

# Denton Parks, Recreation and Trails System Master Plan

City Council  
January 4, 2022



ID 21-2423



# Master Plan Purpose

- Build upon previous efforts to provide a Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Master Plan based on **citizen engagement and City initiatives**
- Guide the development of parks over the **next ten years**
  - Improve the existing system
  - Expand the existing system to meet growing demand
- Provide an **Implementation Action Plan** to guide expenditures for parks and recreation

# Master Plan Process



# Engagement Efforts

## 2019-2020

- Public Meetings (05)
- Stakeholder Focus Group Meetings (35+)
- Community Survey

## 2021

- Master Plan Focus Group Meetings (03)
- Interdepartmental Staff Review Group Meetings (03)
- Elected and Appointed Officials Briefings
- Public Meetings (02 – Virtual)
- Abbreviated Community Survey

## Key Takeaways: Outdoor Amenities



## Key Takeaways: Indoor Amenities

- Cardio/fitness room
- Group exercise studio
- Weight lifting room
- Indoor play structure
- Indoor track

# Needs Assessment Key Takeaways

- There is a **deficit in parkland acreage** for neighborhood and community parks.
- Only **48% of residents** are within a **10-minute walk** to a park.
- There is a future **need for amenities** as the City grows.
- There is a great demand for **trails, aquatic facilities and spraygrounds, playgrounds, open space, and trees.**
- Continued **partnerships** with public institutions like schools and churches can increase access to park space.
- Natural features can be utilized to increase the amount of **open space and trails corridors.**

