CITY OF PORT ARANSAS
PARKS & OPEN SPACE
MASTER PLAN

2011-2021

LUCK | DESIGN TEAM

RESOLUTION NO. 2011 - 26

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT ARANSAS ACCEPTING THE 2012-2021 OPEN SPACE AND MASTER PLAN (OSMP) FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, The Open Space and Master Plan (OSMP) for the Parks and Recreation Department is prepared every five (5) years; and

WHEREAS, the OSMP includes a community survey to assess local priorities as well as short and long-term objectives for the Department; and

WHEREAS, the OSMP provides the focus for programs, facilities and goals in the areas of recreation and leisure pursuits for the residents, guests and visitors to Port Aransas.

WHEREAS, The plan is a requirement for applications to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Recreation Grant program.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT ARANSAS, NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT:

The City Council does hereby accept the 2012-2021 Parks and Recreation Open Space and Master Plan (OSMP), a copy of which is attached hereto.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of August, 2011.

Keith McMullin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Esther Arzola, City Secretary

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS PAGE 4
Port Aransas City Council - Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Board -
Port Aransas City Staff - LUCK Design Team

2 METHODOLOGY PAGE 5
Inventory-Public Input-Goals and Objectives-Facilities Needs-
Recommendations - Implementation Plan-Adoption

3 ABOUT PORT ARANSAS PAGE 6
Location - Nearby Cities -Climate - History of Port Aransas -
Port Aransas Community Events- Demographics of Port Aransas

4 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN PAGE 10

5 INVENTORY PAGE 11
Existing Developed Parks Inventory - Matrix of Existing Park Amenities-
Parks Area Map

6 NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY PRIORITIES PAGE 27
Results

7 STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES PAGE 36

8 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN PAGE 41
Facility Improvements
Recreation Priorities for the City of Port Aransas

9 APPENDIX PAGE 46
City of Port Aransas Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan
Survey 2011-2021
Public Comments from Community Survey

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Port Aransas, Texas partnered with LUCK Design Team, LLC to prepare the City of Port Aransas Parks & Open Space Master Plan 2011-2021. The plan was developed between November 2010 thru August 2011 by city personnel and staff from LUCK Design Team. The City of Port Aransas Parks & Open Space Master Plan reflects a range of issues and levels of planning within the broad-scale contextual relationships of parks in the community. We thank the following individuals for their guidance in the development of this plan.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Keith McMullin
Place 1 Keith Donley
Place 2 John Price
Place 3 Charles Bujan
Place 4 Glenda Balentine
Place 5 Edwin Myers
Place 6 Steven Lanoux

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Charlie Zahn, Chair
John Fucik
Linda Zahn
Scott Holt
Lyndon Holcomb
Jim Brown

CITY OF PORT ARANSAS STAFF

Robert Bradshaw, City Manager
Gary Mysorski, Parks and Recreation Director

LUCK DESIGN TEAM, LLC

Brent Luck, Park Planner

2 METHODOLOGY

In 2006 the City of Port Aransas completed its most recent Parks & Open Space Master Plan and for the last five years that plan has been the document the City used to guide the growth of its park and recreation system. It was the most notable influence and catalyst for the realization of the Port Aransas Nature Preserve.

The City began the process of revising the 2006 plan in November 2010 when a planning consultant, LUCK Design Team, was hired to coordinate the work. The design team also included all members of the Parks & Recreation Board and Parks & Recreation Department Staff. The design team met monthly throughout this process and documented the guiding principles of this document in the form of goals and objectives. In January of 2011, a survey of residents was conducted to identify park and recreation needs and priorities. 276 people responded to this survey throughout a four month period.

The existing park inventory of Port Aransas was compiled in which acreage and recreational amenities at each of the park and preserve facility sites were quantified. Upon conclusion of the inventory, proposed acreage and facility standards were developed to guide future planning and development through 2021. The proposed standards took into account the current level of service and expressed needs of survey respondents.

In context of the public input, parks inventory and recreational goals and objectives for the City, future park needs were sorted into high, medium and low priorities for both outdoor (tier 1) and indoor (tier 2) facilities. The priorities were derived from public input and survey responses and from the knowledge base of the Parks and Recreation Board and City staff. Recommendations of these priorities were also developed as part of a 10 year implementation plan to assist the City in outlining when the priority projects could and should be accomplished.

Once a draft of the updated plan was complete, the plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Board for review. Comments received were included in the final plan that was endorsed by the Parks & Recreation Board on August 2nd and presented to the City Council for adoption consideration August 18, 2011.

The revised Parks & Open Space Master Plan 2011-2021 was formally approved by the Port Aransas City Council on August 18, 2011 and subsequently forwarded to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for review and approval.

3 ABOUT PORT ARANSAS

LOCATION[2]

Port Aransas is located on the northern tip of Mustang Island about 30 minutes across the bay from Corpus Christi. Port Aransas is the only established town on Mustang Island and encompasses eight miles of the 18 mile long barrier island. Mustang Island is located north of Padre Island, the longest barrier island in the world, and south of San Jose Island, renowned for its shelling. Running parallel to the mainland, barrier islands protect the coast from the full force of powerful storm waves. Surrounding waters include the Corpus Christi Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, the Lydia Ann Ship Channel and the Corpus Christi Ship Channel.

NEARBY CITIES AND PROXIMITY TO MAJOR METROS (DISTANCE IN MILES)

Austin	252
Corpus Christi	39
Dallas	385
Houston	210
Rockport	18
San Antonio	178

CLIMATE[2]

Annual Average Temperature: 71.5°
Annual Average Rainfall: 31.92 inches
Prevailing Wind: Southeasterly

Monthly Averages

- January: 56.2°
- February: 58.8°
- March: 63.6°
- April: 70.5°
- May: 77.6°
- June: 82.4°
- July: 83.8°
- August: 84.1°
- September: 81.8°
- October: 75.4°
- November: 66.4°
- December: 58.

HISTORY OF PORT ARANSAS[2]

Experts believe the islands along the Texas coast began life as submerged sand bars about 4,500 years ago. The first known human occupants of the island were the Karankawa Indians. Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca was probably the first European to meet the Karankawas in 1528.

The island was first called Wild Horse Island, and then Mustang Island because of the wild horses called "mesterios" brought to the island by the Spaniards in the 1800's.

Jean Lafitte and his band of buccaneers spent a lot of time on neighboring islands as well as Mustang Island in the 1820's. Legend has it that somewhere on the island is a Spanish dagger with a silver spike driven through the hilt marking the spot where Lafitte buried a chest of gold and jewels.

As the still natural pass attracted more and more commerce and updated charts were needed, there appeared an 1833 map which noted the location of what would become Port Aransas but was then called Sand Point. The pass was given the name Aranzazu which later became Aransas.

During the 1846-1848 Mexican War, a small fort was built on Mustang Island to guard the entrance to Aransas Bay. It was used until after the Civil War.

In the 1850's regular steamship service ran between Mustang Island and New Orleans. The first deep draught steamship went through the Pass in 1859. Mercer Docks was destroyed during the 1875 Storm, thus ending the service.

The town of Mustang Island was called Ropesville by the early 1890's but changed its name to Tarpon by 1899 because of the large numbers of the fish being caught in its waters. The population at that time was about 250. Citizens began calling their town Port Aransas about 1910. The storm of 1919 virtually wiped out the town except for a few structures.

At the turn of the century, the village was doing big business in sea turtle export with some catches weighing up to 500 pounds. They were shipped live, on their backs, to market. It is estimated that some 600+ species of saltwater fish inhabit the waters off the island.

While visiting Port Aransas, be sure to view the historic Lydia Ann lighthouse and historical cemetery and the five historical markers located throughout town. Markers include the Tarpon Inn, Aransas Pass C.S.A., World War II Coastal Defenses at the Aransas Pass, United States Coast Guard on Mustang Island and the newly dedicated Mustang Island marker, which is located at the museum.

Photo courtesy of Port Aransas South Jetty

PORT ARANSAS COMMUNITY EVENTS[3]

Like many beach towns, Port A has many events and activities for residents and tourists to enjoy, including fishing, surfing, dolphin watching, and horseback riding. Although most of these activities are seasonal, events at the Community Theater and programs hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department are scheduled all year long.

CITY OF PORT ARANSAS - 2010 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE DATA

TOTAL POPULATION[1]: 3,480

AGE[1]

Median Age:	49.6 years old	
Under 5 years	98	2 . 8 %
5 to 9 years	166	4.8%
10 to 14 years	183	5.3%
15 to 19 years	186	5.3%
20 to 24 years	167	4.8%
25 to 29 years	173	5.0%
30 to 34 years	125	3.6%
35 to 39 years	169	4.9%
40 to 44 years	208	6.0%
45 to 49 years	289	8.3%
50 to 54 years	357	10.3%
55 to 59 years	360	10.3%
60 to 64 years	336	9.7%
65 to 69 years	260	7.5%
70 to 74 years	183	5.3%
75 to 79 years	111	3.2%
80 to 84 years	62	1.8%
85 years and older	47	1.4%

GENDER[1]

Males	1,779	51.1%
Females:	1,701	48.9%

RACE[1]

Total Population	3,480	
Hispanic/Latino	268	7.7%
Mexican	195	5.6%
Puerto Rican	4	0.1%
Cuban	7	0.2%
Other Hispanic	62	1.8%
Not Hispanic/Latino	3,212	92.3%
White Alone	3,084	88.6%
Black or African American Alone	9	0.3%
American Indian/ Alaska Native Alone	31	0.9%
Asian Alone	43	1.2%
Native Hawaiian Alone	3	0.1%
Some Other Race Alone	1	0.0%
Two or more Races	41	1.2%

TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS[1]	1,638	
Households with individuals under 18	286	17.5%
Households with individuals 65 years+	483	29.5%
Average Household Size	2.12	
HOUSING TENURE[1]		
Owner- Occupied Housing Units	1,088	66.4%
Renter- Occupied Housing Units	550	33.6%

SOURCE:

1. U.S. Census, 2010 Census
2. Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce: www.portaransas.org/about/history retrieved 7.29.11.
3. City of Port Aransas Parks and Open Space Master Plan, dated 6.16.05.

4 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The current goals and objectives for the City of Port Aransas Parks & Open Space Master Plan were built on the ideas developed in the 2006-2011 Parks and Open Space Master Plan dated June 16, 2005.

At the January 17, 2011 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting, the current Board reviewed the future direction of the Parks and Recreation Department in Port Aransas and revised the Mission, Vision and Goals and Objectives as they apply to Port Aransas today.

Photo courtesy of Port Aransas South Jetty

MISSION OF THE PORT ARANSAS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

"To enhance the City's recreational resources and provide the environment wherein a wide variety of services, facilities, and leisure activities can enrich the lives of residents, visitors, and guests of Port Aransas."

