



City of Abilene

Parks and Recreation Board Agenda

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board of City of Abilene to be held on March 21, 2023 at 8:30AM at City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Council Chambers, Abilene, Texas, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items.

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments on Any Item on the Agenda

MINUTES

1. Minutes (Discussion and Action)

AGENDA ITEMS

2. Request to Charge Spectator Fee for Wylie Fastpitch Softball Tournament (Discussion, Public Hearing and Action)
 - \$5 Spectator Fee
 - March 24th - 26th
 - Kirby Lake Softball Complex
 - Wylie Fastpitch Softball - Bryan Nelson
3. Spectator Fee Policy (Discussion, Public Hearing and Action)
4. Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Discussion, Public Hearing and Action)
5. Sears Park Playground Update (Discussion)
6. Aquatics Report (Discussion)
 - April 22nd - Splash Pads Open
 - May 27th - Adventure Cove Open
7. Parks Report (Discussion)
 - Memorial Bench Installation
 - Memorial Tree Installation

- City Hall Turf Renovation
- Mowing Season
- Frontier Texas Grass Trim

8. Recreation Report (Discussion)

- Egg-stravaganza
- Mother / Son Dance
- Spring Co-Ed Volleyball
- Now Hiring

9. Seniors Report (Discussion)

- Egg-selent Easter
- Cornhole Tournament
- Karaoke

10. Zoo Report (Discussion)

- Zoo Upgrades
- Welcome African Lions
- Welcome Ocelots
- Zoobilation
- 2022 Visitors Map

ADJOURNMENT

Notice

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Abilene will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending meetings. To better serve you, requests should be received forty-eight (48) hours prior to scheduled meetings. Please contact the City Secretary's Office at 325-676-6208. Telecommunication device for the deaf is 325-676-6360.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above meeting notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Abilene, Texas, on the 17th day of March, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

*Kaitlin Richardson, Deputy City
Secretary, TRMC*



Request to Charge Spectator Fee



Event Information: Softball Tournament

- Spectator Fee of \$5
- Date - March 24th - 26th
- Location is Kirby Lake Softball Complex
- Request by Wylie Fastpitch Softball - Bryan Nelson



**City of Abilene, TX
Parks and Recreation**

Administrative Policies and Procedures

Subject: Parks and Recreation Spectator Fee Policy

Effective Date: April 1, 2023

Approved by:

City Manager

Parks and Recreation Board Chair

Parks and Recreation Director

Applies to: Individuals, groups or organizations requesting to charge a “Spectator Fee”, including but not limited to any revenue generated from general admittance to an enclosed or otherwise controlled event in a sporting facility and/or Festival Gardens.

Policy: Any request to charge a Spectator Fee in City of Abilene park, park area, or park facility in the amount of \$20 or less is subject to approval by the Director of Parks and Recreation or his/her designees and does not require review or approval from the Parks and Recreation Board. Any request to charge a Spectator Fee in City of Abilene park, park area, or park facility in an amount greater than \$20 is subject to approval by the Parks and Recreation Board.

Roles and Responsibilities: Parks and Recreation Director: Reviews submitted applications requesting to charge a Spectator Fee of \$20 or less and is authorized to approve or deny the request.

Parks and Recreation Board: Any requests submitted to Parks and Recreation to charge a Spectator Fee greater than \$20 requires board approval to be executed.

Procedures:

1. The individual, group or organization requesting to charge a Spectator Fee must complete and submit the corresponding Park and Recreation request to use application. The application can be obtained and submitted at the Parks and Recreation office located at 633 Walnut Street.
2. If applicable, the applicant will be notified of a scheduled meeting date of the Parks and Recreation Board in which the request for approval is being considered.

Revised 2/13/2023

3. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board may appoint a subcommittee to further evaluate the application and to forward a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Board.
4. The public will be notified of any Parks and Recreation Board meetings related to the request to charge a Spectator Fee greater than \$20 by way of the public posting of the Parks and Recreation Board Agenda via the office of the City Secretary.
5. The determination of the Parks and Recreation Board shall be the final determination and action on this recommendation.

**Checks and
Balances:**

The Director of Parks and Recreation reviews the corresponding request to use application and schedules the review by the Parks and Recreation Board, if applicable.

