



# Parks, Recreation, & Open Space

*A functional and accessible system of parks, open space, and recreational facilities*

## **GOAL:**

Develop and maintain an extensive system of interconnected parks and public spaces, preserved natural areas, and recreational facilities and programs that creates value, enhances quality of life and community health, and reduces impacts on the environment.

## **Policy Statements:**

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- 1 Park Accessibility and Functionality:** *Royse City will build a quality, efficient parks system by adding green space and public plazas in a manner that makes them conveniently accessible to all residents and prioritizes function and aesthetics over size.*

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  - 2 Open Space and Nature Connections:** *Royse City will preserve and restore floodplains, wetlands, stream and river corridors, tree canopy, critical habitat sites and other environmentally sensitive areas in order to maintain wildlife habitat and biodiversity, improve water quality, reduce erosion and flooding risk, and enhance the natural landscape throughout the community.*

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  - 3 Connecting People to Places:** *Royse City will collaborate with land owners, developers and other partners to link parks, neighborhoods, and public spaces with a network of greenways and multi-use trails.*

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  - 4 Community Partnerships and Recreational Facilities/Programming:** *Royse City will partner with the school district, medical providers, local churches and other organizations to encourage active living and expand its sports facilities, recreation activities, health and wellness initiatives, and event programming for families and residents of all ages.*
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## 7 Keys to a Successful Park System

1. *A clear expression of purpose*
2. *Ongoing planning and community involvement*
3. *Equitable and convenient access*
4. *Sufficient assets in land, staffing, and equipment to meet the system's goals*
5. *User satisfaction*
6. *Safety from physical hazards and crime*
7. *Benefits for the city beyond the boundaries of the parks*

– Trust for Public Land

## Introduction

We want Royse City to be a place that has a healthy, active, and socially-connected citizenry. We also want to preserve some of the natural beauty and rural feel, and to be good stewards of our water and natural resources. Studies are now showing that parks and a well-connected trail system contribute to higher property values and increased economic activity. A well-planned, well-designed, and well-maintained park system is a critical component to achieving our future vision.

Royse City is currently well behind other communities in the area when it comes to the number, quality, and variety of parks available to residents. We must close this gap. This chapter presents a strategy for getting us started down this path. It includes a citywide master plan for parks, open space, and trails, showing locations for the larger parks, open space conservation areas, and trail corridors. This will inform decisions for property acquisition and discussions with developers about stormwater management, park dedication, and trail construction. It also includes near-term recommendations to improve access and functionality of our existing parks and expand access to open spaces and activities in more neighborhoods throughout the community.

## What We've Heard from Residents

"We could use more outdoor activities, such as a nature preserve, a trail system. We have lots of open space that other cities don't."

"In our family's current stage of life, I wish there were more parks. We often have to go to Rockwall to the park. The parks there are worth the 30-50 minute round trip, but I wish our town had some better options."

"Build more public areas. They bring the community together."

"Royse City needs facilities for recreation... outdoor, parks, sports, a community center. Our kids are involved in sports, but we have to travel to other cities for that."

"As expansion occurs, include parks for residents with safe areas to walk and bike. It helps to promote healthy children and citizens, and promotes a sense of community."

"Adult *and* kid friendly playgrounds/climbing walls/ropes/obstacle courses would be a unique and fun outdoor activity addition. There's nothing like that anywhere around here."

"A local farm with animals that's open to the public (jobs, food, entertainment for kids and those who love animals!)."

"How about a park (dirt park/rough terrain) that kids/adults could ride 4 wheelers, go-carts and maybe even mountain bikes. That would bring our youth a great place to hang out while enjoying our beautiful outdoors and give the local shops some extra business on otherwise slow days. Rockwall doesn't have one or Greenville. It would make us stand out!"

"Local businesses sponsoring projects (beautification, donations for parks/ fields)"

"Community swimming pools, dog parks, skate park, and YMCA."



