



**CELINA**  
parks master plan

choose parks

Adopted ### 2020



# 2020 PARKS MASTER PLAN

## CELINA, TX



**NORRIS DESIGN**  
Planning | Landscape Architecture | Branding

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following individuals contributed greatly to the preparation of the 2020 Celina Parks Master Plan. This plan would not have been possible without the leadership and guidance of Celina's citizens, elected officials and City staff.

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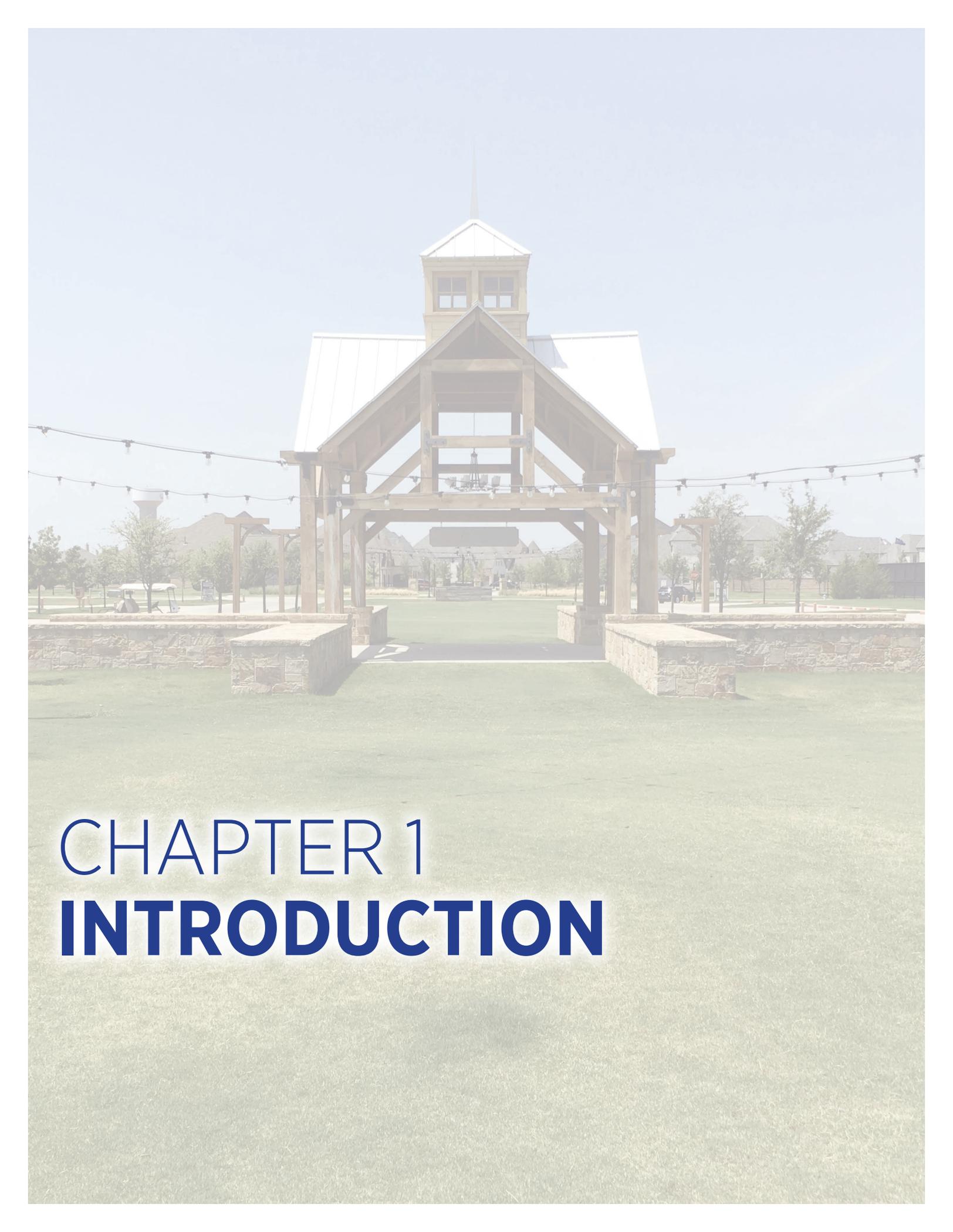


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# CHAPTER 1

# **INTRODUCTION**

# INTRODUCTION

The City of Celina has, for many years, been attracting families to the outskirts of the DFW Metroplex who want to live in an area with a country-like feel but with access to all the amenities of an established city. As the population grows, so too does the need for more parks and recreation facilities to serve Celina’s citizens. Three parks – Old Celina Park, Founders Station Park and Preston Streams Park – currently make up the entire network of completed public parks in Celina. This parkland is also supplemented by several neighborhood parks which collectively have wide variety of amenities.

Celina recently acquired two large parcels of land in the eastern half of the city for future park space. Additional land acquisition in the coming years is critical for providing residents with a robust park network.

The 2020 Celina Parks Master Plan addresses the needs of the City through a systematic process of analysis, data collection and benchmarking to determine what the characteristics of Celina’s parks should be as the city expands.

## LIFE CONNECTED

“Life Connected” is the guiding principle for the future of Celina, as championed in the city’s strategic plan. The vision from that plan is “To preserve our agricultural heritage and flourish as a close-knit and every-growing Celina Family during explosive and planned growth of our city, while providing a unique and extraordinary quality of life, complemented by a significant array of high tech and desirable businesses, agritourism assets, special places, and connections.”

The core values of Celina are:

- **Integrity**
- **Excellence**
- **Community**
- **Unselfish Service**

The Parks Master Plan aligns with these goals and values by physically connecting the city. From the proposed trail network in the 2019 Trails Master Plan, parks create destinations and social hubs along those routes where the community can gather and experience the outdoors while taking pride in their city.



## PURPOSE

The 2020 Celina Parks and Recreation Master Plan builds upon recent planning efforts in the City including the 2019 Trails Master Plan, the 2019 Downtown Master Plan and the city-wide comprehensive plan, Celina 2040. This document is intended to establish a vision for parks and recreation in concert with these long-range plans, and to serve as a guide for city staff as new development occurs in the city. It is the goal of the planning team that this document is regularly referenced by city staff as plans for development and infrastructure are created and move through the planning process, ultimately resulting in a comprehensive network of parks, trails and recreation centers that are woven into the fabric of the city.

These recommendations in the plan should also be understood as a guide that will shift and change over time as demographics, population and best practices evolve. It is important that the city look to each individual piece of the plan as a new project that must be tailored specifically to its surrounding context at the time of implementation. The lifespan of this plan is approximately 10 years, at which point a new set of recommendations should be created that build from the progress made over the life of the plan.

## PLANNING PROCESS

Throughout the summer of 2019 the planning team held a series of meetings with stakeholders in the Master Plan. This process began with city staff to understand the goals for the parks system. Each park site was later visited and an inventory/assessment prepared to document existing conditions and amenities.

Public participation took place in June and July 2019 with the planning team's attendance at several city and HOA-sponsored community events and meetings with the public. Social media feedback and an online survey was also administered as a way of getting targeted input on specific parks and recreation issues.

The timeline below summarizes this process:

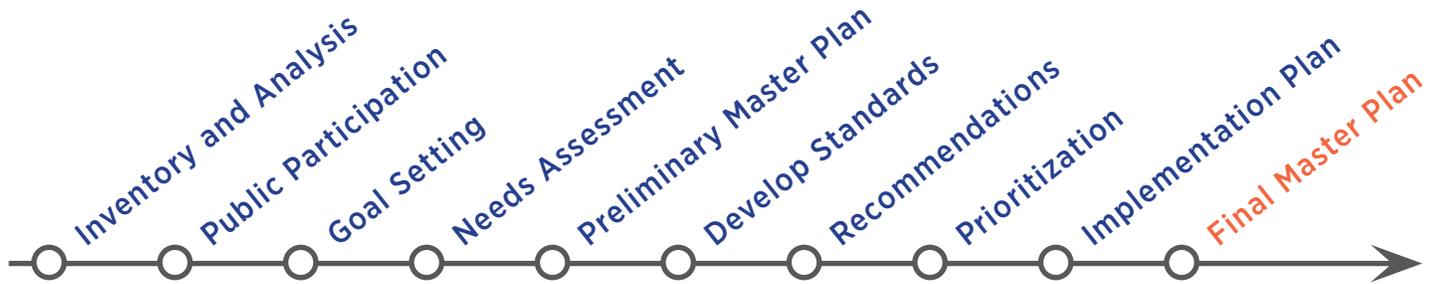


Figure 1.1: Illustration of the planning process



Pictured Above: A gazebo in Founders Station Park. (Source: Norris Design)

# MASTER PLAN GOALS

The goals of this master plan have been developed out of community and staff input in addition to assessing the overall character and projected growth of the city. Since Celina is largely undeveloped, the planning team recognizes a unique opportunity to implement parks in the city. Therefore, these goals place a high importance on making Celina a premier parks destination city of North Texas.

## Goal 1 Provide a network of large, interconnected parks with a variety of programming options

### Objectives

- Set aside and acquire land in a pro-active manner
- Locate parks adjacent to significant trail corridors and/or near roads with an ease of vehicular and pedestrian access
- Select park sites with a range of character types (natural features, undulating land, gently-sloped land)

## Goal 2 Encourage active and passive recreation for families

### Objectives

- Provide a mixture of open space and programmed areas within parks
- Locate parks near concentrations of housing
- Establish high standards for the quality of park equipment and amenities



**Pictured Above:** Summer afternoon fishing in Light Farms. (Source: Norris Design)

## Goal 3 Promote the health and well-being of citizens

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### Objectives

- Ensure each park has well-maintained facilities that attract residents to utilize them
- Strive for a high parks level of service, ensuring all residents have access to parks
- Place a high priority on interacting with nature within parks

## Goal 4 Utilize parks to preserve open space and protect creek corridors

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### Objectives

- Identify significant natural resources that should be preserved
- Limit clearing of trees within floodplains
- Require parkland dedication to encompass creek corridors and floodplains where possible
- Codify open space and creek preservation standards in the subdivision ordinance

## Goal 5 Provide adult and youth sports facilities and programs for the community

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### Objectives

- Provide adequate city staff to manage programs and maintain facilities
- Partner with other youth sports and outside athletics organizations when appropriate



**Pictured Above:** One of many creeks in Celina. (Source: Norris Design)

## Goal 6 Encourage community gathering, events and socialization

---

### Objectives

- Provide spaces within parks of differing scales that allow residents to comfortably congregate and interact
- Provide amenities for all age groups in each park
- Ensure that parks are safe, well-maintained and aesthetically-pleasing to experience
- Establish and promote regular community events and festivals throughout the year at parks and other appropriate city facilities

## Goal 7 Capture and enhance the beauty of the Celina's natural resources

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### Objectives

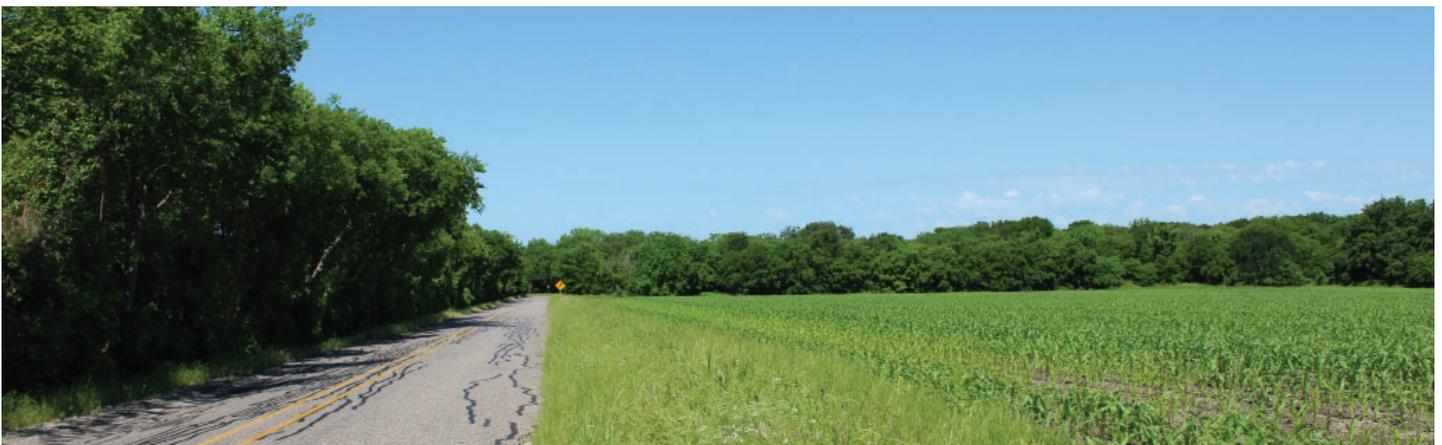
- Promote the preservation of woodlands, creeks, native grass zones and other ecologically valuable resources in the city
- Acquire parkland that has natural value in terms of topography, wildlife and vegetation
- Limit the disturbance of natural habitat in park design

## Goal 8 Provide parks and park amenities to under-served populations

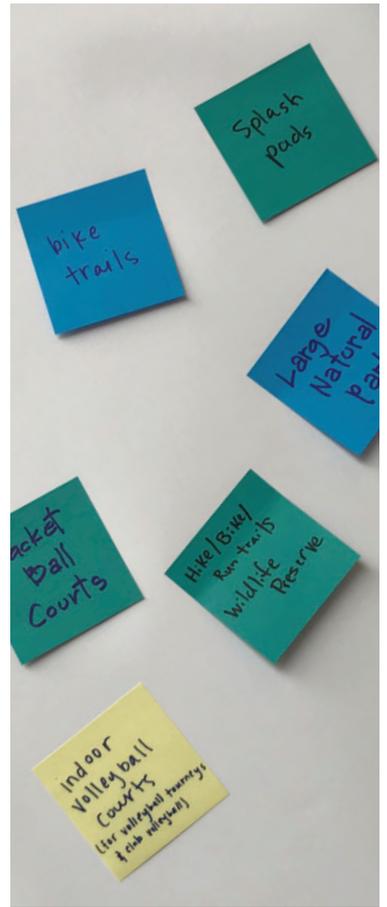
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### Objectives

- Acquire parkland in the downtown core of Celina and other areas with a relatively higher percentage of lower-income populations
- Identify existing and potential new park sites in the older areas of the downtown core for park improvements and renovations



**Pictured Above:** Potential future park space on the east side of the city. (Source: Norris Design)





A scenic landscape photograph featuring a large, leafy tree on the left, a pavilion with a corrugated metal roof in the middle ground, and a paved path leading towards it. The background shows rolling hills or mountains under a clear sky. The foreground is filled with tall, dry grasses.

# CHAPTER 2 **PLANNING CONTEXT**

# PARKS IN CELINA

There is a total of three public parks in Celina today with many residents having access to private HOA parks in the neighborhoods. The “crown jewel” of Celina’s public parks is Old Celina Park – hosting events and tournaments throughout the year, as well as offering a playground, pavilion and walking trails. The City will be making a significant investment in Old Celina Park in 2020 by expanding the soccer complex, adding turf baseball fields, a new parking lot, additional lighting and a walkway system to the north. Next, Founders Station Park is a small park in downtown adjacent to the railroad. This park is provides a playground, gazebo, tennis court and basketball court. Finally, Preston Streams Park is just to the east of the downtown core.

This park currently functions primarily as open space; however, it is historically significant as it sits on the site of the former George Washington Carver School.

## IMPORTANCE OF SPORTS

Sports and athletics are heavily intertwined in the City of Celina through the school district as well as the parks department. The city currently uses Old Celina Park regularly for city-programmed youth leagues, baseball tournaments, soccer tournaments and other school district activities such as cross country meets, bringing in students from around the region.



**Pictured Above:** The baseball complex at Old Celina Park. (Source: Norris Design)

# AT A GLANCE: PARKS IN CELINA

## OLD CELINA PARK



## PRESTON STREAMS PARK



## FOUNDERS STATION PARK



## PRIVATE HOA PARKS



**Pictured Above:** Various existing parks found in Celina today. (Source: Norris Design)

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The current population projection is 18,860 and includes population projections from Celina 2040. These projections help the planning team understand where concentrations of housing will occur, where less-populated areas will be and where non-residential areas are planned.

**Each proposed land use type has unique needs for parks and recreation.**

Celina continues to grow and attract residents from across the Metroplex, the State of Texas and even the entire country. The shifting demographics change the makeup of the city as well as the expectations for facilities and services the parks and recreation system should provide.



**Pictured Above:** Housing demand in Celina. (Source: Norris Design)

## Community Snapshot

**Celina Population (2019; Service Area)**

**18,860**

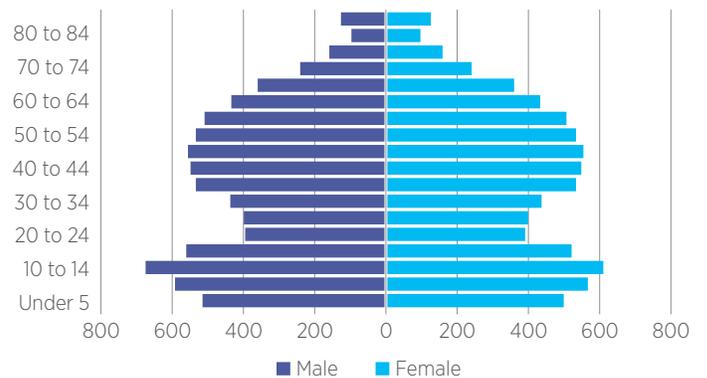
Area	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Service Area	23,644	29,940	36,971	43,410	47,934

**Table 2.1:** Five-year population projections (Source: City Data)

**Median Age**

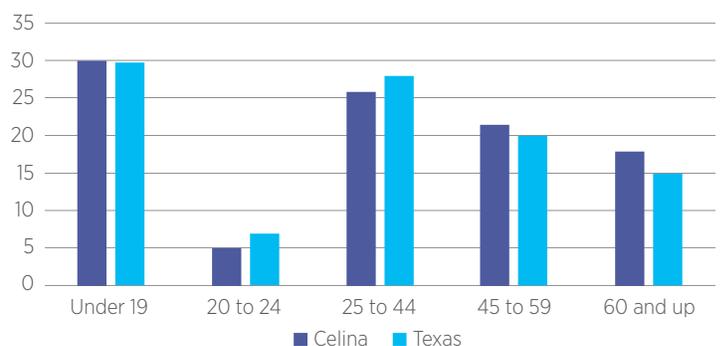
**37.5**

### 2018 Population by Sex (Projected)



**Table 2.2:** 2018 Population by Sex (Source: ESRI Data)

### 2018 Population Comparison by Age (Projected)



**Table 2.3:** 2018 Population Comparison by Age (Source: ESRI Data)

# EDUCATION AND INCOME

Total Households

5,807

Median Household Income

\$98,277

Average Household Size

3.2

Average Home Value

\$391,991

2018 Single-Family Permits

1,248

Celina 2040

Population Projection

121,119

Education - No High School Diploma

4%

Education - High School Graduate

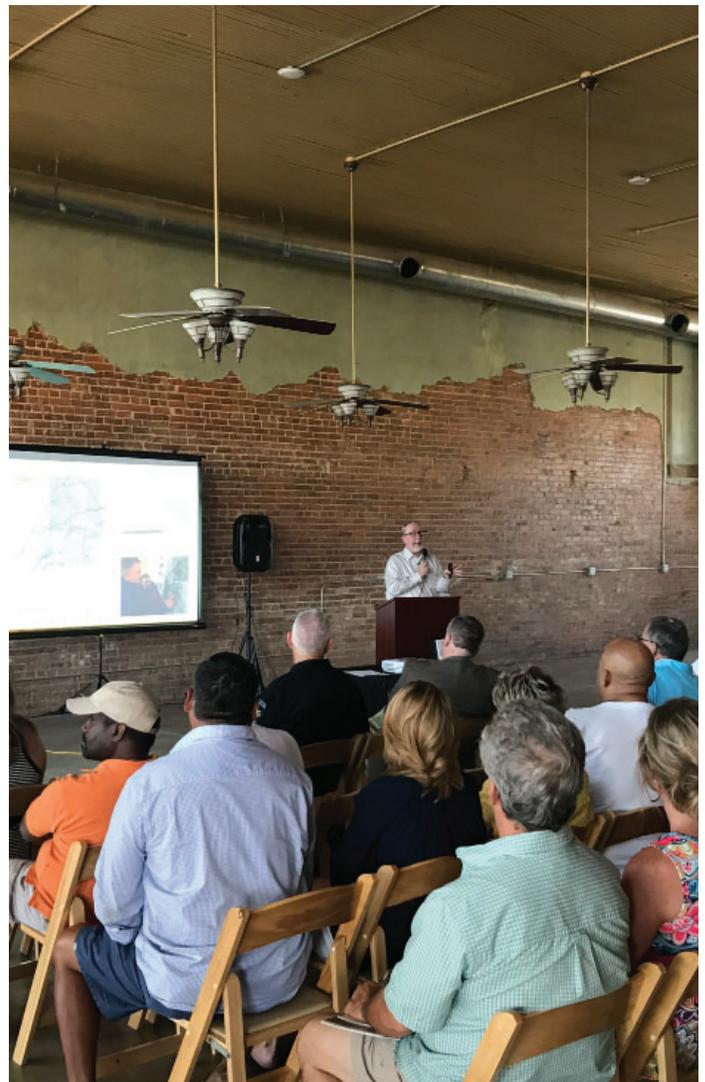
20%

Education - Some College

28%

Education - Bachelors/Grad/Professional Degree

48%



**Pictured Above:** Attendees at a city-wide community meeting. (Source: Norris Design)

# ADJACENT COMMUNITIES

Two significantly populated municipalities - Prosper and McKinney - share a border with Celina, and the rapidly expanding City of Frisco is just beyond. Each of these cities has established visions for their park systems through similar master planning studies. The interface between these communities has a direct impact on the quality of life experienced by residents of Celina.

Understanding neighboring cities' visions for parks and recreation allows us to set high standards in Celina that will encourage families to settle here and establish roots - over time resulting in a city with residents who are invested in and truly care about their community. The following pages provide overviews of each plan and relevant data points.

## City Fact Comparisons

City	Population	Median Household Income	Land Area (Sq. Miles)	Total Park Acreage
<b>Celina</b>	<b>18,860</b>	<b>\$98,277</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>218.5 ac</b>
<b>Prosper</b>	25,630	\$133,971	27	372 ac
<b>McKinney</b>	181,330	\$87,356	63	2,756 ac
<b>Frisco</b>	189,225	\$122,302	62	1,487 ac

Table 2.2: City Fact Comparisons (Source: Norris Design)



# 2015 PROSPER PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

The Town of Prosper's Parks Master Plan is approaching five years old, or roughly half of its lifespan. Trail connections between the two communities is addressed through connectivity along roadways and select creek corridors, and as shown in the map below, planned and existing parks along the border between Prosper and Celina reach far into Celina with their service radii, namely through Frontier Park.

Today, many of Celina's residents in the southern portion of the city attend Prosper ISD schools, enroll in athletics programs through Prosper and will continue utilizing their services.

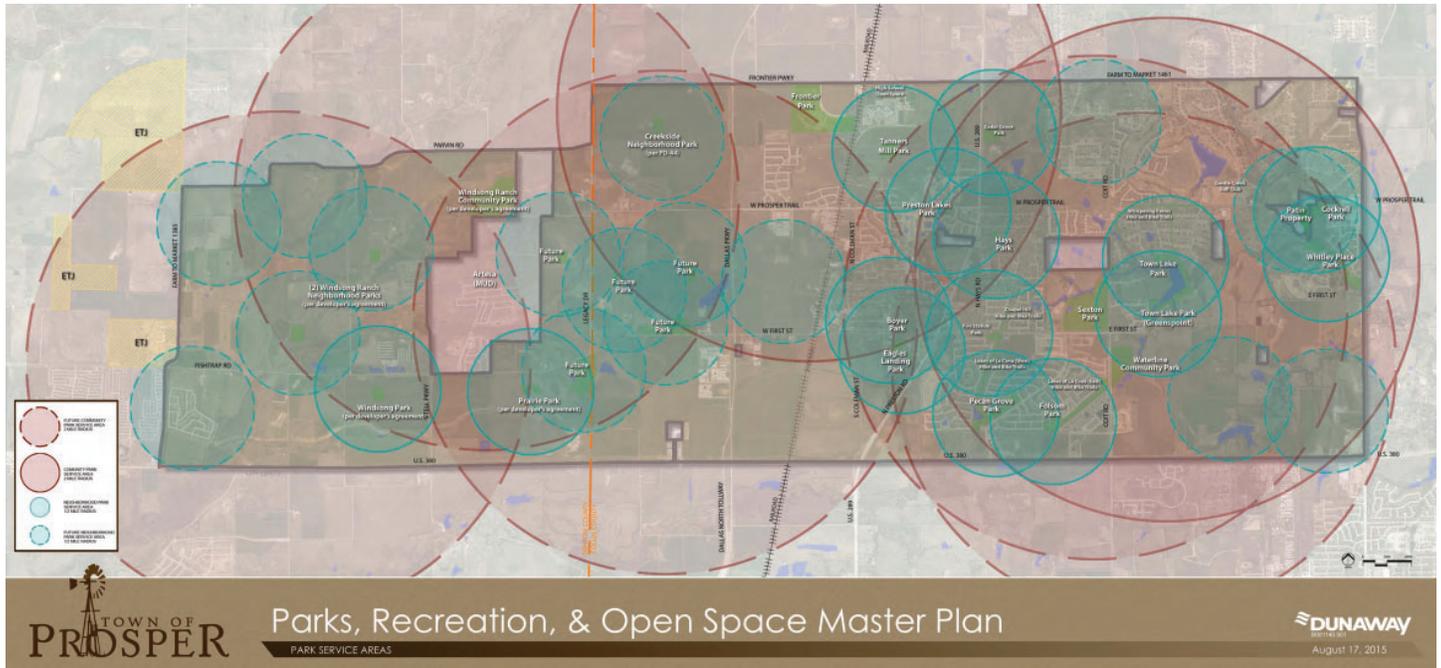


Figure 2.1: Prosper Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan (Source: Town of Prosper)



# 2017 MCKINNEY PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND STREETS-CAPE VISIONING MASTER PLAN

McKinney’s large, primarily undeveloped “Northwest Sector” touches Celina’s southeastern city limit. The Parks Master Plan for McKinney proposes trails within the Wilson Creek corridor as well as a chain of community parks reaching south into the city.

These parks are many years away from becoming a reality; however, they do provide a fuller picture of the relationship between parks in Celina and parks in McKinney.

The potential experience of a resident near this border in the future could be that of a system of trails easily accessible from their neighborhoods which link into McKinney’s trail and park network. These inter-jurisdictional linkages are highly valuable to citizens of both communities.

