



Agenda
Lucas Parks and Open Space Board Meeting
May 26, 2015
7:00 PM
City Hall - 665 Country Club Road – Lucas, Texas

Notice is hereby given that a City of Lucas Parks & Open Space Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Lucas City Hall, 665 Country Club Road, Lucas, Texas at which time the following agenda will be discussed. As authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, the Parks & Open Space Board may convene into closed Executive Session for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from the City Attorney on any item on the agenda at any time during the meeting.

Call to Order

- Roll Call
- Determination of Quorum
- Reminder to turn off or silence cell phones
- Pledge of Allegiance

Regular Agenda

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the April 21, 2015 and April 29, 2015 Parks and Open Space Board meetings. [**City Secretary Stacy Henderson**]
2. Consider activities associated with Founders Day scheduled to be held on Saturday, October 24, 2015 at the Community Park. [**Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn**]
3. Consider reviewing the inventory of existing parks and open space to facilitate updating the Comprehensive Plan and to provide guidance to staff on conducting a community survey regarding parks, open space and recreation needs. [**Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn**]
4. Consider cancelling the June 23, 2015 Parks and Open Space Board meeting. [**Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn**]
5. Adjournment.

Certification

I hereby certify that the above notice was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on the bulletin board at Lucas City Hall, 665 Country Club Road, Lucas, TX 75002-7651 and on the City's website at www.lucastexas.us by 5:00 p.m. on or before Friday, May 22, 2015.

Stacy Henderson, City Secretary
City Secretary

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, the City of Lucas will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending public meetings at City Hall. Requests for accommodations or interpretive services should be directed to Stacy Henderson at 972-727-8999 or by email at shenderson@lucastexas.us at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.



City of Lucas Parks and Open Space Agenda Request May 26, 2015

Requester: City Secretary Stacy Henderson

Agenda Item:

Consider approval of the minutes of the April 21, 2015 and April 29, 2015 Parks and Open Space Board meetings.

Background Information:

NA

Attachments/Supporting Documentation:

1. Minutes of the April 21, 2015 Parks and Open Space Board meeting.
2. Minutes of the April 29, 2015 Parks and Open Space Board special meeting.

Budget/Financial Impact:

NA

Recommendation:

City Staff recommends approval of the April 21, 2015 and the April 29, 2015 Parks and Open Space Board minutes.

Motion:

I make a motion to approve/amend the minutes of the April 21, 2015 and April 29, 2015 Parks and Open Space Board meeting.



Parks and Open Space
Board Meeting
April 21, 2015
7:00 p.m.
City Hall – 665 Country Club Road
Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Rhoads called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Chairman David Rhoads
Vice Chairman Christopher Vanhorn
Member Valerie Turnbow
Member Kenneth Patterson
Member Brenda Rizos
Alternate Member Amber Patteson
Alternate Member Jerry Straka

City Council Representative:

City Council Member Steve Duke

Staff:

City Manager Joni Clarke
Development Services Director Joe Hillbourn
City Secretary Stacy Henderson

Chairman Rhoads determined that a Quorum was present and reminded all in attendance to silence their cell phones. The Board conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.

Regular Agenda

- 1. Consider approval of the minutes from the March 24, 2015 Parks and Open Space Board meeting.**

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Vanhorn, seconded by Member Patterson to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

- 2. Update on the Keep Lucas Beautiful Cleanup Event scheduled for April 25, 2015.**

Development Services Director Hilbourn gave a presentation stating all supplies had been ordered for the cleanup event as well as refreshments afterwards. The route was discussed as well as vehicle transportation to and from various cleanup location points.

The Board also discussed volunteers attending, taking pictures for the event and getting school involvement for next year's event.

3. Discuss Scarecrow Contest guidelines associated with the Founders Day event.

Member Ken Patterson gave a presentation discussing the creation of theme categories, advertising on the City's website and promoting the event in the City's newsletter. Window posters and yard signs could also be used to advertise the event. Member Patterson also discussed prizes for the winning scarecrows and creating a display during the Founders Day event.

Members Ken Patterson and Amber Pattenon volunteered to head the Scarecrow Committee and create an action plan.

