



G. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND PRIORITIZATION

Implementation priorities and timeline

Outdoor Priorities:

- 1. Lake Friendswood**
 - a. Fishing and boating piers**
 - b. Trails**
 - c. Pavilion**
- 2. Trails**
 - a. Non-motorized hike and bike trails**
 - b. Non-motorized nature trails**
- 3. Lighted Sports Fields**
 - a. Soccer fields**
 - b. Football fields**
 - c. Baseball/Softball fields**
- 4. Parks**
 - a. Neighborhood parks**
 - b. Community parks**
 - c. Butterfly and Bird Sanctuary Parks**

Indoor Priorities:

- 1. Community Center**
 - a. Construction**
 - b. Programs for Seniors, youth and adults**

2010—2013

1. **Lake Friendswood—Develop Lake Friendswood on the south side of Friendswood. Facilities would include boating and fishing piers, pavilion, trails, and campground area.**
2. **Trails—Develop a pathway system that seeks to connect neighborhood, regional and community parks and other areas of Friendswood. Initially this trail plan will begin with a trail that connects 1776 Memorial Park with a residential area, allowing safe access to the park.**
3. **Lighted Sports Fields—Begin assessing locations, acquire land, design and develop.**

2014—2016

1. **Trails—Continued expansion of trails farther through the City of Friendswood to other parks and shopping and business districts.**
2. **Lighted Sports Fields—Continued development of lighted fields with a goal to be a hub for regional sports tournaments.**
3. **Neighborhood Parks—Assess and acquire land for neighborhood parks that would include sports fields, playgrounds, nature areas and trails.**
4. **Community Center—Construct a community center capable of providing educational programs for children and seniors throughout the year.**

2017—2020 and beyond

1. **Trails—Finalize network loop of trails throughout City of Friendswood**
2. **Community Parks—Create additional community parks to meet community desires and proposed standards**
3. **Butterfly parks—Create a park with vegetation that attracts and promotes butterfly population, especially the Monarch butterfly during its migration.**
4. **Bird sanctuary—Develop a park with bird habitats and sanctuary at its core. It would be a nature park with viewing platforms and benches.**

Implementation narrative

The City of Friendswood has identified and prioritized three major, long-term projects to pursue to meet the needs of our thriving city:



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1. Development of Lake Friendswood
 2. Hike and bike trails connecting parks and other green spaces
 3. Additional lighted sports fields.

Future parks must be capable of responding to the needs of the citizens, and to achieve this objective, the Plan is comprised of several elements. Two major types of park spaces—neighborhood and community parks—are the basic elements in the Plan. An additional element is for outdoor aquatic recreation. Lake Friendswood development encompasses both the need for parks and green space, but also outdoor recreation. Lighted sports fields are the third priority providing outdoor recreation both day and night.

When applicable, the neighborhood park is recommended to be used in conjunction with the elementary school, forming a park/school site and environment. The opportunity for walking and jogging trails are present in Friendswood principally along the natural drainage courses, and the Plan suggests these opportunities be captured when the conditions prevail for this type of recreational activity. As discussed below, other elements support these major characteristics of the Future Park Plan.

Lake Friendswood Concept

Using currently owned city land, Lake Friendswood would be developed into an outdoor recreation haven and is a top priority of development. This lake, approximately 45 acres in size and currently undeveloped, would be a major aquatic recreation center in Friendswood. Public support for development of the lake has been high, especially in light of the combination of outdoor recreation, such as fishing, kayaking, canoeing, and swimming, and trails. Trails would go through wooded areas surrounding the lake, but would also be scheduled for trail connection with other parks in the city. The spring-fed lake is stocked with various species of fish. The spring water has been tested resulting in a finding of near purity.

Lake Friendswood would serve this community through its development as a park, aquatic recreation area, and trail hub. Public comment elucidated the community desire for more parks and trails. This lake would serve to meet these desires. Youth groups such as the Boy Scouts would have a place to camp and enjoy. Lake Friendswood would also serve the as community as

a wildlife habitat in the midst of neighborhoods. Wildlife and aquatic life conservation education would be promoted.

