

City of Seguin

Parks and Recreation

Master Plan

2005

Updated 2008

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- Ishmael Flores, Chairperson
- Jessica Shaw, Vice Chairperson
- Teresa Cuevas, Secretary
- Edward Davila
- Mike Vivroux
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- Sam S. Nieto

City Manager, Jack Hamlett

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The Parks and Recreation Department Staff:

- Timothy Patek, Director of Parks and Recreation
- Jonathan Lamb, Parks and Recreation Superintendent
- Vincent Bueno Jr., Parks Maintenance Supervisor
- Sharon Rose Odom, Recreation Program Coordinator
- Helena Perez, Office Coordinator

II. Introduction

History of Seguin

Seguin was founded in 1838 as Walnut Springs at the site of a camp used by Gonzales Rangers during the Texas Revolution. As there was already a town in Texas called Walnut Springs, the name was changed in 1839 to honor the Seguin family. The French-born Erasmo Seguin and his son Juan were heroes of the Texas Cavalry. In 1842 the City of Seguin was appointed seat of the future Guadalupe county by the Congress of the Republic of Texas.

Guadalupe County government was organized in 1846. In 1847, county commissioners constructed a courthouse on the same site as the current courthouse. Municipal government was established in February 1853, merging Seguin with Guadalupe City to the West. By 1858 Seguin's population was 792, the fifteenth largest community in Texas. Seguin strongly supported secession from the Union and was deeply affected by the Civil War, due to the number of local military men.

In 1876, Senator John Ireland (a former Seguin attorney and future Governor of Texas) forced a bill through the state legislature requiring railroad companies to construct depots no more than one mile from a county's courthouse.

The City was also supplied with electricity, telephone and water supply systems. In 1876, local businesses included flourmills, cotton gins, brick factories, saddleries, blacksmiths and dry goods.

The City prospered as an agricultural trading center into the early 20th century. Cotton, dairy products, poultry, corn, pecans and watermelons were the major local commodities. For recreation, the community frequented tourist camps, parks and picnic sites along the Guadalupe River, Walnut Branch and Lake McQueeney.

In 1913, the Texas Lutheran Junior College was established, and today it continues to exist as Texas Lutheran University.

During the 1970's, businesses such as Motorola, Holly Farms, United Cotton Goods and Nolte National Bank opened or expanded their facilities. The Coliseum, a major auditorium and civic building, was constructed at the county fairgrounds. The Plaza Del Rey Shopping Center, with national retail outlets, was opened and annexed into the city limits. Seguin now features major manufacturers such as Alamo Group, Tyson, SMI CMC, and ITW Minigrip.

Although Seguin is still considered an important site for pecan and poultry production, the manufacturing, retail and education sectors have replaced the agricultural sector as the primary employer and economic basis of the City.

Seguin is a growing industrial center as well as the county seat for Guadalupe County. Located in South Central Texas on Interstate Highway 10, it is about 35 miles east of San Antonio, 50 miles south of Austin and 160 miles west of Houston.

The City of Seguin and Guadalupe County are bisected by the Guadalupe River, which also serves as the primary water source for Seguin. Guadalupe County is bordered on the north by Comal and Hays Counties, the west by Bexar County, the east by Gonzales and Caldwell Counties and the south by Wilson County.

The incorporated area of Seguin is approximately 23.89 square miles and the area of Guadalupe County includes approximately 715 square miles.

The City's Role in Providing Parks and Recreation Opportunities

The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department offers recreational opportunities for the residents of Seguin and Guadalupe County. The Parks and Recreation Department manage many park facilities on a citywide basis. Attendance and utilization of these facilities has been very consistent. There has also been positive feedback from the community on the facilities presently in place.

The City employs eight (8) permanent Parks and Recreation personnel: Director of Parks and Recreation, Parks & Recreation Superintendent, Recreation Program Coordinator, Maintenance Supervisor, Administrative Assistant, and three (3) full-time maintenance positions, which are dedicated to Parks and Athletic Fields. Seasonal staff includes after school program instructors, maintenance workers, wave pool staff and day camp staff.

The City of Seguin FY 2005 budget allocated approximately 7% to Parks and Recreation from the General Fund, with an appropriation of \$960,986. The Seguin Wave Pool budget for FY 04/05 estimated an operating budget of an additional \$79,610.

The Seguin Parks and Recreation Department also generates income for the City through fees charged at various facilities and recreational programs. Many people travel from out of town to visit the attractions offered by Parks and Recreation in Seguin, and these tourist and visitors contribute to the local economy. Programs offered through Parks and Recreation encourages active and passive recreational pursuits among Seguin's citizens and provides positive alternative activities for youth in the area. These opportunities are a great asset and service to the physical and emotional well being of the citizens of Seguin. Due to all of these positive aspects of the Parks and Recreation Department, the citizens of Seguin benefit from the city's spending on leisure services and recreational facilities in a variety of ways.

In addition to the City, there are additional public and private providers that maintain facilities and programs for Seguin's residents and all visitors. These organizations are detailed in Chapter V. *Area Facilities and Standards*.

III. Goals and Objectives

Goals and Objectives

The City of Seguin adopted a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan in the mid 1990's. In 2000 the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan was updated. This plan will be updated in 2005, and every 2 years after that, complying with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Standards. This plan will establish several recommendations to satisfy particular issues related to Parks and Recreation, open space planning, and focusing on the establishment of an overall City Comprehensive Master Plan for Parks and Recreation. The following goals and objectives directly affect future parks and recreation and open space direction. Implementation strategies designating the methodology to accomplish these goals are also included.

GOAL 1

TO EXPAND PARK AND OPEN SPACE RESOURCES FOR THE CITIZENS OF SEGUIN, TEXAS

Objective 1

Acquire and Develop Park Property along Walnut Branch.

Implementation Strategy 1.1

Budget for purchase of this property as to coincide with development.

Implementation Strategy 1.2

Utilize federal, state and local grants, private foundations, and other sources in an attempt to provide funding for development of property.

Implementation Strategy 1.3

Provide for any matching grant funds in appropriate fiscal budget.

Implementation Strategy 1.4

Restore landscaping along Walnut Branch from Hwy. 90 to Business 123 as previously constructed by the WPA in 1933.

Implementation Strategy 1.5

Purchase and develop a 5 acre neighborhood park to provide open space and park area to connect with proposed linear park along Walnut Branch.