**Service Area**

.25 mile radius

**Development Considerations**

- Resident input during design
- Safe pedestrian access
- Protection from sun
- Park signage
- Minimal parking
- Landscape planting and trees

**Location**

Geographic center of neighborhoods

**MINI PARK**

1 acre or less

Mini parks (or pocket parks) are the smallest unit in a community’s parks system. They are typically centrally located in a neighborhood, serving as a focal point for neighbors living or working within a few blocks of the park. Mini parks often reflect and contribute to neighborhood character, and their small size and accessibility tend to make them convenient nearby destinations for everyday use. They often create branding opportunities for the surrounding neighborhood, and tend to have a positive impact on property values. Mini parks are particularly useful in traditional-style neighborhoods with denser grids and in downtown areas. Ease of access (on foot) is key to their success. These compact parks should be limited in purpose and should not be accompanied by off-street parking.

**Typical Amenities**

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Benches, tables, trash receptacles | Playground               |
| Hard surface court                 | Garden or water features |
| Small shade structures             | Small lawn area          |



**Service Area**

.5 mile radius (uninterrupted by major roads/other physical barriers)

**Development Considerations**

- Resident input during design
- Safe pedestrian access
- Protection from sun
- Park signage
- Minimal parking
- Landscape planting and trees

**Location**

Geographic center of neighborhoods/central to multiple neighborhoods

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**

3 to 10 acres

Neighborhood parks are often considered the cornerstone of any city’s parks system. Like mini parks, they contribute significantly to the overall cohesiveness of a neighborhood, serving as an important recreational and social hub that is close to home for nearby residents. The neighborhood park typically features areas for both passive and (usually informal) active recreation activities, and can be combined with an elementary school to further enhance neighborhood character.

**Other notes:**

- Three acres is a general minimum size, though more compact neighborhoods often have smaller parks similar to mini parks.
- Site should have a balance of developable open space and natural areas. Lowlands and other lands not suitable for development are also not suitable for a neighborhood park.
- Centrally located to the neighborhood(s) it serves.
- Connected to neighborhoods by trails or sidewalks—a more convenient and accessible park is a more useful and lively one.
- Where possible, neighborhood parks should be connected to the citywide trail system. Parks integrated into a broader network with interlinking trails can have a larger service area (up to .75 miles) because of the added convenient access and perception of these corridors as part of the park experience.

**Typical Amenities**

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Benches, tables, trash receptacles | Playground                      |
| Hard surface court                 | Garden or water features        |
| Pavilions                          | Open lawn & preserved nat. area |
| Walking trail/trailhead            | Splash pads/swimming pool       |



**Service Area**

1.5 mile radius

**Development Considerations**

- Resident input during design
- Safe pedestrian access
- Protection from sun
- Park signage
- Parking based on programming
- Landscape planting and trees

**Location**

Maximize service area, but minimize overlap in coverage; consider physical barriers

**COMMUNITY PARK**

25 to 100 acres

Community parks serve a broader purpose (and population) than neighborhood parks. The focus is on meeting wide-ranging community recreation and social needs, and park facilities will vary depending on those needs. Generally, these parks contain a special attraction that draws people from a larger area, such as a pond or lake, ice skating rink, trails, unique cultural or environmental features, or specialized sports complexes.

Quality community parks feature a balanced set of amenities—for both passive and active recreation—that can appeal to a broad range of users. Community parks bring people together to socialize, play, and find quiet space; active, programmed recreation should be encouraged, but it should not unduly disrupt other activities on-site. Community park design should reflect the character of the community and take advantage of the region’s particular landscape features where possible. It is important for community parks to be connected to the surrounding community via the trails and sidewalks. Community parks are major destinations for trail systems. Additionally, these parks need good road access.

