

**CITY OF PLANO**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION PLANNING BOARD**  
**NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Parks and Recreation Planning Board will meet in Executive and Regular Sessions at the Carpenter Park Recreation Center, 6701 Coit Road, Plano, Texas, on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in compliance with Chapter 551, Government Code, V.T.C.A., the Open Meetings Act, to consider the following:

**Executive Session (6:00 p.m.)**

**Discussion Regarding Park Land Acquisition (Govt Code Section 551.072)**

**Regular Session (6:30 p.m.)**

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

*Mission Statement*

*The mission of the Plano Parks and Recreation Planning Board is to provide visionary planning resulting in an outstanding parks and recreation system that positively impacts the quality of life in the Plano community.*

Public Comment

*The Parks and Recreation Planning Board will hear comments of public interest, but any discussion shall be limited to placing the item on a future agenda if appropriate. Remarks are limited to five minutes per speaker.*

1. Approval of Minutes from May 2, 2017 Parks and Recreation Planning Board Meeting
2. Discussion Regarding Proposed Improvements at Steeplechase Park
3. Discussion Regarding the Park Master Plan
4. Staff and Board Reports
  - a. Park Improvement Projects
  - b. Parks Division Update
  - c. Recreation Division Update/Special Events

5. Parks and Recreation Spotlight: Carpenter Park Recreation Center
6. Items for Future Agendas
7. Adjournment

Council Liaisons: Council Members Kayci Prince and Rick Smith

**The Carpenter Park Recreation Center is wheelchair accessible. A sloped curb entry is available at the north side of the building and special parking is also available. Requests for sign interpreters or special services must be received forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting time. These services can be secured by calling the Parks and Recreation Department's Administrative Coordinator at 972-941-7250.**

**City of Plano  
Parks and Recreation Planning Board  
July 18, 2017 Meeting**

**Agenda Item 1**

***Approval of Minutes from May 2, 2017 Parks and Recreation  
Planning Board Meeting***

**Summary of Item**

The minutes from the May 2, 2017 meeting are included in your packet for your review and approval.

**Action Requested**

Approval.

**Staff Resource**

Susan Berger

**Time Allotted**

5 minutes (6:30 – 6:35 p.m.)

**Parks and Recreation Planning Board**  
**Regular Session**  
**May 2, 2017**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Richard Horne, Chair  
Brian Bascom (arrived 6:35)  
Donna de Chabert  
Doug Shockey  
Pam Weaver

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Paul Naquin  
Drew Wight

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robin Reeves, Parks and Recreation Director  
Colette Hall, Recreation Services Manager  
Ron Smith, Park Services Manager  
Renee Jordan, Chief Park Planner

Richard Horne, Parks and Recreation Planning Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at the Oak Point Park Nature and Retreat Center, 5901 Los Rios Blvd., Plano, Texas. A quorum was present.

Chairperson Horne led the Pledge of Allegiance.

No one appeared to speak during the Comments of Public Interest agenda item.

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2017 meeting was made by Pam Weaver, seconded by Doug Shockey, and approved 4-0.

Board Members discussed the proposed easement on the north side of Plano Parkway adjacent to the west side of Pittman Creek. After discussion the Board recommended 5-0 accepting half the easement to facilitate long-range connections under Plano Parkway and having this reflected on the updated Park Master Plan.

Carrie Little, Director of Emergency Management, requested to use a portion of Parkwood Green Park for a siren easement. The Department of

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Emergency Management procured a study by American Communications that identified the need for six additional emergency sirens to enhance coverage throughout the City. Parkwood Green Park is the only property available in the appropriate location for an underserved and growing area. After discussion the Board determined the request met all requirements and there is no alternative to this project. A motion was made to recommend the installation of an outdoor warning siren at Parkwood Green Park by Richard Horne, seconded by Donna de Chabert, and approved 5-0. Renee Jordan reported that this item will proceed to a Chapter 26 hearing at a future City Council meeting.

Renee Jordan, Chief Park Planner, presented the findings of The Trust for Public Land's study that was conducted to explore the economic benefits provided by the City's parks and recreation system. Renee reported the purpose of the study was to provide information to Board Members, elected officials and residents about the economic value of the City's parks and recreation system.

Renee Jordan presented an overview of the 2017 bond program. The material is posted on the City's web site. She also reported there are no tax implications if all propositions are approved by voters.

Renee Jordan reviewed the proposed Community Investment Program and reported that the list was almost identical as the list of projects presented at the April meeting.

Renee Jordan provided updates on various park improvement projects. She reported the design of improvements to Bluebonnet Trail is almost complete; the project will include replacement of trail between Alma to Blue Ridge and a pedestrian activated signal at Alma. Work is continuing at Buckhorn Park; the fishing pier at Shawnee Park is planned for replacement. The opening ceremony for the Stimpson and Drake Park is tentatively scheduled for June 17. Renee distributed a map of future improvements at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve; current work began in March.

Colette Hall, Recreation Services Manager, provided an overview of upcoming special events. Colette reported the pools are opening for the season on June 3. Of special note is the Senior Wellness and Information Fair at the Senior Recreation Center. A new program is being offered at the Tom Muehlenbeck Recreation Center entitled Moonlight Mondays to increase attendance on Monday evenings. The Recreation Division is again participating in the World's Largest Swimming Lesson; this year's event will be held at the Jack Carter Pool.

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Colette Hall discussed recreation center memberships. She reported that 10 percent of memberships are non-residents. There are three fees – resident, PISD/Work in Plano, and non-resident. Colette also reported that overall cost recovery is at 78 percent but will drop slightly when the new pool opens at Carpenter Park Recreation Center due to operating costs of the new pool; Oak Point Recreation Center is at approximately 70 percent due to the size of the pool.

