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INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Gatesville is designed to analyze the existing parks and recreational facilities available in the community and make provisions for the future. The Plan will be a comprehensive tool designed to assess the community's needs with respect to outdoor and indoor recreational facilities. The plan will provide implementable measures specific to the needs of the community, in the present as well as in the future. It will make recommendations for the acquisition, development, and management of community park facilities. Feasible alternatives to both indoor and outdoor facility development will be discussed in the plan.

Park facilities and recreation programs provide a tremendous benefit to the community. They promote physical activity, connect people with nature, improve health behaviors by reducing obesity and chronic disease, and inspire people to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles. Economic stability can also be enhanced by efficiently run recreational programs and park facilities. Park facilities and programs can increase property values, draw consumers to a community, foster job creation, generate tourism, support local businesses, provide activity-oriented destinations, and contribute to a sense of place. The aesthetic quality of a community is also affected by facilities and park space, thus increasing the desirability of the community.



OVERVIEW

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Gatesville offers a comprehensive overview of the department. It outlines each of our facilities, including descriptions of their history, our achievements, current conditions, challenges we've identified, and proposed strategies to address these issues. Additionally, it emphasizes the positive aspects of the services we aim to provide for the citizens of Gatesville.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



RECREATION SUPERVISOR FITNESS (FULL TIME)

PATRICE GILBERT

RECREATION SUPERVISOR ATHLETICS/AQUATICS (FULL TIME)

MARTE BAILEY

PARK MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR (FULL TIME)

LEVI COLE

FRONT DESK ASSOCIATE (PART TIME)

8

RECREATION COORDINATOR ATHLETICS (FULL TIME)

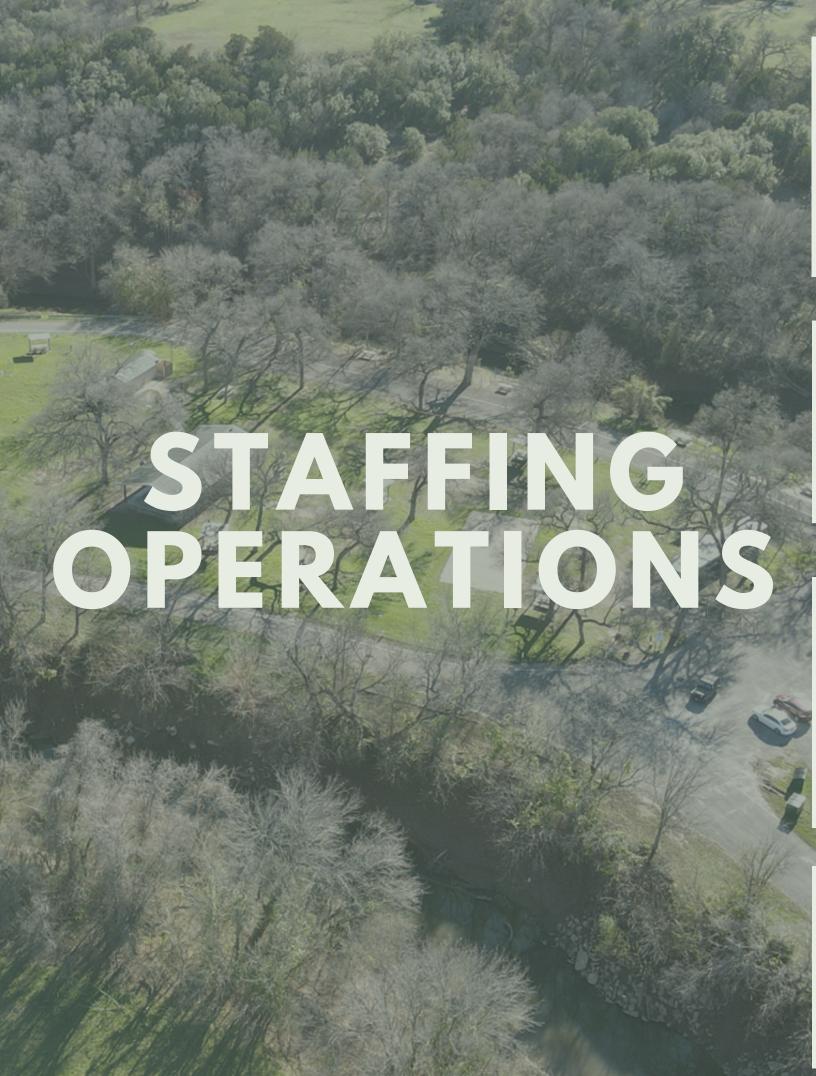
RECREATION COORDINATOR ATHLETICS/AQUATICS (FULL TIME) PARK MAINTENANCE WORKER (FULL TIME)

2

CITY POOL EMPLOYEES (SEASONAL)

25

EMPLOYEE
NUMBERS
FULL TIME (8)
PART TIME (8)
SEASONAL (25)



PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

Position is responsible for providing guidance, direction, and coordination of department operations, including oversight of community programs, maintenance, supervision of personnel, and budget administration. The Director ensures that the department operates effectively in its day-to-day business, enhancing collaboration across the department, the City, and the community. This position is also responsible for short and long-range planning, capital projects, and facility maintenance and serves as the staff representative to the City Council.

RECREATION SUPERVISOR - ATHLETICS/AQUATICS

Performs difficult skilled technical and administrative work planning, organizing, and directing athletic, aquatic, and recreation activities, monitoring budget and fiscal expenditures, managing staff, maintaining files and records, preparing reports and related work as apparent or assigned. Work is performed under the general direction of the Parks & Recreation Director.

RECREATION SUPERVISOR - FITNESS

Performs difficult skilled technical and administrative work managing fitness center, teaching classes, assigning duties to front desk staff, planning, organizing, and directing fitness and recreation activities, monitoring budget and fiscal expenditures, maintaining files and records, preparing reports, maintaining a safe workplace, and related work as apparent or assigned. The Recreation Supervisor is responsible for managing the operations of the fitness center and contractors used for group exercise classes and janitorial services. Job may require nonstandard work hours. Work is performed under the general direction of the Parks & Recreation Director.

PARKS MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Position is responsible for the care and maintenance of all city parks, sports complex grounds, splash pad, skate park, city pool grounds, fitness center grounds, police department grounds, library grounds, civic center grounds and green spaces. This includes daily supervision of parks maintenance employees and resources and equipment necessary for the maintenance and care of the above mentioned properties.

FACILITIES



RABY PARK



SPORTS COMPLEX



FAUNT LE ROY PARK



CITY POOL



BROWN PARK



FITNESS CENTER



FREEDOM PARK



PROPERTY ID# 106697

PARKS & AMENITIES

Park	Size (acres)	Playscape	Picnic	Restrooms	Trails	Fishing	Baseball/Softball	Basketball	Volleyball	Sand Volleyball	Field Rentals	Pavilion	Exercise Equipment	Horseshoes	Washers	Disc Golf	Skatepark	Native Plants Garden	Dog Park	Swimming Pools (seasonal)	Splash Pad	Kayaking	Biking Trail	Equestrian Trail
Brown Park (1969)	2.24																							
Faunt Le Roy Park (1965)	4.86																							
Raby Park (1922)	8.87																							
Walking Trail (2009)	9.13																							
Freedom Park	1.33																							
Sports Complex	24.13																							
Property ID# 106697	4.91																							

OUR AUDIENCE

The Parks & Recreation Department aims to enhance the quality of life for all residents and visitors of Gatesville. Our mission is to offer facilities and activities for all members of our community that foster connections with nature, promote health, and inspire individuals to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles.

We provide a diverse range of youth sports at the sports complex, welcoming children starting at age 4. The advantages of youth sports are numerous; they not only offer physical benefits but also contribute to social skills such as teamwork, relationship building, and creating a supportive environment. Youth sports also serve as a wonderful opportunity for families and the community to bond and socialize.

Additionally, adults can engage in recreational programs offered by the department, including the adult softball league and organized pickleball tournaments.

The Gatesville Fitness Center emphasizes the importance of a healthy lifestyle and offers various programs and activities to support this goal. Fitness classes are available for individuals aged 4 and up, with certified instructors leading group exercise sessions, including specialized classes for older active adults. The physical benefits for older adults include pain relief, enhanced flexibility and balance (which can lower the risk of falls). Regular exercise helps prevent chronic diseases. Physical activity is also beneficial for boosting brain function; participating in classes and interacting with others can help reduce the risks of dementia and depression.

Moreover, the various parks provide opportunities for walking, disc golf, volleyball, skating, swimming, basketball, and a multitude of other amenities for families to gather and enjoy the outdoors.







MISSION

The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to improving the quality of life for our community through accessible and inclusive recreational programs, supporting youth development, and encouraging family engagement. We aim to provide outstanding recreational experiences for current and future generations by maintaining parks, open spaces, and facilities that promote active lifestyles and community connections. Our dedication is to ensure that people of all ages and abilities can enjoy, explore, and thrive in a safe, and welcoming environment.



RABYPARK

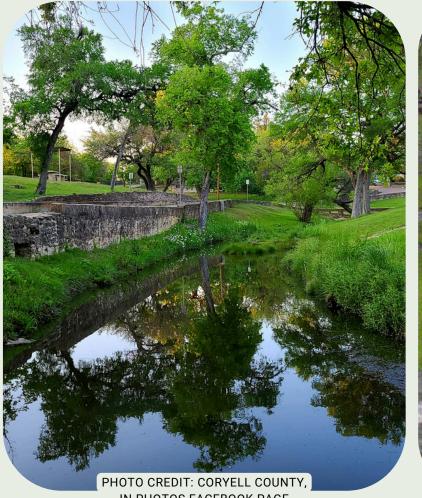
The historic Raby Park features stunning rolling hills adorned with large native trees, complemented by a creek that flows through the area during wet weather.

For the past century, this beautiful park has provided a welcoming space for the community and families to come together.

Community organizations have hosted various events, such as festivals, car shows, 5K races, disc golf tournaments, and much more.

Additionally, the park serves as a popular venue for families and friends to celebrate birthday parties, reunions, book clubs, weddings, and other social gatherings.







