

# **PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2011-2020 for the CITY OF DEL RIO**



**Prepared by:**

**TRC Engineers, Inc., and the  
City of Del Rio Parks and Recreation Department**



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## INTRODUCTION

Del Rio is located in Val Verde County on the United States-Mexico border, midway between Padre Island and Big Bend National Park. The City is eight miles south of Amistad national Recreational Area, which surrounds the United States portion of Lake Amistad formed by the Rio Grande, Pecos, and Devil's Rivers, with 850 miles of shoreline.

Del Rio is immediately across the International Bridge from Ciudad Acuña, Mexico and is seven miles west of the Air Education Training Command's Laughlin Air Force base. It is on U.S. Highway 90, running east-west and U.S. 277, running north-south. It sits 150 miles southwest from San Antonio and 154 miles south of San Angelo. It is served by Amtrak. Del Rio is the largest and fastest growing city in Val Verde County.

**Table 1 - Demographics**

Population, 2000	33,867	
Population, 2009	36,676	
Population Change, 1990 - 2000	3,162	10.3%
Population Change, 2000 - 2009	2,809	8.3%
Hispanic population	31,153	82.0%
Black population	509	1.3%
Median Household income	\$34,655	
High School graduates	13,812	36.3%
Bachelor's Degree	3,033	8.0%
Population below poverty line	9,313	24.5%
2008 unemployment	957	6.2%

Source: U.S. Census 2000 and Census Estimate 2008

The Texas Water Development Board (TPWD) published in 2000 indicated that by 2020 Del Rio would have a population of 40,050. Current population estimates for 2009 show that Del Rio is increasing towards this projection at the predicted rate.

The park system in Del Rio is developed and run by the parks and recreation department (PARD). Activities of the department are guided by the appointed Del Rio City Council Board. Del Rio PARD not only manages the park properties, but provides a variety of recreation programs for the community residents. The San Felipe Creek Commission works with city staff and the PARD to further enhance parks and recreation along San Felipe Creek.

## PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

In July 2010, TRC Engineers, Inc. completed a parks and recreation survey. Using the results of the survey, the PARD Director and the planning staff from TRC Engineers, Inc.

worked as a planning team to craft the master plan components following the outline of this report.

Previously crafted city planning and design documents, shown below, were referenced prior to beginning concept development. Sections of these plans will be referenced for use in this planning document. These documents include:

- Del Rio Comprehensive Plan, 2008
- Del Rio Joint Land Use Study, 2008
- San Felipe Creek Vision Plan, 2007
- City of Del Rio – Existing Land Use Maps

## PARK LANDS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

### FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

The City of Del Rio currently has 25 parks and 6 special use facilities consisting of approximately 140 acres. For future planning purposes the parks in Del Rio will be distinguished by the following categories and definitions:

- **Mini-park** – is used to address limited isolated or unique recreational needs. They are often used where larger land tracts are unavailable. Size ranges from 2500 square feet to one acre.
- **Neighborhood park** – is the basic unit of the park system, which serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal recreation, whether active or passive. Neighborhood parks generally range from one to ten acres. Anything smaller is considered a mini park. Any neighborhood block within the City should not be more than half a mile from a neighborhood park (or parks with residential-use recreational facilities), and the route from each block to a park should be uninterrupted by non-residential roads or other barriers.
- **Community park** – serves multiple community-based needs as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Size ranges from ten to fifty acres. These parks are not defined as much as size as they are by functions for the majority of the community.
- **School park** – depending upon circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks.
- **Special Use park** – has a single purpose or specialized recreation activity. Single-activity sport complexes are included in this category.

### INVENTORY

Table 2 on the next page provides the inventory of the public recreation facilities for Del Rio.

**Table 2 – Del Rio Parks Inventory**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Property Owner</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Condition</b>
14th Street Park	City of Del Rio	Park Benches	3	Excellent
		Playscape	1	Excellent
		Basketball Court	1	Good & Fair
		Trash Cans	2	Good
Abe Barrera Memorial Park	City of Del Rio	Volleyball Courts	1	Poor
		Picnic Tables	4	Fair
		BBQ Pits	3	Poor
		Trash Cans	4	Fair
		Swing Set	1	Poor
Agarita Walking Trail	City of Del Rio	Open Space		
		Walking trail	1	Good
		Bench	1	Excellent
		Playscape	1	Excellent
		Light Posts	6	Good
		Trash Cans	4	Fair
American G.I. Forum	City of Del Rio	Open Space		
		Picnic Pavilions	4	Good
		Stone Gazebo	1	Fair
		Park Benches	8	Fair
		Trash Cans	2	Good & Fair
		Picnic Tables	5	3 Good, 2 Fair
		Water Fountain	1	Poor
		BBQ Pits	5	4 Fair, 1 Poor
		Basketball Court	1	Fair & Poor
		Swing Sets	2	Fair & Poor
		Slide	1	Fair
Light Posts	5	Good		
Blue Hole	City of Del Rio	(Facilities included in Moore Park count)		
Blue Star Park	City of Del Rio	Trash Cans	1	Good
Brown Plaza	City of Del Rio	Park Benches	26	Good
		Trash Cans	4	Good
		Brick Fountains	2	Good
		Light Posts	7	Good

Site	Property Owner	Facility	Number	Condition
Buena Vista Park	City of Del Rio	Open Space		
		Park Benches	17	16 Good, 1 Poor
		Picnic Tables	5	2 Excellent, 3 Good
		Playscape	1	Excellent
		Swing Sets	2	Fair
		Slides	3	2 Excellent, 1 Fair
		Trash Cans	9	2 Good, 7 Fair
		BBQ Pit	1	Good
		Covered Pavilion	2	Excellent & Good
		Frisbee Golf Course	1	Good
		Rest Rooms	2	Good
		Monkey Bars	1	Fair
		Pool w/ Bathhouse/Restroom	1	Excellent
		Baseball Field	1	Fair & Poor
		Tennis Courts	2	Poor
Water Fountain	1	Fair		
Camp Del Rio	City of Del Rio	Walking trail		Poor
		Soccer Field	1	Fair w/ Poor Goal Posts
		Bleachers	4	Good
		Trash Cans	3	Good
Carranza Park	City of Del Rio	Open Space		
		Hike & Bike Trail		Fair
		Rest Rooms	1	Good
		Pavilion	1	Excellent
		Playscape	1	Excellent
		Basketball Court	1	Excellent
Crestline Park	City of Del Rio	Open Space		
		Park Benches	2	Poor
		Playscape	1	Excellent
		Slide	1	Fair
		Swing Set	1	Fair
		Trash Cans	2	Good
		BBQ Pit	1	Good
Picnic Table	1	Good		

