



City of Kerrville

# Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update 2022

*Adopted April 26, 2022*



**KERRVILLE**  
2050 ➤



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# 2022 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

## Purpose

Parks and Recreation facilities and services are an important and expanding element to the Kerrville community. Recent demands for long range community planning have emphasized parks, open space, the Guadalupe River, the environment, and the programs involving each of these. Primary to this planning, specifically in regard to the parks and recreation system, has been the completion of the **Kerrville 2050 Comprehensive Plan**, the **River Trail Master Plan**, and the **Aquatics Master Plan**. In order to further enhance the planning value of parks and recreation services, the **2022 Parks and Recreation Master Plan** has been developed as a companion to these other adopted plans, provide more specific detail to those adopted plans, identify needed projects and services over the 10 year planning period, identify / prioritize parks and recreation capital improvement projects over the next 10 years to qualify for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and other agency development grants, and to be used as a guide for the City of Kerrville's capital improvement program.

Parks are important because they promote a healthy community image and a sense of place, support economic development and quality of life, and boost physical and mental well-being.

## Mission Statement

The City of Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department seeks to provide a variety of quality and diverse leisure opportunities in the setting of our public facilities located throughout the city. We offer programs and services in order to improve the quality of life that makes Kerrville, the Capital of the Texas Hill Country, a special place to live, work, visit, and play. Our goal is to encourage our community and visitors to get outdoors, be active, and play.



*GET OUTDOORS. BE ACTIVE. PLAY.*

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Kerrville parks and recreation system has been guided by two previous adopted master plans, the first in 2002 and the second in 2008. Both of these plans primarily evaluated the conditions of the city's park facilities and recommended capital improvements but offered limited review of non-capital programs, public policy actions, or marketing enhancements. The projects and actions identified in these two previous plans were sufficiently completed, providing an updated parks and recreation system for the community. Additional community master plans have also been adopted that significantly further the parks, recreation, open space, and river corridor situation, to include the **Kerrville 2050 Comprehensive Plan (Kerrville 2050)**, the **River Trail Master Plan**, the **Olympic Pool Feasibility Study**, and the **Boating Center Study**.

In order to help meet the needs of the future, the **2022 Parks and Recreation Master Plan** is designed to accomplish the following:

- Ensure quality, safe facilities and programs through physical improvements and policy actions;
- Is a complimentary document to **Kerrville 2050** and other related master plans;
- Prioritizes capital improvements consistent with these previously adopted plans and public input;
- Is approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in meeting their Local Park Master Plan Guidelines with emphasis on parks and recreation capital improvements; and
- Has a 10-year plan period, with an update every 5 years.

The community planning process utilized for **Kerrville 2050** (adopted by the City of Kerrville in 2018) included extensive public comment and review and identified strategic areas to address physical development, programming, marketing, and policy. Because of



that plan's identification of community needs and actions, including parks and recreation elements (Chapter 11 of **Kerrville 2050**), the City of Kerrville intends to utilize this Parks and Recreation Master Plan as an enhancement to, and in tandem with, **Kerrville 2050** in order to avoid contradictions, overlaps and gaps, and public confusion regarding projects and priorities.

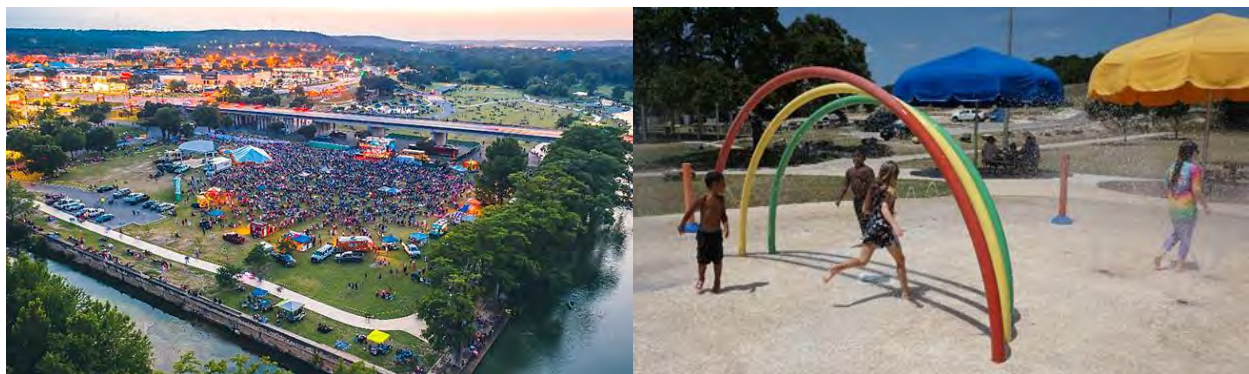
To ensure that the public findings associated with **Kerrville 2050** are still relevant for this **2022 Parks and Recreation Master Plan**, new public input processes have been used to reevaluate project priorities. This has been completed through both public meetings and online survey.

Throughout this *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* document, inserts from **Kerrville 2050** are shown in ***bold italics***, with credits for that plan listed in the index of this document. **Kerrville 2050** has a 30-year planning period and includes continual project updates. Because of **Kerrville 2050's** 30-year planning period, the 10-year *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is formatted to not only identify the higher priority projects to be addressed over 10 years, but to also provide more detailed project identification than provided in **Kerrville 2050**.

As mentioned, **Kerrville 2050**, specifically Chapter 11, is an overview document, with the *2022 Parks and Recreation Master Plan* providing more specific actions and projects. (For easy reference, the entirety of **Chapter 11 – PARKS, OPEN SPACE and the RIVER CORRIDOR** of **Kerrville 2050** is included in this document – Exhibit A).

Statements from Kerrville 2050 Comprehensive Plan  
Chapter 11 – PARKS, OPEN SPACE, and the RIVER CORRIDOR

***“The natural Hill Country environment in Kerrville is among the community’s most cherished assets. The rolling hills that frame the city have attracted people to the banks of the Guadalupe River since the mid-1800s. The Guadalupe stretches from the Gulf of Mexico to the central Hill Country. It is considered by most Kerrville residents to be the heart of the community and many of the City’s recreational assets revolve around the river. This chapter discusses Kerrville’s parks and recreation system – the river, parks, open spaces, and scenic areas – and concludes with a series of Guiding Principles and sample Action Items. The Principles reflect community aspirations and guide public policy in a clear and positive direction. The Action Items are designed as specific tasks to help achieve the vision.”***



## 2. JURISDICTION, SERVICE AREA, & COMMUNITY DATA

The 2022 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is specifically geared toward the City of Kerrville's offering of parks, recreation, open space, and river corridor. This plan identifies needs within the Kerrville city-limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction, only. However, the overall identification of similar facilities and services in the community, whether publically or privately owned, fee-based or free access, or other non-municipal status, was factored into the plan recommendations.



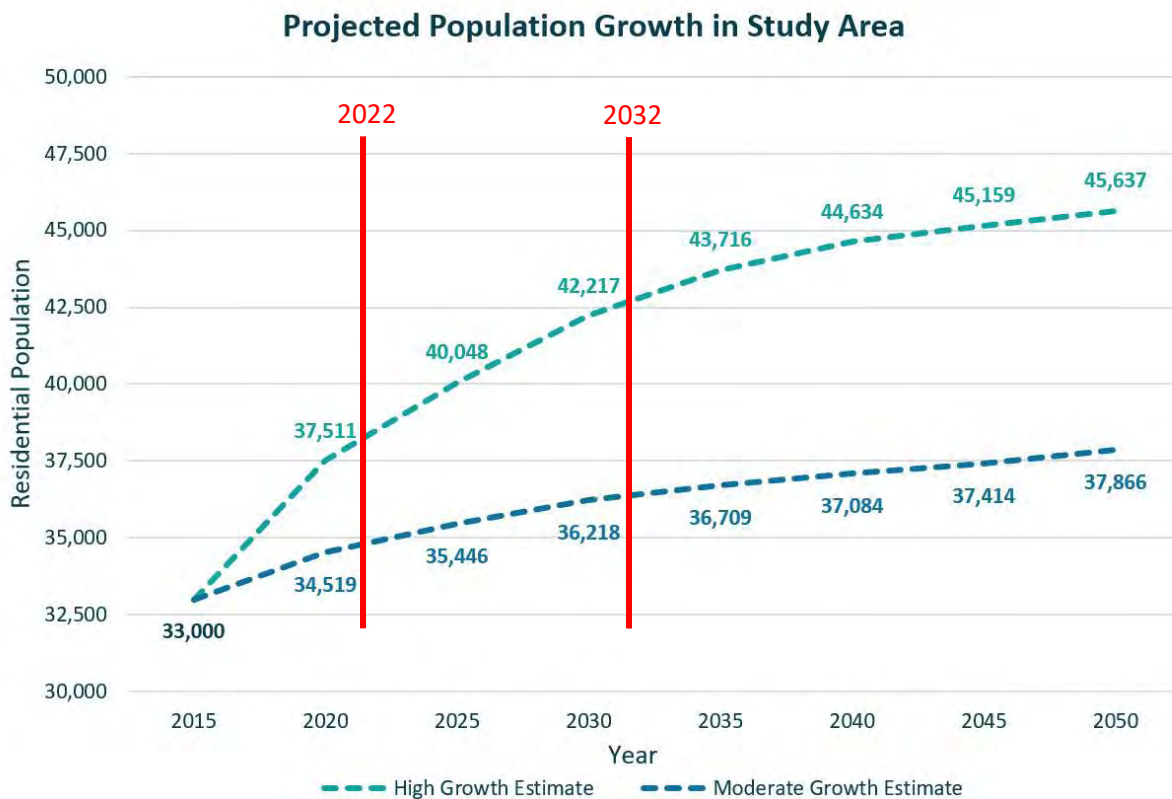
Each parks and recreation master plan that has been previously adopted by the City regarding projects and services has appropriately identified private and other governmental jurisdiction properties and programs and factored those findings in the recommendations for the City to pursue. While the local government should offer parks and recreation outlets, it is not expected to be the sole provider of these services in today's society. Priorities for use of the City's limited resources needs to weigh the role of private and non-municipal service providers and maximize opportunities for sponsorships, partnerships, and viable outsourcing.

