

PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN UPDATE



2022-2026





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Acknowledgments

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The City of Belton conducted an internal 5-year update to the City of Belton Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan 2016-2026. The update was developed between April and December, 2021, with contributions from many individuals and groups. The following individuals are recognized for their significant contributions to the development of the Plan Update.

The Belton City Council:

Wayne Carpenter, Mayor
David K. Leigh, Mayor Pro-Tem
Dan Kirkley
Craig Pearson
Guy O'Banion
John R. Holmes, Sr.
Daniel Bucher



The Belton Parks Board:

Josh Pearson, Chair
Jason Wolfe, Vice-Chair
Diane Ring
Ted Smith
Oscar Berssoza



City Staff:

Sam Listi	City Manager
Gene Ellis	Assistant City Manager/ Chief of Police
Matt Bates	Director of Public Works
James Grant	Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
Manuel Zapata	Recreation Coordinator
Molly Hart	Events Coordinator
Larry Thorne	Parks Supervisor
Jim McKellar	Parks Supervisor
Jared Siegler	Parks Supervisor
Tammy Robertson	Maintenance Technician



Executive Summary

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Introduction:

In April 2021, the City of Belton conducted an internal 5-year Master Plan Update. City Staff, Belton Parks Board, and the Belton City Council have produced a document that supports the existing City of Belton Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan 2016-2026. The Update engaged the community and examined existing Park amenities, community needs, and outlined priorities that the City can work towards for the remaining five years of the existing plan before it is formally updated in 2026.





Demographics

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Population Estimate:

24,610 (Provided by 2020 Census)

Age:

5 to 9 years	6.5 %
10 to 14 years	8.8 %
15 to 19 years	9.3 %
20 to 24 years	12.3 %
25 to 34 years	13.4 %
35 to 44 years	11.8 %
45 to 54 years	8.6 %
55 to 59 years	4.8 %
60 to 64 years	5.1 %
65 to 74 years	6.2 %
75 to 84 years	4.7 %
85 years and over	1.5 %

Sex:

Females:	52.4%
Males:	47.6%

Race & Ethnicities:

White alone, not Hispanic or Latino:	55.1%
Hispanic or Latino:	31.8%
Black or African American:	10.6%
Asian:	.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native:	.1%

Income:

Median Household Income:	\$62,976
Per Capita Income:	\$28,402
Persons Living in Poverty:	13.5%





Park Amenity Matrix Continued

Park Facility Name	Park Classification	Educational Stations / Story Boards	Exercise Stations	Fishing / Observation Decks	Horseshoe Pits (Set)	Meeting Rooms	Pavilions/Gazebos	Picnic Tables	Playgrounds/Swing Sets	Butterfly Gardens	Skate parks	Soccer Fields	Softball Fields	Splash Pads / Water Fountain Feature	Trails (in Miles)	Volleyball/Sand Volleyball	Trash Cans	Water Fountains	Restrooms	Park Rating 1 thru 10
Liberty Park	C	2					2	8	0						H&B		11	2		8
Yettie Polk Park	C	4					1	14	3	1				1	H&B		17	3		8
Chisholm Trail Park	C				1		1	5	1	1	0	2	3		0.79	1	10	2	1	8
Heritage Park	C			1			2	21	2			4			0.68		65	2	2	9
Beall Park	N							3	2								2	1		9
Carla Kay Park	N							1	1								1			2
Continental Fields	S																			1
Harris Community Park	C	4		1	2		11	19	2	1				1	H&B		17		1	7
T. B. Harris Community Center	C					7														
Lena Armstrong Public Library	C					2				1										
Lions Field	S												1				2			5
Griggs Field	S																			1
Jaycee Field	S																5		1	3
Housing Authority	N						1	3	2								3			3
Quail Meadows	N						3	3	3						0.23		3	1		10
Miller Heights Community Park	N	1	1		1			4	1	1					0.59		4	1		7
Jeff Hamilton Park	N	1						2	2						0.25		2			10
South Wall Tiger Park	S						3	3	1					1			3	1	1	9
Nolan Creek Hike & Bike Trail	S	10													3.29					
Nolan Creek Nature Trail	S	1			1			2		1					0.25		3			10
The Landing at Creekside Park	S	2															7			10
Ave J Water Tower Lot																				
Sendero Estates Park	N																1			10
Liberty Valley Parkland																				
Wallace Law Park	N																			
Total		25	1	2	5	9	24	88	20	6	0	6	4	3	6.08	1				