Site	Property Owner	Facility	Number	Condition
Del Rio Lions Park	City of Del Rio	Hike & Bike Trail		Good
		Ring Set	1	Excellent
		Park Benches	6	5 Excellent, 1 Poor
		Playscape	1	Fair
		Light Posts	12	Good
		Trash Can	1	Fair
		Picnic Tables	2	Fair
		Water Fountain	1	Fair
Greenbelt Park	City of Del Rio	Flagpole	1	Good
		Park Benches	6	Fair
		Trash Cans	2	Fair
		Picnic Tables	3	Fair
		Basketball Court	1	Good & Fair
		Swing Set	1	Fair
		Slide	1	Fair
Greenwood Park	City of Del Rio	Open Space		
		Park Benches	12	Good
		Trash Cans	5	Fair
		Stone Gazebo	1	Good
Moore Park	City of Del Rio	Open Space		Good
		Walking trail		
		Park Benches	13	11 Good, 2 Fair
		Trash Cans	14	8 Good, 6 Fair
		BBQ Pits	14	9 Good, 4 Fair, 1 Poor
		Picnic Tables	25	24 Good, 1 Fair
		Basketball Court	0.5	Poor
		Pool w/ Bathhouse/Restroom	1	Excellent
		Volleyball Courts	2	Poor
		Water Fountain	1	Poor
Dumpster	1	Good		
Riverside Park	City of Del Rio	Along Creek		

Site	Property Owner	Facility	Number	Condition
Romanelli Park	City of Del Rio	Open Space		
		Stone Monuments	6	Good
		Flagpoles	3	Good
		Park Benches	5	Excellent
		Trash Cans	4	Fair
		BBQ Pits	4	Fair
		Picnic Tables	5	Excellent
Rotary Park	City of Del Rio	Open Space		
		Covered Pavilion	1	Good
		Park Benches	7	3 Fair, 4 Poor
		Trash Cans	4	3 Good, 1 Fair
		Large BBQ Pit	1	Good
		BBQ Pits	4	Good, Fair, 2 Poor
		Picnic Tables	17	Fair
		Playscapes	2	Excellent & Poor
		Basketball Court	1	Good
		Volleyball Courts	1	Good
		Soccer Field	1	Poor
San Felipe Lions Park	City of Del Rio	Open Space		
		Picnic Tables	6	4 Good, 2 Fair
		Trash Cans	6	Good
		Playscape	1	Good
		Swing Set	1	Fair
Severiano Perez Park Way	City of Del Rio	Open Space		
		Park Benches	4	1 Good, 3 Fair
		Trash Cans	3	Good
		BBQ Pits	2	Good & Fair
		Picnic Table	2	Good
		Water Fountain	1	Poor
		Playscapes	2	Excellent
		Swing Set	1	Fair
Slides	1	Fair		
		Light Posts	3	Good

Site	Property Owner	Facility	Number	Condition
Skate Park	City of Del Rio	Skate Course		Good
		Walking trail		Poor
		Basketball Court	1	Fair
		Park Bench	1	Poor
		Trash Cans	2	Fair
Star Park	City of Del Rio	Walking trail		Good
		Park Benches	13	7 Good, 6 Fair
		Trash Cans	2	Good
		Light Posts	4	Good
		Pavilion	1	Good
		Flagpole and Monument	1	Good
State Park	City of Del Rio	(Facilities included in Moore Park count)		
UCO Park	City of Del Rio	Open Space		
		Park Benches	7	5 Fair, 2 Poor
		Trash Cans	8	1 Good, 7 Fair
		BBQ Pits	2	Fair
		Picnic Tables	3	Fair
		Playscape	1	Good
		Basketball Courts	2	Good & Fair
		Baseball Field	1	Good
		Light Posts	4	Good
		Pavilions	2	Fair
		Monkey Bars	1	Poor
		Swing Set	1	Poor
		Rest Rooms	1	Fair
		Bleachers	6	1 Good, 5 Fair
West Martin Park	City of Del Rio	Park Benches	10	3 Good, 7 Fair
		Trash Can	1	Fair
		Picnic Table	1	Fair
		BBQ Pit	1	Fair
		Swing Sets	2	Good
		Basketball Court	1	Good & Fair
		Monkey Bars	1	Good
		See-Saw	1	Good
		Pavilion	1	Good
		Water Fountain	1	Poor

**Special Use Facilities:**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Property Owner</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Amphitheater	City of Del Rio	Park Benches	4	1 Excellent, 3 Good
		Trash Cans	2	Good & Fair
		Rest Rooms	1	Good
		Picnic Tables	3	Excellent
Chihuahua Soccer Field	City of Del Rio	Soccer Field	1	Good
Hogan Baseball Park	City of Del Rio	Baseball Field	1	Good
		Trash Cans	2	Fair
		Dumpster	1	Good
		Bleachers	4	Good w/ Fair Siding
Joe Ramos Gym	City of Del Rio	Basketball Court	1	Excellent
		Cafeteria	1	Excellent
		Recreation Room	1	Excellent
Pop Word Field	City of Del Rio	Baseball Field	1	Good
		Trash Cans	2	Fair
		Water Fountain	1	Poor
		Bleachers	6	2 Good, 4 Poor
		Rest Rooms	1	Fair
Roosevelt Baseball Field	City of Del Rio	Baseball Field	1	Good
		Concession Stand	1	Fair
		Rest Rooms	1	Fair
		Bleachers		Poor

Source: 2010 Park Condition Survey conducted by TRC Engineers, Inc.

## FACILITY ASSESSMENT

The City of Del Rio currently has 25 parks and 6 special use facilities:

**14<sup>th</sup> Street Park** – a mini-park serving the northern area of downtown Del Rio. The location of this park is within walking distance of many residents of the City. The park hosts a recently added playscape and an asphalt basketball court making the park suitable for citizens of all ages.

**Abe Barrera Memorial Park and San Felipe Lions Park** – San Felipe Lions Park is host to many of the City’s large events including Memorial Day and Fourth of July celebrations. This park is located along the widest portion of San Felipe Creek at the dam, creating a large natural swimming area. A new playscape area has recently been installed at the entrance to the park. Abe Barrera Park is an older mini-park that sits adjacent to San Felipe Lions Park. Abe Barrera Park is one of the older parks in the City, and



Figure 1 – San Felipe Creek at San Felipe Lions Park

maintenance of the park has become overlooked, possibly because the larger and more frequently used San Felipe Lions Park requires more attention and upkeep. This park has an area for sand volleyball, as well as a playscape area, but the equipment has been removed. All equipment in this park is in fair or poor condition.