Objective 2

Develop Park Property in Max Starcke Park.

Implementation Strategy 2.1

Develop plans for the Donegan property to determine the best public use with consideration given to expansion of the Golf Course and/or Max Starcke Park.

Implementation Strategy 2.2

Implement recommendations to add a medium sized pavilion with kitchen near Kids Kingdom Playscape.

Implementation Strategy 2.3

Provide a public use boat ramp with parking area beneath Guadalupe River Bridge.

Implementation Strategy 2.4

Provide funding through federal, state, or local grants, and private foundations to satisfy this objective.

Implement recommendations to re-open River Drive West Road when safety concerns are met. Accomplished 2007

Objective 3

Acquire land in the North or Northwestern segment of the City for future community park development containing both active and passive recreation facilities.

Implementation Strategy 3.1

Acquire a large section of land (25 to 50 acres) for park development.

Implementation Strategy 3.2

Budget for the purchase of this property as to coincide with the development of this much-needed park.

Implementation Strategy 3.3

Utilize federal, state, or local grants from private foundations and other sources to provide developmental funding to satisfy this objective.

Implementation Strategy 3.4

Provide for matching grant funds in Fiscal Year, General Fund Budget to coincide with grant programs.

Implementation Strategy 3.5

Develop plan for property to provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of Seguin. Amenities may include soccer fields, football field, walking/jogging trail, restroom facilities, miniature golf, picnic tables, playground equipment, pavilion, etc.

Objective 4

Acquire for future use property located at the Northwest corner of Max Starcke Park to expand the golf course and other park facilities.

Implementation Strategy 4.1

Secure a source of funding for purchase of this property, which would be an addition to Max Starcke Park.

Implementation Strategy 4.2

Acquire property to provide alternate access to Max Starcke Park and to provide additional security to City facilities (i.e. golf course, softball complex, etc.).

Implementation Strategy 4.3

Develop plan for remainder of property to provide the greatest benefit to the citizens of Seguin.

Objective 5

Provide an Indoor Recreation Center available to the youth and the citizens of Seguin.

Implementation Strategy 5.1

Determine location for Recreation Center by analyzing citizen input, professional consultants, and consideration of Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Implementation Strategy 5.2

Provide funding through federal, state and local grants available to develop a Recreation Center for the citizens of Seguin.

Objective 6

Provide a Competitive Swimming Pool/Aquatic Center available to the youth and the citizens of Seguin.

Implementation Strategy 6.1

Determine location for Competitive Swimming Pool/Aquatic Center by analyzing citizen input, professional consultants, and consideration of Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Implementation Strategy 6.2

Provide funding through federal, state and local grants available to develop a Competitive Swimming Pool/Aquatic Center for the citizens of Seguin.

Objective 7

Develop a citywide neighborhood parks system to eliminate National Recreation and Park Association standard deficiencies.

Implementation Strategy 7.1

Identify neighborhood park sites for future development.

Implementation Strategy 7.2

Provide for Open Space/Recreation set-asides as part of residential development.

Objective 8

Enter into a cooperative, open space agreement with Seguin Independent School District to develop neighborhood parks adjacent to elementary schools.

Implementation Strategy 8.1

Purchase land adjacent to school property to create a school/park concept, which provides adequate open space for neighborhood development in and around developing schools.

Objective 9

Plan, encourage and develop Hydro Electric Plant for future public use to benefit the citizens of Seguin.

Implementation Strategy 9.1

Determine the use of the Hydro Electric Plant by implementing a feasibility study by the Advisory Board.

Objective 10

Provide greenbelts development for linear parks.

Implementation Strategy 10.1

Develop a greenbelt system along Walnut Creek, Geronimo Creek and Mays Creek to provide access from residential areas to schools, universities, parks, churches and other attractions throughout the city.

Implementation Strategy 10.2

Seek greenbelt development funding through federal, state and local grants and other sources to provide safe access for traversing the City of Seguin.

Objective 11

Plan, encourage and develop Fairgrounds Complex Rodeo Arena.

Implementation Strategy 11.1

Coordinate with Guadalupe Agricultural & Livestock Fair Association to develop plans to identify areas for repair and future development at the Rodeo Arena.

Implementation Strategy 11.2

Utilize federal, state, or local grants from private foundations and other sources to satisfy this objective.

GOAL 2

Conserve and protect the natural resources of the City of Seguin in an attempt to provide environmental protection and beautification of the City of Seguin.

Objective 1

Seek to protect the trees, creeks, rivers, streams and other natural resources to provide an atmosphere that will be compatible with the protection of established eco-systems.

Implementation Strategy 1.1

Develop an ongoing plan to maintain and protect the existing trees at Max Starcke Park.

Implementation Strategy 1.2

Develop an ongoing plan to maintain and protect the existing trees at other City parks and public properties.

Implementation Strategy 1.3

Take adequate steps to ensure that the development of Walnut Branch is compatible with the existing eco-systems.

Implementation Strategy 1.4

Undertake a study to evaluate the potential land uses along Geronimo Creek and establish development standards.

Implementation Strategy 1.5

Continue to enforce flood plain regulations and other related ordinances to protect existing natural areas.

Objective 2

Encourage and support private developments to provide open space and/or beautification amenities.

Implementation Strategy 2.1

Enforcement of the City's landscaping ordinance.

Implementation Strategy 2.2

Enforcement of the City's corridor over-lay requirements.

GOAL 3

Develop, Implement, Provide and Maintain quality recreation programming utilizing available resources.

Objective 1

Determine types of programs desired and where they are needed.

Implementation Strategy 1.1

Continue ongoing Needs Assessment among neighborhood and user groups.

Implementation Strategy 1.2

Arrange for shared use of public (Seguin Independent School District), private (Activity Center), or non-profit facilities (Seguin Outdoor Learning Center), to conduct desired recreation programs.

Implementation Strategy 1.3

Research necessity and practicality of providing city-owned indoor recreation facility based on results of Needs Assessment.

Objective 2

Expand and improve current recreational programs at locations determined by Needs Assessments.

Implementation Strategy 2.1

Make necessary budgetary provisions to accomplish this objective.

Implementation Strategy 2.2

Support youth programs, such as Seguin Youth Services, Seguin Activity Center, and the D.A.R.E. Program.