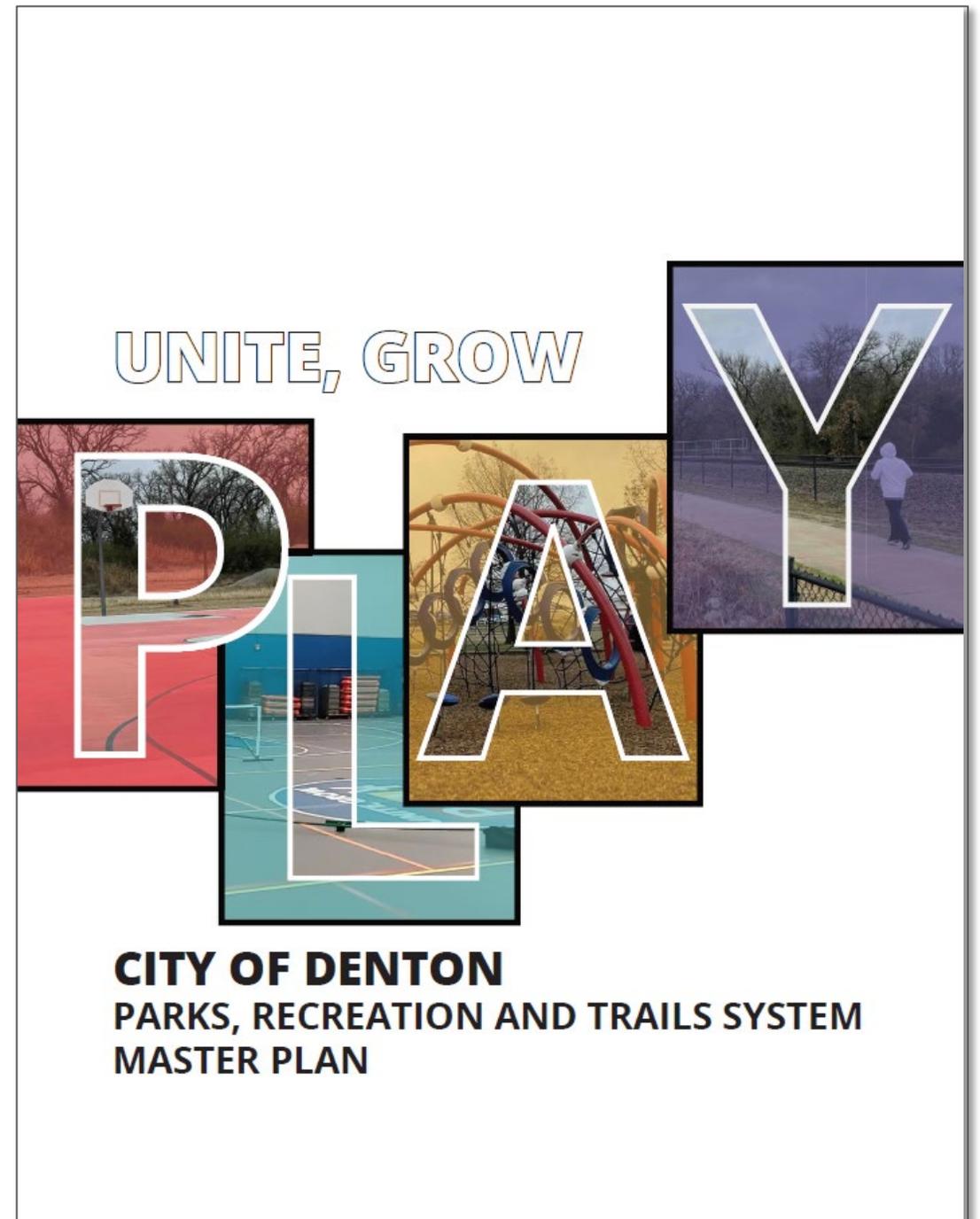
# Park System Metrics Review

Metric	City of Denton (2021)	National Benchmark*	Comparison	Denton Long-Term Goal
<i>10-minute walk to a park</i>	<b>48%</b> of residents	<b>55%</b> of residents		<b>100%</b> of residents
<i>Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents</i>	<b>8.15</b> acres per 1,000 residents (without nature preserve)	<b>8.9</b> acres per 1,000 residents		<b>17.5</b> acres per 1,000 residents
<i>Residents per playground</i>	<b>5,246</b> residents per playground	<b>4,804</b> residents per playground		<b>5,000</b> residents per playground
<i>Residents per park</i>	<b>2,351</b> residents per park	<b>3,104</b> residents per park		<b>2,500</b> residents per park
<i>Miles of trail</i>	<b>61</b> miles	<b>25.5</b> miles		Over <b>200</b> miles
<i>Indoor recreation facility SF per resident</i>	<b>1.07</b> SF per resident	<b>1.25</b> SF per resident		<b>1.25</b> SF per resident

\*NRPA 2021 National Agency Performance Review – median for cities between 100K to 250K

# Report Outline

1	INTRODUCTION
2	COMMUNITY CONTEXT
3	COMMUNITY VISION
4	PARKS
5	INDOOR RECREATION & AQUATICS
6	TRAILS
7	PROGRAMS & SERVICES
8	MAINTENANCE
9	IMPLEMENTATION



# Implementation Plan Structure

**Goals** – Broad statements that reflect desired end state towards which implementation efforts should be directed.



**Objectives** – More specific strategies to advance the goals.



**Actions** – Specific implementation actions that advance the intent of the goals and objectives.

*The recommendations are aligned with the Denton 2040 Plan, Mobility Plan, ADA Transition Plan, and other citywide plans.*

# Master Plan Goals

## GOAL 1: COMPLETE PARK SYSTEM

*Create a complete, equitable, and easily accessible park, recreation, and trail system for current and future residents of Denton as well as visitors.*

### Objectives:

- Increase parkland level of service as Denton grows to meet or exceed NRPA benchmarks.
- Increase the percentage of residents that are within a 10-minute walk to a park to 70% by 2040.
- Increase access to and within parks and facilities as Denton grows.



# Master Plan Goals

## GOAL 2: PARK SYSTEM AMENITIES

*Incorporate quality and cost-effective park system amenities that are responsive to community needs and desires.*

### Objectives:

- Improve and enhance outdoor amenities in the park system.
- Improve and enhance aquatic and indoor recreation amenities in the park system.
- Make strategic systemwide improvements throughout the parks and recreation system.
- Expand and introduce new technology to the park system.



# Master Plan Goals

## GOAL 3: PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

*Enhance the diverse program and event offerings to cater to varying ages, abilities, and interests of the community.*

### Objectives:

- Improve offerings to hold events and festivals within parks.
- Continue to evaluate program offerings as demands and trends evolve.
- Utilize the parks and recreation system and capitalize on facilities, parks, programs and amenities to drive economic development.



