

Fairview Parks and Trail System

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Because the Town of Fairview is dedicated to developing a town with open spaces and beautiful park land Town staff and Parks Board members have worked tirelessly throughout the years to develop and continually update a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. And, in an effort for the Town to communicate with residents about our parks and their facilities the Fairview Town News will begin highlighting a different park each month beginning with this brief history of the parks and trail system.

The original Master Plan was conceived and developed in 1995 and is updated approximately every five years. In 2005, the Town worked with independent consultants in conjunction with updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan. At that time Fairview had an estimated population of 4,720 and it was projected to reach 5,000 by the end of the year. Fairview also only had one completed park at the time; Creekside in Oakwood (Beaver Run in Thompson Springs was still in the planning stages).

The updated plan called for parks in Thompson Springs, Summerhill Farms, Murray Farm, Sloan Creek Estates (trail and open spaces), a 95-acre sports park (Fairview Soccer Complex), Town Center as well as various open spaces. Additionally, the Plan recommended eight additional neighborhood parks within the Town limit.

In 2010, the Plan was once again updated, this time the effort was led by the Parks Board in conjunction with Town staff. The update kicked off with a survey mailed to each of the 2,724 Fairview water account addresses. The results of the survey showed that respondents overwhelmingly favored trails and natural areas. Neighborhood parks and a large community park were a distant third and fourth in respondent preferences.

During the 2010 update the inventory of parks showed that a number of proposed projects from the 2005 Plan update had been completed. Some of these were funded by the Town while several were primarily funded by development. Town funded parks include Beaver Run, Monarch Park, Cypress Park, Roadrunner Trail, Sloan Creek trail and greenspace and Veterans Park. Those funded by development were; The Village Green (funded primarily by MGHerring), The Meadows (funded primarily by Grenadier Homes) and Fairview Soccer Complex (funded by Ayses Soccer Club).

The 2010 Plan update envisioned the 83 acres owned by the Town (south of McKinney National Airport) as a future community park. Additional goals from the Plan were to acquire open spaces, greenbelt land and neighborhood park

land as opportunities and development allowed. The Plan also called for improvements to existing facilities - a trail to connect Orr Road to the Army Corps of Engineer land, amenities in Coyote Park, pavilions in Cypress Park and a nature trail on the west side of Creekside Park.

Many projects have been completed in the years since the 2010 update – the Town acquired 30 acres of greenspace, a trail & a connector bridge over Sloan Creek; open space, a connector trail & money escrowed for a connecting bridge over Wilson Creek; trail & a water detention area from Apple Crossing and a trail, open space & land for trailhead parking from Parkside. Additionally, the Town funded improvements to parks including: a pavilion, landscaping, playground turf, benches & a grill in Cypress Park; a playground with turf, pavilion, grill, benches, a sports court & landscaping in The Meadows and playground turf in Monarch Park.

The current update of the Plan is once again being led by the Parks Board and Town staff. The Parks Board has spent time reviewing the previous plan, accomplishments since the last update and the Town's current trail system. They are also working diligently to find ways to connect trails while adhering to the section of the 2010 Plan that specifically addresses not using emergency access easements for trail connectors unless there is cooperation from neighbors. The result of reviewing the trail system is a proposed plan that uses existing road ways as trail connectors. This proposal will provide significant improvements in connecting various parts of the town.

In an effort to better understand the park and trail system the Park Board toured and reviewed all existing parks as well as general areas designated as future parks in the current adopted plan. This allowed Board members to make informed decisions about which potential park areas should remain in the Plan and which areas were no longer viable, based on the Town's development. They have created and ranked a list of proposed capital projects to be presented to and approved by Town Council.

After finishing the framework for the updated Plan, Board members developed a survey to better gauge the desires and knowledge of Fairview residents regarding parks. The 2018 questionnaire was done online and was sent to more than 4,300 households. The results of the 2018 survey indicate trails remain a high priority for residents and both a large multi-use park moved up and neighborhood parks moved up on the list.

Armed with this knowledge the Parks Board and Town Council will soon adopt an updated Parks Master Plan. In the meantime we will feature various parks and trails that are available to the community as a whole.