



LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS

Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

2017

CLARK CONDON

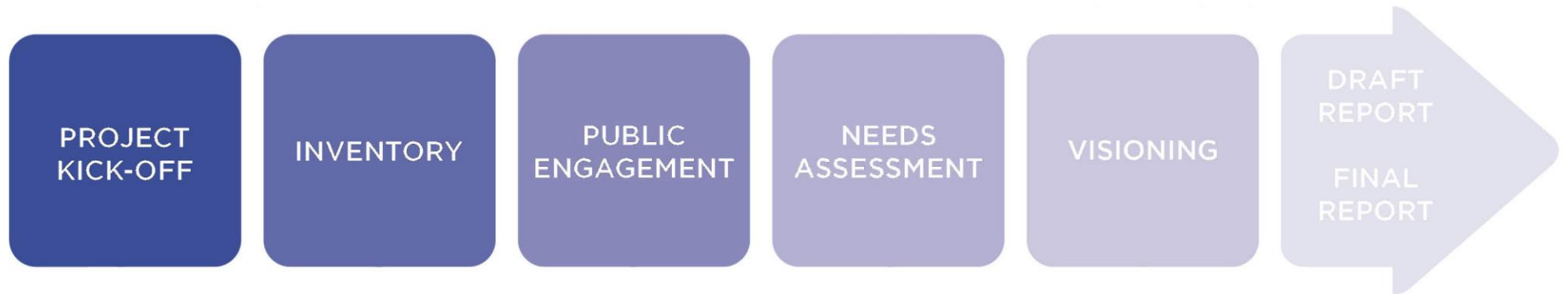


PARKS MASTER GOALS



1. Combine and update the previous 2006 Parks and Open Space Master Plan and the 2010 Trails Master Plan
2. Consider areas within the city limits as well as immediate adjacent areas within League City's extraterritorial jurisdiction
3. Receive approval of the Plan from City Council, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other related agencies stakeholders
4. Develop vision and mission statements for the Plan
5. Design a plan that will be easy to use and serve as a marketing document for the City

PROCESS



MISSION STATEMENT

Develop a balanced system of dynamic parks, trails and open space that embraces League City's natural assets and provides adequate recreational opportunities for all residents

LEAGUE CITY POPULATION GROWTH



2000

CENSUS

47,406

Total Population

2010

CENSUS

83,471

Total Population

2016

CENSUS

99,547

Total Population

2036

PROJECTION

143,589

Total Population



3X

POPULATION GROWTH

LEAGUE CITY TODAY

INVENTORY OF EXISTING FACILITIES

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EXISTING PARK ACREAGE



League City	857.62	Acres
County	440.00	Acres
Private & Semi Private (25%)	186.62	Acres
Total Park Acres	1,484.24	Acres



Hometown Heroes
Park



Chester L. Davis
Sportsplex

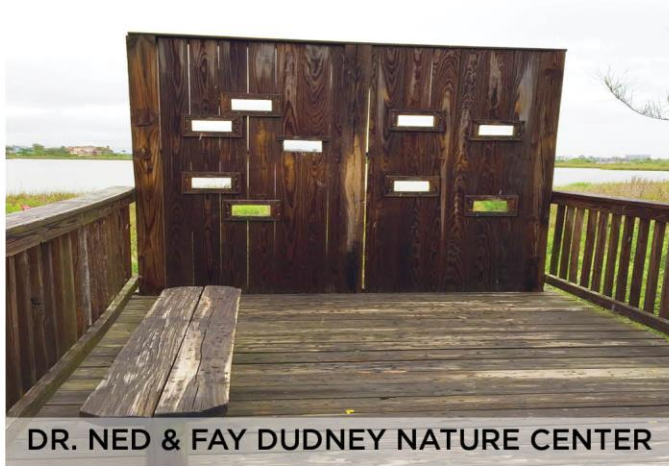


League Park

2006 - 2016 PARK DEVELOPMENT



HOMETOWN HEROES PARK



DR. NED & FAY DUDNEY NATURE CENTER



GHIRARDI FAMILY WATER SMART PARK



HERITAGE PARK



BOUNDLESS PLAYGROUND



HERITAGE PARK



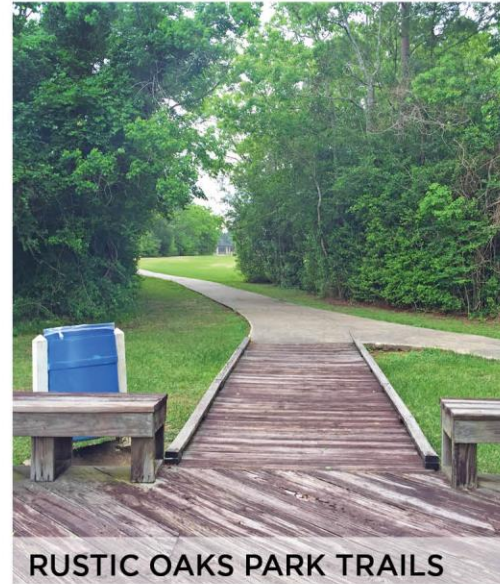
HOMETOWN HEROES PARK

2006 - 2016 PARK DEVELOPMENT

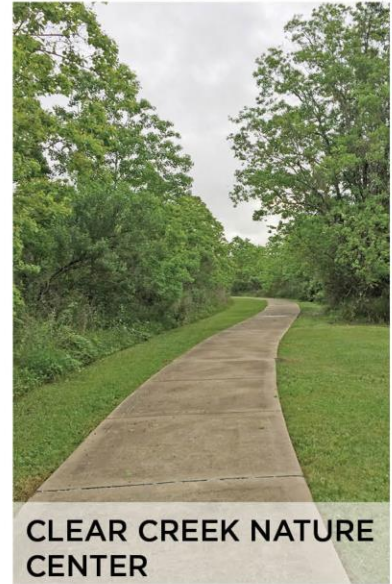
**4.8 additional trails
added to city trail system
since 2006!**