Objective 3

Develop and implement new programs as identified in Needs Assessment.

Implementation Strategy 3.1

Strengthen and increase private and corporate partnerships to expand current and future special events.

Implementation Strategy 3.2

Make necessary budgetary provisions to accomplish this objective.

Implementation Strategy 3.3

Continually administer Needs Assessment and make necessary adjustments as dictated by analysis.

Goals and Objectives Priorities

Rank	Goal 1	Time Line
1	Walnut Branch Park Development	1 – 5 years
2	Max Starcke Park Development	1 – 5 years
3	Community Park – Northwest	1 – 5 years
4	Park Development Adjacent to Max Starcke Park	3 – 7 years
5	Indoor Recreation Center	5 – 10 years
6	City Swim Center	5 – 10 years
7	Neighborhood Park Development	1 – 10 years
8	School/Park Development	1 – 10 years
9	Hydro Electric Plant Development	5 – 10 years
10	Linear Park Development	5 – 10 years
11	Fairgrounds Complex Rodeo Arena Development	On-going
Goal 2		
1	Preserve and Conserve Natural Resources	On-going
Goal 3		
1	Recreation Programs	On-going

IV. Plan Development Process

Plan Development Process

Municipal Parks and Recreation Departments exist to fulfill the leisure needs of the cities they serve. In essence, Parks and Recreation Departments are designed to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of its citizens and community by enhancing the standard of leisure activities.

Quality of life can be improved through many opportunities such as parks, open space, recreation programs, tourism, and beautification efforts. This investment in quality of life issues usually is manifested by lower crime rates, industry relocation, successful youth programs and healthy economic driven forces that attract citizens and visitors to a city.

The City of Seguin has made a priority of maintaining and providing park planning since the early days of the City.

Historical Review of Parks and Recreation Planning

Seguin, Texas, was founded in 1838 as a site for a camp for the Gonzales Rangers. This camp was located on Walnut Springs until the City's name was changed in 1839 in honor of Juan N. Seguin. Seguin became the county seat of Guadalupe County in 1846. Municipal government was established in Seguin in 1853. By the end of the century the population of Seguin, Texas was approximately 2,500. This population was accustomed to participating in outdoor recreational opportunities. The Guadalupe River provided much of the water-based recreation in addition to the many picnic sites and small park areas adjacent to the Guadalupe River and Walnut Springs.

In the 1920's, Central Park was developed. This small (0.7 acres) but significant park located in downtown next to the County Courthouse was enhanced by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and contains a lit fountain, park benches, flag poles and historical monuments.

In 1938, the City of Seguin developed Max Starcke Park on a 227-acre tract of land for its 7,000 citizens, at a cost of \$100,000. This park included a swimming pool, a nine-hole golf course, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, tennis courts, pavilions for large groups and many picnic tables situated along the Guadalupe River.

Max Starcke Park was an attractive regional park. Appealing to visitors from Austin, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi for many events and pageants held on the Guadalupe River. Max Starcke Park was heralded as a park that was designed, developed, and constructed ahead of its time. For many years, Max Starcke Park and Central Park downtown were Seguin's only open space opportunities maintained by the City of Seguin. Years later, in the 1960's and 1970's, the City developed Blumberg Park, Veteran's Park and Manuel C. Castilla Park. In the 1980's, the City dedicated the undeveloped Townwood Village Neighborhood Park and Willow Green Strip to its park inventory. In 2002, additional park land (12.44 acres) was added to Manuel C. Castilla Park, donated by Rio Nogales Power Project.

In addition, the City recently acquired the County Fairgrounds Complex and the Coliseum. The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation has a long-standing involvement with parks, recreation, and open space planning.

Present Parks & Recreation Planning

This Parks and Recreation planning process is the third comprehensive Park Master Plan ever attempted for the City of Seguin. A Master Plan was provided in the mid 1990's dedicated to development for Max Starcke Park, and in 2000 the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan was updated.

This plan reflects current and future efforts to provide continued park and open Space planning on a citywide basis for the City of Seguin, and the Seguin Parks and Recreation Department.

The Parks and Recreation staff conducted a bi-lingual survey, mailed to randomly Selected residents of Seguin on November 4, 2002, to determine the primary quality of life concerns of the citizens. Five hundred (500) surveys were mailed and one hundred nineteen (119) were returned to the City, resulting in a 24% return. These results were shared with the City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in February of 2003.

On March 1, 2004, the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation staff was directed by City Manager, Jack Hamlett, to update the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City. Staff prepared an outline of elements needed to update the Master Plan process and initiated first-step actions. The staff first inventoried all Parks and Recreation facilities and opportunities for the citizens of the City of Seguin. Staff then prepared a fifteen (15)-step process so the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board could review and update the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The Parks and Recreation staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met monthly in open meetings to discuss the development of the Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Seguin. Open meetings were held for citizens wishing to provide input and address the future needs for future parks and recreation and open-space planning efforts.

Future Parks & Recreation Planning

This year, The City of Seguin celebrates its 167th Anniversary. This 2005 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan will carry the City of Seguin into the next millennium. This plan must be flexible, dynamic, and realistic. Effective utilization of this plan will require updates approximately every two (2) years.

By establishing and implementing this plan, the City of Seguin will enable itself to prepare for future growth and provide for the future needs of its citizens.

V. Area Facilities and **Standards**

Inventory of Areas and Facilities

Existing parks and recreation facilities in and around Seguin provide a wide range of opportunities for the local community. In addition to Seguin citizens they also attract visitors throughout Guadalupe County and surrounding areas. This chapter details recreation facility areas by public, semi-public and private ownership. Facilities described in the chapter are generally accessible to all income groups.

CITY-OWNED PARKS/OPEN SPACE

The City of Seguin's park system is comprised of 289.41 acres. Townwood Village undeveloped open space property consists of 6.53 acres. These properties are maintained by the City for public use. Private recreation facilities and those provided by the school system are identified separately in this report.

Max Starcke Park is located along the Guadalupe River on Seguin's south side. This 227-acre park is divided by Business Highway 123 into two sections: Max Starcke East and Max Starcke West. The park property was a pecan orchard prior to the park's dedication in 1938. An 18-hole golf course, which has consistently ranked among the top 25 municipal courses in the State, is featured on the west side. Max Starcke West has 6 tennis courts, a basketball court, a canoe portage area, a newly constructed children's playground area that was funded by the City of Seguin in 2004, and numerous picnic tables, grills, small pavilions, and benches. A covered pavilion, which accommodates up to 150 guests, is also available to the park's visitors.

