



I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this addendum is to provide an update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted in 2001. This information is intended to guide the City of Kilgore in decisions related to parks, recreation, and open space within the City, to assist in the implementation of those decisions, and to set guidelines for future park and open space development that are feasible for Kilgore in accordance with the desires of its citizens. This addendum includes all land within the incorporated limits of the City of Kilgore and provides parks and open space project recommendations through 2018. The City of Kilgore has aggressively followed the previously adopted Parks and Recreation Master Plan by utilizing the implementation schedule as suggested. The Existing Parks and Open Space Inventory has been updated to reflect the progress.

The following pages contain goals and objectives for the City's park and open space system, the methodology used to update the plan, and a section on natural open space. Also included is a revised implementation program developed to guide the City in accomplishing the proposed projects within the plan's time frame and additional funding sources available to the City for the development of its park system.

Master Plan Steering Committee

Mayor, Joe Parker	Janice Hancock	Latane Speer
Don Bowne	Brian Bittick	Bobby Bustin
Roland Velvin	Gary Boyd	Bill Bass
Sue Brown	Diana Ponder	Peggy Bowne
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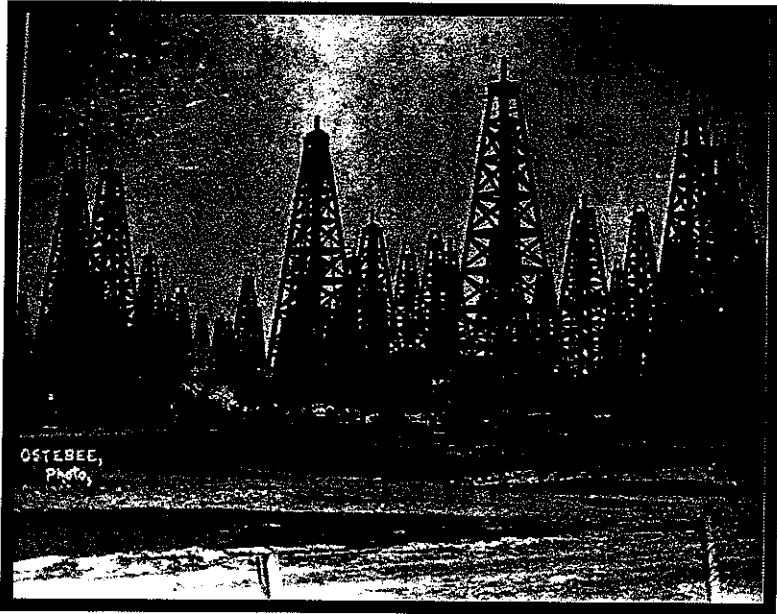
Carol Windham - Director of Planning

Karen Custer - City Clerk

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COMMUNITY PROFILE

Kilgore is on U.S. Highway 259 and State highways 31, 42, and 135, situated 120 miles east of Dallas in south central Gregg County and north central Rusk County. The area was first settled before the Civil War by planters from the old South, but the City was not founded until 1872, when the International-Great Northern Railroad built a line between Longview and Palestine. The railroad bypassed New Danville, and the company platted a new town, which they named for Constantine Buckley Kilgore, who sold the 174-acre townsite to the railroad and urged many of the businesses of New



Danville to move there. A post office opened in 1873, and by 1885, Kilgore had two steam gristmill-cotton gins, a church, and a district school. The estimated population was 250. The Kilgore State Bank opened in 1906, and an independent school district was formed in 1910. By 1914, the town had two banks, Baptist and Methodist churches, a newspaper, two cotton gins, several general stores, a drugstore, an ice cream parlor, a hotel, and a reported population of 700. The town reached a population of 1,000 in 1929. But the combined effects of the Great Depression and the decline of cotton, on which the town's economy had largely depended, brought a steep population decline. By the middle of 1930, the number of residents dropped below 500 and many businesses had been forced to close. The discovery of the surrounding East Texas oilfield in the fall of 1930 transformed Kilgore from a declining rural community into a boomtown. Within days, thousands streamed into the town, erecting tents and shacks in every available vacant space. Honky-tonk bars sprouted up around the town; schools and other public institutions were overwhelmed.

By 1936 the town's population had swelled to 12,000. To deal with the onslaught, the city incorporated in February 1931. Kilgore, located near the geographic center of the oilfield, became an important production, processing, service, and supply hub. Numerous wells were drilled in the city itself, and at the height of the boom there were over 1,100 producing wells within the city limits. On part of one downtown block in the early 1930s stood the greatest concentration of oil derricks in the world. The area came to be known as the "World's Richest Acre."

But the huge increase in production caused oil prices to fall precipitously and in August of 1931, Governor Ross Sterling ordered martial law to control production and bring order to the area. The boom began to subside in the mid-1930s. Major oil companies gradually bought out most of the independents, and by the eve of World War II the boom was largely over, although oil production in the area continues. In 1965, Kilgore had an estimated 10,500 residents and 578 businesses. In 1990, the population was 11,066.