The Board also discussed getting commercial businesses involved as well as local schools.

MOTION: A motion was made by Member Rizos, seconded by Member Turnbow to recommend Members Ken Patterson and Amber Pattenon to lead the Committee for the Scarecrow Contest. The motion passed by a 5 to 0 vote.

4. Discuss updates to the parks for the City's Comprehensive Plan to include:

- **Obtaining land for community parks**
- **Entrances to the City**
- **Parks and open space trail plan**
- **NTMWD land**

Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn gave a presentation discussing the needs the Parks Board should consider for the Comprehensive Plan update. He stated the Comprehensive Plan will consider the needs of the City for the next 10 to 15 years. Mr. Hilbourn stated the Board should also consider whether additional land acquisition was needed for additional parks and how the additional land could be acquired.

Member Turnbow discussed providing trails for pedestrians as well as horses and identifying markers for those trails.

Chairman Rhoads asked about funding for any projects proposed within the Comprehensive Plan.

Development Services Director Hilbourn stated that all proposals within the Comprehensive Plan update would be reviewed and approved by the City Council.

The Parks Board discussed horse trails and connecting those throughout the community.

Member Turnbow and Rizos suggested having a workshop where the Board could tour and look at various parks and trails throughout the City.

The Board agreed to call a special meeting for May 6 at 7:00AM to have a driving tour with Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn to look at various locations throughout the City and discuss park updates to the Comprehensive Plan.

5. Update from Member Brenda Rizos regarding the committee that was formed for an indoor arena on the leased North Texas Municipal Water District property.

Member Rizos stated research is being done on different riding arenas and other committee members will be assisting in writing grants that best address the needs and the cost associated with a riding arena. Member Rizos stated that she would update the Board as more information becomes available.

6. Adjournment.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Vanhorn, seconded by Member Rizos to adjourn the meeting at 8:42pm. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

David Rhoads, Chairman

ATTEST:

Stacy Henderson, City Secretary



Parks and Open Space
Board Meeting
April 29, 2015
7:00 a.m.
City Hall – 665 Country Club Road
Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Rhoads called the meeting to order at 7:17 a.m.

Members Present:

Chairman David Rhoads
Vice Chairman Christopher Vanhorn
Member Kenneth Patterson
Member Brenda Rizos

Members Absent:

Alternate Member Jerry Straka
Alternate Member Amber Patteson
Member Valerie Turnbow

Staff/Other Representatives:

Development Services Director Joe Hillbourn
Louis Frisbie, Metropolitan Infrastructure

Chairman Rhoads determined that a Quorum was present and reminded all in attendance to silence their cell phones. The Board conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.

Regular Agenda

1. Direct staff to apply for a Parks Grant for a trailhead on East Winningkoff Road.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Vanhorn, seconded by Member Patterson to direct staff to apply for a Parks grant for a trailhead on East Winningkoff Road. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

2. Take a driving tour of the following locations to discuss park improvements for the Comprehensive Plan update.

- a. North Texas Municipal Water District
- b. East Winningkoff Road
- c. Blondy Jhune Road
- d. Estates Parkway
- e. Ingram Road
- f. West Lucas Road
- g. Stinson Road

Staff and Parks Board members left for the driving tour at 7:31am.

Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn, the City's Consultant for the Comprehensive Plan Update, Louis Frisbie, and the Parks Board members toured the following locations to discuss park improvements related to the Comprehensive Plan update.

- North Texas Municipal Water District
- East Winningkoff Road
- Blondy Jhune Road
- Estates Parkway
- Ingram Road
- West Lucas Road
- Stinson Road

No action was taken by the Board members.

The Parks Board and Staff returned to City Hall at 9:00am. Member Valerie Turnbow joined the Parks Board at this time.

The Parks Board and Staff discussed funding for various park projects and establishing private partnerships.

3. Adjournment.

MOTION: A motion was made by Member Rizos, seconded by Member Patterson to adjourn the meeting at 9:27am. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

David Rhoads, Chairman

ATTEST:

Stacy Henderson, City Secretary



City of Lucas Park & Open Space Board Agenda Request May 26, 2015

Requester: Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn

Agenda Item:

Consider activities associated with Founders Day scheduled to be held on Saturday, October 24, 2015 at the Community Park.

