

# WIMBERLEY TEXAS

CITY OF WIMBERLEY

2024 – 2034

## PARKS & RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

2024 – 2034

# PARKS & RECREATION
# COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN


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# Acknowledgements

The City of Wimberley and MHS Planning & Design, LLC would like to thank the residents of Wimberley for their participation in interviews, surveys, and the planning process throughout the development of this master plan. A special thanks to the following leaders and volunteers for their input in the development of this master plan.

### Mayor & City Council *(During Plan Production)*

Gina Fulkerson, *Mayor*
Rebecca Minnick, *Place One Council Member / Mayor Pro Tem*
Teressa Shell, *Place Two Council Member*
Chris Sheffield, *Place Three Council Member*
Jim Chiles, *Place Four Council Member*
David Cohen, *Place Five Council Member*

### Mayor & City Council *(At Adoption)*

Jim Chiles, *Mayor*
Rebecca Minnick, *Place One Council Member / Mayor Pro Tem*
Bo Bowman, *Place Two Council Member*
Chris Sheffield, *Place Three Council Member*
Bob Clark, *Place Four Council Member*
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Trey Cooksey
Leah Cuddeback
Anthony Deringer
Lee Ann Linam
Noland Martin
Kelley Shand
Chris Sheffield
Lin Weber

### Parks & Recreation Board

Leah Cuddeback, *Chair*
Noland Martin, *Vice-Chairperson*
Anthony Deringer, Secretary
Lee Ann Linam
Kelley Shand
Amy Crowell
Lin Weber

### Pop Up Events

Ace Hardware
Blue Hole Nature Camp
Blue Hole Regional Park
Community Pizza
The Learning Pear
Wimberley Cafe

### Watercolor Artist

Bruce Grant



*Special thanks to the residents of Wimberley for their participation and input during the planning process!*

All photos by City of Wimberley, except photos on pages 8, 23, and 98 © Lauren Clark

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-2024**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WIMBERLEY, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE NEW PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WIMBERLEY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the City values appropriate and relevant recreational opportunities for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board reviewed and unanimously recommend the plan for approval on May 8th, 2024; and

WHEREAS, once every ten years. the City extensively reviews its parks system and recreational
amenities and undergoes an in-depth process to evaluate and assess unmet needs; and

WHEREAS, the City's Park and Recreation Master Plan is the document intended to lay out a 10-year vision for the city as related to Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, the intent of said plan is that it be used to guide the Park Board and City Council's actions on policy-related decisions pertaining to parks and recreation and on potential expenditures associated with future capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, to ensure this plan is eligible for grants, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has reviewed and approved the plan pending adoption by the City Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WIMBERLEY, TEXAS, THAT:**

**SECTION ONE.** The City Council of the City of Wimberley hereby adopts the new Wimberley Parks and Recreation Master Plan, as recommended by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as attached hereto as EXHIBIT A of this resolution; and

**SECTION 2.** That said document shall be utilized as a guide and may be modified at any time over the course of the upcoming ten-year period, as may be deemed appropriate; and

**SECTION 3.** That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its adoption, and it is so resolved.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by majority vote of all members of the City Council, this the 20th day of June, 2024.

CITY OF WIMBERLEY

Jim Chiles, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy Heller, City Secretary

OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE CITY
City of Wimberley
OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE CITY


POLAR BEAR PLUNGE
& 5K
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POLAR BEAR PLUNGE
& 5K

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# List of Acronyms

**ACS:** American Community Survey
**ADA:** Americans with Disabilities Act
**ASTM:** American Society for Testing and Materials
**BHRP:** Blue Hole Regional Park
**ETJ:** Extraterritorial Jurisdiction
**HOA:** Homeowner Association
**LOS:** Level of Service
**LWCF:** Land and Water Conservation Fund
**NPS:** National Park Service
**NRPA:** National Recreation and Parks Association
**TPL:** Trust for Public Land
**TPWD:** Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
**TxDOT:** Texas Department of Transportation
**WYSA:** Wimberley Youth Sports Association
**WISD:** Wimberley Independent School District

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Chapter 1

# Executive Summary




# Purpose of the Plan

The City of Wimberley's 2024 – 2034 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan is intended to guide the City Council and City staff in making future decisions regarding the development of the Wimberley Parks and Recreation System. This plan provides information about the existing community, identifies current recreational gaps and needs, and proposes implementable recommendations for the improvement of existing parks and the acquisition of future park properties.

It is important for the City to update this Master Plan on a regular basis to address the continued growth and community changes in Wimberley and Central Texas.

This plan encourages the enhancement of the quality of life for all residents and visitors in Wimberley through parks and recreation. A more detailed analysis of potential projects, scope of work, project costs, schedules and funding opportunities are provided through the year 2034.

# Summary

The City of Wimberley hired MHS Planning & Design in Spring 2023 to perform an analysis of the overall Parks System and to make recommendations as to how the Parks System should be developed over the next ten years to meet the recreational needs of the community. This summary provides an overview of the existing Parks System and the proposed recommendations of this plan.

The Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department engaged with the public through numerous avenues, including two community surveys, focus group meetings, and pop-up events. One survey was offered to all community members within the 78676 ZIP code. A second survey was developed for all visitors outside the 78676 ZIP code. Citizen response, along with input from community leaders, City staff, and the inventory of the existing Parks System helped determine the needs and proposed recommendations.

To accommodate anticipated future growth, it is recommended the City acquire additional property for recreational and conservation purposes. In addition to acquiring new properties, it is also important for the City to continue to preserve existing parklands. The existing parks play an important role in the environment as they protect natural resources and minimize flood hazards.

Over the next ten years, it is recommended that the City of Wimberley enhance and improve existing park facilities, acquire additional park land, redevelop Martha Knies Community Park, update the Wimberley Community Center, and coordinate the production of an aquatic feasibility study. These recommendations will ensure the Parks System continues to meet the needs of the residents and visitors, maintain and attain national accreditations, and most importantly, enhance the quality of life in the region.





# Mission Statement:

To enhance the quality of life of current and future citizens of Wimberley by protecting our natural resources, providing safe spaces for recreation, and encouraging environmental stewardship and education through our parks, trails, and open spaces while fostering a creative community through our programs and events.

# Vision Statement:

Wimberley Parks and Recreation CARES

**C**ommunity

**A**ccessibility

**R**ecreation

**E**ducation

**S**ustainability





# Goals

**IDENTIFY** community-wide goals, objectives, and needs regarding the Wimberley parks system.

**HELP** direct the decision of City Council, the Parks Board, and City staff on current and future decisions.

**PROVIDE** feasible and implementable recommendations regarding the existing and future parks and open space system.

**IDENTIFY** potential partnerships and provide funding opportunities available to achieve the recommendations.

**ENGAGE** with community members to ensure community buy-in, consisting of residents and local businesses.

**DEVELOP** the parks system with the three E's of Sustainability: Environment, Economy, and Equity.

**PROMOTE** the usage of alternative modes of transportation including walking and biking, which will improve the sustainability and health of the community.



# The Process

The development of the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan began in the Spring of 2023 with the goal of developing a new plan to better suit the changing needs of the community. An Advisory Committee was established - including the Parks Board and a City Council Liaison – to guide the development of this document. To gain an understanding of the needs within the system, an inventory of each park was conducted, along with public engagement consisting of focus group meetings, surveys, and pop-up events.

A needs assessment was then developed based on the existing inventory and findings from the public engagement. Based on the community desires, a list of recommendations was developed that would reasonably meet the needs of the community. An implementation schedule was developed which provides a recommended scope, date and associated cost for future projects.

An order of events for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan can be seen on page 19.


Engage
Advisory Committee Formed
Park System Inventory
Public Input & Focus Group Meetings
Analyze
Surveys Created and Distributed
Establish Needs Assesement
Needs and Recommendations Created
Present
Funding and Implementation Schedule Identified
Presented to the Advisory Committee
Adopt
City Council Adoption of Master Plan

# Community Input

The City of Wimberley is committed to identifying the needs of its residents to develop a plan that represents the end users. The Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department's commitment to equitable, inclusive and accessible engagement methods insured community involvement and input, which ultimately enriched the planning process. The following promotional tools were utilized to conduct public outreach:

- Created and posted yard signs throughout the community to raise awareness regarding the survey
- Distributed 3,000 flyers in the local newspaper to residents and businesses to promote the survey
- Conducted a community survey for residents and non-residents with a total of 426 responses*
- Hosted 6 pop-up events in various locations such as restaurants, hardware stores and parks
- Conducted 5 focus-group meetings with specialized groups including environmental and sports organizations

*It is important to note that the residents survey included individuals within the 78676 ZIP code and the non-residents survey included residents outside the 78676 ZIP code.






## Highlights of the Parks System

- High-quality parks system
- Looped trails at Blue Hole Regional Park
- Sustainable design focus
- High-quality attractions for residents and visitors
- Knowledgeable and engaged leadership and staff
- Excellent programming and events
- Successful community partnerships

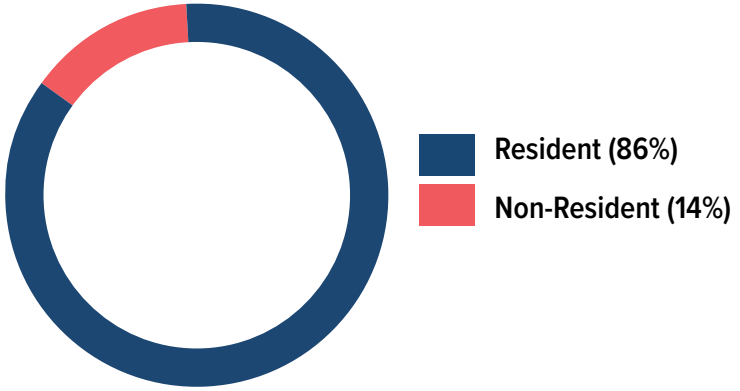
## Needs of the Parks System

It is important to differentiate between the Needs and the Recommendations of the Parks System. A need is considered an amenity, property, or program desired by the community. Recommendations acknowledge the need, but additional steps may be taken to better understand the feasibility, financing, and justification of the need.

- Acquire new properties to expand the system and conserve land
- Continue to incorporate new sustainability opportunities
- Provide new aquatic amenities (feasibility study recommended to better understand need, operations, and maintenance of different facilities)
- Expand linear and looped trail system
- Enhance the inclusiveness of the Parks System
- Increase the budget for park expansion, redevelopment, enhancement, maintenance, and staff
- Install new signage throughout the Parks System

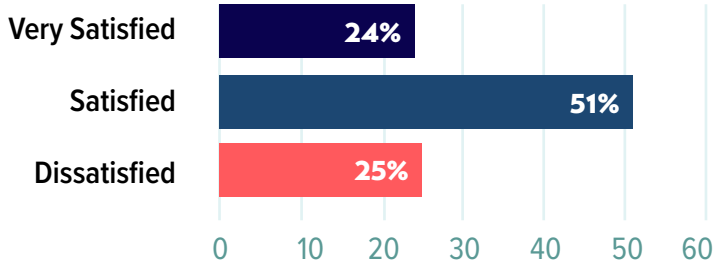
## Survey Respondents

Survey respondents primarily (86%) consisted of people within the 78676 ZIP code.




## Quality of Parks & Recreation Opportunities

A majority (75%) of survey respondents stated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of park and recreation opportunities provided by the City of Wimberley.



# Recommendations

The recommendations within this plan were developed based on the goals and objectives which were influenced by an inventory of the existing system, public engagement, coordination with the Advisory Committee and City staff, and local, state, and national standards. A summary of the recommendations follow:

- Acquire additional properties to conserve natural resources in the area and ensure the City has sufficient parkland to accommodate future growth.
- Conduct an Aquatics Feasibility Study to determine how best to meet the aquatic needs of the community.
- Upgrade and renovate aging parks and facilities to ensure Wimberley's Parks System is safe for all users and meets local, state and federal standards.
- Develop a neighborhood park.
- Construct additional trails to provide new recreational opportunities and increase connectivity throughout the community.
- Preserve existing parkland and natural resources in the area.
- Conduct a species inventory to assess vegetation and wildlife that reside within the Parks System.
- Develop sign standards to ensure cohesion within the Parks System.

# Priorities

The Parks and Recreation Priorities are listed in priority order and should be pursued by the City of Wimberley. The list is prioritized based on the public input received from the citizen survey respondents, focus group meetings, recommendations from the Advisory Committee, City Council, City staff, and professional consultant opinion. Although some elements are ranked higher than others, it is important to note all the listed opportunities are needed throughout the Parks System.

**1. Trails & Trail Connectivity**

**2. Land Acquisition**

**3. Site Furniture:** Shade, Benches, Picnic Tables, etc.

**4. Preservation & Conservation of Natural Resources**

**5. Aquatic Recreation (Water Access)**

**6. Signage:** Interpretive, Informational, Wayfinding, etc.

**7. Play Equipment**

**8. Multi-Generational Center:** Nature, Senior, Recreational, etc.

**9. Multi-Purpose Fields**

**10. Public Art**








OLD BALDY PARK
CITY OF WIMBERLEY

Chapter 2

# Who We Are



# Location & Character

Wimberley is located in Hays County and encompasses nearly 9 square miles. Wimberley is approximately 15 miles northwest of San Marcos, 40 miles southwest of Austin, and 60 miles north of San Antonio. Other nearby cities include Woodcreek, Dripping Springs, and Driftwood.

Wimberley has a vibrant community and provides a high quality of life through recreational amenities and programs for its residents and visitors. Opportunities include, but are not limited to, hike and bike trails, playgrounds, sport courts, an amphitheater for live performances, and numerous outdoor and open space areas; including Blue Hole, a natural swimming area. The City of Wimberley is characterized as having a strong sense of identity and a high level of pride among its residents.

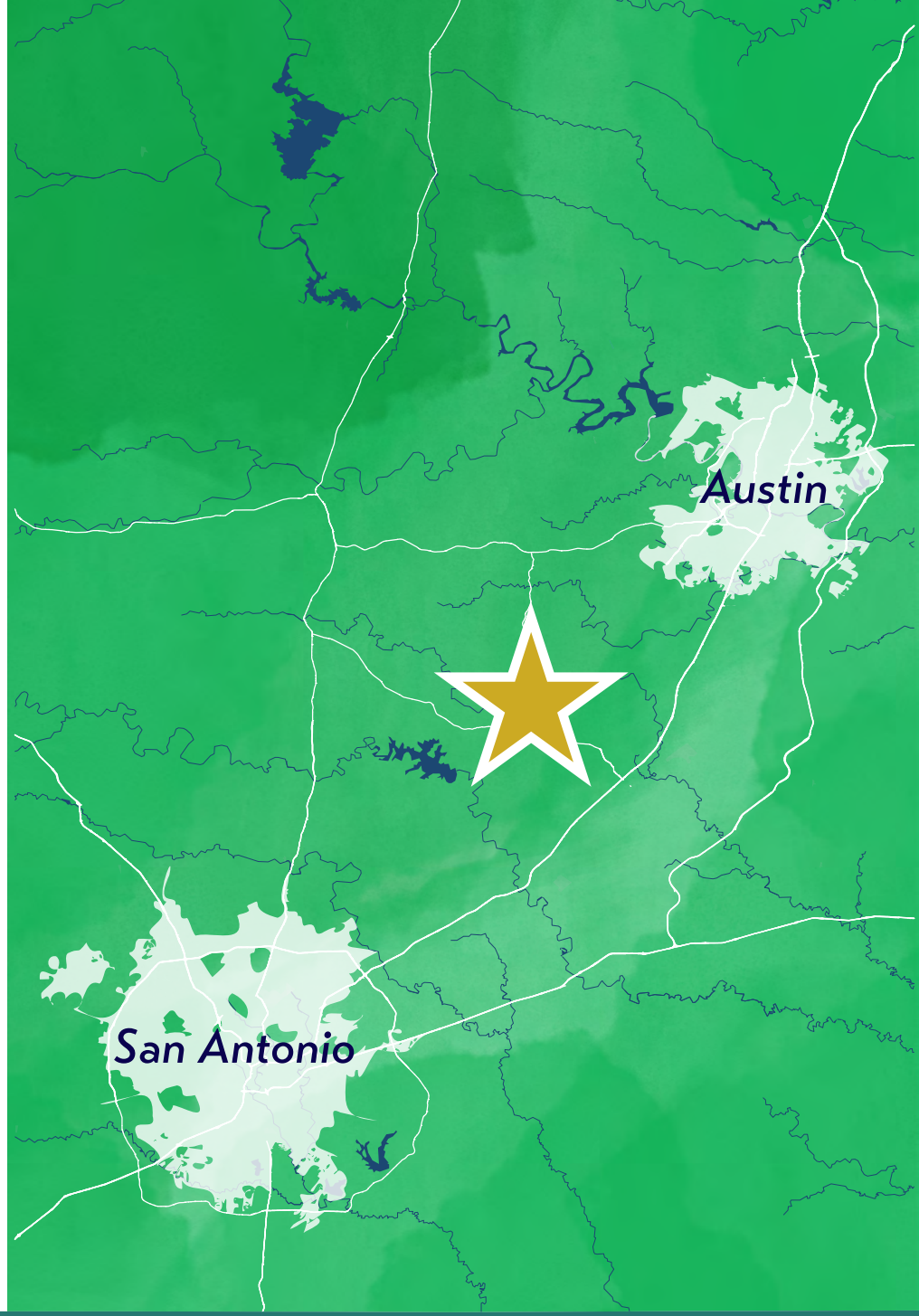



*Figure 1*

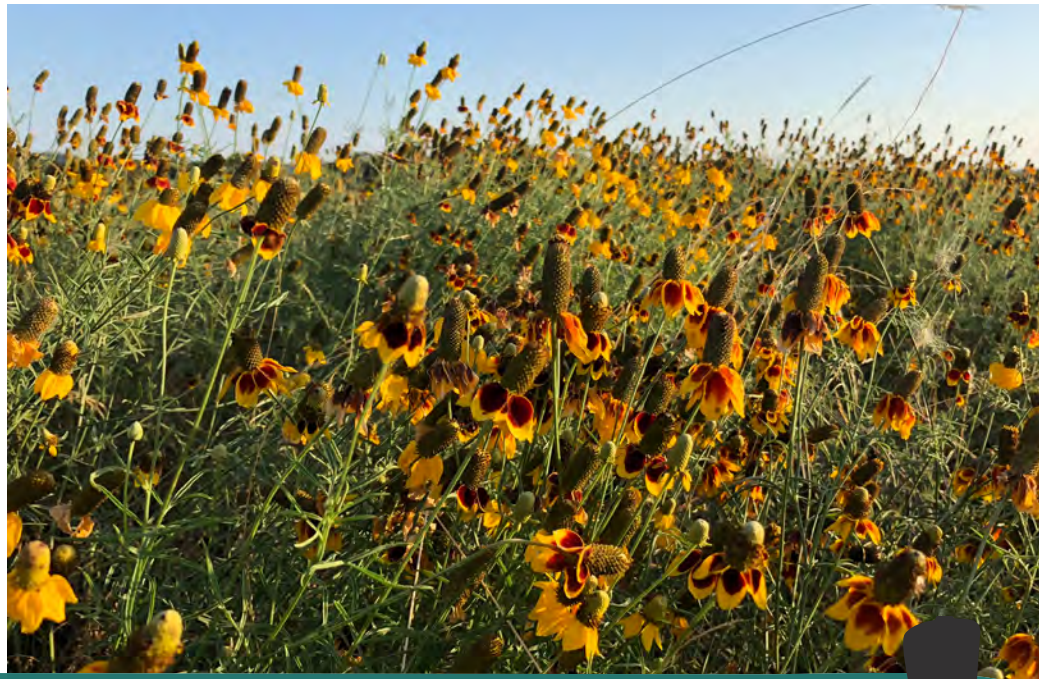
# Environmental Resources

Hays County is located within the Edwards Plateau ecoregion which primarily consists of limestone bedrocks, hills, grasslands, shrublands and diverse wildlife. The soil groups in this region are ranked low to moderate permeability and have high run-off. This type of soil cannot capture and hold water efficiently and will be considered when recommending improvements to the Parks System.

The City of Wimberley is intersected by two different bodies of water: the Blanco River and Cypress Creek. The Blanco River spans approximately 87 miles and flows east from Kendall County through Blanco County and merges with the San Marcos River in Hays County. Cypress Creek is a tributary of the Blanco River, which is spring-fed and begins at Jacob's Well in Wimberley. Jacob's Well has been a popular recreational destination for many years, drawing visitors from all over the State. In the summer of 2022, low water levels resulted in the closure of Jacob's Well and it remained closed for the entire summer season of 2023. This is important to note as the City of Wimberley's Park System provides natural water-based recreation, and low water levels of nearby aquifers are a concern.

Wimberley is in "Flash Flood Alley" - an area that stretches from Dallas through Central Texas to Uvalde. This area is susceptible to flash flooding, as the shallow soil, steep terrain, and potential heavy rainfall create a perfect environment for flash flooding. In 2015, South Central Texas received a significant amount of rainfall, and over Memorial Day Weekend, Wimberley experienced a severe flooding event which resulted in the death of 13 people and the destruction of 350 homes. Development along the Blanco River contributed to the flooding catastrophe of 2015, as the addition of new roads and houses resulted in more impervious areas where rainfall could not be absorbed. This is important to note as South Central Texas is one of the fastest growing areas in the U.S., and continued development could lead to more events like this if not planned properly.





# Demographic Analysis

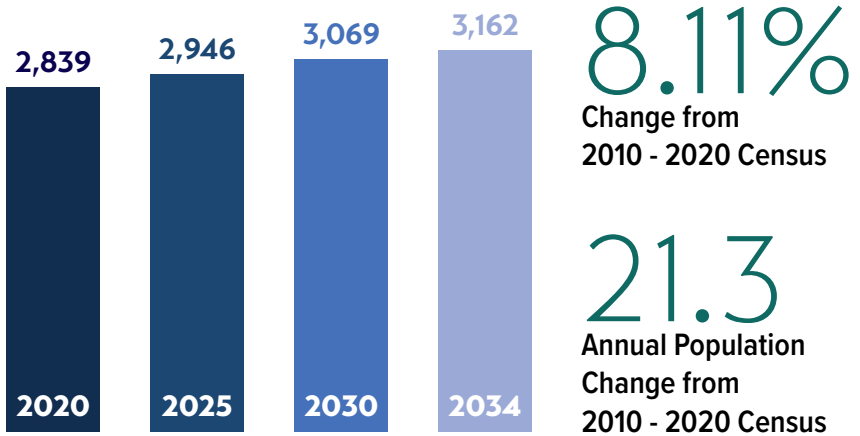
The 2020 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) were used to better understand the community demographics. Both the Census and the ACS data are collected through citizen surveys. The Census is conducted every 10 years, and the data officially affects congressional representation. The ACS is conducted annually and utilizes a sample size to represent the larger population. A five-year average was utilized for the ACS data spanning from 2018 - 2022 to better reflect the population.

This Demographic Analysis provides an overall snapshot of Wimberley. Elements in this analysis include population, race and ethnicity, age and sex, income levels, disabilities, housing, and employment. The analysis compares the local profile to that of Hays County, and the U.S. when applicable.

# Community Profile

## Population Size

Texas has experienced significant growth in recent years, and Wimberley is mirroring that trend. According to the 2020 Census, the City of Wimberley had a recorded population of 2,839. This is an increase of 213 people since 2010 for a growth rate of 8.11%. Wimberley's growth rate is higher than the national growth rate for the same time period of 7.35%. Cities across Texas, especially in Central Texas, have seen an even higher growth rate of 16%. Assuming Wimberley will continue to grow at the same pace over the next ten years, the estimated population in 2034 will be 3,139. It is important to note that the Wimberley Parks System serves more than just Wimberley residents. The 2020 Census identified 14,713 people within the 78676 ZIP Code. The information portrayed on the following pages notes the breakdown of the residents within the city limits of Wimberley but does not fully represent the greater Wimberley Valley.




**Source: 2010 and 2020 Decennial Census**

*Figure 2*

## Race and Ethnicity

The U.S. Census Bureau defines race according to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The OMB requires a minimum of five racial categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian, or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. The OMB also allows for the Census Bureau to use a sixth category: Some Other Race. Respondents may also identify as two or more races. These responses are based on self-identification. It is important to note race is different than Hispanic Origin.

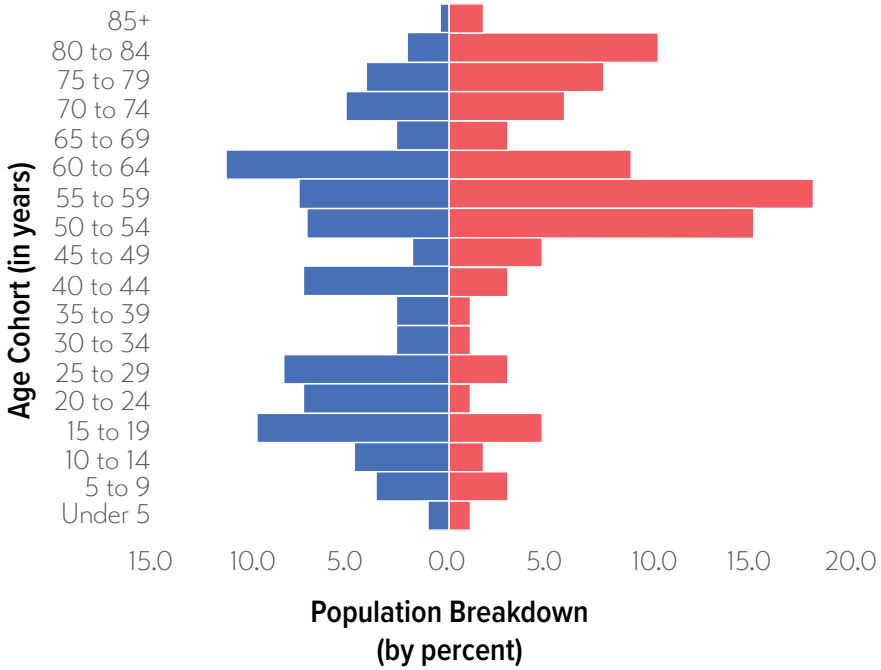
Approximately 94% of residents identify as White and the second highest response was Two or More Races at 4%. From the ACS it was identified that there are 387 residents that identify as Hispanic or Latino - approximately 14% of the population.

The 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimate identified 97.3% of Wimberley residents speak English as the primary language at home. The number of people who speak a language other than English at home increases significantly when looking at the area immediately outside of city limits, as approximately 25% of people report primarily speaking a language other than English at home.

| RACE (INCLUDES ALL HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE) | CITY OF WIMBERLEY | HAYS COUNTY |
|---|---|---|
| White | 94.4% | 70.8% |
| Black or African American | 0.3% | 3.9% |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 0.0% | 0.7% |
| Asian | 1.0% | 1.7% |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 0.0% | 0.1% |
| Some Other Race | 0.3% | 4.8% |
| Two or More Races | 4.0% | 18.0% |
| **HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE** | **CITY OF WIMBERLEY** | **HAYS COUNTY** |
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 10.9% | 40.3% |

**Source: American Community Survey 2022 5-Year Estimate**

*Figure 3*




**54.2**
**Median Overall Age**

**43.9**
**Median Male Age**

**58.8**
**Median Female Age**

♂ 57%  ♀ 43%

**Source: American Community Survey 2022 5-Year Estimate**

*Figure 4*

## Age and Sex

The City of Wimberley is primarily comprised of an older population, with the median age for a resident being 54.2 years old. This median age is higher than Hays County (33.6), Texas (34.8), and the U.S. (38.9). According to the 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimate, 47% of Wimberley residents are 55 years of age or older, while In comparison, Hays County has 21.8% of their residents 55 years or older. This is important to note as older communities typically have different parks, recreation, and open space needs than younger communities.

The community has slightly more males (58%) which is unique as Hays County, Texas, and the United States all have slightly more females than males.

Figure 4 depicts the population breakdown by age and sex for the Wimberley community. It is important to note that the margin of error has been included to ensure all cohorts are represented.

## Disability

A successful Parks System should be designed to be inclusive for all users. This can be accomplished by understanding the types of disabilities that exist within the community. The ACS classifies a disability as hearing, visual, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care and/or independent living difficulties. According to the 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimate, approximately 1 in 6 residents in Wimberley has at least one of the following disabilities.

# 14%

Community members are estimated by the ACS to have one of the six listed disabilities.



- Cognitive Difficulty (35%)
- Hearing Difficulty (25%)
- Ambulatory Difficulty (20%)
- Vision Difficulty (8%)
- Independent-Living Difficulty (6%)
- Self-Care Difficulty (6%)

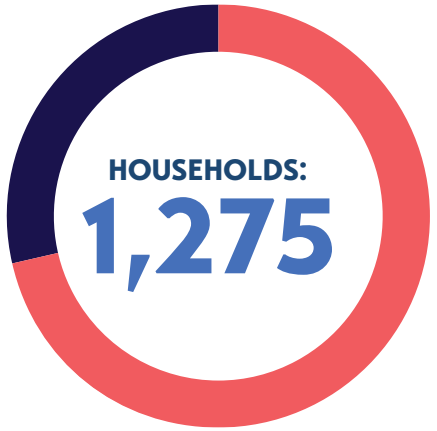
**Source: American Community Survey 2022 5-Year Estimate**

*Figure 5*

## Housing & Income

The City of Wimberley is predominately an owner-occupied home community with 71.5% of residents reporting home ownership. According to the 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimate, Wimberley has 1,275 occupied housing units which decreased by 153 units from 2020. The 2020 median value for owner-occupied homes is $415,200, which is 105% higher than the State. The median household income is $92,868, which is higher than the median household income for Hays County ($88,617).

According to the 2022 ACS, Wimberley resembles a generalist community, as there are no predominant employment industries within the community.




**2.16**
**Average Household Size**

**$415,200**
**Average Value of Owner-Occupied Households in 2020**

**$92,868**
**Median Household Income**

- Owner-Occupied (71.5%)
- Renter-Occupied (28.5%)

**Source: American Community Survey 2022 5-Year Estimate**
*Figure 6*



- Construction (17%)
- Educational Services & Health Care (15%)
- Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accomodation, & Food Services (14%)
- Manufacturing (13%)
- Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, & Waste Management (11%)
- Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate (10%)
- Retail (10%)
- Other (10%)

**Source: American Community Survey 2022 5-Year Estimate**
*Figure 7*


CAMP 202


WIMBERLEY
BLUE HOLE



# Benefits of Parks, Trails, & Recreation

Across the United States and Texas, there is a trend of building and connecting urban areas through an extensive transportation network. With the increasing pace of urbanization and the challenges posed by climate change, cities are investing in innovative solutions to improve mobility, connectivity, and sustainability. The data and statistics highlighted in this section are national findings and are used to emphasize the impact parks and trails can have on a city and region.

## Health Benefits

- The Trust For Public Land published a report in 2023 titled "The Power of Parks to Promote Health: A Special Report" which noted parks can improve social connections with structured and unstructured activities.

- The National Recreation and Park Association published an article titled "Parks and Improved Mental Health and Quality of Life" which noted the use of green spaces within a community are associated with improved blood pressure and cholesterol levels, general health perceptions, a greater ability to face problems, and decreased health complaints and stress.

- The American Journal of Preventive Medicine published a study in 2005 titled, "Increasing walking: how important is distance to, attractiveness, and size of public open space" by Giles-Corti B, Broomhall MH, Knuiman M, Collins C, Douglas K, Ng K, Lange A, and Donovan RJ which noted people who use parks and open spaces are three times more likely to achieve the recommended levels of physical activity than non-users.

## Environmental Benefits

- The Environmental Protection Agency published an article titled "Wetlands: Protecting Life and Property From Flooding" which noted preservation of land adjacent to waterbodies and acquisition of open space parkland can help reduce severity and frequency of flooding by reducing runoff and minimizing developable areas.

- The Rails to Trails Conservancy published a report in 2019 titled "Active Transportation Transforms America" which noted more than half of all trips in the U.S. are within a 20-minute bike ride or less, and more than one in four trips are within a 20-minute walk or less. Construction of trails can provide a means of transportation for pedestrians and cyclists leading to a healthier environment with less greenhouse gases being emitted from vehicles.

- The United States Department of Agriculture published an article titled "Native Gardening" which notes planting of native species can reduce watering requirements and improve erosion control.

## Economic Benefits

- The National Recreation and Park Association published a report titled "The Economic Impact of Parks An Examination of the Fiscal Effects of Operations and Capital Spending by Local Park and Recreation Agencies on the U.S. Economy" which noted that park and recreation agencies generated more than $201 billion in economic activity and supported more than 1.1 million jobs in 2021.

- The United States Department of Health and Human Services published a report titled "The Surgeon General's Call to Action To Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity 2001" which noted expenses resulting from conditions related to obese and overweight individuals totaled $117 billion in 2000. Increasing the amount of recreation opportunities, programs, and spaces can decrease overall medical costs to residents.

- John L. Crompton and Sarah Nicholls published a study titled "The Impact of Greenways and Trails on Proximate Property Values: An Updated Review" which noted home prices near parks & trails can be 3% to 5% higher than comparable homes in the area.

## Anchor Institutions

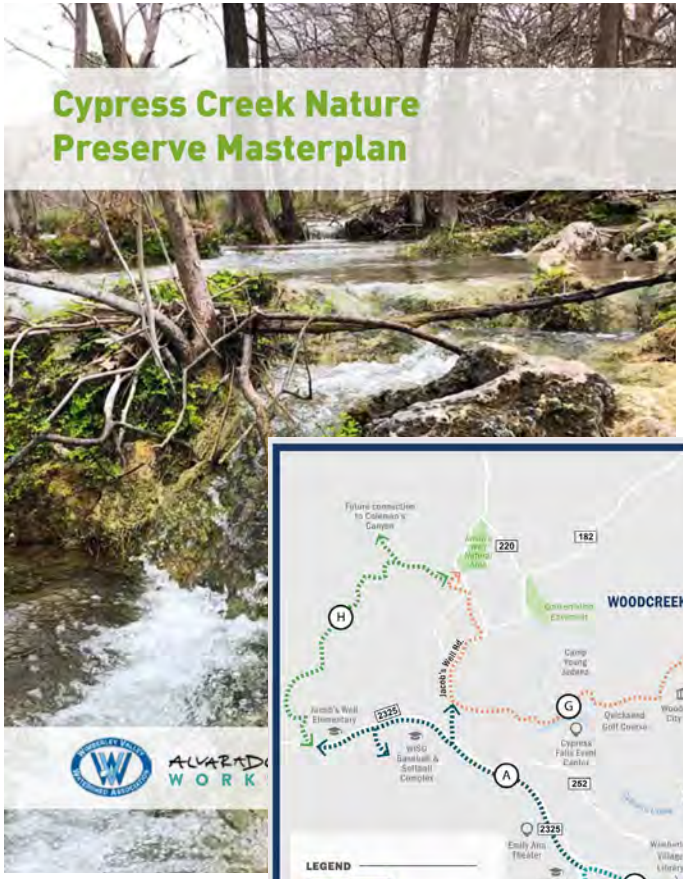
- Communities typically have anchor institutions. Anchor institutions are large organizations, typically non-profit, which help foster an environment in which the economy, social needs and public health are positively impacted. These institutions have historically consisted of universities and medical centers, while parks have not typically been included. Recently, there has been significant discussion and support for adding parks into this classification. Parks are a vital component of a community and can improve the economy, social needs, public health, and the environment.

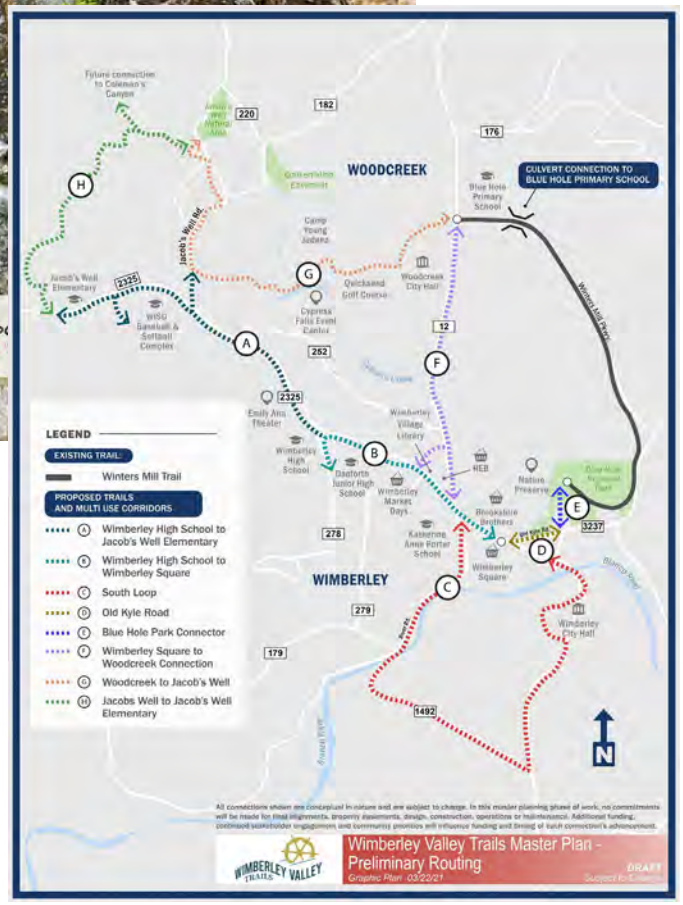


# Tourism

Wimberley is well-known for its charm, character, and recreational amenities such as Blue Hole Regional Park and Old Baldy. It is estimated that as many as 568,000 tourists visit Wimberley every year and more than 200,000 tourists visit Blue Hole Regional Park alone during the summer months.