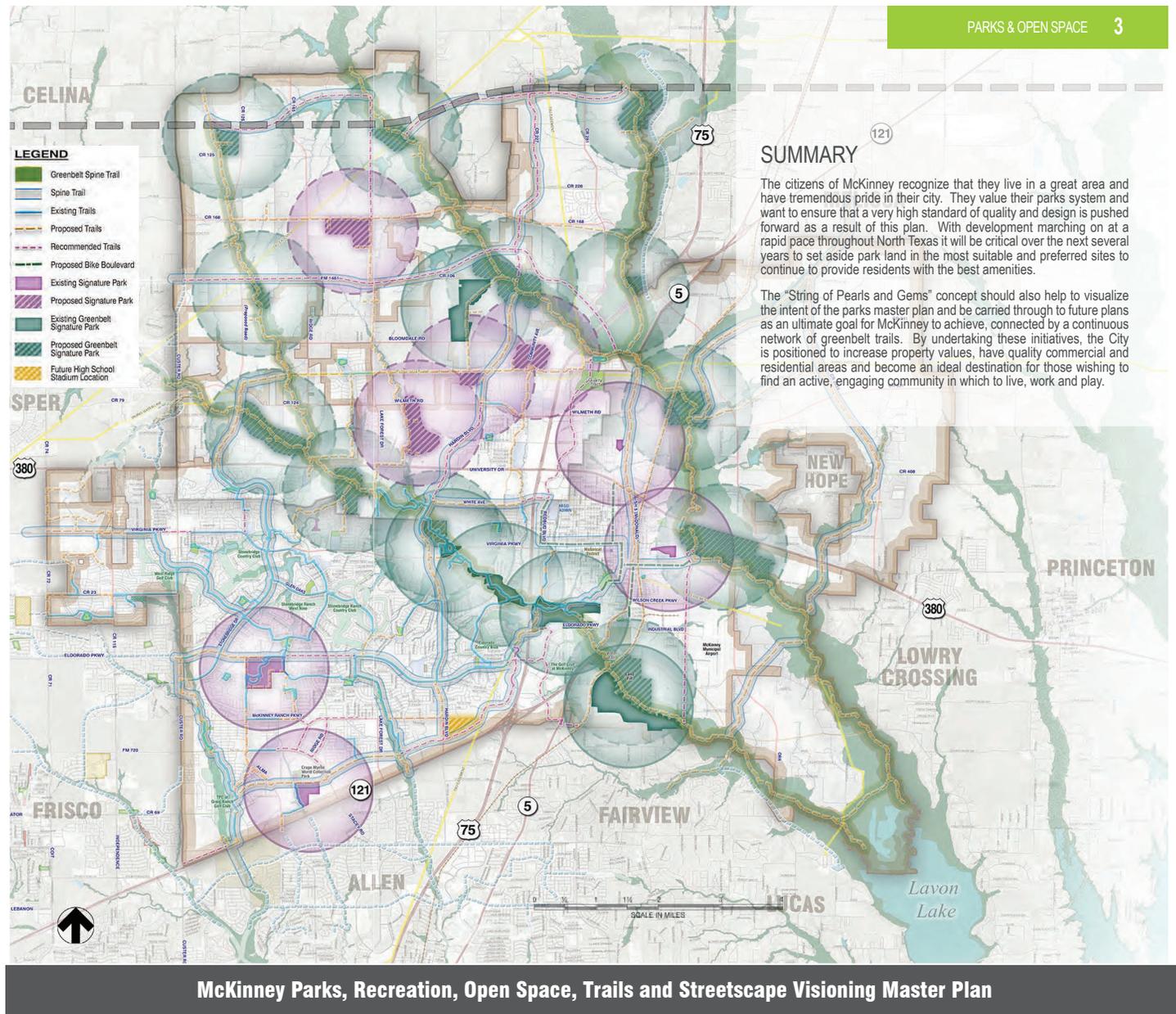


Figure 2.2: McKinney Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Trails and Streetscape Visioning Master Plan. (Source: City of McKinney)

## 2016 FRISCO PARKS AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

The City of Frisco is less than five miles from Celina and is experiencing tremendous growth, particularly along the US 380 corridor. Numerous large developments including master planned communities, new city centers, retail centers and entertainment are all in the planning and design stages for this area. Major destinations such as these coupled with a high design aesthetic will attract more and more people to North Texas in the coming years.

In terms of parks and recreation amenities, Frisco provides a high level of service for its residents. Celina should strive to match or exceed Frisco's distribution of parks and simultaneously preserve its unique landscape features.

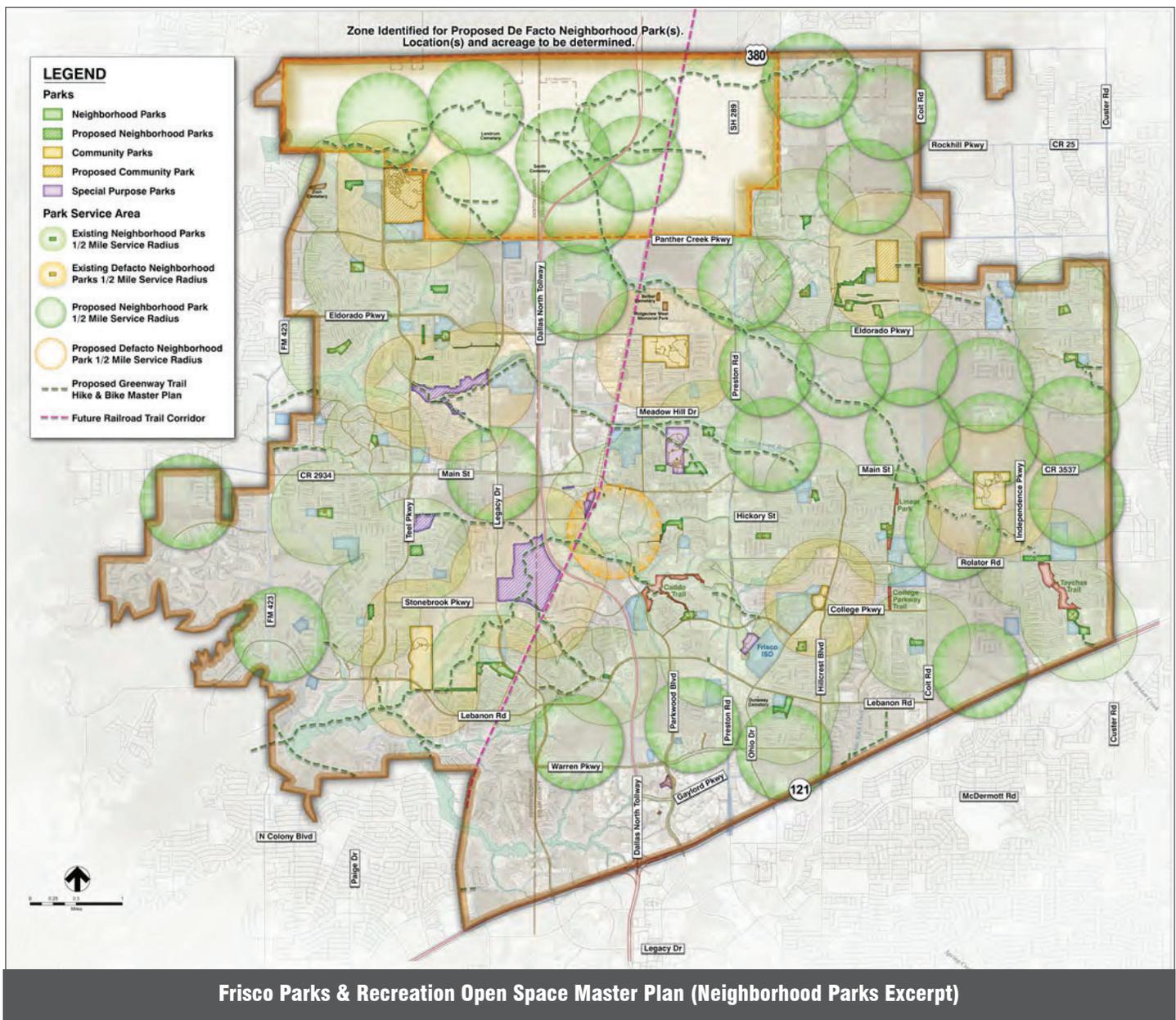


Figure 2.3: Frisco Parks and Recreation Open Space Master Plan (Source: City of Frisco)

# OTHER CITY PLANS

## CELINA 2040

Placeholder

# OTHER CITY PLANS

## CELINA STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2020

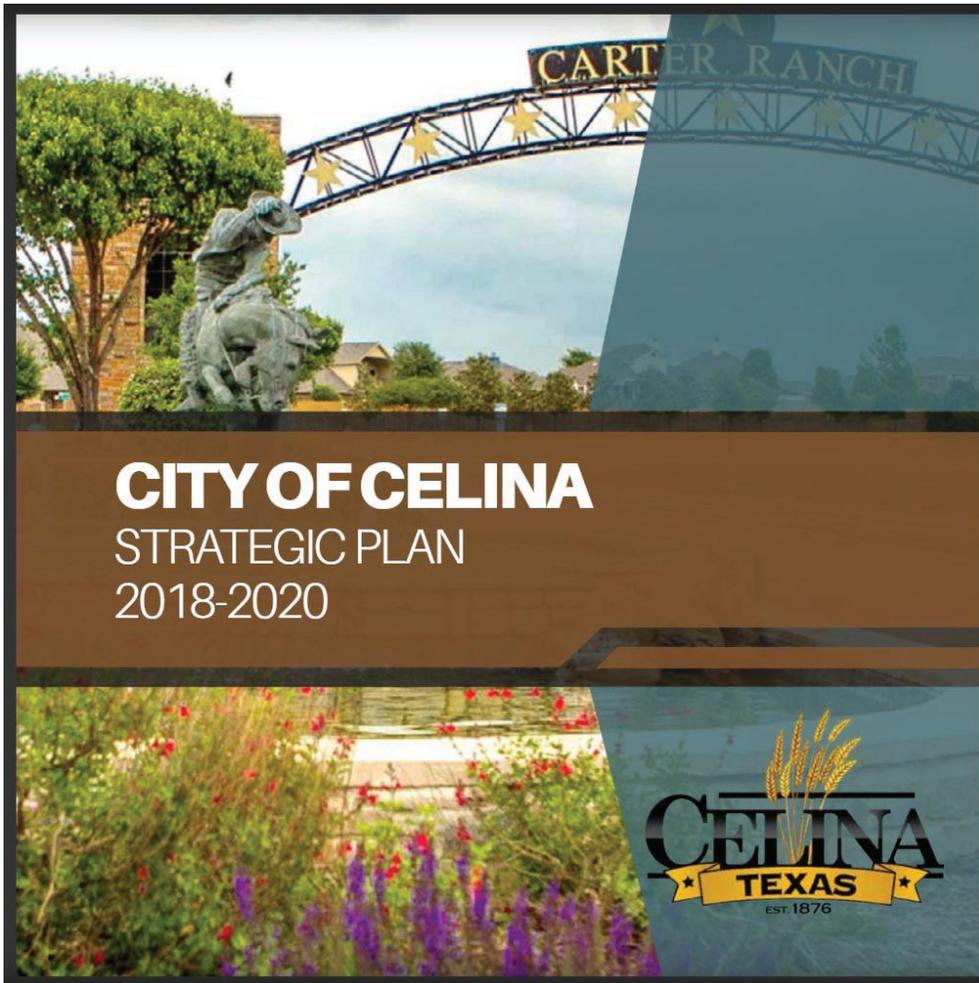


Figure 2.4: Celina Strategic Plan (Source: City of Celina)

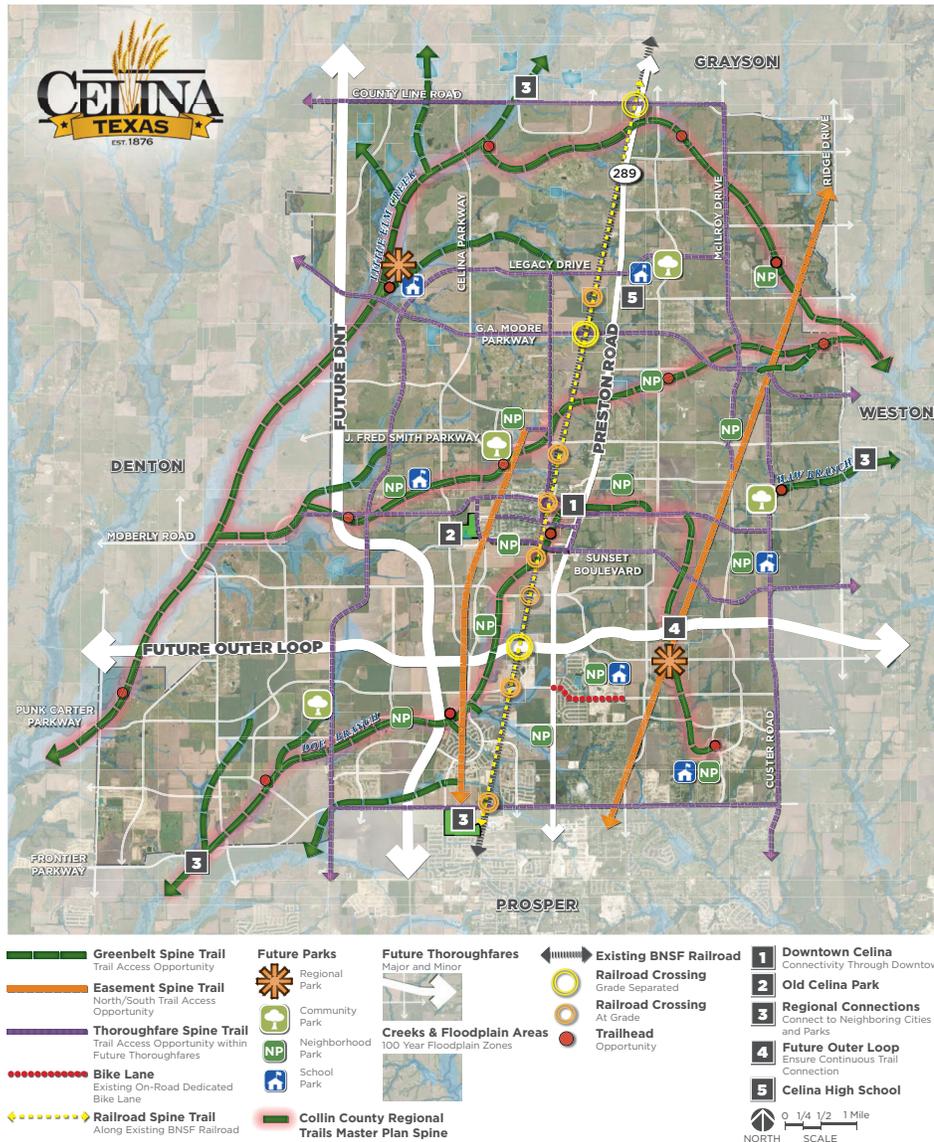
The Celina Strategic Plan lays out a vision for the future of the city. This vision will ensure that “new growth is done in a planned, controlled, and strategic fashion,” that maintains a “rural and country feel.” The heart of the plan addresses issues such as quality of life, safety, sense of community and attracting businesses.

### GOALS OF THE PLAN

- Share our story
- Plan the city
- Enhance quality of life in Celina
- Beautify and brand Celina
- Support and grow emergency services
- Preserve, enhance, revitalize and grow downtown
- Attract and cultivate the right development in the right places
- Develop a highly advanced technology and mobility infrastructure
- Pursue innovative learning partnerships
- Create and encourage agritourism opportunities

# OTHER CITY PLANS

## 2019 CELINA TRAILS MASTER PLAN



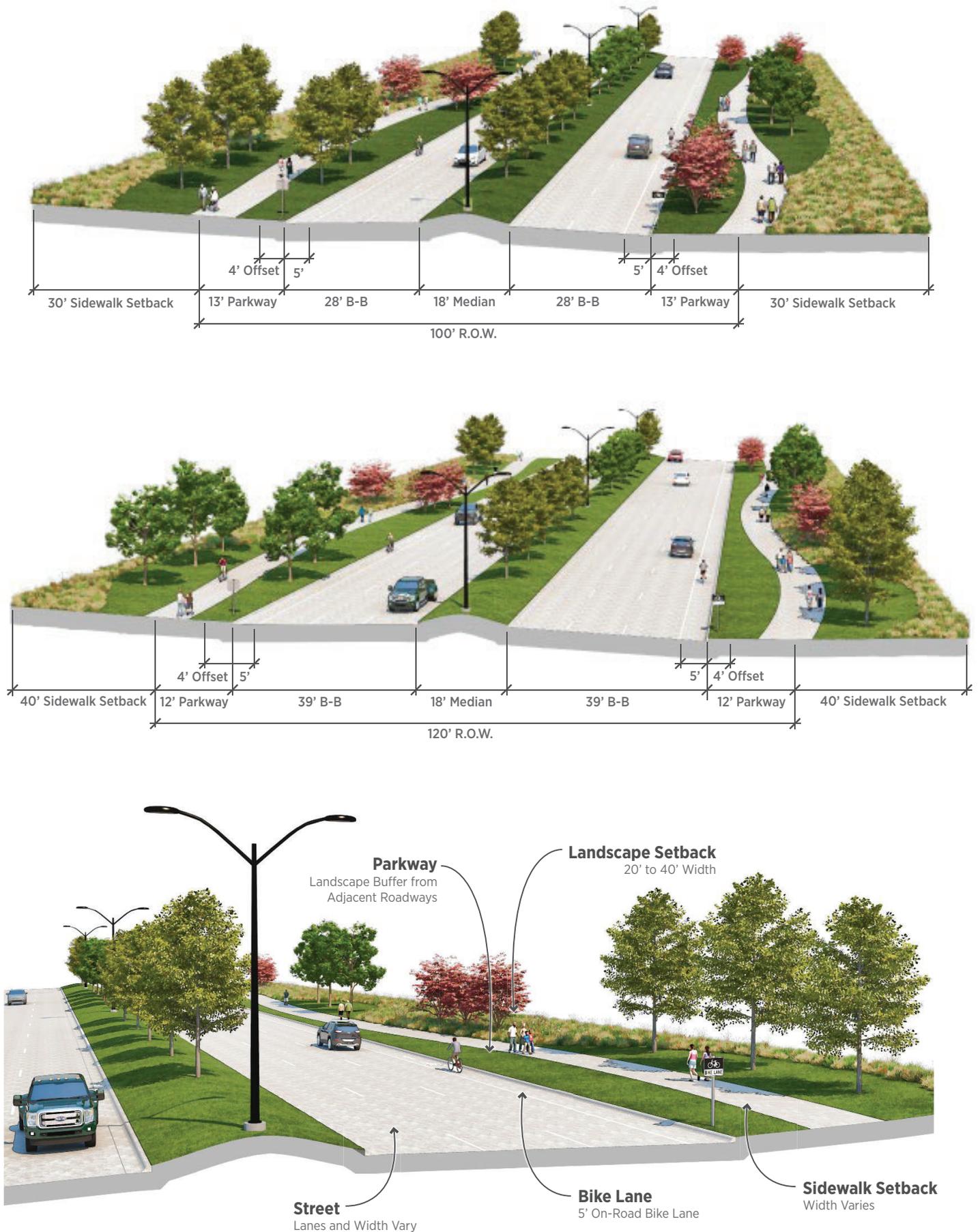
### SNAPSHOT

- 150 miles of total new trails proposed
- Level of service increases to 1 trail mile per 1800 residents
- 59 Miles along linear creeks proposed
- 14 Potential trailheads

**Figure 2.5: Celina Trails Master Plan** (Source: Norris Design)

The City of Celina recently adopted the 2019 Trails Master Plan, a long-term planning document calling for approximately 150 miles of new trails in the city. Beginning in the summer of 2018 the City sought public input for the Master Plan with the use of online surveys, public outreach at city events and a public open house. In total, there were 277 responses to the online survey and many residents were excited to participate in-person, providing their thoughts and ideas to help with the planning efforts.

This plan studies the changing character of Celina, public opinion relative to trails and connectivity, natural and man-made features, future thoroughfares and significant historical elements that will shape the development of trails. Creek corridors are of the utmost importance in the plan as they are continuous linear routes that reach throughout the City, allowing users access to many destinations. The City’s planned thoroughfares have also been designed to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists with safe and user-friendly side paths and bike lanes. Additional components of the trail network include amenities such as trailheads, wayfinding signage and monumentation. One of the first trail design projects is located downtown along Bobcat Trail.



**Figure 2.6, Proposed Roadway Typologies.** The Trails Master Plan provides recommendations for roadway ROW sidewalk and landscape treatments. (Source: Norris Design)



A faded, light blue sign on the side of a weathered concrete building that reads "GELINA ICE &amp; COLD STORAGE CO." The building is a single-story structure with several doorways and a brick section on the right side. The overall scene is somewhat desolate, with a clear sky and some trees in the background.

# CHAPTER 3

# **THE NEED FOR PARKS**

# BACKGROUND

Understanding how the citizens of Celina interact with and use parks is highly important to the development of recommendations in the Parks Master Plan. Citizens are currently served by a relatively small number of public parks, with the vast majority of conveniently located parks being private HOA facilities. These qualities directly influence public feedback.

Throughout June and July 2019, the parks planning team held a series of six public outreach meetings in the city. Meeting locations were selected based on population zones of the city and to provide citizens a convenient nearby location to attend after business hours. Attendees were shown a presentation which discussed the current park network, trends in recreation, park level of service and comparisons to other municipalities' park networks. Citizens were then asked to fill out brief questionnaires regarding their wants, needs and vision for the city moving into the future.

In addition to these meetings, the parks planning team attended two events around the city to learn more from citizens. These events included the Creeks of Legacy Summer Kickoff and the Splash and Blast 4th of July event, which were both well attended.






**Come help us shape the future of Celina Parks!**

As our community grows, so too does our need for more parks!  
We want your input about how we should plan our parks system so it can best serve all the citizens of our great city.

**Join your fellow citizens at one of the following evening meetings:**

	When?	Where?	Who?
<b>Meeting 1</b>	June 13	O'Dell Elementary School	Southeast Sector
<b>Meeting 2</b>	June 18	Celina High School	North Sector
<b>Meeting 3</b>	June 20	Light Farms Community Building	Southwest Sector
<b>Meeting 4</b>	June 25	Celina Elementary School	Downtown Celina
<b>Meeting 5</b>	June 27	Celina Jr. High School	All Celina
<b>Meeting 6</b>	July 18	Celina High School	Sports Leagues

All meetings from **6:00pm to 8:00pm**

Can't make it to your area meeting? No problem!

Feel free to come to any of the other scheduled meetings.

[Schedule Updated 6/6]



**Figure 3.1:** Meeting flyer for public events. (Source: Norris Design)

**Pictured Above:** City of Celina public open house meeting on a weekday night (Source: Norris Design)

# PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY INPUT

## SNAPSHOT

2

### Community events:

Creeks of Legacy Summer Kickoff || Splash & Blast 4th of July

1

### Meeting with sports organizations

5

### Public meetings covering all city sectors

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### CREEKS OF LEGACY SUMMER KICKOFF

The planning team began the face-to-face public involvement effort at a yearly HOA event - Creeks of Legacy Summer Kickoff. The gathering attracts between 100 and 200 residents from the neighborhood and features activities and booths for families.

This year, the parks planning team attended the event and met with a great number of visitors eager to learn about the upcoming plan. Attendees found out about the scope of the plan and provided in-person feedback. The team also directed residents to the online survey and handed out a brief eight question survey to visitors. The survey gave initial feedback about use of parks and the needs and wants of residents. In total, 45 responses were to the questionnaire were received.

A summary of input is as follows:

- Most respondents visit parks once or twice a month.
- Residents desire more hard and soft-surface trails, shade and playgrounds.
- The addition of an aquatic facility ranked highly.
- Residents want a recreation center.
- Preserving land along creek corridors is important to residents.



**Pictured Above:** Creeks of Legacy Summer Kickoff attendees (Source: Norris Design)

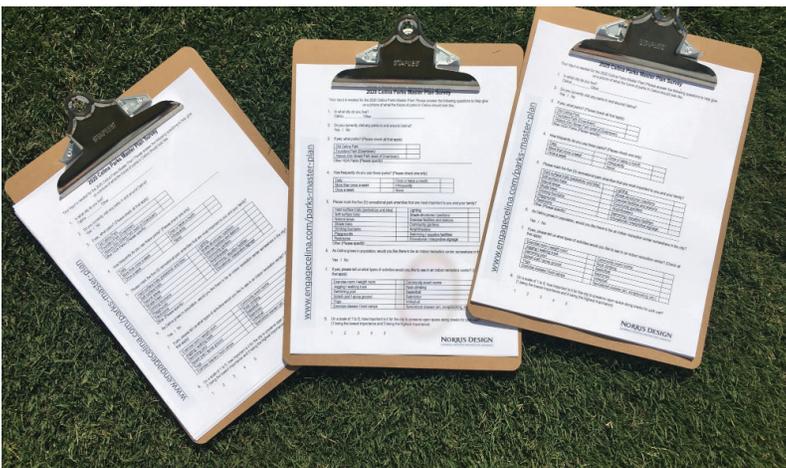
## SPLASH & BLAST 4TH OF JULY

The rain may have put a slight damper on Celina's 4th of July celebration, held on June 29, 2019, but spirits were high and attendees got some welcome relief from the summer heat. The planning team attended the event and provided questionnaires, information on the public survey and a fun interactive picture frame for portraits.

Much of the feedback from this event mirrored that of the Creeks of Legacy Summer Kickoff. The stormy weather reduced the total number of responses.

A summary of input is as follows:

- Most respondents visit parks once or twice a month.
- Top recreational needs include hard and soft-surface trails, shade and playgrounds.
- One response supportive of an aquatic facility was received.
- Residents want a recreation center.
- Preserving land along creek corridors is important to residents.



**Pictured Above:** Images from Splash and Blast 2019 (Source: Norris Design)

# PUBLIC MEETINGS

The parks planning team held five public meetings at different locations in the city, and one meeting with local and regional sports associations invited. The public meetings were advertised well in advance of the meeting dates through social media, the project website, HOA email lists and flyers posted in city facilities. Celina ISD and Light Farms generously provided meeting space and assisted the planning team with logistics.

The meeting formats were open and informal, encouraging attendees to come and go as needed and ask questions to the planning team and city staff. A short presentation was given at each meeting once several attendees were present, touching on the scope of the project, park typologies, parks “level of service” and schedule.

Following the presentation, a 12 question survey was given out to attendees. This survey was slightly more “in-depth” and gleaned how residents envisioned the Celina in the future, lifestyle attributes and parks and recreation needs. A question regarding desired parks level of service was also introduced in this survey which, when combined with the information in the presentation gave attendees a point of reference for determining what level of service should be offered in Celina. In total, 15 completed surveys were received and summarized below

- Citizens prefer a relatively high parks level of service, comparable to cities like McKinney and Frisco
- Citizens are nearly equally supportive of future parks being either active sports facilities and passive nature parks

- Trails and access to nature ranked highest as amenities people would like to see in their neighborhood parks
- Active recreation (tennis, basketball, etc.) ranked lowest among preferred neighborhood amenities
- Slightly more respondents felt that a proposed recreation center should be fee-based rather than free for all residents
- A senior center is highly desired among meeting attendees

## SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Currently, the City of Celina manages adult and youth sports and recreation programs in-house; leagues include soccer, baseball, softball, football, flag football and others. Looking to the future of athletics in Celina, the parks planning team invited representatives from a variety of outside athletics groups in the region as well as Celina ISD representatives to understand the potential for partnership opportunities.

Attendees included representatives from Fieldhouse USA, the Dallas Texans Soccer Club and Bill Hemby, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance and Operations at CISD. The meeting resulted in a productive discussion exploring the possibilities for public-private partnerships, which the city may choose to pursue as population grows.



**Pictured Above:** Residents attend various public meetings (Source: Norris Design)



**Pictured Above:** Light Farms public meeting (Source: Norris Design)

### Public Meeting Quick Take

“Using just three words, how do you hope the parks system in Celina is described 20 years from now?”