**Typical Amenities**

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Benches, tables, trash receptacles | Playground                         |
| Hard surface court                 | Garden or water features           |
| Pavilions                          | Open lawn & preserved natural area |
| Walking trail/trailhead            | Splash pads/swimming pool          |



**Service Area**

Regional

**Development Considerations**

- Integration with trail networks

**Location**

Any large swath of undeveloped/ecologically sensitive land

**REGIONAL PARK**

200+ acres

Regional parks are large-scale, multi-use parks that serve several communities within a region. They provide passive and active recreation uses (similar to those provided by a community park), with a wide array of facilities for all age groups. Many regional parks include (and are centered around) large natural preservation areas for sightseeing or birdwatching, nature study, wildlife habitat, and conservation.

**Typical Amenities**

- Hiking/nature trails
- Pavilions
- Campsites



**Service Area**

Varies, depending on opportunity and character of natural systems

**Location**

Natural or constructed corridors

**LINEAR PARK/LINKAGE**

Size varies

Regional parks are large-scale, multi-use parks that serve several communities within a region. They provide passive and active recreation uses (similar to those provided by a community park), with a wide array of facilities for all age groups. Regional parks often include (and are centered around) large natural preservation areas for sightseeing or birdwatching, nature study, wildlife habitat, and conservation.

**Typical Amenities**

- Bike/pedestrian trails
- Hiking/nature trails
- Benches, tables, trash receptacles
- Lighting
- Gateways at entrances

**Development Considerations**

- Resident input during design
- Safe pedestrian access
- Resting areas
- Park signage
- Establish a minimum width
- Integration with trail networks



**Service Area**

Community-wide

**Location**

Varies depending on need and use

**SPECIAL USE**

Size varies

These are parks or recreation facilities oriented toward specialized or single-use purposes that are not otherwise part of other neighborhood or community parks. Typically, these may include:

- Historical/cultural/social sites** such as plazas, arboretums, or monuments; and
- Recreational facilities** such as senior centers, community centers, golf courses, marinas, dog parks, skate parks, special-use athletic complexes, or practice fields.

**Typical Amenities**

- Bike/pedestrian trails
- Hiking/nature trails
- Benches, tables, trash receptacles
- Lighting
- Gateways at entrances

**Development Considerations**

- Resident input during design
- Safe pedestrian access
- Resting areas
- Park signage
- Establish a minimum width
- Integration with trail networks



**Service Area**

Regional

**Development Considerations**

Development is minimal, as the intent is to keep the ecosystem intact.

**Location**

Environmentally sensitive areas, culturally significant properties, large tracts of undeveloped land, floodplain

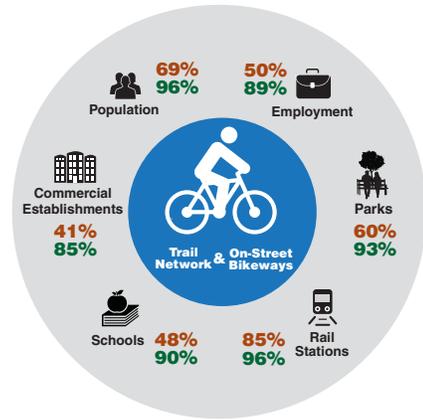
**CONSERVANCY**

Size varies

Conservancies are focused on the protection and management of natural features that provide important ecological and cultural functions, with recreational uses typically incorporated as a secondary objective. Development on these (usually large) sites is minimal, and passive recreation opportunities include birdwatching, hiking trails, and camping. Open space preserves are often partnerships with nature organizations such as Audubon Society or the Nature Conservancy.

**Typical Amenities**

- Visitor center
- Parking
- Hiking trails
- Campsites
- Wayfinding elements



**Today:** Within 1/2 mile of an existing trail and bicycle facility

**2040:** Will be within 1/2 mile of a trail and bicycle facility

(Image: NCTCOG)



The Santa Fe Trail in Dallas is a popular segment of the Regional Veloweb, a shared-use path connecting White Rock Lake to the Deep Ellum commercial district. Veloweb trails connect to the network of community (shared-use) paths that serve local needs.



