

-Focus-

# PARKS & OPEN SPACE

-Parks, Recreation, & Open Space  
Committee-

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## -Issue-

Greater West Houston is anticipated to reach a population of 3.26 million by 2060. As a result, the demand for parks and open space will be greater than ever before. However, parks and open spaces are often an afterthought in terms of planning, coordination, and funding which could lead to a failure to meet the anticipated need created by the imminent growth.

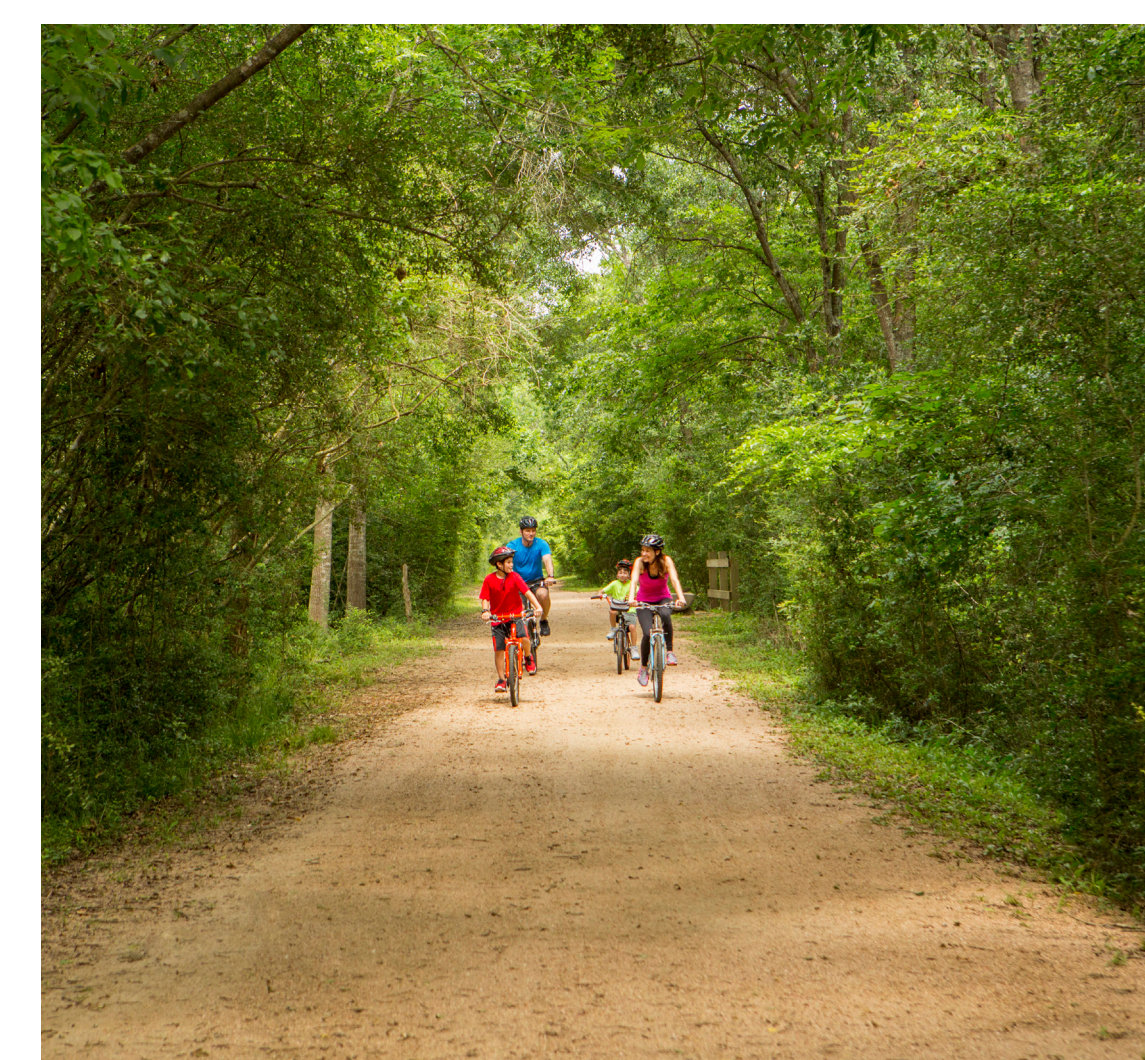
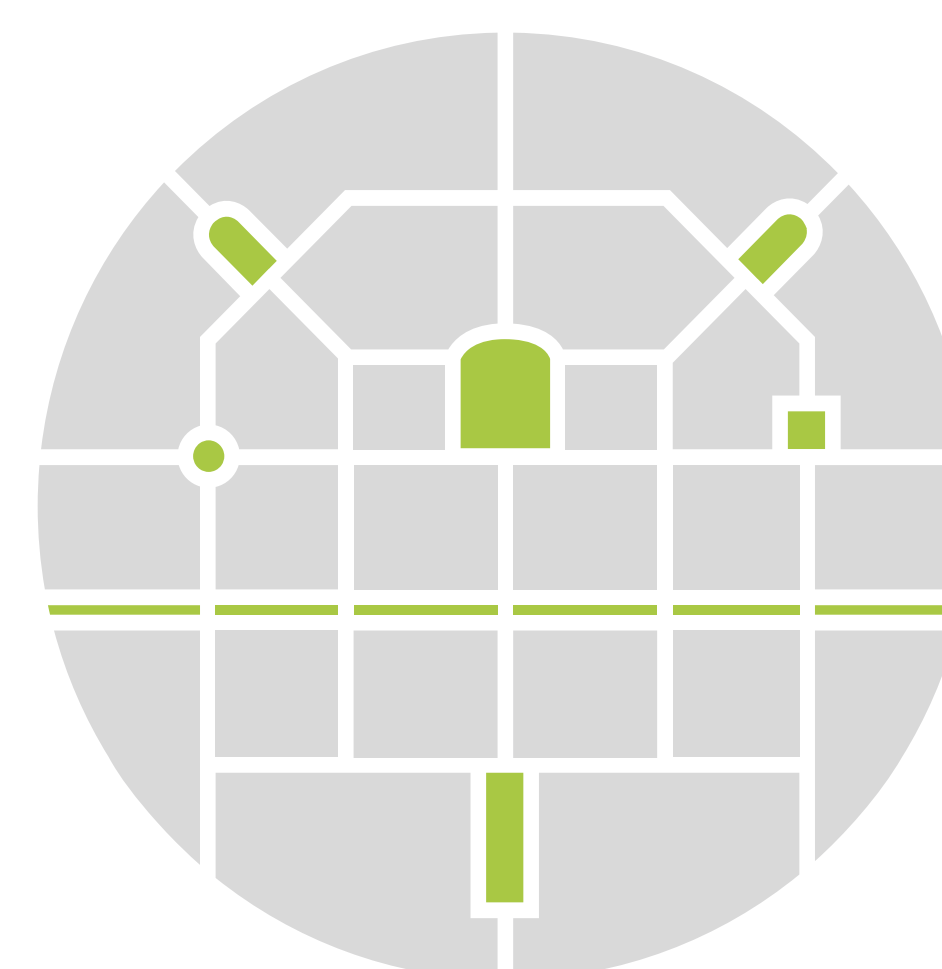
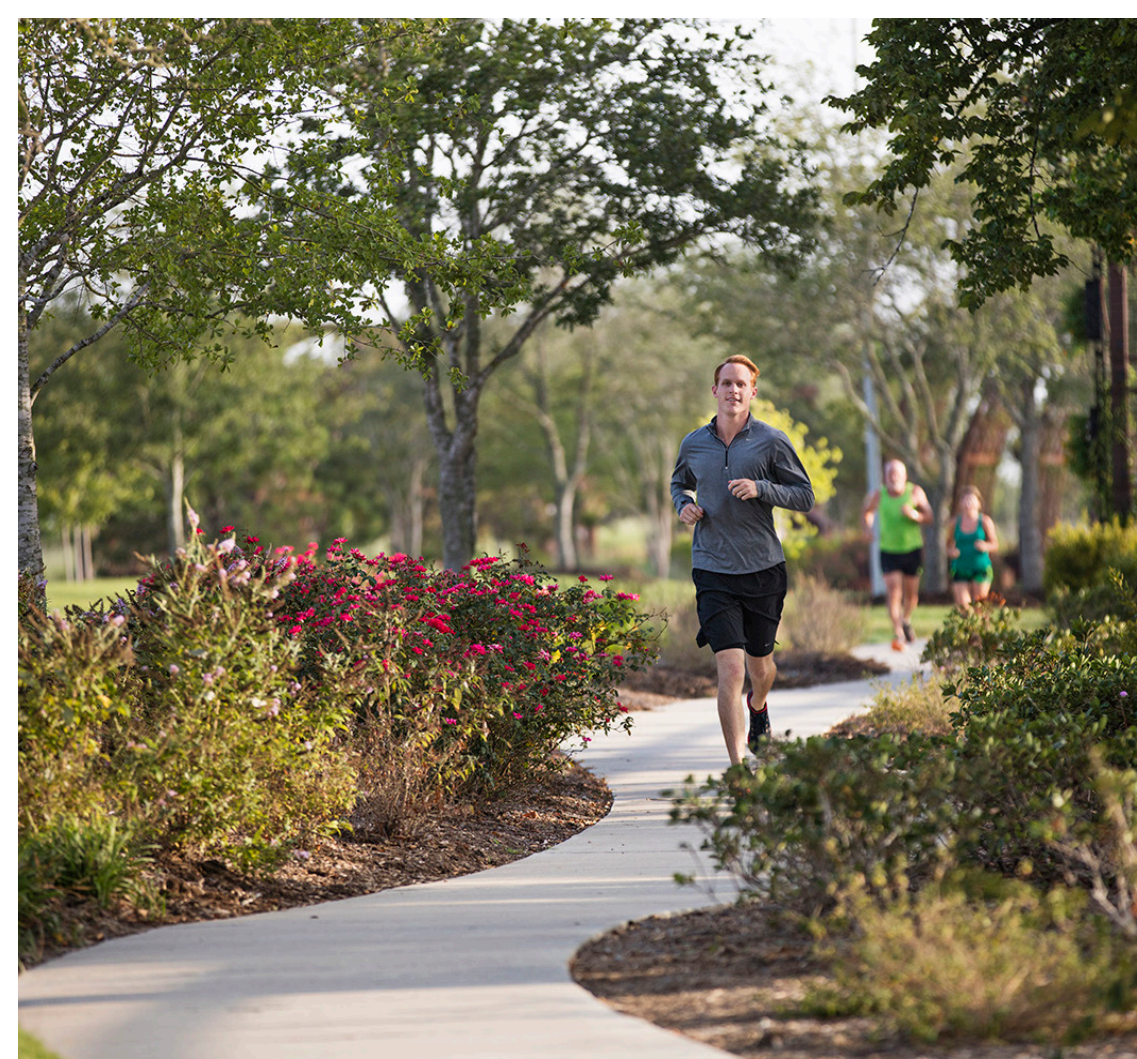
## -Goal-