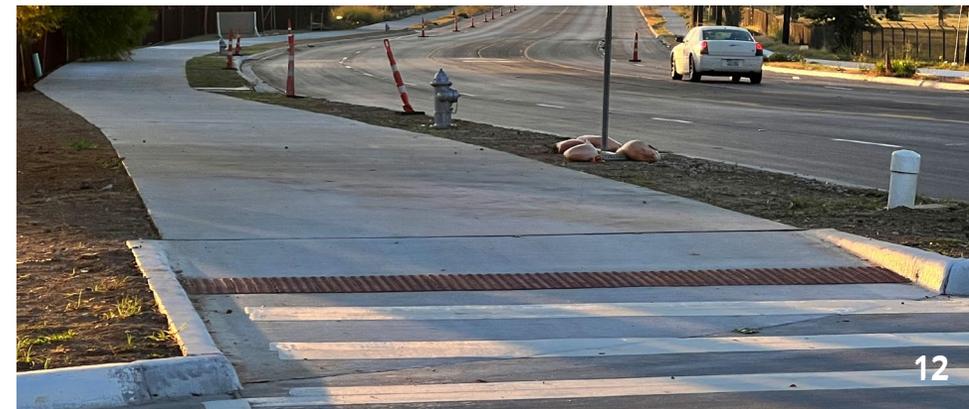
# Master Plan Goals

## GOAL 4: SYSTEM CONNECTIVITY

*Connect key destinations throughout the community through a comprehensive system of trails and bikeways.*

### Objectives:

- Expand the existing trail system to create a more connected community.
- Promote the inclusion of diverse types of trails.
- Incorporate design standards to guide future trail development.



# Master Plan Goals

## GOAL 5: SUSTAINABILITY

*Integrate sustainable practices in acquiring, designing, constructing, maintaining, and operating facilities and amenities in the park system.*

### Objectives:

- Support the preservation of Denton's urban forest.
- Preserve natural areas and wildlife habitat in the parks system.
- Explore opportunities to maintain the park system in an environmentally friendly manner.



# Master Plan Goals

## GOAL 6: MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

*Provide for systematic maintenance and efficient operations to ensure quality and safety today and in the future.*

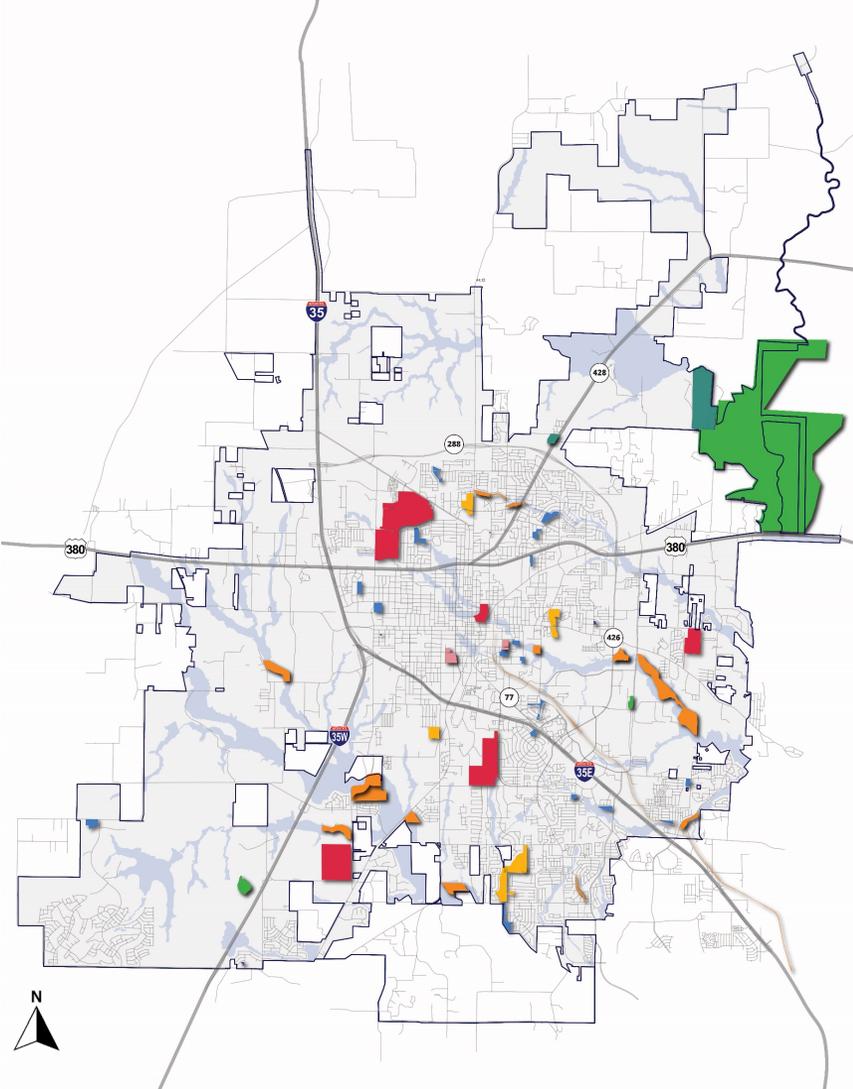
### Objectives:

- Provide stable funding sources for the development, maintenance, and operations of the park system.
- Enhance procedures to ensure long-term effective maintenance of the park system.
- Ensure appropriate levels of staffing and training for the department as the system grows.