Renee Jordan reported that paddling at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve pond will be available to the public beginning June 14; as a class, a rental on certain days, or bring your own.

Future agendas items will include a follow-up concerning the athletic study and partnerships.

Nothing further was discussed. Chairperson Horne adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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Richard Horne, Chair

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Date

**City of Plano  
Parks and Recreation Planning Board  
July 18, 2017 Meeting**

**Agenda Item 2**

***Discussion Regarding Proposed Improvements  
at Steeplechase Park***

**Summary of Item**

St. Andrews United Methodist Church is proposing to fund construction of improvements at Steeplechase Park. A copy of the proposed plan is included in your packet. Representatives from the church will be at your meeting to make a presentation. Area residents may also attend the meeting.

An agreement between the City and the church would need City Council approval if the project is to proceed.

**Action Requested**

Discussion/Board Recommendations

**Staff Resource**

Robin Reeves

**Time Allotted**

40 minutes (6:35-7:15)



# Memorandum

**Date:** July 7, 2017

**To:** Parks and Recreation Planning Board

**From:** Robin Reeves, Director of Parks and Recreation

**Subject:** Steeplechase Park – St. Andrew United Methodist Church Proposed Donation

Attached is a plan for proposed improvements at Steeplechase Park. St. Andrew United Methodist Church proposes to fund the majority of the improvements, including a parking lot. Based on the preliminary concept plan, the estimated cost of the improvements is between \$1,100,000 and \$1,400,000. All of the improvements would be the property of the City of Plano and be available to the general public on a first come first served basis. People attending the church would have the same opportunity to use the parking lot as the rest of the public. The City would manage the design and construction of the improvements. Church staff believes that their alternative is to build a parking garage on church property.

St. Andrew United Methodist Church first approached the City about the possibility of purchasing a portion of Steeplechase Park for the purpose of constructing a parking lot to serve church attendees. In exchange, the church is willing to fund substantial improvements to the park. The City cannot sell public park land without a public referendum. Staff does not believe that the sale of park land or granting an easement to the church for a parking lot should be considered. Granting an easement for a purpose other than public park purposes would require a finding that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use or taking of the park land. We do not believe that finding would apply in this case.

Staff believes that there is a need for sand volleyball courts west of Preston Road. Pickleball is also a rapidly growing sport. Pickleball is currently being played in our recreation centers but demand exceeds the available court space. A parking lot at Steeplechase Park makes it possible to facilitate these two activities at this park. Other park locations west of Preston Road that could be considered for sand volleyball and pickleball courts include Arbor Hills Nature Preserve, Windhaven Meadows Park and Old Shepard Place Park. Staff believes that Steeplechase Park may provide the best opportunity available to provide these types of improvements in that area of the City.

Steeplechase Park is classified as a Neighborhood Park. It is the largest standalone neighborhood park in the city at 18.75 acres. The average size of a neighborhood park is between 5 and 10 acres. Neighborhood parks are generally intended to serve residents within one square mile of the park. Like most neighborhood parks, the largest single use is for youth sports practices during the fall and spring sports seasons. These practices typically bring residents into neighborhood parks from beyond the one square mile radius. Most neighborhood parks do not have off street parking lots. Park users typically park on the streets adjacent to the park; this is the current situation at Steeplechase Park.

**July 7, 2017**

**Subject:** Steeplechase Park – St. Andrew United Methodist Church Proposed Donation

Representatives from the church along with City staff met with area residents on June 29 to discuss the proposed improvements. Concerns expressed by some residents include the following:

- The proposed improvements will encourage use of the park by more residents from outside of the neighborhood.
- Noise and lighting from the proposed courts and the addition of restrooms were a concern for some residents. Some are concerned that the addition of the parking lot could be a first step in adding lighted soccer and baseball game fields to the park in the future. There are no plans to have lighted sports fields at the park. That would require a change in the City's overall Park Master Plan.

The proposed improvements could provide needed recreational amenities at very little cost to the City saving taxpayers over \$1,000,000. Staff supports the proposed improvement plan.

A member of St. Andrew United Methodist Church will attend your July 11 meeting to make a presentation concerning this proposal. Area residents may also attend the meeting. Ultimately, this project will require an agreement between the City and the church and likely require City Council approval. A revised site plan for the park will also need approval.



July 11, 2017

# STEEPLCHASE PARK

**City of Plano  
Parks and Recreation Planning Board  
July 18, 2017 Meeting**

**Agenda Item 3**

*Discussion Regarding the Park Master Plan*

**Summary of Item**

An updated Park Master Plan is being developed. The consultant will present on the topic and request input from Board Members.

**Action Requested**

Discussion.

**Staff Resource**

Renee Jordan

**Time Allotted**

90 minutes (7:15 – 8:45 p.m.)

**City of Plano  
Parks and Recreation Planning Board  
July 18, 2017 Meeting**

**Agenda Item 4**

*Staff and Board Reports*

**Summary of Item**

Staff and Board reports will be provided on the following:

- a. Park Improvement Projects
- b. Parks Division Update
- c. Recreation Division Update/Special Events

**Action Requested**

None.

**Staff Resource**

- a. Renee Jordan
- b. Ron Smith
- c. Colette Hall

**Time Allotted**

15 minutes (8:45 – 9:00 p.m.)

**City of Plano  
Parks and Recreation Planning Board  
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**Agenda Item 5**

***Parks and Recreation Spotlight:  
Carpenter Park Recreation Center***

**Summary of Item**

Staff will provide a tour of improvements at Carpenter Park Recreation Center.