CLEAR CREEK PADDLE TRAIL AT COUNTRYSIDE



RUSTIC OAKS PARK TRAILS

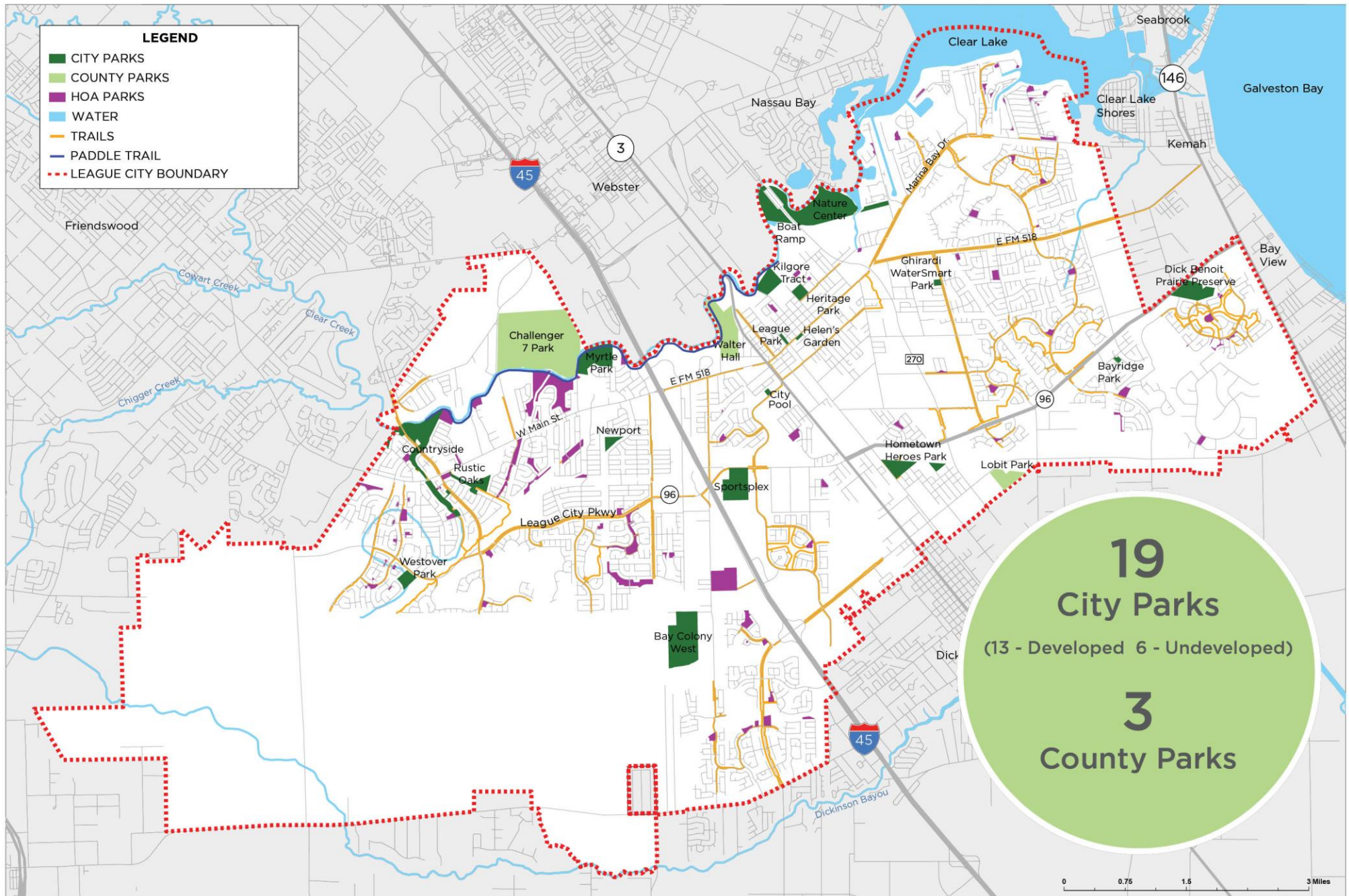


CLEAR CREEK NATURE CENTER



COUNTRYSIDE PARK TRAILS

EXISTING PARKS AND TRAILS



WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

LEVEL OF SERVICE

STANDARDS BASED

National Recreation and Park Association
Benchmarking similar communities
Level of Service
Quantity of park acres
Quantity of facility types
Location
Connectivity

DEMANDS BASED

Public and stakeholder input
Trends

NATURAL RESOURCES

Waterways
Preservation
Undeveloped lands
Underutilized lands (utility corridors, drainageways, etc.)

