



A photograph of a park with a large, leafy tree in the center. To the left, there is a playground with a blue slide and a yellow canopy. In the background, there is a fenced-in area, possibly a sports field or a dog park. The text "PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & TRAILS" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**PARKS,
RECREATION, OPEN
SPACE & TRAILS**

Introduction

PROST Plan Purpose

Parks and recreation opportunities are crucial quality-of-life amenities for Rockdale residents. Development of a high-quality parks and recreation system doesn't happen overnight. Likewise, decisions about park amenities and recreational offerings should not happen in a vacuum. Rather, a cohesive vision for the community's parks and recreation system must be determined and then guidance provided toward incremental implementation over time. This plan, in concert with the overall Comprehensive Plan, provides that guidance.

This Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PROST) Master Plan:

- Identifies the implications of current community demographics and projected population growth as it relates to parks and recreation.
- Analyzes the current state of the City's parks, recreation and open spaces.
- Identifies parks and recreation deficiencies and needs.
- Establishes goals, objectives and recommendations for the next five to 10 years.
- Prioritizes improvements to the parks and recreation system.
- Aids the City in seeking funding opportunities.

This document should be used as a planning tool by City staff, elected and appointed officials, citizens, and the private development community to understand community desires and move toward long-term community success. The plan is intended to help coordinate local efforts for Rockdale and to work in conjunction with Milam County, area school districts, local organizations and sports leagues.

Benefits of Parks

Access to quality parks and recreation is an important component of a high-quality community. Planning for a successful, equitable parks system ensures that all residents can experience these key benefits:

Overall Well-Being Benefits

- Contact with nature helps to improve overall well-being and quality of life.
- Recreation provides multi-generational opportunities for mental, physical, social and emotional stimulation.

Health Benefits

- Access to nature and recreation increases frequency of fitness and improves psychological health.
- Play provides crucial developmental opportunities for children.
- Physical activity helps to reduce obesity, depression and many other health problems.

Environmental Benefits

- Parkland helps to mitigate climate, air and water pollution impacts.
- Preserved open space protects vital habitat for plants and wildlife.
- Parks foster environmental stewardship in citizens.

Economic Benefits

- Parkland increases property values within close proximity.
- Quality parks and recreation can attract new residents and businesses.
- Unique park and recreation amenities can encourage tourism and associated economic benefits.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD: Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails

"Have a strong, up-to-date parks and rec program will not only add to Rockdale's master plan, but will attract potential new residents & increase usage by existing residents."

- Community Member

"Create a position for someone to oversee [the parks]."

- Community Member

"I think it's important that our kids, teenagers and senior adults have something to do."

- Community Member

"More young child programs would be my families top priority."

- Community Member

"As growth comes to Rockdale, recreation space will be needed. We as a community have to do better to provide sufficient space and recreation activities for our community."

- Community Member

"Upkeep and safety is a necessity!"

- Community Member

"Bridge Park becomes a 'node' or stopping point along a sidewalk/trail system. A couple of benches and tables. Plant some trees. Fix up the bridges so they can be walked on."

- Community Member

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Promote diverse programs at parks suitable for all ages, fostering community engagement.
- Increase support for the upkeep of existing parks, ensuring they remain inviting and well-maintained.
- Create parks that are safe and welcoming for everyone, prioritizing security and comfort for all.

Planning Process & Time Frame

In 2023, the City commissioned Freese and Nichols, Inc. to prepare a new Comprehensive Plan and PROST. The Plan's analysis, vision and goals, recommendations, and prioritization were developed to create this overall guiding document for parks and recreation development.

The planning process included a variety of public engagement opportunities to allow community input to help shape the Plan. Engagement opportunities included individual interviews, multiple stakeholder listening sessions and two online public surveys. Detailed documentation of the public input process and responses can be found in Appendix A, Community Engagement Summaries. Full responses to the parks-specific survey can be found in Appendix D, Supplemental Parks & Recreation Information.

This Plan is intended to address parks and recreation needs over the next five to 10 years. Recommendations should be re-evaluated periodically to ensure they are still valid. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department master plan guidelines recommend updating the Plan every five years or before any new major developments occur that significantly change the parks and recreation needs of residents.

Planning Area

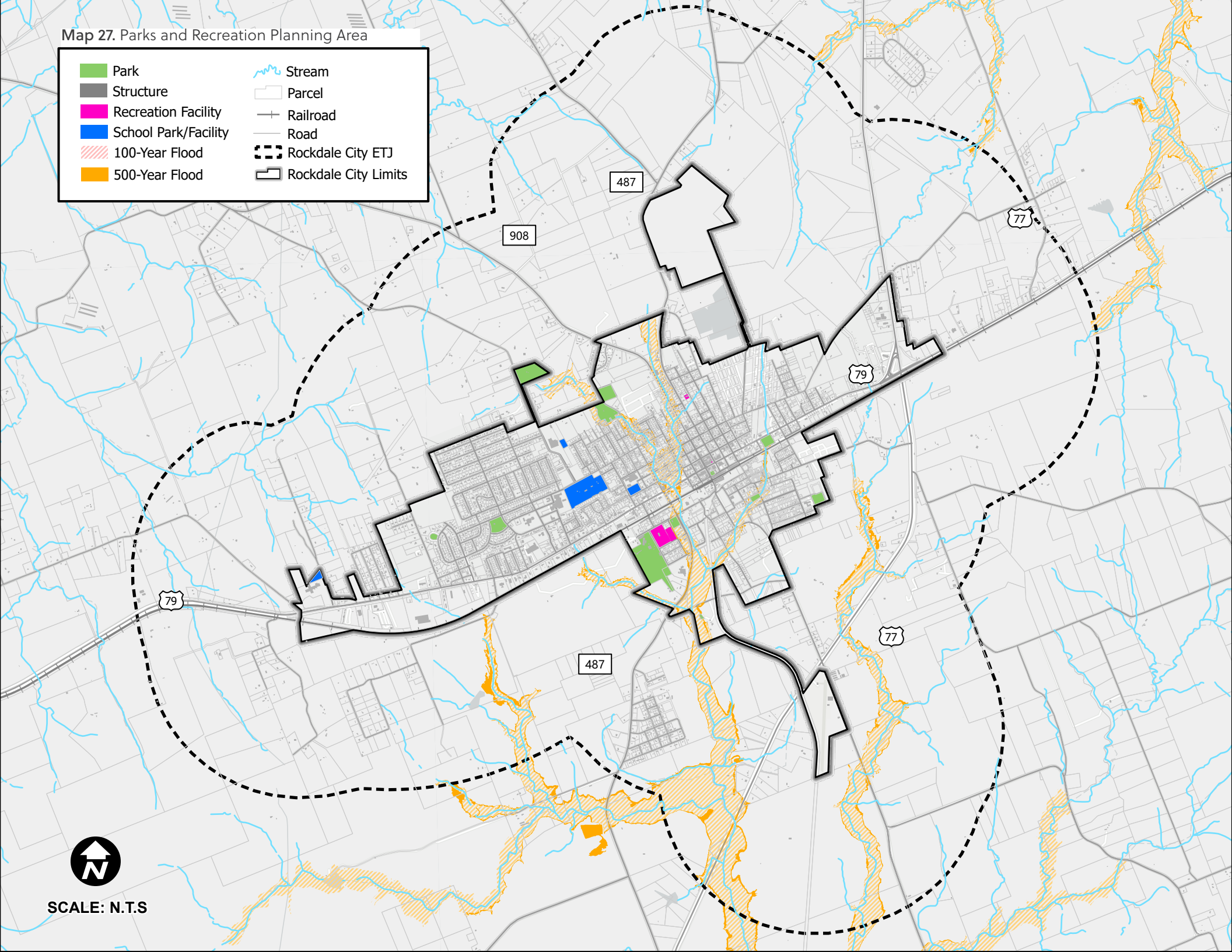
The study area outlined in this Plan encompasses Rockdale's entire city limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), as indicated on the map on the following page. Situated in Milam County, Rockdale holds a strategic location, being nearly equidistant from Austin, Waco and College Station. Noteworthy is the City's recent shift in population growth trends, now on a steady upward trajectory.