**Forms and
Required
Documents:**

Parks and Recreation Request to Use Park Facility Application
Parks and Recreation Request to Use Baseball/Athletic Facility Application



Policy on Spectator Fees



General Information

- Applies to: Individuals, groups and/or organizations requesting to charge a “Spectator Fee”, including but not limited to any revenue generated from general admittance to an enclosed or otherwise controlled event in a sporting facility and/or Festival Gardens
- Policy: Any request to charge a Spectator Fee in City of Abilene park, park area or park facility in the amount of \$20 or less is subject to approval by the Director of Parks and Recreation or his/her designees and does not require review or approval from the Parks and Recreation Board. Any request to charge a Spectator Fee in City of Abilene park, park area or park facility in an amount greater than \$20 is subject to approval by the Parks and Recreation Board.



Questions

- Fee amount? (\$20)
- Event frequency limits?





Parks and Recreation Master Plan





2023 Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Parks & Recreation Board

Abilene, Texas

March 21, 2023



Purpose of Plan:

- Provide a vision for parks and recreation in Abilene for the next 10 years
- Ensure department offerings and priorities are aligned with community needs
- Address gaps & inequities in service delivery
- Prepare the department to respond to changing needs and trends
- Describe future funding requirements and potential sources
- Strengthen fiscal responsibility, sustainability, and efficiency
- Ensure no duplication of services, improve partnerships

Why Us:



Steering Committee Guidance:

PLAN PURPOSE

PLAN PROCESS

- EVALUATE PHASE
- ENGAGE PHASE
- ENVISION PHASE
- PLAN PHASE

Small group of key staff,
board members, and city
officials



Involvement, direction,
reviewing materials

4

Meetings
Each 2hrs

Provide critical
knowledge and
context for Abilene



Help promote
engagement
opportunities



Determine community's
vision for the future of
Parks and Recreation in
Abilene



Ensure that plan
and
recommendation
s are right for the
community





Project Process

Evaluate

What the Data Says...

Based on availability of parks & 15 amenities
33% live with **low** or **medium-low service**
19% live with **high** or **medium-high service**

20%  within walking distance to a park 

Community uses parks

82% of respondents visited parks 6 or more times in the past year, 50% 20 or more

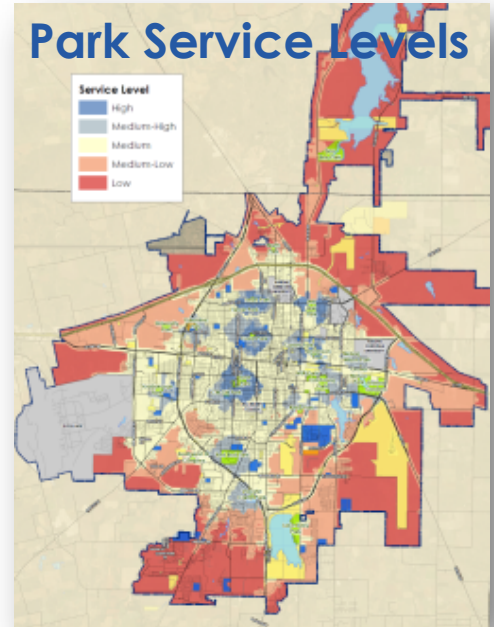
Population growing & aging

More seniors, fewer children



Site assessment determined:
+ **Athletic field upgrades needed**
+ **ADA deficiencies**
+ **Aging infrastructure & equipment**
+ **Land available for improvement**