*Connectivity*      *Fun*  
*Entertainment*      *Nature*  
*Play*      *Safe*  
  
*Connected*      *Family*  
*Comfortable*      *Clean*  
*Thoughtful*      *Unique*

## PROJECT WEBSITE

A project website was launched early in the project initiation to aid in spreading information to the public about the plan, schedule and also as another means for soliciting feedback. The website “www.engagecelina.com” served as a jumping off point for citizens to access details regarding both the Parks Master Plan as well as the Celina 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Over the course of the project, meeting dates were published, the current project status was given and an “Ideas” section was active for additional public participation.

### Project Website Quick Take

“We want to hear your ideas for parks and recreation facilities!”

*“Sidewalks and bike paths should connect all neighborhoods and parks, libraries and schools.”*

*“Have dog parks with a lot of space for dogs to run and be outdoors with other dogs. This could be a part of existing parks.”*

*“A park that maintains the open ranch land and provides a nature/historical center (farming, ranching, wildlife).”*

*“Nature preserve / park... Oak Point Park in Plano is a good example of a large nature preserve...with large open areas that can be used for city events.”*

# WEB-BASED SURVEY

A web-based survey hosted through SurveyMonkey was administered over a period of just over two months from mid June through August of 2019. There were a total of 22 questions on the survey that typically took respondents less than 10 minutes to complete. In total, 147 people provided their input on the survey.

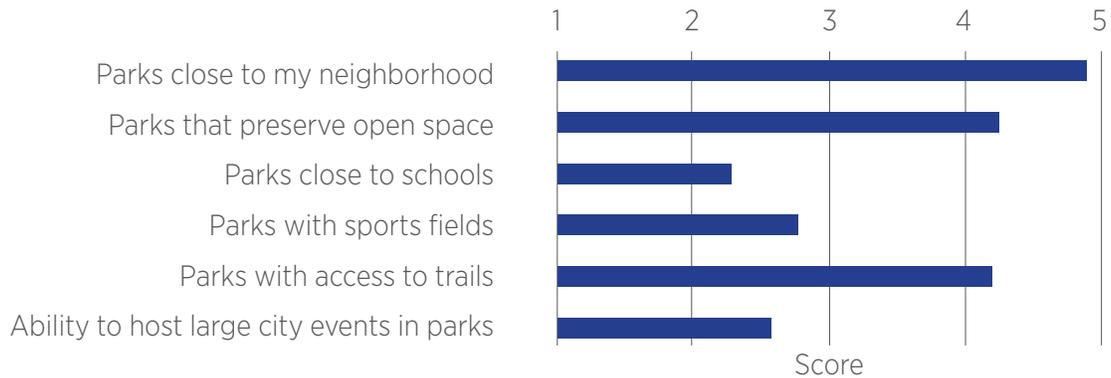
Questions ranged from basic data on where residents live and work to multi-part questions which rank users' priorities for trail types and locations.

## SURVEY RESULTS

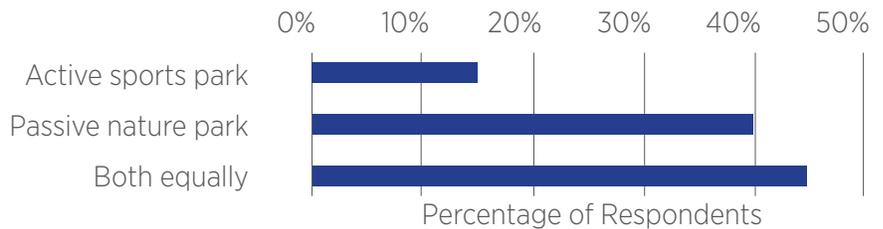
The following is a snapshot of information collected from survey respondents that captures some of the high points related to parks planning. These are presented in no specific order.

The full survey information can be found in the appendix of this master plan.

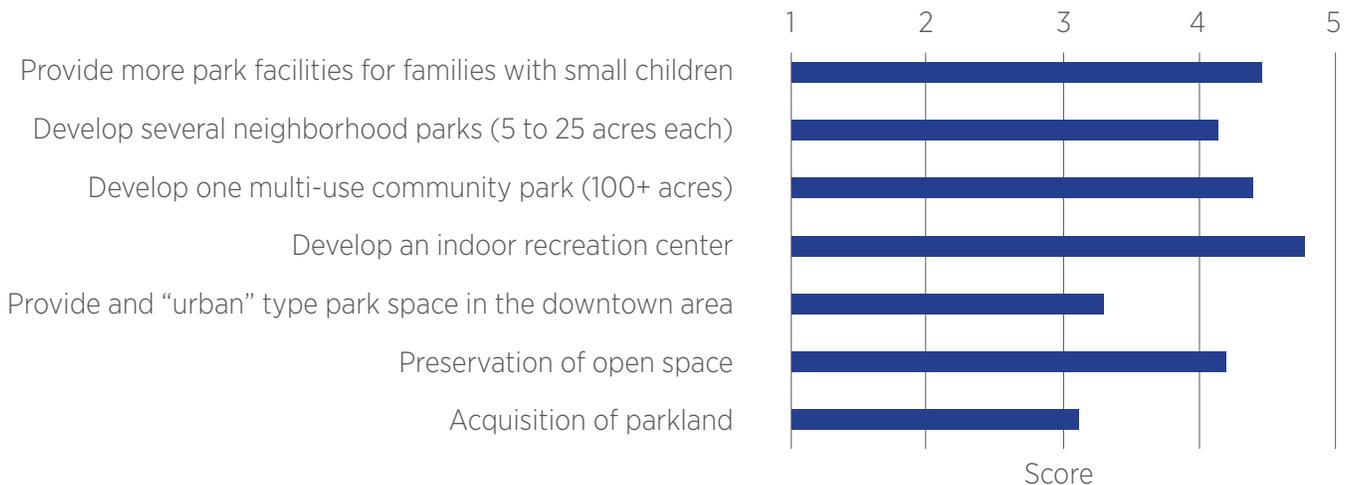
**Q1: Please rank your choice for the following in order of priority.**



**Q2: What type of park do you prefer more of for Celina's future?**



**Q3: What should Celina's parks system priorities be over the next five to ten years? Please rank your choice for the following in order of priority.**



# BENCHMARK CITIES

## PURPOSE

For a growing city such as Celina, one of the building blocks of the parks system is a pre-determined level of service for parks. Level of service (LOS) is measured as a ratio of acres of parkland provided per 1000 people. In essence, this means that the higher the LOS, the more parkland in the city. In this master plan, several cities in the region were selected as “benchmark cities” to make a comparison

## TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE (TLOS)

The methodology used for determining a target level of service includes public input through face-to-face public meetings, professional opinion, city staff and Parks Board input. When presented with parkland LOS data of the neighboring cities, the average desired LOS of Celina residents was similar to the City of Forney (approximately 13 acres/1000 people).

By assessing available land and distribution of parks the recommended LOS for Celina is 8 acres/1000 people.



**Pictured Above:** Attendees at the Splash and Blast Celebration (Source: Norris Design)

### Level of Service Comparison

City Name	Population	Existing Park Acreage	Park Level of Service
<b>Celina</b>	<b>18,860</b>	<b>218.5 acres*</b>	<b>11.5 ac/1000 people</b>
McKinney	181,330	2756 acres	15.20 ac/1000 people
Forney	20,336	242.35 acres	11.94 ac/1000 people
Frisco	189,225	1487 acres	7.85 ac/1000 people
Princeton	11,625	89 acres	7.67 ac/1000 people

**Table 3.1:** Level of Service Comparison (Source: Individual city data)

2024 Target LOS for Parks (Estimated Population: 47,934)

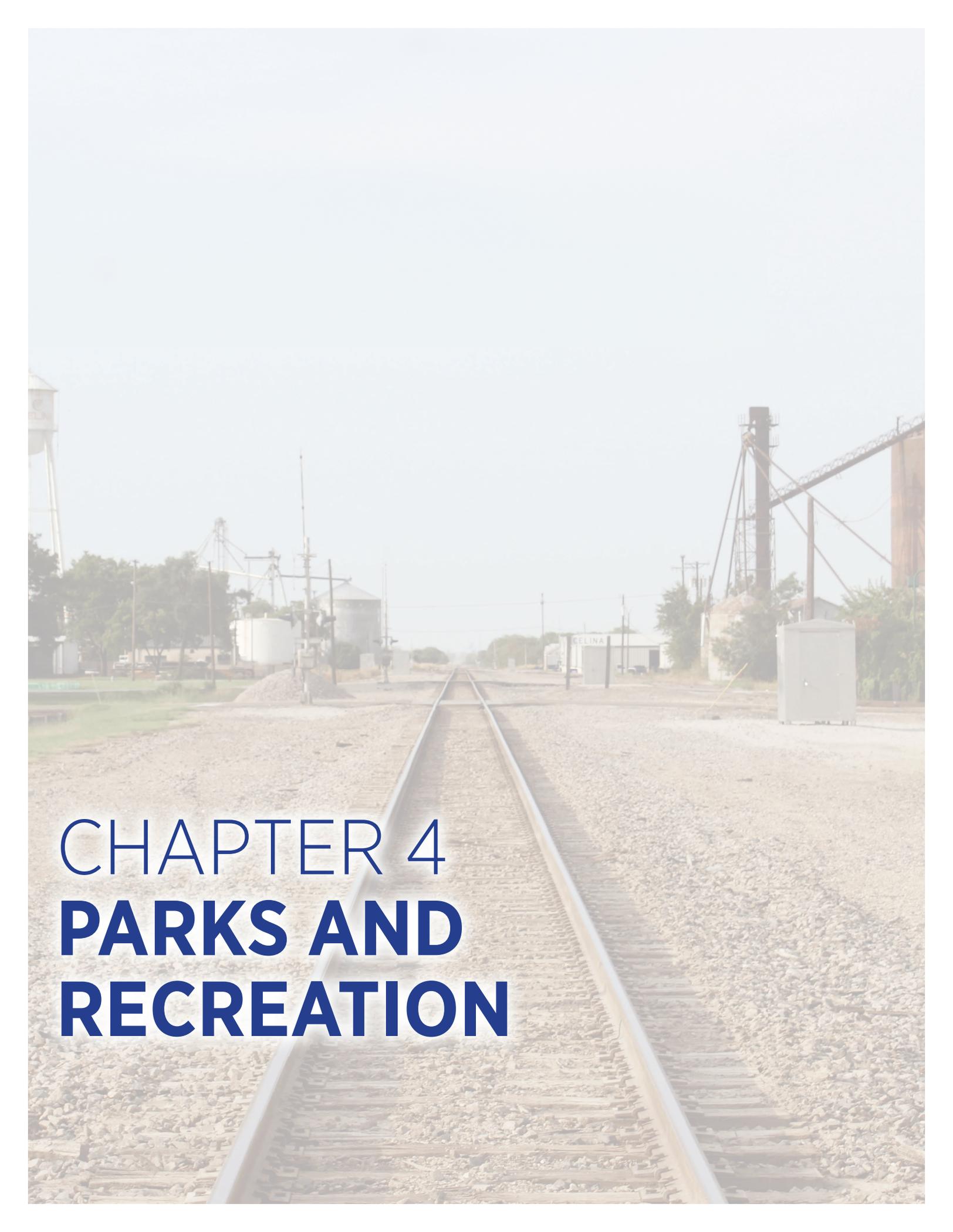
**6.7 acres (per 1000 people)**

**Additional park acreage needed: 100 Acres**

\*Includes previously acquired parkland. Currently, 66.5 acres of parkland are developed in Celina.





A photograph of a railway track stretching into the distance, flanked by gravel and industrial structures under a clear sky. The track is the central focus, leading the eye towards the horizon. On either side, there are gravel beds and various industrial buildings and structures, including a water tower on the left and a building with a sign that says 'CELINA' on the right. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

# CHAPTER 4 **PARKS AND RECREATION**

# PARKS SYSTEM VISION

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan has a direct and functional relationship to the parallel Celina 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The 2040 document sets a vision for private development through land use, density and character. By responding to land use and its associated population densities, Celina’s future parks have a variety of types, distribution, and location that relate back to the surrounding context. This change in character between parks is intended to serve the needs of the citizens from a recreation standpoint and blend into overall development patterns.

Celina’s park system is envisioned to create an interconnected open space network that offers all residents diverse recreational opportunities amongst the city’s abundant natural resources.

The recommendations in this document strive to uphold and advance the characteristics that make Celina unique: a community based on cooperative spirit that takes pride in its traditions, sports championships, family-oriented culture and small-town atmosphere. This chapter assesses the following in order to meet the goals of the master plan:

- **The strengths and needs of Celina’s three existing public parks**
- **Proposed park typologies for future park development**
- **Special programming elements to be considered in the design of future parks in Celina**
- **Proposed city gateway monumentation**



**Pictured Above:** Celina resident walking a dog in Old Celina Park. (Source: Norris Design)

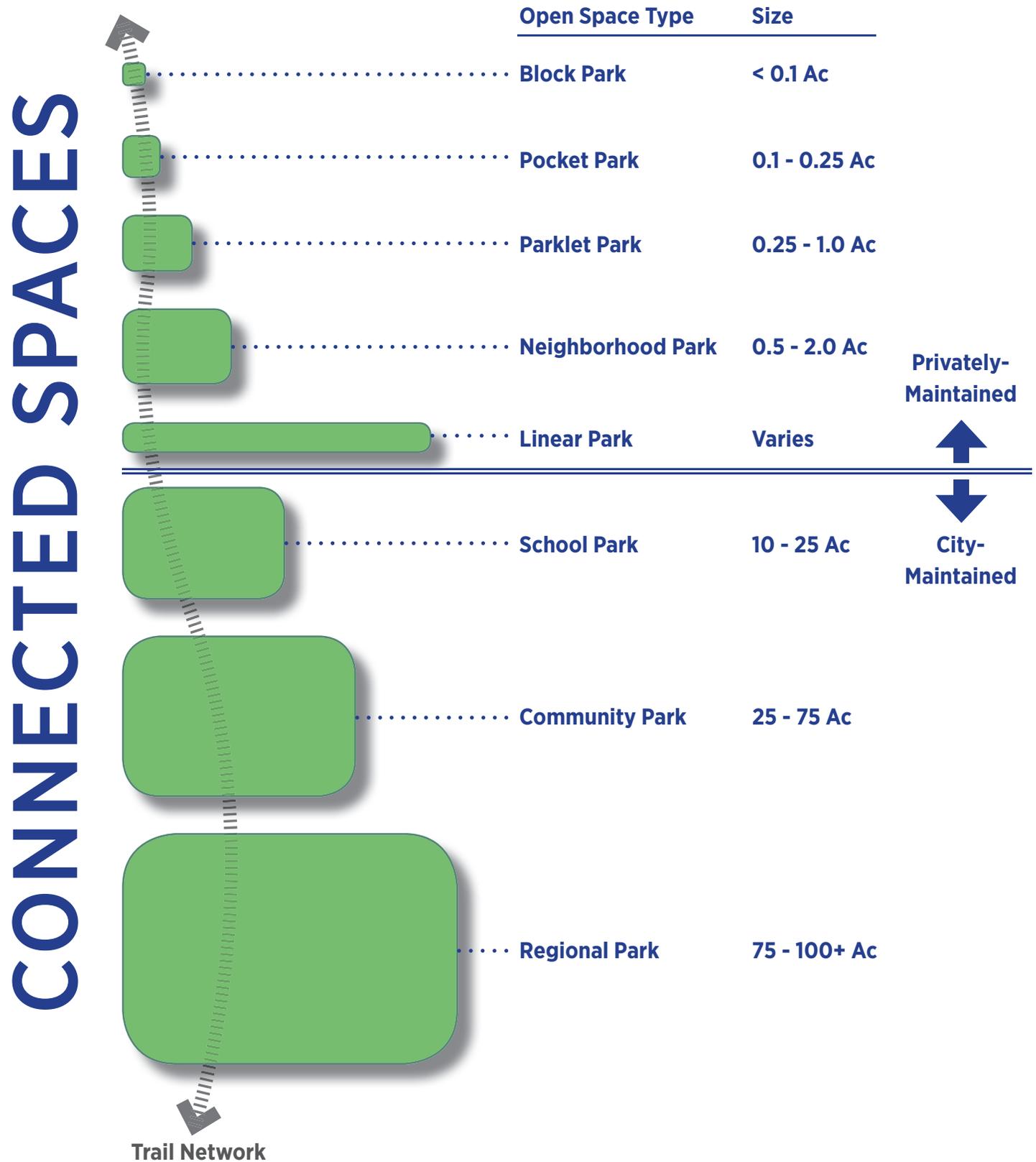


**Pictured Above:** Silos outside of Downtown (Source: Norris Design)



**Pictured Above:** Celina resident walking around Light Farms Lake. (Source: Norris Design)

# PARKS PLAN CONCEPT



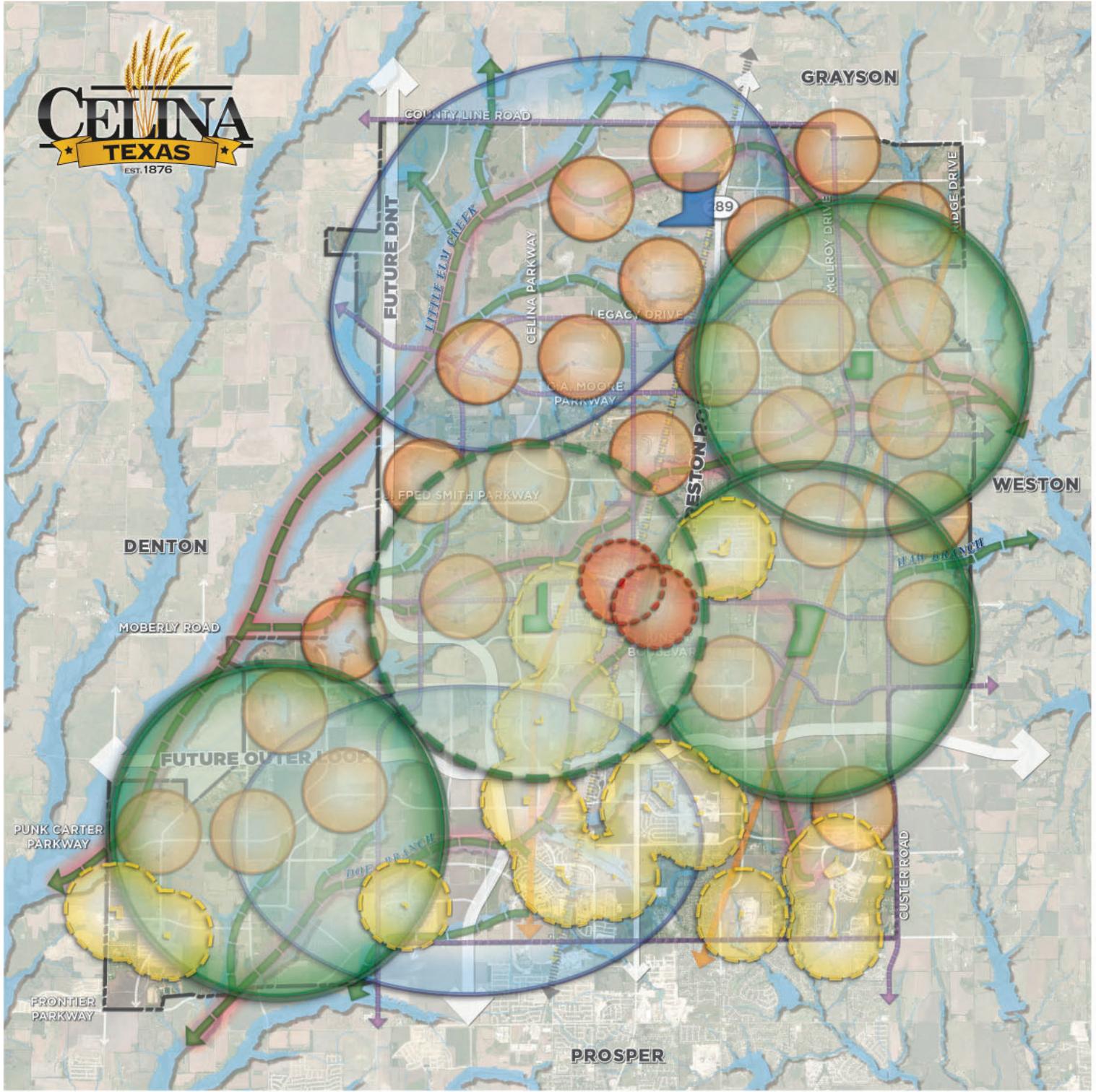
**Figure 4.1: Celina Overall Parks Concept.** The “Connected Spaces” concept applies to open space of all sizes, from the smallest scale block parks to the largest regional parks. Trails weave together the park network and allow residents to quickly move from their neighborhoods to a variety of open spaces. (Source: Norris Design)



**Pictured Above:** Small-town charm found around Celina (Source: Norris Design)



**Pictured Above:** Active and passive recreational amenities at Old Celina Park (Source: Norris Design).



<b>Parks</b> Proposed Regional Park two-mile service radius Proposed Community Park two-mile service radius Proposed School Park half-mile service radius Existing Community Park half-mile service radius Existing Neighborhood Park half-mile service radius Existing HOA Park half-mile service radius		<b>Trail Systems</b> <b>Greenbelt Spine Trail</b> Recreational Trail Access <b>Easement Spine Trail</b> North/South Trail Access <b>Thoroughfare Spine Trail</b> Trail Access Along Future Thoroughfares <b>Collin County Regional Trails Master Plan Spine</b> <b>Railroad Spine Trail</b> Along Existing BNSF Railroad		<b>Existing Conditions</b> <b>Freeways</b> <b>Future Thoroughfares</b> Arterials with On-Street Bike Lanes <b>Creeks &amp; Floodplain Areas</b> 100 Year Floodplain Zones	
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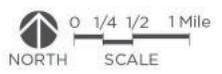


Figure 4.2: Celina Overall Parks Master Plan. (Source: Norris Design)

# PROPOSED PARK TYPOLOGIES

## Regional Parks

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### 75 - 100+ Acres | 2 Mile Service Radius

Regional parks are the largest park classifications in the master plan and are typically formed around a substantial natural preserve. These parks' size allow for a wide variety of recreational opportunities, from highly programmed playgrounds to open, natural habitats ripe for independent exploration. Significant park nodes will be amenitized, but the majority of the park's acreage will consist of undisturbed open space. Parks of this scale should contain miles of trails - both paved and unpaved - for residents to use. Given their size, regional parks should provide sufficient on site-parking at primary park locations of interest. Parking lots should provide reasonable access to park amenities without encumbering significant natural features. All-weather restrooms and water fountains should be provided at reasonable intervals throughout the park. Waste and recycling receptacles should be strategically placed in a manner that encourages users to dispose of litter properly and allows park maintenance crews may easily and regularly access them. Celina's regional park is an ideal location for an outdoor learning center as discussed on page ## of this master plan.



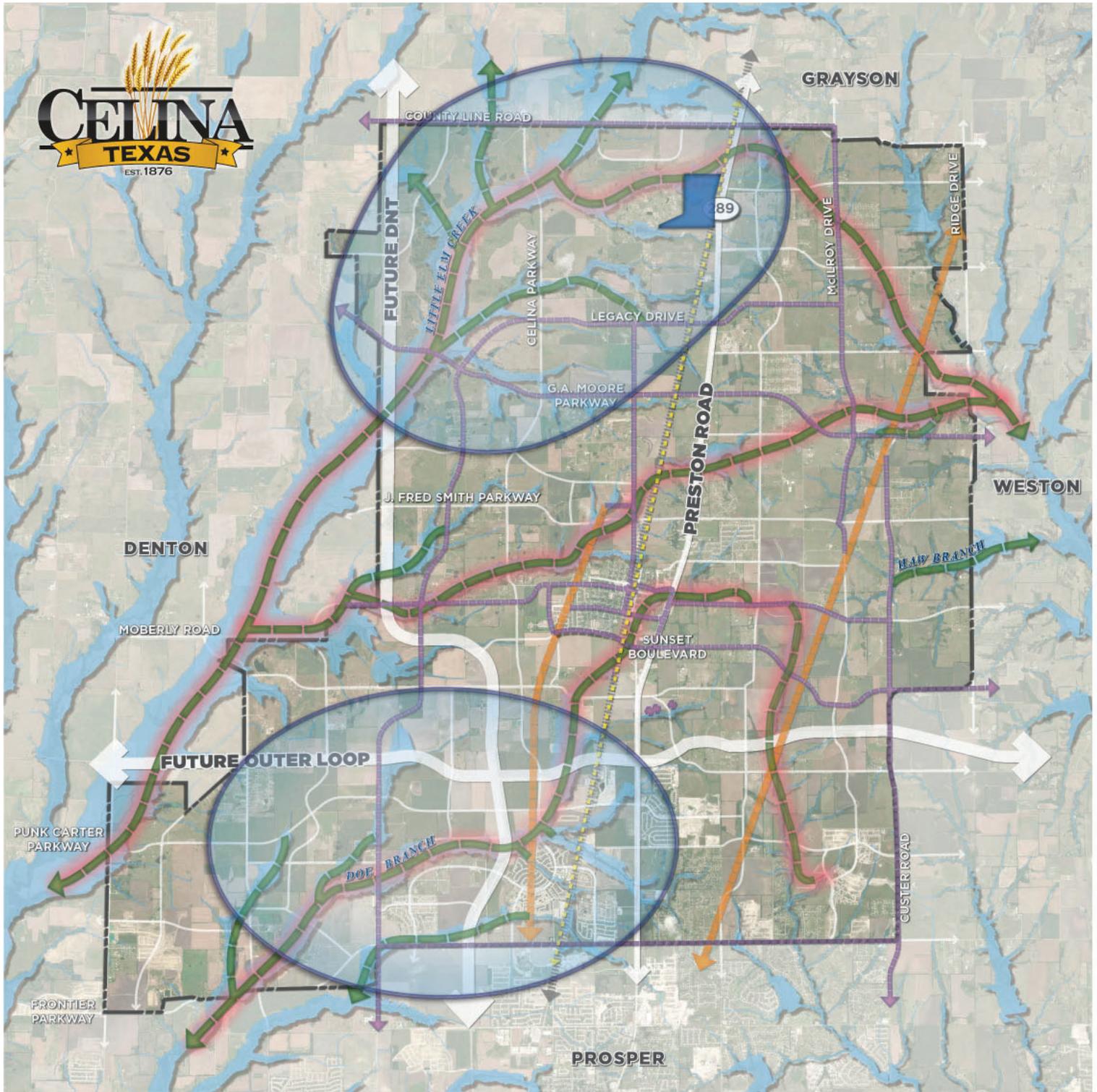
**Pictured Above:** Natural trails winding through Oak Point Park in Plano, TX (Source: Planomagazine.com)



**Pictured Above:** Events such as Plano Balloon Festival at Oak Point Park are a major draw for regional parks. (Source: Norris Design)



**Pictured Above:** Residents of all ages exploring preserved natural area in Northlake, TX (Source: EducationSnapshots.com).



**Proposed Parks**

 Proposed Regional Park  
two-mile service radius

**Trail Systems**

-  **Greenbelt Spine Trail**  
Recreational Trail Access
-  **Easement Spine Trail**  
North/South Trail Access
-  **Thoroughfare Spine Trail**  
Trail Access Along Future Thoroughfares
-  **Collin County Regional Trails Master Plan Spine**
-  **Railroad Spine Trail**  
Along Existing BNSF Railroad

**Existing Conditions**

-  **Freeways**
-  **Future Thoroughfares**  
Arterials with On-Street Bike Lanes
-  **Creeks & Floodplain Areas**  
100 Year Floodplain Zones

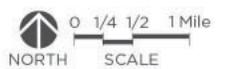


Figure 4.3: Celina Regional Park Plan. (Source: Norris Design)

# PROPOSED PARK TYPOLOGIES

## Community Parks

### 50-75 Acres | 2 Mile Service Radius

Community parks are the most highly programmed park classifications in the master plan. While these parks should serve as recreation destinations that draw residents from all over Celina, community parks should all be rooted in the specific neighborhoods that surround them. Ideally, every resident of Celina will live within a one to two-mile radius of a community park.