**Action Requested**

None

**Staff Resource**

Colette Hall

**Time Allotted**

15 minutes (9:00 – 9:15 p.m.)

**City of Plano  
Parks and Recreation Planning Board  
July 18, 2017 Meeting**

**Agenda Item 6**

*Items for Future Agendas*

**Summary of Item**

Identify items for future agenda items.

**Action Requested**

Discussion

**Board Members**

**Time Allotted**

5 minutes (9:15 – 9:20 p.m.)

**CITY OF PLANO  
PARKS AND RECREATION PLANNING BOARD**

**For Your Information**

**From:** Henry Guttormson <[ghgutt@gmail.com](mailto:ghgutt@gmail.com)>

**Date:** May 16, 2017 at 12:22:34 PM CDT

**To:** Robin Reeves <[robinr@plano.gov](mailto:robinr@plano.gov)>

**Cc:** Tom Harrison <[tomharrison@plano.gov](mailto:tomharrison@plano.gov)>, Ron Kelley <[ronkelley@plano.gov](mailto:ronkelley@plano.gov)>

**Subject:** Parks Dept Planning meeting: May 2, 2017-Overland Trail linking issue

Hi Robin:

The Park Planning board's decision to divide the Overland Trail southern easement has me feeling that no change has occurred since I brought this subject up a few months ago. Dividing the easement such that the Scott residence is now not directly in contact with the Overland Trail park property is of insignificant consequence to the entire neighborhood that is either adjacent or connected to the park land. There is a fellow who has a residence on the south-eastern corner of the park (end of Quill Dr) whose property and house is actually more exposed to the subject easement and hence any park connection pathway would be right outside of his driveway. He could not speak at any of your meetings as he is a single father that works long hours....but he feels the same as the Scott's do about this easement and their property.

The fundamental problem is that you and your staff and board want to make a link with some future park on the south side of Plano Pkwy and introduce new foot and bicycle traffic onto our park, and hence construction features onto the park which we do not want. Listening to you and the staff and board speak at some of these meetings I have attended makes it clear to me, that I (and my neighbors), have a philosophical difference as to what the objectives of the Parks and Rec is concerning linking and connecting parks. Your board and staff mention repeatedly that the reason for these park connections is to give our neighborhood access to retail shopping and eating. We are not requesting this, and furthermore we do not believe it is your department's business to make decisions of shopping convenience for any neighborhood. Even if the majority of people in my neighborhood that are not adjacent to Overland Trail would want this connection for shopping convenience, they cannot make this decision over the objections of the people that live on the Trail as the effects to their property would reduce attractiveness and resale. You cannot make decisions that have real effect on a few individuals over the perceived desires of a lot of people and government officials who will either never use the link or use it so infrequently that is inconsequential or unmeasurable to their quality of life.

Please inform me of the following:

1. How and when can I get a map showing how the subject easement is going to be platted after this recent meeting?
2. What is the process your department uses to decide if and when you are going to have a linking of existing park land?

Regards,  
Henry Guttormson  
469-200-4253

June 21, 2017

The following summary serves as a follow-up to the Board's request for additional comments on Plano's status regarding recommendations found in the *Regional Study of Sports* presented to the Board by Ballard\*King & Associates in October 2016.

## **REGIONAL STUDY of SPORTS**

**Recommendations to each of the five cities involved in the study are as follows with comments relative to Plano:**

### **FIELD DEMAND CALCULATIONS**

**Study Recommendation: Difficult to establish field demands on a regional basis.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano's athletic staff feels that the only cure in this regard is regionally operated sports organizations for some sports, especially competitive leagues, with recreationally-focused programs offered locally within each of the Five-Cities.*

**Study Recommendation: Calculate number of fields per 1,000 population.**

**Plano's Status: Does Not Meet**

*Other than Plano's ball field inventory which is static at 69, it is difficult to measure Plano's rectangular fields per 1,000 population due to flexibility of the spaces. Plano's spring and fall sports seasons typically number 125 to 130 fields (combined diamonds/rectangular fields in use) and in the summer season the number of programmed ball fields is typically 50 with the remainder offered as practice space for reservations. Plano's athletic staff considers the flexibility a benefit to citizens and taxpayers since the same spaces can be programmed for multiple uses, however, this practice makes it difficult to establish meaningful comparisons and benchmarks.*

**Study Recommendation: Compare with other communities.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano's athletic staff stays abreast of regional trends and the needs of regional organizations that have Plano citizens as participants. Plano has found it difficult to find other cities with similar athletic inventories and populations. The closest to Plano in North Texas is Arlington, a city with a population more than 100,000 than Plano, but with park acreage comparable to Plano.*

**Study Recommendation: Classify fields into 3 categories:**

- **Diamond**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Diamonds in Plano (69) are numbered and used for baseball, softball or kickball.*

- **Rectangular**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Rectangular fields in Plano are called sports turf fields and accommodate soccer, football, lacrosse, cricket or rugby.*

- **Multipurpose**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Multi-purpose fields in Plano comprise the majority of the sports field inventory. Conventional multi-purpose fields accommodate baseball/softball with rectangular fields in the outfields; these sites are Archgate Park, Carpenter Park, Cheyenne Park, Harrington Park, High Point Park, Old Shepard's Place Park, Preston Meadow Park and Schell Park. Single-purpose athletic parks are Enfield (baseball) and Horseshoe Park (cricket). Some parks are multi-purpose in Plano in the sense that the open space can be used for any rectangular purpose such as Hoblitzelle Park (football/lacrosse/rugby), Jack Carter Park (soccer/football/lacrosse), and Russell Creek Park (soccer/cricket). Some parks are multi-purpose in that baseball, softball and kickball can be accommodated; these parks are Frito Lay – Pepsi Championship Ball Park, Heritage Yards at Plano and Sgt. Mike McCreary Sports Fields. Plano feels that its athletic-oriented community parks should not be labeled as sport specific.*