Kilgore's 2000 population was 11,301 as reported by Census 2000. The current ethnic breakdown for the City of Kilgore is 78% Caucasian, 12% African American, 1% Native American, 1% Oriental, and 8% Other. Additionally, 11% of the population indicated they are of Hispanic origin. The U.S. Housing and Urban Development data indicates a median family income of \$40,400 with approximately 71% of households considered low income.

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following Goals and Objectives are provided to give direction for future community decisions regarding parks, recreation, and open space. These goals and objectives were established based on representative group interviews, community meetings, and a citizen survey.

General Goal:

To ensure the acquisition, protection, and enhancement of well-maintained, diverse park lands and green spaces in the city, thus providing needed park facilities and indoor recreational activities for citizens of all ages and abilities.

Objectives:

- ⇒ To actively pursue the acquisition of available land for future park developments in concert with the standards and priorities set for the City of Kilgore.
- ⇒ To actively pursue the acquisition of available land for the development of an indoor recreation center, which will provide diverse recreational opportunities for the residents of Kilgore.
- ⇒ To address park planning considerations that meet the changing demands of active, passive, and cultural park patrons, including construction and operation of park facilities on public and private property.
- ⇒ To provide for planning strategies that enhance the recreational potential and aesthetic appeal of creeks, flood ways, and utility easements.
- ⇒ To encourage public access and exposure to significant physical features and natural open space while enhancing and preserving the natural characteristics of the areas.
- ⇒ To ensure that all park facilities meet the most current safety guidelines and accessibility standards.
- ⇒ To continue to coordinate the use and development of recreational and cultural facilities with Kilgore Independent School District, Kilgore College, Kilgore Boys Baseball Association, and Kilgore Youth Softball Association to optimize facility use.

- ⇒ To maintain the existing parks and open spaces in a manner that promotes a safe clean, orderly, and aesthetically pleasing atmosphere and promotes optimum utilization of the park system.
- ⇒ To improve the maintenance of parks through written preventative maintenance schedules, develop a park equipment replacement fund, and increase funding for maintenance as additional facilities come on line.
- ⇒ To promote the park system and recreational programs available to those who live and/or work in Kilgore to maximize the use and enjoyment of the City's facilities and programs.

Open Space Goal:

To continually identify, protect and preserve quality natural open spaces for unstructured recreational activities, inherent aesthetic value and protection of valuable ecosystems.

Objectives:

- ⇒ To continually research the viability of developing trail systems along creeks, flood ways, and utility easements that will link park facilities, neighborhoods, and school campuses.
- ⇒ To be proactive in the protection and/or acquisition of unique natural open spaces for public use.
- ⇒ To limit development in natural open spaces in order to minimize adverse effects on valuable ecosystems.

III. METHODOLOGY

The planning process used in the development of this update included an extensive review of the existing Plan, public hearings, a Master Plan Steering Committee, and a citizen's survey that was part of the City of Kilgore's Master Plan Update. The citizens of Kilgore were involved in the planning process, which provided invaluable local insight needed to produce and implement a successful Master Plan Update. It should be noted that the professional staff of the City of Kilgore were constantly involved through the planning process to ensure the update resulted in a feasible and balanced park program for the city that once implemented, will fully serve the active and passive recreational needs of the community.

The City of Kilgore conducted two public hearings, two Steering Committee meetings, and a survey in order to address the needs and concerns of the citizens with regard to the park system. The Steering Committee meetings included representatives from various sections of the community including the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce and the City of Kilgore Parks and Recreation Staff. These input sessions allowed citizens to express concerns with the existing park facilities as well as addressing the needs for future park facilities.

Using the information obtained from the Steering Committee, the public hearings, and the citizens, the project priorities recommended in the 2001 Parks and Recreation Master Plan were revisited. A revised implementation schedule was developed that outlines a feasible plan to assist the City in accomplishing the recommendations within the Plan's time frame.

IV. PARK CLASSIFICATION & INVENTORY

The City's park classification system may be broken down into seven major categories. These park categories are as follows:

Pocket/Ornamental Park

A pocket or ornamental park is a small (usually less than 1 acre) park developed with passive elements such as sidewalks, fountains, gazebos, plazas, benches, and landscaping.

Mini-Neighborhood Parks

A Mini-Neighborhood Park functions as a Neighborhood Park with the exception that there are fewer recreational opportunities due to size constraints. The Mini-Neighborhood Park is usually from 1 acre to 2 acres in size. It typically contains a playground, pavilion with hard surface, play court, drinking fountains, landscaping, perimeter fence, walks, and benches. This type of park is useful in adding park service to neighborhoods that were originally developed without neighborhood parks and/or infill development areas where pre-existing structures limit the amount of land available for park acquisition and development.

Neighborhood Parks

A neighborhood park is a site of approximately 5 to 10 acres and serves the area within a 0.5 mile radius with both active and passive recreational opportunities. Facilities typically found in neighborhood parks include play apparatus, picnic areas, shelters, play courts, unlighted play fields, restrooms, walking/jogging trails, natural open space, parking, swimming pools, and tennis courts.



Community Parks

A community park is a site of approximately 40 to 150 acres with a service radius area of 2.0 miles. Facilities usually included in such a park are tennis courts, shelters, separate or multi-purpose sports fields, play apparatus, picnic areas, walking/jogging trails, recreation centers, swimming pools, open space, and restrooms.

