



City of Abilene

Citizen's Advisory Board for People with Disabilities Agenda

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board for People with Disabilities of City of Abilene to be held on July 11, 2023 at 3:00PM at the City Hall Council Chambers, 2nd floor, 555 Walnut, Abilene, Texas, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments on Any Item on the Agenda

MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from March Meeting (Discussion and Action)

AGENDA ITEMS

2. CityLink Update (Discussion)
3. Presentation 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Discussion)
4. Present and Future of Citizens Advisory Board for People with Disabilities (Discussion, Public Hearing and Possible Action)
5. Upcoming Board Topics (Discussion)
 - This item allows board members to recommend topics to be included and discussed at future board meetings

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 7th day of July, 2023, at 10:55 a.m.

Kaitlin Richardson, Deputy City
Secretary, TRMC

CityLink Update





Parks and Recreation Master Plan





2023 Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Abilene, Texas

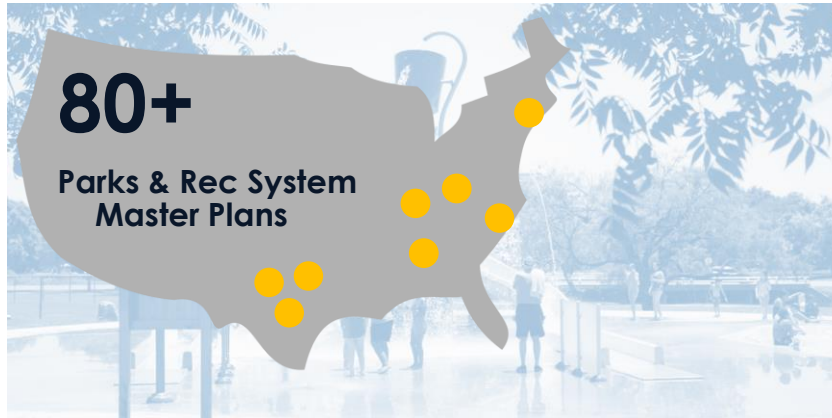
July 11, 2023



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:



PLAN PURPOSE

PLAN PROCESS

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

Steering Committee Guidance:

PLAN PURPOSE

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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





PLAN PURPOSE

PLAN PROCESS

- EVALUATE PHASE
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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

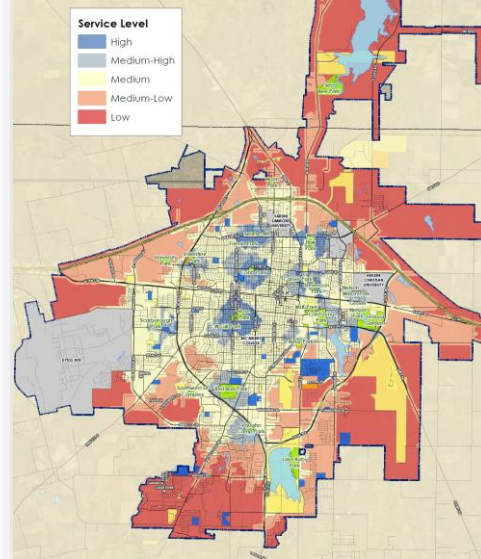
Population growing & aging

More seniors, fewer children



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

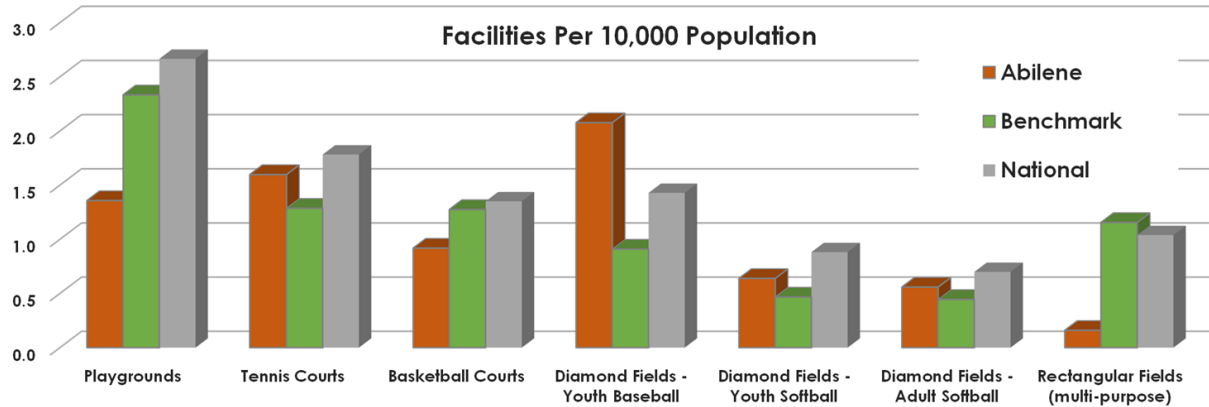
Park Service Levels



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

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- **ENGAGE PHASE**
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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*

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LOOKING AHEAD

Plan

Operational Recommendations

- 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

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Plan

Broad Capital Recommendations

PLAN PURPOSE

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- 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)



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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)



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Implement

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

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- PLAN PHASE
- IMPLEMENTATION

*122 ACTIONS

2023 Parks & Recreation Master Plan



Questions/Comments



Present and Future of Citizens Advisory Board for People with Disabilities



Upcoming Board Topics