Tourism is an essential component for Wimberley as visitors spend money locally at shops, restaurants, stores, and parks. Wimberley hosts several large community events for residents and visitors throughout the year, including Concerts in the Park, Wimberley Market Days and Wimberley Arts Fest. These events typically draw in thousands of people that shop and dine in Wimberley.




# Existing Plans

There have been multiple plans conducted by the City of Wimberley to better understand the needs of residents the and natural environments to ensure future developments are meaningful and environmentally sustainable. Plans that were utilized in the development of the 2024-2034 Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan have been outlined below. Additionally, the existing plans are available on the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department's website.

## WIMBERLEY VALLEY TRAILS (2021)

This plan was developed in 2021 and identified general trail locations for development throughout the Wimberley Valley area. The goal is to provide a system of hiking and biking trails that will allow community members to connect with nature and link communities together.

## CYPRESS CREEK NATURE TRAIL AND PRESERVE MASTER PLAN (2019)

This plan was adopted in 2019 and aims to create a long-term management and development plan for Cypress Creek Nature Preserve. The Preserve is owned by the City of Wimberley while The Watershed Association owns the conservation easement. This plan is important to protect the Preserve and ensure proper cooperation exists between both parties.

## CITY OF WIMBERLEY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN (2018)

This plan was adopted in 2018 and served as a guide for the City of Wimberley Parks System development. Prior to this plan, the Wimberley Parks Advisory Board prepared a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that was adopted in 2008. This plan had been updated periodically over the years; however, this plan was the first new Master Plan since the adoption of the 2001 plan. This plan focused on conducting an inventory of existing parkland and developed a needs assessment to determine recommendations for expansion and development.

## BLUE HOLE REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN (2007)

This plan was adopted in 2007 and was a comprehensive plan regarding the future development of Blue Hole Regional Park. A letter from the stakeholders states, “This plan is dedicated to future generations who will use the park. We believe it will form a road map for the Village government as the Blue Hole Park continues to grow into the great public resource that it is destined to be.”





# Accolades

Wimberley is home to an award-winning Parks System. These awards showcase the Parks Department's dedication to ensure the community can enjoy the local parks, programs and open spaces while being conscientious of the environment. The awards and accolades attained by the City or that enhanced the community are listed below.

### International Dark Sky Place of the Year, 2023 - Wimberley Valley

The Wimberley Valley was designated as the International Dark Sky Place of the Year in 2023. This accolade is granted to honor a recent outstanding accomplishment made by an International Dark Sky Place.

### Alternative Transportation Grant, 2023 - City of Wimberley

Wimberley was the recipient of $1,389,280 in TxDOT funds in 2023. The funds were allocated to expand sidewalk from the intersection of Ranch Road 12 and Old Kyle Road to Ranch Road 12 and FM 3237.

### TripAdvisor Travelers Choice, 2023, 2022, and 2021 - Blue Hole Regional Park

This award recognizes communities, businesses, and/or destinations that consistently receive positive reviews and are among the top 10% of listings.

### Music Friendly Community, 2022 - City of Wimberley

This designation highlights communities dedicated to attracting and nurturing the music industry, emphasizing their commitment in the pursuit of the arts.

### Alternative Transportation Grant, 2021 - Hays County

Hays County was awarded $971,412 in TxDOT funds to expand sidewalk from Wimberley High School to the Wimberley Library.

### Film Friendly City, 2019 - City of Wimberley

This designation identifies communities that are ready to embrace opportunities and overcome challenges associated with accommodating media production.

### Austin Green Award, 2018 - Blue Hole Regional Park

This award highlights projects that have an exceptional level of sustainable design.

### International Dark Sky Community Designation, 2018 - Wimberley Valley

This designation is given to communities that have taken significant initiative to minimize light pollution.

### Honor Award, Design (Constructed), 2018 - Blue Hole Regional Park

This award recognizes projects that have positively contributed to the quality of life for Texas citizens.

### Honor Award, Research & Communication, 2016 - Blue Hole Regional Park, Signage and Wayfinding

This award signifies an exceptional level of communication through interpretive, directional and wayfinding signage throughout the park.

### Lone Star Recreation Programming Achievement Award, 2016 - Blue Hole Nature Camp

This achievement award is given to communities for innovative and effective recreational programming; specifically, programs offered for the first time in the community.

### Project Excellence Award, 2015 and 2014 - Blue Hole Regional Park

This award acknowledges communities for their remarkable achievements in the field of outdoor recreation as well as their contributions to planning, management, research, and policy.

### SITES Certified (Pilot Project), 2013 - Blue Hole Regional Park

This award recognizes projects that incorporate exceptional levels of sustainability in design and in practice.

### Public Works Outstanding Award, 2012 - Blue Hole Regional Park

This award is given to communities that have made exceptional achievements in a variety of categories including environmental management, planning and land use, transportation, utilities, parks and recreation, and energy resource management.

### Honor Award, Design (Unrealized), 2011 - Blue Hole Regional Park

This award recognizes excellence in design concepts and methodology for projects that have been designed, but not yet constructed.

# Community Partnerships

The City of Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department provides many diverse recreational programs throughout the year. The City's programs are thoughtfully coordinated to be inclusive and welcoming to all members of the community, regardless of age, ability, skill level, race, sexual orientation, social demographic, or financial resources. In addition to the city run programs, there are multiple organizations and non-profits in Wimberley that provide programming and special events for the community. This section highlights various community partners that offer programs supported by the City in various capacities. Below are some of the organizations that contribute to the high quality of life in Wimberley.

## Barnabas Connection

The Barnabas Connection aims to improve the lives of the Wimberley Valley community members by providing health and human services, client advocacy, and community education.

## Friends of Wimberley Parks

Friends of Wimberley Parks provides significant support for the Wimberley Parks System. They were founded to support Blue Hole Regional Park, including significant contribution to the Blue Hole Regional Park Master Plan. Their role has since expanded and now provides support for all Wimberley Parks.

## Keep Wimberley Beautiful

Keep Wimberley Beautiful focuses on improving and maintaining the environmental quality, protection, and beautification of Wimberley. The members assist with numerous projects such as planting and maintaining flower beds and medians in downtown.

## Hays County

Hays County and the City have successfully partnered to identify locations for future trails in the community and pursue grant funding.

## Native Plant Society of Texas

The Native Plant Society of Texas strives to promote conservation, research, and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas. The Hill Country Chapter works at Patsy Glenn Refuge to select appropriate plants and educate residents on the importance of using native species.

## projectART

projectART aims to educate the community on Fine Arts. They inspire young artists, support diverse learning and innovative thinking, and provide students with real-world opportunities to develop their artistic skills.

## Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides training and education, along with programming to communities in relation to agriculture, natural resources, and life sciences.

## Texas A&M Forest Service

The Texas A&M Forest Service strives to protect and sustain forests, trees, and other related resources. They work to provide leadership and technical assistance to promote the preservation of natural resources.

## Texas Master Naturalist

The Texas Master Naturalist program provides education, outreach, and services for the management of natural resources. This is accomplished

through volunteer work to remove invasive species, trail maintenance, planting of native species, and assistance with maintenance efforts within the parks.

## Texas Parks and Wildlife

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has provided the City of Wimberley with countless educational and recreational opportunities. This is accomplished through educational events and grant funding which provides the opportunities for the acquisition, preservation and development of parks and recreational spaces.

## The EmilyAnn Theater

The EmilyAnn Theater aims to improve and promote the performing arts and beauty of nature and community fellowship through programs such as the Butterfly Festival, Trail of Lights, Camps, Gardens and recreation.

## The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment

The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment has the vision of inspiring research, innovation, and leadership that ensures clean, abundant water for the environment and all humanity.

## Visit Wimberley

Visit Wimberley provides marketing opportunities to enhance tourism.

## Watershed Association

The Watershed Association aims to protect water through land conservation and education throughout the community.





## Wimberley ARTS.org

Wimberley ARTS.org - formerly known as Wimberley Valley Arts and Cultural Alliance - has a mission to promote a vibrant cultural arts community - embracing visual, performing, literary, and culinary arts - through appreciation, collaboration, and education. They host several community events throughout the year and manage the "Bootiful Wimberley" art program.

## Wimberley Athletic Club

The Wimberley Athletic Club aims to promote interest in youth athletics through recreational opportunities for local youth to learn and participate in sports.

## Wimberley Birding Society

The Wimberley Birding Society strives to promote the watching, protection, and enjoyment of birds in and around Wimberley through various educational and programming activities.

## Wimberley Civic Club

The Wimberley Civic Club serves to develop a positive community identity, to raise awareness of the community's needs and desires, and be inclusive to all community members. They host numerous events throughout the year that assist with fund raising for the community.

## Wimberley Independent School District

The Wimberley Independent School District provides educational and recreational opportunities for members of the community.

## Wimberley Lions Club

The Wimberley Lions Club hosts the monthly Wimberley Market Days which raises funds for local projects, organizations, scholarships, and charities.

## Wimberley Merchants Association

The Wimberley Merchants Association hosts fund raising events throughout the year for local organizations.

## Wimberley Senior Citizens Activities INC

The Wimberley Senior Citizens Activities INC provides programming for Wimberley Valley residents ages 55+ through recreational and social opportunities.

## Wimberley Valley Arts League

The Wimberley Valley Arts League aims to promote, inspire, and support the visual arts in the Wimberley Valley area through several events such as art exhibits, monthly presentations, workshops and the Annual Arts Fest.

## Wimberley Valley Chamber of Commerce

The Wimberley Valley Chamber of Commerce promotes community and economic prosperity while fostering strong alliances through hosting weekly events and providing opportunities to build community relationships.

## Wimberley Valley Dark Sky Committee

The Wimberley Valley Dark Sky Committee's purpose is to maintain the designation of an "International Dark Sky Community" and works to preserve the dark sky through educational opportunities. Through the Committee's work, the Wimberley Valley earned an International Dark Sky Place designation in 2018 and was awarded the International Dark Sky Place of the Year in 2023.




## Wimberley Valley Radio

The Wimberley Valley Radio aims to inform, entertain, and connect the Wimberley community through radio programs and hosting and supporting community events.

## Wimberley Valley Youth Sports Association

The Wimberley Valley Youth Sports Association provides recreational opportunities for the local youth.


BRUCE GRANT

Chapter 3

# Our Parks System

# Parks Classification

An inventory and assessment of the parks was conducted to better understand the existing conditions of the City of Wimberley's Parks System. The assessment of the Parks System included a site visit and walkthrough of each park, interviews with City staff, a review of the annual budget and a community survey. The City of Wimberley has nine park classifications identified, and descriptions can be found on the following pages.

## POCKET PARK

Specialized facilities that serve limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs for specific groups such as tots (ages 2-5) or senior citizens (ages 65+). Typical amenities include, but are not limited to, picnic areas, benches, playground equipment, public art, drinking fountains, bike racks, and signage. These parks serve a quarter-mile radius and are typically one (1) acre in size or less. There should ideally be a quarter acre to one half acres of pocket parks for every 1,000 population. The City of Wimberley has three pocket parks: Martha Knies Community Park, Oak Park & Welcome Center, and Sunrise Park.



## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

An area for intense recreational use, such as trails, open lawn areas, pavilions, playgrounds, picnicking, sport fields, sport courts, etc. Typical amenities include, but are not limited to, playground equipment, multi-purpose sports courts and fields, trails, pavilions, picnic areas, benches, landscaping, bike racks, signage and parking. These parks serve a half-mile radius and supports populations of up to 5,000. The desirable size of a neighborhood park is a minimum of 5 acres, and ideally 10-14 acres where possible. There should ideally be 1-2 acres of neighborhood parks for every 1,000 population. While Wimberley has several parks located within neighborhoods, there are no classified city-owned and operated neighborhood parks.

## COMMUNITY PARK

A park that has been designed to engage families and visitors with multiple and diverse passive and active recreational activities and amenities. Typical amenities include, but are not limited to, playground equipment, multi-purpose sports courts and fields, swimming pools, trails, pavilions, open spaces, landscaping, restrooms, picnic areas, benches, bike racks, signage, and parking. These parks serve a 1 to 2 mile-radius, or several neighborhoods. The desirable size of a community park is 25+ acres. There should ideally be 5-8 acres of community parks for every 1,000 residents. The City of Wimberley currently has no designated community parks. Although Martha Knies Community Park is named a Community Park, this park is classified as a Pocket Park due to its size and intended use.

## REGIONAL PARK

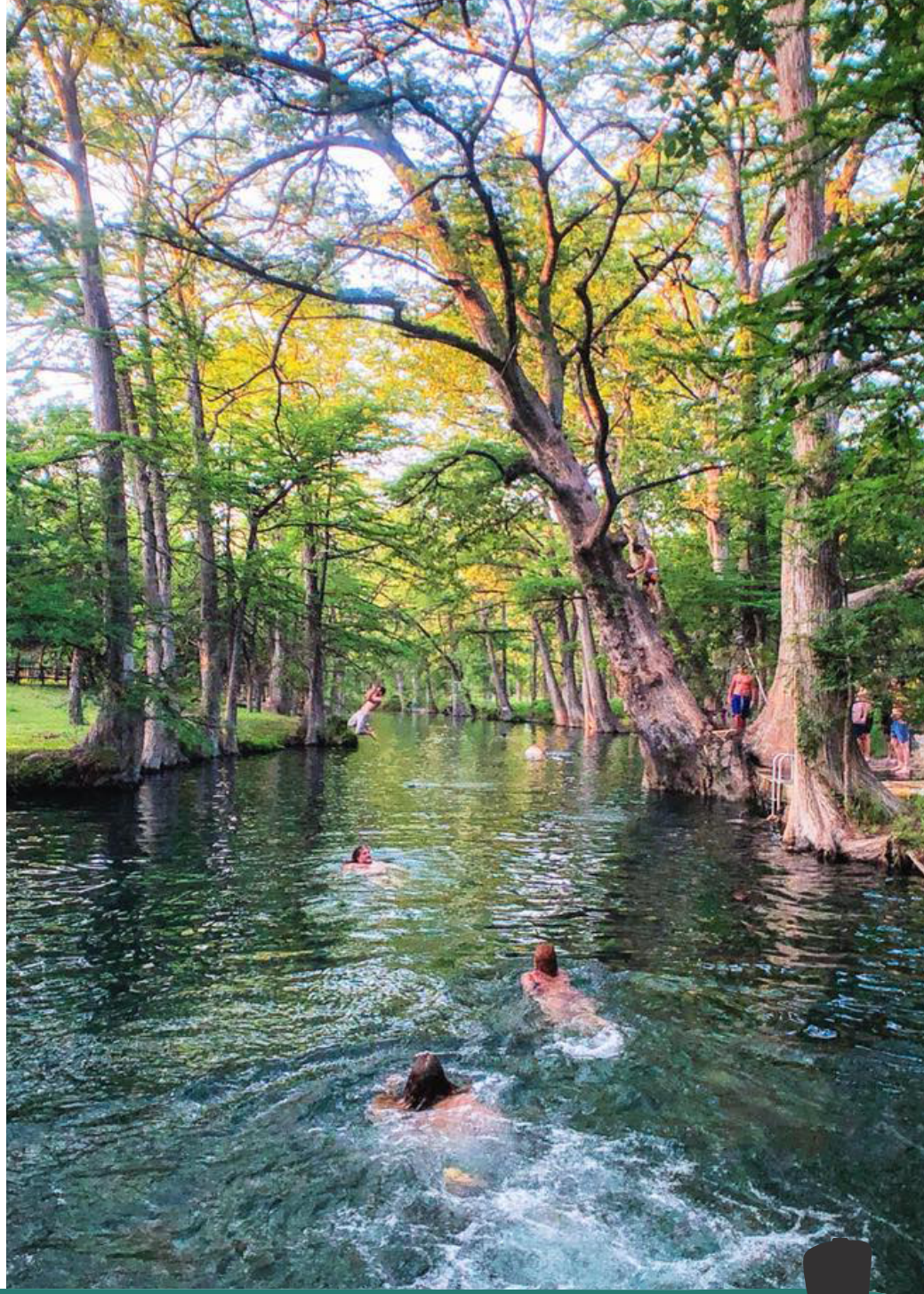
Large multi-use parks which provide active and passive recreational opportunities with a wide selection of facilities for all ages. These parks typically draw in users from the entire region and provide a day's worth of recreational opportunities. Typical amenities include, but are not limited to, playground equipment, multi-purpose sports courts and fields, trails, swimming pools, water access, pavilions, wildlife viewing stations, camping, nature play, environmental conservation areas, restrooms, drinking fountains, bike racks, signage, and parking. There are no standards for service area for a regional park; however, the desirable size is 100 acres at a minimum. The City of Wimberley has one regional park: Blue Hole Regional Park.

## LINEAR PARK

An area developed for one or more modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, and horseback riding and may include active play areas. Typical amenities include, but are not limited to, hiking and biking trails, benches, fitness stations, landscaping, and signage. There are no standards for service area, size of park, or amount of land per 1,000 population for a linear park. These areas are typically delineated by the property that is available to connect parks to commercial and residential areas. The City of Wimberley currently has no designated linear parks.

## NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

Land that has been set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open spaces, visual aesthetics, and buffering; recreational use is a secondary objective. The typical amenities vary depending on the resource being protected. There are no standards for service area, size of property, or amount of land per 1,000 population for a natural area. The City of Wimberley has two natural resource areas: Cypress Creek Nature Preserve and Patsy Glenn Refuge.





## PRIVATE PARK

Private land that has been developed for the purpose of recreational activities. While this does not contribute to the community's recreation level of service, the facilities support recreational needs of some of the residents. There are no standards for characteristics, service area, size, or amount of land per 1,000 population as this varies depending on the intent of the park/facility. The City of Wimberley has several private parks/recreation facilities spread throughout the community.

## PUBLIC INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY

Dedicated indoor space that provides active and/or passive recreational opportunities, and may contain a wide variety of facilities such as a community center, recreation center, multi-generational center, etc. There are no standards for service area or amount of land per 1,000 population for a public indoor recreation facility; however, a minimum of two acres is recommended. The City of Wimberley has one public indoor recreation facility: Wimberley Community Center.

## SPECIAL USE PARK

Areas developed for specialized or single-purpose recreational activities such as hiking, mountain biking, sports complexes, etc. Typical amenities include, but are not limited to, a concentration of one or two of the following: baseball/softball complex, soccer fields, tennis centers, sports stadiums, golf courses, performing arts parks, boat ramps, amphitheaters, and ornamental gardens. There are no standards for characteristics, service area, size, or amount of land per 1,000 population as this varies depending on the intent of the park. The City of Wimberley has one special use park: Old Baldy Park.

# Parks & Open Space Inventory

An overall classification for each facility within the Wimberley Parks System has been identified. This includes the parks classifications described on the previous pages, the total amount of acreage, and the total amount of developed acreage. Each park facility was assessed individually to determine the developed acreage. Developed space can look different for each park facility as every park serves a different purpose. Developed acreage was determined to be any area that is serving the intended purpose for that park. For example, the natural and native areas at Blue Hole Regional Park are considered to be developed because the intent of this area is for the preservation of the natural resources. An inventory of each individual park can be found on the following pages.

| | Park Name | Classification Type | Total Acres | Developed Acres |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Blue Hole Regional Park | Regional Park | 126.00 | 126.00 |
| 2 | Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve | Natural Resource Area | 7.24 | 7.24 |
| 3 | Martha Knies Community Park | Pocket Park | 1.20 | 1.20 |
| 4 | Oak Park & Welcome Center | Pocket Park | 0.75 | 0.75 |
| 5 | Old Baldy Park | Special Use Park | 4.30 | 4.30 |
| 6 | Patsy Glenn Refuge | Natural Resource Area | 1.80 | 1.80 |
| 7 | Sunrise Park | Pocket Park | 0.90 | 0.90 |
| 8 | Wimberley Community Center | Public Indoor Recreation Facility | 2.57 | 2.57 |
| Total | | | 144.76 Acres | 144.76 Acres |

*Figure 8*

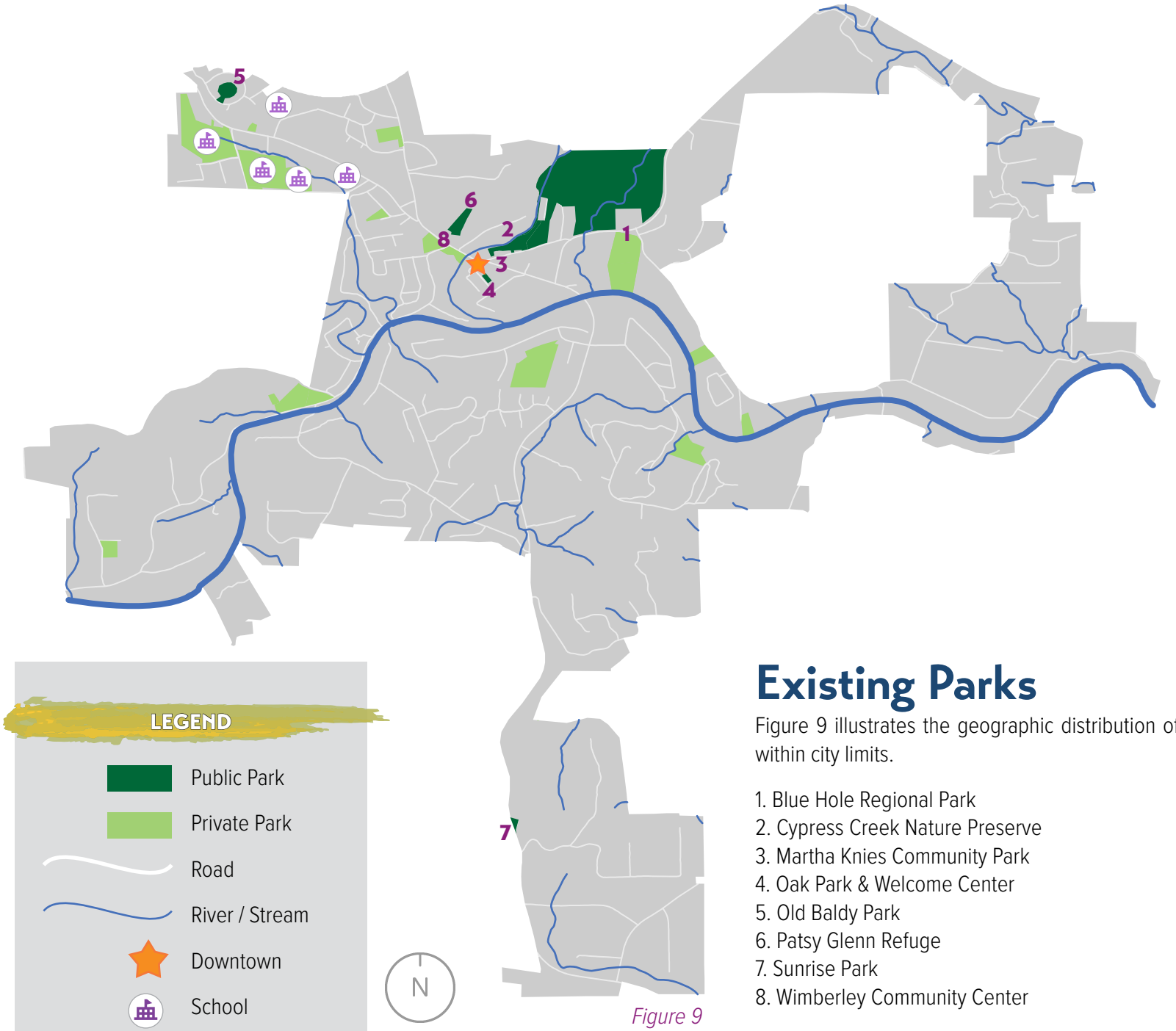



*Figure 9*

# Existing Parks

Figure 9 illustrates the geographic distribution of public parkland within city limits.

1. Blue Hole Regional Park
2. Cypress Creek Nature Preserve
3. Martha Knies Community Park
4. Oak Park & Welcome Center
5. Old Baldy Park
6. Patsy Glenn Refuge
7. Sunrise Park
8. Wimberley Community Center

# Service Area

The service area designates the ideal carrying capacity for different park classifications. Mini-neighborhood parks typically serve a ½-mile radius, while community parks can serve up to a 2-mile radius. The standard set by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) is for all residents to have safe and equal access to parks within a 1/2-mile or 10-minute walk of their residence. Ideally, all developed areas of the City and ETJ should fall within the service area of a neighborhood park or a community park. Blue Hole Regional Park, Cypress Creek Nature Trail and Preserve, and Old Baldy are not shown with a service area as Blue Hole Regional Park serves the entire community, and there is no set standard for the service area for natural resource areas or special-use parks.

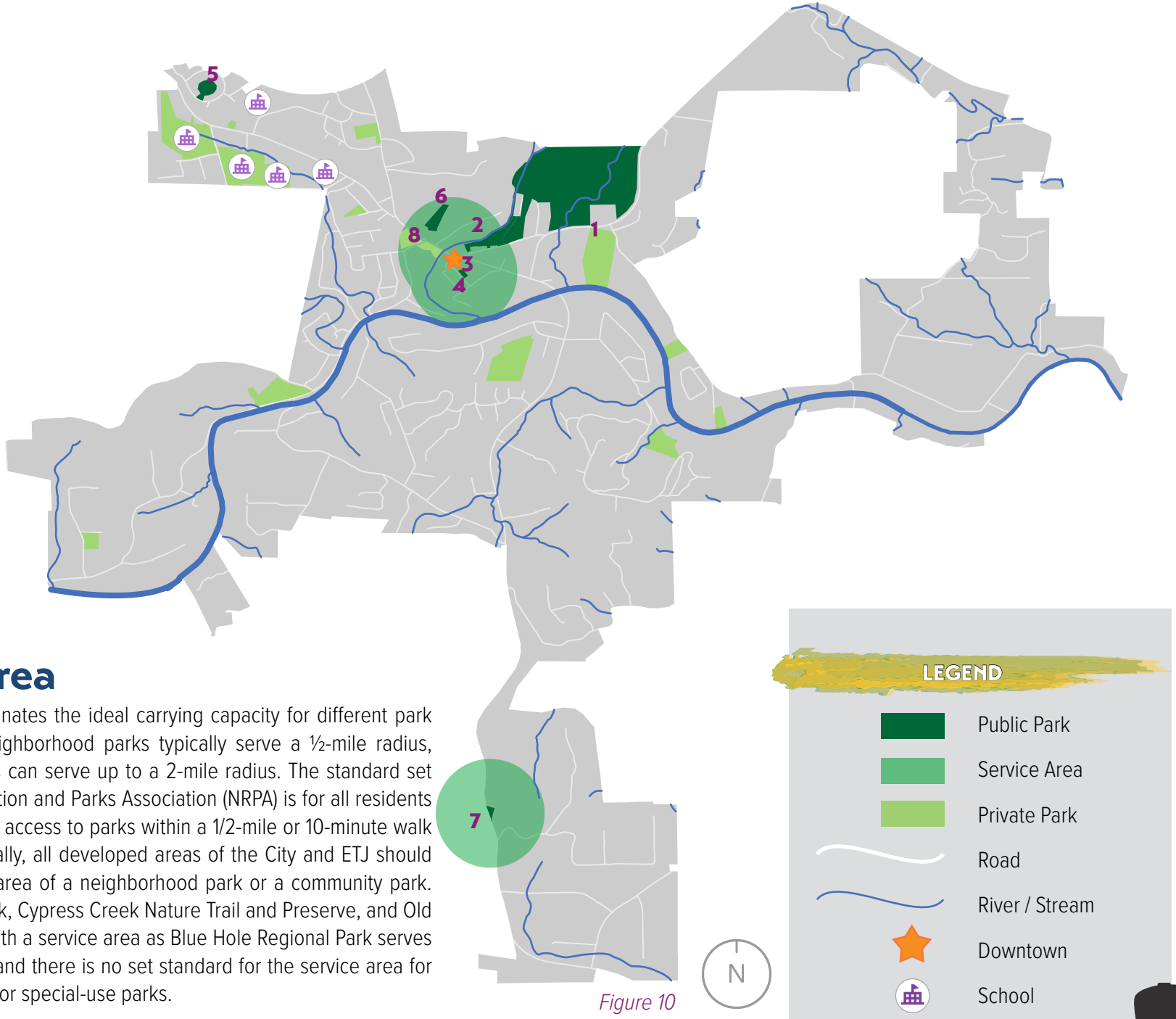



*Figure 10*

# Blue Hole Regional Park

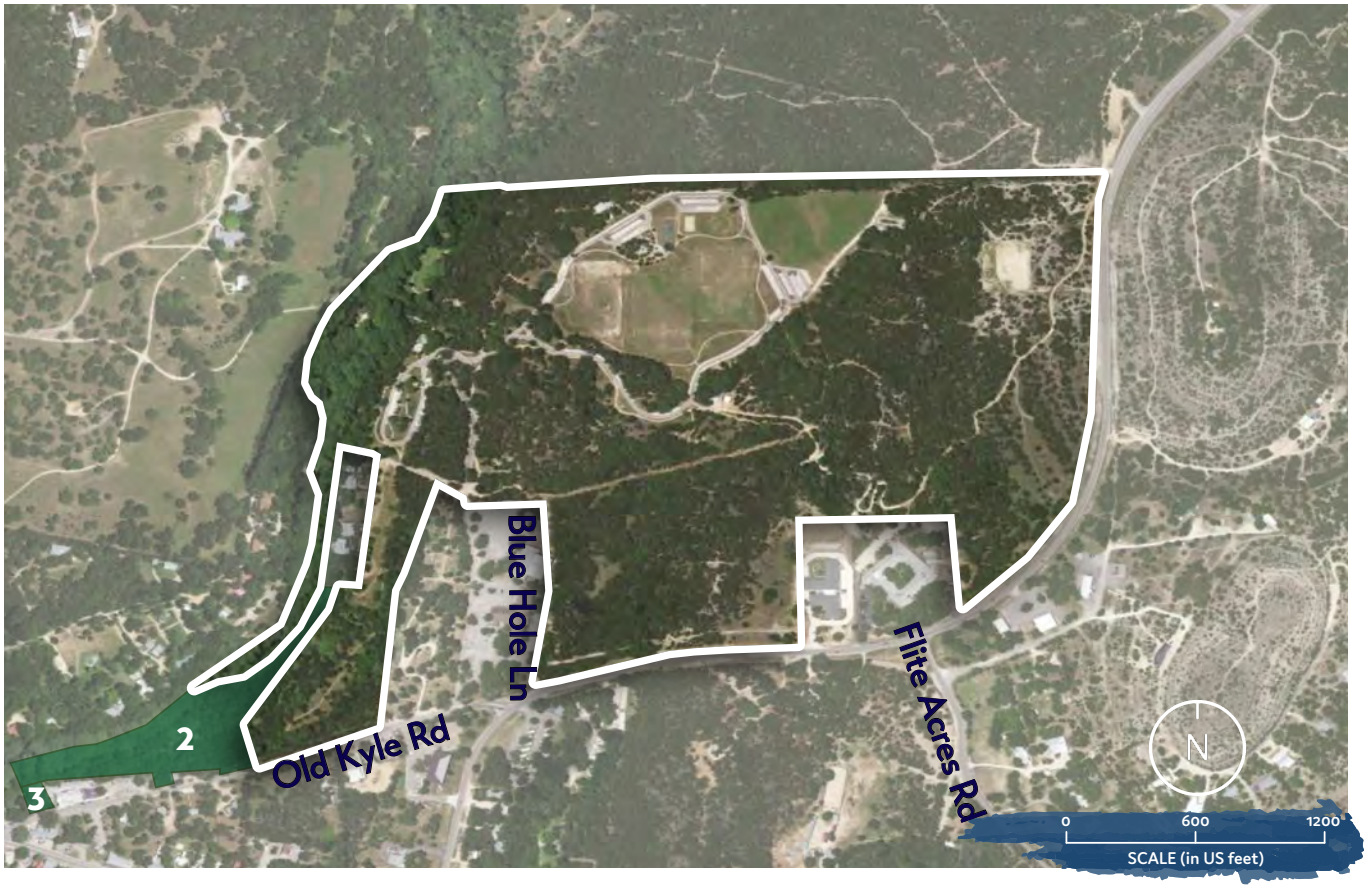
## Location
333 Blue Hole Lane

## Size
126 Acres

## Classification
Regional Park

## Amenities
Amphitheater
Basketball Court
Community Pavilion
Fire Pit
Picnic Area
Playscape
Primitive Camping
Public Restrooms
Sand Volleyball Court
Soccer Field
Swimming Area
Trails

## Park Connectivity
**2** - Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve
**3** - Martha Knies Community Park

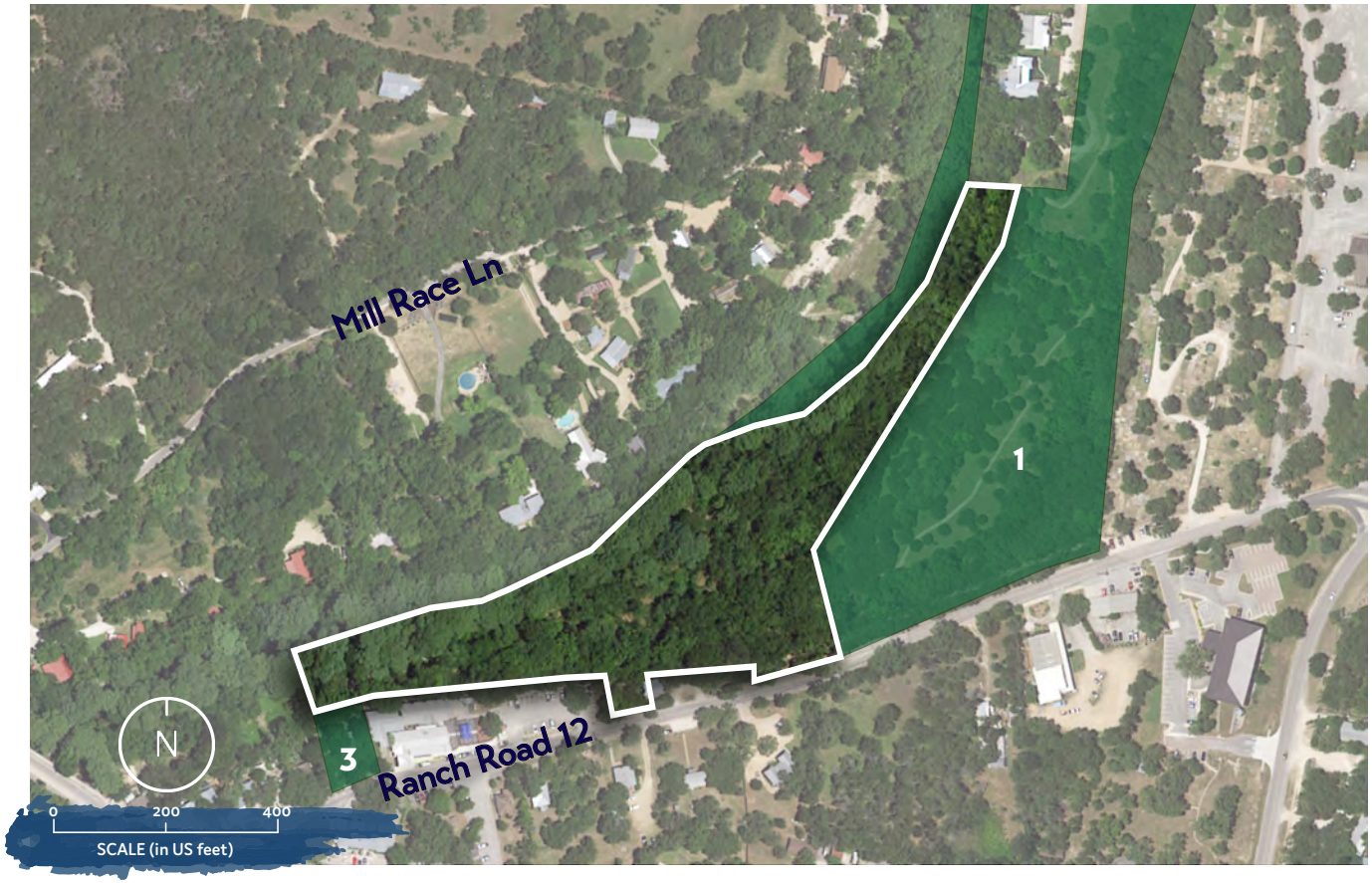









# Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve











## Location
109 Old Kyle Road

## Size
7.24 Acres

## Classification
Natural Resource Area

## Amenities
Trail

## Park Connectivity
**1** - Blue Hole Regional Park

**3** - Martha Knies Community Park

# Martha Knies Community Park

## Location
111 Old Kyle Road

## Size
1.20 Acres

## Classification
Pocket Park

## Amenities
Pavilion
Picnic / Seating Area
Playscape
Public Restrooms
Water Feature

## Park Connectivity
**2** - Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve











# Oak Park & Welcome Center










## Location
109 Oak Drive

## Size
0.75 Acres

## Classification
Pocket Park

## Amenities
Open Space
Outdoor Games
Picnic Area
Public Art
Public Restrooms

## Park Connectivity

# Wimberley Community Center

## Location
14068 Ranch Road 12

## Size
2.57 Acres

## Classification
Public Indoor Recreation Facility

## Amenities
Meeting Rooms
Public Art
Reception Hall

## Park Connectivity
**2** - Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve
**6** - Patsy Glenn Refuge










# Patsy Glenn Refuge











## Location
14068 Ranch Road 12

## Size
1.80 Acres

## Classification
Natural Resource Area

## Amenities
Bird Viewing Station
Butterfly Garden
Chimney Swift Tower
Educational Kiosk
Outdoor Seating
Trail
Wildlife Viewing Platform

## Park Connectivity
**2** - Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve
**8** - Wimberley Community Center

# Sunrise Park

## Location
10450 Ranch Road 12

## Size
0.90 Acres

## Classification
Pocket Park

## Amenities
Picnic Shelters

## Park Connectivity










# Old Baldy Park











## Location
31 La Toya Trail

## Size
4.30 Acres

## Classification
Special Use Park

## Amenities
Trail
Viewing Platform

## Park Connectivity

# Trail Network Inventory

Wimberley's trail network currently consists of looped trails, shared-use paths, and sidewalks designed for different users of various materials and widths. The network provides strong recreational opportunities, but minimal connectivity.

