



# Town of Prosper

*2007*  
*PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN*  
*SPACE MASTER PLAN*

January 2007



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*These trees that grow along fence lines between agricultural fields are majestically silhouetted against the open blue sky. This image is characteristic of the rural landscape and open space that Prosper residents value and want to protect.*

*“As a kid I played in the creeks, hunt in the woods and fished in the ponds...  
We will help our children to develop good characters by providing them  
with ample parks, trails and natural areas;  
That way we will prevent the potential for juvenile crime as  
Prosper grows and people live closer together.”*

Charles Niswanger  
Mayor: City of Prosper  
November 2006

# Acknowledgements

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*Dave Turley*  
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## **Prosper Parks and Recreation Board**

*Trent Lewis-Board (Chairman)*  
*Maureen Patin (Board Vice Chairman)*  
*Jan Brown*  
*Amy Drown*  
*Charity Gilson*  
*Loren Moulder*  
*Jeff Stang*  
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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

The Town of Prosper is an attractive town in the northern part of the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex. It is a place that is very desirable to live, work and play. When residents are asked what it is that they like about Prosper, it is invariably the rural character of the Town with ample open space that brought them here in the first place. The country feel is also an extremely important quality of the Town that residents wish to see retained and preserved. In fact, the biggest fear of most residents is the possibility of uncontrolled development that will degrade the Town's quality of life.

Prosper experiences many pressures to develop. However, if development is permitted to occur without consideration for the character and need for open space and pedestrian connections, the quality of life in Prosper will be irreversibly compromised for everyone.

From its open spaces to its long vistas over the flatland of the Blackland Prairie, residents of Prosper feel proud to be part of a community that treasures and seeks to cultivate the health, safety, welfare and image of the Town and its people.

Protected natural areas and well-developed parks are often the first place that visitors view in a community. In fact, parks and open space conservation are one of the most visible elements of a Town government at work, and can instill a strong sense of pride in the residents of a community. A good park and open space system lets both citizens

and visitors know that the leadership of the Town is interested in providing the best for the community.

***“Many community leaders feel they must choose between economic growth and open space protection. But no such choice is necessary. Open space protection is good for a community’s health, stability, beauty, and quality of life. It is also good for the bottom line.”***

Will Rogers, President: Trust for Public Land; 1999.

The leadership of Prosper recognizes that recreation plays an important role in the quality of life in Prosper, and that a strong recreation system provides for a healthier environment, improves the well being of children and young adults, and reduces the potential for crime in the Town. That is also the very reason and purpose of this Parks Master Plan. Commenting on the importance of a quality parks and open space system at a Council Worksession, Mayor Niswanger said: *“As a kid I played in the creeks, hunt in the woods and fished in the ponds.”* He continued: *“We will help our children to develop good characters by providing them with ample parks, trails and natural areas; that way we will prevent the potential for juvenile crime as Prosper grows and people live closer together.”*

In order to do proper planning for parks and recreation in the future, it is essential to understand the demographics of the community. The current population of 5,250 is expected to double in the next 10 years. A population of children and young adults is almost matched by the population of 30 to 59 year olds with 45% and 46% respectively. Well over 60% of the population is adults. On the other hand, children under 15 years of age accounted for 28.9% of all residents for the year 2000. It appears that Prosper is a prosperous place for folks of all ages.

## **1.2 Aim of the Parks Master Plan**

The purpose of this 2007 Prosper Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is to set the stage for future parks and recreation development. The park planning process allows the citizens of Prosper to determine what their preferred park and recreation priorities should be for the next five to ten years.

A “Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan” is exactly what its name indicates: “Parks” typically refer to land dedicated to outdoor areas programmed for “Recreation” which refers to both active and passive recreation activities including ball play, jogging, picnicking, etc. “Open Space” refers to land dedicated for conservation and preservation due to its ecological value, wildlife habitat quality, cultural significance, and its functional role to assist with flood management, etc. Active recreation is typically not the purpose of “Open Space” but is often very valuable for less active activities including bird and wildflower watching, hiking and contemplation. Strategically, dedication of open space can contribute significantly to attaining and preserving a sense of rural character in a town environment.

The importance of open space is often overlooked by a town’s parks department since the concept of open space does not always fit the idea of land programmed for a

particular recreational activity that would require regular landscape maintenance. However, the very reason for it not requiring regular attention can be a great asset, offering outdoors enjoyment, visual pleasure and ecological function at a minimum cost.

The 2007 Parks Master Plan is a tool that:

- Points out opportunities for park development and protection of open space and natural areas;
- Looks at the potential growth of the Town over the next 5 to 10 years, and assess where facilities will be needed as the Town grows, and specify what types of facilities are most needed;
- Prioritizes key recommendations of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan so that the most significant deficiencies are addressed as quickly as possible;
- Guides Town council, staff and Parks Board in acquiring land to meet current and future park and open space needs; and
- Guides Town staff and Town leaders in determining how and where parks funding should be allocated over the next five to ten years.



*This image of agricultural fields, wildflowers and grasses is telling of the rural quality of Prosper.*

### **1.3 Jurisdictional and Planning Area**

At present, the surface area of the Town of Prosper measures 18,134 acres, of which 10,472 acres account for the town proper and 7,662 acres account for the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ).

The Prosper Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is intended to cover all of the Town of Prosper including the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction or ETJ. The Town will consider the recommendations of this plan in future deliberations and decisions.



Figure 1.1 Study Area of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

#### 1.4 Role of the Town of Prosper in Providing Recreational Opportunities

Prosper is the primary governmental entity charged with providing recreational facilities for the citizens of Prosper. Ancillary recreational facilities may be provided by the State of Texas through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Prosper Independent School District, Collin County, Denton County and the various homeowners associations.

The Park Master Plan follows the general guidelines for local park master plans established by TPWD. This document also is intended to meet the requirements of the Department of Interior for the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program.

#### 1.5 Parks Master Plan Timeframe

The 2007 Prosper Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is formulated to address the time frame from the year 2007 until the year 2017.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department requires that the Town's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan be completely updated after a ten year period or before if any major developments occur which significantly alter the recreation needs of the Town. In addition, an annual review workshop by the Prosper Parks and Recreation Board and Parks and Recreation Department staff will be conducted to review progress over the previous year. Bi-annual updates by Town staff will be prepared by the Parks and Recreation staff of Prosper or on a more frequent basis if special needs or occurrences require modifications to the plan. In all cases, public involvement through citizen meetings, interviews, and workshops will be included in any updating process.

**1.6 Parks Master Plan Components**

This master plan includes all components to meet the requirements of Park Master Plans as established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (see Figure 1.2 below).

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1. Introduction</b> Aim of the Parks Master Plan Jurisdiction and Planning Area Planning and Implementation Entity Parks Master Plan Timeframe</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2. Context</b> Town Image and Unique Physical Features History of Prosper Economy and Demographic Profile</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3. Existing Parks Inventory</b> Parks Classification Park Acreage Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4. Park System Goals</b> Goals Terminology Purpose of the 2007 Parks Master Plan Key Goals and Objectives for the Master Plan</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5. Public Input</b> Public Input Citizen Attitude Survey Public Meetings Input from Health and Safety Fair</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7. Master Plan Recommendations</b> Achieving Uniqueness and Quality Town Policy Land Acquisition Park Development Development of Recreation Facilities Park Improvements</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8. Implementation Plan</b> Action Plan Funding Strategies Policies and Ordinances Operation and Maintenance Marketing Opportunities</p>

Figure 1.2 Components of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan



## 2. Town Context

### 2.1 Introduction

The recreational needs of a community are intrinsically linked to the context that shapes the community. This includes the physical characteristics of the Town, the history of the Town, the local economy, the demographics and population projections. Recreation itself constitutes an integral part of the community and, as such, is key to the success and health of the entire Town.

### 2.2 Town Image and Unique Physical Features

The physical features of a Town determine its visual character and the way in which it is experienced. However it is the manner in which such features are celebrated, protected and respected by the community that determines the Town's image and differentiates one town from another.

For the Town of Prosper it is found in both cultural and natural features including the grain silos, rural landscapes, open space and creeks. A closer look at each of the elements that contribute to Prosper's unique image reveals the following:

#### Grain Silos

The approach to the Town of Prosper from the south is unique while viewing the high lying land to the north and the silos at the edge of the flatlands that stretches to the west. This view is emphasized from Preston Road where it is raised over Highway 380. The grain silos complex is an important part of history and refers to the Town's agricultural

past AND present. The size and physical appearance of the silos create a strong visual reference from the surrounding areas. In addition, the silos provide the opportunity for education and a main destination along a future trail system along the rail road. Being one of the most identity giving elements of the entire Town, it is prudent to exercise the utmost effort to protect not only the silos, but also the view towards them. With careful planning, the future tollway extension will capture this compelling view towards the silos even stronger. The grain silos are on private property and a private/public partnership or agreement may be necessary to secure the protection of these silo structures for the future.



*The silos of Prosper are representative of the Town's past AND present commerce, industry, agriculture and transportation with its direct link to the bypassing railroad.*



*Prosper's silos create a strong focal point and forms an important landmark within the community. In addition it sets off the view towards the Blackland flats in the distance and beyond.*

### Rural Landscapes and Open Space:

Agricultural activity and natural landscapes characterize Prosper especially from downtown and the Burlington Northern railway road towards the west. Large areas of land are still unspoiled by development. Such landscapes are fast vanishing from the urban environment. Yet, it is when such landscapes are offset by sensitive development that their real beauty is revealed.

During the public participation process the citizens of Prosper consistently emphasized the fact that the rural character of the Town is loved and cherished. People move to Prosper for its open space, which protection should be an important goal of the Town.



*The windmill and earth colored water tank, represent a link to the Town of Prosper's agriculture past AND present. Town dwellers found such images compelling and will go at lengths to experience such a scene. Recognizing this, the Prosper community chose the image of a windmill for the Town logo.*

### Creeks, Streams and Floodplains

The creeks in Prosper have tremendous aesthetical and recreational appeal including the excitement of running water, the peacefulness of quiet flowing water, the sound of water rushing or trickling down its course, the sounds and movements of birds and animals associated with the water and large mature trees that provide welcome shade to hikers. Ecologically the linear configuration of creeks makes them extremely valuable as landscape corridors for wildlife. Animals and birds move up and down these corridors for their protection and to forage. Recognizing the ecological value of creeks leads to better management and the opportunity for education and various "nature experiences."



*What is seen today as a relatively small stream can become a wide expanse of water during times of high rainfall. By its very nature creeks are dynamic and require a corridor within which it can migrate from side to side within the boundaries of the 100 year floodplain. Protection of the entire floodplain including a protection buffer is thus a wise strategy as an insurance against potential flood damage.*



*Creek corridors form an extremely important habitat niche for specialized plant, animal and bird species and add to the educational experience along creeks. In fact, creek corridors are often the best places for bird watching.*

The floodplain is the area along the creek system that is defined by the 100-year flood line. Being periodically flooded, the area is typically unsuited for permanent buildings. The rich soil of the floodplain area is ideal for agriculture. In addition it has huge value for recreation and open space use. Aesthetically it is pleasing with long vistas and structures offset by the expanse of the open space. Ecologically floodplains are important habitat for bird and animal life. From a health point of view, the vegetation covered edge of a floodplain acts as a vitally important buffer to bio-filtrate pollutants deriving from non-point source pollution including oil from roads and chemicals from lawns and agricultural fields.

Prosper's creek system consists of two main creeks Doe branch in the west and Wilson Creek in the east side of Town. Doe Branch runs from north to south in which four major tributaries enter the main stream over a distance of about 2 miles all within Prosper. The short distance within which these tributaries enter Doe Branch makes this area extremely important from an ecologically diverse, recreationally rich and economically vulnerable point of view. Wilson Creek is fed by Gentle Creek that runs northwest to southeast through Prosper and the tributary Rutherford Branch that runs southwest to northeast before it connects with Wilson Creek just east of Prosper. The undulating topography, through which these creeks run, makes them aesthetically attractive and physically interesting.

The nature of creek and drainage systems is that they are linear and thus ideal corridors for activities like hiking, jogging and biking.

### **2.3 *Brief History of Prosper***

The current Town of Prosper is located in western Collin County and eastern Denton County in what is known as the Blackland Prairie, a wide swath of the landscape running from the Texas coast all the way to Manitoba, dominated in the uplands by tallgrass and bottomland deciduous forests near creeks and streams. Grazing animals such as buffalo and intermittent wildfires allowed this ecosystem to remain free of any invasive species of trees, leaving behind only rolling prairies in the time before European settlement in the 1800's. Once here, settlers found it possible to subsist on this land, hunting animals such as hogs, quail, deer, and prairie chickens for food. Settlers built log cabins, and filled mattresses with feathers and straw. For recreation and social interaction, groups gathered for a house or barn raising, picnic after church on Sundays and quilting parties. The men particularly enjoyed hunting, fishing, horse-racing, wild horse and steer riding contests and rabbit chasing with greyhounds.

Preston Road was slated for construction in the 1840's, providing a linkage from the Red River, following the Preston Ridge in western Collin County, passing through where Prosper would later be located, and continuing all the way to Dallas. This route was part of the Shawnee Trail.

Originally in 1859, most of this land had been set aside by the State of Texas for the educational system, but in 1876 County Courts ordered small tracks of land (approximately 160 acres in size) to be established for quick sale. As it turned out, the landscape here was particularly good for farming, and it began to be occupied for this

purpose. One of the people to arrive in the early days of settlement was Dr. A.T. Bryant, who was able to buy most of the land in what would later become Prosper.

Expecting to profit from their inside knowledge of the Saint Louis and San Francisco Railroad coming through the area, the Blackland Townsite Company purchased land for resale near the proposed stop on the line. However, Dr. Bryant had already purchased land on the higher side of Prosper and was selling it to homeowners who preferred to stay dry. Frustrated that no one was buying their land, the Blackland Townsite Company built a barbed wire fence around their property, but with the discovery of residents cutting the fence down regularly, they decided to take it down once and for all.

Between 1850 and 1902 two communities established: two miles to the south of the current Town of Prosper was Rock Hill, presumably named after the white rock escarpment there, and one mile to the north was Richland. With the establishment of the railroad depot in March of 1902, residents and businesses from Rock Hill and Richland merged to form the Town of Prosper. Later, when applying for a post office with the name of Richland, Postmaster Naugle declined that choice of name, as it was already in use. At the suggestion of J.C. Slaughter, recalling the prosperous nature of that year's crops, the town name was recorded as "Prosper".



*Image of the historic downtown of the Town of Prosper.*

It was 1914 when the town was officially incorporated, having a population of 500. U.N. Clary served as the Mayor of Prosper for the next 49 years. As a result of the Great Depression, Prosper's population dwindled to 271 in 1940 and continued to decrease into the 1950's, and it was not until 1970 when it finally surpassed its former high point, reaching 501. Living up to its name, only 20 years after its incorporation, the Town of Prosper provided services such as electricity, natural gas and water. Furthermore, it boasted paved roads, a high school, a bank plus twenty-five businesses serving approximately 400 residents.

Withstanding the impacts of war and the Great Depression, Prosper began to flourish with the mechanization of agriculture and the introduction of light industry.

As the DFW Metroplex rapidly grew throughout the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it ushered in a revival of the Town of Prosper. By 1980, Prosper had 675 residents, and in the next 20 years grew to over 2,000 with hundreds of businesses and families.

*Sources:*

*Hays, Bill. Prosper, Texas: Its History and Families.*

*Minor, David. "Prosper, Texas." The Handbook of Texas Online.*

*The Town of Prosper, Texas. "Prosperous Beginnings." City of Prosper Website.*

<http://www.prospertx.gov/hx/hx.htm>

## **2.4 Economy and Demographic Profile of Prosper**

A key part of the master planning process is to understand the size and the characteristics of the population to be served.

The population of Prosper has grown dramatically with during the last number of years, which potentially has far reaching impacts on the ability of the Town of Prosper to provide adequate services and amenities. The expected growth between 2007 and 2017 is a 100% population increase or doubling of the population. Considering the expected huge influx of new residents, it is the purpose of this Parks Master Plan to ensure that the current and future demand for parks and recreational facilities is sufficiently met.

The 2007 population of Prosper is estimated at 5,250. For planning purposes, the population estimate for the year 2017, which is the end of the ten-year planning period for the Parks Master Plan, is 15,000.

Prosper at the year 2000 presents an ethnically homogenous profile with more than 91% White or Caucasian residents. From the most recent 2000 census data, children make up 28.9% of the population and youths to young adults 16.5%. Adults from 30 to 44 years of age make up 30.4% of the population and adults between 45 and 59 make up 15.9% of the community. Those residents 60 years and older make up 8.3% of the population, less than a third of the population whose age is 15 and younger. With children to young adults constituting 45.4% and 30 to 59 year olds combined to make up 46.3% of the community, Prosper's population can be expressed as a fairly balanced bell curve. This suggests that the community is thriving indeed, and is an attractive place to call home for residents of all ages. An important place for children now, in just 10 to 15 years time they will become Prosper's new adults. The young adults today who start families will bring a new generation of grandchildren to Prosper's older residents. Doubtless, there is need to plan for children. In the meantime, conservatively, upwards of 60% of Prosper are adults. Therefore, at present the adult population is the largest group with immediate recreation needs.

Projections and demographic characteristics contained in this section are derived from NCTCOG estimate adjusted from 2000 Census count and the Town of Prosper State of the Town 2004 Report.

### Population

The Town of Prosper's current and projected populations for purposes of this Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan are as follows:

Table 2.1 Prosper Population 1960-2005							
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1990-2000*	2005**
Prosper	344	501	675	1,018	2,097	105.99%	3,800
Collin County	41,247	66,920	144,576	264,036	491,675	86.22%	

\*Data source: <http://www.nctcog.org/ris/census/reports/decadereport.pdf>

\*\* State of the Town 2004 Report; Town of Prosper

### Projected Population

Table 2.2 Prosper's Projected Population*							
	2007	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Build-out Population**
Population	5,250	8,000	10,500	17,000	25,500	40,000	89,900
The 2012 and 2017 population is projected at 11,000 and 15,000 respectively based on current growth trends.							

\*State of the Town 2004 Report; Town of Prosper

\*\*Comprehensive Master Plan (rounded to the closest 100)

### Age of the Population

Prosper is dominated by an adult population, as shown in Table 2.3 below:

Table 2.3 Year 2000 Age Characteristics*	
Age	Percentage
Under 15 years	28.9%
15 – 29 years	16.5%
30 – 44 years	30.4%
45 – 59 years	15.9%
60 years and over	8.3%
Median Resident Age	33 years of age

\*State of the Town 2004 Report; Town of Prosper

**Racial Characteristics**

Table 2.4 Racial Characteristics – Year 2000*	
Race	Percentage
White	91.3%
Black or African American	0.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.8%
Asian	0.8%
Some Other Race	2.9%
Two or More Races	3.3%

\* Data source: <http://www.nctcog.org/ris/census/>

**Education in Prosper**

The educational attainment of persons in Prosper (25 years and older) during 2000 is as follows:

Table 2.5 Prosper Education Attainment 2000*	
	Percentage
High school Diploma	24.5%
Bachelor's degree	24.0%
Graduate or professional degree	9.7%

\* Data source: <http://www.nctcog.org/ris/census/>

**Housing**

Table 2.6 Prosper Housing Information	
Average household size 2000*	3.38
Median Family Income 2000**	\$64,000
Average Home Price 2004*	\$242,300

\*State of the Town 2004 Report; Town of Prosper

\*\*<http://www.nctcog.org/ris/census/>

**Labor and Employment**

Table 2.7 Prosper Labor Force 2000*	
Occupation of Employed Civilian Population	Percentage
Management, professional, and related occupations	43.8%
Service occupations	12.0%

Sales and office occupations	23.5%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	0.7%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	9.7%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	10.4%

\*Data source: <http://www.nctcog.org/ris/census/>

**Table 2.8  
Prosper Industries 2000\***

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	2.3%
Construction	11.1%
Manufacturing	14.7%
Wholesale trade	4.0%
Retail trade	10.7%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	3.4%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	8.6%
Information	5.2%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	15.1%
Educational, health and social services	14.0%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	3.7%
Other services (except public administration)	4.0%
Public administration	3.3%

\*Data source: <http://www.nctcog.org/ris/census/>

**Table 2.9  
Worker Classification in Prosper 2000**

<b>Class of Worker</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Private wage and salary workers	80.6%
Government worker	11.0%
Self-employed workers in own not-incorporated business	8.5%

\*Data source: <http://www.nctcog.org/ris/census/>



## 3. Existing Parks

### 3.1 Introduction

The Town of Prosper has four developed neighborhood parks that are dedicated to the provision of outdoor recreation facilities. These parks range in size from the 4 acres Main Street Park to the 21 acres Pecan Grove Park. The total acreage of all developed parks serving the citizens of Prosper exceeds 53 acres. Land dedicated to parks that are currently undeveloped totals about 14 acres and includes one neighborhood park and four linear parks. (See: **Existing Parks Map** on Page 3-2 a) on which a service radius of one-half mile is depicted for each neighborhood park.)

**Purpose of the Existing Parks and Open Space Inventory** - A key part of the park planning process is to understand what park and open space facilities are currently available, and to assess the current condition of those facilities and whether or not they are addressing the current park and open space needs of the Town. By comparing the available park facilities with the number of people that the parks system serves, the need for new or improved recreational facilities can be determined.

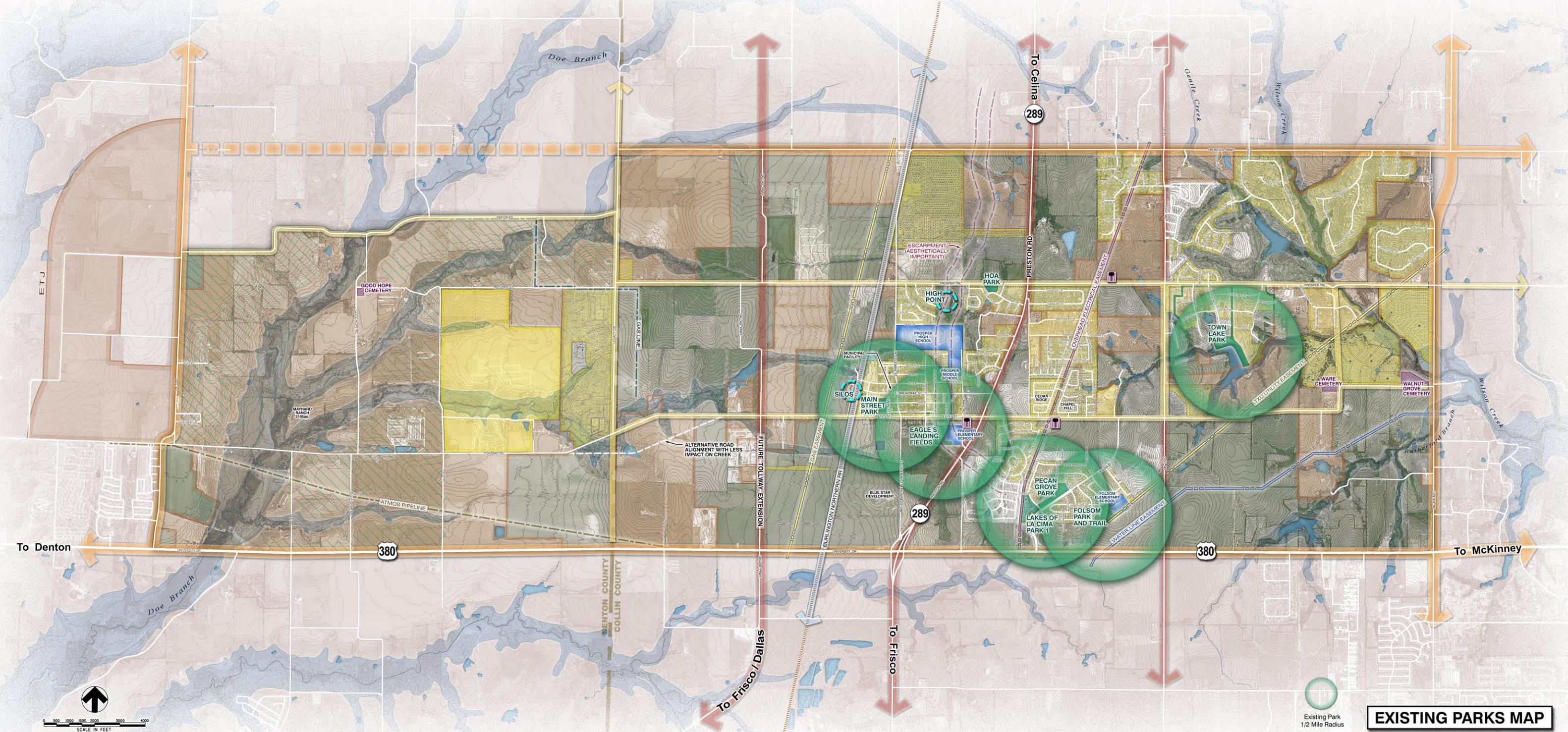
**Components of the Existing Parks Inventory** - This “inventory” of existing parks reviews several aspects of each park in the Prosper system. These are:

- **Classification:** What is the purpose of a given park? Is it intended to serve a local neighborhood around it, giving children and young adults a place to play? Is it intended to serve a much larger population, providing fields for organized league play? How was the park originally classified, and is that classification still warranted today? The answers to these questions determine whether a park should be classified as a neighborhood park, a community park, a special purpose park, a regional park or a linear park.

- **Location:** Where is the park located in relation to the population that it serves? Is it accessible?
- **Service Area:** What are the limits of the area served by each park? Are there any major thoroughfares or physical features that create barriers to accessing the park?
- **Size of the Park:** How big is the park? Is it large enough to adequately accomplish its intended purpose?
- **Facilities in each Park:** What does the park contain? Are the facilities appropriate for the type of park? For example, a ball field complex requiring a large amount of parking should not be contained in a neighborhood park, where the noise, traffic and nighttime lighting create a nuisance for residents of that neighborhood.
- **Layout:** Is the arrangement of facilities in each park appropriate?
- **Condition of the Park:** What is the general condition of the facilities in each park?
- **Special Considerations:** Does the park provide facilities for the physically challenged that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act?

These issues are reviewed for each of the existing parks in the Prosper parks system. This inventory is developed from on-site reviews of each individual park by the Planning Team and assessments conducted by Town staff.

*The **Existing Parks Map** on the next page depicts each existing park in Prosper including a service radius of ½ mile for each park.*



**EXISTING PARKS MAP**

# TOWN OF PROSPER – PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN



Table 3.1  
City of Prosper Parks Master Plan



# Existing Park and School Facilities

Park / School	Acres		Baseball Fields (Lighted - Competitive)	Softball Fields (Lighted - Competitive)	Softball Fields (Practice)	Basketball Goals	Soccer/Football Fields (Lighted - Competitive)	Backstops	Multi-purpose Practice Fields (S&F)	Exercise Course	Multi-purpose Courts	Hike/Bike Trails (feet)	Equestrian Trails (feet)	Playground(Units)	Fishing Pier	Natural Area	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts (sand)	Lap Pool	Slides	Diving Boards	Slide/Wade Pool	Picnic Shelters	Pavilions	Picnic Units	BBQ Grills	Benches	Bleachers	Drinking Fountains	Foot Bridges	Lakes or Water in Park	Adjacent to Creek	Concession Bldgs.	Restroom Facilities	Portable Restrooms		
	(Dev.)	(Undev.)																																			
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>																																					
			← Active Facilities →														Aquatic				Passive Facilities						Infrastructure										
Main Street Park	4.10		2			2																		2		2			4					1			
Eagles Landing Fields	9.50			1			1	1	1			2200																									
Pecan Grove Park	21.50											3200		1	1											3		3									
Folsom Park		13.7				2.0						1100												1	1	2		2									
Town Lake Park	18.30											1300	1000			1									1												
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>53.40</b>	<b>13.70</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7800</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Linear Parks</b>																																					
			← Active Facilities →														Aquatic				Passive Facilities						Infrastructure										
Chapel Hill / Cedar Ridge												1100																									
La Cima Trails												1400																									
La Cima Sidewalk enhancements												1000																									
Whispering Farm												8300	8300																								
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11800</b>	<b>8300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>City Wide</b>	<b>53.40</b>	<b>13.70</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19600</b>	<b>9300</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Schools*</b>																																					
			← Active Facilities →														Aquatic				Passive Facilities						Infrastructure										
Rucker Elementary School																1																					
Folsom Elementary School																2																					
Prosper Middle School (Jr. High)																																					
Prosper High School																																					
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>City Wide Total</b>	<b>53.40</b>	<b>13.70</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19600</b>	<b>9300</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Cemeteries</b>																																					
			← Active Facilities →														Aquatic				Passive Facilities						Infrastructure										
Good Hope Cemetery																																					
Walnut Grove Cemetery																																					
Ware Cemetery																																					
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

\* Only the school facilities that are available to general public use are accounted for.

### 3.2 Park Classification

National and state guidelines identify three broad categories of parks:

**Local, Close to Home Space** is usually located within the community served by the facility, which includes neighborhood parks and community parks. Aiming to provide trail connections to all residents, trails and in some instances, linear parks, may also be considered Close to Home Space.

**Regional Space** is usually located within an hour or two driving distance. Parks in this category serve a number of communities, and include regional metropolitan parks and regional parks and/or nature preserves.

**Unique Space** may be either local or regional in nature. These parks can be defined as areas that are unique in some way, whether because of physical features or because of the types of facilities provided. Parks in this category may include linear parks, special use parks, or land conservancies.

“Close to home parks” is the most important category and is of the greatest immediate concern to the Town of Prosper. Close to home parks address day to day facilities for all ages and activities, and are usually within walking or driving distance from where we live. The two close to home park types currently existing in Prosper are:

- Neighborhood parks e.g. Pecan Grove Park
- Community parks (none in Prosper at this time)

A description of the general types of parks included in the Prosper parks system follows:

#### **Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood parks provide the foundation for recreation in the **Local, Close to Home** park system. Ideally, they provide facilities and recreation space for the entire family, but are within easy walking or bicycling distance of the people they serve.

The neighborhood park typically serves one large or several smaller neighborhoods. The ideal neighborhood park in Prosper, generally 5 to 10 acres in size, should serve no more than 3,000 to 4,000 residents per park. In Prosper, Town Lake Park is a good example of a neighborhood park.

- Neighborhood parks should be accessible to residents who live within a one-half mile radius of the park. Ideally neighborhood park facilities should be located within a quarter mile radius of the residents who will use those facilities.

- Neighborhood parks are frequently located adjacent to elementary and middle schools, so as to share acquisition and development costs with the school district. In addition, adjacencies of park and school grounds allow for joint use and sharing of facilities. It also lends itself to the community's involvement with the school grounds and vice versa. This often leads to a synergistic result that adds to the quality of life for everyone.
- Neighborhood parks are generally located away from major arterial streets and provide easy access for the users that surround it. A neighborhood park should be accessible without having to cross major arterial streets.

**Size** - The size of a neighborhood park may vary considerably due to the physical location of the park and condition of the site. An ideal size for neighborhood parks in Prosper should be five acres and more. Of existing developed and undeveloped neighborhood parks in Prosper only Main Street Park is smaller than five acres.

**Location** - If possible, neighborhood parks should be centrally located in neighborhoods they serve. An ideal location, for example, is adjacent to an elementary school. In Prosper the neighborhood parks Folsom Park and Eagle's Landing Fields are located next to an elementary school. Neighborhood parks should be accessible to pedestrian traffic from all parts of the area served, and should be located adjacent to local or minor collector streets which do not allow high-speed traffic.

**Facilities** - Facilities generally located in neighborhood parks may include the following:

- Playground equipment with adequate safety surfacing around the playground
- Unlighted multi-purpose practice fields for baseball, soccer, football, softball, etc.
- Unlighted tennis courts
- Unlighted basketball goals
- Active areas for unorganized play
- Picnic areas with benches, picnic tables and cooking grills
- Shaded pavilions and gazebos
- Jogging and exercise trails
- Security lighting

Restrooms are typically not provided in neighborhood parks due to their construction cost, intensive maintenance required and being prone to vandalism. Generally neighborhood parks are within easy walking distance to homes.

**Parking** - Should vary based on the size of the park and facilities provided. A minimum of seven spaces per neighborhood park is recommended with an additional two handicapped parking spaces. This calculation is based on the recommendation of 5 spaces for the first three acres, and 1 space for each additional acre. However the exact amount of parking needed will vary based on the size of the park, the facilities it contains and the number of users. Based on the carrying capacity and purpose of adjacent streets, on-street parking should count towards the parking spaces provided.

Figure 3.1 on the following page illustrates a typical neighborhood park and some of the elements that the park might contain. Note that this is simply a typical arrangement, and each neighborhood park should be designed as a unique part of the neighborhood that surrounds it.

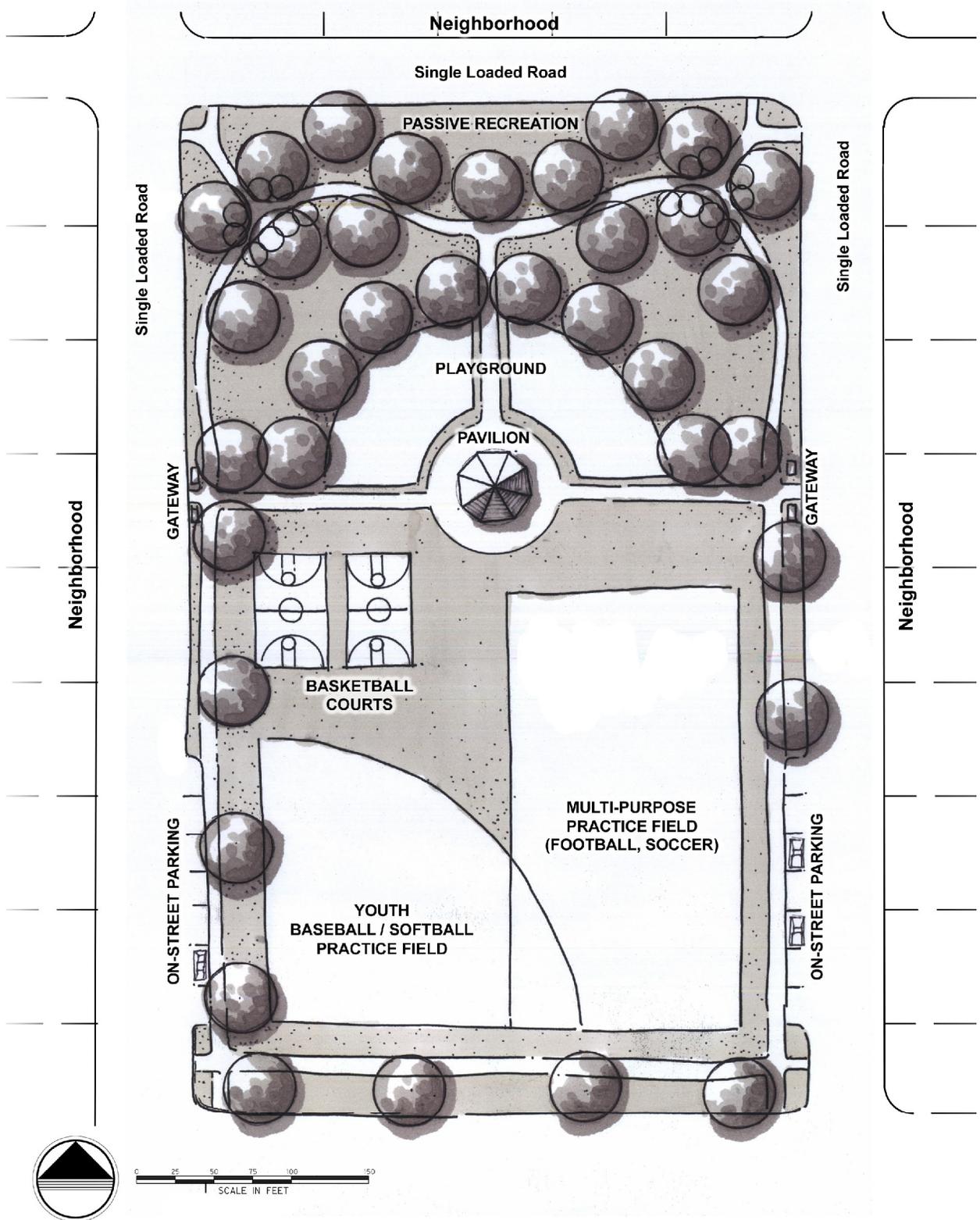


Figure 3.1 Typical Neighborhood Park

### **Community Parks**

Community parks are larger parks that serve a group of neighborhoods or a portion of a Town. Community parks are usually reached by automobile, although residents adjacent to the park and trail users may walk or cycle to it. A variety of recreational facilities are provided, including in some cases, lighted playing fields for organized sports, hike/bike trails and sufficient parking to accommodate participants, spectators, and other park users. Prosper has no community parks at present.

**Size** – The typical community park should be large enough so it can provide a variety of facilities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation and natural areas. The park should also have room for expansion, as new facilities are required. A typical community park varies in size from 20 acres to over 50 acres.

**Location** – Community parks should be located near a major thoroughfare to provide easy access from different parts of the Town. Because of the potential for noise and bright lights at night, community parks should be buffered from adjacent residential areas.

**Facilities** – Facilities generally located in community parks may include:

- Play equipment
- Active free play areas
- Picnic areas and pavilion(s)
- Restrooms
- Jogging, bicycle or nature trails
- Lighted ball fields, suitable for organized competitive events
- Lighted multi-purpose practice fields
- Recreation center (if appropriate)
- Sufficient off-street parking based on facilities provided and size of park
- Security lighting
- Other facilities as needed which can take advantage of the unique characteristics of the site, such as nature trails or fishing adjacent to ponds, swimming pools, amphitheaters etc.

**Parking** – This varies based on the facilities provided and the size of park. It is recommended that a minimum of five spaces per active use acre be provided. However, the specific amount of parking provided in each park should be determined by the type of facilities provided in that park. In order to offset the surface water runoff and pollution from large areas of parking, it is recommended that serious consideration be given to permeable paving combined with shade trees and bioswales.

Figure 3.2 on the following page illustrates a typical community park and some of the elements that the park might contain. Note that this is simply a typical arrangement, and each community park should be designed according to the specific needs of the community.

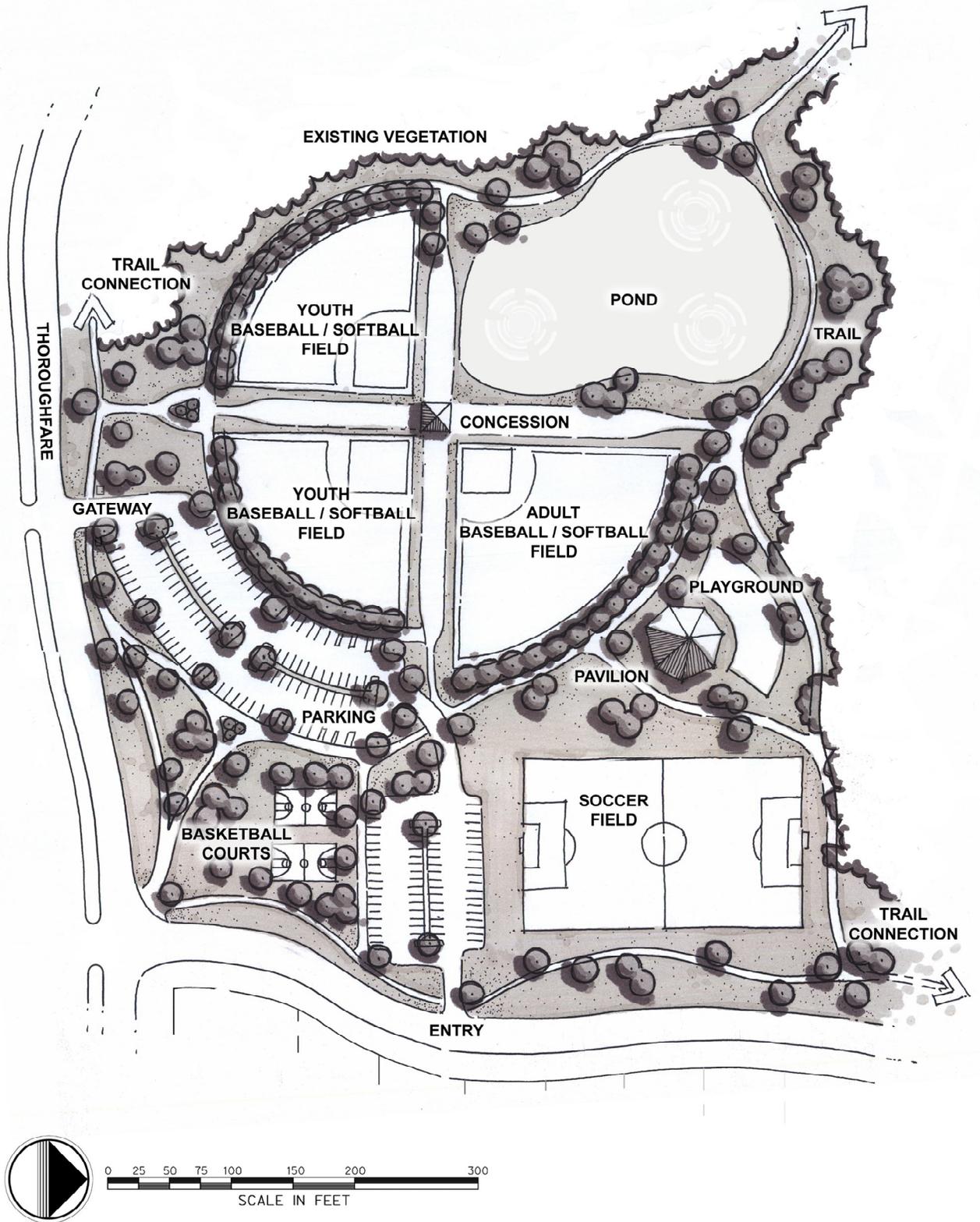


Figure 3.2 Typical Community Park

### ***Linear Parks including Hike and Bike Trails***

Linear parks are open park areas that generally follow some natural or man-made feature that is linear in nature, such as creeks, abandoned railroad rights-of-way or power line or utility corridor easements. Properly developed to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel, these parks can serve to link or connect other parks in the local system, as well as schools, libraries, and other major destinations. No specific standards apply to linear/linkage parks other than to be large enough to adequately accommodate the resources they follow. They can also serve as linear greenbelts, which preserve open space.

As a means to alternative transportation choices and connections throughout the Town, the purpose of an effective trail system is to provide each resident easy and walking distance access to a Town wide network of trails.

Four different sites are at present dedicated to linear parks to be developed in the future.

### ***Special Purpose Parks***

Special purpose parks are designed to accommodate specialized recreational activities. Because the facility needs for each activity type are different, each special purpose park usually provides for one or a few activities. Examples of special purpose parks include:

- Golf courses
- Athletic fields or complexes
- Nature centers
- Nature preserves
- Recreation centers
- Swimming pool centers
- Tennis complexes
- Dog parks
- Skate parks
- Cemeteries

Athletic complexes and golf courses with appropriate public access are the most common types of special purpose parks. Athletic complexes seek to provide fields for organized play in a location that can accommodate the traffic and noise that a large number of users can generate. Evening activities at athletic fields necessitate lights that become a nuisance factor when too close to residential areas. Wide buffers around athletic complexes or their location adjacent to retail and industrial areas are typically considered as mitigation measures. Athletic complexes should include sufficient fields so that leagues can congregate at one facility and not have to spread out in different locations. At present Prosper has no Special Purpose Parks.

### ***Regional Parks***

The term Regional Parks refer to land that is dedicated as parkland due to its regional importance and relevance. This may be due to its natural characteristics including habitat, geological formations, and/or aesthetic beauty. Other reasons may be the role

that the particular site plays in issues of regional importance: for example, water conservation and flood protection. The size of a regional park can vary from small to large, depending on the purpose and character of the site.

### ***Pocket Parks***

Pocket parks are de-facto special purpose parks. They are typically small green gathering spaces ranging from 1/8 acre to 2 acre. Due to the size of this type of park, parking is typically not provided. Therefore, pocket parks are accessed by pedestrian and bicycle means. Benches, fountains, landscaping, and other focal features are common items found in these parks. Size is not the key factor of the typical pocket park, but rather the quality of the landscaping and features that go into the park. Due to excessive maintenance that pocket parks often require, many cities do not pursue pocket parks. However, certain landmarks or unique features often demand some open space dedicated around it, in which case pocket parks will fulfill the role.

### **3.3 *Size of the Park System in Prosper***

The parks system in Prosper includes four Town-owned developed parks totaling almost 54 acres of land. An additional 14 acres of undeveloped land are dedicated to future parks. Table 3.1 summarizes the existing recreation facilities contained in the parks in Prosper.

#### ***Neighborhood Parks in Prosper***

Prosper has four developed neighborhood parks that constitute a total of almost 54 acres. Land acquired by the Town and dedicated to future neighborhood parks totals about 14 acres.

#### ***Community Parks in Prosper***

Prosper has no community parks at present.

#### ***Special Purpose Parks in Prosper***

Prosper has no special purpose parks at present.

#### ***Linear Parks in Prosper***

Prosper has four undeveloped linear parks.

#### ***Regional Parks in Prosper***

Prosper has no regional parks at present.

#### ***Pocket Parks in Prosper***

Prosper has no pocket parks at present.

#### ***School Parks in Prosper***

The information of school grounds and recreation facilities available to Prosper residents and provided by the Prosper Independent School District (PISD) is provided in Table 3.1. The joint use agreement between the Town and the Prosper Independent School District (PISD) provides for access and use by Prosper resident of playgrounds on Elementary School campuses and tennis courts at the High School and Middle School.

### ***Cemeteries in Prosper***

Prosper contains three cemeteries; namely, Good Hope, Walnut Grove and Ware Cemetery all of which are privately owned and operated. Cemeteries are typically not counted towards park acreage, especially in Prosper where they are not managed or maintained by the Prosper Parks and Recreation Department. However, cemeteries play an important part in defining the culture and history of a community as well as providing a sense of open space, specifically from a visual point of view.

### ***Small Private Parks in Prosper***

Prosper contains a few parks maintained by home owner associations. Although all parks and open space contribute to the need for such space in a Town, private parks are not available for use by the general public and may therefore not count towards park land available in the Town of Prosper.

### ***Privately Owned Land Dedicated to Open Space and Land Preservation***

A future contributor of privately owned land dedicated to land preservation may include residential developments that set aside open space as an amenity by means of “conservation development.” Such development concentrates the bulk of the land around dedicated communal open space with dwelling sites located to gain views of a unique natural feature superior in its totality to what each dwelling site would otherwise afford in a typical, checkerboard division layout, which basically treats all land alike. Conservation development succeeds not only in preserving the environment: it also succeeds financially for the developer, resident and town by decreasing the cost for providing services, reducing road construction cost and, moreover, increasing the property value and desirability of each dwelling unit. Not unlike a golf course estate, the open space in conservation development is unprogrammed and naturally maintained land, similar to a nature preserve.