**Study Recommendation: Classify by:**

- **Practice**

*Plano categorizes practice into two types of reservations: general public and casual use. General public practices are available in-season for an administrative fee of \$15 for a 90-minute window. These practices can be made on a walk-in basis, telephone, e-mail or on the City's website. Casual use reservations are \$40 for two hours and exist for accommodation of scrimmages, challenge games and reservations for field space by businesses, clubs, organizations and other non-athletic groups. Lighting is not included in the reservations and costs \$40 per hour when applicable. Field availability changes week-to-week because practice fields exist due to space not scheduled by local leagues. Casual use reservations may be made at any time if the inventory exists for accommodation. Attendance is also tracked.*

- **Game**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Games are tracked for leagues in a separate category by Plano. Fields allocated to sports organizations may be scheduled for games or practices and submitted for coordination by the City by 5 p.m. each Tuesday for the following Monday through Sunday period. Plano's charge for league-scheduled games/practices is the same at \$7 per hour, but lighting is differentiated at \$20 per hour for games and \$40 per hour for practices. Allowing sports organizations to schedule practices for their teams provides convertibility for associations when there is a need to play a make-up game by cancelling the practice. Attendance in this category is tracked.*

- **Tournament**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Tournaments are tracked and programmed on surplus space during sports seasons and before, after and between sports seasons. Participation, game counts and attendance is tracked and used to evaluate site impact and economic impact.*

**Study Recommendation: Role of ISD fields and other providers.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano ISD, John Paul II High School, Prestonwood Baptist, The Pit (formerly Dynamic Sports Park) and Liverpool Soccer Club (Custer Road United Methodist) often accommodate practices and games of local and regional club and select groups in which space isn't available from the City of Plano. Overflow from activities at these venues are available at City parks when available.*

## **FIELD ALLOCATION**

**Study Recommendation: Priorities**

- **Internal use**

**Plano's Status: Does not meet**

*Internal groups in Plano must qualify for athletic spaces allocated and are treated the same as external groups in terms of scheduling and support. Internal groups pay the same fees and charges as external groups.*

- **Youth sports**

**Plano's Status: Does not meet**

*Youth and adult sports are treated the same in Plano; Parks and Recreation views youth and adult as "participants" and feels that prioritizing one over the other is a form of discrimination, which is not allowed per Plano's Code of Ordinances for athletics.*

- **Adult sports**

**Plano's Status: Does not meet**

*Youth and adult sports are treated the same in Plano; Parks and Recreation views youth and adult as "participants" and feels that prioritizing one over the other is a form of discrimination, which is not allowed per Plano's Code of Ordinances for athletics.*

**Study Recommendation: Other**

- **Recreation over competitive**

**Plano's Status: Does not meet**

*Plano's system does not differentiate recreation from competitive... each is viewed as a "participant."*

- **Approved youth over non-recognized**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano's allocation process factors approved youth groups over non-recognized.*

**Study Recommendation: Establish a process for sports organizations to be recognized.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Article III in Chapter 15 of Plano's Code of Ordinances contains criteria to be recognized for operating local leagues. Organizations that are recognized are accommodated each sports season before non-recognized. Typically, non-recognized groups operate regionally or do not meet all of the criteria required by the Code of Ordinances.*

**Study Recommendation: Establish primary and secondary seasons per sport.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Article III in Chapter 15 of Plano's Code of Ordinances establishes primary and secondary sports in each sports season. Primary sports are accommodated before secondary sports, and secondary sports are facilitated before surplus requests.*

**Study Recommendation: Determine max number of practices/games week and season.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano has adopted standards for field use which couples with field/park development. Rather than number of games, Plano uses time to determine the number of games/practices weekly since each age group and sport may use different times for scheduling intervals. Basically, Plano allows rectangular fields to be used a maximum of 24 hours in a seven-day period over the course of a sports season not to exceed 12 weeks nor less than 8 weeks. Typically, Plano's sports seasons run 10 weeks in length with adjustments made periodically due to fluctuations in annual calendars.*

**Study Recommendation: Must approve any expansion of seasons/age groups/sports, etc.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Article III in Chapter 15 of Plano's Code of Ordinances addresses sports seasons and the role of Parks and Recreation in administration of the athletic inventory.*

**Study Recommendation: Establish a Youth Sports Council.**

**Plano's Status: Does Not Meet**

*Athletic staff in Plano meets a minimum of four times annually with all user groups and does not see the need for the formation of a Youth Sports Council.*

**Study Recommendation: Must address the needs of travel teams.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Travel teams with Plano participation are eligible to make practice reservations on ball fields and rectangular fields, and reserve fields for games or scrimmages. Access is on a space available basis week-to-week after local league needs have been satisfied. Plano frequently accommodates tournaments for travel teams in a variety of sports as space allows. Club and select team requests for recurring practice space is denied at this time, and athletic staff is researching the possibility of recurring access as synthetic surfaces emerge.*

**Study Recommendation: Establish a non-compliance protocol.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano's Code of Ordinances contains a chapter dedicated to athletics and includes a protocol for non-compliance by individuals and/or organizations.*

**Study Recommendation: Emerging sports will require fields and a more regional approach.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano's ordinances for athletic operations requires that space in the park inventory and manpower for support is available before approving new sports or requests. Existing requests that are not approved at this time are for ultimate and parkour. Athletic staff has encouraged each group to participate in master plan processes, and in the meantime be content to access space on a surplus basis week-to-week. However, this practice doesn't allow for meaningful recreational experiences, but it does protect existing programs and field uses from being reduced.*