# Overall Recommendations

### Existing Park System

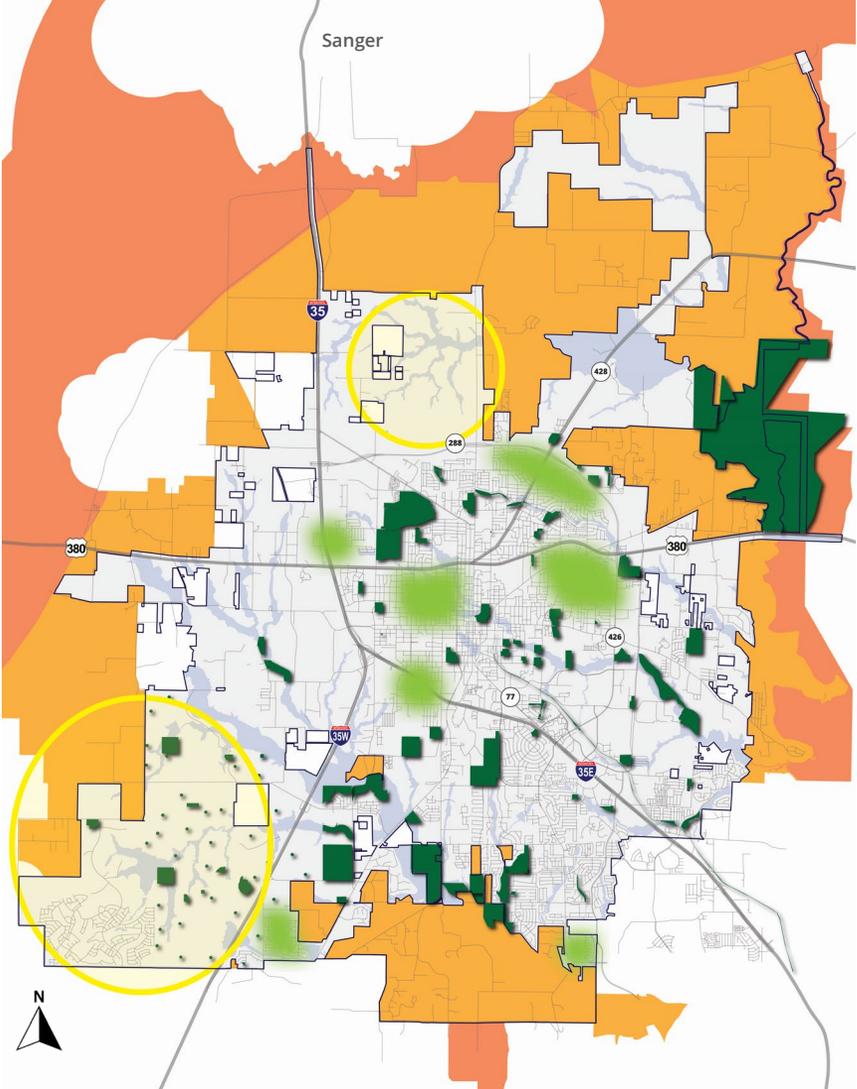


- LEGEND**
- City of Denton
  - Floodplain
  - All Parks (Existing and Future)
  - City of Denton - ETJ Division 1
  - City of Denton - ETJ Division 2
  - Master Planned Communities
  - Priority Areas-Gaps in the park service

Recommended to acquire an additional 2,500 acres by 2040.