The City of Rockdale is the primary governmental entity responsible for providing parks and recreation facilities for its citizens. While implementation will be largely led by the City, everyone in the community has a vested interest in seeing parks and recreation improve and succeed. Potential partners on implementation may include other governmental entities, local industry and businesses, and the residents of Rockdale.

Additional planning area information can be found in Chapter 1, Community Snapshot.

Map 27. Parks and Recreation Planning Area

	Park		Stream
	Structure		Parcel
	Recreation Facility		Railroad
	School Park/Facility		Road
	100-Year Flood		Rockdale City ETJ
	500-Year Flood		Rockdale City Limits



SCALE: N.T.S

Rockdale Public Works Department

The Rockdale Public Works Department, comprised of three employees, handles the upkeep of the City's parks due to the absence of a dedicated Parks Department. This small department is also responsible for all City mowing and upkeep of City cemeteries and facilities. Based on this widespread area of responsibility, there is a pressing need for additional staff to support parks and recreation. This is essential to not only facilitate the development and maintenance to expand park facilities and addition of events, but also align with the community's strong desire to elevate the overall parks and recreation system to better serve its residents.

Previous Planning Efforts

The last parks planning effort was the 2015 Revised Rockdale Master Park Plan Project Priorities. This Plan offered a road map for enhancing specific parks in the City, presenting targeted updates. Moreover, the document set forth two supplementary priorities, charting a course for the City to realize its vision for additional desired facilities.

The Plan included recommendations for the following parks:

- Fair Park (prior to its sale to the Rodeo Association)
- Patterson Community Center
- Post Oak Place Park
- Moultry Park
- Softball Fields
- Skate Plaza
- Sumuel Park
- Veterans Park

That 2015 document also identified two additional priorities:

- An indoor recreation facility.
- Acquiring land adjacent to Fair Park and the Patterson Center for a Central Park and Recreation Complex.

Furthermore, individual park design concepts have already been created for Bridge Park, Veterans Park and the Patterson Center and remain applicable. These existing park concepts are provided for reference in Appendix D, Supplemental Parks & Recreation Information.



Community Demographics

Rockdale's population has experienced a slight decrease in recent years; nevertheless, the area is currently witnessing an upward trend in regional growth. The largest cohorts of the population today include teens between the ages of 15 and 19, and adults between the ages of 50 and 64. With new opportunities emerging in the area, it is important to offer diverse recreational options suitable for residents of all age groups.

Additionally, the City's population is projected to continue growing over the next 10 to 20 years. Parks and recreation opportunities should increase accordingly to provide quality facilities and programming for the growing population.

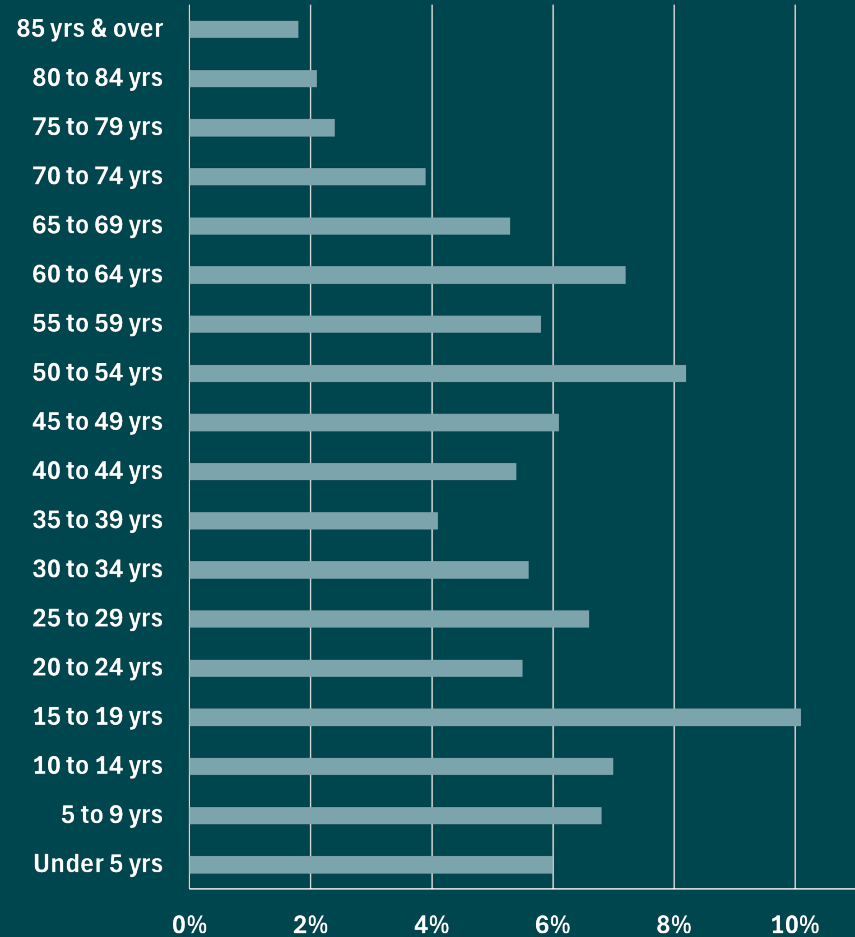
Reference Chapter 1 for additional information about community demographics and previous planning efforts.

Figure 67. Rockdale Population Projections

Year	Growth Rate
	2.5%
2030	6,814
2035	7,709
2040	8,722

Source: Freese and Nichols, Inc. Population Projections

Figure 68. Rockdale Age Distribution



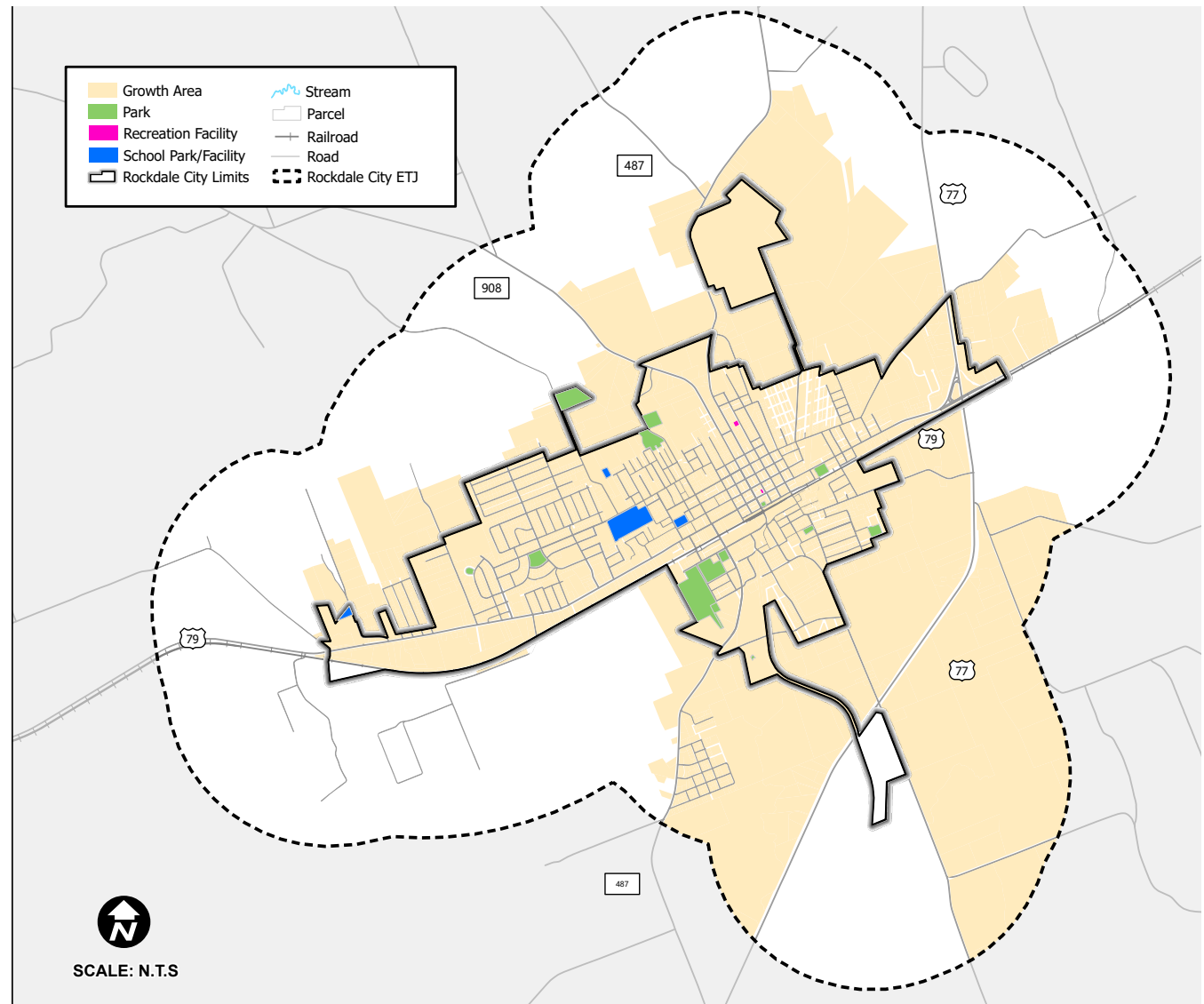
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates 2021

Growth Area

As seen in the population projections, the City's population is projected to continue steadily growing.

