

2015 – 2025
Webb County Recreational Master Plan
Area and Facility Concepts and Standards

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks provide basic recreational opportunities within walking distance of residential areas. These "close to home" parks are usually very popular, easily accessible and represent the cultural mix of the community. Ideally, these parks are within one to two miles of the community and usually centrally located e.g...Oilton Community Park.

These community parks are small but provide traditional recreational activities such as playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts, picnic tables, shade trees, related fencing and parking. Although the County of Webb owns several of the existing Community Parks, maintenance is an issue that needs to be addressed, since the County does not have a Recreational Department.

COUNTY PARKS

County Parks are larger than Community Parks and are more highly developed to serve the needs of the entire County. Normally, County parks provide not only the basic recreational activities of community parks but major outdoor, and in some cases, indoor recreational facilities. Unique land features play a larger role in the park's mix of activities than in community parks, as was the case when the County of Webb owned and operated Lake Casa Blanca Park.

County parks can range from 10 to 100 acres in size and are usually located within easy driving distance from the majority of the population, e.g., Lake Casa Blanca Park, now Lake Casa Blanca State Park. Major outdoor facilities could include activities such as regulation baseball, basketball, tennis and soccer courts and playfields, picnic facilities, trails, greenbelts and appropriate park signage.

REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks can provide the greatest diversity of recreational activities. These parks are 100 plus acres in size and are usually natural resource-based, that is, a lake or river is a basis for the majority of recreational activity. At the present time, there are no potential projects for the development of a Regional Park. Webb County has one regional park within its jurisdiction and one within a little over an hour driving time, Falcon State Park. The State of Texas operates both of these parks. These parks are at different levels of development but provide recreational activities not offered by any other existing park, e.g., fishing, boating, water skiing, swimming and jet skiing.

Both of these existing parks provide trails, open playfields, picnic facilities, boating amenities, fishing, swimming in a natural waterway, camping areas, bird watching and active and passive recreation. The County of Webb may not envision the establishment of another Regional Park within the next ten years, but will begin to plan for one within that period.

GREENBELTS

Parks that usually follow creeks, arroyos, rivers or scenic ravines are referred to as Greenbelts. The recreational activities associated with these types of parks are normally walking, jogging or hiking, but also include running, and bicycling. Birders, butterflyers and other wildlife

watchers also frequent greenbelts. In an ideal situation, Greenbelts can be used to connect neighborhoods, parks and schools. The size of such parks varies, but usually corresponds to the size of the natural feature they follow.

Access also varies depending on location, size and proximity to residential areas. On the average, most greenbelts have passive recreational activities. Although the County does not have any Greenbelt potential projects, it is important to recognize this type of park in order to take future opportunities to develop them.

SPECIAL PARKS

Special parks are those that serve a specific purpose of function. The County of Webb operates and maintains a Special Park called Lake Casa Blanca Golf Course. Other examples of such parks are museums, natural preserves, scenic viewpoints, unique gardens and/or significant natural/historic or cultural resources. This designation serves those undertakings by governmental entities not included in the typical park designations. For this reason, this type of park has various sizes, service areas, accesses and characteristics not included in other park designations. Another example of a special park would be the potential project to declare County School Lands as bird sanctuaries.