**Agarita Walking Trail** – a recently added walking trail serving the northern-most residents of Del Rio. This park consists of a one-half mile asphalt walking/running trail circling an open brush covered area. A new playscape has been recently added at the entrance of the walking trail, giving the area more amenities other than the trail.

**American G.I. Forum and Pop Word Field** – a neighborhood park that provides a gathering area for the southeastern part of the City. This park provides many amenities for citizens of all ages, including a gazebo, barbeque and picnic areas, playscapes, and a basketball court. Some of these amenities have are showing signs of use and are in need of maintenance or replacement. Pop Word Field is a little league baseball park that resides on the same lot as the American G.I. Forum Park. Pop Word Field is one of the few parks in Del Rio that has an old, outdated lighting system.

**Blue Hole Park, Moore Park, State Park and Hogan Baseball Park** – Many of the parks serving the community are focused along and around San Felipe Creek. Moore Park, Blue Hole Park and State Park cover an area of 15 acres with San Felipe Creek as their focal point. Throughout the year, these parks are the most frequently used by the residents of Del Rio coming to swim in the creek. Moore Park has many more amenities, including a city owned swimming pool with locker rooms and a bathhouse in very good condition. Hogan Baseball Park is a pony league sized baseball field that is located beside Moore Park. The field is in good condition with new lighting, and hosts many of Del Rio’s little league games.



Figure 2 – Brown Plaza

**Brown Plaza** – This plaza located in the southern area of the city is one of the original parks of Del Rio. Brown Plaza was built specifically to create a gathering place for the community of San Felipe and it continues to serve as a cultural reminder of Del Rio’s rich Mexican heritage. Residents view this plaza as the heart of San Felipe, and it continues to host the Cinco de Mayo and Dies y Seis de Septiembre celebrations each year.

**Buena Vista Park and Del Rio Lions Park** – Buena Vista Park is a community park covering 14 acres and provides the most amenities of any park in the Del Rio park system. Including a large open space, this park includes a Frisbee golf course, tennis courts, picnic area, playscape areas, a baseball field and a large swimming pool with bathhouse. This park is frequently used by residents for its many amenities, but the location is more suited for the northern residents of the City. Del Rio Lions Park is a large open park that sits adjacent to Buena Vista Park. Del Rio Lions Park consists of a 0.79 mile hike and bike trail that circles an open area. The Del Rio Lions Club building sits at the entrance to the park and has old, worn playscape equipment in need of upgrades.

**Camp Del Rio, Joe Ramos Gym and Romanelli Park** – Romanelli Park was constructed along San Felipe Creek for the fallen members of the fire department, law enforcement and military of Del Rio. This park consists of a large open area that focuses on a monument area in the center of the park. Unfortunately, the monuments in this park are frequent victims to vandalism, and the City believes that this park has the ability to



Figure 3 – San Felipe Creek at Romanelli Park

become nice if the vandalism can be controlled. Next to Romanelli Park sits Camp Del Rio, a soccer field and gravel walking path open to the community. The field and walking trail are in poor condition and in need of repair and maintenance. Joe Ramos Gym is operated by the City Parks Department and is a center for a large range of ages. The gym is host to many sports camps for younger age groups, and the cafeteria and recreation area is a common gathering place for older age groups.

**Carranza Park** – This city park is currently under construction on the east side of the City. This park is intended to focus on and serve residents from the ages five through twelve. New restrooms have been constructed, along with a concrete pavilion in the center of the park and a basketball court. There is a large amount of open area remaining in the park leaving room for more amenities if needed.

**Crestline Park** – Crestline Park is a neighborhood park at a cul-de-sac serving the Highland Park subdivision. A new playscape has recently been installed, along with a picnic and barbeque area. A gravel hiking trail begins at the edge of the park and continues into the brushy, undeveloped area to the northeast of the park.

**Greenbelt Park** – This mini-park was constructed along Canon Street on the southwest side of the City. This park has an asphalt sidewalk walkway and worn swing and slide equipment. A basketball court is tucked in between trees in good condition. There is limited room to add amenities to this park.

**Greenwood Park** – This neighborhood park is a very well kept park located near the original downtown area of the City. A stone gazebo and park benches allow for quiet areas for downtown visitors to relax.

**Riverside Park and Rotary Park** – At the southern part of the city along San Felipe Creek, many areas of land have been given to the City of Del Rio Parks Department to maintain. These areas lie within the floodplain of the creek and do not allow home construction. Riverside Park consists of areas along the creek that were given to the city to maintain. At this area is a large amount of Carrizo Cane which blocks the view of the creek. Rotary Park is a neighborhood park that sits just north of Riverside Park along the creek. Amenities of Rotary Park include large barbeque pits and picnic areas, playscapes, a basketball court, a sand volleyball court and a soccer field. This park is frequently used, and the amenities are beginning to show the signs of wear. Carrizo Cane continues along the creek through the park, blocking the creek from view and from resident's use.

**Severiano Perez Park Way and Skate Park** – Severiano Perez Park Way and Skate Park sit along San Felipe Creek and are attached to each other. These parks host many amenities

including a basketball court, playscape areas, barbeque and picnic areas and a skate park area.

**Star Park** – This neighborhood park is one of the only parks that serves the downtown area north of U.S. Highway 90. A one-fifth mile track surrounds a large open area and concrete pavilion. A stone monument and flagpole is dedicated to Laughlin Air Force Base in the center of the park.

**U.C.O. Park** – This park is a community park covering 6 acres serving the western area of the City. In the center of the park is a pony league size baseball field that is host to many of Del Rio’s little league games, along with two basketball courts. Other amenities at the park include a playscape area, barbeque and picnic areas and a large open area. This open area gives the park an ability to add more amenities if needed.

**West Martin Park** – This mini-park is within walking distance for many residents in the southwestern area of the City. With a playscape area, a basketball court and a barbeque and picnic area, this park is suitable for citizens of all ages in the neighborhood.

**Amphitheater and Creekwalk** – San Felipe Creek is a designated natural area that the City of Del Rio has continuously preserved and focused parks upon. The Creekwalk was constructed as a stone walk path from San Felipe Lions Park to State Park. At many areas along the creek, the Creekwalk was intended to create stone retaining walls to control erosion along the creek as well as provide areas for walking and swimming in the creek. These retaining walls were not properly designed and recent flooding



Figure 4 - Amphitheater

along the creek has caused erosion problems to continue and the retaining wall to fail in places. The Amphitheater was constructed along with the Creekwalk and serves as an area for the City to hold special events, such as concerts and holiday celebrations.