While much of the City and ETJ remain undeveloped (see Residential Growth Areas Map), there is potential for future residential development throughout the majority of the City and portions of the ETJ. The yellow areas on the Residential Growth Areas Map include areas where current or future development would likely include a residential component (based on the Future Land Use Map found in Chapter 2).

As the City considers the future of its parks system, it's important to locate parks in close proximity to residential areas. Future parkland acquisitions and/or development should aim to provide adequate parkland resources to serve any under-served neighborhoods in these areas (see the Needs Assessment later in this chapter for Parkland Service Area Maps).



Map 28. Residential Growth Areas Map

PARK & FACILITIES INVENTORY

Park Classifications

Parks and open space systems include a variety of different types of parkland that meet the varying recreational needs in a community. Types vary by size, function, typical amenities and service area. As the City grows and new park spaces are acquired, an adopted classification system should be used to guide the development for each type of park.

Pocket Parks

Pocket parks provide passive recreational opportunities to a concentrated population within an immediate proximity (e.g., a playground and/or picnic area in a residential area). Wolf Park is a local example of a pocket park.

Typical Size: 1/4 to 1 acre

Service Area: 1/4-mile radius in immediate neighborhoods

Characteristics and Considerations: Pocket parks generally range in size from 2,500 square feet to one acre and usually contain a playground and picnic area. They should be located within close proximity to medium/high density residential areas. They are often located at the street edge and should be safely accessible by pedestrians. These parks are often built by developers and can be operated and maintained by a homeowners association or the City.

Pocket parks can also be found in urban contexts. In these situations, they often include amenities such as shaded seating and gathering areas, enhanced plantings, and water features.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are the foundation of a well-balanced park system and provide the daily park experiences for residents. They serve as the social centers for residential districts in an active and passive capacity for a wide variety of age groups. Sumuel Park is a local example of a neighborhood park.

Typical Size: 3 to 10 acres

Service Area: 1/4- to 1/2-mile radius

Characteristics and Considerations: These parks should be located in the center of neighborhoods with good public access. At least one side of the park should front a residential street. Sites should drain properly and be suitable for a variety of uses such as playgrounds, sports courts, trail access and areas for family functions. Safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle access is important. Locations in flood areas should be avoided.



Wolf Park is an example of a pocket park.



Sumuel Park is an example of a neighborhood park.

Community Parks

Community parks are larger in size and serve a broader population than neighborhood parks. They are intended to meet the recreational needs of several neighborhoods. Park development should protect desirable natural amenities and include active and passive activities for all ages. Veterans Park and Pool is a local example of a community park, as the pool is accessible to the entire community.

Typical Size: 10 to 100 acres

Service Area: 1- to 3-mile radius

Characteristics and Considerations: Whenever possible, these parks should be adjacent to desirable natural resources and have amenities such as athletic fields, pools, playgrounds, sports courts, picnic areas and restrooms. Community parks should be connected to citywide trail networks and be conveniently accessed by cars. Park programming should include adequate space for off-street parking.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are the largest type of park for a typical community's park system. The size varies depending on the purpose and character of the site. Regional parks provide recreational amenities for the entire community and even serve as a hub for surrounding communities. Fair Park and Rodeo Arena could be considered a regional park based on its larger draw; however, it is not publicly owned or available for public use on a regular basis, and thus does not truly function as a regional park.

Typical Size: Varies from less than 10 acres to several thousand acres

Service Area: Up to 50-mile radius, depending on site features

Characteristics and Considerations: Regional parks often help to protect and showcase valuable natural resources such as habitat preserves or bodies of water. These parks include a very wide range of active and passive recreation opportunities and can be an economic generator by attracting sports tournaments or ecotourism or hosting large events. Typical amenities include destination playgrounds, athletic courts and fields, trail systems, water activities, unprogrammed open space, and preserved natural areas. These parks can be located almost anywhere in the community. They should be accessible by car and connected to citywide trail networks.



Veterans Park and Pool is an example of a community park.



Rockdale does not have any regional parks. However, the privately owned Fair Park and Rodeo Arena does draw a regional crowd.

Greenbelts and Linear Parks

Greenbelts and linear parks are often located along linear natural (e.g., creeks) or man-made (e.g., utilities) features. These parks often connect two or more parks or points of interest in a city. They are also used to protect wildlife and natural processes or provide for floodways or stormwater drainage. There are no local examples of greenbelts or linear parks in Rockdale.

Typical Size: Varies based on surrounding environment

Service Area: Varies based on amenities

Characteristics and Considerations: Greenbelts and linear parks include amenities for walking, jogging, bicycling and/or hiking. When property adjacent to creeks and floodplains is developed, floodplain property should be dedicated to the City. The City should not purchase floodplain property unless it provides an opportunity to preserve key natural resources and/or provide a link to another park. The City should also be careful in accepting dedication of linear parks unless they provide trail links or useful recreation. Acquisition of linear parks, if small in size, can burden maintenance budgets.

Special Use Parks

Special use parks can have a wide range of uses, but parks are designated as special use when the park facilities are oriented toward a single purpose. Skate parks and dog parks are examples of special use parks.

Typical Size: Varies

Service Area: Varies

Characteristics and Considerations: Special use parks serve varying user groups based on the programming. The location of the park within the community will vary based on available land and appropriate adjacent uses. Typical examples of special use parks include golf courses, skate parks, aquatic facilities, tennis complexes, ballfield complexes, nature centers or historic sites. These parks can be operated and maintained by the City or a private enterprise.



Rockdale does not currently have any greenbelts or linear parks, but there are some natural drainageways that could serve as prime greenbelt corridors. This image is a regional example of a linear park.



Skate Park is an example of a special use park.

Rockdale's Existing Parks and Facilities

Rockdale's park system includes 18 private and public parks and recreation facilities (see inventory on next page). The parks range in size from less than one acre to nearly 30 acres. The system includes one pocket park, three neighborhood parks, one community park, three special use parks, three recreation centers and three privately owned recreational facilities. The parks are distributed throughout the City, with most located north of U.S. 79.

To further enhance recreational opportunities, the City could consider coordinating with the Rockdale Independent School District (ISD) to leverage park facilities on their four school properties. Collaborating with the ISD can provide additional space for active and passive recreation outside of regular school hours.