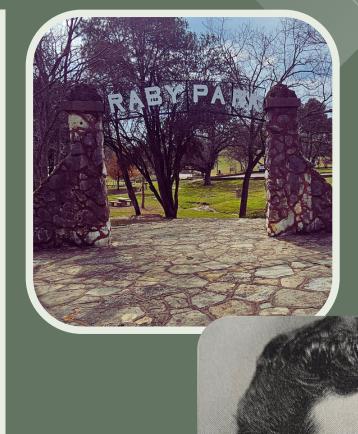
HISTORY

- On October 5, 1922, Mrs. M.C. Raby deeded to the City of Gatesville a tract of land at the intersection of 10th and Bridge Streets. This piece of property was deeded with the understanding that it would be made into a public park dedicated to the memory of her husband, Dr. J.R. Raby.
- On April 10, 1923, the city purchased (\$2,400) land lying immediately south of this tract.
- In 1925, the old city pool was built and opened. Due to insufficient parking space around the pool, the city bought a strip west of the pool (\$720).
- In 1929 the park was opened to College Street by purchase of the south end of the land (\$3,500).
- In 1934, the city purchased the "Old Cotton Yard" (\$2,250) for use as a football field for the school. The land not only provided a field but also for a street reaching from Bridge to College west of the field.
- When the city and the school separated, the stadium was transferred to the ISD with the provision that if the school ever ceased to use the land as a football field, the title would revert to the city.
- In 1969 the city approved to build a new city pool where the old Holmes Stadium football field was.

Over the years many different organizations have volunteered countless hours beautifying the park in different projects. Records show that the City of Gatesville obtained multiple grants for upgrading the parks between the 1960s-1980s. One project was funded through the Youth Services Division of the Texas Department of Community Affairs. The money was used to operate a Young Adult Conservation Corps project, which was emphasizing erosion control and tree nursery operation to enhance the beauty of Raby Park. Workers built low water dams in Raby Park. The dams created a small pond near the bathrooms area of the park.

In 1980/1981 the City received a federal grant of \$133,098 for improvement and development of its municipal parks. Raby Park received \$2,800 worth of playground equipment, three water fountains, restrooms, ten night lights, landscaping, eight picnic tables, eight barbeque pits, ten all-weather covers for trash containers, three foot bridges, and paving, curbs, and gutters for park streets and parking spaces.

HISTORY INFORMATION GATHERED FROM - MILDRED WATKINS MEARS, CORYELL COUNTY SCRAPBOOK - ZELMA SCOTT, A HISTORY OF CORYELL



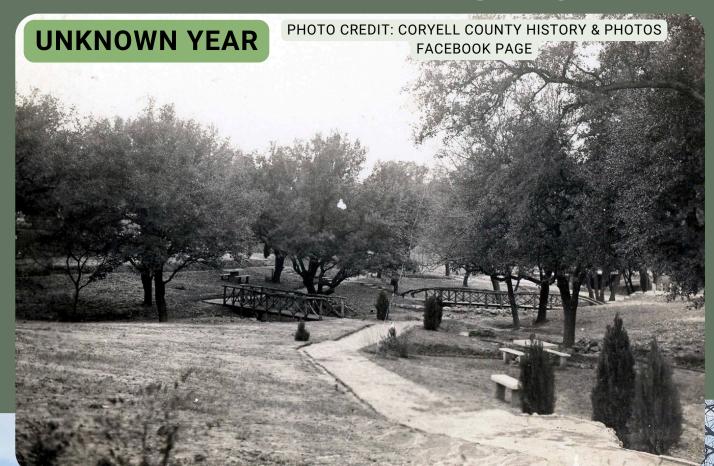
Dr. I. R. Raby

TEXAS - BOOK BY ZELMA SCOTT

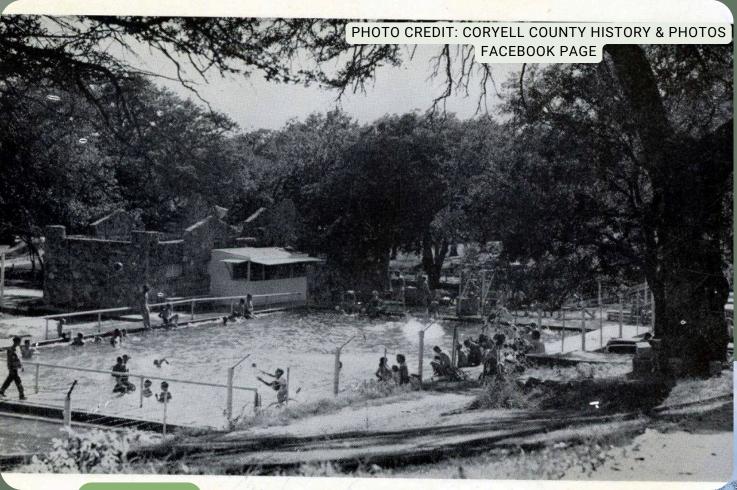
RABY PARK HISTORY



🧱 A MAYPOLE IN 1937 🎆



RABY PARK HISTORY



1952



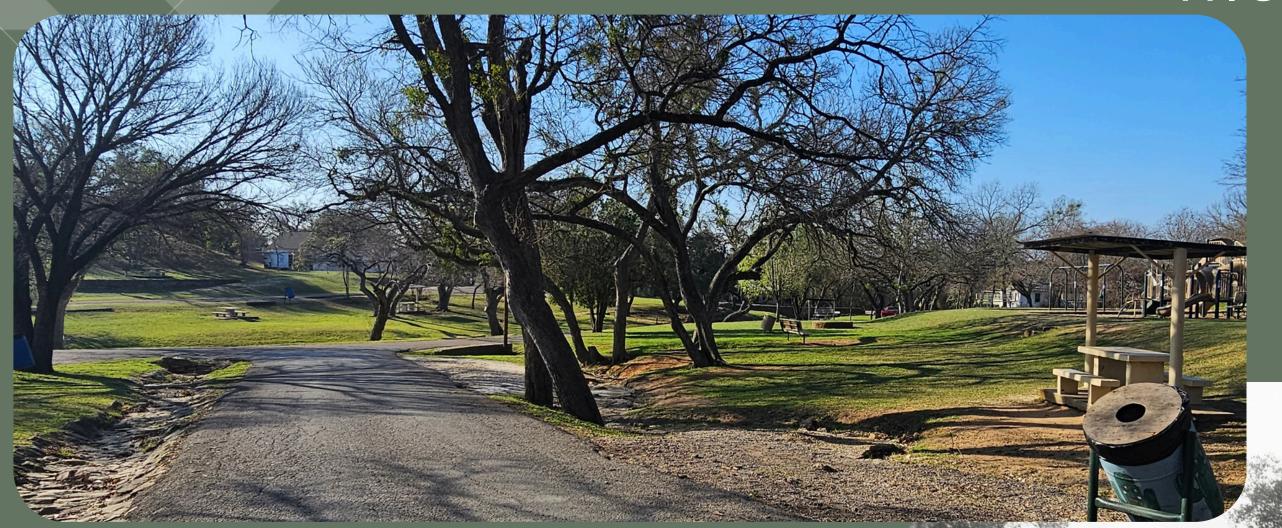


1970s



2025

RABY PARK HISTORY



UNKNOWN YEAR

PHOTO CREDIT: CORYELL COUNTY HISTORY & PHOTOS
FACEBOOK PAGE

2025

RABY PARK AMENITIES

- DISC GOLF COURSE WITH COMMERICAL BASKETS AND TEE SIGNS
- PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
- SHADED PICNIC AREAS WITH TABLES AND CONCRETE PADS
- RECENTLY UPGRADED SPLASH PAD
- SKATEPARK
- BASKETBALL COURT
- PICKLEBALL COURTS





SKATEPARK

The skatepark was originally added to the park in 2003.

The skate park was once a popular place for youth to gather and skate but has been vandalized and deteriorated over the years. Short-term improvements have been made to keep the skatepark open and in a usable condition. However, the concrete is cracked, and the ramps are well past their useful life, and a complete renovation is essential.









BASKETBALL COURT

Raby Park has one reduced-sized basketball court located next to the skatepark and pickleball courts. The court has surface cracking and large expansion joints that impact play quality. The court fencing is in disrepair and is not appealing to park visitors. The basketball goals are outdated and show wear and tear from years of use. The court does not have lights and becomes a very dark area after sundown.

Basketball courts are limited in the community and an updated outdoor court would provide and add a tremendous service to the park system.





CURRENT ASSESMENT

PICKLEBALL COURT

Raby Park has two regulation-sized pickleball courts next to the skatepark and basketball court. Old tennis courts were converted to pickleball courts in 2022. The court surface is decent, but the surrounding concrete has large cracks and expansion joints that are irreparable. The court fencing is in disrepair and is not appealing to park visitors. The net posts are in good condition and could be transferred to a new court. The court does not have lights and becomes a very dark area after sundown.

Pickleball has become a very popular sport over the past few years. Updated outdoor courts are well-needed and would serve participants of all ages.





RESTROOMS

Raby Park restroom amenities are residential grade and cause staff and visitors a tremendous amount of problems due to maintenance issues. The lighting is very dim in both restrooms, causing an uninviting feeling for park visitors. The Raby Park restroom is in need of building and roof repairs. Vandalism of hand soap, toilet paper, and paper towel dispensers is an often occurrence.

Updated restroom facilities with commercial amenities and vandal-proof dispensers are well needed throughout the park system.





PLAYGROUND

The majority of the playground equipment in Raby Park is outdated and not appealing to park visitors. The playscape located on the west side of Raby Park is in decent shape but is not very accessible due to the lack of sidewalks. The playscape becomes extremely hot and not usable during the summer months due to the lack of shade. The fall surface is engineered wood fiber and is past it's useful life.

A complete replacement of most playground equipment is needed throughout the entire park system. Better fall surfaces and the addition of shade canopies and sidewalks are vital to the experience we want to provide to park visitors.

PROPOSED PLAYSCAPES WITH SHADE AND INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY









PLAYGROUND

Two different types of fall surfaces are recommended for playgrounds. Each surface has pros and cons and requires different types of maintenance. The material we currently use is engineered wood fiber.

