

City Council Work Session Briefing

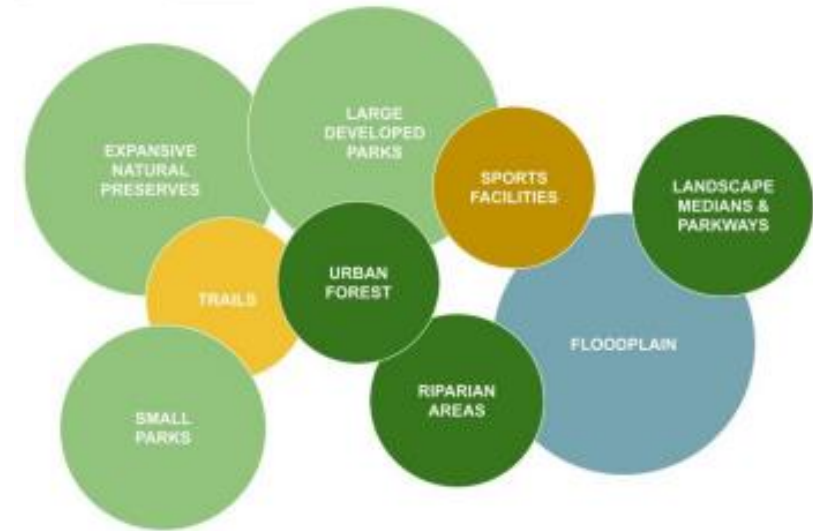
January 9, 2024



What is Greenspace?

A range of natural environments, including but not limited to:

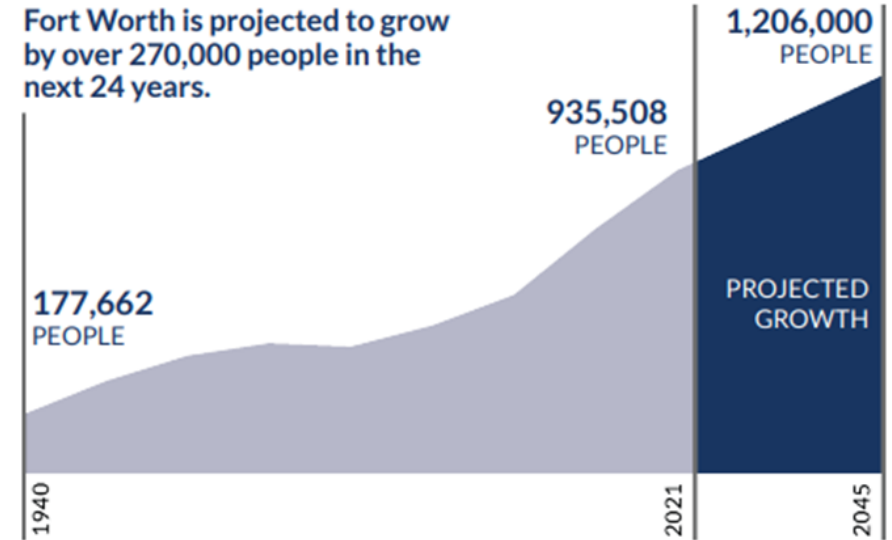
- all parks (small to large)
- the urban forest
- landscaped medians and parkways
- outdoor sports/recreation facilities
- trail systems
- expansive and smaller natural preserves
- floodplain and riparian areas



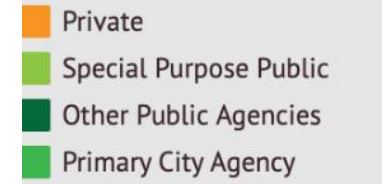
Why do we need more?