2021 BELTON PARKS SURVEY



Playground of Central Texas



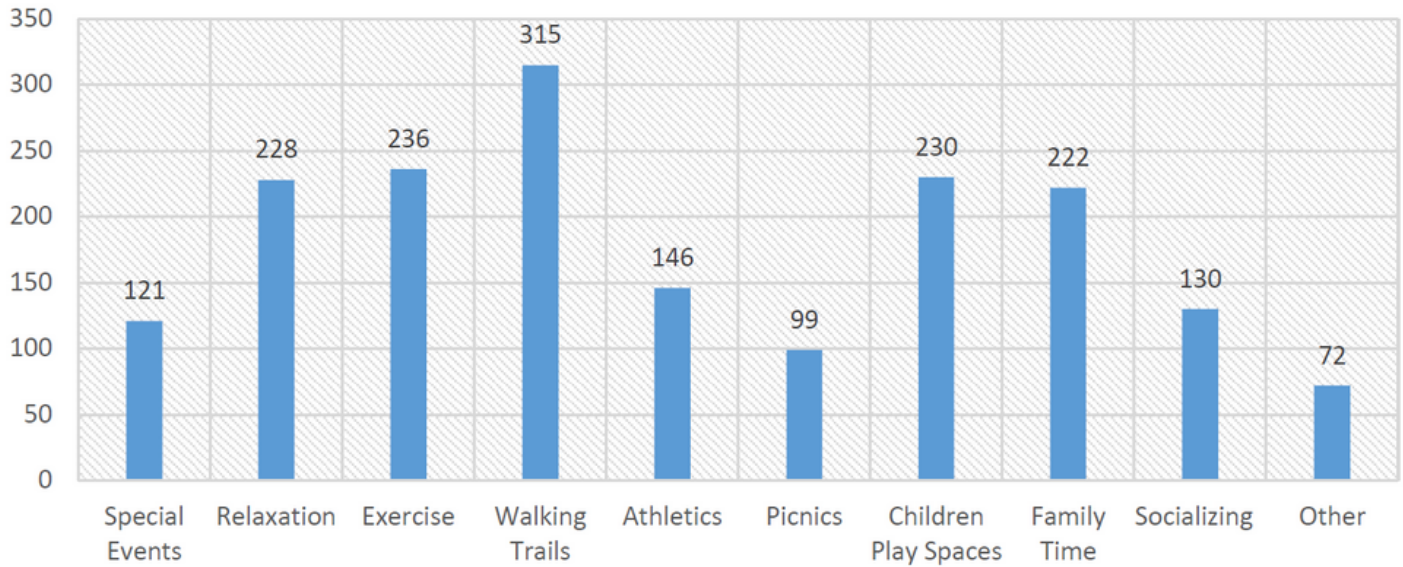


2021 Parks Community Survey

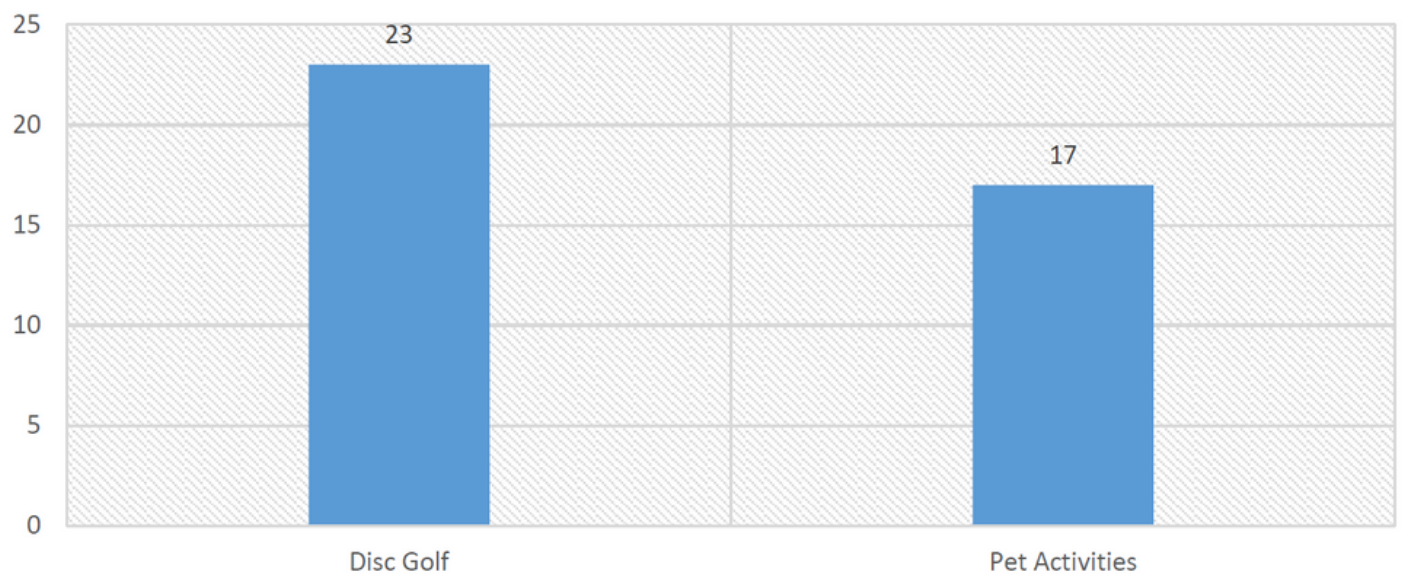
Question 1:

5

Q1: Why do you visit our Parks?