Special Use Park

The Special Use Park classification covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities that focus on one or two specific recreational uses. Facility space requirements are the primary determinants of site size and location. For example, a golf course may require 150 acres, whereas a community center with parking may only require 10 or 15 acres. Potential special uses may include baseball/softball complexes, soccer complexes, tennis centers, sports stadiums, performing arts facilities, amphitheaters, community centers and golf courses.

Greenbelts

Greenbelts or greenbelt parkways are linear parks usually developed around a natural resource such as a creek, river, utility easement, or lake shore. The potential benefits of a greenbelt system are numerous. Not only can a greenbelt system preserve valuable open space and natural habitat, it can provide a natural environment for walking, jogging, and bicycling trails, provide a transportation



corridor linking neighborhoods to parks, schools, and shopping areas and provide a variety of passive recreational opportunities free, or relatively free, from automobile interference. Greenbelts also serve as natural buffers between land uses, serve as utility (underground) easements, and can usually be acquired at a relatively inexpensive price due to the restrictions on

development. Design standards for greenbelts are relatively loose in order to allow the maximum use of the natural environment in the design. Greenbelt corridor widths are often determined by the existing topography, severity of flooding, and other unique natural features. Greenbelt corridors of less than fifty (50) "useable" feet should be avoided and narrow corridor sections kept to a minimum. One-hundred foot corridor widths and wider give flexibility in design and are encouraged wherever possible.

Natural Areas

Natural areas are spaces containing ecosystems in a non-disturbed state with minimal man-made intrusions. Natural areas lend a certain aesthetic and functional diversity to a park network and urban landscape. Although the benefits of natural areas are hard to quantify, they are numerous and include preservation of wildlife habitat and opportunities for nature study. When flood plains are preserved as natural areas they offer a resource to aid in the protection from flooding. A resource-based approach should be used, due to the unique character and availability of natural resources in a city like Kilgore. This approach enables the City to identify the natural resources unique to Kilgore, and define how those areas will be used in order to best satisfy the needs of the citizens. There are no national standards for natural areas within a city due to the extreme variations found in natural resources from region to region. Kilgore should, through the established planning processes, adopt open space policies that reflect the unique natural resources of the community. Natural areas or open lands with environmental significance should not be included in a level of service standard since these lands have limited capability for recreational use beyond desirable and limited passive recreation, interpretation and environmental education. It is important that natural areas not be perceived as surplus land that can be used for more active forms of recreation as the need arises.

Indoor Recreation

Indoor Recreation Centers provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities in a controlled setting that allows citizens to enjoy year-round activities. A recreation center may include amenities such as a walking/jogging track, fitness rooms, gymnasium, indoor swimming pool, racquetball/squash courts, meeting facilities, arts and crafts facilities and daycare facilities. The key to a successful recreation center is the flexibility built into the design of the center, which allows for the same facility to be used for multiple activities. This enables a recreation center to accommodate changing interests and trends with little or no physical improvements required to the facility itself. For example, a large multi-purpose room in a recreation center may be used for a business meeting/convention in the morning, while the same room can be divided up for after-school age group programs in the afternoon.

In the past, the NRPA national standard has been one Indoor Recreation Center per 20,000 to 30,000 population. In recent years, however, the NRPA has strayed from this standard, preferring instead, that communities establish their own standards to more accurately reflect the needs and desires of local residents. For Kilgore, the adopted standard for indoor recreation centers is one facility per 20,000 population. This standard was determined by comparing the results of the citizen survey and the population projections for the planning period.

The following table contains the types of parks proposed for the Kilgore Parks System and associated development information.

**TABLE I
PARK CLASSIFICATIONS**

Classification	Service Area	Size	Population Served	Typical Facilities	Development Cost* (per acre) average)
Pocket Park or Ornamental Park	1/4 Mile	2,500 sq. ft. to 1 acre	500-2,500	Landscaping, fountain, sidewalk, gazebo, benches	\$65,000 - \$80,000 Per Acre
Mini-Neighborhood Park	1/2 Mile	1 acre to 2 acres	500-2,500	Playground, pavilion with hard surface, play court, drinking fountains, landscaping, fence perimeter, walks, and benches,	\$45,000 - \$55,000 Per Acre
Neighborhood Park	1/2 Mile	5 acres to 10 acres	2,000-10,000	Playground apparatus, picnic area(s), pavilion, play courts, play fields, restroom, landscaping & parking	\$35,000 - \$45,000 Per Acre
Community Park	2 Miles	40 acres to 150 acres	10,000-50,000	Tennis courts, sports fields, playground apparatus, picnic area(s), pavilions, walking/jogging trails, swimming pools, open space, landscaping, recreation centers, restrooms & parking	\$25,000 - \$35,000 Per Acre
Special Use Park	Varies	Determined by primary use	Varies - dependent on primary use	Concentration of one or two of the following: baseball/softball complex, soccer fields, tennis centers, sports stadiums, golf courses, performing arts parks, amphitheaters & ornamental gardens	Varies - dependent on primary use
Indoor Recreation Center	Varies	10,000 Sq. Ft. Minimum	20,000-30,000	Walking track, fitness rooms, gymnasium, weight room, racquetball/squash courts, indoor swimming pool, meeting/convention facilities, arts and crafts rooms & daycare facilities	\$2,000,000- \$5,000,000
Greenbelts & Special Areas	Varies	Varies	5,000 to entire community	Landscaping, multi-purpose trails, benches, information kiosks, telephones, exercise courses & drinking fountains	\$250,000 - \$500,000 per mile for Greenbelts