Background Information:

City Staff held a meeting with Mayor Mark to discuss observations and recap the 2014 Founders Day event. Staff has proceeded with organizing the first planning session for the 2015 Founders Day event to be held on May 20th with the following participants to serve on the 2015 Founders Day Planning Committee:

- Chairperson of the Parks and Open Space Board David Rhoads
- City Councilmember Liaison Steve Duke
- Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn
- Planning Coordinator Donna Bradshaw
- Mayor/Citizen Rebecca Mark
- City Secretary Stacy Henderson
- Special Projects Coordinator Cathey Bonczar
- City Manager Joni Clarke

During this initial recap meeting, parade logistics, safety and participation was discussed and staff will be making some recommendations to the Founders Day Planning Committee.

An agenda item was placed on the May 7, 2015 City Council meeting requesting a recommendation from the City Council to honor a citizen by appointing a Grand Marshal to lead the parade. The Grand Marshal is a resident that has greatly contributed their time and efforts to the betterment of the community. The Lucas City Council appointed Charlie Gaines to serve as the Grand Marshal for the 2015 Founders Day Parade.

Because Founders Day has been successful and it a popular event attended by many, it has become a necessity to clarify and define areas of responsibility to ensure the events continued success:

The Founders Day Team may include the following structure and assignments (just suggestions):



City of Lucas

Park & Open Space Board Agenda

Request May 26, 2015

Requester: Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn

Activities Chair-City Secretary Stacy Henderson

- Service Tree Program-Mayor Jim Olk
- Chili Cook-off – Councilmember Steve Duke
- Stick Horse Rodeo-Mayor Pro-Tem Peele
- Talent Show
- Costume Contest
- Scarecrow Contest-Park & Open Space Board
- Founders Educational Display (Community Center)-Councilmember Debbie Fisher
- Characters in Costume
- Face Painting
- Balloons
- Dunk Tank-Public Works Director Stanton Foerster
- KLB Booth-Park & Open Space Board
- Bounce Houses
- Booths
- NTMWD Booth
- GCEC Booth
- Carnival Booths/Games for Children
- School Bands
- Parade
- National Anthem
- Petting Zoo/Pony Rides
- Blackland Prairie Raptors Center
- Fire Department Activities-Chief Kitchens
- Chuck Wagon
- Ice Cream (church?)

Food & Refreshment Coordinator-Planning Coordinator Donna Bradshaw

Logistics-Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn

Accounting and Purchasing-Special Projects Coordinator Cathey Bonczar

Promotions/Advertising/Sponsorship-City Manager Joni Clarke

Volunteer Coordinator-Citizen Rebecca Mark

Scarecrow Contest-Members of the Park and Open Space Board



**City of Lucas
Park & Open Space Board Agenda
Request May 26, 2015**

Requester: Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn

Attachments/Supporting Documentation:

N/A

Budget/Financial Impact:

N/A

Recommendation:

N/A

Motion:

N/A



City of Lucas Parks and Open Space Agenda Request May 26, 2015

Requester: Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn

Agenda Item:

Consider reviewing the inventory of existing parks and open space to facilitate updating the Comprehensive Plan and to provide guidance to staff on conducting a community survey regarding parks, open space and recreation needs.

Background Information:

Staff would like to hear from the Parks and Open Space Board updates they would like to propose to the Comprehensive Plan relating to the following:

1. Review inventory of existing parks and recreation fields.

Now that the Parks Board has had an opportunity to tour the existing park facilities and the City as a whole, an update to the Comprehensive Plan to reflect the community's future needs for parks and recreation fields is needed. Section 6 of the Comprehensive Plan is attached that outlines an inventory of existing facilities and open space that was conducted in 2005. This document can be used as a guide to update our current inventory.

2. Consider conducting a community survey of park and recreation field needs.

The next step to determine the desires of the community would be to conduct a community survey and poll the residents of the community to assess their needs as it relates to parks and open space. Attached are the Goals and Objectives of the vision of Parks and Open Space that was outlined in the existing Comprehensive Plan for the city.