**Chihuahua Soccer Field and Roosevelt Baseball Field** – The Chihuahua Soccer Field is run by the City of Del Rio Parks Department and is open to the public. The Roosevelt Baseball Field is also run by the Parks Department, and serves as the baseball field for Del Rio High School, as well as the Del Rio little league.

## OTHER PROVIDERS

Val Verde County and the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District are the only other providers of public recreation facilities in Del Rio. Del Rio PARD and San Felipe Del Rio CISD have a unique and positive relationship to allow joint use of recreation facilities owned by each organization. The school athletic teams use city park facilities for practice and competition. San Felipe Del Rio CISD schools are:

1. Irene C. Cardwell Elementary
2. Buena Vista Elementary
3. Dr. Lonnie Green Elementary
4. Dr. Fermin Calderon Elementary
5. East Side Elementary
6. Garfield Elementary
7. Lamar Elementary
8. North heights Elementary
9. Ruben Chavira Elementary
10. San Felipe Memorial Middle School
11. Del Rio Freshman School
12. Del Rio High School

## FESTIVALS AND OTHER EVENTS

Del Rio hosts a range of festivals and event celebrations throughout the year. The events take place at various venues. The list below details events:

- **Fourth of July Celebration** is a large citywide event that includes a parade, vendor and food area, ceremonies at the Amphitheater and fireworks
- **George Paul Memorial Bullriding Superbull** takes place every May. This is the largest bull riding event in the United States, drawing participants from around the nation
- **Oktoberfest Celebration** takes place each September at the Whitehead Memorial Museum
- **Veterans Day** is celebrated each year with a parade and memorial service
- **Cinco de Mayo** is held at Brown Plaza every year with food, crafts, gifts and other events to celebrate the Mexican culture
- **Diez y Seis de Septiembre** is the anniversary of Mexican Independence from Spain and is celebrated at Brown Plaza with a carnival and a variety of vendors and activities
- **Fiesta de Amistad** promotes the friendship between sister cities Del Rio, Texas and Ciudad Acuña, Mexico. The celebration started as Neighborhood Day in 1956 and grew into a weeklong display featuring the only parade in the world that starts in one country and ends in another
- **Winter Visitor Season** is a collection of events to welcome visitors during the winter months. Many people call Del Rio home each winter to escape the harsh northern

winters and the Winter Visitor Committee sponsors a range of events to make them welcome

- **First Friday Art Walk** was established to promote art at each of Del Rio's art galleries

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Based on the analysis of Del Rio's existing facilities and the projected growth in the community, the general goals for the Del Rio Parks Recreations and Open Space development are:

- Create a convenient and coherent park and recreation system to serve citizens of all ages
- Plan for future park development and for preservation of open space resources
- Preserve and maintain San Felipe Creek for the benefit of citizens and the local creek ecosystem

The Committee felt that the development of Del Rio's park system should focus on these specific goals:

- Update recreation facilities, including active, passive and informal play areas, as well as sports and athletic facilities
- Conserve natural resources through the preservation of areas along San Felipe Creek
- Promote joint planning development and maintenance with San Felipe Del Rio CISD, San Felipe Creek Commissioners and recreation groups
- Focus on providing recreation activities for seniors and youth
- Craft a long range plan based on public need, tourism and potential to attract quality business growth
- Use a phased parks plan development to improve the quality of life for Del Rio residents
- Make park facilities easily accessible from any part of the community including projected future growth areas
- Continue to improve the image of Del Rio as a quality growth community
- Promote sports and special events (tournaments, art and crafts festivals, concerts, etc.)
- Identify general growth areas of Del Rio, which require park facilities, and establish zones based on neighborhood unity and physical barriers to park facilities
- Update this plan every two years and develop a new plan every five years to be adaptable to change
- Identify funding mechanisms for implementation of the plan
- Improve areas for passive recreation
- Improve safety and security in all existing parks
- Renovate and add rest rooms in all parks as needed

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## DEMAND BASED ASSESSMENT – PARKS SURVEY

An assessment of the detailed survey conducted in 2011 was the most significant tool to measure parks and recreation needs for Del Rio. The tables below summarize the results of the 108 completed surveys. The questionnaire listed 19 activities. Respondents were asked to indicate what they are most involved in or would be most involved in participating. Table 6.6 shows the number of responses to each activity.

**Table 3 – Recreation Preferences**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responses</b>
1	Walking/Jogging	79
2	Barbeque/Picnic	73
3	Swimming	72
4	Fishing	49
5	Camping	47
6	Bicycling	37
7	Playground Equipment	31
8	Volleyball	27
9	Youth Baseball	24
10	Basketball	22
11	Youth Football	22
12	Soccer	21
13	Hiking	21
14	Frisbee Golf	9
15	Tennis	6
16	Softball	3
17	Golf Range	1
18	Handball	1
19	Horseback Riding	1

In the survey, the respondents were asked to rank the need for additional outdoor and indoor recreation facilities on a scale from one to five, with one being ‘Least Important’ and five being ‘Most Important’. From these responses, a score was generated for each recreation facility and ranked in order. Table 6.7 summarizes the response to facilities needed in Del Rio.

**Table 4 – Recreation Facilities Needed in Del Rio**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Amenity</b>	<b>Score</b>
1	Public Rest Rooms	450
2	Trails (Walking/Jogging)	393
3	Covered Picnic Areas	388
4	Swimming Pool	384
5	Bicycle Trails	366
6	Baseball Fields	357
7	Playground Areas/Playscapes	354
8	Softball Fields	342
9	Practice Fields	330
10	Soccer Fields - Full Size	325
11	Football Fields	323
12	Event Pavilion - Large	320
13	Park Concessions (food, etc.)	319
14	Basketball Courts - Indoor	314
15	Basketball Courts - Outdoor	297
16	Soccer Fields - Indoor	296
17	Volleyball Courts - Indoor	293
18	Volleyball Courts - Outdoor	289
19	Tennis Courts	243
20	Frisbee Golf	192

## **RESOURCE-BASED NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The resource-based approach to needs assessment uses existing opportunities already within the community. Other open space in the city includes:

- The FEMA buyout properties that were given to the City PARD in the southern portion of town along San Felipe Creek.
- One lot at the junction of Noriega Street and Rosita Street owned by the City of Del Rio.
- Vacant lots in the western areas of town that are becoming developed near the intersection of Arrowhead Trail and Running Bear Trail and the intersection of Lenora and Dove Avenues.
- Street, railroad and highway rights-of-way and utility easements.
- Areas lying in the floodplains where construction is not possible.