1) Loose-Fill: Rubber Mulch, Wood Chips, Sand, Gravel

Loose-fill material is typically installed by hand to create a level area over the entire playground. Rubber mulch, engineered wood fiber (EWF), playground sand, pea gravel and other bulk materials are considered loose-fill material. While loose-fill material has the least expensive upfront costs and is easy to install, it also requires more frequent maintenance to stay within safety and ADA guidelines.

Loose-fill materials will compress at least 25 percent over time due to use and weathering, and must be replenished to ensure the surfacing remains at the appropriate depth to adequately cushion falls. Generally speaking, 12 inches of loose fill material is recommended under and around playground equipment. Things like shards of glass, other sharp objects or animal waste can get buried in the loose material posing a potential hazard requiring the material to be replenished and/or replaced from time to time.

2) Unitary Materials: Rubber Mats, Tiles, Pour-in-Place

Unitary materials are rubber mats and tiles or a combination of energy-absorbing materials held in place by a binder that may be poured in place at the playground site and then cured to form a unitary shock-absorbing surface.

Unitary surfaces include poured-in-place rubber, bond-in-place rubber, interlocking resilient tiles, and synthetic turf or grass with protective under-padding to help protect against falls. While the up-front cost is higher than loose-fill surfacing, unitary surfacing can be more cost-effective over time, due to its high durability and low maintenance costs. Unitary surfacing is also extremely safe and guarantees complete accessibility and ease-of-use for visitors in mobility devices or wheelchairs. Poured-in-place and bond-in-place rubberized surfacing is also available in a wide variety of colors and shapes to make playgrounds more attractive to children and caregivers.

CURRENT PLAYGROUNDS





In reviewing our history, it is evident that several amenities, currently available in the park, were originally installed in the 1980s. We are now facing various challenges associated with these outdated facilities, including:

- Crumbling water fountains
- Insufficient lighting
- Deteriorating barbecue pits
- Picnic tables that are unmaintainable due to decades of paint buildup
- Trash receptacles that fail to deter rodents
- Limited parking availability
- Absence of sidewalks
- Deteriorating drainage systems
- Concrete and stone retaining walls needing to be replaced

Addressing these issues is essential for enhancing the park's usability and overall visitor experience. Additionally, the park would benefit from a large gathering pavilion.

Recommended Upgrades









Picnic Tables:

The majority of the picnic tables in Raby Park are bulky concrete tables that have been painted many different colors over the years. Some of the tables have concrete pads and many of them sit directly in the grass. Many of the tables have chips and cracks from years of use.

The majority of the picnic tables in Raby Park need to be upgraded to a perforated metal table. The tables need to sit on concrete pads with updated shade covers.

Park Lighting:

Raby Park is very dark due to outdated park lighting. The park has very few lights around amenities and along sidewalks, trails, and streets.

A complete upgrade of all existing lights is well needed throughout Raby Park. Additional lights need to be placed next to park amenities and along sidewalks, trails, and streets. Park lighting would help with vandalism and other mischief that happens after dark.

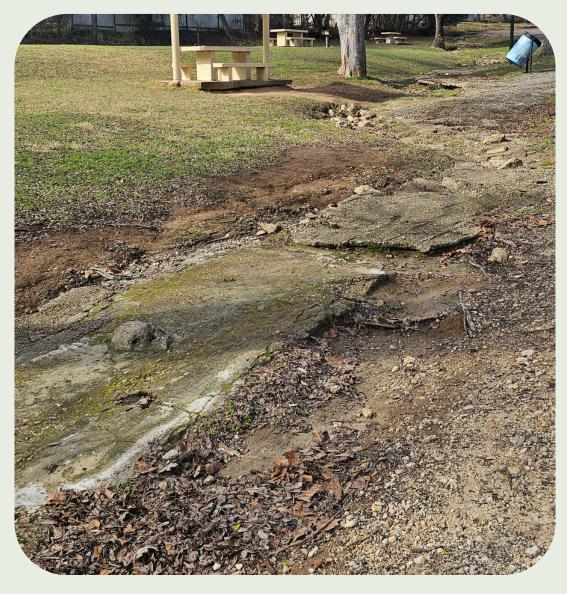
Trash Cans:

All of the trashcans located in Raby Park are blue plastic chemical barrels that have been donated from the sewer plant. Children from various organizations have painted various things on the trash cans throughout the years. A wooden top was constructed and placed on the trash cans to keep the numerous

feral cats from getting in the cans and scattering trash throughout the parks.

A complete replacement of all trash cans is well needed throughout Raby Park. Trash cans need to have varmint-proof lids, which would help keep the parks free of trash. Colored perforated metal trash cans would add a more inviting feel for park visitors.

Current Drainage System







Recommended Upgrades







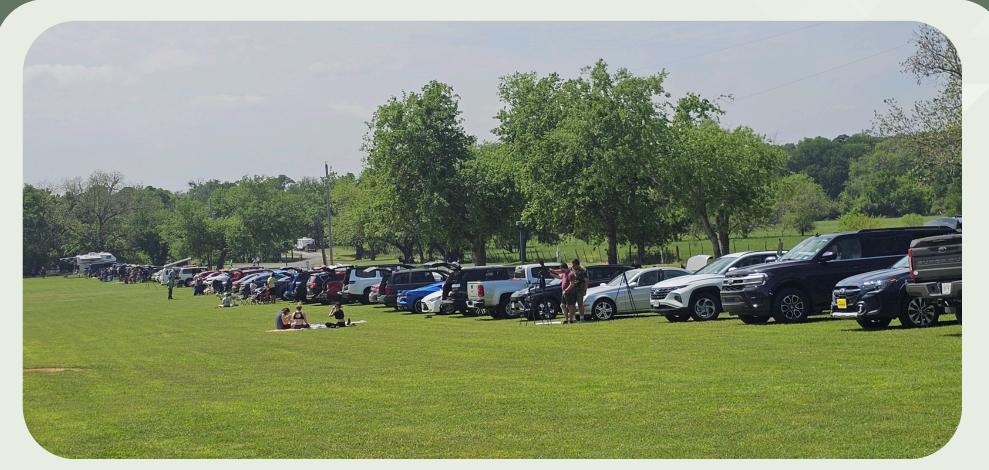
WALKINGTRAIL

The walking trail connecting Raby Park and Faunt Le Roy Park was integrated into our parks system in 2009. Spanning 9.13 acres, it features 320 feet of frontage along the Leon River.

This trail is composed of decomposed granite and is also part of the parks' disc golf course, equipped with commercial baskets and tee signs.

Surrounded by large native trees, the area serves as an excellent venue for hosting large events. It has previously been utilized for citywide gatherings and was a viewing area for the 2024 Total Eclipse. Additionally, there is an RV dump station available for visitors in the vicinity.

While the area enjoys frequent use, it does face some challenges. The trail lighting is outdated, leading to considerable darkness at night, accessing the river can be quite difficult, and the trail is vulnerable to major flooding events.





WALKING TRAIL

RECOMMENDED UPGRADES



BASEBALL/SOFTBALL



SOCCER

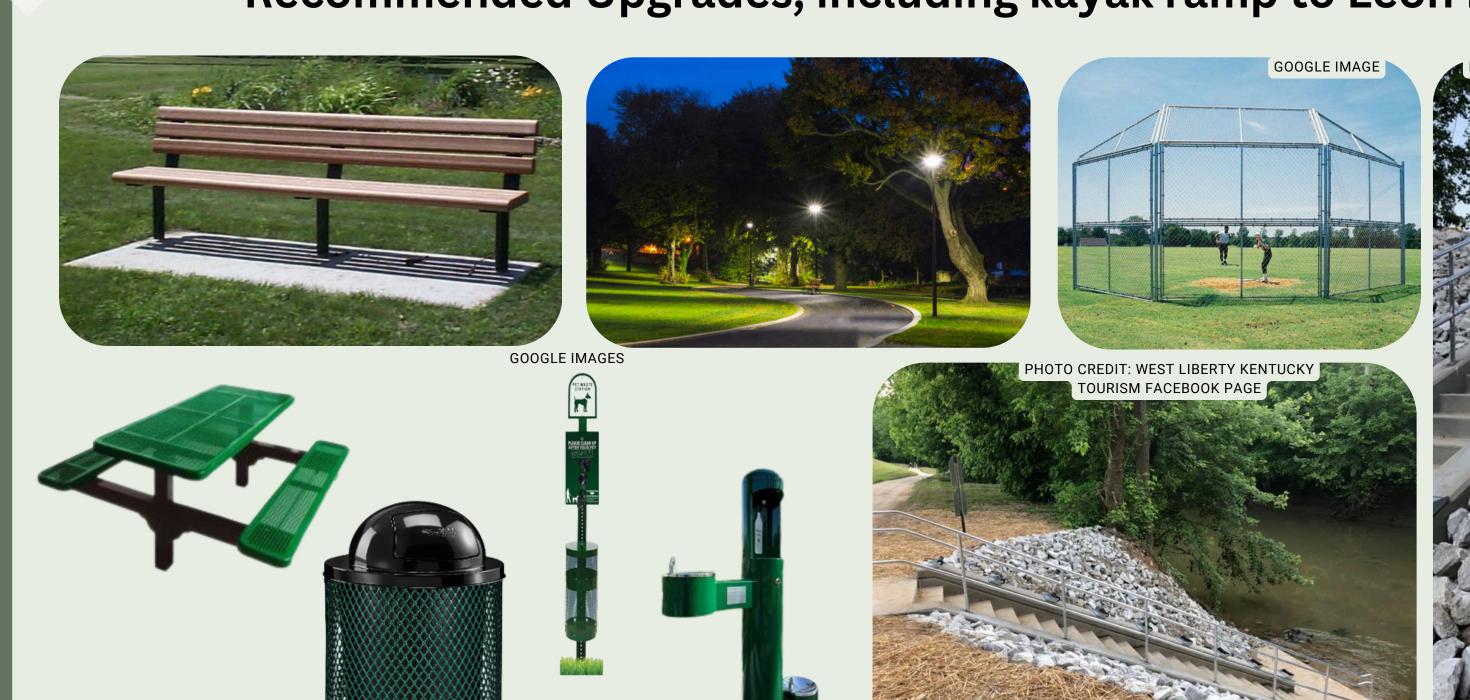


FLAG FOOTBALL

Due to the expanding youth sports leagues and tournaments, the city would benefit from adding more areas to practice sports. The walking trail offers sufficient space to accommodate three baseball/softball practice fields, each the same size as our current HEB field. Multiple size soccer fields and flag football fields. The permanent backstops can be positioned along the far edge, keeping the area accessible for events that require a large parking space.