The eastside of Max Starcke Park boasts the Kids Kingdom Playscape, a \$100,000 play area that was funded and constructed by community volunteers in October of 1995. Adjacent to the Playscape are three little league baseball fields, two girls' softball fields, and one major-league baseball field. The Seguin Wave Pool, a unique municipal aquatic complex, attracts local visitors as well as out-of-town guests.

Nestled among the pecan trees on the park's eastside is a large covered pavilion. This enormous multi-use facility is 200' x 90'. It contains a concrete stage at the north end and provides two basketball courts with retractable goals. The multi-use pavilion project was made possible through a partnership between the Lower Colorado River Authority and the City of Seguin. This large pavilion was designed to accommodate large special events and group functions.

In July 2000, a dedication celebration was held for two more additions to Max Starcke East made possible with matching grant funds provided by Texas Parks & Wildlife. Max Starcke Park East now includes a lighted multi-use pedestrian trail, which provides joggers, walkers, roller bladders, etc., with a lighted path approximately one mile in length. The project included a Fishing Pier/Nature overlook along the Guadalupe Riverbank to provide the public with a variety of recreational opportunities. In the flood of 2002 the Fishing Pier was washed away and the City of Seguin is looking at different options for reconstructing the Pier sometime in the near future.

Lying in the heart of downtown Seguin, **Central Park** is located across from the Guadalupe County Courthouse on Austin Street. Central Park provides a beautiful shaded open space among office buildings. It features a lit water fountain surrounded by seven flagpoles honoring the six flags of Texas and the City of Seguin's colors. Four monuments are placed in the park in recognition of historic or patriotic contributions. An 18-foot statue of Juan Seguin was unveiled on October 28, 2000. This memorial dedicated to a local hero was made possible through community-wide efforts, led by local leaders and members of the Juan Seguin family. This "specialty park" is used for many celebrations including Cinco De Mayo, Fourth of July, Holiday Stroll in December and other events.

Sports fans are provided many opportunities within the **Fairgrounds Complex**, located just North of Max Starcke Park off Business Highway 123. The Complex features an 18 clay court volleyball facility, a semi-pro baseball field, a rodeo/fairgrounds facility, and a four-plex softball facility. Each sports site offers lighted parking areas and playing surfaces, concession stands, restrooms and viewing stands. In 1977, the Seguin Guadalupe County Coliseum opened its doors to offer space for banquets, conferences, receptions, events and activities. This 12,000 sq.ft. facility includes four meeting rooms, an auditorium, dressing rooms, portable stages and a kitchen area. Local residents utilize the Coliseum for anniversary, birthday and wedding celebrations as well as Civic meetings and social gatherings. Small to mid-size conferences are also held at this convention facility.

Blumberg Park is a neighborhood park that offers covered picnic tables with grills, a basketball court, open play field space, and a newly constructed children's playground area that was funded by the Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation in 2004. The park is located off Avenues C, D and Fifth Street. It is named for the Blumberg family whose contribution made possible the property's purchase in 1968.

One of the City's youngest parks is **Manuel C. Castilla Park**, located at the intersection of North Guadalupe and Martindale Streets. The park was named for one of the City Council's first Hispanic members. A water fountain, newly constructed children's playground area that was funded by the Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation in 2004, benches, basketball court, and a small covered pavilion are provided. In 2002, additional park land (12.44) was dedicated to the City of Seguin by Rio Nogales Power Project. It includes a ¼ mile wheelchair accessible lighted walking/jogging trail, a children's playground area, picnic tables/grills, baseball field backstop, soccer goals, drinking fountain, restrooms, and a parking lot.

Located at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Erkel Street, **Veteran's Memorial Park** honors Seguin's Veterans, providing a memorial monument surround by a seasonal flowerbed. The open space provided by this "Specialty Park" lends itself to annual Veteran's Day celebrations and daily visits by neighborhood guests.

A narrow strip of land provides a linear, open park space in The Willows subdivision. **The Willow Green Strip** is located on the southeast side of Seguin off Elmwood Street and remains unimproved.

Townwood Village subdivision has open space property along a natural drainage path that flows into Geronimo Creek. This undeveloped open space consists of 6.53 acres on Seguin's eastside off Highway 123 Bypass.

A great deal of history is preserved at the **Memorial Rose Garden** located on South Travis Street. A granite monument describes the origins of the community known as "Walnut Springs" and its development as the City of Seguin. This park property is located along Walnut Creek and remnants of a dam and trail system created in the 1930's are visible within the park.

In 1976, the remains of Texas revolutionary hero, Juan N. Seguin, were laid in their final resting-place, which overlooks the Seguin-Guadalupe County Coliseum and Rodeo/Fair Grounds facilities. Each fall, a ceremony honoring the City of Seguin's namesake is held at the **Juan Seguin Grave Site** on Saunders Street. Guests at the event include descendents of Juan Seguin's family, as well as City and State officials.

OTHER PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Seguin takes great pride in its historic places and structures. There are many homes within the City borders with historic designations, both National and State. One such historic structure is the Sebastopol State Historic Park. The home is available for historic tours and special events and is managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The Seguin Activity Center is an indoor recreational facility which receives its funding from individual donors and organizations such as the United Way. The Center has a gymnasium for volleyball and basketball, a skate park, two racquetball courts and several workout classrooms.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

Seguin's schools offer several recreational opportunities. Generally, recreational and open space facilities at local schools, with certain exceptions, can be used by the community after hours on school days and on weekends when school activities do not preempt their use.

The Seguin Independent School District is a fully accredited public school system with an enrollment of approximately 7,435 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12. The district presently serves the community's children on 12 campuses, one alternative disciplinary school campus, and one learning center.

The secondary students attend a 5A high school, grades 9-12 and two middle schools, grades 7-8. The high school has one lighted stadium for football, a tennis court facility, a softball field, a walking track, a band practice field and another multi-purpose field that is used for football, baseball, softball and soccer. The campus also includes three indoor gyms, the newest addition is Leslie "Goldie" Harris Gymnasium, completed in 2004, with equipment for both volleyball and basketball games, and weight rooms. Max Starcke Park's tennis courts are utilized by SISD tennis programs and other area school districts as needed for practice and tournaments.