*Development costs do not reflect land acquisition

The existing parks in Kilgore are classified in the Existing Parks and Open Space Inventory shown in Table II. In order to illustrate the geographic distribution and areas of the City currently served by the park system, the service area of each existing park has been shown on the Existing Parks and Open Space Map. Ideally, all developed residential areas of the City should fall within the service area of a community park and a neighborhood park.

Table II
Existing Parks and Open Space Inventory

	Name	Type of Park	Total Acres	Developed Acres	Facilities
1	Meadowbrook Park	Neighborhood/ Greenbelt	29.12	15.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball court • Asst. playground equipment • Open space
2	City Park	Neighborhood (functioning as a Community Park)	11.13	11.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library • 20 Horseshoe Courts • Swimming pool • 2 Picnic shelters/pavilions • Sand volleyball court • Restrooms • Scout building • Open space • Playground • Picnic facilities • Amphitheatre • BMW Bike/in-line skate park
3	Southside Park	Neighborhood	3.25	3.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball court • Picnic shelter/pavilion • Asst. playground equipment • Practice Field • Open space

	Name	Type of Park	Total Acres	Developed Acres	Facilities
4	Pentecost Park	Mini-Neighborhood	0.80	0.80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball court • Picnic facilities
5	City Youth Baseball Park	Special Use	7.95	7.95	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Baseball fields • Restroom facilities • Concession facilities
6	Old City Landfill	Undeveloped	23.0	0	
7	Kilgore Youth Sports Complex*	Special Use	44.99	29.46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 softball fields • 5 soccer fields • Restroom facilities • Concession facilities
8	Kilgore College Fitness Center	Indoor Recreation Center			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor swimming pool • Basketball court • Racquetball courts • Weight rooms
9	Kilgore College	School	36.0	10.0**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Tennis courts • Open Space

	Name	Type of Park	Total Acres	Developed Acres	Facilities
10	Harris Street Community Park	Neighborhood Park	32.35	19.43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Restrooms/locker room • Trail (paved) • Upgraded softball field • Playground • 2 tennis courts • RV Facilities • Picnic facilities • Small water feature • Driller baseball field • Softball field • Open space • Roads, parking & Utilities
	Total Acres		152.59	97.02	
	Level of Service			8.50	

2006 Estimated Population – 11,420 (Source: 2001 Parks and Open Space Master Plan)

*Owned by Kilgore Youth Softball Association, but functioning as a public facility

**One-half of useable space calculated in level of service

V. LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level of service is the term used to describe the importance or the role of a park system in a community and is expressed in acres of useable park land per 1,000 persons. For the last forty years, the targeted level of service for communities nationwide has been 10 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents.

In recent years, the standard has been modified to more specifically reflect the unique characteristics of each community and a range of levels of service has been more widely utilized. Based on the specific needs of a community, levels of service ranging from 5 acres of developed park land per 1,000 people to 15 acres of developed park land per 1,000 people are typically targeted.

It is important to note that the level of service for parks and open space is based on useable space and, therefore, undeveloped or unusable park land should not be a factor in the level of service calculation. Although private recreational facilities and golf courses should be considered when establishing the desired level of service for that activity to be provided by a community, the actual acreage is not typically used in the level of service calculation. Similarly, outdoor recreational facilities and open spaces on public school campuses that are not readily available to the general public for use during non-school hours are not calculated as useable space in the Level of Service. The Kilgore ISD school facilities are fenced, locked and not available to the general public during non-school hours. As a result, the facilities owned and maintained by Kilgore College are included in the Level of Service calculation while the properties owned and maintained by Kilgore ISD are not.

VI. ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS

The recreational needs for the City of Kilgore were determined using a combination of the three planning approaches (demand based, standard based and resource based) generally used in conducting a Needs Assessment. This combination allowed the desires for recreational opportunities expressed by citizens with different interests to be compared with NRPA standards while at the same time recognizing the unique natural attributes of the City of Kilgore.

The Needs Assessment integrates supply and demand. The supply is provided by the existing park and recreation facilities. The demand is identified through the stated goals and objectives, the concept of level of service, national standards, unique natural resources, and most importantly, input from local citizens. Local input was obtained through public hearings, special interest group interviews, the Parks Master Plan Advisory Committee, and the citizen survey. The result is a balanced analysis that reflects the parks and recreation needs and desires of the citizens of Kilgore through 2011. Kilgore's estimated population for 2001 is 11,325 based on Census 2000 results from the U.S. Census Bureau. The population projections for 2006 and 2011 are 11,420 and 11,538 respectively. These projections are based on the 1990 and 2000 Census results for the City of Kilgore and reflect growth patterns identified over the last ten years.