These spacious open spaces typically range from 50 to 100+ acres in size, allowing each park to offer a variety of amenities and experiences. Community parks should be programmed to facilitate special events while providing neighboring residents with day-to-day recreational needs including trails, playgrounds, pavilions and flexible open play areas. Special facilities like lighted competitive athletic fields, recreation centers and dog parks make community parks a local destination.



**Pictured Above:** Amenitized open space, parkland, signage, playgrounds and high-quality sports facilities. (Source: Norris Design)

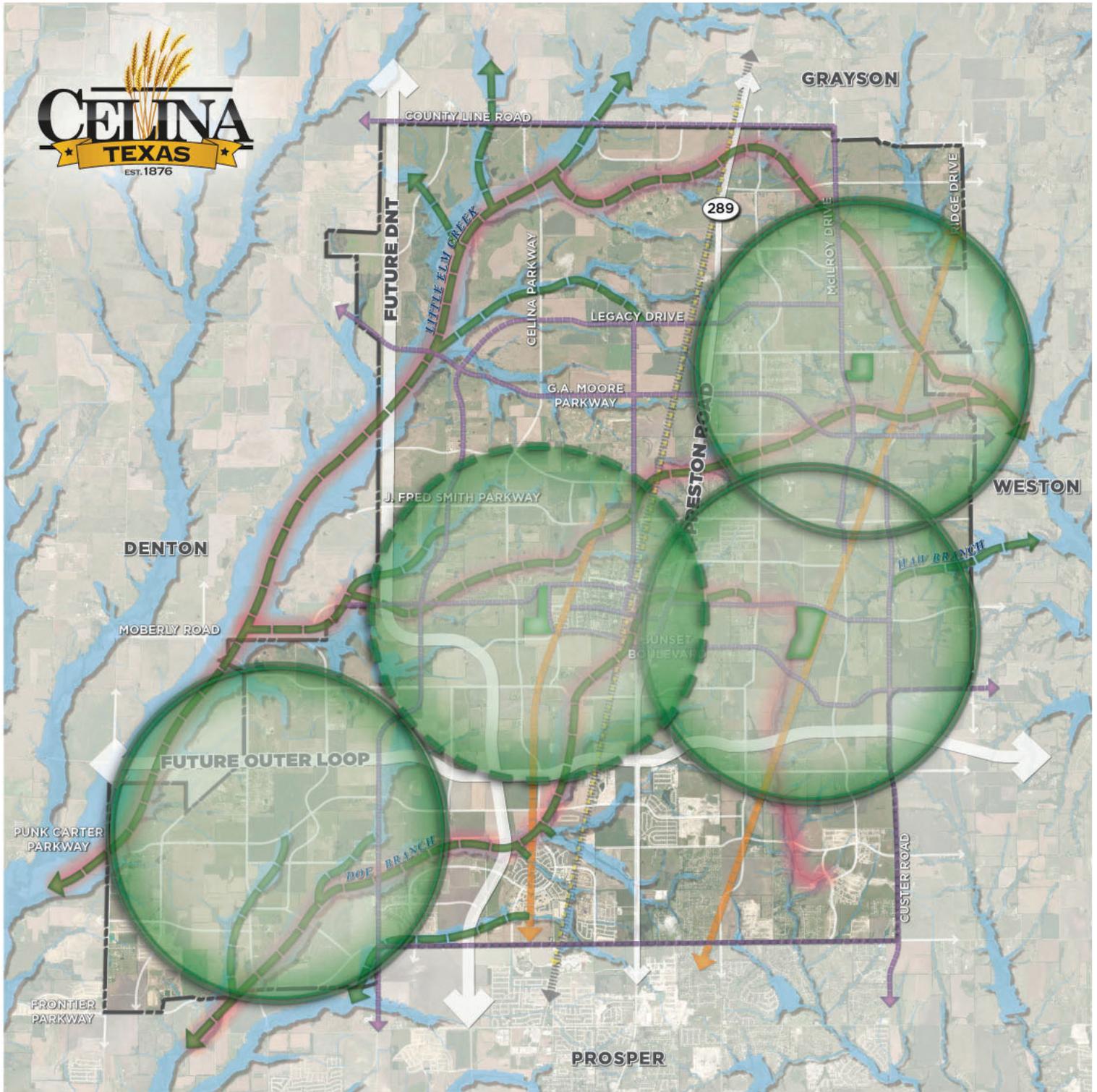


Figure 4.4: Celina Community Parks Plan. (Source: Norris Design)

# PROPOSED PARK TYPOLOGIES

## School Parks

### 10 - 25 Acres | Half Mile Service Radius

School parks will provide much-needed open space in the community. They are connected to school sites, with a seamless transition from school to park space. Their size is dependent upon the land available around the proposed school, which may be greatly increased when adjacent to creek corridors.

Programming for school parks should include a generously-sized, level open space lawn for sports practice, pickup games and unprogrammed play activities. Playgrounds, landscaping, trails and shade structures are all potential program elements as these parks are serving families in neighborhoods. Shared parking with the school should be utilized where possible, and/or a small dedicated parking lot should be provided, if necessary. By partnering with schools, parks will provide a tremendous quality of life benefit for Celina residents.



**Pictured Above:** Unprogrammed open space and interesting architectural site elements for school parks. (Source: Norris Design)

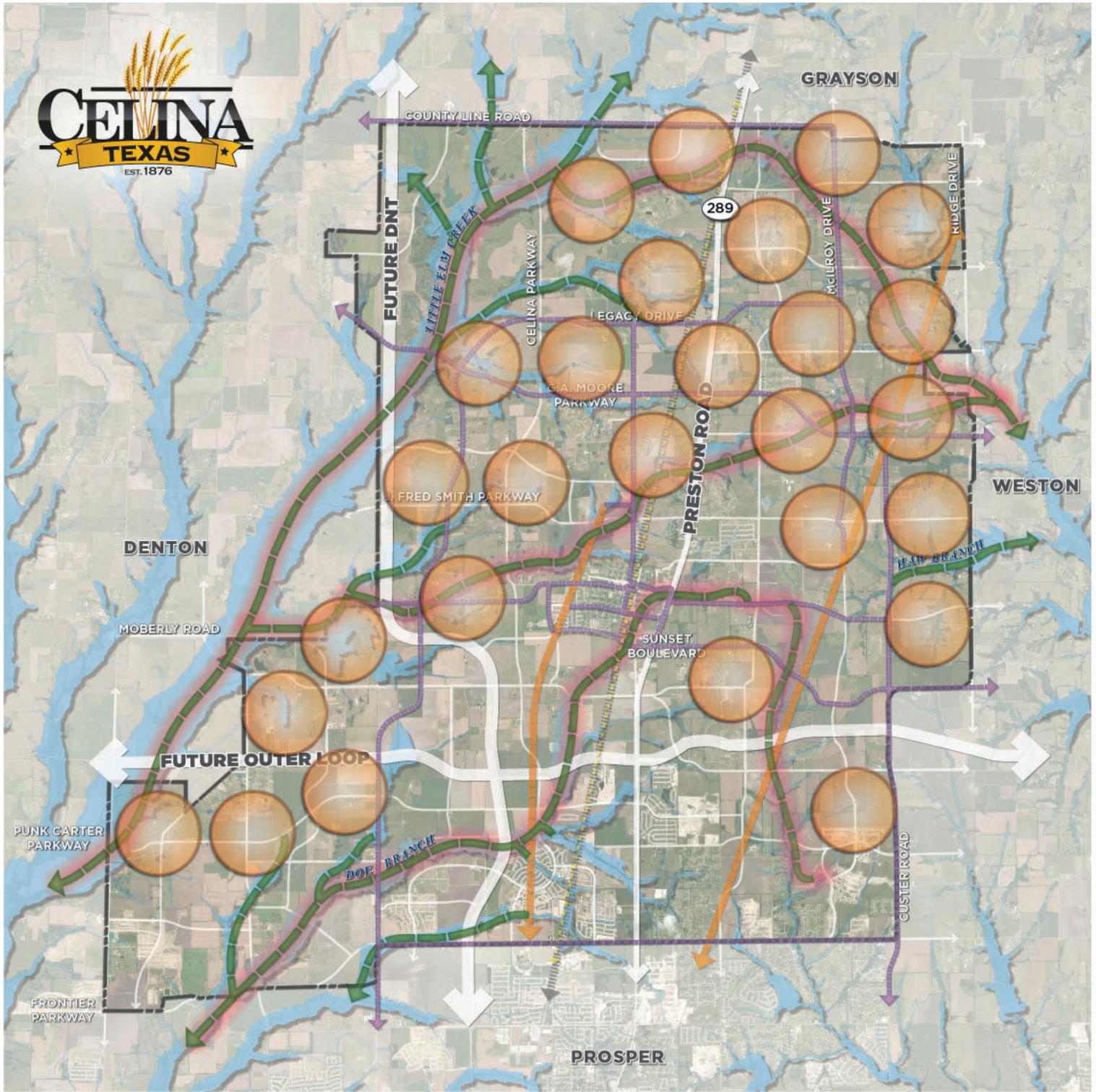


Figure 4.5: Celina School Parks Plan. (Source: Norris Design)

# PROPOSED PARK TYPOLOGIES

## Linear Parks

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### Acreeage Varies

Linear parks are naturally formed open spaces that link parks and other community amenities together. Greenbelts and creek corridors can be enhanced with low-impact trail systems to provide residents with passive recreational opportunities tied closely to nature. Non-motorized transportation can use greenbelts as a link to other parks, schools, neighborhoods, libraries, trailheads and other major destinations. Linear parks provide their own recreational value, too. Amenities typically include hard and soft surface trails, trailheads, benches, overlooks and both educational and wayfinding signage. The size and shape of a linear park will vary depending on the natural resource the park is designed around. Service areas vary depending on a linear park's function, programmed use and available land.

Linear parks are an excellent way to preserve Celina's natural resources in a manner that residents can easily and regularly access. Watersheds and the natural areas surrounding them cultivate wildlife habitats and migration corridors while providing opportunities to implement sustainable watershed management strategies. When possible, city mandated parkland dedication should encompass floodplains or creek corridors. Tree clearing in floodplains should be limited to every extent possible.

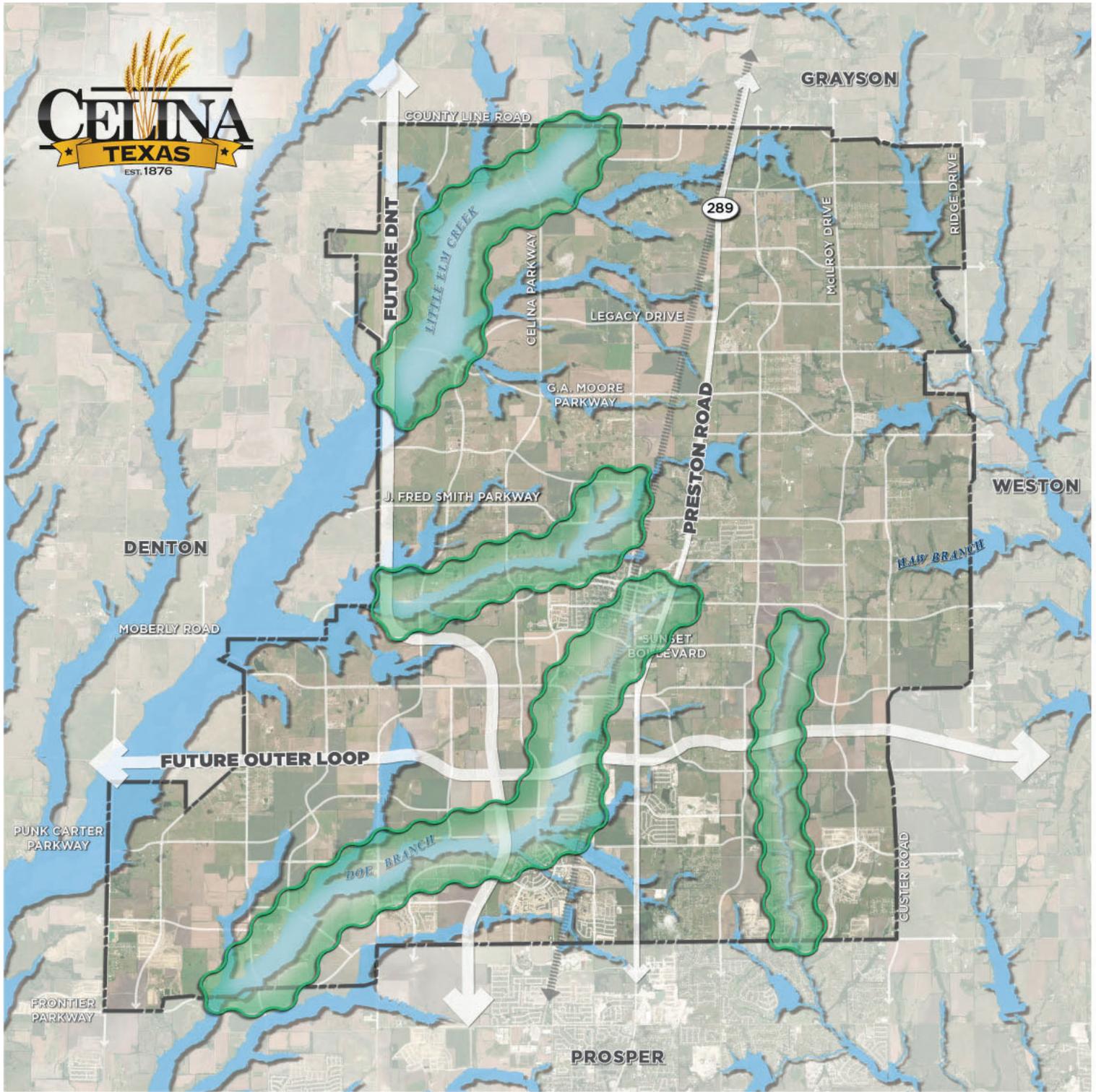
While linear parks typically follow a natural feature, some may also be formed using abandoned railroad rights-of-way or utility easements. Refer to the 2019 Trails Master Plan for more information on linear connection opportunities in these man-made areas.



**Pictured Above:** An amenitized drainage way (Source: Norris Design)



**Pictured Above:** Doe Branch and surrounding vegetation in Celina (Source: Norris Design).



**Existing Conditions**



**Freeways**



**Future Thoroughfares**  
Arterials with On-Street Bike Lanes



**Creeks & Floodplain Areas**  
100 Year Floodplain Zones



**Figure 4.6: Linear Parks Plan** (Source: Norris Design)

# LEVEL OF SERVICE

## PROPOSED PARKS SUMMARY

2 REGIONAL PARKS ..... 500 acres  
@ +/- 250 acres each

3 COMMUNITY PARKS ..... 225 acres  
@ +/- 75 acres each

27 SCHOOL PARKS ..... 675 acres  
@ +/- 25 acres each

Buildout Population Estimate: 378,995

Proposed Acres of Parkland: 1,400

+

Existing Acres of Developed Parkland: 66.5

Total Public Parkland Acreage: 1,466.5

**Future Total Parks Level of Service: 3.9**

(Acres per 1000 people)



# INTEGRATING PARKS AND NEIGHBORHOODS

A characteristic that sets Celina apart from other municipalities is its commitment to high quality neighborhood development. In *Celina Neighborhood Vision Book*, standards for neighborhood design are set forth, providing guidelines for items such as general neighborhood layout, open space percentage, park typologies, entry landscape area, screening, setbacks and architectural features.

The park typologies listed on the following pages are privately-owned and maintained by homeowner’s associations.

## BASIC GUIDELINES

Celina strives for “Great Neighborhoods,” which is summarized by the eight points below in the guidelines:

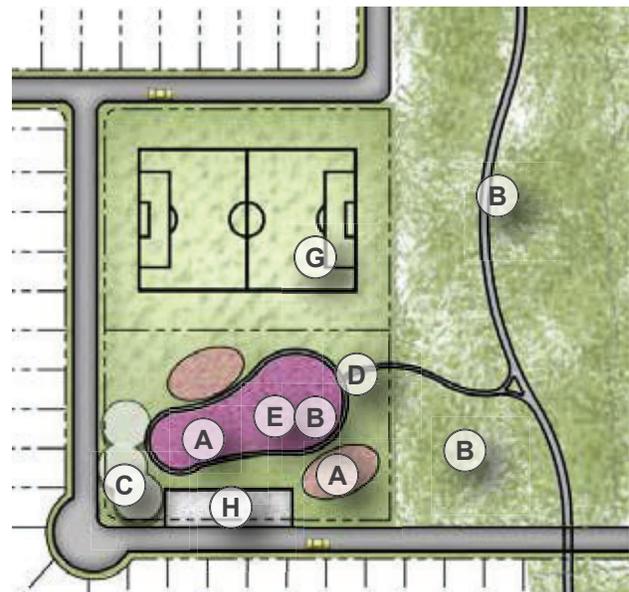
- Compact, safe and walkable
- Elements of surprise, variety and variability
- Network of connected streets
- Recognizable identity and boundaries
- Human scale
- Encourage chance meetings and personal privacy
- Connection to nature
- Density development

These points directly relate to the Parks Master Plan and Trails Master Plan. At the smallest scale, neighborhood parks, pocket parks, block parks and parklets will provide residents with immediate access to open space and park features. Suggested placement, size and programming of these types of amenities is described in the guidelines extensively.

## CONNECTION TO THE GREATER PARK NETWORK

Neighborhood parks sited adjacent to city parks are ideal for promoting access to natural features, trails and larger park amenities. Moreover, creeks are frequently located within and adjacent to neighborhoods - providing valuable habitat and a critical drainage function. Taking advantage of potential connections to city parks through neighborhood parks, utilizing creek corridors as “pedestrian thoroughfares”, and preserving open space along creeks addresses feedback received from many citizens while simultaneously creating a healthy place to live and recreate.

Legend:	
(A)	Seating Area
(B)	Pathway
(C)	Canopy Trees
(D)	Lawn
(E)	Play
(F)	Parking
(G)	City Park
(H)	Primary Street



**Example B (Adjacent to city park)**

**Figure 4.7: Connection to City Parks.** The preferred relationship between city parks and neighborhood parks is illustrated in this graphic. Neighborhood park amenities serve the houses immediately surrounding the park and access to the larger park beyond is provided. (Source: City of Celina, *Celina Neighborhood Vision Book*)

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS

To increase park usage and provide residents with greater opportunities for community-building, the city should partner with neighborhoods such as Light Farms and Green Meadows. Park resources may be shared to ultimately benefit residents by providing opportunities for gathering and special events.

# NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN SPACE

Celina outlines four primary types of open space within neighborhoods in the “Connected Spaces” concept. These open space types will be distributed throughout neighborhoods and increase residents’ access to parks. Linear parks are the fifth typology in this list, which are defined previously in greater detail earlier in the chapter.

A brief summary of each is provided below.

## BLOCK PARKS

These parks are small green spaces set aside on long blocks with seating areas, trees and landscaping. They are the smallest of the open space types, with a size no greater than 0.1 acres.

## POCKET PARKS

Pocket parks are slightly larger than block parks and offer additional amenities and focal points such as a fire pit or planting node. Sizes range from 0.1 acres to 0.25 acres.

## PARKLET PARKS

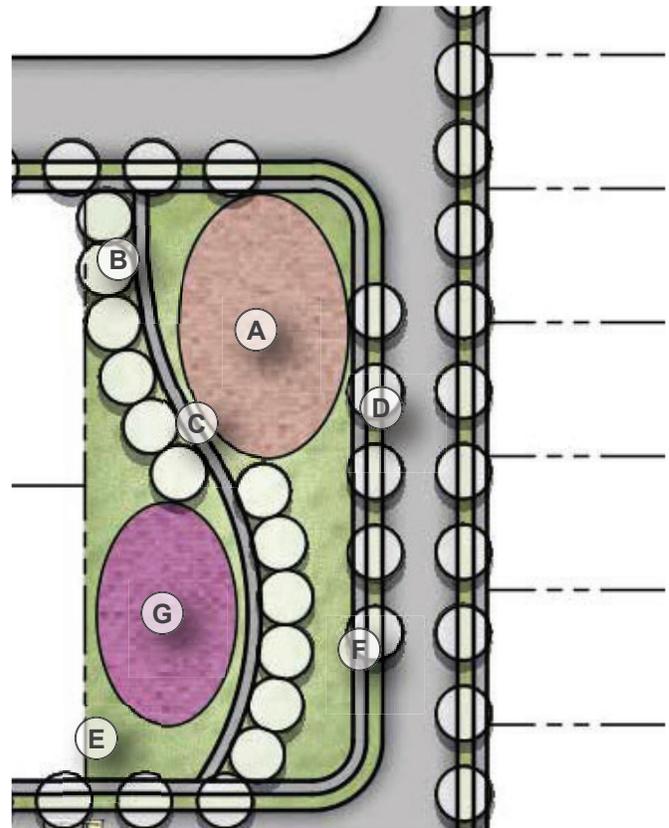
Next, parklet parks may be up to one acre in size and serve as many as 50 houses. In addition to seating and planting, small play areas for children are required for these parks. Parklets range from 0.25 acres to 1.0 acre.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are centrally-located and function as a “conduit” to the trail network, city parks, schools and natural corridors. They should be placed strategically within neighborhoods to allow pedestrians ease of access to the features previously listed.

Sport courts, playgrounds, walking paths, seating and landscaping are all typical programming for neighborhood parks. Small areas of parking are also required.

Legend:	
(A)	Seating Area
(B)	Canopy Trees
(C)	Pathway
(D)	Parkway Trees
(E)	Lawn
(F)	Neighborhood Sidewalk
(G)	Play



*Example A enlargement*

**Figure 4.8: Pocket Park.** An example configuration of a neighborhood pocket park with required amenities. (Source: City of Celina, Celina Neighborhood Vision Book)



**Pictured Above:** Potential amenities in a parklet or neighborhood park. (Source: Norris Design)

# NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

## TRADITIONS PARK/BOBCAT TRAIL MASTER PLAN

The concept of integrating parks and neighborhoods is just as critical in urban areas of the city, such as in the downtown core. The Traditions Park/Bobcat Trail Master Plan encompasses a predominantly low-income neighborhood, providing an array of park amenities, re-purposes the former football stadium with an amphitheater, introduces trails and adds tremendous value to the area. Public investments such as these have been shown to attract new development and bring in additional revenue to cities while providing high-quality recreation to residents.



**Figure 4.9: Traditions Park/Bobcat Trail Master Plan.** (Source: Norris Design)

### Legend

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Entry Gateway                               | 8. Pedestrian Bridges            |
| 2. Fitness Grove                               | 9. Dog Park with Artificial Turf |
| 3. Amphitheater with Athletics History Walk    | 10. Covered Basketball Court     |
| 4. Food Truck Court                            | 11. Community Garden             |
| 5. Restaurant Patios                           | 12. Pollinator Gardens           |
| 6. Playground / Splash Pad with Shade Canopies | 13. Tennis Courts                |
| 7. Re-purposed Parks and Rec Facilities        | 14. 12' Wide Concrete Trail      |



**Pictured Above:** Potential high-quality site design features for an urban setting. (Source: Norris Design)

# EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS



## OLD CELINA PARK

12670 FM 428

**64 Acre Community Park** (45 acres existing + 19 acres expansion)

Celina's crown jewel of parks hosts most of the city's youth and adult sports activities. Located just west of downtown, Old Celina Park offers a baseball four-plex with an elevated plaza and terraced bleachers, several multipurpose sports fields, a catch and release fishing pond, a volleyball court, a pavilion with electricity and lighting, restrooms, concession stands and a shaded playground. A nod to the city's unique rail heritage, the park's centerpiece concession stand is inspired by Celina's former rail depot. Residents can explore the meandering walking paths or take in the view from the fishing pier. An additional 19 acres have been acquired to accommodate the needs of the city's growing population. The fields at Old Celina Park are heavily utilized and Celina's Parks and Recreation Department needs more flexible space to provide multipurpose fields and parking areas that are adaptable to the city's wide variety of community events.

### Amenities

- High-quality baseball fields
- Multi-purpose sports fields
- Catch and release pond
- Covered, lit pavilion with electricity
- Restrooms
- Concession stands
- Playground with sun shades and park benches



**Pictured Above:** Views of the baseball fields and playground at Old Celina Park. (Source: Norris Design)



**Pictured Above:** Pavilion, picnic tables and pond of edge at Old Celina Park. (Source: Norris Design)

## Vision Statement

Old Celina Park stands to be the epicenter of athletic activity in the city. With a substantial expansion on the way, this park will thrive as a recreational destination for local sports teams, families, and children.

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## Short-term Goals

- Update site furnishings:
  - Higher quality trash receptacles that fit the adjacent streetscape theme
  - Add recycling receptacles
- Create additional wayfinding signage, including more permanent identifying markers for the multipurpose fields. Given Old Celina Park's large size and variety of recreational activities, an improved wayfinding signage system will help users navigate the park and its offerings
- Increased shade sources near the multipurpose fields, including permanent shade structures and additional shade trees

## Long-term Goals

- Increase the number of permanent facilities to support the city's rapidly growing youth sports programs
- Old Celina Park's heritage-focused theme should be maintained and enhanced as park improvements are added
- Opportunities for the display of public art should be considered
- Various drainage improvements, especially along FM 428
- Provide significant native planting enhancements within the park

# EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS



## FOUNDER'S STATION PARK

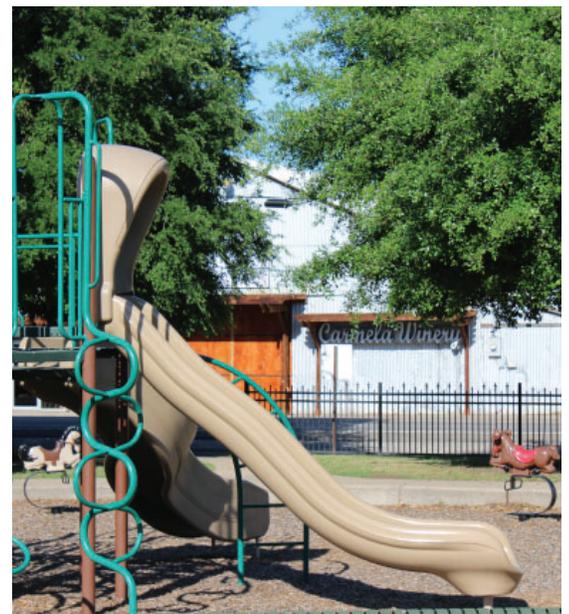
132 N. LOUISIANA DRIVE

### 1.25 Acre Neighborhood Park

Located in the heart of Downtown Celina, Founders Station Park provides a variety of recreational activities within a block of Town Square. The park is bordered by Walnut Street to the south, Louisiana Drive to the west, Pecan Street to north and the BNSF railway to the east. Last improved and renamed in 2006, Founder's Station Park provides both formal and informal recreation opportunities with tennis and basketball courts, horseshoe pits, picnic tables, a playground, and a community gazebo that pays homage to Celina's rail-centric history. A cherished open space in the center of Celina, Founder's Park serves as a key focal point and entry to the city core.