Proposed development of the lake would be conducted in three phases:

- Phase I
 - Signage
 - Gates
 - Underwater survey
 - Security solar light
 - Portable toilets
 - Road improvement
- Phase II
 - Cover/mitigate hazards
 - Construct small boat pier
 - Construct fishing pier
 - Trail development
 - Benches and picnic tables
 - Trash cans and recycling cans
- Phase III
 - Security fencing
 - Pavilion with restrooms
 - Barbeque grills
 - Campground area

Trail Concept

The use of pedestrian trails to link or connect neighborhoods or park areas has been mentioned previously in other sections of this report. The degree or level of improvement in the implementation of a trail can range from a single sidewalk space in the street right-of-way to an extensive improvement where the design creates a specific pedestrian corridor with landscape treatment and amenities along the trail. This type of approach is often found between residential buildings or in an area adjacent to a street right-of-way where additional width is provided in addition to the normal street functions. However it is done, the trail should be a multi-purpose design to accommodate persons walking or jogging, or those on bicycles, with the design width and safety factors dependent upon the combination of users expected.

1. **Pedestrian Corridor Trails** - There are two types of locations in Friendswood where the opportunity will exist to build trails developed as a pedestrian corridor. One location is along the natural creek corridor and the other is along man-made corridors where easements or rights-of-way are established for handling storm drainage, or other infrastructures such as power transmission lines.

Trail systems along the creek corridor opens the natural features found in these environments to many more persons than if development is backed to the creek space. When planning this type of



open space relationship between the corridor and adjacent development, two concerns would need to be addressed: (1) the trail is being designed for a developing area and is not adjacent to any existing developed property, either residential or non-residential; and (2) the trail is designed as an integral component of the adjacent development where the linear portion of the trail running with the corridor length can be tapped with the trails or sidewalks which penetrate into and become a part of the adjacent development pattern. A location where this design approach is applicable would be along Chigger Creek between Friendswood Drive and Clear Creek.

A similar open space approach is possible along the north side of Clear Creek from Chigger Creek northerly to Parkwood Avenue. This proposal may possibly have the opportunity of becoming a part of the drainage improvement proposed for Clear Creek with similar treatment extending beyond Parkwood Avenue when that drainage improvement is undertaken.

The other trail corridor opportunity is also in the southern section of the City. This suggestion incorporates man-made space used for drainage and power transmission line easement with the natural corridor of the upper reach of Chigger Creek. The better opportunity for trail use is considered to be along the power line easement which is located to connect the neighborhood parks if they are placed in the general locations shown. Use of the north/south drainageway is expected to require permissible use of the corridor for pedestrian access. The east/west linkage between the two locations recommended for neighborhood parks is shown adjacent to the proposed secondary thoroughfare. The widening of the required right-of-way width to accommodate the trail design is recommended through this section. The westerly north/south linkage is located adjacent to Chigger Creek.

2. **Sidewalks as Trails** – The sidewalk is a pedestrian space generally placed within the street right-of-way between the curb, or pavement edge, and the property line for the adjacent ownership. In previous years, Friendswood has not required sidewalk construction as part of property improvement; however, a recent Council action established a policy and funding for sidewalk construction.

Two types of sidewalk widths can be considered: (1) a standard four-foot width, or (2) a greater width ranging upward to eight feet. The four-foot width is a walk suitable for use in most residential areas where light traffic is expected, whereas the greater width will better serve those lengths which can be expected to be used for multiple purposes for walking, jogging, or cycling.

When sidewalks/trails are used adjacent to or are incorporated into the street right-of-way width, various approaches can be used. For new developments where the sidewalks are expected to accommodate heavy traffic, an additional ten feet is a minimum width to request for construction of the paved area within the parkway. This width would allow six to eight feet of surface with the walk/trail alignment generally following the curb line. This width would not allow a curvilinear design of the trail unless the space is increased an additional five to ten feet for a total of approximately twenty feet additional right-of-way for parkway and the trail.

When trails are to be located adjacent to a street and use is expected by the bicyclist, then consideration should be given to designing a bicycle lane into the pavement section.

The opportunity for future trail linkages is present, and each separate opportunity should be examined as development occurs. Use of trails for walking and jogging is a major need in the overall recreational system. Designing and building the trails to create minimum interference and maximum safety of use is the task to be accomplished in developing a successful system over a period of time.