As we continue to grow, ensure sustainability of the community through -

- *protecting water quality*
- *enhancing flood protection, and*
- *promoting physical/mental health through recreation and opportunities to connect with the natural environment.*



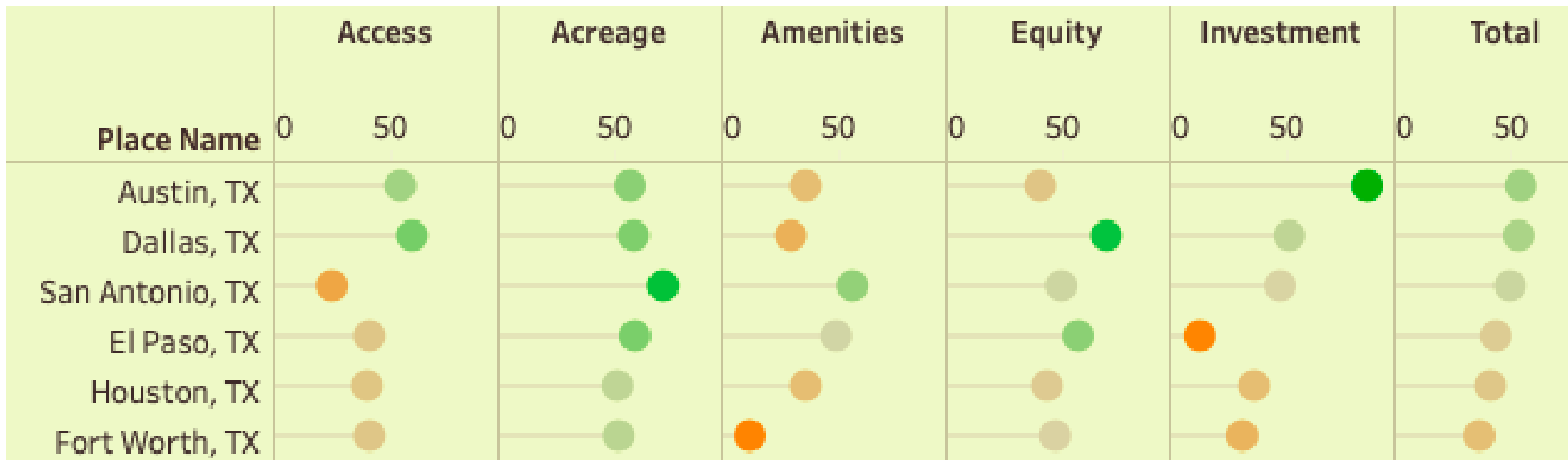
Comparison of Park Investment



Source: Trust for Public Land, 2023



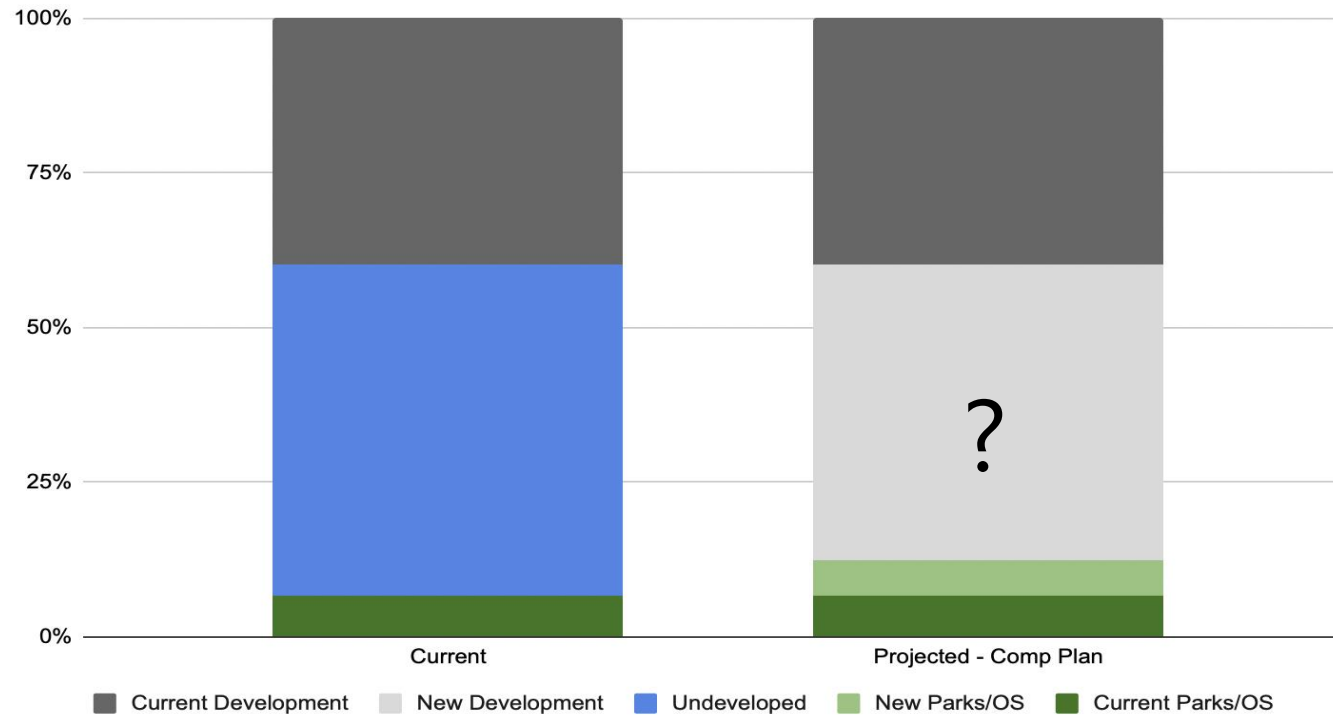
Park Score for Texas Cities (500k+)



