

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A Big Thank You!

On behalf of the City of Fort Worth, we extend our deepest gratitude to all the stakeholders, community members, and partner agencies who played an essential role in shaping the GREENprint Fort Worth: Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Public Realm Master Plan. Your invaluable input, dedication, and passion for our city's parks and public spaces have helped us create a forward-thinking and community-driven vision for the future. This plan reflects the voices, aspirations, and needs of our residents, and it would not have been possible without your active participation. Thank you for your commitment to making Fort Worth a greener, more connected, and vibrant place for all.

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Rose Bradshaw - President & CEO, North Texas Community Foundation



LETTER FROM OUR MAYOR



Dear Fort Worth Community,

It is with great pride and heartfelt excitement that I present to you GREENprint Fort Worth: Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Public Realm Master Plan. This is more than just a vision, it is a promise to our residents that we are shaping a healthier, more connected, and more vibrant future for all who call Fort Worth home.

Growing up on my family's cattle ranch just outside of Hico, Texas, I was surrounded by wide open spaces and raised with a deep respect for the land. I didn't know it then, but those early days spent under big Texas skies, learning about stewardship from generations before me—would shape not just who I am, but how I lead. Those lessons shaped my conviction that access to green spaces should be a fundamental part of building healthy, thriving communities.

When I was elected Mayor in 2021, I knew one of the greatest legacies we could leave behind was the protection of our city's natural heritage. I believe every child should have the opportunity to explore a park, run under a canopy of trees, and feel connected to the land—just as I did growing up. That belief is what inspired my Good Natured initiative, and it's the same spirit that powers GREENprint Fort Worth.

This master plan is built on the voices of our community—thousands of residents, stakeholders, and partners who all share a passion for the outdoors and a vision for a stronger, more equitable city. Together, we've reimagined our parks and public spaces not just as destinations, but as everyday essentials—places where families gather, children play, and neighbors connect across generations and backgrounds.

The benefits of this plan are far-reaching. It prioritizes equitable access to parks, protects our environment, improves connectivity through expanded trails and greenways, and strengthens our economy by creating public spaces that inspire investment, tourism, and community pride. With GREENprint we are setting the course for a greener, healthier Fort Worth—one where every resident lives within reach of nature. We are not just building parks. We are building a legacy—a City in a Park.

I am honored to stand with the Fort Worth Park & Recreation Department, our partners, and each of you as we bring this bold vision to life. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to making Fort Worth the best place to live, work, and raise a family—for this generation and the next.

Sincerely,

Mayor Mattie Parker Fort Worth, TX



LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF PARK FORT WORTH. & RECREATION



Dear Fort Worth Residents and Partners.

It is my honor to introduce GREENprint Fort Worth: Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Public Realm Master Plan, a bold, community-driven blueprint for the future of our city's public spaces. This plan represents years of thoughtful collaboration, passionate input, and shared aspirations. It reflects the voices of thousands of residents and stakeholders who helped shape a vision rooted in equity, sustainability, and connection.

As Fort Worth continues to grow, the role of parks and public spaces has never been more vital. GREENprint is not just about adding more green to the map, it is about adding nature, recreation, and community into daily life. From shaded playgrounds to connected trails, from natural areas that protect our environment to public spaces that encourage communities to come together, this plan is our commitment to making parks accessible and meaningful for everyone, in every neighborhood.

The plan outlines clear, achievable strategies that reflect the values of this community: creating healthier neighborhoods, improving access to outdoor spaces, preserving our natural assets, and building a park system that serves both today's residents and future generations. It also positions Fort Worth as a national leader in innovative, inclusive park planning.

This is a plan built on partnerships. I am deeply grateful to the residents, advisory committees, partner organizations, and city leaders who contributed to this process. Your voices brought this plan to life.

As we move into implementation, I encourage you to stay involved, stay vocal, and stay inspired. Together, we will make this vision a reality and ensure Fort Worth continues to grow not just in size, but in quality of life.