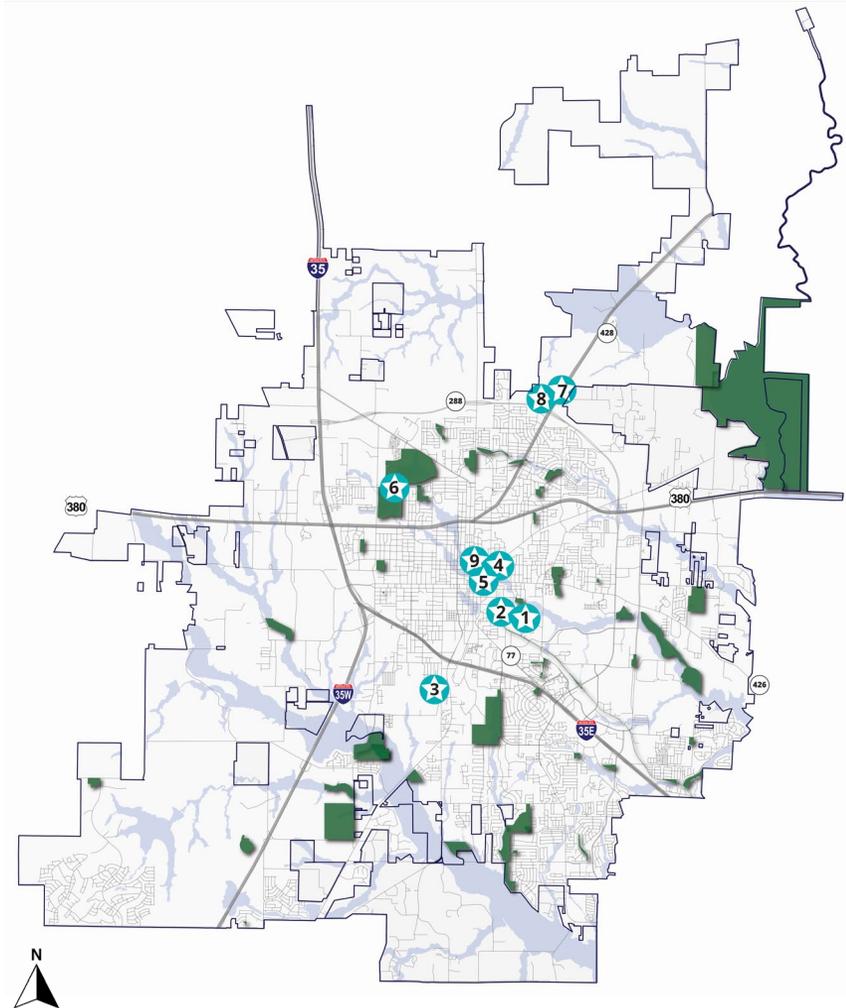
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### Future Park System Opportunities