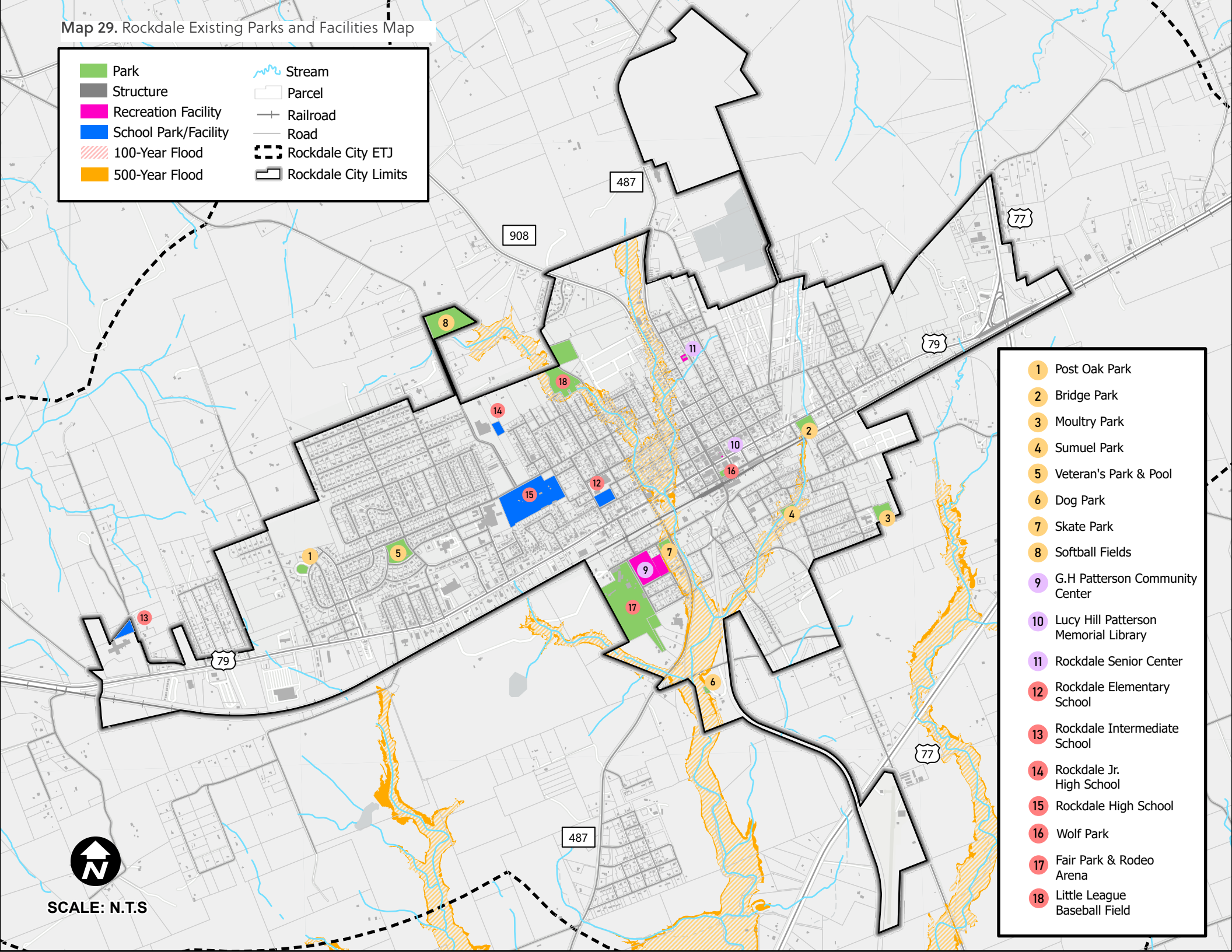
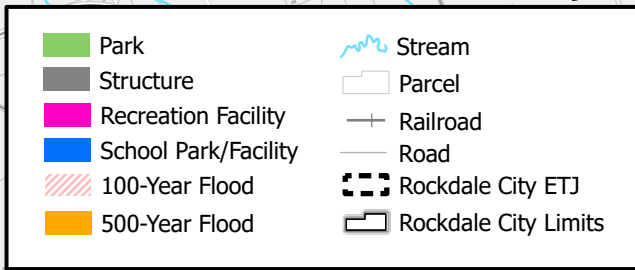
The park system includes opportunities for active and passive recreation. Active recreation refers to structured activities for individuals and teams that often require specialized facilities such as baseball, soccer and football. Passive recreation refers to unstructured activities that typically do not require specialized equipment or facilities such as jogging, picnicking and fishing.

The City's parks contains an even mixture of traditional parks and specialized recreation facilities (e.g., Skate Park).

Based on the proximity between most of the parks, there are opportunities to connect much of the parks system with an on- and off-street trail network. There are also multiple opportunities to expand Rockdale's park programming using the City's undeveloped parks.



Map 29. Rockdale Existing Parks and Facilities Map



- 1 Post Oak Park
- 2 Bridge Park
- 3 Moultry Park
- 4 Sumuel Park
- 5 Veteran's Park & Pool
- 6 Dog Park
- 7 Skate Park
- 8 Softball Fields
- 9 G.H Patterson Community Center
- 10 Lucy Hill Patterson Memorial Library
- 11 Rockdale Senior Center
- 12 Rockdale Elementary School
- 13 Rockdale Intermediate School
- 14 Rockdale Jr. High School
- 15 Rockdale High School
- 16 Wolf Park
- 17 Fair Park & Rodeo Arena
- 18 Little League Baseball Field



SCALE: N.T.S

Figure 69. Rockdale Existing Parks and Facilities Inventory Table - City-Owned

Map Label	Park or Facility Name	Address	Ac.	Park Classification*	Active Recreation														Water Recreation				Passive Recreation							Misc.		
					Baseball Field	Softball Field	Standalone Backstop	Soccer Field	Football Field	Multipurpose Practice Field	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Pickleball Court	Concession Stand	Skate Park	Disc Golf Course	Walking/Biking Trail (miles)	Fitness Equipment	Fishing Pier	Canoe/Kayak Launch	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Dog Park	Playground	Horseshoe Pits	Picnic Tables	BBQ Grills	Picnic Shelter/Pavilion	Outdoor Event Space	Restrooms	Parking Area
City-Owned Parks																																
1	Post Oak Park	Post Oak Pl	1.0	P																												
2	Bridge Park	640 E Cameron Ave	1.3	N																												
3	Moultry Park	Baxter St	2.7	N			1				1			1									1		X				X	X		
4	Sumuel Park	417 MLK Dr at 4th	1.0	N						.5							0.1				1		1		X	X	3		X	X		
5	Veterans Park & Pool	Brazos St and Mistletoe Ln	5.0	C								3	1				0.3				1		2		X	X	1		X	X		
6	Dog Park	290 Beverly Dr	0.3	SU																	1									X		
7	Skate Park	Mill St and Wilcox St	2.7	SU												1														X		
8	Softball Fields	622 Co Rd 305	10.5	SU		4									X							1		X				X	X			
City-Owned Recreation & Civic Facilities																																
9	George Hill Patterson Community Center	609 Mill St	9.6	NA																							1	X	X			
10	Lucy Hill Patterson Memorial Library	201 Ackerman St	0.2	NA																									X	X		
11	Rockdale Senior Citizen Center	765 Green St	0.7	NA																								X	X			
Subtotal City Owned Parks and Facilities			35		0	4	1	0	0	0	1.5	3	1	1	1	1	0	0.4	0	0	0	1	1	1	5	0	4	2	4	1	7	9

* P = Pocket N = Neighborhood C = Community SU = Special Use

Figure 70. Rockdale Existing Parks and Facilities Inventory Table - Non-City-Owned

Map Label	Park or Facility Name	Address	Ac.	Park Classification*	Active Recreation														Water Recreation				Passive Recreation							Misc.			
					Baseball Field	Softball Field	Standalone Backstop	Soccer Field	Football Field	Multipurpose Practice Field	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Pickleball court	Concession Stand	Skate Park	Disc Golf Course	Walking/Biking Trail (miles)	Fitness Equipment	Fishing Pier	Canoe/Kayak Launch	Swimming Pool	Splash Pad	Dog Park	Playground	Horseshoe Pits	Picnic Tables	BBQ Grills	Picnic Shelter/Pavilion	Outdoor Event Space	Restrooms	Parking Area	
Rockdale ISD Facilities																																	
12	Rockdale Elementary School	625 W Belton Ave	1.6	NA																													X
13	Rockdale Intermediate School	1338 US-79	3.5	NA							1																						X
14	Rockdale Jr. High School	817 Bushdale Rd	0.7	NA						1		4																					X
15	Rockdale High School	500 Childress Dr	16.0	NA	1	1			1																								X
Non-City-Owned Parks & Recreation Facilities																																	
16	Wolf Park (owned by the Chamber of Commerces)	106 N Main	0.4	P																											X		X
17	Fair Park & Rodeo Arena (Owned by the Rodeo Association)	200 Walnut St	30.1	SU											X											2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
18	Little League Baseball Field (owned by Rockdale Little League)	908 N. Wilcox	12.0	SU	5										X																	X	X
Subtotal Non-City-Owned Parks and Facilities			64.2		6	1	0	0	1	1	1	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	7
TOTAL ALL PARKS AND FACILITIES			99.3		6	5	1	0	1	1	2.5	7	1	1	3	1	0	0.4	0	0	0	1	1	1	7	2	5	3	6	2	9	16	

* P = Pocket N = Neighborhood C = Community SU = Special Use

Post Oak Park

Location and Access

Located on the west side of the City, Post Oak Park is in the middle of Post Oak Place and Post Oak Road. While the park lacks parking options, convenient vehicle and pedestrian access is facilitated through the surrounding roads.