Thank you for your trust and commitment to building a stronger, greener Fort Worth.

With gratitude,

Dave Lewis, Director Park & Recreation Department



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Executive Summary

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Building on the Past, Looking to the Future

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A Resolution

NO. 6101-05-2025

ADOPTING THE 2025 GREENPRINT FORT WORTH: PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND PUBLIC REALM MASTER PLAN FOR THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS

WHEREAS, in 1909, the first Park Master Plan, authored by George Kessler, was adopted by the City of Fort Worth Park Board, and successive Park Master Plans by Hare and Hare were adopted in 1930 and 1957; and

WHEREAS, these plans laid the foundation for the park system in Fort Worth and, on November 10, 1992, the City Council adopted a Strategic Plan for the Fort Worth Park and Recreation Department to guide the management of its resources;

WHEREAS, on June 30, 1998, the City Council adopted the 1998 Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, which included the first locally determined needs-based standards in the history of the Parks and Community Services Department;

WHEREAS, in 2000, the City Council adopted the first City of Fort Worth Comprehensive Plan, which serves as the umbrella plan for all City services, growth, and development;

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the 2004 Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan on June 22, 2004, along with an update to that plan on February 9, 2010, incorporating them both by reference into the City's Comprehensive Plan;

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the 2015 Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan on January 27, 2015, along with an update to that plan on June 23, 2020, incorporating them both by reference into the City's Comprehensive Plan;

WHEREAS, the adoption of a new Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan every ten years is vital to the City's ability to remain competitive for outside funding for capital improvements, renovations, and maintenance of the City's park system, including funding from state grants administered by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department;

WHEREAS, in preparation for the 2025 GREENprint Fort Worth: Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Public Realm Master Plan ("GREENprint Fort Worth"), the Park & Recreation Department commissioned a Needs Assessment Study for use in setting local standards; prioritizing park, recreation and open space needs both city-wide and within each of the City's five (5) Park Planning Districts; and developing an action plan to comply with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's grant guidelines;

WHEREAS, GREENprint Fort Worth builds upon the legacy of planning and stewardship and provides for assessments, standards, objectives, priorities, recommendations, strategies and actions that will guide the development of the park, recreation, open space and public realm system for the next ten years;

WHEREAS, the Good Natured Greenspace Initiative, launched by Mayor Mattie Parker in October of 2023, also provides guidance related to the preservation and conservation of natural areas;

WHEREAS, GREENprint Fort Worth includes, among other things, a reimagined vision and mission statement, goals, transformative ideas, objectives and strategies, along with an implementation plan;

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2025, the Park & Recreation Advisory Board unanimously endorsed the GREENprint Fort Worth Master Plan;

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2025 the City Plan Commission unanimously endorsed the 2025 Master Plan: and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS THAT:

- 1. The vision and mission statement, goals, transformative ideas, objectives and strategies, and implementation plan of the 2025 GREENprint Fort Worth: Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Public Realm Master Plan are officially adopted as the standards and classifications for the City of Fort Worth park, recreation, and open space system; and
- 2. The 2025 GREENprint Fort Worth: Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Public Realm Master Plan for the City of Fort Worth is hereby officially adopted as the guide for allocation of resources for the improvement and continued development of Fort Worth's park, recreation, and open space system; and
- 3. The 2025 GREENprint Fort Worth: Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Public Realm Master Plan for the City of Fort Worth is hereby incorporated as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan; and
- 4. This resolution shall be effective from and after its passage by the City Council.

Adopted this 13th day of MAY 2025.

