & Crafts Room	2010 - 2015	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations
5.	Indoor Jogging Track	2010 - 2015	Varies	Bonds, Grants, Private Donations

Plan Summary

This *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* is a fluid planning tool which will guide the development and acquisition of new park land and recreational facilities. The master plan has identified the need for park improvements, recreational athletic fields, facilities, and restoration of existing parks. As with any public or municipal project, the amount of available funding or the potential to retire debt is the controlling factor in deciding which project or projects should be completed first.

As identified, renovation projects for existing parks typically have smaller construction budgets. The renovations specified in this park master plan outline required improvements and some new construction. These types of projects generally receive money from the City's general fund and/or a bond issue which requires voter approval. Projects of this nature and scope outlined in this *Master Plan* would take approximately 6 to 8 months to complete. The larger renovation projects, such as field renovation or special amenities, should allow for 12 to 14 months to complete. This includes development of plans and specifications and construction.

This *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* should be reviewed annually or after a major project or task has been accomplished.



IX. IMPLEMENTATION

Identified within this section are the ways and methods of implementing the recommendations within this *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*. Critical to its implementation is the action plan, which should be developed annually by the City of Murphy.

Policies and Ordinances

The accuracy of these implementation mechanisms is dependent upon the proper coordination of input from contributing bodies including City officials, elected and appointed, City staff, the Plano and Wylie school districts, surrounding municipalities, sports groups, and most importantly the citizens of Murphy. All parties must communicate and work collectively toward common goals, only this will ensure the successful development of the park system. An example of this communication, at the staff level, would be the incorporation of the *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* during review of proposed development plans with various entities involved.

Ordinances provide the legal framework for implementation of this *Master Plan*, and therefore, aid in park system development and protection. Outlined below are several ordinances directly related to park land acquisition and development.

Watershed Management & Drainageway Ordinances

These ordinances protect and preserve greenbelts and floodplains. They provide a tool to manage the drainage and floodplains within Murphy. The ordinances respond to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) mandates for cities. These tools may be drafted in a format as restrictive as the City wishes. A reciprocal benefit of the preservation of these areas would be their use as linear greenbelts and connections to destinations throughout the City.

Funding Sources

This *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* recommends the development of new parks, and further development in some existing parks. Once completed, these recommended improvements represent a substantial public investment in parks and open space as the City grows and develops. The various sources of funds for these improvements are as important as the diversity of those sources. When there are several sources of funds for implementing this *Master Plan*, then no one source is over-burdened and the *Master Plan* has a better probability of being successfully implemented. The sources discussed below relate to the purchase and/or development and renovation/expansion of park land and facilities.



General Fund

This source of funding is supported by ad valorem tax revenues and is generally the primary source of funds for maintenance and operation of the existing park system. The general fund is also the source for projects requiring smaller amounts of capital investment. Although projects funded by this source make a small annual contribution to the expansion of the park system, analysis over a number of years usually reflects a major accomplishment in improvements to the park system. It is important to include funding for on-going maintenance and staff requirements for new developments and improvements.

Bonds

Bonds are generally the most common source used by cities for the purchase of land and for providing development monies. There are two types of bonds which are used for parks, both of which must be approved by referendum.

General Obligation Bond

The General Obligation Bond is amortized using ad valorem taxes and is used for the funding of capital projects which are not supported by a revenue source. These projects include water service, sanitary sewer service, and park acquisition and development. The availability of bonding for parks is often dependent upon the overall municipal needs financed by this source. Capital items such as purchase of land and physical improvements with a useable life expectancy of 15 to 20 years can be funded with general obligation bonds.

Revenue Bonds

Revenue bonds finance projects which produce enough revenue to retire their debt, such as, golf course, batting cages and enterprise oriented park projects.

Private Donations

This source of financial assistance would usually come from a citizen, organization, or business which has an interest in assisting with the development of the park system. Land dedication is not an uncommon occurrence when property is being developed. The location of a neighborhood park within a residential development offers additional value to residential units within that neighborhood, especially if the residential development is occupied by younger families with children. Although the future dedication of neighborhood park land is considered a limited resource in central Murphy due to the extent that development has occurred and the small size and configuration of remaining parcels within most areas of Murphy, it nevertheless remains a viable means of acquiring land. Once property is acquired through this method, the City should be prepared to improve the facility for use within a reasonable length of time.

