Active, passive, multigenerational and diverse. Premier recreation is our goal.

City of Sugar Land
2018 PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN
ORDINANCE NO. 2126


WHEREAS, Chapter 213 of the Local Government Code authorizes the City to adopt a comprehensive plan for the long-range development of the City; and

WHEREAS, the plan may:

(1) Include, but is not limited to, provisions on land use, transportation, and public facilities;

(2) Consist of a single plan or a coordinated set of plans organized by subject matter and geographic area; and

(3) Be used to coordinate and guide the establishment of development regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update is necessary to provide updated guidance and vision for the future of parks, open spaces, and recreational opportunities in the City, which includes prioritizing action recommendations into an Implementation Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update incorporates community input gathered at stakeholder meetings, public open houses, online town halls, and a needs assessment survey; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2017, the City’s Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update (an element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan), as required by law; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2018, after holding a public hearing, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a public hearing on February 6, 2018, at which time the public was given an opportunity to give testimony and present written evidence regarding the update of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, as required by law; NOW, THEREFORE;
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF SUGAR LAND, TEXAS:

Section 1. That the facts and recitations set forth in this Ordinance are declared true and correct.

Section 2. That the City of Sugar Land Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update, shown on Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance, is adopted

APPROVED on first consideration on February 6, 2018.

ADOPTED on second consideration on February 20, 2018.

Joe R. Zimmerman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Thomas Harris, Assistant City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Dann Shue Stick

Exhibit A: City of Sugar Land Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update
March 21, 2018

City of Sugar Land
Mr. Joe Chesser
Parks and Recreation Department Director
PO Box 110
Sugar Land, TX 77487

Reference: City of Sugar Land 2018 Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan

Dear Mr. Chesser,

Halff Associates, Inc. is pleased to submit the adopted version of the City of Sugar Land 2018 Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan for your records. This document is a culmination of effort involving the elected and appointed officials, various boards and commissions, City staff, and the greater Sugar Land community. The Plan seeks to capture the numerous observations and findings identified during the extensive planning process. Recommendations encompass the various components of Sugar Land’s parks and recreation system and address the desired vision and expectations of the community. The 2012 Comprehensive Plan goals of destination activity centers; outstanding cultural arts, education, and recreational opportunities; great neighborhoods; environmentally responsible community; and beautiful community are further defined in this Plan.

As with any comprehensive analysis, this document contains many recommendations. The recommended action items include parks development, recreation, events, policies, and land acquisition and address immediate needs in the community as well as longer-term actions which are visionary. The implementation action plan is intended to guide the City towards further enhancement of an excellent parks system to serve both residents and visitors for the next 10 years and beyond. The Plan is intended to guide the management and enhancement of the parks system, but incorporates flexibility to allow the City to respond to unique opportunities as they arise.

We truly appreciate the opportunity to have worked with you, your staff, and the Sugar Land community, and believe that this Plan will help guide the City of Sugar Land as it continues to develop a high-quality, premier parks system which is active, passive, multigenerational, and diverse.

Sincerely,

Halff Associates, Inc.

Matt Bucchin, AICP, LEED Green Associate
Director of Planning
Acknowledgments

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan update process began in 2016 and was completed in 2018. During the almost two years of the Plan’s development, approximately 600 people including Sugar Land residents, City elected and appointed officials, City staff, and interested community members were involved in one way or another. However, without the extensive efforts of the following people, this Plan update would not have been possible.

Current City Council
Joe R. Zimmerman, Mayor
Himesh Gandhi, At Large 1
Mary K. Joyce, At Large 2
Steve R. Porter, District 1
Bridget R. Yeung, District 2
Amy L. Mitchell, District 3
Carol K. McCutcheon, District 4

Former City Council
James A. Thompson, Former Mayor
Harish Jajoo, Former District 4

Parks, Art, Recreation, Culture, and Streetscapes (PARCS) Board
Barbara Brescian, Chair
Stewart Jacobson, Vice Chair
Sonal Bhuchar
Heather Guillen
HoJin Lim
Joan Maresh-Hansen
Andy Phan
Tracy Pipes
Kelly Reynolds

Former Parks, Art, Recreation, Culture, and Streetscapes (PARCS) Board
Betty Caveny

Planning & Zoning Commission
Kathy Huebner, Chair
Carl Stephens, First Vice Chair
Matthew Caligur
Jay Canine
Heather Davis
Taylor Landin
Zeenat Mitha
Sue Sanchez
Dan Simeone

City Management
Allen Bogard, City Manager
Jennifer May, Assistant City Manager

City Staff – Project Leadership Team
Joe Chesser, Director of Parks and Recreation
Ruth Lohmer, City Planner – Long Range
Keehren Baah, Senior Planner
Fenglin Du, Parks Development Manager
Denzel Maxwell, Management Assistant I
City Staff – Parks and Recreation Department
William Hajdik, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
Kimberly Terrell, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
Briana Bachemin, Event Production Manager
Heather Bluejacket, Recreation Manager
Tanya Kveton, Administrative Manager
Dave Berkley, Recreation Coordinator
Lawrence Heffernan, Recreation Coordinator – Athletic/Aquatic Coordinator
Sandra Penman, Recreation Coordinator – Senior Citizens
Jessica Luna, Administrative Supervisor

Consultant – Halff Associates, Inc.
Matt Bucchin, AICP, LEED Green Associate
Gail Ferry, AICP, PLA, ASLA, CLARB
Jill Baumgartner, PLA, ASLA
Jordan Pickering
Tim May, PLA, LEED AP