Growth & Population Trends (from Kerrville 2050 - 2018; amended in 2022)

*“Kerrville and Kerr County are expected to continue growing in population in the foreseeable future, with the study area (i.e., the city proper and its expected two-mile ETJ, which is to expand from 1 mile to 2 miles once Kerrville officially reaches 25,000 population within the city limits.). The following chart illustrates this trend by highlighting high and moderate growth estimates based on population projections from the Texas Demographic Center. The high growth estimate assumes a level of net migration equal to that of the decade between 2000 and 2010. This estimate is described as a “high growth” scenario because of the tremendous growth that Texas, including Kerrville, experienced during this decade is unlikely to be sustainable over the long term. Nonetheless, it is the current track that the city and state are on. The moderate growth estimate, on the other hand, assumes a level of net migration equal*



*to half of the net migration seen during the decade between 2000 and 2010. This is considered a more conservative estimate by some due to the fact that lower levels of in-migration are more likely to be sustainable over the long run.”*



Per the U.S. 2020 Census, the population within the city limits of Kerrville was 24,278 people with a population density of 1,086 people per square mile. As the chart above from **Kerrville 2050** illustrates, the high growth estimate population of the Study Area (city proper plus the 2 mile future Extra Territorial Jurisdiction) was over 37,511 residents in 2022 with a density of over 556 people per square mile of land. The study area’s high growth estimate shows a residential population estimate of over 42,217 by 2032 (10 year *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* period) while the moderate growth scenario reflects that estimate to over 36,218 by 2032. Population densities are estimated at 630 and 537 people per square mile for high and moderate growth estimates, respectfully, by 2032. The city proper, as the city limits are currently defined, is projected to grow to approximately 27,000 people by 2032 per the Texas Demographic Center.

These population estimates are used in Chapter 5. Concepts and Standards of this document to evaluate the need for future park properties in Kerrville and its future Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ).



***“Densification will almost certainly occur within both Kerr County, where the boundaries are fixed, and in the study area, although future annexation could mitigate this effect to some degree.***

***Kerrville is a growing community, the home of Schreiner University, James Avery artisan jewelry, the Kerrville Municipal Airport, H-E-B Foundation, the Cailloux Center for the Performing Arts, Kroc Center and, of course, the scenic hills and the Guadalupe River. Both long-time residents and recent arrivals have chosen the character and small-town charm of the Hill Country over the chaos of big city life. If current high growth and migration rates continue, the Greater Kerrville area—Kerr County—will be home to nearly 70,000 people by 2050, with more than 45,000 of them living in what is present-day Kerrville and its two-mile extra-territorial jurisdiction. Because of its geographical location, Kerrville has the potential to assume a role of newfound importance in the region. Foresight and a willingness to take on the task of planning for this type of growth is crucial.”***

In addition to city parks, numerous non-municipal facilities provide recreation outlets to Kerrville citizens.



### 3. PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS & DEMAND ASSESSMENT

#### Process

The City of Kerrville's approach to the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is to utilize **Kerrville 2050** as a companion planning document and to follow **TPWD's local park master plan guidelines**. This has been done to ensure a coordinated local planning and implementation effort without contradictions, the ability to track project development with a singular reporting system, and to help secure any grants in the future through TPWD or other granting sources or community planning efforts.

With the extensive public input processes used in previous preparation of **Kerrville 2050**, follow-up public input processes for the 2022 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* targeted project elements in more detail, identified additional projects within the *Guiding Principles* of **Kerrville 2050**, identified new demands, and validated or amended the recommendations of **Kerrville 2050** over the shorter 10 year *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* period.

#### Steering Committee

The Kerrville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) was established as the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan's Steering Committee* in early 2021 because of their knowledge and awareness of the Kerrville parks system and their role as a liaison to the Kerrville City Council, the Kerrville general public, and the Parks and Recreation Department staff. Numerous meetings were held with the Steering Committee (see Exhibit F in Index) to vet the status of **Kerrville 2050**, validate or amend projects identified in **Kerrville 2050**, identify new or expanded projects for the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, develop draft priority projects for the 10 year planning period, and conduct public input meetings and review surveys to finalize projects and priorities.

In addition, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be provided updates on the 2022 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* and its priorities at their regularly scheduled meetings after plan adoption and throughout the 10-year planning period.

#### Public Input & Surveys

The general public's interest in Kerrville's park offerings has remained very high over the years, with a variety of opinions and preferences. Public input and identification of projects was central to the development of **Kerrville 2050** (particularly Chapter 11) in 2018, and was equally important to the development of this 2022 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*. The City of Kerrville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Steering Committee) developed a draft list of projects for the

master plan in late 2021 for consideration. Public input to review, validate, or amend that draft list of projects was completed in the form of public input meetings and an online public survey through the city's website in late 2021 and early 2022.

Public feedback to identify priorities for this plan was gathered in the following ways:

- Reviewed / amended parks and recreation priority projects identified in **Kerrville 2050**.
- Provided 10 year plan priorities directly to members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Steering Committee) and city staff.
- Provided comment and identification of priority projects at the Steering Committee's Public Input Meeting of December 15, 2021 (see Exhibit G).
- Provided comment and identification of priority projects through the city's online survey (see Exhibit H).
- Provided comment and identification of priority projects at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Steering Committee) during 2022 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* review and adoption meetings (see Exhibit F).
- Providing comment and identification of priority projects at the Kerrville City Council during 2022 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* review and adoption meetings (see Exhibit I).



## 4. INVENTORY & EXISTING CONDITIONS

***“A strong system of parks provides benefits to individuals and the community as a whole. Parks promote a healthy community image and a sense of place, support economic development and quality of life, and boost physical and mental well-being. Today, the parks system in Kerrville includes a variety of amenities for people with different interests, including walking, biking, fishing, swimming, league play, tennis, classes, tournaments, special events, and more.”***

In addition to its municipal parks system, Kerrville is blessed with local parks owned and operated by Kerr County, numerous publicly and privately owned and operated facilities that provide recreation programs for the public, and nearby state parks outside of the Kerrville ETJ within close driving distance.

### Municipal Parks, Open Spaces, & Facilities

**Four square miles, almost 18% of Kerrville proper and roughly 6% of its future 2 mile ETJ are municipal parks and open space. Kerrville-Schreiner Park (517 acres), Singing Wind Park (100 acres), Louise Hays Park (64 acres), Scott Schreiner Golf Course (120 acres), and the Kerrville Sports Complex (104 acres) are the largest city owned park facilities. Smaller parks are located near concentrations of housing in the residential areas of the city. The list below details all municipally-owned parks within Kerrville and its ETJ:**

B.C. Richards Park: This 5 acre park is located a short distance south of Lytle Park just off of N. Travis St. It was previously a landfill and is largely featureless, with backstops, benches, and small parking area. Used primarily for athletic purposes such as softball or baseball and open space activities.

Cailloux Theater Complex: Originally the city’s Municipal Auditorium, this city owned facility was dramatically upgraded into an exceptional community theater operated by a non-profit with seating for 800 in the main theater, adjacent “black box” theater, separate support building, and parking.