### Amenities

- Lighted tennis courts
- Gazebo
- Playground
- Horseshoe Pit
- Park Benches
- Picnic Tables
- Basketball Courts
- Open play area
- 17 parking spaces adjacent to Louisiana Drive and Walnut Street



**Pictured Above:** Tennis courts and playground at Founder's Station Park. (Source: Norris Design)



**Pictured Above:** Pavilion and picnic tables in the northwest corner of Founder's Station Park. (Source: Norris Design)

## Vision Statement

Founder's Station Park will function as a primary attraction for both visitors and residents of Downtown while also serving as support space during community events and festivals. The park will complement and enhance future development in the areas, particularly around the neighboring grain silos. Park design and adjacent streetscape will celebrate Celina's historic character and contribute to its small-town charm.

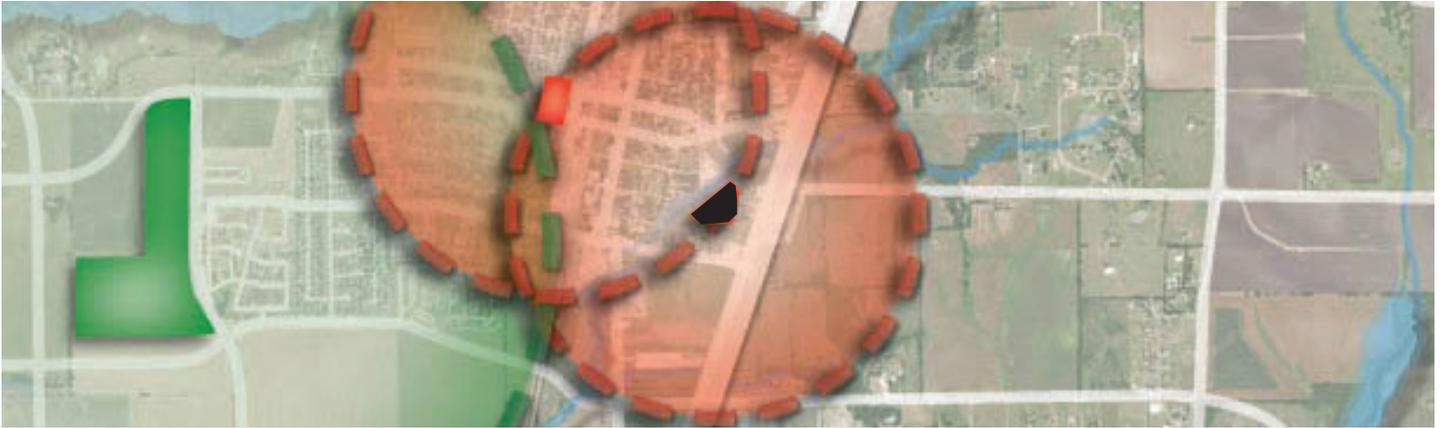
## Short-term Goals

- Update site furnishings:
  - Higher quality trash receptacles that fit the adjacent streetscape theme
  - Introduce educational recycling receptacles
  - Add bike racks at park entry
- Increase shade along south side of park with planting
- Extend shrub buffer between park and BNSF railroad
- Convert head-in parking to parallel and improve ADA access
- At a minimum, one picnic table should be accessible. This picnic table should be located in a shaded area of the park.
- Horseshoe pits should be updated with higher quality, more durable materials

## Long-term Goals

- Create a new, enhanced playground that serves as gateway into the Downtown Core
- Develop a railroad theme or design style that enhances park identity, including:
  - Train Raceway Trail
  - Celina Heritage Monument
  - Lookout tower
  - Shade & Greenspace
- Improve transition between vehicle and pedestrian facilities along Louisiana Drive, including:
  - Widen sidewalk to 6' along Louisiana Drive to allow a more comfortable walking space for users
  - Provide enhanced streetscape along Louisiana Drive
  - Improve connectivity from Celina Town Square and connect to future downtown trail

# EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS



## PRESTON STREAMS PARK

E. ELM STREET / S. TENNESSEE DRIVE

### 1.25 Acre Neighborhood Park

Preston Streams Park is centrally located near the Celina High School Bobcat Football Stadium. The park is bounded to the north by Doe Branch Creek, which provides users a unique opportunity to explore untouched natural features while in the heart of town. The baseball backstop was recently removed to make way for future park improvements.

### Amenities

- Small basketball court
- Open play areas
- Informational Plaque and planting beds honoring the site's history
- Park Benches



**Pictured Above:** Outdated basketball court, drainage and streetscape condition at Preston Streams Park. (Source: Norris Design)



**Pictured Above:** Historical plaque, bench and landscape plantings. (Source: Norris Design)

## Vision Statement

Preston Streams Park is envisioned to serve as a crucial component along the proposed Bobcat Trail. New active recreation amenities will attract residents to the park and make it an exciting stop along the larger trail system. Preston Streams Park will always honor the site's past while serving its residents into the future.

.....

## Short-term Goals

- Update site furnishings:
  - Themed waste receptacles
  - Introduce educational recycling receptacles
  - Add bike racks at park entry
- Create a master plan that ties the park into the adjacent proposed Bobcat Trail and associated development

## Long-term Goals

- Existing undersized basketball court should be removed and replaced with two regulation-size, covered basketball courts
- The future Bobcat Trail should be incorporated into the park's primary circulation route, providing multi-modal access to Bobcat Stadium and surrounding proposed amenities
- Restrooms should be added
- Streetscape improvements along Elm Street will allow space for parallel parking and will announce to users that they are entering a special place within the city
- Improve current drainage strategy to remove drainage ditches along the public roads

# SPECIAL PROGRAMMING CONSIDERATIONS

As the DFW Metroplex continues to urbanize, special considerations should be taken to preserve the scenic landscape throughout Celina. Celina, in the midst of a development boom, is uniquely positioned to act as a responsible steward by requiring future development to preserve substantial amounts of natural open space. By growing responsibly and with respect to its rural roots, Celina can preserve its natural resources while championing outdoor living.

## POLLINATOR HABITATS

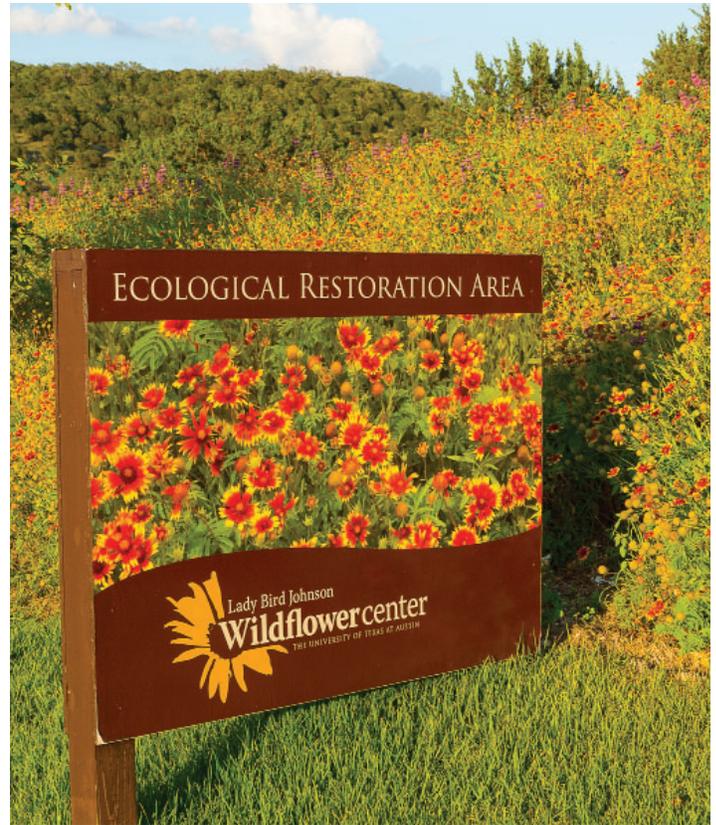
Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other small mammals that pollinate plants are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food. Pollinating animals travel from plant to plant carrying pollen on their bodies in a vital interaction that allows the transfer of genetic material critical to the reproductive system of most flowering plants; the very plants that bring us nearly 1,200 crops, half of the world's oils, fibers and raw materials, and increase carbon sequestration. Pollinators add 217 billion dollars to the global economy, and honey bees alone are responsible for nearly 5 billion dollars in agricultural productivity in the United States. In addition to the food that we eat, pollinators support healthy ecosystems that clean the air, stabilize soils, protect from severe weather and support other wildlife. This nearly invisible ecosystem service is a precious resource that requires attention and support.

As managers of public parks and open space, local authorities have significant opportunities to help safeguard native pollinator populations. Celina should develop and implement a local pollinator strategy plan to review current park management practices and identify opportunities to improve pollinator habitats in city parkland. Prioritizing the needs of pollinators will not only improve their habitats, but will also create more aesthetically pleasing public spaces. Additionally, pollinator-friendly planting is lower maintenance, which may pose cost saving opportunities to Celina.

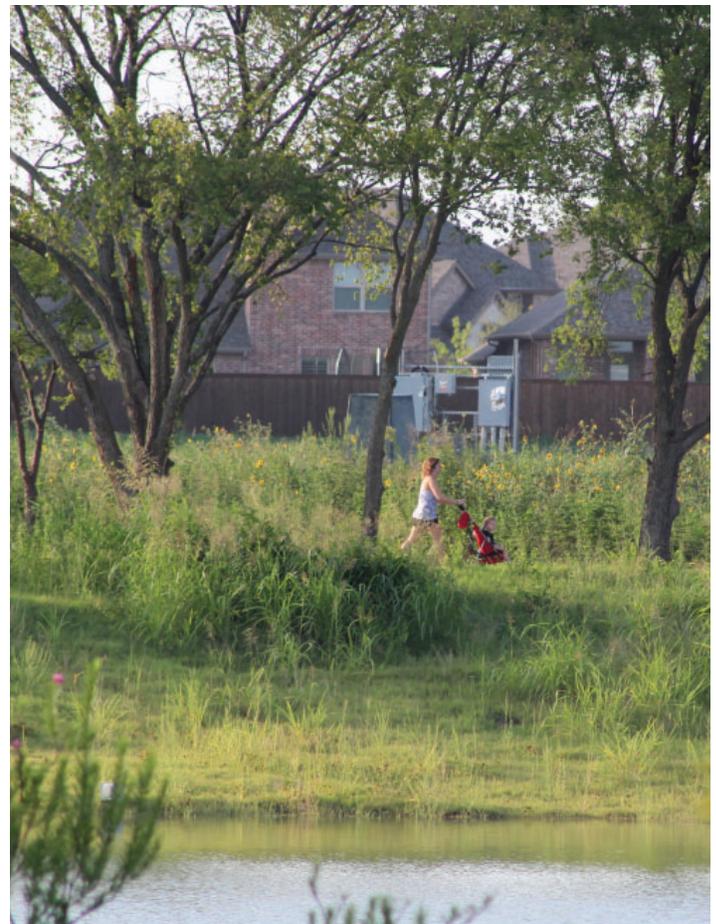
## AGRICULTURE PARK

This plan recommends an special purpose “agriculture park” for Celina, siezing upon the historical significance of agriculture in the area. The park should be family-friendly and include programming for seasonal activities such as pumpkin patches, tulip festivals, hay rides and Christmas tree lighting.

Throughout the year, a working farm component to the park will provide learning opportunities for families, school classes and promote community-gatherings and the Celina brand.



Pictured Above: Wildflower restoration at Sweetwater (Source: Norris Design).



Pictured Above: Celina resident enjoying natural amenities (Source: Norris Design).



**Pictured Above:** Amenitized detention pond at Lilyana neighborhood development (Source: Norris Design).

## OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER

An outdoor learning center can provide Celina ISD students the unique opportunity to experience science-based instruction outside the classroom. Preserved open spaces often protect wildlife habitats, giving students the ability to explore healthy ecosystems firsthand. Guided educational stations located throughout preserved habitats facilitate a stimulating and impactful learning environment outside of the traditional classroom setting. Educational signage can supplement hands-on instruction and encourage independent exploration. When not being used by Celina ISD, an outdoor learning center can serve the greater community by hosting classes and programs for pupils of all ages.

## DOG PARK

Municipal dog parks act as a gathering space for pets and pet parents alike. Off-leash parks allow pets to get much needed exercise and socialization in a controlled environment. Dogs who get ample physical and mental exercise are less likely to exhibit troublesome behavior, which can benefit the entire community. While pets play, their owners are able to socialize and relax among neighbors. The City of Celina should identify an easily accessible site that can withstand the regular wear-and-tear of a public dog park and will not affect environmentally sensitive areas.

## SKATEPARK

Local skateparks provide the city's youth with a place to learn and grow outside of a traditional sports setting. Young residents can benefit immensely from the active lifestyle and camaraderie skate facilities foster. Skateparks function as a social gathering space where athletes of all ages and abilities can meet and share experiences.

Whether on skates, bikes or boards, young people need to feel recognized and appreciated by their communities. Municipal skateparks provide youth with an outward sign of their community's support and provide users with a high-quality place to practice sports that encourage exercise and self-esteem. Additionally, the return on investment for concrete skateparks is substantial as they require very little maintenance once constructed. The City of Celina should identify a heavily trafficked and highly visible location for a municipal skatepark. The site should be far enough away from residential homes to not cause noise disturbances but close enough to maintain frequent casual supervision.



**Pictured Above:** Community youth exploring a natural science classroom (Source: The Gardens at Heather Farm).



**Pictured Above:** Pets and owners at the Laurie Crawford Dog Park (Source: Manatee County, FL).



**Pictured Above:** Locals practicing at the Cedar Park Skate Park, Cedar Park, TX (Source: The City of Cedar Park, Texas).



**Pictured Above:** Overlook at Arbor Hills Nature Preserve in Plano, TX. Outdoor learning centers should respect the existing topography, vegetation and wildlife found on the site. (Source: Photographer QuesterMark, flickr.com).

# GATEWAYS

Gateways are monuments that signify entry into Celina and the unique neighborhoods within. These entry monuments are located at specific nodes and key intersections throughout the city to provide users with a sense of arrival. Gateway features may take on many forms, including sculptural pieces, cultural landmarks, mounted signage and enhanced streetscapes. Regardless of physical form, gateways strive to celebrate Celina’s historic character.

Free-standing gateway features may be paired with enhanced paving and streetscape elements to create a strong sense of place and aid in “branding” the community. Gathering spaces or plazas may also accompany these gateway elements. Gateway locations shall comply with all City sight triangle requirements and shall not impede the view of pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles at road crossings or other intersections.

Gateway monuments take on a variety of scales depending on the context. The repetition of common elements, forms, materials, textures and colors should promote Celina’s image and brand regardless of a particular monument’s size. Gateways establish distinctive identities for the areas where they are located by utilizing the same family of elements in different manners throughout the city.

The master plan defines two groups of gateways:

- City Gateways
- District Thresholds

## CITY GATEWAYS

City Gateways are the largest of all gateway entry monuments and convey to the user that they have entered Celina. These elements are grand in scale, as they provide the first impression of the city. Major thoroughfares entering city limits are flanked by city gateways. Similarly scaled city gateways greet users as they enter Celina from the Dallas North Tollway and the Collin County Outer Loop.

## DISTRICT THRESHOLDS

District thresholds announce the arrival into one of Celina’s many unique neighborhoods. Smaller in scale than City Gateways, these district monuments highlight the distinct character of each district while maintaining Celina’s historic charm (while celebrating Celina’s rich history). District thresholds should be located at key internal intersections and neighborhood entries to indicate the user is entering a new and unique area of Celina.

Gateways in Downtown Celina shall be designed as large over-hangings stretching across the roadway with easily visible signage indicating the district’s name. Refer to the Celina Downtown Master Plan for more details on Downtown gateways.

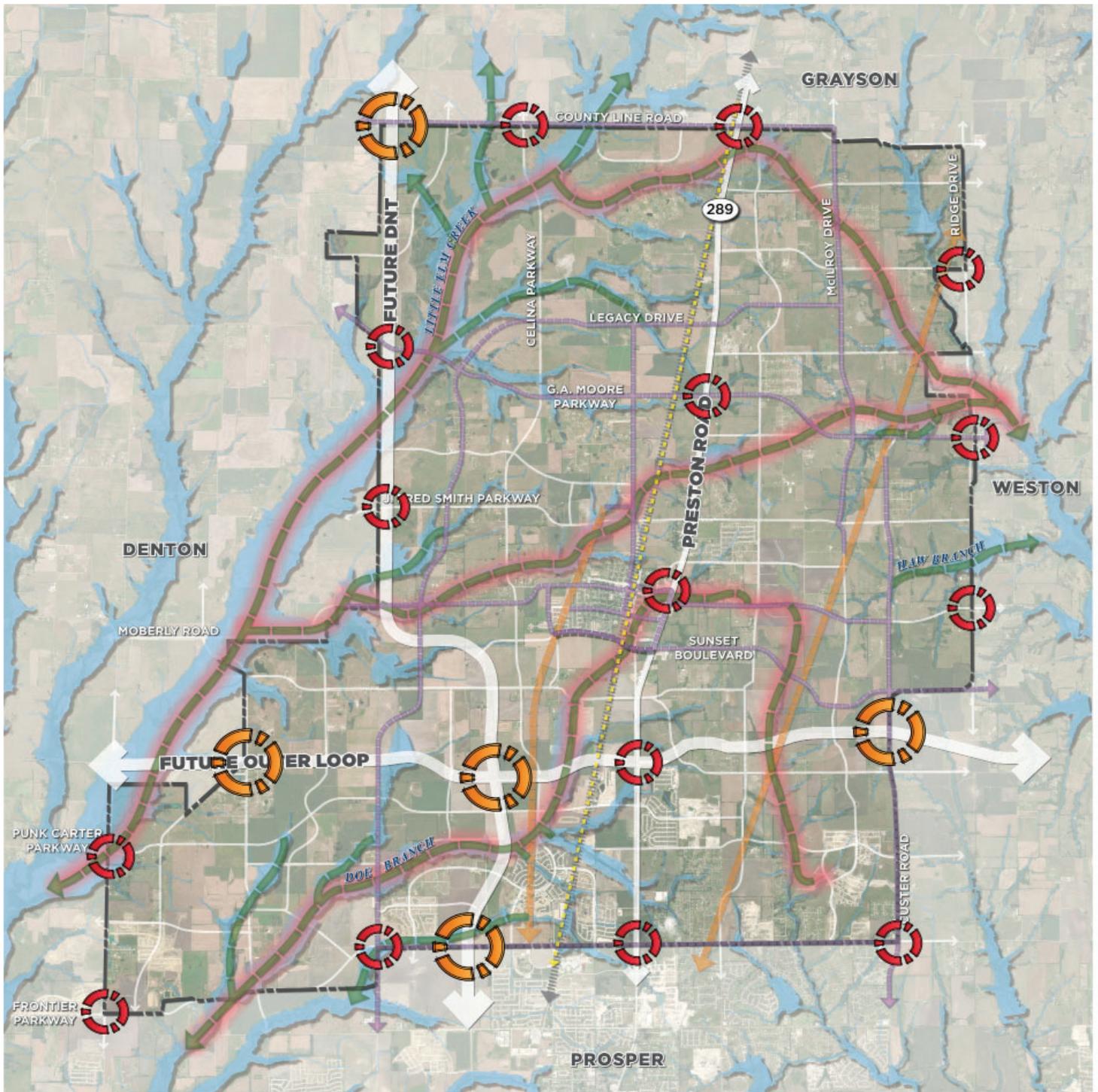
Potential prototype example monumentation is shown below.



**Pictured Above:** Gateway monuments in Scottsdale, AZ (Source: Norris Design)



**Pictured Above:** Gateway arch entering the Carmel Arts & Design District, Carmel, IN (Source: The Carmel Arts & Design District)



**Proposed Gateways**

- City Gateway**  
free-standing monuments that signify entry into Celina
- District Thresholds**  
free-standing or wall mounted monuments announcing arrival into unique sections of Celina

**Trail Systems**

- Greenbelt Spine Trail**  
Recreational Trail Access
- Easement Spine Trail**  
North/South Trail Access
- Thoroughfare Spine Trail**  
Trail Access Along Future Thoroughfares
- Collin County Regional Trails Master Plan Spine**
- Railroad Spine Trail**  
Along Existing BNSF Railroad

**Existing Conditions**

- Freeways**
- Future Thoroughfares**  
Arterials with On-Street Bike Lanes
- Creeks & Floodplain Areas**  
100 Year Floodplain Zones



Figure 4.10: Celina City Gateway Plan. (Source: Norris Design)



A photograph of a chain-link fence. In the center, a sign is attached to a vertical post. The sign is an oval shape with a white background, featuring a large black number '1' in the center. The number is flanked by two vertical lines of orange stitching, resembling the stitching on a baseball. The background behind the fence is slightly blurred, showing green trees and a clear sky.

CHAPTER 5  
**PARK DESIGN  
STANDARDS**

# INTRODUCTION

## PURPOSE

For a growing city such as Celina, establishing park design standards is an important part of creating a wholistic Parks Master Plan. The previous chapter described a network of parks with a variety of typologies, ranging from small, “town square” spaces to regional parks in excess of 500 acres. The goal of this chapter is to provide a general guide and vision that can be applied to nearly any new park in Celina as it relates to the physical design characteristics. The recommendations that follow are intended to be minimal design standards. As each park is planned, special site features, adjacent context and other factors should influence the final design of the project.

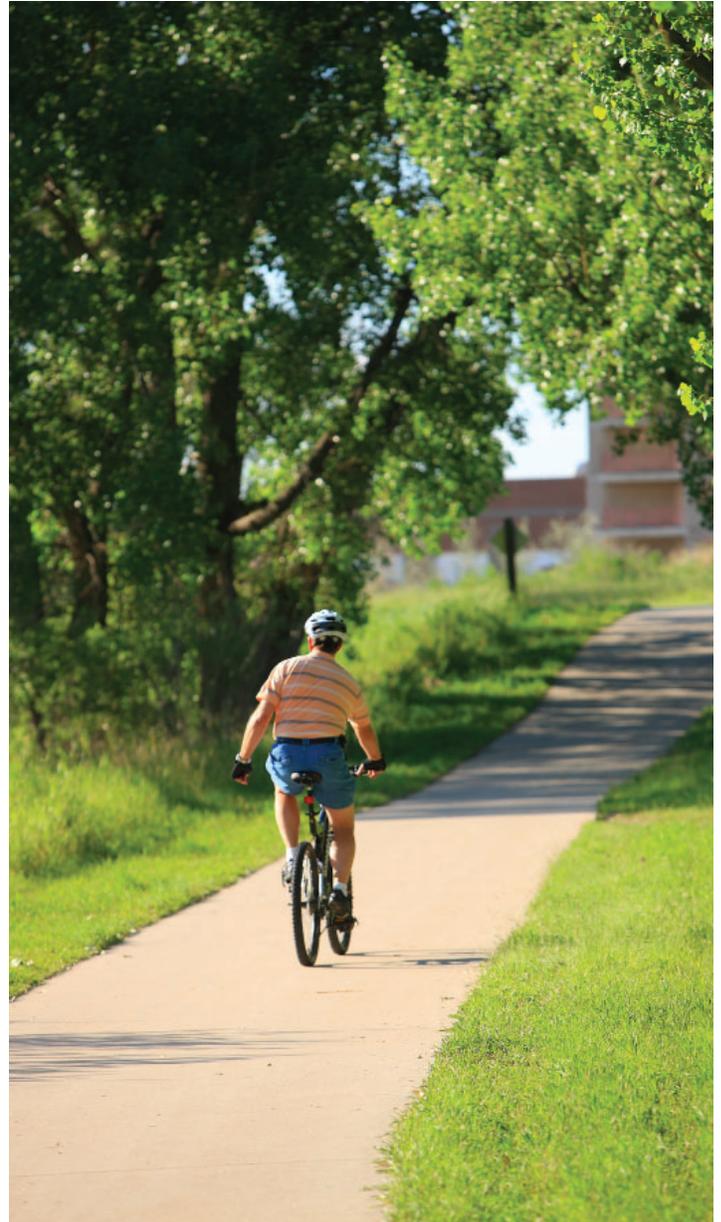
This list covers many of the potential elements of park design and programming, however, development of additional standards may be needed in certain circumstances.

## OBJECTIVES

A common thread in citizen input, discussions with city staff and a professional assessment of the city is that any plan and/or design should strive to be respectful of the “Celina Character”. Examples of that character include:

- Picturesque rural landscapes
- Family-focused community
- Desire for high-quality amenities
- Inclusive and welcoming atmosphere
- Upholding traditions
- Pride in Celina athletics

How items such as these translate into specific projects is dependent upon further community input relative to any given effort by the city, but nonetheless are the “north star” in Celina parks and recreation.





# PARK DESIGN STANDARDS

## GENERAL STANDARDS

### LAND ACQUISITION

Where future parks are located depends on many different factors including available land, property values, distance to other parks, quality of the land and characteristics of the land. There is no single site suitable for all parks and special attention must be given to selecting a new park site. Land acquisition should be informed by the Parks Master Plan mapping from the previous chapter and generally strive to find park land within the service areas shown in order to achieve and even distribution of parks across the city.

### PROGRAMMING

Park programming should be based on the specific needs of the community at the time of planning, such as a deficit in number of ball fields, playgrounds or other amenities. A key planning consideration is that designs should strike a balance between providing unprogrammed open space, preservation of natural amenities and developed (programmed) park areas.

## SITE STANDARDS

### ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

All parks should be easily accessible by pedestrians and, to an extent, vehicles. Larger parks with high-attendance events should have direct access to major or minor thoroughfares. Pedestrians should have a network of walks that connect programmed spaces that also link to the larger trail network.

### PARKING LOTS

Parking lots should be located to minimize disturbance to existing vegetation and trees. Landscaping around parking lots should be designed to minimize visual impact from park amenities and the adjacent public street, integrating landscape plantings into the parking lot areas. Adequate lighting for safety and security should be provided in all parking areas and pedestrian routes.

### VEGETATION AND NATURAL FEATURES

A high priority expressed in public feedback is to preserve vegetation and natural features in parks. Disturbance adjacent to creeks should be minimized and parks should be utilized as opportunities to diffuse and reduce stormwater runoff from off-site development. All parks should be designed to respect or enhance our valuable natural resources and educate users of their function, where appropriate.



**Pictured Above and Opposite:** Recently acquired parkland, Doe Branch in southwestern Celina and park facilities set among a housing development. (Source: Norris Design) (Source: Norris Design)



# COMMON SITE STRUCTURES

## PAVILIONS AND SHADE STRUCTURES

Some of the most important architectural features in parks are pavilions and shade structures. Often, these features are the single most visually striking and recognizable elements in a park. They are also extremely important for encouraging gathering, events and chance encounters. Celina should strive to implement customized shade structures and pavilions in its parks, constructed of high-quality materials such as metal, stone and concrete. They should be located at strategic points such as:

- At overlook points
- Among significant vegetation areas
- Highlighting important viewsheds
- At planned gathering spaces

## PLAYGROUNDS

In order to create distinguishing identities, a theme for each park should be selected and designed around. Themed playground equipment can capture children's imagination and encourage them and their families to return for years to come. Playground themes can even inspire cognitive development in ways other playgrounds cannot. For example, a police or fire department theme creates a space where children can imagine helping others and collaborate with a team to get the job done.

Celina should strive to provide playground elements that allow universal accessibility for children of all physical capabilities, skill levels and ages. Children are constantly learning through play, and interaction with users of all backgrounds and abilities allows them to form a more open view of the world.