Separated bike lanes are more comfortable for most users than traditional bike lanes, and they can be inexpensively added to existing roadways. This street in Austin was converted with paint and flexible bollards.

## Trails, Bikeways, and Walkways

Just as streets and roads connect us to the places we want to go, a network of trails can make parks, schools, public spaces, and neighborhoods more accessible. Some existing neighborhoods and parks have internal trails for local use, but if these remain isolated pockets of bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure, their function is limited. Roysce City needs a broader trail system that links neighborhoods with one another and to the surrounding region. As with roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities (and their functions) vary.

### TYPES

#### Shared-use trails

Shared-use paths are paved surfaces that accommodate a wide range of users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and in-line skaters.

#### NCTCOG Regional Veloweb

The Regional Veloweb is an extensive network of existing and planned shared-use trails coordinated by NCTCOG and North Texas communities, intended to be a kind of “interstate for bicyclists and pedestrians.” NCTCOG has criteria for trails that can be included in the Veloweb. They must be wide, continuous paths that connect to local and regional destinations (as well as local bike routes and on-street bike lanes). Corridors that qualify for inclusion as “planned” segments of the Veloweb may also be prioritized for funding. The Rockwall County Open Space plan includes, as its top priority, a Veloweb trail along the rail line in Roysce City, as well as a connection to the southwest along a utility corridor.

#### Community Paths

NCTCOG also has criteria for “community paths,” which are paved shared-use paths that extend the reach of the Veloweb. These trails connect to parks, neighborhoods, schools, and other destinations. Most of the trails proposed for Roysce City fall into this category, and need to be planned and implemented by the City. Any road on the Mobility Plan marked as a “parkway” will include an adjacent shared-use path, and some avenues will include them as well.

#### On-street bike lanes

On-street bike lanes are a necessary component of an inclusive transportation network—making biking to work, school, or other destinations more feasible. However, because they serve a more narrow range of users, they should only be considered as complementary to the overall trail system, and not as trails themselves. Where bike lanes are appropriate (streets and avenues), using separated bike lanes is encouraged. These lanes put a divider in between bicyclists and vehicle traffic. Research shows that more users feel more comfortable on separated bike lanes than on lanes that are simply painted-on. The Federal Highway Administration has a guide to planning and designing these separated lanes.

#### Local trails and sidewalks

Local trails, such as those within neighborhoods, parks, and school campuses, help fill in the gaps where regional and community paths do not go, making the community as a whole more accessible and connected. Because they have a lower volume of users, local trails do not need to be built to the same width standards as community or regional trails.

Sidewalks are also key to a more robust pedestrian network. Sidewalks should connect to neighborhoods, parks, schools, and businesses; gaps in this network should be avoided. Shared-use paths along roads may substitute for sidewalks, but sidewalks are not to be considered as a part of the city’s trail system.

Nature trails are also an important way of connecting residents to their local environment. These are unpaved trails for non-motorized use, and they may be internal to parks or preserves, or a part of a larger hiking or horseback riding trail system.

## LOCATIONS

### STREET AND ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Roadways with sufficient room in the right-of-way (parkways and some avenues) can be good locations for trails, because they already connect to important destinations. Roadside trails generally require significant separation from the road—especially along higher-speed roadways. Sidewalks along roads are not considered to be shared-use paths. Additionally, while trails along roadways can be convenient and direct, they are often lacking in shade. These trails will be more pleasant to use if they are lined with trees.



*Trails create a more inclusive road corridor.*

### RAILROAD CORRIDORS

While many defunct rail lines have been converted to popular “rail trails” in recent years, it is also possible (and increasingly common) to incorporate trails into rail corridors that are still in use. The otherwise unused space along one side of the tracks can be converted to a safe and convenient trail route for bicyclists and pedestrians. The design of these rail-with-trail amenities varies, depending on their proximity to trains, the frequency and speed of rail service and a number of other factors. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy provides planning and design recommendations, as well as extensive studies of these trails nationwide.