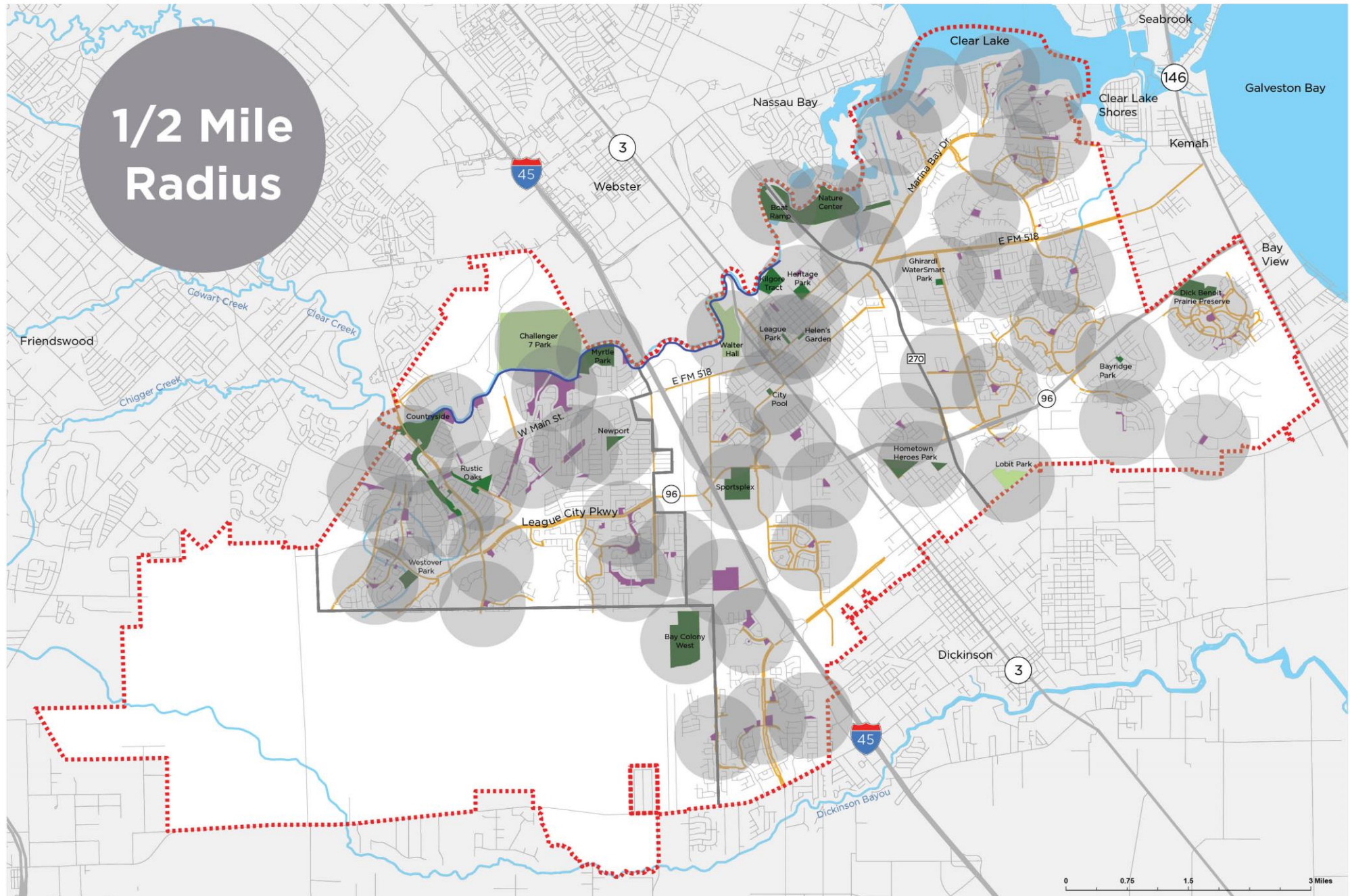


LEVEL OF SERVICE

LEAGUE CITY LEVEL-OF-SERVICE STANDARDS	
Park Facility	Goal (per 1,000 people)
Neighborhood	3 ACRES
Community	5 ACRES
Regional	5 ACRES
Special Use	1 ACRE
Greenways/Linear	1 ACRE
TOTAL	15 ACRES



Require +637.38 Acres by 2036



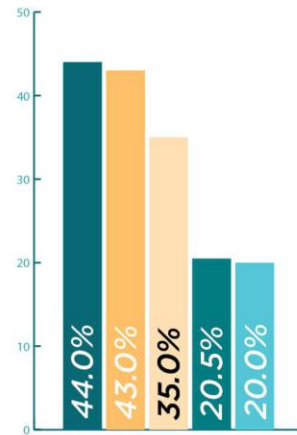
PUBLIC INPUT

SURVEY * FOCUS GROUPS * STAKEHOLDERS * PUBLIC MEETINGS

2,398 Total Respondents

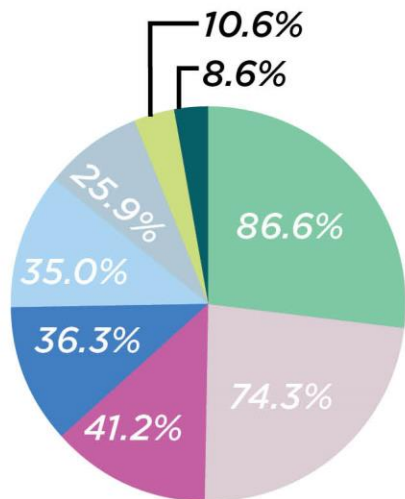
Park Usage & Satisfaction:

- ☆ Parks rated overall very high for meeting community needs
- ☆ Trails rated lowest for meeting community needs



Why Aren't They Visiting?

- Not aware of facilities
- Use surrounding facilities
- Inaccessible / too far
- Not interested
- Desired facilities not provided



What Destinations Should Trails Connect To?