ATTEST: James & Lerence

By:

Jannette S. Goodall, City Secretary



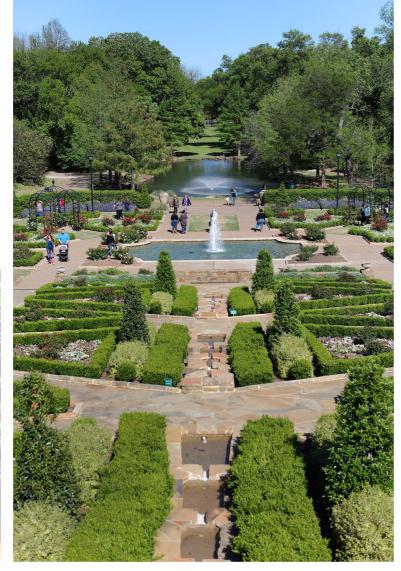
























EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GREENprint Fort Worth: Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Public Realm Master Plan

A Vision for A City in a Park

Fort Worth stands at a pivotal moment in its evolution. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States—with a projected population of over 1.3 million by 2050—this plan reimagines the role of parks and public spaces as essential infrastructure, not merely amenities. GREENprint Fort Worth represents a bold, forward-thinking, and community-driven vision to ensure all Fort Worth residents, current and future, have access to a resilient and thriving public realm.

Guided by Mayor Parker's Good Natured Green Space Initiative and inspired by over a century of legacy planning, GREENprint Fort Worth extends beyond conventional park planning. It envisions an interconnected citywide network of nature, culture, and community—transforming Fort Worth into **A City in a Park**. This shift in paradigm integrates nature into everyday life, elevating parks and green spaces as foundational to health, economic vitality, mobility, and overall quality of life.

A System Transformed

The Fort Worth Park & Recreation Department (PARD), supported by 455 full-time staff, manages an impressive portfolio of over 13,000 acres of parkland and 210 miles of trails. Despite this, rapid growth has outpaced investment, leaving portions of the city underserved and facilities stretched thin.

GREENprint Fort Worth provides a comprehensive and equitable strategy that assesses the current system through five interrelated lenses: **Standard**, **Demand**, **Resource**, **Equity**, **and Access-based**. These assessments, combined with technical analysis, peer city benchmarking, and robust community engagement, help identify critical gaps and opportunities for investment.

Key Findings include:

- A shortfall of over 4,400 acres of parkland today, growing to 9,400+ acres by 2045.
- Underserved areas, such as Park Planning District (PPD) 3, that lack equitable access.
- Maintenance and staffing levels significantly below national benchmarks.
- Limited aquatic and outdoor recreation opportunities, particularly in low-income communities.
- Broad public support for expanded trails, safer parks, nature access, and inclusive programming.

These insights underscore the urgency to act, modernize, and innovate to meet the needs of a growing, younger, and increasingly diverse population.

VISION STATEMENT:

Fort Worth is a recognized leader, known for its premier park system, visionary conservation of natural landscapes, a connected community that fosters wellness and a thriving quality of life.

Community-Centered Planning

At the heart of GREENprint Fort Worth is a commitment to equity, inclusion, and public voice. Over 1,600 residents participated through surveys, public meetings, pop-ups, focus groups, and stakeholder workshops. This plan reflects their lived experiences, desires, and aspirations.



450
Pop-up & Workshop participants

11+ Stakeholder Listening Sessions Park & Recreation
Advisory Board,
Steering &
Technical
Committees
Meetings

Top community priorities include:

- A wider variety of parks and recreation experiences
- Better connections through trails, sidewalks, and multi-modal access
- Greener, safer, and more shaded public spaces
- Year-round, intergenerational programming for all cultures and abilities
- Better access to nature, creeks, and the Trinity River

This engagement process revealed both what is missing—and what is possible. Residents voiced a clear and passionate call for a park system that reflects their communities, stories, and future.

The Framework for Tomorrow

The plan is structured around six strategic goals—developed through public input and technical analysis—that define the next generation of parks and public spaces in Fort Worth:

GREENprint Fort Worth Core Goals

Below are the Six Core Goals of the GREENprint Fort Worth plan that take the community priorities forward into actionable steps forward.



Thriving Community

Support the community's physical, mental, and emotional well-being through innovative design and programming.



Common Ground

Develop public spaces that are accessible and welcoming for everyone, foster social interaction, and celebrate the community's multiculturalism, enhancing a sense of belonging and unity.