Royse City is fortunate to be located on a little-used railway that connects it to Greenville and Sulphur Springs in the east and Rockwall and Rowlett in the west. The corridor has already been identified in the Rockwall County Open Space Plan as a priority trail corridor that would link Royse City to Fate and Rockwall. This is an ideal corridor for inclusion in the Regional Veloweb, and could extend Royse City’s regional tourism appeal.



*Rail corridors, both active and defunct, are often ideal trail locations.*

### RIPARIAN CORRIDORS/FLOODPLAINS

Riparian zones are critical ecological resources due to the habitat, flood mitigation, and water quality services they provide. Because they are naturally occurring corridors that are also unsuited to development, these areas often make excellent locations for trails. They are also appealing because their natural setting provides a scenic (and often shaded) escape from the busy built environment. Of course, floodplain trails will be of limited use during periods of flooding. Trails built in the floodplain and along streams should be planned and constructed with care, so that their impact on the riparian ecosystem is minimal. In particular, they should not be built in the inner zone of the floodplain or within a stream buffer zone.



*The Howard Peak Greenway Trail System in San Antonio makes use riparian corridors.*

### UTILITY EASEMENTS

Utility easements, such as those for electrical transmission lines or water pipelines, may also present opportunities for trail corridors. Oncor, in particular, is generally a willing partner for communities looking to expand their trail systems, and it has published guidelines for planning and designing trails within its utility easements. Utility easements form direct routes through Royse City (also connecting to surrounding communities), and already-maintained, single-use corridors with relatively few barriers to trail construction. They should be considered priority shared-use trail corridors. It should be noted that there are a number of landscape restrictions along these corridors, meaning that adding tree canopy is unlikely.



*The Bluebonnet Trail in Plano takes advantage of unused land in the utility easement.*

## Analysis

### PARKS LEVEL OF SERVICE

A balanced, useful park system provides both adequate acreage for residents' recreation needs and convenient access to close-to-home parks. In terms of access to close-to-home parks—which include mini parks and neighborhood parks—total acreage is less important than the number of these parks and how they are dispersed within neighborhoods. These parks, essential for day-to-day recreation, should be planned for at the neighborhood scale.

Because many recreation needs are not met at the small scale of a mini or neighborhood park, large community parks are essential. This plan disperses them by development zone. It should be noted, that in development zones that become more populated, the amount of community park acreage should be larger than those with more rural areas (such as the southeast development zone). Additionally, establishing a large, centrally located regional park is highly recommended for Royse City. Though the service area of a regional park would extend beyond our borders, it would also serve a similar function to community parks for Royse City residents, and could be included in community park level of service (LOS) acreage (see table below).

Park Type	Recommended Acres per 1,000 Residents*	Typical size	Recommended Service Area for Royse City	TLOS Acres per 1,000 Res. for Royse City
Mini Park	0.25-0.5 acres	1 acre or less	~0.25 mile radius	1 acre
Neighborhood Park	1-2 acres	5–10 acres	~0.5 mile radius (uninterrupted by significant barriers), or single neighborhood	3 acres
Community Park	5-8 acres	20–100 acres (40 or more preferred)	1- to 1.5-mile radius (one per development zone)	8 acres
Linear Park/Linkages	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies
Regional Park	1 park recommended	500 acres or larger	Regional (nearby cities)	Varies
Special Use Area	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies

Park Type	Existing Park Acres	ALOS per 1,000 Res.	CLOS per 1,000 Res.*	TLOS per 1,000 Res.	2016* TLOS Acres Needed	2020** TLOS Acres Needed	2025*** TLOS Acres Needed	2030**** TLOS Acres Needed
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#### Close-to-Home Parks

Mini Park	1	0.25 to 0.5 acres	0.1	1	11	14	24	40
Neighborhood Park	7	1 to 3 acres	0.6	3	33	42	72	120