- Parks
- Open space/Nature preserves
- Restaurants/Entertainment
- Grocery store
- School/College
- Shopping
- Work places
- Other

Future Project Priorities

- Large parks for passive uses
- Off-street paths
- Wildlife habitat preservation areas
- Historic site preservations/museums

PRIORITY PROJECTS (PER SURVEY)

1. Off-Street Paths
2. Habitat Preservation
3. Large Passive Parks
4. Preservation of Historic Sites
5. Small Neighborhood Parks
6. Open Space Acquisition
7. Renovation of Existing Parks
8. Youth/Teen Center
9. Expand Recreation Programs
10. Leisure Aquatics



Parks



Trails



Open Space

86.6% OF PUBLIC SURVEY RESPONDENTS VOICED THAT
PARK SPACE SHOULD BE CONNECTED BY TRAILS

WHAT DO WE NEED?

RECOMMENDATIONS

PRIORITIES



TARGET NO. 1
Preserve and Enhance Natural Areas



TARGET NO. 2
Develop “Great Places”



TARGET NO. 3
Increase Recreational Opportunities



TARGET NO. 4
Improve connectivity

PRIORITIES



TARGET NO. 1

Preserve and Enhance Natural Areas

- **Maintain environmentally sensitive areas in natural state through land acquisition and by limiting mitigation**
- **Increase access and low impact use of natural areas**
- **Explore opportunities to create natural areas including wetlands, prairies and rain gardens in lieu of traditional development**
- **Consider more aggressive methods to preservation including land trusts and conservation easements**
- **Preserve/protect existing tree coverage, especially of heritage trees including Butler Oaks**
- **Pursue partnerships with landowners to expand access to Clear Creek and Clear Lake including expansion of the paddle trail**
- **Prioritize low-impact development of Kilgore and Myrtle Parks to provide public access**
- **Develop trail corridors along drainage corridors with viewsheds to unique natural areas**

PRIORITIES

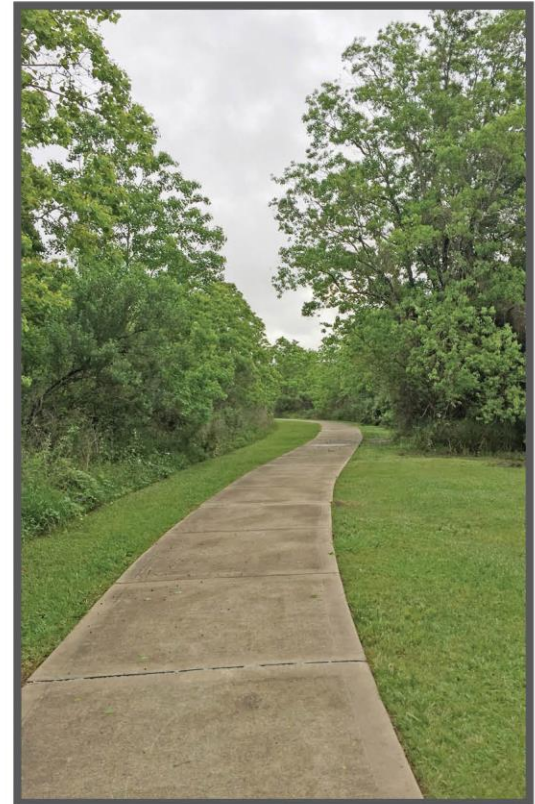
WATER FEATURES



TREE COVERAGE



ACCESS



PRIORITIES



TARGET NO. 2

Develop “Great Places”

- **Prioritize park development that is unique, dynamic and memorable and aligns with “League City Style”**
- **Integrate elements of League City’s history and culture into park spaces**
- **Increase land acquisition efforts for park space, especially in under-served areas**
- **Concentrate on the development of larger, flexible, multi-use park space suitable for accommodating growing population for city-wide events, markets and festivals**
- **Continue to explore host opportunities for national/regional tournaments and events**
- **Incorporate distinctive landmarks including unique architecture, art, and water features into public spaces**

PRIORITIES



PARK LAND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT	
Park Facility	Facilities Required (By 2036)
Neighborhood	+ 9
Community	+ 4
Regional	+ 1
Special Use	0
Greenways/Linear	0
TOTAL	14