3. Conceptual Trail/Sidewalk System- Friendswood can be linked with pedestrian ways. The two examples for pedestrian corridor trails previously discussed are indicated on the Plate. These are primarily located in the southern and eastern sections of the City. The concept also shows a trail along Clear Creek northeast of Parkwood Avenue. This segment is contemplated to be incorporated in the drainage design improvements when prepared for Clear Creek. Several sidewalk linkages are possible within roadway rights-of-way. These locations are among those approved for construction. Different designations for each type of pedestrian way assists in understanding how the system might function and how each type of trail can become dependent upon the other. Sidewalks included in the five-year program, are along Greenbriar Avenue, Castlewood Drive and Briar Meadow Avenue.

Bicycle trails could be incorporated for this use in Bay Area Boulevard right-of-way. For Parkwood Avenue/F.M. 528, sidewalks with a bike lane are proposed for construction to Winding Way. Future reconstruction of F.M. 528 to Interstate Highway 45 will have similar provisions. Bike lanes are also proposed in Sunset Drive in planned upgrading of this facility.

4. Park to Park Trails—An implementation goal, with a theme of connectivity, are trails that connect the various parks of Friendswood with one another. Trails of this type could be constructed in different methods, including those listed above. Initial proposals have Frankie Carter Randolph Park connecting to 1776 Memorial Park connecting to Stevenson Park connecting to Old City Park. Additional connections are from Lake Friendswood to Centennial Park. Long term planning goals have all the parks of Friendswood connected by some form of trail.



Neighborhood Parks

The neighborhood park is the primary element in the park system. From this type of park a wide range of activities can be provided to residential areas surrounding the park. The standard of 2.5 acres per 1,000 persons is applied to each of the eleven Neighborhood Areas in a varying manner to accomplish distribution of neighborhood park services.

Areas which could be utilized for recreational opportunities were summarized by Neighborhoods. These areas, previously analyzed, were compared to the recreational demand for neighborhood park space expected to be brought about by the estimated population holding capacity. In some Neighborhoods, existing facilities are expected to be adequate, while in other Neighborhoods, projections are made for new facilities, particularly those under development. This summary is shown below. Unless it is an existing park, the location shown for the future park is general, with the precise location to be chosen as the neighborhood area is developed.

Area	Population Projection	Present Facilities	Park	School	Others	Neighborhood Projection	Neighborhood park estimate for new acreage
1	6890	Frankie Carter Randolph	-	-	93.0	17.2	10 ac. And 1 community park
2	2251	Renwick	19.0	-	-		None
		Westwood	-	20.0	-		
3	10,581	1776 Memorial	12.6	-	-	26.4	None
		Westwood Elem.	-	21.6	-		
		Forest Bend	-	-	26.0		
		The Park	-	-	16.0		
		Wedgewood	-	-	5.4		
		Oxnard	-	-	3.0		
4	2,340	Stevenson	24.5	-	-	5.9	None
		Arena	11.9	-	-		
		Jr. High	-	14.6	-		
5	4,505	Retention pond	3.5	-	-	11.2	8-10 ac.
		Leavesley	3.0	-	-		
		Cline Elem.	-	7.4	-		
		Senior High	-	43.0	-		
6	9,371	-	-	-	-	23.4	2 @ 8-10 ac.
7	4,522	-	-	-	-	11.3	1 @ 10 ac.
8	6,487	Lake Friendswood	45.0	-	-	16.0	1 @ 10 ac.
9	7,952	Polly Ranch	-	-	15	19.8	1 @ 10 ac.
10	4,278	-	-	-	-	10.7	1 @ 10 ac.
TOTAL	66,361		127.4	106.6	158.4	165.4	



The following comments outline the recommendations for neighborhoods parks by Neighborhood Areas.

- **Area 1** – Population estimates indicate a potential need of approximately 17.2 acres. Recommendations are for a centrally-located park of ten to twelve acres, and a small park of five to seven acres to be located in the northern section of the neighborhood along and adjacent to Clear Creek. Frankie Carter Randolph Park may be attended by some residents in Area 1, but its location across Clear Creek from the residential areas and its regional influence are factors to be considered in designing additional park land south of the Creek.
- **Area 2** – Renwick and Westwood Elementary School have natural site relationships for a park/school development.
- **Area 3** - The section of the City bounded by Edgewood Drive, Parkwood Avenue and Friendswood Drive is a difficult area for planning active public recreational space. Area 3 has 84 acres in park, school and private recreational use. This acreage is distributed with 47.4 acres in private use, 21.6 acres in school campuses, and 15.0 acres of passive park use. The difficulty is further influenced by Clear Creek dividing the Area into two nearly equal areas of land.