THE VISION STATEMENT OF THE PORT ARANSAS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

"To enrich the lives of all who spend time in Port Aransas through programs and activities that capture and cultivate the character and diversity of the community."

THE GOALS OF THE PORT ARANSAS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- To provide the environment which encourages a wide variety of leisure activities.
- To enhance the parks, recreation, and seashore experience of residents and guests in the area.
- To provide a variety of leisure activities for individual and group participation and enjoyment.
- To develop the facilities to support these activities.
- To continually assess and maintain existing park, recreation and preserve facilities.
- To encourage partnership with other entities in the development of facilities and programs for the City's Parks and Recreation Department.
- To empower employees and the community to contribute talents and expertise for the benefit of all.
- To exercise sound judgment in the management of resources, finances, and personnel.
- To better communicate the wide variety of park services, facilities, and programs that the City of Port Aransas Department of Parks and Recreation offers residents and visitors.
- To promote awareness, education and enjoyment of the local natural resources such as the coastal wetlands, bays, beaches and estuaries.

5 PARKS INVENTORY

ANCEL BRUNDRETT FISHING PIER STATION STREET

		CONDITION			
EXISTING AMENITIES	**QUANTITY**	**GOOD**	**FAIR**	**REPLACE**	**ACCESSIBILITY**
Pier	1	1			Yes

ACREAGE: **.30** CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **NATURAL RESOURCE PARK**

CITY FISHING PIER END OF PORT STREET

		CONDITION			
EXISTING AMENITIES	**QUANTITY**	**GOOD**	**FAIR**	**REPLACE**	**ACCESSIBILITY**
Benches	1	1			Yes
Picnic Tables	1	1			Yes
Pier	1			1	Yes

ACREAGE: **.20 ACRES**

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **NATURAL RESOURCE PARK**

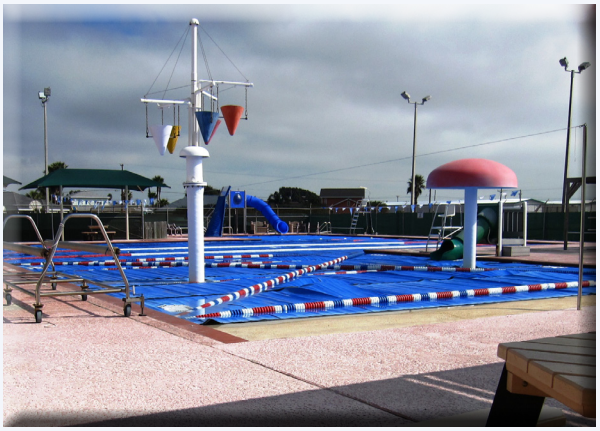
CITY MARINA SOUTH OF J.C. BARR AVENUE

		CONDITION			
EXISTING AMENITIES	**QUANTITY**	**GOOD**	**FAIR**	**REPLACE**	**ACCESSIBILITY**
Picnic Tables	25		25		Yes
Pavilion	1	1			Yes
Grilling Stations	2		2		No

ACREAGE: **10.10 ACRES**

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **SPECIAL USE PARK**

COMMUNITY PARK



		CONDITION			
EXISTING AMENITIES	**QUANTITY**	**GOOD**	**FAIR**	**REPLACE**	**ACCESSIBILITY**
Baseball - Practice	1		1		Yes
Baseball - Game	2		2		No
Basketball Court	1		1		Yes
Benches	14	5	9		Yes
Exercise Stations	9		9		Yes
Skating Rink	1	1			Yes
Observation Deck	1	1			Yes
Picnic Tables	6		5	1	Yes
Playgrounds	1	1			Yes
Soccer Field	1		1		Yes
Skate Park	1	1			No
Trails	1.56 miles		1.56 miles		No
Sand Volleyball Court	1		1		No

COMMUNITY PARK CONTINUED

ACREAGE: **19.32**

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **COMMUNITY PARK**

LEONABELLE TURNBULL BIRDING CENTER

SOUTH END OF ROSS STREET

		CONDITION			
EXISTING AMENITIES	**QUANTITY**	**GOOD**	**FAIR**	**DELETE / REPAIR**	**ACCESSIBILITY**
Benches	5	4	1		Yes
Observation Decks	3	3			Yes
Picnic Tables	1		1		Yes

ACREAGE: **2.3 ACRES**

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **NATURAL RESOURCE PARK**

PARADISE POND CUTOFF ROAD

		CONDITION			
EXISTING AMENITIES	**QUANTITY**	**GOOD**	**FAIR**	**REPLACE**	**ACCESSIBILITY**
Benches	7	7			Yes
Boardwalk	.13 miles	.13 miles			Yes

ACREAGE: **2.00**

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **NATURAL RESOURCE PARK**

PORT ARANSAS BEACH ALONG THE GULF OF MEXICO

		CONDITION			
EXISTING AMENITIES	QUANTITY	GOOD	FAIR	REPLACE	ACCESSIBILITY
Sandy Beaches					No

ACREAGE: **150 ACRES**

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **NATURAL RESOURCE PARK**

PORT ARANSAS NATURE PRESERVE

		CONDITION			
EXISTING AMENITIES	**QUANTITY**	**GOOD**	**FAIR**	**DELETE / REPAIR**	**ACCESSIBILITY**
Benches	14	14			No
Observation Decks	5	5			Yes
Observation Tower	1	1			No
Pavilions	1	1			Yes
Picnic Tables	8	7		1	Yes
Trails	2 miles	2 miles			Yes

ACREAGE: **1,217 ACRES** CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **NATURAL RESOURCE PARK**

PORT ARANSAS NATURE PRESERVE CONTINUED

ROBERTS POINT PARK NORTH OF J.C. BARR AVENUE

		CONDITION			
EXISTING AMENITIES	**QUANTITY**	**GOOD**	**FAIR**	**REPLACE**	**ACCESSIBILITY**
Amphitheater	1	1			Yes
Basketball Court	1		1		No
Benches	30	28	2		Yes
Bocce Ball Court	1		1		Yes
Horseshoe Courts	3		3		Yes
Observation Deck	1		1		Yes
Observation Tower	1	1			Yes
Pavilion - Family Style	1	1			Yes
Pavilion - Single Unit	4	4			
Picnic Tables	21	9	10	2	Yes
Playgrounds - ages 2-5	2		2		Yes
Playgrounds - ages 5-12	1		1		Yes
Soccer Field	1		1		Yes
Shoreline Fishing Access	.25 miles	.25 miles			No
Shuffle Board Court	3		3		No
Sand Volleyball Court	1		1		No

ACREAGE: **49.50 ACRES**

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **COMMUNITY PARK**

ROBERTS POINT PARK CONTINUED

WETLAND OVERLOOK STATE HIGHWAY 361

		CONDITION			
EXISTING AMENITIES	QUANTITY	GOOD	FAIR	REPLACE	ACCESSIBILITY
Pavilion	1	1			Yes

ACREAGE: **.22 ACRES**

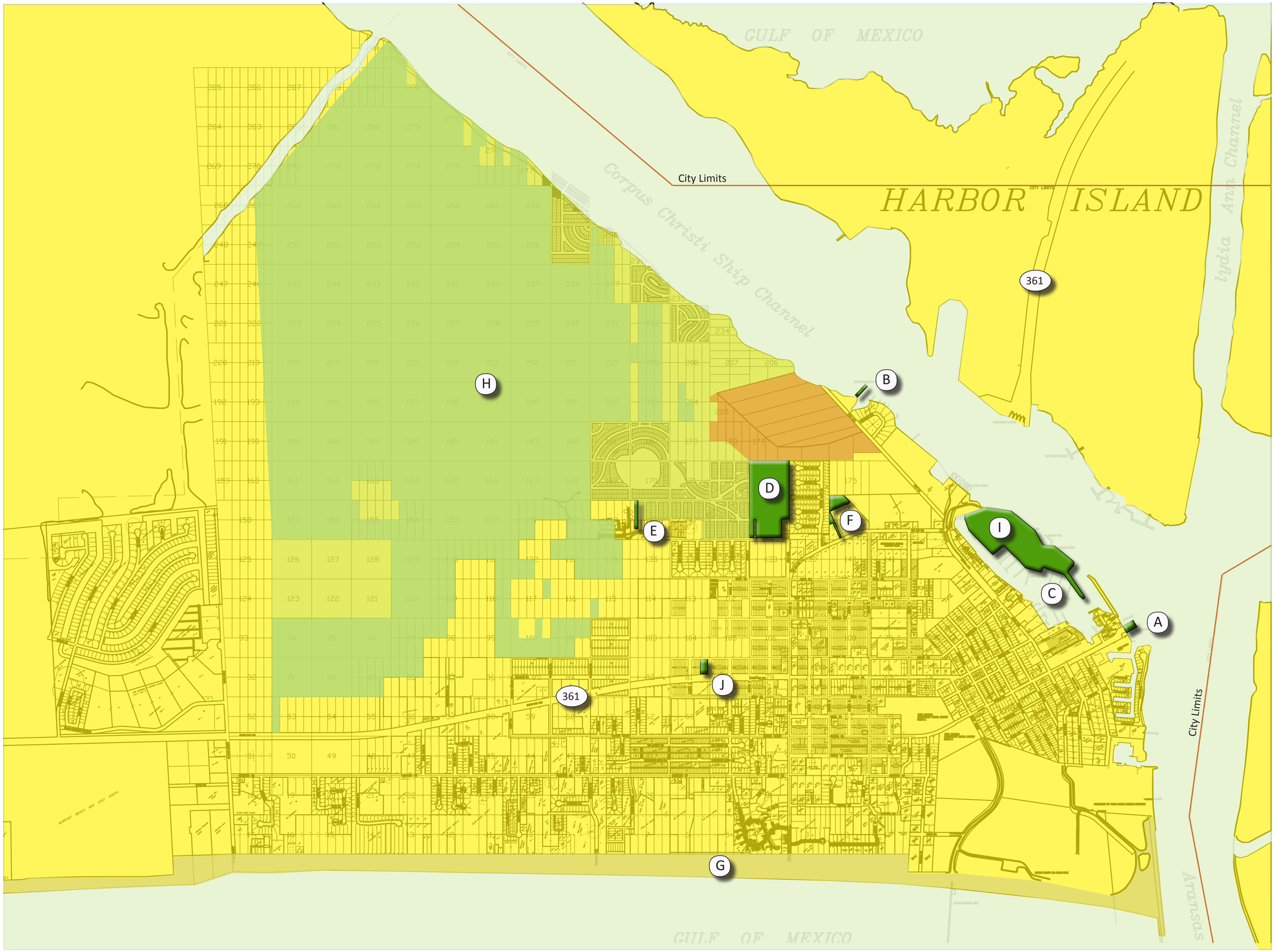
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: **NATURAL RESOURCE PARK**