It is important to note that privately owned land dedicated to open space and land preservation is typically not open to the public and does not count towards the acreage dedicated by the Town to parkland. However with a stipulation that such land be accessible to the general public for activities like hiking, bicycling, bird watching, wild flower viewing and other non-intrusive activities, such land may be included in the Town’s inventory of open space and park land.

## **3.4 Description of Developed and Undeveloped Parks**

Table 3.1 includes a summary of park acreage and park facilities per individual park as well as per individual school.

***Table 3.1: Existing Park and School Facilities*** on the next page describes each park in the Town of Prosper in terms of park acreage, category, status of development, available facilities and infrastructure, as well as the school facilities available for the use of Prosper residents.

## **Developed Parks**



**Eagles Landing Fields**

**Neighborhood Park**

**Address:** South Craig Road  
**Size of Park:** 9.5 Acres

This park is largely defined by the adjacent Prosper Elementary school on the eastern side and a church on the western side. This is fortunate as it allows for joint use of park and parking facilities by school children, parents and members of the church community. The park is further defined by the dense forest to the south that provides a green backdrop to the park and a special sense of place being at a lower level than the ball fields. The park contains a number of ball fields and a trail along its edges with seating benches. The easily accessible children’s playground on the property of the Prosper ISD is open for public use according to a joint use agreement, but may not be true for the school basketball courts. The basketball court and playground on the church property benefits from the feeling of openness towards the park but is typically not available for public use.

The park has no sense of arrival or organization. It requires a dedicated gateway, a pavilion, walkways and trees to provide shade and visual interest. The solid wooden fences along the north edge of the park exude a sense of unfriendliness and isolation.

**Existing Facilities**

- 1 x lighted league soccer/football field
- 1 x practice softball field
- 1 x multi-purpose practice field
- 2,200 feet hike and bike trail

### **Recommended Park Improvements**

The following improvements are recommended for Eagles Landing Fields:

- Consider the acquisition of the forested area to the south to enlarge the park with shaded trail extensions among the trees.
- If additional land can not be secured, make a concerted effort to retain the tree skyline to the south by establishing a wide 300 feet plus buffer between the park and potential future development.
- Require the installation of transparent metal fencing along the park's northern edge to add visibility and informal surveillance of the park.
- Prepare and implement a design plan for the park that incorporates additional shaded children's play areas, walkways, jogging trails, picnic amenities, a multi-tier roof pavilion and a park sign and entryway.
- Implement an annual tree planting program, according to the design plan, to provide many shade trees which will also add visual interest to the park.
- Place preference on the application of native plantings including trees, wildflowers and grasses.
- Implement an integrated fertility and pest management program to minimize reliance on chemicals and pesticides, and to maximize field conditions, plant health and safety; place preference on the use of naturally fertile compost and protective mulch.



*Twelve year old boys practicing their football kicks.*



*Prosper Sport Association little league soccer match at Eagles Landing Fields.*



*The dense forest to the south of the park provides an important green backdrop to the park; a buffer of 300 feet plus between the park and potential future development is recommended for the protection of the trees and forest.*



*Undercover school basketball courts.*



*The school play units are seen against the park's lighted ball fields and trail.*



*The park's adjacency to the church adds additional value to the park as a destination for the community.*



*The park bench is well situated against the forested back drop along the trail on the edge of the ball fields.*



<b>Main Street Park</b>	<b>Neighborhood Park</b>
<b>Address:</b> Main Street	
<b>Size of Park:</b> 4.1 Acres	

Wonderfully set against the historic grain silos in the background, this is a relatively small park packed with many recreation amenities. The park appears to be well organized with two baseball fields on the southern side and a full basketball court on the northern side. The park also includes a concession stand, picnic units and small children’s play structure in the form of a wooden train locomotive.

The parks contains a number of Boy Scouts Eagle projects including shrubbery on the western boundary, the two shade pavilions, a wooden railroad play station and future flag poles for veterans. These projects are commendable. However, it is important, that when such individual projects are considered for any park in Prosper, it should be done according to a well conceived overall design plan prepared prior to their implementation.

However as a neighborhood park it lacks a proper children’s playground, trail access and trees that are desperately needed to provide shade and a sense of place to this park.

**Existing Facilities**

- 2 x baseball fields
- 1 x basketball court
- 2 x picnic units

### **Recommended Park Improvements**

The following improvements are recommended for Main Street Park:

- Plant trees to provide visual interest and shade.
- Establish water associated trees, shrubs and grasses along the open drainage channel.
- Prepare and implement a design plan for the park that incorporates additional shaded children's play areas, walkways, jogging trails, picnic amenities, a multi-tier roof pavilion and a park sign and entryway.
- Place preference on the application of native plantings including trees, wildflowers and grasses. .
- Implement an integrated fertility and pest management program to minimize reliance on chemicals and pesticides, and to maximize field conditions, plant health and safety; place preference on the use of naturally fertile compost and protective mulch.



*Baseball field with an open drainage way in the foreground; the drainage way in the foreground is ideal for the establishment of water associated or creek side plants which will increase biodiversity and ecological interest.*



*This lighted basketball court is a state of the art facility and includes seating benches.*



*A trail with trees around the park will add to the appearance and use of the park.*



<b>Pecan Grove Park</b>	<b>Neighborhood Park</b>
Address: <b>La Cima Boulevard</b>	
Size of Park: <b>21 Acres</b>	

The effectiveness of this park as an open space within a residential development is enhanced by a single loaded road that surrounds the majority of the park, which is a park design tool that adds to visibility and safety of park users. In addition Pecan Grove Park has a sense of openness. Established and mature trees provide shade and visual interest to the park.

A critical assessment of the park reveals the following:  
 The park comprises mostly land unsuitable for housing and is characterized by an undulating topography including a creek corridor. In developing the park, it appears that important creek side land was reshaped and vegetation destroyed to create a uniform landscape devoid of natural grasses, creek riffles, pools and water edge plants, all of which are important for flood control and to maintain a healthy ecological system and wildlife corridor. Natural prairie grass with deep root systems that protect the land from erosion was replaced with Bermuda turf that is less effective as an erosion control measure. In general natural prairie grasses absorb nearly 100% rainfall whereas Bermuda grass absorbs less than 10% run-off.

An attempt was made to “save” some trees due to the grading change in the landscape by constructing retaining walls at their base. However the walls are much too close to allow for any long term protection. Grade changes influence the water table by causing it to rise with land fill and drop with land cut. The rule of thumb is to keep the surface

around the tree trunk intact for an area that covers one-and-a-half (1.5) times the radius of the tree's drip-line. In addition, the future of the trees that were "saved" at Pecan Grove Park is at risk due to irrigation required by water thirsty Bermuda turf grass which will cause the eventual demise of trees that are well adapted to rainwater alone and stressed when over-watered.

At present the image of the "creek" is nothing more than a drainage ditch with little if any ecological or environmental benefit. The park will greatly benefit by allowing and encouraging the establishment of natural creek side associated plants and grasses with a wide no-mowing band. Such plants will act as a bio-filter for pollutants and will help to slow down water run-off which will in turn prevent erosion.



*The ecological integrity and flood management functioning of the creek is destroyed in its entirety with the removal of natural creek edge and water associated plants. The Bermuda grass established by the park developer has an immense thirst for water compared to indigenous plant species.*

### **Existing Facilities**

- 1 x playground
- 3,200 feet hike and bike trail

### **Recommended Park Improvements**

The following improvements are recommended for Pecan Grove Park:

- Establish a wide band of natural grasses and water associated plants alongside the creek in a "no-mow" zone, and provide spot maintenance once or twice a year.
- Provide a shade structure over children's play areas.
- Provide a multi-tier roof pavilion to allow air to vent and cool effectively.
- Establish a park entryway.

- Place preference on the application of native plantings including trees, wildflowers and grasses.
- Establish Inland Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*), which is a natural shade loving grass, in the shade of established trees to encourage biodiversity and prevent erosion.
- Implement an integrated fertility and pest management program to minimize reliance on chemicals and pesticides, and to maximize field conditions, plant health and safety; place preference on the use of naturally fertile compost and protective mulch.



*Shaded areas like this are ideal for the establishment of the shade tolerant natural grass Inland Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*). It is effective as an erosion control measure and supports biodiversity.*



*The single loaded road allows for good access and visibility which adds to a sense of safety. A park entryway and gathering pavilion are recommended for the park.*

## **Undeveloped Parks**



**Downtown Park**

**Pocket Park**

*Address:* First Street  
*Size of Park:* 1.7 Acres

This undeveloped park is fairly small for a neighborhood park. Yet it is located centrally within the Town with good access from the bordering roads. The park lies immediately adjacent to the Town buildings where the Planning and Public Works Departments are currently housed. It contains a clump of large and mature pecan trees on the southeastern and highest area of the park site. From here the visitor has an engaging view towards the west, especially along First Street towards the Blackland Flats.

**Existing Facilities**

- None

**Recommended Park Improvements**

The following improvements are recommended for Downtown Park:

- Prepare and implement a design plan for the park that incorporates shaded children’s play areas, walkways, jogging trails, picnic amenities, a multi-tier roof pavilion, signage and a park entryway.
- Extend the proposed trail around the entire street block.
- Consider acquiring the land to the west of the park to enlarge the park.
- Place preference on the application of native plantings including trees, wildflowers and grasses.
- Implement an integrated fertility and pest management program to minimize reliance on chemicals and pesticides, and to maximize field conditions, plant health and safety; place preference on the use of naturally fertile compost and protective mulch.



*The mature and well established trees on the south east side of the park site need to be protected from soil compaction through parking (formal or informal) and development too close to the drip line of the trees.*



*View of the property to the west of the park that is recommended for inclusion into the park.*



<b>Folsom Park</b>	<b>Neighborhood Park</b>
<i>Address:</i>	<i>Folsom Elementary School</i>
<i>Size of Park:</i>	<i>13.7 Acres</i>

Folsom Park is undeveloped and contains only one basketball court and a stretch of trail at this time.

**Existing Facilities**

- 1 x basketball court
- 1,100 feet hike and bike trail

**Recommended Park Improvements**

The following improvements are recommended for Folsom Park:

- Prepare and implement a design plan for the park that incorporates shaded children’s play areas, walkways, jogging trails, picnic amenities, a multi-tier roof pavilion, and a park entryway and signage.
- Place preference on the application of native plantings including trees, wildflowers and grasses.
- Implement an integrated fertility and pest management program to minimize reliance on chemicals and pesticides, and to maximize field conditions, plant health and safety; place preference on the use of naturally fertile compost and protective mulch.



*School playground at Folsom Elementary School adjacent to Folsom Park. The plastic edging that contains the play surface material has a temporary appearance. For a more pleasing effect, the play area should be level with the surrounding land or be contained by a natural edging material like stone.*



*Completed section of trail that runs along the electrical easement, adjacent to Folsom Park; ideally the trail surface should be 10 to 12 feet wide. Trees along the trail corridor will provide shade and sense of human scale at the base of the huge electrical support structures.*



**Town Lake Park**

**Neighborhood Park**

**Address:** *Whispering Farm*  
**Size of Park:** *18.3 Acres*

Containing a lake and bordered by the Whispering Farm residential development, Town Lake Park is an attractive park with much potential. The majority of the lake edge is well established with riparian vegetation that is crucial for the ecological quality and value of this water feature. The water associated wildlife including birds, turtles and fish appear to be abundant. The Whispering Farm development affords great views towards the lake, especially from the high lying vantage point celebrated by a charming pavilion. The park is undeveloped and does not contain any facilities at this time.

**Existing Facilities**

- None

**Recommended Park Improvements**

The following improvements are recommended for Town Lake Park:

- Ensure the provision of a public trail that surrounds the entire lake by not allowing any type of development to have exclusive access to the water edge.
- Develop a network of trails around the lake with connections upstream and downstream along the creek.
- Ensure proper integration between the trails of Town Lake Park and the trails of Whispering Farm.
- Require single loaded roads on as many sides of the park as possible.

- Riparian (water edge) plantings together with trees close to the water edge provide habitat and shade that is essential for the health of fish and other water biota. Establish park regulations to protect and secure the ecological integrity of the lake edge.
- Establish and preserve a no-mowing zone of 50 to 100 foot width from the lake, with spot maintenance once or twice yearly as required.
- Establish and preserve trees and underbrush within the 50 to 100 foot wide no-mow zone around the lake edge.
- Implement a fishing jetty and bird watching blind on the water's edge.
- Prepare and implement a design plan for the park that incorporates shaded children's play areas, walkways, jogging trails, picnic amenities, a multi-tier roof pavilion, bird watching blinds and a park entryway and signage.
- Place preference on the application of native plantings including trees, wildflowers and grasses.
- Implement an integrated fertility and pest management program to minimize reliance on chemicals and pesticides, and to maximize field conditions, plant health and safety; place preference on the use of naturally fertile compost and protective mulch.



*The pavilion at Whispering Farm affords a beautiful view over Town Lake Park.*

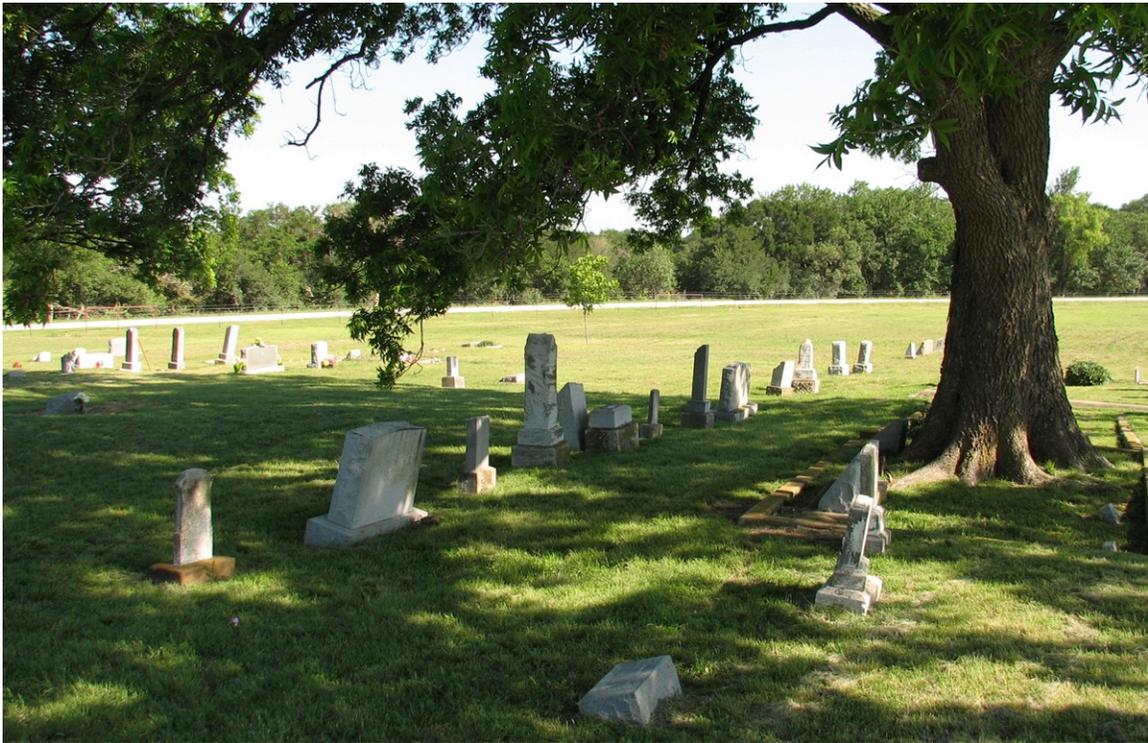


*The water surface of Town Lake has tremendous recreational opportunities, best limited to passive activities like fishing and bird watching and non-motorized vessels.*



*A buffer of at least 50 to 100 feet wide is required to protect the ecologically sensitive water edge.*

## **Other Significant Open Space Areas**



**Cemeteries**

**Non-Town Property**

*Good Hope Cemetery  
Walnut Grove Cemetery  
Ware Cemetery*

**Comments** – Cemeteries function as open space that provides respite to the hustle and bustle of our lives. It is a place of reflection where all citizens may benefit from the peace and calm provided by the appropriate setting. Historic cemeteries have the added value as places of cultural and educational interest.

Prosper has three cemeteries: Good Hope, Walnut Grove and Ware Cemetery. Although these cemeteries are not owned and maintained by the Town, they certainly have open space value for the community and region, which is why they are discussed in this report.

The image above shows Good Hope Cemetery that has a sense of tranquility, charm and peace being tucked away along a quiet country road adjacent to Doe Branch Creek. Any future land use and road improvement project should take this into account and aim to maintain the character and surrounding context of this facility. Conservation Development typically will recognize such a feature as an important amenity and incorporate it within the overall goals of the development.

No recommendations are made for specific improvements, other than the following:

- Acquire land adjacent to each cemetery for establishing special purpose parks that will benefit from the adjacency of the cemeteries’ open space and the cultural value they bring to the site.

- The Town's plans and policies should be constructed to enhance and encourage the cemeteries' management to continue their high standard of care and maintenance of these important cultural and historic features.
- Incorporate cemeteries as Town features and destinations of cultural and educational value in the urban and rural landscape of Prosper through appropriate informative articles, brochures and other various media publications.



*Images of Good Hope Cemetery: The large trees and wide vistas to the surrounding landscape call for contemplation and introspection.*



## 4. Park System Goals

### 4.1 Introduction

Goals are included in the park planning process to serve as a guide for the continual improvement of the parks system. Addressing the quality of life in a town, goals are an expression of a town's vision and desired physical, social and economic environment.

Goals are established so as to serve as a policy and philosophical framework for the master plan. They serve to guide park planning in the Town even as councils and staff change over the years. Goals can be as specific or general as the planners of the park system feel comfortable with, but once established should be followed diligently and consistently.

The goals for the 2007 Prosper Parks Master Plan focus on:

- Provide a variety of recreation facilities and programs to meet the ultimate recreational needs and desires of the Town of Prosper's growing population.
- Create a park system that will improve the physical form and appearance of the Town of Prosper.
- Preserve and enhance Prosper's open space and natural resources, especially areas with topography change and/or indigenous tree cover and land prone to flooding.

- Provide an open space system which links parks, schools, greenbelts and open spaces.
- Provide a tool to coordinate multi-jurisdictional efforts with respect to issues that affect recreational opportunities in the community.
- Continue to maintain all of the Prosper parks and recreational facilities in a superior and sustainable condition.
- Develop other funding mechanisms to help supplement the Town's limited funding resources.
- Include a citizen participation process in all ongoing park planning and design, as well as updating of the Parks Master Plan.
- Conduct periodic citizen surveys to monitor changes in the citizen's attitude and needs.

#### 4.2 **Goals Terminology**

**Definitions** - The terms "policies", "goals", and "objectives", as used in this report, follow the definitions shown below.

- **Policies:** Planning Policies consist of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan itself and specific actions and ordinances created by the Prosper Town Council to implement the goals established in this document.
- **Goals:** Goals are general statements concerning an aspect of the Town's desired ultimate physical, social and economic environment. Goals address the desired quality of life.
- **Objectives:** Objectives express the actions or approach that is necessary to achieve the stated goals, or portions of those goals, without assigning responsibility to any specific actions. Objectives are often expressed as actions that can be measured.

#### 4.3 **Purpose of the 2007 Parks Master Plan**

The purpose of the 2007 Prosper Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is to:

- Provide the framework for orderly and consistent planning, development and improvement of the park system.
- Establish priorities based on researched and documented facts and a community based needs analysis.
- Guide Town leaders in acquisition and development of park land to meet current and future park and open space needs.
- Guide Town leaders in determining where and how parks funding should be allocated over the next five to ten years.
- Conform to the preparation of guidelines for local Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plans, prepared by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Texas Recreation and Parks Account local parks grant program.

#### 4.4 Master Plan Goals & Objectives

Goals are included in the park planning process to serve as a guiding force for the continual improvement of the parks system during the next ten years. The following is a set of goals and objectives of the 2007 Prosper Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

##### Goal # 1

**Include a citizen participation process in all ongoing park planning and design, as well as updating of the Parks Master Plan.**

- 1.1 Periodically update the long-range plan and standards to reflect changing conditions in the Town e.g. demographics and to provide a forum for citizen input.
- 1.2 Encourage and provide multiple opportunities for citizens to provide input in the development, maintenance, and operation of the Town's parks and open space system.
- 1.3 Utilize citizen surveys, meetings with key user groups, public meetings, workshops and regular meetings of the Parks and Recreation Board, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Council to achieve this goal.

##### Goal # 2

**Provide parkland and a variety of recreation facilities and programs to meet the changing recreational needs and desires of the Town of Prosper's population.**

- 2.1 Develop short and long-range programs for development, expansion and upgrading of Prosper's parks system.
- 2.2 Provide recreational facilities that address the needs of all age groups, young and old, active and passive, and in all socio economic categories.
- 2.3 Identify park-planning areas with the greatest need for park facilities and pursue the acquisition and development of facilities in those areas.
- 2.4 Use diverse and reasonable criteria to identify park needs, including needs by sector, reasonable calculations of potential level of use, but also the ability of each facility to respond to Town wide needs in a cost effective manner.
- 2.5 Develop land acquired and dedicated to future parks in a consistent and focused manner.
- 2.6 Balance the distribution of park facilities, including neighborhood parks, community parks, athletic facilities, and trail corridors throughout the Town.
- 2.7 Periodically update the long-range plan and standards to reflect changing conditions in the Town and to provide a forum for citizen input.

##### Goal # 3

**Preserve and protect open space and natural resources, especially areas with topography change, indigenous tree cover and land prone to flooding within the Town and its extra-territorial jurisdictional (ETJ) lands.**

- 3.1 Establish criteria to identify key open space areas and natural areas worthy of preservation throughout the Town and its ETJ.
- 3.2 Acquire and preserve drainage channels and floodplain areas as public open space and possible future trail corridors.
- 3.3 Acquire and preserve publicly accessible greenbelts along the edges of all creeks.

- 3.4 Establish funding mechanisms to acquire lands for protection through acquisition, purchase of easements, purchase of development rights, or outright dedication of floodplain lands where these are deemed to have open space and conservation value. Focus on high quality natural or opens space areas that are likely to be developed with incompatible uses in the near future.
- 3.5 Establish policies that encourage private landowners to preserve and protect key natural areas within the Town including areas of topography change, indigenous tree cover and land prone to flooding.
- 3.6 Encourage and motivate “conservation development” principles whereby development is clustered in order to preserve open space as a communal amenity between groups of clustered development.
- 3.7 Encourage educational institutions, semi-private land trusts and other nonprofit organizations to acquire, manage and maintain natural open space conservation areas within the Town.

Goal # 4

**Create a park system that will improve the physical form and image of the Town of Prosper.**

- 4.1 Acquire park and open space sites that are prominent and highly visible in the neighborhoods that surround them.
- 4.2 Utilize landscape design at key Town entryways and along selected street medians to create a positive and attractive image of the Town.
- 4.3 Encourage tree planting in parks, street frontage, and on private properties.
- 4.4 Encourage landscape buffers along major thoroughfares, freeways and highways.
- 4.5 Develop identification and directional signage that is consistent and unique to Prosper.

Goal # 5

**Provide an open space system which links parks, schools, greenbelts and open spaces.**

- 5.1 Create a trail system throughout the Town that will provide opportunity for recreation as well as alternative modes of transport e.g. cycling, skating, jogging and hiking.
- 5.2 Research the use of utility easements; on-street connections (sidewalks within the street right-of-way) and drainage ways as potential trail connections.
- 5.3 Create an Inter-Cities Trail System incorporating all cities that border Prosper including Frisco, McKinney, Celina, and Little Elm.

Goal # 6

**Develop a tool to coordinate multi-jurisdictional efforts with the relevant county, adjacent cities and the local school district with respect to issues that affect recreational opportunities in the community.**

- 6.1 Emphasize a multi-jurisdictional approach to the provision of recreation facilities in the Prosper region, including Denton County, Collin County and the Cities of Frisco, McKinney, Celina and Little Elm.
- 6.2 Continue when appropriate to manage the relationship between the Town of Prosper and the Prosper Independent School District that supports “facility sharing” for various programs and events.

- 6.3 Examine the opportunity to create a comprehensive Creek and Utility Trail System incorporating all adjacent cities that are connected through the trail.

Goal # 7

**Continue to maintain all of the Prosper parks and recreational facilities in a superior condition and sustainable manner.**

- 7.1 Provide Town parks staff with the manpower and funding resources to maintain all parklands and facilities in a superior manner. Provide additional operations and maintenance resources as new recreational facilities are developed and added to the Prosper parks system
- 7.2 Improve the quality of operations and maintenance through continued evaluation of the Parks Department's current operations.
- 7.3 Implement renovation/improvement plans for each park as they age over time and identify a tentative schedule for phasing in improvements.
- 7.4 Address key safety and accessibility needs as quickly as possible.
- 7.5 Continue to promote the use of native plant materials to reduce maintenance and irrigation costs in parks and on Town properties.
- 7.6 Use low-maintenance design techniques for future park properties.
- 7.7 Research and implement an Integrated Fertility and Pest Management Program and utilize Best Management Practices for Town property to minimize the reliance on potentially harmful chemicals, and to maximize field conditions, plant health and safety.
- 7.8 Place preference on the use of naturally fertile compost and protective mulch to invigorate the planted landscape.
- 7.9 Explore and implement innovative techniques to partner with other governmental, non-profit or private organizations to reduce the Town's park maintenance burden.
- 7.10 Actively promote beautification of key corridors in the Town.

Goal # 8

**Develop other funding mechanisms to help supplement the Town's limited funding resources.**

- 8.1 Develop and ensure an effective Park Dedication and Park Development Ordinance to help fund land acquisition and park development.
- 8.2 Work to create partnerships with Prosper Independent School District to actively and aggressively pursue grant funding from local, state and federal sources.
- 8.3 Encourage private cooperation through donations of parkland, labor, and financial contributions.
- 8.4 Establish a program where community and business groups and neighborhood associations can help improve and maintain parks and open space areas.
- 8.5 Encourage the assistance of the private sector in providing landscaping along private and public properties including public rights-of-way and medians.
- 8.6 Continue to foster a close working relationship between the Town of Prosper and the Prosper School District to share funding of joint projects.
- 8.7 Encourage the establishment of local organizations that can assist with providing park and recreation facilities and programs for the residents of Prosper.
- 8.8 Encourage the establishment of "friends of the ..." organizations to participate in the upkeep and maintenance of relevant park land and landscape features.

#### 4.5 Summary of the 2007 Parks Master Plan Goals

1. Include citizen participation in all park development and future Park Master Plan updates.
2. Meet the recreational and open space needs of the citizens.
3. Preserve Prosper's open space and natural resources.
4. Manage the park system to improve the image of the Town.
5. Link parks, schools, greenbelts and open spaces via trails, sidewalks and bicycle routes.
6. Encourage multi-jurisdictional recreational efforts.
7. Ensure Prosper parks to be superior and sustainable.
8. Develop funding mechanisms other than the Town's.



*The children, teenagers and young adults in the community are often the greatest beneficiaries of a town wide parks and trail system that provides for recreation and trail connections.*



## 5. Public Input

### 5.1 Introduction

The recommendations of the 2007 Prosper Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan are designed to reflect the recreational needs and desires of the citizens of Prosper. Citizen input is key to determining what facilities are most needed, where key needs exist, and what level of emphasis the citizens of Prosper would like to place on key recommendations of the Parks Master Plan.

Several methods were used to gain citizen input. These included public presentations to the Parks and Recreation Board, an extensive and scientifically accurate Town wide attitude (telephone) survey, presentations at public meetings, and a display at the Health and Safety Fair.

### 5.2 Public Involvement

Public involvement is a key part of the process of developing the Parks Master Plan. The goal of the Public Involvement Program was to obtain input from Town of Prosper stakeholders about their community priorities and understand the unique characteristics of the Town of Prosper. The program also familiarized citizens with the master planning process and created awareness of opportunities for improvement. An estimated 270

individuals participated in one or more components of the Public Involvement Program. This enabled citizens to develop a sense of ownership and support for the overall Master Plan.

Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used to gather citizen input. The Public Involvement Program had three components: telephone survey, two public meetings and an outreach at a Town event. The first public meeting targeted the athletic and sports community whereas the second public meeting had no specific target audience in mind.

### ***Citizen Attitude Survey***

A 2005 Parks and Recreation Attitude Survey was conducted. This public opinion poll captured attitudes on parks and recreational issues in Prosper from respondents that were randomly selected from phone-matched households. A total of 200 respondents were interviewed using a comprehensive telephone questionnaire that collected attitudinal data on a variety of issues including ratings of existing facilities, need for additional facilities/amenities, and overall satisfaction with recreational options. A summary of findings from the telephone survey is presented at the end of this chapter.

### ***Public Meetings***

The Consultant Team participated in two public events both at the Folsom Elementary School on February 20 and 21, 2006. At each event, attendees viewed a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of the project and outlined some of the preliminary findings. Attendees were also given the opportunity to view project exhibit boards, talk one-on-one with the consultants, and complete a written questionnaire.

### ***Health and Safety Fair***

The Consultant Team and members of the Prosper Parks Board conducted an outreach at the Health and Safety Fair dated October 28, 2006 during which time a questionnaire was circulated amongst the visitors.

## **5.3 *Citizen Attitude Survey***

Raymond Turco & Associates conducted the Town's 2005 Recreation Needs Assessment and Attitude Survey, which forms part of the Town's 2007 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Planning process. This public opinion poll captured attitudes on parks and recreational issues in the community from respondents randomly selected from phone-matched households. The full sample of 200 respondents was interviewed telephonically with a comprehensive questionnaire that collected attitudinal data on a variety of recreational issues.

The advantage of a telephone survey is that it is randomly conducted and therefore less susceptible to bias by the respondents. The information that is gathered in this report allows Town leaders to better understand the recreational needs and desires of its citizenry.

Below is a Strategic Summary of the Town of Prosper 2005 Parks and Recreation Attitude Survey.

#### 5.4 Strategic Summary of the Attitude Survey

Nearly everyone sampled (97%) felt it was important (18%) or very important (79%) for Prosper to provide parks and recreational facilities for residents.

Respondents to the Telephone (Attitude) Survey indicated their top likelihood of participating in a list of 14 activities as follows:

Table 5.1 - Likely Choice of Participation from a List of 14 Activities			
	<u>Percentage Participation</u>	<u>Participation: Non-participation</u>	<u>Type Activity</u>
<b>Majority interest</b>			
1. Attend outdoor events	89%	8.9:1	Passive
2. Enjoy Nature	83%	4.6:1	Passive
3. Walk/Jog for Exercise	78%	3.5:1	Non-athletic
4. Picnic	69%	2.2:1	Passive
<b>Limited interest</b>			
5. Swim in a pool	56%	1.3:1	Non-athletic
6. Use Playground	53%	1.1:1	Non-athletic
7. Walk dog	52%	1.1:1	Non-athletic
8. Play tennis	51%	1.1:1	Athletic
9. Play sand volleyball	50%	1:1	Non-athletic
10. Practice Softball	49%	1:1	Athletic
<b>Minority interest</b>			
11. Practice Baseball	49%	0.7:1	Athletic
12. Play Basketball	42%	0.9:1	Athletic
13. Practice Soccer	42%	0.7:1	Athletic
14. Play bocce/horseshoes	36%	0.6:1	Non-athletic

#### Type parks

- The development of **large parks**, generally located in a central location, which seek to meet the needs of the entire community, received 96% support.
- **Linear parks**, which run along creeks or streams and include trails, received 92% support.
- Support was also significant for **unprogrammed open space**, or **nature areas** at 84%.
- **Indoor recreational facilities**, including a recreation center or aquatic center received 83% support.
- **Small parks**, generally located within a particular neighborhood, which seek to meet the needs of that neighborhood, received 79% support.

Large parks

**Table 5.2 - Preference for recreation activities in Large (Community) Parks**

	Percentage Support	Support : Opposition	Type Activity
<b>Majority support</b>			
1. Restrooms	98%	98:1	Support
2. Picnic Areas	97%	49:1	Passive
3. Children’s Playgrounds	95%	32:1	Non-athletic
4. Pavilions or Shelters	94%	24:1	Support
5. Lighted Areas	94%	24:1	Support
6. Hike And Bike Trails	93%	19:1	Non-athletic
7. Nature Areas/Natural Habitat	93%	16:1	Support
8. Baseball Fields	86%	4.4:1	Athletic
9. Outdoor Basketball Courts	85%	7.7:1	Athletic
10. Youth Softball Fields	85%	6.5:1	Athletic
11. Soccer Fields	83%	6.4:1	Athletic
12. A Stage Area For concerts or gatherings	82%	5.5:1	Support
13. Artificial Shade Areas	81%	6.8:1	Support
14. Tennis Courts	80%	6.2:1	Athletic
15. Volleyball Courts	80%	5:1	Athletic
16. Adult Softball Fields	80%	4.4:1	Athletic
17. Football Fields	74%	3.1:1	Athletic
<b>Limited interest</b>			
18. Disc Golf Course	50%	1.2:1	Non-athletic
19. Equestrian Trails	49%	1.1:1	Non-athletic
<b>Majority opposition</b>			
20. Bmx Bicycle Course	41%	0.7:1	Non-athletic
21. Skateboard Park	40%	0.7:1	Non-athletic
22. In-Line Hockey Rink	39%	0.7:1	Non-athletic

**Table 5.3 - Most Important Community park facility if only one is to be constructed**

	Percentage	Type Activity
1. Hike And Bike Trails	22%	Non-athletic
2. Children’s Playgrounds	20%	Non-athletic
3. Nature Areas/Natural Habitat	10%	Support
4. Baseball Fields	7%	Athletic
5. Soccer Fields	5%	Athletic
6. A Stage Area For concerts or gatherings	5%	Support
7. Restrooms	4%	Support
8. Tennis Courts	4%	Athletic

- **Hike and bike trails, children’s playgrounds, and nature areas/natural habitat** were rated as the most important facilities to construct in a large park when survey participants were requested to choose one item from a list of 22.
- As a testament to the attitudinal diversity of the town, 20 of the 22 possible items were rated as most important by at least one person.
- Those not mentioned were a skateboard park and volleyball courts.
- Rounding out the top eight were baseball fields, soccer fields and a stage area for concerts and gatherings, and tennis courts and restrooms.
- Equestrian trails, adult softball fields, pavilions/shelters, picnic areas and lighted areas, each receive 3% support.
- Of those selected, the least interest was voiced for youth softball fields and an in-line hockey rink, both listed by one individual.
- The other facilities on the list included: outdoor basketball courts; artificial shade areas; football fields; disc golf course; and bmx bicycle course.

Linear parks

- **Nature trails (96%), paved trails (91%), picnic areas (91%), and trail connections to other parks (90%)** were the items most strongly supported for inclusion in a linear park.
- Support was also significant for including **children’s playgrounds (89%), scenic rest stops (86%), and artificial shade areas (81%)**.
- Other support included: Exercise Stations at 79% and Equestrian Trails at 49%.

Other Recreation Facilities

Support for a list of other recreation facilities rated as follows:

<b>Table 5.4 – Support for Other Recreation Facilities</b>		
<b>Recreation Facility</b>	<b>Percentage Support</b>	<b>Support: Opposition</b>
<b>Majority support</b>		
1. Library	92%	13;1
2. Community Center	87%	7.3:1
3. Senior Citizen Center	84%	6:1
4. Indoor Recreation Center	84%	5.6:1
5. Nature Center	79%	4.2:1
6. Indoor Aquatic Facility	73%	3:1
7. Wildflower Gardens	70%	2.5:1
8. Outdoor Pool	69%	2.4:1
9. Children’s Water Spray Park	65%	2:1
10. Athletic Complex	62%	2.5:1
<b>Limited support</b>		
11. Dog Park	53%	1.2:1
<b>Minority support</b>		
12. Radio Controlled Airfield	36%	0.6:1

Beautification

- “Improved landscaping of town streets will help to improve our town image” (92%-8%, 11.5:1) and “I believe the town should plant trees and implement landscaping along streets and intersections (91%-8%, 11.4:1) were the two statements relating to beautification efforts in the town that generated the highest ratio of agreement to disagreement among town residents. In addition, more than 80% agreed with the statement “I support the town developing ‘gateways to the town’ so that people know they are coming into Prosper” (82%-15%, 5.5:1). A significant percentage disputed the statement “I do not believe that landscaping town streets and intersections is that important” (11%-88%, 0.1:1).
- Compared to the top-rated statements, agreement was lukewarm for “I would like to see streets in Prosper maintain a rural feel including black top and bar ditches” (64%-26%, 2.5:1) and “I would like to see public art in Prosper” (58%-37%, 1.6:1).

- In terms of enthusiasm, 47% strongly agreed that the town should plant trees and implement landscaping along streets and intersections and 30% that improved landscaping will help to improve the town image. Also, 26% strongly disagreed that they did not believe landscaping town streets and intersections was that important. The only statement to generate a slight divergence of opinions were Area I residents in more agreement regarding streets in Prosper maintaining a rural feel including black top and bar ditches (67%-62%).

Statements on open space, conservation and native plants

Table 5.5 – Open Space, Conservation and Native Plants				
Statement	% Agree	% Dis-agree	No Opinion	Ratio
I would support the use of plants native to Texas such as Red Oak, Pecan, Red Bud trees, and Texas Sage in town projects	98%	0%	2%	98:1
I would support water conservation efforts in future park developments	95%	3%	1%	32:1
It is important to me to maintain open space in its natural setting here in Prosper	85%	12%	2%	7:1
I would like the town to develop and maintain an area where I and my family could experience wildflowers, in their natural habitat	74%	23%	4%	3.2:1
I would like the town to develop and maintain an area where I an my family could experience birds and / or butterflies in their natural habitat	69%	26%	6%	2.7:1

- “I would support the use of plants native to Texas such as Red Oak, Pecan, Red Bud trees, and Texas sage in town projects” (98%-0%, 98.0:1) and “I support water conservation efforts in future park developments” (95%-3%, 31.7:1) were the two statements relating to open space and conservation efforts in Prosper upon which survey participants overwhelmingly agreed.
- A significant percentage disagreed with the statement, “It is not important to me to maintain open space in its natural setting here in Prosper” (12%-85%, 0.1:1). Read as positive statement: “It is important to me to maintain open space in its natural setting here in Prosper” the ratio is calculated as 85%-12%, 7:1). The agreement to disagreement ratio for the other statements were 3.2:1 (74%-23% for “I would like the town to develop and maintain an area where I and my family could experience wildflowers, in their natural habitat”) and 2.7:1 (69%-26% for “I would like the town to

develop and maintain an area where I and my family could experience birds and/or butterflies in their natural habitat”).

- In terms of enthusiasm, strong agreement was highest for supporting the use of plants native to Texas in town projects (34%) and for water conservation efforts in future park developments (25%).

Overall agreement on statements concerning Prosper

<b>Table 5.6 – Overall Agreement on Statements concerning Prosper</b>				
<b>Statement</b>	<b>% Agree</b>	<b>% Dis-agree</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
I would support the parks and recreation department offering programs to residents such as recreational activities, art and crafts activities and cultural activities	93%	7%	1%	13:1
I have adequate avenues to voice my concerns about recreation in Prosper	68%	19%	11%	3.1:1
I am willing to pay additional town taxes to see parks in Prosper developed	66%	31%	4%	2.1:1
I am satisfied with the current landscaping along town roadways and at intersections	28%	71%	1%	0.4:1
The town should improve the existing parks and not develop any new ones	18%	72%	11%	0.3:1

**5.5 Summary of the Public Meetings**

The statistics for attendance to the public meetings are as follows:

February 20 meeting: 23 attended

February 21 meeting: 13 of which 8 attended the previous day as well.

Total signed-in attendees for the two days: 28

Number completed questionnaires: 20

In a question to rank the top five out of a list of 27 recreational amenities to be included in the future parks, amenities mentioned at least 5 times or more include the following:

<b>Table 5.7 – Recreational Amenities to be included in Future Parks</b>	
<b>Recreational amenities</b>	<b>Times mentioned</b>
Jogging/Bike trails	12 x mentioned
Soccer fields	9 x mentioned
Natural Habitat	8 x mentioned
Playgrounds	8 x mentioned
Rental picnic pavilions	6 x mentioned
Outdoor pool	6 x mentioned
Tennis courts	5 x mentioned
Children's' water spray park	5 x mentioned

Question: How important is it to you that Prosper maintains a rural feel with ample open space?

This was responded to as follows:

- Fourteen (14) respondents expressed that it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that Prosper maintains a rural feel with ample open space.
- Five (5) respondents expressed that it was **IMPORTANT** and one respondent was indecisive.
- None of the respondents indicated that it was either unimportant or very unimportant.



*Public meeting held February 21, 2006 in Folsom Elementary School.*

## 5.6 Prosper Health and Safety Fair

The outreach at the Health and Safety Fair dated October 28, 2006 as conducted by the Consultant Team and members of the Prosper Parks Board included questionnaires about the 2007 Parks Master Plan and the proposed neighborhood park at First and Church Streets. The questionnaires resulted in a total of 20 responses, of which 16 were completed by Prosper residents. The response summary of Prosper residents only are provided below.



Members of the Parks Board answered questions about the Parks Master Plan, the proposed downtown park and the questionnaire held by a young adult Prosper resident.

### General Park and Recreation Questions

Question 1: Please mark the top five recreational amenities you would like to see in future parks.

Table 5.8 – Preference for Recreational Amenities	
Times chosen by the respondents	Recreational Amenity
Seven	Outdoor pool
Six	Picnic pavilions
Five	Jogging/Bike trails Children’s’ water spray park
Four	Baseball fields Natural Habitat Wildflowers plantings
Three	Outdoor basketball courts Recreation center Mountain bike course Playgrounds Stage area for concerts
Twice	Sand Volleyball courts Soccer fields Tennis courts Dog park Amphitheater Frisbee Golf Course Inline hockey rink Municipal golf course
Once	Football fields Skateboard Park Youth softball fields
Other	Racquetball courts
Not mentioned at all	Adult softball fields Equestrian trails Bird watching facility

Question 2: If Prosper had safe pedestrian/bicycle routes connecting neighborhoods, schools, recreation and civic uses, would you use them instead of driving?

- Yes: 11
- No: 3

Question 3: How important is it to you that Prosper maintains a rural feel with ample open space?

- Very important: 11
- Important: 3
- Not important: 0

Question 4: How important is it to you that native plants are used in Prosper's parks?

- Very important: 11
- Important: 3
- Not important: 0

Describe Prosper in one word or one image?

Result:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quaint</li> <li>• Mayberry (keep it that way)</li> <li>• My Hometown</li> <li>• Historical</li> <li>• Growing</li> <li>• Simple</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosperous</li> <li>• Family</li> <li>• Fun</li> <li>• Casual/Family</li> <li>• Relaxing</li> <li>• Small Hometown</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

Additional comments:

- There should be a huge emphasis on our parks and recreation versus housing/retail growth - we need more parks!
- Moved my family here so they would have the privilege of growing up in a small town.
- My in-laws lived here their entire lives.
- Prosper needs to have more parks for all ages instead of more sports fields.
- Wildlife and trees are important.
- Parks should be user friendly.
- The parks are important for a family environment which I think characterizes Prosper.
- Common open space is very important to maintain the open feel. Protect existing floodplain areas for open space and flood conveyance.



*Even the kids participated enthusiastically by completing a questionnaire.*

Specific responses to questions concerning the proposed neighborhood park at First and Church Streets

Preference for Facilities or Equipment at the proposed neighborhood park:

**Table 5.9 – Facilities and Equipment Preference in Proposed Park**

Facility	Priority Ranking	Value of 1 for each response
• Children's Playground Equipment	50	13
• Covered Shade Structures for Picnic or Sitting	26	13
• Sidewalk/Trail (for walking, biking, jogging)	24	13
• Drinking Fountains	22	11
• Exercise/Fitness Equipment	20	9
• Picnic Tables	17	9
• Benches	13	9
• Lighting for Evening Use	11	8
• Bicycle Rack	4	6
• Picnic Cooking Grilles	2	4
<b>Other facilities mentioned:</b> • lots of trees • small fenced-in area for dogs		

Preference for Playground Devices at the proposed neighborhood park:

**Table 5.10 – Preference for Playground Devices at Proposed Park**

Playground Device	Priority Ranking	Value of 1 for each response
• Swings	57	13
• Climbing and Pulling (with hands)	44	11
• Slides	42	15
• Shade Covering	26	11
• Ladders (metal or ropes)	23	9
• Younger Children (age 1 to 6)	13	6
• Platforms (observation) at several levels	10	5
• Older Children (7 or Older)	8	5
• Educational Panels (alphabetical, numbers, shapes)	2	1

### 5.7 Prosper Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Board

The Prosper Parks and Recreation Board is an important citizen participation component of the Parks Master Plan. The Town of Prosper website describes the function and purpose of the Prosper Parks and Recreation Board as follows:

*The Parks and Recreation Board is a citizen advisory board to provide recommendations to the Town Council and to establish policies regarding the Town of Prosper's parks system and recreation programs. The board focus is to enrich the quality of life for all Prosper citizens.*

*This focus will be accomplished by providing diverse social, educational and recreational opportunities through quality parks, facilities, and services for users of all ages and abilities in a safe and appealing environment while enhancing the natural beauty and open-spaces of Prosper.*

Source: <http://www.prospertx.org/parks/parks.htm>



*Meeting of the Prosper Parks Board to discuss the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.*



*Prosper Town Council and Parks Board joint worksession to present progress on the Parks Master Plan.*



## 6. Needs Assessment

### 6.1 Introduction

The *Needs Assessment* is a critical component of the parks master planning effort. The parks and recreation vision for Prosper, together with an assessment of the future needs of the residents of the town form the basis to develop the necessary action plan.

In essence, a needs assessment is an analytical way of assessing what facilities are most needed and desired by the residents of Prosper, and determining which needs are the most critical. All identified needs are prioritized to form the basis for developing an action plan for the Town.

The town leaders had the foresight to provide for parks and recreation by starting to acquire land, insist on developer's land dedication and recreational facilities development. In fact the very reason for preparing Prosper's first Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is indicative of the Town's commitment to provide for the residents' recreation needs.

The Town's immediate needs are additional land acquisition for parks, development of the land already acquired and establishing policy's to ensure the protection of open space. Prosper's needs are also expressed by the desire of the town's residents to focus on the creation of a citywide trail system for walking, hiking, jogging and bicycling.

## 6.A - Park and Open Space Needs in Prosper

### 6.2 Methods of Assessing Park Needs

Three techniques were used in evaluating the Town of Prosper's current and future park needs. These techniques follow general methodologies accepted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for local park master plans and by the Department of the Interior for local park system Recovery Action Plans (RAP).

**1. Standard-Based Approach** - uses standards established by the local jurisdiction (in this case the Town of Prosper) to determine the quantity of park facilities required to meet the Town's needs at a given population. Standards usually are expressed as the quantity of park facilities needed to adequately serve every 1,000 residents of the Town.

Standards are established to provide the level of service that the particular jurisdiction believes is most responsive to the amount of use and the interests of its residents. This plan establishes individual standards for the Town of Prosper.