Area 3, reflects a combination of both public and private existing facilities.

1. Public recreational space is indicated by 1776 Memorial Park and the Wedgewood Elementary School site on Friendswood Link. Memorial is a passive park and should not be expected to make a contribution to the need for neighborhood active play space. The elementary school site is shown as a future park/ school facility. Although not initially in use for this type of facility, it is considered an ideal site for dual park and school use. It is therefore recommended that the City pursue developing the necessary policies with the District to jointly use, develop, and maintain recreational features on this site.

2. Forest Bend and Wedgewood Village Parks are shown on Plate 6 as private recreational spaces. Forest Bend offers a variety of recreational features and services to the adjoining neighborhood to the west and north of the Park. At some future time the City may consider acquiring this space as a public rather than a private park, should the association desire to relinquish their ownership.

Wedgewood Village Park is a small playground and has limited recreational opportunities because of its size; however, it is accessible to residents living in the western section of the Neighborhood Area north of Clear Creek.

When the older established residential section south of Clear Creek was developed, there were no provisions made for open space. Consequently, there are no locations available for placing any type of park between the Creek and Friendswood Drive. However, there is an opportunity to incorporate open spaces into the drainage design for Clear Creek along the south side of the Creek where it can be made accessible from the existing street system. Another opportunity to acquire park space may come as older sections of this residential area are developed and property is acquired at that time. These spaces would likely be small areas, but would complement the stability of the residential area.

- **Area 4** – Stevenson and Arena Parks are both located in the eastern section of the Neighborhood Area. Stevenson Park has features which tend to define it park as a combination between a community and special park type serving the entire City. Arena Park is an 11.9 acre neighborhood park which is above the projected neighborhood acreage need of 5.9 acres for service to the surrounding residents. Except for Arena's easterly location in the neighborhood, the park is quite adequate for serving the Area.

The physical relationship between Stevenson and Arena Parks is worthy of being examined for possibilities of connecting the two spaces, which are separated by Cowards Creek. This will require the acquisition of land adjacent to the Creek as it becomes available bordering the two parks, and a bridge for pedestrians and/or light vehicles.

- **Area 5** – When ultimately developed, the population holding capacity estimate for this Area will be sufficient to justify an 8-10 acre neighborhood park based on 2.5 acres per 1,000 persons. The nature of existing development, however, will not allow a park space to be acquired which will be centrally located to the park service area.

In the Southern section of Area 5, a proposed park facility is shown at the location of an existing drainage sump. The intent of this proposal is to utilize space around the perimeter of the sump for the location of play apparatus and passive facilities. Placing these types of recreational facilities on this existing space adjacent to the sump will provide an activity play area for those residents in the developing area to the north of this space.



In the southeast corner of Area 5 and in the vicinity of Chigger Creek and the proposed east/west thoroughfare is a neighborhood park. Normally, it is not recommended that a neighborhood park be located adjacent to the thoroughfare; however, the optimum time to obtain this park acreage is when the right-of-way is secured, since it appears park land will be difficult to acquire in this area.

Long term retention of Leavesley Park is not proposed in the Park Plan. It is considered that when present indoor facilities are ultimately replaced by larger and more complete facilities at other locations as the park system expands, the desirability and use of Leavesley will diminish. This factor, coupled with maintenance costs of present facilities, is the basis of this proposal.

- **Area 6** – Two neighborhood parks in this developing residential area have a potential holding capacity of over 7,100 persons. The northernmost park is shown in an area which has larger lots, as well as undeveloped land previously utilized for oil field activities. This latter condition may influence the timing and type of development ultimately using the land. As an alternative, if the school property shown in Area 6 adjacent to Parkwood Avenue is developed, then an opportunity may be present on this site to build a joint park/school recreational facility. Therefore, the final need and location for the neighborhood park in the northern section of Area 6 will be dependent upon these factors and should be further evaluated as development occurs.