Facility inventory for the two middle school campuses in the Seguin Independent School District include basic athletic facilities. The campus at Briesemeister Middle School includes an indoor gym, a football practice field, tennis courts, and 8 soccer fields. The Seguin Soccer Association utilizes the soccer fields as well. The newest addition to the Seguin Independent School District is Jim Barnes Middle School; completed in 2004, and includes an indoor gym, covered outdoor basketball courts, and a football practice field. The district operates seven primary schools, grades K-5, one 6th grade campus, and one pre-kindergarten campus. All of these campuses are equipped with playground equipment and some campuses have indoor gyms and outside basketball courts.

The Navarro Independent School District is located approximately 10 miles north of Seguin and I.H. 10 on State Highway 123. The district serves approximately 1445 students in grade level Pre-Kindergarten through Twelve. Students in grades 5,6,7, and 8 share campus facilities with high school students (grades 9 through 12). The elementary campus is located behind the high school/middle school campus. The districts properties include practice and game fields for softball, baseball, and football. Tennis courts and an abundance of open space for future development are also available. Volleyball and basketball courts are provided in a gymnasium at each campus.

PRIVATE FACILITIES

The Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA) maintains a picnic ground on Nolte Island, which is approximately 3 miles southeast of Seguin, outside the city limits. Nolte Island has three picnic sites that can serve groups of 30 to 150 individuals. Grills, restrooms, children’s playgrounds and volleyball courts are among the amenities provided with a reservation at this location.

The Seguin Outdoor Learning Center located east of Seguin, outside the city limits consists of approximately 125 acres. This facility offers the community a variety of outdoor activities, which include canoeing, fishing, hiking, challenge course, and camping skills.

The Ski Lodge in McQueeney is a resort that offers water-based recreational opportunities with access to boat ramps, ski equipment and a large swimming pool in addition to lodging and dining.

Seguin also has a few “specialty” recreation facilities such as one privately owned skating rink located on Zorn Street near downtown Seguin. Seguin Hippotherapy utilizes the Donegan property located at Max Starcke Park to provide therapeutic horseback riding for people who are physically, mentally, and/or emotionally challenged. Chaparral Country Club offers an 18-hole golf course.

The remainder of the recreational facilities within Seguin’s jurisdiction are privately owned. Some facilities require membership in order to have access to the equipment. Seguin has three fitness gyms, which have weight lifting machines, equipment and aerobics rooms. These facilities are Seguin Fitness, Strom’s Family Fitness Center, and Guadalupe Valley Wellness Center that are located within the City limits.

St. James Catholic School has a multi-purpose gym, a multi-purpose field and children’s playground equipment. Other parochial schools with recreational equipment include First United Methodist Church, Emanuel’s Lutheran Day School, Faith Lutheran Church, and First Baptist

Church. Outside the City limits is Good News Fellowship Church & Christian Academy, and Lifegate Ministries which has an indoor gym, a football field and playground equipment. Most local churches offer facilities for their members, such as playgrounds.

Texas Lutheran University (TLU) is a fully accredited, co-educational institution offering high quality programs in the arts, sciences and pre-professional studies. The University was founded in Brenham, Texas in 1891 as an academy and moved to the City of Seguin in 1912. TLU is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The campus has a very popular walking track, an Olympic size pool, a soccer field, a baseball field, a softball field, a frisbee golf course, a newly built weight and exercise room and an indoor gym. The campus also has numerous multipurpose fields. All facilities are available to the public, although some facilities require a membership fee to permit access.

REGIONAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Seguin is strategically located in South Central Texas on Interstate Highway 10. San Antonio, the tenth largest city in the United States, is thirty minutes west of Seguin via IH 10. Austin, the State capital, is conveniently accessible 50 miles to the north by State Highway 123 and Interstate Highway 35. Seguin is also located near New Braunfels and San Marcos, both highly populated tourist towns. A wealth of recreational opportunities surround the City.

San Antonio offers both Six Flags Fiesta Texas and Sea World, two large theme parks with both educational and recreational activities. Also in San Antonio is the Brackenridge Park and Zoo, the Sunken Gardens, Verizon Wireless Amphitheater, Joe and Harry Freeman Coliseum, the Alamodome which hosts such events as basketball games, concerts, football games and conventions, and the SBC Center, home to the San Antonio Spurs. The SBC Center not only hosts basketball games, but also brings in concerts, ice hockey, and rodeos to the area. San Antonio claims several college and university campuses within its' City limits. Austin offers many recreational opportunities and is home of the Frank Irwin Convention Center and the University of Texas campus. In nearby San Marcos, there is Aquarena Springs managed by Texas State University (T.S.U.), and in New Braunfels, there is the famous Schlitterbahn Water Park, Natural Bridge Caverns and Wildlife Ranch and beautiful local park areas.

Parks maintained by the State within the region include Palmetto State Park, Lockhart State Park, and the Navarro State Historic Site in San Antonio. The Missions of San Antonio National Park and The Alamo are also popular attractions in San Antonio.

Facility Standards

With over 289.41 acres of dedicated parkland, the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department is able to offer unique activities and opportunities for the community of Seguin. The beauty of park locations along the Guadalupe River, the diversity of recreational activities offered, and the historic allure of Seguin itself has attracted a diverse resident and tourist population to the area. This diversity translates into economic benefits for Seguin, personal benefits for individuals and creates a well-rounded community. This chapter defines local standards based on local factors.

POPULATION

Local residents' age, ethnic diversity and income are major assets to the structure and functioning of the Parks and Recreation Department. Seguin has a mature, active population that continues to grow. According to a census study conducted in 2000, citizens between the ages of 0 and 24 account for much of the population, with the middle age generation following. Although different ages in individuals call for different recreational needs, they do share many mobility concerns. The old and the young should be considered in planning for neighborhood parks, as well as newly annexed areas of the City. The tourist population, which includes organized leagues and casual users, must be considered when planning expansion of facilities. Projections indicate that the specific population will continue to grow. Parks planning must be prepared to address this growth.

RESOURCES

According to standards set by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), and our local standards, all facilities are adequate except for our neighborhood park status. Existing parks and recreation facilities establish a base standard for the current population, but are not easily accessible to the entire population of Seguin.

