2015 - 2025 Webb County Recreational Master Plan Vision, Mission and Goals/Objectives

VISION

To assure that all residents of the County of Webb and its visitors are afforded quality recreational settings, services and affordable leisure opportunities, thereby contributing to a higher standard of living and a clean environment.

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this recreational plan is to identify problems and voids in services; to establish goals and objectives; to conduct a needs assessment by County precincts; to establish park standards; and to identify potential recreation projects as a continuing process in the county's efforts toward improving recreation and recreational areas. The approach in the development of this plan was an attempt to be more responsive to the needs, expectations and cultural values of residents. The planning process emphasized an interactive and integrative procedure of citizen involvement as a basis for potential project identification. In a way, it is Webb County's effort to plan with people, not for people. The ultimate goal of this endeavor will be the creation of more recreational opportunities and the fulfillment of the vision statement.

The material contained in this document is the result of group discussions, staff meetings, public hearings and the tabulated results of the written survey conducted by the staff of the Webb County Economic Development Department. A more detailed summary of this information will be provided in another section of this plan. For the purposes of obtaining input, comments and feedback on numerous issues affecting the growth and development of Webb County, the County Commissioners Court utilizes the Webb County Recreational Master Plan Review Committee. This committee was appointed by the County Judge and County Commissioners. These approaches were selected because they most clearly addressed issues faced by residents of the unincorporated areas of Webb County. Since these areas cannot generate revenue, they are totally dependent on the County for all capital improvements.

By no means do these processes assure that the plan is all-inclusive and addresses all the needs and wants of the general public. This would be physically impossible and fiscally irresponsible. However, it is an excellent start to establish a document that can be revised and refined as issues and demographics change. If there is one certainty in this process, it is that change will occur, whether we plan for it or not.

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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To provide equitable distribution of recreational opportunities throughout the County of Webb.

- To identify the Precincts with the greatest need for recreational areas and/or facilities and pursue the acquisition of land and/or development of facilities in those areas:
- To provide barrier-free access to existing parks and recreation facilities; and
- To provide a basis for aligning resources in a rational manner to address the critical areas facing the county now and in the future.

2. To address the infrastructure restoration needs of existing county-owned recreational facilities.

- To establish a County-staffed Restoration Survey Committee to identify and determine priorities for restorations;
- To identify the amount of annual funding needed to address the restoration priorities;
- To establish the Webb County Recreational Plan as the county's direction in problem areas and move away from crisis driven decision-making; and
- To identify key recreational elements/needs within each existing county-owned recreational facility necessary to achieve sustainable development.

3. To utilize county-owned land as the most cost-effective means of improving recreation and recreational facilities.

- To identify county-owned land that can provide multi-use recreational activities;
- If appropriate, to create and utilize partnerships to develop, operate and maintain recreational facilities;
- To provide coordination, continuity and accountability for the use of county resources that can be utilized to improve recreation in the county;

4. To inventory/identify, protect and maintain physical, cultural and natural resources that are unique to Webb County.

- To establish an inventory of cultural, physical and natural resources that are unique to Webb County;
- To commence acquisition of land, cultural and natural resources for the purpose of development, protection and preservation;

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• To establish a local effort to strategize a blueprint for the maximizing of the designation of the Rio Grande as an "American Heritage River" under the American Heritage River Initiative of 1998;