WALKING TRAIL

Recommended Upgrades, including kayak ramp to Leon River



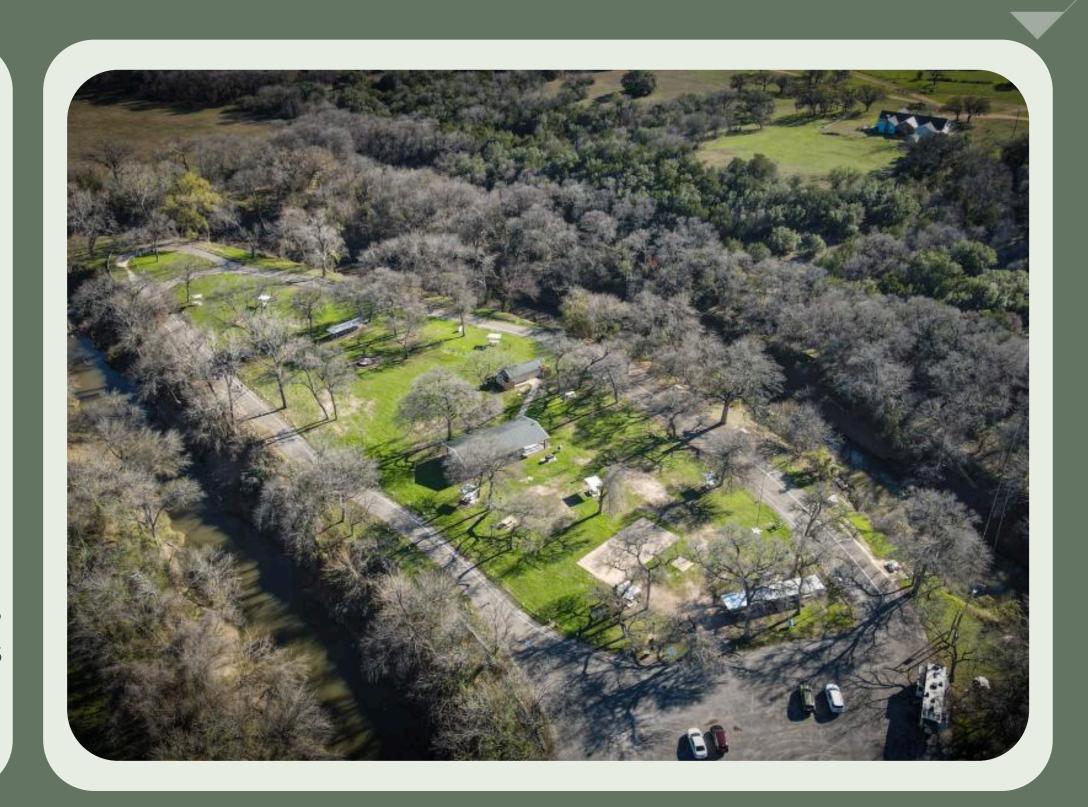


FAUNT LE ROY PARK

Faunt Le Roy Park features lush, grassy areas shaded by towering trees, and is nestled in the bend of the Leon River south of downtown Gatesville.

The historic park was once the site of Confederate reunions, carnivals, a spot for a major get together commemorating Gatesville's Centennial Celebration in 1970, and various gatherings from earlier times. In more recent years, the park has been the gathering place for the annual Shivaree, birthday parties in the spacious pavilion, and a favored camping spot during the total eclipse of 2024.

After the recent 2018 and 2024 flood events, Parks workers and contractors completed major projects to reopen the park. The park currently awaits FEMA funding to mitigate further flood damage



FAUNT LE ROY PARK HISTORY

Faunt Le Roy Park, previously known as Faunt Le Roy Crossing, has a long history of being a gathering place for citizens and early settlers of Gatesville. The "crossing" part refers to a suspension foot bridge that was used to cross over the river into the area where the park is now to get to town.

The park is named after Frederick William Faunt Le Roy (1818-1900), the first District Attorney that Coryell County called upon and was later the Judge of Coryell County.

No records are found of when the Faunt Le Roy family donated the land for a park, but newspapers report that it was sometime before 1911.

History shows that the land was given to the Boy Scouts of America to use as camping grounds. The Scouts put a fence around it and the gate. In 1957 it was decided that they would make the park available to citizens again and they rented the park out for private gatherings.

In 1965 the City Parks and Recreation Committee started a project of sprucing up the park with a goal of making it an outstanding recreation spot. Brush was cleared and the roads and other surfaces were leveled out. By 1967 the park completed its redevelopment with picnic areas, restroom facilities, electricity, and water The plans for the 1980/1981 parks grant received by the city, included water fountains, coverings for picnic areas, three fishing piers, a boat ramp, a canoe ramp, security lighting, and signage. However, only a few of these improvements appear to have occurred.

In 1982 the National Guard Soldiers in Gatesville built and installed the parallel bars, chinning bars, and other physical fitness equipment that you see today. Historical flooding (32+ ft) is recorded in 1908, 1959, 1961, 1991, 2007, 2024.



PHOTO CREDITS: CORYELL COUNTY HISTORY & PHOTOS
FACEBOOK PAGE



HISTORY INFORMATION GATHERED FROM THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER VIA NEWSPAPERS.COM AND TEXAS STATE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION VIA WWW.TSHAONLINE.ORG

FAUNT LE ROY PARK CURRENT ASSESSMENT

Faunt Le Roy Park is currently undergoing renovations due to the flooding that occurred in May 2024. This park is a beloved gathering spot for our community and remains a top priority for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Given the previous and potential future flooding, several updates and repairs are necessary:

- The restroom facilities, equipped with residential amenities, create significant issues for both staff and visitors due to maintenance challenges.
- Vandalism frequently affects soap, toilet paper, and towel dispensers, highlighting the need for updated restroom facilities.
- All electrical and plumbing systems, including RV hookup sites, require repairs due to damage.
- The playground equipment, installed around 1980, is outdated and lacks appeal for park visitors. We need to replace the playground equipment, add fall surfaces, shade canopies, and sidewalks. These enhancements are essential for improving the overall experience for park-goers.
- The existing park lighting is outdated, resulting in a very dark environment at night. There are few lights around amenities, sidewalks, trails, and streets. Upgrading the current lighting and adding more fixtures would help deter vandalism and mischief that occurs after sunset.
- The two smaller gathering pavilions require concrete pads and updated picnic tables to make them more inviting for residents. Additionally, all trash cans should be updated.

Although the park faces the risk of major flooding, implementing these upgrades will help ensure it remains a welcoming place for residents to gather.

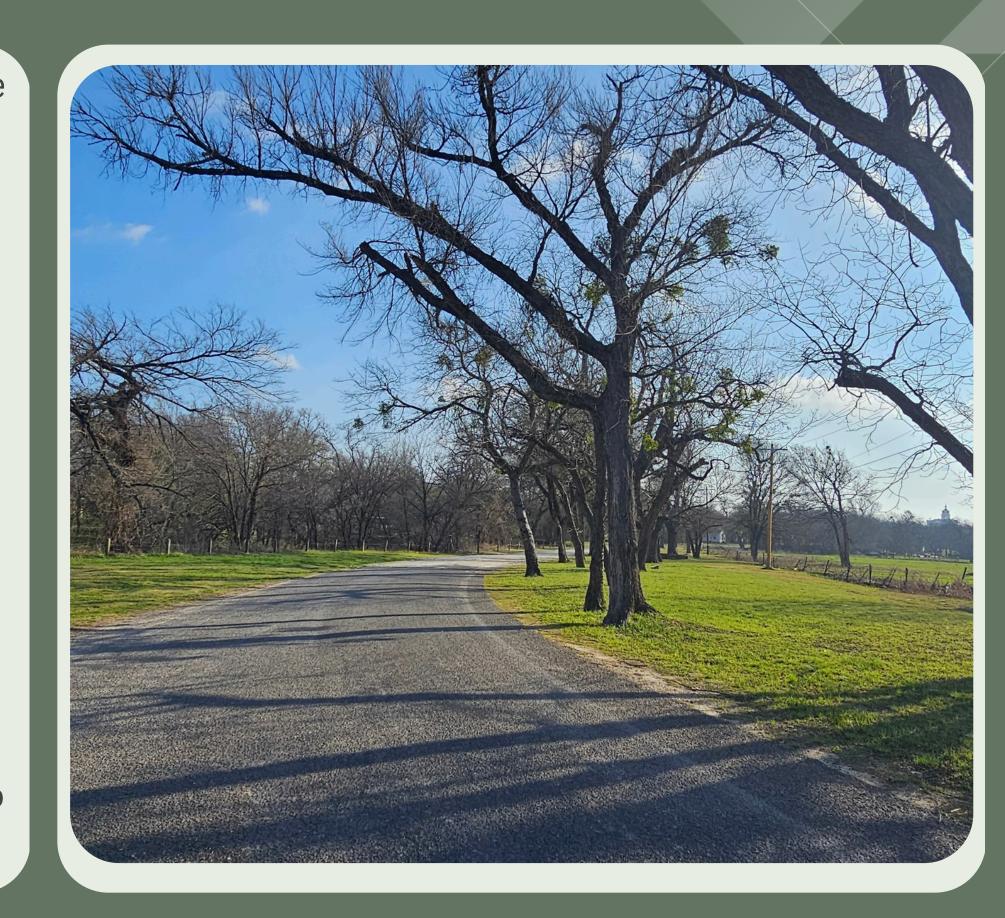


BROWN PARK

Brown Park spans 2.24 acres and features many large native trees, along with 1,044 feet of frontage along the Leon River, right by the historic Leon River Bridge. This park presents a blank canvas, offering the City an excellent opportunity to develop the space. With thoughtful planning, Brown Park has the potential to become an ideal destination for nature enthusiasts.