Park Service Levels



PLAN PURPOSE

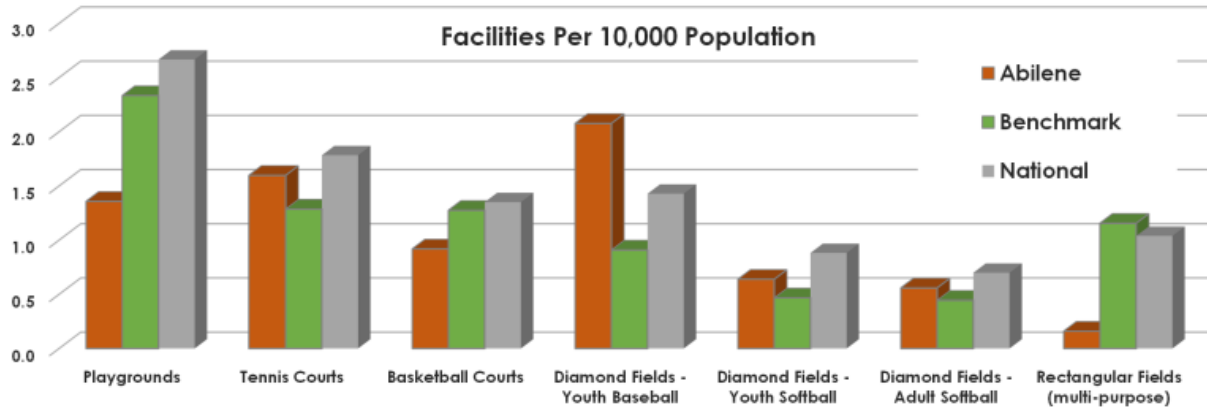
PLAN PROCESS

- **EVALUATE PHASE**
- ENGAGE PHASE
- ENVISION PHASE
- PLAN PHASE

Evaluate

What the Data Says...

Benchmarking to 46 agencies serving populations between 75,000-200,000 (7 states)



Operating Expenditures per Capita

Lower expenditure per capita (\$59 vs. \$97)

Acreage per 1000 Population

Below the benchmark (9.1 vs. 11.5)

Fewer but Larger Parks



Lower Staffing:
Abilene has less staff than the benchmarks
(6.8 vs. 8.6 FTE per 10,000 population)



Low Level of Service:
Lower level of service for all outdoor facilities except diamond fields and tennis courts

Engage

Learning from the Community...

- **999 Web/Handout Surveys**
 - 93% Abilene residents
 - 7% live outside the city
- **Over 20 stakeholder groups** engaged
 - e.g., schools, sports leagues, government, tourism, partners
- **1 Open House Workshop (60+ attendees)**



Engage

Community Priorities for Investment...

Programs



Events & performances



More youth & adult sports leagues and tournaments



Active adult programs



Nature programs

Facilities



Restrooms, shade, and other support amenities



Recreation Centers



Playgrounds



Athletic fields



Pickleball courts

System



Upgrades to existing



Connectivity, accessibility & trails



Natural areas, nature parks, water access

PLAN PURPOSE

PLAN PROCESS

- EVALUATE PHASE
- **ENGAGE PHASE**
- ENVISION PHASE
- PLAN PHASE

Envision

Strategic Plan

VALUES



Service



Inclusivity



Innovation

GOALS

Responsible Stewardship

- Modern Facilities
- Energy Efficiency
- Nature Access
- Community Connections

Accessible Spaces

- Plan
- Access
- Wellness

Efficient Management

- Proactive Maintenance
- Staff Investment

Fiscal Responsibility

- Financial Discipline
- Accounting

Effective Communication

- Consistent Branding
- Community Awareness

Successful Partnerships

- Financial Innovation
- Increased Tourism
- Forward Thinking

Mission: *Creating exceptional experiences that build community and enrich lives*

Vision: *Be the gold standard for parks and recreation*

PLAN PURPOSE

PLAN PROCESS

• EVALUATE PHASE

• ENGAGE PHASE

• **ENVISION PHASE**

• PLAN PHASE

LOOKING AHEAD

Plan

Operational Recommendations

PLAN PURPOSE

PLAN PROCESS

- EVALUATE PHASE
- ENGAGE PHASE
- ENVISION PHASE
- **PLAN PHASE**

- Strive to reach the **new vision for parks and recreation** – try new unique approaches to meeting the community's needs
- **Continuously engage the community** to successfully implement this plan
- Implement the **partnership for a flat field complex** at Grover Nelson Park
- Find **dependable funding sources** – parks foundation, continue seeking grants, etc.
- Continue to address **deferred maintenance**
- Ensure **staffing levels meet the needs** of the park system as it evolves and grows
- **Stay competitive** to potential employees to ensure vacancies can be filled