**Study Recommendation: Enforcement of field allocation policies will require Field Marshals.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Field Service Specialists (FSS) exist in Plano that provide support to athletic programs including education to citizens about ordinances and park rules in an effort to deter conflicts of park use. There are three Field Service Specialists that also support dog parks, the future skate park, and calls for assistance at non-athletic park sites. All three FSS work on peak days such as Saturdays and are scheduled based on activity levels on other days. Plano police are available for any incident that can't be resolved by a FSS at an athletic site and may result in the issuance of a criminal trespass. FSS alerts athletic administrative staff for resolving allocation or scheduling issues by sports organizations when discovered.*

## **FIELD SCHEDULING**

**Study Recommendation: Move away from block/exclusive use.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*A change in Plano's Code of Ordinances in 2011 removed exclusivity from the allocation of sports fields. Plano's recognized sports groups receive a priority in scheduling, but any surplus is programmed for*

*practices, casual uses or tournaments. During each sports season, sports groups submit schedules by 5 p.m. Tuesday for the following Monday through Sunday period. Fields or time slots not utilized by leagues are made available to the general public for practices, or on weekends to tournament organizers. This process has enabled Plano to grow participation from 58,000 in 2011 to 72,000 in 2016, and attendance from 1.3 million in 2011 to 2.1 million in 2016. Local sports groups in Plano prefer exclusivity, but recognize the overall benefit to the Plano community.*

**Study Recommendation: Cities should schedule fields on a day, time and per field basis.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano's fields are scheduled in this manner.*

**Study Recommendation: Priority for practices, games and then tournaments.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Weekday practices and weekday practices/games are programmed by Plano prior to tournaments with the exception of pre-empt scheduling afforded to Visit Plano by Article III in Chapter 15 of Plano's Code of Ordinances. Visit Plano is allowed to pre-empt league scheduling once each sports season at each park site for accommodating tournaments with recognized economic benefit to the community.*

**Study Recommendation: Avoid designation of fields by sport. Promote multi-use.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*The majority of Plano's athletic inventory is multi-purpose by design and philosophy. Soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby and cricket play on rectangles categorized as sports turf fields. Baseball and softball play on diamonds. Very few sport-specific fields exist in the inventory.*

**Study Recommendation: Schedule or designate practice fields.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Fields allocated to sports organizations may be scheduled for games or practices, however, there are some fields in Plano that are termed "game only." These fields are Carpenter #7/#8 ball fields, four sports turf fields at Russell Creek Park that receive enhanced maintenance practices, and the Frito Lay / Pepsi Championship Ball Park. Fields not allocated seasonally are subject to practice reservations through Parks and Recreation. Practice-only areas exist at neighborhood parks on a first-come, first-serve basis. Some athletic sites have seasonal drop-in practice areas. Additional practice spaces are needed based on demand which will be aided by the introduction in the future of synthetic surfaces at six existing fields.*

**Study Recommendation: Utilize a common field scheduling software package.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano uses a spreadsheet to coordinate athletic operations and maintenance support. Plano's athletic staff supports the idea of a common field scheduling program shared by the Five Cities.*

**Study Recommendation: Will require greater resources to accomplish.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano's athletic administration exceeds that of each of the Five-Cities and is unique for its population due to its operational philosophies of providing turn-key facilities and fields to leagues, practices and tournaments, disciplined scheduling to make effective and efficient use of the field inventory, long term planning, economic benefit cooperation, and being pro-active in managing conflict. Plano's athletic administration consists of a superintendent, one assistant superintendent for*

*maintenance/renovations/development, one supervisor for athletic programming, one athletic coordinator to service leagues, one athletic coordinator to service tournaments, camps, clinics and operations of the Frito Lay / Pepsi Championship Ball Park, and one part-time administrative assistant for processing field reservations. There are also three Field Service Specialists that work evenings and weekends in support of activity in the parks and for coordination of enforcement of rules and ordinances.*

**Study Recommendation: Coordinate scheduling on a regional basis.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Scheduling coordination exists at the organization level, but not by parks departments other than tournaments. Plano's athletic staff supports the initiative.*

## **FIELD MAINTENANCE**

**Study Recommendation: Each community should have a specific field maintenance plan.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano's athletic group is organized into three functional areas: Administrative, Athletic Fields (ball fields/sports field set-ups), and Sports Turf. Ball fields and sports turf fields have established maintenance plans that include mowing, trimming, watering, aeration, fertilization, chemical treatments, top dressing, sodding, use of amendments, dragging, marking with chalk, painted markings, field establishment, etc.*

**Study Recommendation: Attempt to develop field maintenance best practices on a regional basis.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano's athletic staff feels that training availability for ball fields is inadequate and focuses on professional, collegiate and high school fields rather than the unique attributes of multiple fields in a municipal setting. Plano feels that each city would benefit from establishing regional training annually that would ultimately standardize best practices within the region. Training opportunities for sports turf fields is currently met in Plano's opinion in regional and statewide conferences.*

**Study Recommendation: Establish a regional purchasing plan if possible.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Each of the Five-Cities is involved in a purchasing group that enables sharing of contracts. Plano's athletic staff supports the concept of regional purchasing among the Five-Cities, but recognizes the ability to purchase on the buying power of the Five-Cities is not within the scope of parks and recreation entities.*