Carver Park: A family-friendly 5 acre park, Carver’s “sprayground” and modular playground make this a popular destination for children and families. Multigenerational amenities, such as the covered basketball court, a large barbecue area, small pavilions, multi-use athletic field, parking, 1/3 trail loop, and restroom make this site a particularly attractive place to gather and play.

Cypress Park: This 1 acre park lies roughly 2.5 miles northwest of the downtown core on the northern bank of the Guadalupe River and features a rest area and a boat ramp that provides access to the Nimitz Lake.



Dallas Daughtry Boardwalk Pavilion: Located near the heart of historic downtown Kerrville, the Boardwalk Pavilion connects the city's core with the River Trail – the crown jewel of its trail system. It offers a scenic view of the Guadalupe River from the middle of downtown and provides terraced stairways down to the future expansion of the River Trail.

E.E. Sample Park: Sample Park is a 5 acre park with access to athletic, playground, and recreational amenities, including a barbecue pit. This park is on Loop 534, adjacent to apartments and neighborhoods.

Elm Creek Park: Elm Creek Park is a 13 acre park on the city's northwest side. It has a one mile trail that makes it ideal for biking, hiking, and jogging, along with covered pavilion and parking.

Granger MacDonald Park: an undeveloped 1.5 acre park on the southwest side of the Guadalupe River.

Guadalupe Park: Guadalupe Park, along the Guadalupe River in west Kerrville, is a little more than 4 acres with sand volleyball and basketball courts, shaded picnic tables, and a playground.

Habitat Park: This 3.5 acre open space is located just north of Lytle Park on the city's east side.

Kerrville Tennis Complex: This newly renovated 9 acre sports center and park features fourteen tennis courts, 2 pickle ball courts, a practice wall, pro shop, pavilion with restrooms, parking, and well-lit open space for the enjoyment of the public.

Kerrville-Schreiner Park: KSP is Kerrville's largest and busiest park. Located on 517 acres on the city's south side, a portion of it is separated from the main park site by Bandera Hwy. Activities at this site include swimming, hiking, mountain biking, picnicking, basketball, fishing, boating, volleyball, birdwatching, barbecuing, and camping (RV, tent, cabins). There are 23 mini cabins, a ranch house, carriage house, large park cabin, playground, group dining hall with kitchen, recreation hall with kitchen, fishing deck, amphitheater, kayak concession, pollinator garden, and Kerrville River Trail Trailhead.

Kerrville Sports Complex: The 104 acre complex, dedicated in the spring of 2018, is a series of baseball, softball, and soccer fields, with parking, restrooms, and concession buildings in the northern part of the city. The facility sits on both sides of Holdsworth Drive south of I-10. It provides venues mostly for youth sports, but can also accommodate adult team play and practice. A leased indoor batting / training / pro shop facility is also on this property.

Knapp Crossing Park: This 1 acre park, off of Junction Hwy on the north bank of Nimitz Lake, consists of a boat ramp and parking area.

Loop 534 Sports Fields: Historically used for soccer play and practice, this 20 acre property is now used in coordination with the Kerrville Sports Complex. A local control radio model plane club also uses this site.

Lehmann-Monroe Park: Lehmann-Monroe Park borders Louise Hays Park and is directly connected to it. It is unique in that it includes the city's only dog park within its 27 acres, along with a River Trail trailhead and parking.

Library Park / Campus (Mansion / Library / Playground / History Center): This campus includes a park with playground, overlooks the Guadalupe River and Louise Hays Park, and has direct access to Tranquility Island.

Lois Park: This park lies just west of the larger Elm Creek Park. It is a walkable, 11 acre open space with limited features.

Louise Hays Park: Situated in the southern portion of the central city, Louise Hays Park is a popular destination with an interactive fountain, multiple pavilions, playgrounds, and other features, as well as access to the city's River Trail. It is the third largest park in the municipal system, encompassing 63.5 acres straddling the Guadalupe River. Because of its size and location near the river, it is a suitable site and a pleasant venue for large community events, such as the Fourth of July celebration. (For public awareness purposes, Lehmann-Monroe Park and Tranquility Island are considered geographic areas within Louise Hays Park, creating a total contiguous park of 97.5 acres)

Lowry Park: A 5 acre park that serves as a formal trailhead for the River Trail, this site is primarily an open space.

Lytle Park: 4 acres of playground equipment, trail, and a softball field are nestled in the middle of a single-family neighborhood in eastern Kerrville.

Memorial Park: This 1 acre special use site near the convergence of Memorial Blvd., Water St., and Travis St., stands as a memorial to those who fought during World War I.

Scott Schreiner Golf Course: Scott Schreiner Golf Course is a 138-acre, 18 hole municipal course with pro shop, pavilion, driving range and practice area just northeast of the Central Business District. It is the oldest and only publicly-owned golf course in Kerrville, tracing its roots back to 1924.

Schultz Park: This 2.5 acre site contains a basketball court, playground, gazebo with tables, and an area for barbecuing.

Singing Wind Park: One of the largest and most undulating properties in the system, this park provides 100 acres of spacious green space, dramatic hill, and wide open views for visitors to

enjoy. It is used for athletic activities, swimming, birdwatching, and hiking / biking with amenities that include softball fields, a skate park, accessible playground, trails, the Olympic Pool, and ample parking. Adjacent to Tom Daniels Elementary School.

Tranquility Island: Tranquility Island is 7 acres surrounded by the Guadalupe River; technically a part of Louise Hays Park. The River Trail meanders through the island, providing great opportunities and locations for hiking and fishing. It was dedicated in May of 1988 and has since become an integral part of the municipal parks system. Provides bridge access across the river to the Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library.

Westland Park: Westland Park is roughly 2.5 acres on the corner of Woodlawn Ave. and Water St., just northwest of the central business district. It features a pavilion, small basketball court, playground, and parking.

### **Observations on Parks for the 10 year planning period**

The current number of public parks, park acreage, and their location within Kerrville are sufficient to meet the needs of the community for several years. However, as the city population, city limits, and ETJ grow, the disbursement, access, and number of developed parks may need to be reassessed. This could include ongoing review of the park dedication ordinance, expenditure of funds on acquisition and development, and partnering with the private sector and non-profits to expand the parks inventory and services.

***“Due to the relatively high percentage of land within Kerrville that is already designated as parkland, the preservation and maintenance of these areas will be an important issue in the future, and adequate resources will need to be planned for and allocated. In addition, park expansions and the development of new parks and open spaces may be appropriate in the future in areas where residents and businesses are not currently near a park. Expansion could take the form of converting open space into playgrounds, community gathering spaces, or athletic fields. Changes such as these should take place with the input and endorsement of neighborhoods and other stakeholders. Context-sensitive parks, those that are designed with the surrounding conditions in mind, will also be needed to support new development, particularly where housing is expected to be included. Because of their surroundings, parks in these areas may take different forms than the traditional neighborhood, community, or regional park.”***

See further municipal parks inventory information under Exhibit E.

## Guadalupe River & Trail System

**The following is a list of trails that fall within the Kerrville city limits and ETJ:**

Kerrville River Trail: The Kerrville River Trail is approximately 6 miles of linear parkland, more than three-quarters of the entire community trails system. Currently, it begins just west of the Dietert Center and traces the Guadalupe River all the way to Kerrville-Schreiner Park to the southeast and across the river to Schreiner University. Future expansions are planned per the **River Trail Master Plan**.

Kerrville-Schreiner Park Trail: Kerrville-Schreiner Park has approximately 12 miles of breathtaking views and natural serenity populated with pedestrians, joggers, and families simply enjoying the beauty of the Hill Country. This is the most demanding and popular mountain biking series of trails in Kerrville. While the KSP trails are currently separated from the River Trail, future connection is possible.

Singing Wind Park Trail: This sizable trail forms a 2 mile loop around one of the city's most popular parks. The trail connects a few of the city's baseball and softball fields, the municipal pool, and the wooded interior of the park. Extensive mountain biking occurs at this park.

Boardwalk Pavilion Trail: The Boardwalk Pavilion Trail is essentially a branch of the River Trail that detours from the main line into the city's Downtown core, although its' connection across the river and to the lower level does not yet meet ADA accessibility standards. It is made up of 0.3 miles of mixed surfaces around the Boardwalk Pavilion near Water St. with the river crossing connecting to the south bank of the river in Louise Hays Park.

Elm Creek Park Trail: This 0.82-mile popular walking trail, bordered by neighborhoods along Lois Street, Crestwood Drive, and Methodist Encampment Road, runs through Elm Creek Park in northwestern Kerrville. It is bisected by Elmwood Dr.