Recreational Amenities Table - City of Port Aransas

Park Facility Name	Acres	Park Classification	Amphitheaters	Baseball Fields	Basketball Courts	Benches	Bocce Ball Court	Exercise Stations	Fishing Decks	Grilling Stations	Horseshoe Courts
Ancel Brundrett Fishing Pier	0.30	NR							1		
City Fishing Pier	0.20	NR				1					
City Marina	10.10	SP								2	
Community Park	19.32	C		3	1	14		9			
Leonabelle Turnbull	2.30	NR				5					
Birding Center											
Paradise Pond	2.00	NR				7					
Port Aransas Beach	150.00	NR									
Port Aransas Nature Preserve	1217	NR				14					
Roberts Point Park	49.50	C	1		1	23	1				3
Wetland Overlook	0.22	NR									
Total	**1450.94**		**1**	**3**	**2**	**64**	**1**	**9**	**1**	**2**	**3**
		N=Neighborhood									
		C=Community									
		NR= Natural Resource Park									
		SP= Special Use Park									

Recreational Amenities Table - City of Port Aransas

Park Facility Name	Skating Rink	Observation Decks	Observation Towers	Pavilions	Picnic Tables	Piers	Playgrounds	Shoreline Fishing Access	Shuffleboard Court	Skate parks	Soccer Fields	Swimming Pools	Trails (in Miles)/Boardwalk	Sand Volleyball Court
Ancel Brundrett Fishing Pier														
City Fishing Pier					1	1								
City Marina				1	25									
Community Park	1	1			6		1			1	1	1	1.56	1
Leonabelle Turnbull		3			1									
Birding Center														
Paradise Pond													0.13	
Port Aransas Beach														
Port Aransas Nature Preserve		5	1	1	8								2.0	
Roberts Point Park		1	1	5	31		3	1	3		1			1
Wetland Overlook		1												
Total		**11**	**2**	**7**	**72**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**3.69**	**2**



LEGEND

Parks
A. Ancel Brundrett Fishing Pier
B. City Fishing Pier
C. City Marina
D. Community Park
E. Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center
F. Paradise Pond
G. Port Aransas Beach
H. Port Aransas Nature Preserve
I. Roberts Point Park
J. Wetland Overlook

- Parks
- Preserve Land
  - Lease from Texas General Land Office
- Preserve Land
  - City Owned - Designated as Park Land
- Preserve Land
  - City Owned - Not Designated as Park Land
- Beach Area

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN - Parks Map

City of Port Aransas

August 18, 2011

LUCK DESIGN TEAM

0 800 1600

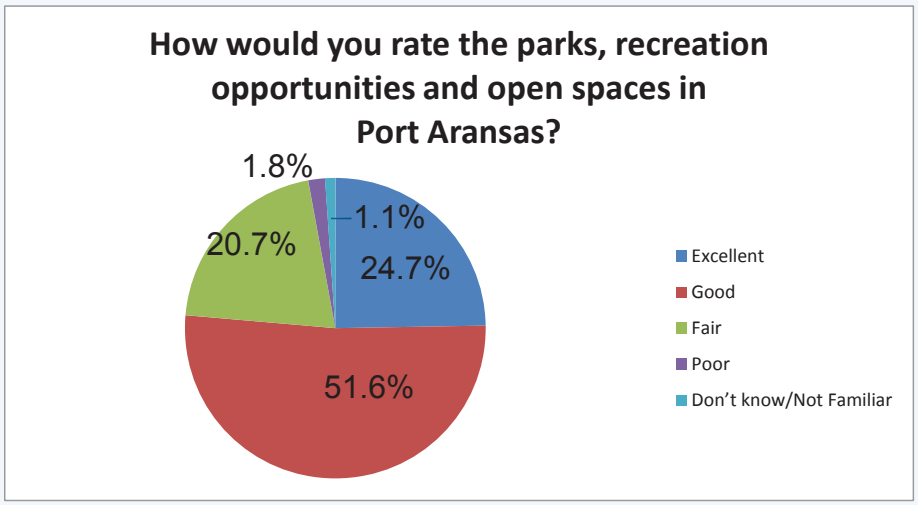
6 NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY PRIORITIES

In January of 2011 the City of Port Aransas conducted the City of Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey 2011-2021 for the citizens of Port Aransas to give input about the general direction they would like for the Port Aransas parks and open space system to grow. (This survey is included in the Appendix.) Through mail and the web-based responses, the City received 276 completed surveys. As part of the needs assessment, members of the Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Department City Staff and the Parks and Recreation Board were also asked to complete the surveys.

The results of the survey are indicated on the following pages.

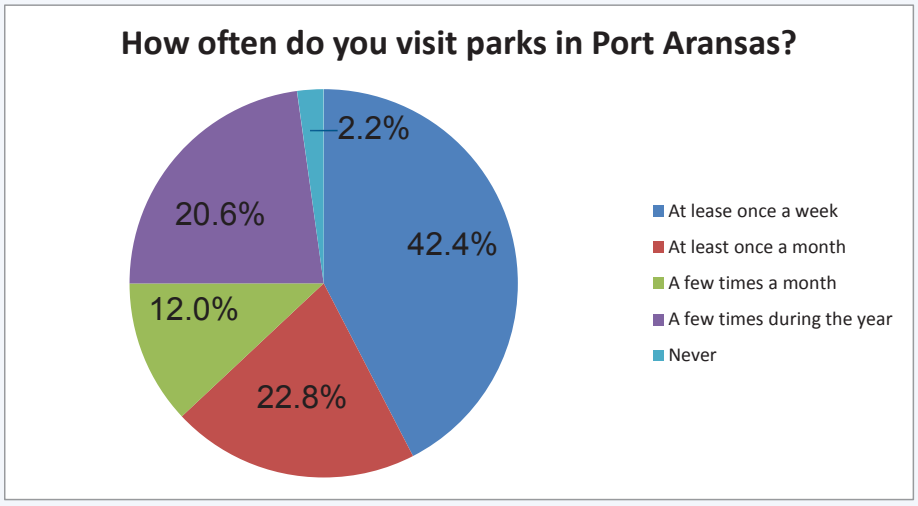
QUESTION 1:

Overall, how would you rate the parks, recreation opportunities and open spaces in Port Aransas? (Please select one answer.)



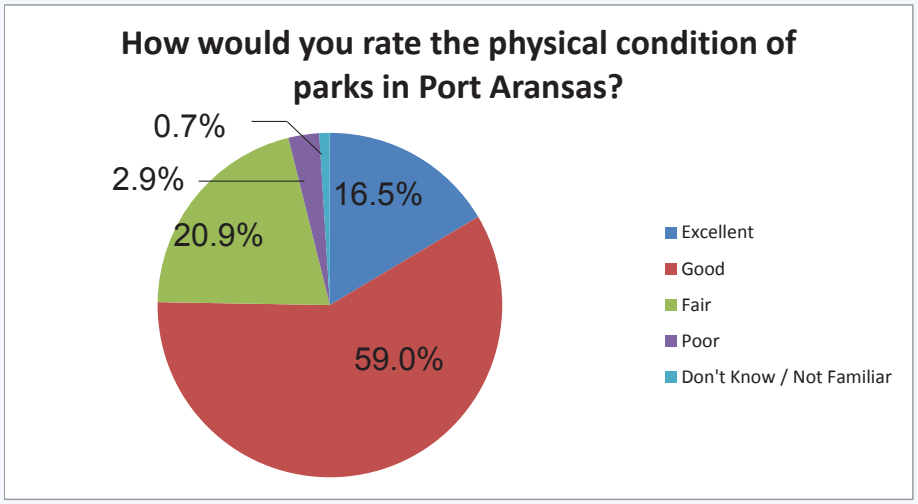
QUESTION 2:

How often have you & members of your household visited Port Aransas parks during the past year? (Please indicate one answer.)



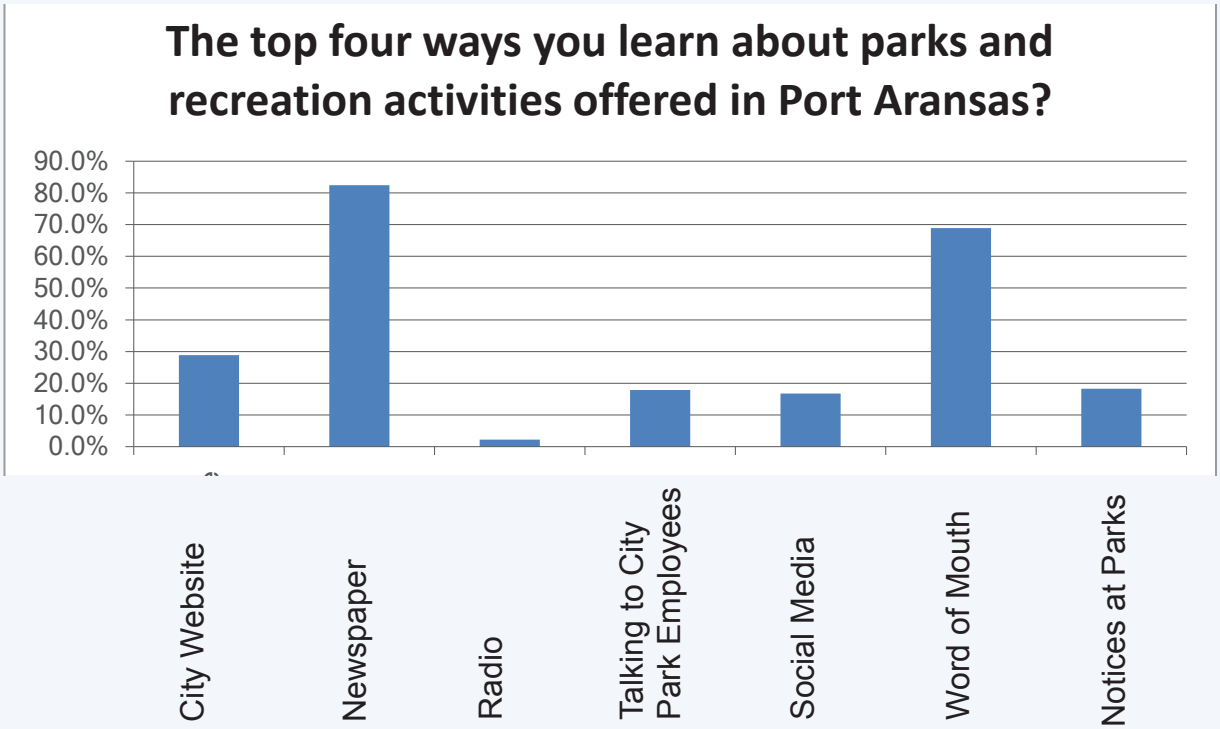
QUESTION 3:

How would you rate the physical condition of the parks in Port Aransas? (Please indicate one answer.)