#### Community and Special Use Parks

Community Park	36	5 to 8 acres	3.3	8	88	112	192	320
Regional Park	0	1 park recommended	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>		<b>11.25 to 20.0 acres</b>	<b>4.9 acres</b>	<b>12 acres</b>	<b>132 acres</b>	<b>168 acres</b>	<b>288 acres</b>	<b>480 acres</b>

## Next Steps

### CREATING A GRID FOR CLOSE-TO-HOME PARKS

The parks plan identifies general locations for large-scale, community-serving parks. These are the “big things” the city needs to get settled when thinking long-term. Just as important, of course, are the smaller, close-to-home parks. These future neighborhood and mini parks are not included on this map, because their locations will be somewhat dependent on where new development goes. A full citywide parks and recreation plan is recommended, but we can begin by thinking about Royse City as a grid, and planning for at least one neighborhood park per square mile. Additional mini parks are highly recommended for most neighborhoods. These parks need to be accessible without crossing a busy road (distance is not the only barrier to park access). In areas with denser development (such as urban villages), parks will need to be more frequent, and they tend to be smaller. And for some residents, their community park will fill the role of close-to-home park.

### NEAR-TERM PARK AND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

In the short term, small improvements like striping bike lanes and pop-up neighborhood parks can address this need for quality public spaces.

While many existing neighborhoods will need retrofits to add park space where it is lacking, we must also ensure that new neighborhoods are designed to include neighborhood parks and mini parks.

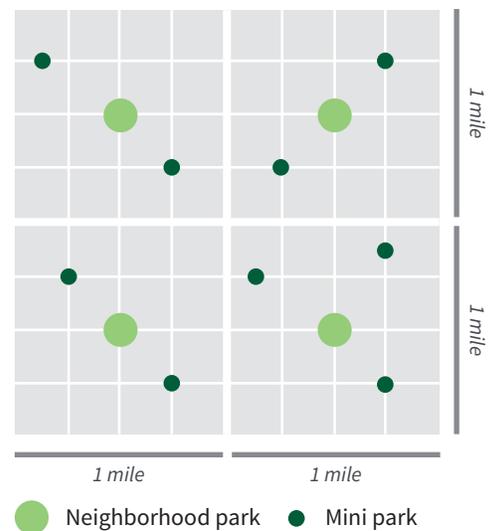
We can also improve the use of existing parks by adding programming, improving their connectivity to other parks and to neighborhoods, and partnering with adjacent neighborhoods.