**2. Demand-Based Approach** - uses participation rates, league usage data, and surveys to determine how much the population uses and desires certain types of recreation facilities for which park land needs to be acquired.

**3. Resource-Based Approach** - is based on the usefulness of available physical resources to provide recreation opportunities including lakes, creeks, unique topography and history. For example, the Town's creeks, flood plains and drainage ways provides opportunities for trail connections; the topography allows for compelling views and vistas over the Blackland prairie flats to the west; and the silo complex with its sense of historical and visual reference together with Prosper's Downtown area provides the opportunity for education and a main destination along the trail system.

All three methods are important in their own way, but individually do not represent the entire picture. This assessment, and the recommendations resulting from it, uses findings from all three methods to determine what types of recreation facilities and park requirements are needed in Prosper.

### 6.3 **Standard Based Needs**

National guidelines and standards are based on demographic trends rather than specific local desires, requiring that they be fine-tuned to meet local conditions. It is important to recognize that national standards are simply guidelines or benchmarks that are intended to serve as a starting point for park planning. Each Town has its own unique geographic, demographic, and socio-economic composition, and as such, the arbitrary application of national standards, as is often done, would not necessarily meet the needs of that particular community.

***Local needs and desires are used as the guiding criteria to mold national guidelines to meet the expectations of the residents of Prosper in a realistic manner.***

Three types of park standards were used to analyze the parks and recreation needs of the Town of Prosper. These include:

- ***Spatial or Park Acreage Standards*** - these define the acres of park land needed, and are usually expressed as a ratio of park acreage to population;
- ***Facility Standards*** - these define the number of facilities recommended to serve each particular recreation need. Facility standards are usually expressed as a ratio of units of a particular facility per population size. For example, a facility standard for trails might be one mile for every 1,000 inhabitants of a Town; and
- ***Development Standards*** - these define the exact spatial and dimensional requirements for a specific recreation area e.g. neighborhood parks, community parks, linear parks etc. These recommended standards are contained in Chapter 3.

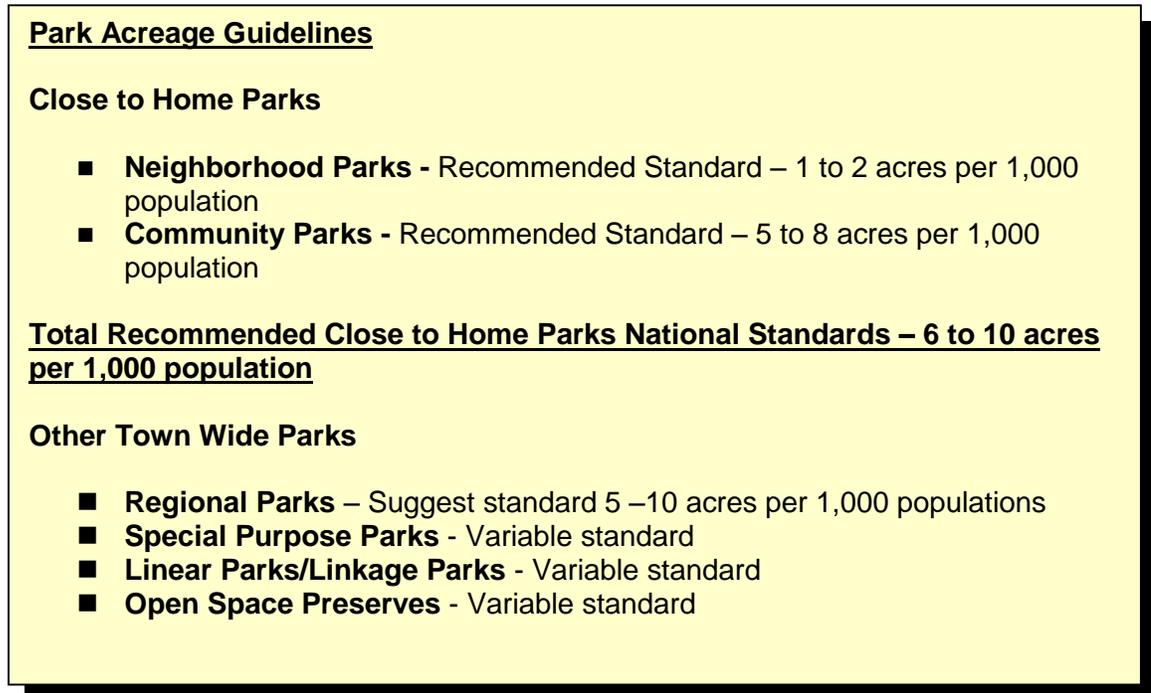
*Figure 6.1 – Types of Standard Based Assessments*

The recommendations for each type of standard and approach are as follows:

### 6.4 **Park Acreage Standards**

The purpose of spatial standards for parks and recreational areas is to ensure that sufficient area is allocated to allow for all the outdoor recreation needs of a community. These standards are also expressed as “level of service”, and in essence refer to the minimum preferred level that can adequately provide for the needs of the residents of Prosper. These spatial standards allow a Town to plan ahead, so that parkland can be targeted and acquired before it is developed. The standards are expressed as the number of acres of parkland per 1,000 inhabitants.

The national recommended spatial standards for cities in general are shown in Figure 6.2 below.



*Figure 6.2 – Park Acreage Guidelines Based on National Recommended Standards*

The nationally recommended spatial standards as presented in Figure 6.2 above were adapted to develop target standards for Prosper’s particular situation. These are expressed in terms of:

- Neighborhood Parks (developed and undeveloped)
- Community Parks
- Special Purpose Parks
- Linear Parks
- Open Space
- Regional Parks

**6.5 Target Standards for Prosper**

The Prosper 2007 target standards for park acreage are based on the national and metroplex averages followed by consultant interpretation. These parkland target standards for Prosper are presented in Table 6.1 and are summarized in Figure 6.3 below.

**Table 6.1: Park Land Standards** on the next page describes the recommended park acreage standards for each park category including a comparison with the metroplex, national and City of Dallas averages.

**Table 6.1 - Park Land Standards**

Facility Type	Total Existing Acres	NRPA Target Standard (1)	Prosper Target Standard (2)	2007 ≈ 5,250 pop. (3)	2017 ≈ 15,000 pop. (3)	Build-out ≈ 89,900 pop. (3)
<b>Park Category</b>						
Neighborhood Parks	67 acres	1 - 2 Acres / 1,000 pop.	2 Acres/ 1,000 pop.	<b>11 Acres</b> (surplus of 56 acres)	<b>30 Acres</b> (surplus of 37 acres)	<b>180 Acres</b> (deficit of 113 acres)
Community Parks	0 acres	5 - 8 Acres / 1,000 pop.	7 Acres/ 1,000 pop.	<b>37 Acres</b> (deficit of 37 acres)	<b>105 Acres</b> (deficit of 105 acres)	<b>629 Acres</b> (deficit of 629 acres)
Special Purpose Parks	0 acres	Variable	3 Acres/ 1,000 pop.	<b>16 Acres</b> (deficit of 16 acres)	<b>45 Acres</b> (deficit of 45 acres)	<b>270 Acres</b> (deficit of 270 acres)
Linear Parks	0 acres	Variable	3 Acres/ 1,000 pop.	<b>16 Acres</b> (deficit of 16 acres)	<b>45 Acres</b> (deficit of 45 acres)	<b>270 Acres</b> (deficit of 270 acres)
Open Space	0 acres	Variable	5 to 10 Acres/ 1,000 pop.	<b>26 Acres</b> (deficit of 26 acres)	<b>75 Acres</b> (deficit of 75 acres)	<b>450 Acres</b> (deficit of 450 acres)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67 acres</b>		<b>20 Acres/ 1,000 pop.</b>	<b>106 Acres</b> (deficit of 39 acres)	<b>300 Acres</b> (deficit of 233 acres)	<b>1799 Acres</b> (deficit of 1732 acres)
Regional Parks (4)	0 acres	5 - 10 Acres / 1,000 pop.	10 Acres/ 1,000 pop.	<b>53 Acres</b> (deficit of 53 acres)	<b>150 Acres</b> (deficit of 150 acres)	<b>899 Acres</b> (deficit of 899 acres)

(1) Source: National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA): J. Mertes and J. Hall; Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines; 1995, and Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines; 1990.

(2) Standard allows Town to establish general target service levels.

(3) Population projections for Prosper as per Comprehensive Master Plan (rounded to the closest 100).

(4) The confluences of 5 creeks in the western part of Prosper warrant the development of a Regional Park.

**Town wide developed and undeveloped park area**

Current Town of Prosper park acreage = 67 acres

At the target goal of 20 acres per 1,000 residents, and with a built-out population of 89,900 the target park and open space acreage for Prosper is 1,799 ≈ **1,800 acres**.

The DFW metroplex average is 14.17 acres per 1,000 residents (translated to Prosper = 1,274 ≈ **1,280 acres** for build-out population).

**Park area as a percentage of Town area**

Town of Prosper acreage (including ETJ) = 18,134 acres

Current park area in Town of Prosper = 0.37% calculated as 67 / 18,134 acres (ETJ included)

Metroplex average = 4.8% (translated to Prosper = 870 acres)

National average = 8.1% (translated to Prosper = 1,469 ≈ 1,470 acres)

City of Dallas = 10% (translated to Prosper = 1,813 ≈ 1,820 acres)

With ETJ included, the target park and open space acreage based on the size of Prosper is:

**870 acres** compared to the metroplex average

**1,470 acres** compared to the national average

**1,820 acres** compared to the City of Dallas average





Figure 6.3 – Park Acreage Target for Prosper

The 2007 target standard for park land acreage including all type of parks other than regional parks is 20 acres per 1,000 population. For the projected build-out population of 89,900 (≈ 90,000) this standard translates to a target of 1,800 acres park land for the Town of Prosper.

Park acreage currently dedicated to park land (both developed and undeveloped parks) totals 67 acres. This constitutes a deficit of 1,733 acres at build-out population when compared to the target standard of 1,800 acres.

Regional parks in cities and towns are typically a factor of the physical features of the town or city itself. Not all communities have the qualities that justify the development of a regional park. However, for Prosper it is found in the extensive creek system at the western part of the Town. Five tributaries come together over a distance of about 2 miles. Such is the creek system’s ecological, recreational and economical value, that a regional nature preserve is the most appropriate land use for this area. Addendum C: Creeks and Streams, describes the ecological, regional, and economic value of creeks and streams.

Based on this unique physical and natural resource, Prosper’s recommended 2007 target standard for regional parks is set at 10 acres per 1,000 population. For the projected build-out population of 89,900 (≈ 90,000) this standard translates to a target of 900 acres of regional park land for the Town of Prosper.

## 6.6 Park Acreage Comparisons

Reasoning for the recommended spatial target standard for Prosper is in part based on a comparison with nationally recommended standards and existing national and local spatial ratios.

### **Existing park acreage compared to the nation and the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex**

#### **Town wide developed and undeveloped park area per 1,000 residents**

- Current Town of Prosper developed and undeveloped park acreage = 67 Acres.
- This is an equivalent to 0.75 acres parkland for every 1,000 residents in Prosper for the build-out population\*.
- The Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex average is 14.17 acres per 1,000 residents, which translated to Prosper, is 1,274 acres for the build-out population\*. Prosper is thus 5.2 % of the metroplex average, which constitutes a **deficit of 1,207 acres**.

#### **Recently adopted standards of park area per 1,000 residents**

- City of Lancaster, Texas:
  - Close to Home and other city parks: 18 acres/1,000 population
  - Regional parks: 10 acres per 1,000 population
- City of Waxahachie, Texas:
  - Close to Home and other city parks: 20 acres/1,000 population
  - Regional parks: 10 acres per 1,000 population

#### **Park area as a percentage of Town area**

- Park area in Town of Prosper = 0.37% (67/ 18,134 acres\*\*).
- National average = 8.1% which translated to Prosper is 1,469 acres and constitutes a **deficit of 1,402 acres**.
- Town of Dallas = 10% which translated to Prosper is 1,813 acres and constitutes a **deficit of 1,746 acres**.
- DFW Metroplex = 4.8% which translated to Prosper is 870 acres and constitutes a **deficit of 803 acres\*\*\***.

Figure 6.4 – National and Metroplex Comparison

\* The projection build-out population is 89,900.

\*\* Town area (10,472 acres) + Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) (7,662 acres) = 18,134 acres

\*\*\* It is important to note that the comparison of park acreage as a percentage of Town area can be misleading. The comparison with other cities in the DFW Metroplex includes both undeveloped and build-out cities. Undeveloped cities typically will have less acreage dedicated to park land thus resulting in a relatively low ratio of park acreage per Town area. Older established and build-out cities historically had often an inadequate amount of parkland acquired, making it impossible to reach higher standards today.

*In addition, a substantial amount of acreage in Prosper is recommended for dedication to Regional Parks (10 acres per 1,000 population = 900 acres at 89,900 build-out population) mostly to protect areas prone to flooding. It is a fact that most cities in the metroplex do not have regional parks which reduces their parkland/population ratio dramatically.*

Compared to national standards, Prosper has a deficit of 1,402 acres. Compared to local standards, Prosper has a deficit of between 803 acres. Compared to the City of Dallas, Prosper has a deficit of 1,746 acres.

Based on the Prosper target standard of 20 acres per 1,000 population, the deficit for Prosper is set as follows:

<b>2030</b> (projected population of 40,000):	<b>733 acres</b>
<b>Build-out</b> (projected population of 89,900):	<b>1,732 acres</b>

### 6.7 Existing Conditions in Prosper

It is imperative that land banking is crucial, and a program should be put in place to ensure the acquisition of a park land on a consistent and goal orientated manner. Although large areas of Prosper are still undeveloped, development is happening at an unprecedented rate and a concerted effort should be made to acquire sufficient land for future park needs. Various options are available to acquire land including existing vacant land, land subject to flooding along the creeks and drainage ways and land dedicated to parks as a requirement of developers to fulfill the requirements of the Town’s Parkland Dedication Ordinance. Not all land will be suitable, though. The criteria for suitable land for parks include size, location and potential connectivity to schools, other parks and places of worship.

#### Neighborhood Parks in Prosper

Table 6.2 below summarizes the Town wide Neighborhood Park supply in Prosper.

<b>Table 6.2 Neighborhood Parks in Prosper</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Current Acres - 67 Acres</li> <li>■ <b>Target Standard - 2 acres per 1,000 population</b></li> <li>■ Future Need with 89,900 projected build-out population - <b>180 acres</b> (deficit of 113 acres).</li> <li>■ Existing acres are <u>37% of target standard</u> for build-out population.</li> </ul>

The standard of 2 acres of neighborhood parks for every 1,000 residents reflects the importance of having nearby parks for the residents of Prosper. Prosper currently has 67 acres of land dedicated to neighborhood parks. On a Town wide basis, the Town will have a deficit of 113 acres with build-out population of 89,900.

The Town’s neighborhood parks are concentrated south of Prosper Trail and east of the Burlington Northern Railroad. The rest of the Town has a dearth of neighborhood parks, which is particularly severe in the developed areas north of First Street.

One of the goals of neighborhood parks is that they be associated with schools. Of the four schools in Prosper, two of Prosper’s neighborhood parks are associated with a school. Eagle’s Landing Fields is the associated with Prosper Elementary School. Folsom Park is associated with Folsom Elementary School.

***Community Parks in Prosper***

Table 6.3 below summarizes the need for Town wide Community Park in Prosper.

<b><u>Table 6.3 Community Parks in Prosper</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Current Acres – 0 Acres</li> <li>■ <b>Target Standard – 7 acres per 1,000 population</b></li> <li>■ No land in Prosper is currently dedicated to Community Parks.</li> <li>■ Future Need with 89,900 population – <b>629 acres</b></li> </ul>

Based on a recommended standard of 7 acres per 1,000 population for community parks, the Town needs to acquire 629 acres to meet the demand at build-out population of 89,900.

With no land as yet dedicated to community parks, land should be acquired as a matter of urgency for at least two future community parks. At an average of 50 to 60 acres per park, 200 to 300 acres should be acquired during the next 5 years.

***Special Purpose Parks in Prosper***

Table 6.4 below summarizes the need for Town wide Special Purpose Park in Prosper.

<b><u>Table 6.4 Special Purpose Parks in Prosper</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Current Acres – 0 Acres</li> <li>■ <b>Target Standard – 3 acres per 1,000 population</b></li> <li>■ No land in Prosper is currently dedicated to Special Purpose Parks.</li> <li>■ Future Need with 89,900 population – <b>270 acres</b></li> </ul>

Based on a recommended standard of 3 acres per 1,000 population for Special Purpose Parks, the Town needs to acquire 270 acres to meet the demand at build-out population of 89,900.

There are various resource based needs for open space in Prosper that will be fulfilled with Special Purpose Parks and include views towards the grain silos and Prosper Downtown, land associated with cemeteries, land along the escarpment, high lying land, and views towards the Blackland Prairie Flats.

**Linear Parks in Prosper**

Table 6.5 below summarizes the need for Town wide Linear Park in Prosper.

<p><b><u>Table 6.5 Linear Parks in Prosper</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Current Acres – 0 Acres</li> <li>■ <b>Target Standard for Linear Parks, Linkage Corridors, &amp; Greenbelts – 3 acres per 1,000 population</b></li> <li>■ No land in Prosper is currently dedicated to Linear Parks.</li> <li>■ Future Need with 89,900 population – <b>270 acres.</b></li> </ul>
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Prosper has significant opportunities for linear parks along its creeks, drainage corridors, utility corridors and right-of-ways that traverse the Town. Linear parks can connect parks and key areas of the Town e.g. schools, and are relatively inexpensive to develop. These corridors can be used for trails and to address the need for additional park acreage in the Town.

The Town will benefit from linear parks especially when it is associated with creek corridors where it can fulfill the purpose of flood protection, ecological conservation, environmental education and recreation through trails. The value of creeks and streams in the urban and semi-urban environments is discussed in Addendum C: Creeks and Streams

**Open Space and Natural Areas in Prosper**

Table 6.6 below summarizes the need for Town wide Open Space in Prosper.

<p><b><u>Table 6.6 Open Space and Natural Areas in Prosper</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Current Acres – 0 Acres</li> <li>■ <b>Target Standard for Open Space and Natural Areas – 5 acres per 1,000 population</b></li> <li>■ No land in Prosper is currently dedicated to Open Space.</li> <li>■ Future Need with 89,900 population – <b>450 acres.</b></li> </ul>
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No land is at present dedicated as protected open space and natural areas in Prosper. Yet, the participants at the public meetings consistently stressed the importance of maintaining the Town’s rural character with natural areas. A concerted effort should be

made by the Town to ensure that the protection of open space and natural areas be secured, either by land acquisition through easements, purchasing of development rights, land dedication or outright purchasing of land. The sense of country, which is so highly prized by residents, can also be secured by a public/private partnership whereby developers are encouraged to implement “open space planning” and “conservation development” whereby large tracts of land are protected by clustering development on smaller parcels of land, with the resultant open space a communal asset to be enjoyed by everyone. Access to the larger open space as an amenity consistently results in higher property values. Such an approach truly speaks for the whole that is more than the sum of the parts.

It is important for cities and towns to have land that remains in an undeveloped state. One only has to travel into other cities that are rapidly developing in Texas to see the need and importance of open space preserves. These preserves add green space to the Town, and break up the continuous bands of buildings and streets that characterize most cities and towns. Open space is defined as land, which is not programmed for any specific active recreation purpose. However, its value may typically be defined as visual, emotional, ecological, providing compensation for impermeable surfaces including parking lots and roofs, as well as for bio-filtering and buffering between incompatible land uses. Open spaces are becoming increasingly valuable and precious in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex.

Specific recommendations for open space protection are discussed in Chapter 6.11 e) and Chapter 7.3.1 Conservation Planning and Development.

### Regional Parks in Prosper

Table 6.7 below summarizes the need for Town wide Regional Park in Prosper.

**Table 6.7 Regional Parks in Prosper**

- Current Acres – 0 Acres
- **Target Standard for Regional Parks – 10 acres per 1,000 population**
- No land in Prosper is currently dedicated to Regional Parks.
- Future Need with 89,900 population – **900 acres.**

The recommended standard of 10 acres per 1,000 population may appear to be extraordinary high. However, with 5 major tributaries coming together over a distance of about 2 miles in the western part of the Town, the value of protecting these creek systems by means of a regional park can not be over stated. The vision is to protect the 100 year flood plain at projected build-out watershed conditions including a buffer area within a regional park. Such a park will provide an important benefit to the region and become a true regional destination. With the regional value in mind, it is appropriate to consider involvement of the Denton County as well as Texas Parks and Wildlife to secure the land for this proposed regional park.

Table 6.8 below summarizes the key spatial needs for Prosper at built-out population; these values form a crucial part of the park master plan recommendations in Chapter 8.

**Table 6.8 Summary of Key Acreage Needs for Build-out Population at 89,900**

**Neighborhood Parks**

- Current acres are 37% of the target standard.
- Need to acquire additional land of 113 acres to meet target standard.

**Community Parks**

- No land currently dedicated to Community Parks.
- Need to acquire 629 acres to meet target standard.

**Special Purpose Parks**

- No land currently dedicated to Special Purpose Parks.
- Need to acquire 270 acres to meet target standard.

**Linear Parks**

- No land currently dedicated to Linear Parks.
- Need to acquire 270 acres to meet target standard.

**Open Space and Natural Areas**

- No land currently dedicated to Open Space.
- Need to acquire 450 acres to meet target standard.

**Regional Parks**

- No land currently dedicated to Regional Parks.
- Need to acquire 900 acres to meet target standard.

**Town wide Acreage Needs**

- Sum of all target goals (including Regional Parks) recommends 30 acres per 1,000 population.
- This represents a target goal of 2,700 acres of parks and open space in the Town of Prosper for build-out population of 89,900.

## 6.B – Recreation Facilities Needs in Prosper

**Levels of Service** - The recommended Levels of Service for recreation facilities are specifically based on demonstrated needs, the actual number of facilities in Prosper and the amount of use each facility receives. They are expressed as the number of facilities per population size. The Levels of Service are determined by the current needs, the community's demand and recognized standards.

**Current Levels of Service (CLOS)** – The Current Levels of Service are expressed as the number of current recreation facilities per population size. An evaluation of the current use by each league in the town is used to develop strategies to meet both current and future recreation facility demands.

**Minimum Levels of Service (MLOS)** –The MLOS for each type of facility are determined as a guide to provide the most basic recreation facilities for the Community. The MLOS as determined by a small/young city or town, may be more than the ideal target standard per existing population size, whereas the MLOS for a large/old city may be lower than the ideal target standard. In other words, the MLOS does not reflect the ideal goal for that particular recreation facility, but rather the minimum facility requirement which that particular city or town should have at present regardless of the size of the population.

**Current Needs Assessment** – This section reviews current recreation facilities, league participation, and anticipated need for additional facilities or improvements to existing facilities for each type of sport, activity or amenity.

**Demand Based Needs** – The residents' demand for recreational facilities, are determined based on their expressed need/ attitude. Respondents to the Resident attitude survey were asked to indicate which facilities they would most likely participate in and what recreation activities they would prefer in large Community Parks and Linear Parks. A summary of resident participation is provided in Chapter 5, Resident Input, and is also contained in the Addendum 1: Public Participation.

**Standards Based Needs** – This need is based on comparisons with the national standard, as well as the actual number of recreation facilities in Prosper and the amount of use each facility receives. Table 6.9 on the next two pages summarizes the Prosper 2007 Current Levels of Service and target standards for each type of facility.

**Table 6.9: Prosper Major Recreational Facility Standards** on the next page describes a recommended target standard for recreation facilities expressed as a ratio of the number of facilities per 1,000 population.

## **6.8 Athletic Facility Evaluation**

The Parks Master Plan includes school athletic facilities along with Town facilities as a true reflection of the total facilities provided to the residents of Prosper.

The joint use agreement between the Town and the Prosper Independent School District (PISD) provides for access and use by Prosper resident of the following PISD facilities:

- Playgrounds on Elementary School campuses
- The High School and Middle School tennis courts

Team sports in Prosper are provided by the Prosper Community Tennis Association (PCTA) and the Prosper Sport Association. Athletic facilities are at present based in both neighborhood parks and on PISD property. Each sport association provided the planning team with their participation projection and future facility needs (see Addendum B: Sport Organization Input).

A specific review of each type of major athletic facilities, current usage, the locally adopted standard for each facility, key issues and the recommended Minimum Levels of Service associated with each type of facility follows.



*Young adults playing basketball on the grounds of the church adjacent to Eagles Landing Fields*



**Table 6.9 - Prosper Major Recreation Facility Standards**



Facility Type	Existing Town & School	Current Levels of Service	NRPA Target Standard (1)	Prosper Target Standard (2)	2007 (~ 5,250 pop.)	2012 (~ 11,000 pop.)
<b>Competitive Facilities</b>						
Baseball Lighted	2 fields (Schools: 0 available)	1 / 2,630 pop.	1 / 5,000 pop.	1/ 5000 pop.	1.05 ~ 1 Fields (surplus of 1 fields)	2.2 ~ 2 Fields (deficit of 0 fields)
Softball Lighted	0 fields (Schools: 0 available)	0	1 / 5,000 pop.	1/ 5000 pop.	1.05 ~ 1 Fields (deficit of 1 fields)	2.2 ~ 2 Fields (deficit of 2 fields)
Soccer	1 fields (Schools: 0 available)	1 / 5,250 pop.	1 / 10,000 pop.	1/ 3000 pop.	1.8 ~ 2 Fields (deficit of 1 fields)	3.7 ~ 4 Fields (deficit of 3 fields)
Football* * same as soccer field above	1 field (Schools: 0 available)	1 / 5,250 pop.	1 / 20,000 pop.	1/ 10000 pop.	0.53 ~ 1 Fields (deficit of 0 fields)	1.1 ~ 1 Fields (deficit of 0 fields)
<b>Practice Facilities</b>						
Baseball	1 backstops (Schools: 0 available)	1 / 5,250 pop.		1/ 3500 pop.	1.50 ~ 2 Backstops (deficit of 1 backstops)	3.1 ~ 3 Backstops (deficit of 2 backstops)
Softball	1 backstops (Schools: 0 available)	1 / 5,250 pop.		1/ 3500 pop.	1.50 ~ 2 Backstops (deficit of 1 backstops)	3.1 ~ 3 Backstops (deficit of 2 backstops)
Multi-purpose Practice Fields (Soccer & football)	1 fields (Schools: 0 available)	1 / 5,250 pop.		1/ 2000 pop.	2.63 ~ 3 Fields (deficit of 2 fields)	5.5 ~ 6 Fields (deficit of 5 fields)
<b>Other Athletic Facilities</b>						
Basketball Goals (Outdoor)	4 goals (Schools: 0 available)	1 / 1,310 pop.	1 / 2,500 pop.	1/ 2500 pop.	2.10 ~ 2 Goals (surplus of 2 goals)	4.4 ~ 4 Goals (deficit of 0 goals)
Sand Volleyball (Outdoor)	0 court	0	1 / 5,000 pop.	1/ 5000 pop.	1.05 ~ 1 Courts (deficit of 1 courts)	2.2 ~ 2 Courts (deficit of 2 courts)
Tennis Courts	6 (Schools: 6 courts) (Town: 0 courts)	1 / 2,880 pop.	1 / 2,000 pop.	1/ 2000 pop.	2.6 ~ 3 Courts (surplus of 3 courts)	5.5 ~ 6 Courts (deficit of 0 courts)
In-Line Hockey	0 rink	0	1 / 20,000 pop.	1/ 20000 pop.	0.26 ~ 0 Rinks (deficit of 0 rink)	0.6 ~ 0 rink (deficit of 0 rink)
<b>Other Recreation Facilities</b>						
Dog Park	0 parks	0		1/ 30000 pop.	0.18 ~ 0 Park (deficit of 0 park)	0.4 ~ 0 Park (deficit of 0 park)
Skate Park	0 parks	0		1/ 15000 pop.	0.35 ~ 0 Park (deficit of 0 park)	0.7 ~ 1 Park (deficit of 1 park)
Disc Golf Course (Frisbee)	0 courses	0		1 course/ 20000 pop.	0.26 ~ 0 Course (deficit of 0 course)	0.6 ~ 0 Course (deficit of 0 course)

Facility Type	Existing Town & School	Current Levels of Service	NRPA Target Standard (1)	Prosper Target Standard (2)	2007 (~ 5,250 pop.)	2012 (~ 11,000 pop.)
Swimming Pool / Aquatic Center	0 pool / center	0	1 / 20,000 pop. (pool only)	1/ 20000 pop.	0.26 ~ 0 Pool (deficit of 0 pool)	0.6 ~ 0 Pool (deficit of 0 pool)
Water Spray Park	0 parks	0		1/ 15000 pop.	0.35 ~ 0 Parks (deficit of 0 parks)	0.7 ~ 1 Parks (deficit of 1 parks)
Recreation Center	0 center	0	1 / 20,000 pop.	1/ 15000 pop.	0.4 ~ 0 Center (deficit of 0 center)	0.7 ~ 1 Center (deficit of 1 center)
Paved Hike and Bike Trails	3.7 miles	1 miles/1,420 pop.		1 mile/ 1000 pop.	5.25 ~ 6 Miles (deficit of 2 miles)	11.0 ~ 11 Miles (deficit of 7 miles)
Equestrian Trails	1.8 miles	1 miles/2,900 pop.		1 mile/ 5000 pop.	1.05 ~ 1 Miles (surplus of 1 miles)	2.2 ~ 2 Miles (surplus of 0 miles)
Playgrounds	4 play units (Schools: 0 units)	1 / 2,920 pop.	1 / 1,000 pop.	1/ 1000 pop.	5.3 ~ 5 Units (deficit of 1 units)	11.0 ~ 11 Units (deficit of 7 units)
Pavilions/ Picnic Shelter	5 units (Schools: 0 available)	1 / 1,100 pop.	1 / 2,000 pop.	1/ 1000 pop.	5.25 ~ 5 Units (surplus of 0 units)	11.0 ~ 11 Units (deficit of 6 units)

Note: Based on population projections for Prosper as adopted by Prosper Town Council

- (1) Source: National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA): J. mertes and J. Hall; Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines; 1995; and Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines; 1983.
- (2) General goals for comparison only. Standards allow Town to establish general target service levels.

## MAJOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES

### ***Baseball***



#### **Supply and Standard Competitive Facilities**

- Current Number of Competition Fields: 2 fields (Town: 2; Schools: not available)
- **Target Standard: 1 field per 5,000 population**  
The 2007 target standard is equal to the NRPA standard and results in a **surplus of 1 field** for 2007 and adequate supply for 2012.

#### **Practice Facilities**

- Current Number of Practice Backstops: 1 backstop (Town: 1; Schools: not available)
- **Target Standard: 1 backstop per 3,500 population**  
The 2007 standard results in a **deficit of 1 field** for 2007 and deficit of 2 for 2012.

#### **Attitude Survey Results**

- For activities respondents would most likely participate in, baseball features as number 11 on the list of 14.
- As a preference for recreation activities in Community Parks, baseball fields feature as number 8 on a list of 22.
- If only one activity was to be provided for in Community Parks, baseball fields featured number 4.

#### **Key Issues/Needs**

- The Prosper Sports Association's highest player participation (only Prosper participants) during either 2005 or 2006 numbered 221 youth.
- Their need is one additional lighted baseball field.
- Additional practice fields are also needed.
- From a regional perspective, Prosper Baseball for the last two years has been host for all Celina's "home" games due to their field availability. In addition, baseball also has opportunity to host playoff and regional tournaments based on season successes for multiple age groups.

#### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for baseball fields**

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 3 lighted baseball fields (2 according to the Prosper Target Standard and 1 additional field due to an immediate need expressed by PSA). In order to meet the requirement for both lighted and practice fields, it is required that one additional lighted baseball field and two additional backstop be provided in the next 5 year period. The best location for these fields would be in a future Community Park.

## **Softball**



### **Supply and Standard**

#### **Competitive Facilities**

- Current Number of Competition Fields: 0 fields
- **Target Standard: 1 field per 5,000 population**  
The 2007 target standard is equal to the NRPA standard and results in a **deficit of 1 field** for 2007 and a deficit of 2 fields for 2012.

#### **Practice Facilities**

- Current Number of Practice Backstops: 1 backstop (Town: 1 / schools: 0)
- **Target Standard: 1 backstop per 3,500 population**  
The 2007 standard results in a **deficit of 1** for 2007 and a deficit of 2 for 2012.

### **Attitude Survey Results**

- For activities respondents would most likely participate in, softball features as number 10 on the list of 14.
- As a preference for recreation activities in Community Parks, youth softball fields feature as number 10 and adult softball fields as number 16 on a list of 22.

### **Key Issues/Needs**

- The Prosper Sports Association's highest player participation (only Prosper participants) during either 2005 or 2006 numbered 90 youth.
- Their need is one additional lighted softball field.
- Additional practice fields are also needed.
- From a regional perspective, the PSA plays girls softball outside of Prosper in McKinney.
- The PSA pushes for Dixie or USSSA, which will provide the opportunity to host playoff and regional tournaments.

#### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for softball fields**

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 2 lighted softball fields which is based on the Prosper Target Standard and need expressed by PSA. In order to meet this requirement for both lighted and practice fields, it is required that two lighted softball fields and two backstops be provided in the next 5 year period. However, the need for a backstop will also be met by developing the backstop as recommended for baseball above. The best location for these fields would be in a future Community Park.

### **Soccer (Youth)**



#### **Supply and Standard Competitive Facilities**

- Current Number of Competition Fields: 1 fields (Town: 1; Schools: 0)
- **Target Standard: 1 field per 3,000 population**  
The 2007 target standard is three times the NRPA standard and results in a **deficit of 1** soccer field for 2007 and a deficit of 3 fields for 2012.

#### **Practice Facilities**

- Current Number of Multi-purpose Practice Fields (soccer and football combined): 1 field (Town: 1 / schools: 0)
- **Target Standard: 1 field per 2,000 population**  
The 2007 standard results in a **deficit of 2** fields for 2007 and a deficit of 5 multi-purpose practice fields for 2012.

#### **Attitude Survey Results**

- For activities respondents would most likely participate in, soccer features as number 13 on the list of 14.
- As a preference for recreation activities in Community Parks, soccer fields feature as number 11 on a list of 22.
- If only one activity was to be provided for in Community Parks, soccer fields feature as number 5.

#### **Key Issues/Needs**

- The Prosper Sports Association's highest player participation (only Prosper participants) during either 2005 or 2006 numbered 360 youth.
- Their need is one additional lighted soccer/football field.
- Additional practice fields are also needed.
- The PSA plays soccer outside of Prosper in Frisco. However from a regional perspective, soccer has started to play some of the Frisco Soccer Association games in Prosper. It is planned for the PSA to host open soccer tournaments.

#### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for soccer fields**

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 4 lighted soccer fields and 6 multi-purpose practice fields. In order to meet the requirement for both lighted fields and practice fields, it is required that three lighted soccer fields and five multi-purpose practice fields be provided in the next 5 year period. The best location for these fields would be in a future Community Park.

## **Football**



### **Supply and Standard Competitive Facilities**

- Current Number of Competition Fields: 1 field (Town: 1; Schools: 0) which is the same field as the one used for soccer.
- **Target Standard: 1 field per 10,000 population**  
The 2007 standard is set at double the NRPA standard which results in a 0 deficit for both 2007 and 2012.

### **Practice Facilities**

- See soccer above.

### **Attitude Survey Results**

- As a preference for recreation activities in Community Parks, football fields feature as number 17 on a list of 22.

### **Key Issues/Needs**

- The Prosper Sports Association's highest player participation (only Prosper participants) during either 2005 or 2006 numbered 193 youth and 112 cheerleading youth.
- Their need is one additional lighted soccer/football field.
- Additional practice fields are also needed.
- The PSA Football/Cheerleading play host to weekend games (one or two over course of season), towns in the Texoma Youth League Football program block games weekly to consolidate officiating, travel and concessions. Post season play host is determined by league record.

#### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for football fields**

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 1 lighted football field. This requirement is already met by the existing football/soccer field. However, the need for a practice field will be met by developing the multi-purpose practice fields as recommended for soccer above. As mentioned, the best location for such fields would be in a future Community Park.

## OTHER ATHLETIC FACILITIES

### *Basketball Goals (Outdoor)*



#### **Supply and Standard**

- Current Number of Goals: 4 goals (Town: 4; Schools: 0)
- **Target Standard: 1 basketball goal per 2,500 population**  
The 2007 standard is higher than the NRPA standard which results in a **surplus of 2 goals** in 2007 and a deficit of 0 goals for 2012.

#### **Attitude Survey Results**

- For activities respondents would most likely participate in, basketball features as number 12 on the list of 14.
- As a preference for recreation activities in Community Parks, basketball courts feature as number 9 on a list of 22.

#### **Key Issues/Needs**

- The Prosper Sports Association's highest player participation (only Prosper participants) during either 2005 or 2006 numbered 240 youth.
- Their need is two additional indoor multipurpose floor facilities (4 goals for basketball/volleyball) in order to support 4 simultaneous events.
- The Parks Master Plan does not account for indoor facilities.

#### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for basketball goals**

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 4 lighted basketball goals. This requirement is met with the two lighted full size basketball courts (4 goals). Cities and towns often provide half courts (one goal) at neighborhood parks due to their convenient access for one person practice. Additional basketball courts may be considered as part of the development of future Community Parks.

## **Tennis**



### **Supply and Standard**

- Current Number of Tennis Courts: 6 courts (Town and schools joint ownership: 6)
- **Target Standard: 1 court per 2,000 population**  
The 2007 standard is equal to the NRPA standard and results in a surplus of 3 courts in 2007 and a 0 deficit in 2012.

### **Attitude Survey Results**

- For activities respondents would most likely participate in, tennis features as number 8 on the list of 14.
- As a preference for recreation activities in Community Parks, tennis courts feature as number 14 on a list of 22.
- If only one activity was to be provided for, tennis features as number 7.

### **Key Issues/Needs**

- The Prosper Sports Association's highest player participation (only Prosper participants) during either 2005 or 2006 numbered 58 youth.

### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for tennis courts**

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 6 lighted tennis courts-. This requirement is met with the six lighted tennis courts. Should the demand for tennis increase during the next 5 years, tennis courts may be considered as part of the development of future Community Parks.

## **Sand Volleyball (Outdoor)**



### **Supply and Standard**

- Current Number of Volleyball Courts: 0 courts
- **Target Standard: 1 court per 5,000 population**  
The 2007 standard is set at the same level as the NRPA standard and results in a deficit of 1 court in 2007 and a deficit of 2 courts in 2012.

### **Attitude Survey Results**

- For activities respondents would most likely participate in, volleyball features as number 9 on the list of 14.
- As a preference for recreation activities in Community Parks volleyball courts feature as number 15 on a list of 22.

### **Key Issues/Needs**

- The Prosper Sports Association's highest player participation (only Prosper participants) during either 2005 or 2006 numbered 72 youth. However, the PSA only uses indoor play facilities and their information does not apply to sand volleyball.

#### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for outdoor volleyball courts**

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 2 outdoor volleyball courts. In order to meet this minimum Level of Service, it is recommended to provide two volleyball courts in a future Community Park. Experience shows that the value and use of sand volleyball courts increase significantly when more than one court is constructed together, making it possible to have multiple games at a time. Cities and towns often provide volleyball courts at neighborhood parks due to their convenient access and localized demand.

### ***In-Line Hockey Rink***



#### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for an in-line hockey rink**

No need has been identified for an In-Line Hockey Rink at this stage. Should such a need be identified in the future, the NRPA standard of 1 rink per 20,000 population may be followed as a guide.

## 6.9 Other Recreation Facilities Evaluation

Other recreation facilities include facilities for non-athletic, non-competitive and passive activities. A review of each type of facility follows.

### ***Paved Hike and Bike Trails***



#### **Supply and Standard**

- Current Number of paved Hike and Bike Trails: 3.7 miles (Town: 3.7 miles; Schools: 0)
- **Target Standard: 1 mile per 1,000 population**  
The 2007 standard results in a **deficit of 2.3 miles** for 2007, a **deficit of 7.3 miles** for 2012 and a deficit of 86 miles at a build-out population of 89,900.

#### **Attitude Survey Results**

- For activities respondents would most likely participate in, walking and jogging feature as **number 3 on the list of 14**.
- As a preference for recreation activities in Community Parks, hike and bike trails fields feature as number 7 on a list of 22.
- If only one activity was to be provided for, **trails feature as number 1**.
- It is clear that respondents to the attitude survey rated jogging/biking trails consistently as one of the most important recreational facilities to be constructed, emphasized by their passionate response and singled out from a list of 22 options.

#### **Key Issues/Needs**

- There is currently a nation wide increase in the popularity of trails that can be enjoyed by all age groups. Accessibility, security and visual interest along the way are a few of the important considerations when developing trails.

#### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for paved hike and bike trails**

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 11 miles of trails. In order to meet this requirement, it is required that 7.3 miles be provided in the next 5 year period. The ideal location for trails is along creek and drainage corridors, utility easements and the railroad corridor. Other important trail connections are along streets where enhanced and widened sidewalks double up as trails.

### **Playground Units**



#### **Supply and Standard**

- Current Number of playgrounds: 0 courts (Town: 4; Schools: 0)
- **Target Standard: 1 playground per 1,000 population**  
The 2007 standard is set at the same level as the NRPA standard and results in a deficit of 1 playground in 2007 and a deficit of 7 playground units in 2012.

#### **Attitude Survey Results**

- For activities respondents would most likely participate in, playgrounds feature as number 6 on the list of 14.
- As a preference for recreation activities in Community Parks playgrounds feature as number 3 on a list of 22.
- If only one activity was to be provided for in Community Parks, playgrounds feature as number 2.

#### **Key Issues/Needs**

- The demand for children's playgrounds is generally high in all communities. Prosper is no exception where it rates as the third most preferred activity in large Community Parks. Playgrounds typically are a basic facility provided at all neighborhood parks.

#### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for playgrounds**

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 11 playgrounds. In order to meet this requirement, 7 additional playgrounds are to be provided in the next 5 year period. The best location for playgrounds is neighborhood parks. However, playgrounds should also be considered at future Community Parks.

### **Indoor Recreation Center**

#### **Supply and Standard**

- Current Number of Recreation Centers: 0 centers
- **Target Standard: 1 recreation center per 15,000 population**  
The 2007 standard is set at a higher level than the NRPA standard and results in a deficit of 1 for 2012.

**Attitude Survey Results**

- From a list of 12 recreational facilities respondents would support an indoor recreation center features as number 3 on the list of 12.

**Key Issues/Needs**

- A recreation center is a huge investment. However, once established and well managed, it may become a source of revenue for the Town.

**Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for an indoor recreation center**

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 1 recreation center to be constructed as part of a future Community Park.

***Outdoor Swimming Pool / Indoor Aquatic Facility***



**Supply and Standard**

- Current Number of outdoor swimming pools or indoor aquatic facilities: 0 pools / aquatic facilities
- **Target Standard: 1 recreation center per 20,000 population**  
The 2007 standard is set at the same level as the NRPA standard and results in a 0 deficit for 2007 and 2012.

**Attitude Survey Results**

- From a list of 12 recreational facilities respondents support an outdoor swimming pool and indoor aquatic center features as number 8 and 6 respectively.

**Key Issues/Needs**

- Many cities invest in aquatic centers rather than an outdoor swimming pool. Some of these aquatic centers are extremely successful in addition to be a good source of income. However, the requirement for it to be successful is a large enough population.

**Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for an indoor aquatic center and outdoor swimming pool**

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be no indoor aquatic facility or outdoor swimming pool until the demand for such facilities is high enough to justify the investment.

### **Skate Park**



#### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for a skate park**

No need has been identified for a Skate Park at this stage. However Skate Parks have gained a substantial level of interest with many communities in recent years. Should such a need for Prosper be identified in the future, the standard of 1 Skate Park per 15,000 population is recommended as a guide.

### **Water Spray Park**

#### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for a water spray park**

Limited preference has been identified for a water spray park at this stage. However Water Spray Parks have gained a substantial level of interest with many communities in recent years. Should such a need for Prosper be identified in the future, the standard of 1 Water Spray Park per 15,000 population is recommended as a guide.

### **Disc Golf Course (Frisbee)**

#### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for a disc golf course**

Disc golf is a sport typically played by students and up and coming young professionals. Limited preference has been identified for a Disc Golf Course at this stage. Should a need for Prosper be identified in the future, the target standard of 1 disc golf course per 20,000 population is recommended as a guide.

## 6.10 Support Facilities

### **Park Pavilions / Picnic Shelters / Outdoor events**

#### **Supply and Standard**

- Current Number of pavilions / picnic shelters: 2 pavilions / 3 picnic shelters (All Town provided; Schools: 0)
- **Target Standard: 1 pavilion / picnic shelter per 1,000 population**  
The 2007 standard is set at double the level as the NRPA standard and results in an adequate supply for 2007 and a deficit of 6 pavilions / picnic shelters in 2012.

#### **Attitude Survey Results**

- For activities respondents would most likely participate in, attending outdoor events features as number 1 and picnic features as number 4 on the list of 14.
- As a preference for recreation activities in Community Parks picnic areas feature as number 2 and pavilions or shelters as number 4 on a list of 22.

#### **Key Issues/Needs**

- The demand for pavilions, shelters and picnic areas are generally high in all communities. Prosper is no exception as seen in the Attitude Survey.

#### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for pavilions /picnic shelters**

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 11 pavilions /picnic shelters. In order to meet this requirement, 6 additional pavilions /picnic shelters are to be provided in the next 5 year period. Both neighborhood parks and community parks are ideal for the provision of pavilions /picnic shelters.

## **Dog Park**



### **Key Issues**

- The purpose of dog parks is mainly twofold: running opportunities and dog socializing (even owner socializing). A third purpose is more applicable in dense multi-family apartment housing where a dog park is the only opportunity for the animals to have access to an exterior landscaped environment. Depending on what is allowed or not, dog parks need to be of a certain size to absorb animal droppings not picked up by owners. If droppings are to be picked up, policing becomes an important factor. The typical issues about dog parks include the NIMBY “not in my backyard” factor, as a result of potential noise, odor and traffic, including the need for parking.

### **Year 2007 – 2012 Minimal Level of Service for a dog park**

Limited preference has been identified for a Dog Park at this stage. Should a need for dog parks in Prosper be identified in the future, the target standard of 1 dog park per 30,000 population is recommended as a guide.