Attachments/Supporting Documentation:

1. Section 6 of the Comprehensive Plan
2. August 2005 Parks and Open Space survey
3. Goals and Objectives for Parks and Recreation Opportunities
4. Inventory/Opportunities/Standards from the Comprehensive Plan

Budget/Financial Impact:

NA

Recommendation:

NA

Motion:

NA

developed. The goals and objectives were translated into a physical parks and open space plan along with implementation recommendations.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING FACILITIES & OPEN SPACE

RECREATIONAL AREAS CLASSIFICATION

The National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines" identifies the types and sizes of parks found in most communities. These classifications are based on the acreage of the recreational area and the types of facilities offered.

Special Parks:

These parks are used for single-purpose or specialized recreational activities such as golf courses, athletic complexes or objects of historical significance. Sometimes linear in nature, these parks can be developed for one or more modes of recreational travel such as hiking or biking. These areas may vary in size and typically serve a region of at least 10 miles in radius. These parks are typically wide enough to protect the resource while allowing for maximum use.

Community Parks:

These parks provide separated facilities for both leisurely and active play areas for all ages. They typically accommodate all-day usage, planned recreational programs for competitive sports, passive entertainment and large group gatherings. Community Parks should be accessible by motor vehicles and have sufficient parking areas. Examples of items often included in these parks are ball fields, swimming pools, tennis courts, restrooms, walking paths, picnic shelters and playground equipment for children of all ages. The service area of a Community Park can be expected to range between two to five miles in radius and include at least fifteen acres. Between five and eight acres of community parkland should be provided per one thousand residents.

Neighborhood Parks:

These parks typically occupy two to four acres and provide both active and passive recreational opportunities for all age groups. Walking trails, ball fields, basketball/tennis courts might be found in a neighborhood park. Some scenic and natural areas are often provided in these parks and are usually separated from the active recreational areas by trees, shrubbery or flowerbeds. Benches and lighting are also often found in

Neighborhood Parks. These parks typically serve an area of one-quarter to one-half mile in radius. Generally, one to two acres of this type of parkland should be provided per one thousand residents.

Playing Fields:

These fields are developed recreational land where active games such as soccer, baseball/softball and football can be played. Often times, schools have playing fields and a community will have modern baseball and softball fields located in a playing field complex. Typically, these areas serve a region of at least five miles in radius and are usually at least three acres in size. At least three acres of playing fields per one thousand residents should be provided.

Passive Recreational Areas:

These areas include land used for general recreation activities such as picnicking, flying kites and or enjoying scenic views. Facilities such as picnic tables, benches and limited parking might be found in these areas. Examples of Passive Recreational Areas include open fields, scenic view sites and small landscaped areas. There are no minimum standards for Passive Recreational Areas.

EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

In March of 2004, an inventory of the City's open space, parks and recreational facilities was completed to determine the location, type and number of amenities offered to local citizens. Other than on-campus play areas and sports fields associated with the public schools, there are two municipal park areas which serve the City. Park locations are illustrated in Figure 6.1.

Public Parks:

- ❖ Forest Creek Park – (serves local neighborhood)
 - Wooded, two-acre site with parking area
 - (1) gazebo
 - Picnic tables
 - (2) playgrounds (preschool and elementary)
 - Native plant demonstration garden. (Promoted with a descriptive flyer available at City Hall.)

- ❖ Lucas Community Park – (serves entire City)
 - Three acre site with parking area
 - (1) baseball/softball field
 - (1) soccer field (undersized)
 - Community Center with a covered patio, picnic tables, bathrooms and a concession stand.

School Facilities:

- ❖ Hart Elementary – (serves entire City)
 - (1) playground (elementary)
 - Picnic tables
 - (4) basketball goals
 - (1) gymnasium

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

- ❖ Brockdale Park Boat Ramp – (serves entire City)
 - (1) four-lane boat ramp
 - Parking and bathrooms (always open to the public)
- ❖ Brockdale Park – (serves entire City)
 - Group shelter
 - Eight camping/picnic sites
 - (1) restroom with drinking water.