Table III
City of Kilgore Population Projections

2005	2010	2015
11,866	12,460	13,083

Park Upgrades - Needs

Many of the existing parks in Kilgore are in need of major renovations. The playgrounds in existing parks do not comply with current safety guidelines established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). There is a need to upgrade all playground equipment throughout the park system in order to meet current safety standards as published by CPSC. Additionally, some existing park facilities do not meet the accessibility standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which again, need to be addressed throughout the entire park system.

Meadowbrook Park is situated in east central Kilgore and is proximate to the Roy Laird Country Club that hosts the City's only private golf course. Although Turkey Creek meanders through the property, no provisions have been made for crossing the creek and very little has been done to take advantage of this unique natural resource. The site has extensive open areas for general recreational opportunities but, again, the lack of an irrigation system has resulted in poor turf quality. Though Meadowbrook Park is ideally suited for passive recreational uses, no picnic facilities are currently available to patrons and there is not a trail system to provide access to the more remote areas of the park. The park is almost entirely located in the flood plain of Turkey Creek, which restricts the types of improvements that are feasible to construct on the site.

The development of the park with passive recreational facilities would address six of the top ten facilities expressed by citizens. There is a need to develop Meadowbrook Park with features such as picnic shelters/areas, a paved multi-use trail and irrigated open space as well as upgrading the existing playground equipment and basketball goals. The development should take advantage of the unique resources of the park and preserve the natural open space located in the northeast portion of the park. Adequate off-street parking facilities need to be provided in order to protect and preserve the open areas of the park. Any and all development proposed for the park should be coordinated with the adjacent neighborhoods.

At **City Park** the public swimming pool is antiquated and appears to be nearing the end of its life expectancy. The City has indicated that a leak somewhere in the plumbing system is resulting in the need to continually replenish the pool with fresh water to maintain constant water levels. A new swimming pool ranked in the top ten facilities desired by residents as indicated by the results of the Citizen Survey. The current parking facilities do not provide an adequate area for the drop-off and pick-up of swimming pool patrons, and much of the existing parking dedicated for pool is deteriorating.

City Park is currently functioning as Kilgore's community park, though it lacks the size and facilities to effectively deliver this service. As indicated in Table I, the ideal size for a community park is at least forty acres while City Park contains only eleven acres, which makes the park ideally suited as a neighborhood park. This size constraint limits the City's ability to develop the park with the desired additional facilities expressed by the citizens. With 80% of citizens supporting the upgrading of existing parks, and 60% of citizens supporting the development of a community park, Kilgore needs to renovate City Park with the primary focus on neighborhood park facilities and develop a new community park at another location. Improved parking is also needed at the park in order to provide users with adequate off-street parking proximate to the facilities being used.

Southside Park has enough improved parking adjacent to the basketball court to service the entire park. However, this improved parking is situated at the opposite end of the park from the baseball/softball field. This has resulted in the formation of unimproved parking areas west and south of the ball field by patrons utilizing the baseball/softball facilities. The existing basketball court has good surface and striping conditions, but the backboards, rims and nets are either antiquated or non-existent.

Based on the support for the renovation of existing facilities and the importance of quality and maintenance of the park system, there is a need to renovate and upgrade the existing facilities at the park. The playground equipment and the basketball goals need to be upgraded, while the open areas of the park need to be irrigated to provide a lawn quality turf. The baseball/softball field needs to be renovated to include new bleachers and an irrigation system.

The fencing around the field should be removed in order to provide the open, inviting atmosphere that is typically found in a neighborhood park. Parking facilities need to be improved to provide adequate, off-street parking near the baseball/softball field as well as the basketball court. This will ensure that patrons use the identified parking facilities, protecting the lawn areas of the park and improving the overall aesthetics.

Pentecost Park, located in northeast Kilgore, was built approximately six years ago. Patrons currently utilize curbside parking spaces located along Angeline Street due to the lack of improved off-street parking facilities. An unimproved drive has evolved along the east side of the park providing direct access to the picnic and restroom facilities. With the exception of parking, the facilities are in good condition and will be sufficient throughout the planning period.

Harris Street Park has been recently renovated to include many new elements such as upgrades to Driller Baseball field as well as a new softball field. Two tennis courts, a playground and open areas were also included. New restroom facilities were added along with a locker room. Trails were included connecting the new R. V. Facility to the rest of the park. New parking was added. A Veteran's Memorial was also added as a feature of this park.

New Parks - Needs

There are clearly two residential areas in the city that are underserved by the existing park system. The eastern portion of the City is mostly residential in nature and is not currently serviced by a neighborhood park or a community park. Additionally, City Staff has indicated the majority of residential growth in Kilgore is expected to be in this general vicinity. The southern portion of the City is also under served by the existing park system. Based on the Park Classification System and the desired service area for each type of park, additional neighborhood parks and community parks are needed as well as an Indoor Recreation Facility.

The eastern portion of Kilgore contains a number of parcels that are suitable for the development of a community park that can also function as a neighborhood park. The City will need to acquire and develop approximately forty acres in order to adequately serve this area. The southern portion of Kilgore, located in Rusk County, is another under served residential neighborhood. This area is more densely developed than the eastern neighborhoods, and may require some creative solutions in order to deliver service to the area. The City will need to identify and acquire approximately ten acres in the vicinity of the current city limits for the development of a neighborhood park. This will accommodate future residential growth while providing the needed park facilities for the existing residents.