QUESTION 4:

From the list below, please mark the top four ways you learn about parks and recreation activities offered by the City of Port Aransas? (Select only four answers)



QUESTION 5:

Which social media do you prefer?

Facebook:	71.0%	You Tube:	6.5%
Twitter:	4.8%	Other:	17.7%

QUESTION 6:

From the ATHLETIC AND RECREATION FACILITIES listed below, please select if you or someone in your household believes there is a need for these facilities to be ADDED in existing parks or in future parks. (Please select "yes" or "no" for each activity.)

1. Hike and Bike Trails
2. Picnic Shelters/Pavilions
3. Natural/Open Spaces
4. Fishing Access Areas
5. Botanic/Flower Garden
6. Multi-Purpose Center
7. Playground Areas
8. Community Gardens
9. Basketball Courts
10. Soccer Fields
11. Youth Softball Fields
12. Leisure Pool
13. Adult Softball Fields
14. Tennis Courts
15 Baseball Fields
16. Volleyball Courts
17. Splash Pad
18. Skateboard Park
19. Disc Golf
20. In-line Skating Rink
21. Football Fields

QUESTION 7:

From the ATHLETIC AND RECREATION FACILITIES list shown on Question 6, please select the three athletic or recreation facilities that are the most important to your household for the City of Port Aransas to develop? (Indicate your preference using the letter code associated with each program. Example: for Baseball Fields write down letter code "A".)

1. Hike and Bike Trails
2. Natural/Open Spaces
3. Multi-Purpose Center
4. Fishing Access Areas
5. Leisure Pool
6. Picnic Shelters/Pavilions
7. Botanic/Flower Garden
8. Baseball Fields
9. Soccer Fields
10. Basketball Courts
11. Community Gardens
12. Playground Areas
13. Splash Pad
14. Tennis Courts
15. Youth Softball Fields
16. Disc Golf
17. Football Fields
18. Adult Softball Fields
19. Volleyball Courts
20. Skateboard Park
21. In-line Skating Rink
22. Dog Park (Write In)
23. Artificial Surf Reef (Write In)
24. Birding Center (Write In)
25. New Girl Scout Facility (Write In)

QUESTION 9:

From the PROGRAMS listed below, please indicate if you or someone in your household believes there is a need for these sports activities or recreational programs. (Please select "yes" or "no" for each activity.)

1. Fitness Classes
2. Hiking
3. Canoe/Kayak
4. Nature Study
5. Fishing
6. Arts and Crafts
7. Health/Wellness
8. Swim Lessons
9. Water Exercise
10. Sailing
11. Camping
12. Tennis
13. Sand Volleyball
14. Basketball
15. Dance/Drama
16. Baseball
17. Road Biking
18. Softball
19. Soccer
20. SCUBA
21. T-Ball
22. Volleyball
23. Weight Lifting
24. Gymnastics
25. Martial Arts
26. Kickball
27. In-Line Hockey

QUESTION 10:

From the ATHLETIC AND RECREATION FACILITIES list shown on Question 9, please select the three athletic or recreation facilities that are the most important to your household for the City of Port Aransas to develop? (Indicate your preference using the letter code associated with each program. Example: for Baseball Fields write down letter code "A".)

1. Fitness Classes
2. Fishing
3. Nature Study
4. Health/Wellness
5. Canoe/Kayak
6. Hiking
7. Arts and Crafts
8. Water Exercise
9. Road Biking
10. Basketball
11. SCUBA
12. Baseball
13. Sailing
14. Weight Lifting
15. Swim Lessons
16. Dance/Drama
17. Softball
18. Gymnastics
19. Camping
20. Soccer
21. Tennis
22. Martial Arts
23. Kickball
24. Volleyball
25. Sand Volleyball
26. T-Ball
27. Bird Watching (Write In)
28. In-Line Hockey
29. Lectures (Write In)

QUESTION 11:

List activities or programs not noted in Question 9 that the City of Port Aransas should consider sponsoring in the future.

1. Sand volleyball.
2. Need at YMCA type facility.
3. Dog park.
4. Friendly bridge.
5. I am a senior citizen who quad skates, why do you always speak to in line skating?
6. The City of Port Aransas needs a fitness/multi purpose center. City employees, community members, & visitors would utilize the facilities & benefit from its use. From the city I actually moved from we had a multipurpose/fitness center and it was always busy. I had the opportunity to visit another small city last year & they actually built a multi-purpose center and was already going to enlarge it and it was barely a year old. The construction of the building also lead to new job opportunities and more revenue for the city."
7. Really miss Paradise Health and Fitness. JELM does some nice things.
8. Surfing, kite surfing.
9. Fishing etiquette.
10. A summer youth recreation program that extends throughout the entire day, five to seven days a week, throughout the entire summer. Our opinion is that most of the activities should be indoor activities, because it's so hot in the summertime. That would mean a multi-purpose rec hall would have to be built, probably.
11. Another marina.
12. Paint ball Field.
13. More piers.
14. Better baseball fields.
15. Art school for the blind.
16. Paint ball field.
17. Bowling and possibly Laser Tag.
18. Skydiving lessons.
19. Community gym with full services and reasonable, affordable weights with extended hours. Better hours at the community pool. The current hours are abysmal, being open on Mondays and at least one evening a week like the aransas pass pool. Such a nice facility to have it closed so much of the time
20. Triathlons, marathons, half marathons, "adventure" races, Bicycle Races to include Cyclo-Cross racing, criteriums, and mountain bikes. Add YMCA type full service facility.
21. GYM
22. Aerobics, yoga
23. Night sky programs. There is growing interest in "Dark Sky" tourist destinations for viewing the night sky. The city needs to install full cutoff lighting so the night sky is visible.
24. Swimming.
25. Gymnastics.
26. Fitness classes not geared to our senior citizens.
27. Archery.
28. I think we should get a high school soccer team started next year.

QUESTION 11:
Continued

29. Leash-free dog area on beach.
30. A summer program like the one the city used to do before. Summer is the busiest time of year for a lot of parents on the island and we need a summer camp that runs through the summer and is convenient to get to.
31. Off road bike trails/ park through the dunes or more boardwalk to bike on.
32. Bike park or BMX style (non motorized) bike course.
33. Better access to back side of island for better opportunity for fishing that is not ""boat"" based and access launch points for kayak or canoes.
34. Leisure boating. Tour of the ship channel and back side of the island. Operations for folks who do not own a boat and wish to go beyond Lydia Ann Channel.
35. Indoor movie house.
36. Hot tub at pool.
37. Ballroom dancing.
38. Country and western dancing.
39. We need a bigger and better public pool. An aquatic center like Aransas Pass.
40. A water safety class directed at folks who would like to learn the basics but don't have the time, ability or interest in taking the full lifesaving program. A Red Cross baby sitting class for pre-teens, early teens. Really like the SCUBA idea and canoeing idea. First aid/CPR classes for the public, not just those who have to have them for work for city, etc.
41. Natural Hike, Bike and walk trains and open areas. Childrens playground and parks. A new and larger pool is critically needed.
42. An indoor swimming pool would encourage more people to turn to water exercise -- I am very interested in weight lifting in water as well.
43. Surf classes.
44. Competitive sailing classes and events.
45. Volunteer Program.
46. I would love to sign up, be a member, whatever, to stay more healthy and learn new recreational skills!! There's no where to do this. Your categories did not have "not met", which I would have checked on most of my wish list items. I try to stay healthy by walking briskly on the beach and don't use my weights at home because I love being with a group to do this. I so wish Port A could have a rec center so that we people who have retired here permanently could have access to something fun year round. Thanks!
47. Flag Football.
48. Fitness and weight not needed unless J E L M abandons them.
49. I am not interested in any of these programs.
50. Golf lessons or classes at Newport Dunes or reduced green fees for City of Port Aransas citizens to play.
51. There is a big demand for a dog park. One area for small dogs and one area for big dogs.
52. Educational programs about nature and care of the environment for children and young adults.
53. I'm not aware of all the programs available to children but I believe the greater variety we can expose them to the more likely they will find something to suit their needs and keep

QUESTION 11:
Continued

them busy and hopefully out of trouble.

54. My children have all left home, so I do activities with my dogs but we have nothing to do in Port A. I think kids and adults have plenty of activities.
55. Wood working, Cooking, Movie theater (First run), bowling.
56. Hiking/biking trails - all over town - Check out Holland, Michigan
57. I would like to see a residents block type party in the off season. It can be very trying to live here during peak season, and it would be nice to feel like the city understands the residents frustration, and appreciates their patience with so many visitors. To often it feels like park and rec., desire to please, is aimed at the tourist. As a resident I personally sometimes feel slighted.
58. Water yoga, water zumba, more yoga.
59. A POOL THAT YOU CAN GO AND TAKE YOUR KIDS AND SWIM, NOT STOP FOR THE ADULTS JUST SWIM.
60. Need some sand volleyball courts hold torments.
61. Fitness class could have better music and be more current with the times.
62. Sand volleyball teams.
63. Boat tours or activities.
64. Community Garden.
65. Develop programs for older RESIDENTS (40-80+) - cards, chess, wood carving, painting, music, short trips, sewing, crafts so people living here can get acquainted. Have chess classes for children.
66. Sailing classes for beginners.
67. To the extent not covered in 9, programs aimed specifically at senior citizens.
68. Better organization of the skate park for safety of younger ones.
69. Rifle and pistol range; off road motor sports area.
70. Having the pool open longer hours more days a week. It is closed more daylight hours that it is open. I wish I could swim on my days off Sundays and Mondays and a weekday with evening hours.
71. Ballet classes, scuba diving class, sailing classes, martial arts, and motor cross.
72. I think you are doing a great job with programs.
73. The pool is important.
74. More habitat restoration in our wild areas and migration stop-over spots. Care taken not to "overdue" pruning in wild areas.
75. More improvements to the Nature Preserves.
76. Dog park.
77. I would like to see the PAYC back for basketball elementary kids.
78. Adult programs at nature preserve - birding a part but emphasis on other wildflowers, flowers, grasses, trees, etc. Adult lessons and trips for canoeing, kayaking, sailing.
79. Roller Skating.
80. Gym Facilities, fitness center.
81. Dog Park.

QUESTION 12:

Would you support a Bond Election for funds to acquire and develop new public parks and recreation facilities?

Yes	51.4%
No	25.2%
Don't Know	24.4%

QUESTION 13A:

Do you believe that the City of Port Aransas should charge fees to offset the cost of programs and activities?

Yes	74.3%
No	25.7%

QUESTION 13B:

Do you believe that the City of Port Aransas should increase taxes to offset the cost of programs and activities?

Yes	21.5%
No	78.5%

QUESTION 13C:

Do you believe that the City of Port Aransas should propose the use of bonds or a similar type of financing to acquire and/or develop new athletic or recreation facilities in parks?