**Study Recommendation: Use dedicated crews for field maintenance.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano's crews are distinct in the maintenance of ball fields, sports field and ball field establishment, and care of sports turf including irrigation. There are 12 workers for ball fields and field establishment, and 17 workers for sport turf and irrigation maintenance.*

**Study Recommendation: Consider contracting out some services.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Each of Plano's functional areas contracts some of its maintenance responsibilities. Two-thirds of Plano's sports turf inventory is mowed by contractual resources. Plano's ball field and field establishment group*

*is aided by contractors performing marking and painting of sports fields, primarily large fields. Once established, local sports organization use contractual resources to maintain the markings or chalk the ball fields.*

**Study Recommendation: Determine possible future roles and expectations from the user groups.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano's athletic staff meets four times annually with user groups to stay abreast of needs and expectations, and to involve the groups in master planning. These meetings also serve to allocate the fields on a seasonal basis and to discuss the City's ordinances related to athletics, renovations, development, trends, etc.*

**Study Recommendation: Playability of fields is up to the city and umpire/officials.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano's athletic staff makes the call after rain on week days prior to 2 p.m. Weekends and weekdays after 2 p.m. are the responsibility of sports organizations in consultation with Plano's athletic staff. Due to size of the inventory of 69 ball fields and up to 99 sports turf fields, it is not possible for the City to make field-by-field calls on playability without the assistance of the sports leagues.*

## **GENERAL**

**Study Recommendation: The Five-Cities will need to establish a formal Five-Cities Athletic Fields Council.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano's athletic staff is in agreement that such a council benefits each city and the region.*

**Study Recommendation: The Council should update the field inventory annually.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano agrees to cooperate in this initiative. Athletic inventories of the cities are evolving and an annual need to update exists in order to development priorities of development and to assist in facilitation of regionally-based programs.*

**Study Recommendation: The Council should establish a field data base.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano agrees to cooperate in this initiative.*

**Study Recommendation: Long term there should be the ability to view actual field use on-line.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano currently tracks each field in its inventory on a weekly basis to assist in maintenance, support functions and to visually recognize opportunities for general public practices and tournament facilitation. A regional approach could provide the same benefit to the Five-Cities.*

**Study Recommendation: May need to have a third party to manage the data base.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano agrees with the recommendation because the athletic staffs of each of the Five-Cities is encumbered with day-to-day operations.*

**Study Recommendation: Establish field maintenance best practices.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano feels that its practices are among the best for municipal governments and agrees to share its expertise, or learn, from a spirit of cooperation in developing sustainable best practices.*

**Study Recommendation: Work to compete for large regional and national tournaments.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Organizations among the Five Cities currently cooperate on large-scale events, but not at the governmental level. Plano's athletic staff feels that a North Texas Sports Commission could serve in a coordinating role in working with area convention and visitor bureaus such as Visit Plano in attracting tournaments that benefit the Five Cities.*

## **FIELD DEVELOPMENT**

**Study Recommendation: The focus should be on:**

- **Rectangular before diamond**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano's inventory of athletic fields is based on a multi-purpose philosophy. Rectangular fields in Plano for soccer, lacrosse, football, rugby, etc. are termed "sports turf fields" and most of these lie in the outfields of ball fields such as High Point Park, or are shared with a cricket overlay such as Russell Creek Park. Plano's philosophy of field development is based on multiple uses of existing spaces in order to facilitate maximum needs. This philosophy is practiced at every opportunity, witnessed by ball fields at Enfield Park and Russell Creek Park in which grass infields for 65-foot base paths and 46-foot pitching are tweaked to also double for Coach Pitch uses at 42-foot pitching and 60-foot base paths. Ball fields at Heritage Yards have been developed for primarily adult softball, but are easily converted to youth girls fast pitch softball or boy's baseball with the addition of temporary pitching mounds and temporary fencing.*

- **Practice before game**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Practice accommodation in Plano is important. Neighborhood parks provide open space for basic practice needs on a drop-in basis. Athletic game fields are also scheduled by associations for their team practices. Spaces not utilized by associations are identified by Parks and Recreation's coordination practices and made available to the general public for practices or casual uses on a reservation basis. Drop-in sites (no reservations required) have been incorporated into several athletic sites to meet the needs for practice space by teams in close proximity. Plano citizens recently passed a bond referendum for synthetic turf that, when built, will provide practice spaces on days and times when grass fields are closed for rest and recovery.*

- **Game before tournament**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Local league games are Plano's priority since these programs serve the local community. Surplus spaces are routinely identified and provided on weekends to tournament organizers. Once each sports season, Plano allows its convention and visitor organization to pre-empt local leagues for tournaments with recognized economic benefit to the community led by the 800-plus team Labor Day Classic soccer tournament. Other than through the pre-empt process, local leagues are not disturbed in the facilitation of tournaments.*

- **Youth over adult**

**Plano's Status: Does Not Meet**

*Plano does not prioritize youth over adult, choosing to recognize each as “participants” treated equally in its allocation process as required by its Code of Ordinances.*

**Study Recommendation: Develop larger sites with multiple fields.**

**Plano’s Status: Meets**

*Plano’s success in its league participation (72,000 annually) and tournament facilitation (more than 100 annually) is made possible by the development of several large complexes that serve as models of efficiencies. Russell Creek Park is the largest of Plano’s athletic-oriented community parks with 22 sports turf fields that double as seven cricket grounds, plus four ball fields. Ball field outfields can also double for 4v4 soccer fields. High Point Park has 11 ball fields that can transition to 12 sports turf fields. Carpenter Park is under renovation and when complete will consist of 13 sports turf fields, and four ball fields. Heritage Yards at Plano has nine ball fields. Enfield Park has eight ball fields. No other city in the North Texas region compares to Plano in terms of athletic facility development and convertibility of its inventory to meet changing needs and trends. The larger sites appeal to leagues and tournaments because they are simply easier and more cost efficient to operate.*