The City will also need to continually identify and acquire parcels of land both east and south of the current city limits for the future development of neighborhood parks. This will ensure that the City of Kilgore has adequate park land set aside to accommodate future residential growth. Adequate planning will enable the City to utilize a proactive approach for future park development and prevent the need for reactive, infill-style park planning.

As previously mentioned, 60% of Kilgore citizens support the development of a community park, and City Park clearly does not have the size to deliver the desired facilities. There is a need to develop a new community park, which should be located adjacent to the existing Driller Field partially on land currently owned by the City. Additional acreage will need to be acquired south of Driller Field in order to deliver the ideal range of facilities suited for a community park. The majority of this additional acreage should be preserved as natural open space, complimenting a variety of passive recreational opportunities desired by the citizens of Kilgore. Depending on the specific development plan, this community park could address as many as eleven of the top thirteen Parks and Recreation Facilities Priorities identified in Table V. A new swimming pool ranked as the ninth highest priority and was addressed by numerous citizens during the public input sessions. Due to the location and age of the existing pool, there is a need to develop a new swimming pool facility, ideally at the community park.

An indoor recreation center was the number three priority expressed by citizens and should be developed in conjunction with the community park. A recreation center is both compatible with and complimentary to the types of facilities typically found in a community park. The amenities to be included in an indoor recreation center should be determined by the citizens of Kilgore through the local planning process. Additionally, it is important that the location of the indoor recreation center be considered in the overall design plan for the community park. Ideally, the indoor recreation center should be located adjacent to the outdoor swimming pool and possibly on the property north of Driller Field. This will ensure compatibility among the numerous recreational opportunities associated with the community park and will eliminate the duplication of costly supplemental amenities such as restroom/locker facilities and parking lots.

The Kilgore College Fitness Center is available to the general public through the purchase of a membership. The Fitness Center contains amenities such as an indoor swimming pool, a basketball court, weight rooms, racquetball courts, and aerobic classes. Current membership fees are \$15 per month for seniors, \$27 per month for individuals, and \$37 per month for a family. Memberships are available only for residents over the age of eighteen, and anyone under that age must be accompanied by a parent. Due to the cost of memberships, limited hours of operation, and lack of programming and activities for younger residents, this recreation center does not satisfy the need for an indoor recreation center in Kilgore and is not included in the level of service.

Athletic Facilities - Needs

Based on the NRPA standard of one tennis court per 2,000 population, Kilgore will need a total of six tennis courts available to the general public through 2011. Currently, this need is satisfied by the availability of six tennis courts at the Kilgore College Campus, four courts located on Kilgore ISD property, and three courts located at City Park. The courts owned by KISD are typically locked and not available to the general public. However, organized league representatives are able to secure keys to the facility when scheduled events are planned. The City will need to replace the antiquated courts at City Park with new courts as well as construct additional courts in order to meet present and future recreational demands. Community Park is an ideal location for the development of any future tennis facilities.

Youth softball and soccer games are currently played at the Kilgore Youth Sports Complex. Although the facility is not owned by the City of Kilgore, it functions as a public facility. The complex contains four softball fields, six soccer fields, and restroom/concession facilities. The complex also contains approximately fifteen acres of undeveloped land, which will allow for additional facilities as league growth continues. Representatives from the respective leagues indicated the number of fields currently provided will be sufficient through the planning period. The City needs to continue to support the efforts of Kilgore Youth Softball Association with the maintenance and improvement of the complex.

Youth baseball games are currently played at City Youth Baseball Park, which is an eight acre facility located just north of Driller Field. The complex contains five baseball fields and restroom/concession facilities. Based on the standard of one field for each twelve teams and the limited projected growth of youth baseball, the existing fields are adequate to meet the needs of the program through 2011. The City will need to continue its efforts maintaining and improving the facility, including upgrading the restrooms, backstops, fences and spectator seating.

Kilgore Little League Football does not currently have any game facilities in the City due to the fact that all games are played elsewhere. Citizens ranked new football fields last on the facilities priority list and representatives from the league have indicated the league will be sufficiently serviced throughout the planning period. Though the need for a game field is not anticipated in the next ten years, if the football program experiences growth resulting in more than six teams, a game field may be needed.

The City owns an additional 23 acres in the northern portion of Kilgore that was previously utilized as a sanitary landfill. This property is currently undeveloped and would be best utilized as practice facilities for soccer, baseball, softball, and football. There are significant development limitations associated with the reuse of a landfill, such as installing goals, backstops, and other improvements, that will dictate the future development of the property.

The following table contains the number of fields currently provided by the park system, the projected team growth for the various sports, and the projected need for additional facilities.

Table IV
Athletic Facilities

	2001			2006		2011	
	Fields/Courts Provided	Number of Teams	Fields/Courts Required**	Number of Teams*	Fields/Courts Required**	Number of Teams*	Fields/Courts Required**
Tennis	3	N/A	6	N/A	6	N/A	6
Boys Baseball	5	34	5	34	5	38	5
Girls Softball	4	21	2	22	2	23	2
Soccer	6	44	5	47	5	48	5
Football	0	4	0***	4	0***	4	0***

* Projections based on league participation growth equal to population growth.