## Trail User Types

Trails are primarily often utilized for recreational opportunities or alternative forms of transportation. Trail users typically have specific preferences regarding widths and materials for trails based on their preferred activity.

**PEDESTRIANS** include walkers, joggers, and runners and are the primary users of the trail system, all with varying needs and comfort levels and use the trail system for three reasons: connectivity, recreation, and exercise. Pedestrians typically prefer loop trails that connect to larger trail systems, which allows them the opportunity to drive to the park or trailhead.

**BICYCLISTS** primarily use trails for recreation and commuting. Bicyclists typically prefer off-street trails, shared-use paths and low-traffic neighborhood roads and advanced cyclists have experience sharing roads with cars and maneuvering through traffic. Seniors, families, and children are the most vulnerable, and their accessibility and lower speed should be considered when creating access points, sight lines and orientation of the trail.

**OTHER** types of users on the trail include skateboarders, scooters, hoverboarders, in-line skaters and BMX riders. These users will typically utilize concrete trails and be conscious of cracks in the surfacing and fallen debris on the trails.

## Trail Facility Types

The three trail facility types best suited for Wimberley include loop trails, shared-use paths, and sidepaths or sidewalks. The following descriptions are examples of each type.

**LOOPED TRAILS** are completely contained within park boundaries and are typically intended for recreation and exercise. The surfacing varies, but can include concrete, asphalt, crushed granite or stone, boardwalk, mulch, natural dirt, and other material types. Looped trails are typically 8'-10' wide with a minimum of 6', if 8' cannot be accommodated. Signage typically includes directional signage, mileage markers, warning signs, and gateways. It is imperative to consider accessibility when choosing trail materials.

**SHARED-USE (GREENBELT) PATHS** are physically separated from the flow of vehicular traffic and are not always parallel or adjacent to the roadway. These paths are for non-motorized traffic such as runners, walkers, bicyclists, skaters, wheelchair users, etc., and are used for recreation and transportation. The paths are typically found along creek corridors, greenbelts, within or adjacent to utility easements, railroad rights-of-way and road rights-of-way. Shared-use paths are often 10'-12' wide with a 2' wide shoulder and 10'-12' of vertical clearance. Center line stripping and wayfinding, informational, safety, and interpretive signage is often provided alongside a shared-use path with high volumes of traffic.

**SIDEWALKS** are trails located adjacent and parallel to roadways, 5'-6' wide, and are typically offset with a 3'-5' grass, planting, or vertical delineator buffer. Wimberley has a growing sidewalk network which can be leveraged to expand the trail system throughout the community. Sidewalks should be compliant with ADA standards, have adequate crossing, signage, signals, and crosswalks. These trails can be retrofitted to accommodate high volumes of traffic by expanding the width or adding an additional sidewalk to the opposite side of the roadway.

## Existing Trails

Existing trails in Wimberley are primarily used for recreation and are located in city parks with minimal connectivity to other parks, neighborhoods, schools, or commercial areas. Ideally, there would be continuous access throughout the city to connect parks to residential and commercial areas. A large bike-friendly trail system would provide safe travel for cyclists and other trail users. Existing trail locations can be seen on the map in Figure 11.

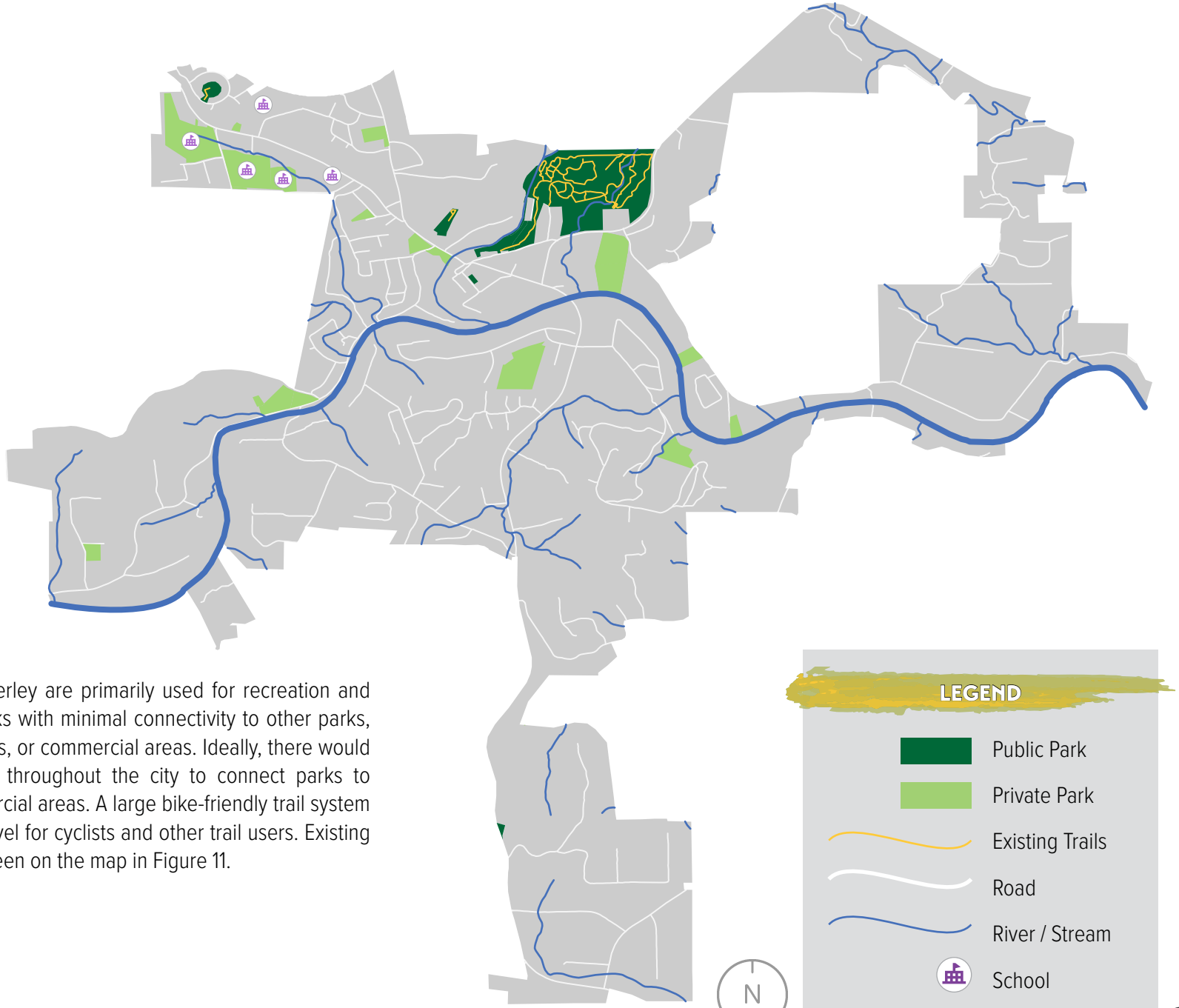



*Figure 11*



# Level of Service

The Level of Service (LOS) measures developed or useable park acres per 1,000 residents in a community. This serves as a tool to support investment decisions related to land acquisition and facility improvements for parks, recreation, open space, and trail developments. While private recreational spaces, Homeowner Associations' (HOAs) recreational spaces, open space lots, Wimberley ISD playgrounds and sports fields are valuable to the community, these facilities are not included in the Level of Service tabulation. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has established a recommended standard of 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents to effectively serve the community. It is important to note that NRPA encourages each community to establish their own LOS standard based on factors, including existing parkland, population, maintenance and operations abilities, and overall desired quality and quantity or recreational spaces.

## Recommended Level of Service

25.0 acres per 1,000 residents

## Wimberley's Existing Level of Service (Residents Only)

Total Population: 2,877

Total Developed Park Acres: 144.76

Total Developed Park Acres per 1,000 Population: 50.3

It has been noted throughout this plan that the Wimberley Parks System serves more than just the immediate residents. As such, the Level of Service was assessed for all community members with a 78676 ZIP code, which can be seen below:

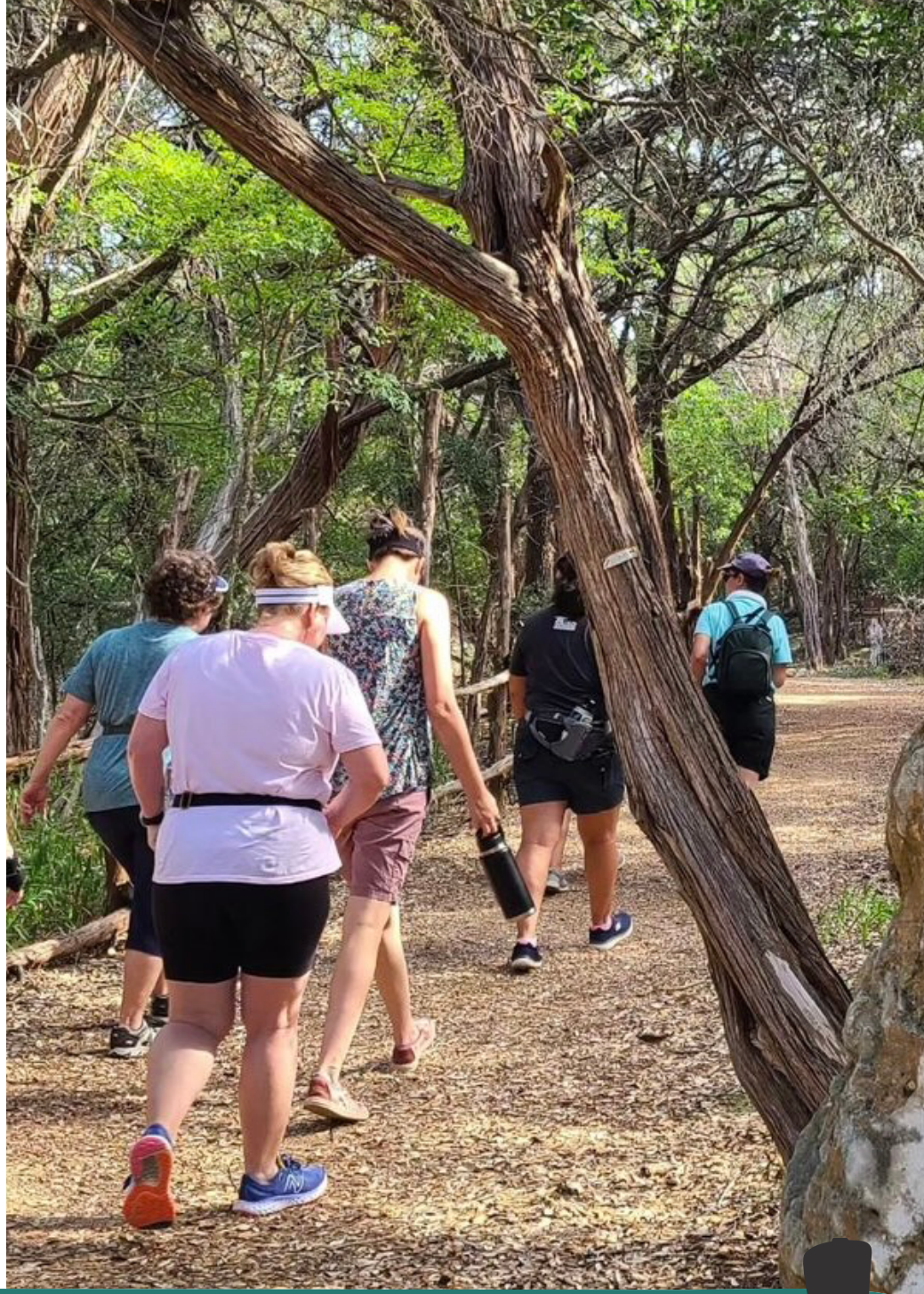
### Wimberley's Existing Level of Service (all 78676 ZIP code residents)

Total Population: 14,713

Total Developed Park Acres: 144.76

Total Developed Park Acres per 1,000 Population: 9.8

The LOS is generally based off the residents within the city-limits as parks are typically funded through taxes. Wimberley is unique as the Parks System is user-funded and as such, both LOS' can be utilized. The LOS for the residents within city-limits is significantly larger than the NRPA standard; however, the LOS for all persons with a 78676 ZIP code is similar to the NRPA standard.

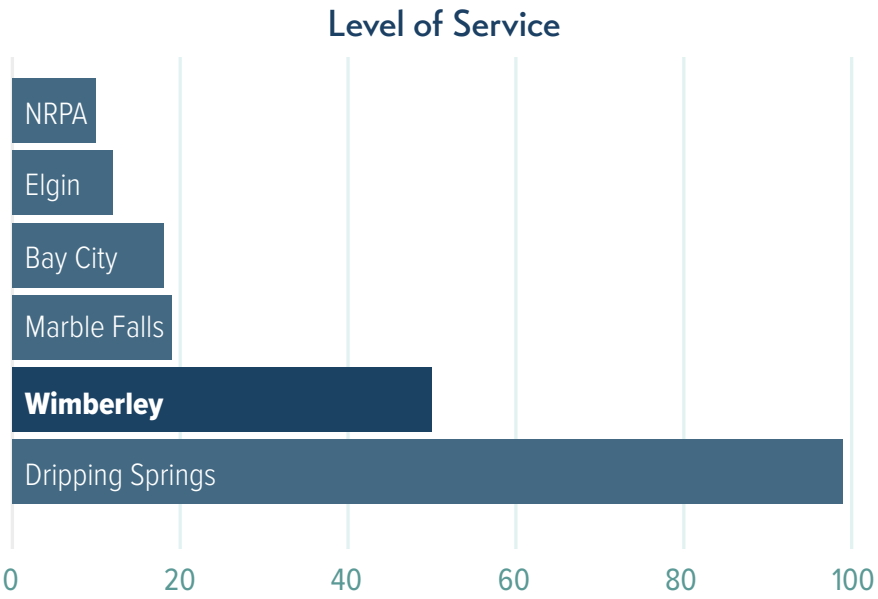


# Benchmark Communities

Several benchmark communities were identified to better understand how the Wimberley Parks System functions compared to similar communities. These communities were identified on multiple factors, including location, population size, density, and climate. The four benchmark communities identified include Elgin, Bay City, Marble Falls, and Dripping Springs. For clarity, the Wimberley LOS of 50.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents was used to compare with the benchmark communities. The LOS for all persons with a 78676 ZIP code was not used as the other communities may serve a population outside their city-limits as well; however, this LOS was not provided for the other communities.

## Level of Service

The City of Wimberley provides a large amount of park space when compared to the other benchmark communities. This high LOS is largely attributed to Blue Hole Regional Park as this is a 126-acre developed park. The natural areas at Blue Hole Regional Park are intended to preserve the environment and have low maintenance requirements. This provides opportunities for hiking and biking; however, the amount of land available for programmed recreation is limited.




**Source: National Recreation of Parks Association**

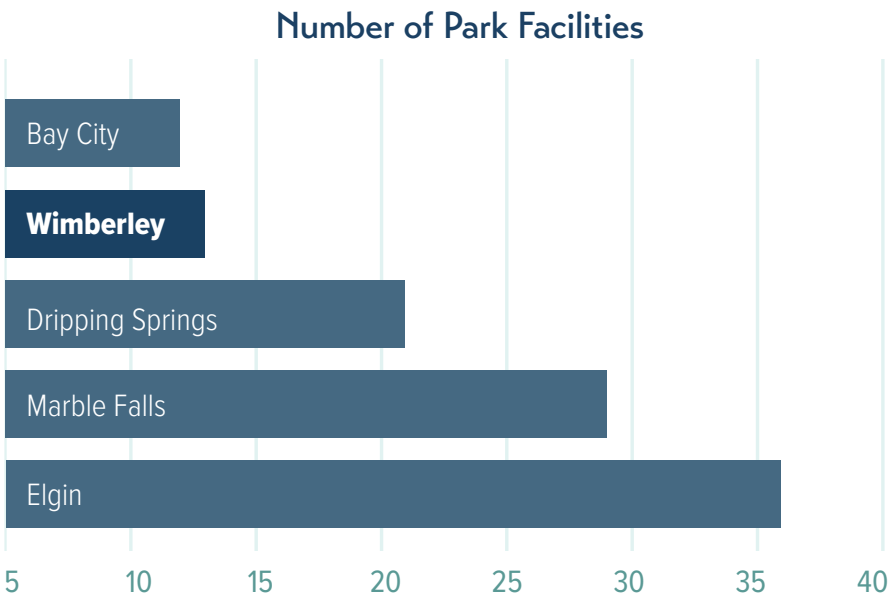
*Figure 12*

## Park Facilities

Park and recreation facilities were compared with benchmark communities to better understand the number of facilities necessary to support the community. The City of Wimberley provides fewer park facilities when compared to the benchmark communities. This is not necessarily a negative as Wimberley has the smallest population of these communities and one of the highest LOS. This is important as other communities may have a larger number of parks whereas Wimberley has a large central park to serve the community.

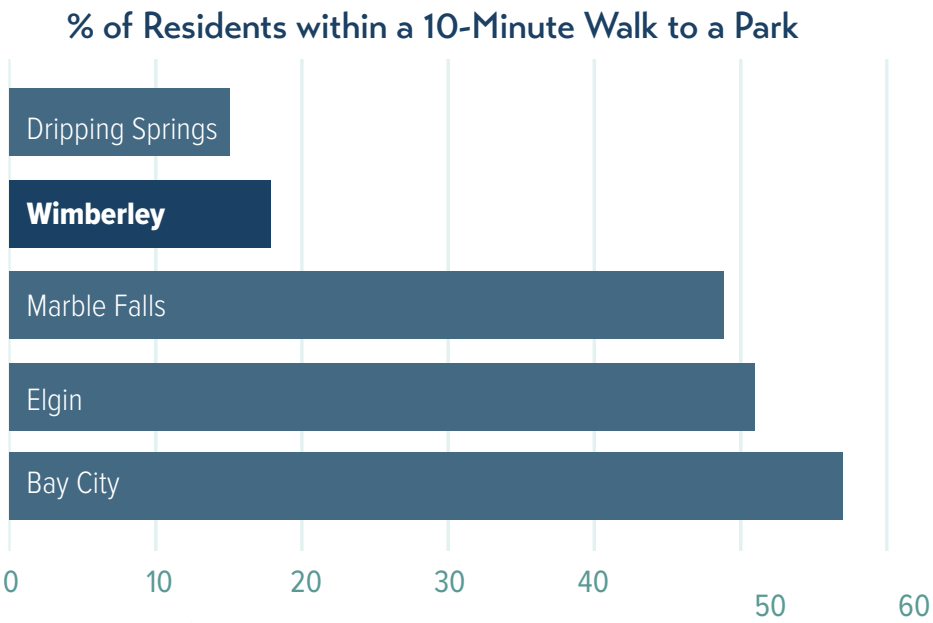
## 10-Minute Walk

NRPA and Trust for Public Land (TPL) are encouraging cities to improve access to parks and green space to ensure every resident has safe and easy access to a park within a 10-minute walk. TPL has identified that approximately 75% of residents in the United States are within a 10-minute walk to a park, and it was identified that approximately 18% of Wimberley residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park. While this percentage is lower than the national average and several of the benchmark communities, this lower percentage is not unique to Wimberley and can be seen in smaller communities throughout the country.




**Source: National Recreation of Parks Association**

*Figure 13*




**Source: Trust for Public Land**

*Figure 14*




# Department Programs

The Wimberley PARD offers an extensive range of recreational programs and events throughout the year. City staff does an exceptional job at providing a wide variety of programming and events for community members. The events hosted by the Wimberley PARD provide recreational opportunities to thousands of people annually. This section highlights the various recreation, athletic programs, and special events the Department offers.

## Recurring Special Events

**Boo! Hole Halloween**: This large community event includes a 30-stop trick-or-treat trail, a haunted hayride, large carnival games, a movie on an outdoor screen, a costume contest, live music, food trucks, and more.

**Polar Bear Plunge and 5K**: A 5K fun run through downtown Wimberley starting and ending at Blue Hole, and includes fire at the fire pit, hot drinks, craft beer, live music, and a plunge into Cypress Creek.

**Concerts in the Park**: Concert series every Friday in April from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**Movies in the Park**: Movies shown in the Parks including Christmas, Halloween, Memorial Day, Nature Documentaries, etc.

**Creekside Campout**: Camping in the Blue Hole Swim Area and includes activities such as hiking, geocaching, a guided night hike, specialty programs, and more.

**Star Party**: Bi-annual event to learn about dark skies and observe the stars.

**Hill Country Migratory Bird Seminar**: This annual event highlights migratory birds at the Wimberley Community Center. Multiple professional speakers and a keynote discuss our feathered friends, how to cultivate bird-friendly habitats, and protecting our endangered migratory bird species.

**Shakespeare in the Park**: Live performances of a Shakespeare play over 2 weekends at Blue Hole Regional Park.

**Wimberley Community Thanksgiving Dinner**: Event takes place at the Wimberley Community Center and serves a Thanksgiving dinner to the less fortunate in the community on Thanksgiving Day.

## Athletics

**Youth**: Soccer.

**Adult**: Sand volleyball, kickball, dodgeball, and cornhole.

## Summer Camps

**Blue Hole Nature Camp Weekly**: An award-winning 10-week day camp program that the City of Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department provides to the nature-conscious youth of the community.

**Wimberley Summer Camp**: An indoor day camp program at the Wimberley Community Center. This camp has 8 weeks of fun themes with games, activities, and arts and crafts.

**Spring Break Camp**: Nature Education Day-camp where participants will explore topics like botany, ecology, entomology, geology, herpetology, limnology, and ornithology.

**Camp No Kids**: A day full of summer camp activities including team challenges, rock-wall climbing, kayaking, and more just for adults.









## Programs

**Zumba**: Weekly zumba classes (MWF) at the Wimberley Community Center.

**Yoga**: Weekly yoga classes (TTH) at the Wimberley Community Center.

**Community Workouts**: A free workout class every second Saturday at Oak Park.

**Wimberley Nights**: The Blue Hole Swim Area is open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the swim season for Wimberley residents only.

**Guided Hikes**: Hiking and educational tour of the Blue Hole Regional Park and Cypress Creek Nature Preserve.

**Knee-High Naturalist**: Hike, play games, and investigate nature with your 3- to 5-year-old with activities like pattern recognition and insect investigation.

**Painting with Parks**: A monthly outdoor painting program led by an expert artist.

**Plant and Paint**: The Wimberley Community Center hosts this the first Friday of each month where they teach how to take care of plants and paint flowerpots.

**Tie-dye Day with Parks and Rec**: Participants tie-dye t-shirts for the 4th of July.

### Nature Education Programs

**Birds and Brew**: Birding hikes for expert or novice birders while sipping on local coffee.

**Firefly Watch**: Program participants learn about fireflies native to Central Texas and interact with hundreds of fireflies that show up at Blue Hole.

**Owl Prowl**: A night hike searching for owls, a classroom style learning section with the opportunity to dissect owl pellet and education on how to make owl calls.

**Sustainability Workshop**: A six-week program that will focus on a different aspect of sustainable living each week at the Wimberley Community Center.

**Guided Plant Tours**: Participants go on a guided hike and learn about Ivy, Oak, Juniper, Grasses, and more plant species.

**Our Resilient Riparian**: Participants learn about the benefits that riparian areas provide.

# Community Programs

The City of Wimberley citizens, local organizations and other agencies host programs and events throughout the year. The Parks and Recreation Department supports these events by assisting with set-up, logistics, grounds maintenance, clean up and provides lighting. Below are some programs and events hosted by organizations other than the City that can attract visitors to the Parks System.

**Fourth of July Parade**: The best little 4th of July parade in Texas. Thousands gather on Ranch Road 12 to watch floats, cars, bands, and more in the parade.

**Butterfly Festival**: An art and cultural celebration, where thousands of butterflies are released. Wimberley Arts Fest: An art exhibition featuring 100+ artists with live music and food trucks.

**Wimberley Market Days**: The Texas Hill County's largest outdoor market, featuring hundreds of booths with 100% of the net income going to the Wimberley Lions Club to support local programs, non-profits, and activities.

**Wings Over Wimberley**: A city-wide cultural event with music, art, food, and fun; celebrating the thousands of Mexican free-tailed bats that call Wimberley home.



Chapter 4

# NRPA Standards



# NRPA Three Pillars

To encourage cities across the nation to promote healthy lifestyles, conserve natural resources, and provide safe accessibility for all citizens, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed Three Pillars: Health and Wellness, Conservation, and Social Equity. The following pages explore these pillars, noting their importance, how they have been accomplished locally, and recommendations that the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department can incorporate.

It is important to be aware of national standards as the Wimberley parks system is a high-quality system that attracts people from around the State and beyond. Decision makers and City staff can ensure the parks system meets best practices, provides recreational opportunities to the community, and continues to be a competitive tourist attraction through the implementation of these pillars. The incorporation of these pillars into the parks system will help the organization become accredited from NRPA and provide the opportunity to obtain additional State and National designations.







## HEALTH & WELLNESS

## CONSERVATION

## SOCIAL EQUITY









# Health and Wellness

The first initiative in the NRPA's Three Pillars is Health and Wellness. It can be summarized as "Leading the nation to improved health and wellness through parks and recreation." NRPA further states:

"Parks and recreation professionals are key to a fully integrated public health system and play a vital role in meeting the evolving health needs of their communities. They are uniquely positioned to create, in partnership with the community, public health leaders and other local organizations, upstream solutions that catalyze and transform their systems into holistic and people-centered community wellness hubs. In serving as community wellness hubs, parks and recreation connects community members to comprehensive programs, services and spaces that dismantle systemic barriers to health, especially for people of color and low-income communities, while investing in efforts that support and advance health and well-being holistically."

NRPA has three specific initiatives that are targeted at improving the Health and Wellness of communities:

**COMMUNITY WELLNESS HUBS**

**COMMIT TO HEALTH**

**HEALTHY AGING IN PLACE**

## Local Accomplishments

**2024**: Hosted the 8th annual Polar Bear Plunge and 5K.

**2024**: Introduced new adult programming including kickball, cornhole, and dodgeball.

**2023**: Introduced a free community workout on the second Saturday of every month at Oak Park & Welcome Center

**2023**: Maintained a close working relationship with the Wimberley Senior Citizen Activities Inc, including providing an Alzheimer's support group, meals on wheels, table games, etc.

**2023**: Increased health and wellness programs at the Community Center with Zumba, yoga,and several exercise classes.

**2023**: Hosted the 13th year of Concerts in the Park every Friday in April helping to build community and improve mental health.

**2023**: Introduced an adult volleyball program.

## Local Recommendations

• Identify key physical, financial, and social barriers which may hinder the ability of Wimberley residents to participate in and enjoy the entirety of the parks and recreation system.

• Identify potential partnerships and establish a Community Wellness Hub to assist with improving the health of the local community.

• Provide educational opportunities for nutrition through local partnerships.

• Support policies that encourage Aging in Place including expanding the trails system and transit systems.

• Provide programs that encourage Healthy Aging such as Walking With Ease, Active Living Every Day, and Fit & Strong!.

• Encourage physical and mental activity through community walks, structured and unstructured play, and educational programs.

• Incorporate supporting facilities that promote park usage, including but not limited to shade structures, picnic tables, bike racks, benches, and drinking stations.


POLAR BEAR
PLUNGE & 5K
49
45
67
269



# Conservation

The second initiative in the NRPA's Three Pillars is Conservation. This Pillar can be summarized as protecting the environment and natural resources. Parks and Recreation Agencies are key leaders when it comes to conservation. According to NRPA:

"Parks and recreation professionals, who serve nearly every community in the United States, are essential in combating the causes and impacts of climate change. They provide critical green spaces in communities that connect people to the outdoors and create healthy places that support the plants and animals that are beneficial to our environment. As leaders in building community resilience, park and recreation professionals connect community members to environmental programming, ensure healthy ecosystems, advocate for the benefits of nature and implement sustainability practices. These efforts must focus on communities most impacted by poor environment conditions and the effects of climate change, including people of color and people living in low-income communities, and invest in efforts that support holistic community resiliency."

NRPA has four specific initiatives that are targeted at improving the Conservation of communities:

**GREENER PARKS**

**PARKS FOR POLLINATORS**

**CLIMATE RESILIENT PARKS**

**WILDLIFE EXPLORERS**

## Local Accomplishments

**2023**: The Wimberley Valley was awarded the International Dark Sky Place of the Year designation

**2023**: Wimberley was awarded $1,389,280 in TxDOTfunds to renovate expand the sidewalk system.

**2023**: The City of Wimberley hosted a tree folks initiative which resulted in the planting of 600 saplings to enhance the riparian areas near the swim lawn at Blue Hole Regional Park.

**2021**: Hays County was awarded $971,412 in TxDOT funds to expand sidewalk from Wimberley High School to the Wimberley Library.

**2020**: The Wimberley City Council adopted Migratory Bird Day

**2018**: The Wimberley Valley was awarded the International Dark Sky Place designation

**2018**: The Blue Hole Regional Park was designated as SITES Certified

SITES Certifications recognize projects that have excelled at incorporating sustainable design practices and Wimberley has proven to be a leader in sustainability. Blue Hole Regional Park was awarded the SITES Certification in 20183, becoming just one of 26 projects world-wide to achieve this certification, and is the largest SITE certified park in the nation. Blue Hole Regional Park preserves 126 acres of delicate ecosystem saved from development, and protects 19 endangered and threatened species' habitats. Water conservation efforts have been heavily emphasized, utilizing several best environmental designs and introducing water programs. Rainwater cisterns have been constructed at several parks to efficiently capture and retain stormwater. This allows for water to be reused and reduces the City's demand for the Middle Trinity Aquifer.

The Parks and Recreation Department, in addition to day-to-day work and planning is involved in numerous conservancy initiatives such as the International Dark Sky Communities, migratory bird migration, Plant Your Park, and water conservation.

The International Dark Sky Places program certifies communities that have excelled at preserving and protecting dark places and minimizing light pollution. There are just over 200 Dark Sky Places recognized internationally, and the Wimberley Valley Area became one of them in 2018. The City of Wimberley has worked with the Wimberley Valley Dark Sky Committee over the past several years and has committed to the conservation of the night sky. Limiting light pollution and preserving the dark sky is important for bird migration. As most bird migration occurs at night, light pollution can significantly hinder the migratory process for birds. The importance of the bird migration process is further acknowledged as the City Council adopted the Migratory Bird Day designation on the second Saturday of May. Several programs have been introduced by the Parks and Recreation Department, including Guided Night Hikes, Star Party, and Hill Country Migratory Bird Seminar. These programs provide educational opportunities to the community allowing the community to learn about conservation issues.

The Plant Your Park initiative is hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department. This program encourages community members to plant trees at Blue Hole Regional Park to increase conservation efforts. In 2022, there were 35 one-gallon trees planted at the park, and more than 600 saplings were planted in 2023. Programs like this are important as they provide habitats for birds and wildlife which increases air quality and the biodiversity of the area. Several programs have been introduced that educate the community on the importance of the natural vegetation, including Crazy for Cactus, Botanical Buddies, and Guided Plant Tours.

## Local Recommendations

- Develop an Urban Forestry Initiative to encourage the preservation of trees and plants
- Develop Wildlife Management and Wildfire Prevention Plans
- Identify and observe Arbor Day through Council proclamation
- Adopt policies and programs to become a Tree City USA Community
- Identify areas of the community that can incorporate rewilding
- Establish programs that encourage rewilding of private properties
- Strive for environmentally-friendly building practices, the construction of green and sustainable infrastructure, and the use of resource-efficient construction processes and materials
- Promote policies that encourage zero-waste and increase locations of recycling bins
- Partner with wildlife agencies and volunteers to conduct regular biological inventories of all park properties.
- Map out locations of endangered species habitats



# Social Equity

The third initiative in the NRPA's Three Pillars is Social Equity. This Pillar is summarized as ensuring parks and recreation services are equally accessible and available to all people, regardless of income level, ability, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, etc. Parks provide recreational spaces for some of the most vulnerable communities, and as such, it is crucial that everyone has a safe space to recreate. NRPA states:

"Public parks, recreation services and recreation programs including the maintenance, safety, and accessibility of parks and facilities, should be provided on an equitable basis to all citizens of communities served by public agencies. Social equity is a critical responsibility borne by every public park and recreation agency and the professionals that operate them. It is a right, not just a privilege, for people nationwide to have safe healthful access to parks and recreation. NRPA believes park and recreation agencies, through the provision of equal access to parks and recreation, should cultivate community ties through programs and services for all which produces benefits by connecting people more deeply to the fabric of the community."

NRPA has four specific initiatives that are targeted at improving the Social Equity of the Parks and Recreation System:

**PARK ACCESS**

**MENTORING IN PARKS AND REC**

**PARKS FOR INCLUSION**

**HEART YOUR PARK**

## Local Accomplishments

The City of Wimberley and the Parks and Recreation Department are committed to inclusive citywide recreational opportunities through special events and programs with an emphasis on providing outreach programs directly to underserved areas. Through various partnerships, the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department has been able to improve social equity.

## Local Recommendations

- Create and adopt a formal Parks and Recreation Inclusion Policy
- Engage with all ethnic community members by recognizing and celebrating their heritages and holidays and provide opportunities for civic engagement and social connections
- Incorporate multiple languages in Parks and Recreation resources
- Continue to and seek additional partnerships with local organizations that support under-represented populations or under-served communities
- Ensure all community voices are heard, acknowledged, and addressed
- Support policies that improve access to Parks and Recreation facilities
- Improve accessibility of trails




Crystal Glaze Photography




# CAPRA Accreditation

The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) is the only national accreditation of park and recreation departments, serving as a valuable indicator of a park department's overall quality of operation, management, and community service. The Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department is a leader through programing, events, sustainability, inclusiveness, and conservation and it is recommended to attain CAPRA accreditation. Benefits of attaining CAPRA Accreditation include:

- Demonstrating the Parks and Recreation Department meets national standards of best practice
- Recognizing the community as a great place to live
- Assisting with securing state and federal funding
- Ensuring the Parks and Recreation Department is accountable to the public
- Providing staff with training to ensure exceptional customer service
- Providing positive public and political recognition
- Increasing credibility and boosting moral of the staff
- Enhancing department performance and efficiency
- Creating an environment for regular review of operations, policies, and procedures, and promotes continual improvement

## Accreditation Process

Achieving CAPRA accreditation can be a challenge, with only 193 accredited park and recreation agencies throughout the nation. CAPRA has identified 154 national standards; 36 of these are fundamental standards, and 118 are non-fundamental standards. For an agency to achieve CAPRA accreditation, the department must comply with all 36 fundamental standards and a minimum of 106 of the 118 non-fundamental standards. The Wimberley Parks department is a leader through programing, events, sustainability, inclusiveness, and conservation and it is recommended to attain CAPRA accreditation.