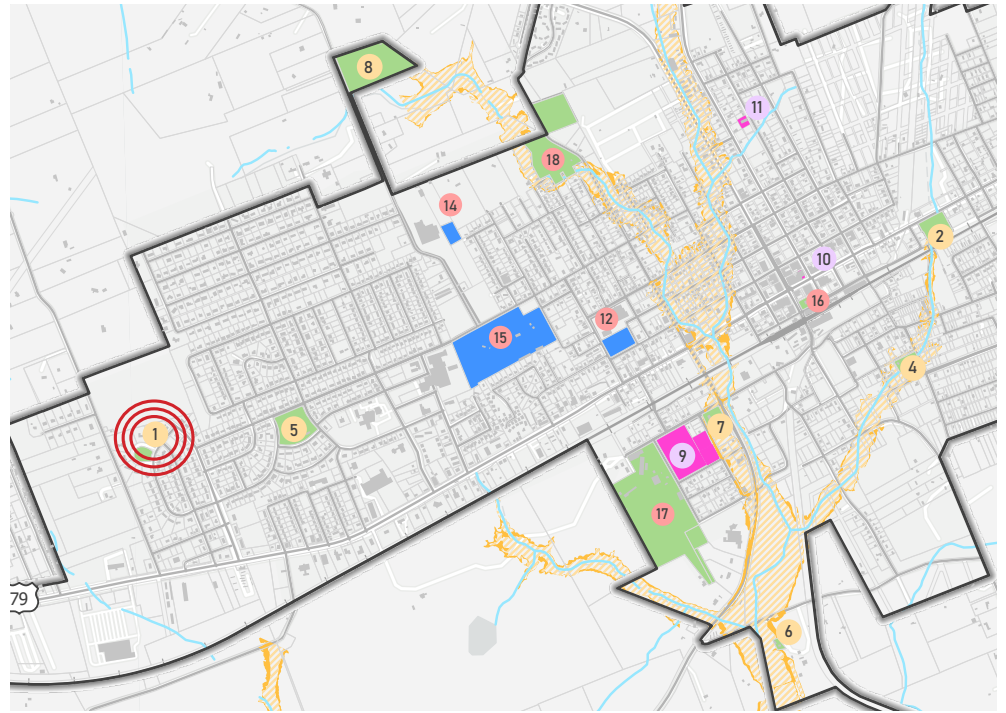
Existing Conditions

Post Oak Park, situated amidst residential housing, is undeveloped with scattered trees throughout. The park is kept neatly maintained, despite its smaller size, presenting an opportunity to enhance the space with passive amenities catering to the local residents.

Opportunities for Improvement

Opportunities for future improvements and new amenities could include:

- Add landscaping for park beautification.
- Install water fountains for park visitors.
- Leverage passive amenities to increase the park's versatility for various activities.
- Continue ongoing maintenance to keep the park clean and well-kept.



Map 30. Post Oak Park Location Map

Park Location

- Post Oak Pl

Park Size

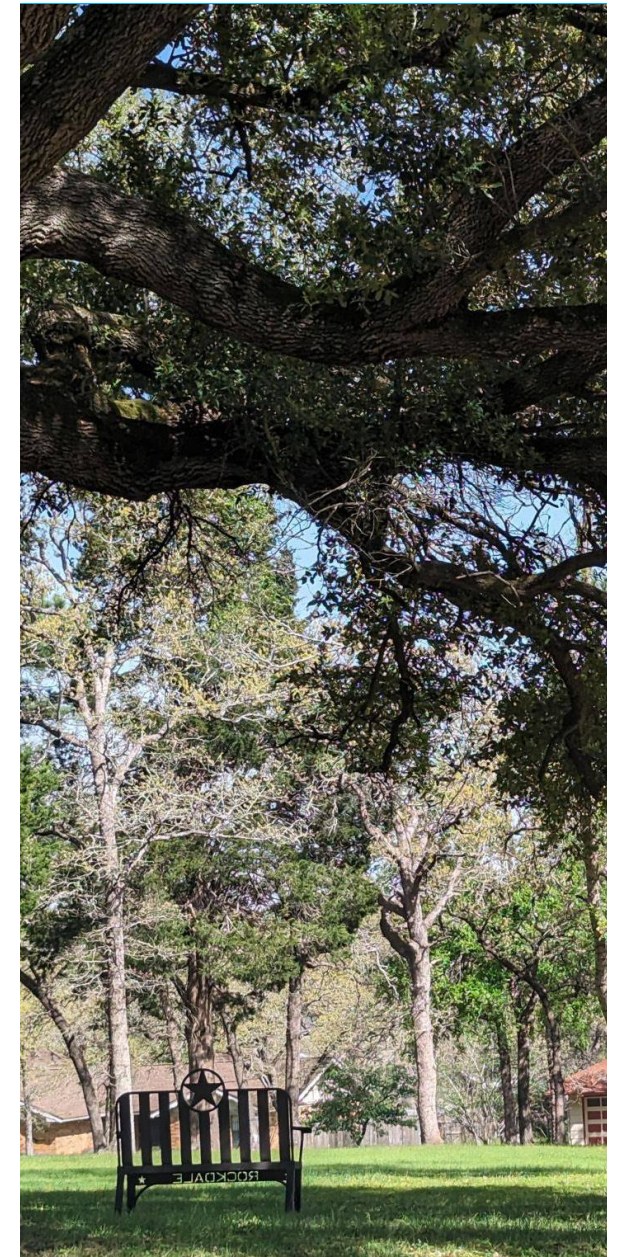
- 1.0 acre

Park Type

- Pocket

Park Features

- Undeveloped



Post Oak Park Images

Map 31. Post Oak Park Aerial Map

Bridge Park

Location and Access

Situated just a few blocks east of Downtown along Cameron Ave, Bridge Park is in an ideal location but lacks available parking options and pedestrian access. However, as detailed earlier in this chapter, an individual concept plan is in place to introduce walking trails and additional parking facilities to enhance accessibility.

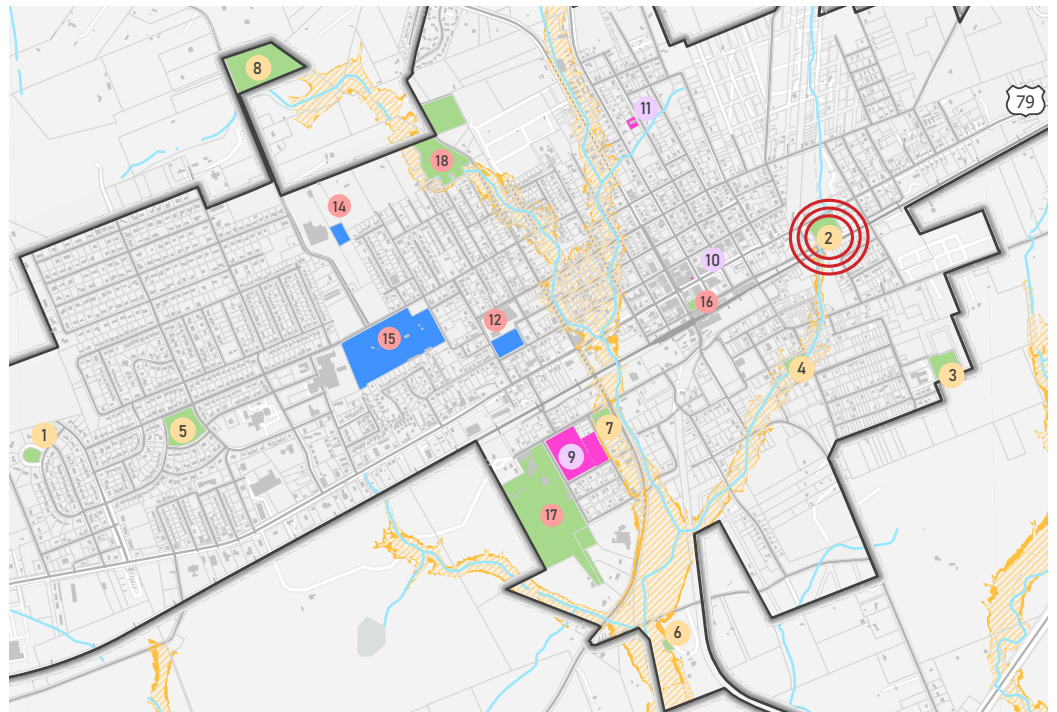
Existing Conditions

Bridge Park presents a vast open space adorned with shade trees and historic bridges that have been moved to the site and placed over natural drainageways, adding an artistic touch to its landscape. There is also a historic calaboose structure with interpretive signage in the space. ADA accessibility is lacking at this park.