Yes	67.1%
No	23.9%

QUESTION 13D:

Do you believe that the City of Port Aransas should propose the use of bonds or a similar type of financing to acquire more parkland?

Yes	52.7%
No	47.3%

QUESTION 14:

What is the single most important issue or need concerning City of Port Aransas parks and recreation programs and facilities? (Write in any comments)

See appendix for complete list of comments.

QUESTION 15:

I am:

Male	30.6%
Female	69.4%

QUESTION 16:

I:

Own my own home:	82.5%
Rent my home:	17.5%

QUESTION 17:

I am:

A resident of Port Aransas	76.2%
A short-term summer guest	1.7%
A short-term winter guest	1.7%
A Winter Texan	13.9%
I own a second home in Port Aransas	6.5%

QUESTION 18:

I am:

The head of the household	67.4%
Not the head of the household	32.6%

QUESTION 19:

I am:

Employed full-time	35.8%	Self-employed	18.5%
Employed part-time	7.3%	Unemployed	0.4%
Homemaker	3.9%	Student	5.6%
Retired	28.4%		

QUESTION 21:

The average year of birth of those responding to the survey was 1965.

QUESTION 22:

There were 198 respondents who answered that they spent a combined 6,778 hours per month on recreation activities. This averages out to each respondent spending approximately 34 hours per month on recreation activities.

QUESTION 23:

There were 173 respondents the who wrote that they spent a combined $24,178.07 per month on recreational activities. This averages out to each respondent spending approximately $139.75 per month on recreational activities.

7 STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

In order to project the park facility and park acreage guidelines as noted in this section, it is important to substantiate the population projections and the method by which they were determined.

Photo courtesy of Port Aransas South Jetty

The first source of the City of Port Aransas population projection used in the Parks & Open Space Master Plan 2011-2021 standards based guidelines was the 2010 United States Census released in March of 2011. This established the City of Port Aransas 2010 benchmark population at 3,480 (see Section 3 - Demographics).

The second data referenced was the 2000 United States Census to record the percentage increase in population over the last decade. Below is a chart comparing the population increases of the County, City and surrounding cities from 2000 to 2010:

City or County	Year 2000 Population	Year 2010 Population	Percent of Change in Population
Port Aransas	3,370	3,480	3.26%
Rockport	7,385	8,766	18.70%
Aransas Pass	8,138	8,204	0.8%
Nueces County	313,534	340,223	8.5%

Because there was such a wide discrepancy in the percentage of change in population as noted above, a third source was referenced to justify a population % that would be accurate for projecting the 2016 and 2021 population increases. This third source was the Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer, Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research (IDSER). The chart below indicates a Zero Migration (0.0) Scenario for Nueces County from 2005 to 2040.

POPULATION 2000 AND PROJECTED POPULATION 2005-2040
BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND MIGRATION SCENARIO FOR NUECES COUNTY*

YEAR	TOTAL	ANGLO	BLACK	HISPANIC	OTHER
2000	313,645	120,191	13,294	174,951	5,209
2005	327,792	121,101	13,578	187,464	5,649
2010	340,909	121,738	13,911	199,249	6,011
2015	352,637	122,012	14,222	210,051	6,352
2020	362,245	121,479	14,512	219,661	6,593
2025	369,856	119,897	14,667	228,554	6,738
2030	375,570	117,646	14,669	236,419	6,836
2035	379,331	114,983	14,584	242,874	6,890
2040	381,247	112,099	14,443	247,787	6,918

*Source: Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer: http://txsdc.utsa.edu/cgi-bin/prj2008totnum.cgi; retrieved 7.31.11.

The population projections indicated on this chart for the years 2000 and 2010 coincide with the US Census populations for the year 2000 and 2010 respectively and represent a 8.51% population increase for the County. Since these two independent sources matched, an 8.51% population increase was used in projecting the City of Port Aransas' Population for the years 2016 and 2021.

FACILITY BASED GUIDELINES

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) provides the industry standard for parks, recreation and open space design as recognized by park planning professionals throughout the country. This master plan follows the latest published nomenclature and standards as outlined by NRPA in the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines 1990 edition. NRPA has suggested that each municipality or governmental agency develop and provide its own guideline for growth and park planning as dictated by local conditions. As such, a numerical nation wide template of standards for parks growth does not exist, although the development of one for each facility per 1000 population is encouraged.

On the proceeding page, information from the NRPA guidelines is listed along with facility development guideline recommendations from LUCK Design Team specific to the City of Port Aransas. The recommendations from LUCK Design Team refer to facilities that were not covered in the NRPA recommendations. Guidelines proposed for fiscal years 2016 and 2021 are also on the following page.

City of Port Aransas Park Facility Guidelines

Activity / Facility	Guidelines Recomended For Facilities Per Population	Existing Facilities In 2011 Pop. of 3,480~	Facilities Proposed For 2016 Pop. of 3,643+	Facilities Proposed For 2021 Pop. of 3,806+
Amphitheaters	1/50,000^	1	1	1
Baseball Fields	1/5,000*	3	3	3
Basketball Courts (outdoors)	1/5,000*	2	2	2
Benches	1 bench/300*	64	70	70
Bocce Ball Court	1/10,000^	1	1	1
Disc Golf	18 holes/20,000^	3	3	3
Fishing Docks/Access Points	1/1,000^	3	4	4
Football Fields	1/20,000*	0	0	0
Golf Course	1/50,000*	0	0	0
Multi-Purpose Fields	1/20,000*	0	0	0
Observation Decks/ Towers	1/350^	13	14	15
Pavilion/Shelters	1/2,000*	7	8	10
Picnic Tables	1 table/300*	72	76	80
Playgrounds	1 area/1,000*	4	4	4
Recreation Centers	1/20,000-30,000*	0	0	0
Skate Parks	1/20,000^	1	1	1
Soccer Fields	1/5,000*	2	2	2
Softball Fields	1/5,000*	0	0	0
Swimming Pools/ Splash Pads	1/20,000*	1	1	1
Tennis Courts	1/5,000*	0	0	0
Trails	1/2-1 mile/1,000*	3.69 miles	5.0 miles	6.0 miles
Volleyball Area (outdoors)	1/5,000*	2	2	2

* - Source: Guidelines from Appendix A in Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, p. 60-61, 4th printing 1990, a publication of the National Recreation and Park Association.

^- Source: LUCK Design Team professional recommendation for the City of Port Aransas.

~ - Source: 2010 U.S. Census

+ - Source: Estimated population change of 8.51% from the 2010 population.

PARKLAND ACQUISITION

As highlighted in the table below, the City of Port Aransas currently has 1,450.94 acres of parkland. This acreage is divided into the following three classifications: community parks, special use parks, and natural resource parks. With a 2010 total population of 3,480, the total existing park acreage of 1,450.94 acres for the City equals 416.93 acres/1,000 of population.

Park Classification	Existing Parks	Acreage
Community Parks	Community Park	19.32
	Roberts Point Park	49.50
	Total Community Parks Acreage=	68.82
Special Use Park	City Marina	10.10
	Total Special Use Park Acreage=	10.10
Natural Resource Park	Ancel Brundrett Fishing Pier	0.30
	City Fishing Pier	0.20
	Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center	2.30
	Paradise Pond	2.00
	Port Aransas Beach	150.00
	Port Aransas Nature Preserve*	1,217.00
	Wetland Overlook	0.22
	Total Natural Resource Parks Acreage=	1,372.02
	TOTAL PARK ACREAGE	1,450.94

*** - Denotes preserve land leased by the City of Port Aransas from the Texas General Land Office, pursuant to a 50 year lease agreement.**

City Staff and the Parks and Recreation Board stated that it wanted to identify possible lands for more hike and bike trails, natural open space and fishing access areas. This focus for parkland acquisition is reflected in the "Natural Resource Park" acreage increase on the following page. With this emphasis on an increase in Natural Resource Park acreage, the Community Park and Special Use Park acreage categories have remained at 2011 levels.

City of Port Aransas Park Acreage Guidelines

Park Facility	Existing 2011 Population of 3,480~ Existing Parks AC/1000	Guidelines for 2016 Population of 3,643+ Suggested AC/1000	Guidelines for 2021 Population of 3,806+ Suggested AC/1000
Community Parks	68.82 19.77 ac/1000	68.82 18.89 ac/1000	68.82 18.08 ac/1000
Special Use Parks	10.10 2.90/1000	10.10 2.77/1000	10.10 2.65/1000
Natural Resouce Parks	1,372.02 394.25 ac/1000	1,400.00 384.29 ac/1000	1,400.00 367.84 ac/1000
Totals	1,450.94 416.93 ac/1000	1,478.92 405.96 ac/1000	1,478.92 388.57 ac/1000

~ - Source: 2010 U.S. Census
+ - Source: Estimated population change of 8.51% from the 2010 population.
See Appendix for justification of percentage change.

Photo courtesy of Port Aransas South Jetty

8 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The most important part of any Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan is the identification of the park priorities provided through the inventory analysis, a public needs assessment, and continuous discussion with City Staff and the Parks and Recreation Board. Once this is completed, defining implementation steps is the next part of the process.

This section recommends an action plan focused along two congruent tracks: outdoor facility improvements and indoor facility improvements.

The City received additional comments in the NEEDS ASSESSMENT survey and several key topics were mentioned multiple times by respondents.

Board and Staff Responses to the major topics below will highlight City actions to date or share the City's reasons for action taken or not taken on these items.

We sincerely thank respondents who took time to write survey comments. Your input has been invaluable.

OUTDOOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The parks needs assessment survey offered respondents a chance to share their views on wants and needs for future City park improvements. City Staff and the Parks and Recreation Board reviewed the results of the survey and formalized the following Outdoor Recreation Priorities.

Outdoor Recreational Facility Priorities

High Priority Needs
1. **Hike and Bike Trails**
2. **Natural/Open Spaces**
3. **Fishing Access Areas**
4. **Botanic/Flower Garden**
5. **Picnic Shelters/Pavilions**
6. **Leisure Pool**

Medium Priority Needs
7. **Baseball Fields**
8. **Soccer Fields**
9. **Basketball Courts**
10. **Community Gardens**
11. **Playground Areas**
12. **Splash Pad**

Low Priority Needs
13. **Dog Park**
14. **Tennis Courts**
15. **Youth Softball Fields**
16. **Disc Golf**
17. **Football Fields**
18. **Adult Softball Fields**
19. **Volleyball Courts**
20. **Skateboard Park**
21. **In-line Skating Rink**

High Priority Item #1 - Hike and Bike Trails

Hike and Bike trails throughout the City of Port Aransas might mean different things to different people. For some it means soft surface trails and the boardwalks of the nature preserve. For others it means getting around the City on bikes. Regardless, hike and bike trails rank as the number one parks and recreation priority of the City.