To attain CAPRA accreditation, agencies must:

- Attend CAPRA approved training
- Complete an application and self-assessment report
- Host on-site or virtual CAPRA site inspections
- Attend a final CAPRA hearing

There are ten areas that agencies must have policies and/or plans in place to attain CAPRA accreditation:

- Agency Authority, Role, and Responsibility
- Planning
- Organization and Administration
- Human Resources
- Financial Management
- Programs and Services Management
- Facility and Land Use Management
- Public Safety, Law Enforcement, and Security
- Risk Management
- Evaluation, Assessment, and Research


A TEXAS
Master Naturalist
Project

Chapter 5

# Public Input






# Focus Group Meetings

The Parks and Recreation Department conducted five focus group meetings to gain a better understanding of the recreational needs and gaps within the community. The meetings were held at the Wimberley Community Center and involved key members from the community. Each meeting focused on a different theme of the Parks System, and participants were encouraged to provide feedback regarding the existing and future Parks System.

## Focus Group Meeting Participants & Groups

- Hays County Master Naturalist
- Keep Wimberley Beautiful
- Friends of Wimberley Parks
- Wimberley Valley Watershed Association
- Wimberley Youth Sports Association - WYSA
- The Barnabas Connection
- Wimberley Inn & 7A Ranch
- The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment
- Apothecary 222
- Wimberley Valley Arts & Cultural Alliance
- City of Wimberley Administration
- City Council
- Parks and Recreation Department
- Parks and Recreation Board

## Summary of the Highlights of the Parks System

- High-quality Parks System
- Looped trails at Blue Hole Regional Park
- Sustainable design incorporated into parks
- Successful attendance and usage from both locals and non-residents
- Knowledgeable and engaged leadership and staff
- Excellent programming and events
- Successful local partnerships

## Summary of the Needs of the Parks System

- Land acquisition to continue to expand and conserve the Parks System
- New sustainability opportunities throughout the parks
- New aquatic recreational opportunities
- Expanded linear and looped trail system
- Enhanced inclusiveness of the Parks System
- Budget increases for park expansion, enhancement, and maintenance
- New and additional signage throughout the Parks System






# Pop-Up Events

The Parks and Recreation Department hosted pop-up events over a two-day period at local businesses and parks to collect public feedback and promote the public survey. Pop-up events are imperative in community engagement as it allows the Parks Department to engage in the community and meet residents at local venues rather than expecting residents to meet at specific locations at certain dates and times. These events provided the opportunity to meet with more than 100 community members and non-residents to hear and discuss their needs and desires of the Parks System.

## Pop-Up Event Locations

Locations for Pop-Up Events were identified to ensure the engagement with all community members, including park users and non-park users. These events were held at:

- Ace Hardware
- Blue Hole Nature Camp
- Blue Hole Regional Park
- Community Pizza
- The Leaning Pear
- Wimberley Cafe

Campers at Blue Hole Nature Camp were encouraged to express their wants and needs within the Parks System through the creative outlet of drawing. Several concepts imagined by the campers are presented on the following page.


Water
Play






Swing
Pick up
trash

# Community Survey

A community survey was developed to gather information on the current and desired uses of the Wimberley Parks System. The system serves an area much larger than just the residents of Wimberley, so it was imperative to collect data from both residents (78676 ZIP) and non-residents (all other ZIP codes.)

The survey was available in both physical and digital formats. Physical copies of the survey were provided at various locations throughout the community including the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department, the Wimberley Community Center and at all public meetings. The survey was available online at the Parks Department's website, and it was promoted via social media and QR codes. To improve the inclusiveness of the engagement, the surveys and promotional material were available in English and Spanish.

Flyers, mailers, and yard signs were utilized to advertise the development of the Parks Master Plan and encourage engagement. Approximately 3,000 residences and businesses in the Wimberley Valley area received flyers through the local Wimberley newspaper. The yard signs were dispersed throughout the city in high-traffic areas and the Parks System.

After promoting the survey on multiple platforms, hosting various pop-up events, and extending the response deadline an additional week, a total of 426 survey responses were collected from residents and non-residents. This information was compiled and was one of the tools utilized to form the needs assessment. A summary of the community survey findings can be found on the following pages, while a complete breakdown of the survey can be found in the appendix.






# Community Survey Results

## Survey Respondents

The survey was primarily taken by residents, with 86% of survey respondents stating they had a ZIP code of 78676.

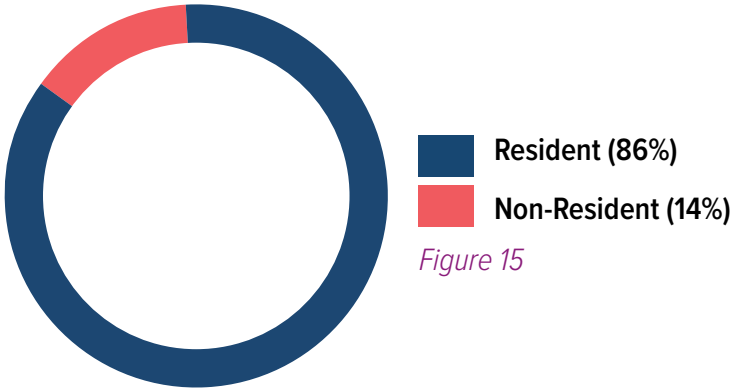



*Figure 15*

## Quality of Parks & Recreation Opportunities

Three-quarters of resident respondents stated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of park and recreation opportunities provided by the City of Wimberley.

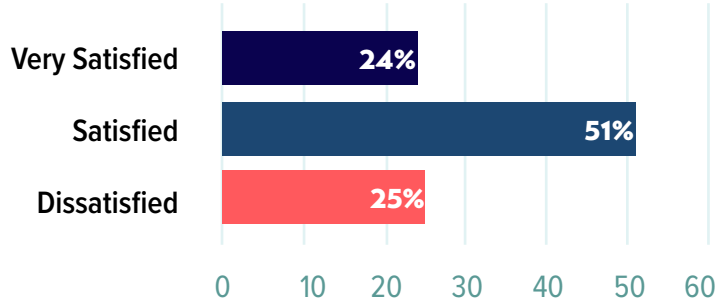



*Figure 16*

## Quantity Of Parks & Recreation Opportunities

There was a slight majority of resident respondents that stated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quantity of park and recreation opportunities provided by the City of Wimberley, while 38% stated they were dissatisfied with the quantity.

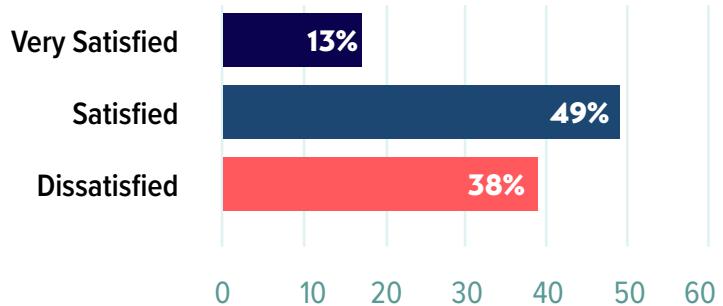



*Figure 17*

## Importance & Satisfaction of Parks and Recreation

Swimming ranked as the most important activity according to the respondents, and ranked in last place for how satisfied the community was with the ability to participate. This suggests there is a desire for more aquatic recreation. Football was ranked as the least important activity desired according to the respondents and was ranked as the top amenity in terms of satisfaction; suggesting there is no additional need for football. Other than swimming, the top five most important activities to the community consisted of various types of programming. In regard to amenity satisfaction, the activities the residents were most satisfied with largely consisted of athletic opportunities; suggesting the respondents are satisfied with the number and quality of athletic opportunities provided.

| Activity | Importance (1 = most important) |
|---|---|
| ***Swimming*** | 1 |
| ***Festivals / Events*** | 2 |
| ***Farmer's Market*** | 3 |
| ***Family Programs*** | 4 |
| ***Fitness Classes*** | 5 |
| ***Biking*** | 6 |
| ***Kayaking*** | 7 |
| ***Parent / Child Programs*** | 8 |
| ***Paddleboarding*** | 9 |
| ***Community Gardening*** | 10 |
| ***Birdwatching*** | 11 |
| ***Arts & Crafts*** | 12 |
| ***Pickleball*** | 13 |
| ***Tennis*** | 14 |
| ***Adult Sports*** | 15 |
| ***Disc Golf*** | 16 |
| ***Basketball*** | 17 |
| ***Baseball*** | 18 |
| ***Fishing*** | 19 |
| ***Football*** | 20 |

| Activity | Satisfaction (1 = most satisfied) |
|---|---|
| ***Football*** | 1 |
| ***Festivals / Events*** | 2 |
| ***Birdwatching*** | 3 |
| ***Baseball*** | 4 |
| ***Basketball*** | 5 |
| ***Tennis*** | 6 |
| ***Farmer's Market*** | 7 |
| ***Family Programs*** | 8 |
| ***Arts & Crafts*** | 9 |
| ***Parent/Child Programs*** | 10 |
| ***Fishing*** | 11 |
| ***Fitness Classes*** | 12 |
| ***Disc Golf*** | 13 |
| ***Adult Sports*** | 14 |
| ***Pickleball*** | 15 |
| ***Community Gardening*** | 16 |
| ***Biking*** | 17 |
| ***Paddleboarding*** | 18 |
| ***Kayaking*** | 19 |
| ***Swimming*** | 20 |

## Bond Support

Survey respondents expressed support for a bond to increase the funds for the Parks and Recreation Department. It is important to note that while 88% of respondents expressed their support, all community members with a 78676 ZIP code could respond to this question, yet only Wimberley residents are able to vote in bond elections. A bond would likely be directly funded by residents within the city limits, and as such people who may not end up contributing to this funding could have stated their support for it.




*Figure 19*

## Monthly Contribution to a Bond

Sixty-seven percent (67%) of the survey resident respondents stated they would be willing to contribute $1 - $50 per month for a parks bond that would be used for the acquisition, enhancement, and maintenance of parkland.

It is important to note that $1-$50 is a wide range and the cost per month is typically minimal based on the total approved funding. For example, in Kendall County, a bond was passed in 2022 that helped provide more than $20 million in improvements while costing the average homeowner $2.25 a month.

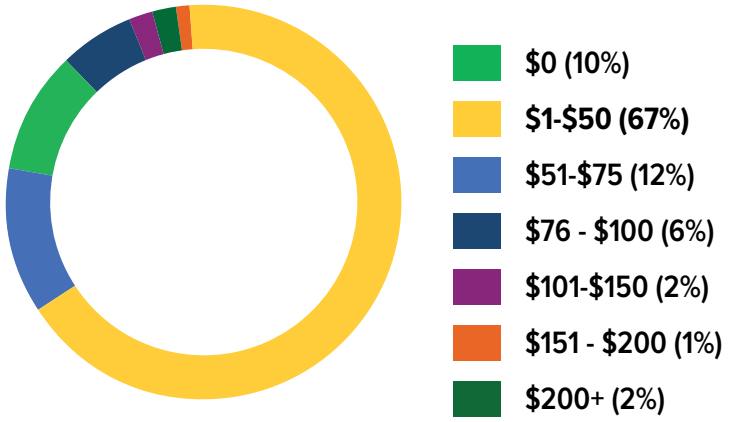
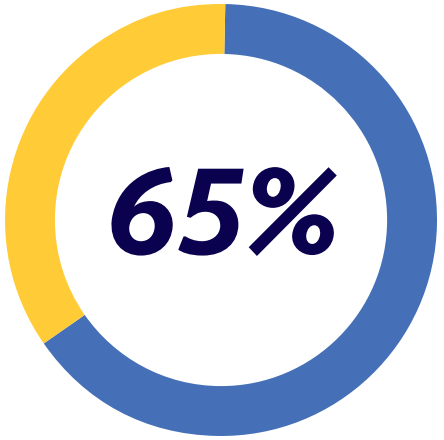



*Figure 20*

## Resident Programming

Wimberley resident respondents overwhelmingly expressed that they enjoy programs offered by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department. According to the community survey resident respondents, the five most popular programs included Concert in the Park, Movie in the Park, Boo! Hole Halloween, Star Party, and Nature Education Camps. On average, residents were familiar with 65% the programs offered by the Department.




Average Familiarity of Programs

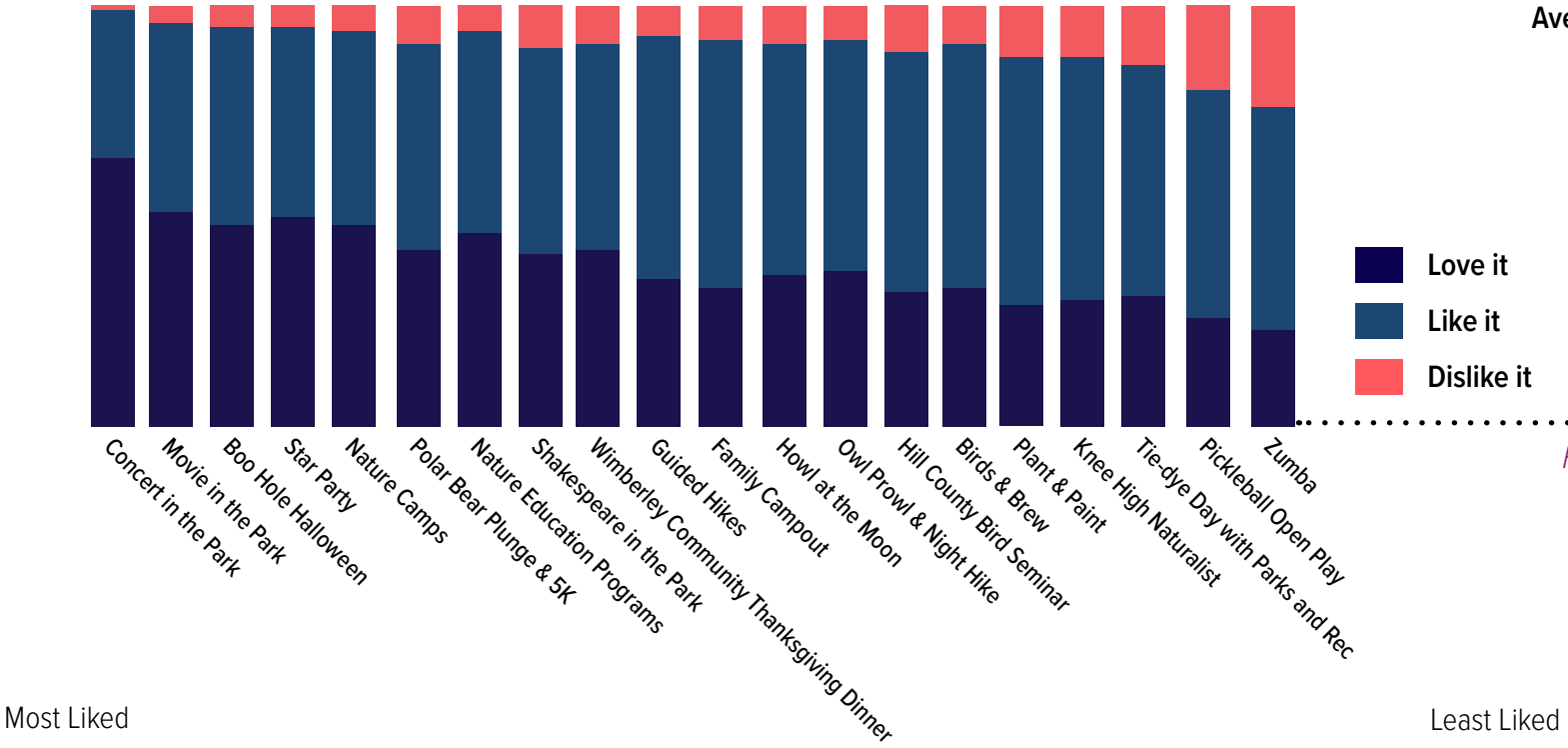



*Figure 21*

## Visitor Programming

Visitors travel from all regions of the State to visit Wimberley parks. According to the community survey of non-resident respondents, the five most popular programs include Birds & Brew, Nature Camp, Guided Hikes, Nature Education Programs, and Star Party. On average visitors were less familiar with programs than residents, with visitors being familiar with approximately 50% of all programs offered.

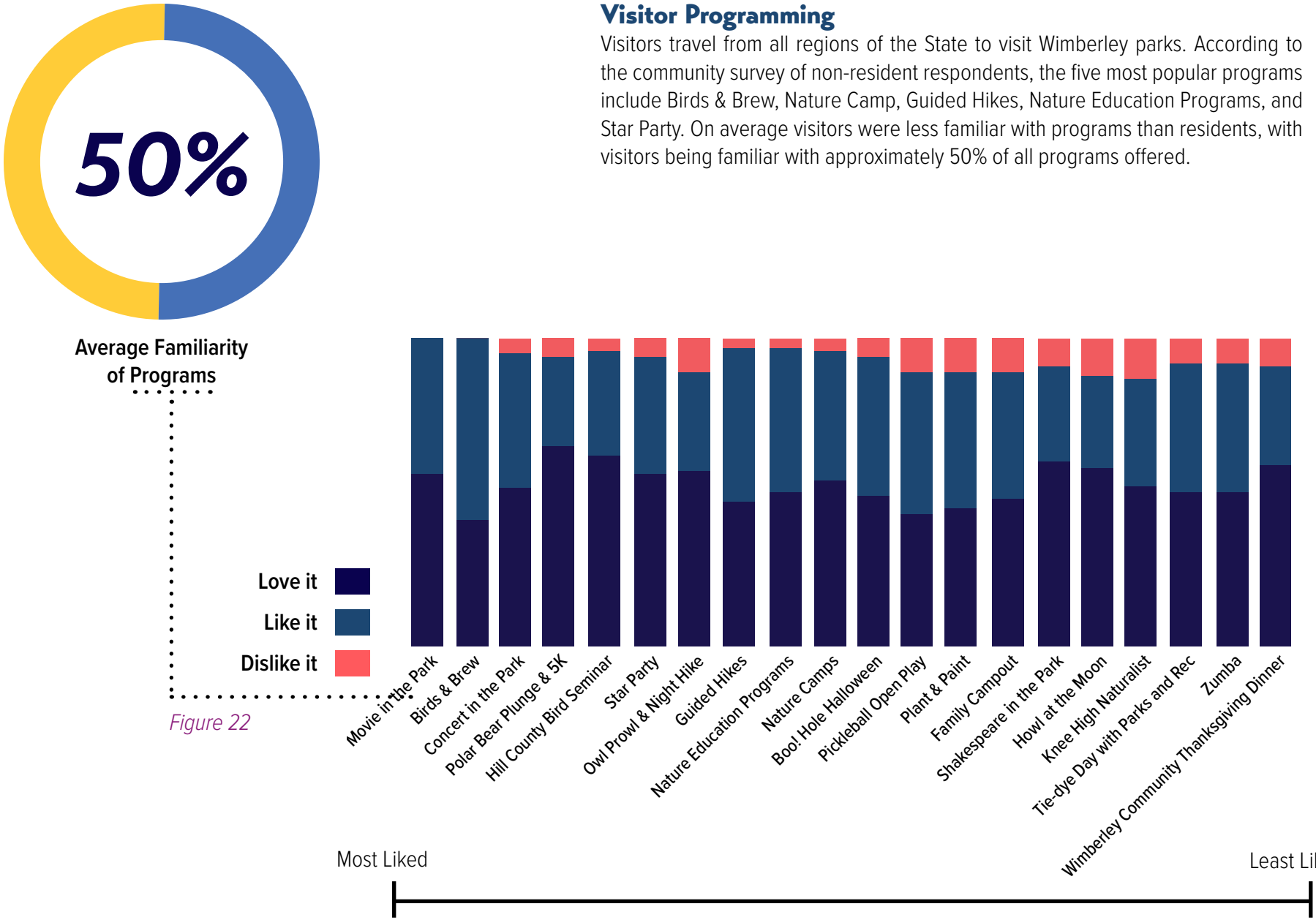



*Figure 22*

## Awareness of Parks, Facilities, & Programs

Seventy-four percent (74%) of survey respondents predominately hear about parks, recreation facilities and programming via social media.

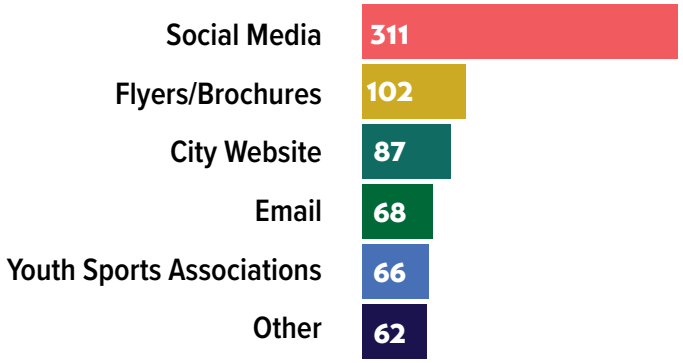



*Figure 23*

## Preferred Method Of Communication

A slight majority, 52%, of survey respondents stated social media was their preferred method of communication, followed by email, 33%.

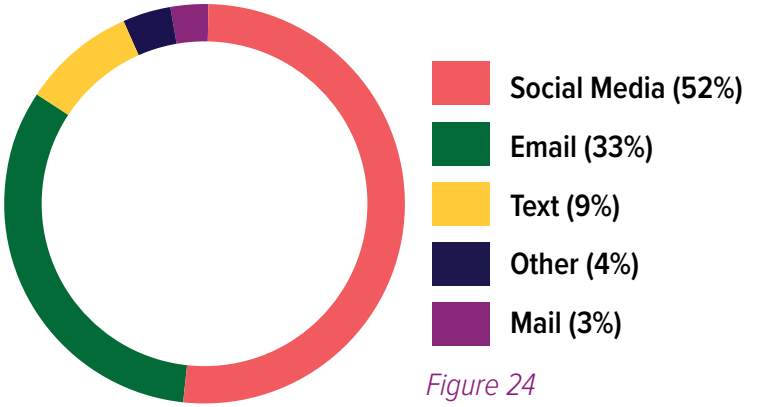



*Figure 24*

## Resident Frequency of Park Visits

Blue Hole Regional Park was the most frequently visited park, with 70% of resident respondents stating they visit Blue Hole Regional Park at least once a month.

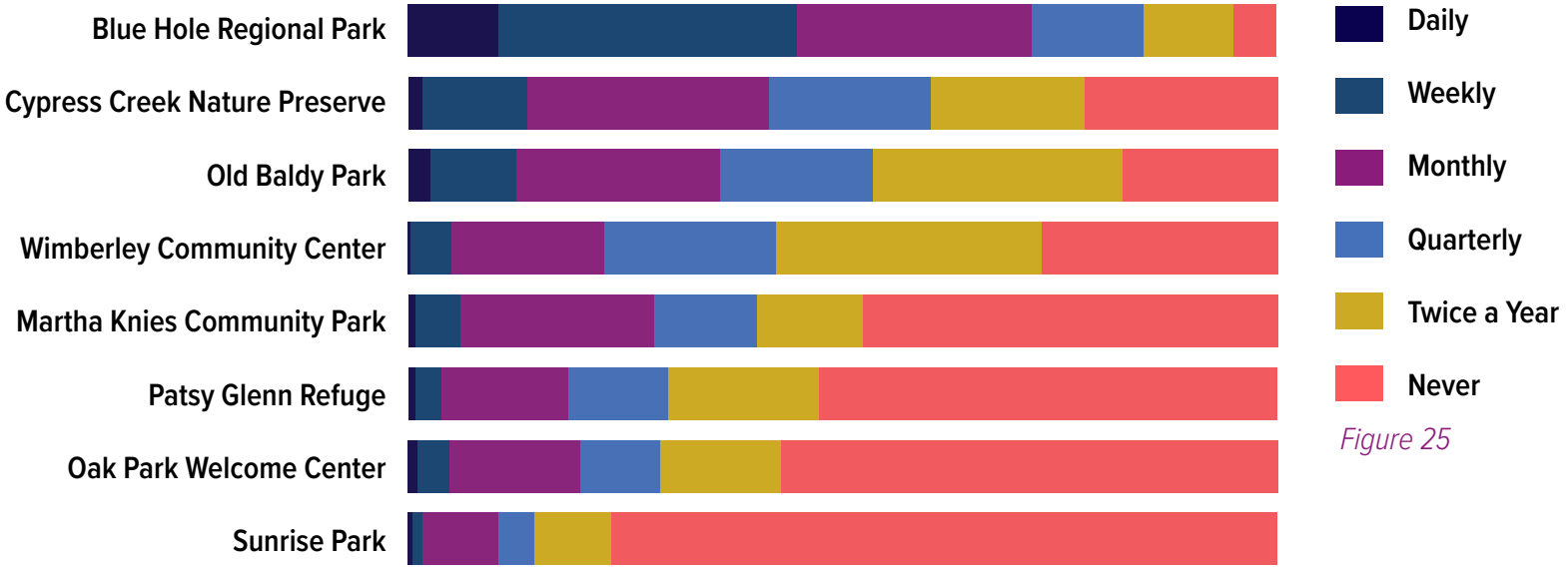


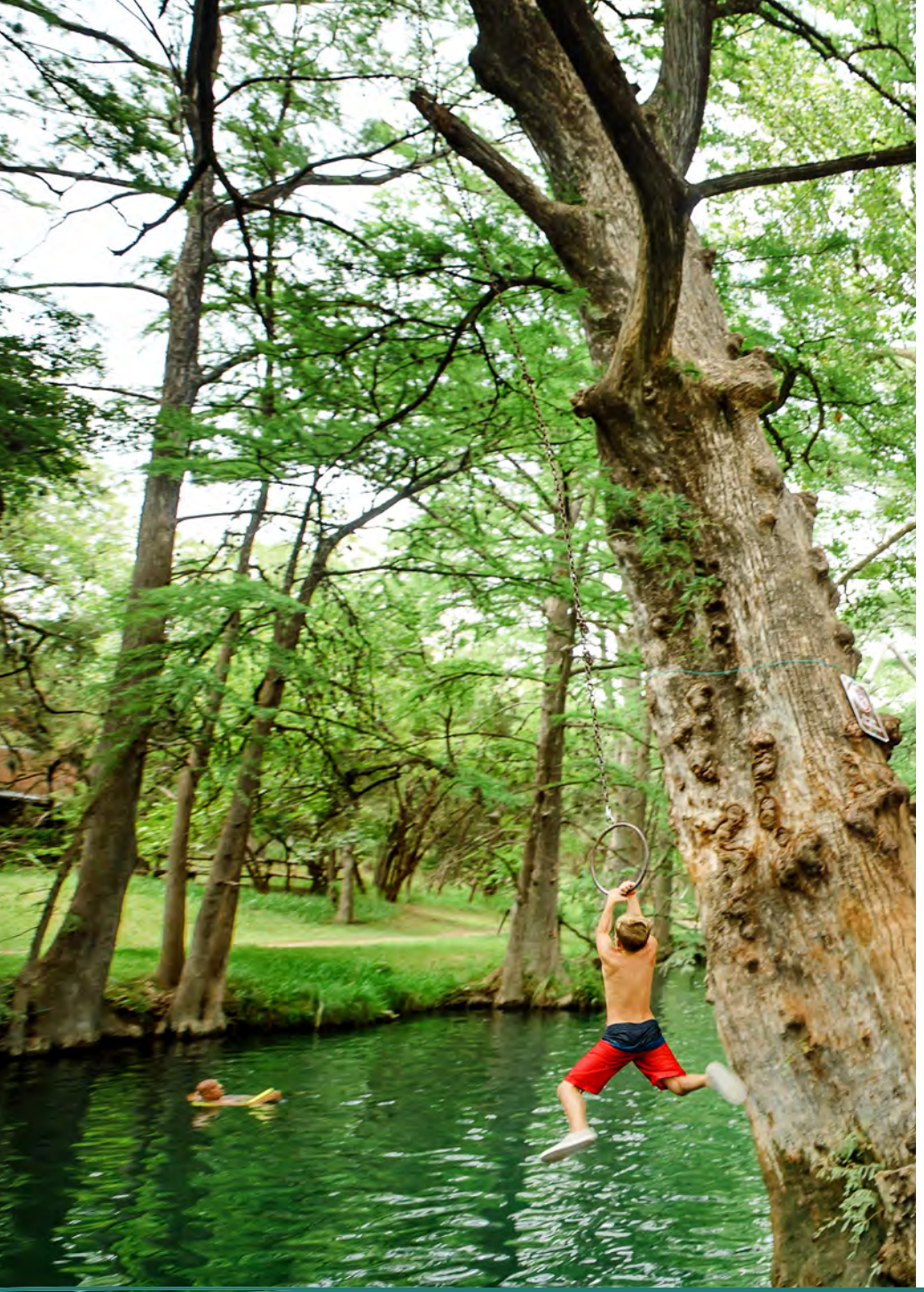

*Figure 25*



Chapter 6

# Needs Assessment





# Recreational Needs

The Needs Analysis is based on the compilation of several different forms of input, including focus group meetings, community surveys, NRPA metrics, the Parks Advisory Board and City staff comments, and professional opinion. The existing Parks System meets several needs of the community; however, there are critical gaps that have been identified, and new amenities are necessary to fulfill the new and different recreational desires of the community. It is important to note that needs within the community do not always directly correlate to recommendations within the Park System. Recommendations specific to the Wimberley Park System can be found in Chapter 7 and are based on the needs of the community. The needs of the community generally fall into one of the following categories, and a more detailed assessment of each can be found on the following pages:

- Accessibility
- Adult and Youth Athletics
- Aquatics
- Conservation and Preservation
- Multi-Generational Center
- Neighborhood Parks
- New Parkland
- Play Equipment
- Signage
- Site Furniture
- Trails

## Accessibility

Community members expressed the importance of improved accessibility throughout the Parks System to ensure that the parks could be enjoyed by all residents and guests. To improve park safety and accessibility, each playground and recreational amenity should be evaluated for compliance to the current safety guidelines and the latest ADA standards established under the Americans with Disabilities Act. There is a need to assess whether individual parks prohibit any prospective park users from participating in or accessing the park. There is a need to continue to incorporate accessible designs into the Parks System and provide opportunities for all users.

## Adult and Youth Athletics

The City of Wimberley provides athletic opportunities for youth soccer at Blue Hole Regional Park. The Wimberley ISD provides athletic courts and fields, which minimizes the demand for the City to provide additional facilities. Community members expressed a need for the enhancement of the soccer fields and noted that teams traveling to Wimberley have refused to play at Blue Hole Regional Park because the surfacing and grading create unsafe play environments. The community stated they would prefer more playable soccer fields by regrading them or resurfacing them with artificial turf. There is a need to continue communication between the Parks Department and youth organizations.

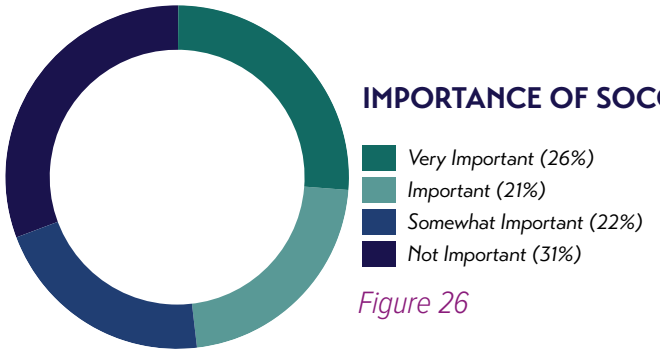



Figure 26

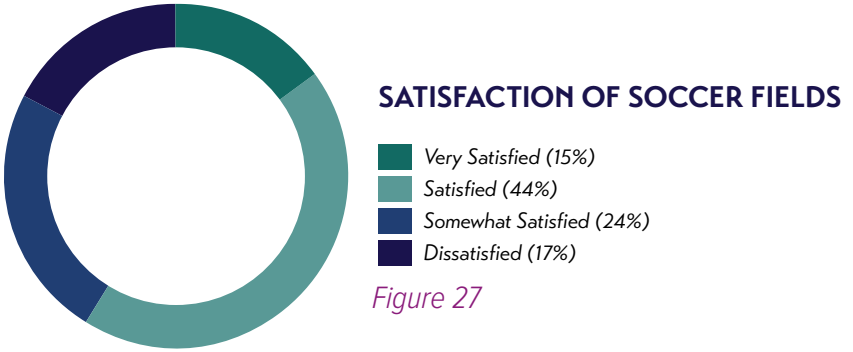



Figure 27





## Aquatics

The need for new aquatic recreation was identified from all forms of public engagement including the survey, focus group meetings and pop-up events. The City currently only provides aquatic recreation via Cypress Creek at Blue Hole Regional Park. There are currently no city-owned pools or splashpads, thus limiting aquatic recreation. Community members expressed the desire for new and additional opportunities such as new water access, a community pool, and/or a splashpad.



### IMPORTANCE OF SWIMMING

- *Very Important (65%)*
- *Important (21%)*
- *Somewhat Important (9%)*
- *Not Important (5%)*

*Figure 28*



### SATISFACTION OF SWIMMING OPPORTUNITIES

- *Very Satisfied (8%)*
- *Satisfied (25%)*
- *Somewhat Satisfied (33%)*
- *Dissatisfied (34%)*

*Figure 29*

## Conservation & Preservation

The community strongly supported the conservation and preservation of the natural environment in and around the Wimberley Valley. Multiple focus group sessions were conducted that expressed the need for enhanced and additional conservation efforts. Conservation and preservation will help retain water for re-use, recharge the aquafer, increase water filtration, provide habitats to local flora and fauna, and increase educational opportunities.

The City can protect the environment and improve sustainability through incorporating efforts such as acquiring and dedicating park land, performing active wildlife management and rewilding. Wildlife management in specific areas of the existing Parks System will enhance and create habitats for wildlife, reduce maintenance and water requirements, and provide aesthetically pleasing environments.

Water conservation is especially crucial for the Wimberley Parks Department as they are primarily funded by the revenue generated from passes sold for swimming at Blue Hole Regional Park. In 2023, the swimming area at Blue Hole Regional Park was closed early due to a lack of sufficient water levels for safe swimming. Drought conditions are not unique to Wimberley, as Jacob's Well, a natural body swimming area approximately 5 miles northwest of Wimberley, was closed early in 2022 and has remained closed until present-day spring 2024. In facing the frequency and severity of extreme droughts, the City needs to be proactive in conserving and protecting natural resources.



## Multi-Generational Center

The City of Wimberley currently provides one multi-generational center - the Wimberley Community Center. This facility provides gathering space for members of the community to participate in various events, including public and private events, meetings, and recreational classes such as yoga and Zumba. There is a need to optimize the use of this facility and increase the number of visitors through a diversity of programming and demographics.

## Neighborhood Parks

Although the City has a classification for neighborhood parks, it does not currently provide a traditional neighborhood park in the system. Neighborhood parks provide recreational space for individual neighborhoods and typically include elements such as playgrounds, trails, pavilions, site furniture, and supporting facilities. The development of neighborhood parks can help increase the number of residents that are within a 10-minute walk to a park. Based on many of the public comments received regarding park improvements and new amenities, it can be determined that there is a need to acquire and develop a neighborhood park.

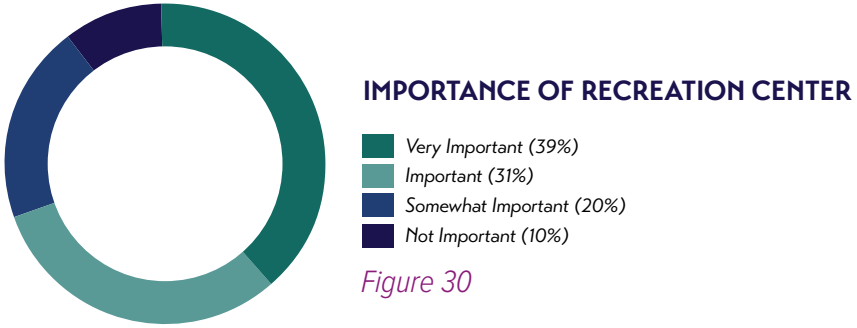



*Figure 30*

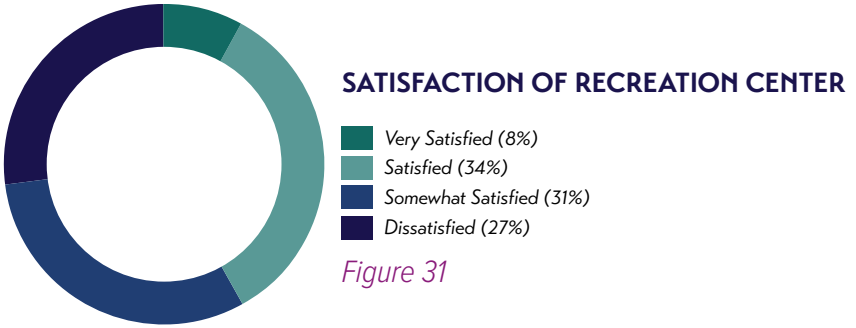



*Figure 31*

## New Parkland

Wimberley and Central Texas have been steadily increasing in population over the last several years and the City will need to continue to develop the Parks System to maintain the current level of service. Additional parkland will need to be acquired as the City does not currently own existing properties for future parkland development. The survey respondents supported land acquisition as it was ranked as the number priority in the Parks Department fund allocations.