Research shows that quality parks and open space improve the quality of life for citizens and increase surrounding land values. In order for Greater West Houston to remain competitive and meet the demands of population growth we must ensure that we provide a comprehensive park and open space system that will meet the needs of the community for future generations while creating sustainable benefits in terms of connectivity, mobility, drainage and quality of life.

## Challenges & Opportunities

- **Isolated Spaces.** Many of the existing facilities are isolated from other parks as well as residential areas, schools, community facilities, and commercial areas where citizens spend the majority of their time.
- **Connecting the Dots.** Providing a relevant network of parks and trails throughout Greater West Houston will promote quality sustainable growth and significantly benefit the people, environment, and economics of the region.
- **Adequate Funding.** Having adequate funding to construct and maintain these facilities is critical. Multiple entities focused on different objectives can lead to missed opportunities due to a lack of coordination among the various groups.
- **Funding & Various Engaged Entities.** Coordinated funding as well as connectivity.
- **Population Growth.** Park and open space resources need to keep pace with the increase in population.
- **Opportunities.** The region is well prepared to meet the task of providing quality outdoor recreation facilities as well as promoting alternative transportation avenues via a cohesive linked parks and open space system.
- **Economics.** Parks and open spaces that are thoughtfully incorporated into future development will increase the appeal of the land adjacent to the parks and open spaces and therefore increase the value of the area.

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-2060-

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