Board and Staff response:
The City will look for opportunities to increase trails in the Nature Preserve and surrounding areas and in the formalized path system within Port Aransas proper.

High Priority Item #2. Natural Open Space

Protecting natural space within the City is a high priority of residents, City leadership and the Parks Board. Open space doesn't necessarily mean parks; it can be green space, wetlands or other areas of the City where visual and physical protection of the coastal environment is important. A point of emphasis of the City is to embrace the physically unique environment that the coastal location provides to residents and visitors alike.

Board and Staff Response:
Land in Port Aransas is scarce or available at a premium cost. Partnerships with public or private entities can be explored for the protection of natural open space within City limits.

The Park Board, City staff and the City Council are committed to maintaining the integrity of the natural landscape on the Island. Brazilian Pepper Trees are not a part of the natural landscape. The City is intent on removing this invasive species. The method is to take out Brazilian Pepper Trees in patches followed by an aggressive replanting of trees in those patches. Planting replacement trees and getting several years' growth before removing the Brazilian Pepper trees is not feasible.

High Priority Item #3 -Fishing Access Areas

Several items have factored into fishing access areas being designated as another high priority for park facilities. Access to Piper Channel was cut off by the construction of the Nature Preserve and there are not a lot of existing wading opportunities for fishing. Some of the existing fishing piers have been out of commission in recent months.

Waves from tanker ships using the Corpus Christi Ship Channel have damaged the City Fishing Pier at Charlie's Pasture due to its low elevation, leaving the pier unsafe and unusable on several occasions.

Board and Staff response:
The City recognizes the importance of fishing related improvements and has broken ground on a new fish cleaning facility at the Port Aransas Marina (Haul out area). Pier lights are operational and are being checked on a regular basis. The City has endeavored to place rest room facilities at the

public fishing piers where possible. An upgraded rest room at the pier at Charlie's Pasture can be looked into as a future improvement feature. Staff will work to secure funding to build an elevated pier at the Charlie's Pasture site.

High Priority Item #4. Botanic Flower Garden

A great opportunity for the education and celebration of the existing flora of the City resides in the development of a botanic garden or botanic areas within the City of Port Aransas. Residents and visitors alike are constantly clamoring for more information on birding habitat, invasive species (their impact and eradication) and other environmental topics to which the City is closely tied.

Board and Staff Response:
Providing demonstration gardens and educational areas throughout the City provides a venue to share the beauty of Port A and to communicate what can and needs to be done to protect this fragile environment. Plant labeling and educational signs in the Nature Preserve and birding centers are the first logical step for botanic gardens. Other high visibility locations within Roberts Point Park and along the Ferry Loop Road have great potential to satisfy this high priority item.

Photo courtesy of Port Aransas South Jetty

High Priority Item #5 -Picnic Shelters / Pavilions

Picnic shelters and shade pavilions go hand in hand in promoting activity in public parks and preserve areas. The City already has a high ratio of picnic shelters and pavilions in its park and recreation areas.

Board and Staff Response:
Shade continues to be a priority for the City and an amenity for recreational enjoyment throughout the City's park system.

High Priority Item #6 -Leisure Pool

The City already has a swimming pool at the Community Park but the City of Port Aransas, like many of its surrounding sister cities, has had to make tough management decisions regarding pool use in order to provide maximum benefit to its users within the current restraints of the operations budget. With that being said, the Parks Board and City Staff recognize the importance of the pool to the mental and physical well being of its residents and will endeavor to provide maximum best use of the pool to its residents.

Board and Staff response:
After tracking daily pool attendance and noting significantly less participant usage of the pool after 2 PM during winter months, the City opted to reduce hours rather than close the pool during the winter months. By contrast, the City of Aransas Pass made the decision to close their pool from the end of November 2010 to the end of February 2011.

Summer pool hours are set to maximize use by as many people as possible. Part of the morning time slot is dedicated to youth swimming lessons and specialty classes (e.g., sailing, cast netting).Other communities may operate their swim lesson program in a different manner.

The goal with regard to the pool is to make swimming available as often as City resources allow. Port Aransas is not alone in facing this issue; Rockport and Aransas Pass are making decisions regarding pool hours and staffing.

City staff will continue to monitor pool usage numbers and use the funds approved by City Council to maximize pool hours for the benefit of the community.

The medium and low outdoor facility priorities are listed below and will be reviewed on an independent basis as greater need or opportunity arises.

Medium Priority Needs

7) Baseball Fields
8) Soccer Fields
9) Basketball Courts
10) Community Gardens
11) Playgrounds
12) Splash Pads

Low Priority Needs

13) Dog Park
14) Tennis Courts
15) Softball Fields
16) Disc Golf
17) Football
18) Adult Softball
19) Volleyball
20) Skateboard Park
21) In Line Skating Rink

Photo courtesy of Port Aransas South Jetty

INDOOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Throughout the Parks Needs Assessment process, much of the feedback received from the public focused on the desire and need for a multipurpose / recreation center to provide a venue for fitness classes, recreational activities for youth and families and other programs that cannot be offered due to the limited space available to the Parks & Recreation Department.

Indoor Recreational Facility Priorities

High Priority Needs

1) Multi-Purpose Center

Board and Staff response:

The Parks Board has identified Tier 1 (short term/outdoor) and Tier 2 (long term/indoor) projects and, in Tier 2, recognized the need for an indoor recreation center or multi-purpose center. Taking into account existing debt service for parks and recreation facilities as well as national standards for the construction and operation of an indoor recreation center or multi-purpose center, the project is not feasible at this time. The current debt service (payment for the Port Aransas Nature Preserve Certificates of Obligation) will be paid off in 2018. The Park Board will re-evaluate the demand and economic climate in five (5) years (2016) and study the costs associated with the construction, staffing, operation and maintenance to determine if an indoor facility is feasible.

National standards cite criteria of one indoor recreation center or multipurpose center per 20,000 in population, since this population number establishes a viable tax base to support such a facility. With a current population of 3,480, the City of Port Aransas is short of that proposed number, but the City population does increase significantly with tourist visits throughout the summer and winter months, plus some tourism traffic during the off-season times as well.

The Paradise Fitness Center in Port Aransas opened as an indoor recreation/fitness center and closed when there was not enough demand to sustain the operation. To date, no other private entity has stepped in to operate the facility under a new business model.

The City of Rockport has an indoor recreation/fitness center that has gone through numerous remodels under several different owners over the last twenty years to try to find a core niche.

The City is willing to pursue collaborations with other entities or to partner with other benefactors to realize the vision of a multi-purpose indoor recreation center.

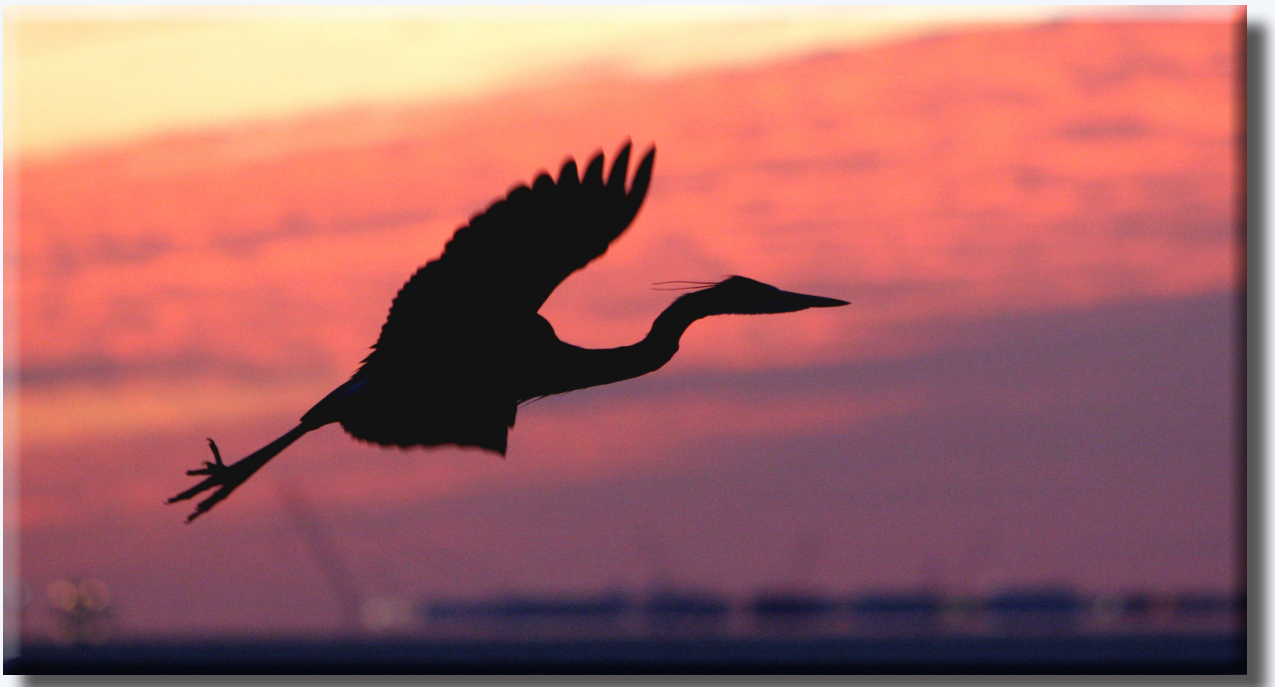


Photo courtesy of Port Aransas South Jetty

City of Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey 2011-2021

The Parks and Recreation Board for the City of Port Aransas is developing a ten (10) year plan to make recommendations to the City Council for the development and implementation of park facilities and recreation programs throughout the City.

We recognize that the City has limited dollars and we are asking City residents and visitors for their input in the prioritization and development of this plan to determine what park facilities, activities and programs the City of Port Aransas should implement in the future.

Please take a moment to voice your opinion on these issues that help us make decisions concerning the quality of life we all want in Port Aransas. Complete the survey by marking the answers that best reflect your attitudes and opinions and return by February 11, 2011 to:

City of Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Department
701 W. Ave. A
Port Aransas, Texas 78373

Thank you for being a part of this important process.