This park is separate from the boat ramp area of the park and is available by paid reservation only. This is a special-use park for boating and fishing and it is handicapped accessible.

- ❖ Brockdale Park Trailhead – (serves entire City)
 - 2.5 acre area, fenced with pipe fencing that includes a horse walk-through gate, a large gate for equipment access to the trail and another large gate to prohibit entry.
 - Gravel circular driveway
 - Fire pit
 - Several metal hitching rails

- ❖ Trinity Equestrian & Hiking Trail – (serves entire City)
 - The Trinity Hiking and Equestrian Trail is 9-miles-long with scenic views of the lake and surrounding land. It runs along the lakeshore from Brockdale Park to Collin Park in St. Paul to East Fork Park in Wylie, bordering ranch land along most of its length.

The trail is maintained by the volunteers of the Trinity Trail Preservation Association with occasional mowing of the trailhead being done by the City of Lucas. A new grant acquired by the Trinity Trail Preservation Association will enable further improvements to the site.

- ❖ Highland Park and Boat Ramp – (serves entire City)
 - (1) four-lane boat ramp with restrooms
 - Boating and fishing
 - Handicapped Accessible

Other Facilities:

- ❖ Pocket Park in Stonegate (Private)
 - (1) gazebo
 - Walking trails
 - (1) playground (elementary)
 - Picnic tables

It should also be noted that the school facilities are specifically designed for school needs and are not intended to meet the demands and regulations of league play nor to beautify the community. No pedestrian/open space linkages exist to connect the school facilities.

Additional private facilities exist in larger cities such as Allen, Plano and McKinney, and are available only to those able and willing to travel, and pay the required entry fees/dues.

NATURAL FEATURES AND SYSTEMS:

The following existing features represent significant open space/linkage opportunities:

- Existing flood plain areas;
- Creeks and waterways;
- Existing sidewalks;
- Certain other vacant lands and rights-of-way, allowing for trail connections.

The most important natural feature in Lucas is Lake Lavon and the creeks, which feed into it. Constructed in 1954, the lake is owned and controlled by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. There are twenty areas along the lake designated for park use, including Highland Park and Brockdale Park which reside in Lucas. These parks provide water-based recreational opportunities that would otherwise not generally be available in the county. The City should work with the Army Corps of Engineers to maximize this resource for the citizens of the region.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL FEATURES:

Several historic landmarks exist in or near the City of Lucas. Some of these include:

- Fitzhugh Cemetery
- Forest Grove Christian Church
- McKinney Cemetery

While these are currently the only sites that bear historical markers, several other sites exist within the community.

AUGUST 2005 POS SURVEY – City of Lucas Parks Master Plan

RANK	RECREATIONAL FACILITY
1	Walking & hiking trails
2	Bike trails
3	Undeveloped open space
4	Picnicking/pavilions
5	Fishing piers
6	Equestrian trails/arena
7	Elementary age playgrounds
8	Baseball/softball fields
9	Preschool age playgrounds
10	Sand volleyball
11	Soccer fields
12	Camping sites
13	Basketball courts
14	Tennis courts
15	Canoe rental
16	Paddleboat rental
17	Horseshoe courts
18	Disc golf
19	Football fields
20	Shuffleboard
21	Washer courts

Goals and Objectives (As developed by Glendening, 2004)

“The development and subsequent endorsement of this plan by the City Council will provide the City of Lucas with the supporting documentation to pursue federal and state funding opportunities. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan outlines a facility-driven, needs-based, prioritized plan for park and recreation development for the Lucas area.

A master plan provides the framework for city planning and funding of parks and open space. It enables the City to take advantage of State enabling legislation to require the mandatory dedication of parkland or payment of fees-in-lieu of land. The law requires a standard that is reasonably related to the need for more facilities that future residents will generate.