Current disadvantages include:

- Very difficult to access the river
- Majority of the park is at risk for major flood events
- Major bank erosion has occurred during the past
 2-3 flood events
- Historic Leon River Bridge has been closed due to structural issues



BROWN PARK HISTORY

In December 1969, Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Brown Jr.'s children generously donated the property to the City for the purpose of establishing a park. In honor of the couple, the park was named Brown Park.

According to The Gatesville Messenger newspaper articles, the City received grants aimed at improving the park and once had plans to develop concrete access to the river, install steps for canoe launching, and build a fishing pier. Additional enhancements included picnic tables, trash cans, and various other amenities, but these were washed away during flooding in the area.

Over the years, the park has suffered from the persistent flooding issues.



BROWN PARK OPPORTUNITIES

Brown Park offers a unique opportunity to connect with the scenic beauty of the Leon River. With miles of river access, it's perfect for fishing, kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding. The diverse plants and wildlife along the Leon River corridor make it an ideal destination for nature enthusiasts.

In addition, there is the potential to connect Brown Park to Faunt Le Roy Park with a walking trail. The trail would be about 5,500 feet long and offer a scenic stroll along the banks of the beautiful Leon River.

- Concrete cost (\$209,000)
- Lighting cost (\$110,000)
- Trail size (8ft wide/1.042 miles long)



BROWN PARK

OPPORTUNITIES





SUGGESTED CONCRETE TRAIL

BROWN PAR OPPORTUNITIES E Leon St SUGGESTED KAYAK RUN FROM BROWN PARK TO WALKING TRAIL (1.71 MILES) Raby Park College St Roy Park Measure distance Click on the map to add to your path Total distance: 1.71 mi (2.76 km)

BROWN PARK

RECOMMENDED UPGRADES

- Bathrooms
- Playground Area
- Parking
- Lighting
- In-GroundMounted PicnicTables
- Barbeque Pits
- Trash Cans
- Pet Waste Station
- Boat Ramp



FREEDOM PARK

Freedom Park, situated next to the Gatesville Sports Complex and the Gatesville Civic Center, spans 1.33 acres and features large native trees and a native plants garden. It also houses a historic 1915 iron bridge, which was installed in the park in November 2003.

The park includes a picnic table with a concrete pad and is set to become the location of the future Ronnie Viss Gazebo. With its open space, the park presents a great deal of potential. Freedom Park offers a versatile canvas for various activities. The presence of a historic bridge adds a touch of charm and history. As plans for the Ronnie Viss Gazebo come to fruition, the park will further evolve, offering a welcoming space for events, community gatherings, or simply a peaceful afternoon in the shade.

This blend of natural beauty and community spirit makes Freedom Park a cherished asset to the Gatesville area, promising enjoyment for generations to come.

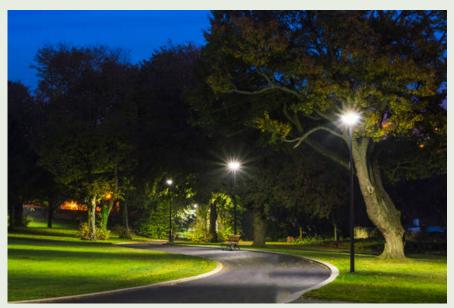




FREEDOM PARK

Recommended Upgrades













GOOGLE IMAGES

CITY POOL

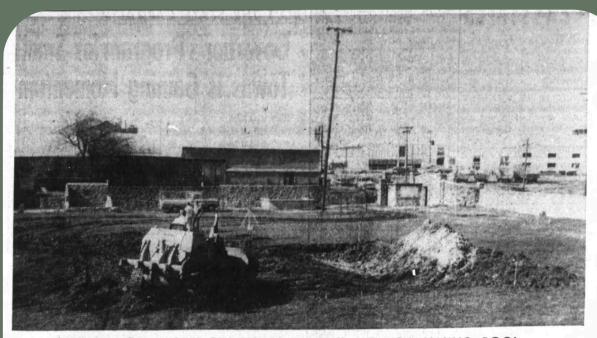
The Gatesville City Pool serves as a fantastic resource for the community. It provides an affordable space for residents to enjoy and cool down during the hot summer months. The pool opens to the public after school lets out and remains open until school resumes in August.

Staffed by a National Recreation and Parks
Association certified Aquatics Facility Operator,
along with American Red Cross certified lifeguard
instructors, water safety instructors, and
lifeguards the pool ensures a safe environment
throughout the summer and maintains clear water
year-round.

With a capacity of 235,000 gallons, the pool features a spacious deck complete with lounge chairs and shaded picnic areas, a 10.5-foot diving well, designated swimming lanes, and a shaded kiddy pool. Notably, the pool was replastered and re-tiled in May 2020.



CITY POC HISTORY



The ciry will issue time warrants to pay for the pool, which will replace the old city pool in the heart of Raby Park. City leaders are working toward the establishment of

In January 1967, Mayor Wendell Lowrey addressed the Lion's Club, encouraging citizens to take initiative in cleaning and beautifying their properties. He acknowledged the need for improvements in municipal areas, highlighting that a new city pool was the top priority.

By 1969, the city began efforts to construct the new pool. Lake Air Pool Supply, a partner we still work with today, won the bid and built the pool, which officially opened in May 1970.

GATESVILLE, TEXAS, THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1970 Free Swimming on 'Splash Day' Saturday New City Pool Opens Today

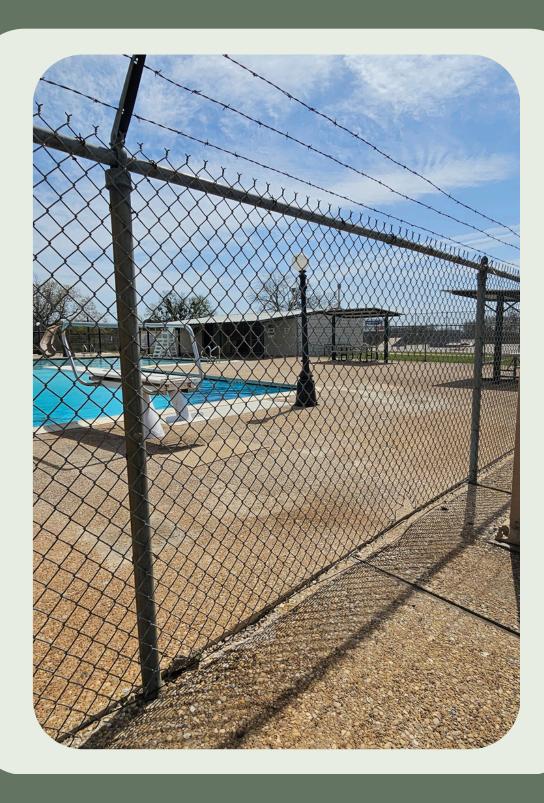


CITY POC CURRENT ASSESMENT

The 55 year old facility is well loved and needs some renovations to continue to offer a safe, affordable place for residents to enjoy. Here are some of the issues we face today.

- The pump room building and electrical system require upgrades.
 The structure housing the chemicals, pumps, and electrical components for the pool is quite outdated and lacks adequate security.

- The electrical wiring is also very old, posing safety risks.
 The pool's continual shifting leads to deck movement and cracking, resulting in multiple broken water lines.
 The perimeter fencing is unappealing and needs replacement.
 The stone wall shows significant cracks.
 The lobby, restroom, and concession area require renovations to enhance the patron experience. Improvements would not only create a more attractive environment but also potentially increase foot traffic to the pool and concession stand, boosting revenue.
- A spacious, shaded picnic area on the west side of the facility is essential.
- Additional amenities are needed to draw more visitors to the facility.



CITY POOL

CURRENT ASSESMENT

Recommended Upgrades



SPORTS COMPLEX

The Gatesville Sports Complex is currently the #1 tourism attraction for our community, offering over 25 regional, state, and select youth baseball and softball tournaments each year. The large 24.13-acre park is adorned with shade from large native trees.

There are six baseball/softball fields that have recently been regraded with new ballfield material. The facility has had multiple upgrades in the recent years to include:

- Installation of new sports lighting on three fields Repair and replacement of a significant portion of the chain link fencing
- Shade awnings added to dugouts and seating
- Construction of a 600 sq/ft pavilion featuring six commercial picnic tables and a concrete pad
- Sidewalks installed throughout a large part of the facility
- Upgraded equipment in the concession stand:
 - 2 commercial refrigerators
 - 1 commercial freezer
 - 1 mini-split air conditioner





SPORTS COMPLEX

CURRENT ASSESMENT

The ongoing expansion of programming at the sports complex is fantastic for our community; however, the amount of people we have in our facility highlights the deficiencies in our amenities and the limitations on the number of people we can accommodate.

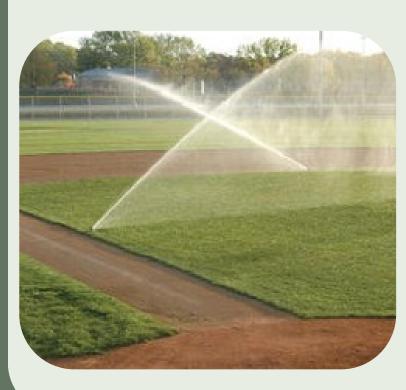
- The concession and restroom area is inadequately sized for the amount of people we
- Certain areas of the park require sidewalks for improved accessibility.
- Wooden bleachers are outdated and in need of replacement.
- Several fields continue to face drainage problems that require attention.
- Two fields require updated sports lighting.
- An extra batting cage, along with enhancements to the current one, is necessary.
 Irrigation systems need to be installed in most
- parts of the facility.
- It's essential to have additional practice and game fields to meet the program's growing demand.
- The replacement of scoreboards will be necessary in the near future, as they become past their useful life

Recommended Upgrades













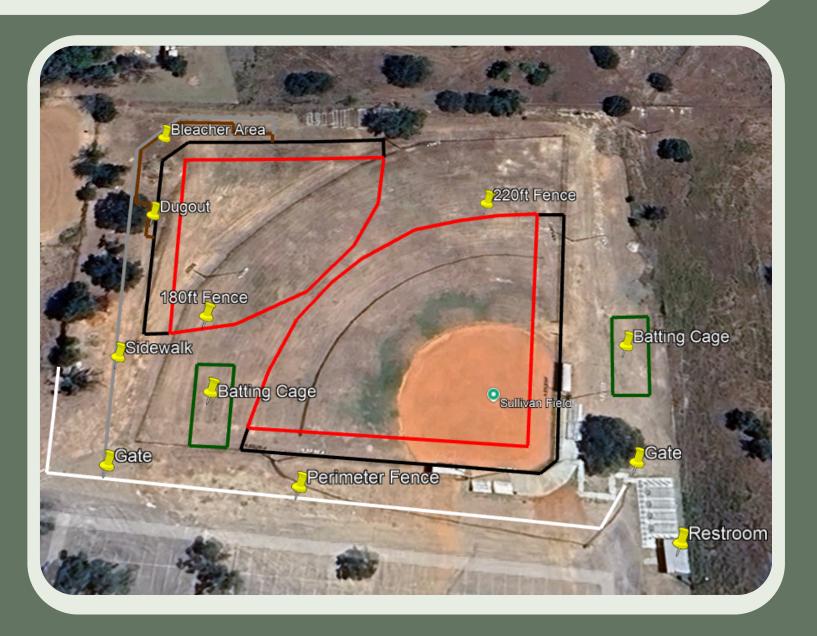
GOOGLE IMAGES

SPORTS COMPLEX

RECOMMENDED UPGRADES

The sports complex stands as the top tourist attraction in our community. Expanding it is crucial to meet the growing demand for tournaments and leagues organized by the Parks & Recreation Department. Adding another field would enable us to host larger tournaments and make us more appealing to prominent tournament directors.