# Overall Recommendations

## Existing Recreation Facilities

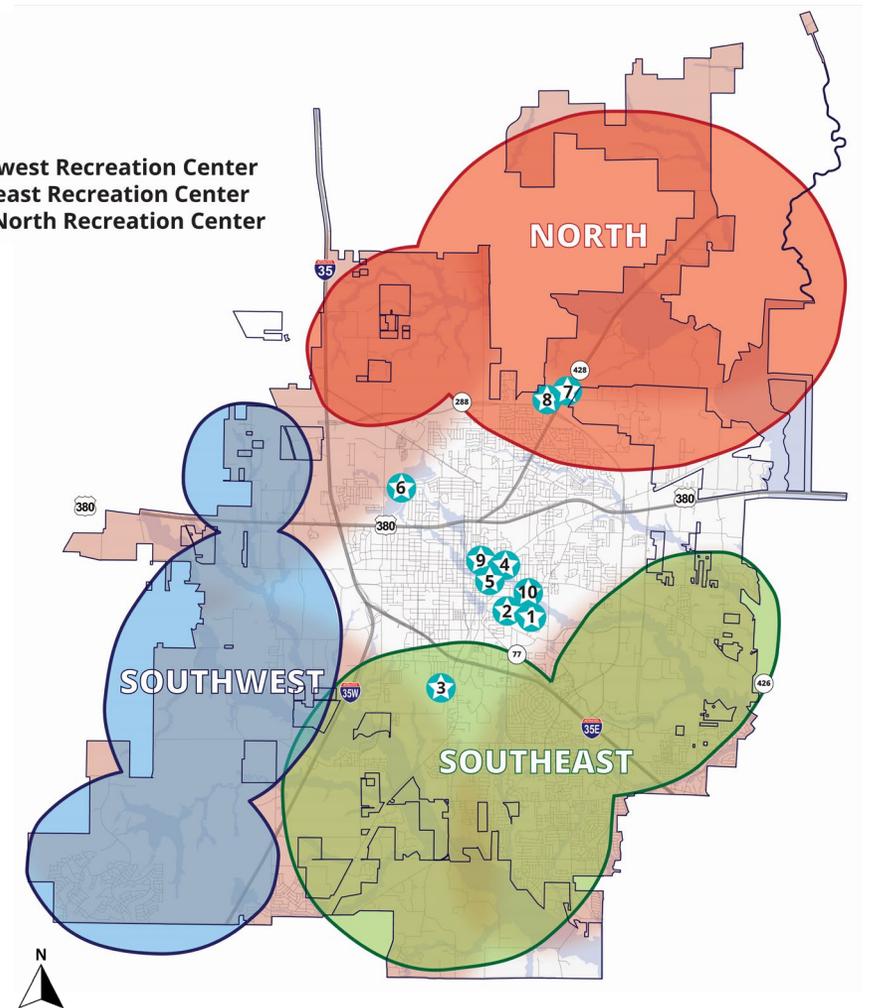


## Future Recreation Facilities Opportunities

### LEGEND

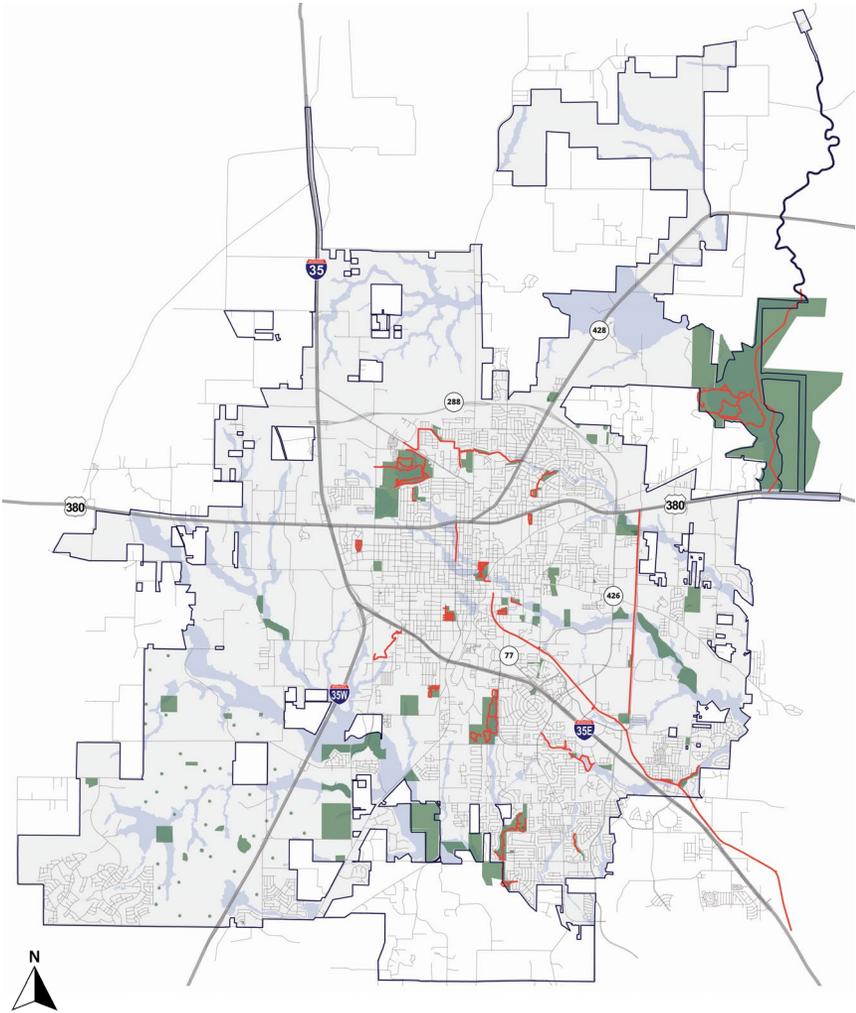
- City of Denton
- Floodplain
- Indoor Recreation
- Indoor Recreation Under-served Areas
- Short-term Priority (5 to 10 years): Southwest Recreation Center
- Mid-Term Priority (10 to 20 years): Southeast Recreation Center
- Long-Term Priority (20 years & beyond): North Recreation Center

Recommended to construct an additional 312,000 square feet by 2040.