Opportunities for Improvement

Opportunities for future improvements and new amenities could include:

- Implement the existing concept plan, seen on the next page and in Appendix D, to improve access and introduce amenities such as walking trails, a pavilion, play space, landscaping and parking.
- Leverage the site's large layout and explore the potential of Bridge Park to host small-scale community events.
- Capitalize on the opportunity to create connectivity to Downtown by creating a trail west along Bonham St/ Milam Ave that links Bridge Park to Wolf Park.
- Improve accessibility of the bridges and any new amenities via ADA accessible walking paths.



Map 32. Bridge Park Location Map

Park Location

- 640 E Cameron Ave

Park Size

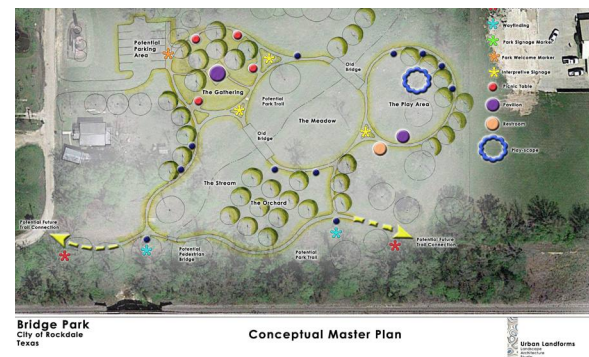
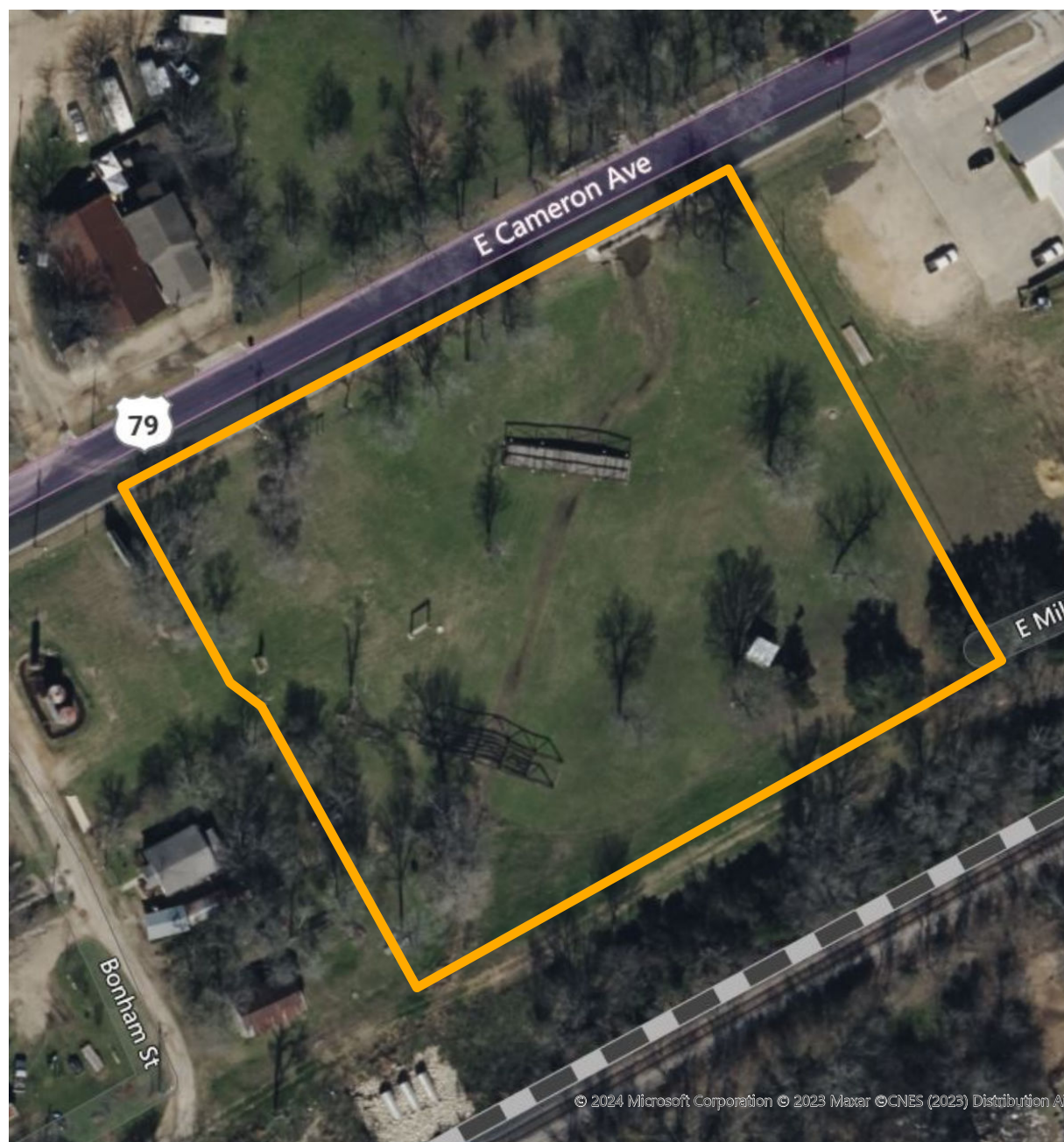
- 1.3 acres

Park Type

- Neighborhood

Park Features

- Historic Bridges and Structures
- Shade Trees
- Natural Features



Moultry Park

Location and Access

Located on the southeast border of the City, Moultry Park is tucked behind the abandoned Aycock High School. Despite its recreational offerings, the park faces visibility challenges, making access less apparent. Additionally, the road and parking areas are unpaved and only approximately one-third of the site is developed.