Q1: Why do you visit our Parks? Other: Top Response

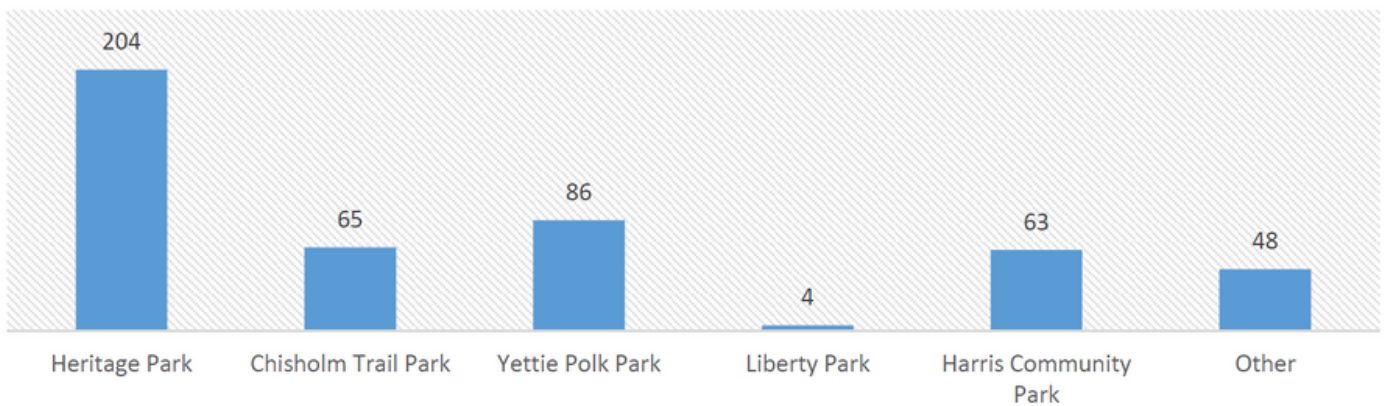




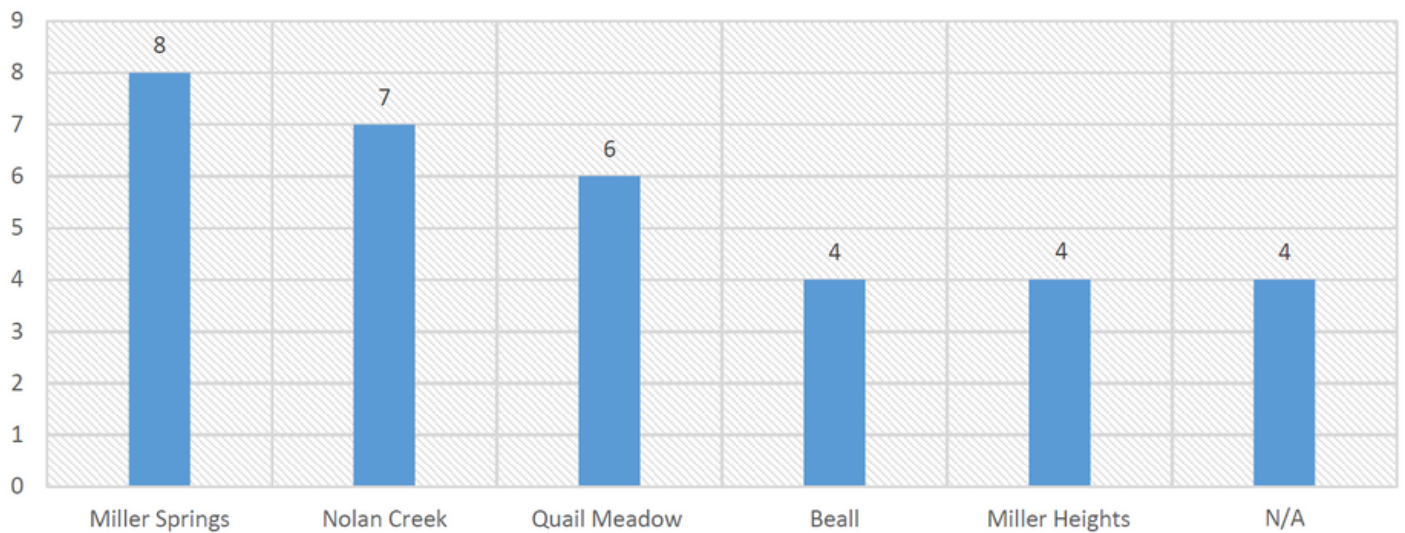
2021 Parks Community Survey

Question 2:

Q2: Which Park do you visit the most?