Galbraith / Culberson Trail: Between Galbraith and Culberson avenues lies a 0.1-mile concrete trail north of Jackson Road. This wooded path offers pedestrians a shortcut through the neighborhood and open scenery.

**Observations on River and Trails for the 10 year planning period:**

The preservation, enhancement, and expansion of the Kerrville trail system will be instrumental to riverfront development in the future. The existing parks and River Trail network along the Guadalupe River will serve as the backbone for the future system, encouraging entertainment, mixed-use (including residential), and community commercial projects along the riverbank. Connecting the Elm Creek Park and Galbraith / Culberson trails with the larger network through a series of bike lanes or other paths could serve the city well as it seeks to prioritize the health



and well-being of its citizenry. Extending and expanding the River Trail is a priority for Kerrville citizens.

## **Other Open Spaces, Scenic Areas, & Recreation Facilities (Non-Municipal)**

### **County Properties**

**Kerr County Baseball Fields**: This sports complex, 17 acres on Hwy 27 and Spur 100 on the city's southeast side, primarily serves a practice and game fields for youth baseball / softball.

**Flat Rock Park**: This county-owned park sits between Kerrville-Schreiner Park and the Texas Lions Camp. Its 23.5 acres are popular with kayakers, joggers, cyclists, and hikers.

**River Star Park**: The venue has a pavilion, restrooms, and small amphitheater within its 8 acres. The facility is used for festivals, rentals, and other outdoor events throughout the year.

**Kerr County Youth Events Center**: The center in east Kerrville, with 20,000 sq. ft. of indoor space with adjacent outdoor space and parking, is used for a variety of activities, to include stock shows, auctions, elections, large community events, social gatherings, health clinics and immunizations, etc.

### **Public / Private Schools**

Kerrville Independent School District (9 properties): Tivy High School, Peterson Middle School (new), Peterson Middle School (old), B.T. Wilson 6<sup>th</sup> Grade School, Starkey Elementary School, Talley Elementary School, Tom Daniels Elementary School, and Nimitz Elementary School and Tivy Stadium provide several recreation outlets for both students and the general public. Playgrounds, courts, ballfields, running tracks, and open space are available, but somewhat limited because of school activities.

Private Schools (3 properties) Our Lady of the Hills School, Notre Dame School, and Schreiner University campuses: These three campuses offer school day facilities to their students, with very limited access by the general public after hours. Schreiner University does allow access to the River Trail trailhead and the disc golf course on campus by the general public, per use agreements with the City of Kerrville.

### **Privately Owned Facilities**

The following list details notable facilities in Kerrville and its ETJ that offer recreational opportunities to the community:

**Comanche Trace Golf Course**: Part of the larger Comanche Trace development in south Kerrville, this 27-hole golf course is the largest in the city. Additionally, the Comanche Trace development

includes private park and recreation activity center, pool, tennis, walking trail, and other amenities.

Camps: The Greater Kerrville area is home to many thriving camps for children, teens, and adults. The Texas Lions Camp, a facility inside Kerrville, caters to children with physical and medical challenges, offers residential camping opportunities free of charge to children with physical disabilities and illnesses in order to help them experience fuller lives in spite of their individual circumstances. Another local camping space, Hill Country Camp, is situated on the edge of the city's two-mile ETJ and hosts events year-round. There are 20 privately operated camps in the vicinity, many offering year-round activity.

Coming King Sculpture Prayer Gardens: This 23-acre open space and tourist attraction is a landscaped prayer and sculpture garden atop the hills of north Kerrville off of Interstate 10. Its defining feature, the 70 ft. tall "Empty Cross", was erected in 2010.

Peterson Plaza: Peterson Plaza surrounds City Hall in the downtown area. The most dominant feature is the clock tower. The plaza is privately owned but has been the site of special events such as the Kerrville Chalk Festival, a free, family-friendly activity featuring chalk artists, food, live music, and a kid's zone. Its central location provides many opportunities for activities.

Riverhill Country Club: This private golf course and clubhouse sits on the city's south side, just north of Kerrville-Schreiner Park off of Bandera Hwy. It features 148 acres of rolling hills, tennis facilities, and luxurious amenities for dining, weddings, banquets, parties, and similar events.

Riverside Nature Center: The Riverside Nature Center complex, located at the convergence of the Guadalupe River and Town Creek, is an arboretum, central building, and covered outdoor learning space open to the public free of charge. It features a two-acre garden, more than 100 species of native trees and shrubs and 200 species of wildflowers, ferns, and grasses, a butterfly garden, and many other amenities and exhibits. The parking area, grounds, and restroom serve as a primary trailhead for the River Trail through a cooperative agreement with the city.

Dietert Center: Operating as the community's primary senior services activity center, this facility offers, recreation programming, tours / field trips, senior meals (both on-site and meals-on-wheels deliveries), educational sessions, and general public meeting spaces. The parking area, grounds, and restroom serve as a primary trailhead for the River Trail through a cooperative agreement with the city.

Kroc Center: One of only a handful of Ray and Joan Kroc (McDonald's Restaurant founders) Foundation community centers built in the U.S. in the 2010 timeframe, Kerrville is extremely fortunate to have this facility which basically serves as the community's recreation center. At 48,000 sq. ft., the indoor facility offers, weight / exercise training room, 2 basketball court gym, day care facility, several meeting rooms, chapel, and café, and outdoor pool with water slide,

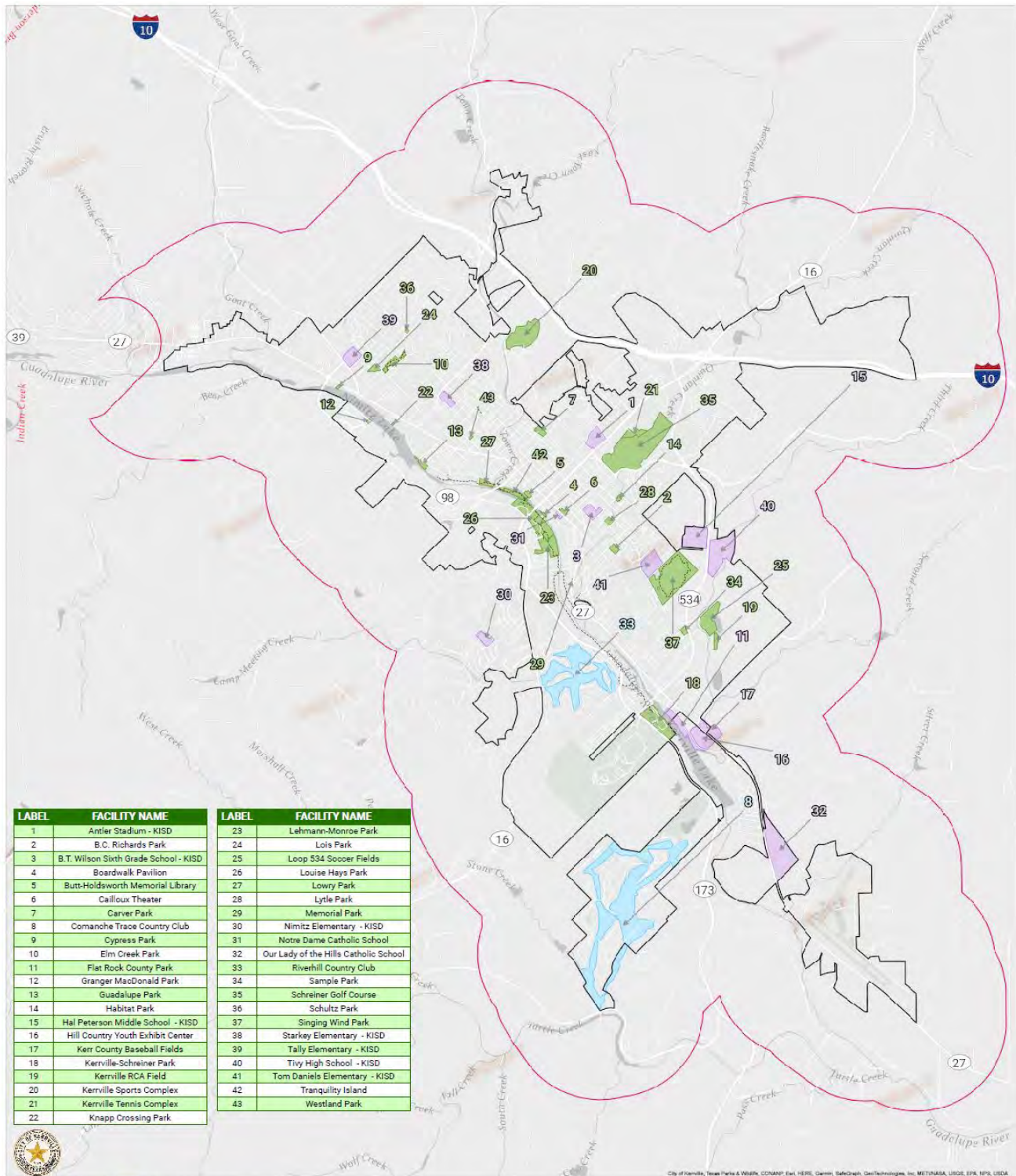
small training pool, sports field, walking trail, and parking over its 16 acres. Programs are offered year-round.