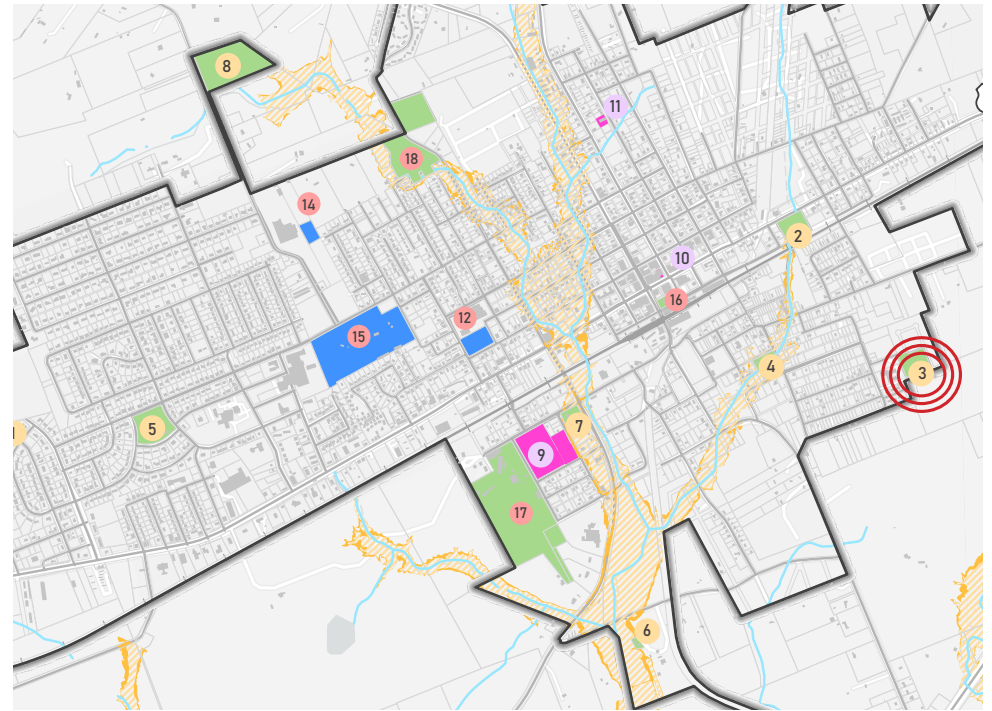
Existing Conditions

Moultry Park offers a variety of recreational activities, featuring amenities such as a basketball court, picnic tables and a playground. However, the atmosphere may seem unwelcoming due to the absence of paved parking and aesthetically pleasing landscaping. Due to its location behind the Aycock High School, visibility is limited and safety can feel like a concern. ADA accessibility is lacking at this park.

Opportunities for Improvement

Opportunities for future improvements and new amenities could include:

- Cover the basketball court to provide shade.
- Add a picnic pavilion to provide shaded seating.
- Add a multipurpose field and replace the standalone backstop.
- Update and modernize the playground and add a shade structure - consider relocation farther from the basketball court.
- Increase lighting to improve safety through evening hours.
- Add more robust park and wayfinding signage to increase visibility of the park.
- Channel resources into the upkeep and maintenance of park facilities, such as restroom renovations, paving the parking area and installing water fountains.
- Explore opportunities with adjacent landowners to expand the park.
- Connect the park to whatever future use happens at Aycock High School.



Map 34. Moultry Park Location Map

Park Location

- Baxter St

Park Size

- 2.7 acres

Park Type

- Neighborhood

Park Features

- Standalone Backstop
- Basketball Court
- Playscape
- Picnic Tables
- Restrooms
- Parking (dirt)
- Pickleball Court



Map 35. Moultry Park Aerial Map



Moultry Park Images

Sumuel Park

Location and Access

Sumuel Park is located in the residential neighborhood south of Downtown. It provides paved parking and accessible walking trails.

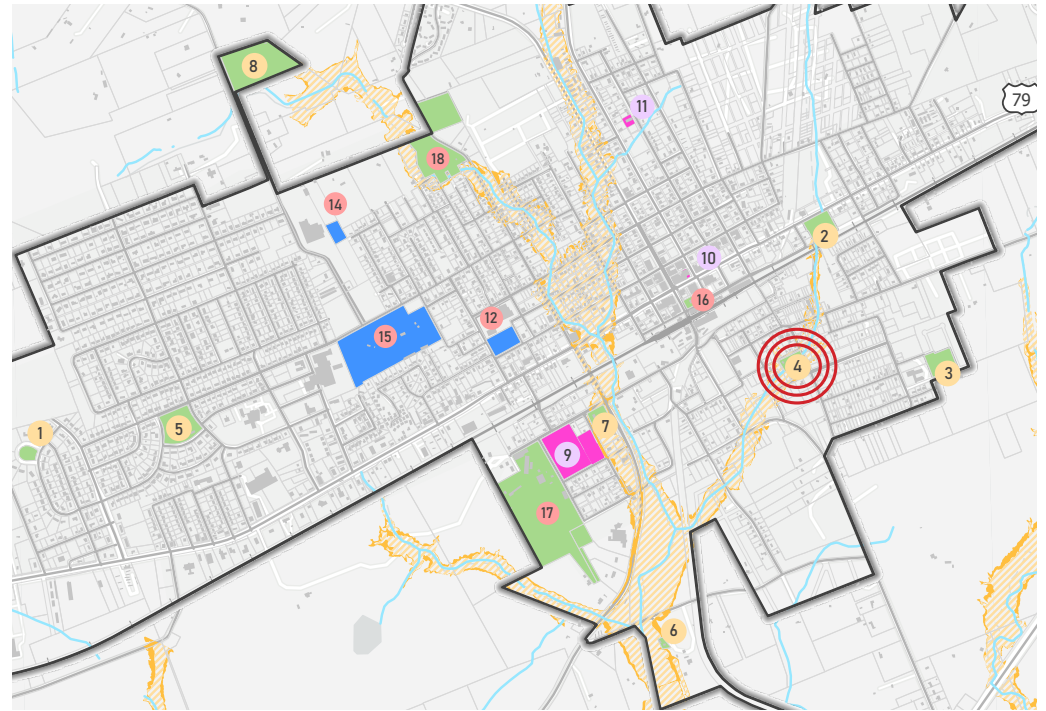
Existing Conditions

A recent improvement project was funded in part by a grant from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and in-kind donations from Mine Services. Following the recent enhancement initiative, Sumuel Park is a good example of a neighborhood park with an array of amenities. From a half basketball court to a splash pad, the park offers a range of facilities for nearby residents. Also unique to the park is free WiFi and ADA accessibility catering to a broad spectrum of park users. While the park has numerous excellent features, there is room for improvement in terms of overall maintenance of park facilities and addressing safety concerns.

Opportunities for Improvement

Opportunities for future improvements and new amenities could include:

- Build on the momentum of improvement by continuously upgrading park amenities, such as installation of lighting and additional parking.
- Prioritize the ongoing maintenance of park facilities to sustain the quality achieved by recent improvements.
- Improve the visibility of the park trail by delineating it more clearly. Clear pathways contribute to a user-friendly environment, encouraging more residents to explore the park's offerings.



Map 36. Sumuel Park Location Map

Park Location

- 417 Martin Luther King Dr at 4th Ave

Park Size

- 1.0 acres

Park Type

- Neighborhood

Park Features

- Half Basketball Court
- Splash Pad
- Playground
- Shaded Seating
- BBQ Grill
- Picnic Pavilions
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Walking Trail



Map 37. Sumuel Park Aerial Map

Sumuel Park Images

Veterans Park and Pool

Location and Access

Veterans Park and Pool is the primary developed green space on the west side of the City, nestled within a residential neighborhood and near Rockdale High School. Offering parking opportunities along its perimeter, this park is easily accessible for the community.

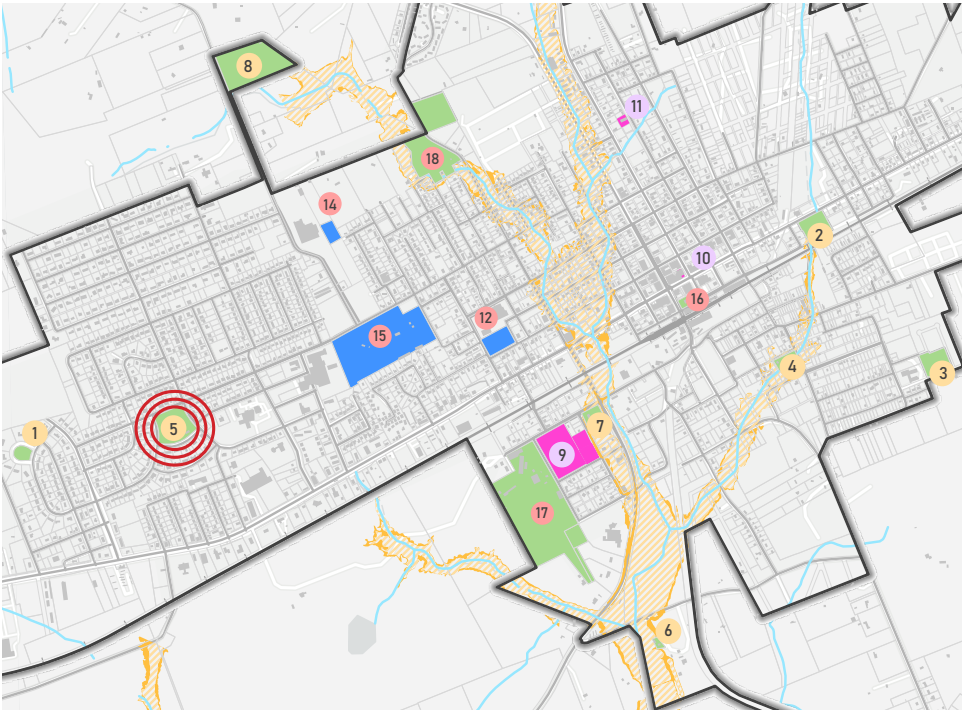
Existing Conditions

Its name is derived from the Veterans Memorial at the northwest corner, with a concept plan in place to amplify its significance and enhance the surrounding area. While Veterans Park currently boasts large shade trees and an array of amenities, including tennis courts, a rentable pavilion and playgrounds for different ages, there are opportunities for beautification and maintenance of existing facilities. Some of the play structures have safety concerns. Notably unique to the park is its swimming pool, managed by the Hutto, Texas YMCA of Greater Williamson County. ADA accessibility is lacking at this park.