Q2: Which Park do you visit the most?
Other Top Responses

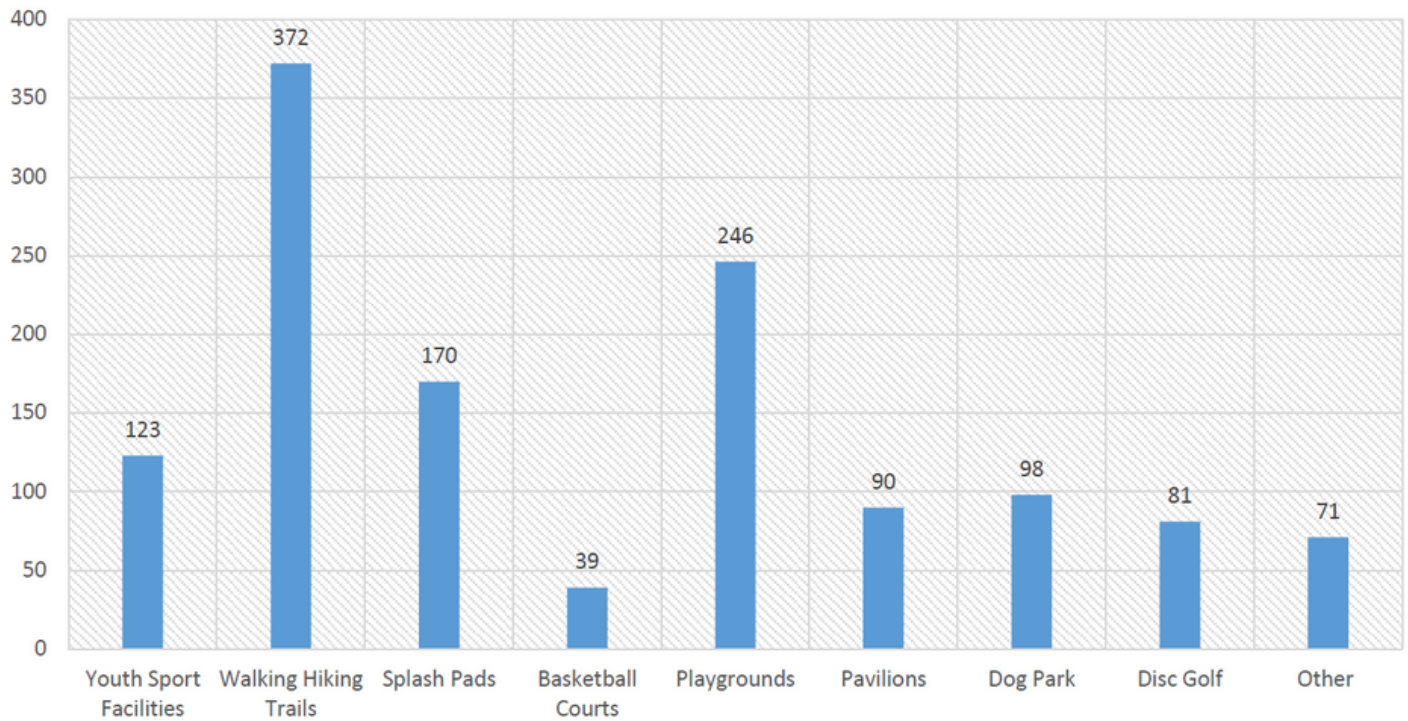




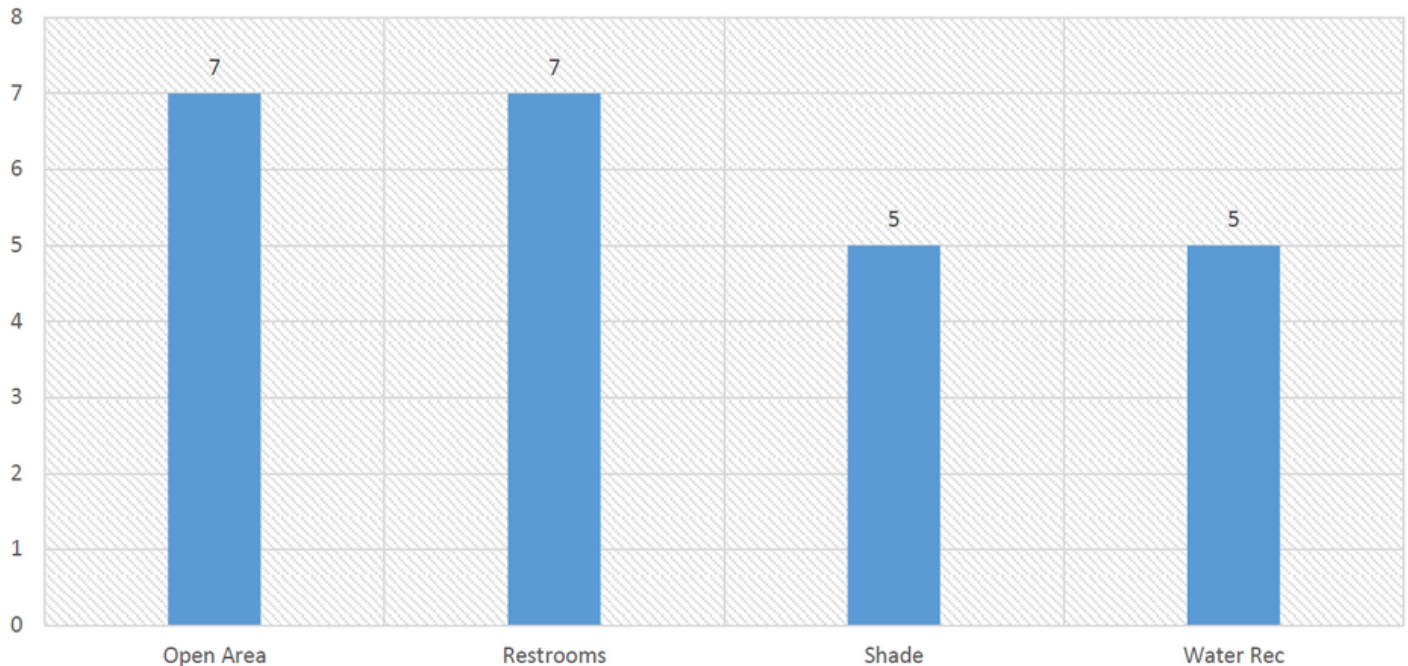
2021 Parks Community Survey

Question 3:

Q3: What three amenities are most important to you?