## **STANDARDS-BASED NEEDS SURVEY**

A classification scheme of the National Recreation and Park Association (NPR) was used as the basis for determining park standards. Acreage and service area coverage were chosen as

standards for the minimum level of service for each of the park classifications. These are shown in Table 4. In addition there are other factors – accessibility, quality of facilities, attractiveness of the setting – which determine the adequacy of individual parks. Park classifications are Mini-Park, Neighborhood Park, Community Park and Special Use Park.

A preliminary standards list is developed early in the planning phase to guide concept development, and augmented as the overall concepts are refined. They are based on expressed needs, past experience, population projections and knowledge of other community trends.

A park system with these classifications is currently in use by the City of Del Rio. Mini-parks are intended to serve a close community area where space is limited, and are within walking distance of 1/8 mile. Currently, Del Rio has four parks in the mini-park category. With a need of parks in the central downtown area of the City, mini-parks have the ability to be effective in small vacant lots that are available.

Many of the City of Del Rio's parks fall within the neighborhood park classification, the basic unit of the park system. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve the immediate residential area and are within walking or cycling distance of 1/4 mile. Neighborhood parks have the ability to serve a large number of residents when they are placed strategically. As the City continues to expand to the north and west, neighborhood parks should be planned along with these new subdivisions, rather than added as an afterthought.

**Table 5 – Recreation Facilities Needed in Del Rio**

<b>Standards</b>	<b>Mini</b>	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Special Use</b>
Acreage	<1	1-10	10-50	Variable
Service Area (miles)	1/4	1/2	1	City

Appropriate Facilities:

Baseball Fields		X	X	X
Basketball Goals	X	X	X	X
Football Fields				X
Golf Course				X
Group Pavilion		X	X	
Indoor Facility				X
Picnic Tables	X	X	X	
Playground Area	X	X	X	
Practice/Open Field	X	X	X	
Rodeo/Equestrian Facility				X
Soccer Fields		X	X	
Softball Fields		X	X	
Swimming Pool			X	
Tennis Courts		X	X	
Trail (Walk/Jog/Bike)		1/4 mile	1 1/2 mile	1-2 miles
Volleyball		X	X	X
Restroom		X	X	X
Security Lighting	X	X	X	X
Natural Open Space Area		X	X	
Parking	None	0-40 spaces	50-100 spaces	Variable

Source: TRPA Standards

Community parks serve a larger area of town or in some cases the entire community, with larger and more diverse facilities. For Del Rio’s size, a service area of one mile was used. Many of the City parks have the adequate size and diversity of facilities to be considered as community parks. Each of these community parks receives a large amount of use from the public, and some of the facilities are beginning to show the signs of wear, and are in need of updating.

A visual analysis of the distribution of Del Rio’s parks indicate a lack of mini and neighborhood facilities in the central downtown area and the need to provide new parks to serve both neighborhood and community park purposes for the expansion and new development in all directions of the City.

## MASTER PLAN CONCEPTS

The primary concepts for Del Rio's park system are presented according to the park classification system earlier, along with related features. The Key Concepts section below summarizes the plan strategy.

### KEY CONCEPTS

The **existing park system** will be updated to meet the residential recreation needs. This concept will include updating active, passive and informal play areas as well as all sports and athletic facilities and special use parks. A phased updating plan will be created in order to update the amenities in the quickest and most efficient way possible.

**Special use parks** will also be updated to meet the residential recreation needs. This will include updating all outdated, inefficient lighting systems at the sporting facilities and updating the fields and facilities themselves.

**San Felipe Creek** will be improved and maintained to meet the vision plan of the San Felipe Creek Commission, the City of Del Rio and the residents. The existing retaining wall and Creekwalk system has become damaged and is posing a safety threat to the community. This area must be temporarily repaired while a new system is engineered and constructed. Currently the San Felipe Creek Commission is in development of the San Felipe Creek Master Plan. This Master Plan is examining multiple options, including riparian restoration and some constructed improvements, to redesign the San Felipe Creekwalk area. Also, a system will need to be created and put into effect to eradicate the non-native invasive vegetation, and preserve the Devil's River Minnow endangered species. Once completed, the San Felipe Creek Master Plan will serve the purpose of guiding the reconstruction and development of the San Felipe Creek area.

**Laughlin Air Force Base** has been an important figure in the continued growth of the Del Rio area. Currently there is one ballfield and one swimming pool on base and Laughlin personnel have expressed interest in coordination with the City of Del Rio about the possibility of expanding recreational facilities to benefit both the residents of the base and Del Rio. The City should continue to coordinate with Laughlin Air Force Base regarding recreational facilities.

**Joint Planning**, development and maintenance with San Felipe Del Rio CISD, San Felipe Creek Commissioners and recreation groups will be promoted. The City will coordinate park planning and development with the school district, through City Council and School Board workshops and meetings. The City will continue the close relationship with San Felipe Del Rio CISD to allow use of Roosevelt Park and other facilities and allow public use of school recreation facilities. The School District and the City can augment agreements for existing facility use and new facility development, to benefit school programs and the general public. The City should also create a relationship with local churches to provide public access to recreation facilities on church properties. Beginning this relationship will benefit neighborhood zones with limited land available to the parks department. The City will work communicate with all interested parties to identify facilities suitable for joint funding and maintenance.

**Pathway connections** will be developed to connect neighborhoods to the primary ‘nodes’ within the city: school, parks, high volume business areas and tourism sites. This will improve health, safety and welfare for residents while increasing the use of parks and local businesses. Additionally, these connections will serve as part of the city infrastructure to attract additional quality growth and tourism to Del Rio. This system will be an ongoing effort to update and connect these systems together throughout the city, with the beginning starting at existing schools and connecting existing sidewalks together.

**Gateway features** will be developed at the primary entries to the City. Underused city property can be developed for functional park use and city-image enhancement to create a positive impression of Del Rio for the high volume of travelers passing through the city.

## **EXISTING PARK SYSTEM**

Del Rio currently has 25 parks and 6 special use parks situated throughout the City. Many of these parks are in need of repair.