The objectives of this document are to:

- A. document community attitudes regarding Parks and Open Space, in general, and, specifically, as to what types of facilities are preferred.
- B. survey current recreational facilities.
- C. survey important historical or unique topological sites.
- D. determine present and future needs, based on population, for each type of park.
- E. identify future park and recreational opportunities, improvements and priorities.
- F. recommend development standards for these facilities.
- G. assist the City Administration and City Council in projecting maintenance costs for these facilities.
- H. prepare a prioritized implementation plan.

Goal 1: The natural environment and native ecosystems are assets for the community and they contribute positively toward the character of Lucas. They should be preserved and protected wherever possible.

Objectives:

1. Conserve and protect ecologically sensitive and naturally beautiful areas, e.g. flood plains along creeks, high points with scenic views toward Lavon Lake, etc.
2. Establish and/or enhance green space and natural areas along flood plains, and promote public access to greenbelt areas with trail systems, e.g. equestrian/hiking trails, etc.
3. Respect areas with steep slopes and/or scenic views, e.g. knolls and high points, etc.
4. Encourage and promote water conservation through the use of native plant materials, xeriscape techniques, and other methods.
5. Maintain high standards for groundwater quality due to the proximity of Lake Lavon.
6. Maintain high standards for air quality.
7. Encourage development types, which minimize impacts upon the community's natural resources and visual appeal.

1. Park and Open Space Planning should reflect the preferences of the Citizens of Lucas. The Comprehensive Parks and Open Space Plan should be updated on a regular basis (at least every 5 years) after public input.
2. Developers have a responsibility towards the City in providing sufficient land or funds for park development.
3. Planning should be coordinated with adjacent communities.
4. The City should acquire and develop parks in combination with other public facilities to achieve cost effective delivery of public services. Park property should be jointly developed with facilities such as schools, fire and/or police stations, libraries and/or other public entities.
5. Parks and City facilities should be linked with trails.
6. Park equipment should be constructed of high quality, long-lasting, safe materials.
7. Floodplains should be protected from heavy development and utilized for trails.
8. The City should plan for Parks and Open Space to preserve the "rural" feeling of the community despite future development pressure.
9. Land should be acquired early in the process while it is still available and affordable.
10. Parks should be planned so that they require the lowest possible maintenance costs.

The City's Role in Providing Parks and Recreation Opportunities

1. Provision of basic recreational opportunities.
2. Administration and management of the city's system of parks and recreational opportunities.
3. Provision of material and other resources toward the development and maintenance of the City's park system and recreational opportunities.
4. Regulations and zoning necessary to maintain the quality and availability of recreational resources to citizens.
5. Establishment of cooperative agreements with other entities, such as school districts, drainage districts, river authorities and the Army Corps of Engineers to expand the supply of facilities available to the public.
6. Emphasis on low maintenance facilities and landscape, and multi-use facilities for greater efficiency of operation.
7. Pursuit of citizen input in planning parks; and the preparation of periodic needs assessments.
8. Acquisition and preservation of parkland, greenbelts, natural areas, and open space.
9. Development of funding opportunities for park development, maintenance and operation."

INVENTORY/OPPORTUNITIES/STANDARDS

Table A summarizes the existing public recreational facilities in Lucas. Students from the University of Texas Arlington visited each site, including 2 city parks, 2 Corps of Engineers parks, Hart Elementary School, and 1 private park. The city currently maintains 2 parks of approximately 5 acres. The Corps holds 228 acres of land along Lake Lavon. There is 1 existing elementary school inside the city limits. There is also a private pocket park available to a limited number of homeowners.

Tables B & C illustrate the suggested park and facility standards for Lucas and compare them to other local cities, Collin County as well as the National Recreation and Park Association. Final determinations were based largely on community input as discussed previously.

Open space opportunities are available throughout the city, but in most cases the land is privately owned and acquisition will be difficult. Glendening, 2004 states, "...open space represents the natural and agricultural heritage of Collin County through fields, pastures, prairies and woodlands. Much of the remaining open space within the county is privately owned, and should remain privately owned. There is, however, a need to protect some of the open spaces from development--which can be done using public, private and non-profit resources.