There are several areas within city limits that would benefit with additional parkland; however, properties west of Ranch Road 12 and properties along Cypress Creek and the Blanco River should be sought after when available. The Trust For Public Land (TPL) assesses communities throughout the country and identifies locations in cities that need parkland. The TPL identifies these locations through several different attributes, including population density, density of low-income households, density of people of color, community health, urban heat islands, and pollution burden. The City needs to consider land acquisition along waterways and west of Ranch Road 12, however, if new parkland becomes available outside the "high priority" areas, the City should also consider acquiring these properties. This map should be used as a guide to assess areas in need for new parkland acquisition.

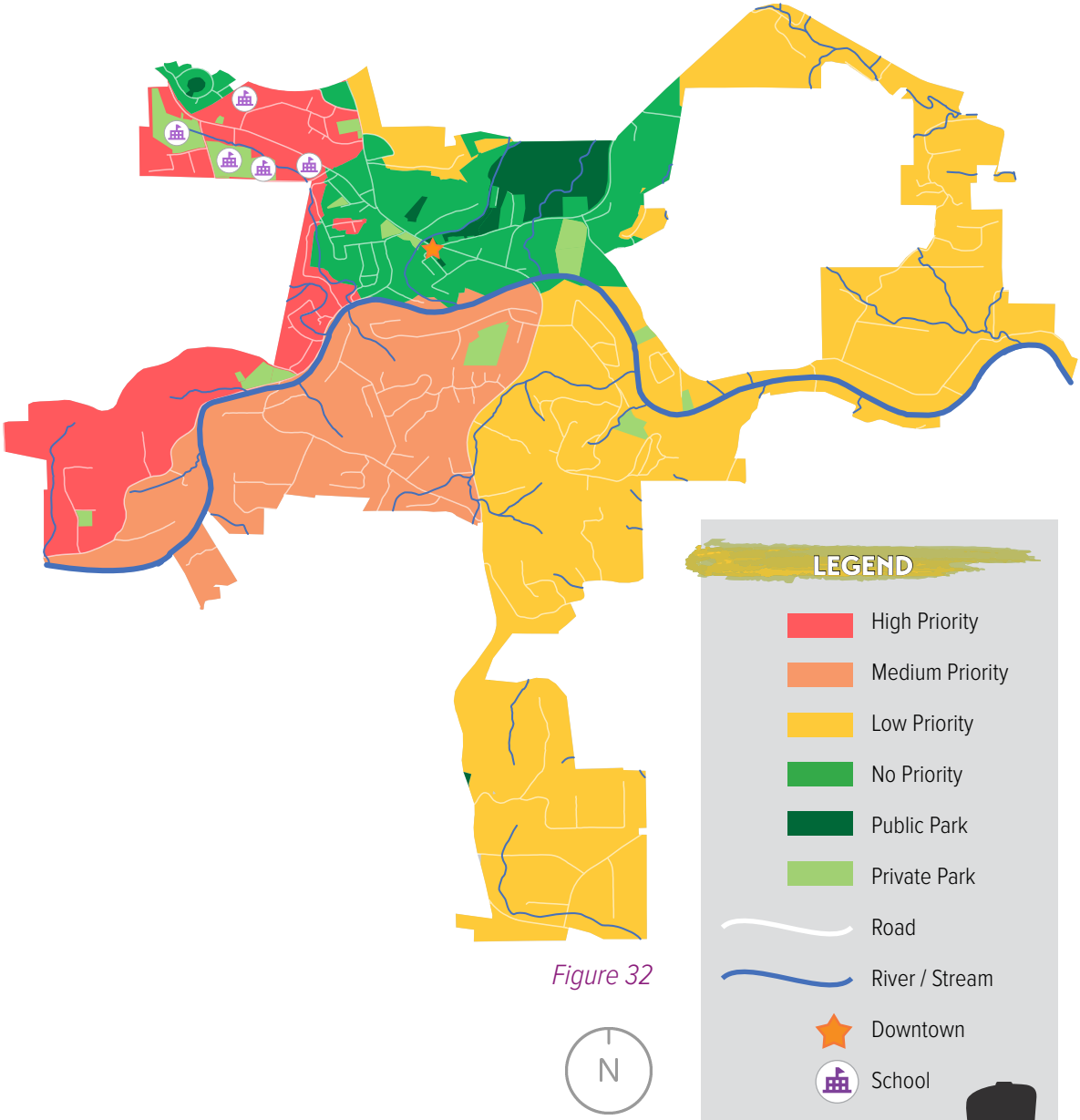



*Figure 32*

## Play Equipment

After conducting an inventory of the existing Parks System and engaging with community members, it was apparent that there is an insufficient amount of play equipment for children ages 2-5 and 5-12. Community members consistently noted the lack of recreational opportunities for young children and approximately 60% of the survey respondents stated they were somewhat satisfied or dissatisfied with the amount of playground equipment. The existing playground at Blue Hole Regional Park is in good condition; however, the existing playground at Martha Knies Community Park is in need of replacement with a new and innovative play concept. The Department needs to ensure that all playgrounds are ADA accessible and meet the current ASTM Standards.



### IMPORTANCE OF PLAYGROUNDS

- *Very Important (48%)*
- *Important (27%)*
- *Somewhat Important (15%)*
- *Not Important (10%)*

*Figure 33*



### SATISFACTION OF PLAYGROUNDS

- *Very Satisfied (7%)*
- *Satisfied (34%)*
- *Somewhat Satisfied (38%)*
- *Dissatisfied (21%)*

*Figure 34*



## Signage

Survey respondents largely noted they were satisfied with the quality of signage in the existing Parks System; however, community members at pop-up events and focus group meetings expressed that signage in the parks could be improved. Community members stated there was a lack of sufficient wayfinding (directional) signage along the trails and it was common to get turned around. Additional interpretive signage would provide new educational opportunities to park users on key issues, such as water conservation, local flora and fauna, and sustainable practices. Overall, there is a need to improve and provide additional wayfinding and interpretive signage throughout the Parks System.




## Site Furniture

It was evident during the public engagement process that the need for improved site furniture, such as shade, benches, drinking fountains, bike racks, etc., was a top priority for the community. The Parks and Recreation Department offers excellent opportunities for recreation; however, inadequate site furniture can negatively impact the experience of a park user.

Residents were asked what amenities in parks should be a priority for funding, and the second highest ranked element was incorporating shade into the Parks System. Shade can be provided in many forms including pavilions, canopies, sails, trees, etc. Amenities such as benches and picnic tables provide areas to gather or rest for park users and the addition of bike racks typically increases the number of visitors to parks via alternate forms of transportation.

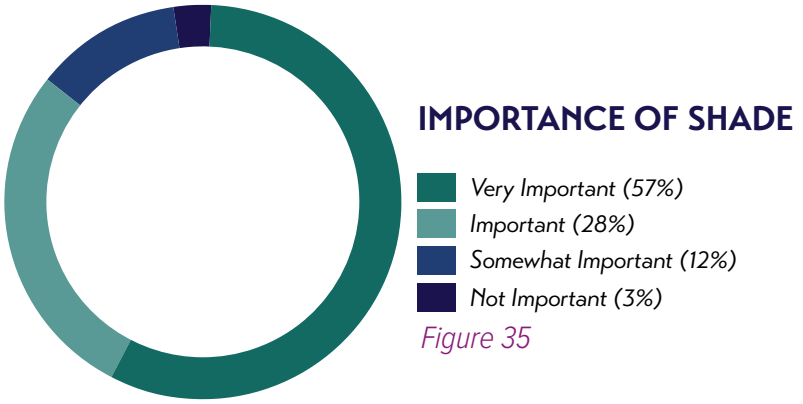



*Figure 35*





## Trails

The majority of survey respondents expressed their support for trails throughout parks and the community. Survey respondents ranked trails as the most important amenity to them or someone in their household and 91% of respondents stated trails are needed in the community. The existing trails in Wimberley are primarily used for recreational use in that they are typically loop trails located in the interior of parks. Trails are currently provided at Blue Hole Regional Park, Cypress Creek Nature Preserve, and Patsy Glenn Nature Refuge. Additional trails are needed city-wide



**IMPORTANCE OF TRAILS**

- *Very Important (70%)*
- *Important (21%)*
- *Somewhat Important (7%)*
- *Not Important (2%)*

*Figure 36*



**SATISFACTION OF TRAILS**

- *Very Satisfied (12%)*
- *Satisfied (36%)*
- *Somewhat Satisfied (36%)*
- *Dissatisfied (16%)*

*Figure 37*

The community expressed the need for new linear trails that provide more opportunities for alternate forms of transportation. Schools, park facilities, downtown, and the library were all key areas for trail connections noted by residents. In 2021, the Wimberley Valley Trails initiative conducted a study that identified the most important locations for trails to provide continuous access in Wimberley and the surrounding communities within Hays County.

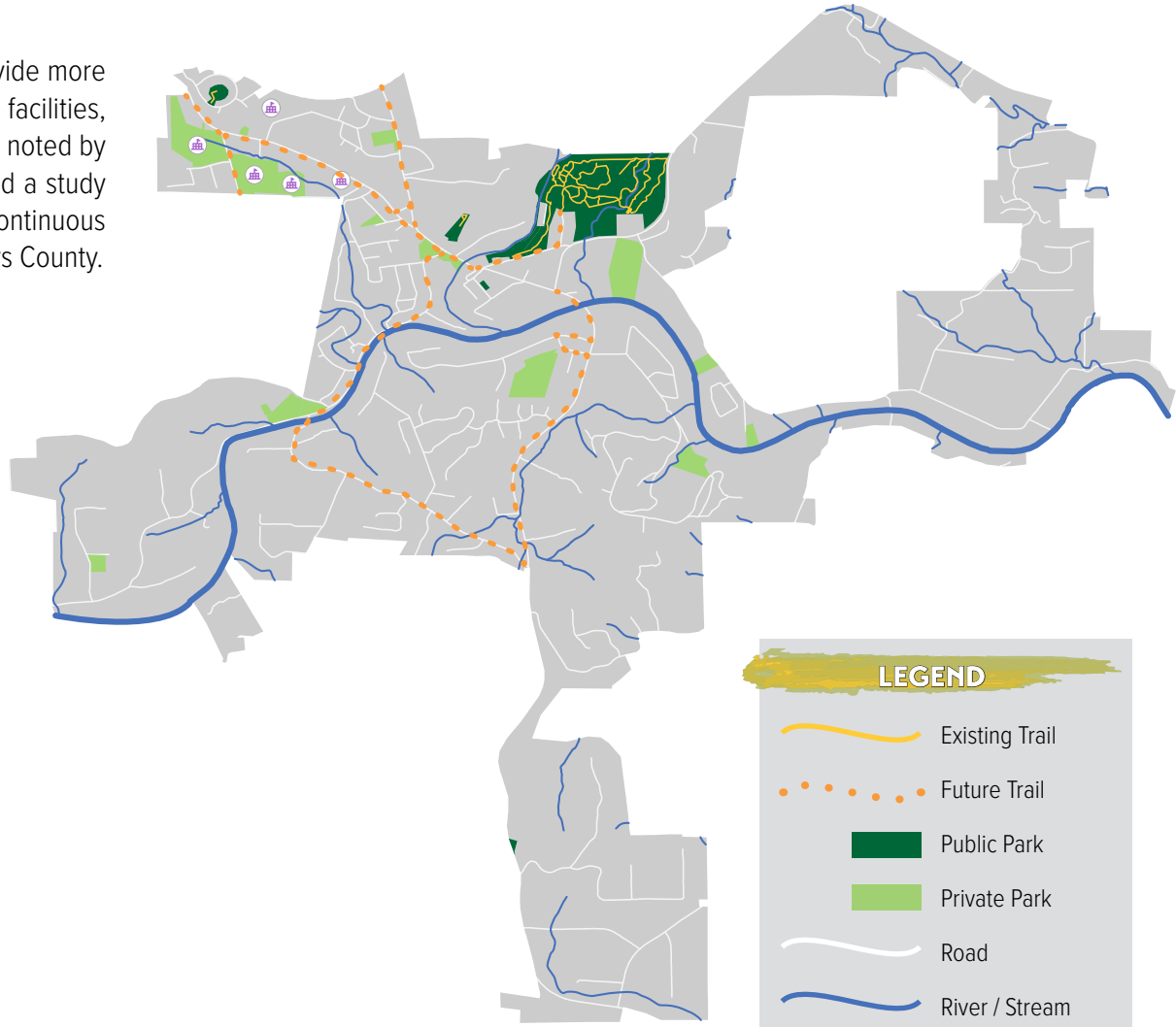



*Figure 38*

**Existing trail locations were provided by the City of Wimberley, while future trail locations were identified from the Wimberley Valley Trails plan (2021).*



Chapter 7

# Future Parks System

# Goals & Objectives

The City of Wimberley developed a Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2018 that helped guide the direction of the development of the Parks and Recreation System. Parks Master Plans are intended to be updated every five years to ensure the needs of the community are still being reflected in the parks system and help ensure progress is being made to achieve the outlined goals. The recreational desires of the community have not significantly changed over the past five years. The City should continue to develop and enhance parks that support the Department's vision, which will improve the overall quality of life within Wimberley.

The following Goals and Objectives are based on input from local and visitor survey respondents, focus group meetings, the Parks Advisory Board, City staff, and professional opinion. These provide direction for the future community decision makers regarding parks, open spaces, design standards and the maintenance of public areas within the City of Wimberley.

## Parks and Recreation Goal

**TO ENSURE** the provision of a balanced parks system that is accessible to all residents, meets the recreational needs of the citizens and visitors of Wimberley, and helps to create a unique community character.

## Parks and Recreation Objectives

**1.1 TO PROVIDE** new, different, and unique recreational opportunities for all, regardless of age or ability.

**1.2 TO BE PROACTIVE** in acquiring new land to be utilized for recreational purposes.

**1.3 TO RENOVATE, REHABILITATE, AND UPGRADE** existing parks and recreation facilities in Wimberley.

**1.4 TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE** public parks throughout the City that will ensure all residents are within a reasonable 10-minute walk to a park.

**1.5 TO CONTINUE TO FORGE** partnerships with public and private organizations for the development and operation of recreational facilities and programs.

**1.6 TO DEVELOP AND INSTALL** consistent signage throughout the entire parks system.

**1.7 TO IMPLEMENT** strategies aimed to attain CAPRA Accreditation.

**1.8 TO MAXIMIZE** funding from bonds, grants, and philanthropic donations to fund new park developments and existing park enhancements.

## Open Space Goal

**TO IDENTIFY, ACQUIRE, PROTECT, AND CONSERVE** natural open spaces for the preservation of biodiversity, and provide primitive and passive recreational opportunities for the residents and visitors of Wimberley.

## Open Space Objectives

**2.1 TO BE PROACTIVE** in the acquisition and preservation of natural open spaces throughout the City of Wimberley.

**2.2 TO LIMIT** development in natural open spaces to minimize loss of biodiversity and ecosystem function and address natural open space needs when developing recreational facilities.

**2.3 TO CONSERVE** water through preservation of water recharge zones and through planting and managing native species and construction of water cisterns.

**2.4 TO ADDRESS** natural open space needs when developing recreational facilities.

**2.5 TO MINIMIZE** development within the floodplain to reduce flooding risks.

## Trail Goal

**TO EXPAND** the trail and sidewalk systems to provide alternative transportation options and new recreational opportunities.

## Trail Objectives

**3.1 TO STRATEGICALLY CONSTRUCT** trails and sidewalks throughout Wimberley to connect parks with schools, neighborhoods, and commercial areas.

**3.2 TO CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT** of sustainable trails with natural and permeable materials.

**3.3 TO DEVELOP** the trail system around unique and/or sensitive environmental elements.

**3.4 TO UTILIZE** the city's easements, rights-of-way, existing sidewalk, and safe street crossing to develop a better trail network.

**3.5 TO PROVIDE** necessary supporting amenities such as bike racks, benches, rest stations, water fountains, and shaded areas to encourage trail usage and enhance the user experience.

**3.6 TO CONSTRUCT** looped trails throughout the parks system for recreational use such as walking, running, biking, and rollerblading.

**3.7 TO EXPAND** the trail network by incorporating Parks Department plan review into TxDOT and other public work projects.

## Design Development Goal

**TO DESIGN** high-quality, first-class public spaces that are built with sustainable materials to last their expected lifetime use and align with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

## Design Development Objectives

**4.1 TO ESTABLISH** City-approved park and signage design standards that reflect high quality facilities.

**4.2 TO ENSURE** park improvements are completed with durable materials and result in minimal maintenance requirements.

**4.3 TO PRIORITIZE** barrier-free designs to ensure all residents have access to facilities.

**4.4 TO TRAIN** staff in CPTED principles such as natural surveillance, natural access control, territorial reinforcement, and quality maintenance.

**4.5 TO DESIGN, BUILD, AND MAINTAIN** parks with energy conservation components, sustainable building materials, and green infrastructure.

**4.6 TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE** the natural environment and resources.

## Maintenance Goal

**TO PROVIDE** a high-quality parks system that is safe and aesthetically pleasing through continuous maintenance, upkeep, and strategic planning.

## Maintenance Objectives

**5.1 TO CONTINUE** high quality maintenance of the existing parks system at a high level by ensuring adequate funding as the parks system expands.

**5.2 TO CONTINUE TO FORGE** partnerships between public and private organizations for the maintenance of recreational facilities and amenities.

**5.3 TO ENSURE** all maintenance vehicles, including trucks, tractors, mowers, edgers, blowers, etc. are routinely maintained to prolong the life of each individual piece of equipment.







# Community Recommendations

These recommendations are provided as a guide for the best development and enhancement of the Wimberley Parks System in order to meet the current and future recreational needs of the community. The Parks Department and Parks Board should consider the implementation of the general recommendations when updating existing or constructing new parks. Note: not all the items listed are applicable to every project, nor should they be.

Specific recommendations for existing and new parks are provided later in this chapter and identify the individual recommendations to be incorporated into each proposed project. The following recommendations are listed in alphabetical order with no priority.

- Accessibility
- Active Habitat Management and Rewilding
- Adult and Youth Athletics
- Aquatics
- Branding
- Conservation and Preservation
- Environmental Design
- Land Acquisition
- Multi-Generational Center
- Open Space
- Park Improvements
- Plans / Studies
- Play Equipment
- Policy Updates
- Programming
- Public Art
- Safety
- Site Furniture
- Trails





## Accessibility

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley continue to provide accessible elements and programs when designing and enhancing facilities and hosting programs. Accessibility should be improved through:

- Universal Design
- Unitary Surfacing
- Environments for community members with sensory impairments
- Multilingual signage
- All-inclusive programming

In addition to these improvements, it is recommended that the City continue engagement with minority groups and persons with disabilities. This engagement can result in the adoption of culturally sensitive programs and provide inclusive amenities that go beyond the required ADA requirements.

Programs encouraging the participation of individuals with disabilities such as guided sensory tours and providing adaptive recreational equipment such as specialized bikes and kayaks is recommended to create a welcoming and all-inclusive environment within the parks.

Additional funding sources that can be utilized to improve the accessibility of the Parks System, include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Council for Development Disabilities.

## Active Habitat Management and Rewilding

The City of Wimberley should incorporate active habitat management and rewilding when feasible for the preservation and conservation of natural resources. Active habitat management aims to maintain wildlife and vegetation at sustainable levels, and focuses on disease management, habitat enhancement, population control, and conservation through:

- Prescribed burns
- Species inventory
- Animal protection and reintroduction
- Plant protection and reintroduction

The City should monitor existing vegetation to determine if prescribed burns are needed. Wildfires play a crucial role in the environment as they can remove old vegetation and allow new plants to thrive. This new vegetation serves as a food source for native wildlife and thus supports the natural balance of plants and animals. Note: It is imperative that the City communicate with residents when a prescribed burn is scheduled to occur.

Through the open spaces of parks, the Wimberly Parks System provides habitats for a wide variety of wildlife and vegetation. An accurate inventory is important to identify the existing species. Once aware of the specific wildlife and vegetation within the parks, protective measures and educational opportunities can be made for the community. Any invasive species should be considered for removal and supplemental native plantings are recommended.

Wildlife diversity is high in the Wimberley area. Citizen scientists on iNaturalist.org have reported 48 species of mammals, 292 species of birds, 55 species of reptiles, and 25 species of amphibians in Hays County.



## Adult and Youth Athletics

Although there is a need to improve the soccer fields with natural or artificial turf, it is not recommended at Blue Hole Regional Park. Blue Hole Regional Park showcases the natural environment, and installing turf would minimize the natural aesthetics of the surrounding areas. Additionally, both natural and artificial turf, although at different quantities, require watering. Watering the fields would be challenging as Wimberley has experienced significant droughts the past several years.

It is recommended that the Parks Department provide safe playing space on the soccer fields at Blue Hole Regional Park. This should be accomplished through:

- Monitoring the soccer fields to ensure debris such as rocks and large cracks in the soil do not provide an unsafe playing surface for games and practices
- Providing medical equipment and first aid kits near athletic facilities
- Installing field number signage to improve field navigation
- Continuing coordination with local organizations to ensure the athletic needs are being met throughout the year

If the City wishes to provide turfed soccer fields, it is recommended to construct these fields at a different location either through the acquisition of new property or by partnering with another organization. This is not recommended as a priority, but it should be considered if the opportunity arises.

Additional funding sources that can be utilized to improve the opportunities for adult and youth athletics include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the U.S. Soccer Foundation.



## Aquatics

It is recommended that the City conduct an Aquatics Feasibility Report to determine the best methods of meeting the aquatic needs of the community. Multiple forms of aquatic recreation include, but are not limited to, access to natural swimming areas, swimming pools, and splashpads. Each of these options present unique opportunities as well as challenges. A Feasibility Report will provide information including a market analysis, the amount of space required to construct each type of facility, the estimated cost of construction, and ongoing costs for operation and maintenance. This study will determine which type and form of aquatic facility best meets the needs of the community and is more feasible to construct, operate, and maintain. The findings of the report could vary, but it is imperative that the City pursue relationships with other organizations, private or public.

### Water Access

The City could expand opportunities to increase water access, specifically along the Blanco River in areas with deeper water. There are several items the City should consider when exploring water access:

- New recreational opportunities
- New tourism opportunities
- New conservation opportunities
- Acquisition of property along the water
- Minimal-to-no opportunities for swim lessons and swim teams
- Potential opportunities for public/private partnerships for privatized parks

Blue Hole Regional Park is the only water access available to the public in Wimberley and programs are limited. The swimming area can accommodate up to 500 visitors daily and attracts residents and visitors from the region and is typically booked throughout the summer. Additional water access can provide new and unique opportunities for programs. Activities such as paddle sports and fishing could be feasible when there is adequate waterflow. Water access can enhance tourism opportunities as the Parks System would be able to serve a larger number of people. This could stimulate the economy as park users will be encouraged to shop and dine locally.

The City will need to acquire property to provide additional water access to the community, as there are no additional city-owned properties along the water. The City will need to coordinate with landowners for the consideration of acquisition through purchase or donation or use of the land through partnerships.

The acquisition of new park space that is adjacent to the water will allow for the restoration of the natural environment. The preservation of these areas will provide opportunities for the community to interact with nature and learn about elements such as natural water systems, native vegetation, and wildlife.

Swimming in a natural body of water provides recreational opportunities but does not provide opportunities, such as swim lessons, swim meets, and team practices as a swimming pool would.

There are several private recreational parks in Wimberley, specifically along areas with water access. The City should identify these areas and consider potential public/private partnerships that could benefit the residents of Wimberley, the City and land owners. A partnership provides opportunities for recreation without the acquisition of land, while still enhancing the quality of life for the residents.

## Community Pool

Constructing a community pool would address several of the needs of the community. There are several items to consider when determining the construction of a swimming pool, including:

- Opportunities for swim teams and lessons
- Construction, operation, and maintenance costs
- Employment opportunities and challenges

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1 - 4 and is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death for children ages 5 - 14. The CDC estimates there are 11 drowning deaths in the U.S. every day, for a total of 4,000 drowning deaths annually. Wimberley is known for Blue Hole Regional Park, a natural swimming area, but it is not conducive for swim lessons or swim team practices.

Currently there are no city-owned swimming pools in Wimberley that provide adequate space for swim teams or lessons. Many local swimmers and swim teams must travel to surrounding communities for practice, meets and lessons. The construction of a public swimming pool would provide both recreational and technical swimming opportunities in a safe and controlled environment.

Although a swimming pool would meet several needs within the community, it is important to consider the associated costs with constructing a pool. The initial cost of a community pool is expensive and supporting facilities would be needed, such as possible land acquisition, restrooms, changing rooms, parking, and concessions. In addition to the high up-front cost of construction, community pools are expensive to maintain and operate. Water demand, staffing, pool equipment, chemicals and general facility upkeep will need to be considered. Figure 40 notes the allocated budget for outdoor swimming pools in surrounding communities in the fiscal year 2024. These figures were compiled from city budgets using public data on city websites and included assumptions based on different line items including materials, staffing, operations, maintenance, etc.

| Community | Aquatics Budget FY 2023 - 2024 |
|---|---|
| Kyle | $185,500 |
| Seguin | $186,020 |
| San Marcos | $215,000 |
| New Braunfels | $3,175,000 |

*Figure 39*

When considering staffing, there are both pros and cons. The construction of a city pool would provide several local jobs including an aquatic facility manager, pump and maintenance staff and lifeguards. The pool would create demand for local job opportunities and provide young staff with the opportunity to learn skills such as communication, public engagement, medical training, and accountability. It is important to note that many communities have experienced staff shortages of lifeguards across the county. According to the American Lifeguard Association, as many as one-third of all community pools either had reduced hours or were closed entirely due to a lack of lifeguards in 2023. If a pool was constructed, the Parks Department must be proactive in hiring staff and providing competitive wages. It is important to note that swimming pools utilize a large amount of water through the initial filling requirements to drain and refill and evaporation.

## Splash Pad

The construction of a splashpad is an economical way to satisfy some of the residents' aquatic needs. There are several items the City should consider when deciding whether to construct a splashpad:

- Construction, operation, and maintenance costs
- Rates of water consumption
- Environmentally friendly design
- Lack of swim lessons and swim team opportunities
- Narrow age appeal

Splashpads are significantly more affordable to construct when compared to a community pool. The initial investment is minimal and most splashpads can be incorporated into existing parks, thus eliminating the need for additional supporting facilities such as restrooms and parking. Lifeguards are not required at splashpads because of the lack of standing or pooling water which minimizes the staffing requirements. It is important to note that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality recommends that the water be tested daily to ensure the water is safe for recreational play.

Splashpads can use a varying amount of water depending on multiple factors, including the frequency and intensity of activation. Activation refers to when the splashpad is programmed to spray water. Splashpads can be programmed to be activated at various time intervals and with a varying range of intensity.

Environmental design standards can be implemented when constructing a splashpad. Water can be stored and recycled through a UV light system. Smart technology allows the system to be programed to only operate at specific times throughout the day and not be operable during rain events or droughts. These two methods will minimize the amount of water used throughout the lifespan of the splashpad.

While a splashpad may provide an aquatic opportunity to cool off and play, it does not provide swimming opportunities for lessons or competitive swim teams. A splashpad primarily serves children ages 3-12 and although it serves a purpose and satisfies a need, it does not provide opportunities for the entire community, specifically in Wimberley, as there are fewer children than adults.

## Branding

The Parks and Recreation Department should develop the Parks System with a unique but cohesive identity. This can be accomplished through:

- Design standards and park signage

Entry signage should be consistent within the existing system by using native stone materials. Neutral and earth tone color palettes should be incorporated with the design of the park to ensure the signage is visible but blends in with the environment. Consistency through design and signage will allow residents and visitors to know they are in and utilizing City park facilities. This branding can promote both the City and the Parks Department as more and more people become familiar, similar to the National Parks System brand.



## Conservation and Preservation

It is recommended that the City continue to conserve and protect the natural environment, which can be accomplished through:

- Land acquisition and parkland dedication
- Sustainable elements
- Educational programming

Wimberley is a leader in sustainability, as made apparent through the numerous accolades received over the years. The Parks and Recreation Department should continue the practice of sustainability through improvements to the System.

One of the most effective ways to preserve the environment is to protect it from being developed. The City must be proactive in the acquisition of new parkland. The City can promote biodiversity, maintain ecosystems, and mitigate impacts of climate change by keeping land in its natural state. A large amount of land in Wimberley has been developed for residential or commercial uses and it is imperative to conserve properties when available. The City is currently developing a Parkland Dedication Ordinance and these practices should be followed to ensure parkland is provided as the area continues to develop.

It is equally as important for the City to protect existing parks. Blue Hole Regional Park encompasses 126 acres and while it offers excellent recreational opportunities, the City should ensure this park continues to be a green space. It is recommended the City ensures the park remains largely in its natural state to support the wildlife, vegetation, and ecosystem.

Sustainable elements - such as recycling bins, green parking lots, water cisterns, and signage - should be incorporated into the Parks System when feasible. Recycling bins, along with educational opportunities, such as signage and programming, can reduce the amount of waste that goes to the local landfills. Green parking lots consist of parking with permeable pavers, pervious concrete, and/or parking islands. Pervious surfacing allows for the infiltration of water and reduces stormwater runoff, which can help reduce frequency and severity of flooding. Additional cisterns should be installed when feasible in order for rainwater to be utilized as a resource instead of pulling from the Trinity Aquifer. Signage is important as it can educate community members on conservation practices and provide opportunities for the community members to incorporate best practices while at the park and at home.

The City should expand its programming with environmentally friendly and sustainable practices through educational opportunities. The City should offer classes and/or guided hikes with instructors to educate community members on topics such as wildlife management, recycling and composting, native and invasive species, water conservation efforts, and other best practices.

Additional funding sources that can be utilized to improve the opportunities for conservation and preservation include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and The Horizon Foundation.

## Environmental Design

The Parks Department should incorporate best environmental design standards into existing and new parks, including but not limited to:

- Native plantings
- Invasive species removal
- Water cisterns

Incorporating the best environmental design standards into the Parks System will increase the environmental and economic sustainability of the community. Native plantings will increase water filtration, reduce stormwater runoff, and improve the overall water quality. These plantings provide much needed habitats for insects, birds, and wildlife. Installation and observation of native flora and fauna could also provide learning opportunities through signage and educational classes.

Invasive species can be damaging to the natural environment as they compete with existing wildlife and vegetation and often surpass them in numbers. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department published The Dangers of Invasive Species in 2003 and noted invasive species have been responsible for changing the water flow and quality of lakes, the nature and quality of terrestrial habitats, and have contributed to the decline of certain native species. The City protects a variety of wildlife and vegetation through their Parks System, and it is necessary to continue monitoring and eliminating invasive species when possible.

Water cisterns, like the ones at Blue Hole Regional Park and the Patsy Glenn Refuge, recapture rainwater which can be used for irrigation and restrooms. This can reduce the strain on the aquifer and reduce stormwater runoff. If structures with rooflines are constructed within the Parks System, cisterns should be considered in the design of the facilities.

## Land Acquisition

It is recommended that the City be proactive in the acquisition of new parkland. Municipalities typically acquire parkland through parkland dedication, purchasing new property, or through donation. A parkland dedication ordinance is being developed at the time of this plan. In addition to utilizing ordinances, the City should be proactive in acquiring new parkland by identifying property that serves the needs of the Parks System and engaging in dialogue with land owners regarding topics such as the first right of refusal. New parkland in Wimberley should primarily serve at least one of the following purposes:

- Land to be developed as neighborhood parks
- Conservation and preservation of the natural environment
- Improvements to the connectivity of the Parks System
- Additional water access




Although there is a need for additional parkland throughout the entire system, there is a specific need for new parkland on the western side of Ranch Road 12. This area largely consists of single-family housing, and the amount of existing recreational space available is limited. A neighborhood park, with a minimum of ten acres, should be developed in this area and provide amenities, such as a playground, trails, shade, picnic areas, benches, bike racks, and drinking fountains.

The environment should be protected by dedicating land for parks and recreational purposes. It has been noted throughout this plan that the amount of land available to the City for park purposes is limited. Dedicating property for parkland limits the amount of commercial and residential developments in the community and provides benefits such as water infiltration, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat.

The City should seek out property that can be used to improve the connectivity of the community. This includes properties that could serve as a greenbelt or a linear park to improve opportunities for transportation.

The City should acquire new property along Cypress Creek or the Blanco River. This plan has identified the importance that the Blue Hole Regional Park swimming area has for the residents and visitors. Additional land along the water will allow more residents access to water-based recreation and increase tourism.

Additional funding sources that can be utilized to acquire parkland include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and The Horizon Foundation.

## Land Acquisition Selection Criteria

When considering different tracts of land for park development or conservation, it is important to ensure the property meets the needs of the City and its intended purpose. While some properties may be more affordable or more easily attainable, it does not mean it is the most practical location for development. The following is a list of recommendations to consider when pursuing land acquisition; specifically, to verify if the property:

- is located within Wimberley city limits or the ETJ.
- is consistent with the policies, ordinances, goals and objections of other City of Wimberley Plans.
- has agricultural, developable, historical, natural, or scenic values.
- is accessible via existing transportation infrastructure, making it convenient for residents and visitors to visit.
- has access to essential utilities such as water, electricity, and sewage.
- is cost-effective to acquire and develop, with reasonable acquisition costs and minimal environmental remediation requirements.
- allows for park space or could be reasonably amended through zoning changes
- has undergone preliminary site assessments or feasibility studies that indicate its suitability for park development and identify potential challenges or opportunities.
- is suitable for funding sources such as grants, public-private partnerships, or dedicated park funds, ensuring financial sustainability for acquisition, development, and ongoing maintenance.
- offers opportunities for environmental education, providing learning experiences for visitors about local ecosystems and conservation efforts.
- contains cultural or historical landmarks that can be preserved or integrated into the park design.
- enhances community resilience to climate change impacts, such as providing green infrastructure to mitigate heat island effects and absorb stormwater runoff.
- supports local agriculture or horticulture initiatives, potentially serving as a community garden, orchard, or demonstration site for sustainable landscaping practices.
- fosters social cohesion and community engagement through the provision of gathering spaces for events, festivals, and recreational activities.
- contributes to air quality improvement and carbon sequestration, acting as a carbon sink and enhancing the overall environmental health of the city.
- promotes sustainable transportation options and increases regional trail connectivity through pedestrian pathways and bike lanes.
- offers opportunities for volunteerism and stewardship, engaging residents in park maintenance, restoration, and conservation efforts.
- serves as a buffer against urban sprawl and development pressures, preserving green spaces and wildlife habitats.

## Multi-Generational Center

Programs of the Wimberley Community Center should be expanded to increase facility usage, and it is recommended to:

- determine the desired programming
- renovate the interior to diversify programming

The Wimberley Community Center is currently used for meeting spaces, the Seniors Group, social events, and small programming opportunities. The Parks Department should conduct an analysis of the existing programming uses and potential future programming uses of the indoor facility. This data will allow staff to reprogram the space and host new and different events. If deemed necessary, based on the programming needs, the City should renovate the Wimberley Community Center to better serve the community.

## Open Space

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley dedicate property as natural open space. Natural resource areas and open spaces are essential elements to Parks Systems that serve environmental and recreational opportunities. These areas can also provide educational opportunities regarding the local flora and fauna and are typically low maintenance areas.

The City has unique natural and open spaces such as Blue Hole Regional Park, Cypress Creek Nature Preserve, and Patsy Glenn Refuge. Natural open spaces are ideal for passive recreation and primitive activities such as hiking, bird watching, photography, picnicking, reading, and relaxing. It is imperative to continue to conserve existing city-owned natural open spaces. These natural areas provide several environmental benefits (Refer to Conservation and Preservation section).

Properties along or adjacent to the Blanco River and Cypress Creek are ideal because the preservation of these areas can assist and improve water quality.

In addition to acquiring new land for open space needs, the City is recommended to protect the existing open space areas within the Parks System. This will ensure that as the community continues to grow, open space areas are not negatively impacted by the addition of new amenities.

## Plans and Studies

It is recommended for the City of Wimberley to continue to develop plans and studies targeting improvements to the Wimberley Parks System. Based on community engagement, it became apparent that additional plans and studies are required to determine specific needs within the community and improve opportunities for recreation, safety, and transportation. The City should conduct the following plans and studies:

- Aquatics Feasibility Study
- Fire Management Plan
- Trails Master Plan

It is recommended to conduct an Aquatics Feasibility Study to better understand what facilities are needed to satisfy the aquatic needs of the community. A market analysis should be performed to consider the need for water access, a community pool, and a splashpad. Each aquatic opportunity has specific benefits, challenges, and associated costs which will need to be studied in detail. This study will help guide future decisions on how to meet the aquatic needs while considering the initial construction costs, maintenance and operating budgets, and the available water resources (Refer to Aquatics Recommendations).

It is recommended for the City to develop a Fire Management Plan to ensure the residents, existing structures, and the environment are protected during potential wildfires. Wildfires have become more prevalent over the last several years and the neighboring community of San Marcos experienced a wildfire in 2023. This wildfire encompassed approximately 400 acres, destroyed one home, and damaged several buildings. Wimberley needs to be prepared with a Fire Management Plan that would include elements such as fire protocol emergencies and prescribed burns to minimize the threat of wildfires.