In the southern section of Area 6, the neighborhood park is shown for the existing and future residential development to be adjacent to an electrical power line easement. A favorable siting factor for this location is the possibility of making a pedestrian linkage via the easement to a similar type of park located in Area 7 and east of Parkwood Avenue.

- **Area 7** – The projected population holding capacity for Area 7 is slightly over 9,300 persons, and is the second highest of the eleven neighborhood. The elongated shape of the neighborhood is similar to that of Area 6, and because of this configuration, there is no identifiable boundary to separate the neighborhood into two distinct parts; therefore, two neighborhood parks are distinguished.

As previously discussed above in Area 6, the southern neighborhood park is shown to be located adjacent to the east/west electrical power line easement for linkage purposes. This recommended location for the park is also in a developing section of the City, and site acquisition and development would be accomplished as residential development is being planned.

The northern location in Area 7 is shown to lie between proposed major and secondary thoroughfares. There is a possible opportunity to link the two sites in Area 7 with a pedestrian connection along and within the existing drainage way. To accomplish this, the feasibility of the linkage would need to be determined, as well as the use of easement space for walking or jogging purposes.

- **Area 8** –A neighborhood park of 10 acres is shown for this Area in a section yet to be developed. It is recommended that the location for this space be defined in the residential area as it is being planned, with acquisition occurring with development.
- **Area 9** - The previous division of land into large tracts in Area 9 is expected to be re-subdivided since most of the land is under a single ownership. The population holding capacity calculated for Area 9 is approximately 6,500 persons. A minimum area of 10 acres for a neighborhood park is recommended. The provision for the park space and size should be considered as the area is planned and the development opportunities are discussed.
- **Area 10** – The neighborhood park of approximately 10 acres for this Area is shown on the south side of Chigger Creek since the land is fully developed on the Creek's northern side where some residents are served by Polly Park, a private space adjacent to Clear Creek.

Various opportunities exist for creating open space along both Chigger Creek and the northern side of Clear Creek as the adjacent land is developed. Walking and jogging paths, either public or private, can be integrated into the design of the residential subdivisions using flood prone land. The trail system proposed extends along the south side of Chigger Creek between F.M. 518 and Clear Creek.

A similar development approach can be used along the northern section of Clear Creek southeast of Parkwood Avenue, with the occasion definition of areas of some size utilized for recreational purposes.

- **Area 11** – A neighborhood park of approximately 10 acres is recommended east of Bay Area Boulevard for future residential development in Area 11.

In Area 3, Wedgewood Elementary is recommended as a park/school facility with other recreational service being furnished by Forest Bend and Wedgewood Village Parks, both of which are private parks.



Two new neighborhood parks are recommended for developing areas of the City, with an additional facility incorporated into the design of a future community park in the northern section of Area 1.

Recommendations for acquisition and timing of these spaces are set forth in the capital improvement program. This scheduling is expected to follow the residential growth pattern with ultimate development of the neighborhood parks occurring as the City reaches a fully developed status.

Community Parks

To adequately serve the City with activity areas found in the community park, a total area of approximately 120 to 180 acres is recommended and is based on 2.0 to 3.0 acres per 1,000 persons residing within the City when fully developed.

A community park is recommended in the northern section of the City in Area 1 and is shown on Plate 6 to be adjacent to Clear Creek and Frankie Carter Randolph Park. This area of the community is undeveloped, and a space of 60-80 acres is suggested to be acquired before residential development occurs in the area because of two concerns (1) the location of the park, which will have periods of high activity when lighted for field sports, should be evaluated before adjacent land is planned; and (2) land costs should be less when purchased in advance of development. The location adjacent to Frankie Carter Randolph has other distinct advantages: (1) some flood prone land which is less expensive but usable in some park activities may be available long the Creek; (2) the massing of the two parks would create a significant open space of approximately 150-170 acres; and (3) the park would have good accessibility from Edgewood Drive.

A similar sized-community park of 60-80 acres is also recommended for the southern section of the City. A location in this area of the City must have similar advantages to those pointed out above: (1) the site is being acquired prior to adjacent development; and (2) the site is easily accessible to the residents residing in the southern section of the City.

Regional And Special Parks

Four parks are shown on Plate 6 as regional and special parks: Frankie Carter Randolph, 1776 Memorial, Stevenson, and Lake Friendswood. These park spaces each make a significant contribution to the local park system. Active, and particularly passive, recreational opportunities afforded by these facilities is often difficult to secure for a local system.