The citizens of Seguin should be served according to national and local standards as growth is assessed and analyzed. The following charts and maps identify existing park facilities.

LOCAL STANDARDS

Park Classification:

Regional: park serving an area of natural and/or ornamental value for outdoor recreation used by visitors and residents

Size: 125+ acres

Service Area: multi-community usage

Amenities: golf course, picnic areas, large pavilions with kitchen and restroom facilities, lighted trails, swimming pools, water resource (river, pond, lake, etc.) lighted athletic fields and complexes

**Community/
Playfield:**

park area serving a diverse population with intense recreational activities and/or areas of natural quality

Size: 15 to 60 acres

Service Area: approximately 4 to 6 square miles

Amenities: lighted athletic fields and sports courts, swimming facilities, day camp areas, recreational center/building, picnic areas, restrooms, concession building, play area, small pavilions, off-street parking

Neighborhood: park facility providing intense, short-term recreational activities

Size: 1 to 15 acres

Service Area: 1 square mile

Amenities: courts and/or field game surfaces, play apparatus, sidewalks, open areas, benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains

Linear: park adjacent to or part of a creek, tributary or low lying area or flood plain area, utilized for outdoor recreation by visitors and residents

Size: varies according to function

Service Area: city-wide to neighborhood

Amenities: picnic tables, restrooms; workout stations, benches, interpretive signs, bridges, and impact landscaping along multi-use trails

Specialty: park facility serving a specific function.

Size: varies according to function

Service Area: city-wide

Amenities: monuments, memorials, fountains, play areas, benches or special attraction

National Recreation and Park Association Standards vs. Existing Resources

<i>Existing Recommended Park Acreage</i>					
Park Type	Existing Acreage in Seguin	NRPA Strd. Acres per Type Park	Acreage Suggested per 1,000	Total Acreage Suggested	Status
Mini	N/A	.25 - 1.0	-	4.75 – 19.5	N/A
Linear	4.24	Variable	Variable	-	OK
Neighborhood	14.04	5.0 - 10.0	2.5 acres	19 – 47.5	Deficit
Community	40	30.0 - 50.0	3.0 acres	38 – 152	OK
Regional	227	50.0 - 75.0	5.0 acres	95 - 190	OK
Special	4.13	Variable	Variable	-	OK

VI. Needs Assessment and ***Identification***

Needs Assessment

SURVEY RESULTS

The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department randomly sent surveys that were distributed through the mail to citizens of Seguin on Tuesday, November 5, 2002. Respondents were asked to rate the quality of facilities and programs offered by the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department and for their input, opinions, and preferences regarding parks and recreation as part of a Comprehensive Planning Process to evaluate our programs and facilities. The survey also solicited input concerning the Wave Pool, Fishing Pier, and recreational opportunities desired by residents.

Of 500 bilingual surveys mailed, 123 were returned to the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department. The households were randomly selected by choosing 125 out of each of the 4 utility billing cycles from the City of Seguin. The surveys were asked to be completed and returned to the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department by January 15, 2003.

The top fifteen (15) recreational activities that respondents had participated in within the past year:

Recreational Activities	Number of Respondents
Walking/Jogging	95
Fishing	52
Swimming	49
Fitness/Wellness	43
Picnicking	38
Arts & Crafts	35
Bicycling	33
Golf	33
Basketball	31
Baseball	28
Boating	23
Volleyball	19
Soccer	15
Nature Study	13
Softball	13

The park facility maintained by the Seguin Parks and Recreation Department which receives the most visitations on an annual basis by those reponding to the survey, is Max Starcke Park. This park is the largest within the City's parks system and offers diverse opportunities. Central Park, a "specialty park", ranked second when evaluating the number of annual visits, followed by Manuel C. Castilla Park, then Blumberg Park, and finally Veteran's Park.

Additional parks and recreation facilities that the public would like to see added where ranked in the following order:

Parks and Recreation Facilities	Ranking
Swimming Pool/Aquatic Facility	1
Miniature Golf	2
Recreation Center	3
Boat/Canoe Ramp	4
Soccer Fields/Complex	5
Youth Football	6
Walking/Jogging Trails	7
Covered Picnic Tables	8
Bicycle Trail	9
Batting Cages	10

Most frequently used parks and recreation facilities that respondents have used within the past year:

Parks and Recreation Facilities	Number of Respondents
Fairgrounds Ballpark	50
Playscape	45
Wave Pool	42
Picnic Tables	39
Golf Course	34
Walking Trail	33
Little League Complex	31
Fishing Pier	19
Large Pavilion	18
Bowl Pavilion	17
Softball 4-Plex	11
Sand Volleyball Courts	11
Volleyball Complex	10
Tennis Courts	9

Parks and Recreation Facilities that respondents would most like to see improved:

Suggested Parks and Recreation Facilities Improvements	Number of Respondents
Wave Pool	42
Walking Trail	38
Picnic Tables	35
Playgrounds	31
Fairgrounds Ballpark	23
Fishing Pier	22
Little League Complex	20
Basketball Courts	12

Tennis Courts	9
Softball 4-Plex	8
Volleyball Complex	8

Several survey questions were asked specifically about the City of Seguin Wave Pool. Of the survey respondents 45 indicated that they have used the Wave Pool in the past year, 66 said they would like to see the City of Seguin continue to operate the Wave Pool, and an overwhelming 94 indicated that they would like to see the City of Seguin replace the Wave Pool with a new multi-use pool that would include a children’s play pool as well as an area for competition and lap swimming.

An overwhelming majority of those surveyed 94 said they would like to see the City of Seguin and the Seguin Independent School District share facilities for recreational programs and activities. Also, an overwhelming majority of those surveyed 92 said they would like to see the fishing pier rebuilt at a more protected location on the river.