The City of Wimberley should develop a Trails Master Plan to identify specific locations for future trail construction, and could tie into and build off of Hays County's larger trail planning efforts. A Trails Master Plan would provide details on specific proposed trail locations, trail types, design standards, and provides estimated costs and schedules of implementation.

## Park Equipment

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley provide play equipment and site furniture for park users when appropriate, such as, but not limited to:

- Playgrounds
- Swings
- Climbing equipment
- Ropes courses
- Slides
- Musical instruments
- Benches
- Bike racks
- Picnic tables
- Table games
- Pavilions / shade equipment
- Water filling stations

Playground equipment provides more than play opportunities - it provides children with the opportunity to develop physical strength through climbing and swinging, motor skills through collaboration, and social skills through sharing. Playground equipment should be all-inclusive to ensure all community members, regardless of age or ability, are able to participate. It is also recommended that the existing play equipment be routinely evaluated to ensure all equipment is current to the American Society for Testing and Materials Standards.

It is recommended that site furniture be upgraded and enhanced throughout the Parks System. Site furniture such as benches, picnic tables and shade encourages park users to stay at parks for longer hours. All site furniture should meet The American with Disabilities Act Standards and be placed near areas of high activity for parents and grandparents to rest as well as in areas of solitude for those desiring to rest and enjoy the outdoors passively. Drinking fountains and water filling stations should be installed throughout the Parks System to ensure the community has access to water while visiting the parks.

## Policy Updates

There are numerous policies that are recommended that will improve the Parks Department. Policies that are recommended to be developed and considered for adoption include:

- Arbor Day Proclamation - will assist the city with being recognized as a Tree City USA Community and also becoming CAPRA Accredited.

- Endangered Species Day - will raise awareness of the importance of endangered species and how to protect them. This supports Blue Hole's current certification through the Sustainable SITES Initiative and protects 19 endangered and threatened species habitats.

- Equipment Maintenance Policy - will assist in the management of equipment through maintenance and a replacement program which can reduce the overall costs of maintenance through budgeting.

- Parkland Dedication Ordinance (currently in development) - will assist in the acquisition and dedication of parkland as the city continues to develop.

- Parks and Recreation Inclusion Policy - will ensure the Parks System is welcoming and engaging to all residents and visitors regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ability.

- Sign Design Standards - will create a cohesive brand for the Parks System through the use of specific colors, materials and fonts.

## Partnerships

The City currently partners with several organizations to host local events throughout the year, and such collaborations are well received by the community. The Parks Department should expand their programming by partnering with other various local public and private organizations. Partnerships will allow the City to offer new programs while sharing resources with outside organizations. New programming opportunities could include, but are not limited to, events such as pickleball, fitness classes, portable parks, and cultural and art events. Additionally, the City should continue to partner with other organizations, such as the Wimberley Visitor Center, to promote and advertise the Wimberley Parks System.

## Promotion of Programs

It is critical for the City to promote the parks and programs. The Parks Department should utilize emails and social media to promote their events and encourage community members to sign up for the monthly newsletter. The Parks Department should continue to provide newsletters with events throughout the year; however, a more condensed, program specific and regularly published newsletter should be available to the community via email based on the survey respondents feedback. Promotional materials should be multilingual to allow all community members the opportunity to participate.

## Public Art

It is recommended that the Parks Department should continue to install public art throughout the Parks System, when appropriate, to establish a unique but cohesive identity at each park. The City should consider the following when installing public art:

- Utilizing local artists and organizations
- Incorporating natural and/or recycled materials
- Providing educational opportunities

The Wimberley community is passionate about art, and the City should continue to work with local artists to design and construct public art. The Texas Cultural Trust published The Art of Economic Development in 2010 which noted the importance of public-private partnerships for a community. By partnering with local artists, the Parks Department can create opportunities for the community to strengthen and display their artistic talents, both permanently and temporarily. This can encourage community buy-in at parks, as they become places people have personal ties. It is imperative to consider the context of the park when installing artwork, and the art should be themed appropriately.

Natural and sustainable materials should be used in local art projects when feasible. Doing so can raise awareness on the importance of preserving the environment and utilizing recycling materials. Providing signage with art provides an educational component that expresses the environmental benefits.





## Safety

It is recommended that the City of Wimberley continue to incorporate safety features throughout the Parks System, including but not limited to:

- Lighting
- Medical equipment and training

Lighting, even at minimal levels, creates a stronger feeling of security for park users. Lighting also provides the opportunity for residents to utilize the park system in the winter and fall when the sun sets earlier in the evenings and daylight is minimal. Wimberley is a Dark Sky Community, and as such, any lighting that is installed should be shielded to prevent light pollution. LED lighting, photocells, and timers should be considered to minimize utility usage.

Medical equipment should be provided at all facilities throughout the Parks System. The American Heart Association identified that Sudden Cardiac Arrest is the most frequent medical cause of death among athletes. Elements such as AEDs and first aid kits should be provided at sports fields and near highly active and utilized areas. It is crucial for staff to be knowledgeable of the emergency action plans and trained in first aid and CPR.

## Trails

It is recommended to expand the trail system to create recreational and alternative transportation opportunities that connect neighborhoods, shops, schools, and parks. The City should be proactive in the development of the trails system and should integrate sidewalks into road construction projects when feasible. The City should consider the following when constructing trails and sidewalks:

- Width and materials
- Directional signage
- Trail purpose - looped or linear

The City should consider the width of the trail based on available space, intent of the trail, and budget. Trails are ideally constructed at a minimum of 8' wide to allow for parents with strollers, people in wheelchairs, bike riders, runners and people walking adjacent to each other to comfortably use and pass one another. While this is ideal, it is not feasible in all environments and will be dependent upon the actual trail location and design constraints.

There are a wide variety of different materials used to construct trails: natural surface, permeable material such as decomposed granite or compacted stone, asphalt, natural aggregate, and/or concrete. Each material has advantages and disadvantages depending on the end user and environment.

- Natural trails are low cost to install; however, they are not typically compliant with ADA regulations.
- Decomposed granite is desired by runners for comfort; however such materials may wash out after heavy rain events and require higher maintenance.
- Asphalt trails are relatively inexpensive; however, they typically require bi-annual repairs and maintenance. Porous asphalt trails have environmental and maintenance benefits as this material allows water to permeate.
- Concrete trails are typically the most expensive to construct but have low long-term maintenance requirements. In addition, there can be visual disadvantages to concrete as it does not blend into natural environments. Porous concrete can be utilized to allow water to permeate.

Trails should be equipped with proper signage, informing the users of pertinent information, such as direction, mile markers, crosswalks, and safety information.

The existing trail system offers recreational opportunities with looped and linear trails. Looped trails are generally within specific parks and primarily serve recreational opportunities for exercise. Linear trails typically serve as alternative transportation routes and connect parks, neighborhoods, shops, schools, etc. Linear trails can also be utilized for recreational purposes and can be located in both specific parks and throughout the Parks System via greenways. The City should consider developing an active transportation network via multi-use paths and bike lanes. The City can expand their trail system through different avenues, such as focusing on stub-out points at existing park boundaries and utilizing easements and utility rights-of-way. Trails should be upgraded in conjunction with the Wimberley Valley Trails Plan.

Additional funding sources that can be utilized to improve and expand the trail system, include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Transportation, National Recreation Trails, American Hiking Society's National Trails Fund, and American Trails.




# Existing Park Recommendations

It is recommended that the City update and enhance the following parks to better serve the community and protect the longevity of equipment. All recommendations listed below are in no particular order and should be considered when improving, enhancing or maintaining the parks. It is important to note that each park serves a particular purpose based on its size, location, and amenities and this should be considered when improving specific park sites.

## Blue Hole Regional Park

- Plant native vegetation
- Install wayfinding signage
- Install interpretive signage
- Construct multi-purpose trails
- Consider mountain bike trails
- Install benches and picnic tables
- Install bike racks
- Install bike repair stations
- Install water filling stations
- Provide new programming such as accessible hikes through the park and fitness classes
- Provide educational classes on water conservation, wildlife protection, the ecosystem
- Install an AED unit near the soccer fields
- Install/update public art
- Support policies that encourage the preservation of local wildlife and vegetation
- Conduct a species inventory
- Consider prescribed burns when necessary

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, & 5.1)

## Cypress Creek Nature Preserve

- Plant native species
- Update entry signage
- Install wayfinding signage
- Install interpretive signage
- Compact loose materials along walking paths
- Consider boardwalks in the preserve
- Fix erosion areas
- Manage erosion areas using best practices to improve hydrology
- Install/update public art
- Conduct a species inventory
- Support policies that encourage the preservation of local wildlife and vegetation

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.3, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 3.3, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, & 5.1)



## Martha Knies Community Park

- Replace existing play equipment
- Replace benches and picnic area
- Expand restroom facility
- Install bike rack and repair station
- Install elements of music play
- Install interpretive and wayfinding signage

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.1, 1.3, 1.6, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, & 5.1)



## Oak Park & Welcome Center

Oak Park is the newest park provided by the City and currently meets the needs of the community; however, it is recommended that minor improvements be made over time to continue to enhance the user's experience.

- Construct shade structure over the lawn area
- Install interpretive and wayfinding signage

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.3, 1.6, 4.2, 4.3, & 4.5)

## Old Baldy Park

- Install benches and seating areas
- Install viewing station (viewing scope)
- Install interpretive signage
- Install informational / regulatory signage
- Install/update public art

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 4.5, & 4.6)

## Patsy Glenn Refuge

- Explore alternative trail materials
- Plant native species
- Install interpretive signage
- Install/update public art (nature themed or natural materials)
- Conduct a species inventory
- Support policies that encourage the preservation of local wildlife and vegetation

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.3, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 3.3, 3.6, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, & 5.1)







## Sunrise Park

The City of Wimberley is recommended to enhance Sunrise Park to provide a more user-friendly and aesthetic space. The property is on the outskirts of town and there is little draw to the property. The enhancements are intended to encourage residents and travelers to visit the space for small gatherings and picnics.

- Improve walkways to be ADA accessible
- Remove invasive species if determined to be onsite
- Plant with native vegetation
- Install interpretive signage
- Consider grilling stations
- Update and enhance pavilion structures
- Replace existing picnic tables to be cohesive with other parks once they have exceeded their life expectancy

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 4.1, 4.5, 4.6, & 5.1)

## Wimberley Community Center

- Renovate the interior to allow for new multi-use recreational opportunities, including, but not limited to, elements such as computer rooms, fitness areas, art rooms, and multi-purpose courts.

(Objectives Accomplished: 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 5.1, & 5.1)

# New Park Recommendations

The City is recommended to develop additional parks throughout the City to serve different purposes. It is recommended to acquire parkland on the west side of Ranch Road 12 to develop a neighborhood park. This land should be a minimum of ten acres to allow for the installation of amenities such as play equipment, trails, site furniture, and supporting facilities.

It is recommended to acquire additional land to provide access to water for activities such as swimming, paddle sports and fishing. Although there is not a specified amount of land recommended, the property would need to account for the desired recreational amenities and supporting facilities such as a restroom and parking.

The City should identify large remaining tracts of undeveloped land and assess if they would be suitable for conservation or recreational purposes. City staff and community leaders should engage in dialogue with the property owners to determine the feasibility of acquiring the property and securing a right of first refusal.

Specific properties should be acquired with the intent of preservation and conservation of the natural environment without the need for active recreational activities. Minimal development, such as trails, picnic areas, signage, and supporting facilities should be considered.




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Chapter 8

# Implementation Schedule






CHRISTOPHER BLAB
BASKETBALL COURT

# Implementation Schedule

The purpose of the Implementation Schedule is to provide a framework to expand, improve, and enhance the Wimberley Parks System. This schedule is intended to be a flexible guide and utilized by the Parks Department, City staff and City Council to make informed decisions regarding improvements to the Wimberley Parks System over the next ten years. An anticipated project cost range has been provided for each project to help the City budget accordingly. Exact costs will vary due to the need for future surveying, schematic designs, specific design, and/or engineering.

The Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan should be considered a living document. The City should evaluate, modify, and update the order of implementation when deemed necessary. This could include taking advantage of any unforeseen opportunities that may arise that are not identified in this schedule if they meet the goals and objectives of this plan. The City should evaluate its progress and update the plan to meet future goals every two years and is encouraged to provide an update to Texas Parks and Wildlife after five years.

To successfully accomplish these projects, it is recommended the City utilize a variety of funding sources and take advantage of potential partnerships - both public and private. Numerous Local, State, and Federal funding sources are available to assist in acquiring, developing, and renovating parks in Wimberley. Although not every funding source will be available for every project, more than one funding source may be used per project depending on the scope, size, and funding source. A list and description of funding sources are located at the end of this chapter. When reviewing this document and budgeting for the future, it is important to note that land acquisition, design, engineering, and personnel staffing are not included in the projected costs. An implementation schedule can be found on the following pages with projects and action items that are based on the goals, objectives, needs, recommendations, and priorities found in this plan.

# Legend

The implementation schedule has been grouped into the following categories:

**Policies and Studies**

**Park Enhancements**

**Park Redevelopments**

**New Parks**

Timeframes for the implementation schedule generally fall into one of three categories:

**Short-Term**: Projects taking place within the next one to three years.

**Mid-Term**: Projects taking place within the next four to six years.

**Long-Term**: Projects taking place within the next seven to ten years.

The projected estimated costs for specific elements within the implementation schedule are based on recently bid projects in the Central Texas Region and current market values. These costs do not include land acquisition, design, engineering, or professional staffing and will vary at the time of construction based on the project design and engineering. It is recommended to coordinate with professional service contractors to review specific project scopes to provide estimates during annual budget development.

# Themes for Improvement

The Implementation Schedule for the Wimberley Parks and Recreation System generally organizes action items into one of the following categories: land acquisition, parkland development, or policy adoption.

## Land Acquisition

The City of Wimberley must be proactive in the acquisition of parkland as land is becoming more expensive and susceptible to development. Members of City Council, the Parks Board, and City staff should engage with community members to educate on the importance of parkland and emphasize the need for conservation and preservation of land as the community continues to grow.

As land becomes available, the City should conduct a preliminary assessment of the site to determine its potential for future parkland. An important factor regarding any site is the intended recreational use. Specific land types are more suitable for different forms of recreation, such as hilly terrain for mountain bike trails and relatively flat areas for sports courts. Items to consider when acquiring land are site access, existing utilities, elevation changes, permitting/deed restrictions, easements, floodplains/floodways, and neighboring property uses. The City should consider the cost of the land and the overall develop-ability of the property. Property may become available through purchase or donation. The City should contact a landowner and/or realtor to begin the conversation of acquisition if a desirable tract of land becomes available. Additionally, the City could secure the right of first refusal on properties that are suitable for conservation or recreation.

## Parkland Development

Parkland Development consists of new development, redevelopment, and enhancements.

From the inventory and assessment of the Parks System, it has been identified that the Wimberley Parks System is fully developed. Currently, parks are serving their intended purpose - whether that be for active or passive recreational opportunities or conservation efforts. This is not to say the Parks System will not expand, however to do so new property will need to be acquired.

New park construction will consist of work on newly acquired land, either developed or undeveloped. Once acreage has been acquired, it typically takes 3-4 years to complete the development of a park. In this process, the city will consider available funding sources, consult with landscape architects and engineers and place the project to bid for construction. The length of this process will vary depending on the project scope, funding source, and scale.

Park redevelopment focuses primarily on repurposing existing park properties. As the community changes and amenities are past their useful life cycle or no longer utilized by the community, it is imperative to consider redevelopment. Specific elements and recreational trends change over time, and the City should monitor the Parks System to update areas that are no longer serving the needs of the community. Park redevelopment can pertain to an entire park property or specific elements such as adding new athletic facilities, trails, or supporting facilities such as restrooms. These projects typically utilize grant funding resources and take 1-3 years to complete. This implementation schedule identifies three parks to redevelop over the next ten years, Martha Knies Community Park, Sunrise Park, and the Wimberley Community Center.

Park enhancements refer to minor improvements to a park property or facility. This category is one of the more common action items in an implementation schedule because it refers to the 'low-hanging fruit' and minor improvements to the system. This can include constructing new signage, installing new benches or picnic tables, and providing new playground equipment. These projects are typically performed with one or two amenities at a time and through amenity specific vendors or Purchasing Co-Ops rather than going through the design process with architects and engineers. It is important for the Wimberley Parks Department to routinely perform park enhancements as equipment can deteriorate with time due to high use and weather. By being proactive, the Wimberley Parks Department can ensure the system is safe and serves the community. These projects are typically completed within several months and are funded through grants, the Park Department Budget, General Fund, and donations.

Regardless of the type of improvement, it is imperative to engage with the public to ensure residents' needs are met. It is important to coordinate with vendors, consultants, and contractors to determine budgets and specific needs.

## Policy Adoption

The Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department has several new policies, standards, and proclamations that are recommended over the next ten years. Standards and policy change recommendations ensure the system continues to grow, remains safe, promotes the opportunity for national, state, and local recognition, and increases the opportunity for funding. The City should research communities that have supported these policies to better understand what challenges were faced. This will provide the City with the preliminary knowledge on whether a policy can be implemented, revised, or removed and the anticipated impacts of that change. The City should always seek legal consultation on policy changes and perform public engagement with residents who will be mostly impacted by any changes.

The proposed policies can help determine design standards to ensure the Parks System is cohesive and promotes best practices. Implementing recommended policies will improve the City of Wimberley's opportunities to achieve State and National awards or designations, which can provide new funding opportunities and enhance the marketability of Wimberley for tourism.

## Summary

Overall, there are three primary elements that the City of Wimberley should focus on for the next ten years regarding the Parks System: land acquisition, park development, and policy adoption. These themes address the goals and objectives, needs, and recommendations that have been identified throughout this plan. The following pages identify the recommended actions the City should pursue over the next ten years to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Wimberley through the Parks System.

# Policies, Plans, and Studies

| Objectives Achieved | Recommended Action | Term | Estimated Cost |
|---|---|---|---|
| *1.1*<br>*5.1* | **Conduct an Aquatics Feasibility Report** | Short-Term | $30,000 - $50,000 |
| *4.1* | **Develop Sign Design Standards** | Short-Term | $15,000 - $20,000 |
| *5.1 & 5.4* | **Develop an Equipment Maintenance Policy** | Short-Term | $15,000 - $20,000 |
| *1.1, 1.5, & 1.6*<br>*5.1 & 5.3* | **Conduct a Promotional Campaign** | Short-Term | In-House |
| *4.6*<br>*5.1* | **Adopt an Arbor Day Proclamation** | Short-Term | In-House |
| *1.7* | **Develop a Trails Master Plan** | Short-Term | |
| *1.5 & 1.7* | **Develop a Natural Resource Plan (Wildlife, Riparian, Resource, Fire, etc.)** | Mid-Term | In-House |
| *1.7* | **Adopt a Parks and Recreation Inclusion Policy** | Mid-Term | In-House |
| *1.5 & 1.7* | **Develop a Programming Plan for the Wimberley Community Center** | Mid-Term | TBD |

*Recommendations are flexible and each action item should be evaluated and modified if necessary, prior to implementation.*
*Figure 40*

# Park Redevelopments

| Objectives Achieved | Recommended Action | Term | Estimated Cost |
|---|---|---|---|
| *1.3, 1.5, & 1.8* | **Develop TPWD Grant for Martha Knies Community Park** | Short-Term | $10,000 - $15,000 |
| *1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, & 1.7*<br>*4.2, 4.3, 4.5, & 4.6*<br>*5.1, 5.2, & 5.3* | **Redevelop Martha Knies Community Park**<br>• Replace playgrounds<br>• Update benches and picnic area<br>• Expand restroom facility<br>• Install water filling station<br>• Install signage (wayfinding and interpretive)<br>• Incorporate elements of music play<br>• Install/update public art as appropriate<br>• Install bike rack and repair station | Short-Term | $1,000,000 - $1,500,000 |
| *1.3, 1.5, & 1.8* | **Develop TPWD Grant for Sunrise Park** | Mid-Term | In house, % based fee, or $10,000 - $15,000 |
| *1.3 & 1.6*<br>*2.1 & 2.3*<br>*3.1, 3.2, 3.3, & 3.5*<br>*4.2, 4.5, & 4.6*<br>*5.1* | **Redevelop Sunrise Park**<br>• Improve walkways to be ADA accessible<br>• Implement native landscaping<br>• Install/update public art as appropriate<br>• Install signage (interpretive)<br>• Improve and enhance existing pavilions<br>• Consider grilling stations | Mid-Term | $100,000 - $200,000 |
| *1.3, 1.5, & 1.8* | **Redevelop Wimberley Community Center** | Mid-Term | *TBD* |

*Recommendations are flexible and each action item should be evaluated and modified if necessary, prior to implementation.*

*Figure 41*

# Park Enhancements

| Objectives Achieved | Recommended Action | Term | Estimated Cost |
|---|---|---|---|
| *1.3*<br>*3.5*<br>*4.5* | **Enhance Blue Hole Regional Park**<br>• Provide AED in closer proximity to the soccer fields<br>• Provide water filling station<br>• Install benches and picnic tables<br>• Install/update public art as appropriate | Short-Term | $20,000 - $30,000 |
| *1.3, 1.5, & 1.8* | **Develop TPWD Grant for Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve** | Short-Term | In house, % based fee, or $10,000 - $15,000 |
| *1.3, 1.6, & 1.7*<br>*2.2, 2.3, & 2.5*<br>*3.2, 3.3, & 3.5*<br>*4.2, 4.5, & 4.6*<br>*5.1* | **Enhance Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve**<br>• Consider boardwalks over lowlying areas<br>• Install signage (entry, wayfinding, and interpretive)<br>• Implement active wildlife management<br>• Install/update public art as appropriate | Short-Term | $50,000 - $100,000 |
| *1.1, 1.3, & 1.6*<br>*4.5 & 4.6* | **Enhance Old Baldy Park**<br>• Install or update public art as appropriate<br>• Install signage (interpretive)<br>• Install benches and seating areas<br>• Install viewing station (viewing scope) | Short-Term | $15,000 - $25,000 |
| *1.1, 1.3, 1.5, & 1,6*<br>*2.2 & 2.3*<br>*3.1, 3.2, 3.3, & 3.5*<br>*4.2, 4.5, & 4.6*<br>*5.1* | **Enhance Blue Hole Regional Park**<br>• Implement active habitat management and rewilding<br>• Install signage (wayfinding)<br>• Consider mountain bike trails<br>• Install bike rack and repair stations<br>• Upgrade existing trails<br>• Conduct a species inventory | Mid-Term | $75,000 - $100,000 |

| Objectives Achieved | Recommended Action | Term | Estimated Cost |
|---|---|---|---|
| *1.3 & 1.6*<br>*4.2, 4.3, & 4.5* | **Enhance Oak Park & Welcome Center**<br>• Provide shade canopy<br>• Install signage (interpretive) | Mid-Term | $50,000 - $75,000 |
| *1.3 & 1.6* | **Enhance Oak Park & Welcome Center**<br>• Install playground / climb equipment<br>• Install signage (interpretive) | Long-Term | $100,000 - $120,000 |
| *1.3, 1.5, & 1.8* | **Develop TPWD Grant for Patsy Glenn Refuge** | Long-Term | In house, % based fee, or $10,000 - $15,000 |
| *1.3*<br>*2.1 & 2.3*<br>*2.3*<br>*4.3* | **Enhance Patsy Glenn Refuge**<br>• Install/update public art as appropriate<br>• Implement active wildlife management and rewilding<br>• Explore alternative trail materials<br>• Install signage (interpretive) | Long-Term | $250,000 - $350,000 |

*Recommendations are flexible and each action item should be evaluated and modified if necessary, prior to implementation.*
*Figure 42*

# New Parks

| Objectives Achieved | Recommended Action | Term | Estimated Cost |
|---|---|---|---|
| *1.2 & 1.5*<br>*2.1* | **Engage with Community Members to educate the importance of parkland acquisition** | Short-Term | N/A |
| *1.2*<br>*2.1* | **Acquire Property (west of Ranch Road 12)** | Mid-Term | Market Value |
| *1.2*<br>*2.1* | **Acquire Property (along the Blanco River)** | Mid-Term | Market Value |
| *1.1, 1.2, 1.4, & 1.6*<br>*2.1, 2.2, & 2.4*<br>*3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, & 3.5*<br>*4.2, 4.3, 4.5, & 4.6* | **Develop a Neighborhood Park**<br>• Install playground / climb equipment<br>• Construct trails<br>• Install signage (wayfinding and interpretive)<br>• Install shade structure<br>• Install supporting facilities (benches, drinking fountains, etc.) | Long-Term | $1,000,000 - $1,500,000 |
| *1.1 & 1.4*<br>*2.3 & 2.5*<br>*4.6* | **Develop a New Park Along the Blanco River** | Long-Term | TBD |
| *1.4*<br>*3.1, 3.4, 3.7,* | **Develop new trails and pedestrian/bike bridges to improve connectivity** | Long-Term | Market Value |

*Recommendations are flexible and each action item should be evaluated and modified if necessary, prior to implementation.*
*Figure 43*


SPARTAN


WIMBERLEY
BLUE HOLE
REGIONAL PARK



# Funding Opportunities

The City of Wimberley has a variety of funding opportunities that can assist with the proposed projects in this plan. Funding sources typically fall within three different categories: Local Partnership Opportunities, Local City Funding, and State or Federal Funding. There may also be additional funding available which is not listed within this plan. It is imperative for the City of Wimberley to be proactive in the development of grant applications. TPWD grants are typically awarded one year after the submittal of the grant application.

## Locally Generated Funds

**GENERAL FUND - PAY AS YOU GO** funds are typically used for smaller projects such as repairs and replacements to existing park facilities.

**GENERAL OBLIGATION 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** have basically the same effect as general obligation bonds except they do not require an election to authorize them. 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.

**PARK FEE ORDINANCE** fees are imposed on developers when they bring new projects into the community. These fees are typically used to ensure that as more development comes to the City, more park land is acquired, developed, or improved. Many communities have specific ordinances that require developers to provide land for a park, cash in lieu of the required land, or park development.

**USER FEES** require the user of a facility to pay a fee for the use of the facility. Fees to be charged can be established to pay for debt service, maintenance, and operation of the Parks System.

**PRIVATE OR CORPORATE DONATIONS** from foundations, corporations, and/or private individuals are often used to acquire and develop parks. The city should continuously 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 maximize the benefits of donations of land, property, and money.

**DEBT ISSUANCE** debt issued in the form of a bond to fund day-to-day obligations and capital projects.

## State & Federal Funding

**BOATING ACCESS GRANTS** are intended for communities to assist in aquatic recreation, including construction of boat ramps and/or supporting facilities that assist with accessing the water. This grant requires a 25/75 match with a ceiling of $200,000 for planning, design, and engineering and a $1,000,000 ceiling for construction.

**LOCAL PARKS SMALL COMMUNITY RECREATION GRANTS** are intended for communities with a population less than 25,000 and can be used for the acquisition, development, or the renovation of parks and open spaces. This is a 50/50 matching grant with a ceiling of $300,000.

**LOCAL PARKS NON-URBAN OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANTS** are intended for communities with a population of less than 500,000 and can be used for the acquisition, development, or the renovation of parks and open spaces. This is a 50/50 matching grant with a ceiling of $750,000.

**INDOOR RECREATION GRANTS** are intended for communities with a population of less than 500,000 and can be used for the construction of recreation centers, local community centers, nature centers, and other applicable indoor facilities. This grant is a 50/50 matching grant with a ceiling of $1,500,000.

**COMMUNITY OUTDOOR OUTREACH PROGRAM (CO-OP)** grants are primarily used to assist non-profits and local governments for recreational programming geared toward underserved populations. The intent of the funding is to introduce the importance of environmental education and conservation and provide TPWD mission oriented outdoor recreational activities. This grant is a TPWD Sponsored grant with a minimum funding requirement of $5,000 and a ceiling of $50,000.

**RECREATIONAL TRAIL GRANTS** are intended for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects including new trail construction, existing trail improvements, acquisition of trail corridors, trailheads and/or amenities. This program is funded by the Federal Highway Administration and administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This is an 80/20 matching grant with 80 percent of the project being funded through TPWD. There is a ceiling of $600,000 for motorized (off-highway vehicle) trails, and $300,000 for non-motorized trails.

**TXDOT SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE (SRTS) PROGRAM** is a federal grant with no local matching required, administered by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The purpose of the SRTS program is to encourage safe bicycling and walking among schoolchildren. These proposals can be located anywhere in Texas, regardless of the population size. The SRTS projects must be planned to be within public right-of-way within 2 miles of a public, charter, or private school serving K-8th grade students. The types of projects typically funded include bicycle infrastructure improvements, shared use paths, sidewalk improvements and infrastructure-related projects to improve safety for non-motorized transportation.

**LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) GRANTS** are federally funded and administered through TPWD through the Texas Recreation Park Account. Note: If a City applies for an Outdoor Grant, Small Community Grant, or Indoor Recreation Grant, TPWD may choose to fund a successful project directly through LWCF with no additional or separate application.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS PROGRAMS)** are primarily used for parks and recreational opportunities and consist of LWCF & Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act (UPARR) dollars. The United States Congress appropriates funds to each state.

**PERDENALES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.** offers grants up to $5,000 for capital improvements, technology, and equipment related to energy efficiency.

**LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY** provides grant opportunities up to $50,000 for building, renovating, or purchasing equipment that is available to the community and improves capital asset.

**KEEP TEXAS BEAUTIFUL** offers several grants targeted at improving the environment including improving waterways & water quality, wildlife/species protection, and recycling.

**GOVERNOR'S COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS** provides funding to communities that have achieved exceptional work through community leadership and coordination, public awareness and outreach, environmental education and youth engagement, beautification and community improvement, litter prevention and cleanup, solid waste management, and litter law and illegal dumping enforcement.



Chapter 10

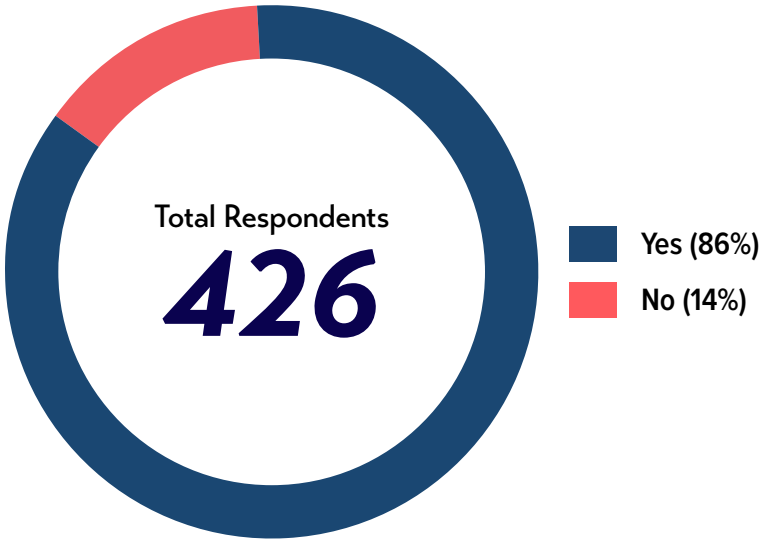
# Appendix



# Community Survey

The City of Wimberley conducted a community survey to get a general understanding of what recreational opportunities the community likes and what they would like added. There were 426 survey responses collected.

*Do you have a ZIP Code of 78676?*




# Resident vs. Non-Residents

Community members were asked if they were residents of Wimberley or visiting. For the survey, residents were classified as those within the 78676 ZIP code. Resident respondents accounted for approximately 86% of the survey responses.

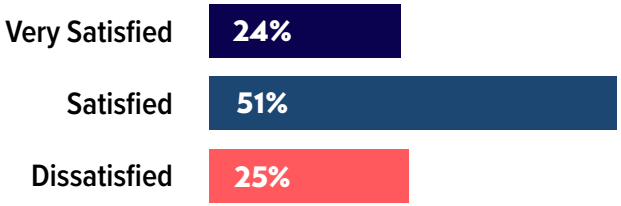


# RESIDENT RESPONSES

## Quality of Parks and Recreation

Community members were asked about their satisfaction with the quality of parks and recreation opportunities provided by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department. The majority of resident respondents (75%) were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality, however a quarter of respondents (25%) stated they were dissatisfied with the quality.

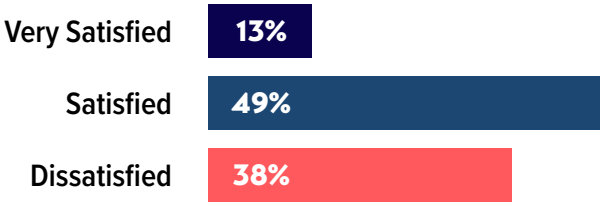
*Overall, how would you rate the QUALITY of parks and recreational opportunities in the City of Wimberley?*




## Quantity of Parks and Recreation

Community members were asked about their satisfaction with the quantity of parks and recreation opportunities provided by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department. A slight majority of respondents (62%) stated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quantity of parks and recreation opportunities, while more than a third (38%) stated they were dissatisfied.

*Overall, how would you rate the QUANTITY of parks and recreational opportunities in the City of Wimberley?*



# Frequency of Park Visits

Community members were asked about the frequency someone in their household visits a Wimberley park facility. Blue Hole Regional Park was the most frequently visited facility, with 45% of resident respondents visiting the park at least weekly, and 72% visiting the park at least monthly. Sunshine Park was the least frequented park with 77% of respondents never visiting the facility. The parks listed below are ranked in order of most to least commonly used throughout the year.

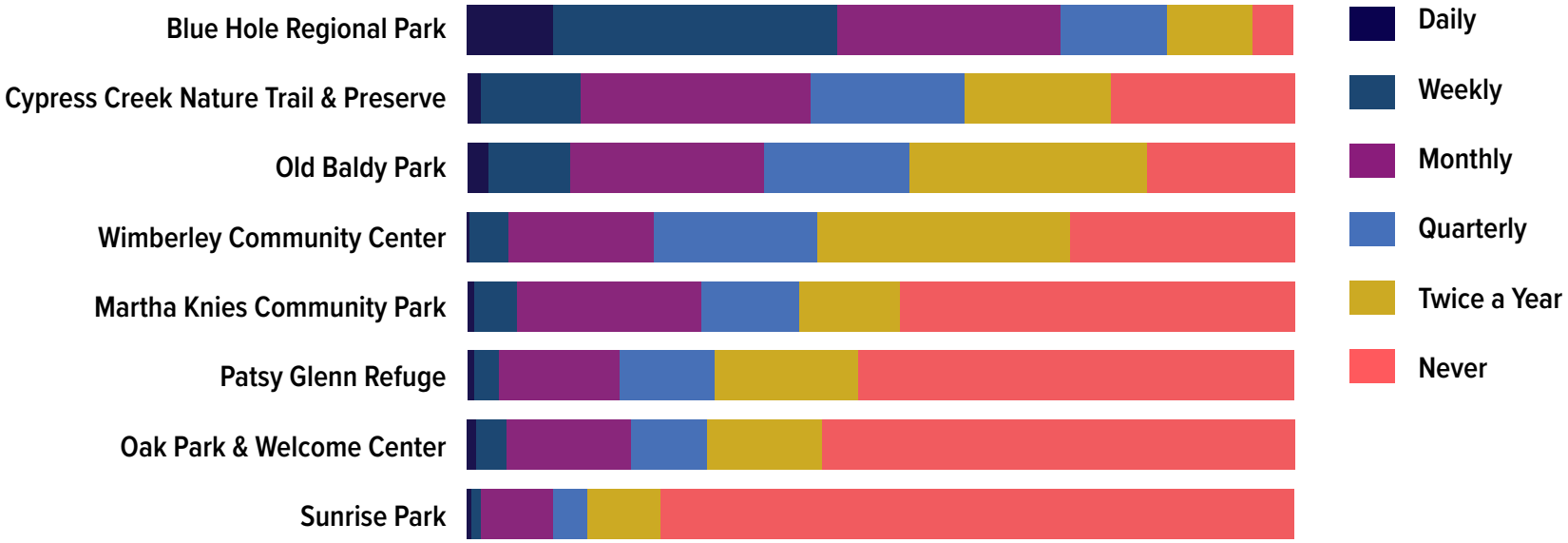
## Most Visited Parks:

- Blue Hole Regional Park
- Cypress Creek Nature Trail & Preserve
- Old Baldy Park

## Least Visited Parks:

- Sunshine Park
- Oak Park & Welcome Center
- Patsy Glenn Regure

*Within the past year, how often have you or someone from your household visited the parks below?*



# Recreational Activity Importance

Community members were asked about the importance of recreational activities to someone in their household.