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Other Top Responses

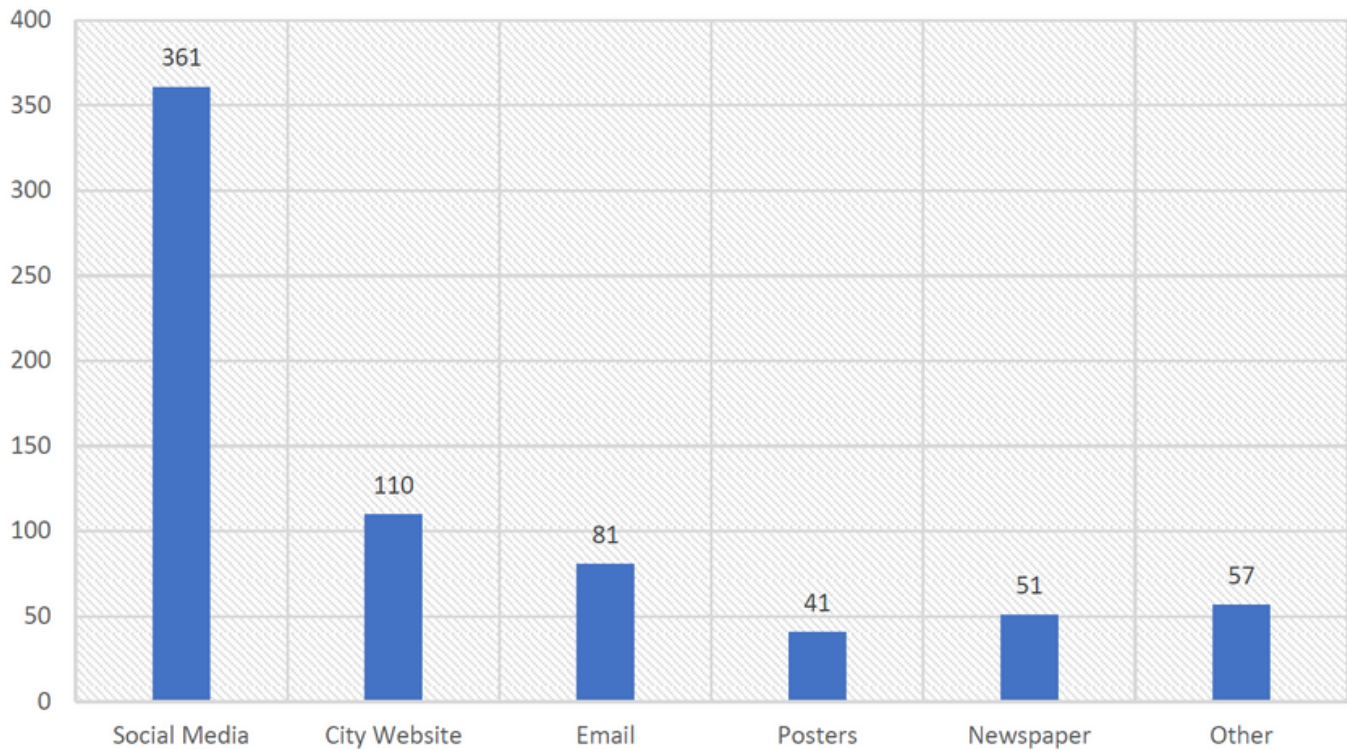




2021 Parks Community Survey

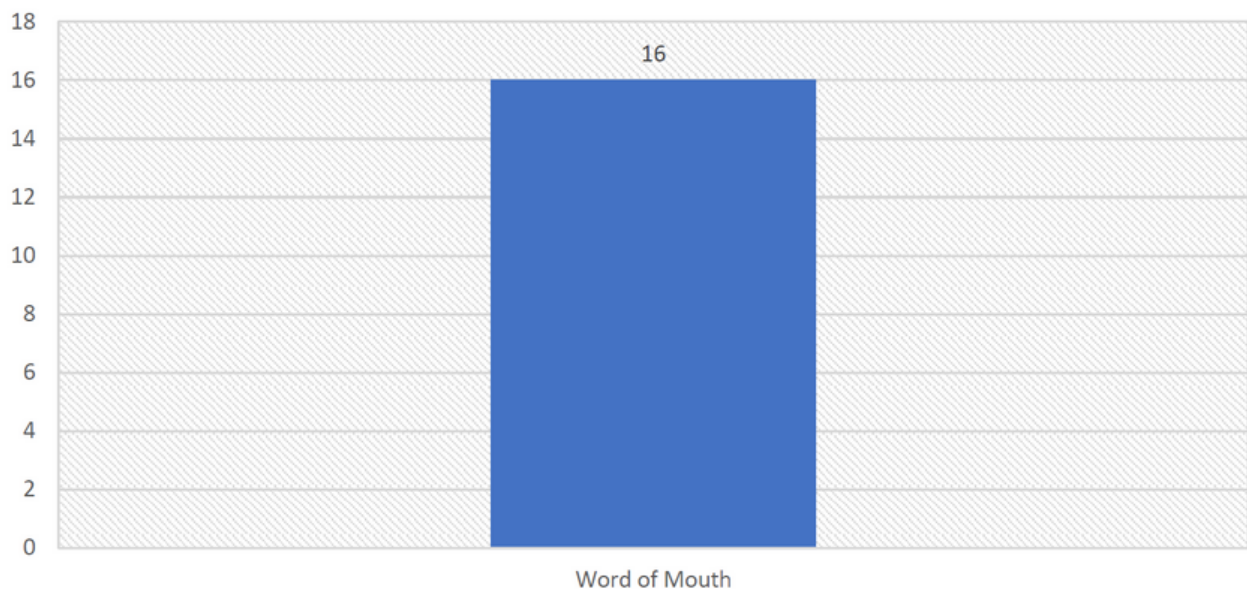
Question 4:

Q4: How do you find out about programs & events?



Q4: How do you find out about programs & events?