Respondents were asked to rank desired additional recreation programs and the best time for recreation programs:

Additional Recreation Programs	Ranking
Infant Swim Lessons	1
Basketball	2
Tennis Lessons	3
Junior Golf	4
Track & Field	5
Backpacking	6
Best Time for Recreation Programs	Ranking
Weekends	1
Evenings	2

When asked, “How do you or your family get information about the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation activities?” the survey respondents indicated the following:

Information about City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Activities	Number of Respondents
Seguin Gazette-Enterprise	71
Seguin Daily News	59
Talking with Family & Friends	59
KWED Radio	51
City of Seguin Cable Channel	21
Brochures or Pamphlets	9
Contacting the P&R Office	7
Activity Guide	4

With regard to the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department sponsored programs, activities that were participated in most within the past year were:

Programs or Activities	Number of Respondents
“Just For Kids” Summer Daycamp	12
Swim Lessons	11
Water Aerobics	9
JAAM After-School Program	7
Junior Golf	5
Teen Night	3
Canoeing Classes	1

Recreation programs offered by the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department were rated as followed:

Ratings	Number of Respondents
Satisfied	70
Unsatisfied	33
Very Satisfied	5
Very Unsatisfied	5
No Comment	5

DISCUSSION

The Seguin Parks and Recreation Advisory Board reviewed and discussed the results of the citizen survey at the July 12, 2004 meeting during the planning process to update the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Master Plan. During this meeting the Advisory Board agreed to follow a planning process for updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan of 2000. This process will take several meetings before the Parks and Recreation Master Plan can be updated and should be done approximately every two (2) years.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The Seguin Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for improving existing facilities & programs, plan for future park development, and provide the most efficient, effective, and creative department possible for our community. The current City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department facilities are in good condition, and many are being renovated to meet the needs and demands of our community. The Advisory Board and City Staff concur with the survey respondents that future facilities that are needed in our community are: Swimming Pool/Aquatic Facility, Miniature Golf, Recreation Center, Boat/Canoe Ramp, Soccer Fields/Complex, Youth Football, Walking/Jogging Trails, Picnic Tables, Bicycle Trail, and Batting Cages.

The Seguin Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held an open meeting on April 4, 2005 to encourage citizen input into the formation of the Citywide, Parks and Recreation Master Plan. No citizens appeared to participate.

From the discussion in open meetings of the Seguin Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Citizen Survey results, the development of park property along Walnut Branch, and a park on Seguin's northside is warranted. The public seems generally pleased with the facilities and services provided by the City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department.

VII. Prioritization of Needs and Implementation

Prioritization

The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department is committed to the delivery of quality parks and recreation programs and services to the citizens of Seguin, Texas. The Parks and Recreation Department provides professional and technical support to the citizens with respect to growth trends, parks design, park development and recreational programming.

Mission Statement

The mission of the City of Seguin Parks & Recreation Department is to foster community participation and improve the quality of life for citizens of all ages, by providing safe recreational facilities and programs, leisure time opportunities, aquatics, and park development that will enhance the health, happiness and morale of the citizens.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The City Council of the City of Seguin is elected by the citizens of Seguin, Texas. The City Council has appointed a seven member Parks and Recreation Advisory Board that serves the Parks and Recreation Department in an advisory capacity. This Advisory Board reviews annual budgets of the Parks and Recreation department and makes recommendations to the staff, City Manager and City Council. The Parks Advisory Board assists in the planning of Parks and Recreation programs for promoting and stimulating open space use and leisure interests on a city-wide basis.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has been instrumental in the development of a prioritization schedule and strategies for implementation. The method of approach consists of utilizing a random public survey, open public meetings and meetings of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to gather data for this plan process. This plan is written by the Parks and Recreation staff, reviewed by the City Manager and the Seguin Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Board will present recommendations to the City Council for approval of this plan in its adopted form.

Facility Priorities

1. The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department will support and provide assistance for development of a park including a walking/jogging trail along Walnut Branch in downtown Seguin. This project will help connect the existing walking/jogging trail located in Max Starcke Park.
2. The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department should make every effort to provide park development within Max Starcke Park.
3. The City of Seguin should develop land for a Community park in the North or Northwestern segment of the City. Amenities may include soccer fields, football field, walking/jogging trail, restroom facilities, miniature golf, picnic tables, playground equipment, pavilion etc.

4. The City of Seguin should develop land located at the Northwest corner of Max Starcke Park for future use to expand the golf course and other park facilities.
5. The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department should make every effort to provide an indoor recreation center available to the citizens of the City of Seguin, Texas.
6. The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department should make every effort to provide a competition swimming pool/aquatic facility available to the citizens of the City of Seguin, Texas.
7. City of Seguin Parks and Recreation should develop Neighborhood Parks with respect to the attached National Recreation of Parks Association standards in section V of this plan.
8. The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department and the Seguin Independent School District should attempt to develop neighborhood parks adjacent to neighborhood elementary schools for future school park projects.
9. The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department should make very effort to plan, encourage, and develop the Hydro Electric Plant for future public use to benefit the citizens of the City of Seguin, Texas.
10. The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department should make every effort to provide Linear Park development along creeks and easements within the city limits of the city of Seguin.
11. The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department should make every effort to identify areas for repair and future development for public use to benefit the citizens of the City of Seguin, Texas.

Facility Priorities List

1. Walking/Jogging Trail connecting Walnut Branch to City parks
2. Neighborhood Park (north side) connecting to Walnut Branch
3. Wetland area providing access to educators
4. Medium Size Pavilion
5. Boat Ramp
6. Soccer Fields
7. Football Fields
8. Miniature Golf Course
9. Indoor Recreation Center
10. Competitive Swimming Pool
11. Neighborhood Park linked to Seguin ISD Campuses
12. Hydro Electric Plant
13. Linear Park
14. Rodeo Arena

Projects completed since last Master Plan Adoption

1. Bank Stabilization – Accomplished 2007

Land Acquisition

The City of Seguin has recently grown by both annexation and development. Concurrent with this growth is the demand for City services. The City of Seguin should look to provide City parks and recreational programs and facilities for all citizens of Seguin. These services should be reviewed on an annual basis. All areas of town will be affected through this plan, and any areas that are actively receiving residential development. The Parks and Recreation Department will need to monitor all areas of town for future growth, and review them on an annual basis.

Project Funding

Parks and facilities funding is available today through many sources. Possibilities of funding sources include the City of Seguin General Fund, bond programs, capital improvement programs, local and private foundations, Texas Parks & Wildlife grants, Texas Forest Service Grants, Texas Department of Transportation, ISTEA grants, and other state and federal grant programs.