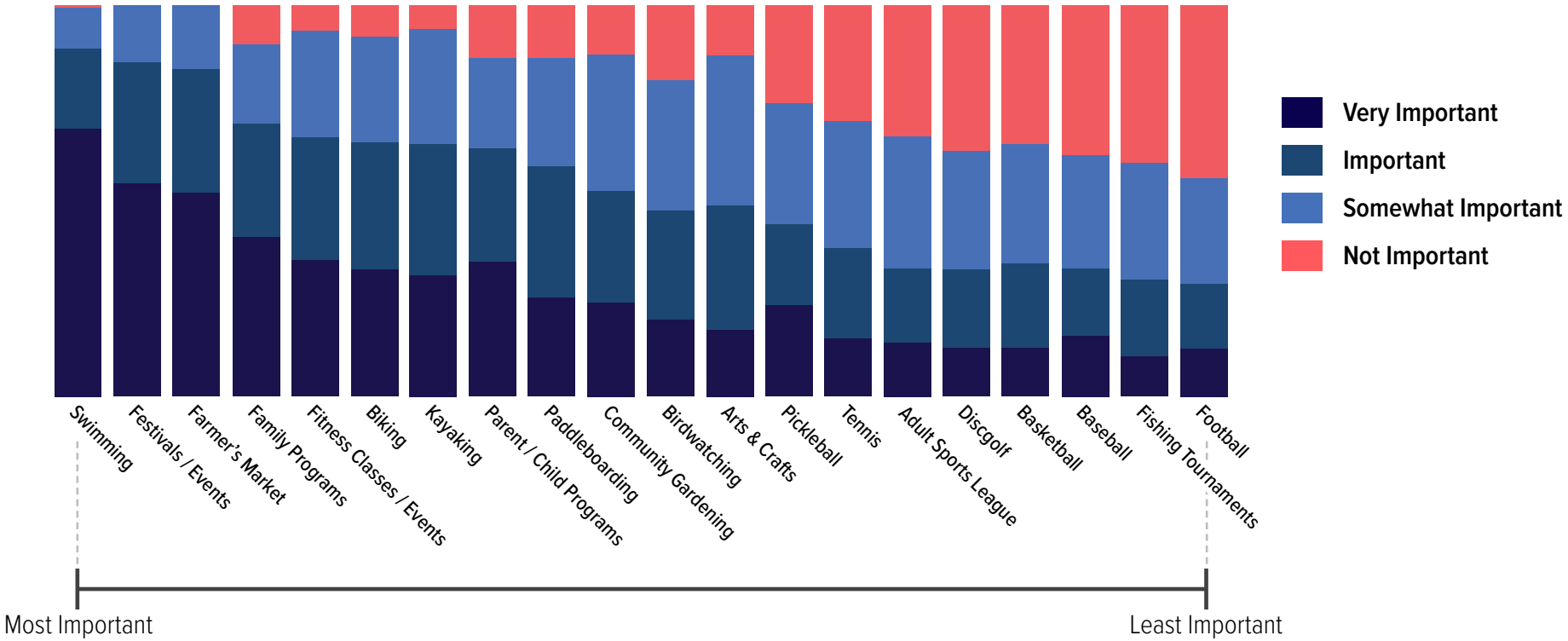
## Most Important Activities:

- Swimming
- Festivals/Events
- Farmer's Market

## Least Important Activities:

- Football
- Fishing Tournaments
- Baseball

*How important are the following RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES to you or someone in your household?*



# Recreational Activity Satisfaction

Community members were asked about their satisfaction with the number of opportunities to participate in these recreational activities. The three activities the resident respondents were least satisfied with included swimming, kayaking, and paddleboarding, while the three most satisfied activities included football, festival and events, and birdwatching.

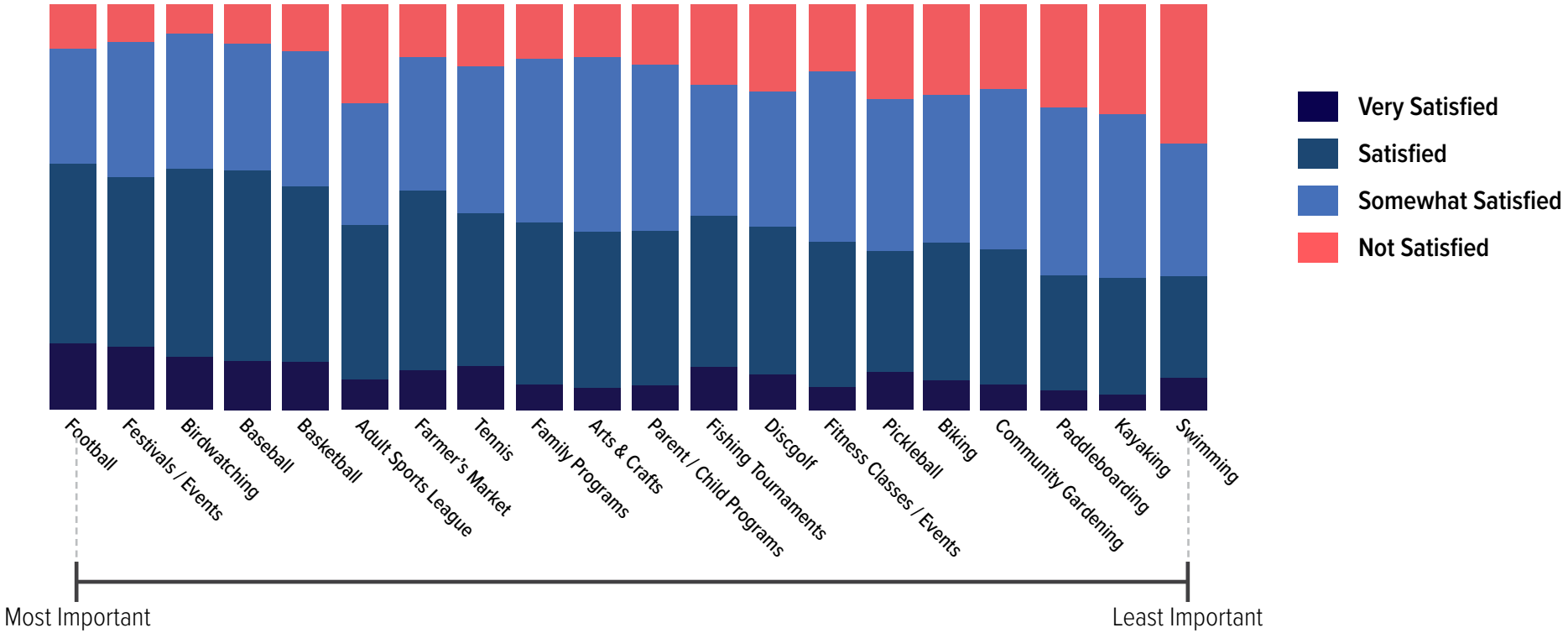
## Most Satisfied Activities:

- Football
- Festivals and Events
- Birdwatching

## Least Satisfied Activities:

- Swimming
- Kayaking
- Paddleboarding

*How satisfied are you or someone in your household with the QUANTITY of the following recreational activities in the City of Wimberley?*



# Recreational Amenitity Importance

Community members were asked about the importance of recreational amenities. Based on the resident responses, the three most important amenities included biking and walking trails, picnic areas, and playgrounds.

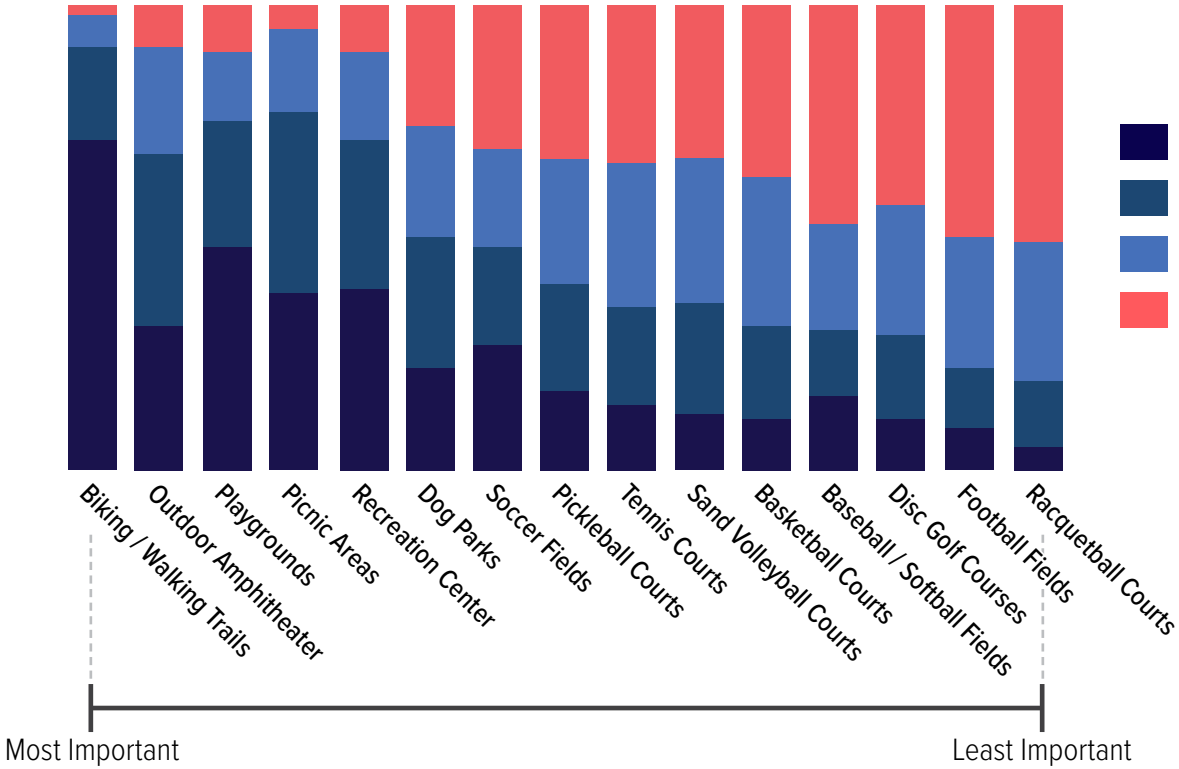
## Most Important Amenities:

- Biking and Walking Trails
- Outdoor Amphitheater
- Playgrounds

## Least Important Amenities:

- Racquetball Courts
- Football Fields
- Disc Golf Courses

*How important are the following AMENITIES to you or someone in your household?*



# Recreational Amenity Satisfaction

Community members were asked to rank their satisifcation with the number of amenities provided to them. The survey responses noted the amenities with the highest amount of satisifcation included outdoor amphitheathers, tennis courts, baseball/softball fields, and soccer fields.

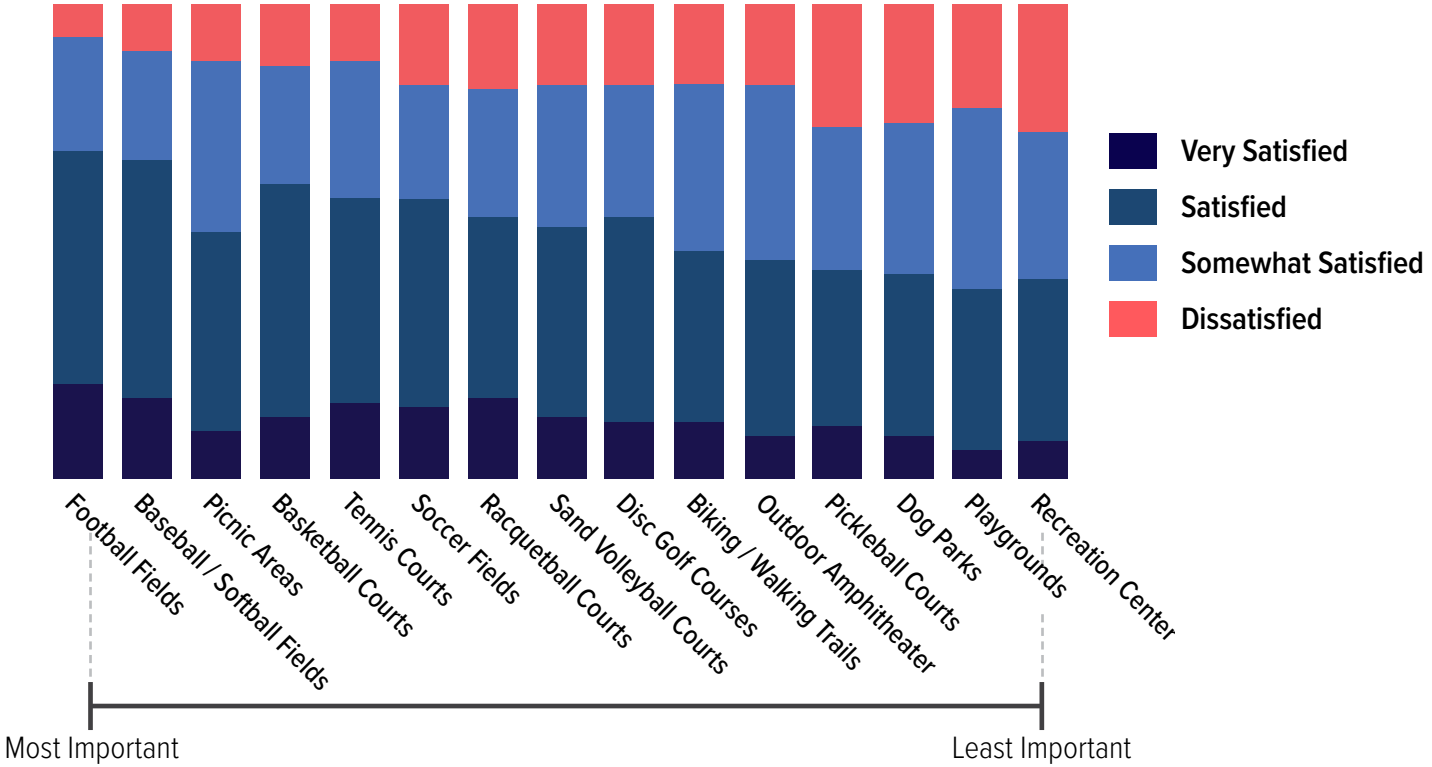
## Most Satisfied Amenities:

- Football Fields
- Baseball / Softball Fields
- Picnic Areas

## Least Satisfied Amenities:

- Recreation Center
- Playgrounds
- Dog Parks

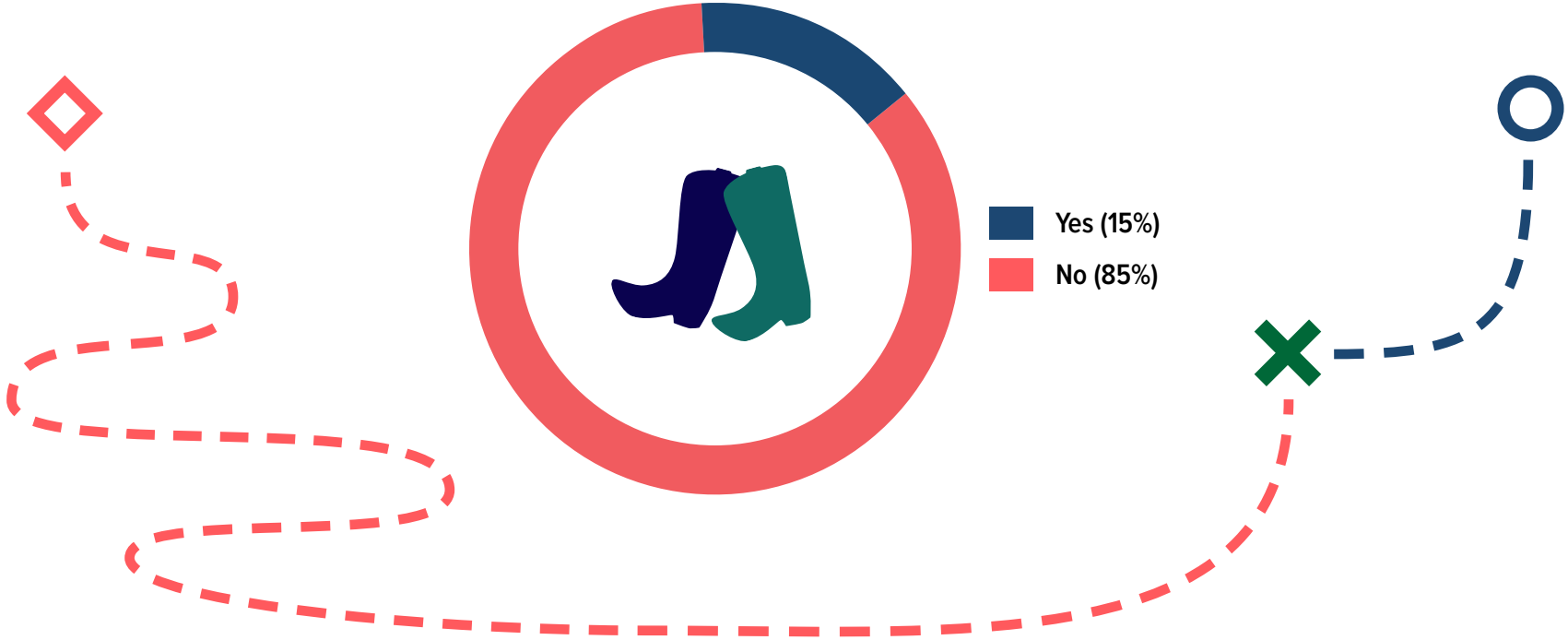
*How satisfied are you or someone in your household with the QUANTITY of the following amenities in the City of Wimberley?*



# Walkability

Residents were asked whether they could safely and reasonably walk to a public park within a 10-minute walk from their household, which only 15% of residents stated they could.

*Can you safely and reasonably walk to a City of Wimberley park within 10 minutes fromyour home?*



# Funding Categories

Residents were asked how the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department should prioritize funding. The top three responses included acquisition of new parkland, improvement of existing parkland, and access.

*How should the Wimberley Parks & Recreation Department prioritize park funding?*

**#1 Acquisition of new parkland**

**#2 Improvement of existing parkland**

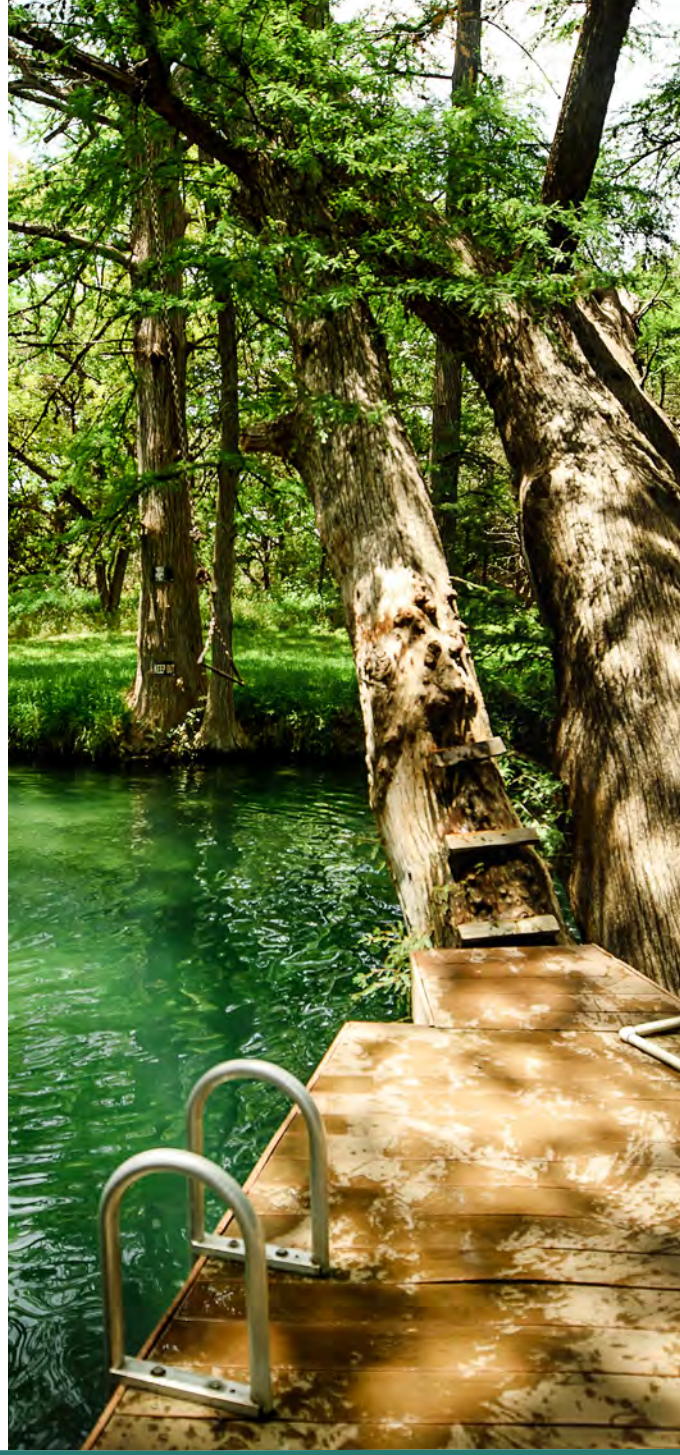
**#3 Access**

**#4 Maintenance of existing parkland**

**#5 Development of best environmental practices**

**#6 Community events, programming, and engagement**

**#7 Safety**



# Funding Elements

Community members were asked how the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department should prioritize funding specific amenities. The top three responses included hiking trails and trail connections, shade, and the acquisition of new parkland.

*How important is it to you for the City of Wimberley to prioritize funding for...*

**1. Hiking trails & Trail Connections**

**2. Shade**

**3. Acquire Land for New Parks**

**4. Maintenance of Existing Parks**

**5. Increase the Amount of Open Space / Natural Area**

**6. Best Environmental Practices**

**7. Improve Existing Parks**

**8. Events and Programs**

**9. Playgrounds**

**10. Upgrade Trails**

**11. Blue Hole Regional Park Amenities**

**13. Mountain Bike Trails**

**13. Benches / Seating Areas**

**14. Sport Courts**

**15. Sport Fields**

**16. Public Art**

**17. Dog Parks**

**18. Picnic Areas**

**19. Disc Golf Course**

**20. Cabanas at Blue Hole Regional Park**

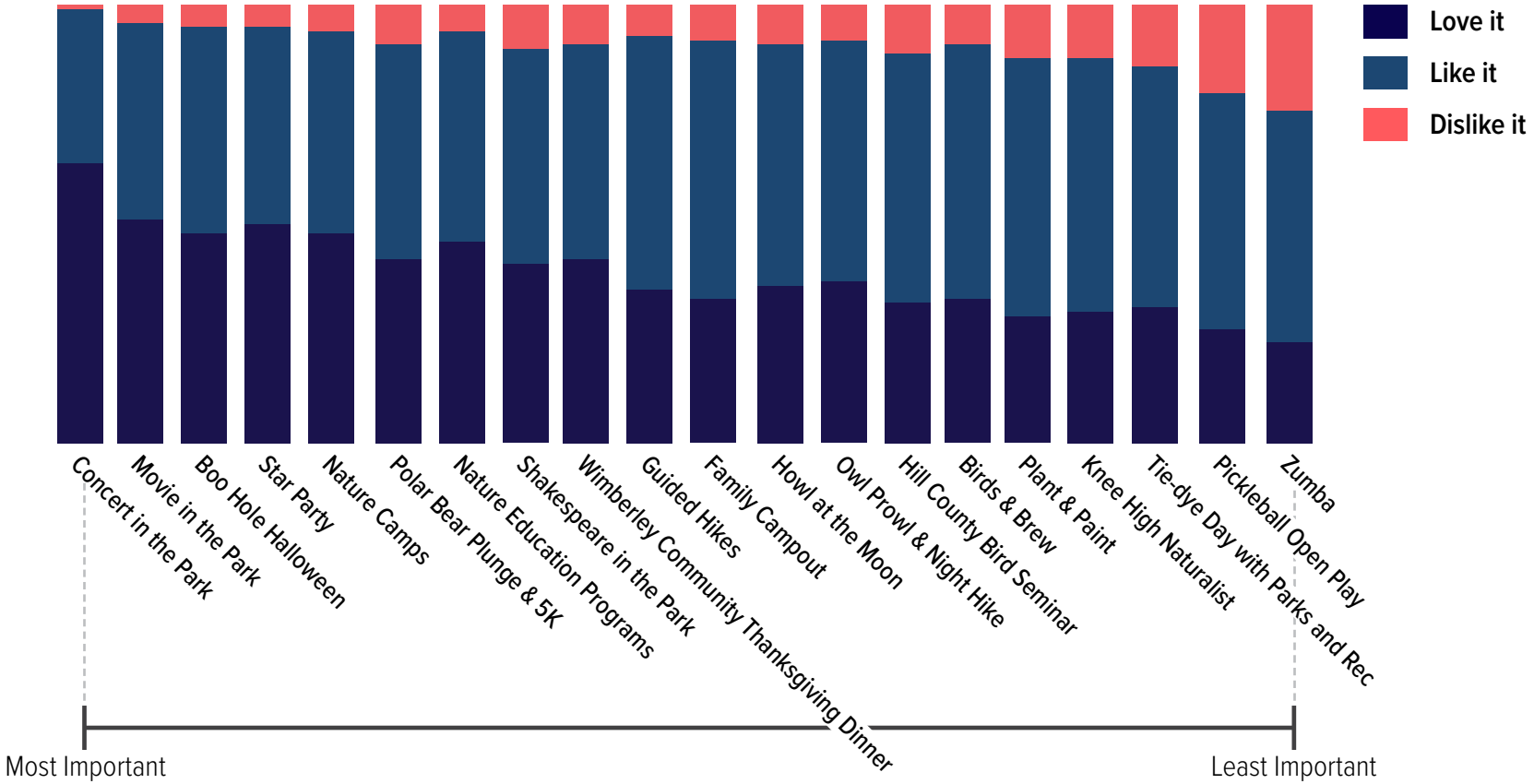
# Program Satisifaction

Community members were asked about their satisfaction with the programs provided by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department. The resident respondents stated an overwhelming amount of support for these programs. The most popular programs included Concert in the Park, Movie in the Park, and Star Party.

## Most Enjoyed Programs:

- Concert in the Park
- Movie in the Park
- Boo Hole Halloween

*How do you feel about the following programs offered by the Wimberley Parks andRecreation Department?*



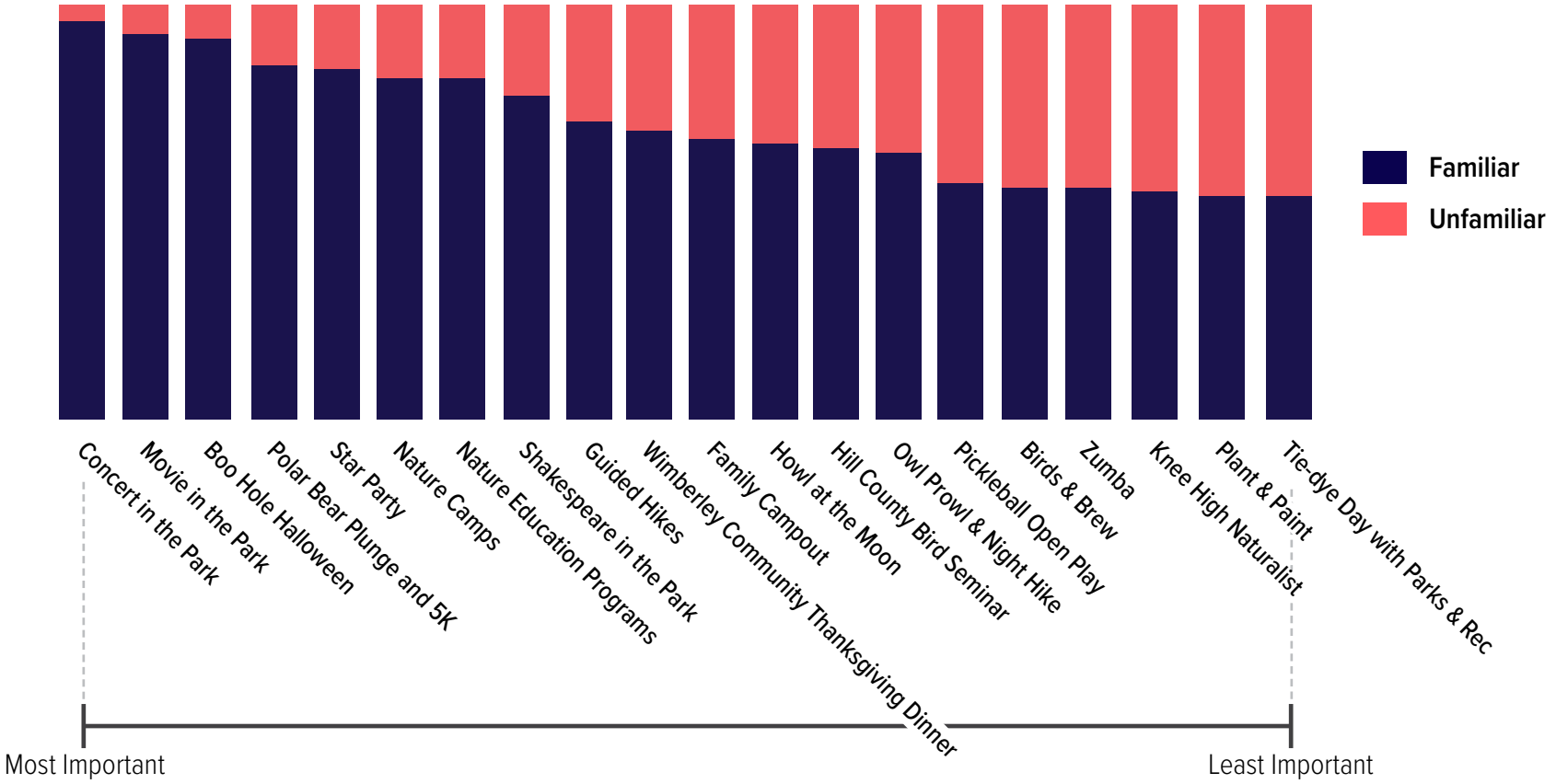
# Program Awareness

Community members were asked about their familiarity with programs offered by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department. The programs the resident respondents are the most unfamiliar with include Tie-dye Day with Parks & Rec, Plant & Paint, and Knee High Naturalist.

## Most Familiar Programs:

- Concert in the Park
- Movie in the Park
- Boo Hole Halloween

*How do you feel about the following programs offered by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department?*



# New Programming

Community members were asked about the new programming desired by the residents, and the most desired programs included swimming, yoga, pickleball, and concerts.

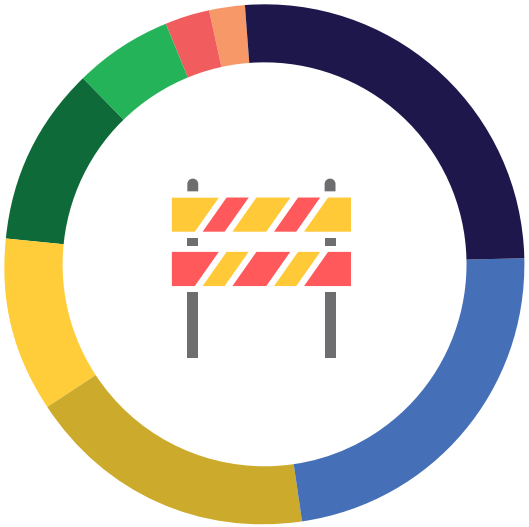
*Are there any programs or special events you would like the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department to offer?*



# Park Barriers

Community members were asked about the barriers to the Parks System. The most common barriers for resident respondents included the existing facilities and programs did not meet their needs and the lack of advertising.

*What is the biggest BARRIER preventing you from utilizing the Wimberley Park System more?*

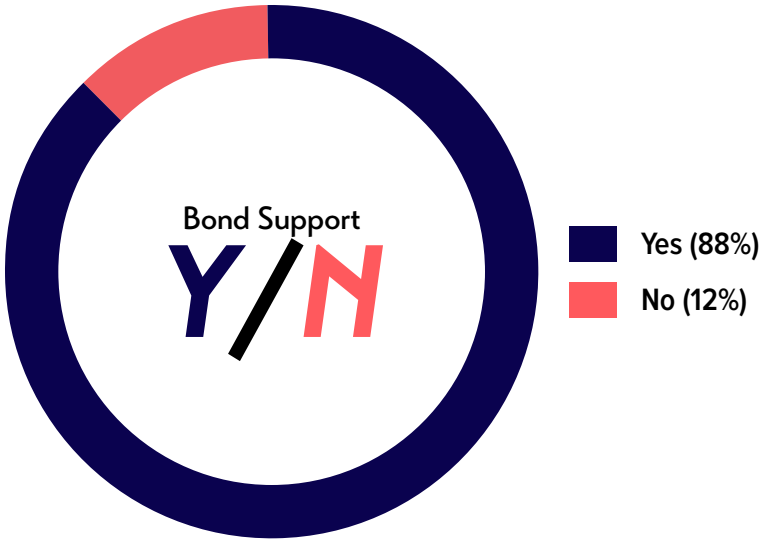


- **The existing facilities and programs don't meet your recreational needs (26%)**
- **Other (23%)**
- **Lack of advertisement (18%)**
- **Distance to travel (11%)**
- **Lack of access (11%)**
- **Limited parking (6%)**
- **Hours of operation (3%)**
- **Safety concerns (2%)**

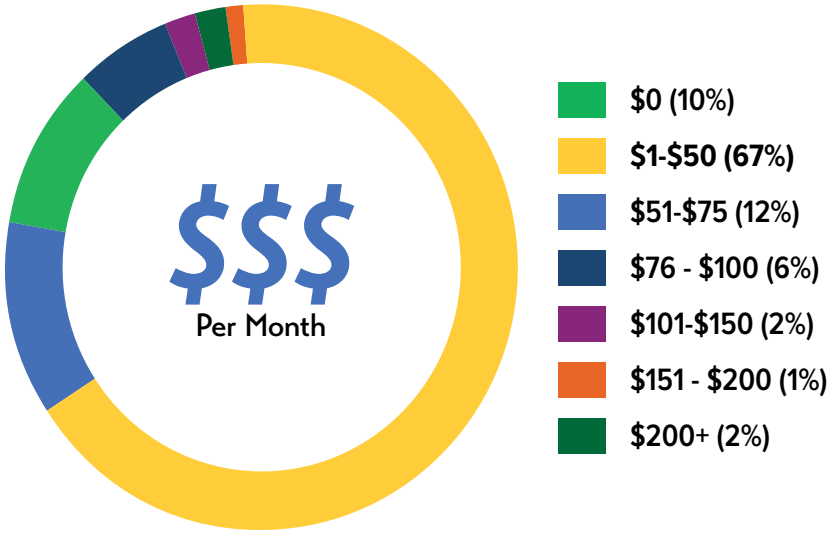
# Bonds

Community members were asked about their support for a bond to fund park projects. The majority of resident respondents (88%) stated they would support the passing of a bond for the acquisition, improvement, and maintenance of the Parks System. Additionally, a majority of residents (67%) stated they would be willing to contribute from $1.00 - $50.00 monthly for the bond.

*Would you be in support of a bond to increase the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department funding?*



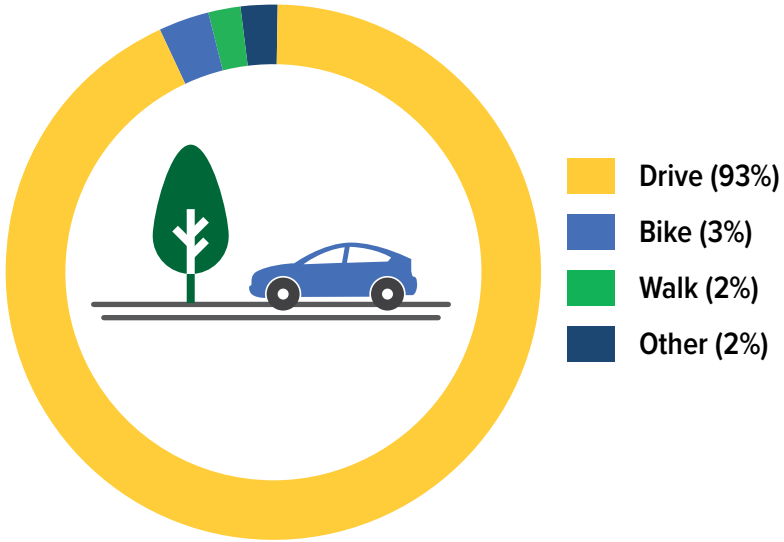

*If the City of Wimberley were to pass a bond for the acquisition, improvement, and maintenance of the park system, how much would you be willing to spend PER MONTH?*



# Method of Transportation

Community members were asked about their transportation to the Parks System. The majority of resident respondents (93%) stated they drive to the Parks System.