**Table 6.10**  
**Summary of Minimum Levels of Service (MLOS) and Required Addition per Recreation Facility for the next 5 years**

Recreation Facility	Current Level of Service/ Population	Long Term Target Standard	2007 - 2012 MLOS/ Facility #	2007-2012 Required Addition
<b>Major Athletic</b>				
Baseball Fields (Competitive)	1/2,630	1/5,000	3	1 fields
Baseball/Softball (Backstops)	1/5,250	1/3,500	6	4 backstops
Softball Fields (Competitive)	0	1/5,000	2	2 fields
Soccer Fields (Youth)	1/5,250	1/3,000	4	3 fields
Football Fields	1/5,250	1/10,000	1	0 fields
Multipurpose Practice Fields (Soccer and Football)	1/5,250	1/2,000	6	5 fields
<b>Other Athletic</b>				
Basketball Goals (Outdoor)	1/1,310	1/2,500	4	0 goals
Tennis Courts	1/880	1/2,000	6	0 courts
Volleyball Courts (Sand - Outdoor)	0	1/5,000	2	2 courts
In-Line Hockey Rinks	0	1/20,000	0	0 rinks
<b>Non-athletic/Non-competitive</b>				
Hike and Bike Trails (Paved)	1 mile/ 1,420	1 mile/ 1,000	11 miles	7.3 miles
Equestrian Trails	1 mile/ 2,900	1 mile/ 5,000	2 miles	0 miles
Playground Units	1:2,920	1/1,000	11	7 play units
Indoor Recreation Centers	0	1/15,000	1	1 center
Outdoor Swimming Pool	0	1/20,000	0	0 pools
Indoor Aquatic Center	0	1/20,000	0	0 center
Skate Parks	0	1/15,000	0	0 skate parks
Water Spray Parks	0	1/15,000	0	0 spray parks
Disc Golf Course	0	1/20,000	0	0 golf course
<b>Support Facilities</b>				
Pavilions / Picnic Shelters	1/1,100	1/1,000	11	6 shelters
Dog Parks	0	1/30,000	0	0 dog parks

**Table 6.11**  
**Resident Attitude Survey Response by Rank for preference for recreation activities in a large park (Community Park)**

<b>Preference for recreation activities in Large Parks (Community Parks)</b>			
	<b>% Support</b>	<b>Support to No Support</b>	<b>Type Activity/Facility</b>
<b>Majority Support</b>			
1. Restrooms	98%	98:1	Support
2. Picnic Areas	97%	49:1	Passive
3. Children’s Playgrounds	95%	32:1	Non-athletic
4. Pavilions or Shelters	94%	24:1	Support
5. Lighted Areas	94%	24:1	Support
6. Hike And Bike Trails	93%	19:1	Non-athletic
7. Nature Areas/Natural Habitat	93%	16:1	Support
8. Outdoor Basketball Courts	85%	7.7:1	Athletic
9. Baseball Fields	86%	7.2:1	Athletic
10. Youth Softball Fields	85%	6.5:1	Athletic
11. Soccer Fields	83%	6.4:1	Athletic
12. Stage Area For concerts or gatherings	82%	5.5:1	Support
13. Artificial Shade Areas	81%	6.8:1	Support
14. Tennis Courts	80%	6.2:1	Athletic
15. Volleyball Courts	80%	5:1	Athletic
16. Adult Softball Fields	80%	4.4:1	Athletic
17. Football Fields	74%	3.3:1	Athletic
<b>Limited Interest</b>			
18. Disc Golf Course	50%	1.2:1	Non-athletic
19. Equestrian Trails	49%	1.1:1	Non-athletic
<b>Majority Opposition</b>			
20. Bmx Bicycle Course	41%	0.7:1	Non-athletic
21. Skateboard Park	40%	0.7:1	Non-athletic
22. In-Line Hockey Rink	39%	0.7:1	Non-athletic

**Table 6.12**  
**Resident Attitude Survey Response by Rank for preference for recreation activities in a large park (Community Park) if only one facility is to be provided (top 15)**

<b>Most Important Community park facility if only one is to be constructed:</b>			
		<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Type Activity</b>
1.	Hike And Bike Trails	22%	Non-athletic
2.	Children’s Playgrounds	20%	Non-athletic
3.	Nature Areas/Natural Habitat	10%	Support
4.	Baseball Fields	7%	Athletic
5.	Soccer Fields	5%	Athletic
6.	A Stage Area For concerts or gatherings	5%	Support
7.	Tennis Courts	4%	Athletic
8.	Restrooms	4%	Support
9.	Picnic Areas	3%	Passive
10.	Pavilions or Shelters	3%	Support
11.	Adult Softball Fields	3%	Athletic
12.	Lighted Areas	3%	Support
13.	Equestrian Trails	3%	Non-athletic
14.	Outdoor Basketball Courts	2%	Athletic
15.	Football Fields	2%	Athletic

**Table 6.13**  
**Resident Attitude Survey Response with regards to activities that respondents would most likely participate in**

	<u>Percentage Participation</u>	<u>Participation: Non-participation</u>	<u>Type Activity</u>
<b>Majority interest</b>			
1. Attend outdoor events	89%	8.9:1	Passive
2. Enjoy Nature	83%	4.6:1	Passive
3. Walk/Jog for Exercise	78%	3.5:1	Non-athletic
4. Picnic	69%	2.2:1	Passive
<b>Limited interest</b>			
5. Swim in a pool	56%	1.3:1	Non-athletic
6. Use Playground	53%	1.1:1	Non-athletic
7. Walk dog	52%	1.1:1	Non-athletic
8. Play tennis	51%	1.1:1	Athletic
9. Play sand volleyball	50%	1:1	
10. Practice Softball	49%	1:1	Athletic
<b>Minority interest</b>			
11. Practice Baseball	49%	0.7:1	Athletic
12. Play Basketball	42%	0.9:1	Athletic
13. Practice Soccer	42%	0.7:1	Athletic
14. Play bocce/horseshoes	36%	0.6:1	Non-athletic

It is noticeable that Non-Athletic activities (e.g. Walking/jogging, swimming) and Passive activities (enjoy nature, picnic) rated generally higher in need than organized athletic activities like softball, baseball, basketball and soccer.

The demand based need for recreational facilities as expressed in the Attitude Survey was combined with the standard based needs in order to determine the overall priority for recreation facilities. Table 6.14 presents the overall priority for recreation facilities based on both the standard based (Table 6.10) and demand based needs (Table 6.11, 6.12 and 6.13).

**Table 6.14**

**The top 10 priority ranking of the need for recreational facilities  
For the next 5 years based on both the standard based and MLOS  
(Table 6.10) and demand based needs (Table 6.11 and 6.12 and 6.13)**

	<u>Facility Type</u>
1. JOGGING, HIKE AND BIKE TRAILS	Non-athletic
2. PLAYGROUNDS	Non-athletic
3. NATURAL HABITAT / NATURE AREAS	Support
4. PARK RESTROOMS	Support
5. PICNIC FACILITIES and PAVILIONS	Support
6. SOCCER FIELDS (COMPETITIVE and PRACTICE)	Athletic
7. BASEBALL PRACTICE FIELDS	Athletic
8. STAGE AREA FOR CONCERTS (AMPHITHEATER)	Support
9. YOUTH SOFTBALL FIELDS	Athletic
10. OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS	Athletic

**Table 6.15**

**Summary of Top 10 Priorities per Facility Type**

	<u>Non-athletic</u>		<u>Athletic</u>		<u>Support</u>
1	Jogging, Hike and Bike Trails	1	Soccer Fields	1	Natural Habitat / Nature Areas
2	Playgrounds	2	Baseball Fields	2	Park Restrooms
		3	Youth Softball Fields	3	Picnic Areas
		4	Basketball Courts	4	Pavilions or Shelters
				5	Amphitheater

## 6.C – Resource Based Needs in Prosper

### 6.11 Resource Based Assessment

The Town of Prosper has a number of landscape features that should be preserved and/or adapted for recreational use and open space preservation where feasible. These are the Blackland Prairie, rural and visually attractive landscapes, the Town's creek system, TXU Utility Rights-of-Way, Gas and Water Rights-of-Way and the Railroad Right-of-Way.

Methods to ensure the protection and effective management of the natural and visual resources of the Town include creek buffers, integrated stormwater management, nature preserves and Conservation Development.

#### 6.11.1 Blackland Prairie

Prosper is located within the Blackland Prairie ecological area. The Blackland Prairie region is gently rolling and level land covering 23,500 square miles. The region is underlain by Upper Cretaceous marine chinks, marls, limestones, and shales which gave rise to the development of the characteristic black, calcareous, alkaline, heavy clay soils. It is named for the rich, deep, fertile black soils that once supported the original tallgrass prairie communities and, today support crop production and cattle ranching. Prior to the seventeenth century, this area in North Central Texas had 12 million acres of tallgrass prairie; now there are less than 5,000 acres. It is the grassland communities themselves - the big bluestem, little bluestem, switchgrass, and sideoats and associated herbaceous flora that make these prairies unique. Agriculture and development have threatened the remaining grassland communities with extirpation from Texas.

From: [http://www.texasep.org/html/Ind/Ind\\_1reg\\_def.html](http://www.texasep.org/html/Ind/Ind_1reg_def.html)

One of the most important benefits of the tall grass prairie is the deep root system of these grasses with the following effect:

- It decreases flood potential due to the deep root system that soaks up potential runoff like a sponge releasing it again over time.
- Water quality increases due to filtration before entering the creek system.

The other, most obvious value of the tall grass prairie, is the unique habitat that it creates for many animal and bird species.

The manner in which the Blackland Prairie as a natural resource can be celebrated and included in the recreational experience, is through concepts of sustainable design and flood plain protection. Remnants of good examples of Blackland Prairie should be inventoried and protected by land acquisition for park land and/or inclusion in developments conceived through Open Space Conservation Planning and Design.



*Image of the Blackland Prairie with a mixture of grasses and wildflowers.*



*Various images of the Blackland Prairie (source: Nature Conservancy's Texas Chapter).*

### 6.11.2 Rural and Visually Attractive Landscapes and Road Sections

The public participation process including the telephonic conducted Attitude Survey and the public meeting revealed that the residents of Prosper place strong emphasis on the importance of maintaining the rural character of the Town and providing access to natural areas. A rural character for Prosper typically means a natural landscape representing the Blackland Prairie and an agricultural landscape including cultivated lands, ranch land with cattle and/or horses and farm buildings and/or structures. One way in maintaining this rural character is by preserving views and vistas from various vantage points including views along the Town's road system. Such views may include agricultural fields, farm structures including barns and windmills, windrows of trees and views along the creeks, as well as cemeteries.



*Farm animals contribute to creating a sense of calm and quietness in the countryside.*

### 6.11.3 Creeks and Streams

The creeks and streams fulfill an extremely important role in towns and cities. Protected and managed correctly they have a tremendous economic, ecological and recreational value for the community. One of the best ways to ensure the protection of creeks and streams is through the establishment of creek corridors. The value of creeks and streams in the urban and semi-urban environments, the establishment of creek corridors, the importance of watershed management and integrated stormwater management are presented in Addendum C: Creeks and Streams.

**Prosper's creeks and streams** – The Town of Prosper has the following creek systems:

Doe Branch runs north to south in the western half of the Town. It has 4 major tributaries over a distance of about 2 miles, making it ecological diverse, recreationally rich and economically important. Doe Branch originates about 6 to 7 miles to the north east in Celina. It runs downstream from the Town for a distance of about 3 miles before it enters Lewisville Lake. This northeast to southwest link from Celina to Lewisville Lake through Prosper makes Doe Branch an important regional connection.

Other creeks are Wilson Creek with its tributary Gentle Creek that runs northwest to southeast through Prosper on the east side of the town and the tributary Rutherford Branch that runs southwest to northeast before it connects with Wilson Creek just east of Prosper. These creeks form important linkages that should be explored for trail connections.



*The water within creeks and the adjacent green meadows create a tranquil scene that invites exploration and enjoyment by merely viewing and contemplating the view or by physically engaging the visitor through trails.*

The nature of creek and drainage systems is that they are linear and thus ideal corridors for activities like hiking, jogging and biking.

The Town should make serious effort to secure functional corridors along these creeks and drainage systems. The key criteria should be:

- Ensure the protection of the 100-year floodplain calculated according to each watershed's projected build-out conditions plus a corridor buffer of 100 feet wide minimum along all creeks and their tributaries to ensure flood control and recreation opportunity by preventing unrestricted encroachment on creeks and destruction of the forested areas along creeks. Based on site specific conditions the 100 feet

- buffer beyond the 100-year floodplain should be increased to ensure the proper protection of unique features such as tree cover, topography, prairie land etc.
- Acquisition of land may include purchase of property, donation as undevelopable or the purchase of development rights. The implication with the latter is that the Town becomes the custodians of the land by holding the development rights in perpetuity with an agreement that it will never be developed. The model of the Texas Nature Conservancy may be followed in acquiring these development rights.
  - Acquire and preserve, tertiary tributary streams or swales that can create linkage “fingers” to adjacent neighborhoods.
  - Work with land and homeowners to create linear vehicular and pedestrian parkways along the edges of the floodplain and buffer, rather than backing lots up to the creeks and wooded areas. Such single loaded parkways open the creek corridor up for the benefit of and enjoyment by all and not just a few residents, with the added benefit of informal surveillance. Where feasible this concept should be retrofitted to existing conditions.
  - Create linear trail segments in phases. Identify key trail linkages to develop first. With proper Town support, funding and marketing, these trails will become the impetus for the development of similar trail connections.
  - Where possible streams that have been piped should be “day-lighted” in order to re-introduce a healthy ecosystem. The Town should also make a concerted effort to prevent piping of any existing open streams.
  - Acquire land that is regularly subjected to flooding, remove all improvements and restore the flood area to a healthy and functional ecosystem. This means “returning the floodplain to the creek” with the benefit of flood control *and* recreation access.



*Developments like these are sadly one dimensional: the harsh treatment of the drainage channel with no buffer completely ignores its potential as an open space amenity with shade trees, trail connections and the establishment of a viable riparian habitat. In fact, the solid wood fences are telling of the residential community that turned its back on what could have been an attractive feature.*

Establishing creeks and drainage corridors as recreation amenities will assist in answering the need for linear parks in the Town. This will also provide the opportunity for the development of hike and bike trails which rated consistently as one of the most important recreational facilities needed in the Town. In fact respondents to the Attitude Survey and attendees at the public meetings indicated strong and enthusiastic support for the development of trails. In addition, the protection of creek corridors is key to an ecological creek environment, an important aesthetic consideration, and an issue of public health and safety issue as it assist in the prevention of flood damage.

#### 6.11.4 Rail Rights-of-Way

Two characteristics of a rail right-of-way make it ideal as a hike and bike trail: its linear nature and gentle topography change.

The Town of Prosper is blessed with a railroad that bisects and runs across the entire width of Town from north to south. Its use as a freight line and future potential commuter line places limitations on the use of the right-of-way. However the use of the right-of-way for trails has been negotiated successfully with rail authorities at other places in the State of Texas – specifically in and around the City of Dallas.



*Trails associated with railroads benefit from the linearity and gentle topography. Features including trains stations and these silos are additional attractions along the way.*

The minimum distance allowed between rail track centerline and edge of trail is often set at 25 feet. Should it pose an obstacle in Prosper, the town should consider acquiring easements along the rail right-of-way.

An important existing feature along the recommended rail associated trail in Prosper is the impressive Prosper grain silos that are seen from all around the area. The silos pose the opportunity to be included as an important destination along the future trail along the railway road.

When considering future development in the Prosper Downtown area as well as other areas along the railroad, the latter should be seen as an asset rather than a nuisance that require screening. The railroad is representative of the history as well as current rail commerce and future commuting. These characteristics need celebration by including the railroad as a feature to be seen and experienced. An excellent way to achieve this is by a single loaded vehicular road between the rail and the adjacent development. The open space between the rail line and road should then be treated as a park containing the hike / bike trail and trees. Affording visibility to the railroad and adjacent landscape creates the opportunity for public art as was successfully done in the City of Abilene, Texas.



*The area between the railroad and bypassing road in the City of Abilene, TX is utilized as trail corridor as well as a place to display a number of public art pieces.*

#### **6.11.5 Utility Rights-of-Way**

An important characteristic of the Town's Gas, Electrical and Water Utility rights-of-way is that they cross various boundaries including roads, creeks and property boundaries. This together with the linear nature of these utility rights-of-way makes them ideal as hike and bike trails.

**Gas lines:** The ATMOS Gas Pipeline runs in a northwest to southeast direction in the southwest corner of the Town. It crosses Doe Branch and runs for a distance parallel to

a tributary of Doe Branch making it ideal in connecting sections of trail that run along the creek system. Another gas pipeline runs in various directions, but mainly north to south in the Legacy Drive area. It is the ideal connection between trails along the tributaries east of Doe Branch. Another gas pipeline runs parallel to the railroad in a north south direction; 500 feet at it closest in the north and 1,200 feet at its farthest in the south of Town. Such adjacency affords the opportunity for large community type parks that spans the area between the pipe line and rail road rights-of-way.

**Overhead Electrical Lines:** The Overhead Electrical line between HWY 380 and Frontier Road, traverses many existing communities. The Town exercised foresight and ensured the implementation of a hike and bike trail along this line in the Lakes of La Cima residential development. Every effort possible should be make to achieve a trail connection through the established older communities north of First Street and should include a carefully planned public participation process and a demonstration of the benefit and joy brought by existing trails in the Town.

The TXU Utility Line provides a direct connection between Custer Road on the eastern boundary of the Town including Wilson Creek and Highway 380 on the southern boundary of the Town including Folsom Park.



*Electrical utility lines provide ideal opportunities for hike and bike trail connections across the Town. Note the relatively large size of the trees on the edge of the creek.*

**Water lines:** The water line that runs northeast to southwest in the south eastern corner of the Town provides the ideal link between the TXU utility easement around Coit Road and Rutherford Branch which is a tributary of Wilson Creek. Where it runs parallel to Rutherford Branch, it provides ideal links for creating trail loops which are ideal features within a network of trails.

### 6.11.6 Conservation Planning and Development

One of the most effective ways to ensure the protection and effective management of open space and creek corridors is through the method of Conservation Planning and Development. It is, in essence, a tool that ensures the protection of the character of a city or town by protecting:

- important ecological habitats,
- scenic views
- landscapes

Moreover, it enhances the city's economic sustainability by protecting its unique assets that add value and quality of life to the community.

The concept and value of Conservation Planning and Design as a planning tool are presented in Addendum D: A Case for Conservation Planning and Design.

***“The real estate market consistently demonstrates that many people are willing to pay a larger amount for a property located close to parks and open space areas than for a home that does not offer this amenity.”*** John Crompton,  
Texas A&M University; 2000



*The area that encompasses the floodplain lends itself to evocative views and vistas edged and framed by trees and visible from country roads.*



## 7. Recommendations

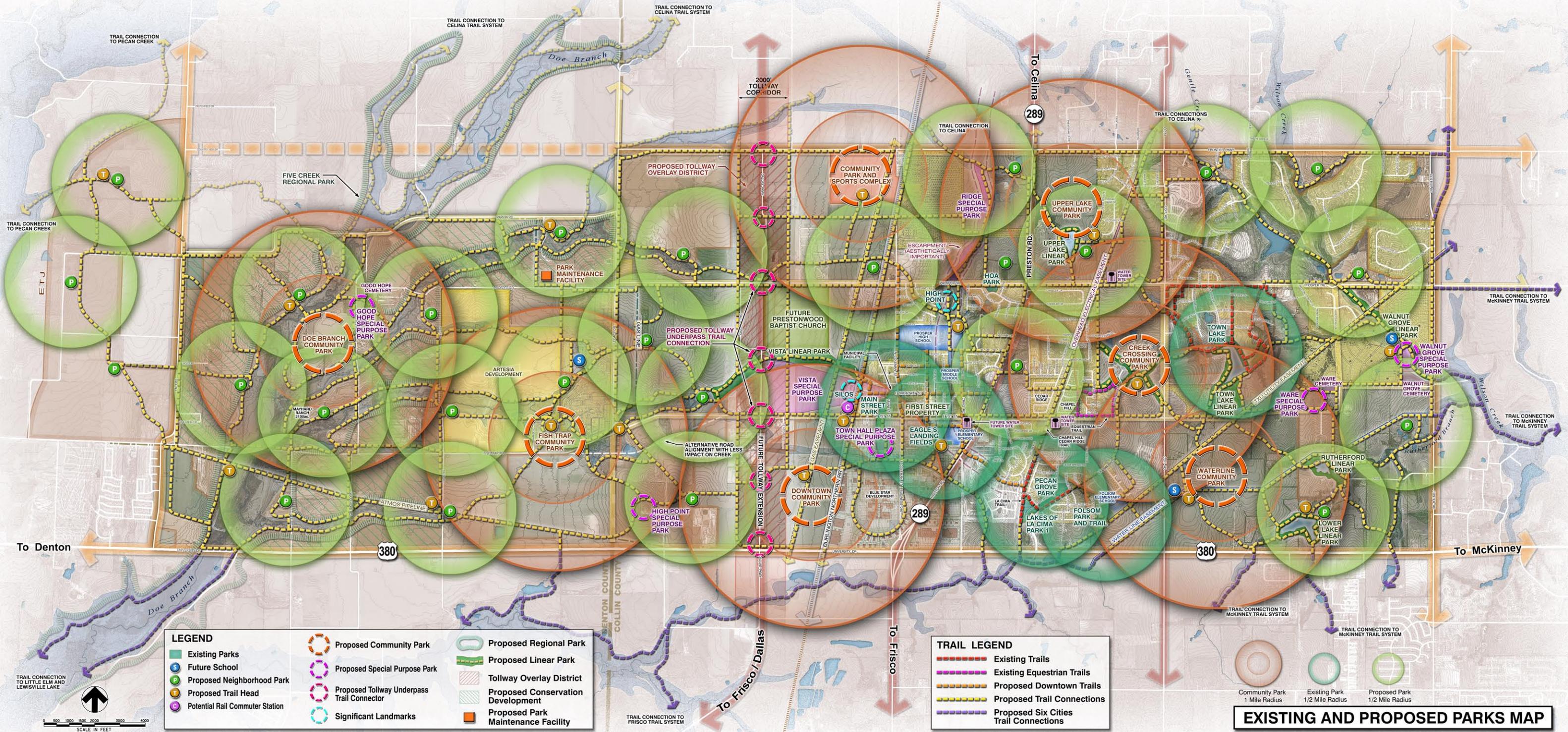
### 7.1 Introduction

This chapter of the Park Master Plan summarizes the findings of the Needs Assessment and recommends a series of actions to improve and expand Prosper's park system. These recommendations address matters of Town Policy, acquisition of park land, the development of land already acquired and dedicated for parks, general improvements to existing parks and the development and provision of recreational facilities.

The recommendations should be implemented or initiated over the general life of this Master Plan, which covers the next five to ten years. However, this section also includes other longer range recommendations, such as the acquisition of land for future parks.

Recommended items in this chapter are prioritized in Chapter 8, The Implementation Plan.

*The **Existing and Proposed Parks Map** on the next page illustrates the existing and proposed parks and trails for the entire Town including the ETJ. The purpose is to cover as much as possible of the Town with the half mile service radius that surrounds each park.*



**LEGEND**

Existing Parks	Proposed Community Park	Proposed Regional Park
Future School	Proposed Special Purpose Park	Proposed Linear Park
Proposed Neighborhood Park	Proposed Tollway Underpass Trail Connector	Tollway Overlay District
Proposed Trail Head	Significant Landmarks	Proposed Conservation Development
Potential Rail Commuter Station	Proposed Park Maintenance Facility	

**TRAIL LEGEND**

Existing Trails
Existing Equestrian Trails
Proposed Downtown Trails
Proposed Trail Connections
Proposed Six Cities Trail Connections

**EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARKS MAP**

March 29, 2007

# TOWN OF PROSPER - PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN

***“The very essence of leadership is that you have to have a vision.”***  
Theodore Hesburgh

## **7.2 Achieving Uniqueness and Quality**

People today locate to places where they find quality of life. The criteria are consistently good quality schools and parks. Once cities and towns provide that, the manner in which to attract newcomers is by displaying a strong sense of identity found in uniqueness that sets the community apart from its neighbors. The best time to establish such a sense of uniqueness is early in the growth of the town or city, when the opportunities are still there to make visionary and conscientious planning decisions with lasting results. It is not the number of unique decisions that count, but rather the implementation of four or five salient ideas. Prosper may achieve uniqueness by the implementation of four such salient or foundational ideas, which include:

- The establishment of recreation and creek / drainage corridors that comprise the Flood Prevention Management Area plus a creek protection buffer of 75 feet along both sides of all creeks and streams;
- Protection of the escarpment with views towards the Blackland flats;
- Protection of views toward the grain silos and toward the downtown area; and
- The establishment of the Five Creeks Regional Park / Preserve.



*View from the escarpment towards the Blackland flats and silos.*

The implementation of such ideas requires visionary leadership. The tools are many and amongst others, include Conservation Planning and Design that by definition recognizes, defines and respects important natural and cultural features within a

community and finds ways to incorporate those creatively in the development. The end result is higher property values, a beautiful town and increased quality of life for the residents.

***“One measure of a development project’s success should be the increase in the number of songbird species inhabiting a site after it has been developed.”***

William McDonough

Dean: School of Architecture; University of Virginia

### 7.3 Recommendations

The recommendations fall into five general categories:

- Town Policy  
Adopt Town policies that will ensure the implementation of the vision for the Town of Prosper based on priorities established by citizen input and recommendations in this Parks Master Plan.
- Acquisition  
Acquire land for future parks, park expansion, new recreation facilities, and open space including habitat protection where possible.
- Development  
Develop parks according to the specific need and in order of priority.
- Recreation facilities  
Provide needed recreational facilities.
- Improvements  
Implement key improvements to existing parks as described per individual park in Chapter 3.

#### 7.3.1 Town Policy

*The vision for the Town of Prosper’s physical image, parks, trails, open space and recreation comprises the following:*

- Maintaining the rural quality of the Town;*
- Protecting the creek corridors;*
- Acquiring additional park land; and*
- Providing specific recreation facilities.*

Many cities or towns have great and commendable visions for the future image of their community with aspirations of a multitude of recreational opportunities and park developments. However, such visions and aspirations are often compromised, knowingly or unknowingly, by inadequate or weak policies, inconsistent enforcing of town ordinances and lack of a “will to work it out” when obstacles to the vision are

encountered. In order to maintain focus of the vision, it is also important to understand the foundational policies that are needed to ensure achievement of the “big picture” as opposed to less important policies that have little if any ability to change old habits, preconceived ideas and archaic approaches to town and regional planning.

Through comprehensive public participation, a vision has been established for the Town of Prosper’s physical image, parks, open space and recreation. This vision, in short, comprises maintaining the rural quality of the Town, protecting the creek corridors, the acquisition of additional park land and the provision of specific recreation facilities. The following describes four key foundational policies that Prosper requires to make this vision a reality.

**i) Conservation Planning and Development**

The purpose of Conservation Planning and Design is to create a community-wide network of open space. It allows for half (or more) of the buildable land to be set aside as open space without “down zoning” with the same number of homes that can be built compared with traditional development, in a less land-consumptive manner. This allows for the balance of the property to be permanently protected and added to an interconnected network of community green spaces. Conservation Planning and Design do not involve public costs, do not diminish landowner equity, and are not onerous to developers.

It is recommended that the Town commits to the following:

- Pre-identify and preserve a community-wide network of conservation lands or "linked landscapes".
- Prepare a resource inventory (Resource Map) of the following twelve principal resources:

<b>Resource Inventory</b>	
1. Wetlands and their Buffers	7. Productive Farmland
2. Floodplains	8. Significant Wildlife Habitat
3. Moderate and Steep Slopes	9. Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Features
4. Groundwater Resources Recharge Areas	10. Cultural Landscapes
5. Woodlands	11. Scenic Features
6. Representative stands of Blackland Prairie	12. Viewsheds from Public Roads

- At a minimum, land identified for conservation planning and development should include all land within 1,500 feet adjacent to the 100 year flood line of all creeks and their tributaries.
- Revise the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to make provision for the implementation of Conservation Planning and Development.
- Follow the guidance as provided in the “Model Ordinance Language for Conservation Subdivisions” of the publication: Arendt, R.; Growing Greener, Putting Conservation into Local Plans and Ordinances; Island Press; 1999. This document describes an ordinance language for two distinct planning components:

- a) Zoning; and
- b) Subdivisions

The **Zoning Ordinance Language** provides wording as it relates to Conservation Design Overlay Districts and include:

- Purpose;
- Use Regulations;
- Dimensional Standards;
- Density Determination;
- Design Standards;
- Greenway Land Use;
- Greenway Protection Through Conservation Easements;
- Discretionary Density Bonuses; and
- Ownership and Maintenance of Greenway Land and Common Facilities.

The **Subdivision Ordinance Language** provides wording as it relates to:

- Plan Content Requirements;
- Plan Processing Procedures;
- Resource Conservation and Greenway Delineation Standards; and
- Supplemental Design Standards.

## ii) **Recreation and Creek / Drainage Easements**

### Creek buffer recommendation

Creek corridors provide a tremendous opportunity for recreation in conjunction with flood control. Other than the Flood Prevention Management Area (FPMA) which entails the entire 100-year floodplain area plus a creek and drainage maintenance corridor, the creek corridor also includes a buffer area along and above the (FPMA) containing the habitat and wildlife associated with the creek environment. In addition to flood control which has in itself an economical and huge public safety benefit, creek corridors have tremendous value from an ecological and recreational point of view. The plant life associated with creeks provide habitat for birds and animals and the linear nature of creeks provides ecological linkages to different parts of the Town. The recreational value of creek corridors lies in the creek itself, views up and down the corridor, shade and the linearity that provides for excellent trail connections with the minimum disturbance of the land. Plants, especially native grass above and below the 100-year floodplain limits act as an important bio-filter removing sediments and pollutants from the surface runoff. The width of the floodplain alone is often insufficient to provide an effective bio-filter. For a description of the value of creek corridors, see Addendum C: Creeks and Streams

As a first step and as a matter of priority it is recommended that the Town initiates a **Creek Corridor Study** to establish an integrated riparian corridor system for the Town of Prosper. Refer to Addendum C: Creeks and Streams / Further Studies, page 7. Amongst others, the study needs to take the following into account:

- Flood management in terms of 1% and 0.2% probabilities;
- Delineation of the 1% floodplain at build-out conditions;

- Stream bank stability;
- Flow velocities, valley storage and water quality; and
- Environmental inventory including riparian vegetation, wildlife, cultural and scenic value.

The precedent for a Creek Corridor Study is found in the Linear Greenbelt Park Study conducted by the City of Allen, Texas in 1986. Based on this study Allen has ordinances and regulations in place that ensure the optimal protection and use of creek corridors for the benefit of the community as a whole. The end result 21 years later is a noticeable quality of life experience that is exemplary in the region.

The **Prosper Creek Corridor Study** will form the basis for decisions to be made about floodplain reclamation and the establishment of a creek buffer in terms of quality and dimension.

Ideally no floodplain reclamation should be allowed and the utmost attempt should be made to discourage reclamation. However, practical considerations including bridges may necessitate reclamation. Reclamation considerations should be guided by the **Creek Corridor Study** with trade-offs established to offset the affect of reclamation, even if it is only for the loss of open space and natural areas.

Addendum C of this document, recommends a creek buffer of 100 feet minimum width over and above the 100-year floodplain. The purpose of such a buffer is to ensure the protection of unique features including tree cover, topography, prairie land etc. and to provide an adequate bio-filter of pollutants. However, the occurrence of unique features is not constant along the length of the corridor due to amongst others, the impact of agricultural activity including over grazing and cultivation. Where feasible an attempt should be made to restore such disturbed environments with prairie grass and trees associated with a creek corridor.

Considering the need for creek and drainage way maintenance included in the FPMA as well as accommodating a single loaded road along 75% of the length of the creek corridor, it is suggested that the aggregate of a 75 feet wide protection buffer be established beyond the creek and drainage way maintenance corridor on each side. The aggregate approach is to ensure the protection of unique natural features along the creek corridor as well as practical considerations for the alignment of the single loaded road beyond the 75 feet aggregate buffer.

#### Creek Buffer Implementation

Implementation of a 75 feet creek protection buffer beyond the FPMA requires creative solutions and the willingness of developers to brainstorm with Town officials, P&Z and Parks Board to achieve the goal of protecting the very essence of what makes Prosper special and unique. Prescriptive regulations could lead to legal actions, whereas collaboration will lead to mutually beneficial results.

Guided by the **Prosper Creek Corridor Study** that identifies sensitive areas along the creek that necessitate protection, the options to achieve adequate protection include:

- Clustered or Conservation Development whereby the quality places on the property are left untouched as accessible communal open space with clustered development – the obvious benefit to the developer is cost savings including less infrastructure. Addendum D makes a case for Conservation Development.
- A land gift from the developer who understands the value of the open space and how its protection in fact increases the value of individual units and thus leads to an increase in his bottom line.
- Purchase agreement between the Town and the developer.
- Involvement of a Land Trust to assist with acquisition.

Protecting quality areas along the creek will prove beneficial not only in terms of the land itself and the view and vistas that it afford, but will lead to better quality development that seek integration rather than separation from the natural environment with the many benefits that contact with nature afford people. The end result will be a community that is attractive for many reasons and that will ensure better than normal return for the developers and investors.

### iii) **Overlay Districts**

In support of a unique image and identifiable character for the Town of Prosper, it is recommended that two overlay districts be considered for the Town, both of which involve the land associated with the future tollway.

- The Downtown Vista Overlay District is recommended for a view shed between the downtown area (that ideally includes the grain silos) and the tollway. Such a view shed widens on the side of the tollway to create unimpeded views towards the silos and the downtown area either of which is an identifiable image of the Town of Prosper from the surrounding area. The view towards the silos and the downtown will serve as a way to announce the Town of Prosper to the passersby. Such an overlay district may include a wide vista park bordered by low buildings with two story maximum height. An idea is to include a large body of water that will create compelling reflections and help to maintain the open view.
- The Tollway Overlay District is recommended for consideration by the Town separate from but informed by the Park Master Plan. Such an overlay district may include architectural and signage standards that aim to create an identity and character along a 2,000 feet tollway corridor that will make Prosper stand out amongst the neighboring towns and cities along the tollway. Parks, open space and trail connections should be considered as part of such an overlay district of which the Downtown Vista Overlay District may form a major component. Another very important consideration is trail connections under or over the future tollway to ensure unimpeded pedestrian flow between the eastern and western parts of the Town. Such connections are typically associated with road over or under passes as well as creeks and drainage ways crossings. Four connections associated with the main road intersections and three intermediate connections associated with creeks and road underpasses are recommended. What is important though is that the trail connections be created as close as possible to the grade on each side of the tollway, as well as wide enough (200 feet minimum) to create a park-like experience rather than a narrow enclosed connection.

**iv) Park Land Dedication**

The Town of Prosper is currently developed at a relatively fast pace. With land being taken up by residential and other developments, now is the time to acquire adequate acreage that will meet the requirements for parks in the next 10 to 20 years.

It is recommended that the Park Land Dedication Ordinance be revised to include the following considerations.

Basic principles

- Set aside all land and site features as identified in the Resource Map (see Conservation Planning and Development above) and ensure their protection and maintenance by the Home Owners Association or through the involvement of a variety of Conservation Trusts in Texas that have as their aim the conservation of open space (see [www.texaslandtrusts.org](http://www.texaslandtrusts.org)).
- Provide unimpeded public access to these identified and protected site features through a combination of trails, single loaded roads and dedicated easements.
- Ensure the definition of “open space” to reflect the concept of open space as defined by Conservation Planning and Development.
- Increase the Park Improvement Fee amount from \$1,000 per single family dwelling unit and \$750 per multi family dwelling unit to \$1,800 for both single and multi family dwelling units.\* (See comparison next page.)
- Add a Park Improvement Fee of \$1,500 per acre for business, commercial and industrial enterprise.\*\* (See comparison next page.)
- Establish a Park Acreage Dedication of 1 acre per 25 single dwelling units and 1 acre per 25 family dwelling units.\*\*\* (See comparison next page.)
- Open space, parks and recreational areas required by the Town’s ordinance should NOT be restricted to the private use and enjoyment of the residents of the particular development or subdivision.
- The 100-year floodplains of creeks and drainage ways should NOT be accepted as land dedicated for parks.
- In addition to the requirement that each park must have ready access to a public street, it is required that single loaded roads be established for a minimum of 75% of the length of boundary between a residential, commercial and industrial development and the land set aside for park land and/or open space as well as flood plains.

\* Dwelling Unit Park Improvement Fee Comparison:

- City of Colleyville: \$1,802 / DU
- City of Frisco: \$1,561 / DU
- City of Lancaster: \$1,400 / DU

\*\* Non-residential Park Improvement Fee Comparison:

- City of Wylie: \$1,000 / acre
- City of North Richland Hills: \$1,000 / acre
- City of Colleyville: \$ 800 / acre

\*\*\* Park Dedication Comparison:

- City of Wylie: 1 acre / 20 DU
- City of Colleyville: 1 acre / 25 DU
- City of Lancaster: 1 acre / 50 DU
- City of Frisco: 1 acre / 50 DU

The zoning densities of these cities are as follows:

City of Colleyville:	2 DU/Acre (+/- 22,000 s.f. lots)
City of Wylie:	4 DU/ Acre (+/- 10,000 s.f. lots)
City of Frisco:	4 DU/ Acre (+/- 10,000 s.f. lots)
City of Lancaster:	6 DU/ Acre (+/- 7,000 s.f. lots)

### 7.3.2 Land Acquisition

Acquisition of land should be focused on the provision of neighborhood parks, community parks, linear parks and the protection of habitat and open space. Land acquisition may include direct purchasing, the establishment of recreation and/or park land easements and the involvement of Conservation Trusts ([www.texaslandtrusts.org](http://www.texaslandtrusts.org)). See map: **Existing and Proposed Parks** (Page 7.2 a) for recommended park land acquisition.

The following recommendations target such land acquisition.

#### i) Land for Community Parks

Six to seven community parks are recommended for Prosper. At a size of 50 to 100 acres each, this constitutes 300 to 700 acres to be acquired over the next 10 to 15 years. This will bring the Town close to or at the target standard of 629 acres or 7 acres per 1,000 population at build-out conditions.

#### ii) Land for Neighborhood Parks

Twenty-five (25) new neighborhood parks are recommended for the entire Town. At a minimum size of 5 to 10 acres per park, this constitutes 125 to 250 acres to be acquired over the next 10 to 15 years. This will bring the Town well into the target standard of 180 acres or 2 acres per 1,000 population at build-out conditions.

- Consider donations by developers as new communities are built. Target 5 acre + sites that are easily accessible and that have sufficient land that is useful for multi-purpose ball field development.
- The map: **Existing and Proposed Parks** (Page 7.2 b) indicates general geographic locations where future parks may be required.
- Consider acquisition of land for neighborhood parks in conjunction with the school district's need in order to ensure the development of parks and schools adjacent to each other.

#### iii) Land for Linear Parks

At least seven Linear Parks are recommended for Prosper. Together about 5 miles in length these linear parks at an average of 250 feet wide constitutes about 150 acres. This will bring the Town to more than half the target standard of 270 acres or 3 acres per 1,000 population at build-out conditions.

#### iv) Land for Regional Parks

Doe Branch with its 4 tributaries over a distance of about 2 miles, makes the area an ideal site for a park of regional significance. It is recommended that about 800 acres be

set aside for a nature preserve called the Five Creek Regional Park (See the map: **Existing and Proposed Parks** (Page 7.2 b). This will bring the Town close to the target standard of 900 acres or 10 acres per 1,000 population at build-out conditions. In order to ensure the integrity and long term value of such a regional park, it is crucial that collaboration is sought with the Cities of Celina and Little Elm upstream and downstream along Doe Branch. It is further suggested that county, state and private agencies including Denton County, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Conservation Trusts of Texas ([www.texaslandtrusts.org](http://www.texaslandtrusts.org)) be approached for a joint venture with Prosper to acquire and manage the land for such a Regional Park.

**v) Land for Special Purpose Parks**

The size of one individual Special Purpose Park may vary depending on the specific need and function. However, a total of at least seven Special Purpose Parks are recommended (see map: **Existing and Proposed Parks** on Page 7.2 b) which together will potentially make up a good portion of the target standard of 270 or 3 acres per 1,000 population at build-out conditions. Specific opportunities include the following:

- A park along the ridge line between the highland and Blackland Prairie Flats.
- Land between the Prosper Downtown area including the grain silos and the future toll way to ensure an unimpeded visual access to the silos and downtown from the bypassing traffic.
- Four major and three intermediate wide bridge or underpass parks, whereby adequate and attractive pedestrian connection across or under the future tollway is achieved through a wide 200 feet or wider landscaped area.
- Land associated with each of the three cemeteries in the Town of Prosper.
- High lying land with a view.
- The future town hall plaza.
- A park associated along the entire length of the rail road to include a hike and bike trail.

**vi) Rural Landscapes and Open Space**

Natural habitat and nature areas rank relatively high in importance for the residents in the citizen attitude survey. Areas that have habitat value and warrant habitat protection typically include creeks, floodplains, creek corridors, wooded areas, areas of topographic change and high lying sites with views. Open space also includes cultural landscapes which are either landscapes with historic value or at present managed as farmland.

General opportunities for open space land dedication include:

- Creek corridors that include a buffer area beyond the 100-year floodline of 100 feet and wider depending on unique site features.
- Secondary tributary streams or swales that can create linkage “fingers” to adjacent neighborhoods by means of trail connections.
- Land identified as possessing natural and cultural importance including wetlands and their buffers; moderate and steep slopes; groundwater resources and their recharge areas; woodlands; farmland to ensure the rural character of the Town; significant wildlife habitat; historic and archaeological features, and scenic viewsheds.

### **7.3.3 Park Development**

The Town has acquired various parcels of land for future park development. In addition, the Parks Master Plan recommends land acquisition for future parks. The following describes general as well as specific recommendations for park development in Prosper.

#### **Guiding Philosophy for Park Development**

Key design points that should guide the design of every existing or new park in the Town are as follows:

- Every park should be considered as an urban oasis in Prosper. Significant amounts of native plants and drought tolerant landscaping should be incorporated.
- Each park should truly celebrate the natural and cultural history of Prosper by incorporating historical plaques and features that allude to the neighborhoods around the park or the circumstances that caused the park to be created.
- Every park should include features for a wide variety of park users and levels of activity. Parks should be multi-faceted.
- Parks should incorporate art and should be an example of the sophistication of the Prosper of today and tomorrow.
- Demand a single loaded road adjacent to all parks and protected open space for purposes of informal surveillance and to prevent areas that may pose danger for park and open space users.
- Where a single loaded road is not possible, demand a transparent metal fence between all residential lots and parks and/or open space.
- Parks should be developed and upgraded so as to reduce maintenance. Automatic irrigation systems attuned to plants with low water requirements should be a key component of every park, as should simple features that make every park easier to take care of.
- Shade should be incorporated into many features of every park. Playgrounds should be covered where feasible, and several covered picnic tables should be included in every park, no matter how small the park is.
- All pavilion structures should consist of a double tiered roof system to prevent heated air from being trapped under the roof.
- Implement storm water bio-swales to allow for temporary retention of storm water in order to allow for infiltration and bio-filtration of run-off water before the excess water leaves the site.
- Community input should be welcomed and included in the design of every park in the Town.

#### **Considering LEED for Park and Facility Development**

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED, is a national rating system for the design, construction and operation of buildings and sites. The system evaluates performance in five areas: sustainable site development, water conservation, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Aspects that lend positive, measurable results include on-site storm water management and permeable paving to not increase run-off which contributes to flooding, native plantings to reduce erosion, water consumption and irrigation dependency; organic maintenance programs to reduce chemicals and pesticides that infiltrate ground water and city utility and treatment systems; photocell systems for lighting to reduce energy

costs, selection of sustainable materials and the like all combine to use resources to maximum effect. Such results not only produce benefits for the environment, but for the owner and users as well. It is noticeable that the first LEED park, rated Silver and awarded in 2006, was Virginia Avenue Park in Santa Monica, California.

**i) Community Parks**

- Develop and implement a concept plan for the land acquired for the purpose of a Community Park.
- Include all the basic facilities that make up a Community Park with specific reference to the recreation facilities as identified in the needs assessment.
- Place preference on the application of native plantings including native trees, wildflowers and native grasses.
- Provide informational and way finding signage and a wide, welcoming gateway.

**ii) Neighborhood Parks**

General planning and design approach for neighborhood parks:

- Prepare a design concept for each undeveloped neighborhood park that incorporates children's play areas covered with a shade structure, walkways, jogging trails, areas for unorganized play, multi-purpose practice fields, picnic facilities and a park pavilion with a multi-tiered roof.
- Place preference on the application of native plantings including native trees, wildflowers and native grasses.
- Provide good pedestrian access to all parks including signage and a wide, welcoming gateway.
- Develop parks adjacent to existing and future schools with easy access from the school grounds. Not only will this add to the quality of life for the community, but also funding is more likely available through collaborative action.

**iii) Linear Parks**

Linear parks are characterized by their linear nature that makes them ideal for the implementation of hike and bike trails, which in essence become the "spine" of each particular park. Linear parks may be associated with creeks, railway or utility corridors and are ideal to create connections between different destination points. Whereas trail development typically includes amenities like trail heads, rest stops, overlooks, benches and light fixtures, linear parks may include additional amenities and facilities e.g. picnic pavilions, playgrounds, basketball and volleyball courts.

**iv) Special Purpose Parks**

The following describes recommendations for the development of three of the proposed special purpose parks in Prosper:

- Downtown Vista Park
  - Wide enough to provide an unimpeded view cone between the future tollway and Prosper Downtown including the silos.
  - A large water body to add visual and aesthetic interest including a reflective surface for the downtown environment.
  - Low buildings that relate to the pedestrian friendly and historic character of downtown Prosper.
- Escarpment Park

- A setting that provides views towards the Blackland Prairie Flats as well as the grain silos.
- A small outdoor theater for both day and night time open air theater (e.g. Shakespeare in the Park).
- Tollway Bridge or Underpass Parks
  - Park like under or overpass wide enough (200 feet minimum) to provide a pleasant pedestrian experience when crossing over or under the future tollway.
  - Whether the tollway is raised or sunk where it will run through Prosper, it is important that the pedestrian crossing happens at natural surrounding grade level.
  - The Parks Master Plan recommends 4 major trail crossings or underpasses associated with the 4 major east west aligned roads, and 3 intermediate trail crossings or underpasses associated with creeks and intermediate east west aligned roads.
- Cemetery associated Special Purpose Parks
  - Buffering of the cemeteries to ensure a quiet and contemplative atmosphere surrounding them.
  - Low impact, passive type recreation facilities including pavilions, picnic facilities and trails.

**v) Regional Parks**

Collaborate with the Cities of Celina and Little Elm, Denton County, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Land Trust to establish the Five Creek Regional Park along Doe Branch. Design and implement both vehicular and pedestrian gateways, a network of both hard and soft surface trails, trail heads and pedestrian bridges across the creeks.

**vi) Rural Landscapes and Open Space**

- Prepare a Resources Map according to Paragraph 7.2 City Policy above.
- Adopt Conservation Planning and Development principles and develop the necessary ordinances to make this happen. (See Model Ordinance Language for Conservation Subdivisions as described in Arendt, R.; Growing Greener, Putting Conservation into Local Plans and Ordinances; Island Press; 1999; p.151 – 194; and Page 7-4 of this document.)
- Develop interpretative signage and educational material to educate the public on the value and purpose of the cultural and natural landscape.