Neighborhood Park/School Concept

An important planning consideration when developing a residential neighborhood is the integration of a park and an elementary school into the residential environment which is being created. Both facilities will serve the people living with the neighborhood. And when properly designed, can provide a definite focal point for the residential area, as well as offer cohesiveness to the residential character and environment.

There are numerous advantages to the community when both facilities are planned and built on a single site. Some of these advantages are: (1) there is normally a reduction in land for a common site in comparison to the areas required if on separate sites; (2) joint use agreements can be developed between the City and School District to permit use of indoor facilities of grounds and equipment; (4) play apparatus and other recreational improvements found in a neighborhood park are available to the school; and (5) a reduction in maintenance costs should result for both entities when sharing a site.

Three park/ school sites are shown: (1) ultimate conversion of Renwick Park and Westwood Elementary School to this type of joint use; (2) recommendation for pursuing with the District the park/school concept on the new Wedgewood Elementary site; and (3) a proposed location in the southeastern section of the City. There may be other opportunities as development occurs and these should be evaluated as they become evident that an elementary school is being programmed in a neighborhood where a park is also proposed.

A joint use site is where a park/ school has been developed by a municipality and school district. The site is furnished to the two entities by the developer of the residential development and planned jointly. The school's floor plan is designed to keep interior space related to the park convenient and easily accessible to the park. The total site area is 13.5 acres, with the school and park occupying respectively 8.5 and 5.0 acres.

Lighted Sports Field Concept

Friendswood, a growing city with growing population, is in need of more sports fields, especially lighted ones. Lighted sports fields allow for increased usage during night time hours, thereby increasing the recreation time and opportunities for both youth and adults. Friendswood will be seeking to acquire more land for fields but also looking various lighting options, including studying the prospect of energy efficient lighting, and solar lighting.

Currently there are 3240 participants in various sports throughout Friendswood. Through the expansion of schools in the area, the total numbers of sports fields have been reduced. The concept of lights for fields allows for more time and more sports. A tangent benefit to the lighted



sports fields is with additional time on the field for games and practice, youth and adults would be active and therefore be in better shape and have weight loss.

Additionally, lighting for the fields would provide indirect light for the trails at the parks, allowing more access to the trails illustrated in the trail concept above.

Potential Funding Sources

Federal Funding Sources

Department of the Interior – National Park Service

Federal Lands to Parks

The Federal Lands-to-Parks (FLP) enables states and local governments to establish park and

recreation areas and adapt historic buildings for public uses. Through FLP, state and local agencies may acquire land and facilities once used for federal purposes at no cost to meet park and recreation needs.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was enacted in 1964 (Public Law 88-578) to “create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities.” LWCF provides funding for: (1) land acquisition for federal land managing agencies; and (2) matching grants to state and local governments for planning (states only), acquisition and development of park and recreation areas and resource based facilities. Specifics for federal land acquisition projects are determined each fiscal year by Congress and the Administration. Of the amounts appropriated in any given fiscal year for the state grants program, 40 percent is divided equally between states and 60 percent is allocated to the states by a population/need-based formula.

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance

The RTCA program offers local groups staff assistance and consultations for locally led conservation projects. Projects may include developing trails and greenways or protecting rivers and open space. Regional RTCA offices provide application information and assistance.

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program was authorized in November 1978 by Public Law 95-625, providing direct federal matching assistance to cities and urban counties for rehabilitation of existing recreation facilities. The law encourages systematic local planning and commitment to continuing operation and maintenance of recreation programs, sites, and facilities. Project proposals are submitted to the appropriate National Park Service Regional Office by eligible local units of government (selected cities and urban counties). Grants are awarded on a nationally competitive basis with regional offices having the primary responsibility for monitoring progress and post-completion requirements.

Recreational Trails Program



The Recreational Trails Program provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail users. Eligible project categories as defined in the act are: maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails; development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages; purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment; construction of new recreational trails (with restrictions on new trails on Federal land); acquisition of easements or property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors; state administrative costs related to program administration (up to 7 percent of a state's funds); and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as these objectives relate to the use of recreational trails (up to 5 percent of a state's funds). Each state has its own procedures and timelines to solicit, select, and fund Recreational Trails projects. For more information about project funding contact your State Trail Administrator.