**Observations on Non-Municipal Facilities for the 10 year planning period:**

Kerrville's parkland, open spaces, and scenic areas occur on a combination of public and private properties. City, Kerr County, school district, and private providers are responsible for planning, developing, maintaining, and programming their respective parks, recreation, and open spaces and have opportunities to partner on projects of mutual interest, as well. They can also engage in thoughtful discussion with other private property owners and developers about their role in strengthening the park opportunities in Kerrville, and the advantages - including economic and quality of life benefits - of conserving environmental resources, providing a variety of outstanding recreational activities, and making improvements to structures and spaces when appropriate.

***"Community support will be crucial for the future of Kerrville's parks, open spaces, and scenic views. Residents still cherish the natural environment that first attracted settlers to the area, and they understand that the preservation of these areas and the development and maintenance of other key recreational assets – golf courses, athletic facilities, camps, parks, trails, and the Guadalupe River corridor – will be as important to future residents as they are to the citizens of Kerrville today."***

The following parks map identifies the location of the municipally owned parks in Kerrville that offer parks and recreation outlets for the public. The current city limit and 1 mile ETJ are shown.



Kerrville City Limit   
 Municipal Facility   
 Trail  
 Kerrville 1-mile ETJ   
 School or County Facility  
 Private Golf Course

### Park & Recreation Master Plan Site Map DRAFT 3



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only approximate relative locations.



## 5. CONCEPTS & STANDARDS

Kerrville has a varied park system that serves the community well. Neighborhood and large parks, golf and tennis, youth and adult sports complexes, river and fishing access, formal and primitive trails, camping and RV grounds, preserved open space, and a host of other facilities, both public and private, are in abundance, especially for the size of the community – less than 25,000 population. In addition, the citizens have continued to support, and elected officials have continued to invest, in the park system’s sustainability and expansion.

With previous Kerrville Parks and Recreation Master Plans (2002 and 2008), the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines* was used as a guidance document for parks, recreation, and open space planning. NRPA offers these standards and guidelines as a benchmark for communities. To integrate and transition the results of those previous plans and to update to more current planning practices, those NRPA *Guidelines* along with the newest *NRPA Park Matrix* for agency comparative planning have been used for this 2022 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, taking into account the city’s demographics, natural surroundings, existing park system, previous park master planning efforts, and the local needs, demands, and interests of its residents identified by **Kerrville 2050** and this *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*.

Similar to all municipalities, Kerrville has characteristics that require consideration of local demand for parks and recreation facilities that reflects the values and interests of residents, in addition to the recognized standards. NRPA has identified suggested benchmarks to determine the quantity and type of amenities a city should provide, both in the guidelines and matrix comparisons that have been based on national studies of municipalities of all sizes and geographic regions. While the national guidelines encourage a park classification system that categorizes parks based on use, size, and service area, customization on some of the criteria has been made to best serve Kerrville and to properly categorize its parks.

NRPA’s previous guidelines suggested a minimum of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of park land per 1,000 population. With a population within its city limits of 25,000 and its total municipal park acreage of 1011 acre, Kerrville’s ratio is 40.44 acres of park land per 1,000 population. Even when compared to the total population within Kerrville’s ETJ of approximately 35,000, this ratio is adjusted to 28.88 acres of parkland per 1,000 population, well beyond the standard park land acreage per 1,000 population suggested by the NRPA Guidelines.

When using NRPA’s *Park Matrix* comparative system, Kerrville’s parks fall within the 20,000-49,999 population category, which lists 1 park per 1900 residents as a national median, 9.8 acres of parkland per 1000 residents as a national median, and 8.5 miles of trails as a national median

in this population range. Kerrville has 1 park per 1,000 residents, 40.44 acres per 1,000 residents, and 20 miles of hike / bike trails.

As a result of this park and acreage amount, and as further identified in the plan's Chapter 8 - ACTIONS ITEMS and IDENTIFIED PROJECTS, the emphasis in the future is to improve the existing abundance of parkland acreage, as opposed to acquiring additional property. However, as growth continues, it will be critical to have the proper tools in place to keep pace with the growth to acquire and improve additional parklands, especially in the ETJ.

The community is very fortunate to have a relatively undeveloped natural feature, the Guadalupe River, that runs literally through the center of the community. Little had been done in the past to take advantage of this asset, either publicly or privately, until the implementation of multiple phases of the Kerrville River Trail, beginning in 2012. The River has since been seen as the backbone to the future park system and the development of the community as a whole. The recent public emphasis on the River is reflected in many of the action items identified in **Kerrville 2050** and in this *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* with attention given to both public projects and guidance to private frontage development and river access.

While most of the actions identified in this plan have the Parks and Recreation Department as the lead agency for implementation, several have the department playing a support, but active, role to other lead groups and agencies inside and outside of the municipal government.

#### Municipal Park Categories

NRPA, TPWD, and all previous park system master plans in Kerrville have recommended creating a park classification system that categorizes parks based on use, size, and service area. The 2022 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* has park categories that are reflective of both the existing park system and the needs and demands that have been identified in this plan's public input process. Previous long-range master plans and strategies for Kerrville's parks and recreation facilities have classified parks into traditional categories, with some exceptions. The classifications are intended to remain generally the same with this plan. Those classifications are:

- Neighborhood Park (NP)
- Community Park (CP)
- Regional Park (RP)
- Linear Park / Trail (LP / T)
- Sports Facility (SF)
- Special Use Facility (SUF)
- Open Space (OS)

**Neighborhood Park (NP)** (1-10 acre, plus any modifying factors) – Consistent with the customary definition of a **neighborhood park**, these facilities in Kerrville are the basic unit of the parks system – easily accessible by walking for nearby residents, usually containing playgrounds, seating / picnic areas, and limited open space. Neighborhood Parks serve the recreational and social focus of the adjoining neighborhoods and contribute to a distinct neighborhood identity. Conditions to avoid are overcrowding, noise or light pollution, parking problems, etc. The current neighborhood access to parkland in Kerrville is satisfactory and the locations well distributed, however, future city growth will necessitate updates to the city’s park dedication ordinance to not only collect sufficient fees-in-lieu of parkland, but to also dedicate park acreage in new neighborhoods, with a 1 acre minimum. While the land dedication need may be nearer the end of the master plan’s 10-year period, it is a significant tool that needs to be maximized, especially updating the fee-in-lieu amounts in the current park dedication ordinance.

**Kerrville 2050** prioritized the need to amend the current park land dedication ordinance, which was completed in 2021. The parks in the system that are classified as **Neighborhood Park** are:

- B.C. Richards
- Carver
- Granger MacDonald
- Guadalupe
- Lytle
- Sample
- Schultz
- Westland

**Community Park (CP)** (10-50 acre, plus any modifying factors) – These parks meet the needs of several neighborhoods and a larger portion of the community than Neighborhood Parks. Community Parks provide recreational opportunities for the entire family and often contain facilities for specific recreational purposes. Active and passive recreational activities are consistent with Community Parks, with playgrounds, large open space, seating / picnic / pavilion areas, sports practice areas / courts, parking, restrooms, trails, and area lighting being consistent uses within this category. These parks are geared toward access by walking and driving to the facility, so good pedestrian and vehicular access is needed. The parks in the system that are classified as **Community Park** are:

- Elm Creek
- Lehmann-Monroe
- Library Park / Complex (Mansion / Library / History Center Grounds)

**Regional Park (RP)** (+50 acre) – Kerrville is blessed with several large parks that serve the entire city and a greater population from outside the community. These parks can serve as destination points with unique facilities and can also benefit local residents and neighborhoods that are buffered from park activity. Regional Parks play host to special events, inclusion of group gathering facilities, have large parking areas with good transportation access, open spaces, sports practice areas / courts, restrooms, trails / trailheads, and have areas that are well lit. Natural areas usually exist in these parks that needs to be preserved, especially in the Hill Country. Protected areas can be accessible by way of well-planned developed and primitive trails. These parks often allow the production of revenue to offset operational costs. Good vehicular access is critical to this category to ensure that the park and its facilities do not over-burden community traffic conditions and a geographic buffer to residential and commercial development is preferred to reduce conflicts that can occur near a Regional Park. The parks in the system that are classified as **Regional Park** are:

