



## C. PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

*Parks and recreation facilities are important to the quality of life of any community. They provide opportunities for recreation, tourism and preservation of the natural environment. The City of Friendswood wishes to develop parks and recreation facilities that will enhance the quality of life and meet the recreational needs of its residents.*

To ensure ultimate success and implementation of the City Plan, public participation is not only necessary throughout the plan development process but also in the implementation of its recommendations. The involvement of the local community was an important aspect of the development of this plan. Input from citizens and leaders of the community was incorporated into the plan and shaped the resulting recommendations.

Public involvement opportunities included multiple town hall meetings, and an online community survey. Additionally, the meetings during 2008 and 2009 of the Parks and Recreation Board provided information on community needs and desires for parks and recreation facilities. Together these citizen involvement opportunities provided the input utilized to prepare the multiple phases of the Plan and to identify the desired improvements and priorities.

### **The Parks and Recreation Board**

The Parks and Recreation Board held six meetings at which they identified needs and priorities, reviewed plan requirements, and provided local insight into the planning process to ensure the plan reflects the community's values and vision for the future. Subcommittees were formed and each board member was assigned a specific subcommittee to oversee. Below is a list of the subcommittees:

- Goals and Objectives



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- Plan Development
  - Concepts and Standards
  - Inventory
  - Needs Assessment and Identification

### **Town Hall Meeting**

Two Town Hall Meetings were held on November 18, 2008 and March 4, 2009, to introduce the purpose for developing the Plan and to explain the processes for seeking public input. Volunteer opportunities were made available at this time. A PowerPoint presentation was made and guests were invited to speak about community needs, priorities and current inventory.

#### **Topics Introduced Included:**

- Nature tourism
  - Converting underutilized recreation facilities/trails to sports fields
  - Renovation of the girls softball fields
  - Building additional sports complexes instead of additional playgrounds
  - Additional facilities that will enable the City to host sports tournaments
  - Increased facilities for seniors, including hike and bike trails
  - Upgrading existing facilities
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- Additional soccer fields, basketball courts, baseball fields and softball fields
  - Building an arboretum park
  - Additional parks in downtown area with bird watching and hike trails

### **Survey**

An online community survey was conducted during early 2009. The survey was posted on group builder, the reader board and in the newspaper. The results were discussed at the March 4, 2009, town hall meeting. Results indicated that the high response group, 53% of survey participants would like to see more facilities programs, 33% lighted softball fields, 27% lighted baseball fields, 30% football fields, 14% neighborhood parks, 19% after school programs, 23% more pavilions, 26% smaller neighborhood parks, 14% larger community parks. Other desired recreational activities include developing a skate park, establishing nature area studies, more playgrounds, additional picnic areas, tennis courts, basketball courts and open space. A full report of the responses to the survey is attached in Section F.



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### **Open House**

An informal final public open house was held on February 24, 2010, where the Plan was made available for public review and final comment. Parks Board members were present to answer public questions. On large display boards were:

- Two Renditions of Lake Friendswood
- Image Board
- City Map with All Parks Identified
- City Map showing proposed and existing trail system
- Ariel View of Lake Friendswood

Eight Comment cards were received from the individuals that attended. Of those, six of the eight had positive comments regarding the hike and bike trails, Lake Friendswood project and Master Parks Plan.

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