Department of Transportation – Coast Guard

Recreational Boating Safety

The RBS grant program provides funding to assist states with program administration, law enforcement and search and rescue capability, boater education, vessel numbering and titling systems, aids to navigation, and public boating access sites. Allowable uses of the RBS Program funds include a wide spectrum of activities that fall into six broad categories – program administration, law enforcement and search and rescue capability, boater education, vessel numbering and titling systems, aids to navigation, and public boating access sites. States with approved boating safety programs that meet the participation requirements are eligible.

Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Technical Assistance

The purpose of the program is to assist land-users, communities, units of state and local government, and other federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. The purpose of the conservation systems are to reduce erosion, improve soil and water quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, improve pasture and range condition, reduce upstream flooding, and improve woodlands. The program is also used as a means to collect, analyze, interpret, display, and disseminate information about the condition and trends of the Nation's soil and other natural resources so that people can make good decisions about resource use and about public policies for resource conservation.

Information collected through the program is used to develop effective science-based technologies for natural resource assessment, management, and conservation.

Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Children and Families

Community Services Block Grant

The purpose of this program is to provide assistance to states and local communities, working through a network of community action agencies and other neighborhood-based organizations, for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities, and the empowerment of low income families and individuals in rural and urban areas to become fully self-sufficient. Each fiscal year, each state is required to submit an application to the Secretary



of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Chief Executive Officer of each state is also required to designate a lead agency to prepare and submit a plan to the Secretary of HHS. Public entities, including recreation and parks, can be partners in this block grant program.

Department of the Interior – Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Resource Education

The Aquatic Resource Education Program helps people understand, enjoy and conserve the aquatic natural resources of the nation. States have the option of using up to 15 percent of their annual Sport Fish Restoration apportionment for aquatic resource education programs and outreach and communications projects. The Sport Fish Restoration Program, created in 1950, provides funding for fish management, conservation, restoration, aquatic education, and boating access. The program is funded by a 10 percent Federal excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits and a 3 percent tax on electronic fishing motors and sonar fish finders; duties on imported fishing tackle, pleasure boats and yachts; and a portion of the Federal fuel tax receipts from motorboats and small gasoline engines. The funds are apportioned annually to the states and territories by the Department of the Interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Apportionments are determined for each state by land area and number of fishing license owners. All funds are disseminated through State Fish and Wildlife Departments.

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants Program

The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants Program is authorized by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to grant funds to coastal states to carry out coastal wetlands conservation projects. Participants in the program include state, county, and municipal governments as well as nongovernment partners. Project review and selection are conducted by the Federal Aid Office and other Divisions in each Region and by a crossprogram review in the Washington Office, led by the Division of Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance and Habitat Restoration. All Coastal States (except Louisiana) and the Trust Territories are eligible to submit project proposals to the appropriate Service Regional Office annually. Funds are made available

by allocating 18 percent of the Sport Fish Restoration Account or 100 percent of the excise tax on small engine fuels - whichever is greater.

Sport Fish Restoration Act

The Act, approved by Congress on August 9, 1950, provides funding for fish management, conservation, and restoration. The program is funded by a 10 percent Federal excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits and a 3 percent tax on electronic fishing motors and sonar fish finders. The funds are apportioned annually to the states and territories (except Puerto Rico) by the Department of the Interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Apportionments are determined for each state by land area and number of fishing license owners. All funds are disseminated through State Fish and Wildlife Departments.

Wildlife Restoration Act

Approved by Congress on September 2, 1937, the Act provides funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management research and the distribution of information produced by the projects. Congress amended the Act on October 23, 1970, to include funding for hunter training programs and the development, operation and maintenance of public target ranges. Funds are derived from an 11 percent Federal excise tax on handguns. Funds are also collected from a 12.4 percent tax on archery equipment. A certain amount of funds (section 4) must be used on hunter education before additional funds (section 10) can be attained. The section 10 funds can be used for additional hunter education programs or for wildlife restoration. These funds are apportioned each year to the states and territories (except Puerto Rico) by the Department of the Interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Apportionments are determined for each state by land area and number of hunting license owners. All funds are disseminated through State Fish and Wildlife Departments.

Other Funding Sources

City of Friendswood General Fund