SPORTS COMPLEX 2024 RECREATION SPORTS

EVENT/LEAGUE	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	<u>SPECTATORS</u>	FREQUENCY	TOTAL TEAMS	MONTH(S)	
SOCCER	480	2,400	PER WEEK	50	FEBRUARY-MARCH	
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL	635	3,176	PER WEEK	66	APRIL-JULY	
ADULT SOFTBALL	140	100	PER WEEK	17	AUGUST-SEPTEMBER	
FLAG FOOTBALL	180	450	PER WEEK	21	SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER	
VOLLEYBALL	120	300	PER WEEK	14	OCTOBER	
TOURNAMENTS	8,085	18,818	PER WEEK	539	FEBRUARY-NOVEMBER	

SPORTS COMPLEX 2024 TOURNAMENT INFO

NOTE: MULTIPLE TEAMS ORIGINATED FROM THE FOLLOWING CITIES.

ABBOTT	CAMERON	FORT WORTH	LIBERTY HILL	ROGERS	WESTPHALIA
ABILENE	CANTON	GATESVILLE	LORENA	ROSEBUD	WHITNEY
ALEDO	CEDAR PARK	GEORGETOWN	MART	ROUND ROCK	WOODWAY
ARLINGTON	CHINA SPRING	GRANDBURY	MILANO	SALADO	
AUSTIN	CISCO	GRANDVIEW	MILDRED	STEPHENVILLE	
BELTON	COPPERAS COVE	GROSEBECK	MOODY	TAYLOR	
BERTRAM	CRAWFORD	HAMILTON	NORMANGEE	TEMPLE	
BROCK	DRIPPING SPRINGS	HILLSBORO	OGLESBY	TROY	
BROWNWOOD	EDGEWOOD	HUTTO	PFLUGERVILLE	WACO	
BURLESON	ENNIS	JONESBORO	RIESEL	WALL	
BURNET	FARMERS BRANCH	LA VEGA	ROBINSON	WEATHERFORD	
CALDWELL	FORT CAVAZOS	LAMPASAS	ROCKDALE	WEST	

FITNESS CENTER

The Gatesville Fitness Center stands out as one of the City's valuable amenities for its residents. This gym was established following a parks and recreation study indicating that citizens desired an indoor recreation facility. Additionally, the community recognized the need for programs tailored to adults and seniors, as the city had primarily focused on youth programs. In response, the city successfully applied for a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

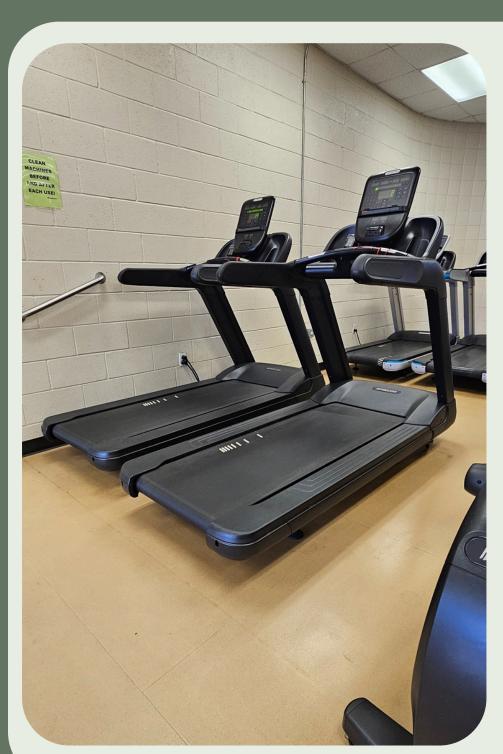
The \$1 million project was completed in 2001 and officially opened its doors in February 2002. The facility contains state-of-the-art equipment and offers a variety of classes designed to cater to all fitness levels and interests. From chair yoga and balance classes to strength training and water aerobics, there is something for everyone. The center also features racquetball courts, an indoor swimming pool, and a dedicated space for group exercise classes.

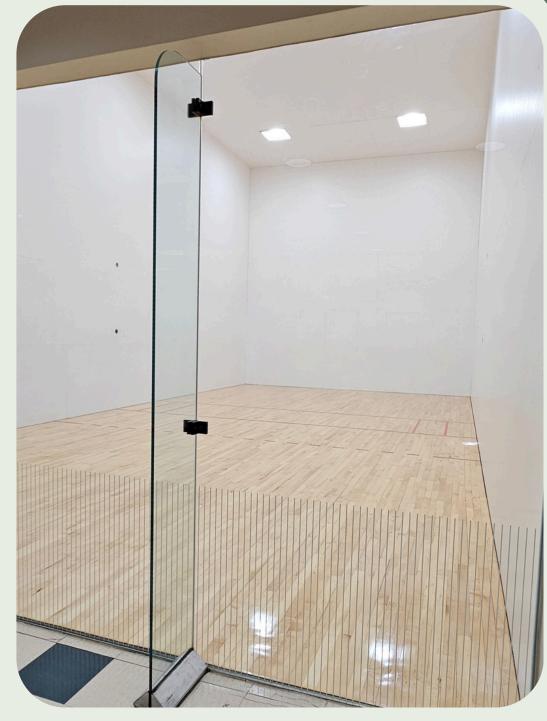




FITNESS CENTER AMENITIES

- Indoor pool & hot tub
- 2 Regulation Racquetball Courts with racquets and balls for members to use
- Full line of commercial selectorized weight machines & free weights
- Full line of commercial cardio equipment
- Men's and women's restroom/locker room with showers
- Group exercise classes with certified instructors
- Group exercise equipment for the many different classes
- Retail items Snacks, Drinks, Tshirts





FINESS CENT

CURRENT ASSESMENT

Updates and improvements have been made to the facility in the recent years to include:

- Offering Silver Sneakers, Silver & Fit, and other programs that work with insurance, so members get a free membership
- Replastering the pool and hot tub
 Resurfacing pool deck
- Refinish racquetball court floors
- Weight equipment replacement plan (5-year plan, 2 more years to complete)
- Continue cardio equipment replacement plan
- Tint facility windowsAdd mirrors in weight room
- Add new programs to cater to older active adults







FITNESS CENTER CURRENT ASSESMENT

The group exercise program at the fitness center has experienced significant growth, resulting in a shortage of space for the number of members attending classes. Although we have attempted to increase the number of classes to accommodate everyone, these additional sessions are now also reaching full capacity. With attendance continuing to rise, establishing a dedicated space for group exercise has become crucial.

Establishing a group exercise studio would offer several benefits, as some dance classes have been removed from the schedule due to members feeling uncomfortable in the large, open gym environment.

Yoga classes are currently held in one of the racquetball courts, where the lights can be turned off; however, the noise from adjacent racquetball games disrupts the intended calming atmosphere of the sessions.

When not in use for classes, this room could double as a meeting space for various parks and recreation events. Additionally, it would serve as a gathering area for individuals renting the indoor pool for birthday parties.

CURRENT CLASS AREA, WHICH ADJOINS WEIGHT AND CARDIO AREA





PROPOSED DEDICATED CLASS AREA

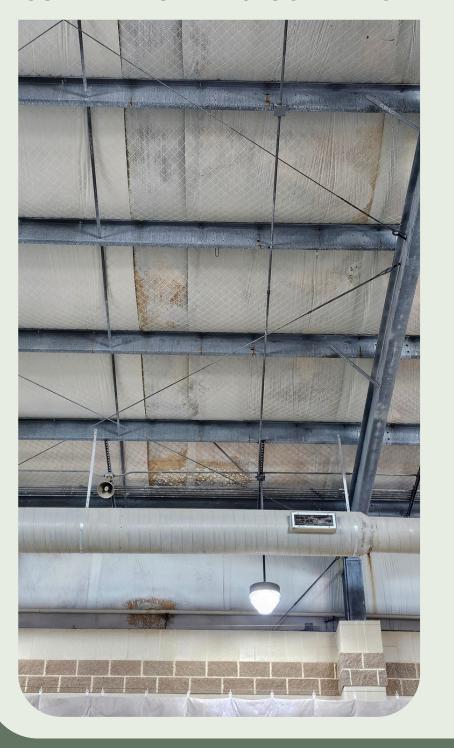
FITNESS CENTER CURRENT ASSESMENT

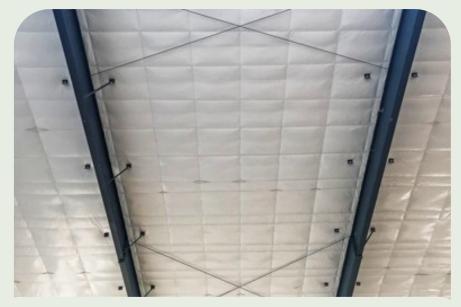
The existing HVAC system needs replacement. It is unable to meet the facility's demands and needs an upgrade.