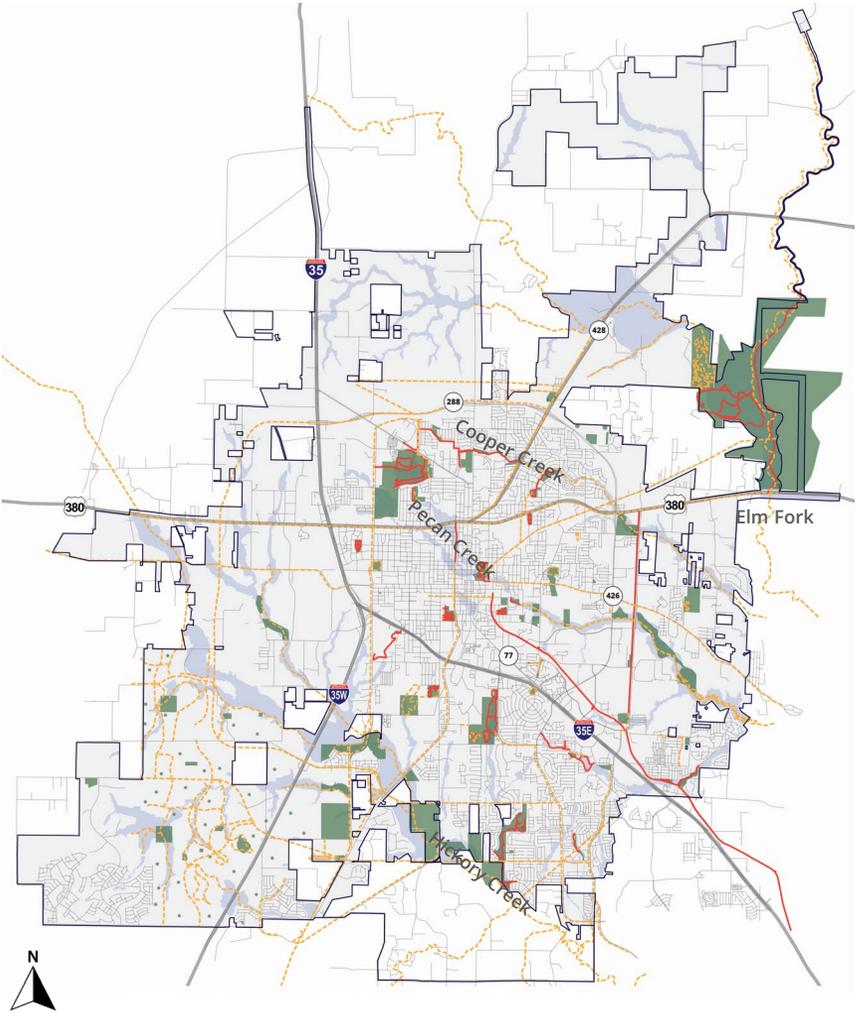


# Overall Recommendations

## Existing Trails System



## Future Trails System Opportunities



**LEGEND**

- City of Denton
- Floodplain
- Parks
- Existing Trail
- - - Proposed Trail

Recommended to construct an additional 213 miles of trail by 2040.

# Master Plan Top 10 Priorities

- **Action 1.1.1:** Acquire approximately 2,500 acres of parkland by 2040 to meet the targeted level of service for all parkland.
- **Action 1.1.4:** Routinely review and update the parkland dedication ordinance to ensure that it reflects the true cost of acquiring and developing parks.
- **Action 1.3.3:** Implement accessibility improvements and overcome barriers to access to parks and facilities as identified in the ADA Transition Plan.
- **Action 2.1.2:** Incorporate all-inclusive playgrounds in both north and south Denton as the community grows.
- **Action 3.3.2:** Develop a plan to place Denton as a competitor in the sport tourism market.
- **Action 3.3.6:** Promote nature and cultural tourism efforts to celebrate the unique natural habitats and the culture in the community.
- **Action 4.1.1:** Design and construct additional miles of trail in accordance with the recommendations in Ch. 6.
- **Action 5.1.2:** Implement the goals, objectives, and actions identified in the Urban Forestry Master Plan.
- **Action 6.1.2:** Update and maintain a CIP/CMP for the department.
- **Action 6.2.3:** Develop and implement a park and facility evaluation process to assure high maintenance standards.

# Next Steps

- Incorporate Final Comments
- Master Plan Adoption
- Implementation!

# Thank you!



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