Private donations may also be received in the form of funds, facilities, recreation equipment, art or in-kind services. Donations from local and regional businesses as sponsors for events or facilities should be pursued. A Parks Improvement Trust Fund may be set up to manage donations by service organizations, benevolent citizens, willed estates and other donated sources. The purpose of this trust is to establish a permanent source of principle value that will increase as donations occur. The principal cannot be decreased; however, the annual interest can be used for park development.

Sales Tax Option (4B)

The passage of Senate Bill 376 in 1992 gave cities an economic development tool which provided a sales tax that could be levied for park and recreation purposes. Murphy has passed a 4B sales tax which is dedicated to economic development and community projects and administered by the 4B Community Development Corporation.

Grant-In-Aid Programs

Grant programs provide funding assistance for various aspects of parks and recreational facilities. The grant-in-aid programs are usually matched programs, meaning the grant matches municipal funds or services at a prescribed ratio, usually ranging from 50/50 to 80/20.

Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA) Program

Texas Local Parks, Recreation and Open Space Fund is administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The TPWD program allows a city to request matching funds for both the acquisition and construction of park facilities. Currently, funds are available on a fifty percent (50%) cost share basis; the maximum amount a grant request can be for is \$500,000. The grant is secured through submission of an application which follows a standard format for applicants. All applications received are ranked on a point system which is designed to evaluate the need for the purchase or construction being requested. Funds are distributed among the applicants having the greater number of points until all allocated funds are expended.

Applications to TPWD can be made annually with a six-month waiting period following the submission date before the successful applications are notified. The number of applications a city may submit at any given time is based on past performance on grants and TPWD evaluation criteria. This funding source is used by many communities. The competitiveness of the program generally allows cities having bona fide park needs to prevail in obtaining funds.

Urban and Community Forest Challenge Grant

Matching grants are available on a 50/50 cost share basis from the Texas Department of Forestry. A variety of projects including: program development, beautification and staffing and training workshops are considered. These are relatively small grants of \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Public Improvements District (P.I.D.)

When authorized by City Council in compliance with state laws, new developments can establish a Public Improvement District (P.I.D.). As a taxing district, the P.I.D. provides funds specifically for the operation and maintenance of public facilities such as parks and major boulevards.

Tax Increment Financing District (T.I.F.)

A T.I.F. is a tool used by local government to finance public improvements in a defined area as approved by the City Council. When an area is designated a T.I.F. district the tax base is frozen at the current level. As development occurs within the T.I.F., the increased value of property, the tax increment is captured. The tax increments are posted to a separate fund to finance public improvements within the district.



CITY OF MURPHY
PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN
ADDENDUM A

IV. Needs Assessment & Identification – Page 21

The Parks and Recreation Board held a public hearing on April 21, 2009 to receive comments from specifically senior citizens on the park and recreation facility needs within the City. The City also distributed a recreation facility needs survey, specifically for seniors, on the City website, through email, on City hall water bill pay counter for walk-in customers, and was published in the local newspaper. Twenty – three surveys were received and tallied.

With the input of the previous comprehensive recreation 2005 citizen survey, 2007 citizen survey, numerous public meetings, current inventory of facilities, input from public hearings, and the 2009 questionnaires for senior citizens, the following revised priorities have been recommended by the Parks & Recreation Board, approved and adopted by the City Council for the City of Murphy.

2008 Master Plan	Priority	May 2009 Revised Recreational Elements with Senior Input
Walking Trails	1	<i>Trails – nature, walking, jogging*</i>
Picnic Tables	2	Community Splash Pad
Practice Fields	3	<i>Community Amphitheater*</i>
Swimming Pool	4	<i>Community Playground*</i>
Splash Park	5	Large Group Pavilion
Bathrooms	6	<i>Fishing Pond*</i>
Special Use Park	7	Picnic Tables
Dog Park	8	Lacrosse Field
Garden Center, etc	9	Soccer Fields
Playgrounds	10	<i>Nature/Garden Center*</i>
Community Center	11	<i>Community Center*</i>
Water Fountains	12	Water Fountains
Horseshoe Pits	13	Horseshoe Pits
Gazebos	14	Gazebos
Park Benches	15	Park Benches