- Kerrville-Schreiner
- Louise Hays / Tranquility Island
- Singing Wind

**Linear Park / Trail (LP / T)** – Generally, these facilities follow a creek / river or other geographic natural feature. These properties often have trails, both developed and partially developed, and strive to retain and protect the natural features that they accompany. Kerrville’s linear parks are no different. Linear Parks can serve as alternative modes of transportation by connecting parks, schools, and other facilities, however, the designation and development of a linear park is almost solely dependent on the existing geographic features being able to accept this type of corridor. Adjacent private property development should be well planned to ensure good public access and encourage compatible uses. Trailheads with parking, restrooms, wayfinding signage, interpretive kiosks, etc. are commonly found in Linear Parks, taking into account any flood limitations. The parks in the system that are classified as **Linear Park / Trail** are:

- Kerrville River Trail
- Singing Wind Park trails
- Kerrville-Schreiner Park trails
- Elm Creek Park trail

**Sports Facility (SF)** – These properties are developed for programmed athletic activities based on community interest and needs, age groups, participation rates, and demands and expectations of users groups and athletic associations. Sports Facilities are intended for city-wide use and, often, as economic activity generators, and should be located with excellent vehicular access for targeted populations. Buffering for neighborhoods is needed for any activity that involves extensive parking, lighting, and noise generation, especially at night. These facilities relieve

smaller parks in the community from having to host conflicting activity with neighbors and local traffic patterns. Adequate seating and parking for spectator sports needs to be provided, as does lighting for security and to maximize facility use. Drainage, utilities, and other property development conditions needs to be well planned, taking into account any future development on site or in the area. Sports Facilities generally, but not always, produce revenue to offset operational costs and to support various non-profit leagues. They also may be designed to be more geared to providing a service to the community versus generating revenue. The parks in the system that are classified as **Sports Facility** are:

- Scott Schreiner Golf Course
- Kerrville Tennis Complex
- Kerrville Sports Complex
- Loop 534 Sports Fields

**Special Use Facility (SUF)** – These properties have a broad range of single-purpose uses and sizes. The service area for these is community-wide. Uses can include cultural, historic, memorial, special event, civic grounds, parkways / medians, landscape areas, plazas, boat launches, or other unique purpose. Each facility should be developed as determined by community interest and support. The parks in the system that are classified as **Special Use Facility** are:

- Cailloux Theater Complex
- Cypress Park
- Daughtry Boardwalk Pavilion
- Knapp Crossing Park
- Library Park / Complex
- Memorial Park

**Open Space (OS)** – Preservation and protection of certain property features and conditions are a benefit to area drainage, erosion protection, reduced cost of ongoing maintenance, and retaining natural beauty. While much of park development can include removal of vegetation and natural drainage features / land forms for improvements, Open Space properties are planned for the opposite – to attempt to leave the real estate in a pristine, or near pristine, condition and to protect it over time. Public access is limited to trails and seating / observation areas and appropriate security lighting, if needed, to reduce damage to the site and habitat. Ongoing removal of invasive species is a standard practice with these properties. The parks in the system that are classified as **Open Space** are:

- Habitat Park
- Lois Park

Notes:



- While there are large acreage amounts of open space in Louise Hays, Singing Wind, and Kerrville-Schreiner Parks, those parks are categorized in total as Regional Parks.
- All non-municipally owned properties listed in this document that serve as park and / or recreation service are not categorized by park type. The categorical lists are limited to city-owned properties, only.



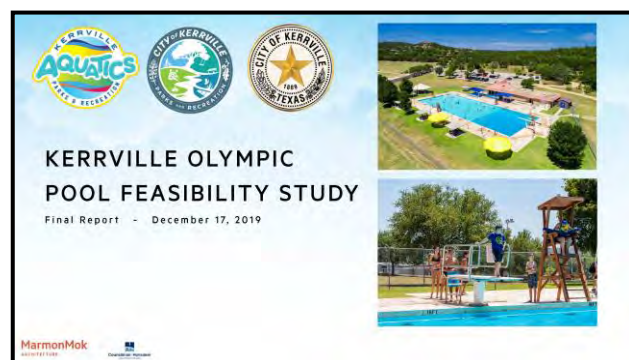


## 6. COORDINATION WITH OTHER PLANS

This includes: **Kerrville 2050 Comprehensive Plan**, **River Trail Master Plan**, **Olympic Pool Feasibility Study**, and **Nimitz Lake Boating Center Study**

It is imperative that the 2022 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* be a companion document to previously adopted city plans that are relative to parks and recreation planning, projects, and priorities. Of most importance is **Kerrville 2050, Chapter 11**, adopted in 2018, which identified numerous parks and recreation actions, policies, and operational issues over a 30 year window that were vetted through extensive public input. This *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* had additional public input processes that have been formatted to follow the general outline of **Kerrville 2050** and its *Guiding Principles*. For this *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, those *Guiding Principles* have been titled “Goals and Objectives” in the next chapter.

Additionally, the **River Trail Master Plan**, **Olympic Pool Feasibility Study**, and **Nimitz Lake Boating Center Study** have been adopted recently by the City to address specific projects within the parks system. Each of these active master plans’ summaries are attached to this document, as Exhibits A, B, C, and D.



## 7. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The “GUIDING PRINCIPLES” as identified in **Kerrville 2050** – Chapter 11)

*“The Kerrville community cherishes its parks, open spaces, scenic areas, and the river that connects them all. The Texas Hill Country is the context in which the city thrives, which makes it of the utmost importance as the greater area looks to welcome new residents in the next 30 years. The creation of a set of Guiding Principles for the preservation and enhancement of the city's natural resources was not an easy task, but community members and representatives knew that it would serve an important role in conserving Kerrville's beauty for generations to come. As such, these Guiding Principles and Action Items reflect a bottom-up, democratic approach to planning that prioritizes the environment and recognizes its role in a well-rounded comprehensive plan.”*

The “Guiding Principles” (Goals and Objectives) defined have been grouped into three primary categories – **Respect the Natural Environment, Regulations and Funding, and Connecting People and Places**. The order in which the Guiding Principles are depicted does not represent priority of importance or implementation sequence.

### **Respect the Natural Environment**

*Guiding Principle 1 - Enhance the aesthetics and mitigate the ecological impacts of development on the River corridor while preserving scenic views and the natural beauty of the area.*

*Guiding Principle 2 - Identify, educate, and promote the use of natural and native flora and fauna on private and in public places.*

*Guiding Principle 3 - Preserve and protect the natural riparian buffer (natural vegetation surrounding river) and ensure that development prioritizes environmental responsibility and a respect for natural areas.*

### **Regulations and Funding**

*Guiding Principle 4 - Update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, other applicable codes and ordinances, and capital planning and funding priorities to support Kerrville 2050.*

*Guiding Principle 5 - Focus on enhancing / investing in existing parks, their purpose or repurpose, and improving accessibility before acquiring land for new parks.*

**Guiding Principle 6 - Focus on connecting businesses, neighborhoods, major destinations, and other amenities with parks, open spaces, and the River corridor.**

**Connecting People and Places**

**Guiding Principle 7 - Promote and market all City parks and recreation amenities, including the Guadalupe River.**

**Guiding Principle 8 - Provide recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, both residents and tourists.**



## 8. ACTION ITEMS, PROJECTS, & PRIORITIES (by Guiding Principle)

All projects identified by the public, city staff, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Steering Committee), and City Council for inclusion in this 10 year *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* have been listed under one of the *Guiding Principles*, topical categories originally identified in **Kerrville 2050**. Many of these projects do not involve capital improvements, but are included in the plan so that administrative and policy issues are identified and can be addressed to assist with future park development, management, and operations.

To best plan and implement the city's parks development and to remain consistent with other adopted master plans, identified projects have been categorized in two ways – 1), by staying consistent with **Kerrville 2050's Guiding Principles**; and 2), by categorizing the capital project priorities by park. As stated, the projects listed under the *Guiding Principles* in this Chapter 8 include actions other than capital improvements.

**Chapter 9 will act as the priority project listing for any TPWD or other capital improvement-based grant program associated with this 2022 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*.** These projects are listed with the Parks and Recreation Department shown in either the **Lead** or **Support** role, or combination.