## BUILDINGS

Restroom and concession buildings should be of high-quality design and construction. Durable materials such as stone, metal and concrete should be used in the construction of park buildings whenever possible. Standing seam metal roofs are preferred for their resilience and timeless aesthetic.



**Pictured Above and Opposite:** A unique pavilion in a private park in Celina, playgrounds with a variety of amenities and the restroom and concession building in Old Celina Park. (Source: Norris Design)



# SITE ELEMENTS

## WALKWAYS

Walkways throughout Celina’s park system should be accessible to all and maintain an adequate width. A minimum 6’ wide path is standard for most walkways to support park programming. Meandering walks are encouraged where design intent allows and should be comprised of long, sweeping arcs.

## SIGNAGE

An effective park signage system will provide users with wayfinding information, encourage learning experiences, communicate park rules and help maintain a consistent park vision and theme. Park signage design should be standardized across all parks in the city to provide users with a sense of familiarity. Designs should celebrate Celina’s roots in agriculture and rail while using modern materials, building a contemporary identity on a foundation of rich history.

Signage can help foster a sense of identity and local pride by incorporating design elements that honor Celina’s historical roots. Beyond wayfinding, signage should be inspired by and connected to a community’s brand, reinforcing its unique personality. Unique aspects of each park that contribute to its sense of place, nurture Celina’s small-town charm or stimulate learning about a unique feature could be identified and commemorated with signage.

## SPECIAL PAVING

Enhanced paving should be applied at key park system nodes to indicate entry into a significant area through stone, brick or concrete pavers. Paving treatments like integral color concrete, sandblast or decorative scoring may be used for more economical options.

## SITE FURNISHINGS

While each park in Celina should have its own unique character, site furnishings should comply with a standardized style and palette throughout the entire park system. When appropriate, a park may apply its unique color scheme to otherwise standard furnishings. The City of Celina should adopt uniform standards for benches, picnic tables, trash and recycling receptacles, bicycle racks, playground edging, pedestrian lighting, parking lot lighting, drinking fountains and pet stations. All furnishings should be of a high quality with durable, powder-coated finish. Buying multiple units of a single item often results in cost savings.



**Pictured Above and Opposite:** Meandering walkways in a park setting, potential signage design, a soft surface trail and disc golf. (Source: Norris Design)



# PLANT MATERIALS

## NATIVE AND ADAPTIVE PLANTS

Plant palettes must consider plant communities which naturally occur in the region. Hardiness zones, soil characteristics, and species growth habits should be considered to control competition between plant materials selected. Foreign and exotic plants should only be used conditionally to preserve native landscape character. Existing vegetation that will remain on the park's site, should be carefully considered when selecting new plant materials. New plant materials should not be harmful to existing plants which will remain on site. Installation of new plant materials should avoid disturbing the existing ecosystem as much as possible.

## POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PLANTINGS

Diversity of native plant families should be considered to attract a variety of pollinator species. Exotic plants which can bring disease or be in some way harmful to native wildlife should be avoided. Plant materials should support both vertebrate and invertebrate species native to the parks area through providing a natural habitat where native species can coexist.

## COMMERCIAL AVAILABILITY

Plant materials selected for park sites should be available at local nurseries or wholesale stock. Selection of materials should be easily replaceable when beds require additional infill plantings over time.

## MAINTENANCE

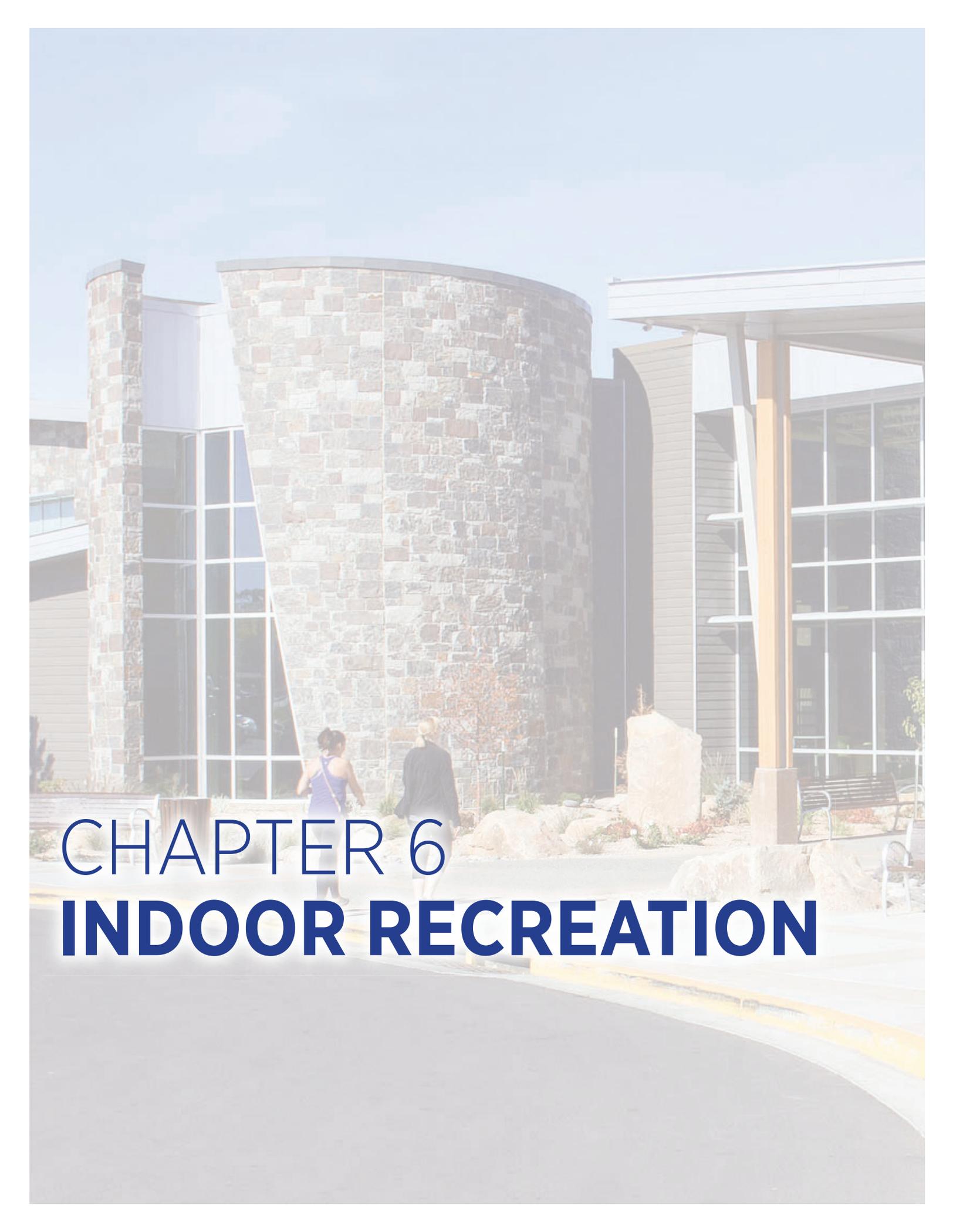
Native plants communities have adapted overtime to local climate conditions. Watering needs, heat, shade and sun exposure must be considered when placing materials. Plants should be chosen so that standard irrigation practices may be installed. Plants that are overly sensitive to disturbances such as freeze, drought, physical or chemical disturbances, and disease should be avoided. Plant materials should be located on the site to allow for a logical and thorough method of irrigation and maintenance.



**Pictured Above:** Example native plant material exemplifying drought tolerance, ease of maintenance and pollinator-friendly plantings. (Source: Norris Design)





A photograph of a modern building with a prominent stone pillar and large windows. Two people are walking in the foreground. The text 'CHAPTER 6 INDOOR RECREATION' is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

CHAPTER 6  
**INDOOR RECREATION**

# INDOOR RECREATION

## ANALYTICS

### THE 2020 CELINA PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY IDENTIFIES AN INDOOR RECREATION CENTER AS THE TOP SYSTEM-WIDE PRIORITY OVER A FIVE TO 10 YEAR PERIOD.

A recreation center can be one of the highest capital project costs a city can undertake for its Parks and Recreation System. The focus of this indoor recreation plan is to help the City of Celina make informed decisions by identifying the best fit for community needs and establishing an indoor recreation level of service. Short term, 5 to 10 years, and medium term, 10 to 20 years, are the focus of this indoor recreation plan. Updates to the longest term, beyond 20 years, will be addressed as this master plan matures and is updated every 5 to 10 years.

The City of Celina is positioned to experience population growth rates among the fastest growing communities in Texas. Between 2019 and 2024, the Celina population is expected to grow approximately four times more than the current population of 18,000 to 75,000. This calculates to a 33% annual growth rate! Understanding the scale and timing of population growth helps focus future recreation sizing so the facility is not too small or obsolete when it opens, or too big, which could be unaffordable to capitalize or to unsustainable to operate.

## PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

### THE TOP THREE SYSTEM-WIDE PRIORITIES OVER A 5 TO 10 YEAR PERIOD:

1. Indoor recreation center
2. Multi-use community parks
3. Park facilities for small children

### IMPROVEMENTS TO RECREATION PROGRAMS:

1. Better communication of available programs, sign-up dates, schedules, etc
2. Swimming program/aquatics center
3. Programs for younger children
4. Some respondents utilize Prosper ISD's sports programs



**MOORHEAD RECREATION CENTER** AURORA, CO (BRS Architects)

# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

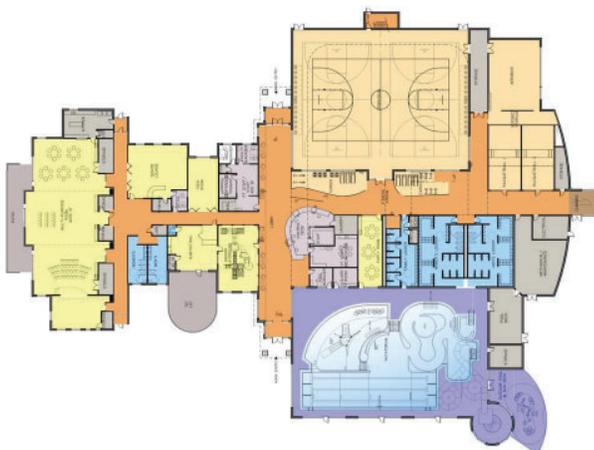
Comparing Celina to other cities that have a similar quality of life outlook is a good practice. While it is difficult to find exact comparable cities, the indoor plan examines the strategies of two communities experiencing similar growth and recreational needs.

## TOWN OF ERIE, COLORADO (SMALL SIZED COMMUNITY)

The Town of Erie located north of the Denver, Colorado Metropolitan Area has experienced a steady growth of nearly 400% over the last 20 years and will continue to grow in the future. The City of Erie has been recognized by Money Magazine as one of the 50 top places in America to live in 2015. Contributing to the quality of life in Erie, the parks and recreation department was awarded the National Gold Medal from the National Recreation and Park Association in 2013 preceded by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies designation in 2012.

In 2000 the Town had a population of 6,200. In 2008 the population had expanded to approximately 15,000 population, and the Town built a 60,000 sq. ft. community recreation to not only serve the existing population but to also serve the growth they knew was coming. Currently serving a population of nearly 26,000, the recreation center has amenities that include aquatics, gymnasium, fitness, walking track, community event and meeting space and dedicated senior space.

As shown in table A and table B on page 55 the center provided somewhere between three- and four-square feet of indoor recreation space per person in the community. As the population has grown, the square footage per person has decreased to 2.29 in 2019 and in 2024 will drop to under two square feet per person. The Town of Erie is actively planning for additional indoor recreation opportunities with a focus on a future recreation center and a fieldhouse to maintain a high level of service to the community.



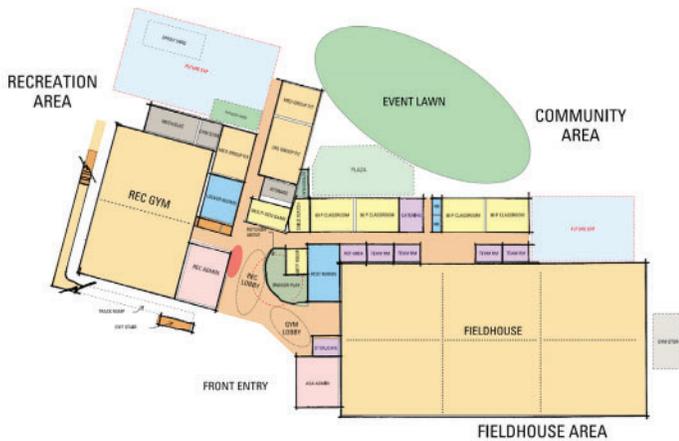
# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

## CITY OF ALLEN, TEXAS (MEDIUM SIZED COMMUNITY)

The City of Allen located in the Northern Dallas-Ft Worth metroplex and has seen tremendous population growth. The City of Allen has been recognized by Money Magazine as one of the 50 top places in America to live in 2017. The Parks and Recreation Department has won the National Gold Medal from the National Recreation and Park Association in 2018 followed by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies designation in 2019.

The City currently has one community recreation center, natatorium, senior center, and the Edge Teen Center totaling 98,000 square feet. In addition, the City of Allen has approved funding and is in the process of designing a new 149,000 square foot recreation center and fieldhouse to open in 2022. This will bring the total square feet for indoor recreation to 247,000 with a future population of 121,321 making the square feet per person 2.03 sq.ft.

These indoor recreation spaces include, but are not limited to, community spaces, indoor playground, child watch, tournament size gymnasium, walking track, adventure track, sizable weight and adult fitness areas, aerobics/dance rooms and outdoor spray ground, teen activities, indoor leisure water, indoor competitive water, Senior lounges, meeting rooms, classrooms, senior lounge.



## POPULATION COMPARISON

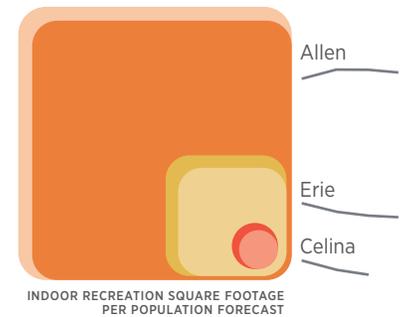
City	2000 Population	2010 Population	2019 Estimated Population	2024 Projected Population	Projectected Annual Growth 2019-2024
Erie, Colorado	6,750	18,199	26,198	31,035	3.45%
Allen, Texas	44,032	84,290	107,151	121,321	2.52%
Celina, Texas*	3,344	6,535	18,000	75,000	33.00%



**TABLE A:** \*2019 Estimated and 2024 Projected Populations and projected population growth are provided by the City of Celina. All other population data provided by ESRI - Business Analysts

## SQUARE FOOTAGE COMPARISON

City	Current Square Footage of Rec	Square Footage per Population 2010	Square Footage per Population 2019	Square Footage per Population 2024
Erie, Colorado	60,000	3.30	2.29	1.93
Allen, Texas*	212,000	1.1	2.32	2.03
Celina, Texas	18,000	0.38	0.14	TBD



**TABLE B:**\*Allen Texas - Includes planned and funded 149,000 square foot recreation center

## OBSERVATIONS

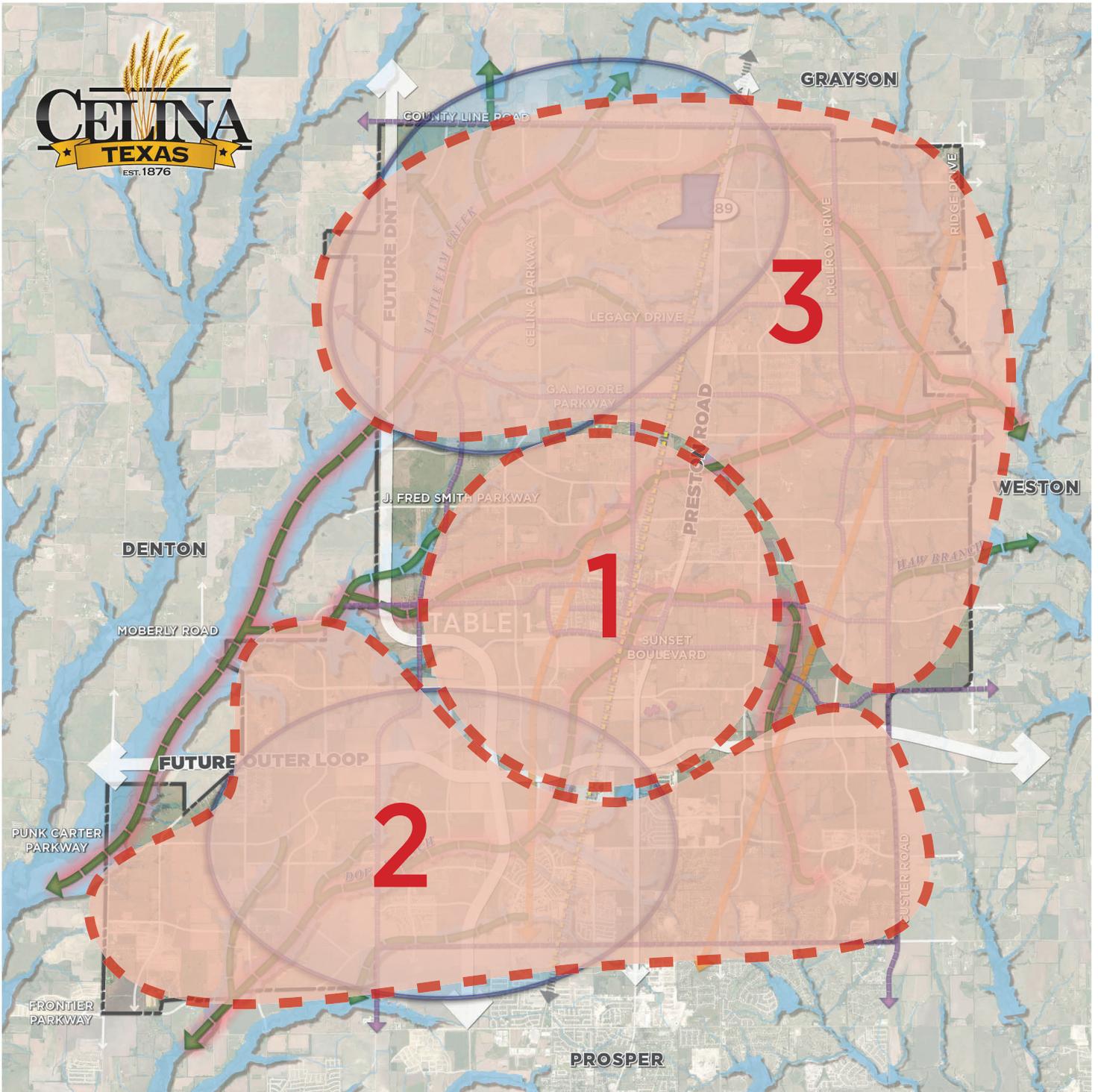
Many times, communities are playing “catch-up” when trying to provide indoor community recreation spaces for their residents. Celina is in a unique position with this master plan effort to get ahead of the need for indoor recreation amenities that will serve its residents. By establishing a desired level of service, the City can appropriately plan for services in the short term, medium term and put long term building blocks in place as the Master Plan is periodically updated. As examples, the Town of Erie and the City of Allen were in the same unique position as Celina and each continues working to maintain its planned level of service as growth continues.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The level of service recommendation for Celina Indoor Recreation is as follows:

<b>Short term (5 to 10 years)</b>	<b>1.5 to 2.0 square feet per person</b>	<b>112,000 to 150,000 sq.ft.</b>
<b>Medium Term (10 to 20 years)</b>	<b>1.25 to 1.5 square feet per person</b>	<b>293,000 to 352,000 sq.ft. in the system</b>

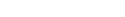
It is likely that in 10 to 20 years Celina’s population will grow the need for indoor recreation space. With the recommended level of service to accommodate 234,000 population, in 2028, the system will likely need two full service multigenerational recreation centers including aquatics and likely experience an emerging need for one indoor field house.



**Proposed Parks**

-  **Proposed Regional Park**  
two-mile service radius
-  **Proposed Indoor Recreation**  
Recreation Center 1 is recommended in the short-term (5 to 10 years)  
Recreation Center 2 is recommended mid term (10 to 20 years)  
Recreation Center 3 is to be determined

**Trail Systems**

-  **Greenbelt Spine Trail**  
Recreational Trail Access
-  **Easement Spine Trail**  
North/South Trail Access
-  **Thoroughfare Spine Trail**  
Trail Access Along Future Thoroughfares
-  **Collin County Regional Trails Master Plan Spine**
-  **Railroad Spine Trail**  
Along Existing BNSF Railroad

**Existing Conditions**

-  **Freeways**
-  **Future Thoroughfares**  
Arterials with On-Street Bike Lanes
-  **Creeks & Floodplain Areas**  
100 Year Floodplain Zones



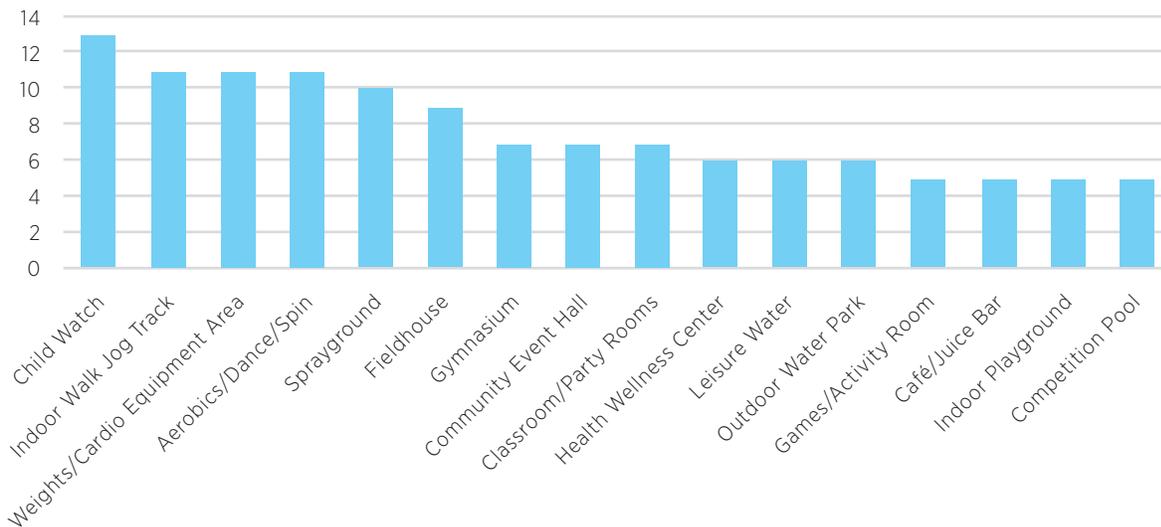
# BEST PRACTICES

THE CITY OF CELINA EXERCISED BEST PRACTICES WHILE CONSIDERING INDOOR RECREATION PROGRAM ELEMENTS FOR THEIR FUTURE.

ACTIVE SPACES	AQUATICS	COMMUNITY
Gymnasium	Leisure Water	Café/Juice Bar
Indoor Walk/Track	Competition Lap Pool	Community Event
Weigh/Cardio Area	Sprayground	Classroom/Party Rooms
Aerobics/ Dance Room	Outdoor Water Park	Indoor Playground
Fieldhouse		Child Watch
Games/Activity Area		Heath/Wellness Center

Many times, recreation centers are accomplished in phases of construction. This helps spread out the capital funding over time and helps the operations proforma be sustainable as the population grows. Based on the Celina demographics and comparable communities in this study, the following recommended priorities could help shape future decisions about what indoor recreation programs could be built first.

## RECOMMENDED PRIORITIES TO FIT THE COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS



Child Watch is identified as the top priority which reflects knowledge that families with children are moving into the City of Celina in great numbers. Fitness opportunities (walk/jog track, weight and cardio, aerobics/dance/spin) are among the top choices in similar communities as it is usually one of the top desires of residents. Overall, the master plan ranked aquatics lower than what would be expected but cost to build and operate can be intimidating. However, an aquatics amenity will probably be needed to serve the community as this fits the needs

of the current and future demographics. Spaces like gyms, meeting rooms and other community spaces are normally part of a full service multi-generational recreation center and should be considered as part of the overall amenities available to the community. There is long term interest in a fieldhouse, and this should be supported by demand for rental opportunities from youth and adult soccer, lacrosse and other field sport sports groups.





# CHAPTER 7

# **IMPLEMENTATION**

# ACTION PLAN

## PURPOSE

This chapter provides the city with guidance on the physical implementation of parks and recreation facilities over the next 25 years. The recommendations that follow are a measured approach to designing and constructing and should simply act as a “road map”. A variety of factors can influence cities’ ability to carry out an implementation plan such as economic health, available funding and development trends. Over time, as more projects are executed, the implementation plan should be revised to address the changing needs of the City.

This action plan was created to address the needs of Celina’s citizens and prioritize recreation programs, park maintenance and facility needs within the Parks & Recreation Department’s core mission and goals. This action plan covers short-term, medium-term and long-term timeframes.

## ACTION PLAN CATEGORIES

### LAND ACQUISITION

The City’s procurement of private land for use as public parkland.

### POLICY ACTIONS

Ordinances, procedures and policies used to guide City decisions.

### STUDIES AND PLANS

Process of evaluating and analyzing existing conditions and providing solutions for future improvement.

### PARK DEVELOPMENT

Recommendations to improve existing parks and develop new ones.

### RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Recommendations to develop new recreational facilities in Celina.

### RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Recommendations to improve existing parks and recreation programming, including youth sports programs.



## SHORT-TERM: 1 TO 5 YEAR ACTION PLAN

The short-term action plan over the next five years includes land acquisition targets, policy actions, city-wide studies, recreational facility improvements and programming enhancements.

Task	Potential Cost	Responsible Department	Complete
Acquire +/- 100 acres of new parkland by 2024	\$5M - \$6M	Parks	
Conduct parkland ordinance review	N/A	Planning/Parks/Engineering	
Assess youth sports programming and management	N/A	Parks	
Conduct feasibility studies for a new recreation/senior center and an aquatic center	TBD	Planning/Parks/Engineering	
Conceptual design for a community park along Doe Branch	\$50K - \$150K	Planning/Parks/Engineering	
Assess recreation program offerings	N/A	Parks	
Conceptual design for Founders Station Park	\$10K - \$15K	Planning/Parks/Engineering	

## MEDIUM-TERM: 6 TO 10 YEAR ACTION PLAN

Years 6-10 of this action plan include an increased rate of parkland acquisition, a master plan for a new community park, gateway and signage master plans and an overall parks master plan update.

Task	Potential Cost	Responsible Department	Complete
Increase land acquisition from 15 to 20 acres per year to 25 to 50 acres per year	N/A	Parks	
Implement Traditions Park/Bobcat Trail linear park	\$1.5M - \$5M	Planning/Parks/Engineering	
Conceptual design for a community park in the northwest quadrant of Celina	\$50K - \$150K	Planning/Parks/Engineering	
Conceptual design and construction plans for park signage standards	\$25K - \$35K	Parks	
City gateway conceptual design	\$15K - \$20K	Planning/Parks/Engineering	
Parks and Trails Master Plan update	\$175K - \$200K	Parks	

## LONG-TERM: 11 TO 25 YEAR ACTION PLAN

This action plan proposes the design and construction of three parks and a city gateway system. Since a master plan update will likely be conducted before this point in the action plan, the actions proposed below should follow in accordance with the recommendations in the most updated parks master plan.

Costs and details for these projects should be evaluated in the future due to unforeseen changes in market forces and community needs.