1) Overall, how would you rate the parks, recreation opportunities and open spaces in Port Aransas? *(Please select one answer.)*

Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't know/Not Familiar

2) How often have you & members of your household visited Port Aransas parks during the past year? *(Please select one answer.)*

At least once a week At least once a month A few times a month
A few times during the year Never

3) How would you rate the physical condition of the parks in Port Aransas? *(Please select one answer.)*

Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't know/Not Familiar

4) From the list below, please mark the top four ways you learn about parks and recreation activities offered by the City of Port Aransas? *(Select only four answers)*

City website
Word of Mouth
Newspaper (hard copy or digital)
Social Media (Twitter / Facebook/etc.)
Radio
Calling/talking to City Park employees
Notifications posted at Park Facilities
Other

5) If you selected "social media" in Question 4 as one of the top four ways you learn about parks and recreation activities offered by the City of Port Aransas, which social media platform do you prefer? *(Select only one answer.)*

_____Facebook
_____Twitter
_____YouTube
_____Other:

If you selected "Other", please indicate which other social media platform:

_____

6) From the <u>ATHLETIC AND RECREATION FACILITIES</u> listed below, please select if you or someone in your household believes there is a need for these facilities to be ADDED in existing parks or in future parks. *(Please select "yes" or "no" for each activity.)*

If you select "<u>yes</u>" for an athletic or recreation facility, please select how well you feel this need is currently being met, either by the City or another entity or organization.

	Athletic and Recreation Facility	**Do you believe there is a need for this?** *(Please select "yes" or "no" for each activity.)*	**If the answer is "Yes", please select how well you feel this need is currently being met?** *(Please select one answer for each program activity.)*

				Fully Met	Nearly Met	Half Met	Somewhat Met	Not Met At All
A	Baseball Fields	No	Yes					
B	Basketball Courts	No	Yes					
C	Football Fields	No	Yes					
D	Soccer Fields	No	Yes					
E	Youth Softball Fields	No	Yes					
F	Adult Softball Fields	No	Yes					
G	Tennis Courts	No	Yes					
H	Volleyball Courts	No	Yes					
I	Botanic/Flower Garden	No	Yes					
J	Community Gardens	No	Yes					
K	Fishing Access Areas	No	Yes					
L	Hike and Bike Trails	No	Yes					
M	In-line Skating Rink	No	Yes					
N	Multi-Purpose Center	No	Yes					
O	Natural/Open Spaces	No	Yes					
P	Picnic Shelters/Pavilions	No	Yes					
Q	Playground Areas	No	Yes					
R	Skateboard Park	No	Yes					
S	Splash Pad	No	Yes					
T	Leisure Pool	No	Yes					
U	Disc Golf	No	Yes					

7) From the <u>ATHLETIC AND RECREATION FACILITIES</u> list shown on Question 6, please select the three athletic or recreation facilities that are the most important to your household for the City of Port Aransas to develop? *(Indicate your preference using the letter code associated with each program. Example: for Baseball Fields write down letter code "A".)*

_____1st _____2nd _____3rd

8) List <u>ATHLETIC AND RECREATION FACILITIES</u> not noted in Question 6 that the City of Port Aransas should consider constructing in the future. *(Write in any comments.)*

_____

_____

_____

_____

9) From the <u>PROGRAMS</u> listed below, please indicate if you or someone in your household believes there is a need for these sports activities or recreational programs. *(Please select "yes" or "no" for each activity.)*

If you indicate "<u>yes</u>" for a program activity, please indicate how well you feel this need is currently being met, either by the City or another entity or organization.

	Program Activity	**Do you believe there is a need for this?** *(Please select "yes" or "no" for each activity.)*	**If the answer is "Yes", please select how well you feel this need is currently being met?** *(Please select one answer for each program activity.)*

				Fully Met	Nearly Met	Half Met	Somewhat Met	Not Met At All
A	Arts and Crafts	No	Yes					
B	Basketball	No	Yes					
C	Baseball	No	Yes					
D	Camping	No	Yes					
E	Canoe/Kayak	No	Yes					
F	Dance/Drama	No	Yes					
G	Fishing	No	Yes					
H	Fitness Classes	No	Yes					
I	Gymnastics	No	Yes					
J	Health/Wellness	No	Yes					
K	Hiking	No	Yes					
L	In-Line Hockey	No	Yes					
M	Kickball	No	Yes					
N	Martial Arts	No	Yes					
O	Nature Study	No	Yes					
P	Road Biking	No	Yes					
Q	Sailing	No	Yes					
R	Sand Volleyball	No	Yes					
S	SCUBA	No	Yes					
T	Soccer	No	Yes					
U	Softball	No	Yes					
V	Swim Lessons	No	Yes					
W	T-Ball	No	Yes					
X	Tennis	No	Yes					
Y	Volleyball	No	Yes					
Z	Water Exercise	No	Yes					
AA	Weight Lifting	No	Yes					

10) From the activities program list shown on Question 9, please select the three programs that are the most important for your household for the City of Port Aransas to offer? *(Indicate your preference using the letter code associated with each program. Example: for Arts and Crafts write down letter code "A".)*

_____1st _____2nd _____3rd

11) List activities or <u>programs</u> not noted in Question 9 that the City of Port Aransas should consider sponsoring in the future. *(Write in any comments.)*

_____
_____
_____
_____

12) Does the City have enough parkland? *(Please select one answer.)*

1- Yes 2-No 3- Don't know

If you answered "No" where do you think a new park or parks are needed?

_____

13) Do you believe that the City of Port Aransas should...

- **Charge fees to offset the cost of programs and activities?**

  Yes _____ No _____

- **Increase taxes to offset the cost of programs and activities?**

  Yes _____ No _____

- **Propose the use of bonds or a similar type of financing to acquire and/or develop new athletic or recreation facilities in parks?**

  Yes _____ No _____

- **Propose the use of bonds or a similar type of financing to acquire more parkland?**

  Yes _____ No _____

14) What is the single most important issue or need concerning City of Port Aransas parks and recreation programs and facilities? *(Write in any comments)*

_____
_____
_____

About you: *(Please indicate one answer.)*

15) I am: Male Female

16) I: Own my home Rent my home

17) I Am:
A resident of Port Aransas
A short-term summer guest
A short-term winter guest
A Winter Texan
I own a second home in Port Aransas
If you own a second home in Port Aransas, what is your state of residence? _____

18) I am:
the head of the household
not the head of the household

19) I am:
Employed full-time
Self-employed
Employed part-time
Unemployed
Homemaker
Student
Retired

20) Including yourself, indicate the NUMBER of people in your household who are in the following age categories. *(If none, write "0".)*

_____Under 6 yrs
_____6-12 years
_____13-18 years
_____19-24 years
_____25-44 years
_____45-64 years
_____65 yrs & older

Total # of persons _____

21) The year I was born: _____

22) I spend approximately _____ hours per month on recreation activities.

_____ (Hours)

23) I spend approximately _____ dollars per month on recreational activities.

$ _____ (Dollars)

Thank you for your participation in this survey. Your input will help the Parks and Recreation Board prioritize and develop the future vision of parks and recreation in the City of Port Aransas!

9 APPENDIX

CITY OF PORT ARANSAS PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM PARK NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC IN JANUARY, 2011.

What is the single most important issue or need concerning City of Port Aransas parks or recreation programs? (Write in any comments.)

1. Lack of leadership and vision by city council and mayor.
2. Place for kids and families to come do things other than beach..
3. Dog park.
4. Must also consider the attractiveness and use by the main component of our population, the tourists.
5. Shoreline fisher folk are finding their access shrinking. The 3 city piers are poorly lighted and maintained. The city does not even replace burned out light bulbs for months at a time or turn on the lights that work, i.e. Charlie's Pasture bulkhead floodlights. If a birding center can have nice toilet facilities, why can't the same be built at Charlie's Pasture pier? Our hotel occupancy tax can be used for tourist related activities, this is a prime place to spend some of that money. Shoreline fishing is a main draw to Port A for tourists. You should survey that!
6. Before adding any more programs, I feel the ones the City offers now should be better administrated by trained personnel. Before establishing new facilities, people need to appreciate the ones that are already provided. The graffiti and vandalism done to the parks and rest rooms show a marked lack of respect and disregard for the finer things in Port Aransas.
7. IMPROVE THE SWIM AND POOL PROGRAM.
8. The facilities and programs offered are fine as is.
9. Accommodating more age groups--not just the young and the old.
10. To clean up the Jerry McDonald field, since it's on the main street of town. And to add a dog park since there is no place they can chase after a ball!!!
11. The Latchkey Program needs to be continued.
12. Beach is looked at by the city as the domain of Public Works rather than Parks and Recreation.
13. Education of the public and tourists of local park facilities. Clear signage for directions, adequate waste receptacles and maintenance.
14. Kayak access to the bay.
15. The need for an indoor rec hall and a FULL-TIME summer program for youths. The current summer programs don't go far enough. They don't meet often enough. A full-time summer program would serve as a sort of latchkey program for children who are too young to be left at home alone and whose parents both work during the summer. We feel certain also that older children also would take advantage of such a program. Currently, we must send our child to Aransas Pass's summer program, because youth-oriented summer programs in PA are not extensive enough.
16. Additional funding to complete the facilities the city is building at this time in the Nature Preserve.

17. Another marina.
18. We need a Paint ball Field.
19. Mosquitoes.
20. Stickers in the grass at the parks. Stickers should be eliminated.
21. Dog Park.
22. More activities in parks such as volleyball, etc.
23. Vandals and banned skaters who continue to use skate park.
24. Upkeep and elimination of sticker burrs from parks.
25. The parks and rec department need a new building.
26. We don't have a multi-use facility. We don't actively pursue any sports/health related events. We are a perfect destination for many bike, running, and adventure style competitions.
27. They need a gym.
28. Get more local people to participate and become more fit.
29. Inability to use the public pool because the hours of operation are so slim. It is also my opinion that kids don't use the pool because the life guarding is too strict. I understand insurance regulations but our family will drive to Aransas Pass because they open at 10:00 am for general swimming and allow kids to be kids while still keeping them safe. PS Its not because of the slides.
30. Need of a rec center.
31. Public pool is very strict (not friendly) and not a lot of activities for young teens. Aransas Pass pool is better.
32. Indoor walking and fitness areas (not group classes, just independent)
33. More activities for kids. Either indoor our outdoor; but something that will attract all kids and they in turn feel safe and the parents feel safe having their child there.
34. Installing "full cutoff" lighting in all public places so the night sky is visible and we are not blinded by the existing lighting. This will benefit the city cost-wise and benefit the sea turtles that are disoriented by the city's lights in public areas and on piers.
35. More room for constructive play with teams and create a safe environment with fences or boarders around them.
36. Marlin Academy - I have the need for the program to also be available during the summer.
37. We have a beautiful pool that is not opened for use by the children after school. I suggest the pool hours be extended during the school year. Encourage participation from the schools.
38. Playgrounds need upgrade. Need play areas for older kids.
39. Do not tax the residents to pay for tourist use, charge everybody a small fee that wants to use facilities.
40. We need a dog park and a disk golf park.
41. Activities for children.
42. Safety for hike and bike, better sidewalks to and from parks.
43. More fishing piers, many visitors use them as well as the residents with working lights.
44. Able and competent staffing of city pool to accommodate needs of elder population which relies so heavily on non impact exercise in the water. Many beautiful days have been wasted this winter because of winds that precluded out of shape employees from removing the covers from the pool. Surely the city could hire employees competent to perform that task. I have spoken with at least a dozen other old folks who NEED the pool for exercise because of the inability to exercise with any impact. It has been an enormously frustrating winter. I have talked with people who have moved to another town for the balance of the season because of this. Also, the closing

of the pool for an additional day each week (begun last winter) and shortening the hours each day (from 4:00 to 2:00 PM) has contributed to the problem.