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***P1 GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Enhance the aesthetics and mitigate the ecological impacts of development on the River corridor while preserving scenic views and the natural beauty of the area.***

***The Guadalupe River has been called the heart of the community. The City of Kerrville must be sensitive to conditions involving the river and the surrounding area. Views from the river should be considered, negative impacts from human activity should be monitored, and the Guadalupe should be treated as the city's most precious asset.***

### **P1 – Identified Actions / Projects**

1. Create a tree planting program for streets, drainage ways, medians, bike / pedestrian routes, and other public places, including the river corridor. (Lead)
2. Collaborate with UGRA and others to reduce surface water pollutants and debris in the Guadalupe River. (Support)
3. 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. (Support)

4. Explore establishing an urban forestry program and enroll in the Tree City USA program. (Lead)

5. Collaborate with UGRA / others to mitigate invasive species problems in the River watershed. (Support)

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. (Support)

7. Coordinate with agencies and other city departments on development of “green” infrastructure and riparian protection ordinance. (Lead / Support)

8. 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. (Lead / Support)

9. Raise public awareness regarding the value of Kerrville’s natural beauty to the community. (Lead / Support)

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***P2 GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Identify, educate, and promote the use of natural and native flora and fauna on private and in public places.***

***Plants and animals native to the Hill Country are an integral part of the natural fabric, history and culture of the community. The City of Kerrville and its partners should seek to educate people on the importance of greenery on their property, particularly the species that are native to the area, and on the need to preserve habitat to sustain Hill Country wildlife.***

**P2 – Identified Actions / Projects**

1. Use only native plant species in the landscaping of all city properties to set an example. (Lead)

2. 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. (Lead)

3. 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. (Lead)

4. Create a "Jr River Ranger" program 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.). (Lead / Support)
5. Add the Parks Ambassador Program, particularly in regard to River Trail tours; to be scripted as educational. (Lead / Support)

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***P3 GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Preserve and protect the natural riparian buffer (natural vegetation surrounding river / creeks) and ensure that development prioritizes environmental responsibility and a respect for natural areas.***

***This principle goal is to work hand-in-hand with the other goals in the "Respect for the Natural Environment" category to improve water quality / quantity, manage stormwater runoff and flooding, protect and improve habitat, and to preserve the natural beauty of the area.***

**P3 – Identified Actions / Projects**

1. 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. (Lead / Support)
2. Encourage the removal of undesirable plant species, such as chinaberry, ligustrum, giant reed, bamboo, Chinese tallow, and over-growth cedar (vs old-growth habitat), including educational strategies to manage invasive species. (Lead / Support)
3. Add pet waste stations in KSP especially near trailheads and in camping areas. (Lead)
4. Create recycling stations in all parks with educational signage about what is / is not recyclable. (Lead)

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***P4 GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, other applicable codes and ordinances, and capital planning and funding priorities to support Kerrville 2050.***

***In order for this effort to be effective, existing codes, ordinances, policy priorities, and supporting plans must be modified to be consistent with Kerrville 2050. The Parks Master Plan is best supported by updating its content to reflect the desires of the community that have been articulated through the public input process.***

#### **P4 – Identified Actions / Projects**

1. Identify which parks are in most need of renovation, per park dedication fund allowances (see projects list under *Guiding Principle P5*). (Lead)
  2. 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. (Lead)
  3. 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. (Support)
  4. Coordinate with agencies and city departments on development of tree preservation, landscape, and Dark Skies guidelines and incentive policies; evaluate park situations for such guideline implementation. (Lead / Support)
- 

***P5 GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Focus on enhancing / investing in existing parks, their purpose or repurpose, and improving accessibility before acquiring land for new parks.***

***For its population, Kerrville can boast a significant amount of green space. To ensure sufficient capacity with regard to City resources, the initial focus should be allocating appropriate resources (including staff) to maintaining existing parks and improving existing parkland before seeking out new spaces to add to the system.***

#### **P5 – Identified Actions / Projects**

1. Singing Wind Park renovation – repurpose softball fields / lighting, disc golf course, BMX track, dog park, skate park expansion, improve access and parking. (Lead)
2. Olympic Pool Improvements – short term projects – replaster pool; replace diving boards; address maintenance issues; long term – implement *Aquatics Master Plan* working with any potential partners. (Lead)
3. Kerrville-Schreiner Park renovation – water lines replacement throughout, RV sites expansion – Hillside, restroom / shower upgrades throughout, road repairs throughout, replace playground, Fawn Hideaway RV sites upgrade – electrical and water, add more mountain bike trails, create better signage for trails, add dog waste stations at trailheads / on trails and camping areas, create master plan for emergency access to trail system. (Lead)

4. Avoid the acquisition or development of public pocket parks due to high maintenance costs and low utilization. (Lead)
5. Scott Schreiner Golf Course renovation - cart path replacement program, address erosion, pave maintenance area by cart storage, renovate starter / marshal building, install carport over cart washing area, repair existing bridges, renovate restrooms, rebuild greens, develop and implement a tree planting plan for lost / removed trees, reduce mowing in areas out of play to promote native plant and wildlife support. (Lead)
6. Explore a variety of options, including bonds, to fund park facility needs and to enhance River Trail connections. (Lead)
7. Improve / add to Carver Park pavilion restrooms and encourage greater community involvement in this park. (Lead)
8. Louise Hays Park renovation – river dam repairs; multipurpose sports courts (basketball, pickleball, soccer, etc.); enhance the aesthetics of bridge in park (public art); expand storage at pavilion; develop safe access to downtown. (Lead)
9. All playgrounds – add shade canopies. (Lead)
10. Sports Complex – additional parking on soccer side, create access to Town Creek with parking. (Lead)
11. Install security cameras at active parks / facilities and along River Trail. (Lead)
12. Add more dog parks to existing parks throughout the city. (Lead)
13. Lap swimming lane lines at Olympic Pool; add at least 1 lane for lap swimming throughout the day. (Lead)
14. Create a "swimming pavilion" at one of the boat ramps on Nimitz Lake and create easy entrance / exits to the river for swimmers, plus some shaded tables for socializing. (Lead)
15. Create a "flow" mountain bike trail at Singing Winds Park. (Lead)
16. Plan for and implement more recreational amenities along the river. (Lead)
17. Using social media, traditional media and customer surveys, ask residents what park facilities and programs they want, and strive to provide them. (Lead)
18. Improve access to Lake Nimitz as a recreational amenity with possible Boating Center, consider Granger MacDonald Park. (Lead)
19. Explore / install public Wi-Fi enhancements in the Olympic Pool / Kerrville-Schreiner Park / Kerrville Sports Complex / Louise Hays Park / Downtown areas. (Lead)

20. Develop accessible playground for physically and mentally challenge (all ages). (Lead)
  21. Kerrville Tennis Complex – replace lighting system. (Lead)
  22. Address operations budget needs to stay abreast of an expanding parks system. (Lead)
  23. Granger MacDonald Park – design / implement improvements. (Lead)
- 

***P6 GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Focus on connecting businesses, neighborhoods, major destinations, and other amenities with parks, open spaces, and the River corridor.***

***The key to a successful parks system is its connection to the community. Seamlessly integrating bike trails with bike lanes, greenery with existing infrastructure, and sidewalks with walking paths can encourage people to detour from their daily commute and engage with parks, trails, and scenic spaces.***

#### **P6 – Identified Actions / Projects**

1. Continue developing a vision / plan and identify funding options to extend the River Trail. (Lead)
  2. Expand the River Trail from G St. to downtown / Library on the northside of the river. (Lead)
  3. Expand the River Trail to the west of Louise Hays Park on the southside of the river. (Lead)
  4. Create a connection to the River Trail along Town Creek. (Lead)
  5. Partner with Riverside Nature Center, Dietert Center, and Schreiner University on programming and support. (Lead)
  6. Add bike and pedestrian safe routes for better access to the River Trail. (Lead)
  7. 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. (Support)
- 

***P7 GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Promote and market all City parks and recreation amenities, including the Guadalupe River.***

***It is not enough to simply have an outstanding trail, parks, and recreation system in Kerrville. Marketing efforts in the broader region should highlight these amenities so as***



***to entice visitors and attract public attention. These efforts should also include outreach that targets local residents and workers.***

#### **P7 – Identified Actions / Projects**

1. Promote / maintain property and facility use agreements between the City and Kerrville Independent School District (i.e. Sinding Wind Park, Kerrville Tennis Complex, Kerrville Sports Complex, Scott Schreiner Golf Course, old Peterson Middle School property, etc.). (Lead)
2. Promote health and wellness aspects of the outdoors; play; active lifestyles focused around river / trail programming. (Lead)
3. Develop a well-planned specific media campaign to promote the River to locals and tourists. (Support)
5. Provide information to the public on water quality testing of the river. (Lead / Support)
6. Incorporate the River into all advertising promotions. (Lead / Support)
7. Promote birding along the river trail, especially near nature center and towards the Dietert Center; educational signage could include winter / summer migration. (Lead / Support)