**Study Recommendation: Light all new fields and as many existing as possible.**

**Plano’s Status: Meets**

*Plano’s athletic field philosophy for development meets this recommendation. Only fields targeted for younger age groups like Archgate Park (under 10 years of age) are not lighted. Plano is aggressive with lighting and the renovation of existing lighting. Plano’s recent bond referendum passage funds the lighting of one cricket ground, the first in Plano and only the second in North Texas, which also doubles to light two sports turf fields. Hoblitzelle Park’s original lighting system that is more than 25 years old is being replaced at this time with metal halide lighting. Cheyenne Park’s old high pressure sodium lighting dating back to 1973 is in the design phase to be replaced with metal halide. The newer lighting is more friendly to the night sky and adjacent neighborhoods. Carpenter Park (south) is under renovation which includes a new lighting system. Future development at Moore Park will include field lighting possibly for 12 sports fields overlaid by six cricket grounds.*

**Study Recommendation: Artificial turf fields have a role.**

**Plano’s Status: Meets**

*Plano’s recent bond referendum includes \$8 million for artificial surfaces which will primarily improve practice accessibility, but also accommodate high wear sports like lacrosse. Football benefits from a surface that can be used wet or dry. Plano’s plan for artificial surfaces replaces existing fields at Carpenter and Russell Creek parks. Artificial surfaces also make it possible to provide spaces year-round for sports turf activities when grass surfaces are closed due to dormancy.*

**Study Recommendation: Field development plans should be tracked and reviewed on a regional basis.**

**Plano’s Status: In-Progress**

*Plano’s athletic staff is in agreement with the recommendation that will assist each city in planning for the future. Regionalism in North Texas is manifested in team formation with the exception of the youngest recreational leagues, so planning accordingly by the Five-Cities should be considered. Plano has shared its development model with the Five-Cities in the past which is based on one game/one practice per team on a weekly basis during each sports season, the use of lighting for older age groups (10 years and above) and parking/restroom ratios that mirror programmed use. Plano’s athletic staff used a combination of population and school attendance with participation levels in the various sports averaged over a 5-year period to determine the future needs of fields and land purchases.*

## **ATHLETIC PROGRAMS and TOURNAMENTS**

**Study Recommendation:** Tracking in-house programs by city should be a role for the Athletic Fields Council.

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano tracks leagues, tournaments, clinics, camps, practice reservations, casual uses and tryouts for attendance, economic and utilization purposes including in-house programs operated by the Adult Sports Office in Parks and Recreation. This information is often shared with neighboring cities pending the formation of an Athletic Fields Council.*

**Study Recommendation:** The Five-Cities will be primarily a provider of fields for other organizations.

**Plano's Status: in-Progress**

*Plano fields are routinely accessed by regional leagues and tournaments without the need for formal agreements between cities due to a spirit of cooperation that exists among each cities' sports groups. Plano sports groups also access fields in neighboring communities for home-and-home games or in the course of scheduling regional leagues. Involvement by the Five-Cities would solidify and expand existing relationships.*

**Study Recommendation:** Establish areas of sports focus by city when appropriate.

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano athletic staff agrees that a regional approach to field development among the five cities is beneficial to the needs of each community.*

**Study Recommendation:** For emerging sports there may need to be regional programs.

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano athletic staff agrees that some sports like rugby, lacrosse and cricket may benefit from regionalism in meeting the needs of these sports rather than one city being centric to facilitation.*

**Study Recommendation:** For adult sports consider establishing days/times and fields for programs.

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Adult softball, soccer, kickball and flag football programs in Plano typically operate on fields justified by participation levels and always on certain days and times, and these fields may be shared with youth programs, but not mixed in scheduling. For instance, Heritage Yards facilitates adult softball Mondays through Fridays, but hosts youth softball and baseball tournaments on weekends. At Carpenter Park, youth soccer is the primary user weekdays and Saturdays with adult games on Sundays. This consistency leads to satisfaction by participants in the recreational experience.*

**Study Recommendation:** The Athletic Fields Council should help promote sports tourism through tournaments. An economic study of tournaments should be completed.

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*The Trust for Public Land recently examined Plano's tourism relative to outdoor athletic tournaments and placed a value of \$533 million on the economic impact for FY15-16. Plano's athletic field utilization strategy prioritizes local league play while *also* providing access to tournament organizations resulting in local and regional business vitality plus associated economic impact.*

**Study Recommendation:** Consider establishing a North Dallas Sports Commission.

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano is a member of the Dallas Sports Commission. Plano athletic staff feels that the formation of a new group focusing on suburbs north of Dallas including Richardson, Plano, Allen, Frisco and McKinney could be of mutual benefit in tourism and economic impact. Visit Plano has been approached with the concept.*

**Study Recommendation: The Athletic Fields Council must address the needs of the travel teams on a regional basis.**

**Plano's Status: In-Progress**

*Plano recognizes a growing trend in clubs and select teams within each sport and the league model typically does not function in accommodating these teams. Plano's answer has been to provide field access for select/club practices on a space available basis after local league game/practice needs have been satisfied and to work with various area tournament organizers to provide recreational opportunities to club/select groups primarily in baseball, softball, soccer, football and cricket. This ability has the added benefit of economic benefit to the Plano community. In principal, Plano's model can function elsewhere to the mutual benefit of the Five-Cities and region.*