*This rural landscape in the Town of Prosper reflects growth, produce and history.*

**7.3.4 Development of Recreation Facilities**

The Citizen Attitude Survey identifies needs for very specific recreation facilities. The following are the key facility needs in Prosper, based on facility standards and citizen input combined. The facilities are presented in order of priority.

**Table 7.1 Key facility needs in order of priority**

	<u>Facility Type</u>
1. JOGGING, HIKE AND BIKE TRAILS	Non-athletic
2. PLAYGROUNDS	Non-athletic
3. NATURAL HABITAT / NATURE AREAS	Support
4. PARK RESTROOMS	Support
5. PICNIC AREAS AND PAVILIONS OR SHELTERS	Support
6. SOCCER FIELDS	Athletic
7. BASEBALL FIELDS	Athletic
8. STAGE AREA FOR CONCERTS (AMPHITHEATER)	Support
9. YOUTH SOFTBALL FIELDS	Athletic
10. OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS	Athletic

**Recommendations per key facilities**

Recommendations per key facility needs in Prosper are as follows:

**i) Jogging, hike and bike trails**

Begin to develop a true town wide trails network. Trails were among the highest desired elements in the citizen survey. Prosper should begin the process of developing a cross-town trail that begins to link parks, schools and other facilities.

***"There is nothing like walking to get the feel of a country. A fine landscape is like a piece of music; it must be taken at the right tempo."***  
Paul Scott Mowrer

Reasons for developing a town wide trail system:

- Provides alternate travel arteries from one location to another during much of the year when the weather is favorable.

- Creates a very visible recreational element that contributes to the perceived quality of life in the Town.
- Trails may be heavily used by all age groups.
- Trails are relatively easy to maintain, as opposed to many other types of recreation facilities.

The Parks Master Plan recommends a town wide network of hard surface trails, soft surface trails (nature walks) and sidewalk enhancements.

***“Walking is the best possible exercise. Habituate yourself to walk very fast.”***

Thomas Jefferson

### **Proposed Trail Features and Amenities**

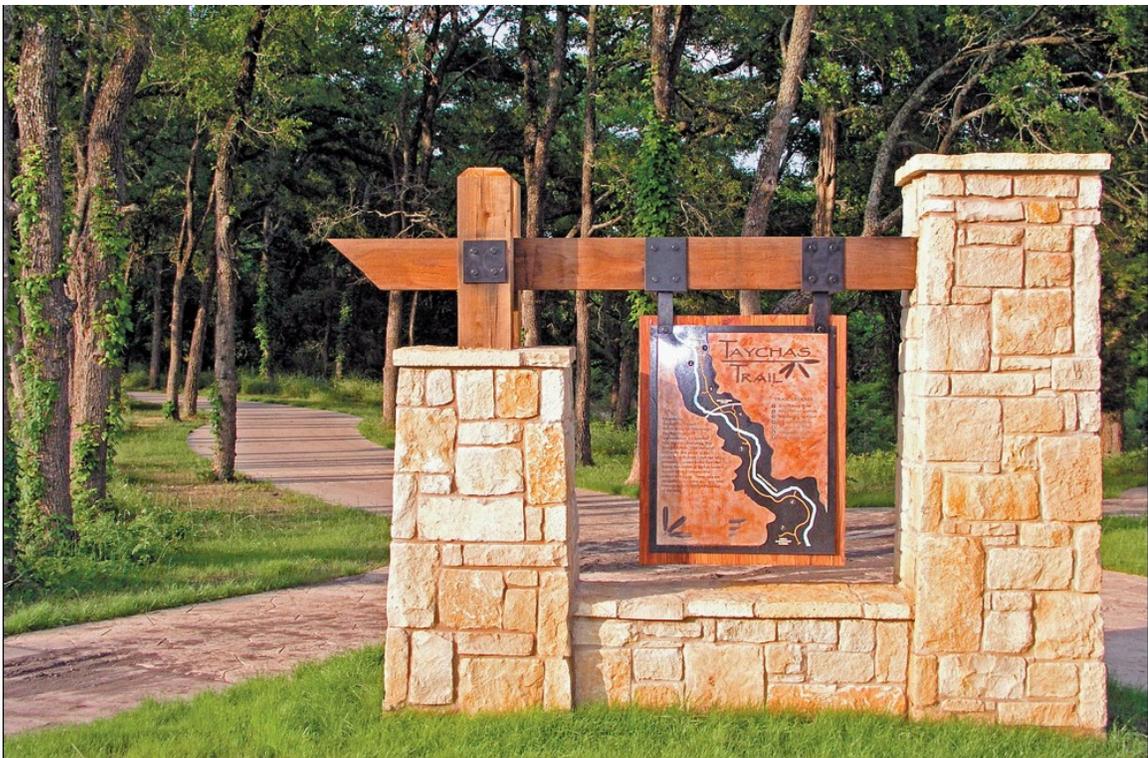
In order for the Prosper trails system to be a successful community amenity, the trails should appeal to a wide variety of users. To achieve this, the trails should be designed to provide a high level of user conveniences. Recommended trail amenities include:

- Benches: Utilize wood composites with metal detailing.
- Bike racks: Staple racks are inexpensive and most effective.
- Milepost markers: Mileposts greatly increase use of the trail by joggers and cyclists looking for set work out distances. It is recommended to incorporate milepost markers onto fixed wood or concrete bollards. Signage should be consistent with other trail signage.
- Trash Receptacles: The trail system should establish the National Park Service ethic of “pack it in, pack it out.”
- Dog Waste Pickup Stations: Dog waste pickup bag dispensers should be placed at trailheads and key neighborhood access points along the route. Signs should be placed along the trail notifying dog owners to pick up after their dogs.
- Information Kiosks: Trailhead stations should provide trail users with information and the rules and regulations of the trail. Involving school children and civic organizations in the research, design, and construction of these kiosks is an ideal community activity.
- Directional Signage: The directional signing should impart a unique theme so trail users know which trail they are following and where it goes. The theme can be conveyed in a variety of ways: engraved stone, medallions, bollards, and mile markers. A central information installation at trailheads and major crossroads also helps users find their way and acknowledge the rules of the trail. They are also useful for interpretive education about plant and animal life, ecosystems, and local history.
- Restrooms: Where appropriate at major trailheads.

The following images are examples of trail features and amenities designed by Half Associates.



*Trail gateway and information signage; West Rowlett Creek Trail, Frisco Texas.*



*Information signage; West Rowlett Creek Trail, Frisco Texas (design: Half Associates).*

*Soft surface nature trail; note that the decomposed granite surface with crushed recycled concrete on the shoulder of the trail; this type of trail is particularly successful in a natural setting.*



*An example of interpretative information signage at Trails in the Woods, Allen Texas.*





Gateway at Trails in the Woods, Allen Texas. Note the stone columns, wood archway, stone and wood bench and decomposed granite surface.

**ii) Playgrounds**

Playgrounds are important gathering sites for families and parents to stimulate and promote social interaction in the community. It is recommended to plan and design for the development of playgrounds in all existing and future parks. Develop the playgrounds in such manner as to benefit from shade provided by existing trees. If that is not possible, instead plant a dense stand of shade trees adjacent to the playground and consider steel supported shade structures.

**iii) Natural habitat / natural areas**

Through objective public participation efforts, many cities and towns learn about the strong need that most citizens have to experience natural habitat and natural areas within their towns. Most cities/towns have never considered acquiring land for conservation purposes, partly because it is not “programmed” space. However, land with no particular program may fulfill the function of wildlife habitat, flood control, and passive and non-athletic recreation. If managed correctly, such land typically requires the least amount of maintenance.

Nature areas and natural habitat also provides a sense of visual, emotional and psychological relief to citizens. The provision of such land does not include the acquisition of undeveloped land only, but may include areas within existing parks where the establishment of native trees, wildflowers and native grasses is encouraged. This in turn allows for activities including bird watching and wildflower enjoyment.

The conservation of open space and natural areas also makes economical sense. It has been proven that the value of property adjacent or close to open space often has a

substantial premium over the value of property in the same vicinity but not identified with the open space.

***“Many community leaders feel they must choose between economic growth and open space protection. But no such choice is necessary. Open space protection is good for a community’s health, stability, beauty, and quality of life. It is also good for the bottom line.”***

Will Rogers, President: Trust for Public Land; 1999.

Every effort should be made to secure the protection of existing natural areas and to restore disturbed sites. It is recommended that the Town adopts Conservation Planning and Development principles to ensure developers to work “with” rather than “against” the land (See Paragraph 7.2 Town Policy: Conservation Planning and Development). In addition it is recommended that the Town appoints a naturalist to assist in implementing such a policy.

**iv) Park Restrooms**

- Although expressed as a need by respondents to the attitude survey, it is recommended that restrooms are provided at community parks only.
- The provision of restrooms at neighborhood parks is discouraged. Compared to community parks, neighborhood parks typically have irregular use with fewer visitors. This makes it easier for vandalism. Neighborhood parks are also typically in walking distance to the visitors’ home and restrooms are thus less of an urgent need.
- For large functions and gatherings in a neighborhood park, it is recommended that the organizers are required to arrange for portable restrooms to be brought to the park.

**v) Pavilions and Picnic facilities**

Pavilions and other shade shelters with picnic tables are frequently used and requested by the citizens.

- Reasons for additional picnic facilities:
  - Serve many diverse age groups.
  - Are key to recreational use during the warm seasons of the year.
  - Larger facilities may generate rentals revenue for the Town.
- Distribution should remain balanced throughout the Town so that all Town areas have a good supply of park pavilions and tables.
- Design and construct pavilions to allow for airflow through the roof by means of a two-tiered roof structure.

**vi) Soccer fields**

Provide multi-practice fields in existing and future neighborhood parks. Develop at least three competitive level league fields in the Town’s community parks.

**vii) Baseball fields**

Where possible, provide backstops in all existing and future neighborhood parks as part of multi-purpose practice fields. Develop competitive level league fields in the Town’s community parks.

**viii) Amphitheater**

The Town should invest in a facility that offers:

- An elevated performance stage at least 20' x 25' in size;
- Adequate electrical service of a minimum of 200 amps, or larger service;
- Shaded spectator seating;
- In close proximity to adequate restrooms and parking;
- Water and electrical service for temporary utilities for entertainers vehicle connection;
- Pre-rigged for stage lighting and sound; and
- Concession vendor accommodations.

Amphitheaters are a popular amenity as indicated in the attitude survey where an amphitheater rates number 6 in priority from a list of 20 facilities.

**ix) Youth softball fields**

Provide backstops in all existing and future neighborhood parks. Develop competitive level league fields in the Town's community parks.

**x) Outdoor basketball courts**

Where appropriate consider one half basketball court (one goal) at existing and new neighborhood parks. The value of basketball courts allows for neighborhood kids to practice their skills at their own time. At community parks provide a number of full basketball courts in close proximity to enable tournament and league playing.



*Children enjoying soccer at Eagles Landing Fields.*

### **Other facilities (not within the top 10 priority list)**

#### Recreation Center

When planning for a future recreation center, it is recommended that serious consideration be given to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) which is a voluntary program whereby better buildings are constructed through sustainable site selection, site design, energy and water conservation, and healthy interiors. For more information visit [www.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.usgbc.org/leed).

#### Children's water spray park

Water spray parks follow a trend in many towns and cities, whereby the excitement of water is provided in a safe and clean environment. The principle is spray nozzles, drop buckets and other features that either regularly or intermittently (for a sense of surprise) spray and/or drop water on children excited with expectation. The water is collected directly in surface drains and re-circulated. Important factors to consider for the selection and preparation of an appropriate site are accessibility and visibility, wind, leaves or other material that can possibly clog the drain system.



*Water Spray Park in Sherman Texas*



#### Exercise stations along trails

Exercise stations along trails provide excellent opportunity for a relatively comprehensive out of doors workout. Research shows that the most common and preferred physical activity of older adults is walking, so exercise stations provide a perfect complement to any walking routine. Exercise station equipment is readily available from recognized and reputable retailers.

### **7.4 High Priority Existing Park Improvement**

#### **7.4.1 Individual Parks**

Recommendations are made for each park in the system. These are preliminary master plan level recommendations, and are intended only to define the magnitude of the improvements for each park. Each park should be programmed and master planned as it enters the design phase, and extensive area resident and user group input should be included in the design process. Specific facility improvements per individual park are recommended in Chapter 3, of which a summary is provided in Table 7.2.

The following Table 7.2 provides a summary of the actions and additional amenities that are required for their improvement at the existing town parks in Prosper.

<b>Table 7.2 Existing Parks Improvement Summary</b>							
<b>Amenity / Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Eagles Landing Fields</b>	<b>Main St. Park</b>	<b>Pecan Grove Park</b>	<b>Down-town Park</b>	<b>Folsom Park</b>	<b>Town Lake Park</b>
1. Additional Land	Town / Developer	X			X		X
2. Park Design Plan	Town	X	X		X	X	X
3. Signage	Town / Developer	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Multi-tier roof pavilion	Town / Developers	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. Playground	Town / Developers	X	X		X	X	X
6. Playground shade structure	Town / Developer	X	X	X	X	X	X
7. Park entryway	Town / Developer	X	X	X	X	X	X
8. Trail connection / development	Town / Developer				X	X	X
9. Metal Fencing along property line	Adjacent landowners / Developer	X					X
10. Additional tree planting	Town	X	X	X	X	X	X
11. Tree preservation	Town / Developer	X		X			X
12. Water associated plantings	Town / Developer		X	X			X
13. Establish Native plants	Town / Developer	X	X	X	X	X	X
14. Plant Inland Sea Oats in shade	Town / Developer			X	X	X	X
15. Organic Maintenance	Town	X	X	X	X	X	X
16. Single loaded roads on adjacent property	Developer	X					X
17. Fishing jetty	Developer						X
18. Bird watching blind	Developer						X

### 7.4.2 Town Wide

The following Town wide key improvements to existing parks are recommended during the next 10-year period.

#### Renovation of existing parks

- Ensure that all improvements meet ADA (American Disabilities Act) requirements.
- Increase shade in all parks by planting trees.
- For additional landscape improvements, place preference on the application of native plantings including trees, wildflowers and grasses.
- Provide shade structures at the children's play areas where feasible.

#### Park Signage

- Develop a branding design concept for the Town, to be applied consistently at all the existing and future parks; a well-conceived and designed signage theme will add to the unique identity and character of the Town of Prosper.
- Based on the branding concept, develop and install identification and informational signage at all Town parks.
- Install additional directional signage throughout the Town.

#### Park Maintenance

- It is recommended that the Parks Department plays an active role by implementing a holistic plant management program throughout the parks and grounds.
- Implement appropriate practices to promote a healthy soil micro-fauna and root system of all plants.
- Implement an integrated fertility and pest management program to minimize reliance on chemicals and pesticides, and to maximize field conditions, plant health and safety.
- Place preference on the use of naturally fertile compost and protective mulch.
- Emphasize native and naturalized plants that are better adapted to the Prosper and North Central Texas region.

#### Wi-Fi Access

Access to the Internet in parks is popular in many cities. Consider providing Wi-Fi access in the future Community Park.

Wi-Fi is short for *wireless fidelity*, which allows the user to connect to the Internet without the need for wires. Wi-Fi-enabled computers use radio technologies to send and receive data within the range of a base station or *hotspot*, which is a connection point for a WiFi network.

#### Art in Public Places including Parks

Explore and develop a policy to include environmental and outdoor art in parks and open space. Pursue a "Percentage for Art Program", where a portion of the funding for all

public projects is dedicated to outdoor art. Fund every major park construction project for art. At a minimum fund at least one installation every 2 to 3 years. Place at prominent locations, and pursue joint placements with other entities such as local schools.

Reasons for public art: Art has a tremendous potential to add additional layers of meaning to the landscape and to encourage contemplation as a manner of passive recreation. It also will set Prosper apart as a Town that appreciates quality of life. Examples of art in parks around the State of Texas are shown on this and the next pages.



City of Odessa, TX



City of Frisco, TX



City of North Richland Hills, TX



City of North Richland Hills, TX



*Sculpture along the port promenade in San Diego, CA*



*A simple seating bench improved by tile artwork created by children at the Children's Museum of Art, San Diego, CA*



*Port promenade in San Diego, CA*



## 8. Implementation

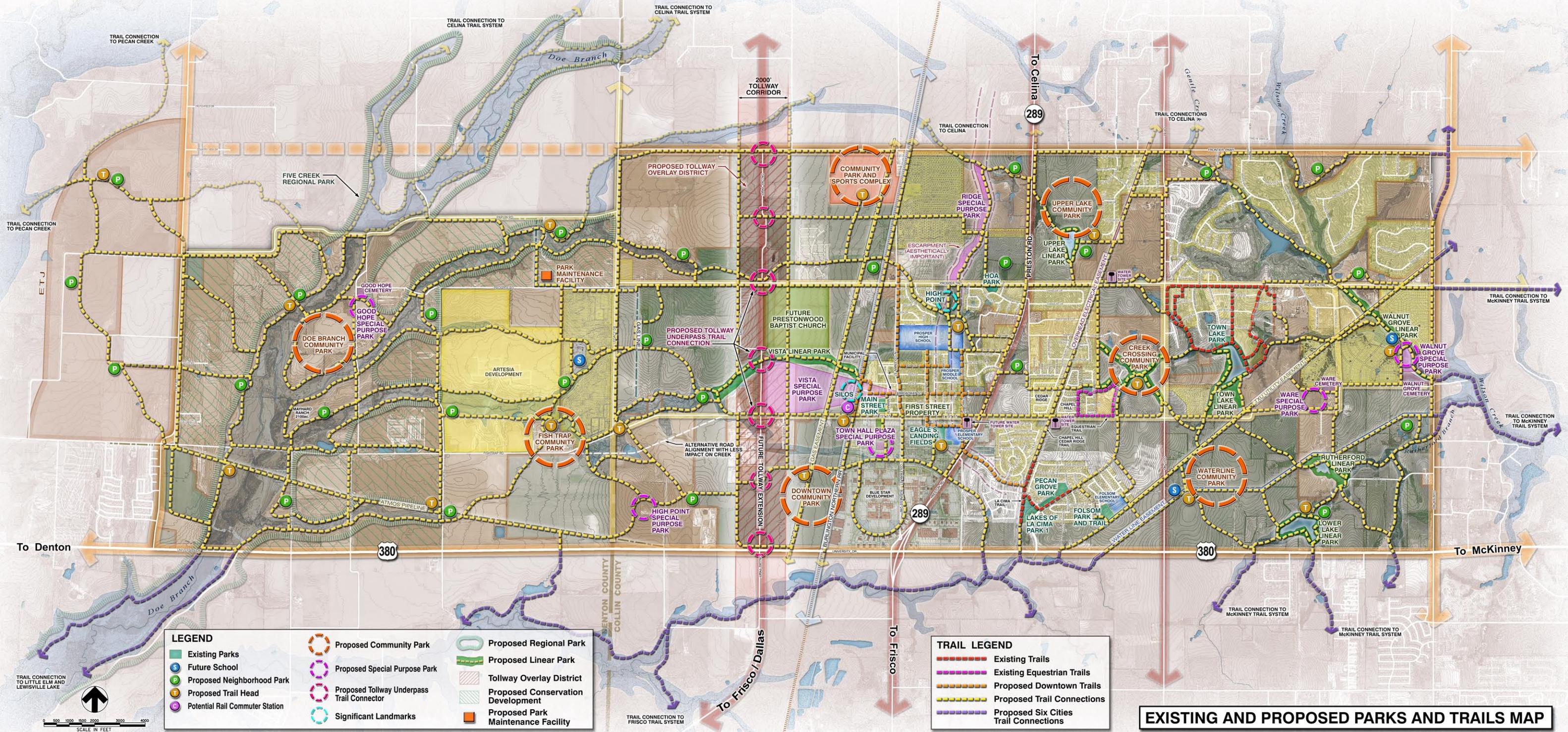
### 8.1 Introduction

In previous chapters, the importance of a Parks Master Plan is described in detail. This chapter, one of the most crucial in this master plan, prioritizes the recommendations outlined in Chapter 7 and discusses potential sources of funding for the implementation of these recommendations (see **Existing and Proposed Parks and Trails Map** on Page 8-1a). The prioritization is based on information received from public input as well as from the needs assessment pertaining to facility and acreage standards shown in Chapter 3 and Chapter 6.

The criteria used to prioritize the park facilities needs in Prosper are as follows:

- Level of need based on citizen input on a Town wide basis (demand based need);
- Level of need based on standards assessments (standard based need);
- Opportunities for recreation facilities and parks based on existing physical conditions in Prosper (resource based need); and
- Based on experience of consulting in the parks and recreation field.

*The **Existing and Proposed Parks and Trails Map** on the next page illustrates the existing and proposed parks and trails for the entire Town including the ETJ.*



# TOWN OF PROSPER - PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN

***“To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.”***  
 Anatole France; Nobel Prize winner for Literature in 1921

**8.2 High Priority Facility Needs**

A summary of key facility needs in Prosper based on facility standards and citizen input (in order of priority ranking) includes:

***Key facility needs in order of priority***

	<u>Facility Type</u>
1. JOGGING, HIKE AND BIKE TRAILS	Non-athletic
2. PLAYGROUNDS	Non-athletic
3. NATURAL HABITAT / NATURE AREAS	Support
4. PARK RESTROOMS	Support
5. PICNIC AREAS AND PAVILIONS OR SHELTERS	Support
6. SOCCER FIELDS	Athletic
7. BASEBALL FIELDS	Athletic
8. STAGE AREA FOR CONCERTS (AMPHITHEATER)	Support
9. YOUTH SOFTBALL FIELDS	Athletic
10. OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS	Athletic

**8.3 2007-2017 Action Plan**

An implementation strategy is recommended to address the Town’s key recreation needs over the next five years and longer. These actions include many of the high priority facility needs listed above. Recommendations are ranked in one of the three categories listed below.

- **Short Term Implementation** - List of top priority items to be completed or initiated over the next five years.
- **Medium Term Implementation** - List of recommendations to be completed in five to ten years.
- **Longer-Range Implementation** - List of recommendations to be initiated in ten or more years.

Based on the implementation strategy, the short and medium term implementation actions are shown as the Action Plan below.

The listing of the projects is categorized as follows:

1. Land Acquisition
2. Existing Park Improvements
3. New Park Development
4. Development of Recreational Facilities

The following notes should be considered when reviewing the Action Plan.

- **Order of Sequence** – The sequence is based directly on the recommended importance and need for each action. However, some actions may involve more complicated requirements or fund-raising, and may take longer to occur. In that case, other actions may be easier to accomplish sooner, but should not diminish the need for the higher up actions.
- **Funding possibilities** - The Action Plan includes current assumed levels of funding from the ongoing Capital Improvement Program. Funds will be generated through the sale of certificates of obligation. The Action Plan is a guide, but may vary as specific needs or opportunities within the Town occur. Other potential funding sources are noted but are not secured. Rather, they should be considered as possibilities for further pursuit.
- **Projected Costs** - The projected costs per project are intended to establish an order of magnitude. These estimates are made prior to any designs or detailed concepts being developed, and will vary as more detailed design occurs.
- **Suggested Timeframe** - The projected timeframes are intended to establish a sequence to actions.

**Table 8.1: Action Plan: Years 2007-2017** on the next page summarizes the basic actions and tasks required over the next 10 years in order for the Town of Prosper to reach the most critical of the target goals for the parks and recreation system as set in the Parks Master Plan

### **Recommendations and Implementation of the Parks Master Plan**

The Park Master Plan prioritizes the findings of the Needs Assessment and recommends a series of actions to improve and expand Prosper's park system. These recommendations address the development of land already acquired and dedicated for neighborhood parks, additional land for new parks, and general improvements to existing parks. The recommendations should be implemented or initiated over the general life of this master plan, which covers the next 5 to 10 years. However, the master plan also includes other longer range recommendations.

**Action Plan** - The Action Plan (see **Table 8.1: Action Plan: Years 2007-2017**) recommends the basic actions and tasks required in order for the Town of Prosper to reach the target goals for the parks and recreation system as set in Chapter 6. The Action Plan also reflects the actions as recommended in Chapter 7. It maps out the immediate tasks at hand together with the costs attached.

A large amount of funding is required to accomplish this goal, but with vision, commitment and a concerted effort to secure funding from available sources, many of the recommendations can be accomplished.

The very purpose of this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is to provide the Town of Prosper with the vision to motivate the citizens of Prosper to support, participate, and collaborate with park development and recreation programs.

Based on the implementation strategy, the short term (1 to 5 years) and medium term (6 to 10 years) implementation actions are shown on the next 3 pages. The following table summarizes the Action Plan:

<b>Table 8.2: Action Plan Summary</b>		
	<b>Estimated Cost at Preferred Level of Improvement</b>	<b>Recommended CIP Fund Expenditure</b>
<b>Years 2007 to 2012</b>		
Acquisition of 1,235 acres	\$49,400,000	\$9,820,000
Park Development and Improvement	\$37,450,000	\$14,975,000
Development of Recreational Facilities	\$3,000,000	\$2,500,000
Consultancy Studies	\$760,000	\$385,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$90,610,000</b>	<b>\$27,680,000</b>
<b>Years 2012 to 2017</b>		
Acquisition of 215 acres	\$8,600,000	\$4,300,000
Park Development and Improvement	\$39,680,000	\$16,090,000
Development of Recreational Facilities	\$500,000	\$500,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$48,780,000</b>	<b>\$20,890,000</b>
<b>Years 2017 to 2023</b>		
Acquisition of 515 acres	\$20,600,000	\$10,300,000
Park Development and Improvement	\$83,700,000	\$30,600,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$104,300,000</b>	<b>\$40,900,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$243,690,000</b>	<b>\$89,470,000</b>

Note:

- Costs shown are 2007 values at a pre-design level, and will vary as more detailed design occurs. List is for guidance in planning, and not all items may be implemented.
- Land costs are estimated at an average of \$40,000 per acre.
- Land costs shown are general estimates intended to establish allowances and will vary. Grants and donations may reduce the cost of each item significantly.



**Table 8.1 Action Plan Years 2007 - 2017 and beyond to 2030  
Town of Prosper Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**



Priority	Action	Additional Acreage	Facility Type	Estimated Cost for Preferred Improvement Level	Potential Funding Sources
High Priority - Parks					
1-5 years Action Plan					
Land Acquisition					
1-5 years	<b>Seven Neighborhood Parks</b> - Acquire the average of 7 acres per year for this five year period.	35 acres	<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	\$1,400,000	Park Land Dedication, Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$700,000
1-5 years	<b>Eagles Landing Fields Expansion</b> - Acquire 10 acres forested land to the south of the park for additional trails and to ensure the protection of the area's trees.	10 acres	<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	\$400,000	Park Land Dedication, Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$200,000
1-5 years	<b>Waterline or Upper Lake Community Park</b> - Acquire +/- 60 acres around the future Middle School east of Coit Road, or at the Upper Lake, to create a new community park.	60 acres	<b>Community Park</b>	\$2,400,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Grant Funding, Park Land Dedication, Private Donations, PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$1,200,000
1-5 years	<b>Creek Crossing Community Park</b> - Acquire +/- 60 acres northwest of Coit and First for purposes of the Creek Crossing Community Park.	60 acres	<b>Community Park</b>	\$2,400,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Grant Funding, Park Land Dedication, Private Donations, PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$1,200,000
1-5 years	<b>Downtown Community Park</b> - Acquire +/- 60 acres northeast of 380 and the future tollway.	60 acres	<b>Community Park</b>	\$2,400,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Grant Funding, Park Land Dedication, Private Donations, PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$1,200,000
1-5 years	<b>Downtown Vista Special Purpose Park</b> - Acquire 100 acres between the future tollway extension and downtown including the grain silos.	100 acres	<b>Special Purpose Park</b>	\$4,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Park Land Dedication, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$1,000,000
1-5 years	<b>Ridge Special Purpose Park</b> - Acquire 28 acres along the ridge line between Frontier and Prosper Trail, to celebrate the view from the highland to the Blackland Prairie Flats.	28 acres	<b>Special Purpose Park</b>	\$1,120,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Park Land Dedication, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$560,000
1-5 years	<b>Walnut Grove Special Purpose Park</b> - Acquire 8 acres around the Walnut Grove Cemetery.	8 acres	<b>Special Purpose Park</b>	\$320,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Park Land Dedication, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$160,000
1-5 years	<b>Town Hall Plaza Special Purpose Park</b> - Acquire 6 acres.	6 acres	<b>Special Purpose Park</b>	\$240,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Park Land Dedication, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$120,000
1-5 years	<b>Town Lake Linear Park</b> - Acquire 12 acres along the creek that feeds into Town Lake for a distance of 2,500 feet and 200 feet wide average up to the TXU easement to the south.	12 acres	<b>Linear Park</b>	\$480,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Park Land Dedication, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$240,000
1-5 years	<b>Lower Lake Linear Park</b> - Acquire 18 acres around Lower Lake for a length of about 4,000 feet and an average width of 200 feet along the shoreline.	18 acres	<b>Linear Park</b>	\$720,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Park Land Dedication, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$360,000
1-5 years	<b>Walnut Grove Linear Park</b> - Acquire 24 acres along the Gentle Creek between Prosper Trail and Walnut Grove Cemetery for a distance of 5,000 feet and 200 feet wide average.	24 acre	<b>Linear Park</b>	\$960,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Park Land Dedication, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$480,000
1-5 years	<b>Five Creek Regional Park/Preserve</b> - Acquire 800 acres along Doe Branch and its 4 tributaries.	800 acres	<b>Regional Park</b>	\$32,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Grant Funding, Denton County Funding, Park Land Dedication, Private Donations, Bond Funds, General Funds \$2,000,000
1-5 years	<b>Park Maintenance Facility</b> - Acquire 10 acres for the establishment of a park maintenance facility including a tree farm along Prosper Road.	14 acres	<b>Support</b>	\$560,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Park Land Dedication, Private Donations, Bond Funds, General Funds \$400,000
<b>Subtotal Land Acquisition: 1-5 years</b>		<b>1235 acres</b>		<b>\$49,400,000</b>	<b>\$9,820,000</b>



**Table 8.1 Action Plan Years 2007 - 2017 and beyond to 2030  
Town of Prosper Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**



Priority	Action	Additional Acreage	Facility Type	Estimated Cost for Preferred Improvement Level	Potential Funding Sources
High Priority - Park Development and Improvement					
<b>Park Development and Improvement</b>					
1-5 years	<b>Folsom Park Development</b> - See recommendations as per Chapter 3.		<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	\$880,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance \$440,000
1-5 years	<b>Eagles Landing Fields Improvement</b> - See recommendations as per Chapter 3.		<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	\$440,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance \$220,000
1-5 years	<b>Downtown Park Development</b> - See recommendations as per Chapter 3.		<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	\$330,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations \$165,000
1-5 years	<b>Four Additional Neighborhood Parks</b> - Develop 4 neighborhood parks at \$900,000 per park, over a period of 5 years.		<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	\$3,600,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance \$1,800,000
1-5 years	<b>One Community Park</b> - Develop 1 community park at \$5.5 million per park, over a period of 5 years.		<b>Community Park</b>	\$5,500,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$2,750,000
1-5 years	<b>Three Linear Parks</b> - Develop 3 Linear Parks at \$550,000 per park, over a period of 5 years.		<b>Linear Parks</b>	\$1,650,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$825,000
1-5 years	<b>Three Special Purpose Parks</b> - Develop 3 Special Purpose Parks at \$550,000 per park, over a period of 5 years.		<b>Special Purpose Park</b>	\$1,650,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$825,000
1-5 years	<b>Three Tollway Bridge/Underpass Special Purpose Parks</b> - Develop 3 Underpass Special Purpose Parks at \$1.5 million per park, over a period of 5 years as part of the Tollway Overlay District.		<b>Special Purpose Park</b>	\$4,500,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$2,250,000
1-5 years	<b>Hike and Bike Trails</b> - Develop 15 miles of trails at \$1 million per mile, over a period of 5 years.		<b>Hike and Bike Trails</b>	\$15,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$3,750,000
1-5 years	<b>Trail Heads and Trail Gateways</b> - Develop 4 trail heads and gateways at \$600,000 per unit, over a period of 5 years.		<b>Hike and Bike Trails</b>	\$2,400,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$1,200,000
1-5 years	<b>Park Signage</b> - Develop directional and informational signage at all parks.		<b>Townwide</b>	\$500,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$250,000
1-5 years	<b>Tree Planting</b> - Implement a focused tree planting program at \$200,000 per year for all parks		<b>Townwide</b>	\$1,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, Bond Funds, TPWD grant \$500,000
<b>Subtotal Park Development and Improvement: 1-5 years</b>				<b>\$37,450,000</b>	<b>\$14,975,000</b>
High Priority - Development of Recreational and Maintenance Facilities					
<b>Development of Recreational and Maintenance Facilities</b>					
1-5 years	<b>Amphitheater</b> - Elevated performance stage, shaded spectator seating, restrooms, parking, water and electricity and concession vendor accommodations.			\$1,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$500,000
1-5 years	<b>Various Facilities</b> - Playgrounds, Pavilions, Picnic Facilities and Basketball Goals are accounted for in park and trail development and improvement above.				Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds
1-5 years	<b>Sport Fields</b> - Recreational facilities including Youth Softball Fields, Baseball Fields, Soccer Fields, outdoor Basketball Courts and other are accounted for in the development of a new community park above.				Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds
1-5 years	<b>Support Facilities</b> - Park Restrooms in Community Parks and exercise stations along trails are accounted for in the new park and trail development.				Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds



**Table 8.1 Action Plan Years 2007 - 2017 and beyond to 2030  
Town of Prosper Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**



Priority	Action	Additional Acreage	Facility Type	Estimated Cost for Preferred Improvement Level	Potential Funding Sources	
1-5 years	<b>Park Maintenance Facility</b> - Develop a parks operation and maintenance facility (See Chapter 8).			\$2,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds	\$2,000,000
<b>Subtotal Development of Recreational and Maintenance Facilities: 1-5 years</b>				<b>\$3,000,000</b>		<b>\$2,500,000</b>
<b>High Priority - Consultancy Studies</b>						
<b>Recommended Consultancy Studies</b>						
1-5 years	<b>Creek and Linear Greenbelt Park Study</b> - Purpose: To establish an integrated riparian corridor and greenbelt system for the Town of Prosper. See Addendum C: Creeks and Streams which recommends a 100 to 200 feet buffer beyond the 100 year floodline of all creeks.			\$250,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds	\$125,000
1-5 years	<b>Resource Map</b> - Prepare a resource inventory of conservation lands or "linked landscapes" as per Chapter 7: Recommendations on Conservation Planning and Development.			\$250,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds	\$125,000
1-5 years	<b>Downtown Vista Overlay District</b> - Prepare a report that describes the establishment of a wide vista park bordered by low buildings that allow unimpeded views from the future tollway towards downtown and the grain silos.			\$250,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds	\$125,000
1-5 years	<b>Parks Department Website</b> - Prepare a website as part of the Parks Department marketing strategy.			\$10,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds	\$10,000
<b>Subtotal Recommended Studies: 1-5 years</b>				<b>\$760,000</b>		<b>\$385,000</b>
<b>1-5 years Expenditure</b>				<b>\$90,610,000</b>		<b>\$27,680,000</b>
<b>5-10 years Action Plan</b>						
<b>Land Acquisition</b>						
5-10 years	<b>Seven Neighborhood Parks</b> - Acquire the average of 5 acres per year for this five year period.	35 acres	<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	\$1,400,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Park land dedication, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds	\$700,000
5-10 years	<b>Fishtrap Community Park</b> - Acquire +/- 50 acres north of Fishtrap Road.	50 acres	<b>Community Park</b>	\$2,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Park land dedication, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds	\$1,000,000
5-10 years	<b>Doe Branch Community Park</b> - Acquire +/- 50 acres along Doe Branch.	50 acres	<b>Community Park</b>	\$2,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Park land dedication, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds	\$1,000,000
5-10 years	<b>Ware Special Purpose Park</b> - Acquire 4 acres around the Ware Cemetery.	4 acres	<b>Special Purpose Park</b>	\$160,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Donations, General Fund, Bond Funds	\$80,000
5-10 years	<b>Good Hope Special Purpose Park</b> - Acquire 10 acres around the Good Hope Cemetery.	8 acres	<b>Special Purpose Park</b>	\$320,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Donations, General Fund, Bond Funds	\$160,000
5-10 years	<b>High Point Special Purpose Park</b> - Acquire 10 acres west of Legacy and north of 380 to create a park on top of a conspicuous hilltop.	10 acres	<b>Special Purpose Park</b>	\$400,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Donations, General Fund, Bond Funds	\$200,000
5-10 years	<b>Upper Lake Linear Park</b> - Acquire 10 acres around Upper Lake for a length of about 2,200 feet and an average width of 200 feet along the shoreline.	10 acres	<b>Linear Park</b>	\$400,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Donations, General Fund, Bond Funds	\$200,000
5-10 years	<b>Rutherford Linear Park</b> - Acquire 20 acres between Rutherford Branch and the Waterline Easement.	20 acre	<b>Linear Park</b>	\$800,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Donations, General Fund, Bond Funds	\$400,000



**Table 8.1 Action Plan Years 2007 - 2017 and beyond to 2030  
Town of Prosper Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**



Priority	Action	Additional Acreage	Facility Type	Estimated Cost for Preferred Improvement Level	Potential Funding Sources	
5-10 years	<b>Vista Linear Park</b> - Acquire 28 acres between the Burlington Northern Railroad and the west side of the tollroad for a length of about 6,000 feet and an average width of 200 feet.	28 acres	Linear Park	\$1,120,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Donations, General Fund, Bond Funds	\$560,000
<b>Subtotal Land Acquisition: 5-10 years</b>		<b>215 acres</b>		<b>\$8,600,000</b>		<b>\$4,300,000</b>
<b>Park Development and Improvement</b>						
5-10 years	<b>Town Lake Park Development</b> - See recommendations as per Chapter 3.		Neighborhood Park	\$880,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds	\$440,000
5-10 years	<b>Pecan Grove Park Improvements</b> - See recommendations as per Chapter 3.		Neighborhood Park	\$300,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance	\$150,000
5-10 years	<b>Five Neighborhood Parks</b> - Develop 5 neighborhood parks at \$900,000 per park, over a period of 5 years.		Neighborhood Park	\$4,500,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance	\$2,250,000
5-10 years	<b>One Community Park</b> - Develop 1 community park at \$5.5 million per park, over a period of 5 years.		Community Park	\$5,500,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds	\$2,750,000
5-10 years	<b>Three Linear Parks</b> - Develop 3 Linear Parks at \$550,000 per park, over a period of 5 years.		Linear Parks	\$1,650,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds	\$825,000
5-10 years	<b>Four Tollway Bridge/Underpass Special Purpose Parks</b> - Develop 4 Underpass Special Purpose Parks at \$1.5 million per park, over a period of 5 years as part of the Tollway Overlay District.		Special Purpose Park	\$6,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds	\$3,000,000
5-10 years	<b>Three Special Purpose Parks</b> - Develop 3 Special Purpose Parks at \$550,000 per park, over a period of 5 years.		Special Purpose Park	\$1,650,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds	\$825,000
5-10 years	<b>Hike and Bike Trails</b> - Develop 15 miles of trails at \$1 million per mile, over a period of 5 years.		Hike and Bike Trails	\$15,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds	\$3,750,000
5-10 years	<b>Trail Heads and Trail Gateways</b> - Develop 4 trail heads and gateways at \$600,000 per unit, over a period of 5 years.		Hike and Bike Trails	\$2,400,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds	\$1,200,000
5-10 years	<b>Tree Planting</b> - Continue tree planting program for all parks		Townwide	\$1,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, Bond Funds, TPWD grant	\$500,000
5-10 years	<b>Public Art</b> - Provide for environmental and outdoor art in parks and open spaces.		Townwide	\$800,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, Bond Funds, TPWD grant	\$400,000
<b>Subtotal Park Development and Improvement: 5-10 years</b>				<b>\$39,680,000</b>		<b>\$16,090,000</b>
<b>Development of Recreational and Maintenance Facilities</b>						
5-10 years	<b>Various Facilities</b> - Playgrounds, Pavilions, Picnic Facilities and Basketball Goals are accounted for in park and trail development and improvement above.				Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds	
5-10 years	<b>Sport Fields</b> - Recreational facilities including Youth Softball Fields, Baseball Fields, Soccer Fields, outdoor Basketball Courts and other are accounted for in the development of a new community park above.				Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds	
5-10 years	<b>Support Facilities</b> - Park Restrooms in Community Parks and exercise stations along trails are accounted for in the new park and trail development.				Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds	
5-10 years	<b>Park Maintenance Facility</b> - Additions to the parks operation and maintenance facility.			\$500,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds	\$500,000



**Table 8.1 Action Plan Years 2007 - 2017 and beyond to 2030  
Town of Prosper Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**



Priority	Action	Additional Acreage	Facility Type	Estimated Cost for Preferred Improvement Level	Potential Funding Sources
	<b>Subtotal Development of Recreational and Maintenance Facilities: 5-10 years</b>			<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
5-10 years Expenditure				\$48,780,000	\$20,890,000
<b>Total Potential Expenditure Range for 2007 to 2017 Planning Timeframe (10 year plan)</b>				<b>\$139,390,000</b>	<b>\$48,570,000</b>

**Future Actions over a period of 13 years from 2017 to 2030**

10-23 years Action Plan					
Future Land Acquisition					
Undetermined	<b>Eleven Neighborhood Parks</b> - Acquire the average of 55 acres over a period of thirteen years.	55 acre	<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	\$2,200,000	Park land dedication, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$1,100,000
Undetermined	<b>Four Community Park</b> - Acquire +/- 280 acres for four future community parks.	280 acres	<b>Community Park</b>	\$11,200,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$5,600,000
Undetermined	<b>Future Linear Parks</b> - Acquire +/- 120 acres for as yet undetermined sites.	120 acres	<b>Linear Park</b>	\$4,800,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$2,400,000
Undetermined	<b>Future Special Parks</b> - Acquire +/- 60 acres for as yet undetermined sites.	60 acres	<b>Special Purpose Park</b>	\$2,400,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$1,200,000
<b>Subtotal Future Land Acquisition</b>		<b>515 acres</b>		<b>\$20,600,000</b>	<b>\$10,300,000</b>
Future Park Development and Improvement					
Undetermined	<b>Develop 11 neighborhood parks</b> - Develop 11 neighborhood parks at \$900,000 per park.		<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	\$9,900,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$4,950,000
Undetermined	<b>Park Improvement</b> - Ongoing park improvement of two parks per year at an average of \$250,000 per park per year over a period of eleven years.		<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	\$7,500,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$3,750,000
Undetermined	<b>Develop 2 Community Parks</b> - at \$5.5 million per park		<b>Community Park</b>	\$11,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$5,500,000
Undetermined	<b>Develop Linear Parks</b> - As yet undetermined.		<b>Linear Park</b>	\$2,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$1,000,000
Undetermined	<b>Develop Special Purpose Parks</b> - As yet undetermined.		<b>Special Purpose Park</b>	\$2,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, explore PISD assistance, Bond Funds \$1,000,000
Undetermined	<b>Hike and Bike Trails</b> - Develop 45 miles of trails at \$1 million per mile, over a period of 5 years.		<b>Hike and Bike Trails</b>	\$45,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$11,250,000
Undetermined	<b>Trail Heads and Trail Gateways</b> - Develop 5 trail heads and gateways at \$600,000 per unit, over a period of 5 years.		<b>Hike and Bike Trails</b>	\$3,000,000	Capital Improvement Funds, TPWD Outdoor Grant, Private Donations, Bond Funds \$1,500,000
Undetermined	<b>Tree Planting</b> - Continue tree planting program for all parks (+/- 200 per year).		<b>Townwide</b>	\$2,200,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, Bond Funds, TPWD grant \$1,100,000
Undetermined	<b>Public Art</b> - Provide for environmental and outdoor art in parks and open spaces on an ongoing basis (+/- \$100,000 per year)		<b>Townwide</b>	\$1,100,000	Capital Improvement Funds, Private Donations, Bond Funds, TPWD grant \$550,000
<b>Subtotal Future Park Development and Improvement</b>				<b>\$83,700,000</b>	<b>\$30,600,000</b>

**Summary Actions and Expenditures over a period of 23 years from 2007 to 2030**

<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>1,965 acres</b>	<b>\$78,600,000</b>	<b>\$24,420,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditure: Park Development and Improvement</b>		<b>\$160,830,000</b>	<b>\$61,665,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditure: Development or Recreational and Maintenance Facilities</b>		<b>\$3,500,000</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditure: Consultance Studies</b>		<b>\$760,000</b>	<b>\$385,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditure for 2007 to 2030</b>		<b>\$243,690,000</b>	<b>\$89,470,000</b>

Note: Costs shown are 2007 values at a pre-design level, and will vary as more detailed design occurs. List is for guidance in planning, and not all items may be implemented. Land costs are estimated at an average of \$40,000 per acre.



### Table 8.1 Action Plan Years 2007 - 2017 and beyond to 2030 Town of Prosper Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan



Priority	Action	Additional Acreage	Facility Type	Estimated Cost for Preferred Improvement Level	Potential Funding Sources
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Land costs shown are general estimates intended to establish allowances and will vary. Grants and donations may reduce the cost of each item significantly.

A comparison of the recommended acreage acquisition with the acreage needs at build-out population of 89,900 reads as follows:

<b>Table 8.3 Recommended Acreage Acquisition over the next 25 years</b>					
<b>Park Type</b>	<b>1-5 Year Acreage Acquisition</b>	<b>5-10 Year Acreage Acquisition</b>	<b>10-25 Year Acreage Acquisition</b>	<b>Total Recommended Acreage Acquisition</b>	<b>Additional Acreage required at build-out population*</b>
Neighborhood Parks	45	35	55	<b>135</b>	113
Community Parks	180	100	280	<b>560</b>	629
Special Purpose Parks	142	22	60	<b>224</b>	270
Linear Parks	54	58	120	<b>232</b>	270
Open Space	300	150	100	<b>550</b>	450
Maintenance Facility (special purpose)	14	-	-	<b>14</b>	-
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>1,715</b>	<b>1,732</b>
Regional Parks	800			<b>800</b>	<b>899</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>2,515</b>	<b>2,631</b>

\* Acreage required additional to 2007 existing acreage - See Table 6.1

It is recommended that the acquisition of 550 acres of open space be achieved through the establishment of creek buffers beyond the 100 year flood line of all creeks. At a 100 feet buffer beyond the 100 year flood line and on both sides of creeks, the length of creek corridor established at 550 acres, will result in about 20 miles of creek corridor protected.

#### **8.4 Funding Strategies**

Different parks and pathways/trails will require different funding strategies. While improvements to existing parks and most sidewalks can be built with local funds, other parks, open space and trail projects may be able to contend for state or federal funds, although the level of these funding sources has decreased significantly in recent years. This section provides brief descriptions of these funding implementation assistance opportunities.

#### **8.4.1 Town Generated Funding Sources**

**General Fund Expenditures** are primarily used for improvements to existing parks and facilities. Typical general fund expenditures are for smaller repair and replacement efforts.