Other: Top Responses

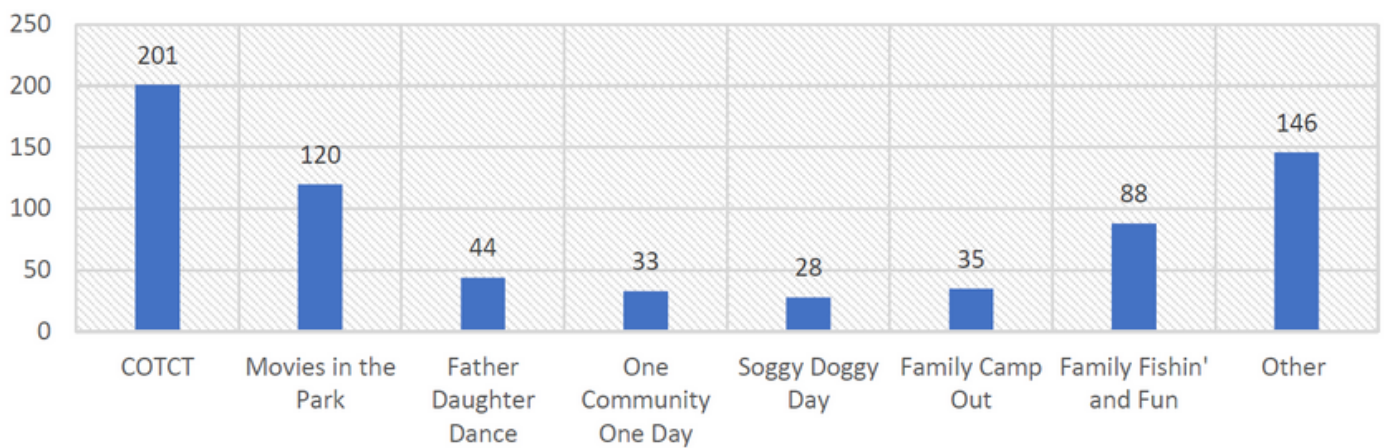




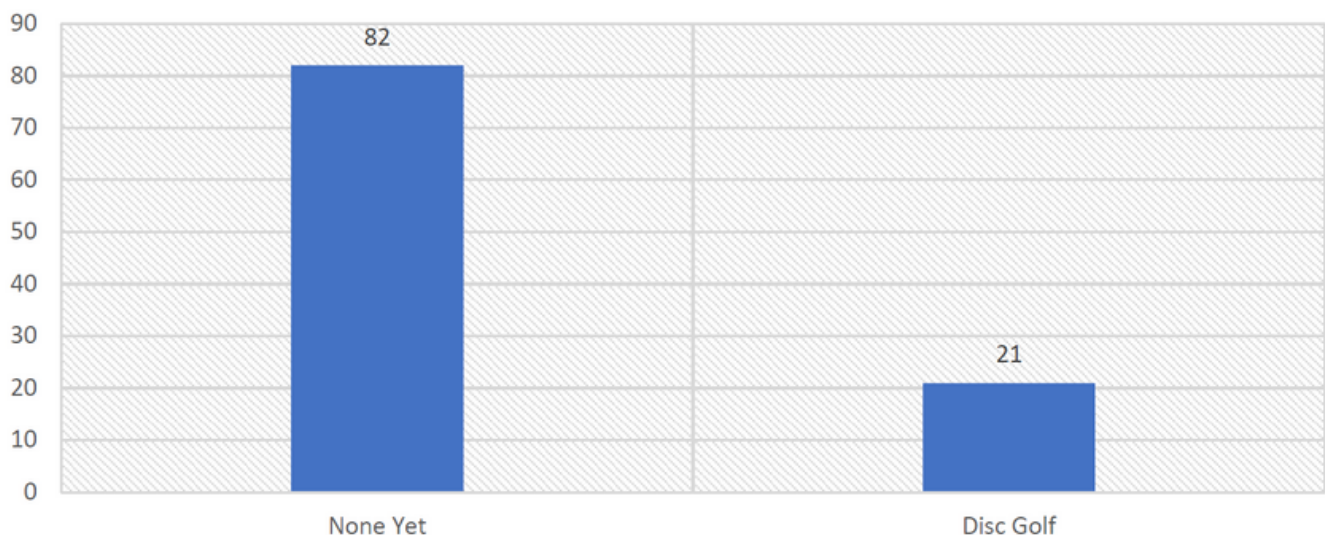
2021 Parks Community Survey

Question 5:

Q5: What Belton Parks and Recreation events have you attended in the past 2 years?



Q5: What Belton Parks and Recreation events have you attended in the past 2 years?
Other: Top Responses