LAND ACQUISITION



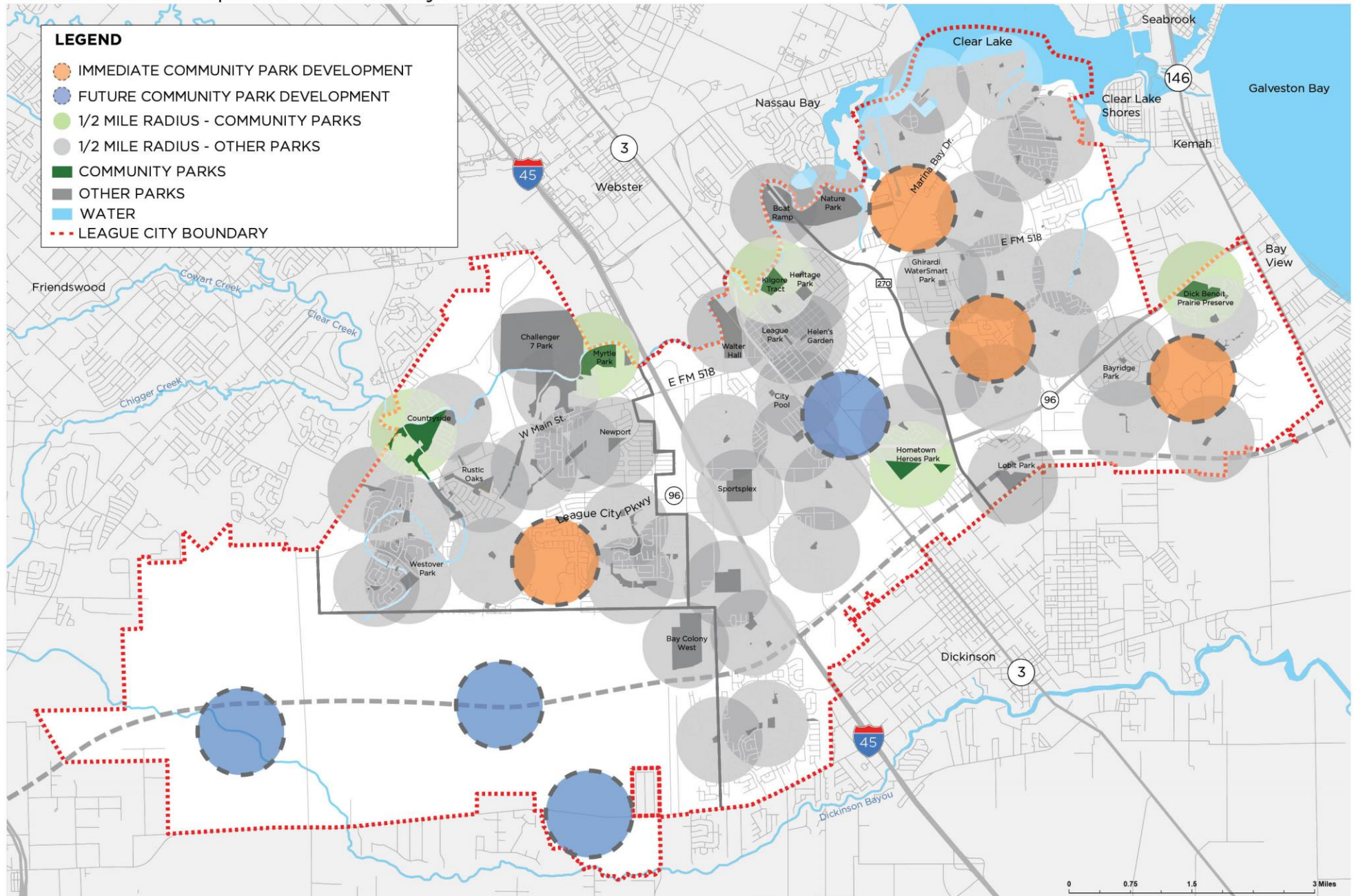
Need 669.76 Acres of Park Land

**Estimate +222 acres of HOA parkland
@ 25% = 55 acres (neighborhood park)**

Revised Land Need = 614.76 ac

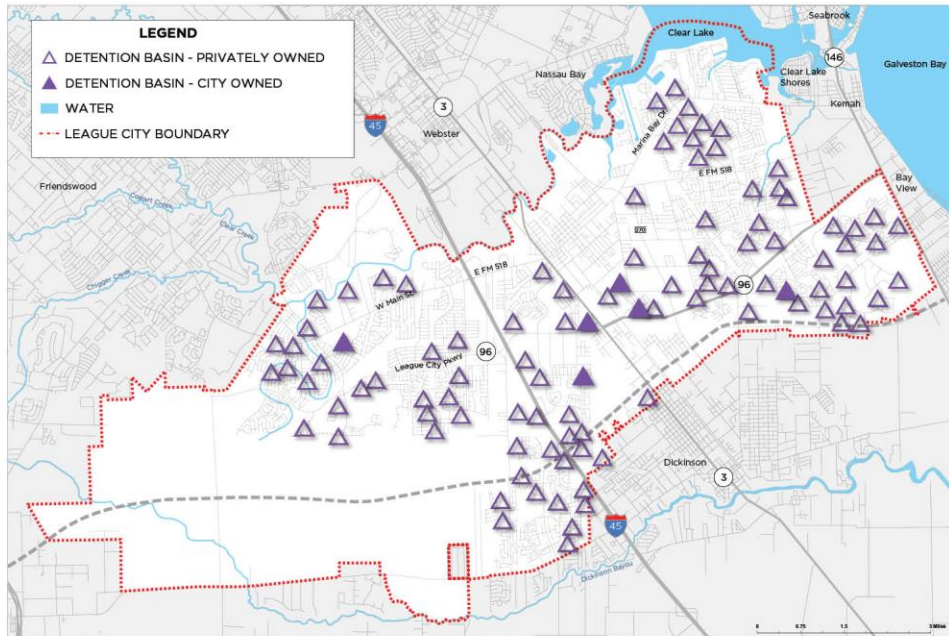
PRIORITIES

Future Park Development - Community Parks

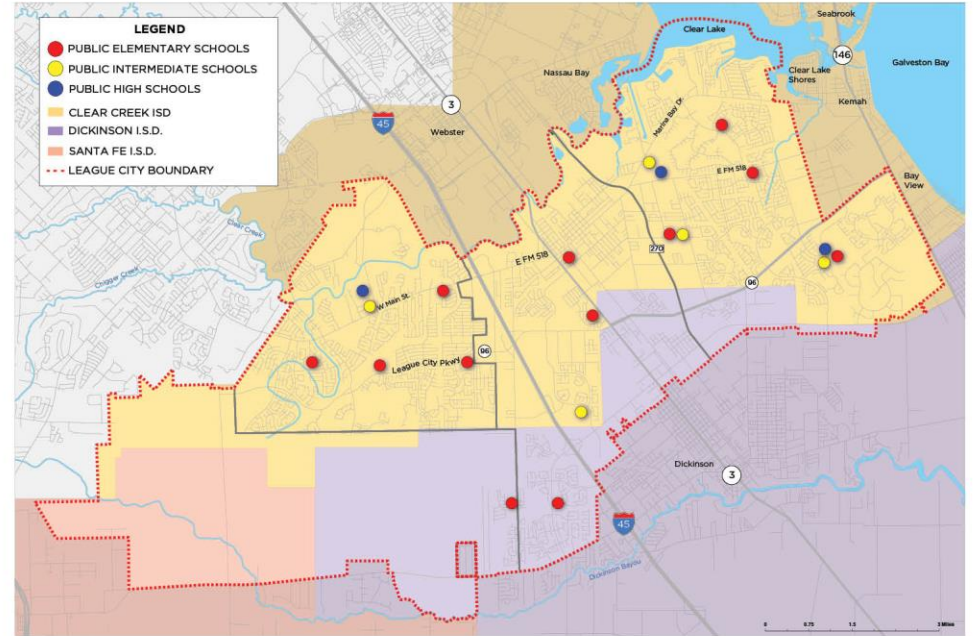


PARTNERSHIPS

Detention Basins



Public School Facilities



PRIORITIES



TARGET NO. 3

Increase Recreational Opportunities

- **Provide a balanced system of active and passive recreation that is evenly distributed thorough out the City**
- **Explore joint-use partnerships for recreational facilities including county, schools, private landowners, etc.**
- **Prioritize development of large acreage, community-type parks including sports fields and aquatic facilities**
- **Develop sports complex on west side of City with access to major thoroughfare**
- **Expand programming opportunities by developing additional community center on west side of City.**

FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



Active Recreation

- Additional age appropriate playgrounds
- BMX and/or mountain bike course
- 1 - 2 additional recreation centers - priority is west side
- Splash pads - could be located within existing parks
- Leisure pool, lazy river and family aquatics
- Indoor pool facility
- Larger pool that can accommodate water polo and competition level swim meets
- Additional sports fields that are dedicated to each sport, preferably lit
- Additional skate park
- Additional tennis courts - preferably lit
- Additional volley ball courts
- Lacrosse field
- Pickleball courts
- Outdoor and/or indoor fitness facilities
- Cable park
- Ice rink
- West side sports complex

Passive Recreation

- Natural playground
- Outdoor classrooms
- Performance area or amphitheaters
- Community gardens
- Additional trails, especially connecting to parks
- Preservation and accessibility of natural areas, especially near Clear Creek