Source: Trust for Public Land, 2023



Significant Land Use Opportunity



Source: FWTX 2022 Comprehensive Plan

How will this be done? (Two Strategies)

1. Enhance and grow existing park system with support from partners.
 - Commission/complete Aspirational Study
 - Complete Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan



NOTE: Existing park system encompasses nearly 300 parks/recreational areas totaling 13,000+ acres.



2. Preserve/activate a minimum of 10,000 additional acres of open space over the next five years.

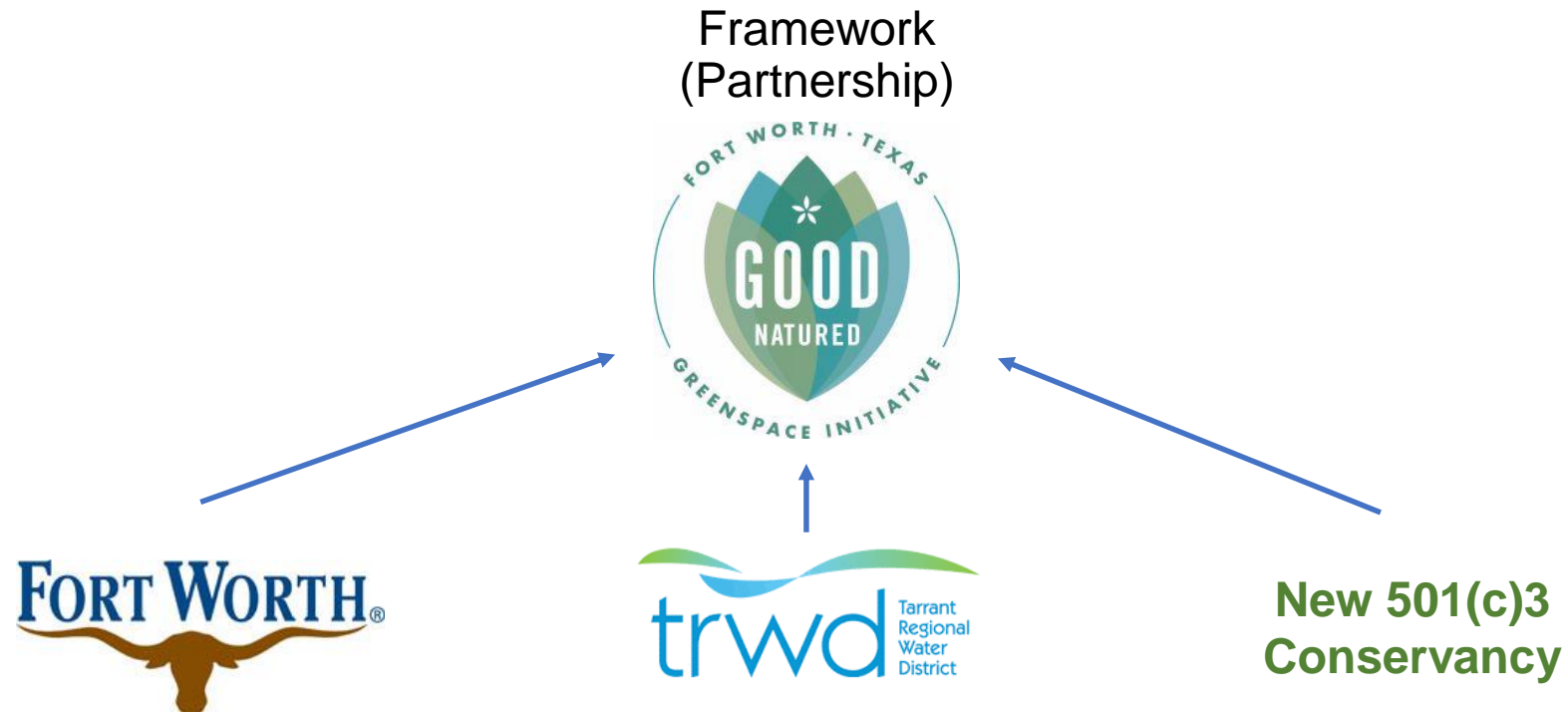
- Complete Greenspace Strategic Framework, to include:
 - *Purpose, goals, definitions*
 - *Partnerships*
 - *Strategies and funding*
 - *Three-year action plan*