### ABE BARRERA PARK

Abe Barrera Park is one of the oldest parks in the City of Del Rio. Since it is located next to the much more heavily used San Felipe Lions Park, it has become overlooked and is in need of repair. The following improvements are recommended for the park:

- Repair existing sand volleyball court and install new posts and net
- Repair or replace existing picnic tables
- Install new barbecue pits
- Repair existing trash cans
- Install and replace existing swing set

### AMERICAN G.I. FORUM

This park is a good neighborhood park for the southern portion of the City and has many amenities. These amenities should be repaired:

- Repair existing stone gazebo
- Repair existing park benches
- Repair the picnic tables in “fair” condition
- Replace existing water fountain
- Repair or replace barbecue pits
- Repair basketball court surface and install new goal posts and backboards
- Replace existing swing sets new swing sets

- Replace existing slide

### BUENA VISTA PARK

Buena Vista is a community park that hosts the most amenities of any park in the city. Due to the use of the facility, these improvements are recommended:

- Replace one “poor” park bench
- Replace one “fair” slide
- Repair seven “fair” trash cans
- Replace existing monkey bars
- Repair existing water fountain

### CRESTLINE PARK

Crestline Park is situated at the end of a cul-de-sac and boasts a hiking trail. The following are recommendations to update this park:

- Replace existing park benches
- Replace existing slide
- Replace existing swing set

### DEL RIO LIONS PARK

This park is located adjacent to Buena Vista Park and is also heavily used.

- Replace existing playscape
- Repair or replace existing picnic tables
- Repair or replace existing water fountain

### GREENBELT PARK

This mini-park serves residents in the western area of the City. The following improvements are recommended:

- Repair or replace existing park benches
- Repair existing trash cans
- Repair or replace existing picnic tables
- Replace existing basketball goals
- Replace existing swing set
- Replace existing slide

## MOORE PARK, BLUE HOLE PARK AND STATE PARK

Moore Park shares many qualities with Buena Vista Park in that it is a community park that has many amenities for the residents. These three parks are located together and the park survey included all amenities of the parks as one. Moore Park, Blue Hole Park and State Park are situated along San Felipe Creek and many residents use these areas as swimming holes throughout the year.

- Repair or replace two “fair” park benches
- Repair six “fair” trash cans
- Repair or replace five “fair” and “poor” barbecue pits
- Repair or replace four “fair” and one “poor” barbecue pit
- Repair or replace one “fair” picnic table
- Repair existing basketball court surface and replace existing posts and goals
- Repair existing sand volleyball courts and install new posts and nets
- Replace existing water fountain

## ROMANELLI PARK

Romanelli Park is dedicated to members of the armed forces, police department and fire department of Del Rio. This park is a common victim of vandalism and graffiti of the monuments.

- Remove graffiti from monuments
- Install security lights around monuments
- Repair existing trash cans
- Repair or replace existing barbecue pits

## ROTARY PARK

This park is located along San Felipe Creek, upstream of where the Creekwalk and retaining wall system begin. There is a large amount of gravel throughout the park which reduces the growth of grass.

- Remove existing gravel throughout park to improve the growth of grass
- Repair or replace three “fair” and four “poor” park benches
- Repair one “fair” trash can
- Repair or replace one “fair” and two “poor” barbecue pits
- Repair or replace existing picnic tables
- Replace one existing playscape
- Repair soccer field surface and replace goal posts

### SAN FELIPE LIONS PARK

This park also sits along the San Felipe Creek. Only a few items are in need of repair:

- Repair or replace two “fair” picnic tables
- Replace existing swing set

### SEVERIANO PEREZ PARK WAY

This park needs the following improvements:

- Repair or replace three “fair” picnic tables
- Repair or replace one “fair” barbecue pit
- Replace existing water fountain
- Replace existing swing set
- Replace existing slide

### SKATE PARK

Skate Park is located beside Severiano Perez Park Way and has the only skate park ramps in the City. Other amenities at the park are in need of repair:

- Re-install walking trail through park
- Repair basketball court surface and replace goals
- Repair existing trash cans

### STAR PARK

Star Park is one of the few parks that serves the northern downtown area of the City.

- Repair or replace six “fair” park benches

### UCO PARK

This is another community park with a large amount of amenities. Due to the use, these amenities are recommended to be repaired:

- Repair or replace existing park benches
- Repair seven “fair” trash cans
- Repair or replace existing barbecue pits
- Repair or replace existing picnic tables
- Replace basketball goals on one basketball court
- Repair existing covered pavilions

- Replace existing monkey bars
- Replace existing swing set
- Repair existing rest rooms

### WEST MARTIN PARK

The following improvements at West Martin Park are recommended:

- Repair or replace seven “fair” park benches
- Repair existing trash can
- Repair or replace existing picnic table
- Replace existing basketball goals
- Replace existing water fountain

### FUTURE COMMUNITY PARK OPTIONS

As Del Rio’s population grows and changes, the recreation needs will change at an equal pace. Beyond a Phase I park plan development, several factors suggest that Del Rio may soon need to consider an additional community park:

- The existing and planned community parks are relatively small for a rapidly expanding city.
- A new community park will reduce the strain on the resources of existing parks.
- Large sport events can bring tourism dollars to the city.
- Business relocations are attracted by parks and recreation systems.

The city’s various departments should consider and discuss options for future park land needs on the west side of Del Rio, including

- The development of neighborhood parks in each of the new subdivisions.
- Taking fees in lieu of land as needed to acquire and develop a community-size park on the west side for the future needs of Del Rio including:
  - Sports fields
  - Sports complex
  - Sport courts
  - Multi-use trails
  - Special events
  - Natural area
- Building neighborhood parks in the north area of Del Rio where future development and expansion is leading.

Special events important to downtown business should not move from downtown, but other events could be held at a newer larger facility to accommodate larger scale events, such as sports tournaments. Such events could significantly benefit the local economy.

Considerations for choosing between the community park development options (and also the type of development) include:

- What land is available for park land dedication from the new subdivisions?
- What land is available in other areas west of Del Rio for a community park?
- What other prospective residential development is likely to occur and in which areas of Del Rio in the next 5-10 years?
- What are the maintenance requirements in each option?
- How will the increased maintenance and operation costs be handled?
- Can recreation and open space partnerships be established with Val Verde County or private developers?
- What type of development fits the Del Rio community demands?
- What type of park and particular amenities will enhance state grant award opportunities?

## **SPECIAL PARKS**

Del Rio has six special use parks and sports facilities at many other parks. These facilities are in need of repair and maintenance.

The past few years the City of Del Rio has been in plans to replace the existing outdated lighting system at each of the sporting facilities. Some of these systems have been replaced, while many more are still in need of the newer lights. The following facilities should have a newer, more efficient lighting system installed:

- Baseball field at Buena Vista Park
- Tennis Courts at Buena Vista Park
- Baseball field at UCO Park
- Pop Word Field

**Roosevelt Baseball Field** is owned and run by the City PARD, but is the home to the Del Rio High School baseball team. This is the largest baseball park in the City and is large enough to host sporting tournaments and events. Recently Roosevelt Baseball Field has hosted two minor league exhibition baseball games, and there are hopes for Del Rio to have its own Pecos League professional baseball team in 2012. The baseball field is kept in good condition however the facilities, including the concession stand, rest rooms and bleachers are in need of repair due to the heavy use throughout the year. In order to host a professional baseball team, Roosevelt Baseball Field must be repaired and expanded.

