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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

Located at the convergence of the north and south forks of the San Gabriel River, Georgetown’s San Gabriel Park is both a literal and a symbolic gathering place. It is a Lonestar Legacy Park with cultural significance dating back to the area’s earliest settlers, and remains popular today, with events and reunions constantly held along the waterfront. With its proximity to the historic courthouse square and Southwestern University, as well as its riverfront trails, unique geological features, and immense variety of programming, the park is an important destination for residents and visitors alike. The City of Georgetown is committed to the continued improvement and maintenance of this local treasure.

PURPOSE OF THE 2015 MASTER PLAN

The purpose of this Master Plan is to provide vision and direction for developing the Park as a signature destination of the City of Georgetown. This plan will serve as a framework for future design, development, and maintenance of amenities and natural features within the Park.

In 2008, master planning services were performed for San Gabriel Park as a portion of the overall Georgetown Parks Master Plan. Since then, two key events have made it necessary to revisit the San Gabriel Park Plan specifically: the Downtown Master Plan, adopted in March 2014, and the Water Quality Management Plan, adopted in November 2014. These documents impact the facilities and operations of San Gabriel Park. Additionally, the 2015 San Gabriel Park Master Plan offers a more focused, in-depth study of, and recommendations for, this specific park.
**MASTER PLAN PROCESS**

The Master Plan process took place over a period of approximately six months and was completed in July 2015. Planning decisions were based on history and context of the Park, careful site analysis including a geological assessment, public input, and feedback from community leaders including the Parks and Recreation Board and the City Council.

The resulting Plan was separated into four phases of work, and an opinion of probable cost was developed for each. As the plan is executed, additional study and design of these detailed areas will be necessary. San Gabriel Park is poised to become an iconic destination that both enhances the community’s quality of life and embodies its character. The Park is already a source of pride and fond memories for many in Georgetown, but thoughtful and lasting modifications will help to ensure it provides the same or better experiences for future generations.

**PROJECT GOALS**

1. Preserve and enhance the natural environment
   - Preserve existing legacy trees and plant new trees
   - Monitor, protect, and restore the river’s edge
   - Control access to sensitive areas

2. Preserve and enhance park activities
   - Improve recreation opportunities for all ages
   - Provide permanent structures that are attractive and long-lasting
   - Improve function and compatibility of activity and event spaces
   - Provide opportunities for social engagement and education
   - Establish safer pedestrian and bicycle conditions

3. Strengthen community ties to the Park
   - Create gateways to identify the Park boundaries
   - Improve wayfinding in the Park
   - Preserve the history of the land and its past uses
   - Maintain flexible spaces for future uses
   - Strengthen the Park’s identity
A large number and wide variety of activities currently take place at the Park.
The 2014 Water Quality Management Plan places restrictions on improvements within orange and red buffer zones, and within the 100-year flood plain.
PUBLIC INPUT

A public meeting was held on March 18, 2015 at the Georgetown Community Center to gather input regarding the preliminary program and framework plan. Surveys were distributed to those who attended the meeting, and were also made available online to Georgetown residents.

What do you enjoy about San Gabriel Park? (choose as many as you like)
What do you think needs to be improved or updated at San Gabriel Park?

- Opportunities along the trail (exercise equipment, education signs, benches) (19.3%)
- Area along San Gabriel River (21.05%)
- Disc golf (0%)
- Bar-b-que pits (14.04%)
- Other (10.53%)
- Smaller play areas (5.26%)
- Large picnic shelters (5.26%)
- Gazebo (5.26%)
- Small picnic tables and shelters (12.28%)
PUBLIC INPUT

What one thing must remain as it is about San Gabriel Park?
PUBLIC INPUT

What one thing must change about San Gabriel Park?
The springs, river, and historic trees are the heart of San Gabriel Park, symbolizing the community’s history of community and stewardship. Quiet, traditional uses will take place near this center, while louder activity, multi-use spaces, pick-up and drop-off will occur at the edges. This organizing principle will make the Park easier to use and reinforce its unique identity.
KEY PROGRAMMING: ENTRY AT MORROW STREET
KEY PROGRAMMING: ENTRY AT MORROW STREET

AFTER

existing large oaks

circle with signage

view to central green

directional signage

traffic calming & contrasting crosswalks
KEY PROGRAMMING: RESTORATION OF SPRINGS & RIVER'S EDGE
KEY PROGRAMMING: RESTORATION OF SPRINGS & RIVER’S EDGE

- native plantings to reduce foot traffic
- remove concrete
- signage and stepping stones at controlled observation points
- existing stone walls
- young bald cypress trees
- protect existing tree roots
KEY PROGRAMMING: INTERPRETIVE THEMED PLAYSCAPES, “FOREST”
KEY PROGRAMMING: INTERPRETIVE THEMED PLAYSCAPES, “FOREST”

- Signature poppies
- Picnic tables w/ lowland species
- Bur oaks w/ themed nature play
- Poured-in-place surfacing
BEFORE

KEY PROGRAMMING: INTERPRETIVE THEMED PLAYSCAPES, “RURAL LIVING”
KEY PROGRAMMING: INTERPRETIVE THEMED PLAYSCAPES, “RURAL LIVING”
BEFORE
KEY PROGRAMMING: FAMILY OF PAVILIONS
KEY PROGRAMMING: FAMILY OF PAVILIONS

- Pavilion for rentals, events
- Large group bar-b-que
- Renovated restroom
- Parking and Boy Scout hut
- Existing Community Center
- Drop-off
- Paving treatment for pedestrian movement

AFTER
BEFORE

KEY PROGRAMMING: TRAILHEADS
KEY PROGRAMMING: TRAILHEADS

- Controlled access points to water
- Stained concrete w/ textured surface
- Young sycamore trees
- Existing trail
- Map & rules
BEFORE

KEY PROGRAMMING: CENTRAL GREEN FESTIVAL AREA

recreation center and pool

show barn

sports fields

rodeo arena

former site of football stadium

CHAMBER WAY

MORROW STREET
KEY PROGRAMMING: CENTRAL GREEN FESTIVAL AREA
AFTER, TYPICAL USE

KEY PROGRAMMING: CENTRAL GREEN FESTIVAL AREA
AFTER, SPECIAL EVENT

KEY PROGRAMMING: CENTRAL GREEN FESTIVAL AREA
Phase 1 Work:
- Spring & river restoration
- Entry monuments & signage
- Picnic pavilions
- Play areas
- Trailhead
- Restrooms
- Trees & plantings
- Parking
$2.7 million

Phase 2 Work:
- Entry monuments & signage
- Bar-b-que pavilion
- Picnic pavilions
- Play areas
- Trailhead
- Restrooms
- Parking
$3.4 million

Phase 3 Work:
- Entry monuments & signage
- Pavilions
- Central Green
- Teen plaza / skate park
- Splash pad
- Restrooms
- Parking
$4.6 million

Phase 4 Work (Future):
- Entry monuments & signage
- Sport fields & disc golf improvements
- Creek stabilization
- Trailhead

San Gabriel River
North Austin Avenue