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***P8 GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Provide recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, both residents and tourists.***

***The future of Kerrville is one where age-in-place amenities-particularly the city's recreational infrastructure - welcome people of every generation and encourage them to live active, happy, and healthy lives in the Texas Hill Country.***

#### **P8 – Identified Actions / Projects**

1. 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. (Lead)
2. Enhance the existing Lehmann-Monroe dog park, and add a second fenced dog park. (Lead)
3. Enhance park programming for public gatherings / events. (Lead)
4. Facilitate / expand more City activities around the river, especially during cooler times of the year. (Lead)

5. Longer term, establish regular park patrol for safety (bike or mounted) with signage; consider call boxes / other emergency infrastructure. (Lead / Support)
6. Examine the establishment of a Sports Commission to promote more recreational and sporting events in and around Kerrville. (Support)
7. Evaluate the establishment of a “First Tee” youth golf program. (Lead)



## 9. PRIORITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS LISTING

This list of the highest priority capital improvement projects has been finalized through public input meetings and surveys, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Plan Steering Committee), the Kerrville City Council, and the Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department. The individual capital improvement projects identified in this plan's Chapter 8, ACTION ITEMS AND IDENTIFIED PROJECTS, were prioritized by park area. (Administration, policy, operations, programming, marketing, and education projects identified by **Kerrville 2050** or through input on this plan are not included in this capital improvement project priority listing.). The **highest priority capital improvement projects** for the 2022 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* are as follows, in priority order.

### Singing Wind Park

1. Develop a park master plan to address the listed issues.
2. Repurpose softball fields / lighting (consider dog park, pump track, disc golf course, BMX track, etc.)
3. Enhance / expand to skate park to better serve the community's youth.
4. Upgrade the lights at the skate park.
5. Add trail benches to the "backside" of park.
6. Add on-street parking along Olympic Dr.
7. Consider additional park entrance at corner of Olympic Dr. and Loop 534 with parking and trail access.
8. Develop Singing Wind Park as a "bike park" with multiple features; add "flow" mountain bike trail.



### Olympic Pool

1. Short term - address maintenance, renovation, and code issues.
2. Develop Aquatics Center per master plan - heat the pool to extend season; update diving area; add competitive swim features / lap swimming; add recreation and leisure features; use solar to power / heat Olympic Pool - make it educational.



### **Kerrville-Schreiner Park**

1. Develop a park master plan to address the listed issues.
2. Renovate and improve park to include water lines replacement, restroom / shower upgrades, road repairs, tent loop to RV sites upgrade – electrical and water, expand hillside and add RV sites, and add Wi-Fi capability for campers.
3. Look at potential bond funding for enhancements and improvements to basic infrastructure at KSP.
4. Add more flow mountain bike trails, create better signage for trails, and create master plan for emergency access to trail system.
5. Add dog waste stations in KSP especially near trailheads and in camping areas; include educational signage on waste impact to water quality.



### **Louise Hays Park**

1. Develop a park master plan to address the listed issues.
2. Complete evaluation / make repairs to the Guadalupe River Dam.
3. Add multipurpose sports courts (basketball, pickleball, soccer, etc.).
4. Enhance the aesthetics of bridge in park (public art).
5. Expand storage at pavilion.
6. Develop safe access to downtown.
7. Enhance dog park at Lehmann-Monroe.



### **Miscellaneous Park Improvements**

1. Identify which parks are in most need of renovation.
2. Per park dedication fund / other fund allowances, address identified renovation in parks.
3. All playgrounds – update old playgrounds, add shade canopies, and ensure accessibility for all.
4. Create a tree planting program for parks, streets, drainage ways, medians, bike / pedestrian routes, and other public places, including the river corridor.

5. Use only native, drought tolerant plant species and limited irrigated turf in landscaping on all city properties to set an example.
6. Improve / add to Carver Park pavilion restrooms and encourage greater community involvement in this park, possibly working with the Doyle Center.
7. Sports Complex – additional parking on soccer side, create access to Town Creek with parking.
8. Install security cameras in parks / along trails with most need.
9. Add more dog parks to existing parks throughout the city.
10. Explore / install public Wi-Fi enhancements in the Olympic Pool / Kerrville-Schreiner Park / Kerrville Sports Complex / Louise Hays Park / Downtown areas.
11. Develop accessible playground for physically and mentally challenge (all ages).
12. Kerrville Tennis Complex – replace lighting system.
13. Granger MacDonald Park – design / implement improvements.
14. Create recycling stations in all parks with educational signage.
15. Avoid the acquisition or development of public “pocket parks” due to high maintenance costs and low utilization.

#### **River Trail and other Hike / Bike Trails**

1. Expand the River Trail from G St. to downtown / Library on the northside of the river.
2. Expand the River Trail to the west of Louise Hays Park on the southside of the river.
3. Improve pedestrian access from downtown to LHP by way of Sidney Baker Bridge.
4. Create hike / bike trail along Town Creek - connect to the River Trail; add a North-South hike / bike trail.
5. Add more dog waste stations near trailheads / along trails.
6. Update master plan for the River Trail and identify funding options to extend.



#### **Scott Schreiner Golf Course**

1. Renovate restrooms and other building upgrades.
2. Repair bridges, address drainage / erosion.
3. Make cart path improvements.
4. Renovate or replace greens.
5. Golf course reforestation – develop and implement a tree planting plan for lost / removed trees.





### **Guadalupe River / Riparian Areas / Nimitz Lake**

1. Remove undesirable plant species, such as chinaberry, ligustrum, giant reed, bamboo, Chinese tallow, and over-growth cedar (vs old-growth habitat), including educational strategies to manage invasive species.
2. Manage parkland along the river / creeks with protective measures for riparian areas; build infrastructure to slow runoff to reduce pollution / erosion; develop “green” infrastructure / riparian area ordinance; add nature-based infrastructure, such as bio-swales, permeable surfaces, raingardens, etc.
3. Plan and implement more recreational amenities with good access along the river.
4. Ensure that any publically accessible location along the river and Nimitz Lake are free of obstacles (i.e. tree stumps, boat launch / boats, fishing pier, etc.).
5. Improve access to Lake Nimitz as a recreational amenity with possible Boating Center, consider MacDonald Park.
6. Construct a Nimitz Lake “swimming pavilion” with adequate parking and access to River Trail, possibly at one of the existing boat ramps; create easy entrance / exits to Nimitz Lake for swimmers; add shaded tables.

### **Dog Parks**

1. Develop more dog parks - consider the west side of city.
2. More shade and dog waste stations at Lehmann-Monroe dog park.
3. Consult with *Kerrville Pets Alive!* on dog park improvements.
4. Install an information board at the dog park for activities, lost dogs, etc.; make it weatherproof.



## 10. CLOSING COMMENTS

While this plan covers a 10 year planning period with a 5 year required update, it should be utilized as a living document that is referenced continuously, especially in regard to updated progress or changes to the City's capital improvements program. Changes in the community warrant input for amendments to this plan through public dialog and prioritization of needs. The Kerrville community utilizes its parks and the most recent large improvements, such as the River Trail, Kerrville Sports Complex, renovation of Louise Hays Park, etc., along with other social changes, have moved more people outdoors, placing an increasing emphasis on parks and recreation services during the years to come.

Changing trends in parks and recreation offerings and operations over the planning period of this document will help dictate development, interaction with the private sector, use agreements, maintenance expectations, safety, affordability of improvements and operations, and other service strategies. Couple those with an increasing population and expanding city development footprint, staying abreast of parks and recreation challenges is key, as opposed to reactionary activity trying to catch up. Continued investment in the municipal parks system needs to remain a high priority with proper attention given to short and long range planning, project implementation, and the increasing demands on operations.



## **11. EXHIBITS**

- Kerrville 2050 Comprehensive Plan, Ch. 11 - Parks, Open Space, and the River Corridor (Exhibit A)
- River Trail Master Plan (Exhibit B)
- Olympic Pool Feasibility Study (Exhibit C)
- Nimitz Lake Boating Center Study (Exhibit D)
- Parks Inventory and Description (Exhibit E)
- Steering Committee (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board) agendas / minutes / priorities (Exhibit F)
- Public Input Meeting public notices, sign in sheets, results (Exhibit G)
- Online Survey results (Exhibit H)

## **12. PROOF OF ADOPTION**

- City Council Agenda and adoption (Exhibit I)
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