## **ROLE OF OTHER PROVIDERS**

**Study Recommendation: Need to explore possible greater use of ISD fields.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano has a history of cooperation with the Plano Independent School District and local private schools. The latest agreement in 2017 provides space at Old Shepard's Place Park for PISD programs in exchange for access to scheduling the football field at Hendrick Middle School which will help in the operation of various sports programs at the adjacent Hoblitzelle Park.*

**Study Recommendation: Track college/university fields and their use by outside groups.**

**Plano's Status: Not applicable**

*Opportunities in Plano do not exist due to a lack of athletic fields owned by Collin College. Plano's cooperation with the University of Texas at Dallas has resulted in access granted to Plano-based organizations for tournaments that benefit the region.*

**Study Recommendation: Fields and facilities that are being provided by ASA, PSA and SVAA need to be recognized and integrated into a long range plan for fields.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*PSA is reliant upon the City of Plano for its playing fields and has nothing to offer at this time, but is being looked at for leadership in regional solutions to field issues.*

**Study Recommendation: Consider allowing youth sports organizations to lease land to develop and maintain their own fields.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano allows local sports organizations to improve existing fields for the benefit of respective membership, but agreements may not be exclusive. Plano is willing to entertain proposals in this regard for undeveloped land earmarked for athletics. Due to an impact on operations and maintenance, the addition of privately-funded fields must also include an O&M provision.*

**Study Recommendation: Private organizations that have their own fields also need to be included.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Fields at The Pit, Prestonwood Baptist, John Paul II High School and Custer Road United Methodist Church (Liverpool Soccer Club) are routinely accessed by Plano organizations to meet their scheduling and practice needs.*

## **FEES and FUNDING**

**Study Recommendation: Consideration should be given to increasing the fees for field use and maintenance.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Fees and charges were revised by Plano in budget year 2012-13 for leagues, shifting away from individual user fees to team-based fees coupled with hourly reservation fees and charges for lighting to promote greater efficiency in scheduling by local sports leagues. Fees and charges were subsequently revised in FY15-16, again in FY16-17 and proposed in FY17-18 to keep pace with targeted revenue recovery vs. expenses which is 25 percent for leagues and 100 percent for tournaments, camps, clinics, tryouts, and similar activities.*

**Study Recommendation: Increase rates charged to for-profit tournaments.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Code of Ordinances exist for the City of Plano that require 100 percent recovery of associated labor and materials costs of facilitation. A menu of fees and charges exists in that recovers hourly labor, materials costs such as electricity for lighting, and contractual assistance in the facilitation of tournaments. Plano does not make a distinction between for-profit or non-profit in its fee structure for athletic events.*

**Study Recommendation: Track costs of maintaining fields on a per field basis.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano utilizes a program by Cartegraph, also used by the City's Public Works Department, to track costs to assets including sports fields.*

**Study Recommendation: Determine possible non-tax funding sources for new fields.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Local sports organizations such as Plano Sports Authority (PSA) and Plano Youth Soccer (PYSA) have a history of investing in improvements to existing athletic facilities so that fields perform at higher levels, such as the installation by PSA of MasterTurf conditioning to ball fields at High Point Park to speed recovery after rain. Plano Youth Soccer recently requested to fund the conversion of one soccer field at Russell Creek Park from grass to a synthetic surface at a cost up to \$800,000. These and other historic actions by PSA and PYSA do not represent new fields, but make it possible to extract additional game units and higher service levels from existing spaces at no cost to taxpayers.*

**Study Recommendation: Indoor fieldhouses will continue to be primarily developed by private or youth sports organizations.**

**Plano's Status: Meets**

*Plano has cooperated with Plano Sports Authority in meeting local and regional recreational needs in basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer through long-term leases of land at Carpenter Park and Enfield Park. PSA1 and PSA2 exist **and operate** at no cost to Plano taxpayers and this model has been replicated by PSA in the cities of Murphy and McKinney.*

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## PLANO PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### July

- 21 Live & Local Series at McCall TBA
- 22 Live & Local Series at McCall with Jett Platt

### August

- 3 Terri Hendrix with Lloyd Maines at the Courtyard Texas Music Series.
- 5 Fall registration begins
- 18 Live & Local at McCall TBA
- 19 Live & Local at McCall with 5 Second Rule
- 30 Dancing at McCall with free dance lessons (style yet to be named)

### September

- 4 Labor Day - Administrative Offices, Oak Point Park Nature & Retreat Center, Plano Senior Recreation Center, Carpenter Park Recreation Center and Interurban Railway Museum are closed. Liberty and Tom Muehlenbeck Recreation Centers, Rowlinson Natatorium, Plano Aquatic Center, High Point Tennis Center and Pecan Hollow Golf Course are open holiday hours. Oak Point Recreation Center is closed for renovations.
- 7 Suzy Bogguss at the Courtyard Texas Music Series.
- 15 Live & Local at McCall TBA
- 16 Tone Loc and Arrested Development at The Lot at McCall

### October

- 4 Dancing at McCall with free dance lessons (style yet to be named)
- 5 The Band of Heathens at the Courtyard Texas Music Series
- 13 Apparition Expedition: A stroll through Plano's paranormal past starting at the Interurban Museum
- 20 Live & Local at McCall TBA
- 21 Live & Local at McCall TBA
- 21 Haunt Jaunt 5K and 1 mile run/walk. The whole family is invited to participate in a night run/walk at Oak Point Park and Nature Preserve. For more information and to register you can go to [www.hauntjaunt.com](http://www.hauntjaunt.com).
- 26 Annual Boo Bash at the Tom Muehlenbeck Center from 5-8pm. **FREE** admission for children 12 & under. Come dressed in costume with your trick or treat bag for a fun night of carnival games and candy!