**Bond Funds** are primarily targeted for new facilities.

**Electric Utility Partnerships** can be established for utility easement trails. This partnership typically does not involve monetary contributions. However it does include use agreements for easements held by utility companies.

**Electric Utility Bill Contributions** – residents of the Town can choose to add a small amount to their utility or garbage collection bills to fund park improvements. Abilene has used a \$1.00 a month contribution to raise over \$470,000 since 1987, and has used that funding to replace playgrounds throughout the City. Prosper could ask citizens to contribute \$1.50 or \$2.00 per bill (for a total of \$18.00 to \$24.00 per year) towards park improvements. With contributions from 1000 accounts, a total of \$18,000 to \$24,000 could be raised annually.

**Half Cent Sales Tax Funds** can be used for design and development of existing and new facilities.

**Park Donations Funds** can be used for applicable projects, equipment, and general facility improvements.

#### **8.4.2 Governmental Grant Sources**

A variety of grant sources exist, but three general sources account for most of the major potential sources of grants for parks in Texas. These include programs administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the Department of the Interior through the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program. The following is an overview of major grant programs.

**TPWD - Texas Recreation and Parks Account (TRPA)** is the primary source for park grants in Texas and in addition provides funding for recreational trails. A maximum of 50 percent match can be obtained, up to \$500,000, for new park and trail facilities, as well as for indoor facilities. Grant applications that stress joint funding and support from two or more local entities may have a greater chance in contending for the TRPA grants. Recent developments have reduced the amount of available funds from the state, and the Town should consider other available funding sources whenever possible.

##### **Outdoor Recreation Grants**

This program provides 50% matching grant funds to acquire and develop parkland or to renovate existing public recreation areas. In the past, there were two funding cycles per year. There is now one funding cycle per year with a maximum award of \$400,000. Eligible sponsors include cities, counties, MUDs, and other special districts. Projects must be completed within three years of approval. Application deadline is **July 31** each year.

### ***Indoor Recreation (Facility) Grants***

The program provides 50% matching grant funds to municipalities, counties, MUDs, and other local units of government to construct recreation centers, community centers, nature centers and other facilities (buildings). The grant maximum is \$417,563 per application. The application deadline is **July 31** each year.

### ***Small Community Grants***

The grant program was created in 2001 to meet the recreation needs of small Texas communities with a population of 20,000 and under. The grant provides 50% matching grant funds (maximum \$50,000) to eligible municipalities and counties. Funds must be employed for development or beautification of parkland. Eligible projects include ball fields, boating, fishing, and hunting facilities, picnic facilities, playgrounds, swimming pools, trails, camping facilities, beautification, restoration, gardens, sports courts and support facilities. The deadline for this program is **January 31** each year.

### ***Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) Grants***

The CO-OP grant helps to introduce under-served populations to the services, programs, and facilities of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. This is not a land acquisition or construction grant; this is only for programs and services. Grants are awarded to non-profit organizations, schools, municipalities, counties, cities, and other groups. Minimum grant requests are \$5,000 and maximum grant requests are \$30,000. This grant program has changed from two funding cycles to one funding cycle per year. Application deadline is **February 1** of each year.

### ***Recreational Trail Grants***

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This federally funded program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles. The grants can be up to 80% of project cost. Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects such as the construction of new recreational trails, to improve existing trails, to develop trailheads or trailside facilities, and to acquire trail corridors.

***Texas State Boat Ramp Construction Program*** provides 75% matching grant funds for the construction of public boat ramp facilities throughout the state. Local government sponsors must make an application, provide the land, provide access to the proposed boat ramp, supply 25% of the development costs, and accept operation and maintenance responsibilities for a minimum 25-year period. These funds are allocated annually through the federal Sport Fish Restoration Act. The deadlines for this program are **June 30** and **October 31**.

### ***Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants***

TPWD administers the Texas apportionments of LWCF through the Texas Recreation Park Account. If an entity is applying for an Indoor Grant, Outdoor Grant, or Small Community Grant, TPWD may consider the application for LWCF funding. No separate application is required.

**Regional Park Grants** provide 50% matching fund grants to local governments in order to create large, intensive-use recreation areas, regional systems of parks, and conservation areas with trail linkages, as well as linear greenways between parks and other community amenities in Texas' urban areas. These grants encourage partnerships and leverage development between the private sector, non-profit organizations, and among local governments. Priority is given to a project that has local matching funds from multiple political jurisdictions as well as non-profit organizations/private donations, is listed in local park master plans, will be used in a multiple jurisdictional manner, provides water-based recreation, links multiple jurisdictions with trails or greenbelts, and the project has a direct link to the mission of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. There is no ceiling on match amounts, but grant awards are dependent on the number of applicants and the availability of funds. Past recipients for the Regional Park Grant have ranged from \$750,000 to \$1,200,000. Deadlines are held on **January 31** of each year.

**National Park Service (NPS) Programs** include the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act (UPARR), which provide funds for parks and recreation. Congress appropriates both funds. Typically, the funding sources have supported traditional parks rather than linear systems. Funding for new UPARR grants was eliminated for FY 2003 and 2004. However, funding may be restored in future appropriations.

**Environmental Protection Agency** can provide funding for projects with money collected in pollution settlements.

***Sustainable Development Funding Program***

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Sustainable Development Funding Program was created by its policy body, the Regional Transportation Council to encourage public/private partnerships that positively address existing transportation system capacity, rail access, air quality concerns, and/or mixed land uses. By allocating transportation funds to land use projects promoting alternative transportation modes or reduced automobile use, NCTCOG and its regional partners are working to address mounting air quality, congestion and quality of life issues.

***Regional Transportation Council Partnership Program***

Through the Local Air Quality Program, NCTCOG's Regional Transportation Council will fund transportation projects that address the new air quality standard, including traffic signal timing, trip reduction, air quality outreach and marketing programs, vanpool programs, bicycle/pedestrian regional connections, high-emitting-vehicle programs, diesel freight programs, off-road construction vehicle emissions reduction programs, park-and-ride facilities, and other air quality strategies. Previous submissions were due March 2006.

***Transportation Enhancement Program funds available***

Through the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program, the Texas Department of Transportation has made funds available during 2006 for construction of non-traditional transportation projects such as bicycle routes, pedestrian safety, and landscaping of transportation facilities. NCTCOG reviewed the projects within the Metropolitan Planning Area for eligibility, ranked the projects, and provided the state-required Letter of Transportation Improvement Program Placement. Submittals were due February 2006

and even though many projects were approved, the program was cancelled in its entirety for 2006.

The Program provides monetary support for transportation activities designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic and environmental aspects of the transportation system. Funding is on a cost reimbursement basis and projects selected are eligible for reimbursement of up to 80% of allowable cost. This funding program is not available on a yearly basis, but intermittently only, often in 5 year periods apart. The next opportunity for funding under this program will be in 2010.

#### **8.4.3 Other Private and Quasi Private Funding Sources**

**Partnering with Developers and Private Land Owners** may become possible in Prosper by implementing park land dedication rules, whether voluntary or mandatory. Such an ordinance provides a vehicle for development of parks, open space and trails as land is developed in Prosper. Prosper should consider such an ordinance or a program that requires the sale of raw land in a new development to the Town for future park development. If adopted, a dedication ordinance should require sufficient funding so that tangible park improvements can be made, rather than token improvements.

**Other Foundation and Company Grants** assist in direct funding for projects, while others exist to help citizen efforts gets established with small seed funds or technical and publicity assistance. Before applying for any grant, it is crucial to review *The Foundation Directory* and *The Foundation Grants Index* published by the Foundation Center to learn if a particular project fits the requirements of the foundation.

**Grants for Greenways** is a national listing that provides descriptions of a broad spectrum of both general and specific groups who provide technical and financial support for greenway interests.

**An “Adopt-a-Park Program”** could be developed to provide a consistent process for private and commercial donors to contribute to the development of specific parks in Prosper. The donations would be recognized at the applicable park by methods of signage, plaques or naming rights to a particular donated feature. Even a modest amount raised annually by area homeowners’ associations can replace old trash receptacles, provide new benches or pay for the installation of trees.

**Sponsorship through Businesses** is a means to secure funding through business operating in the Town of Prosper. Entities can contribute through the Parks Foundation or directly support park department construction or programming efforts.

**Partnerships with Interest or Volunteer Groups** that are typically non-profit organizations keenly interested in particular subjects e.g. human interaction with nature, wildlife, native plants and aesthetics of a town environment are often willing to contribute time and energy free of charge for the betterment of parks and open space.

#### **National Endowment for the Humanities**

As part of its *We the People initiative*, the NEH has a grant program designed to help institutions and organizations secure long-term improvements in and support for

humanities activities that explore significant themes and events in American history, thereby advancing knowledge of the founding principles of the United States in their full historical and institutional context.

Grants may be used to support long-term costs such as construction and renovation, purchase of equipment, acquisitions, and conservation of collections. Grants may also be used to establish or enhance endowments that generate expendable earnings for program activities.

Because of the matching requirements, these NEH grants also strengthen the humanities by encouraging nonfederal sources of support. Applications are welcome from colleges and universities, museums, public libraries, research institutions, historical societies and historic sites, public television and radio stations, scholarly associations, state humanities councils, and other nonprofit entities. Programs that involve the collaboration of multiple institutions are eligible, as well, but one institution must serve as the lead agent and formal applicant of record.

## **8.5 Policies and Ordinances**

**Ordinance Support for Trail System Development** - Utilize the Park Land Dedication Ordinance to assist in the implementation of a Town wide trail system. Trail corridors can be integrated into developments as the development goes through the platting process. Land for trail corridors can be donated in a fashion similar to the dedication of land for traditional parks, and each adjacent development can be required to construct their portion of the overall trail system, or other trails that connect to the main trail network. The Cities of Flower Mound and Allen, Texas have trail dedication components built into their Park dedication ordinances that can be used as models.

**Parks and Recreation Board** - Town Staff should provide presentations of significant changes in the Parks Master Plan and provide brief summaries of annual updates to the documentation. This will provide the Parks and Recreation Board with comprehensive information to assist with development decisions.

**Planning and Zoning Commission** – The platting and development approval function of the Planning and Zoning Commission provides a mechanism whereby many of the principles and goals of the Parks Master Plan can be achieved. Appendix F provides a Development Review Checklist to assist with the review of each development application.

**Joint Planning with the neighboring Cities of McKinney, Frisco, Denton, Celina and Little Elm** - Establish joint planning efforts with these neighboring cities to provide additional options to address recreation needs in Prosper.

**Joint Planning with Prosper ISD** - Establish joint planning review sessions with Prosper Independent School District to allow for coordination of facilities usage and development.

**Joint Planning with Denton and Collin Counties** - Continue joint planning efforts with Denton County and Collin County to provide additional options to address recreation needs in Prosper. Examples include the proposed regional Five Creeks Preserve along Doe Branch.

**Specific Policy Actions**

(See also Paragraph 7.3.1 Town Policy)

1. Establish a Town Ordinance that requires a minimum of 75% compliance for single loaded roads along all future parks, buffers, floodplains and open space. Single loaded roads allows for accessible parks that are safe and inviting. Safety is generally achieved by the informal surveillance provided by the residents overlooking the park.
2. Establish a Town Ordinance that requires transparent metal fences in lieu of solid wood fences along private properties that border with parks, trails, creek corridors and open space so as to contribute to a sense of openness and safety.
3. Adopt policies, which emphasize the importance of the preservation and protection of the Town's tree cover and extensive creek system. Plan ahead to protect and preserve the Town's 100-year floodplains including a minimum 100 feet buffer beyond the floodplain.
4. Establish a Town Ordinance that mandates the donation of floodplain lands along creeks. Such land is not developable yet provides habitat and corridors of movement for fauna and the opportunity for use as open space, greenways and trails (see Paragraph 7.3.1; Recreation and Drainage Easements)
5. Continue to work directly and continuously with the Prosper Independent School District, so as to acquire lands for neighborhood parks in conjunction with school district property acquisitions and to develop park facilities that can be used jointly by school children and residents.
6. Identify school sites that may be developed jointly with the school district as publicly accessible parklands.
7. Establish a formal process and agreements for working directly and continuously with the various utility districts and other Town departments that can assist in acquiring parks lands or in jointly developing facilities. These include the Town's Public Works Department, the Town's Development Department, schools, private entertainment providers, as well as other Town of Prosper departments.
8. Pro-actively search for parklands to target for acquisition over the next five years. Include Prosper's ETJ (Extra Territorial Jurisdiction) in this search.
9. Endorse the park to population ratios established by this master plan to guide the acquisition and development of parks in all sectors of the Town. These are 2 acres per 1,000 population for neighborhood parks, 7 acres per 1,000 population for community parks, 3 acres per 1,000 population for special purpose parks, 3 acres per 1,000 population for linear parks, 5 to 10 acres per 1,000 population for open space, and 10 acres per 1,000 population for regional parks.
10. Endorse the creation of linear park corridors that bisect and link parts of the Town. Use the corridors identified in this plan as the major corridors throughout the Town. Incorporate additional trail linkages to ensure that everyone in the Town is within walking distance of a trail that links with the overall Town Trail network.
11. Establish standards for developing land adjacent to linear park corridors. These include helping to fund linear parks, providing pedestrian connections to the parks,

- minimum amounts of landscaping along those corridors, and signage regulations adjacent to or within the linear park corridors.
12. Ensure that adequate maintenance personnel are provided to take care of parklands in the Town. Expect, and provide, an exceptional level of care for high visibility parks.
  13. Endorse the need for the acquisition and preservation of open space preserves throughout the Town limits. Consider acquiring these lands in conjunction with needed park areas as well as through Conservation Planning and Development (see Paragraph 7.3.1).
  14. Pursue alternative methods of funding park system and programming improvement, such as partnerships with non-governmental entities, grant funding sources, establishing “Friends of...” organizations, contracting out programs or operations. Consider these and other methods only where feasible and financially sound.

### **8.6 Operation & Maintenance**

The recommendations for the development of parks, open space and trails, necessitates manpower for the required maintenance of the various projects. The number of staff needed to attend to these proposed facilities will vary depending on the use of these facilities. However, positive support and the provision of adequate staffing must be included as each facility is developed, or the facility should not be built. The current Town’s Parks and Recreation Operation and Maintenance budget and needs are discussed below.

<b>Table 8.4 Prosper Parks and Recreation Budget</b>			
	<b>Fiscal Year 2004/05</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2005/06</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2006/07</b>
<b>Total General Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$3,617,000</b>	<b>\$3,715,000</b>	<b>\$4,332,000</b>
<b>Total Parks &amp; Recreation General Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$21,855</b>	<b>\$44,771</b>	<b>\$86,418</b>
Overall Parks & Recreation Percentage of General Fund	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>2%</b>

**For the 2007 fiscal year, Prosper’s Parks and Recreation Budget is 2% of the Town’s General Fund.**

As a percentage of the overall General Fund, Prosper's expenditures were compared with other cities in the area. See Table 8.5 below.

<b>Table 8.5 Comparison of Overall Park Expenditures Relative to General Fund</b>					
<b>City/Town</b>	<b>Overall General Fund</b>	<b>General Fund per Capita</b>	<b>Park Expenditures including recreation</b>	<b>Percent of General Fund</b>	<b>City size in Acres</b>
<b>Prosper (2006-07) 5,250 population</b>	<b>\$4,332,000</b>	<b>\$825</b>	<b>\$86,418</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>18,134</b>
Allen (2004-05) 66,400 population	\$35,900,000	\$ 540	\$4,642,000	13%	16,640.0
Addison (2004-05) 14,450 population	\$8,660,000	\$600	\$3,521,700	40.6%	2,816.0
Burleson (2004-05) 28,350 population	\$3,362,000	\$ 120	\$1,094,300	33%	12,544.0
Carrollton (2004-05) 116,500 population	\$66,346,645	\$ 570	\$9,100,000	13%	23,424.0
Colleyville (2004-05) 21,000 population	\$23,730,000	\$1,130	\$1,300,000	5.4%	8,320.0
Corinth (2005-06) 18,550 population	\$10,199,000 (06/07)	\$550	\$1,260,000	12%	4,992.0
Denton (2004-05) 96,200 population	\$69,100,000	\$ 718	\$7,230,000	10.4%	39,808.0
Duncanville (2004-05) 36,150 population	\$21,850,000	\$ 604	\$1,700,000	7.7%	7,168.0
Frisco (2005-06) 73,900 population	\$50,000,000	\$ 677	\$3,700,000	7.4%	44,800.0
Grapevine (2004-05) 44,850 population	\$45,700,000 (06/07)	\$ 1,040	\$4,700,800	10%	22,912.0
Highland Village (2004-05) 14,150 population	\$8,390,000	\$ 593	\$1,134,600	13.5%	4,096.0
Lancaster (2005-06) 39,000 population	\$17,938,600	\$ 460	\$2,045,300	\$11.4 %	24,000
Mesquite (2003-04) 133,600 population	\$84,340,000	\$ 631	\$5,494,000	6.5%	27,776.0
Rockwall (2004-05) 27,300 population	\$15,600,000 (05/06)	\$572	\$1,800,000	12%	14,464.0
Rowlett (2004-05) 52,250 population	\$30,500,000	\$584	\$2,124,700	7%	12,928.0
Southlake (2004-05) 24,900 population	\$23,000,000	\$923	\$2,663,700	12%	14,336.0

Terrell (2004-05) 15,400 population	\$13,612,000	\$884	\$511,000	4%	11,904.0
Wylie (2004-05) 29,800 population	\$15,988,000	\$537	\$1,061,900	6.6%	21,248.0

The following table illustrates the per capita expenditure for parks compared with a number of cities.

<b>Table 8.6 Comparison of Park Operations and Maintenance Expenditures (excluding special or performance funds)</b>			
<b>City/Town</b>	<b>Population *</b>	<b>Budgeted Park Expenditures in 2004/05</b>	<b>Per Capita Expenditure</b>
<b>Prosper</b>	<b>3,078 (2004)**</b>	<b>\$21,855 (04/05)</b>	<b>\$7</b>
<b>Prosper</b>	<b>3,800 (2005)**</b>	<b>\$44,771 (05/06)</b>	<b>\$12</b>
<b>Prosper</b>	<b>5,250 (2006)**</b>	<b>\$86,418 (06/07)</b>	<b>\$16</b>
Allen	66,400	\$4,642,200	\$70
Addison	14,450	\$3,521,800	\$244
Burleson	28,350	\$1,094,300	\$39
Carrollton	116,500	\$9,100,000	\$78
Colleyville	21,000	\$1,300,000	\$62
Corinth (2006)	18,550	\$1,260,000	\$68
Denton	96,200	\$7,230,000	\$75
Duncanville	36,150	\$1,716,950	\$48
Flower Mound	60,450	\$2,808,600	\$46
Frisco	73,900	\$3,700,000	\$50
Grapevine	44,850	\$4,700,000	\$108
Highland Village	14,150	\$1,134,600	\$80
Lancaster	39,000	\$1,991,600	\$51
Mesquite	133,600	\$5,494,100	\$41
N Richland Hills	61,650	\$2,422,300	\$39
Rockwall	27,300	\$1,800,000	\$66
Rowlett	52,250	\$2,124,800	\$41
Southlake	24,900	\$2,663,800	\$107
Terrell	15,400	\$511,000	\$33
Wylie	29,800	\$1,061,100	\$36

\* 2005 North Central Texas Council of Governments

\*\* Town of Prosper; State of the Town 2004 Report

Expenditure calculations for cities with other operating funds (special or performance funds) are presented in Table 8.7 below.

**Table 8.7  
Comparison of Overall Park Operations and Maintenance Expenditures  
(including special or performance funds)**

City/Town	Population*	Budgeted Park Expenditures in 2004/05	Per Capita Expenditure
<b>Prosper</b>	<b>5,250**</b>	<b>No other funds***</b>	<b>-</b>
Allen	66,400	\$9,670,250	\$146
Addison	14,450	No other funds	-
Burleson	28,350	\$1,164,300	\$41
Carrollton	116,500	\$9,137,000	\$78
Colleyville	21,000	No other funds	-
Corinth	17,800	No other funds	-
Denton	96,200	\$10,516,900	\$109
Duncanville	36,150	\$1,730,450	\$48
Flower Mound	60,450	\$3,266,000	\$54
Frisco	73,900	No other funds	-
Grapevine	44,850	No other funds	-
Highland Village	14,150	\$1,336,900	\$94
Lancaster	39,000	No other funds	-
Mansfield	45,000	\$1,994,350	\$44
N Richland Hills	61,650	\$10,081,900	\$164
Rockwall	27,300	\$1,905,000	\$70
Rowlett	52,250	\$2,863,600	\$55
Southlake	24,900	\$4,691,800	\$188
Terrell	15,400	\$623,800	\$41
Wylie	29,800	\$1,686,900	\$57

\* 2005 North Central Texas Council of Governments

\*\* Town of Prosper; State of the Town 2004 Report

\*\*\* One time Expenditures:

Tennis Courts	\$113,000	Parks Improvements Fund
Playground Equipment	\$30,000	Parks Improvements Fund
Soccer Field	\$421,629	Parks & Recreation Special Fund
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,510,047 ~ \$6,510,000</b>	

**Table 8.8  
Parks Department Acreage and Personnel Comparisons**

City/Town	Overall Budget (1)	Total Park Acres	Overall Budget/ Park Acres (closest 100)	Number of Personnel (2) ;(3)	Total Park Acres/Staff Member
<b>Prosper (06/07)</b>	<b>\$86,418</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>\$1,300</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>67</b>
Allen	\$4,642,200	427	\$10,900	51	8
Addison	\$3,521,800	143	\$24,600	38	4
Burleson	\$1,094,300	198	\$5,500	14	14
Carrollton	\$9,100,000	1,793	\$5,100	142	13
Colleyville	\$1,300,000	190	\$6,800	13	15
Corinth (06)	\$1,260,000	179	\$7,000	18	10
Denton	\$7,230,000	1,222	\$5,900	91	13
Duncanville	\$1,716,950	227	\$7,600	23	10
Flower Mound	\$2,808,600	545	\$5,200	29	19
Frisco	\$3,745,350	869	\$4,300	59	15
Grapevine	\$4,117,800	1,511	\$2,700	67	23
Highland Village	\$1,134,600	320	\$3,500	17	19
Lancaster (05/06)	\$2,045,300	545	\$3,800	21	26
Mesquite	\$5,494,100	1,427	\$3,900	116	12
N Richland Hills	\$2,422,300	720	\$3,400	33	22
Rockwall	\$1,800,000	443	\$4,000	29	15
Rowlett	\$2,124,800	983	\$2,100	22	45
Southlake	\$2,663,800	636	\$4,200	36	18
Terrell	\$511,000	200	\$2,600	7	29
Wylie	\$1,061,100	545	\$1,900	12	45

- (1) Budgets and staff levels for general comparison purposes only. Maintenance of non-park areas such as medians is not included but does impact staff levels.
- (2) Excludes Indoor recreation and /or golf course staff.
- (3) Includes parks facilities and recreational programming personnel.

**Staff Levels** - Prosper Parks and Recreation Department staff levels from 2003 through the 2006 fiscal year are shown in Table 8.9 below.

Approximate Park Acres Maintained	Park Acres per Personnel	Number of Personnel	Management, Supervisory & Clerical staff	Horticultural Staff	Skilled & Unskilled Staff
2006 - 67 acres	67 acres	1	-	-	-

\* Maintenance of park facilities only (recreational programming staff excluded)

***Recommendations for the Parks Department Staffing, Operations and Maintenance***

The Town’s needs pertaining to parks and recreation facilities operations and maintenance are addressed in terms of staffing; operations and maintenance techniques, equipment or strategies; and establishment of a parks and operations maintenance facility.

**Staffing Recommendations** - based on the adoption of the recommendations of the Master Plan, the following staffing needs should be implemented:

1. **Naturalist** is needed to assist the Town to adopt and apply Conservation Development in the Town and to ensure the effective operation and management of the proposed Five Creek Preserve along Doe Branch. A total of \$60,000 is recommended as a budget for this position (including salary and indirect costs.)
2. **Park Planner** is needed to coordinate the development and implementation of the Prosper Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. Additionally, this position should be the Town Landscape Administrator. A total of \$60,000 is recommended as a budget for this position (including salary and indirect costs.)
3. **Special Projects Crew** (1 foreman and 3 technicians). This crew would handle landscape construction to include: Irrigation system maintenance and repair, playground inspection, maintenance, repair and construction, installation of park signage, landscape plantings, repair and renovation of park facilities. The amount of \$40,000 is recommended as a budget per foreman and \$30,000 per technician (including salary and indirect costs.) The total for a special projects crew comes to \$90,000.
4. **Additional General Labor:** Due to the increase in additional park acreage, hike and bike trails, right of way maintenance, additional athletic fields, and other duties assigned to the Department, additional grounds maintenance labor must be added. The amount of \$25,000 is recommended as a budget per laborer (including salary and indirect costs.) The total for two additional general laborers comes to \$50,000.

5. **Grant Writer** is needed to identify and pursue grants with the particular skill to prepare grant applications. A total of \$60,000 is recommended as a budget for this position (including salary and indirect costs.)
6. The Town should invest additional funding for **staff development** in the areas of continuing education, licensing and certifications. The amount of \$10,000 per year is recommended for staff development.

The collective impact of the recommended staff, labor costs and additional funding comes to \$330,000 annually for the above new positions.

**Figure 8.1**  
**Annual Expenditure Recommendations**

Annual expenditures per maintained acre of park today are in the order of \$1,290 (\$86,418 / 67 acres) rounded to \$1,300 per acre. Maintaining that current ratio, the addition of approximately 421 acres (excluding natural open space and the 800 acres Five Creek Regional Park) during the next five years will require a budget increase of approximately \$550,000 by the year 2012; the addition of approximately 225 acres in the 2012 to 2017 year period will further increase the budget with approximately \$290,000.

Overall, it is recommended that the system target an increase to an annual expenditure of approximately \$3,000 per acre of maintained park land. With the total park land of  $67 + 421 = 488$  acres this will result in an annual maintenance expenditure of \$1,464,000 by 2012; with the total park land of 713 acres by 2017 this will result in an annual maintenance expenditure of \$2,139,000.

The staffing and budget recommendations shown above are approximate, and will require adjustments to meet current fiscal conditions and the specific design needs of parks as they are improved. **However, citizen support for a high level of quality in the parks system, as well as the taking of dramatic steps to beautify the city, is unquestioned, and can be read as support for higher park department budget levels.**

**Operations and Maintenance Techniques, Equipment or Strategies**

In order to ensure future effectiveness and efficiency of the town's parks operations and maintenance programs the following is recommended for consideration as and when the need arises:

1. Parks Maintenance Staff should have an **operations center** to professionally manage all parks, athletic fields, municipal grounds, median and right of way maintenance.
2. The Town should invest in **standardization of all park name signage**.
3. The Town should invest in **standardization of informational signage** in all parks (i.e., park operation hours, lease ordinance, rental information, no motorized vehicles, etc.).

4. **Athletic fields must be managed** for safety of participants and to maximize utilization of athletic field resources.
5. Town should invest in **automated athletic field lighting** for all existing facilities to maximize utilization of athletic field resources.
6. Town should invest in **multi-purpose athletic practice facilities** to ensure high quality game fields for competition. These facilities should have minimal practice field lighting and an irrigation system.
7. Town should adopt a policy of **minimal interference or maintenance of natural areas** and open space. The goal should be to preserve these areas in their natural state for which a public awareness campaign should be developed. The staffing of a naturalist as recommended above will greatly assist in finding the best approach.

### ***Establishment of a Parks Operations and Maintenance Facility***

Parks Maintenance should have an adequate central maintenance facility which may include:

- EPA approved storage facilities for Chemicals and Pesticides
- Above ground fuel storage and fueling station
- Small engines service area and parts storage
- Irrigation parts storage
- Covered storage for all motorized equipment
- Storage binds for bulk storage of soil amendments
- Greenhouse for propagation and holding of bedding materials
- Wash rack for cleaning mowing equipment
- Adequate office space for supervisory staff
- Adequate break room and restrooms for department staff
- Adequate parking for staff vehicles and Town vehicles
- Storage for seasonal items such as Christmas Decorations, Banners, portable stage, etc.

When planning for the central maintenance facility, it is recommended that serious consideration be given to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) which is a voluntary program whereby better buildings are constructed through sustainable site selection, site design, energy and water conservation, and healthy interiors. For more information visit [www.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.usgbc.org/leed).

Other parks operations and maintenance issues include the following:

1. Town should develop a plan to implement native plant material with low water requirement in all landscape situations where possible.
2. The Town should implement an annual tree planting program in all parks to provide for additional shade, to phase the cost for these trees and to ensure healthy grouping of old and young trees together.
3. The Town should establish a tree farm for the propagation of trees native to North Central Texas. These trees are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions and will result in superior tree cover, shade and drought tolerance.
4. The Town should develop a composting facility whereby tree branches and plant clippings are chipped and mulched for re-use as compost on all Town property. The

purpose is to allow for the recycling of valuable organic material rather than adding to solid waste.

5. The Town should implement an integrated fertility and pest management program to minimize reliance on chemicals and pesticides, and to maximize field conditions, plant health and safety; place preference on the use of naturally fertile compost and protective mulch derived from the Town's composting facility.
6. Town should invest in a Town wide irrigation system that is a computerized central control system radio linked for the efficient management of irrigation, including an automated Irrigation added to all athletic practice fields to improve the safety of participants, improve the quality of the turf and improve the vitality and resilience of the turf.

## **8.7 Parks and Recreation Marketing Recommendations**

### Introduction

The benefits of parks and recreation facilities and programs to the citizens of Prosper are significant. Using park facilities can lead to a healthier and satisfying life style. In turn, better park facilities can lead to an improved perception of the Town and the **quality of life** features it provides. The marketing plan for parks includes two key areas, which are:

- **Understanding** the target market and the needs of that market, and **addressing areas of key needs**, and
- **Promoting** facilities and programs offered by the department or affiliated entities.

### Promotion of Department Facilities and Area Programs

A plan to "market" park facilities, programs and events should be a key component of the continued growth and expansion of the Prosper Parks Department. From the Town's perspective, marketing essentially refers to getting the word out and letting the residents of Prosper know about key facilities and programs that are available. Promotion is extremely important in that it communicates the value of the services that the Town is providing to residents of Prosper. Components of the marketing plan should include:

- Promotional materials, including flyers and seasonal newspaper inserts;
- An updated internet website;
- Periodic presentations to the Town Council regarding park facilities;
- Promotional events; and
- Periodic public announcements and special features on local radio and television to discuss new features and programs provided by the Parks Department.

**Web site enhancement** – many parks departments today are relying on sophisticated web sites to promote park facilities, recreation programs, and special events. Prosper's website could easily be enhanced to become an excellent information tool for the parks department. The web site should be interesting, dynamic and should to some degree have features that periodically keep it up to date. Many park departments in the state now have their own websites, linked to the main overall city/town web site. This helps the department establish a strong identity and become better known as a site for quick information.

Items that the web site could include are shown below.

- **Existing parks – facilities available within each park.** Information from the master plan document can be added to the web site for a quick description of each park. Include 360 panoramic views from specific locations in parks.
- **Planned improvements** – provide information on planned improvements, including a copy of the overall master plan summary in a downloadable format.
- **Special Facilities** – once developed provide information on special town facilities including meeting rooms, fitness facilities, gymnasium etc.; include hours of operation and cost, special events, and photographs of the facilities.
- **Sports league information** – assist associations in establishing their own sites, and provide link to those sites. This could build league participation by providing easy sign up information. The current Town of Prosper website provides a link to the Prosper Sports Association (PSA).
- **Upcoming events** – location for information on upcoming events.
- **Programs that are currently being offered** – provide information on programs offered by Prosper.
- **Rental information** – provide rental rates and pictures of each facility. Outdoor pavilions can also be included on the web site.
- **Contact and Comment section** – provide location for contact information as well as a place for citizen comments.

Examples of informative and highly creative websites include:

- **City of Arlington Park Department** – <http://www.ci.arlington.tx.us/park/index.html>
- **City of Allen Park Department** – <http://www.cityofallen.org/parks/home.htm>
- **City of Round Rock Park Department** – <http://ci.round-rock.tx.us/parks-rec/pard.htm>
- **City of Plano Parks Department** – <http://www.planoparks.org/>

The update of the website would require:

- Design update – estimated cost up to \$5,000
- Equipment server upgrades if required – estimated cost \$3,000 to \$5,000
- Staff training to be able to manage and update the website – estimated cost up to \$1,000 for training.

## 8.8 Plan Updates

The 2007 Prosper Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is a guide to be used by the Town to develop the existing system for future needs over the next 5 to 10 up to 25 years. There will be changes that occur during the time frame of this plan:

- Population may increase more rapidly than projected;
- The community may indicate a special need for a facility not listed in the recommendations; and
- Development of recommendations will occur.

A review and update of this master plan by Town staff should be conducted every two years or when a significant change does occur. These updates can be published in short report format and attached to this Parks Master Plan for easy use. Four key areas for focus of these periodic reviews are as follows:

**Facility Inventory** - An inventory of new facilities should be recorded as well as any significant improvements of facilities controlled by the Prosper Independent School District.

**Facility Use** - Facility use is a key factor in determining the need for renovation of additional facilities. Updates on league participation of sports facilities should be prepared each season with data from each association. Changes in participation of those outside the Town limits as well as the citizens of Prosper should be recorded.

**Public Involvement** - As mentioned previously, this master plan reflects current population and attitudes as expressed by the citizens of Prosper. However, over time those attitudes and interests may change as the Town changes. Periodic surveys are recommended to provide a current account of the attitudes of the citizens and to provide additional direction from the public on issues that may arise. In order to make an accurate comparison of the changes in attitudes and interests, it is recommended that future surveys follow the general format of the Citizen Attitude Survey conducted in this Parks Master Plan.

**Action Plan** - As items from the action plan are implemented, updates should be made to this prioritized list to provide a current schedule for Town staff.



*Sunset over the Blackland Flats at the Town of Prosper.*

# Addenda

- A. *Public Participation – Telephone Survey by Ray Turco and Associates*
  - *Executive Summary of “A Survey of Residents Attitudes about Parks and Recreation in the Town of Prosper: 2005 Parks and Recreation Attitude Survey”*
  - *Cumulative Survey Results*
  - *Survey Results Tables*
- B. *Sport Organization Input*
  - *Prosper Sports Association*
  - *Prosper Community Tennis Association*
- C. *Creeks and Streams*
  - *The value of creeks and streams in the urban and semi-urban environments*
- D. *A Case for Conservation Planning and Design*
- E. *Dallas Forth Worth Metro-Area Parks and Recreation Survey*
- F. *Development Review Checklist*
  - *Checklist for parks, trails and open space considerations during the review of proposed residential and non residential developments in the Town of Prosper by the Parks Board and Planning and Zoning Commission*

**Addendum A. Public Participation – Telephone Survey by Ray Turco and Associates**

- *Executive Summary of “A Survey of Residents Attitudes about Parks and Recreation in the Town of Prosper: 2005 Parks and Recreation Attitude Survey”*
- *Cumulative Survey Results*
- *Survey Results Tables*

# **A SURVEY OF RESIDENTS ATTITUDES ABOUT PARKS AND RECREATION IN THE TOWN OF PROSPER**

**2005 Parks and Recreational Attitude Survey**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**RAYMOND TURCO & ASSOCIATES**

**PROJECT 10052005**

**NOVEMBER 2005**

 **RAYMOND TURCO & ASSOCIATES**

 **Half Associates**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Raymond Turco & Associates conducted the Town's 2005 Recreation Needs Assessment and Attitude Survey, a component of its parks, recreation and open space master plan being developed. This public opinion poll captured attitudes on parks and recreational issues in the community from respondents randomly selected from phone-matched households. The full sample of 200 respondents was interviewed with a comprehensive questionnaire that collected attitudinal data on the importance of the town providing park and recreational opportunities, as well as the need for future facilities and the types of amenities to include within those projects. The survey also measured where residents currently travel to recreate, what they did at those facilities, and how likely they would be to participate in general activities if available in Prosper.

The telephone survey included the responses of 200 individuals. Below are listed the highlights from our analysis of the project:

## ***General Attitudes about Parks and Recreation***

- Nearly nine of ten residents (88%) were satisfied (46%) or very satisfied (42%) with the quality of life in their community. Comparatively, dissatisfaction totaled just ten percent, of which 2% was very dissatisfied. The remaining 2% had no opinion. The ratio of satisfied to dissatisfied respondents was nearly nine to one (8.8:1). Intense satisfaction was higher in Area II (49%-34%), although the same variance was not evident in terms of overall positive attitudes (90%-87%). Long-term residents were most intensely satisfied (43% of under 3, to 36% of 4-10, to 54% of over 10 years), with overall satisfaction (92%-82%-92%) similar among the three subsets. By age, it was middle-aged respondents most enthusiastic (39% of under 35, to 45% of 36-45, to 40% of over 45), although younger respondents were most positive overall (94%-89%-85%). (See Question #1, Table #1.)
- Frisco (61%) and McKinney (24%) were the two most popular destinations to where people went if they or their family visited a park. This open-ended question generated secondary destinations such as Prosper and Plano, both with five percent. Residents in Area I more often ventured to Frisco (72%-52%), whereas people in Area II

frequented McKinney (33%-13%). Respondents who felt it was very important for the Town to provide recreational facilities rather than just important traveled to Frisco (64%-43%). Comparatively, if providing facilities was only important, McKinney was the destination of choice (38%-22%). Newer residents indicated traveling to Frisco (61%-68%-38%) to visit a park, while long-term Town inhabitants went to McKinney (22%-23%-38%). The age tabulations showed younger respondents to prefer Frisco (87%-54%-59%) and older individuals, McKinney (10%-27%-26%). Parents ventured to Frisco (77% of under 6, to 70% of 6-12, to 58% of 13-18, to 52% of nonparents) while a higher percentage of nonparents preferred McKinney (27%, to 18%-22%-26%). (See Question #3, Table #3.)

- Attend outdoor events (89%-10%, 8.9:1), enjoy nature (83%-18%, 4.6), walk/jog for exercise (78%-22%, 3.5:1), and picnic (69%-31%, 2.2:1) were the activities which respondents would most likely participate if appropriate facilities were available in Prosper, according to the ratio of likely to unlikely responses. Of the 14 activities tested, four did not draw majority likely ratings: play bocce/horseshoes (36%-63%, 0.6:1), play basketball (42%-57%, 0.7:1), practice soccer (42%-58%, 0.7:1), and practice baseball (49%-52%, 0.9:1). People were as likely as unlikely to participate in several activities. Those were practice softball (49%-51%, 1.0:1), play sand volleyball (50%-50%, 1.0:1), play tennis (51%-48%, 1.1:1), use the playground (53%-46%, 1.1:1), walk dog (52%-47%, 1.1:1), and swim in a pool (56%-43%, 1.3:1). Very likely responses were highest for walk/jog for exercise (48%), attending outdoor events (38%), and use playground and enjoy nature (both 33%). (See Question #4, Tables #4 - #17.)
- Nearly one-half of residents sampled (47%) acknowledged visiting or using a school athletic field in Prosper. In addition, approximately one-third said they participated in league play with the Prosper Sports Association (35%) and utilized a school playground in Prosper (33%). Only 13% said they used a school tennis court in Prosper. A high percentage of parents visited or used a school athletic field in Prosper (50%-81%-76%), compared to very few nonparents (17%). Parents were also more likely to have used a school tennis court (11%-27%-36%, to 1%), a school playground (55%-63%-42%, to 5%), and participated in league play with the Prosper Sports Association (55%-76%-56%, to 3%). (See Question #5, Tables #18 - #21.)
- Nearly everyone sampled (97%) felt it was important (18%) or very important (79%) for Prosper to provide parks and recreational facilities for residents. Just three percent rated it unimportant,

resulting in a ratio of 32.3 to one in terms of overall importance. In terms of intensity, newer residents (82%-78%-73%) more so than others rated it very important, as too, younger rather than older persons (82%-82%-75%). Also, parents were more likely to rate it very important for the town to provide parks and recreational facilities (90%-88%-88%, to 68%) as well as important overall (100%-100%-100%, to 92% of nonparents). (See Question #6, Table #22.)

- "I would support the Parks and Recreation Department offering programs to residents such as recreational activities, art and crafts activities and cultural activities" (93%-7%, 13.3:1) was far and away the general parks and recreation-related statement that generated the highest ratio of agreement to disagreement among residents. Of the five statements tested, more than twice as many agreed as disagreed that, "I have adequate avenues to voice my concerns about recreation in Prosper" (68%-22%, 3.1:1) and "I am willing to pay additional town taxes to see parks in Prosper develop" (66%-31%, 2.1:1). The other two statements were hotly contested by residents, as more disagreed that, "the town should improve the existing parks and not develop any new ones" (18%-72%, 0.2:1) and "I am satisfied with the current landscaping along town roadways and at intersections" (28%-71%, 0.4:1). Strong agreement was highest for supporting the Parks and Recreation Department offering programs (23%) and being willing to pay additional town taxes (15%), although the latter statement also incurred a similarly intense negative rating (10%). A high percentage had no opinion as to whether the town should improve existing parks and not develop new ones and having adequate avenues to voice concerns (both 11%). (See Question #19, Tables #88 - #92.)
- Slightly more than one-half (54%) of respondents sampled acknowledged having visited the town's web site, with the bulk of those people visiting the site monthly (36%), rather than daily (3%) or weekly (15%). Nearly as many people (46%) said they either rarely or never visited the site. By comparison, visiting the Town's web site occurred more frequently than the web page on the Prosper Sports Association's web site, as 29% said they visited it daily (3%), weekly (16%), or monthly (16%), with the remaining 71% saying they did it rarely or never. Area I residents were slightly more likely to have visited the Town's web site than people in Area II (57%-51%). (See Questions #20 and #21, Tables #93 and #94.)
- *The Prosper Press* (94%), *The Eagle Talon* (75%), and word of mouth (67%) were the top sources residents went to get information about

Prosper. A majority also utilized signs and the town web site (both 54%) and school brochures/flyers (53%). Conversely, the sources least likely to be utilized were *The Denton Record Chronicle* (2%), *The Celina Record* (11%), *The McKinney Courier-Gazette* (14%), and *The Frisco Enterprise* (15%). *The Eagle Talon* (80%-70%), signs (58%-51%), town web site (63%-47%), and *The Frisco Enterprise* (18%-13%) were more popular sources to individuals in Area I. Comparatively, Prosper press releases via email distribution from town secretary (42%-35%), *The Dallas Morning News* (30%-20%), and *The McKinney Courier-Gazette* (17%-11%) were more often utilized by individuals from Area II. *The Prosper Press* (95%-93%), word of mouth (68%-66%), and school brochures/flyers (53%-52%) were consistently utilized throughout the town. (See Question #22, Table #95.)

### **Developing Park And Recreation Facilities In Prosper**

- Large parks, generally located in a central location, which seek to meet the needs of the entire community (96%-4%, 24.0:1) and linear parks, that run along creeks or streams and include trails (92%-7%, 13.1:1) were the parks and recreational opportunities being studied in Prosper most strongly supported by residents for being developed by the town. Support was also significant for unprogrammed open space, or nature areas (84%-11%, 7.6:1) and indoor recreational facilities, including a recreation center or aquatic center (83%-14%, 5.9:1). The item least supported, small parks, generally located within a particular neighborhood, which seek to meet the needs of that neighborhood (79%-20%, 3.9:1) still generated nearly four times the support to opposition. Respondents were most enthusiastic (strongly supportive) of large parks (48%), followed by linear parks (43%) and then indoor recreational facilities (40%). Area II respondents were more enthusiastic about linear parks (49%-36%) and more supportive in general (95%-89%). The same was true relative to strong support for indoor recreational facilities (48%-31%), although both subsets were similarly supportive (85%-82%). Area II was also most enthusiastic about unprogrammed open space (34%-24%), although Area I was more positive in general (89%-81%). (See Question #7, Tables #23 - #27).
- A large park (42%) was selected by respondents as the top priority for being developed in Prosper and was preferred over indoor recreational facilities (24%), as respondents were forced to choose one item from the list of five recreational opportunities. The

remaining three options received scores of 15% (linear parks), 12% (small parks), and 6% (unprogrammed open space). Both large parks (42%-45%-32%) and indoor recreational facilities (31%-18%-21%) were preferred more by individuals positive about quality of life rather than negative. Comparatively, linear parks were the choice of respondents dissatisfied with quality of life (12%-14%-37%). Middle-aged residents selected large parks more often than anyone else (48%-52%-28%), while people over 45 preferred linear parks (13%-7%-24%). Interestingly, indoor recreational facilities were very popular no matter the age of the respondent (23%-24%-25%). (See Question #8, Table #28.)

- Restrooms (98%-1%, 98.0:1), picnic areas (97%-2%, 48.5:1), children's playgrounds (95%-3%, 31.7:1), pavilions or shelters (94%-4%, 23.5:1), and lighted areas (94%-4%, 23.5:1) were the items most often supported for including in a large park should one be developed, as determined by the ratio of support to opposition ratings. Of the 22 items tested, 16 received support from at least four of every five respondents (80%). Rounding out the top ten facility-types were hike and bike trails (93%-5%, 18.6:1), nature areas/natural habitat (93%-6%, 15.5:1), outdoor basketball courts (85%-11%, 7.7:1), baseball fields (86%-12%, 7.2:1), and artificial shade areas (81%-12%, 6.8:1). The items apparently not desired in this park, as they did not attain majority support for inclusion, were an in-line hockey rink (39%-53%, 0.7:1), BMX bicycle course (41%-56%, 0.7:1), and a skateboard park (40%-55%, 0.7:1). There was also only limited interest in equestrian trails (49%-44%, 1.1:1) and a disc golf course (50%-43%, 1.2:1). Enthusiasm was highest for restrooms (44%), lighted areas (34%), children's playgrounds (33%), nature area/natural habitat (32%), and picnic areas (29%). Most items were similarly preferred throughout the Town, with the exception of Area I showing more interest in soccer fields (86%-81%), artificial shade areas (87%-76%), and lighted areas (97%-92%) and Area II, in a skateboard park (46%-31%) and a disc golf course (56%-44%). (See Question #9, Tables #29 - #50.)
- Hike and bike trails (22%), children's playgrounds (20%), and nature areas/natural habitat (10%) were rated as the most important facilities to construct in a large park when survey participants were forced to choose one response. As a testament to the attitudinal diversity of the town, 20 of the 22 possible items were rated as most important by at least one person. Those not mentioned were a skateboard park and volleyball courts. Rounding out the top eight were baseball fields (7%), soccer fields and a stage area for concerts and gatherings (both 5%), and tennis courts and restrooms (both 4%).

Of those selected, the least interest was voiced for including youth softball fields and an in-line hockey rink, both listed by one individual. (See Question #10, Table #51.)