45. Take care and up keep the parks we have. Example baseball fields, fences, grass, concession stand building. Scoreboards.
46. There is not a YMCA or good gym close enough to sponsor all of the many choices of activities for children, teens or adults. The City should step in to offer these activities through a strong P&R department.
47. Better up to date facilities, and if possible larger.
48. Poorly maintained. Fields &/or parks COVERED in sticker burrs, gopher holes, ant hills.
49. Bringing the current facilities up to 100% to enhance our existing parks before we venture off into new projects.
50. Acquisition of more parkland.
51. There needs to be a consistent program set up that parents and kids can rely on and staffed appropriately.
52. Need a recreation center for fitness classes, indoor activities such as basketball, strength training, climbing wall, etc. There is no place for youth or adults to exercise and recreate indoors other than school facilities.
53. Large number of Port A families that reside here full time have children and could make use of indoor or covered facilities for physical activity, especially during our often extremely hot summer and fall seasons.
54. Indoor exercise facilities with trainers, instructors on site.
55. Parking.
56. More Natural parks.
57. The baseball fields at the community park are in bad condition (need fencing, protection from foul balls, buildings need to be cleaned and painted, need up to more up to date scoreboards and a good cleaning of rest rooms on a daily basis.
58. I think the most important thing is a building that we can be proud of. A building to be used as a rec center for all activities and to house offices.
59. Lack of supervision for our community children to enjoy facilities (skate park has been taken over by older, non-resident users, our children are not safe or welcome there.)
60. Keeping Gary in his job, and turning the lights back on at Charlie's Pier.
61. Multi use center.
62. Recreation center!!!!!
63. The parks/rec office/GS Hut!!!!! And no, I'm not Pam.
64. Natural and open park area for all type of recreation including children's play facilities.
65. Fish cleaning facility at present at boat landing is a joke, most of the resorts and condos have better, the city should be ashamed of its self.
66. Addressing the needs of the different "types" of tourists year round and encouraging a more pedestrian or healthful approach to their use.
67. More natural open areas for preservation purposes.
68. Maintaining the existing parks and returning the nature preserve to its natural state by removing invasive species.
69. It should be considered as an amenity for the residents, even if paid from tourist dollars.
70. Maintaining the existing parks and making the best use of what we have. Getting rid of the invasive species of plants that have invaded the island.

71. Maintenance of existing facilities!!!!!!!
72. The swimming pool situation is frustrating to say the least. I think it ought to be open 7 days a week. It would be helpful to move away from needing outside staff(city maintenance workers) to remove pool covers. Staff used to be able to handle this activity. December-March perhaps open later to avoid the cool mornings and stay open later in warm afternoons. "I've written the pool off;""They open when they want to";"I've given up on the pool" are all comments that I have heard from users of the pool in the last few months. Having current and correct information in the South Jetty would be helpful. I think looking at a new manager might be a good idea to sort of reinvent the pool. It's a marvelous asset as well as an expensive one. Fees could certainly be raised. Publicity would be good.. Having the pool be part of Port A's wellness program would be a no-brainer.
73. Maintain the facilities and grounds; expand outdoor programs.
74. Companies bring in business, and activities such as six flags or something of that sort.
75. A bigger facility for the Tuesday craft programs. The girl scout bldg. is sometimes quite crowded.
76. We love the director of crafts - Pam Green.
77. Fitness Center.
78. Programming is the key to success for any parks and rec facility, and the programming offered by the city is absolutely excellent!
79. Multipurpose building.
80. Accessibility of Charlie's Pasture by public transportation (trolley).
81. Spend the least possible,
82. A new building.
83. The need for a community center where we can have exercise equipment, facilities for classes.
84. Even in this survey, no area for people to play with their pets is addressed. A walking/jogging trail with work out station where you can take a dog is much needed. Obedience classes would be fun too.
85. When fiscally possible need to update and/or modernize parks and recreation facilities.
86. Bike and Walking lanes or paths.
87. Need working scoreboards at the baseball fields and bigger community pool with real water slides.
88. A REC CENTER FOR FAMILIES. CHARGE A MEMBERSHIP FEE.
89. Expanding and preserving Natural habitat for wild life habitat.
90. I am satisfied with what they do now.
91. This isn't the most important, but is worth mentioning: A series of maps of the new nature preserve published in the local newspaper frequently enough to show how it is developing and what is currently available for use. Right now there is no resource or guide that I know of to educate the public.
92. A safe place for kids to go and be involved in activities such as sports - like a rec center
93. To accommodate Port Aransas residents.
94. Not enough enforcement of laws.
95. An employee whose ONLY responsibility is care, maintenance, promotion, and supervision of the Nature Preserve and birding areas.
96. Road bike lanes.
97. We need to be able to maintain and use what we have. We have lots of acres of parks to use.
98. We have no place where dogs can run without being on a leash. what if kids had to walk all the time? please get a dog park, it is not even that expensive to put up a fence and sod a modest size

area.

99. Keep taxes in line.
100. Paying for the existing.
101. Friendliness, movies, arts & crafts fishing.
102. On site staff/volunteers.
103. Charge those who are not tax payers to enter parks
104. A reasonably priced fitness facility that is both family oriented and adult oriented. Fitness is a critical need for the health of any town, city or country. Look at the severe obesity problem in the US. If fitness is introduced at an early age and is reasonable cost wise then it is an investment in the future citizens of Port A.
105. Adequate Fish Cleaning Facility.
106. I don't claim to know what is most important, but I do have my own opinions. I think paid for unnecessary training and not paid for necessary training is an issue. I strongly believe bathroom facilities and there proper upkeep is a huge issue. Our bathrooms are not up to handicap standards and the city should be called on it. Double checking cleanliness is LACKING.
107. Keep the grass free from stickers so that children, adults and pets can walk and play without getting 'stuck'....keeping the areas you have now in better shape before new ones are added
108. THEY NEED TO KEEP THE YOUTH IN MIND FIRST, THEN THE SENIORS OR WINTER TEXANS.
109. No basketball volleyball courts.
110. A better fish cleaning house away from the boat launch.
111. Maintenance. Keeping the grass cut and away from the walkways and either put in more trash cans or keep trash picked up. Also would like to see pets on a leash allowed in the new nature preserve at Charlie's Pasture. I miss walking my dog through that beautiful area of Port Aransas.
112. A safe bike trail.
113. Expanding bike path in Charlie's pasture - along the channel and in town. Have trolley accept bikes and stop at Charlie's pasture, it is scary to ride bikes on main streets and often too far as well, so a drop off there would be great and encourage more people to bike in port a versus cars.
114. There needs to be an all purpose fitness center with weights, classes, etc.
115. I think the pool is poorly run. It's a great facility that can be utilized by only a few citizens. If you want to use it for open swim with the need for multiple lifeguards, that's fine, but give the lap swimmers extended hours so that we can use the pool as well. If you have a regular job from 8-5, it's impossible to use for lap swimming. I have been told to go on my lunch hour, which I find condescending and insulting. You try to change clothes, swim a mile and put yourself back together again with nice clothes and dry hair in 1 hour. Oh, and don't forget to eat some lunch, because you are going to be hungry after your swim.
116. More fishing spots w/accompanying facilities like rest rooms and cleaning stations.
117. Money and staff. To do the best sometimes you have to set a limit on what can be done.
118. More dog friendly areas.
119. Emphasize native vegetation to prevent excessive.
120. Water expense in future and preserve dwindling species.
121. As the mother of young child, I think it would be really nice if the playground at Roberts Point could be improved. You should consider replacing the sand with recycled tires or mulch because the sand and small rocks stick to the kids when they get hot. The wooden play areas should be replaced with a play area for younger children, they are not very safe. I realize that the playground by the swimming pool is for younger children, but it would be nice to accommodate

parents of younger and older children in one area, plus the teenagers from the skate park have a tendency to hog the swings. Safe play systems makes some really nice playground equipment that would hold up to the harsh salt air, the elementary school has a playground from Safe play.

122. Parks and Rec needs a larger multi-purpose facility to replace the existing building. The new building should house both administration and space for programs. A Space dedicated for senior citizen activities should be provided. If necessary, it should be financed with a bond issue.
123. The use of the pool needs to be broadened to the public so that all citizens can utilize, i.e. not just those that are either retired or do not work.
124. Preserve a feeling of NOT being just a port of urban 21st Century just any where USA
125. The parks and rec building need to be rebuilt.
126. Boating programs; also don't hire anymore surveys for $12,000; that money could have bought quite a few kayaks and sailboats.
127. Perhaps a new parks and rec building /office and community gym.
128. A building for activities would be nice. More showers for ladies at pool.
129. Keep up with growth and keep the balance.
130. The area around the community pool needs to be patrolled regularly by police. There are too many unsupervised children. (Actually one unsupervised child is one too many.) There needs to be some way to monitor the activity that is taking place by the community pool. It is a safety issue and a child is going to get hurt. This concern is not related to the skate park. I am concerned for the young elementary aged children who are left at the park and are fighting with each other or encouraging fights to take place between other young children. It is not safe.
131. We are competing up and down our Gulf Coast for good Birding Sites to draw visitors into our area. I am amazed at the quality of the World Birding Center Sites in the Valley (Rio Grande Valley) and though I do not get to the Upper Coast hardly at all, I get enough feedback to believe they are in the same league -- if not ahead of -- the Birding Sites spread throughout the entire Valley. We can not afford to be skipped over and must maintain our reputation for World Class Birding Sites. We have lost habitat due to the Pepperberry Tree "war" which is a good thing in its general concept but has been botched due to insufficient replanting of sizable habitat. You can not take out substantial chunks of habitat and in turn plant a skinny sapling or small shrub. We need Trees and plants. We need donations. We need to move.
132. I'm happy with what we have....
133. For improvements to be done in a timely and professional manner.
134. MORE OPEN SPACE (PUBLIC)
135. Dog Park.
136. Can we offer a multi-purpose building? Thanks for the skate park. I think its good for the youth.
137. The strong leadership in the birding/nature areas is greatly appreciated. Better rest room at the birding center and paradise pond are needed.
138. Communication between various groups/orgs planning and executing policies.
139. More trash (large type) bins especially during spring break and big holidays.
140. Baseball.
141. The need for more baseball fields like pony league and little league fields.
142. Fix Baseball fields. I fell we should charge a fee to park for PAISD events.
143. More dog friendly areas, fitness center with short term memberships.
144. Dog Park.