Program Priorities

1. The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department should continue ongoing Needs Assessment survey at least every five years to determine the types of programs desired by the citizens of Seguin, Texas.
2. City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department should expand and improve current, on-going recreational programs at locations to be determined by Parks and Recreation staff such as: JAAM and Summer Day Camp Program. These expansions and improvements should be completed through participant surveys that will be utilized to guide staff in delivery of quality recreational programs.
3. The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation should continue to develop and implement new programs as identified by the Needs Assessment surveys concerning current recreational market trends.
4. City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department should support and develop character building programs such as Little League, Soccer, Softball, and other youth programs that stimulate self-esteem and personal development for the youth of the City of Seguin.

Implementation

I. Parks and Open Space Recommendations

- A. Develop a neighborhood park along Walnut Branch in downtown Seguin.
 - 1. Fund, acquire, develop and construct a neighborhood park to eliminate deficiencies that exist, to better serve the citizens of Seguin, Texas.
 - 2. Fund, acquire, develop and construct a neighborhood park adjacent to Walnut Branch, to better serve the citizens of Seguin, Texas.

- B. Develop park property in Max Starcke Park.
 - 1. Research, develop, design and implement plans to develop existing park property.

- C. Develop a community park in the north/north-west area of Seguin, Texas
 - 1. Fund, acquire, develop and construct a community park to better serve the citizens of Seguin, Texas. Amenities may include soccer fields, football field, walking/jogging trail, restroom facilities, miniature golf, picnic tables, playground equipment, pavilion etc.

- D. Fund, construct and develop park property located at the Northwest corner of Max Starcke Park for future expansion of the golf course and other park facilities.

- E. Fund, construct and develop Indoor Recreation Center to be utilized by all populations within the community.

- F. Fund, construct and develop Competitive Swimming Pool/Aquatic Center to be utilized by all populations within the community.

- G. Develop neighborhood parks adjacent to subdivisions.
 - 1. Provide for Open Space/Recreation set-asides as part of residential development.

- H. Locate neighborhood parks adjacent to existing or proposed school sites to develop a school/park community.
 - 1. Increase the recreational opportunities for all citizens by eliminating duplication of services.
 - 2. Continue to develop interlocal agreements that maximize facility and program experiences for the citizens of Seguin, Texas.

- I. Develop trails and walkways within City parks that connect City parks.
 - 1. Research, develop, design and implement plans to expand walkways along Walnut Branch from Hwy. 90 to Austin (123 Business) and Max Starcke Park.

II. Recreation Program Recommendations

- A. Continue support of outside agencies whose objectives are to promote positive youth activities.
 - 1. Co-sponsor and/or participate in youth oriented events such as D.A.R.E. Halloween Safe House, Drug Free Rally, Seguin Activity Center Programs, and Seguin Youth Services work projects.
 - 2. Encourage greater community involvement and volunteerism in departmental sponsorial events such as JAAM, Summer Day Camp, July 4th Fireworks Display Show, Holiday Stroll, etc.

- B. Fund, develop, and construct a Recreation Center.
 - 1. Provide a recreation center for sports/fitness opportunities.
 - 2. Provide a center for arts and crafts.
 - 3. Provide a center for organization and group activities.

- C. Fund, develop, and construct a Competitive Swimming Pool/Aquatic Facility.
 - 1. Provide a competitive swimming pool/aquatic center for competitive swimming opportunities.
 - 2. Provide a center for cooperative use with the Seguin Independent School District.
 - 3. Provide a center for hosting competitive swim meets.

Project Funding for Park and Open Space & Recreation Program Recommendations

Funding sources include the City of Seguin General Fund, bond programs, capital improvement programs, local and private foundations, Texas Parks & Wildlife Grants, Texas Forest Service Grants, Texas Department of Transportation, ISTEPA Grants, and other state and federal grant programs.

VIII. Future Park and Open Space

Future Open Space and Recreational Needs

As municipalities grow, master plans need to be dynamic and able to change to fit conditions of growth. This plan and attached maps exhibit proposed park sites for the City of Seguin. Master Plans show general locations for future park and open spaces that would adequately serve anticipated population trends. The City Council and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should utilize this plan as a general guide in determining future locations and types of proposed City parks and recreation facilities.

Parks develop for a variety of reasons. Some factors influencing park development include: natural environmental conditions, growth patterns, developmental conditions, demographic characteristics of neighborhoods and other influences political and social.

Adjustments should be made to provide design, maintenance, programming and location of parks. This difference identifies and provides for a unique park setting that encourages use. Activities within parks also should vary due to facility size and location. As certain aspects of a community go through change, adjustment should be made in planning and locating of City park facilities.

Anticipating this change and adjusting to change are some of the challenging forces that park professionals are facing in providing quality facilities and programs for municipalities. Large quantities of information must be reviewed and organized into proper and meaningful management for resources. With master plans that are flexible and dynamic, cities can vary their approach in forming and shaping their urban environments.

I. Needs

Parks and recreation space usage varies between communities by the age and income structure of the users, local tradition and local climate. As a detailed survey of current use and detailed Parks and Recreation Plan are not part of the scope of a comprehensive plan, some general standards have been established for current and future needs. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) have established national guidelines. These two standards identify comparative needs in Texas and on the national basis establish generalized current and future functional and spatial requirements.

II. Conceptual Plans

A. On-Going:

To better meet the demands of the residents of Seguin, the City currently has preliminary plans to provide these additional features:

- * Walnut Branch development;
- * Max Starcke Park development;
- * Park sites doubling as tourist attractions, particularly on the north side of Seguin;

B. Future:

National Recreation and Parks Association standards (See Section V.) Calculations from the NRPA standard (presented in Chapter V) indicate that the City is deficient in neighborhood parks by 4.96 acres. For accomplishing neighborhood park deficiencies, and for future parks and recreation development, a detailed park plan with the following considerations is recommended:

- * Restore landscaping along Walnut Branch and develop park along creek;
- * Plan to provide an indoor Recreation Center available to youth and citizens;
- * Plan to provide a Competitive Swimming Pool/Aquatic Center available to youth and citizens;
- * Utilize school playgrounds to help provide adequate and equitable neighborhood parks, distributed to serve both existing and future population;
- * Land should be acquired in the northwest corner of Max Starcke Park for future expansion of the golf course and other park facilities;
- * Land should be acquired in the north or northwestern segment of the City for future community park comprising both active and passive recreation facilities.

IX. Maps, Surveys, Tables and Graphs