Note: Approximately half of the City is now undeveloped, and 50 acres are developed/week (2,600/year).



Who will do it? Public and private community partnerships.



+ Many existing and new stakeholders

Case Studies

New 501(c)3 Conservancy



Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC)

Greater Raleigh/Durham, NC

- Nearly 25,000 acres conserved since 1983
- Formed by regional council of governments; now as a 501c3
- City & state funding, along with ~\$2M/yr in philanthropic contributions



Bayou Greenways Initiative (BGI)

Houston, TX

- 150-mile, 3,000-acre network of trails/green spaces along waterways
- Partnership of City of Houston and the Houston Parks Board (501c3)
- Catalytic funding - \$100M bond, matching philanthropic campaign, and "value capture" for operations



Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)

San Francisco Bay Area, CA

- 85,000 acre green space system spanning 37 individual sites
- Partnership of National Park Service and Golden Gate Parks Conservancy, and others
- Layered funding model

How they Work

New 501(c)3 Conservancy

	Vision/ Planning	Land Acquisition	Philanth. Funding	Capital Imprvmnts	Prgmming	Maint	Land Ownership
TLC	JOINT	PRIV LEAD	PRIV LEAD	N/A	PRIV LEAD	PRIV LEAD	PRIV LEAD
BGI	JOINT	JOINT	PRIV LEAD	PRIV LEAD	PRIV LEAD	PRIV LEAD	PUB LEAD
GGNR	PUB LEAD	PUB LEAD	PRIV LEAD	PRIV LEAD	JOINT	PUB LEAD	PUB LEAD

KEY:

PRIV LEAD	PUB LEAD	JOINT	N/A
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Key Elements for Success

New 501(c)3 Conservancy

- A compelling vision that can attract funding and public support.
- United public-private leadership.
- A compelling catalyst - funding or land transaction.
- Ability to monetize the economic value of greenspace.
- Leadership stability (10+ year tenure of founding project leaders).

Strategic Vision Priorities

Quality of Life

**Economic
Development &
Community
Investment**



**Community
Safety**



**Infrastructure,
Responsible
Growth & Fiscal
Responsibility**



Greenspace = Quality of Life

What's Next

- City Council consideration of park system Aspirational Study – January 23rd
- Develop/complete of Greenspace Strategic Framework – 1st quarter 2024
- Develop related FY25 budget proposals – spring/summer, 2024
- Complete Aspirational Study – summer, 2024
- Complete/adopt Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan – winter, 2025



Questions & Comments