### Major Tasks

- **Task 1:** Design and construct the proposed community park along Doe Branch in accordance with the park's approved master plan
- **Task 2:** Design and construct Wilson Creek Park in accordance with the park's approved master plan
- **Task 3:** Construct major and minor city gateways in accordance with the gateway master plan and approved gateway designs
- **Task 4:** Design and construct Founders Station Park in accordance with the park's approved master plan



# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities for obtaining funding to assist in acquiring parkland and building recreational facilities through both grants and reimbursement programs. The following section details a number of these potential parks and recreation funding sources.

## CITY-GENERATED FUNDING SOURCES

### GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

- This type of funding is typically used for improvements or repairs made to existing city parks and recreational facilities. General fund expenditures are most commonly used for smaller scale replacements and maintenance.

### BOND FUNDS

- Bond funds are typically used to support the development of new parks and recreational facilities.

### PARK DONATIONS FUNDS

- Donation funds can typically be used for parks and recreation projects, facility improvements and equipment deemed applicable by city staff or decision makers

### PARK FEE ORDINANCE

- Cities have the power to adopt an ordinance requiring new development to pay a parkland fee. This mandatory contribution is at the city's discretion and may be in the form of dedicated parkland, fee-in-lieu or park development fees.

### TREE MITIGATION FUNDS

- Cities may impose fines on developers for removing a specified quality or quantity of trees in areas of new development. The revenue from tree mitigation funds may be used for new planting and maintenance on city parkland.

## STATE FUNDING SOURCES

### OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANTS

- 50% matching grant funds are provided to cities with less than 500,000 residents and may be used for parkland acquisition, park development, or facility improvements. Application deadline is October 1st, recurring annually, and requires a master plan submitted 60 days prior to the application deadline. Recipients are notified six month after grand deadline and may receive a maximum award of \$500,000 during two funding cycles per year.

### INDOOR RECREATION (FACILITY) GRANTS

- 50% matching grant funds are provided to cities with less than 500,000 residents to support the construction of community recreation centers, nature centers and other recreation buildings. The maximum awardable grant per application is \$750,000. Application deadline is October 1st, recurring annually, and requires a master plan submitted 60 days prior to the application deadline. Recipients are notified the January after an application has been submitted.

### COMMUNITY OUTDOOR OUTREACH PROGRAM (CO-OP) GRANTS

- Local governments and non-profit organizations are provided funding for programming that introduces environmental curriculum, conservation programs and outdoor activities that support the TPWD mission to under-served populations. Grants may only be awarded to tax-exempt groups and funding may only be used to support programming. Awards range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Applications are due February 1st of every year.

### LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) GRANTS

- TPWD's Texas Recreation Park Account administers LWCF grants. When an entity submits an application for an Indoor Grant, an Outdoor Grant or a Small Community Grant, TPWD can consider the application for LWCF funding. No additional applications are required to be submitted for LWCF grant consideration.

## OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING SOURCES

### COLLIN COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE PROJECT FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Cities within Collin County may apply for funding from the Parks and Open Space bond. These funds support cities' implementation of parks and open space projects that comply with the 2001 Collin County Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan.

## FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS) PROGRAMS

- The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act (UPARR) are appropriated by Congress and provide funding for parks and recreation to qualifying entities. Funding sources typically support traditional parks over linear systems

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- Money collected in pollution settlements can be provided by the EPA to support qualifying projects

## OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Shared-use agreements and community organizations can provide additional funding opportunities. Organizations to consider for potential funding may include:

- Adopt-a-Park
- Business Sponsorship Opportunities
- Youth Service Providers
- Service Groups
- Friends Groups





A photograph of a sign for Carmela Winery. The sign is mounted on a wooden pergola structure against a corrugated metal wall. A large green tree is in the foreground, partially obscuring the sign. A black metal fence is in the lower foreground. The text "Carmela Winery" is written in a white, cursive font.

*Carmela Winery*



# APPENDICES

# APPENDIX A - SURVEY SUMMARY

Total number of respondents	147
Survey active	6/10/2019 - 8/12/2019 (10 weeks)
Number of questions	22
Average response time	Less than 10 minutes

Survey Platform:

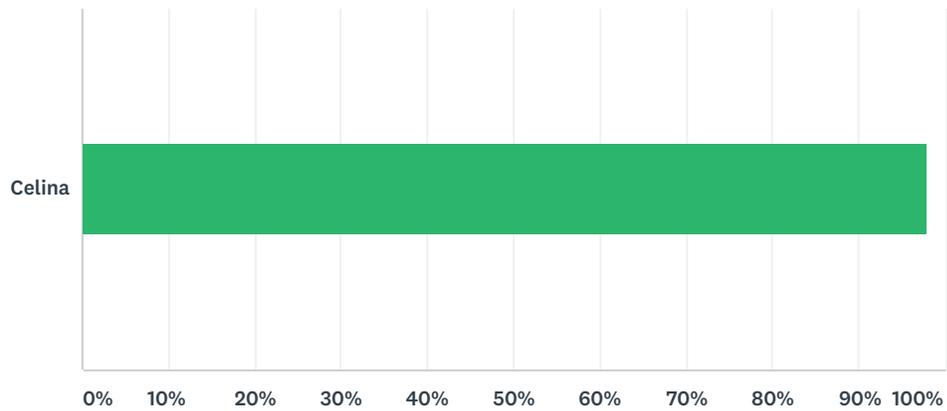


**SurveyMonkey**

# QUESTION 1

In what city do you live?

Answered: 147 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Celina	97.96% 144
Total Respondents: 147	

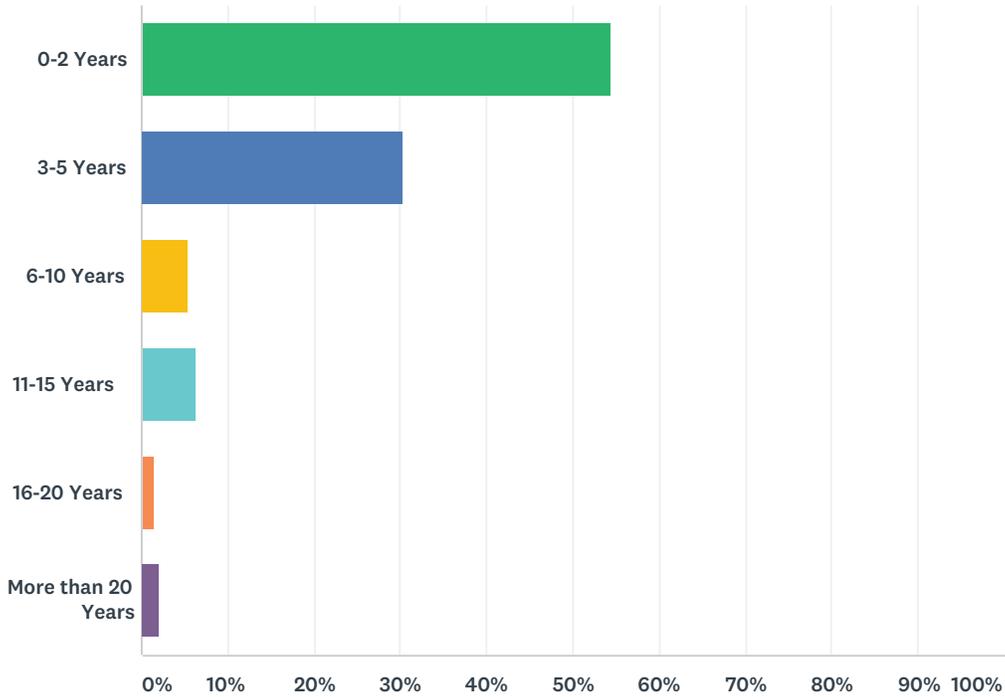
## Analysis Notes

98% of survey respondents are residents of Celina. Residents of Frisco and Prosper also responded to the survey.

# QUESTION 2

If Celina, how many years have you lived here?

Answered: 145 Skipped: 2



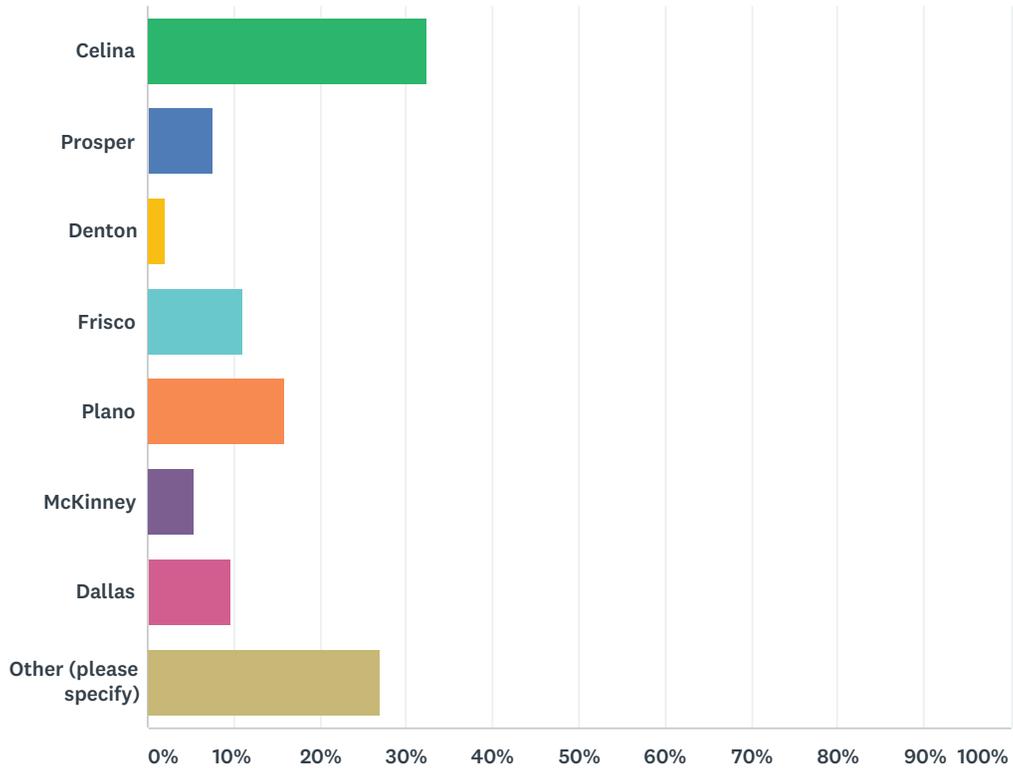
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
0-2 Years	54.48% 79
3-5 Years	30.34% 44
6-10 Years	5.52% 8
11-15 Years	6.21% 9
16-20 Years	1.38% 2
More than 20 Years	2.07% 3
Total Respondents: 145	

## Analysis Notes

Over three-quarters of all respondents have lived in Celina for 5 years or less, indicating a growing, young community.

# QUESTION 3

In what city do you work?



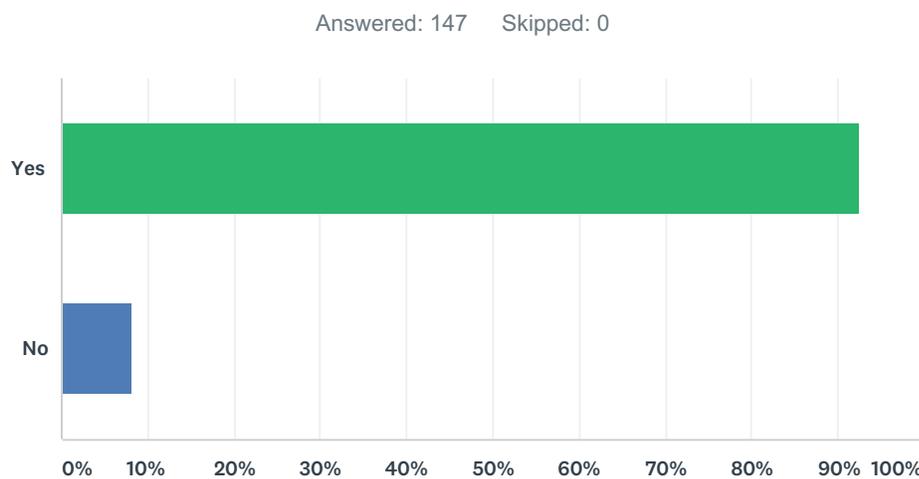
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Celina	32.41%	47
Prosper	7.59%	11
Denton	2.07%	3
Frisco	11.03%	16
Plano	15.86%	23
McKinney	5.52%	8
Dallas	9.66%	14
Other (please specify)	26.90%	39
Total Respondents: 145		

## Analysis Notes

Approximately one-third of respondents work in Celina, while many work in the neighboring cities around Celina.

## QUESTION 4

Do you currently visit any parks in Celina and/or neighboring cities such as Prosper, Gunter, Frisco, McKinney, etc?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.52%	136
No	8.16%	12
Total Respondents: 147		

### Analysis Notes

Most residents visit Celina's existing parks as well as parks in neighboring cities.

## QUESTION 5

If yes, what parks? (Please check all that apply)

(The word cloud provided below shows the most common responses as larger words, giving a general indication of the input received. Word clouds are useful when feedback is broad.)



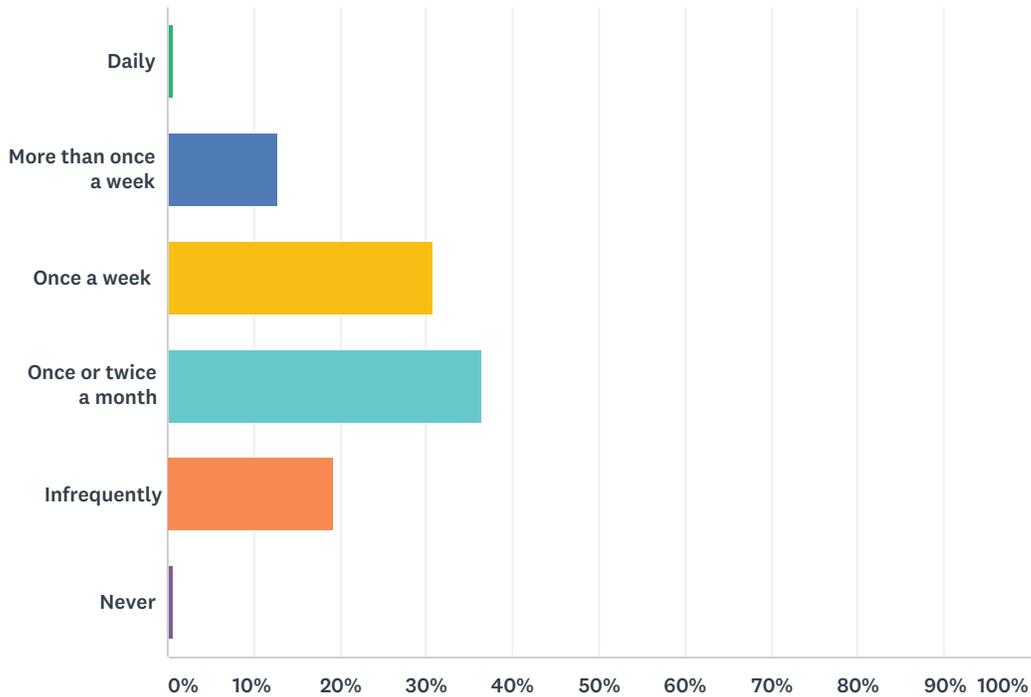
### Analysis Notes

Parks popular among respondents include, Old Celina Park, Founders Station Park, Frontier Park in Prosper and Hope Park in Frisco. These results show residents are willing to travel to destination parks.

# QUESTION 6

If yes, how frequently?

Answered: 140 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Daily	0.71% 1
More than once a week	12.86% 18
Once a week	30.71% 43
Once or twice a month	36.43% 51
Infrequently	19.29% 27
Never	0.71% 1
Total Respondents: 140	

## Analysis Notes

Of the respondents that use parks, nearly 45% do so once a week or more, however nearly 20% of respondents infrequently use parks.

## QUESTION 7

What do you like about these parks you use and why?

(The word cloud provided below shows the most common responses as larger words, giving a general indication of the input received. Word clouds are useful when feedback is broad.)

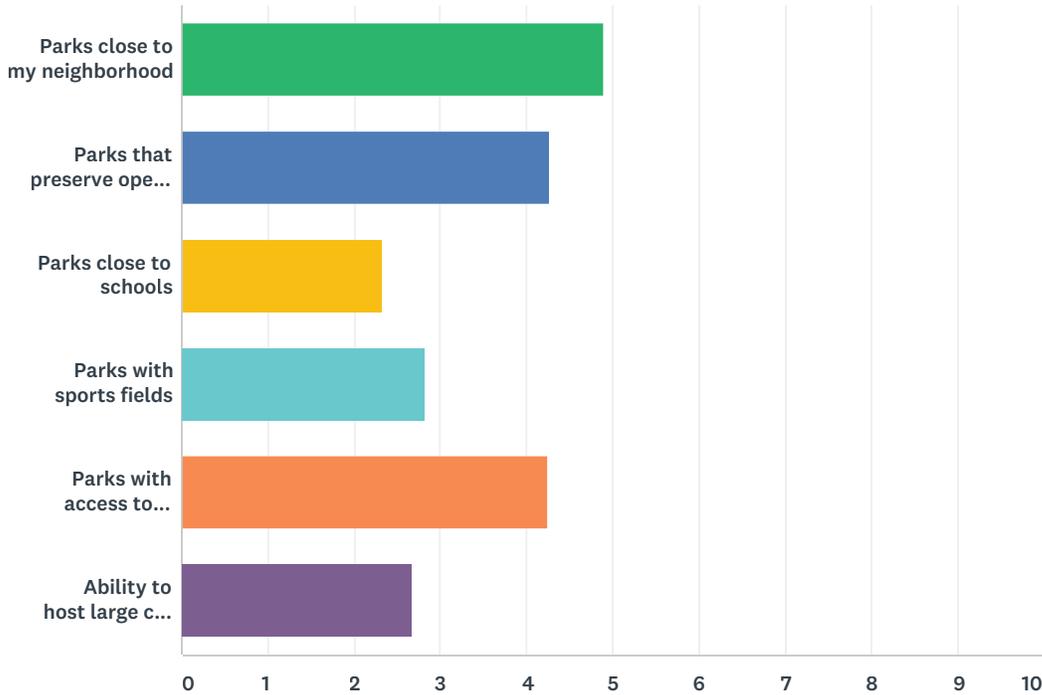


### Analysis Notes

Respondents value both active and passive family-friendly spaces in their parks. Popular passive elements include open space for free play and connections to nature. Valued active park elements include shaded playgrounds, splash pads and sports facilities.

# QUESTION 8

Please rank your choice for the following in order of priority. (1 = Most Important; 6 = Least Important)



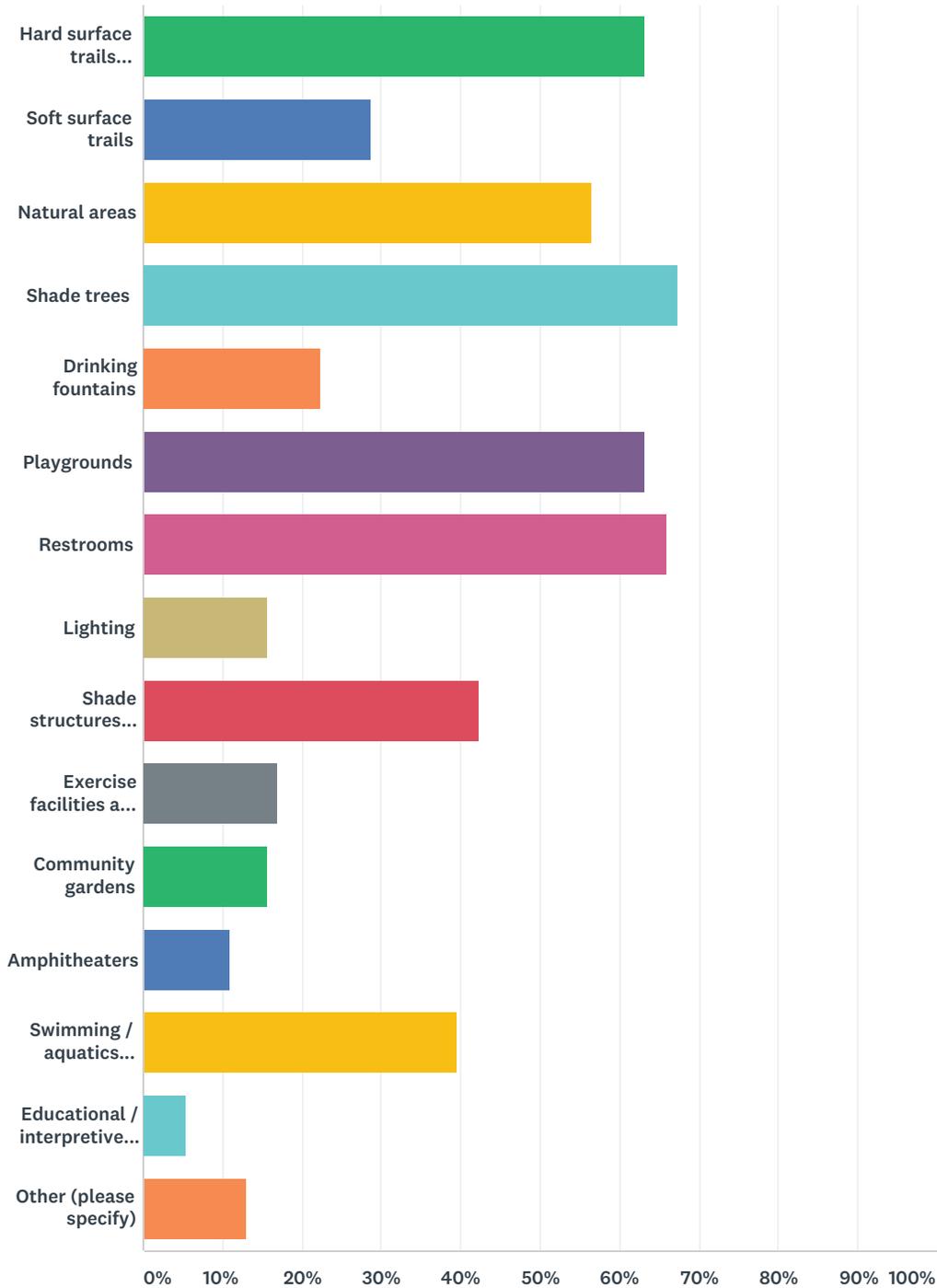
	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
Parks close to my neighborhood	46.21% 61	22.73% 30	13.64% 18	12.12% 16	3.03% 4	2.27% 3	132	4.90
Parks that preserve open space	20.59% 28	30.15% 41	25.74% 35	8.09% 11	9.56% 13	5.88% 8	136	4.26
Parks close to schools	1.45% 2	2.90% 4	13.04% 18	23.19% 32	28.99% 40	30.43% 42	138	2.33
Parks with sports fields	10.64% 15	7.80% 11	7.80% 11	24.11% 34	25.53% 36	24.11% 34	141	2.82
Parks with access to trails	22.70% 32	28.37% 40	23.40% 33	8.51% 12	10.64% 15	6.38% 9	141	4.25
Ability to host large city events in parks	4.17% 6	9.03% 13	14.58% 21	22.92% 33	20.14% 29	29.17% 42	144	2.67

## Analysis Notes

Respondents value parks in close proximity with access to natural open space and trails.

# QUESTION 9

Please mark the five (5) recreational park amenities that are most important to you and your family.

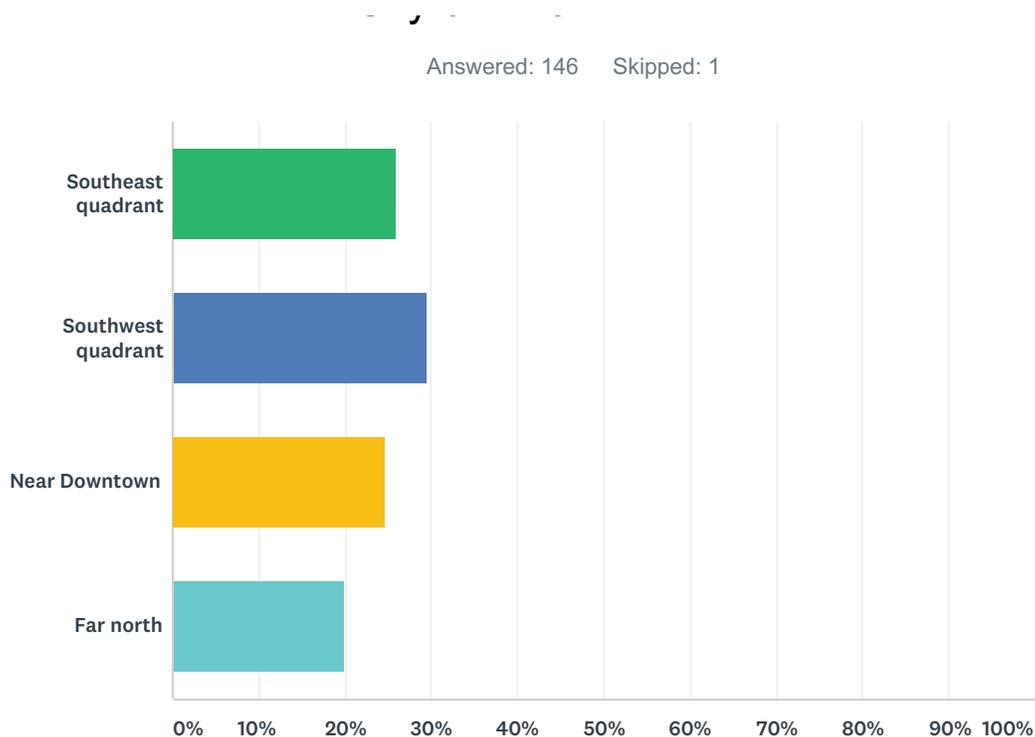


## Analysis Notes

Respondents' top park priorities include shade trees, restrooms, hard surface trails, playgrounds, natural areas, shade structures and swim facilities.

# QUESTION 10

In what one part of the city, or specific area, would you like to see the City develop a new park?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Southeast quadrant	26.03% 38
Southwest quadrant	29.45% 43
Near Downtown	24.66% 36
Far north	19.86% 29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146</b>

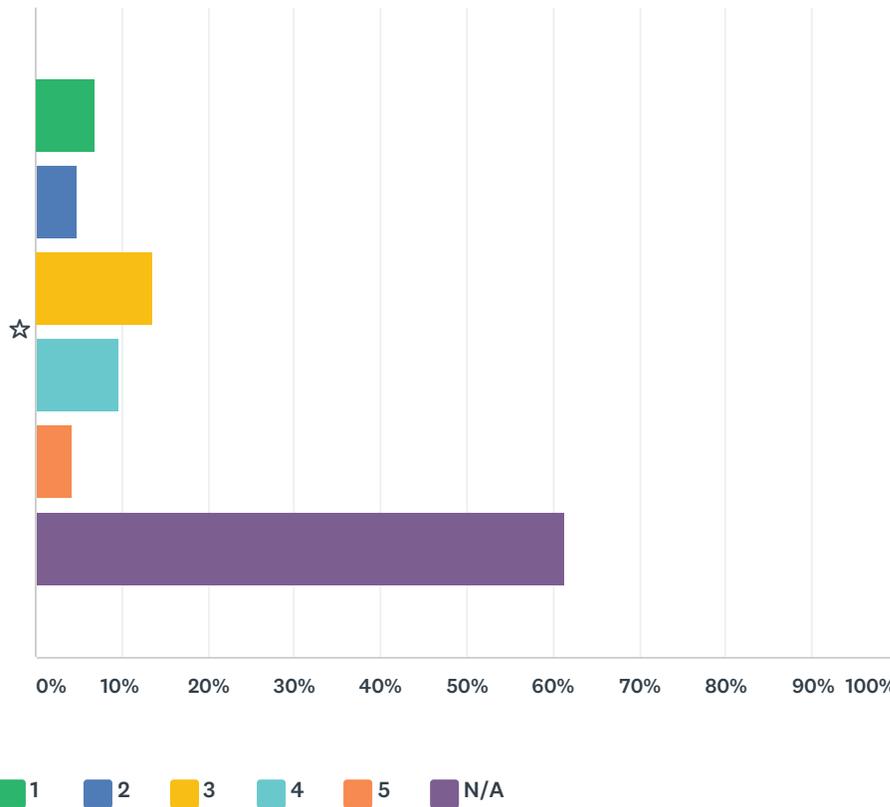
## Analysis Notes

Responses were divided fairly evenly across all quadrants of Celina, although the city’s southwest quadrant received the most favorable responses.