Plan

Broad Capital Recommendations

PLAN PURPOSE

PLAN PROCESS

- EVALUATE PHASE
- ENGAGE PHASE
- ENVISION PHASE
- **PLAN PHASE**

- Upgrade and improve **existing parks** and facilities
- Upgrade and modernize **baseball and softball fields**
- Add or renovate **game courts** – especially **pickleball**
- Upgrade/replace **recreation centers**
- Improve/add support features – **restrooms, shade**, seating, drinking fountains, landscaping
- Add/upgrade **playground equipment**
- Add **trails in parks** and **create linkages** throughout the community
- Improve **ADA access**



Top 10 Capital Improvements

Existing Park/Facilities

- Playgrounds
- Restrooms
- Shade
- Community/recreation centers
- ADA Access
- Baseball/softball fields
- Paved park trails
- Picnic shelters
- Roads/parking lots (Public Works)
- Signage (wayfinding, entrance, interpretive)



PLAN PURPOSE

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- EVALUATE PHASE
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Top 10 Capital Improvements

New Development

- Field complex (soccer, lacrosse, etc.)
- Paved park trails
- Waterfront amenities
- Pickleball courts
- Amphitheater
- Dog parks
- Adventure Cove expansion
- Natural surface trails
- Southwest community park
- Neighborhood parks (additional)



Implement

PLAN PURPOSE

PLAN PROCESS

- EVALUATE PHASE
- ENGAGE PHASE
- ENVISION PHASE
- PLAN PHASE
- IMPLEMENTATION

*122 ACTIONS

ACTION PLAN - 2023 Abilene Parks and Recreation Master Plan									
Legend of Abbreviations/Organizations									
Parks = Abilene Parks and Recreation Department					OP = Park and Recreation Operating Budget				
City = City Council, Other City Departments					CIP = Capital Improvement Budget				
Partners = Other Organizations (county/state, private/non-profit agencies, schools, grants, etc.)					Revenue = Items that Generate Additional Revenue				
*Highest priority actions in BOLD									
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies			Timeframe (Years)			Category	Estimated Capital Cost	Agency	Funding Source
			0-2	3-5	6-10				
Goal 1: Responsible Stewardship									
Preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance natural resources, park land, facilities, and recreational opportunities									
Objective 1.1 – Modern Facilities: Update park facilities to support and facilitate modern programming opportunities									
Strategy 1.1.1: Upgrade baseball/softball diamond fields with new backstops, fencing, dugouts, and spectator areas (Cobb, MLK, Oscar Rose, Red Bud, Scarborough, Arthur)			✓	✓	✓	Capital	~\$100k-\$200k per field	Parks	CIP/ Partners
Strategy 1.1.2: Continue to replace dated playgrounds, including separate age 2-5 equipment or add where unavailable			Ongoing			Capital	~\$150k-\$300k each	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.3: Upgrade/replace recreation centers throughout the city			✓	✓		Capital	~\$6m-\$7.5m each	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.4: Develop dedicated pickleball courts at Oscar Rose Park, near the existing tennis center and the senior center			✓			Capital	~\$400k (8 courts)	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.5: Add or improve restrooms throughout the parks & include family restrooms at larger parks			✓	✓		Capital	~\$300k-\$500k each	Parks/ Partners	CIP/ Partners
Strategy 1.1.6: Incorporate shade features over existing amenities such as playgrounds to facilitate year-round usage			Ongoing			Capital	~\$350k per playground	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.7: Expand the existing Adventure Cove Aquatic Center to include deep water and features for all ages					✓	Capital	~\$4m-\$5m	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.8: Add security cameras and lighting throughout the parks in locations that have perceived security concerns			✓	✓		Capital	~\$5k each	Parks	CIP