The original pool dehumidification unit, installed in 2002, malfunctioned by 2007. In 2017, a new system was acquired as part of an energy savings contract, but unfortunately, that unit continues to malfunction and needs to be completely replaced. The humidity generated by the heated pool during cooler weather has led to rust on our older weight equipment. To protect our new, state-of-the-art equipment and maintain its condition, it is essential to have a dehumidifier that adequately addresses the facility's needs.

Due to extended periods of high humidity, the insulation in the pool room has sustained damage. The high ceilings complicate a thorough assessment of the problem, but it is clear that the insulation has absorbed water and is leaking directly into the pool. Additionally, the plastic covering is peeling away and needs to be replaced to avoid further damage to the pool area.

CURRENT CEILING CONDITION



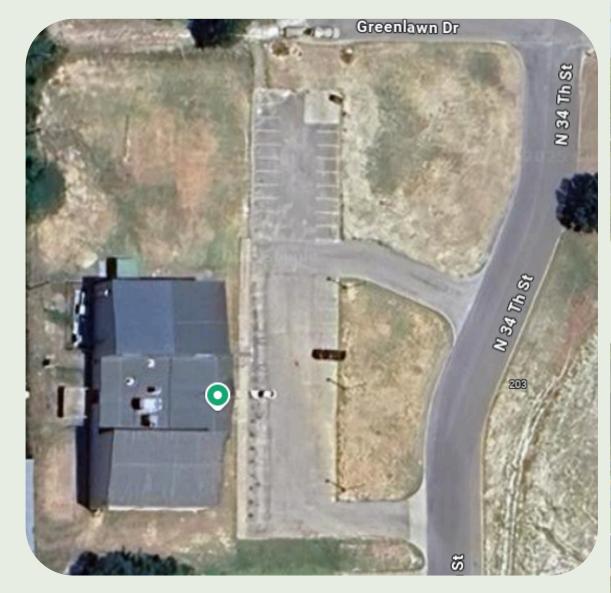


PROPOSED CEILING CONDITION

FITNESS CENTER CURRENT ASSESMENT

Due to the exponential growth of memberships, the parking lot is now insufficient and needs to be expanded.

The community and fitness center would greatly benefit from incorporating outdoor activities. Staff and members have suggested adding an outdoor basketball court and pickleball courts. The available space is ample enough to accommodate both activities while also providing additional parking.







PROPERTY ID#106697

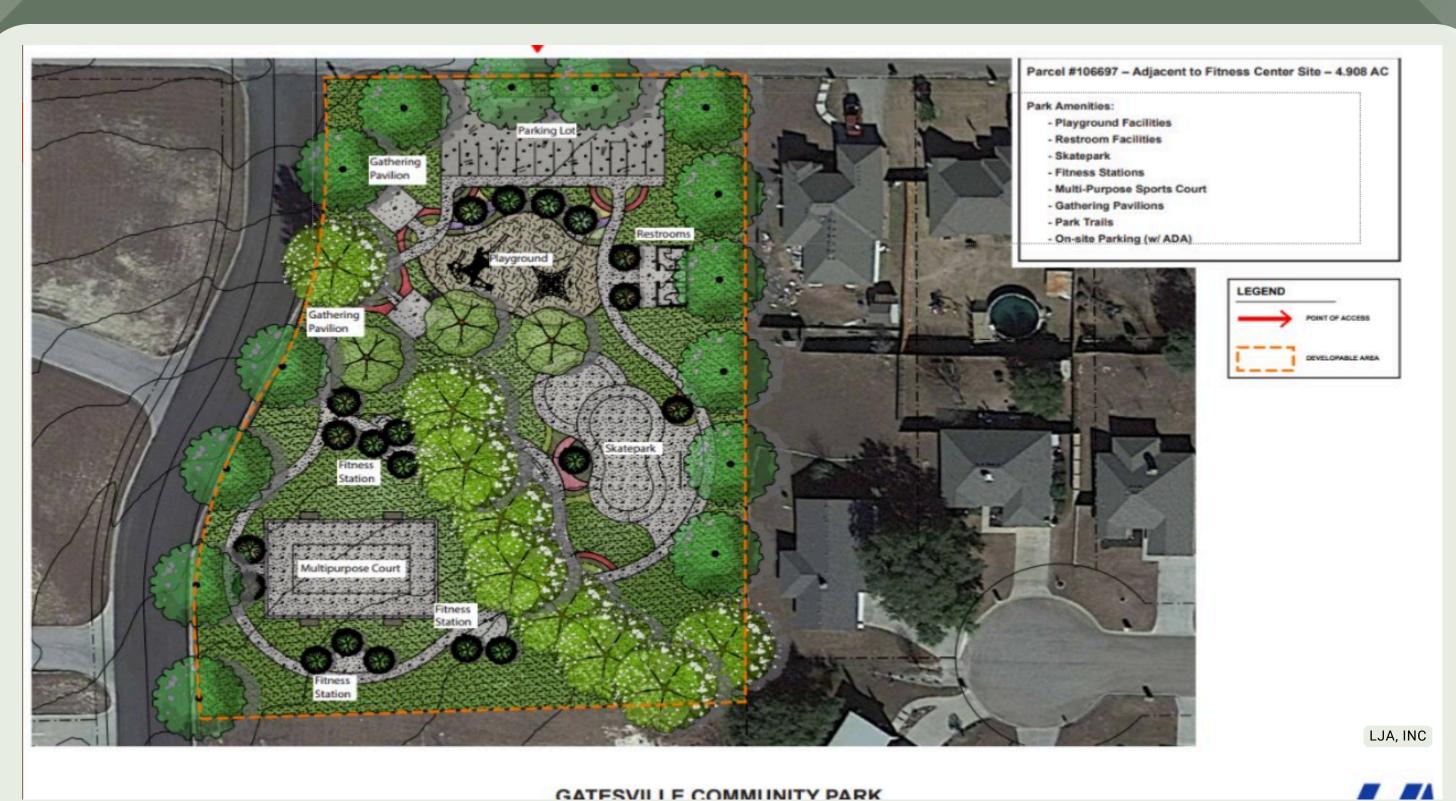
The site spans 4.91 acres and features large native trees, contributing to its natural beauty. The site has excellent topography and is situated well away from any flood zones, making it a safe and stable environment for recreational use. Adjacent to the Stone Ridge neighborhood and the Gatesville Fitness Center, the location benefits from high visibility, which is favorable for park patrolling, monitoring, and maintenance activities.

Accessibility is a key feature, with easy entry points from both the east and north sides of the park, ensuring full visibility for users. The close proximity to the Fitness Center presents an exciting opportunity to create a unified space that connects the two sites, enhancing programming and activities for the community.