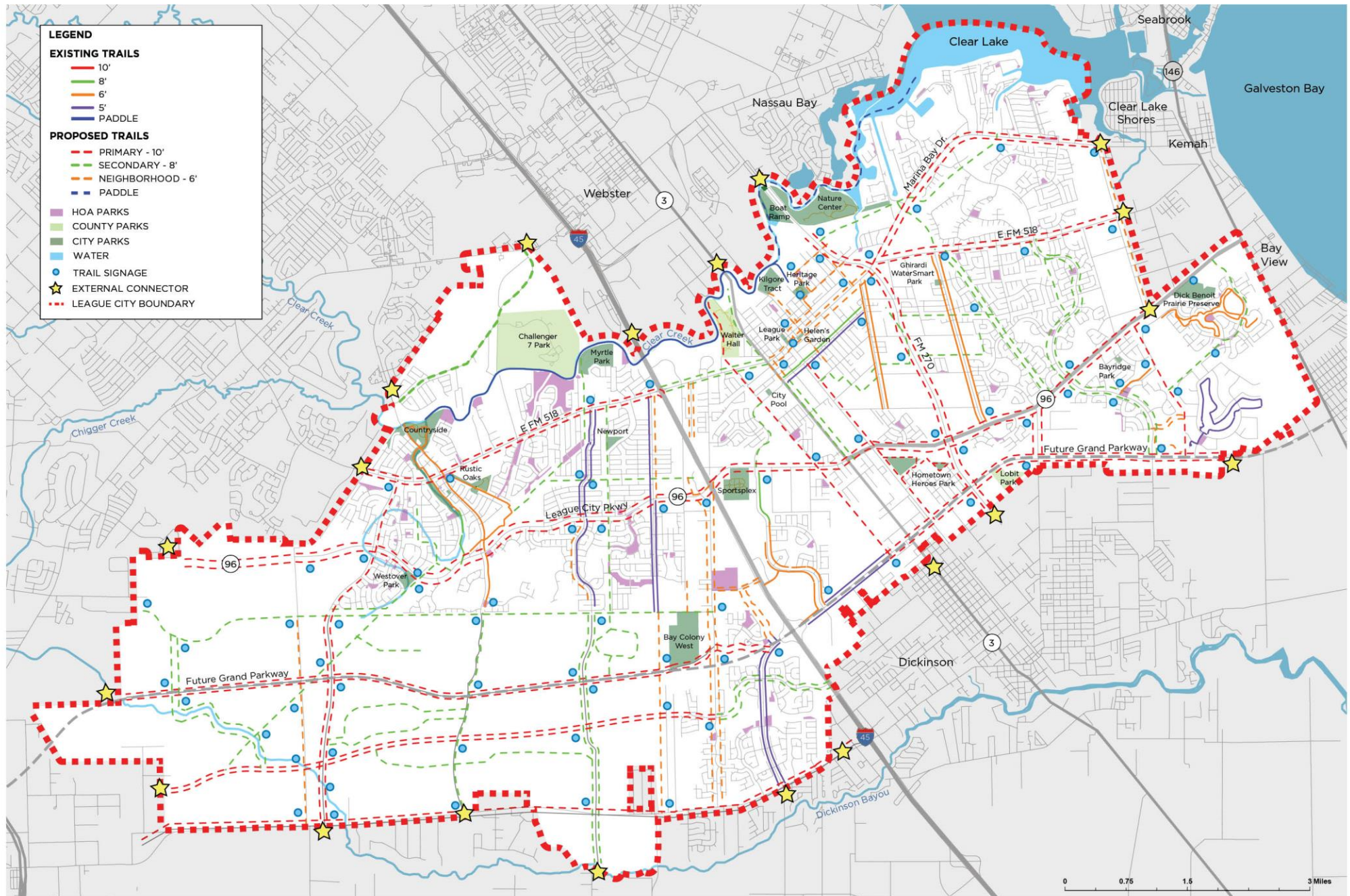
PRIORITIES



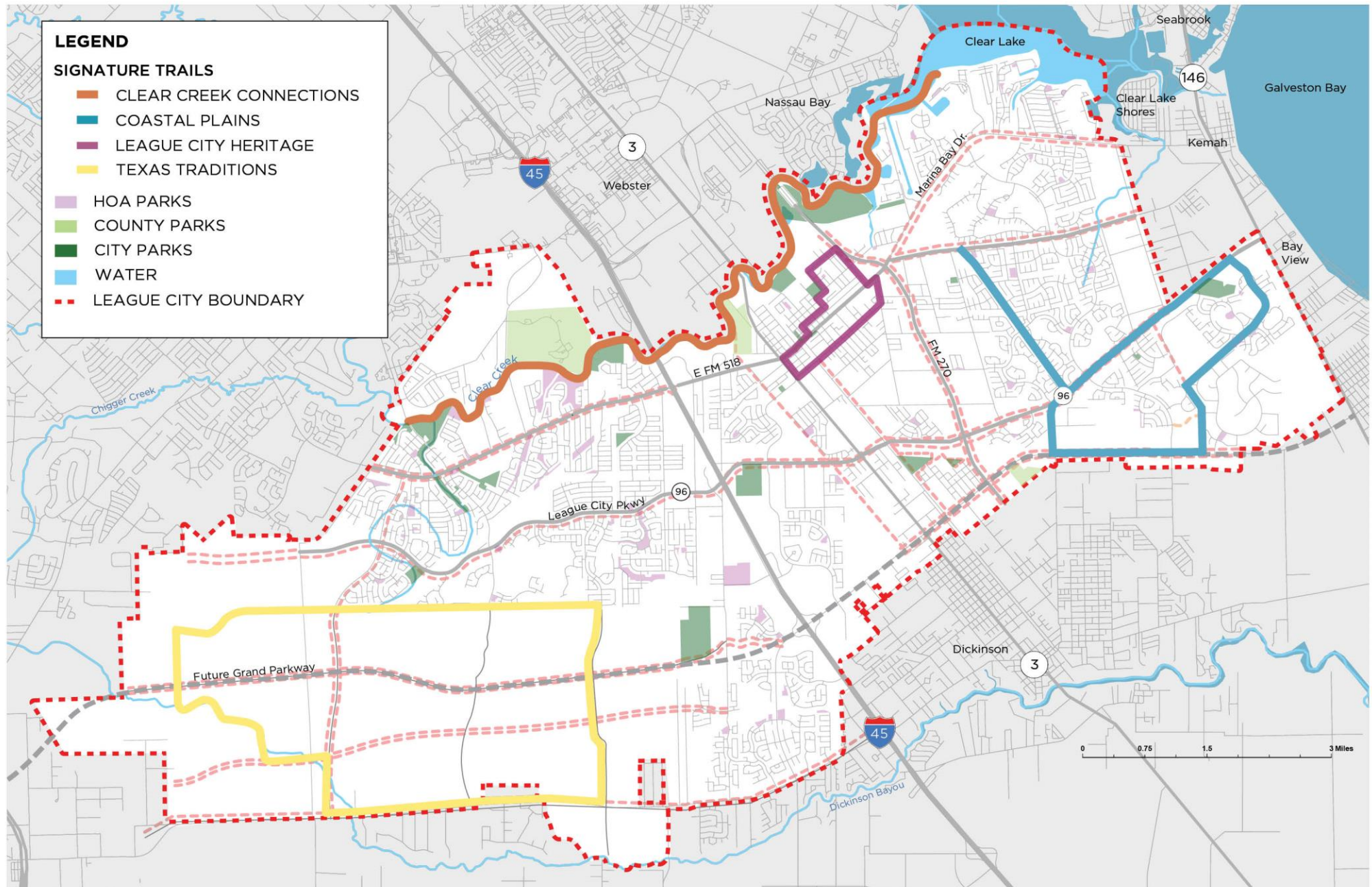
TARGET NO. 4 **Improve connectivity**

- **Explore expansion of paddle trail and develop trail network along connecting drainage infrastructure**
- **Improve pedestrian safety by installing crosswalks and signalization**
- **Construct wide multi-user trails that connect major destinations including parks, civic buildings, retail, schools and residential areas**
- **Ensure linkages between new and existing development by completing trail gaps on undeveloped parcels**
- **Develop wayfinding signage and incorporate throughout the City**
- **Utilize public/private utility easements and drainageways as off-road trail corridors**
- **Develop signature trail corridors by incorporating signage, artwork, and educational elements**

MASTER TRAILS MAP



SIGNATURE TRAILS



HOW DO WE GET THERE?