**Pop Word Field** sees a lot of little league action every year. The park surface is kept in good condition, but other amenities are in need of updating. The one water fountain is in need of replacement, as are four of the wooden bleachers. The bleachers are beginning to sag heavily and should be replaced. The restrooms are also in need of repair.

A common complaint among the citizens of Del Rio is the **lack of practice space** for sporting events including pee wee football and little league baseball. Fields designed for football and soccer use will increase the amount of open space for games and practices of various sports, and allow the Del Rio National Little League and Youth Football League room to expand as the City population continues to increase. A proposed softball field will allow more practice area for sporting leagues, as well as an opportunity to create recreational sporting leagues for citizens of all ages. A common request heard by the City of Del Rio Parks and Recreation Department is for an **indoor soccer facility**. Indoor soccer is played on a much smaller court than a regular soccer match and is a much faster game. This facility is not required to be built and played indoors, but a fenced area must be designed for the specific rules of the game. There are many areas at existing City parks that have the ability to be updated into an indoor soccer field. Areas at Rotary Park, American G.I. Forum and Moore Park were noticed to have the ability to house one of these indoor soccer facilities. Finally, the planning committee felt that it was important to emphasize the need for designating and acquiring open space throughout Del Rio to preserve natural areas and allow for future development given the rapid growth predicted over the next ten years.

## **SAN FELIPE CREEK**

San Felipe Creek runs through the heart of Del Rio and attracts both tourists and citizens to its banks. This creek attracted the first settlers to develop this unique region. San Felipe Creek continues to be a popular place where people gather together to swim, relax and hold special events.

During the recent flooding of the past few years, the retaining wall and Creekwalk have become damaged and are causing erosion problems. Temporary actions have been taken to repair these damaged areas and to control the erosion, however this portion of the creek will continue to erode during each large event. This constant erosion calls for the City to design a new Creekwalk system. The San Felipe Creek Commission is currently examining multiple options, including riparian restoration and some other construction improvements, to repair and redesign the San Felipe Creekwalk area. In order to design a long lasting system to benefit the community and attract tourists to Del Rio, proper coordination should continue be taken with the San Felipe Creek Commission, an engineering company and with any necessary governmental agency regarding conservation and preservation of San Felipe Creek.

Due to the size of this proposed project, all available grants and funds through state and federal agencies should be sought.

Another widespread problem of San Felipe Creek is the invasive, non-native Carrizo Cane that lines the banks. This vegetation is taking over the habitat and ecosystem of San Felipe Creek by forcing out the natural vegetation. This lack of natural vegetation poses a threat to the Devil's River Minnow, an endangered species that resides in the creek. The San Felipe Creek Commission has developed a San Felipe Creek Vision Plan with recommendations to alleviate this problem. The City should work with the San Felipe Creek Commission as well as Sul Ross State University to implement these actions to eradicate this vegetative species from the region. By doing this, San Felipe Creek can continue to be the focal area of the recreation of Del Rio. The goals and actions for improving San Felipe Creek are:

- Temporarily repair San Felipe Creekwalk and retaining wall to make safe for public
- Restrict public from damaged sections of Creekwalk if necessary
- Begin communication and plans with engineer to redesign San Felipe Creekwalk
- Apply to various agencies, including Texas Parks and Wildlife, for funding for this project
- Construct new Creekwalk
- Begin actions to eradicate Carrizo Cane from San Felipe Creek

## **PATHWAY CONNECTIONS**

In July 2010, a survey of the existing street system was performed by TRC Engineering, Inc. This street survey included identifying the location of all existing sidewalks throughout the City. These sidewalks were very sparse and the locations varied throughout the city, with the majority surrounding the schools. A trail system development would be an essential part of maintaining and improving the quality of life for current residents, encourage quality business growth and promote tourism.

As part of the Del Rio Parks Master Plan the City will develop trail connections between parks, neighborhoods, schools and high volume business areas. Del Rio's current primary pathway sections are not grouped in a particular layout, rather installed at various parts of the city. The best way to begin the installation of a sidewalk/trail system is to connect the existing sidewalks throughout the city. From this connection, a system of sidewalks can be planned to connect the remaining parts of the city together. In order to create a sustainable, detailed site plan for this system, a more detailed Del Rio Pathways Master Plan should be crafted to determine actual routes, branch pathways, materials, costs and scheduling. Route sections may involve restriping existing roads, expanding road width, widening and extending sidewalks and adding new sections of sidewalks.

## **GATEWAY FEATURES**

Although citywide beautification was not listed as a major priority, members of the planning committee were concerned about Del Rio's appearance to outside visitors as well as the effect of the town's attractiveness on their own quality of life. Enhanced gateway features will be developed at the primary entries of Del Rio. High quality welcoming signs with additional description of Del Rio's uniqueness, such as "Best of the Border", will be displayed. An interesting small park development at these entrances can be functional while serving as a positive image projection for people entering Del Rio.

Informational signage and directional signage throughout the park system should also be improved.

## **PARKS FUNDING**

### **CURRENT FUNDING SOURCES**

Funding of Del Rio parks comes primarily from the City general fund budget.

Though Del Rio may have a limited capital investment for grant matching, matching value for many communities comes in the form of donated labor, material, equipment use, professional design and donated land. The value of non-parkland (prior to funding) can often be used as part of a community's matching share provided that it is not dedicated as park land until after the grant is awarded. The City should develop a careful strategy to accept parkland as required by ordinance, but delay its dedication as parkland until a plan is in place to fund its development.

The planning committee proposes the following changes to allow a greater cost recovery for the Del Rio PARD:

- Establish a Park Land Dedication Ordinance to increase the park land dedication. This will help sustain the additional responsibilities of the department for the new land and development.
- Revise City policy to allow PARD to collect use fees for all special events. The new fees will, at a minimum, cover the cost to PARD for the costs of preparation and clean-up for the events.
- Update contracts with park user groups to more clearly define responsibilities.
- Set appropriate fees.

### **POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES**

Other potential funding sources for future park development, maintenance and operations include:

#### **A. Park Facilities and Development**

- Local contributors (major employers, utilities, individual donations)
- Contributions from other user groups, such as youth leagues and service organizations
- Related programs (crime, education, youth programs), usually funded at the regional or state levels
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Texas Recreation & Parks Account (Outdoor and indoor programs)
- Private foundations and trusts, primarily those within the region
- RC & D, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- City General Fund or Capital Improvements Program
- General Obligation Bonds or Certificates of Obligation
- School district contributions

- Sul Ross State University research grants

## **B. Landscaping and Other Beautification**

- Texas Department of Transportation (along state maintained roadways)
- Texas Forest Service
- Local Garden Clubs

## **C. Donated Labor and Materials**

See Table 5.10 for suggested resources that might provide support for materials and/or labor for park development.