Determine responsibility

Locate funding source and estimated cost to implement

Identify action based on priority and timeframe

Questions/Comments





Sears Park Playground Update





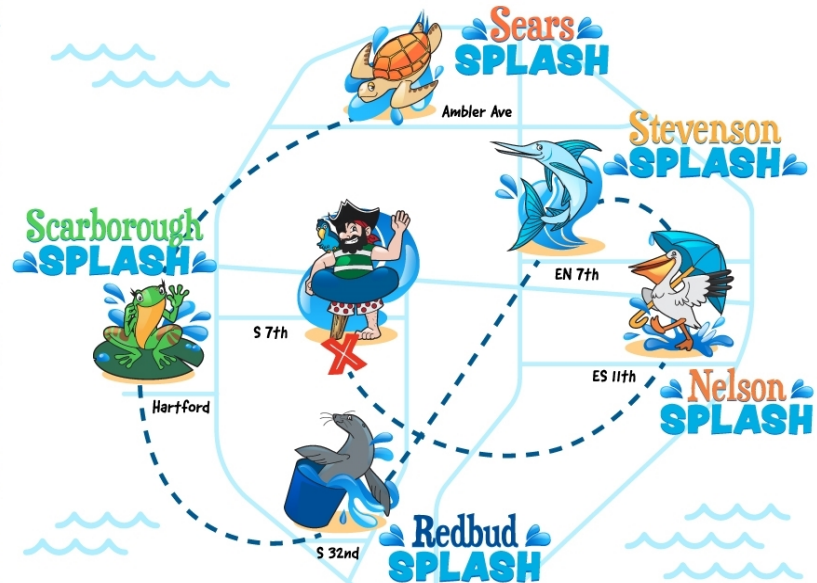
Aquatics



2023 Opening Season Dates

- April 22nd - Splash Pads
- May 27th - Adventure Cove

Splash down at Pirate Pete's Islands!



SPLASH PADS OPEN APRIL 22



Parks



Memorial Bench Installation

- Nelson Park
- Redbud Park



Memorial Tree Installation

- Nelson Park For Jane Jones
- Redbud Park for Sue Smith



City Hall Turf Renovation

- Before/After Photos



Mowing Crew

- Full Mowing Crews will start back up on March 27th



Frontier Texas

- Cut back the Muhly Grass



Photography Contest

- March 20th - May 26th
- Winners will receive a canvas print of their picture to be signed and displayed In the Parks and Recreation Administration office for 90 days
- To submit your photos scan the QR code or visit www.AbileneTX.Gov/PhotoContest2023





Recreation



Egg-stravaganza

- Saturday, April 1st
 - 9:45 - 10:30AM
- 4 different age groups



Mother/Son Dance - Nacho Average Fiesta

- Saturday, May 6th
- 7:00PM - 9:00PM
- \$12 per person



Spring Co-Ed Volleyball

- Rose Park Recreation Center
- 18+ years old
- Register Feb. 24th - Mar. 24th
- 8 weeks of games
- Games Mar. 28th - May - 16th at 6:00pm, 7:00pm, and 8:00pm
- Sign up as a team or a free agent
- \$45 per person



A promotional poster for Spring Co-Ed Volleyball. The background features a close-up of a volleyball net. At the top left, the text '18+' is written in large, purple, cursive font. To its right is a circular logo for 'PARKS & RECREATION CITY OF ANCHORAGE, ALASKA'. Below the '18+' text, 'Spring Co-Ed' is written in the same purple cursive font. Underneath that, 'VOLLEYBALL' is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. Below 'VOLLEYBALL', the text 'REGISTER FEB. 24TH - MAR. 24TH' is written in smaller, blue, sans-serif capital letters. Further down, '8 WEEKS OF GAMES' is written in large, bold, blue capital letters, followed by 'EVERY TUESDAY' in the same style. Below that, 'MARCH 28TH - MAY 16TH' is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. In the bottom left, 'Games at:' is written in purple, followed by '6:00pm', '7:00pm', and '8:00pm' in purple. In the center, '\$45' is written in large, black, cursive font, with 'per person' written in smaller, black, cursive font below it. In the bottom right, 'Sign up as a team or as a free agent' is written in purple. At the very bottom, in small blue capital letters, it says '*ALL FREE AGENTS WILL RANDOMLY BE PLACED ON A TEAM*' and 'ROSE PARK RECREATION CENTER (329) 676-8961'.