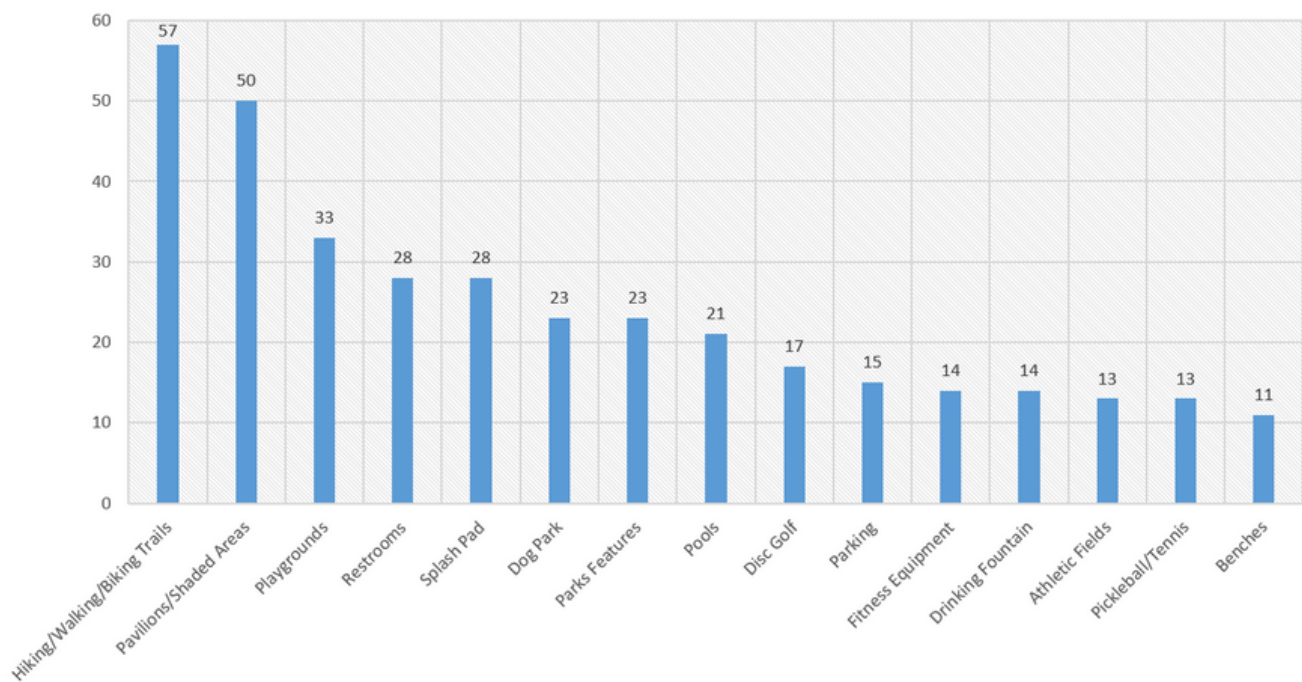




2021 Parks Community Survey

Question 6:

Q6 : What amenities would you like added to our parks?

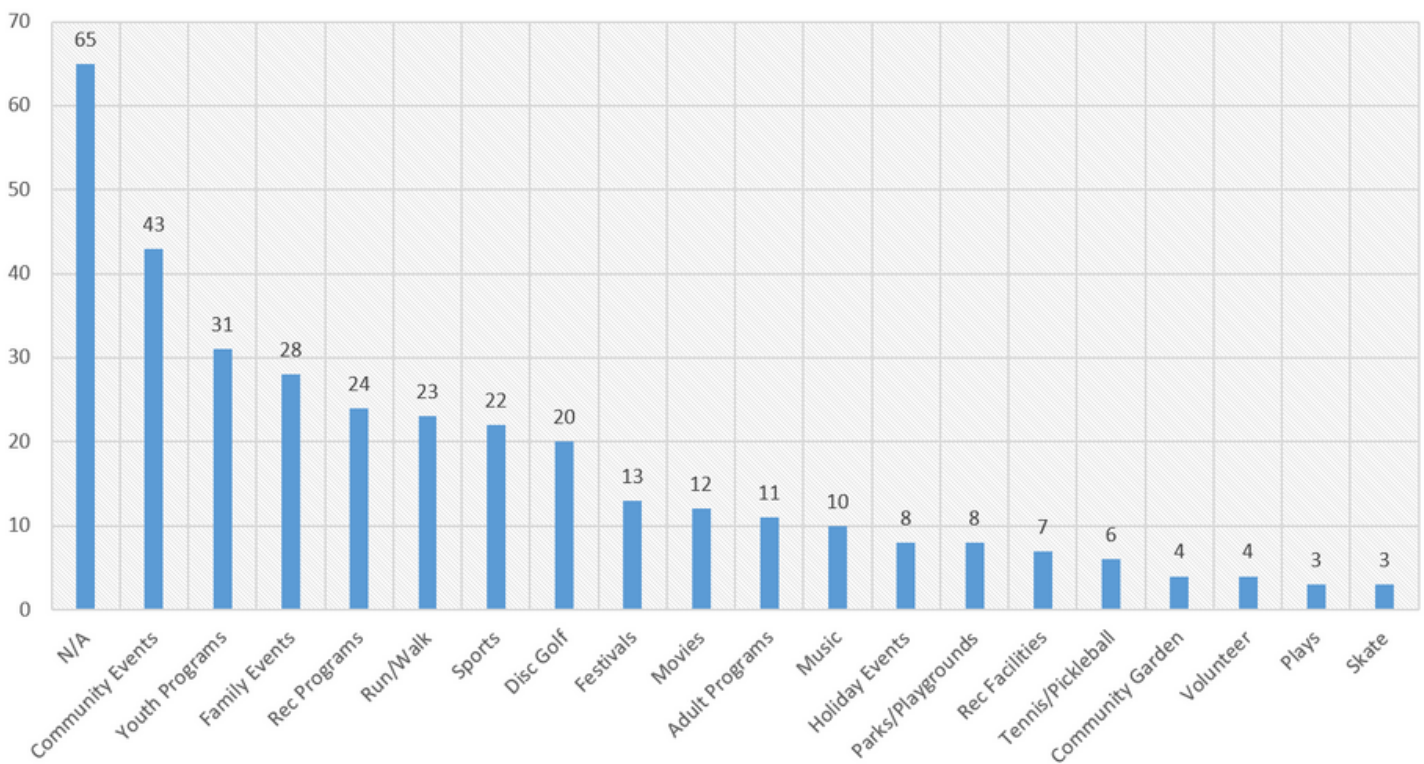




2021 Parks Community Survey

Question 7:

Q7 : What activites or programs would you like to see in the future?