** Number of fields required calculated at 1 field per 12 teams.

*** Current games played out of town. Although no game fields are currently needed for the planning period, if league growth exceeds 6 teams, game fields may be warranted.

Trails and Natural Open Space

The City of Kilgore park system does not currently provide citizens with walking/hiking/biking trails or with areas set aside for the preservation of natural open space with the exception of Meadowbrook Park. Multi-use paved trails were the highest ranking facilities desired by residents while additional nature areas was fourth on the list. The City needs to adopt an active policy of acquiring property along creeks, drainage easements and flood ways as it becomes available. This will provide the necessary land for trail projects linking parks, schools and neighborhoods while providing passive recreational opportunities, see Parks/Open Space 2011 map. Additionally, parcels containing unique topography, character or other natural features should be acquired and preserved as natural open space to reflect the unique natural resources of the Kilgore community.

Future park land acquisition should allow for natural open space in both neighborhood parks and community parks to provide opportunities for primitive recreation.

VII. PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PRIORITIES

Based on results from the Citizen Survey, the Parks Master Plan Advisory Committee adopted the following Parks and Recreation Facilities Priorities, which are depicted in descending order.

Table V

Parks and Recreation Facilities Priorities

Facility	Priority
Multi-use Paved Trails	1
Playgrounds & Open areas for play	2
Nature Areas	3
Picnic Shelters/Pavilions	4
Water Features	5
Picnicking Areas	6
Swimming Pools/Water Sprayground	7
Basketball Courts	8
Sports Practice Fields (unlighted)	9
Indoor Recreation Center/Community Center	10
Soccer Fields	11
Youth Softball Fields	12
Sand Volleyball Courts	13

Facility	Priority
Adult Softball Fields	14
Baseball Fields	15
Horseshoe Pits	16
In-Line Hockey Rink	17
Football Fields	18
Amphitheater	19
Tennis Courts	20
Recreational Vehicle Park	21

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the Goals and Objectives, Analysis of Needs, and Facilities Priorities, the following projects for parks, recreation, and open space are recommended.

1. Develop old landfill with sports practice fields **(\$57,500 - \$115,000)**
2. Develop linear greenbelt trail along Turkey Creek, Phase I (1 mile) **(\$250,000)**
3. Rehabilitate South Street Park to include: **(\$218,500 - \$258,750)**
 - ☞ upgrading of playground to meet CPSC requirements
 - ☞ installation of new goals on basketball court
 - ☞ installation of new irrigation system
 - ☞ upgrading baseball/softball field
 - ☞ install new sprayground
3. Rehabilitate Meadowbrook Park to include: **(\$235,000 - \$310,500)**
 - ☞ installing 3/4 mile of paved trails
 - ☞ picnic stations
 - ☞ upgrading of playground to meet CPSC requirements
 - ☞ improve parking lot area
4. Develop Phase II of linear greenbelt trail along Turkey Creek (1 mile) **(\$250,000)**
5. Install new irrigation system at City Park **(\$23,000 - \$28,750)**
6. Acquire ±40 acres in the eastern portion of Kilgore for a community park **(\$160,000)**
7. Develop linear greenbelt trail along Big Head Creek **(4.5 Miles) (\$1,125,000)**
8. Develop a community park in the eastern portion of kilgore
(\$1,150,000 - 1,610,000)
9. Acquire ±10 acres in the southern (Rusk County) portion of Kilgore for a neighborhood park **(\$46,000)**
10. Develop a neighborhood park in the southern (Rusk County) portion of Kilgore
(\$287,500)
11. Develop Indoor Recreation Facilities at a community park to include:
(\$2,300,000 - \$3,450,000)
 - ☞ indoor recreation center
 - ☞ roads, parking & utilities
12. Develop new swimming pool facilities at a community park **(\$1,150,000 - \$1,610,000)**

NOTE: Costs are preliminary estimates only and prepared without the benefit of detailed engineering data. All costs shown are based on 2008 dollars. Final construction costs will vary.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION - EXISTING AND AVAILABLE MECHANISMS

In order to implement this Park and Open Space Plan, there are a variety of funding mechanisms and tools available for use by the City of Kilgore. These include:

SENATE BILL 376-4A - SALES TAX REVENUES - Funds generated by this special sales tax can be used for developing and maintaining public recreational facilities following an election.

TEXAS RECREATION & PARKS ACCOUNT PROGRAM - This program, administered by Texas Parks and Wildlife, is a matching grant program that may be used to aid communities in acquisition and development of parks and open space (see Appendix B for additional information). This grant program includes the Outdoor Recreation Acquisition and Development Program and the Texas Recreation & Parks Account Indoor Recreation Program. The Texas Recreation & Parks Account Small Grants Program is a matching grant program that may be used to aid communities with a population less than 50,000 in the development of parks and open space (see Appendix A for additional information).