Private property owners that are interested in protecting their open space, but who do not have the personal financial resources to do so privately, may want to contact a non-profit land trust. Land trusts give property owners an option to selling their land for development...selling it to a government or other entity for protection....

Lucas' stream corridors provide multiple benefits such as protection of sensitive resources, erosion control, water quality protection, flood control, recreational and visual amenities and habitat for wildlife. They should be preserved and restored to form linear corridors which link larger parks and open spaces as a part of an integrated parks and open space system....planning, design and management of parks and other public lands should incorporate measures to protect sensitive environmental resources. Public policies and regulations should also encourage protection of sensitive resources on private lands as part of a sustainable development philosophy. Particularly where concentrated along stream corridors, sensitive environmental resources in public or private ownership can function as part of an integrated parks and open space system.

Valuable habitats for wildlife or threatened, endangered and special concern species should be protected as part of a comprehensive parks and open space system. To promote viable wildlife habitat, design of the system should provide relatively un-fragmented tracts of natural vegetation connected by corridors."

Although the acquisition on privately held land will be difficult and costly, specific opportunities should be noted:

- Corps of Engineers property on Lake Lavon is the city's single most important

COMMUNITY BACKGROUND/DEMOGRAPHICS

Located approximately 35 miles northeast of downtown Dallas on the western shore of Lake Lavon, the City of Lucas was incorporated on February 19, 1959. Its current population is approximately 5,015 and it contains a total land area of approximately 7,506 acres. "Approximately 72 percent (about 5,410 acres) of the land within the existing City is developed, while the remaining acreage is vacant or being used for some agricultural related purpose. Lucas currently has five (5) acres utilized as parkland and has no planned or designated open space system.

According to the 2000 Census, the population of Lucas was 2,890 people, which represents about a 31 percent increase from the 1990 census....the median household income in Lucas was \$100,220, above the \$45,861 state average. Almost 96 percent of all residents (2,890) were above the established poverty line," *Glendening, 2004*.

CITY OF LUCAS

1990 vs. 2000 Population Compositions

CLASSIFICATIONS	1990		2000	
	AMOUNT	PERCENT	AMOUNT	PERCENT
WHITE	2,139	97.0	2,787	96.4
AMERICAN INDIAN	8	0.4	15	0.5
ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER	4	0.2	9	0.3
BLACK	26	1.2	12	0.4
OTHER RACE	28	1.26	67	2.3
TOTAL	2,205	100.0	2,890	100.0
HISPANIC	88	4.0*	103	3.6*

- Hispanic origin can be from multiple race classifications

Sources: 1990 and 2000 & U.S. Census

While the city's population only grew by 785 between 1990 and 2000, it has jumped by over 2,100 in the last five years. This is at least in part a result of a growing segment of the population's desire to live in a rural setting while still within commuting distance of a major metropolitan area. Based on a projected growth rate of 7%, build out is expected to occur by 2012 at around 8,000 people.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Because it is essentially an expansion of the *Lucas Comprehensive Plan*, it can be assumed that planning efforts for this document began in March, 2004. Historic data was consulted and evaluated at that time. Public meetings were held and a community survey was conducted.

Nearly one year later, Park Board members contacted the University of Texas Arlington School of Landscape Architecture and requested assistance in the refinement of the plan. Under the direction of adjunct professor and landscape architect John Fain, students worked through the Spring 2005 semester with city staff and board members. Students inventoried city recreational resources and suggested standards for development. A development plan was then refined and cost estimates for implementation were prepared.

At the conclusion of the semester, the Park Board contracted with Mr. Fain's firm, *DFL Group, LLC* to complete the plan and format it so that it would be acceptable to Texas Parks and Wildlife, a requisite to possible future grant funding.

The first step in that process was to again survey the citizens of Lucas to verify that past findings were accurate. Survey findings from August 2005 are summarized:

RANK	RECREATIONAL FACILITY
1	Walking & hiking trails
2	Bike trails
3	Undeveloped open space
4	Picnicking/pavilions
5	Fishing piers
6	Equestrian trails/arena
7	Elementary age playgrounds
8	Baseball/softball fields
9	Preschool age playgrounds
10	Sand volleyball
11	Soccer fields
12	Camping sites
13	Basketball courts
14	Tennis courts
15	Canoe rental
16	Paddleboat rental
17	Horseshoe courts
18	Disc golf
19	Football fields
20	Shuffleboard
21	Washer courts

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The needs assessment utilized is a mathematical process, which applies the standards adopted by the Park Board and City Council to the existing and projected populations of the city. This "standards-based" utilizes a simple ratio that compares the standard to the total population of the city.

