



City of Sachse Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

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Introduction

Due to land development and growth, municipalities are constantly challenged to provide and maintain basic services and amenities for their citizens. In addition to water, sanitary sewer, road improvements, as well as, police and fire services, cities also provide parks, recreational opportunities, and areas for leisure and passive activities.

Sachse is located approximately 20 miles northeast of downtown Dallas on Highway 78 and just north of the State Highway 190/President George Bush Turnpike. This allows for a quick and easy access for those traveling to Garland, Plano, and Richardson.

Sachse has been a rapidly growing community. This rapid rate of growth has necessitated the need for advance planning to ensure that municipal service systems, including parks and recreation, keep pace with the increasing demands on these systems. In the last decade, parks and open space planning has become a specialized area within the overall municipal planning structure. The estimated population of Sachse as of January 1, 2009 was 18,750 by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), and is expected to continue growing to a build-out population of 25,000. The City's Future Land Use Plan projects that when the City reaches build-out, approximately 80 percent of the community's land area will be devoted to single-family use. Because of this large proportion of land area that will be devoted to residential neighborhoods, the acquisition and development of parks and open space areas will be significant factors necessary to provide a desirable quality of life for Sachse residents. These growth characteristics indicate that the City should continue taking a "hands-on" approach in guiding the development of the City. These factors also enable the citizens of Sachse to enjoy a unique and fulfilling quality of life.

The City's most recent *Parks Master Plan* was adopted in 2001. Because of continued growth and development, the City is preparing a new *Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* to guide parkland acquisition and park facility development through build-out.

Preparation of this document has taken into consideration numerous growth factors including the current widening of State Highway 78 and the President George Bush Turnpike extension in southern Sachse. It is recognized that future revisions to this plan may be needed as zoning trends may shift, allowing higher densities than currently anticipated.

Goals and Objectives

The Parks and Recreation Commission have reviewed the parks and recreation goals and objectives for the City. Based upon the community's accomplishments in the recent past, the following goals and objectives were set forth by the Parks and Recreation Commission:

- Develop a park system that will be responsive to the needs and desires of Sachse's citizens.
- Plan a park system that will provide a variety of recreational opportunities for all age groups and for persons with differing abilities and interests.
- Acquire additional park land north of State Highway 78 in order to provide a balance of recreational opportunities.
- Develop a multi-use trail system which will benefit and serve all citizens of Sachse and will link schools and parks.
- Study the feasibility of a recreation center.
- Work with the Garland and Wylie Independent School Districts to acquire, develop and utilize facilities and open space for recreational purposes.
- Develop a trail system to connect to adjacent cities of Murphy, Wylie and Rowlett.

In addition to the established priorities, the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council identified key areas for development including many park projects for inclusion in the City's Capital Improvement Program. Public comment was received on both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council priorities and projects. A series of public meetings were held to help identify future needs for improvements to existing parks as well as future park developments. Public input has been taken into consideration regarding the list of projects included by the Commission as top priorities for future park development.

This Plan is intended to help guide the City in developing a park system that addresses the expressed recreational needs of the community and is consistent with the goals, objectives and park planning priorities established by the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission.