

City of Magnolia



Comprehensive Plan for
Parks, Recreational Facilities, and
Open Space
2002-2008
2007-2012 Amended

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION.....	3
II.	GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	7
III.	PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.....	9
IV.	AREA AND FACILITY CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS.....	11
V.	INVENTORY OF AREAS AND FACILITIES.....	16
VI.	NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION.....	19
VII.	PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS	25
VIII.	PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	27

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: MAPS

APPENDIX B: PARK AND RECREATION SURVEY

APPENDIX C: LOCAL RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

APPENDIX D: DOCUMENTATION OF PLANNING PROCESS

This document is an update of the original "City of Magnolia Comprehensive Master Plan for Development, Operation, and Maintenance of Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Open Space 2002-2008," December 2002. The original document was prepared in conjunction with the Magnolia Park Committee, by:

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I. INTRODUCTION

The City of Magnolia is located in southwest Montgomery County at the crossroads of FM 1488 and FM 1774, which becomes Highway 249 when it enters Harris County. Incorporated in 1968, Magnolia is a general law city with the mayor-council form of government.

It is one of the smaller cities in Montgomery County. Other larger cities are Conroe (the county seat), Pinehurst, Willis, New Caney, Wood Branch, and Cut-and-Shoot. Magnolia is approximately 20 miles southwest of Conroe and 35 miles northwest of Houston.

According to the *Handbook of Texas Online*, the area was first settled in the late 1840s and named Mink's Prairie for an early settler. By 1850, the name was shortened to Mink. A post office was established in 1885. The International-Great Northern Railroad built a line to the east of Mink in 1902 and the community's 25 residents moved the town to its present location. The new town was renamed Magnolia a year later for the abundance of magnolia trees located in the lowlands adjacent to Mill Creek, and a new post office was granted.

The *Handbook* states that by 1915, Magnolia had a population of 150, telephone service, a sawmill, Baptist and Methodist churches, two general stores, a physician and a druggist, a railroad and express agent, a hotel, a livery and real estate office, a cattle dealer, a confectionery, a cotton gin, and a blacksmith. The telephone office and physician's office are still standing in their original locations.

In the 1940s, the Magnolia oilfield was discovered east of the town, and the population grew to 400. In the following years, more stores were opened, and two schools and a cemetery were established. By the early 1960s, according to the *Handbook*, the Missouri Pacific Railroad had taken over the rail line. The railroad depot, which sits in its original location in the central part of the City, has been renovated into a tourist attraction.

The population grew in the 1960s. Oil and timber production in the area provided stable employment. Magnolia's population increased dramatically between 1970 and 1980. During this decade following its incorporation, the City's population nearly tripled. The period from 1980 to 1990 saw a more moderate healthy rate of growth of approximately eight percent (8.4%). During the years since the 1990 census, Magnolia has continued to grow at a very healthy rate, increasing its population by nearly 20 percent from 940 in 1990 to 1,111 in 2000. In 2007, the City considered its population to be 1,150.

The City's proximity to the Greater Houston area is slowly changing its character from being a rural somewhat isolated community to a bedroom community for workers who commute into Houston. This is changing the face of the economy toward a more service-oriented marketplace.

Demographic Information.

Population Change, 1970-2007

Year	Population	Absolute Change	Percent Change
1970	315	-	-
1980	867	+ 552	+ 175.2%
1990	940	+ 73	+ 8.4%
2000	1,111	+ 171	+ 18.2%
2007	1,150	+39	+3.5%

Source: (1) 1970, 1980, & 1990 Censuses of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics. (2) Texas State Data Center's Texas State Population Estimates and Projections Program. (3) U.S. Census, 2000. (4) City Estimate of Current Population.

The Texas State Data Center (TSDC) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) periodically issue population estimates and projections for all incorporated places in the state. These agencies calculate their estimates based on several factors including county level birth and death data, school enrollment, Medicare enrollment, housing figures, and water demands. According to their calculations, Magnolia's population will continue to increase by approximately 300-500 people during the period covered by this plan. (At the time the plan was updated, there was discussion of annexation by the City that would substantially increase the City's population. Population-based needs, such as the acreage projections in Section VI, should be adjusted if any annexation occurs.) For the purposes of projecting population for this plan, 1,500 is used as the target population for 2012.

The following chart illustrates that both agencies anticipate the growth to continue at a steady pace:

Population Growth, 2000-2020

Source	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
TWDB	1,111	-	1,350	-	1,496
TSDC	1,111	-	1,659	-	1,869

Much of this growth can be attributed to three factors:

- The City's proximity to the Greater Houston area, The Woodlands and Conroe allow residents to commute into these major employment centers. This nearby setting means that urban dwellers seeking a more rural lifestyle can relocate to Magnolia and still maintain their current employment.
- Young adults are finding sufficient employment opportunities in the nearby major employment center, therefore, a growing number are choosing to remain in Magnolia to live and raise their family.
- Americans are living longer, healthier lives thereby increasing the number of senior citizens who remain in their homes and communities able to participate in recreational activities. This also increases the number of retired individuals who are able to travel to

enjoy a wider variety of recreational opportunities.

The following two charts highlight demographic changes occurring from 1990 to 2000:

Race and Ethnicity, 2000

Race	1990	2000
White	77.8%	83.3%
Black	15.9%	11.3%
Hispanic	5.6%	4.1%
Am. Indian	0.2%	0.8%
Asian	0.2%	0.5%
Other	0%	1.7%

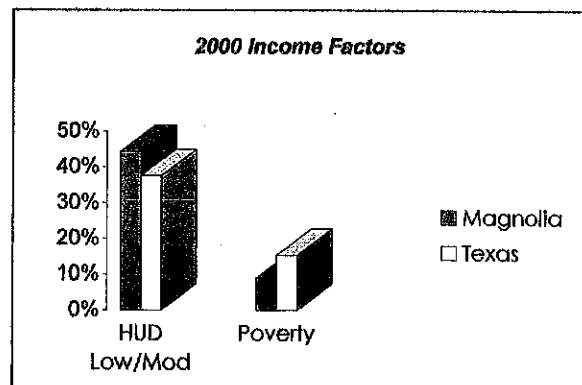
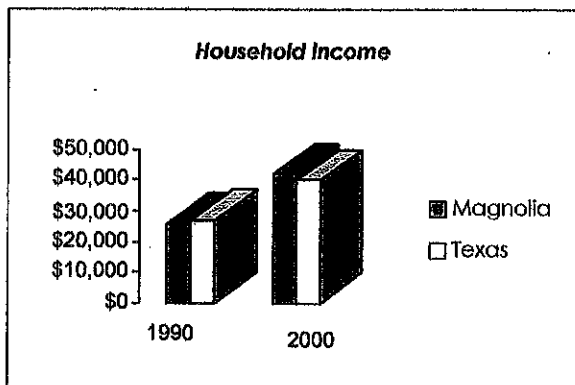
Note: 2000 figures do not total 100% since Hispanics are defined as persons of Hispanic/Latino origin of all racial and ethnic groups.

Age, 2000

Age	1990	2000
Under 5 yrs.	8.6%	7.5%
5-14 yrs.	17.0%	16.6%
15-19 yrs.	9.5%	6.6%
20-44 yrs.	36.9%	37.3%
45-64 yrs.	18.9%	19.7%
65 & over	9.1%	12.3%

Of the households responding to the Community Park Survey (discussed in detail in Section VI, Needs Assessment and Identification), 72 percent indicated they contained children 19 years and younger, and 31 percent of the respondents were households containing adults aged 65 years and older. These two age groups, school-age children and senior citizens, are the primary users of developed park and recreational facilities.

Due to growth in the region, Census data indicate that the median household income and per capita income of Magnolia's residents now slightly exceed the statewide figures, compared to a lag behind state figures in 1990.



Locally, the 2000 Census reported the median annual household income as \$41,875 compared to the statewide figure of \$39,927. Magnolia had a slightly higher percentage of low- and moderate-income residents than the state as a whole. However, Magnolia's individual poverty rate was lower than the state, 9 percent versus 15 percent.

This is a change from the demographic profile of the 2002 Plan, in which 1990 Census income data showed Magnolia's average income below state income levels. While the availability of disposable income for fee-charging recreation activities is still a factor for many residents in Magnolia's service area, it is not as significant a limitation.

Significant Natural and Environmental Features. Magnolia is located in the East Texas Timberlands vegetative region, and vegetation is typical of the Piney Woods. The City is mostly developed flat terrain with areas of heavily wooded pine stands. The climate is moderate. The January mean minimum temperature is 38 and the July mean maximum temperature is 94. The area receives an average of 47.3 inches of rain each year. Soils are alluvial sandy loam.

There are four water bodies that affect Magnolia, three of which include 100-year floodplain designations. Mill Creek crosses the northern limits of Magnolia's ETJ. Mill Creek Tributary #4 starts at FM 1488 and flows eastward. The Sulphur and Arnold Branches of Walnut Creek both extend from the center of the city and western ETJ southward. All of these creek corridors are designated as natural areas for future preservation and/or conservation efforts.

According to information from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Wildlife Diversity and Habitat Assessment Program, there are 4 animal species and 4 plant species or plant series that are either rare, endangered, or threatened, and that could potentially be located within Magnolia and touching a 5-mile buffer from the outskirts of Magnolia. Additional species potentially located within Montgomery County are listed on the Annotated County Lists for Rare Species maintained by TPWD. There could also be plant communities and significant natural features not included in the Program's database. Because of this potential, it is important that a qualified biologist evaluate any potential sites on a project-by-project basis.¹

Magnolia is designating several categories of natural area for conservation and/or acquisition efforts. Because these features are most frequently on privately owned land, individual tracts are not designated on the Natural Areas Map. Designated natural areas include:

- 100-year floodplains and adjacent creek corridors
- Trees, either groupings or individual mature trees, especially pine and live oak
- Woodlands or open grassland

¹ "Given the small proportion of public versus private land in Texas, the NDD [Natural Diversity Database] does not include a representative inventory of rare resources in the state. Although it is based on the best data publicly available to TPWD regarding rare species, these data cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence, absence, or condition of special species, natural communities, or other significant features in any area. Nor can these data substitute for on-site evaluation by qualified biologists. The NDD information is intended to assist the user in avoiding harm to species that may occur." Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Division, Diversity and Habitat Assessment Programs. County Lists of Texas' Special Species. [Montgomery County, July 6, 2006]. TPWD prefers that the actual lists not be published. For updated information contact TPWD at (512) 912-7011, or see the current County list at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/maps/gis/ris/endangered_species.phtml.

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Magnolia's Park Plan provides a foundation for future park and recreation facilities development in Magnolia. To realize this vision for the future, actions suggested in this plan must relate to specific goals that the citizens of Magnolia hope to accomplish.

Goals and the objectives that lead to goal implementation were determined through informal surveys of local residents, several public hearings related to community development projects, and a public hearing held specifically to address parks, recreation and open green space issues.

Goal 1: *The City of Magnolia will work to increase the percentage of public parkland available to citizens by providing a system of public parks, recreational facilities, and open space to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the community, to improve the quality of life and mental and physical well-being of Magnolia's citizens, and to meet local adopted standards.*

Objective A: Develop subdivision rules that include a land use management standard for mandatory dedication of park land in new residential developments within the City and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) to ensure availability of adequate park land within new residential areas.

Objective B: Purchase or obtain by donation land in every sector of the City to be dedicated in perpetuity for public recreation purposes.

Objective C: Utilize the priority recommendations in this park plan to develop a citywide park system to meet a variety of needs for all citizens and to bring the City into compliance with adopted standards.

Objective D: Preserve open space, natural areas and greenbelts through the acquisition and dedication of flood hazard areas and through the dedication and enhancement of abandoned railroad rights of way.

Objective E: Educate citizens about the benefits of private donation of property by means of voluntary gift, bequest, or negotiated sale to be dedicated as park, recreational facility, and/or open space.

Objective F: Protect and preserve unique environmental conditions and features by conserving them to the fullest extent through City policies and procedures, and by educating citizens of the value of natural resources and native ecosystems.

Goal 2: *The City of Magnolia will work to increase the availability of recreational opportunities for all citizens.*

- Objective A: Provide facilities for diverse youth recreational opportunities including team sports and unstructured play areas.
- Objective B: Provide facilities for diverse elderly recreational opportunities including shuffleboard, horseshoe pitching and walking areas.
- Objective C: Provide facilities for water based recreational opportunities such as lakes, ponds, streams, and wetlands.
- Objective D: Provide facilities that preserve the unique aspects of early life in Magnolia to ensure continuity of local history.
- Objective E: Ensure that all facilities are constructed to meet adopted standards and provide adequate access to handicapped individuals including restrooms and parking areas as well as recreational spaces and facilities.
- Objective F: Provide facilities for young children (playgrounds) within safe walking distance (1/4 mile) of any concentration of housing (more than 10 units, each of which is located within 50 feet of the closest adjacent unit).

Goal 3: *The City of Magnolia will seek to implement this plan using both local and outside financial resources and expertise.*

- Objective A: Use grant programs, City general revenues, volunteer efforts, private and corporate donations and interlocal agreements to construct recreational facilities according to the prioritized schedule developed in this plan and in compliance with adopted standards.
- Objective B: Develop interlocal agreements with the school district, local organizations, state agencies, Montgomery County and private developers to allow joint use of facilities where feasible and shared maintenance expenses to ensure citizens have access to year-round recreational opportunities.
- Objective C: Seek expertise in park design, construction techniques, and project implementation from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the City's engineering firm and other sources of information.
- Objective D: As Magnolia grows, improve the City's capacity to plan, develop, and maintain park and recreation facilities to implement the recommendations of this plan.

III. PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

For many years, local elected officials, interested citizens and other community leaders regularly discussed the need to expand the variety of recreational opportunities for the City's residents as well as those who live in the surrounding unincorporated area of Montgomery County.

They realized that the responsibility of local government extends beyond providing adequate basic utilities, responsive law enforcement, opportunities for decent, affordable housing, and an economic climate that encourages private development. They concluded that local government also should strive to provide opportunities for recreation and leisure-time pursuits for its citizens.

The City Council took the first step toward identifying the needs and goals of the City when it obtained a Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) grant to prepare a comprehensive development plan. That plan was adopted by the City Council in 1999. The Recreation and Open Space Study included survey results and recommendations that have been incorporated into the goals, objectives, and timeline in this master plan.

Mayor Frank M. Parker III formally set the planning process in motion in early 2002 when he organized a group of interested citizens into an ad hoc park planning committee. Committee members represented a cross-section of the community to ensure all cultural and socioeconomic perspectives were considered.

The committee began talking with their neighbors and studying the existing recreational opportunities in the area in order to make informed recommendations for improvements to City officials. Committee members gathered input through discussions with their neighbors, school and law enforcement officials, and business and civic leaders.

The majority of those who expressed an opinion during this preliminary planning period cited creation of an expanded City park as the top priority. Specifically, parents of school-aged children and elderly residents expressed the need for a safe, clean and accessible environment for a wide variety of outdoor activities not available elsewhere.

Other needs expressed included establishment of an indoor recreation facility, development of a swimming pool complex, and designation of neighborhood greenbelts and open space. In addition, many residents expressed the need for the City to construct some type of pavilion to provide an outdoor gathering place for family reunions, community functions, and other uses.

Residents also expressed the need for the City to support development of privately owned recreational opportunities such as a skating rink, bowling alley, indoor game arcade, and movie theater.

A formal survey seeking public input was conducted in early 1999 during development of the

TCDP-funded comprehensive plan and again between July and November 2002. During the 2002 survey, forms were mailed directly to every household in the City, distributed to all students attending the Magnolia schools, and available at City Hall for utility customers to complete.

The survey asked citizens to identify recreational activities they would like to see in Magnolia, where they currently pursue recreational activities, and the demographic makeup of their family.

More than 400 households responded to the survey, reflecting input from both City residents and those in the unincorporated area surrounding the City. Results of this survey, along with feedback from the Mayor, Council members and committee members, drove much of the needs assessment process. These results are discussed in Section VI, Needs Assessment and Identification of this plan. Additional survey information is included in this master plan as Attachment B.

Following adoption of this plan by the City Council, the park committee's continuing responsibility will be to identify on-going funding resources, and to provide guidance on facility operation and maintenance, and on specific park improvement projects. The park committee also will review this master plan on a regular basis to ensure its goals and objectives continue to meet the changing needs of Magnolia's citizens. Revisions will be incorporated as necessary.

The current update of the Magnolia Park Plan began in the fall of 2006. After applying unsuccessfully for Texas Parks and Wildlife grant funds, the City felt that it would be advisable to revise the plan before pursuing additional park projects. The revision process included updating the demographic and inventory information, consultation and research on significant natural features, new designation of priorities, and modification of the implementation sections of the plan. Additional public input included a community survey, discussed in more detail in Section VI, and meetings with Magnolia's Planning and Zoning Commission and with the board of the Economic Development Corporation.

The revised plan was considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission, and recommended the park and recreation priorities for adoption on April 10, 2007. Magnolia's City Council adopted the plan by resolution on May 8, 2007.

IV. AREA AND FACILITY CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS

There are basic principals that guide successful development of parks and recreational opportunities in communities of all sizes and types. These standards and guidelines provide direction to community leaders who know generally what their community's needs are but require more specific information to guide the planning process.

The 2002 Plan developed local standards by considering population trends, economic conditions, available facilities, and natural resources. The planners also considered Magnolia's changing demographics in identifying which facilities would provide participation opportunities to the broadest segments of residents.

To determine facility needs, the City collected public comment and conducted a survey. Later, local information was merged with recommendations stated in the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) *Park, Recreation, Open Space & Greenway Guidelines*.

Some general guidelines include:

- In most cases, active recreation areas should be separated according to the users' ages, primarily to protect younger children from injury. Some areas should be designated for all ages so entire families can enjoy being together.
- Recreational areas should be accessible to the age group they are designed to serve. For example, neighborhood playgrounds usually serve an area with a radius of one-quarter mile that is a safe and reasonable distance for a child to walk. Larger facilities serving all members of a family can be automobile accessible and serve users up to five miles away.
- Combined municipal and school recreational facilities are recommended to serve the needs of the community. If these functions are not coordinated, duplicate facilities may be built. If possible, school recreational areas, including parking areas, drinking fountains, and restrooms, should remain open on weekends and during summer months.
- Greenbelts, hike and bike trails, parkways, or paths should be provided to connect large recreational areas, providing access, scenic views, and recreational opportunities. Vehicular routes should be encouraged only when recreational areas are separated by more than one mile; otherwise, walking trails, greenbelts, or other pedestrian routes are desirable.

Although useful, arbitrary standards must be viewed in relation to the specific needs and characteristics of the community in which the standards are to be applied. Therefore, the City has modified some of the nationally accepted standards to reflect the community's unique circumstances including its lack of available public recreational opportunities and its rural setting.

Park Classification System. The City used the NRPA's *Park, Recreation, Open Space & Greenway*

Guidelines to identify the types and sizes of parks that best suit Magnolia's needs. Magnolia's park needs fit easily within this framework, mainly because the city is the size of a small community in both population and area, and it is fairly isolated from other population centers. The rural setting allows residents to enjoy outdoors activities such as hunting and fishing almost year-round, but the lack of improved park facilities within the City prevents them from participating in many popular activities.

The size and types of facilities found at a mini-park, neighborhood park or community park are appropriate for a community the size of Magnolia. Since existing parks in Magnolia are limited, the most critical level of service criteria in identifying Magnolia's park needs will be acres per 1,000 population and adequate service area coverage.

Type	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres per 1,000	Desirable Site
Mini-Park	Address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs (pocket park, tot lot, historic marker)	¼ mile radius	2,500 square feet to 1 acre	Varies	Commercial areas, civic areas, neighborhoods
Neighborhood	Serve a specific area of housing development for intense recreation, (field games, court games, playground, picnicking)	¼ mile radius	10 acres or less	2 acres	In neighborhoods, near apartment complexes. Suited for intense development. May be developed as school park facility.
Community	Diverse environmental quality. Areas suited for intense recreation uses such as pool, ballfields. May highlight natural qualities for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, picnicking	2 to 5 mile radius	15 acres or more	8 acres	May include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhoods served.
Athletic Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites.	2-10 mile radius	25 acre minimum; 40-80 acres optimum; determined by demand	Varies by local demand	Strategically located in the community or region. Accessibility and traffic considerations important.
Open Space, Trails	Open Space - Undeveloped land or natural feature Trails - Developed for one or more mode of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, walking. May include active play areas.	N/A	Open Space - Large enough to protect the resource Trails - large enough to provide maximum use; variable acreage per 1,000		Open Space - Depends on resource or available land Trails - Built or natural corridors such as rights of way, creeks, roads, or vegetation patterns that link other recreational areas or community facilities.
Special Park	Areas for specialized or single-purpose activities, such as indoor recreation centers, golf courses, nature centers, arenas, athletic complexes, or buildings, historic sites.	N/A	Variable depending on desirable size and use type. Acreage per 1,000 also varies.		Within the community, dependent on specific use.

The athletic complex classification is included to incorporate the existing sports complex. It is important to note, however, that the existing sports facility is owned by the County and therefore not within the City of Magnolia's jurisdiction. Greenbelts and trails are desirable to provide safe passage from parks and other public facilities to various parts of the community.

Facility Standards. The City has determined that the NRPA standards regarding park and recreational facilities shown on the charts on the following two pages are in use at successful parks across the nation and are the result of years of research and implementation. Therefore, the City adopts these standards with minor modifications for use in all of its park and recreational facilities.

Most facilities listed in the NRPA Standards specify service area populations far greater than that of Magnolia. The City has modified these standards to reflect local priorities.

The NRPA Standards do not set guidelines for playground equipment, picnic uses, horseshoe pits, shuffleboard courts, and/or skateboarding and rollerblading. The City of Magnolia feels that these are important activities and should meet the following standards:

- 1 playground area per mini-park, neighborhood park and/or community park
- 1 picnic table per 100 residents clustered in dedicated parks (Some covered to shield picnickers from rain and sun.)
- 1 skateboard/roller blade facility per community park
- 1 horseshoe pit per 500 residents
- 1 shuffleboard court per 500 residents
- At least 1 water feature per community park

Many facilities, such as swimming pools, football fields, golf courses, and running tracks are typically found on school campuses or in larger communities. These facilities are available to Magnolia residents at the YMCA in Conroe (swimming, weight-training, soccer), at the Magnolia Youth Complex (baseball, softball, soccer, football fields), Magnolia Independent School District campuses (indoor swimming, football and track), and Houston, The Woodlands, Tomball, and Conroe (golf), which are within the acceptable drive time (15 to 30 minutes).

Building and Construction Standards. The City has determined that a set of building and construction standards will be followed for all future park construction. Building and construction specifications will be developed for each individual park development project that will specify standards for items such as multi-use pathways, specific-use and multi-use sports courts, specific-use and multi-use fields, sand volleyball courts, multi-activity play units, pavilions, and others. Standards will also be developed for site amenities such as restroom/concession buildings, lighting, parking areas, bleachers, picnic tables, trash containers, drinking fountains, and cooking stoves. *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)* specifications will also be met or exceeded wherever they apply as related to these facilities.

NRPA Suggested Outdoor Facility Development Standards

Activity/Facility	Space Requirements	Size and Dimensions	Orientation	Units per Capita	Service Radius	Notes
Basketball Court	2,400-3,036 SF	46' - 50' x 84'	Long axis N-S	1 per 500	¼ - ½ mile	Usually in school, recreation, or church facility. Safe walking or bike access. Outdoor courts in neighborhoods and community parks and active recreation areas in other parks.
Tennis Court	Minimum of 7,200 SF per court; 2 acres for complex	36' x 78' with 12' clearance on both sides	Long axis N-S	1 per 2,000	¼- ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in community or neighborhood park or near schools.
Volleyball Court	Minimum of 4,000 SF	30' x 60' with 6' clearance on all sides.	Long axis N-S	1 per 1,000	¼- ½ mile	Same as other court activities.
Adult Baseball	3.0 to 3.85 acres	Baselines - 90' Pitching distance - 60' Foul lines - 320' Center field - 400'	Locate home plate so pitcher throws across sun and batter not facing sun. Line from home plate to pitcher's mound runs east northeast.	1 per 1,000	¼ - ½ mile for informal play; 2-10 miles for organized play	Part of neighborhood park. Lighted field part of community park or athletic complex.
Little League	1.2 acres	Baselines - 60' Pitching distance - 46' Foul lines - 200' Center field - 200-250'				
Football	1.5 acres	160' x 360' with 6' clearance on all sides	Fall season, long axis NW-SE; For longer periods, N-S.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of a baseball, football, soccer complex in a community park or near high school.
Soccer	1.7 to 2.1 acres	195-225' x 330-360'	Same as football	1 per 500	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields near schools.
¼-Mile Running Track	4.3 acres	Overall width - 276' Length - 600' Track width for 8 lanes is 32'	Long axis in sector from N-S to NW-SE with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of a high school or in community park complex.

NRPA Suggested Outdoor Facility Development Standards (cont.)

Activity/Facility	Space Requirements	Size and Dimensions	Orientation	Units per Capita	Service Radius	Notes
Softball	1.5 to 2.0 acres	Baselines - 60' Pitching distance - 46' or 40' for women Fast pitch field radius from plate - 225' between foul lines. Slow pitch - 275' or 250' for women.	Same as baseball.	1 per 1,000 if also used for youth baseball.	¼ - ½ mile for informal play; 2-10 miles for organized play	Slight difference in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
Multiple Recreation Court	9,984 SF	120' x 80'	Long axis of courts with primary use is N-S	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Use for basketball, volleyball, and tennis.
Hikes	N/A	Well-defined trailhead Maximum 10' wide, Maximum average grade of 5% not to exceed 15%.	N/A	1 system per region.	N/A	Capacity: rural trail - 40 hikers per day per mile; urban trail - 90 hikers per day per mile.
9-hole Golf	50 acres min.	Avg. length - 2,250 yds.	Majority of holes on N-S axis.	1 per 25,000	½ - 1 hour travel time	Accommodates 350 people per day.
18-hole Golf	110 acres min.	Avg. length - 6,500 yds.		1 per 50,000		Accommodates 500-550 people per day.
Swimming Pool	Varies with size of Pool, amenities. Usually ½ to 2 acres.	Teaching - min. of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3-4 feet. Competitive - minimum of 25 x 16 m, minimum of 27 SF of water surface per swimmer. Deck to water ratio 2:1.	None, although care should be taken in locating lifeguard stations relative to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000 (pools should accommodate 3-5% of the total population at a time).	15-30 minutes travel time.	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1 m and 3m diving boards. Located in community parks or school sites.

V. INVENTORY OF AREAS AND FACILITIES

Currently, there are no City-owned parks within the City of Magnolia. The small city park at the intersection of FM1488 and Magnolia Boulevard, identified in the 2002 Plan, is situated on land owned by Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Due to the proposed widening of FM 1488, TxDOT is likely to reclaim the property, and the facilities will likely be removed.

There are no designated open spaces, natural areas, or green belts. The Magnolia Independent School District provides a limited amount of playground and outdoor recreational equipment for use by students during school hours, and the outdoor facilities remain open for after-school use. There are limited public indoor activities (those provided by the Friendship Center for seniors) and few privately owned or operated recreational facilities in Magnolia. Many homes have large grassy yards, and some residents have installed swimming pools and/or limited individual-use play equipment for their children.

Magnolia Community Center: The County owns the Magnolia Community Center, an approximately 800 square foot building that is used for small and medium group gatherings. It contains several cafeteria-style tables.

TxDOT Gazebo: The Texas Department of Transportation owns a small tract of cleared land at the intersection of FM 1488 and Magnolia Boulevard, directly west of the City Park. Although not officially a City park facility, the tract contains a small gazebo, flagpole and historical marker following the creation of the town of Magnolia.

Magnolia Youth Sports Complex; Little League Complex; Horse Arena: Montgomery County owns and operates these athletic areas located southeast of the City on FM 1774. The original 15-acre tract contains various playing fields (baseball, softball, T-ball, football), batting cages, a covered pavilion with basketball goals, restrooms, and lighting. There is also available parking for approximately 250 cars. The County has added an additional complex on an adjacent 50-acre tract. This complex includes 6 additional fields, an equestrian arena, community center, and community garden. The community center is primarily a social service facility, but it is the location of the Friendship Center, a senior citizen center.

These facilities are open to the public to varying degrees. Use of the athletic facilities requires the permission of the County and the affiliated sports associations (Little League, Girls Softball, Youth Football). The horse arena is open to the public when not otherwise in use. These County facilities are the only active park and recreational facilities located in Magnolia; however, these parks also serve areas of unincorporated western Montgomery County.

Montgomery County has recently programmed a number of improvements to these parks, including:

- Youth Sports Complex – Renovation of fields, concession, and restrooms; acquisition of additional property to mitigate loss of parkland due to FM 1744 widening

- Little League Complex - Relocation of the horse arena, Construction of two fields

Magnolia ISD: The Magnolia Independent School District maintains the most extensive recreational facilities in Magnolia and allows public use of most of its outdoor facilities. These are summarized in the table at the end of this section. Together the junior high and high school grounds include 2 football stadiums (1 with a track) and 2 gymnasiums. The gymnasiums are not open for general public use. Both the Magnolia and the Williams Elementary Schools have grounds containing open space and playground equipment such as swings, playscapes, etc. The school district has recently completed construction of a natatorium; which is open to the public on a limited basis.

Flood plain areas and abandoned railroad right of way: There are several creeks and drainage channels throughout the City that are in designated flood plains. These areas can be improved into open space, greenbelts, and in some cases, developed with low impact recreational facilities. There are no abandoned railroad rights of way in the City. However, as the City expands through annexation, it should not shy away from acquiring these resources as they may become available. This type of land is suitable for use as an open space, natural area and/or greenbelt.

Regional Recreation Facilities: There are several major public recreational areas within driving distance of Magnolia. Montgomery County maintains 16 park facilities that include athletic complexes, nature preserves and trails, equestrian and agricultural centers, convention and expo center, as well as playground, picnicking, and other outdoor facilities. Lake Conroe, a man-made lake located approximately 20 miles to the northeast of the City, offers extensive recreational opportunities. The W. Goodrich Jones State Forest is just minutes to the east of Magnolia on FM 1488. It contains several small lakes, public picnic and camping areas, and the Sweet Leaf Nature Trail. The Texas Forest Service, a part of Texas A&M University, manages this park.

Magnolia is approximately 35 miles northwest of Houston, 30 miles northwest of The Woodland, and 20 miles southwest of Conroe. Each of these metropolitan areas contains multiple public and private recreational venues.

Recreation Facility Inventory

Feature	Pocket Park	Athletic Complexes		Special Facilities	School						Total ¹	
		Magnolia Youth Sports Complex	Little League Complex		Magnolia Elementary	Williams Elementary	Magnolia 6th Grade	Junior High School	High School	Alpha Academy		
Service Area	City	Magnolia area	Magnolia area	City	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Acres	.1 acre	15 acres	50 acres	.5 acre	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	65.6
Ownership	TXDOT	County	County	County	MISD	MISD	MISD	MISD	MISD	MISD	MISD	
RECREATION FACILITIES												
Baseball		2			1/2	1		(1)				2
Basketball Court		1									1/2	2
Batting Cages		X										0
Football Field		2										2
Football Stadium								(1)				0
Group Pavilion		1										1
Horse Arena			1									1
Indoor Meeting Facility				1								1
Natatorium (Indoor Pool)												1
Picnic Tables					3	3		1				.5
Playground Equipment					4	4						3
Playscape					2	2						4
Practice Field/ Backstop					2	2						2
Practice Football Field					3	2		1				2
Practice Soccer Field					14	1	1	3				2
Softball/Little League		3	6					1				8
Tennis Court								(1)				9
Track								6				6
SUPPORT FACILITIES												
Concession Building		X	2X			X		X				.5
Gazebo	X											
Parking		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Restrooms		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Security Lights	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

(#) - Not available to the general public.

¹ School Facilities tallied at 1/2 of value since they are not fully available to the general public.

VI. NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

The City used the three needs assessment techniques (standards, demand, and resource) suggested by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in developing this section.

- The standards-based approach uses established NPRA and City standards to determine the number and types of facilities and the amount of park area needed to meet the City's needs.
- The demand-based approach relies on information gathered at public meetings and the results of local surveys to indicate the desires of local residents for park and recreational facilities and services.
- The resource-based approach identifies assets and resources that could be used for open space, parks, and recreation facilities.

First, level of service standards were used to measure the adequacy of existing facilities from a system-wide standpoint. Secondly, facility needs were identified based on accepted standards, preferences of Magnolia's residents, and long-range goals of the community. The City also applied resource criteria in examining the opportunities available for future park and open space usage.

Standards-based Approach

Systemwide Park Acreage. The chart below measures the existing park acreage in terms of standards identified in Section IV. (The Magnolia Community Center acreage is not included in this chart since acreage/1,000 standards are generally not used for indoor facilities.) Within the Magnolia park service area virtually all of the 65 public park acreage consists of the county athletic complex. It results in a large surplus of acreage for athletic facilities. However, using the

Systemwide Parkland Needs

Classification	Standard Acreage/1000 ¹	Acres Needed for 2012 Population (1,500)	Existing Acreage	Surplus/ Deficit Acreage
Mini-park	.5 acre	1 acres	.1 acre	-0.9 acre
Neighborhood	2 acres	3 acres	0 acre	-3 acres
Community	8 acres	12 acres	0 acre	-12 acres
Athletic Complexes	10 acres	15 acres	65 acres	+50 acres
Open Space, Natural Areas, Greenbelts	5 acres	8 acres	0 acre	-8 acres

¹Standards based on NPRA standards and statewide averages for Texas communities under 20,000, *Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan*, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2002. Acreage for athletic complex, separate from community parks, based on facilities standards of 1 baseball, 2 softball, concession, and parking/1,000.

projected population for 2012, the City is deficient in other parkland categories by approximately 25 acres. Note that the deficit for a community park is 12 acres, but the standards identify minimum acreage for a community park at 15 acres. This would put the total deficit at 28 acres.

Standards were also applied to service areas for the various park classifications (including the ¼ mile radius outlined in the Goals and Objectives in Section II). Since there are no municipal parks, it is assumed that school sites could serve the neighborhood park function if the City and the school district implement joint use and development activities. The service area coverage is shown on the Park Plan Map. Within the corporate limits, there is good coverage with the exception of the extreme northern and eastern sectors. (The eastern area is proposed for residential development with a developer-constructed neighborhood park.) Within the ETJ, there is no neighborhood park coverage. The service area for a community park in Magnolia would extend beyond the City's ETJ.

- Mini-Parks. These special use parks are usually developed as the specific need or opportunity arises, such as downtown pedestrian areas or decorative entrances along highways.
- Neighborhood parks. Because the City is divided by a rail lines and highways, neighborhood parks should be located to allow safe travel for non-driver residents without crossing these transportation barriers. These parks should contain playground equipment, picnic tables and either baseball backstops, soccer goals or basketball half-courts. For the short-term, Magnolia could begin to work out a joint use arrangement with MISD to use school sites to serve neighborhood recreation purposes. This would require careful planning of additional facilities, maintenance arrangements, and security/safety considerations. As the community continues to grow, neighborhood parks should be developed as new residential subdivisions are platted.
- Community Park. The park should be large enough in size to contain a multi-use walk/bike/jog trail, playground equipment, picnic tables with cooking stoves, skateboarding and rollerblading facilities, a woodlands natural area focusing on "visitor-friendly" interactive nature exhibits, activities pursued by elderly residents such as horseshoe pits or shuffleboard courts, pavilions for small and large gatherings, some sports courts, and areas for water-based recreation including fishing and bird watching.
- Open Space and Natural Areas. This category includes multiple open spaces and natural areas within comfortable walking distance of residential neighborhoods where residents can pursue individual outdoor leisure activities and observe local wildlife in its natural habitat. The most appropriate areas in Magnolia include the creek corridors and drainage ways.
- Greenbelts/Trails. Undeveloped strips of land to link recreational destinations with schools, neighborhoods, employment centers; municipal offices and shopping areas. Creek corridors, abandoned railroad right-of-way, and utility rights-of-way are possible resources.

- Indoor Recreation. One City-owned indoor recreational facility per community of less than 10,000 people. The facility should be large enough (3,000-10,000 square feet) to accommodate a variety of activities including community meeting rooms, kitchen facilities suitable for banquets, multi-purpose rooms suitable for aerobics and/or educational training sessions, a perimeter walking track, weight training and cardio-vascular fitness areas, and rooms for cultural and/or arts-and-crafts activities. (The NRPA Standards do not address indoor recreation standards. However, because of the temperature extremes of cold winters at or near freezing and hot summers when temperatures reach 100 or more degrees, park planners decided that at least one indoor facility is needed to provide recreational opportunities to citizens year-round.)

Based on the standards above, Magnolia should begin identifying potential properties that could be developed as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, and a community park. The City also does not contain any dedicated "greenbelt" areas. It should begin working toward acquiring greenbelts to provide a safe passageway for pedestrians and bicyclists to park facilities. These actions are more fully discussed in the Resource-based Approach.

Facility Standards. Based on local and NRPA standards outlined in Section IV, and using an analysis technique outlined by TPW in the 1990's, the following chart analyzes the recreational facilities needed as opposed to those that are available.

Outdoor Recreation Facilities - Capacity Analysis

(1) Activities	(2) Conversion Factor	(3) Facility Standard	(4) Existing Supply			(5) Needed Facilities (3) - (4T)	(6) Deficit Opportunity Occasion (2) X (5)	(7) Facility Priority
			P	S/PE	T			
Trail Miles	57662	0.5	0	0	0	0.5	28831	1
Playground Areas	10499	3	0	1	1	2	20998	2
Swimming Pool	157	133.2	0	0	0	133.2	20912.4	3
Picnic Tables	1575	15	0	3	3	12	18900	4
Basketball Courts	8283	3	1	1	2	1	8283	5
Group Pavilion	1575	2	1	0	1	1	1575	6
Golf Holes	8333	9	9	0	9	0	0	7
Football Fields	12659	2	2	0	2	0	0	7
Baseball Fields	13703	1	2	0	2	-1	-13703	8
Tennis Courts	3826	1	0	6	6	-5	-19130	9
Soccer Fields	19119	2	0	8	8	-6	-114714	10
Softball Fields	13998	2	9	2	11	-9	-125982	11

(2) From TPWD figures for the level of participation in that activity

(3) Standards for Small Community Recreation Facilities, adjusted by local and NRPA standards for projected population of 1,500.

(4) P = Public; S/PE = School/Private Equivalent; T = Total

Although there is no golf course in Magnolia, courses in the area meet the standard (1 /20,000 Population)

School facilities that are not available to the public not included

Capacity Analysis technique from 1995 TORP - Assessment and Policy Plan, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

It is important to keep in mind when using population-based standards that any change in population (for example, a major annexation) could substantially increase the acreage and facility needs shown here.

Demand-Based Approach

The initial 2002 park plan included public input obtained in 1999 and 2002. This process is explained in more detail in the Appendices. The conclusion of that report was that public input indicated the need for the City to develop at least one indoor recreation center, one multi-activity community park with a walking/jogging/biking trail, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, skateboarding/rollerblading facilities, pavilion(s), picnic areas, playground equipment, fishing facilities, and open space.

As part of the plan update process, a community survey was mailed to Magnolia residents in early 2007.

(Note: There was an organized effort by supporters of the horse arena to respond to the survey. 116 surveys were apparently the responses of this group. In many cases, these surveys were only minimally completed and do not affect the survey results. Where the results are skewed by this group, it is noted in the discussion below. See the Appendices for more detail on the survey responses.)

Residents indicated that they participate in most frequently in the activities shown below:

Survey Responses - Recreation Activities

Rank	Activity	Frequency	Number
1	Walking, jogging, exercise trail	1404	23
2	Fitness Center	928	11
3	Bicycling	486	16
4	Nature	459	13
5	Fishing	398	21
6	Treadmill	365	1
7	Swim at Lake	273	10
8	Picnic	214	12
9	Swimming pool	213	13
10	Skateboarding	166	5

Note: "Frequency" indicates the total number of times during the past year that anyone from a responding household participated in that activity. "Number" is the total number of surveys (out of 142) that checked that activity.

Other activities listed by at least 7 respondents include use of a group pavilion, playgrounds, basketball, golf driving range, and RV camping.

Top-ranked outdoor facilities are shown in the chart below. The top 6 rankings are similar to those of the 2002 public input process, indicating very strong support for trails, playgrounds, a pool, and picnicking.

Survey Responses - Outdoor Recreation Needs

Rank	Facility	Weighted Score
1	Walking/Jogging Trails	76
2	Pond/Fishing Area	59
3	Children's Playground	58
4	Nature/hiking trails	58
5	Swimming pool	56
6	Picnic Tables	40
7	Natural Open Space Areas	39
8	Pavillon/Group Shelter	38
9	Horse Arena	31
10	Community Gardens	24
11	Basketball Courts	22
12	Exercise Equipment for Trails	22
13	Water Splash Park	22
14	Skating/Bicycling Paths	22
15	Tennis Courts	20

Notes: "Weighted Score" represents the total score using the rankings (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) of all surveys. Facilities in italics were "write-in" votes.

The survey addressed indoor recreation separately, first asking whether residents feel there is a need for indoor recreation. The response was one of overwhelming support, with 93% expressing a need for indoor recreation. Even removing the horse arena supporters (whose surveys were almost unanimously in favor of this question), there was a 69% positive response.

Indoor recreation priorities are shown in the chart below. The highest priorities relate to the provision of youth, fitness, and senior activities. Horse arena also ranked very high. While there is obviously substantial support for equestrian activities, it is important to keep in mind that relocation and construction of a new horse arena has already been programmed and funded by Montgomery County.

Survey Responses - Indoor Recreation Needs

Rank	Facility	Weighted Score	Number
1	Youth room	76	19
2	Fitness classes	64	17
3	Fitness Eqpt room	60	19
4	<i>Horse Arena</i>	60	18
5	Senior Activity room	52	16
6	Arts/Crafts	46	13
7	Indoor Aquatics	45	14
8	Adult Education	42	14
9	Computer Classes	39	13
10	<i>Horse Arena Improvements</i>	6	2

Notes: "Weighted Score" represents the total score using the rankings (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) of all surveys. Facilities in italics were "write-in" votes.

Resource-based Approach

In identifying assets and resources to meet Magnolia's park and recreation needs, the City is in a unique position. Many of its needs are being served, or could potentially be served, by facilities provided by other entities. While these facilities are also listed under the existing park inventory, they should certainly be factored in when ascertaining the financial and infrastructure resources available to the City in establishing realistic development priorities. There are, in addition, resources in the form of unique natural features that offer opportunities for Magnolia.

These are summarized in the table below.

Resource Type	Location/Area	Condition
Athletic facilities	Magnolia Youth Sports Complex and Little League Complex (Montgomery County)	Both complexes are to be expanded and/or renovated.
Neighborhood/Playground Areas	School Campuses (especially elementary, junior high)	Equipment generally in good condition; some improvements/modifications would be needed for more active joint school/public use
Swimming Pool (indoor)	Natatorium located at Magnolia West High School	Constructed in 2003
16 acres of MISD-owned vacant land	Central area of the City	Vacant undeveloped land, some within designated flood plains. Suitable for development as a multi-activity park.
Creek corridors, drainage ways	Throughout the service area	Mostly undeveloped; proposed work resulting from drainage master planning has potential for acquisition of greenbelts, etc.
Unique natural features (pine stands, potential unique habitat)	Throughout the service area	Unknown. These would be evaluated on project-by-project basis.

The limitations relating to resources are twofold. First, Magnolia is a small community with limited financial and staff resources to undertake an ambitious park development program. Secondly, the search for potential park sites has revealed a lack of available and reasonably priced land of the size needed for a larger community park. Although growth and a flourishing economy are likely to become assets in the near future, projected growth in the area has driven land prices up. Owners of larger tracts whose property is on the market are pricing their land for commercial or residential development.

Summary of Needs

Standard-Based – Systemwide, Magnolia is about 28 acres below the minimum acreage for its size. Considering only municipal facilities, the community does not meet standards for a park system outlined above. Assuming, however, that County, school, and potential developer facilities are included, service area coverage is good with a few exceptions.

At the facility level, the primary needs are: Trails, playground, pool, picnic tables, basketball, and a group pavilion.

Demand-Based – Public input outlined the facility needs in the chart below. The public input process also revealed extensive involvement and support for equestrian activities.

Needs from Community Survey

Outdoor Needs	Indoor Needs
Walking/Jogging Trails	Youth room
Pond/Fishing Area	Fitness classes
Children's Playground	Fitness Equipment room
Nature/hiking trails ¹	Horse Arena
Swimming pool	Senior Activity room
Picnic Tables	Arts/Crafts
Natural Open Space Areas	Indoor Aquatics
Pavilion/Group Shelter	Adult Education
Horse Arena	Computer Classes
Community Gardens	Horse Arena Improvements

Resource-Based – Although limited in financial and land resources, Magnolia has a number of existing park and recreation resources which offer the opportunity to meet many of its needs through partnerships with other entities.

VII. PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS

Park and recreation priorities must be based on several factors, including public input, needs identified through the use of standards and identification of resources, efficient use of limited natural and financial resources, and the City's obligation to provide the widest range of activities to serve broadest possible target audience. Another significant consideration is the provision of facilities by other entities. Summarized below are the major considerations:

- Generally the priorities followed the survey results, as reinforced by the most of the needs identified by the capacity analysis.
- Because of the costs of building and operating a swimming pool, and the availability of a pool in Magnolia, the City felt that the need for an outdoor pool should be re-evaluated in the future.
- Since Montgomery County is addressing the relocation of the horse arena, it was excluded from the priorities.

By adoption of this plan by the Magnolia City Council, the following facility priorities are established:

Outdoor Facility Priorities

Priority Rank	Outdoor Facility
1	Walking/jogging trails
2	Pond/Fishing Area
3	Playgrounds
4	Nature/Hiking Trails
5	Picnic Tables
6	Group Pavilion
7	Community Gardens
8	Basketball Courts
9	Exercise Equipment for Trail
10	Skating/Bicycling Paths

Note: The top 5 facilities qualify for scoring points if included in a TPWD grant application under the guidelines for the Outdoor Program.

Indoor Facility Priorities

Priority Rank	Indoor Facility
1	Youth Room
2	Fitness Classes
3	Fitness Equipment Room
4	Senior Activity Room
5	Arts/Crafts Room

Note: These top 5 facilities qualify for scoring points if included in a TPWD grant application under the guidelines for the Indoor Program.

Action Item Priorities

- Action Item 1: Leverage available land to develop a smaller (about 15 acre) Community Park Develop containing the top priority outdoor facilities.
- Action Item 2: Continue to search for suitable large tracts of land for community park facilities, and for trails, greenbelts, and open space.
- Action Item 3: Establish a permanent park board or committee to oversee and coordinate planning, construction, maintenance, and operation of park facilities.
- Action Item 4: Explore joint park and recreation planning, development, use, and maintenance with Montgomery County, MISD. Given the widespread growth, much of it in unincorporated areas, and the existing County and school participation in providing recreation facilities, regional park cooperation in planning, construction, use, and maintenance could be productive for all entities.
- Action Item 5: Work with MISD to enhance neighborhood recreational facilities at school campuses.
- Action Item 6: Establish a maintenance program using City resources and partnerships with other user groups and providers.
- Action Item 7: Explore opportunities for mandatory parkland or cash contributions through the subdivision ordinance.
- Action Item 8: Establish a voluntary park donation fund for maintenance, repair, and upgrade of

City parks. Solicitation could be added to City water bill.

Action Item 9: Develop policy to educate public regarding benefits of private donation of land to be used for parks, greenbelts, and open space.

Action Item 10: Coordinate with other local agencies to develop after-school and summer youth programs at City parks. Enlist community involvement in the development and implementation of recreational activities to be conducted at parks. Use individuals, churches, Magnolia ISD, and other volunteer organizations wherever possible to assist in this task. The City's involvement should be limited to that of catalyst. Activity cost will vary and be absorbed by the participants.

Action Item 11: Establish a community festival or "fun day" at City park. These events can highlight the community's cultural diversity, heritage, or offer special events such as kite-flying contests or bike-a-thons. Consider events that could coincide with and complement the Texas Renaissance Festival or other area attractions. Earmark proceeds from activities for use in park improvement projects.

Action Item 12: Explore options for larger facilities, such as an outdoor swimming pool and an indoor recreation center, beginning with joint opportunities with the county and school.

VIII. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This plan is designed to be implemented during a 5-year period. It addresses the City's new construction, maintenance and operation needs to ensure the highest quality park, recreation, and open space opportunities are available for its citizenry.

Magnolia's focus during this implementation period should be to:

1. Develop small-scale parks (small community, neighborhood, and mini-parks) and greenbelts/trails.
2. Identify and acquire or preserve parkland and open space to meet future growth.
3. Establish partnerships with other entities for provision of park and recreation facilities.
4. Develop the local funding mechanisms and administrative capacity to plan, develop, and maintain parks.

The following implementation plan sets forth the most reasonable development timeline assuming funding resources are available. The activities are identified as by the corresponding Action item (A) listed above, and as incorporating Outdoor Priorities (O), or Indoor Priorities (I).

The methods of funding for these projects are identified and include local general funds, general obligation bonds, certificates of obligation (CO's), local in-kind labor, participation provided by Montgomery County, grants from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPW), local sports associations, non-profit foundations and donations of land, cash, materials and/or labor from private individuals. Generally the in-kind contributions, including donated labor, materials, and services are appropriate for accomplishing small-scale projects, while "cash" funding – for

example, CO's, cash donations, TPW grants – is better suited to large projects.

Funding sources are not listed for activities not requiring construction, maintenance, or other "hard" costs, such as planning, organizational and coordinating activities.

Year 1 (2007-2008)

Implementation Item	Priorities/ Action Item	Funding Source
Pursue development of a central park with facilities identified in the outdoor recreation priorities	O1-10 A1	TPW, Local funds, other contributions
Develop an ongoing process of identifying potential park, open space, and greenbelt sites.	A2	---
Establish a park committee or board and work out organizational structure and procedures.	A3	---
Approach Montgomery County and MISD about establishing long-term partnerships for park planning, development, use, and maintenance.	A4	---

Year 2 (2008-2009)

Implementation Item	Action Item	Funding Source
Continue to develop a central park. Ensure all facilities are accessible and that public recreational needs are met.	O 1-10 A1	TPW, Local funds, private donations
Identify site(s) to preserve a natural area to preserve wildlife habitat/viewing area and/or a route to begin construction of a greenbelt/trail system.	A2	---
Develop policy to educate public regarding benefits of private donation of land to be used for parks, greenbelts, open space, and/or natural areas.	A9	---
Work with MISD to identify improvements needed to upgrade school facilities for neighborhood park and playground sites. Use neighborhood input.	O1-10 A5	Local in-kind donations, City, school contributions
Establish a maintenance plan using local funds and community resources. Develop partnerships for assistance with maintenance.	A6	---

Year 3 (2009-2010)

Implementation Item	Action Item	Funding Source
Establish maintenance standards for new park facilities.	A6	---
Establish a voluntary park donation fund for repair and upgrade of park facilities.	A8	Local donations
Acquire easements where possible to begin creating greenbelts to link parks, schools, shopping and neighborhoods.	A2	Private donations, Local funds, TPW, school/County contributions
Organize "kite-flying contest" at Community Park utilizing open space area.	A11	Local funds, participant fees

Year 4 (2010-2011)

Implementation Item	Action Item	Funding Source
Continue development of neighborhood facilities, trails and greenbelt	O1-10 A2 A5	Local funds, TPW, private donations, School/County contributions
Implement maintenance program for new park.	A6	---
Coordinate with local agencies to develop after-school and summer youth programs at school facilities and City parks.	A10	Local funds, MISD and COOP grants, participant fees
Establish an annual community festival or "fun day" at Community Park. Earmark proceeds for use in park projects.	A11	---
Begin to plan for indoor recreation or swimming pool using partnerships with County, school, and other user groups.	I1-10 A12	---

Year 5 (2011-2012)

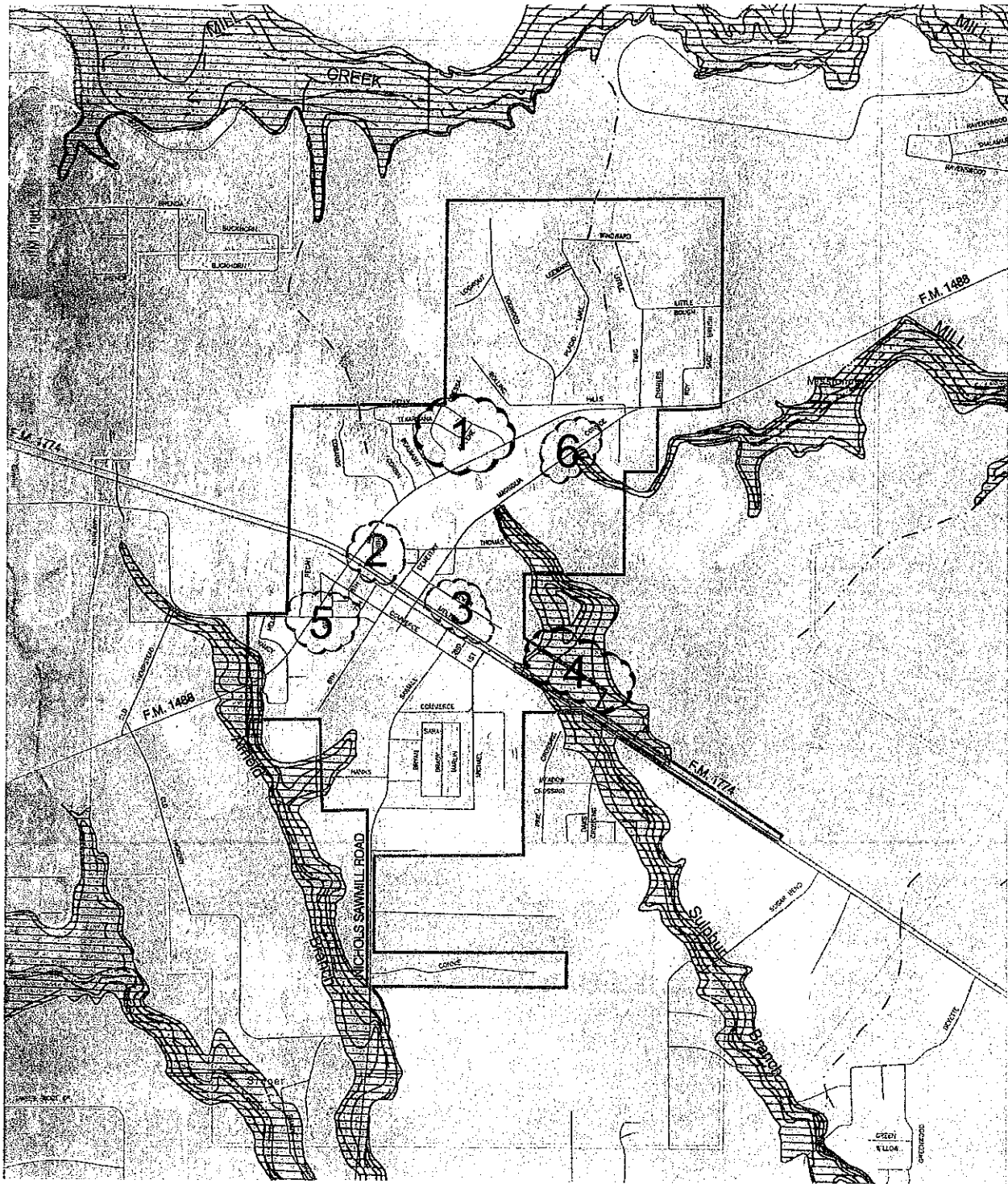
Implementation Item	Action Item	Funding Source
Begin to develop a larger Community Park if a suitable site can be identified. Ensure accessibility and that public recreational needs are met.	O1-10 A1	TPW, Local funds, private donations
Continue to coordinate with local agencies to develop youth programs at City parks. Begin to program for joint indoor youth activities.	A12	Local funds, MISD, COOP grants, participant fees
Organize "bike-a-thon" at Community Park utilizing multi-use trail.	A11	Local funds, participant fees

Implementation Item	Action Item	Funding Source
Expand maintenance program to include new facilities.	A6	—
Develop indoor recreation center to include indoor track and sports courts, arts-and-crafts rooms, fitness equipment and kitchen facilities. Ensure all facilities are accessible.	I1-10 A12	Local funds, School and Montgomery County contributions, TPW, private donations
Continue long-range planning process and incorporate in new comprehensive park plan.	All	—

Appendices

Appendix A
Maps

Magnolia Floodplain Map



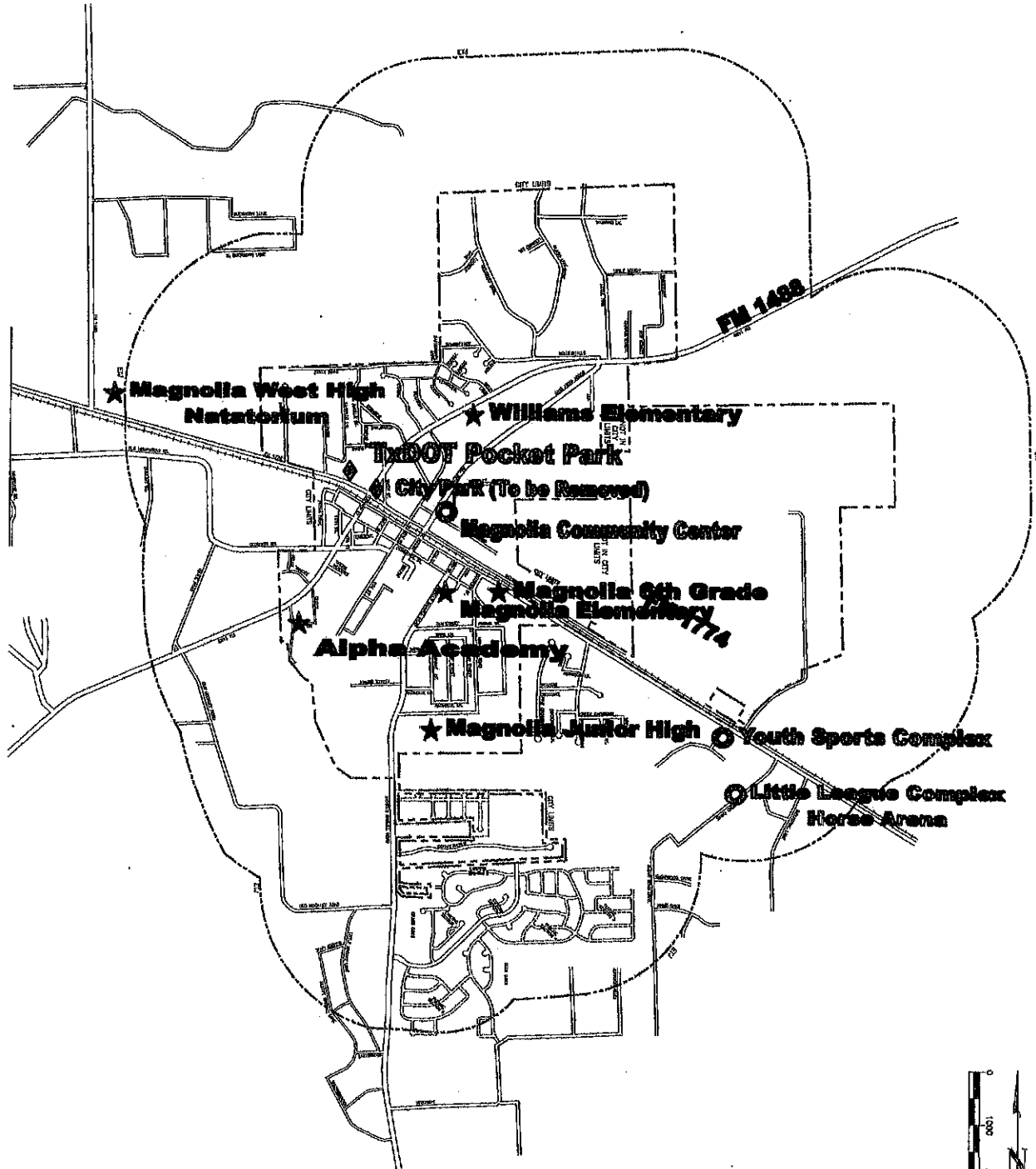
Map from "Master Drainage Plan," Carter & Burgess, Inc., April 2005.

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  | City Limit |  | Extraterritorial Jurisdiction |
|  | Flood Zone | Scale | 1"=2,000' |

NOTE: Numbered areas delineated on map pertain to drainage issues.

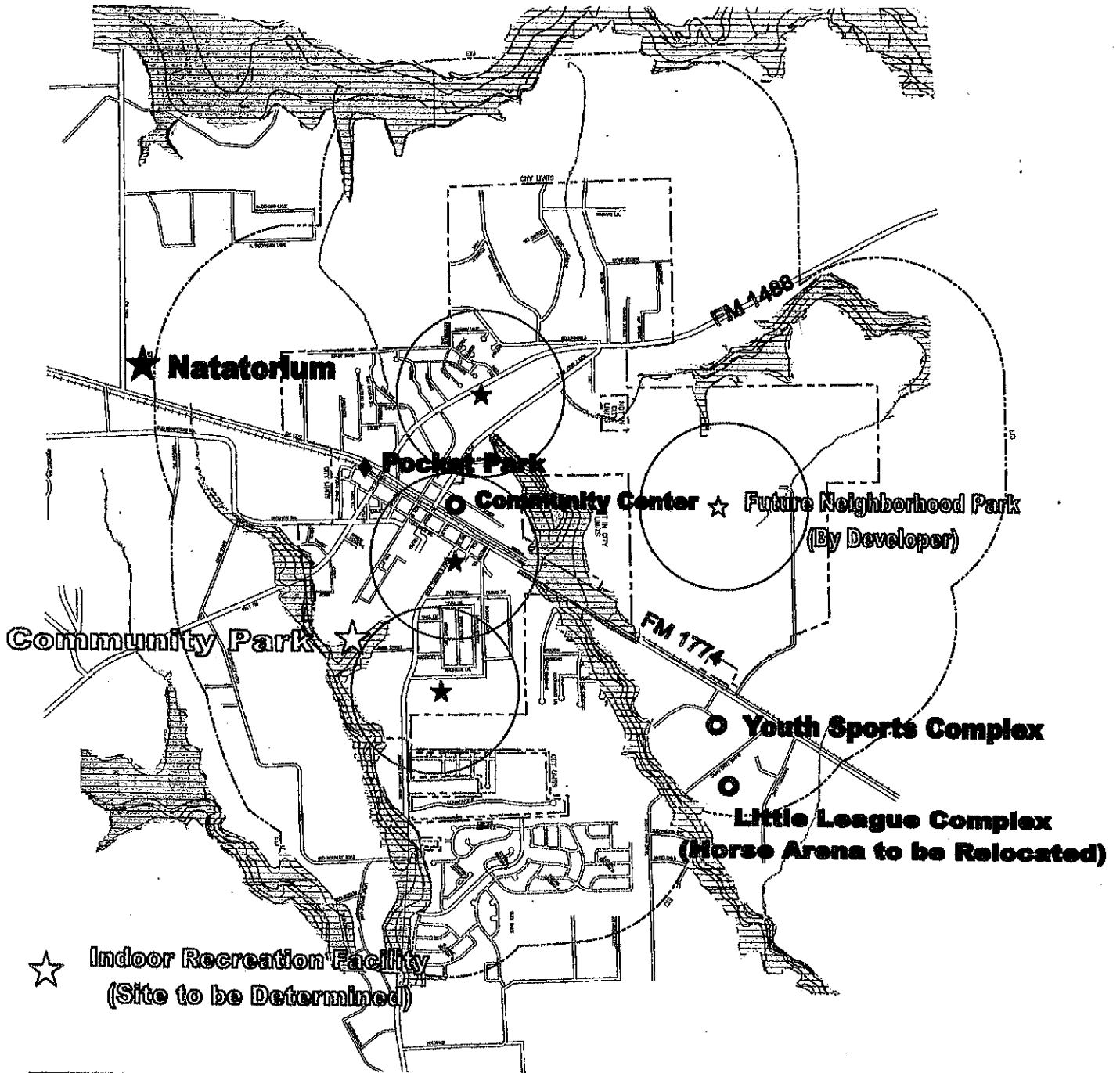
Magnolia Park Facilities



LEGEND			
City Limit	Schools	TxDOT Facilities	County Facilities
ETJ			

Base Map provided by O'Malley Engineers, Brenham, Texas.

Magnolia Park Plan Map 2007-2012



LEGEND			
-----	City Limit	★	Neighborhood Facilities at Schools
- . . . -	ETJ	☆	Proposed Neighborhood Park
		☆	Proposed Community Facilities
		★	Community Facility at School
		●	County Facilities
		○	Neighborhood Facility Service Area (Community Facility Service Area extends beyond ETJ)
		▨	Creeks/Floodplain – Potential Location of Greenbelt/Trail System
		◆	Other Recreation Facilities

Base Map Provided by O'Malley Engineers, Inc., Brenham, TX.
 Approximate location of floodplain adapted from Map from "Master Drainage Plan," Carter & Burgess, Inc., April 2005.

Appendix B
Park and Recreation Survey

CITY OF MAGNOLIA PARK AND RECREATION SURVEY

The City of Magnolia is asking for your input on recreation activities and needs for a citywide park study.
Please complete only one survey per household.

1. How many times in the last year has someone in your family participated in any of the following activities?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> RV Camping
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling
<input type="checkbox"/> Walking, jogging, exercise trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's playground
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming at a pool
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming at lake or beach
<input type="checkbox"/> Basketball
<input type="checkbox"/> Picnic
<input type="checkbox"/> Pavilion or group shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness Center
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf/driving range
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult baseball/softball
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth baseball/softball
<input type="checkbox"/> Football
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature activities (birding, hiking, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Soccer
<input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

2. Please rank the 5 MOST NEEDED outdoor recreation facilities from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball court
<input type="checkbox"/> Walking and/or jogging trails
<input type="checkbox"/> Exercise equipment for jogging trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Baseball field
<input type="checkbox"/> Little League and softball fields
<input type="checkbox"/> Soccer field
<input type="checkbox"/> Football field
<input type="checkbox"/> Practice field
<input type="checkbox"/> T-ball field
<input type="checkbox"/> Pavilion/group shelter
<input type="checkbox"/> Picnic tables
<input type="checkbox"/> Sand volleyball court
<input type="checkbox"/> Frisbee golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis court
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's playground equipment
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pool
<input type="checkbox"/> Water splash park
<input type="checkbox"/> Amphitheater
<input type="checkbox"/> Pond/fishing area
<input type="checkbox"/> Skating/bicycling path
<input type="checkbox"/> RV camping
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature/hiking trails
<input type="checkbox"/> Community garden
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf driving range
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural open space and scenic areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

3. Do you think Magnolia needs an INDOOR recreation facility?

- Yes No

Please rank the 5 MOST NEEDED indoor recreation facilities from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness equipment room
<input type="checkbox"/> Fitness classes
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth activity room
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer classes
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts/crafts activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult education
<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor aquatics
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior activity room
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

4. How many people are there in your household?

How many people in your household are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 4 years old
<input type="checkbox"/> 5-9 years old
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-14 years old
<input type="checkbox"/> 15-19 years old
<input type="checkbox"/> 20-34 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 35-54 years old
<input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 years old
<input type="checkbox"/> 65 or older
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

5. Where do you live?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Magnolia City Limits
<input type="checkbox"/> In Montgomery County
(Not in City Limits) | <input type="checkbox"/> Outside of Montgomery County
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Please return your completed survey to:

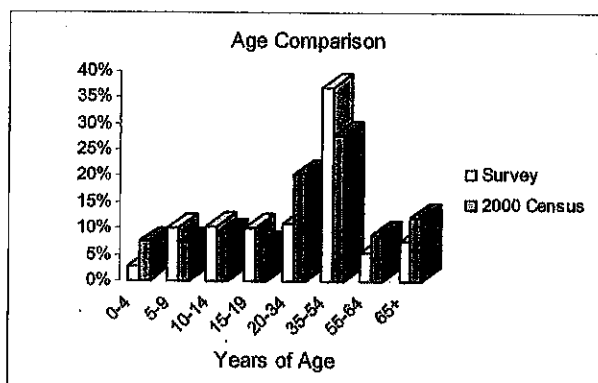
_____ by _____. Thanks for your help!