City Staff – Planning Department
Lisa Kocich-Meyer, Director of Planning
Abigail Martinez, Planner II

City Staff – Public Works
Monique Johnson, ROW Services Manager
Terrell Smith, Administrative Manager

City Staff – Communications
Alexi Holford, Publications Manager
Carlos Hernandez, Website Manager
Jacob Schnitzer, Sr. Videographer/Producer
Austin Pennington, Graphics Coordinator
# Table of Contents

Acknowledgments........................................................................................................... viii

## Chapter 1: Planning for the Future

Why Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space? .......................................................... 2

Purpose of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan ..................................... 3

Master Planning Process and Timeline ........................................................................... 4

Planning Time Frame ........................................................................................................ 5

Benefits of Park, Trail, and Open Space Planning ............................................................. 6

City, State, and National Park and Recreation Trends ....................................................... 7

Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department Role ........................................................ 11

Planning Area................................................................................................................... 12

Previous Planning Efforts in the City of Sugar Land ......................................................... 15

## Chapter 2: Understanding the Community

History ............................................................................................................................... 26

Regional Context .............................................................................................................. 28

Demographics .................................................................................................................. 29

Population and Growth Projections ................................................................................ 34

Public Engagement ........................................................................................................ 35

Public Open House #1 .................................................................................................... 46

Public Open House #2 .................................................................................................... 53

Sugar Land Online Town Hall ........................................................................................ 54

Homeowner Associations "Meeting in a Box" .................................................................. 56

Additional Resident Requests ......................................................................................... 56

Public Engagement Summary ........................................................................................ 57

Parks and Recreation Department Business Plan ............................................................ 59

## Chapter 3: The System Today

Park Classifications ......................................................................................................... 62

Park Profiles ..................................................................................................................... 86

Detailed Park Profile: Brazos River Park - Undeveloped Parkland .................................. 94

Detailed Park Profile: Duhacsek Park ............................................................................. 96

Detailed Park Profile: City Park ...................................................................................... 98

Detailed Park Profile: Eldridge Park ................................................................................. 100

Detailed Park Profile: First Colony Park .......................................................................... 102

Detailed Park Profile: Imperial Park ............................................................................... 104

Detailed Park Profile: Lost Creek Park ........................................................................... 106
Appendix A: Supplemental Information
Appendix B: PARD Business Plan
Appendix C: Other Recreation Offerings
Appendix D: Sugar Land Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Needs Assessment Survey Findings Report
Appendix E: Peer Community Comparisons
Appendix F: Potential Non-City-Generated Funding Sources

Maps
Map 1.1, Planning Area ........................................................................................................13
Map 2.1, Regional Context .................................................................................................28
Map 3.1, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System ..........................................................71
Map 3.2, Existing City Parks and Recreation Facilities .......................................................75
Map 3.3, Existing HOA Parks and Recreation Facilities .....................................................79
Map 3.4, Existing School Parks and Recreation Facilities ..................................................82
Map 3.5, Existing Trail Facilities ........................................................................................85
Map 4.1, Neighborhood & Pocket Park Accessibility ............................................................147
Map 4.2, Community Park Accessibility ..........................................................................149
Map 4.3, Regional Park Accessibility ...............................................................................151
Map 4.4, Trail Accessibility ..............................................................................................153
Map 5.1, Target Parkland Acquisition Areas .....................................................................179

Figures
Figure 1.1, Master Planning Process ....................................................................................4
Figure 1.2, Benefits of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space ...............................................6
Figure 1.3, Park and Recreation Trends ..............................................................................7
Figure 1.4, Representative 2005-2016 Accomplishments ................................................16
Figure 1.5, Representative 2005-2016 Awards ................................................................17
Figure 1.6, 2012 Parks and Recreation Related Comprehensive Plan Goals and Summarized Objectives .....................................................................................................19
Figure 2.1, Sugar Land’s History ......................................................................................26
Figure 2.2, Historical Population .......................................................................................29
Figure 2.3, Sugar Land Age Distribution ...........................................................................30
Figure 2.4, Race and Ethnicity ..........................................................................................31
Figure 2.5, Household Income .........................................................................................32

City of Sugar Land Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan
Tables

Table 2.1, Age Comparisons ............................................................................. 30
Table 2.2, Recreation Center Amenity Requests .............................................. 56
Table 3.1, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation System ....................................... 65
Table 3.2, Existing City Parks and Open Spaces ............................................. 73
Table 3.3, Existing HOA Parks and Recreation Facilities ............................... 77
Table 3.4, Existing School Parks and Recreation Facilities ............................. 81
Table 3.5, Existing Trails ............................................................................... 84
Table 3.6, Imperial Park Recreation Center Membership Numbers (2011-2016) .... 115
Table 3.7, Imperial Park Recreation Center Day Passes (2011-2016) ................. 115
Table 3.8, Imperial Park Recreational Program Offerings (2012-2016) .............. 117
Table 3.9, T.E. Harman Senior Center Membership Numbers (2011-2016) ...... 118
Table 3.10, T.E. Harman Senior Center Recreational Program Offerings (2012-2016) ..... 120
Table 3.11, Special Event Estimated Attendance (2012-2016) ......................... 123
Table 3.12, Independent League Associations ............................................... 124
Table 3.13, Existing Business Recreational Offerings Summary ................... 128
Table 4.1, Percent of Need Met by Existing Parks, 2017 ................................ 143
Table 4.2, Percent of Need Met by Existing Parks, 2030 ................................. 143
Table 4.3, Summary of Parkland Needs ...................................................... 152
Table 4.4, Target Level of Service for Park Facilities/Amenities .................... 155