IMPLEMENTATION

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

PROJECT PRIORITIES - Immediate Needs (2018 - 2022)				
Project	Estimated Cost	Annual Maintenance*	Zone	Project Type
Renovate League Park	\$2,000,000	\$15,000	C	Existing Park
Renovate City Boat Ramp	\$500,000	\$0	C	Existing Park
Upgrade Bayridge Park	\$100,000	\$15,000	D	Existing Park
Dog Park	\$200,000	\$20,000	B	New Facility
5K Trail at Hometown Heroes Park	\$1,000,000	\$5,000	C	New Facility
Develop Westover Park	\$6,000,000	\$330,000	B	New Park
Develop Prairie Preserve	\$800,000	\$100,000	D	New Park
Extend Paddle Trail	\$100,000**	\$15,000	C,D	Existing Trail
Extend Claremont Trail	\$575,000	\$7,500	B	Existing Trail
Develop Heritage Signature Trail	\$2,600,000	\$10,000	C	New Trail
Develop Coastal Prairie Signature Trail	\$8,800,000	\$27,500	D	New Trail
Acquisition of 100 Acres	\$6,000,000	\$20,000	A	Acquisition
TOTAL IMMEDIATE NEEDS	\$28,755,000	\$565,000		

*Based upon new improvements only

** Launches and signage

Improvements to Existing Parks \$2.6M
 New facilities \$1.2M
 New Park Development \$6.8M

Existing Trail Extensions \$675K
 New Trail Systems \$11.4M
 Acquisition \$6M

FUTURE NEEDS

PROJECT PRIORITIES - Future Needs (2023 - 2028)				
Project	Estimated Cost	Annual Maintenance*	Zone	Project Type
Renovate City Pool	\$2,000,000	\$75,000	C	Existing Park
Update lighting at Chester I. Davis sportsplex	\$2,800,000	\$0	C	Existing park
Install splashpad at hometown heroes	\$500,000	\$50,000	C	New facility
Develop festival site	\$4,000,000	\$200,000	A	New Facility
Develop Myrtle Park	\$500,000	\$125,000	B	New Park
Develop Sports Complex - West	\$8,000,000	\$1,000,000	A	New Park
Develop 50 miles of Trails	\$39,600,000	\$125,000		New Trail
Acquisition of 100 Acres	\$6,000,000	\$20,000	A	Acquisition
Acquisition of 100 Acres	\$6,000,000	\$20,000	D	Acquisition
Acquisition of 50 acres	\$3,000,000	\$10,000	B	Acquisition
Acquisition of 50 Acres	\$3,000,000	\$10,000	C	Acquisition
TOTAL FUTURE NEEDS	\$75,400,000	\$1,510,000		

*Based upon new improvements only

Improvements to Existing Parks \$4.8M
 New facilities \$4.5M
 New Park Development \$8.5M

Existing Trail Extensions \$0
 New Trail Systems \$39.6M
 Acquisition \$18M

LONG TERM NEEDS

PROJECT PRIORITIES - Long Term Needs (2029-2036)				
Project	Estimated Cost	Annual Maintenance*	Zone	PROJECT TYPE
IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS	\$1,000,000	\$50,000		EXISTING PARK
Develop Kilgore Tract	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	C	New Park
Develop bay colony west	\$25,000,000	\$1,000,000	A	New park
Develop new community park	\$25,000,000	\$1,000,000	A	New Park
Develop 2 neighborhood parks	\$4,000,000	\$600,000	A	New Park
Develop Texas Traditions Signature Trail	\$13,000,000	\$40,000	A	New Trail
Develop 50 miles of Trails	\$39,600,000	\$125,000		New Trail
Acquisition of 100 acres	\$6,000,000	\$20,000	A	Acquisition
Acquisition of 50 acres	\$3,000,000	\$10,000	B	Acquisition
Acquisition of 50 acres	\$3,000,000	\$10,000	C	Acquisition
TOTAL LONG TERM NEEDS	\$120,600,000	\$3,105,000		

*Based upon new improvements only

Improvements to Existing Parks \$1M
 New facilities \$0
 New Park Development \$55M

Existing Trail Extensions \$0
 New Trail Systems \$52.6M
 Acquisition \$12M

FUNDING



\$224 Million
in Proposed Projects

\$56 Million
Estimated Annual Benefit
Health, Environment, Economic

FUNDING



- General Fund Revenues
\$200k/annually
- User Fees
\$500k/annually
- Voter Approved Park Bonds
- Section 4-B Economic Development Sales Tax
est. \$58M (2019-2036)
- Park Dedication Fee
@ current rate = \$20M / 20 years
- Federal and State Grants
- Special Districts
- Partnerships and Sponsorships

POLICY REVIEW



- Review methods for encouraging developers to provide land rather than fee (credits or incentives)
- Exempt developments of less than 5 lots from providing public park space
- Review the current approval method for park land or fee
- Consider increasing the public park fee to provide additional funds for future developments
- Define eligible trail projects for park credits more clearly
- Revise the minimum sidewalk standard to 6' wide

SUMMARY



- **Improve/Renovate Existing Facilities**
- **Add 669.76 Acres of Park Land**
- **Develop 8 New Community-Type Parks**
- **Develop 16 New Neighborhood Parks**
(Explore Partnerships)
- **Develop 30 Miles of Signature Trails**
- **Develop 100 Miles of Other Trails**
- **Explore New Facility Types**

ACTION ITEMS



- **Consider Parks Bond**
- **Land Bank**
- **Explore Partnerships**
- **Seek Alternate Funding Sources**

THANK YOU!