PAY AS YOU GO - This method of financing park improvements involves budgeting for land acquisition, development, and maintenance of park facilities through the City's annual budget process. Allocations for park improvements are made and spent annually through the standard budget process.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - These bonds are issued by the City following an election in which the voters authorize their issuance for specific stated purposes, as well as the necessary tax increases to support them. These bonds pledge the property or ad valorem taxing power of the City.

CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION - These certificates have basically the same effect as general obligation bonds except they do not require an election to authorize them. An election can be petitioned by five percent of the registered voters of the City. These certificates are issued on the authorization of the City Council. Repayment is based on the property taxing power of the City, utility system revenues, or a combination of the two.

USER FEES - This method of financing requires the eventual user of each park to pay a fee for the use of each facility. Fees to be charged users can be established to pay for debt service, maintenance, and operation of the park system.

PRIVATE OR CORPORATE DONATIONS - Donations from foundations, corporations, and/or private individuals are often used to acquire and develop parks. The City should constantly identify and pursue opportunities to receive such funding for parks. One avenue for receiving donations is through the use of the Texas Parks & Recreation Foundation. This foundation has been developed to help all communities in the State of Texas to maximize the benefits of donations of land, property, and money.

The following implementation schedule was adopted by the Parks Master Plan Advisory Committee after evaluating the Citizen Survey, Facilities Priorities, and input from the focus group meetings and public hearings. It is important to note that the following schedule is intended to be a flexible guide for development of Parks and Recreational Facilities over the next ten years for the City of Kilgore. The City should evaluate and take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities that may arise that are not identified in the schedule or change the order of implementation if necessary.

Table VI - Implementation Schedule

	Project	Date	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source
1	Develop sports practice fields at old landfill	2008	\$57,500 -115,000	Youth Association Donations & Labor General Fund T.P.&W Grant (small grants)
2	Develop linear greenbelt trail along Turkey Creek, Phase I (1 mile)	2008	\$250,000	T.P.&W Grant (recreation trails) General Fund General Obligation Bond
3	Rehab South Street Park	2009	\$218,500 - 258,750	General Fund General Obligation Bond
4	Rehab Meadowbrook Park	2010	\$235,000 - 310,500	General Fund General Obligation Bond
5	Develop Phase II of linear greenbelt trail along Turkey Creek (1 mile)	2009	\$250,000	T.P.&W Grant (recreation trails) General Fund General Obligation Bond
6	Install new irrigation system at City Park		\$23,000 - \$28,750	T.P.&W Grant (outdoor grants) General Fund General Obligation Bond
7	Acquire ±40 acres in eastern portion of Kilgore for community park	2014-2018	\$184,000	T.P.&W Grant (outdoor grants) General Fund General Obligation Bond
8	Develop linear greenbelt trail along Big Head Creek (4.5 miles)	2014-2018	\$1,125,000	T.P.&W Grant (recreation trails) General Fund General Obligation Bond
9	Develop a community park in eastern portion of Kilgore	2014-2018	\$1,150,000 - 1,610,000	T.P.&W Grant (outdoor grants) General Fund General Obligation Bond
10	Acquire ±10 acres in southern portion of Kilgore for neighborhood park	2014-2018	\$46,000	T.P.&W Grant (outdoor grants) General Fund General Obligation Bond
11	Develop neighborhood park in southern portion of Kilgore	2014-2018	\$287,500	T.P.&W Grant (outdoor & small grants) General Fund General Obligation Bond
12	Develop Indoor Recreation Facilities at community park	2014-2018	\$2,300,000- \$3,450,000	T.P.&W Grant (outdoor) General Fund General Obligation Bond
13	Swimming facilities at a community park	2014-2018	\$1,150,000 - 1,610,000	T.P.&W Grant (outdoor) General Fund General Obligation Bond

Note: Costs are preliminary estimates only and prepared without the benefit of detailed engineering data. All costs shown are based on 2008 dollars. Final construction costs will vary.

IX. CONCLUSIONS

Currently, the City of Kilgore has approximately 97.02 acres of developed park land within its corporate city limits. This figure represents parks and open space in Kilgore and includes existing facilities owned by the City as well as the Kilgore Youth Sports Complex, which is not owned by the City of Kilgore but functions as a City facility. When compared to the existing population in the service area of 11,866, the resultant level of service of developed park land is 8.50 acres for each 1,000 people.

This parks and open space master plan outlines park projects that add approximately 66 acres of developed park land to the overall system and approximately 12 acres of natural open space. If every park project outlined in this plan is implemented within the ten year planning period, based on the projected population growth, the level of service in the year 2018 will be 12.45 acres per 1,000 people. Therefore, if the entire outlined plan is implemented, the existing level of service will be increased by 46% over the next ten years.

This plan is to be utilized as a flexible tool that should be reviewed annually and updated every five years to continue to reflect the unique recreational needs of the area. The City should take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities not identified in the plan that may arise, such as donations of land, facilities, etc.

With the proposed additions to the park system that are outlined in this plan will come additional maintenance and operational needs in order to best utilize, manage, and care for both the new facilities and those that exist today. The proposed improvements contained in this plan will enhance the quality of life in the area and help ensure that the City of Kilgore is able to keep pace with the growing recreational needs of the citizens. The resulting benefits include increased quality of life, economic value, increasing property values, and pride among the residents of the area.