



## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update 2021-2022

### TOP PRIORITY PROJECTS LIST (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board) **P&R as “Lead” - Top Priorities**

1. Create a tree planting program for parks, streets, drainage ways, medians, bike/pedestrian routes, and other public places, including the river corridor.
2. Explore establishing an urban forestry program and enroll in the *Tree City USA* program.
3. Use only native plant species in the landscaping on all city properties to set an example.
4. Create a public education campaign or display of native flora and fauna; Create QR codes or forms of display around the park system to be able to identify plants.
5. Coordinate with the Riverside Nature Center, Texas Master Gardeners, Texas Master Naturalists, and the UGRA to construct pilot projects and campaigns to better inform the public on use of native plants. (Addresses P1, P2, and P3)
6. Add *Parks Ambassador Program*, particularly in regard to River Trail tours, to be scripted as educational.
7. Create a *Jr. River Ranger* program with UGRA and others that educates elementary students about pollution issues in the river, teaches them to always leave the river and parks cleaner than when they came, understand runoff issues (pet poop, trash, etc.).
8. Create wildflower prairies—buy seeds and place “don’t mow” signage.
9. Encourage the removal of undesirable plant species, such as chinaberry, ligustrum, giant reed, bamboo, and certain cedar (define “over-growth of cedar” vs. “old-growth cedar” acting as habitat).
10. Create recycling stations in all parks with educational signage about what is/is not recyclable.
11. Add dog waste stations in KSP especially near trailheads and in camping areas.
12. Develop the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan that rethinks parks, recognizing their social, recreational, ecological and public health benefit.

13. Amend the park dedication ordinance to further promote improvements to existing and future parks by requiring updated approaches to future residential subdivisions to set aside adequate green space or funds to develop usable parkland.
14. Consider the use of innovative approaches to funding park acquisitions and improvements, including grants from federal and state agencies and local organizations, bond sales and implementing conservation easements to preserve open space and natural areas.
15. Identify which parks are in most need of renovation, per park dedication fund allowances (see projects list under Guiding Principle P5).
16. Plan for and implement more recreational amenities along the river.
17. Explore a variety of options, including bonds, to fund park facility needs and to enhance River Trail connections.
18. Using social media, traditional media and customer surveys, ask residents what park facilities and programs they want, and strive to provide them.
19. Complete a feasibility study and consider bond funding and local partnerships with KISD and Schreiner University to rebuild/build the city's Olympic pool and aquatics amenities.
20. Improve access to Lake Nimitz as a recreational amenity.
21. Look at potential bond funding for enhancements and improvements to basic infrastructure at Kerrville Schreiner Park (KSP).
22. Improve/Add to Carver Park pavilion restrooms and encourage greater community involvement in this park.
23. Avoid the acquisition or development of public pocket parks due to high maintenance costs and low utilization.
24. KSP renovation and improvements (water lines replacement, restroom/shower upgrades, road repairs, Fawn Hideaway RV sites upgrade – electrical and water, expand hillside and add RV sites, Wi-Fi).
25. KSP - add more flow mountain bike trails, create better signage for trails, and create master plan for emergency access to trail system.
26. All playgrounds – update old playgrounds and add shade canopies.

27. Singing Wind Park – repurpose softball fields/lighting (consider dog park, pump track, disc golf course, BMX track, “flow” mountain bike trail, etc.)
28. Singing Wind Park – skate park expansion.
29. Olympic Pool Improvements – long-term project – address maintenance and infrastructure issues and bring up to code, heat the pool to extend season, update diving boards, add competitive swim features, add recreation and leisure features.
30. Louise Hays Park (LHP) – add multipurpose sports courts (basketball, pickleball, soccer, etc.), improvements to river access, improvements to bridge stairs and access.
31. Sports Complex – additional parking on soccer side and Town Creek connection.
32. Sports Complex - Develop and implement a tree planting plan.
33. Scott Schreiner Golf Course – repair existing bridges, cart path improvements, update restrooms, replace greens, building updates, etc.
34. Golf course reforestation – develop and implement a tree planting plan for lost/removed trees.
35. Create a "swimming pavilion" at one of the boat ramps and create easy entrance/exits to Nimitz Lake for swimmers, plus some shaded tables for socializing, small coin lockers for swimmers to store their items.
36. Partner/continue to partner with Riverside Nature Center, Dietert Center, KISD, and Schreiner University on support for programming and capital improvements.
37. River Trail - Continue developing a vision/plan and identify funding options to extend the River Trail.
38. River Trail - Expand the River Trail from G St. to downtown/Library on the northside of the river.
39. River Trail - Expand the River Trail to the west of Louise Hays Park on the southside of the river.
40. River Trail - Create a connection to the River Trail along Town Creek.
41. Incorporate the River into all advertising promotions.
42. Develop a well-planned specific media campaign to promote the River to locals and tourists.
43. Provide information to the public on water quality testing of the river (UGRA).
44. Promote birding along the river trail, especially near the Riverside Nature Center and towards the Dietert Center. Educational signage could include what to look for in each winter/summer migration.