* *Senior Citizen Recreation Element Requested*

**Table 5 Add – Page 23 – Adopted Local Facility Standards
Park Facility Standards for Build-Out Population of 17,000**

Recreation Facility	<i>Murphy Standard</i>	Current Inventory May 2009	Planned by Murphy Master Plan May 2009
Basketball	5	3	4
Tennis Courts	2	0	2
Backstops	8	6	8
Football/Lacrosse – no lights	2	0	1
Soccer Fields - irrigated / no lights	9	5	9
Playgrounds	Minimum 1 per park	5 parks	12
Picnic Tables	59	28	59
Indoor/Outdoor Swimming Pool	1	0	1
Trails	As per trail plan with linkage	7.5 miles	As per trail plan
Community Center (Old Murphy School)	1	0	1
Recreation Center	1	0	1
Splash Pad	1	0	1
Sand Volleyball	4	1	4
Acres per 1000 pop.	15.5 to 17.5	9.86	15.5-17.5
For Murphy Build-Out	263.5-297.5	138.02	263.5-297.5

VII. A. 10-year Outdoor Park Priority List and Action Plan – Page 64

Table 7 – Updated Status Report and Priorities – May 2009

Priority	Park	Amenity	Timeframe	Status
1.	Maxwell Creek Greenbelt / Trail	Trail extensions to west and south sides	2009-2011	Phase II – grant application – July 2009
2.	Municipal Complex	Large Community Splash Pad	2010	Outdoor Grant – July 2009
3.	Land Acquisition	For trails and parks	2008-2011	On going for Service Area 2
4.	Maxwell Creek Greenbelt / Trail	Land Acquisition South of FM 544	2009-2011	On going for Service Area 3
5.	Streetscapes/Trail links	Trail Plan Links	2009-2011	Master Planning Underway
6	Aviary	Neighborhood Park	2008-2010	Underway – Opens 2010
6	Brentwood	Neighborhood Park	2008-2010	Underway – Opens 2010
6	Skyline	Neighborhood Park	2009-2010	Underway – Phase I opens 2010
6	Gables Ranch	Community Park	2008-2011	Master Planned; Phase I Opens Summer 2009
6.	Gables Ranch	Community Park	Winter 2009	Phase II Construction Begins
7.	Mustang Park	Neighborhood Park	Jan 2010	Add trees
8.	Bunny Run	Community Park	2011	Grant 2011
8	Kinney	Community Park	2011	Grant 2011
8	City	Community Park	2011	Grant 2011
8	Oncor Easement	Trail Plan	2011	Grant 2011
9	Skyline	Neighborhood Park	2011	Phase II
10	Maxwell Creek	Maxwell Neighborhood	2011	Phase II
11	Liberty Ridge	Neighborhood	2011	Phase II

B. 10-year Indoor Park Priority List and Action Plan

1	Old Murphy School	Community Center	2010-2012	Indoor Grant – July 2009
2	Municipal Complex	Natatorium	2016-2018	
3	Municipal Complex	Recreation Center	2016-2018	

VIII. 10-Year City Facility Priority List – page 67

**Recreational Outdoor Facility Development Listing
Table 8**

Priority	Facility
1.	Walking/Jogging Trails*
2.	Nature Trails*
3.	Amphitheater*
4.	Community Playground*
5.	Splash Pad
6.	Pavilions
7.	Nature / Garden Center*
8.	Fishing Pond and Dock*
9.	Picnic Tables
10.	Lacrosse / Soccer Fields

*senior requested

**Recreational Indoor Facility Development Listing
Table 9**

Priority	Indoor Facility*
1.	Multi-use Basketball Court/stage/banquet room
2.	Aerobic / Dance Room – all ages
3.	Exercise / Weight Room - adults
4.	Arts & Crafts Room (seniors & students)
5.	Indoor Track – all ages
6.	Media Lounge - teens
7.	Computer Room – all ages
8.	Kitchen / Cooking Classes / Snack Area – all ages
9.	Preschool Room &/or babysitting area
10.	Game Room – all ages

*senior requested