### FUNDING STRATEGIES

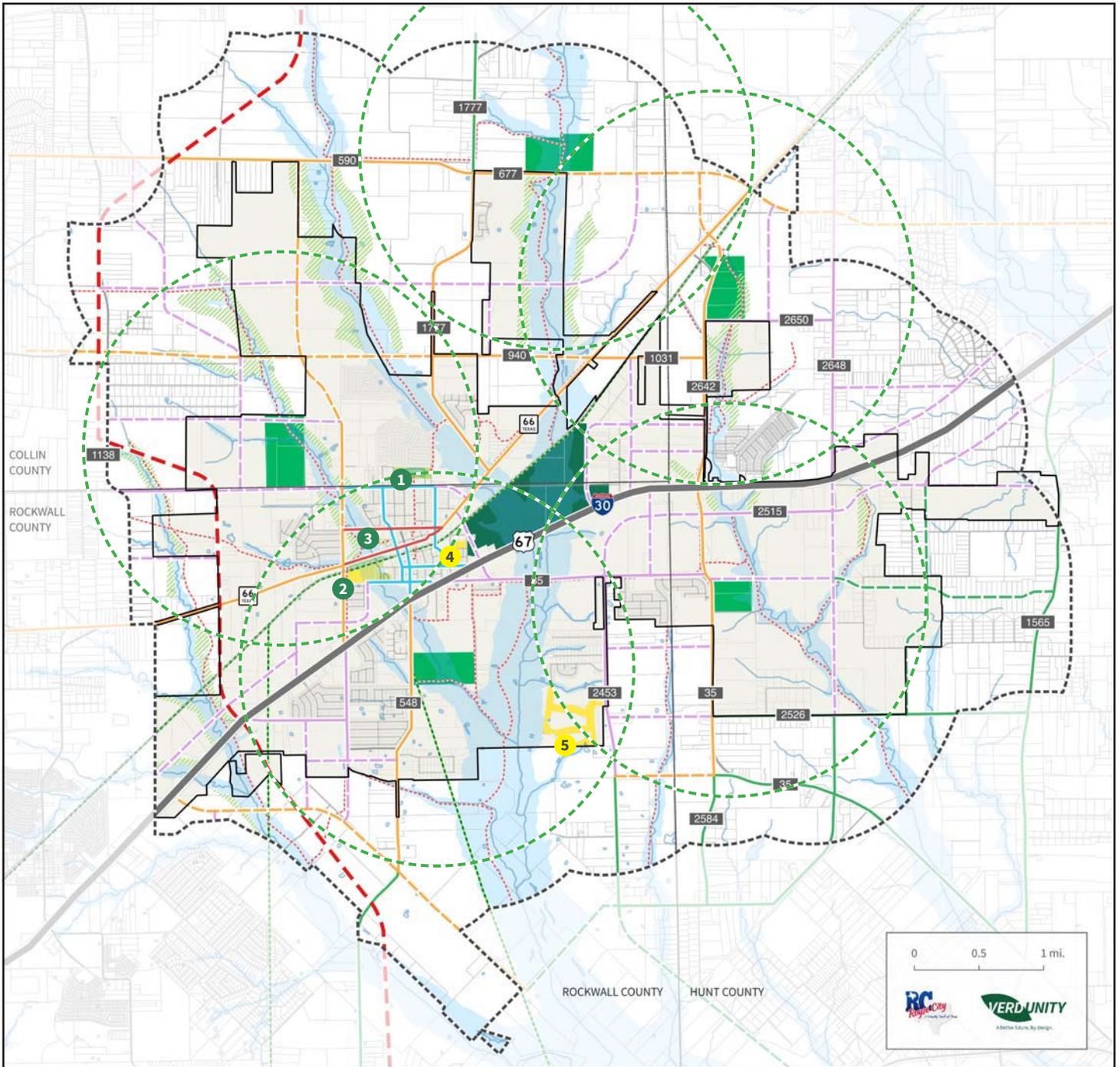
Building out a quality parks system takes time, money and collaboration with multiple entities. For larger parks, such as regional and community parks, it is often necessary to acquire large amounts of land from multiple property owners. This can be accomplished through a combination of individual donations (often in return for naming rights or recognition and commitment to a specific purpose), developer dedication requirements, or outright land purchase. Having a plan and communicating the vision and importance of parks and trails is an important first step to facilitating productive conversations about where, when and how to acquire land.

The larger parks often serve additional purposes such as open space preservation, stormwater management, or sports and recreation, all of which have a variety of grant and funding programs available from federal, state and philanthropic organizations. In addition to well-known agencies like Texas Parks and Wildlife and NCTCOG that provide funds for park and trail improvement projects, Collin County has a countywide park fund that Royse City is eligible to apply for, and Rockwall County is in the early stages of discussing and potentially adopting a similar program. For neighborhood and mini parks in new developments, the City should adopt an aggressive Park Dedication and Development Fee Ordinance that requires developers to donate land for these parks and contribute to a construction/equipment fee that can be supplemented with city funds to construct and maintain the parks. Finally, we should look to partner with the business community for expansion and maintenance of our parks system, since businesses often find having access to these amenities is beneficial, if not crucial to recruiting and retaining employees.