Opportunities for Improvement

Opportunities for future improvements and new amenities could include:

- Prioritize the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of park facilities to ensure an inviting and safe environment for park users.
- Take action on the concept plan designed to enhance the Veterans Memorial, as seen on the next page and in Appendix D.
- Consider additional amenities to enhance the park experience, such as installation of exercise stations, lighting and a splash pad.
- Enhance the park’s user-friendly features by clearly delineating the walking trail.
- Strengthen coordination efforts with the Hutto, Texas YMCA of Greater Williamson County to manage the swimming pool, exploring opportunities for expansion, upgrades and community engagement.
- Create a safe park environment by promptly addressing and fixing any equipment issues as they arise.



Map 38. Veterans Park Location Map

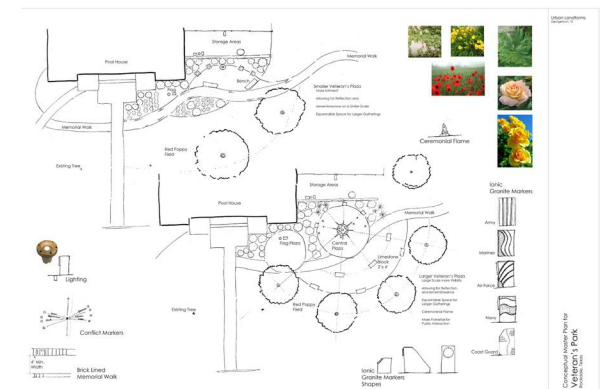
Park Location	Park Features
▪ Brazos St and Mistletoe Ln	▪ Tennis Courts
Park Size	▪ Volleyball Court
▪ 5.0 acres	▪ Walking Trail
Park Type	▪ Swimming Pool
▪ Community	▪ Multiple Playgrounds
	▪ Picnic Tables
	▪ Pavilion
	▪ Restrooms
	▪ Parking
	▪ BBQ Grill



Map 39. Veterans Park Aerial Map



Veterans Park Images



Veterans Park Concept
Retrieved from the City of Rockdale

Dog Park

Location and Access

Situated adjacent to the Rockdale Dog Shelter, the Dog Park offers easy access with available parking at the shelter premises. However, the location far south of town feels out of the way for many residents and the entryway (shared by the City's water treatment plant) does not feel welcoming to public users.

Existing Conditions

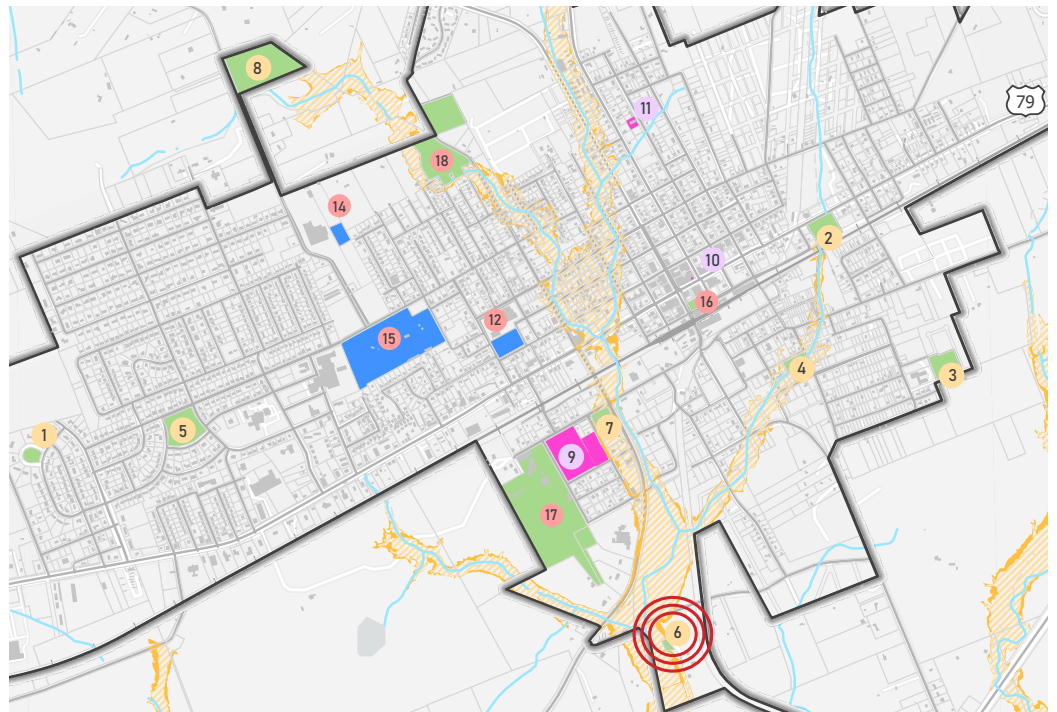
The Dog Park provides the basic amenities including a fully-fenced canine play area with double entry gates, a drinking water source for pets and dog agility obstacles. Presently, the Dog Park occupies a compact space, raising concerns about potential cross-contamination due to its proximity to the dog shelter. The City has future plans to install park benches and a shade structure along with additional obstacle course activities for dogs. Also in the works is an expansion to include a separate large dog area.

The City has also considered relocating the dog park to Fatheree Field, a former ball field adjacent to the existing Dog Park site.

Opportunities for Improvement

Opportunities for future improvements and new amenities could include:

- Consider relocating the Dog Park to Fatheree Field if improvements are made to the road quality on Beverly Dr, or alternatively, explore relocating it to the vacant land surrounding the George Hill Patterson Community Center. Relocation would offer the prospect of significantly expanding its size, providing ample space for dogs to roam and play.
- Upon relocation, explore the opportunity to enhance amenities that cater to both dogs and their owners. This could include agility courses, shaded areas and seating.
- Provide clearer signage and more formalized parking areas to help promote this as a public space.



Map 40. Dog Park Location Map

Park Location

- 290 Beverly Dr

Park Size

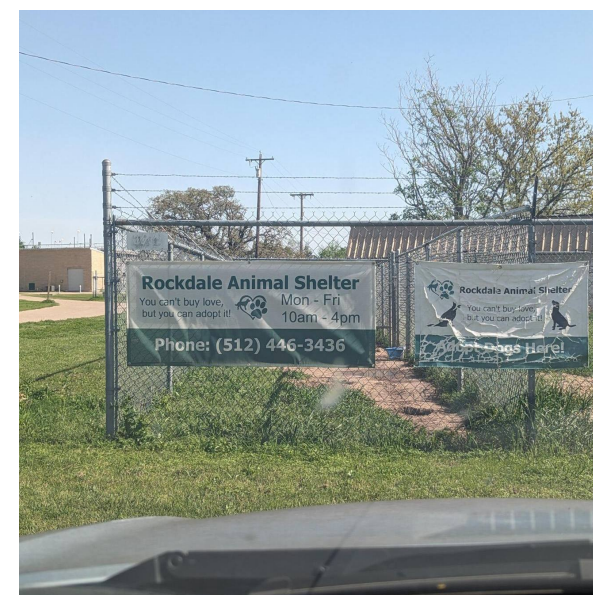
- 0.25 acres

Park Type

- Special Use

Park Features

- Parking (gravel)
- Fenced Area
- Agility Obstacles



Dog Park Images

Map 41. Dog Park Aerial Map