PROPERTY ID#106697

COMMUNITY PARK OPTION

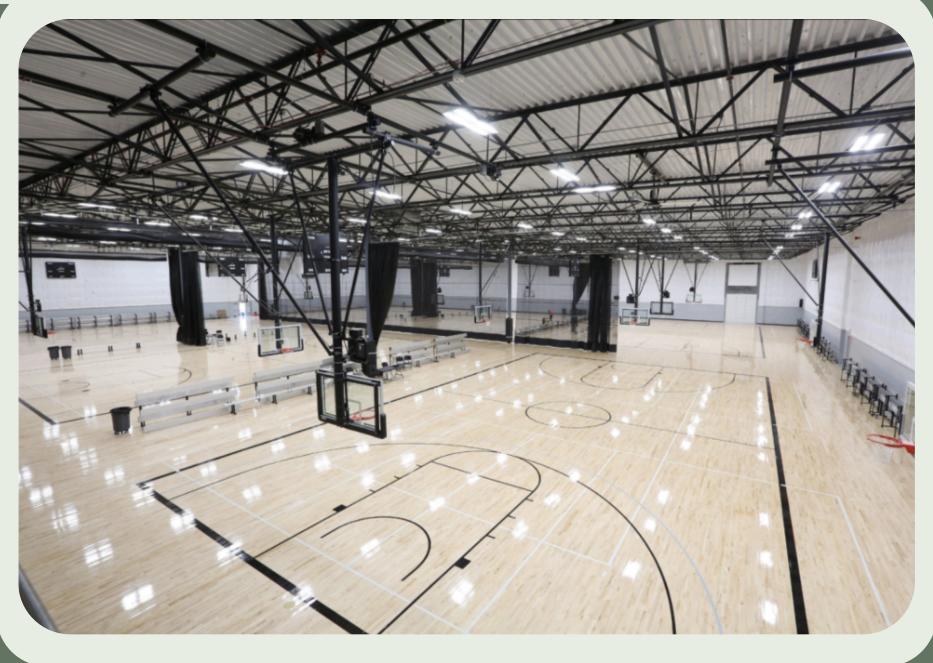


PROPERTY ID#106697 BASKETBALL/VOLLEYBALL GYM OPTION

LARGER CONCEPT PHOTOS, WILL BE SCALED DOWN APPROXIMATELY 33% AT THE CURRENT PROPOSED LOCATION

PHOTO CREDIT: CHESTERFIELDSPORTS.COM





PROPERTY ID#106697

BASKETBALL/VOLLEYBALL GYM OPTION



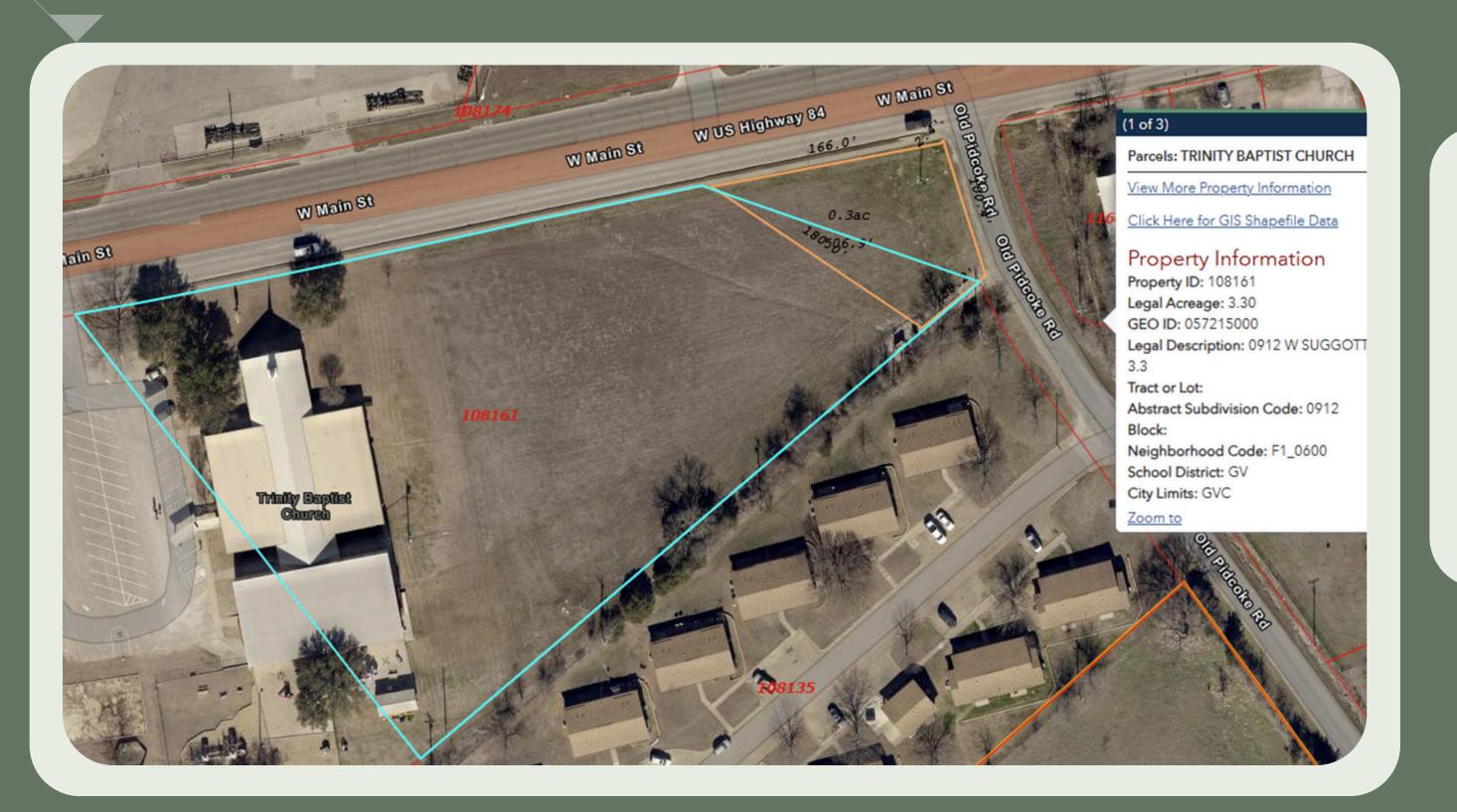
POCKET PARK IDEA 1



Pocket Park 1 Downtown

Green space by Graves
Florist is city-owned, faces
city-owned parking. Food
truck area with shaded
picnic tables to serve
downtown businesses and
their staff.

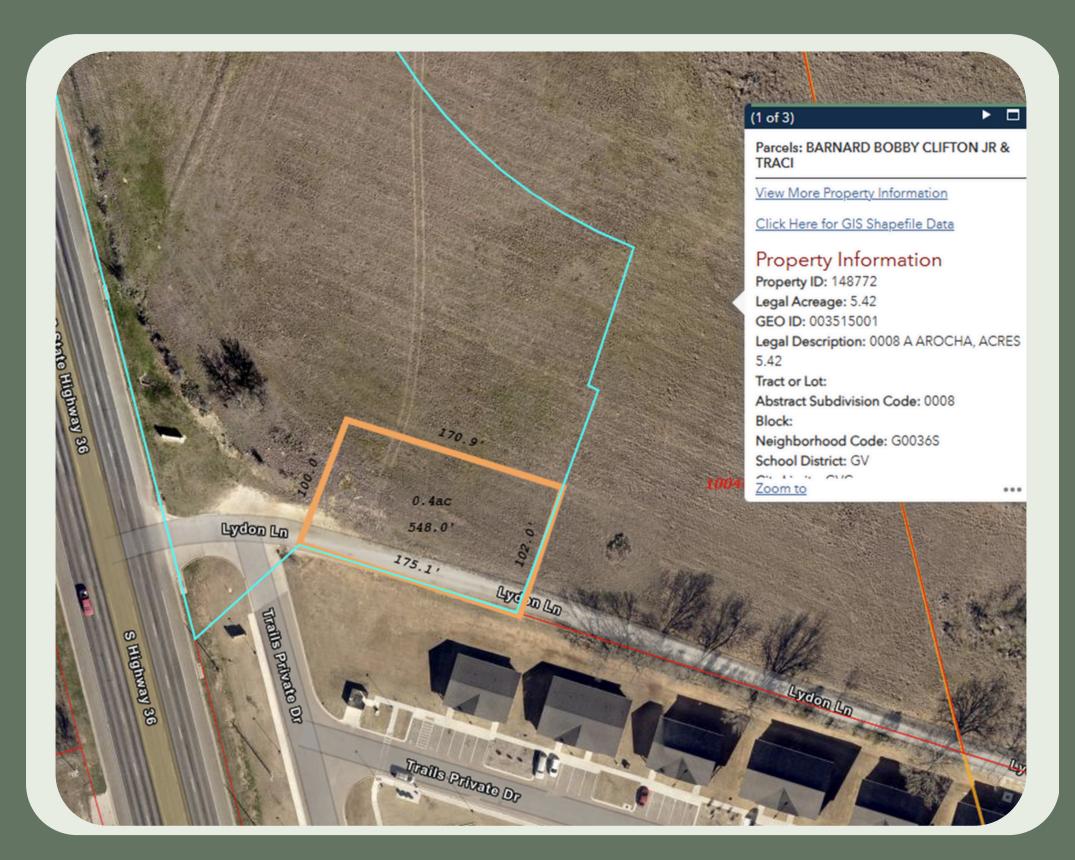
POCKET PARK IDEA 2



Pocket Park 2 West Gatesville

Open abstract east of
Trinity + request small
donated section
Small playscape, small
pavilion
Parking off Old Pidcoke
= 0.3 acres

POCKET PARK IDEA 3



Pocket Park 3 South Gatesville/Fort Gates

Request donated section of
Barnard's land
(land currently under consideration
for residential subdivision)
Small playscape, small pavilion
Parking off Lydon Lane
= 0.4-acre sub-lot



The areas highlighted in blue represent cityowned properties in the northern section of Gatesville, which is considered home to underserved families. There is notable interest in the concept of developing a park in this area. the lots highlighted in green seem to form a park that the community has established on their

own.

POCKET PARK IDEA 4



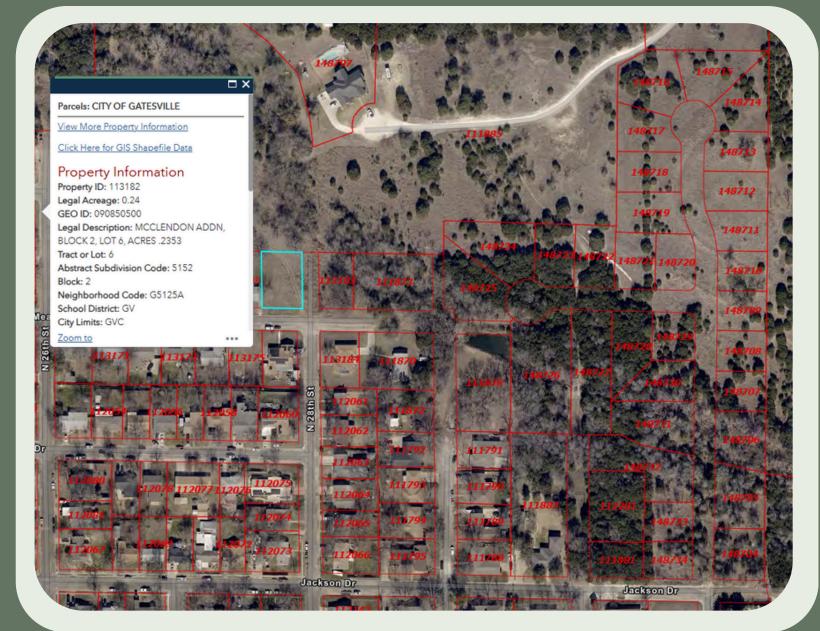
Pocket Park 4 North Gatesville

Property ID - 111166
Approximately .8 acres
Enough room for parking, shaded picnic areas, & playground equipment. Lot is surrounded by big shade trees and in a well-kept area.



POCKET PARK IDEA 5





Pocket Park 5 North Gatesville

Property ID - 113182 Approximately .24 acre

Northern part of town that backs up to a large area of town that does not have public park without crossing a main roadway. Area is also next to an area that is platted out for future development.

SIGNAGE

A suggestion for the parks is to implement a cohesive signage system.

An effective park signage system serves several purposes: it offers clear information and directions to help visitors navigate the parks; enhances the parks' image; and conveys the rules of the park. Installing these signs will demonstrate a commitment to beautifying the parks.



SECURITY

Keeping our public parks safe involves a variety of solutions and strategies.

Adequate lighting improves the feeling of safety and significantly lowers the likelihood of illegal behavior and criminal activities. When there's a chance of being seen and identified, criminals are less inclined to commit unlawful acts. Issues like vandalism, litter, and neglected infrastructure create an impression of neglect, which can draw in criminal activity. By actively maintaining park infrastructure, it sends a clear message to both criminals and community members that the park is cared for and actively monitored. Installing surveillance cameras in public parks and recreation facilities is an effective way to deter unwanted incidents. Surveillance cameras act as a visible deterrent. Cameras not only capture essential evidence in case of incidents but also creates a sense of accountability among visitors.

VISION

The vision for this plan is to present the current status of the Parks and Recreation Department and our commitment to providing the residents of Gatesville with the highest quality of life amenities. We aim to achieve this by implementing innovative strategies and solutions to ensure that our services are both effective and responsive to the needs of our citizens. Our initiatives will focus on enhancing public spaces, improving our current services, and expanding access to recreational opportunities. We are determined to create an environment that enriches the lives of all who visit and all who call Gatesville home.