45. Promote health and wellness aspects of the outdoors - active lifestyles focused around river/trail programming.
46. Ensure diversity of ethnicity, age, abilities/disabilities, etc. displayed in promotional materials.
47. Promote/maintain property and facility use agreements between the City and Kerrville Independent School District (i.e. Sinding Wind Park, Kerrville Tennis Center, Kerrville Sports Complex, Schreiner Golf Course, old Peterson Middle School property, etc.).
48. Work with local health and fitness businesses to utilize parks as outdoor venues for fitness classes (yoga, Zumba).
49. Enhance park programming capability for public gatherings/events.
50. Facilitate or expand more City activities around the river, especially during cooler times of the year. Ex. When TPWD stocks the river with fish, host a day with someone from TPWD to educate the public on what kind of fish they're catching. Also, host a day where we invite children who might not normally fish (think families who might not normally go outdoors or can't afford to take fishing trips) to a "First Catch" Day.
51. Enhance the existing Lehmann-Monroe dog park and add a second fenced dog park in city.
52. Establish a *First Tee* youth golf program.
53. Longer term, establish regular park patrol for safety (bike or mounted); consider stations with signage, call boxes/other emergency infrastructure.
54. Maximize opportunities for public-private ventures, leases, and license agreements in offering a broader spectrum of fee-based recreation experiences. These could include bowling, skating, food trucks, bait-and-tackle, miniature golf, go cart track, BMX track, carousel, zip line, etc.
55. Add security cameras to parks and River Trail.

## **P&R as “Support” (S) - Top Priorities**

1. Establish special guidelines and/or standards for businesses adjoining the river, including carefully selecting the list of uses permitted in these areas, implementing special building design standards or guidelines, and encouraging businesses with river frontage to make a concerted effort to connect to and interact with the river. (S)
2. Collaborate with UGRA and others to reduce surface water pollutants and debris in the Guadalupe River. (S)
3. Raise public awareness regarding the value of Kerrville’s natural beauty to the community. (S)
4. Encourage new businesses to connect and embrace a connection to the River. (S)
5. Consider zoning regulations that require new and remodeled businesses to enhance the appearance of any portion of a building and all outside activities that face onto the River. (S)
6. Minimize the impacts of industrial uses on the river corridor by buffering these activities with vegetation and setback (distance), paying careful attention to techniques that minimize contaminants in stormwater runoff. (S)
7. Collaborate with UGRA to recruit local companies to adopt a section of the river and encourage employees to participate in periodic maintenance of the area. (S)
8. Develop a tree preservation ordinance. (S)
9. Implement “green” design standards for drainage systems. (S)
10. Collaborate with UGRA and others to mitigate invasive species problems in the River watershed. (S)
11. Improve natural storm water filtration by applying best management practices in riparian buffer areas to mitigate negative impacts by preserving an adequate buffer zone, preventing disturbance, minimizing sedimentation, excluding pollutants, preserving habitat, etc. (S)
12. Develop a River Corridor Overlay district to regulate or guide land use, building location and orientation, building appearance, landscaping, parking, service areas and other site elements to preserve or enhance the character of the river corridor. (S)
13. Implement a landscape ordinance that provides credit for preserving existing desirable trees. (S)
14. Develop/Update and implement a plan that accommodates alternative modes of travel (sidewalks/trails/bike paths and lanes) to connect gateways, neighborhoods, corridors, the river and other destinations. (S)
15. Add bike and pedestrian safe routes for better access to the River Trail. (S)
16. Work with the KEDC to ensure preservation of the riparian buffer when recruiting and reviewing new development opportunities. (S)

17. Examine the establishment of a *Sports Commission* to promote more recreational and sporting events in and around Kerrville.