Actual needs are estimated for years 2005, 2009, and build-out or 2012. These needs coincide with the 10-year action plan that follows. (Population projections are conservative and are based upon a projected annual growth rate of 7%.)

Although the "standards-based" approach was a primary planning tool used in the development process, the "demand-based" was an indirect factor as well. Since the adopted standards were largely based on community input, it can be argued that they are actually driven by citizen needs.

In addition to the needs outlined, it should be noted that the private park listed in the park inventory is not factored into the needs assessment. Because this is essentially a private facility, it is not available to the general citizenry and cannot be considered a public park. Also, for similar reasons, note that Corps parkland is not included in the needs assessment. Although it is publicly owned land, it is not controlled by the city and its future use is unknown.

The matrix following (Table D) outlines the current and future needs of Lucas. These needs are applied to the inventory of existing facilities. Results indicate a surplus or deficit for each facility. Since the city has not been able to keep pace with its rapid growth, deficits shown are not to be unexpected.

Recreational Needs Assessment

Based on population estimates:
 2005 2009 2012
 5,000 6,500 8,000

(Assumes 7% annual growth)

Facility	Units Required	Per Capita	Based on population numbers. Units needed as of:			Existing Units as of 12-31-05	Needs as of 12-31-05	Projected needs in 2009	Projected needs at build out population 2012
			2005	2009	2012				
Park Land (in acres)	1 Per	100	50	65	80	4	46	61	76
Pavilions	1 Per	3,000	2	2	3	1	1	1	2
Picnic Tables	1 Per	250	20	26	32	9	11	17	23
Shelters	1 Per	1,500	3	4	5	1	2	3	4
Playgrounds	1 Per	1,000	5	7	8	2	3	5	6
Basketball Courts	1 Per	2,000	3	3	4	0	3	3	4
Tennis Courts	1 Per	6,000	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Volleyball Courts	1 Per	4,000	1	2	2	0	1	2	2
Fishing / Boating	1 Per	4,000	1	2	2	0	1	2	2
Disc Golf Courses	1 Per	8,000	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
T-Ball Fields	1 Per	2,000	3	3	4	0	3	3	4
Little League Baseball	1 Per	2,000	3	3	4	0	3	3	4
Softball Field - Girls	1 Per	2,000	3	3	4	0	3	3	4
Softball field - Adult	1 Per	4,000	1	2	2	1	0	1	1
Practice / Informal Field	1 Per	2,000	3	3	4	1	2	2	3
Soccer Fields	1 Per	1,000	5	7	8	0	5	7	8
Trails (in miles)	1 Per	500	10	13	16	0	10	13	16
Horseshoe Pits	1 Per	3,000	2	2	3	0	2	2	3
Shuffle Board Courts	1 Per	3,000	2	2	3	0	2	2	3
Washer Pits	1 Per	3,000	2	2	3	0	2	2	3
Equestrian Facilities	1 Per	8,000	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Aquatic Facilities	1 Per	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recreation Centers	1 Per	25,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



City of Lucas Parks and Open Space Agenda Request May 26, 2015

Requester: City Secretary Stacy Henderson

Agenda Item:

Consider cancelling the June 23, 2015 Parks and Open Space Board meeting.

Background Information:

The week of June 23, 2015 the Development Services Director and City Manager will be out of the office and currently there are no items for consideration scheduled for that meeting.

Attachments/Supporting Documentation:

NA

Budget/Financial Impact:

NA

Recommendation:

City Staff recommends cancelling the June 23, 2015 Parks and Open Space Board meeting.

Motion:

I make a motion to cancel the June 23, 2015 Parks and Open Space Board meeting.