2022-2026 Park & Recreation Strategic Master Plan Priorities:

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- **Walking & Hiking Trails**
- **Youth Sports/Athletic Fields**
- **Expanding Services and Parkland**
- **Preservation and Development of Existing Infrastructure**
- **Water Recreation (Kayak, Fishing, Splash Pad)**

Walking & Hiking Trails

Walking and Hiking Trails ranked as the number one most requested and used amenity in the City's Park system during the 2021 Parks Community Survey. Currently the City of Belton has over 6+ miles of trails. Five-year priorities include:

-Continue to expand connectivity within our trail system including Loop 121 widening, Sparta Rd, Heritage Park, and 13th Avenue.

Youth Sports/Athletic Fields

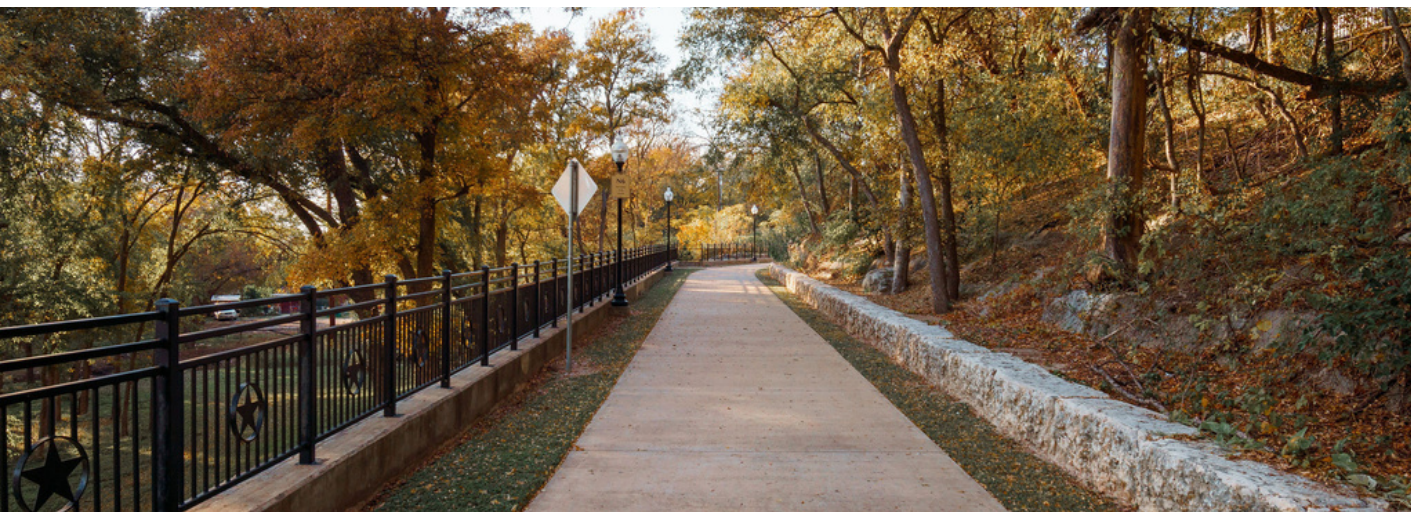
The City of Belton is home to several Youth Sport Associations who utilize Parks and Recreation Department facilities to conduct seasonal leagues. Five-year priorities include:

-Soccer: Increased parking, addition of a fifth game field, and a new concession & restroom facility. Explore installation of lights on game fields.

-Baseball: Explore need for larger game field at Heritage Park. Convert existing ball field lighting to LED, addition of batting cages. Address several facility upgrades including bleachers, foul ball netting, and scoreboards.

-Softball: Explore the need for a 4th Field at Chisholm Trail Park. Batting Cages, LED Lighting, improved storage options, and portable outfield fencing.

-Miscellaneous: Provide more multi use fields that can offer other sports an opportunity to operate at City facilities.





2022-2026 Park & Recreation Strategic Master Plan Priorities:

Expanding Services & Parkland

The City of Belton is experiencing unprecedented growth and the Parks & Recreation Department is committed to continuing to expand services to meet the various needs of our residence. Areas that have been identified as priorities include:

- New Parks coming online soon including the Heritage Park Expansion and the Standpipe Park.
- Pursue expanding programming and event efforts including more Downtown & Community-wide events, and Summer programs.
- Leverage partnerships for success.
- Explore new Parkland needs in the rapidly growing Southern and Southwestern portions of the city.
- Chisholm Trail Park: Utilization of open space areas to provide year-round amenities for the public.
- Plan for additional playgrounds and playscapes included with new parkland development.

Developing and Preserving Existing Park Infrastructure

The City of Belton Parks & Recreation Department has several facilities and amenities that need ongoing maintenance and attention to ensure they continue to serve the wide range of community needs. Five-year priorities include:

- Replacement and repair of existing playgrounds.
- Resurfacing trails to enhance user experience: Chisholm Trail Park, Heritage Park, and Miller Heights Community Park.
- Pavilions and Gazebos.
- Community Garden, Butterfly Gardens, and native landscapes.

Water Recreation

Belton residents enjoy dynamic water recreation opportunities. Belton is home to two lakes (Lake Belton and Stillhouse Hollow Lake), the Leon River, and the Nolan Creek.

- Continue to utilize the Leon River & Nolan Creek for recreational programming opportunities.
- Upgrade existing Splash Pads Infrastructure.
- Explore conducting a feasibility study for an outdoor community pool.