### A TEMPLATE FOR CLOSE-TO-HOME PARKS



*The conceptual diagram above is representative of the way Royse City should approach its close-to-home parks planning. Neighborhood parks should be accessible within a half-mile walk, uninterrupted by any major roads. Mini parks can have a service radius of up to a quarter-mile; they are gathering spaces for a small number of nearby residents.*



## Parks Plan

- Regional Park
- Community Park (with 1.5-mile service radius)
- Neighborhood Park or Mini Park
- Special Use
- Regional Stormwater Management Areas
- Proposed Trail
- Proposed Veloweb Trail
- City Limits
- ETJ Boundary

### Existing parks & recreation facilities

- 1 Citylake Park (neighborhood park)
- 2 Walker Hawk Sports Complex & Splash Park
- 3 Becknell Park (mini park)
- 4 Fox Fields (practice fields)
- 5 Stone River Golf Club

# Park Types



**MINI PARK**



**NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**



**COMMUNITY PARK**



**REGIONAL PARK**



**LINEAR PARK/LINKAGE**



**SPECIAL USE**



**CONSERVANCY**

# Trails & Bike Facilities



**SHARED-USE PATH**



**VELOWEB TRAIL**



**ON-STREET BIKE LANE**

## Policies and Actions

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The following policy statements will be used to guide decisions related to parks, recreation and open space. The priority action items are what the city should focus on in the next few years in order to get the big things right.

1

### Park Accessibility and Functionality

*Royse City will build a quality, efficient parks system by adding green space and public plazas in a manner that makes them conveniently accessible to all residents and prioritizes function and aesthetics over size.*

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#### Priority Action Items

- 1 Conduct walking audits with residents in existing neighborhoods to identify location(s) for pocket parks and develop low-cost tactical strategies to activate these spaces.
  - 2 Improve access and wayfinding to existing parks by adding/connecting sidewalks and creating dedicated bike paths between the parks and surrounding neighborhoods.
  - 3 Prepare and adopt an official Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan that expands on the recommendations in this Plan. Update the plan every five years.
  - 4 Review and update the city's ordinances to include components for park dedication and fees, trail construction and tree preservation/planting.
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2

### Open Space and Nature Connections

*Royse City will preserve and restore floodplains, wetlands, stream and river corridors, tree canopy, critical habitat sites and other environmentally sensitive areas in order to maintain wildlife habitat and biodiversity, improve water quality, reduce erosion and flooding risk, and enhance the natural landscape throughout the community.*

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#### Priority Action Items

- 1 Explore partnerships and funding opportunities to create a regional public park in the large floodplain area in the center of the city.
  - 2 Initiate and facilitate discussions about the multiple benefits of regional detention and low impact development with land owners and developers in areas where heavy development is anticipated.
  - 3 Review and update the city's ordinances to include components for floodplain and habitat preservation, integrated stormwater management (iSWM), and regional detention.
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3

## Connecting People to Places

*Royse City will collaborate with land owners, developers and other partners to link parks, neighborhoods, and public spaces with a network of greenways and multi-use trails.*

### Priority Action Items

- 1 Conduct walking audits with residents in existing neighborhoods to identify location(s) where sidewalks and crosswalks are needed or that are in need of repair, and work to address them.
- 2 Improve walking and cycling access and safety within and between neighborhoods and activity centers by adding/connecting sidewalks and creating dedicated bike paths.
- 3 Explore partnerships and funding opportunities to build the "Interurban Trail" that extends from the Fate/Royse City boundary to downtown (or eventually the regional park).

4

## Community Partnerships and Recreational Facilities/Programming

*Royse City will partner with the school district, medical providers, local churches and other organizations to encourage active living and expand its sports facilities, recreation activities, health and wellness initiatives, and event programming for families and residents of all ages.*

### Priority Action Items

- 1 Conduct a "Recreational Facilities Planning Workshop" with the citizens, businesses, school district, local churches, healthcare industry contacts and developers to discuss the sports and recreation needs of the community and identify short-term strategies to leverage land, financial and other resources from each group to expand these programs in the community.
- 2 Identify and acquire property for four or five future community park sites where future sports and recreation facilities can be built when funding is available. The top priority should be the city's northwest development zone.