18+  Spring Co-Ed
VOLLEYBALL
REGISTER FEB. 24TH - MAR. 24TH
**8 WEEKS OF GAMES
EVERY TUESDAY
MARCH 28TH - MAY 16TH**

Games at:
6:00pm
7:00pm
8:00pm

\$45
per person

Sign up as
a team or
as a free
agent

ALL FREE AGENTS WILL RANDOMLY BE PLACED ON A TEAM
ROSE PARK RECREATION CENTER (329) 676-8961



Now Hiring

- Over 30 positions available
- Playground aides for all centers
- Apply at: www.AbileneTX.Gov/Jobs



CITY OF ABILENE PARKS & RECREATION
NOW HIRING
Parks and Recreation
JOIN OUR TEAM THIS SUMMER!
Open Positions:
Full-time Parks Workers 1 & 2
Playground Aides
**LOOKING FOR ENTHUSIASTIC,
ENERGETIC, AND PASSIONATE TEAM
MEMBERS TO HELP KEEP MAKING
PARKS AND RECREATION THE VERY
BEST!**

APPLY NOW AT:
AbileneTX.Gov/Jobs

PARKS & RECREATION
CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS

The poster features a collage of four photographs at the bottom: a group of staff in yellow shirts, a group of staff and children playing, a group of staff and children holding a large letter 'O', and a staff member working on a tree. The background is a vibrant geometric pattern in shades of purple, pink, and teal, decorated with yellow starburst graphics.



Seniors



Egg-selent Easter

- Wednesday, April 5th 10:00am
- Rose Senior Center
- Special golden eggs to find
- Easter 'Flair' Competition

Egg-selent Easter



Wednesday April 5th 10:00am

Join us for the hunt of the decade!
Compete with other seniors to find
as many eggs as possible and
compete to be the first to find the
special golden eggs hidden around
the center. Show off your own
special FLAIR and enter our Easter
Hat Contest or just enjoy
refreshments and friends.

Rose Senior Center



Cornhole Tournament

- Thursday, April 20th
- 1:00pm
- Rose Senior Center

Cornhole Tournament

Thursday April 20th 1:00pm

Who's ready to be the
Cornhole King/Queen?
It's about to get rowdy at Rose
Senior Center as we launch
into a fierce competition!
Call (325)734-5300 or stop by
the office to register now!



Rose
Senior Center



Karaoke Through The Decades

- Tuesday, April 18th
- Rose Senior Center
- Dress to impress from any decade

**KARAOKE THROUGH
THE DECADES**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH
1:30PM**

**CHOOSE A SONG AND THROW
SOME THREADS ON TO
MATCH THE DECADE. FROM
TIE-DYE AND BELL-BOTTOMS
TO JEAN JACKETS & SHADES,
DRESS TO IMPRESS!**

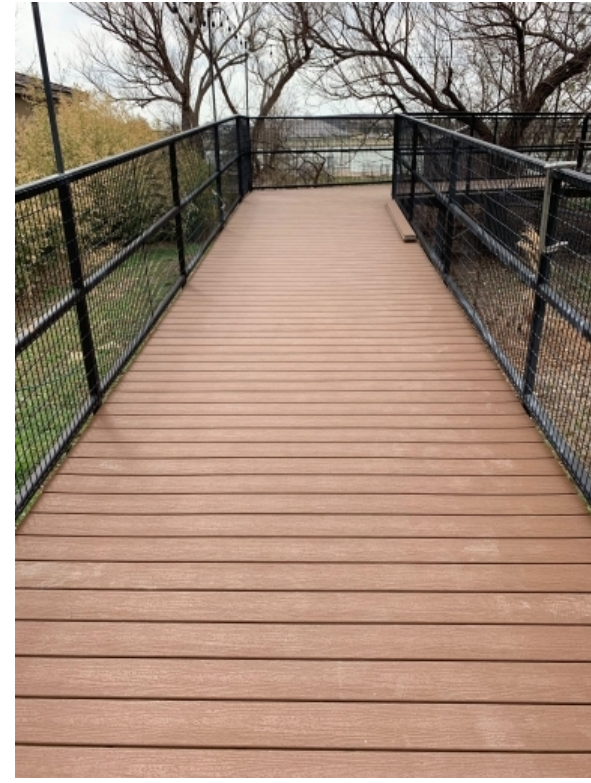


ROSE SENIOR CENTER





Zoo Up-grades



Welcome African Lions, Kenya & Dixie



Welcome Ocelots: Lindy & Hunfredo



SAVE THE DATE

ZOOBILATION

A Wild Encounter

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
6PM – 10:30PM, ABILENE ZOO



2022 Abilene Zoo saw 240,000 Visitors

36% From Abilene
64% Outside Abilene