Connected System

Create a dynamic, connected network of high-quality parks, public spaces, and trails that unite the community and support the mobility and recreational needs of all Fort Worth residents.



Premier Destination

Transform Fort Worth's parks and public spaces into a leading destination that contributes to the City's economic development and growth.



Vibrant Nature

Cultivate natural spaces that enhance ecosystems, foster community connections, and build resilience by integrating the natural environment into Fort Worth's park and recreation system.



Manageable Resources

Elevate the management, operations, and maintenance to ensure organizational sustainability.

Five Transformative Ideas

To elevate Fort Worth's position as a national model, the plan identifies **five Transformative Ideas**—bold initiatives with citywide impact that serve as catalysts for change. These ideas are central to the overall implementation strategy, providing a framework for prioritizing investment, guiding cross-departmental coordination, and inspiring innovative approaches to parks, recreation, and public space. More information on each Transformative Idea can be found in **Chapter 6**.



New Parks and Public Realm Typologies

Introduce innovative park models—including District Parks, Green Main Streets, and parklets—that respond to mixed-use, walkable, and high-growth areas. These spaces blur the line between park and city, supporting density, vibrancy, and cultural expression.



Green Connectivity Network

Design a citywide mobility network of trails, sidewalks, greenways, and transit to create seamless connections between parks, neighborhoods, and key destinations. This system supports equitable access to recreation and reinforces Fort Worth's sustainability goals.



Living with Nature

Protect and integrate nature into everyday urban life through green infrastructure, climate resilience strategies, and expanded access to creeks, forests, and green spaces. This initiative promotes environmental justice and citywide climate adaptation.



A Central Common Ground

Develop a signature downtown park at the confluence of the Trinity River and Panther Island—positioned as Fort Worth's cultural, civic, and ecological heart. This iconic space would become a unifying landmark and destination for residents and visitors alike.



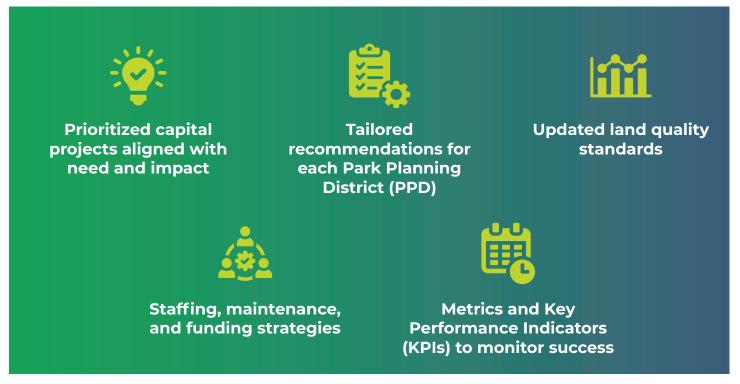
A New Era of Programming

Activate public spaces with inclusive, year-round programming that reflects community identity, builds social connection, and redefines how Fort Worthians engage with their city. Programming becomes a tool for place-making and civic connection.

These ideas are more than design concepts—they are actionable frameworks that challenge the city to think big, act boldly, and lead with equity and innovation.

A Road Map for Implementation

The plan provides a detailed road map to transform vision into action including:



This strategic guidance empowers the City to leverage funding from sources like the **Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD)** and to foster partnerships with non-profits, developers, institutions, and philanthropic organizations.

The Path Forward

GREENprint Fort Worth brings together where we've been and where we're going. It builds on generations of planning, leadership, and community care—and sets a bold course toward a more equitable, healthier, and more resilient future.

This plan envisions Fort Worth not simply as a city that provides parks—but as a city defined by its parks. A place where every child can walk to a playground, where trails link neighborhoods to nature, and where public spaces reflect the rich culture and shared identity of a growing metropolis.

Together, we are building a Fort Worth that is not just liveable—but exceptional. A place where the city and the parks are one.