Questions? Call City Hall at _____

Survey Results

1. Survey Response - 144 surveys received
 - a. 2 were not tallied (not filled out)
 - b. 142 were tallied
 - o 116 were submitted by those interested in horse arena (All surveys were marked with "Horse Arena" across the center of the page. Although many had only minimal responses, all surveys had a signature.)
 - 5 were more or less complete surveys
 - 43 of these included household information
 - Approximately 69 were blank except for #3 (Need Indoor Recreation) and #5 (Residence)
 - o Remaining 26 were complete

2. Who Responded (Of the surveys that provided household information)
 - a. Approximately 219 people
 - b. Representation – Comparison of Survey age groups with 2000 Census age groups (Some of the discrepancy may be accounted for by the fact that Census data is 6 years old.)



- c. Residence (Again, only from surveys providing household information)
 - o Magnolia - 29%
 - o In County - 58%
 - o Out of County - 9%
 - o No Answer - 4%

3. Recreation Activities

Rank	Activity	Frequency	Number	Rank	Activity	Frequency	Number
1	Walking, jogging, exercise trail	1404	23	13	Golf/Driving Range	124	9
2	Fitness Center	928	11	14	RV Camping	116	7
3	Bicycling	486	16	16	Basketball Court	97	9
4	Nature	459	13	16	<i>Horse activities</i>	79	4
5	Fishing	398	21	17	Youth baseball/softball	76	3
6	Treadmill	365	1	18	Football	75	2
7	Swim at Lake	273	10	19	Soccer	57	4
8	Picnic	214	12	20	Tennis Courts	45	2
9	Swimming pool	213	13	21	<i>Barrel racing</i>	25	1
10	Skateboarding	166	5	22	Adult baseball/softball	6	1
11	Children's Playground	150	8	23	<i>Frisbee Golf</i>	6	1
12	Pavilion/Group Shelter	145	11				

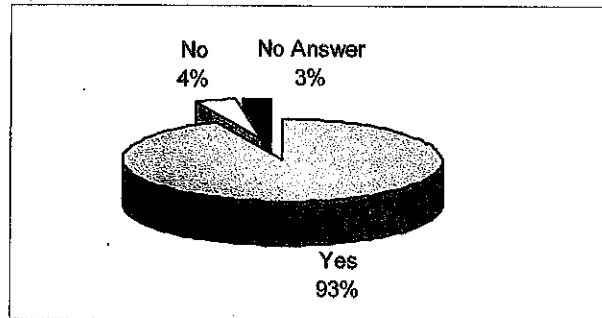
Note: "Frequency" indicates the total number of times during the past year that anyone from a responding household participated in that activity. "Number" is the total number of surveys (out of 142) that checked that activity. Italicized activities were "write-ins."

4. Outdoor Needs

Rank	Facility	Weighted Score	Number	Rank	Facility	Weighted Score	Number
1	Walking/Jogging Trails	76	22	16	RV Camping	20	5
2	Pond/Fishing Area	59	15	17	Little League/Softball Field	17	6
3	Children's Playground	58	18	18	Amphitheater	16	4
4	Nature/hiking trails	58	15	19	Golf Driving Range	14	5
5	Swimming pool	56	16	20	Baseball Field	12	4
6	Picnic Tables	40	14	21	Soccer Field	11	4
7	Natural Open Space Areas	39	10	22	Sand Volleyball Court	10	5
8	Pavilion/Group Shelter	38	10	23	Frisbee Golf	10	4
9	<i>Horse Arena</i>	31	7	24	Practice Field	8	3
10	Community Gardens	24	9	25	T-Ball Field	8	3
11	Basketball Courts	22	8	26	<i>City Park</i>	5	1
12	Exercise Equipment for Trails	22	6	27	<i>Large Swings</i>	5	1
13	Water Splash Park	22	7	28	<i>Park @ Jr High</i>	5	1
14	Skating/Bicycling Paths	22	6	29	Football Field	4	3
15	Tennis Courts	20	5	30	<i>Horse Arena Improvements</i>	3	1

Notes: "Weighted Score" represents the total score using the rankings (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) of all surveys. "Number" is the number of surveys (out of 142) that included the activity as a need. Facilities in italics were "write-in" votes.

5. Need Indoor Recreation?



6. Indoor Needs

Rank	Facility	Weighted Score	Number	Rank	Facility	Weighted Score	Number
1	Youth room	76	19	8	Adult Education	42	14
2	Fitness classes	64	17	9	Computer Classes	39	13
3	Fitness Eqpt room	60	19	10	<i>Horse Arena Improvements</i>	6	2
4	<i>Horse Arena</i>	60	18	11	<i>Basketball Court</i>	5	2
5	Senior Activity room	52	16	12	<i>Racketball/Volleyball</i>	2	1
6	Arts/Crafts	46	13	13	<i>Walking Track</i>	1	1
7	Indoor Aquatics	45	14	14	<i>Sports class/adult teams</i>	1	1

Notes: "Weighted Score" represents the total score using the rankings (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) of all surveys. "Number" is the number of surveys (out of 142) that included the activity as a need. Facilities in italics were "write-in" votes.

Appendix C
Local Resolution of Adoption

City of Magnolia, Texas

Resolution No. 2007-028

RESOLUTION ENDORSING AND ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR PARKS,
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE 2002-2008, 2007-2012 AMENDED
THE CITY OF MAGNOLIA

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAGNOLIA, TEXAS,
ENDORSING AND ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE PARKS PLAN FOR THE ACQUISITION
AND DEVELOPMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION FACILITIES WITHIN
THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY.

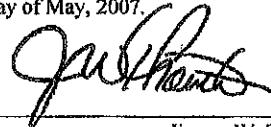
WHEREAS, the City of Magnolia has prepared a long-term comprehensive parks plan for the acquisition
and development of parks, open space, and recreation facilities within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Magnolia is capable and desirous of executing this plan, based on criteria and
limitations set forth therein; then

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF MAGNOLIA, TEXAS:


That the City Council does hereby endorse and adopt the COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR PARKS,
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE, 2002-2008, 2007-2012 AMENDED.

PASSED AND APPROVED by an affirmative vote of the City Council of the
City of Magnolia, Texas, on this 8th day of May, 2007.



Jimmy W. Thornton, Jr.
Mayor

Attest:


LuAnn D. Drake
City Secretary

Resolution 2007-028

Appendix D
Documentation of Planning Process

2002 Public Input

To gather local input regarding the development of a variety of recreational opportunities, City officials and park planners conducted public hearings at the Magnolia City Hall in 1999 and again in November 2002 and surveyed residents during early 1999 and again in Summer and early Fall 2002.

Comments received during the public hearing regarding outdoor activities centered on the need for a dedicated public park with multiple activities. Many of these comments focused on the need to provide a multi-use pathway and a dedicated area for skateboarding and rollerblading.

Citizens participating in the public hearing also stressed the need for an indoor recreation center to provide year-round recreational opportunities. Citizens expressed belief that an indoor center would also help curb a growing problem of juvenile delinquency and gang-related mischief by providing a gathering place for teens and young adults.

The survey identified the following recreational activities as those most frequently pursued by Magnolia residents, in order of popularity: (1) walking/jogging/biking, (2) basketball, (3) swimming, and (4) baseball/softball. Other activities pursued by more than one respondent include volleyball/badminton, Frisbee, tennis, skateboarding, rollerblading, fishing, and golf. At least one respondent stated the family participates in camping, croquet, darts, football, quilting, boating, camping, bowling, weight lifting, horseshoes, rodeo events, and bowling.

Because of a lack of facilities, most adult residents indicated that they pursue their recreational activities in their own homes and yards (swimming, basketball, volleyball, football), in the streets of Magnolia (walking/jogging/biking), or at the Magnolia Youth Park or other park area facilities. Children are most likely to pursue recreational activities at school facilities in Magnolia, or, in the case of swimming, at area lakes and private pools. Activities such as golf are only available in the larger communities.

When asked what facilities they would most like to have in Magnolia, survey respondents indicated that a pavilion, swimming pool, picnic tables with cook stoves, walking/jogging/biking trails, a recreation center, baseball and softball fields, outdoor basketball courts, and soccer fields would be "very important" facilities to construct. Sand volleyball and outdoor tennis courts would be "somewhat important" to construct.

The top ranked facilities and the number of survey respondents indicating their relative importance are listed below:

Rank	Facility	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
1	Pavilion	275	86	26
2	Swimming pool	272	95	34

3	Picnic tables w/ cook stoves	267	101	26
4	Bike trails	216	136	41
5	Walking trails	211	141	44
6	Recreation center	189	141	55
7	Little League fields	165	117	91
8	Outdoor basketball courts	157	145	84
9	Soccer fields	147	131	96
10	Softball fields	143	128	104
11	Baseball fields	96	110	162
12	Volleyball courts	89	151	137
13	Outdoor tennis courts	67	131	175
14	Playgrounds	52	0	0
15	Skateboard/roller blade park	29	0	0
16	Pond for fishing, birding	13	0	0

Other activities suggested by respondents included development of aerobics and weight-lifting areas, shooting/archery range, horseshoe pits, shuffleboard courts, racquetball courts, camping facilities, pond for fishing, amphitheater, and ice rink.

When ranking their top preferences, 29% of the respondents chose a swimming pool as their top need, followed by a recreation center (15%), and multi-use trail (12%). Other activities identified as top priorities included Little League fields (10%), pavilion (8%), playgrounds and soccer fields (4%), softball fields (3%), playgrounds, outdoor basketball and tennis courts (2%); and sand volleyball courts and skating areas (1 %).

A review of public hearing comments, survey results and established standards clearly indicates the need for the City to develop at least one indoor recreation center, one multi-activity community park with a walking/jogging/biking trail, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, skateboarding/rollerblading facilities, pavilion(s), picnic areas, playground equipment, fishing facilities, and open space.