- Nature trails (96%-4%, 24.0:1), paved trails (91%-7%, 13.0:1), picnic areas (91%-8%, 11.4:1), and trail connections to other parks (90%-9%, 10.0:1) were the items most strongly supported for inclusion in a linear park if one is developed. Support was also significant for including children's playgrounds (89%-10%, 8.9:1), scenic rest stops (86%-11%, 7.8:1), and artificial shade areas (81%-12%, 6.8:1). The amenities least supported were equestrian trails (49%-48%, 1.0:1) and exercise stations (79%-18%, 4.4:1). In terms of enthusiasm, residents were most strongly supportive of including in a linear park nature trails (38%), children's playgrounds (37%), paved trails (29%), and picnic areas and trail connections to other parks (both 27%). Out of the nine items tested, Area I voiced more support for artificial shade areas (89%-75%), paved trails (97%-88%) and exercise stations (83%-75%), and equestrian trails (52%-46%). (See Question #11, Tables #52 - #60.)
- Nature trails (31%), children's playgrounds (23%), paved trails (17%), and trail connections to other parks (13%) were prioritized as being most important to construct in a linear park if one was constructed. All nine possible responses were listed as most important, although chosen the fewest times were scenic rest stops (2%) and artificial shade areas, picnic areas, and exercise stations (each 3%). Rating first in Area I was nature trails (41%), but it placed second in Area II (23%), as slightly more interest was voiced in children's playgrounds (24%). Area II was also more interested in a linear park including paved trails (20%-14%). (See Question #12, Table #61.)
- A library (92%-7%, 13.1:1), community center (87%-12%, 7.3:1), senior citizen center (84%-14%, 6.0:1), indoor recreation center (84%-15%, 5.6:1), and a nature center (79%-19%, 4.7:1) were the top five items favored for construction if other recreational facilities are developed, according to the ratio of support to opposition. Of the 12 items tested, the least interest appeared to be in a radio controlled airfield (36%-58%, 0.6:1), a dog park (53%-45%, 1.2:1), and a children's water spray park (65%-32%, 2.0:1). In terms of strong support, enthusiasm was highest for constructing a library (36%), community center (26%), indoor aquatic facility (25%), indoor recreation center (24%), and outdoor pool and senior citizen center (both 21%). Area I appeared to be more supportive of constructing a nature center (81%-77%) and an indoor recreation center (87%-81%), while Area II was more positive about wildflower gardens (73%-65%) and a children's water

spray park (68%-62%). (See Question #13, Tables #62 - #73.)

- An indoor recreation center (23%) was the facility of choice over a library (15%) or community center (12%) as the most important facility for the town to construct when respondents were forced to select one. All 11 possible items were listed as most important, with the lowest scores assigned to wildflower gardens (2%) and a children's water spray park (4%). Area II voiced more support for the community center (15%-9%) and indoor aquatic facility (12%-6%), while Area I voiced more interest in an outdoor pool (11%-4%). (See Question 14, Table #74.)
- Nearly nine in ten (89%) either supported (41%) or strongly supported (48%) the town developing a network of hike and bike trails within the community. Opposition was less than one in ten (9%), with only one percent strongly opposed to the concept. The remaining two percent had no opinion on the issue. Women were more supportive of this issue than men (93%-83%), although both were extremely positive. Additionally, those more likely to endorse the concept were newer town residents (92%-89%-76%) and younger survey participants (94%-90%-85%). (See Question #15, Table #75.)
- Along creeks (86%), connecting to neighborhoods (78%), close to my house (65%), to trails from other cities (63%), and to schools (61%) were the primary locations or destinations to which respondents would like hike and bike trails in Prosper connected, if they were constructed. A majority also preferred constructed trails connected only in Town parks and to downtown (both 57%). Interest was much lower in connecting trails along main thoroughfares (23%), to shopping (36%), and along utility right of ways (42%). Respondents in Area I were more likely to prefer trails connected to trails from other cities (70%-57%), to schools (64%-59%), only in Town parks (65%-51%), to downtown (64%-52%), along utility right of ways (48%-37%), and along main thoroughfares (28%-19%). Comparatively, along creeks (89%-83%) and to shopping (41%-31%) was more frequently the choice for connecting trails to people in Area II. (See Question #16, Table #76.)
- "Improved landscaping of town streets will help to improve our town image" (92%-8%, 11.5:1) and "I believe the town should plant trees and implement landscaping along streets and intersections (91%-8%, 11.4:1) were the two statements relating to beautification efforts in the town that generated the highest ratio of agreement to disagreement among town residents. In addition, more than 80%

agreed with the statement "I support the town developing 'gateways to the town' so that people know they are coming into Prosper" (82%-15%, 5.5:1). In addition, a significant percentage disputed the statement "I do not believe that landscaping town streets and intersections is that important" (11%-88%, 0.1:1). Compared to the top-rated statements, agreement was lukewarm for "I would like to see streets in Prosper maintain a rural feel including black top and bar ditches" (64%-26%, 2.5:1) and "I would like to see public art in Prosper" (58%-37%, 1.6:1). In terms of enthusiasm, 47% strongly agreed that the town should plant trees and implement landscaping along streets and intersections and 30% that improved landscaping will help to improve the town image. Also, 26% strongly disagreed that they did not believe landscaping town streets and intersections was that important. The only statement to generate a slight divergence of opinions were Area I residents in more agreement regarding streets in Prosper maintaining a rural feel including black top and bar ditches (67%-62%). (See Question #17, Tables #77 - #82.)

- "I would support the use of plants native to Texas such as Red Oak, Pecan, Red Bud trees, and Texas sage in town projects" (98%-0%, 98.0:1) and "I support water conservation efforts in future park developments" (95%-3%, 31.7:1) were the two statements relating to open space and conservation efforts in Prosper upon which survey participants overwhelmingly agreed. Additionally, a significant percentage disagreed with the statement, "It is not important to me to maintain open space in its natural setting here in Prosper" (12%-85%, 0.1:1). The agreement to disagreement ratio for the other statements were 3.2:1 (74%-23% for "I would like the town to develop and maintain an area where I and my family could experience wildflowers, in their natural habitat") and 2.7:1 (69%-26% for "I would like the town to develop and maintain an area where I and my family could experience birds and/or butterflies in their natural habitat"). In terms of enthusiasm, strong agreement was highest for supporting the use of plants native to Texas in town projects (34%) and for water conservation efforts in future park developments (25%). Additionally, 23% strongly disagreed that it was not important to maintain open space in its natural setting. The only statement in which attitudes varied by area was that people in Area II more often agreed with the town developing and maintaining an area where they or their family could experience wildflowers (77%-71%). (See Question #18, Tables #83 - #87.)

# TOWN OF PROSPER 2005 PARKS AND RECREATION ATTITUDE SURVEY CUMULATIVE RESULTS

PROJECT 10052005

RAYMOND TURCO & ASSOCIATES

NOVEMBER 2005

MY NAME IS \_\_\_\_\_ AND I'M WITH RAYMAR RESEARCH. WE ARE NOT A DIRECT MARKING FIRM AND THIS IS NOT A SALES CALL. OUR FIRM IS CONDUCTING A SURVEY ON PARKS AND RECREATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY. MY QUESTIONS SHOULD ONLY TAKE ABOUT 10 MINUTES, AND YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL. WOULD YOU CARE TO PARTICIPATE?

AREA	AREA I	. . . . .	.46%
	AREA II	. . . . .	.54%
2			
SEX	MALE	. . . . .	.45%
	FEMALE	. . . . .	.55%

1. HOW SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

VERY SATISFIED	. . . . .	.42%
SATISFIED	. . . . .	.46%
DISSATISFIED	. . . . .	.8%
VERY DISSATISFIED	. . . . .	.2%
NO OPINION	. . . . .	.2%

2. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE TOWN?

UNDER 1 YEAR	. . . . .	.20%
1 - 3 YEARS	. . . . .	.33%
4 - 7 YEARS	. . . . .	.25%
8 - 10 YEARS	. . . . .	.10%
10 - 20 YEARS	. . . . .	.10%
OVER 20 YEARS	. . . . .	.3%
REFUSE TO ANSWER	. . . . .	.0%

3. IF YOU OR YOUR FAMILY VISIT A PARK, TO WHICH CITY DO YOU HAVE TO TRAVEL?  
Frisco (61%), McKinney (24%), Prosper and Plano (both 5%)

4. PLEASE TELL ME HOW LIKELY OR UNLIKELY YOU WOULD BE TO PARTICIPATE IN EACH OF THESE ACTIVITIES IF THE FACILITIES WERE AVAILABLE IN PROSPER . . . . .

	VL	L	U	VU	NO
A) USE PLAYGROUND	33%	20%	25%	21%	1%
B) WALK/JOG FOR EXERCISE	48%	30%	15%	7%	0%
C) WALK DOG	28%	24%	32%	15%	2%
D) PLAY BASKETBALL	18%	24%	43%	14%	1%
E) PRACTICE SOCCER	25%	17%	44%	14%	0%
F) PRACTICE BASEBALL	25%	24%	40%	12%	0%
G) PRACTICE SOFTBALL	23%	26%	38%	13%	1%
H) PICNIC	26%	43%	23%	8%	0%

I) ENJOY NATURE	33%	50%	13%	5%	0%
	VL	L	U	VU	NO
J) ATTEND OUTDOOR EVENTS	38%	51%	8%	2%	1%
K) PLAY BOCCE/HORSESHOES	10%	26%	53%	10%	1%
L) SWIM IN A POOL	27%	29%	35%	8%	1%
M) PLAY SAND VOLLEYBALL	16%	34%	42%	8%	0%
N) PLAY TENNIS	20%	31%	37%	11%	0%

5. IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, HAVE YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD . . . .

	YES	NO	DON'T REM
A) VISITED OR USED A SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELD IN PROSPER	47%	53%	0%
B) USED A SCHOOL TENNIS COURT IN PROSPER	13%	85%	2%
C) UTILIZED A SCHOOL PLAYGROUND IN PROSPER	33%	67%	0%
D) PARTICIPATED IN LEAGUE PLAY WITH THE PROSPER SPORTS ASSOCIATION	35%	64%	0%

6. HOW IMPORTANT OR UNIMPORTANT IS IT FOR PROSPER TO PROVIDE PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS?

VERY IMPORTANT . . . . .	79%
IMPORTANT . . . . .	18%
UNIMPORTANT . . . . .	3%
VERY UNIMPORTANT . . . . .	0%
NO OPINION . . . . .	0%

7. THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT TYPES OF PARKS AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BEING STUDIED IN PROSPER. FOR EACH, PLEASE TELL ME HOW STRONGLY YOU WOULD SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE TOWN DEVELOPING EACH TYPE OF FACILITY IN PROSPER . . .

	SS	S	O	SO	NO
A) SMALL PARKS, GENERALLY LOCATED WITHIN A PARTICULAR NEIGHBORHOOD, WHICH SEEK TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THAT NEIGHBORHOOD	27%	52%	16%	4%	2%
B) LARGE PARKS, GENERALLY LOCATED IN A CENTRAL LOCATION, WHICH SEEK TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY	48%	48%	4%	0%	0%
C) LINEAR PARKS, THAT RUN ALONG CREEKS OR STREAMS AND INCLUDE TRAILS	43%	49%	6%	1%	1%
D) INDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING A RECREATION CENTER OR AQUATIC CENTER	40%	43%	14%	0%	2%
E) UNPROGRAMMED OPEN SPACE, OR NATURE AREAS	29%	55%	11%	0%	4%

8. WHICH ITEM FROM THE ABOVE LIST (A - E) SHOULD BE THE TOP PRIORITY TO BE DEVELOPED IN PROSPER? IF YOU BELIEVE THAT NONE OF THE TYPES I JUST MENTIONED ARE THE TOP PRIORITY, TELL ME THAT ALSO. Large parks (42%), indoor recreation facilities (24%), linear parks (15%), small parks (12%), unprogrammed open space (6%)

9. IF A LARGE PARK IS DEVELOPED, PLEASE TELL ME HOW STRONGLY YOU WOULD SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS BEING INCLUDED IN THAT FACILITY:

	SS	S	O	SO	NO
A) TENNIS COURTS	22%	58%	11%	2%	8%
B) EQUESTRIAN TRAILS	15%	34%	40%	4%	6%
C) BASEBALL FIELDS	25%	61%	11%	1%	3%
D) ADULT SOFTBALL FIELDS	21%	59%	16%	2%	3%

	SS	S	O	SO	NO
E) YOUTH SOFTBALL FIELDS	24%	61%	12%	1%	3%
F) SOCCER FIELDS	26%	57%	13%	0%	3%
G) FOOTBALL FIELDS	22%	52%	23%	1%	2%
H) VOLLEYBALL COURTS	18%	62%	16%	0%	5%
I) IN-LINE HOCKEY RINK	8%	31%	49%	4%	8%
J) BMX BICYCLE COURSE	11%	30%	52%	4%	4%
K) SKATEBOARD PARK	7%	33%	50%	5%	5%
L) ARTIFICIAL SHADE AREAS	18%	63%	12%	0%	6%
M) CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS	33%	62%	3%	0%	2%
N) PAVILIONS OR SHELTERS	26%	68%	4%	0%	1%
O) OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURTS	20%	65%	10%	1%	4%
P) DISC GOLF COURSE	6%	44%	40%	3%	7%
Q) HIKE AND BIKE TRAILS	28%	65%	5%	0%	2%
R) PICNIC AREAS	29%	68%	2%	0%	1%
S) NATURE AREAS/NATURAL HABITAT	32%	61%	6%	0%	1%
T) RESTROOMS	44%	54%	1%	0%	0%
U) LIGHTED AREAS	34%	60%	4%	0%	1%
V) A STAGE AREA FOR CONCERTS OR GATHERINGS	22%	60%	14%	1%	3%

10. LET ME READ YOU THE LIST AGAIN. THIS TIME, PLEASE TELL ME (A - V), WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACILITY FOR THE TOWN TO CONSTRUCT? IF NOTHING IS IMPORTANT, TELL ME THAT ALSO. Hike and bike trails (22%), children's playgrounds (20%), nature areas/natural habitat (10%), baseball fields (7%), soccer fields and a stage area for concerts and gatherings (both 5%)

11. IF A LINEAR PARK IS DEVELOPED, TELL ME HOW STRONGLY YOU WOULD SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS BEING INCLUDED IN THAT FACILITY . . . .

	SS	S	O	SO	NO
A) NATURE TRAILS	38%	58%	3%	1%	0%
B) CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS	37%	52%	9%	1%	1%
C) ARTIFICIAL SHADE AREAS	25%	56%	11%	1%	7%
D) PAVED TRAILS	29%	62%	6%	1%	1%
E) SCENIC REST STOPS	23%	63%	10%	1%	3%
F) PICNIC AREAS	27%	64%	7%	1%	1%
G) TRAIL CONNECTIONS TO OTHER PARKS	27%	63%	8%	1%	2%
H) EXERCISE STATIONS	20%	59%	17%	1%	3%
I) EQUESTRIAN TRAILS	14%	35%	44%	4%	3%

12. AGAIN, LET ME READ THE LIST ONCE MORE. TELL ME (A - I), WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACILITY FOR THE TOWN TO CONSTRUCT? AND AGAIN, IF NOTHING IS MOST IMPORTANT, PLEASE TELL ME. Nature trails (31%), children's playgrounds (23%), paved trails (17%), trail connections to other parks (13%)

13. IF OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ARE DEVELOPED TELL ME HOW STRONGLY YOU WOULD SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS BEING CONSTRUCTED . . . .

	SS	S	O	SO	NO
A) NATURE CENTER	17%	62%	19%	0%	2%
B) INDOOR RECREATION CENTER	24%	60%	15%	0%	0%
C) COMMUNITY CENTER	26%	61%	11%	1%	1%
D) INDOOR AQUATIC FACILITY	25%	48%	22%	2%	3%
E) OUTDOOR POOL	21%	48%	26%	3%	3%
F) SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER	21%	63%	13%	1%	3%
G) LIBRARY	36%	56%	7%	0%	1%

H) ATHLETIC COMPLEX	19%	51%	26%	2%	3%
J) DOG PARK	11%	42%	38%	7%	3%
K) WILDFLOWER GARDENS	16%	54%	24%	4%	3%
L) CHILDREN'S WATER SPRAY PARK	18%	47%	29%	3%	4%
M) RADIO CONTROLLED AIRFIELD	5%	31%	48%	10%	6%

14. AS I READ THE LIST OF FACILITIES ONCE MORE, TELL ME (A - M) WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACILITY FOR THE TOWN TO CONSTRUCT? AND IF NONE ARE IMPORTANT, TELL ME THAT. Indoor recreation center (23%), library (15%), community center (12%), indoor aquatic facility (9%), nature center and radio controlled airfield (both 8%)

15. HOW STRONGLY WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE TOWN DEVELOPING A NETWORK OF HIKE AND BIKE TRAILS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY?

STRONGLY SUPPORT . . . . .	.48%
SUPPORT . . . . .	.41%
OPPOSE . . . . .	.8%
STRONGLY OPPOSE . . . . .	.1%
NO OPINION . . . . .	.2%

16. IF HIKE AND BIKE TRAILS ARE CONSTRUCTED IN PROSPER, TO WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS OR DESTINATIONS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THEM CONNECTED? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

ALONG CREEKS . . . . .	86%	ALONG UTILITY RIGHT OF WAYS . . . . .	.42%
CLOSE TO MY HOUSE . . . . .	65%	CONNECTING TO THE DOWNTOWN . . . . .	.57%
CONNECTING TO SCHOOLS. . . . .	61%	ALONG MAIN THOROUGHFARES . . . . .	.23%
ONLY IN CITY PARKS . . . . .	57%	CONNECTING TO NEIGHBORHOODS . . . . .	.78%
CONNECTING TO SHOPPING . . . . .	36%	CONNECTED TO TRAILS FROM OTHER . . . . .	.63%
CONNECTING TO CHURCHES . . . . .	45%	CITIES	

17. THESE NEXT STATEMENTS DEAL WITH BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS IN THE TOWN. HOW STRONGLY DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH . . . . .

	SA	A	D	SD	NO
A) I BELIEVE THE TOWN SHOULD PLANT TREES AND IMPLEMENT LANDSCAPING ALONG STREETS AND INTERSECTIONS	47%	44%	7%	1%	1%
B) I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT LANDSCAPING TOWN STREETS AND INTERSECTIONS IS THAT IMPORTANT.	1%	10%	62%	26%	1%
C) I WOULD LIKE TO SEE PUBLIC ART IN PROSPER	9%	49%	34%	3%	6%
D) IMPROVED LANDSCAPING OF TOWN STREETS WILL HELP TO IMPROVE OUR TOWN IMAGE	30%	62%	7%	1%	1%
E) I SUPPORT THE TOWN DEVELOPING "GATEWAYS TO THE TOWN" SO THAT PEOPLE KNOW THEY ARE COMING INTO PROSPER	22%	60%	14%	1%	3%
F) I WOULD LIKE TO SEE STREETS IN PROSPER MAINTAIN A RURAL FEEL INCLUDING BLACK TOP AND BAR DITCHES	16%	48%	23%	3%	10%

18. NOW LET ME ASK ABOUT YOUR THOUGHTS ON OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION IN PROSPER. HOW STRONGLY DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH . . .

	SA	A	D	SD	NO
A) I WOULD LIKE THE TOWN TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN AN AREA WHERE I AND MY FAMILY COULD EXPERIENCE WILDFLOWERS, IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT	16%	58%	20%	3%	4%
B) I WOULD LIKE THE TOWN TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN AN AREA WHERE I AND MY FAMILY COULD EXPERIENCE BIRDS AND/OR BUTTERFLIES IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT	18%	51%	23%	3%	6%
C) IT IS <u>NOT</u> IMPORTANT TO ME TO MAINTAIN OPEN SPACE IN ITS NATURAL SETTING HERE IN PROSPER	1%	11%	62%	23%	2%
	SA	A	D	SD	NO
D) I SUPPORT WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN FUTURE PARK DEVELOPMENTS	25%	70%	3%	0%	1%
E) I WOULD SUPPORT THE USE OF PLANTS NATIVE TO TEXAS SUCH AS RED OAK, PECAN, RED BUD TREES, AND TEXAS SAGE IN TOWN PROJECTS	34%	64%	0%	0%	2%

19. I'M GOING TO READ YOU A LIST OF STATEMENTS. PLEASE TELL ME HOW STRONGLY YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH . . .

	SA	A	D	SD	NO
A) I AM WILLING TO PAY ADDITIONAL TOWN TAXES TO SEE PARKS IN PROSPER DEVELOPED	15%	51%	21%	10%	4%
B) THE TOWN SHOULD IMPROVE THE EXISTING PARKS AND NOT DEVELOP ANY NEW ONES	3%	15%	57%	15%	11%
C) I HAVE ADEQUATE AVENUES TO VOICE MY CONCERNS ABOUT RECREATION IN PROSPER	6%	62%	17%	5%	11%
D) I AM SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT LANDSCAPING ALONG TOWN ROADWAYS AND AT INTERSECTIONS	1%	27%	59%	12%	1%
E) I WOULD SUPPORT THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT OFFERING PROGRAMS TO RESIDENTS SUCH AS RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, ART AND CRAFTS ACTIVITIES AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES	23%	70%	5%	2%	1%

20. IN THE PAST YEAR, HOW OFTEN WOULD YOU SAY YOU VISITED THE TOWN'S WEB SITE, *WWW.PROSPERTX.GOV*?

DAILY . . . . .	3%
WEEKLY . . . . .	15%
MONTHLY . . . . .	36%
RARELY OR NEVER . . . . .	46%
REFUSE TO ANSWER . . . . .	0%

21. IN THE PAST YEAR, HOW OFTEN WOULD YOU SAY YOU VISITED THE WEB PAGE ON THE PROSPER SPORTS ASSOCIATION'S WEB SITE, *WWW.PROSPERTX-SPORTS.ORG*?

DAILY . . . . .	3%
WEEKLY . . . . .	10%
MONTHLY . . . . .	16%
RARELY OR NEVER . . . . .	71%
REFUSE TO ANSWER . . . . .	0%

22. FROM WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SOURCES DO YOU GET INFORMATION ABOUT PROSPER? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

DALLAS MORNING NEWS . . .25%	PROSPER PRESS . . . . 94%	PROSPER PRESS
SCHOOL BROCHURES/FLYERS .53%	TOWN WEB SITE . . . . 54%	RELEASES VIA
CELINA RECORD . . . . .11%	SIGNS . . . . . . . . . 54%	EMAIL DISTRIB.
DENTON RECORD CHRONICLE . 2%	WORD OF MOUTH . . . . . 67%	FROM TOWN
FRISCO ENTERPRISE . . . .15%	PSA WEB SITE . . . . . 23%	SECRETARY . .39%
MCKINNEY COURIER GAZETTE.14%	EAGLE TALON . . . . . 75%	OTHER_____ 8%

23. THESE LAST FEW QUESTIONS ARE JUST FOR CLASSIFICATION PURPOSES. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING AGE GROUPS DO YOU COME UNDER?

LESS THAN 25 YEARS . . . 1%
25 - 35 YEARS . . . .16%
35 - 45 YEARS . . . .42%
45 - 55 YEARS . . . .26%
55 - 65 YEARS . . . .10%
OVER 65 YEARS . . . . 5%
REFUSED TO ANSWER . . . 1%

24. PLEASE TELL ME IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 AT HOME (IF YES: IN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING GROUPS DO THEY COME UNDER?

(CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

NO CHILDREN . . . . .39%
UNDER 6 . . . . .31%
6 - 12 . . . . .35%
13 - 18 . . . . .25%
REFUSE TO ANSWER . . . 1%

THAT'S THE END OF OUR SURVEY BUT COULD I CHECK TO SEE IF I DIALED THE CORRECT NUMBER. I DIALED \_\_\_\_\_. AND COULD I HAVE YOUR FIRST NAME, ONLY IN CASE MY SUPERVISOR HAS TO VERIFY THIS INTERVIEW? \_\_\_\_\_. THANK YOU AND HAVE A NICE EVENING.

CALLER INI. \_\_\_\_\_ SHEET NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_ SURVEY LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_

# **A SURVEY OF RESIDENTS ATTITUDES ABOUT PARKS AND RECREATION IN THE TOWN OF PROSPER**

**2005 Parks and Recreational Attitude Survey**

## **Survey Results Tables**

**RAYMOND TURCO & ASSOCIATES**

**PROJECT 10052005**

**NOVEMBER 2005**

 **RAYMOND TURCO & ASSOCIATES**

 **Halff Associates**

**TABLE #1: CITY TRAVELLED TO VISIT PARKS**

RESPONSE	OVERALL	AREA I	AREA II	MALE	FEMALE
Frisco	61%	72%	52%	62%	60%
McKinney	24%	13%	33%	19%	28%
Prosper	5%	5%	5%	9%	2%
Plano	5%	4%	6%	5%	5%
Lake Ray Roberts	2%	3%	1%	3%	1%
Carr	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Lake Dallas	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Dallas	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Allen	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%

**TABLE #2: OVERALL LIKELIHOOD OF PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES IF FACILITIES WERE AVAILABLE IN PROSPER**

ACTIVITY	VERY LIKELY	LIKELY	UNLIKELY	VERY UNLIKELY	NO OPINION	RATIO
Use Playground	33%	20%	25%	21%	1%	1.2:1
Walk/jog for exercise	48%	30%	15%	7%	0%	3.5:1
Walk dog	28%	24%	32%	15%	2%	1.1:1
Play basketball	18%	24%	43%	14%	1%	0.7:1
Practice Soccer	25%	17%	44%	14%	0%	0.7:1
Practice Baseball	25%	24%	40%	12%	0%	0.9:1
Practice Softball	23%	26%	38%	13%	1%	1.0:1
Picnic	26%	43%	23%	8%	0%	2.2:1
Enjoy Nature	33%	50%	13%	5%	0%	4.6:1
Attend Outdoor Events	38%	51%	8%	2%	1%	8.9:1
Play Bocce / Horseshoes	10%	26%	53%	10%	1%	0.6:1
Swim in a Pool	27%	29%	35%	8%	1%	1.3:1
Play Sand Volleyball	16%	34%	42%	8%	0%	1.0:1
Play Tennis	20%	31%	37%	11%	0%	1.1:1

**TABLE #3: OVERALL LIKELIHOOD OF PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES BY SUBSECTOR**

ACTIVITY	AREA I		AREA II	
	LIKELY	UNLIKELY	LIKELY	UNLIKELY
Use Playground	54%	44%	53%	48%
Walk/jog for exercise	77%	23%	78%	21%
Walk dog	53%	46%	51%	47%
Play basketball	39%	60%	45%	54%
Practice Soccer	44%	56%	39%	60%
Practice Baseball	46%	54%	50%	49%
Practice Softball	50%	50%	47%	51%
Picnic	65%	35%	73%	27%
Enjoy Nature	81%	20%	85%	16%
Attend Outdoor Events	85%	13%	92%	7%
Play Bocce / Horseshoes	36%	62%	35%	63%
Swim in a Pool	57%	43%	56%	42%
Play Sand Volleyball	49%	51%	50%	48%
Play Tennis	46%	54%	56%	44%

**TABLE #4: LIKELIHOOD OF PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN**

ACTIVITY	NO CHILD		UNDER 6		AGE 6-12		AGE 13-18	
	LIKELY	UNLIKELY	LIKELY	UNLIKELY	LIKELY	UNLIKELY	LIKELY	UNLIKELY
Use Playground	20%	79%	92%	8%	81%	19%	54%	46%
Walk/jog for exercise	74%	24%	79%	21%	79%	20%	80%	20%
Walk dog	44%	56%	52%	46%	62%	35%	60%	36%
Play basketball	15%	83%	47%	52%	65%	33%	72%	28%
Practice Soccer	13%	88%	67%	32%	63%	37%	52%	47%
Practice Baseball	16%	85%	67%	31%	76%	24%	68%	32%
Practice Softball	21%	79%	70%	27%	73%	28%	60%	40%
Picnic	59%	41%	74%	26%	76%	23%	74%	26%
Enjoy Nature	78%	22%	82%	18%	87%	13%	86%	14%
Attend Outdoor Events	77%	22%	97%	3%	98%	2%	94%	6%
Play Bocce / Horseshoes	29%	70%	34%	62%	33%	66%	48%	50%
Swim in a Pool	40%	59%	68%	31%	65%	35%	66%	34%
Play Sand Volleyball	28%	72%	60%	39%	64%	35%	70%	28%
Play Tennis	35%	65%	57%	44%	73%	28%	72%	28%

**TABLE #5: OVERALL UTILIZATION OF SPORTS FACILITIES IN PROSPER IN PAST 12 MONTHS**

ITEM	YES	NO	DON'T REM
Visited or used a school athletic field in Prosper	47%	53%	0%
Used a school tennis court in Prosper	13%	85%	2%
Utilized a school playground in Prosper	33%	67%	0%
Participated in league play with the Prosper Sports Association	35%	64%	0%

**TABLE #6: UTILIZATION OF SPORTS FACILITIES IN PROSPER BY SUBSECTOR**

ITEM	AREA I		AREA II	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
Visited or used a school athletic field in Prosper	47%	53%	47%	53%
Used a school tennis court in Prosper	13%	85%	14%	86%
Utilized a school playground in Prosper	35%	65%	31%	68%
Participated in league play with the Prosper Sports Association	35%	65%	35%	64%

**TABLE #7: UTILIZATION OF SPORT FACILITIES IN PROSPER BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN**

ITEM	NO CHILD		UNDER 6		AGE 6-12		AGE 13-18	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Visited or used a school athletic field in Prosper	17%	83%	50%	50%	81%	19%	76%	24%
Used a school tennis court in Prosper	1%	97%	11%	87%	27%	73%	36%	62%
Utilized a school playground in Prosper	5%	95%	55%	45%	63%	36%	42%	56%
Participated in league play with the Prosper Sports Association	3%	96%	55%	45%	76%	24%	56%	44%

**TABLE #8: OVERALL SUPPORT OF PROSPER DEVELOPMENT BY FACILITY TYPE**

ITEM	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SUPPORT	OPPOSED	STRONGLY OPPOSED	NO OPINION	RATIO
Small parks, generally located within a particular neighborhood, which seek to meet the needs of that neighborhood	27%	52%	16%	4%	2%	4.0:1
Large parks, generally located in a central location, which seek to meet the needs of the entire community	48%	48%	4%	0%	0%	24:1
Linear parks, that run along creeks or streams and include trails	43%	49%	6%	1%	1%	6.6:1
Indoor recreational facilities, including a recreation center or aquatic center	40%	43%	14%	0%	2%	5.9:1
Unprogrammed open space, or nature areas	29%	55%	11%	0%	4%	7.6:1

**TABLE #9: OVERALL SUPPORT OF PROSPER DEVELOPMENT BY SUBSECTOR**

ITEM	AREA I		AREA II	
	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Small parks, generally located within a particular neighborhood, which seek to meet the needs of that neighborhood	76%	22%	80%	18%
Large parks, generally located in a central location, which seek to meet the needs of the entire community	97%	3%	97%	4%
Linear parks, that run along creeks or streams and include trails	89%	9%	95%	6%
Indoor recreational facilities, including a recreation center or aquatic center	82%	15%	85%	15%
Unprogrammed open space, or nature areas	89%	8%	81%	15%

**TABLE #10: SUPPORT OF PROSPER DEVELOPMENT BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN**

ITEM	NO CHILD		UNDER 6		AGE 6-12		AGE 13-18	
	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Small parks, generally located within a particular neighborhood, which seek to meet the needs of that neighborhood	80%	17%	80%	20%	74%	25%	78%	22%
Large parks, generally located in a central location, which seek to meet the needs of the entire community	92%	8%	98%	2%	100%	0%	100%	0%
Linear parks, that run along creeks or streams and include trails	93%	7%	92%	8%	94%	5%	92%	6%
Indoor recreational facilities, including a recreation center or aquatic center	77%	20%	87%	11%	94%	4%	92%	8%
Unprogrammed open space, or nature areas	83%	13%	79%	16%	86%	7%	86%	6%

**TABLE #11: HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR PARK-TYPE DEVELOPMENT IN PROSPER**

ITEM	OVERALL	AREA I	AREA II	MALE	FEMALE
Small parks	12%	13%	12%	10%	14%
Large parks	42%	43%	42%	35%	49%
Linear parks	15%	15%	15%	19%	12%
Indoor recreation facilities	24%	24%	25%	31%	19%
Unprogrammed open space	6%	5%	6%	5%	7%

**TABLE #12: OVERALL SUPPORT FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN LARGE PARKS**

ITEM	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SUPPORT	OPPOSED	STRONGLY OPPOSED	NO OPINION	RATIO
Tennis courts	22%	58%	11%	2%	8%	6.2:1
Equestrian trails	15%	34%	40%	4%	6%	1.1:1
Baseball fields	25%	61%	11%	1%	3%	4.4:1
Adult softball fields	21%	59%	16%	2%	3%	4.4:1
Youth softball fields	24%	61%	12%	1%	3%	6.5:1
Soccer fields	26%	57%	13%	0%	3%	6.4:1
Football fields	22%	52%	23%	1%	2%	3.1:1
Volleyball courts	18%	62%	16%	0%	5%	5.0:1
In-line hockey rink	8%	31%	49%	4%	8%	0.7:1
BMX bicycle course	11%	30%	52%	4%	4%	0.7:1
Skateboard park	7%	33%	50%	5%	5%	0.7:1
Artificial shade areas	18%	63%	12%	0%	6%	6.8:1
Children's playgrounds	33%	62%	3%	0%	2%	32:1
Pavilions or shelters	26%	68%	4%	0%	1%	24:1
Outdoor basketball courts	20%	65%	10%	1%	4%	7.7:1
Disc golf course	6%	44%	40%	3%	7%	1.2:1
Hike and bike trails	28%	65%	5%	0%	2%	19:1
Picnic areas	29%	68%	2%	0%	1%	49:1
Nature areas / natural habitat	32%	61%	6%	0%	1%	16:1
Restrooms	44%	54%	1%	0%	0%	98:1
Lighted areas	34%	60%	4%	0%	1%	24:1
Stage area for concerts or gatherings	22%	60%	14%	1%	3%	5.5:1

**TABLE #13: SUPPORT FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN LARGE PARKS BY SUBSECTOR**

ITEM	AREA I		AREA II	
	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Tennis courts	80%	11%	81%	13%
Equestrian trails	53%	42%	48%	46%
Baseball fields	87%	11%	85%	12%
Adult softball fields	80%	18%	80%	17%
Youth softball fields	84%	14%	85%	12%
Soccer fields	86%	9%	81%	17%
Football fields	74%	25%	73%	23%
Volleyball courts	78%	22%	80%	20%
In-line hockey rink	42%	52%	38%	54%
BMX bicycle course	42%	54%	40%	58%

Skateboard park	31%	64%	46%	49%
Artificial shade areas	87%	10%	76%	15%
Children's playgrounds	94%	3%	96%	4%
Pavilions or shelters	95%	3%	92%	6%
Outdoor basketball courts	85%	11%	85%	11%
Disc golf course	44%	50%	56%	37%
Hike and bike trails	91%	7%	95%	4%
Picnic areas	97%	2%	98%	1%
Nature areas / natural habitat	93%	8%	94%	4%
Restrooms	99%	1%	97%	2%
Lighted areas	97%	2%	92%	5%
Stage area for concerts or gatherings	81%	16%	82%	14%

**TABLE #14: SUPPORT FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN LARGE PARKS BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN**

ITEM	NO CHILD		UNDER 6		AGE 6-12		AGE 13-18	
	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Tennis courts	76%	15%	78%	13%	92%	6%	88%	6%
Equestrian trails	49%	47%	50%	42%	52%	42%	48%	46%
Baseball fields	79%	15%	89%	10%	93%	7%	88%	10%
Adult softball fields	74%	21%	84%	15%	87%	13%	82%	18%
Youth softball fields	79%	14%	91%	10%	92%	9%	88%	12%
Soccer fields	78%	15%	89%	9%	87%	11%	86%	12%
Football fields	64%	30%	80%	20%	83%	16%	82%	18%
Volleyball courts	76%	17%	72%	22%	86%	15%	88%	12%
In-line hockey rink	34%	56%	45%	50%	41%	55%	46%	48%
BMX bicycle course	49%	47%	31%	68%	30%	65%	44%	51%
Skateboard park	42%	50%	39%	60%	33%	63%	40%	57%
Artificial shade areas	71%	20%	90%	10%	88%	6%	88%	8%
Children's playgrounds	91%	6%	100%	0%	98%	0%	96%	2%
Pavilions or shelters	89%	9%	97%	2%	98%	0%	96%	2%
Outdoor basketball courts	79%	14%	87%	9%	97%	1%	90%	8%
Disc golf course	42%	48%	45%	48%	55%	40%	62%	32%
Hike and bike trails	91%	7%	91%	3%	94%	3%	90%	6%
Picnic areas	95%	4%	99%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
Nature areas / natural habitat	93%	6%	92%	5%	92%	6%	92%	6%
Restrooms	98%	3%	99%	2%	100%	0%	100%	0%
Lighted areas	92%	8%	98%	2%	94%	3%	98%	2%
Stage area for concerts or gatherings	73%	23%	85%	15%	88%	9%	96%	4%

**TABLE #15: PREFERRED FACILITY IN LARGE PARK FOR PROSPER TO CONSTRUCT**

ITEM	OVERALL	AREA I	AREA II	MALE	FEMALE
Tennis courts	4%	4%	4%	6%	2%
Equestrian trails	3%	2%	4%	2%	4%
Baseball fields	7%	10%	5%	14%	1%
Adult softball fields	3%	1%	4%	3%	2%
Youth softball fields	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Soccer fields	5%	5%	6%	7%	4%
Football fields	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%
In-line hockey rink	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%
BMX bicycle course	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%
Artificial shade areas	2%	2%	1%	4%	0%
Children's playgrounds	20%	15%	24%	18%	22%
Pavilions or shelters	3%	2%	4%	2%	4%
Outdoor basketball courts	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Disc golf course	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%
Hike and bike trails	22%	24%	20%	19%	24%
Picnic areas	3%	4%	3%	2%	4%
Nature areas / natural habitat	10%	10%	9%	9%	10%
Restrooms	4%	7%	2%	1%	7%
Lighted areas	3%	4%	3%	1%	5%
Stage area for concerts or gatherings	5%	4%	6%	3%	6%

**TABLE #16: OVERALL SUPPORT FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN LINEAR PARK**

ITEM	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SUPPORT	OPPOSED	STRONGLY OPPOSED	NO OPINION	RATIO
Nature trails	38%	58%	3%	1%	0%	24:1
Children's playgrounds	37%	52%	9%	1%	1%	8.9:1
Artificial shade areas	25%	56%	11%	1%	7%	6.8:1
Paved trails	29%	62%	6%	1%	1%	13:1
Scenic rest stops	23%	63%	10%	1%	3%	7.8:1
Picnic areas	27%	64%	7%	1%	1%	11:1
Trail connections to other parks	27%	63%	8%	1%	2%	10:1
Exercise stations	20%	59%	17%	1%	3%	4.4:1
Equestrian trails	14%	35%	44%	4%	3%	1.0:1

**TABLE #17: SUPPORT FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN LINEAR PARK BY SUBSECTOR**

ITEM	AREA I		AREA II	
	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Nature trails	97%	3%	96%	5%
Children's playgrounds	90%	9%	89%	10%
Artificial shade areas	89%	6%	75%	18%
Paved trails	97%	2%	88%	12%
Scenic rest stops	86%	11%	86%	12%
Picnic areas	91%	7%	92%	8%
Trail connections to other parks	90%	7%	90%	10%
Exercise stations	83%	15%	75%	22%
Equestrian trails	52%	46%	46%	49%

**TABLE #18: SUPPORT FOR ITEMS IN LINEAR PARK BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN**

ITEM	NO CHILD		UNDER 6		AGE 6-12		AGE 13-18	
	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Nature trails	94%	6%	95%	5%	100%	0%	100%	0%
Children's playgrounds	79%	17%	97%	2%	100%	0%	92%	8%
Artificial shade areas	70%	20%	92%	6%	93%	3%	90%	6%
Paved trails	85%	12%	93%	6%	97%	3%	98%	2%
Scenic rest stops	91%	7%	73%	21%	83%	15%	90%	8%
Picnic areas	89%	8%	93%	5%	93%	7%	94%	6%
Trail connections to other parks	88%	10%	87%	10%	94%	5%	90%	8%
Exercise stations	77%	17%	68%	31%	80%	20%	88%	10%
Equestrian trails	52%	42%	42%	56%	50%	46%	42%	54%

**TABLE #19: PREFERRED FACILITY WITHIN LINEAR PARK TO CONSTRUCT**

ITEM	OVERALL	AREA I	AREA II	MALE	FEMALE
Nature trails	31%	41%	23%	30%	32%
Children's playgrounds	23%	22%	24%	18%	27%
Artificial shade areas	3%	4%	3%	6%	1%
Paved trails	17%	14%	20%	18%	17%
Scenic rest stops	2%	1%	2%	4%	0%
Picnic areas	3%	2%	4%	5%	2%
Trail connections to other parks	13%	12%	13%	11%	14%
Exercise stations	3%	1%	4%	2%	3%
Equestrian trails	5%	2%	8%	6%	5%

**TABLE #20: OVERALL SUPPORT FOR OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

ITEM	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SUPPORT	OPPOSED	STRONGLY OPPOSED	NO OPINION	RATIO
Nature center	17%	62%	19%	0%	2%	4.2:1
Indoor recreation center	24%	60%	15%	0%	0%	5.6:1
Community center	26%	61%	11%	1%	1%	7.3:1
Indoor aquatic facility	25%	48%	22%	2%	3%	3.0:1
Outdoor pool	21%	48%	26%	3%	3%	2.4:1
Senior citizen center	21%	63%	13%	1%	3%	6.0:1
Library	36%	56%	7%	0%	1%	13:1
Athletic complex	19%	51%	26%	2%	3%	2.5:1
Dog park	11%	42%	38%	7%	3%	1.2:1
Wildflower gardens	16%	54%	24%	4%	3%	2.5:1
Children's water spray park	18%	47%	29%	3%	4%	2.0:1
Radio controlled airfield	5%	31%	48%	10%	6%	0.6:1

**TABLE #21: OVERALL SUPPORT FOR OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES BY SUBSECTOR**

ITEM	AREA I		AREA II	
	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Nature center	81%	19%	77%	19%
Indoor recreation center	87%	13%	81%	18%
Community center	88%	11%	85%	13%
Indoor aquatic facility	72%	25%	74%	24%
Outdoor pool	69%	28%	69%	29%
Senior citizen center	85%	12%	82%	15%
Library	93%	6%	91%	8%
Athletic complex	69%	28%	71%	27%
Dog park	51%	47%	54%	42%
Wildflower gardens	65%	35%	73%	25%
Children's water spray park	62%	34%	68%	29%
Radio controlled airfield	37%	56%	36%	58%

**TABLE #22: SUPPORT FOR OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN**

ITEM	NO CHILD		UNDER 6		AGE 6-12		AGE 13-18	
	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Nature center	72%	25%	79%	19%	85%	13%	90%	8%
Indoor recreation center	78%	21%	80%	20%	91%	8%	94%	6%
Community center	85%	14%	81%	16%	90%	7%	89%	8%
Indoor aquatic facility	63%	33%	78%	19%	84%	14%	84%	16%
Outdoor pool	63%	34%	66%	29%	84%	14%	76%	24%
Senior citizen center	88%	12%	74%	20%	81%	17%	88%	10%
Library	88%	9%	93%	6%	94%	6%	98%	2%
Athletic complex	64%	31%	74%	25%	75%	24%	78%	20%
Dog park	56%	40%	47%	50%	49%	50%	52%	46%
Wildflower gardens	78%	21%	55%	39%	67%	30%	64%	35%
Children's water spray park	52%	41%	77%	19%	77%	20%	72%	28%
Radio controlled airfield	41%	50%	26%	68%	38%	61%	40%	56%

**TABLE #23: PREFERRED OTHER RECREATION FACILITY TO CONSTRUCT**

ITEM	OVERALL	AREA I	AREA II	MALE	FEMALE
Nature center	8%	9%	7%	5%	11%
Indoor recreation center	23%	23%	23%	23%	24%
Community center	12%	9%	15%	13%	11%
Indoor aquatic facility	9%	6%	12%	12%	8%
Outdoor pool	7%	11%	4%	7%	7%
Senior citizen center	7%	9%	6%	9%	6%
Library	15%	16%	14%	12%	17%
Athletic complex	5%	4%	6%	4%	6%
Wildflower gardens	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%
Children's water spray park	4%	2%	5%	7%	1%
Radio controlled airfield	8%	10%	7%	8%	8%

**TABLE #24: OVERALL AGREEMENT WITH BEAUTIFICATION STATEMENTS**

STATEMENT	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	NO OPINION	RATIO
I believe the town should plant trees and implement landscaping along streets and intersections	47%	44%	7%	1%	1%	11:1
I do not believe that landscaping town streets and intersections is that important	1%	10%	62%	26%	1%	0.1:1
I would like to see public art in Prosper	9%	49%	34%	3%	6%	1.6:1
Improved landscaping of town streets will help to improve our town image	30%	62%	7%	1%	1%	11:1
I support the town developing "gateways to the town" so that people know they are coming into Prosper	22%	60%	14%	1%	3%	5.5:1
I would like to see streets in Prosper maintain a rural feel including black top and bar ditches	16%	48%	23%	3%	10%	2.5:1

**TABLE #25: AGREEMENT WITH BEAUTIFICATION STATEMENTS BY SUBSECTOR**

STATEMENT	AREA I		AREA II	
	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE
I believe the town should plant trees and implement landscaping along streets and intersections	90%	8%	90%	8%
I do not believe that landscaping town streets and intersections is that important	10%	89%	11%	87%
I would like to see public art in Prosper	58%	34%	58%	38%
Improved landscaping of town streets will help to improve our town image	92%	7%	91%	9%
I support the town developing "gateways to the town" so that people know they are coming into Prosper	80%	17%	84%	14%
I would like to see streets in Prosper maintain a rural feel including black top and bar ditches	67%	25%	62%	27%

**TABLE #26: AGREEMENT WITH BEAUTIFICATION STATEMENTS BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN**

STATEMENT	NO CHILD		UNDER 6		AGE 6-12		AGE 13-18	
	AGREE	DIS-AGREE	AGREE	DIS-AGREE	AGREE	DIS-AGREE	AGREE	DIS-AGREE
I believe the town should plant trees and implement landscaping along streets and intersections	90%	9%	87%	10%	96%	1%	96%	4%
I do not believe that landscaping town streets and intersections is that important	6%	92%	15%	84%	8%	91%	10%	88%
I would like to see public art in Prosper	57%	40%	53%	40%	62%	29%	62%	30%
Improved landscaping of town streets will help to improve our town image	90%	10%	90%	8%	93%	6%	96%	2%
I support the town developing "gateways to the town" so that people know they are coming into Prosper	80%	18%	78%	16%	89%	9%	85%	12%
I would like to see streets in Prosper maintain a rural feel including black top and bar ditches	57%	31%	70%	23%	63%	26%	64%	30%

**TABLE #27: OVERALL AGREEMENT WITH OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION STATEMENTS IN PROSPER**

STATEMENT	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	NO OPINION	RATIO
I would like the town to develop and maintain an area where I and my family could experience wildflowers, in their natural habitat	16%	58%	20%	3%	4%	3.2:1
I would like the town to develop and maintain an area where I and my family could experience birds and / or butterflies in their natural habitat	18%	51%	23%	3%	6%	2.7:1
It is <u>not</u> important to me to maintain open space in its natural setting here in Prosper	1%	11%	62%	23%	2%	0.1:1
I would support water conservation efforts in future park developments	25%	70%	3%	0%	1%	32:1
I would support the use of plants native to Texas such as Red Oak, Pecan, Red Bud trees, and Texas Sage in town projects	34%	64%	0%	0%	2%	98.0:1

**TABLE #28: AGREEMENT ON OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION STATEMENTS IN PROSPER BY SUBSECTOR**

STATEMENT	AREA I		AREA II	
	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE
I would like the town to develop and maintain an area where I and my family could experience wildflowers, in their natural habitat	71%	25%	77%	21%
I would like the town to develop and maintain an area where I and my family could experience birds and / or butterflies in their natural habitat	67%	28%	70%	23%
It is <u>not</u> important to me to maintain open space in its natural setting here in Prosper	11%	86%	14%	86%
I would support water conservation efforts in future park developments	94%	6%	96%	2%
I would support the use of plants native to Texas such as Red Oak, Pecan, Red Bud trees, and Texas Sage in town projects	97%	0%	98%	1%

**TABLE #29: AGREEMENT WITH OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION STATEMENTS IN PROSPER BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN**

STATEMENT	NO CHILD		UNDER 6		AGE 6-12		AGE 13-18	
	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE
I would like the town to develop and maintain an area where I and my family could experience wildflowers, in their natural habitat	74%	21%	67%	29%	78%	19%	80%	18%
I would like the town to develop and maintain an area where I and my family could experience birds and / or butterflies in their natural habitat	68%	25%	63%	31%	75%	21%	74%	22%
It is <u>not</u> important to me to maintain open space in its natural setting here in Prosper	10%	89%	15%	85%	18%	81%	14%	82%
I would support water conservation efforts in future park developments	93%	5%	97%	2%	95%	3%	98%	2%
I would support the use of plants native to Texas such as Red Oak, Pecan, Red Bud trees, and Texas Sage in town projects	98%	1%	95%	0%	98%	0%	94%	0%

**TABLE #30: OVERALL AGREEMENT ON STATEMENTS CONCERNING PROSPER**

STATEMENT	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	NO OPINION	RATIO
I am willing to pay additional town taxes to see parks in Prosper developed	15%	51%	21%	10%	4%	2.1:1
The town should improve the existing parks and not develop any new ones	3%	15%	57%	15%	11%	0.3:1
I have adequate avenues to voice my concerns about recreation in Prosper	6%	62%	17%	5%	11%	3.1:1
I am satisfied with the current landscaping along town roadways and at intersections	1%	27%	59%	12%	1%	0.4:1
I would support the parks and recreation department offering programs to residents such as recreational activities, art and crafts activities and cultural activities	23%	70%	5%	2%	1%	13:1

**TABLE #31: AGREEMENT ON STATEMENTS CONCERNING PROSPER BY SUBSECTOR**

STATEMENT	AREA I		AREA II	
	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE
I am willing to pay additional town taxes to see parks in Prosper developed	62%	36%	69%	27%
The town should improve the existing parks and not develop any new ones	25%	66%	12%	76%
I have adequate avenues to voice my concerns about recreation in Prosper	66%	26%	69%	17%
I am satisfied with the current landscaping along town roadways and at intersections	28%	70%	28%	71%
I would support the parks and recreation department offering programs to residents such as recreational activities, art and crafts activities and cultural activities	92%	8%	93%	5%

**TABLE #32: AGREEMENT ON STATEMENTS CONCERNING PROSPER BY AGE OF RESPONDENT'S CHILDREN**

STATEMENT	NO CHILD		UNDER 6		AGE 6-12		AGE 13-18	
	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE
I am willing to pay additional town taxes to see parks in Prosper developed	62%	38%	68%	28%	70%	25%	74%	20%
The town should improve the existing parks and not develop any new ones	23%	61%	16%	77%	13%	82%	16%	76%
I have adequate avenues to voice my concerns about recreation in Prosper	57%	28%	67%	20%	81%	12%	74%	20%
I am satisfied with the current landscaping along town roadways and at intersections	28%	71%	33%	68%	31%	68%	20%	80%
I would support the parks and recreation department offering programs to residents such as recreational activities, art and crafts activities and cultural activities	90%	8%	90%	10%	95%	5%	96%	4%

**Addendum B. Sport Organization Input**

- *Prosper Sports Association*
- *Prosper Community Tennis Association*

Prosper Sports Association

Website: [www.prospertx-sports.org](http://www.prospertx-sports.org)

Contact Information: <http://www.prospertx-sports.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2478>

Extract from PSA Bylaws...

