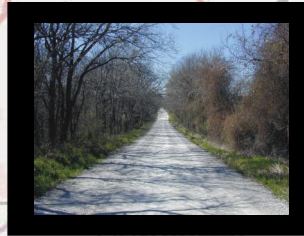


Collin County Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan

Why are Parks and Open Space important?

Parks and open space are important because they provide space for play, for relaxation, for environmental protection, for education, and for exercise. They address the active recreational demands of the population by including areas for activities such as baseball, softball, soccer, skateboarding and cycling. They also address the passive recreational demands of the population by including areas for walking, nature watching, and natural, historic, and cultural resource protection. They provide focal points for the communities as town squares, neighborhood parks, tennis complexes, walking trails, and native prairie remnants.



What does the Strategic Plan recommend?

The Plan recommends the addition of from 7,055 to 9,615 acres of new parks and open spaces throughout the county over the next 24 years, near growing areas, or where critical cultural, historic or environmental resources are threatened or in need of protection.

The Strategic Plan also recommends the addition of between 350 and 431 miles of new multi-use and equestrian trails throughout the county, linking together existing and new parks, recreation and open space facilities, as well as the neighborhoods, schools, libraries and other facilities that make up the communities within Collin County. The trails and their associated floodplain greenways also create a framework for environmental preservation and protection by providing vegetative buffers that filter the water flowing into the streams that feed Lake Lavon, a major source of drinking water for Collin County.

Finally, the Plan recommends a guideline of 18 acres of parks and open space for every 1,000 people in Collin County for those communities and unincorporated areas without parks and open space plans.

Who will benefit from the implementation of the Strategic Plan?

The people who live, visit or work in Collin County will benefit from the implementation of the plan. They will benefit from improved recreational opportunities, preserved historic and cultural resources, coordinated public and private sector expenditures, and protected environmental resources. These benefits will help maintain the quality of life that is currently experienced by residents of Collin County.

How will the Strategic Plan be implemented?

Through continued short and long term communication, coordination and cooperation between the municipalities, developers, corporations, private citizens, non-profits, special interest groups and Collin County. The development of a quality parks and open space system will require sustained long term advocacy and funding at all levels.

Who should I contact if I would like more information, or if I would like to help?

Contact the Collin County Parks Foundation for more information regarding the Strategic Plan, and for more information about what you can do to help keep Collin County one of the best places to live well into the future. The Parks Foundation can be contacted at the following telephone number / e-mail address:



Collin County Parks Foundation
McKinney, Texas (972) 548-3744
openspace@co.collin.tx.us