# QUESTION 11

On a scale of 1 to 5 how would you rate your experience with Celina’s sports recreation programs? (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

Answered: 147 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	6.80% 10	4.76% 7	13.61% 20	9.52% 14	4.08% 6	61.22% 90	147	2.98

## Analysis Notes

Although most respondents have not participated in Celina’s sports recreation programs, those who have most often report having an average experience.

## QUESTION 12

How can we improve our recreation programs in Celina?

(The word cloud provided below shows the most common responses as larger words, giving a general indication of the input received. Word clouds are useful when feedback is broad.)



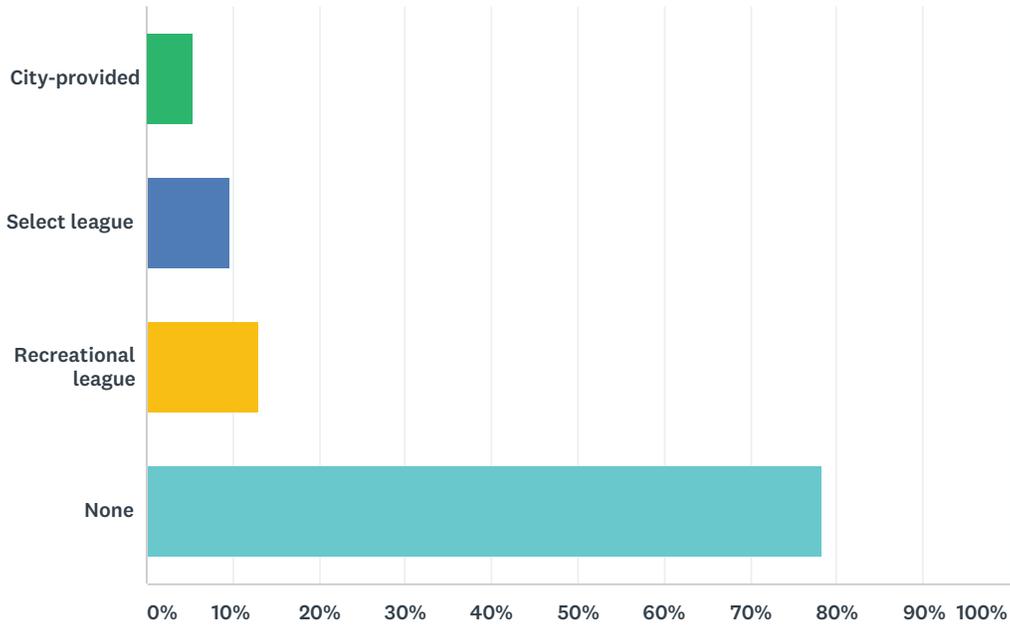
### Analysis Notes

Respondents expressed a need for better communication and advertising during program enrollment and a desire for swimming programs.

# QUESTION 13

Do you currently belong to any of the following league organizations?  
(Please check all that apply)

Answered: 147 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
City-provided	5.44% 8
Select league	9.52% 14
Recreational league	12.93% 19
None	78.23% 115
Total Respondents: 147	

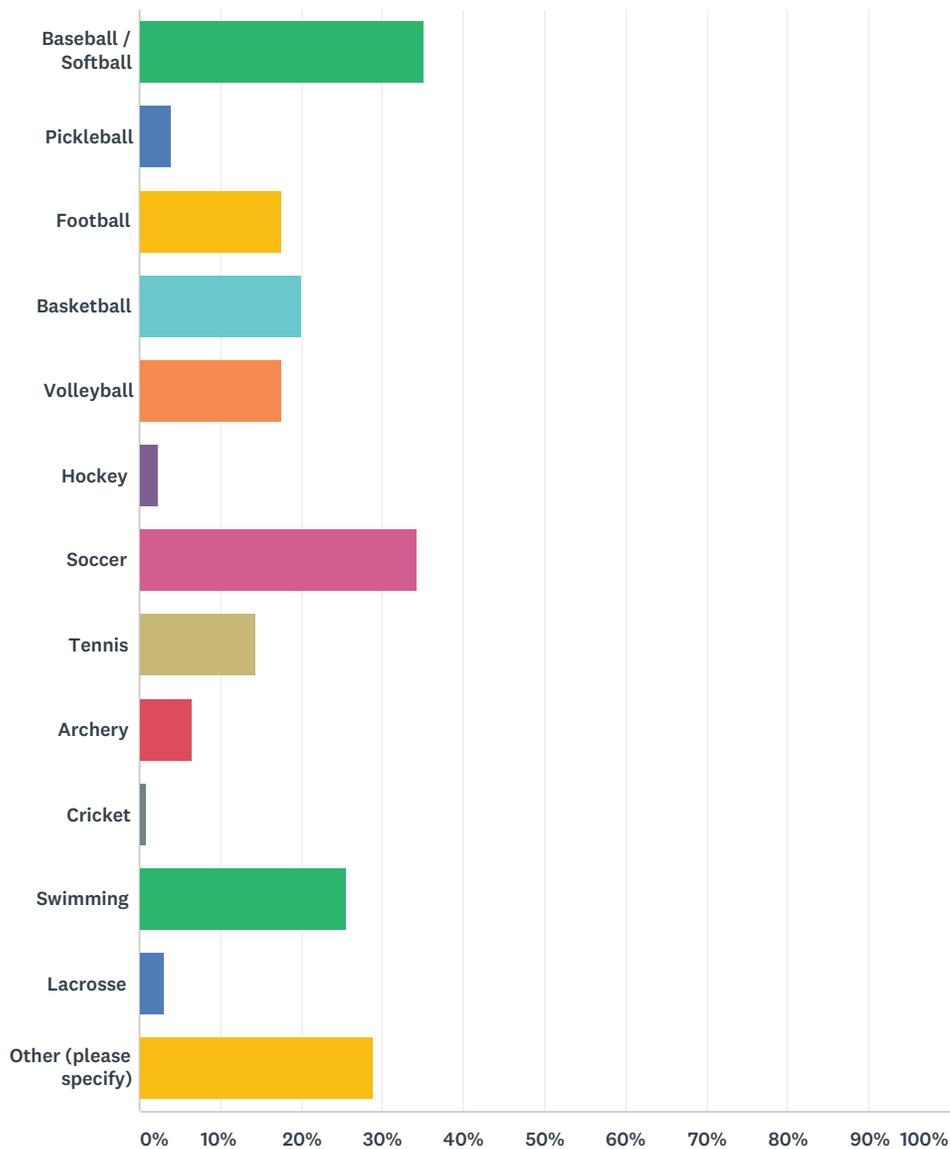
## Analysis Notes

Of the respondents who belong to a league organization, most belong to a recreational league followed by select leagues and city-provided leagues. Most respondents do not belong to any league organization, though.

# QUESTION 14

What sports programs are you or your family currently involved in, either through the City or not? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 125 Skipped: 22



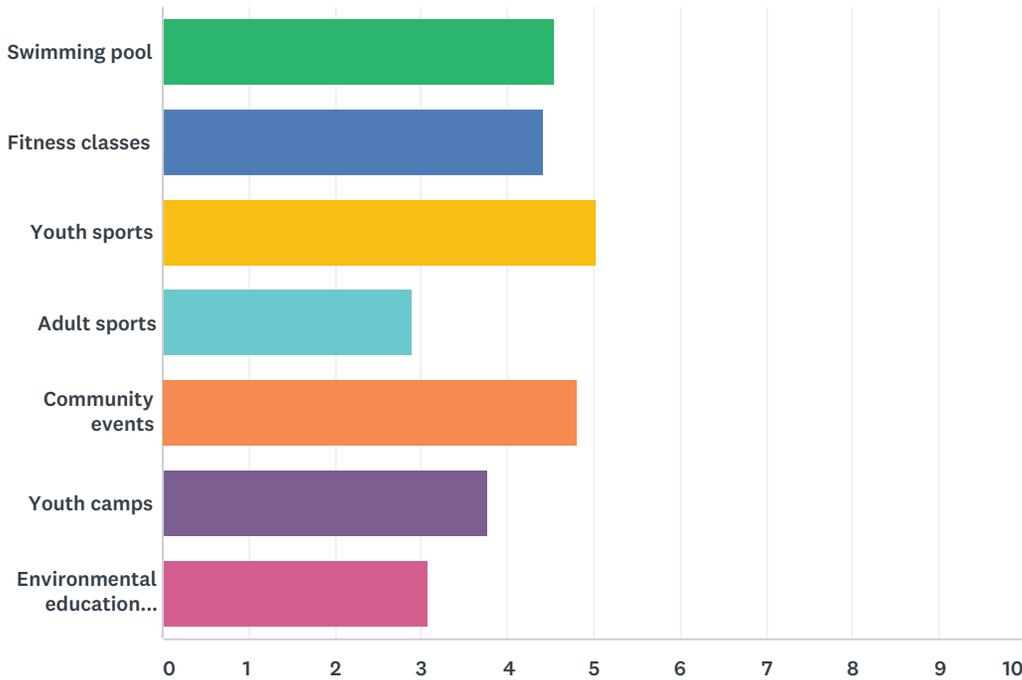
## Analysis Notes

Most popular sports among respondents include baseball, soccer, swimming, basketball, football and volleyball.

# QUESTION 15

Regarding parks and recreation programs, please rank those that are desired by your household?

Answered: 147 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
Swimming pool	28.24% 37	15.27% 20	10.69% 14	6.11% 8	16.79% 22	13.74% 18	9.16% 12	131	4.54
Fitness classes	19.55% 26	15.04% 20	15.79% 21	15.04% 20	14.29% 19	12.03% 16	8.27% 11	133	4.41
Youth sports	29.01% 38	18.32% 24	18.32% 24	9.16% 12	14.50% 19	7.63% 10	3.05% 4	131	5.03
Adult sports	3.03% 4	9.09% 12	8.33% 11	14.39% 19	12.12% 16	25.00% 33	28.03% 37	132	2.89
Community events	17.52% 24	21.90% 30	18.98% 26	18.98% 26	13.87% 19	5.84% 8	2.92% 4	137	4.81
Youth camps	5.84% 8	15.33% 21	16.79% 23	18.25% 25	10.95% 15	21.17% 29	11.68% 16	137	3.77
Environmental education classes	5.80% 8	7.25% 10	12.32% 17	14.49% 20	15.94% 22	11.59% 16	32.61% 45	138	3.07

## Analysis Notes

Respondents indicated the most desired parks and recreation programs are youth sports, community events, swimming pools, and fitness classes.

## QUESTION 16

Are there any parks and recreation programs not listed above that the City should consider offering?

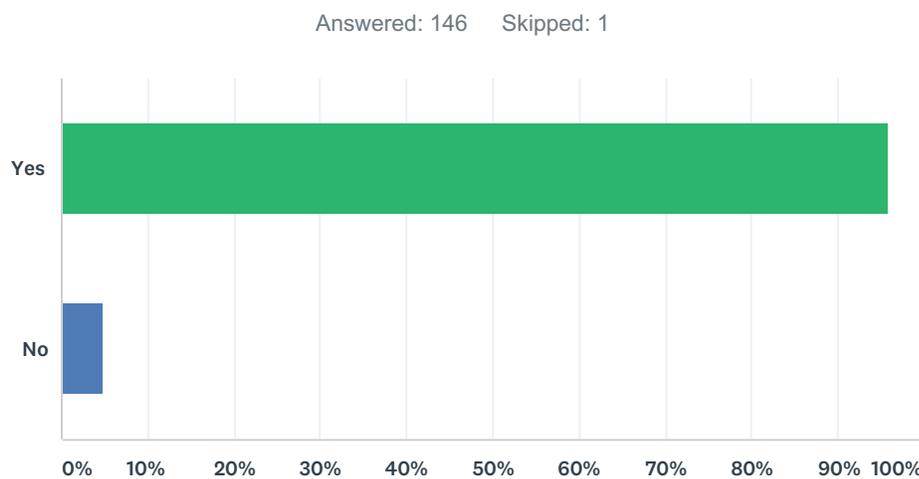
swimming N programs time **None** music adults know **think** Dance  
classes Nature fishing golf Senior events

### Analysis Notes

Respondents expressed desire for a senior center, a multipurpose recreation center, community art classes, dance classes, fishing facilities, outdoor amphitheatres and a dog park.

## QUESTION 17

As Celina grows in population, would you like there to be an indoor recreation center somewhere in the city? (Please select only one)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.89%	140
No	4.79%	7
Total Respondents: 146		

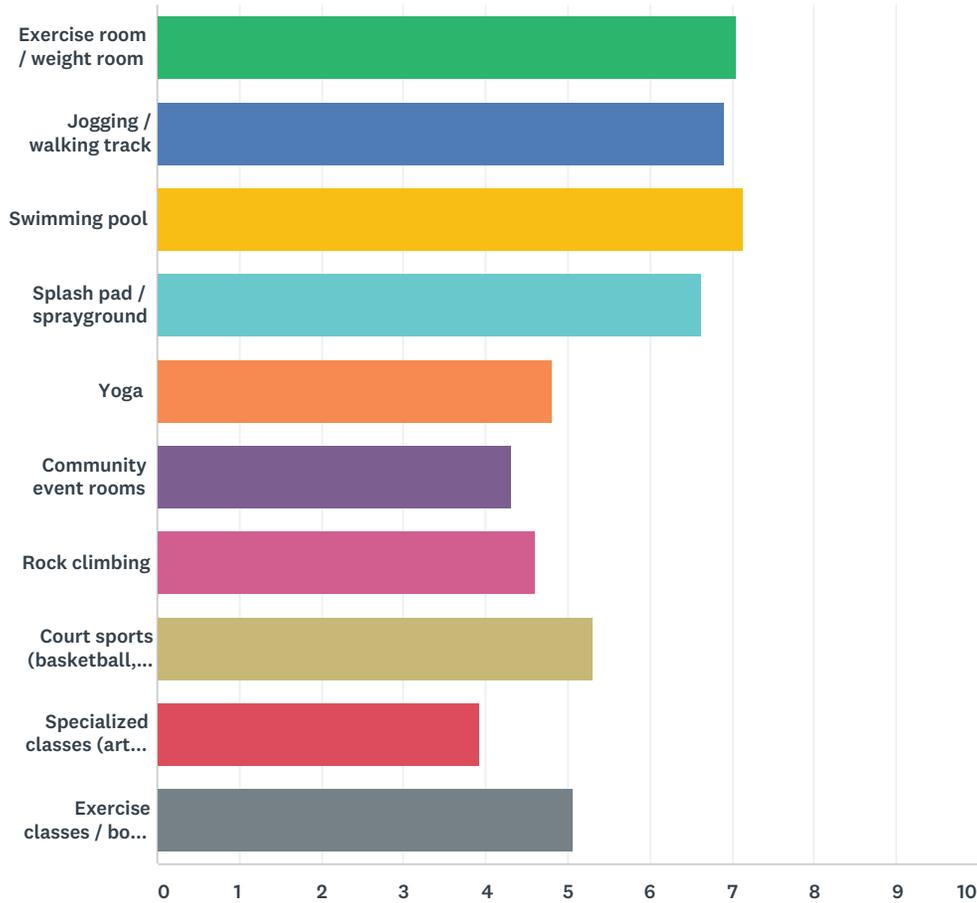
### Analysis Notes

Respondents overwhelmingly favored an indoor recreation center in Celina.

# QUESTION 18

If yes, please rank the types of activities would you like to see in an indoor recreation center?

Answered: 142 Skipped: 5



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL	SCORE
Exercise room / weight room	21.80%	14.29%	14.29%	10.53%	11.28%	10.53%	7.52%	3.76%	3.76%	2.26%	133	7.0
Jogging / walking track	12.59%	22.96%	13.33%	9.63%	13.33%	8.89%	8.15%	5.19%	5.19%	0.74%	135	6.9
Swimming pool	22.56%	16.54%	16.54%	12.03%	7.52%	6.77%	4.51%	5.26%	1.50%	6.77%	133	7.1

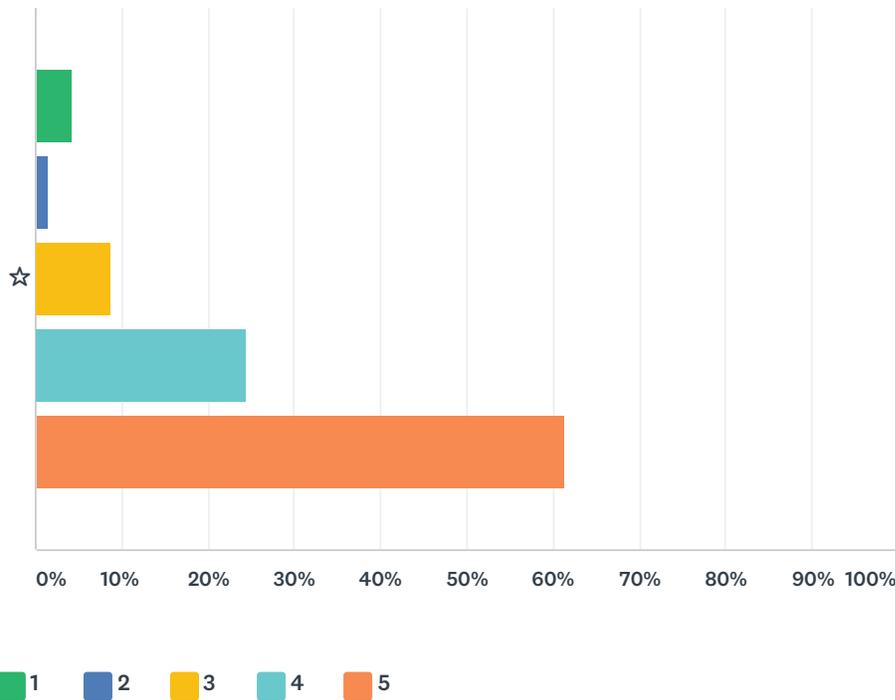
## Analysis Notes

Respondents indicated the most desired recreation center elements include a swimming pool, exercise room, jogging track, splash pad, court sport facilities, exercise classes, and rock climbing.

# QUESTION 19

On a scale of 1 to 5, how important is it for an indoor recreation center to include a multi-generational component (Multi-generational facilities offer activities for children through seniors)?(1 being the lowest importance and 5 being the highest importance)

Answered: 147 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	4.08% 6	1.36% 2	8.84% 13	24.49% 36	61.22% 90	147	4.37

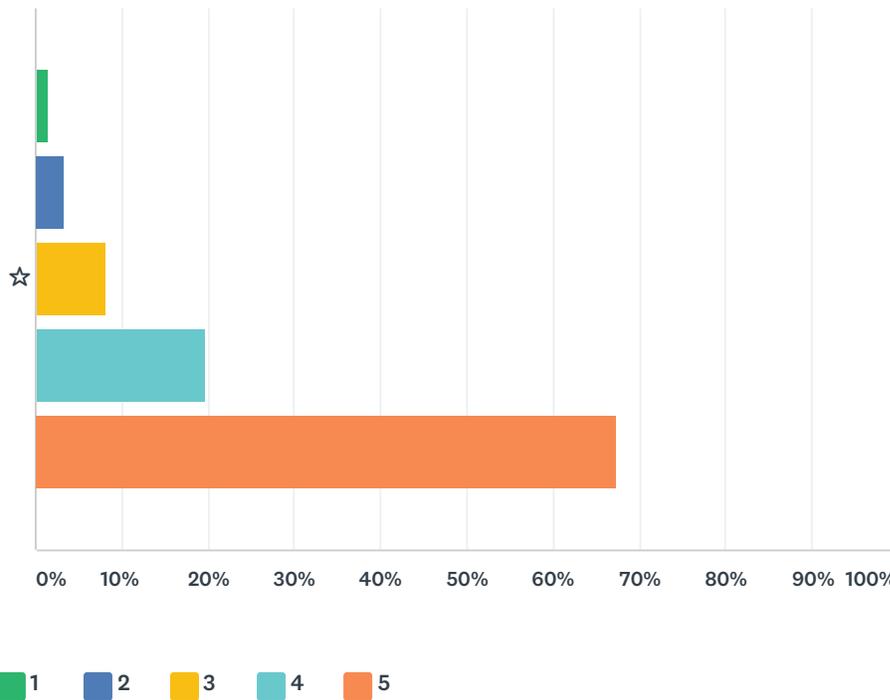
## Analysis Notes

Respondents overwhelmingly supported the inclusion of multi-generational facilities in a future indoor recreation center.

# QUESTION 20

On a scale of 1 to 5, how important is it for the city to preserve open space along creeks for park use? (1 being the lowest importance and 5 being the highest importance)

Answered: 147 Skipped: 0



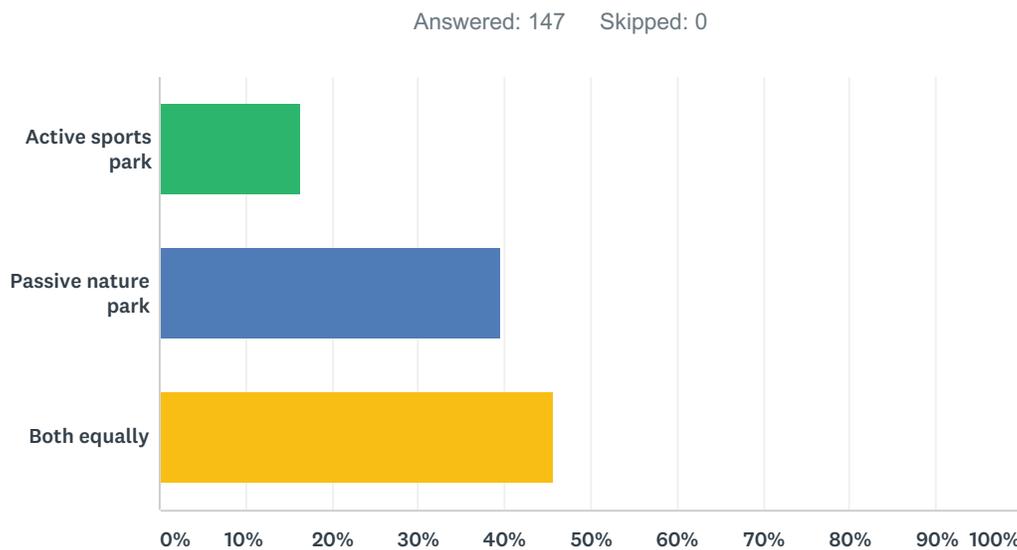
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	1.36%	3.40%	8.16%	19.73%	67.35%	147	4.48
	2	5	12	29	99		

## Analysis Notes

Respondents overwhelmingly supported the preservation of open space along creeks for park use.

# QUESTION 21

Which type of park do you prefer more of for Celina’s future?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Active sports park	16.33% 24
Passive nature park	39.46% 58
Both equally	45.58% 67
Total Respondents: 147	

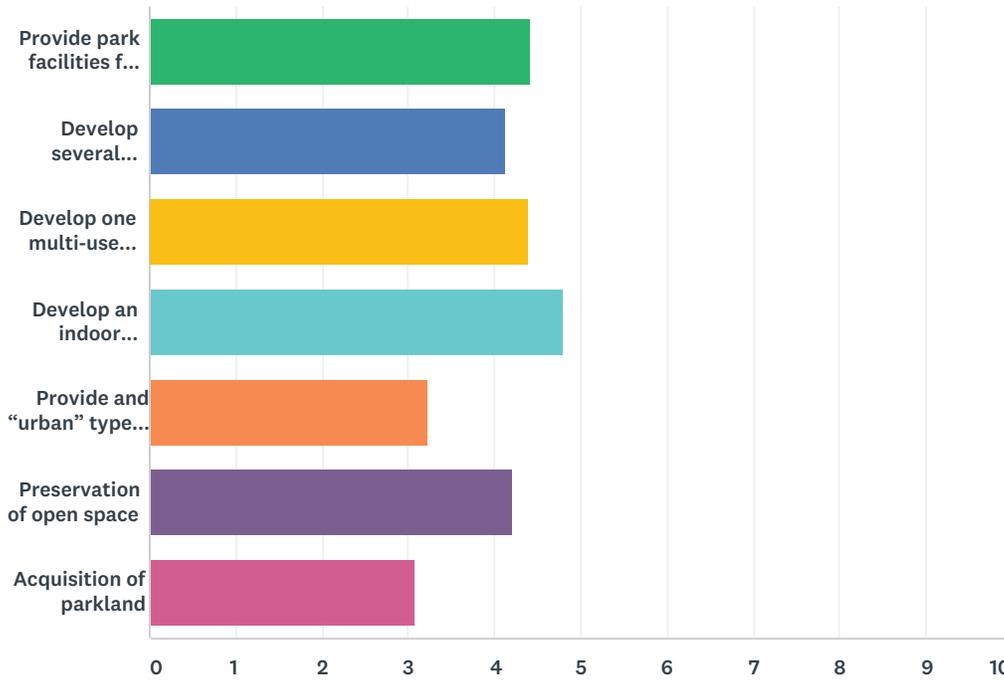
## Analysis Notes

Nearly half of respondents expressed a split preference between active sports parks and passive nature parks in Celina’s future park development. Of respondents who favored one park type, passive nature parks were more popular.

# QUESTION 22

What should Celina’s parks system priorities be over the next five to ten years? Please rank your choice for the following in order of priority.

Answered: 145 Skipped: 2



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
Provide park facilities for families with small children	21.01% 29	14.49% 20	17.39% 24	12.32% 17	12.32% 17	12.32% 17	10.14% 14	138	4.42
Develop several neighborhood parks (5 to 25 acres each)	12.32% 17	18.12% 25	13.77% 19	19.57% 27	10.87% 15	13.04% 18	12.32% 17	138	4.13
Develop one multi-use community park (100+ acres)	13.57% 19	20.71% 29	18.57% 26	19.29% 27	7.14% 10	8.57% 12	12.14% 17	140	4.40
Develop an indoor recreation center	25.17% 36	20.98% 30	10.49% 15	14.69% 21	14.69% 21	7.69% 11	6.29% 9	143	4.79
Provide and “urban” type park space in the downtown area	6.47% 9	5.04% 7	12.95% 18	12.95% 18	24.46% 34	17.99% 25	20.14% 28	139	3.22
Preservation of open space	17.48% 25	10.49% 15	18.88% 27	11.19% 16	14.69% 21	23.78% 34	3.50% 5	143	4.20
Acquisition of parkland	7.04% 10	11.97% 17	8.45% 12	9.86% 14	13.38% 19	14.79% 21	34.51% 49	142	3.07

## Analysis Notes

Respondents expressed the most desire for the development of an indoor recreation center followed by park facilities for small children and the development of a single multi-use community park.



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