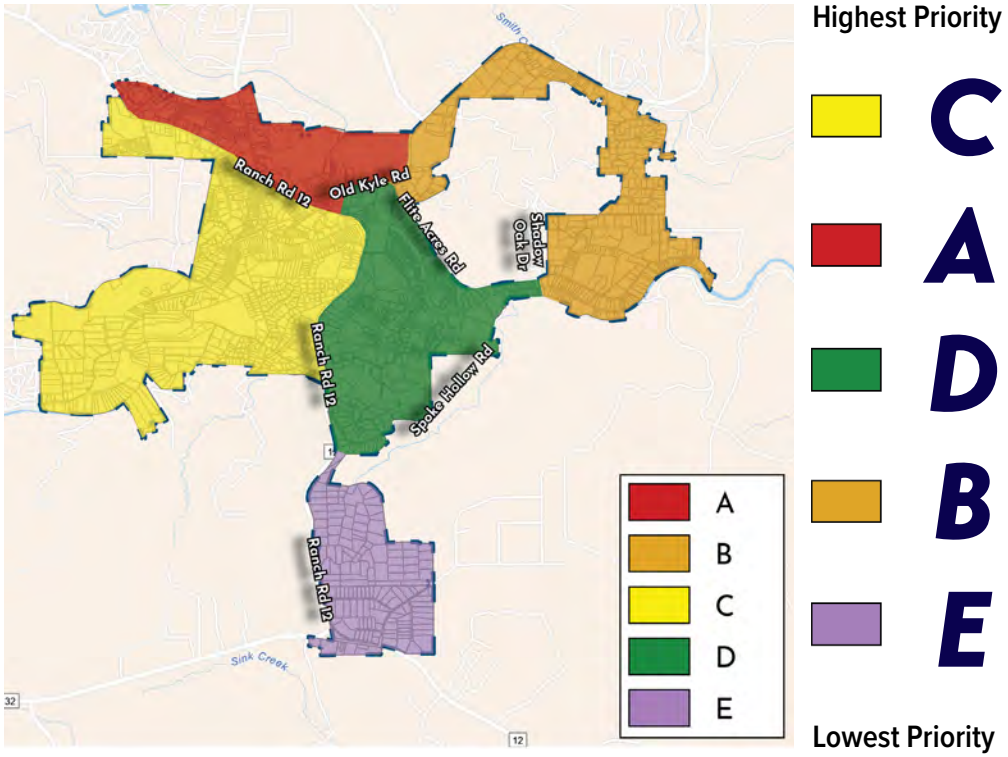
*How do you typically get to a Wimberley park?*




# Future Park Locations

Community members were asked about locations for new parkland. The most frequent responses included future parkland west of Ranch Road 12, as well as north of Ranch Road 12 and Old Kyle Road. This does not mean the City should not look at parkland elsewhere when available, however these two regions were identified as where the community would most like a new park.

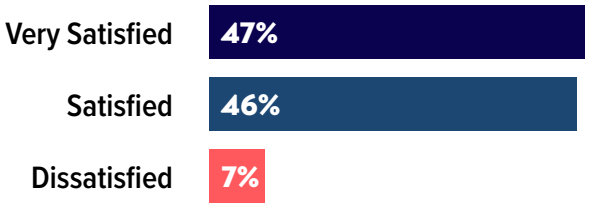
*Rank the locations of where you would like a future park.*



# Park Signage

Residents were asked how the City of Wimberley could improve park signage. The survey responses noted more signage, signage for wayfinding / directional purposes, increased visibility, and markers along the trails as improvement.

*How would you rate park signage (directional and educational)?*



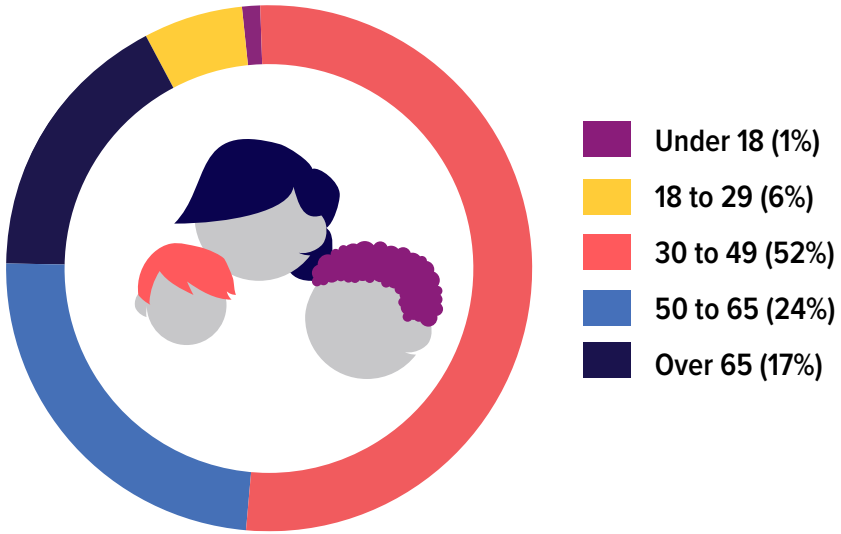

*If satisfied or dissatisfied, what could be improved?*




# Respondent Age

Respondents were asked to provide their age with the survey information. This allowed City staff to determine if the sample was reprensetive of the community. 52% of resident respondents were between the ages of 30 to 49, and 24% were between 50 to 65.

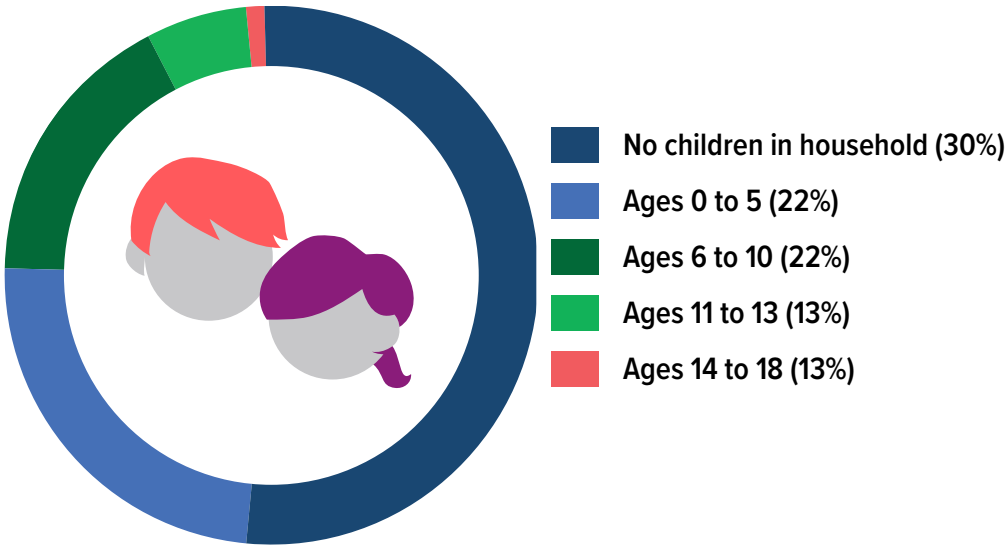
*What is your age?*



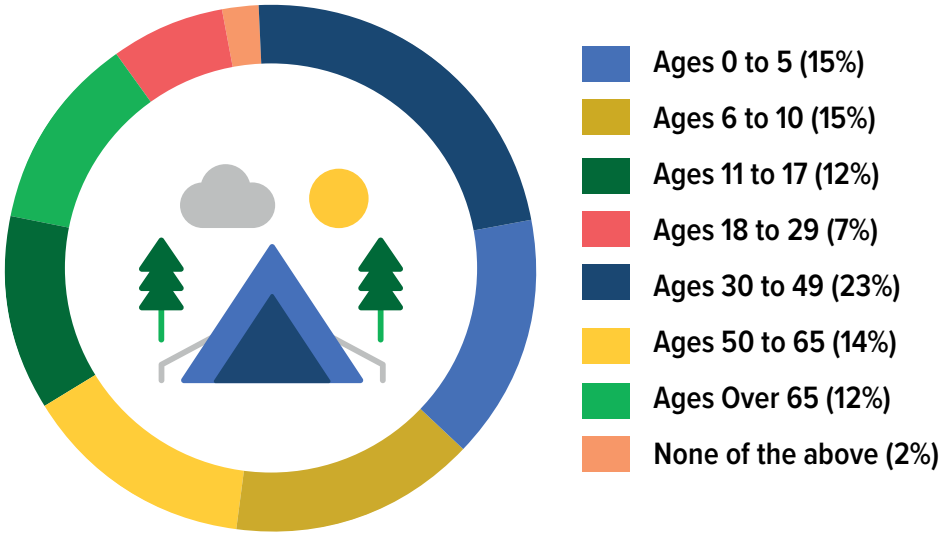
# Youth Groups

Residents were asked about the youth age groups that were present in their household. Although no age group had a majority of the responses, the most prevalent responses included: no children in the household (30%), 0 to 5 (22%), and 6 - 10 (22%).

*Which youth age groups are represented in your household? (Select all that apply)*




*Which age groups in your household would be interested in participating in a City of Wimberley recreation or leisure program? (Select all that apply)*

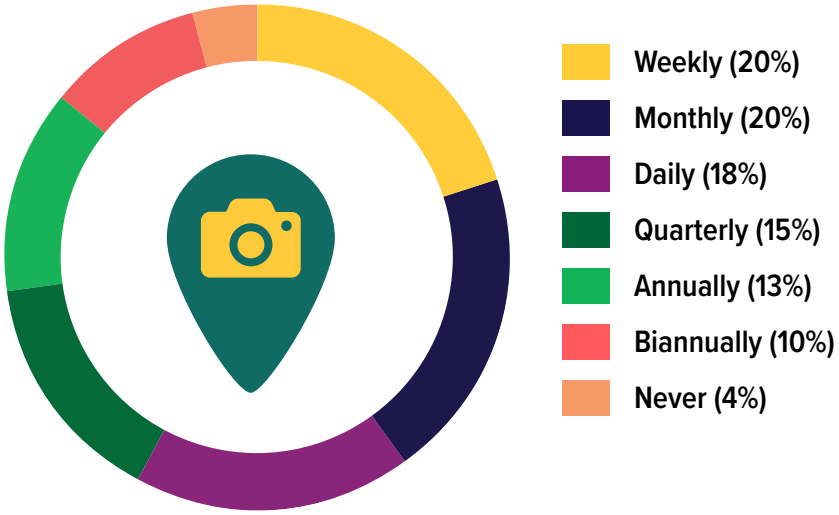


# VISITOR RESPONSES

## Frequency of Visits

Visitors were asked about their frequency of usage of the Wimberley Parks System. A little over a third of all respondents (38%) stated they visit a Wimberley Park at least once a week, and over half (58%) stated they visit one at least monthly.

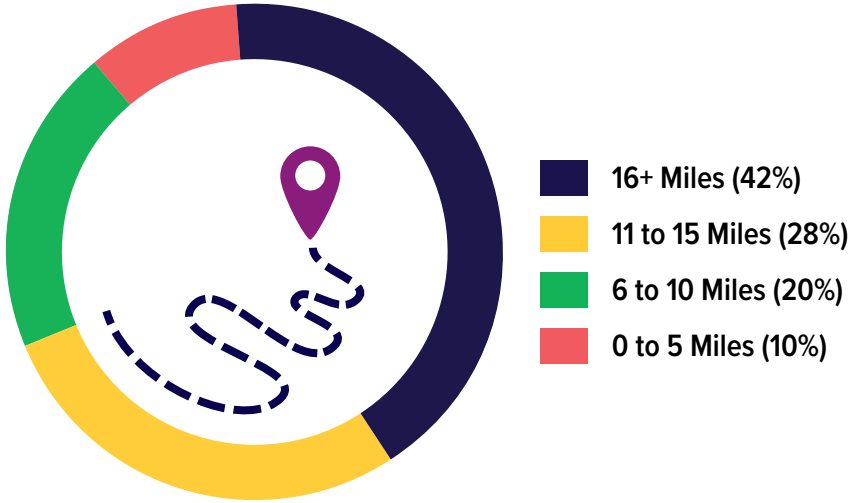
*How frequently do you visit a Wimberley park?*




## Travel Distance

Visitors were asked about the length of distance they travel to utilize the Wimberley Parks System. While there wasn't a majority of people residing at one specific distance from Wimberley, the most respondents (42%) of the respondents stated they lived 16+ miles away.

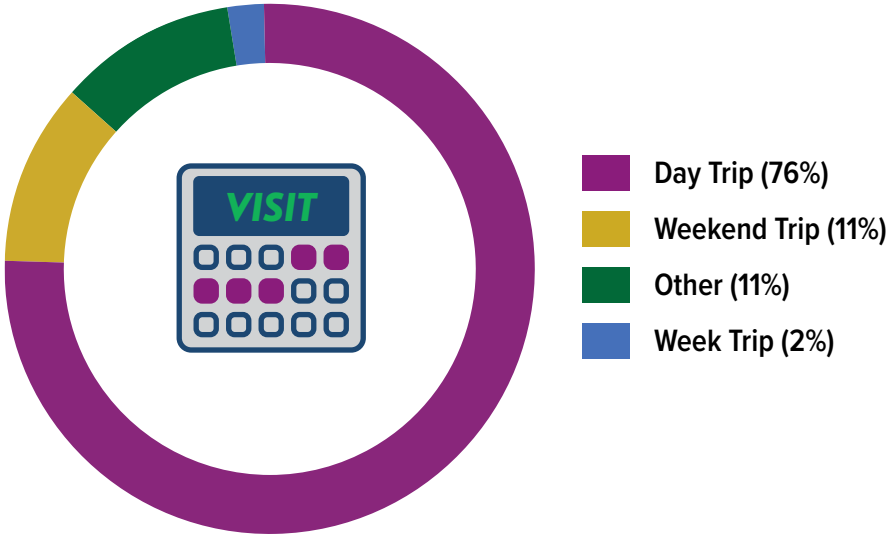
*How far do you travel to visit Wimberley?*



# Length of Stay

Visitors were asked about the length of their stay in Wimberley. An overwhelming amount of respondents (76%) stated they visit Wimberley just for the day. Day tourists have different needs than tourists staying for a couple of days, as they can recreate, dine, and shop but do not require housing.

*When you travel to Wimberley, how long do you typically stay?*




# Purpose for Visiting

Visitors were asked about the recreational amenities that bring them to Wimberley. The most common responses included swimming, hiking, and Blue Hole Regional Park.

*What recreational amenities bring you to Wimberley?*



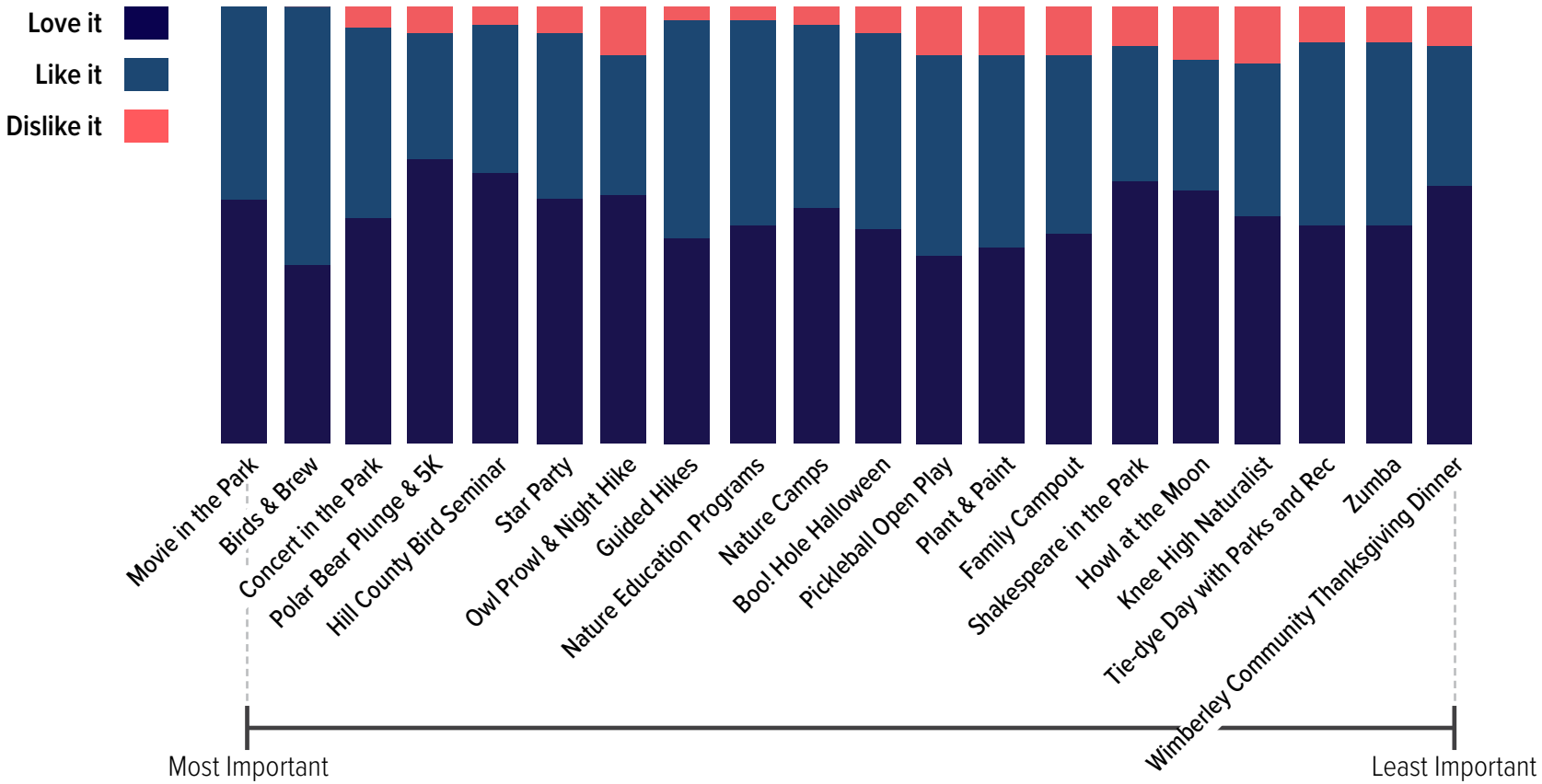
# Program Satisfaction

Visitors were asked about their satisfaction with the programs provided by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department. The least popular programs included Tie-dye Day with Parks and Rec, Zumba, and Wimberley Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

## Most Enjoyed Programs:

- Movie in the Park
- Birds & Brew
- Concert in the Park

*How do you feel about the following programs offered by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department?*



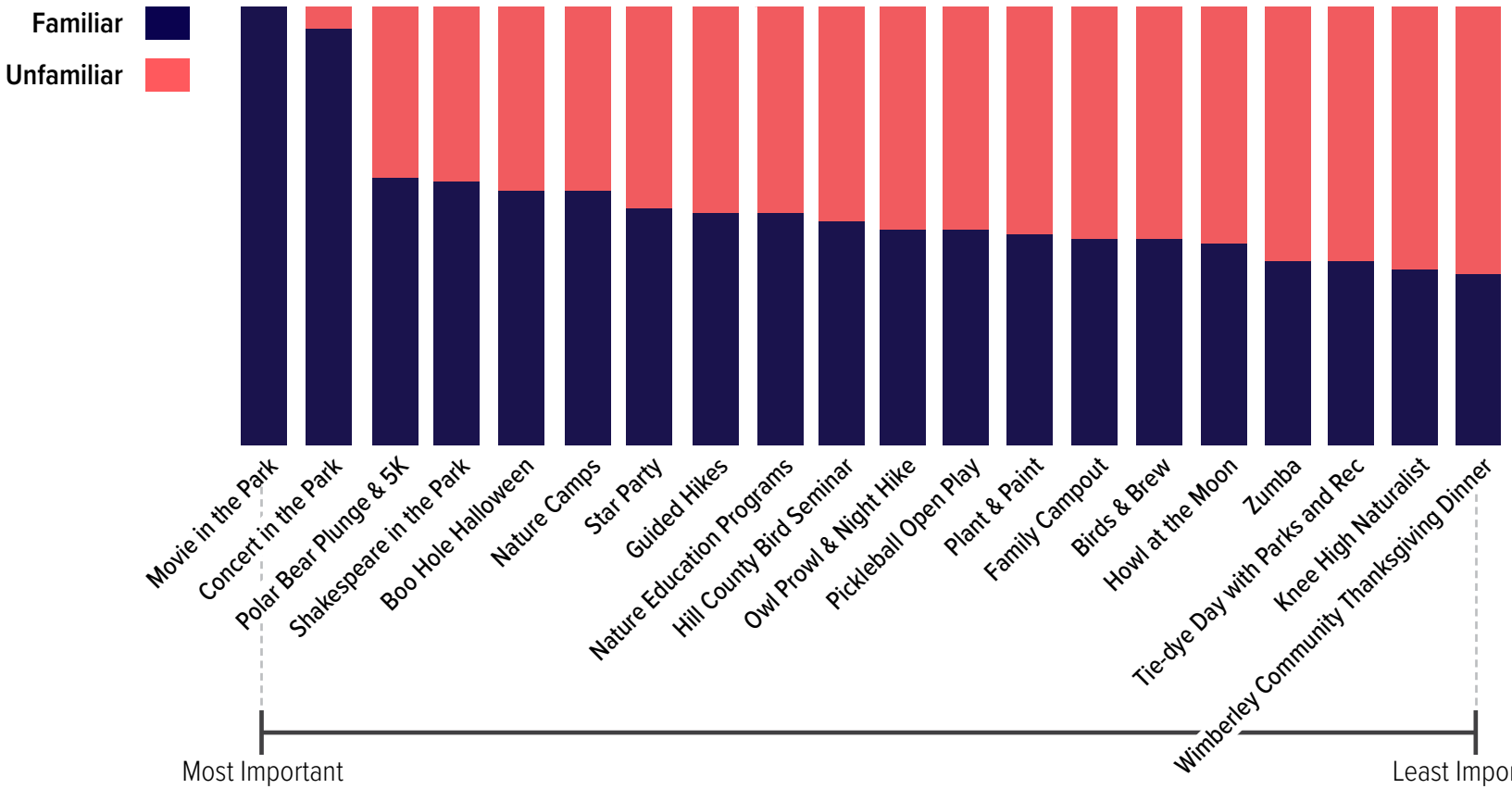
# Program Awareness

Visitors were asked about their familiarity with the programs offered by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department. The programs the visitor respondents were the most unfamiliar with included Howl at the Moon, Tie-dye Day with Parks and Rec, and Zumba.

## Most Familiar Programs:

- Movie in the Park
- Concert in the Park
- Polar Bear Plunge & 5K

*How do you feel about the following programs offered by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department?*



# New Desired Programming

Visitors were asked about the new programs that they would like offered by the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department. The most desired programs included guided hikes, family-friendly events, cookoffs, and sporting events.

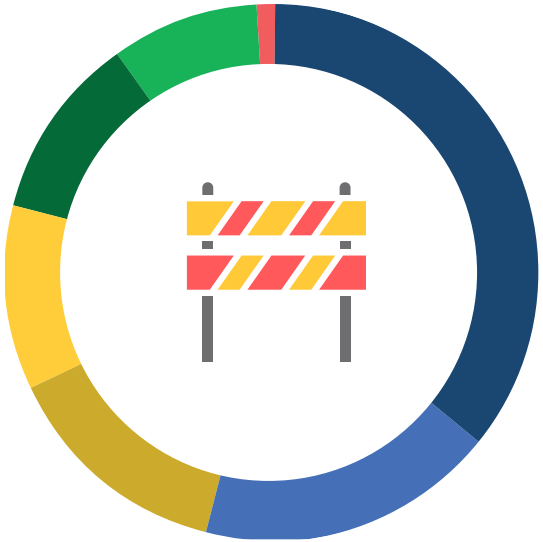
*Are there any programs or special events you would like the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department to offer?*



# Park Barriers

Visitors were asked about the barriers to the Wimberley Parks System. The most common barriers identified by the visitor respondents included the distance they had to travel as well as parking concerns.

*What is the biggest BARRIER preventing you from utilizing the Wimberley Park System more?*



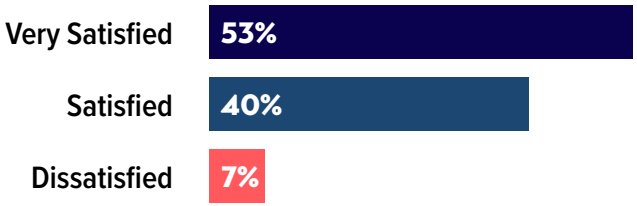
- **Distance to travel (36%)**
- **Other (18%)**
- **Limited parking (14%)**
- **Lack of advertisement (11%)**
- **The existing facilities and programs don't meet your recreational needs (11%)**
- **Hours of operation (9%)**
- **Lack of access (1%)**

***The survey included a category on safety which garnered zero responses.**

# Park Signage

Visitors were asked about their satisfaction with the current signage. The visitor respondents primarily (93%) stated they were satisfied or very satisfied with existing signage.

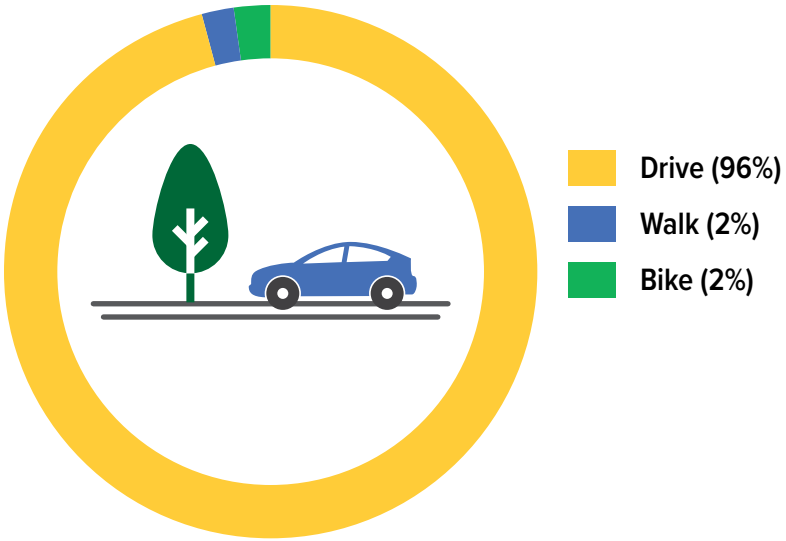
*How would you rate park signage (directional and educational)?*




# Method of Transportation

Visitors were asked about their transportation to the Parks System. The majority of visitor respondents (96%) stated they drive to a park facility.

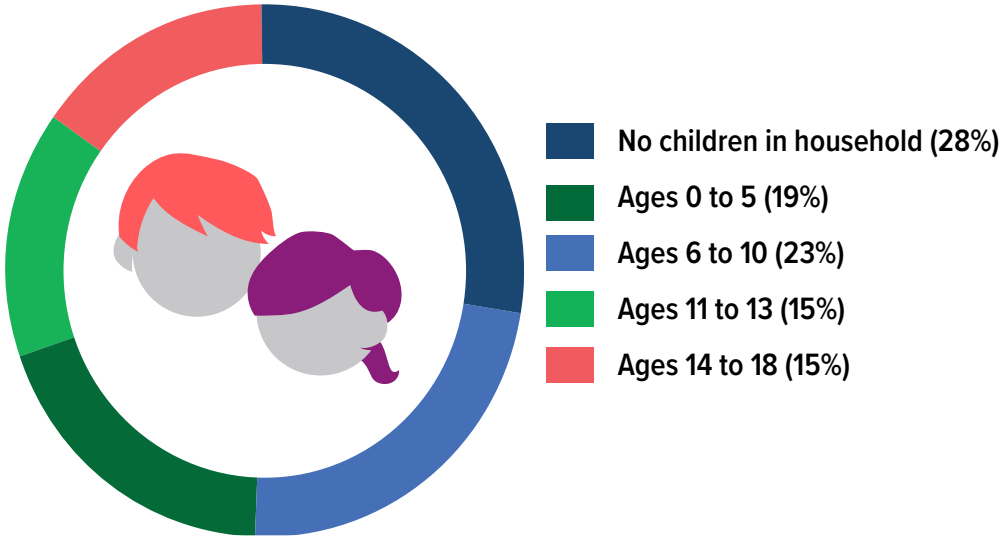
*How do you typically get to a Wimberley park?*



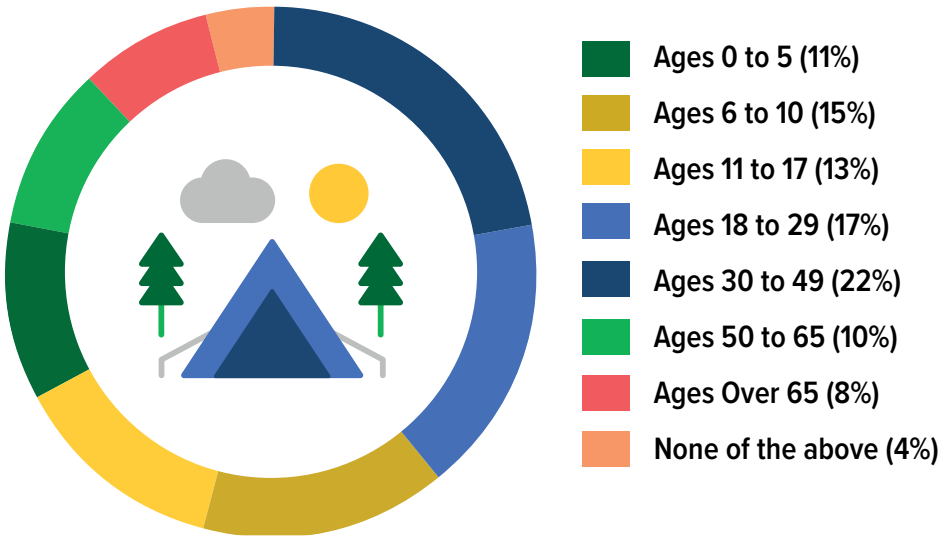
# Youth Groups

Visitors were asked about the age groups that were present in their household. Although no age group had a majority of the responses, the most prevalent responses included no children (29%), 6 to 10 years (23%), and 0 to 5 years (19%).

*Which youth age groups are represented in your household? (Select all that apply)*



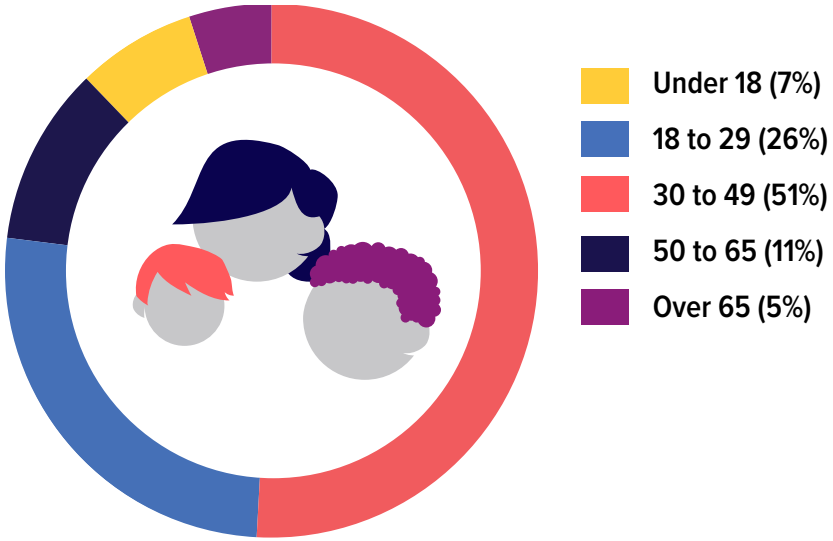

*Which age groups in your household would be interested in participating in a City of Wimberley recreation or leisure program? (Select all that apply)*



# Respondent Age

Visitors were asked about their age when taking the survey to determine if the survey was representative of the community. Although no age groups consisted of a majority of the responses, the most common responses were 30 to 49 years (22%), 18 to 29 (17%), and 6 to 10 (15%).

*What is your age?*




# ZIP Code

Visitors were asked about their ZIP code. The two most frequently responded ZIP codes included San Marcos (78666) and Driftwood (78619).

*What is your ZIP code?*

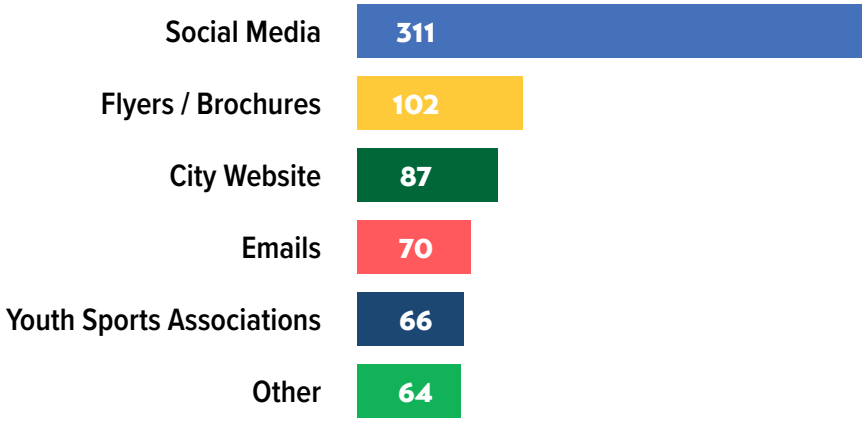


# RESIDENT & VISITOR RESPONSES

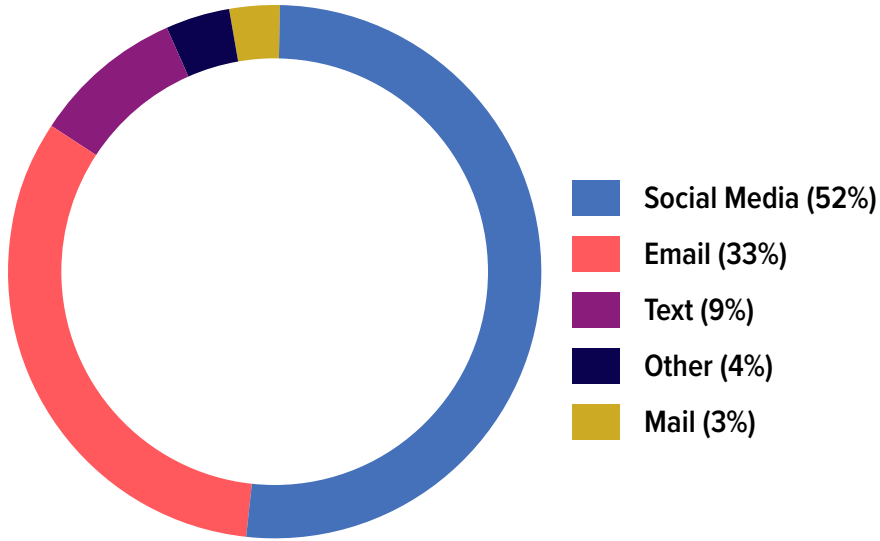
## Promotion

Community members were asked about the promotion and advertisement of the Parks System. The resident and visitor respondents stated they primarily hear about news of Wimberley parks and programs from social media.

*How do you find out about parks, recreation facilities, and recreation programs in Wimberley? (Select all that apply)*



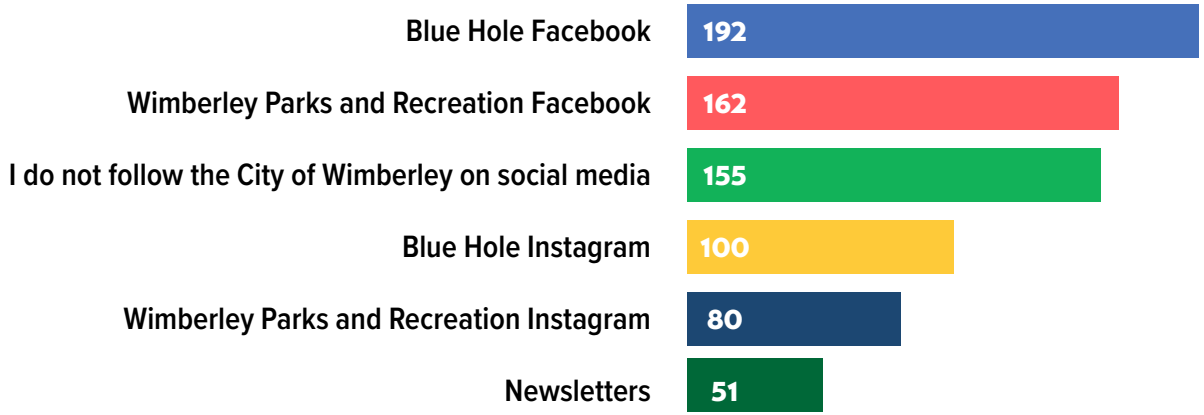

*Which communication channels do you prefer for receiving information about park updates, events and activities?*



# Social Media

Community members were asked about the social media pages they follow for the Wimberley Parks System. The Blue Hole Facebook page was the most common response (45% of all respondents) and then the Wimberley Parks and Recreation Facebook page (38% of all respondents). It is important to note that more than a third of resident and visitor respondents (36%) stated they do not follow the City of Wimberley on social media.

*Do you follow the City of Wimberley Parks and Recreation Department on social media? (Select all that apply)*



# Promotion Enhancements

Community members were asked about improvements to the promotion of the Wimberley Parks System. The most frequent responses included more social media posts, advertising, and a monthly calendar/newsletter.

*What can we do to better promote our parks?*



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