## **D. Other Resources**

Other contacts for information and technical assistance on park and recreation planning, development and programming include various state and federal agencies as well as local universities and those universities with park/recreation programs. Technical assistance and referral may also be available at the Middle Rio Grande Development Council.

- Federal Agencies  
Natural Resources Conservation Service – Department of Agriculture (formerly Soil Conservation Service)
- State Agencies  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Local Planning Assistance Program  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744  
  
Texas Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 13087, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

- Universities  
Sul Ross State University  
Natural Resource Management  
RAS Center Box C-16  
Alpine, Texas 79832

Texas Tech University  
Department of Park Administration  
Lubbock, Texas 79406

University of North Texas  
Division on Recreation & Leisure Studies  
Denton, Texas 76203

Texas A&M University  
Department of Recreation, Park  
and Tourism Sciences  
College Station, Texas 77843

Southwest Texas State University  
Physical Education Department  
Jowers Center  
San Marcos, Texas 78666

- Park and Recreation Organizations

Additional guidance and resources are provided in the [Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines](#), published by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The head office is located at:

National Recreation and Park Association  
22377 Belmont Ridge Road  
Ashburn, Virginia 20148  
Phone: (800) 626-6772

## PRIORITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

The proposed implementation of this plan considers the following important factors to determine facility priorities and project phasing:

- Recreation elements of high need which will also benefit the community desires for increased tourism, city image enhancement and quality business growth
- The master plan concepts for integrated development
- The ranking of recreation elements in the Public Parks Survey
- Other recreation needs identified during the planning process

## PRIORITIZATION

Table 6 shows the final park facilities prioritization:

**Table 6 – Recreation Facilities Needed**

<b>Master Plan Priority</b>	<b>Amenity</b>
1	Swimming Pool
2	Trails (Walking/Jogging/Bicycle)
3	Rest Rooms/Rest Room Improvements
4	Softball Fields
5	Sport Complex and Practice Fields
6	Football Fields
7	Soccer Fields
8	Tennis Courts
9	Open Space
10	Covered Picnic Areas

## IMPLEMENTATION

Refer to previous Concepts section for a detailed description of each of the development items below.

### PHASE I (0-5 YEARS)

Short-term objectives for addressing the goals are outlined in the following five-year strategy of Phase I. These objectives focus primarily on establishing the framework for updating and renovating the existing park system in Del Rio, and conserving the San Felipe Creek area. The City of Del Rio has done a very good job of expanding the existing park system as the population

has increased throughout the years, however many of these existing parks have become poor condition due to constant use. This five year plan will include defining the responsibilities of the Park board and any other park entities, funding, maintenance and renovation plans and coordination among the City, School, San Felipe Creek Commissioners and other recreation entities.

### **Year 1 – 2011-2012**

- Prepare local citizenry, City officials, Chamber of Commerce and other interested parties for the maintenance of current and future recreational facilities.
- Install new lighting where necessary at existing sports and recreational facilities.
- Adopt and begin phase system to renovate and update all existing park facilities to a higher condition utilizing volunteers whenever possible.
- Repair Creekwalk and retaining wall along San Felipe Creek that has eroded and become damaged to a safer standard for citizens. The City should work with the San Felipe Creek Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture to explore multiple options to redesign the entire Creekwalk area to protect against future erosion. Develop a San Felipe Creek renovation project to submit to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for possible grant funding. Submit a grant application to TPWD.
- Finish construction of Carranza Park.
- Seek and establish funding sources for park development and maintenance.

### **Year 2 – 2012-2013**

- Continue to renovate and update all existing park facilities to a higher condition.
- Continue to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service and Sul Ross University in actions to eradicate the non-native vegetation and wildlife species along San Felipe Creek, most notably the Carrizo Cane (*Arundo donax*).
- Establish a conservation and preservation plan for the endangered species Devil's River Minnow.
- Design and construct park at Noriega and Rosita intersection that has been cleared by the City Council for development.
- Redevelop areas in existing park system for use as indoor soccer field facilities.

### **Year 3 – 2013-2014**

- Continue to coordinate with FEMA to determine the allowable use of the FEMA buyout properties along San Felipe Creek. Develop vision plan to utilize the FEMA buyout properties and Riverside Park along San Felipe Creek.
- Identify and develop existing City areas for a softball field and sporting and recreation practice facilities. Consider the FEMA buyout properties as a potential site for these facilities.
- Establish a continuous maintenance program for all existing park facilities in order to protect the investment made in renovating and updating facilities.

#### **Year 4 – 2014-2015**

- Develop a plan to install features to deter vandalism of parks and facilities, such as installing security lights.
- Initiate a citywide beautification program, especially in the downtown area and at the major highway entrances. Enlist the involvement of local historic groups, Main Street Advisory Board, Val Verde County and other interested entities in adding landscaping and small passive park areas (benches, arbors, fountains, etc.), clean-up campaigns and maintenance of existing landscape areas.
- Begin to look for sites for small neighborhood parks, such as City owned lots or tax delinquent lots in areas of development expansion. Continue to develop and install parks along with subdivision development and expansion.
- Develop plan and promote sports and special events such as tournaments, concerts, recreational sports leagues, etc.

#### **Year 5 – 2015-2016**

- Continue planning/acquisition of park and open space areas in Del Rio.
- Begin development of plan to connect existing parks by use of sidewalks and passive park areas.
- Continue preventative maintenance program of existing park facilities and citywide beautification program.
- Conduct a community assessment to determine how the improvements are addressing resident's needs and to update the plan.

#### **PHASE II (6-10 YEARS)**

##### **PLANNING ACTIONS**

- Update the Del Rio Parks Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.
- Coordinate park development and event planning with other community organizations.
- Continue the citizen participation program for development of new parks.
- Approve budget for park development/grant match and added PARD staffing.

##### **DEVELOPMENT**

- Continue expansion of the sidewalk connections.
- Continue repair and maintenance program.
- Develop community or neighborhood parks in areas where the city has expanded and development has occurred.

#### **PHASE III (11+ YEARS)**

##### **PLANNING ACTIONS**

- Update the Del Rio Parks Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

- Continue the citizen participation program, focusing on development efforts of expanding City.

#### DEVELOPMENT

- Neighborhood and mini-park development as opportunities arise throughout the City.
- Upgrade existing parks.
- Continue expansion of the sidewalk connections.