ARTICLE I – Name and Purpose

- Section 1. NAME – Prosper Sports Association (PSA) is and will be the name of the organization.
- Section 2. PURPOSE – The PSA will create and maintain an athletic program for kids 18 years and younger, hereafter referred to as youth. The organization will instill in the youth of the community the ideas of fair play, sportsmanship, honesty, and leadership through fellowship. The PSA will provide a program molded to develop athletic skills and create a spirit of healthy competition, stressing teamwork and individual sacrifice. At all times, the interests of participation will remain paramount in any undertaking of the organization.
- Section 3. The PSA will be a non-profit organization with the primary purpose of providing the youth of our community an organized athletic program.
- Section 4. The PSA will take a proactive position in expressing its opinion to the Town of Prosper and the Prosper ISD on long-term planning and facility issues which affect our youth and will seek to have permanent representation on the appropriate city and school committees such as the Parks and Recreation Department
- Section 5. The PSA will seek to establish the guidelines for scholarship and sponsorship programs to insure that all youth in Prosper have the opportunity to participate in its programs.

Planning Questions:

1. What is the current number of participants and teams?

Current number of participants and teams vary widely depending on time of year and sport season. The metrics below are inclusive only of the Prosper participants.

Sport	Player Enrollment/Participation						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Baseball	99	128	173	202	190	205	221
Softball	NA	NA	NA	60	63	75	90
Basketball	NA	NA	163	175	217	240	
Football	100	126	133	142	167	193	
Cheerleading	NA	NA	NA	70	82	112	
Soccer Fall	NA	NA	150	180	188	273	
Soccer Spring	NA	NA	NA	192	NA	257	360
Volleyball Fall	NA	NA	20	33	62	75	
Volleyball Spring	NA	NA	NA	30	55	72	
Tennis	NA	NA	NA	NA	42	58	

2. How many of the participants are from Prosper and how many are from other Cities (by name)?

We compete generally with the surrounding communities (UIL cities). Our sport leagues are made up of participants of these communities. The towns that we compete with are:

- Celina <sup>1</sup>
- Gunter
- Melissa
- Van Alstyne
- Anna
- Princeton
- McKinney <sup>1</sup>
- Frisco <sup>1</sup>
- Plano

In most cases we have less than 3% total of the registrants from other communities that participate as Prosper players/Prosper teams.

<sup>1</sup> Does not include participants that live in these communities that are in Prosper School District. All #'s reflect PISD.

3. What is the growth projection of your particular sport activity for the next 5 to 10 years?

Hard to say. Generally we have seen in each sport; irregardless of season, a 20+ % growth in registrations from season to season, much greater in soccer. Twenty plus percent growth in participants does not factor in those teams that still play sports outside of the PSA confines. Generally there is 30-40 players that play "select" sports each season.

4. What is your need to meet the future requirements?

Space and facilities. More specifically within next 2 years the need will be:

- Basketball/Volleyball: two additional indoor multipurpose floor facilities (able to support 4 simultaneous events).
- Soccer/Football: additional lighted full size field facility.
- Baseball/Softball: one additional lighted baseball and one additional lighted softball field.

- Miscellaneous such as: on-sight storage facilities, concession equipment, scoreboards; restroom facilities, etc..

With the town's growth and the real push for adult sports, this above need assessment is probably short sided.

5. **What city and non-city facilities do you currently use?**

- Mainstreet South
- Mainstreet North
- Middle School Baseball
- Rucker North
- Rucker West
- Rucker South
- Rucker t-ball
- Rucker Outside awning
- Preston Lakes Park
- Water Tower Park (behind Fina)
- All PISD gyms at Rucker, Folsom and Middle school campuses (4 total)
- PMS Tennis Courts
- Areas west of PHS ag barn
- PHS football field
- PHS indoor facility
- PHS outdoor old and new football practice field
- Numerous personal properties (6 known; there are probably others)

6. **Are the current facilities for your specific sport activity adequate? If not, why and what should be done to correct it?**

We have made due so far... but rest not far from over-capacity. One thing that helps our facilities is that some sports we play, we play soley outside of our community. These sports would be Frisco for soccer and McKinney for girls softball. As those external communities expand and their participant pool grows so will it limit our ability to participate as an "outsider". We've already seen this occur in tackle and flag football, cheerleading and 13-14 boys baseball.

Dedicated practice and/or game facilities for baseball, softball, soccer and football would help ease the over use of current facilities. It would also provide much needed scheduling flexibility, game and season management.

7. **How does your organization/league fit into a regional context in terms of the use of facilities?**

Varies based on sport. For example, Prosper Baseball for the last two years has been host for all Celina's "home" games due to their field availability. Baseball also has opportunity to host playoff and regional tournaments based on season successes for multiple age groups. Softball will ultimately closely resemble baseball as we make push to Dixie or USSSA.

Soccer has started to play some of the Frisco Soccer Association games in Prosper. It is planned for our community to host open soccer tournaments.

Football/Cheerleading play host to weekend (one or two over course of season), towns in the Texoma Youth League Football program block games weekly to consolidate officiating, travel and concessions. Post season play host are determined by league record.

***Prosper Community Tennis Association (PCTA)***

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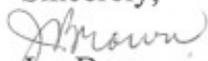
Prosper Community Tennis Association (PCTA)  
% Jan Brown  
PO Box 490  
Prosper, TX 75078

In response to your letter regarding the Master Plan, the PCTA Board has contributed the following answers:

- The name of our new association will be known as the Prosper Community Tennis Association or PCTA; the web site is [www.prosper-tennis.org](http://www.prosper-tennis.org); mailing address will be POBox 490 attn: Jan Brown
- The newly created board consists of John Sauber, Jan Brown, Mary Birch, Cindy Ryan, Mark Robertson; advisors for the board are David Gray and Ken Sumrow
- Registration has just begun, so currently a number isn't available for numbers involved
- The board is hoping to include surrounding towns, such as Celina, IF room is available
- The growth projection in the next 5-10 years is great, considering the numbers of new families moving into the area. With the new courts, interest will begin to soar.
- To meet the future needs for a town of our size a clubhouse type facility with seating, landscaping and a stadium court; 12 more courts; seating for the current courts; and landscaping for our current courts are essential.
- Currently the only tennis facilities available are the two courts located at the Prosper Middle School; however, four new courts are being built on the high school's property. The courts are a joint venture with the city (lights) and the school system.
- The current facilities are not adequate for any type of tennis program. To correct this inadequacy, more courts are a must. The current facilities will not be adequate even for our school program in about 4 years because a 4A high school program consists of an 8 court minimum. We are working with the Dallas Tennis Association and USTA; with the team tennis we're hoping to form, different levels will compete with other tennis programs in the Dallas area.

Thanks for taking into consideration our needs for the new tennis program.

Sincerely,

  
Jan Brown

PCTA Board Member  
Prosper High School Tennis Coach

***Addendum C. Creeks and Streams***

***The value of creeks and streams in the urban and semi-urban environments***

**Addendum C: Creeks and Streams**  
***The value of creeks and streams in the urban and semi-urban environments***

Water availability for domestic, industrial, agriculture as well as ecological use is important from a quantity AND quality point of view. In fact water has become a scarce commodity which has far reaching impacts on the future of all communities especially in Texas. Uncontrolled land development, water overuse and pollution continue to impact this precious and primary life supporting element. Planning on all levels should be cognizant of the effects of our actions on the future of water availability.

Communities need to realize that good stewardship of water is crucial to ensure sustainable economic growth including safety, health and welfare to everyone. Ideally state, county and municipal planning should take place on a watershed scale where the source, use and disposal of water are all integrated. The goal of such an approach is sustained availability of good quality water, effective flood management, ecologically healthy environments, with tremendous recreational opportunities.

Specific tools to achieve effective watershed management include the establishment of riparian/creek buffers and integrated storm water management.

**Creek buffers along creeks and drainage ways**

*References:*

*Riparian Buffer Strategies for Urban Watersheds: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; 1995.*

*Stream Corridor Restoration: The Federal Interagency Stream Restoration Working Group.*

The Prosper Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan recommends that riparian buffers be established along all creeks and drainage ways in the Town of Prosper and its ETJ as a measure to protect the fully developed 100 year flood area and an additional 100 to 200 feet wide buffer as an important resource for the Town. The value of such corridors is manifold and includes the following:

- Flood conveyance and management
  - Natural streams have developed over time to absorb flood waters and to release it gradually once the flood has subsided. In fact, wetlands and riparian vegetation act as a “sponges” that take up the water, hold it and release it slowly as it drains through the vegetation. Maintaining the natural vegetation within creek corridors contributes to less intense floods, less erosion and more stable stream banks.
- Creek morphology
  - Creeks and drainage ways are by nature dynamic which means that they change course over time as the rushing water of large floods carves its way through the landscape. A proper riparian buffer allows for this dynamic change without impacting property and structures.

- Upstream development typically leads to higher intensity floods that increase the 100 year floodline over time. A wide riparian and creek buffer take into account the future elevated 100 year floodline based on fully developed and build-out land use conditions in the watershed.
- Safety
  - Structures within creek corridors including buildings, bridges and dams are all potentially in danger of being damaged or destroyed during floods, depending on the size of the particular flood event. Where bridges and dams by their very nature are built within corridors, habitable structures should be located outside the build-out 100 year floodline as a safety precaution.
  - Wide riparian corridors have a definite positive effect on dam safety – well established riparian corridors upstream of a dam decrease the chance of dam failure; should a dam failure occur, the resultant downstream damage will be reduced with the floodwater absorbed by the wide riparian corridor.
- Health and water quality
  - Water quality in streams and creeks is typically a factor of the quality of water entering the system and the manner in which vegetation in the watershed “cleans” the runoff before it enters the creek. The excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides within a watershed, leads to low water quality entering the streams and creeks. In an intact system, vegetation especially native grasses filtrate the runoff prior to entering the creek and stream. However, it is crucial that the creek buffer is in place to ensure such filtration.
  - Creek buffers lead to reduced nutrient load of streams which effects water quality. This in turn prevents the development of algae blooms in lakes.
  - Creek buffers prevent excessive sediment loads in streams which in turn decrease the possibility of sedimentation of lakes.
  - An ecologically intact creek and drainage way system has a natural predator and prey system in place whereby insects like mosquitoes are preyed upon by reptiles, birds and bats. However, habitat disturbance through excessive erosion and concrete lined channels, causes a loss in the predator species which leads to excessive insect populations. With the West Nile virus on everyone’s mind it is thus important to keep the creek corridors healthy by encouraging the protection of the riparian vegetation.
- Economy
  - There is much economic sense in the protection of structures by their construction outside the 100 year floodline based on build-out conditions.
  - Stable stream banks preclude expensive measures to prevent or repair failing stream banks.
  - Reduced flood damage means fewer costs.
  - Property facing or adjacent to open space is more desirable and expensive which leads to increased tax income.
- Ecology and habitat preservation
  - Riparian buffers typically preserve some of the natural breeding, foraging, and resting areas of native animals and bird species.
  - Riparian vegetation adds to the diversity of life within streams, wetlands and lakes.

- From an ecological point of view, the edges where two ecological zones meet are extremely important from a vegetation and wildlife dynamic point of view. Animals from the one zone may forage in the one while resting in the other, and plants are often adapted to that specific edge zone. The edges of creeks and other water bodies are thus important where the water and land ecosystems are supportive, enriching and dependant on each other.
- The variety of habitats within creek corridors leads to greater diversity of wildlife.
- Riparian vegetation typically includes multi-layered habitats including trees, shrubs, grass and herbaceous plant material.
- Riparian vegetation provides a variety of functions related to aquatic habitat including:
  - Food source for species of the aquatic food chain;
  - Regulating light and temperature entering the water body. Many species have a low tolerance for temperature or light change beyond the normal range;
  - Maintaining oxygen concentrations in water through temperature regulation;
  - Preventing sediment from inundating water bodies, which interferes with fish behavior and destroys benthic habitat.
- Recreation
  - Creek corridors provide visually appealing environments.
  - The linear nature of creeks and drainage ways render them ideal for hike and bike trails.
  - Linear creek corridors with an associated trail system link various destinations within the Town with better interaction between neighborhoods, schools and parks.
  - The variety of wildlife found within creek corridors lead to the opportunity for wildlife viewing including birding.
- Education
  - A myriad of natural processes are very visible along creeks and creek banks, all of which is ideal for educational purposes.
  - Students and the public may learn about the vegetation and wildlife of both terrestrial and aquatic environments, the process of natural erosion and deposition, stream morphology and water quality.
- Utilities
  - Areas that parallel creek corridors provide the opportunity for utility corridors with permeable surfaces including water, sewer and overhead power and telephone lines.
  - Such utilities should be located outside the 100 floodline at build-out conditions to prevent future damage that may result from floods.
  - Measures must be taken to prevent impacts on the recreation and habitat integrity within the creek corridors. Disturbance of vegetation and wildlife must be minimized during the construction phase of placing the utilities.

## Riparian/Creek Buffer Criteria

The ability of a riparian/creek buffer to realize its many benefits depends on how well it is planned, designed and maintained. The following provide some criteria in this regard.

### Riparian/creek buffer dimension

For creek corridors, a wide riparian buffer is an essential component of any protection strategy. A network of buffers acts as the right-of-way for a creek and functions as an integral part of the creek ecosystem. The primary criteria for buffer sizing should be ecological but may also include economic and legal factors. However, the danger is that economic and legal considerations may compromise the very essence of what constitutes a healthy ecological creek corridor. With creek corridors in the Town of Prosper considered a crucial natural resource, a creek buffer of 100 to 200 feet on each side of all creeks measured from the 100 year floodline at fully developed or build-out conditions is recommended. This measurement is based on the area required to ensure the protection of riparian and creek buffers for the benefit and value as described above.

### *Three-zone creek and buffer system*

- The primary aim of the buffer system is to protect the core of creek corridors including the stream channel, its banks and 100 year flood area which is crucial for the health of creek systems. Protecting the entire area below the 100 year floodline at fully developed or build-out conditions, ensures the protection of current creek conditions as well as the anticipated changed conditions in the future. The entire creek corridor is divided into 3 lateral zones on each side of the creek: stream side, middle zone and outer zone. Each zone performs a different function, with a different vegetative target and management scheme. The dimension of each of these zones is different with the inner zone dependant on the width of the 100 year floodplain, a recommended 100 to 200 feet wide middle zones and 50 wide for the outer zone.
- The stream side zone has the function to protect the physical and ecological integrity of the stream associated ecosystem. It adds visual and ecological protection through preservation of views, wildlife habitat and noise abatement. The vegetative target is the pre-development natural condition with low key recreational development including hike, bike and equestrian trails.
- The 100 to 200 feet wide middle zone provides physical distance between upland development and the stream ecosystem and is available for utilities with no hard surfaces, open space development including ball fields and golf courses and storm water management including retention/detention basins. The vegetative target is natural pre-development conditions.
- The third 50 feet wide outer zone is available for a parkway collector street system. Such a parkway has four major functions. First it will serve as a buffer between development with potentially manicured landscapes and the natural creek corridor environment. Secondly it will provide easy access for

maintenance. Thirdly the parkway will improve local traffic circulation. Fourthly the parkway will provide a leisurely route connecting the parks, schools and neighborhoods along the creek corridor. The pleasing vistas along the creek corridor allow for scenic drives and improved neighborhoods. In fact, similar projects in other cities have enhanced property values along the route.

#### Buffer crossings

Major objectives for riparian/creek buffers are to maintain an unbroken corridor of riparian habitat and to allow for upstream and downstream movement of both aquatic (including a fish passage) and terrestrial wildlife along the creek corridor. Where linear forms of development such as roads, bridges, underground utilities, enclosed storm drains or outfall channels must cross the stream or the buffer, measures must be put in place to minimize blocking the aquatic and terrestrial wildlife passageway including extended bridge spans.

#### Buffer management

The general vegetation target for the land that involves the 100 year flood plain and 100 to 200 feet wide buffer is pre-agricultural development/modifications. Treated correctly, such vegetation cover requires the minimum management effort. In order for the burden to not fall on the Town or individual landowner or home owner associations, it is recommended that management be done by one of the many Texas Land Trusts that will have an interest in such land. (see [www.texaslandtrusts.org](http://www.texaslandtrusts.org) )

#### No Rise in Base Flood Elevation

It is recommended that the reclamation of the 100 floodplain at fully developed or build-out conditions should not be permitted at all, even if it can be demonstrated that there will be no rise in the base flood elevation of fully developed watershed conditions. The FEMA “floodway” concept contained in the National Flood Insurance Program allows up to a one foot rise in flood elevations assuming current development conditions only. However reclamation which allows a rise in the flood elevation could predictably create adverse impacts either upstream or downstream.

### **Creek Confluences**

Creek confluences typically have unique natural and visual qualities due to the increased channel length per surface areas, widened floodplain, the potential occurrence of wetlands, dense stands of trees and increased wildlife. Such areas, also referred to as “ecological nodes” call for their special protection in the form of nature parks and nature preserves. Recognizing this the Parks Master Plan recommends the establishment of the Five Creek Regional Park / Nature Preserve where Doe Branch connects with 4 of its tributaries over a distance of about 2 miles in the western part of Prosper.

## **Watershed Management Plan**

As much as it is important to ensure the protection of the creek and drainage way corridors and nodes, it is also vitally important to follow a watershed wide approach to stormwater management and landuse planning.

Watershed management suggests measures in place that aim to decrease the amount of hard and impervious surfaces which result in higher frequency and intensity of runoff, and water detention that absorbs the runoff peaks allowing it to drain slowly and over time into the creek system. Together with watershed wide measures, proper site design of each and every development is essential to obtain the best results.

The manner in which development occurs in the watershed is crucial. Due consideration should be given to every component that may contribute to increased runoff volumes and intensity. Two complimentary tools that are effective to achieve watershed management are Integrated Stormwater Management and Conservation Development (see below).

## **Integrated Stormwater Management**

Recognizing the importance of water quantity and quality, the North Central Council of Governments, developed iSWM (Integrated Stormwater Management) design manuals for construction and for site development that assist cities and counties to achieve their goals of water quality protection, streambank protection, and flood control. They also help communities meet their construction and post-construction obligations under state storm water permits, current and emerging.

### The integrated Storm Water Management (iSWM™) approach

*Source: <http://iswm.nctcog.org/index.asp>*

Development and redevelopment by their nature increase the amount of imperviousness in our surrounding environment. This increased imperviousness translates into loss of natural areas, more sources for pollution in runoff, and heightened flooding risks. To help mitigate these impacts, 55 local governments are cooperating to proactively create sound storm water management guidance for the region through the integrated Storm Water Management (iSWM)™ project.

The iSWM™ design manuals for construction and for site development are cooperative initiatives that assist cities and counties to achieve their goals of water quality protection, streambank protection, and flood control by managing stormwater on a site-by-site basis throughout all phases of development.. They also help communities meet their construction and post-construction obligations under state storm water permits, current and emerging.

- The iSWM™ Design Manual for Construction contains a stepwise methodology for creating an effective storm water pollution prevention plan for construction sites and detailed information for the design, installation, and maintenance of practices to reduce the release of sediment and other pollutants resulting from construction activities. The Design Manual for construction is also intended to assist public and private entities in compliance with the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) General Permit for Construction Storm Water Runoff, TXR 150000, issued by the Texas Council on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Cities in the region are encouraged to officially adopt the Design Manual for Construction and require compliance with the provisions of the Design Manual within their jurisdictions. Adoption of the Design Manual for Construction will fulfill the major requirements of the “Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control” Minimum Measure of TPDES General Permit TXR040000 for Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems.

- The 2006 Edition of the iSWM™ Design Manual for Site Development is a step-by-step detailed instructional manual to guide developers and government agencies on the control and management of storm water quality and quantity. It is a practical manual oriented to implementation in everyday practice.

It calls for the consideration of storm water issues at the conceptual stages of projects and provides tools to achieve the goals of water quality protection, streambank protection, and flood control. Its adoption in the region will simplify engineering designs, minimize local government plan review efforts, facilitate multi-jurisdictional drainage analysis, and enable regional training opportunities.

### Further Studies

*Reference: Linear Greenbelt Park Study: City of Allen, Texas; 1986.*

For purposes of establishing an integrated riparian corridor and greenbelt system for the Town of Prosper, a Creek and Linear Greenbelt Park Study is recommended. It is recommended that such a study include the following components:

1. Flood-plain Delineation  
The flood plains of all creeks defined and delineated as the area inundated by either the 100-year flood based on a fully developed watershed condition, or the maximum flood on record, whichever reaches the higher water elevation;
2. Environmental Inventory and Analysis including:
  - a. Physical features (geology, topography, soils, climate)
  - b. Biological features (vegetation and wildlife)
  - c. Man-made features (history, archaeology, streets, buildings and utilities)
  - d. Scenic values;
3. Stream segments

- Homogenous segments with similar landform, unique water features, common vegetation, wildlife habitat, scenic features and divisions made by existing roadways.
4. Stream Corridor Delineation;
  5. Stream Corridor Alternatives;  
Flood plain and stream corridor management
  6. Implementation Strategy.

Supporting and additional information may include social, cultural, legal and governmental influences; land use planning along creek corridors; funding; public participation and landownership issues.

The Linear Greenbelt Park Study that was conducted for the City of Allen in 1986 is proof that early planning efforts lead to superior city and town development conditions. Based on this 1986 study the City of Allen has ordinances and regulations in place that ensure the optimal protection and use of creek corridors. The end result 20 years later is a noticeable quality of life experience for its residents that surpasses many other cities in the region. The vision for the Town of Prosper is to build on the experience of this Texas Town and to incorporate exemplary and functional practices that will ensure the protection of its natural resources for the enjoyment and appreciation of future generations.

***Addendum D:*      A Case for Conservation Planning and Design**

**Addendum D: A Case for Conservation Planning and Design**

*With extracts from: Arendt, R.; Growing Greener, Putting Conservation into Local Plans and Ordinances; Island Press; 1999 and <http://www.greenerprospects.com/growinggreener.pdf>*

**The Conservation Planning and Design Concept**

Each time a property is developed into a residential subdivision, an opportunity exists for adding land to a community-wide network of open space. Although such opportunities are seldom taken in many municipalities, this situation could be reversed fairly easily by making several small but significant changes to three basic local land-use documents - the comprehensive plan, the zoning ordinance and the subdivision and land development ordinance. Simply stated, Conservation Design rearranges the development on each parcel as it is being planned so that half (or more) of the buildable land is set aside as open space. Without controversial “down zoning,” the same number of homes can be built in a less land-consumptive manner, allowing the balance of the property to be permanently protected and added to an interconnected network of community green spaces. This “density-neutral” approach provides a fair and equitable way to balance conservation and development objectives.

Conservation Planning and Design are attractive to cities since they are relatively easy to implement, do not involve public costs, do not diminish landowner equity, and are not onerous to developers.

**Why change from conventional subdivision planning and design?**

Conventional Subdivision Planning and Design as applied in most of the USA, generally refers to residential development in which all the developable land is divided into house lots or streets. The only open space is typically undevelopable wetlands, steep slopes, and storm water management areas. There are no amenable places to walk, open meadows for wildlife, or playing fields for children. Furthermore, almost all of the land has been cleared, graded, and converted into lawns or private back yards. As a result, residents of conventional subdivisions depend upon their cars even more to bring them social and recreational opportunities. Conservation Planning and Design offers social and recreational advantages over conventional layouts in several distinct ways.

**Objective of Conservation Planning and Design**

The basic principle of Conservation Planning and Design is that open space that is conservable in nearly every new residential development can be required to be laid out so that it will ultimately coalesce to form an interconnected system of protected lands across a community.

Dean William McDonough of the University of Virginia, School of Architecture suggests that one measure of a development project’s success should be the increase in the number of songbird species inhabiting a site after it has been developed.

In addition to the designated wetlands, floodplains, and steep slopes that are often the only lands protected under existing codes, the types of open space that can easily be conserved through the Conservation Planning and Design include upland woodlands, meadows, fields, and historic, cultural, or scenic features of local or greater significance.

### **Conservation Planning and Design approach**

For effective Conservation Planning and Design it is recommended that a community inventories the following principal resources:

1. Wetlands and their Buffers
2. Floodplains
3. Moderate and Steep Slopes
4. Groundwater Resources and their Recharge Areas
5. Woodlands
6. Representative stands of Blackland Prairie
7. Productive Farmland
8. Significant Wildlife Habitat
9. Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Features
10. Cultural Landscapes
11. Scenic Features
12. Scenic Viewsheds from Public Roads

Part if not all of these recourses are often already inventoried as a matter of course in Town documents including the Comprehensive Plan, the Parks Master Plan and Storm Water and Drainage studies.

The Conservation Planning and Design approach is easy for cities to implement, since it:

- Respects private property rights;
- Respects the ability of developers to create new homes for an expanding population; and
- Accommodates newcomers without unduly impacting the remaining natural areas and cultural resources that make a community a special place to live, work and recreate.

### **Benefits of Conservation Planning and Design**

The benefits of Conservation Planning and Design is threefold:

- Environmental and ecological benefits
- Social and recreational benefits
- Economic Benefits

#### Environmental and ecological benefits

In addition to preventing intrusions into inherently unbuildable locations such as wetland and floodplains, conservation subdivision design also protects terrestrial habitats and upland buffers alongside wetlands, water bodies, and watercourses, areas that would ordinarily be cleared, graded, and covered with houses, lawns, and driveways in a conventional development.

The environmental and ecological benefits to employing conservation subdivision design instead of conventional layouts include wildlife management, water quality protection, greater aquifer recharge, and environmentally sensitive sewage treatment and disposal.

#### Social and recreational benefits

Conservation Planning and Design offer social and recreational advantages over conventional layouts in several distinct ways.

- Pedestrian friendly neighborhoods,
- Community-wide greenways and trails,
- Increased interaction within the community due to the footpath system that connects the homes with interesting places to visit.

#### Economic Benefits

- Lower costs including reduced infrastructure engineering and construction costs, for example shorter roads, less wetland/creek crossings, less stormwater management facilities and less wood clearing.
- Value appreciation; it has been proven that properties within Conservation Planned and Designed communities appreciate markedly more than their counterparts in conventional communities.
- Reduced Demand for New Public Parkland; The natural areas that are preserved and the recreational amenities that are provided in Conservation Planned and Designed communities help to reduce the demand for public open space, parkland, playing fields, and other areas for active and passive recreation. Current deficiencies with regard to such public amenities will inevitable grow larger as population continues to rise. To the extent that each new development meets some of its own local needs, pressure on local governments will be lessened in this regard, a factor that may make such designs more attractive to local reviewing bodies.

#### **Ordinances for Conservation Planning and Design**

Model Language for Conservation Subdivisions is available on pages 151 to 194 of the publication: Arendt, R.; Growing Greener, Putting Conservation into Local Plans and Ordinances; Island Press; 1999.



***Addendum E. Dallas Forth Worth Metro-Area Parks and Recreation Survey***



***Addendum F. Development Review Checklist***

## 2005 Metro Area Survey Park & Recreation Department

14-Jul-05

City	Population	Operating Budget				Other Operating Funds			Ratios			
		Total Park Acres	Total Full-Time Employees	Total FTE Employees	2003/04 Operating Budget	Total Full-Time Employees	Total FTE Employees	2003/04 Performance Fund	Park Acres per 1,000	Full-Time Employees Per 1,000	Full-Time Equivalent Per 1,000	Funding Per Person
Allen	66,400	427	50	51	\$4,642,218	35	90	\$5,028,029	6.43	1.28	2.13	\$145.64
Addison	14,450	143	32	38	\$3,521,730	0	0	\$0	9.90	2.21	2.62	\$243.72
Burleson	28,350	198	13	14	\$1,094,273	0	0	\$70,000	6.98	0.46	0.49	\$41.07
Carrollton	116,500	1,793	79	142	\$9,100,000	0	0	\$37,000	15.39	0.68	1.21	\$78.43
Colleyville	21,000	190	12	13	\$1,300,000	0	0	\$0	9.05	0.57	0.60	\$61.90
Corinth	17,800	179	17	18	\$1,040,609	0	0	\$151,548	10.06	0.96	1.01	\$66.98
Denton	96,200	1,222	91	91	\$7,229,977	8	58	\$3,286,890	12.71	1.03	1.56	\$109.32
Duncanville	36,150	227	15	23	\$1,716,948	0	0	\$13,500	6.29	0.41	0.64	\$47.87
Flower Mound	60,450	545	29	29	\$2,808,618	1	2	\$457,387	9.02	0.50	0.50	\$54.03
Fort Worth	618,600	10,612	283	331	\$21,006,014	80	120	\$13,893,861	17.15	0.59	0.73	\$56.42
Frisco	73,900	869	53	59	\$3,745,338	0	0	\$0	11.76	0.72	0.80	\$50.68
Garland	221,950	2,698	109	149	\$7,457,212	0	7	\$719,533	12.16	0.49	0.70	\$36.84
Grapevine	44,850	1,511	36	67	\$4,117,809	0	0	\$351,308	33.69	0.80	1.49	\$99.65
Highland Village	14,150	320	13	17	\$1,134,567	2	2	\$202,332	22.61	1.06	1.36	\$94.48
Irving	197,400	1,756	143	210	\$11,753,049	0	12	\$981,054	8.90	0.72	1.13	\$64.51
Mansfield	45,000	635	5	6	\$628,202	16	20	\$1,366,144	14.11	0.47	0.56	\$44.32
Mesquite	133,600	1,427	73	116	\$5,494,072	0	0	\$0	10.68	0.55	0.87	\$41.12
North Richland Hills	61,650	720	23	33	\$2,422,296	37	87	\$7,659,607	11.68	0.97	1.95	\$163.53
Plano	247,000	3,809	239	360	\$16,413,000	17	44	\$3,532,790	15.42	1.04	1.64	\$80.75
Rockwall	27,300	443	20	29	\$1,800,000	0	0	\$105,000	16.23	0.73	1.05	\$69.78
Rowlett	52,250	983	19	22	\$2,124,731	1	89	\$738,852	18.82	0.38	2.12	\$54.81
Southlake	24,900	636	36	36	\$2,663,749	0	0	\$2,028,019	25.54	1.45	1.45	\$188.42
Terrell	15,400	200	6	7	\$500,000	0	0	\$0	12.99	0.39	0.47	\$32.47
Wylie	29,800	545	11	12	\$1,061,890	4	4	\$625,000	18.27	0.50	0.54	\$56.61
DFW Metro Area	2,265,050	32,088	1,408	1,874	114,776,302	201	535	41,247,854	14.17	0.71	1.06	\$68.88
									Shaded area reflects the average for the DFW Metro-Area			

**Population :** 2005 North Central Texas Council of Governments - Estimated Population

Declined to Participate: Arlington, Bedford, Benbrook, Cedar Hill, Cleburne, Coppell, Dallas, Desoto, Euless, Farmers Branch, Grand Prairie, Haltom City, Highland Park, Hurst, Keller, Lancaster, Lewisville, McKinney, Richardson, Seagoville, The Colony, Wauuga, Weatherford, and White Settlement.



***Addendum F. Development Review Checklist***

## **Development Review Checklist**

Checklist for parks, trails and open space considerations during the review of proposed residential and non residential developments in the Town of Prosper by the Parks Board and Planning and Zoning Commission.

### **Background**

Informed by the public participation process, the vision for the future of Prosper is to protect and maintain the Town's rural character with ample open space. The best manner to achieve this is by protecting the entire creek system up to the 100 year floodline at watershed build-out conditions with no creek or wetland reclamation as an option; a 100 feet creek corridor buffer to provide additional protection to the creek environment; single loaded roads that make all parks and open space visually accessible and provide for long and wide vistas along the creeks.

Other considerations are a Town wide network of trails that bring the Prosper residents in close contact with Prosper's unique rural character and open space; appropriate park land dedication; creek road crossings that allow for trail underpasses; the visibility of parks and open space; pavilions that allow for air flow; and on-site detention ponds that are aesthetically pleasing and acceptable.

### **Checklist**

The following is a checklist for future residential and non residential developments in the Town of Prosper

- 1) Protection of the 100 year floodplain of all creeks and streams at watershed build-out conditions**  
The creek corridor is extremely important as a flood control measure, recreational opportunity, wildlife habitat and establishing a sense of open space and rural character (see Parks Master Plan Addendum C: Creeks and Streams).
- 2) No reclamation of flood land for development**  
Such a measure prevents undesirable narrowing of the creek corridor, potential erosion of the creek banks and potential flood damage.
- 3) Hundred feet buffer along and outside the 100 year floodplain of all creeks** (see Parks Master Plan Addendum C: Creeks and Streams)
  - a. The health of a creek is directly linked to the quality of inflow. The vegetation in the 100 feet creek corridor buffer serves as a pollutant interceptor.
  - b. The 100 feet buffer along and outside the 100 year floodline in itself is a corridor available for the construction of trails up and down and on both sides of the creek.

**4) Single loaded roads**

- a. Fundamental to park and open space planning  
The use of single loaded roads is a fundamentally important requirement for the successful use and enjoyment of all parks and protected open space including creek corridors.
- b. Accessibility to everyone in the community  
Single loaded roads allow for parks and open space to be accessible to everyone in the community, whether enjoyed by means of a vehicle, bicycle or on foot.
- c. Pleasant driving experience  
People will often choose to drive along a road with pleasing views, even if the route is longer than a direct, less interesting road.
- d. Sense of safety  
Visibility along the single loaded road as well as from the surrounding structures, adds to the sense of safety of the park and open space users.
- e. Property values  
Single loaded roads adjacent to parks and open space have no effect on the value of the “prime location” of creek and park side properties. In addition, the park and open space accessible to the entire community through single loaded roads, results in a sustained property value increase for a distance further away from the park/open space compared to a community where such direct and open access is not provided.
- f. Minimum requirement  
A compromise to the requirement of single loaded roads along all parks, creeks and open space is to demand it along a 75% minimum boundary of the park, creek and open space.

**5) Visually transparent wrought iron fences along parks and or open space**

Parks, trails and open space bordered by solid fences create a sense of Claustrophobia as well as a sense of being unsafe. It is when eyes and ears are open to such areas that users feel safe and comfortable to relax and recreate. For this reason it is necessary that visually transparent wrought iron fences be erected between all developments and parks and or open space.

**6) Appropriate park land dedication**

The aim with park land dedication is to provide park areas large enough where multiple amenities can be provided. The acreage required for a neighborhood park is typically 5 acres minimum which allows for amenities including a playground, pavilion, picnic facilities, one or two basket ball goals, a multi-purpose practice field for activities like ball play and kite flying, and a trail that provides a walking/jogging loop and connections with the surrounding community. Together these facilities encourage social interaction and therefore community building. The best example is areas where children play ball while parents use a trail for exercise, or where children enjoy a playground while parents sit and socialize in the shade of an adjacent pavilion.

**7) Pocket parks**

- a. Park land needs to be contiguous to have value as park land. Small parcels of land should as a rule not be accepted as park land. Developers will often

call such areas “pocket parks” which refer to parks typically smaller than 2 acres. Although such pocket parks have a role in build-out areas where open space is at a premium, new developments typically do not benefit by such pocket parks.

- b. In fact, the requirement should be (if not already written in the park ordinance) that no land will be accepted as dedicated parkland unless it is contiguous land of 5 acres minimum. Such land has value since it provides the opportunity for a true neighborhood park.
- c. Pocket parks are often applicable when a landmark, gateway or landscape feature needs to be protected and/or celebrated. However, even so, the need to include the context of the feature often requires the dedication of more land than that on which the feature stands.

## 8) Easements

### a. Easements versus dedicated parkland

Utility easements should in no form or fashion account for dedicated parkland. The requirement by park ordinance should be that all utility easements as indicated on the Parks Master Plan, or future easements that support the town wide trail system, be made available for the establishment of a trail whereby the Town may or may not accept responsibility for the maintenance of the easement corridor.

### b. Maintenance of easements

Once a trail is developed, the maintenance of easements is often best achieved by the adjacent HOA especially if they have use of the easements by means of the trails. The town may choose to compensate the HOA for taking charge of such maintenance.

## 9) Unique features

All proposed development sites must be evaluated for the presence of any unique features that may include: wetlands and their buffers; moderate and steep slopes; groundwater resources recharge areas; woodlands; representative stands of native vegetation including blackland prairie; productive farmland; significant wildlife habitat; historic, archaeological, and cultural features; cultural landscapes; scenic features; and viewsheds from public roads. Every effort possible should be made to incorporate such features as places of special interest in the parks and open space system. The Town may or may not choose to account such land partially or all inclusive as part of the park land dedication, which should be considered on an individual basis. Potential criteria for such decision include public access and connection to other parks or open space.

## 10) Multi-tier roof pavilions

The standard design of all pavilions should include openings in the roof that allows for hot air captured under the roof to escape. Multi-tier roofs make this possible and should be required as a standard throughout the Town.

## 11) Creek road crossings with a trail underpass

The use of creek corridors as trail connections is enhanced when the trail can follow a creek under a road crossing. However this is typically only possible where the topography allows for a trail with a head opening of 12 feet minimum. This

should always be considered as a matter of principle before being disregarded as being impossible.

**12) Physically and aesthetically accessible detention ponds**

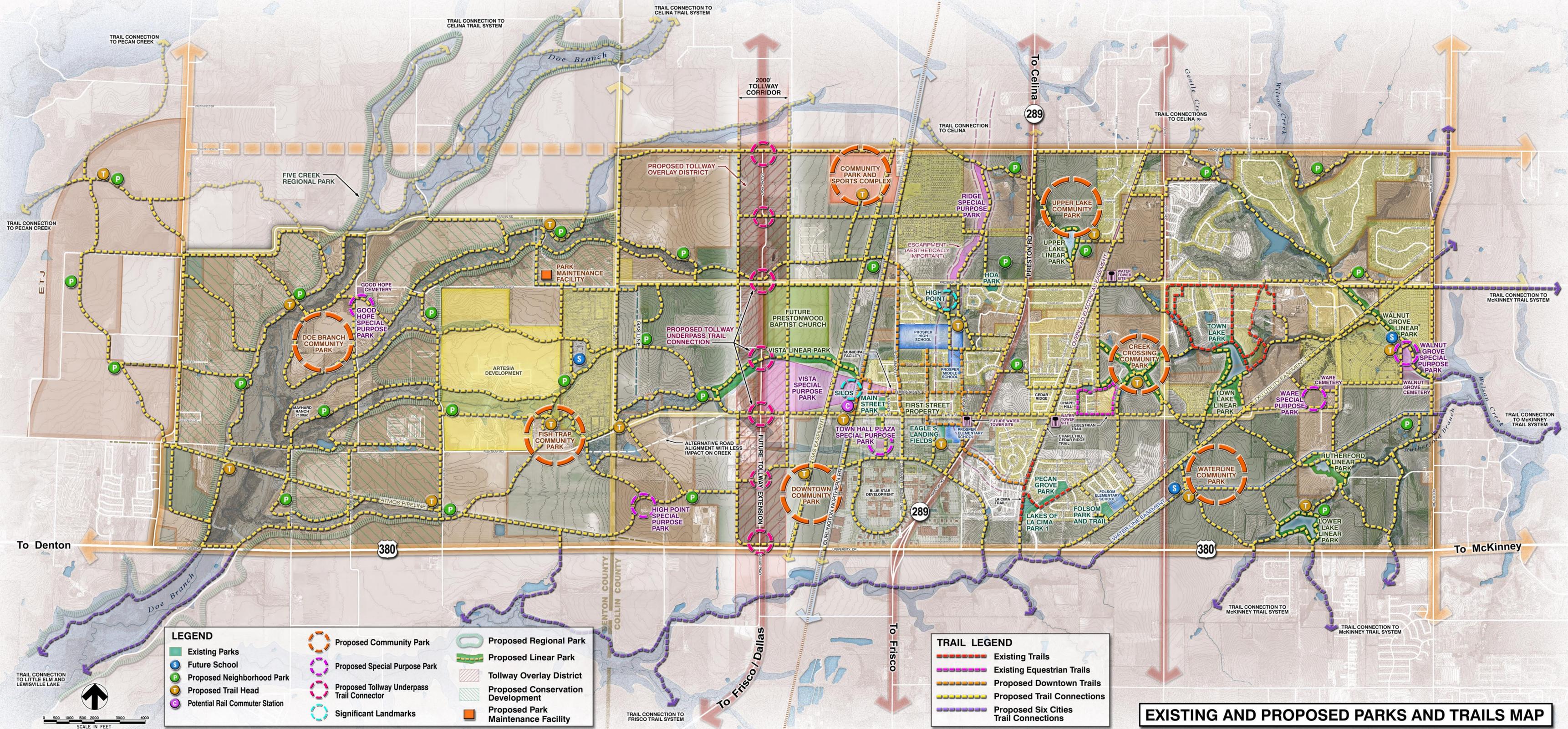
Where detention ponds are provided on development sites it is vitally important that such facilities be incorporated as a visually attractive and physically accessible feature within the development. Whether it contains water at a constant level or not, it is suggested that no more than 60% of the side slopes are steeper than 6:1 (horizontal: vertical) and easily accessible for either play when dry or water side enjoyment when operated at a constant water level.

**13) Solid wall requirements**

Where solid walls are required adjacent to areas zoned for non-residential use, the following should apply with regards to parks and open space: A landscape easement of 25 feet minimum is required between the boundary of the property and/or easement on which parks and trails are provided and the solid wall along developments in non-residential use areas. This landscape easement shall be planted with native plants include a living wall in front of the solid wall.

**14) Visit all proposed developments**

Important decisions about the use of the land are often made on paper, in an office distant from the site and with no clear insight as to the true potential and value of the site and its features. It should be mandated that all sites be visited by the relevant staff, P&Z, Parks Board and even Council members. In fact, Randall Arendt (Conservation Development) regards this as a crucial requirement for all land development projects.



**LEGEND**

Existing Parks	Proposed Community Park	Proposed Regional Park
Future School	Proposed Special Purpose Park	Proposed Linear Park
Proposed Neighborhood Park	Proposed Tollway Underpass Trail Connector	Tollway Overlay District
Proposed Trail Head	Significant Landmarks	Proposed Conservation Development
Potential Rail Commuter Station	Proposed Park Maintenance Facility	

**TRAIL LEGEND**

Existing Trails
Existing Equestrian Trails
Proposed Downtown Trails
Proposed Trail Connections
Proposed Six Cities Trail Connections

**EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARKS AND TRAILS MAP**

# TOWN OF PROSPER - PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN